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New insights in the IP₃ receptor and its regulation

Jan B. PARYS* & Tim VERVLiet

KU Leuven, Laboratory for Molecular and Cellular Signaling,
Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine & Leuven Kanker Instituut,
Campus Gasthuisberg O/N-1 B-802, Herestraat 49,
BE-3000 Leuven, Belgium

*Corresponding author:

J.B. Parys (jan.parys@kuleuven.be), Tel. +32-16-330660

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44 ABSTRACT

45

46 The inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP₃) receptor (IP₃R) is a Ca²⁺-release channel mainly
47 located in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER). Three IP₃R isoforms are responsible for the
48 generation of intracellular Ca²⁺ signals that may spread across the entire cell or occur locally
49 in so-called microdomains. Because of their ubiquitous expression, these channels are
50 involved in the regulation of a plethora of cellular processes, including cell survival and cell
51 death. To exert their proper function a fine regulation of their activity is of paramount
52 importance. In this review, we will highlight the recent advances in the structural analysis of
53 the IP₃R and try to link these data with the newest information concerning IP₃R activation and
54 regulation. A special focus of this review will be directed towards the regulation of the IP₃R by
55 protein-protein interaction. Especially the protein family formed by calmodulin and related
56 Ca²⁺-binding proteins and the pro- and anti-apoptotic/autophagic Bcl-2-family members will
57 be highlighted. Finally, recently identified and novel IP₃R regulatory proteins will be
58 discussed. A number of these interactions are involved in cancer development, illustrating
59 the potential importance of modulating IP₃R-mediated Ca²⁺ signaling in cancer treatment.

60

61 KEYWORDS
62
63 IP₃R
64 Ca²⁺ signaling
65 IP₃-induced Ca²⁺ release
66 Calmodulin
67 Bcl-2
68 IRBIT
69 TESPA1
70 PKM2
71 BAP1
72 Cancer
73
74

75 ABBREVIATIONS

76

77 a.a. amino acids

78 BAP1 BRCA-associated protein 1

79 Bcl B-cell lymphoma

80 BH Bcl-2 homology

81 CaBP neuronal Ca²⁺-binding protein

82 CaM calmodulin

83 CaM1234 calmodulin fully deficient in Ca²⁺ binding

84 cryo-EM cryo-electron microscopy

85 DARPP-32 dopamine- and cAMP-regulated phosphoprotein of 32 kDa

86 ER endoplasmic reticulum

87 IBC IP₃-binding core

88 IICR IP₃-induced Ca²⁺ release

89 IP₃ inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate

90 IP₃R IP₃ receptor

91 IRBIT IP₃R-binding protein released by IP₃

92 MLCK myosin light chain kinase

93 NCS-1 neuronal Ca²⁺ sensor-1

94 PK pyruvate kinase

95 PKA cAMP-dependent protein kinase

96 PKB protein kinase B/Akt

97 PLC phospholipase C

98 PTEN phosphatase and tensin homolog

99 RyR ryanodine receptor

100 TCR T-cell receptor

101 TESPA1 thymocyte-expressed, positive selection-associated 1

102 TIRF total internal reflection fluorescence

103 TKO triple-knockout

104

105 **1 Introduction**

106 The inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP₃) receptor (IP₃R) is a ubiquitously expressed Ca²⁺-
107 release channel mainly located in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) (1). The IP₃R is activated
108 by IP₃, produced by phospholipase C (PLC), following cell stimulation by for instance
109 extracellular agonists, hormones, growth factors or neurotransmitters. The IP₃R is
110 responsible for the initiation and propagation of complex spatio-temporal Ca²⁺ signals that
111 control a multitude of cellular processes (2, 3). Moreover, dysfunction of the IP₃R and
112 deregulation of the subsequent Ca²⁺ signals is involved in many pathological situations (4-
113 10).

114 There are at least three main reasons for the central role of the IP₃R in cellular signaling.

115 First, IP₃R signaling is not only dependent on the production of IP₃, but is also heavily
116 modulated by its local cellular environment, integrating multiple signaling pathways. Indeed,
117 IP₃R activity is controlled by the cytosolic and the intraluminal Ca²⁺ concentrations, pH, ATP,
118 Mg²⁺ and redox state, as well as by its phosphorylation state at multiple sites. Furthermore, a
119 plethora of associated proteins can modulate localization and activity of the IP₃R (11-15).

120 Second, in higher organisms, three genes (ITPR1, ITPR2 and ITPR3) encode three isoforms
121 (IP₃R1, IP₃R2, and IP₃R3). These isoforms have a homology of about 75% at the a.a. level,
122 allowing for differences in sensitivity towards IP₃ (IP₃R2 > IP₃R1 > IP₃R3) as well as towards
123 the various regulatory factors and proteins (12, 16-19). Splice isoforms and the possibility to
124 form both homo- and heterotetramers further increase IP₃R diversity. Third, the intracellular
125 localization of the IP₃Rs determines their local effect (1). Recently, an increased appreciation
126 for the existence and functional importance of intracellular Ca²⁺ microdomains was obtained,
127 e.g. between ER and mitochondria, lysosomes or plasma membrane where IP₃-induced Ca²⁺
128 release (IICR) occurs, allowing Ca²⁺ to control very local processes (20-24).

129 As a number of excellent reviews on various aspects of IP₃R structure and function have
130 recently appeared (25-32), we will in present review highlight the most recent advances
131 concerning the understanding of IP₃R structure and regulation, with special focus on recent
132 insights obtained in relation to IP₃R modulation by associated proteins.

133

134 **2 New structural information on the IP₃R**

135 The IP₃Rs form large Ca²⁺-release channels consisting of 4 subunits, each about 2700 a.a.
136 long, that assemble to functional tetramers with a molecular mass of about 1.2 MDa. Each
137 subunit consists of five distinct domains (**Figure 1 A**): the N-terminal coupling domain or
138 suppressor domain (for IP₃R1: a.a. 1–225), the IP₃-binding core (IBC, a.a. 226–578), the
139 central coupling domain or modulatory and transducing domain (a.a. 579–2275), the channel
140 domain with 6 trans-membrane helices (a.a. 2276–2589) and the C-terminal tail or
141 gatekeeper domain (a.a. 2590–2749) (33).

142 The crystal structure of the two N-terminal domains of the IP₃R1 were first resolved
143 separately at a resolution of 2.2 Å (IBC with bound IP₃, (34)) and 1.8 Å (suppressor domain,
144 (35)). Subsequent studies analyzed the crystal structure of the full ligand-binding domain, i.e.
145 the suppressor domain and the IBC together, resolved in the presence and absence of
146 bound IP₃ at a resolution between 3.0 and 3.8 Å (36, 37). These studies indicated that the N-
147 terminus of IP₃R1 consisted of two successive β-trefoil domains (β-TF) followed by an α-
148 helical armadillo repeat domain. IP₃ binds in a cleft between the second β-trefoil domain and
149 the α-helical armadillo repeat leading to a closure of the IP₃-binding pocket and a
150 conformational change of the domains involved (36-38). Recently, Mikoshiba and co-workers
151 succeeded to perform X-ray crystallography on the complete cytosolic part of the IP₃R (39).
152 This study was performed using truncated IP₃R1 proteins (IP₃R²²¹⁷ and IP₃R¹⁵⁸⁵) in which
153 additional point mutations (resp. R⁹³⁷G and R⁹²²G) were incorporated in order to increase the
154 quality of the obtained crystals. In addition to the three domains mentioned above (the two β-
155 trefoil domains and the α-helical armadillo repeat domain), three large α-helical domains
156 were described, i.e. HD1 (a.a. 605-1009), HD2 (a.a. 1026-1493) and HD3 (1593-2217)
157 (**Figure 1 B**). Binding of IP₃ induces a conformation change that is transmitted from the IBC
158 through HD1 and HD3, whereby a short, 21 a.a.-long domain (a.a. 2195-2215) called the
159 leaflet domain is essential for IP₃R function.

160 In parallel with the analysis of the IP₃R by X-ray crystallography, the structure of full-size
161 IP₃R1 was investigated by several groups by cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM), obtaining
162 increasingly better resolution (40). The structure of the IP₃R1 at the highest resolution
163 obtained by this method until now (4.7 Å) was published by Serysheva and co-workers and
164 allowed modelling of the backbone topology of 2327 of the 2750 a.a. (41). As IP₃R1 was
165 purified in the absence of IP₃ and as Ca²⁺ was depleted before vitrification, the obtained
166 structure corresponds to the closed state of the channel (**Figure 2**). In total, ten domains
167 were identified: two contiguous β-trefoil domains (a.a. 1–436), followed by three armadillo
168 solenoid folds (ARM1–ARM3, a.a. 437–2192) with an α-helical domain between ARM1 and 2,
169 an intervening lateral domain (ILD, a.a. 2193–2272), the transmembrane region with six
170 trans-membrane α-helices (TM1-6) (a.a. 2273–2600), a linker domain (LNK, a.a. 2601–2680)
171 and the C-terminal domain containing an ~80 Å α-helix (a.a. 2681–2731) (**Figure 1 C**). The
172 latter domains of the four subunits form together with the four TM6 helices (~55 Å) a central
173 core structure that is not found in other types of Ca²⁺ channels. The four transmembrane
174 TM6 helices thereby line the Ca²⁺ conduction pathway and connect via their respective LNK
175 domains with the cytosolic helices.

176 How binding of IP₃ is coupled to channel opening is still under investigation. An interesting
177 aspect of the IP₃R structure thereby is the fact that either after mild trypsinisation of IP₃R1
178 (42) or after heterologous expression of the various IP₃R1 fragments corresponding to the
179 domains obtained by trypsinisation (43), the resulting structure appeared both tetrameric and
180 functional. This indicates that continuity of the polypeptide chain is not per se needed for
181 signal transmission to the channel domain, although the resulting Ca²⁺ signals can differ,
182 depending on the exact cleavage site and the IP₃R isoform under consideration (44, 45).

183 Meanwhile, various models for the transmission of the IP₃ signal to the channel region were
184 proposed for IP₃R1, including a direct coupling between the N-terminus and the C-terminus
185 (41, 46-48) and a long-range coupling mediated by the central coupling domain (48), via intra
186 and/or inter subunit interactions (41). Mechanisms for the latter can involve β-TF1 → ARM3
187 → ILD (41) or IBC → HD1 → HD3 → leaflet (39).

188 In addition to the structural studies on IP₃R1 described above, the structure of human IP₃R3
189 was recently analyzed at high resolution (between 3.3 and 4.3 Å) under various conditions.
190 Its apo state was compared to the structures obtained at saturating IP₃ and/or Ca²⁺
191 concentrations (49). In the presence of IP₃, five different conformational states were
192 resolved, suggesting a dynamic transition between intermediate states eventually leading to
193 channel opening. Ca²⁺ binding appeared to eliminate the intersubunit interactions present in
194 the apo and the IP₃-bound states and provoke channel inhibition. Two Ca²⁺-binding sites
195 were identified, one just upstream of ARM2 and one just upstream of ARM3, though their
196 relative function cannot be inferred from structural data alone.

197 Although IP₃R1 and IP₃R3 are structurally quite similar, they are differentially activated and
198 regulated (see 1.). Additional work, including performing a high-resolution cryo-EM analysis
199 of IP₃-bound IP₃R1 and the further investigation of the effect of Ca²⁺ and other IP₃R
200 modulators, including associated proteins, on IP₃R structure will therefore be needed to fully
201 unravel the underlying mechanism of activation and to understand the functional differences
202 between the various IP₃R isoforms.

203

204 **3 Complexity of IP₃R activation and regulation**

205 Concerning the mechanisms of activation and regulation of the IP₃R, progress has been
206 made on several points recently.

207

208 **3.1 IP₃ binding stoichiometry**

209 First, a long-standing question in the field concerned the number of IP₃ molecules needed to
210 evoke the opening of the IP₃R/Ca²⁺-release channel. Some studies demonstrated a high
211 cooperativity of IP₃ binding to its receptor, and suggested that minimally 3 IP₃ molecules
212 should be bound to the IP₃R to evoke Ca²⁺ release (50, 51). In contrast herewith, co-
213 expression of an IP₃R apparently defective in IP₃ binding (R²⁶⁵Q) and of a channel-dead IP₃R
214 mutant (D²⁵⁵⁰A) resulted in a partial IP₃-induced Ca²⁺ release, suggesting that one IP₃R
215 subunit can gate another and that therefore not all subunits need to bind IP₃ to form an active

216 channel (52). Moreover, these results fit with the most recent cryo-EM data discussed above
217 (see 2.; (41)).

218 Recently, a comprehensive study by Yule and co-workers demonstrated in triple-knockout
219 (TKO) cells, devoid of endogenous IP₃R expression (DT-40 TKO and HEK TKO), that the
220 activity of reconstituted IP₃R depends on the occupation of the 4 IP₃-binding sites by
221 their ligand (53). The strongest evidence for this was obtained by the expression of a
222 concatenated IP₃R1 containing 3 wild-type subunits and 1 mutant subunit. The mutant
223 subunit contained a triple mutation (R²⁶⁵Q/K⁵⁰⁸Q/R⁵¹¹Q) in the ligand-binding domain
224 precluding any IP₃ binding, as previously demonstrated (54), while the R²⁶⁵Q single mutant
225 still retained ~10% binding activity. Interestingly, the tetrameric IP₃R containing only 1
226 defective IP₃-binding site and expressed in cells fully devoid of endogenous IP₃R was
227 completely inactive in Ca²⁺ imaging experiments, unidirectional Ca²⁺ flux experiments and in
228 patch-clamp electrophysiological experiments (53). Similar experiments were performed for
229 IP₃R2, making use of its existing short splice isoform that lacks 33 a.a. in the suppressor
230 domain rendering it non-functional (55). These data strongly suggest that no opening of the
231 IP₃R can occur, unless each subunit has bound IP₃. This characteristic would strongly limit
232 the number of active IP₃R and protect the cell against unwanted Ca²⁺ release in conditions
233 in which the IP₃ concentration is only slightly increased (53, 56). However, in the case of IP₃R
234 mutations affecting IP₃ binding / IP₃R activity it may explain why they are detrimental, even in
235 heterozygous conditions (10).

236

237 **3.2 Physiological relevance of IP₃R heterotetramer formation**

238 As already indicated above (see 1.), the high level of homology between the various IP₃R
239 isoforms allows not only for the formation of homotetramers but also for that of
240 heterotetramers (57-59). The frequency of heterotetramer occurrence is however not
241 completely clear. A study in COS-7 cells indicated that kinetic constraints affect the formation
242 of heterotetramers and that therefore the level of heterotetramers composed of
243 overexpressed IP₃R1 and of either endogenously expressed or overexpressed IP₃R3 was

244 lower than what could be expected from a purely binomial distribution (60). In contrast
245 herewith, by using isoform-specific IP₃R antibodies for sequential depletion of the IP₃Rs, it
246 was shown that in pancreas, over 90% of IP₃R3 is present in heterotetrameric complexes,
247 generally with IP₃R2 (61). This is significant as pancreas is a tissue in which IP₃R2 and IP₃R3
248 together constitute over 80% of the total amount of IP₃R (62, 63). It is therefore meaningful to
249 investigate whether the presence of IP₃R heterotetramers will contribute in increasing the
250 diversity of the IP₃R Ca²⁺-release channels, as is generally assumed. However, due to the
251 fact that most cells express or can express various types of homo- and heterotetrameric
252 IP₃Rs in unknown proportions, addressing this question is in most cell types not
253 straightforward.

254 Overexpressing mutated IP₃R1 and IP₃R3 in COS-7 cells at least indicated that
255 heterotetramers are functional (52). The expression of concatenated dimeric IP₃R1-IP₃R2
256 (and IP₃R2-IP₃R1) in DT-40 TKO cells led to the formation of IP₃R heterotetramers with a
257 defined composition (2:2) that could be compared with homotetrameric IP₃R1 or
258 homotetrameric IP₃R2 that were similarly expressed (61). Investigation of their
259 electrophysiological properties via nuclear patch-clamp recordings indicated that in the
260 IP₃R1-IP₃R2 2:2 heterotetramers the properties of the IP₃R2 dominated with respect to the
261 induction of Ca²⁺ oscillations and their regulation by ATP (61). A more recent study based on
262 the same approach but now including combinations of all three IP₃R isoforms, demonstrated
263 that 2:2 heterotetrameric IP₃Rs display an IP₃ sensitivity that is intermediate to that of their
264 respective homotetramers (64) indicating that heterotetramerization successfully increases
265 IP₃R diversity. In addition, the obtained results also demonstrate that IP₃R2 properties with
266 respect to both the induction of Ca²⁺ oscillations and the regulation by ATP also dominated in
267 IP₃R2-IP₃R3 2:2 heterotetramers. In contrast, when a tetrameric IP₃R containing 3 IP₃R1 and
268 1 IP₃R2 subunit was expressed, its properties were similar to that of a homotetrameric IP₃R1
269 (64). Taken together, these experiments indicate that IP₃R heterotetramers increase the
270 diversity of the IP₃Rs with respect to Ca²⁺ release and that further studies are needed to fully

271 understand how IP₃R heterotetramers are regulated by other factors, including associated
272 proteins.

273

274 **3.3 Novel crosstalk mechanism between cAMP and IICR**

275 cAMP and Ca²⁺, the two most important intracellular messengers, have numerous crosstalks
276 between them (65). At the level of the IP₃R, the most evident crosstalk is the sensitization of
277 IP₃R1 by cAMP-dependent protein kinase (PKA) (66), while a similar regulatory role is highly
278 probable for IP₃R2 but less likely for IP₃R3 (15, 65).

279 A novel line of regulation was discovered some time ago when it was shown that cAMP can,
280 independently from PKA or cAMP-activated exchange proteins, potentiate the IP₃R (67-69).

281 In particular, it was shown in HEK cells that adenylate cyclase 6, which in those cells
282 accounts for only a minor portion of the adenylate cyclase isoforms, is responsible for
283 providing cAMP to a microdomain surrounding IP₃R2, increasing its activity (69). Such
284 mechanism would form a specific signaling complex in which locally a very high
285 concentration of cAMP could be reached, without affecting its global concentration (65).

286 Recent work provided further evidence concerning the importance of cAMP for IP₃R
287 functioning, showing that the presence of cAMP can uncover IP₃R_s that were insensitive to
288 IP₃ alone (56). Indeed, in HEK cells heterologously expressing the parathyroid hormone
289 (PTH) receptor, it appears that PTH, via production of cAMP, can evoke Ca²⁺ release after
290 full depletion of the carbachol-sensitive Ca²⁺ stores. Although the identity of the Ca²⁺ stores
291 could not yet be established, the obtained results are indicative that cAMP unmask IP₃R_s
292 with a high affinity for IP₃. This fits with the previous observation that IP₃R2, the IP₃R with the
293 highest affinity for IP₃ (reviewed in (19)), is regulated by cAMP (69). The molecular
294 mechanism on how cAMP interacts with the IP₃R remains to be determined. At this moment
295 no discrimination can be made between a low-affinity cAMP-binding site on the IP₃R itself or
296 a similar binding site on an associated protein (65). The possibility that the IP₃R-binding
297 protein released by IP₃ (IRBIT)-related protein S-adenosylhomocysteine-hydrolase, known to

298 bind cAMP, is involved was however already excluded by knockdown and overexpression
299 experiments (56).

300

301 **4 Complexity of protein-protein interactions affecting the IP₃R**

302 In a comprehensive review published a few years ago, over 100 proteins that interact with
303 the IP₃R have been listed (14). For that reason, we will limit ourselves in the present review
304 to either newly discovered interacting proteins or proteins for which new information about
305 their interaction recently became available.

306

307 **4.1 Calmodulin (CaM) and related Ca²⁺-binding proteins**

308 CaM is the most ubiquitously expressed intracellular Ca²⁺ sensor. It is a relatively small
309 protein (148 a.a.) with a typical dumbbell structure. A central, flexible linker region connects
310 the globular N-terminal and C-terminal domains, each containing two Ca²⁺-binding EF-hand
311 motifs with a classical helix-loop-helix structure. The K_d of CaM for Ca²⁺ ranges between
312 5x10⁻⁷ and 5x10⁻⁶ M, with the C-terminal Ca²⁺-binding sites having a 3- to 5-fold higher affinity
313 than the N-terminal ones (70). CaM therefore displays the correct Ca²⁺ affinity to sense
314 changes in intracellular Ca²⁺ concentrations and serve as Ca²⁺ sensor. While apo-CaM has a
315 rather compact structure, Ca²⁺-CaM exposes in each domain a hydrophobic groove with
316 acidic residues at its extremities that will allow interaction with their target (71). A plethora of
317 target proteins that are modulated by CaM exists, including various Ca²⁺-transporting
318 proteins (72). These various proteins contain CaM-binding sites that can be categorized into
319 various types of motifs (73).

320 Although the interaction of CaM with the IP₃R was already observed soon after the
321 identification of the IP₃R as IP₃-sensitive Ca²⁺-release channel (74) its exact mechanism of
322 action is still not completely elucidated. Moreover, there are a number of interesting features
323 related to the binding of CaM to the IP₃R: (i) the existence of multiple binding sites, (ii) the
324 possibility for both Ca²⁺-CaM and apo-CaM to affect IP₃R function and (iii) the use of some of
325 the CaM-binding sites by other Ca²⁺-binding proteins. The aim of this paragraph therefore is

326 to present a comprehensive view on the relation between CaM (and some related Ca²⁺-
327 binding proteins) and the IP₃R.

328 On IP₃R1, three CaM-binding sites were described (**Figure 1**). A high-affinity CaM-binding
329 site (a.a. 1564-1585; **Figure 2 A-B**, indicated by the yellow arrows) was described in the
330 central coupling domain (75), while a low-affinity one was found in the suppressor domain
331 (76). The latter site is discontinuous (a.a. 49-81 and a.a. 106–128; **Figure 2**, indicated in
332 yellow) and can bind both apo-CaM and Ca²⁺-CaM (77). Finally, a third site was described on
333 the S2(-) IP₃R1 splice isoform in which a.a. 1693-1732 are removed (78, 79). CaM binding to
334 this newly formed site is inhibited by PKA-mediated phosphorylation, probably on Ser1589
335 (79).

336 CaM interaction with the two other IP₃R isoforms was studied in less detail, but an IP₃R2
337 construct overlapping with the CaM-binding site in the central coupling domain interacted
338 with CaM, supporting the conservation of this site (75). However, no direct interaction
339 between CaM and IP₃R3 could be measured (75, 80) though CaM can bind to IP₃R1-IP₃R3
340 heterotetramers (79).

341 Functional effects on the IP₃R have been described for both apo-CaM and Ca²⁺-CaM. In fact,
342 apo-CaM is equally potent in inhibiting IP₃ binding to full-length IP₃R1 as Ca²⁺-CaM (81). In
343 agreement with the absence of CaM binding to IP₃R3, full-length IP₃R3 remained insensitive
344 to regulation by CaM (80). In contrast, a Ca²⁺-independent inhibition of IP₃ binding was
345 observed for the isolated ligand-binding domain of IP₃R1 (82) as well as for that of IP₃R2 and
346 IP₃R3 (83).

347 Concerning IP₃-induced Ca²⁺ release, the situation is somewhat more complex. Ca²⁺ release
348 by IP₃R1 is inhibited by CaM in a Ca²⁺-dependent way (84, 85) while similar results were
349 subsequently found for IP₃R2 and IP₃R3 (76, 86). However, linking these functional effects
350 molecularly to a CaM-binding site appeared more difficult, not only because of the apparent
351 absence of a Ca²⁺-dependent CaM-binding site on IP₃R3 but also because the mutation
352 W¹⁵⁷⁷A that abolishes CaM binding to IP₃R1 (75), does not abolish the CaM-mediated
353 inhibition of IICR (87).

354 Furthermore, other results suggested that the relation between CaM and the IP₃R was more
355 complex than originally thought. A detailed analysis of the CaM-binding site located in the
356 central coupling domain of IP₃R1 provided evidence that it consisted of a high-affinity Ca²⁺-
357 CaM and a lower affinity apo-CaM site (88). Moreover, in the same study it was
358 demonstrated that a CaM mutant deficient in Ca²⁺ binding (CaM1234) could inhibit IICR in a
359 Ca²⁺-dependent way with the same potency as CaM. In a separate study, it was
360 demonstrated that a myosin light chain kinase (MLCK)-derived peptide, which binds to CaM
361 with high affinity, fully inhibited the IP₃R (89). This inhibition could be reversed by the addition
362 of CaM but not of CaM1234 and the results were interpreted as evidence that endogenously
363 bound CaM is needed for IP₃R activity. A follow-up study by another group (90) however
364 proposed that the MLCK peptide is not removing endogenous CaM but is interacting with an
365 endogenous CaM-like domain on IP₃R, thereby disrupting its interaction with a so-called 1-8-
366 14 CaM-binding motif (a.a. 51-66) essential for IP₃R activity (91).

367 Meanwhile, the interaction of apo-CaM with the suppressor domain was studied via NMR
368 analysis (92). This study brought forward two main pieces of evidence. First, it was shown
369 that the binding of apo-CaM to the suppressor domain induced an important, general
370 conformational change to the latter. These changes further increased in the presence of
371 Ca²⁺. Secondly, analysis of the conformational change of CaM indicated that apo-CaM
372 already binds with its C-lobe to the IP₃R1 suppressor domain, and that only after addition of
373 Ca²⁺ also the N-lobe interacts with the suppressor domain. These results can therefore
374 explain the importance of the CaM-binding sites in the suppressor domain in spite of their
375 difficult accessibility ((92); **Figure 2**).

376 Finally, some Ca²⁺-binding proteins related to CaM (e.g. neuronal Ca²⁺-binding protein
377 (CaBP) 1, calmyrin, also known as CIB1, and neuronal Ca²⁺ sensor-1 (NCS-1)) also regulate
378 the IP₃R. Similarly to CaM, these proteins contain 4 EF-hand motifs but in contrast with CaM,
379 not all of them bind Ca²⁺. In CaBP1 and NCS-1 only 3 EF hands are functional (EF1, EF3,
380 EF4 and EF2, EF3, EF4 resp.) and in calmyrin only 2 (EF3 and EF4). Moreover, some of the
381 EF hands bind Mg²⁺ rather than Ca²⁺. Furthermore, those proteins are myristoylated.

382 Although early results suggested that CaBP1 and calmyrin could, in the absence of IP₃,
383 activate the IP₃R under some circumstances (93, 94), there is presently a large consensus
384 that they, similarly to CaM, generally inhibit the IP₃R (93, 95, 96).

385 CaBP1 was proposed to interact with the IP₃R1 with a higher affinity than CaM itself (94, 96),
386 while in contrast to CaM it does not affect the ryanodine receptor (RyR), another family of
387 intracellular Ca²⁺-release channels. Additionally, the interaction with the IP₃R would be
388 subject to regulation by casein kinase 2, an enzyme that can phosphorylate CaBP1 on S¹²⁰
389 (96). Similarly to CaM, CaBP1 binds in a Ca²⁺-independent way to the IP₃R1 suppressor
390 domain, but in contrast to CaM, only to the first of the two non-contiguous binding sites
391 described for CaM (**Figure 1**). However, CaM and CaBP1 similarly antagonized the
392 thimerosal-stimulated interaction between the suppressor domain and the IBC of IP₃R1,
393 suggesting a common mechanism of action whereby they disrupt intramolecular interactions
394 needed for channel activation (97). More recent work confirmed the inhibitory effect of
395 CaBP1 on IP₃R1, while expanding the knowledge concerning the CaBP1 binding site. In
396 particular, NMR analysis indicated that CaBP1 interacts with its C lobe with the suppressor
397 domain of the IP₃R and that even at saturating Ca²⁺ concentrations EF1 is bound to Mg²⁺,
398 precluding a conformational change of the N lobe (98). The same study demonstrated that
399 Ca²⁺-bound CaBP1 bound with an ~10-fold higher affinity than Mg²⁺-bound CaBP1 and an at
400 least 100-fold higher affinity than CaM itself. Functional analysis performed in DT-40 cells
401 solely expressing IP₃R1 demonstrated that CaBP1 stabilized the closed conformation of the
402 channel, probably by clamping inter-subunit interactions (99). The interaction of specific
403 hydrophobic a.a. in the C lobe of CaBP1 (V¹⁰¹, L¹⁰⁴, V¹⁶²) that become more exposed in the
404 presence of Ca²⁺ with hydrophobic a.a. in the IBC (L³⁰², I³⁶⁴, L³⁹³) appeared hereby essential.

405 The action of NCS-1 on the IP₃R forms a slightly different story. It co-immunoprecipitates with
406 IP₃R1 and IP₃R2 in neuronal cells and in heart thereby stimulating IICR in a Ca²⁺-dependent
407 way (100, 101). Interestingly, paclitaxel by binding to NCS-1 increases its interaction with
408 IP₃R1 and so induces Ca²⁺ oscillations in various cell types (102, 103). This Ca²⁺ signaling
409 pathway was proposed to lead to calpain activation and to underlie the origin of paclitaxel-

410 induced peripheral neuropathy (104). However, the interaction site of NCS-1 on the IP₃R,
411 either direct or indirect, has not yet been identified.

412 Taken together these results confirm that Ca²⁺-binding proteins interact in a complex way
413 with the IP₃R and that the various Ca²⁺-binding proteins have distinct, though sometimes
414 overlapping, roles. The functional effect of CaM has been studied in detail and it appeared to
415 inhibit the IP₃R. The results described above support a view that the main action of CaM on
416 the IP₃R is at the level of the suppressor domain. Indeed, apo-CaM can via its C lobe bind to
417 the suppressor domain of all three IP₃R isoforms while a subsequent binding of the N lobe
418 will depend on the Ca²⁺ concentration. The binding of CaM in that domain can disturb an
419 intra-IP₃R interaction needed for IP₃R function and therefore inhibits IICR. This behavior can
420 be particularly important in cells having high CaM expression levels, as for example Purkinje
421 neurons that also demonstrate high levels of IP₃R1. In that case, CaM was proposed to be
422 responsible for suppressing basal IP₃R activity (81). Moreover, as the intracellular distribution
423 of CaM can depend on intracellular Ca²⁺ dynamics, it was also hypothesized that it allows
424 IP₃R regulation is a non-uniform way (84). Additionally, it should be emphasized that CaM
425 can act on other Ca²⁺-transporting proteins in the cell, like the RyR (105), the plasma
426 membrane Ca²⁺ ATPase (106) and various plasma membrane Ca²⁺ channels including
427 voltage-operated Ca²⁺ channels and transient receptor potential channels (107, 108). In all
428 these cases CaM tends to inhibit Ca²⁺ influx into the cytosol (inhibition of IP₃Rs, RyRs and
429 plasma membrane Ca²⁺ channels) while promoting Ca²⁺ efflux out of the cell (stimulation of
430 plasma membrane Ca²⁺ ATPase).

431 An IP₃R-inhibiting behavior can similarly be expected for CaM-related Ca²⁺-binding proteins,
432 though their interaction sites are not strictly identical to that of CaM. The binding site for
433 NCS-1, which rather stimulates the IP₃R, is even still unknown. In comparison to CaM,
434 CaBP1 demonstrates a much higher affinity for the IP₃R (99) and a higher specificity, as it
435 does not affect the RyR (96). In cells expressing CaBP1, the major control of IICR will
436 therefore depend on the interaction of the IP₃R with CaBP1, while RyR activity will depend on
437 the presence and activation of CaM. Further work will be needed to completely unravel the

438 exact role of these various proteins in the control of intracellular Ca^{2+} signaling. From the
439 present results, it can already be expected that the relative role of the various Ca^{2+} -binding
440 proteins in the control of IICR will strongly depend on the exact cell type in consideration.

441

442 **4.2 The Bcl-2-protein family**

443 The B-cell lymphoma (Bcl)-2 protein family has been extensively studied as critical regulator
444 of apoptosis (109). This family consists of both anti- and pro-apoptotic members. The anti-
445 apoptotic family members inhibit apoptosis in at least two different manners. First, at the
446 mitochondria anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 proteins such as Bcl-2, Bcl-XL and Mcl-1, bind to the pro-
447 apoptotic Bcl-2-family members thereby inhibiting the permeabilization of the outer
448 mitochondrial membrane by Bax and Bak and subsequent release of cytochrome C (110, 111).
449 Second, the anti-apoptotic Bcl-2-family members also affect intracellular Ca^{2+} signaling. On
450 the one hand they promote pro-survival Ca^{2+} oscillations while on the other hand they inhibit
451 pro-apoptotic Ca^{2+} release from the ER that otherwise could lead to mitochondrial Ca^{2+}
452 overload (112). These combined actions mean that anti apoptotic Bcl-2 proteins can, by
453 modulating several protein families involved in intracellular Ca^{2+} signaling, both fine tune
454 mitochondrial bio-energetics and inhibit Ca^{2+} -mediated mitochondrial outer membrane
455 permeabilization (113-116). Both the interaction between Bcl-2-family members and their
456 ability to regulate intracellular Ca^{2+} signaling is critically dependent on the presence of so-
457 called Bcl-2 homology (BH) domains. Anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 proteins contain four of these
458 domains (BH1, 2, 3 and 4) (111). The BH1-3 domains together form a hydrophobic cleft that
459 inactivates the pro-apoptotic Bcl-2-family members via interaction with their BH3 domain. For
460 regulating intracellular Ca^{2+} signaling events, anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 proteins rely to a great
461 extent, however not exclusively, on their BH4 domain. In this review we will focus on how IP_3Rs
462 are regulated by Bcl-2 proteins. For a more extensive revision of how Bcl-2-family members
463 regulate the various members of the intracellular Ca^{2+} signaling machinery we would like to
464 refer to our recent review on the subject (112).

465 The various IP₃R isoforms are important targets for several anti-apoptotic Bcl-2-family
466 members (112). To complicate matters, multiple binding sites on the IP₃R have been described
467 for anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 proteins (117). First, Bcl-2, Bcl-XL and Mcl-1 were shown to target the
468 C-terminal part (a.a. 2512-2749) of IP₃R1 (**Figure 2**, indicated in green) thereby stimulating
469 pro-survival Ca²⁺ oscillations (114, 115, 118). Additionally, Bcl-2, and with lesser affinity also
470 Bcl-XL, also target the central coupling domain (a.a. 1389-1408 of IP₃R1; **Figures 1 and 2**,
471 indicated in blue) of the IP₃R where binding of these proteins inhibits pro-apoptotic Ca²⁺-
472 release events (116, 118-120). Finally, the zebrafish protein Nrz (121) and its mammalian
473 homolog Bcl-2-like 10 (122) were shown to interact with the IBC and to inhibit IICR.

474 The group of Kevin Foskett performed a more in-depth study into how the IP₃R is regulated by
475 Bcl-XL and proposed a mechanism unifying the regulation at the C-terminal and at the central
476 coupling domain of the IP₃R (123). Two domains containing BH3-like structures (a.a. 2571-
477 2606 and a.a. 2690-2732; **Figures 1 and 2**, indicated in dark green) were identified in the C-
478 terminal part of the IP₃R. When Bcl-XL is, via its hydrophobic cleft, bound to both BH3-like
479 domains it sensitizes the IP₃R to low concentrations of IP₃, thereby stimulating Ca²⁺
480 oscillations. If Bcl-XL binds to only one of these BH3 like domains while also binding to the
481 central coupling domain, it will inhibit IICR. Whether Bcl-XL occupies one or the two BH3-like
482 domains at the C-terminus of the IP₃R was proposed to be dependent on Bcl-XL levels and on
483 the intensity of IP₃R stimulation. Whether Bcl-2 operates in a similar manner is still unclear. As
484 there is evidence that Bcl-2 shows a greater affinity than Bcl-XL for the inhibitory binding site
485 in the central coupling domain it is likely that this site is the preferential target for Bcl-2 (118).
486 In addition, for Bcl-2 not its hydrophobic cleft but rather its transmembrane domain seems to
487 play an important role for targeting and regulating the IP₃R via both its C-terminus and the site
488 located in the central coupling domain (124). Based on the recent cryo-EM structure of IP₃R1
489 (29, 41), this central site in the coupling domain resides in a relatively easily accessible area
490 of IP₃R1 (**Figure 2**, indicated in blue). The C-terminal transmembrane domain of Bcl-2 may
491 thus serve to concentrate the protein at the ER near the IP₃R from where its N-terminal BH4

492 domain can more easily bind to the central coupling domain. In addition, sequestering Bcl-2
493 proteins at the ER membrane via their transmembrane domain may increase their ability to
494 interact with the C-terminus of the IP₃R (**Figure 2**, indicated in green). As this C-terminal
495 binding site seems to be located more at the inside of the IP₃R1 tetramer one can expect a
496 local high concentration of Bcl-2 proteins to be necessary for this interaction. Besides directly
497 modulating IICR, Bcl-2 can serve as an anchor for targeting additional regulatory proteins to
498 the IP₃R. It was shown that Bcl-2 attracts dopamine- and cAMP-regulated phosphoprotein of
499 32 kDa (DARPP-32) and calcineurin to the IP₃R thereby regulating the phosphorylation state
500 of the latter and consequently its Ca²⁺-release properties (125). Finally, recent data indicate
501 also for Bcl-2 an additional interaction site in the ligand-binding domain (126) highlighting the
502 complexity of the interaction of the anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 family members with the IP₃R. Further
503 research will be needed to unravel the precise function of each of these sites.

504 Another Bcl-2-family member that regulates the IP₃R is the zebrafish protein Nrz. The latter
505 was shown to bind via its BH4 domain to the IBC of zebrafish IP₃R1, whereby E²⁵⁵ appeared
506 essential for interaction (**Figure 1**). Nrz prevents IP₃ binding to the IP₃R thereby inhibiting IICR
507 (121). Interestingly, although the Nrz BH4 domain is sufficient for interaction with the IP₃R,
508 inhibition of IICR required the BH4-BH3-BH1 domains. Furthermore, phosphorylation of Nrz
509 abolished its interaction with the IP₃R. Recently, Bcl-2-like 10, the human orthologue of Nrz,
510 was shown that just like Nrz in zebrafish, it interacts with the IBC, indicating a conserved
511 function for this protein (122).

512 Besides anti-apoptotic Bcl-2-family members, also pro-apoptotic Bcl-2 proteins and other BH3
513 domain-containing proteins are known to target and regulate IP₃Rs. For instance, Bok, a pro-
514 apoptotic Bcl-2-family member, interacts with the IP₃R (a.a. 1895–1903 of IP₃R1; **Figures 1**
515 **and 2**) (127). This interaction protects IP₃R1 and IP₃R2 from proteolytic cleavage by caspase
516 3 that results in a Ca²⁺ leak that may contribute to mitochondrial Ca²⁺ overload and thus
517 apoptosis (128, 129). Subsequent work demonstrated that the majority of all cellular Bok is
518 bound to the IP₃R thereby stabilizing the Bok protein (130). Unbound, newly synthesized Bok

519 is rapidly turned over by the proteasome pathway. Both the association of mature Bok with the
520 IP₃R and the rapid degradation of newly synthesized Bok by the proteasome restrict the pro-
521 apoptotic functions of Bok thus preventing cell death induction.

522 From the above it is clear that the IP₃R is heavily regulated by both pro- and anti-apoptotic Bcl-
523 2-family members. The occurrence of multiple binding sites for the same Bcl-2-family member
524 further increases the complexity (112). Furthermore, it should be stressed that the regulation
525 of the IP₃R by Bcl-2 proteins is conserved during evolution. This is illustrated by the ability of
526 the zebrafish Nrz protein to regulate IICR via its BH4 domain (121) and is further validated by
527 the observation that the BH4 domains of Bcl-2 derived from different vertebrates are able to
528 inhibit IICR with similar efficiency (131). The large number of both pro-and anti-apoptotic Bcl-
529 2 proteins that regulate the IP₃R, targeting it at multiple sites, suggests that throughout
530 evolution regulating IICR became an important functional aspect of the Bcl-2 protein family.

531 Mcl-1, Bcl-2 and Bcl-XL all target the C-terminal region of the IP₃R stimulating the occurrence
532 of pro-survival Ca²⁺ oscillations and thus Ca²⁺ transfer to the mitochondria (114, 115, 118).
533 These Ca²⁺ transfers into the mitochondria are important for normal cell functioning (113) but
534 are also involved in cancer development and could potentially form a novel therapeutic target
535 (132). Mitochondrial Ca²⁺ contributes to maintaining proper ATP production. When Ca²⁺
536 transfer into the mitochondria is inhibited, ATP levels decrease, activating autophagy. At the
537 same time the cell cycle progression is halted (113, 133). In cancer cells, decreased Ca²⁺
538 transfer into the mitochondria, consecutive loss of ATP and the start of autophagy is not
539 accompanied by a stop in the cell cycle. Continuing the cell cycle without sufficient building
540 blocks and ATP results in necrotic cell death (132). Cancer cells are therefore reliant on proper
541 Ca²⁺ transfer to the mitochondria to maintain mitochondrial function, including the production
542 of ATP and metabolites necessary for completing the cell cycle. It is therefore common for
543 cancer cells to upregulate one or several anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 proteins. By interacting with the
544 C-terminus of the IP₃R the Bcl-2 proteins may stimulate Ca²⁺ oscillations assuring proper
545 mitochondrial Ca²⁺ uptake and an adequate mitochondrial metabolism. On the other hand,

546 upregulation of Bcl-2 and/or Bcl-XL also protects the cells from excessive IP₃R-mediated Ca²⁺
547 release by binding to the central regulatory site (116, 118-120) and prevents apoptosis, even
548 in the presence of cell death inducers (109, 134). In healthy cells a similar regulation of IICR
549 by Bcl-2 proteins occurs. However, when cell death is induced in the latter, the amount of anti-
550 apoptotic Bcl-2 proteins declines (134) potentially decreasing the level of their association with
551 the IP₃R. This alleviates the inhibitory actions on IICR allowing pro-death Ca²⁺ signals while
552 also reducing the opportunities for the occurrence of pro-survival Ca²⁺ oscillations.

553 **4.3 Beclin 1**

554 Beclin 1 is a pro-autophagic BH3 domain-containing protein (135). It interacts with various
555 proteins involved in the regulation of autophagy, including Bcl-2 (136, 137). The latter protein,
556 by sequestering Beclin 1, prevents its pro-autophagic action. A first study presenting evidence
557 that Beclin 1 also interacted with the IP₃R showed an interaction between Beclin 1 and the
558 IP₃R that depended on Bcl-2 and which was disrupted by the IP₃R inhibitor xestospongine B
559 (138). The release of Beclin 1 from the Bcl-2/IP₃R complex resulted in the stimulation of
560 autophagy which could be counteracted by overexpressing the IBC. This suggested that the
561 IBC was able to sequester the xestospongine B-released Beclin 1 thus halting its pro-autophagic
562 function. From subsequent work, it appeared that the role of Beclin 1 with respect to the IP₃R
563 was more complex (139). Indeed, the binding of Beclin 1 to the ligand-binding domain was
564 confirmed, though it appeared that in IP₃R1 and to a lesser degree in IP₃R3 the suppressor
565 domain (a.a. 1-225) played a more prominent role in the interaction than the IBC. Interestingly,
566 during starvation-induced autophagy Beclin 1 binding to the IP₃R sensitized IICR that was
567 shown to be essential for the autophagy process (139). Using the F¹²³A Beclin 1 mutant that
568 does not interact with Bcl-2, it was shown that the sensitization of the IP₃R by Beclin 1 was not
569 due to counteracting the inhibitory effect of Bcl-2, although, in agreement with the previous
570 study (138) it appeared that Beclin 1 binding to Bcl-2 may be needed to target the protein in
571 proximity of the IP₃R.

572

573 **4.4 IRBIT**

574 IRBIT regulates IICR by targeting the IP₃R ligand-binding domain thereby competing with IP₃.
575 Moreover, this interaction is promoted by IRBIT phosphorylation (140). Besides the IP₃R,
576 IRBIT binds to several other targets regulating a wide range of cellular processes (141). How
577 IRBIT determines which target to interact with and modulate was recently described (142).
578 First, various forms of IRBIT exist, IRBIT, the long-IRBIT homologue and its splice variants,
579 which were shown to have distinct expression patterns. Besides this, the N-terminal region of
580 the various members of the IRBIT-protein family showed distinct differences. These
581 differences, obtained by N-terminal splicing, are important in maintaining protein stability and
582 in determining which target to interact with.

583 Recently, it was shown that Bcl-2-like 10, which binds to a distinct site in the ligand-binding
584 domain (see 4.2), functionally and structurally interacts with the action of IRBIT on the IP₃R
585 (122). When both proteins are present, Bcl-2-like 10, via its BH4 domain, interacts with
586 IRBIT, thereby mutually strengthening their interaction with the IP₃R and decreasing IICR in
587 an additive way. Upon dephosphorylation of IRBIT, both IRBIT and Bcl-2-like 10 are released
588 from the IP₃R, increasing pro-apoptotic Ca²⁺ transfer from the ER to the mitochondria.
589 Interestingly, this study also showed that IRBIT is involved in regulating ER-mitochondrial
590 contact sites as IRBIT knockout reduced the number of these contact sites (122).

591

592 **4.5 Thymocyte-expressed, positive selection-associated 1 (TESPA1)**

593 T-cell receptor (TCR) stimulation triggers a signaling cascade ultimately leading to the
594 activation of PLC, production of IP₃ and IICR important for T-cell maturation (143). TESPA1,
595 a protein involved in the development/selection of T cells (144), has been shown to regulate
596 these Ca²⁺ signals. TESPA1 has a significant homology with KRAS-induced actin-interacting
597 protein (147), a protein that was already shown to interact and control the IP₃R (145, 146).
598 TESPA1 similarly interacts with the various IP₃R isoforms and it appeared that the full ligand-
599 binding domain was needed for this interaction. However, at first no functional effect was
600 described for this interaction (147). Recently this topic was revisited and it was shown that

601 TESPA1 recruits IP₃R1 to the TCR where PLC signaling is initiated and IP₃ produced (143).
602 In this way, TESPA1 promotes IP₃R1 phosphorylation on Y³⁵³ by the tyrosine kinase Fyn,
603 increasing the affinity of the IP₃R for IP₃. The combination of both these effects increases the
604 efficiency by which Ca²⁺ signaling occurs after TCR stimulation, which is beneficial for T-cell
605 selection and maturation (148). Furthermore, in Jurkat cells TESPA1 interacts at the ER-
606 mitochondria contact sites with GRP75 (149), a linker protein coupling IP₃R with the
607 mitochondrial VDAC1 channel favoring Ca²⁺ transfer from ER to mitochondria (150).
608 Consequently, TESPA1 knockout diminished the TCR-evoked Ca²⁺ transfers to both
609 mitochondria and cytosol and confirm the important role for TESPA1 in these processes.

610

611 **4.6 Pyruvate kinase (PK) M2**

612 PKs catalyze the last step of glycolysis and convert phosphoenolpyruvate to pyruvate
613 resulting in the production of ATP. Many cancer cells preferentially upregulate glycolysis over
614 oxidative phosphorylation suggesting a potential role for the PK family in cancer
615 development. Four distinct PK isoforms exists, having each a distinct tissue expression
616 pattern but PKM2 has the peculiarity to be expressed at an elevated level in most tumoral
617 cells where it has a growth-promoting function. Moreover, although PKM1 and PKM2 are
618 nearly identical, differing in only 22 a.a., they are regulated differently and have non-
619 redundant functions (151). Besides its metabolic functions, PKM2 is also involved in several
620 non-metabolic functions. The latter encompass a nuclear role in transcriptional regulation,
621 protein kinase activity towards various proteins in different cellular organelles, and even an
622 extracellular function as PKM2 is also present in exosomes (152, 153). It is therefore
623 interesting that also a role for PKM2 at the ER was described since a direct interaction was
624 found between PKM2 and the central coupling domain of the IP₃R, inhibiting IICR in various
625 cell types (154, 155). Moreover, a recent study links the switch from oxidative
626 phosphorylation to glycolysis in breast cancer cells with PKM2 methylation (156). Methylated
627 PKM2 promoted proliferation, migration and growth of various breast cancer cell lines.
628 Strikingly, PKM2 methylation did not seem to alter its enzymatic activity but did however alter

629 mitochondrial Ca^{2+} homeostasis by decreasing IP_3R levels. Finally, co-immunoprecipitation
630 experiments showed an interaction between methylated PKM2 and $\text{IP}_3\text{R1}$ and $\text{IP}_3\text{R3}$, though
631 in this study it was not investigated whether the interaction was direct or indirect (156). As
632 PKM2 is in a variety of cancers considered as a good prognostic marker with a strong
633 potential as therapeutic target (152) these new data, linking directly a metabolic enzyme with
634 an intracellular Ca^{2+} -release channel and ER mitochondria Ca^{2+} transfer, provide new
635 possibilities for therapeutic intervention.

636

637 **4.7 BRCA-associated protein 1 (BAP1) and the F-box protein FBXL2**

638 Prolonged stimulation of the IP_3Rs leads to a downregulation of the IP_3R levels (157-159).
639 This downregulation is mainly due to IP_3R ubiquitination followed by their degradation via the
640 proteasomal pathway (31, 160). Ubiquitination is therefore an important IP_3R modification
641 that may severely impact IICR signaling to for instance the mitochondria, thereby greatly
642 affecting cell death and cell survival decisions. Recently a number of proto-oncogenes and
643 tumor suppressors have been identified that critically control $\text{IP}_3\text{R3}$ ubiquitination.
644 BAP1 is a tumor suppressor with deubiquitinase activity that is known to have important roles
645 in regulating gene expression, DNA stability, replication, and repair and in maintaining
646 chromosome stability (161-164). Besides this, BAP1 was also shown to influence cellular
647 metabolism, suggesting potential roles for BAP1 outside the nucleus (165, 166).
648 Heterozygous loss of BAP1 results in decreased mitochondrial respiration while increasing
649 glycolysis (167, 168). These cells produced a distinct metabolite signature, indicative for the
650 occurrence of the Warburg effect that is supporting cells towards malignant transformation.
651 Heterozygous loss of BAP1 leads to a decreased ER-mitochondria Ca^{2+} transfer and altered
652 mitochondrial metabolism (167). BAP1 regulates this Ca^{2+} transfer by interacting with the N-
653 terminal part (a.a. 1-800) of $\text{IP}_3\text{R3}$, a region which contains the complete ligand-binding
654 domain and a small part of the central coupling domain. The deubiquitinase activity of BAP1
655 prevents degradation of $\text{IP}_3\text{R3}$ by the proteasome. Loss of BAP1 consequently results in
656 excessive reduction of $\text{IP}_3\text{R3}$ levels thereby lowering mitochondrial Ca^{2+} uptake. This not only

657 reduces the cell its responsiveness to Ca^{2+} -induced cell death but also promotes glycolysis
658 over oxidative phosphorylation, both important aspects of malignant cell transformation. The
659 nuclear function of BAP1 with respect to maintaining DNA integrity (161-164) together with its
660 extra-nuclear role in regulating cell metabolism and sensitivity to Ca^{2+} -induced cell death
661 (165-168) suggests that this protein may be an excellent target for cancer drug development.
662 F-box protein FBXL2 that forms a subunit of a ubiquitin ligase complex has the opposite
663 effect of BAP1 on IP_3R_3 . FBXL2 interacts with a.a. 545-566 of IP_3R_3 , promoting its
664 ubiquitination and its subsequent degradation. Reduced IP_3R_3 leads to a decreased transfer
665 of Ca^{2+} to the mitochondria and a reduced sensitivity towards apoptosis, thus promoting
666 tumor growth (169). The phosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN) tumor suppressor could
667 inhibit this pro-tumorigenic effect of FBXL2. PTEN not only promotes apoptosis by inhibiting
668 protein kinase B/Akt (PKB) (170-172) thereby counteracting PKB-mediated IP_3R_3
669 phosphorylation (173, 174) but also by directly binding to IP_3R_3 (169). Binding of PTEN to
670 IP_3R_3 displaces FBXL2 from its binding site, reducing IP_3R_3 ubiquitination, stabilizing IP_3R_3
671 levels, and thus increasing pro-apoptotic Ca^{2+} signaling to the mitochondria (169). In
672 accordance with the fact that the FBXL2-binding site is only partially conserved in IP_3R_1 and
673 IP_3R_2 , the stability of the two latter isoforms appeared to be affected neither by FBXL2 nor by
674 PTEN.

675 In several tumors, PTEN function is impaired which results in accelerated IP_3R_3 degradation
676 and impaired apoptosis induction. Treatment with drugs that stabilize IP_3R levels may
677 therefore also be of interest for cancer therapy in cases where PTEN is affected.

678

679 **5 Conclusions**

680 Intracellular Ca^{2+} signaling is involved in a plethora of cellular processes. The ubiquitously
681 expressed IP_3R Ca^{2+} -release channels play an important role in the generation of these
682 signals and serve as signaling hubs for several regulatory factors and proteins/protein
683 complexes. Since the first identification of the IP_3R (175), IP_3R -interacting proteins and their
684 modulating roles on Ca^{2+} signaling and (patho)physiological processes have been the
685 subject of many studies and well over 100 interaction partners were reported (14), though for
686 many of them it is unclear how they exactly interact with the IP_3R and how they affect IP_3R
687 function. Moreover, for many regulatory proteins, multiple binding sites were described of
688 which the importance is not directly apparent. The recent (and future) advances in the
689 elucidation of the IP_3R structure will pave the way for a better understanding how IP_3R gating
690 exactly occurs and how different cellular factors and regulatory proteins influence IICR. As
691 several of these proteins affect life and death decisions and/or play important roles in tumor
692 development, the exact knowledge of their interaction site and their action of the IP_3R may
693 lead to the development of new therapies for e.g. cancer treatment.

694

695

696 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

697

698 TV is recipient of a postdoctoral fellowship of the Research Fund—Flanders (FWO). Work
699 performed in the laboratory of the authors was supported by research grants of the FWO, the
700 Research Council of the KU Leuven and the Interuniversity Attraction Poles Programme
701 (Belgian Science Policy).

702

703 **LEGENDS TO THE FIGURES**

704

705

706 **Figure 1. Alignment of proposed IP₃R1 structures.** (a) Linear representation of IP₃R1 (33).
707 (b) Linear representation of the IP₃R1 domains identified by X-ray crystallography (39). (c)
708 Linear representation of the IP₃R1 domains identified by cryo-EM (41). For the various
709 domains, the original nomenclature was used. Additionally, the interaction sites for
710 calmodulin (CaM) and for the various Bcl-2 family members (Bcl-2, Bcl-XL, Nr2 and Bok) are
711 indicated with colored arrows at the bottom of the figure. Please note that the name of the
712 interacting protein indicated at each arrow represents the protein for which binding was
713 initially described. As discussed in the text, related proteins share in some cases common
714 binding sites. The striped arrow indicates that this binding site is only present in a specific
715 IP₃R1 splice isoform. For further explanations, please see text.

716

717

718 **Figure 2. Cryo-EM structure of IP₃R1.** Structure of IP₃R1 fitted to the cryo-EM map (PDB
719 3JAV, (41)) showing (A) a cytosolic and (B) a luminal view of an IP₃R1 tetramer. (C, D) Side
720 views of two neighboring IP₃R1 subunits as seen from the (C) inside or the (D) outside of the
721 tetramer. The discontinuous CaM-binding site in the suppressor domain is indicated in yellow
722 (a.a. 49-81 and a.a. 106–128). The yellow arrows in panels A and B indicate where the CaM-
723 binding site in the central coupling domain should be located (a.a. 1564-1585). This could not
724 be indicated on the structure itself because the part between a.a. 1488 and 1588 of the IP₃R
725 is not resolved. The binding site for Bcl-2 and, to a lesser extent, Bcl-XL located in the central
726 coupling domain is indicated in blue (a.a. 1389-1408). The C-terminal binding site for Bcl-2,
727 Bcl-XL and Mcl-1 is shown in green (a.a. 2512-2749). The domains indicated in dark green
728 (a.a. 2571-2606 and a.a. 2690-2732) thereby represent the BH3-like structures that were
729 identified to bind Bcl-XL. The region where Bok interacts with IP₃R1 (a.a. 1895-1903) was not
730 resolved in this cryo-EM structure. The two orange spheres (a.a. 1883 and 1945) however

731 show the boundaries of this non-characterized IP₃R1 region to which Bok binds. These
732 images were obtained using PyMOL. For further explanations, please see text.

733

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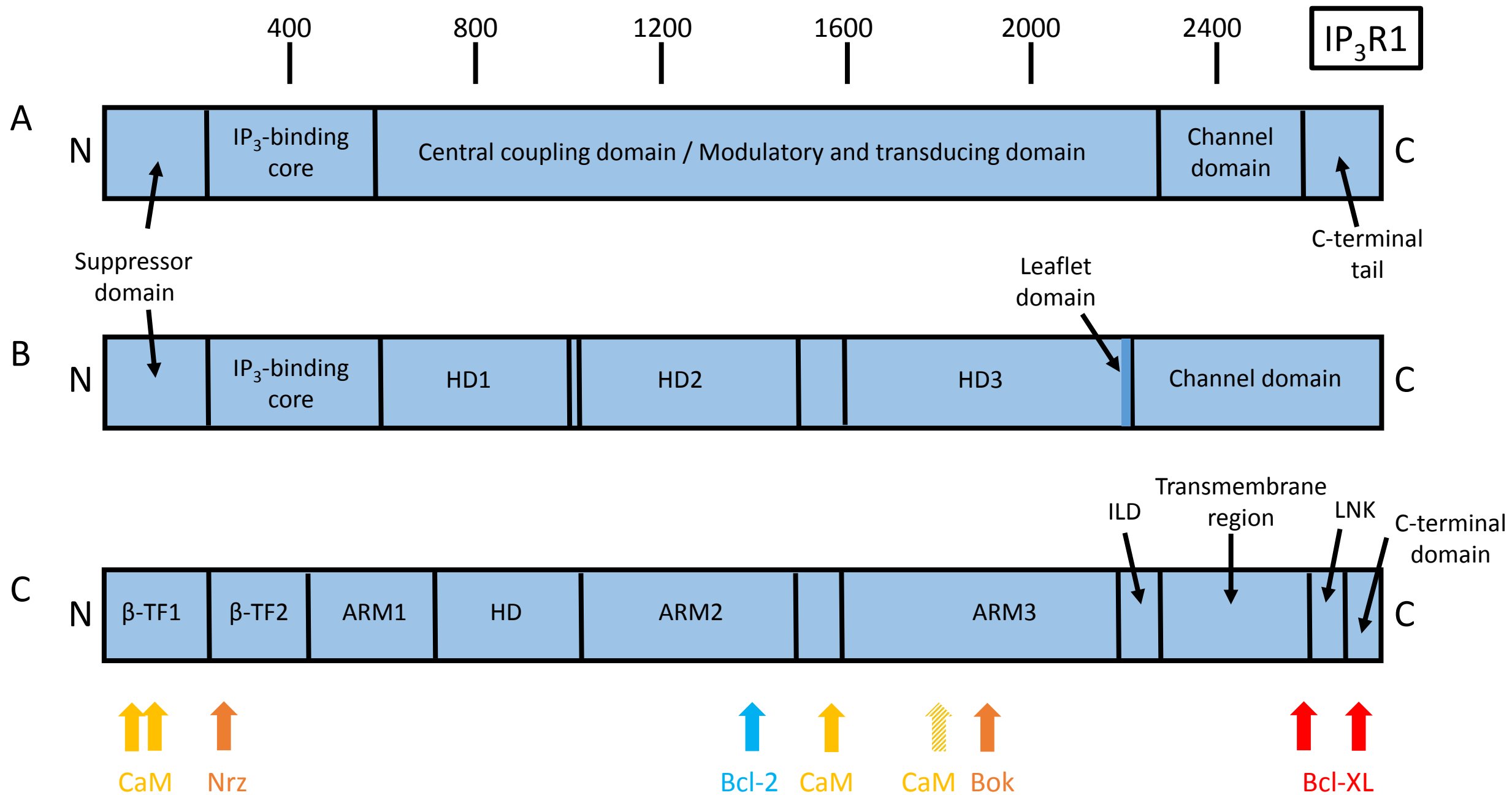
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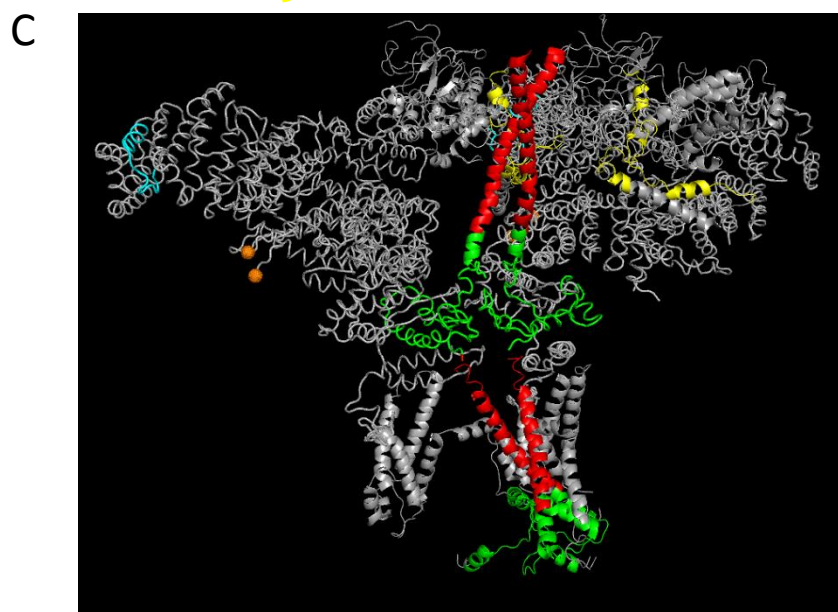
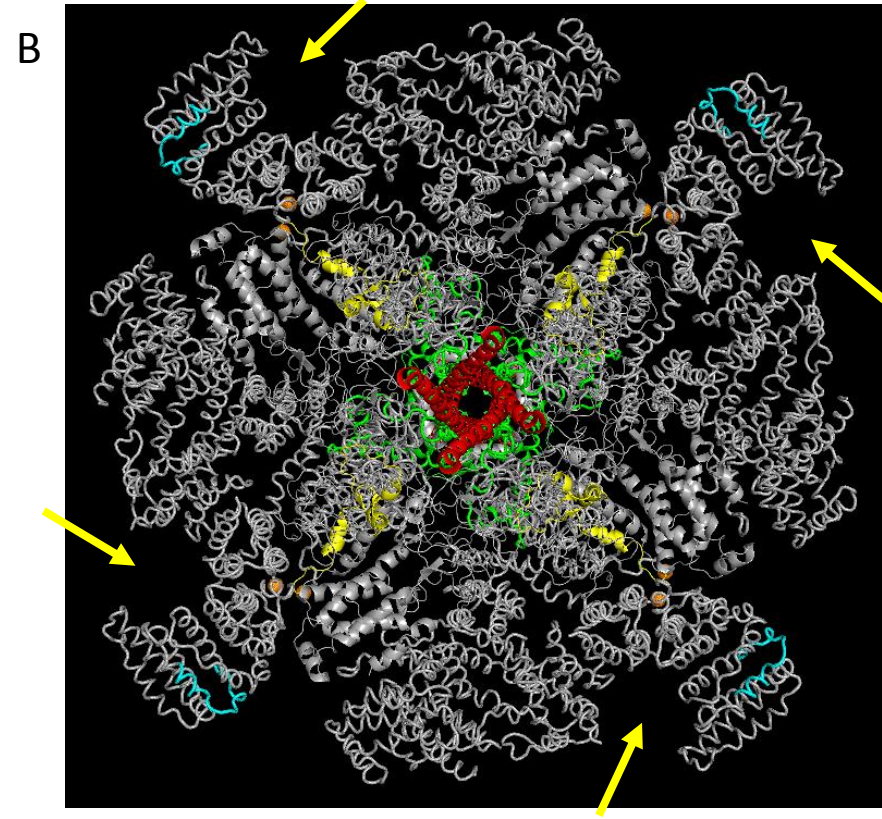
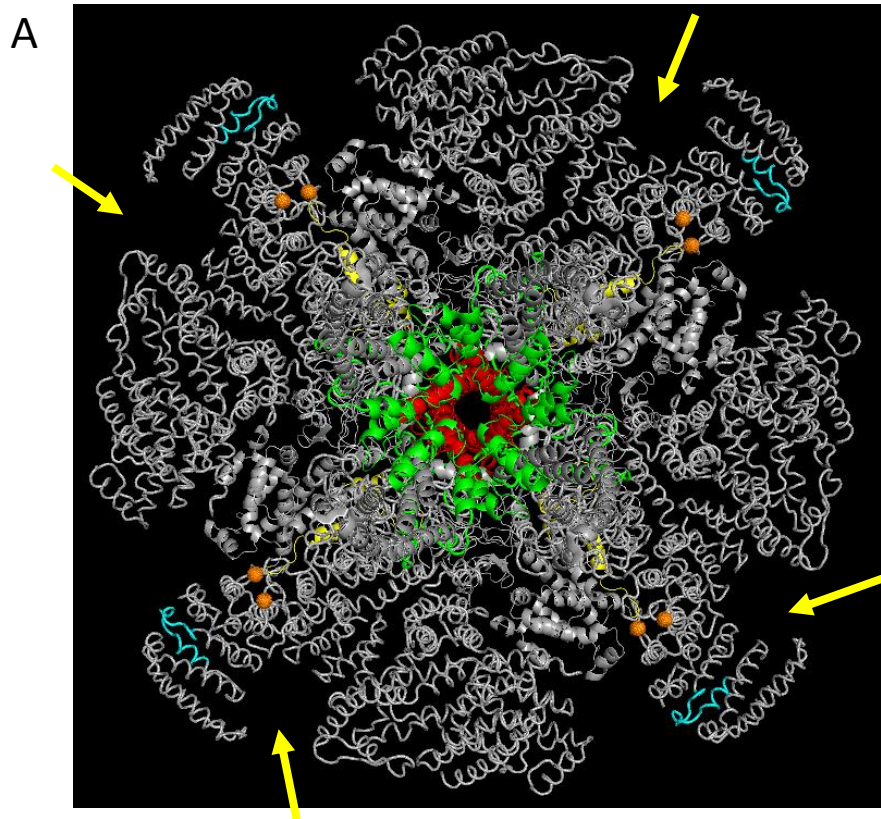
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