structural stability and intrinsic dynamics in POPC bilayers with a total of 15.6 μmol molecular dynamics simulations. Cross-validation experiments were also carried out. These include (i) performing window-exchange umbrella sampling simulations with the inter-helical distances as the reaction coordinates to find the energetically most favorable human GHR TM dimer structures and (ii) extracting structural information from H1-N15 HSQC NMR spectra. The results of the three independent experiments well complement each other. The active and inactive states of human GHR adopt different structural features. The difference is subtle, mostly in the interfacial residues, and is presumably caused by rotation and piston motions of the TM helices.

605-Pos Board B374
Probing the Function of EGFR/EphA2 Interaction using Ligand Induced Heterodimerization
Michael P. Coyle1,2,3, Qian Xu1, Matthew B. Francis1,2, Jay T. Groves1,2
1HHMI, Department of Chemistry, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA.
2Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA, USA.
3Department of Chemistry, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA.
Heterooligomerization of cell signaling molecules has been observed in many signal transduction systems and is thought to affect signaling output. For example, in the EGFR and Eph families of receptor tyrosine kinases, both homotypic and heterotypic interactions modulate receptor function. We hypothesize that these interactions alter the molecular composition of signaling clusters, which drives changes in cell behavior. Unfortunately, current experimental methods do not allow control of heterotypic interactions between receptors. We have developed a method to form heterodimers of cell signaling ligands on supported lipid bilayers and have employed this approach to study receptor cross-talk between EGFR and EphA2. These receptors are often overexpressed in metastatic breast cancer cells and have been reported to physically interact. We are currently probing the effects of EphA2 and EGFR co-clustering in MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells using this directed heterodimerization approach. We have found that presentation of the ligands for these receptors in the form of a heterodimer modulates downstream signaling, and we will discuss these results.

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Super-Resolution Imaging of IgE Receptor Clustering Initiated by Structurally-Defined Ligands in RbL Mast Cells
Sarah A. Shelby1, Christopher V. Kety1, Sarah L. Veatch2, David A. Holowka1, Barbara A. Baird1
1Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA.
2University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.
Cross-linking of IgE bound to its receptor, FceRI, by multivalent ligands initiates a transmembrane signaling cascade that activates allergic and inflammatory responses in mast cells. Super-resolution fluorescence localization microscopy offers unique potential for quantitative nanoscale imaging of the distribution and ligand-induced redistribution of FceRI. We use structurally-defined trivalent ligands specific for anti-dinitrophenyl (DNP) IgE, for which the ligand size and valency is precisely controlled, to cross-link IgE-FceRI. These ligands are based on a Y-shaped double-stranded DNA scaffold with DNP groups conjugated to each of the three 5’ ends. The distance between DNP groups is fixed by the length of single-stranded oligonucleotides annealed to form the Y-shaped structure. As described previously for these Y5-DNP ligands, (Sil et al., 2007, ACS Chem Biol) some (but not other) cell signaling pathways depend on inter-DNP distances, ranging from 5 – 15 nm, which constrain the proximity of ligand-bound IgE-receptors. We are investigating the organization and dynamics of ligand-induced IgE-receptor clustering to gain new information on inter-DNP distances, ranging from 5 – 15 nm, which constrain the proximity of ligand-bound IgE-receptors. We are investigating the organization and dynamics of ligand-induced IgE-receptor clustering to gain new information on interactions of cross-linked IgE-receptors within the membrane that accompany or limit transmembrane signaling. We image fixed and live cells and compare Y5-DNP, ligands with the heterogeneous ligand, DNP20-BSA. IgE is labeled with a photo-switchable probe and IgE-receptor clustering is quantified in super-resolution images with spatial correlation functions. In living cells, we record single-receptor trajectories, and receptor mobility is monitored in real time through analysis of populations of tracks. Both DNP20-BSA and Y5-DNP cause a sharp decrease in mobility upon ligand addition, but produce IgE-receptor clusters that appear distinctive in size and density. Y5-DNP—stimulated changes occur on a shorter time scale when matched for DNP concentration with DNP20-BSA. Continuing work with Y5-DNP, ligands will probe clustering-dependent IgE-receptor association with membrane structures and downstream signaling partners.

607-Pos Board B376
Multi-Color Single Particle Tracking of QD-IgE-FceRI: Directly Correlating Oligomer Size with Receptor Mobility and Signaling
Patrick J. Cutler1, Michael D. Malik1, Bridget S. Wilson1, Keith A. Lidke1, Diane S. Lidke1
1Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA.
2University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.
IgE binds to its high affinity receptor, FceRI, expressed on mast cells and basophils. Crosslinking of IgE-FceRI complexes leads to intracellular signaling and eventual immune responses. Although much is known about this receptor family, the precise mechanism of signal initiation remains elusive. Previous single particle tracking (SPT) experiments have revealed that small, mobile receptors are signaling competent. However, high-speed SPT had typically been limited to two-color tracking, such that aggregates larger than dimers could not be distinguished. In order to better understand the relationship between receptor mobility, aggregate size and signaling, we have developed a novel high-speed hyper-spectral line-scanning microscope (HSM) to perform multi-color SPT (mcSPT) of up to 8 colors of quantum dot (QD)-labeled IgE-FceRI simultaneously on the surface of mast cells. The HSM is unique in its capability to acquire a 4D image (x,y,t,λ) of ~30 microns × 128 spectral channels at ~30 fps. This combined with the advantageous characteristics of QDs (high quantum yield, single source excitation, narrow emission spectra) provides an exceptional platform for mcSPT. Using the HSM, we can determine receptor aggregate size from the spectral signature, and then correlate aggregate size with mobility. Comparison of aggregate mobility in the presence of the tyrosine kinase inhibitor, PP2, reveals the influence of adaptor protein recruitment on mobility. The HSM also allows for simultaneous measurement of calcium flux (Fluo-4) while performing mcSPT, providing a direct readout of signaling in response to receptor aggregate formation and mobility. These experiments not only address important questions in IgE-FceRI signal initiation, but also provide new biophysical insight into the long-standing debate over the relationship between receptor oligomer size and mobility in the plasma membrane.

608-Pos Board B377
Single Particle Tracking using Fluorogenic Activating Peptides to Investigate FceRI Signal Dynamics
Samantha L. Schwartz1, Cheryl A. Telmer1, Marcel P. Bruchez1,2, Keith A. Lidke1, Diane S. Lidke1
1University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA.
2Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.
The high affinity IgE receptor, FceRI, serves as the primary immunoreceptor on mast cells and basophils. Cross-linking of IgE-bound FceRI via multivalent antigen induces a signaling cascade that ultimately results in the release of key mediators for an allergic response. Priming with IgE has been traditionally thought of as a passive event, yet certain forms of IgE termed ‘cytokinergic’ IgEs (cIgE) have been shown to induce activation independent of antigen. The mechanism of action of cIgEs remains unclear. To determine whether changes in receptor mobility are associated with cIgE activation, we have developed a fluorogenic activating peptide (FAP)-tagged FceRI-subunit for single particle tracking. FAPs are genetically expressible tags that bind an endogenous fluorogenic dye. The titration of the fluorogenic dye allows the labeling density to be adjusted at the time of imaging without the need to photo-bleach or photoactivate a population of dye molecules. We find that even in the presence of concentrations of cIgE that induce robust signaling, FceRI remains highly mobile. We take advantage of the FAP system to additionally investigate the mobility of the downstream scaffolding protein Linker for Activation of T-cells (LAT). The mechanism through which FceRI crosslinking propagates signaling to LAT remains a topic of debate as LAT has been previously shown to form clusters segregated from FceRI after activation. However, these studies were carried out using high concentrations of multivalent allergen that resulted in larger immobile FceRI aggregates. The far-red emission of the MG2P fluorogen allows for simultaneous tracking of FAP-LAT mobility with respect to FceRI labeled with Alexa488-IgE. Using FAP-tagged LAT, we investigate how LAT mobility and distribution change over a range of activating conditions, in which FceRI goes from mobile to immobile crosslinked aggregates.

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Single Molecule Studies of Key Processes during the Initiation of the Adaptive Immune Response
Kristina A. Ganzinger1, Ricardo A. Fernandez1,2, James McColl1, Steven F. Lee1, Matthieu G.S. Palayret1, Peter Jönsson1, Simon J. Davis2, David Klenerman1,2
1Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom.
2Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine and MRC Human Immunology Unit, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom.
T cell activation is pivotal to the initiation of the adaptive immune response which confers resistance to pathogens and plays a role in numerous diseases. Over the past decades, key protein interactions contributing to T cell activation via antigen recognition have been characterized in molecular detail, in particular the interaction of T-cell receptors (TCR) with antigenic peptide bound to