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Overexpression of the Type 1 Adenylyl Cyclase in the Forebrain Leads to Deficits of Behavioral Inhibition

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The type 1 adenylyl cyclase (AC1) is an activity-dependent, calcium-stimulated adenylyl cyclase expressed in the nervous system that is implicated in memory formation. We examined the locomotor activity, and impulsive and social behaviors of AC1+ mice, a transgenic mouse strain overexpressing AC1 in the forebrain. Here we report that AC1+ mice exhibit hyperactive behaviors and demonstrate increased impulsivity and reduced sociability. In contrast, AC1 and AC8 double knock-out mice are hypoactive, and exhibit increased sociability and reduced impulsivity. Interestingly, the hyperactivity of AC1+ mice can be corrected by valproate, a mood-stabilizing drug. These data indicate that increased expression of AC1 in the forebrain leads to deficits in behavioral inhibition.

Key words: ADHD; behavioral inhibition; hyperactivity; impulsivity; sociability; type I adenylyl cyclase

Introduction

AC1 is a calcium/calmodulin-stimulated adenylyl cyclase that is predominantly expressed in the nervous system (Xia et al., 1991, 1993). AC1 is not stimulated by activation of Gs-coupled receptors alone but is synergistically potentiated by receptor activation paired with calcium (Wayman et al., 1994). Therefore, combinations of β -adrenergic agonists and free calcium maximally stimulate AC1 activity. AC1 is highly sensitive to intracellular free calcium and can be directly activated by Ca^{2+} and CaM *in vivo* (Choi et al., 1992) with half-maximal stimulation at 150–200 nM free Ca^{2+} , concentrations just above resting free Ca^{2+} in neurons (Wang and Storm, 2003). Calcium-activated AC1 generates cAMP, which subsequently stimulates several downstream events required for synaptic long-term potentiation and memory consolidation (Sindreu et al., 2007).

Previous studies using AC1^{-/-} mice have implicated AC1 in consolidation of long-term memory (Wu et al., 1995; Wong et al., 1999; Wiczorek et al., 2012), neuropathic pain (Wei et al., 2002), and drug addiction (Krishnan et al., 2008; DiRocco et al., 2009). In contrast, AC1+ mice have enhanced long-term potentiation (LTP) and impaired long-term depression (LTD; Wang and Zhang, 2012; Zhang and Wang, 2013), and exhibit increased recognition memory and superior remote contextual memory (Wang et al., 2004; Shan et al., 2008). Calcium-stimulated cyclase

adenylyl activity in hippocampal membrane preparations from AC1+ mice is ~2.5-fold higher than wild-type mice. In addition, PKA, MAP kinase, and CREB activities are also markedly elevated in AC1+ mice (Wang et al., 2004). Because AC1 couples intracellular free calcium to cAMP increases, AC1 is essential for several forms of synaptic plasticity (Choi et al., 1992; Villacres et al., 1998; Wang et al., 2011). For example, AC1+ mice exhibit enhanced LTP at the CA1–CA3 synapse in the hippocampus (Wang et al., 2004).

AC1 generates cAMP in response to calcium influx through either NMDA receptors or voltage-gated calcium channels (Wang and Storm, 2003). Interestingly, dysfunction in NMDA receptors and voltage-gated calcium channels lead to a variety of psychiatric diseases (Cross-Disorder Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium, 2013; Fromer et al., 2014). In addition, animal studies and a human genome-wide association study have implicated AC1 (Krishnan et al., 2008) and AC8 (Schaefer et al., 2000; Wolf et al., 2014) in mental disorders. Because calcium–cAMP signaling regulates neuronal activity, as well as mental states (Arnsten and Jin, 2012; Wolf et al., 2014), and AC1 is essential for potentiation of synaptic transmission upon vigorous electrical stimulation, we reasoned that increased expression of AC1 may cause deficits in behavioral inhibition. Here we report that AC1+ mice are hyperactive both in their home cage and in an open field. Moreover, AC1+ mice display reduced sociability as well as increased impulsivity. In contrast, AC1/8 double-knock-out mice are hypoactive, more social, and less impulsive. Together, these data indicate that increased expression of AC1 leads to hyperactivity and impaired behavioral inhibition.

Materials and Methods

Mice. Transgenic AC1+ mice overexpress *Acyl1* in the forebrain under α -CaMKII promoter. AC1+ mice and AC1 WT littermates were bred from AC1+ heterozygotes and with AC1 WT mice, as previously reported (Wang et al., 2004; Shan et al., 2008). AC1 and AC8 double-knock-out (DKO) mice were generated and bred as previously described

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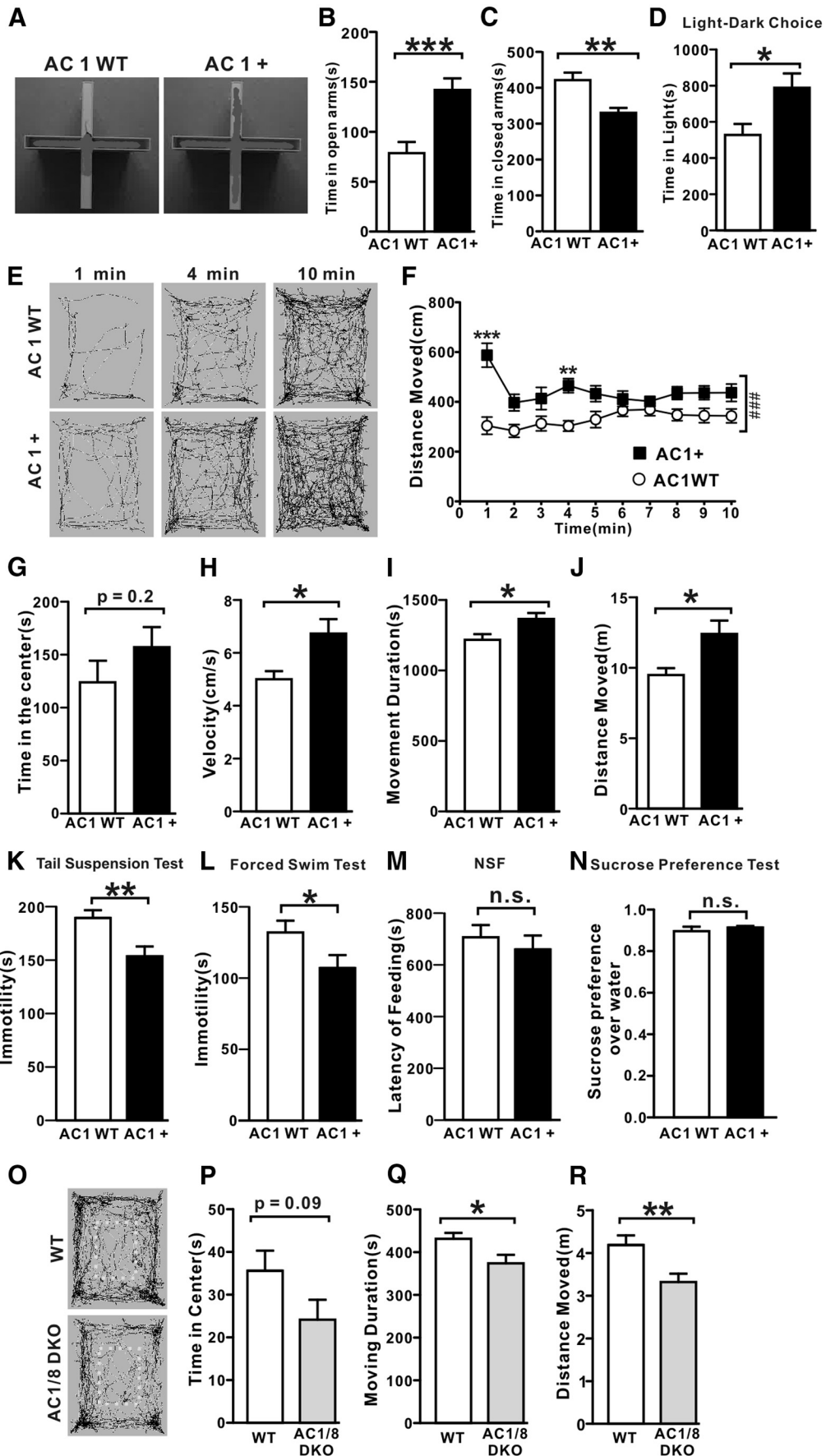
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(Wong et al., 1999; Wei et al., 2002; Krishnan et al., 2008). Both strains of mice have C57BL/6 genetic background. The mice used in behavioral analysis were age-matched 2- to 4-month-old transgenic males and WT controls. Mice were maintained on a 12 h light/dark cycle at 22°C and had access to food and water *ad libitum*. All animal procedures were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the University of Washington and performed in accordance with their guidelines. Before behavioral tests, mice were handled by the investigator for 5 d to allow them to adjust to the investigator before starting the experiments.

Elevated plus maze test. The plus maze consisted of a plus-shaped apparatus with two open and two enclosed arms, each with an open roof, elevated 40 cm from the floor. Each mouse was put into center of the plus maze and its free movement was video recorded for 10 min. The Noldus Ethovision 3.0 tracking software was used to analyze the mouse's preference for the open arms or closed arms.

Open-field test. The open-field test was conducted in an open plastic container (38 × 56 × 23 cm). At the start of each trial, the mouse was placed in a corner of the container and its movement was video recorded for 30 min. The Noldus EthoVision 3.0 tracking software was used to analyze exploratory tracks, velocity and movement duration, and movement in the center zones.

Light/dark choice. The test apparatus (40 × 22 × 18 cm) was divided into a dark compartment and an illuminated bright compartment. Each mouse was allowed to freely move between the two compartments through an opening. The trial began when the mouse was placed at the entryway to the dark compartment; the trial duration was 30 min and video recorded. The total time that the animal spent in the light compartment was monitored.

Tail suspension test. Mice were suspended upside-down from their tail for 6 min. The session was recorded by a video camera and the total time immobile was scored.

Forced swim test. Experiments were performed in a glass cylinder (14 cm inner diameter, with water level 13 cm deep) filled with room temperature water (22–23°C). The legs of the mice were unable to touch the bottom of the cylinder. Mice were gently placed into the water and swimming behaviors were video recorded for 6 min. The total duration of immobility was scored during the last 4 min. Immobility was defined as no movement of the front or back legs and no attempt to escape.

Novelty-suppressed feeding. Exposure to a novel environment suppresses feeding behavior in rodents. Mice were food-deprived for 24 h before testing. A novel open container was used to present novel environments to mice. A piece of Whatman paper was placed in the center of the container with rodent chow placed on the paper. The trial duration was 15 min and video recorded. The latency to feeding (defined as nib-

bling the food pellet for 4 s) and the total feeding time during testing period were recorded.

Sucrose preference test. Mice were housed individually for this test. To reduce the possible stressful response to novelty, 24 h before actual testing mice were able to choose freely between two glass tubes with small sipping tip (one with 2% sucrose solution and another one with regular water). During next 4 d, two leak-proof liquid tubes (one with water and another with 2% sucrose) were presented. To prevent possible effects of side preference in drinking behavior, positions of the tubes were switched at 24 h intervals. The consumption of water and sucrose solution was estimated by weighing the bottles. Preference for sucrose solution was calculated as the percentage of sucrose solution ingested relative to the total amount of liquid consumed.

Actogram monitoring in the home cage. Mice were individually housed and a photobeam sensor was installed at the top of each cage. Mice were maintained on a 12 h light/dark cycle at 22°C and had access to food and water *ad libitum*. Activity counts were collected every 5 min. Actograms (reflecting activity) were acquired for 5 d with a Vitalview data system and analyzed with ActiView 1.2 (Mini Mitter Company).

Object exploration in an open field. Open plastic containers (38 × 56 × 23 cm) were used and mice were first habituated in the arena for 3 min. A novel object was then placed in the center and mice were allowed to explore for 5 min. The Noldus EthoVision 3.0 tracking software was used to analyze exploratory tracks.

Cliff avoidance reaction test. Cliff avoidance reaction (CAR) test (Fromer et al., 2014) was assessed using a round wooden platform (diameter, 20 cm), supported by a wooden rod (height, 50 cm; Matsuoka et al., 2005; Yamashita et al., 2013). The test was initiated by placing an animal on a platform. The latency from an initial placement on the platform until falling was monitored. Mice that fell from platforms were immediately and gently placed back on the platforms, and the test continued until 60 min had elapsed. Mice that did not fall from platforms were tested for the same duration of time and the latency was counted as 60 min.

Rotarod test. Mice were placed on a stationary cylinder (Rotarod; San Diego Instruments) with the head of the mouse against the direction of rotation. After 5 s, the rotarod was switched on from a starting speed of 4 rpm, accelerating to a maximal rotation speed of 30 rpm during a 5 min period. The mice were timed until they fell. Mice were tested successively in four trials during 1 d, with 30 min intervals between trials. In each case, a total of 16 trials were run over 4 d. The duration for staying on rotating rod during each trial was recorded.

Object exploration in the open field. This test was conducted in an open container (38 × 56 × 23 cm). The procedure was as described previously with minor modifications (Brechtbühl et al., 2013). Briefly, before the experiment was initiated, mice were habituated to the arena for 3 min. Two Eppendorf tubes either containing 1 ml fox odor trimethylthiazoline (TMT; 8 μM) or 1 ml vehicle held by identical containers were put in opposite corners of the open field. There were several holes in the top of the Eppendorf tubes to allow TMT or vehicle to evaporate and to be smelled by mice. Mice were allowed to explore the open field containing the two Eppendorf tubes with or without TMT for 5 min. The movement of the mice was videotaped. The recorded video file was analyzed by off-line video tracking software (EthoVision software). Distance traveled, moving duration, time spent in the corner proximal to each tube was measured. Risk-assessment behavior in response to TMT was scored.

Startle response and prepulse inhibition. Startle response and prepulse inhibition were tested in sound-attenuating startle chambers (SR-Lab, San Diego Instruments). The procedure was as described previously (Soden et al., 2013). Briefly, baseline startle response was measured following a 5 min habituation period with a series of seven trials of 40 ms white noise pulses escalating from 80 to 120 dB, with an ITI of 30 s. This series was repeated 10 times for a total of 70 trials. To measure prepulse inhibition AC1+ mice and controls were given a 10 min habituation period followed by five trials of 120 dB startle pulse-alone, followed by 50 trials which pseudorandomly alternated between 120 dB pulse-alone, one of three prepulse intensities (70, 75, or 80 dB), or null (no startle), 20 with a variable ITI of 5–25 s. Prepulse trials consisted of a 20 ms duration prepulse at the indicated intensity occurring 100 ms before the 40 ms 120 dB startle pulse.

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Figure 1. AC1+ mice are less anxious and hyperactive. **A–C**, Elevated plus maze test. **A**, Representative track of exploration in elevated plus maze of AC1 WT and AC1+ mice. AC1+ mice spent more time in the open arm (**B**) and less time in the closed arms (**C**) than the AC1 WT mice; $n = 10$ pairs of AC1+ and WT mice; $**p < 0.01$, $***p < 0.001$. **D**, Light/dark choice test. AC1+ mice spent more time in the light compartment than AC1 WT mice; $n = 11$ pairs. **E–J**, Open-field test. **E**, Representative tracks of exploration in the open field after 1, 4, and 10 min. **F**, Time course of distance moved in the open field for 10 min. Genotype effect, two-way ANOVA test; $F_{(1,240)} = 65.94$, $###p < 0.0001$, *indicates significant Bonferroni *post hoc* difference ($**p < 0.01$, $***p < 0.001$). **G**, AC1 mice spent somewhat more time in the center of open field than WT mice. **H**, The velocity of AC1+ mice was significant higher than WT mice during a 30 min test in open field. **I**, The moving duration of AC1+ mice were greater than WT mice during a 30 min test in open field. **J**, The total distance covered in 30 min was greater in AC1+ than WT mice; $n = 8$ pairs; $*p < 0.05$; $**p < 0.01$; n.s. not significant. **K**, Tail suspension test. The time that AC1+ mice were immobile was significantly shorter than AC1 WT littermates. **L**, Forced swim test. AC1+ mice were immobile for shorter periods of time than AC1 WT mice during the forced swim test. **M**, Novelty-suppressed feeding test. The latency to feed in a novel environment was comparable between AC1 WT mice and AC1+ mice. **N**, Sucrose-preference test. AC1 WT and AC1+ mice had similar preference to sucrose water. For tests from **K–N**: $n = 9–17$; $*p < 0.05$; $**p < 0.01$; n.s., not significant. **O–R**, AC1/8 DKO mice were less active in the open-field test than WT mice. **O**, Representative exploratory tracks in the open field. **P**, Time in the center. DKO mice had reduced moving duration (**Q**) and distance moved (**R**); $n = 11$ pairs.

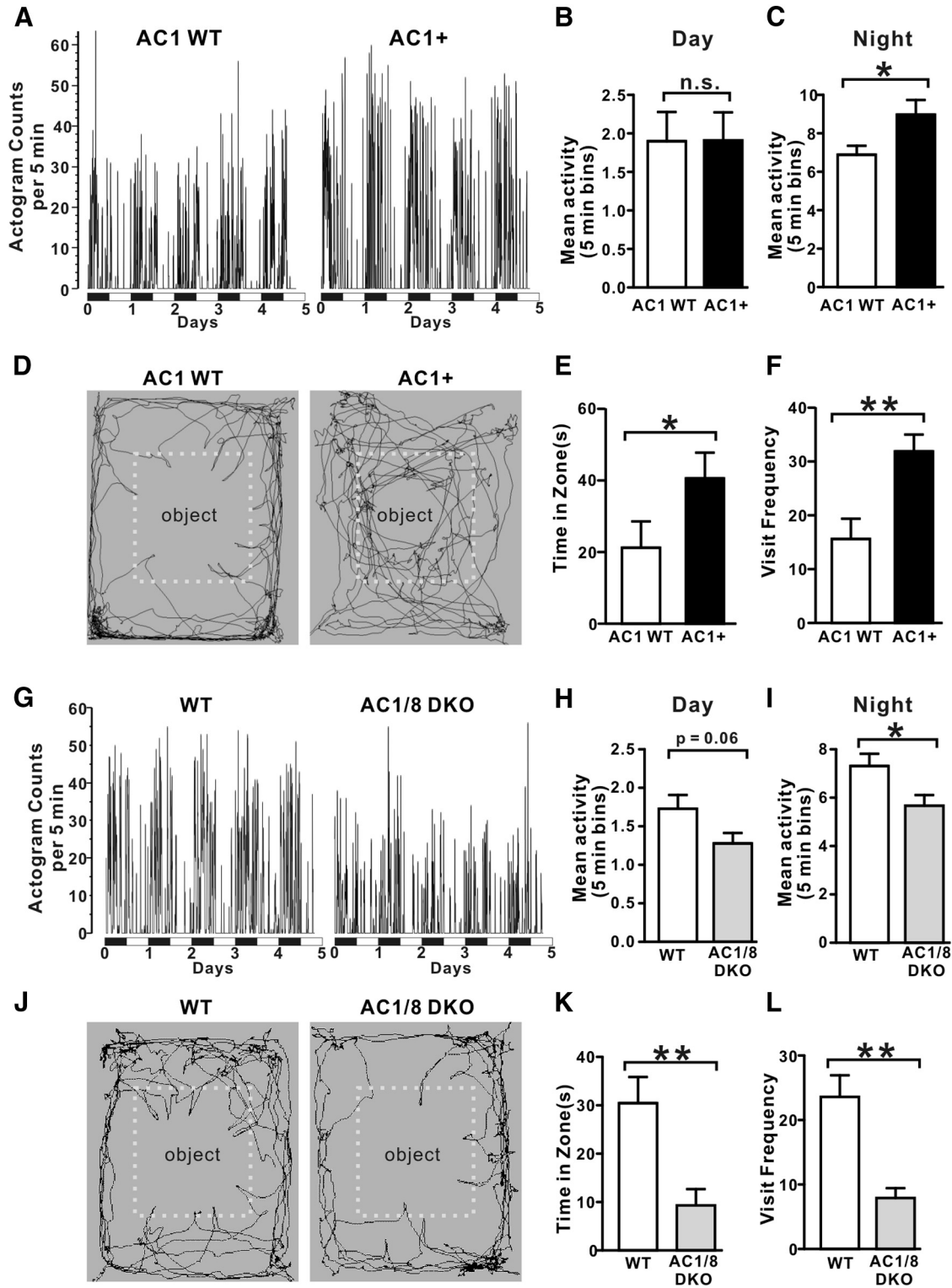
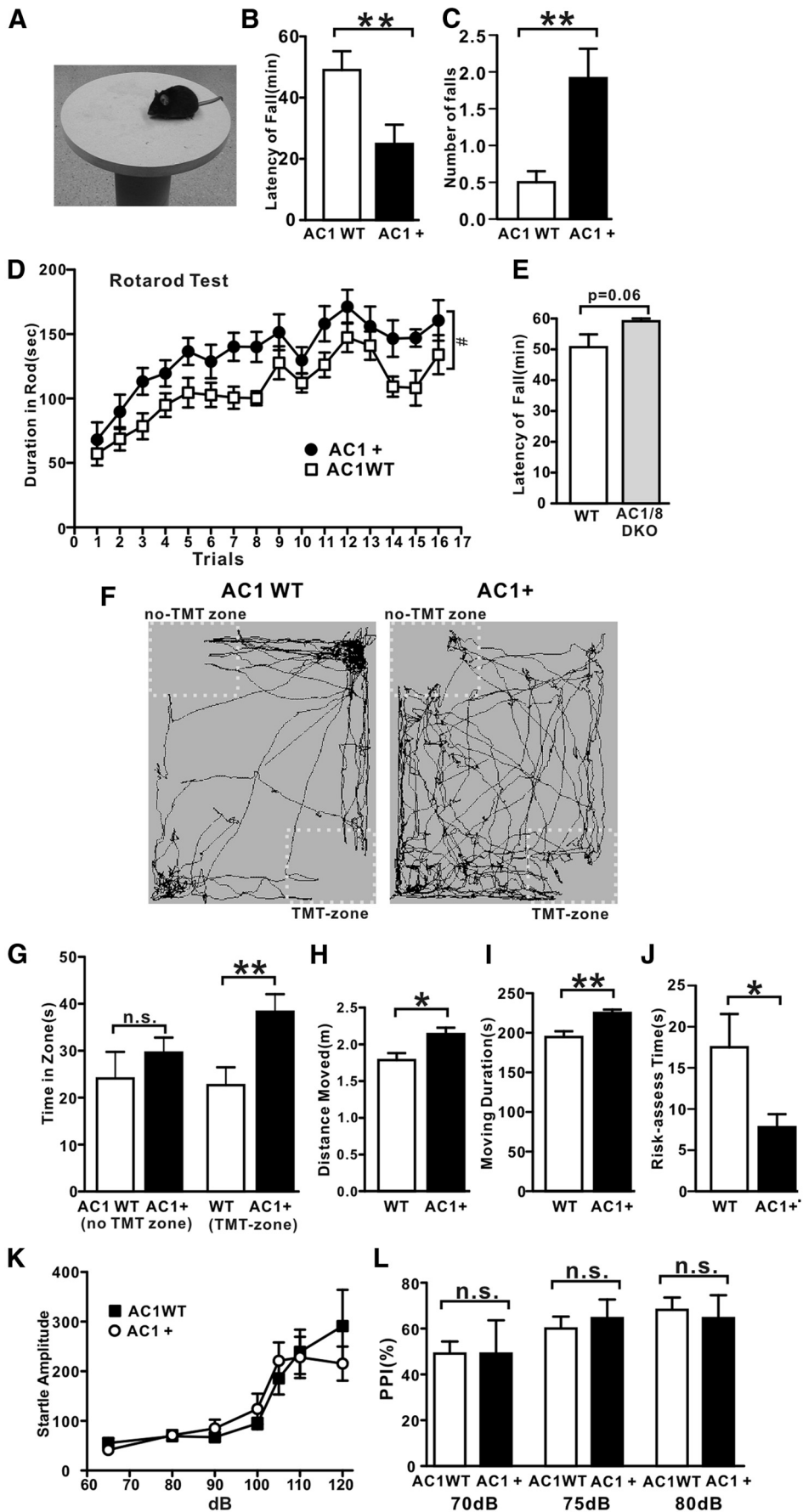


Figure 2. AC1+ mice are hyperactive in home cage and more actively explored a novel object in an open field. **A–C**, AC1+ mice had increased activity in their home cages. **A**, Representative actogram from AC1 WT and AC1+ mice continuously recorded for over 5 d. Activity counts were collected in 5 min bin. Average locomotor activity of AC1WT and AC1+ mice in the daytime (**B**) and nighttime (**C**). AC1+ mice were more active than in AC1WT mice in the nighttime, but not in the daytime; * $p < 0.05$; $n = 11$ pairs. **D–F**, AC1+ mice were more active in examining a novel object in the open field. Mice were habituated to the open field for 3 min before introducing a novel object. **D**, Representative exploration track of mice in the open field with a novel object in the center. **E**, AC1+ mice spent more time in the object zone. **F**, The frequency of visiting the novel object zone was higher in AC1+ mice; $n = 11$ pairs; * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$. Similar results were obtained with a second novel objects. **G–I**, AC1/8 DKO mice were less active in their home cages. **G**, Representative actogram. Average locomotor activity of DKO mice and WT mice in the daytime (**H**) and nighttime (**I**); $n = 11$ pairs. **J–L**, AC1/8 DKO mice spent less time examining a novel object in the open field than WT. **J**, Representative exploration track of mice in the open field with a novel object in the center. DKO mice spent less time in the object zone (**K**) and examined the object less frequently than WT (**L**); $n = 10$ pairs.



Sociability test. The apparatus for sociability test was a rectangular, three-chamber box. Each chamber was 22 × 20 × 13 cm and the walls of chamber were made from Plexiglas. The subject mouse was allowed to freely explore each chamber. These two identical wire mesh cups were placed inside the apparatus, one in left and one in right. We used a young (6-week-old) male C57BL/6 mouse that had no prior contact with the subject mouse as the interacting target mouse. After the subject mouse has habituated in the apparatus for 5 min, one C57BL/6 target mouse was then placed inside a wire cup in a chamber in one side. The other wire cup was empty in the other side. The subject mouse then freely explored any of the three chambers. The exploration/interaction lasted 10 min and was video recorded. The exploration time in each chamber was analyzed by EthoVision software.

Social choice test. The social interaction in open-field test was performed as described previously with modifications (Tabuchi et al., 2007). The test was performed in the open-field arena (40 × 70 × 25 cm). A young stranger naive C57BL/6 mouse (6-week-old male) caged in a cylinder wire mesh cage (6 × 6 × 10 cm) that was used as a social cue. A caged object and a caged stranger mouse were placed simultaneously in the opposite sides of the arena. The test mouse was then allowed to explore either the object or the caged stranger mouse. The movement of the mouse was videotaped. The recorded video file was analyzed by off-line video tracking software (EthoVision software). Time spent in the corner proximal to the stranger cage was measured.

Reciprocal interaction test. Subject mouse and an age-matched target mouse were introduced into a neutral cage with fresh bedding. The cage was used only once. The mice had never interacted previously. Social interactions between mice were videotaped for 10 min. Time spent in aggressive interactions, such as attacking, wrestling, biting the dorsal surface, and time spent in nonaggressive interactions, including nose-to-nose sniffing, anogenital sniffing, and grooming were monitored manually.

Resident/intruder aggression test. Male–male aggression test was observed by the resident/intruder assay (Wang et al., 2006). Adult, sexually naive mice were housed individually for 10 d, and their bedding was not changed for 4 d before testing. The latency of attack of the host male was observed during a 15 min period by introducing a group-housed, sexually inexperienced, unfamiliar, C57BL/6J adult (8–10 weeks old) male into their home cage. Attack by the resident male was defined as aggressive biting and chasing.

Olfactory habituation/dishabituation test. All the tests were done in home cages, where the test mouse was singly housed. Odor stimulations were delivered with a cotton-tipped swab placed through the cage top ~8 cm above the bedding. After 10 min of habituation with a cotton-tipped swab without odor stimulant, the test mouse was stimulated by several application of odorants: water, citralva (10 μM), C57BL/6J male mouse urine (1:30 dilution), and eugenol (10 μM). Each stimulus was 2 min in duration with 1 min intertrial interval. The sequence of the odor stimulation was as follows: water1, water2, water3, citralva1, citralva2, citralva3, urine1, urine2, urine3, eugenol1, eugenol2, and eugenol3. Time spent sniffing the odorants was measured by manual observation with a stopwatch. Sniffing was only scored when the test mouse's nose was close

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Figure 3. AC1+ mice exhibit increased impulsivity. **A–C**, CAR test. **A**, A platform used in the CAR test. **B**, The latency for the first fall from the platform was shorter for AC1+ mice than WT mice. **C**, The total number of falls during a 60 min test was greater in AC1+ mice; $n = 12$ pairs; $**p < 0.01$. **D**, AC1+ mice stayed longer on the Rotorod than AC1 WT mice in the accelerating Rotated test; $n = 11$ pairs; genotype effect, two-way ANOVA test; $F_{(1,300)} = 7.99$, $\#p < 0.05$. **E**, AC1/8 DKO mice had slightly increased latency of fall than WT mice in the CAR test; $n = 12$ WT; $n = 14$ AC1/8 DKO mice. **F–J**, AC1+ mice did not avoid a predatory fox odor, TMT, as much as WT mice. **F**, Representative exploratory tracts in the open field when TMT was in the lower right-hand corner. **G**, AC1+ mice spent more time in the TMT zone than WT mice. The distance moved (**H**) and moving duration (**I**) was higher with AC1+ mice than WT mice. **J**, The risk-assessing time was shorter in AC1+ mice than WT mice; $n = 10$ pairs; $*p < 0.05$; $**p < 0.01$. **K, L**, Acoustic startle response and prepulse inhibition test. AC1 have a normal startle response (**K**), two-way ANOVA test; $F_{(1,96)} = 0.01$, $p = 0.94$. Prepulse inhibition was normal in AC1+ mice (**L**); $n = 9$ pairs, n.s., not significant.

from and pointing to the swab. Biting of the swab by the mouse was excluded.

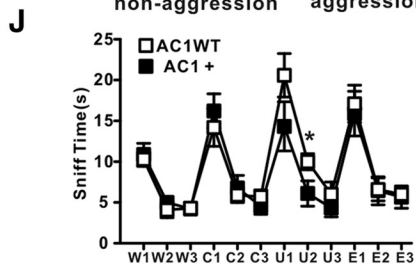
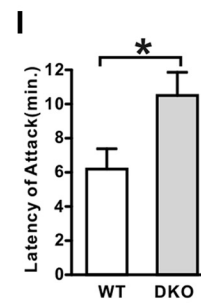
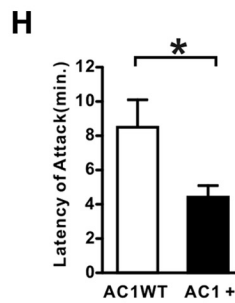
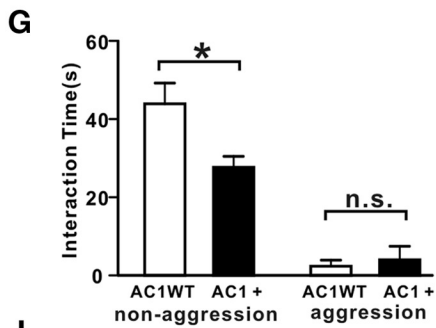
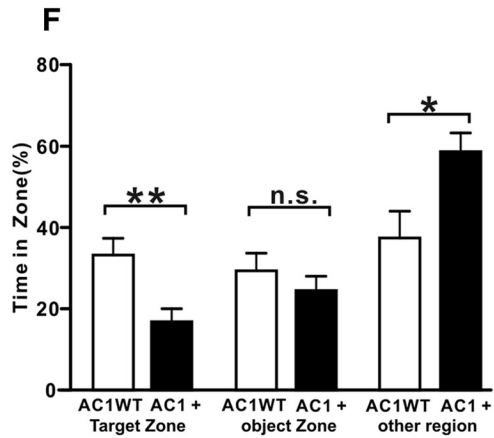
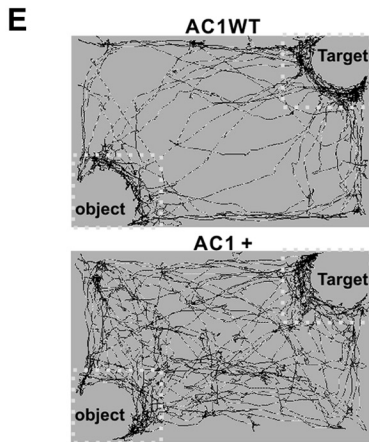
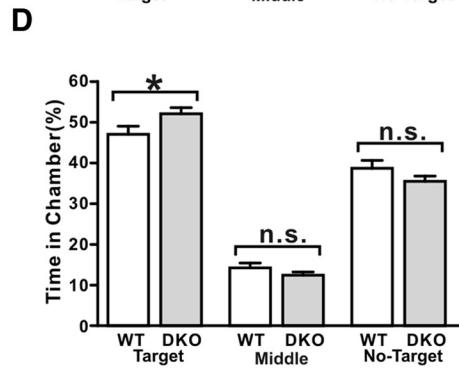
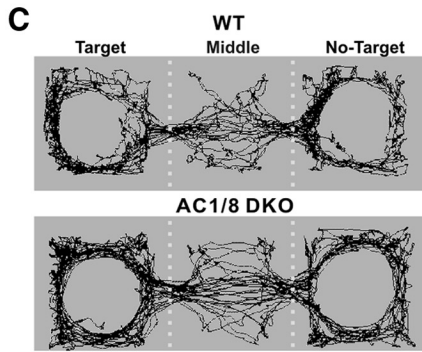
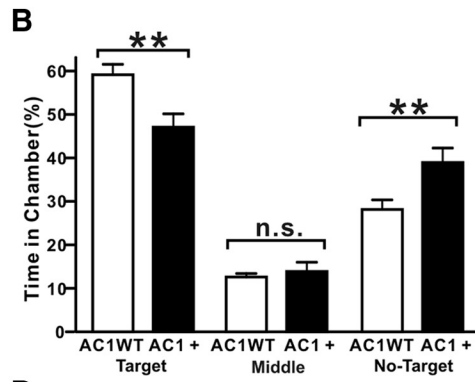
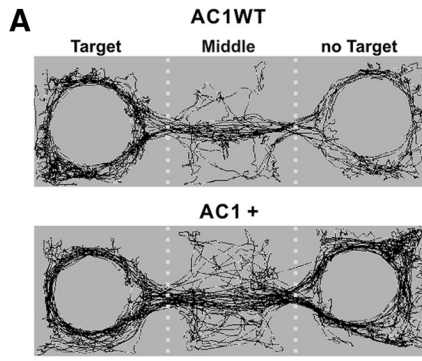
Kainate administration and seizure-like activity evaluation. Kainate (10 mg/kg body weight, a subepileptic dose) or saline was administered by intraperitoneal injection. We used the Racine-seizure scale (Racine, 1972) to evaluate seizure-like behaviors: no response (0), staring and reduced locomotion (1), activation of extensors and rigidity (2), repetitive head and limb movements (3), sustained rearing with clonus (4), loss of posture (5), and status epilepticus and death (6).

Fiber fluorescence confocal endomicroscopy calcium imaging. We used fiber fluorescence confocal endomicroscopy (FFE), an advanced *in vivo* calcium imaging system (Cellvizio Neuropak deep brain imaging system, Mauna Kea Technologies) in combination with viral-mediated gene delivery to hippocampal CA1 region to monitor overall CA1 neuronal activation in response to stimulation (Vincent et al., 2006; Soden et al., 2013). We stereotaxically injected 1 μl GCaMP6 (a calcium-sensitive fluorescence indicator)-expressing AAV1 (Vector Core, University of Pennsylvania) into CA1 region (coordination, AP: −1.7 to −1.9 mm; ML: −1.5 mm; DV −1.3 to −1.5 mm). Then a cannula was installed on the top of head. Imaging was performed 3 weeks after surgery and GCaMP6 expression. Mice were first positioned on a stereotaxic apparatus under isoflurane anesthesia. A CerboFLEX Neuropak endomicroscope fiber-optic probe was hooked to a vertical micropipette guide of the stereotaxic apparatus that allows positioning of the imaging probe and moving through cannula until image was seen. After imaging probe reached GCaMP6 expression site in CA1 region, it was tightly fixed to cannula by a screw. Mice were then put in a box with food and water *ad libitum* for recovery from anesthesia for >1 h. After waking, mice could freely behave with the imaging probe (the endomicroscope) on the top of its head. Mice were then placed in a foot shock box and after 2 min exploration; 2 s 0.7 mA foot shock stimulation was delivered. Neuronal activity was monitored with or without foot shock by the imaging probe. Imaging data were acquired at 11.7 Hz by Cellvizio 488 (Mauna Kea Technologies) and analyzed with IC Viewer 3.8 (Mauna Kea Technologies) off-line in combined with Graphpad Prism 5. After imaging, mice were killed and brain tissues were fixed with 4% PFA and then subjected to immunological staining using primary antibodies against GFP (Catalog #A-11120, Invitrogen) verify the imaging location.

Membrane preparations and Western analysis. Adult mice were killed by cervical dislocation, their hippocampi were quickly dissected on ice, flash frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at −70°C until use. Frozen hippocampal tissue was pulverized and homogenized in 10 volumes of homogenization buffer (10 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 320 mM sucrose, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM EGTA, 100 mM NaF, 1 mM Na₃VO₄, 1 mM PMSF, a protease inhibitor tablet; Roche) and 1:100 dilutions of Sigma-Aldrich phosphatase 2 and phosphatase 3 inhibitor). Homogenates were cleared by centrifugation (10 min at 1000 × g), supernatants again centrifuged at 10,000 × g for 50 min to obtain crude plasma membrane from pellets. Crude plasma membrane pellets were solubilized in homogenization buffer containing 0.5% NP40 and centrifuged at 15,000 × g for 5 min. An equal volume of 2× SDS-PAGE sample buffer was added to the membrane fractions and finally membranes were probed by Western blot analysis (Eckel-Mahan et al., 2008). Primary antibodies used were at the following dilutions, rabbit anti-p-GluR1 (Ser845, 1:1000; Millipore), rabbit anti-p-GluR1 (Ser831, 1:500; Millipore), and rabbit anti-GluR1 (1:500; Millipore Bioscience Research Reagents). Phosphorylated-protein blots were stripped in 25 mM glycine, pH 2, and 1% SDS (stripping buffer) for 30 min, and reprobbed for total GluR1-AMPA receptor signal.

Valproate administration. Mice received intraperitoneal injection of valproate (Tocris Bioscience, 200 mg/kg) or saline in a volume of 10 ml/kg (Chiu et al., 2013; Han et al., 2013). Valproate was injected three times before each behavioral assay (12:00 and 18:00 on the day before the assay and 10:00–15:00 of the day of test), and behavioral tests were performed 30 min after final injection.

Novelty object recognition. The novel-object recognition and memory retention test was used to test recognition memory. The mice were first habituated in a cage for 30 min before training, after which two plastic blocks (A1 and A2) were presented during 5 min of training. Object recognition was scored by the time percentage spent in each object-conditioned



compartment. When the mice were tested for memory retention 1 and 24 h later, one of the original blocks was replaced by a new object (B), and the mouse was scored for recognition during 5 min of testing.

Amphetamine administration. Basal locomotor activity of each mouse was determined before drug administration for 30 min. Then, mice received an intraperitoneal injection of the test drug (D-amphetamine hemisulfate, Sigma-Aldrich) that were dissolved in saline or vehicle and were placed again in the open field. At 10 min after the injection, recording of locomotor activity resumed and lasted for 35–40 min. The distance moved in the open field has been analyzed.

Data analysis. Data were analyzed with Excel (Microsoft), Clampfit 10.0 software (Molecular Devices), and GraphPad Prism 5. If not otherwise indicated, statistical analysis was based on unpaired Student's *t* test with a two-tailed distribution. Not significant (n.s.), **p* < 0.05, ***p* < 0.01, and ****p* < 0.001. Data were considered as statistically significant if *p* < 0.05. Values are expressed as mean ± SEM.

Results

AC1+ mice exhibit hyperactivity and an anxiolytic phenotype

AC1+ mice were first subjected to several behavioral tests for anxiety. In the elevated plus maze, AC1+ spent more time in the open arm and less time in the closed arm than WT mice (Fig. 1A–C). When they were tested for their preference for a light or dark chamber, AC1+ mice spent more time in the light chamber than WT controls (Fig. 1D). In the open-field test, AC1+ mice exhibited hyperactive exploratory behavior compared with WT mice (Fig. 1E,F). Although both mice spent comparable time in the center of the open field (Fig. 1G), the velocity of exploration (Fig. 1H), moving duration (Fig. 1I), and distance traveled (Fig. 1J) of AC1+ mice in the open field were all significantly greater than WT littermates. These data indicate that overexpression of AC1 in the forebrain leads to anxiolytic and hyperactive behaviors. Moreover, we found that AC1+ mice also have shorter immobility in the tail suspension test and forced swim test (Fig. 1K,L). However, the novelty-suppressed feeding test and sucrose preference test are normal in AC1+ mice compared with WT mice (Fig. 1M,N), indicating it is not an antidepressant phenotype, but rather a hyperactive phenotype. In contrast, AC1 and AC8 DKO mice were hypoactive in the open-field test (Fig. 1O–R). The moving duration and distance moved in the open field of DKO mice were significantly lower than WT controls, whereas the time in the center was slightly lower. Thus, AC1+ mice are hyperactive and AC1/8 DKO mice are hypoactive.

We also monitored locomotor activity of AC1+ and WT mice in their home cages. AC1+ mice were markedly more active than

WT mice during the nighttime but not during daytime (Fig. 2A–C). Moreover, AC1+ mice were more exploratory to a novel object and they spent more time examining a novel object than WT mice in the open field even when the object was in the center of the arena (Fig. 2D–F), confirming the hyperactivity of the AC1+ mice. In contrast, DKO mice were less active in their home cage (Fig. 2G–I) and they examined a novel object less often than WT mice in the open field (Fig. 2J–L). These data indicate that increasing AC1 expression promotes locomotor and exploratory activity.

Increased impulsivity of AC1+ mice

To test whether AC1+ mice were more impulsive, they were subjected to the CAR test (Fig. 3A). The latency of falling from the elevated platform was much shorter with AC1+ mice compared with WT mice (Fig. 3B). Moreover, during a 60 min test period AC1+ mice fell more frequently than WT mice (Fig. 3C). Fifty percent of WT mice and 92% of AC1+ mice fell from the platform at least once during the 60 min test period. AC1+ mice exhibited slightly better motor skills than WT mice in the Rotarod test (Fig. 3D), suggesting that the frequent falls of AC1+ mice during the CAR assay were not due to poor physical coordination but greater impulsivity. We also subjected the DKO mice to the CAR test. The latency for falling was slightly greater with DKO mice (Fig. 3E). These data suggest that calcium-activated adenylyl cyclases may influence behavioral impulsivity.

Mice normally freeze and assess potential risk out of innate fear when exposed to TMT, a predator fox odor (Brechtbühl et al., 2013). Therefore, we examined the behavior of AC1+ mice when they were exposed to TMT in an open field. AC1+ mice explored the TMT-zone much more actively than WT mice (Fig. 3F). The distance moved and moving duration was higher in AC1+ mice than in WT mice when TMT was present at one corner (Fig. 3G–I). Moreover, the risk-assessing time of AC1+ mice was much shorter than that of WT mice (Fig. 3J). Because AC1+ mice detect odorants normally, the reckless exploratory behavior of AC1+ mice in the presence of TMT is most likely due to lack of behavior inhibition.

To test whether AC1+ mice show deficit of sensory gating, we subjected AC1+ mice to the acoustic startle response and prepulse inhibition. AC1+ mice exhibited a normal startle response (Fig. 3K) and prepulse inhibition (Fig. 3L), comparable with WT mice, demonstrating that AC1+ mice have normal acoustic sensory function and do not exhibit an alteration of sensory gating. Collectively, these data indicate that AC1+ mice demonstrate increased hyperactivity and impulsivity without developing extreme manic phenotype.

AC1+ mice show reduced sociability

AC1+ mice were monitored for sociability. In the three-chamber sociability test, AC1+ mice spent less time interacting with the target mouse compared with WT mice (Fig. 4A,B), suggesting AC1+ mice have reduced sociability. In contrast, AC1/8 DKO mice spent more time in the target chamber than WT mice (Fig. 4C,D). Moreover, in the social choice test, AC1+ mice interacted to a less extent with the mouse target and spent more time exploring other regions in the field compared with WT mice (Fig. 4E,F). In the reciprocal interaction test in a clear new cage, AC1+ mice did not exhibit more aggression behavior; however, they displayed significantly less nonaggression social interactions than WT mice (Fig. 4G). In addition, in the resident–intruder aggression assay, AC1+ mice were more aggressive than WT mice to intruders into their home cages; the latency of attack was

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Figure 4. AC1+ mice exhibit reduced sociability. **A, B**, Three-chamber sociability test. **A**, Representative exploration track. **B**, AC1+ mice spent less time in the chamber with the mouse-target and more time in chamber without the target mouse than AC1 WT mice; *n* = 13 pairs; ****p* < 0.01. **C, D**, AC1/8 DKO mice exhibited slightly increased sociability. **C**, Representative exploration track in three-chamber sociability test. **D**, AC1/8 DKO mice spent significantly more time in interacting with the target mouse than WT mice; *n* = 16 pairs; **p* < 0.05; n.s., not significant. **E, F**, Social choice test of AC1+ mice. **E**, Representative exploration tracks in the open field. **F**, AC1+ mice interacted less to a social cue than WT mice in an open arena; *n* = 9 pairs. **G**, Reciprocal interaction test of AC1+ mice. AC1+ mice exhibited less nonaggression interaction time with target mouse than AC1 WT mice in neutral clear cages; *n* = 15 pairs; **p* < 0.05, n.s., not significant. **H, I**, Resident–intruder aggression assay of AC1+ mice (**H**) and DKO mice (**I**). AC1+ mice had shorter latency than WT mice to attack a male intruder to their home cages (**H**); *n* = 11 pairs. However, AC1/8 DKO mice had higher latency to attack a male intruder (**I**); *n* = 10 pairs; **p* < 0.05. **J**, Olfactory habituation/dishabituation test of AC1+ mice; w1, w2, and w3: the first, second, third water Q-tip exposure; three times of citralva (C), three times male mouse urine (U), and three times eugenol (E) Q-tips were exposed subsequently. AC1+ and WT mice spent comparable time to sniff all odorant Q-tips except that AC1+ mice sniffed shorter during the second male urine exposure; *n* = 9 AC1+ mice; *n* = 10 WT mice.

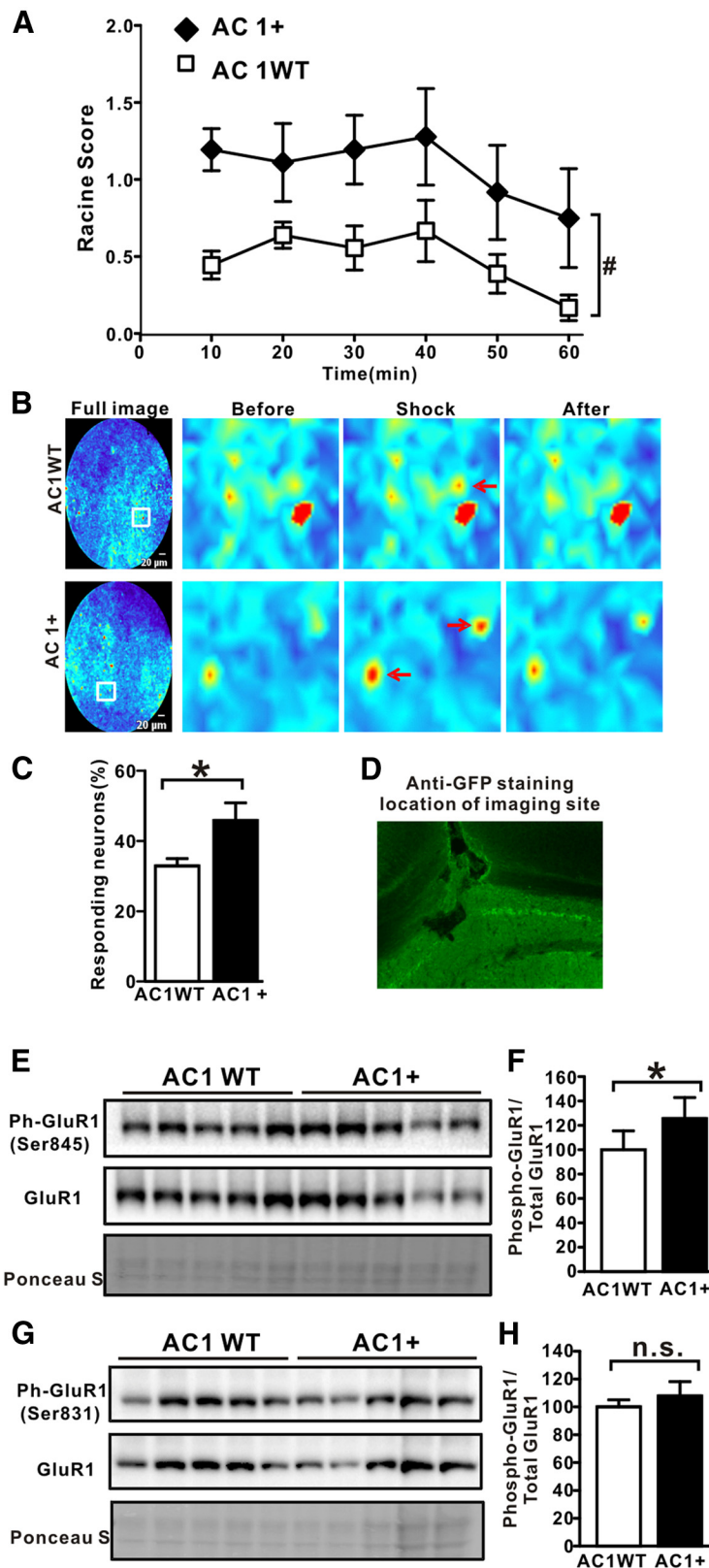


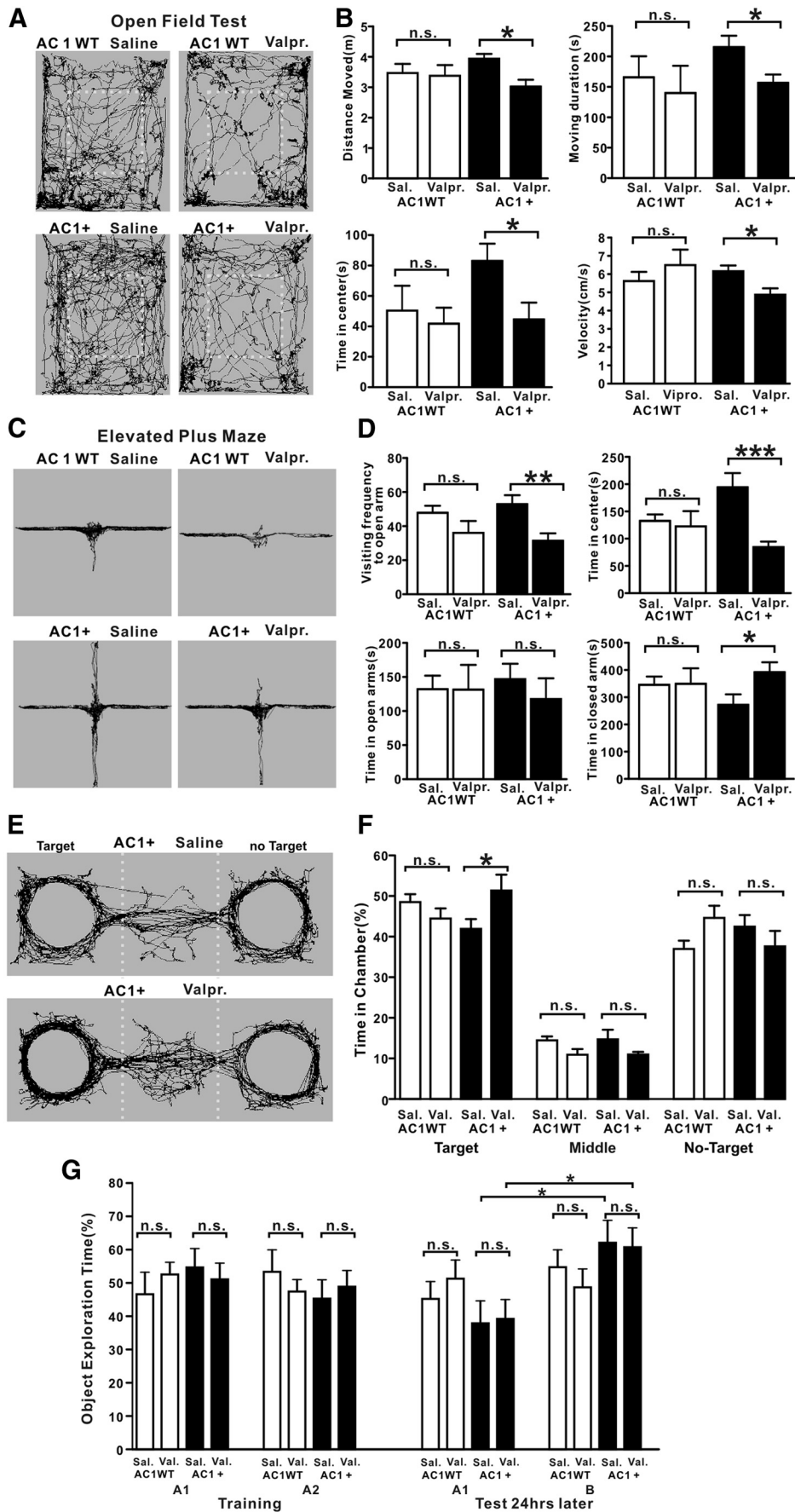
Figure 5. CA1 hippocampal neurons of AC1+ mice are more responsive. **A**, AC1+ mice have more prominent epileptic activity than AC1WT mice after injection of a subepileptic dose of kainate; $n = 9$ pairs, genotype effect, two-way ANOVA test; $F_{(1,80)} = 5.60$, $\#p < 0.05$. **B–D**, CA1 neurons of AC1+ mice show increased activation in response to foot-shock stimulation during training for contextual fear memory. **B**, *In vivo* calcium image. Left, Representative whole-field images of CA1 region under free-behaving mice using FFE. Right, Enlarged views of selected regions of interest (Brechtbühl et al., 2013), which show cell bodies of GCaMP6-expressing neurons in CA1 regions. Representative images of before, during, and after foot shock. **C**, The percentage of neurons responding to foot shock was increased in AC1+ mice. Neurons with calcium spikes upon a foot shock were counted as responding

shorter for AC1+ mice than WT controls (Fig. 4H). In contrast, AC1/8 DKO mice had longer latency to attack the intruder than WT mice (Fig. 4I). AC1+ mice have normal olfactory function as demonstrated in a habituation/dishabituation test using various odors (Fig. 4J). Collectively, these data indicate that AC1+ mice have a significant social dysfunction.

CA1 neurons of AC1+ mice demonstrate increased activation

We reasoned that overexpressing AC1 may increase neuronal activity by robust synaptic transmission caused by increased LTP (Wang et al., 2004) and impaired LTD (Wang and Zhang, 2012; Zhang and Wang, 2013). To test whether neurons in the brain of AC1+ mice are more responsive, we administered an epileptic agent, kainate (10 mg/kg, subepilepsy threshold dose), into both WT and AC1+ mice and examined seizure-like behaviors. AC1+ mice displayed more epileptic activity than WT mice after injection of a low dose of kainate (Fig. 5A), indicating that AC1+ mice are more sensitive to kainate acid. This suggests that neurons of AC1+ mice are more responsive to stimulation. To determine whether CA1 neurons of AC1+ mice are more responsive *in vivo* than WT mice to stimulation, we used FFE to perform deep-brain calcium imaging when mice were trained for contextual fear memory (Vincent et al., 2006). We virally delivered a genetically encoded calcium indicator, GCaMP6 into the CA1 region of AC1 WT and AC1+ mice (Fig. 5B–D). We then inserted a fiber fluorescence probe through a cannula to monitor the activity of CA1 neurons. FFE monitored the level of intracellular free calcium in the cell body of GCaMP6-expressing neurons in free-behaving mice (Fig. 5B). Upon foot-shock stimulation, the percentage of responding neurons in area CA1 (imaging

neurons; $n = 5$ pairs of mice, 12–36 neurons from each mouse were analyzed; $*p < 0.05$. **D**, Representative image of CA1 neurons of AC1+ mice stained with anti-GFP antibody (green, recognizing the GCaMP6). Only the hippocampal CA1 was infected with AAV1. The damaged tissue denotes track made by inserting imaging probe. **E–H**, Increased basal phosphorylation level of GluR1 of AMPA receptors at the p845 site (**E**, **F**) but not at the p831 site (**G**, **H**) in the hippocampus of AC1+ mice. Hippocampal lysates obtained from WT and AC1+ mice were probed for anti-GluR1 phosphorylation (anti-p-Ser845 and anti-p-Ser831 respectively) and total GluR1 levels respectively by Western blot analysis. Bar graph shows the quantification of the phospho-GluR1/GluR1 levels in wild-type littermates and AC1+ and is expressed as a percentage of WT littermates; $n = 5$ pairs; $*p < 0.05$; n.s., not significant.



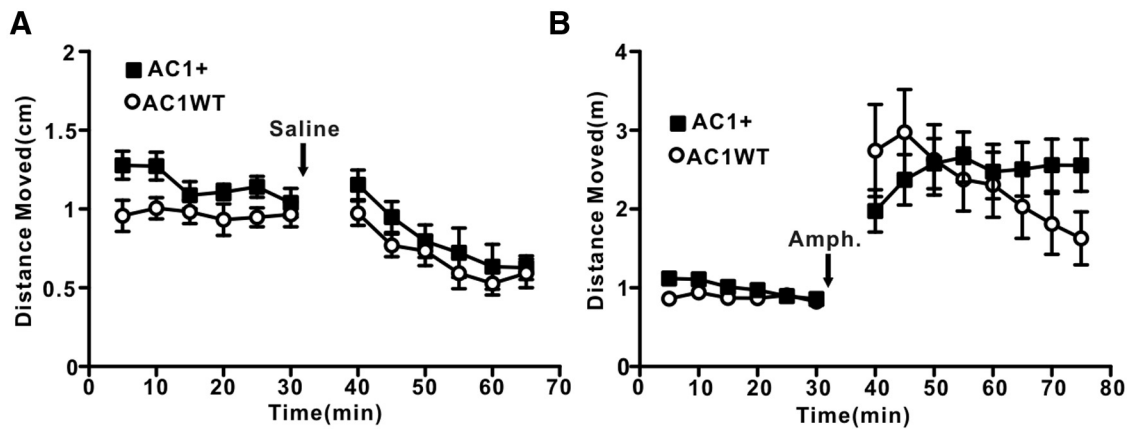


Figure 7. Amphetamine does not suppress the hyperactivity of AC1+ mice in an open field. Mice explored in an open field for 20 min before drug or saline treatment. The distance moved in an open field was plotted against exploration time before and after treatment. *A*, Saline-treated; $n = 7$ WT; $n = 7$ AC1+ mice. *B*, Amphetamine-treated (4 mg/kg, i.p.); $n = 10$ WT; $n = 10$ AC1+ mice. Genotype effect: $F_{(1,126)} = 0.03$, $p = 0.87$, repeated-measure, two-way ANOVA of data of post-treatment.

location shown in Fig. 5*D*) of AC1+ mice was greater than WT control mice (Fig. 5*C*). These data confirm that CA1 neurons of AC1+ mice are more active than WT mice.

Because AC1+ mice have increased cAMP and PKA activity in the brain (Wang et al., 2004), we examined the basal level of phosphorylation of the GluR1 subunit in AMPA receptors at Ser-845 (a PKA recognition site) and Ser-831 (a PKC and CaMKII recognition site; Shukla et al., 2007) in plasma membrane-enriched fractions of hippocampi from WT and AC1+ mice. Western blot analysis of hippocampal membrane fractions revealed a significant increase in basal phosphorylation at GluR1 Ser-845 in AC1+ mice compared with WT mice (Fig. 5*E,F*). However, hippocampal GluR1 Ser-831 phosphorylation did not display any significant difference between WT and AC1+ mice (Fig. 5*G,H*). Increased phosphorylation of GluR1 at Ser 845 of AMPA receptors enhances receptors conductance and membrane trafficking (Shukla et al., 2007). The increased activation of AMPA receptors is in line with the hyperactivity observed in AC1+ mice. These data are also consistent with the role of AC1 in synaptic plasticity (Wang and Zhang, 2012; Zhang and Wang, 2013).

Valproate decreases the hyperactivity and exploration activity of AC1+ mice

The hyperactivity of AC1+ mice is presumably caused by increased level of adenylyl cyclase, thus we tested whether val-

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Figure 6. Valproate reduces the hyperactive behaviors of AC1+ mice. *A, B*, Valproate reduced the hyperactivity of AC1+ mice in the open-field test. *A*, Representative exploratory tracks. *B*, The distance moved, the moving duration, time in the center, and moving velocity in AC1+ mice were decreased by valproate; $n = 7$ –10; $*p < 0.05$; n.s., not significant. *C, D*, Valproate reduced the exploration activity of AC1+ mice in the elevated plus test. *C*, Representative exploratory tracks in the elevated plus maze. *D*, The frequency visiting the open arm, the time in the center of AC1+ mice were significantly decreased, whereas the time in the closed arm of AC1+ mice were increased by valproate; $n = 7$ –11; $*p < 0.05$, $**p < 0.01$, $***p < 0.001$. *E, F*, Valproate slightly increased the sociability of AC1+ mice. *E*, Representative exploratory tracks of AC1+ mice injected with saline or with valproate in three-chamber sociability test. *F*, Percentage of time in each chamber. After valproate treatment, AC1+ mice spent more time to interact with target mouse than AC1+ mice injected with saline; $n = 7$ –9; $*p < 0.05$; n.s., not significant by unpaired Student's *t* test. *G*, Valproate does not affect the recognition memory of AC1+ mice in the novel-object recognition test. Mice were trained on day 1 for object A1 and A2, tested 1 h later for object A1 and B (1 h data not shown), and retested 24 h later for object A1 and B. AC1+ and WT mice are treated with saline or valproate respectively before experiment; $n = 5$ –9; n.s., not significant; $*p < 0.05$.

proate, a mood-stabilizing drug that can decrease intracellular cAMP (Gould et al., 2004; Chiu et al., 2013), corrects the behavioral abnormalities of AC1+ mice. Valproate decreases cAMP levels in the brain (Chen et al., 1996; Gould et al., 2004; Chiu et al., 2013) probably by stimulating cAMP phosphodiesterase activity (Gallagher et al., 2004). In the open-field test, valproate decreased locomotor hyperactivity of AC1+ mice to levels comparable with WT mice. The distance moved, the moving duration, time in the center and moving velocity of AC1+ mice were all decreased by valproate (Fig. 6*A,B*). In the elevated plus maze test, valproate suppressed exploratory behavior of AC1+ mice in the open arm. After injection of valproate, the visiting frequency to the open arm, the time in the center of AC1+ mice were strongly decreased, while the time in closed arm was increased (Fig. 6*C,D*). These data indicate that valproate mitigates the hyperactive behavior of AC1+ mice. Moreover, the sociability of AC1+ mice was slightly increased by valproate (Fig. 6*E,F*). These data indicate that the hyperactivity and reduced sociability of AC1+ mice can be corrected at least in part by valproate.

Overexpression of AC1 in the forebrain enhances recognition memory (Wang et al., 2004). Therefore, we tested whether valproate affects the novel-object recognition memory of the AC1+ mice. We found that both WT and AC1+ mice spent comparable times with each object during the training period, which was not changed by saline or valproate treatment. One of the original objects (A2) was replaced by a new object (B) 1 h after training. Both WT and AC1+ mice with either saline or valproate injection spent more time with the new object, indicating similar recognition memory 1 h after training. After 24 h, WT mice spent approximately similar time with each object no matter saline or valproate treatment. However, AC1+ mice still spent much more time exploring the object B 24 h after training with saline or valproate injection (Fig. 6*G*). These results confirm that AC1+ mice have stronger memory than WT mice and valproate does not suppress the recognition memory of AC1+ mice.

AC1+ mice exhibit hyperactive and impulsive behaviors, seemingly recapitulating endophenotypes of the predominantly hyperactive-impulsive subtype of human attention-deficit and hyperactive disorder (ADHD; Williams et al., 1999; Wolraich et al., 2005). To assess whether AC1+ mice is a mouse model for studying human ADHD, we treated AC1+ mice with amphetamine, a primary ADHD medicine. Amphetamine, as a psychostimulant for normal subjects, paradoxically suppresses the

hyperactivity of ADHD patients and ADHD animal models (Avale et al., 2004; Spencer, 2004). We found that amphetamine treatment (4 mg/kg, i.p.) increases the locomotor activity of both WT and AC1+ mice. Although the effect of amphetamine on AC1+ mice is slightly different from that of WT mice, the data clearly demonstrate that amphetamine does not suppress hyperactivity of AC1+ mice (Fig. 7). This result suggests that although AC1+ mice demonstrate hyperactivity/impulsivity phenotypes, they are not a mouse model for studying human ADHD.

Discussion

In this study, we report that overexpression of AC1 in the forebrain of mice causes hyperactive and impulsive behaviors, as well as reduced sociability. In contrast, AC1/8 DKO mice are hypoactive and exhibit increased sociability and reduced impulsivity. We also present evidence that the hyperactivity of AC1+ mice can be reduced by valproate.

AC1+ mice are hyperactive and lack behavioral inhibition

One of the most striking phenotypes exhibited by AC1+ mice are hyperactivity and lack of behavioral inhibition. AC1+ mice exhibited reduced anxiety when submitted to several behavioral paradigms. For example, in the elevated plus maze AC1+ spent more time in the open arm which indicates that they were much less anxious than WT mice about the risk of falling from the open arm. In the open-field test, AC1+ mice were less anxious and actively explored the open field. Moreover, when a novel object was put on the center of the open field, AC1+ mice investigated it much more frequently than WT mice. All of these behaviors indicate less concern about potentially risky behavior. When AC1+ mice were exposed to TMT, an odor signal suggesting the presence of a predator, they did not tend to avoid TMT, indicating that AC1+ mice may not be attentive to possible risks.

In the CAR test, a test for impulsivity (Matsuoka et al., 2005; Kuroda et al., 2011; Yamashita et al., 2013), AC1+ mice are more active than WT mice and examined the cliff more frequently than WT mice. This risk-taking behavior led to more falls from the platform. In addition, in the resident/intruder aggression assay, AC1+ resident mice have shorter latency to attack a male intruder than WT mice. Collectively, AC1+ mice demonstrate deficits of behavioral inhibition. The phenotypes of AC1+ mice are in agreement with the molecular features of AC1. AC1 is stimulated by activity-dependent calcium increases which cause synaptic potentiation and increased neuronal activity (Villacres et al., 1998; Wong et al., 1999; Wei et al., 2002; Wang et al., 2004). We postulate that increased levels of AC1 in the forebrain of AC1+ mice probably overamplify intracellular calcium signals.

The mechanism for the hyperactivity/impulsivity of AC1+ mice is not clear. One plausible explanation would be that increasing AC1 activity leads to enhanced cAMP signaling and increased synaptic activity. At the synaptic level, cAMP is known to modulate several neuronal targets, including transmitter receptors and transcription factors that ultimately lead to new gene expression and protein synthesis (Xia and Storm, 2005). The cAMP-signal transduction system directly or indirectly influences long-term changes in synaptic transmission including LTP. Here we also present supporting evidence that phosphorylation of GluR1 at Ser 845 of AMPA receptors is amplified when AC1 activity is increased. AC1 is the prominent form of calcium-stimulated adenylyl cyclase expressed specifically in the nervous system and it plays a crucial role in synaptic plasticity. AC1/8 DKO mice have impaired LTP throughout the CNS (Villacres et al.,

1998; Wong et al., 1999). In contrast, increased AC1 expression in AC1+ mice facilitates LTP in the hippocampus (Wang et al., 2004). More interestingly, AC1+ mice do not show LTD at the hippocampal Shaffer collateral-CA1 synapses (Wang and Zhang, 2012; Zhang and Wang, 2013), suggesting that increased AC1 causes inhibition of synaptic depression. Therefore, we propose that increased AC1 expression may alter the excitation/inhibition balance in the brain thereby promoting LTP and inhibiting LTD, which may consequently cause hyperactivity/impulsivity in behaviors.

Sociability is reduced in AC1+ mice

AC1+ mice were also submitted to a set of social behavioral tests including the three-chamber sociability test, social-choice test, reciprocal interaction test, and the resident-intruder aggression test. In the three-chamber sociability test, social choice test, and reciprocal interaction test, AC1+ mice spent significant less time than controls in interacting with the target mouse. In addition, AC1+ mice are more aggressive toward a home intruder than WTs. However, AC1+ mice exhibit normal olfaction. These results indicate that although AC1+ mice are more active, they are less social. Interestingly, AC1/8 DKO mice spend more time interacting with conspecifics and are less aggressive. Collectively these data suggest that increasing calcium-stimulated adenylyl cyclase in the brain enhances memory but it decreases sociability.

Because mice lacking calmodulin-stimulated adenylyl cyclase cannot form long-term memory (Villacres et al., 1998; Wong et al., 1999) and AC1 is neurospecific (Xia et al., 1993), drugs that enhance AC1 activity have the potential to enhance memory. Indeed, AC1+ mice have superior memory compared with WT mice (Wang et al., 2004). However, the data reported in this study introduces a cautionary note. Drugs that increase the activity of AC1 may have serious side effects including hyperactivity, impulsivity, and social dysfunction. Therefore, attempts to increase memory using any drug that increase cAMP signaling in the brain by stimulating adenylyl cyclase activity or inhibiting cAMP phosphodiesterase activity have the potential to cause impulsivity or impaired behavioral inhibition.

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