Keio University Global Research Institute

KGRI Lecture Series

2019年 **DF18E** 金

場所:慶應義塾大学信濃町キャンパス

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IP₃ receptor/Ca²⁺ channel: from its discovery to a new paradigm in health and disease

Ca²⁺ plays an essential role in cell function. It conveys signals to the most important cell process but the detailed mechanism of signaling process is not clearly understood. We have discovered a key regulator of Ca²⁺ signaling, the IP₃ receptor (IP₃R) as a P₄₀₀ protein greatly decreased in the cerebellum of Purkinje cell-degeneration mutant mice, and have subsequently cloned its cDNA. We identified it is endoplasmic reticulum (ER) channel that convert GPCR-IP₃ signals to Ca^{2+} signal at the ER to produce Ca^{2+} oscillation. We found that IP₃R is essential for fertilization, dorso-ventral axis formation, neurite extension, cardiogenesis, exocrine secretion and behavior. We found IP₃R interacts ER chaperons to protect from apoptosis caused by ER stress response. A newly discovered pseudo-IP₃ which we named IRBIT that binds to IP³R and is involved in apoptosis regulation in association with anti-apoptotic proteins. We recently crystalized a large cytosolic domain (2217aa) of IP₃R in the presence and absence of IP₃ and solved the gating mechanism by biochemical and X-ray crystallographic analysis. We have identified a "leaflet" structure essential for allosteric channel gating, surrounded by functional molecules that may regulate IP_aR activity to balance normal/abnormal state. I will discuss about a new paradigm in health and disease.



お問い合わせ

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