

1 **Sodium-Calcium Exchanger**  
 2 **Modulates the L-Glutamate**  
 3 **Ca<sub>i</sub><sup>2+</sup> Signalling in Type-1 Cerebellar**  
 4 **Astrocytes**

[AU1]

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 6 Gustavo Benaim, Erica Jaffe, Carlo Caputo,  
 7 and Reinaldo Di Polo

8 **Abstract**

9 We have previously demonstrated that rat cerebellar type-1 astrocytes  
 10 express a very active Na<sup>+</sup>/Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchanger which accounts for most of the  
 11 total plasma membrane Ca<sup>2+</sup> fluxes and for the clearance of Ca<sub>i</sub><sup>2+</sup> induce  
 12 by physiological agonist. In this chapter, we have explored the mecha-  
 13 nism by which the reverse Na<sup>+</sup>/Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchange is involved in agonist-  
 14 induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling in rat cerebellar astrocytes. Laser-scanning  
 15 confocal microscopy experiments using immunofluorescence labelling of  
 16 Na<sup>+</sup>/Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchanger and RyRs demonstrated that they are highly co-local-  
 17 ized. The most important finding presented in this chapter is that  
 18 L-glutamate activates the reverse mode of the Na<sup>+</sup>/Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchange by  
 19 inducing a Na<sup>+</sup> entry through the electrogenic Na<sup>+</sup>-glutamate co-trans-  
 20 porter and not through the ionophoric L-glutamate receptors as confirmed  
 21 by pharmacological experiments with specific blockers of ionophoric  
 22 L-glutamate receptors, electrogenic glutamate transporters and the Na/Ca  
 23 exchange.

24 **Keywords**

25 Na<sup>+</sup>/Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchange • CICR • Glutamate • Glutamate transporter

26 **22.1 Introduction**

27 The Na<sup>+</sup>/Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchanger a plasma membrane  
 28 counter-transport system plays a critical role in  
 29 the control of intracellular calcium. In its for-  
 30 ward mode (Ca<sup>2+</sup> efflux), the exchanger has an  
 31 important physiological role for the rapid extru-  
 32 sion of large amounts of Ca<sup>2+</sup> from the cell.  
 33 However, the physiological role of the exchanger,  
 34 working in its reverse mode (Ca<sup>2+</sup> entry), is still

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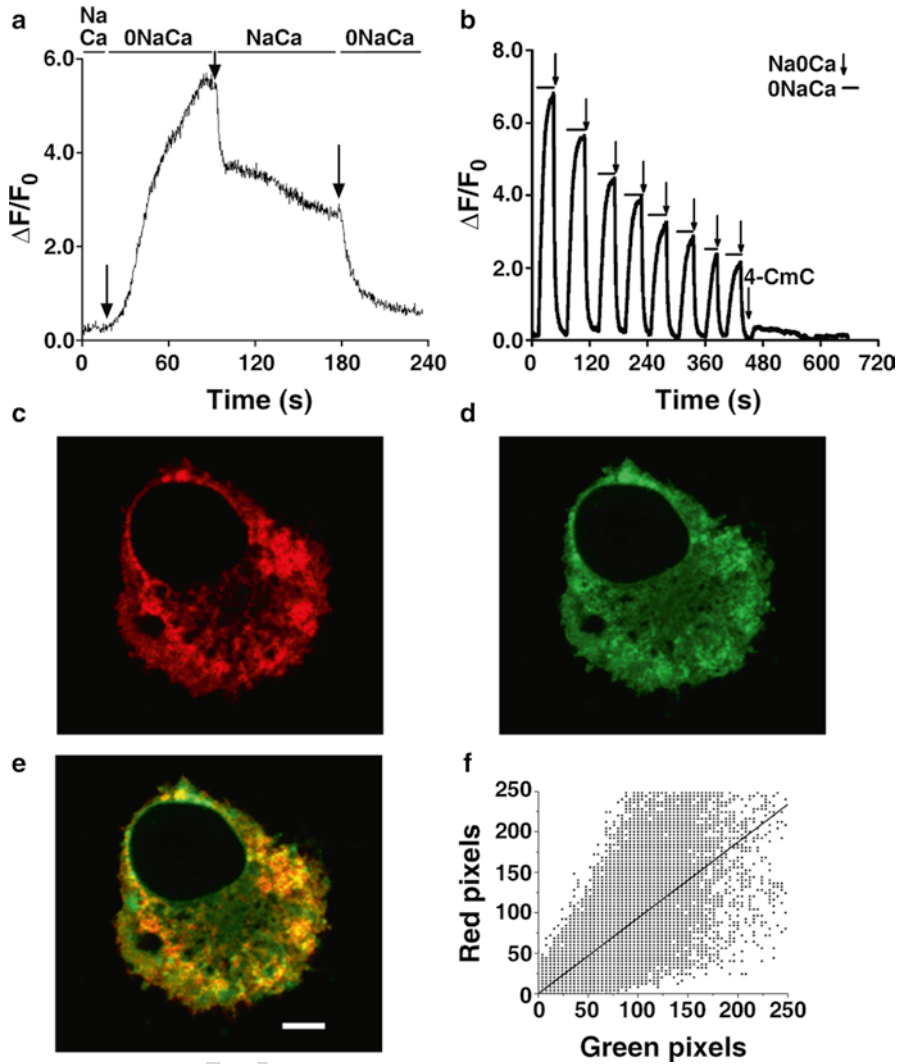
controversial (Blaustein and Lederer 1999). In principle, there are two non-exclusive possibilities for the involvement of the reverse exchange in  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  signalling in cerebellar type-1 astrocytes: (1)  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  entering by the reverse exchanger directly triggers calcium-dependent processes and/or (2)  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  entering through the exchanger serves as messenger for a  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  signal amplification through a  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$ -induced- $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$ -release (CICR) mechanism. In favour of the first possibility are the reports that L-glutamate (L-Glu) through activation of kainate receptor channels leads to the influx of  $\text{Na}^+$  ions which activates the reverse  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange, thus leading to  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  increase (Goldman et al. 1994; Takuma et al. 1996). A similar mechanism has been proposed to explain the glutamate-induced homocysteic acid release from cortical astrocytes (Benz et al. 2004). On the other hand, the existence and functional significance of CICR coupled to ryanodine receptors (RyRs) is well documented in astrocytes (Verkhatsky and Kettenmann 1994). Nevertheless, the existence and functional relevance of RyRs in cerebellar type-1 astrocytes, if any, have not been demonstrated.

The experiments reported here examine the role of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry through reverse  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange as a mechanism for inducing amplification of  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  signals that occur during conditions of agonist activation. Using microspectrofluorometric measurements, pharmacological tools, immunofluorescence labelling and laser-scanning confocal microscopy (LSCM) analyses, we present for the first time evidences that in rat cerebellar type-1 astrocytes, (1)  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry during operation of reverse  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  markedly increases  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  by a CICR mechanism, followed by the opening of store-operated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channels (SOCC); (2) immunofluorescence labelling of both  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger and RyRs using confocal microscopy demonstrates that they are highly co-localized; and (3) unexpectedly, physiological agonist concentrations of L-Glu increase  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  through activation of the reverse exchange as a result of  $\text{Na}^+$  entry through the electrogenic glutamate transporters.

## 22.2 Role of the Sodium-Calcium Exchanger in the Control of L-Glutamate $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$ Signalling in Cerebellar Type-1 Astrocytes

Figure 22.1a shows a run in which a cell was exposed to along 70-s pulse to a  $0\text{NaCa}$  solution, producing a larger increase in intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . Readmission of external  $\text{Na}$  causes the  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  to drop to a sloping plateau which was cut short by superfusing the cell with a  $\text{Na}^+$ -containing  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -free medium ( $\text{Na}_0\text{Ca}$ ) lowering the  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  to nearly resting values. This experiment suggests that in this preparation, substantial  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry through the reverse exchange may activate the release of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  from intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores, the opening of the SOCC (store-operated calcium channels). The protocol of Fig. 22.1b was designed to disable the forward  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange with a 50-s pulse of  $0\text{NaCa}$  ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry mode, horizontal slash) and then rapidly enable the forward exchange ( $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  extrusion mode) for about 40 s by rapidly superfusing with the test  $\text{Na}_0\text{Ca}$  medium (vertical arrows). This protocol was repeated during nine consecutive pulses. The results of Fig. 22.1b indicate that in the absence of external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , the forward mode of the exchange lowers the  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  faster and to a greater extent than in its presence. More importantly, they also show that the peak of the  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$ -dependent fluo-3 signal induced by the reverse exchange decreases progressively after each period of activation of the forward exchange mode. The fact that this decrease is due to depletion of ryanodine-sensitive  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  stores is confirmed by the absence of  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  release by the ryanodine receptor agonist 4-CmC (end of experiment).

The pharmacological experiments of Fig. 22.1 indicate that ryanodine receptors are somehow involved in the amplification of the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signal during reverse operation of exchanger in this glial cell type. Therefore, the next step was focused on the immunolocalization of this transporter in the plasma membrane of these cells as well as on the spatial relationship between the plasmalemmal  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger and the

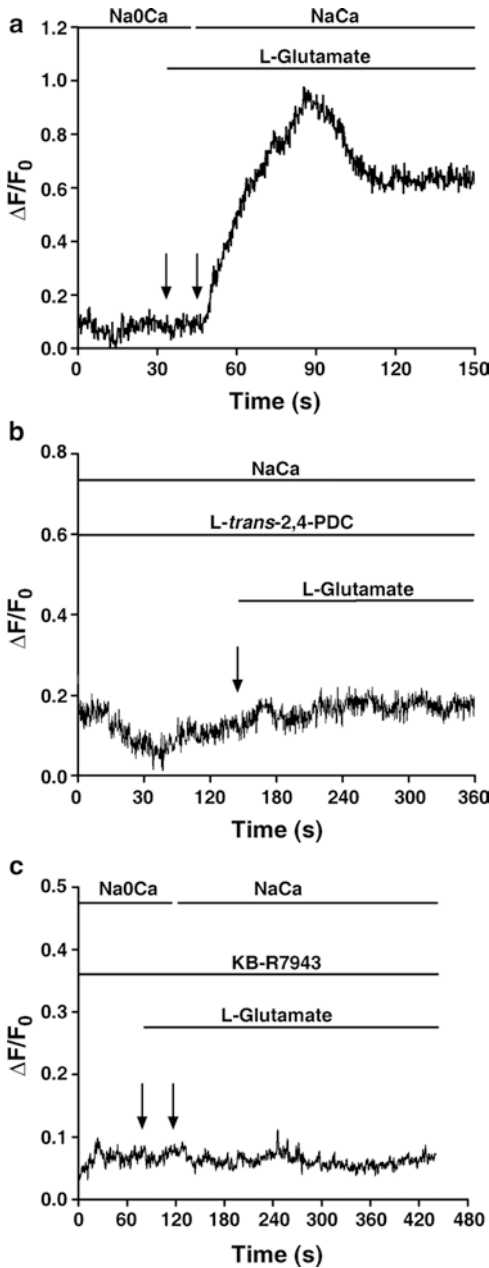


**Fig. 22.1** (a) Effect of a 0NaCa pulse induces a large  $Ca_i^{2+}$  signal, which, upon re-exposure to the normal medium, (NaCa) is partially reversed reaching a sloping plateau value. Additions of a solution containing  $Na^+$  but no  $Ca^{2+}$  bring the signal to background levels. (b) The effect of nine consecutive reverse (0NaCa) and forward ( $Na_0Ca$ ) short pulses causes a progressive decrease in the  $Ca_i^{2+}$  signal until it reaches a constant small  $Ca_i^{2+}$  value. At the end of experiment, the ryanodine agonist 4-CmC fails to release  $Ca^{2+}$  from ryanodine-sensitive  $Ca^{2+}$  stores, thus indicating that activation of the reverse exchange empty

the calcium accumulated in the endoplasmic reticulum. (C) and (D) show the immunofluorescent labelling of  $Na^+/Ca^{2+}$  exchanger (in red) with affinity-purified antibodies raised against the cardiac sarcolemmal  $Na^+/Ca^{2+}$  exchanger Alexa Fluor 546- $Na^+/Ca^{2+}$  exchanger and ryanodine receptors (in green) with Bodipy-FL-ryanodine, respectively. (e) and (f) show the merge of the images obtained with the two different labels (orange colour corresponding to regions of overlap) and the mathematical analysis of co-localization (Pearson's correlation of 0.89) (white bar indicate 10  $\mu m$ )

127 underlying endoplasmic reticulum (ER), in particular the ryanodine receptors. For this, cells  
 128 were incubated first with a purified canine cardiac  $Na^+/Ca^{2+}$  exchanger mouse monoclonal anti-  
 129 body and second with a secondary labelled goat  
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anti-mouse Igm antibody  $Na^+/Ca^{2+}$  exchange 132  
 Alexa Fluor 546. The immunofluorescence of the 133  
 the  $Na^+/Ca^{2+}$  exchanger (red colour) in a representative 134  
 cell is presented in Fig. 22.1c. In all cells studied 135  
 ( $n=6$ ), the labelling was punctual suggesting a 136



**Fig. 22.2** The effect of low ( $<30 \mu\text{M}$ ) L-Glu on the  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$ -dependent fluo-3 signal in the presence and absence of extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . (a) This astrocyte was perfused from the beginning with a medium containing no external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ( $\text{Na}_0\text{Ca}$ ). Notice that no effect of L-Glu is observed under this condition. Addition of 2 mM external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  rapidly induces a biphasic response. (b) The effect of L-trans-2,4-PDC (100  $\mu\text{M}$ ), a blocker of the electrogenic glutamate transporter, completely eliminates the L-Glu-induced increase in  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$ . (c) The effect of the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange inhibitor the KB-R7943 (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) over the L-Glu-induced  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  rise even at 1 mM [L-Glu]

cluster of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange molecules. Labelling of the exchanger was more intense at cell edges suggesting that the exchanger is distributing in an organized manner in the astrocyte plasmalemma. Figure 22.1d shows the localization of ryanodine receptors (green colour) in the same cell using Bodipy-FL-ryanodine, a specific ryanodine receptor marker (Hua et al. 2004). Figure 22.1e shows the co-localization (orange colour) of the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger and the ryanodine receptors. Figure 22.1 shows that from co-localization analysis, the observed overlap was found to be highly significant with a Pearson's correlation of about 0.89. This indicates that the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger is indeed co-localized with some of the ER, in particular with the ryanodine receptors.

Figure 22.2a shows that in the absence of external Ca, 30- $\mu\text{M}$  L-Glu does not modify the calcium fluorescence signal. Following addition of external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  in the continuous presence of L-Glu, a substantial increase in the  $[\text{Ca}_i^{2+}]$  was observed, thus indicating that the fluo-3 signal induced by L-Glu is mediated by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entering from the extracellular medium. On the other hand, Fig. 22.2b shows that the specific blocker of the electrogenic  $\text{Na}^+$ -glutamate co-transporter, L-trans-2,4,-PDC, completely eliminates the L-Glu induced increase in  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$ . Figure 22.2c shows that in presence of a potent inhibitor of the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger, KB-R7943 (Matsuda et al. 2001) and a preincubation (60 s) with 10  $\mu\text{M}$  of the inhibitor completely block the L-Glu effect.

### 22.3 Conclusion

The present work demonstrates that in type-1 cerebellar astrocytes in culture, the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signal generated by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry through the reverse  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange is greatly amplified by a  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$ -induced  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release mechanism which involves ryanodine receptors and ryanodine-sensitive  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores. While the presence of RyRs has been demonstrated in this preparation, their physiological significance was not clear (Langley and Pearce 1994; Simpson et al. 1998; Matyash et al. 2002; Golovina and Blaustein 2000; Beck et al.

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182 2004; Aley et al. 2006). Caffeine may induce  
183  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release from RyRs-operated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores in  
184 different neurons (Uneyama et al. 1993; Usachev  
185 et al. 1993; Kano et al. 1995; Llano et al. 2000)  
186 and glia preparations, (Verkhatsky and Shmilgol  
187 1996; Beck et al. 2004). However, it has been  
188 reported ineffective to release Ca in rodent astro-  
189 cytes (Beck et al. 2004) and those RyRs agonists,  
190 as caffeine and 4-CmC, release  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  from intrac-  
191 ellular stores.

192 In addition, and most importantly, for the first  
193 time, we provide evidence that the intracellular  
194  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signal induced by physiological concentra-  
195 tions of the excitatory amino acid L-glutamate is  
196 the result of  $\text{Na}^+$  entry through the electrogenic  
197 glutamate transporter that activates the reverse  
198  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange and leads to  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry, with a  
199 concomitant increase in  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ . The finding of a  
200 functional co-expression of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchangers  
201 with ryanodine receptors strongly supports the  
202 idea that the original  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signal due to  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  entry  
203 through the exchanger is largely amplified by a  
204 CICR process.

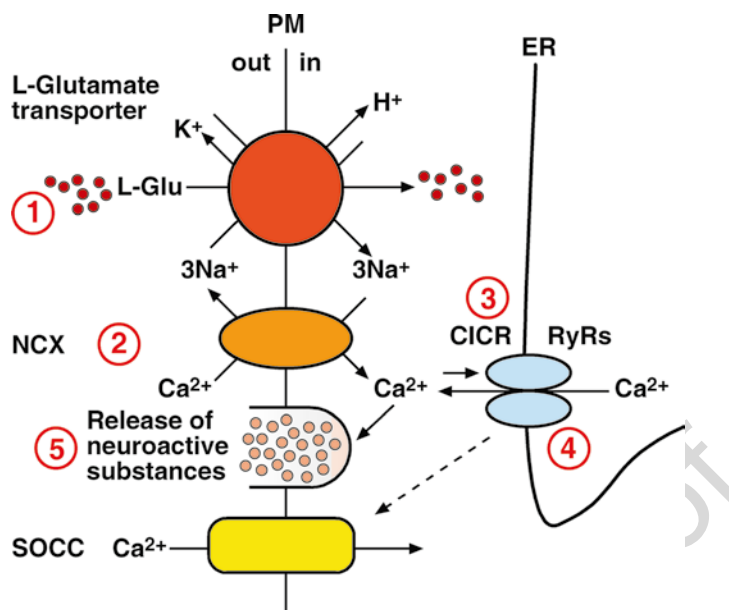
205 Previous studies have shown that the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$   
206 exchanger working in its reverse mode can induce  
207  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry in cultured astrocytes (Goldman et al.  
208 1994; Takuma et al. 1994; Blaustein and Lederer  
209 1999). Moreover,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx via the exchanger  
210 may be responsible for  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  increases under  
211 certain pathological conditions (Kin-Lee et al.  
212 1992; Matsuda et al. 1996). Cerebellar type-1  
213 astrocytes express a highly active  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$   
214 exchanger responsible for the balance of the  
215 plasma membrane  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  fluxes under resting phys-  
216 iological conditions (Rojas et al. 2004). In differ-  
217 ent preparations, there is evidence of an intimate  
218 association between the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger and  
219 internal  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores (Juhaszova et al. 1996). Such  
220 association is well established in smooth muscle  
221 cells where the exchanger is in close proximity to  
222 the sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) so that  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$   
223 release from the SR through RyRs is closely cou-  
224 pled to its extrusion by the exchanger (Nazer and  
225 van Breemen 1998). Furthermore, in neurons,  
226 there is evidence for a functional (Hurtado et al.  
227 2002) and spatial association of the exchanger  
228 with the intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores (Juhaszova et al.  
229 1996). Micci and Cristensen (1998) working in

230 catfish retinal neurons have studied the interac- 230  
231 tion between the exchanger and caffeine-sensitive 231  
232  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores showing that reverse operation of the 232  
233  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger refills  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -depleted ER. For 233  
234 the case of astrocytes, however, the relationship 234  
235 between the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger and the RyRs is 235  
236 unknown. 236

237 One of the aims of the present work was to 237  
238 investigate whether the magnitude of the increase 238  
239 in  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  observed when the operation of the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  239  
240 exchanger was reversed was due solely to 240  
241  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry or whether this entry could trigger fur- 241  
242 ther  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release from RyRs-operated intracellu- 242  
243 lar  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores. During long (>60 s)  $\text{Na}^+$  gradient 243  
244 reversal pulses, the increase in  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  is much 244  
245 larger and leads to depletion of RyRs-operated 245  
246 intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  store, indicating the presence of 246  
247 a CICR mechanism. Furthermore, depletion of 247  
248 intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores causes the activation of 248  
249 SOCC, as confirmed by the extracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  249  
250 dependency (Fig. 22.1a) and sensitivity to 2-APB 250  
251 (Lo et al. 2002; Rojas et al. 2007) of a late, resid- 251  
252 ual component of the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signal. The presence 252  
253 of ryanodine receptors in type-1 cerebellar astro- 253  
254 cytes has been confirmed using conventional  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  254  
255 imaging confocal microscopy and immunocy- 255  
256 tochemistry techniques. The close proximity of 256  
257 the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger to the ER membranes, 257  
258 where the RyRs are localized, allows the former 258  
259 to rapidly extrude  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ions released from the ER 259  
260 before their recapture by the ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -ATPase. 260  
261 This leads to depletion of the ER  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  stores as 261  
262 demonstrated by the consecutive reverse-forward 262  
263 pulse experiments. The fact that no release of 263  
264  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  is observed at the end of the run in the pres- 264  
265 ence of the ryanodine agonist 4-CmC or a combi- 265  
266 nation (Fig. 22.1b) demonstrates that the 266  
267 exchanger is capable of depleting the ER. 267

268 An important discovery in glial cell research 268  
269 is that  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  increase may trigger glutamate 269  
270 release from astrocytes which then mediates  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  270  
271 increases in nearby neurons, thus indicating a 271  
272 crosstalk between neurons and astrocytes (Parpura 272  
273 et al. 1994; Jeftinija et al. 1997; Pasti et al. 1995; 273  
274 Calegari et al. 1999; Araque et al. 2000; Fellin 274  
275 and Carmignoto 2004). Benz et al. (2004) have 275  
276 demonstrated the importance of the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  276  
277 exchanger in the glutamate response in cortical 277





**Fig. 22.3** Role of  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger in glutamate-induced rise of intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  in rat cerebellar type 1 astrocytes. The events that lead to glutamate-induced rise in intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  involve (1)  $\text{Na}^+$  entry through the electrogenic glutamate co-transporter, (2) activation of the reverse  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange (NCX) by the rise in intracellular  $\text{Na}^+$  ( $\text{Na}^+$  inward current through the glutamate

transporter), (3) rise in the  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  near the RyRs to trigger a CICR from the ER, (4) activation by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  of RyRs followed by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release from ryanodine channels leading to an amplification of the original  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry through the exchanger and (5) opening of the store-operated calcium channels and release of neuroactive substrates

278 astrocytes from mice. Their experiments show  
 279 that 500- $\mu\text{M}$  L-Glu induces a  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$ -dependent  
 280 release of homocysteic acid from astrocytes  
 281 through activation of glutamate receptors, lead-  
 282 ing to an influx of  $\text{Na}^+$  and to an increase in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$   
 283 entry through the reverse  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ex-  
 284 change (Benz et al. 2004). Previous electrophysiological  
 285 studies in rat cerebellar type-1 astrocytes show  
 286 that application of as low as 30- $\mu\text{M}$  L-Glu pro-  
 287 duced large inward currents which remains  
 288 inward going at potentials up to +80 mV being the  
 289 result of the presence of an electrogenic gluta-  
 [AU5]290 mate uptake carrier (Wyllie et al. 1991). In cells  
 291 kept up to 4 days in culture, quisqualate, kainate  
 292 and NMDA failed to produce any current indicat-  
 293 ing the absence at this early stage of glutamate  
 294 ionotropic receptors in rat cerebellar type-1 astro-  
 295 cytes (Wyllie et al. 1991). These authors showed  
 296 that even in older cultures, in which ionotropic  
 297 glutamate receptors are well expressed, most of  
 298 the L-Glu-induced inward current can be ascribed

299 to the  $\text{Na}^+$ -glutamate co-transporter (Wyllie et al. 299  
 300 1991). Based on these findings, we considered 300  
 301 the possibility that the electrogenic  $\text{Na}^+$ -glutamate 301  
 302 transporter might be involved in the L-Glu 302  
 303 dependent  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  increase in type-1 cerebellar 303  
 304 astrocytes through an increase in  $[\text{Na}^+]_i$ . 304  
 305 The major finding in the present work is that 305  
 306 activation of the reverse  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange by 306  
 307 physiological  $[\text{L-Glu}]$  is not the consequence of 307  
 308  $\text{Na}^+$  entry through ionotropic receptors as occurs 308  
 309 in other astrocyte preparations (Benz et al. 2004) 309  
 310 but the result of  $\text{Na}^+$  entry through the electro- 310  
 311 genic glutamate transporter (see the scheme of 311  
 312 Fig. 22.3). An important role of the electrogenic 312  
 313 glutamate transporter in the L-Glu-induced  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  313  
 314 increase and its relationship with the reverse  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  314  
 315 exchange are supported by the demonstra- 315  
 316 tion that (1) no effect of L-Glu is observed in the 316  
 317 absence of external  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , (2) inhibition of the 317  
 318 ionotropic glutamate receptors does not impair 318  
 319 the  $\text{Ca}_i^{2+}$  rise induced by L-Glu, (3) inhibition of 319

the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger completely blocks the L-Glu effect, (4) L-Glu effect is abolished by depletion of the ryanodine-sensitive intracellular stores (by 4-CmC) and (5) specific inhibition of the electrogenic  $\text{Na}^+$ -glutamate co-transporter completely eliminates the L-Glu effect.

Considering that the transport current generated by the glutamate transporter is evoked by the inward movement of two positive charges per transported glutamate (1Glu:1H<sup>+</sup>:3Na<sup>+</sup> entering vs. 1K<sup>+</sup> moving outward; Greever and Rauen 2005) and an average inward current of 800 pA/cm<sup>2</sup> for a 30- $\mu\text{M}$  L-Glu (Wyllie et al. 1991), then for a hypothetical type-1 astrocyte resembling a rectangular triangle of 25  $\mu\text{m}$  in the base and an approximate astrocyte volume of  $1.2 \times 10^{-6}$   $\mu\text{l}$ , enough  $\text{Na}^+$  will enter the astrocyte during L-Glu activation as to induce increases of the intracellular  $[\text{Na}^+]$  in tens of millimolar in less than 10 s, sufficient to greatly activate the reverse mode of the  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ .

Finally, an interesting recent finding is an acute up-regulation of the  $\text{Na}^+$ -glutamate transporter mediated by metabotropic glutamate receptors in rat cortical astrocytes, in which activation of mGluR5a induces a PKC-dependent up-regulation of GLT-1 activity (Verneiren et al. 2005). Further experiments are necessary to link this cross regulation with our proposed model.

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# Author Queries

Chapter No.: 22      0001602860

Queries	Details Required	Author's Response
AU1	Both "type-1 cerebellar astrocyte" and "cerebellar type-1 astrocyte" are present in the text. Please check if one form should be made consistent.	
AU2	Please check if edit to sentence starting "Nevertheless, the existence..." is okay.	
AU3	Please check if edit to figure caption is okay.	
AU4	Please specify 1998a or 1998b for Simpson et al. (1998).	
AU5	Please provide details of Wyllie et al. (1991), Greever and Rauen (2005), Verneiren et al. (2005) in the reference list.	
AU6	<b>Please</b> check if edit to sentence starting 'Considering that the...' is okay.	

Uncorrected Proof