

# Structure, Function and Regulation of Na<sup>+</sup>,K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase.

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The Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase or Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-pump utilizes the free energy of hydrolysis of ATP to actively transport Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> ions across mammalian cell membranes. This function underlies essentially all of mammalian cell physiology. For example, in the kidney the Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-pump controls body Na and K balance, extracellular volume and blood pressure. The Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase is the receptor of digitalis steroids used to treat heart failure.

Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase is one of a family of cation pumps, the P-type ATPases, which includes also sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase, gastric cell membrane H<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase, plasma membrane Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase, plant cell membrane H<sup>+</sup>-ATPase, heavy metal-dependent ATPases etc., with selectivity for the other cations. Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase and H<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase consist of a catalytic  $\alpha$  subunit with ten trans-membrane segments, and a single trans-membrane glycosylated  $\beta$  subunit, required for stabilization. There are four isoforms of  $\alpha$  (1-4) and three isoforms of  $\beta$  (1-3) subunits.  $\alpha 1\beta 1$  is the "housekeeping" isoform.

The field was transformed recently by the publication of molecular structures of sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase (SERCA1). Thus, we now have a general idea of the cation pump mechanism (reviewed in ([Jorgensen et al., 2003](#))). Since, however, the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase structures are incapable of explaining their unique mechanistic, regulatory or pharmacological features, we urgently need molecular structure of Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase and the other cation pumps.

### Purification of Na,K-ATPase expressed in *Pichia Pastoris*

We have expressed the porcine  $\alpha 1/\text{His}_{10}\beta 1$  subunits in *Pichia pastoris* ([Strugatsky et al., 2003](#)), a methanotrophic yeast which grows to high cell densities and provides a ready source of recombinant  $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+$ -ATPase. A recent publication describes 70-80% purification of the n-dodecyl- $\beta$ -maltoside (DDM) solubilized porcine  $\alpha 1\text{-His}_{10}\beta 1$  complex, by  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ -NTA chromatography combined with HPLC ([Cohen et al., 2005](#)). The work demonstrated an essential role of phospholipid, including evidence for a direct interaction of dioleoyl phosphatidylserine with  $\text{Na}^+,\text{K}^+$ -ATPase. More recently we developed a simpler procedure, which provides  $\approx 90\%$  pure protein in a single step. Fig. 1 shows the porcine  $\alpha 1\beta 1$  complex and for comparison native pig kidney  $\text{Na}^+,\text{K}^+$ -ATPase. The  $\beta$  subunits are expressed as two bands, which are much less glycosylated than in renal Na,K-ATPase.

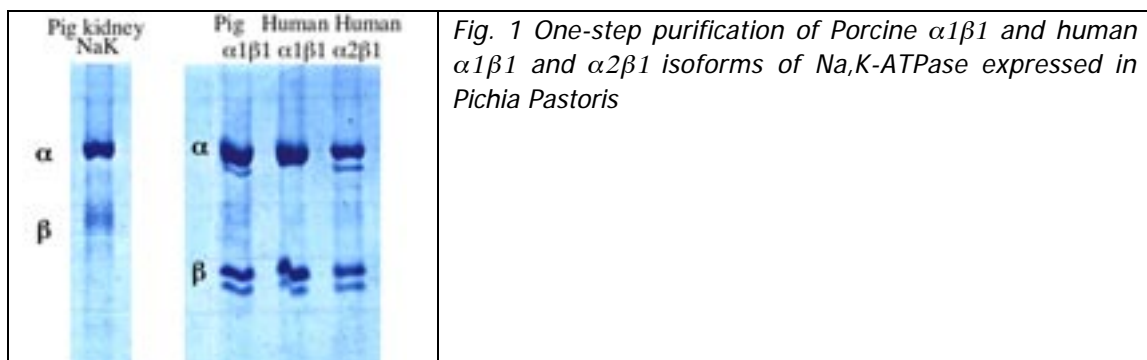


Fig. 1 also shows that human  $\alpha 1\beta 1$  and  $\alpha 2\beta 1$  isoforms can be readily purified from *P.pastoris* cells (Y. Lifshitz and R. Goldshleger). Other isoforms are also being expressed (E.Dinitz)

In a third development FXYP1 (phospholemman), one of the family of FXYP regulatory proteins ([Garty and Karlish, 2006](#)), has been expressed in *Pichia pastoris*, and  $\alpha 1/\beta 1/\text{FXYP1}$  complexes have been purified and characterized (Lifshitz et al., 2006).

The purified  $\text{Na}^+,\text{K}^+$ -ATPase complexes [porcine  $\alpha 1/\beta 1$ , human  $\alpha 1/\beta 1$ ,  $\alpha 2/\beta 1$ , porcine  $\alpha 1/\beta 1$  /hPLM] can be produced essentially pure, functional and stable in quantities of c.1 mg. Crystallization trials (E. Cohen and H. Haviv). are being initiated, together with Joel Sussman (Structural Biology).

### Structure-function relations.

Although molecular structure is necessary it is rarely sufficient to fully understand complex biological machines. Lower resolution techniques are also required. We have developed specific  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ -catalysed oxidative cleavage of  $\text{Na}^+,\text{K}^+$ -ATPase and related P-type pumps mediated by specifically bound  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  or  $\text{ATP-Fe}^{2+}$  (reviewed in [Karlish, 2003](#)). This technique provides important

information on proximity of cleavages sites and changes in different conformational states. The most recent application to the recombinant Na<sup>+</sup>,K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase suggests that ATP is bound with two Mg<sup>2+</sup> (Fe<sup>2+</sup>) ions ([Strugatsky et al., 2005](#)). This novel feature was not seen in the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase structure bound with ADPCP-Mg<sup>2+</sup>. Fluorescence techniques are being developed to detect conformational changes of recombinant Na<sup>+</sup>,K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase (T. Belogus).

### **Regulation of Na<sup>+</sup>,K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase by FXYD proteins (collaboration with Haim Garty)**

FXYD proteins are a group of seven short single span transmembrane proteins termed after the invariant motif FXYD in their extracellular domain. FXYD proteins act as tissue-specific regulatory subunits, which adjust the kinetics properties of the Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-pump to the needs of the particular cell type or physiological state (reviewed in [Garty and Karlish, 2006](#)).

Our work has focused mainly on the  $\gamma$  subunit of Na<sup>+</sup>,K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase (FXYD2), and Corticosteroid Hormone Induced Factor (CHIF or FXYD4), which are expressed in the basolateral membrane of different kidney cells, or colon (CHIF), and are involved in the regulation of the Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> homeostasis. More recently we turned our attention to FXYD1 (phospholemman, PLM), which regulates the Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>-pump in cardiac and skeletal muscle. PLM has PKA and PKC phosphorylation sites and responds to  $\beta$ -adrenergic and other hormonal signals.

We have characterized functional effects of FXYD proteins expressed in mammalian cells, *Xenopus* oocytes ([Garty et al., 2002](#); [Lindzen et al., 2003](#); [Lubarski et al., 2005](#)), and *Pichia Pastoris* (Lifshitz et al., 2006). These studies demonstrated different effects of each FXYD protein, which serve the cellular needs in the specific nephron segments. Thus, whereas FXYD2 reduces the apparent affinity for cell Na<sup>+</sup>, FXYD4 increases it by up to 3-fold. In *P.pastoris* PLM appears to raise apparent affinity for cell Na<sup>+</sup>. In other cell types (*Xenopus* oocytes and *HeLa* cells) PLM has an opposite effect. The difference may be caused by different phosphorylation states of the PLM.

Structural interactions between FXYD proteins and the Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase have been studied by chemical cross-linking and mutagenesis ([Füzesi et al., 2005](#); [Lindzen et al., 2003](#); [Lindzen et al., 2006](#)). Based on these studies we have proposed a molecular model, which places the trans-membrane segment of all FXYD proteins in a groove between trans-membrane segments M2, M6 and M9 and the C-terminal domain of  $\gamma$  in contact with cytoplasmic stalk (S5) and loops (L6/7, L8/9) of the  $\alpha$  subunit (Fig. 2). The model makes a number of predictions, which are being tested experimentally.

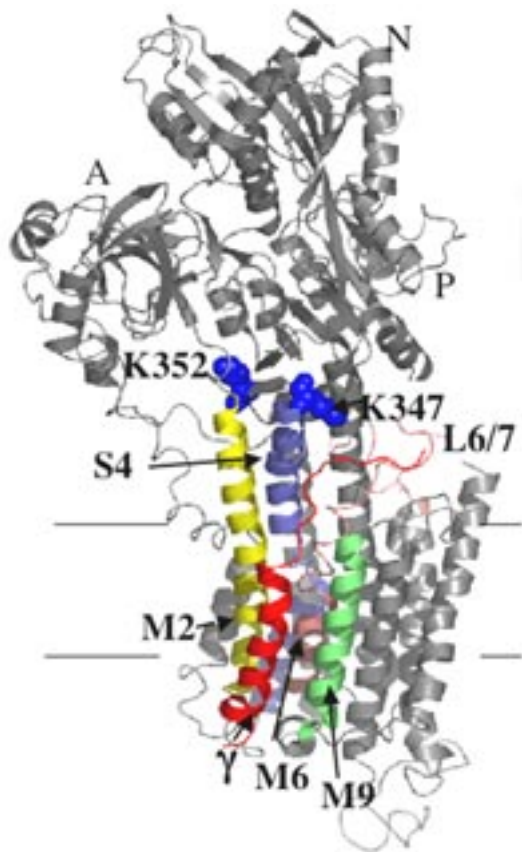


Fig. 2 Homology model of pig  $\alpha 1$  subunit with model for docking of FXYD2 ( $\gamma$ ) in the groove between M2, M6 and M9 trans-membrane segments and with cytoplasmic stalk and loops (Fuzesi et al., 2005).

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#### Keywords

Na<sup>+</sup>,K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase, Karlish, S. J. D  
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