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Elevated CaMKII α and hyperphosphorylation of Homer mediate circuit dysfunction in a Fragile X Syndrome mouse model

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Summary

Abnormal metabotropic glutamate receptor 5 (mGluR5) function, as a result of disrupted scaffolding with its binding partner Homer, contributes to the pathophysiology of Fragile X Syndrome, a common inherited form of intellectual disability and autism caused by mutations in *Fmr1*. How loss of *Fmr1* disrupts mGluR5-Homer scaffolds is unknown, and little is known about the dynamic regulation of mGluR5-Homer scaffolds in wildtype neurons. Here we demonstrate that brief (minutes) elevations in neural activity cause CaMKII α -mediated phosphorylation of long Homer proteins and dissociation from mGluR5 at synapses. In *Fmr1* knockout cortex, Homers are hyperphosphorylated as a result of elevated CaMKII α protein. Genetic or pharmacological inhibition of CaMKII α or replacement of Homers with dephosphomimetics restores mGluR5-Homer scaffolds and multiple *Fmr1* KO phenotypes, including circuit hyperexcitability and/or seizures. This work links translational control of an FMRP target mRNA, CaMKII α , to the molecular, cellular and circuit level brain dysfunction in a complex neurodevelopmental disorder.

Introduction

Synaptic scaffolding proteins, such as those in the PSD-95, Homer, SHANK, AKAP and SAPAP families are critical for the proper organization, localization and signaling of excitatory postsynaptic receptors and thus govern the development, function and plasticity of excitatory circuits (Reviewed in (Ting et al., 2012)). The importance of synaptic scaffolds to brain function and behavior is highlighted by the growing number of mutations in synaptic scaffolding proteins implicated in neuropsychiatric diseases including autism, intellectual disability, and schizophrenia (Bayes et al., 2011; Ting et al., 2012). Little is

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known about how mutations in synaptic scaffolds or their improper regulation contribute to brain dysfunction in these diseases. Insight into how abnormal synaptic scaffolds contribute to brain disease phenotypes comes from the mouse model of Fragile X Syndrome (FXS; *Fmr1* knockout; KO), a common genetic cause of autism and intellectual disability (Giuffrida et al., 2005; Ronesi et al., 2012). FXS is caused by loss of function mutations in *Fmr1*, which encodes a dendritic RNA binding protein, FMRP (Darnell and Klann, 2013). Loss of *Fmr1* in animal models leads to abnormal, typically overactive, function of the postsynaptic metabotropic glutamate receptor 5 (mGluR5) which mediates many phenotypes associated with the disease (Dolen et al., 2007; Michalon et al., 2012; Ronesi et al., 2012). As a result, mGluR5 is a therapeutic target for FXS and autism. Recent work implicates a molecular mechanism for mGluR5 dysfunction in *Fmr1* KO mice --dissociation of mGluR5 with its postsynaptic scaffolding protein Homer (Giuffrida et al., 2005; Ronesi et al., 2012). The Homer family of proteins bind to the intracellular C-terminal tail of group 1 mGluRs and form multi-protein signaling complexes at the postsynaptic density with mGluRs and their downstream effectors (Shiraishi-Yamaguchi and Furuichi, 2007). All Homer family members (Homer 1–3) share a common EVH1 domain at the N-terminus, which binds to mGluR1 α , mGluR5, PI3 Kinase enhancer (PIKE), IP3 receptor, SHANK, ion channels and other effectors (Shiraishi-Yamaguchi and Furuichi, 2007). Homers multimerize through their coiled-coil domains to scaffold mGluRs to signaling pathways and localize mGluRs to the postsynaptic density (Hayashi et al., 2009; Shiraishi-Yamaguchi and Furuichi, 2007). An activity-dependent, short, variant of Homer, Homer1a, (H1a) lacks a coiled-coil domain, and disrupts Homer scaffolds by competing with long Homers for mGluR5 and other Homer interacting proteins. Interestingly, H1a results in constitutive, agonist-independent activity of mGluR5 (Ango et al., 2001). In *Fmr1* KO forebrain mGluR5 is less associated with long Homer isoforms and more associated with H1a (Giuffrida et al., 2005). Genetic deletion of *H1a* restores mGluR5-Homer scaffolds and corrects multiple phenotypes in *Fmr1* KO mice (Ronesi et al., 2012), including alterations in mGluR5 signaling, circuit function, and behavior. Furthermore, acute, peptide-mediated disruption of mGluR5-long Homer scaffolds in wildtype brain mimics phenotypes of the *Fmr1* KO (Ronesi et al., 2012; Ronesi and Huber, 2008; Tang and Alger, 2015). Because disrupted mGluR5-Homer scaffolds contribute to disease phenotypes, understanding mechanisms that regulate mGluR5-Homer interactions and determining the cause of disrupted mGluR5-Homer scaffolds in FXS model will provide therapeutic targets for the disease.

Here we find that brief (5 min) elevations in neuronal activity rapidly dissociate mGluR5-Homer scaffolds in wildtype cortical neurons and spines. Rapid, activity-induced dissociation of mGluR5-Homer occurs independently of H1a, but is mediated by CaMKII α phosphorylation of Homer1 and Homer2 which decreases their affinity for mGluR5. CaMKII α , a known FMRP target mRNA, whose protein is elevated in *Fmr1* KO neurons and synapses, results in hyperphosphorylation of Homers, decreased interactions with mGluR5 and disease relevant phenotypes such as seizures. This work provides knowledge of the dynamic regulation of mGluR5-Homer scaffolds in neurons, demonstrates dysfunction of this mechanism and a novel therapeutic target in FXS.

Results

Neuronal activity induces a rapid dissociation of mGluR5-Homer scaffolds that depends on CaMKII α

To determine if and how mGluR5-Homer scaffolds are dynamically regulated by synaptic activity we briefly (5 min) increased activity in mouse dissociated neocortical cultures (DIV 18) with either 55mM KCl or the GABA α receptor blocker picrotoxin (PTX; 50 μ M). Both KCl and PTX reduced mGluR5-Homer interactions as measured by co-immunoprecipitation (co-IP) of long Homer proteins (using a pan long Homer antibody) and mGluR5 (Fig. 1A; S1A). Activity-induced Homer1a (*H1a*), competes with long Homers for binding to mGluR5 (Xiao et al., 1998). To determine the contribution of H1a to rapid activity-induced dissociation of mGluR5-Homer, we repeated experiments in cultures of H1a knockout (KO) and wildtype (WT) littermates (Hu et al., 2010). PTX treatment of *H1a* KO and WT cultures for 5 min resulted in a similar dissociation of mGluR5-Homer as measured using co-IPs, suggesting a role of activity-dependent, H1a-independent mechanisms. H1a contributes to mGluR-Homer dissociation in response to chronic activity increases because 12 hr PTX dissociated mGluR5-Homer in WT neurons, but not *H1a* KO neurons (Fig. 1B). To determine the role of specific glutamate receptors and routes of Ca $^{2+}$ influx in mGluR-Homer dissociation, we treated cultures with antagonists of NMDA receptors (50 μ M D-AP5) or L-type voltage-gated calcium channels (VGCCs; 5 μ M nimodipine; 30 min pretreatment) which each reduced activity-induced dissociation of mGluR5-Homer, and their combined blockade completely blocked (Fig. 1C). In contrast, blockade of group 1 mGluRs (mGluR1 and 5; with 100 μ M LY367385 or 10 μ M MPEP; respectively) had no effect on PTX-induced mGluR5-Homer disruption.

These results suggest a role for a rapid, Ca $^{2+}$ -dependent, posttranslational regulation of mGluR5-Homer and thus we tested inhibitors of Ca $^{2+}$ /Calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II (CaMKII; KN-93 or myristolated CaMKIINtide peptide inhibitor; 5 μ M), MAP-ERK kinase (MEK), the upstream kinase of Extracellular-Regulated Kinase (ERK1/2; U0126; 10 μ M), Phosphoinositide-3-kinase (PI3K; wortmannin 100nM), and Protein Kinase C (PKC; GF109203 \times 5 μ M). Preincubation of cultures (30 min) in CaMKII inhibitors, but not inhibitors of PI3K, ERK or PKC, blocked PTX- and KCl-induced decrease in mGluR5-Homer (Fig. 1D; S1A). To test the role of a specific form of CaMKII enriched at postsynaptic densities (PSDs) (Hell, 2014), we used lentiviral-mediated expression of a shRNA for CaMKII α (at 7 DIV) to knock down CaMKII α protein (~75% at 16–18 DIV; shCaMKII α ; Fig. 1E). CaMKII α knockdown did not affect mGluR5-Homer interactions under basal conditions, compared to control shRNA (shCtrl), but blocked activity-induced disruption of mGluR5-Homer. The latter was rescued by co-transfection of shCaMKII α and a shRNA-resistant CaMKII α cDNA (CaMKII α res; Fig. 1E). In contrast, CaMKII activity was not required for persistent, H1a-dependent decreases in mGluR5-Homer in response to chronic PTX treatment (Fig. S1B). Similarly, inhibition of CaMKII after PTX treatment did not restore Homer-mGluR5 (Fig. S1C). These results indicate that brief periods of enhanced neuronal activity induce a rapid, CaMKII α -dependent disruption of mGluR5-Homer scaffolds and this mechanism is distinct from a later, H1a-dependent disruption of mGluR5-Homer in response to chronic activity increases.

CaMKII α phosphorylation of the “hinge region” of Homer 1, 2 and 3 reduces interactions with mGluR5

To determine if active CaMKII α is sufficient to decrease mGluR5-Homer complexes and regulate interactions of specific Homer family members, we co-expressed a constitutively active form of CaMKII α (T286D), myc-tagged long Homers, 1, 2 or 3 or Homer1a and Flag-tagged mGluR5a in HEK 293 cells. Active CaMKII α (T286D) reduced interactions of mGluR5 with all long Homers by 30–40% (Fig. 2A). CaMKII α phosphorylates Homer3 (H3), a cerebellar-enriched Homer, which reduces interactions with binding partners such as drebin and mGluR1 (Mizutani et al., 2008). Because Homer1 (H1) and Homer2; (H2) are the neocortically expressed forms of Homer, we determined if CaMKII α phosphorylates H1 and H2 using a Phos-tag gel of lysates of HEK cells expressing T286D CaMKII α and specific Homers (Fig. 2B; (Kinoshita et al., 2006)). CaMKII α induced a higher molecular weight (MW), phosphorylated, band of H1 and H1a and two phosphorylated species of H2 on the Phos-tag gel which were sensitive to alkaline phosphatase (Fig. S2A). Only an N-terminal fragment of H1 (aa1–177) was phosphorylated by CaMKII α , whereas both N-terminal (aa1–177) and C-terminal (aa180–354) fragments of H2 were phosphorylated (Fig. S2B). H1a, H1, H2 and H3 are all predicted to share a conserved CaMKII α phosphorylation site at Ser-117 (H3; Ser-120), and another unique CaMKII α site (S216) is present in H2 (scansite.mit.edu; Fig.2B) and conserved across species (Fig. S2H). In support of these predictions, dephosphomimetic mutations of H1 (S117A) or H2 (S117/216AA) abolished the CaMKII-dependent higher MW bands on Phos-tag gels (Fig. 2B), suggesting these sites are CaMKII-phosphorylated sites.

To determine if these Homer phosphorylation sites affected their interactions with mGluR5 in HEK cells, we coexpressed myc-tagged phosphomimetic mutations of CaMKII α phosphorylation sites on H1 (S117D), H2 (S117/216DD) or H3 (S120E/159E/176D) with Flag-tagged mGluR5. Phosphomimetic mutations on all Homers were sufficient to decrease interactions with mGluR5 (Fig. 2C). Conversely, dephosphomimetic mutations, to alanines, of H1, H2 or H3 at these sites had similar affinities for mGluR5 as wildtype Homers, but prevented CaMKII α -induced decreases in mGluR5-Homer (Fig. 2C,D). Therefore, CaMKII α activity induces phosphorylation of all long Homers at specific sites which is necessary and sufficient to decrease interactions with mGluR5 in cells.

CaMKII α phosphorylation differentially affects binding of long and short Homer proteins to mGluR5

Although CaMKII α induces phosphorylation of H1a, as detected on a Phos-tag gel, it does not decrease H1a interactions with mGluR5 in HEK cells (Fig. 2E; S2A). Similarly, phospho- or dephosphomimetics of H1a, S117D or S117A respectively, have no effect on mGluR5 interactions (Fig. 2E). Because H1a and long Homers compete for binding to mGluR5 (Shiraishi-Yamaguchi and Furuichi, 2007) the selective effect of CaMKII α -dependent phosphorylation on long Homers may shift the equilibrium binding of mGluR5 from long Homers to favor H1a. In support of this idea, in HEK cells co-expressing H1a and H2, constitutively active CaMKII α reduced mGluR5 interactions with H2, but increased mGluR5 interactions with H1a (Fig. 2F).

Long Homers form a dumbbell-like tetrameric structure with a pair of N-terminal globular EVH1 domains located at each end of the tetramer, separated by a hybrid of dimer and tetramer coiled-coil domains (Shiraishi-Yamaguchi and Furuichi, 2007). Long Homer proteins have a discontinuity between their C-terminal coiled-coil regions, designated CC1 and CC2; Fig. 2B). The CC1 region of Homer forms a dimer, whereas CC2 forms a dimer-tetramer hybrid coiled-coil with other long Homers (Hayashi et al., 2006). Interestingly, CaMKII phosphorylation sites are present in, what has been called, the “hinge” region between the CC1 and the EVH1 domain (Fig.2B), (Mizutani et al., 2008). Homer multimerization is necessary for co-clustering with mGluR1 (Hayashi et al., 2006) and to form higher-order complexes with Shank (Hayashi et al., 2009). Thus, CaMKII phosphorylation of the “hinge” region may reduce Homer multimerization through coiled-coil interactions and indirectly affect complexes with mGluR5 in cells. To test this idea, we cotransfected myc-tagged WT or phosphomimetic H2 together with HA-tagged WT H2 into HEK293 cells. Co-immunoprecipitation results demonstrate that phosphomimetic and WT H2 did not differ in their ability to multimerize with WT H2 (Fig. S2C). Because of the proximity of the “hinge” region of Homer to CC1, we considered the possibility that CaMKII phosphorylation sites may affect dimerization of CC1 domains. Size-exclusion column chromatography and chemical cross-linking experiments with truncated versions of H2, lacking a CC2 region (H2CC1), revealed no difference in the elution profiles of a WT-H2CC1 or phosphomimetic H2CC1 (S117/216DD) multimers (Fig, S2D,E) similar to previous results with H3 (Mizutani et al., 2008). To determine whether the Homer “hinge” region regulates interactions with mGluR5, we deleted the hinge of H1 (del112–189) or H2 (del112–230), and tested their interactions with mGluR5 in HEK cells, using co-IP. The H1 and H2 hinge-deleted mutants showed greatly reduced binding with mGluR5, without affecting Homer multimerization (Fig. S2F,G). These results implicate the hinge region of Homers in the enhancement of mGluR5 interactions in cells and as an important site of regulation by CaMKII α .

Activity-dependent CaMKII α -dependent phosphorylation of Homer 1 and 2 reduces mGluR5 interactions in neurons

To determine whether neuronal activity induced phosphorylation of endogenous H1 and H2 at these sites, we produced phosphorylation-specific antibodies against H1 (Ser117) and H2 (Ser216; see methods). The specificity of affinity-purified anti-phospho(P)-S117_H1 and anti-PS216_H2 antibodies was assessed as described in Fig. S3A,B. A brief, 5 min, PTX treatment of dissociated cortical cultures induced H1 and H2 phosphorylation that was blocked by the CaMKII Kinase inhibitor KN93 (Fig. 3A). To determine whether Homer phosphorylation at CaMKII α sites is required for activity-induced decreases in Homer-mGluR5 interactions in neurons, we used a lentiviral-mediated, molecular replacement strategy to knockdown endogenous H1 and H2 and replace with phosphorylation site mutants. A lentivirus expressing a bicistronic vector containing a short-hairpin (sh)RNA against H1 or H2 and a replacement cDNA encoding a myc-tagged wildtype Homer (H1^{mycWT} or H2^{mycWT}) or dephosphomimetics of Homer (H1^{mycS117A} or H2^{mycS117/216AA}) (Fig. S3C). Replacement of endogenous Homers in neurons with H1^{mycWT} or H2^{mycWT} and co-IP of myc revealed decreased mGluR5 interactions with H1^{mycWT} or H2^{mycWT} in response to PTX treatment (Fig. 3B,C). In contrast, in neurons where endogenous Homers

were replaced with dephosphomimetic mutants, H1^{mycS117A} or H2^{mycS117/216AA}, we did not observe PTX-induced decreases in mGluR5 interactions with Homers as measured by co-IP of myc (Fig. 3B,C), indicating that CaMKII phosphorylation of Homer at these sites is necessary for activity-induced dissociation of mGluR5.

Rapid activity-induced disruption of mGluR5 -Homer in spines, as measured with bioluminescence resonance energy transfer (BRET), relies on Homer phosphorylation

To determine if neuronal activity affected mGluR5-Homer interactions at synapses we used Bioluminescence resonance energy transfer (BRET), a method that measures robust interactions of mGluR5 and Homer in dendritic spines (Moutin et al., 2012). To do this, the C-terminus of mGluR5a was fused to the energy donor *Renilla luciferase* (mGluR5-Rluc8) and co-expressed in neurons with H3 N-terminally fused to the acceptor Venus (H3-Venus). Direct interactions of mGluR5-Rluc8 and wildtype H3 (H3^{WT}-Venus) in dendritic spines are detected by the enhanced BRET signal (Fig. 4A). Brief depolarization of neuron cultures (55mM KCl; 5 min) reduced the BRET in spines, reflecting a decreased interaction of mGluR5-Homer (Fig. 4A,E). The dephosphomimetic of H3 (S120A/159A/176A; H3^{AAA}-Venus) displayed robust BRET in spines, similar to H3^{WT}-Venus, but spine BRET was unaffected by KCl depolarization (Fig. 4B,E) indicating that phosphorylation of H3 is necessary for activity-induced dissociation of mGluR5-Homer in spines. The phosphomimetic of H3 (S120E/159E/176D; H3^{EED}-Venus) displayed reduced BRET with mGluR5-Rluc8 in spines under basal activity conditions (3mM KCl), and was unaffected by KCl depolarization (Fig. 4C,E). These results confirm our findings with co-IPs of endogenous mGluR5-Homer and reveal the rapid dissociation of mGluR5-Homer in spines in response to activity that depends on H3 phosphorylation at CaMKII sites.

Homer proteins are hyperphosphorylated by CaMKII α in Fragile X Syndrome mouse model neurons

In *Fmr1* KO forebrain, mGluR5 is less associated with long Homers and more associated with H1a as assessed with co-IPs (Giuffrida et al., 2005; Ronesi et al., 2012). Importantly, disrupted mGluR5-Homer scaffolds contribute to FXS disease-relevant phenotypes (Ronesi et al., 2012). Consistent with these findings, we observe reduced BRET of H3^{WT}-Venus and mGluR5-Rluc8 in the spines of cultured *Fmr1* KO neurons (Fig. 4D,E) indicating that these scaffolding changes are occurring at synapses. To determine if Homer phosphorylation may contribute to disrupted mGluR5-Homer scaffolds in *Fmr1* KO brain, we blotted cortical lysates and PSD fractions from WT and *Fmr1* KO littermates with phosphospecific antibodies of Homers at CaMKII sites which revealed enhanced phosphorylation of all Homer proteins (P-S117_H1, P-S216_H2, P-S120_H3 and P-S159_H3) *Fmr1* KO (Fig. 5A,B).

CaMKII α mRNA directly interacts with FMRP (Darnell et al., 2011), and, in *Fmr1* KO brain, displays increased association with polysomes suggesting enhanced translation. CaMKII α protein levels are elevated in synaptic fractions of *Fmr1* KO brain (Ronesi et al., 2012; Zalfa et al., 2003). Consistent with these data, we observed enhanced total and autophosphorylated (T286) CaMKII α in total lysates and PSD fractions from *Fmr1* KO cortices (Fig. 5C). Phosphorylated-T286 correlates with CaMKII α kinase activity (Shonesy

et al., 2014), suggesting that CaMKII α is more active at *Fmr1* KO synapses. In support of this idea, we observed enhanced phosphorylation of the NMDA receptor subunit, GluN2B, at the CaMKII site, P-S1303 (Hell, 2014). However, P-S831 of the AMPA receptor subunit, GluA1, was normal (Fig. S4A) revealing differential regulation of distinct CaMKII α substrates.

Pharmacological or genetic reduction of CaMKII α activity restores mGluR5-Homer scaffolds in *Fmr1* KO mice

To determine if enhanced CaMKII α levels contribute to hyperphosphorylation of Homer and reduced interactions with mGluR5 in *Fmr1* KO neurons, we reduced CaMKII α levels using lentiviral-mediated transfection of a shRNA against *CaMKII α* in WT and *Fmr1* KO cultured cortical neurons (Fig. 5D). Knockdown of CaMKII α had no effect on H1^{S117} phosphorylation or Homer-mGluR5 interactions in WT neurons. However, in *Fmr1* KO neurons, CaMKII α knockdown restored both H1^{S117} phosphorylation and Homer interactions with mGluR5 to WT levels (Fig. 5D). Conversely, overexpressing CaMKII α in WT neurons (~2-fold) similar to that observed in *Fmr1* KO neurons, decreases Homer-mGluR5 (Fig. S4B).

To test a causal role for CaMKII α activity in altered mGluR5-Homer scaffolds, *Fmr1* KO neocortical (Fig. 6A) or hippocampal (Fig. S5A) cultures were pretreated with CaMKII inhibitors, KN-93 or myr-CaMKIINtide (5 μ M; 60 min;) which restored mGluR5-long Homer interactions to that observed in WT cultures. Consistent with data shown above (Fig. 1D), had no effect on mGluR5-Homer WT cultures (Fig. 6A). In addition to CaMKII, H3 is phosphorylated by Akt (T36, S38, S52)(Huang et al., 2008) and ERK (S141)(Mizutani et al., 2008) and PKC phosphorylates mGluR5 (Mao et al., 2008). Furthermore, the Akt and ERK pathways are hyperactive in *Fmr1* KO neurons (Gross et al., 2010; Osterweil et al., 2013) To determine if these kinases contribute to altered mGluR5-Homer interactions, inhibitors ERK (U0126; 10 μ M), or Akt (wortmannin; 100nM), or PKC (GF109203 \times 5 μ M) were applied to WT and *Fmr1* KO cultures (Fig. 6A). Inhibition of ERK, PI3K or PKC had no effect on Homer-mGluR5 interactions in either genotype (Fig. 6A) suggesting a selective role for CaMKII activity in disruption of mGluR5-Homer in *Fmr1* KO neurons. Although mGluR5-Homer scaffolds are decreased in *Fmr1* KO neurons, this does not prevent PTX induced (5 min or 12 hr) disruption of mGluR5-Homer (Fig. S5B).

Pharmacological or genetic reduction of CaMKII α activity rescues phenotypes in *Fmr1* KO mice

To determine if CaMKII α hyperactivity contributes to disease-related phenotypes in *Fmr1* KO mice, we examined the effects of pharmacological and genetic reduction in CaMKII α activity. Enhanced basal protein synthesis rates are commonly observed in several brain regions of *Fmr1* KO mice, as well as individuals with Fragile X Syndrome (Qin et al., 2013). Pharmacological antagonism of mGluR5 and genetic deletion of *H1a* restore protein synthesis rates in *Fmr1* KO mice suggesting that mGluR5 constitutive activity, as a result of reduced Homer binding, drives protein synthesis rates through stimulation of signaling pathways to translation factors (Osterweil et al., 2010; Ronesi et al., 2012). In support of this idea, treatment of acute hippocampal slices from WT or *Fmr1* KO mice with KN-93 (60

min; 10 μ M) normalized basal protein synthesis rates between genotypes as measured by incorporation of 35 S Met/Cys into total protein (Osterweil et al., 2010; Ronesi et al., 2012) (Fig. 6B). Elevated activity of the ERK and mTORC1 signaling pathways have been implicated in the enhanced protein synthesis rates in *Fmr1* KO (Gross et al., 2010; Osterweil et al., 2010). KN-93 treatment did not affect basal phosphorylation of ERK1/2 (Thr202/Tyr204) or mTORC1 (S2448)(Fig. S5D), suggesting that CaMKII α inhibition and intact mGluR5-Homer scaffolds affect protein synthesis rates likely downstream of ERK and mTORC1.

Another prevalent symptom of Fragile X Syndrome is sensory circuit hyperexcitability which may contribute to the observed behavioral sensory hypersensitivity and seizures (Kidd et al., 2014). *Fmr1* KO mice recapitulate this phenotype and display sensory-induced behavioral hypersensitivity, seizures and hyperexcitability of sensory neocortical circuits (Rotschafer and Razak, 2014). We have observed hyperexcitability of sensory neocortical circuits in *Fmr1* KO mice, as prolonged, spontaneous persistent network activity, or UP states in acute slices of somatosensory, barrel cortex, as well as *in vivo* in anesthetized *Fmr1* KO mice (Hays et al., 2011) (Fig. 6C). Pharmacological or genetic reduction of mGluR5 activity or *H1a* deletion rescues UP state duration in *Fmr1* KO mice to WT levels suggesting that disrupted mGluR5 hyperactivity as a result of disrupted Homer scaffolds mediates circuit hyperexcitability(Hays et al., 2011; Ronesi et al., 2012). In support of this model, pharmacological inhibition of CaMKII in *Fmr1* KO cortical acute slices (10 μ M KN-93; 60 min) restored both mGluR5-Homer interactions and UP state duration to WT levels (Fig. 6C; Fig. S5C). KN-93 had no effect on UP state duration in WT slices indicating that the inhibitor is not generally reducing slice excitability.

To determine if a reduction in CaMKII α levels corrects behaviorally relevant hyperexcitability, or seizures, *Fmr1* KO mice were crossed with mice heterozygous for CaMKII α (*CaMKII α ^{+/-}*) (Silva et al., 1992). Audiogenic seizures, mGluR5-Homer interactions and Homer phosphorylation were measured in littermates of all four genotypes (WT, *Fmr1* KO, *CaMKII α ^{+/-}*, *Fmr1* KO/*CaMKII α ^{+/-}*). Using co-IP of pan-Homer and mGluR5 from cortical lysates of all four genotypes we observed a decrease in mGluR5 association with Homer in *Fmr1* KO, that was restored in the *Fmr1* KO/*CaMKII α ^{+/-}* (Fig. 6D). *CaMKII α ^{+/-}* did not affect mGluR5-Homer as compared to WT mice. *Fmr1* KO/*CaMKII α ^{+/-}* had restored H1 phosphorylation levels in comparison to *Fmr1* KO (Fig. S5E). As previously described, *Fmr1* KO mice displayed an increased incidence and severity of audiogenic seizures in comparison to WT mice and this is quantified by seizure score (Fig. 6E; Table S1). *CaMKII α ^{+/-}* and WT mice both had similar, low seizure scores. Importantly, *Fmr1* KO/*CaMKII α ^{+/-}* mice had reduced seizure score in comparison to *Fmr1* KO ($p < 0.003$; Chi-Square), but were higher than WT littermates. In summary, genetic reduction of CaMKII α completely restored mGluR5-Homer interactions in *Fmr1* KO cortex, and reduced seizures. A similar, partial rescue of seizures was observed with mGluR5 and *H1a* deletion (Dolen et al., 2007) (Ronesi et al., 2012), suggesting mGluR5-Homer-independent mechanisms also contribute to audiogenic seizures.

Replacement with Homer dephosphomimetics rescues mGluR5-Homer interactions and circuit hyperexcitability in cultured *Fmr1* KO cortical neurons

To test a specific role for Homer phosphorylation in circuit hyperexcitability, we established circuit excitability in cultured neocortical neurons. Dissociated neocortical neurons from WT or *Fmr1* KO littermates were grown in dual-chamber culture dishes imbedded with a 64 microelectrode array (MED64.com; Fig. 7A). Development of functional circuits in WT and *Fmr1* KO cultures was measured over 18 days *in vitro* (DIV) as an increase in the spontaneous action potential frequency (Fig. 7B,C). As early as 10 DIV, *Fmr1* KO cultures were hyperexcitable, as measured by average firing frequency, and this hyperexcitability persisted until at least 18 DIV (Fig. 7B). To establish if the mechanisms of hyperexcitability of *Fmr1* KO cultured neurons were similar to acute slices, we tested the mGluR5 negative allosteric modulator (NAM), MPEP (Hays et al., 2011) and CaMKII inhibitors. MPEP treatment (10 μ M; 2 hrs at 18 DIV) reduced action potential firing frequency in *Fmr1* KO cultures, but had no effect in WT cultures and thus equalized firing frequency across genotypes (Fig. 7D_{1,2}). Similarly, application of the CaMKII inhibitor, KN93 (5 μ M; 2 hrs) decreased activity in *Fmr1* KO neurons compared to vehicle treatment (Fig. 7D_{1,3}).

We hypothesized that hyperphosphorylation of Homer at CaMKII sites leads to decreased mGluR5-Homer interactions and circuit hyperexcitability in *Fmr1* KO neurons. To test this hypothesis, we again utilized the lentivirus-mediated molecular replacement approach to knock down endogenous H1 and/or H2 in cultured cortical WT or *Fmr1* KO neurons and replace with either a myc-tagged wild type (WT) or dephosphomimetic of Homer at CaMKII sites (Fig. 7E). To assess the effects of the Homer molecular replacement, co-IPs of myc-Homer were used to measure mGluR5 interactions and firing frequency was measured using MED64 microelectrode arrays at 8–10 days post-transfection. Knockdown and replacement of H1 with H1S117A was insufficient to restore Homer-mGluR5 interactions or hyperexcitability in *Fmr1* KO neurons in comparison to H1WT expressing cultures (Fig. 7E₁; F). In contrast, knockdown and replacement of H2 with H2S117/216AA enhanced Homer-mGluR5 interactions and reduced hyperexcitability of *Fmr1* KO neurons (Fig. 7E₂, G). Knockdown and replacement of both H1 and H2 with their respective dephosphomimetics completely restored Homer-mGluR5 interactions and normalized circuit excitability in *Fmr1* KO neurons (Fig. 7E₃, H). MPEP treatment of the H1H2 dephosphomimetic replacement cultures (2 hours) did not further decrease firing frequency (Fig. S6A) suggesting that mGluR5 and Homer phosphorylation function in a common mechanism for circuit hyperexcitability. The results indicate that phosphorylation of H1 and H2 at CaMKII sites is necessary for the disrupted mGluR5-Homer scaffolds and circuit hyperexcitability observed in *Fmr1* KO neurons.

DISCUSSION

The Homer family of scaffolding proteins are critical regulators of mGluR5 function because they scaffold mGluR5 to the PSD, mediate signaling to specific effectors as well as promote the timing and localization of mGluR5 signaling. However, little has been known about the dynamic regulation of the mGluR5-Homer scaffolds, and how misregulation of Homer scaffolds contributes to brain disease. Here we identified a rapid (<5 min), activity-

triggered dissociation of mGluR5 from its Homer scaffold at spines which is mediated by CaMKII α -dependent phosphorylation of long Homers. Such a dissociation would be expected to have multiple consequences on mGluR5 signaling and function at spines (Ronesi and Huber, 2008; Shiraishi-Yamaguchi and Furuichi, 2007). Importantly, we demonstrate CaMKII α -dependent hyperphosphorylation of Homer at a basal state in neocortical neurons of the mouse model of FXS. This work elucidates a molecular mechanism by which loss of FMRP-mediated translational suppression of the specific target mRNA, CaMKII α , leads to abnormal mGluR5 function and disease-relevant phenotypes.

CaMKII α phosphorylation of Homer mediates a rapid activity-dependent disruption of mGluR5-Homer

Our data, taken together with previous work (Mizutani et al., 2008; Okabe et al., 2001), reveal a rapid activity-dependent disruption of mGluR5 from long Homer scaffolds mediated by Ca²⁺ influx through NMDA receptors and L-type Ca²⁺ channels, CaMKII α activation and phosphorylation of H1 and H2. CaMKII α , in its inactive state, binds directly to the C-terminal tail of mGluR5 which, upon Ca²⁺ influx into the synapse, make it well positioned to phosphorylate Homer and rapidly regulate the Homer scaffolds (Jin et al., 2013). The fast CaMKII α -dependent phosphorylation of long Homers is not necessary for chronic activity-induced, H1 α -mediated, disruption of mGluR5-Homer and thus may represent a distinct, and rapid, means to regulate mGluR5 function at synapses. Pharmacological or genetic reduction of CaMKII α in WT cultures or *in vivo* did not enhance mGluR5-Homer interactions, suggesting that under basal, or low, activity conditions, CaMKII α phosphorylation of Homer is negligible and/or interactions with mGluR5 are saturated. In support of this idea, basal phosphorylation of H1 and H2 at CaMKII α sites is low in WT cultures and PTX treatment activates CaMKII α , increases H1 and H2 phosphorylation and results in a CaMKII α -dependent disruption of mGluR5-Homer scaffolds.

CaMKII activity alters the balance of long Homer/H1 α interactions with mGluR5

CaMKII α phosphorylates all forms of Homer we tested (H1, H2, H3 and H1 α), but only regulates interactions between mGluR5 and long Homers. CaMKII phosphorylation of H3 reduces affinity for C-terminal peptides of drebrin and mGluR1 *in vitro* binding assays (Mizutani et al., 2008). Additionally, purified CaMKII reduces Homer3-SHANK1 complexes *in vitro* (Hayashi et al., 2009). These results strongly suggest that the phosphorylation of H1 and H2, as well as the decreased interactions with mGluR5, observed upon CaMKII activation in cells are due to direct CaMKII α mediated phosphorylation of Homer. In support of this assertion, CaMKII phosphorylation site mutants of Homer either mimic (phosphomimetics) or block (dephosphomimetics) activity and CaMKII-dependent disruption of mGluR5-Homer interactions. Previous results also suggest that activity-dependent, CaMKII-mediated phosphorylation of Homer reduces interactions with multiple binding partners and is a key mechanism for activity-dependent remodeling of Homer scaffolds (Hayashi et al., 2009; Mizutani et al., 2008).

Many CaMKII phosphorylation sites on Homers (H1,H2_S117; H3_S120 H3) occur within the linker or “hinge” region C-terminal to the EVH1 domain (aa111–180 in H1) (Irie et al.,

2002; Mizutani et al., 2008). Deletion of the hinge region of H1 or H2 reduces mGluR5 interactions without affecting Homer multimerization, suggesting that the hinge stabilizes mGluR5-EVH1 binding. Surprisingly, CaMKII phosphorylates H1a in HEK cells, but does not decrease interactions with mGluR5, revealing a requirement for the C-terminal coiled-coil domains or Homer multimerization in regulation of mGluR5 binding. However, neither CaMKII activation, nor phosphorylation site mutants of H2 affected Homer dimerization or interactions between coiled-coil domains, as observed for H3 (Mizutani et al., 2008). A proline-rich motif (or P-motif; 138-SPLTP-142) in the hinge region of H1 interacts with the EVH1 domain of neighboring Homer molecules (Irie et al., 2002). The P-motif and mGluR1/5 binding sites within the EVH1 domain partially overlap. Therefore, CaMKII phosphorylation of the hinge region may affect P-motif binding to the EVH1 domain of neighboring Homers and destabilize mGluR5-EVH1 interactions. Such a mechanism would confer specific regulation of Homer proteins within a multimeric scaffold and may explain how CaMKII α and FMRP affect mGluR5-interactions with long Homers, but not H1a (Giuffrida et al., 2005; Ronesi et al., 2012). The novel CaMKII phosphorylation site in H2 (S216) occurs within the C-terminal coiled-coil domain, but does not affect H2 multimerization. Interestingly, S216 resides in a region of H2 that interacts with the small GTPase Cdc42; which regulates localization of H2 in spines (Shiraishi-Yamaguchi et al., 2009). Phosphorylation of S216 may indirectly affect mGluR5 EVH1 binding through regulation of Cdc42 interactions and/or H2 localization in cells.

CaMKII-mediated hyperphosphorylation of Homer contributes to mGluR5 dysfunction and phenotypes in *Fmr1* KO mice

mGluR5 hyperactivity is causally associated with the phenotypes of FXS in animal models (Dolen et al., 2007; Michalon et al., 2012), but the molecular mechanisms by which loss of FMRP leads to abnormal mGluR5 function has been elusive. Our new data herein, provide a molecular mechanism by which FMRP regulates mGluR5 function, through CaMKII α -dependent phosphorylation of Homer. CaMKII α mRNA is present in dendrites and directly interacts with FMRP (Darnell et al., 2011). Dendritic CaMKII α mRNA levels are normal in *Fmr1* KO neurons (Steward et al., 1998), but more CaMKII α mRNA is associated with synaptic polyribosomes and CaMKII α protein levels are elevated (Ronesi et al., 2012; Zalfa et al., 2003). These data together with our own suggest that loss of FMRP-mediated translational suppression of CaMKII α in *Fmr1* KO neurons leads to enhanced total and active CaMKII α levels at synapses, hyperphosphorylation of long Homers and decreased affinity for mGluR5. Revealing the importance of CaMKII α levels in regulation of Homer, knockdown of CaMKII α restores normal mGluR5-Homer in *Fmr1* KO and overexpression of CaMKII α in WT neurons is sufficient to reduce their interactions. When associated with H1a, mGluR5 displays constitutive activity or signaling in the absence of glutamate (Ango et al., 2001). Such enhanced constitutive mGluR5 activity in *Fmr1* KO neurons may underlie the sensitivity of protein synthesis rates and circuit hyperexcitability to mGluR5 NAMs (Hays et al., 2011; Michalon et al., 2012; Osterweil et al., 2010). Because Homer phosphorylation reduces its affinity with other interacting proteins such as drebin, mGluR1 (Mizutani et al., 2008), and SHANK (Hayashi et al., 2009) there may be a general disruption of Homer scaffolds in *Fmr1* KO neurons that alters synaptic structure and function in addition to mGluR5. Therefore, treatment strategies targeting CaMKII α , would be expected

to restore Homer scaffolds with its many binding partners and may have added therapeutic value towards FXS in comparison to specific mGluR5 compounds.

CaMKII-mediated hyperphosphorylation of Homer leads to circuit hyperexcitability in FXS

Here we implicate CaMKII α regulation of mGluR5-Homer scaffolds in a well-established and FXS-relevant phenotype of sensory circuit hyperexcitability and seizures (Rotschafer and Razak, 2014). Pharmacological or genetic reduction of CaMKII α or molecular replacement of Homers with dephosphomimetics at CaMKII sites corrects and restores normal circuit hyperexcitability in neocortical cultured neurons, UP state duration in acute slices and/or audiogenic seizures *in vivo*. This work, together with previous studies manipulating mGluR5 or Homer scaffolds (Dolen et al., 2007; Hays et al., 2011; Ronesi et al., 2012; Tang and Alger, 2015) support a model where disrupted mGluR5-Homer scaffolds, as a result of CaMKII α hyperphosphorylation of H1 and H2, result in hyper- or constitutively active mGluR5 activity, neocortical hyperexcitability and seizures. The cellular and synaptic locus where these misregulated scaffolds function in circuit hyperexcitability is unknown. Deletion of FMRP in excitatory, but not inhibitory neurons, is sufficient to recapitulate prolonged UP states and pharmacologically-isolated excitatory circuits in *Fmr1* KO neocortex are hyperexcitable (Hays, 2011 #31). These results suggest that disrupted mGluR5-Homer in excitatory neurons contributes to the circuit excitability. Homers scaffold mGluR5 with other effectors such as NMDA receptors, the endocannabinoid synthesizing enzyme, DAG lipase α , ion channels as well as signaling pathways that modulate ion channel function, including intracellular Ca²⁺ (Shiraishi-Yamaguchi and Furuichi, 2007). Disrupted Homer scaffolds in *Fmr1* KO neurons may result in constitutive and/or abnormal mGluR5 signaling to ion channels and/or synaptic function. Recent findings implicated two candidate mechanisms in hyperexcitability of *Fmr1* KO cortical circuits; reduced activity voltage- and Ca(2+)-activated K(+) (BK) channels in layer 5 dendrites (Zhang et al., 2014) and an imbalance of mGluR5 and endocannabinoid regulation of inhibitory and excitatory synaptic transmission in cortical neurons (Jung et al., 2012; Tang and Alger, 2015; Zhang and Alger, 2010). Both BK channel and endocannabinoid function is regulated by Homers (Ango et al., 2001; Tang and Alger, 2015).

CaMKII α , synaptic scaffolds and neurodevelopmental disorders

CaMKII α is one of the most strongly implicated brain protein kinase in cognition, learning and memory in animals (Hell, 2014). To our knowledge, our findings are the first to implicate hyperactivity of CaMKII α in a mouse model of human cognitive disease and we also identify a relevant CaMKII α substrate, Homer. The mouse model of Angelman Syndrome (AS) (*Ube3A* maternal deletion) expresses *reduced* CaMKII α activity stemming from enhanced phosphorylation of an inhibitory site (T305) on CaMKII α that contributes to the behavioral phenotypes in the AS mice (van Woerden et al., 2007). However, the relevant CaMKII α substrate in AS is unknown. Interestingly, AS mouse model neurons have *increased* mGluR5-Homer interactions and altered mGluR5 synaptic function (Pignatelli et al., 2014) suggesting that an imbalance of CaMKII levels or activity can alter Homer scaffolds and lead to mGluR5 dysfunction and autism-relevant phenotypes. Consistent with this notion, a *de novo* missense mutation in CaMKII α was recently identified in whole

exome sequencing data from autism families (Iossifov et al., 2014). Autism-associated mutations are also found in Homer, Shank1,2,3, and other proteins in the Homer-Shank synaptic scaffold, such as SAPAPs, and Neuroligins (De Rubeis et al., 2014; Delorme et al., 2013; Kelleher et al., 2012). Interestingly, loss of function mutations in SHANK, SAPAP3 and Neuroligin 3 result in abnormal mGluR1 or mGluR5 function (D'Antoni et al., 2014) suggesting that destabilization and/or abnormal activity-dependent remodeling of mGluR1/5-Homer scaffolds may be a common synaptic etiology among distinct genetic causes of ASD.

Experimental Procedures

Animals

Congenic *Fmr1* KO mice were bred on the C57/BL6J background from the UT Southwestern mouse breeding core facility. See Supplemental Experimental Procedures.

Immunoprecipitation and Western Blotting

For immunoprecipitation, the brain tissues or dissociated neocortical or hippocampal cultured neurons were lysed with Co-IP buffer (50mMTris, pH 7.4, 120mMNaCl, 50 mM NaF, and 1% Triton X-100). See Supplemental Experimental Procedures.

BRET measurements

Single cell BRET imaging in cultured hippocampal neurons were performed according to previous protocols (Moutin et al., 2012). See Supplemental Experimental Procedures.

Multielectrode Array Recordings of neuronal cultures

Multielectrode Array Recordings of neuronal cultures were performed and analyzed as described (Bateup et al., 2013). See Supplemental Experimental Procedures.

Statistics

Data plotted in the figures represent the mean \pm S.E.M. All Statistical tests were performed with GraphPad Prism6. See the Supplemental Experimental Procedures.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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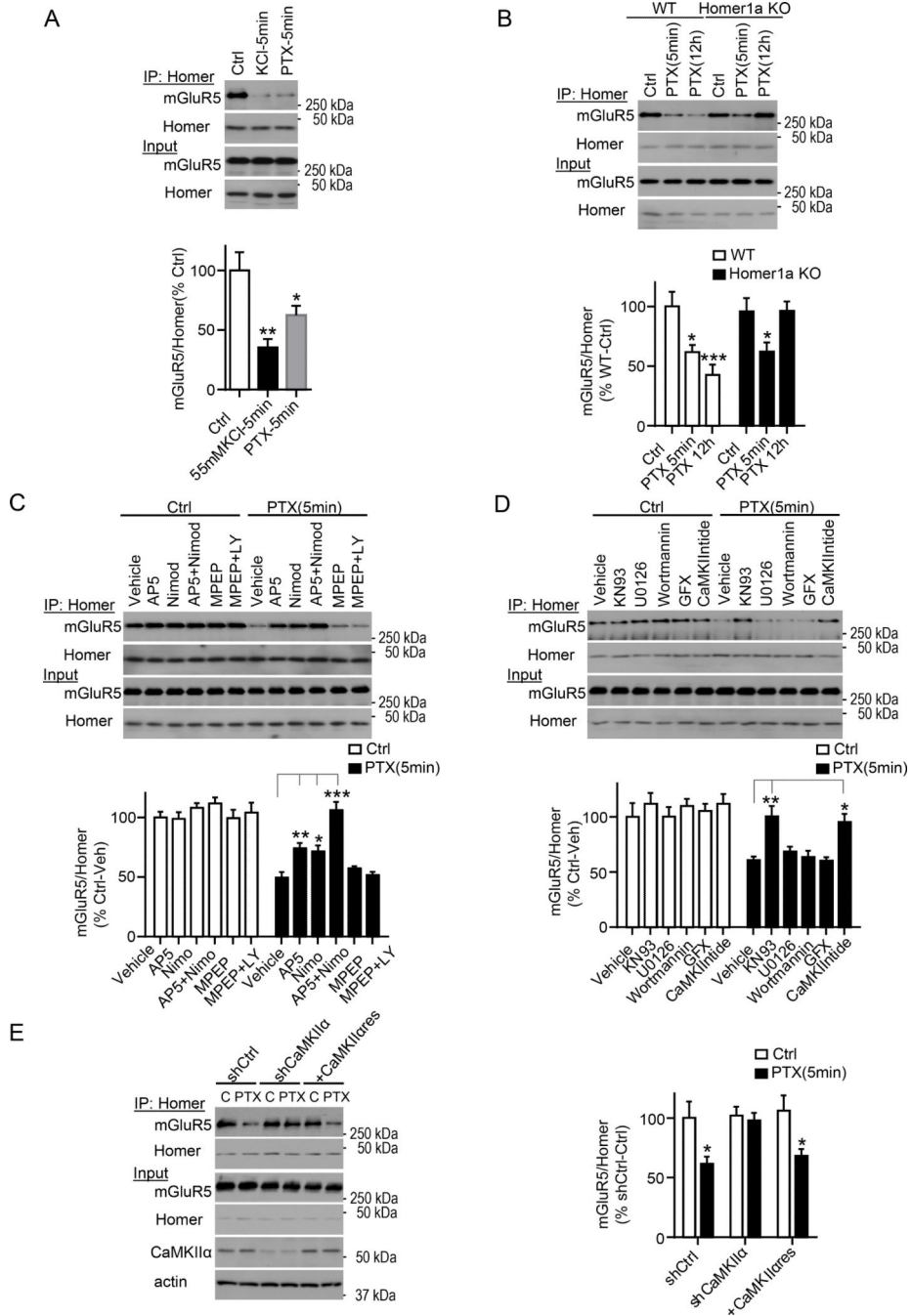


Figure 1. Brief elevations in neural activity disrupt mGluR5-Homer scaffolds that depends on CaMKII α , but not Homer1a

A) Brief (5 min) treatment of dissociated neocortical neuron cultures with 55mM KCl or picrotoxin (PTX) reduces mGluR5 interactions with long Homers as assessed with coimmunoprecipitation (IP) with a pan-Homer antibody (top) n=5.

B) Brief (5 min) PTX treatment reduces mGluR5-Homer interactions assessed with co-IP in cultures prepared from wildtype (WT) or Homer1a (*H1a*) KO mice. In contrast, H1a is necessary for disruption of mGluR5-Homer in response to chronic (12h) PTX treatment. n=5.

C) Pharmacological blockade of NMDA receptors and L-VGCCs inhibits brief PTX-induced dissociation of mGluR5-Homer in WT cultures, as assessed by co-IP. The specific inhibitors: NMDA receptor: AP5; L-Type Voltage gated Calcium channel: nimodipine; mGluR5: MPEP; mGluR1: LY367385. n=4.

D) Pharmacological blockade of CaMKII inhibits brief PTX-induced dissociation of mGluR5-Homer in WT cultures, as assessed by co-IP. The specific inhibitors tested are: CaMKII: KN-93 and CaMKIINtide; PI3K: wortmannin; MEK: U0126; PKC: GF109203X (GFX). n=5.

E) shRNA-mediated knockdown of endogenous CaMKII α expression blocks brief PTX-induced dissociation of mGluR5-Homer in WT cultures, as assessed by co-IP in comparison to cultures expressing a control shRNA (shCtrl). Co-expression of a shRNA-resistant CaMKII α (CaMKII α res) rescues PTX-induced decreases in mGluR5-Homer. n=5.

All experiments are repeated in at least 3 independent cultures. In all figures, error bars represent SEM. *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001. See also Figure S1.

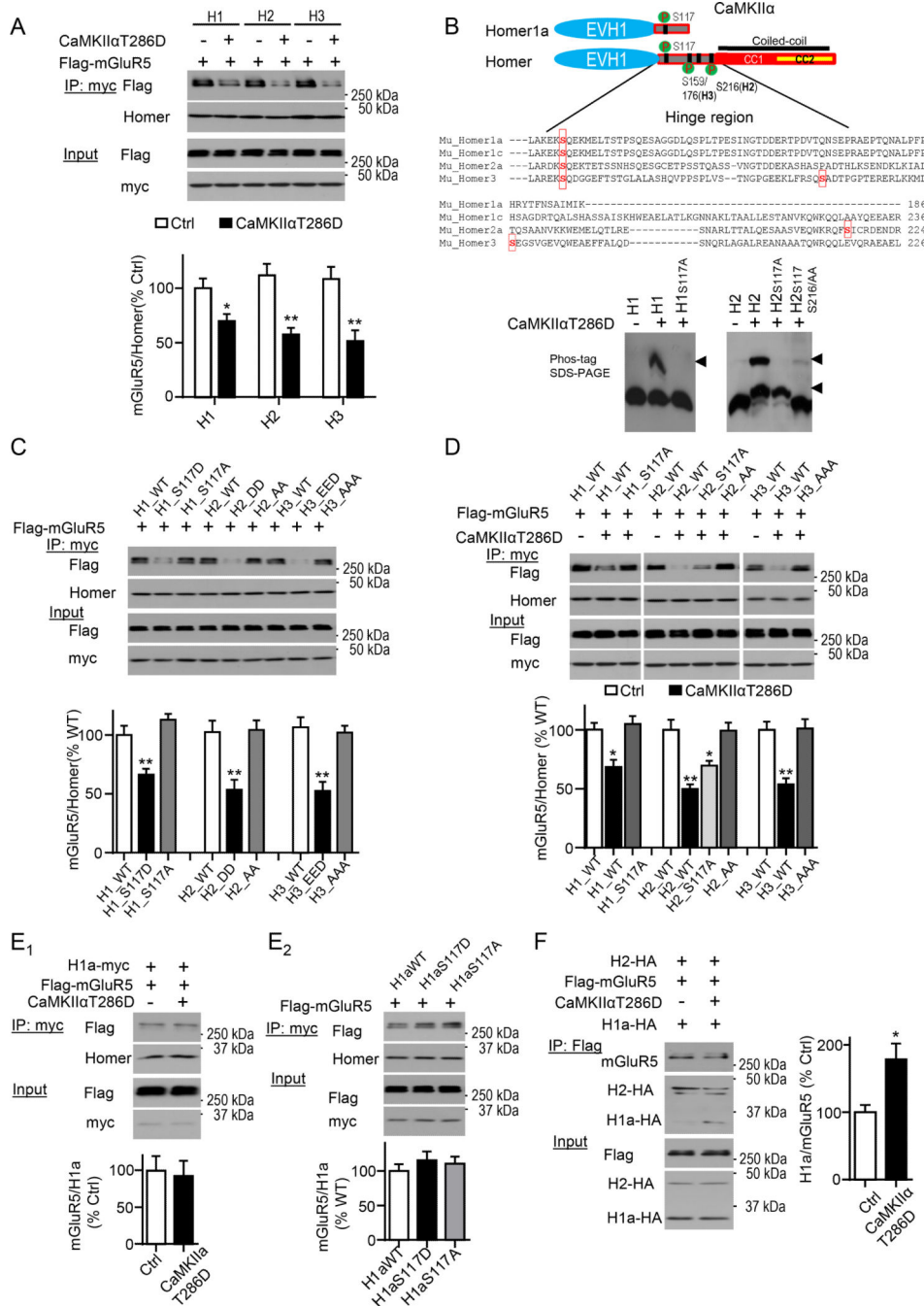


Figure 2. CaMKIIα phosphorylation of the “hinge” region of Homer reduces interactions with mGluR5

A) Constitutively active CaMKIIα (T286D) decreases interactions of long Homers (H1, H2, and H3) with mGluR5. Flag-tagged mGluR5 and myc-tagged Homer1, 2 and 3 were co-expressed together with or without CaMKIIα T286D in HEK293 cells. Western blots of Flag antibody and pan-Homer antibody after co-IP with myc antibody (Top). n=4.

B) CaMKII phosphorylates H1 at S117, H2 at S117 and S216. Upper: A schematic diagram of Homer1a or long Homer 1, 2, 3 with the sequences of “hinge region” with phosphorylation sites highlighted in red color. Lower: Myc-tagged WT or

dephosphomimetic mutants of H1 or H2 were co-transfected with or without CaMKIIT286D in HEK cells. Phosphorylated H1 or H2 is observed as higher MW species (arrowheads) on a Phos-tag conjugated gel and blotted for myc.

C) Phosphomimetic mutations of CaMKII phosphorylation sites of H1, H2, and H3 display reduced interactions with mGluR5. Myc-tagged WT, phosphomimetic or dephosphomimetic mutants of H1, H2, and H3 were co-transfected with Flag-tagged mGluR5 in HEK293 cells. Western blots of Flag and pan-Homer after co-IP with myc. n=4.

D) Dephosphomimetic mutations of CaMKII phosphorylation sites on H1, H2 and H3 prevent CaMKII α -induced dissociation of mGluR5-Homer in HEK cells. Flag-tagged mGluR5 and myc-tagged WT or mutants of Homer were co-expressed with or without CaMKII α T286D in HEK cells. Blots of Flag and pan-Homer after co-IP with myc. n=4.

E) Phosphorylation of H1a at CaMKII site does not reduce interaction with mGluR5. E1) Flag-tagged mGluR5 and myc-tagged H1a were co-expressed with or without CaMKII α T286D in HEK cells. E2) WT, phosphomimetic and dephosphomimetic H1a mutants were co-transfected with Flag-tagged mGluR5 in HEK cells. Blots of Flag and pan-Homer after co-IP with myc. n=4.

F) CaMKII α reduces the ratio of H2/H1a interactions with mGluR5 in HEK cells. Flag-tagged mGluR5 was co-expressed with HA-tagged H2 and H1a with or without CaMKII α T286D. Blots of HA after co-IP with Flag. n=4.

All experiments are repeated in at least 3 independent cultures. *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001. See also Figure S2

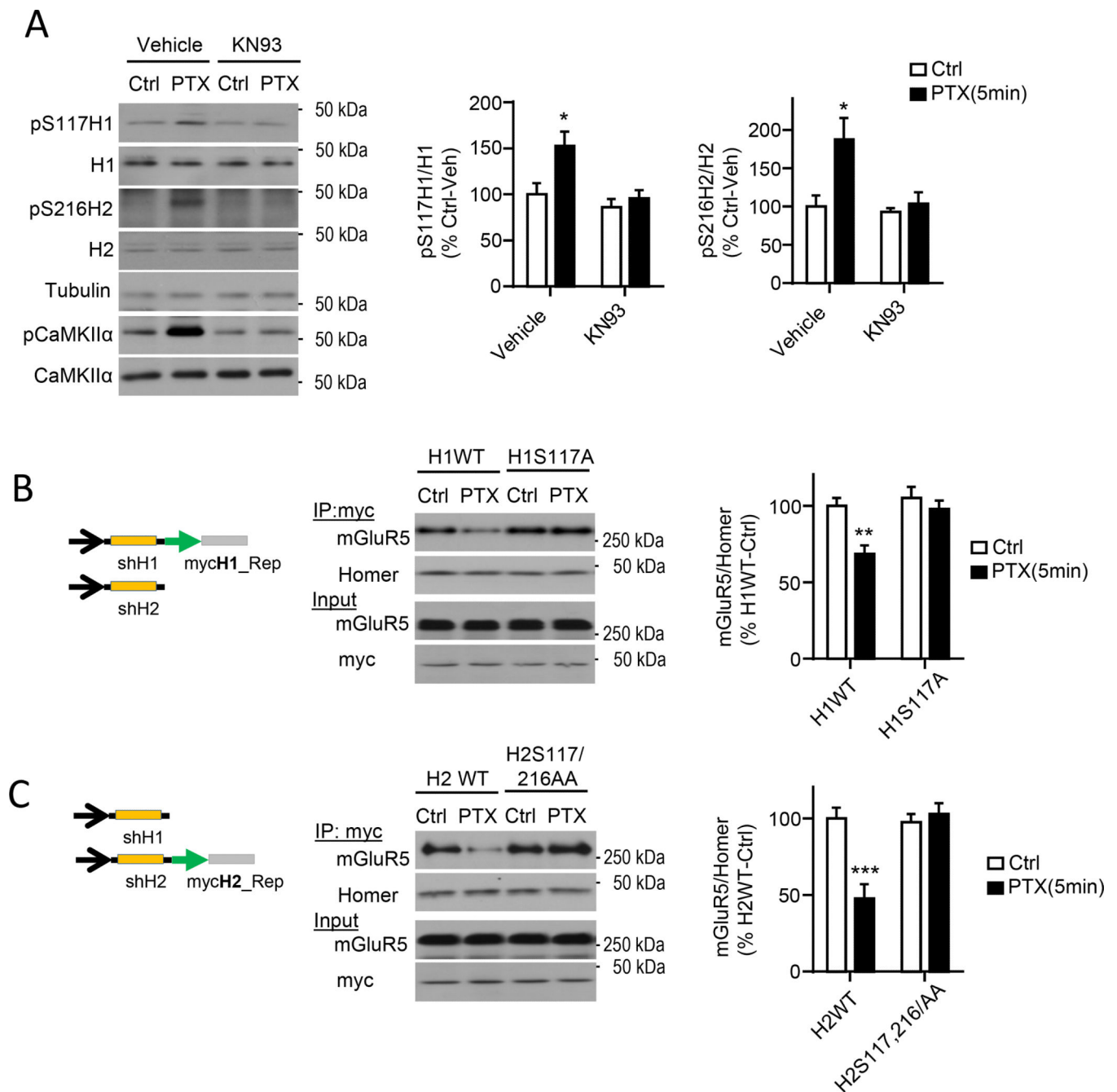


Figure 3. Activity-induced disruption of mGluR5-Homer scaffolds in neurons requires Homer1 and Homer2 phosphorylation

A) Brief PTX treatment (5 min) of cortical neurons enhances phosphorylation of H1 (S117) and H2 (S216) and is blocked by the CaMKII inhibitor KN93. n=4.

B) Knockdown of endogenous H1 and H2 and replacement with a myc-tagged dephosphomimetic (S117A) of H1 prevents activity-induced dissociation of mGluR5-Homer in cortical neurons. Left: Schematic of bicistronic knockdown and replacement lentiviral construct. Middle: Blots of mGluR5 after co-IP with myc. Right: Group data; n=4.

C) Knockdown of endogenous H1 and H2 and replacement of H2 with a myc-tagged dephosphomimetic (S117/S216AA) prevents activity-induced dissociation of mGluR5-Homer cortical neurons. Left: Schematic of bicistronic knockdown and replacement lentiviral construct. Middle: Blots of mGluR5 after co-IP with myc. Right: Group data; n=4. All experiments are repeated in at least 3 independent cultures. *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001. See also Figure.S3

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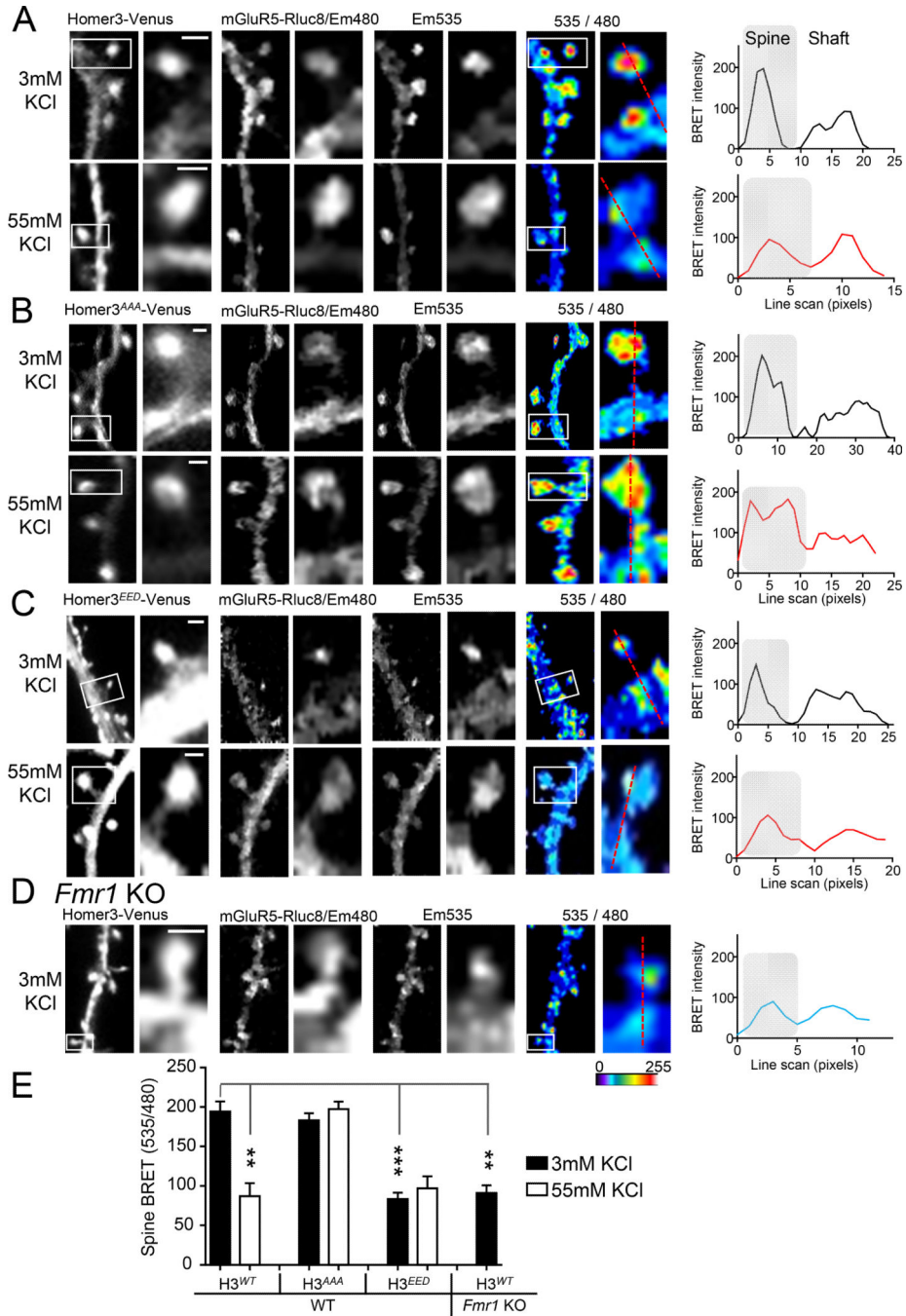


Figure 4. Brief neural activity dissociates mGluR5 from Homer in dendritic spines as revealed with Bioluminescence resonance energy transfer (BRET)

(A–D) Representative dendritic spine images (left to right) of Homer3-Venus fluorescence, mGlu5-luc emission (Em) at 480, Em535 from Homer-Venus as a result of BRET from mGluR5luc, and Em535/480 ratio. Scale bar= 1 μ M. Red line indicates region of quantification of BRET of spine and dendritic shaft. Line scan is shown at right.

A. Brief depolarization (5 min; 55mM KCl) of WT neurons transfected with wildtype Homer3-Venus reduces the mGluR5-Homer BRET in spines.

B. WT neurons expressing a dephosphomimetic Homer3(AAA)-Venus display normal spine BRET under basal (3mM KCl) conditions, but no change in BRET in response to 55mM KCl.

C. WT neurons expressing a phosphomimetic Homer3(DDD)-Venus display reduced spine BRET under basal (3mM KCl) conditions, and no change in BRET in response to 55mM KCl.

D. *Fmr1* KO neurons expressing Homer3-Venus show reduced BRET in spines under basal conditions.

E. Group spine BRET values from each condition. n = 3 cultures and 8–16 spines/condition. *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001.

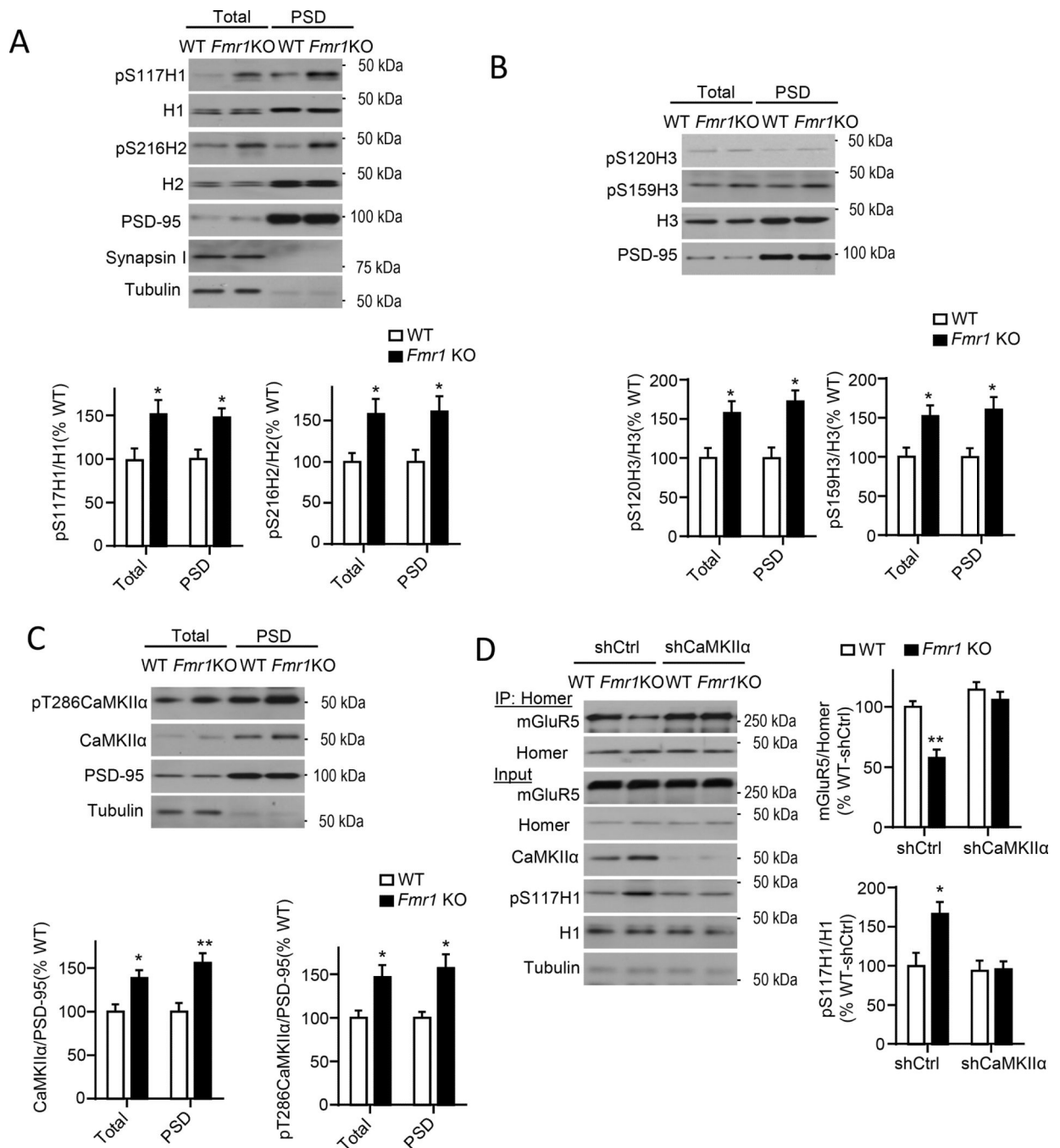


Figure 5. Elevated CaMKII α levels and Homer hyperphosphorylation lead to reduced mGluR5-Homer in *Fmr1* KO cortex

A) H1 (S117) and H2 (S216) phosphorylation is elevated in total lysates and PSD fractions from *Fmr1* KO cortex. PSD-95, Synapsin 1 and tubulin confirm enrichment of PSDs. n = 4 mice/genotype.

B) H3 (S120; S159) phosphorylation is elevated in total lysates and PSD fractions from *Fmr1* KO hippocampus. n = 4 mice/genotype.

C) Total and phosphorylated (T286) CaMKII α levels are elevated in total lysates and PSD fractions from *Fmr1* KO cortex. n = 4 mice/genotype.

D) Knockdown of CaMKII α (shCaMKII α) restores mGluR5-Homer interactions in cultured *Fmr1* KO cortical neurons in comparison to control shRNA (shCtrl) transfected cultures. Blots of mGluR5 after co-IP with Homer. n=4 cultures/condition. *P<0.05, **P<0.01. See also Figure. S4

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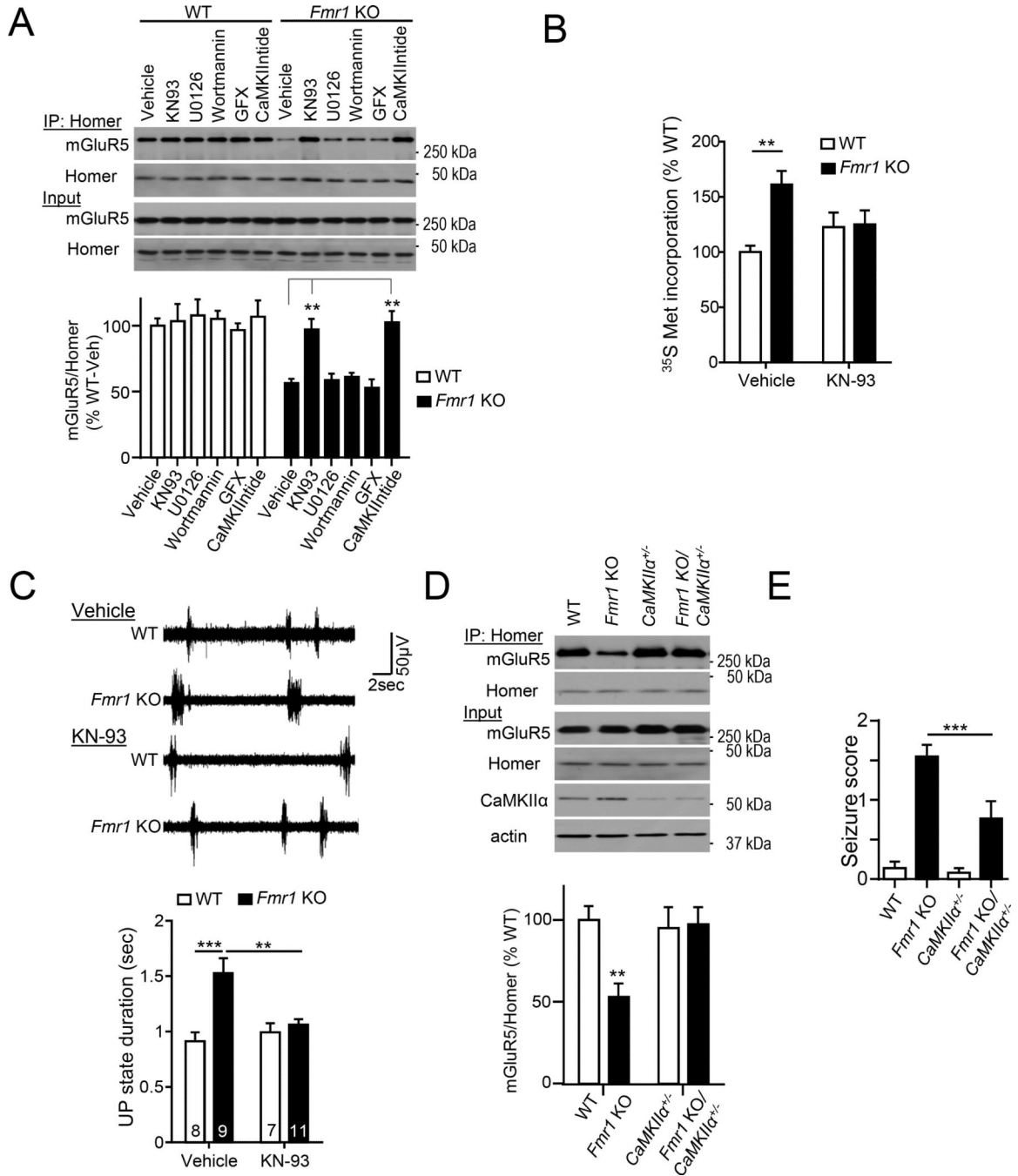


Figure 6. Genetic or pharmacological reduction in CaMKII α activity rescues mGluR5-Homer scaffolds and other phenotypes associated with Fragile X Syndrome

A) Inhibition of CaMKII activity (KN93 or CaMKIIIntide) restores mGluR5-long Homer interaction in *Fmr1* KO neocortical neurons. Inhibitors of other kinases (ERK, PI3K or PKC) have no effect. Blots of mGluR5 after co-IP with Homer. n=4 cultures/genotype.

B) Acute inhibition of CaMKII activity by KN93 treatment rescues enhanced basal translation rates in *Fmr1* KO hippocampal slices as measured by ³⁵S Met incorporation into total protein. n = 8 mice/ genotype.

C) Acute Inhibition of CaMKII activity by KN93 rescues prolonged neocortical UP states in *Fmr1* KO neocortical slices. Left: Representative traces of UP states from each condition. Scale bar = 50 μ V/ 2sec.

D) Genetic reduction of CaMKII α in *Fmr1* KO/*CaMKII* α ^{+/-} mice rescues mGluR5-Homer interaction in *Fmr1* KO mice. The front cortex tissue lysates were from WT/WT, *Fmr1* KO/WT, WT/*CaMKII* α ^{+/-} and *Fmr1* KO/*CaMKII* α ^{+/-} mice. Western blots of mGluR5 after coimmunoprecipitation (IP) with Homer antibody (top). Input was shown on the bottom, antibody as indicated. n = 4 mice/genotype

E) Cross *Fmr1* KO mice and *CaMKII* α ^{+/-} mice rescues audiogenic seizures. *Fmr1* KO mice had an increased seizure score, the audiogenic seizure score was reduced in *Fmr1* KO/*CaMKII* α ^{+/-} mice (n = 35, 37, 28 and 21 mice for WT/WT, *Fmr1* KO/WT, WT/*CaMKII* α ^{+/-} and *Fmr1* KO/*CaMKII* α ^{+/-}, respectively).

*P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001. See also Figure.S5

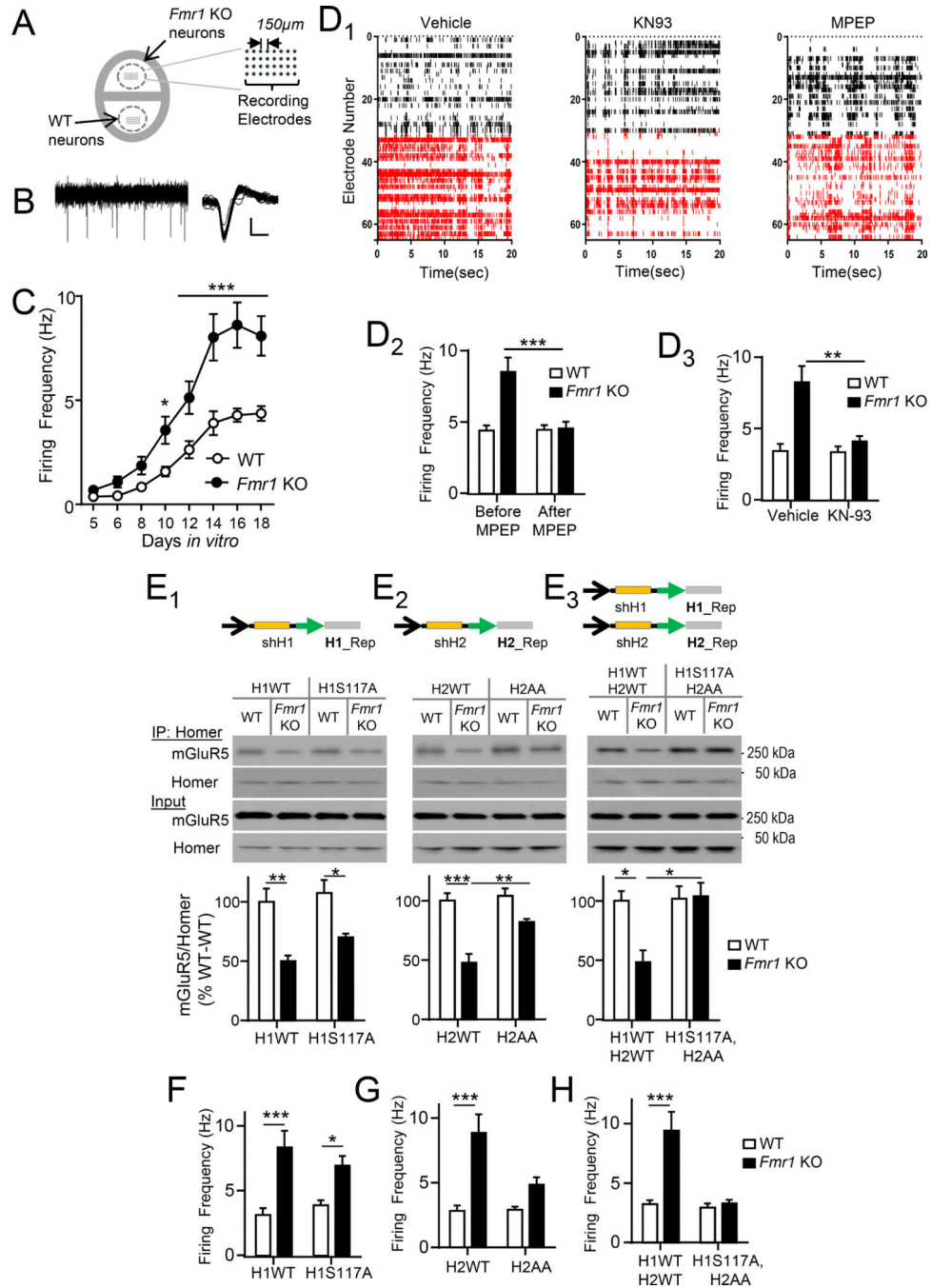


Figure 7. Replacement of endogenous Homer with Homer dephosphomimics rescues mGluR5-Homer interactions and circuit hyperexcitability in cultured *Fmr1* KO neocortical neurons
 A) Schematic of MED64 dual recording chamber (adapted from med64.com).
 B) Representative recording from a single electrode in a 32-electrode array from dissociated *Fmr1* KO cortical cultures. Right: Sorted and aligned action potentials. Scale bars: 10 μ V/200 or 1 msec.
 C) Development of circuit hyperexcitability of *Fmr1* KO cortical cultures as measured by average firing frequency vs. days *in vitro* (DIV). n=5 cultures/genotype.

D) Circuit hyperexcitability in *Fmr1* KO neurons was rescued by pharmacological blockade of mGluR5 and CaMKII inhibitor. D₁) Raster plots of multi-unit activity recorded from WT and *Fmr1* KO cultures recorded at 18 DIV. Each line represents a single spike detected in a given channel during 20 seconds of a recording. Vehicle, MPEP (10 μ M) or KN93 (5 μ M) for 2 hour prior to recording. D₂–D₃) Average firing frequency per electrode from WT and *Fmr1* KO cultures. n=5 cultures/genotype.

E) Replacement of endogenous H1 and H2 with dephosphomimetics rescues mGluR5-Homer interactions in *Fmr1* KO neocortical neurons. (E₁–E₃) Upper: Schematic of bicistronic lentiviral constructs expressing a shRNA against endogenous H1 and/or H2 and replacement with dephosphomimetics. Lower: Blots and group data of mGluR5 after co-IP with Homer. n=4 cultures/genotype.

F) Replacement of endogenous H1 with dephosphomimetic H1S117A is not sufficient to rescue circuit hyperexcitability in *Fmr1* KO neurons. Cultures were transfected with lentivirus schematized in E₁. n=5 cultures/genotype.

G) Replacement of endogenous H2 with dephosphomimetic H2S117/216AA reduces circuit hyperexcitability in *Fmr1* KO cultures. Cultures were transfected with lentivirus schematized in E₂. n=5 cultures/genotype.

H) Replacement of endogenous H1 and H2 with dephosphomimetics normalizes circuit hyperexcitability in *Fmr1* KO neurons. Cultures were transfected with lentivirus schematized in E₃. n=5 cultures/genotype. *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001. See also Figure.S6