

Original Paper

Identification of Novel Kv1.3 Channel-Interacting Proteins Using Proximity Labelling in T-Cells

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Key Words

Potassium channel, T cell, proteomics, autoimmune disease, interactions, proximity labeling

Abstract

Background/Aims: Potassium channels regulate membrane potential, calcium flux, cellular activation and effector functions of adaptive and innate immune cells. The voltage-activated Kv1.3 channel is an important regulator of T cell-mediated autoimmunity and microglia-mediated neuroinflammation. Kv1.3 channels, via protein-protein interactions, are localized with key immune proteins and pathways, enabling functional coupling between K⁺ efflux and immune mechanisms. **Methods:** To gain insights into proteins and pathways that interact with Kv1.3 channels, we applied a proximity-labeling proteomics approach to characterize protein interactors of the Kv1.3 channel in activated T-cells. Biotin ligase TurboID was fused to either N or C termini of Kv1.3, stably expressed in Jurkat T cells, and biotinylated proteins in proximity to Kv1.3 were enriched and quantified by mass spectrometry. **Results:** We identified over 1, 800 Kv1.3 interactors including known interactors (beta-integrins, Stat1), although the majority were novel. We found that the N-terminus of Kv1.3 preferentially interacts with protein synthesis and protein trafficking machinery, while the C-terminus interacts with immune signaling and cell junction proteins. T-cell Kv1.3 interactors we found consisted of 335 cell surface proteins, including T-cell receptor complex, mitochondrial, calcium and cytokine-

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mediated signaling pathway, and lymphocyte migration proteins. 178 Kv1.3 interactors in T-cells also represent genetic risk factors for T cell-mediated autoimmunity, including STIM1, which was further validated using co-immunoprecipitation. **Conclusion:** Our studies revealed novel proteins and molecular pathways that interact with Kv1.3 channels in adaptive (T-cell) and innate (microglia) immune cells, providing a foundation for understanding how Kv1.3 channels may regulate immune mechanisms in autoimmune and neurological diseases.

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Introduction

T-cells are major enactors of adaptive immunity [1]. They originate from thymocyte progenitors and mature into distinct subtypes, with varied molecular phenotypes, tissue localization, and functions during normal development, response to infectious pathogens, autoimmunity, and other diseases associated with chronic inflammation [2-4]. Early T-cell precursors undergo sequential development to become double positive (DP) CD4+CD8+ precursor cells. T-cell receptor (TCR) signaling, along with transcription factors regulate the fate of double-positive thymocytes, leading them to adopt either a CD4+ or CD8+ lineage [5, 6]. Within CD4+ and CD8+ T-cell compartments, a wide range of naive, effector, memory and regulatory sub-classes exist [4]. CD4+ T-cells differentiate into several subsets like Treg, Th1, Th2, Th17, Th9, and Th22 etc., which can mediate helper functions, with important roles in regulating B cell proliferation, antibody responses and functioning of CD8+ cells [7, 8], while CD8+ T-cells mediate cytotoxic functions [9]. Naive CD4+ and CD8+ T-cells become activated short-lived effector T-cells upon antigen presentation, and a subset of these adopt longer-lived memory profiles, including central-memory (TCM) and effector-memory (TEM) phenotypes. These memory T-cells provide long-term immunity to infectious pathogens by responding with strong reactions upon antigen re-encounter [9-11]. Unique molecular characteristics and pathways that regulate the functions of distinct T-cell subsets provide avenues to T-cell sub-class-specific modulation without impacting other classes [12].

T-cell activation involves a cascade of signaling events, initiated by interaction of the TCR with specific peptide ligands presented by antigen presenting cells (APC). Downstream signaling triggers Calcium (Ca^{2+}) release from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) to the cytosol [13]. Sensing the depletion of ER Ca^{2+} levels, STIM1, an ER membrane protein, undergoes a conformational change. It oligomerizes and expands towards the plasma membrane, where it interacts with ORAI1 channels, leading to channel opening and Ca^{2+} influx. This influx regulates both T-cell function and differentiation [14]. Pathways that regulate Ca^{2+} flux are therefore critical determinants of T-cell activation. Blocking Ca^{2+} leads to impairment of T-cell activation, proliferation, migration, cytokine production and effector functions [15]. Potassium (K^{+}) channels play a critical role in regulating this Ca^{2+} signaling by maintaining the electrochemical gradient and the negative membrane potential needed for sustained Ca^{2+} influx [16]. Regulation of Ca^{2+} entry in T-cells is a major point of scientific investigation in the field of T-cell mediated human diseases, which span infectious illnesses, systemic autoimmunity (e.g. multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis), chronic diseases where altered T-cell functions have been identified (e.g. atherosclerosis or cancer), as well as neurodegenerative diseases [17]. Many genetic risk factors associated with autoimmune diseases encode proteins that regulate immune signaling via Ca^{2+} flux pathways, e.g. STIM1, PTPN22, RUNX2 [18, 19] (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/gwas/efotraits/EFO_0005140).

While some Ca^{2+} influx pathways are shared across T-cell subtypes, the regulators of Ca^{2+} flux and signaling are unique to each subtype. For example, activated TEMs and Th17 cells predominantly express the voltage-dependent Kv1.3 potassium channel (Kv1.3), which maintains the potential gradient for Ca^{2+} flux, while TCM and Treg utilize KCa3.1 channels to regulate their Ca^{2+} gradient [20-22]. More than 100 human diseases are recognized as T-cell mediated autoimmune diseases and among these, several are TEM-mediated, including type 1 diabetes mellitus, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis being the most prevalent [17]. Effector memory T-cells from patients with TEM-mediated autoimmune diseases

express high levels of Kv1.3 channels compared to healthy individuals [20, 23]. Notably, Kv1.3 channel blockade or deletion makes mice resistant to autoimmunity in disease models and promotes an immunoregulatory phenotype in T-cells [24]. These studies highlight critical roles of Kv1.3 channels in regulating T-cell function and autoimmunity.

Kv1.3 channels, encoded by the *KCNA3* gene, were first described in T-cells in 1984 and have since been investigated as targets for immunosuppression [25, 26]. The Kv1.3 channel is a voltage-activated K⁺ channel which exists as a homo-tetramer, with each monomer consisting of six transmembrane alpha helices connected to each other through intra and extracellular loops [27]. The channel opens following membrane depolarization (half-maximal activation potential typically around -30 mV), which can occur following Ca²⁺ entry in T-cells [28]. K⁺ efflux via Kv1.3 channels restores membrane potential, which facilitates sustained Ca²⁺ entry. Kv1.3 shows C-type inactivation and use-dependence with frequent depolarizations, both distinct characteristics of Kv1.3 channels as compared to other voltage-gated potassium (Kv) channels [29]. The N and C-termini of Kv1.3 are cytosol-facing, and contain motifs that allow the channel to interact with cytosolic and membrane-associated proteins and signaling pathways [30, 31]. These interactions link Kv1.3 channels to other immune pathways, raising the possibility that proteins interacting with or proximal to Kv1.3 channels can regulate channel function, and vice versa, where Kv1.3 function may regulate the function of interacting/proximal proteins and pathways. Cell surface receptors such as insulin-like growth factor (IGF) and epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptors, have indeed been shown to regulate Kv1.3 localization and activity via phosphorylation [32]. IGF-1 increases K⁺ currents and upregulates Kv channel turnover in cells through PI3-kinase, PDK1, and SGK1 signaling cascades [33]. EGFR activation recruits SRC family kinases or ERK1/2 signaling, which modulate channel kinetics either by reducing activity or inducing channel endocytosis [34]. Conversely, Kv1.3 channel function has been shown to have an impact on interferon-mediated STAT1 activation in myeloid cells [35] as well as to interact with STAT3 in melanoma cells [36]. Beyond regulation of K⁺ efflux and plasma membrane potential, Kv1.3 channels have been identified in the inner mitochondrial membrane, where they may regulate metabolism and apoptosis [37]. Accordingly, apoptosis-regulatory proteins such as BAX have been identified to physically interact with Kv1.3 channels in the mitochondrial inner membrane [38]. Recently, Kv1.3 channel localization to the nuclear membrane in cancer cells has also been identified, suggesting that Kv1.3 may regulate membrane potential across several cellular compartments [39].

In T-cells, Kv1.3 channel functionally couples with β 1-Integrins and shows molecular proximity with the CD3 complex [21, 40, 41]. These co-localizations of Kv1.3 channels with signaling molecules suggest that Kv1.3 function may not be restricted to membrane potential regulation, but that the channel might also directly affect signaling proteins. Recently, proximity labeling approaches have been used to identify protein interactors of N and C-termini of Kv1.3 in mammalian cells, including HEK 293 embryonic kidney cells and BV-2 microglial cells [35, 36]. These studies showed that the N-terminus of Kv1.3 interacts with proteins involved in channel trafficking and localization whereas C-terminal-associated proteins regulate immune signaling. Also, several C-terminal interactions are dependent on the PDZ-binding domain of Kv1.3 channel. Although many studies have focused on the role of Kv1.3 channels in T-cell-mediated immune responses, not much is known about signaling pathways regulated by Kv1.3 channel in T-cells.

In this study, we aim to define the proximity-based protein interactome of Kv1.3 channels in T-cells. Our goal was to identify interactors that are unique to N and C-terminal domains of Kv1.3, and further identify proteins that are dependent on the PDZ-binding domain of the C-terminus. Importantly, we also aimed to identify Kv1.3 interactors that are unique to T-cells as compared to microglia and nominate Kv1.3-associated pathways of importance to T cell-mediated autoimmune diseases. We employed a proximity labeling technique in which biotin ligase TurboID is fused to N or C-termini of Kv1.3 in human Jurkat T cells (JTC), so that proteins in proximity (10-30 nm) to Kv1.3 channels are biotinylated [42]. As opposed to traditional co-immunoprecipitation methods that enrich highly stable protein-protein

interactions, the TurboID approach allows labeling and quantification of both stable as well as transient but functionally important interactions. After enriching biotinylated proteins from whole cell lysates, we applied label-free quantitative mass spectrometry (LFQ-MS) of biotinylated proteins. We chose JTC, an immortalized line of human T lymphocytes, as our model system of choice for these studies because they endogenously express Kv1.3 channels and therefore contain cellular machinery for channel localization and function and recapitulate effector functions of activated T-cells [43]. We used lentiviral transduction to generate T-cell lines stably expressing N and C-terminal TurboID fusions with Kv1.3, as well as a PDZ-binding domain-deleted C-terminal fusion. We used electrophysiology and flow cytometry to verify functional Kv1.3 channel presence in T-cells before LFQ-MS studies. This approach allowed us to define the proximity-based interactome of Kv1.3 channels in T-cells, including proteins that preferentially interact with N and C-termini respectively. The N-terminus of Kv1.3 interacted with proteins involved in mRNA processing and transcriptional regulation whereas the C-terminus interacted with proteins that regulate PDZ-dependent endocytic functions and maintains cell junction and synaptic organization. We also identified Kv1.3 channel interactors that are unique to T-cells, as compared to microglia, as well as over 100 Kv1.3 interactors with causal roles in autoimmune diseases such as STIM1. Using co-immunoprecipitation, we validated the physical interaction between Kv1.3 and STIM1 in T-cells.

Materials and Methods

Reagents

All key reagents used in this study are listed in Table 1.

Plasmid and LV design

We utilized three previously validated plasmids that contained different human Kv1.3-TurboID fusion constructs, without additional modifications [35]. The Emory Cloning core transformed the V5-TurboID-NES plasmid (AddGene, #107169) using a competent E. coli strain (DH5α) according to the manufacturer protocols. For purification of the plasmid DNA, QIAfilter Plasmid kits (Midi prep kit; Qiagen; catalog no.: 12243) were utilized following the manufacturer's protocol. Restriction sites were introduced via PCR primers and the V5-TurboID-NES sequence was subcloned into pCDH-EF1-MCS-BGH-PGK-GFP-T2A-Puro (CD550A-1) and sequenced (Table 2). A 15 amino acid linker that was GS rich (5'-GGCGGAGGGGGCTCA-3'x3) was inserted between *Kcna3* and a V5 tag, followed by TurboID on either the 3' or 5' end of the *Kcna3* gene. The linker provided spatial flexibility between Kv1.3 and TurboID, minimized steric hindrances, and preserved both

Table 1. Reagents List

Reagent	Manufacturer	Catalog #
RPMI-1640	Gibco	11875085
Penicillin-Streptomycin	Gibco	15140-122
Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS)	Gibco	26140-079
Polybrene	Sigma-Aldrich	S2667
Puromycin	Gibco	A11138-02
Biotin	Sigma-Aldrich	B4639-100mg
1x fixation buffer	eBioscience	00-8222-49
1x permeabilization buffer	eBioscience	00-8333-56
Phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate (PMA)	Sigma-Aldrich	P8139
Ionomycin	Sigma-Aldrich	I9657
Streptavidin, Alexa-Fluor 488 conjugate	Invitrogen	21832
Unstained OneComp beads compensation beads	eBioscience	01-111-42
HA1T protease & phosphatase inhibitor cocktail	ThermoFisher	1861284
Pierce streptavidin magnetic beads	ThermoFisher	83817
BCA colorimetric assay	ThermoFisher	23227
Bovine Serum Albumin Standards	ThermoFisher	23208
4x laemmli buffer	Bio-Rad	1610747
BOLT 4%-12% Bis-Tris Gels	Invitrogen	NW04125BOX
250kDa Protein Ladder	BioLabs	P7719S
iBLOT mini stack system	Invitrogen	IB23002
StartingBlockT20	ThermoFisher	37543
Streptavidin, Alexa-Fluor 680 conjugate	Invitrogen	S32358
Silverstain	ThermoFisher	24612
lysyl endopeptidase	Wako	125-05061
Trypsin	Promega	V5111
HLB columns	Oasis	186003908
Reagent A	ThermoFisher	23222
Reagent B	ThermoFisher	23224
Milliplex® MAP Multi-Pathway Magnetic Bead 9-Plex - Cell Signaling Multiplex Assay	Millipore Sigma	48-680MAG
NP-40 Lysis Buffer	ThermoFisher	J60766.AP
Protein G Dynabeads	ThermoFisher	10004D
Anti-V5 tag antibody	Cell Signaling Technology	80076S
Anti-V5 tag antibody	Abcam	ab206566
Anti-STIM1 antibody	Cell Signaling Technology	4916S
Anti-CD3 epsilon	Cell Signaling Technology	85061S
Anti-NF-ATc1 antibody	BD Biosciences	556602
Anti-calnexin antibody	Abcam	ab22595
Anti-Lamin B1 antibody	Cell Signaling Technology	12586S
Anti-Tubulin antibody	Millipore	MA81864
Anti-Phospho-NFATc1 (Ser172)	Invitrogen	PA5-64696
Anti-CD69 antibody	Abcam	ab233396
Anti-p44/42 MAPK (Erk1/2)	Cell Signaling Technology	9102S
Anti-Phospho-p44/42 MAPK (Erk1/2) (Thr202/Tyr204)	Cell Signaling Technology	9101S
Beta actin polyclonal antibody	ThermoFisher	PA1-183-HRP
PAP-1	Synthesized in Wulff laboratory at the University of California, Davis.	N/A
SHK-223	AmbioPharm	Api2651

Table 2. Constructs Designed for experiments conducted

Construct	Restriction Sites	Primer Sequences
Kv1.3 N-term Fusion	XbaI/AgeI	5'- CAGGTCTAGGagccaccatg-ggcaagccatcccaacccctgct-3' 5'- gtggcaccggtGCTGCCACCGCCACCGCTTCCACCCCC-GCCTGAGCCCCCTCCGCCcttttcggcagaccgcagactgattc-3' 5'- ACTTAAGCTTGGTACCGAGCTCGGA-TCCgccaccatgaccgtggtgccggggaccacct-3'
Kv1.3 C-term Fusion	BamHI/BsrGI	5'- tggctgtacaAGGCCCGGGGTTGCTCTCAACATCTCCAGCCAATTTC-AAGAGAGCATAGTTAGTACACTGcttttcggcagaccgcagactgattc-3' 5'-ACTTAAGCTTGGTACCGAGCTCGGATCC-gccaccatgaccgtggtgccggggaccacct-3'
Kv1.3 C-term Fusion ΔPDZ	NheI/BamHI	5'- ctgttcgcactatggaactcgcc-3'

channel function and TurboID enzymatic activity. A truncated form of Kv1.3 was also created, lacking a C-terminal TDV amino acid residues (Kv1.3 C-terminalΔPDZ). These three residues are essential for Kv1.3 function and localization [44]. All Kv1.3 fusion constructs included a V5-tag that was immediately upstream from the TurboID construct, to allow for TurboID-based proximity proteomics and V5-based co-immunoprecipitation studies. This strategy allowed for identification of proteins that were both proximal to Kv1.3 (within the labeling radius of fused TurboID), such as interactions that are indirect or transient, as well as identification of proteins with a direct and more stable physical interaction with Kv1.3 (via V5 co-IP). For all three constructs, puromycin resistance was used as a selection marker and DNA sequencing was used to confirm plasmid orientation and correct insertion.

As previously described [35], plasmids were packaged into lentivirus (LV) by the Emory University Viral Vector Core and purified. The core utilized HEK-293FT (Invitrogen) cells for transfection. The cells were approximately 70-80% confluent in complete medium (4.5 g/L Glucose and L- Glutamine containing DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS and 1% Pen-Strep) and incubated at 37° C, 5% CO₂ prior to transfection. On the day of transfection, a 2 mL mixture of DNA and polyethylenimine (PEI) was added dropwise to the HEK-293 cells, which were then incubated for 48 h before harvesting.

Plasma purification was completed on supernatants containing lentivirus at 48 h and 72 h post-transfection, following the protocol described in Bowen et al [35]. Supernatants were centrifuged at 500 x g for 5 min at 4° C and passed through a 0.45 μm low protein binding filter. 200 μL of each supernatant was centrifuged at 28, 000 rpm for 2 h at 40° C. The virus particles were then resuspended in 500 μL of PBS and incubated on ice for 30 min. Resuspended virus particles were loaded into a 12 mL SW 41 tube with 3 mL of a 20% sucrose cushion, and centrifuged at 28, 000 rpm for 2 h at 4° C. The virus pellet was then resuspended in 60 μL of PBS.

To transduce Jurkat T-cells (JTC), purified virus was added to cells at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 10 and 8 μg/mL polybrene for 24 h. Cells were collected in media and centrifuged at 125 x g for 5 min. Media containing LV was aspirated and cells were grown in RPMI-1640 media (10% FBS, 1% Penicillin/streptomycin) for 5 days. Puromycin was added at 2 μg/mL for 7 days.

Cell Culture

JTC Clone E-6 cells were obtained from ATCC (Lot 70029114). Cells were maintained in RPMI-1640 (10% FBS and 1% Pen/Strep) at 1 million cells per 100 mm dish for protein lysis. Cells were allowed to stabilize for 24 h prior to any experiment.

For channel blocking, cells were treated with PAP-1 (100 nM) or ShK-223 (200 nM) for 24 h. Supernatant was collected for cytokine analysis and cell pellets were lysed for other analysis. For the biotinylation of proteins, JTCs were exposed to 200 μM Biotin, which was added to the media for 1 h.

For activation of JTC, combination of PMA (50 ng/ml) and Ionomycin (1 μM) was added to culture media of the cells for 20 hours.

Cell Lysis and protein processing

JTCs were collected in media and centrifuged at 125 x g for 5 min, then resuspended in 1 mL of cold 1x PBS prior to centrifugation: 800 x g for 5 min at RT (n=3/experimental group). Cell lysis was completed

exactly as previously published [35]. Lysis was completed in 8 M urea in Tris- NaH_2PO_4 with HALT Protease inhibitor (1:100) and probe sonicated three times at 30% amplitude for 5 s each, with 10 s breaks between pulses. Lysates were centrifuged at 15000 x g for 15 min. Supernatants containing solubilized proteins were processed for western blot, streptavidin affinity purification (AP), and Mass Spectrometry (MS). Pellets using this method were minimal, resulting in most proteins being present in the eluate.

Flow Cytometry

JTC cells were collected in growth media in a 15 ml centrifuge tube and centrifuged at 500 x g for 5 min. The supernatant was discarded, and cells were further washed in the same tube twice by centrifuging the tubes with ice-cold 1x PBS at 800 x g for 3 min (n=3/group). The cells were then transferred to the flow tube. Before fixation cells were processed on ice and by using cold PBS. To confirm biotinylation, cells were fixed with 1x fixation buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific; Cat# 00822249) for 30 min, then washed three times with 1x PBS and centrifuged at 800 x g for 3 min. Cells were permeabilized for 30 min using 1x permeabilization buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific; Cat# 00822249) and then incubated with Streptavidin-Alexa Fluor 488 conjugate (Thermo Fisher Scientific; Cat#S32354, 1:500 in permeabilization buffer) for 1 h in the dark. After incubation, the cells were washed in 1x PBS three times. After the last wash, 200 μL of PBS was added. Unstained OneComp beads and unstained cells were used as negative controls. Beads stained with Alexa Fluor-488 (Thermo Fisher Scientific; Cat# A-11001) were used as a positive control. Flow cytometry data was collected on a BD Aria II instrument and analyzed using Flow Jo software (v10.10.0).

Electrophysiology

JTCs were grown in RPMI 1640 medium (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) containing 10 % heat-inactivated FBS, 10 mM HEPES, and 2 mM glutamate at 37°C in a 5 % CO_2 humidified incubator. Electrophysiological recordings were performed on transfected HEK-293 cells or transduced JTCs plated on poly-L-lysine-coated glass coverslips. All measurements were performed using the whole-cell configuration of the patch-clamp technique at room temperature with an EPC-10 HEKA amplifier. Transfected HEK-293 cells were visualized by epifluorescence microscopy of green fluorescent protein by eGFP-C1 plasmid co-transfection (Addgene, 2487, discontinued), and these cells were used as wild-type Kv1.3 channels for comparison with Kv1.3-TurboID fusions in JTCs. The Ringer solution used contained (in mM) 160 NaCl, 4.5 KCl, 2 CaCl_2 , 1 MgCl_2 , 10 HEPES, with pH 7.4 and adjusted osmolarity of 300 mOsm. Patch pipettes were made from soda lime glass (microhematocrit tubes, Kimble Chase) and had resistances of 2 to 3 M Ω when filled with internal KF solution and submerged in the bath solution. The pipettes were filled with an internal solution containing (in mM) 145 KF, 1 HEPES, 10 EGTA, 2 MgCl_2 , with pH 7.2 and 300 mOsm. Series resistance (at least 80%) and whole-cell capacitance compensation were used as quality criteria for electrophysiology. Voltage-dependence of activation was recorded using a 200-ms voltage step from -80 to +60 mV in 10 mV increments with an inter-pulse duration of 30s, and was analyzed as previously described [35]. Use-dependency was determined using single pulse to +40 mV at a pulse frequency of 1 Hz for 10 pulses. The fractional current of the last pulse was normalized to the first pulse to determine the extent of cumulative (use-dependent) inactivation. Whole-cell patch-clamp data was presented as mean $\pm$ SD, and statistical significance was determined using a paired Student's t test for direct comparison between wild-type JTC (without transduced Kv1.3) and JTC transduced with Kv1.3-TurboID fusion lentiviruses.

Western Blot

Protein quantification and western blots were performed exactly as previously described [35]. Briefly, proteins were quantified using a bicinchoninic acid colorimetric assay (BCA) (n=3). To evaluate biotinylation of proteins, 10 μg of protein was resolved on a BOLT 4%-12% Bis-Tris Gel. Proteins were transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane using a semi-dry transfer system. Ponceau staining for 2 min was used to determine loading efficiency. Blots were washed with 1x TBS, blocked for 30 min with StartingBlock, and probed with streptavidin-Alexa fluoro-680 (1:10,000 in Blocking Buffer) for 1 h at room temperature protected from light. The membrane was then washed with 1x TBS and imaged using either an Odyssey Li-COR system or a Bio-Rad ChemiDoc MP Imaging system (Universal Hood III). Densitometric analyses were done using ImageJ software. Statistical significance was measured using a one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test in Prism 9 software.

Luminex

Multiplexed phospho-protein quantification was conducted for 9 phosphorylated proteins involved in various signaling pathways using the Milliplex® MAP Multi-Pathway Magnetic Bead 9-Plex - Cell Signaling Multiplex Assay (CREB pS133, ERK pT185/pY187, NFκB pS536, JNK pT183/pY185, p38 Thr180/Tyr182, p70S6K Thr412, STAT3 pS727, STAT5A/B pY694/699, Akt pS473). Lysates were thawed on ice and centrifuged at 4°C for 10 minutes at 15, 500 × g. Protein concentrations were normalized to 1.5 µg sample per 12.5 µL using Milliplex® MAP Assay Buffer for analysis. These protein concentrations were selected to ensure they fell within the linear range of bead fluorescent intensity versus protein concentration for detectable analytes.

For multiplex assay, background measurements were collected using assay buffer in the absence of biological samples. The average background values were subtracted from each sample measurement, and any negative values were set to zero. Heatmaps for visualization were generated using z-scored data and the R package heatmap3. Statistical significance was assessed using a one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test, performed in Prism 9 software.

Co-immunoprecipitation (co-IP) assay

Untransduced JTCs and N-terminal Kv1.3-TurboID cell lysates were prepared in NP40 cell lysis buffer. Protein content of cleared cell lysates was then estimated by BCA assay. Equal amounts of each cell line's extracts were incubated with 1 µg of V5 antibody overnight at 4°C. Protein G Dynabeads were added to each sample (10%, v/v) and incubated further for 1 h at 4°C. After three washes with NP40 lysis buffer, samples were recovered in 50 µL of 4x SDS gel-loading buffer and subjected to western blot as described above. Immunoprecipitated proteins and input samples were run simultaneously and probed for the presence of STIM1, CD3E, V5 tagged protein, and actin using different antibodies. Co-IP of Kv1.3 with STIM1 and CD3E was checked in N-terminal Kv1.3-TurboID JTCs by using untransduced JTCs as control.

Affinity purification of biotinylated proteins

Streptavidin affinity purification was performed on cell lysates, to capture biotinylated proteins. Affinity purification (AP) was performed in the same manner as Bowen et al [35], where Pierce streptavidin magnetic beads were washed with RIPA buffer. 1 mg of protein lysate was suspended in RIPA buffer and incubated with streptavidin magnetic beads. Beads were washed to assure reduction of non-specific binding following the protocol from Bowen et al [35]. The beads, with biotinylated proteins attached, were suspended in 80 µL of PBS. 8 µL of beads (10% of total) were resuspended in Laemmli buffer supplemented with biotin and DTT, and prepared for Western blot and silver stain. Western blot was used to evaluate the presence of biotinylated proteins post-AP. Silver stain was utilized to evaluate total protein abundance, and thus efficacy of affinity purification of post-AP samples. Following Western blot and silver stain, remaining protein bound beads were stored at -20°C until on-bead digestion.

Protein Digestion and Peptide Clean Up

Preparation of samples for mass spectrometry followed protocols outlined in Bowen et al [35]. For biotin enriched samples from the AP, samples were washed with 1x PBS and resuspended in 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate buffer (ABC). Samples were reduced with dithiothreitol (DTT) and cysteines were alkylated with iodoacetamide (IAA). Proteins were digested with 0.5 µg of lysyl endopeptidase and 1 µg trypsin overnight. Samples were acidified and desalted using an HLB column. Samples were dried using cold vacuum centrifugation (SpeedVac Vacuum Concentrator).

For cell lysates, 100 µg of pooled cell lysate was used. Reduction and alkylation were performed as described above. Samples were diluted in ABC and digested with 2 µg of lysyl endopeptidase and 4 µg trypsin. Samples were acidified, desalted using an HLB column, and dried using cold vacuum centrifugation (SpeedVac Vacuum Concentrator). Digestion protocol is also outlined in Sunna, et al. and Rayaprolu et al [45, 46].

Mass Spectrometry (MS)

Derived peptides were suspended in 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid and separated on a Waters' Charged Surface Hybrid column. Jurkat T-cells cell samples were run on an EVOSEP liquid chromatography system

using the 30 samples per day preset gradient and were monitored on a Q-Exactive Plus Hybrid Quadrupole-Orbitrap Mass Spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific). MS protocols used here have been outlined in prior publications and were used without modifications [Sunna *et al.* and Bowen *et al.* [35, 46].. The mass spectrometry proteomics data was deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE [47] partner repository with the dataset identifier PXD059644.

Protein Identification and Quantification

MS raw files were uploaded into the MaxQuant software (version 2.4.9.0), and JTC data were searched against the human Uniprot 2022 database (83, 401 proteins) with the addition of the target sequence for TurboID. MaxQuant parameters used were exactly as previously published [35]. Modifications were limited to a maximum number of five and included variable modifications: Methionine oxidation, protein N-terminal acetylation, and fixed modification: carbamidomethyl. The maximum number of missed cleavages was set to 1. For peptide size, the maximum peptide mass was set to 6000 Da and minimum peptide length of 6 amino acids. The Label Free Quantification (LFQ) minimum ratio count was set to one. Unique and razor peptides were used for peptide quantification. The minimum ratio count for protein quantification was also set to 1. Re-quantification ensured the peptide matched with the identified protein. Identifications were matched between runs. To determine m/z ratio, Fourier transformed MS (FTMS) match tolerance was set to 0.05 Da. Ion Trap MS was set to 0.6 Da to evaluate gaseous ions. The false discovery rate (FDR) was set to 1%.

For both the biotin enriched samples and cell lysates, MaxQuant intensities were uploaded into Perseus (version 1.6.15). To obtain proteins that best matched the peptides, potential contaminants, reverse peptides, and samples only identified by one site were all removed. Both datasets were log2 transformed. Data was imputed based on normal distribution for 50% missingness within an experimental group. Cell lysate data was matched to Uniprot gene names. To ensure that any differences observed were not due to unequal TurboID expression or unequal biotinylation, all LFQ-MS values from the AP dataset from Kv1.3-TurboID lines were normalized to TurboID protein abundance, while bulk proteome was normalized using quantile normalization (Supp. Datasheet 1).

Protein-protein interaction (PPI) network analysis

The search tool for retrieval of interacting genes (STRING) (<https://string-db.org>) database, which integrates both known and predicted PPIs, can be applied to predict functional interactions of proteins [48]. To seek potential interactions between DEPs, and for cellular compartmentalization of proteins, the STRING tool was employed. Active interaction sources, including text mining, experiments, databases, and co-expression as well as species limited to “Homo sapiens” and an interaction score > 0.4 were applied to construct the PPI networks. Cytoscape software version 3.6.1 was used to visualize the PPI network.

Venn diagrams were generated using InteractiVenn tool [49].

Functional and pathway enrichment analysis of DEPs

Gene Ontology (GO) pathway enrichment analyses were conducted using Enrichr (<http://amp.pharm.mssm.edu/Enrichr/>) and ClusterProfiler R packages. The significant terms and pathways were selected with the threshold of adjusted *p*-value < 0.05.

Data availability

All raw MS data generated in this study are available via ProteomeXchange with identifier PXD059644. Kv1.3 interactors in the BV-2 dataset are from an earlier published study by Bowen *et al.*, available at ProteomeXchange Consortium with the dataset identifier PXD049433 [35].

Membrane protein data was taken from the EBI-GO_Membrane and Membranome databases (<https://membranome.org/proteins> and <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/QuickGO/term/GO:0016020>).

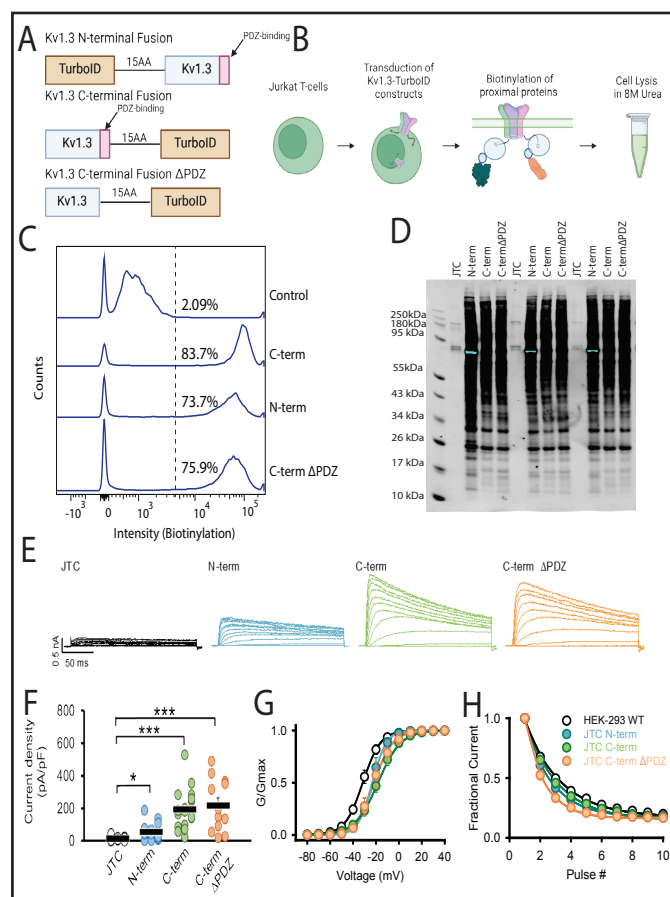
The list of autoimmune disease associated risk genes we used was collected from EMBL-EBI databases (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/gwas/efotraits/EFO_0005140).

Results

Validation of transduced Jurkat T-cells expressing N- and C-terminal fusion of TurboID to Kv1.3 channels

JTCs are immortalized human T-cells known to express Kv1.3 channels and Kv1.3-associated immune proteins, making them a valid *in vitro* model system for Kv1.3 channel proximity-based proteomics [43]. Using Kv1.3-TurboID fusion, we generated JTC lines that stably expressed this fusion protein. JTCs were transduced for 24 h with lentivirus (LV) containing one of three constructs: the human *KCNA3* gene fused to TurboID on the N-terminus, Kv1.3 fusion with TurboID on the C-terminus, and a Kv1.3-TurboID C-terminal fusion with the PDZ-binding domain removed (*Fig. 1A*). Untransduced JTCs were utilized as a negative control. Following puromycin selection for seven days, transduced cell lines were exposed to biotin for 1 h to biotinylate proteins proximate to Kv1.3 (*Fig. 1B*). Flow cytometry and western blot showed that JTCs transduced with Kv1.3-TurboID contain biotinylated proteins at much higher levels compared to the endogenously biotinylated proteins in

Fig. 1. TurboID biotinylates proteins in Kv1.3-TurboID transduced Jurkat T-cells. (A) Constructs utilized for transduction into Jurkat T-cells (JTC). Three constructs were used: a fusion of TurboID to the N-terminus of Kv1.3, a fusion of TurboID to the C-terminus of Kv1.3, and the C-terminal fusion with the PDZ-binding domain deleted. (B) Schematic of experimental design. Jurkat T-cells were transfected with Kv1.3-TurboID fusion constructs then exposed to biotin. Cells were then lysed in 8M urea. (C) Flow cytometry analysis shows transduced cells have higher biotin present than control cells (n=3). (D) Western blot utilizing streptavidin-680 shows distinct biotinylation patterns in each transduced cell line (n=3). (E) Representative currents recorded from wild-type JTC activated with concanavalin A (5 μ g/mL), JTC transduced with N-terminal fusion Kv1.3 (N-term), Kv1.3 C-terminal fusion (C-term), and C-terminal fusion with the PDZ-binding domain deleted (C-term Δ PDZ) constructs. Currents elicited by a voltage step protocol from holding potential of -80 mV to +60 mV in 10 mV increments. (F) Current density calculated from peak currents induced by the +40-mV depolarization step in wild-type JTC (n=18), N-term (n=17), C-term (n=18), and C-term Δ PDZ (n=12). (G) Conductance-voltage relationship depicting voltage-dependence of activation of WT Kv1.3 construct transfected in HEK-293 ($V_{1/2}$ = -31.4 $\pm$ 1.7 mV, n=8), and JTC transduced with N-term ($V_{1/2}$ = -23.6 $\pm$ 6.0 mV, n=6), C-term ($V_{1/2}$ = -18.8 $\pm$ 6.0 mV, n=6), and C-term Δ PDZ ($V_{1/2}$ = -21.1 $\pm$ 10.2 mV, n=7) fusion constructs. (H) Fractional currents showing no changes in use-dependent current reduction of Kv1.3 currents in JTC transduced with N-term (n=9), C-term (n=10), and C-term Δ PDZ (n=8) in comparison with wild-type Kv1.3 transfected in HEK-293 (n=8). Statistical significance denotes p<0.05 (*) and p<0.001 (***). BioRender software was used to generate Fig. 1B.

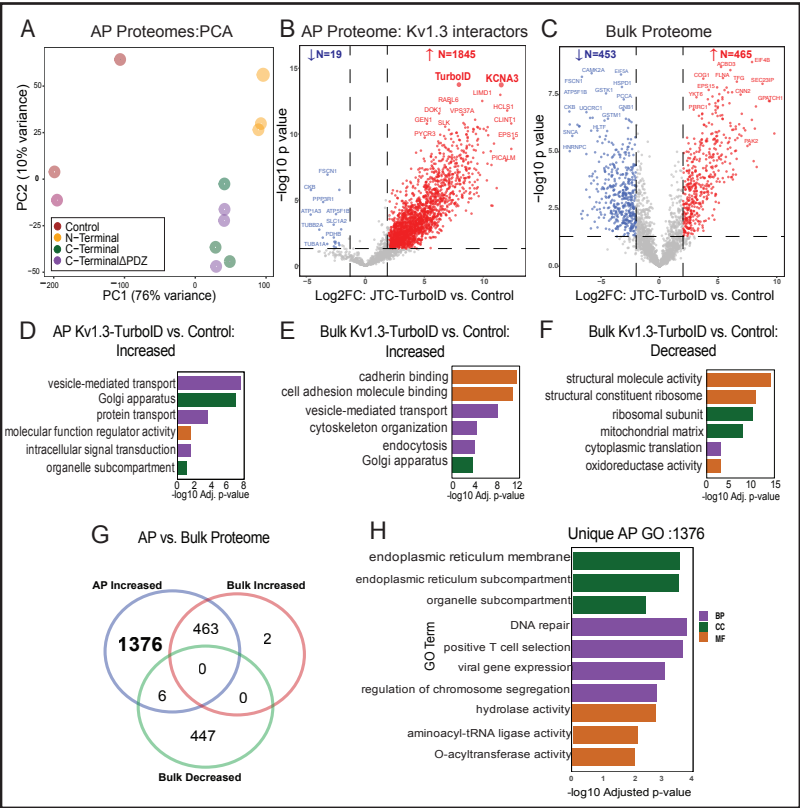


control JTCs (*Fig. 1 C and D*). The loading of proteins on western blot was evaluated via ponceau staining (*Supp Fig. 1A*). Since we did not use biotin-depleted media for cell culture, we checked for the effect of 1 h of biotin treatment on cellular biotinylation. External biotin supplementation did not enhance biotinylation in the cells (*Supp Fig. 1B*). We also assessed V5 expression across constructs to check the transduction efficiency at each terminus. Although total Kv1.3 protein levels (via V5 abundance) were comparable across cell lines, the N-terminal construct displayed a unique banding pattern, potentially explained by altered post-translational modification or post-translational processing (*Supp Fig. 1B*). We then enriched biotinylated proteins using streptavidin beads. Biotinylated proteins and endogenously biotinylated proteins were primarily enriched from JTC-TurboID cells as compared to control JTCs, evidenced by silver stain detection of all enriched proteins (*Supp Fig. 1C*) and WB to detect biotinylation (via streptavidin conjugated -fluorophore) (*Supp Fig. 1D*). The results confirmed that TurboID is present in JTCs transduced with Kv1.3-TurboID.

We next utilized whole-cell patch-clamp electrophysiology to evaluate the functional expression of recombinant Kv1.3 channels at the cell surface of JTCs. All three transduced Kv1.3-TurboID JTC lines (N-terminal, C-terminal and C-terminal Δ PDZ) exhibited robust current expression, with comparable amplitudes and densities (*Fig. 1E*). Analysis of voltage-dependent activation and use-dependent inactivation revealed similar properties across all constructs (*Fig. 1E and F*). All, however, displayed a slight shift in voltage-dependence of activation toward a more positive potential, and a modest decrease in residual fractional current compared to WT Kv1.3 transiently expressed in HEK-293 cells (*Fig. 1 G and H*). Interestingly, the N-terminal Kv1.3-TurboID lines exhibited lower current and current density compared to the C-terminal Kv1.3-TurboID constructs. This may be due to alterations in PTMs in the N-terminal Kv1.3-TurboID fusion, which could have impaired the channel localization to the plasma membrane, overall, leading to a lower channel presence and reduced channel activity in the N-terminal-TurboID fusion [50] [51].

To assess whether Kv1.3 over-expression has an impact on key immune signaling pathways in JTCs, we checked levels of NFAT activation in nuclear and cytosolic fractions of JTCs, using the N-terminal Kv1.3-TurboID JTC line. We also treated control and transduced JTCs with the Kv1.3 inhibiting small molecule PAP-1 (100 nM) and the peptide ShK-223 (200 nM) for 24 hours to block channel activity. Western blot of nuclear and cytosolic fractions of treated JTCs showed that NFATc1 was primarily present in the nuclear fraction of cells, with no differences between untreated control JTCs and N-terminal Kv1.3-TurboID JTCs, and no observed effect of PAP-1 and ShK-223 (*Supp Fig. 2A and B*). Higher nuclear expression of NFATc1 prompted us to further investigate the activation status of Kv1.3-expressing JTC lines. Treatment with PMA and Ionomycin for 20 hours resulted in decreased NFATc1 phosphorylation, with the basal pNFATc1 level being higher in the N-terminal Kv1.3-TurboID JTC line; however, no difference was observed between the two cell lines after stimulation. The levels of CD69, a cell surface activation marker of T cells, increased following activation with PMA and Ionomycin, but there was no significant difference between the two cell lines (*Supp Fig. 2C and D*). Therefore, we concluded that neither Kv1.3 channel transduction nor Kv1.3 blockade had any major effect on activation state of JTC. We also found that TurboID localization by probing cell fractions with V5-tag, which is attached to TurboID-Kv1.3 constructs, was primarily confined to the cytosolic fraction (*Supp Fig. 2A and B*), with no effects observed due to Kv1.3 blockade. The presence of Kv1.3, a membrane-associated protein, in the cytosolic fraction was likely due to the retention of membrane proteins during fractionation, including those localized to organelle membranes such as the endoplasmic reticulum and mitochondria. The purity of nuclear and cytosolic fractions was confirmed by probing the blot with Lamin B1, a nuclear-specific protein, and Calnexin, an ER-specific protein, along with measuring β -actin and Tubulin levels, which were enriched in cytosolic fractions. Similarly, we evaluated the impact of channel transduction and blockade on major cell signaling proteins using a multi-plexed Luminex assay. There was no change in channel-transduced activation of pCREB, pAKT or pp38 signaling, while levels of pJNK, pERK, pNF-kB, pSTAT3 and pSTAT5 were increased in cell lysates (*Supp Fig. 2E and Supp. Datasheet 2*). Although there was no significant effect of channel blockade, a trend toward decreased

Fig. 2. Comparative analysis of biotinylated proteins in JTC Bulk vs. JTC affinity purified samples. (A) Principal Component Analysis (PCA) of proteins from Kv1.3-TurboID transduced Jurkat T-cells and control samples (n=3). PC1 and PC2 explain 76% and 10% of the variance, respectively. Distinct clustering of sample groups reflects significant differences in each sample proteome. (B) Volcano Plot for JTC Affinity Purified (AP) Samples: Differential Enrichment Analysis (DEA) between all Kv1.3-TurboID fusion and control in affinity purified (AP) samples, showing 1845 proteins enriched with Kv1.3 channel transduction. (C)



Volcano Plot for JTC Bulk Samples: DEA of all Kv1.3-TurboID fusion and control in bulk samples showing similar number of proteins increased (465) and decreased (453) with Kv1.3 channel transduction at bulk level. (D) Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment for increased proteins in AP samples identifies Kv1.3 enriched proteome involved in protein transport and signal transduction pathways. (E) GO Enrichment for increased proteins in JTC Bulk shows cadherin binding and vesicle mediated transport pathways enrichment with Kv1.3-TurboID fusion in bulk sample. (F) GO Enrichment analysis of decreased proteins in JTC bulk samples DEA shows downregulation of RNA processing, cytosolic translation, and mitochondrial function with Kv1.3 channel in bulk samples. (G) Venn diagram illustrates the overlap and unique proteins identified across JTC bulk and JTC affinity purified samples, with 1376 Kv1.3 enriched proteins unique to AP proteome, and overlap of 469 proteins with DEPs in bulk samples. (H) GO analysis for unique AP-Kv1.3 interacting proteins identified in Fig. 2G emphasizes enrichment of processes associated with endoplasmic reticulum organization, membrane-associated trafficking, and Golgi-mediated vesicular transport, suggesting role of Kv1.3 in regulating protein localization and intracellular membrane dynamics. Complete protein list for each analysis is given in Supp. Datasheet 3.

pERK levels was observed by Luminex. To determine whether this was an artifact or a true decline, we performed a western blot analysis of pERK. Upon statistical comparison between untreated, PAP-1, and ShK-223-treated N-terminal Kv1.3-TurboID JTCs, it was seen that ShK-223 treatment significantly reduced ERK phosphorylation (*Supp. Fig. 2F and G*). This confirms that channel overexpression elevated pERK levels, which declined upon channel blockade. This is in agreement with the already reported association between Kv1.3 channel and ERK pathway, stating that the pro-proliferative role of native Kv1.3 channels is mediated by ERK1/2 signaling [52]. Given that elevated levels of proteins resulting from Kv1.3 overexpression can be reversed by channel inhibition, the elevated levels of other proteins such as pJNK, pSTAT3, etc., may not be directly related to channel overexpression. Since in Luminex assay streptavidin fluorophore binds with biotinylated analyte, it is possible that the substantially higher number of biotinylated proteins in N-terminal Kv1.3-TurboID JTC line interfere with assay, resulting in apparent increase in pJNK, pNF-kB, pSTAT3 and pSTAT5 levels.

Overall, these biochemical and electrophysiological data confirmed functional Kv1.3 channel expression in our Kv1.3 JTC lines, without effects of Kv1.3 over-expression and/or cytosolic proteomic biotinylation on T cell activation, as reflected by unchanged NFAT activation levels. Importantly, channel properties were not significantly impacted by TurboID fusion, and the Kv1.3 channel densities observed by over-expression were similar to Kv1.3 channel densities observed in TEM cells *in vivo* in autoimmune diseases [23].

Characterization of the Kv1.3 channel interactome in JTCs using TurboID proximity labeling

After validating our JTCs lines as described above, we proceeded to identify Kv1.3 channel interacting proteins in JTCs using LFQ-MS. We evaluated the streptavidin affinity-purified (AP) proteome, and compared all Kv1.3-TurboID JTCs to the non-TurboID control JTC group. This initial approach was used to provide a broad survey of proteins in proximity to the Kv1.3 channel complex, regardless of preferential interactions with the N-terminal or C-terminal. Given the labeling radius of TurboID and the tetrameric structure of Kv1.3 channels, we predicted that using our approach, interactors would be identified across both N-terminal and C-terminal proximity proteomes, with a small proportion specific to each terminus. Based on the enrichment level, and after imposing statistical thresholds, top-interacting proteins were nominated. In addition to analyzing the AP proteome, we also assessed the bulk proteome of each group (TurboID vs non-TurboID), to ensure that any differences at the level of AP were not due to whole-cell-level proteomic changes due to LV transduction and/or Kv1.3 channel over-expression.

In the AP dataset, LFQ-MS across all samples yielded 2, 571 proteins, with higher total protein intensity and number of identified proteins from TurboID groups as compared to non-TurboID control JTCs. Principal component analysis (PCA) of the AP proteomes showed group-wise separations (*Control*, *N-Terminal*, *C-Terminal*, and *C-terminalΔPDZ*). The first principal component (PC1), accounting for 76% of the total variance, separated the experimental groups from the non-TurboID controls, confirming that the AP proteome from TurboID JTCs is systematically distinct from non-TurboID control JTCs. The second principal component (PC2), explaining 10% of the variance, highlighted distinctions between the N-terminal and C-terminal groups. Separation between C-terminal and C-terminalΔPDZ groups was not observed based on PC1 and PC2. This demonstrates that while PC1 captured the primary variability related to condition, PC2 revealed secondary variations, possibly linked to specific protein modifications or subgroup-specific effects (*Fig. 2A*). To identify Kv1.3 channel interacting proteins, we conducted differential enrichment analysis (DEA) between controls and Kv1.3 labeled groups in both the AP and bulk proteome datasets. In the AP proteome, we identified 1, 947 differentially expressed proteins (DEPs) that were biotinylated and therefore enriched in the Kv1.3-TurboID group as compared to non-TurboID group. Of these, 1, 845 DEPs showed >4-fold enrichment with p-values <0.05 (Supp Datasheet 1), including CLINT1, PICALM, DOK1, GEN1 as well as Kv1.3 and TurboID, as would be expected based on our experimental design (*Fig 2B*). We applied the same threshold for all further DEA. 918 DEPs were identified at the level of bulk proteomes in Kv1.3-TurboID JTCs, including 453 decreased (*e.g.* FSCN1, PCCA, EIF5A) and 465 increased (*e.g.* COG1, CNN2, YKT6, ACBD3) proteins (*Fig 2C*). This suggests that LV transduction and/or Kv1.3 over-expression does modify the proteome of JTCs in our *in vitro* system. To determine whether the effects of LV transduction and Kv1.3 over-expression overlap with signatures of T cell activation, we cross-reference our whole cell proteomic data with a known proteomic dataset in which JTCs were treated with PMA and MS was performed by Agosto et. al [53]. They identified over 5, 000 proteins. We overlapped DEPs identified in our data from JTC input proteomes, comparing transduced JTCs with untransduced JTCs, with DEPs obtained in the stimulated vs. non-stimulated proteomic dataset. Of 1, 129 DEPs identified in our dataset, only 143 were also identified as DEPs in response to PMA stimulation (*Supp Fig. 2H*). Within these 143 proteins that were DEPs in both datasets, the overall correlation between fold changes was also modest ($R^2=0.0448$), suggesting that the changes observed as a result of transduction and Kv1.3 over-expression do not overlap with JTC activation profiles.

Gene Ontology (GO) analysis of DEPs in the AP dataset (n=1845) showed enrichment in vesicle-mediated transport protein (FLNA, CORO1A, RAB6A), intracellular transport (GSK3A, RAB7A, COPB1), regulator activity (TAB1, ATP6AP1, MARK2) and Golgi-localized proteins (TMED10, FASN, CLCN3) (*Fig. 2D*). The presence of a high number of proteins associated with transportation, along with Golgi and ER proteins, suggests potential interactions during Kv1.3 protein processing and trafficking to the cell surface. In contrast to the AP proteomes, the whole-cell proteomes of TurboID-Kv1.3 JTCs showed increased levels of proteins involved in cadherin binding (PTPN11, GOLGA3, DLG1), cell adhesion (SCRIB, CTTN, ATP2C1), vesicle membrane (RAB14, COPZ1, STX5) and vesicle-mediated transport (GRIPAP1, GAPVD1, FNBP1L) functions (*Fig. 2E*) while ribosomal (BYSL, WDR36), structural molecule activity (NUP214, TLN1, SPTBN1) and mitochondrial matrix proteins (SHC1, CCAR2) were decreased (*Fig. 2F*).

Given the observed proteomic differences in whole-cell proteomes of Kv1.3-TurboID and non-TurboID JTCs, we identified Kv1.3 interactors from the AP dataset that were not identified as DEPs at the whole-cell proteome level. This yielded 1, 376 Kv1.3 interacting proteins in the AP dataset (*Fig. 2G*). GO terms enriched in this list of 1, 376 Kv1.3 interactors (*Fig. 2H*) resulted in mostly similar observations from *Fig. 2D*, along with distinct pathways such as positive T cell selection, and hydrolase activity, showing that the majority of Kv1.3-interacting proteins, and their associated ontologies, cannot be explained by baseline differences in protein levels purely due to Kv1.3 over-expression or LV transduction effects.

Unique N-terminal and C-terminal interactomes of Kv1.3 channels in JTCs

Past studies have suggested that the N-terminus and C-terminus of Kv1.3 channels interact with distinct protein partners, suggesting that these channel domains functionally interact with distinct molecular complexes and immune signaling pathways within immune cells [35, 36]. To identify Kv1.3 channel interacting proteins that preferentially interact with the N-terminal or C-terminal of Kv1.3, we first compared N-terminus or C-terminus AP proteomes with non-TurboID controls to identify proteins unique to either N-terminal or C-terminal AP interactomes. Next, we directly compared the N-term and C-term AP proteomes to identify DEPs between these interactomes. Compared to controls, there were 1, 946 DEPs in proximity to the N-terminus of Kv1.3 (*Fig. 3A*). GO analysis identified enriched proteins involved in processes such as vesicle-mediated transport (MYO1G, SNAP23, STXBP3), Golgi vesicle transport (AP3D1, SEC16A, SNX3), protein transport (IPO5, KPNA4, TNPO2), and microtubule organizing center (DDX3X, RGS14, FLOT1) (*Supp Fig. 3A*). Interestingly, many of the interacting proteins are components of centrosome and microtubule organizing centers. In contrast, the C-terminal Kv1.3 proteome contained 1, 304 DEPs (*Fig. 3B*), including proteins involved in vesicle-mediated (CLTC, NPC1, GAK) and endosomal transport (VPS26A, ARL1, VCP), and nucleoside-triphosphate (DENND11, RGS12, IPO7) and GTPase regulator (EIF5, TSC2, RANBP1) activity. Enriched proteins were localized to the Golgi apparatus (PIK3C2A, SCAMP3, AP1G1), endosome (NPC1, ARPC2, STX7), and endosomal membrane (PLIN3, TOM1, EPS15) (*Supp Fig. 3B*). Consistent with our prediction, this analysis showed that the majority of interactors of the N-terminus and C-terminus were overlapping. Yet, we found 672 proteins unique to the N-terminal proteome and 30 proteins unique to the C-terminal proteome (*Fig. 3C*). DEA of N-terminus vs C-terminus AP proteomes identified 431 DEPs, with 390 enriched in the N-terminus and 41 enriched in the C-terminus (*Fig. 3D*).

We also performed a similar DEA with the bulk proteome to distinguish unique DEPs for each terminus at the AP level. In the bulk proteome, 346 proteins were found in proximity to the Kv1.3 channel's N-terminus. On overlapping these 346 DEPs at bulk with DEPs observed at AP level, 343 overlapped while 1, 610 AP-specific N-terminal enriched proteins were identified (*Supp. Fig. 3C and 3D*). Similarly, for the C-terminus, 380 proteins were enriched at the bulk level. On intersecting these DEPs with the C-terminus DEPs at the AP level, 924 proteins were uniquely present in the AP proteome (*Supp. Fig. 3E and 3F*). These additional analyses depicted that most of the changes seen at the AP level were not present at the bulk level, providing higher confidence to our results.

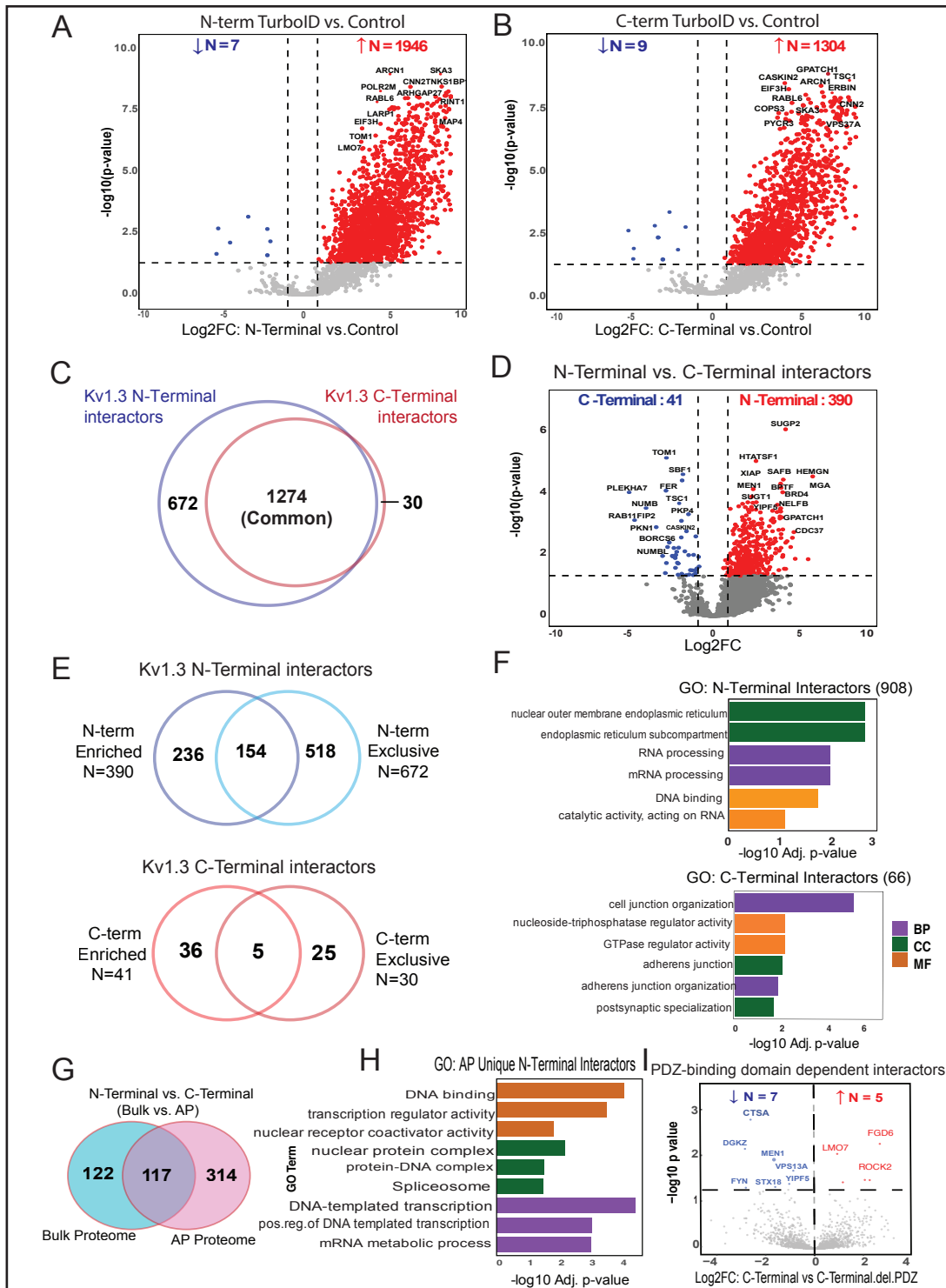


Fig. 3. Distinct protein dynamics and enriched pathways in N-Terminal and C-Terminal interactors of Kv1.3 channel. (A) DEA of N-Terminal-TurboID and Control JTC, illustrates 1946 interactors of Kv1.3 channel's N-terminal. (B) DEA of C-Terminal-TurboID and Control JTC, highlights 1304 proteins enriched at Kv1.3 channel's C-terminal. (C) Intersection of N-terminal (1946) and C-terminal (1304) interactors reveal 672 unique proteins associated with N-terminal and 30 with C-terminal. (D) DEA of N-terminal-TurboID and C-terminal-TurboID JTCs shows distinct N- (390) and C-terminal (41) interactors of Kv1.3 channel. (E) Venn diagram analysis intersecting N-terminal or C-terminal specific proteins identified in Fig. 3C and D, shows 908 and 66 unique proteins for N-terminal and C-terminal, respectively. (F) GO term enrichment analysis for unique N- and C-terminal interactors identified in Fig. 3E identifies protein processing function of N-terminal and cell signaling function of C-terminal. (G) Intersection of DEPs from N-terminal and C-terminal DEA at AP and bulk level shows 314 proteins differentially expressing only in AP proteome. Further analysis showed 310 and 4 are interactors of N-terminal and C-terminal, respectively. (H) GO term enrichment analysis for only AP proteome N-terminal interactors shows terminal role in transcription. (I) DEA between C-terminal and C-terminal with PDZ-binding domain removed shows 5 proteins increased and 7 decreased with domain deletion. All analyses are given in detail in Supp. Datasheet 5.

To identify differences in the N-terminal and C-terminal interactomes of Kv1.3, we overlapped unique N-terminal (672) and N-terminal enriched (390) interactors, to find a total of 908 proteins corresponding to the N-terminus (*Fig 3E*). These N-terminal interactors included RNA/mRNA-processing proteins (RNMT, PRPF3, PLRG1, SART1, HTATSF1, NPM1) and ER membrane proteins (STING1, CDS2, TMX1). (*Fig 3F*). Similarly, for the C-terminal, we found 66 unique interactors (*Fig 3E*), which included proteins mostly localized at cell adherens junctions (NF2, ADD1, PKP4), postsynaptic specializations (TSC1, ERBIN, LZTS1), and cell-cell junctions (FER, SIRT2, PKP4). Functionally, these proteins are involved in maintaining cell junctions (PLEKHA7, DOCK10, PEA1, NUMB, NUMBL) and adherens junction organization (FER, ADD1) (*Fig 3F*).

To ensure that any N-terminus and C-terminus interacting proteins of Kv1.3 were not due to baseline effects of Kv1.3 over-expression or LV transduction, we compared DEPs of N-terminus vs. C-terminus in the AP proteomes (N=431) with those at the bulk (input) level (N=239). We found that the majority of DEPs identified as N-terminal or C-terminal interactors from the AP proteome (n=314) were not identified as DEPs at the whole-cell level (*Fig 3G*). Further GO analysis showed that 310 of these were interactors of the N-terminus, with functions mostly overlapping with *Fig. 3E*, and a few unique ones, such as DNA binding (BCL2, IMPDH2, TMPO) and DNA-templated transcription (ACTN4, TACC1, KAT7) (*Fig 3H*). Only four interactors were associated with the C-terminus: Rho GTPase activating protein activator ARHGAP32 [54], PEA1 (a kinase associated with cancer progression) [55], and proteins SNX17 and MTMR1, which show high affinity for the phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate signaling molecule [56, 57].

Overall, the N-terminal-TurboID Kv1.3 interactome contained proteins involved in RNA/mRNA processing and DNA transcription, ER processing and channel trafficking, while the C-terminal-TurboID Kv1.3 associated with proteins corresponding to cell junctions, synaptic organization and signaling. We suspect that the interactome identified from the N-terminal Kv1.3-TurboID fusion captures interactions most likely occurring during protein processing in the ER/Golgi, whereas the C-terminal interactome captures interactions of the channel at the cell surface. This is supported by higher functional cell surface Kv1.3 channels in C-terminal Kv1.3-TurboID JTCs as compared to the N-terminal fused JTCs and differential banding patterns, despite equal total Kv1.3 protein levels in whole cell lysates from N- and C-terminal fused JTC lines (*Fig 1*).

Proximity labeling nominates Kv1.3 interactors influenced by the PDZ-binding domain of the C-terminus

The PDZ-binding domain located at the C-terminus of the Kv1.3 channel plays a crucial role in its functional regulation, facilitating interactions with proteins like PSD95 and SAP97 [58, 59]. This prompted us to investigate how deleting the PDZ-binding domain would affect the C-terminal interactome in JTCs. Upon comparing interactors of the full C-terminus with those of the C-terminal Δ PDZ, we observed that deletion of the PDZ-binding domain reduced interactions with five proteins: FGD6, LMO7, ROCK2, TBC1D10B, and TUBB6—all of which are associated with cellular GTPase activity or pathways involving GTPases [60-64] (*Fig 3I*). Interestingly, the PDZ-binding domain deletion also enhanced interactions with seven new proteins, including kinases FYN and DGKZ, lysosomal protease Cathepsin A (CTSA), and other proteins: YIPF5, VPS13A, STX18, and MEN1. Most of these new interactors are enriched in the ER, suggesting a shift in Kv1.3's interaction profile toward proteins involved in cellular trafficking and signaling. In summary, deletion of the PDZ-binding domain from C-terminus of Kv1.3 affected major signaling interactions of the channel, along with introducing new interactions. PDZ-binding domain loss will thus potentially impact channel function.

Comparative analysis reveals cell type-specific functions of Kv1.3 channel interactors in JTCs and BV-2 cell line

While Kv1.3 channels primarily regulate K⁺ transport, membrane potential, and Ca²⁺ flux, they may also regulate distinct cellular functions via interactions at the membrane. Given the established role of Kv1.3 in both T-cells (adaptive immune cells) and microglia (innate immune cells of the brain), we examined the Kv1.3 interactome in these two cell types to identify cell type-specific, as well as conserved, interactions and associated pathways. We conducted a comparative analysis of the Kv1.3 interactome in JTCs with our previously published Kv1.3 interactome in BV-2 microglia [35]. In our analysis, we identified a total of 1,845 Kv1.3 interactors in the JTC Kv1.3 AP dataset (Fig. 2B and Fig. 4A). Applying the same threshold in BV-2 dataset, we found 863 Kv1.3 interactors (Fig. 4A). Of these, 505 proteins were common Kv1.3 interactors across both cell lines (Fig. 4B). We also found 1,340 proteins unique to JTCs and 358 unique to BV-2 cells, highlighting clear cell-type differences in the Kv1.3 channel proximity interactome (Fig. 4B). GO analyses of the enriched proteins indicated that the overlapping interactors are involved in Golgi vesicle transport (e.g. SCAMP1, CORO7, YKT6) and intracellular protein transport (e.g. TRAM1, TMED9, AHCYL1). The molecular functions associated with these overlapping proteins include cadherin binding (e.g. PTPN1, AHSA1, NOP56), cell adhesion molecule binding (e.g. TRIM25, DDX3X, FLNA) and translation regulator activity (e.g. GSPT1, GCN1, EIF4GI), with interactors primarily located in ER subcompartment (e.g. COPB4, LCLAT1, SEC16A), ER membrane (e.g. COPA, SGPL1, STIM1) and Golgi apparatus (e.g. PLIN3, GANAB, ARFGEF2) (Fig. 4C). The presence of a high number of ER and Golgi proteins across cells may again be due to transient interactions during processing and trafficking of the Kv1.3 channel protein. Furthermore, the biological processes and molecular functions of the Kv1.3 interactome specific to JTCs

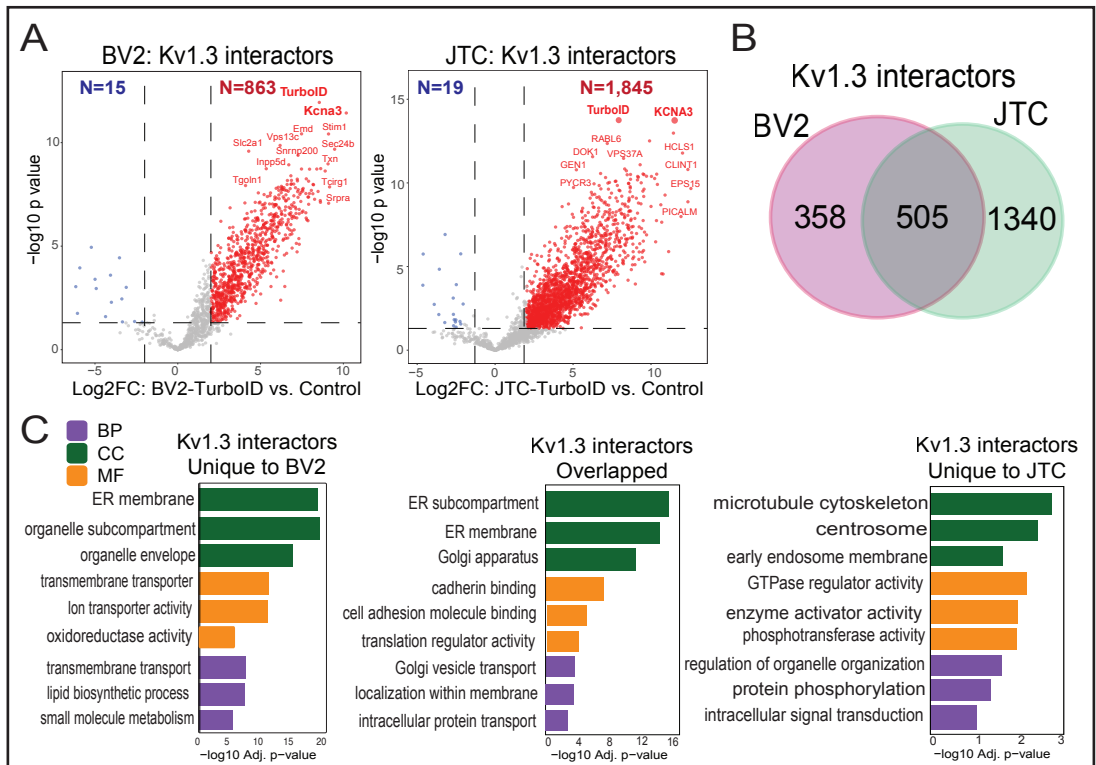


Fig. 4. Comparative analysis of Kv1.3 channel interactome in BV-2 microglia and Jurkat T-Cells (JTC). (A) DEA between TurboID and Control sample identifies 863 interactors of Kv1.3 channel in BV-2 microglial cells while 1845 are interactors of Kv1.3 channel in JTC (n=3). (B) Intersection of BV-2 and JTC Kv1.3 interactors shows 358 and 1340 proteins unique to BV-2 and JTCs, respectively, along with an overlap of 505 channel interactors across given cell-types. (C) GO term enrichment analysis shows mitochondrial and metabolic function of Kv1.3 interactors in BV-2, while GTPase regulator and signaling role of channel interactors in JTCs. Overlapping proteins are associated with protein transport and localization. Detail analysis is given in Supp. Datasheet 6.

appear to regulate GTPase regulator activity (*e.g.* RGS14, ARHGAP15, RAPGEF6), enzyme activator activity (*e.g.* PSME2, SMAP2, RPTOR) and protein phosphorylation (*e.g.* MAPKAP1, GRK3, PEAK1) (*Fig. 4C*). In contrast, the distinct Kv1.3 interacting proteins in BV-2 cells are predominantly associated with transmembrane transport (*e.g.* ATP6V1C1, VMP1, TOMM22), oxidoreductase activity (*e.g.* COX4I1, NCF2, NDUFA9) and lipid biosynthetic process (*e.g.* ERLIN2, DGAT1, CLN6) (*Fig. 4C*). In summary, Kv1.3 channels in T-cells appeared to regulate cell activation, trafficking and signaling while in microglia they primarily associated with proteins involved in mitochondrial function and lipid metabolism. Our analysis provided a molecular basis for functional variation of the Kv1.3 channel in two distinct immune cell types.

Transmembrane proteins interactors of Kv1.3 channel in T-cells and microglia

Functional Kv1.3 channels are predominantly localized to the plasma membrane and the mitochondrial membrane, where they regulate membrane potential and K⁺ flux [37]. Therefore, membrane-associated Kv1.3 channel interactors are of particular interest, as they are likely to mediate the most functionally significant interactions of Kv1.3 channels in immune cells.

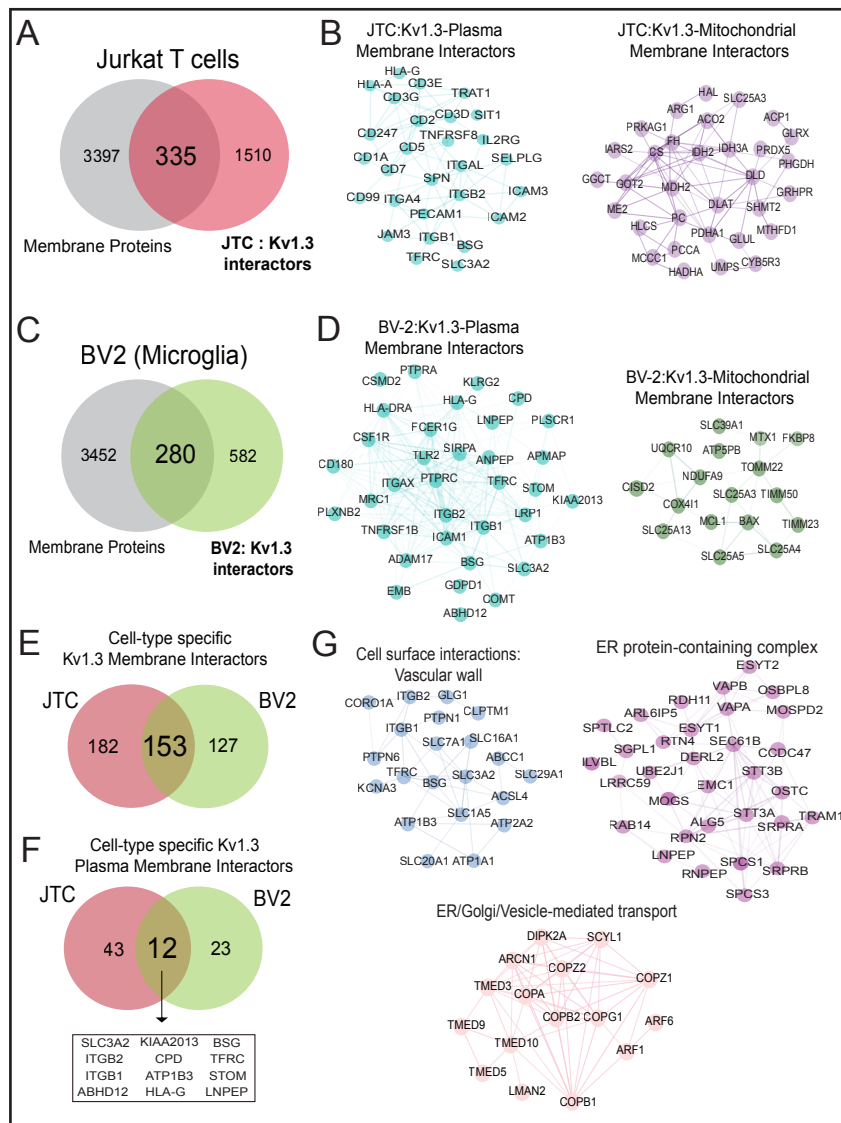
We integrated the Kv1.3 AP proteome data with a list of transmembrane proteins (EBI-GO_Membrane and Membranome databases (<https://membranome.org/proteins> and <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/QuickGO/term/GO:0016020>). Of 3, 732 known transmembrane proteins and 1, 845 Kv1.3 interactors in JTCs, we identified 335 membrane-associated Kv1.3 interactors in T-cells (*Fig. 5A*). These included distinct groups of plasma membrane (cell surface) interactors, mitochondrial membrane interactors, ER/Golgi, organelle and vesicle related membrane interactors. 55 plasma membrane Kv1.3 interacting proteins were identified (*Fig. 5B*), including known Kv1.3 interactors like integrins ITGB1 and ITGB2 [65] along with ITGAL, and CD3 complex proteins [40] (CD3D, CD3E, CD3G). 32 proteins were associated with the mitochondrial membrane (*Fig. 5B*). Additionally, 18 proteins were identified as ER membrane components (*Supp. Fig. 4A*), along with several proteins attributed to Golgi membrane. We also identified 25 members of the SNAP receptor activity family (*Supp. Fig. 4B*), suggesting the potential involvement of SNAP receptor-mediated vesicle trafficking in the localization of Kv1.3 channels to the membrane. Alternatively, Kv1.3 channels may also influence SNARE proteins that regulate exocytosis, with functional roles in human effector T cells [66].

We also contrasted transmembrane membrane proteins with Kv1.3 interactors in BV-2 microglia, using a similar approach outlined above. 280 transmembrane proteins were present in the BV-2 Kv1.3 interactome (*Fig. 5C*), which included 35 plasma membrane (*e.g.* CD180, LRP1, CSF1R) (*Fig. 5D*) and 14 mitochondrial membrane proteins (*Fig. 5D*). Mitochondrial membrane interactors in BV2 microglia included important inner (TIMM23, TIMM50) and outer membrane (TOMM22, MTX1) proteins, which were not present in the JTC interactome. 153 transmembrane interactors of Kv1.3 were shared across JTCs and BV2 microglia while 182 were unique to JTCs and 127 were unique to BV-2 microglia (*Fig. 5E*). 12 shared plasma membrane interactors were identified, including ITGB1, ITGB2, SLC3A2, STOM (*Fig. 5F*), while 43 and 23 were specific to JTC and BV-2, respectively. In contrast to the partial overlap of plasma membrane Kv1.3 interactors in microglia and T-cells, mitochondrial membrane Kv1.3 interactors across cell types showed no overlap.

Overlapping membrane interactors of JTCs and BV-2 included solute transporters (SLCs) and integrins that mediates cell surface interactions at the vascular wall, proteins from the TMED and COP family, enriching ER to Golgi vesicle-mediated transport pathway, and proteins belonging to ER protein-containing complexes like SPCS1, STT3A, RAB14 (*Fig. 5G*).

Overall, Kv1.3's transmembrane interactome in JTCs and BV-2 cells included both shared and unique interactors that contribute to its diverse roles. The overlap of 153 interactors between JTCs and BV-2 cells points to conserved mechanisms of Kv1.3 regulation and function, while the unique interactors reflect cell-type-specific adaptations that likely contribute to the distinct physiological roles of Kv1.3 in T-cells and microglia.

Fig. 5. Transmembrane interactors of Kv1.3 channel in BV-2 microglia and Jurkat T-Cells (JTC). (A) Venn diagram of JTC-Kv1.3 interactors and membrane proteins highlight 335 membrane proteins in Kv1.3 interactome in JTCs. (B) STRING network analysis of 335 membrane interactors of Kv1.3 channel identifies 55 plasma membrane and 32 mitochondrial membrane proteins interacting with Kv1.3 channel in JTCs. (C) Venn diagram analysis between membrane proteins and BV-2 Kv1.3 interactome shows 280 membrane proteins in Kv1.3 interactome in BV-2 microglial cell. (D) Network analysis of 280 membrane Kv1.3 interactors in BV-2 illustrates 35 and 14 of these are plasma and mitochondrial membrane interactors, respectively. (E) Intersection between membrane interactors of Kv1.3 channel in BV-2 and JTCs shows 182 are JTC and 127 are BV-2 unique interactors, while 153 are shared across cell-type. (F) Intersection between plasma membrane interactors of Kv1.3 channel in BV-2 and JTC displays 43 distinct interactors in JTCs, while 23 are specific to BV-2 cells. 12 shared plasma membrane interactors among JTCs and BV-2 are highlighted. (G) STRING analysis reveals functional clustering of overlapping proteins (153) in JTC and BV-2 Kv1.3 membrane interactors intersection given in Fig. 5E. Panels highlight proteins involved in cell surface interactions at the vascular wall, focusing on adhesion and signaling, proteins associated with ER to Golgi vesicle-mediated transport, emphasizing their roles in intracellular trafficking and vesicle formation and ER protein-containing complex, illustrating proteins critical for ER organization and protein folding. Complete table of each analysis is given in Supp. Datasheet 7.



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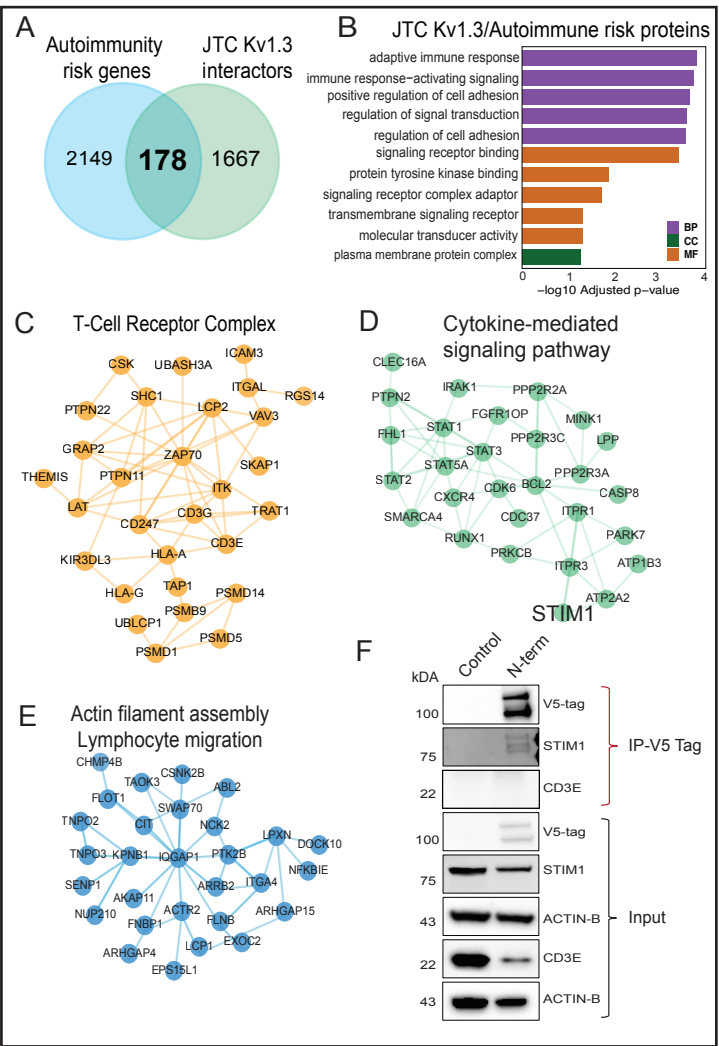
Nomination of Kv1.3 channel interactors with causal roles in T cell-mediated autoimmune diseases

Activated TEMs highly express Kv1.3 channels and are implicated in the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases [23]. To nominate Kv1.3 interacting proteins that are most relevant to autoimmune diseases, we obtained a list of 2, 327 autoimmune disease risk genes from the NHGRI-EBI GWAS catalog for various autoimmune diseases (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/gwas/>

efotraits/EFO_0005140). Of these, 178 proteins were identified as Kv1.3 channel interacting proteins in JTCs (Fig 6A). Our analysis highlighted interaction of Kv1.3 channel with genes, such as UBASH3A, ITSN2, ERAP1 and EIF4H, linked to multiple autoimmune conditions including type-1 diabetes (T1D), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), multiple sclerosis (MS), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and celiac disease, which were highly represented in the Kv1.3 interactome. Additionally, other abundant proteins in the AP proteome included risk genes associated with IBD (e.g. PRRC2A, PTK2B, SLAIN2, ALMS1), RA (e.g. LZTS1, PRRC2A, PRR12), Crohn's disease (e.g. PTK2B, ERGIC1, SLAIN2), SLE (e.g. PRR12, RABGAP1L, MAPT) and ulcerative colitis (ERGIC1). GO analyses showed enrichment of adaptive immune response/immune regulation, cell adhesion, signal transduction, binding signaling receptors and kinases (Fig 6B). STRING analysis highlighted TCR complex (UBASH3, PTPN22, PTPN1, CD3E) (Fig 6C), cytokine-mediated signaling (IRAK1, RUNX1, CLEC16A, STIM1) (Fig 6D), and actin filament bundle assembly/lymphocyte migration (ITGA4, SENP1, NFKBIE, ARHGAP4) (Fig 6E) proteins as autoimmune disease-relevant Kv1.3 interactors. These Kv1.3 interactions provide a framework for understanding how Kv1.3 channels may regulate immune mechanisms in autoimmune diseases and guide target nomination for validation studies.

Based on the strength of enrichment in the Kv1.3 interactome and strength of genetic risk association, we nominated STIM1 and CD3E for validation studies of physical interaction with Kv1.3 using co-immunoprecipitation. Calcium entry with the STIM-ORAI (CRAC)

Fig. 6. Comparative molecular analyses between Kv1.3 interactors and autoimmune diseases associated risk genes (A) Intersection of autoimmune diseases associated risk genes and Kv1.3 interactors shows 178 Kv1.3 enriched proteins in JTCs are risk factor for autoimmune conditions. (B) GO term enrichment analysis of 178 Kv1.3 interacting autoimmune risk genes highlights their role in immune response and signaling. STRING analyses illustrating protein-protein interactions shows (C) T-cell receptor complex, (D) Cytokine-mediated signaling pathway and (E) Actin filament bundle assembly or lymphocyte migration functional clusters in Kv1.3 interacting autoimmune risk genes found in JTCs. (F) Western blot following co-immunoprecipitation showing Kv1.3 direct interaction with STIM1 and no physical interaction with CD3E, using V5-tag fused to TurboID. (IP-Immunoprecipitation) (n=3). Table showing details of each analysis is given in Supp. Datasheet 8.



channel is a critical regulator of T cell activation and effector functions. STIM1 is also a target for immune modulation [67]. Our data from JTCs nominated STIM1 as a top Kv1.3 proximity protein (log2 fold change >9). We also selected CD3E (log2 fold change=5), a part of the TCR-CD3 complex that plays a central role in T-cell activation and immune response [68]. CD3 and Kv1.3 molecular proximity is well-known [40, 69]. To validate these interactions, we leveraged the V5 tag in our V5-TurboID-Kv1.3 fusion construct to perform V5 tag antibody-based co-immunoprecipitation experiments to enrich physical interactors of Kv1.3 channel proteins. Kv1.3 and STIM1 were found to co-precipitate, confirming a strong physical protein-protein interaction between two proteins in JTCs (Fig. 6F). This highlights a functional relationship between Kv1.3 and STIM1, which is particularly relevant in our cell model, where both Kv1.3 and STIM1 are critical for T-cell activation, proliferation, and cytokine production [67, 70, 71]. Conversely, CD3E band was not detectable upon co-immunoprecipitation suggesting no physical interaction with Kv1.3, implying that the CD3 complex is within proximity of the Kv1.3 channel but not directly interacting with it (Fig. 6F). This reinforces earlier known Kv1.3 channel interactions with the TCR-CD3 complex through intermediary proteins [72].

Discussion

Kv1.3 channels modulate activation, proliferation and cytokines production in T-cells [70, 71]. Although Kv1.3 has been well studied in T-cells, understanding its precise molecular functions and signaling roles deserve further investigation. We used a bioengineered enzyme, TurboID, fused to the Kv1.3 protein to label and identify proteins within proximity of the channel in the Jurkat cell line (JTC), an immortalized patient-derived human T cell leukemia line [42]. We generated JTC lines, stably-expressing Kv1.3 channels fused to TurboID at either N-terminal, C-terminal or C-terminal Δ PDZ, and validated functional transduction of channel through electrophysiological studies. We excluded the effect of transduction on basal T-cell activation and functions by analyzing the effect of channel overexpression and blockade on NFAT signaling, certain kinases and cytokines. After MS-based quantification of biotinylated proteins, we identified over 1, 800 proteins as interactors of Kv1.3, which included several previously known protein interactors such as integrins (ITGB1, ITGB2), immune synapse proteins (DLG4, DLG1), apoptosis-related mitochondrial protein (BCL-2), regulatory subunits (KCNA2) and immune signaling proteins (STAT1, STAT3), providing validation of our approach. In addition to confirming these known interactors, our study provides a surprisingly broad network of proteins in proximity to Kv1.3 channels in T-cells that likely includes indirect, transient, and stable interactors. Several Kv1.3 interactors also showed preferential interaction with the N-terminus and with the C-terminus of the channels, with a small, yet important, subset of C-terminal interactors showing dependency on the PDZ-binding domain. While many Kv1.3-interacting proteins were identified in both T-cells and microglia, several are unique to each cell type. Although Kv1.3 primarily regulate K⁺ efflux, membrane potential and Ca²⁺ influx as a general mechanism of immune regulation, the interactome of Kv1.3 clearly varies across immune cell types, suggesting that it may also regulate a plethora of different immune functions [35, 36]. Importantly, the Kv1.3 interactome identified by our proximity labeling approach revealed 178 proteins with causal roles in the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases, highlighting that Kv1.3 channels interact with and potentially modulate these disease-relevant pathways.

Two recent publications, one by Bowen *et al.* from our group and another by Prosdoci *et al.*, have employed proximity-dependent labeling techniques to identify the domain-specific interactomes of Kv1.3 channels in BV-2 and HEK293 cells [35, 36]. In our analysis, we found proteins that interact with the N-terminus of Kv1.3 are involved in protein synthesis and trafficking, Golgi vesicle transport, vesicle-mediated transport, mRNA processing and endosomal processes which are in alignment with previous reports [35]. A noteworthy N-terminal interaction identified in this study is with the immune adaptor protein STING1. STING1 triggers production of type 1 interferons and initiates a cascade of events involving

immune cell activation and inflammation [73]. Further investigations are required to find out the functional implication of this interaction. The interaction of the Kv1.3 C-terminus with proteins implicated involvement in cell junction maintenance, immune signaling, and immune synapse organization that are consistent with previous findings indicating the critical role of Kv1.3 channel in T-cell activation and immune synapse formation [74]. Small GTPases are essential for T-cell activation, migration, and immune synapse formation [75, 76]. Though there are some studies suggesting an association between Kv1.3 channels and GTPase activity, the exact regulatory role of Kv1.3 remains unclear. Similar to our observations, Prosdoci *et al.* found that Kv1.3-enriched fractions are involved in GTPase-related functions [36]. Our data indicated that C-terminus-specific interactions are particularly enriched in proteins associated with GTPase activity and regulation, with certain interactions mediated through its PDZ-binding domain. Additionally, the C-terminus interacted with TSC1, a negative regulator of critical cellular growth and metabolic pathway- the mTOR signaling [77], as well as with LAMTOR1, an activator of the mTOR pathway [78]. Although these interactions do not clarify whether they are positive or negative associations, they do suggest that Kv1.3 may regulate cell metabolism. The Kv1.3 channel may potentially serve as a scaffold that modulates mTOR signaling, which could explain the higher metabolic rate observed in Kv1.3 knockout mice [79]. In physiological conditions, it would be interesting to explore how these interactions are balanced within the cell to ensure proper cellular function. Although the N-terminal interactome of Kv1.3 appears to be larger than the C-terminal interactome, it might have captured many processing and trafficking proteins that likely reflect interactions that occurred in the ER/Golgi. The preponderance of ER/Golgi proteins in the N-terminal interactome of Kv1.3 could also be due to possible effects of N-term TurboID fusion on Kv1.3 channel localization or post-translational modifications. This possibility is supported by our observations of lower cell surface Kv1.3 currents and heavier Kv1.3 bands in the lysates of N-terminal Kv1.3 TurboID JTCs as compared to C-term Kv1.3 TurboID JTCs, despite equal total Kv1.3 protein levels across our JTC lines. This difference between N-term and C-term Kv1.3 TurboID fusions was also observed in our prior work with BV2 microglia and HEK293 cells [35]. Multiple factors determine the functional localization of the Kv1.3 channel to the cell surface. While certain non-canonical interactions at the C-terminus mediate channel trafficking to the plasma membrane [80], a caveolin-binding domain located at the N-terminus also contributes to Kv1.3 membrane localization [81]. Several PTMs, such as N-glycosylation and ubiquitination, are also key regulators of channel expression at the cell surface. N-glycosylation promotes surface expression and reduces internalization [50], whereas ubiquitination facilitates Kv1.3 endocytosis [51]. Taken together, the ER-associated protein signature of the N-terminal interactome could reflect preferential ER retention N-terminally fused Kv1.3, while interactions identified in C-terminal line may be reflective of interactors at the cell membrane. Because the C-terminal interactome includes signaling and GTPase related proteins, it is likely that C-terminus of Kv1.3 may regulate critical immune functions. STAT1 was recently identified as a C-terminal interactor of Kv1.3 and indeed, Kv1.3 blockade in microglia reduced STAT1 phosphorylation [35]. In a melanoma cell line, Kv1.3 interactions with STAT3 protein were also verified, linking Kv1.3 channel function with immune signaling [36].

According to Bowen *et al.*, in BV-2 microglia, deletion of the PDZ-binding domain had significant impact on the C-terminal interactome [35]. Kv1.3 channel loses 70 interactions upon deletion of this domain, consisting of proteins associated with crucial processes like antigen processing and presentation and immune signaling pathways. However, our study in JTCs showed modest effects of deletion of the C-terminal PDZ-binding TDV motif on the Kv1.3 interactome. The channel lost interactions with five proteins, including ROCK2, a serine/threonine kinase that plays a significant role in enhancing the pathogenic functions of T-cells. ROCK2 is also associated with T cells activation in IBD [82]. Another notable PDZ-binding domain dependent interaction of Kv1.3 channel is with TUBB6, a beta-tubulin isoform that forms microtubules. Co-expression analysis of TUBB6 highlights its correlation with T-cell proliferation in immune signaling and CD8+ T-cells infiltration in carcinomas [83].

Additionally, the shift observed in C-terminus interactions, with domain deletion, implies that the loss of the PDZ-binding domain not only weakens specific regulatory interactions but may also recruit non-specific or compensatory interactions that could alter Kv1.3 channel functionality. One of the notable interactions of Kv1.3 channel observed upon PDZ-binding domain deletion is with FYN kinase, a neuroinflammation modulator and therapeutic target in neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson diseases [84, 85]. Previously, Sarkar *et al.* have shown that FYN binds to Kv1.3 and regulates channel activity in microglia [86]. Interestingly, in our analysis FYN interaction gets stronger with PDZ-binding domain deletion, suggesting that this domain has an inhibitory effect on FYN-Kv1.3 interaction. However, how this interaction relates to FYN or Kv1.3 channel function warrants further investigation. Moreover, the gain of ER-associated interactors suggests that PDZ-binding domain deletion may alter channel localization or turnover, potentially impacting Kv1.3-mediated signaling dynamics in T-cells. Our findings of PDZ-binding domain interactions and the observed changes with PDZ-binding domain deletion further emphasize the role of the Kv1.3 channel C-terminus in the structural organization of immune signaling complexes and modulating T-cell function.

An important observation in our study is that nearly 500 Kv1.3 interactors are shared across two major immune cell lines (T cells and microglia), both of which express Kv1.3 channels [27, 87]. These common interactors are related to protein transport and localization, along with cell signaling functions like cadherin and cell adhesion molecule binding. However, we found that the majority (~73%) of Kv1.3 interactors in JTCs are unique to T-cells, while 42% of Kv1.3 interactors in BV-2 microglia are unique to microglia. These represent cell type-specific Kv1.3 interactors, providing a framework for how different cell types may link Kv1.3 channels to distinct molecular machinery and functional pathways. Interestingly, Kv1.3 interactors in T cells are predominantly associated with regulating cell signaling. While those in microglia are involved in cellular metabolism and energy production. The Kv1.3 channel in T-cells interacts with various kinases, including IRAK1, CDK1, STK26, ROCK2, and MARK3, highlighting its role in protein phosphorylation. This involvement in protein modifications might contribute to the channel's immunomodulatory function. These differences suggest that Kv1.3 may differentially regulate cell activation and signaling functions in T-cells compared to metabolic function in microglia.

Furthermore, our analyses of plasma membrane Kv1.3 interactors helped us identify important cell surface interactions. In T-cells, we found that Kv1.3 interacts with TCR complex proteins such as CD3 components and CD247, which are essential for T-cell activation and antigen recognition [88]. In addition, we found receptor kinases PTPRK, PTP7, as well as cytokine signaling proteins (*e.g.* IL2RG), essential for lymphocyte proliferation and immune regulation [89]. Similarly, in microglia we found that the receptor tyrosine kinase CSF1R is in proximity to Kv1.3 channels. CSF1R regulates macrophage and microglial development, survival, differentiation and proliferation with important roles in neurological disease pathogenesis [90]. Proteins like SIRPA, LRP1, that have a role in phagocytosis were also identified as microglia-specific interactors of Kv1.3 [91, 92]. The shared interactors in T-cells and microglia underscore fundamental roles of Kv1.3 that span both immune and glial cell types. Conversely, the cell-type-specific interactors recognize specialized functions tailored to immune responses in T-cells and neuroinflammatory regulation in microglia. These findings provide a foundation and framework for future mechanistic studies to investigate the functional relevance of these interactions, particularly in the context of Kv1.3's roles in immunity, neuroinflammation, and cell metabolism. However, it is important to note that our analyses were conducted using human T-cell and mouse microglial lines. While we expect most interactors to be the same, some may not be fully consistent across species.

Our study also identified several Kv1.3 interactors that are localized to mitochondria. Kv1.3 channels have been shown to be present in the inner mitochondrial membrane and may regulate mitochondrial function and apoptosis [93]. We indeed identified BCL-2, a direct interactor of the known mitochondrial Kv1.3 interactor, BAX [38]. In T-cells, the mitochondrial Kv1.3 interactors primarily include proteins such as ACO2, CS, FH, IDH2, and

IDH3A, which are functionally related to energy production and mitochondrial metabolism, as well as GOT2, GLUL, SHMT2, and PHGDH, which are associated with amino acid metabolism. In microglia, Kv1.3 interactors in the mitochondria included proteins such as TIMM50, TOMM22, and MTX1, which are involved in protein import and maintaining mitochondrial integrity [94-96]. There are also several critical components of the mitochondrial electron transport chain (ETC) and ATP synthase (Complex V) (UQCR10, COX4I1, ATP5PB, and ATP5MK), present in the microglial interactome, which enable oxidative phosphorylation and drive ATP production [97-99]. Surprisingly, Kv1.3 interactors in the mitochondria were not shared across microglia and T-cells. These distinctions might be due to variations in the functions of mitochondria in microglia, where they manage the high energy demand required for brain immunosurveillance [100], in contrast to T-cells, where mitochondrial metabolism is primarily important for T-cell activation and proliferation [101]. While our studies did not obtain Kv1.3 interactions from mitochondria-enriched cellular fractions, our results are in agreement with mitochondrial localization and functions of Kv1.3 channels.

Kv1.3 is highly expressed by autoreactive activated TEMs in several autoimmune diseases [23]. Kv1.3 channel blockers, such as PAP-1 (5-(4-phenoxybutoxy) psoralen) and sea anemone peptides (ShK-186, ShK-223) are effective in suppressing autoimmune responses and improving neurological outcomes in rodent models of MS [23], T1D [20], arthritis [20], psoriasis [102], autoimmune encephalomyelitis [103], granulomatosis with polyangiitis [104] and systemic lupus erythematosus [105]. To gain a better understanding of how Kv1.3 channels regulate immune functions across this spectrum of autoimmune diseases, we identified several autoimmune disease risk gene products as Kv1.3 interactors. Among these, STIM1 was identified and validated as an interacting partner of Kv1.3 using co-immunoprecipitation. While the functional relationship between Kv1.3 channels and the CRAC channel components has been observed, along with localization of STIM1, ORAI and Kv1.3 at immunological synapses during T-cell activation, the direct evidence of physical interaction between Kv1.3 and STIM1 is lacking [41, 106, 107]. Our results therefore provide another direct link between Kv1.3 channel function and the CRAC channel in T-cells. While the co-immunoprecipitation results indicate a strong interaction between Kv1.3 channel and STIM1, direct interaction could be further validated through more rigorous methods such as FRET analysis. In addition, CD3E, another identified protein, was validated only to be in proximity of the channel, but not physically interacting with it. This highlights the role of adaptor proteins in mediating the interaction of Kv1.3 channels with the TCR-CD3 complex at immunological synapses [72]. Since aberrant abnormalities of T-cell activation and cytokine signaling are hallmarks of autoimmune diseases, our findings provide important molecular links between Kv1.3 channel function and disease-relevant immune mechanisms.

We acknowledge several limitations of our study. Firstly, although JTCs are a well-established model for studying T-cells *in vitro*, these immortalized and permanently activated cells, lacking CD8 and low expression of CD4 surface receptors [108] [109], may not fully recapitulate the signaling and functional characteristics of primary T cells *in vivo*. Although these cells are used widely for their robust transduction efficiency and activation response, their transformed nature may influence signaling and Kv1.3 interactome profiles. Further validation of interactions in primary T-cells or in an *in vivo* model are needed. Secondly, proximity labeling using TurboID may capture proteins in the vicinity of Kv1.3 that do not directly interact with the channel, and may represent transient or less stable as well as indirect interactions, not all of which may be functionally important. As we did for STIM1, additional validation with co-immunoprecipitation should therefore be considered for targets of interest. It is reassuring however, that expected Kv1.3 interactors (DLG1, ITGB1, ITGB2, LCK) were identified as strong interactors in our study. Third limitation of our study is the choice of the control cell line. Since biotinylation in our studies occurred over the course of 24 hours rather than the last 1 hour of the experiment, we suspect that the relatively large proximity-proteome of Kv1.3 most likely comprises of stable and transient, as well as direct and indirect interactors. While we used non-transduced JTCs without TurboID as our negative control, alternative controls may be better suited. These include using JTCs

transduced to express unfused (cytosolic) TurboID or with both Kv1.3 overexpression and TurboID without a Kv1.3-TurboID fusion. Future studies should consider these additional controls to better account for effects of viral transduction, Kv1.3 over-expression as well as false-positive findings due to biotinylation of cytosolic proteins even by Kv1.3-TurboID. Lastly, the comparative analysis of Kv1.3 channel functions between JTCs and BV-2 cells may be partly limited by inter-species differences, as JTCs are human cells while BV-2 cells are a mouse line.

Overall, this study highlights the possible role of Kv1.3 channels in various immune and signaling pathways. Future research should focus on validating and elucidating the functional consequences of the identified Kv1.3 channel interactions. These analyses should be extended to other immune cells, with varied cellular activation states and disease contexts. It is also highly important to validate key interactions in primary T-cells and in *in-vivo* models. Future studies testing the effect of channel blockade on these nominated pathways will deepen our understanding of the role of Kv1.3 in T-cell signaling and autoimmune diseases and its potential as a therapeutic target.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our study showcases how high-throughput interactomics, target nomination and focused validation can be used to identify novel protein-protein interactors of an ion channel in immune cells. Using proximity-based proteomics in two mammalian cell lines, we identified a large network of Kv1.3 channel interacting proteins, some of which validate prior findings while the majority represent novel interactions, including physical interactions between Kv1.3 and the CRAC channel protein STIM1. Our findings align with earlier research suggesting that the potassium ion channel Kv1.3 contributes to signaling cascades necessary for immune responses. The C-terminus directs these immune interactions, with several significant interactions mediated by the PDZ-binding domain, while the N-terminus regulates protein synthesis, trafficking and localization. We have highlighted many membrane specific interactors of Kv1.3 channel in T-cells and distinguished them from microglial specific interactors. Lastly, we provide additional evidence linking Kv1.3 channels with mechanisms of T cell-mediated autoimmunity and suggest a framework for future mechanistic investigations to further explore Kv1.3 channel as a therapeutic target for autoimmune diseases.

Abbreviations

TCR- T-cell receptor; APC- Antigen presenting cells; TEM- T effector memory cells; TCM- T central memory cells; IGF- Insulin-like growth factor; EGF- Epidermal growth factor; LFQ-MS- Label-free quantitative mass spectrometry; DEA- Differential enrichment analysis; DEP- Differentially expressed proteins;

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Statement of Ethics

The authors have no ethical conflicts to disclose.

Disclosure Statement

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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