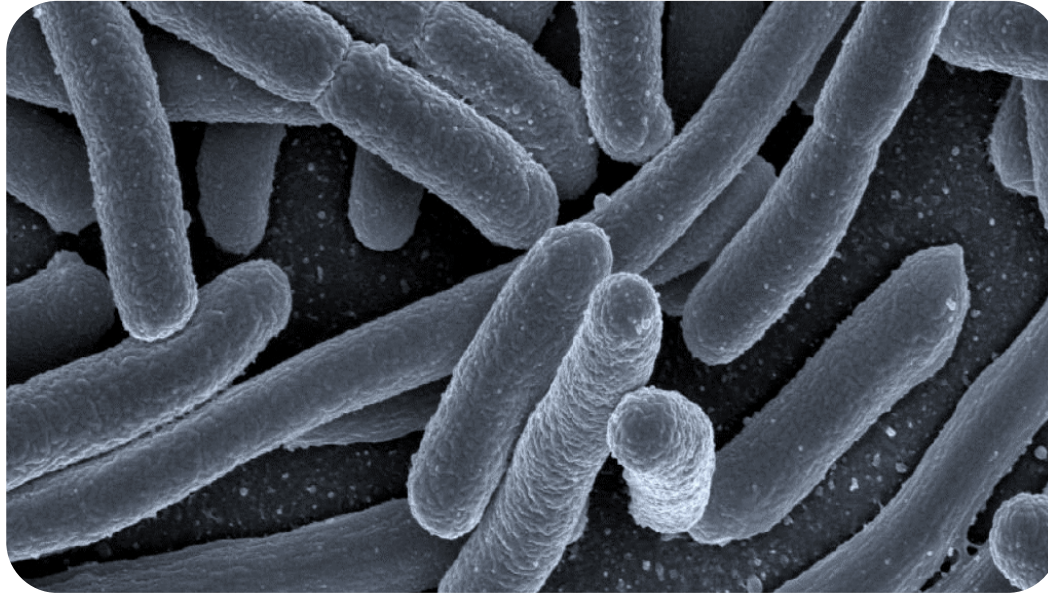


Electrochemical control of bacterial permeability



Santiago Caño-Muñiz

PhD student
Floto Group
University Molecular Immunity Unit



Thesis outline

1. Periplasmic ions and porin permeability

Increase in intracellular K^+ increases porin permeability

Increase in intracellular H^+ decreases porin permeability

Optogenetics acidification of the periplasm abolish porin permeability

Molecular dynamics simulation indicates protonation periplasmic residues constrains pore size

2. Intracellular ion oscillations

Periplasmic pH is buffered from the external medium

Oscillation in pH, K and periplasmic pH but not Ca^{2+}

Membrane depolarization correlates with 2NBDG uptake

Rich carbon sources trigger membrane potential spikes

3. Ciprofloxacin uptake

Glucose increase ciprofloxacin uptake compared to lipids

Forcing E. coli to use lipid media reduces ciprofloxacin susceptibility

Metabolic KO only increase resistance in glucose medium

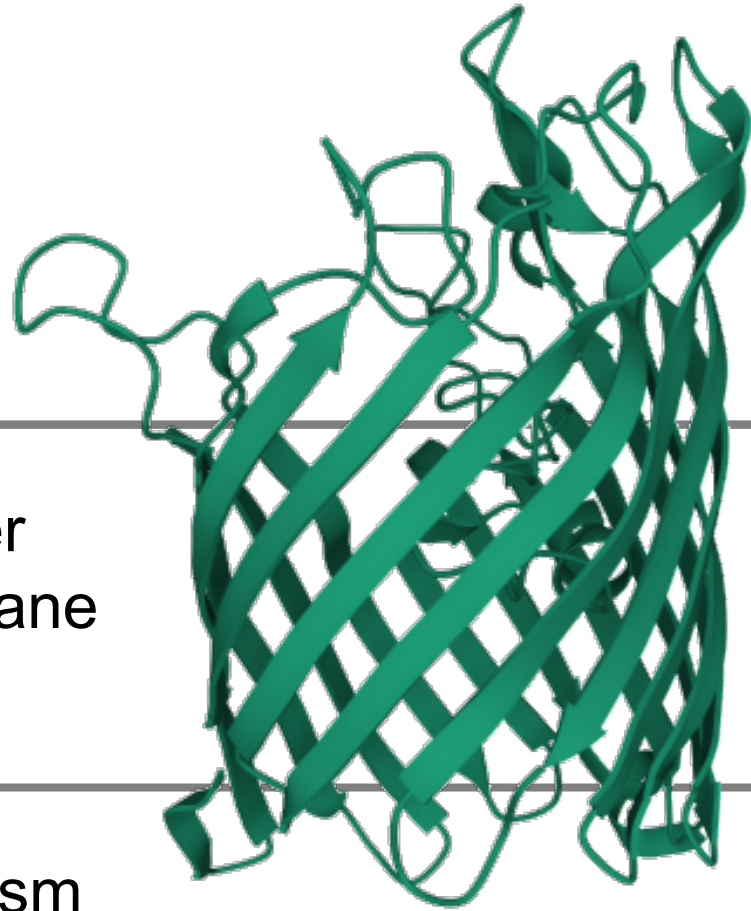
4. Indole effect on membrane potential

Gluconeogenic carbon metabolism drives indole production

Indole synthesis depolarizes the bacterial membrane

Porins mediate outer membrane permeability in Gram-negative bacteria

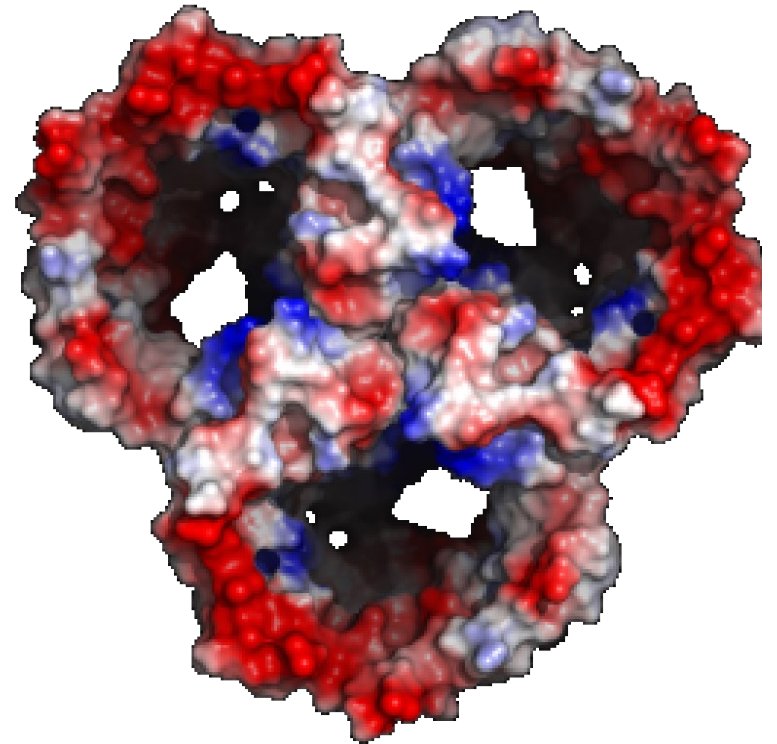
OmpC



Outer
Membrane

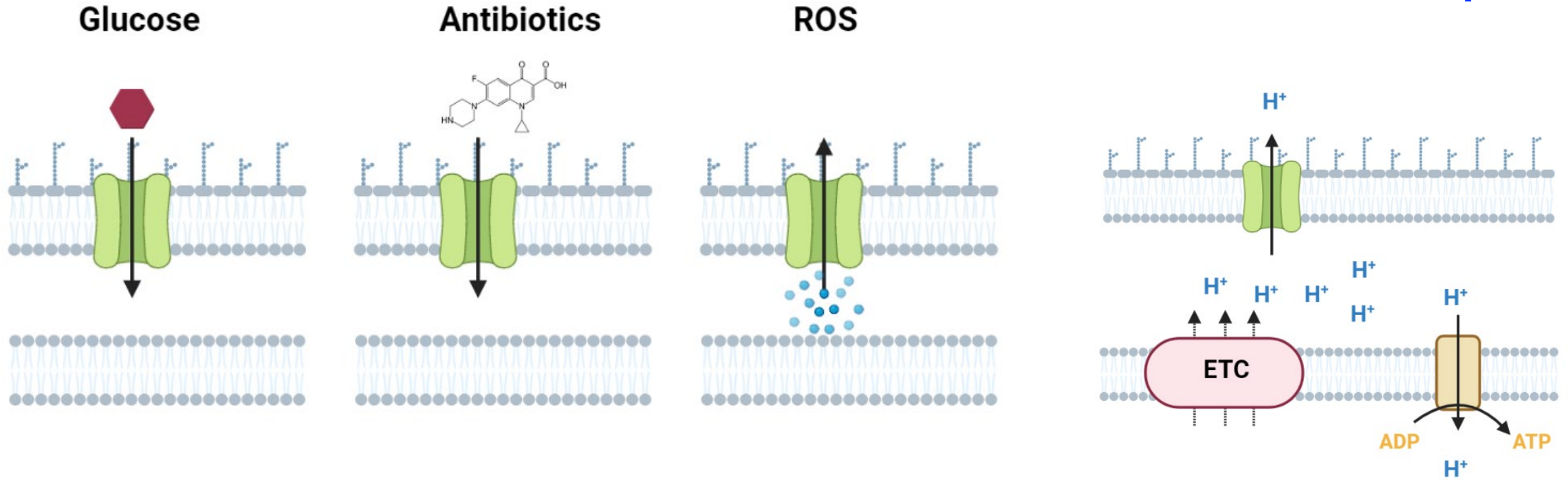
Periplasm

Homotrimers



Porins mediate outer membrane permeability in Gram-negative bacteria

but short-circuit respiration!





(How) Is porin permeability regulated?

in order to potentially

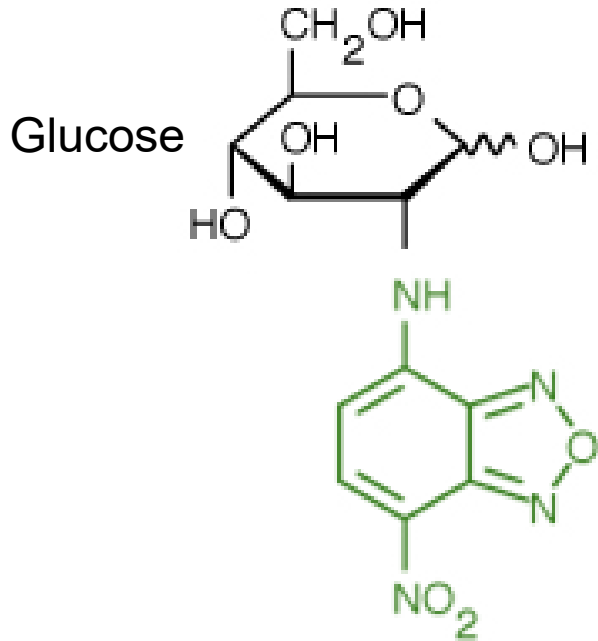
1) Balance **nutrient uptake** and **energy generation**

and

2) Protect bacteria from **natural** and **therapeutic antibiotics**

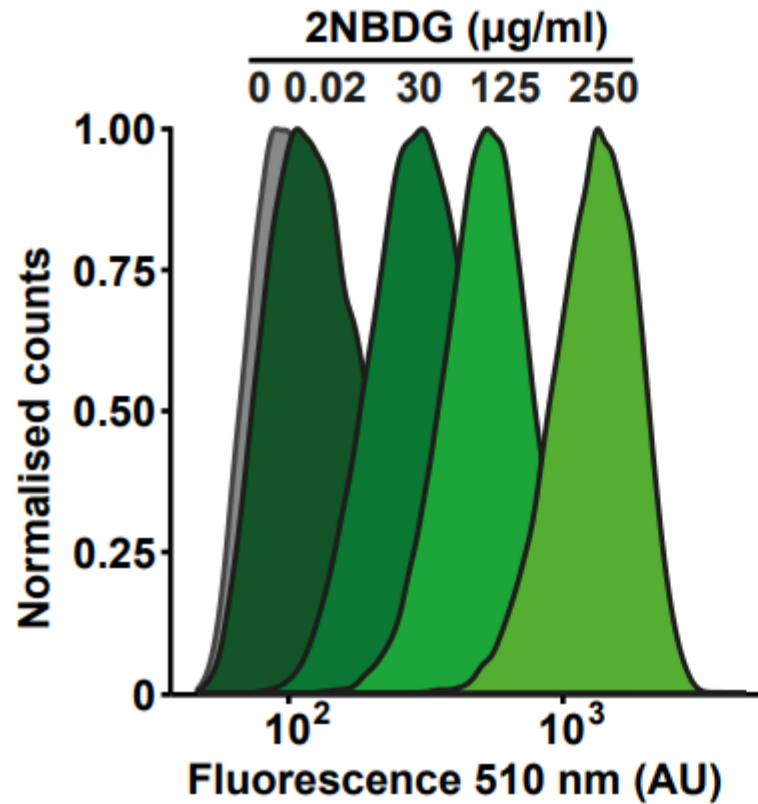
Measuring porin permeability using a fluorescent glucose analogue

2-NBDG

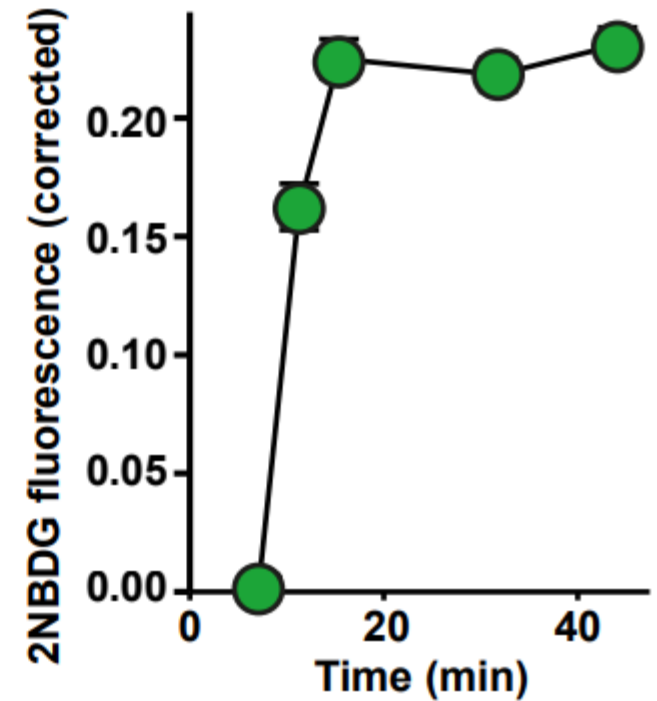


7-nitrobenzofurazan

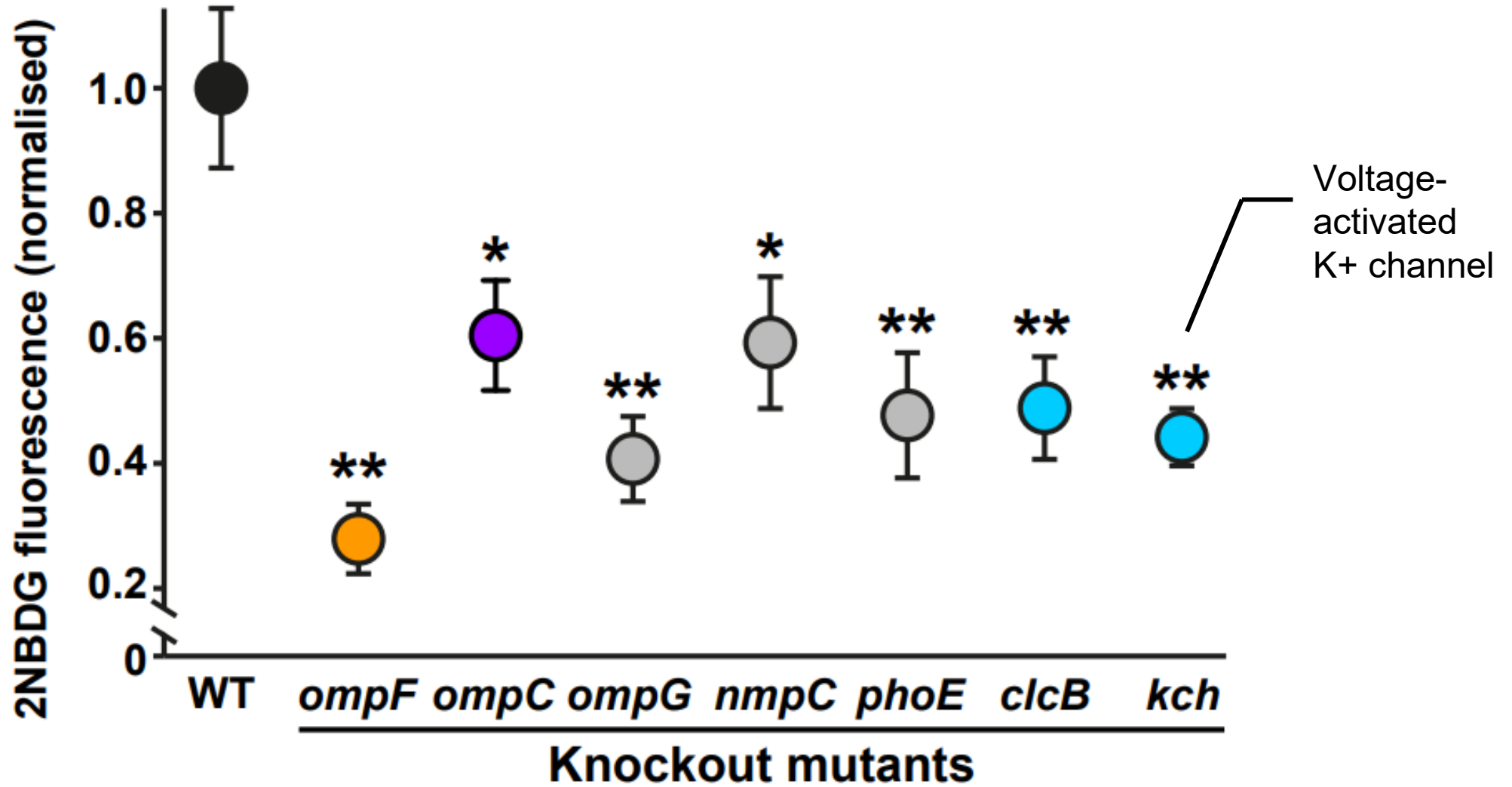
Over different concentrations



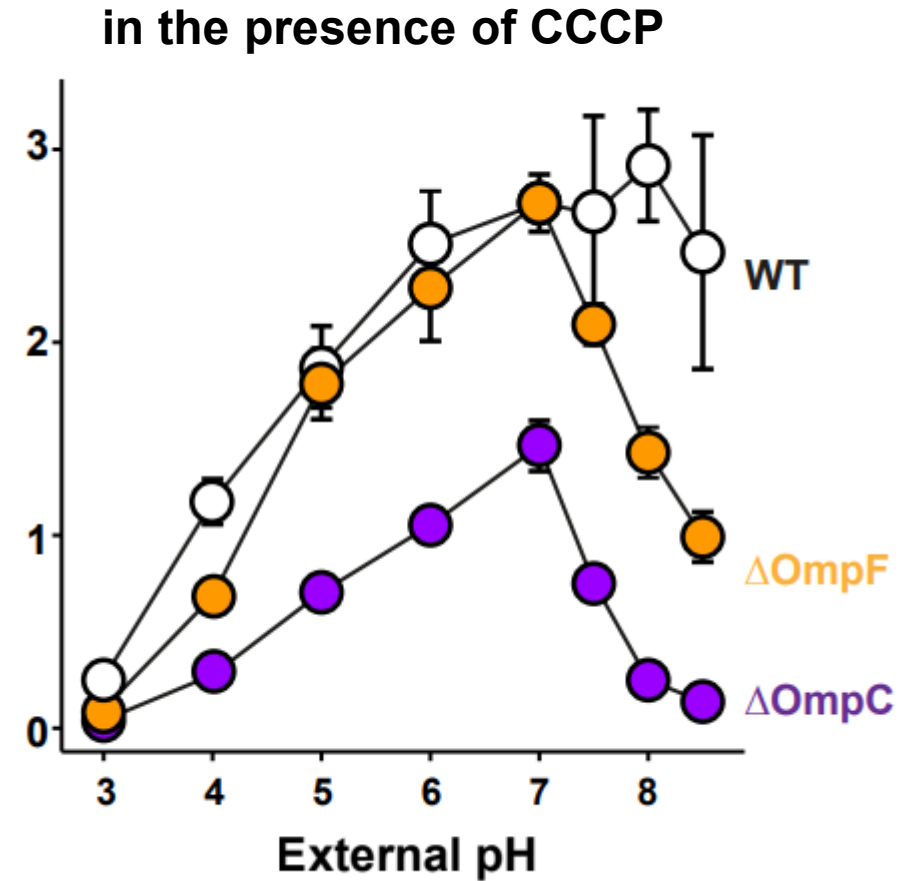
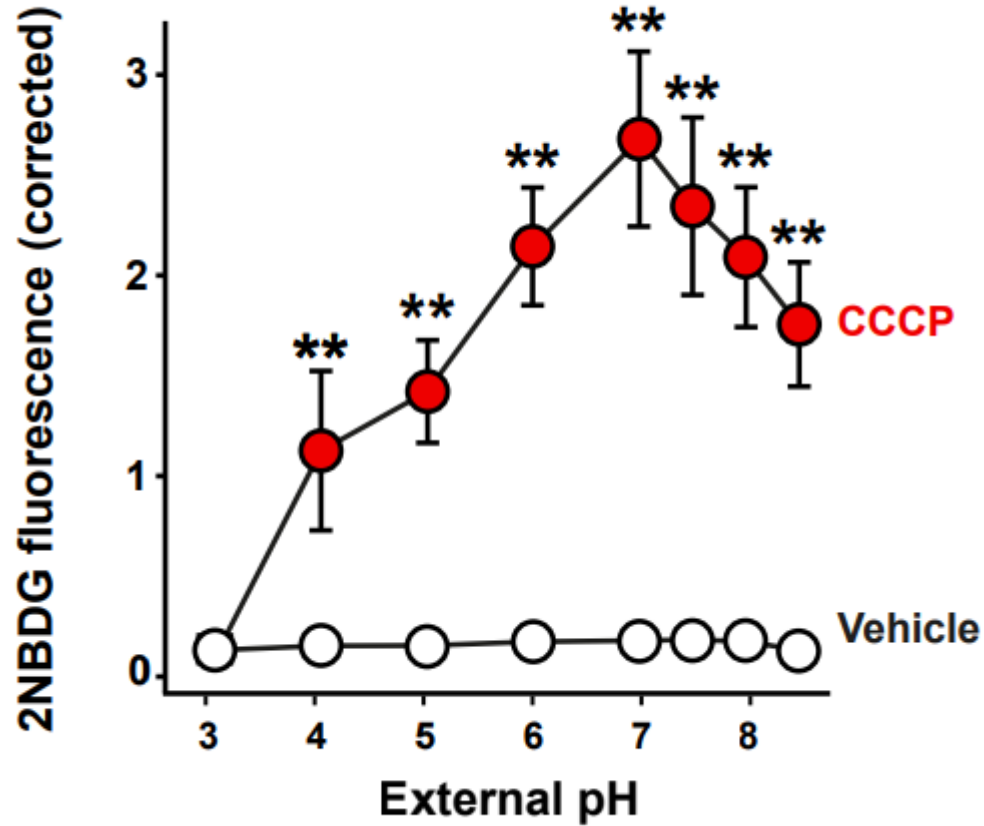
Over time



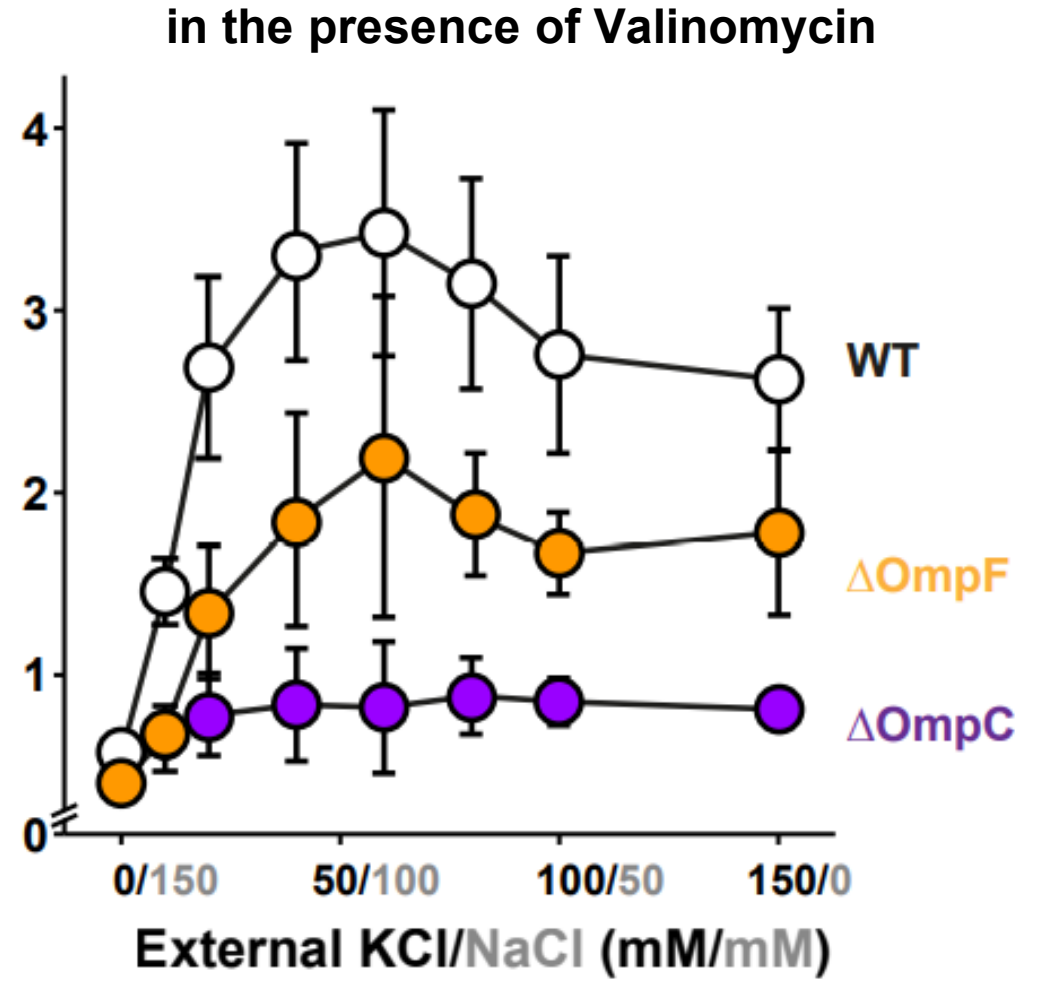
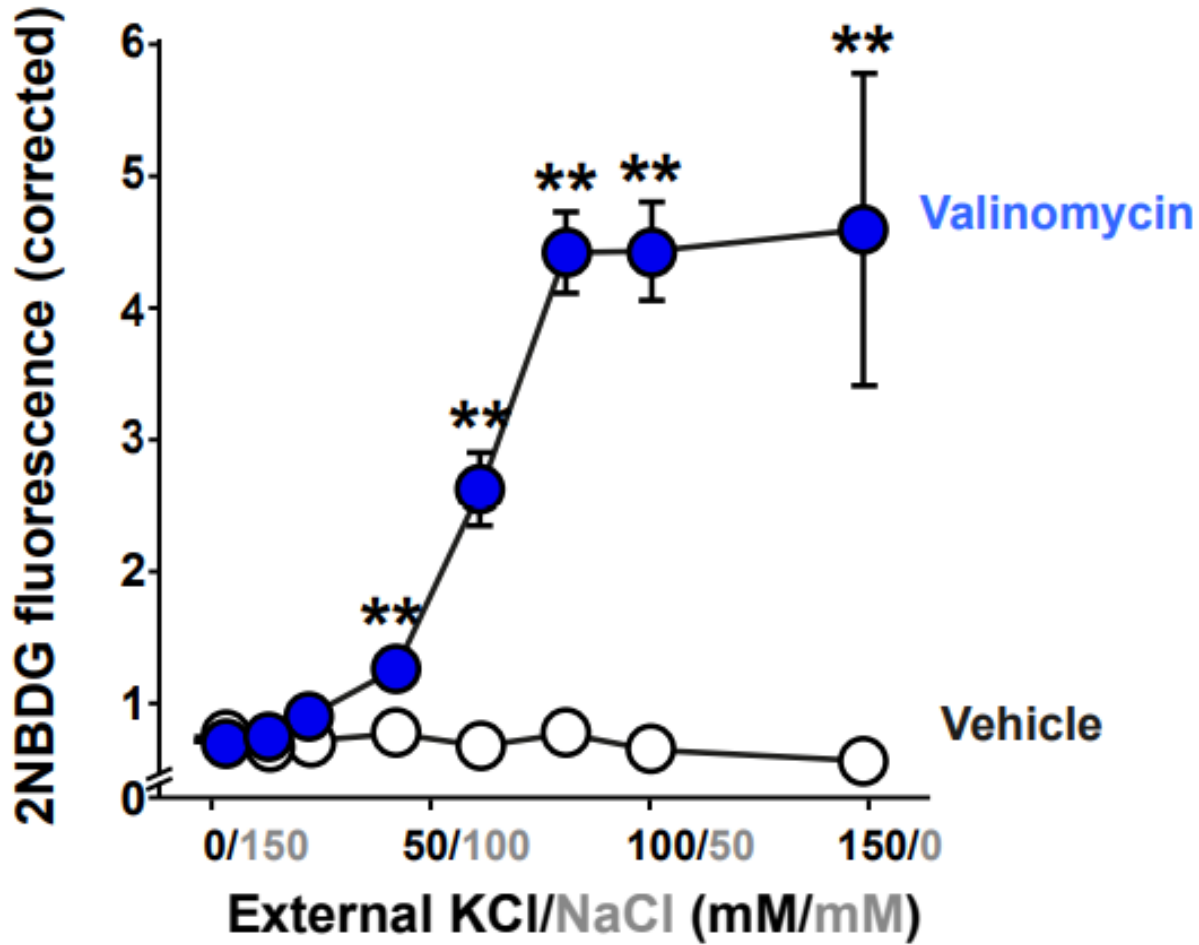
Porin permeability is regulated by ion channels



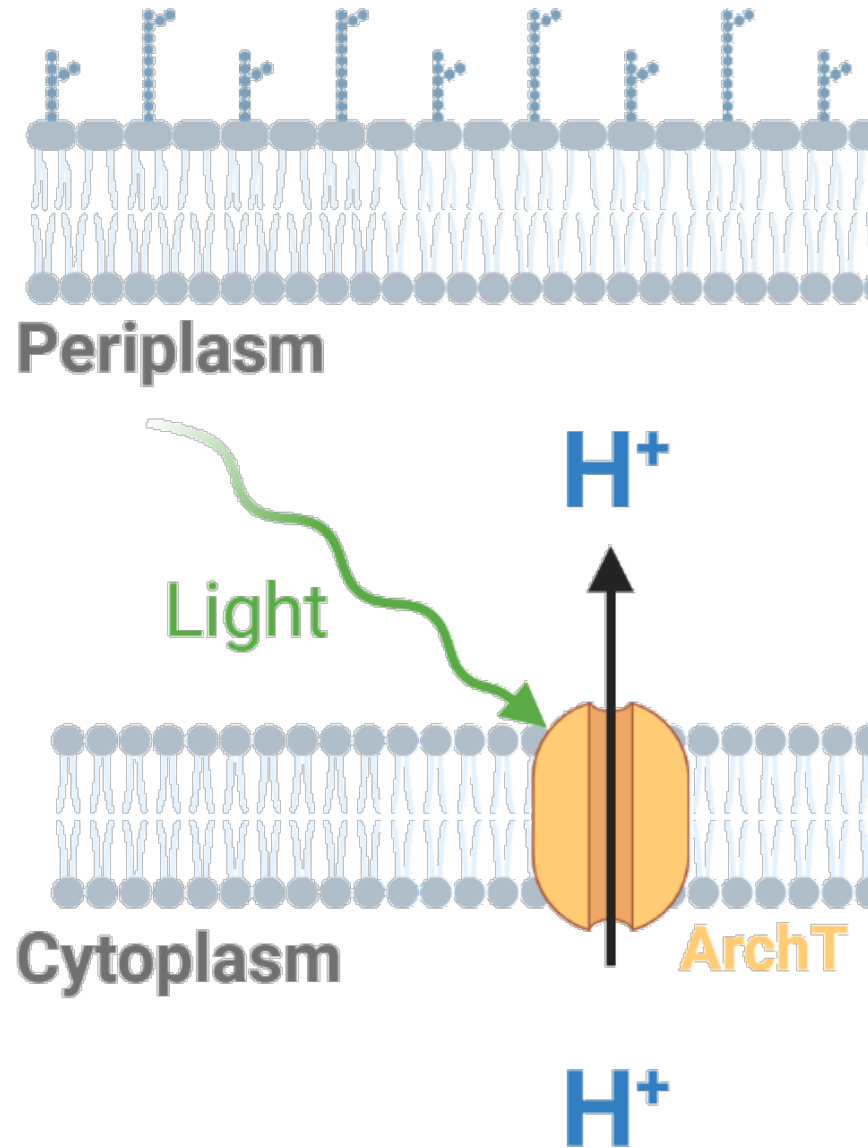
Porin permeability is regulated by internal H⁺ and K⁺



Porin permeability is regulated by internal H⁺ and K⁺

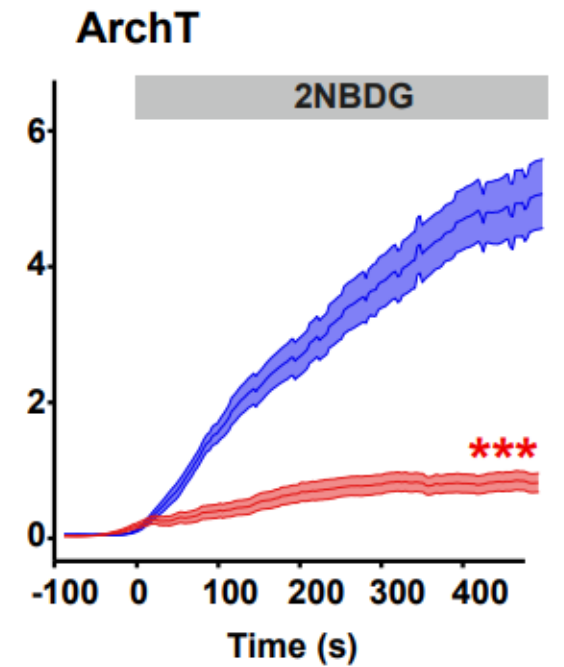
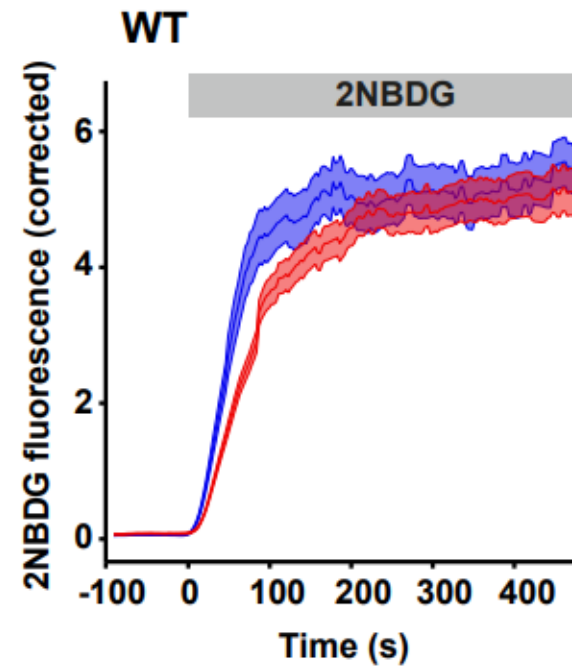
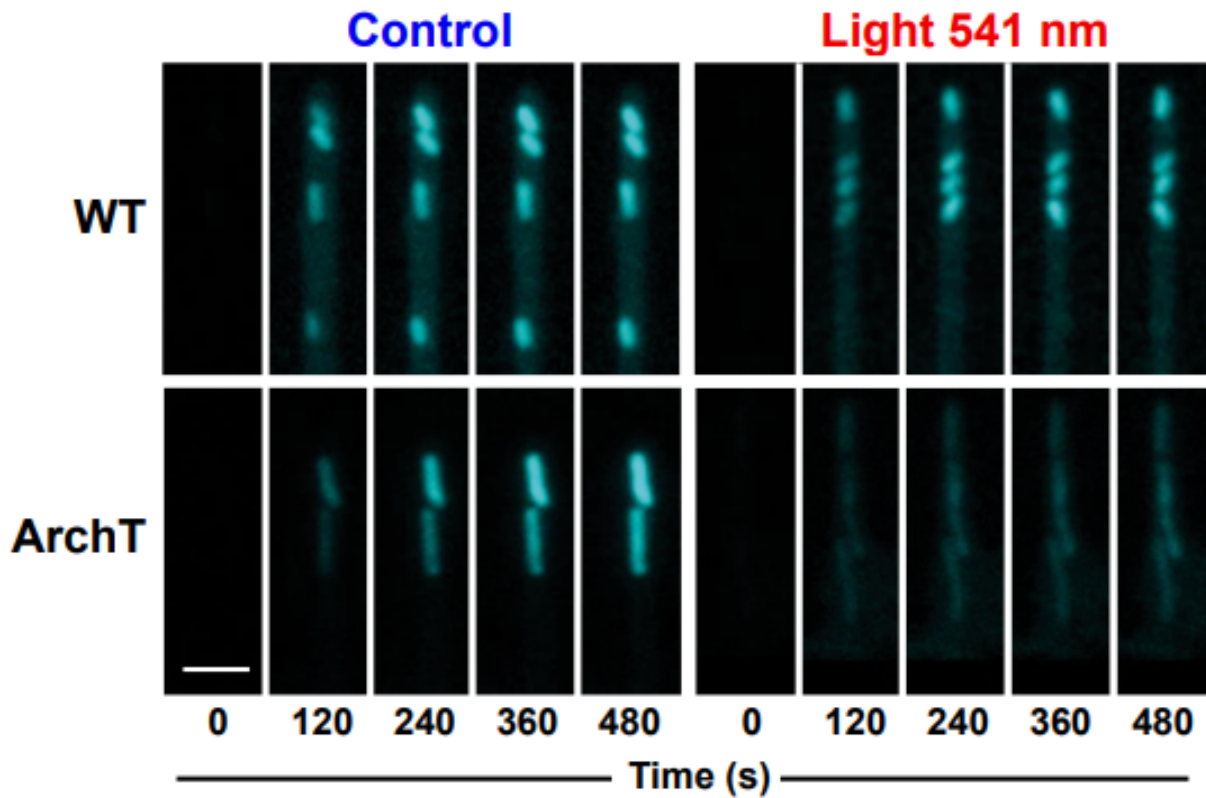


Direct manipulation of periplasmic H^+ affects porin permeability

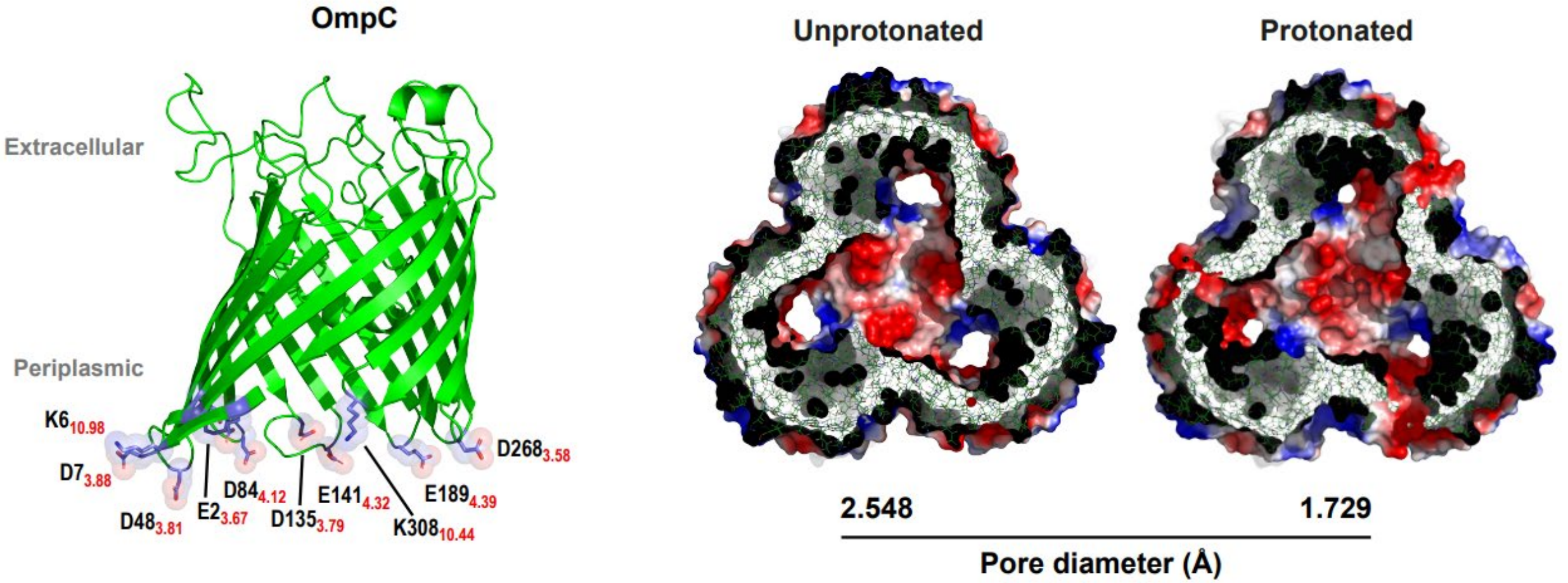


Increasing periplasmic H⁺ reduces porin permeability

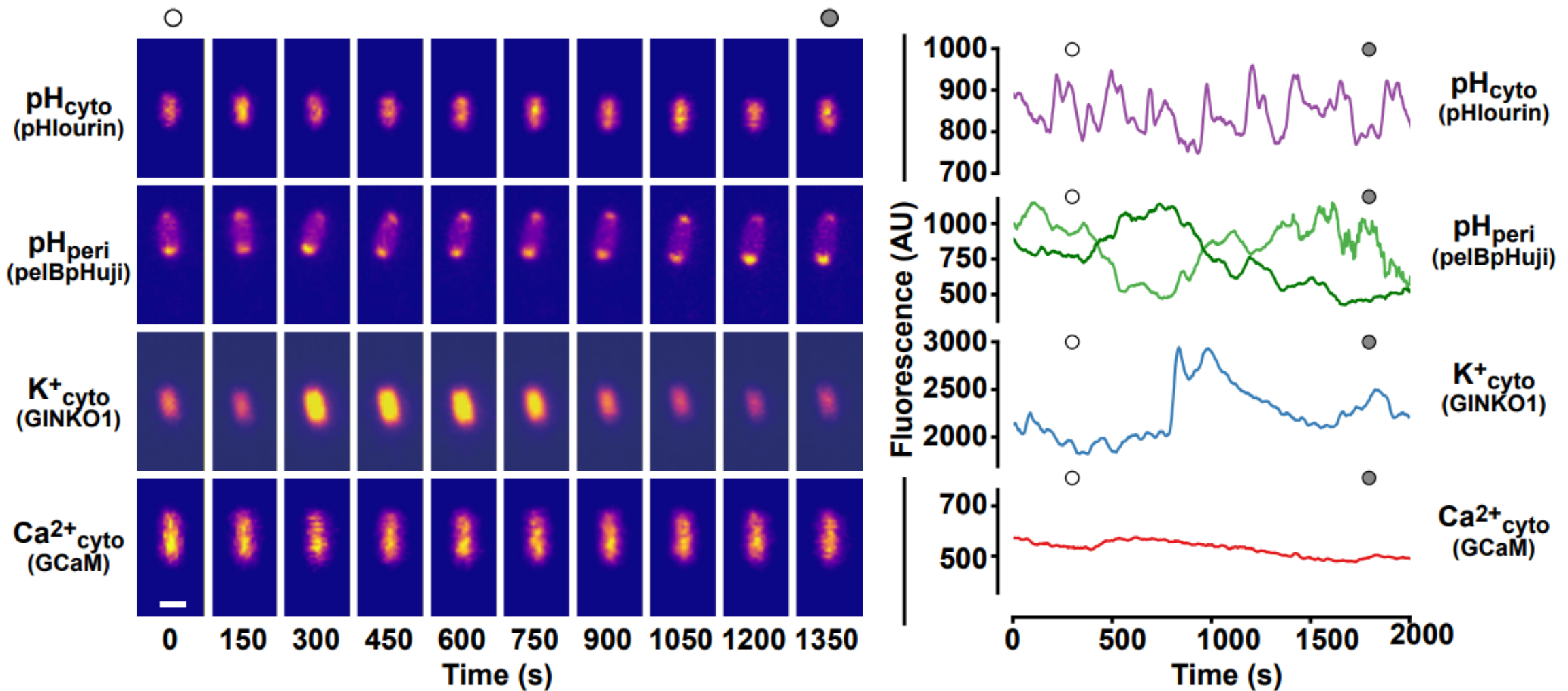
2NBDG uptake



MD simulations indicate intrinsic permeability regulation by periplasmic H⁺

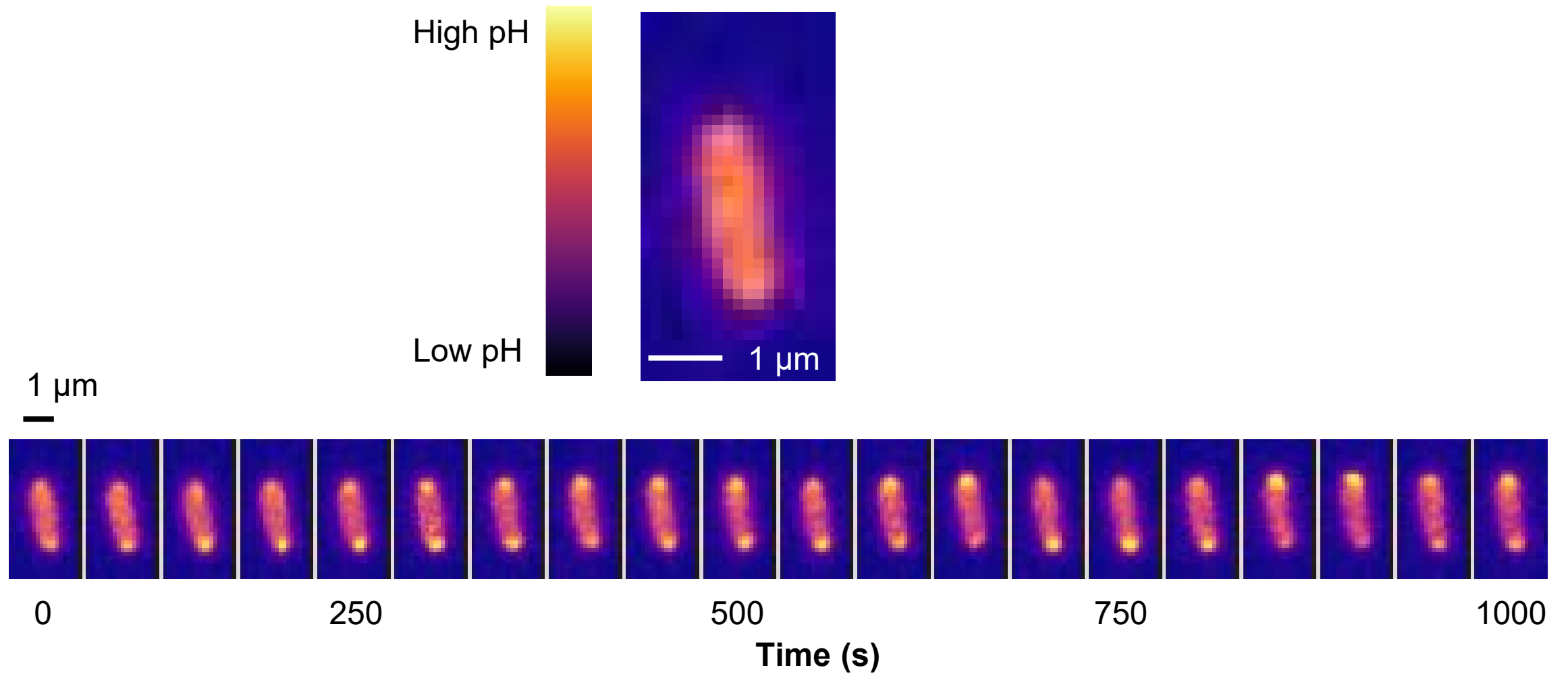


Dynamic fluctuation of internal ions within *E. coli*





Oscillations in periplasmic H⁺ within bacteria



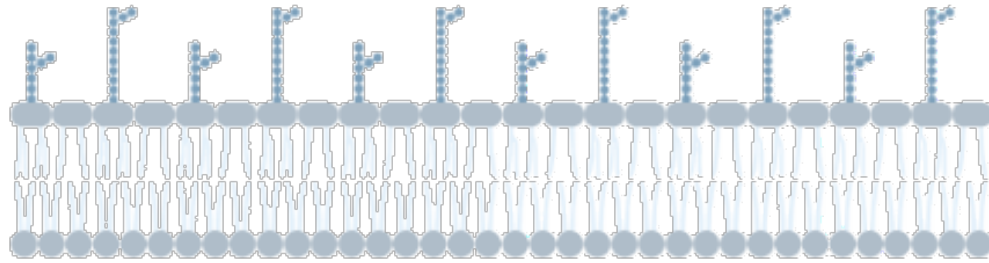


Can we use inner membrane voltage to monitor periplasmic ions?



Ionic control of inner membrane voltage

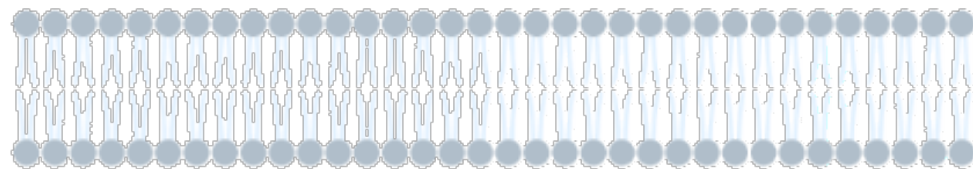
Hyperpolarised



$[K^+]$

$[H^+]$

Periplasm

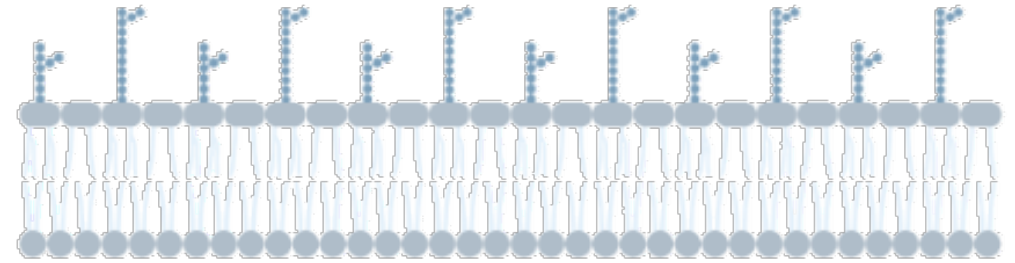


$[K^+]$

$[H^+]$

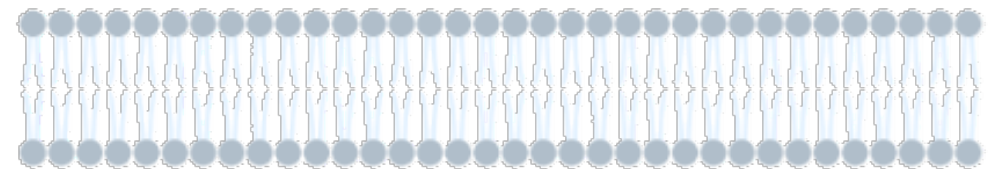
Cytoplasm

Depolarised



$[K^+]$

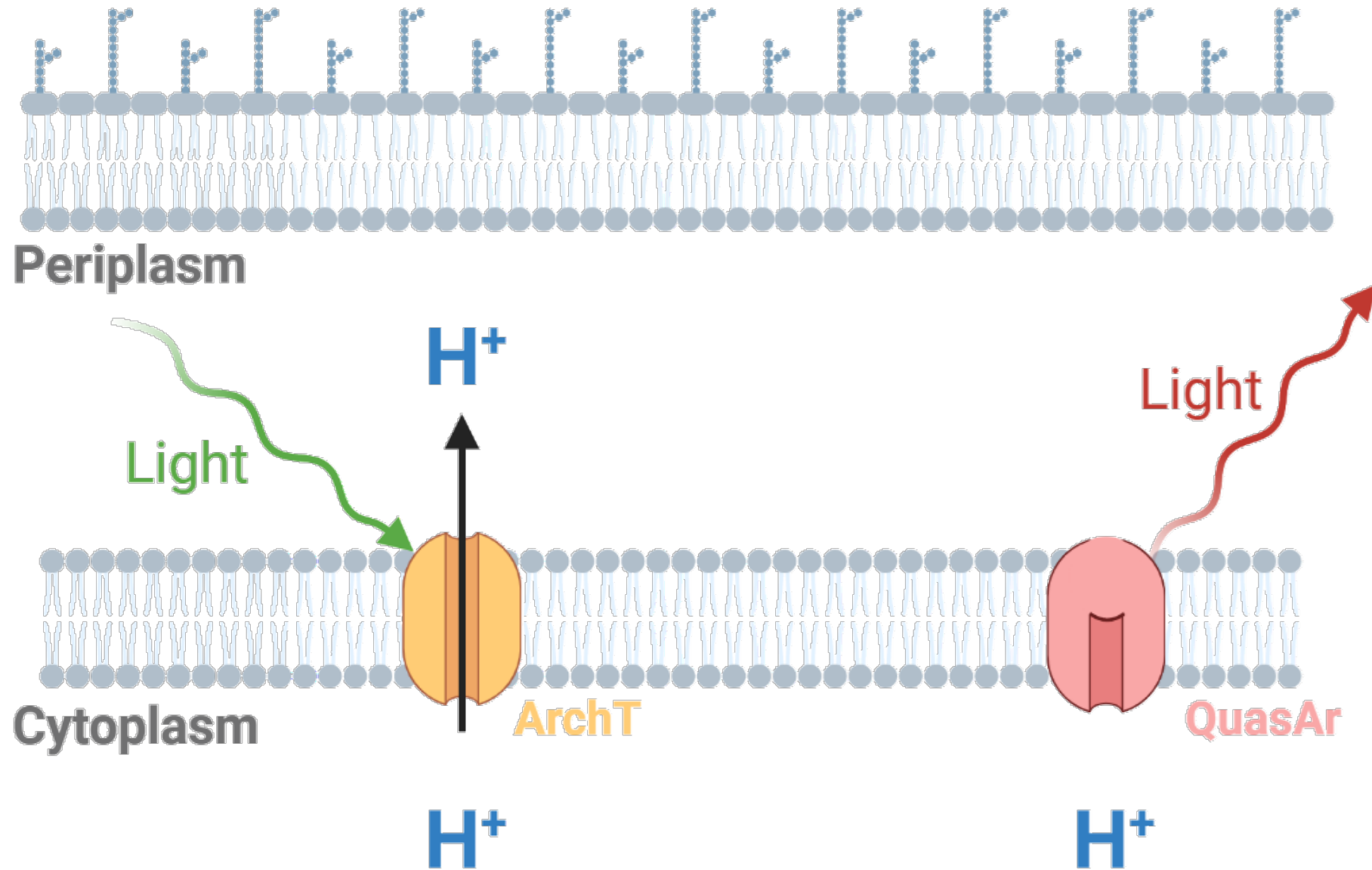
$[H^+]$



$[K^+]$

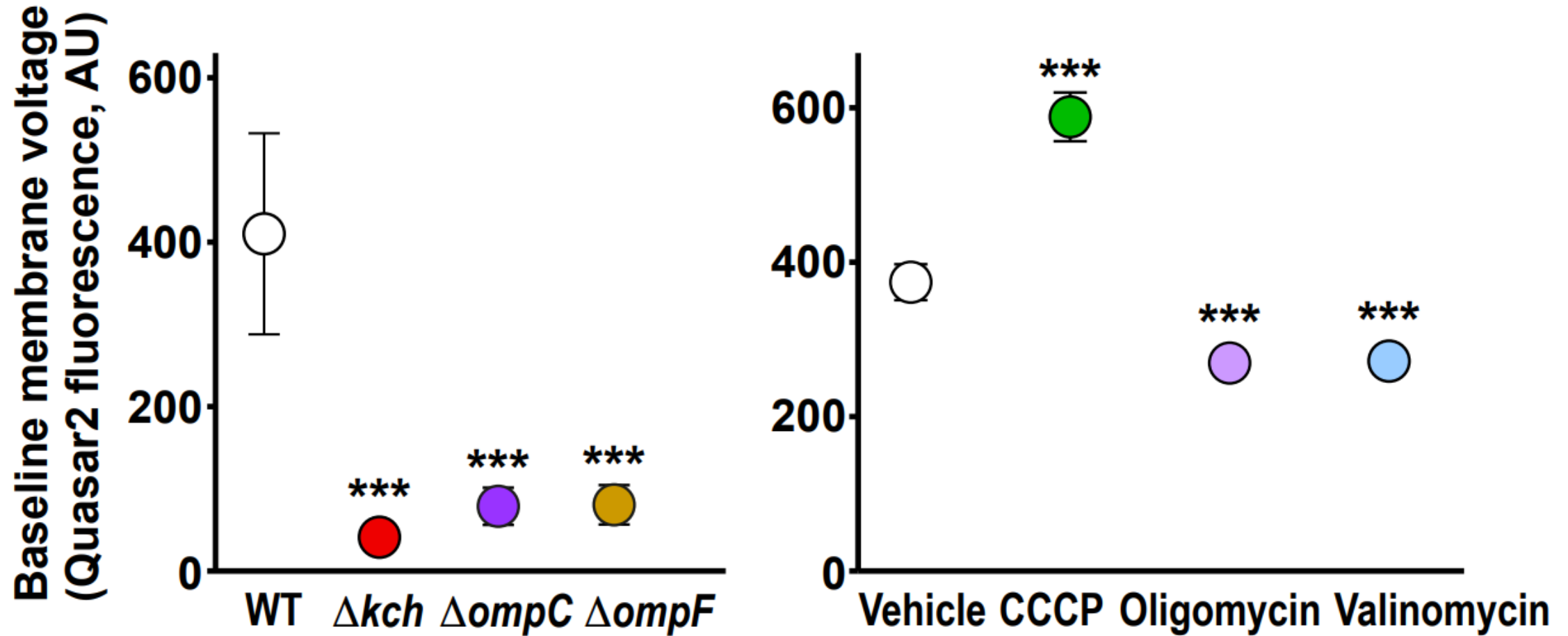
$[H^+]$

Monitoring inner membrane voltage

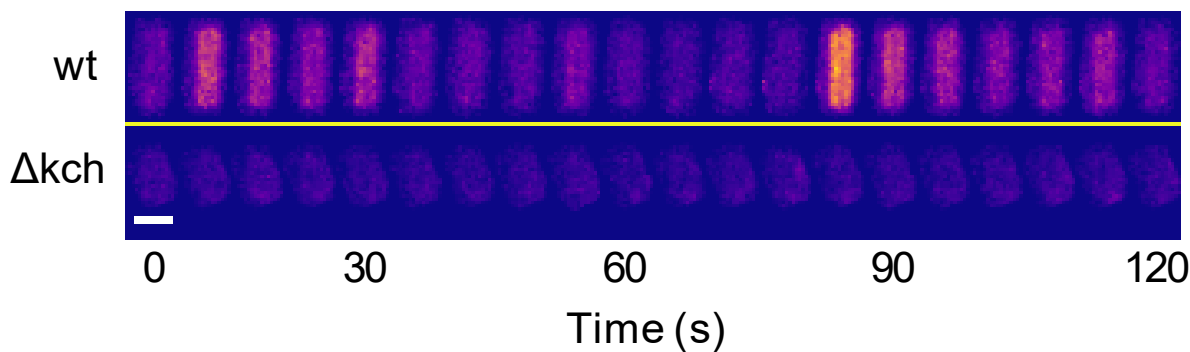
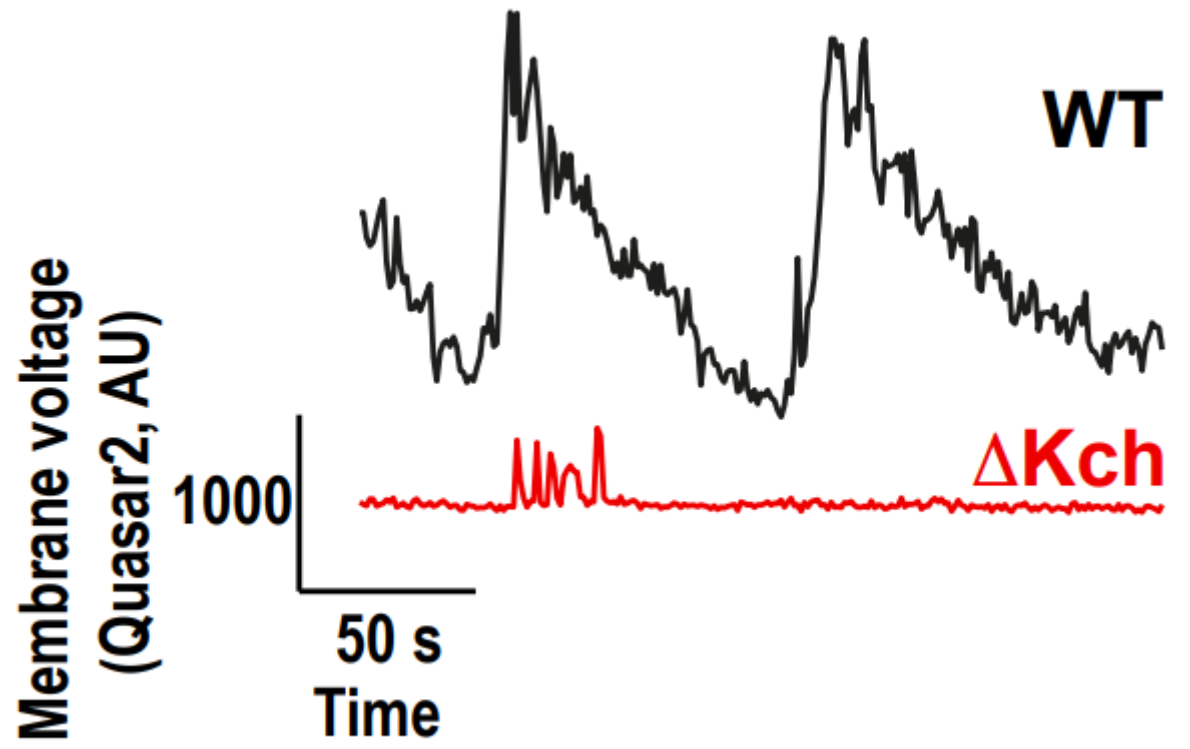




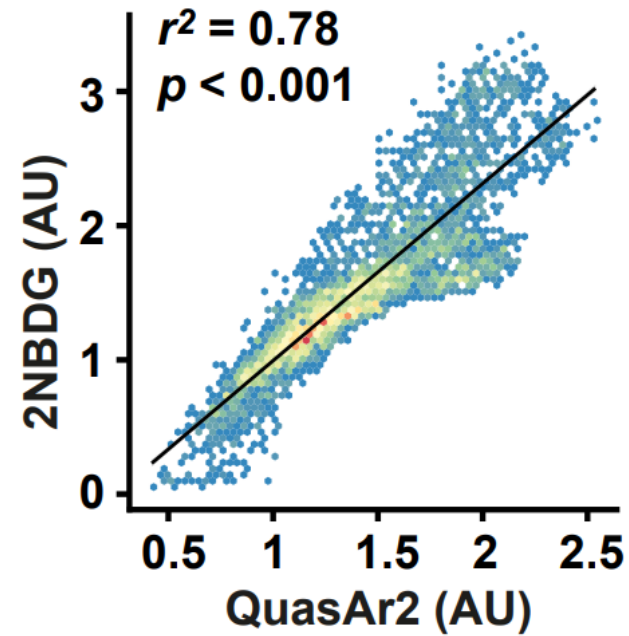
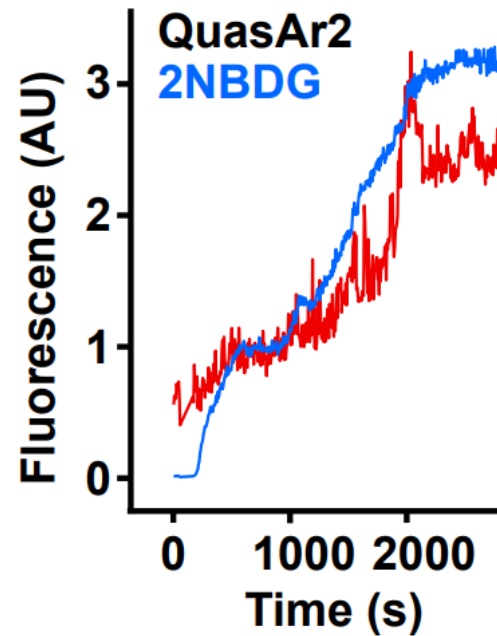
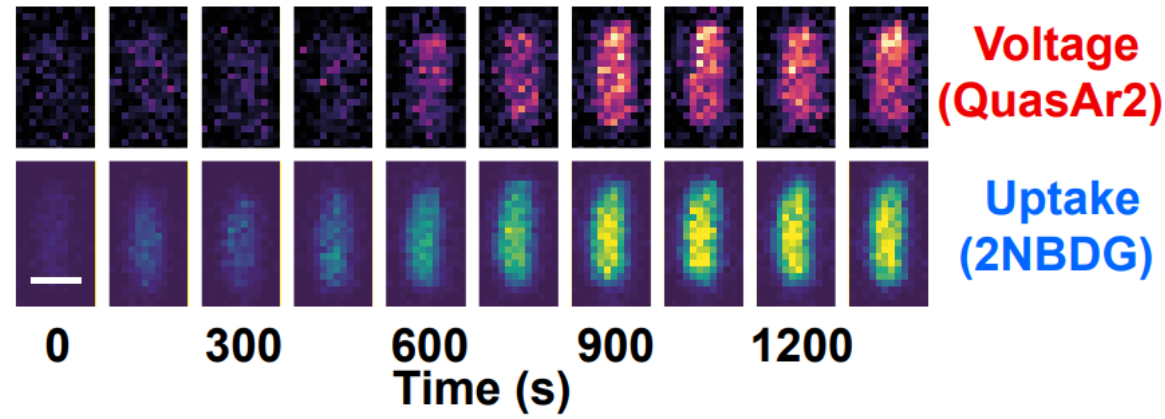
Inner membrane voltage can account for H⁺ and K⁺ conductance



'Action potentials' driven by voltage-gated K⁺ channel (Kch)



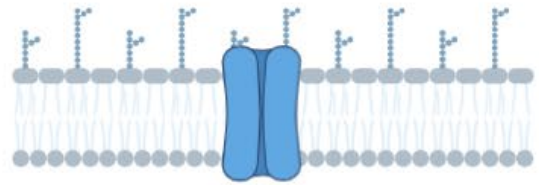
Membrane depolarisation correlates with 2NBDG uptake



A model for how bacteria control porin opening

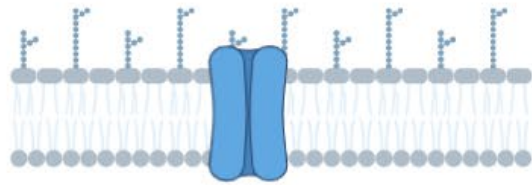
1

Porin shut



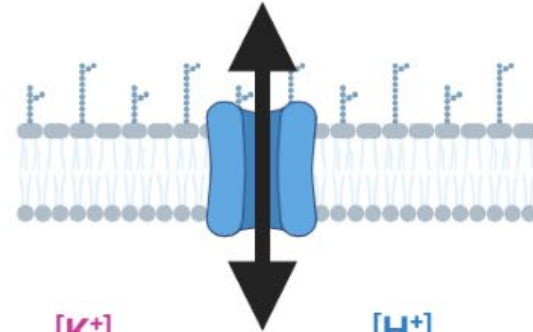
2

Kch opens



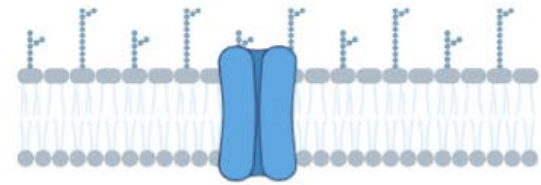
3

Porin opens



4

Porin shut



Periplasm

[K⁺]

[H⁺]

[K⁺]

[H⁺]

[K⁺]

[H⁺]

[K⁺]

[H⁺]

ETC

ETC

ETC

ETC

Cytoplasm

[K⁺]

[H⁺]

[K⁺]

[H⁺]

[K⁺]

[H⁺]

[K⁺]

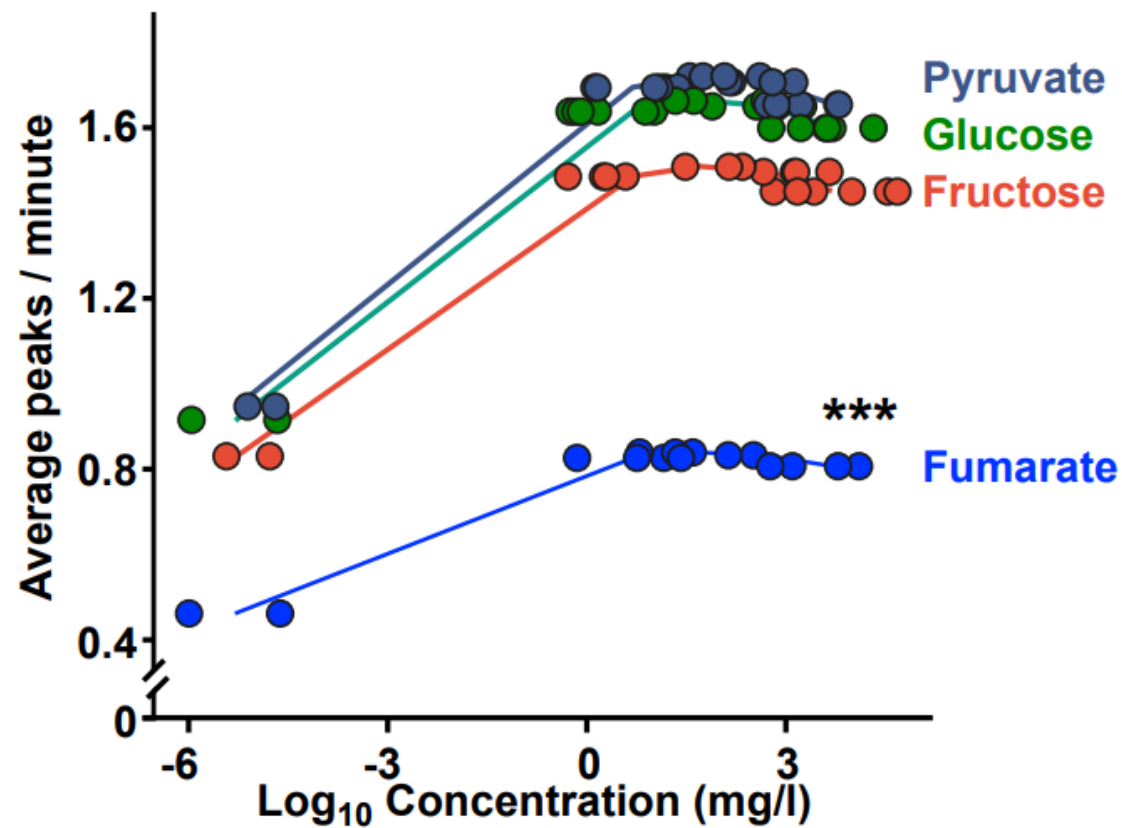
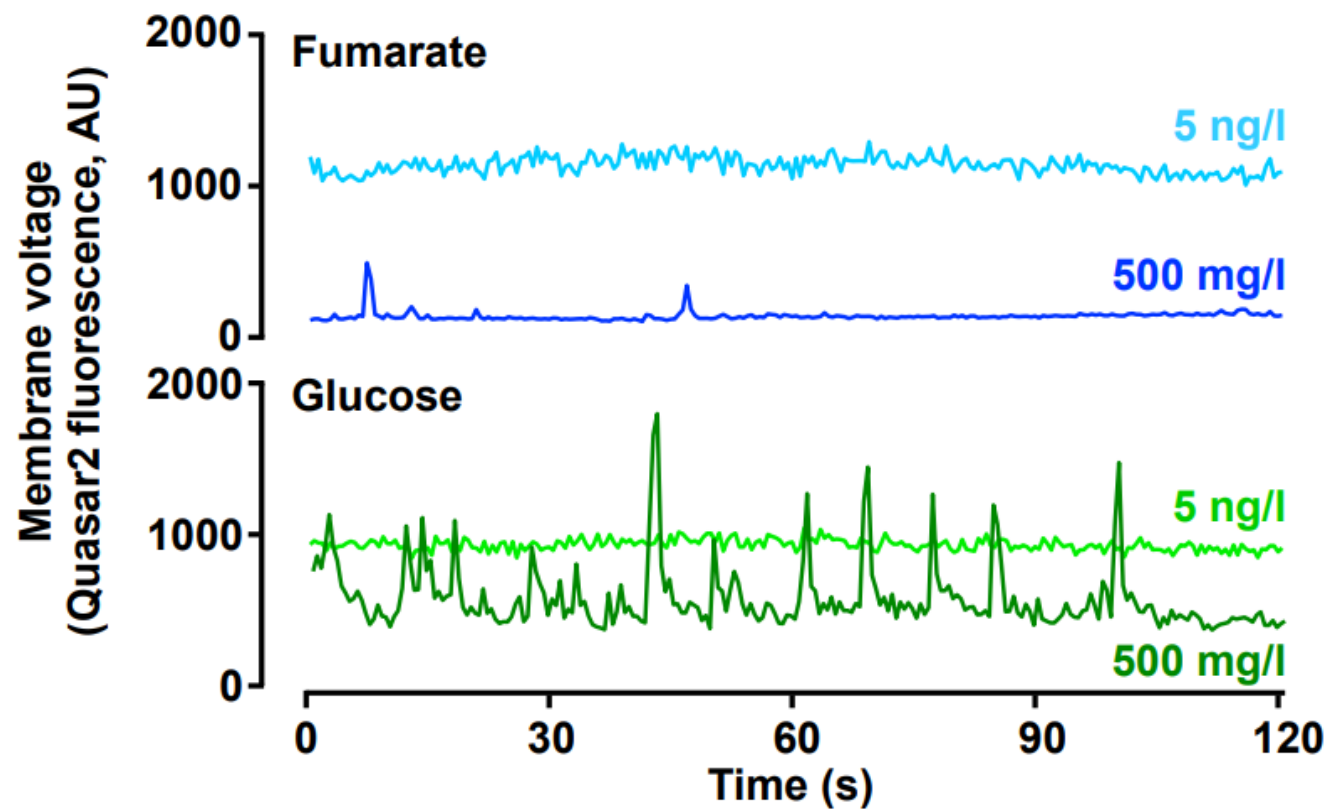
[H⁺]



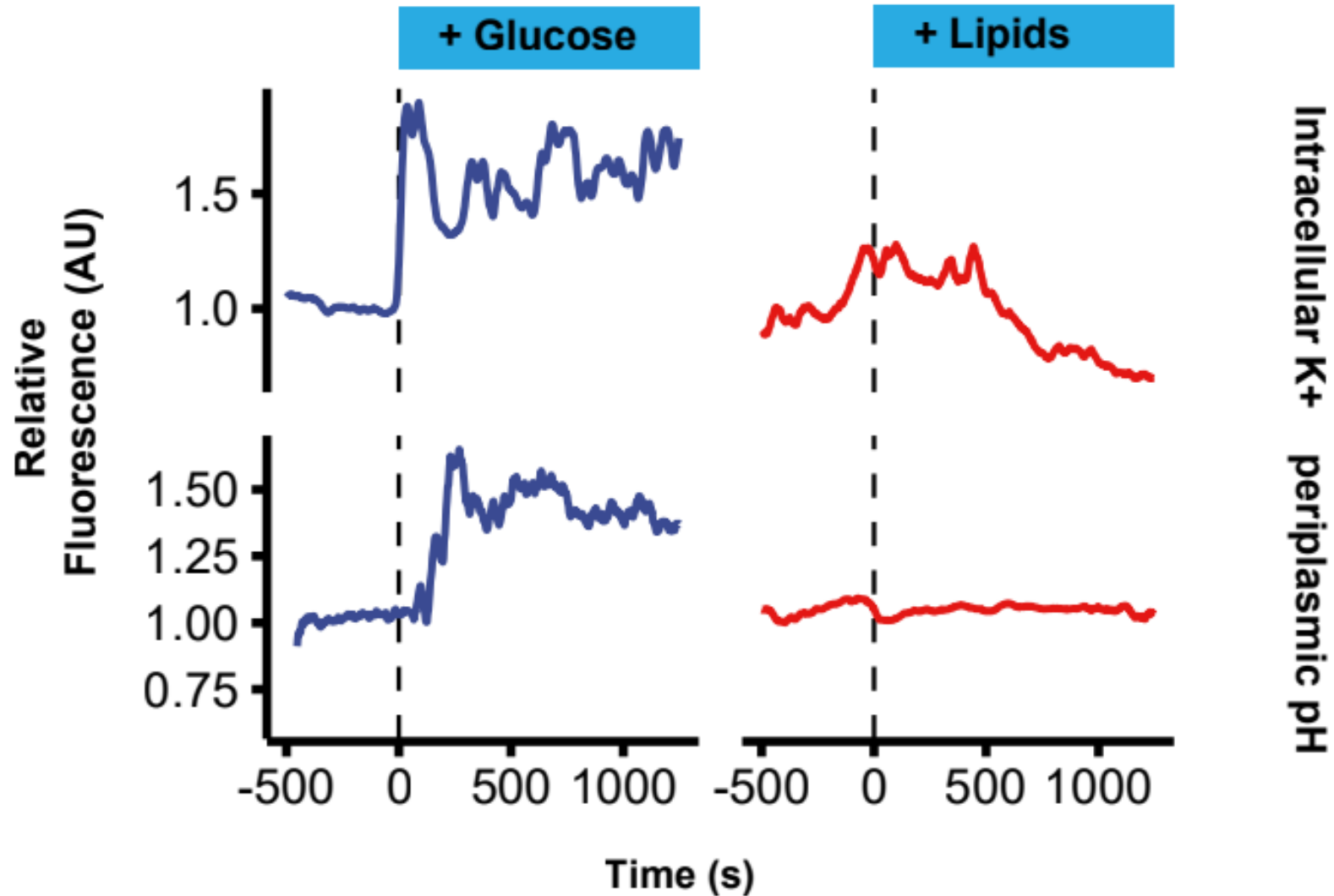
If the model is correct:

Action potentials should increase with the amount and quality of carbon source

Membrane voltage spikes increase with carbon source



Periplasmic H⁺ and K⁺ oscillations depend on carbon source





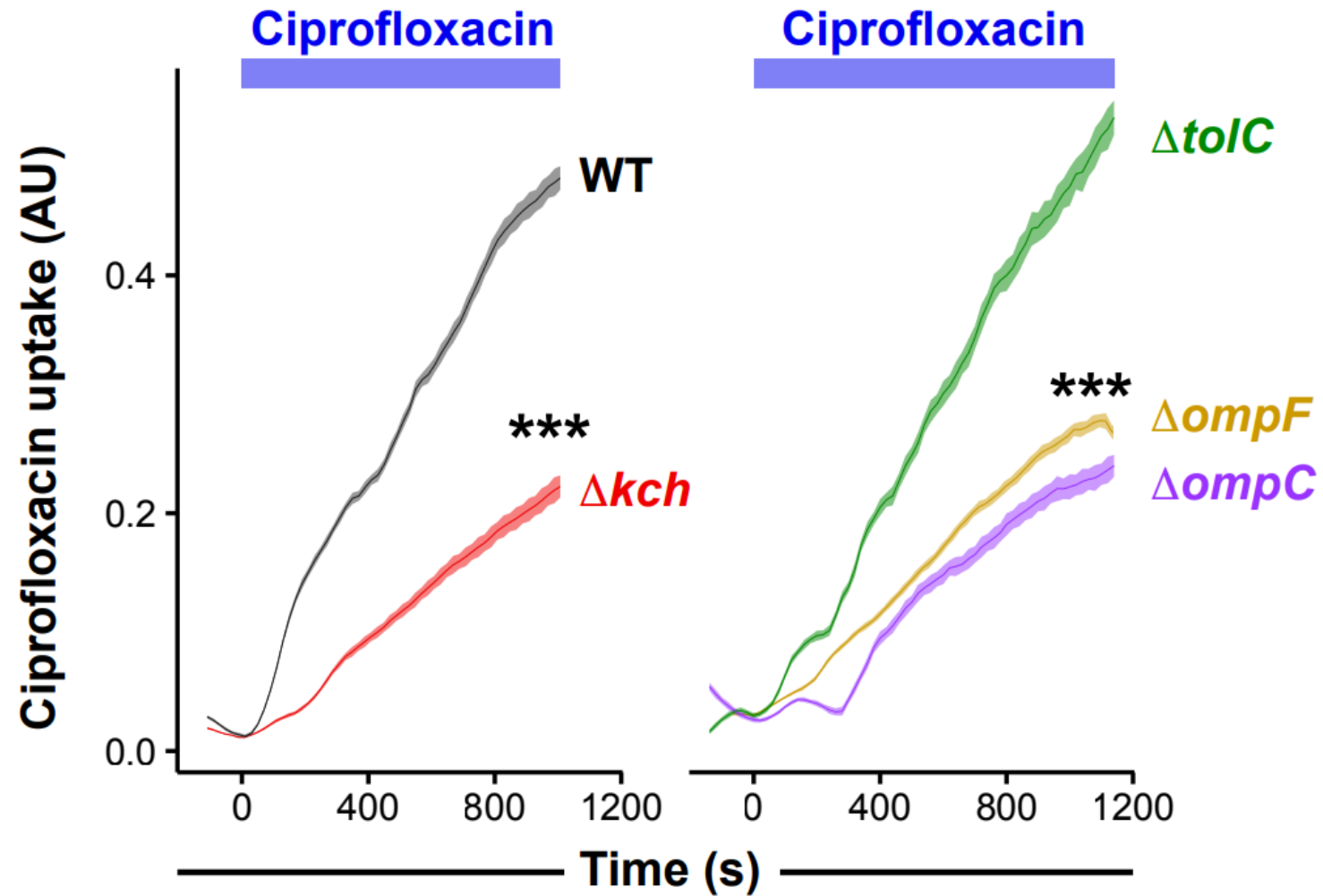
A model for metabolic control of porin opening

| Metabolic state | ETC activity | Kch activation | Periplasmic ions | Porin permeability |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------|---|--------------------|
| Starvation | None | None | Low H ⁺ , Low K ⁺ | Open |
| Growth in lipid | Low | Low | High H⁺ , Low K ⁺ | Closed |
| Growth in low glucose | Low | Low | High H⁺ , Low K ⁺ | Closed |
| Growth in high glucose | High | High | Variable H ⁺ , High K⁺ | Open |



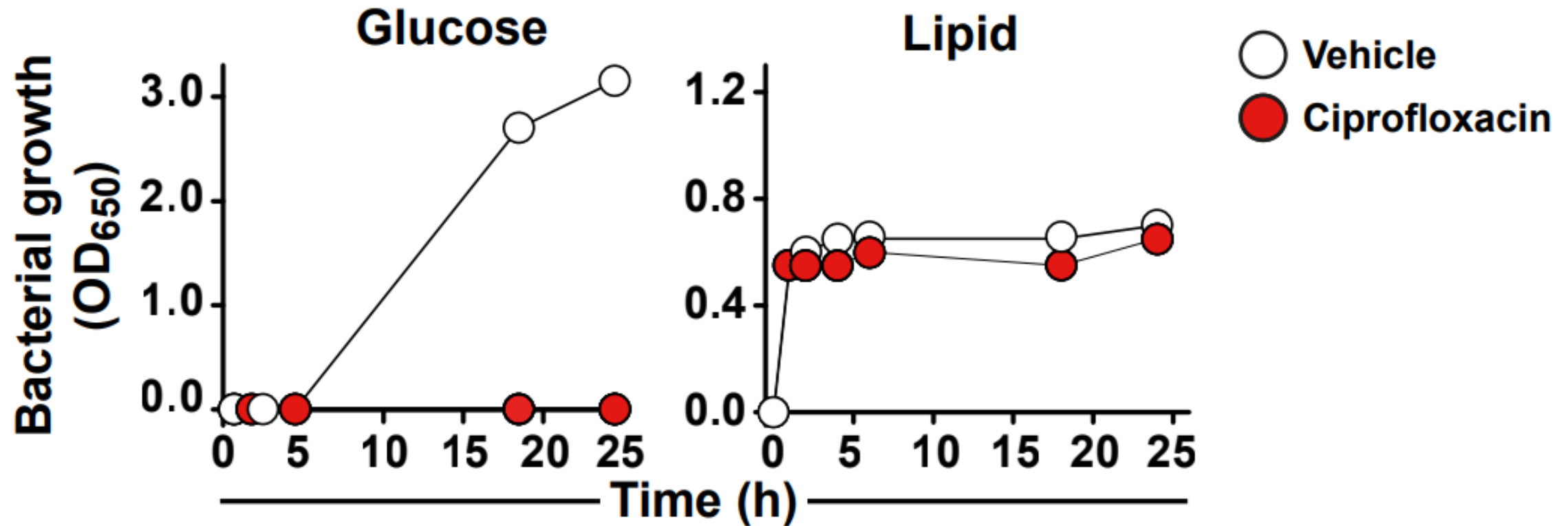
Does porin regulation explain antibiotic resistance?

Ciprofloxacin entry is mediated by porins

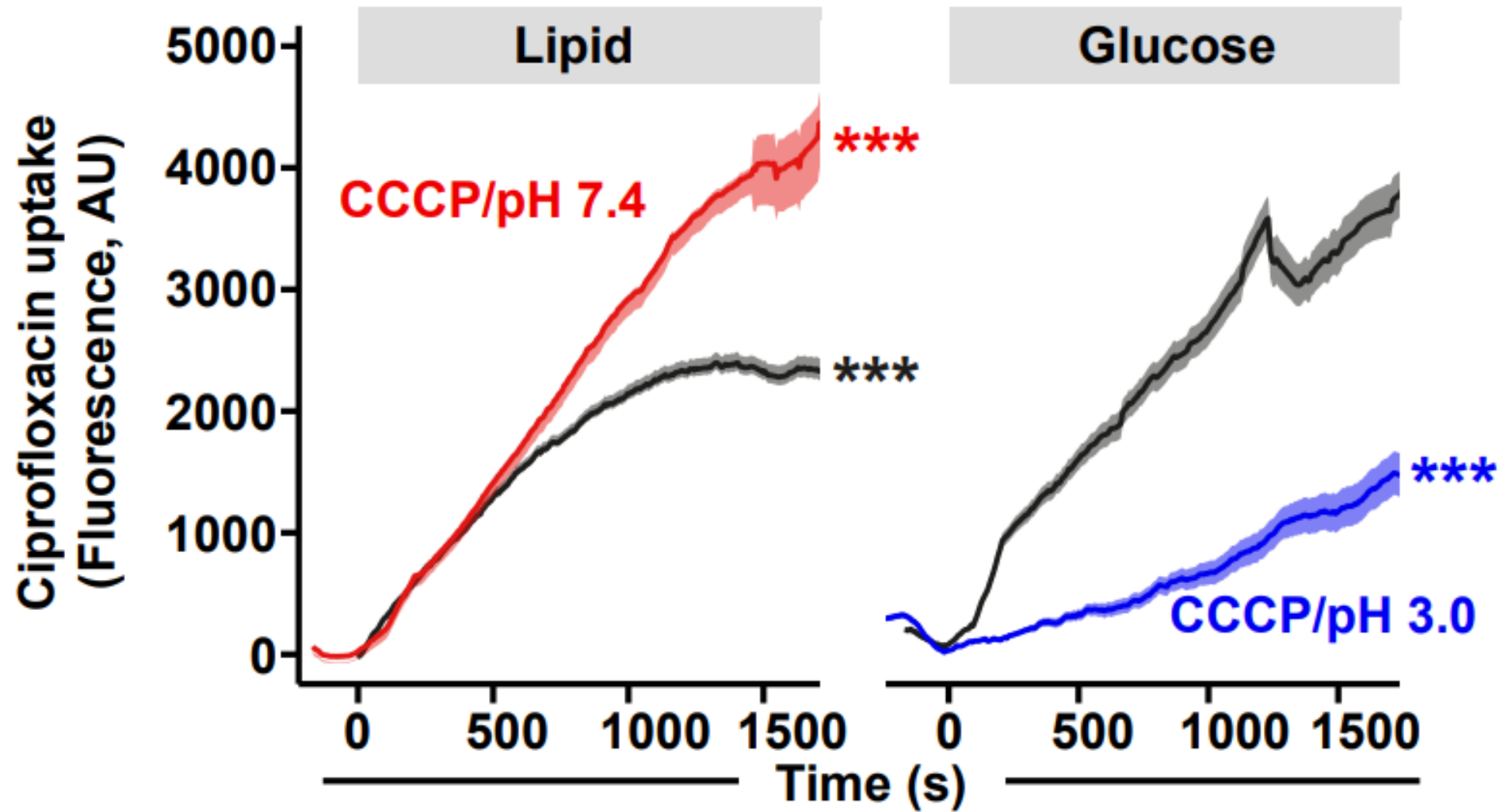




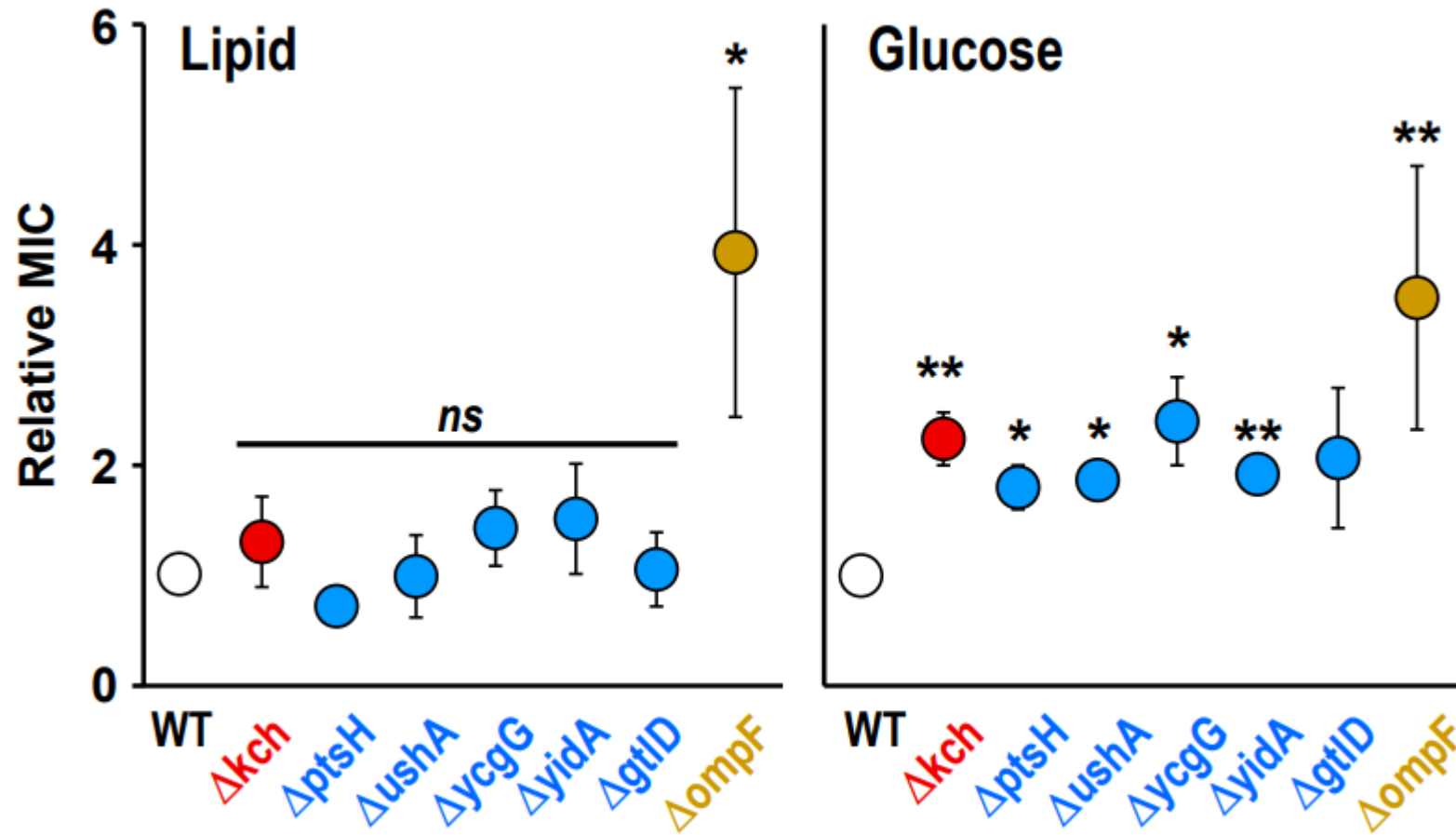
Lipid carbon source increases antibiotic resistance



Lipid carbon source reduce porin permeability



Metabolic activity controls porin permeability and thus MIC



Conclusions

1. Porin permeability is regulated by **periplasmic H⁺ and K⁺**

Structural modelling suggests that regulation may be **porin-intrinsic**

2. Changes in periplasmic H⁺ and K⁺ may explain differential porin permeability during starvation and growth in different carbon sources

3. Porin regulation may underlie increases in antibiotic resistance during growth in lipids (and possibly in the phagosome) and the effect of AMR mutations in central metabolism genes

Acknowledgements:

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