The structural basis for activation of voltage sensor domains in an ion channel TPC1

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Abstract

Voltage sensing domains (VSDs) couple changes in transmembrane electrical potential to

conformational changes that regulate ion conductance through a central channel. Positively

charged amino acids inside each sensor cooperatively respond to changes in voltage. Our

previous structure of a TPC1 channel captured the first example of a resting-state VSD in an

intact ion channel. To generate an activated state VSD in the same channel we removed the

luminal inhibitory Ca^{2+}-binding site (Ca_i^{2+}), that shifts voltage-dependent opening to more

negative voltage and activation at 0 mV. Cryo-EM reveals two coexisting structures of the VSD,

an intermediate state 1 that partially closes access to the cytoplasmic side, but remains occluded

on the luminal side and an intermediate activated state 2 in which the cytoplasmic solvent access

to the gating charges closes, while luminal access partially opens. Activation can be thought of

as moving a hydrophobic insulating region of the VSD from the external side, to an alternate

grouping on the internal side. This effectively moves the gating charges from the inside potential

to that of the outside. Activation also requires binding of Ca^{2+} to a cytoplasmic site (Ca_a^{2+}). An

X-ray structure with Ca_a^{2+} removed and a near-atomic resolution cryo-EM structure with Ca_i^{2+}

removed define how dramatic conformational changes in the cytoplasmic domains may

communicate with the VSD during activation. Together four structures provide a basis for

understanding the voltage dependent transition from resting to activated state, the tuning of VSD

by thermodynamic stability, and this channel's requirement of cytoplasmic Ca^{2+}-ions for

activation.

Introduction

Voltage sensing domains (VSDs) are four-helical bundle domains, termed S1-S4 that respond to

changes in membrane potential by allowing 'gating' charges, generally positively charged

arginine or occasionally lysine side chains in the fourth transmembrane helix S4 (charges

referred to as R1-R5) to move relative to a charge-transfer center (CT) (1, 2) that contains

counter charges in the surrounding helices S1-S3 and an aromatic residue (Y, F) that seals the

VSD to solvent passage.

The number of gating charges in each VSD that move across the membrane from

connection to the cytoplasmic side to the extracellular (or lumenal) side during activation is

typically measured as 2-3 and up to 5 positive charges. The basis for structural and electrical

changes in S4 that give rise to voltage-dependence is key to understanding the response of

voltage-gated ion channels to changes in membrane potential.

In voltage-gated ion channels, the movement of S4 is connected via an S4-S5 linker helix
on the cytoplasmic side to the pore helices S5-S6 of the ion channel, and also through Van der
Waals hydrophobic contacts between S4 and the pore-forming domains. In excitable cells,
activation of the VSD in response to membrane depolarization greatly increases the probability
of channel opening(3, 4).

Several models have been proposed for voltage-dependent activation. The 'Sliding
Helix'(5), 'Rotating helix'(6, 7), and 'Paddle'(8) models suggest that S4 moves substantially
(vertically or in rotation) in the membrane to translate the gating charges across the membrane
(Figure S1). In Sliding Helix and Rotating Helix models, the gating charges interact with counter
anions or aqueous environments to avoid the energetic penalty of placing a charge in a
hydrophobic environment. Lanthanide-based resonance energy transfer measurements suggest
that gating charges do not move extensively during activation, but rather achieve alternating
exposure to the internal and external milieu through conformational changes in the VSD helices
S1-S4 (9). A 'ratchet' model also includes the possibility of multiple intermediate states of
S4(10). Electrophysiology, electron paramagnetic resonance (EPR) spectroscopy, X-ray
structures, disulfide crosslinking, and simulations support a combination of translation and
rotation of S4 during activation (11–18). No structural information until now exists for voltage-
gated channels captured in multiple activation states, precluding an atomic scale evaluation of
the mechanism of voltage-dependent changes, or how they translate to channel activation.

Our previous crystal structure of wild-type *Arabidopsis thaliana* two-pore channel 1
(AtTPC1$_{WT}$) provided the first resting-closed state in an intact ion channel(19, 20), the
electrophysiological state that forms under high lumenal 1 mM (>100μM) Ca^{2+}-ion
concentration. Here we sought to determine structures for the activated-state of AtTPC1 that is

formed in low lumenal (<100μM) Ca^{2+}-ions by removing the inhibitory luminal Ca^{2+}-binding

site in VSD2 (Ca_i^{2+}), while keeping the cytoplasmic activation site (Ca_a^{2+}) occupied with

>300μM cytoplasmic Ca^{2+}-ions (21). Secondly, we wanted to determine the mechanism for the

channel's requirement of cytoplasmic Ca^{2+}-ions for activation by removing the Ca_a^{2+} site.

TPCs are a family of ion channels that regulate ion conductance across endolysosomal

membranes(21, 22, 23). Located in endosomes that endocytose from the plasma membrane,

initially with ~1mM extracellular Ca^{2+} concentration, they regulate the conductance of Na^+-

and/or Ca^{2+}-ions out of the endolysosome, intravesicular pH (24), trafficking (25), and

membrane excitability (26). Cytoplasmic Ca^{2+}-ions (>300 μM) are required for any activation of

AtTPC1 (27), whereas lumenal Ca^{2+}-ions (>100 μM) suppress voltage-dependent activation (20,

28). TPCs encode two pore-forming domains on a single chain with two non-equivalent VSDs

(S1-S4, S7-S10) and pore helices (S5-S6, S11-S12). In AtTPC1 only VSD2s (S7-S10) respond to

changes in voltage (20). Three arginines on S10 of each VSD2 (equivalent to S4 in the VSD of

tetrameric ion channels) in AtTPC1 are required for voltage-dependent activation. A homo-dimer

of two TPCs forms the central functional channel surrounded by four pore-forming domains.

The dependence of AtTPC1 on external and internal Ca^{2+} offer the opportunity to visualize the

resting state of a voltage sensing domain of an intact channel, and the activated state and to ask

how voltage changes are detected and relayed.

Lumenal Ca^{2+}-ions suppress activation of AtTPC1 via binding to Ca_i^{2+} located in the

active voltage sensor VSD2 with EC_{50} ~0.1mM. This previously enabled trapping of the resting-

state VSD2 of wild-type AtTPC1 by including 1 mM Ca^{2+}-ions (19, 20). Replacement of the

Ca^{2+}-chelating amino acids by mutagenesis (D240N, D454N, E528Q; termed AtTPC1$_{DDE}$) shifts

voltage-dependent activation by -50 mV, such that the channel is open at 0 mV (20, 28) and

VSD2 in an activated conformation. Using AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ we sought to determine the structure of

an activated state of the same intact channel where we had previously determined a resting state.

Channel opening requires Ca^{2+}-ion binding to Ca$_a^{2+}$ mediated by D376 of cytoplasmic EF-

hand domain helix 3-4 loop (EF3-EF4). Removal of cytoplasmic Ca^{2+}-ions or the mutation

D376A (AtTPC1$_{DA}$) yields permanently closed channels (29). The absolute requirement of the

Ca$_a^{2+}$ site for voltage-dependent activation led us to hypothesize that channel activation depends

on communication between Ca$_a^{2+}$ and VSD2 (21). Using the D376A mutation we sought to

determine how cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} evokes activation.

Results and Discussion

Cryo-EM structures of AtTPC1$_{DDE}$

As a basis for understanding the voltage-dependent activation mechanism and its modulation by

Ca^{2+}-ions, we determined the structure of AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ by cryo-EM (Figure 1a, Figure S2, S3, S4,

Table S1). We employed saposin A nanoparticles (30) to reconstitute AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ into a

membrane environment, and an antibody Fab made against AtTPC1 (CAT06/H12) (31) to

facilitate particle alignment (32) (Figures S5, S6, See Supplemental Discussion).

With a nominal resolution of 3.3 Å, the density map of AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ is of high quality

(Figure S4a), allowing additional *de-novo* interpretation of the AtTPC1 N-terminal domain

(NTD), the S1-S2 linker, EF3-EF4 with an intact Ca$_a^{2+}$ site, the upper vestibule of the pore, and

the C-terminal domain (CTD). Three ions lie in the selectivity filter, consistent with previously

defined Ca^{2+}/Na$^+$-binding sites (19, 20, 33). Fourteen lipid molecules surround the channel in the

lumenal leaflet with two on the cytoplasmic side (Figure S7). S1-S6 are well defined and remain

stationary between all of the AtTPC1 structures. In AtTPC1$_{DDE}$, major rearrangements are

observed in the VSD2, the upper vestibule of pore, and EF3-EF4 on the cytoplasmic side,

relative to AtTPC1$_{WT}$ (Figure 1b). The position of three residues known to be phosphorylated

(S22, T26, and T29) are observed in previously unresolved portions of the NTD (Figure S4a, See

Supplemental Discussion) (19).

The Fab binds to the EF1-EF2 loop, EF4, and S6 on the cytoplasmic side. The Fab

binding affinity is the same with and without Ca^{2+} ions, in other molecular conditions tested (1

mM EGTA, 1 µM trans-NED19, 1 µM Nicotinic Acid Adenine Dinucleotide Phosphate), and in

three different constructs (AtTPC1$_{WT}$, AtTPC1$_{DDE}$, AtTPC1$_{DA}$), indicating that the Fab binding

does not distinguish between nor is likely to influence the activation state (Figure S5c-d). Most

of the variable domain of the Fab is visible, allowing interpretation of the AtTPC1$_{DDE}$-Fab

interface (Figure S6e-f). The constant domain of the Fab is flexible and not resolved to high

resolution.

Activation of the voltage sensor

Lumenal Ca^{2+}-ions inhibit AtTPC1 channel activation half maximally at ~0.1 mM

concentration(20) via binding to Ca$_i^{2+}$ (21) between VSD2 (D454 in the S7-S8 loop, and E528 in

S10), and the pore (D240). D454N, also named *fou2* (fatty acid oxygenation up-regulated 2)

(28), abolishes inhibition by lumenal Ca^{2+}-ions, increasing channel open probability by shifting

the voltage-dependent channel opening towards more hyperpolarizing potentials (28, 20). Ca^{2+}-

ions do not inhibit AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ at 1 mM and up to 10 mM (33). Thus, the Ca$_i^{2+}$ site is

functionally abolished in AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ under cryo-EM conditions and thereby mimics the

activated state under voltage and low lumenal Ca^{2+}-ion conditions (20, 33).

While the overall resolution of AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ is excellent, density for S7-S10 of VSD2 is

significantly weaker indicating conformational heterogeneity. Focused classification identified

two states of VSD2, each with an overall resolution of 3.7 Å, but with distinct and different

conformations of the S7-S10 domain structure (state 1 and 2) (Table S1, Figure S3, See

Methods). We therefore conclude that these two conformations represent different functional

states of the AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ channel. They suggest a model for the voltage-activation of AtTPC1,

and a mechanism for dependence on lumenal Ca^{2+}-ions.

To confirm that the structural rearrangements in VSD2 were not induced by saposin A we

determined a ~7Å reconstruction of AtTPC1$_{WT}$ in both detergent and in saposin A. In these the

overall channel architecture is comparable to the AtTPC1$_{WT}$ crystal structure (Figure S8).

The local resolution of VSD2 (S7-S10) ranges from 4-6 Å in both states, making it

possible to model the intermediate active state of VSD2 based on the 2.8 Å X-ray structure of

AtTPC1$_{WT}$ (Figure S4b, c, See Methods under Structure Determination and Refinement)(19).

Atomic structures for states 1 and 2 were determined by real-space and B-factor refinement

against the cryo-EM densities. Changes in solvent accessibility at the luminal and cytoplasmic

boundaries of VSD2 were apparent from the comparison of these new structures of AtTPC1 and

the previous resting-state. Taking the resting state structure of AtTPC1$_{WT}$ as a reference (PDBID

5DDQ; ref. (19)), transmembrane helices S7-S10 in state 1 rotate in a counterclockwise manner

with respect to AtTPC1$_{WT}$ (Figure 2). The helices twist to partially close the cytoplasmic solvent

access to the gating charges of VSD2 (Figure 3), while the lumenal face remains occluded.

Among all helices of VSD2, the key arginine-rich S10 has the least movement, and R537 (R1)

remains interacting with the CT (Y475), albeit the changes in S8 conformation place R1 on the

opposite horizontal face of the CT as compared with AtTPC1$_{WT}$. S8 moves upward in the

membrane plane by nearly one helical turn, thus moving the CT into place to interact with R1 in

similar manner to $AtTPC1_{WT}$. State 1 probably represents a resting-state structure present in low

lumenal (<0.1 mM) Ca^{2+}-ion concentrations.

In state 2, VSD2 rotates ~20˚ clockwise in the plane of the membrane with respect to

$AtTPC1_{WT}$ (Figure 2). Helices S7-S10 reorient dramatically leading to an opening of the lumenal

face of VSD2 (Figure 3). Tilting of S10 and rotation of S8 around S10 moves the CT downward,

placing R1 in an activated conformation. The cytoplasmic face is fully closed in state 2 while the

lumenal side is partially open. VSD2 has effectively alternated solvent access, or electrical

contact from the cytoplasmic to the lumenal side of the membrane.

Clockwise rotation was proposed to connect resting- and active-state conformations on

the basis of comparing previous voltage-gated channel structures (13, 19, 34). During review of

this manuscript, activated state structures of mouse TPC1 were determined (35). Comparing the

activated-state mouse TPC1 to resting- and intermediate-state AtTPC1 supports the proposed

role of VSD2 rotation during channel activation. The observation of clockwise rotation in

multiple activated-state structures supports our conclusion that state 2 represents an intermediate-

activated state of AtTPC1.

These two states of VSD2 in AtTPC1 are likely to represent structures that VSD2 adopts

in low lumenal Ca^{2+} during activation. The overall movement of VSD2 during activation serves

to dilate the lumenal face of VSD2, close off the cytoplasmic leaflet to solvent, and move the CT

below a gating charge in the membrane. This would reconnect the positive gating charges from

the potential of the cytoplasmic side to the potential of the lumenal side upon activation,

mediated by tilt and twisting of S7, S8, S9 around S10. This is all that is necessary to transport

the gating charge arginine residues from cytoplasmic electrical connection, to the external

potential. A hydrophobic sealed region between all four helices forms a thin outer insulating

layer in the resting state, while in the activated state this becomes open to solvent and the bundle

twists to form a hydrophobic insulating region closer to the cytoplasmic side.

Drug and Lipid Binding Sites

The high resolution map enabled refinement of a total of 14 lipids on the lumenal and 2 on the

cytoplasmic leaflet of the membrane. The lumenal lipids are modeled as the 16-carbon

containing palmitic acid, the predominant lipid length in soy polar lipids, whereas the

cytoplasmic lipids are modeled as 18-carbon phosphatidic acid (PA). 12 lipids bind to the long

axis of AtTPC1, occupying the binding site for Ned19 (Figure S7, ref. (19, 21)). Ned19 binding

may disrupt these structured lipids, acting as a steric block to prevent S7 and pore movements

during gating. One lipid binds to a buried site along the short axis, sandwiched in between the

pore domains. Based on homology to Ca_v channels in this region and recent structures of

bacterial Ca_v channels (Ca_vAb) bound to dihydropyridines (DHP) (amlodipine and nimodipine)

and PPA (verapamil) inhibitors(36), the short axis in transmembrane segments S6 and S12 is a

likely site for binding of Tetrandrine, a bis-benzylisoquinoline alkaloid isolated from the Chinese

herb *Stephania tetrandra*(37) and approved medications of the DHP class of L-type Ca_v

antagonists–all TPC channel blockers.

The lumenal PA lipids bind along the short axis in a pocket formed by S1 of VSD1, the

S10-S11 linker, S11, and the S8-S9 linker of VSD2. The alkyl chains make Van der Waals

interactions, whereas the phosphoglycerol headgroup makes hydrogen bonds to the backbone of

W492 and to the sidechain of R498 and S8-S9 of VSD2. The S8-S9 linker moves 4Å inward in

the $AtTPC1_{DDE}$ structure to form the PA binding site, which would not be intact in the

AtTPC1$_{WT}$ resting-state. Therefore, this lipid binding site is likely specific for AtTPC1$_{DDE}$.

Certain lipids may occupy this site during activation of AtTPC1. Polyunsaturated fatty acids

inhibit plant TPC1 activation, but the binding site has not been determined (38). In principle,

polyunsaturated fatty acids could mimic the observed site in the resting-state and prevent

activation.

Charge transfer mechanism

State 2 represents an intermediate activation state of VSD2 where the gating charge R1 is

transferred across the membrane (Figure 3). In this state, the CT moves downwards, R1 moves

slightly upwards, and overall the VSD2 bundle rotates by ~20° in the membrane plane with

respect to the adjacent pore domains. In this the voltage-sensing helix S10 pivots only 2-3°

inward toward the pore. Importantly, the three observed states of the VSD thus far are not related

by rigid-body rotations. These changes in VSD2 make R1 more accessible to solvent on the

lumenal side while charges R2 and R3 are shielded from access to the cytoplasmic side; there is

a net transfer of charge from cytoplasmic side (in the resting state) to the outside (in the activated

state).

Pore conformational changes

High-resolution density for the pore defines the consequences of activation by removal of the

external Ca_i^{2+} site on VSD2 on the central channel (Figure 4a, b). As a consequence of the

rearrangement of VSD2 the upper vestibule and the upper selectivity filter of the channel open

along the ion permeation pathway (Figure 4c), while the lower gate remains closed (Figure 4d).

Full channel opening may be evoked by passage of ions or an additional energy barrier, because

electrophysiological studies show the channel is maximally open at 0 mV with removal of the

Ca_i^{2+} site.

In the selectivity filter, three ions are observed (Figure 4e, f). Site 1 and 3 were occupied

by Ca^{2+} mimetics, Yb^{3+} or Ba^{2+}, in $AtTPC1_{WT}$ structures (19, 20). Site 2 was seen to be occupied

by Na^+ in the Na^+-selective chimera of AtTPC1(33). Since $AtTPC1_{DDE}$ contains 1 mM Ca^{2+} and

the channel is Ca^{2+}-selective, these are probably hydrated Ca^{2+}-ions (See Supplemental

Discussion). Sidechain interactions from the upper vestibule of S11-S12 exclusively coordinate

site 1. The side chains of D606 move inward to coordinate site 1 with E605 (Figure 4g). E605-

Ca^{2+} (5.5 Å) and D606-Ca^{2+} (4.6 Å) distances are consistent with the radius of a hydrated Ca^{2+}

ion. There are readjustments throughout the channel suggesting that VSD2 activation by removal

of the luminal Ca_i^{2+} site can indeed potentiate channel opening as observed by electrophysiology.

The observation of upper and lower selectivity filter and activation gate operating

independently in our structures suggests a multi-step gating mechanism that resembles that

proposed for TRPV1 channel activation (39). Activation of the VSDs could lead to opening of

the selectivity filter and activation gate in two steps. First, the upper selectivity filter opens in

response to rotational rearrangement and partial activation of the VSDs, then the lower

selectivity filter and activation gate open when the VSD achieves maximal activation.

Cytoplasmic activation by Ca^{2+}-ions

Full voltage-dependent activation of AtTPC1 requires ~0.3 mM cytoplasmic Ca^{2+} evoked by

Ca^{2+}-binding to the EF3-EF4 loop (20, 29). D376 in EF3 is critical; when substituted D376A in

$AtTPC1_{DA}$ the channel remains closed and is no longer responsive to membrane potential (29).

We determined the crystal structure of $AtTPC1_{DA}$ (Figure 5a, Table S2) to 3.5 Å resolution by

X-ray crystallography. When compared with the AtTPC1$_{WT}$ crystal structure, removing the

activating cytoplasmic Ca$_a^{2+}$ binding site leads to higher dynamic motion (B-factors) not only in

the EF-hand and the CTD, but also in the VSDs and upper vestibule of the pore, showing that the

activating cytoplasmic site may act through effects on the VSDs (See Supplemental Discussion).

AtTPC1$_{DA}$ is in a resting-state as expected. However, there is an overall effect of

increasing the dynamical motion of VSD1, VSD2 and the pore (in the context of otherwise

identical overall B-factors), showing that Ca$_a^{2+}$ has an allosteric effect in stabilization that could

impact voltage dependence (VSDs) and conductance (the pore). The regions of increased motion

in AtTPC1$_{DA}$ correspond to the regions that undergo conformational change in AtTPC1$_{DDE}$,

suggesting that there is a pathway for coupling cytoplasmic activation at Ca$_a^{2+}$ to voltage

dependence of activation in VSD2 and transmission to the pore.

The Ca$_a^{2+}$ site in EF3 is fully formed in the cryo-EM structure of AtTPC1$_{DDE}$, whereas it

was partially occupied in AtTPC1$_{WT}$ and was in a more extended conformation[19, 20] (Figure

5b). In AtTPC1$_{DDE}$, EF3 alone lies 7 Å closer to the transmembrane domain and rotates 20° to

make close contacts with EF4 (Figure 5c). The Ca$_a^{2+}$chelating residues E374, D376, and D380

order the EF3-EF4 loop around the activating Ca$_a^{2+}$ site (Figure 5c). Movement of EF3 leaves the

EF1-EF2 Ca^{2+} site unaltered. Therefore, EF3 is capable of undergoing large-scale movements

that change the structure of the cytoplasmic domains and their connection to VSD2, suggesting

that activation on the cytoplasmic side can act reciprocally through VSD2.

The conformation of the cytoplasmic domains seen in AtTPC1$_{DDE}$, probably reflects the

predominant structure in AtTPC1$_{WT}$ (rather than the crystal structure) because the conformation

of EF3 is conserved in cryo-EM structures from several conditions; detergent and saposin A

nanoparticles of AtTPC1$_{WT}$, and AtTPC1$_{DDE}$, and when bound to either of two different Fab

molecules (Figure S8c).

The CTD of AtTPC1 is indispensable for channel activation(40). Removal or truncation

by 29 residues abolishes channel function. In the crystal structure of AtTPC1$_{WT}$, the CTD forms

an intramolecular complex with the EF3 via salt-bridge interaction D376-R700, leading to the

hypothesis that the EF3-CTD complex could undergo conformational changes upon activating

cytoplasmic Ca^{2+}-binding (19). In the cryo-EM structures the CTD moves toward the membrane

vertically by 13Å to accommodate the upward movement of EF3 upon forming the cytoplasmic

activating Ca$_a^{2+}$ site (Figure 5b). The salt-bridge (D376-R700) that previously linked the CTD to

EF3 in AtTPC1$_{WT}$ breaks to allow D376 to chelate the Ca$_a^{2+}$ site. This can explain why only

substitution of D376 and not the other chelating residues abolishes Ca^{2+}-activation(29). In

AtTPC1$_{DDE}$, the CTD now forms a hydrogen bond (E366-E694) with EF3 and hydrogen bonds

(N697-I371) via the backbone (Figure 5d). Following the interaction with EF3, and a β-turn the

CTD to folds back on itself to form a charged zippered interaction (R696-D691, R700-Q688,

R707-E684) between the signal poly-R and poly-E motifs of the CTD (19). The poly-E motif

connects directly to the pore gate (Figure 5e). The role of the CTD on channel activation may be

to stabilize the EF3 helix in both apo- and Ca^{2+}-bound conformations to allow communication of

EF3 movement to VSD2 and the pore gate. Upon removal of Ca^{2+}, the CTD could adopt an

extended conformation to reform the salt-bridge interaction D376-R700 with EF3. Without the

CTD, EF3 may not be able to reform the Ca$_a^{2+}$ site and would become trapped in an inactive

state.

To further investigate the conformation of EF3 in solution, we performed continuous

wave electron paramagnetic resonance (CW-EPR) experiments using spin-labeled full-length

AtTPC1 lacking cysteines (AtTPC1$_{cysless}$; See Methods) in detergent micelles. Ten positions in

the CTD, gate, and EF-hand domains were examined by spin-probe mobility and responsiveness

to Ca^{2+}-ions. Labeling at a site on EF3 (R379) indicates a conformational shift to higher probe

mobility as compared with EGTA, indicating that the probe changes environment in the presence

of Ca^{2+}-ions (Figure S9). Mutation of the Ca_a^{2+} site but not the Ca^{2+}-site in EF1-EF2 abolishes

the Ca^{2+}-dependent increase in probe mobility, suggesting that EF3/Ca_a^{2+} changes conformation

upon increasing cytoplasmic Ca^{2+}-ion concentrations. The data suggest that the AtTPC1$_{WT}$

crystal structure likely represents an apo-state of EF3, whereas AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ represents a Ca^{2+}-

bound conformation present along the pathway of activation.

Alternate Access Mechanism of Activation

As the electric potential changes across a membrane, functional voltage sensors find a new free

energy minimum. Under hyperpolarizing conditions, the favorable electrostatic free energy

component of positive gating charges' attraction to internal negative potential is balanced against

a structural 'distortion' free energy cost. Depolarization therefore releases both of these

components to populate a new overall equilibrium state that includes a component that regulates

the open probability of the pore. Release of the electrostatic free energy is achieved by

alternating access of the positively charged gating charges on S10 to solvent from the

cytoplasmic side in the hyperpolarized resting state, to a state in which they are insulated from

the cytoplasmic side, and become accessible to solvent from the lumenal side, without any

necessity for vertical movement of the gating charges themselves. The structures of AtTPC1$_{WT}$

and AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ suggest that this 'alternating access' mechanism plays the key role. The

movement of the VSD2 helices S7, S8, S9 with respect to the gating charges on S10 achieve this

(Figure 6).

Hence the potential gradient is focused across a thin hydrophobic region close to the

lumenal (external) side in the resting-state, and alternately across one on the cytoplasmic side in

the activated-state. Thus, the gating charges do not require any vertical movement across the

bilayer as the electrically insulating region, which includes the CT and across which the voltage

gradient is formed, moves from outside of the gating charges in the resting-state voltage sensor,

to the cytoplasmic side of gating charges in the activated-state. Thus, the electric component of

free energy is released.

The mechanism is unique versus most previously proposed models in that S7-S9, not

only S10 that is closest to the pore, are crucial during voltage-activation to move gating charges

from the electric potential on one side of the membrane to the potential of the other side without

any necessary vertical translation of S10. Even after this major driving effect, gating charge side

chains will also readjust in context of their different environments and some vertical movement

may find more favorable energetics in the shallow energy gradient around them.

There is a teleologically favorable aspect to this alternate access mechanism in that it

does not need to remove any hydrophobic residues out of the bilayer as would be required of a

model involving large vertical movement of S10. It also does not need to rebuild the

hydrophobic interface between S10 of the VSD and the walls of the pore with which it forms the

primary contact that may be important in changes that alter open probability of the channel.

Simulations of VSDs that assume a linear gradient of electric potential across the bilayer that

changes only in slope on depolarization, but not position of start and end points across the VSD

may not represent the true physiological state.

The Gibbs free energy change on moving one charge across a transmembrane potential

difference of -70 mV is -1.6 kcal/mole. The measured gating charge transfer for activation of

AtTPC1 is 3.9 charges(20) or -6.3 kcal/mole in free energy difference. Ca^{2+} that effectively

stabilizes the resting-state. The EC_{50} for the Ca_i^{2+} site is ~0.1 mM. Therefore, assuming a K_d ~0.1

mM, the free energy released by removing each Ca_i^{2+} site is ~5.6 kcal/mole per site (or ~11.2

kcal/mole per AtTPC1 channel). It is not unreasonable that this difference, in releasing the

restraint at Ca_i^{2+}, could allow the VSD to reach its active state that would normally be evoked by

depolarizing the transmembrane potential at low Ca^{2+}. The fact that we observe intermediate

states of TPC1 upon removing Ca_i^{2+} rather than the fully activated state suggests that the

membrane voltage may contribute additional energy to maximize activation of VSD2 and

channel open probability.

The mechanism suggested for AtTPC1 voltage dependent activation is the first time that

atomic structures have been determined for intermediates on transition from resting-state to

activated-state in an intact voltage-dependent channel. The structures also capture large-scale

rotation of VSDs that could play a role in activation. It could be a general way in which gating

charge can move energetically downhill in response to a change in voltage, without the energetic

cost of removing any hydrophobic lipophilic regions out of the membrane.

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E.M.G. collected and processed cryo-EM data with J-P.A. and Y.C.; P.K.D. reconstituted TPC1

into nanodiscs and generated Fabs with D.D., S.S.K., and A.A.K.; M.B. collected EPR data with

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 Figures

Figure 1. Cryo-EM Structure of the AtTPC1$_{DDE}$-saposin A-Fab complex. a, Side (left) and top-down (right) views of cryo-EM density. The composite map is colored to highlight high-resolution features of TPC1 (blue, EMDB 8957), VSD2 in state 1 (cyan, EMDB 8958) and state 2 (pink, EMDB 8960), and the Fab variable domains (orange, EMDB 8956). Unsharpened density is shown at low contour (transparent gray). Membrane boundaries (black bars) defined by the nanodisc are marked. b, Overlay of AtTPC1$_{WT}$ (red, PDBID 5DQQ), state 1 (blue), and state 2 (pink). Ca$_i^{2+}$ and Ca$_a^{2+}$ denote sites of lumenal inhibition and cytoplasmic activation by Ca^{2+}-ions. Dash lines around Ca$_a^{2+}$ indicate hypothetical position in cryo-EM structure. Ca^{2+}-ions shown as colored balls.

Figure 2. Three States of VSD2. View of VSD2 in the membrane plane from the center of the channel looking outward, that illustrates the rotation and twisting of VSD2 helices S7, S8, S9, and S10. Connections to the pore domains omitted for clarity. S10 is highlighted in each state with a different color than the other helices. Gating charges R1-R3 (R537, R540, R543), and CT residue Y475 are shown. Left: resting-state AtTPC1$_{WT}$ (red, PDBID 5DQQ), Center: AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ state 1 (blue), and Right: AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ state 2 (pink).

Figure 3. Activation of the Voltage-sensor. Side views of a common slice perpendicular to the membrane surface of VSD2 in AtTPC1$_{WT}$ resting-state (red, PDBID 5DQQ) and AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ state 1 (blue) and state 2 (pink). S10 shown with gating charges R1-R3. The CT C$\square$ position (black ball) is marked. Based on a structural alignment with respect to the pore helices S6-S7 of each structure.

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Figure 4. Ion Permeation Pathway. a, b, Orthogonal side views through pore helices (a) S5-S6 (pore 1) and (b) S11-S12 (pore 2) of the channel homo-dimer overlaid with high-resolution cryo-EM density (gray mesh). c, HOLE plot of pore radii along central channel coordinate of AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ (red) and AtTPC1$_{WT}$ (blue). d, Top down view through central pore. Gate residues Y305, L673, and F676 are shown. e-g, Side views through the selectivity filter in (e) pore 1, (f) pore 2, and (g) an overlay of pore 2 of AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ (blue) and AtTPC1$_{WT}$ (pink). Upper E605, D606 and lower S265, T263, T264, V628, M629, N631 selectivity filter residues are shown. Density for lipids (See Figure S7) and ions omitted for clarity.

Figure 5. Dynamics of Cytoplasmic Domains. a, Overlay of (left) AtTPC1$_{WT}$ and (right) AtTPC1$_{DA}$ crystal structures colored by B-factor value (100-450 Å^2) (See Methods and Supplemental Discussion). b, Sideviews of AtTPC1$_{WT}$ (red) and AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ (blue). c, Views from (top left) side and (top right) bottom of EF3 for overlaid AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ (blue) and AtTPC1$_{WT}$ crystal structures (red, PDBID 5DQQ). CTD interactions omitted for clarity. Bottom panels show Ca^{2+}-ion binding sites in (bottom right) EF1-EF2 and (bottom left) EF3-EF4. d, View of EF3-CTD and EF3-EF4 interactions and connection to VSD2. e, Structure of the CTD in AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ and a possible coupling pathway to the pore gate and Ca$_a$$^{2+}$. Dash lines indicate the hypothetical Ca$_a$$^{2+}$ ion position.

Figure 6. Mechanism of TPC1 Channel Activation. Schematic summarizing the conformations of VSD2, EF3, CTD, and selectivity filter (SF) observed in crystal and cryo-EM structures under high and low effective lumenal Ca^{2+}-ion concentrations. A potential model for coupling between lumenal inhibition Ca_i^{2+}, cytoplasmic activation Ca_a^{2+}, voltage-sensing, and channel gating is shown. Helices and ions that move between the $AtTPC1_{WT}$ resting-state (red), $AtTPC1_{DDE}$ state 1 (cyan), $AtTPC1_{DDE}$ state 2 (pink), and hypothetical activated-open state (purple) are colored. Ca^{2+}-ions are shown as green balls. Gating charges that change position with respect to the CT (dashed line) between states are colored red.

Methods

Protein Production

AtTPC1. X-ray and cryo-EM trials used AtTPC1 with deletion of residues 2-11(19). Antibody

generation employed full-length AtTPC1. AtTPC1 constructs were expressed and purified by

nickel affinity chromatography (NiNTA), thrombin cleavage, and size exclusion, as described

previously(19). For reconstitution into saposin A lipoprotein nanoparticles and MSP nanodiscs,

the size exclusion step was omitted after NiNTA, but performed after reconstitution. To

introduce single cysteine labels for CW-EPR, a cysteine-less variant of AtTPC1, $AtTPC1_{cysless}$,

was constructed to replace all native cysteines with serines (C93S, C101S, C159S, C347S,

C392S, C574S, C577S, C580S, C687S, C728S). Cysteine substitutions for EPR spectroscopy

were purified in the presence of 1mM TCEP during solubilization and binding to Nickel beads,

but then removed during wash and elution steps to prevent interference with MTSL-labeling.

$AtTPC1_{cysless}$ has identical biochemical behavior to wild-type AtTPC1.

Saposin A. Human saposin A (plasmid was a kind gift from P. Nordlund) was expressed and

purified from *E. coli* Rosetta-gami 2(DE3) cells essentially as described(30). Several colonies

from transformed cells were used to inoculate overnight 300 mL LB cultures containing 25

µg/mL chloramphenicol, 10 µg/mL tetracycline, and 15 µg/mL kanamycin at 37 ˚C. Overnight

cultures were used to seed 6 L of Terrific Broth, grown to an absorbance value at 600 nm of 1.

The temperature was adjusted to 20 ˚C 30 minutes prior to induction by 0.7 mM IPTG for 15

hours at 20 ˚C. Cells were harvested by centrifugation at 4,000x g for 10 minutes and

resuspended in 200 mL 50 mM tris pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl (Lysis Buffer) and frozen at -80 ˚C

before further use. Bacterial pellets were lysed in the presence of 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl

fluoride (PMSF) by sonication for 5 minutes, then clarified by centrifugation at 26,000x g for 20

minutes. The supernatant was then incubated at 70 ˚C for 10 minutes followed by centrifugation

at 26,000x g for 20 minutes to remove contaminant proteins. Imidazole pH 7.4 was then added to

20 mM and passed through two HisTrap FF crude 5mL columns equilibrated in Lysis Buffer

with 20 mM Imidazole pH 7.4 using a peristaltic pump. Following 50 mL washes with Lysis

Buffer with 20 mM Imidazole pH 7.4 and Lysis Buffer with 35 mM Imidazole pH 7.4, pure

human saposin A was eluted in 25 mL Lysis Buffer with 400 mM Imidazole pH 7.4 in 1.5 mL

fractions. Fractions containing human saposin A were dialyzed against 1 L of Lysis Buffer with

4 mg of Tobacco Etch Virus (TEV) protease. The following morning an additional 2 mg of TEV

was added with an exchange of the dialysis buffer and dialyzed at room temperature for 3 hours.

Uncleaved saposin A and free TEV were removed by passing the protein through a single

HisTrap FF crude 5 mL column equilibrated in Lysis Buffer with 20 mM Imidazole pH 7.4 and

washed with 30 mL of Lysis Buffer with 20 mM Imidazole pH 7.4. The flow-through and wash

fractions were pooled and concentrated in 5 kDa molecular weight cutoff concentrators and

serially injected in 20 mg aliquots over TSKgel G3000SW 7 mm x 60 cm or Superdex S200

10/300 columns equilibrated in Lysis Buffer with 1 mM $CaCl_2$. High and low molecular weight

peaks were observed during size exclusion. The low molecular weight, most consistent with the

size of the saposin A monomers and dimers, was concentrated to 2 mg/mL for use in

reconstitution of AtTPC1 and frozen at -80 ˚C. Final yields of human saposin A were 5-10

milligrams of human saposin A per liter of culture.

Membrane scaffold protein. Plasmid harboring His-tagged E3D1 variant of membrane scaffold

protein (MSP) of the nanodiscs was obtained from Addgene (#20066). MSP was expressed,

purified and cleaved with TEV protease as described(41) with minor modifications. Colonies of

transformed BL21 (DE3) Gold cells (Stratagene) were used to inoculate overnight 30 mL LB

cultures containing 30 μg/mL kanamycin. Overnight cultures were used to inoculate 2 L of

Terrific Broth, grown at 37 °C until OD_{600} of 1.3 and then induced with 1 mM IPTG for 3 hrs.

Cultures were harvested by centrifugation at 4,000x g for 10 minutes, resuspended in 50 mM

Tris pH 8.0, 300 mM NaCl (MSP Lysis Buffer) supplemented with 1% Triton X-100, protease

inhibitor tablet and 1 mM PMSF. Microtip sonicator (Branson) was used to lyse the cells for 3

cycles at 1s on, 1 off and at 60% amplitude for 3 minutes each. For each 1L culture 1 mL of

NiNTA resin equilibrated with MSP Lysis Buffer was used in batch-binding for 1 hour at 4 °C.

Resin was then washed with MSP Lysis Buffer supplemented with: 1) 1% Triton X-100 - 10

column volumes (CVs), 2) 50 mM sodium cholate, 20 mM imidazole – 5 CVs, 3) 50 mM

imidazole – 7 CVs. MSP was eluted with 4 CVs of MSP Lysis Buffer supplemented with 400

mM imidazole. TEV cleavage was performed overnight in dialysis against 4 L of 50 mM Hepes

pH 7.5 and 200 mM NaCl. Uncut protein was removed with subtractive step on NiNTA resin and

cleaved MSP was concentrated to 5 mg/mL using Millipore concentrators with 10 kDa molecular

weight cutoff and frozen in aliquots at -80 °C. Typical yield of MSP E3D1 from 1 L culture was

15 mg.

Antibodies. Monoclonal antibodies were expressed and purified from hybridoma culture

supernatants using standard methods in the Monoclonal Antibody Core Facility at OHSU (Dan

Cawley). 4B8 Fab fragment was generated by papain digestion 1/20 Papain:4B8 (w/w) at 30 °C

for 1 hour in the presence of 5 mM L-cysteine and quenched with 20 mM iodoacetamide. Full-

length IgG and Fc regions were removed via protein A chromatography and the flow-through

containing 4B8 Fab was concentrated and purified by TSK3000/Superdex200 size exclusion

chromatography in 20 mM Hepes pH 7.4, 0.2M NaCl, 5% Glycerol.

Antibody fragments (Fabs) generated by phage display were expressed and purified

essentially as described(42) from constructs subcloned into the expression vectors pRH2.2 or

pSFV4 (gift from S. Sidhu). DNA was transformed into BL21-Gold(DE3) (Agilent) and used

directly to set up 15 mL overnight starter cultures in 2xYT media supplemented with 50 ug/mL

ampicillin. Cultures were then inoculated into 1 L of 2xYT media, grown until OD_{600} of ~0.8-

1.0, induced with 1 mM IPTG for 4 hours at 37 °C. Cells were harvested by centrifugation and

disrupted in lysis buffer containing 20 mM sodium phosphate dibasic pH 7.4, 500 mM NaCl, 1

mM PMSF, and 2 mM DNase, using sonicator (Branson). Lysate was heated to 55 °C for 30

minutes, cleared by centrifugation and incubated with 1 mL of MabSelect ProteinA resin (GE

Healthcare) in batch for 1 hour at 4 °C. Resin was washed with 15 column volumes of 20 mM

sodium phosphate dibasic pH 7.4, 500 mM NaCl and then eluted with 10 ml 0.1 M acetic acid

into tubes containing 1 mL of 1 M Hepes pH 7.5 to immediately neutralize elutions containing

Fab fragments. Fabs were then dialyzed against 4 L of 50 mM HEPES pH 7.5 and 200 mM

NaCl, concentrated with Millipore concentrators with 30 kDa molecular weight cutoff and stored

in aliquots at -80 °C. Typical yield from 1 L culture varied depending on Fab fragment and was

between 0.5 – 3 mg. For cryo-EM studies Fab CAT06 was modified with H12 elbow variant as

described previously(43), resulting in the CAT06/H12 antibody fragment. Briefly, the H12

elbow variant exchanges heavy chain residues (112)SSASTK(117) (numbering according to

Kabat (44)) to (112)FNQI-K(117) with one position deleted from the sequence.

Saposin A and Nanodisc Reconstitution

Lipids. All lipids were prepared from thin films. Lipids were dissolved in chloroform, aliquoted

into glass vials, dried under nitrogen, and stored at -20 °C dry. Unless otherwise noted,

resuspending lipids was accomplished by adding buffer with or without detergent and sonicating

10-30 minutes until clear.

Saposin A nanoparticles. Saposin A nanoparticles containing AtTPC1 were formed by mixing

AtTPC1 alone or AtTPC1-Cat06/H12 Fab complexes with soy polar lipids and saposin A in a

1:8:5-10 ratio by mass. A typical preparation consisted of 2.4 mg (8 mg/mL) of NiNTA purified

AtTPC1 incubated with 2.4 mg (9 mg/mL) of protein A purified CAT06/H12 (adjusted to 0.05%

DDM, 1 mM $CaCl_2$), incubated at room temperature for 5-10 minutes. AtTPC1-Cat06/H12 Fab

complexes were then mixed with 4.8 mL of 5 mg/mL soy polar lipids (diluted from a 25 mg/mL

stock in 1% DDM) dissolved in Size Exclusion Buffer (20 mM Hepes pH 7.3, 0.2 M NaCl, 5%

Glycerol, 1 mM $CaCl_2$, 0.05% DDM) and incubated at room temperature for 30 minutes. Then

9.6 mL (2 mg/mL) saposin A was added, incubated 1 hour at room temperature, then diluted to

40 mL with Size Exclusion Buffer. Detergent was removed by adding 1 g of activated, washed,

Bio-Beads SM2 (BIO-RAD) resin overnight at 4˚C. Bio-Beads were activated by incubation in

methanol and successively washed with copious amounts of water. The following morning,

beads were removed by filtration through 5 µm syringe filter. 0.5 molar equivalent of Fab

CAT06/H12 was added, incubated 30 minutes at 4 ˚C, then concentrated to ~0.3 mL in a 100

kDa MWCO concentrator, and filtered prior to injection on a TSK4000 or Superose 6 column

equilibrated in Nanodisc Size Exclusion Buffer (20 mM Hepes pH 7.3, 0.2 M NaCl, 1 mM

$CaCl_2$). A single fraction was selected for cryo-EM analysis by screening for homogeneous

particles by negative-stain EM (Figure S6b-d). Cryo-EM grids were frozen following

ultracentrifugation at 100,000x g (TLA-55) for 5 minutes at 4 ˚C without further concentration.

AtTPC1-CAT06/H12-saposin A complexes typically eluted from size exclusion at 0.5-1 mg/mL.

16 lipids are observed bound to $AtTPC1_{DDE}$ (Figure S7).

MSP nanodiscs. Reconstitution of AtTPC1 into E3D1 nanodiscs was performed using standard

protocols(45). For the purpose of antibody generation by phage display, full-length AtTPC1$_{WT}$

was reconstituted into nanodiscs using biotinylated version of MSP E3D1, and size exclusion

fractions corresponding to AtTPC1 in biotinylated nanodiscs were used without the removal of

empty nanodiscs. Final mixed lipid-detergent micelles used in reconstitution contained 10 mM

soy polar extract, 1 mM CHS, and 30 mM DDM. Nanodisc assembly mix was prepared using

purified TPC1, mixed micelles and MSP at 2:10:1000 ratio. All components were mixed together

in Nanodisc Size Exclusion Buffer and incubated on ice for 1 hour. Next, 400-500 mg activated

Bio-Beads were added per each ml of assembly mix, and the reconstitution reaction was left

shaking overnight at 4°C. As a control, empty nanodiscs were prepared using the same

phospholipids. All nanodisc samples for phage display experiments were concentrated,

supplemented with 5% w/v sucrose, aliquoted, flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen, and kept at -80°C.

Proteoliposomes. Proteoliposomes of full-length wild-type AtTPC1 were formed by

resuspending 20mg of soy polar lipids dried from chloroform resuspended in 4 mL Nanodisc

Size Exclusion Buffer, subjected to 10x alternating liquid Nitrogen and warm water bath freeze-

thaw cycles, then sonicated for 10 min. The opaque mixture was then passed through an Avestin

hand extruder with a 400 nm pore size 10x until mildly translucent. Vesicles were disrupted by

addition of 69.8 µL 10% DDM added (4 mM final), 12.1 µL 2% CHS in 10% DDM added (0.1

mM final), and 1 mM CaCl$_2$, and stirred 30 minutes at room temperature. 2 mg of AtTPC1 was

added to disrupted liposomes (1:10 protein:lipid ratio) and stirred for 1 hour at room temperature

using a magnetic "flea" stir bar. To form proteoliposomes, methanol washed Bio-Beads were

added in increments of 300 mg, 300 mg, 500 mg, and 1 g in 1-hour intervals at room

temperature. The last incubation was done at 4 ˚C overnight. The following morning the samples

were centrifuged at 100,000x g for 1 hour in a table-top ultracentrifuge (TLA-55). The

proteoliposome pellet was resuspended in in 0.4 mL of Nanodisc Size Exclusion Buffer. The

concentration was estimated by gel and frozen in liquid Nitrogen and stored at -80 ˚C. Empty

liposomes were made in a similar fashion by substituting AtTPC1 protein with Size Exclusion

Buffer.

Antibody Generation

Hybridoma. Hybridoma cell lines were generated by standard methods at OHSU by Daniel

Cawley. Briefly, four Balb/c mice were injected with 25 µg of AtTPC1 proteoliposomes at 0 and

14 days. On day 26, serum was prepared and tested for antibody titer in ELISA. The mice with

the highest titers were used to derive hybridomas. The two best responding mice were injected

on day 45-55 with 10 µg Ag as a final boost. 4 days later, spleen cells are fused with P3X mouse

myeloma cells. Hybridomas were assayed 12 days later in ELISA. All candidate cell lines were

expanded and given a secondary ELISA screen 12-14 days later. All antigen specific antibodies

were made available as culture supernates for screening. All candidate cell lines are frozen in

liquid nitrogen. 14 hybridoma antibodies were identified that specifically bind to immobilized

biotinylated AtTPC1 in DDM detergent by ELISA. To select for antibodies that recognize 3D

structural epitopes a counter-selection against antibodies that bind linear epitopes on denatured

protein in 8M Urea was performed, yielding 5 antibodies that bind only under native conditions

by ELISA. Selection of high-affinity antibodies that were capable of complex formation was

conducted by fluorescence size exclusion chromatography(46) (FSEC) using FITC-labeled

AtTPC1 and hybridoma supernatants containing 10-50 µg/mL whole IgG. FSEC samples were

prepared by mixing 1µg FITC-Labeled AtTPC1 with 0.4 mL hybridoma supernatants

(supplemented with components to make Size exclusion buffer +0.03 mg/mL Soy Polar Lipids)

in a total volume of 490 µL of Size exclusion buffer. Samples were incubated at 25 °C for 1 hour

or 4 °C for 4-5 hours and injected on a Superose 6 column, 0.4 mL/min, equilibrated in Size

exclusion buffer at 4 °C, using an autosampler and inline fluorescence detector set at

excitation=495 nm and emission=518 nm. The fluorescence detector (Shimadzu RF-10AXL)

was calibrated before use by injecting varying amounts of FITC-AtTPC1 (0.1 ng-1 µg) with

known labelling efficiency.

Phage Display. To generate Fabs, the efficiency of biotinylation of $AtTPC1_{WT}$-E3D1 nanodiscs

was evaluated by pull-down on streptavidin-coated magnetic beads (Promega). Library sorting

steps were performed using Fab Library E (DNA kindly provided by S. Koide(47)) based on

previous protocols(31, 48). Six independent phage library sorting experiments were performed

against biotinylated $AtTPC1_{WT}$ -E3D1 nanodiscs in 2 buffers containing 20 mM Hepes pH 7.3,

200 mM NaCl, 5% glycerol, 1% BSA, and either 1 mM $CaCl_2$ or 1 mM EGTA. Additionally, for

each $CaCl_2$ or EGTA condition, sorting was carried out in the presence of following ligands:

either 1 μM NAADP, 1 μM trans-NED19, or no ligand control to maximize the number of

multiple states of TPC1 channel during sorting (Sorting Buffer). Total of five rounds of phage

library sorting were performed for each sample with decreasing concentration of immobilized

biotinylated TPC1-E3D1 nanodiscs between subsequent rounds in following order 1000 nM, 600

nM, 200 nM, 200 nM and 100 nM. Round 1 of sorting was performed manually using nanodisc

bound to streptavidin-coated magnetic beads, and upon washing with respective Sorting Buffer,

whole beads were used to infect log phase *E. coli* XL-1 strain (Stratagene) in the 2xYT media

(Fisher) supplemented with 50 µg/ml ampicillin and 10^9 pfu/ml of KO7 helper phage (NEB)

overnight at 37 °C and 280 rpm to amplify the phage particles. The amplified phage particles

after round 1 were used as an input for four additional rounds of library sorting performed semi-

automatically with a KingFisher magnetic bead handler (Thermo) according to described

protocols(49). Starting from round 2, in every step except elution, the buffer was supplemented

with 10-fold molar excess of non-biotinylated empty E3D1 nanodiscs to counter-select for MSP-

, lipid-, and non-specific phage particles. Finally, in each of rounds 2-5, phage particles were

eluted from magnetic beads by 15-minutes incubation with 1% Fos-Choline-12 in respective

Sorting Buffer.

Initial validation of selection clones was performed by single point direct phage ELISA

using clones from round 3, 4 and 5. Amplified phage particles at 10-fold dilution were assayed

against 50 nM biotinylated nanodiscs (either empty or with AtTPC1) using HRP-conjugated anti-

M13 monoclonal antibody (GE Healthcare, #27-9421-01). Assays were performed in respective

Sorting Buffer supplemented with 2% BSA. Each Fab clone with A_{450} signal above 0.2 (four

times the average background level of the assay) was sequenced; unique Fabs were sub-cloned

into pSVF4 or pRH2.2 vectors (kind gift of S. Sidhu), and purified as described above. In total

16 unique Fab sequences were obtained from total of 192 single colonies screened; 9 Fabs from

library sorting with $CaCl_2$ and 7 Fabs from library sorting with EGTA.

Cryo-EM Structure Determination

Sample Preparation. Samples were analyzed by negative-stain EM to determine suitability for

cryo-EM. To prepare grids, 3 μl of sample at 10–50 μg ml^{-1} was applied to a glow discharged

continuous carbon grid, which was then treated with 0.75% (w/v) uranyl formate. Grids were

imaged on an FEI Tecnai T12 microscope operated at 120kV at a nominal magnification of

52,000× using an UltraScan 4000 camera (Gatan) or an FEI Tecnai T20 microscope operated at

200kV and at a nominal magnification of 80,000× using a TemCam-F816 8k × 8k CMOS

camera (TVIPS) camera, corresponding to pixel sizes of 2.21 Å and 0.95 Å, respectively, on the

specimen.

Grids for cryo-EM were prepared with FEI Mark IV vitrobot. Quantafoil R1.2/1.3 400

mesh holey carbon grids (EMS) were glow-discharged for 30 s. Then 2.5 μl protein sample

at a concentration of 0.6-1.5 mg ml^{-1} was applied onto the carbon face of the grids. The grids

were blotted with Whatman#1 filter paper for 2-4 s at 100% humidity and plunge

frozen in liquid ethane. The grids were loaded onto a 300kV Polara (FEI) with a K2 Summit

direct electron detector (Gatan). Data were collected at nominal magnification of 31,000×,

corresponding to a physical pixel size of 1.2156 Å (0.6078 Å super resolution pixel size) on the

specimen with a dose rate of 7.6 electrons per physical pixel per second. Images were recorded

with SerialEM in super-resolution counting mode and a defocus range of −0.8 to −2.0 μm. A

total exposure of 12 s was used, with 0.2 s subframes (60 total frames) to give a total dose

of 60 electrons per Å^2 (1.35 electrons per Å^2 per subframe). Data for AtTPC1$_{WT}$ in saposin A

was also collected at the Janelia Cryo-EM facility FEI Titan Krios microscope operated at 300kV

with a K2 camera with a physical pixel size of 1.02 Å.

Image Processing. For negative-stain data, GCTF(50), Gautomatch (Kai Zhang, url:

https://www.mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk/kzhang/), and RELION-2(51) were used for CTF estimation,

particle picking, and 2D classification, respectively. For cryo-EM data, dose-fractionated super-

resolution image stacks were drift corrected and binned 2×2 by Fourier cropping using

MotionCor2(52) (after discarding the first frame). CTF determination and particle picking was

performed on motion-corrected sums without dose-weighting using GCTF and Gautomatch. To

generate particle picking templates and initial models a Gaussian reference was used to pick

particles and 2D classification was performed in RELION-2 followed by *ab-initio* reconstruction

in cryoSPARC. Particles were then picked using six 2D classes as templates. 2D classification,

3D classification and refinement procedures were carried out using and RELION-2 and

cryoSPARC(53) (Figure S3). After 3D classification the reconstruction was filtered to 30 Å

resolution and used as an initial reference model for 3D refinement in cryoSPARC v2 using the

beta version of non-uniform refinement yielding a reconstruction with a gold-standard Fourier

shell correlation of 3.5 Å with a 0.143 cutoff criterion. The map from cryoSPARC was used for

modeling the Fab variable domain. The final 3.3 Å high-resolution reconstruction was performed

in RELION-2 using 3D auto-refinement by masking out the saposin A membrane belt and the

Fab using a mask created from a 30 Å low-pass filtered model of $AtTPC1_{WT}$. Local resolution

estimates were performed using RELION-2. The final maps were sharpened in RELION-2 using

a B-factor of -104 and -117 $Å^2$ for the TPC1-Fab-saposin and TPC1-only reconstructions,

respectively.

State 1 and 2 were identified by focused classification of VSD2 without image alignment

using the angles determined from the high-resolution reconstruction (Figure S3). Focused

classification benefitted from applying C2 symmetry. After 3D classification each particle set

was refined in RELION-2 with global angular searches using a 30Å low pass filtered

reconstruction of the combined dataset. The maps for state 1 and 2 extend to 3.7 Å as determined

by the gold-standard FSC. These maps were used to build atomic models for VSD2 with local

resolution in this region ranging from 4-6 Å as estimated by RELION-2 (Table S1). The final

maps were sharpened in RELION-2 using a B-factor of -95 and -86 $Å^2$ for the state and state 2

reconstructions, respectively.

Structure Determination and Refinement. The entire structure of AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ excluding VSD2

was built into the highest resolution map (High-res; Table S1) manually after initial real-space

flexible fitting and refinement of the AtTPC1$_{WT}$ structure into the map using Rosetta (54) with

the electron scattering table. Manual fitting in COOT(55), followed by real-space coordinate and

B-factor/atomic displacement factor refinement in PHENIX(56) were used in *de novo* building of

the NTD, EF-hand, CTD, Ca^{2+}-ions, lipid molecules (palmitic acid and phosphatidic acid), and

the Fab-AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ interface. This map was calculated with a mask around TPC1, excluding the

Fab. A structure of the Fab-complex (Fab-bound; Table S1) was determined from the same

dataset by extending the mask to include the Fab variable domains (V$_H$ and V$_L$). The Fab was

built using a homologous structure of a Fab from the same library (PDB 3PGF) with the variable

CDR loops deleted.

Building of the state 1 (State 1; Table S1)was accomplished by rigid body alignment of

the AtTPC1$_{WT}$ structure to the cryo-EM map using CHIMERA (57) followed by flexible fitting

and refinement in Rosetta, and extensive manual fitting in COOT. State 2 (State 2; Table S1) was

built by first rotating VSD2 of AtTPC1$_{WT}$ to place S10. Movement of S7-S9 around the S10 axis

was done manually in real-space. Gating charges R1-R3 were placed in favored rotamer

positions using the rotamer library in COOT and PHENIX, while applying the additional

restraint that R1-R3 must contact solvent, a polar side chain, or counter charge in the membrane.

One position satisfied these criteria for each gating charge.

Model validation employed MolProbity(58) and EMRinger(59). Low resolution maps of

AtTPC1$_{WT}$-4B8 were interpreted by flexible fitting of the AtTPC1$_{WT}$ crystal structure and a

homology model of 4B8 in real-space using Rosetta. Final AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ coordinates and maps

have been deposited in the Electron Microscopy Data Bank (EMDB) under EMDB IDs (High-

resolution) 8957, (Fab) 8956, (State 1) 8958, and (State 2) 8960, and the Protein Data Bank

(PDB) under PDB IDs 6E1M, 6E1K, 6E1N, and 6E1P.

Crystal Structure Determination. AtTPC1 D376A (AtTPC1$_{DA}$) crystals were obtained in the

presence of CaCl$_2$, CHS, soy polar lipids, and 1mM trans-NED19 (NED19), using HiLiDe(60) as

described previously(19). Average diffraction was 4 Å, with 10% diffracting to 3.5-3.7 Å

resolution, the best being 3.5 Å. Anisotropic resolution was determined using the CCP4 program

Truncate(61) and the UCLA Anisotropy Server(62). Crystals were partially dehydrated by

incubation with additional 15% (v/v) of polyethylene glycol 300 prior to freezing in liquid

nitrogen.

X-ray diffraction datasets were collected at the Advanced Light Source (ALS) Beamlines

8.3.1 and 5.0.2 and at Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource (SSRL) Beamline 12-2. Data

were reduced using XDS(63). The best native dataset extends to overall resolution 3.5 x 6.0 x 4.5

Å (ref.(62)). Phases were calculated by molecular replacement using PHASER(64) and AtTPC1

wild-type (PDBID 5DQQ) as a search model. Structure interpretation was using COOT(55), with

refinement in PHENIX(56). The structure of AtTPC1$_{DA}$ was refined to 3.5 Å resolution with

final R$_{work}$/R$_{free}$ of 31.84 % and 35.19%. A sharpening B-factor of -142.05 Å^2 was used for

refinement, as described previously(19). Analysis by Molprobity shows Ramachandran

geometries of 93.09%, 6.25%, and 0.66% for favored, allowed, and outliers. The structure

contains 11.31% rotamer outliers. For comparison of B-factors between AtTPC1$_{WT}$ (mean

Wilson B-factor 108 Å^2; PDB ID 5DQQ)(19) and AtTPC1$_{DA}$ (mean Wilson B-factor 109.86 Å^2)

structures, B-factors were first scaled by adding the difference in mean wilson B-factor (1.86 Å^2)

to the mean wilson B-factor of the wild-type AtTPC1 crystal structure (PDBID 5DQQ)(19). The

AtTPC1$_{DA}$ structure and structure factors have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB)

under PDB ID 6CX0.

EPR Spectroscopy

Sample Preparation for CW-EPR. Concentrated (7-12 mg/mL) NiNTA-purified AtTPC1$_{cysless}$

mutations were incubated with 10-fold molar excess MTSL (MTSL; Toronto Research

Chemicals, Inc) dissolved at 10 mg/mL in DMSO for 2 hours at room temperature. The samples

were then split in half and treated with either 1mM CaCl$_2$ or 5mM EGTA pH 7.4 prior to

filtration and purification by size exclusion chromatography in 1mM CaCl$_2$ or 5mM EGTA pH

7.4, respectively. AtTPC1$_{cysless}$ has identical biochemical behavior to AtTPC1$_{WT}$ and maintains

structural integrity as evidenced by negative-stain EM analysis. Fractions containing labeled

AtTPC1$_{cysless}$ were pooled and concentrated to 5 mg/mL for EPR measurements.

EPR Data Collection. For continuous wave (CW) EPR experiments, X-band spectra were

collected on a Varian E-102 Century series spectrometer fitted with a loop-gap resonator

(Medical Advances, Milwaukee, WI). Samples (10 uL) were contained in a 0.64/0.80 mm

(i.d./o.d.) quartz capillary (Vitrocom, Mountain Lakes, NJ) and spectra were recorded at room

temperature over 100 G with an incident microwave power of 2 mW, modulation amplitude of 1

G, and modulation frequency of 100 kHz; typical total scan times were 5 minutes. CW spectra

were normalized and corrected for minute deviations in baseline prior to comparison and

analysis. All data were plotted using Origin 6 after normalizing the area under integrated CW

spectrum.

Cryo-EM structural data of AtTPC1$_{DDE}$ has been deposited to the Protein Data Bank under

accession codes 6E1K, 6E1M, 6E1N, 6E1P and the Electron Microscopy Data Bank under

accession codes 8956, 8957, 8958, 8960. X-ray structural data of AtTPC1$_{DA}$ has been deposited

to the Protein Data Bank under accession code 6CX0. Correspondence and requests for materials

should be addressed to R.M.S (stroud@msg.ucsf.edu) and Y.C. (ycheng@ucsf.edu).