

A positive feedback loop between Flower and PI(4,5)P₂ at periactive zones controls bulk endocytosis in Drosophila

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Abstract Synaptic vesicle (SV) endocytosis is coupled to exocytosis to maintain SV pool size and thus neurotransmitter release. Intense stimulation induces activity-dependent bulk endocytosis (ADBE) to recapture large quantities of SV constituents in large endosomes from which SVs reform. How these consecutive processes are spatiotemporally coordinated remains unknown. Here, we show that Flower Ca²⁺ channel-dependent phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PI(4,5)P₂) compartmentalization governs control of these processes in *Drosophila*. Strong stimuli trigger PI (4,5)P₂ microdomain formation at periactive zones. Upon exocytosis, Flower translocates from SVs to periactive zones, where it increases PI(4,5)P₂ levels via Ca²⁺ influxes. Remarkably, PI(4,5)P₂ directly enhances Flower channel activity, thereby establishing a positive feedback loop for PI(4,5) P₂ microdomain compartmentalization. PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains drive ADBE and SV reformation from bulk endosomes. PI(4,5)P₂ further retrieves Flower to bulk endosomes, terminating endocytosis. We propose that the interplay between Flower and PI(4,5)P₂ is the crucial spatiotemporal cue that couples exocytosis to ADBE and subsequent SV reformation.

Introduction

Proper synaptic vesicle (SV) exocytosis dictates the robustness of brain activity. Coupling SV exocytosis with proper endocytosis is crucial for maintaining a balance of SV proteins at the release site, plasma membrane equilibrium, SV identity, and SV pool size (Chanaday et al., 2019; Haucke et al., 2011; Lou, 2018; Wu et al., 2014a). Currently, four modes of SV endocytosis are proposed. These differ in terms of stimulation intensity for their induction, formation, and molecular components (Haucke et al., 2011; Kononenko and Haucke, 2015; Wu et al., 2014a). Under mild neuronal stimulation, the SV partially fuses with the plasma membrane and reforms at the active zone, the so called 'kiss and run' mode. During clathrin-mediated endocytosis (CME), the SV fully collapses into the plasma membrane, followed by reformation of a single SV. Ultrafast endocytosis was also shown to recycle SVs at a sub-second timescale by forming a ~ 80 nm-sized bulk endosome predominantly at the edge of the active zone. SVs subsequently regenerate from this bulk endosome (Granseth et al., 2006; Watanabe et al., 2013a; Watanabe et al., 2013b; Zhu et al., 2009). High frequency stimulation and thus exocytosis could easily surpass the capacity of the three abovedescribed endocytic mechanisms. It has therefore been proposed that activity-dependent bulk endocytosis (ADBE) has the necessary recapture capacity upon intense stimulation (Clayton et al., 2008; Soykan et al., 2017; Wu and Wu, 2007). This retrieval mode is elicited at the periactive zone to recapture large quantities of SV constituents via bulk endosome (~100-500 nm) formation, from which SVs subsequently reform. Hence, specific routes of SV recycling may fit the specific demands

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of a wide range of neuronal activities at the synapse. However, how stimulation intensity dictates the choice between these different endocytic modes is not well understood.

ADBE has been documented in many different types of neurons in invertebrates and vertebrates (Clayton et al., 2008; Heerssen et al., 2008; Heuser and Reese, 1973; Holt et al., 2003; Kasprowicz et al., 2008; Kittelmann et al., 2013; Miller and Heuser, 1984; Richards et al., 2000; Soykan et al., 2017, Stevens et al., 2012; Vijayakrishnan et al., 2009; Wenzel et al., 2012; Wu and Wu, 2007; Yao et al., 2017). Although the precise mechanism regulating ADBE is not known, multiple lines of evidence suggest that actin polymerization may serve as the membrane invagination force responsible for generating bulk endosomes (Gormal et al., 2015; Holt et al., 2003; Kokotos and Low, 2015; Nguyen et al., 2012; Richards et al., 2004; Soykan et al., 2017; Wu et al., 2016). Furthermore, phosphatidylinositol metabolism has also been implicated in controlling this recycling mode (Gaffield et al., 2011; Holt et al., 2003; Richards et al., 2004; Vijayakrishnan et al., 2009). Importantly, loss of Synaptojanin, the major phosphatidylinositol 4,5bisphosphate (PI(4,5)P₂) catalytic enzyme in neurons (Tsujishita et al., 2001), leads to reduced SV endocytosis elicited by intense stimulation, presumably by affecting ADBE (Mani et al., 2007). PI $(4,5)P_2$ is known to promote actin polymerization by activating a number of actin modulators (Janmey et al., 2018). PI(4,5)P2 is clustered to form microdomains upon the demand for diverse cellular functions (Aoyagi et al., 2005; Chen et al., 2015; Honigmann et al., 2013; Kabeche et al., 2015; Mu et al., 2018; Picas et al., 2014; Riggi et al., 2018; van den Bogaart et al., 2011). It has also been reported that formation of $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains precedes actin polymerization during a process reminiscent of ADBE in neurosecretory cells (Gormal et al., 2015). Thus, subcellular compartmentalization of PI(4,5)P2 may provide the spatial information dictating where bulk membranes will invaginate. However, the mechanism initiating the formation of the $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains is unknown.

Coordinated SV protein and membrane retrieval plays an important role in maintaining the identity of newly formed SVs during SV recycling (Kaempf and Maritzen, 2017; McMahon and Boucrot, 2011; Saheki and De Camilli, 2012; Traub and Bonifacino, 2013). It has been well documented that proper sorting of SV proteins to the nascent SV is achieved in CME by the cooperative action of PI(4,5)P2 and adaptor protein complexes (Saheki and De Camilli, 2012; Traub and Bonifacino, 2013). Recent studies have also revealed a distinct sorting mechanism that retrieves selective SV cargoes to the bulk endosome via ADBE (Kokotos et al., 2018; Nicholson-Fish et al., 2015). Several lines of evidence further suggest that clathrin and adaptor protein complexes are required for reforming SVs from the bulk endosome (Cheung and Cousin, 2012; Glyvuk et al., 2010; Kokotos et al., 2018; Kononenko et al., 2014; Park et al., 2016). A dynaminl/dynaminlll/clathrinindependent mechanism has also been reported as being involved in this process (Wu et al., 2014c). Thus, during SV regeneration via ADBE, multiple protein sorting steps may be required to ensure that the SVs harbor the proper compositions of lipids and proteins, thereby endowing specific release probabilities in relation to other modes of endocytosis (Cheung et al., 2010; Hoopmann et al., 2010; Nicholson-Fish et al., 2015; Silm et al., 2019). The mechanism by which protein sorting and membrane retrieval are coordinated in this process remains to be explored.

Here, we show that, upon intense stimulation, $PI(4,5)P_2$ is compartmentalized into microdomains at periactive zones in the synaptic boutons of *Drosophila* larval neuromuscular junctions (NMJs). Blockade of $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomain formation diminishes ADBE and SV reformation from the bulk endosome. Increased intracellular Ca²⁺ and SV exocytosis are prerequisites for initiating ADBE (*Morton et al., 2015; Wu and Wu, 2007*). We have previously shown that Flower (Fwe), a SV-associated Ca²⁺ channel, regulates both CME and ADBE, and that its channel activity is strongly activated upon intense stimulation to elicit ADBE (*Yao et al., 2017*). We show that Fwe initiates a positive feedback loop upon $PI(4,5)P_2$ increase to ensure the formation of $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains and thus trigger ADBE and subsequent SV reformation. Intriguingly, $PI(4,5)P_2$ also participates in retrieval of Fwe to the bulk endosome, thereby stopping membrane recycling. Hence, spatiotemporal interplays between Flower and $PI(4,5)P_2$ coordinate the retrieval of SV cargos and membranes, coupling exocytosis to ADBE and subsequent SV reformation.

Results

Intense neuronal activity induces formation of PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains at the presynaptic periactive zone of *Drosophila* synapses

To investigate the dynamics of $PI(4,5)P_2$ in the presynaptic compartment, we expressed a GFP fusion protein of the pleckstrin homology (PH) domain of $PLC_{\delta 1}$ (PLC $_{\delta 1}$ -PH-EGFP) in synaptic boutons of Drosophila larval NMJs using nSyb-GAL4, a pan-neuronal driver. PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP binds to PI(4,5)P₂ with high affinity and is widely used to label subcellular compartments in which PI(4,5)P2 is enriched (Chen et al., 2014; Khuong et al., 2010). We delivered 20 Hz stimuli for three minutes to synaptic boutons in a 2 mM extracellular Ca²⁺ solution and performed live imaging in the third minute. Consecutive snapshot images were taken before stimulation, during the third minute of stimulation, and after stimulation. As shown in *Figure 1a–b*, we observed a very subtle increase in $PLC_{\delta 1}$ -PH-EGFP fluorescence in individual boutons (white arrows), similar to findings of a previous study (Verstreken et al., 2009). However, when we raised the stimulus intensity to 40 Hz, we recorded a robust increase in fluorescence relative to a GFP fusion protein of the plasma membrane-integrated mCD8 domain (UAS-mCD8-GFP). Fluorescence signals rapidly returned to basal levels within tens of seconds when the stimuli were removed. We have previously documented that treatment with 40 Hz electric pulses or 90 mM high KCl solution can cause comparable stimulation intensities in Drosophila NMJ boutons (Yao et al., 2017). High K^+ treatment also increased the fluorescence signal of $PLC_{\delta 1}$ -PH-EGFP. No increase in the presynaptic protein level of $PLC_{\delta 1}$ -PH-EGFP was found under this condition (Figure 1-figure supplement 1a-b), arguing that this stimulation does not induce protein synthesis. These results suggest that, in response to intense stimulation, PLC_{$\delta 1$}-PH-EGFP is redistributed and concentrated to $PI(4,5)P_2$ -enriched subdomains of the plasma membrane, thereby enhancing the overall fluorescence.

To characterize the subcellular distribution of the stimulus-dependent PI(4,5)P₂ induction, we conducted a chemical fixation protocol whereby the NMJ boutons were fixed at rest or immediately after high K⁺ stimulation and then immunostained for PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP using an α -GFP antibody to enhance the signal for high-resolution microscopic imaging. Confocal images revealed that, for neurons at rest, native PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP fluorescence was weakly detected on the presynaptic plasma membrane labeled by α -Hrp staining, with some additional fluorescent signal being dispersed in the cytosol (*Figure 1—figure supplement 1c*). We then elevated PI(4,5)P₂ on the plasma membrane by removing a copy of *synaptojanin (synj*), which encodes the major neuronal PI(4,5)P₂ phosphatase (*Tsujishita et al., 2001*; *Verstreken et al., 2003*). Consistent with previous studies (*Chen et al., 2014*; *Verstreken et al., 2009*), this reduction in Synj levels enhanced PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP fluorescence (*Figure 1—figure supplement 1c-d*). In this context, we did not observe a significant change in protein expression of PLC_{$\delta1}-PH-EGFP$ in the presynaptic compartment (*Figure 1—figure supplement 1e-f*). By using α -GFP immunostaining, these PLC_{$\delta1}-PH-EGFP$ signals could be faithfully amplified (*Figure 1—figure supplement 1c-d*). Therefore, this immunostaining approach was subsequently used to monitor presynaptic PI(4,5)P₂ levels.</sub></sub>

Next, we stimulated the boutons expressing PLC $_{\delta 1}$ -PH-EGFP with 90 mM K⁺ and 2 mM Ca²⁺ for 10 min. Similar to our live-imaging results, PLC₈₁-PH-EGFP signals were significantly increased on the presynaptic plasma membrane (Figure 1-figure supplement 1g-h). In particular, we observed high-level induction of PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP puncta (*Figure 1c-d*). To assess the possibility that chemical fixation may have altered membrane properties and consequently plasma membrane PLC $_{\delta 1}$ -PH-EGFP clustering upon intense stimulation, we further examined the distributions of mCD8-GFP and $PLC_{\delta 1}$ -PHS39R-EGFP, a PI(4,5)P₂-binding mutant (*Khuong et al., 2010*; *Verstreken et al., 2009*). There was no obvious change in the plasma membrane pattern of mCD8-GFP in fixed boutons stimulated with high K⁺ (*Figure 1—figure supplement 2a–b*). Unlike PLC_{$\delta 1$}-PH-EGFP, PLC_{$\delta 1$}-PHS39R-EGFP was found mainly in the cytosol at rest. After intense stimulation, immunostaining signals of PLC₈₁-PHS39R-EGFP did not accumulate on the plasma membrane (Figure 1-figure supplement 2c-d) and were not increased within the boutons (Figure 1-figure supplement 2e). Thus, clustering of PLC δ 1-PH-EGFP on the plasma membrane upon stimulation results from an increase in local $PI(4,5)P_2$ concentration, although a potential effect of chemical fixation, if any, on PLC₈₁-PH-EGFP clustering cannot be excluded. To assess potential dominant-negative effects of $PI(4,5)P_2$ binding by $PLC_{\delta 1}$ -PH-EGFP on the stimulation-induced accumulation of $PI(4,5)P_2$, we further examined the recruitment of the AP-2 complex by PI(4,5)P₂. Similar to PLC_{$\delta 1$}-PH-EGFP, levels of the α subunit of



Figure 1. $PI(4,5)P_2$ forms microdomains at periactive zones under conditions of intense stimulation. (**a**–**b**) Increased fluorescence of $PLC_{\delta1}$ -PH-EGFP but not mCD8-GFP in NMJ boutons upon intense stimulation. (**a**) (Top) Live images of the boutons (arrows) expressing *UAS-PLC_{\delta1}*-PH-EGFP or *UAS-mCD8-GFP*. The larvae were reared at 25°C. Electrical (20 or 40 Hz) or chemical (90 mM K⁺) stimulation was conducted in a 2 mM-Ca²⁺ solution for 3 min (electrical) or 5 min (chemical) and then rested in 0 mM Ca²⁺ and 5 mM K⁺. Snapshot images taken before stimulation, at the third (electrical) and fifth *Figure 1 continued on next page*

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Figure 1 continued

(chemical) min of stimulation, and after stimulation. (Bottom) Traces of probe fluorescence for single boutons. The number of boutons imaged (N). (b) Quantification data for EGFP fluorescence change. The resting fluorescence level (F_0). Fluorescence change evoked by stimulation (Δ F). (c–f) PLC_{δ 1}-PH-EGFP enrichment at periactive zones is dependent on Ca²⁺ upon intense stimulation. Single-plane confocal (c) or SIM (e) images of the boutons expressing PLC_{δ 1}-PH-EGFP. The larvae were reared at 25°C. The boutons subjected to high K⁺/2 mM Ca²⁺ (10 min stimulation of 90 mM K⁺/2 mM Ca²⁺), high K⁺/0 mM Ca²⁺ (10 min stimulation of 90 mM K⁺/0 mM Ca²⁺), or high K⁺/0.5 mM Ca²⁺ (11 min stimulation of 90 mM K⁺/0.5 mM Ca²⁺) treatments were fixed immediately and immunostained for PLC_{δ 1}-PH-EGFP (green) and Bruchpilot (Brp) [an active zone scaffold protein; magenta (c), red (e)]. The PLC_{δ 1}-PH-EGFP-enriched puncta (Arrows). (d) Quantification data for PLC_{δ 1}-PH-EGFP staining intensities, normalized to the value of the resting condition. (f) Average area of PLC_{δ 1}-PH-EGFP clusters in individual boutons, as measured by SIM. Individual data values are shown in graphs. p values: ns, not significant; *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ****p<0.001; ****p<0.001. Mean ± SEM. Scale bar: 1 µm (e), 2 µm (a, c). Statistics: one-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test (b, d).

The online version of this article includes the following source data and figure supplement(s) for figure 1:

Source data 1. Source data for Figure 1.

Figure supplement 1. The change in PLC $_{\delta1}$ -PH-EGFP fluorescence is responsible for an increase in the PI(4,5)P₂ level.

Figure supplement 1—source data 1. Source data for Figure 1—figure supplement 1.

Figure supplement 2. The distribution of mCD8-EGFP and PLC $_{\delta1}$ -PHS39R-EGFP remains unchanged upon intense stimulation.

Figure supplement 2—source data 1. Source data for Figure 1—figure supplement 2.

Figure supplement 3. $PI(4,5)P_2$ is increased at the periactive zone upon intense stimulation.

Figure supplement 3—source data 1. Source data for Figure 1—figure supplement 3.

the AP-2 complex (AP-2 α) were also increased on the plasma membrane upon high K⁺ stimulation (*Figure 1—figure supplement 3a–b*). Together, these data indicate that intense stimulation can promote the formation of Pl(4,5)P₂ microdomains.

We noted that the induced $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains were primarily sited at periactive zones marked by activity-dependent localization of Eps15 (*Figure 1c; Figure 1—figure supplement 3c; Koh et al., 2007; Winther et al., 2013*). Periactive zones are known hot-spots for ADBE (*Chanaday et al., 2019; Kononenko and Haucke, 2015; Wu et al., 2014a*). By using structured illumination microscopy (SIM), we estimated that the average size of these $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains formed after stimulation is ~300 nm in diameter (*Figure 1e-f*) (0.07655 ± 0.004 μ m², mean ± S.E.M., n = 37 boutons).

Next, to determine the Ca²⁺ dependence of the Pl(4,5)P₂ microdomains, we stimulated the boutons in a solution of 90 mM K⁺ and 0 mM Ca²⁺, which resulted in failure to induce Pl(4,5)P₂ microdomain formation (*Figure 1d*). We obtained a similar result using 1 min stimulation of 90 mM K⁺ and 0.5 mM Ca²⁺ (*Figure 1d*), which was previously shown to primarily elicit CME but not ADBE (*Yao et al., 2017*). Hence, these results suggest that intense stimulation can elicit Ca²⁺-driven compartmentalization of Pl(4,5)P₂ at the periactive zone in synaptic boutons of *Drosophila* NMJs.

PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains are involved in ADBE initiation and SV reformation from bulk endosomes

Next, we investigated the function of PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains in ADBE. High K⁺ treatment is widely used to trigger ADBE in a broad range of synapses (*Akbergenova and Bykhovskaia, 2009*; *Clayton et al., 2008*; *Jin et al., 2019*; *Stevens et al., 2012*; *Vijayakrishnan et al., 2009*; *Wu and Wu, 2007*; *Wu et al., 2014c*). To measure ADBE, we induced ADBE with 90 mM K⁺ and 2 mM Ca²⁺ for 10 min and then conducted transmission electron microscopy (TEM). ADBE was evoked in wild-type control boutons under these conditions and generated the formation of bulk endosomes (red asterisks, defined as >80 nm in diameter) (*Figure 2c-d*). To suppress the function of PI(4,5)P₂, we expressed PLC_{δ1}-PH-EGFP, anticipating that binding of the PLC_{δ1}-PH domain to PI(4,5)P₂ would restrict availability of PI(4,5)P₂ to its effectors and metabolic enzymes (*Figure 2a; Khuong et al., 2013*). By using the *GAL4/UAS* system, we were able to adjust expression levels of the PLC_{δ1}-PH domain via temperature manipulation (*Brand and Perrimon, 1993; D'Avino and Thummel, 1999; Wilder, 2000*). When we neuronally expressed PLC_{δ1}-PH-EGFP using *nSyb-GAL4* and grew larvae at 25°C, we found that mild expression of PLC_{δ1}-PH-EGFP had a mild inhibitory effect on ADBE induction relative to wild-type control boutons (*Figure 2c-d*). In contrast, when larvae were grown at 29°C to effect a two-fold increase in PLC_{δ1}-PH-EGFP expression (*Figure 2—figure supplement 1a–b*),



Figure 2. $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains drive ADBE and SV reformation from bulk endosomes. Reducing $PI(4,5)P_2$ availability suppresses ADBE and subsequent SV reformation. (a) A schematic for $PI(4,5)P_2$ suppression by $PLC_{\delta1}$ -PH-EGFP or Synj expression. (b) Expression of Synj reduced presynaptic plasma membrane $PI(4,5)P_2$ upon high K⁺ treatment. The boutons co-expressing UAS-PLC_{\delta1}-PH-EGFP with UAS-RFP (control) or UAS-synj using *nSyb-GAL4* were reared at 25°C and subjected to resting condition (10 min incubation of 5 mM K⁺/0 mM Ca²⁺) or high K⁺ stimulation (10 min stimulation of Figure 2 continued on next page

Figure 2 continued

90 mM K⁺/2 mM Ca²⁺), followed by α -GFP immunostaining. Single-plane confocal images of the boutons are shown in *Figure 2—figure supplement* 1c. Quantification data for PLC_{&1}-PH-EGFP staining intensity are shown, normalized to the value of the resting condition of controls. (c) TEM images of the boutons of controls (*nSyb-GAL4/+* at 29°C), mild PLC_{&1}-PH-EGFP expression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-PLC_{&1}-PH-EGFP* at 25°C), high PLC_{&1}-PH-EGFP expression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-PLC_{&1}-PH-EGFP* at 25°C), mild Synj expression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-PLC_{&1}-PH-EGFP* at 29°C), mild Synj expression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-PLC_{&1}-PH-EGFP* at 29°C), mild Synj expression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-PLC_{&1}-PH-S39R-EGFP* at 29°C), mild Synj expression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-PLC_{&1}-PH-S39R-EGFP* at 29°C), mild Synj expression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-PLC_{&1}-PH-S39R-EGFP* at 29°C), mild Synj expression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-synj* at 29°C). At rest (10 min incubation of 5 mM K⁺/0 mM Ca²⁺). High K⁺ (10 min stimulation of 90 mM K⁺/2 mM Ca²⁺). 10 min recovery (10 min stimulation of 90 mM K⁺/2 mM Ca²⁺, followed by 10 min incubation of 5 mM K⁺/0 mM Ca²⁺). 20 min recovery (10 min stimulation of 90 mM K⁺/2 mM Ca²⁺). 20 min recovery (10 min stimulation of 90 mM K⁺/2 mM Ca²⁺, followed by 20 min incubation of 5 mM K⁺/0 mM Ca²⁺). Bulk endosomes (>80 nm in diameter, red asterisks). Mitochondria (mt). Quantification data for total number of bulk endosomes per bouton area (d). Individual data values are shown in graphs. p values: ns, not significant; *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ****p<0.001; ****p<0.0001. Mean ± SEM. Scale bar: 500 nm. Statistics: one-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test.

The online version of this article includes the following source data and figure supplement(s) for figure 2:

Source data 1. Source data for Figure 2.

Figure supplement 1. Blockade of the PI(4,5)P2 microdomains by expressing PLC81-PH-EGFP and Synj.

Figure supplement 1—source data 1. Source data for Figure 2—figure supplement 1.

Figure supplement 2. Blockade of the PI(4,5)P2 microdomains abolishes SV reformation from the bulk endosome.

Figure supplement 2—source data 1. Source data for Figure 2—figure supplement 2.

ADBE was almost completely abolished (*Figure 2c-d*). However, when larvae expressing $PLC_{\delta 1}$ -PHS39R-EGFP were grown at 29°C, ADBE was not suppressed by the mutant protein (*Figure 2c-d*).

Synj comprises a central 5-phosphatase domain that specifically dephosphorylates the 5' position of PI(4,5)P₂ to produce PI(4)P (*McPherson et al., 1996*; *Woscholski et al., 1997*). In addition, an N-terminal Sac1 domain converts several phosphatidylinositides—including PI(3,5)P₂, PI(3)P, and PI (4)P—to PI (*Figure 2a*; *Guo et al., 1999*). Indeed, overexpression of Synj reduced the formation of the PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains induced by high K⁺ (*Figure 2b*; *Figure 2—figure supplement 1c*). Importantly, overexpression of Synj resulted in dosage-dependent inhibition of ADBE (*Figure 2c–d*), similar to the effect of increasing levels of the PLC_{$\delta 1$}-PH domain. Together, these data suggest that the PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains initiate ADBE to control SV membrane retrieval upon intense stimulation.

SVs regenerate from bulk endosomes within minutes of their formation (Cheung and Cousin, 2012; Glyvuk et al., 2010; Kononenko et al., 2014; Stevens et al., 2012; Wu et al., 2014c). Using an approach employed previously (Stevens et al., 2012), we treated the boutons with high K⁺ followed by an incubation in 5 mM K^+ and 0 mM Ca^{2+} solution for 10 or 20 min, allowing the SVs to reform from the bulk endosomes. In controls (nSyb-GAL4), the number and area of the induced bulk endosomes reverted to almost basal levels within 10 min (Figure 2c-d; Figure 2-figure supplement 2), demonstrating proper SV reformation. Interestingly, upon expression of low levels of $PLC_{\delta 1}$ -PH-EGFP, the induced bulk endosomes remained after 10 min and 20 min recovery periods, yet ADBE was only partially impaired (Figure 2c-d; Figure 2-figure supplement 2). In contrast, SV reformation actively occurred in the boutons expressing high levels of PLC $_{\delta 1}$ -PHS39R-EGFP (Figure 2c-d; Figure 2—figure supplement 2). Furthermore, we observed a loss of SV reformation ability upon mild overexpression of Synj (Figure 2c-d; Figure 2-figure supplement 2). Hence, the formation of PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains is essential for both ADBE and SV reformation from the bulk endosome, with the latter event being elicited by relatively high levels of PI(4,5)P2. Note that perturbation of PI(4,5)P₂ microdomain formation did not cause SV accumulation on the bulk endosome during recovery periods, indicating that $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains may play an early role in SV reformation from bulk endosomes.

$PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains are established via a positive feedback loop of fwe and $PI(4,5)P_2$

We have previously shown that the SV-associated Ca^{2+} channel Flower (Fwe) elevates presynaptic Ca^{2+} levels in response to strong stimuli to trigger ADBE (**Yao et al., 2009**; **Yao et al., 2017**). Given the Ca^{2+} dependence of Pl(4,5)P₂ microdomains (*Figure 1d*), we hypothesized that exocytosis evoked by intense stimulation promotes Fwe clustering at periactive zones, where it may provide the Ca^{2+} influx to induce Pl(4,5)P₂ microdomain formation. To test this hypothesis, we first conducted a proximity ligation assay (PLA) (*Söderberg et al., 2008*) to investigate if there is a close association between Fwe and Pl(4,5)P₂ in response to stimulation. In our PLA (*Figure 3a*), *UAS-Flag*-



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Figure 3. Fwe and PI(4,5)P₂ form a positive feedback loop to establish PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains. (**a**-**b**) Fwe and PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP interact upon intense stimulation. (**a**) (Left) A schematic for PLA. (Right) Z-projected confocal images of *fwe* mutant boutons co-expressing Flag-Fwe-HA and PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-Flag-fwe-HA/UAS-PLC_{\delta1}-PH-EGFP in fwe^{DB25/DB56}* at 25°C). After resting condition or high K⁺ stimulation, the boutons were subjected to PLA. α -GFP and α -HA stained for PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP (green) and Flag-Fwe-HA (magenta), respectively. PLA signals (red). (**b**) Quantification data for PLA *Figure 3 continued on next page*

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Figure 3 continued

signal intensities, normalized to the value of the resting condition. (c-f) Loss of Fwe or its Ca²⁺ channel activity perturbs PI(4.5)P₂ microdomain formation. (c and e). (c) Single-plane confocal images of the boutons neuronally expressing UAS-PLC_{$\delta 1$}-PH-EGFP in fwe^{DB25/+} (control) or fwe^{DB25/DB56} at 25°C. The boutons were subjected to resting condition or high K⁺ stimulation, followed by α -GFP immunostaining. Quantification data for PLC_{$\delta 1$}-PH-EGFP staining intensity are shown, normalized to the value of the resting condition of controls (d). (e) Single-plane confocal images of the boutons neuronally expressing lexAop2-PLC₈₁-PH-EGFP using vglut-lexA in wild-type Fwe rescue boutons (vglut-lexA/lexAop2-PLC₈₁-PH-EGFP, nSyb(w)-GAL4/ UAS-flag-fwe-RB-HA in fwe^{DB25/fweDB56} at 25°C), or FweE79Q rescue boutons (vglut-lexA/lexAop2-PLC₈₁-PH-EGFP, nSyb(w)-GAL4/UAS-flag-fweE79Q-RB-HA in fwe^{DB25/fweDB5} at 25°C). When the weak nSyb(w)-GAL4 driver drove low expression of UAS-fwe transgenes, this binary system (vglut-lexA/ lexAop2-PLC₆₁-PH-EGFP) was used to produce detectable levels of PLC₆₁-PH-EGFP in boutons. Quantification data for PLC₆₁-PH-EGFP staining intensity are shown, normalized to the value of the resting condition of Fwe-rescued boutons (f). (g-h) canA1 RNAi knockdown impairs PI(4,5)P2 microdomain formation. Single-plane confocal images of the boutons co-expressing UAS-PLC₈₁-PH-EGFP with UAS-RFP (control), UAS-canA1-RNAi (TRIP.JF01871), or UAS-canA1-RNAi (FB4) using nSyb-GAL4. The larvae were reared at 25°C. After resting condition or high K⁺ stimulation, the boutons were stained with α -GFP. (h) Quantification data for PLC₈₁-PH-EGFP staining intensities, normalized to the value of the resting condition of controls. (i-i) Blockade of the PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains attenuates Fwe Ca²⁺ conductance. (i) Snapshot Ca²⁺ images of the boutons (arrows) expressing lexAop2-GCaMP6f using vglut-lexA. The larvae of control (w¹¹¹⁸), fwe mutant (fwe^{DB25/DB56}), canA1 RNAi (JF) (nSyb-GAL4/UAS-canA1-RNAi (TRiP.JF01871)), canA1 RNAi (FB) (nSyb-GAL4/UAS-canA1-RNAi (FB4)), Synj overexpression (nSyb-GAL4/UAS-synj), PLC₈₁-PH-APEX2-HA expression (vglut-lexA/ $LexAop2-PLC_{\delta 1}$ -PH-APEX2-HA), or five mutant expressing PLC_{\delta 1}-PH-APEX2-HA (vglut-lexA/LexAop2-PLC_{\delta 1}-PH-APEX2-HA in five $^{DB25/DB56}$) were reared at 25°C. Imaging was taken in the fifth minute for one minute after high K⁺ (2 mM Ca^{2+}) stimulation. (j) Quantification data for evoked Ca^{2+} level, normalized to the value of controls. Evoked Ca²⁺ levels are shown as the increase in GCaMP6f fluorescence under high K⁺ stimulation. Individual data values are shown in graphs. p values: ns, not significant; *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ****p<0.001. Mean \pm SEM. Scale bar: 2 μ m. Statistics: Student t-test (b). One-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test (d, f, h, j).

The online version of this article includes the following source data for figure 3:

Source data 1. Source data for Figure 3.

Fwe-HA was expressed in a *fwe* mutant background to replace endogenous *Fwe* protein with a tagged protein, and expression of *UAS-PLC*_{$\delta 1$}-*PH-EGFP* reported the localization of Pl(4,5)P₂. Primary antibodies against the HA tag and EGFP protein were used to detect interactions between Flag-Fwe-HA and PLC_{$\delta 1$}-PH-EGFP. The PLA signal was low in resting boutons, whereas high K⁺ treatment significantly increased PLA signal intensity (*Figure 3a–b*). Therefore, these results suggest that Fwe and Pl(4,5)P₂ are closely colocalized when intense stimulation triggers Pl(4,5)P₂ microdomain formation.

Next, we investigated the effect of loss of Fwe on $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomain formation. Basal levels of $PI(4,5)P_2$ were not affected in the *fwe* mutant relative to control (*Figure 3c-d*). However, intense stimulation failed to elicit $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomain formation in the *fwe* mutant (*Figure 3c-d*), revealing a crucial role for Fwe in this process. To determine if the Ca²⁺ channel activity of Fwe is responsible for this activity, we conducted rescue experiments based on our previous report in which *fwe* mutant boutons exhibited expression of the wild-type Fwe transgene or the FweE79Q mutant transgene that has reduced Ca²⁺ conductance (*Yao et al., 2017*). We found that the wild-type Fwe transgene promoted PI(4,5)P₂ microdomain formation, whereas the FweE79Q mutant transgene lost that ability (*Figure 3e-f*). Thus, Fwe triggers the formation of PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains in a Ca²⁺ channel-dependent manner.

Calmodulin and Calcineurin are thought to be the Ca²⁺ sensors for ADBE (**Evans and Cousin**, 2007; Jin et al., 2019; Marks and McMahon, 1998; Sun et al., 2010; Wu et al., 2009; Wu et al., 2014b). The Calcineurin complex dephosphorylates PI(4,5)P₂ metabolic enzymes, including Synj and Phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate 5-kinase Iγ (PIPKIγ) (*Cousin and Robinson, 2001; Lee et al., 2005;* Lee et al., 2004; van den Bout and Divecha, 2009). Drosophila possesses three isoforms of the catalytic subunit of Calcineurin, i.e., CanA1, CanA-14F, and Pp2B-14D. CanA1 regulates development of Drosophila NMJ boutons (Wong et al., 2014). Therefore, we knocked down *canA1* in neurons by using two independent UAS-canA1-RNAi constructs, UAS-canA1-RNAi(JF01871) (Wong et al., 2014) and UAS-canA1-RNAi(FB4) (Dijkers and O'Farrell, 2007). Similar to the effect of loss of Fwe, reducing CanA1 levels via expression of either RNAi construct greatly suppressed the formation of PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains compared to the control (*Figure 3g-h*), indicating that Calcineurin mediates the Ca²⁺ influx conducted by Fwe to induce PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains.

Our previous Ca^{2+} imaging data showed that intense stimulation activates Fwe to increase presynaptic Ca^{2+} concentrations (**Yao et al., 2017**). We measured intracellular Ca^{2+} levels with the Ca^{2+} indicator GCaMP6f (**Chen et al., 2013**), and found that whereas control boutons exhibited a robust increase in intracellular Ca²⁺ upon high K⁺ stimulation, *fwe* mutant boutons exhibit an impaired Ca²⁺ response (*Figure 3i–j*). Unexpectedly, *canA1* knockdown also elicited the same deficient Ca²⁺ response (*Figure 3i–j*). Similar suppressive effects were obtained upon overexpressing Synj or the PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH domain (*Figure 3i–j*). Hence, Calcineurin activation may increase PI(4,5)P₂ activity, which may in turn promote the Ca²⁺ channel activity of Fwe to further increase intracellular Ca²⁺ levels. To investigate the potential for such feedback regulation, we expressed the PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH domain in a loss of Fwe background. Expression of the PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH domain did not rescue the low Ca²⁺ concentration caused by the *fwe* mutation (*Figure 3i–j*), showing that the Ca²⁺ suppression exerted by the PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH domain indeed depends on Fwe. These findings support that a positive feedback loop involving Fwe and Pl(4,5)P₂ is responsible for the formation of Pl(4,5)P₂ microdomains.

PI(4,5)P₂ gates fwe

A well-known function of $PI(4,5)P_2$ is to modulate ion channel activity through its electrostatic binding to clustered positively-charged amino acids adjacent to the transmembrane domains of ion channels (Hille et al., 2015; Suh and Hille, 2008). Through protein alignment analysis, we found tandem positively-charged amino acids, including lysine (K) and arginine (R), in the intracellular juxta-transmembrane regions of Fwe. These residues are evolutionarily conserved in mice and humans (Figure 4a), whereas other cytosolic residues show poor conservation. This feature inspired us to test the potential impact of PI(4,5)P2 on the channel function of Fwe. To determine direct interaction between Fwe and PI(4,5)P2, we conducted a nanoluciferase (Nluc)-based bioluminance resonance energy transfer (BRET) assay (Cabanos et al., 2017). In our BRET assay (Figure 4a), upon ion channel binding of BODIPY-TMR-conjugated PI(4,5)P₂, illumination of Nluc-fused ion channels wrapped in detergent-formed micelles can excite BODIPY-TMR-conjugated PI(4,5)P₂ to emit a BRET signal. As shown in Figure 4b, we reconstituted the micelles containing purified Nluc-Fwe-1D4 fusion proteins and, after adding BODIPY-TMR-PI(4,5)P₂ and furimazine (a Nluc substrate), we observed a remarkable increase in BRET signal. Excess cold $PI(4,5)P_2$ reduced the signal to ~50% of the BRET signals by competing for the PI(4,5)P₂ binding sites in Fwe, suggesting direct PI(4,5)P₂ binding to Fwe. To assess the involvement of the positively-charged amino acids of Fwe in $PI(4,5)P_2$ binding, we mutated all of the clustered positively-charged amino acids to non-charged alanine to eliminate the electrostatic interactions. Residue substitution resulted in a significant reduction in BRET signal, comparable to the competitive effect attributable to provision of excess cold PI(4,5)P₂. Therefore, the majority of the PI(4,5)P₂ binding activity of Fwe is mediated by these positively-charged amino acids. Specifically, alanine substitution of residues in both the middle (K95, K100, R105) and C-terminal (K146, K147, R150) regions of Fwe reduced PI(4,5)P2-specific binding (Figure 4b-c). Moreover, when N-terminal residues (K29, R33) of Fwe were further substituted with alanines, binding of $PI(4,5)P_2$ was also reduced (Figure 4b-c). Hence, these in vitro assays reveal that Fwe directly binds $PI(4,5)P_2$ through multiple regions.

To directly test how Pl(4,5)P₂ affects Flower Ca²⁺ channel function, we generated UAS transgenes for the Fwe variants in which all or subsets of positively-charged amino acids were mutated to alanine and performed a mutant rescue experiment using *nSyb-GAL4*. Mutations of all nine residues or only those in the middle region (K95/K100/R105) led to very low protein expression levels, preventing further study. However, alanine substitution of C-terminal residues K146/K147/R150 did not affect SV localization of Fwe or its ability to regulate presynaptic Ca²⁺ concentration and induce PI (4,5)P₂ microdomain formation (*Figure 4—figure supplement 1a–f*), suggesting that these residues do not play a regulatory role in Fwe channel activity. We also mutated the N-terminal residues K29/ R33. The resulting K29A/R33A variant was still able to properly localize to presynaptic terminals (*Figure 4—figure supplement 2a–b*). However, upon high K⁺ stimulation, the K29A/R33A variant lost that ability to maintain proper intracellular Ca²⁺ levels (*Figure 4d–e*). Moreover, that variant failed to promote PI(4,5)P₂ microdomain formation upon high K⁺ stimulation (*Figure 4f–g*). These results reveal that the positive feedback loop involving Fwe and PI(4,5)P₂ relies on PI(4,5)P₂-dependent gating control of Fwe.



Figure 4. PI(4,5)P₂ binds to Fwe and promotes its Ca²⁺ channelling activity. (**a**–c) PI(4,5)P₂ binds Fwe. (**a**) A schematic of the Fwe structure and a BRET assay. Stars highlight conserved lysine (**K**) and arginine (**R**) in juxta-transmembrane regions: N-terminus (**N**), middle-domain (**M**), and C-terminus (**C**). *Drosophila melanogaster* (Dm). *Mus Musculus* (Ms). *Human Sapiens* (Hs). N-terminal fusion of Nluc to Fwe allows detection of PI(4,5)P₂ binding. A 1D4 epitope was used for protein purification. (**b**) Nluc-Fwe-1D4 in micelles excites BODIPY-TMR-conjugated PI(4,5)P₂ to emit BRET signal, which is decreased by competitive cold PI(4,5)P₂ (1 mM). Alanine substitution of positively-charged residues in all regions (N/M/C > A), both middle-domain and C-terminus (M/C > A), or N-terminus (N > A) reduced BRET signals. (**c**) Corresponding PI(4,5)P₂ binding ability was calculated by subtracting the signal values of N/M/C > A, M/C > A or N > A from that for WT. Quantification data was normalized to the signal value of all mutations (N/M/C). (**d**) PI(4,5)P₂ controls Fwe channel activity. Snapshot Ca²⁺ images of the boutons (arrows) expressing *lexAop2-GCaMP6f* using *vglut-lexA*. *fwe* mutant (*fwe^{DB25/DB56}*). HA-Fwe[WT]-APEX2 rescue (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-HA-Fwe*[WT]-*APEX2 in fwe^{DB25/DB56}*). HA-Fwe[K29A/R33A]-APEX2 rescue (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-HA-Fwe*[K29A/R33A]-APEX2 in *fwe^{DB25/DB56}*). The larvae were reared at 25°C. Images were taken in the fifth minute for one minute after high K⁺ stimulation. (**e**) Quantification data for evoked Ca²⁺ level, normalized to the value of HA-Fwe-APEX2 rescue larvae. (**f**) Single-plane confocal images of the boutons expressing *UAS-PLC₈₁-PH-EGFP*. The larvae were reared at 25°C. After resting conditions or high K⁺ stimulation, the boutons were stained with α-GFP. (**g**) Quantification data for the PLC₈₁-PH-EGFP staining intensity, normalized to the value of the resting condition of HA-Fwe-APEX2 rescue larvae. Individual data values are shown in graphs. p valu

The online version of this article includes the following source data and figure supplement(s) for figure 4:

Source data 1. Source data for Figure 4.

Figure supplement 1. The C-terminal residues (K146/K147/R150) of Fwe are not involved in regulating Ca²⁺ channel activity.

Figure supplement 1—source data 1. Source data for Figure 4—figure supplement 1.

Figure supplement 2. Expression of Fwe[R29A/K33A] in boutons.

Figure supplement 2—source data 1. Source data for Figure 4—figure supplement 2.

Blockade of the positive feedback loop reduces ADBE and SV reformation from bulk endosomes

Next, we assessed the impact of the Fwe and PI(4,5)P₂ regulatory feedback loop on ADBE. Loss of Fwe severely impaired formation of bulk endosomes induced by ADBE under high K⁺ conditions compared to the fwe mutant rescue control (*Figure 5a–b*), consistent with our previous findings (*Yao et al., 2017*). Next, we found that expression of wild-type Fwe protein or the K146A/K147A/ R150A mutant variant restored proper ADBE in the fwe mutant background (*Figure 5a–b*; *Figure 4—figure supplement 1g–h*), whereas expression of the K29A/R33A variant failed to rescue ADBE deficiency (*Figure 5a–b*). Consistent with the suppressive effects caused by expression of the PLCô1-PH domain or Synj (*Figure 2*), all of the bulk endosomes that remained in boutons lacking fwe could not generate new SVs during a 10 min or even 20 min recovery period (*Figure 5a–b*; *Figure 5—figure supplement 1*). Expression of wild-type Fwe protein but not the K29A/R33A mutant variant rescued this defect (*Figure 5a–b*; *Figure 5—figure supplement 1*).

Neuronal *canA1* knockdown by expressing *canA1* RNAi construct also impaired ADBE relative to the *nSyb-GAL4* control (*Figure 5a–b*). To verify if CanA1 regulates ADBE in an Fwe-dependent manner, we overexpressed Fwe to increase the intracellular Ca²⁺ levels under *canA1 RNAi* knockdown conditions. Fwe overexpression significantly reversed the ADBE defect (*Figure 5a–b*), suggesting that increasing Fwe-dependent Ca²⁺ influx can augment activation of the residual CanA1 enzymes and thus normalize downstream ADBE. Taken together with our results reported in previous sections, we propose that the positive feedback loop involving Fwe, CanA1 and PI(4,5)P₂ compartmentalizes PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains at the periactive zone of boutons to dictate and coordinate ADBE and subsequent SV reformation.

PI(4,5)P₂ facilitates retrieval of fwe to bulk endosomes

It was reported recently that a SV protein sorting process occurs during ADBE (Kokotos et al., 2018; Nicholson-Fish et al., 2015). VAMP4, a v-SNARE protein, is essential for ADBE to proceed, and it is selectively retrieved by ADBE (Kokotos et al., 2018; Nicholson-Fish et al., 2015). Given the important role of Fwe in triggering ADBE, we wondered if Fwe is sorted to bulk endosomes during ADBE. To visualize the vesicular localization of Fwe, we rescued the fwe mutant by expressing a UAS transgene of the APEX2 fusion protein of Fwe (UAS-HA-Fwe-APEX2), and then conducted diaminobenzidine (DAB) labeling and TEM. By means of confocal microscopy, we observed that HA-Fwe-APEX2 immunostaining signals were properly present on the SVs marked by Syt and Csp immunostaining (Figure 6-figure supplement 1a). Furthermore, expression of this fusion protein was able to rescue the endocytic defects (Figures 4 and 5) and early animal lethality (not shown) caused by loss of fwe. Therefore, HA-Fwe-APEX2 is functionally equivalent to endogenous Fwe. APEX2 is an engineered peroxidase that is capable of catalyzing DAB polymerization and proximal deposition, with the DAB polymers binding electron-dense osmium to enhance electron microscopy contrast (Lam et al., 2015). Whereas no DAB staining signals were observed in SVs in the Flag-Fwe-HA rescue control boutons stimulated by high K⁺ (yellow arrows, Figure 6-figure supplement 1b'; Figure 6a), the SV-based localization of HA-Fwe-APEX2 was clearly revealed by DAB staining in HA-Fwe-APEX2-rescued boutons under the resting and stimulation conditions (yellow arrows, Figure 6figure supplement 1c-d). Moreover, specific DAB labeling also revealed the presynaptic plasma membrane localization of HA-Fwe-APEX2 (white arrows, Figure 6-figure supplement 1b-c), an outcome consistent with previous immunogold staining assays on endogenous Fwe (Yao et al., 2009). Upon high K⁺ stimulation, SV and plasma membrane localizations were retained (Figure 6 figure supplement 1d'). Remarkably, DAB signals were apparent on all bulk endosomes (Figure 6b-c; Figure 6-figure supplement 1d and d'). To minimize staining variability across boutons, we compared DAB staining intensities on bulk endosomes and SVs in the same boutons. Compared to Flag-Fwe-HA rescue boutons, in HA-Fwe-APEX2 rescue boutons, the staining intensities of bulk endosomes were more abundant compared to those of the surrounding SVs (Figure 6f), revealing a mechanism by which Fwe is recycled to bulk endosomes after it initiates ADBE.

 $PI(4,5)P_2$ is known to recruit adaptor protein complexes to sort SV proteins to the nascent SV during CME (*Saheki and De Camilli, 2012*). Next, we assessed if $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomain formation may be involved in sorting of Fwe to bulk endosomes. When $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains were perturbed by Synj overexpression (*Figure 2b*), the bulk endosome localization of HA-Fwe-APEX2 was significantly



Figure 5. Perturbations of the positive feedback loop involving Fwe and PI(4,5)P₂ suppress ADBE and SV reformation from bulk endosomes. (a) TEM images of the boutons of HA-Fwe-APEX2 rescue (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-HA-Fwe-APEX2 in fwe^{DB25/DB56}* at 25°C), *fwe* mutant (*fwe^{DB25/DB56}* at 25°C), *HA-Fwe* [K29A/R33A]-APEX2 rescue (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-HA-Fwe[K29A/R33A]-APEX2 in fwe^{DB25/DB56}* at 25°C), control (*nSyb-GAL4 at* 25°C), *canA1* RNAi (JF) knockdown (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-canA1-RNAi (TRiP.JF01871*) at 29°C), *canA1* RNAi (JF) knockdown plus Fwe overexpression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-canA1-RNAi (TRiP.JF01871*) at 29°C), *canA1* RNAi (JF) knockdown plus Fwe overexpression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-canA1-RNAi (TRiP.JF01871*) at 29°C), *canA1* RNAi (JF) knockdown plus Fwe overexpression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-canA1-RNAi (TRiP.JF01871*)) at 29°C), *canA1* RNAi (JF) knockdown plus Fwe overexpression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-canA1-RNAi (TRiP.JF01871*)) at 29°C), *canA1* RNAi (JF) knockdown plus Fwe overexpression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-canA1-RNAi (TRiP.JF01871*)) at 29°C), *canA1* RNAi (JF) knockdown plus Fwe overexpression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-canA1-RNAi (TRiP.JF01871*)) at 29°C), *canA1* RNAi (JF) knockdown plus Fwe overexpression (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-canA1-RNAi (TRiP.JF01871*))/UAS-HA-Fwe-APEX2 at 29°C). TEM processing was performed after the following treatments: at rest (10 min incubation of 5 mM K⁺/0 mM Ca²⁺); high K⁺ stimulation (10 min stimulation of 90 mM K⁺/2 mM Ca²⁺); 10 min recovery (10 min stimulation of 90 mM K⁺/2 mM Ca²⁺, followed by 20 min incubation of 5 mM K⁺/0 mM Ca²⁺). Bulk endosomes (>80 nm in diameter, red asterisks). Mitochondria (mt). (b) Quantification data of total numbers of bulk endosomes per bouton area. Individual data values are shown in graphs. p values: ns, not significant; *p<0.05; **p<0.01; ****p<0.001; ****p<0.0001. Mean ± SEM. Scale bar: 500 nm. Statistics: one-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test.

The online version of this article includes the following source data and figure supplement(s) for figure 5:

Source data 1. Source data for Figure 5.

Figure supplement 1. Blockade of the positive feedback loop between Fwe and PI(4,5)P₂ abolishes SV reformation from the bulk endosome. **Figure supplement 1—source data 1.** Source data for **Figure 5—figure supplement 1**.

reduced (*Figure 6d-f*), whereas there was only a mild reduction in its SV localization (*Figure 6d-e*). Therefore, in addition to initiating ADBE, $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains play a role in facilitating the retrieval of Fwe to the bulk endosome, enabling ADBE to remove its trigger via a negative feedback regulatory mechanism and reducing endocytosis to prevent excess membrane uptake.



Figure 6. PI(4,5)P₂ facilitates recycling of Fwe to bulk endosomes. (**a**–**f**) PI(4,5)P₂ retrieves Fwe to bulk endosomes. (**a**–**e**) TEM images of the boutons of Flag-Fwe-HA rescue (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-Flag-Fwe-HA in fwe^{DB25/DB56}* at 25°C, **a**), HA-Fwe-APEX2 rescue (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-HA-Fwe-APEX2 in fwe^{DB25/DB56}* at 25°C, **b**–**c**), or HA-Fwe-APEX2 rescue coexpressing Synj (*nSyb-GAL4/UAS-HA-Fwe-APEX2/UAS-synj in fwe^{DB25/DB56} at 25°C*, **d**–**e**). After high K⁺ stimulation, the boutons were subjected to DAB labeling. (**a**) The Flag-Fwe-HA rescue boutons presented DAB-negative bulk endosomes (red asterisks) and SVs (yellow arrows). (**b and c**) In the HA-Fwe-APEX2 rescue boutons, DAB signals on bulk endosomes (red asterisks) were higher than those on the SVs (yellow arrows). The views in b and c are from different boutons. (**d and e**) Under the condition of Synj overexpression, perturbation of PI(4,5)P₂ microdomain formation predominantly reduced DAB levels on the bulk endosomes (red asterisks). Views in d and e are from different boutons. (**f**) Quantification data for the DAB staining intensity ratio of bulk endosomes (n = 33) derived from 5 NMJ boutons of two different larvae; HA-Fwe-APEX2 rescue: Bulk endosomes (n = 47) derived from 6 NMJ boutons of two different larvae; HA-Fwe-APEX2 rescue: Bulk endosomes (n = 47) derived from 6 NMJ boutons of two different larvae; HA-Fwe-APEX2 rescue: 200 nm (**a**–**e**). Statistics: one-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test.

The online version of this article includes the following source data and figure supplement(s) for figure 6:

Source data 1. Source data for Figure 6.

Figure supplement 1. HA-Fwe-APEX2 behaves like endogenous Fwe.

Discussion

ADBE occurs immediately after exocytosis to retrieve required SV protein and lipid constituents to further regenerate SVs under conditions of high-frequency stimulations. Here, we show that the Fwe Ca²⁺ channel-dependent compartmentalization of PI(4,5)P₂ orchestrates coupling of exocytosis to ADBE and subsequent SV reformation. Based on our findings, we propose a model for this interplay (depicted in *Figure 7*). Under conditions of strong stimulation, SV exocytosis transfers Fwe from SVs to the periactive zone, where some of the activated Fwe provides the low Ca²⁺ levels that initiate Calcineurin activation to upregulate PI(4,5)P₂ (Step 1). Increased PI(4,5)P₂ enhances Fwe Ca²⁺ channel activity, thereby establishing a positive feedback loop that induces PI(4,5)P₂ microdomain formation (Step 2). High levels of PI(4,5)P₂ within these microdomains elicit bulk membrane invagination by triggering actin polymerization (Step 3). In parallel, PI(4,5)P₂ facilitates proper retrieval of Fwe to the bulk endosome (Step 4), thereby terminating the ADBE process. Finally, PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains dictate SV reformation from the bulk endosomes (Step 5), coordinating ADBE and subsequent SV reformation.



Figure 7. A proposed model for the role of Fwe-dependent PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains in coordinating ADBE and SV reformation from bulk endosomes. Details are described in the Discussion section.

Fwe-dependent PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains trigger ADBE

The role of actin polymerization in ADBE has been investigated in mammals (Kononenko et al., 2014; Soykan et al., 2017; Wu et al., 2016), as well as in Drosophila (Akbergenova and Bykhovskaia, 2009). PI(4,5)P2 is known to control a range of actin regulators, thereby modulating the dynamics of actin polymerization and branching (Janmey et al., 2018). It has been shown previously that, in response to nicotine stimulation, $PI(4,5)P_2$ forms clustered microdomains of sub-micrometer scale prior to the appearance of an actin-based ring structure in bovine chromaffin cells (Gormal et al., 2015). In agreement with this observation, we show that intense activity stimulation drives the formation of PI(4,5)P₂ microdomains at the periactive zone of Drosophila NMJ synaptic boutons. Perturbations of the formation of these microdomains reduces ADBE activity very significantly, demonstrating that rapid accumulation of $PI(4,5)P_2$ in microdomains is needed to trigger extensive actin polymerization, which likely generates sufficient mechanical force to produce the large endosomes. Furthermore, loss of five or RNAi-mediated calcineurin knockdown effectively inhibited $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomain formation and, as a consequence, ADBE. Those results are consistent with previous data supporting that Ca²⁺ promotes ADBE by activating its sensor Calcineurin (Cousin and Robinson, 2001; Jin et al., 2019; Sun et al., 2010; Wu et al., 2009; Wu et al., 2014b; Xue et al., 2011).

Our data provide evidence that Fwe-derived Ca^{2+} regulates PI(4,5)P₂ dynamics through activation of Calcineurin. Phosphatidylinositol 4-phosphate 5-kinases (PIP5Ks) are the major kinases that promote PI(4,5)P₂ production from precursor phosphoinositides (*van den Bout and Divecha, 2009*). At mammalian central synapses, PIP5Kγ661, one of the PIP5Kγ isoforms, is the most abundant relative to other isoforms (*Wenk et al., 2001*). Activation of PIP5Ks can be engaged by binding to its regulators (*van den Bout and Divecha, 2009*). In response to Ca²⁺ activation, Calcineurin has been shown to dephosphorylate PIP5Kγ661 to promote its interaction with AP-2 complexes, which augments the enzymatic activity of PIP5Kγ661 (*Nakano-Kobayashi et al., 2007*). Synj is the major PI(4,5)P₂ phosphatase in neurons (*Tsujishita et al., 2001*) and it is involved in the SV endocytosis prompted by strong stimulation (*Mani et al., 2007*). Whereas phosphorylation of Synj by CDK5 inhibits its activity, Calcineurin enhances Synj activity via dephosphorylation (*Lee et al., 2004*). In yeasts, cells undergo bulk membrane invagination, a process reminiscent of neuronal ADBE, under conditions of hyperosmotic stress (*Guiney et al., 2015*). However, in that process, Calcineurin dephosphorylates Synj to alter its association with other endocytic partners rather than affecting its enzymatic activity to regulate Pl(4,5)P₂ distribution. Intriguingly, divalent Ca²⁺ ions are known to control the lateral organization of Pl(4,5)P₂, further compartmentalizing Pl(4,5)P₂ into ~70 nm-sized microdomains in monolayers of lipid bilayers via electrostatic interactions between Ca²⁺ and Pl(4,5)P₂ (Carvalho et al., 2008; Ellenbroek et al., 2011; Levental et al., 2009; Sarmento et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2012; Wen et al., 2018). Similarly-sized Pl(4,5)P₂ clusters have been observed in PC12 cells under non-stimulated conditions (van den Bogaart et al., 2011). Therefore, tight spatial and temporal control of the localizations and activities of Fwe, Calcineurin, PIP5K, and Synj may drive Ca²⁺-mediated Pl(4,5)P₂ clustering, perhaps accounting for the Fwe-dependent formation of Pl(4,5) P₂ microdomains at the periactive zone prior to ADBE. Further investigations are needed to characterize the underlying mechanisms.

Our data show that direct binding of $PI(4,5)P_2$ is required for the Ca^{2+} channel activity of Fwe. Perturbation of $PI(4,5)P_2$ -Fwe binding further impaired the formation of $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains as well as ADBE initiation. Hence, $PI(4,5)P_2$ controls Fwe gating, so that Fwe can promote $PI(4,5)P_2$ compartmentalization through positive feedback regulation. Furthermore, loss of Fwe impaired the intracellular Ca^{2+} increase that was evoked upon strong activity stimulation (*Figure 3g; Yao et al.,* **2017**). These results support that, in addition to $PI(4,5)P_2$, the channel function of Fwe may be gated by a significant change in membrane potential. Expanding on that notion, it is therefore possible that both factors may gate Fwe, thereby only allowing channel opening when exocytosis directs Fwe to periactive zones. Future studies should explore the details of this channel gating mechanism.

$PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains coordinate retrieval of SV membranes and proteins for SV reformation via ADBE

Since ADBE is triggered very rapidly by intense stimuli, it was thought that this type of recycling randomly retrieves SV proteins and that the sorting process takes place when SVs regenerate from bulk endosomes. However, recent work has highlighted a distinct retrieval route for SV proteins during ADBE (*Kokotos et al., 2018; Nicholson-Fish et al., 2015*). Very little is known about the mechanisms underlying that retrieval route. Interestingly, removing VAMP4 or mutating its di-leucine motif was shown to impair ADBE (*Nicholson-Fish et al., 2015*). The di-leucine motif of transmembrane proteins is known to mediate binding with the AP-2 adaptor complex (*Traub and Bonifacino, 2013*). Given that the AP-2 adaptor complex works closely with PI(4,5)P₂ (*McMahon and Boucrot, 2011*), these findings imply a role for PI(4,5)P₂ and the AP-2 adaptor complex in SV protein sorting via ADBE. Indeed, our data show that bulk endosomes recycle few in a PI(4,5)P₂ microdomain-dependent manner. Hence, in addition to initiating ADBE, PI(4,5)P₂ may participate in SV protein sorting to bulk endosomes.

SV regeneration occurs following formation of the bulk endosome. Our results also show that either removing Fwe-derived Ca^{2+} or perturbing PI(4,5)P₂ activity impaired the ability of SVs to reform from the bulk endosome, highlighting the essential role of $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains in this process. How could $PI(4,5)P_2$ of the plasma membrane regulate subsequent SV reformation? It has been shown that $PI(4,5)P_2$ is rapidly downregulated on bulk endosomes once formed by ADBE (*Chang*-Ileto et al., 2011; Cremona et al., 1999; Milosevic et al., 2011). It is conceivable that the high concentrations of PI(4,5)P₂ in microdomains may compensate for rapid turnover, thereby ensuring appropriate concentrations of PI(4,5)P2 or PI(4)P for further recruitment of clathrin and adaptor protein complexes, such as AP-1 and AP-2 (Blumstein et al., 2001; Cheung and Cousin, 2012; Faúndez et al., 1998; Glyvuk et al., 2010; Kokotos et al., 2018; Kononenko et al., 2014; Park et al., 2016). Alternatively, PI(4,5)P₂ may facilitate SV protein sorting prior to ADBE, meaning proper SV protein compositions on bulk endosomes could control recruitment of adaptor protein complexes. Both of these potential mechanisms are not mutually exclusive and may operate in parallel. Therefore, we propose that the Fwe-dependent formation of $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains is potentially important in coordinating retrieval of SV membranes and cargos when SVs are recycled via ADBE. Notably, the Fwe channel is evolutionarily conserved from yeast to human (Yao et al., 2009). We have also previously demonstrated conserved functions of Fwe in CME and ADBE at the mammalian central synapse (Yao et al., 2017). A recent study has also identified Fwe as a key protein mediating Ca^{2+} -dependent granule endocytosis in mouse cytotoxic T lymphocytes (Chang et al., 2018). Hence, we hypothesize that the mechanism of ADBE we report here may be generally deployed across synapses and species, even in other non-neuronal cells.

Materials and methods

Drosophila strains and genetics

fwe mutants and transgenes: fwe^{DB25} and fwe^{DB56} (Yao et al., 2009); UAS-Flag-Fwe-HA (Yao et al., 2009); UAS-Flag-Fwe[E79Q]-HA (Yao et al., 2017); UAS-canA1-RNAi(FB4) (Dijkers and O'Farrell, 2007); UAS-canA1-RNAi(TRiP.JF01871) (Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center, BDSC#25850); UAS-synj (Khuong et al., 2013); UAS-PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP (Verstreken et al., 2009) (Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center, BDSC#39693); UAS-PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-S39R-EGFP (Verstreken et al., 2009) (Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center, BDSC#39694); nSyb-GAL4 (Pauli et al., 2008); UAS-mCD8-EGFP (Kyoto Stock Center, DGRC#108068); vglut-lexA (Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center, BDSC #60314); 13XLex-Aop2-IVS-GCaMP6f (Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center, BDSC #44277)); synj¹ (Verstreken et al., 2003) (Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center, BDSC #24883; LexAop2-PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP (This paper). Fly stocks were reared on regular food at 25°C or as otherwise indicated.

Molecular cloning and transgenesis

For pUAST-HA-Fwe[WT]-APEX2, the coding sequence of the Fwe B isoform and APEX2 were separately PCR-amplified from pUAST-Flag-Fwe-HA (Yao et al., 2009) or pcDNA3 APEX2-NES (addgene #49386), respectively, and then subcloned into the pUAST vector. pUAST-HA-Fwe[K29A/R33A]-APEX2-HA was generated from pUAST-HA-Fwe[WT]-APEX2 through site-directed mutagenesis. pUAST-Flag-Fwe [K29/R33/K95/K100/R105/K146A/K147A/R150A]-HA, pUAST-Flag-Fwe[K146A/ K147A/R150A]-HA and pUAST-Flag-Fwe[K95/K100/R105A]-HA were generated from pUAST-Flag-Fwe-HA through site-directed mutagenesis. For plexAop2-PLC_{&1}-PH-APEX2-HA, the coding sequence of the PLC₆₁-PH domain and APEX2-HA were separately PCR-amplified and then subcloned into pJFRC19-13XLexAop2-IVS-myr:GFP (addgene #26224). For plexAop2-PLC₈₁-PH-EGFP, the coding sequence of PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP was PCR-amplified from genomic DNA of the UAS-PLC_{$\delta1$}-PHS39R-EGFP fly stock and then subcloned into pJFRC19-13XLexAop2-IVS-myr:GFP. For YeMP-Nluc-Fwe-1D4, the cDNA fragment of Nluc and Fwe-1D4 was PCR-amplified from pNL1.1[Nluc] (a gift from Yi-Shiuan Huang) and YeMP-Fwe-1D4 plasmid (Yao et al., 2009), respectively, and then subcloned into the yeast expression YeMP vector. For YeMP-Nluc-Fwe[K29A/R33A]-1D4, YeMP-Nluc-Fwe[K95/K100/R105/K146/K147/R150A]-1D4, and YeMP-Nluc-Fwe[K29/R33/K95/K100/R105/ K146/K147/R150A]-1D4, the DNA fragments of the Fwe variant were PCR-amplified from pUAST plasmids and sublconed into the YeMP-Nluc-Fwe-1D4 vector. PCR primers are indicated in key source table (Appendix 1). Transgenic flies were made by Wellgenetics Inc.

Immunohistochemistry

Third instar larvae were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 20 min. We used 1xPBS buffer containing 0.1% Tween-20 to stain the HA-tagged Fwe proteins. We used 1xPBS buffer containing 0.1% Triton X 100 to stain PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP or AP-2 α . We used 1xPBS buffer containing 0.2% Triton X 100 to stain GCaMP6f. Primary antibodies were used as follows: guinea pig α -Fwe B isoform (1:400) (Yao et al., 2017), chicken α-GFP (Invitrogen, 1:500); mouse α-HA (Sigma, 1:400), mouse α-Bruchpilot (Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank nc82, 1:100); rabbit α -AP-2 α (1:3000) (González-Gaitán and Jäckle, 1997) guinea pig α-Eps15 (1:3000) (Koh et al., 2007); rabbit α-HRP conjugated with Alexa Fluor 488, Cy3 or Cy5 (Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories, 1:250). Secondary antibodies conjugated to Alexa Fluor 488, Alexa Fluor 555, or Alexa Fluor 647 (Invitrogen and Jackson ImmunoResearch) were used at 1:500. The NMJ boutons were derived from muscles 6 and 7 of abdominal segments 2/3. To detect $PI(4,5)P_2$ microdomains, the NMJ boutons were fixed immediately after high K⁺ stimulation. To quantitatively compare PLC_{$\delta 1$}-PH-EGFP or AP-2 α immunostaining signal among different sets of experiments, fixed larval fillets derived from different conditions were collected into the same Eppendorf tube. The NMJ boutons were stained for PLC_{$\delta1$}-PH-EGFP using α -GFP and for the neuronal membranes using fluorescein-conjugated α -HRP. Consecutive singleplane images of the boutons of muscles 6 and 7 in abdominal segments 2 or 3 of all different experimental sets were taken using a Zeiss LSM 780 confocal microscope with a Plan-Apochromat 63x/1.4 Oil DIC M27 objective under a 1 µm interval setup and equal laser power and laser exposure time. For data guantification, single-plane images of five different individual boutons from each NMJ

bouton image were used. The presynaptic plasma membrane regions of the type Ib boutons defined by α -HRP immunostaining were outlined manually, and native fluorescence or α -GFP immunostaining signal intensities of PLC_{$\delta 1$}-PH-EGFP or AP-2 α on the plasma membrane were quantified using ImageJ and averaged to serve as one individual data-point. For data quantification of SIM images, we chose single-plane SIM images focused on a central section of an individual bouton and outlined plasma membrane-associated PLC_{$\delta 1$}-PH-EGFP-immunostained clusters using ImageJ. The area of these clusters of each individual bouton was measured using ImageJ, and the areas of clusters measuring over 0.032 μ m² (equal to a ~ 200 nm diameter circle, i.e. the resolution limit of SIM) were averaged to serve as one data-point. We assessed 37 boutons derived from five NMJs of three different larvae. Image processing was achieved using LSM Zen.

Western blot

For western blotting, the brain and ventral nerve chord of larval fillets were removed and subjected to different stimulation conditions. Afterwards, the fillets were crushed in 1xSDS sample buffer and boiled for 5 min. Dilutions for primary antibodies were as follows: mouse anti- α -actin, 1:20000 (Sigma); chicken anti-GFP, 1:5000 (Invitrogen).

PLA

Third-instar larvae were fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde for 20 min and permeabilized with 1xPBS buffer containing 0.1% Tween-20. Larval fillets were incubated with mouse α -HA (Sigma, 1:200) and rabbit α-GFP (Invitrogen, 1:500) in 1xPBS buffer containing 0.1% Tween-20 at 4°C for 12 hr. Excess antibodies were washed out using 1xPBS buffer containing 0.1% Tween-20. The samples were mixed with the PLA probe (Sigma, 1:5) for 2 hr at 37°C. After washing with 1x buffer A, the samples were incubated with ligation solution (1:40) for 1.5 hr at 37°C. After again washing with 1x buffer A, the samples were incubated with amplification solution (1:80) for 2 hr at 37°C. Next, the samples were washed with 1x buffer B and then 0.01x buffer B. The samples were stained with anti-chicken Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated IgG and anti-mouse Alexa Fluor 647-conjugated IgG, followed by a wash of 1x PBS buffer containing 0.1% Tween-20. To quantitatively compare PLA signal, fixed larval fillets derived from different experimental conditions were collected into the same Eppendorf tube and processed. Consecutive single-plane images of the boutons of muscles 6 and 7 in abdominal segments 2 or 3 of all different experimental sets were taken using a Zeiss LSM 780 confocal microscope with a Plan-Apochromat 63x/1.4 Oil DIC M27 objective under a 1 µm interval setup and equal laser power and laser exposure time. For data quantification, consecutive Z-plane images spanning whole NMJ were projected under maximal fluorescence intensity. All type lb boutons in individual Z-projection image were outlined according to PLC₈₁-PH-EGFP-stained regions. PLA or antibody immunostaining signal intensities within the boutons and background staining signals in surrounding muscles were counted using ImageJ and averaged. One individual data-point was obtained by muscular background signal subtraction. Image processing was achieved using LSM Zen.

Nluc-Fwe-1D4 purification and BRET assay

The Nluc-Fwe-1D4 fusion protein was purified as described previously (**Yao et al., 2009**). Briefly, plasma membrane was isolated from a two liter culture of yeast strain BJ5457 expressing Nluc-Fwe-1D4 protein. The plasma membranes were solubilized at 4°C with 10x critical micelle concentration (CMC) DDM (Anatrace) in a solution of 20 mM HEPES (pH8.0), 300 mM NaCl, 10% Glycerol, 2.0 mM DTT, and 1 mM PMSF for 2 hr. Insoluble membranes were spun down by centrifugation at 100,000 × g for 60 min. The lysates including solubilized Nluc-Fwe-1D4 proteins were cleaned with CNBr sepharose 4B at 4°C for 1 hr. The samples were then mixed with α -1D4-conjugated CNBractivated Sepharose 4B at 4°C for 8–12 hr. After washing with a solution of 20 mM HEPES (pH8.0), 150 mM NaCl, 10% Glycerol, 2.0 mM DTT, 1 mM PMSF and 2.6xCMC DDM, the protein was eluted with a 1D4 peptide-containing buffer (3 mg of 1D4 peptide in 1 ml of washing buffer). Purified proteins were subjected to SDS-PAGE and detected using Lumitein staining or western blotting with anti- α -1D4 antibody at 1:5000 (**Yao et al., 2009**). The BRET assay was performed in a 384-well plate, with each well containing 30 µl of reaction solution [0.5 nM purified proteins, 5 µM BODIPY-TMR Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (C-45M16A, Echelon Bioscience), furimazine (Promega, 1:2000), 20 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 10% Glycerol, 2 mM DTT, 1 mM PMSF, 4 mM DDM].

Fluorescence signal was detected using a Microplate Reader M1000 pro (Tecan) with two different emission spectrum filters, that is 500–540 nm for Nluc and 550–630 nm for BODIPY-TMR Phosphati-dylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate. For competition assay, 30 μ l of the reaction solution was included with 1 mM brain phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (Avanti). The BRET signal was calculated according to the following formula:

Live imaging

For PLC $_{\delta 1}$ -PH-EGFP imaging, third-instar larvae were dissected in a zero-calcium HL-3 solution at room temperature. For groups stimulated with electric pulses, larval fillets were bathed in a solution of 2 mM Ca²⁺ (70 mM NaCl, 5 mM KCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM NaHCO₃, 5 mM trehalose, 5 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 115 mM sucrose, 2 mM CaCl₂). High concentrations of glutamate were used to desensitize glutamate receptors, thereby reducing muscle contraction when stimulated. A cut axonal bundle was sucked into the tip of a glass capillary electrode and then stimulated at 20 or 40 Hz for 3 min. Stimulus strength was set at 5 V and 0.5 ms duration by means of pClamp 10.6 software (Axon Instruments Inc). Ten images were taken from larval fillets at rest. After stimulation for 2 min, muscle contraction significantly decelerated. Thus, we captured 60 consecutive snapshot images every second from the third minute. Muscles 6 and 7 of abdominal segment three were imaged. Under the condition of high K⁺ stimulation, larval fillets were bathed in a solution of 90 mM K⁺/2 mM $Ca^{2+}/7$ mM glutamate (25 mM NaCl, 90 mM KCl, 10 mM MgCl₂, 10 mM NaHCO₃, 5 mM trehalose, 5 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 30 mM sucrose, 2 mM CaCl₂, 7 mM monosodium glutamate) for 5 min. Sixty consecutive snapshot images were captured every second from the fifth minute of stimulation. Images were taken using a long working distance water immersion objective (XLUMPLFLN20XW, Olympus) and EMCCD camera (iXon, Andor) mounted on a SliceScope Pro 6000 (Scientifica) microscope and employing MetaFluor software (Molecular Devices). For GCaMP6f imaging, third instar larvae were dissected in a zero-calcium HL-3 solution at room temperature. Ten images were taken from larval fillets at rest. Subsequently, larval fillets were stimulated with a solution of 90 mM K⁺/2 mM $Ca^{2+}/7$ mM glutamate for 5 min. Sixty consecutive snapshot images were captured every second from the fifth minute of stimulation. The lexA/lexAop2 binary system was used to stably express a comparable level of GCaMP6f in the presynaptic compartment of NMJ boutons for all tested genotypes, allowing us to compare Ca^{2+} imaging results when the resting Ca^{2+} levels were potentially affected by differences in genetic background. We stained for the GCaMP6f protein using a-GFP antibody and confirmed comparable GCaMP6f levels among the different genotypes tested in each dataset. Evoked Ca²⁺ levels were calculated by subtracting the resting GCaMP6f fluorescence from the GCaMP6f fluorescence induced by high K⁺ stimulation. The NMJs were derived from muscles 6 and 7 of abdominal segment 2/3. Images were taken using a water immersion objective (W Plan-Apochromat 40x/1.0 DIC M27, Zeiss). For each imaging experiment, at least three focused images for the same boutons under resting, stimulation, or post-stimulation conditions were used for data quantification. Fluorescence intensities of $PLC_{\delta 1}$ -PH-EGFP or GCaMP6f within the boutons were quantified using ImageJ and averaged to serve as one individual data-point. Image processing was achieved using LSM Zen.

Transmission electron microscopy

Third instar larval fillets were prepared in zero-calcium HL-3 solution at room temperature. For the resting conditions, the fillets were bathed in zero-calcium HL-3 solution at room temperature for another 10 min before fixation. For the high K⁺ stimulation conditions, fillets were bathed in a solution of 90 mM K⁺ and 2 mM Ca²⁺ for 10 min. The stimulation was terminated by washing three times with zero-calcium HL-3 solution, followed by fixation. For recovery conditions, following high K⁺ stimulation, fillets were bathed in zero-calcium HL-3 solution at room temperature for 10 or 20 min before fixation. Larval fillets were fixed for 12 hr at 4°C in 4% paraformaldehyde/1% glutaraldehyde/ 0.1 M cacodylic acid (pH 7.2), rinsed with 0.1 M cacodylic acid (pH 7.2), and postfixed with 1% OsO₄ and 0.1 M cacodylic acid at room temperature for 3 hr. These samples were then subjected to a series of dehydration steps using 30–100% ethanol. After 100% ethanol dehydration, the samples were sequentially incubated with propylene, a mixture of propylene and resin, and pure resin. Finally, the samples were embedded in 100% resin. TEM images were captured using Tecnai G2 Spirit TWIN (FEI Company) and a Gatan CCD Camera (794.10.BP2MultiScanTM). NMJ boutons were

captured at high magnifications. For each condition, NMJ bouton images were taken from at least five different NMJs of each third-instar larvae, and three to five larvae were used. Quantifications were performed using ImageJ. For diaminobenzidine (DAB) polymerization, third instar larvae were dissected at room temperature in zero-calcium HL-3 medium, followed by a 10 min incubation in 5 mM K⁺/0 Ca²⁺ mM solution or a 10 min stimulation of 90 mM K⁺/2 mM Ca²⁺. Next, the samples were subjected to 30 min fixation in ice-cold 4% paraformaldehyde/1% glutaraldehyde/0.1 M cacodylic acid (pH 7.2). Subsequently, the samples were transferred to Eppendorf tubes for 15 min incubation with a solution of 0.5 mg/ml DAB solution, followed by incubation with a solution of 0.5 mg/ ml DAB and 0.006% H₂O₂ for 15 min at room temperature. This latter step was repeated once to ensure DAB polymerization. Samples were washed three times with 1xPBS buffer for 10 min and then fixed with a solution of 4% paraformaldehyde/1% glutaraldehyde/0.1 M cacodylic acid (pH 7.2) for 12 hr at 4°C, followed by fixation with a solution of 1% $OsO_4/0.1$ M cacodylic acid at room temperature for 3 hr. Then, standard dehydration, embedding, and imaging were performed. For data quantifications of DAB intensities, the display color of TEM images was reverted to grayscale using ImageJ. Average DAB staining intensity on each individual bulk endosome was guantified. Then, the average DAB staining intensity on 50-100 surrounding SVs from the same bouton image was used to assess the relative level of HA-Fwe-APEX2 on bulk endosomes vs SVs.

Statistics

All data analyses were conducted using GraphPad Prism 8.0, unless stated otherwise. Paired and multiple datasets were compared by Student *t*-test or one-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test, respectively. Individual data values are biological replicates. Samples were randomized during preparation, imaging, and data processing to minimize bias.

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Author contributions

Tsai-Ning Li, Yu-Jung Chen, Conceptualization, Resources, Data curation, Software, Formal analysis, Validation, Investigation, Visualization, Methodology, Project administration, Writing - review and editing; Ting-Yi Lu, Data curation, Formal analysis, Investigation, Methodology; You-Tung Wang, Hsin-Chieh Lin, Resources, Data curation, Software, Formal analysis, Validation, Investigation, Visualization, Methodology; Chi-Kuang Yao, Conceptualization, Resources, Data curation, Software, Formal

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Additional files

Supplementary files

• Transparent reporting form

Data availability

All data generated or analysed during this study are included in the manuscript and supporting files. Source data files have been provided.

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Appendix 1

key resources table

Appendix 1—key resources table

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	fwe ^{DB25}	Yao et al., 2009		fwe mutant allele used in Figures 3–6, Figure 4— figure supplements 1– 2, Figure 5—figure supplement 1, and Figure 6—figure supplement 1
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	fwe ^{DB56}	Yao et al., 2009		fwe mutant allele used in Figures 3–6, Figure 4— figure supplements 1– 2, Figure 5—figure supplement 1, and Figure 6—figure supplement 1
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-Flag-Fwe-HA	Yao et al., 2017		Wild-type version of fwe transgene used in Figure 3a- b, Figure 6a, Figure 4— figure supplement 1, and Figure 6—figure supplement 1b
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-Flag-Fwe[E79Q]- HA	Yao et al., 2017		Channel deficient version of fwe transgene used in Figure 3e-f
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-canA1-RNAi (FB4)	Dijkers and O'Farrell, 2007		RNAi line of <i>can</i> A1 used in <i>Figure 3g-j</i>
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-canA1-RNAi(TRiP. JF01871)	Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center Dijkers and O'Farrell, 2007	RRID:BDSC_25850	RNAi line of <i>canA1</i> used in <i>Figure 3g-h</i> , 5
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-synj	Khuong et al., 2013		Wild-type version of synj transgene used in Figure 2b- d, Figure 3i-j, Figure 6d-f, and Figure 2—figure supplement 1c.
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-PLC _{&1} -PH-EGFP	Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center Verstreken et al., 2009	RRID:BDSC_39693	PI(4,5)P ₂ reporter transgene used in Figures 1– 4, Figure 1—figure supplement 1, Figure 1— figure supplement 3c, Figure 2—figure supplements 1–2, Figure 4— figure supplement 1e–f.
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-PLC _{&1} -PHS39R- EGFP	Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center Verstreken et al., 2009	RRID:BDSC_39694	PI(4,5)P ₂ -binding mutant transgene used in Figure 2c– d , Figure 1—figure supplement 2c– e

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	nSyb-GAL4	Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center Pauli et al., 2008	RRID:BDSC_51635	Neuronal GAL4 driver used in all figures
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	vglut-lexA	Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center	RRID:BDSC_60314	Motor neuron lexA driver used in Figure 3e–f, Figure 3i–j, Figure 4d–e, and Figure 4— figure supplement 1c–d
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	13XLexAop2-IVS- GCaMP6f	Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center	RRID:BDSC_44277	Ca ²⁺ indicator transgene used in Figure 3i-j, Figure 4d-e, and Figure 4—figure supplement 1c-d
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	synj ¹	Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center Verstreken et al., 2003	RRID:BDSC_24883	synj mutant allele used in Figure 1—figure supplement 1c-d
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-mCD8-EGFP	Kyoto Stock Center	RRID:DGRC_108068	mCD8-EGFP transgene used in Figure 1—figure supplement 2a-b
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-HA-Fwe[WT]- APEX2	This paper		APEX2 fusion version of wild- type fwe transgene used in Figure 4d–g, Figure 5, Figure 6b–f, Figure 4—figure supplement 2, and Figure 6—figure supplement 1c–d
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-HA-Fwe[K29A/ R33A]-APEX2	This paper		APEX2 fusion version of fwe [K29A/R33A] transgene used in Figure 4d–g, Figure 5, Figure 4—figure supplement 2
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-Flag-Fwe[K29A/ R33A/K95A/K100A/ R105A/K146A/K147A/ R150A]-HA	This paper		fwe[K29A/R33A/K95A/K100A/ R105A/K146A/K147A/R150A] transgene was not expressed stably
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-Flag-Fwe[K146A/ K147A/R150A]-HA	This paper		fwe[K146A/K147A/R150A] transgene used in Figure 4— figure supplement 1
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	UAS-Flag-Fwe[K95A/ K100A/R105A]-HA	This paper		fwe[K95A/K100A/R105A] transgene was not expressed stably
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	LexAop2-PLC _{&1} -PH- APEX2-HA	This paper		APEX2 fusion version of PLCδ1-PH transgene used in Figure 3i-j
Genetic reagent (D. melanogaster)	LexAop2-PLCδ1-PH- EGFP	This paper		lexAop2 version of PLC _{&1} -PH- EGFP transgene used in Figure 3e-f
Antibody	α-GFP (Chicken polyclonal)	Invitrogen	Cat #A10262, RRID: AB_2534023	IF: 1:500 WB: 1:5000
Antibody	α-HA (Mouse monoclonal)	Sigma	Cat # H3663, RRID: AB_262051	IF: 1:400 PLA: 1:200

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
Antibody	α-Bruchpilot (Mouse monoclonal)	DSHB Wagh et al., 2006	Cat# nc82, RRID:AB_ 2314866	IF: 1:100
Antibody	α-AP-2α (Rabbit polyclonal)	González-Gaitán and Jäckle, 1997		IF: 1:3000
Antibody	α-Eps15 (Guinea pig polyclonal)	Koh et al., 2007		IF: 1:3000
Antibody	α-Fwe B isoform (Guinea pig polyclonal)	Yao et al., 2017		IF: 1:400
Antibody	Cy3 AffiniPure Rabbit Anti-Horseradish Peroxidase	Jackson Immuno Research Labs	Cat# 323-165-021, RRID:AB_2340262	IF: 1:250
Antibody	Alexa Fluor 488 AffiniPure Rabbit Anti- Horseradish Peroxidase	Jackson Immuno Research Labs	Cat# 323-545-021, RRID:AB_2340264	IF: 1:250
Antibody	α-GFP (Rabbit polyclonal)	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Cat# A-6455, RRID: AB_221570	PLA: 1:500
Antibody	α-actin (Mouse monoclonal)	Sigma	Cat# A7732, RRID: AB_2221571	WB:1:20000
Antibody	α–1D4 (Mouse monoclonal)	Yao et al., 2009		WB: 1:2000
Strain, strain background (Escherichia coli)	DH5a			
Strain, strain background (Escherichia coli)	yeast strain BJ5457	Yao et al., 2009		
Peptide, recombinant protein	Nluc-Fwe-1D4 fusion protein	This paper		Used in Figure 4b–c
Peptide, recombinant protein	Nluc-Fwe[K29A/ R33A]–1D4	This paper		Used in <i>Figure 4b–c</i>
Peptide, recombinant protein	Nluc-Fwe[K95A/ K100A/R105A /K146A/K147/R150A]– 1D4	This paper		Used in <i>Figure 4b-c</i>
Peptide, recombinant protein	Nluc-Fwe[K29A/R33A/ K95A/K100A /R105A/K146A/K147A/ R150A]–1D4	This paper		Used in <i>Figure 4b–c</i>
Chemical compound, drug	n-Dodecyl-β-D- Maltopyranoside	Anatrace	Cat# D310	Used in <i>Figure 4b–c</i>
Chemical compound, drug	BODIPY-TMR Phosphatidy linositol 4,5- bisphosphate	Echelon Bioscience	Cat#C-45M16A	Used in <i>Figure 4b–c</i>
Chemical compound, drug	Furimazine	Promega	Cat# N1110	Used in <i>Figure 4b–c</i>

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
Chemical compound, drug	Brain Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate	Avanti Polar Lipids	AV-840046P	Used in <i>Figure 4b–c</i>
Commercial assay or kit	Duolink In Situ Red Starter Kit Mouse/Rabbit	Sigma	Cat# DUO92101	Used in <i>Figure 3a–b</i>
Commercial assay or kit	NEBuilder HiFi DNA Assembly Master Mix	NEB	Cat# E2621	
Recombinant DNA reagent	YeMP	Yao et al., 2009		
Recombinant DNA reagent	pcDNA3 APEX2-NES	Addgene	RRID:Addgene_ 49386	
Recombinant DNA reagent	pJFRC19-13XLexAop2- IVS-myr:GFP	Addgene	RRID:Addgene_ 26224	
Recombinant DNA reagent	pNL1.1[Nluc]	Promega	Cat# #N1001	
Recombinant DNA reagent	pUAST-HA-Fwe[WT]- APEX2	This paper		DNA construct of APEX2 fusion version of wild-type fwe transgene used in <i>Figure 4d–g</i> , <i>Figure 5</i> , <i>Figure 6b–f</i> , <i>Figure 4—figure</i> <i>supplement 2</i> , and <i>Figure 6—figure</i> <i>supplement 1c–d</i>
Recombinant DNA reagent	pUAST-HA-Fwe[K29A/ R33A]-APEX2	This paper		DNA construct of APEX2 fusion version of fwe[K29A/ R33A] transgene used in Figure 4d– g, Figure 5, Figure 4—figure supplement 2
Recombinant DNA reagent	pUAST-Flag-Fwe-HA	Yao et al., 2017		
Recombinant DNA reagent	pUAST-Flag-Fwe[K29/ R33/K95/ K100/R105/K146A/ K147A/R150A]-HA	This paper		DNA construct of fwe[K29A/R33A/K95A/K100A/ R105A/K146A/K147A/R150A] transgene
Recombinant DNA reagent	pUAST-Flag-Fwe [K146A /K147A/R150A]-HA	This paper		DNA construct of fwe[K146A/ K147A/R150A] transgene used in Figure 4—figure supplement 1
Recombinant DNA reagent	pUAST-Flag-Fwe[K95/ K100/R105A]-HA	This paper		DNA construct of fwe[K95A/ K100A/R105A] transgene
Recombinant DNA reagent	plexAop2-PLC _{&1} -PH- APEX2-HA	This paper		DNA construct of APEX2 fusion version of PLCδ1-PH transgene used in Figure 3i-j
Recombinant DNA reagent	plexAop2-PLC _{&1} -PH- EGFP	This paper		DNA construct of <i>lexAop2</i> version of PLC ₈₁ -PH-EGFP transgene used in Figure 3e-f

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
Recombinant DNA reagent	YeMP-Nluc-Fwe-1D4	This paper		DNA construct of expression of Nluc-Fwe-1D4 recombinant protein used in Figure 4b–c
Recombinant DNA reagent	YeMP-Nluc-Fwe[K29A/ R33A]–1D4	This paper		DNA construct of expression of Nluc-Fwe[K29A/R33A]–1D4 recombinant protein used in <i>Figure 4b–c</i>
Recombinant DNA reagent	YeMP-Nluc-Fwe[K95A/ K100A/ R105A/K146A/K147/ R150A]—1D4	This paper		DNA construct of expression of Nluc-Fwe[K95A/K100A/ R105A /K146A/K147/R150A]–1D4 recombinant protein used in Figure 4b–c
Recombinant DNA reagent	YeMP-Nluc-Fwe[K29A/ R33A/K95A/K100A/ R105A/K146A/K147A/ R150A]—1D4	This paper		DNA construct of expression of Nluc-Fwe[K29A/R33A/ K95A/K100A/ R105A/K146A/K147A/R150A]– 1D4-1D4 recombinant protein used in <i>Figure 4b–c</i>
Sequence- based reagent	HA-Fwe[WT]-APEX2 forward-1	This paper		5'- tcgttaacagatcttGCGGCCGCA T GTACCCATACGATG TTCCAGATTACG-3'
Sequence- based reagent	HA-Fwe[WT]-APEX2 Reverse-1	This paper		5'- tgaacctcctccgccTGT GGGGCGCCAGACATC-3'
Sequence- based reagent	HA-Fwe[WT]-APEX2 forward-2	This paper		5'- gccccacaggcggaggaggttca ggaggcggaggttcgGG TACCGG CGGAAAGAGTTACCCGAC- 3'
Sequence- based reagent	HA-Fwe[WT]-APEX2 Reverse-2	This paper		5'- tccttcacaaagatccTCTAGAG GCGTCGGCGAATCCCAG -3'
Sequence- based reagent	HA-Fwe[K29A/R33A]- APEX2-HA forward	This paper		5'-CAGCCGTGGTATC TCGCA TATGGAAGTGCATTGC TGGGCATTG-3'
Sequence- based reagent	Flag-Fwe[K95/K100/ R105A]-HA forward	This paper		5'-GGAATCTGCGCCCTTG TACTT CGCTGCCGGGCTCTACA TTGCC ATGGCCATTCCGCCCATTA TT-3'
Sequence- based reagent	Flag-Fwe[K146A/ K147A/ R150A]-HA forward	This paper		5'-CAGAGGACA TGGCCGCCGC TGCCACA TCGCCCACACAGATG GCCGGCAG TCAGGCGGGCGG-3'
Sequence- based reagent	PLC _{&1} -PH-APEX2-HA forward-1	This paper		5'-tcttatcctttacttcagGCGGC CGCATGGAC TCGGGCCGGGAC-3'

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
Sequence- based reagent	$PLC_{\delta 1}$ -PH-APEX2-HA forward-2	This paper		5'- GCTGTACAAG ggcggaggaggttca ggaggcggaggttcgGGCGGAA AGAGTTACCCGAC-3'
Sequence- based reagent	PLC ₈₁ -PH-APEX2-HA reverse-1	This paper		5'- cctccgccggtaccAAGATCT TCCGGGCATAGCTGTCG-3'
Sequence- based reagent	PLC _{δ1} -PH-APEX2-HA reverse-2	This paper		5'- ggttccttcacaaagatcctctagattaa gcgtaatctggaacatcgtatgggtaG GCGTCGGCGAATCCCAG -3'
Sequence- based reagent	PLC ₈₁ -PH-EGFP forward	This paper		5'- tcttatcctttacttcagGCGGCC GCATGGAC TCGGGCCGGGAC-3'
Sequence- based reagent	PLC _{&1} -PH-EGFP reverse	This paper		5'- TTTCTAGATTACTTG TACAGCTCGTCCAT-3'
Sequence- based reagent	YeMP-Nluc-Fwe-1D4 forward-1	This paper		5'- CCACTAGTATGGT CTTCACACTCGAAG-3'
Sequence- based reagent	YeMP-Nluc-Fwe-1D4 forward-2	This paper		5'- AAAACTAGTGTCGAC TCGT TTGCGGAAAAGATAACG –3'
Sequence- based reagent	YeMP-Nluc-Fwe-1D4 Reverse-1	This paper		5'-AAAGTCGACCGA ACCTCCGCCTCC-3'
Sequence- based reagent	YeMP-Nluc-Fwe-1D4 Reverse-2	This paper		5'- AAAACGCGTTTACG CAGGCGCGACTTGG-3'
Sequence- based reagent	YeMP-Nluc-Fwe[K29A/ R33A]–1D4, YeMP- Nluc-Fwe[K95A/ K100A/R105A/K146A/ K147/R150A]–1D4, YeMP-Nluc-Fwe[K29A/ R33A/K95A/K100A/ R105A/K146A/K147A/ R150A]–1D4 forward	This paper		5'- AAAACTAGTGTCGAC TCG TTTGCGGAAAAGATAACG-3'
Sequence- based reagent	YeMP-Nluc-Fwe[K29A/ R33A]–1D4, YeMP- Nluc-Fwe[K95A/ K100A/R105A/K146A/ K147/R150A]–1D4, YeMP-Nluc-Fwe[K29A/ R33A/K95A/K100A/ R105A/K146A/K147A/ R150A]–1D4 Reverse	This paper		5'- AAAACGCG TTTACGCAGGCGCG ACTTGGCTGGTCTCTGTTG TGGGGCGCC-3'
Software, algorithm	LSM Zen	Zeiss	https://www.zeiss. com/microscopy/us/ products/ microscope-software/ zen-lite.html	
Software, algorithm	Image J	https://imagej.net/ contributors	https://imagej.nih. gov/ij/	

Reagent type (species) or resource	Designation	Source or reference	Identifiers	Additional information
Software, algorithm	pClamp 10.6	Moleculardevices	https://www. moleculardevices. com/products/ cellular-imaging- systems/acquisition- and-analysis- software/metamorph- microscopy#gref	
Software, algorithm	MetaMorph	Moleculardevices	https://www. moleculardevices. com/products/ cellular-imaging- systems/acquisition- and-analysis- software/metamorph- microscopy#gref	
Software, algorithm	GraphPad Prism 8.0	Prism	https://www. graphpad.com/	