

# **The versatile regulation of K<sub>2P</sub> channels by polyanionic lipids of the phosphoinositide (PIP<sub>2</sub>) and fatty acid metabolism (LC-CoA)**

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## Abstract

Work of the past three decades provided tremendous insight into the regulation of K<sup>+</sup> channels - in particular K<sub>ir</sub> channels - by polyanionic lipids of the phosphoinositide (e.g. PIP<sub>2</sub>) and fatty acid metabolism (e.g. oleoyl-CoA). However, comparatively little is known regarding the phosphoinositide regulation in the K<sub>2P</sub> channel family and the effects of long-chain fatty acid CoA esters (LC-CoA, e.g. oleoyl-CoA) are so far unexplored. By screening most mammalian K<sub>2P</sub> channels (12 in total), we report strong effects of polyanionic lipids (activation and inhibition) for all tested K<sub>2P</sub> channels. In most cases the effects of PIP<sub>2</sub> and oleoyl-CoA were similar causing either activation or inhibition depending on the respective subgroup. Activation was observed for members of the TREK, TALK and THIK subfamily with the strongest activation by PIP<sub>2</sub> seen for TRAAK (~110-fold) and by oleoyl-CoA for TALK-2 (~90-fold). In contrast, inhibition was observed for members of the TASK and TRESK subfamilies up to ~85%. In TASK-2 channels our results indicated an activatory as well as an inhibitory PIP<sub>2</sub> site with different affinities. Finally, we provided evidence that PIP<sub>2</sub> inhibition in TASK-1 and TASK-3 channels is mediated by closure of the recently identified lower X-gate as critical mutations within the gate (i.e. L244A, R245A) prevent PIP<sub>2</sub> induced inhibition. Our results disclosed K<sub>2P</sub> channels as a family of ion channels highly sensitive to polyanionic lipids (PIP<sub>2</sub> and LC-CoA), extended our knowledge on the mechanisms of lipid regulation and implicate the metabolisms of these lipids as possible effector pathways to regulate K<sub>2P</sub> channel activity.

## Introduction

Members of the large family of two-pore domain potassium ( $K_{2P}$ ) channels are critically involved in many cellular functions ranging from renal ion homeostasis, cell development, hormone secretion, immune functions as well as cardiac and neuronal excitability (Enyedi and Czirjak, 2010). Accordingly, dysregulation of  $K_{2P}$  channels is seen in many disease states such as cardiac disorders (i.e. atrial fibrillation, ventricular tachycardia) (Liang et al., 2014; Decher et al., 2017b), hyperaldosteronism (Davies et al., 2008; Bandulik et al., 2015), pulmonary arterial hypertension (Olschewski et al., 2006; Ma et al., 2013; Antigny et al., 2016), as well as pain perception disorders such as migraine and depression (Alloui et al., 2006; Heurteaux et al., 2006; Lafreniere et al., 2010; Andres-Enguix et al., 2012; Royal et al., 2019). Initially thought to mediate passive background conductance in excitable cells, increasing evidence shows that  $K_{2P}$  channels are highly regulated by sensing a broad range of diverse physiological stimuli and endogenous ligands. However, not all  $K_{2P}$  channels respond to the same set of stimuli but rather their sensitivity profile corresponds to their affiliation to one of the known six subfamilies (TREK, TASK, TALK, THIK, TWIK and TRESK). Members of the TREK subfamily (TREK-1, TREK-2 and TRAAK) display the most diverse (and e.g. regarding TREK-1 the best investigated) regulation with relevant stimuli including temperature (Maingret et al., 2000a), mechanical force (Maingret et al., 1999; Chemin et al., 2005), membrane voltage (Maingret et al., 2002; Schewe et al., 2016), extracellular/intracellular pH ( $pH_e/pH_i$ ) (Maingret et al., 1999; Honore et al., 2002), partner proteins (Plant et al., 2005; Sandoz et al., 2006) and various lipids (Maingret et al., 2000b; Chemin et al., 2005; Chemin et al., 2007). Members of the TALK subfamily (TASK-2, TALK-1 and TALK-2) are activated by high  $pH_e$  (Morton et al., 2003; Duprat et al., 2005; Niemeyer et al., 2010). TASK-1, TASK-3 and TASK-5 make up the TASK subfamily and members are inhibited by extracellular acidification (Rajan et al., 2000; Bayliss et al., 2001; Morton et al., 2003) but also respond to membrane lipids such as diacylglycerol (DAG) (Wilke et al., 2014). Members of the TWIK subfamily (TWIK-1, TWIK-2 and TWIK-3) are rather stimuli insensitive but their cellular activity is controlled by regulated protein trafficking (Felicangeli et al., 2007; Felicangeli et al., 2010) as well as possibly SUMOylation (Rajan et al., 2005; Plant et al., 2010) and unique features of SF gate (Nematian-Ardestani et al., 2019). The TRESK subfamily has just one member (i.e. TRESK) and is regulated in particular by changes in intracellular  $Ca^{2+}$  levels mediated by Calmodulin-dependent phosphatase

calcineurin (Czirjak et al., 2004). For the THIK subfamily (THIK-1 and THIK-2), no physiological gating stimulus has been reported so far.

Work of the last three decades revealed that many ion channels are regulated by phosphoinositides and in particular by the most abundant phosphoinositide phosphoinositol-4,5-bisphosphate (PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>, PIP<sub>2</sub>). PIP<sub>2</sub> sensitive channels include all members of the inward rectifying K<sub>ir</sub> channels (Suh and Hille, 2005; Logothetis et al., 2007; Suh and Hille, 2008) but also members of the voltage gated K<sub>v</sub> channels (Oliver et al., 2004; Rodriguez et al., 2010; Kruse et al., 2012; Zaydman and Cui, 2014; Taylor and Sanders, 2017), transient receptor potential TRP cation channels (Qin, 2007; Suh and Hille, 2008), Ca<sup>2+</sup>-activated BK-type channels (Vaithianathan et al., 2008) and a number of ion transporters (i.e. NCX, NCE, PMCA) (Hilgemann et al., 2001; Gamper and Shapiro, 2007). Accordingly, the significance of PIP<sub>2</sub> regulation of ion channels is demonstrated by physiologically important processes such as insulin secretion in pancreatic β-cells (Rorsman and Ashcroft, 2018) or mechanical transduction and adaptation in hair cells (Hirono et al., 2004; Effertz et al., 2017). The mechanisms of regulation in some of these channels have been resolved to the atomic level (Hansen et al., 2011; Niu et al., 2020; Sun and MacKinnon, 2020).

The first report on the regulation of a K<sub>2P</sub> channel by phosphoinositides dates to 2005 and still represents a main reference on this topic (Chemin et al., 2005). Chemin and colleagues reported the strong activation of TREK-1 channels by several phospholipids including PE, PI, PC and PIP<sub>2</sub> and identified a cluster of basic residues in the proximal C-terminus as potential PIP<sub>2</sub> binding region (Chemin et al., 2005). Accordingly, it was proposed that negatively charged lipids (e.g. PIP<sub>2</sub>) electrostatically attract the C-terminus towards the membrane and, thereby, cause channel activation as also confirmed later using a fluorescently labelled C-terminus (Sandoz et al., 2011). Later the same authors reported that PIP<sub>2</sub> application can also produce TREK-1 inhibition but the reason for this variability remains unresolved (Chemin et al., 2007). More recently, an additional PIP<sub>2</sub> interaction region in a more distal C-terminus of TREK-1 channels was identified (Soussia et al., 2018). Aside the TREK subfamily, the effects of PIP<sub>2</sub> have also been studied in TASK-1, TASK-2, TASK-3 and TRESK channels. Initially, the inhibition of TASK-1 and TASK-3 by PLC activation was thought to result from PIP<sub>2</sub> break down (Lopes et al., 2005) as PIP<sub>2</sub> appeared to cause activation, however, later it became clear that DAG (released by PLC) likely inhibit TASK-1 and TASK-3 channels directly (Wilke et al., 2014). In TASK-2 channels and

human (but not rod) TRESK channels application of PIP<sub>2</sub> to excised patches has been reported to cause activation (Lopes et al., 2005; Niemeyer et al., 2017; Giblin et al., 2018).

Another class of polyanionic lipids known to regulate ion channels are long-chain fatty acid Coenzym esters (LC-CoA). These obligate metabolites of cellular fatty acids affect many K<sub>ir</sub> channels producing activation in K<sub>ATP</sub> (K<sub>ir</sub>6.2/SUR) channels (Branstrom et al., 1998; Schulze et al., 2003) but inhibition in most other K<sub>ir</sub> channels (Shumilina et al., 2006; Tucker and Baukowitz, 2008). Aside the K<sub>ir</sub> channel family, little is known about the effects of LC-CoA on other ion channels. However, TRPV1 channels have been reported to be activated by LC-CoA (Yu et al., 2014). In both, K<sub>ir</sub> channels and TRPV1, LC-CoA appear to interact with the same sites that also bind PIP<sub>2</sub> likely via the negative phosphate groups present in both types of lipids (Schulze et al., 2003; Yu et al., 2014).

Aside the aforementioned exception of TREK/TRAAK, TASK-1/-2/-3 and TRESK channels, effects of phosphoinositides on other members of the K<sub>2P</sub> channel family have not been investigated yet, and K<sub>2P</sub> channel regulation by LC-CoA is so far unexplored. Therefore, we systematically studied the effect of PIP<sub>2</sub> and LC-CoA on K<sub>2P</sub> channels by testing all functionally expressing channels (12 out of 15) under identical conditions and quantified their respective sensitivities. We uncovered that all K<sub>2P</sub> channel members strongly respond to at least one of the two polyanionic lipid species and that the six K<sub>2P</sub> channel subfamilies can be classified as either polyanionic lipid-activated or lipid-inhibited subfamilies. Further, we investigated the physicochemical prerequisites for lipid activation in TALK-2 channels and the structural regulation mechanism of lipid regulation in the TASK subfamily. We finally discuss the potential physiological relevance of our findings that, however, warrant further investigation in more native preparations.

## Results

### PIP<sub>2</sub> causes subtype-dependent responses (activation/inhibition) in most K<sub>2P</sub> channels

We studied the direct effect of the most abundant phosphoinositide PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub> (PIP<sub>2</sub>) on all known functionally expressing K<sub>2P</sub> channels (12 in total) by applying 10 μM PIP<sub>2</sub> to the cytoplasmatic site of the respective channels in inside-out patches excised from *Xenopus* oocytes. The type of response (activation or inhibition) varied depending on

the K<sub>2P</sub> channel subfamily and in the efficacy of activation or inhibition depended on the particular subfamily member (**Figure 1A**). Robust PIP<sub>2</sub> activation was observed within the TREK subfamily with 17 ± 3-fold, 11 ± 4-fold and 114 ± 24-fold activation for TREK-1, TREK-2 and TRAAK, respectively (**Figure 1A**). The PIP<sub>2</sub>-activated currents displayed slightly outward rectifying current-voltage (I-V) relationships between -80 mV and +40 mV (**Supplementary Figure S1A-C**).

Members of the THIK subfamily were also activated by PIP<sub>2</sub> with strong activation (19 ± 2-fold) for THIK-1 and weaker activation (4 ± 1-fold) for THIK-2 and, the activated currents showed approximately linear I-V relationships (**Figure 1A,B, Supplementary Figure S1H**). Given the large PIP<sub>2</sub> activation of THIK-1 we tested whether PIP<sub>2</sub> break-down would cause current inhibition in a cellular context. Indeed, direct pharmacological activation of phospholipase C (PLC) using m-3M3FBS caused strong inhibition of THIK-1 currents measured in HEK293 cells (**Figure 1E**).

In the TALK subfamily PIP<sub>2</sub> caused a 4 ± 1-fold activation of TALK-2 and a weaker activation (1.7 ± 0.2-fold) of TALK-1 currents (**Figure 1A, Supplementary Figure S1D,E**). The effect on TASK-2 was more complex and depended on the experimental history. In many excised patches TASK-2 currents showed strong current rundown and the application of 10 μM PIP<sub>2</sub> produced initially a 2.4 ± 0.3-fold activation. However, this activation ceased with time and channel activity finally dropped below the starting level resulting in an effective PIP<sub>2</sub> inhibition of 83 ± 3 % (**Figure 1A,D left panel**). In membrane patches lacking current rundown, PIP<sub>2</sub> application (10 μM) caused inhibition without the initially activation (**Figure 1D middle panel**). Further, lower PIP<sub>2</sub> concentrations (e.g. 0.1 μM) prevented current rundown (**Figure 1D middle panel**) and activated rundown currents without producing subsequent inhibition (**Figure 1D right panel**). These findings indicate two distinct regulatory sites in TASK-2 with lower PIP<sub>2</sub> levels supporting basal channel activity via an activatory site and higher PIP<sub>2</sub> levels causing inhibition possibly via a distinct inhibitory site.

In the TWIK subfamily, only TWIK-1 expressed functionally but lacked a PIP<sub>2</sub> response (**Figure 1A, Supplementary Figure S1F**).

Likewise, no significant PIP<sub>2</sub> response was observed in TRESK channels (the only member of this K<sub>2P</sub> channel subfamily) (**Figure 1A, Supplementary Figure S1I**) in contrast to a previous report (Giblin et al., 2018).

Finally, in the TASK subfamily only TASK-1 and TASK-3 expressed functionally (TASK-5 is non-functional, (Ashmole et al., 2001)) and both channels showed marked

inhibition ( $82 \pm 2\%$  and  $61 \pm 4\%$ ) upon PIP<sub>2</sub> application (**Figure 1A,C, Supplementary Figure S1G**). In some patches TASK-1 channels also showed current rundown but in contrast to TASK-2, PIP<sub>2</sub> failed to reactivate these channels (data not shown).

In summary, 10 of the 12 K<sub>2P</sub> channels investigated changed activity upon PIP<sub>2</sub> application with only TWIK-1 and TRESK lacking a significant PIP<sub>2</sub> effect. Members of the TREK, THIK and TALK subfamilies were activated by PIP<sub>2</sub> (TASK-2 only initially), whereas members of the TASK subfamily were inhibited.

### **Most K<sub>2P</sub> channels are highly sensitive to the fatty acid metabolite oleoyl-CoA**

We further explored the K<sub>2P</sub> channel lipid sensitivity by testing the polyanionic lipid oleoyl-CoA, which represents a common cellular long-chain fatty-acid metabolite. It is known to regulate ion channels (Rapedius et al., 2005; Ventura et al., 2005; Shumilina et al., 2006), however, it has not been investigated in K<sub>2P</sub> channels so far. Upon application of 10  $\mu$ M oleoyl-CoA strong activation of TREK-1 ( $15 \pm 3$ -fold) and weaker activation of TREK-2 ( $6 \pm 1$ -fold) was observed (**Figure 2A, Supplementary Figure S2A,B**). Notably, as seen with PIP<sub>2</sub> (**Figure 1A, Supplementary Figure S1C**), TRAAK showed the highest lipid sensitivity within its subgroup, with oleoyl-CoA causing a  $40 \pm 16$ -fold current increase (**Figure 2A,B**). Further, these activations were readily reversed upon extraction of oleoyl-CoA via the fatty acid binding protein BSA (**Figure 2B, Supplementary Figure S2A,B**).

Similar to the PIP<sub>2</sub> responses, THIK-1 channels were strongly activated by oleoyl-CoA ( $29 \pm 2$ -fold), whereas activation in THIK-2 was weaker ( $13.0 \pm 0.4$ -fold) (**Figure 2A, Supplementary Figure S2F,G**) and thus, similar to the PIP<sub>2</sub> responses.

In the TALK subfamily, TALK-2 stood out as oleoyl-CoA produced massive activation ( $94 \pm 14$ -fold) while TALK-1 was only moderately activated ( $5 \pm 1$ -fold) (**Figure 2A,B, Supplementary Figure S2C**). In contrast, TASK-2 channels were inhibited by oleoyl-CoA ( $70 \pm 7\%$ ) (**Figure 2A,C**), again similar to the PIP<sub>2</sub> effects. Notably, in contrast to PIP<sub>2</sub> (**Figure 1D**), oleoyl-CoA did not reactivate TASK-2 channels after current rundown (data not shown) suggesting that the potential activatory site in TASK-2 is selective for PIP<sub>2</sub>, whereas the potential inhibitory site appears to bind both types of lipids.

In the TASK subfamily, TASK-3 channels were inhibited by oleoyl-CoA ( $39 \pm 5\%$ ) in contrast to TASK-1 channels that were rather slightly activated (**Figure 2A, Supplementary Figure S2D,E**).



In the TWIK and TRESK subfamilies, both expressing members (i.e. TWIK-1 and TRESK) were markedly (~50 to ~75 %) inhibited by oleoyl-CoA (**Figure 2A,C, Supplementary Figure S2H**). As seen with all oleoyl-CoA effects reported here application of BSA reversed the action of oleoyl-CoA.

In summary, with the exception of TASK-1, oleoyl-CoA application modulated the activity of all  $K_{2P}$  channels tested. Further, the subfamily specific response (i.e. activation vs. inhibition) resembled to that seen with  $PIP_2$  in most cases. Exceptions to this rule were seen (i) for TASK-1 which was inhibited by  $PIP_2$  but not by oleoyl-CoA as well as (ii) for TWIK-1 and TRESK which were inhibited by oleoyl-CoA but lacked  $PIP_2$  sensitivity.

### **Physico-chemical requirements of LC-CoA activation in TALK-2 channels**

Given the particularly high sensitivity of TALK-2 to oleoyl-CoA (**Figure 3A**) we chose this channel to explore the LC-CoA properties required for activation in more detail. We obtained a dose-response relationship for oleoyl-CoA that was fitted to a standard Hill equation with an  $EC_{50}$  of ~11  $\mu$ M (**Figure 2B, Supplementary Figure S3A-D**). Remarkably, however, even concentrations as low as 100 nM already produced robust (> 3-fold) TALK-2 channel activation (**Supplementary Figure S3A**) consistent with the high maximal effect (i.e. > 90-fold activation) at saturating concentrations (**Supplementary Figure S3C,D**). Further, the potency to activate TALK-2 channels negatively correlated with the number of LC-CoA double bonds present in fatty acids of 18 carbon atoms chain length, with the saturated stearic acid being the most potent LC-CoA (**Figure 3B,D**). Moreover, for saturated fatty acids, strongest activation was observed for stearyl-CoA, with palmityl-CoA and docosanoyl-CoA were less potent (**Figure 3C,D**). These results (except the activity drop for docosanoyl-CoA) can be explained by the lipid/water partitioning coefficient, as increasing acyl-chain length and reducing the number of double bonds is expected to promote membrane incorporation and, thus, would result in higher effective concentrations in the membrane from where channel interactions are likely to occur. The drop of potency for docosanoyl-CoA (compared to stearyl-CoA) apparently conflicts with this concept, suggesting that specific interactions of the fatty acid chain with the TALK-2 channel might also be important and, accordingly, may be less optimal for docosanoyl-CoA compared to stearyl-CoA.



### Location of the PIP<sub>2</sub> inhibition gate in TASK-1 and TASK-3

Here we report the inhibition of TASK-2, TASK-1, TASK-3, TWIK-1 and TRESK by the polyanionic lipids PIP<sub>2</sub> and oleoyl-CoA. This raises the question of the nature of the inhibition gate. Interestingly, TASK-1 and TASK-3 have been previously shown to be inhibited by diacylglycerol (DAG) and a region named the halothane response element (HRE) in the distal TM4 segment was identified to be critical (Wilke et al., 2014). Moreover, in TASK-1 a gate at the HRE has recently been crystallographically identified and named the X-gate (Rodstrom et al., 2020). This X-gate forms a permeation blocking pore constriction at the contact points of the TM4 helices, located halfway between the selectivity filter (SF) gate and the cytoplasmic pore entrance. Mutations within the lower X-gate (e.g. L244A and R245A) (**Figure 4D**) have been shown to disturb channel closure resulting in channels with a higher relative open probability (Rodstrom et al., 2020). Notably, we found that the mutations L244A and R245A completely abolished PIP<sub>2</sub> inhibition in TASK-1 and TASK-3 channels (**Figure 4A-C**) suggesting that PIP<sub>2</sub> induces closure of the X-gate similar to DAG.

In the pH sensitive TASK-2 channel a lower gate at a location similar to the X-gate in TASK-1 has been identified recently in cryo-EM structures obtained at different pH (Li et al., 2020). This work identified a lysine residue (i.e. K245) within the lower gate as a pH sensing residue and also as critical component of the lower gate itself. However, mutation of this lysine to alanine (K245A) had no obvious effect on PIP<sub>2</sub> inhibition in TASK-2 (**Figure 4C,D, Supplementary Figure S2J**). This suggest that PIP<sub>2</sub> inhibition is either mediated via a different gate (e.g. the SF) or that K245 is not critical for mediating PIP<sub>2</sub> inhibition via the lower gate in contrast to pH inhibition.

### Discussion

Our comprehensive screen established K<sub>2P</sub> channels as a family of K<sup>+</sup> channels highly sensitive to polyanionic membrane lipids such as PIP<sub>2</sub> and oleoyl-CoA. Further, depending on the particular K<sub>2P</sub> subfamily polyanionic lipids either produced activation (TREK, TALK and THIK subfamily) or inhibition (TASK, TWIK and TRESK subfamily). The responses evoked in a particular subfamily produced by PIP<sub>2</sub> and oleoyl-CoA were similar, however, with three exceptions: (i) TWIK-1 and (ii) TRESK were PIP<sub>2</sub> insensitive, but were inhibited by oleoyl-CoA (iii) TASK-1 was inhibited by PIP<sub>2</sub> but oleoyl-CoA insensitive (**Figure 5B**).

## Physiological implications of the PIP<sub>2</sub> regulation in K<sub>2P</sub> channels

In the K<sub>ir</sub> channel family all members (i.e. K<sub>ir</sub>1.x, K<sub>ir</sub>2.x, K<sub>ir</sub>3.x, K<sub>ir</sub>4.x and K<sub>ir</sub>5.x) are thought to require PIP<sub>2</sub> as mandatory co-factor to be functional (Huang et al., 1998; Logothetis et al., 2007; Furst et al., 2014). For K<sub>2P</sub> channels not all members are activated by PIP<sub>2</sub> and thus, PIP<sub>2</sub> can be considered a modulatory agent rather than a mandatory co-factor. Accordingly, G protein coupled receptor (GPCR; i.e. P<sub>2</sub>Y<sub>2</sub>) activation of PLC produced strong inhibition of TREK-1 activity (i.e. activity is no more detectable) in HEK-293 cells, however, subsequent activating stimuli (e.g. temperature increase) still produced robust activation (**Supplementary Figure S1K**) indicating that PIP<sub>2</sub> is not strictly required for channel activity.

The activation of TREK/TRAAK channels by PIP<sub>2</sub> has been shown previously (Chemin et al., 2005; Chemin et al., 2007; Soussia et al., 2018). However, other studies report inhibition of TREK-1 channels by PIP<sub>2</sub> (Cabanos et al., 2017) as well as split responses with PIP<sub>2</sub> causing activation as well as inhibition (Chemin et al., 2007). In our hands inhibition of TREK-1/-2 channels or TRAAK channels was never observed in the *Xenopus* oocytes expression system. Moreover, we report here that TRAAK channels exhibited the strongest PIP<sub>2</sub> response of all K<sub>2P</sub> channels with a more than 110-fold increase in channel activity. The physiological relevance of this PIP<sub>2</sub> regulation is currently unexplored but warrants further investigations in native preparations such as neurons which strongly express TRAAK channels (Brohawn et al., 2019; Kanda et al., 2019).

A notable finding of this work is the strong activation of THIK-1 channels by PIP<sub>2</sub> (**Figure 1A,B**) as it represents the first reported physiological activator for these channels. Despite its expression in many regions of the CNS the specific role of THIK-1 channels is currently unknown with the exception of microglial cells, where THIK-1 activation was shown to be involved in microglial immune surveillance and inflammatory cytokine release (Madry et al., 2018). Interestingly, PIP<sub>2</sub> production in microglia has been reported to play a key role in immune response signalling (Nguyen et al., 2017; Desale and Chinnathambi, 2021), and thus, possibly involves PIP<sub>2</sub> activation of THIK-1.

We report here the inhibition of TASK-1 and TASK-3 channels by PIP<sub>2</sub>. The involvement of the PIP<sub>2</sub> metabolism in the regulation of TASK-1 and TASK-3 has been intensively studied before and it is currently assumed GPCR mediated release of DAG directly inhibit these channels while the breakdown of PIP<sub>2</sub> appears to be not critical

(Bista et al., 2015). Thus, the activation of TASK-1 and TASK-3 via membrane PIP<sub>2</sub> depletion (i.e. release of PIP<sub>2</sub> inhibition by e.g. PLC activation) may not be of physiological relevance. However, inhibition of TASK-1 or TASK-3 via a local or global production of PIP<sub>2</sub> or its enrichment in microdomains might be a regulatory mechanism.

TASK-2 channels have been previously reported to be activated by the short chain PIP<sub>2</sub> derivative dioctanoyl-PIP<sub>2</sub> (Niemeyer et al., 2017) which apparently contradicts to the here reported inhibition of TASK-2 by application of the native (i.e. long chain) PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>. However, we found that the PIP<sub>2</sub> effect is clearly concentration-dependent with lower PIP<sub>2</sub> concentrations supporting TASK-2 activity consistent with the reactivation of rundown of TASK-2 channel currents. Longer PIP<sub>2</sub> applications as well as application on patches lacking current rundown produced robust and reliable inhibition. These findings indicate that distinct regulatory PIP<sub>2</sub> sites exist in TASK-2 channels, i.e. a 'higher' affinity activatory PIP<sub>2</sub> site and a 'lower' affinity inhibitory PIP<sub>2</sub> site. Accordingly, at higher PIP<sub>2</sub> concentration the inhibitory site dominates causing inhibition in TASK-2 (as seen with TASK-1 and TASK-3), whereas lower PIP<sub>2</sub> concentration support TASK-2 activity via the higher affinity activatory site.

### **Physiological implications of the LC-CoA regulation in K<sub>2P</sub> channels**

LC-CoA represent ubiquitous cellular products of the fatty acid metabolism as fatty acids bound to CoA before they can be taken up by mitochondria for  $\beta$ -oxidation. Our study revealed the regulation of many K<sub>2P</sub> channels by oleoyl-CoA. LC-CoA has been previously reported to modulate several members of the K<sub>ir</sub> channel family (Larsson et al., 1996; Rohacs et al., 2003; Rapedius et al., 2005; Shumilina et al., 2006; Tucker and Baukowitz, 2008). Thereby, K<sub>ATP</sub> channels are strongly activated while most other K<sub>ir</sub> channels are inhibited likely because LC-CoA competes with PIP<sub>2</sub> for binding, but lacks its activatory effect (competitive antagonism) (Shumilina et al., 2006). Such competitive antagonism, however, is unlikely to cause the here reported inhibition in TASK-2, TASK-1, TASK-3, TWIK and TRESK channels as these channels were not activated by PIP<sub>2</sub>. However, in the PIP<sub>2</sub> activated channels (e.g. TREK-1) oleoyl-CoA likely interacts with the same sites as PIP<sub>2</sub> because the degree of oleoyl-CoA and PIP<sub>2</sub> activation is correlated in most K<sub>2P</sub> channels.

The role of LC-CoA activation of K<sub>ATP</sub> channels has been implicated in the mechanism of insulin secretion in pancreatic beta cells, in fatty acid sensing in hypothalamic neurons and in protection of cardiac myocytes under ischemic condition

(Corkey et al., 2000; Liu et al., 2001; Tarasov et al., 2004; Le Foll et al., 2009; Rorsman and Ashcroft, 2018). These situations have in common that they cause an accumulation of LC-CoA in the cytoplasm which, potentially could also modulate the activity of the  $K_{2P}$  channels present in the respective tissues. In following a number of potential implications are pointed out that, however, will require further exploration in native preparations.

TALK-2 and TREK-1 channels are expressed in atrial as well as ventricular myocytes in the heart (Decher et al., 2001; Tan et al., 2004; Decher et al., 2017a). These channels are highly sensitive to LC-CoA as oleoyl-CoA caused a more than 15-fold activation (**Figure 2A,B, Supplementary Figure S1A,E**). Therefore, activation of TALK-2 and TREK-1 channels under ischemic conditions may have cardio protective effects in ventricular myocytes by shortening of action potential (AP) and concomitant reduction in  $Ca^{2+}$  loading (similar to  $K_{ATP}$  channels). However, this ischemic activation of TALK-2 and TREK-1 in the atrium causing AP shortening could potentially be also arrhythmogenic.

Noteworthy, TAKL-2 (together with TALK-1) is expressed in pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells, but its physiological role is currently unknown (Duprat et al., 2005; Rorsman and Ashcroft, 2018; Graff et al., 2021). Thus, the accumulation of LC-CoA under conditions of hyperlipidaemia and hyperglycaemia could contribute to the known insulin secretion defects under these conditions as  $K^+$  channel activation is expected to antagonise insulin secretion.

### **Structural insights into the mechanism polyanionic lipid regulation**

Based on crystallographic and functional data, it has been assumed that  $K_{2P}$  channels are regulated primarily via a highly dynamic SF gate located at the extracellular pore entrance (Bagriantsev et al., 2011; Piechotta et al., 2011; Bagriantsev et al., 2012; Brohawn et al., 2012; Miller and Long, 2012; Dong et al., 2015; Schewe et al., 2016; Lolicato et al., 2017; Schewe et al., 2019) but more recent structural studies revealed constriction sites in the ion permeation pathway below the SF in TASK-2 and TASK-1 channels (Li et al., 2020; Rodstrom et al., 2020). This raises the question which of the two possible gating structures is relevant in the context of the here reported polyanionic lipid regulation in these channels (**Figure 5A**). In the TREK subfamily the  $PIP_2$ /LC-CoA activation gate is likely the SF as lipid activation causes the transition of the voltage-dependent ion-flux gating mode of the SF into the leak mode displaying a linear I-V

(**Figure 2B, Figure 5A, Supplementary Figure S1A-C, Supplementary Figure S2A,B**) (Schewe et al., 2016). However, THIK-1 channels display little voltage gating (unpublished results) and, thus, the principal role of the SF gate is unresolved and further experiments are required to determine the location of the PIP<sub>2</sub>/LC-CoA activation gate. Likewise, the structural mechanism of TRESK channel inhibition by LC-CoA requires further investigation.

For TASK-1 and TASK-3 channels our experiments suggest that inhibition by PIP<sub>2</sub> and LC-CoA involves the lower X-gate crystallographically identified in TASK-1 channels (and assumed for TASK-3 channels), as the published mutations within this region also abolished PIP<sub>2</sub> inhibition in both channels. However, the location of the PIP<sub>2</sub>/LC-CoA binding sites, as well as the possible overlap with the still unknown inhibitory DAG binding site, will require further investigation. In TASK-2 channels a lower gate mediating pH inhibition was recently identified in cryo-EM structures at a location similar to the X-gate in TASK-1 (Li et al., 2020). Although its involvement in PIP<sub>2</sub>/LC-CoA inhibition seems reasonable, mutation of a critical residue at the intracellular pH gate did not affect PIP<sub>2</sub> inhibition (**Figure 4C, Supplementary Figure S1J**). Thus, additional studies are required to clarify the structural mechanisms of polyanionic lipid inhibition in TASK-2.

## Conclusions

This work establishes common polyanionic cellular lipids such as PIP<sub>2</sub> and LC-CoA as regulators of channel activity for all 12 functionally expressing mammalian K<sub>2P</sub> channels. We provide first insights into the location of the PIP<sub>2</sub>/LC-CoA inhibition gate in TASK-1 and TASK-3 but substantially more work is required to disclose the lipid binding sites in the various K<sub>2P</sub> channels as well as the structural mechanism underlying the polyanionic lipid regulation. Finally, investigation of the relevant signal transduction pathways in native preparations is required to demonstrate the physiological relevance of linking K<sub>2P</sub> channel activity to the complex metabolisms of phosphoinositides and fatty acids in the various tissues and cell types expressing K<sub>2P</sub> channels.

## Materials and Methods

### Molecular biology and oocyte expression

For this study we used the coding sequences of hTWIK-1 (GenBank accession number: NM\_002245.3), hTREK-1 (NM\_172042.2), rTREK-1 (NM\_172041.2), hTREK-2 (NM\_138318.2), hTRAAK (AF\_247042.1), hTALK-1 (NM\_032115.4), hTALK-2 (EU978944.1), hTASK-2 (NM\_003740.3), hTASK-1 (NM\_002246.2), hTASK-3 (XM\_011517102.1), hTHIK-1 (NM\_022054), hTHIK-2 (NM\_022055.1) and hTRESK (NM\_181840.1). To increase surface expression and macroscopic currents, measurements of TWIK-1 and THIK-2 channels were done using channels with mutated retention motifs and a known activating mutation hTHIK-2, respectively (TWIK-1 I293A/I294A and THIK-2 R11A/R12A/R14A/R15A/R16A/A155P). All mutant channels were obtained by site-directed mutagenesis with custom oligonucleotides. All constructs were subcloned into the pFAW dual purpose vector suitable for *in vitro* transcription/oocyte expression and transfection of cultured cells and verified by sequencing. cRNA was synthesized using AmpliCap-Max T7 or SP6 High Yield Message Maker Kits (Cellscript, USA) and stored at -20°C (for frequent use) and -80 °C (for long term storage). *Xenopus laevis* oocytes were surgically removed from adult female frogs and treated with type II collagenase prior to manual defolliculation. Oocytes were injected with ~50 nl of channel-specific cRNA (0.5 - 1 µg\*µl<sup>-1</sup>) and incubated at 17 °C for 1 - 14 days prior to the experimental use.

### Cell culture

HEK293 cells were cultured in Dulbecco's Modified Eagles Medium (DMEM), supplemented with 10 % FCS and 10 U\*ml<sup>-1</sup> penicillin and 10 mg\*ml<sup>-1</sup> streptomycin in a 5 % CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere at 37 °C. The cells were transiently transfected with Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen) in 24-well plates. For electrophysiological recordings the transfected cells were trypsinized at least 4 h before electrophysiological measurements and seeded onto sterile 10 mm coverslips in 35 mm culture dishes in antibiotic-free DMEM.

### Electrophysiology

Currents were recorded from inside-out membrane patches excised from cRNA-injected *Xenopus* oocytes or from transiently transfected HEK293 cells at room



temperature (21 - 23 °C). For oocyte measurements, pipettes were made from thick-walled borosilicate glass capillaries and had resistances of 0.3 – 0.8 MΩ. Pipettes were filled with a standard pipette solution (in mM): 120 KCL, 10 HEPES and 3.6 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, pH 7.4 was adjusted with KOH/HCl. Currents were recorded using an EPC9 or EPC10 amplifier (HEKA electronics), sampled at 10 kHz and filtered with 3 kHz (-3 dB). The recording program was Patchmaster (HEKA electronics, version: v2x73.5). The used pulse protocols were either ramps ranging from -80 to +40 or +80 mV with a duration of 1 s and intervals of 4 or 9 s, or measurements were carried out using a continuous pulse at +40 mV. Solutions were applied to the cytoplasmic side of excised membrane patches via a gravity-flow multi-barrel application system. Standard intracellular (bath) solutions were composed of (in mM): 120 KCl, 10 HEPES, 2 EGTA and 1 Pyrophosphate, pH was adjusted to pH 7.4 with KOH/HCl. 5 mg\*ml<sup>-1</sup> BSA was added to obtain washout solution. Where indicated in experimental results, 120 mM KCl was replaced by 120 mM RbCl.

HEK293 cell measurements were done in the whole-cell configuration of the patch-clamp technique using an EPC10 amplifier (HEKA electronics) and the PatchMaster software (HEKA electronics, version: v2x73.5) with a sampling rate and filter as above. The cells were stimulated by a ramp protocol from -100 to +60 mV with 1 s duration and a 5 s interpulse duration. Pipette resistances ranged from 1 - 3 MΩ and pipettes were filled with intracellular solution (mM): 140 KCl, 2 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 2.5 EGTA, 10 HEPES, and pH 7.3 was adjusted with KOH/HCl. The bath contained (mM): 135 NaCl, 5 KCl, 2 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2 CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 10 glucose, 10 HEPES, and pH 7.3 was adjusted with NaOH/HCl. All modifying reagents were added directly to the bath to obtain the particular end concentrations. Lipids and other substances were stored as stock solutions (1 - 100 mM) at -20 °C and diluted in the bath solution to the final concentration prior to measurements.

### **Chemicals, drugs and lipids**

LC-CoA (14:0, 16:0, 18:0, 18:1, 18:2, 18:3, 22:0) were purchase from Avanti Polar Lipids (Alabaster, USA) and stock solutions were prepared in DMSO (1 - 5 mM). The phospholipase C activator m-3m3FBS, Tetrapentylammonium chloride (TPA) and L-α-phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate ammonium salt (brain PI(4,5)P<sub>2</sub>; PIP<sub>2</sub>) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich/Merck (Darmstadt, Germany) and stock solutions were prepared in DMSO (10 - 100 mM).



## **Animals (*Xenopus laevis*)**

The performed investigation conforms to the guide for the Care and Use of laboratory Animals (NIH Publication 85-23). For this study, we used female *Xenopus laevis* animals (25) that were accommodated at the animal breeding facility of the Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel to isolate oocytes. Experiments using *Xenopus* toads are approved by the local ethics commission.

## **Data analysis**

Data analysis was done using Fitmaster (HEKA electronics, version: v2x73.5, Lamprecht, Germany), Microsoft Excel (Microsoft Corporation, version: Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2019, Redmond, USA) and Igor Pro (Wavemetrics Inc., version: 6.3.7.2, Portland, USA).

Recorded currents were analysed from stable membrane patches at a voltage of +40 mV unless stated otherwise.

The fold activation of a ligand (drug or bioactive lipid) was calculated from the following equation:

$$\text{Fold activation (FA)} = \frac{I_{\text{Activated}}}{I_{\text{basal}}}$$

with  $I_{\text{Activated}}$  represents the stable current level in the presence of a given concentration of a respective ligand and  $I_{\text{basal}}$  the measured current before ligand application.

Percentage inhibition of a ligand (drug or bioactive lipid) was calculated from stable currents of excised membrane patches using the following equation below:

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = \left( 1 - \left( \frac{I_{\text{Inhibited}}}{I_{\text{basal}}} \right) \right) * 100$$

where  $I_{\text{Inhibited}}$  refers to the stable current level recorded in the presence of a given concentration of a drug or bioactive lipid and  $I_{\text{basal}}$  to the measured current before ligand application.

The macroscopic half-maximal concentration-inhibition relationship of a ligand was obtained using a modified Hill-equation depicted below:

$$\frac{I}{I_{\text{basal}}} = a + \frac{(1 - a) \left( \frac{[x]}{IC_{50}} \right)^h}{1 + \frac{[x]^h}{IC_{50}^h}}$$

with  $I$  and  $I_{\text{basal}}$  are the currents in the absence and presence of a respective ligand,  $x$  is the concentration of the ligand,  $IC_{50}$  is the ligand concentration at which the inhibitory effect is half-maximal,  $h$  is the Hill coefficient and  $a$  is the fraction of unblockable current ( $a = 0$  unless state otherwise). Data is represented throughout the manuscript as mean  $\pm$  s.e.m. unless stated otherwise.

Image processing and figure design was done using the open source vector graphic program Inkscape (GNU General Public Licence, free Software Foundation, version: 1.0.1 (3bc2e813f5, 2020-09-07, <https://inkscape.org>, Boston, USA).

## **Acknowledgement**

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## **Author Contributions**

M.S. and T.B. conceived and supervised the project; E.B.R., B.C.J., S.C. and M.S. performed patch-clamp experiments and analysed the data; M.M. created and supervised the generation of mutant channels; E.B.R. prepared all figures; E.B.R., M.S. and T.B. wrote the manuscript draft with critical comments of all authors.

## **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interests.

## **Open Research**

The data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request.

## Figure legends

### Figure 1. PIP<sub>2</sub> regulation of K<sub>2P</sub> channels.

**A.** Fold activation (blue) and inhibition [%] (orange) of K<sub>2P</sub> channel currents by 10 μM PIP<sub>2</sub> at +40 mV, measured in ramp protocols as shown in B and C. Insensitive channels are highlighted in grey. n. d. = not determined. Number (n) of independent experiments is indicated next to the bars. **B,C.** Representative current traces (right) and analysed currents at +40 mV plotted over time (left) of THIK-1 (B) and TASK-1 (C) channels measured in voltage ramps between -80 and +80 mV in excised inside-out patches of *Xenopus* oocytes using control bath solution and in the presence of 10 μM PIP<sub>2</sub>. **D.** Analysed TASK-2 currents at +40 mV plotted over time, measured as in B,C, using control bath solution and in the presence of 0.1 μM or 10 μM PIP<sub>2</sub>. Current rundown is indicated with an arrow. Low PIP<sub>2</sub> concentration (0.1 μM) rescues current rundown (right) but produces no inhibition (middle); 10 μM PIP<sub>2</sub> also rescue rundown if present (left) but leads to a subsequent inhibition of the channel. If no rundown is present 10 μM PIP<sub>2</sub> only lead to inhibition (middle). **E.** Representative traces of THIK-1 currents in whole-cell experiments using HEK293 cells measured in voltage ramps between -100 and +60 mV, analysed at 0 mV. Measurements are performed in control solution and in the presence of 20 μM of the PLC activator m-3M3FBS. All data is presented as mean ± s.e.m.

### Figure 2. Oleoyl-CoA regulation of K<sub>2P</sub> channels.

**A.** Fold activation (blue) and inhibition [%] (brown) of K<sub>2P</sub> channels at +40 mV by 10 μM oleoyl-CoA measured as in B and C. Insensitive channels are highlighted in grey. n. d. = not determined. Number (n) of independent experiments is indicated next to the bars. **B.** Representative current traces (right) and analysed currents at +40 mV plotted over time (left) of TRAAK and TALK-2 channels measured in voltage ramps between -80 and +80 mV in excised inside-out patches of *Xenopus* oocytes using control bath solution and in the presence of 10 μM oleoyl-CoA or 5 mg\*ml<sup>-1</sup> bovine serum albumin (BSA). **C.** Representative current traces of TASK-2 and TWIK-1 channels measured and analysed as in B. All data is presented as mean ± s.e.m.

### Figure 3. Physico-chemical properties of LC-CoA esters required for activation of TALK-2 K<sub>2P</sub> channels.

**A.** Chemical structure of long-chain Coenzyme A (oleoyl-CoA; 18:1), the fatty acid tail is shaded blue. **B.** Analysed current traces at +80 mV of TALK-2 channels measured in voltage ramps between -80 and +80 mV in excised inside-out patches of *Xenopus* oocytes using control bath solution and in the presence of 3  $\mu$ M of long-chain fatty CoA esters with varying number and position of double bonds (18:0, 18:1, 18:2, 18:3) in the fatty acid tail of the molecule or 5 mg\*ml<sup>-1</sup> BSA. **C.** Analysed current traces at +80 mV of TALK-2 channels, measured as in B, using control bath solution and in the presence of 3  $\mu$ M long-chain fatty acid CoA esters with varying chain length (14:0, 16:0, 18:0, 22:0) of the fatty acid tail. **D.** Fold activation of TALK-2 channels by long-chain fatty acid CoA esters with varying double bonds or chain length, measured as in B and C and normalised to the respective Rb<sup>+</sup>-activated current (red, B and C) at +80 mV. The average fold activation by Rb<sup>+</sup> ( $I_{Rb^+}/I_{basal}$ ) of TALK-2 WT channels is  $12 \pm 3$  (n = 20). Number (n) of independent experiments is indicated above the bars. All data is presented as mean  $\pm$  s.e.m.

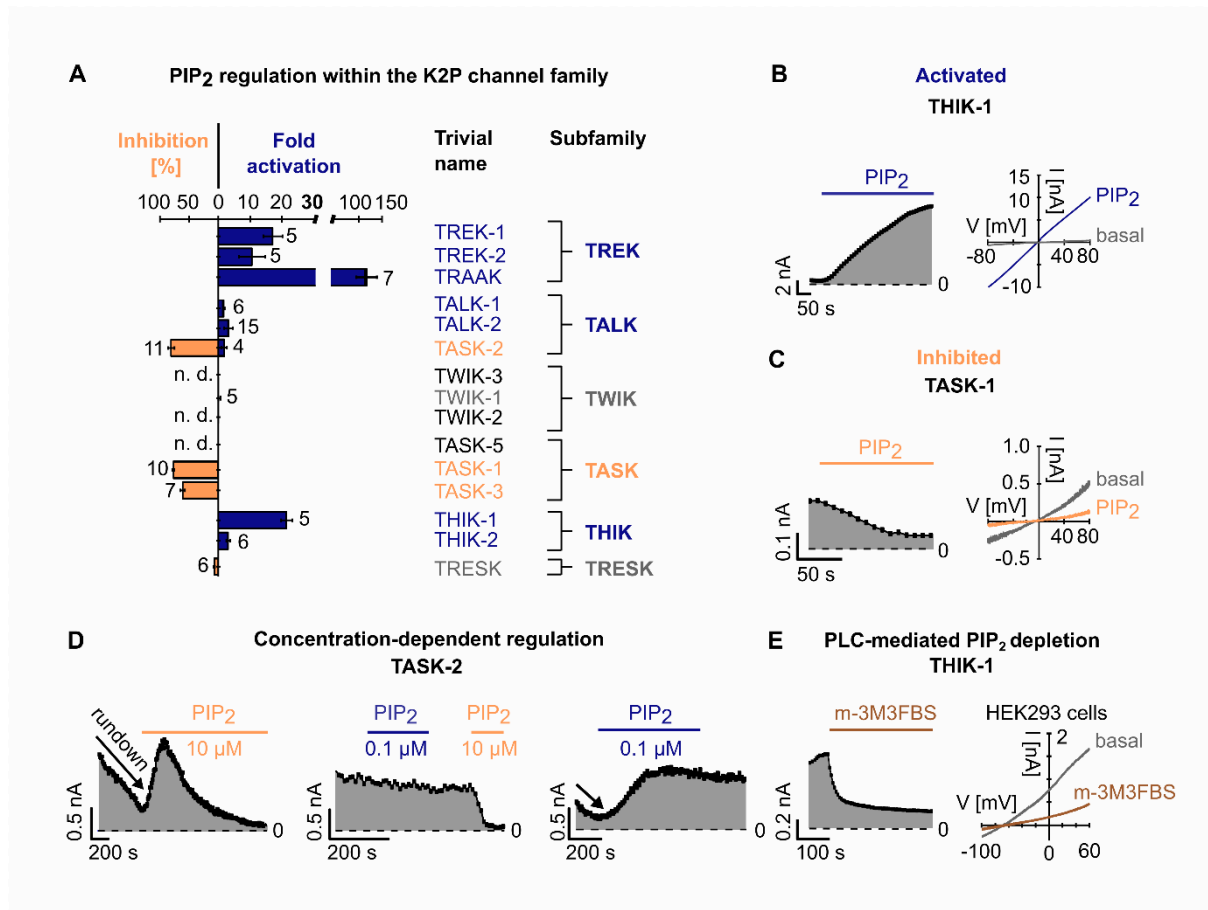
**Figure 4. Mutations within the lower gate (X-gate) prevent PIP<sub>2</sub> inhibition in TASK-1 and TASK-3 K<sub>2P</sub> channels.**

**A,B.** Representative current traces of (A) TASK-1 WT, L244A and R245A mutant channels and (B) TASK-3 L244A and R245A mutant channels measured at continuous +40 mV in excised inside-out patches of *Xenopus* oocytes using control bath solution and in the presence of 10  $\mu$ M PIP<sub>2</sub> or 1 mM TPA, showing that mutations disrupting the lower gate render the channels insensitive to PIP<sub>2</sub>. **C.** Fold change of TASK-1, TASK-3 and TASK-2 WT (light blue) and mutant (dark blue) currents analysed at +40 mV in the presence of 10  $\mu$ M PIP<sub>2</sub> measured as in A and B, Figure 1D middle panel or Supplementary Figure S1J. Number (n) of independent experiments is indicated above the bars. **D.** Sequence alignment of TM4 of TASK-1, TASK-3 and TASK-2 K<sub>2P</sub> channels. The lower X-gate in TASK-1 (TASK-3) and the region that forms the lower 'pH gate' in TASK-2 are highlighted. Red boxes show the location of introduced mutations in the respective K<sub>2P</sub> channel. All data is presented as mean  $\pm$  s.e.m.

**Figure 5. Regulation of K<sub>2P</sub> channels by lipids.**

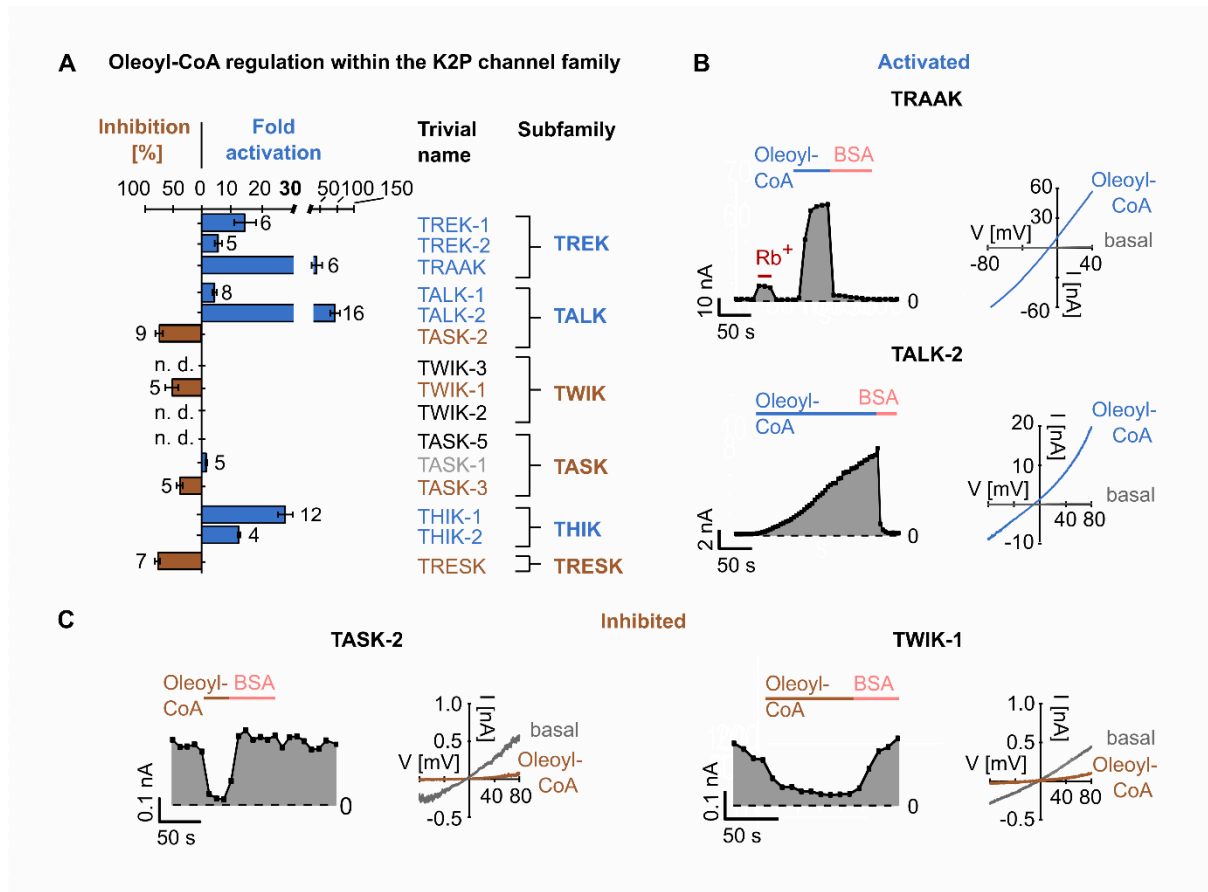
**A.** Cartoon illustrating the gating sites affected by polyanionic lipids (i.e. PIP<sub>2</sub>, oleoyl-CoA) in TREK/TRAAK and TASK channels. TREK channels adopt the active state at the selectivity filter (SF) in response to polyanionic lipids (orange). In contrast, TASK

channels are inhibited by polyanionic lipids, that stabilise closure of the intracellular lower gate X-gate. **B.** Overview of the lipid regulation of  $K_{2P}$  channels: dark blue box = activation, red box = inhibition, light blue box = insensitivity to the lipids with (1)  $PIP_2$  and (2) oleoyl-CoA. The grey box indicates that the respective lipid effect was not determined (n. d.) caused by low functionally channel expression.

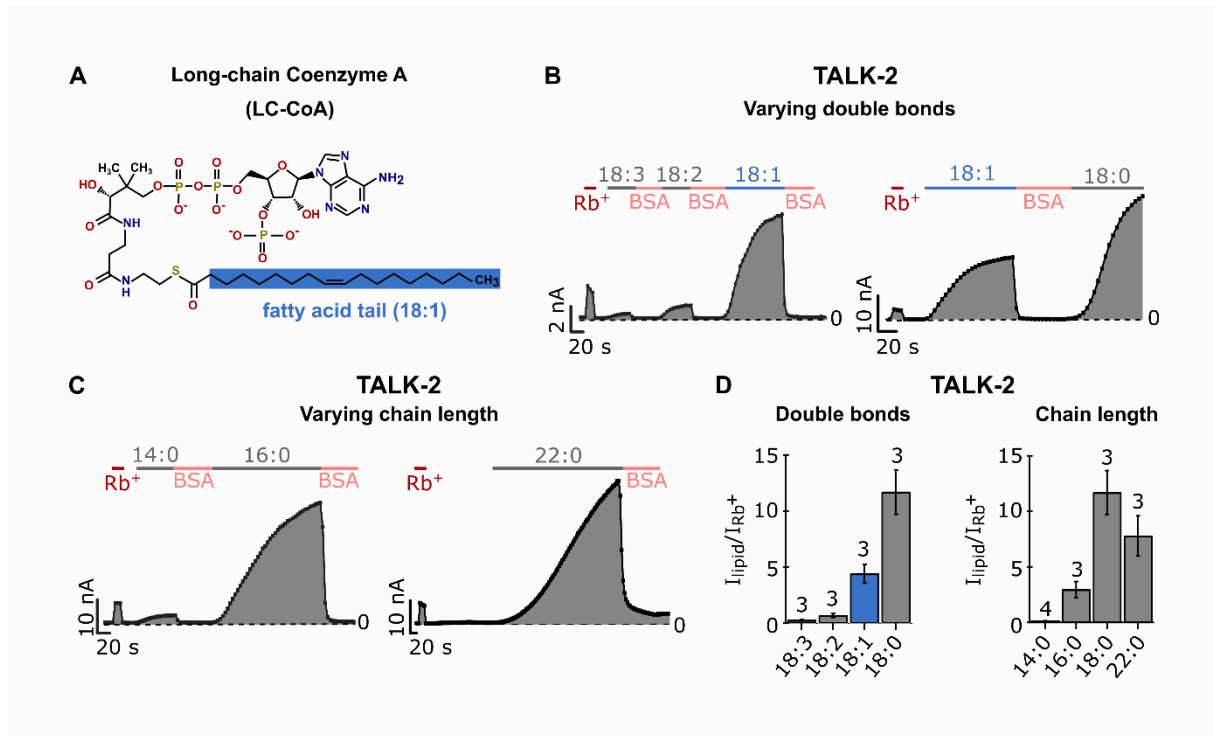


-Figure 1-

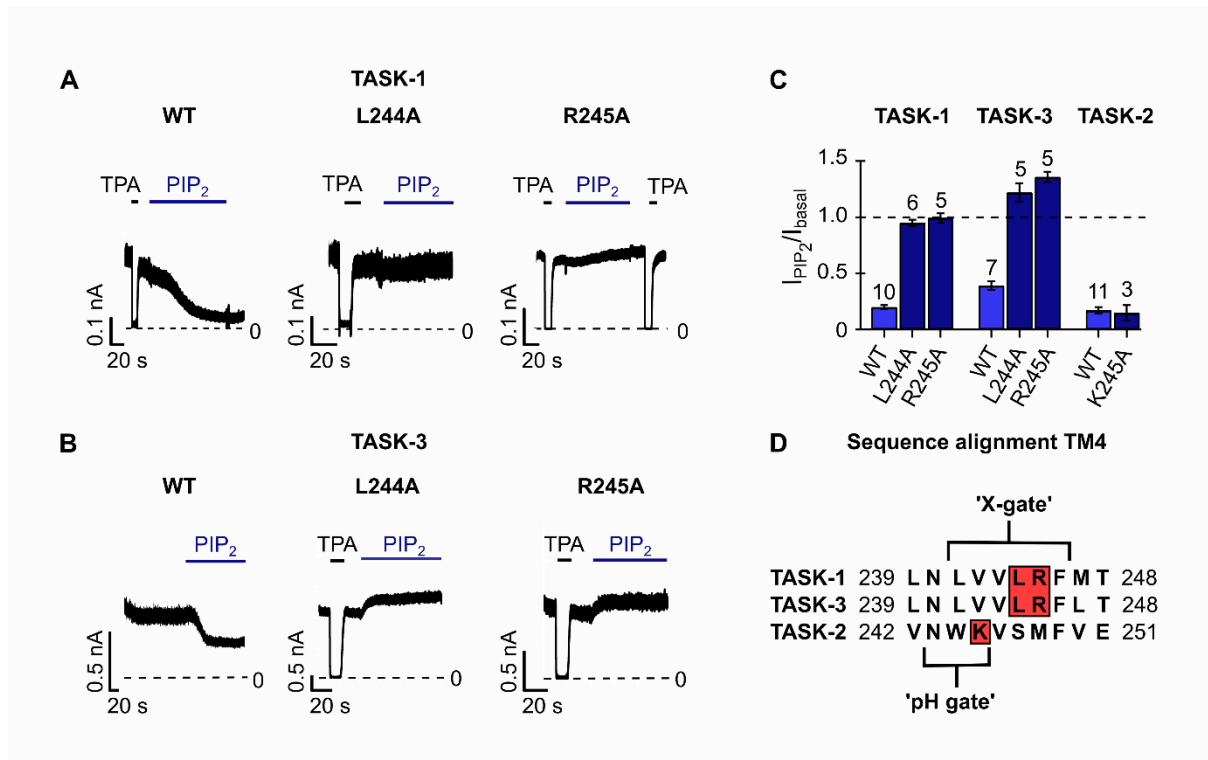




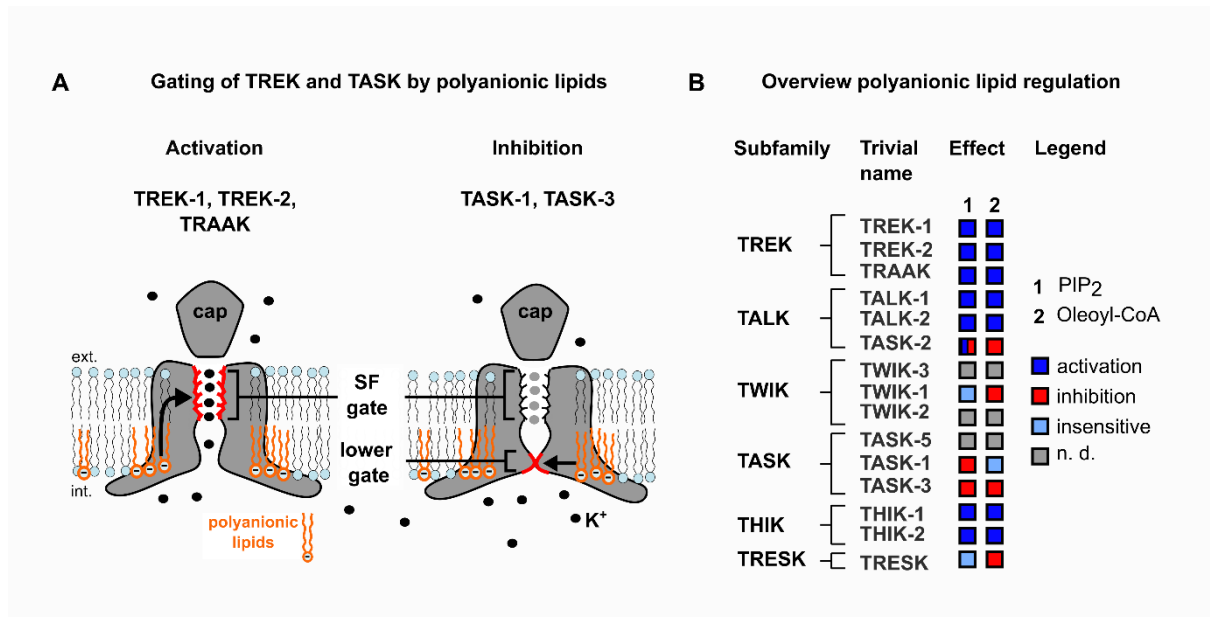
-Figure 2-



-Figure 3-



-Figure 4-



-Figure 5-

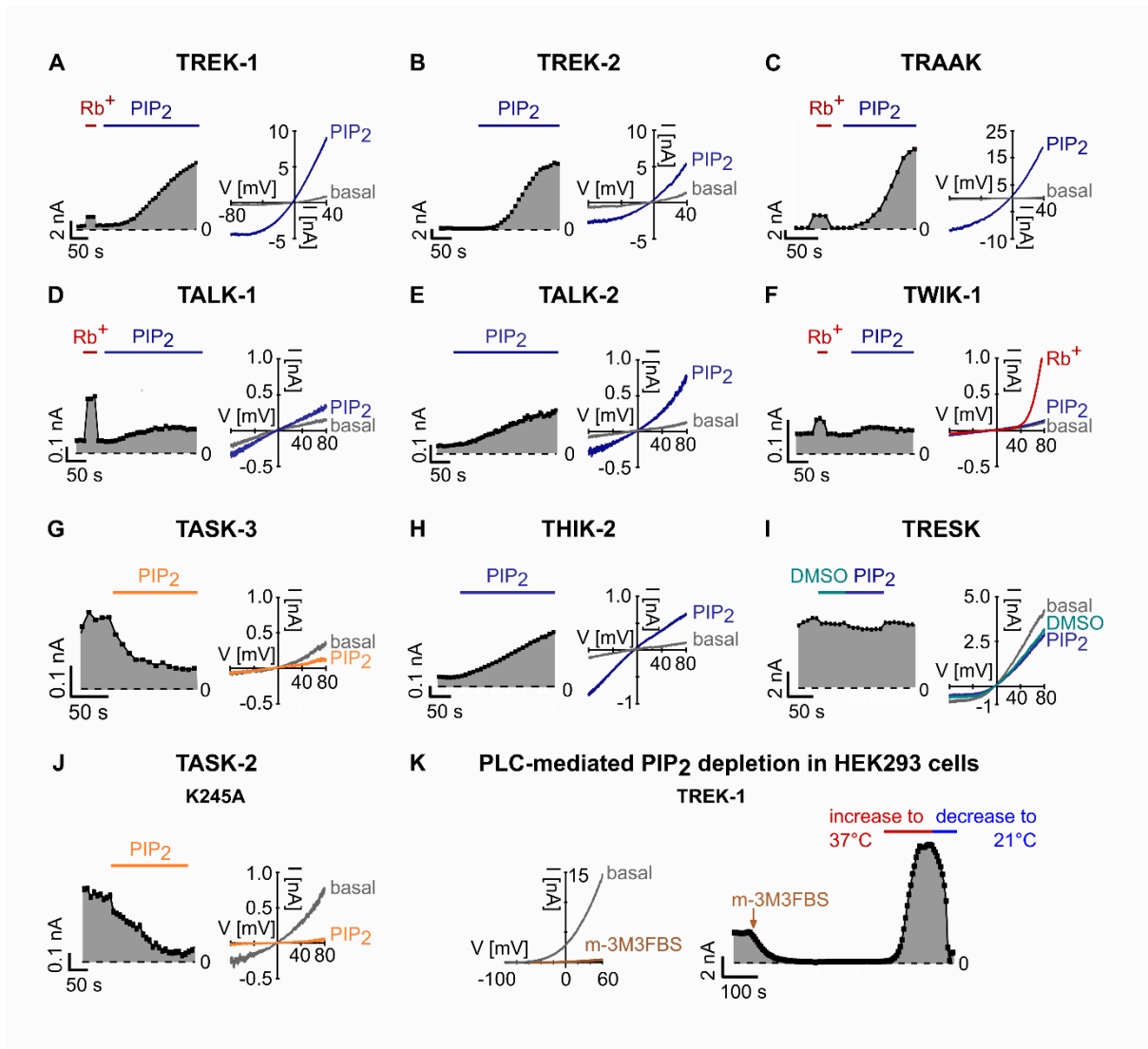
## Supporting Information

### **The versatile regulation of K<sub>2P</sub> channels by polyanionic lipids of the phosphoinositide (PIP<sub>2</sub>) and fatty acid metabolism (LC-CoA)**

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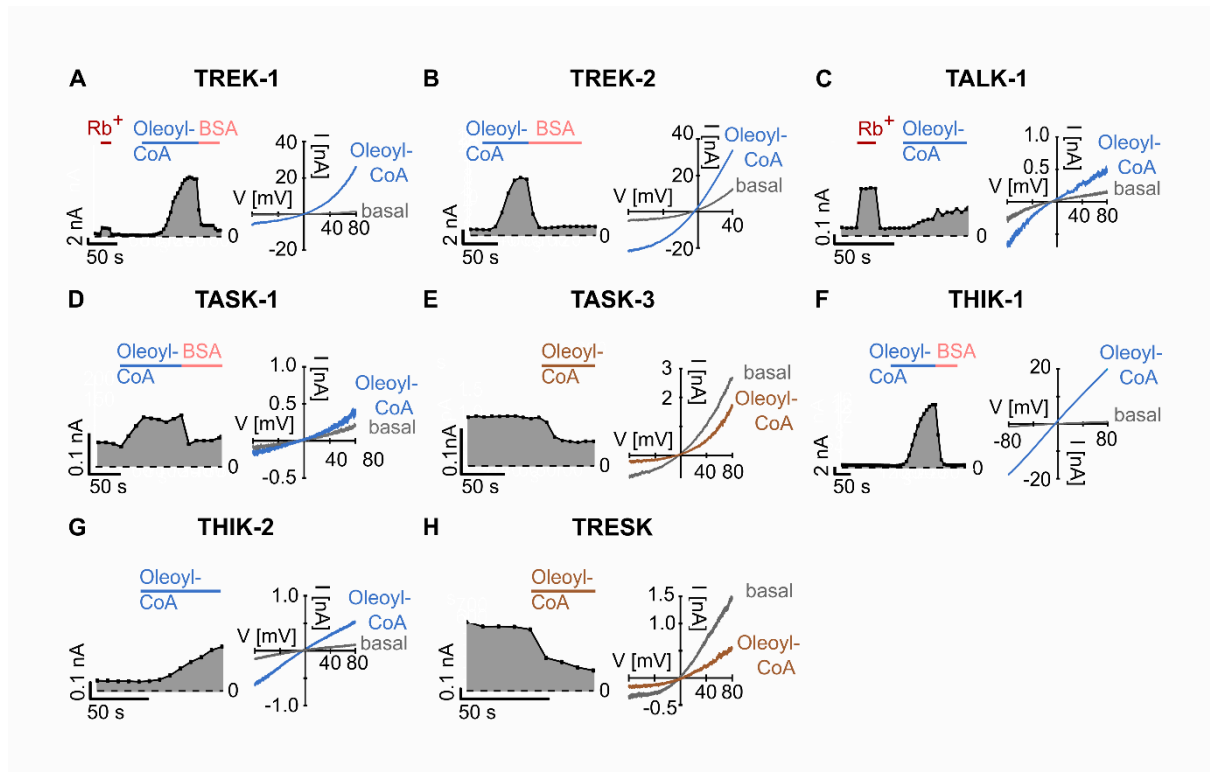
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**Supplementary Figure S1. Representative traces of the PIP<sub>2</sub> regulation of K<sub>2P</sub> channels and PLC-mediated inhibition of TREK-1 channels.**

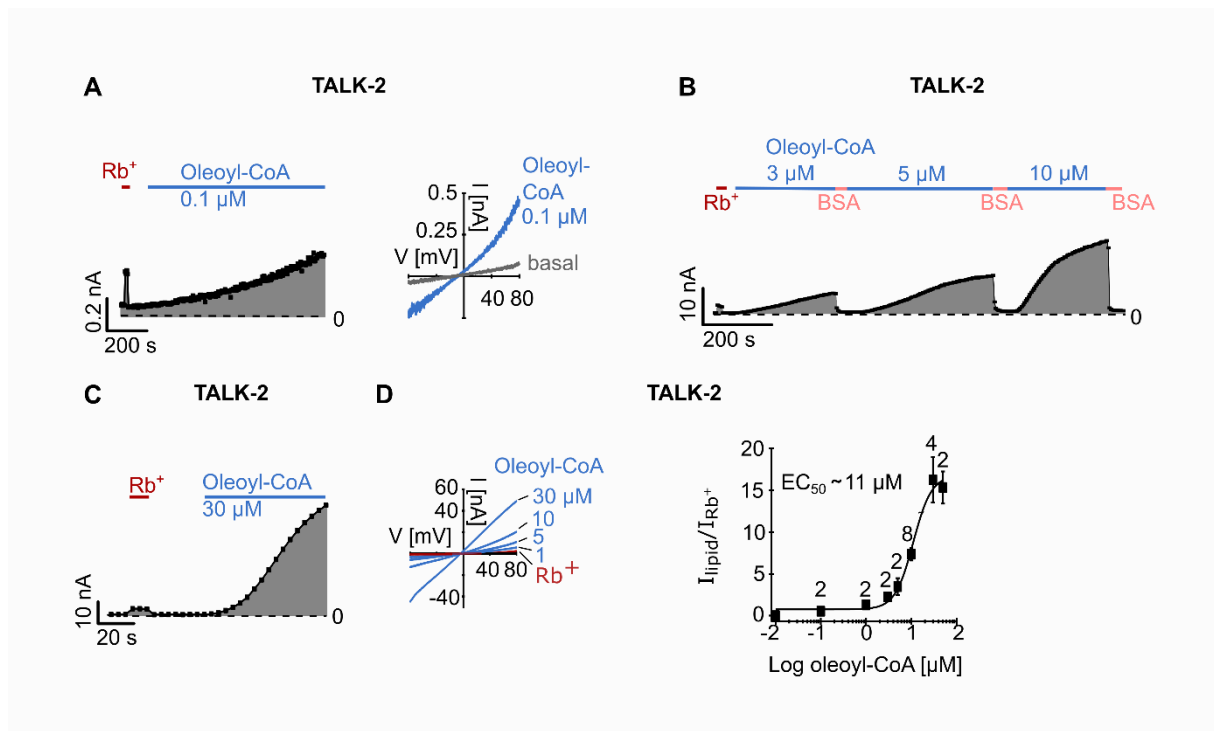
**A-J.** Representative current traces (right) and analysed currents at +40 mV plotted over time (left) of PIP<sub>2</sub>-activated (blue) TREK-1 (A), TREK-2 (B), TRAAK (C), TALK-1 (D), TALK-2 (E), THIK-2 and PIP<sub>2</sub>-inhibited (orange) TASK-3 (G) and TASK-2 K245A (J) K<sub>2P</sub> channels. TWIK-1 (F) and TRESK (I) are not affected by PIP<sub>2</sub>. Currents were measured in voltage ramps between -80 and +80 mV in excised inside-out patches of *Xenopus oocytes* using K<sup>+</sup> or Rb<sup>+</sup> (red) bath solutions and in the presence of 10 μM PIP<sub>2</sub> or DMSO (1 %) added to the standard K<sup>+</sup> solution. **K.** Representative traces of TREK-1 currents in whole-cell experiments using HEK293 cells measured in voltage ramps between -100 and +60 mV and analysed at 0 mV. Measurements are performed in control solution and in the presence of 20 μM of the PLC activator m-3M3FBS. Additionally, the temperature was increased to 37 °C (red) and subsequently decreased (blue) to room temperature of 21 °C (blue).



### Supplementary Figure S2. Oleoyl-CoA regulation of K<sub>2P</sub> channels.

**A-H.** Representative current traces (right) and analysed currents at +40 mV plotted over time (left) of oleoyl-CoA-activated (light blue) TREK-1 (A), TREK-2 (B), TALK-1 (C), TASK-1 (D), THIK-1 (F), and THIK-2 (G) and PIP<sub>2</sub>-inhibited (brown) TASK-3 (E) and TRESK (H) K<sub>2P</sub> channels. Currents were measured in voltage ramps between -80 and +80 mV in excised inside-out patches of *Xenopus* oocytes using K<sup>+</sup> or Rb<sup>+</sup> (red) bath solutions and in the presence of 10 μM PIP<sub>2</sub> or 5 mg\*ml<sup>-1</sup> BSA (pink) added to the standard K<sup>+</sup> solution.





### Supplementary Figure S3. Oleoyl-CoA activation of TALK-2 $\text{K}_{2\text{P}}$ channels.

**A-C.** Representative current traces (right) and analysed currents at +80 mV plotted over time (left) of TALK-2 channels measured in voltage ramps between -80 and +80 mV in excised inside-out patches of *Xenopus* oocytes using  $\text{K}^+$  or  $\text{Rb}^+$  (red) bath solutions and in the presence of 0.1  $\mu\text{M}$  (A), 3  $\mu\text{M}$ , 5  $\mu\text{M}$  and 10  $\mu\text{M}$  (B) or 30  $\mu\text{M}$  (C) oleoyl-CoA or 5  $\text{mg}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$  bovine serum albumin (BSA) for wash out. **D.** Dose-response relationship of oleoyl-CoA activation of TALK-2 channels measured as shown in the left panel (1, 5, 10, 30  $\mu\text{M}$  oleoyl-CoA (blue),  $\text{Rb}^+$ -activated (red) current). Note that all currents were normalised to the respective  $\text{Rb}^+$ -activated current at +80 mV. The average fold activation by  $\text{Rb}^+$  ( $I_{\text{Rb}^+}/I_{\text{basal}}$ ) for TALK-2 WT channels is  $12 \pm 3$  ( $n = 20$ ). The  $\text{EC}_{50}$  of oleoyl-CoA was  $\sim 11 \mu\text{M}$ . Number ( $n$ ) of independent experiments is indicated above the squares. All data is presented as mean  $\pm$  s.e.m.

<b>Fold activation</b>			
K <sub>2P</sub> channel	n	mean	s.e.m.
TREK-1 WT	5	17.1	2.9
TREK-2 WT	5	10.9	4.0
TRAAK WT	7	113.6	24.4
TALK-1 WT	6	1.7	0.2
TALK-2 WT	15	4.4	0.9
TASK-2 WT	4	2.4	0.3
THIK-1 WT	5	19.3	2.3
THIK-2	6	3.9	0.6
TWIK-1	5	1.1	0.3
<b>Inhibition [%]</b>			
K <sub>2P</sub> channel	n	mean	s.e.m.
TASK-1 WT	10	81.8	1.9
TASK-2 WT	11	82.8	2.8
TASK-3 WT	7	60.8	3.9
TRESK WT	6	6.9	1.1

**Table S1. Fold activation and % Inhibition induced by 10  $\mu$ M PIP<sub>2</sub> for the respective K<sub>2P</sub> channel as depicted in Figure 1A.**

<b>Fold activation</b>			
K <sub>2P</sub> channel	n	mean	s.e.m.
TREK-1 WT	6	14.6	3.4
TREK-2 WT	5	6.2	1.2
TRAAK WT	6	39.8	15.5
TASK-1 WT	5	2.4	0.2
TALK-2 WT	16	94.3	13.8
TALK-1 WT	8	4.8	0.5
THIK-1 WT	12	28.8	2.0
THIK-2	4	13.0	0.4
<b>Inhibition [%]</b>			
K <sub>2P</sub> channel	n	mean	s.e.m.
TASK-2 WT	9	70.0	6.5
TASK-3 WT	5	38.5	5.4
TWIK-1	5	52.3	11.9
TRESK WT	7	73.1	4.5

**Table S2. Fold activation and % Inhibition induced by 10  $\mu$ M oleoyl-CoA for the respective K<sub>2P</sub> channel as depicted in Figure 2A.**

<b>Fold activation by LC-CoA esters (3 <math>\mu</math>M) [<math>I_{lipid}/I_{Rb^+}</math>]</b>			
LC-CoA species	n	mean	s.e.m.
18:3	3	0.3	0.1
18:2	3	0.7	0.2
18:1	3	4.4	0.8
18:0	3	11.7	2.0
14:0	4	0.1	0.04
16:0	3	3.0	0.7
18:0	3	11.7	2.0
22:0	3	7.8	1.8
<b>Oleoyl-CoA dose response curve (normalised to Rb<sup>+</sup>)</b>			
Concentration [ $\mu$ M]	n	mean [ $I_{lipid}/I_{Rb^+}$ ]	s.e.m.
0.01	15	0.1	0.01
0.1	2	0.6	0.2
1	2	1.4	0.4
3	2	2.3	0.1
5	2	3.5	1.0
10	8	7.4	0.7
30	4	16.2	2.7
50	2	15.3	1.9

**Table S3. Fold activation induced by the indicated LC-CoA species for TALK-2 K<sub>2P</sub> channels as depicted in Figure 3D.**

<b>Fold change</b>			
K <sub>2P</sub> channel	n	mean	s.e.m.
TASK-1 WT	10	0.22	0.03
TASK-1 L244A	6	0.95	0.03
TASK-1 R245A	5	0.99	0.04
TASK-3 WT	7	0.39	0.04
TASK-3 L244A	5	1.22	0.08
TASK-3 R245A	5	1.36	0.05
TASK-2 WT	11	0.17	0.03
TASK-2 K245A	3	0.15	0.07

**Table S4. Fold change induced by 10  $\mu$ M PIP<sub>2</sub> species for the respective K<sub>2P</sub> channel as depicted in Figure 4D.**

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