Modulation of cardiac ryanodine receptor 2 by calmodulin

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The high-conductance intracellular calcium (Ca2⁺) channel RyR2 is essential for the coupling of excitation and contraction in cardiac muscle. Among various modulators, calmodulin (CaM) regulates RyR2 in a Ca²⁺-dependent manner. Here we reveal the regulatory mechanism by which porcine RyR2 is modulated by human CaM through the structural determination of RyR2 under eight conditions. Apo-CaM and Ca2+-CaM bind to distinct but overlapping sites in an elongated cleft formed by the handle, helical and central domains. The shift in CaM-binding sites on RyR2 is controlled by Ca²⁺ binding to CaM, rather than to RyR2. Ca²⁺-CaM induces rotations and intradomain shifts of individual central domains, resulting in pore closure of the PCB95 and Ca2+-activated channel. By contrast, the pore of the ATP, caffeine and Ca2⁺-activated channel remains open in the presence of Ca²⁺-CaM, which suggests that Ca²⁺-CaM is one of the many competing modulators of RyR2 gating.

Cardiac muscle contraction is triggered by $\mathrm{Ca^{2+}}$ flux into the cytosol, initially from the extracellular environment, mediated by $Ca_v1.2$, and subsequently from the sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca^{2+} store, mediated by RyR2^{1-[3](#page-4-1)}. Ryanodine receptors are the largest known ion channels and consist of a homotetramer with a molecular mass of more than 2 megadaltons. More than 80% of the protein folds into a multi-domain cytoplasmic assembly that senses interactions with a variety of modu-lators, which range from ions to proteins^{4-[6](#page-4-3)}. The precise regulation of RyR2 activity is critical for each heartbeat. Aberrant activity of RyR2 is associated with life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias^{[7](#page-4-4)-10}.

The 17-kDa protein CaM is an essential calcium sensor that has a central role in most calcium signalling events¹¹. CaM consists of roughly symmetrical N- and C-terminal lobes (N- and C-lobes hereafter), joined by a flexible hinge $12,13$ $12,13$ $12,13$. Each lobe can cooperatively bind to two Ca^{2+} ions, with a micromolar-range binding affinity, via two EF-hand (helices E and F-hand) motifs. Upon Ca^{2+} binding, the exposure of several hydrophobic residues in both lobes facilitates CaM binding to the target sequence. CaM interacts directly with ryanodine receptors with a 1:1 stoichiometry of the CaM–RyR protomers^{[14](#page-4-9)[,15](#page-4-10)} and binding affinity at nanomolar range 14 .

Regulation of ryanodine receptors by CaM, however, is isoformspecific. CaM shows biphasic regulation of RyR1, acting as a weak activator at nanomolar levels of Ca^{2+} (apo-CaM) and an inhibitor at micromolar levels of $Ca^{2+}(Ca^{2+}\text{-}CaM)^{14,16}$. By contrast, apo-CaM has no effect¹⁷ or an inhibitory effect on $RyR2^{14}$, whereas $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ inhibits RyR2[14.](#page-4-9) CaM has also been shown to facilitate the termination of store-overload-induced Ca^{2+} release (SOICR)^{[18](#page-4-13)}. Aberrant interactions between CaM and RyR2 are associated with heart failure $19-22$, and correction of impaired CaM–RyR2 interactions may serve as a therapy for lethal arrhythmia in pressure-overload-induced heart failure²³.

Structural characterization of RyR–CaM complexes has been limited to low-resolution electron microscopy maps that suggest two overlapping, but distinct, binding sites in RyR1 for apo- and $Ca^{2+}-CaM^{24-26}$ $Ca^{2+}-CaM^{24-26}$ $Ca^{2+}-CaM^{24-26}$. A peptide that corresponds to residues 3614–3643 of RyR1 (residues 3581–3612 in the central domain of RyR2) binds to both apo- and $Ca^{2+}-CaM^{15,27}$ $Ca^{2+}-CaM^{15,27}$ $Ca^{2+}-CaM^{15,27}$ $Ca^{2+}-CaM^{15,27}$. The crystal structure of $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ bound to the peptide revealed hydrophobic anchors in the N and C termini of the peptide that accommodate the C- and N-lobes of $Ca^{2+}-CaM$, respectively²⁸.

To elucidate the modulation of RyR2 by CaM, we report eight cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) structures of RyR2 that collectively reveal molecular recognition characteristics for different forms of CaM and provide insights into the regulation of RyR2 channel gating by CaM.

Structures of RyR2 under eight conditions

To achieve a better understanding of RyR2 modulation by CaM (Extended Data Fig. 1a, b), we determined the cryo-EM structures of the porcine RyR2 (Extended Data Fig. 1c) under the following eight conditions.

Condition (1) consisted of RyR2 bound to FKBP12.6 and apo-CaM (hereafter FKBP12.6/apo-CaM) and was used to assess the apo-CaM binding site. Condition (2) consisted of RyR2 bound to FKBP12.6 and a Ca^{2+} -binding-deficient CaM mutant that mimics apo-CaM^{[24,](#page-4-17)[29](#page-4-21)} (CaM-M) in the presence of ATP, caffeine and low $\left[Ca^{2+}\right]$ (hereafter FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca²⁺]/CaM-M), this structure was used to investigate the mechanism for the binding-location switch of CaM. Condition (3) consisted of RyR2 bound to FKBP12.6 in the presence of ATP, caffeine and low $\lceil Ca^{2+} \rceil$ (FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low- $\lceil Ca^{2+} \rceil$), the presence of which maximizes the open state. Condition (4) consisted of RyR2 bound to FKBP12.6 and $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ in the presence of ATP, caffeine and low $\lceil Ca^{2+} \rceil$ (hereafter FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/ low- $\left[Ca^{2+}/Ca^{2+}-CaM\right]$; this condition was used to examine the effect of $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ on the open RyR2 channel in the presence of FKBP12.6, ATP, caffeine and low $[Ca^{2+}]$. Conditions (5) and (6) corresponded to conditions (3) and (4), respectively, but were treated with CHAPS and DOPC instead of digitonin. Condition (7) consisted of RyR2 in high $[Ca^{2+}]$ in the presence of FKBP12.6, ATP, caffeine and Ca^{2+} -CaM

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Fig. 1 | **Cryo-EM structures of the RyR2–CaM complexes. a**–**d**, Overall electron microscopy maps for four indicated complexes. **a**, RyR2 in the presence of FKBP12.6/apo-CaM (3.6 Å). **b**, RyR2 in the presence of FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low [Ca2+]/CaM-M (4.2 Å). **c**, RyR2 in the presence of FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high $\left[Ca^{2+}/Ca^{2+}-CaM(3.9 \text{ Å})\right]$. $\mathbf{\hat{d}}$, RyR2 in the presence of PCB95/low- $\overline{[Ca^{2+}}$ /Ca²⁺-CaM (4.4 Å). Insets, cytoplasmic views of the channel gates. The dashed circles indicate the distances between the C_{α} atoms of the gating residues in the diagonal protomers. See Extended Data Table 1 for details of the structures. SR, sarcoplasmic reticulum. **e**, The pore of RyR2 remains closed in the FKBP12.6/apo-CaM structure. The ion permeation path, calculated by HOLE[41](#page-4-26), is illustrated as yellow dots. SF, selectivity filter. **f**, **g**, Open pores of RyR2 in FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2+]/CaM-M (**f**) and FKBP12.6/ ATP/caffeine/high- $\left[Ca^{2+}\right]$ /Ca²⁺-CaM (**g**). **h**, The corresponding pore radii of RyR2 for the three structures shown in **e**–**g**. Electron microscopy maps were generated in Chimera and contoured at levels of 0.027, 0.022, 0.02 and 0.015 for **a**–**d**, respectively. All structures were prepared using PyMOL ([http://www.pymol.org\)](http://www.pymol.org).

(hereafter FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM); this environment was used to achieve a better resolution for $Ca^{2+}-CaM$. Condition (8) consisted of RyR2 bound to $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ in the presence of 2,2',3,5',6-pentachlorobiphenyl (PCB95) and low $\lceil Ca^{2+} \rceil$ (hereafter PCB95/low- $\left[Ca^{2+}/Ca^{2+}-CaM\right]$; this condition was used to investigate the effect of Ca^{2+} -CaM on PCB95 and the Ca^{2+} -activated RyR2 channel³⁰. The eight conditions and corresponding structures are summarized in Supplementary Table 1 and Extended Data Table 1, respectively.

All cryo-EM datasets were processed following the same procedure (Extended Data Fig. 2). The FKBP12.6/apo-CaM RyR2 structure was determined at an overall resolution of 3.6 Å, the highest among all of the available RyR2 structures (Fig. [1a](#page-1-0) and Extended Data Figs. 1i, 3a, 4a–i). The secondary structural elements of apo-CaM were clearly resolved (Fig. [1a](#page-1-0) and Extended Data Fig. 3b). The FKBP12.6/ATP/ caffeine/low- $\lceil Ca^{2+} \rceil$ /CaM-M RyR2 structure was determined at an overall resolution of 4.2 Å, in which the well-resolved CaM-M is positioned similarly to apo-CaM on RyR2 (Fig. [1b](#page-1-0) and Extended Data Figs. 1i, 3c, d). The densities for both lobes of $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ are visible in the FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM RyR2 structure (3.9 Å resolution) and PCB95/low-[Ca^{2+}]/ Ca^{2+} -CaM RyR2 structure (4.4 Å resolution) in which the N-lobe is better-resolved than the C-lobe. By contrast, only one lobe of $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ —the N lobe as judged from the comparison with the structure of FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/ high- $\left[Ca^{2+}/Ca^{2+}-CaM$ at 3.9 Å—is discernible in the FKBP12.6/ATP/ caffeine/low-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM structure with a resolution of 4.2 Å (Fig. [1c, d](#page-1-0) and Extended Data Figs. 1, 3).

With regard to the gating state of the eight structures reported here, the clearly resolved Ile4868 residues on the S6 helical bundle of FKBP12.6/apo-CaM constitute the constriction site with a radius of approximately 1 Å, which is identical to the previously reported apo- $RyR2$ in the closed state^{[30](#page-4-22)} (Fig. [1e, h](#page-1-0)). The constriction site appears to shift to Gln4864 with an expanded radius of around 3 Å in conditions (2), (3) and (5)–(7) (Fig. [1f–h](#page-1-0) and Extended Data Fig. 1d, h), similar to that in the open PCB95/low- $[Ca^{2+}]$ structure³⁰. However, the density for the side chain of Gln4864 in FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low- $\left[Ca^{2+}\right]$ / $Ca²⁺-CaM$ is not well-resolved. We, therefore, compared the distances of C_{α} atoms of the gating residues in the diagonal protomers, which are approximately 16 Å for FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low- $\lceil Ca^{2+} \rceil / Ca^{2+}$ -CaM and 11 Å for FKBP12.6/apo-CaM (Fig. [1a](#page-1-0) and Extended Data Fig. 1e). The constriction site in PCB95/low- $\overline{C}a^{2+}/\overline{Ca}^{2+}$ -CaM is constituted by Ile4868, for which the diagonal distance of the C_0 atoms is approximately 11 Å—similar to that in FKBP12.6/apo-CaM (Fig. [1a, d\)](#page-1-0).

As seen in RyR1, the Ca^{2+} -, ATP- and caffeine-binding sites are located at the interfaces between the central and channel domains of RyR[231](#page-4-23) (Extended Data Fig. 4j–m).

Location of apo-CaM in RyR2

Consistent with the low-resolution structure of RyR1, apo-CaM is located in an elongated cleft formed by the handle, helical and central domains of RyR2 in FKBP12.6/apo-Ca $M^{24,25}$ $M^{24,25}$ $M^{24,25}$ (Fig. [2a\)](#page-2-0). The N-lobe is stuck in the upper half of the cleft formed by helical domain 1 (HD1), whereas the C-lobe is located at the bottom edge of the cleft surrounded by the handle and central domains of RyR2 (Fig. [2a\)](#page-2-0).

The FKBP12.6/apo-CaM structure reveals five surface patches on RyR2 that interact with apo-CaM. The N-lobe interacts with RyR2 through three interfaces that are mainly located in HD1 (Fig. [2b](#page-2-0) and Extended Data Fig. 5a). The most prominent interface is formed between the N terminus of helix 4 (N4) in the N-lobe and the C termini of helices 2b and α 1 in HD1, and is mainly mediated by extensive hydrophobic residues. Phe66, Pro67 and Leu70 on N4 probably interact with Tyr2203 in helix 2b and Tyr2157 (human Tyr2156) in helix α 1. Ile10 in N1 may also interact with Tyr2157 (Extended Data Fig. 5a, g). The human Y2156C variant is linked to catecholaminergic polymor-phic ventricular tachycardia^{[8](#page-4-25)}. The second interface is mediated by charged residues between the N terminus of N1 in the N-lobe and helix α 1 in HD1 and the N terminus of helix α 0 in the central domain. The third interface is formed between a region rich in acidic residues in N3 of the N-lobe and Lys2558 in helix 8b of HD1 (Fig. [2b](#page-2-0) and Extended Data Fig. 5a).

The C-lobe interacts with RyR2 through two interfaces (Fig. [2c](#page-2-0)). One is consistent with previous reports^{[15](#page-4-10),27}. Residues 3593–3607 in the central domain folds into a newly resolved helix α 'minus 1' (helix $\alpha-1$) that is enclosed by the hydrophobic cavity of the C-lobe, representing the primary interface. Phe3604 serves as a hydrophobic anchor for the hydrophobic cavity of the C-lobe. A minor interface is formed between helix 12 and the C terminus of helix 11 in the handle domain with the C terminus of C1 and the loop between C2 and C3 in the C-lobe, also through hydrophobic interactions (Fig. [2c](#page-2-0) and Extended Data Fig. 5b, c, h).

Shift of CaM-binding site in RyR2 after Ca2⁺ loading

CaM markedly slips down along the cleft after Ca^{2+} loading, making extensive interactions with the central domain (Fig. [2d\)](#page-2-0). The N-lobe is anchored by the central domain and the C-lobe drops beyond the cleft, coordinated only by helix $\alpha-1$ (Fig. [2d\)](#page-2-0). The limited contact may explain the structural flexibility of the C-lobe.

The binding of $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ with intact RyR2 is similar to that of $Ca^{2+}-$ CaM with the RyR1 peptide²⁸. The N- and C-lobes of CaM interact with the C- and N termini of helix $\alpha-1$, respectively (Fig. [2d\)](#page-2-0). Phe3604 and Trp3588 anchor the hydrophobic cavities of the N- and C-lobes, respectively (Extended Data Fig. 5d–f, i). An additional interface is formed between the N terminus of N3 and the C terminus of helix α 9 in the central domain to further stabilize the binding of N-lobe. Asp51

Fig. 2 | **Interfaces between CaM and RyR2. a**, Apo-CaM is located in a cleft formed by the handle, helical and central domains of RyR2. One RyR2 protomer is shown in domain-coloured surface view. **b**, **c**, Multiple interfaces between RyR2 and apo-CaM. The red, dashed boxes indicate the interfaces. **d**, A previously unresolved helix $\alpha-1$ on RyR2 serves as the primary docking site for both lobes of Ca2+-CaM. **e**, Functional validation of the observed interfaces between mouse RyR2 and human CaM. Open probabilities of single RyR2 channels before (control) and after addition of CaM(WT) (1 μ M). Data are mean \pm s.e.m. from RyR2(WT) (*n* = 9), RyR2(Y2156A) (*n* = 8), RyR2(V3599A) (*n* = 7), RyR2(W3587A) $(n = 8)$ and RyR2(L3590A) $(n = 9$ single channels) and analysed by paired,

in N3 probably interacts with Arg2209 in helix 2b of HD1 (Fig. [2d](#page-2-0) and Extended Data Fig. 5e).

Functional validation of RyR2–CaM interfaces

We assessed the effect of mutations in RyR2 and CaM that are located in the structurally revealed interfaces on CaM regulation of RyR2. Wild-type CaM (CaM(WT)) strongly reduced the open probability of single wild-type mouse RyR2 (RyR2(WT)) channels. The following mutations markedly reduced CaM inhibition of single RyR2 channels: RyR2(Y2156A) (porcine Y2157A) near an interface between the apo-CaM N-lobe and RyR2, RyR2(V3599A) near both the apo-CaM C-lobe–RyR2 and $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ N-lobe–RyR2 interfaces, and RyR2(W3587A) and RyR2(L3590A) near the Ca2⁺-CaM C-lobe–RyR2 interface (Fig. [2e](#page-2-0) and Extended Data Fig. 6).

We next examined the effect of these RyR2 mutations on the termination of RyR2-mediated SOICR. As previously shown¹⁸, CaM(WT) increased Ca²⁺ release termination in RyR2(WT)expressing HEK293 cells, whereas CaM-M reduced Ca^{2+} release termination (that is, a longer calcium release) (Fig. [2f](#page-2-0) and Extended Data Fig. 7a–c). Consistent with their effect on single RyR2 channels, all four mutations in RyR2 significantly reduced Ca^{2+} release termination in HEK293 cells, probably by impairing the effect of endogenous CaM on RyR2 inhibition (Fig. [2f](#page-2-0)). These RyR2 mutations also reduced or abolished the effect of exogenously expressed CaM(WT) and CaM-M on Ca^{2+} release termination (Fig. [2f](#page-2-0)), but had little

two-sided Student's *t*-test (versus its own control) with *P* values shown in blue and by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with a Dunnett's post hoc test (versus RyR2(WT) control and RyR2(WT) with CaM(WT), respectively) with adjusted *P* values shown in black. **f**, The termination threshold of Ca^{2+} release in $Ryr2^{WT}$ - and $Ryr2$ -mutant-expressing HEK293 cells transfected with no CaM (control), CaM(WT) or CaM-M. Data are mean \pm s.e.m. with the number of independent experiments for each condition shown and analysed by one-way ANOVA with a Dunnett's post hoc test with adjusted *P* values shown in blue (versus its own control) and in black (versus RyR2(WT) control).

or no effect on SOICR activation or store capacity (Extended Data Fig. 7d, e).

We also assessed the functional importance of CaM residues near the RyR2–CaM interfaces. Mutations in CaM near the apo-CaM N-lobe–RyR2(K2153/Y2156) interface (CaM(E15A), CaM(F66A) and CaM(L70A)), near the apo-CaM C-lobe–RyR2(V3599) interface (CaM(M110A) and CaM(F142A)), near the Ca²⁺-CaM N-lobe– RyR2(V3599) interface (CaM(F20A) and CaM(F69A)) and near the $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ C-lobe–RyR2(W3587/L3590) interface (CaM(F93A), CaM(L106A) and CaM(M146A))—as with CaM-M—significantly reduced the effect of CaM on Ca^{2+} release termination compared to CaM(WT) (Extended Data Fig. 7f). All CaM mutations except for CaM(F20A) and CaM(F142A) had little or no effect on SOICR activation or store capacity (Extended Data Fig. 7g, h). Note that some mutations in CaM may induce conformational changes, thus affecting CaM–RyR2 interactions allosterically. Collectively, these functional studies support the importance of the newly identified RyR2–CaM interfaces in CaM regulation of RyR2.

Ca2⁺-dependent shift in CaM-binding sites on RyR2

The location and conformation of CaM-M and apo-CaM are identical in the structures (Fig. [3a\)](#page-3-0), which suggests that the positional switch for apo-CaM and $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ results from the distinct conformations of CaM after Ca^{2+} loading instead of a direct effect of Ca^{2+} on RyR2. The CaM lobes have previously been reported in three

Fig. 3 | **Molecular basis for the shift of binding site for CaM after Ca2⁺** $\mathbf{loading.}$ **a**, $\mathrm{Ca^{2+}}$ binding to RyR2 is not responsible for the positional shift in apo-CaM and Ca²⁺-CaM. In the presence of 20 μ M Ca²⁺, the binding site for CaM-M remains the same as for apo-CaM. The two structures are superimposed relative to CaM. **b**, Upon \hat{Ca}^{2+} loading, the expansion of CaM structure may lead to steric hindrance between the N-lobe and HD1. The N-lobes are superimposed. Red arrows indicate directions of conformational changes from apo-CaM to Ca2+-CaM. **c**, The shift in the CaM-binding site is accompanied by marked conformational changes in helices α -1 and 12 in RyR2. Red arrows indicate the conformational changes in RyR2 from FKBP12.6/apo-CaM to FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high-[Ca2⁺]/Ca2⁺-CaM. **d**, In FKBP12.6/apo-CaM, helix α−1 contacts helix α9. **e**, In FKBP12.6/ ATP/caffeine/high-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM, helix α -1 of RyR2 is positioned away from helix α9. Helix N3 in the N-lobe contacts helix α9 instead. **f**, Helix α−1 of RyR2 serves as an essential anchor for CaM. Red arrow indicates the direction of conformational change of helix α−1 from FKBP12.6/apo-CaM to FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high- $\left[\text{Ca}^{2+}\right]$ /Ca²⁺-CaM.

conformations—open, semi-open and closed—when interacting with other proteins $32-34$ $32-34$. Comparative docking analysis of these conformations into the electron microscopy reconstruction for FKBP12.6/ATP/ caffeine/high- $\left[Ca^{2+}\right]/Ca^{2+}-CaM$ suggests an open conformation for the N-lobe (Extended Data Fig. 8a, b). An important distinction between the open and semi-open or closed C-lobes is the slightly larger helical angle between C1 and C4, both of which were resolved in the map and conformed to the open state (Extended Data Fig. 8c, d). These analyses are consistent with the observations in the crystal structure of RyR1 peptide-bound $Ca^{2+}-CaM^{28}$ $Ca^{2+}-CaM^{28}$ $Ca^{2+}-CaM^{28}$. Upon Ca^{2+} loading, the compact structure of apo-CaM is relaxed to $Ca^{2+}-CaM^{35}$, which slips down towards the N-terminal part of helix $\alpha-1$, consistent with previous studies³⁶.

Helix $\alpha-1$ and helix 12 are two helices that were only resolved in the structures with CaM, probably owing to stabilization of these segments through CaM binding. Pronounced shifts in these two helices are observed between the structures bound to apo-CaM and Ca^{2+} -CaM. In the presence of Ca²⁺-CaM, helix α -1 swings by around 90° and the N-terminal half of helix 12 also bends by nearly 90° (Fig. [3c](#page-3-0)). Accordingly, helix $\alpha-1$, which contacts helix α 9 of the central domain in FKBP12.6/apo-CaM, is positioned away from helix α 9 in FKBP12.6/ ATP/caffeine/high- $\left[Ca^{2+}/Ca^{2+}-CaM\right]$. Now helix α 9 is in contact with helix 3 in the N-lobe of $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ (Fig. [3d–f\)](#page-3-0). The CaM-bound RyR2 structures shown here reveal that helix $\alpha-1$ serves as an essential anchor for CaM (Fig. [3f](#page-3-0)).

Inhibitory modulation of RyR2 by Ca2⁺-CaM

Both caffeine and ATP are located at the interfaces between the U-motif and O-ring, locking them into a stable unit that stabilizes the open state (Extended Data Fig. 9a). Caffeine and ATP counteract inhibitory effect of $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ on RyR2, manifested by the lack of intradomain change of individual central domains. The pore remains open (Extended Data Figs. 1e, 9b). Nevertheless, $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ induces an anticlockwise rotation of the central domains in the cytoplasmic view in the same direction as that from the open to the closed state^{[30](#page-4-22),37} (Extended Data Fig. 9c and Supplementary Video 1). The central domains undergo similar shifts in the presence of high concentrations of Ca^{2+} and CaM , but not in the CHAPS plus DOPC condition (Extended Data Fig. 10a, b).

By contrast, RyR2 activated by PCB95 and Ca^{2+} is closed after addition of $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ (Fig. [1d](#page-1-0)). Detailed structural examination shows an anticlockwise rotation of the central domains and outward motions of the auxiliary motifs of the individual central domain, including helices α 0, α 1, α 4 and the U-motif, with respect to the centre of the concave surface (Extended Data Figs. 9d, 10c). The motion of the U-motif appears to release the pulling force for the dilation of the S6 helix, resulting in closure of the pore (Extended Data Fig. 9e). Taken together, these results indicate that the inhibitory force of Ca^{2+} -CaM is sufficient to overcome the synergistic activation of RyR2 by PCB95 and Ca^{2+} , but not by the collective effect of ATP, caffeine and Ca^{2+} (Fig. [4](#page-3-1)).

Fig. 4 | **Schematic of RyR2 modulation by**

CaM. The two RyR2 structures on the left were obtained in the presence of CHAPS and DOPC instead of digitonin, which was used for all other structural determinations. Despite a rotation (indicated by red arrows) of the central domains, the pore of ATP, caffeine and Ca²+-activated RyR2 channel remains open in the presence of $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ under these two conditions (left four). By contrast, Ca^{2+} -CaM leads to closure of PCB95 and Ca^{2+} activated RyR2 channel (right two). Our study demonstrates that the inhibitory force of Ca^{2+} -CaM can overcome the synergistic activation by PCB95 and Ca^{2+} but not by ATP, caffeine and Ca^{2+} (bottom right). The top right structure PCB95/low-Ca²⁺ was obtained from a previous study (RCSB Protein Data Bank (PDB) code 5GOA).

Discussion

Among the reported RyR2 sequences for CaM-binding^{[38](#page-4-32)}, residues 4247–4277 are invisible in our structure. The segment (residues 2023– 2039) that contains the protein kinase A phosphorylation site Ser2032 is resolved in our structures, but shows no interaction with CaM even at high concentrations³⁹. The other two sequences (1942-1966 and 3582–3608) bind to CaM in our structures (Extended Data Fig. 10d). Despite the distinct effects of apo-CaM on RyR1 and RyR2¹⁴, the primary apo-CaM-binding sequences are invariant in these two isoforms (Extended Data Fig. 10e). The molecular determinants for the functional difference are yet to be revealed.

The inhibitory mechanisms by which CaM regulates RyR2 must be investigated on an already opened channel by structural biology. As the presence of micromolar-range Ca^{2+} is required for opening ryanodine receptors by cryo-EM studies $30-32,37$ $30-32,37$ $30-32,37$ $30-32,37$, it is impractical to obtain an open structure in the absence of micromolar concentrations of Ca^{2+} (apo-CaM form). Although the location and conformation of CaM-M appear identical to those of apo-CaM, it has previously been reported that modulation of RyR2 by CaM-M is distinct from that by apo-Ca[M40](#page-4-34)—although the mechanism needs to be investigated further.

Owing to extensive interactions between the U-motif and O-ring, the two undergo coupled motions during channel gating $30,37$ $30,37$ $30,37$. The presence of caffeine and ATP locks them into a more rigid structure, probably increasing the energy barrier for inhibiting RyR2 by Ca^{2+} -CaM. By contrast, the PCB95- and Ca^{2+} -activated RyR2 channel can be effectively closed by Ca^{2+} -CaM. Therefore, the gating state of RyR2 is defined by the combined effect of competing stimulatory and inhibitory regulators (Fig. [4](#page-3-1)). It remains to be investigated whether the conclusions presented here can be recapitulated for other ryanodine receptor isoforms or in lipid bilayers and the relevance to disease-related mutations (Extended Data Fig. 10f, g).

Online content

Any methods, additional references, Nature Research reporting summaries, source data, extended data, supplementary information, acknowledgements, peer review information; details of author contributions and competing interests; and statements of data and code availability are available at [https://doi.org/10.1038/](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1377-y) [s41586-019-1377-y](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1377-y).

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Methods

Expression and purification of GST–FKBP12.6. Because the sequence of porcine FKBP12.6 is not available in the public domain, human FKBP12.6 was applied to pull-down porcine RyR2 ($pRyR2$)^{[30](#page-4-22)}. The complementary DNA of full-length human *FKBP12.6* (also known as *FKBP1B*) was cloned into the pGEX-4T-2 vector with a C-terminal 6×His tag and an N-terminal glutathione *S-*transferase (GST) tag. Protein was overexpressed in the *Escherichia coli* BL21 (DE3) strain at 18 °C for 12–15 h after the addition of 0.2 mM isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactoside (IPTG) to cells with an optical density at 600 nm ($OD₆₀₀$) of 1.0. Cells collected by centrifugation were resuspended in lysis buffer (25 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl). Cell debris was removed by centrifugation at 22,000*g* for 1 h, and the supernatant was applied to Ni²⁺-NTA resin (Qiagen). The resin was washed with both W1 buffer (25 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl) and W2 buffer (25 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 20 mM imidazole) and eluted with 25 mM Tris, pH 8.0 and 300 mM imidazole. The elution was further purified by anion-exchange chromatography (SOURCE 15Q, GE Healthcare). **Expression and purification of the wild-type CaM and CaM mutant.** In mammals, three independent genes (*CALM1*–*CALM3*) with approximately 80% $\,$ identity $\rm ^{42}$ $\rm ^{42}$ $\rm ^{42}$ are transcribed into at least eight mRNAs that encode identical CaM proteins^{[43](#page-6-1)}. It has previously been reported that the first methionine residue of CaM was removed under physiological conditions^{[44](#page-6-2)}. The complementary DNA of human *CALM3* without the initial Met was cloned into the pET21 vector with an N-terminal 6×His tag followed by an N-terminal SUMO tag and a stop codon in the C terminus, preventing the translation of a C-terminal $6\times$ His tag in the original pET21 vector (Extended Data Fig. 1a). The expression and purification protocol was similar to that of GST–FKBP12.6 mentioned above. Specifically, the N-terminal 6×His tag and SUMO tag were removed together by the SUMO protease UlP1p^{[45](#page-6-3)} during purification. The CaM protein was further purified by anion-exchange chromatography (SOURCE 15Q, GE Healthcare) using buffer 1 (25 mM Tris, pH 8.0) and buffer 2 (1 M NaCl, 25 mM Tris, pH 8.0). Finally, the protein was applied to size-exclusion chromatography (SEC; Superdex-200, GE Healthcare) in buffer F (20 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 200 mM NaCl, 0.1% digitonin, 1.3 μg ml⁻¹ aprotinin, 1 μg ml⁻¹ pepstatin, 5 μg ml⁻¹ leupeptin, 0.2 mM PMSF and 2 mM DTT), which is the same as that used for the last-step purification of RyR2. The N-terminal boundary of wild-type CaM was confirmed by N-terminal sequencing (Extended Data Fig. 1b). The expression and purification of the CaM mutant that is deficient in Ca^{2+} binding at all four EF-hand Ca^{2+} -binding sites (E32A, E68A, E105A and E141A) (denoted as CaM-M) were the same as for the wild-type CaM.

Preparation of sarcoplasmic reticulum membranes from porcine heart. The procedures for preparing the membranes of the sarcoplasmic reticulum from porcine hearts were similar to previously described procedures^{[30](#page-4-22)}. A single porcine heart was cut into small pieces and then resuspended in five volumes of homogenization buffer A (20 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 1.3 μg ml⁻¹ aprotinin, 1 µg ml⁻¹ pepstatin, 5 µg ml⁻¹ leupeptin and 0.2 mM PMSF). Homogenization was performed in a blender (JYL-C010, Joyoung) for fifteen cycles. The debris was removed by low-speed centrifugation (6,000*g*) for 10 min. The supernatant was further centrifuged at high speed (20,000*g*) for 1 h. The pellet was then resuspended in two volumes of homogenization buffer B (20 mM HEPES, pH 7.4, 1 M NaCl, 1.3 μg ml⁻¹ aprotinin, 1 μg ml⁻¹ pepstatin, 5 μg ml⁻¹ leupeptin, 0.2 mM PMSF and 2 mM DTT) and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen.

Purification of pRyR2 by GST–FKBP12.6. The pRyR2–FKBP12.6 complex was purified based on previously described procedures^{[30](#page-4-22)} with slight modifications. The membrane of the sarcoplasmic reticulum from a single porcine heart was solubilized at 4 °C for 2 h in homogenization buffer B supplemented with 5% CHAPS and 1.25% soy bean lecithin. After solubilization, the final concentration of NaCl in the system was diluted to 200 mM by homogenization buffer B without NaCl. Approximately 5–6 mg of purified GST–FKBP12.6 was then added to the system and further incubated for 1 h at 4 °C. After ultrahigh-speed centrifugation (200,000*g*), the supernatant was loaded onto a GS4B column (GE Healthcare). The resin was washed with buffer similar to the homogenization buffer B, except that the NaCl concentration was 200 mM and 0.1% digitonin was added. The complex was eluted by a solution containing 80 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 200 mM NaCl, 10 mM GSH, 0.1% digitonin, 1.3 µg ml⁻¹ aprotinin, 1 µg ml⁻¹ pepstatin, 5 µg ml⁻¹ leupeptin, 0.2 mM PMSF and 2 mM DTT. The eluted protein was further purified through SEC (Superose 6, 10/300 GL, GE Healthcare) in buffer F. The pRyR2–FKBP12.6 complex fractions were concentrated to approximately 0.1 mg ml⁻¹ for electron microscopy sample preparation. Specifically, for the FKBP12.6/apo-CaM sample, 5 mM EDTA, which has no effect on the zinc finger structure of $RyR2^{30}$ $RyR2^{30}$ $RyR2^{30}$, was included throughout purification of RyR2. For the CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2⁺] and CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca^2+]/Ca^2+-CaM samples, the proteins were extracted only by CHAPS and washed and eluted by a buffer containing 0.5% CHAPS plus 0.002% DOPC. The eluted proteins were further purified through SEC in buffer F except 0.1% digitonin was replaced by 0.25% CHAPS plus 0.001% DOPC. For the PCB95/

low-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM sample, the proteins were purified using GST–FKBP12 as a bait and the RyR2–FKBP12 (containing GST–FKBP12) complex fell apart during SEC purification^{[30](#page-4-22)}.

Cryo-EM sample preparation. The cryo-EM samples of RyR2–CaM complexes were prepared as follows. FKBP12.6/apo-CaM: 5 mM EDTA was added to CaM (in buffer F) before sample preparation, and CaM with a final concentration of 250 μM was added to RyR2 (in buffer F plus 5 mM EDTA). FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low- [Ca2⁺]/CaM-M: CaM-M (in buffer F) and RyR2 (in buffer F) were separately added with 20 μM Ca²⁺ (low-Ca²⁺ concentration), 5 mM ATP and 5 mM caffeine and CaM-M with a final concentration of 250 μM was added to RyR2. FKBP12.6/ATP/ caffeine/low-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM: CaM (in buffer F) and RyR2 (in buffer F) were separately added to 20 μ M Ca²⁺, 5 mM ATP and 5 mM caffeine and CaM with a final concentration of 2.5 $\upmu\text{M}$ was added to RyR2. The other samples were prepared by the same procedure. Note that 5 mM Ca^{2+} represents high- Ca^{2+} concentration. Vitrobot Mark IV (FEI) was used for the preparation of cryo-EM grids. The procedures for preparing the eight samples were the same. Aliquots (3 μl each) of pRyR2 samples were placed on glow-discharged lacey carbon grids (Ted Pella). Grids were blotted for 2 s and flash-frozen in liquid ethane. Owing to the presence of high concentrations of Ca^{2+} in the filter paper used for blotting, it has previously been reported that the final concentration of free Ca^{2+} may be much higher than those used during sample preparation⁴⁶. The low- and high-Ca²⁺ concentrations presented here only indicate those used during sample preparation and may be lower than the true Ca^{2+} concentrations.

Cryo-EM image acquisition. With regard to the FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/ low-[Ca2⁺], FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2⁺]/CaM-M, CHAPS- and DOPCtreated FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2⁺], CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2⁺]/Ca2⁺-CaM, FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high- $[Ca^{2+}]/Ca^{2+}$ -CaM and PCB95/low- $[Ca^{2+}]/Ca^{2+}$ -CaM datasets, grids were transferred to a Titan Krios (Thermo Fisher Scientific) electron microscope operating at 300 kV equipped with a Cs-corrector (Thermo Fisher Scientific), Gatan K2 Summit detector and GIF Quantum energy filter. Zero-loss movie stacks were automatically collected using AutoEMationI[I47](#page-6-5),[48](#page-6-6) with a slit width of 20 eV on the energy filter and a defocus range from −1.3 μm to −1.7 μm in super-resolution mode at a nominal magnification of $105,000 \times$. Each stack was exposed for 5.6 s with an exposure time of 0.175 s per frame, resulting in 32 frames per stack. The total dose was approximately 50 e⁻ Å⁻² for each stack. The stacks were motion-corrected with MotionCor2⁴⁹ and binned twofold, resulting in a pixel size of 1.091 Å per pixel. With regard to the FKBP12.6/apo-CaM and FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/ low- $\left[Ca^{2+}/Ca^{2+}-CaM$ datasets, micrographs were collected using a Gatan K2 Summit detector mounted on a Titan Krios electron microscope (FEI Company) operating at 300 kV and equipped with a GIF Quantum energy filter (slit width 20 eV). Micrographs were recorded in the super-resolution mode with a normal magnification of $105,000 \times$, resulting in a calibrated pixel size of 0.669 Å. Each stack of 32 frames was exposed for 8 s, with an exposing time of 0.25 s per frame. The total dose rate was about 45.6 e^- Å⁻² for each stack. All 32 frames in each stack were motion-corrected with MotionCor2 and binned to a pixel size of 1.338 Å. The defocus value of each image was set from $-0.8 \mu m$ to $-1.8 \mu m$. In addition, dose weighting was performed⁵⁰. The defocus values were estimated with Gctf^{[51](#page-6-9)}. **Image processing.** Image-processing procedures were similar to those previously reported³⁰. Diagrams of the procedures used in data processing are presented in Extended Data Fig. 2. For the FKBP12.6/apo-CaM dataset, 1,180,104 particles were picked from 7,800 micrographs by RELION 2.0⁵² using templates low-passfiltered to 20 Å to limit reference bias. After two rounds of two-dimensional classification, 832,833 particles were selected and subjected to global angular search three-dimensional classification using RELION 2.0 with one class and a step size of 7.5°. The electron microscopy map of the previously published open structure of RyR2^{[30](#page-4-22)}, which was low-pass-filtered to 60 Å, was used as the initial model. After global angular search three-dimensional classification, the particles were further subjected to three-dimensional classification with 10 classes and a local angular search step of 3.75°. The local angular search three-dimensional classification was performed several times with the output from different iterations of the global angular search three-dimensional classification as input. After the merging of all good classes and removal of the duplicated particles, the particles were subjected to three-dimensional autorefinement using THUNDER software⁵³. The final particle number for the three-dimensional autorefinement was 208,715, resulting in a 3.6 Å resolution map after post-processing. The same procedures were performed for the other datasets. The resolution was estimated with the gold-standard Fourier shell correlation 0.143 criterion^{[54](#page-7-0)} with the high-resolution noise-substitution method⁵⁵. **Model building and structure refinement.** The model of the RyR2 open structure (PDB code 5GOA)^{[30](#page-4-22)} was fitted into the maps of the eight conditions by Chimera⁵⁶ and manually adjusted in COOT⁵⁷. FKBP12 from the rabbit RyR1/FKBP12 com-plex structure (PDB code 3J8H)^{[58](#page-7-4)} was used for homologous model building of FKBP12.6. The apo-CaM from the crystal structure 3WFN was fitted into the maps obtained in the presence of CaM-M or apo-CaM and manually adjusted in

COOT. Similarly, the crystal structure of Ca^{2+} -CaM in complex with the RyR1 peptide (PDB code 2BCX) was fitted into the maps obtained in the presence of Ca2⁺-CaM and manually adjusted in COOT. Structure refinement was performed using PHENIX⁵⁹ in real space with restrained secondary structure and geometry. The statistics of the three-dimensional reconstruction and model refinement are summarized in Extended Data Table 1.

Evaluation of the conformations of N- and C-lobes of CaM. Different conformations of N- and C-lobes were docked into the electron microscopy reconstruction for FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM using the 'Fit in Map' tool of Chimera, selecting the options that include 'Real-time correlation', '7-Å resolution of Use map simulated from atoms', 'Use only data above contour level from first map', 'Optimize correlation', 'Correlation calculated about mean data value', 'Allow rotation and shift' and 'Move whole molecules'.

Site-directed mutagenesis. Point mutations in mouse *Ryr2* and in human *CALM1* were generated with the overlap extension method using PCR. In brief, a EcoRV/ HpaI DNA fragment containing the RyR2(Y2156A) mutation and an AgeI/SalI fragment containing the RyR2(V3599A), RyR2(W3587A) or RyR2(L3590A) mutations were obtained by overlapping PCR and used to replace the corresponding wild-type fragment in the NheI/BsiWI fragment of *Ryr2*, The mutated NheI/BsiWI fragment was then used to replace the corresponding wild-type fragment in the full-length *Ryr2* cDNA in pcDNA5. A HindIII/XhoI full-length *CALM1* DNA fragment containing various point mutations was generated by overlapping PCR, which was then subcloned into pcDNA3. All point mutations in *Ryr2* and *CALM1* were confirmed by DNA sequencing.

Generation of stable, inducible cell lines expressing RyR2(WT) and mutants. Stable, inducible HEK293 cell lines expressing RyR2(WT), RyR2(Y2156A), RyR2(V3599A), RyR2(W3587A) and RyR2(L3590A) were generated using the Flp-In T-REx Core Kit from Invitrogen. These cell lines were not authenticated. These cells tested negative for mycoplasma contamination. In brief, Flp-In T-REx HEK293 cells were co-transfected with the inducible expression vector pcDNA5/ FRT/TO containing the *Ryr2WT* or *Ryr2*-mutant cDNA and the pOG44 vector encoding the Flp recombinase in 1:5 ratios using the calcium phosphate precipitation method. The transfected cells were washed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS; 137 mM NaCl, 8 mM Na₂HPO₄, 1.5 mM KH₂PO₄ and 2.7 mM KCl, pH 7.4) 24 h after transfection followed by a change into fresh medium for 24 h. The cells were then washed again with PBS, collected and plated onto new dishes. After the cells had attached (around 4 h), the growth medium was replaced with a selection medium containing 200 μg ml⁻¹ hygromycin (Invitrogen). The selection medium was changed every 3–4 days until the desired number of cells was grown. The hygromycin-resistant cells were pooled, aliquoted (1 ml) and stored at −80 °C. These positive cells are believed to be isogenic, because the integration of *Ryr2* cDNA is mediated by the Flp recombinase at a single FRT site.

Single-cell luminal Ca²⁺ imaging. Luminal Ca²⁺ levels in $RyR2^{WT}$ - or $Ryr2$ mutant-expressing HEK293 cells transfected with or without CaM(WT) or CaM mutants were measured using single-cell Ca^{2+} imaging and the fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET)-based endoplasmic-reticulum luminal Ca2⁺ sensitive chameleon protein D1ER as previously described $60,61$ $60,61$ $60,61$. The cells were grown to 95% confluence in a 75-cm² flask, dissociated with PBS (137 mM NaCl, 8 mM Na2HPO4, 1.5 mM KH2PO4 and 2.7 mM KCl, pH 7.4) and plated on glass coverslips placed on tissue culture dishes at approximately 10% confluence 18–20 h before transfection with cDNA for D1ER and cDNAs for CaM(WT) or CaM mutants using the calcium phosphate precipitation method. After transfection for 24 h, the growth medium was then changed to an induction medium containing 1 µg ml⁻¹ tetracycline. After induction for around 22 h, the coverslip was mounted onto an inverted microscope (Nikon TE2000-S) and the cells on the coverslip were perfused continuously with Krebs–Ringer–HEPES buffer (125 mM NaCl, 5 mM KCl, $1.2 \text{ mM } KH_2PO_4$, 6 mM glucose, $1.2 \text{ mM } MgCl_2$ and $25 \text{ mM } HERPS$, $pH 7.4$) containing various concentrations of $CaCl₂$ (0, 1 and 2 mM) to induce SOICR, followed by the addition of 1.0 mM tetracaine, which was used to estimate the store capacity, and caffeine (20 mM), which was used to estimate the minimum store level by depleting the endoplasmic-reticulum Ca^{2+} stores at room temperature (23 °C). Images were captured with Compix Simple PCI 6 software every 2 s using the Nikon TE2000-S inverted microscope equipped with an S-Fluor 20×/0.75 NA objective. The filters used for D1ER imaging were $\lambda_{\rm ex}$ = 436 \pm 20 nm for CFP and $\lambda_{\rm ex}$ = 500 \pm 20 nm for YFP, and $\lambda_{\rm em}$ $=$ 465 \pm 30 nm for CFP and $\lambda_{\rm em}$ $=$ 535 \pm 30 nm for YFP with a dichroic mirror (500 nm). The amount of FRET in individual cells was determined from the ratio of the light emission at 535 and 465 nm. F_{SOLCR} is defined as the FRET level at which SOICR occurs, and F_{termi} is defined as the FRET level at which SOICR terminates. The maximum FRET signal $F_{\rm max}$ is defined as the FRET level after tetracaine treatment. The minimum FRET signal F_{min} is defined as the FRET level after caffeine treatment. The termination and activation thresholds of SOICR in individual cells were determined using the equations shown in Extended Data Fig. 7a. The store capacity is calculated by subtracting *F*min from F_{max} . Individual data points represent the average measurements of around

10–30 cells from one coverslip in one set of experiment. The number of experiments and coverslips for each condition is used as the sample size for data analyses. **Single-channel recordings in planar lipid bilayers.** Recombinant RyR2(WT) and mutant channels were purified from cell lysates prepared from HEK293 cells transfected with the *Ryr2WT* or *Ryr2*-mutant (Y2156A, V3599A, W3587A or L3590A) cDNA by sucrose density gradient centrifugation as previously described^{[62](#page-7-8)}. Heart phosphatidylethanolamine (50%) and brain phosphatidylserine (50%) (Avanti Polar Lipids), dissolved in chloroform, were combined and dried under nitrogen gas and resuspended in 30 μl of *n*-decane at a concentration of 12 mg lipid per ml. Bilayers were formed across a 250-μm hole in a Delrin partition separating two chambers. The *trans* chamber (800 μl) was connected to the head stage input of an Axopatch 200A amplifier (Axon Instruments). The *cis* chamber (1.2 ml) was held at virtual ground. A symmetrical solution containing 250 mM KCl and 25 mM HEPES, pH 7.4 was used for all recordings, unless indicated otherwise. A 4-μl aliquot (around 1 μg protein) of the sucrose density gradient-purified recombinant RyR2(WT) or mutant channels was added to the *cis* chamber. Spontaneous channel activity was always tested for sensitivity to EGTA and Ca^{2+} . The chamber to which the addition of EGTA inhibited the activity of the incorporated channel presumably corresponds to the cytosolic side of the Ca^{2+} release channel. The direction of single channel currents was always measured from the luminal to the cytosolic side of the channel, unless mentioned otherwise. Recordings were filtered at 2,500 Hz. Data analyses were carried out using the pCLAMP 8.1 software package (Axon Instruments). Free Ca^{2+} concentrations were calculated using a computer program that has previously been described^{[63](#page-7-9)}.

Statistical analysis. Data are mean \pm s.e.m., derived from independent samples or independent experiments. All experiments were performed with at least five biological replicates. The GraphPad Prism 8.1 software was used to test for differences between groups. We used Student's *t*-test (paired, two-tailed) or one-way ANOVA with a Dunnett's post hoc test. *P* < 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

Reporting summary. Further information on research design is available in the Nature Research Reporting Summary linked to this paper.

Data availability

Atomic coordinates and electron microscopy density maps of the following structures have been deposited in the PDB (<http://www.rcsb.org>) and the Electron Microscopy Data Bank (EMDB [https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/emdb/\)](https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/emdb/). FKBP12.6/ apo-CaM (PDB, [6JI8;](http://www.pdb.org/pdb/search/structidSearch.do?structureId=6JI8) EMDB, [EMD-9833\)](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/entry/EMD-9833), FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2⁺]/ CaM-M (PDB, [6JII](http://www.pdb.org/pdb/search/structidSearch.do?structureId=6JII); EMDB, [EMD-9834](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/entry/EMD-9834)), FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2⁺] (PDB, [6JI0](http://www.pdb.org/pdb/search/structidSearch.do?structureId=6JI0); EMDB, [EMD-9831\)](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/entry/EMD-9831), FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2⁺]/Ca2⁺-CaM (PDB, [6JIU;](http://www.pdb.org/pdb/search/structidSearch.do?structureId=6JIU) EMDB, [EMD-9836\)](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/entry/EMD-9836), CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ATP/ caffeine/low-[Ca2⁺] (PDB, [6JRR](http://www.pdb.org/pdb/search/structidSearch.do?structureId=6JRR); EMDB, [EMD-9879](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/entry/EMD-9879)), CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM (PDB, [6JRS](http://www.pdb.org/pdb/search/structidSearch.do?structureId=6JRS); EMDB, [EMD-9880\)](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/entry/EMD-9880), FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM (PDB, [6JIY;](http://www.pdb.org/pdb/search/structidSearch.do?structureId=6JIY) EMDB, [EMD-9837\)](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/entry/EMD-9837) and PCB95/low-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM (PDB, [6JV2](http://www.pdb.org/pdb/search/structidSearch.do?structureId=6JV2); EMDB: [EMD-9889](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/entry/EMD-9889)) complexes. Source Data for Fig. 2e, f and Extended Data Figs. 1c, 6f, 7d–h are available in the online version of the paper. All other data are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request.

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Author contributions D.G. and N.Y. conceived the project. D.G., X.C. and G.Z. prepared the electron microscopy samples. D.G., X.C., G.H. and J.L. conducted the cryo-EM analysis. J.W., L.Z. and R.W. performed the functional experiments. All authors contributed to data analysis. D.G., S.R.W.C. and N.Y. wrote the manuscript.

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Additional information

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Extended Data Fig. 1 | See next page for caption.

Extended Data Fig. 1 | **Protein purification and structural determination. a**, Schematic of vector construction for recombinant expression of CaM without the N-terminal Met. **b**, N-terminal sequencing confirmed removal of the initial Met. **c**, SEC purification of the affinitypurified complex of pRyR2–FKBP12.6 (containing GST–FKBP12.6). The experiment was repeated five times independently with similar results. Peak fractions were resolved by SDS–PAGE and visualized by Coomassie blue staining (Supplementary Fig. 1). UV, ultraviolet. MWM, molecular weight marker. **d**, The channel is open in the presence of ATP, caffeine and Ca^{2+} under both digitonin and CHAPS-and-DOPC (indicated by an asterisk) conditions. The pore of CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ ATP/caffeine/low- $\left[Ca^{2+}\right]$ /Ca²⁺-CaM remains open after Ca²⁺-CaM loading. The ion-conduction path, calculated by HOLE, is illustrated by dots in each structure. A, ATP; C, caffeine; Ca²⁺-CaM, Ca²⁺-bound CaM ; CaM-M, a Ca^{2+} -binding-deficient CaM mutant that mimics apo-CaM; F, FKBP12.6; L-Ca²⁺, low Ca²⁺ concentration. **e**, Overall electron microscopy map of the FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM complex. Inset, the cytoplasmic view of the channel gate. Because the side

chains of the Gln4864-gating residues are not well-resolved, the distance between the C_0 atoms of Gln4864 gating in the diagonal protomers is shown in the dashed circle. The density corresponding to CaM was generated from the map that was low-pass-filtered to 5.6 Å with a contour level of 0.015; the other regions were from the 4.2 Å map with a contour level of 0.023. **f**, Overall electron microscopy map of the CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM complex. The density corresponding to CaM was generated from the map that was low-pass-filtered to 5.6 Å with a contour level of 0.013; the other regions were from the 3.7 Å map with a contour level of 0.021. **g**, Although the concentrations of $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ are the same in these three conditions, only the N-lobe can be resolved in the FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low- $\lceil Ca^{2+} \rceil$ / Ca2+-CaM and CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/ low- $\left[Ca^{2+}\right]/Ca^{2+}$ -CaM RyR2 structures. The reason may be that the HD2 in these two structures presents a steric hindrance for C-lobe binding. P, PCB95. **h**, The corresponding pore radii of the three structures are plotted. **i, j**, Gold-standard Fourier shell correlation curves for electron microscopy maps of the eight datasets. H-Ca²⁺, high Ca²⁺ concentration.

Extended Data Fig. 2 | **Flow chart for cryo-EM data processing.** See Methods for details. **a**, Data processing of the FKBP12.6/apoCaM, FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca²+]/CaM-M, CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca²⁺], and PCB95/low-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM

datasets. **b**, Data processing of the FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low- $[Ca^{2+}]/$ $Ca^{2+}-CaM$, FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high- $[Ca^{2+}]/Ca^{2+}-CaM$, FKBP12.6/ ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca²+], and CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ ATP/caffeine/low- $\left[Ca^{2+}\right]$ /Ca²⁺-CaM datasets.

Extended Data Fig. 3 | **Local resolution maps of the eight reconstructions. a**, **c**, **e**, **g**, **i**, **k**, **l**, **n**, The local resolution maps estimated with RELION 2.0. All electron microscopy maps were generated in Chimera and contoured at levels of 0.027 (**a**), 0.022 (**c**), 0.023 (**e**), 0.021 (**g**), 0.02 (**i**), 0.021 (**k**), 0.015 (**l**) and 0.021 (**n**). **b**, Electron microscopy map of apo-CaM from the reconstruction shown in **a**. **d**, Electron microscopy map of CaM-M. **f**, **h**, The electron microscopy densities of Ca²⁺-CaM were generated from the maps of FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low- $\left[Ca^{2+}\right]$ /

Ca2+-CaM and CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/ low-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM that were low-pass-filtered to 5.6 Å with contour levels of 0.015 (**f**) and 0.013 (**h**), respectively. **j**, **m**, Electron microscopy densities of Ca²⁺-CaM in FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM (**j**) and PCB95/low- $\left[Ca^{2+}\right]/Ca^{2+}-CaM$ (**m**). The densities of both lobes were resolved in the map, although the N-lobe was resolved better than the C-lobe.

Extended Data Fig. 4 | **Representative local electron microscopy maps for FKBP12.6/apo-CaM and densities of the binding sites for Ca²⁺, ATP and caffeine in FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM. a**–**i**, The electron microscopy maps for the representative segments of RyR2. All of the maps were contoured at 5.5 σ . **j**, The binding sites for Ca²⁺, ATP and caffeine in RyR2. The blue, dotted circle indicates the O-ring that is formed by the C-terminal subdomain (CTD), cytoplasmic subdomain in the voltage-sensor-like domain (VSC) and the cytoplasmic portion of S6 (S6C). Ca^{2+} is located in the cleft that is formed by the central domain and

C-terminal subdomain. ATP is located in a pocket formed by the U-motif, C-terminal subdomain and S6C. Caffeine is located at the interface formed by the U-motif, helix α 4, C-terminal subdomain and voltage-sensor-like domain. The red letter indicates a disease-causing variant. **k**–**m**, The local densities of the Ca^{2+} -, ATP- and caffeine-binding sites. The electron microscopy maps of the FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM (+ATP, caffeine and Ca²+) and FKBP12.6/apo-CaM (−ATP, caffeine and $Ca²⁺$) RyR2 structures are shown. All of the electron microscopy maps were contoured at a level of 0.029.

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Extended Data Fig. 5 | **Binding interfaces between CaM and RyR2. a**, Three interfaces are formed between the N-lobe of apo-CaM and RyR2. HD1 serves as the major binding site for the N-lobe. The C_{α} atom of Lys2558 is shown as a sphere. **b**, **c**, Two interfaces are formed between the C-lobe of apo-CaM and RyR2. Helix $\alpha-1$ is the major binding site of the C-lobe. **d**, **e**, The interfaces between the N-lobe of Ca²⁺-CaM and RyR2. **f**, The interface between the C-lobe of Ca²+-CaM and RyR2. **g**, Local densities of the probable interacting residues, Tyr2157, Tyr2203, Arg2206 and Lys2154 in RyR2. The electron microscopy map was contoured at

5.5*σ*. **h**, Density of helix α −1 in the FKBP12.6/apo-CaM RyR2 structure. The sequence can be reliably assigned based on the indicated bulky residues. **i**, Density of helix α−1 in the FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high- $[Ca^{2+}]/Ca^{2+}-CaM$ RyR2 structure. The C-terminal half of helix $\alpha-1$ is reliably assigned, a few bulky residues facilitate the sequence alignment. As both the N-terminal half of helix $\alpha-1$ and C-lobe of Ca²⁺-CaM had a lower resolution, the density shown here may belong to Trp3588. The electron microscopy maps in **h** and **i** were contoured at levels of 0.027 and 0.016, respectively.

of single RyR2 channels. a–**e**, Single-channel activities were recorded in a symmetrical recording solution containing 250 mM KCl and 25 mM HEPES, pH 7.4. Representative current traces of single RyR2(WT) $(n = 9)$, RyR2(Y2156A) (*n* = 8), RyR2(V3599A) (*n* = 7), RyR2(W3587A) (*n* = 8) and RyR2(L3590A) ($n = 9$) channels are shown. The Ca²⁺ concentration on the cytoplasmic and luminal face of the channel was 440 nM and around 45 nM, respectively. Open probability (Po), mean open time (To)

and mean closed time (Tc) of the same channel before and after addition of CaM(WT) (1 μM) are depicted. Baselines are indicated by short bars on the right. **f**, Percentages of inhibition of channel open probability by CaM. Data are mean \pm s.e.m. from single RyR2(WT) $(n = 9)$, RyR2(Y2156A) (*n* = 8), RyR2(V3599A) (*n* = 7), RyR2(W3587A) (*n* = 8) and RyR2(L3590A) $(n = 9)$ channels and analysed by one-way ANOVA with a Dunnett's post hoc test (versus RyR2(WT)) and adjusted *P* values are indicated on the graph.

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termination of Ca²⁺ release in HEK293 cells. HEK293 cell lines that express RyR2(WT) and RyR2 mutants were co-transfected with the FRETbased endoplasmic-reticulum luminal Ca^{2+} -sensing protein D1ER and with no CaM (control), CaM(WT) or the Ca²⁺-binding-deficient CaM mutant, CaM-M. **a-c**, Representative single-cell luminal Ca²⁺ recordings of RyR2(WT) cells transfected with no CaM (**a**; *n* = 155 cells), RyR2(WT) cells transfected with CaM(WT) (\mathbf{b} ; $n = 178$ cells) and RyR2-WT cells transfected with CaM-M (c ; $n = 177$ cells) are shown. F_{SOLCR} indicates the FRET level at which SOICR occurs and F_{termi} represents the FRET level at which SOICR terminates. The signal F_{max} is defined as the FRET level after tetracaine treatment. The minimum FRET signal maximum FRET *F*min is defined as the FRET level after caffeine treatment. **d**, The activation threshold was determined as shown in **a**. **e**, The store capacity was calculated by subtracting F_{min} from F_{max} . **d**, **e**, Data are mean \pm s.e.m. with

on the graph and analysed by one-way ANOVA with a Dunnett's post hoc test (versus RyR2(WT) control) and adjusted *P* values are indicated. **f**–**h**, RyR2(WT) cells were co-transfected with the FRET-based endoplasmic-reticulum luminal Ca²⁺-sensing protein D1ER and CaM(WT) or CaM mutants (CaM-M, CaM(E15A), CaM(F66A), CaM(L70A), CaM(M110A), CaM(F142A), CaM(F20A), CaM(F69A), CaM(F93A), CaM(L106A) and CaM(M146A)). CaM mutations close to a specific CaM–RyR2 interface are grouped and are indicated. The termination threshold (**f**), activation threshold (**g**) and store capacity (**h**) were determined as described in **a**–**e** above. **f**–**h**, Data are mean ± s.e.m. with the number of independent experiments for each condition shown on the graph and analysed by one-way ANOVA with a Dunnett's post hoc test (versus CaM(WT)) and adjusted *P* values are indicated.

Extended Data Fig. 8 | **Evaluation of the conformations of N- and C-lobes of CaM in the FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺- CaM structures. a**, The electron microscopy map (low-pass-filtered to 4.8 Å resolution at a contour level of 0.015) of FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/ high- $\left[\text{Ca}^{2+}\right]/\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -CaM. Red and blue boxes indicate the N- and C-lobes, respectively. **b**, Docking of the three reported conformations of the N-lobe of CaM into our electron microscopy map suggests an open conformation

of the N-lobe in FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM. CC indicates the cross-correlation coefficient. **c**, An important distinction between C-lobes in the open and semi-open or closed states is the enlarged angle between helices C1 and C4. **d**, Docking analysis supports the open conformation of the C-lobe in FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high-[Ca²⁺]/Ca²⁺-CaM.

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Extended Data Fig. 9 | **Inhibitory mechanism of RyR2 by Ca²⁺-CaM. a**, Both caffeine and ATP are located at the interfaces between the U-motif and O-ring, locking these elements into a stable unit. **b**, There is almost no intradomain rearrangement of the individual central domain between the structures of FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca²⁺] and FKBP12.6/ ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca²+]/Ca²+-CaM. **c**, Ca²+-CaM induces anticlockwise rotation of the overall central domain in FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low- $[Ca^{2+}]/Ca^{2+}-CaM$ when viewed from the cytoplasmic side. The overall

tetrameric FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2+]/Ca2+-CaM and FKBP12.6/ ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2+] RyR2 structures are superimposed relative to C-terminal subdomain of the channel domain. Red arrows indicate the conformational changes upon $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ binding. **d**, $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ induces intradomain shifts of the individual central domain in the PCB95 and Ca²⁺-activated channel. **e**, The PCB95 and Ca²⁺-activated channel closes after Ca²+-CaM loading.

Extended Data Fig. 10 | **Conformational changes induced by Ca²⁺-CaM and mapping of previously identified CaM-binding sequences and disease-associated point mutations onto the structures of RyR2–CaM complexes. a**, Compared to FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca²⁺], the four central domains in the FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/high- $\left[Ca^{2+}\right]/Ca^{2+}-CaM$ RyR2 structure undergo an anticlockwise rotation. The overall tetrameric FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2+] and FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/ high- $[Ca^{2+}]/Ca^{2+}$ -CaM RyR2 structures are superimposed relative to the C-terminal subdomain of the channel domain. **b**, Compared to the CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2+] RyR2 structure, almost no conformational change was induced by $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ in the CHAPS- and DOPC-treated FKBP12.6/ATP/caffeine/low-[Ca2+]/ $Ca^{2+}-CaM$ RyR2 structure. **c**, Compared to the PCB95/low-[Ca^{2+}] RyR2 structure, the overall central domain in the PCB95/low-[Ca²⁺]/ Ca²⁺-CaM RyR2 structure undergoes an anticlockwise rotation. The

overall tetrameric PCB95/low-[Ca2+] and PCB95/low-[Ca2+]/Ca2+-CaM RyR2 structures are superimposed relative to the C-terminal subdomain of the channel domain. **d**, Structural mapping of previously reported CaM-binding sequences. Orange, the overlapping binding sequences of apo-CaM and $Ca^{2+}-CaM$; cyan, the binding sequence of $Ca^{2+}-CaM$; yellow, the binding sequence of apo-CaM; blue, segments that are not involved in binding in our structures; red, sequences that are invisible in the structures. The residue numbers in brackets that are labelled grey indicate that the sequences are invisible in the structure. **e**, The primary apo-CaM binding sequences in RyR2 are the same in RyR1. Red residues highlight the key contact residues. **f**, Mapping of the disease-associated point mutations onto the structure of the RyR2–apo-CaM complex. The mutations in HD1 and apo-CaM are coloured blue and red, respectively. **g**, Mapping of the CaM disease-associated point mutations onto the structure of the RyR2– Ca^{2+} -CaM complex.

Extended Data Table 1 | **Cryo-EM data collection, refinement and validation statistics**

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Atomic coordinates and EM density maps of the

F/apo-CaM (PDB: 6JI8; EMDB: EMD-9833), F/A/C/L-Ca2+/CaM-M (PDB: 6JII; EMDB: EMD-9834), F/A/C/L-Ca2+ (PDB: 6JI0; EMDB: EMD-9831),

F/A/C/L-Ca2+/Ca2+-CaM (PDB: 6JIU; EMDB: EMD-9836), *F/A/C/L-Ca2+ (PDB: 6JRR; EMDB: EMD-9879), *F/A/C/L-Ca2+/Ca2+-CaM (PDB: 6JRS; EMDB: EMD-9880), F/ A/C/H-Ca2+/Ca2+-CaM (PDB: 6JIY; EMDB: EMD-9837), and P/L-Ca2+/Ca2+-CaM (PDB: 6JV2; EMDB: EMD-9889) structures have been deposited in the Protein Data Bank (http://www.rcsb.org) and the Electron Microscopy Data Bank (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/emdb/). Source Data for Fig. 2e, f and Extended Data Figs. 1c, 6f, 7d-h are available online. All other data are available from the corresponding authors upon reasonable request.

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