Functional analysis of STIM1 mutations

1	Functional anal	yses of <i>STIM1</i> mutations reveal a common pathomechanism					
2	for tubu	llar aggregate myopathy and Stormorken syndrome					
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21 ABSTRACT

Tubular aggregate myopathy (TAM) is a progressive disorder essentially involving muscle 22 weakness, cramps, and myalgia. TAM clinically overlaps with Stormorken syndrome 23 (STRMK), associating TAM with miosis, thrombocytopenia, hyposplenism, ichthyosis, short 24 stature, and dyslexia. TAM and Stormorken syndrome arise from gain-of-function mutations in 25 STIM1 or ORAI1, both encoding key regulators of Ca²⁺ homeostasis, and mutations in either 26 gene results in excessive Ca²⁺ entry. The pathomechanistic similarities and differences of TAM 27 and Stormorken syndrome are only partially understood. Here we provide functional *in cellulo* 28 experiments demonstrating that STIM1 harboring the TAM D84G or the STRMK R304W 29 mutation similarly cluster and exert a dominant effect on the wild-type protein. Both mutants 30 recruit ORAI1 to the clusters, induce major nuclear import of the Ca²⁺-dependent transcription 31 factor NFAT, and trigger the formation of circular membrane stacks. In conclusion, the 32 analyzed TAM and STRMK mutations have a comparable impact on STIM1 protein function 33 and downstream effects of excessive Ca²⁺ entry, highlighting that TAM and Stormorken 34 syndrome involve a common pathomechanism. 35

37	Keywords:	STIM1,	tubular a	aggregate m	yopathy,	Stormorken s	yndrome.	SOCE,	calcium
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43 INTRODUCTION

Tubular aggregate myopathy (TAM) and Stormorken syndrome (STRMK) are spectra of the same disease affecting muscle, platelets, spleen, and skin (1, 2). The majority of the TAM patients primarily present with muscle weakness, cramps, and myalgia with a heterogeneous age of onset and disease severity (3-6). Additional features including thrombocytopenia, hyposplenism, miosis, ichthyosis, short stature, hypocalcemia, or dyslexia can be seen as well, and the occurrence of the totality of the multi-systemic signs constitutes the diagnosis of Stormorken syndrome (7-18).

Both TAM and Stormorken syndrome are characterized by the presence of densely packed 51 membrane tubules in muscle fibers, and investigations on muscle sections 52 bv immunofluorescence have shown that these tubular aggregates contain various sarcoplasmic 53 54 reticulum (SR) proteins, suggesting that they originate from the SR (4, 7, 15, 16, 19). The tubular aggregates are the histopathological hallmark of TAM and Stormorken syndrome, and 55 were also described in hypokalemic periodic paralysis, myasthenic syndrome, malignant 56 hyperthermia, inflammatory or ethyltoxic myopathy, and accumulate in normal muscle with 57 age (20-25). 58

TAM and Stormorken syndrome are caused by heterozygous missense mutations in STIM1 (4, 59 10-12) (OMIM #605921) or ORAII (12) (OMIM #610277), both encoding key factors of store-60 operated Ca²⁺ entry (SOCE). SOCE is a major mechanism regulating Ca²⁺ homeostasis and 61 thereby drives a multitude of Ca²⁺-dependent cellular functions including muscle contraction. 62 63 STIM1 has a single transmembrane domain and is primarily localized at the endoplasmic/sarcoplasmic reticulum with an N-terminal luminal part containing the Ca²⁺-64 sensing EF hands, and a C-terminal cytosolic part containing coiled-coil domains (CC1-3). 65 66 Upon Ca²⁺ store depletion, STIM1 undergoes a conformational change, clusters in vicinity to

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the plasma membrane, and recruits and activates the Ca^{2+} channel ORAI1 to trigger extracellular Ca^{2+} entry and reticular Ca^{2+} store refill (26-28). Functional experiments have shown that the *STIM1* and *ORAI1* mutations induce excessive extracellular Ca^{2+} entry despite replete reticular Ca^{2+} stores (4, 10-12, 15).

Fourteen different *STIM1* mutations have been described in patients with TAM and Stormorken syndrome, including 12 mutations in the luminal EF-hands, and two mutations in the cytosolic CC1 domain (3-14, 18). Patients with EF-hand mutations mainly manifest a muscle phenotype and only isolated multi-systemic features, while the most common R304W substitution in the cytosolic CC1 domain, found in thirteen unrelated families, was essentially described with the full clinical picture of Stormorken syndrome (7, 10-14).

The shared genetic causes of TAM and Stormorken syndrome, the consistent skeletal muscle 77 78 histopathology, and the overlapping clinical presentation of affected individuals raises the possibility of a common sequence of events leading to either TAM or STRMK. In an attempt 79 to elucidate and compare the cellular defects underlying both disorders, we performed a series 80 of functional and comparative in cellulo experiments. We demonstrate that both the TAM D84G 81 and the STRMK R304W mutation similarly impact on STIM1 migration and clustering at the 82 plasma membrane, the interaction with ORAI1, the nuclear translocation of the Ca²⁺-dependent 83 transcription factor NFAT, and the formation of membrane stacks. We therefore conclude that 84 TAM and Stormorken syndrome involve a common pathomechanism. 85

86 MATERIALS AND METHODS

87 **Constructs**

The human YFP-STIM1, mCherry-STIM1, ORAI1-eGFP, and eGFP-NFAT constructs were kind gifts from Nicolas Demaurex (University of Geneva, Switzerland), Richard S. Lewis (Stanford University, USA), Liangyi Chen (Beijing University, China), and Cristina Ulivieri,

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91 (Universita degli studi di Siena, Italy), respectively. The STIM1 (c.251A>G; p.D84G,
92 c.910C>T; p.R304W) and ORAI1 (c.319G>A; p.V107M) point mutations were introduced by
93 site-directed mutagenesis using the Pfu DNA polymerase (Stratagene, La Jolla, USA).

94 Cell culture

95 C2C12 murine myoblasts were cultured in DMEM, supplemented with 20% fetal calf serum
96 (FCS) and 0.5% gentamycin (all Gibco Life Technologies, Carlsbad, USA), grown at 37°C and
97 5% CO₂, and transfected using Lipofectamine® 2000 (Invitrogen Life Technologies Carlsbad,
98 USA) at 50% confluency in Opti-MEM (Gibco Life Technologies). HeLa cells were grown in
99 DMEM with 5% FCS and 0.5% gentamycin and transfected at 70% confluency using
100 Lipofectamine® 2000. Co-expression experiments were conducted using a 1:1 plasmid ratio.

Twenty-four hours post transfection, cells seeded on glass slides were fixed using 4% 101 paraformaldehyde (PFA) for 20 min at RT, treated with 50mM ammonium chloride (NH4Cl) 102 for 15 min and rinsed in 1xPBS. Nuclei were stained with DAPI (Sigma Aldrich), and the 103 coverslips were mounted using FluorSave reagent (Calbiochem, Darmstadt, Germany). Cells 104 were classified according to the cytosolic or nuclear localization of the eGFP-NFAT signal, and 105 the statistical significance was assessed through one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-106 hoc test. All experiments were performed in triplicate and monitored with the Leica TCS SP8 107 AOBS inverted confocal microscope equipped with a Leica HCX PL APO CS2 63x/1.4 oil 108 immersion objective (Leica, Wetzlar, Germany). 109

110 Total Internal Reflection Fluorescence (TIRF) microscropy

111 The TIRF plane of acquisition was determined according to the YFP fluorescence detected at 112 the plasma membrane, and the images were acquired at resting state and following addition of 113 2µM thapsigargin (Sigma-Aldrich, Saint Louis, USA) using a Nikon TI-eclipse inverted 114 microscope equipped with a 100x, 1.49 NA oil-immersion objective (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan).

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115 Correlative Light and Electron Microscopy (CLEM)

Cells were cultured on micro-patterned aclar supports (29), transfected with WT or mutant 116 YFP-STIM1. Cells were precisely located and imaged by confocal microscopy (Leica TCS 117 SP2-AOBS), and then chemically fixed with 0.1M sodium cacodylate buffer containing 2.5% 118 paraformaldehyde and 2.5% glutaraldehyde, and post-fixed in 1% osmium tetroxide for 1h at 119 4°C. After extensive washing in distilled water, cells were incubated in 1% uranyl acetate for 120 1h at 4°C, dehydrated through a graded series of ethanol solutions, and embedded in epoxy 121 resin polymerized 48h at 60°C. Ultrathin sections (60 nm) were mounted on pioloform-coated 122 slot grids and examined with a Philips CM12 (80 kV) electron microscope equipped with a 123 Gatan ORIUS 1000 CCD camera (FEI Company Hillsboro, USA). 124

125 **RESULTS**

126 TAM and STRMK mutants constitutively cluster at the plasma membrane

We first assessed the effect of the TAM and STRMK-related STIM1 mutations on the SOCE-127 dependent accumulation of STIM1 in vicinity to the plasma membrane. To this aim, we 128 transfected C2C12 myoblasts with WT or mutant (TAM D84G or STRMK R304W) YFP-129 STIM1, and monitored the fluorescence by TIRF microscopy. Cells expressing WT STIM1 130 showed a diffuse signal inside the cell at the resting state, and addition of 2 μ M thapsigargin 131 induced Ca²⁺-store depletion and the formation of STIM1 clusters at the plasma membrane 132 133 (Figure 1a). This is in agreement with previous studies showing that STIM1 migrates to the plasma membrane and clusters upon SOCE activation (30). In contrast, cells transfected with 134 STIM1 D84G or R304W displayed clusters at the plasma membrane independently of 135 thapsigargin treatment. This supports the idea that both TAM and STRMK-related STIM1 136 mutations involve a gain-of-function resulting in constitutive STIM1 clustering despite replete 137 Ca²⁺ stores. 138

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Figure 1: **Impact of TAM and STRMK mutations on STIM1 clustering.** (a) TIRF microscopy on transfected C2C12 muscle cells demonstrates that wild type STIM1 has a diffuse localization inside the cell, and clusters at the vicinity of the plasma membrane upon Ca²⁺ store depletion through thapsigargin (TG). In contrast, both TAM D84G and STRMK R304W mutants cluster without TG treatment and independently of the reticular Ca²⁺ load. (b) Cotransfection of C2C12 cells with differentially tagged STIM1 constructs shows that D84G and R304W STIM1 sequester wild type STIM1 to the clusters, revealing a dominant effect.

146 TAM and STRMK mutants sequester WT STIM1

Both TAM and Stormorken syndrome result from heterozygous STIM1 missense mutations (4, 147 10-12). To investigate a potential effect of mutant STIM1 on the wild type protein, we co-148 transfected C2C12 cells with WT or mutant YFP-STIM1 and WT mCherry-STIM1. Cells co-149 150 expressing differently tagged WT proteins displayed diffuse overlapping signals. Addition of thapsigargin provoked co-clustering of both WT proteins, illustrating that the fluorescent YPF 151 and mCherry tags do not impact on the intracellular localization or clustering of STIM1 (Figure 152 1b). Cells co-expressing D84G or R304W with WT STIM1 exhibited major STIM1 clusters of 153 overlapping YFP and mCherry signals without thapsigargin treatment. These results 154 155 demonstrate that both TAM and STRMK mutants recruit wild type STIM1 to the clusters without Ca²⁺ store depletion, and thereby evidence a dominant effect leading to the constitutive 156 clustering of WT STIM1. 157

158 TAM and STRMK mutants recruit ORAI1 and are less sensitive to Ca²⁺ influx

The cytosolic coiled-coil domains of STIM1 contain the STIM1-ORAI1 activating domain (SOAR), which is essential for the interaction with the plasma membrane Ca^{2+} channel ORAI1 (26, 31, 32). To examine the effect of the TAM and STRMK mutations on the recruitment of ORAI1 to the STIM1 clusters, we transfected C2C12 cells with WT or mutant mCherry-STIM1

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and WT ORAI1-eGFP (Figure 2). When co-expressed, WT STIM1 and WT ORAI1 163 164 significantly co-cluster, and we also observed clusters containing STIM1 and ORAI1 in cells expressing mutant D84G or R304W STIM1 and WT ORAI1. To investigate the influence of 165 Ca²⁺ entry on the recruitment of ORAI1 to the STIM1 clusters, we next co-transfected HeLa 166 cells with WT or mutant mCherry-STIM and mutant V107M ORAI1-eGFP (Figure 2). The 167 V107M mutation affects an essential amino acid of the pore-forming unit of ORAI1, and has 168 been shown to generate a channel with constant Ca^{2+} permeability (15, 33). Major clusters were 169 found in more than 80% of the cells expressing mutant STIM1 and mutant ORAI1, 170 demonstrating that the leaky V107M ORAI1 channel is largely recruited to the D84G or R304W 171 172 STIM1 clusters. In contrast, less than 10% of the cells expressing wild type STIM1 and mutant ORAI1 displayed prominent clusters. These data illustrate that steady Ca²⁺ inflow through 173 V107M ORAI1 efficiently disassembles or prevents the formation of wild type STIM1 clusters 174 175 and thereby inactivates SOCE, while the mutation-induced STIM1 clusters persist independently of the Ca^{2+} flux through the CRAC channel. 176

Figure 2: Impact of the TAM and STRMK mutations on ORAI1 recruitment. Confocal 177 microscopy on co-transfected C2C12 cells shows that wild-type STIM1 co-localizes with wild-178 type ORAI1 in the clusters, but no clusters are seen in cells expressing wild-type STIM1 and 179 the leaky V107M ORAI1 channel. In contrast, both STIM1 mutants D84G and R304W co-180 localize with V107M ORAI1 in clusters. For quantification, between 100 and 200 cells were 181 counted per experiment and per condition. The total number of counted cells was set to 100%, 182 the percentage of cells with major STIM1/ORAI1 clusters corresponds to the yellow bar, cells 183 with minor cluster to the blue bar, and cells without clusters to the green bar. Error bars 184 represent the standard deviation (SD), and the statistical difference compared to the first column 185 of the set is indicated by * for cells without clusters and by # for cells with major clusters. P-186 187 value < 0.001:*** or ###.

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188 TAM and STRMK mutants increase nuclear NFAT translocation

NFATc2 (nuclear factor of activated T cells) belongs to the NFAT family of transcription 189 factors. It has a cytosolic localization when inactive, and gets dephosphorylated through 190 calcineurin upon increased cytosolic Ca^{2+} levels, resulting in nuclear import (34). The ratio of 191 nuclear versus cytoplasmic NFAT therefore reflects the Ca²⁺ concentration in the cytosol and 192 represents a suitable parameter to assess the downstream effect of excessive Ca²⁺ entry resulting 193 from STIM1 mutations. In accordance, previous studies have shown that constitutively active 194 STIM1 induces major NFAT translocation to the nucleus (35). To assess if the STIM1 TAM 195 and STRMK mutations similarly promote nuclear NFAT import, we co-transfected WT or 196 mutant mCherry-STIM1 with eGFP-NFAT and quantified the intracellular NFAT localization 197 (Figure 3). About 21% of the cells expressing WT STIM1 showed a nuclear NFAT localization. 198 Following caffeine treatment, known to induce Ca²⁺ release from the reticulum to the cytosol, 199 nuclear NFAT was observed in 73% of the cells. Cells exogenously expressing D84G or 200 201 R304W STIM1 displayed major nuclear NFAT translocation in the absence of caffeine treatment, with intense nuclear GFP signals in 58% and 61% of the cells, respectively. 202 Quantification of the NFAT signal in the cytoplasm versus the nucleus revealed a ratio of 1.8 203 for cells expressing WT STIM, a ratio of 0.4 when treated with caffeine, and a ratio of 0.1 for 204 cells expressing mutant D84G or R304W STIM1, illustrating that NFAT is mostly nuclear in 205 cells transfected with mutant STIM1. Taken together, the STIM1 mutations D84G and R304W 206 similarly and significantly promote nuclear NFAT import, demonstrating a downstream effect 207 of cellular Ca²⁺ excess induced by *STIM1* mutations. 208

Figure 3: Impact of the TAM and STRMK mutations on NFAT localization. Confocal microscopy on transfected HeLa cells and quantification shows a nuclear NFAT signal in 21% and 73% of cells expressing WT STIM1 before and after caffeine treatment. In untreated cells expressing D84G or R304W STIM1, nuclear NFAT was seen in 58% and 61% of the cells,

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respectively. For quantification, between 100 and 200 cells per condition were counted in three
independent experiments. The total number of counted cells was set to 100%, and the bars show
the percentage of cells with nuclear NFAT in yellow and the percentage of cells with cytosolic
NFAT in orange. Error bars represent the standard deviation. The statistical differences
compared to cells transfected with WT STIM1 are indicated by * for nuclear NFAT and # for
cytoplasmic NFAT. P-value < 0.001:*** or ###.

219 TAM and STRMK mutants promote circular membrane stack formation

Tubular aggregates are regular arrays of single- or double-walled membrane tubules appearing 220 221 as honeycomb-like structures on transverse muscle sections, and are the histopathological hallmark of TAM and Stormoken syndrome (1, 2, 20, 36). To investigate the tubular aggregate 222 formation in cellulo, we performed correlated light and electron microcopy (CLEM) on HeLa 223 224 cells transfected with WT or mutant YFP-STIM1 constructs. We observed membrane stacks in cells exogenously expressing D84G or R304W STIM1, but not in cells transfected with wild-225 type STIM1 (Figure 4). These membrane stacks were most often found with a circular shape 226 and connected with the endoplasmic reticulum. Our observations illustrate that STIM1 227 harboring amino acid substitutions found in TAM and Stormorken syndrome patients induce 228 229 the emergence of aberrant membrane accumulations, potentially representing the first step of tubular aggregate formation. 230

Figure 4: Impact of the TAM and STRMK mutations on membrane architecture. CLEM allows the analysis of the same cell by light and electron microscopy. In areas corresponding to fluorescent STIM1 cluster, we observed circular membrane stacks in HeLa cells exogenously

expressing the STIM1 mutants D84G or R304W, but not in cells transfected with WT STIM1.

235 DISCUSSION

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In this study, we investigated the molecular impact of STIM1 mutations associated with tubular 236 237 aggregate myopathy (TAM) and Stormorken syndrome (STRMK) at different levels of the SOCE pathway. We and others have previously shown that the TAM and STRMK mutations 238 induce constitutive STIM1 clustering and activation of the Ca^{2+} entry channels (4, 10-12). Here 239 we addressed and compared the sequence of events leading to the cellular defects of TAM and 240 Stormorken syndrome, and we found that the TAM D84G and STRMK R304W mutants 241 similarly impact on STIM1 clustering, ORAI1 recruitment, Ca2+-dependent nuclear 242 translocation of NFAT, and the formation of circular membrane stacks. 243

244 The STIM1 mutations have multiple effects on cluster formation

Through TIRF experiments we showed that both TAM D84G and STRMK R304W STIM1 245 mutants constitutively cluster in the vicinity of the plasma membrane and recruit ORAI1 to the 246 247 clusters although the amino acid substitutions affect different STIM1 protein domains. The EFhand D84G mutation is believed to directly or indirectly impair Ca²⁺ sensing, resulting in 248 STIM1 unfolding, clustering, and exposure of the SOAR domain mediating the interaction with 249 ORAI1 (1, 3). The luminal R304W mutation does not interfere with Ca²⁺ binding. Instead, a 250 recent study revealed that it induces a helical elongation within the coiled-coil domain, and 251 252 thereby promotes STIM1 clustering and the exposure of the SOAR domain (37). In both cases, the mutations induce constitutive ORAI1 binding and activation, resulting in major 253 extracellular Ca^{2+} influx despite replete Ca^{2+} stores (4, 10-12). 254

In agreement with previous studies (26), we observed that exogenously expressed wild-type STIM1 and ORAI1 co-localize and cluster in cells. However, co-expression of wild-type STIM1 and V107M ORAI1, previously described to generate a leaky channel with reduced Ca²⁺ selectivity (15, 33), leads to a diffuse reticular distribution of STIM1. We therefore conclude that the constant ion entry through the permeable ORAI1 V107M channel either

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dissipates the STIM1 clusters or prevents their formation. It is known that massive Ca²⁺ entry 260 261 generates hyperpolarized potentials at the intracellular channel gate, and thereby promotes a rapid inactivation of ORAI1 and the dissociation of STIM1 from ORAI1 (Ca²⁺-dependent 262 inactivation, CDI)(38, 39). In contrast to wild-type STIM1, both TAM and STRMK mutants 263 efficiently recruited V107M ORAI1 to the clusters. This suggests that the interaction between 264 the STIM1 mutants and the leaky ORAI1 channel is insensitive to elevated local Ca²⁺ levels. 265 and that the consequential reduction of CDI significantly contributes to excessive extracellular 266 Ca²⁺ entry. Consistently, decreased CDI was measured in lymphoblasts from a Stormorken 267 syndrome patient, resulting in elevated basal Ca^{2+} levels (12). 268

We furthermore found that the clusters in cells co-expressing wild-type and mutant STIM1 are formed by both proteins despite replete Ca^{2+} stores. This indicates that the TAM or STRMK mutants are able to oligomerize with wild type STIM1 and to sequester the non-mutated protein to the clusters. Such an effect has not yet been described for *STIM1* mutations, and demonstrates that wild-type STIM1 contributes to the constitutive activation of ORAI1 and the excessive extracellular Ca^{2+} entry characterizing TAM and Stormorken syndrome.

275 The downstream effects of excessive Ca²⁺ entry

As a consequence of constitutive STIM1 and ORAI1 activation, myoblasts from TAM/STRMK 276 patients were found to exhibit increased basal Ca^{2+} levels in the cytosol (4, 5, 7, 10-12). Ca^{2+} is 277 a physiological key factor triggering numerous signalling cascades including the NFAT 278 pathway. The NFAT transcription factors mainly reside in the cytosol at low Ca²⁺ 279 280 concentrations, and become phosphorylated upon rising Ca²⁺ levels and translocate to the nuclei (34). In agreement, we found that cells expressing mutant STIM1 and manifesting prominent 281 STIM1/ORAI1 clusters also displayed major nuclear NFAT translocation as compared to cells 282 283 expressing wild- type STIM1. This is consistent with previous reports showing that the

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exogenous expression of constitutively active STIM1 causes nuclear NFAT import (35), while
silencing of STIM1 prevents NFAT translocation (40). In this context it is interesting to note
that *STIM1* belongs to the NFAT target genes (41), suggesting a positive feedback controlling
SOCE that might modulate the disease development of TAM and Stormorken syndrome.

Tubular aggregates are the histopathological hallmark in skeletal muscle of patients with tubular 288 aggregate myopathy and Stormorken syndrome (20, 42, 43). Although it is not fully understood 289 how the tubular aggregates form, they were shown to contain sarcoplasmic reticulum proteins 290 and large amounts of Ca^{2+} (19), and are therefore likely to be the consequence of excessive Ca^{2+} 291 storage in the reticulum. Accordingly, constitutive SOCE activation was shown to induce the 292 formation of membrane stacks in transfected cells (44), and our CLEM experiments on cells 293 expressing mutant STIM1 identified multilayer reticulum membranes of circular shape, which 294 may represent the first step of tubular aggregate formation. Of note, tubular aggregates were 295 not seen in the TAM/STRMK mouse model harbouring the STIM1 R304W mutation and 296 297 clinically recapitulating the human disorder (45), demonstrating that tubular aggregate formation is species-specific and rather a consequence than a cause of the disease. 298

299 Common pathomechanisms in tubular aggregate myopathy and Stormorken syndrome

Tubular aggregate myopathy essentially affects skeletal muscle, and a subset of TAM patients 300 harboring STIM1 EF-hand mutations additionally manifested one or several signs of 301 Stormorken syndrome (3-5, 8, 9, 18). Conversely, Stormorken syndrome patients carrying the 302 most common R304W mutation usually present the full clinical picture of TAM, miosis, 303 304 thrombocytopenia, hyposplenism, ichthyosis, short stature, and dyslexia (7, 10-14), but individual patients with muscle weakness as the main clinical sign were also reported (9). This 305 illustrates that TAM and Stormorken syndrome form a clinical continuum, and raises the 306 307 question on the underlying common and diverging pathomechanisms. Here we investigated and

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compared the SOCE pathway defects in cells expressing STIM1 mutants, and we uncovered 308 309 that the TAM and STRMK mutants had a comparable effect on cluster formation, ORAI1 recruitment, nuclear NFAT translocation, and membrane rearrangements, indicating that TAM 310 and Stormorken syndrome involve a common pathomechanism. The phenotypic differences 311 between both disorders might result from a different mutational impact on fast Ca²⁺-dependent 312 inactivation (CDI), corresponding to the inactivation of ORAI1 through high local Ca^{2+} levels. 313 314 Indeed, electrophysiological studies have shown that the R304W mutant suppresses fast CDI, while STIM1 harboring a luminal amino acid substitution was indistinguishable from the wild-315 type (12). This suggests that R304W, but not the EF-hand mutations causes a prolonged Ca^{2+} 316 317 influx and might account for the significant aberrations in multiple tissues in patients with Stormorken syndrome. Alternatively, especially the cytosolic STIM1 R304W mutation might 318 have an additional pathogenic effect on other interaction partners as the non-selective TRPC 319 320 channels (46), and the full clinical picture of Stormorken syndrome would then result from the excessive entry of Ca²⁺ and other cations in the different tissues. 321

322 Concluding remarks

Here we demonstrate that missense mutations in different STIM1 domains have a similar pathogenic effect on SOCE and downstream pathways. Our finding that *STIM1* mutations exert a dominant effect points to a suitable therapeutic approach for TAM and Stormorken syndrome through an allele-specific downregulation of *STIM1* expression. The resulting reduction of the STIM1 protein level is thereby not expected to be pathogenic as heterozygous carriers of *STIM1* loss-of-function mutations, associated with immunodeficiency, are healthy(2).

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334 CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

None of the authors declares a conflict of interests.

336 AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- 337 JL and JB designed the study and supervised the research, GAP and CS performed the
- experiments, GAP, CS, RSR, and JB analyzed the data, GAP, JL, and JB wrote the manuscript.

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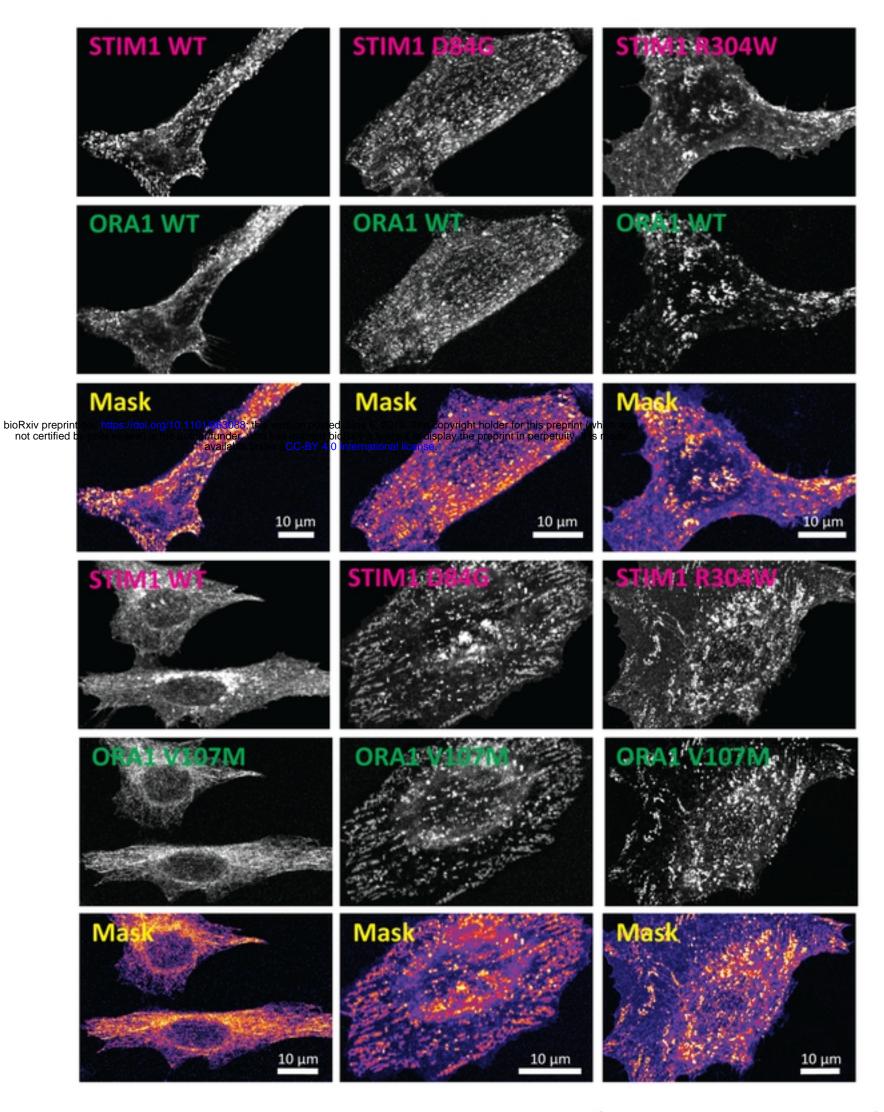
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Figure 2



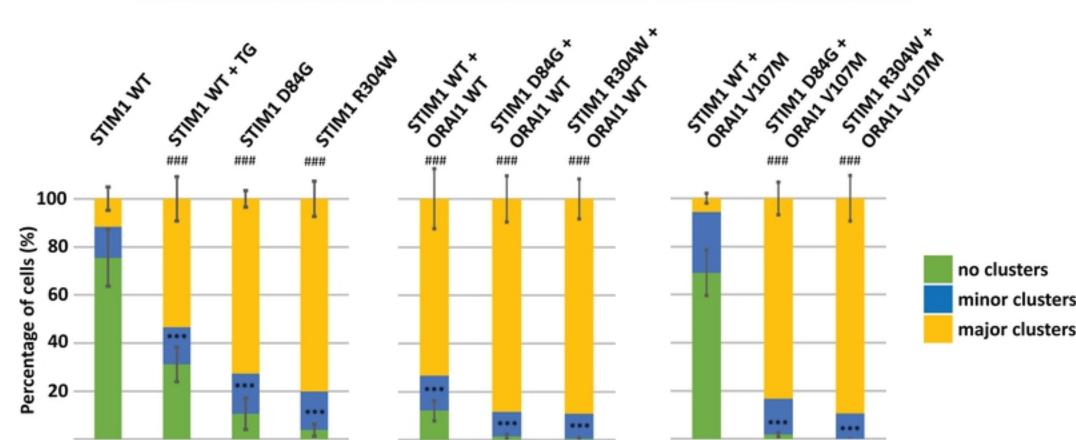
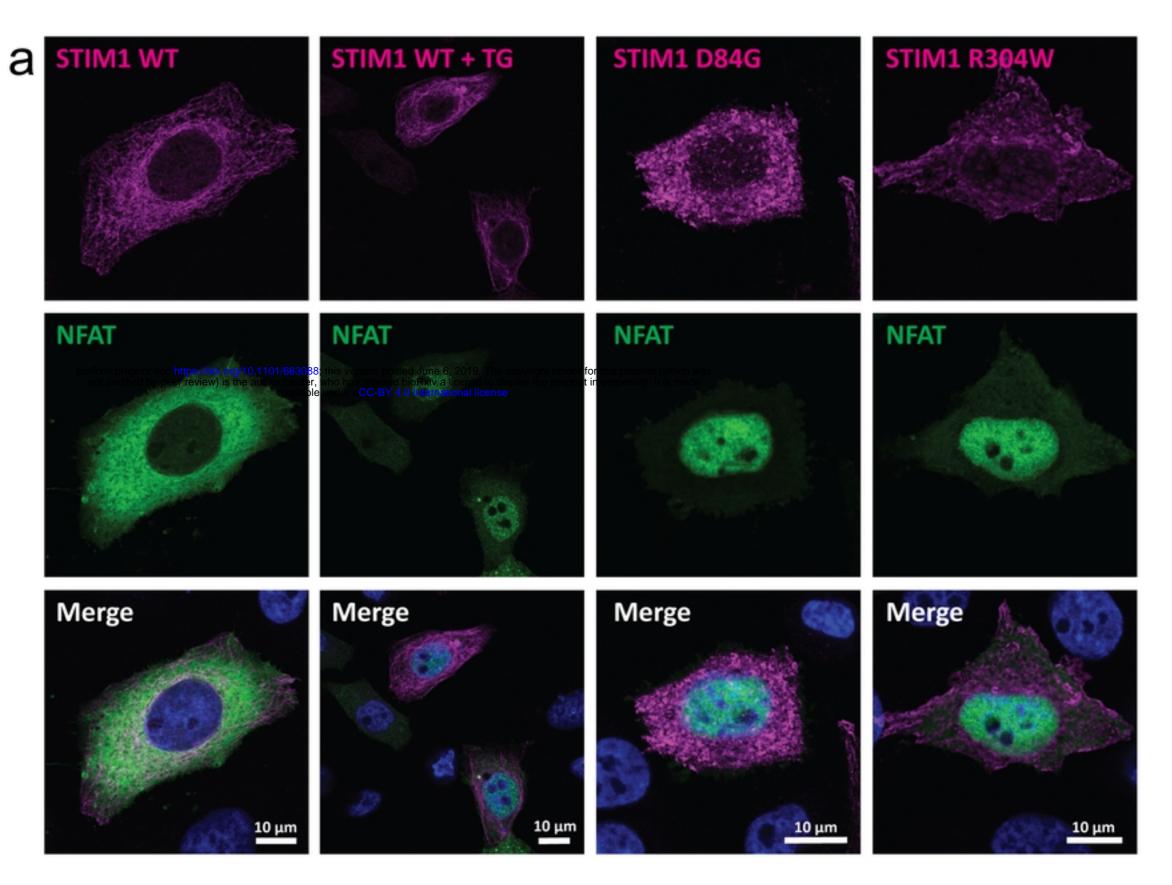
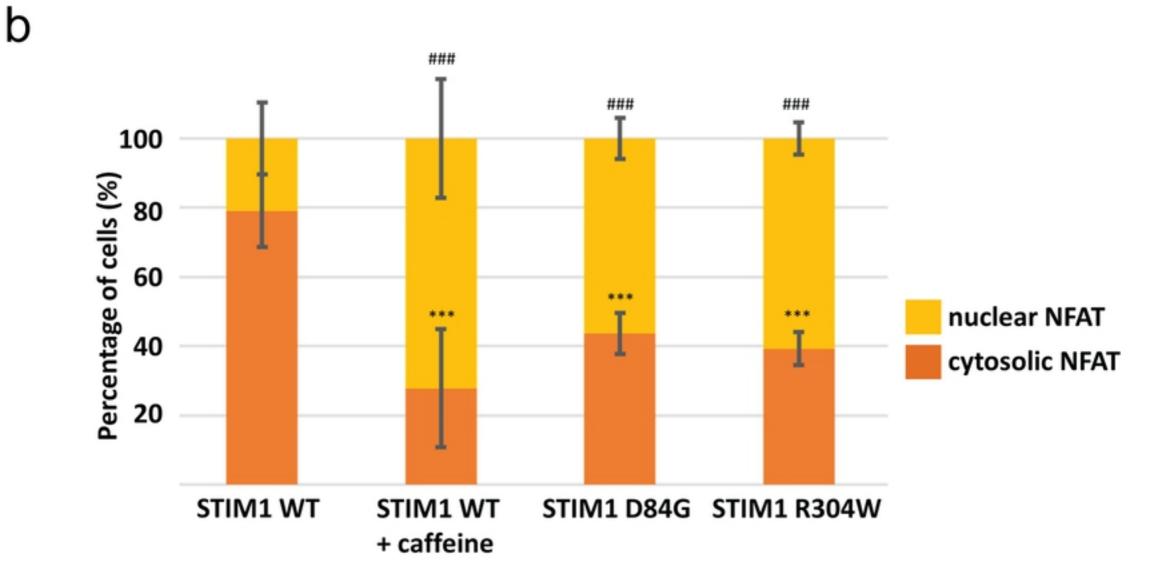


Figure 3





STIM1 R304W



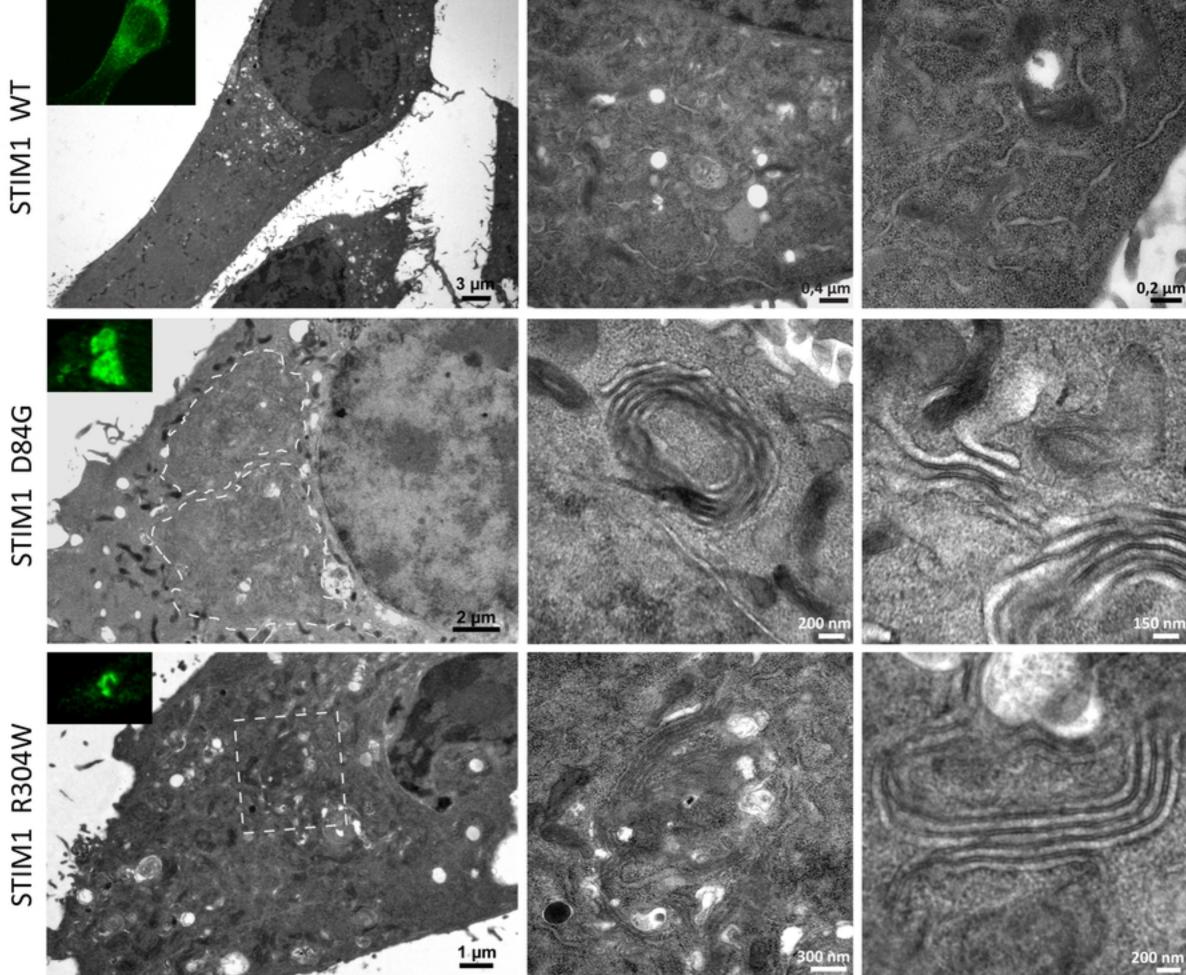


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Figure 1

