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Introduction

Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase catalyses the transport of Na\textsuperscript{+} and K\textsuperscript{+} across the cell membrane and is important in establishing and maintaining the electrochemical gradient. The maintenance of this transmembrane gradient is vital to cell function at multiple levels, including Na\textsuperscript{+}-coupled reuptake of glutamate (Balcar, 2002; O’Shea, 2002), glucose utilization (Honegger & Pardo, 1999; Magistretti, 2006), signal transduction (Liang et al. 2006) and modulation of cellular excitability and synaptic transmission (Ross & Soltesz, 2001; Reich et al. 2004; Kim et al. 2007). Changes in Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase activity have been implicated in numerous CNS disorders (Lees, 1991; Kumar & Kurup, 2002), including those manifest by hyper-excitability such as epilepsy in humans (Rapport et al. 1975) and in several animal models of epileptogenesis (Donaldson et al. 1971; Anderson et al. 1994; Fernandes et al. 1971).
et al. 1996; Reime Kinjo et al. 2007). While the Na\(^{+}–K^{+}\) ATPase is ubiquitously expressed in all neurons our understanding of its activity in different types of neocortical cells remains limited.

Pyramidal (PYR) neurons represent the major source of excitatory output from neocortical layer V, a lamina that is the site of origin of interictal epileptiform discharge in both acute and chronic models of neocortical epileptogenesis (Connors, 1984; Prince & Tseng, 1993; Hoffman et al. 1994). The spike output of PYR cells is closely regulated by the action of inhibitory fast-spiking (FS) interneurons that synapse predominantly on PYR somata and proximal dendrites (Tamas et al. 1997). Regulation of FS interneuronal excitability is therefore important to normal and pathophysiological neocortical activity. In comparison to PYR cells, FS interneurons have a much higher firing frequency and can generate a sustained output in excess of 500 Hz with little spike frequency adaptation (McCormick et al. 1985; Connors & Gutnick, 1990 for review). This suggests that they possess an efficient mechanism for clearing increased [Na\(^{+}\)] that would accumulate, particularly in their axons that have a high surface to volume ratio, and potentially suppress action potential firing. Activation of Na\(^{+}–K^{+}\) ATPase by increases in [Na\(^{+}\)], would serve to maintain the capacity to fire at high rates. There is little information available with respect to differences in Na\(^{+}–K^{+}\) ATPase activity in subgroups of neocortical neurons, even though such differences are important to the regulation of resting membrane potential, synaptic transmission, neuronal responses to injury and the development of hyperexcitability (Ross & Soltesz, 2000; Vaillend et al. 2002; Anderson et al. 2005). In the present experiments, we tested the hypothesis that FS interneurons have greater Na\(^{+}–K^{+}\) ATPase activity than PYR neurons in layer V, both at rest and during periods of high cellular activity.

**Methods**

**Slice preparation**

Protocols for all experiments were approved by the Stanford Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. The authors have read, and the experiments comply with, the policies and regulations of The Journal of Physiology (Drummond, 2009). Male Sprague–Dawley rats (postnatal days (P)13–P24) or CD-1(ICR) mice (P15–P25) were deeply anaesthetized with 50 mg kg\(^{-1}\) sodium pentobarbitol and decapitated. Brains were removed and coronal slices (350 \(\mu\)m thick) of the somatosensory cortex were cut on a vibratome (VT 1000S; Leica, Nussloch, Germany) in a 4°C carboxygenated (95% O\(_2\)–5% CO\(_2\)) ‘cutting’ solution containing the following (in mM): 234 sucrose, 11 glucose, 24 NaHCO\(_3\), 2.5 KCl, 1.25 NaH\(_2\)PO\(_4\), 10 MgSO\(_4\) and 0.5 CaCl\(_2\). Slices were hemisected and incubated for 1 h at 32°C in carboxygenated artificial CSF (aCSF) containing (in mM): 126 NaCl, 26 NaHCO\(_3\), 2.5 KCl, 1.25 NaH\(_2\)PO\(_4\), 2 MgSO\(_4\), 2 CaCl\(_2\) and 10 glucose, pH 7.4. Slices were then incubated at room temperature before being transferred to the recording chamber.

**Electrophysiological recording**

Slices submerged in aCSF were initially visualized under brightfield for identification of neocortical layer V (Paxinos & Watson, 1998). Whole-cell recordings were obtained from cortical pyramidal (PYR) neurons or fast-spiking (FS) interneurons using an upright microscope (Axioskop, Carl-Zeiss, Thornwood, NY, USA) fitted with infrared differential interference contrast optics. Regular spiking (RS) and intrinsically bursting (IB) PYR neurons were distinguished based on their current-clamp firing behaviour (Connors et al. 1982; Tseng & Prince, 1993; Guatteo et al. 1994). FS interneurons were identified visually by the lack of a large emerging apical dendrite and electrophysiologically by their firing behaviour in current clamp (McCormick et al. 1985). To facilitate identification of FS interneurons some recordings were made in transgenic mice in which the enhanced green fluorescent protein (EGFP) was specifically expressed in parvalbumin-positive neurons ( Chattopadhyaya et al. 2004). These parvalbumin–containing cells were routinely identified electrophysiologically as FS interneurons. No difference was observed in data collected from rats or transgenic mice. All recordings were obtained at 32°C using borosilicate glass (WPI, Sarasota, FL, USA) microelectrodes (tip resistance, 2–3 M\(\Omega\)) filled with intracellular solution containing the following (in mM): 70 potassium gluconate, 70 KCl, 2 NaCl, 10 Heps, 10 EGTA, 2 MgCl\(_2\). The estimated \(E_{\text{Cl}}\) was approximately −16 mV, resulting in inward GABA\(_A\) currents at a holding potential of −70 mV. Substitution of the internal solution for one containing a more physiological [Cl\(^{−}\)] (124 potassium gluconate, 16 KCl, 2 NaCl, 10 Heps, 4 EGTA, \(E_{\text{Cl}}\) = −52 mV) had no significant effect on the Na\(^{+}–K^{+}\) ATPase-sensitive current. Internal solution pH was adjusted to 7.3 using KOH as required. For intracellular labelling, biocytin 0.3–1% was included in the internal solution and sections processed as previously described (Salin et al. 1995). The electrode capacitance and bridge circuit were appropriately adjusted. The series resistance (\(R_s\)) of neurons chosen for analysis ranged between 6 and 30 M\(\Omega\) (<20% of membrane input resistance) and was monitored for stability. Membrane potential was not corrected for a calculated 10 mV liquid junction potential. For measurement of the voltage sag induced by hyperpolarizing activated cationic current, the difference between the peak and steady-state membrane voltage recorded in response to a 1 s, −150 pA transmembrane current step was measured.
The post-train afterhyperpolarization potential was measured from the peak hyperpolarized value to the recovered baseline following a 1 s, 150 pA depolarizing transmembrane current step. For frequency–current (f–I) slopes linear regressions were performed on plots of the average firing frequency against current (I) normalized to the threshold current (I\text{threshold}) that reliably produced a train of action potentials (100 pA for PYR neurons, 250 pA for FS interneurons). Similarly, we calculated an adaptation index as 100 × (I − I\text{last}/I\text{last}), where I\text{last} corresponds to the firing rate of the last interspike interval and I\text{last} the second interspike interval (modified from Tateno & Robinson, 2004). PYR neurons exhibited a high variability in the first interspike interval (in both PYR1 and PYR2 response groups) and as such the 2nd interval was chosen for analysis. A Multiclamp 700A patch-clamp amplifier (Axon Instruments, Union City, CA, USA) was used in either current- or voltage-clamp mode. Recordings were sampled at 20 kHz, filtered at 10 kHz, captured on an A–D interface (Digidata 1320A, Axon Instruments) and stored on a computer. Simultaneous continuous recordings were performed on a MiniDigi 1A, sampling at 1 kHz. For voltage-clamp recordings, the membrane potential was clamped at −70 mV. Data were analysed using pCLAMP (Axon Instruments), Origin (Microcal Software, Northampton, MA, USA), and Prism (GraphPad) software. Data are presented as means ± S.E.M. Statistical significance was tested with a one-way ANOVA with Tukey’s multiple comparison test or a Student’s paired t test. Differences were determined to be significant if \( P < 0.05 \). The Na\textsuperscript+-K\textsuperscript+ ATPase current density for each cell was calculated as: \((\Delta V_{m}/R_m)/C_m\) where \(\Delta V_{m}\) is the membrane depolarization induced by Na\textsuperscript+-K\textsuperscript+ ATPase blockade, \(R_m\) the input resistance determined from the voltage response to an applied hyperpolarizing current step (1 s, 25–50 pA) and \(C_m\) the total capacitance calculated from the integrated area of the current response to a 40 ms, −5 mV voltage step. Membrane depolarization (Fig. 1B) or peak current (Fig. 2B) induced in FS or PYR neurons by a 30 s application of 100 \(\mu\)M dihydro-ouabain (DHO) were best fitted to single or double peak Gaussian distributions with the equation: \(y = y_0 + (A/(w \times \sqrt{\pi/2})) \times \exp(-((x-xc)/w)^2)\). Plots were performed in Origin 7.0 (OriginLabs, Northampton, MA, USA) and goodness of fit tested by the calculated coefficient of determination \((R^2)\) equal to: total sum of squares – residual sum of squares/total sum of squares.

Experimental solutions

2-Amino-5-phosphonopentanoic acid (D-APV; 50 \(\mu\)M), 6,7-dinitroquinoxaline-2,3-dione (DNQX, 20 \(\mu\)M), 4-ethylphenylamino-1,2-dimethyl-6-methylaminopyrimidinium chloride (ZD7288, 20 \(\mu\)M) and tetrodotoxin (TTX; 1.0 \(\mu\)M) were purchased from Ascent Scientific (Weston-super-Mare, UK), prepared from stock solutions and bath applied in various experiments. Cadmium chloride (200 \(\mu\)M), dihydro-ouabain (20–100 \(\mu\)M), picrotoxin (50 \(\mu\)M) and ouabain (1–100 \(\mu\)M) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St Louis, MO, USA). NaCl was substituted for NaH\(_2\)PO\(_4\) in experiments where cadmium was used. All vehicle concentrations (NaOH, DMSO, ethanol) were <0.5% of final and had no effect on recordings. For isolation of the Na\textsuperscript+-K\textsuperscript+ ATPase activity, D-APV, DNQX, TTX and picrotoxin were routinely bath applied unless otherwise noted. Inclusion of TTX significantly reduced the occurrence of spreading depression and/or anoxic depolarization that may accompany blockade of the Na\textsuperscript+-K\textsuperscript+ ATPase (Muller & Somjen, 2000; Anderson & Andrew, 2002); however, these events were observed in some cells that were eliminated from further analysis.

Na\textsuperscript+-loading experiments

To increase [Na\textsuperscript+]\(_i\), glutamate (20 mM) was locally delivered through a patch pipette (2–3 M\(\Omega\)) by pressure ejection (31 kPa, 0.02–1.0 s pulse). For these experiments, DNQX was omitted from the bathing solution to allow AMPA activation, while D-APV was maintained to limit AMPA activation, while D-APV was maintained to limit the potential inhibition of the Na\textsuperscript+-K\textsuperscript+ ATPase by Ca\textsuperscript{2+} entering through activated NMDA receptors (Fukuda & Prince, 1992a). However, potential inhibition of the Na\textsuperscript+-K\textsuperscript+ ATPase in FS interneurons through activation of Ca\textsuperscript{2+}-permeable AMPA receptors (Angulo et al. 1999) could not be eliminated following glutamate application. Reproducibility of the glutamate responses was confirmed by monitoring responses elicited by two pre-puffs (0.1 s) prior to the test puff (1.0 s), all applied 30 s apart. These pre-puffs elicited short (<5 s), small amplitude (<200 pA) responses that fully recovered well before the delivery of the test puff. This stimulus sequence was repeated every 3 min for 3–5 trials and the results averaged. While the response to the 1st pre-pulse showed some variability, possibly due to a ‘cold barrel’ effect, the responses to the 2nd pre-pulse and test pulse were consistent across trials for puff durations ≤1 s. Responses to puff durations >1.0 s were inconsistent across trials and omitted from the analysis. For calculation of Na\textsuperscript+-K\textsuperscript+ ATPase activity, the averaged direct glutamate response (DGR) obtained in the presence of DHO was digitally subtracted from the control glutamate response using pCLAMP software (Axon Instruments). The resulting trace is the current sensitive to blockade with DHO and is indicative of the glutamate-induced Na\textsuperscript+-K\textsuperscript+ ATPase activity. Integration of this current will therefore yield the underlying Na\textsuperscript+-K\textsuperscript+ ATPase charge. Addition of the Ca\textsuperscript{2+} chelator BAPTA...
to the patch electrode solution, bath perfusion of the Ca\(^{2+}\) channel antagonist cadmium (200 \(\mu\)M) and the hyperpolarization-activated mixed cationic channel (\(I_h\)) blocker ZD7288 (20 \(\mu\)M) had no effect on the Na\(^+-K^+\) ATPase response to the glutamate puff. Therefore, data from cells exposed to these agents were grouped and analysed with those from cells whose recordings were obtained with normal pipette and bath solutions. In separate experiments, [Na\(^+\)]\(_i\) was increased by partially substituting sodium gluconate for potassium gluconate in the patch electrode solution.

**Results**

Whole-cell recordings were obtained from 96 PYR and 71 FS neurons from layer V of sensorimotor cortex. Cells were both visually and electrophysiologically identified as previously described (Kawaguchi & Kubota, 1993; Cauili et al. 1997; Xiang et al. 1998; Bacci et al. 2003). Identification of FS interneurons was aided in the transgenic mice by the fluorescence of EGFP expressed in parvalbumin-positive neurons.

Resting Na\(^+-K^+\) ATPase activity varies between different types of neocortical neurons

Bath perfusion of dihydro-ouabain (DHO, 100 \(\mu\)M) for 30 s to either PYR or FS neurons under current clamp evoked a membrane depolarization in all cells tested. In FS interneurons, DHO induced a mean peak depolarization of 5.2 \(\pm\) 0.8 mV (Fig. 1A). In contrast, DHO perfusion elicited more variable depolarizations in PYR neurons (Fig. 1A, middle and bottom). The response amplitude distributions from FS interneurons (\(n = 8\)) were well fitted with a single peak Gaussian (\(R^2 = 0.89\)), while those of PYR neurons (\(n = 19\)) had a bimodal distribution (\(R^2 = 0.99\)) (Fig. 1B) (see Methods for more details). PYR neurons thus fell into two significantly different groups based on the amplitude of their DHO-induced membrane depolarization.

![Figure 1](image-url)

**Figure 1. Dihydro-ouabain (DHO) induces a membrane depolarization in neocortical neurons**

A, bath application of 100 \(\mu\)M DHO for 30 s induces a reversible membrane depolarization in a fast-spiking (FS) interneuron (top) and in two classes of pyramidal neuron (middle/bottom). Black bar represents period of DHO application. Resting membrane potential is listed to the left of each trace. B, population data of neuronal responses to DHO application. Left: data for FS interneurons are normally distributed (i.e. well fitted by a single peak Gaussian). Right: data for pyramidal neurons are best fitted by a 2-peak Gaussian. Goodness of fit calculated by the coefficient of determination (\(R^2\)). Note the clear separation of responses into large amplitude (termed PYR1) and small amplitude (termed PYR2) responses. C, mean (\(\pm\) S.E.M.) membrane depolarization in response to DHO for all cell types. D, calculated current density (current/capacitance) for all cell types. *\(P > 0.05\); **\(P > 0.01\).
depolarization. The mean peak amplitudes of responses in these two groups were 10.6 ± 0.4 mV (PYR1 neurons) and 2.7 ± 0.3 mV (PYR2 neurons) (*P < 0.0001; Fig. 1C). We next examined the properties of these three cell groups (FS, PYR1 and PYR2) and their responses to Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase blockade in more detail.

Although responses to DHO application in PYR1 cells tended to have a faster rise time (1.7 ± 0.1 min) it was not significantly different from either the FS (1.9 ± 0.3 min) or the PYR2 (1.8 ± 0.2 min) groups (*P = 0.46 and *P = 0.20, respectively). As the recorded membrane depolarization may be sensitive to differences in cell size and permeability, we examined the current density for each cell type calculated from the input resistance, DHO-induced membrane depolarization and whole-cell capacitance (see Methods). This measure revealed that the Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase current density in FS interneurons (2.0 ± 0.4 pA pF\(^{-1}\)) was approximately 3–7 times greater than that in the PYR1 (0.7 ± 0.1 pA pF\(^{-1}\)) or PYR2 (0.3 ± 0.1 pA pF\(^{-1}\)) groups (*P < 0.01 and *P < 0.001, respectively; Fig. 1D). The PYR neuron groups were themselves significantly different from each other (*P < 0.01). Similar results were also obtained when somatic surface areas were estimated from biocytin-filled cells of each group (data not shown).

Thus, FS interneurons and PYR neurons differ in their sensitivity to Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase blockade, presumably due to differences in the resting state of their Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase activity.

The difference in resting Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase activity could be due to differences in the number of functional Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase molecules and/or a difference in rate of Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase activity. We included ATP/GTP in the internal pipette solution in an effort to increase and equalize the forward Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase rate across the different cell types (Gadsby & Nakao, 1989; Ross & Soltesz, 2000). The inclusion of ATP/GTP increased the amplitude of the response to DHO (100 μM) application above control levels in PYR neurons (15.2 ± 3.8 mV, *n = 10) but had no effect on FS interneurons (5.3 ± 0.5 mV, *n = 5). The lack of effect on FS interneurons suggests that the forward Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase rate is not limited by ATP/GTP levels in these neurons. Addition of ATP/GTP also hyperpolarized the resting membrane potential in PYR neurons (−67.5 ± 2.2 mV) and FS interneurons (−69.8 ± 1.3 mV). The inclusion of ATP/GTP in the patch pipette internal solution prevented grouping of the PYR neurons on the basis of their responses to blockade of the Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase with control internal solution as previously described (Fig. 1B). Consequently the data for PYR neurons were combined as no direct paired comparison with control data was possible. However, responses to blockade with DHO in PYR neurons loaded with ATP/GTP did fall into low (8.1 ± 0.7 mV, *n = 6) and high (17.1 ± 2.9 mV, *n = 4) amplitude groups. Independent of the PYR grouping, the results of this experiment clearly indicate that increasing intracellular ATP/GTP failed to equalize the DHO-sensitive Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase activity between PYR and FS neurons (*P < 0.05).

These results indicate that the difference in calculated Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase-dependent current density between cell types is primarily due to a difference in the number of Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase molecules in the cell membrane, rather than a difference in ATP/GTP limited rate.

To directly examine the current elicited by Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase blockade we conducted experiments under voltage clamp. At a holding potential of −70 mV, bath application of 100 μM DHO for 30 s induced a transient inward current in all cell groups. Increasing the duration of DHO application from 30 s to 5 min did not increase the amplitude of the response, but significantly reduced recovery to resting levels (data not shown). In FS interneurons, the responses were normally distributed with a mean (±S.E.M.) peak inward current of 93.1 ± 12.1 pA (*n = 8) (Fig. 2A and B). In PYR neurons, two groups could again be clearly identified. The first group of large amplitude responders (PYR1) had a mean peak inward current of 104.7 ± 5.5 pA (n = 5), while the second group (PYR2) had a smaller peak inward current of 26.1 ± 6.2 pA (n = 5) that was significantly different from the FS interneurons (*P < 0.001) and the PYR1 group (*P < 0.0001). Finally, responses to a series of drug concentrations were tested using DHO and a higher affinity Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase antagonist, ouabain (Fig. 2C). In FS interneurons, 20 μM DHO induced an inward current (52.9 ± 16.4 pA, *n = 4) that was significantly smaller than that elicited by 100 μM DHO (93.1 ± 12.1 pA as above, *P < 0.05). Inward currents elicited by application of 20 or 100 μM ouabain (124.2 ± 19.8 pA, *n = 6 and 108.8 ± 7.4 pA, *n = 5, respectively) were not significantly different from those induced by 100 μM DHO (*P = 0.44). In PYR neurons, application of 20 or 50 μM DHO induced inward currents of 18.5 ± 1.3 pA (*n = 3) and 27.4 ± 6.9 pA (*n = 4), respectively. Interestingly, the distinct grouping of PYR neuron responses was not present at either lower doses of DHO (20 and 50 μM) or at a higher dose of ouabain (100 μM). The two groups of PYR cell responses were again evident when 20 μM ouabain (PYR1 = 152.0 ± 14.7 pA, *n = 5, PYR2 = 45.0 ± 3.8 pA, *n = 6) was applied (*P < 0.0001). This suggests that the observed difference in Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase density between the two groups of PYR neurons is accompanied by a differential sensitivity to blockade of the Na\(^+\)-K\(^+\) ATPase by DHO or ouabain.

The intrinsic membrane properties of FS interneurons were significantly different from both PYR groups; however, there were no significant differences between the two PYR neuron groups (Table 1). Specifically, there was no correlation between the amplitude of the DHO-induced membrane depolarization and numerous intrinsic properties (Table 1). Using previously described
criteria (Connors et al. 1982) we classified the firing behaviour of the PYR neurons and found that they were predominantly regular spiking ($n = 16$), although a few intrinsically bursting neurons were recorded in both PYR groups ($n = 3$) (Fig. 3A, and Table 1). There was no correlation between firing behaviour, frequency–current plots or adaptation index and the amplitude of responses to DHO application. While DHO application induced an expected leftward shift in the membrane voltage–current curve (Fig. 3B), there was no significant DHO-induced change in the input resistance of the three cell types (Fig. 3C). The laminar location and morphological identity of 18 PYR neurons was confirmed with intracellular biocytin labelling. There were no distinct differences in location or general cell morphology (Fig. 3D). Consequently, the amplitude of the PYR neuron response to blockade of resting Na$^+$$–$K$^+$ ATPase activity was consistently used in the remaining experiments to classify the neurons as belonging to the PYR1 or PYR2 group.

### Na$^+$$–$K$^+$ ATPase activity induced by increased intracellular Na$^+$ varies among classes of neocortical neurons

It is clear that both FS interneurons and PYR1 neurons have more active resting Na$^+$$–$K$^+$ ATPase activity than PYR2 neurons. However, only a portion of the total Na$^+$$–$K$^+$ ATPase molecules are phosphorylated and thus active at rest and sensitive to pharmacological blockade (Forbush & Hoffman, 1979; Antonelli et al. 1989). To test the Na$^+$$–$K$^+$ ATPase capacity of the different cell groups we induced Na$^+$$–$K$^+$ ATPase activity by intracellularly loading cells with Na$^+$ using two methods. First, we focally applied 20 mM glutamate to slices while recording the resulting neuronal currents in FS and PYR neurons. In previous experiments in hippocampus, similar glutamate puffs were shown to be an indicator of Na$^+$$–$K$^+$ ATPase activity (Thompson & Prince, 1986; Fukuda & Prince, 1992a,b). In the present experiments under voltage clamp, the glutamate puff induced a fast, large inward current that quickly decayed, followed by a transient outward

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**Figure 2. Heterogeneous inward current responses to Na$^+$$–$K$^+$ ATPase blockade in different classes of neocortical neurons**

A, whole-cell voltage clamp responses to brief (30 s, black bar) application of 100 μM DHO, which induced a reversible inward current in all tested neurons. FS interneurons again showed an intermediate amplitude response between the two identified pyramidal types (larger amplitude (PYR1) and smaller amplitude (PYR2)). B, histograms of population responses to DHO in either the FS or PYR neurons. Again, the FS data were best fitted by a single peak Gaussian, and the PYR neurons by a 2-peak Gaussian. C, scatter plots of peak current responses to 30 s application of either the low affinity Na$^+$$–$K$^+$ ATPase antagonist DHO (grey symbols; 20, 50 or 100 μM) or the high affinity Na$^+$$–$K$^+$ ATPase antagonist ouabain (black symbols; 20, 100 μM) in FS (top) or PYR (bottom) neurons. Horizontal bars: mean values.
current in all cells. An example from an FS interneuron is displayed in Fig. 4A, Control. The glutamate puff was then repeated during blockade of the Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase by bath application of 100 \(\mu M\) DHO. The resulting current is thus independent of Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity and results primarily from the direct glutamate response (DGR) mediated by ionotropic glutamate receptors (Fig. 4A, DGR). These DGR currents were then averaged and digitally subtracted from the average control responses thereby revealing the isolated DHO-sensitive Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase current (Fig. 4A, Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase Activity) (see Methods for further details). A comparison between the neuronal types (Fig. 4B) revealed that the Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase charge in FS interneurons (13.7 ± 2.2 nC, \(n = 12\)) was much greater than that in either PYR1 (2.8 ± 0.3 nC, \(n = 3\)) or PYR2 neurons (1.5 ± 0.6 nC, \(n = 5\); \(P < 0.05\)). PYR neuron grouping was determined as above by the amplitude of the response to blockade of resting Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity. Next we tested for a potential difference in sensitivity to the glutamate puffs between neuronal groups by varying the duration of the glutamate puff (0.02–1.0 s) applied to each type of neuron. At glutamate puff durations of 0.5 s and greater, FS interneurons showed more Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase charge than either PYR cell type (\(P < 0.05\); Fig. 4C). In contrast, no statistically significant difference between the PYR groups could be determined in the Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase charge for any puff duration tested (Fig. 4C).

Neocortical neurons differ in a wide range of properties (e.g. morphological, synaptic, receptor complement) that may differentially influence their sensitivity to activation by a glutamate puff. As stated, during blockade of the Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase with DHO, the resulting charge induced by a glutamate puff (Fig. 4A, middle) would be indicative of the cell’s direct response to glutamate (DGR), independent of Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity. As a result, by normalizing the Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase charge (a measure of Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase-induced activity) to the DGR charge (a measure of non-Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase-induced activity), we obtained an estimate of the induced Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity independent of any variance in application or responsiveness to the glutamate puff across cell types. The results indicated that both FS and PYR1 neurons exhibited significantly greater normalized charge than PYR2 neurons (\(P < 0.05\); Fig. 4D). This suggests that FS and PYR1 neurons are more sensitive to activation of Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase induced by increases in [Na\(^{+}\)]. Finally, a comparison of this measure of induced Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity (Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase charge/DHO charge) in individual cells against their respective resting Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity (DHO current) revealed a separation of the two PYR groups based on both resting and induced Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity and a similarity in response between FS and PYR1 neurons (Fig. 4E). Therefore, resting Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity is a strong indicator of induced Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity for these cell types.

To directly test the potential for differential sensitivity to Na\(^{+}\)-induced Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity across cell types, we increased the concentration of Na\(^{+}\) in the patch pipette solution to 40 or 70 mM. These concentrations

### Table 1. Intrinsic membrane properties of different groups of recorded neurons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PYR1 (n = 9)</th>
<th>PYR2 (n = 10)</th>
<th>FS (n = 8)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHO – membrane depolarization (mV)</td>
<td>10.0 ± 0.4*</td>
<td>2.7 ± 0.3</td>
<td>5.2 ± 0.8*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resting membrane potential (mV)</td>
<td>−64.1 ± 0.9</td>
<td>−62.0 ± 1.3</td>
<td>−67.4 ± 1.5*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Input resistance (M(\Omega))</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>119.7 ± 19.5</td>
<td>116.6 ± 15.8</td>
<td>80.9 ± 8.5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHO</td>
<td>127.6 ± 20.5</td>
<td>129.8 ± 16.4</td>
<td>79.3 ± 8.4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacitance (pF)</td>
<td>125.5 ± 22.3</td>
<td>116.9 ± 13.5</td>
<td>38.2 ± 5.3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I_h) (mV)</td>
<td>4.30 ± 0.8</td>
<td>4.35 ± 0.8</td>
<td>1.17 ± 0.3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-train AHP (mV)</td>
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<td>3.72 ± 0.7</td>
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Values ± \(x\) are means ± s.e.m. \(I_h\), membrane potential sag, reflective of hyperpolarization-activated cation current; AHP, afterhyperpolarization potential; RS, regular spiking; IB, intrinsically bursting; \(f-I\) slope, frequency-current. Firing properties were calculated for the first depolarizing step (in 50 \(pA\) increments) that reliably produced action potentials (100 \(pA\) for PYR, 250 \(pA\) for FS).
are known to activate both the α1 and α3 Na\(^+\)–K\(^+\) ATPase isoforms (Blanco & Mercer, 1998). We then compared the induced current resulting from perfusion with various concentrations of Na\(^+\)–K\(^+\) ATPase antagonists in the Na\(^+\)-loaded neurons with that obtained using the control (2 mM Na\(^+\)) intracellular solution. After achieving whole-cell configuration, the cells were dialysed for a minimum of 10 min with the higher Na\(^+\) internal solutions, and a stable baseline holding current achieved for a minimum of 3 min before a series of successive ouabain concentrations (1, 20 and 100 μM) were applied to each cell. Representative traces of responses to ouabain from PYR1- and PYR2-type neurons are shown in Fig. 5A. For these experiments, ouabain was chosen for its high affinity, and lack of washout. Therefore, stable baseline levels could be recorded for each concentration while minimizing the potential for partial drug washout. Two distinct groups of amplitude responses induced by 20 μM ouabain were evident in Na\(^+\)-loaded PYR neurons, consistent with the previous results obtained from non-loaded PYR neurons (Fig. 2C). Consequently, PYR grouping in these experiments was based on the amplitude of the response to 20 μM ouabain. Application of 1 μM ouabain had little effect on any of the cell types (Fig. 5B). When exposed to 20 or 100 μM ouabain, PYR1 neurons loaded with 70 mM Na\(^+\) generated more current than comparably Na\(^+\)-loaded PYR2 or FS neurons (Fig. 5B). Interestingly, the percentage increase in response to 100 μM ouabain was similar for both PYR1 (199.5% of control levels) and PYR2 neurons (172.4% of control) loaded with 70 mM Na\(^+\). This suggests that high internal Na\(^+\) concentrations (70 mM) equally activate the available Na\(^+\)–K\(^+\) ATPase molecules in both PYR groups, thereby supporting our initial finding that PYR1 neurons have a greater total number of Na\(^+\)–K\(^+\) ATPase molecules than PYR2. PYR1 neurons were also more sensitive to Na\(^+\) loading than PYR2 neurons, as internal perfusion with both 40 and 70 mM Na\(^+\) increased the Na\(^+\)–K\(^+\) ATPase...
current blocked by 100 μM ouabain above the control value ($P < 0.05$; Fig. 5B). In FS interneurons, increases in internal Na$^+$ had no effect on the response to 1 or 20 μM ouabain. However, in FS cells loaded with 70 mM Na$^+$, the Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase current blocked by 100 μM ouabain was significantly increased (227.9 ± 17.6 pA) compared to that recorded in control 2 mM [Na$^+$]$_i$ (109.5 ± 9.5 pA) or 40 mM [Na$^+$]$_i$ (139.5 ± 4.6 pA) ($P < 0.01$; Fig. 5B).

**Discussion**

Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase activity in cortical neurons

We studied the activity of the Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase in cortical layer V fast-spiking (FS) interneurons and pyramidal (PYR) neurons to test the hypothesis that Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase function would vary between cell types and would be significantly more pronounced in fast-spiking inter-neurons. As expected, pharmacological blockade of the Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase resulted in a membrane depolarization under current clamp or an increase of inward current under voltage-clamp conditions. PYR cells could be clearly separated into two groups based on the amplitude of responses to blockade of Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase. PYR1 neurons comprised 48% of the PYR population and had significantly greater Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase-dependent currents than PYR2 cells. In contrast, the response of FS interneurons was homogeneous and intermediate in amplitude between that of the two groups of PYR neurons. However, when cell size (membrane capacitance) was taken into account, FS interneurons possessed a 3- to 7-fold greater Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase-dependent current density than either of the PYR groups. Despite their smaller cell size, the input resistance of FS interneurons is lower than that of PYR cells (Table 1) as previously reported (Angulo et al. 1999; Bacci et al. 2003). The higher density and level of resting Na$^+$–K$^+$

![Figure 4. Glutamate puff-induced activation of the Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase](image)

Glutamate (20 mM) was locally delivered through a patch-pipette by a brief pressure pulse (31 kPa, 1 s). A: left, representative trace from a FS interneuron under voltage clamp in response to a glutamate puff in control. Glutamate evoked a large amplitude, fast rising inward current followed by a rebound outward current. Middle, following blockade of the Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase with 100 μM DHO the glutamate puff is repeated and the DGR recorded. Right, digital subtraction of the DGR response from the control response reveals the underlying DHO-sensitive Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase current (Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase activity). B, mean (± S.E.M.) Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase charge for FS, PYR1 and PYR2 neurons calculated as the area under the Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase activity curve and then averaged across trials (see Methods for more details). PYR neurons were grouped based on the amplitude of the current induced by DHO as in Fig. 1. C, comparison of Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase charge for the three groups across multiple glutamate puff durations. D, an estimate of the fraction of Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase activity induced by the glutamate puff (Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase charge) against the total induced non-Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase activity (DGR charge) (mean ± S.E.M.). E, fractional glutamate puff-induced Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase activity is plotted against the resting Na$^+$–K$^+$ ATPase activity (DHO current). *$P > 0.05$, $V_m = -70$ mV.
ATPase activity (Figs 1 and 3) could play a role in the maintenance of a more hyperpolarized resting membrane potential and maintenance of high frequency firing in FS cells in such 'leaky' neurons.

Under normal resting conditions only a portion of the total membrane-bound Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase is phosphorylated and available to contribute to the measured change in membrane voltage or current when the Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase is pharmacologically blocked. By increasing internal Na\(^{+}\), either directly (pipette Na\(^{+}\) loading) or indirectly (glutamate puff), we were able to assess each neuron's responsiveness to Na\(^{+}\) and their capacity to activate the Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase. The result was greater activation of Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase-dependent currents in FS interneurons and PYR1 cells than in PYR2 neurons. In the glutamate puff experiments it was possible to compare the resting Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity, measured as the change in holding current during the initial Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase blockade, with the increased Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase-dependent current, measured as the component of charge induced by the glutamate puff that was sensitive to Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase block by DHO (Figs 4 and 5). In this way, the relationship between resting Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity and total Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity activated by a Na\(^{+}\) load could be determined. FS and PYR1 neurons have both higher resting Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity and greater ability to increase Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity, allowing them to accommodate a wider range of Na\(^{+}\) loads with increases in Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity.

**The subgroups of PYR neurons differ in Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity but not intrinsic properties**

It is clear from the experimental data that two distinct groups of PYR neurons with varying Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity exist in layer V cortex; however, we have been unable to detect any correlations between resting Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity and any measured electrophysiological property. Responses from both PYR groups were observed on the same day, from the same animal and with the same stock of Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase antagonists. As the Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase antagonists, especially ouabain, are difficult to wash out, we recorded from only one neuron per slice to be certain that residual Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase blockade was not contributing to our results. The presence of two distinct groups with no gradation in the distribution (Fig. 1B) helped rule out potential artifacts such as depth of recording in slice, slice health and/or drug penetration. Our data strongly suggest that the differences in recorded

![Figure 5. Increasing internal Na\(^{+}\) concentration increases resting Na\(^{+}\)-K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity in all cell types](image-url)

A, voltage clamp trace from a PYR1 (black) or PYR2 (grey) neuron loaded with 70 mM Na\(^{+}\) internally through the patch pipette. After sufficient time was allowed for dialysis of the Na\(^{+}\) (> 10 min) and stability achieved in the baseline recording, ouabain (OB) was applied at various concentrations (1, 20 and 100 μM). Application of 20 μM ouabain produced two distinct groups of responses in PYR neurons, consistent with our previous findings in non-loaded neurons, and was used for PYR neuron grouping (PYR1 and PYR2). B, mean (± s.e.m.) current recorded from FS (n = 18), PYR1 (n = 10) or PYR2 (n = 14) neurons in different internal Na\(^{+}\) concentrations. Cells were loaded with control (2 mM), 40 or 70 mM Na\(^{+}\). Loading with 70 mM Na\(^{+}\) increased the current induced by 100 μM, but not lower concentrations of ouabain, in all cell types. Only PYR1 neurons were more sensitive to 40 mM Na\(^{+}\) compared to control (2 mM). *P > 0.05, **P > 0.01. V\(_{\text{m}}\) = −70 mV.
Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase activity relate to differences in cell expression of Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase and not to artifacts of recording conditions, slice preparation or other intrinsic properties of the recorded PYR neurons. However, we cannot rule out more subtle differences in the electro-physiological properties or morphology of the PYR 1 and 2 subgroups not tested in this study.

The Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase is a protein multimer consisting of alpha (\(\alpha\)) and beta (\(\beta\)) subunits (Lingrel, 1992). The \(\alpha\) subunit has two neuronal forms (\(\alpha 1\) and \(\alpha 3\)) that determine the major enzymatic and transporter properties of the molecule and confer sensitivity to blockade by Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase antagonists (i.e. ouabain and DHO). Specifically, the \(\alpha 3\) subunit is less sensitive to changes in Na\textsuperscript{+} and K\textsuperscript{+} and is much more sensitive to activation by ATP and blockade by Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase antagonists than the \(\alpha 1\) isoform (Blanco & Mercer, 1998). In situ analysis of the neocortex has shown protein levels for both the \(\alpha 1\) and \(\alpha 3\) isoform, with the \(\alpha 3\) isoform being heavily expressed in PYR neurons (Hieber et al. 1991). In testing the sensitivity of PYR neurons to ouabain and DHO, we observed a distinct concentration range over which the PYR neuron grouping was evident. Low doses of ouabain (with high \(\alpha 3\) affinity) separated the groups as did higher doses of DHO (with lower \(\alpha 3\) affinity). Interestingly, higher doses of ouabain (100 \(\mu\)M) failed to separate the PYR groups. This concentration of ouabain (100 \(\mu\)M) would be expected to inhibit both the \(\alpha 1\) and \(\alpha 3\) isoforms (Blanco & Mercer, 1998). While the maximum Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase current induced by 100 \(\mu\)M ouabain was similar to that observed with 20 \(\mu\)M ouabain, the small amplitude current responses were no longer evident. In the Na\textsuperscript{+}-loading experiments, the PYR neurons with small responses to 20 \(\mu\)M ouabain (PYR2) also showed the smaller responses to 100 \(\mu\)M ouabain. These results suggest that the lack of grouping on resting Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase activity with low dose DHO (20 or 50 \(\mu\)M) may be due to PYR2 neurons being non-responsive to this level of Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase blockade. At higher doses a ceiling effect may be imposed such that the responses of PYR1 neurons are muted due to the limited number of Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase molecules active at rest and thus sensitive to blockade. The Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase capacity of PYR1 was not appreciated with modest challenges to the pump, but only observed when activated by a strong intracellular Na\textsuperscript{+} load (70 mM). Taken together, these findings suggest that there is a difference in the isoform composition of the two PYR groups. This is also well supported by the observed differences in Na\textsuperscript{+} and ATP sensitivity in the PYR neuron groups (Blanco & Mercer, 1998; Dobretsov & Stimers, 2005 for review).

Similar results across neuronal subtypes have been recently reported in hippocampal subiculum neurons, where inter-neurons were more sensitive to blockade by ouabain than pyramidal neurons (Richards et al. 2007). The difference was attributed to differential expression of \(\alpha\) isoforms of the Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase. Here we show that such a difference in \(\alpha\) isoform expression may exist between and even within subtypes of neocortical neurons. This is in line with studies showing that the membrane density of Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase may vary between cell types and even within the membrane distribution of a single cell (Shyjan et al. 1990; Brines et al. 1991; Hieber et al. 1991; Mcgrail et al. 1991; Brines & Robbins, 1993). However, immunohistochemical results on biocytin-filled neurons from our experiments or from naive control animals were inconclusive. There was no apparent difference in association of the Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase \(\alpha 1\) or \(\alpha 3\) isoforms between FS and PYR neurons or within PYR neuron subtypes (data not shown). The inability to distinguish between FS and PYR neuron Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase immunoreactivity may be due to poor antibody penetration and/or the insensitivity of the antibody to detect small differences in membrane density that are more easily resolved at the electrophysiological level.

The Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase significantly contributes to the resting membrane potential. However, here we found no significant difference in resting membrane potential between the PYRI and PYR2 groups – although there was a trend towards PYRI being more hyperpolarized. Several factors may contribute to this finding. The PYR neurons may have similar net resting Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase activity but differ in relative \(\alpha\) isoform-specific activity and thus sensitivity to blockade by the more \(\alpha 3\)-specific Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase antagonists. At present, to our knowledge, no \(\alpha 1\)-specific antagonists exist. Preliminary experiments with the new \(\alpha 3\) isoform-specific antagonist, Agrin-95 (Hilgenberg et al. 2006) have yielded similar differences in FS and PYR neuron resting Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase activity to those described above. Actions of other ATPases (eg. K\textsuperscript{+} or Ca\textsuperscript{2+}), transporters (eg. Na\textsuperscript{+}/K\textsuperscript{+}/2Cl\textsuperscript{−} or Na\textsuperscript{+}/Ca\textsuperscript{2+}) or protein kinases may also differentially contribute in the PYR neuron groups. In addition, potential differences in local microenvironment (ionic or synaptic) due to architecture or even differences in glial localization may selectively alter the demand on resting Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase activity. The two populations of PYR cells may therefore express different densities and isoforms of the Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase to meet the challenges of their local environment.

The Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase is a dynamically regulated membrane protein whose expression is controlled by activity, endogenous inhibitors and several intracellular messengers (Ross & Soltesz, 2001; Therien & Blostein, 2000; Kang et al. 2003; Dobretsov & Stimers, 2005). Detailed testing of the intrinsic properties between the two groups of PYR neurons failed to reveal any significant differences that correlated with differences in their Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase activity. One possibility is that differences in local activity help to promote higher Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase levels in one group of PYR neurons than the other. For example, differences in Na\textsuperscript{+}–K\textsuperscript{+} ATPase activity between neurons may reflect differences in the type or origin of
afferent synaptic input to subgroups of cells (Senatorov & Hu, 1997). Na\(^{+}\)–K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity may both regulate and be regulated by release of several neurotransmitters (Phillis & Wu, 1981; Hernandez & Condes-Lara, 1992). The separation of the response of the PYR neurons into two electrophysiologically distinct groups required a relatively high dose of Na\(^{+}\)–K\(^{+}\) ATPase antagonists. At these concentrations the Na\(^{+}\)–K\(^{+}\) ATPase antagonists can cause neurotransmitter release and induce spreading depression if applied in the absence of NMDA antagonists or TTX (Muller & Somjen, 2000; Anderson & Andrew, 2002). In fact, glutamate has been shown to preferentially activate α3 on cerebellar and cerebral neurons (Dobretsov & Stimers, 2005). Therefore, in this study synaptic transmission was routinely blocked by bath application of α-APV, DNQX, picROTOxin and TTX. Although this aided in isolating the Na\(^{+}\)–K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity without contamination by synaptic currents, it prevented a detailed study of the potential reciprocal regulation of synaptic transmission and Na\(^{+}\)–K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity, or differences in synaptic input to the three groups of neurons examined here.

**Conclusions**

It is evident that expression of Na\(^{+}\)–K\(^{+}\) ATPase varies across and within types of cortical neurons and that differences extend to the state of resting Na\(^{+}\)–K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity as well as total Na\(^{+}\)–K\(^{+}\) ATPase capacity. Differences in Na\(^{+}\)–K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity within an otherwise homogeneous cell population would have an important impact on cellular function both at rest and especially during periods of high cellular activity. By defining the nature of these differences, we can begin to understand how they may contribute to control neuronal activities in functional states where there is increased demand for Na\(^{+}\)–K\(^{+}\) ATPase activity. For example, FS and PYR1 neurons may be better equipped than PYR2 neurons to ‘cope’ with states of excessive activity, such as those that occur during epileptiform discharges. The potential adaptive or maladaptive effects of high or low Na\(^{+}\)–K\(^{+}\) ATPase density and capacity during periods of hyperexcitability, and alterations in pathophysiological processes, such as those resulting from cortical injury and epileptogenesis, will be important to explore in future experiments.

**References**


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Author contributions
T.R.A.: collection, analysis and interpretation of data, drafting and revising the manuscript, final approval of the manuscript. J.R.H. and D.A.P.: drafting and revising the manuscript, conception and design of the experimental protocol, final approval of the manuscript.

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Non-technical summary

The capacity of neurons to respond appropriately to normal and pathophysiological levels of excitation is dependent on their ability to establish, regulate and maintain their ionic and electrical homeostasis. The sodium–potassium ATPase (the 'sodium pump') is the enzyme primarily responsible for this task through its active transport of Na\(^+\) and K\(^+\) ions across the cell membrane. Sodium pump dysfunction has been implicated in numerous CNS disorders and often leads to enhanced neuronal excitation, as may occur in epilepsy. The sodium pump is activated by increases in intracellular Na\(^+\) that result from synaptic depolarization and cell firing, making its actions particularly important in cells that discharge at high frequencies, such as fast-spiking inhibitory interneurons. The primary neuronal output of the cerebral cortex is through excitatory pyramidal neurons in layer V, whose activity is in turn tightly regulated by these inhibitory interneurons. We demonstrate that fast-spiking inhibitory interneurons possess uniquely high levels of Na\(^+\)–K\(^+\) ATPase activity that may be vital in maintaining and regulating normal neuronal activity during periods of enhanced excitability.
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<tr>
<td>Start new paragraph</td>
<td>✕</td>
<td>![Mark]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No new paragraph</td>
<td>✕</td>
<td>![Mark]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transpose</td>
<td>![Mark] linking characters</td>
<td>![Mark]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close up</td>
<td>(As above)</td>
<td>![Mark]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insert or substitute space between characters or words</td>
<td>✕ through character or ✕ where required</td>
<td>![Mark]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce space between characters or words</td>
<td>between characters or words affected</td>
<td>![Mark]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>