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Supplemental information

Astrocyte Kir4.1 expression level

territorially controls excitatory

transmission in the brain

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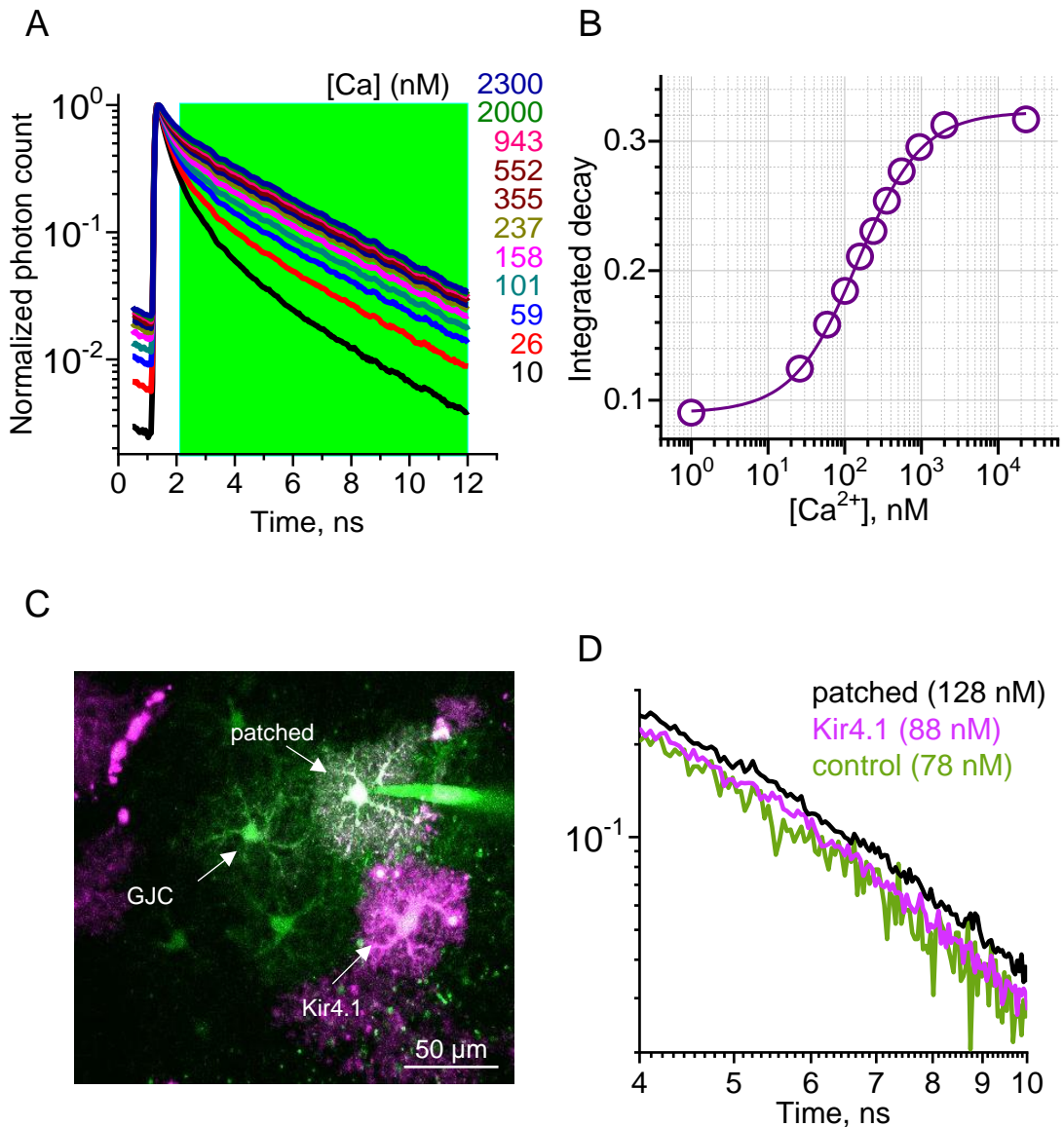


Figure S1. FLIM calibration of OGB-1 for its lifetime sensitivity to [Ca²⁺].

(A) Fluorescence lifetime of OGB-1 in calibrated solutions of clamped [Ca²⁺]; concentrations are shown in nM; green shade shows the time range for 'area-under-the-curve' calculation.

(B) Summary calibration curve plotted as normalised total photon count calculated as the ratiometric measure 'area-under-the-curve / peak' value of the fluorescence lifetime (integrated decay) plotted against [Ca²⁺]; circles, individual data points; line, logistic best fit; see Ref ⁵⁶ for detail.

(C) Image: illustration as in Figure 2A, with explanatory notes.

(D) Graph, fluorescence lifetime of OGB-1 for patched, Kir4.1* and tdTom (control) astrocytes: a fragment from Figure 2C plot expanded for clarity.

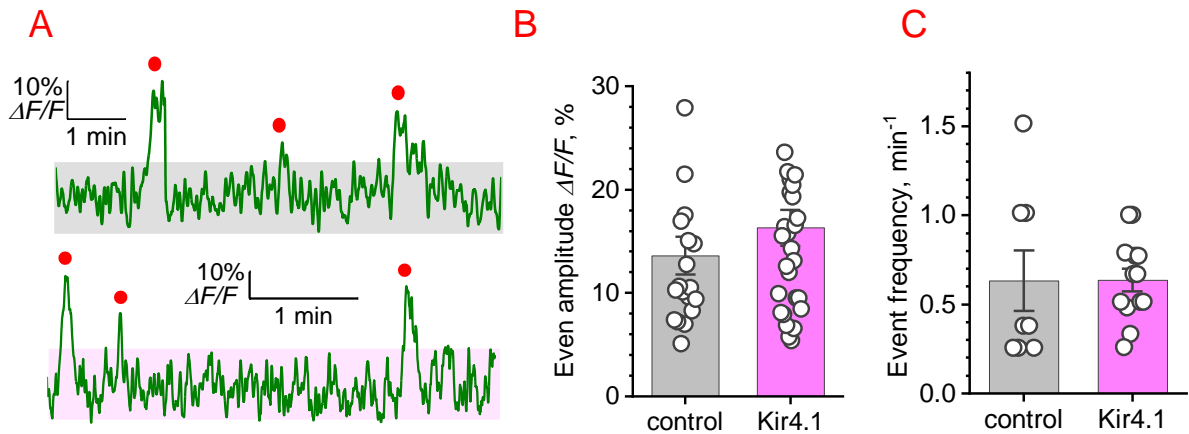


Figure S2. Spontaneous Ca^{2+} signals in control and Kir4.1 astrocytes have similar occurrence rates and amplitudes.

(A) Examples of representative trace fragments depicting spontaneous Ca^{2+} -sensitive OGB-1 fluorescence signals within the soma of control (top) and Kir4.1* (bottom) astrocytes, as indicated; shaded areas, the amplitude range (three standard deviations of the background noise) above which the events are considered significant; red dots, registered Ca^{2+} events.

(B) The Ca^{2+} event amplitudes (mean \pm SEM) in control and Kir4.1* astrocytes, as indicated; $n = 19$ and $n = 29$, respectively; circles, individual events recorded from 8 and 13 cells, respectively.

(C) The frequency of Ca^{2+} event (mean \pm SEM) in control and Kir4.1* astrocytes, as indicated; circles, individual cells; $n = 8$ and 13, respectively.

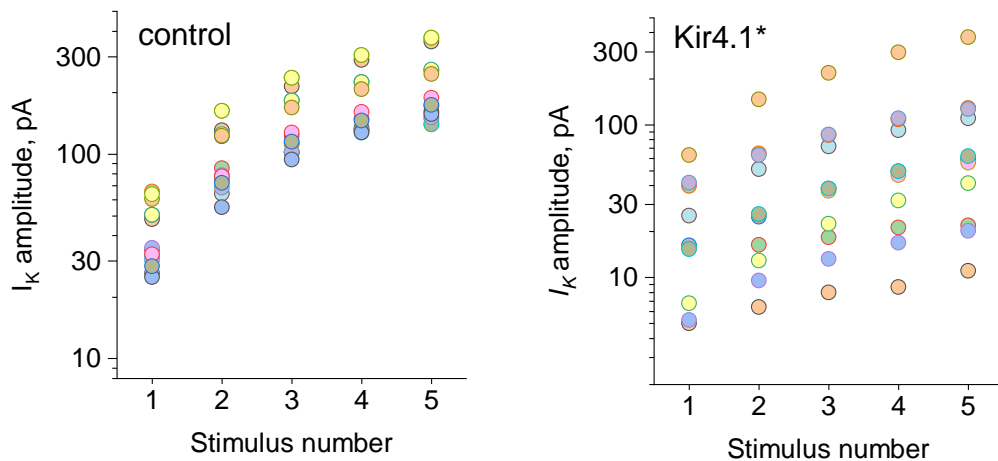


Figure S3. Amplitudes of stimulus-evoked hole-cell K^+ currents recorded from control and Kir4.1* astrocytes.

Summary of the absolute amplitudes of potassium current (I_K) recorded in control (left, $n = 15$) and Kir4.1* (right, $n = 11$) astrocytes.

Note that, because of a wider and more favourable experimental sampling of control (WT) astrocytes with respect to the stimulating electrode, the stimulus-evoked currents were consistently larger in control compared with Kir4.1* astrocytes.

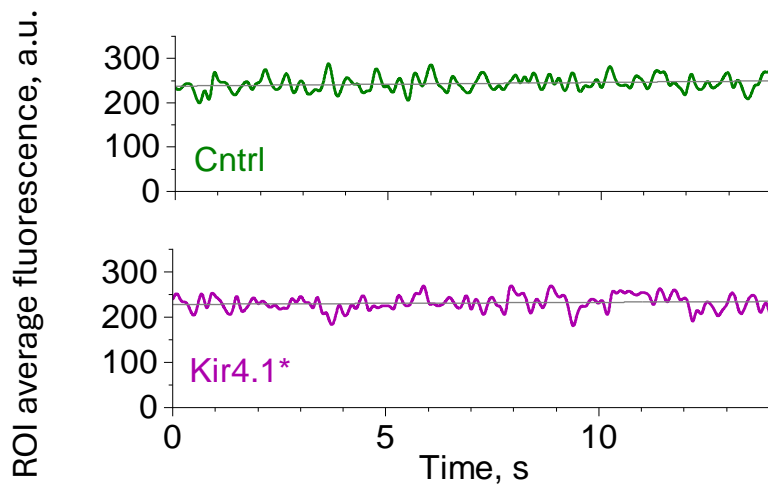


Figure S4. Fluorescence stability of extracellular GINKO2 following its bath washout.

An example of the average fluorescence level of extracellular GINKO2 within the territory of control (top) and Kir4.1* (bottom) astrocyte, recorded continuously over a 14 min period. Straight lines depict linear regression of the experimental data.

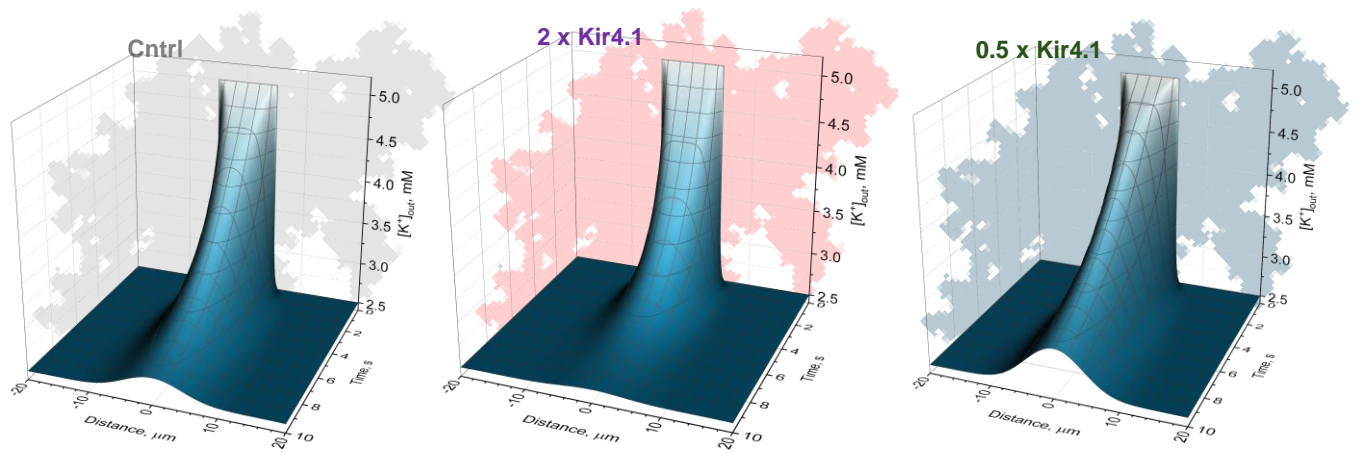


Figure S5. Kir4.1 expression regulates local sink of $[K^+]_{out}$: biophysical simulations.

The dynamic landscape of $[K^+]_{out}$ over 10 s following a quasi-instantaneous increase of $[K^+]_{out}$ in a local area (10 μm sphere centred at the astrocyte centroid), from resting 2.5 mM to 5 mM, as in Figure 6A, as sampled in a cross-section through the centre of either a control (left, grey astrocyte shape), Kir4.1-overexpressing (centre, 2 x Kir4.1, red shape), or Kir4.1-underexpressing (right, 0.5 x Kir4.1; teal shape) astrocyte.