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## Differential interaction of $\beta 2e$ with phosphoinositides: A comparative study between $\beta 2e$ and MARCKS

Dong-Il Kim & Byung-Chang Suh

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ARTICLE ADDENDUM

## Differential interaction of $\beta 2e$ with phosphoinositides: A comparative study between $\beta 2e$ and MARCKS

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### ABSTRACT

Voltage-gated calcium ( $\text{Ca}_v$ ) channels are responsible for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx in excitable cells. As one of the auxiliary subunits, the  $\text{Ca}_v \beta$  subunit plays a pivotal role in the membrane expression and receptor modulation of  $\text{Ca}_v$  channels. In particular, the subcellular localization of the  $\beta$  subunit is critical for determining the biophysical properties of  $\text{Ca}_v$  channels. Recently, we showed that the  $\beta 2e$  isotype is tethered to the plasma membrane. Such a feature of  $\beta 2e$  is due to the reversible electrostatic interaction with anionic membrane phospholipids. Here, we further explored the membrane interaction property of  $\beta 2e$  by comparing it with that of myristoylated alanine-rich C kinase substrate (MARCKS). First, the charge neutralization of the inner leaf of the plasma membrane induced the translocation of both  $\beta 2e$  and MARCKS to the cytosol, while the transient depletion of poly-phosphoinositides (poly-PIs) by translocatable pseudojanin (PJ) systems induced the cytosolic translocation of  $\beta 2e$  but not MARCKS. Second, the activation of protein kinase C (PKC) induced the translocation of MARCKS but not  $\beta 2e$ . We also found that after the cytosolic translocation of MARCKS by receptor activation, depletion of poly-PIs slowed the recovery of MARCKS to the plasma membrane. Together, our data demonstrate that both  $\beta 2e$  and MARCKS bind to the membrane through electrostatic interaction but with different binding affinity, and thus, they are differentially regulated by enzymatic degradation of membrane PIs.

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electrostatic interaction; myristoylated alanine-rich C kinase substrate (MARCKS); phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate ( $\text{PIP}_2$ ); protein kinase C (PKC); voltage-gated calcium channel;  $\beta 2e$  subunit

### Introduction

Voltage-gated calcium ( $\text{Ca}_v$ ) channels govern  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry in response to the depolarization of membrane potential in excitable cells.<sup>1</sup>  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx relays the diverse neuronal processes, including neurotransmitter and hormone release and gene transcription.<sup>2,3</sup> A high-voltage-activated  $\text{Ca}_v$  channel is composed of at least  $\alpha 1$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\alpha 2\delta$  subunits. Although the  $\alpha 1$  subunit primarily determines the voltage-sensitivity and pharmacological responses of  $\text{Ca}_v$  channels, as auxiliary subunits,  $\beta$  and  $\alpha 2\delta$  subunits also play a pivotal role in regulating  $\text{Ca}_v$  channel activity and promoting their membrane expression.<sup>4</sup> In particular,  $\beta$  subunits have a strong influence on the biophysical property of  $\text{Ca}_v$  channel gating.<sup>5,6</sup> With 4 isotypes,  $\beta$  subunits are usually located in the cytosol and bind to the  $\text{Ca}_v$  channel via the  $\alpha$ -interacting domain. However,  $\beta 2a$  and  $\beta 2e$  subunits are tethered to the plasma membrane even in

the absence of  $\alpha 1$ .<sup>7,8</sup> Whether  $\beta$  subunits are localized in the cytosol or in the plasma membrane is a key determinant particularly in terms of inactivation kinetics and modulation by membrane phospholipids. Whereas  $\text{Ca}_v$  channels with cytosolic  $\beta$  subunits show fast current inactivation and high sensitivity to the depletion of phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate ( $\text{PIP}_2$ ), channels with membrane-anchored  $\beta$  subunits exhibit the opposite responses.<sup>9,10</sup> Recent studies showed that the  $\beta 2e$  subunit is associated with the plasma membrane through electrostatic interaction, while  $\beta 2a$  is tethered to the plasma membrane through palmitoylation in the N-terminus.<sup>11–13</sup> In particular, membrane phosphoinositides (PIs) are involved in the association with several basic amino acid residues in the N-terminus of the  $\beta 2e$  subunit, leading to the possibility that the location of the  $\beta 2e$  subunit can be changed by membrane PI dynamics.

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For the membrane association of peripheral membrane proteins, PIs in the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane function as acceptors for protein tethering in various cellular signaling pathways.<sup>14,15</sup> The merit of membrane recruitment of peripheral membrane proteins via anionic PIs is that it allows reversible binding in response to their depletion and resynthesis.<sup>16,17</sup> Hence, the electrostatic interaction between proteins and membrane lipids plays a critical role in the regulation of physiological processes. Our recent works showed that the  $\beta 2e$  subunit is liberated from the plasma membrane when both PIP<sub>2</sub> and phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate (PI4P) are simultaneously depleted by rapamycin-inducible dimerization systems.<sup>13</sup> In addition, the stimulation of G<sub>q</sub>-coupled receptors with agonists induced  $\beta 2e$  translocation to the cytosol through the depletion of poly-PIs by PLC activation. The molecular dynamics (MD) simulation suggests that the  $\beta 2e$  subunit interacts with the plasma membrane in a stretched binding mode, where the N-terminal Lys-2 (K2) and Trp-5 (W5) proximal residues are important for the stable membrane association of  $\beta 2e$ , as they unfold the N-terminal structure.<sup>12</sup> This binding mode seems to be analogous to the membrane binding of myristoylated alanine-rich C kinase substrate (MARCKS), a well-known protein that associates with the plasma membrane through non-specific electrostatic interaction.<sup>18,19</sup> Here, we further investigated the membrane-tethering property of  $\beta 2e$  by comparing it with that of MARCKS. Our data demonstrate that both  $\beta 2e$  and MARCKS electrostatically interact with anionic phospholipids but with different affinity, and thus, they are differentially regulated by receptor-mediated signaling.

## Results

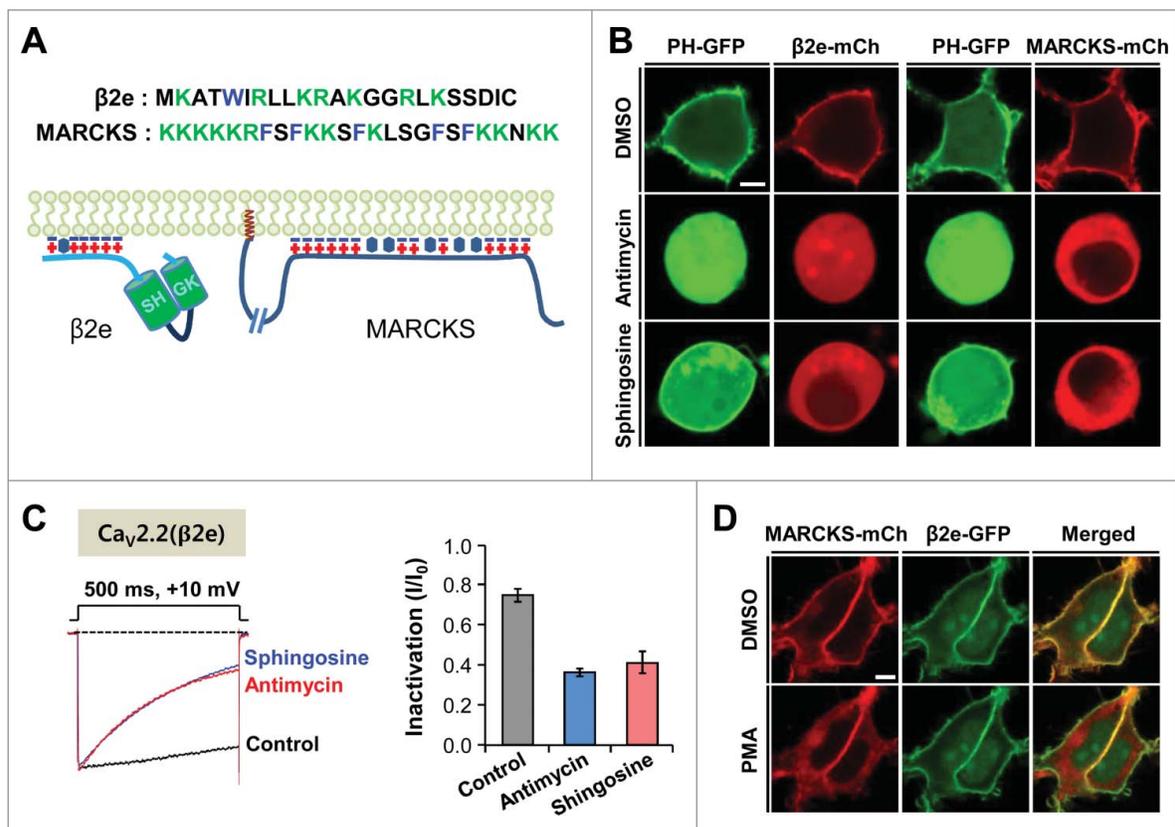
### **Both $\beta 2e$ and MARCKS are tethered to the plasma membrane through electrostatic interaction**

Using diverse approaches, we recently showed that the  $\beta 2e$  subunit is associated with the plasma membrane through electrostatic interaction between the  $\beta 2e$  N-terminus and anionic membrane phospholipids.<sup>12,13</sup> As shown in Figure 1A and B, both  $\beta 2e$  and MARCKS consistently have groups of basic residues and hydrophobic residue(s) and are localized in the plasma membrane in the exogenously expressed cells. We first examined whether the reduction of membrane electric charges induces changes in their subcellular distributions. For

this, we used antimycin and sphingosine, which diminish membrane anionic charges. When antimycin was applied to decrease the charges through the depletion of membrane PIs,<sup>20</sup> both  $\beta 2e$  and MARCKS exhibited cytosolic distributions. Likewise, the neutralization of the negative charges of membrane phospholipids by the addition of sphingosine, which has a +1 charge, induced their cytosolic localization (Fig. 1B).<sup>21</sup> Furthermore, both drugs promoted current inactivation in Ca<sub>v</sub>2.2 channels with  $\beta 2e$  (Fig. 1C). Those results suggest that disruption of the charge–charge interaction between  $\beta 2e$  and membrane phospholipids resulted in the dissociation of  $\beta 2e$  from the plasma membrane and induced fast inactivation of the Ca<sub>v</sub> current, which is consistent with previous reports indicating that the membrane tethering of  $\beta$  subunits in cells is important in regulating Ca<sub>v</sub> channel gating.<sup>10,22</sup> It has been shown that MARCKS is a substrate of protein kinase C (PKC) and that phosphorylation of the proteins by PKC causes the translocation from the plasma membrane to the cytosol.<sup>23</sup> When cells expressing both MARCKS and  $\beta 2e$  were applied with the PKC activator phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA), MARCKS, but not  $\beta 2e$ , was strongly translocated to the cytosol (Fig. 1D), suggesting that  $\beta 2e$  location is insensitive to PKC activation.

### **Depletion of poly-PIs induces cytosolic translocation of $\beta 2e$ but not MARCKS**

Since both  $\beta 2e$  and MARCKS are tethered to the plasma membrane via the coupling with phospholipids, using rapamycin-inducible dimerization systems, we examined whether depletion of poly-PIs changes the location of the proteins. Our data showed that rapamycin-induced membrane recruitment of pseudojanin (PJ), which consists of PtdIns 4-phosphatase (Sac) and PIP<sub>2</sub> 5-phosphatase (INPP5E),<sup>24</sup> led to the dissociation of  $\beta 2e$  from the plasma membrane (Fig. 2A and B). When this tool was used for MARCKS, unlike the behavior of  $\beta 2e$ , membrane recruitment of INPP5E or PJ did not influence the localization of MARCKS (Fig. 2C, D, and E). Considering that N-terminal myristoylation of MARCKS is partially involved in membrane binding,<sup>25</sup> such lipidation may prevent membrane dissociation of the protein from enzymatic activity. However, in cells treated with myristoylation inhibitor 2-hydroxymyristic acid (2-HM), the parallel experiments performed under



**Figure 1.** Membrane tethering of  $\beta 2e$  and MARCKS was antagonized by the reduction of negative charges in the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane. (A) Sequences of N-terminal region of  $\beta 2e$  and effector domain of MARCKS (Top) and schematic representations of membrane-bound  $\beta 2e$  and MARCKS (Bottom). Blue minus signs and red plus signs indicate acidic lipids and basic amino acid residues, respectively. Hydrophobic residues and myristoylation are represented by hexagons and brown colored signs (MARCKS), respectively. (B) Confocal images of cells expressing PH-PLC $\delta$ -GFP (PH-GFP) and  $\beta 2e$ -mCh (mCherry) or PH-GFP and MARCKS-mCh in response to 200 nM antimycin/10 mM deoxyglucose or 75  $\mu$ M sphingosine. The cells were pretreated with the drugs for 40 min. Bar, 5  $\mu$ m. (C) Effect of antimycin and sphingosine on current inactivation of Ca<sub>v</sub>2.2 channels. Currents were recorded during 500-ms test pulses to +10 mV. Dashed line indicates the zero current. For analysis,  $n = 5-6$ . (D) Confocal images of cells co-expressing MARCKS-mCh and  $\beta 2e$ -GFP in response to 500 nM PMA for 2 min. Bar, 5  $\mu$ m.

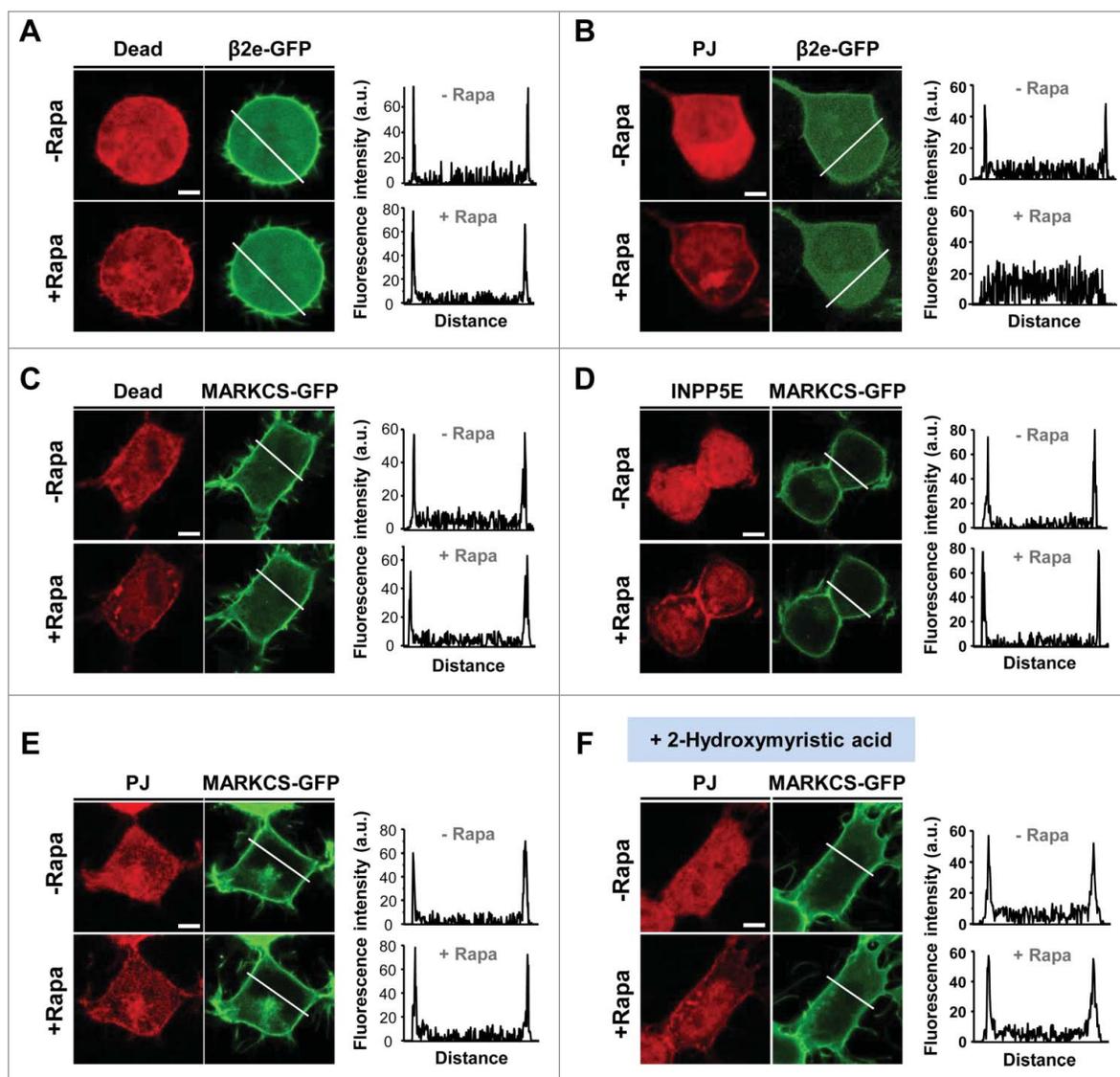
the same condition showed that de-myristoylation did not affect the location of MARCKS (Fig. 2F), suggesting that MARCKS interaction with the plasma membrane is independent from the lipidation and insensitive to enzymatic activity for degradation of membrane PIs.

We further investigated the functional role of PI4P and PIP<sub>2</sub> in the membrane association of MARCKS. It is well known that cross-talk between MARCKS and signaling proteins, such as PKC and calmodulin, is important in determining MARCKS location.<sup>26</sup> The tsA201 cells used in the current study expressed various G<sub>q</sub>-coupled receptors (GPCRs).<sup>28</sup> We hypothesized that stimulation of GPCRs may trigger the cytosolic translocation of MARCKS through the activation of PKC. Indeed, the addition of ATP induced the dissociation of MARCKS from the plasma membrane through the activation of endogenous purinergic receptors.<sup>29</sup>

Next, we examined whether the membrane recruitment of MARCKS could be delayed when the poly-PIs were depleted. As shown in Figure 3A and B, after the cytosolic translocation of MARCKS by ATP treatment, the removal of PI4P and PIP<sub>2</sub> by translocatable PJ systems slowed down the recovery of MARCKS to the plasma membrane. The results suggest the possibility that MARCKS interacts with membrane poly-PIs very tightly and thus the coupling is resistant to PI degradation by lipid phosphatases.

#### PIP<sub>3</sub> depletion has no effect on the membrane tethering of $\beta 2e$ or MARCKS

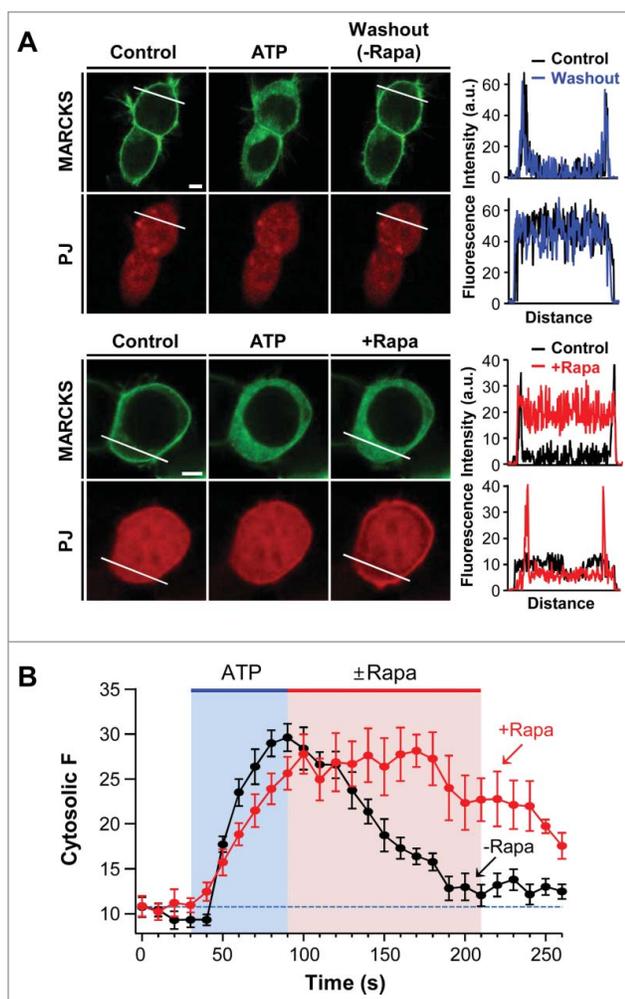
PIP<sub>3</sub> also contributes negativity to the inner leaflet of the plasma membrane. To determine whether PIP<sub>3</sub> affects the cellular location of  $\beta 2e$  and MARCKS, we utilized an engineered 3-phosphatase enzyme CF-PTEN and a



**Figure 2.** Effect of PI4P and PIP<sub>2</sub> on plasma membrane tethering of  $\beta 2e$  and MARCKS. (A) (B) Confocal images and line scanning of cells expressing inactive (Dead) or active form of pseudojanin (PJ) with LDR and  $\beta 2e$ -GFP before and after 1  $\mu$ M rapamycin for 2 min. White lines in images represent line scanned regions. Bar, 5  $\mu$ m. (C) (D) (E) Confocal images and line scanning of cells expressing Dead, PIP<sub>2</sub> 5-phosphatase (INPP5E) or PJ with LDR and MARCKS. Bar, 5  $\mu$ m. (F) Effect of PJ translocation on MARCKS distribution in cells treated with 100  $\mu$ M of 2-Hydroxymyristic acid for 2 min. Bar, 5  $\mu$ m.

dominant negative regulatory form of PI3K ( $\Delta p85$ ) to deplete PIP<sub>3</sub> in live cells.<sup>30,31</sup> Recently, we generated a chimeric protein, CF-PTEN, which specifically depletes PIP<sub>3</sub> through rapamycin-inducible dimerization. First, in cells expressing Btk-PH-GFP (Btk-GFP) as a PIP<sub>3</sub> probe, the membrane recruitment of CF-PTEN by the addition of rapamycin triggered the cytosolic movement of Btk-GFP from the plasma membrane (Fig. 4A). In contrast, the depletion of PIP<sub>3</sub> had no influence on the location of  $\beta 2e$  or MARCKS, suggesting that the translocation of  $\beta 2e$  and MARCKS requires combinatory play of membrane PIs (Fig. 4B). In the analysis of

current inactivation, the depletion of PIP<sub>3</sub> did not affect inactivation of the Ca<sub>v</sub>2.2 channel with  $\beta 2e$  (Fig. 4C). In addition to the depletion of PIP<sub>3</sub>, we also examined the cellular distribution of  $\beta 2e$  and MARCKS after reducing PI3K activity, because PIP<sub>3</sub> may involve the initial membrane recruitment of MARCKS. To test this, we made use of  $\Delta p85$ , which is a dominant-negative form of the PI3K regulatory subunit.<sup>31</sup> In cells expressing both Btk-GFP and  $\beta 2e$ -mCh, while the Btk-GFP probe was expressed in the plasma membrane, it displayed cytosolic expression in the cells expressing  $\Delta p85$ . On the other hand,  $\beta 2e$  was expressed in the plasma



**Figure 3.** Depletion of PI4P and PIP<sub>2</sub> delays recovery of MARCKS to the plasma membrane. (A) Confocal images and line scanning of cells expressing LDR, PJ, and MARCKS-GFP in response to 50  $\mu$ M ATP and 1  $\mu$ M rapamycin. Top and bottom panels represent location change of MARCKS in the absence (black) and presence (blue) of rapamycin, respectively. Bar, 5  $\mu$ m. (B) Time course of MARCKS translocation in response to the absence or presence of rapamycin. Images of time courses were taken every 5 s by confocal microscope. For analysis,  $n = 4$ .

membrane, suggesting that membrane targeting of  $\beta$ 2e is insensitive to PIP<sub>3</sub>. In the experiment with MARCKS, the decrease of PIP<sub>3</sub> had no influence on the subcellular distribution of MARCKS. Collectively, these results indicate that membrane PIP<sub>3</sub> is insufficient for the membrane binding of  $\beta$ 2e and MARCKS.

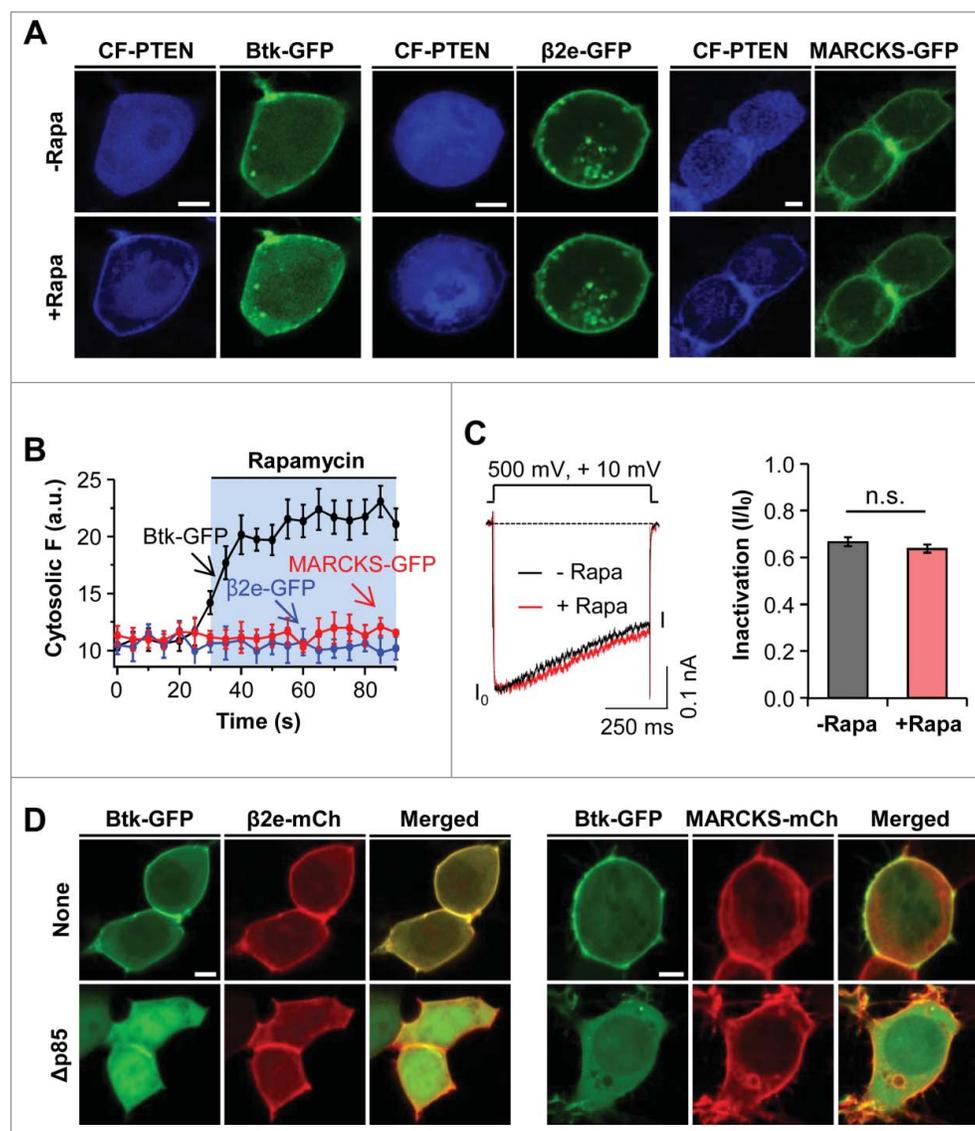
## Discussion

We recently found that the subcellular distribution of  $\beta$ 2e is altered by the dynamic regulation of PIs and that such a location change of  $\beta$ 2e has a significant influence on the gating property of Ca<sub>v</sub> channels.<sup>12,13</sup> Moreover,

Ca<sub>v</sub> channels with cytosolic mutant forms of  $\beta$ 2e (K2A and W5A) exhibit fast inactivation and high PIP<sub>2</sub> dependence.<sup>13</sup> Here, our results extend our understanding of the interaction attribute of  $\beta$ 2e with the plasma membrane by comparing it with that of MARCKS.

Firstly, with pharmacological agents, we confirmed that membrane charges are needed for the membrane localization of  $\beta$ 2e and MARCKS. As a membrane-permeant base, sphingosine is generally used for neutralizing the electrostatic charge of membrane phospholipids, thus interfering with the interaction between these phospholipids and positively charged molecules.<sup>32</sup> In the case of antimycin, it is known that its inhibitory effect on ATP synthesis blocks the synthesis of poly-PIs (e.g., PI4P, PIP<sub>2</sub>, and PIP<sub>3</sub>), resulting in a reduction of membrane negative charges.<sup>21</sup> In our data, when each drug was applied to cells expressing  $\beta$ 2e or MARCKS, the proteins were located in the cytosol, suggesting that both  $\beta$ 2e and MARCKS bind to the plasma membrane through similar electrostatic interactions. From a structural viewpoint, MARCKS is a globular and elongated form belonging to the class of natively unfolded or unstructured proteins. It associates with the plasma membrane via an effector domain consisting of a group of basic residues and 5 phenylalanine residues.<sup>26</sup> The fact that it is unfolded provides it the structural flexibility for binding to diverse ligands, such as membrane PIs and PS.<sup>27</sup> Likewise, MD simulation analysis of  $\beta$ 2e revealed that the N-terminal region of  $\beta$ 2e associates with membrane phospholipids through a stretched binding mode.<sup>12</sup> Further, it showed that the proximal Lys and Trp residues within the N-terminus are critical sites for the strong and stable membrane binding of  $\beta$ 2e. Collectively, these results indicated that both  $\beta$ 2e and MARCKS, with a structural similarity, interact with the plasma membrane through nonspecific electrostatic interactions.

For the dissociation of MARCKS from the plasma membrane, it has been shown that 3 serine residues in the effector domain of MARCKS can be phosphorylated by PKC, resulting in the translocation of MARCKS from the membrane to the cytosol due to the reduction of electrostatic interaction with anionic lipids.<sup>33</sup> A previous study suggested a possibility that as with MARCKS, the 3 Ser/Thr residues in the N-terminal region of  $\beta$ 2e could be target sites for phosphorylation by PKC and phosphorylation of the residues may induce dissociation



**Figure 4.** Effect of  $\text{PIP}_3$  on subcellular localization of  $\beta$ 2e and MARCKS. (A) Confocal images of cells expressing LDR and CF-PTEN with Btk-PH,  $\beta$ 2e-GFP, or MARCKS-GFP before and after the addition of  $1 \mu\text{M}$  rapamycin for 2 mins. (B) Time courses of the effects of  $\text{PIP}_3$  depletion on cytosolic translocation of Btk-PH,  $\beta$ 2e-GFP, and MARCKS-GFP. For analysis,  $n=4$ . (C) Current inactivation of  $\text{Ca}_v2.2$  channels upon  $\text{PIP}_3$  depletion. Currents were measured during a 500-ms test pulse to  $+10$  mV. For quantification,  $n=5$ . (D) Confocal images of cells expressing Btk-GFP with  $\beta$ 2e-mCh or MARCKS-mCh in the absence or presence of dominant-negative p85 ( $\Delta$ p85). Bar,  $5 \mu\text{m}$ .

of the subunit from the plasma membrane.<sup>11</sup> However, with a PKC activator, our data revealed that PKC activation had no effect on the location change of  $\beta$ 2e, indicating that membrane localization of the  $\beta$ 2e subunit mainly depends on anionic membrane phospholipids. Even though extensive tests are needed to demonstrate the possible phosphorylation of  $\beta$ 2e, this result shows that unlike MARCKS, the activation of PKC has no influence on the location change of  $\beta$ 2e.

From the perspective of membrane lipids, our previous data showed that the depletion of both  $\text{PI4P}$  and

$\text{PIP}_2$  by rapamycin-inducible PJ systems or  $\text{M}_1$  muscarinic stimulation induced the translocation of  $\beta$ 2e from the plasma membrane to the cytosol.<sup>13</sup> In addition to PIs, a peptide-to-liposome FRET assay revealed that phosphatidylserine (PS) also plays an important role in the membrane binding of  $\beta$ 2e,<sup>12</sup> suggesting that various anionic membrane phospholipids could be involved in the membrane recruitment of  $\beta$ 2e. Nevertheless, in the present study, enzymatic removal of  $\text{PI4P}$  and  $\text{PIP}_2$  failed to dissociate MARCKS from the plasma membrane, even in the absence of myristoylation in the N-terminal cysteine residue of MARCKS.

However, when PIP<sub>2</sub> and PIP were depleted by lipid phosphatase systems, the recovery of MARCKS to the plasma membrane was inhibited. These results suggest that MARCKS still binds to poly-PIs in the plasma membrane and possibly protects them from degradation by rapamycin-inducible PJ systems. Indeed, these findings are in line with previous reports indicating that the membrane expression of MARCKS prevents PIP<sub>2</sub> depletion from PLC-mediated hydrolysis, indicating that MARCKS serves as a strong PIP<sub>2</sub> sequester.<sup>34</sup> Although more quantitative approaches are needed to compare the molecular properties of the 2 proteins in membrane binding,  $\beta$ 2e appears to be more easily liberated from the plasma membrane under the condition of membrane phospholipid depletion. Thus, the mechanism by which the dynamic location of  $\beta$ 2e is changed by membrane phospholipid alteration provides a simple but effective strategy for regulating the gating property of Ca<sub>v</sub> channels.

In conclusion, our data show that screening of the anionic inner leaflet of the plasma membrane or inhibition of phospholipid synthesis induces the translocation of  $\beta$ 2e from the plasma membrane to the cytosol and thus the fast inactivation of Ca<sub>v</sub> channels. In addition, the results suggest that compared to MARCKS,  $\beta$ 2e is relatively sensitive to turnover of membrane poly-PIs, including PI4P and PIP<sub>2</sub>. Considering the pivotal role of Ca<sub>v</sub> channels in neurons, a regulatory mechanism of Ca<sub>v</sub> channels by  $\beta$ 2e could be extensively applicable in various neuronal systems.

## Materials and methods

### Cell culture and cDNA constructs

For patch clamp and confocal images, tsA201 cells were cultured and transiently transfected using Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen) as previously described.<sup>13</sup> MARCKS (NM\_002356.5) was donated by Dr. Hoguen Kim from Yonsei University College of Medicine (Seoul, Korea), and dominant-negative P85 ( $\Delta$ p85) was donated by Ken Mackie from Indiana University (Bloomington, IN). For MARCKS-GFP and MARCKS-mCherry fusion proteins, MARCKS was amplified by PCR using the following primers: forward primer: 5'-ATGGGTGCCAGTTCTCCAA-GACCGCA-3'; reverse primer: 5'-GGATCCCGCTCGCCGTTGGCGGGG-3'. The PCR product was subcloned into pGEM-T Easy Vector (Promega) and

then inserted into pEGFP-N1 and mCherry-N1 (Clontech) using ApaI and BamHI.

### Patch clamping

Whole-cell configuration patch clamps were performed as previously described.<sup>13</sup>

### Confocal imaging

Confocal imaging was performed by LSM700 (Carl Zeiss), and confocal images were processed using ZEN 2012 Lite Imaging Software as previously described.<sup>13</sup>

### Chemicals

Antimycin (Sigma) and sphingosine (Sigma) were prepared as 1-mM and 75-mM stock solutions in DMSO. Working solutions, were prepared by diluting the stock at 1:5000 and 1:1000 with Ringer's solution, respectively. PMA (Enzo) was stocked as 500  $\mu$ M in DMSO and prepared by diluting the stock at 1:1000. ATP (Sigma) was dissolved in dH<sub>2</sub>O to make a 50-mM stock solution and was diluted at 1:1,000 in Ringer's solution.

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### Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest

No potential conflicts of interest were disclosed.

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