

# Molecular mechanisms controlling vascular smooth muscle contractility

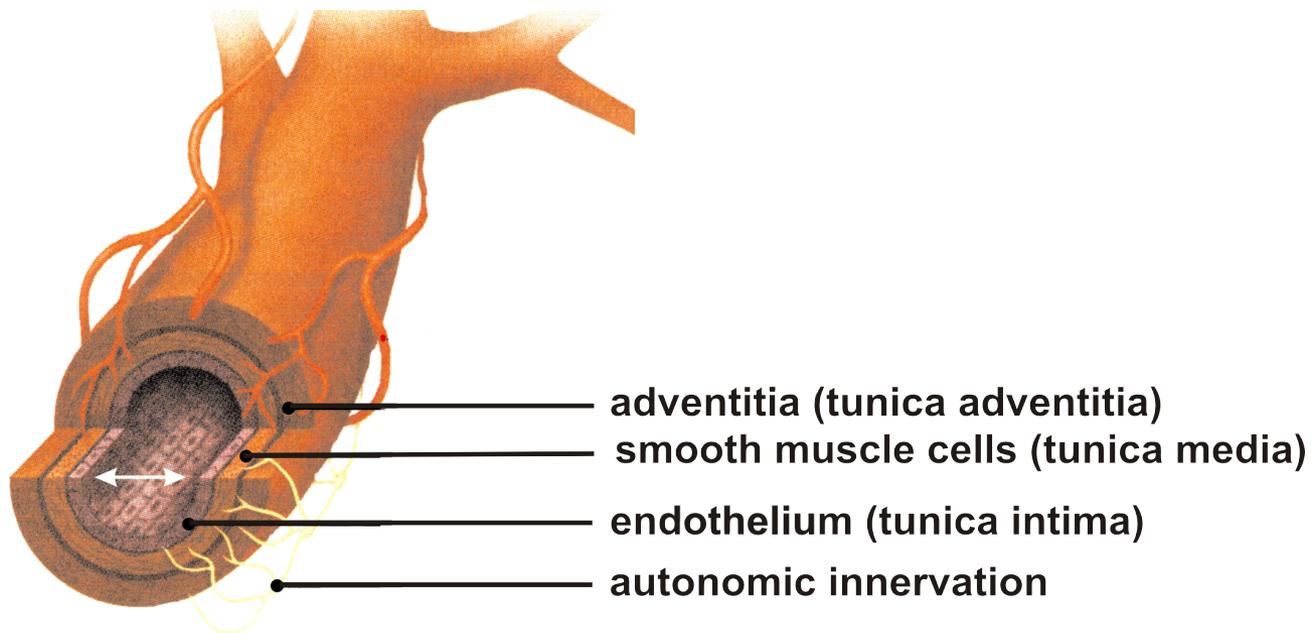
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Rosalyn Johnson, PhD



# Mechanisms controlling diameter of arterial resistance vessels

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## INTRINSIC MECHANISMS

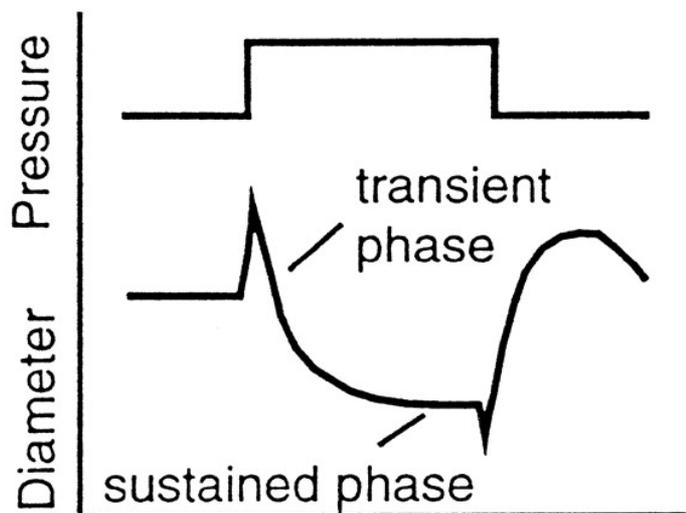
Membrane potential  
Ca<sup>2+</sup>-sensitization

## EXTRINSIC MECHANISMS

Neurotransmitters  
Circulating hormones  
Endothelial factors  
Electrical coupling via  
myoendothelial gap junctions  
Local factors from parenchyma

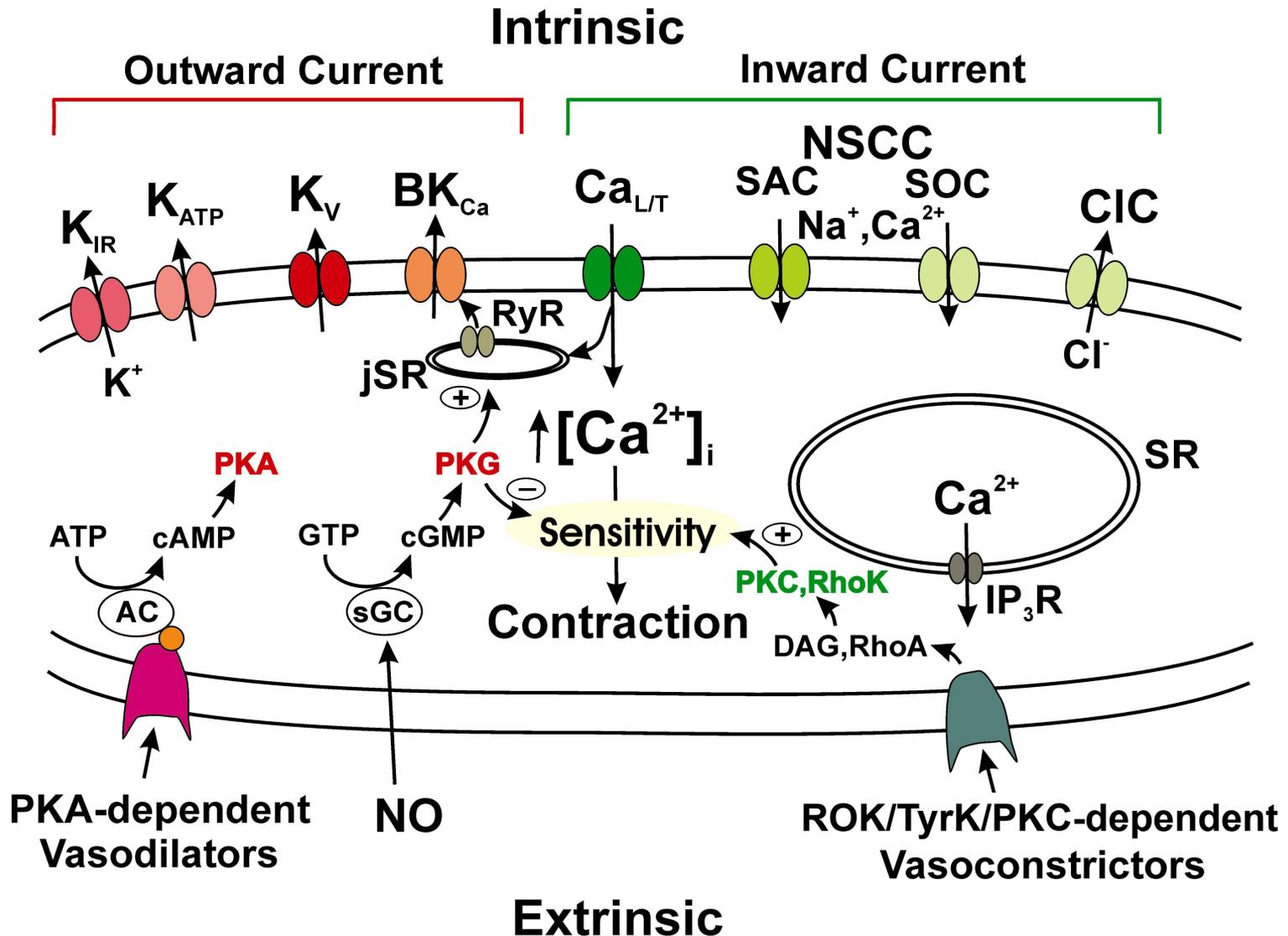
# Myogenic tone in vascular smooth muscle resistance arteries

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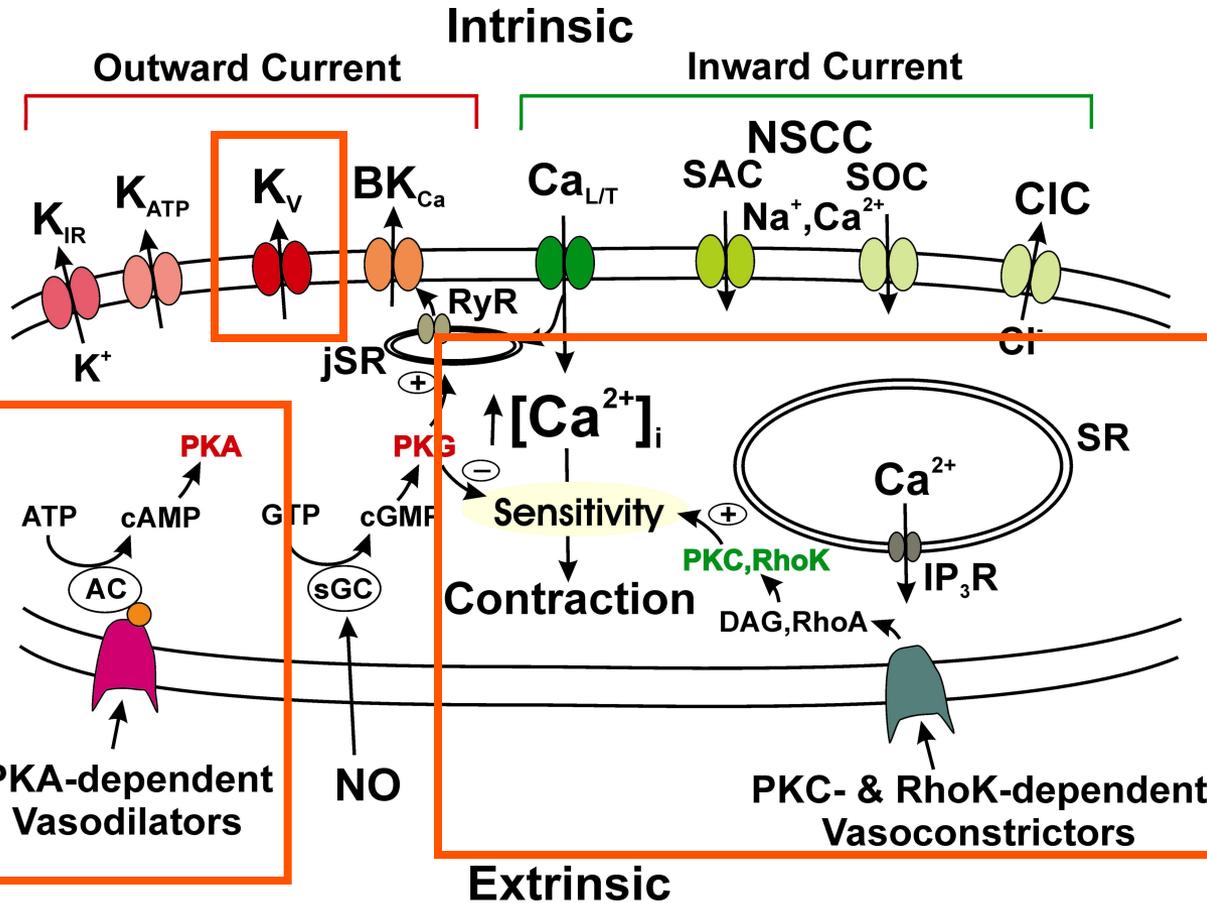


- **Mechanisms are intrinsic to vascular smooth muscle (does not require neurohormonal or endothelial input)**
- **Important determinant of:**
  1. **Peripheral vascular resistance and blood pressure**
  2. **Capillary pressure**
  3. **Local autoregulation of blood flow**

# Regulation of vascular smooth muscle contraction

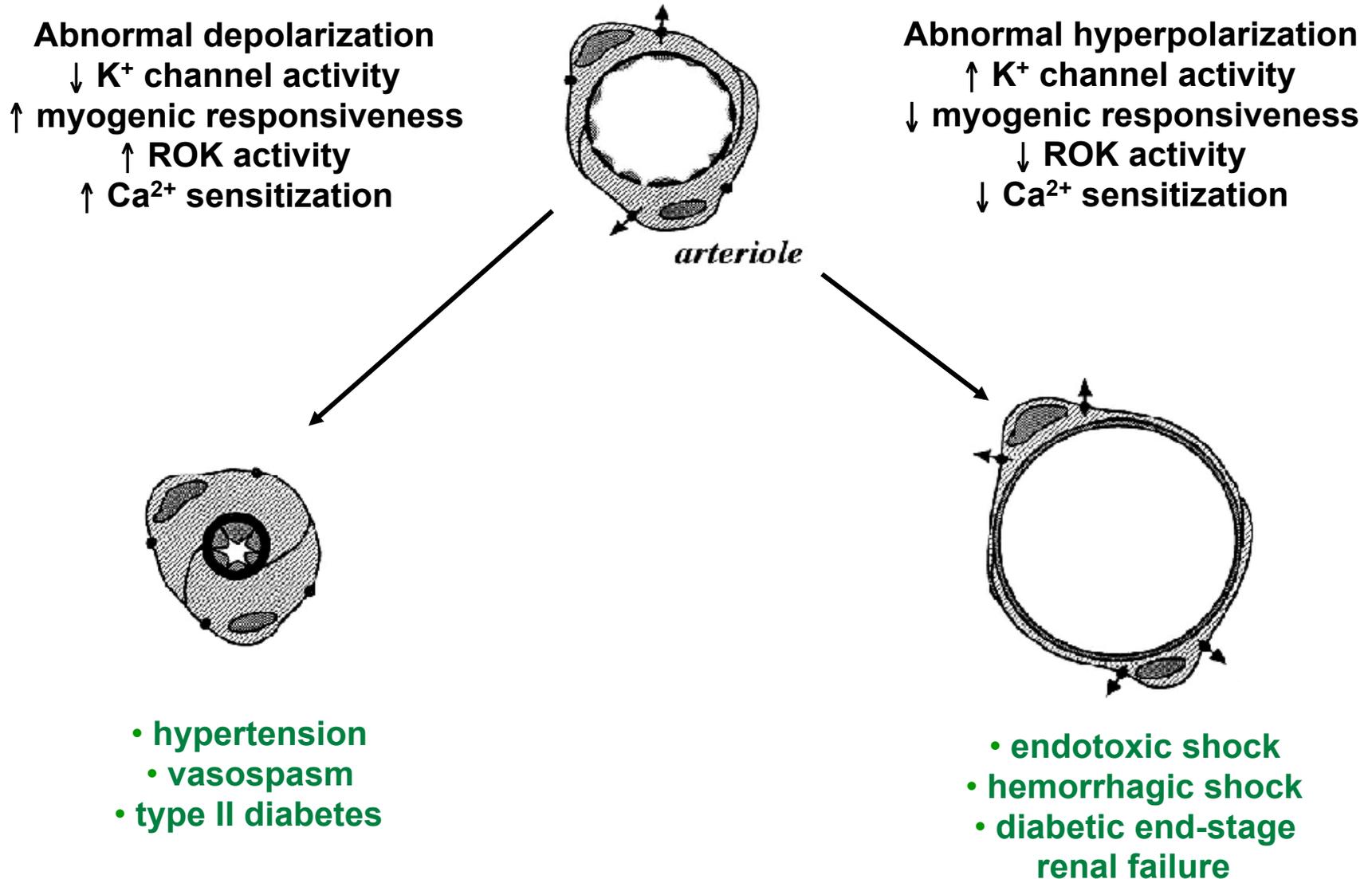


# Objectives



1. Molecular composition of smooth muscle Kv channels in the mesenteric vasculature
2. Molecular basis for regulation of Kv1.2 by PKA
3. Role of ROK-dependent  $Ca^{2+}$  sensitization in myogenic control of arterial diameter in the cerebral vasculature

# Consequences of dysfunctional control of VSM tone



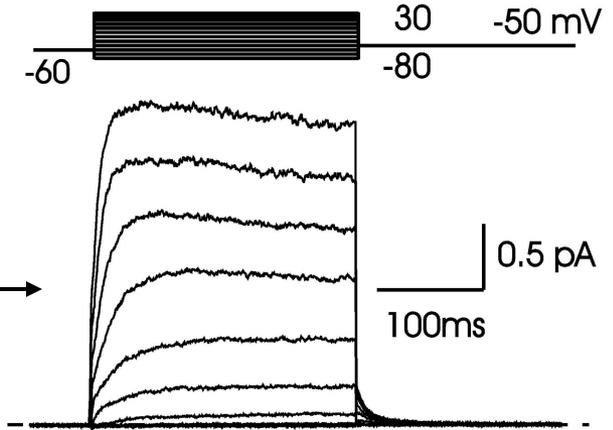
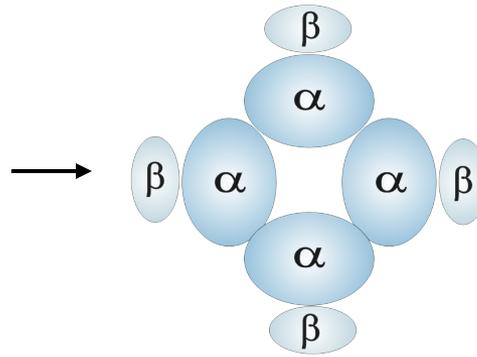
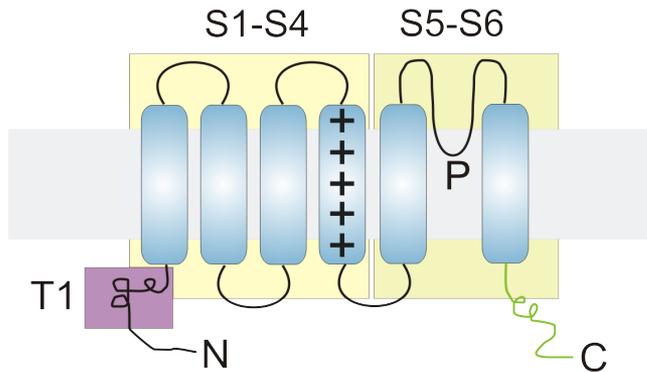
## **Part 1:**

# **Molecular composition of vascular smooth muscle Kv1 channels in the mesenteric vasculature**

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# Kv channel structure



**VSM  $K_{DR}$  current**  
 =sum of current flowing  
 through 1+ Kv channels of  
 varying composition

- Kv superfamily  
 of pore-forming  
 $\alpha$  subunits
- Kv1 1.1-1.8
  - Kv2 2.1,2.2
  - Kv3 3.1-3.4
  - Kv4 4.1-4.3
  - Kv5\* 5.1
  - Kv6\* 6.1-6.4
  - Kv7\* 7.1-7.5
  - Kv8\* 8.1,8.2
  - Kv9\* 9.1-9.3
  - Kv10 10.1,10.2
  - Kv11
  - Kv12

- Kv superfamily  
 of modulatory  
 $\beta$  subunits
- Kv 1  $\beta$  1.1-1.3
  - Kv 2  $\beta$  2.1,2.2
  - Kv 3  $\beta$  3.1

## Kv transcript and protein expression in mesenteric arteries

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<b>Kv subunit</b>	<b>Transcript Expression</b>	<b>Protein Expression</b>
<b>Kv1.1</b>	<b>+/- (3/6)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Kv1.2</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kv1.4</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kv1.5</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kv1.6</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kv<math>\beta</math>1.1</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kv<math>\beta</math>1.2</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kv<math>\beta</math>1.3</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kv<math>\beta</math>2.1</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>

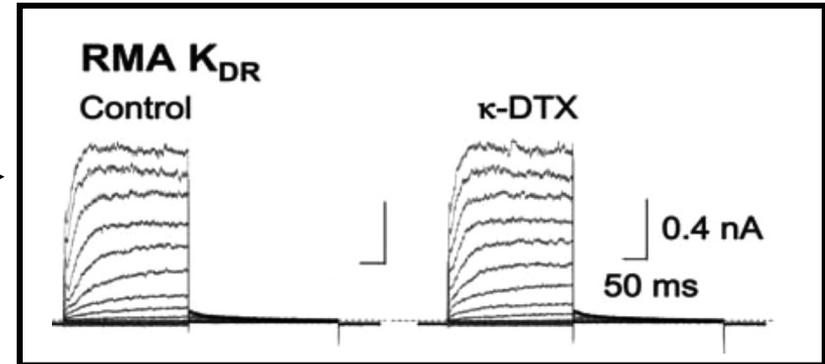
+ detected

- not detected

x not determined

# Kv transcript and protein expression in mesenteric arteries

Kv subunit	Transcript Expression	Protein Expression
<del>Kv1.1</del>	<del>+/- (3/6)</del>	<del>-</del>
Kv1.2	+	+
Kv1.4	+	+
Kv1.5	+	+
Kv1.6	+	+
Kvβ1.1	+	x
Kvβ1.2	+	x
Kvβ1.3	+	x
Kvβ2.1	+	x



**\*κ-dendrotoxin – blocks channels containing 1+ Kv1.1 α-subunits**

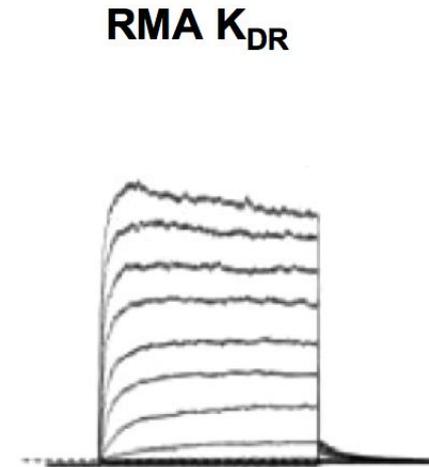
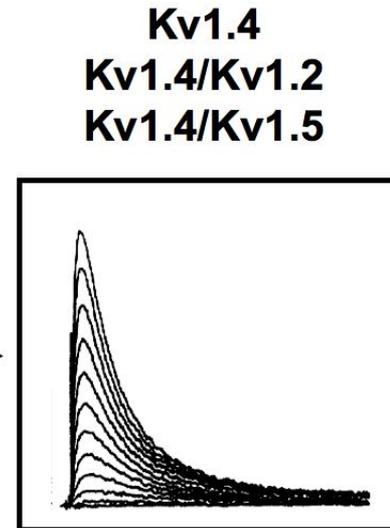
+ detected

- not detected

x not determined

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<del>Kv1.1</del>	<del>+/- (3/6)</del>	<del>-</del>
Kv1.2	+	+
<del>Kv1.4</del>	<del>+</del>	<del>+</del>
Kv1.5	+	+
Kv1.6	+	+
Kvβ1.1	+	x
Kvβ1.2	+	x
Kvβ1.3	+	x
Kvβ2.1	+	x



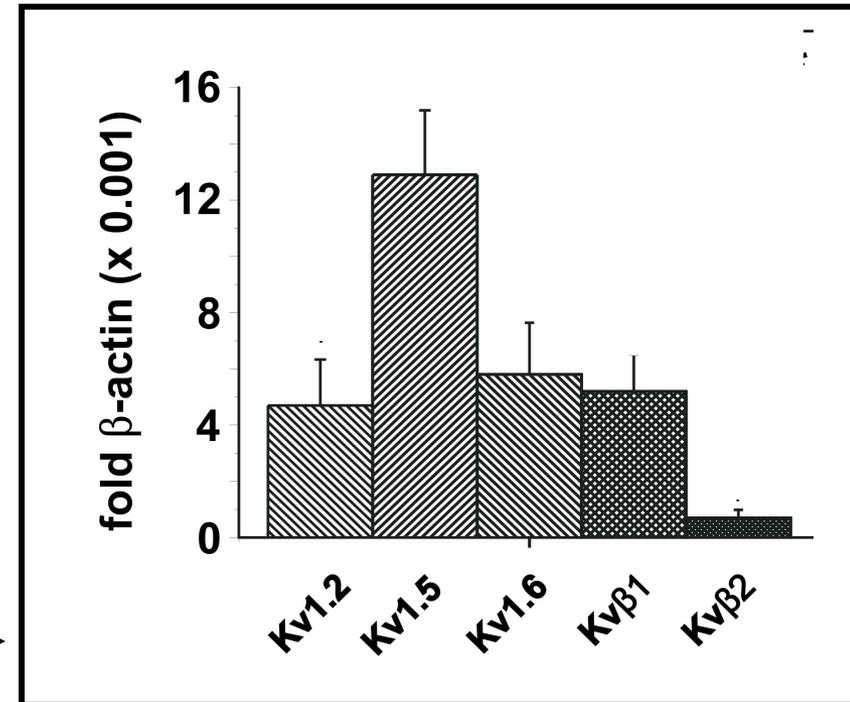
+ detected

- not detected

x not determined

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<del>Kv1.1</del>	<del>+/- (3/6)</del>	<del>-</del>
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Kv1.5	+	+
Kv1.6	+	+
<b>Kvβ1.1</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kvβ1.2</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kvβ1.3</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<del>Kvβ2.1</del>	<del>+</del>	<del>x</del>



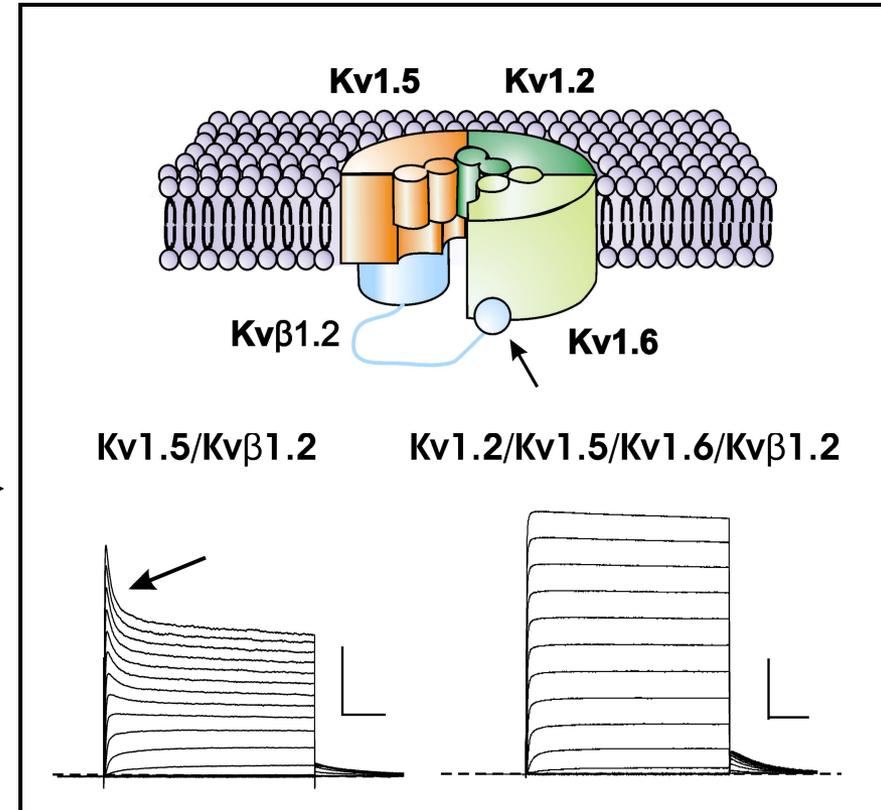
+ detected

- not detected

x not determined

# Kv transcript and protein expression in mesenteric arteries

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<del>Kv1.1</del>	<del>+/- (3/6)</del>	<del>-</del>
Kv1.2	+	+
<del>Kv1.4</del>	<del>+</del>	<del>+</del>
Kv1.5	+	+
<b>Kv1.6</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kvβ1.1</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kvβ1.2</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kvβ1.3</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<del>Kvβ2.1</del>	<del>+</del>	<del>x</del>



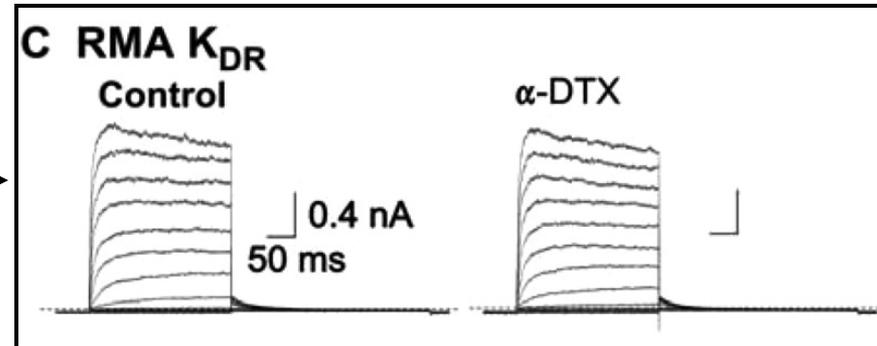
+ detected

- not detected

x not determined

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<del>Kv1.1</del>	<del>+/- (3/6)</del>	<del>-</del>
Kv1.2	+	+
<del>Kv1.4</del>	<del>+</del>	<del>+</del>
<b>Kv1.5</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kv1.6</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kvβ1.1</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kvβ1.2</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kvβ1.3</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<del>Kvβ2.1</del>	<del>+</del>	<del>x</del>



\* $\alpha$ -dendrotoxin blocks any Kv1 channels EXCEPT those containing Kv1.5

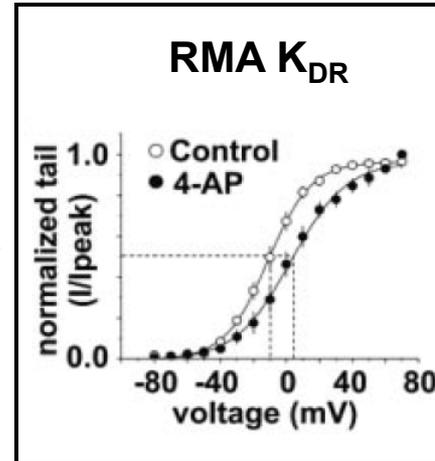
+ detected

- not detected

x not determined

# Kv transcript and protein expression in mesenteric arteries

Kv subunit	Transcript Expression	Protein Expression
<del>Kv1.1</del>	<del>+/- (3/6)</del>	<del>-</del>
<b>Kv1.2</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<del>Kv1.4</del>	<del>+</del>	<del>+</del>
<b>Kv1.5</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kv1.6</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kvβ1.1</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kvβ1.2</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kvβ1.3</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<del>Kvβ2.1</del>	<del>+</del>	<del>x</del>



Kv1.5 alone – no shift **x**  
 Kv1.2 + Kv1.5 – shift **✓**

+ detected

- not detected

x not determined

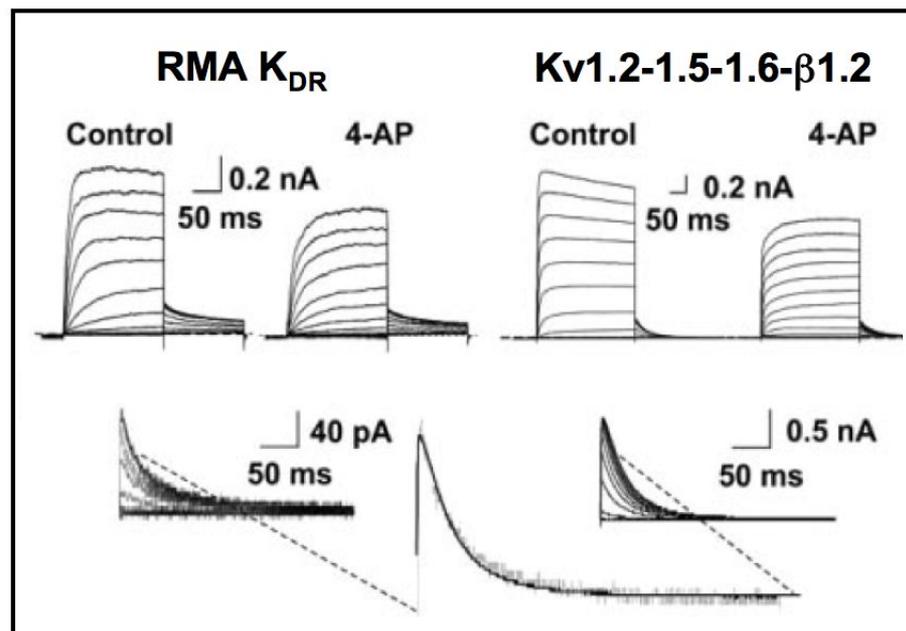
## Kv transcript and protein expression in mesenteric arteries

Kv subunit	Transcript Expression	Protein Expression
<del>Kv1.1</del>	<del>+/- (3/6)</del>	<del>-</del>
<b>Kv1.2</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<del>Kv1.4</del>	<del>+</del>	<del>+</del>
<b>Kv1.5</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kv1.6</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kvβ1.1</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kvβ1.2</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kvβ1.3</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<del>Kvβ2.1</del>	<del>+</del>	<del>x</del>

+ detected

- not detected

x not determined



4-AP sensitivity ✓

Activation time constants (C→O) ✓

Deactivation time constants (O→C) ✓

Inactivation time constants (O→I) ✓

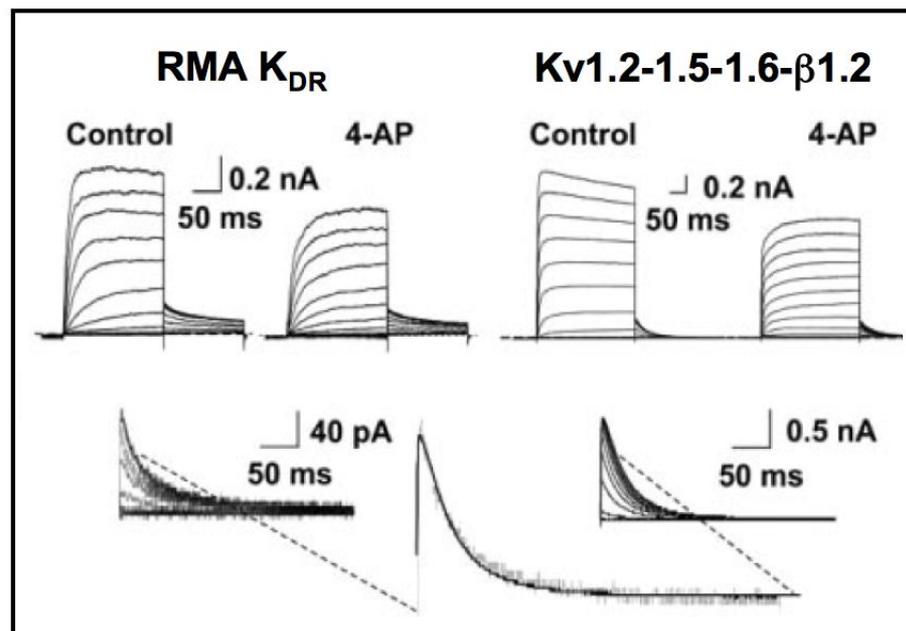
## Kv transcript and protein expression in mesenteric arteries

Kv subunit	Transcript Expression	Protein Expression
<del>Kv1.1</del>	<del>+/- (3/6)</del>	<del>-</del>
<b>Kv1.2</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<del>Kv1.4</del>	<del>+</del>	<del>+</del>
<b>Kv1.5</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kv1.6</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Kvβ1.1</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kvβ1.2</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Kvβ1.3</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>x</b>
<del>Kvβ2.1</del>	<del>+</del>	<del>x</del>

+ detected

- not detected

x not determined



4-AP sensitivity ✓

Activation time constants (C→O) ✓

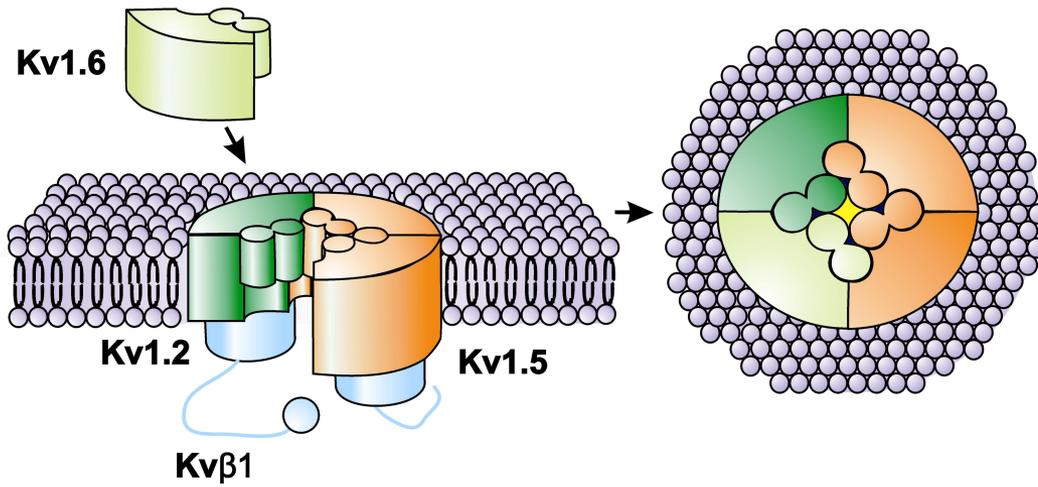
Deactivation time constants (O→C) ✓

Inactivation time constants (O→I) ✓

**Other combinations of Kv subunits**

# Molecular composition of Kv1 channels in the mesenteric vasculature

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- Alteration of Kv1 channel expression in disease
- Molecular approaches to study Kv1 channel function

## Molecular:

- RT-PCR
- real-time PCR

## Immunocytochemical:

- subunit-specific antibodies

## Pharmacological:

- dendrotoxins
- 4-AP

## Biophysical:

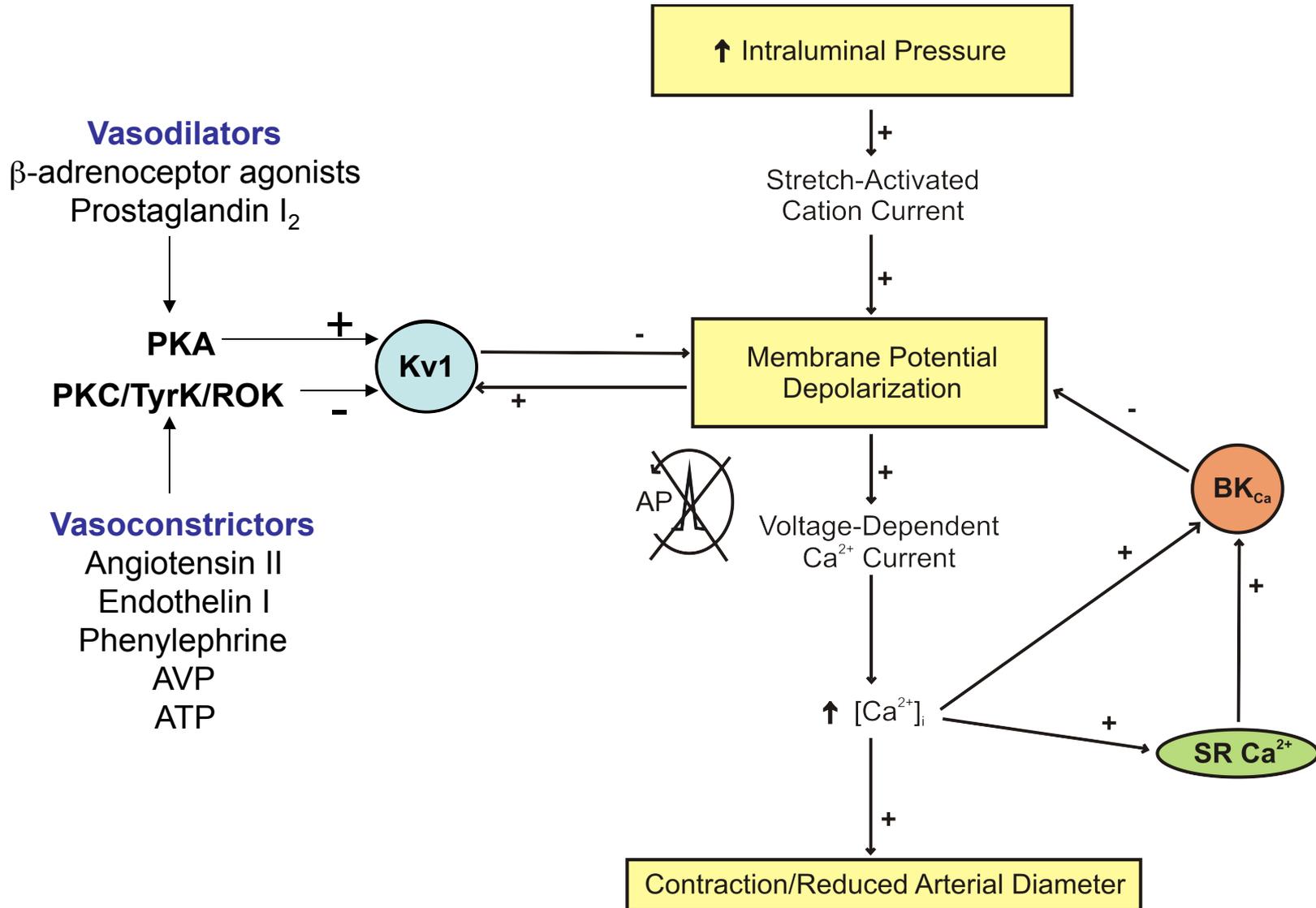
- V-dependence
- inactivation rate
- deactivation rate

## **Part 2:**

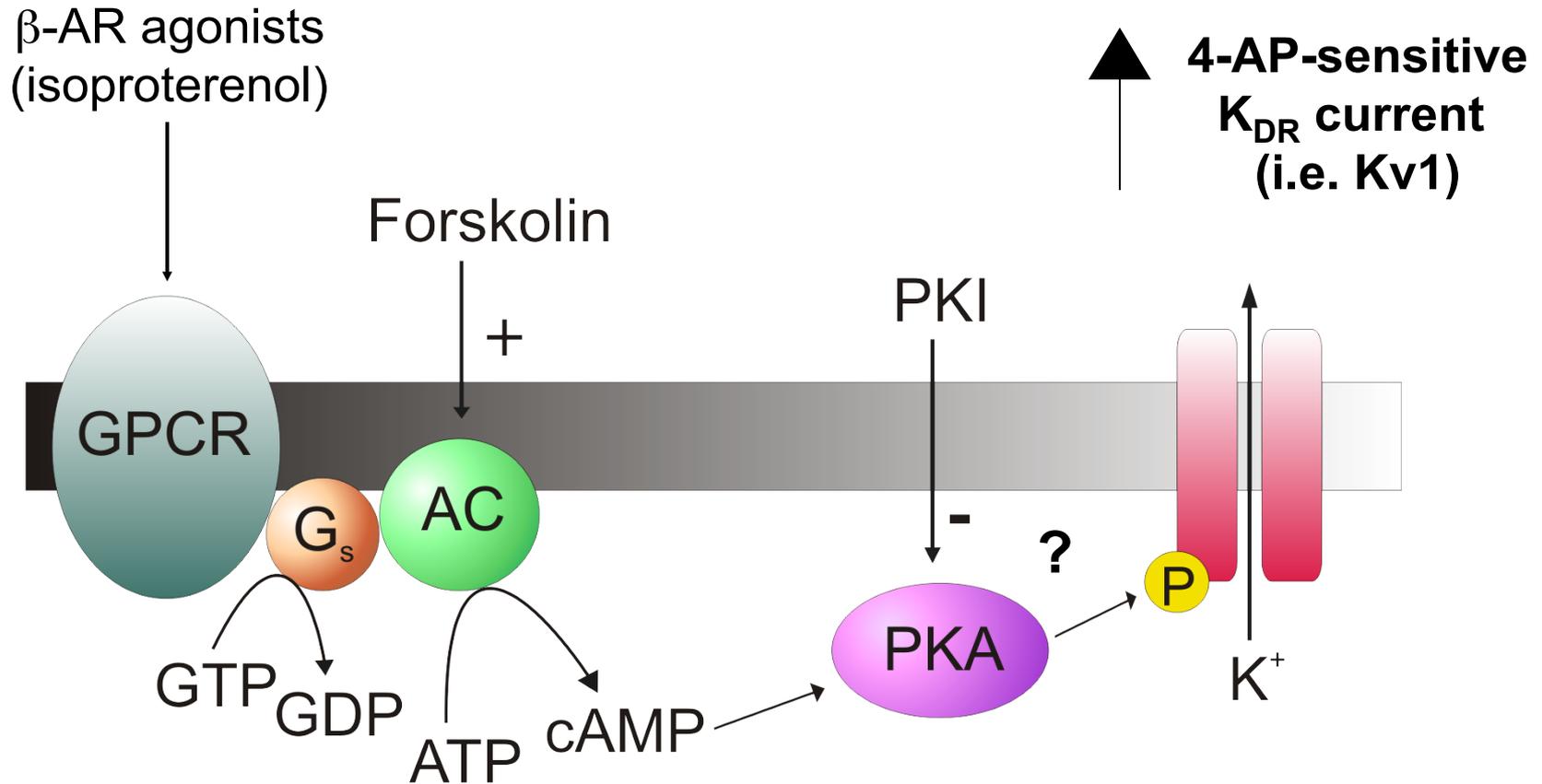
# **Molecular basis for regulation of vascular smooth muscle Kv1 channels by protein kinase A**

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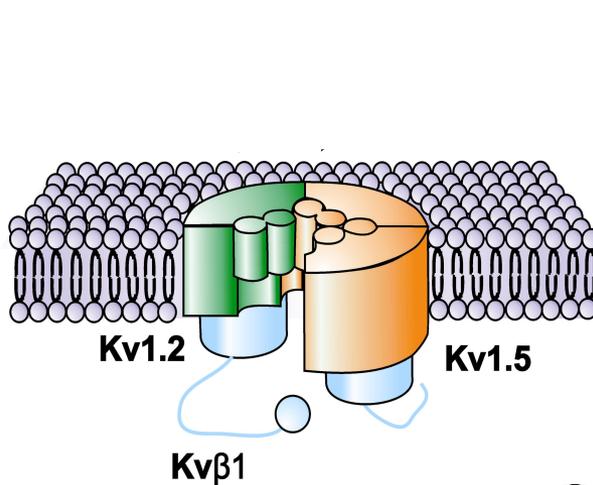
# Modulation of Kv control of $E_m$ by vasoactive agonists



# Regulation of VSM Kv channels by PKA signalling pathways



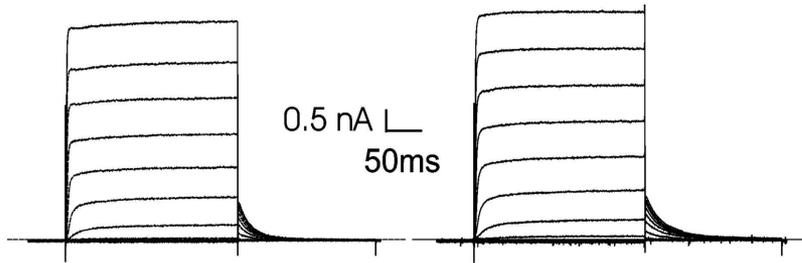
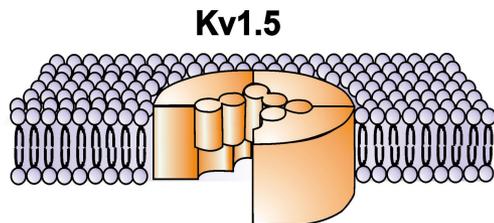
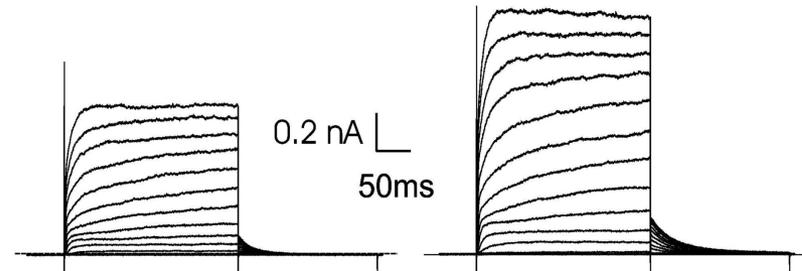
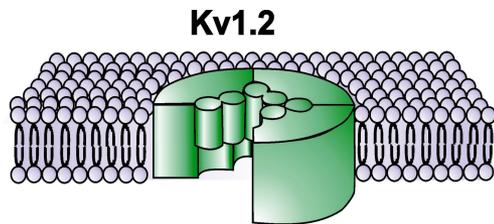
# Subunit-specific regulation of Kv1 channels by PKA



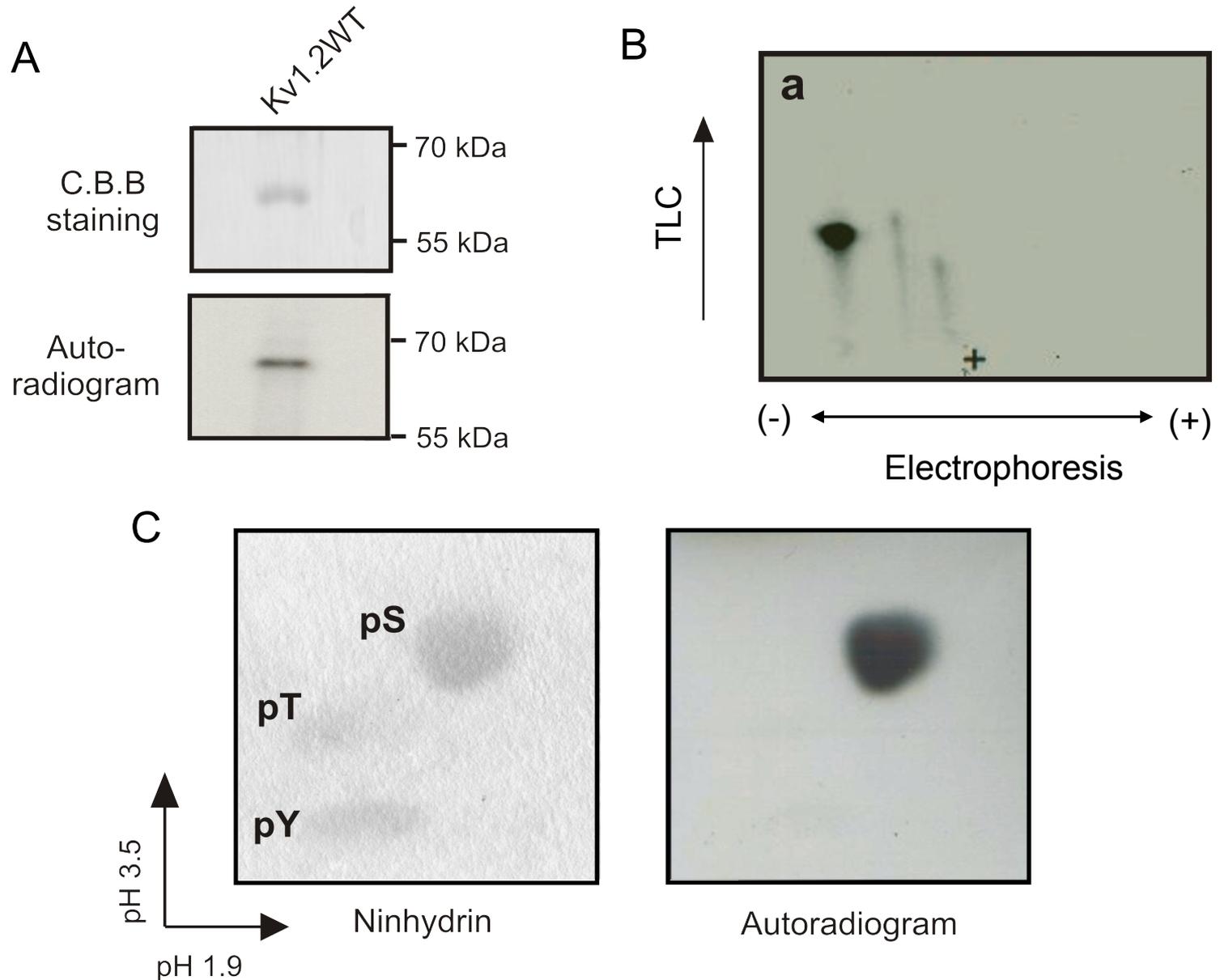
Rabbit Portal Vein  
Coronary Artery  
GI Smooth Muscle

Control

Forskolin (1  $\mu$ M)



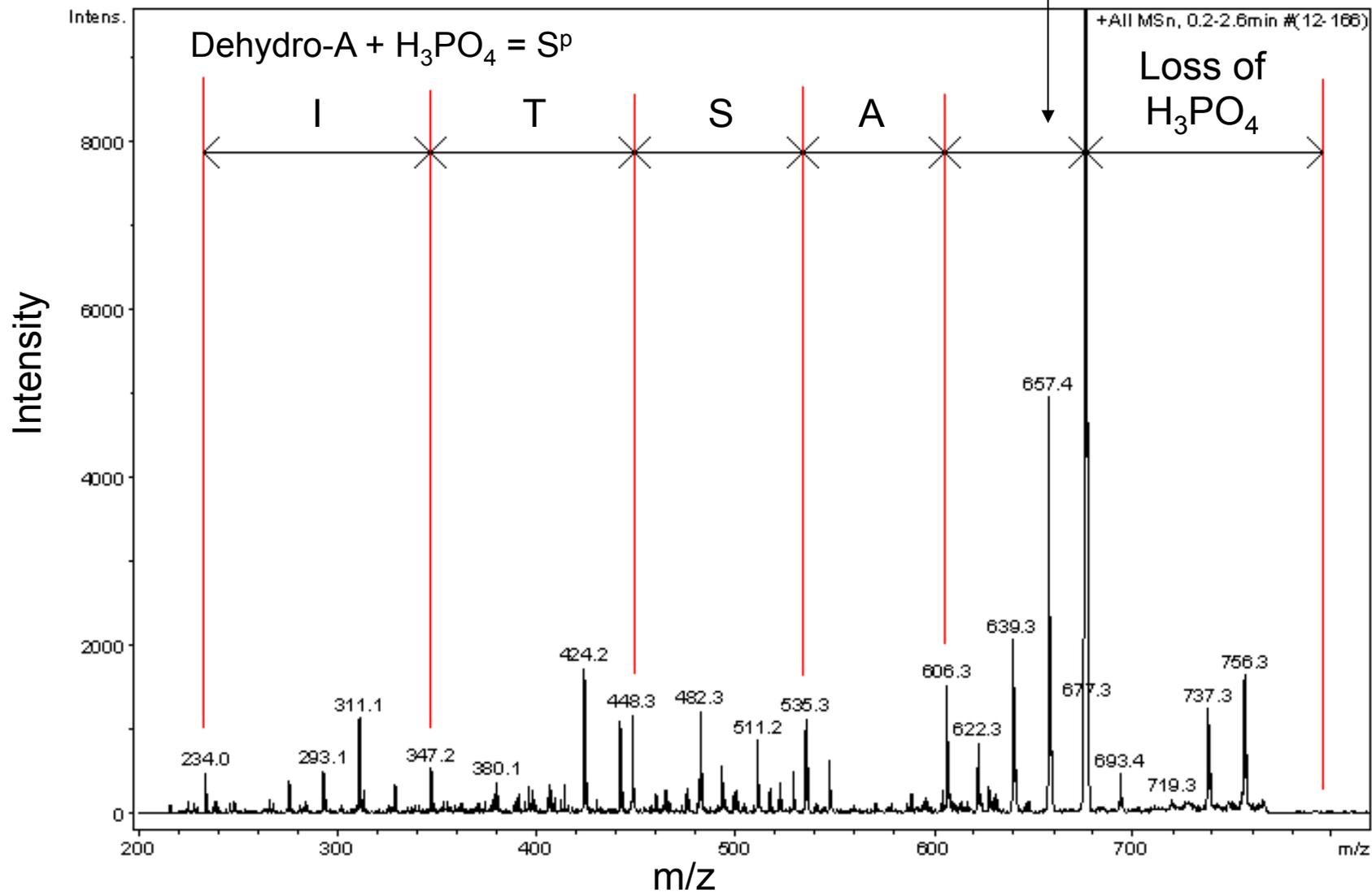
# Kv1.2 is phosphorylated by PKA exclusively at serine



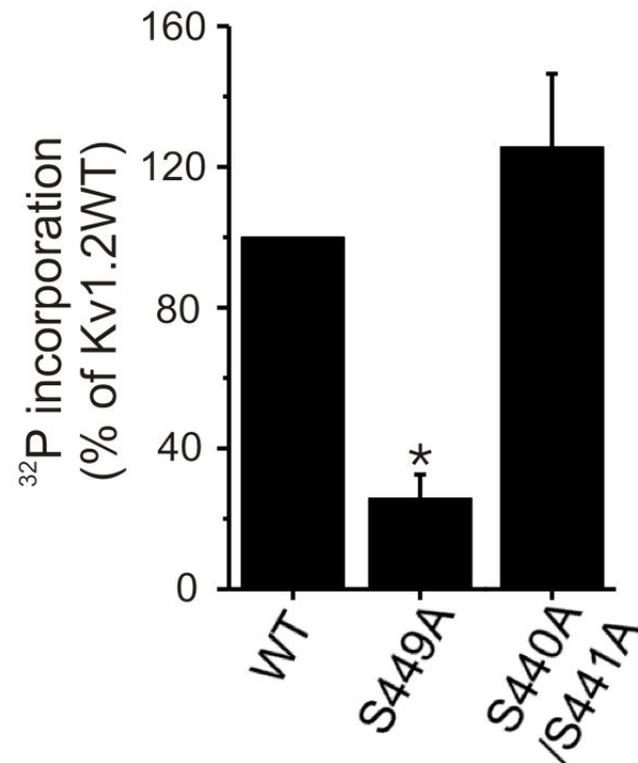
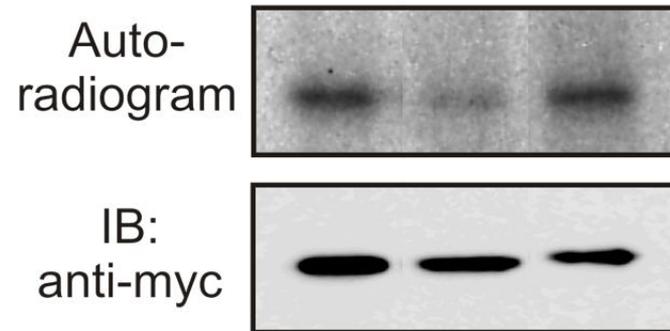
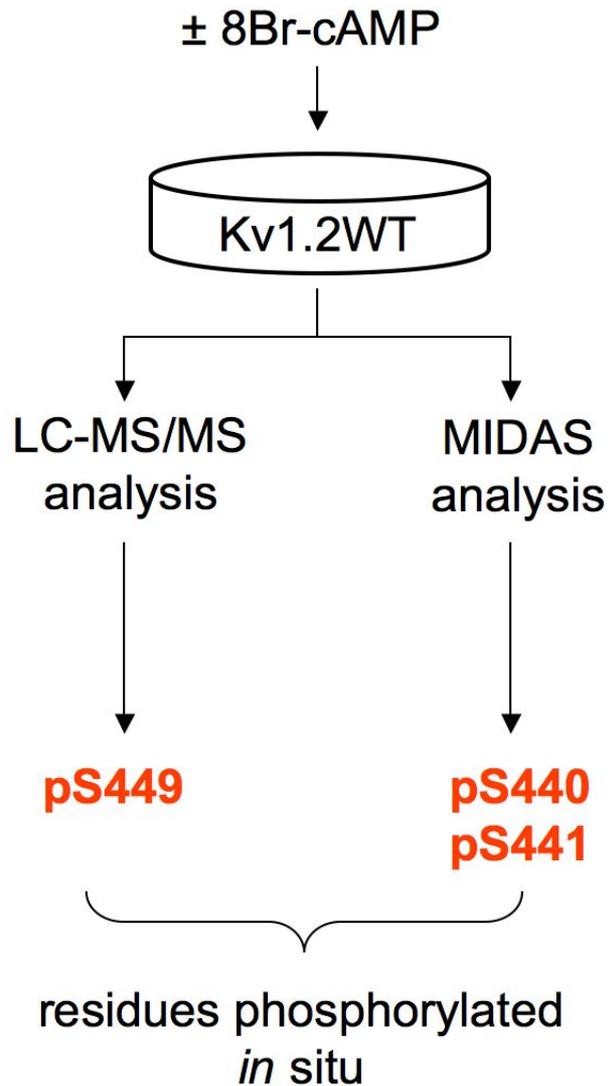
# Kv1.2 is phosphorylated by PKA at serine-449 *in vitro*

$^{449}\text{pSASTISK}^{455}$

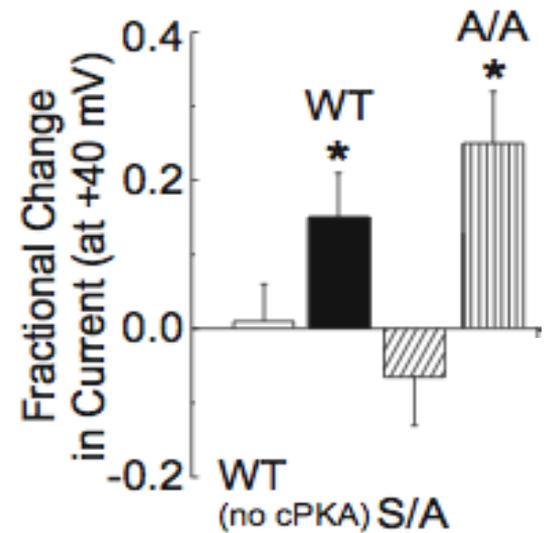
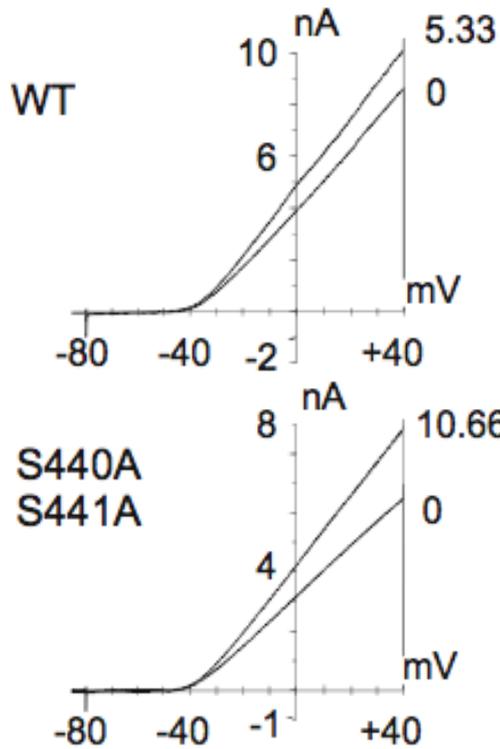
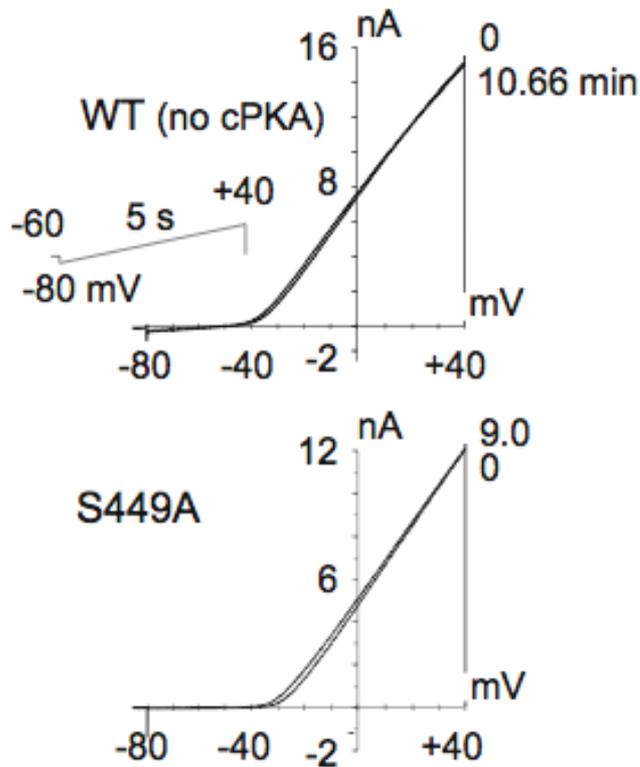
Dehydro-A



# Kv1.2 is phosphorylated at S440, S441 and S449 *in situ* following 8Br-cAMP stimulation

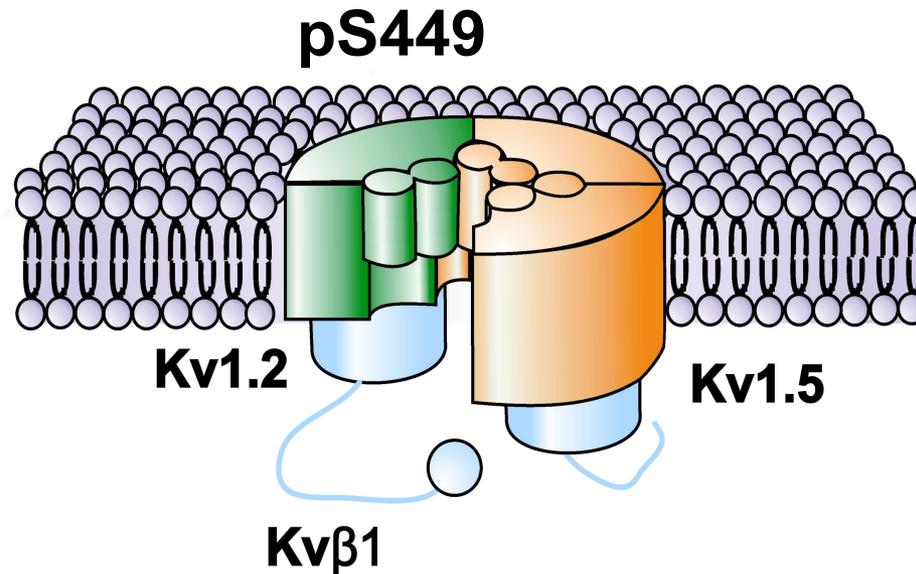


# Phosphorylation at S449 (but not S440 and/or S441) is important for PKA-dependent changes in Kv1.2 current



## Future directions - characterization of S449 phosphorylation in VSM

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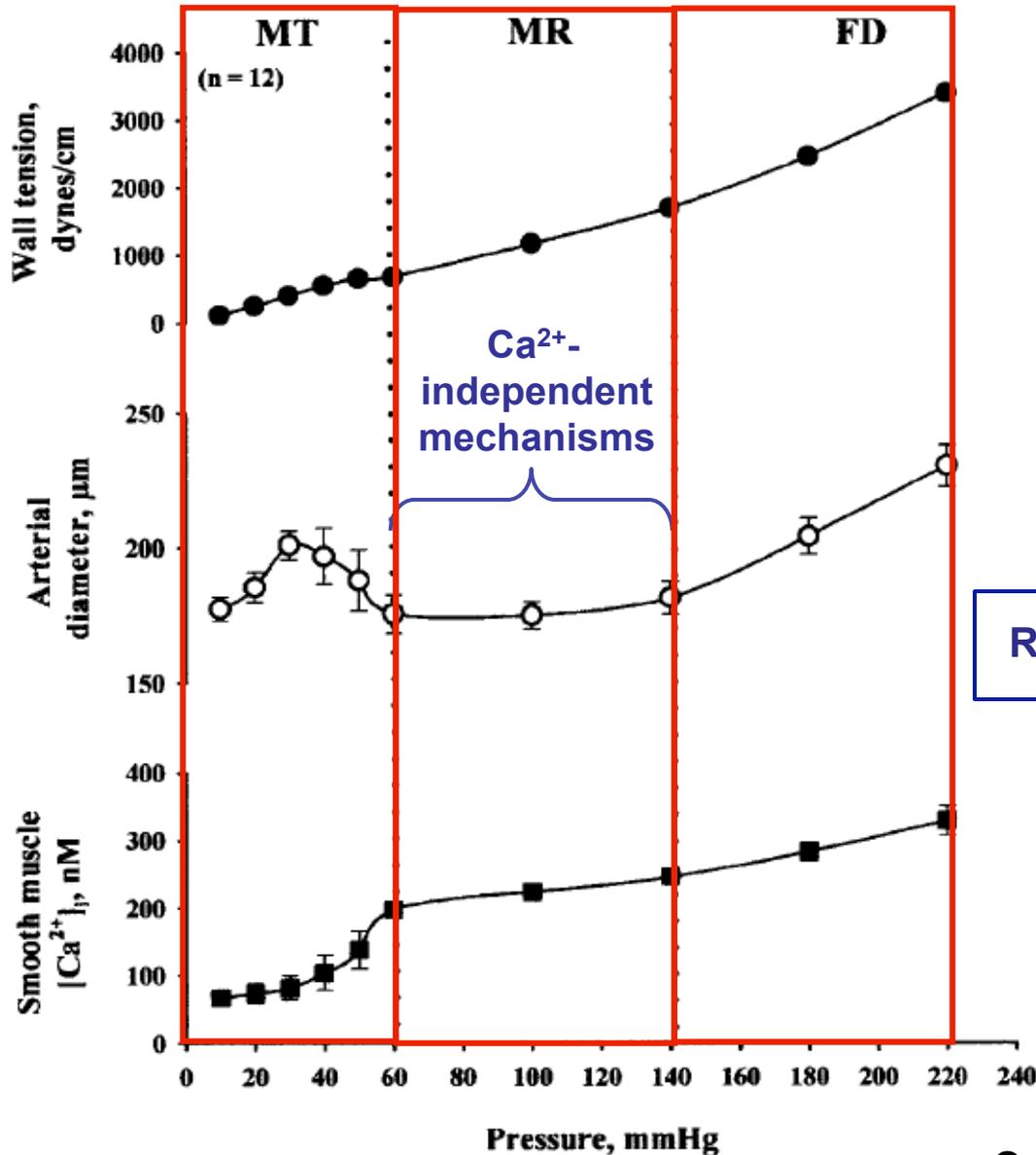
- Phosphorylation in heteromultimeric channels
- Analysis of Kv1.2 phosphorylation in VSM using phosphospecific antibodies (pS449)

## **Part 3:**

# **Contribution of ROK-dependent Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensitization pathways in myogenic control of arterial diameter in the cerebral vasculature**

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# A three-phase model of the myogenic response



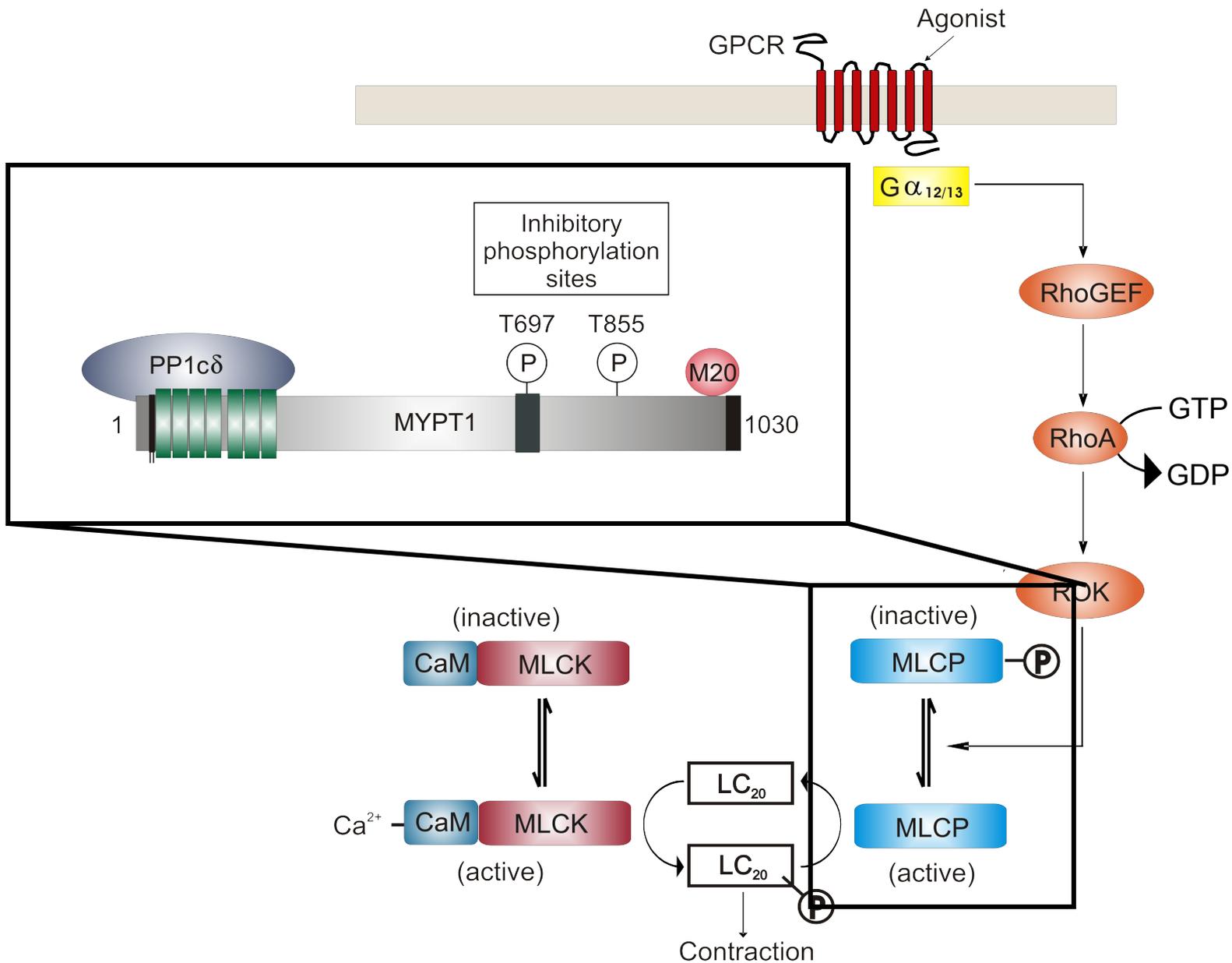
MT = myogenic tone

MR = myogenic reactivity

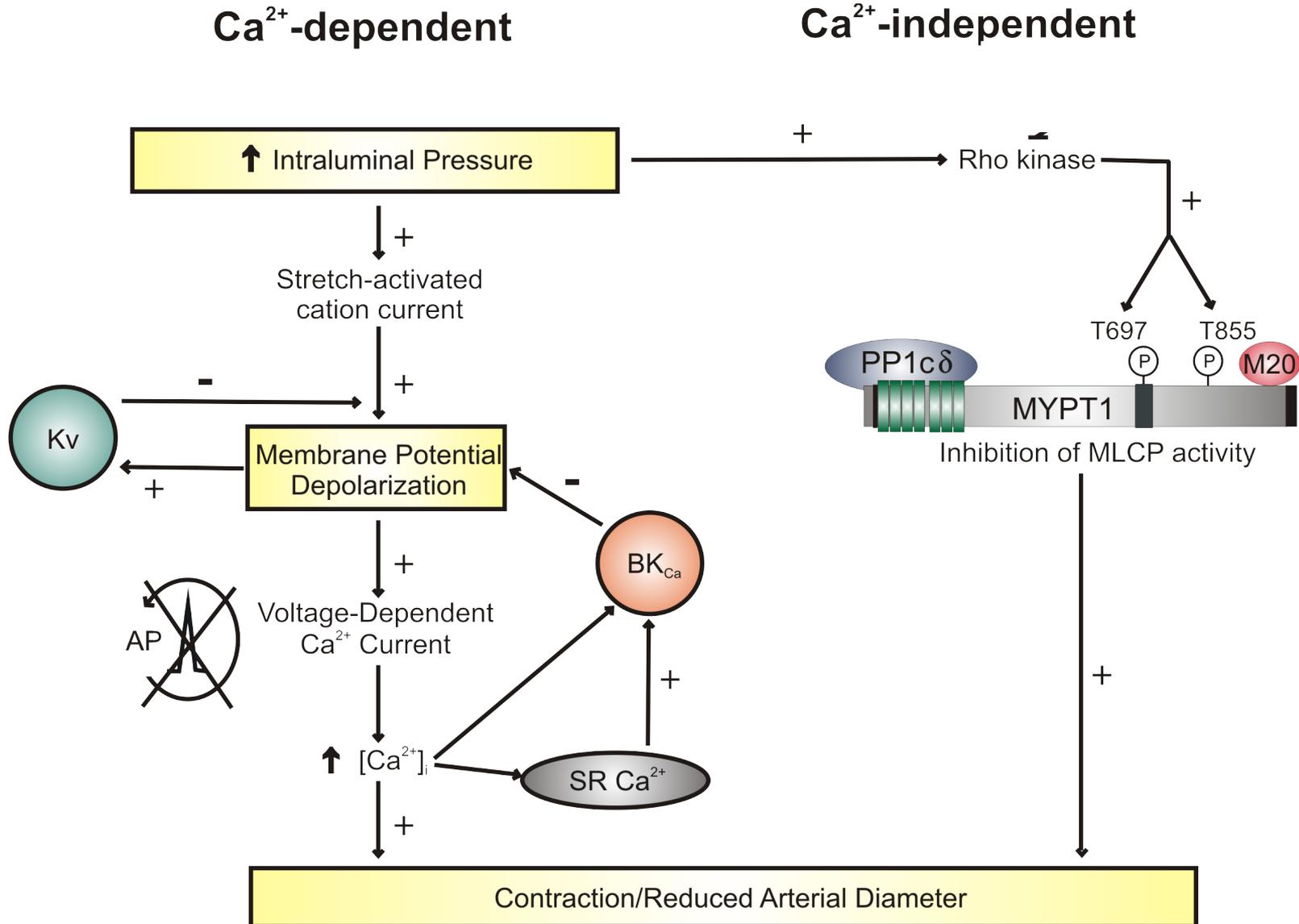
FD = forced dilation

ROK-dependent Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensitization

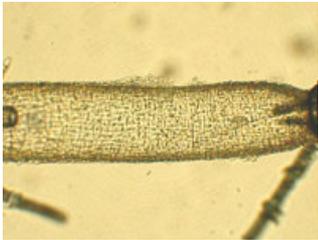
# ROK-dependent $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ sensitization in VSM



# ROK-dependent $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ sensitization and the myogenic response

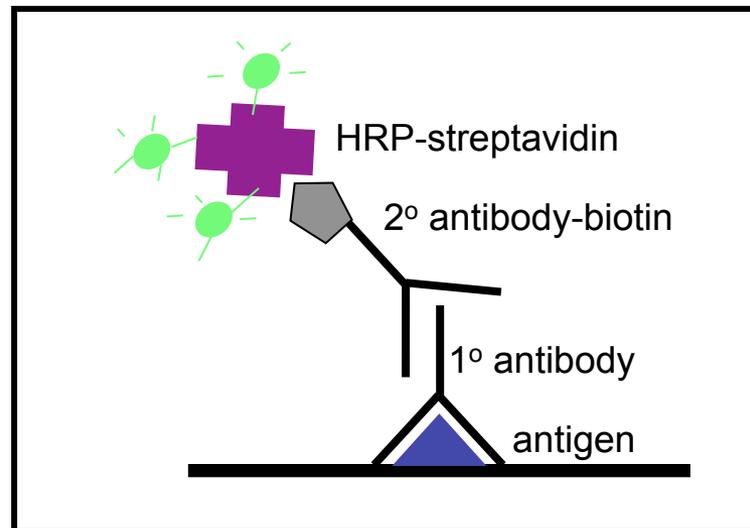
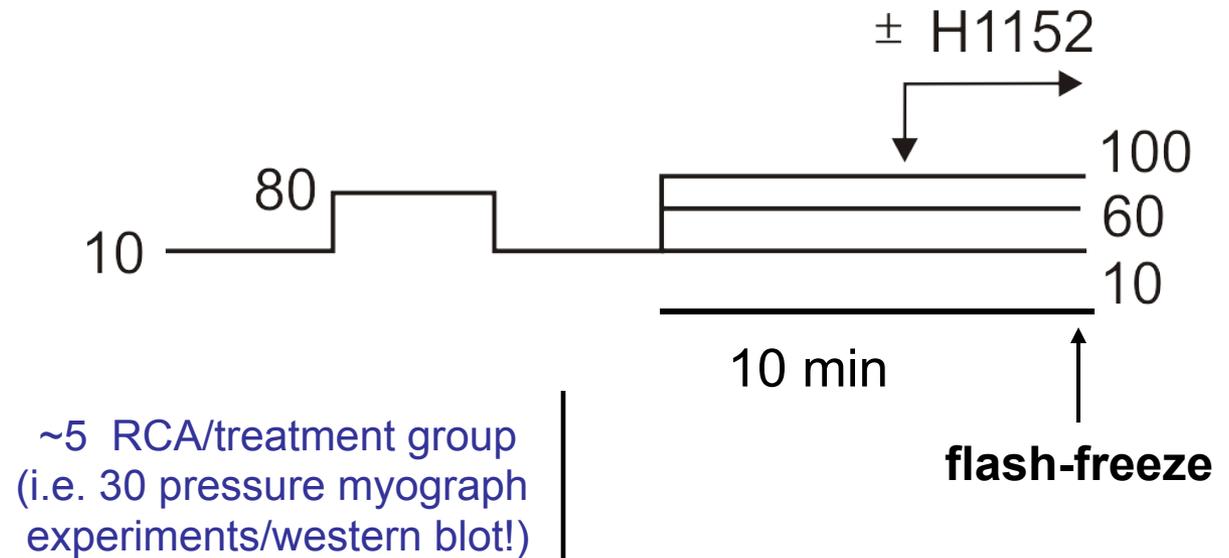


# Tissue preparation for analysis of pMYPT1/LC<sub>20</sub> in pressurized RCA



Rat cerebral artery  
(Pressure arteriography)

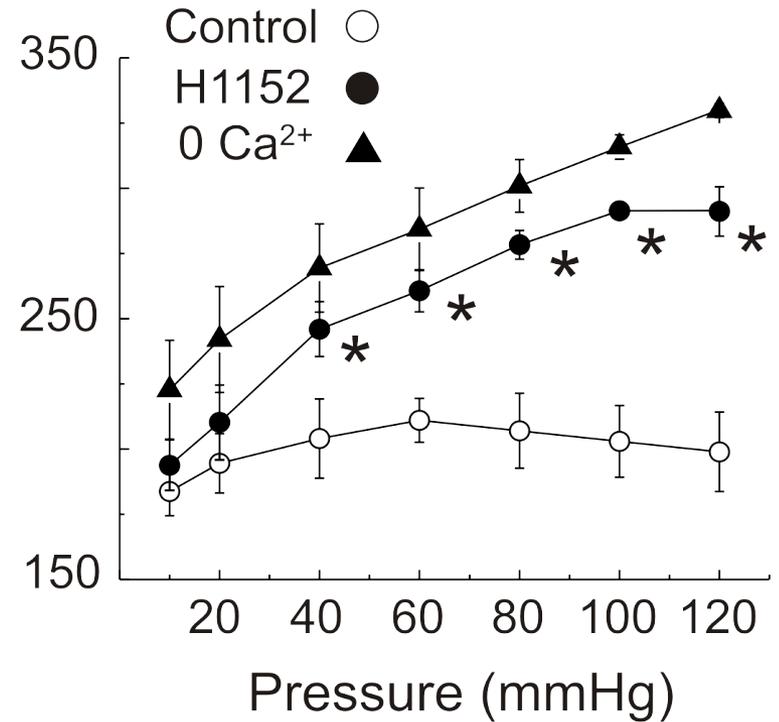
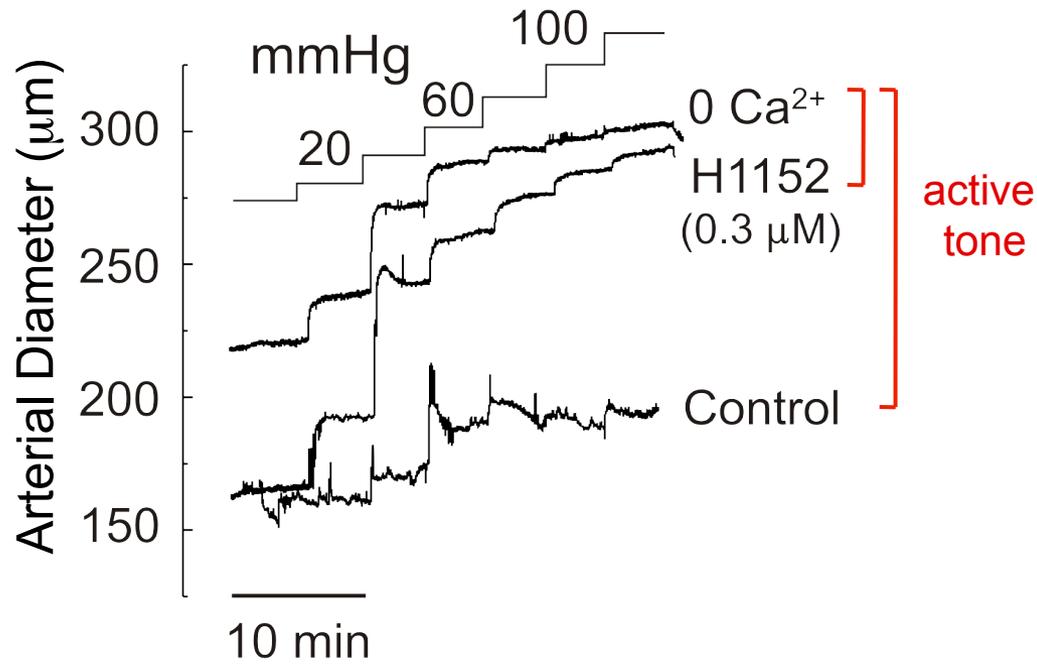
0.5 - 1.0 mm long  
0.1 - 0.2 mm in diameter  
2-5 smooth muscle cells thick



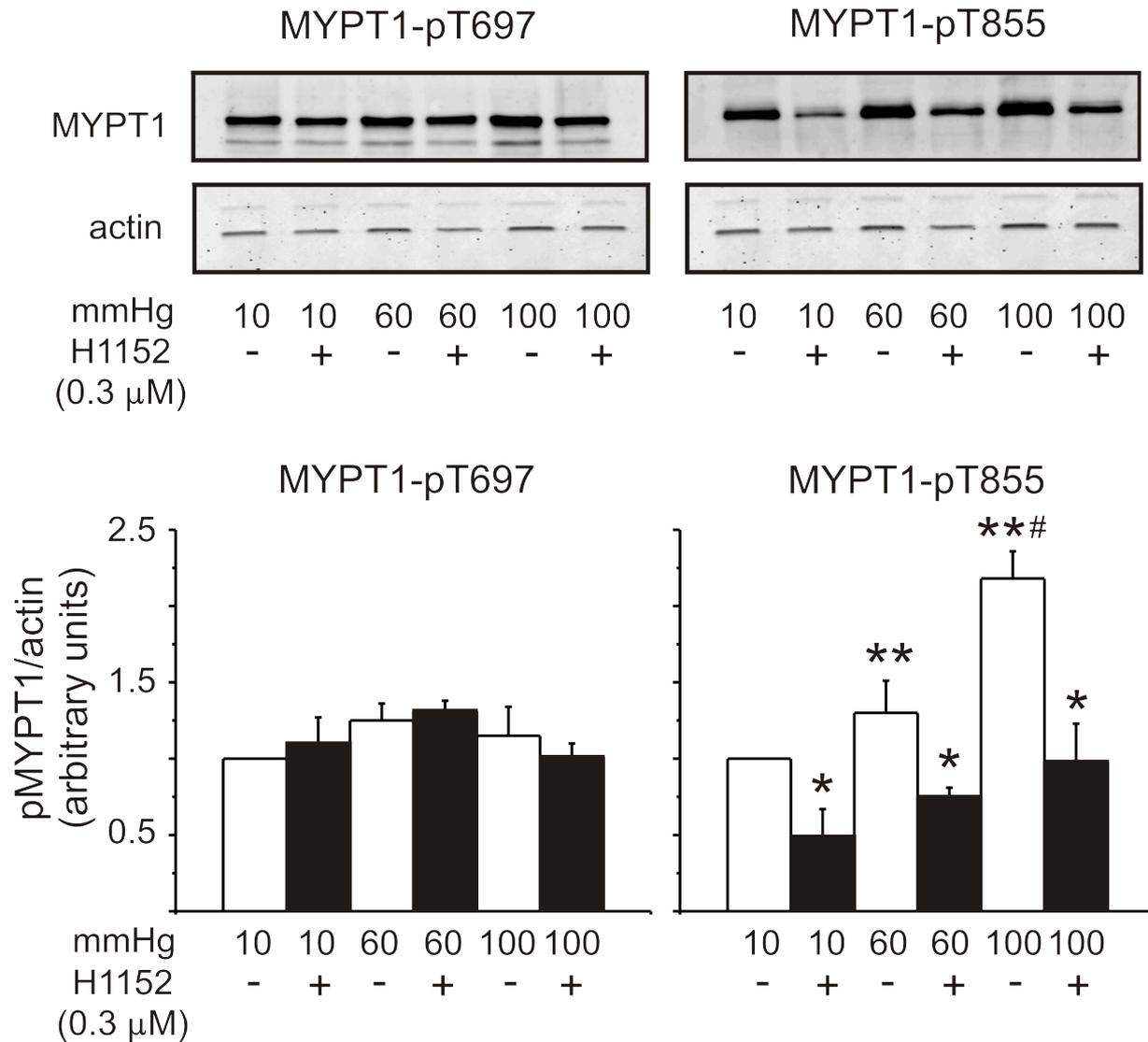
**Western blot**  
anti-MYPT1-pT697  
anti-MYPT1-pT855  
anti-LC<sub>20</sub>

**~ 10-fold increase  
in detection  
sensitivity**

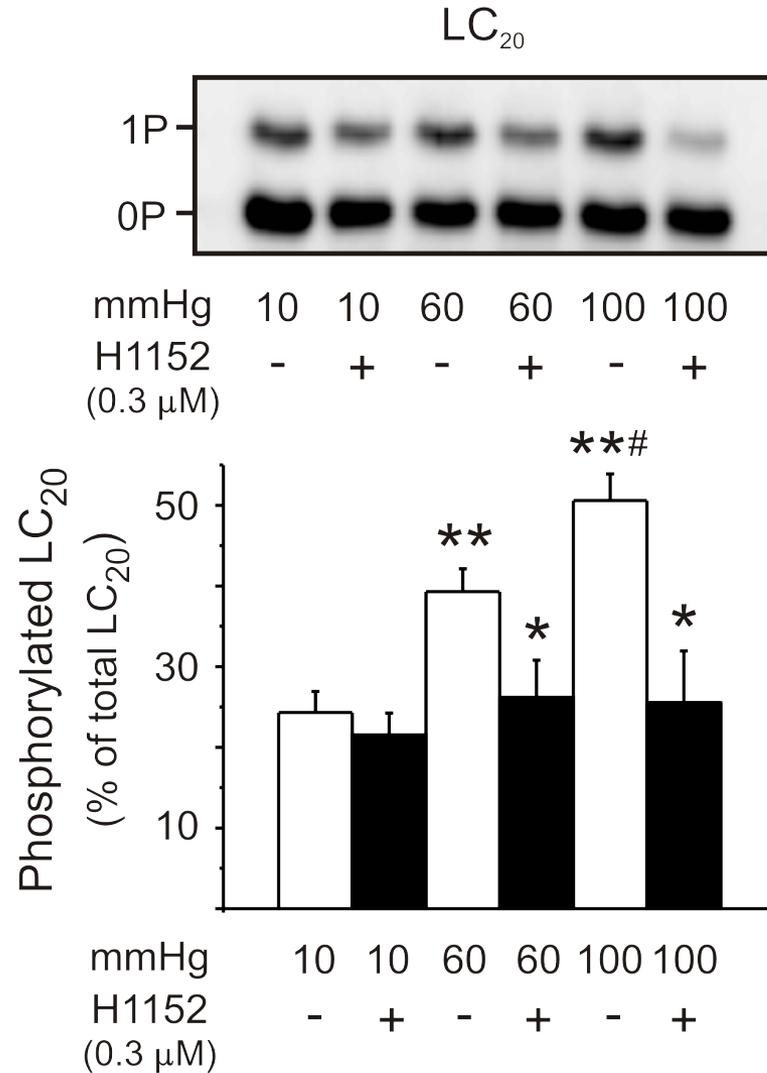
# ROK inhibition impairs myogenic responsiveness



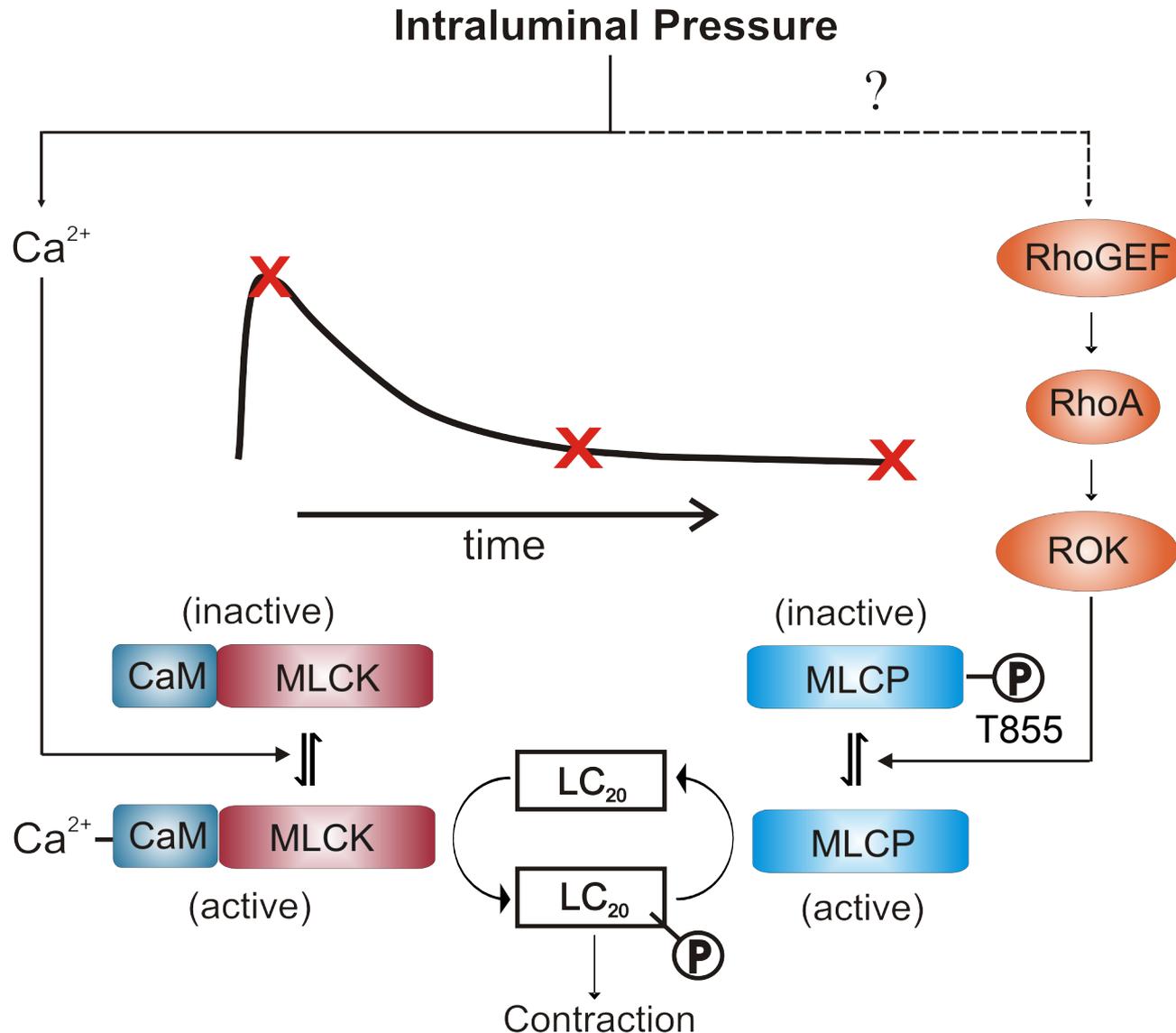
# Elevation of intraluminal pressure evokes ROK-dependent MYPT1 phosphorylation at T855, but not T697

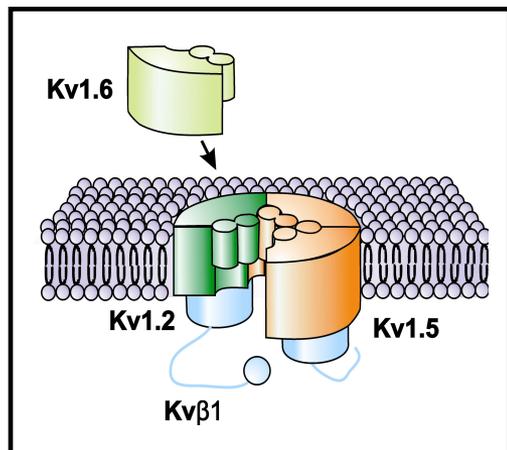


# Elevation of intraluminal pressure evokes ROK-dependent LC<sub>20</sub> phosphorylation

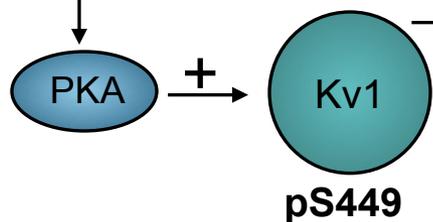


# ROK-dependent $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ sensitization contribute to myogenic control of arterial diameter





Vasodilators



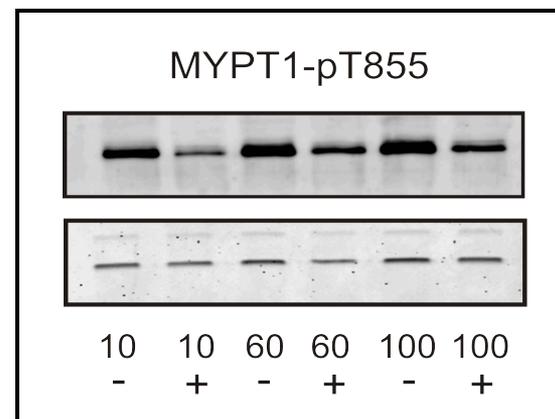
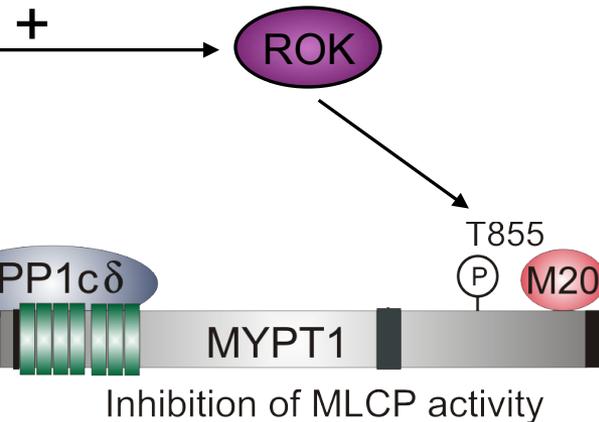
↑ Intraluminal Pressure

Stretch-activated cation current

Membrane Potential Depolarization

Voltage-dependent Ca<sup>2+</sup> current

Contraction/↑ pLC<sub>20</sub>



8Br-cAMP



Auto-radiogram

IB: anti-myc

