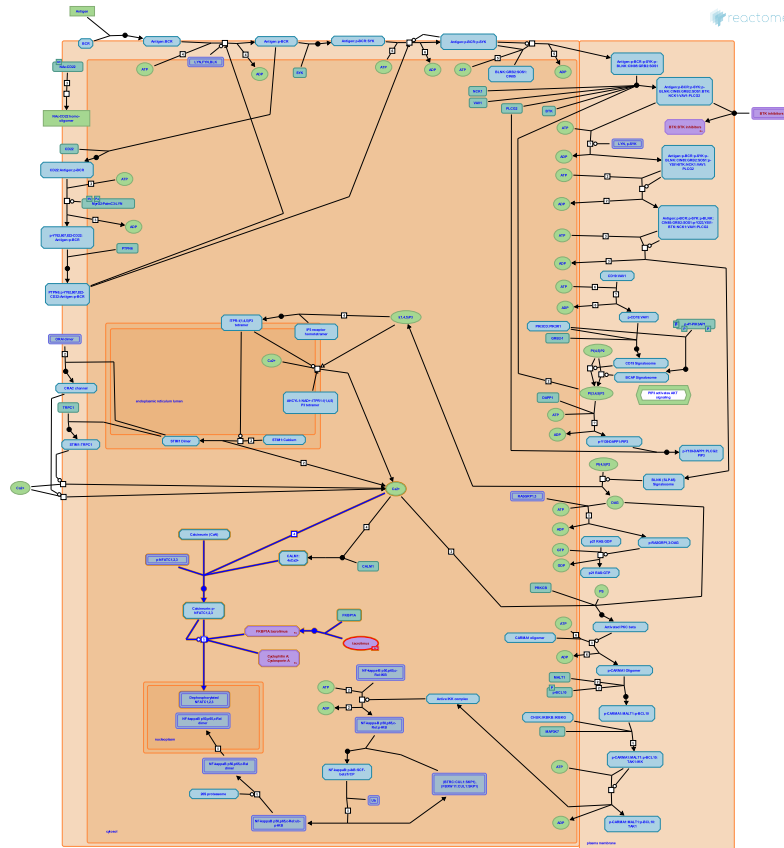


Calcineurin activates NFAT



Jassal, B., May, B., Shoichet, BK., Wienands, J.

European Bioinformatics Institute, New York University Langone Medical Center, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Oregon Health and Science University.

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This is just an excerpt of a full-length report for this pathway. To access the complete report, please download it at the [Reactome Textbook](https://reactome.org/textbook/).

04/05/2024

Introduction

Reactome is open-source, open access, manually curated and peer-reviewed pathway database. Pathway annotations are authored by expert biologists, in collaboration with Reactome editorial staff and cross-referenced to many bioinformatics databases. A system of evidence tracking ensures that all assertions are backed up by the primary literature. Reactome is used by clinicians, geneticists, genomics researchers, and molecular biologists to interpret the results of high-throughput experimental studies, by bioinformaticians seeking to develop novel algorithms for mining knowledge from genomic studies, and by systems biologists building predictive models of normal and disease variant pathways.

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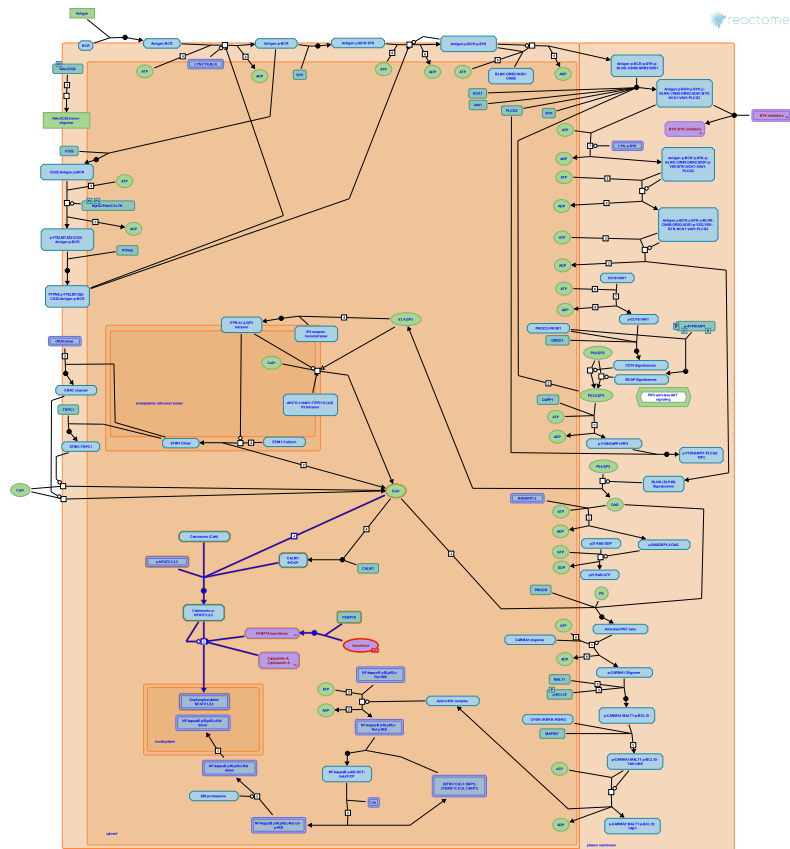
Reactome database release: 88

This document contains 1 pathway and 3 reactions ([see Table of Contents](#))

Calcineurin activates NFAT ↗

Stable identifier: R-HSA-2025928

Compartments: cytosol, nucleoplasm



Signaling by the B cell receptor and the T cell receptor stimulate transcription by NFAT factors via calcium (reviewed in Gwack et al. 2007). Cytosolic calcium from intracellular stores and extracellular sources binds calmodulin and activates the protein phosphatase calcineurin. Activated calcineurin dephosphorylates NFATs in the cytosol, exposing nuclear localization sequences on the NFATs and causing the NFATs to be imported into the nucleus where they regulate transcription of target genes in complexes with other transcription factors such as AP-1 and JUN. Calcineurin is the target of the immunosuppressive drugs cyclosporin A and FK-506 (reviewed in Lee and Park 2006).

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Editions

2011-12-11	Authored, Edited	May, B.
2012-02-12	Reviewed	Wienands, J.

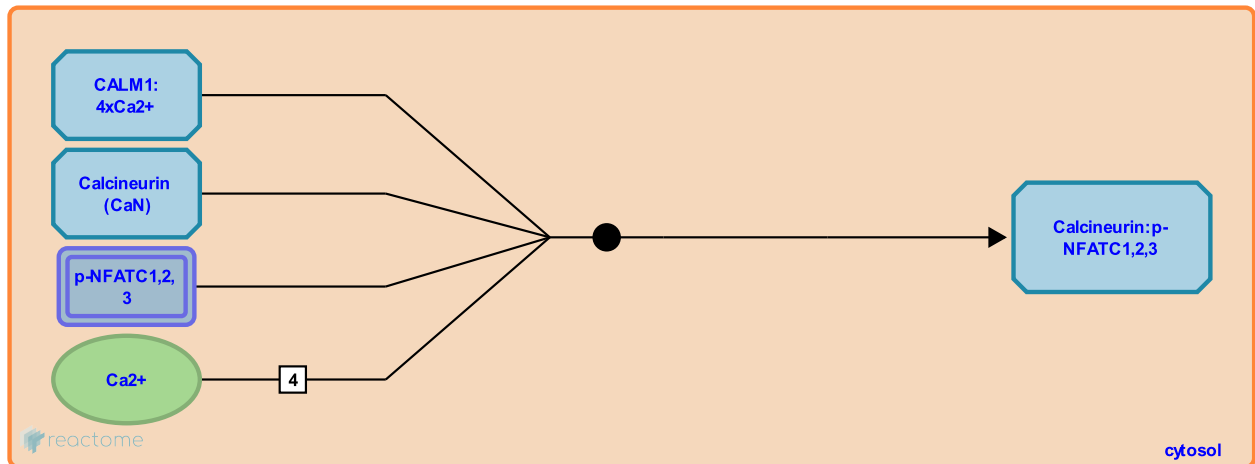
Calcineurin binds NFATC1,2,3 [↗](#)

Location: [Calcineurin activates NFAT](#)

Stable identifier: R-HSA-2025890

Type: binding

Compartments: cytosol



Calcium activates calcineurin in two ways: binding the regulatory subunit of calcineurin directly and binding calmodulin which then interacts with the catalytic subunit of calcineurin. As inferred from mouse, B lymphocytes contain the R1 regulatory subunit (PPP3R1) and the beta catalytic subunit (PPP3CB).

In the presence of calcium and calcium:calmodulin calcineurin binds phosphorylated and unphosphorylated NFATs at 2 regions in the N-terminus (Luo et al. 1996, Garcia-Cozar et al. 1998, Park et al. 2000, evidence from mouse in Loh et al. 1996 and Wesselborg et al. 1996). Calcineurin also weakly interacts with NFATs in the absence of calcium (Garcia-Cozar et al. 1998).

Followed by: [Calcineurin dephosphorylates NFATC1,2,3](#)

Literature references

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Calcineurin dephosphorylates NFATC1,2,3 ↗

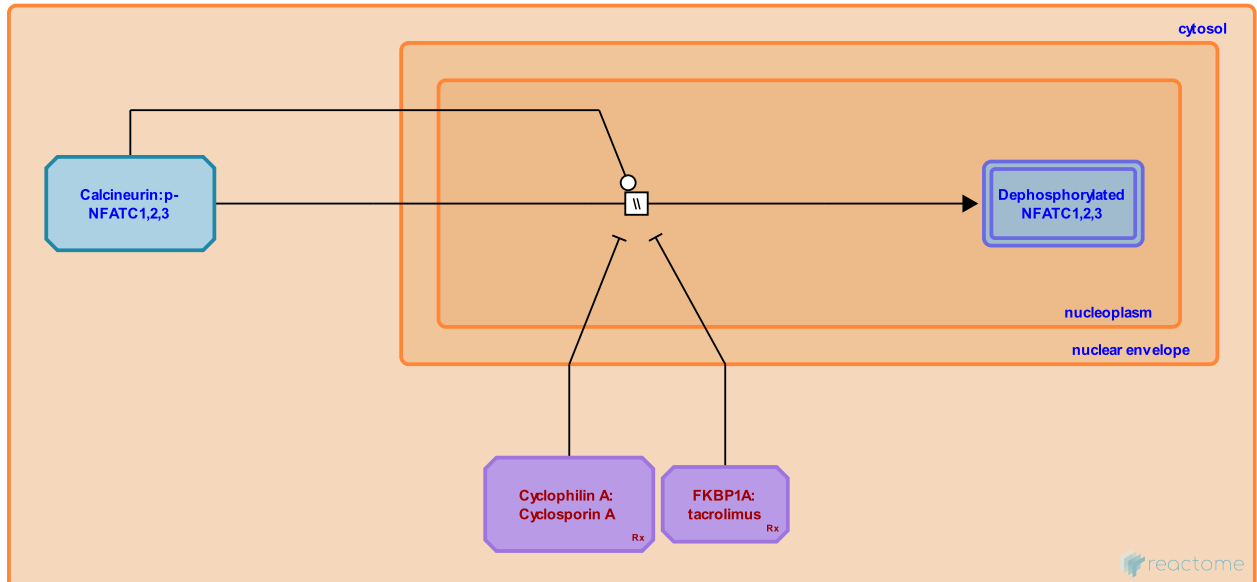
Location: [Calcineurin activates NFAT](#)

Stable identifier: R-HSA-2025882

Type: omitted

Compartments: nucleoplasm, cytosol

Inferred from: [Calcineurin Dephosphorylates Nfatc2 \(Mus musculus\)](#)



As inferred from mouse (Okamura et al. 2000), calcineurin dephosphorylates NFATC2 at 13 serine residues (Batiuk et al. 1997, Kim et al. 2000). B lymphocytes also contain NFATC2 and NFATC3 which are inferred to undergo dephosphorylation at homologous serines. Dephosphorylation of NFATs exposes a nuclear localization signal which cause NFATs to be imported into the nucleus (Kim et al. 2000). In mouse, Calcineurin is observed to also transit into the nucleus in a complex with NFATs and may remain associated (Shibasaki et al. 1996).

Preceded by: [Calcineurin binds NFATC1,2,3](#)

Literature references

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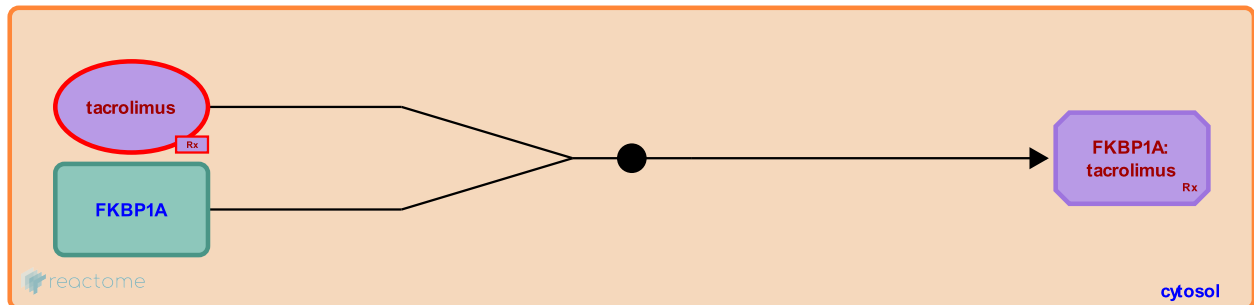
FKBP1A binds tacrolimus ↗

Location: Calcineurin activates NFAT

Stable identifier: R-HSA-9690461

Type: binding

Compartments: cytosol



Tacrolimus (also FK-506 or Fujimycin) is a macrolide compound obtained from *Streptomyces hygroscopicus* that acts by selectively blocking the transcriptional activation of cytokines thereby inhibiting cytokine production. It is bioactive only when bound to immunophilins. Tacrolimus is an immunosuppressive drug whose main use is after organ transplant to reduce the activity of the patient's immune system and so the risk of organ rejection. It reduces peptidyl-prolyl isomerase activity by binding to the immunophilin FKBP1A, creating a new complex. This complex inhibits calcineurin (Bierer et al. 1991) which inhibits T-lymphocyte signal transduction and IL-2 transcription (Kino et al. 1987, Ding et al. 2019).

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- Hashimoto, M., Hatanaka, H., Imanaka, H., Okuhara, M., Nishiyama, M., Aoki, H. et al. (1987). FK-506, a novel immunosuppressant isolated from a *Streptomyces*. I. Fermentation, isolation, and physico-chemical and biological characteristics. *J. Antibiot.*, 40, 1249-55. ↗
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Editions

2020-03-23	Authored	Jassal, B.
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