

# Regulation of InsP<sub>3</sub> receptor activity by neuronal Ca2+-binding proteins

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Inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptors (InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs) were recently demonstrated to be activated independently of InsP<sub>3</sub> by a family of calmodulin (CaM)-like neuronal Ca<sup>2+</sup>binding proteins (CaBPs). We investigated the interaction of both naturally occurring long and short CaBP1 isoforms with InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs, and their functional effects on InsP<sub>3</sub>Revoked Ca2+ signals. Using several experimental paradigms, including transient expression in COS cells, acute injection of recombinant protein into Xenopus oocytes and <sup>45</sup>Ca<sup>2+</sup> flux from permeabilised COS cells, we demonstrated that CaBPs decrease the sensitivity of InsP3-induced Ca2+ release (IICR). In addition, we found a Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent interaction between CaBP1 and the NH<sub>2</sub>-terminal 159 amino acids of the type 1 InsP<sub>3</sub>R. This interaction resulted in decreased InsP3 binding to the receptor reminiscent of that observed for CaM. Unlike CaM, however, CaBPs do not inhibit ryanodine receptors, have a higher affinity for InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs and more potently inhibited IICR. We also show that phosphorylation of CaBP1 at a casein kinase 2 consensus site regulates its inhibition of IICR. Our data suggest that CaBPs are endogenous regulators of InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs tuning the sensitivity of cells to InsP<sub>3</sub>.

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**Abbreviations:** InsP<sub>3</sub>, inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate; InsP<sub>3</sub>R, inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor; CaBP, Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding protein; CaM, calmodulin; IICR, InsP<sub>3</sub>-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> release; ER, endoplasmic reticulum; RyR, ryanodine receptor; IP, immunoprecipitation; co-IP, co-immunoprecipitation; aa, amino acids

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## Introduction

Changes in intracellular Ca2+ control a diverse array of cellular processes, including fertilisation, memory formation and gene transcription (Berridge et al, 2003). Increases in cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels may arise as a result of either its release from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> store or influx across the plasma membrane. The principal Ca<sup>2+</sup> release channels on the ER belong to the ryanodine receptor (RyR) and inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor (InsP<sub>3</sub>R) families (Ehrlich, 1995; Iino, 1999).

Both families of channels are biphasically regulated by Ca<sup>2+</sup> (Bezprozvanny et al, 1991). In addition, inositol 1,4,5trisphosphate (InsP<sub>3</sub>) is a co-agonist for InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs (Bezprozvanny et al, 1991). The mechanism by which Ca<sup>2+</sup> exerts its effect has been the subject of intense investigation resulting in the identification of several Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding sites in the InsP<sub>3</sub>R (Sienaert et al, 1997). In addition to a direct action of Ca2+ on the receptor, Ca2+ may function through Ca<sup>2+</sup>-sensing proteins that either bind directly to or modify channel activity by the addition/removal of secondary modifications such as phosphate groups (Patel et al, 1999; Thrower et al, 2001; Nadif Kasri et al, 2002; Taylor and Laude, 2002; Roderick and Bootman, 2003). The tetra EF-handcontaining Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor protein calmodulin (CaM) has been shown to modulate the activity of InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs in both a Ca<sup>2+</sup>dependent and -independent manner (Reviewed in Nadif Kasri et al, 2002; Taylor and Laude, 2002). The Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent CaM binding domain has been mapped to two noncontiguous sites in the NH2-terminal 159 amino acids (aa) of the type 1 InsP<sub>3</sub>R (InsP<sub>3</sub>R1) (Sienaert et al, 2002). The interaction of CaM with these sites was shown to decrease the affinity of the receptor for InsP<sub>3</sub> (Sienaert et al, 2002). The inhibition of InsP<sub>3</sub>-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> release (IICR) by CaM-like proteins may have great significance in neurons where it has been shown to underlie processes including axonal guidance, growth cone formation as well as excitability, which govern long-term potentiation and depression (LTD) associated with memory formation (Nakamura et al, 1999; Nagase et al, 2003). The propagation of Ca<sup>2+</sup> release following repetitive stimulation of the parallel fibre/Purkinje cell synapses is generally restricted to the postsynaptic spines. This is surprising, since Purkinje cells abundantly express InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs throughout the cell (Snyder and Supattapone, 1989; Volpe et al, 1991). Thus, it has been proposed that the high levels of CaM also present in these cells (~10 µM; Kakiuchi et al, 1982) decrease IICR and restrict excitability (Cardy and Taylor, 1998).

A family of neuronal Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding proteins (CaBPs), sharing significant homology in sequence and structure with CaM, has recently been described in the retina and brain (Haeseleer et al, 2000). This family of proteins belongs to the superfamily of neuronal Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor proteins that also include NCS1 (or frequenin) and KChiPs, which have been shown to be involved in neuronal signalling (Burgoyne and

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Weiss, 2001). Unlike CaM, one or two of the EF hand Ca<sup>2+</sup>binding domains in CaBPs are nonfunctional (Haeseleer et al, 2000). CaBPs have been shown to bind to the NH<sub>2</sub>-terminus of InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs in a Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent manner. Furthermore, it was reported that CaBP1 activated Ca<sup>2+</sup> release through InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs independent of InsP3 binding (Yang et al, 2002). Thus, if CaBPs act as endogenous surrogates for InsP3, it is possible that InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs may be directly regulated by Ca<sup>2+</sup>, allowing them to act as true Ca<sup>2+</sup>-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> release channels in a manner similar to RyRs (Bootman et al, 2002).

In this study, we rigorously tested the functional relationship between CaBP- and  $InsP_3$ -mediated  $Ca^{2+}$  release. We determined that CaBP1 interacted with InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs in a Ca<sup>2+</sup>independent manner. This interaction was localised to a peptide sequence in the NH2-terminal 159 aa of InsP3R1 to which CaM has also been shown to bind. CaBP1 binding resulted in a decrease in the sensitivity of IICR. This was demonstrated by measuring IICR in COS cells overexpressing CaBP1, in Xenopus oocytes microinjected with recombinant CaBP1 and permeabilised COS cells exposed to recombinant CaBP1. In addition, CaBP1 by itself could not activate Ca<sup>2+</sup> release. We also show that CaBP1 is phosphorylated at a casein kinase 2 consensus sequence, which regulates its efficacy to inhibit IICR. The use of COS cells and Xenopus oocytes, which do not express endogenous CaBP1, provided an ideal null background to investigate the function of CaBP1. Our data suggest that CaBP1 can behave as an endogenous regulator of InsP<sub>3</sub>R activity, and may serve to tune the sensitivity of InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs to InsP<sub>3</sub>. Although structurally similar to CaM, CaBPs have distinct effects and provide an additional facet of InsP<sub>3</sub>R regulation.

# **Results**

# CaBP1 inhibits agonist-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> signals

CaBP1 has previously been reported to increase the open probability of InsP<sub>3</sub>R independently of InsP<sub>3</sub> in nuclei isolated from Xenopus oocytes (Yang et al, 2002). To test whether this was also true in an intact cellular system, we first adopted a heterologous expression approach. Expression vectors for both the naturally occurring long and short CaBP1 isoforms were generated. In addition, to identify cells expressing these constructs, YFP was appended to the COOH-terminus of the CaBPs (Figure 1A). Figure 1B shows that when overexpressed, both SCaBP1-YFP and LCaBP1-YFP are targeted primarily to the plasma membrane, with some of the protein also residing on intracellular membranes, including the Golgi apparatus. A weaker, but significant, fluorescence was also observed in the cytosol. Transiently expressed SCaBP1-YFP and LCaBP1-YFP, detected using an anti-GFP antibody, migrated at the expected molecular mass (Figure 1C, top panel). Equivalent levels of expression of the endogenous type 3 InsP<sub>3</sub>R (InsP<sub>3</sub>R3) were detected (the major InsP<sub>3</sub>R isoform in COS-7 cells; Wojcikiewicz, 1995) in lysates from FACS-isolated CaBP1-expressing cells, indicating that CaBP1 expression did not impact on the levels of endogenous InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs (Figure 1C, bottom panel).

At 48 h post-transfection, ATP-evoked Ca<sup>2+</sup> transients were monitored in Fura-2-loaded cells. Expression of either LCaBP1 or SCaBP1 resulted in a significant decrease in the number of responsive cells at both 0.5 and 1 µM ATP, and a decrease in the occurrence of agonist-evoked oscillations in

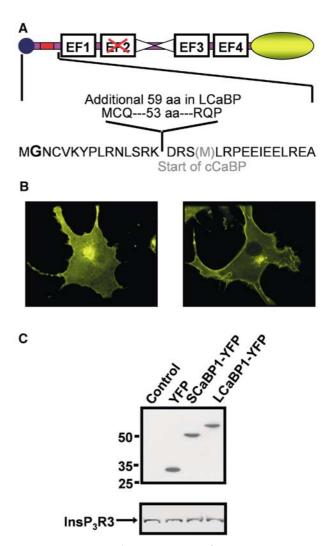


Figure 1 Design and expression of CaBP-YFP vectors. (A) Graphical representation of the LCaBP1-YFP and SCaBP1-YFP constructs used. The location of the additional aa in LCaBP1 compared to SCaBP1 is indicated by the red box. The central  $\alpha$ helix is indicated by the two triangles and the myristoylation sequence is represented by a circle. The four EF hand Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding domains are indicated and the nonfunctional EF hand is shown by the red cross. The yellow ellipse illustrates the COOH-terminal YFP. In the lower panel, aa boundaries for both S/LCaBP and truncated cCaBP (additional methionine at the start of cCaBP shown in grey) are shown. The myristoylated glycine is in bold. (B) COS-7 cells were transiently transfected with S/LCaBP-YFP constructs. At 48 h post-transfection, cells were imaged confocally through a × 100, 1.4 n.a. oil immersion objective (Perkin-Elmer, Cambridge UK). The 488 nm line of the krypton/argon laser was used for excitation and emission collected > 505 nm. (C) (Upper panel) Mobility of YFP, SCaBP1-YFP and LCaBP1-YFP was determined in transiently transfected COS-7 cells by Western blot using anti-GFP antibody. (Lower panel) Abundance of InsP<sub>3</sub>R3 was determined in cells transfected with YFP, SCaBP1, and LCaBP1 isolated by FACS.

those cells that responded (Figure 2A and B). In addition, the integrated Ca<sup>2+</sup> response at these agonist concentrations was reduced (Figure 2D). The integrated Ca<sup>2+</sup> response to maximal agonist (100 µM ATP) was not significantly affected by CaBP1 expression, indicating that the Ca<sup>2+</sup> content of the agonist-sensitive store was unchanged (Figure 2D). Although the amplitude and integrated Ca<sup>2+</sup> response to maximal ATP were not altered by CaBP expression, the latency between agonist addition and the peak response was significantly

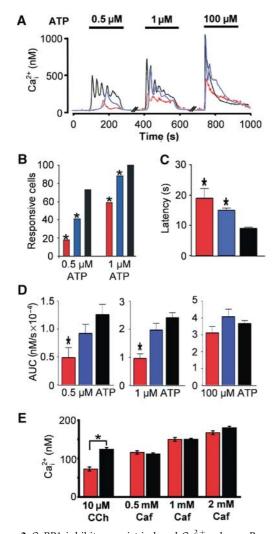


Figure 2 CaBP1 inhibits agonist-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> release. Responses to the InsP<sub>3</sub>-generating agonist ATP were examined in COS-7 cells transfected with either SCaBP1 (red trace and bars) or LCaBP1 (blue trace and bars), respectively. (A) Responses from transfected and nontransfected (control, black trace) cells were recorded from the same field of view. The traces depict responses from individual cells. The concentrations of ATP used are shown by the solid bars above the traces. (B) Quantitative analysis of the experiments depicted in (A). (C) Latency between the application of agonist and the peak  $Ca^{2+}$  response in cells stimulated with  $100 \,\mu\text{M}$  ATP. (D) Integrated  $Ca^{2+}$  signal observed with 0.5, 1 and  $100 \,\mu\text{M}$  ATP. (E) Caffeine-induced  $Ca^{2+}$  release in HEK293 cells stably expressing RyR3 transiently transfected with SCaBP1-YFP. The inhibition of IICR in CaBP-expressing cells was confirmed by application of the InsP<sub>3</sub>-generating agonist carbachol (10 µM CCH, red bar). The peak amplitudes of the Ca<sup>2+</sup> transients for control (black bars) and SCaBP1-YFP (red bars) induced by each caffeine concentration applied are indicated in the bar graph. Statistical significance is denoted by an asterisk.

prolonged. Therefore, even in the face of maximal InsP<sub>3</sub> increases, CaBP effected a delay in the development of the Ca<sup>2+</sup> transient, consistent with a decrease in the sensitivity of InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs (Figure 2C). Similar results were obtained when SCaBP1 was expressed in HeLa, SH-SY5Y and HEK293 cells, indicating that CaBP1 could act on IICR from a variety of cell types expressing differing InsP<sub>3</sub>R isoform complements (data not shown). No effect on IICR was observed following expression of EYFP alone (data not shown). Since both

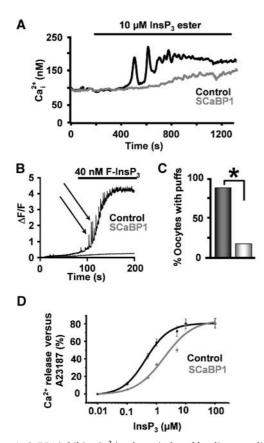
LCaBP1 and SCaBP1 were inhibitory to Ca2+ release, an NH<sub>2</sub>-terminally truncated cDNA construct spanning the conserved regions of these two isoforms (cCaBP) was expressed (Figure 1A). cCaBP resulted in a significant decrease in the percentage of responding cells at 0.5 µM ATP from  $63.9 \pm 2.9\%$  in control cells to  $26.4 \pm 3.7\%$  in cCaBP-expressing cells (n = 11, P < 0.05), which is comparable to that observed for long and short CaBP (Figure 2B). The specificity of the effect of CaBP1 upon IICR was further demonstrated by the absence of any inhibition of caffeine-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> release through RyRs in HEK293 cells in which they are stably expressed (Rossi et al, 2002) (Figure 2E). Carbacholinduced Ca<sup>2+</sup> release measured in the same cells overexpressing CaBP1 was however inhibited, suggesting that InsP3Rs were specifically targeted.

To rule out that the effect of CaBP1 on IICR was mediated by Ca<sup>2+</sup> buffering, the EF-hand-containing Ca<sup>2+</sup> buffer protein calbindin was overexpressed and its effects on Ca<sup>2+</sup> signals were examined. Unlike CaBP, calbindin overexpression did not significantly reduce the number of cells responding to ATP, even at the lowest agonist concentrations used (Supplementary Figure 1). Furthermore, overexpression of CaBP1 in which the three EF hands were disabled (CaBP1<sub>134</sub>) (Yang et al, 2002) resulted in a similar level of inhibition of IICR as cells expressing wild-type CaBP1 ( $13\pm6\%$  of cells expressing CaBP<sub>134</sub> versus  $17.6 \pm 4.5\%$  of cells for SCaBP1 responded to  $0.5 \,\mu\text{M}$  ATP, P > 0.05). Thus, we conclude that the inhibition of IICR by CaBP1 is Ca<sup>2+</sup> independent.

## CaBP1 directly targets InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs to inhibit IICR

To test that the inhibition of IICR was due to a direct effect on InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs, we employed a number of strategies. Application of a cell-permeant InsP<sub>3</sub> ester (InsP<sub>3</sub>BM) (Thomas et al, 2000) induced a robust Ca2+ transient preceded by Ca2+ oscillations in control COS-7 cells, which was not observed in CaBP1-overexpressing cells (Figure 3A). Confocal microscopy was also used to monitor the effect of CaBP on IICR in Fluo-4loaded Xenopus oocytes. The oocytes were injected with either recombinant CaBP1 (8.5 µM final) or vehicle 30 min prior to imaging. In control oocytes, injection of 40 nM F-InsP<sub>3</sub> resulted in an accumulating increase in cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels punctuated by Ca<sup>2+</sup> puffs (Figure 3B), which was not observed in the majority of oocytes injected with CaBP1 (Figure 3C). At 100 nM F-InsP<sub>3</sub>, however, Ca<sup>2+</sup> release was observed in CaBP1-injected oocytes, although puffs prior to the Ca<sup>2+</sup> tide were not apparent (data not shown). Furthermore, no calcium release was observed in oocytes imaged simultaneously with injection of recombinant CaBP1 alone (Supplementary Figure 2). These data indicated that CaBP1 did not induce Ca<sup>2+</sup> release, did not irreversibly inhibit InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs, but significantly reduced the sensitivity of IICR.

In previous studies we have shown the affinity of the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent CaM binding site on InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 to be 2 μM (Sienaert et al, 2002). In this study, based on the amount of excess peptide required to prevent migration of CaBP into gels (depicted in Figure 4C) compared to CaM under the same conditions, we conclude that CaBP has a three-fold greater affinity for the InsP<sub>3</sub>R than CaM. Thus, to investigate the effects of CaBP on Ca2+ release, we used concentrations of the protein up to one order of magnitude greater than its  $K_d$ . To quantitate specifically the unidirectional flux of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, we



**Figure 3** CaBP1 inhibits Ca<sup>2+</sup> release induced by direct application of InsP<sub>3</sub>. (A) Ca<sup>2+</sup> release following application of 10 μM cellpermeant InsP3 (InsP3BM) observed in control (black trace) and CaBP1-transfected (grey trace) COS-7 cells. (B, C) F-InsP3-induced Ca2+ release in control oocytes (black trace) and oocytes preinjected with  $8.5\,\mu M$  recombinant CaBP1 (grey trace). The black arrows in (B) indicate Ca<sup>2+</sup> puffs. Oocytes were imaged as described in Materials and methods. (D) Effect of CaBP1 on InsP3induced efflux of  $^{45}$ Ca<sup>2+</sup> from COS cells. After loading permeabilised COS-1 cells for 45 min in 150 nM  $^{45}$ Ca<sup>2+</sup>, efflux was started in a medium containing 1  $\mu$ M free Ca<sup>2+</sup>, with (circles) or without (squares)  $10\,\mu M$  SCaBP1. After  $10\,min$  of efflux, cells were challenged with InsP<sub>3</sub> for 2 min. The increase in fractional loss provoked by the InsP<sub>3</sub> challenge was plotted as a function of the applied InsP<sub>3</sub> concentration. The Ca<sup>2+</sup> release was normalized to the total releasable fraction by  $5\,\mu M$  A23187, which was taken as  $100\,\%$ . The results represent the mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. of three independent experiments, each performed in duplicate.

measured InsP<sub>3</sub>-induced <sup>45</sup>Ca<sup>2+</sup> flux from permeabilised COS cells in the presence and absence of  $10\,\mu\text{M}$  His-tagged CaBP1. We found that CaBP1 significantly increased the IC50 of IICR from  $0.41 \pm 0.13$  to  $1.83 \pm 0.21 \,\mu\text{M}$  (P < 0.005) (Figure 3D).

## Interaction between CaBP1 and the NH<sub>2</sub>-terminal region of InsP<sub>2</sub>R1

To map the location of the CaBP-binding region within the NH<sub>2</sub>-terminus of InsP<sub>3</sub>R1, pull-down experiments using GST fusions of different NH2-terminal domains of the InsP3R1 were performed (Figure 4A). GST-(1-604) and GST-(1-225) but not GST-(226-604) or the GST control retained the purified SCaBP1. Similar results were obtained using the LCaBP-1 variant or proteins expressed without the HIS tag (data not shown). To identify the site(s) where CaBP1 interacts within the first 225 aa of the InsP<sub>3</sub>R, we performed bandshift experiments using a series of synthetic peptides spanning this region (Sienaert et al, 2002) (Figure 4Bi). A 15% nondenaturing gel illustrating the migration of SCaBP1 into the gel following incubation with a 10-fold molar excess of each of the five different peptides in either 200  $\mu$ M free Ca<sup>2+</sup> or 1 mM EGTA is shown (Figure 4Bii). The InsP<sub>3</sub>R peptides alone did not enter the gel because they were positively charged. Figure 4Bii shows that CaBP1 binds to peptide B independently of  $Ca^{2+}$ , resulting in the formation of a complex that does not enter the gel. In a similar assay, CaM and apoCaM also interacted with peptide B (Sienaert et al, 2002), suggesting a common binding site for CaM and CaBP1. CaM and apoCaM, however, also interacted with peptide E (Sienaert et al, 2002). Since the peptide B/CaM interaction was Ca2+ independent (Sienaert et al, 2002), the Ca2+ dependence of the interaction of peptide B with SCaBP1 was investigated further. Band-shift analysis of this interaction in the presence of an increasing SCaBP1:peptide molar ratio revealed that the interaction was equally effective in the presence of 200  $\mu M$  Ca $^{2+}$  or 1 mM EGTA, and was thus Ca<sup>2+</sup> independent (Figure 4C). Since our overexpression studies were carried out in COS-7 cells, we determined whether CaBP1 interacted with InsP<sub>3</sub>R3. By co-immunoprecipitation (co-IP), we demonstrated that both CaBP1 isoforms interact with InsP<sub>3</sub>R3 (Figure 4D). No co-IP of InsP<sub>3</sub>R3 was observed from lysates of control cells or from cells expressing YFP alone. Furthermore, the interaction between CaBP1 and InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs determined by co-IP was Ca<sup>2+</sup> independent (Figure 4E). In parallel studies, co-IP of YFP-CaM with InsP<sub>3</sub>R3 from transfected cells was more difficult to obtain (data not shown). The efficient co-IP of CaBP with InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 from the brain demonstrates the physiological relevance of the CaBP-InsP<sub>3</sub>R interaction (Figure 4F).

## CaBP1 inhibits InsP3 binding to InsP3Rs

We next investigated the effects of CaBP1 on InsP3 association with the ligand-binding domain of InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 (InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 aa 1-581, Lbs-1) (Sienaert et al, 2002). The presence of 5 µM  $Ca^{2+}$  inhibited [<sup>3</sup>H]-InsP<sub>3</sub> binding to Lbs-1 by 22±1.9% as previously described (n = 3, P < 0.05) (Sienaert et al, 2002). SCaBP1 (10  $\mu$ M) inhibited InsP<sub>3</sub> binding to Lbs-1 by  $36\pm5\%$ in the absence of Ca<sup>2+</sup>. Inhibition by SCaBP1 was fully additive to inhibition by  $Ca^{2+}$ , and amounted to  $58\pm4\%$  in the presence of  $Ca^{2+}$  (n=3, P<0.05). The inhibition of  $InsP_3$ binding to Lbs-1 observed for SCaBP1 was comparable to that by CaM ( $K_i$  for CaBP 1  $\mu$ M compared with  $K_i$  of CaM 2  $\mu$ M, data not shown). To exclude the possibility that the observed Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent SCaBP1 effect was due to a constitutively occupied Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding site with high affinity in the SCaBP1 protein, we used the EF hand mutant SCaBP1134. This non-Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding mutant (10 μM) inhibited InsP<sub>3</sub> association with Lbs-1 by  $33\pm4\%$  in the absence of  $Ca^{2+}$  and  $49\pm5\%$ in the presence of Ca<sup>2+</sup>. Similar results were obtained for full-length InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 (data not shown). SCaBP1 had no effect on InsP<sub>3</sub> binding to Lbs-1 Δ1-225 (data not shown). Taken together, these results confirm that SCaBP1, like CaM, inhibits InsP<sub>3</sub> binding to the InsP<sub>3</sub>R in a Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent manner.

## CaBP1 is regulated by phosphorylation

Caldendrin, the NH<sub>2</sub>-terminal extended isoform of CaBP1, is phosphorylated, although the site of phosphorylation and its function are not known (Seidenbecher et al, 1998). Using the PROSITE Database of protein families and domains (Sigrist et al, 2002), we identified a unique consensus site for phosphorylation by casein kinase 2 in SCaBP1 (S120), which is located at the COOH-terminus of its  $\alpha$ -helical region. The functional consequence of phosphorylation of the structurally equivalent site in CaM (S101) is a decrease in its affinity for substrates (Quadroni et al, 1998). To test whether this was the case for CaBP1, the S120 residue was mutated to an alanine (S120A). By immunoprecipitation (IP) of SCaBP1-YFP from cells incubated with <sup>32</sup>P-orthophosphate, we found that wild-type SCaBP1-YFP was phosphorylated, whereas phosphorylation of SCaBP1-S120A-YFP was barely detectable (Figure 5Ai). Equivalent levels of SCaBP1-YFP and SCaBP1-S120A-YFP in the input lysate were determined by Western blotting (Figure 5Aii) and by FACS analysis of SCaBP1-YFPexpressing cells (data not shown). When stimulated with ATP, SCaBP1-S120A-expressing cells displayed a significantly lower percentage of responding cells, lesser integrated Ca<sup>2+</sup> signals and lower peak Ca2+ transient amplitude in comparison to control cells (Figure 5B-E). Furthermore, the degree of inhibition was significantly greater than that observed for cells expressing wild-type SCaBP1-YFP (P < 0.05). No significant difference was observed in the amplitude of ionomycininduced Ca<sup>2+</sup> release between CaBP-S120A-expressing cells (n = 14) and controls (n = 43, P > 0.5), indicating that the ER calcium stores were intact (Figure 5F). As shown for the wildtype CaBP (Figure 3A), the SCaBP-S120A mutant also inhibi-

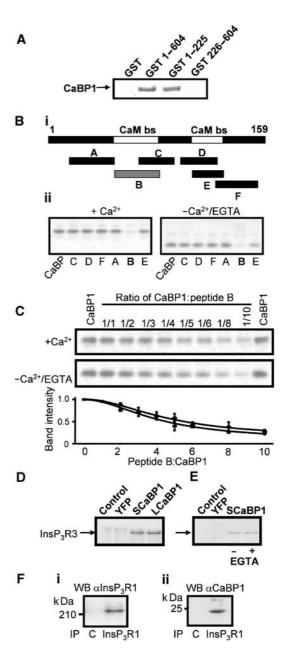
Figure 4 CaBP1 binds directly to the  $InsP_3R$ . (A) SDS-PAGE gel, stained with SYPRO Orange<sup>TM</sup>, showing the interaction between either 100  $\mu g$  pGST, GST 1–604, GST 1–225, GST 226–604 or 100  $\mu g$ SCaBP1 in a pull-down assay in the presence of 200 µM free Ca<sup>2</sup> In lanes 2 and 3, SCaBP1 was retained by GST 1-604 and GST 1-225, respectively. (Bi) Map showing positions of synthetic peptides (A-F) used for binding experiments relative to the NH<sub>2</sub>-terminal 159 aa region of the InsP<sub>3</sub>R. Peptide A (S16-N48), peptide B (P49-N81), peptide C (Y66-K91), peptide D (D97-L123), peptide E (E106-S128) and peptide F (I121-L151). White bars indicating the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent CaM binding sites on the InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 (Sienaert et al, 2002). Grey bar (B) showing a positive interaction of the peptide with SCaBP1. (Bii) Nondenaturating gel (15%) of 3.5 μM SCaBP1 in the presence of each of the InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 peptides (A-F) (35 µM) in 50 mM Tris buffer (pH 7.4) containing either 200  $\mu$ M free Ca<sup>2+</sup> or 1 mM EGTA stained with SYPRO Orange<sup>TM</sup>. In lane 1, SCaBP1 alone was used as a control. SCaBP1 bound to the peptide diminishes the intensity of the SCaBP1 band. (C) SDS-PAGE gel showing the interaction of SCaBP1 with increasing amounts of peptide B (P49-N81) in the presence of  $200\,\mu\text{M}$  Ca $^{2+}$  or 1 mM EGTA stained with SYPRO Orange<sup>TM</sup>. (Lower panel) Densitometric analysis of the SCaBP1 bands by ImageQuant 5.2 of the interaction between SCaBP1 and peptide B (P49-N81) in the presence of  $200 \,\mu\text{M}$  Ca<sup>2+</sup> (triangles) or 1 mM EGTA (squares). The vertical axis denotes the intensity of the SCaBP1 band. (D) co-IP of InsP<sub>3</sub>R3 from COS-7 cells transfected with either SCaBP1 or LCaBP-YFP. YFP-CaBP1 was immunoprecipitated with anti-GFP antibody. InsP<sub>3</sub>R3 immunoreactivity was detected using an anti-InsP<sub>3</sub>R3 monoclonal antibody and subsequent ECL. Transfected cDNA is indicated above the blot. (E) co-IP of InsP<sub>3</sub>R3 with SCaBP1-YFP was performed in the absence (lane 3) or presence of 1 mM EGTA (lane 4). Control IPs from YFPtransfected cells and nontransfected cells were also performed (lanes 1 and 2). (F) co-IP of CaBP with InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 from the brain. The antibody used for the IP is indicated below the blot and the antibody used for the Western blot (WB) is indicated above the blot. C indicates IP with a non-specific antibody. (Fi) IP of InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 subsequently detected by Western blot with anti-InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 antibody. (Fii) Parallel IP using an anti-InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 antibody and Western blot using an anti-CaBP antibody.

ted InsP<sub>3</sub> ester-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> release, indicating a direct effect on InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs (Figure 5G and H).

## **Discussion**

The neuronal CaBPs are a novel group of InsP<sub>3</sub>R-regulating proteins. The results presented here demonstrate a clear functional interaction between CaBP1 and the InsP<sub>3</sub>R Ca<sup>2+</sup> release channel. Furthermore, we find that CaBP1 activity is regulated by phosphorylation. The consequences of InsP<sub>3</sub>R inhibition by CaBP1 may have great significance for neuronal Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling, impacting on synaptic plasticity and neuronal growth.

In this study, we characterised a cellular function of CaBP1. Our findings contrast with a previous report using an in vitro assay, which suggested that CaBP1 stimulated Ca<sup>2+</sup> release independent of InsP<sub>3</sub> (Yang et al, 2002). We found that both the long and short naturally occurring



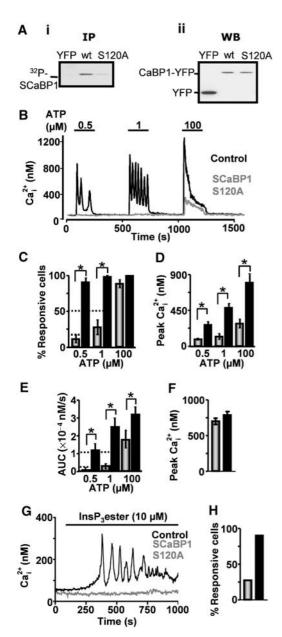


Figure 5 Phosphorylation of S120 regulates CaBP1 activity. (Ai) IP using an anti-GFP antibody of SCaBP1-YFP and SCaBP1-S120A-YFP from <sup>32</sup>P-labelled cells. Control IPs of YFP-transfected cells are also shown. (Aii) Equivalent levels of protein in the input lysate are shown in the Western blot using an anti-GFP antibody. The content of each lane is indicated in the figure. (B) Ca<sup>2+</sup> imaging of control cells (black trace) and cells expressing SCaBP1-S120A-YFP (grey trace). (C) Number of responsive cells. (D) Peak amplitude of responses. (E) Integrated Ca<sup>2+</sup> response (AUC). Control and CaBP-transfected cells are represented by black and grey bars, respectively. (F) Peak amplitude of Ca<sup>2+</sup> release following ionomycin treatment (10 µM) for control cells (black bars) and SCaBP-S120A-YFP-transfected cells (grey bars). (**G**) Ca<sup>2+</sup> release following stimulation with  $10\,\mu M$  InsP $_3$  ester for control (black trace) and SCaBP-S120A-YFP-transfected cells (grey trace). (H) Percentage of control (black bars) and SCaBP-S120A-YFP-transfected cells (grey bars) responding to InsP3 ester stimulation is shown in the bar graph. Statistical significance is indicated by an asterisk.

isoforms of CaBP1 as well as the NH2-terminally truncated cCaBP inhibited Ca<sup>2+</sup> release induced by application of an InsP<sub>3</sub>-generating agonist when expressed in COS-7 cells. Since CaBP1 also inhibited Ca<sup>2+</sup> release induced by application of cell-permeant InsP3 in transfected COS-7 cells, IICR from permeabilised COS cells and from intact Xenopus oocytes, we concluded that CaBP1 was directly targeting InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs. The effects of CaBP1 were not due to Ca<sup>2+</sup> buffering, since CaBP1134, in which the three functional EF hands had been disabled, had a similar effect as the wild-type protein. Furthermore, the effects of CaBP1 on Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling were unlike those observed for calbindin, another EF-handcontaining protein that functions solely as a Ca2+ buffer (John et al, 2001). In addition, CaBP1 expression did not affect caffeine-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> release through RyRs. As well as showing specificity for IICR, these data support our conclusions that CaBP1 is not causing an artefactual adaptive response in overexpressing cells. The lack of an effect on RyRs is not surprising, since the affinity of the interaction between CaBP1 and RyRs, unlike that between CaM and RyRs, is very low (S Hamilton, personal communication). Our band-shift and co-IP data, together with the data of Yang et al (2002), which demonstrated that CaM was unable to displace CaBP1 from InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs, suggest that the affinity of the CaBP1-InsP<sub>3</sub>R interaction is greater than that between CaM and InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs. We also found that when overexpressed in COS-7 cells, CaM did not inhibit IICR to the same degree as CaBP1 (MD Bootman and HL Roderick, unpublished observations). Thus, in neurons that express InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs and RyRs, CaBP1 may serve to inhibit IICR specifically whereas CaM may target RyRs. Indeed, by co-IP from brain tissue we readily observe an interaction between CaBP and InsP3Rs, whereas an interaction between InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs and CaM is more difficult to detect (Figure 4F; K Rietdorf, MD Bootman and HL Roderick, unpublished observations).

CaM has a dual role in regulating IICR. It binds in a Ca<sup>2+</sup>dependent manner to the regulatory domain of InsP3Rs, where it has been suggested to inactivate the receptor following Ca<sup>2+</sup> release (Michikawa et al, 1999; Adkins et al, 2000). It also binds independently of Ca<sup>2+</sup> to the NH<sub>2</sub>-terminus of InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs, inhibiting InsP<sub>3</sub> binding and resultant Ca<sup>2+</sup> release (Patel et al, 1997; Cardy and Taylor, 1998; Sipma et al, 1999; Adkins et al, 2000; Sienaert et al, 2002). Interestingly, in this study we observe that CaBP1 also binds to the NH2-terminus of the InsP<sub>3</sub>R resulting in inhibition of InsP<sub>3</sub> binding. Unlike CaM however, which binds to two noncontiguous sequences in the first 159 aa of InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 (Sienaert et al, 2002), CaBP1 bound to the first of these sequences alone.

Like other members of the neuronal Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding protein family of proteins, CaBP1 is myristoylated at its NH2-terminus (Haeseleer et al, 2000; Burgoyne and Weiss, 2001). In the case of hippocalcin and recoverin, an increase in cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> results in exposure of their myristoyl moieties, which results in their translocation to intracellular membranes (Burgovne and Weiss, 2001). We find that CaBP1 is primarily localised to the plasma membrane and Golgi, but is also present in the cytosol (Figure 1B). This distribution did not change following an increase in cytosolic Ca2+ (data not shown). Furthermore, myristovlation is not required for CaBP1 activity since IICR is inhibited by recombinant CaBP and the NH<sub>2</sub>-terminally truncated CaBP1 (cCaBP). The similar levels of inhibition of IICR observed in cells expressing a myristoylation mutant (SCaBP-G2A-YFP) (Supplementary Figure 3), despite expression levels approximately two-fold higher than the wild-type protein (determined by FACS), suggest that myristoylation and thus membrane localisation increase the potency of CaBP in inhibiting IICR. Although concentrated at the plasma membrane and Golgi apparatus, CaBP clearly affects InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs. Since the Golgi apparatus is a functional InsP<sub>3</sub>-sensitive Ca<sup>2+</sup> store (Pinton *et al*, 1998), CaBP is strategically located to inhibit release from this organelle. In addition, it is possible that in the dendrites where CaBP1 is endogenously expressed, myristoylation serves to target CaBP1 to the cellular membranes where its function in regulating IICR is performed. In neurons, regions of the ER lie in close proximity to the plasma membrane, which may thus facilitate an interaction between InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs and CaBP (Blaustein and Golovina, 2001). Furthermore, CaBPs may modulate other processes at the plasma membrane, for example Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx into neurons through Ca<sub>v</sub>2.1 channels (Lee et al, 2002).

The existence of a constitutive inhibitor of InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs in neurons suggests that IICR is strictly governed. As suggested for CaM, this effect may contribute to the low sensitivity of InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs reported in Purkinje neurons, which require InsP<sub>3</sub> concentrations several orders of magnitude greater than that needed for channel opening in peripheral tissues (Khodakhah and Ogden, 1993; Cardy and Taylor, 1998; Fujiwara et al, 2001). A mechanism to allow Ca<sup>2+</sup> release under conditions of repetitive stimulation such as during memory formation would, however, be advantageous to the cell. We identified a casein kinase 2 consensus site in SCaBP1 (S120) that is structurally conserved with a previously identified site in CaM (S101). Phosphorylation of this serine in CaM has been shown to decrease its affinity for substrates (Quadroni et al, 1998). In this study, we find that S120 is the predominant site for phosphorylation in CaBP1. Furthermore, the potency of CaBP1 in inhibiting IICR was increased by mutation of S120 to alanine. Thus, the phosphorylation status of CaBP1 may contribute to the dynamic regulation of InsP<sub>3</sub>R sensitivity in cells where it is expressed.

The data presented here contrast with that previously published (Yang et al, 2002). In that study, a truncated form of CaBP1 (cCaBP) spanning the conserved regions of long and short CaBP1 and caldendrin was used (Figure 1A). Since the NH<sub>2</sub>-terminus of other neuronal Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding proteins is known to be important in their function, we speculated that this might also be the case for CaBP1. cCaBP, however, had a similar effect on Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling as the full-length wild-type protein. We also considered that a possible drawback of the heterologous expression approach used in this study is that the cell may adapt to CaBP1 overexpression, possibly by decreasing the abundance of InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs. This appeared not to be the case since IICR in Xenopus oocytes and COS cell was inhibited by recombinant CaBP. microsomes Furthermore, when IICR was investigated at earlier time points following transfection, similar, yet less dramatic, effects on Ca2+ release were observed (data not shown). In addition, as shown in Figure 1, we were also unable to detect any change in InsP<sub>3</sub>R levels.

In summary, in this study we have characterised a novel mechanism of action of a newly described InsP<sub>3</sub>R-associated neuronal Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding protein. CaBP1 forms part of a wide array of proteins associated with InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs, which enable them to integrate multiple signalling inputs modulating Ca<sup>2+</sup> release activity and subsequent intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis (Roderick and Bootman, 2003). In addition, CaBP1 may prove to be an important determinant of neuronal function

regulating the activity of multiple partners yet to be identified. Future studies involving gene knockout and transgenic approaches will be required to resolve these issues.

## Materials and methods

## Generation of YFP expression vectors

cDNAs for both long and short CaBP1 were amplified by PCR from pSh-CaBP1-GFP and pLh-CaBP1-GFP, respectively (Haeseleer et al, 2000), using primers containing an Nhe1 site at the 5' end and a HindIII site at the 3' end. The resultant PCR products were digested with Nhe1 and HindIII, gel purified and ligated into similarly digested pEYFP-N1 (Clontech). CaBP1134 (EF hand mutant) was amplified by PCR using pGEX-CaBP1-c1m3EFH as template and primers to introduce EcoR1 restriction sites at both the 5' and 3' ends of the sequence. The PCR product was digested with EcoR1, gel purified and ligated into similarly digested pEYFP-N1-SCaBP1. The G2A (myristoylation site) mutant and the casein kinase 2 mutant CaBP1-S120A were generated using the Quick Change mutagenesis protocol (Stratagene). The presence of both mutations was confirmed by sequencing. To generate YFP-CaM and YFP-CaM<sub>1234</sub>, cDNAs were amplified by PCR using pAED4-hCaM and pET21B-CaM<sub>1234</sub>, respectively, as templates and primers to introduce BamH1 sites at either end of the sequence. The PCR products were digested with BamH1 and ligated into similarly digested pEYFP-C1 vector (Clontech). The calbindin cDNA was generously provided by Dr B Schwaller (University of Freiburg).

## Expression of CaBP-YFP fusion proteins

COS-7 cells were plated on 22 mm coverslips in 35 mm dishes at 50-60% confluency 24h prior to transfection. Cells were transfected using the GeneJuice<sup>TM</sup> transfection reagent (Novagen) using 1 µg of DNA per well. Experiments were performed at 48 h post-transfection unless otherwise stated.

## Fura-2 imaging of transfected cells

Videoimaging of Fura-2-loaded cells was performed as previously described using a Sutter (Lambda Technologies, Brattleboro) filter wheel-based imaging system (Peppiatt et al, 2003), except that the cells were loaded with 1 µM Fura-2 AM (Molecular Probes). In addition, images of YFP-positive and -negative cells were captured using excitation at 488 nm and emission > 520 nm and saved as reference.

#### Imaging of Xenopus oocytes

Ovaries were extracted from albino Xenopus laevis following euthanasia with 0.4% tricaine methane sulphonate (MS222). Oocytes were isolated and maintained as previously described (Camacho and Lechleiter, 2000). Oocytes were injected with Fluo-4 (Molecular Probes) to a final concentration of 40 µM 30 min prior to imaging. Imaging was performed using a Noran Oz confocal attached to a Nikon TE200 microscope equipped with a  $40 \times 1.4$ n.a. oil immersion S-Fluor objective. The Ca<sup>2+</sup> dye was excited by laser illumination at 488 nm. Images of  $512 \times 512$  pixels at a 0.8 zoom were collected at 15 frames per second with a jump average of 2 and a slit width of  $25 \,\mu\text{m}$ .  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release was initiated by injection with the nonmetabolisable InsP<sub>3</sub> analogue F-InsP<sub>3</sub> (Calbiochem) at final concentrations of 40 or 100 nM. Recombinant CaBP1 (described below) was either coinjected with the indicator dye 30 min prior to imaging or during image acquisition to a final concentration of  $8.5\,\mu\text{M}$ . This protocol has previously been successfully used to inject other Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding proteins into oocytes (John *et al*, 2001). Image analysis was performed using the public domain software ImageJ (NIH, http://rsb.info.nih.gov/ij).

## <sup>45</sup>Ca<sup>2+</sup> fluxes

 $^{45}\text{Ca}^{2+}$  fluxes were performed on saponin-permeabilised COS-1 cells as previously described (Missiaen et al, 2001). Here, 2 µM thapsigargin was added during the efflux to block the ER Ca<sup>2</sup> pumps. The efflux medium was replaced every 2 min during 18 min, and the efflux was performed at 25°C. The additions of <sup>45</sup>Ca<sup>2+</sup> and InsP<sub>3</sub> are indicated in the legends to the figures. At the end of the experiment, the 45Ca2+ remaining in the stores was released by incubation with 1 ml of a 2% sodium dodecyl sulphate solution for 30 min. Ca<sup>2+</sup> release is plotted as the fractional loss, that is, the

amount of Ca<sup>2+</sup> released in 2 min divided by the total store Ca<sup>2+</sup> content at that time. The latter value was calculated by summing in retrograde order the amount of tracer remaining in the cells at the end of the efflux and the amount of tracer collected during the successive time intervals.

## Preparation of His-tagged CaBP1

Recombinant His-tagged long and short CaBP1 isoforms were prepared as described previously (Nadif Kasri et al, 2003).

## Expression of GST fusion proteins encoding the NH2-terminal part of InsP<sub>3</sub>R1

cDNA fragments encoding different regions of the NH2-terminal part of InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 (aa 1-159, 1-225, 1-604 and 224-604) were subcloned by PCR amplification using the mouse InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 (p400C1 plasmid kindly provided by Dr K Mikoshiba, University of Tokyo) as a template into the pGEX6p2 vector. The PCR products were digested with BamHI and EcoRI, cloned in the pGEX6p vector and expressed in BL21(DE3) host cells. Expression and purification of GST fusion proteins was carried out as described previously (Sienaert et al, 1997).

# Interaction between SCaBP1 and the NH2-terminal part

For the pull-down assay, 100 µg of purified and dialysed GST fusion protein was rebound to glutathione-sepharose 4B beads for 2h at 4°C. After washing (TBS/lysis buffer, Pierce, Belgium), 100 μg Histagged SCaBP1 was added to the immobilised GST fusion proteins in the presence of  $200\,\mu\text{M}$  free Ca<sup>2+</sup>. Following an incubation of 2 h at 4°C, the protein complexes were washed extensively with binding buffer containing  $200\,\mu\text{M}$  of free  $\text{Ca}^{2\,+}$ , and the retained protein was eluted by 100 mM glutathione in TBS/lysis buffer. Analysis of the eluted proteins was performed on NuPAGE<sup>®</sup> gels, 4–12% Bis–Tris in MES–SDS buffer (Invitrogen Life Technologies) and detected by Sypro<sup>TM</sup> Orange staining (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech).

## Band-shift assays by nondenaturing gel electrophoresis

The band-shift assays were performed as described previously (Sienaert et al, 2002).

## InsP<sub>3</sub> binding assay

<sup>3</sup>H-InsP<sub>3</sub> binding to the NH<sub>2</sub>-terminal (aa 1–581) part of InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 (Lbs-1) was performed as described previously (Sipma et al, 1999). In all, 4 µg of purified Lbs-1 protein was used.

#### Western blotting

For CaBP expression analysis, cell lysates were prepared as described previously (Roderick et al, 2000). Extracts were prepared from either subconfluent cells isolated by trypsinisation or from YFP-positive cells isolated by FACS. A measure of 10-20 µg of the cell extract was analysed using the NuPAGE® gel system on 4-12% linear gradient gels, transferred to nitrocellulose and probed for CaBP-YFP using either polyclonal anti-GFP antibody (dilution 1:5000; Roderick et al, 1998) or a polyclonal anti-CaBP1 antibody (dilution 1:5000, UW72; Haeseleer et al, 2000). Enhanced chemiluminescence (ECL, Pierce) was used to detect immunoreactive bands after incubation of secondary antibodies conjugated to horseradish peroxidase (HRP) (Jackson ImmunoResearch, dilution 1:10 000). For InsP<sub>3</sub>R analysis, COS-7 cell lysates were boiled for 2 min in Laemmli sample buffer, analysed on NuPAGE® Tris-acetate 3-8% gradient gels, transferred to Immobilon-P and probed with an isoform-specific antibody against InsP<sub>3</sub>R3 (I31220, Transduction Laboratories, dilution 1:5000). Quantification of the immunoreactive bands was performed after incubation with secondary antibodies coupled to alkaline phosphatase, detection using Vistra<sup>TM</sup> ECF (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) (Vanlingen et al, 1997).

# 32P labelling of CaBP-YFP

At 24h postseeding in 60mm Petri dishes, COS-7 cells were transfected with the appropriate CaBP1-YFP vectors. At 40 h post-

transfection, cells were washed  $\times 1$  in phosphate-free MEM (ICN, cat. #1642349) containing 10% dialysed calf serum, 2 mM Lglutamine, 100 U/ml penicillin and 100 µg/ml streptomycin (labelling media). A measure of  $1.5\,\mathrm{ml}$  of labelling media containing  $0.375\,\mu\mathrm{Ci/ml}$   $^{32}\mathrm{P}$ -phosphorous (orthophosphate in acid-free aqueous solution, Amersham, cat. #PBS13) was added to the cells and incubated for 6h at 37°C. Following washing in ice-cold TBS, cells were scraped into 0.6 ml of RIPA buffer and processed for IP with  $5\,\mu l$  of a polyclonal anti-GFP antibody used per tube. Protein A/G sepharose (Santa Cruz) was used to capture immune complexes. Isolated proteins were incubated at  $95^{\circ}C$  for  $5\,\text{min}$  in  $1 \times Laemmli$  buffer containing  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol prior to analysis through Bis-Tris NuPAGE® 4-12% linear gradient gels. Gels were fixed, dried and exposed to the film for 24 h.

## Co-IP of InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs and CaBP

Lysates were prepared as described for Western blotting from 10 cm dishes of COS-7 cells expressing appropriate CaBP1-YFP constructs. Following clarification, 30 µl of each lysate was retained for Western blot analysis and the remainder diluted four-fold in lysis buffer without detergent. IP using 5 µl of anti-GFP antibody was performed and immune complexes were captured by incubation with 30 µl protein A/G sepharose. Immunoprecipitates were boiled in 30 µl sample buffer and analysed by SDS-PAGE and Western blot using a monoclonal antibody directed against the InsP<sub>3</sub>R3. Immunoreactive bands were visualised by ECL following incubation with an HRPconjugated secondary antibody. For IP from rat brain, whole rat brain was disrupted with a Dounce homogeniser in cell lysis buffer described above. Following 1h incubation on ice, the insoluble matter was isolated by centrifugation at 5000 g for 10 min. A measure of 2 mg of cell lysate was used for each IP. A polyclonal antibody against InsP<sub>3</sub>R1 was used to immunoprecipitate InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs (Parys et al, 1995).

#### Data analysis

For the percentage of responding cells, an average of the responding cells per coverslip was taken. A response was characterised as a deflection greater than 25 nM from baseline. The integrated Ca<sup>2</sup> response is the area under the Ca<sup>2+</sup> transient minus baseline. Statistical analysis was by Student's t-test or  $\chi^2$  test. Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m. Significance was accepted at P<0.05 and is indicated by an asterisk.

## Supplementary data

Supplementary data are available at The EMBO Journal Online.

#### Note added in proof

During review of this manuscript, a paper appeared in the press that described an inhibitory effect of CaBP on IICR in PC12 and HeLa cells (Haynes *et al*, 2003). Their findings complement our data showing an inhibition of Ca<sup>2+</sup> release using direct stimulation of InsP<sub>3</sub>Rs.

# Acknowledgements

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