

## Store-operated calcium entry in thrombosis and thrombo-inflammation

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### ABSTRACT

Cytosolic free calcium ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ) is a second messenger regulating a wide variety of functions in blood cells, including adhesion, activation, proliferation and migration. Store-operated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry (SOCE), triggered by depletion of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  from the endoplasmic reticulum, provides a main mechanism of regulated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx in blood cells. SOCE is mediated and regulated by isoforms of the ion channel proteins ORAI and TRP, and the transmembrane  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  sensors stromal interaction molecules (STIMs), respectively. This report provides an overview of the (patho)physiological importance of SOCE in blood cells implicated in thrombosis and thrombo-inflammation, *i.e.* platelets and immune cells. We also discuss the physiological consequences of dysregulated SOCE in platelets and immune cells and the potential of SOCE inhibition as a therapeutic option to prevent or treat arterial thrombosis as well as thrombo-inflammatory disease states such as ischemic stroke.

### 1. Introduction

Cytosolic free  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ions act as an ubiquitous second messenger that regulates many important functions in platelets and immune cells, including cytoskeletal reorganisation, cell adhesion, migration, proliferation and apoptosis [1]. Physiological agonists can increase the cytosolic level of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  by inducing  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release from various intracellular stores as well as by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry from the extracellular milieu into the cytosol. In essentially all blood cells,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry is regulated by voltage-independent channels, located in the plasma membrane. Both in the anucleated platelets and in nucleated immune cells, several organelles have been described as  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores, including the dense tubular system or sarco/endoplasmic reticulum, lysosome-like acidic organelles and mitochondria [1–4]. In blood cells, cation channels can be regulated by activation of receptors or by depletion of intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores, which then triggers the process of store-operated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry (SOCE), [4–6]. Because of its electrophysiological properties,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release activated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  current ( $I_{\text{CRAC}}$ ) has been identified as the current facilitating SOCE [5].

The molecular identity of the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  sensor in the stores responsible for channel opening remained elusive until 2005, when the stromal interaction molecules (STIMs) were identified as reticular membrane located  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  sensors [7–9]. Shortly afterwards, three isoforms of transmembrane channel protein ORAI (ORAI1–3) were identified as the

main  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels interacting with STIM proteins [10–15]. In platelets and immune cells, transient receptor potential (TRP) channels and ORAI isoforms may form functional units, which are coupled to STIM1 and inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate ( $\text{IP}_3$ ) receptor channels, thereby enhancing the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry [4,16–20]. For platelets, a role of SOCE has been elucidated in thrombotic processes [19,20], while activation of SOCE in immune cells is considered to have a major role in the regulation of inflammation [18]. In the present review, we connected these findings to better understand how the molecular components of SOCE contribute to the whole spectrum of thrombotic and thrombo-inflammatory diseases.

### 2. Calcium homeostasis in platelets

#### 2.1. Calcium store release

Platelets are anucleated cell fragments, released by megakaryocytes (MKs) into the bone marrow sinusoids, circulating in the blood and safeguarding vascular integrity. Upon vessel wall injury, platelets are recruited to exposed subendothelial extracellular matrix (ECM) proteins and become activated [21]. The activation process includes fast rearrangement of the platelet cytoskeleton, leading to shape change. Upon platelet activation, intracellular alpha ( $\alpha$ )- and dense ( $\delta$ ) granules containing secondary mediators, such as fibrinogen (FGN), von

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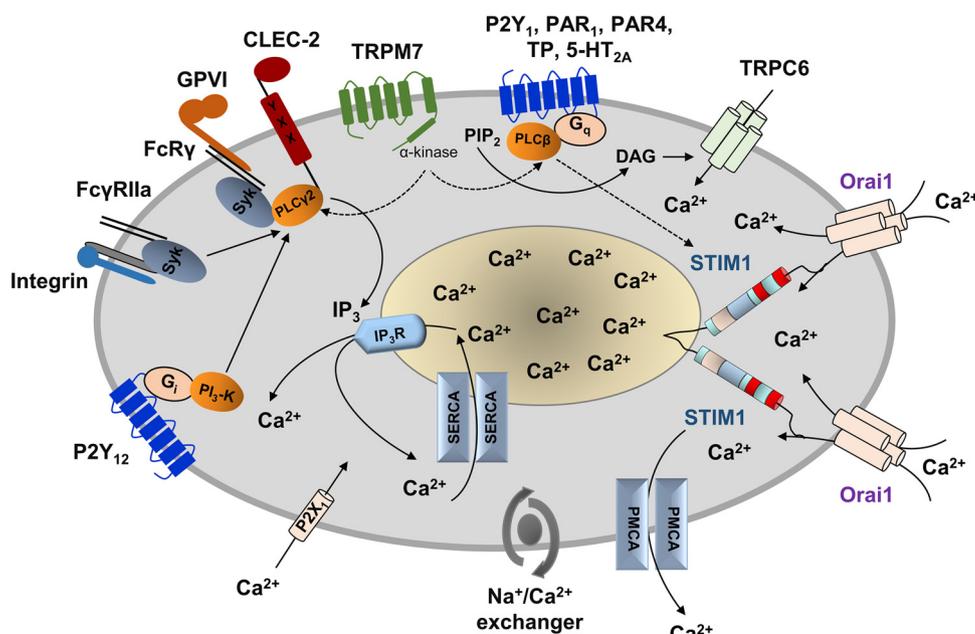
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**Fig. 1.** Calcium store release in platelets. After receptor activation, phospholipase C (PLC) isoforms hydrolyse phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate (PIP<sub>2</sub>) to inositol-1,4,5-trisphosphate IP<sub>3</sub> and diacylglycerol (DAG). IP<sub>3</sub> releases Ca<sup>2+</sup> from the intracellular stores, in turn STIM1 opens Orai1 channels in the plasma membrane, a process known as store-operated calcium entry (SOCE), whereas DAG mediates non-SOCE through transient receptor potential channel 6 (TRPC6). Direct receptor-operated calcium (ROC) channel, P2X<sub>1</sub>, and a Na<sup>+</sup>/Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchanger (NCX) contribute to the elevation of intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>i</sub>. Sarco/endoplasmic reticulum Ca<sup>2+</sup> ATPases (SERCA) and plasma membrane Ca<sup>2+</sup> ATPases (PMCA) pump Ca<sup>2+</sup> back into the stores or through the plasma membrane to outside of the cell, respectively. IP<sub>3</sub>R: IP<sub>3</sub>-receptor; GPVI: glycoprotein VI; FcγR: Fc receptor γ chain; FcγRIIa: Fc γ receptor IIa; CLEC-2: C-type lectin-like receptor 2; PI3-K: phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase; Syk: spleen tyrosine kinase; P2Y<sub>1</sub> and P2Y<sub>12</sub>: purinergic G protein-coupled receptor 1 and 12; PAR1 and 4: protease-activated receptor 1 and 4; TP: Thromboxane receptor; 5-HT<sub>2A</sub>: serotonin 2A receptor; Trpm7: Transient receptor potential melastatin 7.

Willebrand Factor (vWF) and adenosine di-, tri-phosphate (ADP/ATP), serotonin are released, along with the production of short-lived thromboxane A<sub>2</sub> (TxA<sub>2</sub>) and hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acid (HETE). These autocrine agents along with locally produced thrombin reinforce the activation process, and cause further recruitment of circulating platelets to the injury site, thereby leading to the formation of thrombi, which can seal the wounded vessel [21]. If occurring in diseased vessels, such as in atherosclerotic arteries subjected to plaque rupturing, the same reactions can lead to acute vessel occlusion, causing life-threatening disease states such as thromboembolism, myocardial infarction or ischemic stroke [22–25].

Signalling-dependent control of Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis plays a crucial role in the regulation of platelet shape change and adhesion, and also in α- and δ- granule secretion and thrombus growth. The majority of platelet-activating receptors act through stimulation of phospholipase C (PLC) isoforms, which catalyse the hydrolysis of phosphatidyl 4,5-bisphosphate (PIP<sub>2</sub>) into diacylglycerol (DAG) and inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP<sub>3</sub>) [26–28], (Fig. 1). These second messengers control the processes of receptor- and store-operated Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry (ROCE and SOCE). Whilst IP<sub>3</sub> induces release of Ca<sup>2+</sup> through IP<sub>3</sub> receptors located in the endoplasmic reticulum, DAG regulates Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry through protein kinase C and activation of DAG-sensitive Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels [26–28].

Human and mouse platelets express several PLC isoforms, *i.e.* PLCβ<sub>2/3</sub> and PLCγ<sub>2</sub>. The β-type isoforms are regulated by G-protein coupled receptors (GPCR), including the PAR receptors for thrombin, the purinergic receptors for ADP, and the thromboxane A<sub>2</sub> receptor (TP) for TxA<sub>2</sub>, through coupling to the α-subunit of the G-protein, G<sub>q</sub> [29]. The isoform PLCγ<sub>2</sub> becomes activated via the receptors glycoprotein (GP)VI, C-type lectin-like receptor-2 (CLEC-2), integrins α<sub>2</sub>β<sub>1</sub> and α<sub>1</sub>β<sub>3</sub>, and to a limited extent via the GPIb-V-IX complex, and in human platelets via Fc gamma receptor IIA (FcγRIIA), [21].

In platelets collagen-dependent activation of GPVI causes tyrosine phosphorylation of the immunoreceptor tyrosine-based activation motif (ITAM) located in the cytoplasmic tail of Fc receptor gamma (FcR-γ) chain. Recruitment and activation of Src family kinases is then followed by activation of spleen tyrosine kinase (Syk), phosphorylation of the adaptor molecule linker of activated T cells (LAT), and formation of the LAT signalosome. The latter recruits PLCγ<sub>2</sub> from the cytoplasm to the plasma membrane, where it becomes active [30,31]. Activation of the

various PLC isoforms thus converges in a common pathway of IP<sub>3</sub>-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> store depletion.

## 2.2. Calcium stores in platelets

In human platelets, at least three separate Ca<sup>2+</sup> stores have been reported: the dense tubular system (equivalent to the sarco/endoplasmic reticulum), lysosome-like acidic organelles and mitochondria. The existence of distinct Ca<sup>2+</sup> stores has been proposed based on the different affinities to IP<sub>3</sub> [4], on the expression of two different sarco/endoplasmic reticulum Ca<sup>2+</sup> ATPase SERCA isoforms [4,32–34] and on their sensitivity to the thapsigargin (TG). The SERCA2b isoform displaying high sensitivity to TG is expressed on dense tubular system [35]. The SERCA3 isoform is expressed in lysosome-like acidic organelles [36,37] and less sensitive to TG, but high sensitivity was found to 2,5-di-(tert-butyl)-1,4-benzohydroquinone (TBHQ), [33]. Nevertheless, there is a consensus that the major intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> pool in platelets is located in the dense tubular system and the release of Ca<sup>2+</sup> from this TG-sensitive Ca<sup>2+</sup> stores is considered to be a key modulator of platelet SOCE [4].

## 2.3. Store-operated calcium channels in platelets

It has become clear that SOC channels are major regulators of extracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry in platelets, similarly as in other electrically non-excitable cells [4,6]. In this section, we discuss the molecular composition of the platelet SOC channels.

### 2.3.1. ORAI1

The ORAI proteins encompass a family of plasma membrane-resident channels with four transmembrane domains and intracellularly located C and N termini [10,11]. In mammals, the family includes three isoforms: ORAI1, 2 and 3. ORAI1 is considered to be the main pore-forming unit of SOC channels with the capability to form multimers that make up a highly selective Ca<sup>2+</sup> channel [12,13,38]. Studies on genetically engineered mice lacking functional ORAI1 have established its importance in SOCE in many cell types [18]. In mouse and human platelets, all three isoforms of the ORAI channel family have been detected, with ORAI1 being the predominant isoform in both

species [39]. Messenger ribonucleic acids (mRNAs) of ORAI1 are abundantly expressed in human and mouse platelets, primary murine MKs, and megakaryocytic cell lines, at levels far above those of ORAI2, ORAI3, TRPC1 or other TRP isoforms [39,40]. In line with this, platelets isolated from *Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup> bone-marrow chimeric mice showed a strongly decreased SOCE [39].

Patients with severe combined immunodeficiency have been identified with an ORAI1<sup>R93W</sup> missense mutation, resulting in the substitution of a highly conserved arginine residue in the first transmembrane domain of ORAI1 [11]. Heterozygous expression of the ORAI1<sup>R93W</sup> mutation appeared to have a dominant negative effect on SOCE, probably inducing abnormal folding of the channel complex, which inhibits channel opening [11,41]. Platelets from ORAI1<sup>R93W</sup> mice, similarly to platelets from bone marrow chimeric *Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice, displayed a strongly reduced SOCE. Yet, specific differences were reported between ORAI1<sup>R93W</sup> [41] and *Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup> platelets (39, 42).

Whereas *Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup> platelets showed a selective defect in GPVI signalling [39,42], ORAI1<sup>R93W</sup> platelets had a more global defect in integrin activation in response to GPVI as well as GPCR agonists [41]. Such a difference could possibly be explained by increasing expression of other ORAI isoforms (ORAI2 and ORAI3) in *Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup> platelets, thus partially compensating for the loss of ORAI1 [39]. Another explanation for this may be that the R93W mutation not only inactivates the ORAI1 channel, but also modifies the function of the ORAI1 signalosome e.g. by triggering a negative feedback signal from the channel to a GPCR. In both ORAI1 mutant platelets, residual Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry was detected after TG stimulation, suggesting that other Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels can play an additional role in this process.

### 2.3.2. TRPC1

The TRP proteins belong to one of the largest ion channel super-families and grouped into seven related families, i.e. TRPC (canonical), TRPV (vanilloid), TRPM (melastatin), TRPP (polycystin), TRPML (mucopolipin), TRPA (ankyrin) and TRPN (no mechanoreceptor potential C (NOMPC)-like); the latter is found only in invertebrates and fish [43]. Some members of the canonical TRP subfamily (TRPC1-7) can be activated by SOCE [44–46] and appear to be associated to ORAI isoforms [4,6]. Platelets express two isoforms, i.e. TRPC1 and TRPC6 [44,47,48]. Especially the latter is highly expressed in the platelet plasma membrane and mediates non selective-cation influx following of DAG [48,49].

Before the identification of the ORAI proteins, TRPC1 was considered as a major SOC channel in platelets. A conformational coupling model was proposed, stipulating that TRPC1 mediates SOCE following its interaction with type II IP<sub>3</sub> receptors [50,51]. Later studies however suggested that TRPC1 is located in the intracellular membranes of human platelets [48], supporting a different role for the channel rather than activation of SOCE in the plasma membrane. Moreover, TRPC1-deficient mice displayed intact SOCE activity, unaltered Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis, and unchanged platelet activation responses both *in vitro* and *in vivo* experimental settings [52]. In addition, studies on human platelets indicated that inhibitory anti-TRPC1 antibodies used in previous studies to demonstrate the function of the channel [50,53,54], had no specific effect on SOCE and failed to bind to the protein [52]. Altogether, these results made it clear that SOCE in platelets involves other Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels, such as ORAI1 than TRPC1 [10,11]. It has been proposed that TRP channels, including TRPC1 can form heteromeric ion channels together with ORAI channels [6,55,56]. Recently, Liao et al., showed existence of functional interactions between *Orai1* and TRPC under the influence of calcium sensor STIM1.

## 2.4. Calcium sensors in platelets

### 2.4.1. STIM1

The first description of a role for STIM1 in platelet SOCE came from studies using a mouse strain named *Saxcoburgotski* (*Stim1*<sup>Sax</sup>), which

carry a gain of function mutation in the EF hand domain of STIM1. The selective amino acid substitution of the EF hand domain of STIM1 showed that this mutation changes the conformation of the sensor to be constitutively active, and hence to mimic Ca<sup>2+</sup> store depletion without IP<sub>3</sub>-mediated action [7,9,57]. Strikingly, the homozygous *Stim1*<sup>Sax</sup> mutation leads to embryonic lethality due to severe haemorrhages in different organs, whereas heterozygous mice are viable but developed severe thrombocytopenia [57]. Heterozygous mutant mice display splenomegaly, caused by rapid expansion of MKs in the splenic red pulp. Interestingly, the *Stim1*<sup>Sax/+</sup> MKs showed normal proplatelet formation *in vitro*, suggesting enhanced clearance of the mutant platelets by the reticuloendothelial system in the spleen rather than defective platelet production to be responsible for the low platelet count [57]. It was confirmed that *Stim1*<sup>Sax/+</sup> platelets had increased basal levels of cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup>, due to a leaky Ca<sup>2+</sup> store, and showed abnormally activated Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels, which together led to enhanced phosphatidyserine (PS) exposure and αIIbβ3 integrin activation in the absence of agonist stimulation [57]. In the presence of TG, *Stim1*<sup>Sax/+</sup> platelets showed a faster store depletion, which was accompanied by impaired SOCE. Whereas *Stim1*<sup>Sax/+</sup> platelets were unresponsive to agonists of (hem)ITAM-linked receptors such as collagen-related peptide or rhodocytin, the Ca<sup>2+</sup> responses to GPCR agonists (ADP or thrombin) were nearly normal, indicating that the accelerated Ca<sup>2+</sup> store depletion functionally compensated for the lack of SOCE in integrin αIIbβ3 activation and platelet degranulation after GPCR stimulation [57].

Genetic deletion of STIM1 in mice allowed analysis of the role of this Ca<sup>2+</sup>-regulating protein in more detail. Due to perinatal lethality of the constitutive knock-out, bone marrow chimeras needed to be generated, resulting in animals with a deficiency of STIM1 in blood cells, including platelets [58–60]. Measurements of cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels showed that *Stim1*<sup>-/-</sup> platelets still displayed a small residual SOCE in response to TG, but a severely impaired Ca<sup>2+</sup> increase was observed with all major platelet agonists. The TG-sensitive Ca<sup>2+</sup> store release was reduced, thus pointing to an essential role of STIM1 in the regulation of Ca<sup>2+</sup> store refilling [42,58]. A pronounced defect was observed upon activation of (hem)ITAM receptors, while the platelets displayed only minor defects in integrin αIIbβ3 activation or in granule release in response to GPCR agonists [58].

Although both gain (*Stim1*<sup>Sax</sup>) and loss (*Stim1*<sup>-/-</sup>) of function mutations of STIM1 led to impaired (hem)ITAM receptor signalling in platelets, the underlying molecular mechanisms remain unclear. Since the Ca<sup>2+</sup> store content in both mouse strains was abnormal [57,58], a hypothesis is that ionic stress in platelets can induce a negative feedback mechanism to (hem)ITAM receptors, which then negatively regulates GPVI- and CLEC-2-induced activation cascades. Alternatively, a dysregulated Ca<sup>2+</sup> store release and SOCE in both STIM1-mutant platelets no longer amplifies GPVI and CLEC-2 receptor activation through a defective Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent phosphorylation or dephosphorylation of the LAT signalosome.

It has been shown that also platelets from serotonin transporter knock-out (*5-Htt*<sup>-/-</sup>) and granule release defective (*Unc13d*<sup>-/-</sup>) mice have a strongly reduced SOCE [61], indicating an essential role of platelet-released secondary agonists to amplify the channel activity of ORAI1. In contrast to *Stim1*<sup>-/-</sup> platelets, *Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup> platelets display a normal Ca<sup>2+</sup> store content and Ca<sup>2+</sup> store release after TG or agonist stimulation, thus explaining the consistently higher cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> rises in these cells compared to *Stim1*<sup>-/-</sup> platelets. Studies analysing platelets from *Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup> bone marrow chimeras revealed a less severe phenotype than in *Stim1*<sup>-/-</sup> bone marrow chimeras [39,58], i.e. milder defects in GPVI-induced integrin activation and platelet degranulation and thrombus formation under flow *in vitro*.

In addition, recently we showed the existence of functional interplay between STIM1 and Transient receptor potential melastatin 7 (TRPM7) channel, which contains a cytosolic domain of serine/threonine α-kinase [62]. Global deletion of TRPM7 kinase activity in mice (*TRPM7*<sup>R/R</sup>) resulted in inhibited (hem)ITAM-PLCγ2 and PAR-

PLC $\beta$ 3-mediated intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilisation [62]. Moreover, activation of STIM1 function with TG-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> store depletion, bypassing receptor-mediated PLC activation, resulted in strongly reduced SOCE in *TRPM7<sup>R/R</sup>* platelets, suggesting the involvement of TRPM7 kinase activity in the regulation of STIM1-induced SOCE [62]. Of note, ORAI1 and STIM1 functions are regulated by multiple phosphorylation of serine residues [63,64]. Future studies are needed to investigate in more details, whether TRPM7 kinase may phosphorylate serine/threonine residues in the protein complex of SOCE.

## 2.5. Receptor-operated calcium entry

Besides SOCE, also other Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx mechanisms exist in platelets. These include a ROCE pathway, induced by DAG-mediated TRPC6 activation, and a pathway of Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx through the ATP-gated purinergic receptor channel P2X<sub>1</sub>.

### 2.5.1. TRPC6

TRPC6, which is abundantly expressed in both mouse and human MKs and platelets, has been proposed as a non-SOC channel [48]. This was based on the findings that TRPC6 activation is strongly dependent on phospholipase C (PLC) and D (PLD)-mediated DAG production, but independent of Ca<sup>2+</sup> release from intracellular stores. In addition, TRPC6 is a substrate for cAMP protein kinase and phosphorylation does not affect Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry through the channel [48]. TRPC6 contains two sites for cyclic nucleotide kinase action at RRQT and KKLS [48], however it is unknown whether both sites are phosphorylated and their role on TRPC6 function. More recently, Nishida et al., showed that inhibition of cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate (cGMP)-selective phosphodiesterase 5 induces phosphorylation of TRPC6 proteins at Thr69 [65], leading to inhibition of TRPC6-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling. The authors proposed that cGMP-dependent protein kinase (PKG)-mediated inhibition of TRPC6 channel activity is required for the pathological cardiac hypertrophy [65]. In addition, PKC also can inhibit TRPC6 activity by phosphorylation of Ser<sup>448</sup> [66]. Both PKC and TRPC6 are activated by GPCR signalling, suggesting that PKC may act as negative feedback mechanism on TRPC6 activity, thereby to weaken Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry [66].

In TRPC6-deficient mouse platelets, TG-induced SOCE was not altered, suggesting that it does not act as a SOC channel or other Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels compensate for its function. Although TRPC6-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx has been described in many studies, contradictory results exist regarding the importance of TRPC6 in platelet physiology. In platelets from *Trpc6<sup>-/-</sup>* mice or in human platelets in the presence of non-selective TRPC6 blockers, lower aggregation responses were observed [67]. In contrast, using other *Trpc6<sup>-/-</sup>* knock-out mouse model, no obvious changes in Ca<sup>2+</sup> homeostasis or platelet function could be observed, although Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry induced by the DAG analogue 1-oleoyl-2-acetyl-sn-glycerol was virtually abolished [68]. The latter study also indicated that TRPC6 in mouse platelets provides a major route of DAG-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry [68]. Other authors however suggested that TRPC6 is not only involved in ROCE, but can also contribute to SOCE in platelets [49].

To further investigate the relations between SOCE and ROCE, mice lacking both ORAI1 and TRPC6 were generated [69]. *Orai1<sup>-/-</sup>Trpc6<sup>-/-</sup>* platelets displayed a further reduction in TG-induced SOCE, when compared to *Orai1<sup>-/-</sup>* platelets, indicating the existence of a crosstalk between the TRPC6 and ORAI1 channels [69]. However, the crosstalk was independent of biochemical interactions between ORAI1 and TRPC6 in the SOCE complex, since ORAI1-mediated SOCE amplified DAG production through the activation of PLC and PLD isoforms, thereby increasing the channel activity of TRPC6 [69]. Furthermore, the platelets from *Orai1<sup>-/-</sup>Trpc6<sup>-/-</sup>* mice displayed a severe Ca<sup>2+</sup> deficit in resting state and upon activation – i.e. reduced Ca<sup>2+</sup> store content and Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels in the cytosol [69].

### 2.5.2. P2X<sub>1</sub>

The P2X<sub>1</sub> purinoceptor acts as an ATP-gated ion channel with relatively high Ca<sup>2+</sup> permeability in the platelet plasma membrane [70,71]. Activation of the P2X<sub>1</sub> channel causes a rapid Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx, dense granule centralisation, shape change and a low level of platelet aggregation [70,72]. Moreover, P2X<sub>1</sub> activation enhances platelet responses to thrombin and collagen [70,72]. Typically, the activation of the P2X<sub>1</sub> channel is transient due to its fast desensitization by released ADP. Therefore, to study the P2X<sub>1</sub> channel *in vitro*, a high concentration of apyrase is required to scavenge ADP [71].

Studies on P2X<sub>1</sub> knock-out mice (*P2X1<sup>-/-</sup>*) provided most definitive evidence for an important role of this channel in platelet function [73]. Bleeding times in *P2X1<sup>-/-</sup>* mice remained unchanged as compared to wild-type mice, indicating normal haemostasis [73]. Under flow conditions, at high shear, however, platelets from *P2X1<sup>-/-</sup>* mice displayed reduced thrombus formation [73]. Moreover, *P2X1<sup>-/-</sup>* mice were resistant to systemic thromboembolism, induced by the injection of a mixture of collagen and adrenaline, and in a model of arterial thrombosis induced by laser injury [73]. In contrast, overexpression of human P2X<sub>1</sub> in transgenic mice resulted in a prothrombotic phenotype [74]. Therefore, the P2X<sub>1</sub> channel has been proposed as an attractive target for the development of antithrombotic drugs [71,75,76]. One such drug, NF449, which is an analogue of suramin, a sulfated naphthylamine, was reported to display good selectivity for P2X protein family members and to inhibit thrombus formation *in vivo* [77]. Studies with NF449 demonstrated a dose-dependent inhibition of systemic thromboembolism in mice, which was accompanied by reduced platelet consumption [77]. Interestingly, *Orai1<sup>-/-</sup>* mice were protected also for systemic thromboembolism triggered by intravenous injection of collagen and epinephrine thrombogenic mixture [39].

P2X<sub>1</sub> channel activity also induces calmodulin-dependent myosin light chain kinase activity [78], which modulates cytoskeletal rearrangements and movement of intracellular granules, thereby triggering platelet shape change. Further studies are necessary to investigate whether ORAI1-mediated SOCE also regulates the channel activity of P2X<sub>1</sub> and downstream responses.

## 3. Platelet SOCE in arterial thrombosis and haemostasis

Considering that Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling is a crucial pathway in platelet activation, regulatory proteins involved in this process could be targets for antithrombotic therapy. In various genetic mouse models, attenuation of intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> signals, in particular SOCE, was found to affect arterial thrombus growth and/or stability. The decreased Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry in response to (hem)ITAM-linked receptor agonists observed in *Stim1<sup>-/-</sup>* and *Orai1<sup>-/-</sup>* platelets resulted in impaired whole-blood thrombus formation *ex vivo*. At high shear rates, resembling arterial flow conditions, the overall volume of thrombi formed by *Stim1<sup>-/-</sup>* and *Orai1<sup>-/-</sup>* platelets on collagen were reduced by 70% and 46%, respectively, compared to wild-type [39,58]. In standard aggregometry (i.e. stirred suspensions), integrin activation, granule release and aggregation of *Stim1<sup>-/-</sup>* and *Orai1<sup>-/-</sup>* platelets were defective in the presence of lower concentrations of GPVI agonists, but not affected in response to GPCR agonists [39,79]. In line with *ex vivo* flow adhesion assays, *Stim1<sup>-/-</sup>* and *Orai1<sup>-/-</sup>* chimeric mice were found to be protected from arterial thrombosis in different *in vivo* models, albeit to a different extent. The most pronounced protection of both mouse strains was observed in a mechanical injury model of the abdominal aorta, where thrombus formation is triggered predominantly by collagens exposed at the site of endothelial damage [39,58]. Interestingly, in a chemically induced injury model using topical application of ferric chloride (FeCl<sub>3</sub>) on mesenteric arterioles, *Stim1<sup>-/-</sup>* chimeric mice displayed impaired thrombus formation and vessel occlusion, whilst this process was not affected in *Orai1<sup>-/-</sup>* chimeric mice. This could be explained by the fact that GPCR-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> responses are lower in *Stim1<sup>-/-</sup>* platelets than in *Orai1<sup>-/-</sup>* platelets [39,58]. Accordingly,

*Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup>/*Trpc6*<sup>-/-</sup> chimeric mice have also normal thrombus formation in the FeCl<sub>3</sub>-injured mesenteric arteries highlighting the importance of efficient Ca<sup>2+</sup> store depletion and contribution of other Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels to FeCl<sub>3</sub>-induced thrombus formation, probably enhancing P2X<sub>1</sub> or other TRP channel activity [69].

Thrombus formation at high shear rates was also impaired in conditional knock-out mice with a megakaryocyte/platelet specific deletion of *Stim1* gene (*Stim1*<sup>f/f</sup> PF4-Cre), [80], however to less extent than in *Stim1*<sup>-/-</sup> chimeric mice [58] in which SOCE of immune cells in addition to platelets SOCE was also defective. However, platelets from both mouse strain displayed a decreased PS exposure. *In vivo* thrombus stability of *Stim1*<sup>f/f</sup> PF4-Cre mice were correlated with the delayed formation of fibrin at sites of vascular injury [80], suggesting that the procoagulant role of STIM1-mediated SOCE in platelets plays an important role in thrombus stability and growth.

*Stim1*<sup>Sax/+</sup> mice have been also studied in several models of arterial thrombosis. These mice showed decreased vessel occlusion in the mechanically injured abdominal aorta, but not of FeCl<sub>3</sub>-injured mesenteric arterioles [57]. Of note, *Stim1*<sup>Sax/+</sup> mice exhibit marked thrombocytopenia which likely contributes to the decreased vessel occlusion in the aorta [57].

So far, studies in platelets isolated from *Stim2*<sup>-/-</sup> mice showed no abnormalities and Ca<sup>2+</sup> responses to common platelet agonists were unaltered compared to wild-type controls [42]. The unchanged Ca<sup>2+</sup> store release and SOCE in STIM2 deficient platelets point to substantial redundancy with the physiological functions of STIM1. Although STIM2 is highly expressed in the MK lineage, platelets from STIM2 knock-out mice did not show defects in platelet production or thrombus formation [42].

In humans, rare loss of function mutations in the *Orai1* and *STIM1* genes have been reported, leading to altered platelet SOCE [81]. These mutations profoundly affect TG-induced SOCE [82] and seem to be associated with mild thrombocytopenia, but not with a bleeding phenotype. Interestingly, both loss- and gain-of-function mutations in *Orai1* and *STIM1* are accompanied by a lower platelet count, for reasons that are not yet clear. A recent report investigated the effect of several mutations in *Orai1* and *STIM1* on whole-blood thrombus formation on collagen and non-collagen surface *ex vivo* [82]. It appeared that both loss-of-function (*Orai1*<sup>R91W</sup>) and gain-of function (*Orai1*<sup>G98S</sup>) variants of *Orai1* lead to decreased thrombus formation on collagen microspots, and in particular to a decreased procoagulant activity indicated by reduced PS exposure. Interestingly, these mutations also decreased platelet aggregation and procoagulant activity on vWF/rhodocytin and vWF/FGN microspots. On the other hand, a heterozygous *STIM1*<sup>R429C</sup> mutation, in the *STIM1*-*Orai*-activating region did not affect thrombus formation [82]. It was proposed that depending on the activated signalling pathway, the platelet SOCE defect and the mild thrombocytopenia in different ways might alter the thrombus-forming process [82].

The roles of murine *STIM1* and *Orai1* have also been studied in haemostasis. Tail bleeding times were normal in *Stim1*<sup>-/-</sup> or *Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup> bone marrow chimeric mice. Similarly to patients, loss of *STIM1* or *Orai1* has not been associated with a bleeding diathesis [39,58]. In contrast, the gain-of function mutation of *STIM1* in *Stim1*<sup>Sax/+</sup> mice results in reduced platelet count, dysregulated platelet function and consequently prolonged bleeding [57]. A similar phenotype was observed in patients with the Stormorken [83,84] and York syndromes [85] carrying gain of function mutations in the *STIM1* gene.

#### 4. Platelet SOCE in ischemic stroke

Platelets play a critical role in the progression of ischemic stroke [23]. In mice, the transient middle cerebral artery occlusion (tMCAO) model is widely used to study mechanisms underlying post-ischemic infarct progression in the brain [23,86,87], which is also seen in stroke patients where brain infarcts frequently grow despite recanalization of

a previously occluded cerebral artery. Platelets are known to contribute to this reperfusion injury but the underlying mechanisms are only poorly understood. Interestingly, in both *Stim1*<sup>-/-</sup> and *Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup> bone-marrow chimeras infarct volumes at 24 h after induction of tMCAO were markedly reduced, when compared to wild-type mice [39,58]. No intracranial haemorrhages were observed, suggesting a net protective effect on stroke with blood cells lacking *STIM1* or *Orai1*. Importantly, the reduced infarct sizes were accompanied by significantly improved neurological and motoric functions of the chimeric animals in comparison to the control mice [39,58].

When primary neurons isolated from *Orai1* or *STIM1* deficient mice were subjected to ischemia *in vitro*, a similar degree of SOCE was observed as wild-type cells [39,58], whereas the neurons from *Stim2*<sup>-/-</sup> mice showed a reduced Ca<sup>2+</sup> store content and SOCE [88]. These results highlight a regulatory role of *STIM2* in neuronal SOCE, relevant for the development of experimentally induced ischemic stroke. Taken together, this points to SOCE as a potential target to suppress ischemic insults, *i.e.* by blocking Ca<sup>2+</sup>-induced platelet activation and reducing neuronal cell death. In line with this suggestion, in the tMCAO model, wild-type mice pre-treated with the SOCE blocker 2-aminoethoxydiphenyl borate (2 APB) were protected from cerebral infarct growth, in a similar manner as seen with *Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup> bone marrow chimeric mice [79]. However, the molecular composition of the SOC complex in ischemic neurons has not been elucidated, leaving the possibility that other *Orai* and *TRP* isoforms regulate SOCE in this cell type.

#### 5. Platelets and immune cells in thrombo-inflammation

The current evidence suggests that at ischemic vascular lesions, the rapid intravascular activation of platelets and endothelial cells increases thrombotic events (Fig. 2). Collagen-vWF-GPIb platelet activation axis and factor XIIa (FXIIa)-mediated intrinsic coagulation pathways are important players in these events [23,87,89]. At initial steps, interactions of platelets subendothelial ECM components lead to platelet adhesion, activation, thereby enhancing thrombin generation and fibrin formation, which lead to thrombus formation. This process also involves interactions of platelet GPVI with its receptors, thereby enhancing thrombus growth [23,90,91]. Recruitment and activation of immune cells from peripheral blood can trigger fibrin formation, which also contribute to thrombotic events [23,89,92]. In endothelial and immune cells, the increased expression of leukocyte adhesion molecules, such as P-selectin, intercellular adhesion molecule 1 (ICAM-1), vascular cell adhesion molecule 1 (VCAM-1) and platelet-endothelial cell adhesion molecule (PECAM) further stimulate the transmigration of immune cells [92,93]. At later time points of the stroke event, the ruptured blood-brain barrier exposes ischemic brain tissue to inflammatory molecules, cytokines, proteases, reactive oxygen species (ROS) derived from platelets and different immune cell subsets [89,94,95], thereby leading to neuronal damages (Fig. 2).

Emerging insights indicate an important link between thrombotic and inflammatory pathways in ischemic stroke. Accordingly, stroke can be redefined as a thrombo-inflammatory disorder [23,87,92,96]. In this section, we review the role of SOCE in platelets and immune cells in the context of thrombo-inflammation, referring to studies from mice and patients lacking functional *STIM* or *Orai* proteins.

##### 5.1. Role of SOCE in different immune cells

###### 5.1.1. Neutrophils

Neutrophils are first responders of the immune system, which are rapidly recruited into tissues in response to inflammation or infection. Neutrophils recognise antibody-opsonized pathogens and immune complexes containing antigens and antibodies *via* the Fc $\gamma$  receptors on their cell surface. This leads to immune complexes in the phagosome and phagocytosis of pathogens, with both processes relying on the production of ROS. Besides the Fc $\gamma$  receptors, also GPCR and integrins

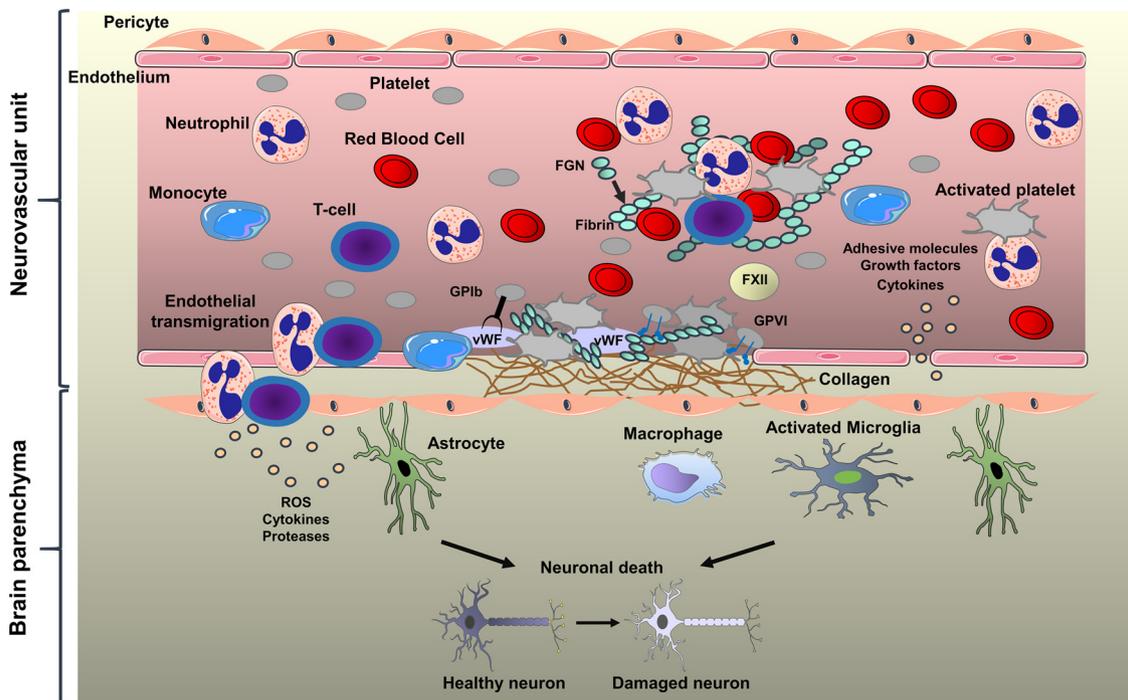


Fig. 2. Mechanisms of thrombo-inflammation in brain ischemic stroke.

Upon ischemic vascular injury, blood platelets adhere to exposed von Willebrand factor (vWF) through platelet Glycoprotein Ib alpha (GPIb $\alpha$ ), thereby enhancing thrombin generation and fibrin formation, which lead to thrombus formation. This process also involves interaction of GPIIb/IIIa with fibrillar collagen and fibrin, leading to the platelet adhesion, activation and subsequently thrombus formation and growth. In addition, activation of intrinsic coagulation pathway and fibrin generation lead to the recruitment of circulating platelets and immune cells, and subsequently to the release of inflammatory cytokines, oedema, activation of microglia and finally to neuronal death. During ischemic insults, activated neutrophils and T cells enhance the expression of adhesion molecules and release of growth factors and cytokines in endothelium and immune cells. Crosstalk between neutrophils, platelets and T cells lead to thrombus and fibrin formation, thrombin activation and induction of extrinsic tissue factor pathway. Immune cells may also contribute to ischemic stroke by migrating and infiltrating in brain parenchyma, thereby releasing ROS, inflammatory cytokines and proteases, which also lead to neuronal damage.

can regulate Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx in neutrophils, where SOCE is the main mechanism of Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry [16]. Early studies showed that in the neutrophil-like HL-60 cells, small interfering RNA (siRNA)-mediated knock-down of STIM1 impairs Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry in response to formyl peptide or TG, resulting in a decreased production of ROS [97]. Using mice lacking STIM1, STIM2 or both in the myeloid and neutrophil-specific lineage, Clemens and collaborators showed that STIM1 and STIM2 cooperatively regulate neutrophil SOCE. ROS production, neutrophil degranulation and phagocytosis are minimally impaired in the absence of STIM2, suggesting that STIM1 is the major Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor required for neutrophil functions [98]. Interestingly, STIM2-deficient, but not STIM1-deficient, neutrophils display a marked defect in cytokine production and protected in a model of systemic inflammatory response syndrome [98].

Patients carrying a missense ORAI1 variant has no alteration in leukocyte cell counts, suggesting that SOCE is not required for granulocyte development [16]. However, receptor-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx was virtually abolished in activated neutrophils from immuno-deficient patients with strongly altered ORAI1 functions, indicating that the major route of SOCE triggered by ORAI1 isoform in these cells [99–101]. On other hand, in neutrophil like HL-60 cells, siRNA-mediated knock-down of ORAI1 decreased SOCE and production of ROS in response to stimulation through Fc $\gamma$  receptors or GPCR by no more than 20–50%. [102–104], suggesting the presence of an alternative mechanism. Similar results were obtained using *Orai1*<sup>+/-</sup> murine neutrophils [102].

Neutrophil recruitment to inflammatory sites involves chemokine release and  $\beta_2$ -integrin activation, with both events being co-regulated by the cytosolic Ca<sup>2+</sup> level [105–107]. Inhibition of SOCE in human neutrophils by genetic deletion of ORAI1 delayed integrin  $\beta_2$ -dependent adhesion and integrin clustering, suggesting a role of SOCE in

neutrophil attachment to the endothelium [102,108]. In contrast to ORAI1, in murine neutrophils STIM1 appeared to be dispensable for cellular migration, indicating a complex sensing mechanism in this cell type [109].

Neutrophils contribute to the disruption of blood brain barrier through the release of proteases and ROS, thereby inducing cerebral oedema and neurotoxicity [94]. It has been also proposed that neutrophil and platelet interaction aggravates ischemic brain damage and causes thrombo-inflammatory injury. This interaction is considered to be important for the extravasation [110]. Recently, it has been shown that the migration of neutrophils into the brain is dependent on the platelet GPIb-V-IX complex [111]. Neutrophil migration also involves TRPM7-channel activity by facilitating Ca<sup>2+</sup> oscillations. It has been suggested that interplay between TRPM7 and glycoprotein CD147 regulates neutrophil chemotaxis, adhesion and migration in rheumatoid arthritis conditions [112]. Recently, using bone marrow chimeric mice, we showed that the kinase activity of TRPM7, which regulates SOCE, is involved in ischemic stroke [62]. After tMCAO, the protective effects observed in different groups of bone marrow chimeric *Trpm7*<sup>R/R</sup> mice was not only due to the lack of TRPM7 kinase activity in platelets and immune cells [62], but also suggest the involvement of cells located in the brain vessels and neuronal tissue. However, the detailed role of TRPM7 kinase-mediated SOCE in neutrophils and other immune cells need to be further investigated in ischemic conditions.

Together, these data suggest that SOCE mediates many functions of neutrophils, which may occur in thrombo-inflammatory diseases. Whether SOCE components only in neutrophils or platelets or in bidirectional way could mediate these processes is simulating several questions, which need to be addressed in the future.

### 5.1.2. Macrophages

Macrophages are phagocytes derived from activated monocytes with central roles in both innate and adaptive immunity [113]. Macrophages play an important role in phagocytosis of cell debris and pathogens, and the production of cytokines such as of interleukin (IL)-1 $\beta$ , IL-6 and IL-12, which in turn activate other immune cells. The recognition of antibody-opsonized pathogens by macrophages is mediated through Fc gamma (Fc $\gamma$ ) receptors [113].

Initial studies demonstrated that STIM1 and SOCE are essential for Fc $\gamma$  receptor activation and auto-immune inflammation [114]. Upon cross-linking of Fc $\gamma$  receptors, *Stim1*<sup>-/-</sup> macrophages displayed markedly reduced phagocytosis of opsonized blood, while the production of inflammatory cytokines, macrophage inflammatory protein-2 (MIP-2) and tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF $\alpha$ ) was only moderately impaired [114]. This work further indicated that STIM1 was indispensable for the development of monocytes and their differentiation into macrophages [114]. Deficiency in STIM1 also resulted in resistance to experimental IgG-dependent immune thrombocytopenia, anaphylaxis, and acute pneumonitis [114]. Later evidence indicated that also STIM2 contributes to Fc $\gamma$  receptor activation, suggesting a partial functional redundancy between the STIM isoforms in this regulation of inflammation [115].

Recently, using *Stim1*<sup>-/-</sup> and *Stim2*<sup>-/-</sup> bone marrow chimeras, it was demonstrated that either isoform is dispensable for key effector functions of macrophages and dendritic cells, such as Fc $\gamma$  receptor-dependent and -independent phagocytosis, phagolysosome fusion, cytokine production and NLR family, pyrin domain containing 3 (NLRP3) inflammasome activation [116]. Altogether, these data indicate that depending of the inflammatory context, SOCE can regulate proinflammatory pathways in macrophages, but not other effector functions [116].

TRPM7 channel is also mediator of macrophage functions. TRPM7-deficient macrophages displayed decreased Toll-like receptor-4 (TLR-4) internalisation and nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells (NF $\kappa$ B) activation in following Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) challenge [117]. Interestingly, these defects were due to diminished TRPM7-mediated Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx [117]. In addition, in LPS-induced peritonitis model, *Trpm7* <sup>$\beta$ /LysM-Cre</sup> mice had decreased serum cytokine levels after LPS treatment, preventing pathological inflammation [117]. However, whether these functions in macrophages involve TRPM7-mediated SOCE remain still elusive.

After stroke, ischemic brain tissues are abundant in macrophages derived from either resident microglia or infiltrating monocytes [118]. Interestingly, it has been shown that expression profile of genes involved in Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling enriched in migrating monocytes during ischemic stroke [119]. Whether SOCE activity may be involved in the regulation of macrophage function in stroke, future studies needed to establish this process using a wide range of thrombo-inflammatory conditions.

### 5.1.3. T cells

SOCE regulates many important functions of T cells, including proliferation, differentiation and cytokine production. Activation of the T cell receptor signalosome triggers intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> store depletion and subsequent SOCE, and activates a Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent calcineurin-nuclear factor of activated T cells (NFAT) pathway. T cells isolated from SOCE-defective patients fail to proliferate in response to receptor stimulation, and accordingly, display impaired NFAT signalling thereby blocking downstream cytokine production [120,121]. In line with these data, murine T cells lacking STIM1 or STIM2 produced less cytokines and displayed reduced nuclear translocation of the transcription factor NFAT [59].

Homozygous ORAI1<sup>R93W</sup> mice die after birth, but foetal liver chimeras are viable and T cells develop normally, despite defective SOCE. However, the effector functions of T cells were markedly impaired in these mice, including the production of IL-2, IL-4, IL-17, interferon

(IFN)- $\gamma$  and TNF $\alpha$ , [99], indicating a crucial role of ORAI1-mediated SOCE in the regulation of the inflammatory response. In Type 2 T helper (Th2) cells from STIM1 or ORAI1-deficient mice, the activity of CD4<sup>+</sup> T helper cells is also dependent on SOCE, as apparent from the decreased production of IL-4 and IL-10 [99]. This effect was linked to impaired functions of Type 1 T helper (Th1) and T helper 17 (Th17) cells, and a shortage of IFN- $\gamma$  and IL-17A production [99,122]. *Stim1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice were found to be more resistant to induction of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis than *Stim2*<sup>-/-</sup> mice, which is consistent with only partial involvement of STIM2 in cytokine production and T cell function [122,123].

Using conditional knock-out mouse models, it was recently shown that genetic deletion of *Orai1* reduces SOCE in mouse T cells, whereas deletion of *Orai2* increases SOCE. This may suggest that ORAI2 forms heteromeric channels with ORAI1, in which ORAI2 attenuates the function of ORAI1 and limits SOCE [124]. Interestingly, deletion of *Orai2* enhanced SOCE in naïve T cells but not in effector T cells. Combined deletion of *Orai1* and *Orai2* completely abolished SOCE, suggesting that both isoforms mediate SOCE in these cells. Moreover, *Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup>*Orai2*<sup>-/-</sup> double knock-out mice displayed severe defects in T cell functions *in vitro*, and impaired T cell-mediated immune responses *in vivo*, such as antibody production after viral infection, colitis or graft-versus-host disease [124].

Recent studies also highlighted the role of TRPM7 in human T cell proliferation. Pharmacological inhibition of TRPM7 in human T cells leads to growth arrest and reduces cell proliferation [125]. In addition, TRPM7 was described to be involved in the migration of human T cells [126]. Consistently, Romagnani et al., showed that TRPM7 kinase activity is essential for T-cell colonisation and alloreactivity in the gut [127]. More recently, it has been shown that the deletion of TRPM kinase activity in mice results in enlarged spleens, reduced T-cell proliferation and decreased SOCE [128]. In future, it could be important to investigate whether the observed functions of TRPM7-kinase mediated SOCE in mouse cells could be applied to humans.

*Rag1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice lacking both mature T and B cells are profoundly protected from experimentally induced focal cerebral ischemia [129]. Adoptive transfer of T cells, but not of B cells, could fully restore the susceptibility to stroke progression. Importantly, platelet activation pathways were unaltered in *Rag1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice [129], suggesting that the observed effect was not linked to altered thrombus formation. However, adoptive transfer of T cells into platelet-depleted *Rag1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice did not result in increased infarct sizes [129], pointing to a crosstalk between platelets and T cells in the progression of ischemic stroke.

Regulatory T (T<sub>reg</sub>) cells are a subset of T lymphocytes that regulate immune homeostasis by maintaining immunological self-tolerance. The development of such cells is dependent on the forkhead box P3 (Foxp3) transcription factor [130]. Kleinschnittz et al., showed that Foxp3<sup>+</sup> T<sub>reg</sub> cells can interact with cerebral endothelial cells and platelets, thereby promoting ischemic neurodegeneration after the ischemic insult [131]. In mice, inactivation of the *Stim1/2* genes significantly diminished the population of Foxp3<sup>+</sup> T<sub>reg</sub> cells in the thymus and lymphoid organs [59]. However, the T<sub>reg</sub> cells developed normally in *Stim1*<sup>-/-</sup> or *Orai1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice, which may point to a role of STIM2 backing up the SOCE activity for T<sub>reg</sub> cell development [99,132]. On other hand, SOCE was shown to regulate T<sub>reg</sub> suppressive functions. Thus, the few CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> Foxp3 T<sub>reg</sub> cells deficient in both STIM1 and STIM2 were unable to suppress the proliferation of wild-type CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells [101]. T<sub>reg</sub> cells isolated from STIM1- or ORAI1-deficient animals displayed only a moderate reduction in this suppressive activity [99,132]. Altogether, these data point on potential crosstalk between STIM1 and STIM2 in the regulation of T<sub>reg</sub> cell function.

Although T cells are important players of thrombo-inflammatory diseases, the role of SOCE-mediated T-cell functions in such conditions is not established. Moreover, T cell-endothelial cell-platelet interactions may influence thrombo-inflammatory process, it appears interesting whether this cellular crosstalk may be regulated by SOCE.

## 6. Therapeutic potential of SOCE inhibitors for thrombo-inflammatory diseases

While a range of synthetic pharmacological compounds are known to inhibit the channels responsible for SOCE, several of these can also affect the activities of other, non-SOC channels. One of the most widely studied drugs is 2 APB. This compound was discovered as a non-competitive lipophilic antagonist of the reticular IP<sub>3</sub> receptors, inhibiting Ca<sup>2+</sup> store depletion, but in addition it attenuates SOCE and the TRPC3 channel in the plasma membrane [133,134]. Subsequently, it appeared that 2 APB can also decrease the activities of TRPM6 and TRPM7 channels in various cell types [135]. Interestingly, at high concentrations, 2 APB inhibits ORAI1 and ORAI2, but stimulates ORAI3 [136]. Recently, Wei et al., showed that 2 APB has also inhibitory effects on functional coupling between STIM1 and ORAI1 [137]. Treatment with 2 APB reduced platelet responses and partially protected mice from cerebral infarct progression in the tMCAO model [79], but the target of the compound responsible for these effects has not been established. 2 APB may also influence many functions in immune cells. In mast cells, 2 APB inhibited cell degranulation and release of inflammatory cytokines, such as TNF $\alpha$  and IL-4 [138]. In addition, in bone marrow-derived macrophages and dendritic cells, 2 APB strongly impaired many effector functions, including phagocytosis, inflammasome activation and priming of T-cells [116]. In contrast, macrophages and dendritic cells from mice with conditional deletion of *Stim1* and *Stim2* genes displayed no major functional defects [116], suggesting that in these cells 2 APB-induced effects occur in SOCE-independent manner.

Another well-studied SOCE blocker is the synthetic estrogen, diethylstilbestrol (DES), which was discovered as an agonist of estrogen receptors [139]. Initially, DES was used as a therapeutic agent for women, for whom estrogen replacement therapy was indicated. DES was also shown to upregulate IFN $\gamma$  production in splenic lymphocytes [140]. Later, DES was found to inhibit SOCE in platelets and vascular smooth muscle cells [141].

3,5-Bis(trifluoromethyl) pyrazole derivative (BTP2) inhibits SOCE in platelets and macrophages. In primary macrophages, BTP2-inhibited SOCE occurred through the suppression of Fc $\gamma$  receptor-mediated signalling. Treatment with BTP2 strongly attenuated skin and lung inflammation in mice [142]. The compound was found to suppress anti-CD3 antibody-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilisation in T cells, thereby affecting cytokine production and cell proliferation [143–145], but the underlying molecular mechanisms are still unknown. Besides ORAI, BTP2 may also suppress the channel activity of TRPC3 and TRPC5 [146], although it may activate TRPM4 channels [147]. These diverse actions of BTP2 on cation homeostasis suggest that immune-modulatory effects will depend on the channel composites of the investigated cell types.

A pyrazole derivative, GSK-7975 A, has been described to inhibit ORAI-mediated SOCE, likely by blocking the pore-forming unit of the channel [148,149]. In human embryonic kidney 293 (HEK293) cells expressing the ORAI<sup>E106D</sup> variant, modifying the structure of the channel pore, it appeared that the inhibitory potency of GSK-7975 A on SOCE was significantly reduced [149]. Interestingly, in HEK293 cells, GSK-7975 A was also found to inhibit TRPV6 channels [148,149]. In addition, van Kruchten et al., showed that GSK-7975 A, like a novel compound Synta66, inhibited platelet-dependent coagulation and thrombus formation as potently as 2 APB [79].

Altogether these studies indicate that SOCE inhibitors influence many functions of platelets and immune cells, which may contribute to thrombo-inflammation. Future studies are needed to investigate the mechanisms induced by SOCE inhibitors in more details.

## 7. Conclusions

In this review we summarised important aspects of the complex roles of SOCE in platelets and immune cells. In platelets, SOCE is mainly regulated by STIM1 and ORAI1, whereas other isoforms have less

prominent roles in these cells in thrombosis and haemostasis. Studies using knock-out mice indicated that in platelets inhibition of ORAI1-mediated SOCE may present an attractive strategy to prevent arterial thrombosis and ischemic stroke. In immune cells, inhibition of SOCE protected mice from various inflammatory diseases. A better understanding of fine-tuning of SOCE in thrombosis and thrombo-inflammation is required to address a large panel of therapeutic strategies for selective SOC channel inhibition in both platelets and immune cells.

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest

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