

Stim1 p.R304 mutations may cause constitutive puncta formation in murine cells

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Abstract

The stromal interaction molecule 1 (**STIM1**) controls the activation of the Ca^{2+} release activated calcium channel ORAI1 in the plasma membrane. STIM1 induces store operated calcium entry (**SOCE**) by sensing reduced levels of Ca^{2+} in the endoplasmic reticulum (**ER**) and activating ORAI1 allowing Ca^{2+} to flow into the cell. Stormorken syndrome is an autosomal dominant disease caused by the *STIM1* p.R304W mutation. This gain-of-function mutation causes a constitutive activation of STIM1, resulting in a constitutively open ORAI1 channel. The symptoms in Stormorken patients include thrombocytopenia, mild bleeding tendency, headaches, dyslexia, asplenia, miosis and tubular aggregate myopathy.

This work presents the results of functional experiments in murine fibroblasts overexpressing constructs carrying the following mutations in Stim1: p.R304W, p.R304A, p.R304P, p.R304S, p.R304E, p.E296del and p.E296del+R304W. The aim of the work is to assess how the *Stim1* mutations affect the activation of the protein and the Ca^{2+} levels of the cell.

METHODS: The Q5® mutagenesis system was used to produce constructs with *Stim1* mutations. All plasmids were verified for the mutations with Sanger sequencing. The constructs were transfected into murine fibroblast cells, using the PolyJet™ system and the expression was verified with Western blotting. Puncta formation was assessed by imaging transfected cells with and without TG treatment, with light that excites the fluorescent tags mCHERRY and YFP, which were introduced in the Orai1 and Stim1 constructs, respectively. Ca^{2+} flux was measured with the ratiometric calcium indicator INDO-1 AM. Resting cytosolic Ca^{2+} was measured in a 2mM Ca^{2+} solution and Ca^{2+} influx induced by TG was measured in a 10mM Ca^{2+} , 2 μ M TG containing solution.

RESULTS:

Sanger sequencing verified the presence of the mutations in the Stim1 vectors constructed, and microscopy and Western blotting results verified the expression of Stim1-YFP fusion proteins. Imaging results indicated constitutional puncta formation in cells ectopically expressing Stim1-p.R304W and Stim1-p.R304A. The results in cells expressing Stim1-p.E296del+R304W however, indicated induced puncta formation after thapsigargin treatment, similar to cells expressing Stim1-wildtype. Ratio-metric Ca^{2+} indicators showed a tendency

for cells expressing Stim1-p.R304W to have a higher cytosolic Ca²⁺ level and SOCE response compared to wildtype cells.

CONCLUSIONS:

The Stim1 constructs contain the mutations introduced and they express Stim1-YFP fusion proteins.

Assessment of images of transfected cells indicates constitutive puncta formation in cells ectopically expressing Stim1-p.R304W and Stim1-p.R304A. Cells ectopically expressing Stim1-p.E296del+R304W indicate puncta formation only with TG treatment. Additional Ca²⁺ flux experiments are needed in order to conclude on the effect of the Stim1 mutations on puncta formation, resting Ca²⁺ levels and SOCE.

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Abbreviations

bp- base pair(s)
Ca²⁺- calcium
[Ca²⁺]_i- intracellular calcium concentration
CAD- crac activation domain
CRAC channel- Ca²⁺ release-activated calcium channel
DAG- diacylglyceride
DMEM- Dulbecco's modified Eagles medium
ER- endoplasmic reticulum
HR- homologous recombination
HT- Hepes Tyrade
IP₃- inositoltriphosphate
IP₃-R- inositoltriphosphate-receptor
kDa- Kilodalton (measuring unit)
KI- knock in
KO- knock out
mCHERRY- red fluorescent protein
NHEJ- Non-homologous end joining
PBS- Phosphate Buffered Saline
PCR- Polymerase chain reaction
PLCβ- phospholipase C-β
PIP₂- phosphatidylinositol-4,5-biphosphate
PM- plasma membrane
PMCA- plasma membrane associated calcium ATPase
RNA- ribonucleic acid
SOAR- STIM1-ORAI1 activating region
SOCE- store operated calcium entry
SR- sarcoplasmic reticulum
STIM1- stromal interaction molecule 1
TAM- tubular aggregate myopathy
TG- thapsigargin
YFP- yellow fluorescent protein

1 Introduction

This thesis presents the results of functional work performed in murine cells ectopically expressing *Stim1* p.R304W, which is the mutation causing Stormorken syndrome in humans. Stormorken syndrome is a rare genetic disorder, with only 13 patients so far described worldwide (Misceo et al., 2014, Morin et al., 2014, Nesin et al., 2014). The cause of the disease is a single base change in *STIM1*, which encodes the stromal interaction molecule 1. *STIM1* is involved in regulating the calcium flow into most cell types (Stathopoulos et al., 2012). Changes in Ca^{2+} concentration are essential for a range of processes in all cells including synaptic signaling in neurons, muscle contraction and production of blood clots after injury (Varga-Szabo et al., 2009, Kraft, 2015, Clapham, 2007).

The genetic change in *STIM1* in patients with Stormorken syndrome, leads to an altered *STIM1* protein function, which affects Store Operated Calcium Entry (**SOCE**). Therefore, this chapter will start by introducing SOCE and the cellular processes, causing depletion of endoplasmic reticulum (**ER**) Ca^{2+} stores. *STIM1* and *ORAI1* are the proteins involved in SOCE. *ORAI1* is located in the plasma membrane (**PM**) and is named after the keepers of the gates of heaven in Greek mythology (Feske et al, 2006), *ORAI1* is a Ca^{2+} release activated calcium (**CRAC**) channel which allows cellular Ca^{2+} influx. An overview of the clinical presentation of patients with Stormorken syndrome follow with a summary of disease causing mutations in *STIM1* and *ORAI1*.

1.1 Ca^{2+} is an important second messenger in cells

Ca^{2+} is involved in many signaling processes in the cells, and fluctuations in Ca^{2+} concentration is an intracellular signal involved in many pathways. This cation has an impact on nearly all aspect of cellular life. Ca^{2+} is involved in for example cell excitability, motility, exocytosis as well as transcription (Stathopoulos et al., 2012, Niemeyer 2016, Derler et al., 2016), and is important for example in the nervous system signaling pathways, the muscle contraction process as well as the coagulation system. The concentrations of Ca^{2+} outside the cell is usually around 1,5mM, while the concentration on the inside of the plasma membrane is much lower, approximately 100nM. In addition there are intracellular stores of Ca^{2+} in ER and the mitochondria (Clapham, 2007). It is important for the cell to have mechanisms to maintain the compartment concentrations after signaling processes are complete.

1.1.1 Depletion of endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} stores leading to SOCE

Store operated calcium entry (**SOCE**) is a mechanism to bring Ca^{2+} into the cell. Several signaling pathways in several types of cells result in Ca^{2+} release from ER stores (Clapham et al., 2007). Figure 1 illustrates one such pathway in which Ca^{2+} is released from ER stores as a result of signaling by the second messenger IP_3 . The ER Ca^{2+} is released in response to signals conveyed from receptors at the plasma membrane. After such a signaling event the cell needs to return to its resting Ca^{2+} concentrations. When calcium is released into the cytoplasm, some will be pumped back into the ER by the sarcoplasmic/endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} pump, **SERCA**. Not all the released Ca^{2+} will be transported back into the ER, some will be actively pumped out of the cell by channels on the plasma membrane e.g. the plasma membrane associated calcium ATPase, **PMCA**. The sodium Ca^{2+} exchanger (**NCX**) may also contribute in Ca^{2+} extrusion if the levels of Ca^{2+} in the cytoplasm becomes high (Albarran et al., 2016, Clapham et al., 2007).

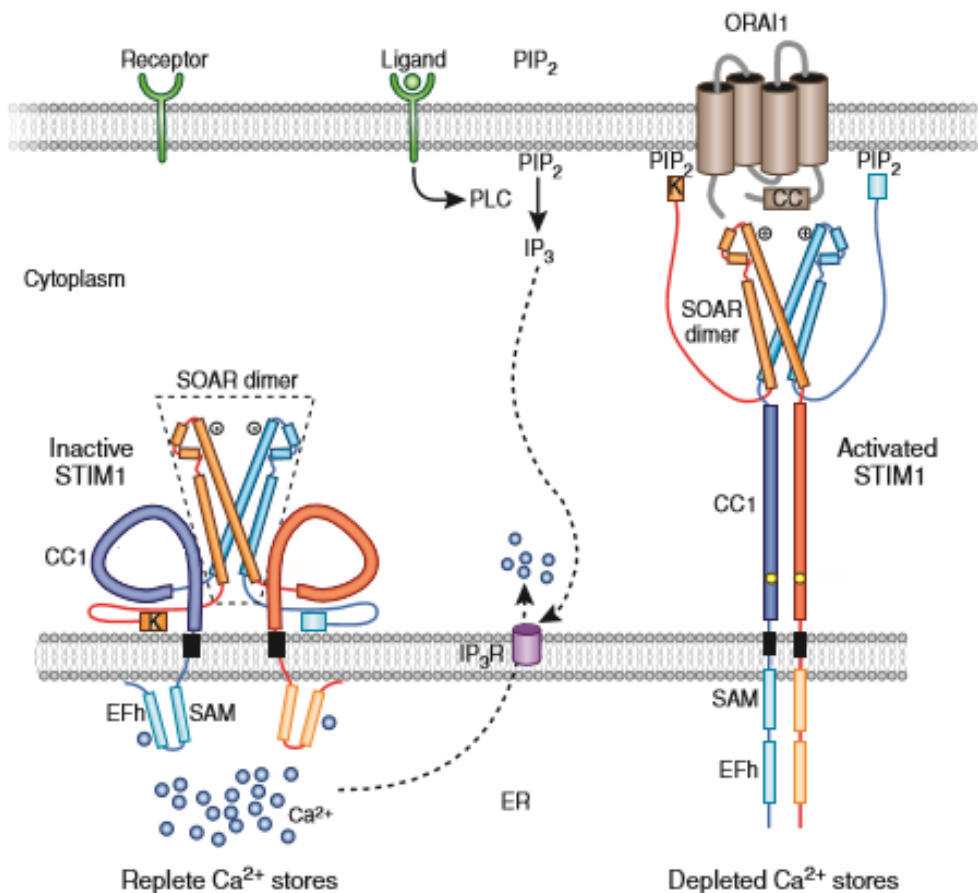


Figure 1 The release of Ca^{2+} from ER stores following IP_3 signaling results in SOCE activation. There are receptors in the cell membrane, for example the histamine receptor, which is bound to a G-protein that has a GDP molecule bound in its inactive state. Activation of the receptor starts a process that results in activation of

phospholipase C (**PLC**) which cleaves PIP_2 to diacylglyceride (**DAG**) and inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate (IP_3). IP_3 binds to IP_3 receptors on the ER membrane, which results in release of ER Ca^{2+} into the cytoplasm. See main text for details of SOCE activation (Clapham, 2007, Albarran et al., 2016, Feske and Prakriya, 2013).

The ER Ca^{2+} release and depletion of the ER stores activates the SOCE pathway, which consists of sensors in the ER membrane, STIM1 that senses low ER Ca^{2+} stores, which then activates the plasma membrane Ca^{2+} channel ORAI1. As illustrated in figure 1; when ER Ca^{2+} stores are reduced this causes a conformational change and multimerization of the ER Ca^{2+} sensor STIM1. STIM1 multimers elongates to contact ORAI1 at plasma membrane-ER junctions. The contact allows STIM1 to activate ORAI1 and Ca^{2+} passively diffuses through the ORAI1 channel into the cytoplasm (Feske and Prakriya, 2013).

1.1.2 STIM1 and ORAI1 in SOCE

The protein domains of STIM1 are shown in figure 2. The EF hand domain (**EF**), with a canonical and a hidden EF hand (**EF**) and the sterile alpha motif (**SAM**) domain, reside in the ER lumen. The transmembrane domain (**TM**) transverses the ER membrane, and the coiled coil 1 domain, (**CC1**), and the CRAC activation domain/STIM1 ORAI1 activating region, (**CAD/SOAR**) are located in the cytoplasm. At the C-terminal, there is an ID region, serine/proline rich region (P/S) and a lysine rich region (K) that has been shown to interact with the plasma membrane (figure 1).

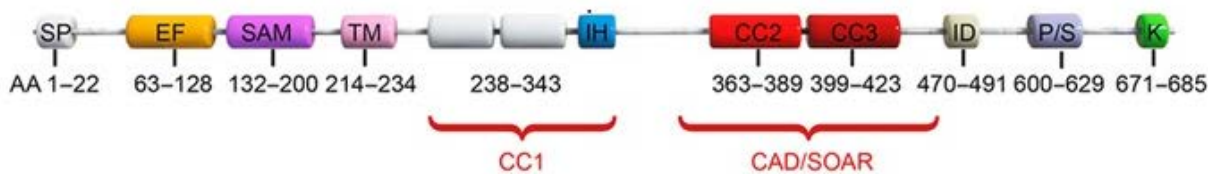


Figure 2 The domains of the STIM1 protein. The amino acid positions in each domain are indicated. See main text for details (Modified from Misceo et al., 2014).

When the ER Ca^{2+} stores are replete the STIM1 protein remains in an inactive state, characterized by a retracted protein conformation, and a partial dimerization with another STIM1 protein, as shown in figure 1 (Feske and Prakriya, 2013). In this state the Ca^{2+} sensing EF domain, remains associated with the SAM domain. In addition to this, the CC1 domain forms a retracted loop, while the CAD/SOAR domain forms a V structure in association with the dimer partner (Feske and Prakriya, 2013). The CC1 region has been hypothesized as crucial for keeping the protein in an inactive conformation (Misceo et al., 2014).

The transition of STIM1 to the elongated activated state is accompanied by the dissociation of Ca^{2+} from the EF hand and exposure of hydrophobic regions in the EF-SAM domain resulting in the multimerization and translocation of STIM1 to ER-PM junctions and activation of ORAI1 (Feske and Prakriya 2013).

The CRAC channel ORAI1 opens upon activation by STIM1. There are six functional domains in the ORAI1 protein; an N-terminal calmodulin binding domain, four transmembrane domains and a C-terminal coiled coil domain (figure 3). The first transmembrane domain (M1) is part of the pore that is the Ca^{2+} channel, which consists of six M1 subunits (Cahalan, 2009). Both the cytoplasmic N- and C-terminal are critical for STIM1 binding (Feske et al., 2010, McNally et al., 2013).

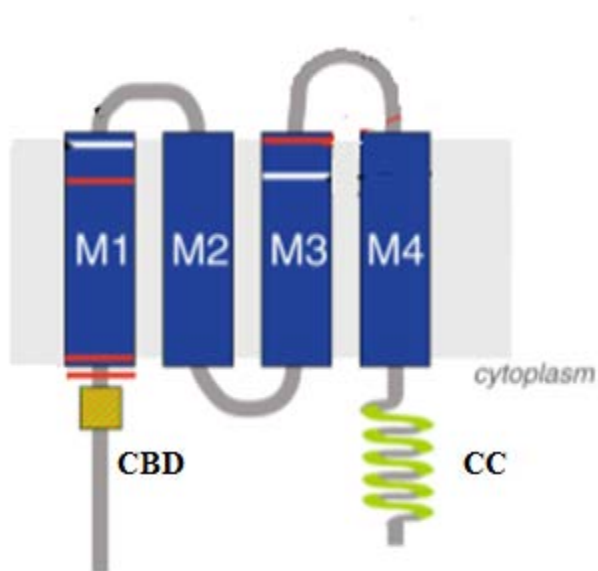


Figure 3 The six recognized domains of the ORAI1 protein The ORAI1 protein has 6 domains; an N-terminal calmodulin binding domain (CBD), four transmembrane domains (M1-M4) and a C-terminal coiled coil domain (CC) (Modified from Feske et al., 2010).

Upon STIM1 interaction, the ORAI1 multimer undergoes a conformational change that opens the central pore of the CRAC channel through which Ca^{2+} can flow. The ORAI1 pore has a Ca^{2+} selectivity 1000 times higher than for Na^{+} . As the channel opens the Ca^{2+} flows into the cytoplasm due to the electrochemical gradient across the plasma membrane (Derler et al., 2016).

After entry into the cytoplasm sarcoplasmic/endoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} activated (SERCA) pumps Ca^{2+} into the ER (figure 4). SERCA is an ATPase exchanger, which uses energy from hydrolysis of ATP to exchange two Ca^{2+} ions for three protons (Clapham, 2007).

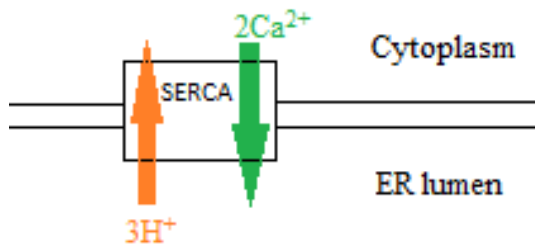


Figure 4 Pumping of calcium and protons by SERCA The SERCA protein pumps two calcium ions from the cytosol to the ER lumen in exchange for three protons from the ER lumen to the cytosol.

It is possible to experimentally induce SOCE in vitro through the inhibition of SERCA. Thapsigargin (TG) is a non-competitive inhibitor of SERCA, extracted from the plant *Thapsia garganica*. When TG blocks the Ca^{2+} pumping by SERCA, ER will become Ca^{2+} depleted allowing secondary activation of plasma membrane Ca^{2+} pumps and influx of Ca^{2+} . This mechanism is used for functionally evaluating SOCE in different cell types (Lytton et al., 1991).

1.1.3 The STIM1:ORAI1 interaction and puncta formation

The molecular interactions of STIM1 and ORAI1 are not completely understood, but STIM1 interacts with both the N- and C-terminal parts of ORAI1, with a stronger interaction between STIM1 and ORAI C-terminal than with the N-terminal (Derler et al., 2016). A STIM1-ORAI1 association pocket (**SOAP**) has been described in C-terminal ORAI1 (Derler et al., 2016), but no clear binding site has been established for the N-terminal. One hypothesis is that the C- and N-terminal ends of ORAI1 create a STIM1 binding site when in association with each other in the multimer, with the STIM1 CAD/SOAR domain as a bridge between the ORAI1 monomers. This can contribute to the change in the dimerization angle of the ORAI1 proteins, causing a conformational change in the opening of the channel. In addition, the C-terminal binding might occur before the STIM1 protein binds to the ORAI1 N-terminal (Derler et al., 2016).

The aggregates of STIM1 and ORAI1 proteins formed upon STIM1 activation are called puncta. Puncta are areas in the cell where the ER membrane, the anchor point of the STIM1 protein, is in close proximity to ORAI1 on the plasma membrane. The distance between the ER membrane and the plasma membrane is between 10-25 nanometers in these junctions (Cahalan, 2009). The reason for this specific accumulation is that the STIM1 protein needs to

still associate with the ER membrane, to which it is anchored, while it interacts with the ORAI1 pore in the plasma membrane (Derler et al., 2016). It is possible to visualize the localization of the STIM1 and ORAI1 proteins in the cell by tagging the proteins with fluorescent markers (figure 5).

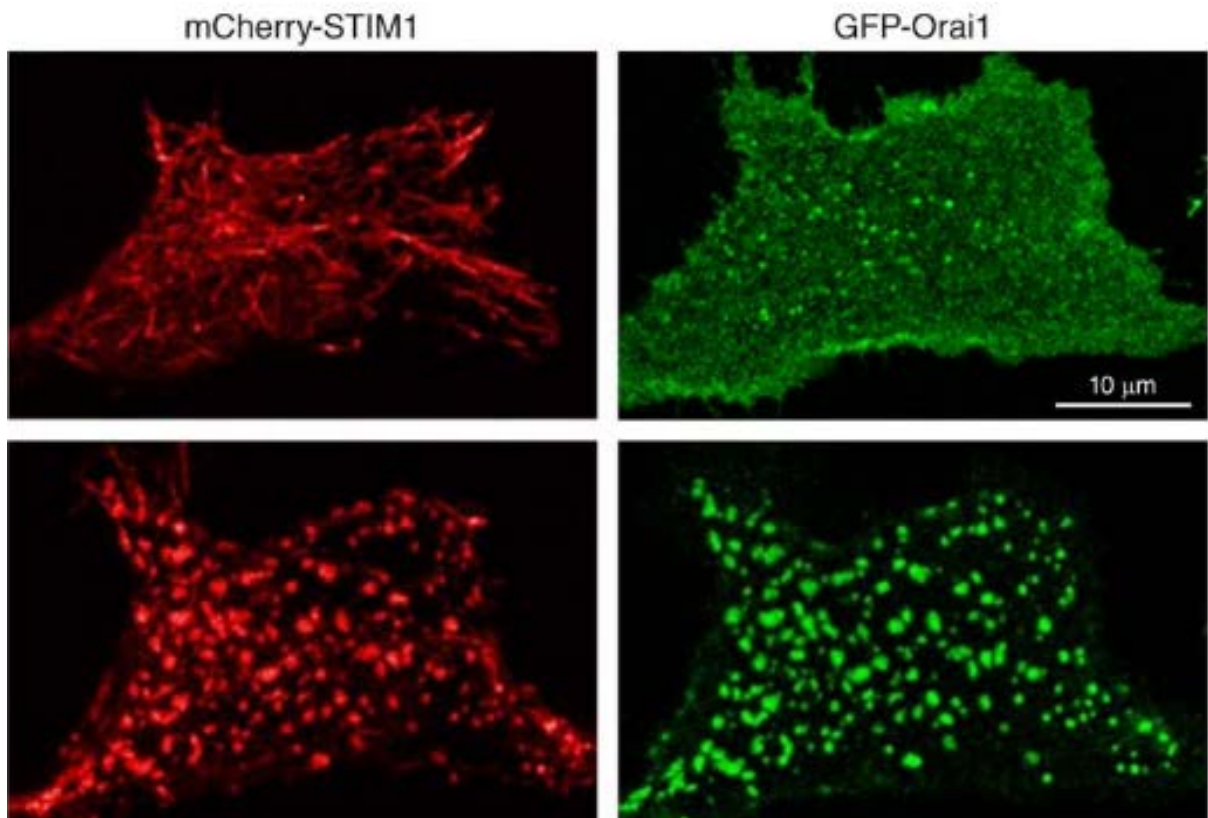


Figure 5 Puncta formation The ORAI1 protein, linked to a green fluorescent protein marker, **GFP**, and the STIM1 protein, linked to a red fluorescent protein marker, **mCHERRY**, shown without (top) and with thapsigargin (**TG**) treatment (bottom) (Prakriya et al., 2015).

1.1.4 STIM1 and Stim1, ORAI1 and Orai1

The human *STIM1* and the murine orthologue *Stim1* show similar expression levels in most cell types (Prakriya et al., 2015). The *Stim1* homolog, *Stim2* has been implicated especially in brain tissues and capacitive Ca^{2+} entry in neurons (Kraft 2015). *STIM1* is expressed as two isoforms, one short and one long isoform (*STIM1L*). *STIM1L* is expressed in adult human muscle fibers and may play a specific role in these tissues (Niemeyer, 2016). The *STIM1* and *Stim1* proteins are conserved with 663 of 685 amino acids being identical between the two proteins as shown in figure 6.

```

HUMAN 1 MDVCVRLALWLLWGLLLHQGQSLSHSHSEKATGTSSGAMSEESTAEEFCRIDKPLCHSED
MOUSE 1 MDVCA RLALWLLWGLLLHQGQSLSHSHSEKNTGASSGATSEESTAEEFCRIDKPLCHSED
HUMAN 61 EKLSFEAVRN IHKLMDDDANGDV DVEESDEFLREDLNYHDPTVKHSTFHGEDKLI SVEDL
MOUSE 61 EKLSFEAVRN IHKLMDDDANGDV DVEESDEFLREDLNYHDPTVKHSTFHGEDKLI SVEDL
HUMAN 121 WKAWKSSEVYNWTVDEVVQWLITYVELPQYEETFRKLQLSGHAMPRLAVTNTTMTGTVLK
MOUSE 121 WKAWKSSEVYNWTVDEVIQWLITYVELPQYEETFRKLQLTGHAMPRLAVTNTTMTGTVLK
HUMAN 181 MDRSHRQK LQ LKALD TVLFGPPLLTRHNHLKDFMLVVSIVIGVGGCWFAYIQNRY SKEH
MOUSE 181 MDRSHRQK LQ LKALD TVLFGPPLLTRHNHLKDFMLVVSIVIGVGGCWFAYIQNRY SKEH
HUMAN 241 MKKMMKDLEGLHRAEQSLHD LQERLHKAQEEHRTVEVEKVHLEK KLRDEINLAKQEAQRL
MOUSE 241 MKKMMKDLEGLHRAEQSLHD LQERLHKAQEEHRTVEVEKVHLEK KLRDEINLAKQEAQRL
HUMAN 301 KELREGTENERSRQKYAEEEELEQVREALRKA EKELESHSSWYAPEALQKWLQ LTHEVEVQ
MOUSE 301 KELREGTENERSRQKYAEEEELEQVREALRKA EKELESHSSWYAPEALQKWLQ LTHEVEVQ
HUMAN 361 YYNIKKQNAEKQLLVAKEGAEKIKKKRNTLFGTFHVAHSSSLDDVDHKILTAKQAL SEVT
MOUSE 361 YYNIKKQNAERQLLVAKEGAEKIKKKRNTLFGTFHVAHSSSLDDVDHKILTAKQAL SEVT
HUMAN 421 AALRERLHRWQOIEILCGFQIVNNPGIHS LVAALNIDPSWVGSTRPNPAHFIMTDDVDDM
MOUSE 421 AALRERLHRWQOIEILCGFQIVNNPGIHS LVAALNIDPSWVGSTRPNPAHFIMTDDVDDM
HUMAN 481 DEEIVSPLSMQSPSLQSSVRQRLTEPQHLGLSQ RDLTHSDSESSLHMSDRQRVAPKPPQM
MOUSE 481 DEEIVSPLSMQSPSLQSSVRQRLTEPQHLGLSQ RDLTHSDSESSLHMSDRQRVAPKPPQM
HUMAN 541 SRAADEALNAMTSNGSHRLIEGVHPGSLVEKLPD SPALAKKALALNHGLDKAHS LMEIS
MOUSE 541 GRAADEALNAMP SNGSHRLIEGVHPGSLVEKLPD SPALAKKTFMALNHGLDKAHS LMEIN
HUMAN 601 PSAPPGGSPHLDSSRSHSPSSPDPDTPSPVGD SRALQASRNTRIPHLAGKKA VAEEDNGS
MOUSE 601 PSVPPGGSPHLDSSSHSLSPSSPDPDTPSPVGD NRALQASRNTRIPHLAGKKA VAEEDNGS
HUMAN 661 IGEETDSSPGRKKFPLKIFKKPLKK
MOUSE 661 IGEETDSSPGRKKFPLKIFKKPLKK

```

Figure 6 Alignment of the human *STIM1* and the mouse *Stim1* protein. Shown in black are the amino acids that are identical, and deviations are illustrated in white or grey. Grey indicate positions where amino acids with similar side chain properties are located.

1.2 Diseases caused by *STIM1* mutations

Three known conditions; Stormorken syndrome (STRMK, OMIM #185070), tubular aggregate myopathy, (**TAM1** OMIM #160565), and severe combined immunodeficiency, (**IMD10** OMIM #612783), are caused by mutations in *STIM1*. The positions of the dominant gain-of-function mutations in *STIM1* that have been shown to cause Stormorken syndrome and TAM1, and the recessive loss-of-function mutations causing IMD10 are indicated in figure 7. The nine mutations causing TAM1 are all located in the EF hand domain (Reviewed in Lacruz and Feske, 2015), and the p.R304W mutation causes Stormorken syndrome. The effect of these dominant mutations will be described further.

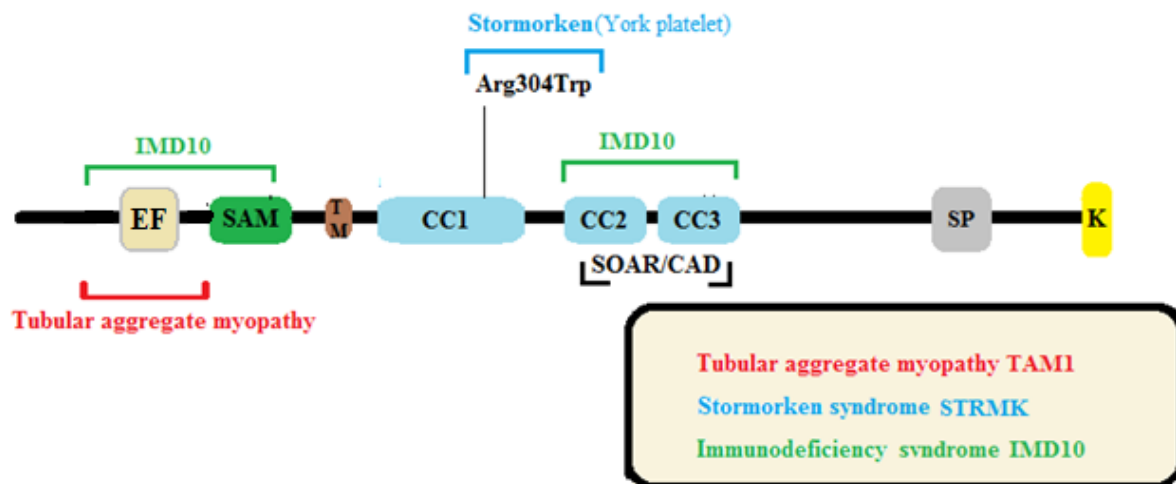


Figure 7 Location of STIM1 mutations causing the diseases indicated The mutations causing TAM1 are concentrated in the EFhand domain, marked in red. The mutation causing Stormorken syndrome, marked in blue, is in the CC1 domain of STIM1. The recessive loss of function mutations causing immunodeficiency are less concentrated in a specific domain, and affects both cytosolic and ER-lumen regions of STIM1. EF-EFhand domain. SAM – Sterile Alpha Motif. TM – transmembrane domain. CC1 – coiled coil domain 1-3. SOAR/CAD – Stim Orai activating region/CRAC activating domain. SP-serine and proline rich domain. K-poly-lysine domain.

1.2.1 STORMORKEN SYNDROME, STRMK OMIM #185070

The mutation causing Stormorken syndrome is the gain-of-function *STIM1* p.R304W mutation located in the STIM1 CC1 domain. The dominant Stormorken syndrome mutation results in a constitutively active STIM1 causing constitutive store operated Ca^{2+} entry (Nesin et al., 2014, Misceo et al., 2014).

Helge Stormorken described two patients with Stormorken syndrome in 1985 (Stormorken et al., 1985), and published a summary of the observed clinical features in 2002 (Stormorken et al., 2002). The index patient was brought to his attention because of a hematoma after a fall, and a mild bleeding tendency was established in the patient and his mother. Both had asplenia, as well as tubular aggregate myopathy. In addition, both had dyslexia, migraine-like headaches, ichthyosis and miosis (figure 8). Other traits include thrombocytopathy and thrombocytopenia as well as anemia (Stormorken et al., 2002). In 2014, Frengen’s research group revealed the genetic cause of Stormorken syndrome, identifying the STIM1 missense mutation p.R304W in six patients from four independent families (Misceo et al., 2014). Another independent study discovered additional two patients with Stormorken syndrome with the same p.R304W mutation (Nesin et al., 2014). The findings were verified by a third

study documenting the p.R304W mutation in five more patients with the same clinical features (Morin et al., 2014).



Figure 8 Miosis in a Stormorken syndrome patient of Norwegian origin The patient has miosis, a constant contraction of the pupil and showed no reaction when treated with mydriatics (Stormorken, 2002).

The common clinical features present in all 13 known Stormorken patients are thrombocytopenia, miosis, and increased creatine kinase levels (Morin et al., 2014). In 2015 Markello et al., described patients with similar clinical features as the Stormorken patients, and showed that they also had the p.R304W mutation. Four out of seven of the patients described had similar symptoms, but carried the EFhand mutation p.L115F. However, these patients were given the diagnosis York Platelet Syndrome (Markello et al., 2015). Stormorken and York Platelet Syndrome have in common clinical features such as increased bleeding tendency connected to thrombocytopenia and platelet defects, and muscle defects such as weakness and TAM (Markello et al., 2015, Misceo et al., 2014, Nesin et al., 2014, Morin et al., 2014). Although the clinical spectrum of the patients with the p.R304W mutation is similar, modifier genes and allelic variation may determine the phenotype (Reviewed in Lacruz and Feske, 2015).

1.2.2 TUBULAR AGGREGATE MYOPATHY, TAM1, OMIM #160565

Tubular aggregate myopathy 1 (TAM1) is a muscular disease characterized by tubular aggregates in muscle. Tubular aggregates are found in several muscle disorders as a secondary feature, but can also have a genetic cause (Bohm et al., 2013). TAM1 can be caused by mutations in the EF hand of *STIM1*, causing a constitutive SOCE activation (Bohm et al., 2013). There are several mutations detected in the EF hand domain that cause TAM1, but they all have the same mechanism of disrupting the Ca²⁺ binding to the EF hand and destabilizing the association with the SAM domain. TAM is one of the symptoms found in Stormorken syndrome, also caused by a constitutionally activating mutation in *STIM1* (Misceo et al., 2014, Nesin et al., 2014, Morin et al., 2014).

Ca²⁺ signaling in muscle cells is involved in contraction of muscle, but also growth and differentiation of muscle cells. Bohm et al. described the tubular aggregates as arrays of

membranes that naturally accumulate in muscle with age. It was postulated that problems with the sarcoplasmic reticulum (**SR**) structure as well as defective SOCE cause TAM, because Ca^{2+} is involved in membrane repair in skeletal muscle (Bohm et al., 2013). Nesin et al. postulated that the cause of the tubular aggregate formation in the muscle is that there is a hostile environment in the SR of the muscle cells in the patients, due to an abnormal resting Ca^{2+} concentration, negatively affecting protein folding and consequently leading to formation of the tubular aggregates. The hostile environment was postulated to be caused by the sustained entry of Ca^{2+} due to the constitutively active STIM1 causing constitutive SOCE (Nesin et al., 2014).

TAM1 patients lack the other clinical symptoms present in Stormorken syndrome. In contrast to Stormorken syndrome caused by one mutation, there are nine known mutations, all located in conserved residues in the EF hand that cause TAM1 (Bohm et al., 2013, Bohm et al., 2014, Walter et al., 2015).

1.3 Diseases caused by mutations in *ORAI1*

There are two known conditions caused by mutations in *ORAI1*; immunodeficiency (**IMD9**, OMIM #612782), and tubular aggregate myopathy (**TAM2**, OMIM #615883). TAM2 is an autosomal dominant disorder and the patients have a similar phenotype as TAM1 patients. The overlapping clinical presentation is caused by the constitutive SOCE regardless if the mutation is in *STIM1* or *ORAI1*. IMD9 and IMD10 also have overlapping clinical presentation of immunodeficiency syndromes, due to loss of SOCE caused by LOF-mutations in *ORAI1* or *STIM1* respectively, regardless of which gene is mutated (Endo et al., 2015, Shahrizaila et al., 2004, Nesin et al., 2014).

1.4 Selected Stim1 mouse models

Over the years, many mouse models have been created to investigate the effects of alterations in *Stim1*. Of relevance to this thesis is specifically the Sax mouse model, carrying the Stim1 p.D86G mutation (Grosse et al., 2007). This mutation is located in the EFhand, causes constitutive SOCE, and therefore indicates the effect of a constitutive mutation in a murine setting.

1.4.1 The Saxcoburggotski Sax mouse model

Grosse et al. described a mouse model created by random mutagenesis using N-ethyl-N-nitrosurea (Grosse et al. 2007). One of the resulting mouse lines showed dominant inheritance of reduced platelet count and elevated mean platelet volume caused by a missense mutation in *Stim1*, an A to G transition at position c.444. This gives a p.Asp84Gly amino acid substitution in the EFhand. This mutation has also been detected in patients with TAM1 (Bohm et al., 2013). Homozygous *Stim1*^{Sax/Sax} mice show embryonal lethality due to severe bleeding. The platelet phenotype of *Stim1*^{Sax/+} mice resulted in prolonged bleeding time as determined by tail bleeding experiments. The intracellular Ca^{2+} concentration ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$) had a 3-fold increase in T-cells from the *Stim1*^{Sax/+} mouse and the platelets showed constitutive Ca^{2+} influx (figure 9), compared to WT controls. The mutant mouse platelets were in a pre-activated state and the platelets showed reduced TG evoked influx indicating defective SOCE (Grosse et al., 2007).

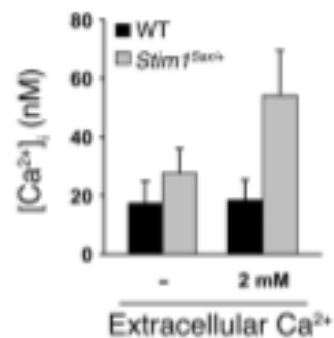


Figure 9 Basal levels of intracellular Ca^{2+} in platelets from the Sax mouse model The concentration of intracellular Ca^{2+} is higher in platelets from the Sax mouse line (grey), than in the wild type (black) in cells in the absence of Ca^{2+} in the media. The intracellular concentration of Ca^{2+} is approximately three times elevated in platelets in the presence of 2mM Ca^{2+} extracellular concentration (Grosse et al., 2007).

1.4.2 Stim1 knockout models.

Many mouse models have been made to study the effects of Stim1 knockout in different cellular processes, such as oxidative stress and immune responses (Braun et al., 2009, Henke et al., 2012). Global knock-out of Stim1 results in approximately 70% postnatal lethality, and the surviving *Stim1*^{-/-} animals have a marked growth retardation compared to their WT littermates. In *Stim1* deficient platelets from chimeric animals having Stim1 knocked out in

platelets, TG induced store operated Ca^{2+} entry was almost absent, which could indicate that Stim1 is necessary for SOCE (Varga-Szabo et al., 2008).

1.5 Knock in mouse model expressing the Stim1 p.R304W mutation

Thilini Gamage (Frengen's group, UIO) used zinc finger technology (**ZFN**) to create a mouse model expressing the *Stim1* p.R304W mutation on a mixed CBAxc57bl/6 background (Thilini Gamage, personal communication).

Of the 117 mice born after two sets of ZFN injections, five mice had the knock-in-allele on target. Of these five mice, breeding was started on one mouse expressing the p.R304W-mutation and one mouse carrying a p.R304W+E296del double mutant allele. Founder animals were backcrossed, with c57Bl6 animals, and intercrossed to establish the two mouse colonies.

Phenotypic characterizations of the two mouse models are currently ongoing. The Stim1 p.R304W model shows homozygous lethality. Stim1^{p.R304W/+} animals show severe degeneration of skeletal muscles and reduced endurance on treadmill. However, the model shows no bleeding phenotype (unpublished data).

In contrast, the Stim^{p.R304W+E296del/p.R304W+E296del} mice do not show lethality or growth retardations and has a normal muscle phenotype.

SOCE measurements have also been performed on fibroblast from neonatal Stim^{p.R304W/p.R304W} (**HOM KI**), wildtype (**WT**) and Stim1^{p.R304W/+} (**HET KI**) mice. It demonstrated slightly increased SOCE in cells from homozygous Stim1^{p.R304W} mice compared to wildtype animals (figure 10).

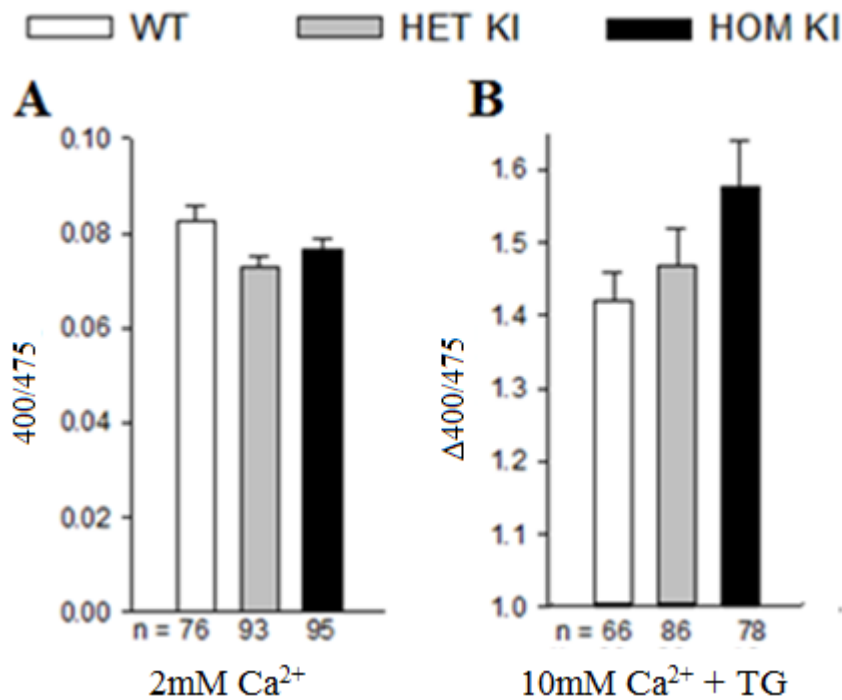


Figure 10 SOCE measurements in neonatal mouse fibroblasts from homozygous (HOM KI) and heterozygous (HET KI), *Stim1^{p.R304W}* mice, compared to cells from wild type mice (WT) A. The levels of intracellular Ca²⁺ at resting physiological conditions. B. TG induced SOCE response with a 10mM Ca²⁺ extracellular solution (Thilini Gamage, unpublished data). n= number of cells analyzed

When SOCE measurements were performed in platelets from patients with Stormorken syndrome, the resting Ca²⁺ levels were higher in the patient cells than in the control cells whereas SOCE was lower in patient cells than in control cells (Misceo et al., 2014).

2 Aims of the work

The aim of this work was to introduce the following seven Stim1 mutations; p.R304W, p.R304A, p.R304P, p.R304S, p.R304E, p.E296del and p.E296del+R304W, and evaluate their effect on puncta formation and intracellular Ca²⁺ concentration. This therefore entailed:

- Construct plasmids expressing mouse Stim1 with a C-terminal yellow fluorescent protein (**YFP**) tag containing the seven mutations.
- Design and procure plasmid DNA of constructs expressing mouse Orai1 with an N-terminal red fluorescent protein (**mCHERRY**) tag.
- Co-transfect the *Stim1-YFP* plasmid-constructs with mCHERRY-*Orai1* into a murine embryonic fibroblast cell line (NIH 3T3) and evaluate co-localization of the fluorescent proteins to detect puncta formation.
- Co-transfect the *Stim1-YFP* plasmid-constructs with mCHERRY-*Orai1* into mouse cells (NIH 3T3) and measure cytosolic Ca²⁺ concentrations at physiological levels and SOCE induced by thapsigargin.

3 Materials and methods

3.1 Sanger sequencing

3.1.1 Polymerase Chain Reaction

The Polymerase Chain Reaction (**PCR**) utilizes a DNA polymerase enzyme to make many copies of a DNA sequence. DNA polymerases have the ability to create a double helix by elongating a primer sequence, using a DNA strand as a template. The primer sequence is a short DNA sequence complementary to the template DNA that anneals and elongates by incorporating dNTPs complementary to the template DNA. Many cycles are performed, resulting in a doubling of each strand at every cycle as illustrated in figure 11 below (Brown, 2007).

The PCR reactions were performed with 30 cycles, each starting with 30 seconds on 94°C to denature the DNA double helix, followed by 58°C for 30 seconds for annealing of the primers to the template. Then 78°C for 1,5 min for elongation. Before the 30 cycles the denaturing temperature, 94°C, is kept for 2 minutes for initial denaturation, and to conclude the PCR there is a 7 minute final extension at 78°C.

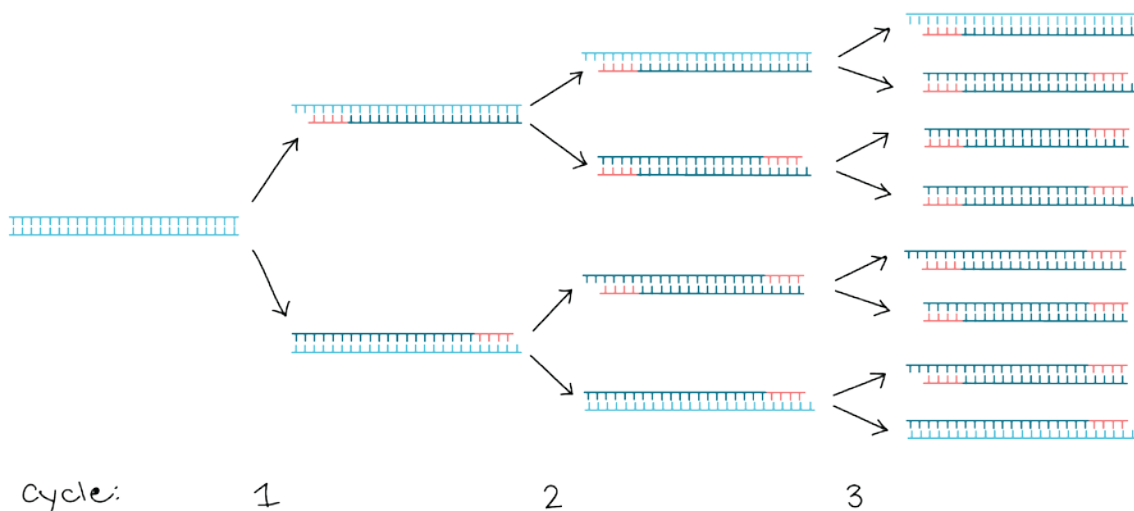


Figure 11 Polymerase Chain Reaction A DNA template is mixed with a sample of dNTPs, primers (red), buffer and DNA polymerase enzyme. The DNA polymerase elongates the primer and for each PCR cycle the number of DNA molecules are doubled (Creative commons licence 3.0).

PCR procedure

The following reagents were assembled to a total of 25 μ l

Buffer (-MgCl₂) 2,5 μ l

dNTP 0,5 μ l (0,2 mM)

MgCl₂ 0,75 μ l (1,5 mM)

Primer forward 0,5 μ l (5ng/ μ l)

Primer reverse 0,5 μ l (5ng/ μ l)

Polymerase taq platinum 0,25 μ l (0,5U)

Template DNA 1 μ l (50ng/ μ l)

Nuclease free H₂O 19 μ l

3.1.2 Sequencing reaction

Sanger sequencing is based on producing different length DNA fragments each with a different ddNTP base at the last position. The DNA fragments are created in a PCR reaction containing normal dNTPs as well as labelled ddNTPs that will terminate the reaction due to the lack of a 3'-hydroxyl group. Each of the four types of ddNTP is labelled with a specific fluorochrome excited by a laser to identify the corresponding nucleotide. From this a complete read out sequence can be assembled by separating the fragments in a capillary gel based on the length and the corresponding ddNTP based on the fluorescence signal detected. The recording of the different fluorochromes give rise to the coloured peaks of the chromatograph and the sequence can be determined (figure 12).

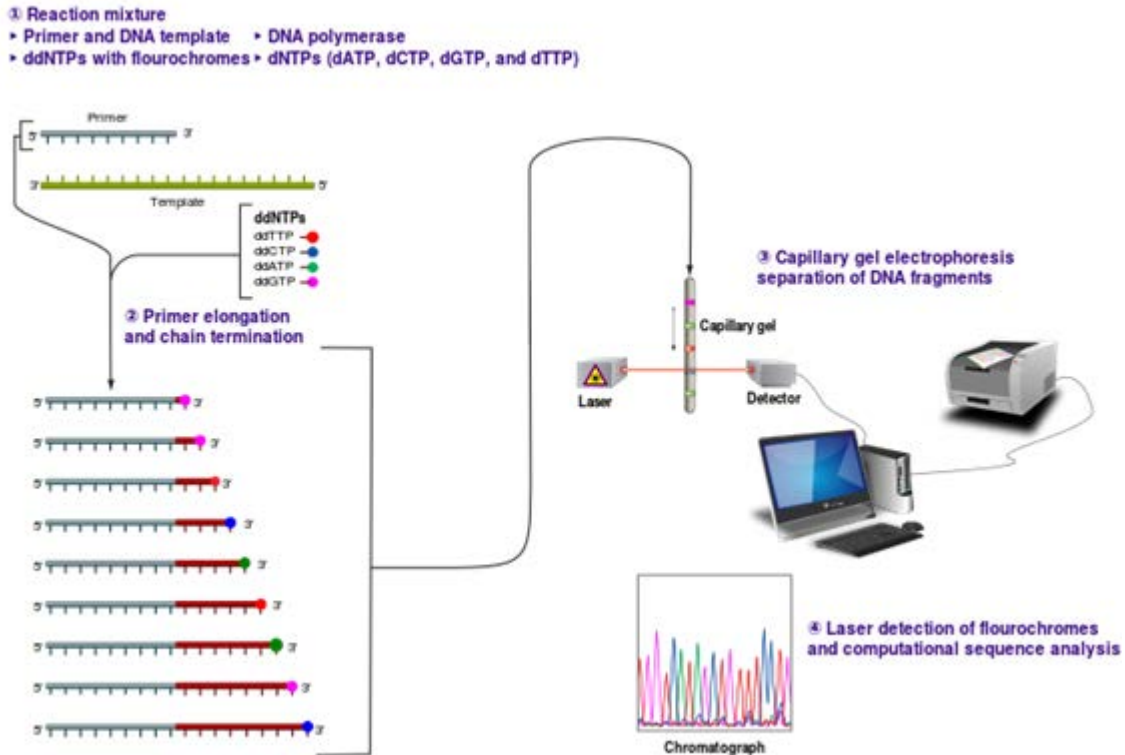


Figure 12 Process of Sanger sequencing A PCR reaction is performed with dNTPs and a smaller amount of fluorochrome tagged ddNTPs that will terminate the elongation reaction. This produces different length DNA fragments with a fluorescent 3' end. The fluorochromes are read by a laser according to the length of the fragments and the sequence is elucidated from this information (Creative Commons license BY-SA 3.0).

PCR procedure

The following reagents were assembled

Plasmid DNA 2 μ l

5x sequencing buffer 2 μ l

Primer 1 μ l

H₂O 4,75 μ l

Big Dye terminator v 3.1 0,25 μ l

The sequencing buffer contains amongst others energy molecules for the enzyme, as well as the ddNTP's and dNTP's. The Big Dye Terminator is the polymerase enzyme performing the elongation reaction. The thermocycler conditions are specified in chapter 8.3.2.

3.1.3 *Stim1* primers

PCR-primer	Name	Sequence
Sanger sequencing	R1	AGTCCCTGTCATGGTGGTGT
	R2	AACTGGAGATGGTGTGTCTGG
	F3	TGTGGATGACATGGATGAGG
	F7	TGGAGCTGCCACAGTATGAG

Table 3 *Stim1* primers All primers were synthesized by Eurofins®, Luxemburg.

3.1.4 *Orai1* sequencing

PCR-primer	Name	Sequence
Sanger sequencing	Forward1(F1)	CTGTGAGCAACGTCCACAAC
	Reverse1 (R1)	GTGCCCGGTGTTAGAGAATG
	Reverse2 (R2)	CCTGGTGGGTAGTCATGGTC
	CMV_promoter (CMV)	CGCAAATGGGCGGTAGGCGTG
	CHERRY_tag (CHERRY)	TTGGTCACCTTCAGCTTGG

Table 4 *Orai1* primers All primers were synthesized by Eurofins®

The following illustration shows the primers annealing locations on the mCHERRY-Orai1 plasmid DNA. The primers cover the CMV promoter region, the mCHERRY tag sequence and the Orai1 gene.

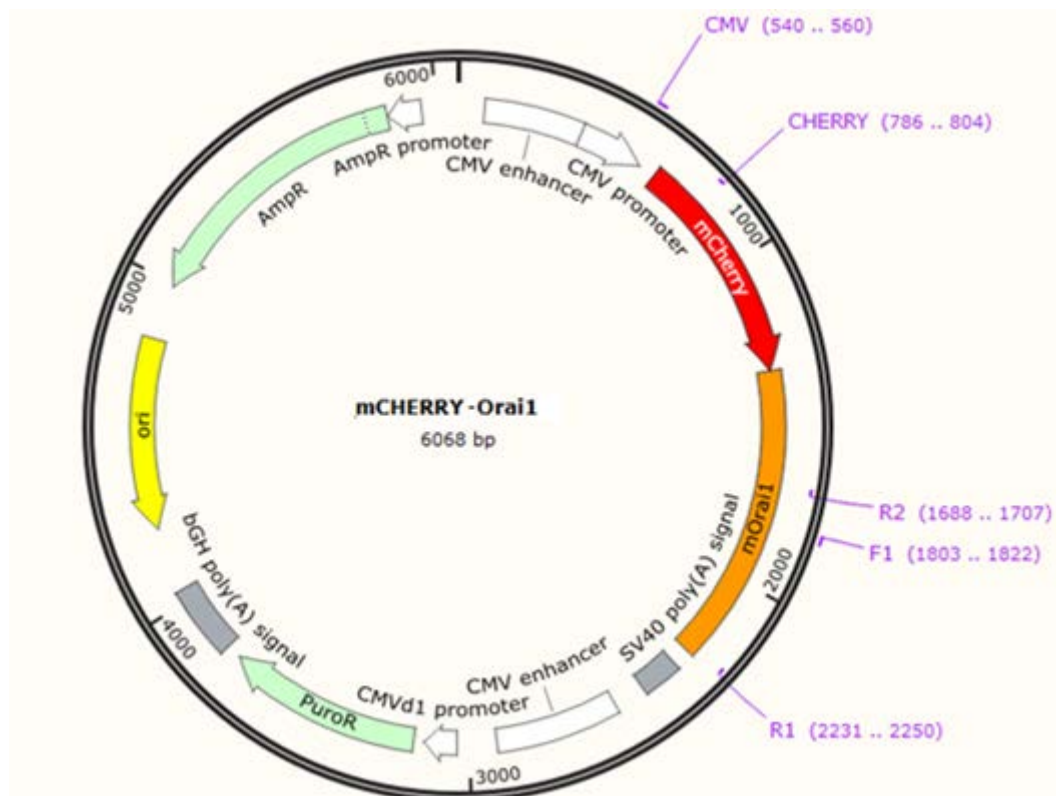


Figure 13 The positions of *Orai1* sequencing primers There are five primers included; 1. CMV anneals in the end of the CMV promoter and sequences towards the mCHERRY tag. 2. The CHERRY primer anneals in the mCHERRY tag and sequences toward the CMV promoter. 3. The R2 primer anneals close to the middle of the *Orai1* gene and sequences toward the start of the gene. 4. The F1 primer binds in the middle of the *Orai1* gene

and sequences toward the end of the gene. 5. The R1 primer anneals in the end of the *Orai1* gene and sequences toward the beginning of the gene. Map created with SnapGene software (snapgene.com).

3.2 Mutagenesis

In order to construct vectors expressing Stim1 with amino acid substitutions at the p.R304 position, as well as a deletion of p.E296 the Q5 mutagenesis system was utilized. The template used was Stim1-WT-YFP and Stim1-p.R304W-YFP, which was a gift from professor Leonidas Tsiokas (University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, USA), figure 14 illustrates the plasmid map.

The primers used were corresponding to the New England Biolabs recommendations for the Q5 mutagenesis kit (www.NEB.com) and were as listed in table 5.

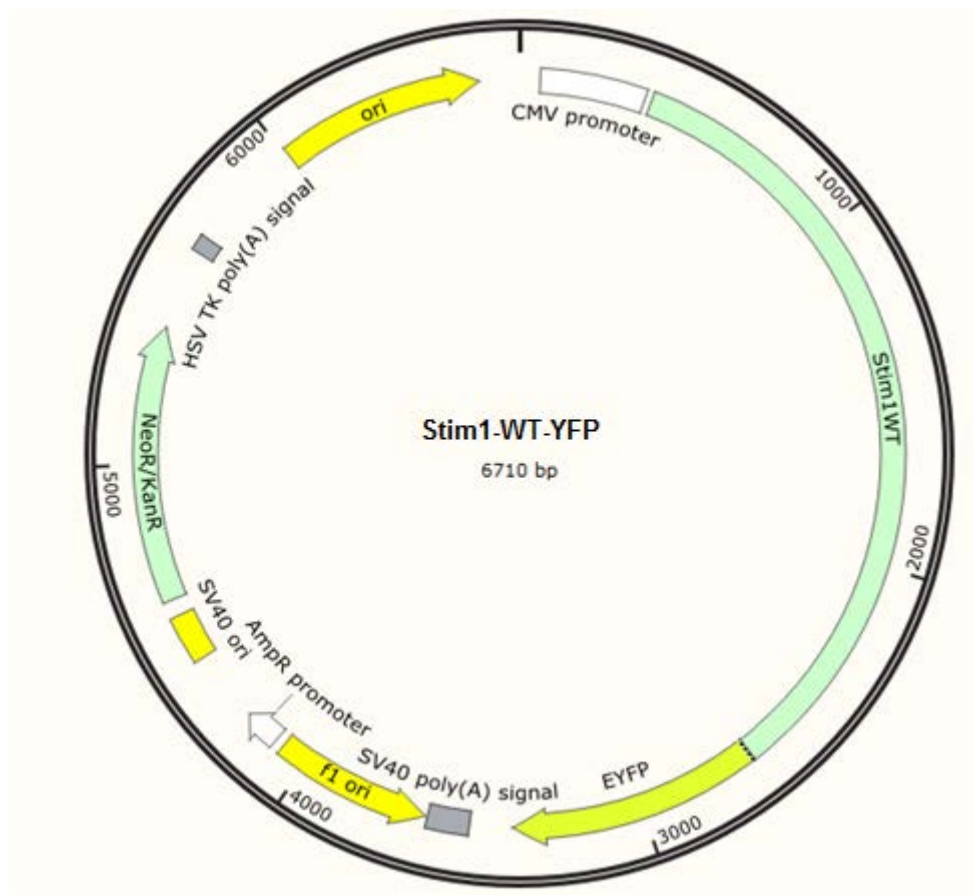


Figure 14 *Stim1-WT-YFP* vector with the *Stim1* cDNA inserted in frame with the gene encoding the yellow fluorescent protein. The map was constructed using SnapGene software (snapgene.com).

3.2.1 Mutagenesis

The mutagenesis process consists of three steps: the mutagenesis PCR reaction, the Kinase Ligase DpnI (**KLD**) reaction and the transformation step. The first round of PCR for

mutagenesis will result in complexes where one DNA strand in the double helix contains the mutation and the other does not. In the next round, that molecule will result in one complex where both strands contain the mutation and one complex where only one does. In the subsequent rounds, the new DNA strands containing the mutation will increase, and the number of un-mutated plasmid stays the same. To remove the original template the enzyme DpnI was added. DpnI preferentially degrades methylated DNA, a modification the newly synthesized DNA will not have as bacteria performs this modification upon cell-cycle replication (Brown, 2007).

Mutagenesis PCR The following reagents were assembled

Q5 Hot Start High-Fidelity 2X Master Mix 5 μ l
10 μ M forward primer 1 μ l
10 μ M reverse primer 1 μ l
Template DNA 1 μ l (25 ng/ μ l)
Nuclease free water 2 μ l
To a total of 10 μ l

KLD reaction The following reagents were assembled and incubated at room temperature for 5 minutes.

PCR product 1 μ l (from mutagenesis PCR)
2x KLD reaction buffer 5 μ l
10x KLD enzyme mix 1 μ l
Nuclease free water 3 μ l

Transformation The DNA constructs were transformed into NEB 5-alpha Competent *E. coli* cells. The cells were thawed on ice. 5 μ l of the KLD reaction added and incubated on ice for 30 minutes. The cells were then heat-shocked at 42 °C for 30 seconds, and incubated on ice for 5 minutes before 950 μ l of Super Optimal Broth with Catabolite repression (**SOC**) was added. The cells were incubated at 37°C with shaking for one hour. The cells were plated on an LB agar plate with 50 μ g/ml kanamycin, and allowed to grow overnight in an incubator at 37°C.

3.2.2 Mutagenesis primers

Mutagenesis	R304A_forward	GAAGGAGCTGGCGGAGGGTACTGAGAATGAG
	R304P_forward	GAAGGAGCTGCCGGAGGGTACTGAGAATGAG
	R304S_forward	AGGAGCTGAGCGAGGGTACTGAG
	R304E_forward	GAAGGAGCTGGAGGAGGGTACTGAGAATGAG
	E296del_forward	CTCAGCGGCTGAAGGAGC
	R304A/P/E_reverse	AGCCGCTGAGCTTCCTGC
	R304S_reverse	TCAGCCGCTGAGCTTCCT
	E296del_reverse	CCTGCTTGGCAAGGTTGATC

Table 5 Stim1 primers All primers were synthesized by Eurofins®, Luxemburg.

3.3 Plasmid DNA extraction.

3.3.1 *Stim1* plasmid

Single colonies were selected from the LB agar plate, and cultured overnight in 50 ml LB, media with 50 µg/ml kanamycin. The plasmid DNA was extracted using either a Quantum Prep® Plasmid Miniprep kit (BioRad) or a QIAGEN® plasmid Midiprep kit. The concentration was measured on a NanoDrop™ 1000 Spectrophotometer.

Quantum Prep® Plasmid miniprep kit

Bacteria in 4 ml of culture was spun down in a table-top centrifuge at 13000 rpm and the LB removed.

200µl of Resuspension solution was added and the bacterial pellet resuspended by pipetting up and down.

250µl of Cell Lysis solution was added and the tube carefully inverted 10 times.

250µl of Neutralization solution was added and the tube carefully inverted 10 times.

The tube was spun in a table-top centrifuge at 13000 rpm for 5 minutes to pellet cell debris.

The supernatant was added to a spin filter placed in a collection tube.

200µl of matrix solution was added and mixed well with the supernatant by pipetting up and down.

The tubes was spun in a table-top centrifuge at 13000 rpm for 30 seconds.

500µl of wash solution was added two times and the tubes spun after each time, first for 30 seconds and then for 2 minutes, both in a table top centrifuge at 13000 rpm.

The DNA was eluted in 90µl nuclease free water.

QIAGEN plasmid Midiprep kit

The bacterial pellet from 50 ml culture was harvested by 15 minutes centrifugation at 4°C and 4500 rpm in a table-top centrifuge.

The pellet was resuspended in 4 ml buffer P1; containing RNase.

The P2 buffer was added for lysis to occur and the tube was gently inverted.

P3 buffer was added for precipitation of proteins and cell debris.

The sample was centrifuged at approximately 17000 rpm at 4°C for 30 minutes. The supernatant containing plasmid DNA was quickly transferred to a new tube.

The centrifugation was repeated for 15 minutes.

A QIAGEN-tip 100 was equilibrated with QBT buffer that reduces surface tension and allows flow through the column.

The supernatant was added to the column and as it flowed through the plasmid DNA attached to the membrane

The QIAGEN-tip 100 was washed two times with 10 mL QC buffer. This wash removes contaminants like carbohydrates from the column.

The plasmid DNA was eluted with 5 mL QF buffer.

Plasmid DNA was precipitated with 3,5 mL isopropanol and centrifuged at approximately 15000 rpm at 4°C for 30 minutes.

The pellet was washed with 2 mL 70% ethanol and centrifuged at the same conditions for 10 minutes to remove the isopropanol and precipitated salt.

The pellet was air-dried and the DNA dissolved in 500µl TE buffer.

3.3.2 *Orai1* plasmid

An *Orai1* plasmid with the gene in frame with an N-terminal mCHERRY fluorescent tag was designed and was received as a stab culture (Vector Builder, Santa Clara California). The stab culture was streaked out on an LB plate with 100µg/ml ampicillin. The plate was incubated at 37°C over night. A single colony was picked for over-night culturing in 150ml of LB media with 100µg/ml ampicillin. The culture was spun down at 15000 rpm for 15 minutes and the media removed.

ZymoPURE™ Plasmid Maxiprep

14 ml of ZymoPURE™ P1 buffer was added to the bacterial pellet and vortexed for complete resuspension

14 ml of ZymoPURE™ P2 buffer was added and the tube was immediately and carefully inverted 6 times.

The lysis was allowed to proceed for 2-3 minutes at room temperature.

14 ml of ZymoPURE™ P3 buffer was added and the tube was gently inverted for neutralization to occur

The contents of the tube was added to the ZymoPURE™ Syringe Filter and left at room temperature for 5-8 minutes

The solution was pushed through the filter into a 50ml canonical tube and the filtrate was saved

14 ml of ZymoPURE™ binding buffer was added and the tube was inverted 10 times

The solution was added to the Zymo-Spin™ V-P Column assembly and centrifuged at 500 x g for 2 minutes

The solution was washed once with 5 ml wash buffer 1 and twice with 5 ml wash buffer 2 with 10 000 x g centrifugation for 1 minute in between.

The filter was moved from the reservoir to a 2 ml collection tube and spun at 13 000 rpm for 1 minute to remove residual wash buffer

The DNA was eluted with 400µl of ZymoPURE™ Elution Buffer

Glycerol stock

Prior to pelleting the bacterial cells, a glycerol stock was created for each mutant plasmid for long-term storage.

500µl of bacterial culture

500µl of 50% glycerol

This was stored at -80°C

3.4 Transfection

Transfection is a method to introduce DNA constructs into eukaryotic cells.

The experiments were performed with the PolyJet™ (SignaGen®) transfection reagent, to introduce plasmids into murine NIH 3T3 fibroblast cells (Sigma Aldrich®).

3.4.1 Cell culturing

Cell growth

The cells were grown in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (**DMEM**) with high glucose (4500 mg/L, Sigma Aldrich), supplemented with 10% Bovine Calf serum (**BCS**, Thermo Fisher®), 10 ml Penstrep (10,000 U/mL, Thermo Fisher®) and 5 ml L-glutamine (200mM, Thermo Fisher®), in a 37°C, 5% CO₂ incubator. See supplements 8.5.2 for full media composition.

Seeding cells

To detach the NIH 3T3 cells 2ml of 0,05% trypsin-EDTA (Life Technologies) was added and incubated for 2-5 minutes. 10 ml of DMEM supplemented with 10% BCS was added and the cells were pelleted in a table-top centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 7 minutes. The cell pellet was resuspended in 2 ml DMEM and counted on the Nucleocounter® (Chemometec). The Nucleocounter® requires addition of equal parts buffer A, that lyses the cells, and buffer B, that stabilizes pH and contains a dye that binds to nucleic acid. This visualizes the nuclei and the number of cells was estimated based on the number of nuclei.

Approximately 400 000 cells were seeded to glass coverslips pre-coated with gelatin/fibronectin. After growing for 48 hours in 1ml DMEM, the cells were transfected.

3.4.2 PolyJet™

The PolyJet™ transfection reagent (SignaGen® Laboratories) consists of a transfection solution that forms complexes with the provided plasmid DNA and delivers it to the cell through endocytosis. Cationic lipids in the transfection reagents helps to bind the complex to the plasma membrane. The coated vesicle is pinched off into the interior of the cell and the

plasma membrane coat as well as the PolyJet™ reagent is degraded in the cytoplasm. The construct is brought into the nucleus and expressed in the cell (SignaGen® Laboratories).

Transfections were performed according to the protocol suggested by the manufacturer. For the six well plate the surface area is 10 cm² and the amount of DNA added to each well should be 1 µg per construct. Therefore, the Stim1-YFP and mCHERRY-Orai1 constructs are co-transfected 1:1, or 1000 ng: 1000 ng.

Cell transfection

Prior to transfection, the cells were supplemented with 1ml fresh supplemented DMEM (3.4.1).

1000ng DNA was diluted in 100µl high glucose media without BCS, antibiotics or L-glutamine.

8µl of PolyJet™ transfection reagent was diluted in 100µl high glucose media without BCS, antibiotics or L-glutamine.

The PolyJet™ dilution was added to the DNA dilution. The reaction was mixed by pipetting up and down 4 times.

The reaction was incubated at room temperature for 10-15 minutes and added dropwise to the cells.

After 8 hours incubation at 37°C with 5% CO₂ the media was exchanged with 1ml fresh supplemented DMEM. The cells were incubated at the same conditions for another 16 hours.

3.4.3 Whole cell protein lysates

To investigate the expression of the transfected plasmids in the transfected cells, protein needs to be isolated. Whole cell proteins lysates were therefore prepared and Western blotting was performed with the protein lysates to detect Stim1 expression. The lysates were prepared with radioimmunoprecipitation assay (**RIPA**) buffer (SigmaAldrich). The protein concentration of the sample was measured with a Pierce™ bicinchoninic acid (**BCA**) Protein Assay kit according to manufacturer's instructions. This system is based on a standard curve of absorption, which the sample concentration is calculated from.

Cell lysis and protein extraction

The cells were scraped to loosen them from the growth surface and pipetted into a 15 ml tube.

The cells were centrifuged in a table-top centrifuge at 1200 rpm for 7 minutes and the cell-pellet washed with 1x Phosphate Buffered Saline, pH 7,4 (**PBS**).

The washing was repeated two times.

RIPA, buffer with 0,1% Proteinase A, protease and phosphatase inhibitor, was used to re-suspend the cell pellet.

The cells were rotated for 15 minutes at 4°C to lyse the cells.

The cell debris was spun down at 14 000 rpm at 4°C for 15 minutes.

The supernatant was transferred to a new tube.

The protein concentrations were measured and the lysates were stored at -80°C.

Composition of RIPA buffer

25mM Tris•HCl pH 7.6

150mM NaCl

1% NP-40

1% sodium deoxycholate

0.1% SDS

Pierce™ BCA Protein Assay

A standard curve was prepared by using Bovine Serum Albumin as a protein standard at six different concentrations; 2 mg/ml, 1 mg/ml, 0,5mg/ml, 0,25 mg/ml, 0,125 mg/ml and 0,063 mg/ml.

The samples were diluted 1:3 with RIPA buffer.

The standard curves and samples were added in triplets in a 96 well plate.

200µl of kit WR reagent was added to each well and the samples mixed on a plate mixer.

The plate was incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes, protected from light.

The absorption at 562 nm is recorded and the concentration back-calculated with the standard curve.

3.4.4 Imaging

YFP fluorescence was assessed with a Nikon eclipse Ts2 and illuminated at 470 nm. All of the images were captured with a 20x objective.

3.5 Western blotting

Antibody	Origin
Stim1-C-terminal	Gift from Professor Stefan Feske, NYUMC New York
Orai1-N-terminal	Abcam, Cambridge
GADPH	Abcam, Cambridge
Secondary α -rabbit	Thermo Fisher, Waltham

Table 6 Antibodies for western blotting

Western blotting was performed on whole cell lysates of 10 μ g total protein in a total volume of 16 μ l (H₂O) and with 8 μ l 3x loading buffer.

Sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (**SDS-PAGE**) separates 10 μ g protein on a BIO RAD® TGX™ any KDa® 10 well precast gel. The gel was run for approximately 50 minutes at 185V.

The proteins were wet-blotted onto a nitrocellulose membrane. The blotting was performed on ice with magnetic stirring, at 110V for exactly 20 minutes.

The proteins transferred to the nitrocellulose membrane were blocked with 5% Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) in Tris-Buffered Saline with Tween20 (**TBST**) for 1 hour at room temperature. Then it was washed with TBST for 10 minutes three times.

The nitrocellulose membrane was incubated overnight at 4°C with the primary antibody. After the first incubation, the membrane was treated with an anti-rabbit IgG secondary antibody conjugated with HRP for 1 hour at room temperature and the membrane was developed with Amersham ECL Primer Western Blotting Detection Reagent (GE Healthcare Life Sciences).

The membrane was re-blocked in TBST with 5% BSA for 1 hour at room temperature. Afterwards it was incubated with an anti-GAPDH primary antibody and a HRP conjugated α -rabbit IgG secondary antibody for 1 hour at room temperature as a control antibody. The membrane was developed with the same reagents, the Amersham ECL Primer Western Blotting Detection Reagent (GE Healthcare Life Sciences).

3.6 Imaging of transfected cells

The imaging of the transfected cells was performed on a Zeiss LSM 800 microscope, and captured with the ZEN image-processing program. The ZEN lite imaging-processing program

was used for analysis. The mCHERRY tag was excited at 560 nm and fluorescence was recorded at an interval of 580-700 nm (figure 15, red). The YFP tag was excited at 490 nm and fluorescence was recorded at an interval of 470-580 nm (figure 15, green).

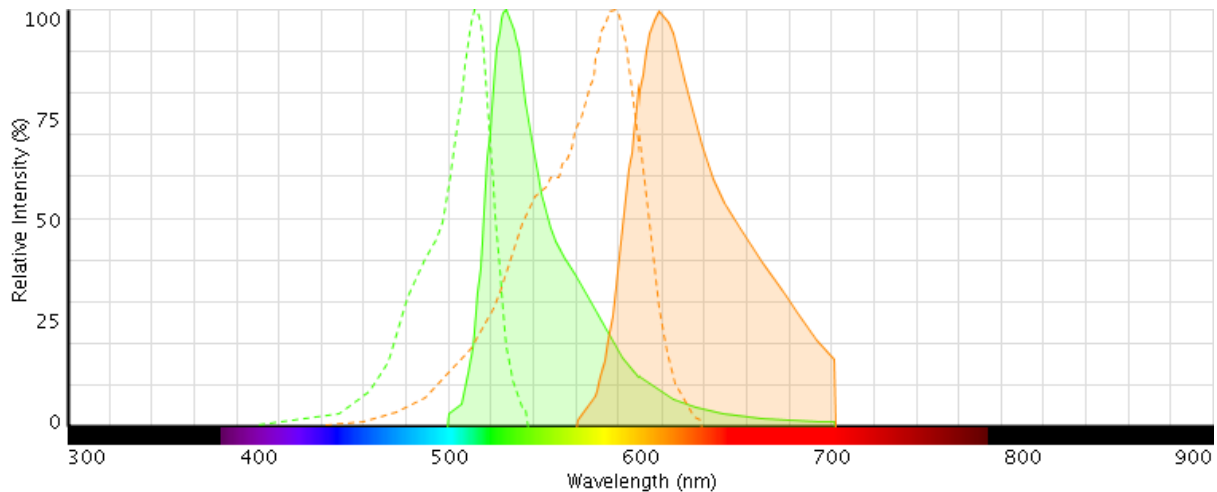


Figure 15 Excitation and emission of the YFP tag and mCHERRY tag The YFP tag is excited at 490nm and emission was recorded between 470 and 580nm. The mCHERRY tag is excited at 560 nm and emission was recorded between 580 and 700 nm.

3.6.1 Fluorescence microscopy

Fluorescence microscopy is a powerful technique for visualization of cell organelles, specific proteins after transfections of vectors expressing fluorescently tagged proteins, immunofluorescence, and much more. The principle of fluorescence is the absorption and emission of light according to the principles of electrons moving orbits. When energy in the form of light is applied to an atom, electrons in the orbits that correspond to the amount of energy will be excited into a higher orbit. However, this is an unstable state for the atom and the electron will fall back into the original orbit, sending out light with a particular amount of energy. This energy corresponds to a wavelength of light and is known as fluorescence (Spring and Davidson, 2017).

3.6.2 Imaging

Before induction

Viable cells were located with phase contrast light microscopy, according to the morphological characteristics belonging to living healthy fibroblast cell cultures, as shown in figure 16. Unhealthy cells with a round shape, without elongated attachment structures were not imaged. The cells were kept in 500µl clear physiological Ca^{2+} solution (2mM Ca^{2+}) and

were imaged with the Z-stacked function of the ZEN imaging processing software and with the appropriate settings to detect the two fluorescent tags (YFP-tag and mCHERRY) as described above.

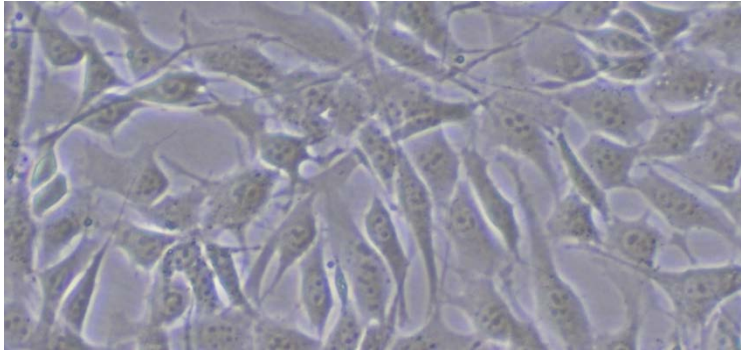


Figure 16 Morphologically healthy fibroblasts Cells with an elongated cell structure, growing attached to the surface and with a clear nuclear structure.

Thapsigargin induction

1 μ l thapsigargin was added to the cells and the cells were left for 2-5 minutes before resuming imaging. The imaging was performed with the same settings as before SOCE induction.

3.7 Whole cell Ca^{2+} measurements

Cells that were seeded on cover slips 2 days prior and transfected as described in chapter 3.4, were loaded with INDO-1 AM dye (10ng/ μ l for 20 minutes in dark, Molecular Probes, Life Technologies) and then mounted on the stage of an inverted Zeiss microscope equipped for fluorescence. A single transfected cell, confirmed by the presence of YFP-fluorescence representing Stim1, as well as red fluorescence representing Orai1, was isolated in the pinhole of the microscope. This cell was used to measure Ca^{2+} fluxes based on whole cell fluorescence.

3.7.1 INDO-1 AM dye

The cell was excited with 350 nm UV-light from a laser source. INDO-1 AM emits light at a peak of 400 nm when it is bound to Ca^{2+} , and light at a peak of 475 nm when it is not bound to Ca^{2+} (Molecular Probes, 2011). Data in these experiments are represented as a ratio of fluorescence at the two wave lengths.

2 μ g of INDO-1 AM (Life Technologies) was added to the cell chamber. As the wavelengths emitted were detected, we can measure how much intracellular Ca^{2+} that was present when

the cell was perfused with different concentrations of extracellular Ca^{2+} with or without thapsigargin. The INDO-1 AM molecule can freely diffuse across the hydrophobic cell membrane due to the presence of an acetoxy methyl (R) group, but as illustrated in figure 17, once the indo-dye enters the cytoplasm, esterases will cleave off the R-group trapping the dye inside the cell (Molecular Probes, 2011).

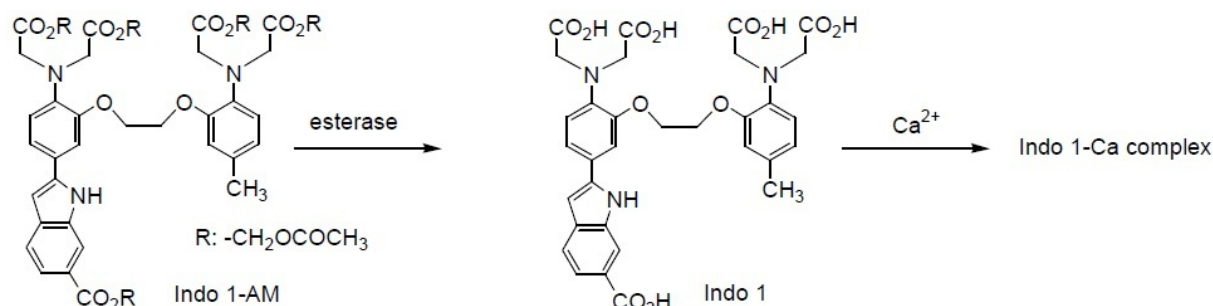


Figure 17 Cleavage of the $\text{CH}_2\text{OCOCH}_3$ group from the INDO-1 AM molecule The $\text{CH}_2\text{OCOCH}_3$ group is cleaved off the INDO-1 AM molecule by esterases that are present in the cytoplasm of the cell. This makes the INDO-1 AM molecule unable to diffuse across the cell-membrane ensuring that it stays inside the cell (Dojindo Molecular Technologies, Inc.).

3.7.2 Solutions

Solution	HT buffer	CaCl_2 [1,0M]	Thapsigargin(TG) [1mM]
A	2 mM Ca^{2+}	50 ml	100 μl
B	0 Ca^{2+} + TG	50 ml	100 μl
C	10 mM Ca^{2+} + TG	50 ml	500 μl

Table 7 Solutions in functional calcium flux experiments. See supplements for HT buffer composition

Recordings

The coverslip with the transfected cells was placed in a metal frame fixed to a perfusion setup with a flow rate of 0,6 ml/min. Suction removes fluid from the chamber setup so that the volume is kept at 500 μl .

The cell was perfused with solution A, B and C and the fluorescence was recorded for 10 seconds, 5 minutes and 5 minutes respectively.

Solution B contains thapsigargin and this should induce SOCE.

Solution C contains thapsigargin as well as 10mM Ca^{2+} .

The pinhole was changed to a nearby place on the coverslip that contains no cell and the fluorescence was measured. This defines the background fluorescence that was subtracted from the cellular fluorescence.

3.7.3 Microscope and analysis

Microscope details

The microscope system used was an Carl Zeiss inverted light microscope (Zeiss, Oberkochen). Viable cells were located with phase contrast light microscopy and illuminated at 435 nm wavelengths so that the YFP tag can fluoresce, as well as 561 nm light for the mCHERRY tag. This to verify co-transfection of the constructs. A single cell was adjusted to the pinhole of the microscope. The cell was illuminated with 350 nm UV-laser light for recording the INDO-1 AM emission. The emission was recorded at 400 nm and 475 nm, which represents Ca^{2+} bound and unbound respectively, in the Clampfit 10.4 program (Molecular Devices).

Clampfit analysis

In the Clampfit 10.4 program, data analysis was performed by selecting three data points in the recorded fluorescence.

The first data point was the resting level under perfusion of solution A.

The second was the stable base level before switching to solution C. This was 5 minutes after solution B was introduced.

The third point was the peak after perfusion of solution C. This was the peak of Ca^{2+} influx.

The background measured was deducted and the ratio of the two emissions was presented.

4 Results

4.1 Construction of vectors with mutant Stim1

In this thesis, vectors were constructed for the expression of various Stim1-mutants where the arginine (R) at position p.304 was substituted with the amino acids shown in figure 18.

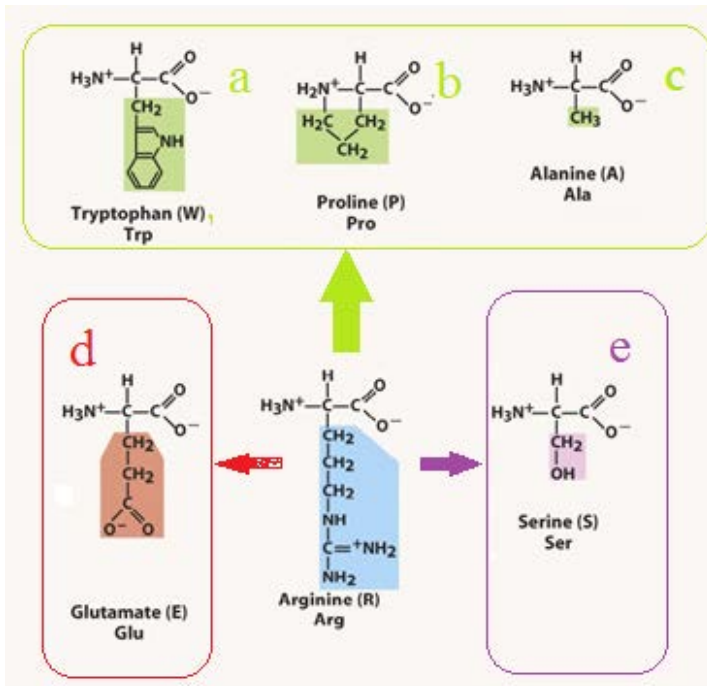


Figure 18 Amino acid substitutions performed at Stim1 p.304 in this thesis Arginine is the amino acid at the p.304 position in the wild type Stim1 protein (Middle). STIM1 p.R304W causes constitutive SOCE in Stormorken patients (Misceo et al., 2014).

Amino acid	Charge
Arginine	Positive
Tryptophan	Nonpolar, bulky
Serine	Uncharged, polar
Glutamate	Negative
Alanine	Nonpolar, small
Proline	Nonpolar

Table 8 Functional properties of the amino acids introduced in the p.304 position of Stim1 in this thesis

These substitutions were chosen due to their differing characteristics in charge and structure from the arginine present in wild-type Stim1 (Figure 18 and table 8).

PCR based mutagenesis was performed with the NEB Q5 mutagenesis kit as described in chapter 3.2. The primers used for the mutagenesis (Table 5, page 21) anneal to the template

and introduce base changes in the subsequent cycles of PCR because of the mismatches in the primer as illustrated in figure 19 for the p.R304A construct.

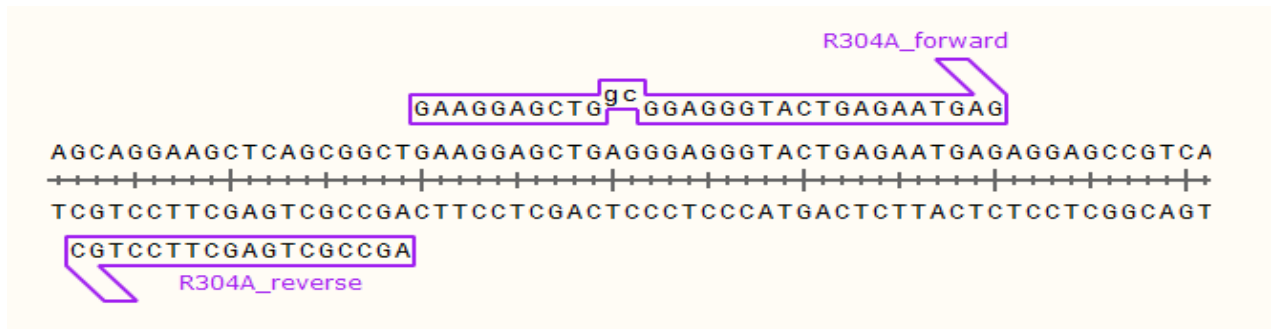


Figure 19 p.R304A construct template annealing The R304A _forward and the R304A/P/E_reverse primers anneal to the template sequence and elongate in opposite directions. The forward primer introduces changes to bases in the sequence; c.910A>G and c.911G>C resulting in expression of Stim1 with the p.R304A change from the resulting construct. The figure was constructed using SnapGene software (snapgene.com).

In addition, deletion constructs were made using primers that anneal to the template three base pairs apart to delete the p.296 codon from the Stim1 WT and Stim1-p.R304W plasmid constructs (figure 20).

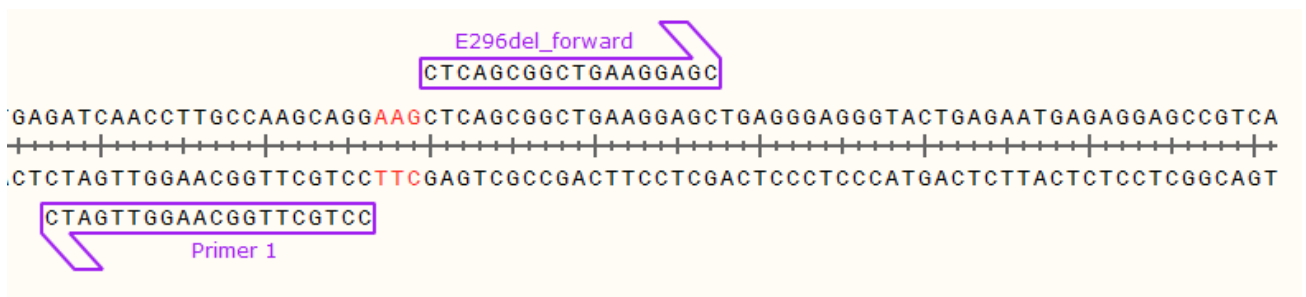


Figure 20 p.E296del construct template annealing The primers E296del_forward and E296del_reverse anneal to the template three base pairs apart. Therefore, codon 296 (red) is deleted in the resulting construct, creating the p.E296del construct. The figure was constructed using SnapGene software (snapgene.com).

4.1.1 Verifying the presence of the Stim1 mutations

The mutagenesis products were transformed into E. coli (materials and methods 3.2.1), which were grown over night at 37°. Direct PCR was performed on DNA from five colonies per plate and subsequent sequencing covered the mutated region and assessed whether the colony contained a construct with only the intended mutation. The sequences were analyzed using ‘Blat’, aligning the sequence to the database *Stim1* gene, GRCm38/mm10, as shown for the p.R304A-construct in the example in figure 21.

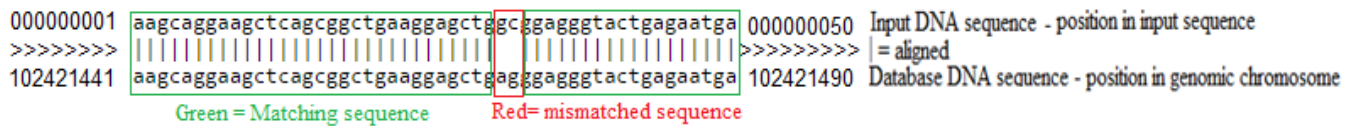


Figure 21 Blat alignment of an example sequence In this figure the red square indicates mismatched bases when aligning the Sanger read (input) to the sequence from murine chromosome 7 below.

Overnight cultures from one colony from each construct verified to contain the correct mutation were used for plasmid DNA isolation (3.3.1). The extracted plasmid DNA was Sanger sequenced with primers R1, R2, F3 and F7 (figure 22) resulting in the average sequencing read of approximately 600 bp per sequencing reaction as indicated in the figure.

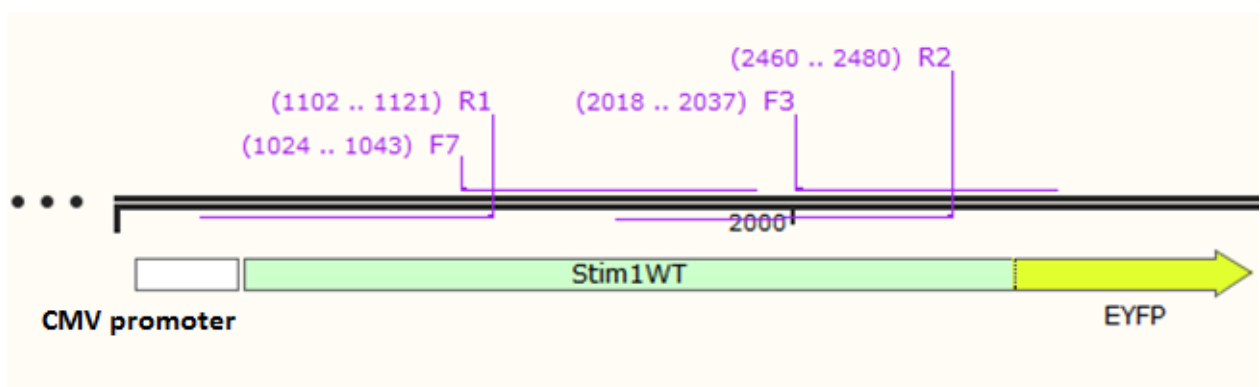


Figure 22 Primers for Stim1 sequencing and approximate read length obtained by the Sanger sequencing The primers used for sequencing are R1, R2, F3 and F7. The elongated purple lines indicate the average sequencing read length for each primer.

Figure 23 shows the introduced mutations in an alignment of the mutated region in the clones sequenced in plasmid DNA extracted from over-night cultures. The rest of the Stim1 sequence acquired from Sanger sequencing contained no deviations when aligned to the mouse reference genome (Data not shown).

The complete data from Sanger sequencing are shown in supplements 8.8.

Mutation	Codon change	Alignment	Chromatograph
p.R304A	AGG GCG	<pre> aagcaggaagctcagcgggctgaaggagctgaggagggtactgagaatga aagcaggaagctcagcgggctgaaggagctgaggagggtactgagaatga </pre>	
p.R304P	AGG ACG	<pre> aagcaggaagctcagcgggctgagggagctgccggagggtactgagaatga aagcaggaagctcagcgggctgaaggagctgaggagggtactgagaatga </pre>	
p.R304S	AGG AGC	<pre> aagcaggaagctcagcgggctgaaggagctgagcggagggtactgagaatga aagcaggaagctcagcgggctgaaggagctgaggagggtactgagaatga </pre>	
p.R304E	AGG GAG	<pre> aagcaggaagctcagcgggctgaaggagctggaggagggtactgagaatga aagcaggaagctcagcgggctgaaggagctgaggagggtactgagaatga </pre>	
p.E296del	Deletion GAA at p.296	<pre> aagcag...gctcagcgggctgaaggagctgaggagggtactgagaatga aagcaggaagctcagcgggctgaaggagctgaggagggtactgagaatga </pre>	
p.E296del +R304W	Deletion GAA at p.296 Template carries p.R304W	<pre> aagcag...gctcagcgggctgaaggagctgtggagggtactgagaatga aagcaggaagctcagcgggctgaaggagctgaggagggtactgagaatga </pre>	

Figure 23 Alignment of plasmid DNA sequence using *Blat* The upper sequences are the DNA sequences from the plasmid DNA from the colonies, acquired from Sanger sequencing. The lower sequences are the reference sequences. The coloured squares represents where the plasmid DNA sequence differs from the reference, resulting in amino acid changes at position p.304 or p.296. To the right are the corresponding Sanger sequence chromatograms.

Clones carrying the verified mutated Stim1 constructs were identified as indicated in Table 9.

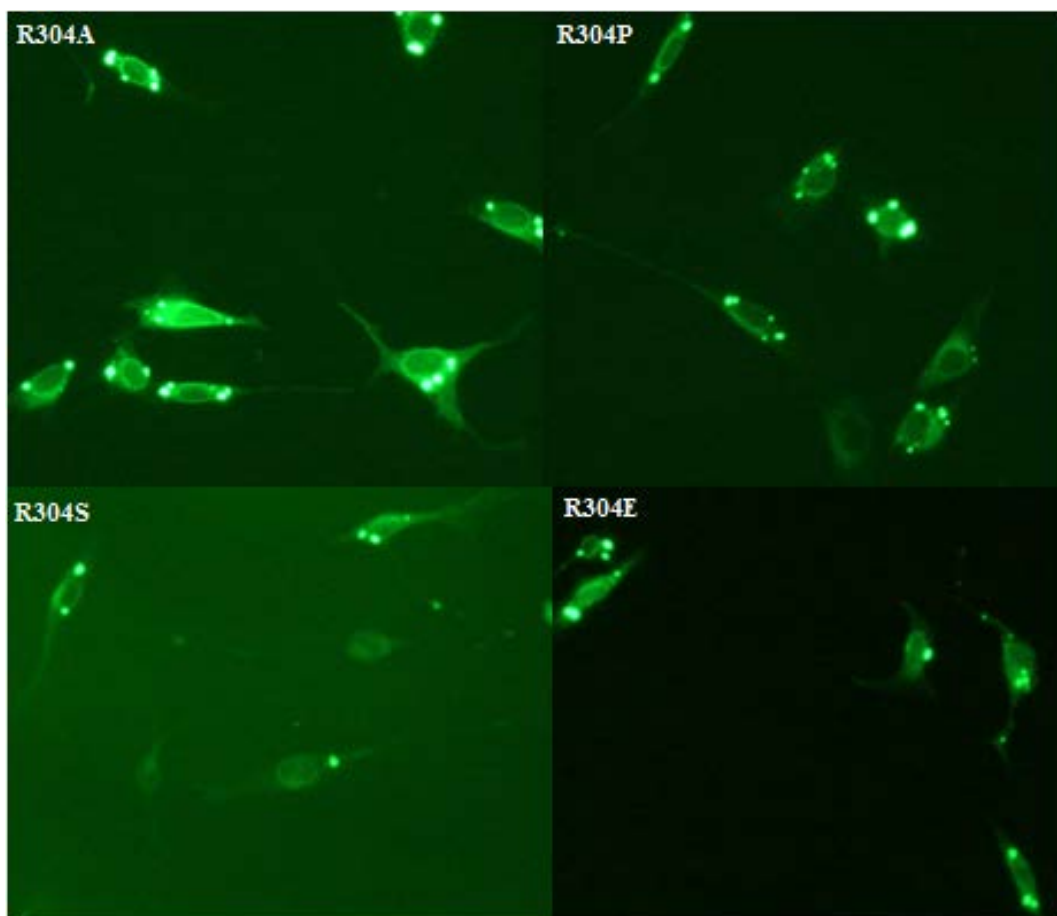
Construct name	Amino acid substitution in Stim1	Primers used for mutagenesis	Template used in the mutagenesis	Number of colonies tested	Colonies with substitution	Colonies without other alterations from reference	Mutation	Codon change	
Stim1-R304A-YFP	p.R304A	R304A_forward R304A/P/E_reverse	Stim1-WT-YFP	5	2	2	c.910A>G and c.911G>C	AGG	GCG
Stim1-R304P-YFP	p.R304P	R304P_forward R304A/P/E_reverse		5	3	1	c.911G>C	AGG	ACG
Stim1-R304S-YFP	p.R304S	R304S_forward R304S_reverse		5	2	1	c.912G>C	AGG	AGC
Stim1-R304E-YFP	p.R304E	R304E_forward R304A/P/E_reverse		5	3	1	c.910A>G and c.911G>A	AGG	GAG
Stim1-E296del-YFP	p.E296del	E296del_forward E296del_reverse		5	3	1	c.del886-888	Deletion of codon 296 (GAA)	
Stim1-E296del+R304W-YFP	p.E296del+R304W	E296del_forward E296del_reverse	Stim1-R304W-YFP	5	2	1	c.del886-888	Deletion of codon 296 (GAA); R304W mutation present in template	

Table 9 The expression vectors constructed by Q5 mutagenesis

4.1.2 Expression of the YFP marker

All six constructs were transfected into the murine NIH 3T3 fibroblast cell line to assess fluorescence. The transfected cells were inspected in a fluorescence microscope after incubation at 37°C with 5% CO₂ for 24 hours. The cells that were transfected with each of the six Stim1-YFP constructs demonstrated fluorescence when illuminated with 470nm light, (figure 24) verifying the expression of the YFP marker.

A.



B.

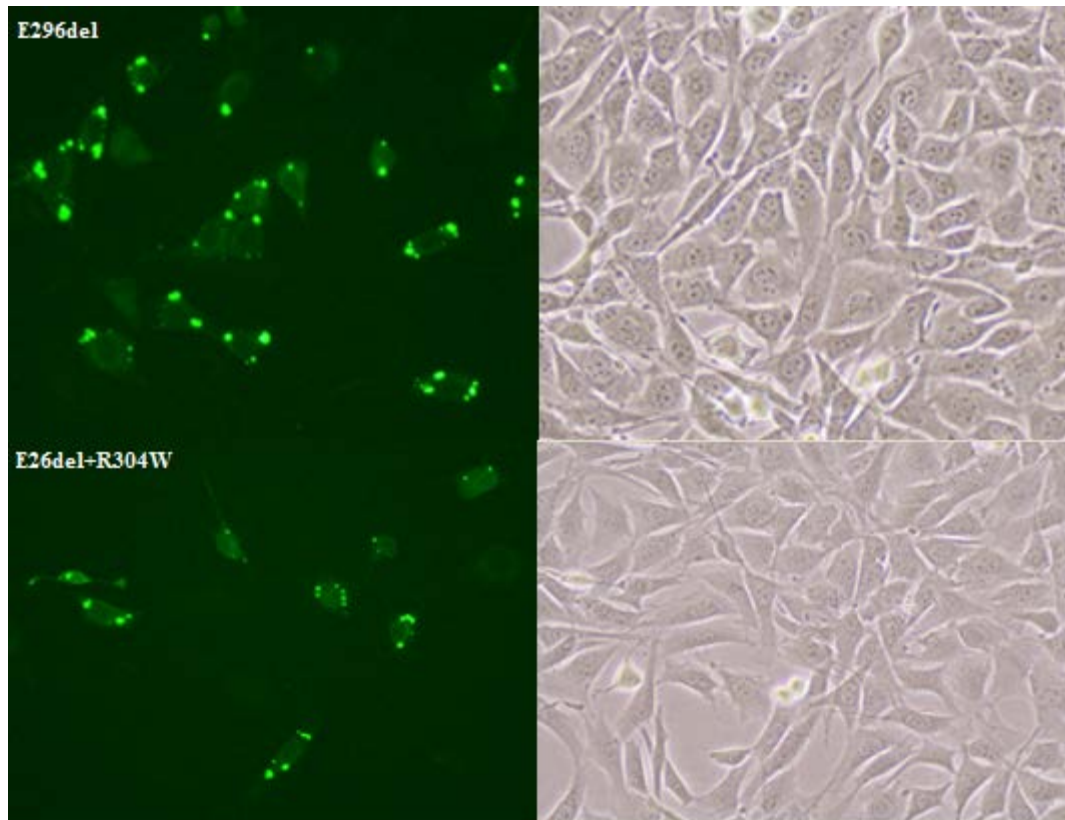


Figure 24 Detection of fluorescence from transfected cells A. The four Stim1 constructs indicated gave fluorescence signals after transfection into NIH 3T3 cells. B. A fraction of the cells transfected with the constructs expressing the deletion mutants p.E296del and p.E296del+R304W as indicated show fluorescence (left) when comparing to the same field captured with bright-field (right).

4.1.3 Expression of Stim1-YFP fusion proteins

Western blotting was performed to investigate if the Stim1-YFP fusion gene is expressed in cells transfected with the vectors constructed. The transfections and Western blotting were performed as described in materials and methods. The nitrocellulose membrane was treated with a Stim1 antibody (table 6).

Western blotting was also performed with whole cell lysates from cells transfected with a construct expressing an un-tagged Stim1.

The band corresponding to the endogenous Stim1 protein of 90 kDa was detected in all cells analyzed. The western blot results in figure 25 show a band corresponding to the Stim1-YFP fusion protein, in cells transfected with all six vectors. This band, which corresponds to 117 kDa because the YFP tag adds approximately 27 kDa, was not detected in un-transfected cells and cells transfected with the construct expressing untagged Stim1.

These results support the conclusion that all six constructs express a Stim1-YFP fusion protein.

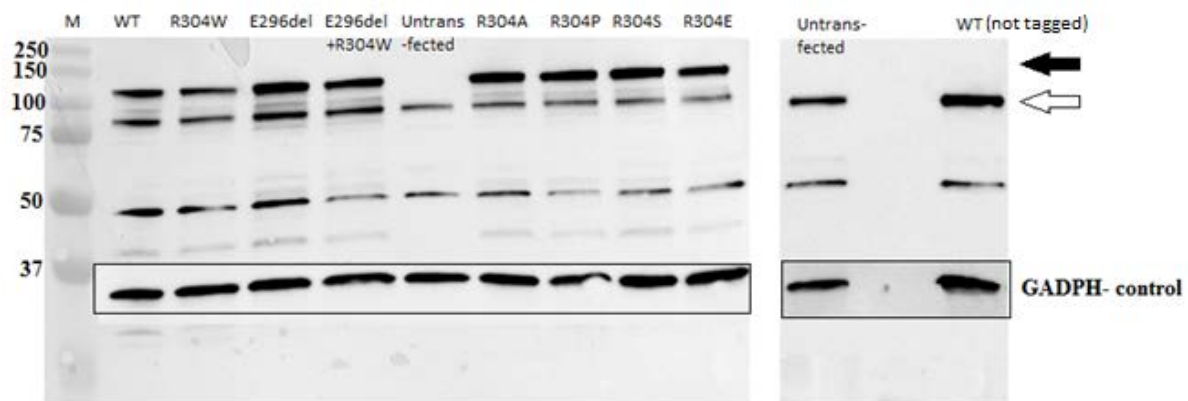


Figure 25 Western blots of transfected and un-transfected NIH 3T3 cells A signal is detected with the Stim1 antibody in all lanes transfected with the Stim1-YFP constructs indicated (Black arrow). Endogenous Stim1 expression is detected in all lanes (White arrow). The signal obtained with the control antibody detecting GADPH indicated equal protein loading. M- Precision plus protein ladder kDa (BIO-RAD).

Western blotting was also performed to investigate the endogenous expression of Orail in the murine NIH 3T3 fibroblast cell line. The nitrocellulose membrane was treated with an anti-Orail antibody (Abcam, Cambridge). A signal of the expected size was detected on the membrane (figure 26).

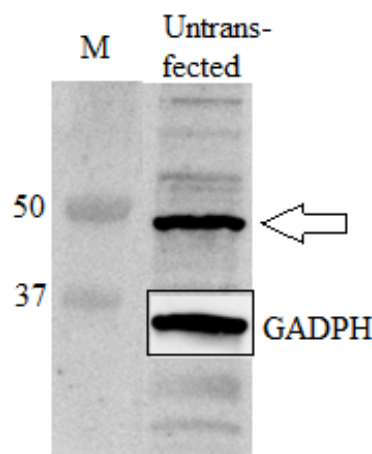


Figure 26 Endogenous Orail expression in NIH 3T3 cells A signal is detected with the Orail antibody in NIH 3T3 cells (White arrow). This corresponds to endogenous Orail expression. M- Precision plus protein ladder kDa (BIO-RAD)

4.2 Assessment of puncta formation

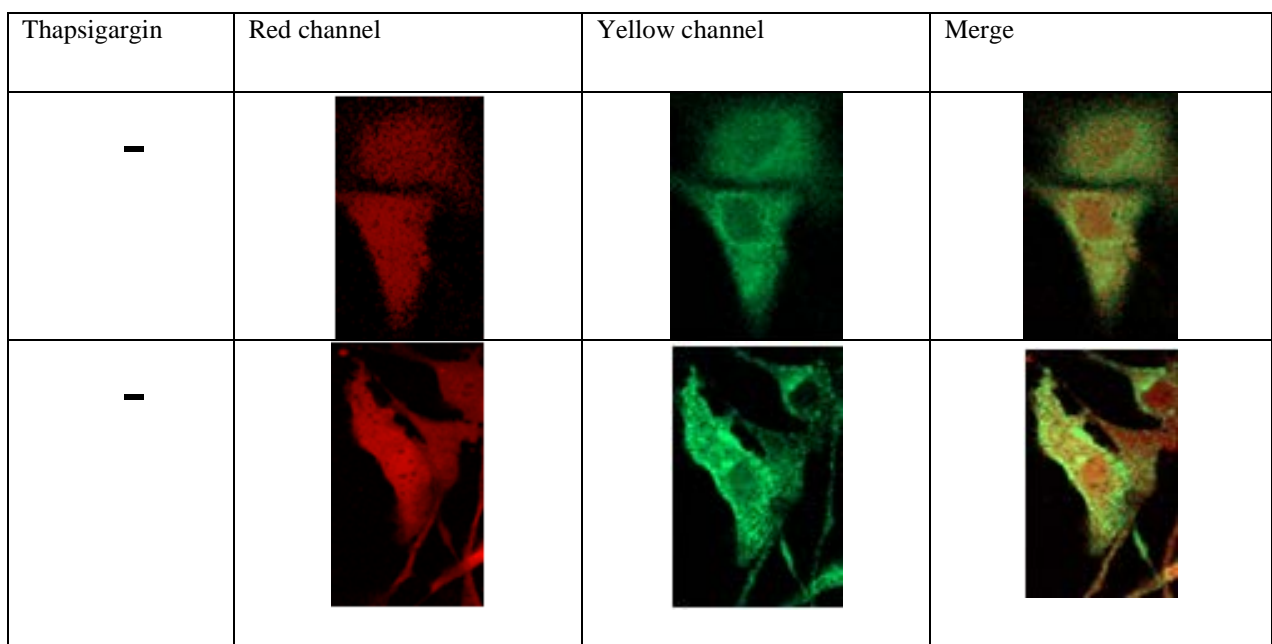
4.2.1 WT transfected cells – puncta formation

Imaging experiments were performed to assess puncta formation, which may be detected by co-localization of Orai1 and Stim1 in transfected cells. The transfection was performed with PolyJet™ (3.4.2). After 24 hours of incubation at 37°C in 5% CO₂ the cells were inspected in a Zeiss LSM 800 microscope using 560 nm excitation for the mCHERRY tag and 490 nm light for the YFP tag (3.6).

In two independent experiments transfections were performed with 1,0 µg Stim1-WT-YFP and 1.0 µg mCHERRY-Orai1 (3.4.2). Each experiment was performed as four parallel transfections. Approximately 20 cells/groups of cells were imaged in each transfection, and all images were included in analysis. Figure 27 shows representative transfected cells with or without TG treatment.

The cells that are not treated with thapsigargin show both the red and yellow fluorescence evenly distributed in the cells.

TG treated cells transfected with the Stim1-WT-construct show a speckled distribution of the YFP signal, which differs from the even cytoplasmic distribution in cells not treated with TG, thus indicating puncta formation (figure 27). The mCHERRY-Orai1 signal show even distribution in the cell both with and without TG treatment.



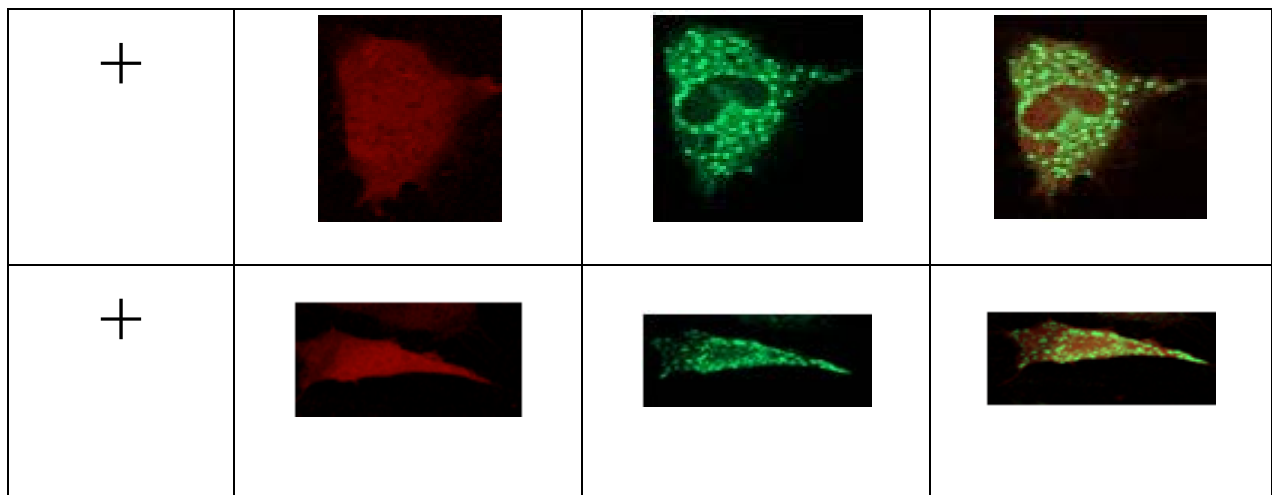


Figure 27 *Stim1-WT transfected cells before and after TG treatment* The red channel detects the mCHERRY-Orai1 expression and the yellow channel detects the Stim1-YFP expression. The emission signal of the YFP tag resides in the shorter wavelengths, close to green, and therefore the tag may appear green.

4.2.2 Puncta formation in cells with ectopic expression of mutated Stim1

In order to assess if differences in signal distribution can be detected upon TG treatment in cells ectopically expressing mutant Stim1, two independent experiments were performed with four parallel transfections using constructs expressing Stim1-p.R304W, Stim1-p.R304A, Stim1-p.R304P, Stim1-p.R304S, Stim1-p.R304E, Stim1-p.E296del and Stim1-p.E296del+R304W.

Representative images demonstrating speckled signal distribution with and without TG treatment of cells ectopically expressing Stim1-p.R304W and Stim1-p.R304A are shown in figure 28 A and B. These results may indicate that puncta were formed without TG treatment in these cells, indicating a constitutively activated Stim1.

The cells transfected with Stim1-p.E296del+R304W showed an even distribution of YFP in cells not treated with TG, but the TG treated cells showed that the YFP signals tend to aggregate at specific areas indicating puncta formation (figure 28C).

A. p.R304W	TG	Merge		
	-			
		Red channel	Green channel	Merge
	-			
	+			
B. p.R304A	TG	Merge		
	-			
	+			

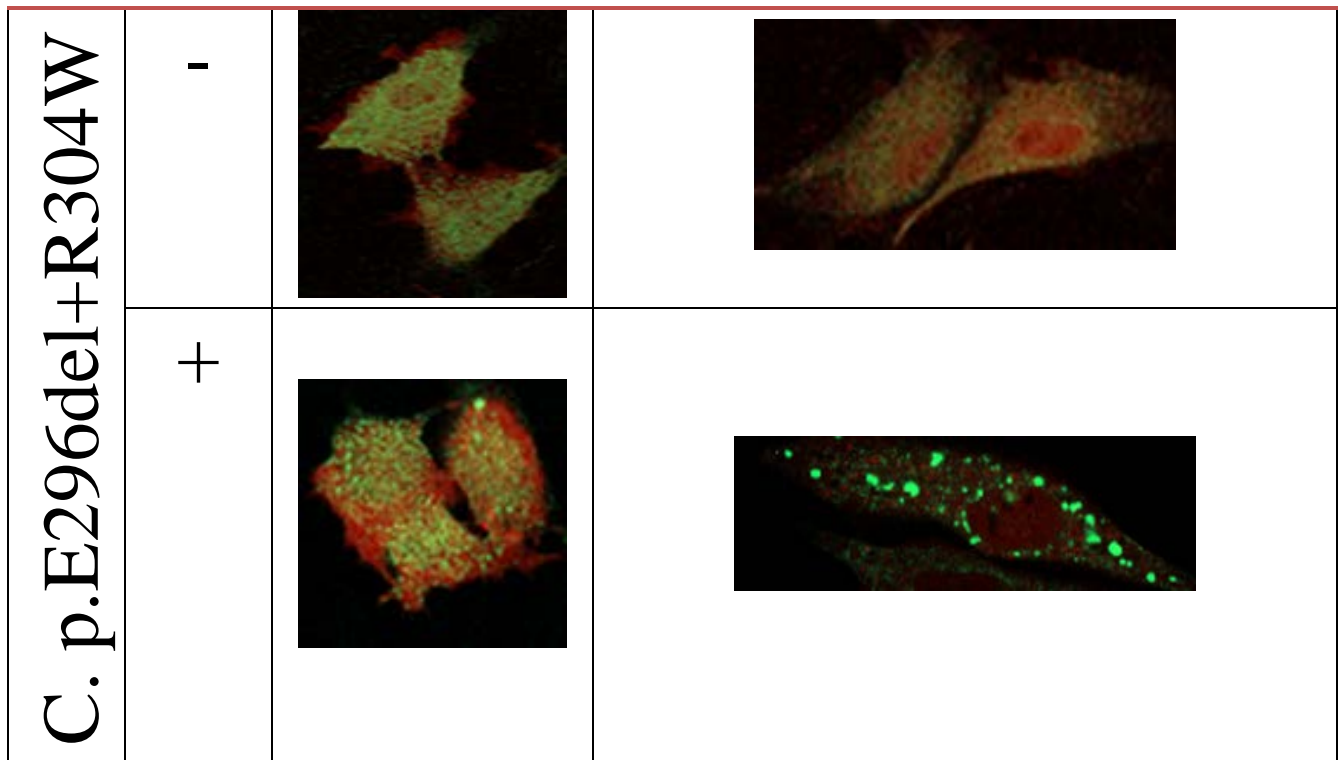
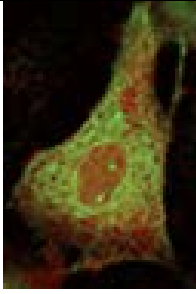
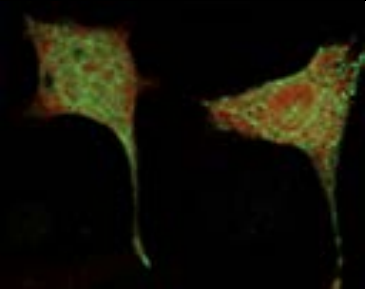
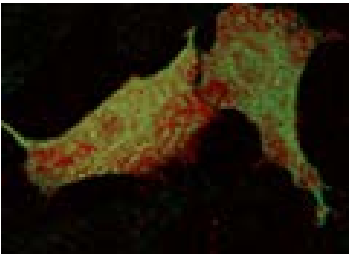
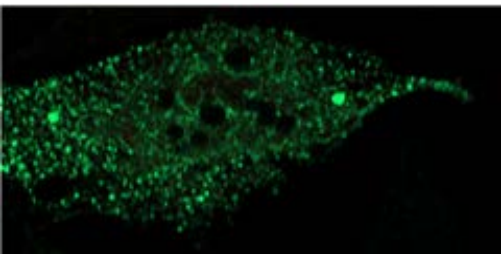
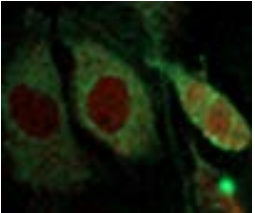
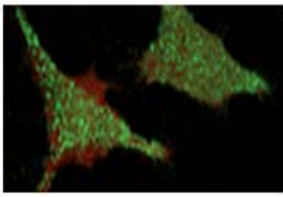
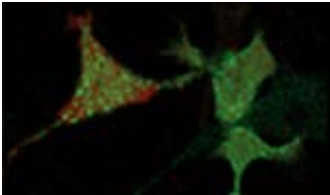
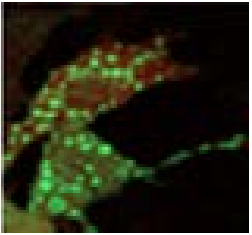
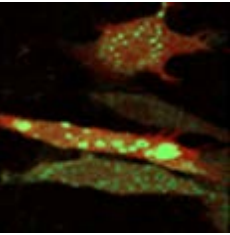
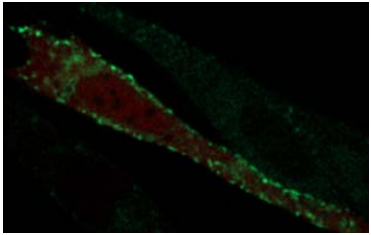


Figure 28 Ectopic expression of Stim1-constructs A. *Stim1-p.R304W* B. *Stim1-p.R304A* C. *Stim1-p.E296del+R304W*. Representative murine NIH 3T3 fibroblast cells co-expressing *Stim*-YFP variants (green) and *mCHERRY-Orai1* (red) presented as a merge of the two signals. *Stim1-p.R304W* and *Stim1-p.R304A* show puncta formation with and without TG treatment. *Stim1-p.E296del+R304W* show puncta formation only with TG treatment.

The constructs *Stim1-p.E296del*, *Stim1-p.R304P* and *Stim1-p.R304S*, gave variable results, some cells showed an even distribution of the YFP signal and some cells gave a speckled YFP pattern. The variable results were detected in both untreated and TG treated cells (figure 29).

		TG	Merge		
A. p.E296del	-				
	+				
B. p.R304P	-				
	+				

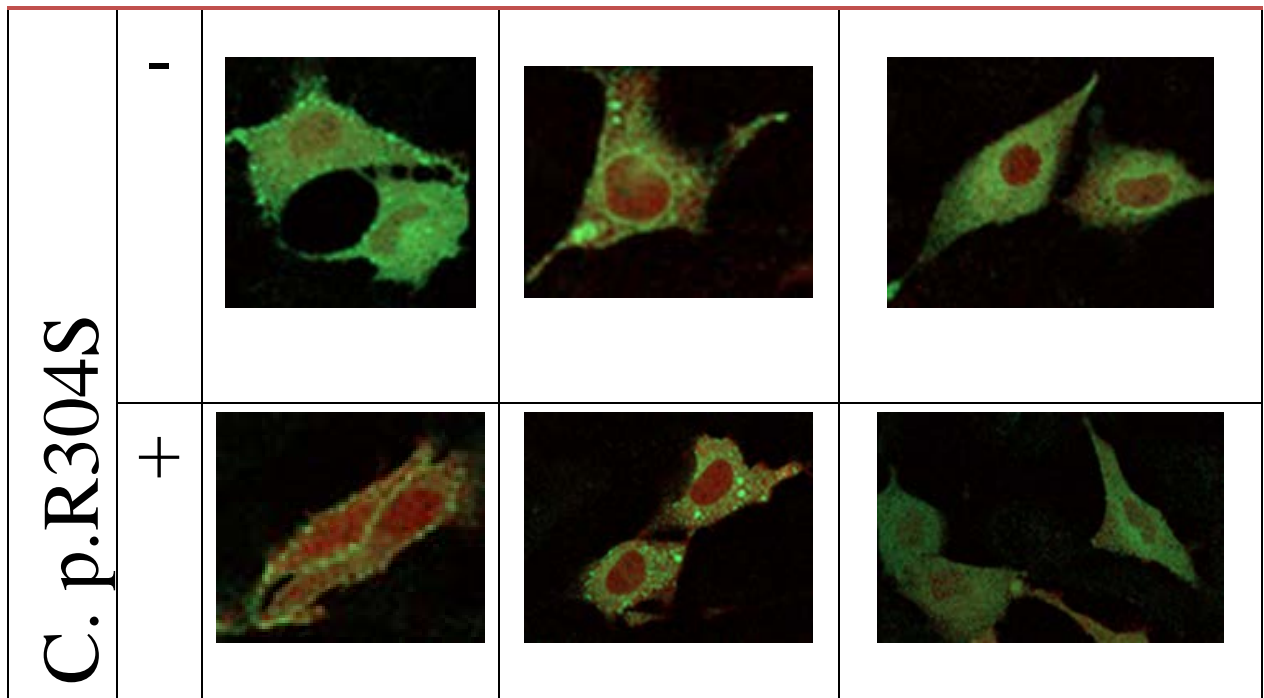


Figure 29 Ectopic expression of mutant Stim1 A. *Stim1-p.E296del* B. *Stim1-p.R304P* C. *Stim1-p.R304S*. Representative murine NIH 3T3 fibroblast cells co-expressing Stim-YFP variants (green) and mCHERRY-Orai1 (red) presented as a merge of the two signals. All constructs show large variation both with and without TG treatment and it is difficult to determine puncta formation.

In the wells with cells transfected with Stim1-YFP-p.R304E, there were many living cells without YFP or mCHERRY signals. The cells that showed both fluorescence signals had an appearance indicating that they were dead or dying cells, as demonstrated with examples in figure 30. They showed an elongated shape and the red signal showed ‘blobbing’ in the few cells that had the morphological appearance of living murine NIH 3T3 fibroblast cells.

These results may indicate that a cell death process was induced in cells co-transfected with Stim1-p.R304E and Orai1, but additional experiments are needed in order to explore if ectopic Stim1-p.R304E and Orai1 expression may be toxic to the NIH 3T3 cells.

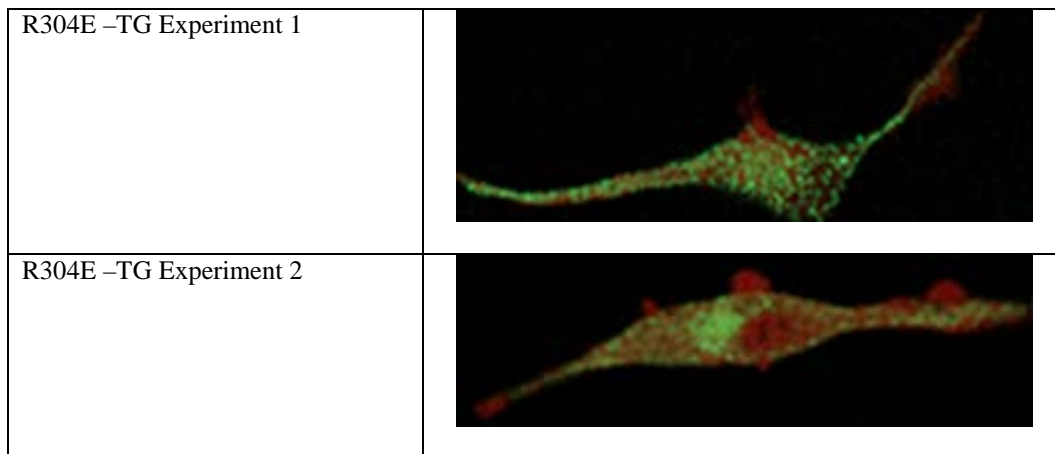


Figure 30 Appearance of Stim1-p.R304E-YFP and m-CHERRY-Orai transfected cells. Representative murine fibroblast 3T3 cells co-expressing Stim-YFP variants (green) and mCHERRY-Orai1 (red) presented as a merge of the two signals. The cells that are transfected are either dead or dying and the cells that still have an elongated cell shape, indicate red ‘blobbing’.

4.3 Measuring Ca²⁺-levels in transfected cells

In order to measure Ca²⁺-flux in cells ectopically expressing mutant Stim1, the cells were transfected with constructs expressing Stim1-WT, Stim1-p.R304W, Stim1-p.E296del and Stim1-p.E296del+R304W in co-transfection with mCHERRY-Orai1. The next day cells were treated with the dye INDO-1 AM, as described in material and methods and the whole cell fluorescence is presented as emission ratios in graphs in figure 32.

Figure 32 shows the results from measurements in cells co-transfected with mCHERRY-Orai1 and constructs expressing Stim1-WT, Stim1-p.R304W, Stim1-p.E296del or Stim1-p.E296del+R304W. Figure 32A shows the resting Ca²⁺ levels in cells incubated in medium with 2mM Ca²⁺ without TG. In these measurements the Stim1-p.R304W-, Stim1-p.E296del- and Stim1-WT- expressing cells show similar resting Ca²⁺ level, although Stim1-p.R304W has a slight tendency to be increased. The cells expressing Stim1-p.E296del+R304W show a tendency for lower resting Ca²⁺ level than the Stim1-WT expressing cells.

Figure 32B shows the change in the fluorescent ratio, and therefore the influx of Ca²⁺, after TG treatment in medium containing 10mM Ca²⁺. The levels in cells expressing Stim1-p.R304W and Stim1-p.E296del+R304W are comparable to cells expressing Stim1-WT although there may be a tendency for a slight increase. There is a tendency for an increase in the cells expressing Stim1-p.E296del. Additional experiments are required to get sufficient data to obtain conclusive results.

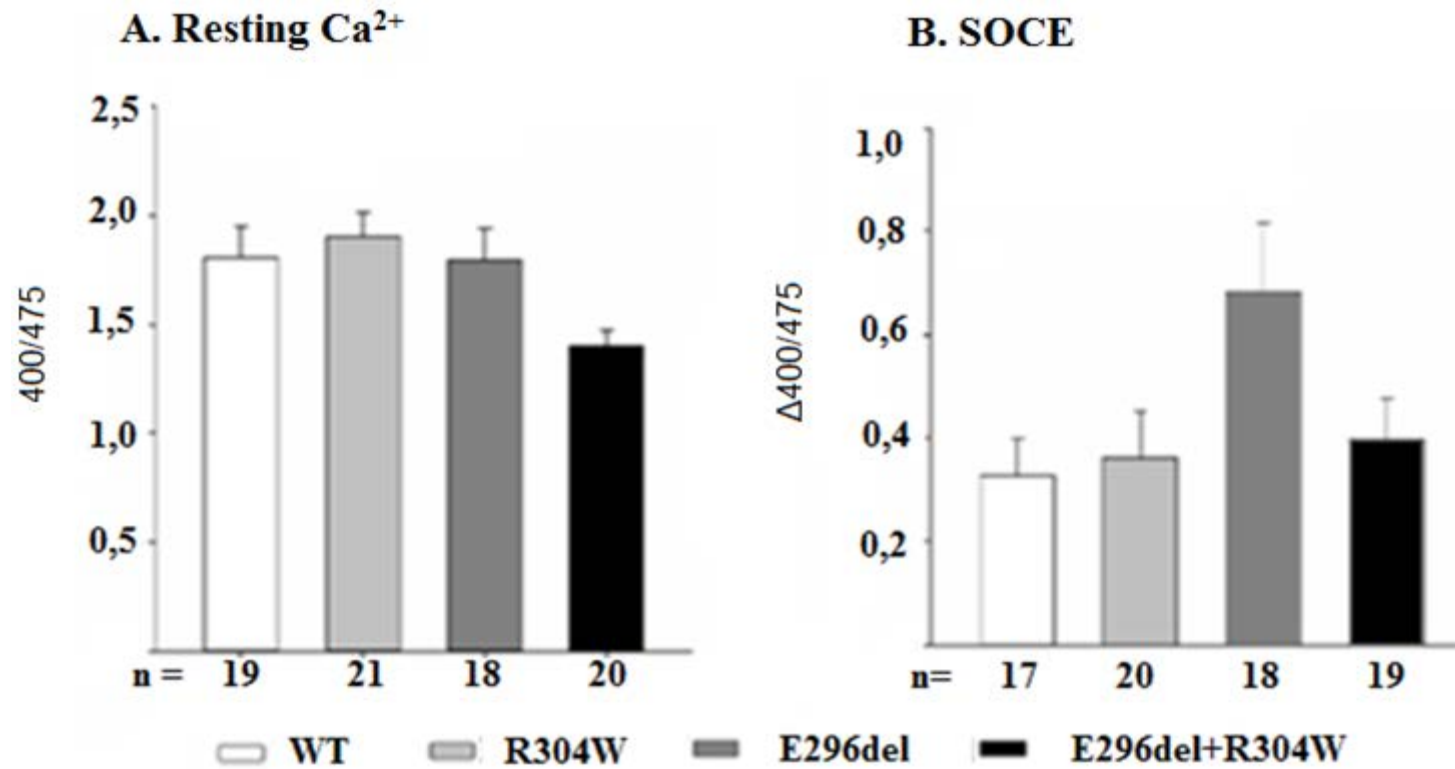


Figure 32 Results in cells ectopically expressing mCHERRY-Orai1 together with the mutant Stim1-YFP indicated A. Resting intracellular Ca^{2+} levels at physiological extracellular Ca^{2+} (2mM) B. Intracellular Ca^{2+} level after TG treatment in a 10mM Ca^{2+} solution. n = number of cells recorded. The scale of the Y-axis represents the ratio between Ca^{2+} bound INDO-1 AM and unbound INDO-1 AM. The standard error is indicated in the bar.

5 Discussion

The STIM1-p.R304W substitution causes Stormorken syndrome as a result of a constitutively active STIM1 protein, which has been shown to cause elevated platelet resting- Ca^{2+} concentrations in the patients (Misceo et al., 2014). In neonatal skin fibroblasts from the Stim1^{p.R304W} mouse model, the resting- Ca^{2+} levels were lower compared to cells from control mice (table 10). The set up presented in the current work aimed to investigate how ectopic expression of mutant Stim1 affects Ca^{2+} -flux. The Stim1-WT and the Stim1-p.R304W proteins were ectopically expressed in the murine NIH 3T3 fibroblast cell line to compare their effect on intracellular Ca^{2+} levels and on puncta formation. In addition to this, two deletion constructs were investigated within the same experimental set up, because the mouse model expressing a Stim1^{p.E296del+R304W} double mutant allele show no obvious differences in phenotype compared to the wild type litter mates. In these investigations, the constructs ectopically expressing Stim1-p.R304A, Stim1-p.R304P, Stim1-p.R304S and Stim1-p.R304E were also included. The results with these constructs may give an indication whether these changes of the amino acid at position p.304 are significant for the Stim1 activation state.

5.1 Analysis of the Stim1-constructs

The constructed Stim-1 expression vectors were analyzed using Sanger sequencing. The results demonstrated that the constructs contained the expected base substitutions after mutagenesis (figure 23). In addition, the rest of the sequence obtained, covering the transition between the CMV promoter and Stim1 as well as Stim1 and the transition to the YFP tag, did not have any deviations from reference sequence (section 8.8). Thus, the results indicate that the open reading frame for the Stim1-YFP fusion protein is intact and the introduced mutations were verified in all the vectors constructed.

The expression of Stim1 in the NIH 3T3 cells was assayed using Western blotting. Cells transfected with all constructs gave a band that corresponds to the size of the Stim1 fusion protein, which was not seen in the un-transfected cells (Figure 25). The functionality of the YFP tag was also assayed by transfecting cells followed by imaging in 470nm light. All of the transfected cells demonstrated fluorescence as shown (figure 24).

In summary, all the Stim1 expression vectors constructed were concluded to express a Stim1-YFP fusion protein with the amino acid substitution at the p.304 position as expected, in

addition to the deletion of codon p. E296 in two of the constructs; one with the p.R304W substitution and one with the wildtype p.R304.

5.2 The mCHERRY-Orai1 construct

The construct with the N-terminal tagged Orai1 plasmid was purchased from VectorBuilder. We designed the fusion protein with the mCHERRY tag as an N-terminal fusion. Current research suggests that both the N- and C-terminals of Orai1 are involved in Stim1 interaction (see section 1.1.3). The possibility of tag interference with Stim1-Orai1 interaction is a caveat that should be noted when results with this construct is interpreted.

The construct was received as a stab culture and the extracted plasmid DNA was Sanger sequenced across the promoter-, tag- and Orai1-regions showing no deviations from the reference Orai1 WT sequence (8.8.7).

Western blotting demonstrated endogenous expression of Orai1 in the NIH 3T3 cells (figure 26). Thus, the endogenous Orai1 expression in the NIH 3T3 cells may be sufficient for the Ca^{2+} measurements performed. In this thesis transfections were performed as co-transfections with the mCHERRY-Orai1 construct in order to obtain similar levels of the two proteins as they both were expressed from the strong CMV-promoter.

5.3 Puncta formation in NIH 3T3 cells with ectopic expression of mutant Stim1

Many previous studies performed transfections with human STIM1 wildtype and STIM1 variants in human cell lines to investigate different aspects of puncta formation (Gwozdz et al., 2008, Klejman et al., 2009, McNally et al., 2013, Nesin et al., 2014). However, to our knowledge the current study is the first transfecting a vector expressing the murine Stim1-p.R304W into a murine cell line. Although the amino acid sequences of STIM1 and Stim1 show 97% identity (1.1.3), the clear difference in resting Ca^{2+} and SOCE between cells from patients with Stormorken syndrome compared to cells from Stim1^{p.R304W} mice may indicate differences in effect of this mutation between man and mouse.

The choice of an appropriate cell line could facilitate a comparison between the previous work of Thilini Gamage on fibroblast cells from the Stim1^{p.R304W} mouse model, see section

1.5, and the experiments in the current work. The cell line chosen in these experiments was the NIH 3T3 cell line, which is an immortalized murine embryonic fibroblast cell line.

Two independent transfection experiments were performed with all of the eight Stim1 constructs including the Stim1-WT construct. In each experiment, four parallel transfections were performed as a control of the transfection conditions. The Stim1 constructs were from different plasmid extractions in the two independent experiments. All plasmid extracts were Sanger sequenced prior to transfection.

The mCHERRY-Orai1 signal did not re-locate in the cells treated with TG, in contrast to Stim1-WT in these experiments (figure 27), and also contrasting Orai1 signals documented in previously described experiments (Prakriya et al., 2015, Klejman et al., 2009, Gwozdz et al., 2008). Klejman et al. demonstrated that if Orai1 was overexpressed without co-expression of Stim1, Orai1 failed to redistribute into puncta (Klejman et al., 2009). They concluded that STIM1 is necessary for ORAI1 puncta formation. These experiments were performed with transfection of an untagged ORAI1 using immunofluorescence with an antibody specific to a stretch in the N-terminal of ORAI1. Gwozdz et al. (2008) transfected STIM1 together with an ORAI1 with a C-terminal GFP fusion into HEK293 cells and observed redistribution of both proteins after 5 μ M TG treatment for five minutes. As previously mentioned it cannot be excluded that the mCHERRY N-terminal tag interfered with Stim1 binding explaining the lack of redistribution of Orai1 in the current work.

In the results presented in this thesis, the cells that ectopically expressed the Stim1-WT construct showed a speckled pattern after TG treatment (figure 27). These results were reproducible in both individual experiments and in all parallel transfections. It was therefore concluded that it is possible to demonstrate puncta formation in transfected cells after TG treatment (figure 27).

Likewise, the cells ectopically expressing Stim1-p.E296del+R304W showed a speckled pattern only after TG treatment. These results indicate that the Stim1-p.E296del+R304W double mutant does not cause constitutive puncta formation, and that puncta formation was induced by TG treatment similar to the results in cells expressing Stim-WT (figure 28C). This is in agreement with the observation that Stim1^{p.E296del+R304W} double mutant mice show no phenotypic differences compared to wild type littermates.

The cells ectopically expressing Stim1-p.R304W and Stim1-p.R304A showed a speckled pattern both with and without TG treatment. This is consistent with constitutive puncta formation (figure 28A and B).

The cells ectopically expressing the remaining constructs: Stim1-p.R304P, Stim1-p.R304S and Stim1-p.E296del gave varying results (figure 29). Additional experiments are required to quantify the number of puncta per cell in order to assess if these mutations cause a more subtle effect on the puncta formation.

The cells ectopically expressing the Stim1-p.R304E construct were different from the rest of the constructs. The change from the wild type arginine, a positive amino acid, to the negative glutamate, may be the largest functional change for the protein function. In all individual and parallel experiments, most of the cells transfected with the construct expressing Stim1-p.R304E showed morphological signs of cell-death. There were several cells present in each well that were clearly alive, but they did not show fluorescence and therefore were not transfected. Also in the few cells that were transfected, and still had an elongated cell shape, red fluorescence had leaked out of the cell (figure 30). It is possible that this is an indication that the cell membrane was compromised. Considering that the cell has endogenous expression of wildtype Stim1 it is not likely that the p.R304E mutation causes the apoptotic effect by loss of Stim1 function. It is interesting to speculate whether a further increase of Stim1 function occurs in this variant, and thereby is responsible for an apoptotic effect. More experiments are required to investigate whether these initial findings are correct, and further what mechanism causes the effect.

The results with the construct expressing Stim1-p.R304A indicated constitutive puncta formation, and considering that alanine has similar charge properties as tryptophan (figure 18), it is possible to speculate that the charge of the amino acid in position p.304 plays a role in determining the ability of the CC1 domain to keep Stim1 inactive. However, further investigation of the other amino acid substitutions, Stim1-p.R304S, Stim1-p.R304P and Stim1-p.R304E are needed to investigate the effect of other charge properties.

Quantification of puncta formation is required to verify the results from this analysis as well as investigate the various constructs further to assess if more subtle variations can be documented. This can be achieved by analyzing images of a larger number of cells using programs like ImageJ.

Previous transfection studies have shown that the co-expression of STIM1-WT and STIM1-p.R304W in a transfection setting suppressed the effect of the STIM1-p.R304W mutation on Ca^{2+} flux (Nesin et al., 2014). This was shown in a transfection state where the WT and p.R304W variants were expressed in equal amounts in HEK293 cells. The possibility of endogenous Stim1 expression in the murine NIH 3T3 fibroblast cell line interfering with the effect of the ectopically expressed Stim1 mutants in these experiments needs to be taken into consideration. If endogenous Stim1 either forms multimers on its own or participates in hetero-multimers with Stim1 variants, it could hide the effect of mutations, because it is possible that it can keep the dimers in an inactive state, even if the other constituents are in an active state. In this way, the endogenous expression could possibly hide the effect of the Stim1 variants. Western analysis may not give a correct measure of the ratio between endogenous and fusion protein expression levels in the transfected cells (figure 25). This is because in the preparation of cell lysates for Western blotting all of the cells from a well is included. Many of the cells included are not transfected, see figure 24B, which results in a diluting effect on the amount of fusion protein measured compared to the endogenous expression and not give a correct representation of the expression relationship in a single transfected cell.

5.4 Ca^{2+} measurements in NIH 3T3 cells ectopically expressed mutant Stim1

The transfections were performed with the PolyJetTM system, which show a high transfection efficiency in NIH 3T3 cells (SignaGen® laboratories), but will also result in many untransfected cells. In this thesis, Ca^{2+} was directly measured in single cells identified by the tagged fusion proteins, thus measuring only cells that are transfected. Therefore, higher transfection efficiencies were not necessary for the work presented and the transfection efficiency achieved was not calculated.

The Ca^{2+} measurements were performed over a few days as independent experiments, with a mean cell number measure of approximately three per construct per day. All four constructs were measured in each independent experiment and the solutions were made from the same stock preparation and the pH adjusted to 7,4 before CaCl_2 and/or TG were added (see section 3.7.2), minimizing technical variation.

Previous experiments where intracellular Ca^{2+} levels were measured have used Ca^{2+} -indicators such as Fluo4 (work of Thilini Gamage, see section 1.5) or Fura-2 (Korzeniowski et al., 2010). The results obtained in platelets from patients with Stormorken syndrome were recorded with INDO-1 AM (Misceo et al., 2014). INDO-1 AM was chosen as the most suitable Ca^{2+} indicator in the experiments in the current work because the cells are transfected with both a red fluorescent protein and a yellow fluorescent protein. The wavelengths of both of these proteins emission can interfere with the emission from of Fluo4 or Fura-2 Ca^{2+} -indicators. INDO-1 AM emits light at 400nm and 475nm, which does not interfere with either YFP (emission peak at approximately 510nm) or mCHERRY (emission peak at approximately 610nm). The different Ca^{2+} indicators used in the previous experimental set ups can potentially be a source of variation when comparing the Ca^{2+} level results presented.

Previous experiments have indicated that the Ca^{2+} influx was affected according to the level of ORAI1 expression (Gwozdz et al., 2008). Therefore, the transfection experiments were performed with co-expression of Orai1 with Stim1 when measuring the Ca^{2+} flux.

5.4.1 Stim1-WT and Stim1-p.R304W

Even though more experiments are needed before firm conclusions can be drawn, the results presented in this thesis, with ectopic expression of the Stim1-p.R304W indicated a tendency for a slightly higher resting Ca^{2+} - and SOCE-level compared to cells ectopically expressing Stim1-WT (figure 32). Higher Ca^{2+} levels would correspond to the results previously presented in human cells (some observations summarized in table 10). Morin et al. (2014) documented significantly increased resting Ca^{2+} levels in HEK293T cells expressing STIM1-p.R304W and a significant increase in TG-activated SOCE when compared to cells expressing STIM1-WT. Nesin et al. (2014) obtained similar results when they expressed the STIM1-p.R304W variant in HEK293T cells and measured induced SOCE with electrophysiology (Nesin et al., 2014).

Nesin et al. (2014) also measured intracellular Ca^{2+} in skin fibroblasts from a patient with Stormorken syndrome. They found an increased SOCE in cells expressing STIM1-p.R304W compared to control cells. This correlates to the findings in transfected HEK293T cells (Morin et al., 2014, Nesin et al., 2014).

The primary cells from the murine model Stim1^{p.R304W/p.R304W}, however, demonstrated decreased resting Ca²⁺ level compared to the Stim1^{WT} cells (Thilini Gamage, personal communication). The measurements in the Stim1^{p.R304W/p.R304W} cells after TG treatment demonstrated an increased SOCE response compared to the Stim1^{WT} cells. These results are different from the results observed in human cells expressing the STIM1-p.R304W variant. The transfected human cells showed increased resting Ca²⁺, while the primary cells from the murine model showed decreased resting Ca²⁺. The resting Ca²⁺ level of the fibroblasts from patients with Stormorken syndrome was not measured (Nesin et al., 2014). Both the primary cells from the murine model and the human transfected cells showed increased SOCE Ca²⁺ levels.

Additional experiments are needed before the results from transfected murine cells can be compared to the results obtained in the primary murine model cells.

Sample	Ca ²⁺ indicator used	SOCE inducer used	Difference in resting Ca ²⁺ level, comparing STIM1p.R304W or Stim1-p.R304W to STIM1-WT or Stim1-WT	SOCE, STIM1-p.R304W/Stim1-p.R304W compared to STIM1/Stim1-WT (Ca ²⁺ concentration used)
Murine NIH 3T3 cells co-transfected (this thesis)	10μM INDO-1 AM	2μM TG	Increased	Increased (10mM Ca ²⁺)
Transfected HEK293T cells (Morin et al., 2014)	3μM FURA-2	2μM TG	Increased	Increased (10mM Ca ²⁺)
Transfected HEK293T cells (Nesin et al., 2014)	Electrophysiology	10mM EGTA	Increased	Increased
Skin fibroblasts from Stormorken patients (Nesin et al., 2014)	2μM FURA-2	2μM TG	Not tested	Increased (2mM Ca ²⁺)
Murine Stim1 ^{R304W/R304W} fibroblast (Thilini Gamage, personal communication)	Fluo4	2μM TG	Decreased	Increased (10mM Ca ²⁺)
Platelets from Stormorken patients (Misceo et al., 2014)	10μM INDO-1 AM	1μM TG	Increased	Decreased (1mM Ca ²⁺)

Table 10 Comparison of the intracellular Ca²⁺ levels recorded in cells with the STIM1-p.R304W/Stim1-p.R304W mutation

Different Ca²⁺ indicators were utilized in several of the experiments described (table 10). These may have an influence on different aspects of the analysis. Results from ratio-metric Ca²⁺ indicators are more robust because the Ca²⁺ level is estimated from the ratio of two wavelengths, which are equally affected by photo-bleaching. However, the variations recorded in the experiments with the STIM1/Stim1-variants are reproducible and should not be affected significantly by the difference in Ca²⁺ indicator.

There are differences between the measurements performed in human fibroblast cells expressing the STIM1-p.R304W variant and human platelets from patients with Stormorken syndrome. Measurements from the platelets showed decreased SOCE and measurements from fibroblasts showed increased SOCE (Misceo et al., 2014, Nesin et al., 2014). The measurements from the fibroblasts from patients with Stormorken syndrome were more similar to the measurements in primary cells from the murine model; both showing increased SOCE (Thilini Gamage, personal communication). This could indicate that the SOCE response is cell type specific.

The results from the only experiments performed where Stim1^{WT} is not present, the murine Stim1^{R304W/R304W} fibroblasts, show a decreased resting Ca²⁺-level (figure 10). The Ca²⁺-levels were increased after TG treatment in these cells, indicating that SOCE is functional (Thilini Gamage, personal communication). It is possible to speculate whether the presence of the wildtype allele affects Ca²⁺-flux. However, the primary cells from the heterozygous Stim1^{R304W/+} mice also showed decreased resting Ca²⁺, which do not support this hypothesis.

Increased resting Ca²⁺ levels have been detected in fibroblasts from patients with Stormorken syndrome (Thilini Gamage, personal communication), and also in transfection studies of human HEK293T cells (Morin et al., 2014 and Nesin et al., 2014), but the murine Stim1^{R304W/R304W} fibroblasts showed decreased resting Ca²⁺. There are two possible explanations for these results. First, that there is a species-specific effect of the Stim1-p.R304W variant, which manifests in a decreased resting Ca²⁺ level in primary cells from the murine model, which has so far not been detected in the current work. Second, that the ectopic expression of the Stim1-variant is not an accurate representation of the physiological process. However, the increased SOCE measurements in fibroblasts from patients with Stormorken syndrome does not correspond to the decreased SOCE measurements in platelets from patients with Stormorken syndrome (Nesin et al., 2014, Misceo et al., 2014), but this

difference may conceivably be caused by the differences in Ca^{2+} -concentrations used in the SOCE experiments, 2mM and 1mM respectively.

In summary, the differences seen between the measurements done in transfected cells and patient/model cells in the different species (mouse/human) may be due to technical differences, ectopic expression giving a different representation compared to the physiological condition, cell-type specific effects, species-specific effects or a combination of these. Obtaining more results from the experiments presented in the current work could increase the knowledge and help determine the effect of the Stim1-p.R304W variant in mice.

All of the studies mentioned here (Misceo et al., 2014, Nesin et al., 2014 and Morin et al., 2014) conclude that STIM1-p.R304W is constitutively active. Additional experiments are required before conclusions can be drawn concerning the effect of Stim1-p.R304W in mouse cells.

5.4.2 Stim1-p.E296del and Stim1-p.E296del+R304W

In addition to the experiments with constructs expressing Stim1-WT and Stim1-p.R304W, the two constructs expressing Stim1-p.E296del and Stim1-p.E296del+R304W were included in the experiments measuring Ca^{2+} -levels. To our knowledge no other experiments have been performed with these constructs. The motivation for the investigation of these constructs was the observation that Stim1^{p.R304W+E296del} double mutant mice, showed no difference in phenotype compared to Stim1^{WT} animals.

In the current work no difference in the resting Ca^{2+} were detected in cells ectopically expressing Stim1-p.E296del compared to cells ectopically expressing Stim1-WT, but a tendency for increased SOCE was observed. The cells ectopically expressing Stim1-p.E296del+R304W showed a tendency towards a decreased resting Ca^{2+} -concentration compared to cells ectopically expressing Stim1-WT. Additional experiments are needed before conclusions can be drawn concerning how the deletion of p.E296 affects the Stim1 function.

6 Conclusion

The aim of this thesis was to perform mutagenesis in order to create mutated Stim1-YFP fusion proteins. These constructs were to be used to assess puncta formation and to measure differences in Ca^{2+} flux. The experiments were performed to elucidate if the mutations have an impact on the activation state of Stim1. The main findings from this work were:

- The constructs; Stim1-p.R304A-YFP, Stim1-p.R304P-YFP, Stim1-p.R304S-YFP, Stim1-p.R304E-YFP, Stim1-p.E296del-YFP and Stim1-p.E296del+R304W-YFP, were shown to contain the mutations introduced, and expression of Stim1-YFP fusion proteins were verified by Western blot and microscopy.
- Microscope imaging of cells transfected with wild type constructs showed speckled YFP pattern only when treated with TG, suggesting that puncta formation was detected in these experiments.
- The results obtained in cells ectopically expressing Stim1-p.R304W-YFP and Stim1-p.R304A-YFP indicate constitutive puncta formation.
- Cells transfected with Stim1-p.E296del+R304W showed normal induction of puncta similar to cells transfected with Stim1-WT constructs.

Further experiments and objective quantifications of the images are required in order to detect small changes in puncta formation efficiency.

The Ca^{2+} flux experiments performed so far are inconclusive, but may indicate that cells ectopically expressing the Stim1-p.R304W construct have a slightly increased resting Ca^{2+} level and SOCE compared to cells expressing Stim1-WT. Higher Ca^{2+} levels have been interpreted as constitutive Stim1 in other studies (Morin et al., 2014, Nesin et al., 2014).

Additional experiments are required in order to obtain enough results to document the effects and to exclude outliers.

7 Future perspectives

Assessment of puncta formation

- Quantify the puncta formation to objectively determine puncta formation efficiency.
- Perform additional and independent imaging experiments with all the vectors constructed and investigate puncta formation efficiencies.

It would also be of interest to repeat the transfection with Stim1-p.R304E-YFP with mCHERRY-Orai1, since the results presented in the current work might suggest a toxic effect of the co-expression of this variant with Orai1 in the NIH 3T3 cells.

SOCE measurements

- Perform additional Ca^{2+} -flux measurements aiming to obtain conclusive results.
- Measure resting Ca^{2+} levels in cells transfected with the Stim1-R304A-YFP, Stim1-R304P-YFP, Stim1-R304S-YFP and Stim1-R304E-YFP constructs to investigate whether these results correlate with the results from the imaging experiments.
- Perform Ca^{2+} -flux measurements in a human fibroblast cell line transfected with the Stim1 constructs and Orai1 in order to compare with the results obtained in the murine cell line.

8 Supplements

8.1 Primer determined temperatures for thermocycler Q5 mutagenesis

Primer	Annealing temperature
R304A_forward	68°C
R304A/P/E_reverse	68°C
R304P_forward	68°C
R304E_forward	68°C
R304S_forward	66°C
R304S_reverse	66°C
E296del_forward	67°C
E296del_reverse	67°C

Table S1. Temperatures for the different primers in the Q5 mutagenesis reaction.

8.2 Standard PCR reaction

8.2.1 Reaction

Reagent	Amount (µl)
Buffer (-MgCl ₂)	2,5
dNTP	0,5
MgCl ₂	0,75
Primer forward	0,5
Primer reverse	0,5
Polymerase taq platinum	0,25
Template	1
Nuclease free H ₂ O	19
Total	25

Table S2. Standard reaction assembled for amplification of DNA with the PCR method.

8.2.2 Thermocycler

Step	Temperature °C	Duration
Initial denaturation	94°	2 minutes
Denaturation	94°	30 seconds
Annealing	58°	30 seconds
Elongation	72°	1 minute 30 seconds
Final extension	72°	7 minutes
Hold	4°	∞

Table S3. Fluctuations and duration of temperature in the PCR reaction, allowing the different replication steps to take place.

8.3 Standard sequencing reaction

8.3.1 Reaction

Reagent	Amount (µl)
Mq-H ₂ O	4,75
PCR product	2
5x sequencing buffer	2
Primer	1
BigDye terminator 3.1	0,25
Total	10

Table S4. Standard reaction assembled for sequencing of a DNA strand with the Sanger sequencing method.

8.3.2 Thermocycler

Step	Temperature °C	Duration
Initial denaturation	96°	1 minute
Denaturation	96°	10 seconds
Annealing	50°	5 seconds
Elongation	60°	4 minutes
Hold	10°	∞

Table S5. Fluctuations and duration of temperature in the PCR reaction creating the DNA strands read by the Sanger sequencing machine.

8.3.3 CleanSEQ

Before the Sanger sequencing PCR reaction can be measured it must be purified. This was achieved with the CleanSEQ system from Beckman Coulter. It consists of magnetic beads that bind the sequencing product and thereby separate it from the rest of the solution. Magnets pull the beads to the walls of the tube and the solution containing contaminants was extracted. The sequencing product was eluted from the magnetic beads and can be pipetted out while the beads again were held to the walls of the tube.

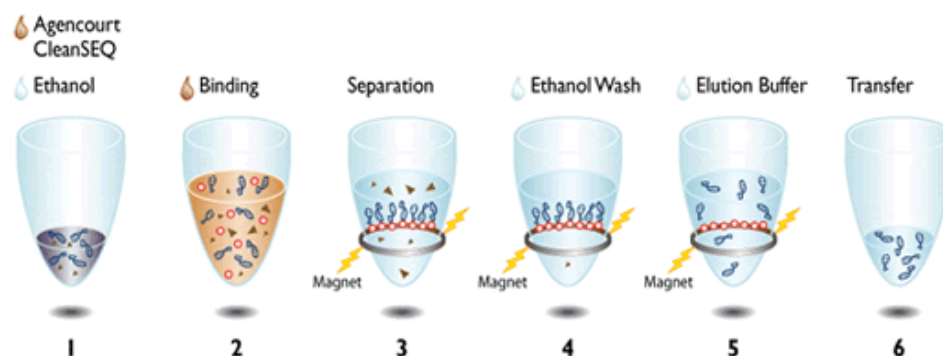


Figure S1 CleanSEQ procedure CleanSEQ was added to the sequencing reaction solution and the PCR-product binds to the magnetic beads. A magnet pulled the beads with the product bound to the sides of the tube and the contaminants were extracted with the solution. The beads were washed with ethanol and the product was eluted

from the magnetic beads. Finally, the product was transferred without the magnetic beads and the product was thereby purified (BeckmanCoulter, 2016).

8.4 Cell counting

Cell counting was performed on the NucleoCounter® machine delivered by Chemometec. The system is based on a dye that binds to nucleic acid and has a fluorescent capacity. There are two buffers, buffer A that lysis the cells and buffer B that stabilizes the pH and stops the nucleic acids from degrading. The solution was added to the nucleo-casette where the machine counts the number of fluorescent signals. It therefore counts the number of nuclei, hence the name, and gives the number in cells per ml. After this one needs to compensate for the dilutions with the solutions A and B as well as how many milliliters the cells were resuspended in. This is the total number of cells in the sample.

8.5 Buffer and media composition

8.5.1 Buffer composition QIAGEN® Plasmid Kit Midi prep

Buffer	Components
P1 (resuspension)	50 mM Tris-Cl, pH 8,0 10 mM EDTA 100µg/ml RNase A
P2 (lysis)	200 mM NaOH, 1% SDS
P3 (precipitation, neutralization)	3.0 M potassium acetate, pH 5,5
QBT (equilibration)	750 mM NaCl 50 mM MOPS, pH 7,0 15% isopropanol 0,15% Triton® X-100
QC (wash)	1.0 M NaCl 50 mM MOPS pH 7.0 15% isopropanol
QF (elution)	1.25 M NaCl 50 mM Tris-Cl pH 8.5 15% isopropanol
TE	10 mM Tris-Cl, pH 8,0 1mM EDTA

Table S6 Buffer composition for QIAGEN® Plasmid Kit

8.5.2 NIH 3T3 media composition

The growth media for the cells is DMEM delivered by SIGMA-ALDRICH, D6546. This is high glucose media with 4500 mg/L glucose, 110 mg/L sodium pyruvate and sodium bicarbonate. It does not contain L-glutamine and has exchanged pyridoxal for pyridoxine for

stability of the media. Before use 50 ml (10%) fetal calf serum, 5 ml L-glutamine and 10 ml penstrep is added making the composition as below (SIGMA-ALDRICH, 2016).

4500 mg/L	2250 mg	Glucose
110 mg/L	55 mg	Sodium pyruvate
110 mg/L	55 mg	Sodium bicarbonate
10%	50 ml	FCS
1%	5 ml	L-glutamine
2%	10 ml	PenStrep (penicillin and streptomycin)

Table S7. Contents of the growth media for NIH 3T3 cells.

8.5.3 Hepes Tyrade (**HT**) buffer composition 500 ml

mM	Component	Amount (gram)
140	NaCl	4,00
5	Hepes	0,60
5,4	KCl	0,20
0,5	MgCl ₂ 6H ₂ O	0,05
5,5	Glucose	0,55
0,4	NaH ₂ PO ₄ H ₂ O	0,03

Table S8. HT buffer composition

8.6 Symptoms table, Stormorken syndrome

Sex	M	M	F	F	F	M	F	F	M	M	F	M	M	7M/6F
Age at report	33	6	19	2.5	65	42	65	36	43	44	?	?	52	
Miosis	Marked	Moderate	Marked	Moderate	Marked	Marked	Severe	Severe	Present	Severe	Present	Present	Severe	13/13
Short stature (cm)	157	101.5	160	85	159	172	?	146	171	163	?	?	?	5/9
Low body weight (kg)	57.6	13.6	49	?	53	73	?	31.5	61	?	?	?	?	3/7
Ichthyosis	+	Urticaria	Urticaria	+	+	++	+	+	+	?	?	?	+	10/10
Dyslexia	?	?	+	?	+	++	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	3/3
Learning difficulties	+	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	6/6
Headache	-	-	+	-	++	+	ND	+	+	ND	ND	ND	+	6/9
Muscular weakness and cramps	+/-	+	+	-	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	11/12
Asplenia	+	-	+	-	+	+	Hypoplasia	Hypoplasia	+	Splenectomy	+	+	+	8/13
Bleeding tendency	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	8/12
Thrombocytes 10 ⁹ /l	97–146	28–207	40–120	<10	75–90	70–95	18	64	60–74	140–150	99	83	83	13/13
Bleeding time (Ivy) (min)	7.5	15	+	?	16–20	14–18	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	5/5
Increased creatine kinase level (U/L)	4,412	769	919	491	+	+	327	1,923–4,017	820–1,718	1,834–3,540	1,668	3,819	3,819	13/13
Muscle biopsy	TAM	Mild TAM	ND	ND	ND	TAM	ND	TAM	ND	TAM	ND	ND	ND	5/5
Hypocalcemia (Ca ²⁺) (mmol/l)	+	+	+/-	ND	+	+	ND	-	+	+	?	?	+	8/9
	1.05	1.1	1.26	ND	1.1	1.01–1.16	ND	ND	0.95–1	ND	ND	ND	ND	

Table S9. Symptoms of described patients with Stormorken syndrome (Morin et al., 2014).

8.7 Reference sequence

Sequences collected from the ensembl database for mouse;

http://www.ensembl.org/Mus_musculus/Info/Index, and human GRCh37;

http://grch37.ensembl.org/Homo_sapiens/Info/Index

8.7.1 Human *STIM1*

1	ATGGATGTATGCGTCCGTCTTGCCCTGTGGCTCCTCTGGGGACTCCTCCTGCACCAGGGC	60
1	ATGGATGTATGCGTCCGTCTTGCCCTGTGGCTCCTCTGGGGACTCCTCCTGCACCAGGGC	60
1	-M--D--V--C--V--R--L--A--L--W--L--L--W--G--L--L--L--H--Q--G-	20
61	CAGAGCCTCAGCCATAGTCACAGTGAGAAGGCGACAGGAACCAGCTCGGGGGCCAACCTCT	120
61	CAGAGCCTCAGCCATAGTCACAGTGAGAAGGCGACAGGAACCAGCTCGGGGGCCAACCTCT	120
21	-Q--S--L--S--H--S--H--S--E--K--A--T--G--T--S--S--G--A--N--S-	40
121	GAGGAGTCCACTGCAGCAGAGTTTTGCCGAATTGACAAGCCCCTGTGTACAGTGAGGAT	180
121	GAGGAGTCCACTGCAGCAGAGTTTTGCCGAATTGACAAGCCCCTGTGTACAGTGAGGAT	180
41	-E--E--S--T--A--A--E--F--C--R--I--D--K--P--L--C--H--S--E--D-	60
181	GAGAAACTCAGCTTCGAGGCAGTCCGTAACATCCACAAACTGATGGACGATGATGCCAAT	240
181	GAGAAACTCAGCTTCGAGGCAGTCCGTAACATCCACAAACTGATGGACGATGATGCCAAT	240
61	-E--K--L--S--F--E--A--V--R--N--I--H--K--L--M--D--D--D--A--N-	80
241	GGTGATGTGGATGTGGAAGAAAGTGATGAGTTCCTGAGGGAAGACCTCAATTACCATGAC	300
241	GGTGATGTGGATGTGGAAGAAAGTGATGAGTTCCTGAGGGAAGACCTCAATTACCATGAC	300
81	-G--D--V--D--V--E--E--S--D--E--F--L--R--E--D--L--N--Y--H--D-	100
301	CCAACAGTGAAACACAGCACCTTCCATGGTGAGGATAAGCTCATCAGCGTGGAGACCTG	360
301	CCAACAGTGAAACACAGCACCTTCCATGGTGAGGATAAGCTCATCAGCGTGGAGACCTG	360
101	-P--T--V--K--H--S--T--F--H--G--E--D--K--L--I--S--V--E--D--L-	120
361	TGGAAGGCATGGAAGTCATCAGAAGTATACAATTTGGACCGTGGATGAGGTGGTACAGTGG	420
361	TGGAAGGCATGGAAGTCATCAGAAGTATACAATTTGGACCGTGGATGAGGTGGTACAGTGG	420
121	-W--K--A--W--K--S--S--E--V--Y--N--W--T--V--D--E--V--V--Q--W-	140
421	CTGATCACATATGTGGAGCTGCCTCAGTATGAGGAGACCTTCCGGAAGCTGCAGCTCAGT	480
421	CTGATCACATATGTGGAGCTGCCTCAGTATGAGGAGACCTTCCGGAAGCTGCAGCTCAGT	480
141	-L--I--T--Y--V--E--L--P--Q--Y--E--E--T--F--R--K--L--Q--L--S-	160
481	GGCCATGCCATGCCAAGGCTGGCTGTACCAACACCACCATGACAGGGACTGTGCTGAAG	540
481	GGCCATGCCATGCCAAGGCTGGCTGTACCAACACCACCATGACAGGGACTGTGCTGAAG	540
161	-G--H--A--M--P--R--L--A--V--T--N--T--T--M--T--G--T--V--L--K-	180
541	ATGACAGACCGGAGTCATCGGCAGAAGCTGCAGCTGAAGGCTCTGGATACAGTGCTCTTT	600
541	ATGACAGACCGGAGTCATCGGCAGAAGCTGCAGCTGAAGGCTCTGGATACAGTGCTCTTT	600
181	-M--T--D--R--S--H--R--Q--K--L--Q--L--K--A--L--D--T--V--L--F-	200
601	GGGCCTCCTCTCTTGACTCGCCATAATCACCTCAAGGACTTCATGCTGGTGGTGTCTATC	660
601	GGGCCTCCTCTCTTGACTCGCCATAATCACCTCAAGGACTTCATGCTGGTGGTGTCTATC	660
201	-G--P--P--L--L--T--R--H--N--H--L--K--D--F--M--L--V--V--S--I-	220
661	GTTATTGGTGTGGGCGGCTGCTGGTTTGCCTATATCCAGAACCCTTACTCCAAGGAGCAC	720
661	GTTATTGGTGTGGGCGGCTGCTGGTTTGCCTATATCCAGAACCCTTACTCCAAGGAGCAC	720
221	-V--I--G--V--G--G--C--W--F--A--Y--I--Q--N--R--Y--S--K--E--H-	240
721	ATGAAGAAGATGATGAAGGACTTGGAGGGGTTACACCGAGCTGAGCAGAGTCTGCATGAC	780
721	ATGAAGAAGATGATGAAGGACTTGGAGGGGTTACACCGAGCTGAGCAGAGTCTGCATGAC	780
241	-M--K--K--M--M--K--D--L--E--G--L--H--R--A--E--Q--S--L--H--D-	260

781	CTTCAGGAAAAGGCTGCACAAGGCCAGGAGGAGCACCGCACAGTGGAGGTGGAGAAGGTC	840
781	CTTCAGGAAAAGGCTGCACAAGGCCAGGAGGAGCACCGCACAGTGGAGGTGGAGAAGGTC	840
261	-L--Q--E--R--L--H--K--A--Q--E--E--H--R--T--V--E--V--E--K--V-	280
841	CATCTGGAAAAGAAGCTGCGCGATGAGATCAACCTTGCTAAGCAGGAAGCCCAGCGGCTG	900
841	CATCTGGAAAAGAAGCTGCGCGATGAGATCAACCTTGCTAAGCAGGAAGCCCAGCGGCTG	900
281	-H--L--E--K--K--L--R--D--E--I--N--L--A--K--Q--E--A--Q--R--L-	300
901	AAGGAGCTGCGGGAGGGTACTGAGAATGAGCGGAGCCGCCAAAAATATGCTGAGGAGGAG	960
901	AAGGAGCTGCGGGAGGGTACTGAGAATGAGCGGAGCCGCCAAAAATATGCTGAGGAGGAG	960
301	-K--E--L--R--E--G--T--E--N--E--R--S--R--Q--K--Y--A--E--E--E-	320
961	TTGGAGCAGGTTTCGGGAGGCCCTTGAGGAAAGCAGAGAAGGAGCTAGAATCTCACAGCTCA	1020
961	TTGGAGCAGGTTTCGGGAGGCCCTTGAGGAAAGCAGAGAAGGAGCTAGAATCTCACAGCTCA	1020
321	-L--E--Q--V--R--E--A--L--R--K--A--E--K--E--L--E--S--H--S--S-	340
1021	TGGTATGCTCCAGAGGCCCTTCAAGAAGTGGCTGCGAGCTGACACATGAGGTGGAGGTGCAA	1080
1021	TGGTATGCTCCAGAGGCCCTTCAAGAAGTGGCTGCGAGCTGACACATGAGGTGGAGGTGCAA	1080
341	-W--Y--A--P--E--A--L--Q--K--W--L--Q--L--T--H--E--V--E--V--Q-	360
1081	TATTACAACATCAAGAAGCAAAATGCTGAGAAGCAGCTGCTGGTGGCCAAGGAGGGGGCT	1140
1081	TATTACAACATCAAGAAGCAAAATGCTGAGAAGCAGCTGCTGGTGGCCAAGGAGGGGGCT	1140
361	-Y--Y--N--I--K--K--Q--N--A--E--K--Q--L--L--V--A--K--E--G--A-	380
1141	GAGAAGATAAAAAAGAAGAGAAACACACTCTTTGGCACCTTCCACGTGGCCACAGCTCT	1200
1141	GAGAAGATAAAAAAGAAGAGAAACACACTCTTTGGCACCTTCCACGTGGCCACAGCTCT	1200
381	-E--K--I--K--K--K--R--N--T--L--F--G--T--F--H--V--A--H--S--S-	400
1201	TCCCTGGATGATGTAGATCATAAAAATTCTAACAGCTAAGCAAGCACTGAGCGAGGTGACA	1260
1201	TCCCTGGATGATGTAGATCATAAAAATTCTAACAGCTAAGCAAGCACTGAGCGAGGTGACA	1260
401	-S--L--D--D--V--D--H--K--I--L--T--A--K--Q--A--L--S--E--V--T-	420
1261	GCAGCATTCGGGAGCGCCTGCACCGCTGGCAACAGATCGAGATCCTCTGTGGCTTCCAG	1320
1261	GCAGCATTCGGGAGCGCCTGCACCGCTGGCAACAGATCGAGATCCTCTGTGGCTTCCAG	1320
421	-A--A--L--R--E--R--L--H--R--W--Q--Q--I--E--I--L--C--G--F--Q-	440
1321	ATTGTCAACAACCCTGGCATCCACTCACTGGTGGCTGCCCTCAACATAGACCCCAGCTGG	1380
1321	ATTGTCAACAACCCTGGCATCCACTCACTGGTGGCTGCCCTCAACATAGACCCCAGCTGG	1380
441	-I--V--N--N--P--G--I--H--S--L--V--A--A--L--N--I--D--P--S--W-	460
1381	ATGGGCAGTACACGCCCCAACCTGCTCACTTCATCATGACTGACGACGTGGATGACATG	1440
1381	ATGGGCAGTACACGCCCCAACCTGCTCACTTCATCATGACTGACGACGTGGATGACATG	1440
461	-M--G--S--T--R--P--N--P--A--H--F--I--M--T--D--D--V--D--D--M-	480
1441	GATGAGGAGATTGTGTCTCCCTTGTCCATGCAGTCCCCTAGCCTGCAGAGCAGTGTTCGG	1500
1441	GATGAGGAGATTGTGTCTCCCTTGTCCATGCAGTCCCCTAGCCTGCAGAGCAGTGTTCGG	1500
481	-D--E--E--I--V--S--P--L--S--M--Q--S--P--S--L--Q--S--S--V--R-	500
1501	CAGCGCCTGACGGAGCCACAGCATGGCCTGGGATCTCAGAGGTTGGTAGAGGGCGAGGCT	1560
1501	CAGCGCCTGACGGAGCCACAGCATGGCCTGGGATCTCAGAGGTTGGTAGAGGGCGAGGCT	1560
501	-Q--R--L--T--E--P--Q--H--G--L--G--S--Q--R--L--V--E--G--E--A-	520
1561	GGCCACTTCTTGACAAGCCGGTATCTCTGCGGCGAATGCGCAGCCTTTCATCTGGACAG	1620
1561	GGCCACTTCTTGACAAGCCGGTATCTCTGCGGCGAATGCGCAGCCTTTCATCTGGACAG	1620
521	-G--H--F--L--T--S--R--V--S--L--R--R--M--R--S--L--S--S--G--Q-	540
1621	TCTTTCAGTTCTGAAGGCTACGGGACCAGCTCTCCATCTGCCCTGCTGCTGCTTCTTGC	1680
1621	TCTTTCAGTTCTGAAGGCTACGGGACCAGCTCTCCATCTGCCCTGCTGCTGCTTCTTGC	1680
541	-S--F--S--S--E--G--Y--G--T--S--S--P--S--A--S--A--A--A--S--C-	560
1681	TCCTCTTCCATCACCACCATCACCACCACCACCACCACCACCACCTTACCACCGTC	1740
1681	TCCTCTTCCATCACCACCATCACCACCACCACCACCACCACCACCACCTTACCACCGTC	1740
561	-S--S--S--I--T--T--I--T--T--T--T--T--T--T--T--T--F--T--T--V-	580
1741	CATGTCCACCCTGTTTATTACCACCACAGCACTTCCTATTTCTCCAGATGGAGCCCTAC	1800
1741	CATGTCCACCCTGTTTATTACCACCACAGCACTTCCTATTTCTCCAGATGGAGCCCTAC	1800

581 -H--V--H--P--V--Y--Y--H--H--S--T--S--Y--F--L--Q--M--E--P--Y- 600

1801 CCTGACACACCCCTTCTGACAGCACCGCTGTGATGCCTGGGCATTTCAGAGAGCTTGGGG 1860
1801 CCTGACACACCCCTTCTGACAGCACCGCTGTGATGCCTGGGCATTTCAGAGAGCTTGGGG 1860
601 -P--D--T--P--P--S--D--S--T--A--V--M--P--G--H--S--E--S--L--G- 620

1861 GATTTGACCCATTCCGATTCGGAGTCCTCCCTCCACATGAGTGACCGCCAGCGTGTGGCC 1920
1861 GATTTGACCCATTCCGATTCGGAGTCCTCCCTCCACATGAGTGACCGCCAGCGTGTGGCC 1920
621 -D--L--T--H--S--D--S--E--S--S--L--H--M--S--D--R--Q--R--V--A- 640

1921 CCCAAACCTCCTCAGATGAGCCGTGCTGCAGACGAGGCTCTCAATGCCATGACTTCCAAT 1980
1921 CCCAAACCTCCTCAGATGAGCCGTGCTGCAGACGAGGCTCTCAATGCCATGACTTCCAAT 1980
641 -P--K--P--P--Q--M--S--R--A--A--D--E--A--L--N--A--M--T--S--N- 660

1981 GGCAGCCACCGCTGATCGAGGGGTCCACCCAGGGTCTCTGGTGGAGAACTGCCTGAC 2040
1981 GGCAGCCACCGCTGATCGAGGGGTCCACCCAGGGTCTCTGGTGGAGAACTGCCTGAC 2040
661 -G--S--H--R--L--I--E--G--V--H--P--G--S--L--V--E--K--L--P--D- 680

2041 AGCCCTGCCCTGGCCAAGAAGGCATTACTGGCGCTGAACCATGGGCTGGACAAGGCCAC 2100
2041 AGCCCTGCCCTGGCCAAGAAGGCATTACTGGCGCTGAACCATGGGCTGGACAAGGCCAC 2100
681 -S--P--A--L--A--K--K--A--L--L--A--L--N--H--G--L--D--K--A--H- 700

2101 AGCCTGATGGAGCTGAGCCCTCAGCCCCACCTGGTGGCTCTCCACATTTGGATTCTTCC 2160
2101 AGCCTGATGGAGCTGAGCCCTCAGCCCCACCTGGTGGCTCTCCACATTTGGATTCTTCC 2160
701 -S--L--M--E--L--S--P--S--A--P--P--G--G--S--P--H--L--D--S--S- 720

2161 CGTTCTCACAGCCCCAGCTCCCAGACCCAGACACACCATCTCCAGTTGGGGACAGCCGA 2220
2161 CGTTCTCACAGCCCCAGCTCCCAGACCCAGACACACCATCTCCAGTTGGGGACAGCCGA 2220
721 -R--S--H--S--P--S--S--P--D--P--D--T--P--S--P--V--G--D--S--R- 740

2221 GCCCTGCAAGCCAGCCGAAACACACGCATTCCCCACCTGGCTGGCAAGAAGGCTGTGGCT 2280
2221 GCCCTGCAAGCCAGCCGAAACACACGCATTCCCCACCTGGCTGGCAAGAAGGCTGTGGCT 2280
741 -A--L--Q--A--S--R--N--T--R--I--P--H--L--A--G--K--K--A--V--A- 760

2281 GAGGAGGATAATGGCTCTATTGGCGAGGAAACAGACTCCAGCCAGGCCGGAAGAAGTTT 2340
2281 GAGGAGGATAATGGCTCTATTGGCGAGGAAACAGACTCCAGCCAGGCCGGAAGAAGTTT 2340
761 -E--E--D--N--G--S--I--G--E--E--T--D--S--S--P--G--R--K--K--F- 780

2341 CCCCTCAAAATCTTTAAGAAGCCTCTTAAGAAGTAG 2376
2341 CCCCTCAAAATCTTTAAGAAGCCTCTTAAGAAGTAG 2376
781 -P--L--K--I--F--K--K--P--L--K--K--*- 2376

STIM1
p.R304W
c.910C>T

841 CATCTGGAAAAGAAGCTGCGCGATGAGATCAACCTTGCTAAGCAGGAAGCCCAGCGGCTG 900
841 CATCTGGAAAAGAAGCTGCGCGATGAGATCAACCTTGCTAAGCAGGAAGCCCAGCGGCTG 900
281 -H--L--E--K--K--L--R--D--E--I--N--L--A--K--Q--E--A--Q--R--L- 300

901 AAGGAGCTGCGGAGGGTACTGAGAATGAGCGGAGCCGCCAAAAATATGCTGAGGAGGAG 960
901 AAGGAGCTGCGGAGGGTACTGAGAATGAGCGGAGCCGCCAAAAATATGCTGAGGAGGAG 960
301 -K--E--L--R--E--G--T--E--N--E--R--S--R--Q--K--Y--A--E--E--E- 320

961 TTGGAGCAGGTTTCGGGAGGCCTTGAGGAAAAGCAGAGAAGGAGCTAGAACTCACAGCTCA 1020
961 TTGGAGCAGGTTTCGGGAGGCCTTGAGGAAAAGCAGAGAAGGAGCTAGAACTCACAGCTCA 1020
321 -L--E--Q--V--R--E--A--L--R--K--A--E--K--E--L--E--S--H--S--S- 340

8.7.2 Mouse *Stim1*

1	ATGGATGTGTGCGCCCGTCTTGCCCTGTGGCTTCTTTGGGGGCTCCTTCTGCATCAGGGC	60
1	ATGGATGTGTGCGCCCGTCTTGCCCTGTGGCTTCTTTGGGGGCTCCTTCTGCATCAGGGC	60
1	-M--D--V--C--A--R--L--A--L--W--L--L--W--G--L--L--L--H--Q--G-	20
61	CAGAGTCTCAGCCATAGTCACAGTGAAAAGAATACAGGAGCTAGCTCCGGGGCGACTTCT	120
61	CAGAGTCTCAGCCATAGTCACAGTGAAAAGAATACAGGAGCTAGCTCCGGGGCGACTTCT	120
21	-Q--S--L--S--H--S--H--S--E--K--N--T--G--A--S--S--G--A--T--S-	40
121	GAAGAGTCTACCGAAGCAGAGTTTGGCCGAATTGACAAGCCCCTGTGCCACAGTGAGGAT	180
121	GAAGAGTCTACCGAAGCAGAGTTTGGCCGAATTGACAAGCCCCTGTGCCACAGTGAGGAT	180
41	-E--E--S--T--E--A--E--F--C--R--I--D--K--P--L--C--H--S--E--D-	60
181	GAGAAGCTCAGCTTTGAGGCCGTCGAAACATCCATAAGCTGATGGATGACGATGCCAAT	240
181	GAGAAGCTCAGCTTTGAGGCCGTCGAAACATCCATAAGCTGATGGATGACGATGCCAAT	240
61	-E--K--L--S--F--E--A--V--R--N--I--H--K--L--M--D--D--D--A--N-	80
241	GGTGATGTGGATGTGGAAGAAAGTGATGAGTTCCTAAGGGAGACCTCAATTACCATGAC	300
241	GGTGATGTGGATGTGGAAGAAAGTGATGAGTTCCTAAGGGAGACCTCAATTACCATGAC	300
81	-G--D--V--D--V--E--E--S--D--E--F--L--R--E--D--L--N--Y--H--D-	100
301	CCAACAGTGAAACATAGCACCTTCCATGGTGAGGATAAGCTTATCAGCGTGGAGGACCTG	360
301	CCAACAGTGAAACATAGCACCTTCCATGGTGAGGATAAGCTTATCAGCGTGGAGGACCTG	360
101	-P--T--V--K--H--S--T--F--H--G--E--D--K--L--I--S--V--E--D--L-	120
361	TGGAAGCGCTGGAAGTCATCAGAAGTGTACAACCTGGACTGTGGATGAGGTGATACAGTGG	420
361	TGGAAGCGCTGGAAGTCATCAGAAGTGTACAACCTGGACTGTGGATGAGGTGATACAGTGG	420
121	-W--K--A--W--K--S--S--E--V--Y--N--W--T--V--D--E--V--I--Q--W-	140
421	CTCATTACGTATGTGGAGCTGCCACAGTATGAGGAAACCTTCCGGAAGTTGCAGCTTACT	480
421	CTCATTACGTATGTGGAGCTGCCACAGTATGAGGAAACCTTCCGGAAGTTGCAGCTTACT	480
141	-L--I--T--Y--V--E--L--P--Q--Y--E--E--T--F--R--K--L--Q--L--T-	160
481	GGCCACGCCATGCCAAGGCTAGCAGTAACCAACACCACCATGACAGGGACTGTACTGAAG	540
481	GGCCACGCCATGCCAAGGCTAGCAGTAACCAACACCACCATGACAGGGACTGTACTGAAG	540
161	-G--H--A--M--P--R--L--A--V--T--N--T--T--M--T--G--T--V--L--K-	180
541	ATGACAGATCGGAGCCACAGGCAGAAGCTGCAGCTGAAGGCCCTGGACACAGTGCTGTTT	600
541	ATGACAGATCGGAGCCACAGGCAGAAGCTGCAGCTGAAGGCCCTGGACACAGTGCTGTTT	600
181	-M--T--D--R--S--H--R--Q--K--L--Q--L--K--A--L--D--T--V--L--F-	200
601	GGGCCTCCTCTCTTGACTCGGCATAATCACCTGAAGGACTTCATGCTGGTGGTGTCTATC	660
601	GGGCCTCCTCTCTTGACTCGGCATAATCACCTGAAGGACTTCATGCTGGTGGTGTCTATC	660
201	-G--P--P--L--L--T--R--H--N--H--L--K--D--F--M--L--V--V--S--I-	220
661	GTTATTGGTGTGGGTGGCTGCTGGTTTGCCATATCCAGAACCGTTACTCTAAGGAGCAC	720
661	GTTATTGGTGTGGGTGGCTGCTGGTTTGCCATATCCAGAACCGTTACTCTAAGGAGCAC	720
221	-V--I--G--V--G--G--C--W--F--A--Y--I--Q--N--R--Y--S--K--E--H-	240
721	ATGAAGAAAATGATGAAGGATCTGGAAGGGTTACACCGGGCTGAGCAGAGTCTGCATGAC	780
721	ATGAAGAAAATGATGAAGGATCTGGAAGGGTTACACCGGGCTGAGCAGAGTCTGCATGAC	780
241	-M--K--K--M--M--K--D--L--E--G--L--H--R--A--E--Q--S--L--H--D-	260
781	CTTCAGGAAAGGCTGCACAAGGCCAGGAGGAGCACCGAAGCTGTGGAAGTAGAGAAGGTC	840
781	CTTCAGGAAAGGCTGCACAAGGCCAGGAGGAGCACCGAAGCTGTGGAAGTAGAGAAGGTC	840
261	-L--Q--E--R--L--H--K--A--Q--E--E--H--R--T--V--E--V--E--K--V-	280
841	CACCTGGAGAAGAAGCTGCGAGATGAGATCAACCTTGCCAAGCAGGAAGCTCAGCGGCTG	900
841	CACCTGGAGAAGAAGCTGCGAGATGAGATCAACCTTGCCAAGCAGGAAGCTCAGCGGCTG	900
281	-H--L--E--K--K--L--R--D--E--I--N--L--A--K--Q--E--A--Q--R--L-	300
901	AAGGAGCTGAGGGAGGGTACTGAGAATGAGAGGAGCCGTCAAAAATATGCTGAGGAAGAG	960
901	AAGGAGCTGAGGGAGGGTACTGAGAATGAGAGGAGCCGTCAAAAATATGCTGAGGAAGAG	960
301	-K--E--L--R--E--G--T--E--N--E--R--S--R--Q--K--Y--A--E--E--E-	320
961	CTGGAGCAGGTTCCGGGAGGCCTTGAGGAAAGCAGAGAAGGAGCTGGAATCACACAGTCA	1020

961 CTGGAGCAGGTTCTGGGAGGCCTTGAGGAAAGCAGAGAAGGAGCTGGAATCACACAGCTCA 1020
 321 -L--E--Q--V--R--E--A--L--R--K--A--E--K--E--L--E--S--H--S--S- 340
 1021 TGGTATGCTCCTGAGGCCCTGCAGAAGTGGCTGCAGCTGACCCATGAGGTGGAGGTGCAG 1080
 1021 TGGTATGCTCCTGAGGCCCTGCAGAAGTGGCTGCAGCTGACCCATGAGGTGGAGGTGCAG 1080
 341 -W--Y--A--P--E--A--L--Q--K--W--L--Q--L--T--H--E--V--E--V--Q- 360
 1081 TACTACAACATCAAGAAGCAAATGCAGAGAGGCAGCTGCTGGTGGCCAAGGAGGGGGCT 1140
 1081 TACTACAACATCAAGAAGCAAATGCAGAGAGGCAGCTGCTGGTGGCCAAGGAGGGGGCT 1140
 361 -Y--Y--N--I--K--K--Q--N--A--E--R--Q--L--L--V--A--K--E--G--A- 380
 1141 GAGAAAATAAAAAAGAAGAGAAACACGCTTTTTGGTACCTTCCATGTGGCCACAGCTCT 1200
 1141 GAGAAAATAAAAAAGAAGAGAAACACGCTTTTTGGTACCTTCCATGTGGCCACAGCTCT 1200
 381 -E--K--I--K--K--K--R--N--T--L--F--G--T--F--H--V--A--H--S--S- 400
 1201 TCCCTGGATGATGTGGATCATAAAATCCTAACTGCTAAGCAAGCTCTGAGTGAGGTGACA 1260
 1201 TCCCTGGATGATGTGGATCATAAAATCCTAACTGCTAAGCAAGCTCTGAGTGAGGTGACA 1260
 401 -S--L--D--D--V--D--H--K--I--L--T--A--K--Q--A--L--S--E--V--T- 420
 1261 GCGGCACCTGAGGGAGCGCTGCACCGGTGGCAGCAGATCGAGATCCTCTGCGGTTTCCAG 1320
 1261 GCGGCACCTGAGGGAGCGCTGCACCGGTGGCAGCAGATCGAGATCCTCTGCGGTTTCCAG 1320
 421 -A--A--L--R--E--R--L--H--R--W--Q--Q--I--E--I--L--C--G--F--Q- 440
 1321 ATTGTCAATAACCCCGGCATCCACTCCTTGGTGGCTGCTCTCAACATCGACCCCAGCTGG 1380
 1321 ATTGTCAATAACCCCGGCATCCACTCCTTGGTGGCTGCTCTCAACATCGACCCCAGCTGG 1380
 441 -I--V--N--N--P--G--I--H--S--L--V--A--A--L--N--I--D--P--S--W- 460
 1381 ATGGGCAGCACCCGCCCTAACCCCGCCACTTCATCATGACTGACGATGTGGATGACATG 1440
 1381 ATGGGCAGCACCCGCCCTAACCCCGCCACTTCATCATGACTGACGATGTGGATGACATG 1440
 461 -M--G--S--T--R--P--N--P--A--H--F--I--M--T--D--D--V--D--D--M- 480
 1441 GATGAGGAGATTGTGTGCGCCCTTGTCCATGCAGTCCCCAGCCTGCAGAGCAGTGTCCGG 1500
 1441 GATGAGGAGATTGTGTGCGCCCTTGTCCATGCAGTCCCCAGCCTGCAGAGCAGTGTCCGG 1500
 481 -D--E--E--I--V--S--P--L--S--M--Q--S--P--S--L--Q--S--S--V--R- 500
 1501 CAGCGCCTGACGGAGCCACAGCTTGGCCTGGGATCTCAGAGGGATTTGACCCATTCGGAT 1560
 1501 CAGCGCCTGACGGAGCCACAGCTTGGCCTGGGATCTCAGAGGGATTTGACCCATTCGGAT 1560
 501 -Q--R--L--T--E--P--Q--L--G--L--G--S--Q--R--D--L--T--H--S--D- 520
 1561 TCGGAGTCCCTCCACATGAGTGACCGCCAGCGTGTGGCCCCAAGCCTCCTCAGATG 1620
 1561 TCGGAGTCCCTCCACATGAGTGACCGCCAGCGTGTGGCCCCAAGCCTCCTCAGATG 1620
 521 -S--E--S--S--L--H--M--S--D--R--Q--R--V--A--P--K--P--P--Q--M- 540
 1621 GGCCGTGCTGCAGATGAAGCTCTCAATGCCATGCCCTTCCAATGGCAGCCATCGGCTGATT 1680
 1621 GGCCGTGCTGCAGATGAAGCTCTCAATGCCATGCCCTTCCAATGGCAGCCATCGGCTGATT 1680
 541 -G--R--A--A--D--E--A--L--N--A--M--P--S--N--G--S--H--R--L--I- 560
 1681 GAGGGGGTCCATCCAGGATCTCTGGTGGAGAACTGCCTGACAGCCCTGCTCTGGCCAAG 1740
 1681 GAGGGGGTCCATCCAGGATCTCTGGTGGAGAACTGCCTGACAGCCCTGCTCTGGCCAAG 1740
 561 -E--G--V--H--P--G--S--L--V--E--K--L--P--D--S--P--A--L--A--K- 580
 1741 AAGACATTTATGGCGTTGAACCATGGCCTAGACAAGGCCACAGCCTGATGGAGCTGAAC 1800
 1741 AAGACATTTATGGCGTTGAACCATGGCCTAGACAAGGCCACAGCCTGATGGAGCTGAAC 1800
 581 -K--T--F--M--A--L--N--H--G--L--D--K--A--H--S--L--M--E--L--N- 600
 1801 CCCTCAGTCCACCTGGTGGCTCCCCACTTTTGGATTCTTCCATTCTCTTAGCCCCAGT 1860
 1801 CCCTCAGTCCACCTGGTGGCTCCCCACTTTTGGATTCTTCCATTCTCTTAGCCCCAGT 1860
 601 -P--S--V--P--P--G--G--S--P--L--L--D--S--S--H--S--L--S--P--S- 620
 1861 TCCCCAGACCCAGACACGCCATCTCCAGTTGGGGACAACCGAGCTCTGCAGGGTAGCCGA 1920
 1861 TCCCCAGACCCAGACACGCCATCTCCAGTTGGGGACAACCGAGCTCTGCAGGGTAGCCGA 1920
 621 -S--P--D--P--D--T--P--S--P--V--G--D--N--R--A--L--Q--G--S--R- 640
 1921 AACACACGAATTTCCACCTTGCTGGCAAGAAGGCAATGGCTGAGGAGGATAATGGTTCC 1980
 1921 AACACACGAATTTCCACCTTGCTGGCAAGAAGGCAATGGCTGAGGAGGATAATGGTTCC 1980
 641 -N--T--R--I--P--H--L--A--G--K--K--A--M--A--E--E--D--N--G--S- 660

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1981 ATTGGTGAGGAGACAGACTCCAGTCCAGGCAGGAAGAAGTTTCTCTCAAAATTTTAAAG 2040
1981 ATTGGTGAGGAGACAGACTCCAGTCCAGGCAGGAAGAAGTTTCTCTCAAAATTTTAAAG 2040
661 -I--G--E--E--T--D--S--S--P--G--R--K--K--F--P--L--K--I--F--K- 680

2041 AAGCCTCTTAAGAAGTAG 2058
2041 AAGCCTCTTAAGAAGTAG 2058
681 -K--P--L--K--K--*- 2058

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Stim1
p.R304W
c.910A>T

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841 CACCTGGAGAAGAAGCTGCGAGATGAGATCAACCTTGCCAAGCAGGAAGCTCAGCGGCTG 900
841 CACCTGGAGAAGAAGCTGCGAGATGAGATCAACCTTGCCAAGCAGGAAGCTCAGCGGCTG 900
281 -H--L--E--K--K--L--R--D--E--I--N--L--A--K--Q--E--A--Q--R--L- 300
      ↓
901 AAGGAGCTGAGGGGGTACTGAGAATGAGAGGAGCCGTCAAAAATATGCTGAGGAAGAG 960
901 AAGGAGCTGAGGGGGTACTGAGAATGAGAGGAGCCGTCAAAAATATGCTGAGGAAGAG 960
301 -K--E--L--R--E--G--T--E--N--E--R--S--R--Q--K--Y--A--E--E--E- 320

961 CTGGAGCAGGTTTCGGGAGGCCTTGAGGAAAGCAGAGAAGGAGCTGGAATCACACAGCTCA 1020
961 CTGGAGCAGGTTTCGGGAGGCCTTGAGGAAAGCAGAGAAGGAGCTGGAATCACACAGCTCA 1020
321 -L--E--Q--V--R--E--A--L--R--K--A--E--K--E--L--E--S--H--S--S- 340

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8.7.3 Human *Orai1*

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1 ATGAGCCTCAACGAGCACTCCATGCAGGCGCTGTCTGGCGCAAGCTCTACTTGAGCCGC 60
1 ATGAGCCTCAACGAGCACTCCATGCAGGCGCTGTCTGGCGCAAGCTCTACTTGAGCCGC 60
1 -M--S--L--N--E--H--S--M--Q--A--L--S--W--R--K--L--Y--L--S--R- 20

61 GCCAAGCTTAAAGCCTCCAGCCGGACCTCGGCTCTGCTCTCCGGCTTCGCCATGTTGGCA 120
61 GCCAAGCTTAAAGCCTCCAGCCGGACCTCGGCTCTGCTCTCCGGCTTCGCCATGTTGGCA 120
21 -A--K--L--K--A--S--S--R--T--S--A--L--L--S--G--F--A--M--V--A- 40

121 ATGGTGAGGTTGAGCTGGACGCTGACCACGACTACCCACCGGGGCTGCTCATCGCCTTC 180
121 ATGGTGAGGTTGAGCTGGACGCTGACCACGACTACCCACCGGGGCTGCTCATCGCCTTC 180
41 -M--V--E--V--Q--L--D--A--D--H--D--Y--P--P--G--L--L--I--A--F- 60

181 AGTGCCTGCACCACAGTGCTGGTGGCTGTGCACCTGTTTGGCGTCATGATCAGCACCTGC 240
181 AGTGCCTGCACCACAGTGCTGGTGGCTGTGCACCTGTTTGGCGTCATGATCAGCACCTGC 240
61 -S--A--C--T--T--V--L--V--A--V--H--L--F--A--L--M--I--S--T--C- 80

241 ATCCTGCCCAACATCGAGGCGGTGAGCAACGTGCACAATCTCAACTCGGTCAAGGAGTCC 300
241 ATCCTGCCCAACATCGAGGCGGTGAGCAACGTGCACAATCTCAACTCGGTCAAGGAGTCC 300
81 -I--L--P--N--I--E--A--V--S--N--V--H--N--L--N--S--V--K--E--S- 100

301 CCCCATGAGCGCATGCACCGCCACATCGAGCTGGCCTGGGCCCTTCTCCACCGTCATCGGC 360
301 CCCCATGAGCGCATGCACCGCCACATCGAGCTGGCCTGGGCCCTTCTCCACCGTCATCGGC 360
101 -P--H--E--R--M--H--R--H--I--E--L--A--W--A--F--S--T--V--I--G- 120

361 ACGCTGCTCTTCTAGCTGAGGTGGTGTCTGCTGCTGGGTCAAGTTCTTGCCCTCAAG 420
361 ACGCTGCTCTTCTAGCTGAGGTGGTGTCTGCTGCTGGGTCAAGTTCTTGCCCTCAAG 420
121 -T--L--L--F--L--A--E--V--V--L--L--C--W--V--K--F--L--P--L--K- 140

421 AAGCAGCCAGGCCAGCCAAGGCCACCAGCAAGCCCCCGCCAGTGGCGCAGCAGCCAAC 480
421 AAGCAGCCAGGCCAGCCAAGGCCACCAGCAAGCCCCCGCCAGTGGCGCAGCAGCCAAC 480
141 -K--Q--P--G--Q--P--R--P--T--S--K--P--P--A--S--G--A--A--A--N- 160

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481	GTCAGCACCAGCGGCATCACCCCGGGCCAGGCAGCTGCCATCGCCTCGACCACCATCATG	540
481	GTCAGCACCAGCGGCATCACCCCGGGCCAGGCAGCTGCCATCGCCTCGACCACCATCATG	540
161	-V--S--T--S--G--I--T--P--G--Q--A--A--A--I--A--S--T--T--I--M-	180
541	GTGCCCTTCGGCCTGATCTTTATCGTCTTCGCCGTCCACTTCTACCGCTCACTGGTTAGC	600
541	GTGCCCTTCGGCCTGATCTTTATCGTCTTCGCCGTCCACTTCTACCGCTCACTGGTTAGC	600
181	-V--P--F--G--L--I--F--I--V--F--A--V--H--F--Y--R--S--L--V--S-	200
601	CATAAGACTGACCGACAGTTC CAGGAGCTCAACGAGCTGGCGGAGTTTGCCCGCTTACAG	660
601	CATAAGACTGACCGACAGTTC CAGGAGCTCAACGAGCTGGCGGAGTTTGCCCGCTTACAG	660
201	-H--K--T--D--R--Q--F--Q--E--L--N--E--L--A--E--F--A--R--L--Q-	220
661	GACCAGCTGGACCACAGAGGGGACCACCCCTGACGCCCGGCAGCCACTATGCCTAG	717
661	GACCAGCTGGACCACAGAGGGGACCACCCCTGACGCCCGGCAGCCACTATGCCTAG	717
221	-D--Q--L--D--H--R--G--D--H--P--L--T--P--G--S--H--Y--A--*-	717

8.7.4 Mouse *Orai1*

1	ATGCATCCGGAGCCTGCCCCGCCCGAGTCACAGCAATCCGGAGCTTCCCCTGAGCGGC	60
1	ATGCATCCGGAGCCTGCCCCGCCCGAGTCACAGCAATCCGGAGCTTCCCCTGAGCGGC	60
1	-M--H--P--E--P--A--P--P--P--S--H--S--N--P--E--L--P--V--S--G-	20
61	GGCAGCAGCACTAGCGGCAGCCGCGGAGCCGCGCAGCGGGGACGGGGAGCCCTCG	120
61	GGCAGCAGCACTAGCGGCAGCCGCGGAGCCGCGCAGCGGGGACGGGGAGCCCTCG	120
21	-G--S--S--T--S--G--S--R--R--S--R--R--R--S--G--D--G--E--P--S-	40
121	GGGGCCCCACCGCTGCCCGCCGCCCAACCCGCTCAGCTACCCGGACTGGATCGGCCAG	180
121	GGGGCCCCACCGCTGCCCGCCGCCCAACCCGCTCAGCTACCCGGACTGGATCGGCCAG	180
41	-G--A--P--P--L--P--P--P--P--P--A--V--S--Y--P--D--W--I--G--Q-	60
181	AGTTACTCCGAGGTGATGAGCCTCAACGAGCACTCGATGCAGGCGCTGTCCGGCGCAAG	240
181	AGTTACTCCGAGGTGATGAGCCTCAACGAGCACTCGATGCAGGCGCTGTCCGGCGCAAG	240
61	-S--Y--S--E--V--M--S--L--N--E--H--S--M--Q--A--L--S--W--R--K-	80
241	CTCTACTTAAGCCGCGCAAGCTCAAAGCTTCCAGCCGACCTCGGCTCTGCTCTCCGGC	300
241	CTCTACTTAAGCCGCGCAAGCTCAAAGCTTCCAGCCGACCTCGGCTCTGCTCTCCGGC	300
81	-L--Y--L--S--R--A--K--L--K--A--S--S--R--T--S--A--L--L--S--G-	100
301	TTCGCCATGGTAGCGATGGTGAAGTCCAGCTGGACACAGACCATGACTACCCACCAGGG	360
301	TTCGCCATGGTAGCGATGGTGAAGTCCAGCTGGACACAGACCATGACTACCCACCAGGG	360
101	-F--A--M--V--A--M--V--E--V--Q--L--D--T--D--H--D--Y--P--P--G-	120
361	TTGCTCATCGTCTTTAGTGCCTGCACCACAGTGTAGTGGCCGTGCACCTGTTTGCCCTC	420
361	TTGCTCATCGTCTTTAGTGCCTGCACCACAGTGTAGTGGCCGTGCACCTGTTTGCCCTC	420
121	-L--L--I--V--F--S--A--C--T--T--V--L--V--A--V--H--L--F--A--L-	140
421	ATGATCAGCACCTGCATCCTGCCCAACATCGAGGCTGTGAGCAACGTCCACAACCTCAAC	480
421	ATGATCAGCACCTGCATCCTGCCCAACATCGAGGCTGTGAGCAACGTCCACAACCTCAAC	480
141	-M--I--S--T--C--I--L--P--N--I--E--A--V--S--N--V--H--N--L--N-	160
481	TCGGTCAAAGAGTCACCCACGAGCGCATGCATCGCCACATCGAGCTGGCCTGGGCCTTC	540
481	TCGGTCAAAGAGTCACCCACGAGCGCATGCATCGCCACATCGAGCTGGCCTGGGCCTTC	540
161	-S--V--K--E--S--P--H--E--R--M--H--R--H--I--E--L--A--W--A--F-	180
541	TCCACGGTCACTCGGGACGCTGCTTTTCTAGCAGAGGTCGTGTGCTCTGCTGGGTCAAG	600
541	TCCACGGTCACTCGGGACGCTGCTTTTCTAGCAGAGGTCGTGTGCTCTGCTGGGTCAAG	600
181	-S--T--V--I--G--T--L--L--F--L--A--E--V--V--L--L--C--W--V--K-	200
601	TTCTTACCTCTCAAGAGGCAAGCGGGACAGCCAAGCCCACCAAGCCTCCCGCTGAATCA	660
601	TTCTTACCTCTCAAGAGGCAAGCGGGACAGCCAAGCCCACCAAGCCTCCCGCTGAATCA	660
201	-F--L--P--L--K--R--Q--A--G--Q--P--S--P--T--K--P--P--A--E--S-	220

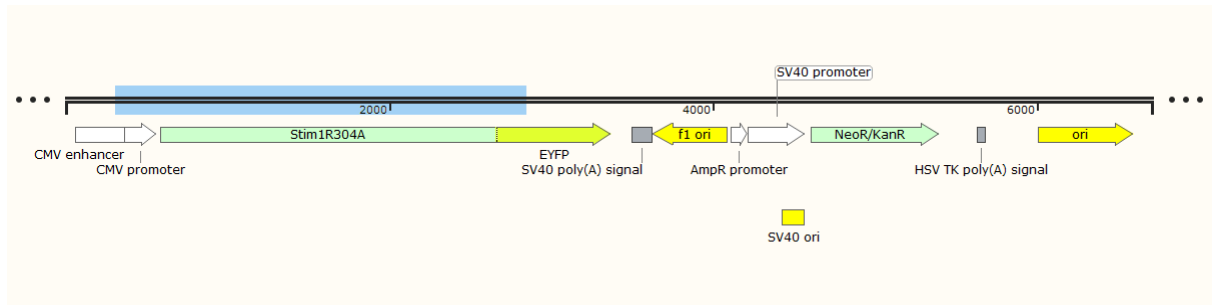
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661	GTCATCGTCGCCAACACAGCGACAGCAGCGGCATCACCCCGGGTGAGGCGGCAGCCATT	720
221	-V--I--V--A--N--H--S--D--S--S--G--I--T--P--G--E--A--A--A--I-	240
721	GCCTCCACCGCCATCATGGTTCCTGTGGCCTGGTTTTTATCGTCTTTGCTGTTCACTTC	780
721	GCCTCCACCGCCATCATGGTTCCTGTGGCCTGGTTTTTATCGTCTTTGCTGTTCACTTC	780
241	-A--S--T--A--I--M--V--P--C--G--L--V--F--I--V--F--A--V--H--F-	260
781	TACCGCTCCCTGGTCAGCCATAAGACGGACCGGCAGTTCCAGGAGCTCAATGAGCTGGCC	840
781	TACCGCTCCCTGGTCAGCCATAAGACGGACCGGCAGTTCCAGGAGCTCAATGAGCTGGCC	840
261	-Y--R--S--L--V--S--H--K--T--D--R--Q--F--Q--E--L--N--E--L--A-	280
841	GAGTTTGCCCGCTTGCAGGACCAGCTGGACCACAGAGGGGACCATTCTCTAACACCGGGC	900
841	GAGTTTGCCCGCTTGCAGGACCAGCTGGACCACAGAGGGGACCATTCTCTAACACCGGGC	900
281	-E--F--A--R--L--Q--D--Q--L--D--H--R--G--D--H--S--L--T--P--G-	300
901	ACCCACTATGCCTAA	915
901	ACCCACTATGCCTAA	915
301	-T--H--Y--A--*-	915

8.8 Constructs

Number	Construct	Origin
1	Stim1-WT-YFP (clone 3)	Gift from professor Leonidas Tsiokas (Nesin et al., 2014). Transformed into competent E. coli bacteria, plated on LB agar plates and mini/midi prep.
2	Stim1-p.R304W-YFP (clone 2)	
3	Stim1-p.E296del-YFP	In-house Q5 mutagenesis and mini prep
4	Stim1-p.E296del+R304W-YFP	
5	Stim1-p.R304A-YFP	In-house Q5 mutagenesis and mini prep.
6	Stim1-p.R304P-YFP	
7	Stim1-p.R304S-YFP	
8	Stim1-p.R304E-YFP	
9	mCHERRY-Orai1	Acquired from Vector Builder. Plated on agar plates and maxi prep.

Table S10. Overview of constructs created and used in this thesis.

8.8.1 Sequence acquired of Stim1-p.R304A-YFP, ID 5

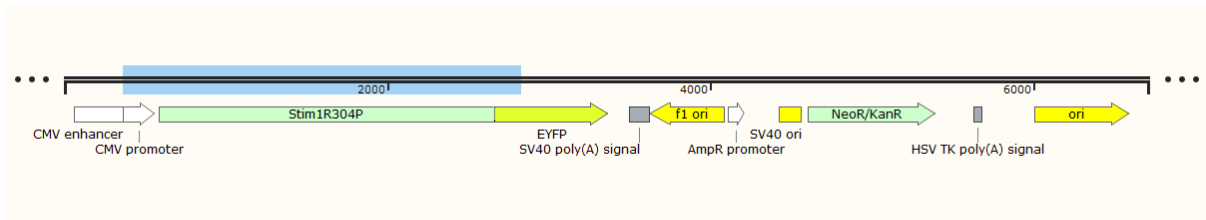


>Stim1-R304A-YFP

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8.8.2 Sequence acquired of Stim1-p.R304P-YFP, ID 6



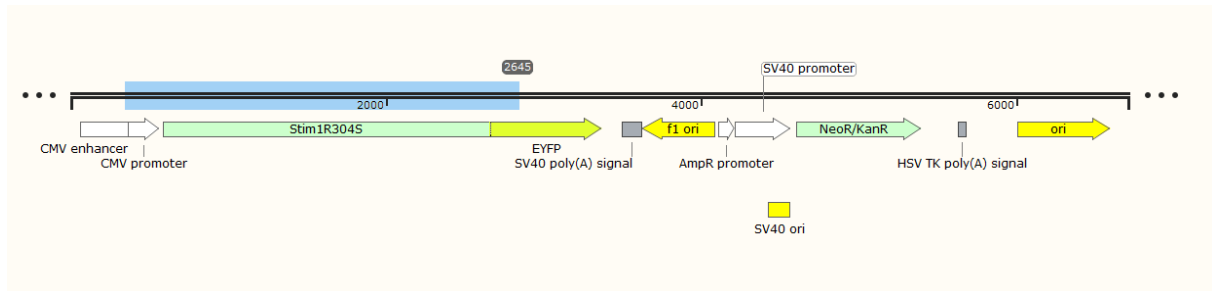
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8.8.3 Sequence acquired of Stim1-p.R304S-YFP, ID 7

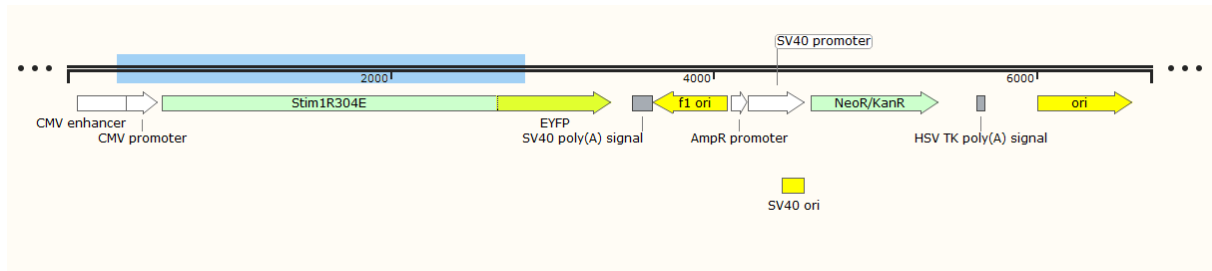


>Stim1-p.R304S-YFP

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8.8.4 Sequence acquired of Stim1-p.R304E-YFP, ID 8

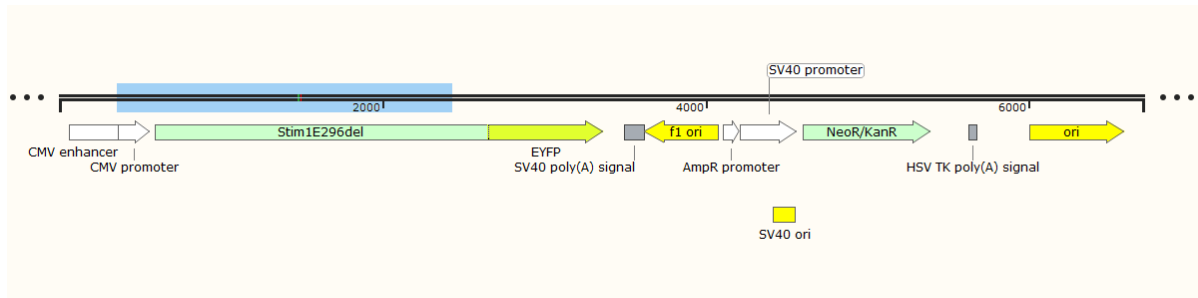


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8.8.5 Sequence acquired of Stim1-p.E296del-YFP, ID 3

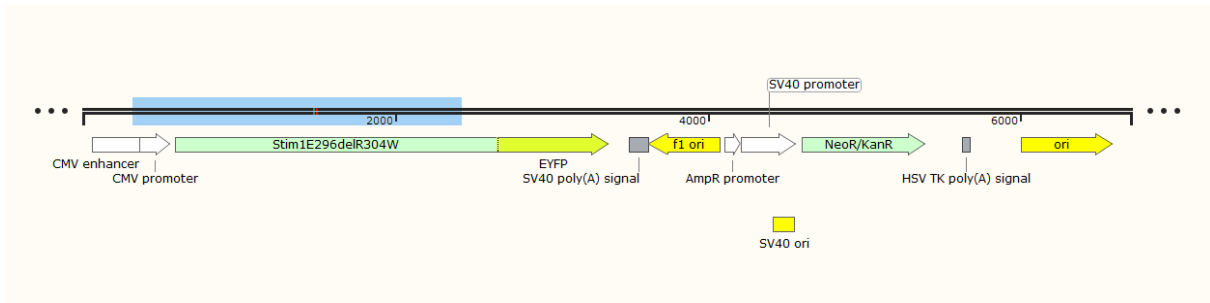


>Stim1-p.E296del-YFP

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8.8.6 Sequence acquired of Stim1-p.E296del+R304W-YFP, ID4

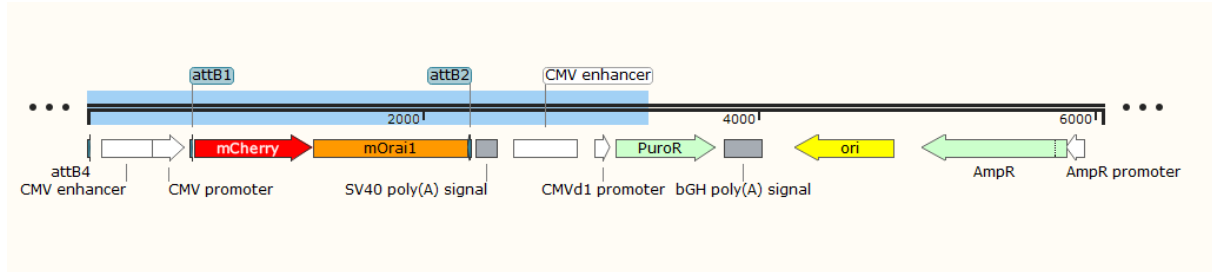


>Stim1-p.E296del+R304W-YFP

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8.8.7 Sequence acquired from Sanger sequencing of mCHERRY-*Orai1*, ID9



>mCHERRY-*Orai1*

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9.1 Web resources:

The URLs for data presented herein are as follows

Ensembl sequences, <http://www.ensembl.org/index.html>

Blat, <https://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgBlat?command=start>

Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man, OMIM®. McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine, Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD), World Wide Web URL: <https://omim.org/>