



NEUROSCIENCE 2012

Presentation Abstract

Program#/Poster#: 340.05/F6

Presentation Title: The A-type potassium current regulates ER calcium release through inositol triphosphate receptors in a hippocampal pyramidal cell model

Location: Hall F-J

Presentation time: Monday, Oct 15, 2012, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

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Abstract: The role of endoplasmic reticulum (ER) Ca^{2+} , released through inositol triphosphate receptors (InsP_3Rs), in mediating intraneuronal Ca^{2+} waves and in regulating neural plasticity is well established. An important characteristic of InsP_3R subunits present on the ER of hippocampal pyramidal neurons is that lower cytosolic calcium ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$) co-activates these receptors, while higher $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ inhibits them. Further, the ER runs parallel to the dendritic membrane, which is endowed with several voltage-gated ion channels that can modulate $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$. Taking these together, we hypothesized that the dependence of InsP_3R function on $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ would translate into the regulation of ER Ca^{2+} release by active dendrites. In this computational study, based on CA1 pyramidal neurons, we tested this hypothesis by exploring the interactions of a dendritic channel that can modulate $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ -- the A-type K^+ channel (A channel) -- with InsP_3Rs on the ER membrane. First, we employed experimentally constrained morphology and kinetics for various model constituents to replicate intraneuronal Ca^{2+} waves using two experimentally validated protocols. Next, we confirmed that an increase in A-channel density resulted in a decrease in $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$ through voltage gated Ca^{2+} channels (VGCC) during action potentials, and through VGCCs and NMDARs during excitatory postsynaptic potentials. In this experimental setup, low A-channel density resulted in high $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_c$, which in turn reduced regenerative release of Ca^{2+} through InsP_3Rs . On the other hand, increase in A-channel density led to increase in both the amplitude and the duration of Ca^{2+} released through InsP_3Rs , leading to sustained Ca^{2+} waves. Next, to understand the role of store Ca^{2+} in plasticity frameworks, we employed two different classes of synaptic stimulation protocols (900 pulses of

various stimulus frequencies and theta burst stimulation (TBS)), and incorporated a Ca^{2+} -dependent plasticity rule at a typical AMPAR-NMDAR-mGluR (Group I) containing synapse. Using the 900 pulses protocol, we found that increased mGluR density manifested as a leftward shift in the BCM-like synaptic plasticity curve in a density dependent manner. Finally, increase in dendritic A-channel density resulted in increased contribution of ER Ca^{2+} to TBS-induced synaptic plasticity, with the magnitude of this contribution decreasing with an increase in NMDAR:AMPA ratio at the synapse. Our results suggest that the interactions between active dendrites and ER receptors could regulate the spatio-temporal spread of Ca^{2+} released through InsP_3Rs and influence integration of biochemical signaling involved in various physiological processes.

Disclosures: **S. Ashhad:** None. **R. Narayanan:** None.

Keyword(s): Calcium Waves
Dendritic excitability
Synaptic plasticity

Support: Human Frontier Science Program Organization Grant

[Authors]. [Abstract Title]. Program No. XXX.XX. 2012 Neuroscience Meeting Planner. New Orleans, LA: Society for Neuroscience, 2012. Online.

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