

## LS05-021 - Mg<sup>2+</sup> channel proteins: Structure/function analysis and potential drug targets

### Zusammenfassung

The eukaryotic Mrs2 and Alr1 proteins and their distant relative CorA in bacteria constitute a novel, highly diverse superfamily of Mg<sup>2+</sup> transport proteins. They form homo-oligomeric channels with high cation selectivity.

Here we intend to perform structure/function analyses of the eukaryotic channel proteins Mrs2p and Alr1p in order to better understand their potential role as drug targets. These studies will include

- i) mutational, biochemical and structural analyses,
- ii) cation flux studies by use of single channel patch-clamping,
- iii) the use of Alr1p, the plasma membrane Mg<sup>2+</sup> channel protein of lower eukaryotes, as a drug target.

Detailed knowledge resulting from these combined studies is expected to enable us to find inhibitors of Mg<sup>2+</sup> flux with a biomedical potential and to understand their action in molecular terms.

### Keywords:

ion channel, drug target, magnesium, fungi

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