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(54) **CONTROL OF FUNCTION OF
INTRACELLULAR CA ION**

(75) Inventors: **Katsuhiko Mikoshiha**, Tokyo (JP);
Junji Hirota, Osaka (JP); **Hideaki
Ando**, Tokyo (JP)

(73) Assignee: **Japan Science and Technology Agency**,
Saitama (JP)

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18, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,276,582, which is a continu-
ation of application No. PCT/JP03/14004, filed on
Oct. 31, 2003.

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A61K 38/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **514/2; 530/388.22; 530/350**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** None
See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner—Anand U Desai

Assistant Examiner—Samuel Liu

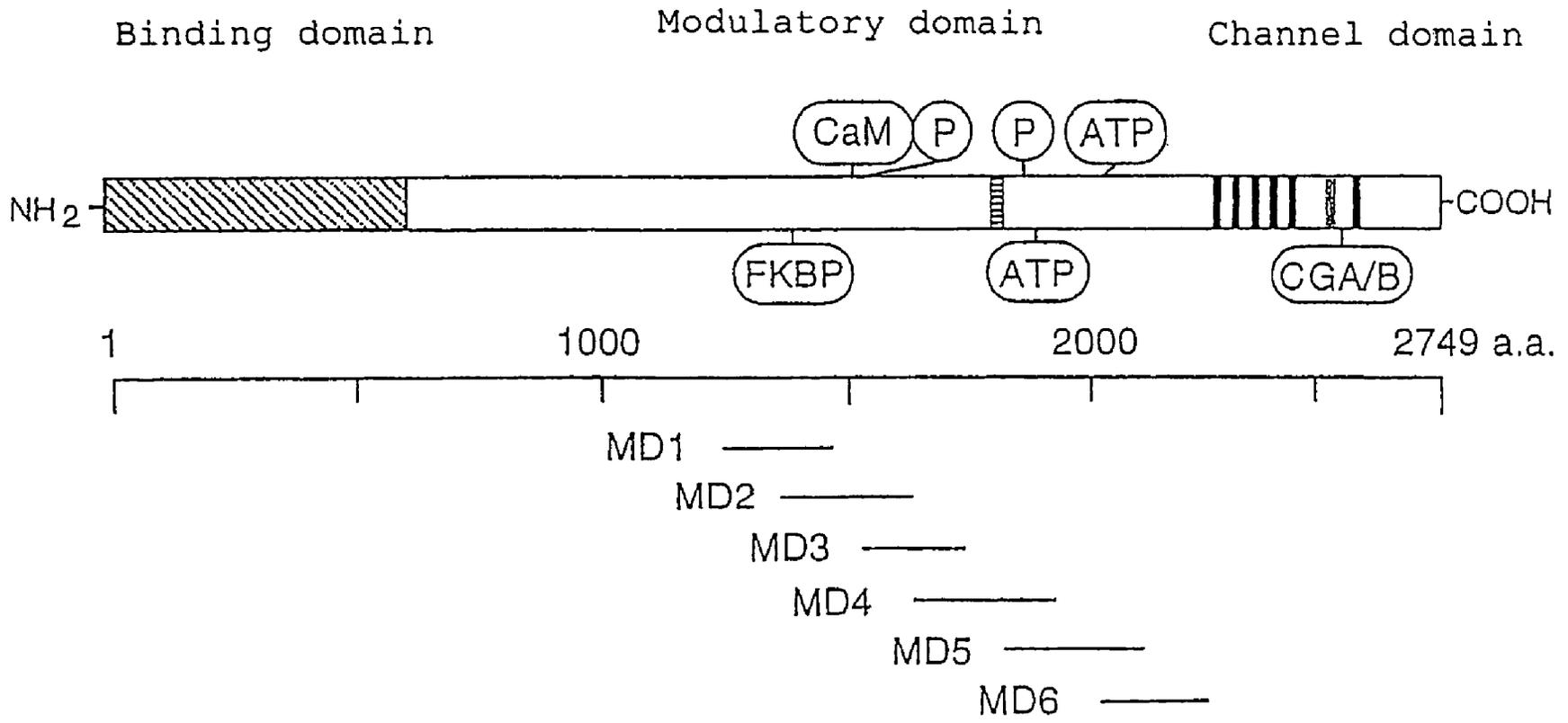
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Peter F. Corless; Christine C.
O'Day; Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Analysis of substance capable of binding with inositol-1,4,5-
triphosphate (IP₃) receptor (IP₃R), preferably with a regula-
tion domain of IP₃R; analysis of the function of IP₃R; and
establishing of a method of treatment or diagnosis for various
malfunctions and diseases associated with IP₃R. In particular,
control of the activity of intracellular Ca²⁺ release. More
specifically, a regulator for the activity of inositol-1,4,5-triph-
osphate (IP₃) receptor (IP₃R), comprised of carbonic anhy-
drase related protein (CARP); a control agent for intracellular
calcium release, comprised of carbonic anhydrase related
protein (CARP); and a method of control therewith.

4 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

Fig. 1



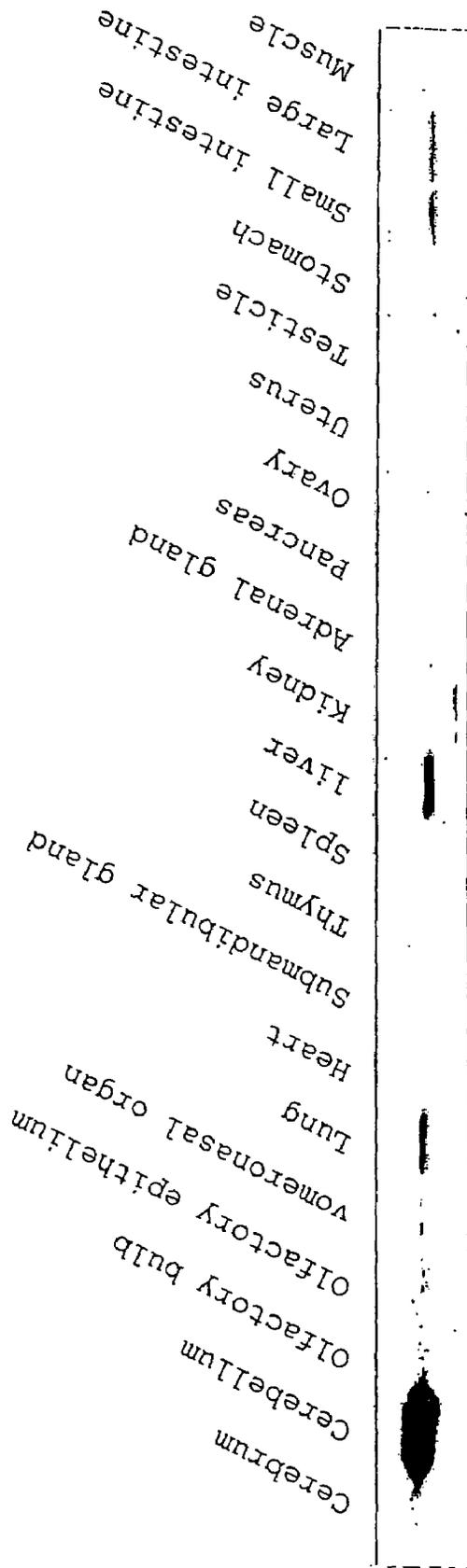


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

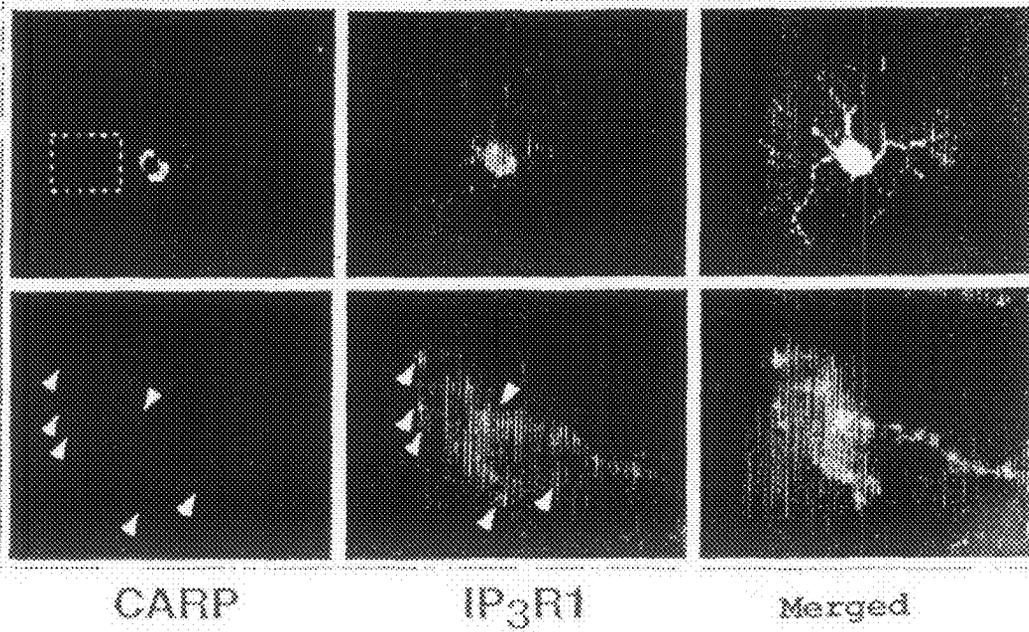


Fig. 4

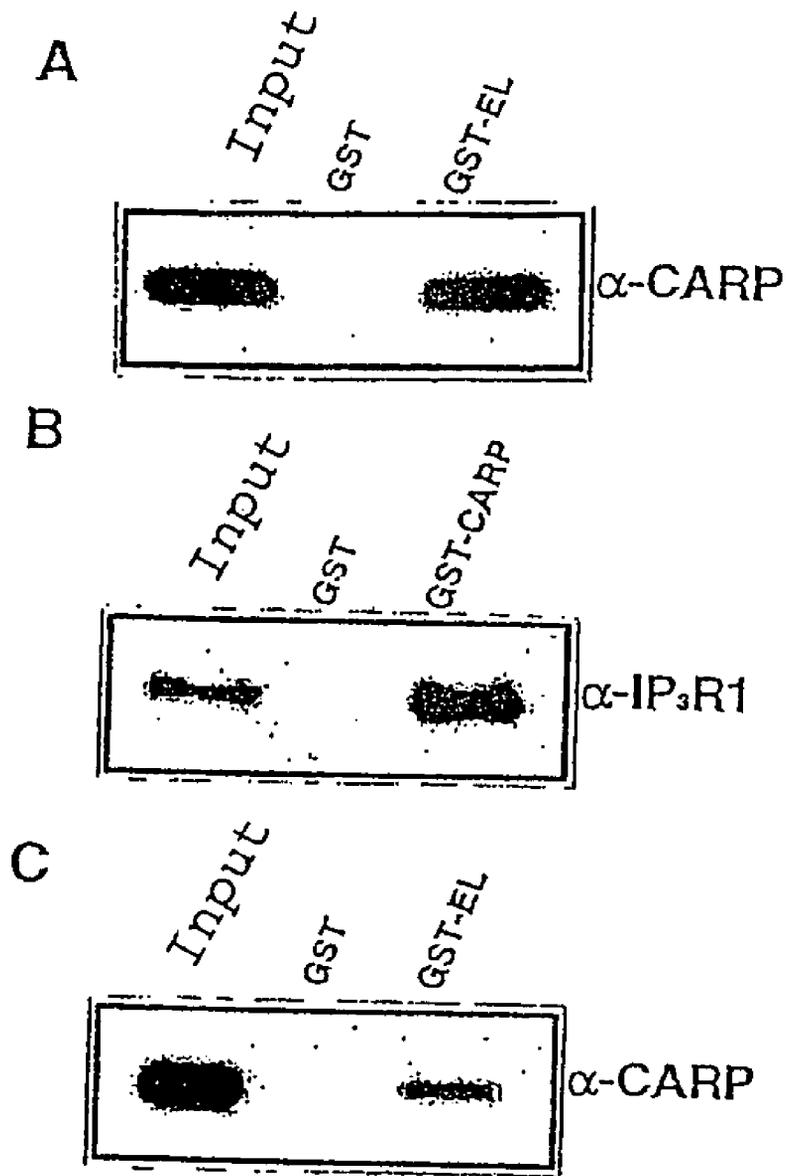


Fig. 5

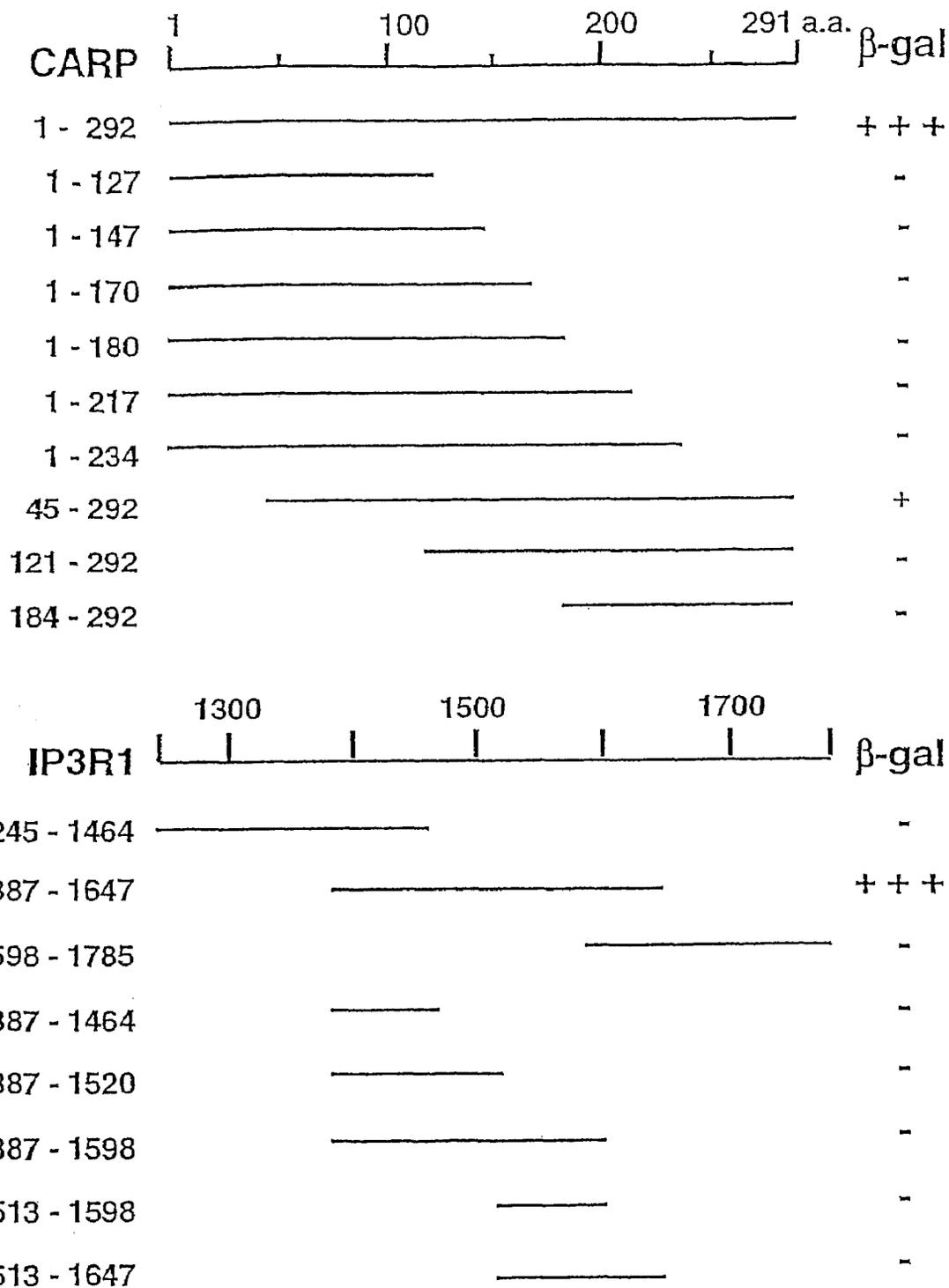
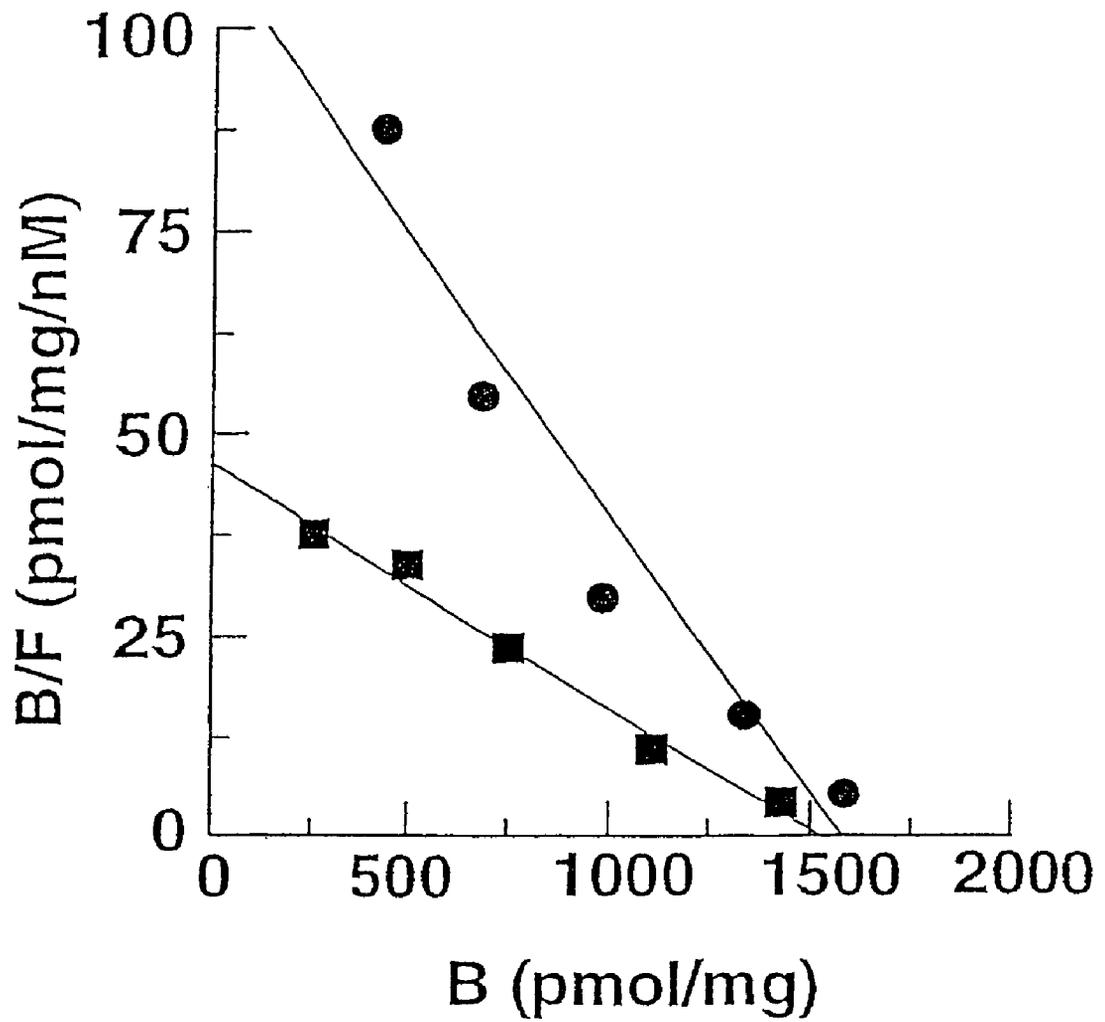


Fig. 6



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CONTROL OF FUNCTION OF INTRACELLULAR CA ION

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to control of the function of intracellular Ca^{2+} release. More particularly, the present invention relates to a regulator for the activity of inositol-1, 4,5-triphosphate (IP_3) receptor (IP_3R) comprising carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP), a control agent for intracellular calcium release comprising carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP), and a method of control therewith.

BACKGROUND ART

Lipids have been shown to have important roles in an intracellular signal transmission system. In particular, researches on signal transmission by phosphates of phosphatidylinositol are actively conducted.

Phosphatidylinositol (PI) is a substance that inositol is bound as a phosphate ester to a remaining hydroxyl group of diacylglycerol. Phosphatidylinositol (PI) is one kind of phospholipids that is found on membranes of cells, however it occupies less than 10% of the total phospholipids. Phosphatidylinositol (PI) plays two major roles. First, it remains on the membrane and serves as a scaffold for a variety of phosphorylation reactions for a phosphorylated enzyme and the like. Second, it serves to release phosphorylated inositol as a second messenger upon hydrolysis of the phosphorylated inositol moiety.

Hydroxyl groups in the inositol moiety of PI may further be phosphorylated, and inositol phospholipids in which 3-position, 4-position or 5-position or two or more of these positions is/are phosphorylated are also known. In particular, phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate ($PI(4,5)P_2$) in which 4-position and 5-position are phosphorylated not only forms an intermediate of phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-triphosphate ($PI(3,4,5)P_3$) that plays a role in vesicular transport and signal transmission to a nucleus, but also plays an important role by itself.

$PI(4,5)P_2$ is able to bind to a variety of actin binding proteins, and serves to keep and change the shape of a cell by allowing rearrangement of actin in the cell. Another important role of the $PI(4,5)P_2$ is that it is hydrolyzed by phospholipase C (PLC) into inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate (IP_3) and diacylglycerol (DAG) which are then released as second messengers. The released inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate (IP_3) binds to an IP_3 receptor (IP_3R) residing on the surface of an endoplasmic reticulum of a cell and release Ca^{2+} stored in endoplasmic reticula into the cytoplasm, thereby activating a variety of Ca^{2+} dependent enzymes. DAG also activates C kinase.

Upon binding of substances such as hormones, cytokines and neurotransmitters on receptors of a cell, production of inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate (IP_3) is induced in the cell, and the IP_3 binds to inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate (IP_3) receptor (IP_3R) residing on the surface of endoplasmic reticula of the cell. The IP_3R converts IP_3 signaling into Ca^{2+} signaling, and thus plays crucial roles in a wide range of cellular functions such as embryonic development, differentiation of cells, proliferation, phagocytosis, granule secretion, motion and actions in nerve system, and it is especially important for the IP_3R to normally function in cells in order to keep the homeostasis of cells. Thus, IP_3R is not only an important protein involved in signal transmission of cells, but also an important protein capable of regulating a variety of functions of cells. There-

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fore, modulation of the function of IP_3R makes it possible to adjust a variety of actions in cells.

As the significance of IP_3 or IP_3R in a cell becomes clear, researches on these proteins are conducted more actively. As such, a patent application relating to a monoclonal antibody against IP_3R (See prior art document 1, Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 8-134099), a patent application relating to a method of competition for IP_3 (See prior art document 2, Japanese Translation of PCT International Application No. 8-502068) and a patent application relating to polypeptides that bind to IP_3R with high affinity (see prior art document 3, Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 2000-135095) have been filed.

So far, molecular cloning studies have revealed that the IP_3R family in mammalian consists of at least three subtypes. (see prior art documents 4 to 6, Furuichi, T., Yoshikawa, S., et al., (1989), *Nature*, 342, 32-38; Blondel, O., Takeda, J., et al., (1993), *J. Biol. Chem.*, 268, 11356-11363; Yamamoto-Hino, M., Sugiyama, T., et al., (1994), *Receptors Channels*, 2, 9-22). Structural and functional studies have shown that IP_3Rs are composed of three domains: ligand binding, modulatory, and channel (see prior art document 7, Furuichi, T., Kohda, K., et al., (1994), *Curr. Opin. Neurobiol.*, 4, 294-303).

The binding domain which is N-terminal stretch of approximate 600 amino acids in IP_3R is responsible for binding of IP_3 . Mutational analysis showed three amino acid residues in this region, for example, Arg-265, Lys-508 and Arg-511 in mouse IP_3R type 1 are critical for IP_3 binding, and Arg-658 is determinant for binding specificity to various inositol phosphates.

The channel domain has six membrane spanning segments, which are clustered near the C-terminus of IP_3R and correspond to Ca^{2+} channel. With respect of first to fourth membrane spanning domains, high homology is maintained in the IP_3R family.

The modulatory domain resides between the N-terminal binding domain and the C-terminal channel domain, and the modulatory domain contains binding sites for various modulators such as Ca^{2+} , Ca^{2+} -calmodulin, FK506 binding protein 12K, ATP, and sites for phosphorylation by cAMP-dependent protein kinase, cGMP-dependent protein kinase and protein kinase C. This modulatory domain may transduce IP_3 -binding to channel opening. IP_3 -induced Ca^{2+} release maybe regulated by various modifications in the modulatory domain. Interestingly, homology of this region among the IP_3R family is low in comparison with other regions and results in different modifications between subtypes, which suggests that each type of IP_3R/Ca^{2+} channel function may be differently modulated to produce unique channel properties.

Since the function of IP_3R is finely adjusted by substances that bind to the modulatory domain of IP_3R , elucidation of substances that bind to the modulatory domain of IP_3R leads to elucidation of the function of IP_3R , which will be very useful for therapy and diagnosis of a variety of diseases that are caused by the same.

Carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP) is a protein identified by screening genes specific for a Purkinje cell (a large nerve cell of cerebellar cortex, having dendrites arranged on the surface crossing a piriform cell body and flocculus) (see prior art document 8, Karo, K., (1990), *FEBS Lett.*, 271, 137-40). CARP comprises 291 amino acids, and has an acidic amino acids cluster of 16 glutamic acid (Glu) residues and 4 aspartic acid (Asp) residues within the N-terminal 50 amino acids. CARP has a main carbonic anhydrase motif, but lacks carbonic anhydrase activity due to the absence of catalytic zinc coordinating residues. Indeed, it has been reported that CARP has no carbonic anhydrase activity.

Also the human CARP gene has been cloned (see prior art document 9, Skaggs, L. A., Bergenhem, N. C., et al., (1993), Gene, 126, 291-221), and shown to have 98% homology in amino acid residues to that of mouse, suggesting that CARP is highly conserved in the course of evolution. However, at the present stage, neither elucidation of function of CARP nor comprehensive elucidation about tissue distribution has been achieved, although it has been found that CARP is highly expressed in a Purkinje cell of cerebellum.

Prior art documents in relation to the invention of the present application are as follows.

1. Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 8-134099
2. Japanese Translation of PCT International Application No. 8-502068
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10. Bultynck G, De Smet P, et al., (2001), Biochem J., 354, 413-22

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to elucidate substances that bind to inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate (IP₃) receptor (IP₃R), preferably to a modulatory domain of IP₃R, to elucidate the function of IP₃R, as well as to establish a therapeutic method and a diagnosis method for various disorders and diseases in which IP₃R is involved. The present invention is also directed to a composition for regulating function of a cell by binding to IP₃R and regulating the function of IP₃R, and to a regulation method using the same.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 schematically shows locations of substances binding to three domains and modulatory domain and the like of IP₃P1, together with six bait constructs used in the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a photograph substituted for drawing showing a result of Western blotting conducted for evaluation of tissue distribution of carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP). The soluble fraction (10 µg/lane) was subjected to 5% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis in the presence of sodium dodecyl sulfate, transferred to nitrocellulose and detected with 2 µg/ml of anti-CARP polyclonal antibody.

FIG. 3 are photographs substituted for drawings respectively showing a cultured Purkinje cell immunostained with anti-CARP antibody (left view in FIG. 3), a cultured Purkinje cell immunostained with anti IP₃R1 antibody (middle view in FIG. 3) and a view obtainable by merging these (right view in FIG. 3). The arrows represent exemplary locations of CARP and IP₃R1.

FIG. 4A is a photograph substituted for drawing showing a result of Western blotting analysis with anti-CARP antibody for a glutathione eluate from a pull-down assay through glutathione-Sepharose conducted for proteins bound as a result of incubation of cytosolic fraction of mouse cerebellum in the presence of GST-EL or GST; FIG. 4B is a photograph sub-

stituted for drawing showing a result of immunoblot analysis with anti-IP₃R1 antibody KM1112 conducted for proteins that are bound in a pull-down assay using GST-CARP or GST carried out in the manner as described in FIG. 4A for a detergent extract of mouse cerebellum microsome; and FIG. 4C is a photograph substituted for drawing showing a result of immunoblot analysis with anti-CARP antibody conducted for proteins that are bound in a pull-down assay using GST-CARP or GST for purified CARP-His.

FIG. 5 shows structures of mutants in which different lengths of parts on N-terminal and C-terminal sides in CARP and IP₃R1 are deleted, and interactions between CARP mutants and MD2, CARP and IP₃R1 mutants, analyzed by β-gal assay based on the yeast two-hybrid system (n=3). β-gal assay is evaluated by the time of blue colony appearance, i.e., blue colony appears within 30 min (+++), 2 h (++) and 8 hr (+).

FIG. 6 shows an inhibiting effect of CARP on binding of IP₃ to IP₃R1, indicated by a Scatchard plot. The closed square (■) shows the case where CARP is present, and the closed circle (●) shows the case where CARP is absent. The mean (Kd±S.D.) from three separate experiments conducted in the presence or in the absence of CARP were, 33.5±2.07 nM and 18.2±4.58 nM, respectively.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate (IP₃) receptor (IP₃R) is a Ca²⁺ releasing path that is induced by intracellular IP₃, and IP₃R finely controls intracellular release of Ca²⁺ by binding with a variety of substances. The inventors of the present application analyzed the substances that bind to IP₃R and control release of calcium by IP₃, and identified a novel protein capable of binding to IP₃R. The inventors also found that this protein is a protein known as a carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP).

The inventors of the present application demonstrated that CARP is expressed in only a Purkinje cell of cerebellum that abundantly expresses IP₃R, and examined and analyzed the effect of CARP on IP₃R.

Accordingly, the purpose of the present invention is to control a mechanism of intracellular release of calcium, as well as to control signal transmission in which intracellular calcium is involved. Another purpose of the present invention is to control intracellular calcium release by carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP), to regulate or diagnose the activity of IP₃R.

The present invention relates to a regulator for the activity of inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate (IP₃) receptor (IP₃R) comprising carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP).

Also the present invention relates to a control agent for intracellular calcium release comprising a carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP), and a method of control therewith.

IP₃R is related with a variety of regulating factors such as Ca²⁺, Ca²⁺-calmodulin, FK506 binding protein 12K, ATP and kinase. Many of these factors are considered to regulate the function of IP₃R by binding to the center part of IP₃R or by phosphorylation.

In order to screen for novel regulators of IP₃R, the inventors of the present application screened a mouse cerebral cDNA library by the yeast two-hybrid system using a modulatory domain of IP₃R1 as a bait.

FIG. 1 schematically shows a ligand binding domain, a modulatory domain and a channel domain of mouse IP₃R Type 1 (mIP₃R1). The number shown in the middle stage of

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FIG. 1 is the number of amino acid. In the modulatory domain of FIG. 1, FK506 binding protein (FKBP) (amino acid number:1400-1401), Ca²⁺-calmodulin (CaM) (amino acid number:1564-1585), putative ATP binding sites (ATP) (amino acid number:1773-1778, 1775-1780 and 2016-2021), and for serine residue (amino acid: 1588, 1755) for phosphorylation are shown. A binding site for chromogranin A and B (CGA/B) is shown in the channel domain (between the fifth and the sixth transmembrane sites). The inventors of the present application used a part of this modulatory domain as a bait. FIG. 1 also shows positions MD1 to MD6 that correspond to the six baits used in the present invention.

The amino acids 1245-2264 of mIP₃R1 was separated into overlapping six constructs and cDNA constructs corresponding to these constructs were used as baits. Amino acid residues 1245-2264 of the IP₃R1 modulatory domain was mapped and 6 bait constructs (MD1 to MD6) were prepared by PCR method using the respective primer sets overlapping with the map and shown below, each comprising a sense strand (S) and an antisense strand (A).

MD1 (mIP₃R1: 1245-1464 amino acids):
 (S): 5'-GGGAATTCGGTGGAGGTTGTGCAGGCAACCAGCAGAATC-3'
 (SEQ ID NO: 3)
 (A): 5'-GGGGGTCGACGTGTGTACAGGCCCTGCAGA-3'
 (SEQ ID NO: 4)
 MD2 (mIP₃R1: 1387-1647 amino acids)
 (S): 5'-GGGAATTCGGTGGAGGCAAGAATGTGTACACGGAGA-3'
 (SEQ ID NO: 5)
 (A): 5'-GGGGGTCGACCTCACATTTCTCTCTGGCATC-3'
 (SEQ ID NO: 6)
 MD3 (mIP₃R1: 1593-1785 amino acids)
 (S): 5'-GGGAATTCGGAGGAGGATCCAGAGACTACCGAAATATCAT-3'
 (SEQ ID NO: 7)
 (A): 5'-GGGGGTCGACGCTTGTGGAACTAGATCCAGGACC-3'
 (SEQ ID NO: 8)
 MD4 (mIP₃R1: 1685-1943 amino acids)
 (S): 5'-GGGAATTCGGTGGAGGAGACAGAGGCTATGGAGAGAAG-3'
 (SEQ ID NO: 9)
 (A): 5'-GGGGGTCGACTCCCAGACTGGTAATGGTCA-3'
 (SEQ ID NO: 10)
 MD5 (mIP₃R1: 1865-2160 amino acids)
 (S): 5'-GGGAATTCGGTGGAGGAGTGGCCAGCAGGAAATCAA-3'
 (SEQ ID NO: 11)
 (A): 5'-GGGGGTCGACGCTGAGCGAGGATGTAGATG-3'
 (SEQ ID NO: 12)
 MD6 (mIP₃R1: 2015-2264 amino acids)
 (S): 5'-GGGGGTCGACCCGAGGAGGCCCTTGGTCTTCTGG-3'
 (SEQ ID NO: 13)
 (A): 5'-GGGGGTCGACAGCAGGCTGGGCTCGAAGT-3'
 (SEQ ID NO: 14)

Each cDNA obtained by the PCR was digested with either EcoRI and SalI or SalI alone, then ligated to pGBT9 (Clontech Laboratories Inc.). All of the plasmid constructs were sequenced to confirm that the cloning of appropriate cDNAs was translationally in-frame and devoid of PCR-induced errors.

Amino acid sequence of amino acids 1387 to 1647 of mIP₃R1 corresponding to MD2 is shown by SEQ ID NO: 1 in the sequence listings.

The primary screening with bait constructs MD1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 yielded several tens of candidate substances that were

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unlikely to be IP₃R1 binding protein, due to translational frame-shifting or the presence of regions known to be untranslated sequence. The inventors, however, obtained 13 positive clones in the screening with MD2 construct. DNA sequencing analysis revealed that all encodes a carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP). These clones contain different lengths of 5' UTR of CARP cDNA followed by a full-length coding region in frame.

An amino acid sequence consisting of 291 amino acids of mouse carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP) is shown in SEQ ID NO:2 of the sequence listings

The constructs MD1 and MD2 contained a putative FKBP12 binding site, however, FKBP was not found from positive clones in the yeast two-hybrid screening. Our observation could support the recent report that FKBP12 does not bind to IP₃R1 (see prior art document 10, Bultynck G, De Smet P. et al., (2001), *Biochem J.*, 354, 413-22). Alternatively, it is probably due to amplitude of the cDNA library or requirements of additional protein(s) for FKBP-binding to IP₃R1. However, in any case, FKBP was not found in this experiment. MD2 constructs have a calmodulin binding site. The inventors, however, did not detect calmodulin-binding in this screening, because calmodulin-binding to IP₃R1 is Ca²⁺-dependent.

Carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP) has been known to be highly expressed in Purkinje cells of cerebellum, but tissue distribution has not been extensively studied so far. The inventors first examined tissue distribution of CARP by Western blot analysis.

The result is shown in a photograph of FIG. 2 which is substituted for drawing. FIG. 2 shows expression of CARP in soluble fraction from various organs. CARP protein was predominantly expressed in cerebellum as reported previously, where IP₃R1 is also expressed abundantly. Low level expression was observed in cerebrum, olfactory bulb, olfactory epithelium, vomeronasal organ, lung, submandibular gland, liver, adrenal gland, stomach, small intestine and large intestine. No signal was observed in heart, thymus, spleen, pancreas, ovary, uterus, testicle and muscle.

Immunohistochemical analysis of cerebellum revealed that CARP is expressed predominantly in cytoplasm of cerebellar Purkinje cells as well as IP₃R1. IP₃R1 in Purkinje cells is abundantly expressed and widespread, but not homogeneous especially in dendrites due to formation of cluster. If CARP binds to IP₃R1, CARP protein distribution would not be homogeneous and could co-localize with IP₃R1, although CARP is a cytosolic soluble protein. To define intracellular localization of CARP and IP₃R1 in Purkinje cells, the inventors prepared primary cultured Purkinje cells for immunohistochemical analysis. FIG. 3 provides photographs substituted for drawings, showing expression of CARP and IP₃R1 in Purkinje cells visualized by a double staining technique. The left photos in FIG. 3 are those immunostained with anti-CARP antibody, the middle pictures are those immunostained with anti-IP₃R1 antibody, and the right pictures are those obtained by merging the left two photos. The upper photos in FIG. 3 are whole images of the cultured Purkinje cells and the lower pictures are enlarged views thereof. The arrows indicate examples of localization of CARP and IP₃R1.

As can be seen from FIG. 3, both of them are expressed in cytoplasm, dendrites and axon. Intracellular localization clarified that CARP and IP₃R1 form cluster to co-localize (see arrows in FIG. 3). Abundant and highly specialized co-expression of CARP and IP₃R1 and co-localization in Purkinje cells could suggest physiological coupling of these proteins through binding.

Next, the inventors of the present application examined the interaction between CARP and IP₃R1 by means of a pull-down method in order to obtain further evidence for the interaction by biochemical methods. The inventors first developed expression system in Sf9 cells, and made IP₃R1 soluble by removing the channel domain. The soluble IP₃R1, designated GST-EL, covers both the ligand binding domain and modulatory domain (amino acids 1-2217 of mIP₃R1) and has GST in its N terminus. Mouse cerebellar cytosolic fraction was incubated with GST-EL or GST, and binding of CARP to the recombinant proteins was analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-CARP antibody. The results are shown in photographs of FIG. 4 which are substituted for drawings. FIG. 4A shows a result of Western blotting analysis with anti-CARP antibody for a glutathione eluate from a pull-down assay through glutathione-Sepharose conducted for proteins bound as a result of incubation of cytosolic fraction of mouse cerebellum in the presence of GST-EL or GST. FIG. 4B shows a result of immunoblotting analysis with anti-IP₃R1 antibody KM1112 conducted for proteins that are bound in a pull-down assay using GST-CARP or GST carried out in the manner as described in FIG. 4A for a detergent extract of mouse cerebellum microsomes. FIG. 4C shows a result of immunoblotting analysis with anti-CARP antibody conducted for proteins that are bound in a pull-down assay using GST-EL or GST for purified CARP-His.

These results demonstrated that CARP specifically binds to GST-EL, but not to GST alone. In the reciprocal experiment, the detergent extract of mouse cerebellar microsomes was processed for pull-down assay with GST-CARP, and binding of IP₃R1 was analyzed with anti-IP₃R1 antibody. As shown in FIG. 4B, IP₃R1 interacted with GST-CARP but not with GST. To determine whether the binding of CARP to IP₃R1 is made directly, pull-down assay was conducted for purified CARP with His tag using GST-EL. As shown in FIG. 4C, CARP-His bound specifically to GST-EL, indicating that the interaction between CARP and IP₃R1 is direct.

Considering all the results above, these findings show that CARP is a novel IP₃R1 binding protein.

To determine the respective interaction domains of CARP and IP₃R1, truncated mutants of both genes were prepared and analyzed using yeast two-hybrid system. FIG. 5 shows structures of mutants in which different lengths of parts on N-terminal and C-terminal sides in CARP (upper chart in FIG. 5) and IP₃R1 (lower chart in FIG. 5) are deleted. Interactions between CARP mutants and MD2, CARP and IP₃R1 mutants were analyzed by β -gal assay by the yeast two-hybrid system. The prepared mutant and results of β -gal assay in the yeast two-hybrid system (n=3) are shown in FIG. 5. β -gal assay was evaluated by the time of blue colony appearance, i.e., blue colony appears within 30 min (+++), 2 h (++) and 8 hr (+).

Weak binding activity was found in case of deletion of N-terminal 44 amino acids of CARP and the binding activity to IP₃R1 was lost in case of deletions of the other parts. This indicates that minimum binding site of CARP to IP₃R1 is 45-291 amino acids. In case of IP₃R1, the inventors found that 1387-1647 amino acids are necessary for binding with CARP.

Next, an effect of CARP on binding of IP₃ was studied.

IP₃-induced Ca²⁺ release in intact Purkinje cells are known to require much higher concentration of IP₃ (EC₅₀ \cong 10 μ M) by comparison to other tissues or isolated IP₃R1 (EC₅₀ = 100 nM to 1 μ M). According to the experimental results by the present inventors as described above, it was demonstrated that CARP was predominantly expressed in Purkinje cells together with IP₃R1 and bound to IP₃R1. It has been also known that sensitivity of IP₃R1 to IP₃ is significantly reduced

in a Purkinje cell, and the inventors speculated that the lower sensitivity might be due to expression of CARP in Purkinje cells. Accordingly, the inventors of the present application analyzed the inhibiting effects of CARP on IP₃ binding.

The inventors conducted a binding assay using purified IP₃R1, to evaluate effect of CARP on IP₃-binding affinity to IP₃R1. Purified IP₃R1 was incubated with various concentration of [³H] IP₃ in the presence or absence of purified recombinant CARP, and analyzed by a Scatchard plot.

FIG. 6 shows a result of Scatchard plot analysis regarding inhibition of specific [³H] IP₃ binding to IP₃R1 by IP₃ in the presence (■ in FIG. 6) and in the absence (● in FIG. 6) of CARP. In FIG. 6, the horizontal axis represents an amount of binding IP₃ (pmol/mg), and the vertical axis represents an amount of binding IP₃ divided by an amount of non-binding IP₃ (pmol/mg/nM).

The result shows that mean value of dissociation constant (Kd \pm S.D.) of IP₃ binding to IP₃R1 in the presence or absence of CARP was 33.5 \pm 2.07 nM and 18.2 \pm 4.58 nM, respectively. Bmax value in the presence or absence of CARP was 1630 \pm 108 pmol/mg and 1720 \pm 234 pmol/mg, respectively, which proved that the maximum number of IP₃-binding sites were unaltered by CARP. These results also show that CARP inhibits binding of IP₃ to IP₃R1 not by antagonistic action but by reducing the affinity. The inventors speculate that CARP changes the conformation of IP₃R1 by binding and reduces sensitivity to IP₃.

A high density of IP₃R1 has been proposed to be one of the factors contributing to low IP₃-sensitivity in IP₃-induced Ca²⁺ release in Purkinje cells (Ogden, D. and Capiod, T. (1997), J. Gen. Physiol., 109, 741-56). In addition to this explanation, the inventors now provide an additional explanation for this, that inhibitory effects of CARP on IP₃-binding to IP₃R1 results in low sensitivity to IP₃ in a Purkinje cells.

In the foregoing description, inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate (IP₃) receptor (IP₃R) of the present invention was derived from mouse, however, IP₃R of the present invention may be derived from animals such as nematophore and *drosophila*, preferably mammalian such as human, mouse, rat, hamster, monkey, dog, rabbit and the like without limited to mouse. In the foregoing description, subtype 1 of IP₃R was used, however, other subtypes may be examined for binding property in a similar manner as described above. Therefore, the present invention embraces all of the subtypes of IP₃R in the absence of any special condition. Preferred subtypes include subtype 1 as described above.

The carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP) of the present invention may be naturally occurring or produced by recombinant technique based on genetic information. CARP of the present invention may be derived from animals such as nematophore and *drosophila*, preferably mammalian such as human, mouse, rat, hamster, monkey, dog, rabbit and the like without limited to the mouse as described above. CARP used in the present invention is preferably, but not limitedly, derived from the same kind of animal from which IP₃R in use is derived. CARP of the present invention may be of whole length, but it may have a minimum amino acid sequence required for binding with IP₃R, for example, at least amino acids 45-291 in the case of mouse. Preferred examples of CARP include those having naturally-occurring amino acid sequence, however, CARP may have a naturally-occurring amino acid sequence from which one or more of the amino acid is deleted, added, and/or substituted with other amino acid insofar as the binding ability with IP₃R is maintained.

The present invention provides a regulator for the activity of IP₃R comprising carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP), and the regulator for the activity according to the

present invention may be comprised of CARP alone but may be a composition including a biologically acceptable carrier such as buffer. The regulator for the activity according to the present invention should change, increase or suppress the activity of IP₃R on IP₃, compared to the case where CARP is absent. In the above-described example using mouse, suppression of activity is exemplified. Concentration of CARP in use may be any concentration that is able to change the activity of IP₃R.

The present invention also provides a control agent for intracellular calcium release comprising carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP), and the control agent of the present invention may be comprised of CARP alone but may be a composition such as pharmaceutical composition comprising a biologically or pharmaceutically acceptable carrier such as buffer. The control agent of the present invention should be able to control, decrease or increase the amount of intracellular calcium release in the presence of CARP. Concentration of CARP in use is not particularly limited, and may be any concentration at which amount of intracellular calcium release is controllable without causing any side effect or toxicity. Control of intracellular calcium release in the present invention is preferably, but not limitedly, control of release of calcium that is induced by inositol-1,4,5-triphosphate (IP₃).

The present invention also provides a method of controlling intracellular calcium release that comprises adding carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP) to the cell. The cell intended in this method of the present invention is a cell constituting a biological body, preferably a cell having IP₃R. This method of the present invention is widely applicable to therapy and diagnosis, as well as for analyzing the action of IP₃ as an intracellular second messenger or for assaying the intracellular activity of IP₃R.

The present invention demonstrates that carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP) is a substance that specifically binds to IP₃R, preferably IP₃R1, and detection and identification of IP₃R by CARP are also embraced in the present invention. For such object, labeling of CARP in a suitable manner, as well as detection, identification and quantification of IP₃R by using the CARP thus labeled are also possible.

Complete contents described in the specification of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-141083 are incorporated herein.

EXAMPLES

The present invention will be now explained more specifically by way of examples, however, the present invention is not limited by these examples in any way.

Yeast two-hybrid assay in the following examples was conducted using MATCHMAKER™ Two-Hybrid system according to the manufacturer's protocol (Clontech Laboratories Inc., Palo Alto, Calif., USA).

Example 1

Design and Synthesis of the Bait Constructs

Using a part of the IP₃R1 modulatory domain shown in FIG. 1 as bait, six kinds of baits were designed.

Amino acids 1245-2264 of mouse IP₃R1 (mIP₃R1) was divided into overlapping 6 constructs, and respective cDNA constructs corresponding to these 6 c constructs were used as baits. Amino acid residues 1245-2264 of the IP₃R1 modulatory domain was mapped, and using primer sets as listed below each including a sense strand (S) and an antisense strand (A), six bait constructs (MD1 to MD6) were prepared by PCR.

MD1 (mIP₃R1: 1245-1464 amino acids):
(SEQ ID NO: 3)
(S): 5'-GGGAATTCGGTGGAGGTTGTGCAGGCAACCAGCAGAATC-3'

(A): 5'-GGGGTTCGACGTGTTGTACAGGCCCTGCAGA-3'
(SEQ ID NO: 4)

MD2 (mIP₃R1: 1387-1647 amino acids)
(SEQ ID NO: 5)
(S): 5'-GGGAATTCGGTGGAGGCAAGAATGTGTACACGGAGA-3'

(A): 5'-GGGGTTCGACCTCACATTTCTCTTGGCCTGCATC-3'
(SEQ ID NO: 6)

MD3 (mIP₃R1: 1593-1785 amino acids)
(SEQ ID NO: 7)
(S):
5'-GGGAATTCGGAGGAGGATCCAGAGACTACCGAAATATCAT-3'

(A): 5'-GGGGTTCGACGCTTGTGGAAGTAGATCCAGGACC-3'
(SEQ ID NO: 8)

MD4 (mIP₃R1: 1685-1943 amino acids)
(SEQ ID NO: 9)
(S): 5'-GGGAATTCGGTGGAGGAGACAGAGGCTATGGAGAGAAG-3'

(A): 5'-GGGGTTCGACTCCCCAGACTGGTAATGGTCA-3'
(SEQ ID NO: 10)

MD5 (mIP₃R1: 1865-2160 amino acids)
(SEQ ID NO: 11)
(S): 5'-GGGAATTCGGTGGAGGAGTGGCCAGCAGGAAATCAA-3'

(A): 5'-GGGGTTCGACCGGTGAGCGAGGATGTAGATG-3'
(SEQ ID NO: 12)

MD6 (mIP₃R1: 2015-2264 amino acids)
(SEQ ID NO: 13)
(S): 5'-GGGGTTCGACCCGAGGAGGCCTTGGTCTTCTTGG-3'

(A): 5'-GGGGTTCGACAGACAGGCTGGGCTCGAAGT-3'
(SEQ ID NO: 14)

Resulting cDNAs obtained by the PCR were digested with EcoRI and Sall, or with Sall alone, then ligated to pGBT9 (Clontech Laboratories Inc.). All of the resultant plasmids were sequenced to confirm that cloning of the appropriate cDNAs was translationally in-frame and devoid of PCR-induced errors.

Example 2

Construction of cDNA Library

Mouse brain cDNA library was constructed in pGAD-GL (Clontech Laboratories Inc.). In brief, total RNA from mouse brains (6-week old ddY mouse; Nippon SLC, Hamamatsu, JAPAN) was enriched for poly(A)⁺mRNA expression by using oligo (dT)-cellulose chromatography. Double-stranded cDNAs were generated using random hexamers as primers, and were ligated to EcoRI adapters. After digestion with EcoRI, cDNAs over 400 bp were collected by the size fractionation using Sepharose CL2B (Amersham Biosciences Inc., Piscataway, N.J., USA), and inserted into EcoRI site of pGAD GL. Approximately 5×10⁵ independent clones were

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generated in *Escherichia coli* XL1-Blue MRF (Stratagene, La Jolla, Calif., USA), and plasmid DNA was isolated after one amplification.

Example 3

Preparation of Antibodies

Monoclonal antibodies against mIP₃R1, 4C11, 18A10 and KM1112 were prepared according to the method (Maeda, N., Niinobe, M., et al., (1988), *J. Neurochem.*, 51, 1724-1730; Maeda, N., Niinobe, M., et al., (1990), *EMBO J.*, 9, 61-67; Sugiyama, T., Furiya, A., et al., (1994), *FEBS Letters*, 354, 149-154). A peptide corresponding to amino acid residues 267-279 (CDGILGDNFRPTQ; residues 267-279 of SEQ ID NO:2) of mouse CARP which is diverse in carbonic anhydrase family was synthesized, and this peptide was conjugated to keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH) via N-terminal Cys residue, using m-maleimidobenzoyl N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (MBS). A polyclonal antibody was raised in rabbits (New England White, Hokudo Tohya Immunity Laboratory, Hokkaido, Japan). The antibody was purified from antisera using antigenic peptide-conjugated beads according to a standard protocol.

Example 4

Western Blot Analysis of CARP Expression

Expression of CARP in various organs was analyzed by Western blotting. Each organ dissected from mice were homogenized in homogenizing buffer (0.32M sucrose, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, protease inhibitors (0.1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, 10 μM leupeptin, 10 μM pepstatin A, 10 μM E-64) and 10 mM Tris-HCl pH7.4), using a glass-Teflon™ homogenizer. For preparations from heart, liver, kidney, adrenal gland, testis and muscle, these organs were minced with scissors into small pieces before homogenize. The homogenate was centrifuged at 100,000×g at 4° C. for 20 minutes. The resultant supernatant (10 μg) was used for 5% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis in the presence of sodium dodecyl sulfate, transferred to nitro cellulose, and immuno-detected with anti-CARP antibody. The results are shown in FIG. 2.

Example 5

Immunohistochemistry

Preparation and immunohistochemical analyses of primary cultured Purkinje cells of cerebellum were conducted according to the method (Yuzaki, M., and Mikoshiba, K., (1992), *J. Neurosci.*, 12, 4253-63.). Following combination of primary and secondary antibodies were used for double staining, rabbit anti-CARP polyclonal antibody and FITC-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG antibody, anti-IP₃R1 monoclonal antibody, 18A10 and TexasRed-conjugated anti-rat IgG antibody. The results are shown in FIG. 3.

Example 6

Expression of a Recombinant IP₃R1 Channel Domain Deletion in Sf9 Cells

The DNA encoding the N-terminal region of mouse IP₃R1 (residues 1 to 225) was inserted into glutathione S-transferase (GST) fusion vector pGEX-KG. The GST-IP₃R1 (1-225)

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fragment was subcloned into the baculovirus transfer vector pBlueBac4.5 (Invitrogen). The 3'-region downstream from the Sma I site of GST-IP₃R1 (1-225) was replaced with the Sma I-EcoRI fragment of mouse IP₃R1 (corresponding to residues 79-2217) to generate GST-IP₃R1 (1-2217) (termed GST-EL) construct. Recombinant baculovirus carrying GST-EL was generated using Bac-N-Blue™ Transfection Kit (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's protocols. GST-EL was expressed in 2×10⁸ Sf9 cells by infecting recombinant baculoviruses at a multiplicity of infection of 5, and incubating for 48 hours. Cells expressing GST-EL were homogenized in 10 mM HEPES (pH7.4), 100 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, 0.1% Triton X-100, and protease inhibitors, using a glass-Teflon™ homogenizer. The homogenate was centrifuged at 20,000×g for 30 minutes. GST-EL was purified from the supernatant using glutathione-Sepharose 4B (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech Inc.) in accordance with the recommendation of the vender,

Example 7

Expression of Recombinant CARP in *Escherichia coli*

Full-length CARP cDNA was cloned into Nde I and Hind III sites of pET23a vector (Stratagene) in frame for transcription, thereby introducing His-tag into C-terminus of recombinant CARP. A single colony of *Escherichia coli* BL21 (DE3) transformed with CARP expression vector was incubated in 1.5 ml of Luria-Bertani medium containing 100 μg/ml ampicillin at 37° C. for 10 hr. One milliliter of the culture was inoculated into 1L of Luria-Bertani medium containing 100 μg/ml ampicillin and incubated at 25° C. until it reached an A₆₀₀ of 0.7, and then the culture was supplemented with isopropylthio-β-D-galactoside (final concentration, 0.5 mM). Incubation was continued at 25° C. for 8 h and cells were harvested by centrifugation, washed with 10 ml of phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and sonicated in 50 ml of PBS at 4° C. After centrifugation to remove insoluble material, the supernatant was applied to a High-Trap Chelating column (Amersham Biosciences). The recombinant CARP protein was purified first according to the manufacturer's protocol, then by Mono Q anion exchange chromatography (Amersham Biosciences), and finally dialyzed against the buffer used in the pull-down experiment or the IP₃-binding experiment to exchange buffer.

For GST-fusion recombinant CARP, full-length CARP cDNA was cloned into Bam HI and Xho I sites of pGEX-KG to generate GST-CARP construct. GST-CARP was expressed in *Escherichia coli* and purified using glutathione-Sepharose as mentioned above.

Example 8

Biochemical Analysis of CARP-Binding to IP₃R1

Adult mouse cerebella were homogenized in 10 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 320 mM Sucrose, 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, and protease inhibitors and the homogenate was centrifuged at 1,000×g for 10 min. The supernatant was centrifuged at 100,000×g for 60 min to obtain the cytosolic fraction (the supernatant) and the crude microsomes (the pellet). The cytosolic fraction was added with 100 mM NaCl, and incubated with 20 μg of GST-EL or GST for 2 hours at 4° C. After adding 10 μL of glutathione-Sepharose and another 2-hours incubation, the resins were washed five times with wash buffer (10 mM HEPES (pH 7.4), 100 mM NaCl, 2 mM

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EDTA, 1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, and 0.01% Triton X-100), and bound proteins were eluted with 20 mM glutathione. The eluted proteins were analyzed by Western blotting with anti-CARP antibody.

The crude microsome was solubilized with 1% Triton X-100, and dissolved in 50 mM HEPES (pH7.4), 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, and protease inhibitors for 30 min at 4° C., and centrifuged at 20,000×g for 30 min. The supernatants were processed for pull-down assay with 10 µg of GST-CARP or GST as described above, and bound proteins were subjected to immunoblot analysis with anti-IP₃R1 antibody KM1112.

For direct binding assay, pull-down assay was conducted for CARP-His (5 µg) purified in wash buffer, using GST-EL or 20 µg of GST as described above, and bound proteins were subjected to immunoblot analysis with anti-CARP antibody. Experiments were repeated at least three times to confirm results. The results are shown in FIG. 4.

Example 9

Identification of Binding Sites by Yeast Two-hybrid Assay

In order to determine the binding site, either of IP₃R1 or CARP constructs was truncated by using each of pGBT9 and pGAD-GL.

IP₃R1 truncated constructs contain the following amino acids:

pGBT9-ΔI1 (mIP₃R1: 1387-1464 amino acids);
pGBT9-ΔI2 (mIP₃R1: 1387-1520 amino acids);
pGBT9-ΔI3 (mIP₃R1: 1387-1598 amino acids);
pGBT9-ΔI4 (mIP₃R1: 1513-1598 amino acids);
pGBT9-ΔI5 (mIP₃R1: 1513-1647 amino acids).

CARP truncated constructs contain the following amino acids:

pGAD-GL-ΔC1 (CARP; 1-127 amino acids);
pGAD-GL-ΔC2 (CARP; 1-147 amino acids);
pGAD-GL-ΔC3 (CARP; 1-170 amino acids);

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pGAD-GL-ΔC4 (CARP; 1-180 amino acids);
pGAD-GL-ΔC5 (CARP; 1-217 amino acids);
pGAD-GL-ΔC6 (CARP; 1-234 amino acids);
pGAD-GL-ΔC7 (CARP; 45-291 amino acids);
pGAD-GL-ΔC8 (CARP; 121-291 amino acids); and
pGAD-GL-ΔC9 (CARP; 184-291 amino acids).

All of these plasmid constructs were sequenced to confirm that cloning of the appropriate cDNAs was in-frame for transcription.

The results are shown in FIG. 5.

Example 10

[³H]IP₃ Binding Assay

[³H]IP₃ binding to IP₃R1 was assayed by polyethylene glycol precipitation in the presence or absence of CARP in accordance with the method as reported previously (Maeda, N., Niinobe, M., et al, (1990), EMBO J.,9,61-67). 0.5 µg of purified IP₃R1 was incubated with or without 10 µg of purified His-CARP in 50 µL of a solution containing 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, 9.6 nM [³H] IP₃ and different concentration of IP₃, for 10 min at 4° C. Nonspecific binding was measured in the presence of 10 µM IP₃. The results are shown in FIG. 6.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The present invention provides a novel substance capable of binding to IP₃R, and provides means for controlling intracellular calcium release caused by the activity of IP₃R. The regulator of the present invention is able to control intracellular calcium release induced by IP₃, and hence is useful in therapy and diagnosis of a variety of diseases caused by abnormal release of calcium. It also provides effective means for analyzing the action of IP₃ as an intracellular second messenger.

Also, the present invention clarified a novel function of CARP that had not been elucidated, and provides new application of control of calcium release in CARP cells.

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Val Glu Met Lys Glu Ile Tyr Thr Ser Asn His Met Trp Lys Leu Phe
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The invention claimed is:

1. A method of reducing intracellular calcium release in a cell comprising adding carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP) to the cell wherein the carbonic anhydrase-related protein consists of an amino acid sequence of amino acids 45 to 291 of SEQ ID NO: 2, thereby the intracellular release of calcium is reduced.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the carbonic anhydrase-related protein is added into the cell as a protein.

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the CARP binds to inositol-1,4,5,-triphosphate receptor in endoplasmic reticulum in the cell.

25 4. A method of controlling intracellular calcium release in a cell comprising expressing a carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP) from an expression construct in the cell wherein the carbonic anhydrase-related protein comprises an amino acid sequence of amino acids 45 to 291 of SEQ ID NO: 2, whereby the intracellular release of calcium is controlled.

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