

Cryo-electron microscopy structure of the lysosomal calcium-permeable channel TRPML3

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The modulation of ion channel activity by lipids is increasingly recognized as a fundamental component of cellular signalling. The transient receptor potential mucolipin (TRPML) channel family belongs to the TRP superfamily^{1,2} and is composed of three members: TRPML1–TRPML3. TRPMLs are the major Ca^{2+} -permeable channels on late endosomes and lysosomes (LEL). They regulate the release of Ca^{2+} from organelles, which is important for various physiological processes, including organelle trafficking and fusion³. Loss-of-function mutations in the *MCOLN1* gene, which encodes TRPML1, cause the neurodegenerative lysosomal storage disorder mucopolidosis type IV, and a gain-of-function mutation (Ala419Pro) in TRPML3 gives rise to the varitint-waddler (Va) mouse phenotype^{4–6}. Notably, TRPML channels are activated by the low-abundance and LEL-enriched signalling lipid phosphatidylinositol-3,5-bisphosphate ($\text{PtdIns}(3,5)\text{P}_2$), whereas other phosphoinositides such as $\text{PtdIns}(4,5)\text{P}_2$, which is enriched in plasma membranes, inhibit TRPMLs^{7,8}. Conserved basic residues at the N terminus of the channel are important for activation by $\text{PtdIns}(3,5)\text{P}_2$ and inhibition by $\text{PtdIns}(4,5)\text{P}_2$ ⁸. However, owing to a lack of structural information, the mechanism by which TRPML channels recognize $\text{PtdIns}(3,5)\text{P}_2$ and increase their Ca^{2+} conductance remains unclear. Here we present the cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) structure of a full-length TRPML3 channel from the common marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*) at an overall resolution of 2.9 Å. Our structure reveals not only the molecular basis of ion conduction but also the unique architecture of TRPMLs, wherein the voltage sensor-like domain is linked to the pore via a cytosolic domain that we term the mucolipin domain. Combined with functional studies, these data suggest that the mucolipin domain is responsible for $\text{PtdIns}(3,5)\text{P}_2$ binding and subsequent channel activation, and that it acts as a ‘gating pulley’ for lipid-dependent TRPML gating.

Our studies used TRPML3 from the common marmoset *Callithrix jacchus* (TRPML3_{WT}, 97% sequence identity to human TRPML3; Extended Data Fig. 1) harbouring a putative glycosylation knockout mutation (Asn138Gln, TRPML3_{NQ}). Whole-cell electrophysiological recording shows that TRPML3_{WT} is fully functional and that the Asn138Gln mutation does not appreciably affect channel function^{6,9–11} (Extended Data Fig. 2). Single particle cryo-EM analyses produced a 3D reconstruction of TRPML3_{NQ} at an overall resolution of approximately 2.9 Å (See Methods and Extended Data Fig. 3), which allowed for *de novo* model building (Fig. 1, Extended Data Figs 3, 4 and Extended Data Table 1). Several non-protein densities were resolved in the cryo-EM map, which we assigned as lipid molecules (Fig. 1a, Extended Data Fig. 5). Lipid molecules were observed at analogous sites in the structures of two other TRP channels, polycystin-2 (PKD2)^{12,13} and TRPV1¹⁴.

TRPML3 can be divided into three domains: the extracytosolic domain (ECD), the transmembrane channel domain (TMD), and the cytosolic domain (Fig. 1). The ECD comprises two β -sheets and two

extracytosolic helices, which tetramerize into a ring that caps the extracytosolic side of the channel (Fig. 1d), and is structurally similar to the ECDs of TRPML1¹⁵ and PKD2^{12,13,16} (Extended Data Fig. 6). Unlike PKD2, in which the ECD interacts extensively with the TMD, there are minimal interactions between the ECD and TMD in TRPML3^{12,13,16} (Extended Data Fig. 6). Three histidines within the ECD have been shown by mutagenesis to play an important role in pH sensing by TRPML3⁹. The locations of these critical residues, at the ECD–ECD and ECD–TMD interfaces, suggest that pH sensing may involve histidine-mediated structural rearrangements (Fig. 1d).

The architecture of the TRPML3 TMD resembles that of bacterial voltage-gated Na^+ channel, comprising a domain-swapped homotetramer with a voltage sensor-like domain (VSLD) made up of transmembrane segments S1–S4 and a pore formed by S5, S6, and two pore helices (P1 and P2) (Fig. 1e). The TMD has three prominent features. First, TRPML3 does not contain a TRP domain, a hallmark of most TRP channels^{17–20}. Second, S4 in TRPML3 is entirely α -helical, in marked contrast with other TRP channels that contain a 3_{10} -helix^{13,17–19,21} (Extended Data Fig. 6). The 3_{10} -helix appears to confer mobility for vanilloid-dependent conformational changes on TRPV1¹⁸. Third, multiple transmembrane segments protrude out of the membrane, with S1 extending about 18 Å into the lysosomal lumen and S2 extending about 24 Å into the cytosol (IS2) (Fig. 1a, b). The S1 extension establishes a larger interaction interface with the pore than seen in TRPV1, TRPV2 or PKD2^{13,18,19} (Extended Data Fig. 6).

The cytosolic domain is a defining feature of TRPMLs (Fig. 1f). IS2 interacts with short intracellular helices connected to S1 and S3 (IS1a, IS1b and IS3). Notably, a short helix (IS6), which is connected to S6, interacts with IS1, IS2 and IS3 to form an intracellular helical bundle that we refer to as the mucolipin domain (MLD; Fig. 1).

The tetrameric ECD ring forms a vestibule above the transmembrane domain with central and lateral openings, both of which are too large to function as barriers for ion flow (Extended Data Fig. 6). The selectivity filter is located between the two pore helices, formed by the backbone carbonyls of Asn456 and Gly457 and the sidechains of Asp458 and Asp459 (Fig. 2 and Extended Data Fig. 7). Notably, we observed three cryo-EM density peaks ($2.9\text{--}9.9\sigma$) within the selectivity filter that we term sites 1–3. Owing to the ion composition in the sample (150 mM Na^+), we tentatively assigned these peaks as sodium ions (Fig. 2). The minimum radius of the selectivity filter is 2.2 Å, which is wide enough to accommodate partly hydrated Ca^{2+} or Na^+ . The hydrated site 1 ion is coordinated by the carboxylate groups of Asp458 and Asp459, site 2 mainly by the backbone carbonyl groups of Gly457, and site 3 mainly by the backbone carbonyl groups of Asn456. There are three additional putative ion peaks in the cavity below the selectivity filter, which we term sites 4–6.

The C-terminal portions of the four S6 helices come into close proximity and form a constriction we term the S6 gate (Fig. 2).

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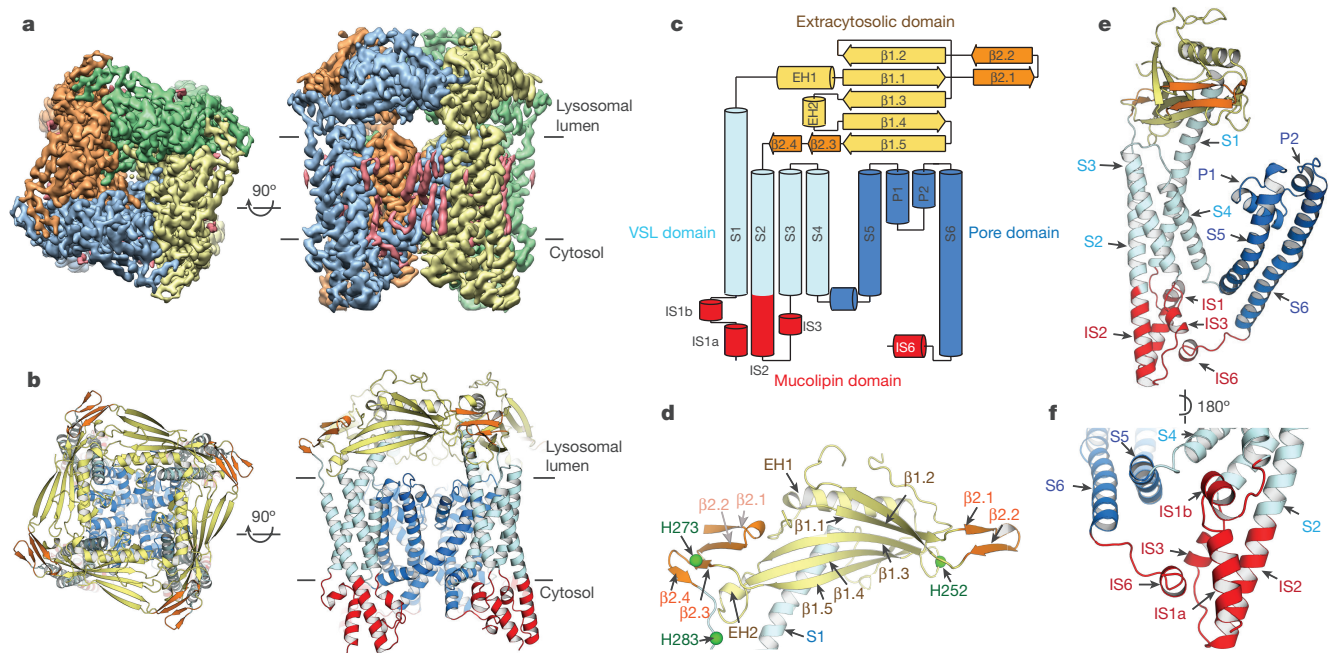


Figure 1 | Overall topology of the TRPML3 channel. **a, b**, Cryo-EM reconstruction (**a**) and model (**b**) of TRPML3 viewed from the extracytosolic side (left) and from the membrane plane (right). **c**, Topology diagram delineating the protein domains and their secondary

structures. **d–f**, Detailed view of the ECD (histidines implicated in pH sensing indicated by green spheres) (**d**), a TRPML3 protomer (**e**) and the mucolipin domain (**f**).

The minimum radius of the S6 gate at the side chains of Ile498 is about 1 Å, allowing the passage of dehydrated ions only. This conformation may represent a closed state, although a resting state that allows a low basal current at negative potential cannot be ruled out (Extended Data Fig. 2). A π helix—a rare helix with a wider turn (4.1 residues per turn) than an α -helix (3.6 residues per turn)—is observed in the middle of S6, introducing a kink that redirects the C-terminal end of the helix towards the pore to form the S6 gate. Several TRP channels contain a π helix in S6^{13,17,22}, and this structural feature has been proposed to function as a hinge that endows S6 with a gating capacity¹⁹.

TRPML3 is highly selective for Ca^{2+} over K^{+} , and appears to be more selective for Ca^{2+} over Na^{+} , but the molecular basis of its ion selectivity is not well understood⁹. Unlike Ca^{2+} or Na^{+} , K^{+} would fit in the selectivity filter only in its dehydrated form and cannot optimally interact with the selectivity filter; this is likely to contribute to the high selectivity of TRPML3 for Ca^{2+} over K^{+} . Notably, the configuration of the selectivity filter, which is composed of the two backbone carbonyls and two aspartate residues per subunit, is reminiscent of the engineered Ca^{2+} -selective voltage-gated ion channel $\text{Ca}_v\text{Ab}^{23}$. High-resolution structures of $\text{Ca}_v\text{Ab}^{23}$ and the bacterial sodium channel Na_vM^{24} reveal selectivity filters containing three ion-binding sites, similar to that of TRPML3 (Fig. 2). In both Ca_vAb and Na_vM , the electrostatic energetics of site 1 was suggested to be important for conferring ion selectivity^{23,24}. Consistent with this idea, mutating Asp459 to alanine rendered TRPML3 less selective and permeant for calcium²⁵. In the TRPML3 reconstruction, the Na^{+} density peak at site 1 is appreciably weaker than those at sites 2 and 3. Because sites 2 and 3 are unlikely to be occupied at the same time, owing to their proximity (2.8 Å), approximately one Na^{+} ion can occupy the selectivity filter (at either site 2 or site 3), while two Ca^{2+} ions could occupy the selectivity filter simultaneously (at sites 1 and 2 or at sites 1 and 3), further contributing to the Ca^{2+} selectivity of TRPML3. We also suggest that sites 4 and 5 are occupied in an alternating fashion along with sites 2 and 3, respectively. The main populated states for Na^{+} ions in the selectivity filter are summarized in Fig. 2c.

In contrast to TRPV1 and TRPV2, the selectivity filter of TRPML3 is part of an extensive structural network that resembles the selectivity

filters of Ca_vAb and Na_vM , which do not act as gates. Therefore, we propose that the S6 gate is solely responsible for channel gating in TRPML3.

Using isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC), we found that dioc-tanoyl (diC₈)-PtdIns(3,5)P₂ binds to TRPML3_{NQ} with a dissociation constant (K_d) of 2.5 μM (Fig. 3d). There is a large pocket between the VSLD and the MLD, formed by IS1a, IS1b and IS2, with an entrance lined by basic amino acids (Fig. 3). Distinct sets of these residues in IS1a and IS1b have been implicated in binding of PtdIns(3,5)P₂ and PtdIns(4,5)P₂ by TRPML1^{7,8}. PtdIns(3,5)P₂ occupies this pocket in our docking studies with the headgroup positioned at the pocket entrance (Extended Data Fig. 5e, f). Point mutations in the putative PtdIns(3,5)P₂ binding site (Arg58Ala, Lys62Ala, Tyr342Ala and Arg305Ala) result in a substantial reduction in diC₈-PtdIns(3,5)P₂ binding and a triple mutation (Lys52Ala/Arg58Ala/Lys62Ala) results in no measurable binding by ITC (Fig. 3d, Extended Data Fig. 2, Extended Data Table 2).

Electrophysiological recordings from lysosomes showed that the Arg58Ala point mutation substantially reduced the activation of TRPML3 current by PtdIns(3,5)P₂ and the triple mutant (Lys52Ala/Arg58Ala/Arg62Ala) showed no PtdIns(3,5)P₂-mediated activation (Fig. 3e, f and Extended Data Fig. 2). Notably, a point mutation of Arg305 (Arg305Ala), a residue located on S2 that has not been previously implicated in PtdIns(3,5)P₂ binding^{7,8}, abolished PtdIns(3,5)P₂-mediated activation (Fig. 3e, f). To test whether the effect of the Arg305Ala mutation is due to altered expression or targeting of TRPML3, we introduced the gain-of-function mutation Ala419Pro¹⁰ to the Arg305Ala mutant. The Ala419Pro mutation probably locks S6 in an open conformation owing to the position of Ala419 near the π -helix on S6 (Extended Data Fig. 8). The Arg305Ala/Ala419Pro mutant generated substantial inwardly rectifying currents in the presence or absence of PtdIns(3,5)P₂ (Fig. 3e, f), suggesting that the Arg305Ala is properly expressed and the Ala419Pro mutation bypasses PtdIns(3,5)P₂-dependent activation. Together, our data show that the pocket of the MLD serves as a PtdIns(3,5)P₂ binding site, and that interaction of PtdIns(3,5)P₂ with Arg305 in S2 may be key to activation of TRPML3.

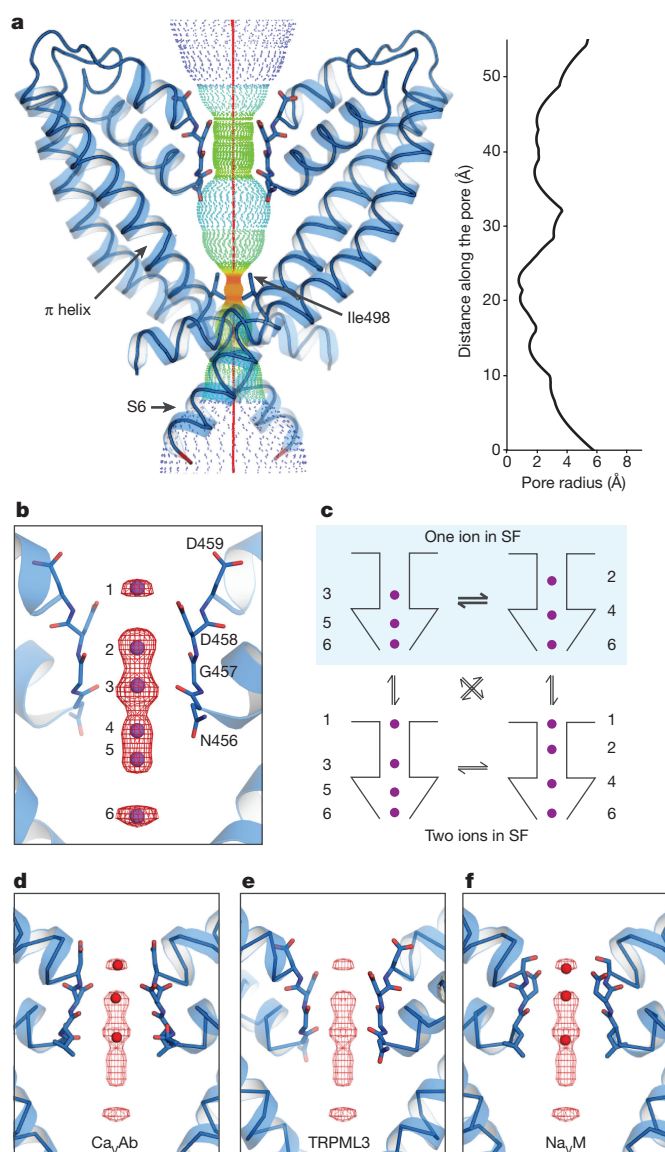


Figure 2 | Pore and selectivity filter structure. **a**, Radius along the permeation pathway. **b**, Six sodium ions (purple) were built into cryo-EM density peaks (red mesh). **c**, Proposed main sodium-occupied states, with most populated states highlighted in blue. SF, selectivity filter. **d–f**, Selectivity filter comparison with Ca_vAb (PDB ID: 5KLB²³) (**d**) and Na_vM (PDB ID: 5BZB²⁴) (**f**), with the TRPML3 ion densities shown as red mesh (**e**), with atomic coordinates of respective ions shown as red spheres.

IS1a, IS2 and IS3, which form the core of the MLD, create a docking site for three conserved hydrophobic residues from IS6 (Leu521, Phe524 and Ile525) (Fig. 3c). The architecture of the MLD and its linkage to S6 via IS6 appear to enable direct communication of PtdInsP₂ binding to the S6 gate. Mutation of Phe524 to alanine substantially reduced PtdIns(3,5)P₂-mediated TRPML3 currents in lysosomal electrophysiological recordings (Fig. 3e, f). The introduction of Ala419Pro into the Phe524Ala mutant restored the channel current, confirming proper channel assembly and trafficking (Fig. 3e, f).

Together, our findings reveal the structural basis for ion conduction by TRPML3, and suggest a model in which TRPML gating may be controlled by discriminative binding of different PtdInsP₂ species. We speculate that binding of PtdIns(3,5)P₂ induces a conformational change in S2, which pulls on S6 via the MLD to open the S6 gate. By contrast, binding of PtdIns(4,5)P₂ probably causes a different S2 movement that leads to gate closure (Fig. 3g). We propose that S2 is the primary mobile unit associated with phosphoinositide binding

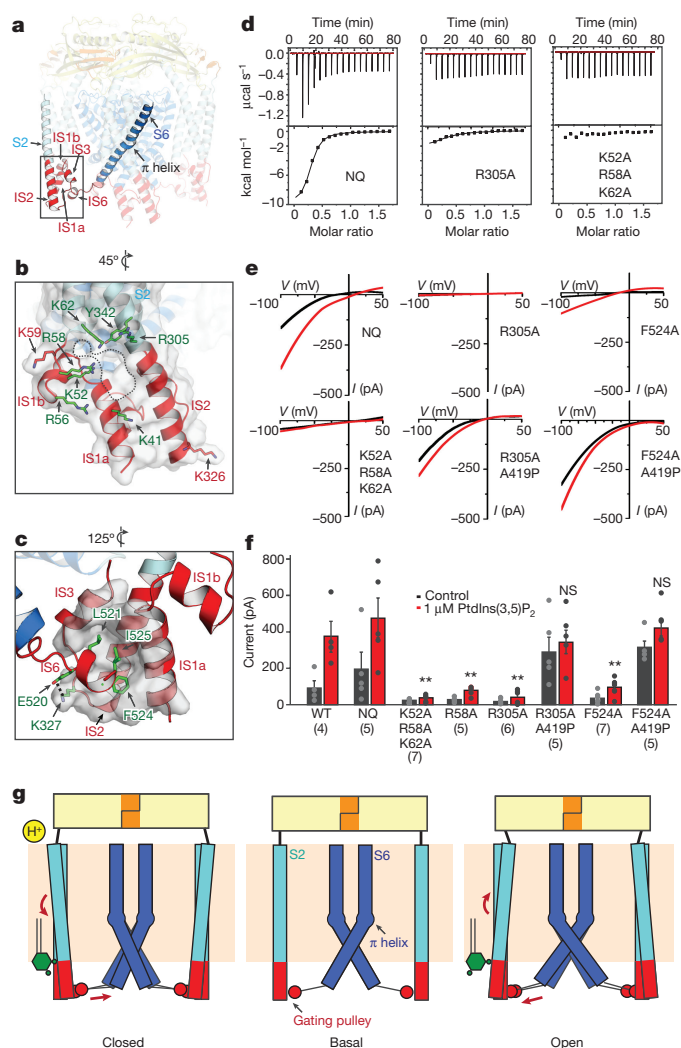


Figure 3 | Putative PtdInsP₂ binding site and proposed gating pulley mechanism. **a, b**, The putative PtdInsP₂ binding site is located within a pocket of the MLD (**a**) where many basic residues (green) localize (**b**). **c**, IS6 fits tightly into a hydrophobic pocket formed by IS1a, IS3 and IS2; key residues shown in green. **d**, Mutations of the binding site substantially reduce diC₈-PtdIns(3,5)P₂ binding. Representative ITC data of three technical replicates; see Extended Data Fig. 8 for details. **e, f**, Whole lysosomal current–voltage relationships (**e**) and current amplitudes at –100 mV (**f**), in the presence and absence of PtdIns(3,5)P₂. Data are presented as mean ± s.e.m., with each individual data point overlaying the bar. Number of lysosomes recorded (technical replicates) are in parentheses. WT, wild type. Statistical tests were performed to compare the sizes of PtdIns(3,5)P₂-activated currents in the mutants with those in TRPML3_{NQ}. ***P* < 0.01, two-tailed Student's *t*-test; NS, not significant. *P* values: 0.0007 for Lys52Ala/Arg58Ala/Lys62Ala, 0.007 for Arg58Ala, 0.002 for Arg305Ala, 0.002 for Phe524Ala. Confidence intervals (95%): 232.8 (low)/642.7 (high) for Lys52Ala/Arg58Ala/Lys62Ala, 139.4/650.5 for Arg58Ala, 202.3/660.4 for Arg305Ala, 168.1/585.7 for Phe524Ala. **g**, A model by which the MLD (red) propagates signals from the ECD or PtdInsP₂ (green) binding to the S6 gate. Protons (yellow) and PtdIns(4,5)P₂ induce a conformational change in S2 that relays through the gating pulley (MLD) to bending of S6 at the π -helix to close the pore, while PtdIns(3,5)P₂ binding induces a distinct change in S2 that leads to pore opening.

and that the MLD acts as a gating pulley, based on our findings that (i) Arg305 in S2 appears to be important for binding of and activation by PtdIns(3,5)P₂; (ii) S2 is connected to the MLD as a continuous helix (IS2); (iii) the facts that S1 interacts extensively with the pore and S4 is entirely α -helical make these two helices unlikely candidates as a mobile unit; and (iv) interaction of Phe524 in IS6 with the MLD

appears to be important for PtdIns(3,5)P₂-dependent activation of the channel. Our proposed gating pulley model is based on several assumptions and further study of PtdInsP₂-bound TRPML structures will be required to test this model. Finally, given the high sequence conservation, the PtdInsP₂-dependent gating mechanism is likely to be conserved between TRPML1 and TRPML3 (Extended Data Fig. 1), with our structure providing the framework to elucidate the molecular basis of mutations that cause mucopolipidosis type IV (ML-IV)^{26–29} (Extended Data Fig. 8).

Online Content Methods, along with any additional Extended Data display items and Source Data, are available in the online version of the paper; references unique to these sections appear only in the online paper.

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Supplementary Information is available in the online version of the paper.

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Author Contributions M.H. conducted biochemical optimization of TRPML3 for structure determination and model building under the guidance of S.-Y.L. M.A.H. conducted all electron microscopy experiments and the single-particle 3D reconstruction under the guidance of G.C.L. J.W. performed all the lysosome electrophysiology recordings under the guidance of D.R. Y.S. and W.F.B. carried out PtdIns(3,5)P₂ binding and whole-cell patch recordings, respectively, under the guidance of S.-Y.L. S.-Y.L., G.C.L., D.R., M.H. and M.A.H. wrote the paper.

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METHODS

No statistical methods were used to predetermine sample size. The experiments were not randomized, and investigators were not blinded to allocation during experiments and outcome assessment.

Protein expression and purification. To identify a stable TRPML3 orthologue for structure determination, 31 orthologues were subjected to an expression screen. Genes were codon-optimized for expression in *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Sf9) cells. Mutant constructs were prepared using the Quikchange mutagenesis kit (Agilent). For expression, constructs were cloned into a pFastBac vector with a C-terminal FLAG- and His-tag, cleavable by PreScission Protease (PPX). Constructs were transformed into DH10Bac *Escherichia coli* cells for bacmid preparation, which were isolated from 2 ml overnight cultures by isopropanol precipitation. Virus was prepared according to the manufacturer's manual (Invitrogen, Bac-to-Bac). Protein was expressed in Sf9 cells at a cell density of 1.5 Ml^{-1} and grown at 27°C for 60–65 h. Cells were harvested by centrifugation at $1,710 \text{ g}$ and resuspended in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mg ml^{-1} iodoacetamide, 14.3 mM β -mercaptoethanol, 1 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ leupeptin, 1.5 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ pepstatin, 0.66 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ aprotinin and 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride). Cells were lysed by homogenization or sonication (3×30 pulses) and protein was extracted in 40 mM dodecyl maltopyranoside (DDM) and 4 mM cholesteryl hemisuccinate (CHS) Tris salt (Anatrace) for 1 h at 4°C under gentle agitation. The insoluble fraction was removed by centrifugation. Anti-FLAG M2 resin (Sigma-Aldrich) was applied to the lysate and protein binding performed for 1 h at 4°C under gentle agitation. The resin was packed onto a column and washed with 5 column volumes of DDM buffer (20 mM Tris pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM DDM, 0.1 mM CHS and 2 mM DTT) and 10 column volumes of DM wash buffer (20 mM Tris pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 4 mM decyl maltopyranoside (DDM), 0.1 mM CHS and 2 mM DTT). Protein was eluted with 5 column volumes of DDM buffer supplemented with 100 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ FLAG peptide. The protein was concentrated to 1 mg ml^{-1} and the tag was cut overnight with PPX at 4°C . Protein was exchanged into DM buffer by concentration and 10 times dilution in DM buffer. Subsequently, the protein was applied to a Superose-6 size exclusion column in DM buffer. Peak fractions were concentrated and PMAL-C8 was added at 1:3 mass ratio of TRPML3:PMAL-C8 and incubated overnight. Biobeads were added (15 mg ml^{-1}) and incubated for 4 h at 4°C . A final size exclusion chromatography step was performed in HEPES pH 7.4, 75 mM NaCl and 75 mM KCl to remove excess amphipols.

EM sample preparation. For negatively-stained TRPML3, 4 μl amphipol-solubilized protein (0.04 mg ml^{-1}) was applied to a freshly glow-discharged 400 Cu-Rh Maxtaform grid (Electron Microscopy Services) that had been coated with a thin layer of carbon. After incubation on grid for $\sim 90 \text{ s}$, excess solution was wicked away using Whatman #1 filter paper and 5 μl $\sim 1\%$ (w/v) uranyl formate solution was immediately applied directly to the grid. After $\sim 10 \text{ s}$, excess stain was wicked away and the grid surface was washed three times with 25 μl 1% (w/v) UF solution to yield thorough embedding of the sample. Following the final wash the grid was blotted to dryness and allowed to air-dry in a fume hood.

For cryo-EM, 3 μl purified amphipol-solubilized TRPML3 (0.5 mg ml^{-1}) was applied to a freshly plasma-cleaned (75% argon/25% oxygen atmosphere, 15 W for 6 s in a Gatan Solarus) UltraAuFoil R1.2/1.3 300-mesh grid (Electron Microscopy Services) and manually blotted using filter paper (Whatman No.1) for $\sim 4 \text{ s}$ ($\geq 95\%$ relative humidity, 4°C) immediately before plunge freezing in liquid ethane cooled by liquid nitrogen.

EM image acquisition and data processing. All EM data were acquired using the Legion automated data acquisition program³⁰ and all image pre-processing was performed concurrently with data collection using the Appion image-processing pipeline³¹. Images of negatively stained TRPML3 were acquired on a Tecnai Spirit (FEI) transmission electron microscope (TEM) operating at 120 keV. Images were collected at a nominal magnification of $52,000\times$ on a Tietz TVIPS F416 camera, corresponding to a pixel size of 2.05 \AA per pixel at specimen level. All micrographs were collected with an electron dose of ~ 25 electrons per \AA^2 with a defocus range of -0.8 to $-1.6 \mu\text{m}$. Two hundred and sixty-five images were used for automated particle picking using Difference of Gaussians (DoG) picker³² to yield 17,080 particles. CTF estimation was performed using CTFFind⁴³ and whole-image phase-flipping was performed using EMAN³⁴ before particle extraction. Seventeen thousand and eighty $2\times$ binned particles were extracted and subjected to reference-free 2D classification using multivariate statistical analysis (MSA) and multi-reference alignment (MRA)³⁵ in the Appion pipeline. Classes representing intact particles were isolated and a resulting stack of 8,928 particles were subjected to 3D classification ($k=3$, tau fudge = 2) using RELION v1.4³⁶ with a 60 \AA low-pass filtered map of EMD-5778 as an initial model. The best class representing 3,457 particles was then refined (C4 symmetry imposed) using the final outputted map from 3D classification as an initial model.

Images of frozen-hydrated TRPML3 were collected on a Titan Krios (FEI) operating at 300 keV equipped with a K2 Summit direct electron detector operating

in super-resolution mode. Two thousand, two hundred and fifty-nine movies were collected at a nominal magnification of $22,500\times$ with a physical pixel size of 1.31 \AA per pixel (0.655 \AA per pixel super-resolution pixel size) using a defocus range of -0.8 to $-2.8 \mu\text{m}$. Each movie (48 frames) was acquired using a dose rate of ~ 9 electrons per pixel per second over 12 s yielding a cumulative dose of ~ 63 electrons per \AA^2 . The MotionCor frame alignment program³⁷ was used to motion-correct the Fourier-binned 2×2 (1.31 \AA per pixel) super-resolution frames using a 3-frame running average window. Aligned images were used for CTF determination using CTFFIND⁴³ and only micrographs yielding CC estimates better than 0.5 at 4 \AA resolution were kept. DoG picker³² was used to automatically pick particles from the first 50 micrographs yielding a stack of 20,571 particles binned by 4 (5.24 \AA per pixel, 64-pixel box size) which were then subjected to reference-free 2D classification using MSA/MRA³⁵ in the Appion pipeline. The best eight classes were then used as template for particle-picking against the entire data set using FindEM³⁸. A final particle $4\times$ binned stack of 839,127 particles was extracted (5.24 \AA per pixel, 64-pixel box size) using RELION v1.4³⁶ and subjected to reference-free 2D classification. Classes that exhibited high-resolution features were then selected (498,612 particles) for 3D refinement into a single class using the negative stain reconstruction as an initial model. Following refinement, particles were re-centred and re-extracted without binning (1.31 \AA per pixel, 256-pixel box size) and subjected to 3D auto-refinement with C4 symmetry imposed. The refinement was continued using a soft-mask (3 pixel extension, 5 pixel soft cosine edge) generated from a volume contoured to display the full density³⁹. These particles were then subjected to 3D classification ($k=4$, tau fudge = 8) without angular or translational searches using a soft mask contoured to show only the protein density. The highest resolution class (104,084 particles) was then further refined using the same soft protein-only mask to yield a 3.53 \AA resolution reconstruction as determined by gold-standard 0.143 Fourier shell correlation (FSC)^{40,41}. Subsequent movie-refinement (with a running average of seven frames) was followed by particle polishing (using a standard deviation of 300 pixels on the inter-particle distance and a three-frame *B* factor running average) with a soft mask generated against the full molecule. These 'shiny' particles were then refined using a soft protein-only mask to yield a final reconstruction determined to 3.02 \AA resolution (gold-standard FSC). Super-resolution movies were then aligned using MotionCor2 on 5×5 tiled frames with a *B* factor of 100 applied and dose-weighting being performed⁴². The refined particles coordinates from the final highest-resolution class were used to extract $2\times$ binned particles (1.31 \AA per pixel, 256-pixel box size) and subjected to 3D auto-refinement using RELION 2.0⁴³. Particles were re-centred and re-extracted from unbinned, dose-weighted summed images (0.655 \AA per pixel, 512-pixel box size) and subjected to 3D auto-refinement using a soft protein-only mask. The final resolution was estimated to 2.94 \AA using phase-randomization to account for the convolution effects of a solvent mask on the FSC between the two independently refined half maps⁴⁴. The 'bloccres' function in the Bsoft package⁴⁵ was used to perform local resolution estimation, based on the two half-volumes outputted from the RELION 3D auto-refinement. All display images were generated using UCSF Chimera⁴⁶.

Model building and refinement. The model of TRPML3 was built *de novo* into the electron density map in Coot, using the TRPV2 structure (PDB ID: 5AN8) as a guide for the channel region⁴⁷. Idealized helices and β -strands were placed in the EM density and rigid body refined. Bulky sidechains were built and used to determine the register of helices and β -strands. Subsequently, the loops were built to connect the secondary structural elements. Side chains were built into the EM density adhering to optimal rotamer conformations as indicated by EM density. The structure was real-space refined in Coot⁴⁷ constrained to ideal geometry and secondary structure where appropriate. Several non-protein densities were observed into which CHS molecules and partial phospholipid molecules were built, based on the shape of the density and buffer composition. Finally, the model was iteratively real-space refined using the Phenix command line by global minimization and rigid body refinement with a high weight on ideal geometry and restrained to secondary structure⁴⁸. The *B* factors were set to 30 \AA^2 for the protein and 50 \AA^2 for lipid molecules, after which the *B* factors were refined using the Phenix command line. The model was further manually optimized in Coot for adherence to geometric restraints using Molprobity (<http://molprobity.biochem.duke.edu/>) to identify problematic regions. After we built our model, the crystal structure of the TRPML1 ECD fragment (PDB ID: 5TJA) was reported which we used to confirm the accuracy of our model. The final model excludes 32 residues at the N terminus, two short loops in the ECD (residues 148–153 and residues 197–200), and 27 residues at the C terminus. FSCs of the half maps against the refined model agreed well with each other, showing that our model is not over-refined (Extended Data Fig. 3). Radius along the permeation pathway was calculated using HOLE⁴⁹.

Cell culture and transfections. HEK293T cells (62312975 – ATCC) were grown in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS (Gibco or Atlanta Biologicals),

1% penicillin/streptomycin (Gibco) and were sustained in 5% CO₂ atmosphere at 37°C. The cell lines used in this study have not been further authenticated. The cells for whole-cell electrophysiological recordings were tested for mycoplasma contamination. Cells between passage 5 and 30 grown in 40-mm wells (or 20-mm wells for lysosomal recordings) were transiently transfected at 30–50% confluency. For whole-cell recording, 0.8 µg pEG BacMam plasmid⁵⁰ encoding TRPML3 and 0.2 µg pcDNA plasmid encoding GFP were transfected using FuGene6 (Promega). Transfection mixtures of DNA were incubated for 1.5 h at room temperature and added to each corresponding well. Transfected cells were reseeded onto 12-mm round glass coverslips (Fisher) 24 h post transfection and used 12–24 h later for electrophysiological experiments. For lysosomal recordings, GFP-tagged TRPML3 at its C terminus (TRPML3–GFP) was subcloned into pEG BacMam plasmid⁵⁰. Each 20-mm well was transfected with 0.5 µg plasmid encoding TRPML3–GFP using PolyJet (SigmaGen Laboratories) following the manufacturer's protocol.

Lysosomal electrophysiology. Whole-lysosome patch clamp recordings were done as previously described⁵¹. In brief, transfected cells were re-plated onto 12-mm coverslips ~36 h after transfection. Lysosomes were enlarged with vacuolin-1 (1 µM, overnight) and were released from cells using glass pipettes. Polished glass pipettes used for patch-clamp recordings had resistances of 5–8 MΩ. Pipette solution (lumen) contained (in mM) 145 NaCl, 5 KCl, 1 MgCl₂, 2 CaCl₂, 10 HEPES, 10 MES and 10 glucose (pH adjusted to 4.6 with NaOH). Bath solution contained (in mM) 140 K-glucuronate, 4 NaCl, 2 MgCl₂, 0.39 CaCl₂, 1 EGTA and 10 HEPES (pH adjusted to 7.2 with KOH). Recordings were done 48–72 h after transfection. Signals were amplified and filtered at 1 kHz using a MultiClamp 700B amplifier, and digitized at 5 kHz with a Digidata 1400A digitizer, both controlled with Clampex 10.4 (from Molecular Devices). Lysosomes were held at 0 mV. Current-voltage relationships were obtained using a ramp protocol from –100 mV to +50 mV in 1 s. Data were analysed using Clampfit 10.4 (Molecular Devices), Excel (Microsoft) and Origin (Origin Laboratory).

Whole-cell recordings. Whole-cell voltage-clamp experiments were performed with glass electrodes pulled from borosilicate glass capillaries (Sutter Instruments) with a final resistance of 2–5 MΩ. The intracellular pipette solution contained (in mM) 150 CsCl, 2 MgCl₂, 5 EGTA, 10 HEPES, 4 Mg-ATP, adjusted to pH 7.2 (CsOH), and osmolarity of 280 ± 5 mOsm l^{–1}. Glass coverslips were loaded into an open bath chamber (RC-26G, Warner Instruments) and all extracellular solutions were applied with a gravity-driven perfusion system that could completely exchange the bath solutions within 10–20 s.

Whole-cell current responses were elicited every 5 s with a continuous repeating voltage ramp protocol (holding potential 0 mV, 400-ms voltage ramp from 100 to –100 mV). Current responses were low-pass filtered at 2 kHz (Axopatch 200B), digitally sampled at 10 kHz (Digidata 1440A), converted to digital files in Clampex10.7 (Molecular Devices) and stored on an external hard drive for offline analyses (Clampfit10.7).

Cells were first bathed in an extracellular solution containing (in mM) 140 NaCl, 5 KCl, 2 MgCl₂, 1 CaCl 10 mM HEPES at pH 7.4 (NaOH) and osmolarity of 290 ± 5 mOsm l^{–1} followed by a 0 Na solution containing (in mM) 150 NMDG, 10 HEPES at pH 7.4 (HCl) and osmolarity of 290 ± 5 mOsm l^{–1}. Bath solutions containing either 20 µM or 80 µM 5-mesityl-3-oxa-4-azatricyclo[5.2.1.0~2,6~]dec-4-ene (SN-2; Specs; prepared daily from DMSO stocks (10 mM) stored at –80°C; final DMSO 0.8%) were applied until the current at –100 mV no longer increased in amplitude. Leak conductance was assessed at the end of each recording by the residual current at –100 mV after application of the 0 Na solution.

Isothermal titration calorimetry. All mutants were prepared in the TRPML_{NQ} background using Quikchange mutagenesis kit (Agilent). Protein was expressed and purified as described previously, except that CHS was omitted from all buffers and the sample was kept in DDM buffer at all times. After binding, the FLAG resin was loaded onto a gravity column and washed with 10 column volumes of DDM buffer. The sample was eluted in DDM buffer supplemented with 100 µg ml^{–1} FLAG peptide. The tag was cut overnight and protein was further purified by Superose-6 size exclusion chromatography in DDM buffer. Protein was concentrated to ~80 µM for ITC experiments performed on a MicroCal ITC200 system. 800 µM diC8-PtdIns(3,5)P₂ was titrated 1.6 µl at a time into an 80-µM protein solution. The curves were fit to a single-site binding isotherm using the Malvern Instruments software.

Docking of PtdIns(3,5)P₂ to TRPML3. Docking of PtdIns(3,5)P₂ to TRPML_{WT} was performed using AutoDock Vina⁵². The initial coordinates of 1-arachidylol,

2-stearyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phospho-(1-*D*-*myo*-inositol 3,5-bisphosphate) molecule was generated from the SMILES string using PHENIX.eLBOW, and stereochemistry was manually corrected in PHENIX.REEL. In particular, the *myo*- configuration of the inositol ring and double bonds in the lipid tail were examined and corrected if necessary. Before docking, the sidechains of residues K41, K52, R56, R58, K59, K62, R305, and Y342 of TRPML_{WT} were set as flexible. Docking was carried out over a search space of 70 × 56 × 110 Å that covers the entire putative PtdInsP₂ binding cavity formed by IS1, IS2, IS3 and IS6. Seven out of the nine output poses exhibited similar conformations, where the 3'- and 5'-phosphates of PtdIns(3,5)P₂ interact with the positively charged residues in the pocket, especially R52, R58, and K62. One representative docking result was shown in Extended Data Fig. 6. Docking results were visualized and analysed with PyMol.

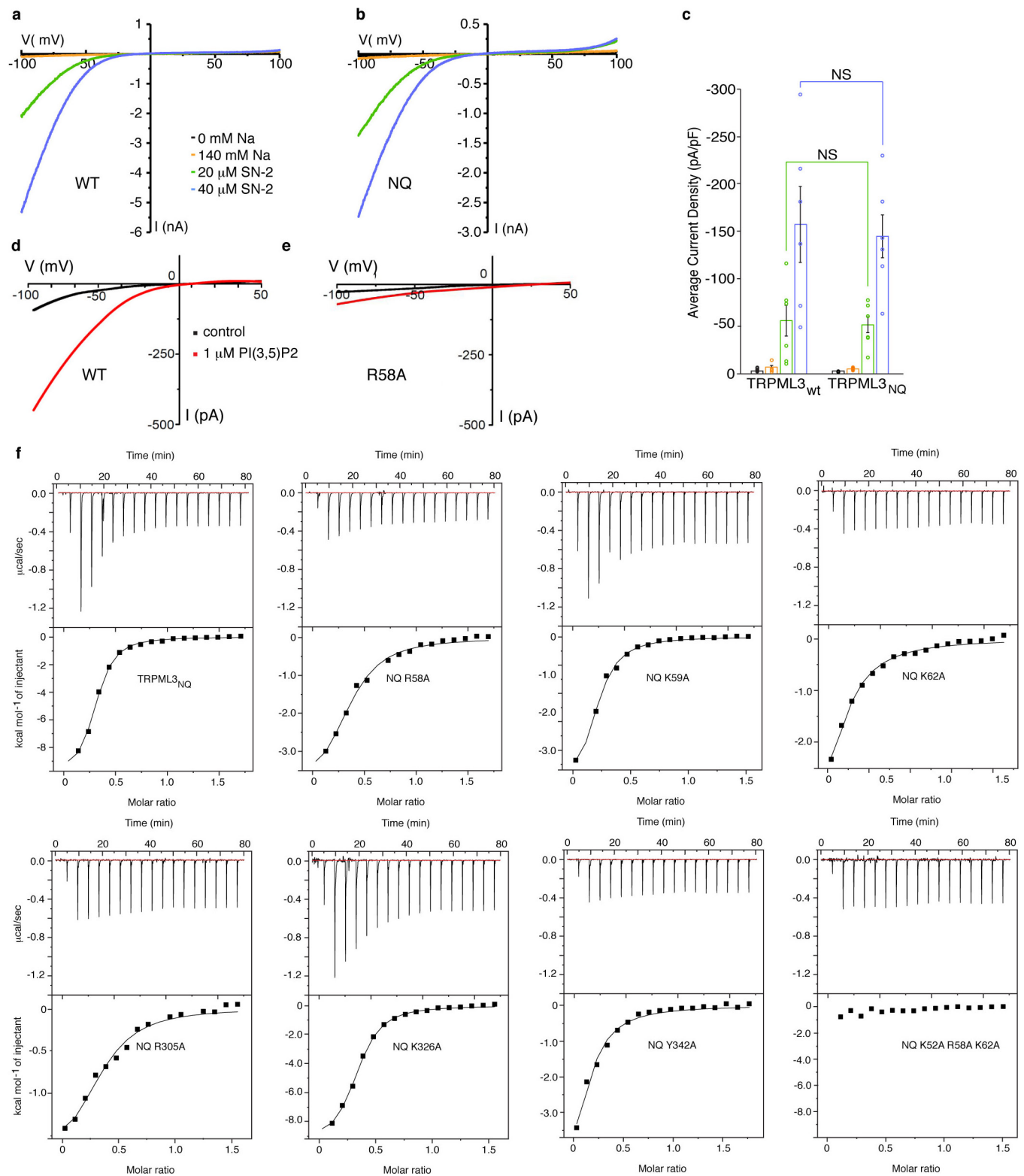
Data availability. The sequence of TRPML_{3CJ} can be found in the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) under accession code JAB18777.1. The coordinates are deposited in the Protein Data Bank (PDB) with the accession code 5W3S and the electron density maps have been deposited in the Electron Microscopy Data Bank (EMDB) under accession code EMD-8764.

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		IS1a	IS1b	
TRPML _{HS} 1	MTAPA---GPRGSETERLLTPNPGYGTQAGPSPAPPTPPEEEDLRRRLKYFFFMSPCDKFR			57
TRPML _{HS} 2	MARQPYRFPOARIPERGSGVFRLTVRNAMAHRDSE---MKEECLREDLKIFYFMSPCEKYR			57
TRPML _{HS} 3	MADPEVVVSSSSSHEEEN---RCNFNQQTSPSEEL---LLEDQMRRKLKFFFMNPCEKFW			54
TRPML _{CJ} 3	MANPEIVISSSSSHEEEN---RCNFNQHTSPSEEL---LLEDQMRRKLKFFFMNPCEKFW			54
	S1			
TRPML _{HS} 1	AKGRKPCKLMLQVVKILVVTVQLILFGLSNQLAVTFREENTIAFRHLFLLGYSDGADDTF			117
TRPML _{HS} 2	ARRQIPWKLGLQILKIVMVTQLVRFGLSNQLVAFKEDNTVAFKHLFLKGYSGTDEDDY			117
TRPML _{HS} 3	ARGRKPWKLAIQILKIAMVTIQLVLFGLSNQMVVAFKEENTIAFKHLFLKGYMDRMDDTY			114
TRPML _{CJ} 3	ARGRKPWKLAIQILKIAMVTIQLVLFGLSNQMVVAFKEENTVAFKHLFLKGYIDRMDDTY			114
	EH1	β1.1a	β1.1b	β2.1
TRPML _{HS} 1	A--AYTREQLYQAI FHAVDQYLALPDVSLGRYAYVRGGDPWTNGSGLLSASGTTTEATW			175
TRPML _{HS} 2	SCSVYTQEDAYESI FFAINQYHQDKITLGTGLGYGENE-----DNRIGLKVCQKHYYKGT-			172
TRPML _{HS} 3	A--VYTQSDVYDQLIFAVNQYLQLYNVSVGNHAYENKG-----TKQSAMAICQHFYKRG-			167
TRPML _{CJ} 3	A--VYTQSDVYDQII FAVNQYLQLYNVSVGNHAYENKG-----TDQSAMAICQHFYKRG-			167
	β2.2	β1.2		
TRPML _{HS} 1	TRPTTHLTIRWWLLVNCIQVDPE--RPPPPSDDLTLLESSSSYKNLTLKFHKLNVNT			233
TRPML _{HS} 2	MFPSNETLNIDNDVELDCVQLDLQDL SKKPPDWKNSS-----FFRLEFYRLLOVE			222
TRPML _{HS} 3	IYPGNDTFDIDPEIETECFFVEPDEPFHIGTPAENKL-----NLTLDFHRLLTVE			217
TRPML _{CJ} 3	IYPGNDTFDIDPEIETDCFFVEPDEPFHIGTPAENKL-----NLTLDFHRLLTVE			217
	β1.3	β1.4	β1.5	β2.3
TRPML _{HS} 1	IHFRLKTINLQSLINNEIPDCYTFSVLITFDNKAHSGRIPISLETQAHIQECK--HPSVF			291
TRPML _{HS} 2	ISFHLKGIDLQTIHSRELPCYVFQNTIIFDNKAHSGKIKIYFSDAKIEECKDLNIFGS			282
TRPML _{HS} 3	LQFKLKAINLQTVRHQELPCYDFTLTITFDNKAHSGRIKISLDNDISIRECKDWHVSGS			277
TRPML _{CJ} 3	LQFKLKAINLQTVRHQELPCYDFTLTITFDNKAHSGRIKISLDNDISIRECKDWHVSGS			277
	β2.4	S2	IS3	
TRPML _{HS} 1	QHGDNSFRLFLDVVVILTCSLSFLLCARSLLRGFLQLNEFVGFWMWRQGRVVISLWERLEF			351
TRPML _{HS} 2	TQKNAQYVLVFDFAFVIVICLASLILCTRSIVLALRLKRFLNFFLEKYKRPVCDTDQWEF			342
TRPML _{HS} 3	IQKNTHYMMIFDAFVILTCLVSLILCIRSVIRGLQLQQEFVNFFLLHYKKEVSVSDQMEF			337
TRPML _{CJ} 3	IQKNTHYMMIFDAFVILTCLVSLILCIRSVISGLQLQQEFVNFFLLHYKKDVSVDQMEF			337
	S3	S4		
TRPML _{HS} 1	VNGWYILLVTSVDVLTISGTIMKIGIEAKNLASYDVC SILLGTSTLLVWGVIRYLTFHFN			411
TRPML _{HS} 2	INGWYVLVIISDLMTIIGSILKMEIKAKNL TNIDLCSIFLGTSTLLVWGVIRYLG YFQA			402
TRPML _{HS} 3	VNGWYIMIIISDILTIIIGSILKMEIQAKSLTSYDVC SILLGTSTMLVWLG VIRYLGFFAK			397
TRPML _{CJ} 3	VNGWYIMIIISDILTIIIGSILKMEIQAKSLTSYDVC SILLGTSTMLVWLG VIRYLGFFAK			397
	S5	P1		
TRPML _{HS} 1	YNIL IATLRVALPSVMRFCCCVAVIYLG YCFGWIVLGPYHVKFRSLSMVSECLFSLING			471
TRPML _{HS} 2	YNVL ILTMQASLPKVLRFACAGMIYLG YTCGWIVLGPYHDKFENLNTVAECLFSLVNG			462
TRPML _{HS} 3	YNLL ILTQAALPNVIRFCCCAAMIYLG YFCGWIVLGPYHDKFRSLNMVSECLFSLING			457
TRPML _{CJ} 3	YNLL ILTQAALPNVIRFCCCAAMIYLG YFCGWIVLGPYHNKFRSLNMVSECLFSLING			457
	P2	S6		
TRPML _{HS} 1	DDMFVTFAAMQAQQGRSSLVWLF S QLYLYSFISLFIYMVLSLFIALITGAYDTIKHPGGA			531
TRPML _{HS} 2	DDMFATFAQIQQ---KSILVWLF S RLYLYSFISLFIYMILSLFIALITDSYDTIKKFQON			519
TRPML _{HS} 3	DDMFATFAKMQQ---KSYLVWLF S RIYLYSFISLFIYMILSLFIALITDTYETIKQYQOD			514
TRPML _{CJ} 3	DDMFATFAKMQQ---KSYLVWLF S RIYLYSFISLFIYMILSLFIALITDTYETIKHYQOD			514
	IS6			
TRPML _{HS} 1	GAEESLQAYIAQCQDSPTSGKFRRGSGSACSL LCCCGRDPSEEHSLLVN-----			581
TRPML _{HS} 2	GFPETDLQEFLEKES---SKEEYQKESSAFLSCICRRRKRSDDLIPIS-----			566
TRPML _{HS} 3	GFPETELRTFISECKDLPN S GKYRLEDDPPVSLFCCCKK-----			553
TRPML _{CJ} 3	GFPETELRTFISECKDLPN S GKYRLEDDPPVSLFCCCKK-----			553

Extended Data Figure 1 | Sequence alignment of TRPMLs. Secondary structure elements are indicated by rectangles (helices) and arrows (β-strands). Coloured as in Fig. 1. Residues with sequence conservation

are highlighted in grey, the selectivity filter in green, the π-helix in yellow, the pH-sensing histidines in red, and putative PtdInsP₂ binding residues in blue. Potential glycosylation sites are indicated by an orange branch.

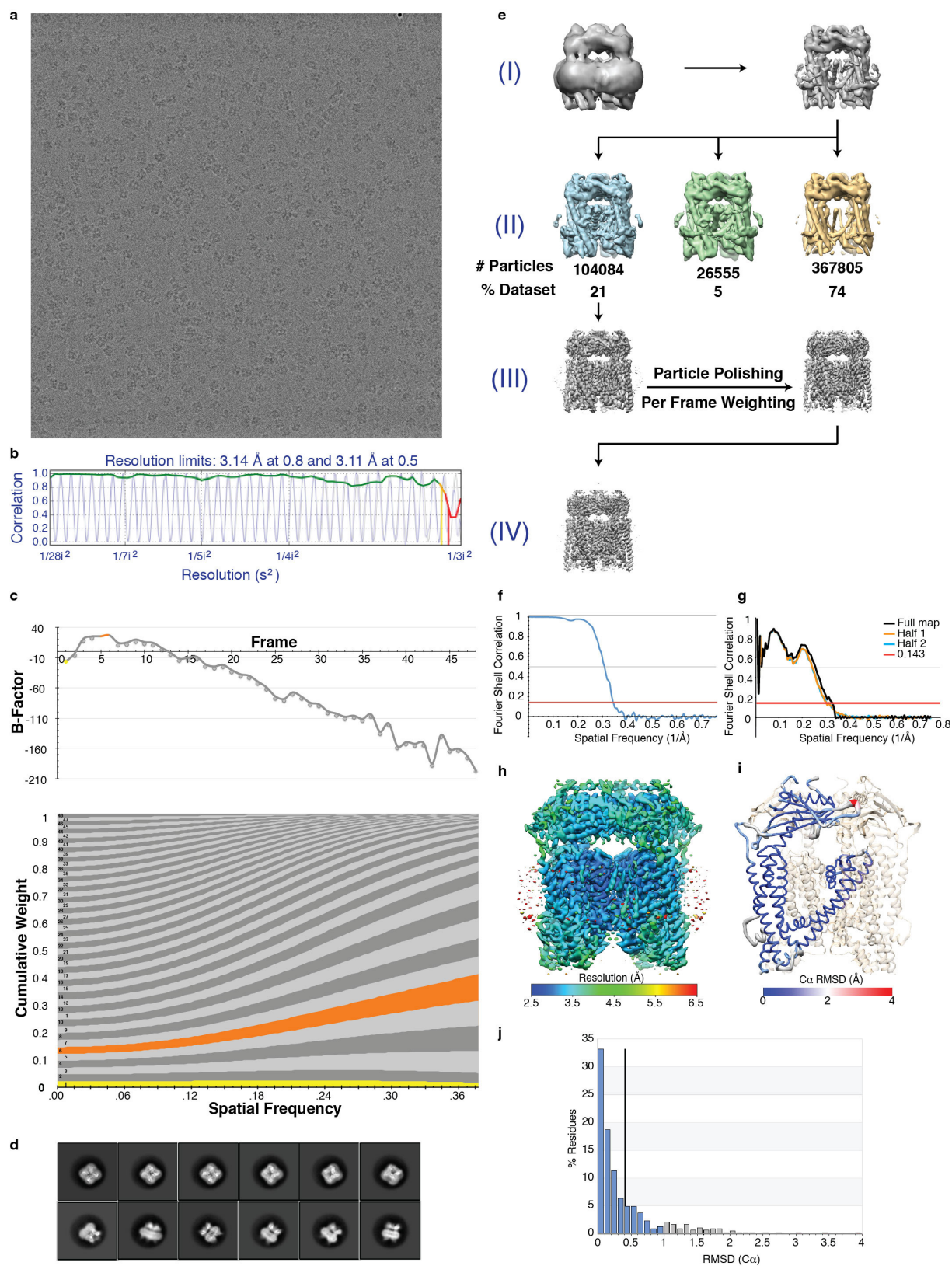


Extended Data Figure 2 | See next page for caption.

Extended Data Figure 2 | Functional characterization of the TRPML3 channel and representative ITC raw data and binding isotherms for diC₈-PtdIns(3,5)P₂ interacting with TRPML3 mutants.

a, b, Representative whole-cell current traces recorded with repeated voltage ramps (from -100 to $+100$ mV; 400 ms; 5-s intervals between ramps) from HEK293T cells transfected with TRPML3_{WT} (**a**) or TRPML3_{NQ} (**b**) at basal currents in 140 mM Na (orange), 0 mM Na (black), and during application of either 20 μ M (green) or 80 μ M (blue) of the TRPML3 agonist SN-2. **c**, Averaged inward current sizes at -100 mV normalized to cell capacitance (pA/pF) (TRPML3_{WT}; $n = 6$ biologically independent experiments; TRPML3_{NQ}; $n = 6$; open circles represent individual experimental data points). No significant differences (NS) in the current density at 20 μ M ($P = 0.89$) and 80 μ M ($P = 0.75$) SN-2 was determined between TRPML3_{WT} and TRPML3_{NQ} (two-tailed Student's t -test, $P > 0.05$). Confidence intervals (95%): -2.43 (low)/ 1.88 (high) for 0 Na⁺, $-6.18/4.31$ for 140 Na⁺, $-62.69/56.84$ for 20 μ M SN-2 and $-150.61/121.17$ for 80 μ M SN-2. Bar graph and error bars denote

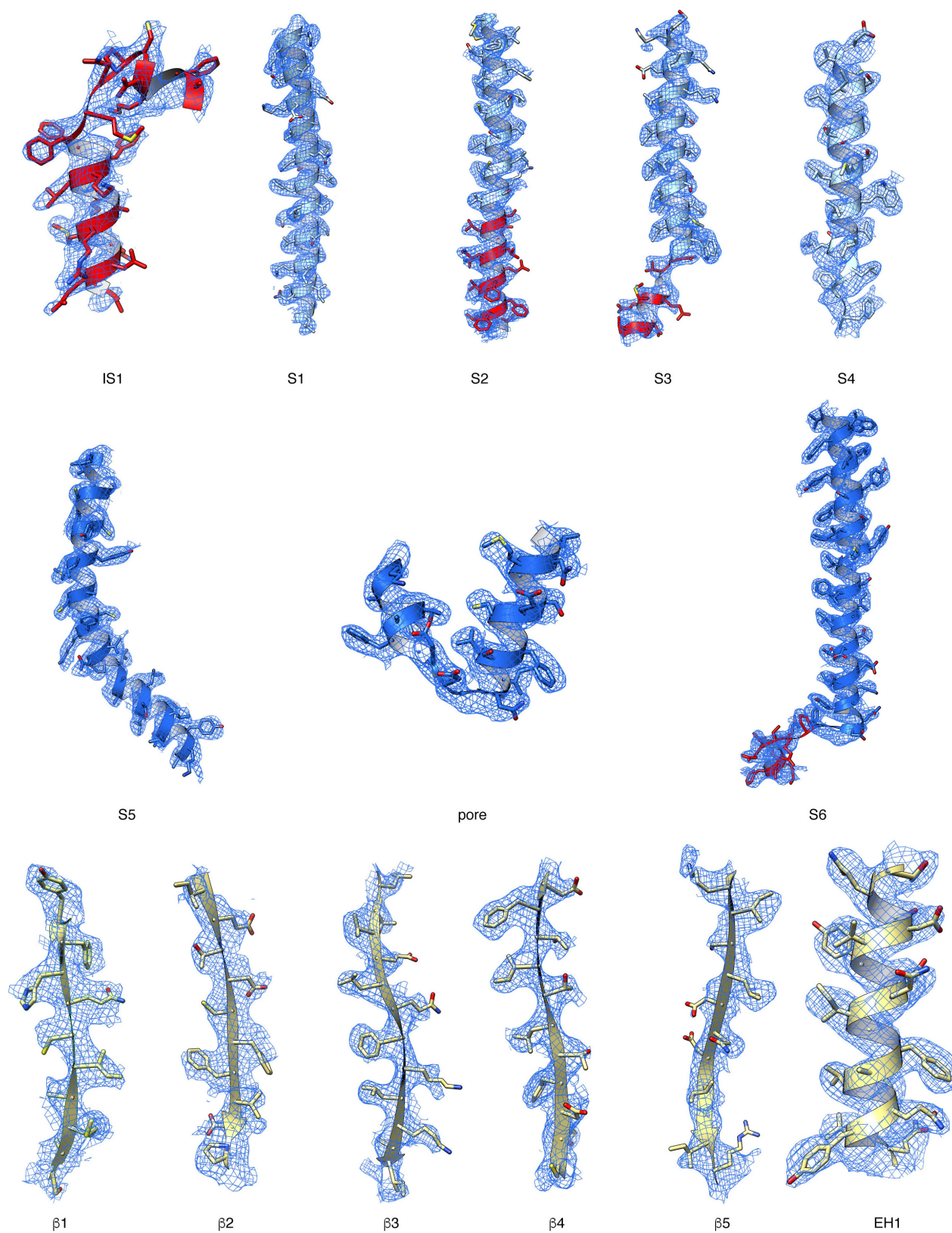
means \pm s.e.m. **d, e**, Whole lysosomal current–voltage traces from TRPML3_{WT} (**d**) and TRPML3_{NQ} R58A (**e**), in the presence and absence of PtdIns(3,5)P₂. Average inward currents are shown in Fig. 3f. **f**, For each TRPML3 mutant, raw ITC data and fitted binding isotherms are shown. Putative binding site mutants (Arg58Ala, Lys62Ala, Tyr342Ala, Arg305Ala and Lys52Ala/Arg58Ala/Lys62Ala) show a substantially reduced binding affinity while two negative control mutations (Lys59Ala and Lys326Ala) do not affect binding appreciably. NQ refers to N138Q mutant background. All titrations were performed in triplicate (technical replicates). Representative data are shown. Mean thermodynamic parameters for triplicate titrations are shown in Extended Data Table 2. Mean K_d values for each triplicate are as follows: NQ 2.5 μ M, NQ R58A 11.8 μ M, NQ K59A 4.4 μ M, NQ K62A 11.3 μ M, NQ R305A 11.8 μ M, NQ K326A 4.0 μ M, NQ Y342A 9.4 μ M, NQ K52A/R58A/K62A not determined. Owing to the low heat associated with binding in many TRPML3 mutants, only the K_d values for NQ, NQ K59A, and NQ K326A were reliably measured.



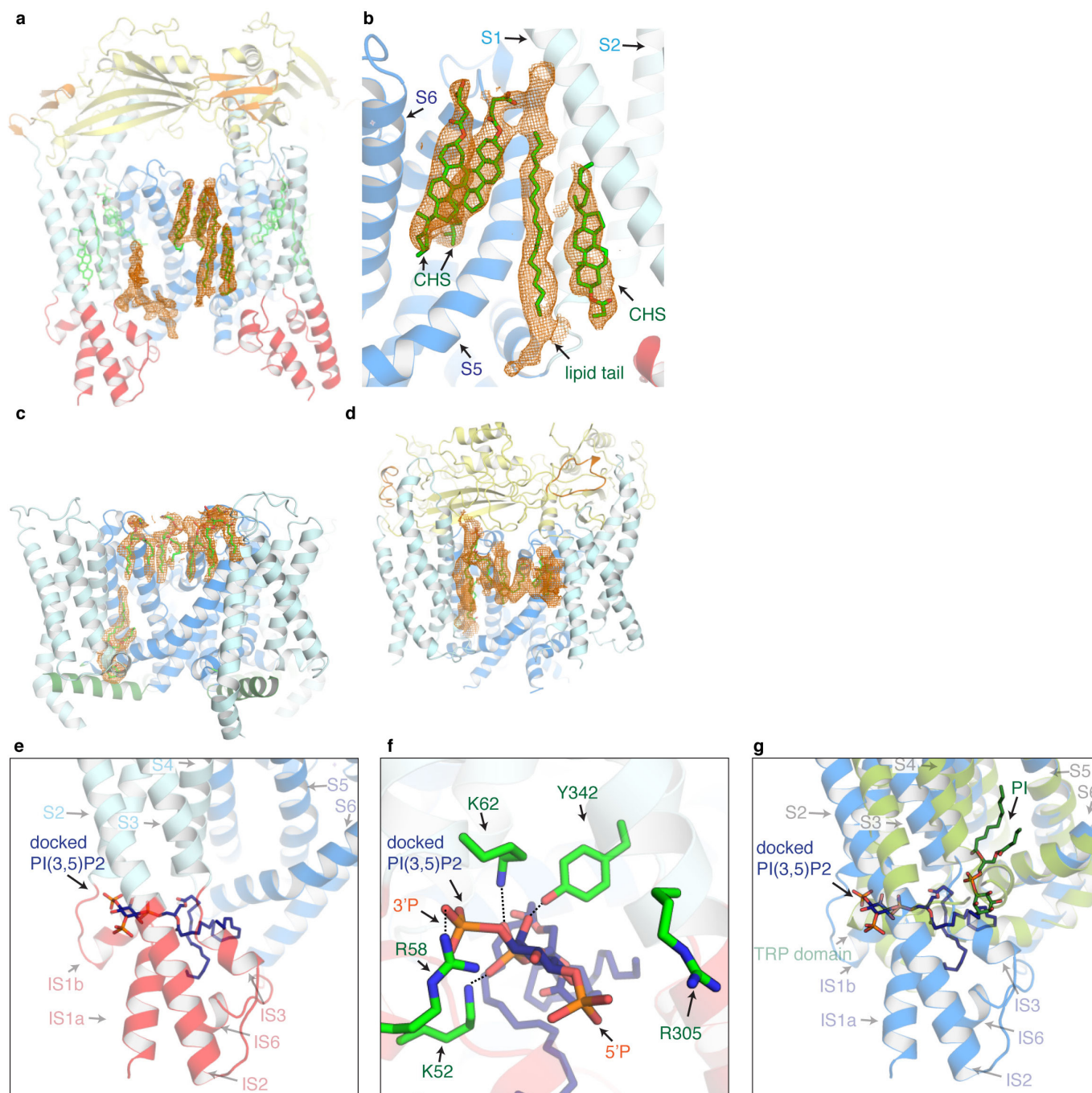
Extended Data Figure 3 | See next page for caption.

Extended Data Figure 3 | Cryo-EM data collection, processing, and validation. **a, b**, Representative micrograph of TRPML3 in vitreous ice (**a**). We collected 2,259 movies of TRPML3. Only images exhibiting Thon rings beyond 4 Å were used for image processing, as assessed by a 1D plot (**b**). **c**, Per-frame radiation damage weighting was applied by estimating the average per-frame *B* factor for all movies in the TRPML3 data set (above). The frequency-dependent weights used to generate the final stack of summed particle images are shown below. **d**, Representative 2D class averages. **e**, Initial classification of particles into three 3D classes (II), one of which (class 1) was used for subsequent 3D refinement. After performing the particle polishing step in RELION (III), per-particle CTF was estimated, particles were re-extracted with a box size of 512×512 ,

and then refined in RELION to produce the final reconstruction (IV). **f**, Fourier shell correlation plot calculated from independently refined half-maps. **g**, FSC curves calculated between the atomic model and the final map (black line), and between the model and each half-map (orange and blue lines). **h**, Local resolution estimates of the final reconstructions calculated using BSOFT⁴⁵. **i**, Worm representation with the ASU coloured according to the per-residue C_{α} root mean square deviation (r.m.s.d.) value (Å), the rest of the molecule is coloured wheat. **j**, Histogram of the per-residue C_{α} r.m.s.d. values calculated from the top 10 refined atomic models with the mean per-residue C_{α} r.m.s.d. value shown as a black vertical bar.



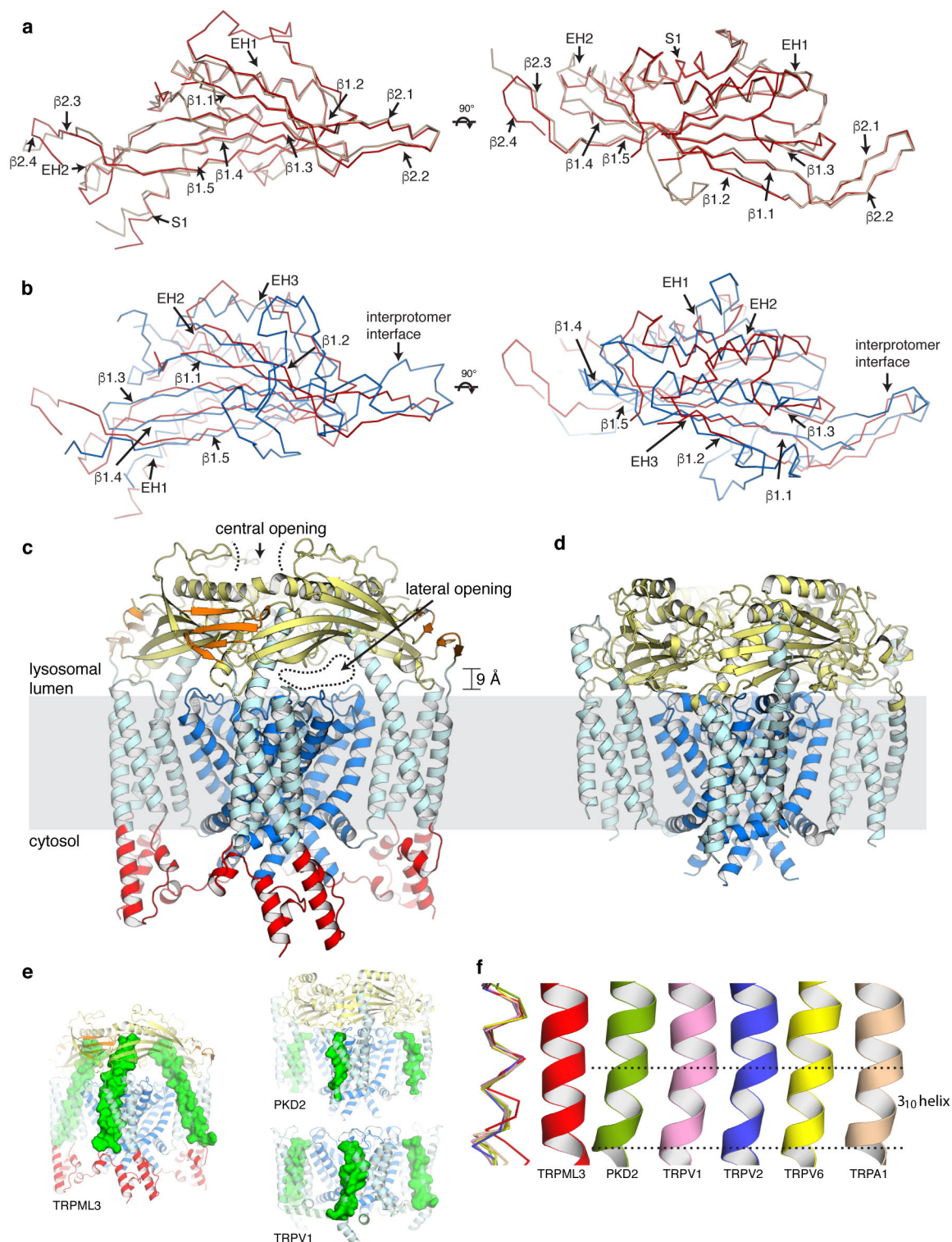
Extended Data Figure 4 | Quality of cryo-EM density of key elements in the structure. The structural elements are shown in cartoon representation with side chains as sticks, coloured as in Fig. 1. The cryo-EM density is shown as blue mesh.



Extended Data Figure 5 | Putative lipid densities in the TRPML3 map.

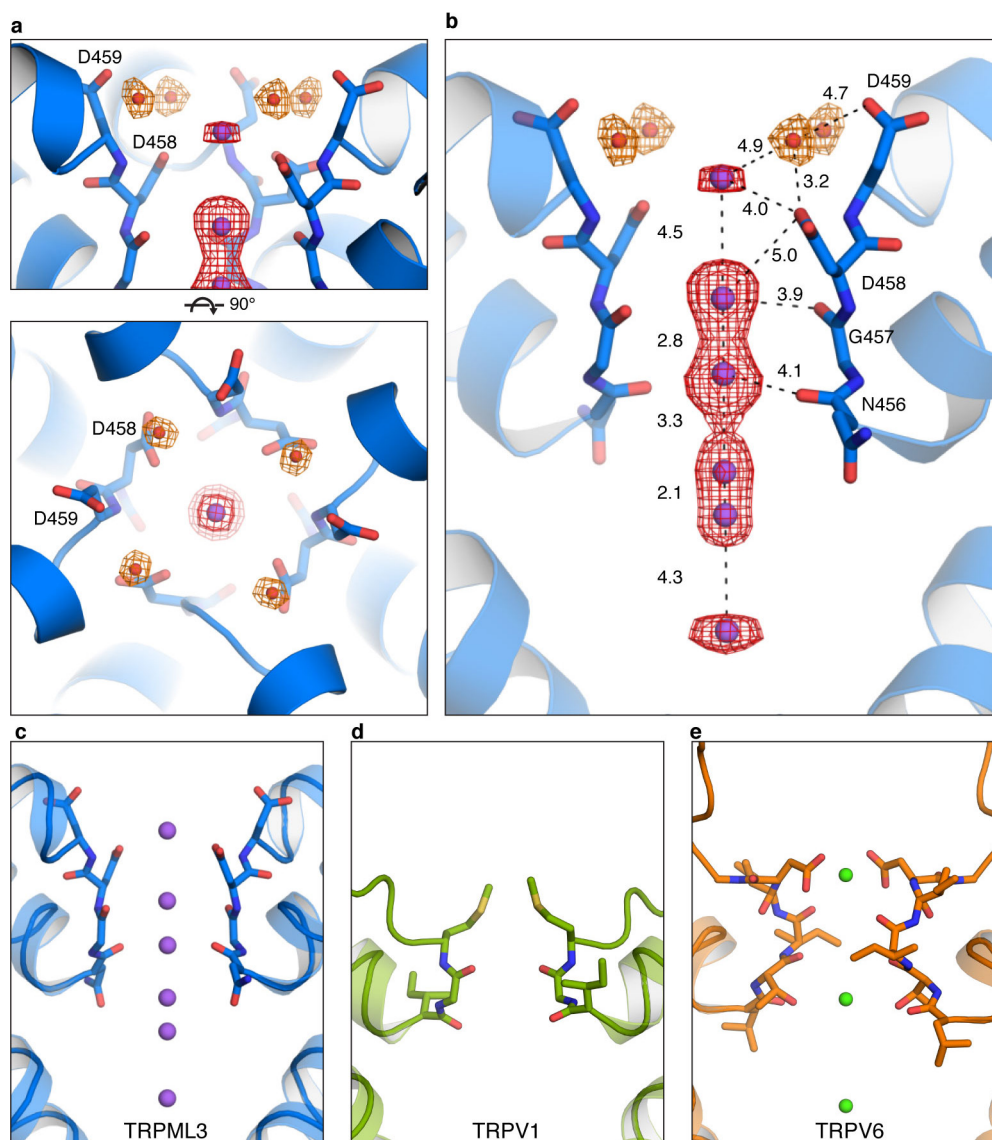
a, Four lipid densities per protomer were resolved in the cryo-EM density and corresponding lipid molecules were built. An additional lipid density was observed near S4 of the VSLD and S5 of the pore domain, but the lipid molecule was not built owing to ambiguity of the density. **b**, Two cholesteryl hemisuccinate (CHS) molecules were built in the crevice formed by S5 and S6, and the third CHS molecule was fit alongside the N-terminal end of S1. In between the CHS molecules an elongated density was observed, into which a long lipid tail was built, probably from either a phospholipid or a fatty acid molecule. **c**, **d** Lipid densities in analogous locations were reported for TRPV1 (**c**, PDB ID: 5IRZ¹⁴) and PKD2

(**d**, PDB ID: 5MKE¹²). **e**, **f** PtdIns(3,5)P₂ was docked onto the TRPML3 structure, showing that the phosphoinositide headgroup docks to the basic pocket between the VSLD and MLD interacting primarily with the side-chains of Lys52, Arg58, Lys62, and Tyr342, while the acyl chains penetrate through a tunnel in the cytosolic domain to a cavity formed by S3, S4 and S6. Residues interacting with the docked PtdIns(3,5)P₂ are shown in green (**f**). **g** PtdIns(3,5)P₂ (blue sticks) docked to a location in the TRPML3 structure (blue cartoon representation) distinct from the phosphoinositide (green sticks) found in the TRPV1 structure (PDB ID: 5IRZ¹⁴, green cartoon representation) in the pocket formed by S3–S5.



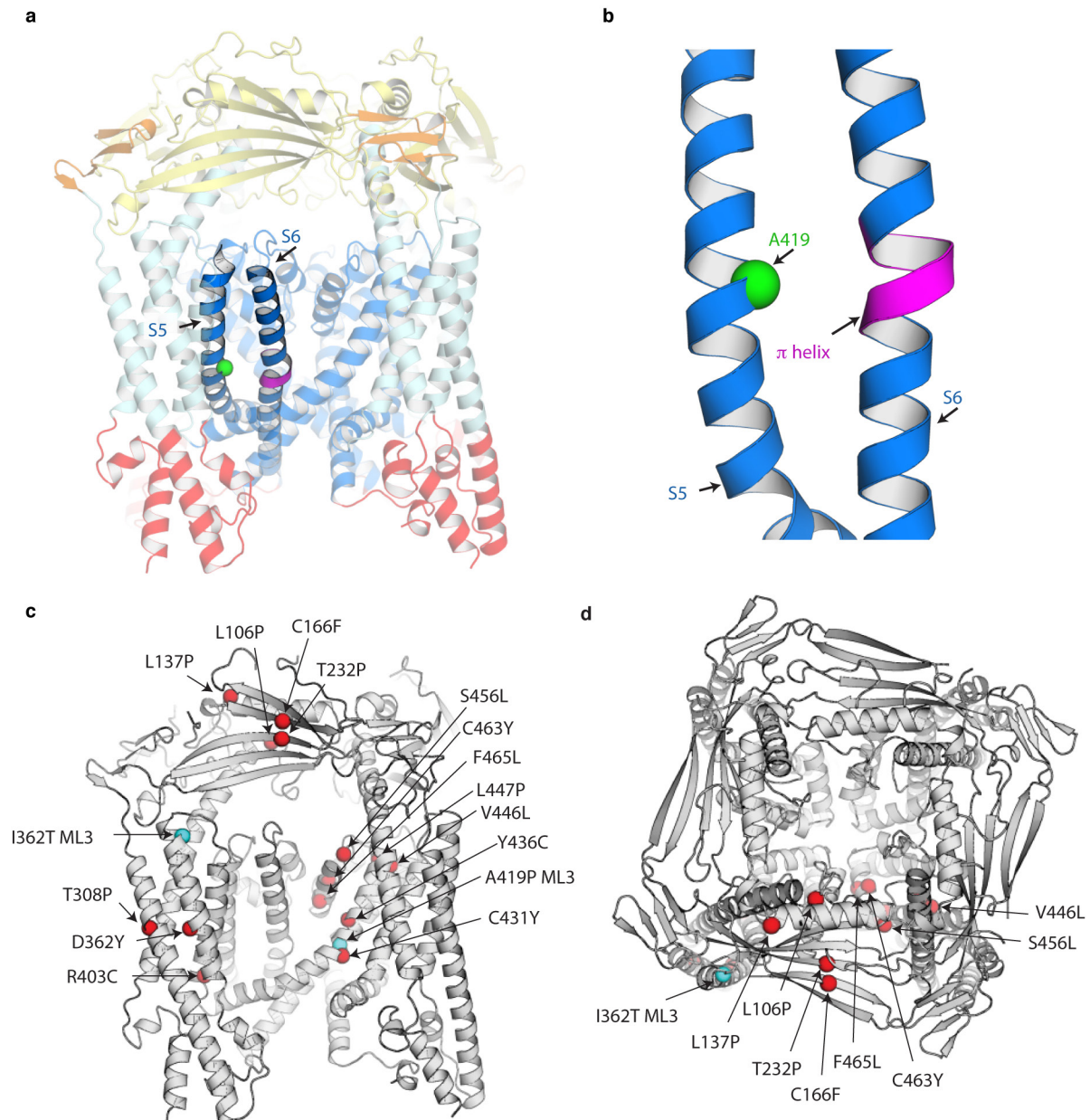
Extended Data Figure 6 | Structural comparison of TRPML3 with other channels. **a**, The ECD from TRPML3 (red ribbon) superimposes well on the crystal structure of the ECD from TRPML1 (brown ribbon, PDB ID: 5TJA¹⁵), with a C_α r.m.s.d. of 1.8 Å. Views are shown from the membrane plane (left) and the extracytosolic side of the membrane (right). **b**, The polycystin domain from PKD2 (blue ribbon, PDB ID: 5T4D¹³) adopts a similar fold to the ECD from TRPML3 (red ribbon). The structural elements of PKD2 are labelled. **c**, The TRPML3 ECD lies ~9 Å away from the channel domain, which leads to limited interactions between the ECD

and VSLD. **d**, The PKD2 TOP/polycystin domain lies directly on top of the channel domain (PDB ID: 5T4D¹³) and forms extensive interactions with the pore. **e**, More extensive interactions are formed between S1 and the remainder of the channel in TRPML3 than in other TRP channels (buried surface areas ~3,000 Å² and 1,500–2,000 Å², respectively). The interaction interface is shown in green. **f**, In many TRP channels a short 3₁₀-helix is present in S4. By contrast, S4 in TRPML3 is completely α-helical, suggesting a more static nature.



Extended Data Figure 7 | Detailed view of the selectivity filter. **a**, Four cryo-EM density peaks observed near Asp458 and Asp459 are attributed to water molecules, based on coordination distances (~ 3.2 Å). TRPML3 is shown in cartoon representation with the selectivity filter residues shown as sticks. Cryo-EM density is shown in orange mesh for water

molecules (red spheres) and red mesh for sodium ions (purple spheres). **b**, Interatomic distances (Å) between ions and coordinating side-chain and backbone atoms. **c–e**, Selectivity filter comparison of TRPML3 (**c**) with TRPV1 (PDB ID: 3J5P²²) (**d**) and TRPV6 (PDB ID: 5IWP²¹) (**e**), with respective ions shown as spheres (purple for Na⁺ and green for Ca²⁺).



Extended Data Figure 8 | The locations of the varitint-waddler and ML-IV-causing mutations in the TRPML3 structure. **a**, Overview of the TRPML3 structure with the location of the varitint-waddler mutation Ala419Pro indicated by a green sphere and the π -helix coloured magenta. TRPML3 is shown as cartoon representation, coloured as in Fig. 1. **b**, Detailed view of the location of Ala419. Ala419 is positioned in the middle of S5 near the π -helix on S6, such that mutation to a proline is likely to disrupt normal S6 bending, locking it in an 'open gate' conformation. **c**, **d**, Overview of the TRPML3 structure with the location of ML-IV-causing mutations indicated by red spheres, shown from the membrane plane (**c**) and the extracytosolic side of the membrane (**d**). Unless otherwise indicated, residues are labelled using TRPML1 numbering. The locations of varitint-waddler mutations are represented

by cyan spheres. While the mutations on the ECD are associated with mild phenotypes and affect channel assembly, there are many missense mutations that cause more severe phenotypes and are localized to the channel region. These mutations can be categorized into three groups according to location: mutations around pore helix 1 (group 1), mutations around S5 near A419 (group 2), and mutations within the VSLD around the PtdInsP₂-binding site (group 3). On the basis of our structural and functional studies, we can infer that group 1 mutations potentially disrupt ion conduction and selectivity, group 2 mutations disturb gating, and group 3 mutations affect either PtdInsP₂ binding (R403C in TRPML1) or S2 motion associated with gating (T308P and D362Y in TRPML1). Future structural and functional studies of these mutations will shed light on the molecular basis of pathogenic mutations that lead to ML-IV.

Extended Data Table 1 | Data collection and refinement statistics

Data collection	
Microscope	Titan Krios (FEI)
Voltage (keV)	300
Nominal magnification	22,500x
Electron dose (e ⁻ Å ⁻²)	63
Dose rate (e ⁻ /pixel/sec)	9
Detector	K2 Summit (Gatan)
Pixel size (Å)	1.31 (0.655)*
Defocus range (μM)	0.8 – 2.8
Micrographs Used	2,259
Total extracted particles (no.)	839,127
Refined particles (no.)	498,612
Reconstruction	
Final particles (no.)	104,084
Symmetry	C4
Resolution (global)	2.9 Å
FSC 0.5 (unmasked/masked)	4.6/3.3
FSC 0.143 (unmasked/masked)	3.8/2.9
Resolution range (local)	2.7-4.7
Refinement	
Protein residues	1940
Ligands (atoms)	1306
Map Correlation Coefficient	0.77
R.m.s. deviations	
Bond lengths (Å)	0.006
Bond angles (°)	1.37
Ramachandran favored/outliers (%)	95.8/0.0
MolProbity score	1.88
Rotamer outlier (%)	0.23
Clashscore (all atoms)	4.3

*Pixel size for super-resolution mode.

Extended Data Table 2 | Equilibrium binding parameters showing the effect of TRPML3 mutations on diC₈-PtdIns(3,5)P₂ binding

	K _d (μM)	ΔH (kcal mol ⁻¹)	N (sites)
TRPML3 _{NQ} *	2.49 ± 0.11	-8.72 ± 1.28	0.3 ± 0.02
NQ R58A	11.83 ± 2.86	-10.06 ± 6.15	0.24 ± 0.08
NQ K59A*	4.44 ± 0.86	-12.32 ± 0.47	0.27 ± 0.05
NQ K62A	11.27 ± 1.56	-3.57 ± 1.85	0.34 ± 0.09
NQ R305A	11.78 ± 1.32	-2.25 ± 0.31	0.36 ± 0.02
NQ K326A*	3.99 ± 0.26	-9.93 ± 0.35	0.30 ± 0.03
NQ Y342A	9.40 ± 1.21	-6.35 ± 1.62	0.19 ± 0.05
NQ K52A/R58A/K62A	N.D.	N.D.	N.D.

Data are shown as mean ± s.e.m. of three technical replicates. Note that owing to the low heat associated with binding, equilibrium parameters including K_d values for the mutants are not reliably measured except for the NQ, NQ K59A, and NQ K326A mutants (*). ND, not determined.

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► Experimental design

1. Sample size

Describe how sample size was determined.

For electrophysiology, sample sizes represent the number of cells (or organelles) used for recordings. The sizes were chosen based on past experiences and on the numbers to reach statistic significance.

2. Data exclusions

Describe any data exclusions.

For patch clamp recordings, no data was excluded unless the recording quality was poor due to factors such as large noise or instability.

3. Replication

Describe whether the experimental findings were reliably reproduced.

Electrophysiological experiments were reproduced according to the sample size as indicated in each figure. Isothermal titration calorimetry experiments were performed 3 times and results were reproduced.

4. Randomization

Describe how samples/organisms/participants were allocated into experimental groups.

For patch clamp recordings, samples were grouped based on the genes of interests transfected into the cells.

5. Blinding

Describe whether the investigators were blinded to group allocation during data collection and/or analysis.

The investigators were not blinded to group allocation.

Note: all studies involving animals and/or human research participants must disclose whether blinding and randomization were used.

6. Statistical parameters

For all figures and tables that use statistical methods, confirm that the following items are present in relevant figure legends (or in the Methods section if additional space is needed).

n/a Confirmed

- ☐ ☒ The exact sample size (*n*) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement (animals, litters, cultures, etc.)
- ☐ ☒ A description of how samples were collected, noting whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- ☐ ☒ A statement indicating how many times each experiment was replicated
- ☐ ☒ The statistical test(s) used and whether they are one- or two-sided (note: only common tests should be described solely by name; more complex techniques should be described in the Methods section)
- ☒ ☐ A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as an adjustment for multiple comparisons
- ☐ ☒ The test results (e.g. *P* values) given as exact values whenever possible and with confidence intervals noted
- ☐ ☒ A clear description of statistics including central tendency (e.g. median, mean) and variation (e.g. standard deviation, interquartile range)
- ☐ ☒ Clearly defined error bars

See the web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) for further resources and guidance.

► Software

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

7. Software

Describe the software used to analyze the data in this study.

For electrophysiology data analysis, we used Clampfit, Origin, and Excel.
For EM work, we used Legion, Appion, FindEM, CTFFind4, MotionCor2, RELION, Bsoft, Rosetta, Chimera, Autodock
For model building, refinement, and structural analysis, we used Coot, Phenix, HOLE, and PYMOL

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the paper but not yet described in the published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers upon request. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). *Nature Methods* [guidance for providing algorithms and software for publication](#) provides further information on this topic.

► Materials and reagents

Policy information about [availability of materials](#)

8. Materials availability

Indicate whether there are restrictions on availability of unique materials or if these materials are only available for distribution by a for-profit company.

There is no restriction.

9. Antibodies

Describe the antibodies used and how they were validated for use in the system under study (i.e. assay and species).

N/A

10. Eukaryotic cell lines

a. State the source of each eukaryotic cell line used.

HEK293T cells were purchased from ATCC.

b. Describe the method of cell line authentication used.

The cell line was authenticated in ATCC and no further authentication was performed.

c. Report whether the cell lines were tested for mycoplasma contamination.

Test was performed in ATCC and no further test was performed.

d. If any of the cell lines used are listed in the database of commonly misidentified cell lines maintained by [ICLAC](#), provide a scientific rationale for their use.

n/a

► Animals and human research participants

Policy information about [studies involving animals](#); when reporting animal research, follow the [ARRIVE guidelines](#)

11. Description of research animals

Provide details on animals and/or animal-derived materials used in the study.

N/A

Policy information about [studies involving human research participants](#)

12. Description of human research participants

Describe the covariate-relevant population characteristics of the human research participants.

N/A