

## **INFLUENCE OF ER LEAK ON RESTING CYTOPLASMIC CA<sup>2+</sup> AND RECEPTOR-MEDIATED CA<sup>2+</sup> SIGNALLING IN HUMAN MACROPHAGE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Mechanisms controlling endoplasmic reticulum (ER) Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis are important regulators of resting cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration ([Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>cyto</sub>) and receptor-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling. Here we investigate channels responsible for ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> leak in THP-1 macrophage and human primary macrophage. In the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> we employ ionomycin action at the plasma membrane to stimulate ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> leak. Under these conditions ionomycin elevates [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>cyto</sub> revealing a Ca<sup>2+</sup> leak response which is abolished by thapsigargin. IP<sub>3</sub> receptors (Xestospongin C, 2-APB), ryanodine receptors (dantrolene), and translocon (anisomycin) inhibition facilitated ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> leak in model macrophage, with translocon inhibition also reducing resting [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>cyto</sub>. In primary macrophage, translocon inhibition blocks Ca<sup>2+</sup> leak but does not influence resting [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>cyto</sub>. We identify a role for translocon-mediated ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> leak in receptor-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling in both model and primary human macrophage, whereby the Ca<sup>2+</sup> response to ADP (P2Y receptor agonist) is augmented following anisomycin treatment. In conclusion, we demonstrate a role of ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> leak via the translocon in controlling resting cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> in model macrophage and receptor-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling in model macrophage and primary macrophage.

**KEYWORDS:** Endoplasmic reticulum; calcium leak; translocon; macrophage; purinergic

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The endoplasmic reticulum (ER) plays important roles in many cellular processes, including protein folding and cellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ) homeostasis (Lam & Galione, 2013). During receptor-mediated intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signal generation,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stored by the ER can be mobilised causing rapid elevation in the concentration of free cytoplasmic  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ( $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyto}}$ ). Receptor-mediated processes coupled to phospholipase C (PLC) mobilise ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  through the production of inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate ( $\text{IP}_3$ ), which open  $\text{IP}_3$  receptors on the ER membrane through which  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  rapidly permeates into the cytoplasm (Berridge, 1993). Released  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  can stimulate further release via activation of ER ryanodine receptors, a process termed  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -induced  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release (CICR) (Collier et al., 2000). During receptor-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signalling, mobilisation of the ER store lowers the concentration of free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  within the ER lumen ( $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{ER}}$ ). The decrease in  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{ER}}$  is sensed by the ER resident stromal interaction molecule (STIM), which in turn stimulates cellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry via the activation of the orai family of plasma membrane  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels (Sogkas et al., 2015). This process is termed store-operated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry (SOCE). Receptor-mediated intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signals are therefore often a composition of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry via SOCE. In macrophage, receptor-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signals are generated in response to environmental cues which are important for cellular migration (Myers & Swanson, 2002; Desai & Leitinger, 2015).

Under resting conditions  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{ER}}$  reflects a balance between the activity of SERCA and passive efflux of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  into the cytoplasm via  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak channels. Hence the magnitude of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak can influence resting  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyto}}$  and the amount of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  mobilisable in response to receptor-mediated signalling. The molecular identity of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak channels is poorly defined for mammalian cells (Camello et al., 2002). Though candidates such as presenilins (Supnet & Bezprozvanny, 2011) and the ER translocon (Van Coppenolle et al., 2004; Amer et al., 2009; Hammadi et al., 2013) have been proposed as leak channels in some cell types, there is currently no published description of candidate channels in leukocytes. Processes of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak are therefore likely to play important homeostatic roles in controlling both  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyto}}$  and  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{ER}}$  in macrophage. Understanding mechanisms of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak in macrophage is also of importance, as a decrease in  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{ER}}$  is a key initiator of apoptosis in ER-stressed macrophage, and ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release is necessary for apoptotic signalling in macrophage (Seimon et al., 2006; Lim et al., 2008). ER-stressed mediated apoptosis in lesional macrophage is a central event during plaque necrosis in advanced atherosclerosis (Tabas et al., 2009). In this study we sought to identify channels that mediate ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak in human macrophage and determine the influence of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak channel activity on receptor-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signalling.

## **2 MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### **2.1 *Chemicals and reagents***

Ionomycin, Thapsigargin (Tg) and 2-APB were obtained from Santa-Cruz Biotechnologies. ADP, Anisomycin and Dantrolene were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (UK). Xestospongine C was obtained from Abcam (UK).

### **2.2 *Cells***

THP-1 cells were obtained from the European Collection of Cell Cultures (ECACC). Human THP-1 cells were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium with 2mM L-glutamine, 10% foetal bovine serum and 50 IU/ml penicillin and 50 µg/ml streptomycin. Cells were maintained at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. To generate THP-1 differentiated macrophages, cells were stimulated with 320 nM of phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate for 48h, 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

### **2.3 *Isolation of PBMCs and generation of monocyte-derived macrophages***

Peripheral venous blood was collected from healthy human volunteers through the National Health Service (NHS) Blood and Transplant. Blood was layered on top of Histopaque-1077 (Sigma-Aldrich, UK) for centrifugation at 1000 x g for 25 min. Buffy coat layer containing the PBMCs was removed, washed and counted using trypan blue exclusion. PBMCs were allowed to adhere onto T75 flasks for 2h at 37°C, washed with dPBS (Lonza, UK) and cultured in RPMI-160 with 2mM L-glutamine, 5% heat-inactivated autologous serum and 50 IU/ml penicillin and 50 µg/ml streptomycin, in the presence of 10 ng/ml recombinant human GM-CSF (Peprotech, UK) at 37°C for 6d.

### **2.4 *Intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> measurements***

Cells were loaded for 1h at 37°C with 2µM Fura-2 AM and measurements were made at 37°C on a 96-well plate reader (FlexStation III, Molecular Devices). Change in intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration ([Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>i</sub>) is indicated as ratio of fura-2 emission intensities for 340- and 380-nm excitation (F ratio). SBS buffer contained (mM): 130 NaCl, 5 KCL, 1.2 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.5 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 8 D-glucose, 10 HEPES pH 7.4. Ca<sup>2+</sup> free SBS was prepared by excluding CaCl<sub>2</sub> and supplemented with 2mM EGTA. Loading of cells with Fura-2 was performed in SBS buffer supplemented with 0.01% (w/v) pluronic acid. Pre-treatment of all compounds, except for anisomycin (1hr), were done at 30 min.

### **2.5 *Statistical analysis***

Data were analysed using OriginPro 9.0 software (Origin Lab, USA). Concentration-response curves were fitted assuming a Hill coefficient of 1. Hypothesis testing for experiments with paired datasets were performed by means of paired Student's *t*-test using Origin Pro 9.0. Data are expressed as mean ± SEM of at least three independent experiments.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Ionomycin elevates cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> independent of Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx

In THP-1 model macrophage, application of ionomycin in the presence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> elevated [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>cyto</sub> in a concentration-dependent manner (EC<sub>50</sub> 0.365 ± 0.01 μM; N=4) (**Figure 1A**). In the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>, ionomycin retained its ability to elevate cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> but with a reduced potency (EC<sub>50</sub> 0.61 ± 0.11 μM vs control with extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>; P≤0.001; N=4) and reduced maxima (F ratio 1.341 ± 0.036 vs 2.67 ± 0.054 control μM; P≤0.001; N=4) (**Figure 1A**). The kinetics of Ca<sup>2+</sup> response generated by maximal concentrations of ionomycin differed in the presence or absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>, with responses in the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> lacking a sustained phase (**Figure 1B**). Similar results were observed in primary macrophage. In primary cells, ionomycin evoked a Ca<sup>2+</sup> response in the presence (EC<sub>50</sub> 0.332 ± 0.19 μM; N=3) and absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> (EC<sub>50</sub> 3.47 ± 2.01 μM vs control with extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>; P≤0.01; N=3) (**Figure 1C-D**). Data from primary and model macrophage are consistent with the notion that ionomycin acts as a Ca<sup>2+</sup>-selective pore at the plasma membrane and that the sustained phase is dependent upon Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx. However, the data also demonstrate that ionomycin can elevate cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> in the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> and therefore in the absence of Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx.

#### 3.2 Ionomycin stimulates release of ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> store independent of Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx and dependent on passive Ca<sup>2+</sup> leak

We initially investigated the requirement of the ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> store in mediating ionomycin-evoked responses by depleting the store with the irreversible SERCA inhibitor thapsigargin (Tg). In these experiments, Tg reduced the ability of ionomycin to elevate cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> in the presence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> (EC<sub>50</sub> 9.28 ± 6.91 μM vs control; P≤0.001; N=4), though ionomycin was able to elevate cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> at concentrations 1 – 10 μM (**Figure 1E**). However, the response to ionomycin in the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> was abolished by Tg (**Figure 1F**), suggesting that ionomycin can elevate cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> independent of Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx and dependent upon the ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> store. To further test the contribution of the ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> store for ionomycin-evoked response, we examined the effect of ionomycin pre-treatment of the magnitude of Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilisation following SERCA inhibition with thapsigargin. In the presence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>, pre-incubation with ionomycin significantly attenuated the magnitude of Tg-evoked elevation in cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> (88.5 ± 1.93%; P≤0.001; N=4) (**Figure 1G**). In the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>, ionomycin pre-treatment abolished Tg-evoked Ca<sup>2+</sup> response (**Figure 1G**). As the magnitude of Tg-evoked response in the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> is directly proportional to the ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> content, these data suggest ionomycin in the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> elevates cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> by stimulating ER store mobilisation. Finally, we observed a significant elevation in basal cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> in cells pre-treated with ionomycin in the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> (F ratio 1.57 ± 0.039 vs 1.96 ± 0.026 control; P≤0.001; N=4) (**Figure 1H**).

### 3.3 ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels mediate ionomycin-evoked cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> elevation in the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>

Data thus far indicate a primary role for ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> store release in mediating the effect of ionomycin independent of Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx. On the assumption that ionomycin is acting as a plasma membrane conduit for Ca<sup>2+</sup> and stimulating store leak, one would expect that ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels underpin the response. In initial experiments we investigated the role of classical ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> release channels, namely the inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate (IP<sub>3</sub>) receptor and Ca<sup>2+</sup>-activated ryanodine receptors. 2-aminoethoxydiphenyl borate (2-APB) blocks SOCE via inhibition of both store-operated Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels and the IP<sub>3</sub> receptor at concentrations >10μM reported in other cell types. Concurrent with this mechanism we observed inhibition of ionomycin-evoked Ca<sup>2+</sup> responses both in the presence and absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> (**Figure 2A-B**). In agreement with a requirement for the IP<sub>3</sub> receptor in mediating ionomycin responses in the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>, we observed inhibition with xestospongine C (XeC), a membrane permeable selective IP<sub>3</sub> receptor antagonist (**Figure 2C-D**). The inhibitory action of 2-APB and XeC in the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> suggest that open IP<sub>3</sub> receptors contribute to the elevation in cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> evoked by ionomycin. Ionomycin-evoked responses were also inhibited by dantrolene (**Figure 2E-F**), revealing an involvement of ryanodine receptors in elevating [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>cyto</sub>. Neither 2-APB, XeC or dantrolene influence resting Ca<sup>2+</sup> in macrophage. Therefore, although a contribution of IP<sub>3</sub> and ryanodine receptor activity to ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> can be observed under experimental conditions with ionomycin present, our data does not support a physiological contribution of these channels to resting [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>ER</sub>.

### 3.4 Effect of translocon inhibition on resting cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> and receptor-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling

It has been reported in other cell types that the ER translocon, when open, can act as a Ca<sup>2+</sup> channel and can mediate ER passive Ca<sup>2+</sup> leak. In macrophage we employed anisomycin, an antibiotic inhibitor of peptidyl-transferase activity, which leaves the translocon closed, to test the hypothesis that the ER translocon contributes to ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> leak and influences resting [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>cyto</sub>. In the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup>, anisomycin (200μM) pre-treatment significantly inhibited ionomycin-evoked Ca<sup>2+</sup> responses in THP-1 macrophage, suggesting translocon activity can facilitate ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> leak (**Figure 3A-C**). However, anisomycin also significantly reduced resting cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> in THP-1 macrophage (F ratio 0.963 ± 0.01 vs 1.07 ± 0.01 control; P≤0.05; N=4), in contrast to the effect of IP<sub>3</sub> or ryanodine receptor blockade. These data suggest that translocon activity is a determinant of ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis and resting cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration under physiological conditions. In primary cells, the inhibitory action of anisomycin on the ionomycin response was observed as a reduction in net Ca<sup>2+</sup> movement (**Figure 3E**), as judged by area under the curve of the ionomycin response in the absence of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> (**Figure 3E**). In contrast to model macrophage, anisomycin had no apparent effect on the resting [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>cyto</sub>. To further test the importance of translocon activity in ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis, we examined the effect of anisomycin on receptor-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling. Our previous data shows that P2Y-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> responses elicited by ADP in THP-1 cells are totally dependent on release of ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> (Sivaramakrishnan et al., 2012), and inhibited when the ER is depleted with thapsigargin or ionomycin (data not shown). Translocon inhibition caused a significant increase in ADP potency and response maxima in both model macrophage (**Figure 4A-B**) and primary macrophage (**Figure 4C-E**). These data suggest that limiting ER Ca<sup>2+</sup> leak via

the translocon increases the amount of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  mobilisation by receptor activation in macrophage. Taken together, the effects of anisomycin demonstrate a role of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak via the translocon in controlling resting cytoplasmic  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  in model macrophage and receptor-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signalling in model macrophage and primary macrophage.

### 3.5 Summary

In aggregate, under conditions of ionomycin-stimulated ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak in human macrophage, we observe contributions of the  $\text{IP}_3$  receptor, ryanodine receptor and open ER translocon. Neither  $\text{IP}_3$  receptor nor ryanodine receptor activity contribute to  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyto}}$ . However, the activity of the translocon influences both  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyto}}$  in resting macrophage under physiological conditions, and the magnitude of receptor-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signals in model macrophage, in this case P2Y receptor activation. In primary human macrophage, a contribution of translocon activity can be observed under conditions of ionomycin-stimulated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak, however there is no apparent contribution of translocon-mediated ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyto}}$ . Despite this, inhibition of the translocon augments receptor-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signalling in primary cells suggesting its involvement in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  homeostasis during cell signalling.

## 4 DISCUSSION

The study demonstrates ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak via the ER translocon as an important regulator of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  homeostasis and receptor-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signalling in human macrophage. Blockade of translocon-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak from the ER using anisomycin augments the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signal produced by external cues, in this study ADP, and therefore translocon activity is likely to modulate the ability of macrophage to respond to their environment. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first demonstration of the role ER translocon plays in controlling receptor-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signalling in leukocytes. The contribution of translocon-mediated leak appears more apparent in THP-1 model macrophage, where inhibition with anisomycin reveals a contribution to both resting  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyto}}$  and receptor-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signalling, though a contribution to resting  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyto}}$  is not observed in primary cells. Despite this, the pharmacology suggests translocon leak of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  does impact on receptor-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signalling in human primary macrophage. We can also infer that the translocon is efficiently closed in primary macrophage at rest and that this is not the case for THP-1 model macrophage, where a leak is apparent at rest. In other cell types such as vascular smooth muscle (Amer et al., 2009) and cancer cells (LNCaP cells; Van Coppenolle et al., 2004), the contribution of translocon-mediated ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak has been investigated using puromycin. In such studies, puromycin elicits an expectant elevation of  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyto}}$ , however there is no discernible contribution of translocon-mediated leak to receptor-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signalling (Amer M et al., 2009). Macrophage are highly dynamic cells and their function is tightly linked to ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  homeostasis. For example, ER stress caused by a reduction in  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{ER}}$  is a trigger for macrophage apoptosis (Pinton et al., 2008; Sano & Reed, 2013), and ER stress modulates macrophage plasticity (Oh et al., 2012).

$\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ionophores, like ionomycin, are generally assumed to elevate intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  by facilitating  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  transport across the plasma membrane. In the presence of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , ionomycin elicits a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  response that is sustained in nature in both THP-1 model and human primary macrophage. Removal of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  diminishes the magnitude of response, but a robust transient response persists. Our data therefore indicates that ionomycin is capable of elevating intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  in the absence of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , revealing an additional mode of action independent of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx. Ionomycin is more potent at elevated  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyto}}$  in the presence of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , reflecting a dominant contribution due to  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx via ionomycin itself and a likely contribution of SOCE (Morgan & Jacob, 1994; Dedkova et al., 2000; Muller et al., 2013). Dedkova et al. (2000) identified a component of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ionophore-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  responses which was dependent on phospholipase C activity, and consequent  $\text{IP}_3$  production. Although we have not directly explored this pathway in macrophage, this may fit with our observation that open  $\text{IP}_3$  receptors participate to the apparent ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak when ionomycin is applied in the absence of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . Open  $\text{IP}_3$  receptors have been identified as potential conduits of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak in other cell types (Szulc et al., 2006), where proteolytic cleavage or biochemical modification, such as hyperphosphorylation or nitrosylation, lead to opening of 'uncoupled'  $\text{IP}_3$  receptors. In this current study,  $\text{IP}_3$  receptor activity was probed using antagonists XeC and 2-APB. While XeC is a reported selective inhibitor of  $\text{IP}_3$ -induced ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release by antagonism of  $\text{IP}_3$  receptor (Gafni et al., 1997; Miyamoto et al., 2000), 2-APB is thought to block SOCE through two possible routes. One mode is via antagonism of the  $\text{IP}_3$  receptor and thus preventing  $\text{IP}_3$ -mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release from the ER. A second route is via direct inhibition of store-operated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels at the plasma membrane. Here, we show that  $\text{IP}_3$  receptor activity contributes to ionomycin-evoked ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  depletion but

does not affect resting  $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyto}$ . This study does not support a role for the  $IP_3$  receptor  $Ca^{2+}$  leakiness in resting cells, as neither antagonists influence resting  $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyto}$  in THP-1 model macrophage. These findings are similar to those observed for A7r5 rat vascular smooth muscle cell line where XeC or 2-APB have no influence on ER  $Ca^{2+}$  leak (De Smet et al., 1999; Missiaen et al., 2001).

In this study, we observed inhibitory actions of 2-APB on ionomycin-evoked  $Ca^{2+}$  responses both in the presence and absence of extracellular  $Ca^{2+}$ . In the absence of extracellular  $Ca^{2+}$ , the contribution of SOCE in elevating intracellular  $Ca^{2+}$  is negated, and therefore the inhibitory action of 2-APB cannot be via inhibition of plasma membrane  $Ca^{2+}$  channels. We therefore reason that 2-APB is acting to antagonise the  $IP_3$  in THP-1 model macrophage and thus limiting ionomycin-mediated ER  $Ca^{2+}$  leak in the absence of extracellular  $Ca^{2+}$ . However it is interesting to observe the ablation of responses to ionomycin in the absence of extracellular  $Ca^{2+}$  following 2-APB treatment, suggesting a total dependency on a 2-APB-sensitive  $Ca^{2+}$  conduit. The concentration of 2-APB used in this study was  $100\mu M$ , in other cell types this concentration has been shown to block SERCA (Bilmen et al., 2002) and therefore the effect of 2-APB in this study could be attributed to ER  $Ca^{2+}$  store depletion. However, this is unlikely to be the case as 2-APB has no effect on resting  $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyto}$ , unlike thapsigargin. Our study also reveals a role of ryanodine receptors in mediating the responses to ionomycin both in the presence and absence of extracellular  $Ca^{2+}$ , where they likely contribute as part of  $Ca^{2+}$ -induced- $Ca^{2+}$  release in response to  $Ca^{2+}$  influx (Goussakov et al., 2010) and ER release. Our study therefore identifies a major contribution of ER  $Ca^{2+}$  channels in mediating  $Ca^{2+}$  responses to ionomycin. When used as a control for  $Ca^{2+}$  dye loaded cells, ionomycin must therefore be used with caution, as the ER  $Ca^{2+}$  state, not just plasma membrane influx, will influence responsiveness to ionomycin.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

In summary, we identify an important role for the ER translocon in facilitating ER  $Ca^{2+}$  leak, and regulating the amount of  $Ca^{2+}$  mobilisable from the ER during receptor-mediated  $Ca^{2+}$  signalling in human macrophage.

### **Acknowledgements**

This work was funded by the BBSRC.

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**Figure 1 Ionomycin can elevate intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  independent of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx but dependent on the ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  store.** Ionomycin-evoked intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  responses in THP-1 model macrophage (A;  $N=4$ ) and human primary macrophage (C;  $N=3$ ) in the presence (+ $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ) and absence (- $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ) of 1.5 mM extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . (B, D) Averaged ( $N=3-4$ ) time traces showing intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  responses evoked by 1  $\mu\text{M}$  ionomycin in the presence and absence of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . THP-1 macrophage responses are represented as absolute Fura-2 excitation/emission ratio ( $F$  ratio), and responses in primary macrophage are expressed normalised to maximal ionomycin-evoked response ( $F$  max) to control for donor variability. Dose-response curves for ionomycin-evoked  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  responses for THP-1 macrophage in the presence (+ $Tg$ ) and absence (control) of 5  $\mu\text{M}$  thapsigargin ( $N=4$ ), in the presence (E) and absence (F) of 1.5mM extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . (G) Effect of preincubation with 1  $\mu\text{M}$  ionomycin (*iono*) on the magnitude of thapsigargin ( $Tg$ ) evoked  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  response in the presence (black bar) and absence (grey bar) of 1.5 mM extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ( $N=4$ ). (H) Effect of 1  $\mu\text{M}$  ionomycin preincubation on resting cytoplasmic  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  concentration ( $N=4$ ) represented as absolute Fura-2 excitation/emission ratio ( $F$  ratio). \*\*\* $P<0.001$ .

**Figure 2 Involvement of ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels in mediated response to ionomycin in the presence and absence of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  in THP-1 macrophage.** Effect of 2-APB (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ) on ionomycin concentration-response in the presence (A) and absence (B) of 1.5 mM extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ( $N=3$ ). Effect of xestopsongin C (5  $\mu\text{M}$ ) on ionomycin concentration-response in the presence (C) and absence (D) of 1.5 mM extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ( $N=3$ ). Effect of dantrolene (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) on ionomycin concentration-response in the presence (E) and absence (F) of 1.5 mM extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ( $N=3$ ).

**Figure 3 Effect of translocon inhibition on ionomycin-evoked  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  leak.** (A) Dose-response curves for ionomycin-evoked  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  responses for THP-1 macrophage in the presence (+*anisomycin*) and absence (control) of 200  $\mu\text{M}$  anisomycin ( $N=4$ ), experiments are performed in the absence of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . (B-C) Averaged ( $N=4$ ) time traces from THP-1 macrophage showing intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  responses evoked by low (0.3  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and high (1  $\mu\text{M}$ ) concentrations of ionomycin in the presence and absence of 200  $\mu\text{M}$  anisomycin. Experiments performed in the absence of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . (D-E) Effect of translocon inhibition in human primary macrophage. (D) Averaged ( $N=4$ ) time traces from primary macrophage showing effect of 200  $\mu\text{M}$  anisomycin on ionomycin-evoked intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  response in the absence of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . (E) Effect of 200  $\mu\text{M}$  anisomycin on net  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  movement (area under the curve) evoked by 1  $\mu\text{M}$  ionomycin in the absence of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ( $N=4$ ). \* $P<0.05$

**Figure 4 ER Translocon inhibition attenuates receptor-mediated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signaling.** (A) Effect of translocon inhibition with anisomycin (200  $\mu\text{M}$ ) on ADP concentration-response curve in THP-1 macrophage ( $N=4$ ). (B) Averaged ( $N=4$ )  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  responses to 100  $\mu\text{M}$  ADP in the presence (*anisomycin*) and absence (*control*) of anisomycin (200  $\mu\text{M}$ ). (C) Averaged ( $N=4$ )  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  responses to 100  $\mu\text{M}$  ADP in human primary macrophage performed in the presence (*anisomycin*) and absence (*control*) of anisomycin (200  $\mu\text{M}$ ). Averaged data showing augmentation of peak response (D) and net  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  movement (E) elicited by ADP in human primary macrophage ( $N=4$ ). \* $P<0.05$  \*\*\* $P<0.001$

Figure 1

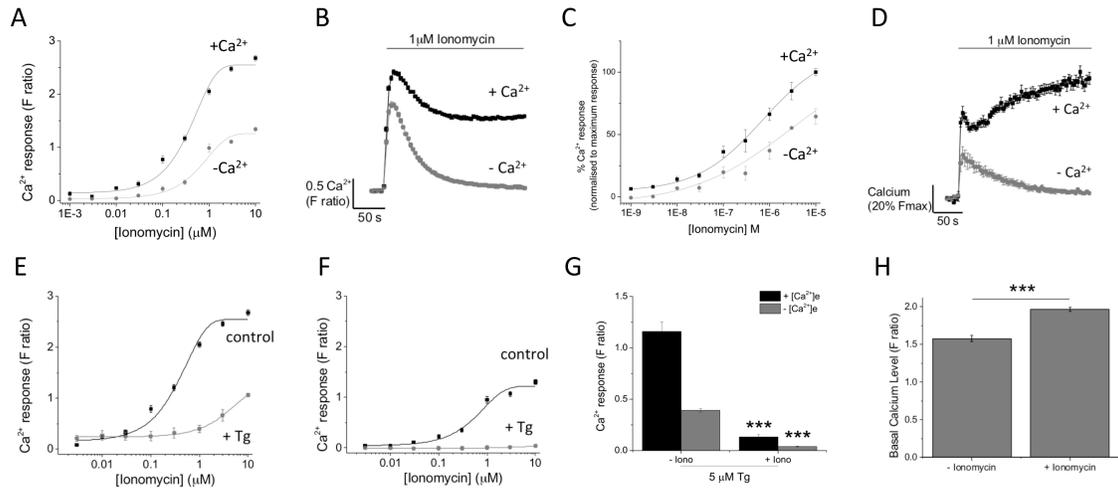


Figure 2

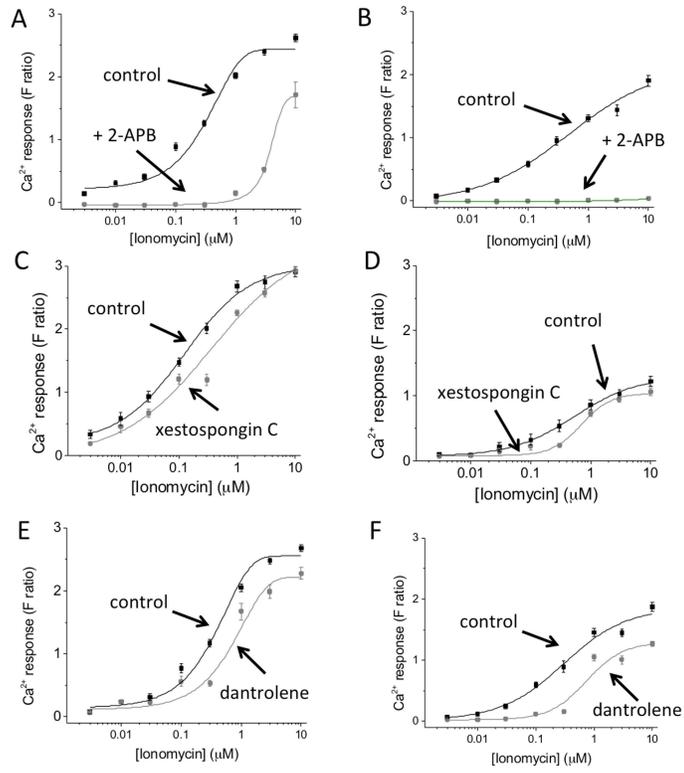


Figure 3

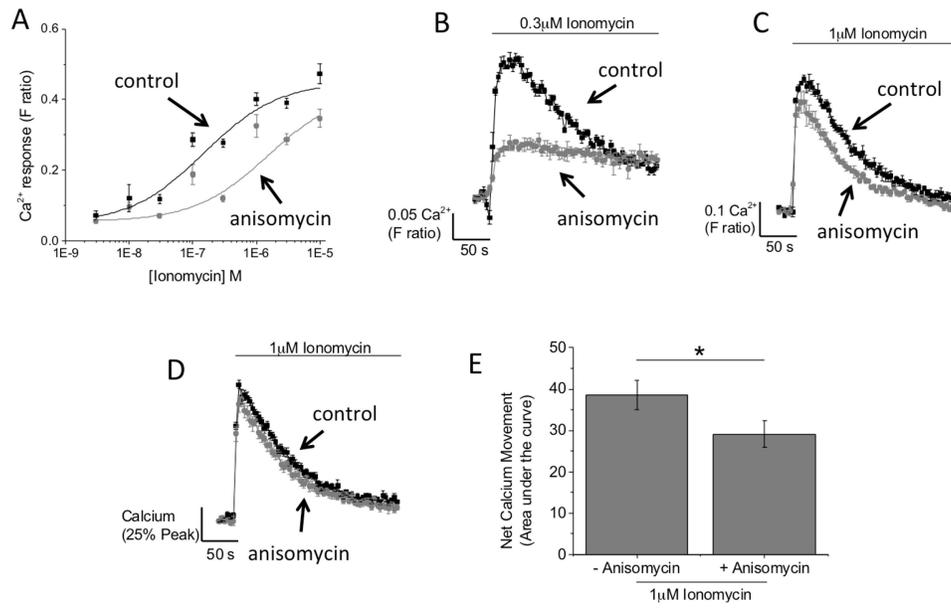


Figure 4

