

Golli Myelin Basic Proteins Regulate Oligodendroglial Progenitor Cell Migration through Voltage-Gated Ca^{2+} Influx

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Migration of oligodendrocyte progenitor cells (OPCs) from proliferative zones to their final location in the brain is an essential step in nervous system development. Golli proteins, products of the myelin basic protein gene, can modulate voltage-gated Ca^{2+} uptake in OPCs during process extension and retraction. Given the importance of process extension/retraction on movement, the consequences of golli expression on OPC migration were examined *in vivo* and *in vitro* using time-lapse imaging of isolated OPCs and acute brain slice preparations from golli KO and golli J37 overexpressing mice (JOE). The results indicated that golli stimulated migration, and this enhanced motility was associated with increases in the activity of voltage operated Ca^{2+} channels (VOCCs). Activation of VOCCs by high K^+ resulted in a significant increase in the migration speed of JOE OPCs versus control cells and golli-mediated modulation of OPC migration disappeared in the presence of VOCC antagonists. During migration, OPCs generated Ca^{2+} oscillations that were dependent on voltage-calcium influx and both the amplitude and frequency of these Ca^{2+} transients correlated positively with the rate of cell movement under a variety of pharmacological treatments. The Ca^{2+} transient amplitude and the rate of cell movement were significantly lower in KO cells and significantly higher in JOE cells suggesting that the presence of golli promotes OPC migration by increasing the size of voltage-mediated Ca^{2+} oscillations. These data define a new molecule that regulates Ca^{2+} homeostasis in OPCs, and are the first to demonstrate that voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels can regulate an OPC function, such as migration.

Introduction

The myelin basic protein (MBP) gene encodes two families of proteins: the “classic” MBPs and the golli proteins (Campagnoni et al., 1993; Pribyl et al., 1993). Unlike the classic MBPs, golli proteins are expressed in both myelin-forming cells and neurons in the CNS (Landry et al., 1996; Pribyl et al., 1996). Golli proteins first appear in many neurons when they are extending processes for migration, establishing connections and, in the case of OLs, before myelination (Landry et al., 1996; Pribyl et al., 1996). Myelination is clearly disturbed in animal models in which expression of golli proteins have been perturbed in oligodendrocytes (OLs) (Jacobs et al., 2005; Martin et al., 2007). Golli knockout (KO) animals exhibit delayed and reduced myelination in regions of the brain, such as the visual cortex and forebrain; and primary cultures of OPCs from golli KO mice exhibit impaired formation of myelin sheets. In golli overexpressing mice, called JOE (for J37 golli OverExpressor) in which the golli J37 isoform is

overexpressed specifically in OLs under the control of a classic MBP promoter, hemizygous animals develop an intention tremor around P15 that persists until ~P60. During this period, biochemical, morphological and MRI imaging studies indicate that the JOE CNS is severely hypomyelinated (Reyes et al., 2003; Martin et al., 2007).

Recent findings indicate that golli proteins play a role in regulating Ca^{2+} influx in T cells and in primary OPC cultures (Jacobs et al., 2005; Feng et al., 2006). Overexpression of golli in OL cell lines induced the elaboration of sheets and processes (Reyes and Campagnoni, 2002; Paez et al., 2007); and Cd^{2+} , a specific blocker of voltage operated Ca^{2+} channels (VOCCs), abolished the ability of golli to promote this process extension (Paez et al., 2007). Additionally, high resolution spatiotemporal analysis along OPC processes, revealed higher amplitude local Ca^{2+} influx in regions with elevated levels of golli (Paez et al., 2007). Live imaging of the OL cell lines overexpressing golli revealed a dramatic and fast retraction of the processes and sheets on depolarization with high K^+ . This phenomenon was associated with a significant increase in Ca^{2+} influx. These findings suggest a role for golli proteins in modulating process extension and retraction in OPCs through the participation of voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels.

During development, OPCs migrate relatively long distances from germinal sites throughout the CNS (Warrington et al., 1993; Goldman et al., 1997; Schmidt et al., 1997). Multiple events in-

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involved in OPC migratory activity have been reported to be Ca^{2+} sensitive (Fay, 1995; Kohama et al., 1996; Pedrosa Ribeiro et al., 1997). Recently, Gudz et al. (2006) demonstrated that an increase in amplitude and frequency of Ca^{2+} transients is one mechanism underlying AMPA-induced stimulation of OPC migration. In general, however, the role of Ca^{2+} transients on glial cell migration remains largely unknown.

Golli appears to play a role in the extension and retraction of OPC processes through Ca^{2+} -mediated events (Paez et al., 2007). Given the importance of process extension/retraction on movement it might be expected that golli could influence OPC migration. Here we tested that hypothesis by correlating subcellular Ca^{2+} changes with the migration rates of OPCs from control, golli KO and JOE mice both in primary cell cultures, and in tissue slice preparations. Increased golli expression was associated with enhanced OPC motility, and this effect was accompanied by increases in the amplitude of spontaneous somatic Ca^{2+} transients. These results demonstrate a unique impact of golli proteins on OPC migration that involves modulation of Ca^{2+} uptake via voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels.

Materials and Methods

Transgenic mice

Golli KO mouse. We previously generated a golli knock-out (KO) mouse in which the golli products of the MBP gene were selectively ablated while permitting normal expression of the classic MBPs (Jacobs et al., 20005). Through non-brother–sister crosses, a line was generated that is homozygous for the golli ablation on a background that is 50% 129S7/SvEvBrd and 50% C57BL/6J. A control line (KO Control) was established that was also 50% 129S7/SvEvBrd and 50% C57BL/6J but was negative for the golli ablation. The golli KO phenotype was observed before keeping the lines separate and then was studied over at least eight generations and remained stable.

JOE mouse. We generated a transgenic mouse that overexpresses the golli isoform J37 in oligodendrocytes under the control of a classic MBP promoter (Martin et al., 2007). In this transgenic mouse, the J37 golli isoform is driven by a 1.9-kb region of the classic MBP promoter, thus directing overexpression of the protein specifically to OLs in the CNS. These mice are called JOE mice for golli J37 OverExpressing. A line was generated that is heterozygous for the MBP 1.9-J37 transgene on a background that is 50% BALB/cByJ, 37–50% C57BL/6, and 0 to 12% C3H/He. A control line (JOE Control) was established that was also 50% BALB/cByJ, 37–50% C57BL/6, and 0 to 12% C3H/He.

Primary cultures of cortical oligodendrocytes

Enriched oligodendrocytes from control, golli KO and JOE mice were prepared as described by Amur-Umarjee et al. (1993). First, cerebral hemispheres from 1-d-old mice were mechanically dissociated and were plated on poly-D-lysine-coated flasks in DMEM and Ham's F12 (1:1 v/v) (Invitrogen), containing 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ gentamicin and supplemented with 4 mg/ml dextrose anhydrous, 3.75 mg/ml HEPES buffer, 2.4 mg/ml sodium bicarbonate and 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Omega Scientific). After 24 h the medium was changed and the cells were grown in DMEM/F-12 supplemented with insulin (5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$), transferrin (50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$), sodium selenite (30 nM), T_3 (15 nM), D-Biotin (10 mM), hydrocortisone (10 nM), 0.1% BSA (Sigma-Aldrich), 1% horse serum and 1% FBS (Omega Scientific). After 9 d, OLs were purified from the mixed glial culture by the differential shaking and adhesion procedure by Suzumura et al. (1984) and allowed to grow for 24 h on polylysine-coated coverslips in defined culture media (Agresti et al., 2005) plus PDGF and bFGF (10 ng/ml) (Peprotech).

Slice preparation

Time-lapse image acquisitions of green fluorescent protein (GFP)-labeled living OPCs were performed on slices cut in coronal and sagittal orientation between postnatal days 2 and 8 (P2–P8), as described previously (Kakita and Goldman, 1999). Briefly, mice were anesthetized with isoflurane, after which brains were rapidly removed and stored in ice-

cold bicarbonate buffered solution gassed with 95% O_2 and 5% CO_2 . Coronal and sagittal slices were cut at 300 μm thickness on a Vibratome. Brain slices were first collected in ice-cold bicarbonate solution, after which they were incubated in the same bicarbonate solution at 30°C for 30 min. The slices were then cultured with Eagle's Basal Medium with Earle's salts (BME; Invitrogen) supplemented with 18.6 mM NaHCO_3 , 1% BSA (fraction 5; Sigma), 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ insulin, 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ transferrin, 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ sodium selenite (Sigma), 20U/ml penicillin–streptomycin (Invitrogen), 2 mM L-glutamine (Invitrogen), 27 mM glucose, 7.9 mM NaCl plus PDGF and bFGF (20 ng/ml) (Peprotech). After that, brain slices were ready for time-lapse video microscopy studies.

Time-lapse image acquisition

Cultured OPCs or brain slices were incubated in a stage top chamber with 5% CO_2 at 37°C (Live-Cell Control Unit), which was placed on the stage of a Olympus spinning disc confocal inverted microscope equipped with a motorized z-stage. A 20 \times objective was used for acquiring images. Bright-field images were acquired for primary cultures of cortical OPCs, whereas fluorescent field images were obtained for brain slices with a specific GFP filter at 0.5 ms exposure times. Images were taken every 6 min over a period of 4–24 h using a CCD camera (Hamamatsu ORCA-ER) and a Image analysis software (SlideBook 4.1, Intelligent Imaging Innovations). Cell migration speed and distances were analyzed off-line by tracing individual cells using the motion tracking function of SlideBook software. The brightest part of each cell body was used as the tracking target. For GFP-labeled OPCs in living slices tracking was started from a time point when a cell first came into focus or appeared at the edge of the imaging field until it either went out of focus or left the imaging field. Subsequently, migratory values were statistically analyzed across genotypes. Data are presented as mean \pm SEM. Statistical significance was assessed by using the Student paired *t* test, in which $p < 0.05$ was defined as statistically significant.

Transwell migration assay

A three-dimensional cell migration assay was performed with the Transwell system, which allows cells to migrate through an 8 μm pore size polycarbonate membrane. Enriched oligodendrocytes from control, golli KO and JOE mice were prepared as described by Amur-Umarjee et al. (1993). After 9 d, OPCs were purified from the mixed glial culture by the differential shaking and adhesion procedure by Suzumura et al. (1984) and cells were resuspended in DMEM/F-12 containing 10% FBS (1×10^6 cells/ml). This suspension (100 μl) was added to the upper chamber of the Transwell. The lower chamber was filled with 600 μl of defined culture media (Agresti et al., 2005) plus PDGF (20 ng/ml). Then the DMEM/F-12 medium containing 10% FBS in the upper chamber was replaced with serum-free DMEM/F-12. After incubation during different periods of time at 37°C in the presence of 5% CO_2 , the cells were fixed for 30 min in 4% paraformaldehyde and stained for 10 min with DAPI. The filters were then rinsed thoroughly in distilled water and checked by bright-field microscopy to ensure that the cells were adherent and had migrated. The nonmigrating cells were then carefully removed from the upper surface (inside) of the Transwell with a wet cotton swab. To quantify cell motility, cells that had migrated to the bottom surface of the filter were counted. Counting of cells in these experiments was facilitated by use of OPCs isolated from control, golli KO and JOE mice that were bred onto a background in which OPCs are tagged with GFP. Nine evenly spaced fields of cells were counted in each well, using an inverted phase-contrast microscope at 20 \times magnification. Data are presented as mean \pm SEM. Statistical significance was assessed by using the Student paired *t* test, in which $p < 0.05$ was defined as statistically significant.

Construction of the GFP clones

The construction of the full-length J37 and BG21 clones in pEGFP-N3 was described by Reyes and Campagnoni (2002). J37 deletion 1 and 2 were constructed by amplifying portions of J37 cDNA in pGEM-3Zf⁻ using a common 3' primer: TGAATTCTTGGTACCGCGTCTCGC-CATGGGAGA and the following 5' primers: CAATTAGCTAGCGA-ATTCAATGGTGTGGGGAGGCAGA (Del1) and CATTAGCTA-GCGAATTCAATGGACAGGCCCTCAGAGTC (Del2). DNA insert amplification was performed in accordance with the manufacturer's

recommendations (Invitrogen). The cycling conditions were as follows: (1) 5 min at 95°C for 1 cycle; (2) 3 min at 95°C, 2 min at 68°C, 2 min at 72°C for 30 cycles. The product was digested with EcoRI-KpnI and inserted into pEGFP-N3 in frame with the green fluorescent protein.

The myristoylation mutations were made by site-directed mutagenesis (Clontech) using the J37 and BG21 EGFP clones and the following oligonucleotide: 5'-GCTCAAGCTTCGAATTCATGGCCAACCACTCTGG-3'; the selection marker was a BglII to ScaI mutation. This clone was transferred to pEGFP-N3 using the same PCR primers as J37.

Cell line preparation and transfection

The N19 conditionally immortalized cell line (Verity et al., 1993) was grown in DMEM and Ham's F12 (1:1 v/v) (Invitrogen), containing 100 μ g/ml gentamicin and 100 μ g/ml G418 sulfate (Omega Scientific), supplemented with 4 mg/ml dextrose anhydrous, 3.75 mg/ml HEPES buffer, 2.4 mg/ml sodium bicarbonate and 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Omega Scientific). Cultures were maintained at 34°C with 5% CO₂. Cells plated onto poly-D-lysine-coated 12 mm glass coverslips were transfected using the Lipofectamine 2000 (Invitrogen). Briefly, 1 μ g of plasmid DNA was used to transfect 4.5×10^4 cells/coverslip. While the DNA was complexing, the cells were washed for 5 min with serum free media. The complexed DNA mixture was then applied to the coverslips and incubated at 34°C for 6 h. The samples were washed with media supplemented with 10% FBS and subsequently incubated at 39°C for 2 d before the migration assay.

Agarose drop assay

Analysis of the migration of N19 cell line out an agarose drop containing a large concentration of cells, was performed following the technique of Varani et al. (1978) and Milner et al. (1997), modified by Simpson and Armstrong (1999). Briefly, N19 cells were centrifuged at 1500rpm for 10 min and resuspended in a small volume of DMEM/F12 containing 10% FBS and 0.3% low melting point agarose (kept at 37°C), to achieve a final concentration of approximately 50×10^6 cells/ml. One microliter of this cell suspension was placed in each well and incubated at 4°C for 15 min. One milliliter of prechilled DMEM/F12–10% FBS containing PDGF (20 ng/ml) was then added to each well. The culture plates were placed in the tissue incubator and maintained at 37°C. Cell movements out of the drop in each of four opposite directions were measured by time-lapse phase contrast microscopy over the course of 20 h. All experiments were performed in at least triplicate wells. Cell migration speed and distances, in N19 control and overexpressing golli, were calculated for each experiment, and the results were expressed as mean \pm SEM. Statistical significance was assessed by using the Student paired *t* test, in which $p < 0.05$ was defined as statistically significant.

Calcium imaging

Calcium imaging experiments were performed using two different calcium indicators, Fluo-4 AM or Fura-2 AM. Fluo-4 AM was used in all experiments of at least 1 h duration, mainly to evaluate qualitatively spontaneous Ca²⁺ activity in migrating cells. The dye Fura-2 was usually used in experiments of shorter duration (usually 20–40 min) to estimate intracellular Ca²⁺ concentrations ratiometrically. Methods were similar to those described previously (Colwell, 2000; Michel et al., 2002; Paz Soldán et al., 2003). Briefly, a cooled CCD camera (Hamamatsu ORCA-ER) was added to the Olympus spinning disc confocal microscope to measure fluorescence. Cells were loaded for 30 min at 37°C with 0.5 μ M Fluo-4 AM (Invitrogen) and were transferred in a perfusion chamber (Bioscience Tools) connected to a microperfusion system. Experiments were performed at a chamber temperature of 37°C. During experiments, cells were bathed in defined culture media (Agresti et al., 2005) plus PDGF and bFGF (10 ng/ml); in some experiments, the medium was completely exchanged for an identical one with added pharmacological agents by means of the peristaltic pump. Single-cell intracellular Ca²⁺ concentration measurements were performed exciting Fluo-4 at 488 nm for <200 ms. The use of this protocol, together with the low dye loading concentration of 0.5 μ M, allowed us to perform experiments without detectable morphological photodamage of migrating cells. Higher dye concentrations in fact impaired cell migration and viability, as well as their ability to generate spontaneous calcium signals. Fluorescence was

determined from regions of interest (ROI) covering single-cell bodies. Dye excitation, image acquisitions and ROI analysis protocols were performed with Image analysis software (SlideBook 4.1, Intelligent Imaging Innovations). Estimations of fluorescence intensity were defined as the pseudoratio $\Delta F/F$ according to the following formula: $\Delta F/F = (F - F_{base})/(F_{base} - B)$, where F is the measured fluorescence intensity of the Fluo-4 indicator, F_{base} the fluorescence intensity of the indicator in the cell before stimulation, and B the background signal from the averaged areas adjacent to the cell.

Calibration of Ca²⁺ signals

The dye Fura-2 AM (TefLabs) plus 0.08% Pluronic F-127 (Molecular Probes) was incubated with OPCs cultures for 30 min at 37°C at a final concentration of 4 μ M. The fluorescence of Fura-2 was excited alternatively at wavelengths of 340 and 380 nm by means of a high-speed wavelength-switching device (Lambda DG-4; Sutter Instruments). A microperfusion system was used to rapidly and locally perfuse solutions of different ionic composition. The intracellular Ca²⁺ concentration was estimated as follows.

Free [Ca²⁺] was estimated from the ratio (R) of fluorescence at 340 and 380 nm, using the following equation: $[Ca^{2+}] = K_d \times \text{slope factor} \times (R - R_{min})/(R_{max} - R)$ (Grynkiewicz et al., 1985). The K_d was assumed to be 140 nM, whereas values for R_{min} and R_{max} were all determined via calibration methods. An *in vitro* method (Fura2 Ca²⁺ imaging calibration kit, Molecular Probes) was used to estimate the values. With this method, glass coverslips were filled with a high-Ca²⁺ (Fura-2 plus 10 mM Ca²⁺), a low-Ca²⁺ (Fura-2 plus 10 mM EGTA), and a control solution without Fura-2. Each solution also contains a dilute suspension of 15 μ m polystyrene microspheres to ensure uniform coverslip/slide separation and facilitate microscope focusing. The fluorescence (F) at 380 nm excitation of the low Ca²⁺ solution was imaged, and the exposure of the camera adjusted to maximize the signal. These camera settings were then fixed, and measurements were made with 380 and 340 nm excitation of the three solutions. $R_{min} = F_{340 \text{ nm}} \text{ in low Ca}^{2+}/F_{380 \text{ nm}} \text{ in low Ca}^{2+}$; $R_{max} = F_{340 \text{ nm}} \text{ in high Ca}^{2+}/F_{380 \text{ nm}} \text{ in high Ca}^{2+}$; $Sf = F_{380 \text{ nm}} \text{ in low Ca}^{2+}/F_{380 \text{ nm}} \text{ in high Ca}^{2+}$.

Results

Golli modulates oligodendroglial cell migration *in vitro*

Using time-lapse video microscopy we examined the effect of golli on OPC migration. These experiments were performed over a period of 24 h on OPCs isolated from control, KO, and JOE mice, in medium containing PDGF and bFGF (10 ng/ml). In this time-lapse two-dimensional cell migration assay, cell movement was assessed by calculating the average cell migration velocity and the total distance traveled by the cell. For this analysis, only OPCs moving >50 μ m in 6 h were scored. Tracking of cells was performed using the SlideBook 4.1 data analysis program described by Materials and Methods. Migrating OPCs were automatically followed by tagging a color or number to each cell examined, which were then tracked from frame to frame. Examples of such measurements are shown in Figure 1A, in which four golli overexpressing cells are colored in green, red, yellow and blue. The easiest cell to track in this presentation is the green cell, which clearly moves a significant distance over the period examined. Movement of the other cells is less obvious but they were clearly measurable (see supplemental video 1, available at www.jneurosci.org as supplemental material). Under these experimental conditions the mean rate of migration for control and golli KO OPCs was $26 \pm 4.5 \mu\text{m/h}$ and $18 \pm 2.8 \mu\text{m/h}$, respectively, $p < 0.01$ (Fig. 1B). So the average cell migration velocity in golli KO OPCs was significantly reduced compared with that of the control group. In similar experiments the average cell velocity in golli overexpressing cells (JOE) was found to be almost double that of the JOE control cells ($48 \pm 4.1 \mu\text{m/h}$ and $23 \pm 3.7 \mu\text{m/h}$, respectively, $p < 0.01$) (Fig. 1B). As might be expected, there was an increase in the total migration distance (Fig.

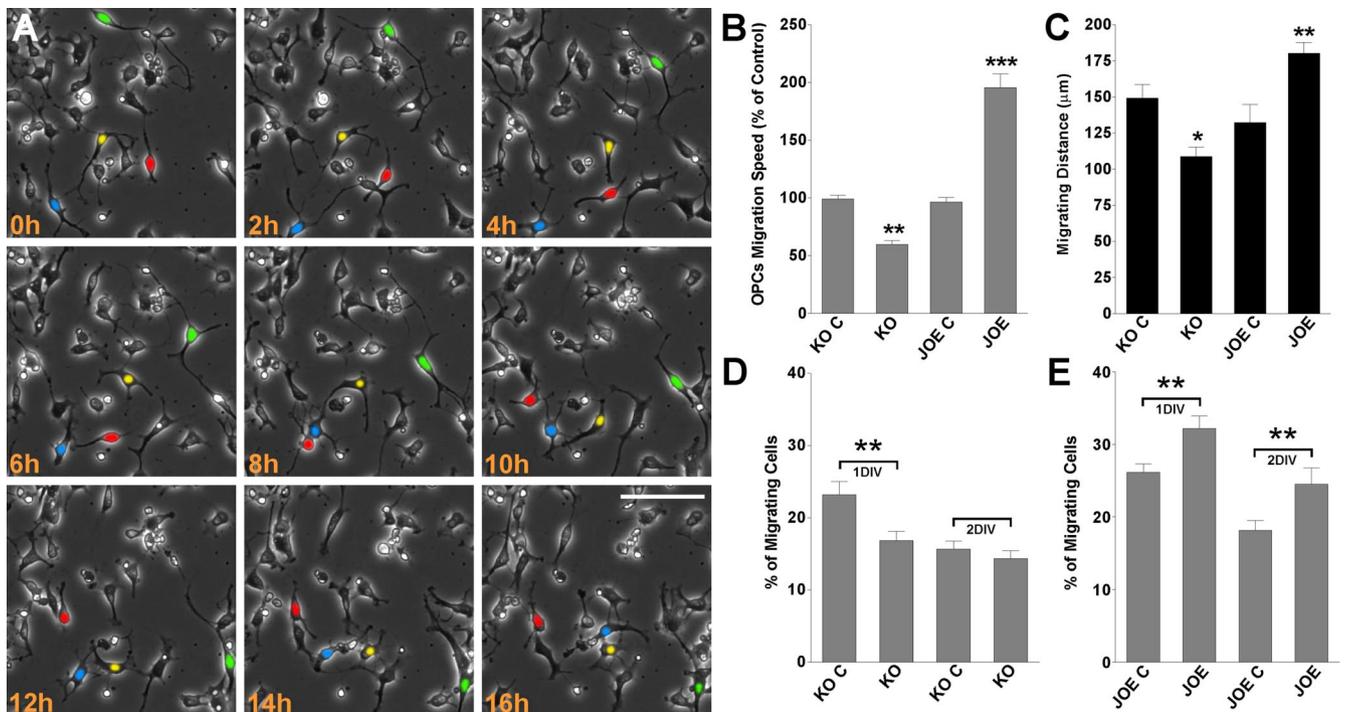


Figure 1. Overexpression of Golli enhances OPC migration. Cultured OPCs were incubated in a stage top chamber with 5% CO₂ at 37°C, which was placed on the stage of a spinning disc confocal inverted microscope. **A**, Bright-field images were acquired at 6 min intervals for a total of 24 h. Cell migration speed and distances were analyzed off-line by tracing individual cells at different times, after which migratory values were statistically analyzed across genotypes. **B**, OPC average migration speed was calculated from at least 60 cells in each experimental condition. **C**, Total migration distance was followed for 12 h in 50 cells from each genotype. **D**, **E**, The percentage of migrating cells (cells moving >50 μm in 6 h) was calculated from the entire cell population. Values are expressed as mean ± SEM of at least four independent experiments. **p* < 0.05, ***p* < 0.01, ****p* < 0.001 versus control cells. Scale bar, 40 μm.

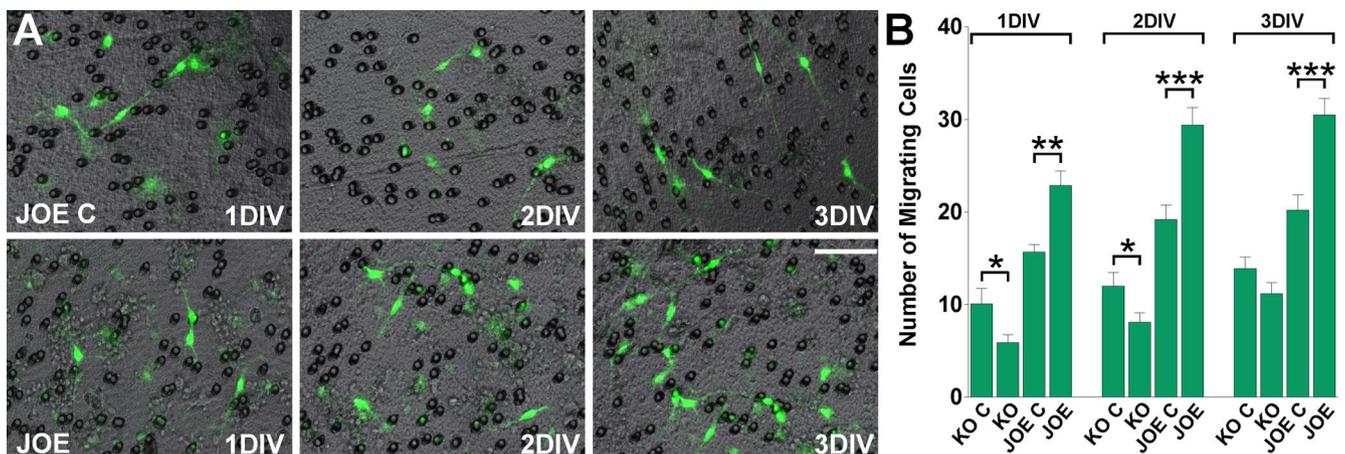


Figure 2. Golli promotes *in vitro* oligodendroglial cell motility. A cell migration assay was performed with the Transwell system, which allows cells to migrate through an 8 μm pore size polycarbonate membrane. Each microchemotaxis assay allowed a 1–3 d period for migration. Triplicate wells with control cells were run simultaneously in the same chamber set as the triplicate wells of golli KO and JOE cells. Counting of cells in these experiments was facilitated by use of OPCs isolated from control, golli KO and JOE mice that were bred onto a background in which OPCs are tagged with GFP. **A**, Morphology of migrating JOE OPCs after different times points in the microchemotaxis assay. The cells are mostly bipolar with processes that are expanded. **B**, To quantify cell motility after 1, 2, and 3 DIV, cells that had migrated to the bottom surface of the filter were counted. Five evenly spaced fields of cells were counted in each well, using an inverted fluorescent microscope at 20× magnification. Values are expressed as mean ± SEM of at least four independent experiments. **p* < 0.05, ***p* < 0.01, ****p* < 0.001 versus control cells. Scale bar, 40 μm.

1C), and we also found an increase in the number of migrating cells (cells moving >50 μm in 6 h) in the JOE OPC population (Fig. 1D,E).

Further analysis of cell migration was performed using the Transwell system, which provides a three-dimensional assessment of motility. Counting of cells in these experiments was facilitated by use of OPCs isolated from golli KO and JOE mice that were bred onto a background in which OPCs are tagged with GFP (Mallon et al., 2002). OPCs were plated on one side of the mem-

brane and migrating, fluorescently tagged cells were counted on the other side of the membrane after 24 h [1 day *in vitro* (DIV)], 48 h (2 DIV), and 72 h (3 DIV). In the presence of PDGF (20 ng/ml) the fluorescently labeled JOE cells were found to migrate faster than the control cells in this assay (Fig. 2). Conversely, golli-deficient OPCs were observed to migrate slower than control OPCs (Fig. 2). These findings are in good agreement with the direct measurement of velocity made in cultured OPCs. Overall, the data showed increased cell migration velocity and total mi-

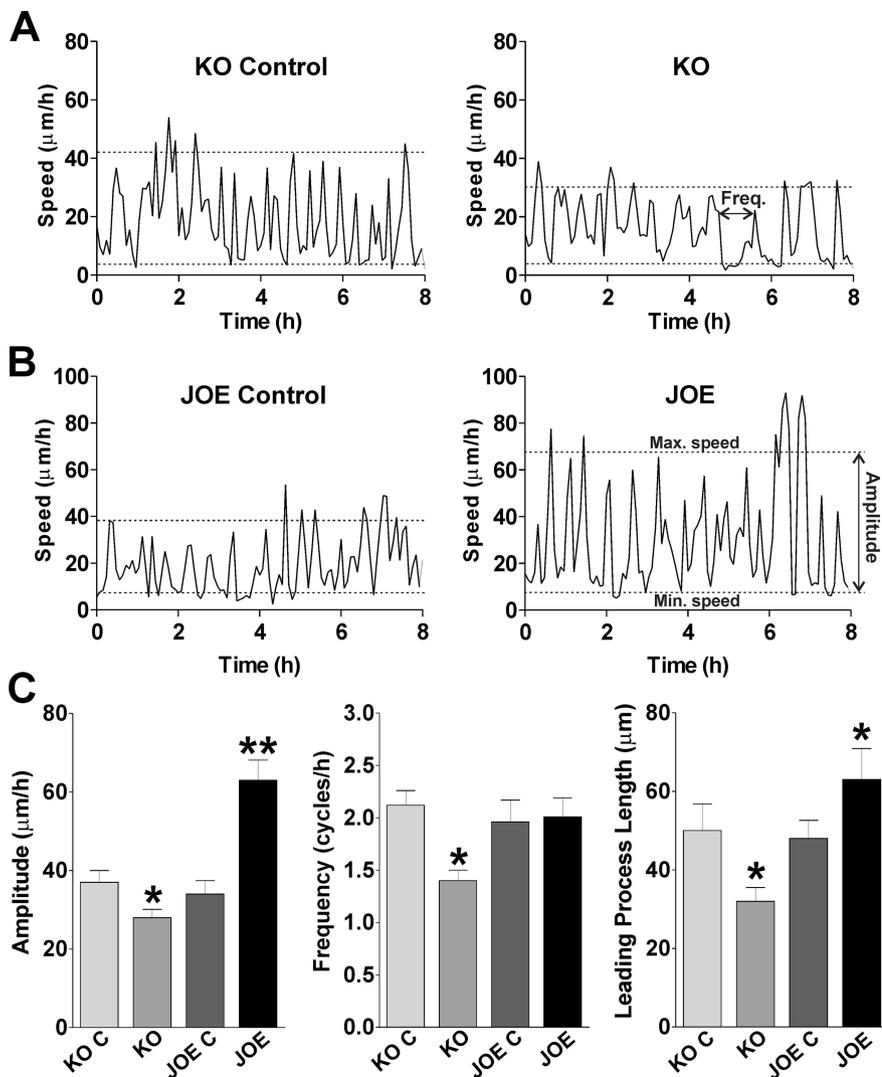


Figure 3. Migrating cells move in a saltatory manner. *A, B*, Four examples of the saltatory movement of migrating OPCs during 8 h from golli KO, JOE and the corresponding control cells are shown. *C*, Average amplitude and frequency of saltatory behavior and leading process length of migrating OPCs. Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM of at least four independent experiments. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, versus control cells.

gration distance as well as increased numbers of migrating cells in the JOE population.

Migrating cells move in a saltatory manner, alternating periods of higher and lower speed at a frequency of ~ 1 – 2 cycles/h. These cycles reflect the steps requires for directed OPC movement: extension of the leading process, translocation of the soma/nucleus (nucleokinesis), and retraction of the trailing process, these three individual steps constitute a single migration cycle (saltatory movement). We measured the average frequency and amplitude of saltatory movement of OPCs migrating in our culture system, and examples of this in control, KO and JOE OPCs are shown in Figure 3*A, B*. We found a significant decrease in the frequency of saltatory oscillations in KO OPCs compared with control cells (1.41 ± 0.20 cycles/h, and 2.12 ± 0.14 cycles/h, respectively, $n = 25$ $p < 0.05$) (Fig. 3*C*). Additionally, the average maximum speed in KO OPCs was significantly lower than the average maximum speed in control cells (32 ± 3.1 $\mu\text{m/h}$ and 41 ± 3.0 $\mu\text{m/h}$, respectively, $n = 20$ $p < 0.05$). These data suggest that the average speed changes in golli KO cells are due to a reduction in the maximum speed reached during the soma trans-

location together with an increase in the duration of resting phases of migration.

There was no difference between the frequency of these saltatory oscillations in JOE control and JOE cells (1.96 ± 0.21 cycles/h, and 2.01 ± 0.18 cycles/h, respectively, $n = 25$) (Fig. 3*C*). However, the average maximum speed in JOE OPCs was significantly higher than in the JOE control cells (67 ± 5.1 $\mu\text{m/h}$, and 38 ± 3.4 $\mu\text{m/h}$, respectively, $n = 25$ $p < 0.01$) (Fig. 3*B*). These data indicate that the amplitude of saltatory oscillations (difference between maximum and minimum speeds during nucleokinesis), but not the resting times between cycles (frequency), is responsible for the greater migration rates of the JOE OPCs.

Using high resolution spatiotemporal microscopy, we determined the average length of individual leading processes in migrating OPCs before the initiation of the migration cycle (before nucleokinesis). We found that the average leading process was significant longer in JOE cells and significantly shorter in KO OPCs than in corresponding control cells, demonstrating that during OPC migration golli overexpression promotes leading process extension (Fig. 3*C*). Together these experiments localized the step in the migration process in which golli plays a role and suggest that golli modulates OPC migration by accelerating both nucleokinesis and leading process growth. Faster nucleokinesis could be responsible for the higher amplitude (difference between lowest and highest speed) found in JOE cells and slow leading process formation could be responsible for the increase in the resting time between cycles of advancement in golli KO OPCs.

Spontaneous Ca^{2+} oscillations modulate OPC migration

We tested the possibility that the observed effects on OPC migration were due to the effects of golli on Ca^{2+} uptake by performing live imaging experiments to examine and correlate cell mobility with intracellular Ca^{2+} changes in primary cultures of OPCs isolated from golli KO and JOE mice. The combined use of real time confocal microscopy and Ca^{2+} indicator dye (Fluo-4) reveals that OPCs exhibit transient Ca^{2+} elevations as they migrate *in vitro* (Fig. 4*A*; supplemental video 2, available at www.jneurosci.org as supplemental material). The frequency and amplitude of Ca^{2+} transients in the OPC somata changes dynamically during their migration (supplemental Fig. 1, available at www.jneurosci.org as supplemental material; Fig. 4*B*) and it correlates positively with the rate of cell movement (correlation coefficient, $0.91 r^2$). Interestingly, golli overexpression was associated with a significant increase in the mean Ca^{2+} oscillation amplitude from 87.2 ± 2.2 nm in control cells to 117.2 ± 3.1 nm ($p < 0.01$) in JOE cells (Fig. 5*A*), an effect that is reflected in the rightward shift in the frequency distribution of spontaneous events in JOE versus JOE control OPCs shown in Figure 5*C*.

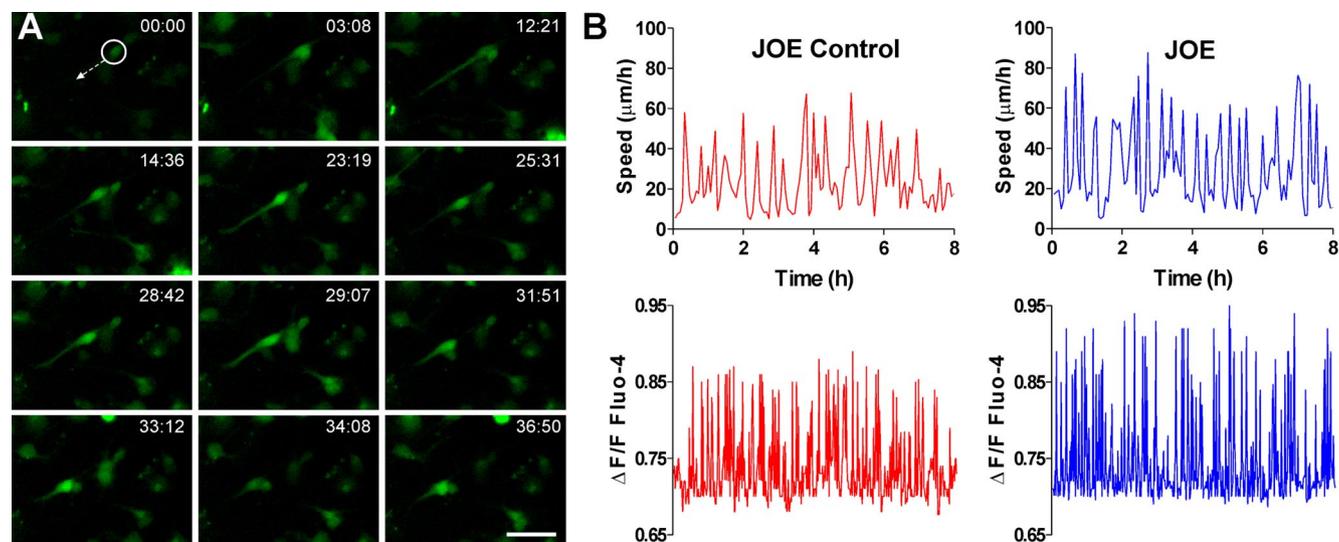


Figure 4. Spontaneous Ca^{2+} transients in migrating OPCs. **A**, Time-lapse images showing a typical example of a migrating JOE OPC displaying transient elevations of the $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{int}}$ level in its soma and leading process. Elapsed time (minutes and seconds) is indicated on the top of each image. Scale bars, 25 μm . **B**, Analysis of saltatory oscillations in control and JOE OPCs and sequential changes in the Ca^{2+} transients over time in the same cells. Upward deflections in lines represent elevations of the intracellular Ca^{2+} levels in the OPCs somata and downward deflections indicate decreases of Ca^{2+} levels.

This increase in amplitude of spontaneous Ca^{2+} events could be caused by the addition of a few very large events or a shift in the size of all events. To investigate these two possibilities, we constructed cumulative probability histograms of spontaneous Ca^{2+} oscillations amplitudes from JOE control and golli-overexpressing OPCs (Fig. 5E). These two distributions were found to be significantly different (Kolmogorov–Smirnov test, $p < 0.001$). The cumulative probability shown in Figure 5E is an average cumulative probability \pm SEM from 18 cells for each genotype. Beginning at the third bin (30 nm), the two cumulative probabilities are significantly different in each bin by the t test ($p < 0.05$). This analysis suggests that the entire population of events is increased in size, with the median increasing by $\sim 35\%$. However, the absence of golli was associated with a significant decrease in the mean Ca^{2+} oscillation amplitude from 93.5 ± 3.1 nm in control cells to 58.7 ± 4.0 nm ($p < 0.01$) (Fig. 5B), an effect that is reflected in the leftward shift in the frequency distribution of Ca^{2+} oscillations in KO versus control OPCs (Fig. 5D). The cumulative probability histogram suggests that the entire population of events is decreased in size by $\sim 37\%$. (Fig. 5F). No significant differences were observed in the mean Ca^{2+} oscillation frequency in any of the cell populations studied (data not shown). These results reveal a modulation of the amplitude of spontaneous Ca^{2+} oscillations in golli KO and JOE cells, which is likely to be one of the factors involved in the alterations in OPC migration that we observed in cells lacking and overexpressing golli.

Golli proteins play a role in modulating OPC migration through VOCCs

It was shown previously that golli proteins play a key role in the modulation of voltage-dependent Ca^{2+} influx in OPCs (Paez et al., 2007) and recent studies suggest that VOCCs generate Ca^{2+} signals that play a vital role in the migration of cerebellar granule cells (Komuro and Rakic, 1992, 1998). For this reason, we examined the role played by VOCCs on OPC migration by performing several combined Ca^{2+} imaging/cell migration experiments in the presence of pharmacological agents to stimulate or inhibit voltage-gated Ca^{2+} uptake in OPCs. First, we examined the effect of lowering extracellular Ca^{2+} levels through chelation with EGTA or by reducing the $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$ in the medium. Second, we

assessed the effect of specific L-type VOCC blockers such as nifedipine and verapamil. These treatments resulted in a significant reduction in the Ca^{2+} transient frequency and amplitude and a slowdown of OPC movement (Fig. 6), indicating that VOCCs, known to contribute to homeostatic Ca^{2+} balance in OPCs and other cells, are important in modulating OPC migration. Of considerable interest, is that stimulation of Ca^{2+} influx through the voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels (through high K^{+} treatment) significantly increased the Ca^{2+} transient frequency and amplitude and accelerated cell movement (Fig. 6). Similar results were found using Bay K 8644, an L-type Ca^{2+} channel agonist which prolongs single channel open time without affecting the close time (Fig. 6). These data show that changes in Ca^{2+} transients resulting from the modulation of voltage-gated Ca^{2+} influx provide a powerful means by which OPC migration may be regulated *in vitro*. These results also demonstrate that OPC movement is related to the frequency and amplitude of Ca^{2+} transients in OPC somata, and that Ca^{2+} transient frequency and amplitude provides an intracellular signal for controlling the rate of OPC migration.

The above results show that spontaneous Ca^{2+} oscillations in OLs are generated in response to voltage-dependent calcium channel activation. To investigate their role in golli-dependent modulation of migration velocity we tracked control and golli-overexpressing OPCs in medium containing the VOCC antagonist verapamil. Figure 7 shows that the average speed of OPC migration was lower in both JOE control and JOE OPCs when verapamil was present in the media. For example, in control media (Basal), the maximum average migration speed of JOE cells, was 67 ± 5.1 $\mu\text{m}/\text{h}$ ($n = 28$), but as the concentration of verapamil was increased, it fell to an average speed of 32 ± 2.6 $\mu\text{m}/\text{h}$ ($n = 25$) in the presence of 10 μM verapamil (Fig. 7A). In 20 μM verapamil there was essentially complete inhibition of JOE cell migration (Fig. 7A, C). In the same migrating cells, this treatment also resulted in a significant reduction in the Ca^{2+} transient amplitude and frequency (Fig. 7B). Similar results were found using nifedipine, another specific L-type VOCC blocker (Fig. 7C).

In contrast, addition of high K^{+} to the medium, a manipulation that activates VOCCs by depolarizing the plasma membrane,

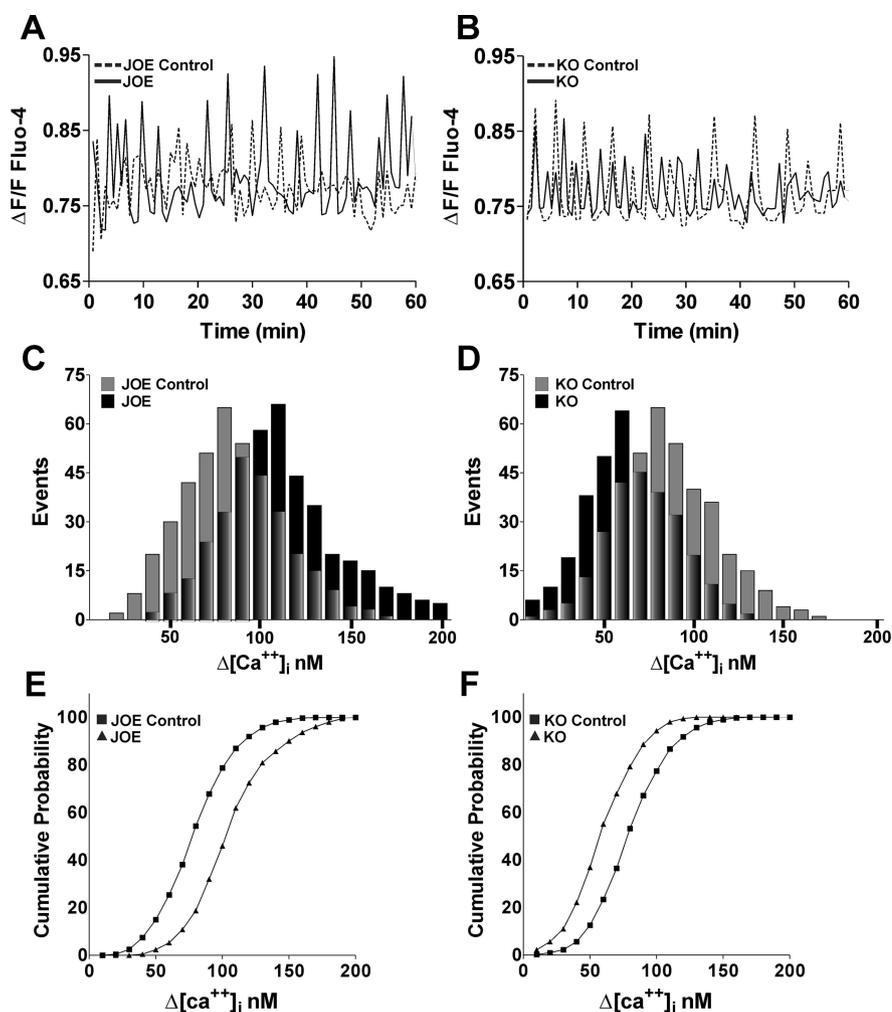


Figure 5. Golli stimulates the amplitude of Ca^{2+} oscillation in oligodendroglial cells. **A, B**, Representative recordings of spontaneous Ca^{2+} transients obtained from golli KO and JOE OPCs bathed in control medium are shown. **C, D**, Amplitude distribution histograms for spontaneous Ca^{2+} transients in golli KO, JOE, and the corresponding control cells during 1 h ($n = 18$ cells for each experimental condition). **E, F**, Cumulative probability histogram of measured spontaneous Ca^{2+} transient amplitudes from golli KO, JOE, and the corresponding control OPCs.

there was an increase in the average cell velocity (Fig. 8A) as well as the amplitude of Ca^{2+} transient in control and golli overexpressing cells (Fig. 8B). In basal conditions, JOE cells migrated at an average rate of $48 \mu\text{m}/\text{h}$ with an average Ca^{2+} transient amplitude of 117.2 nM . In the presence of 15 mM K^+ , JOE OPCs migrated at a significantly higher rate of $74 \mu\text{m}/\text{h}$ with an increased Ca^{2+} transient amplitude of 128.4 nM . Thus, high K^+ increased the rate of cell movement in JOE OPCs, along with increasing the amplitude of Ca^{2+} transients. Importantly, under this experimental condition (high K^+), the migration speed and the amplitude of Ca^{2+} transients observed in migrating JOE cells were significantly higher than those observed in control OPC (Fig. 8A–C). Furthermore, potassium and golli-mediated modulation of OPC velocity disappeared when the VOCC antagonist verapamil was added to the external medium (Fig. 8C). These results clearly indicate that the golli-induced acceleration of OPC movement may result from an increase in the amplitude of Ca^{2+} transients generated by VOCCs.

In parallel time-lapse experiments, the effect of VOCCs inhibitors and high K^+ was evaluated in migrating OPCs obtained from golli KO and control mice. As expected, we found a significant decrease in the average speed and in the amplitude of Ca^{2+}

transient induced by high K^+ in KO cells versus control OPCs (Fig. 8D). Additionally, the effect of golli ablation on OPC velocity disappeared when the VOCC antagonists verapamil and nifedipine were added to the medium (Figs. 7D, 8D). Changes in the frequency and amplitude of saltatory movements and Ca^{2+} transients in golli KO and overexpressing OPCs are summarized in Table 1.

Perturbations of golli structure exert similar effects on OPC migration and Ca^{2+} uptake

In mouse, three golli products have been identified: BG21, J37, and TP8 (Campagnoni et al., 1993). To identify any motifs on the golli protein that might be important in the effects of golli on OPC migration we prepared mutated/deleted versions of J37 and BG21 fused to GFP. The GFP-mutated golli plasmids were transfected into the immature oligodendroglial cell line N19 (Verity et al., 1993) and cell migration measured to define sites on the molecule that might be important in golli regulation of OPC migration. Figure 9A diagrams the mutations/deletions used for analysis. Using the agarose drop migration assay we found that elimination of the first 45 or 110 amino acids from the N terminus of J37 (J37 Del1 and J37 Del2 respectively) completely obliterated the average cell velocity increase in the golli overexpressing cells (Fig. 9B,E). Previously, Feng et al. (2006) found that myristoylation of golli BG21 was important for targeting golli to the plasma membrane of Jurkat T-cells, and we found that mutation of the myristoylation sites of either golli J37 or BG21 (J37 and BG21 Myr) completely reversed the effects of golli on Ca^{2+} uptake in N19 cell line (Fig. 9C), indicating that membrane association is essential for golli action on the enhancement of Ca^{2+} influx in OPCs (Paez et al., 2007). As shown in Figure 9B, D, and E, myristoylation of golli and, indeed the first 110 N-terminal amino acids, are essential for golli effects on cell migration, adding further evidence implicating a clear relationship between golli, Ca^{2+} uptake and OPC migration.

Migration of subventricular zone OPCs is enhanced in golli overexpressing mice

We tested whether increased levels of golli enhanced OPC migration *in vivo* by time-lapse imaging of live tissue sections containing GFP-labeled OPCs in golli KO and JOE mice. These experiments were performed using a double transgenic mouse created by breeding the golli KO and JOE mice with a line expressing GFP under control of the PLP promoter (Mallon et al., 2002). In these mice GFP expression provided a convenient marker for cells in the oligodendroglial lineage, thus facilitating the imaging experiments. We performed our *in vivo* measurements of OPC migration in slice preparations containing the lateral ventricle subventricular zone (SVZ) and corpus callosum since these regions have

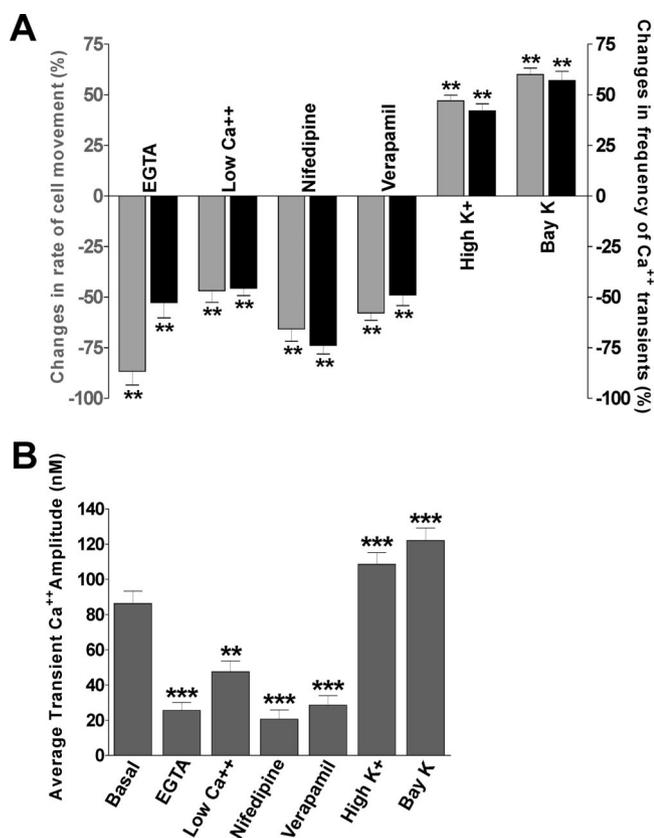


Figure 6. Effects of the changes in the Ca²⁺ transient frequency and amplitude on migrating oligodendroglial cells. **A**, EGTA (1 mM), nifedipine (20 μ M), verapamil (20 μ M), high K⁺ (15 mM), and BayK (5 μ M) were added to the medium in separate experiments, or extracellular Ca²⁺ concentrations were lowered from 2 mM to 0.2 mM after 2 h control observations. The effects of each treatment were evaluated by dividing the number of Ca²⁺ transients and the distance traveled during the 2 h after the application of each reagent by the number of Ca²⁺ transients and the distance traveled during the first 2 h in the absence of each reagent. Each column represents the average change in the number of Ca²⁺ transients (black) or the migration rate (gray). **B**, The effects of each treatment on the Ca²⁺ transient amplitude were evaluated in JOE control OPCs during 2 h. Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM of at least three independent experiments. ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001.

been well studied as sources of migrating OPCs. Our goal was to confirm the *in vitro* data with respect to rates of migration of OPCs out of the ventricular zone and into the corpus callosum using conditions established by others for such studies (Kakita and Goldman, 1999; Suzuki and Goldman, 2003). We tracked cell bodies of migrating GFP positive OPCs (OPC~GFP) for a period of 12 h in the SVZ. In these time-lapse experiments cell movement was assessed by calculating the average cell migration velocity and the total distance traveled by the cell. Examples of such measurements are shown in Figure 10A. Under these experimental conditions the mean rates of migration for JOE control and JOE OPCs in the SVZ were $27 \pm 3.4 \mu\text{m/h}$ and $43 \pm 3.1 \mu\text{m/h}$, respectively ($p < 0.01$). So the *in vivo* average cell migration velocity in golli overexpressing OPCs was significantly higher compared with that of the control group (Fig. 10D). As might be expected, there was also an increase in the total migration distance after 8 h (JOE Control: $180 \pm 37 \mu\text{m}$, and JOE: $274 \pm 57 \mu\text{m}$, $n = 30$ cells, $p < 0.01$). Conversely, a reduced migration velocity compared with controls was noted in golli KO cells, in which OPCs lacking golli appeared to migrate slower than control OPCs *in vivo* (Fig. 10E). Furthermore, and clearly indicating that VOCCs are essential for *in vivo* OPC migration, 15 mM K⁺

caused a significant increase in the average cell velocity in golli-overexpressing OPCs (Fig. 10D), and in both genotypes a complete inhibition of OPC migration was found in the presence of VOCC inhibitors (Fig. 10D,E).

A model for the data presented in this work is proposed in Figure 11. In the absence of golli, there is a significant decrease in the amplitude of Ca²⁺ transients as well as in the average frequency and amplitude of saltatory movement of migrating OPCs. In contrast, golli overexpression enhances activation of L-type VOCCs leading to increases in the amplitude of Ca²⁺ transients and accelerating OPC migration by promoting Ca²⁺ dependent soma translocation and leading process extension. It is not yet clear whether golli acts in a direct or indirect manner on the channel itself.

Discussion

Migration of glial cells from proliferation zones to their final position is an essential step in the development of the nervous system (Warrington et al., 1993; Goldman et al., 1997; Schmidt et al., 1997; Ivanova et al., 2003; Kessaris et al., 2006), yet the physiological mechanisms of glial cell migration are still largely unknown. A few studies on cultured OPCs and astrocytes indicate that Ca²⁺ signaling may contribute to migration in glial cells (Wang et al., 1996; Simpson and Armstrong, 1999; Matyash et al., 2002), and recent studies suggest that VOCCs generate Ca²⁺ signals that play a vital role in the migration of glial cells during the development of the insect antennal lobe (Lohr et al., 2005). Migration of cerebellar granule cells has also been shown to be dependent on voltage-gated Ca²⁺ signaling (Komuro and Rakic, 1992, 1998). Blocking N-type Ca²⁺ channels decreases the migration rate of granule cells in mouse cerebellar slices, while activating Ca²⁺ channels with high K⁺ enhances migration (Komuro and Rakic, 1992, 1998).

Changes in intracellular Ca²⁺ play a critical role in the ability of OLs to maintain membrane sheets and processes (Benjamins and Nedelkoska, 1996). One property of golli proteins is their ability to induce OL cell lines to extend processes (Reyes and Campagnoni, 2002); and these processes then rapidly retract after a short exposure to depolarizing conditions. Retraction is accompanied by increased Ca²⁺ uptake in these cells, and several lines of evidence indicate that the effects of golli on process extension/retraction are mediated through VOCC Ca²⁺ influx (Paez et al., 2007).

Golli increases OPC migration

Oligodendrocyte migration consists of cycles of movement interspersed with stationary periods. This characteristic has been described for neuronal progenitors in the cortex, cerebellum and hippocampus (Gasser and Hatten, 1990; O'Rourke et al., 1992; Luskin and Boone, 1994; Komuro and Rakic, 1995; Wichterle et al., 1997). Cells migrating along the SVZ–olfactory bulb pathway show similar interspersed periods of slower and higher rates of movement. We found similar results in our *in vitro* system; OPCs from golli KO and control mice as well as OPCs from JOE mice alternate between periods of higher and lower migration rates. The lower average speed that we found in KO OPCs was due to a reduction in the maximum speed together with an increase in the resting time. In the golli overexpressing JOE mice there was a significant increase in the average maximum speed but no change in the resting time during saltatory oscillations.

Our live imaging studies show that, like other migrating cells, OPCs have leading and trailing processes. The directed movement of OPCs typically requires three distinct steps: extension of

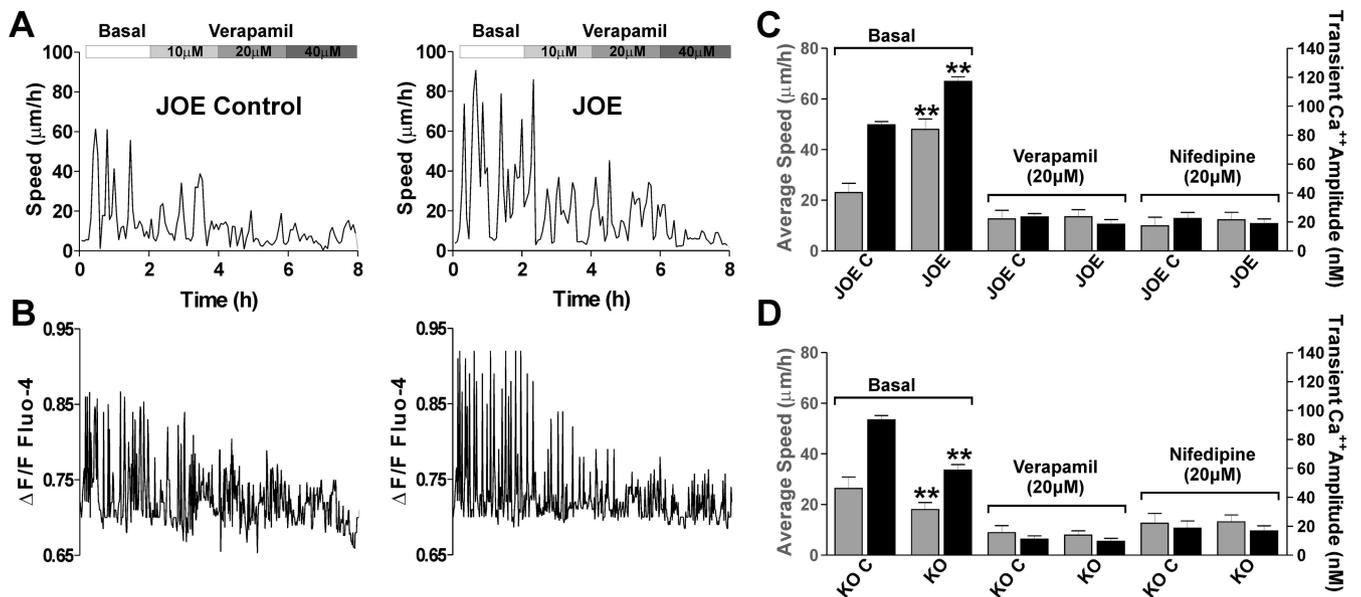


Figure 7. VOCCs are essential for enhanced migration of JOE cell. **A**, Typical examples of JOE OPC saltatory movement in the presence of increasing concentrations of verapamil. **B**, Sequential changes in the Ca^{2+} transients over time in the same cells are shown. Note that at the same time the addition of $20 \mu M$ verapamil completely inhibited JOE cell movement and transient elevations of the $[Ca^{2+}]_{int}$. **C, D**, Average migration speed (gray bars) and Ca^{2+} transients amplitude (black bars) obtained from golli KO and JOE OPCs bathed in control medium (basal) or in the presence of the VOCC inhibitors verapamil ($20 \mu M$) and nifedipine ($20 \mu M$) are shown. Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM of at least four independent experiments. $**p < 0.01$ versus control cells.

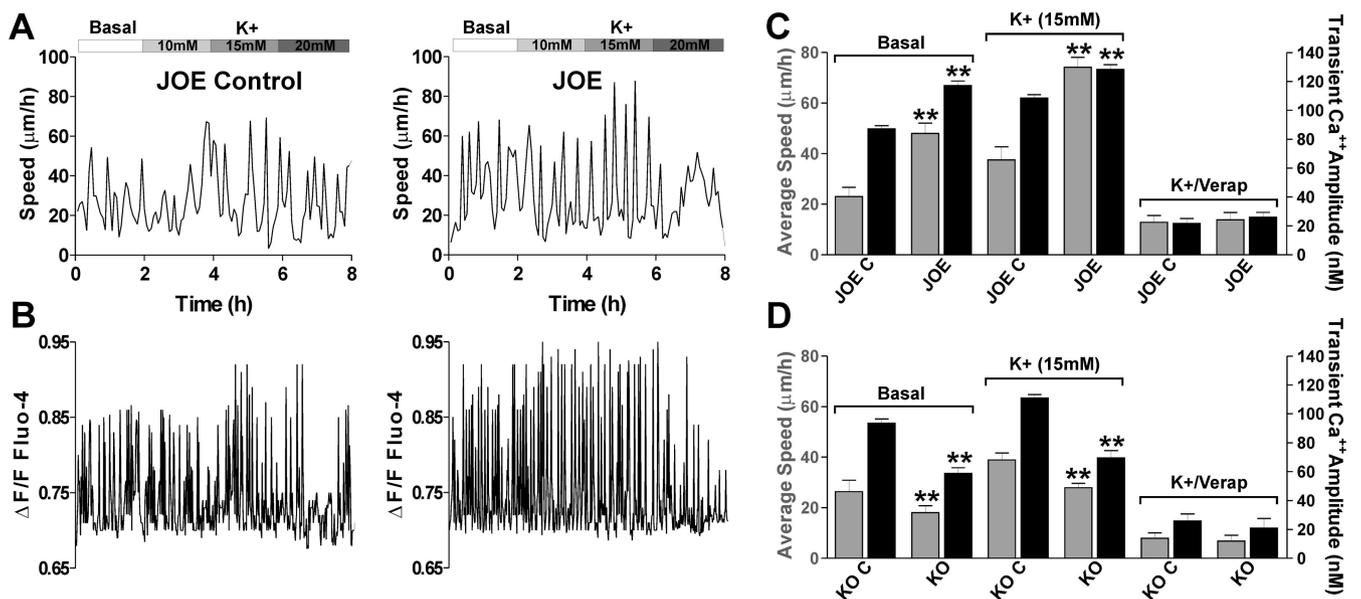


Figure 8. VOCCs modulate the rate of OPC migration. **A**, Effects of addition to the external medium of different concentrations of K^+ on JOE OPC saltatory movement. Note that the addition of $15 mM K^+$ to the culture medium of JOE cells increases the maximum speed of saltatory movement. **B**, Sequential changes in the Ca^{2+} transients over time in the same cells. Note that the addition of 10 and $15 mM K^+$ increased the amplitude of transient Ca^{2+} elevations in JOE cell. **C, D**, Average migration speed (gray bars) and Ca^{2+} transients amplitude (black bars) obtained from golli KO and JOE OPCs bathed in control medium (basal), $15 mM K^+$, or in the presence of $15 mM K^+$ plus verapamil ($20 \mu M$) are shown. Values are expressed as mean \pm SEM of at least four independent experiments. $**p < 0.01$ versus control cells.

the leading process, translocation of the soma/nucleus, and retraction of the trailing process. The leading process is headed by a growth cone-like structure similar to the motile axonal growth cone. Successful migration of the cell also requires the translocation of the soma, which involves the detachment of the somatic adhesion from the substrate and the movement of the nucleus (nucleokinesis). The analysis of the frequency and amplitude of saltatory movement suggest that leading process extension and nucleokinesis are faster in JOE OPCs than in JOE control or golli KO cells. This could explain the higher amplitude (i.e., difference

between lowest and highest speed in the oscillation) found in JOE cells and the increase in the resting time between cycles of advancement in golli KO OPCs.

Our *in vitro* observations of cultured OPCs indicate that both the leading growth cone and the soma exhibit transient Ca^{2+} elevations during saltatory coordinated advancement. Previous data from our lab revealed the presence of golli clusters along OPC cell line processes in association with local regions of high transient Ca^{2+} uptake in growing processes (Paez et al., 2007). Transient local Ca^{2+} uptake along OPC processes is likely to be

Table 1. Changes in the frequency and amplitude of saltatory movements and Ca²⁺ transients in golli KO and overexpressing OPCs under basal conditions or after the addition of 15mM K⁺ to the culture medium

		KO control	KO	JOE control	JOE
Movement					
Frequency (cycles/h)	Basal	2.12 ± 0.14	1.41 ± 0.20*	1.96 ± 0.21	2.01 ± 0.18
	K ⁺ activation	2.42 ± 0.27	2.01 ± 0.31*	2.50 ± 0.30	3.04 ± 0.22*
Amplitude (μm/h)	Basal	37 ± 3	28 ± 2*	34 ± 4	63 ± 5**
	K ⁺ activation	51 ± 2	33 ± 2*	48 ± 4	85 ± 3*
Ca ²⁺ transients					
Frequency (cycles/h)	Basal	15 ± 2	14 ± 3	16 ± 1	16 ± 2
	K ⁺ activation	17 ± 3	16 ± 2	17 ± 2	17 ± 2
Amplitude (nm)	Basal	93.5 ± 3.1	58.7 ± 4.0**	87.2 ± 2.2	117.2 ± 3.1**
	K ⁺ activation	111 ± 2.3	69.5 ± 5.1*	108.4 ± 2.5	128.4 ± 3.2**

Values are expressed as mean ± SEM. Asterisks in boldface values designate significant increase or decrease versus corresponding control cells: **p* < 0.05, ***p* < 0.01.

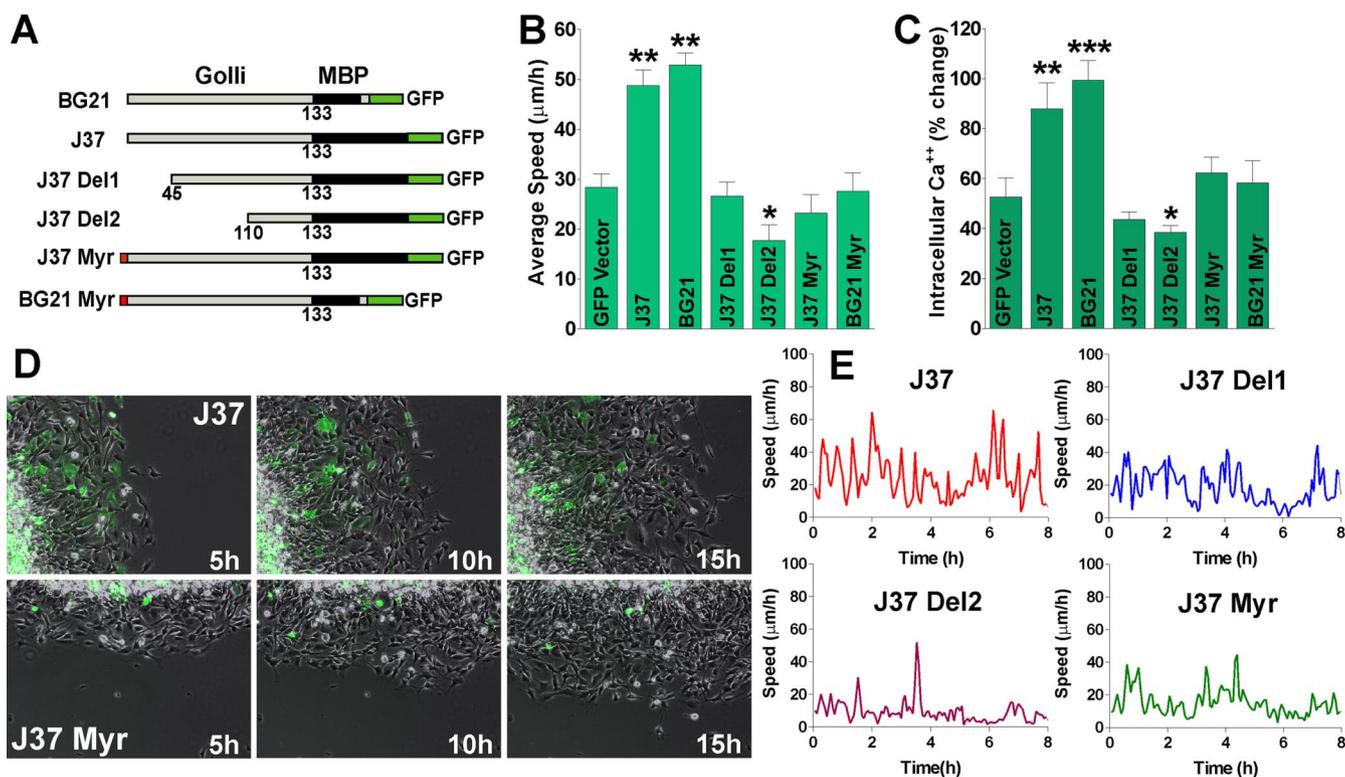


Figure 9. The golli myristoylation site is essential for the effect of golli on OPC migration. **A**, Diagram showing the golli-mbp::GFP constructs designed to examine the regions on the golli protein that might be responsible for the increase in OPC migration. The golli protein was divided into the MBP and golli domain to determine whether either region was responsible for the migration effect. Expression of the insert is under control of the cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter. **B**, The agarose drop assay was used to quantitatively analyze the average speed in migrating N19 cells overexpressing different golli-GFP constructs during 20 h. **C**, Ca²⁺ uptake was stimulated in N19 cells overexpressing different golli-GFP constructs using high K⁺ (15 mM). High K⁺ was applied to N19 cells for 120 s by a fast and local perfusion system. The graphs show the average amplitude calculated from the responding cells, expressed as percentage of change of the emission intensities. **D**, Phase-contrast imaging of migrating N19 cells in an agarose drop assay during 15 h. Scale bars, 50 μm. **E**, Analysis of saltatory oscillations in migrating N19 cells transfected with different golli-GFP constructs shows that the overexpression of J37-Del1, Del2, and Myr drastically reduced the amplitude and frequency of speed oscillations in this cell line. Values are expressed as mean ± SEM of at least four independent experiments. **p* < 0.05, ***p* < 0.01, ****p* < 0.001 versus cells transfected with nonmodified GFP vector (GFP vector).

responsible for process elongation and subsequent OPC migration. We postulate that golli regulates spontaneous local Ca²⁺ influx during leading process growth and nucleokinesis accelerating OPC migration.

Golli promotes *in vivo* OPC migration from the SVZ

The role of Ca²⁺ in oligodendroglial cell migration has only been studied in cultured cells: Migration of cultured OPCs is enhanced by activation of receptors for glutamate or growth factors, and reduced by buffering intracellular calcium with BAPTA (Wang et al., 1996; Simpson and Armstrong, 1999). It has been shown, however, that the properties of cultured glial cells may differ from

those *in vivo* (He et al., 1996; Kimelberg et al., 1997), and that cell migration depends on a variety of factors provided by the cellular environment found only in intact tissue, such as cell surface molecules and extracellular matrix molecules (Kramer et al., 2001; Sobeih and Corfas, 2002).

Most of gliogenesis takes place in the perinatal period (Luskin and McDermott, 1994; Zerlin et al., 1995). During this time, progenitors migrate radially out of the SVZ into the overlying white matter and cortex, or laterally through the white matter and then radially into the lateral cortex and striatum to develop into astrocytes and oligodendrocytes (Levison et al., 1993; Zerlin and Goldman, 1997).

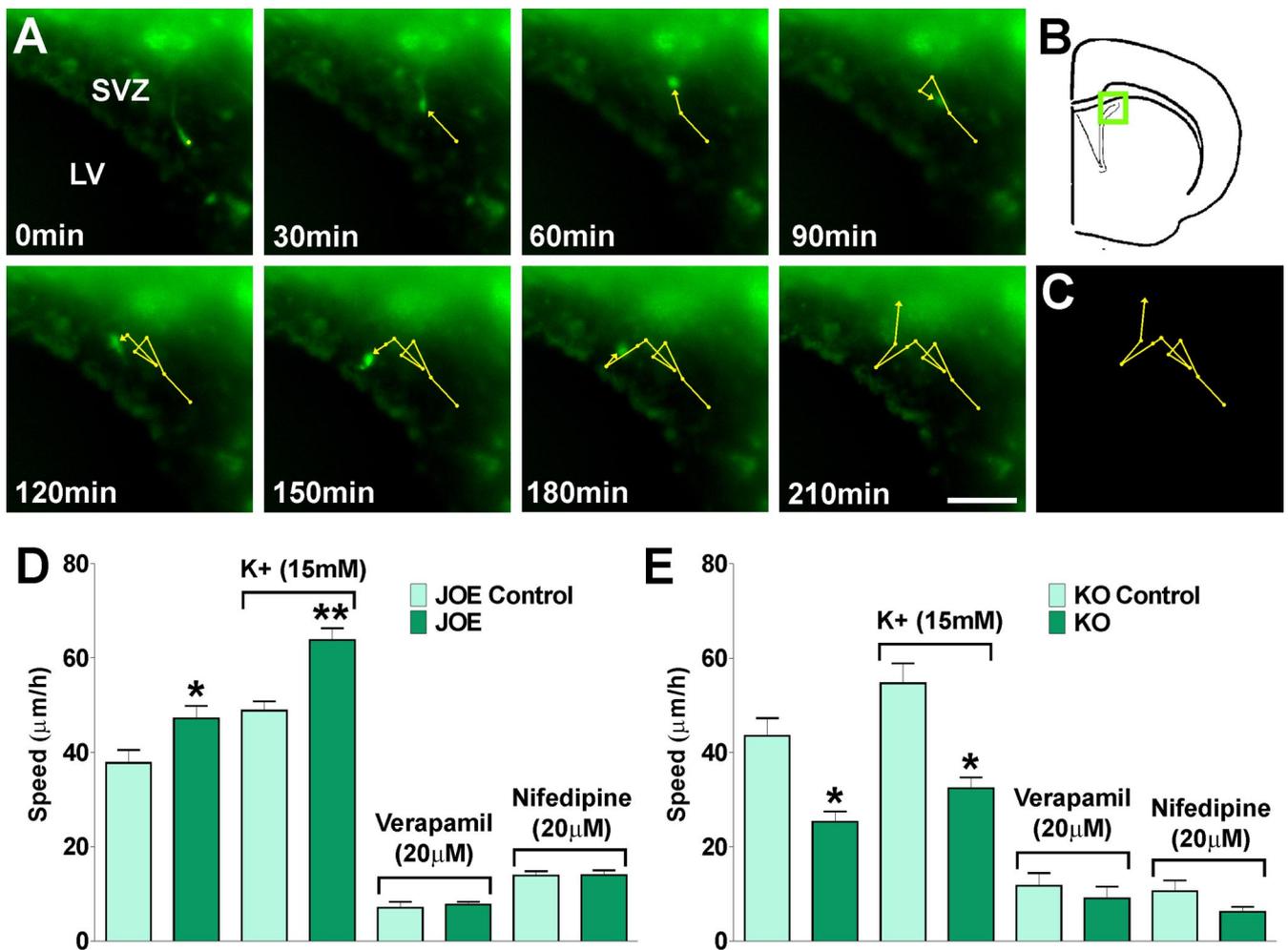


Figure 10. Migration of subventricular zone OPCs in living tissue. Brain slices were incubated in a stage top chamber with 5% CO₂ at 37°C, which was placed on the stage of a spinning disc confocal inverted microscope. Fluorescent field images were obtained for brain slices with a specific GFP filter at 6 min intervals for a total of 12 h. OPC tracking was started from a time point when a cell first came into focus or appeared at the edge of the imaging field and continued until it either went out of focus or left the imaging field. **A, B**, Time lapse series of a GFP-expressing OPC in the dorsolateral SVZ. Each frame represents a single section of a time lapse video sequence (**A**). Time is denoted in minutes in the bottom left corner. The area of the dorsolateral SVZ is indicated in the inset (**B**). **C**, A reconstruction of the paths of movement of the GFP-expressing OPC observed over the 210 min period. Each circle represents the position of the cell body, and, therefore, the length of the line between two circles represents the relative velocity of the cell at that moment. Cell migration speed and distances were analyzed off-line by tracing individual cells at different times. **D, E**, OPC average migration speed was calculated from at least 40 cells in each experimental condition. Values are expressed as mean ± SEM of at least four independent experiments. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$ versus control cells. LV, Lateral ventricle. Scale bar, 50 µm.

The present work shows that Ca²⁺ signaling seems to be essential for the *in vivo* migration of OPCs in the SVZ, and that golli acts to modulate this migration by exerting an influence over Ca²⁺ uptake in OPCs. Time-lapse measurement in tissue slices provided direct evidence that SVZ OPCs from JOE mice exhibited increased migratory distance and average speed compared with JOE control SVZ progenitors. Our *in vivo* and *in vitro* data, then, strongly support the conclusion that golli plays a role in regulating OPC migration.

The effect of golli on OPCs velocity is mediated through VOCC Ca²⁺ uptake

A role for transient Ca²⁺ elevations in controlling cell motility has been reported in various types of cells ranging from fibroblasts to immature neurons (Gomez and Spitzer, 1999; Chakraborty et al., 2003). Neuronal precursors and postmigratory neurons in the fetal cerebrum and the early postnatal cerebellum exhibit spontaneous Ca²⁺ transients (Owens and Kriegstein, 1998; Kumada and Komuro, 2004). The spontaneous Ca²⁺

transients in these migrating cells are mediated by NMDA receptors and N-type VOCCs (Komuro and Kumada, 2005).

In the present work Ca²⁺ imaging revealed different patterns of Ca²⁺ transients in the soma and processes of OPCs during different phases of saltatory movement. Movement and stationary states are tightly correlated with the peak and trough of the Ca²⁺ fluctuation, respectively, and the rate of soma translocation positively correlates with both the amplitude and frequency of Ca²⁺ transients under a variety of pharmacological treatments that perturb these transients. At present, little is known about how Ca²⁺ transients control the migration of immature oligodendroglial cells. Ca²⁺ transients may affect the recycling of cell-adhesion receptors, and induce the rearrangement of cytoskeletal components, which are essential for cell movement (Lawson and Maxfield, 1995).

Our results support the notion of a positive correlation between [Ca²⁺]_{int} of OPCs and the rate of migration of these cells. The Ca²⁺ transient amplitude and the rate of cell movement observed in isolated JOE cells in culture were higher than that

observed in control cells suggesting that the presence of golli may act to increase the generation of Ca^{2+} transients in OPCs. In OPC cell bodies, Ca^{2+} oscillations required the presence of external Ca^{2+} and were abolished in cells incubated with EGTA, verapamil and nifedipine, indicating that Ca^{2+} influx through VOCCs is essential for this phenomenon.

In agreement with our previous finding showing that golli increases Ca^{2+} influx after membrane depolarization (Paez et al., 2007), we found a significant increase in the migration speed of golli overexpressing OPCs versus controls after high K^+ treatment. Under this experimental condition the amplitude and frequency of saltatory movement as well as the amplitude of Ca^{2+} transient observed in isolated JOE cells were higher than those observed in control OPC cultures. However, there was a negative correlation between the presence of VOCC inhibitors in the media and the average migration speed of JOE cells. Golli-mediated modulation of OPC velocity disappeared when the VOCC antagonists, verapamil and nifedipine, were added to the external medium. These data confirm the participation of VOCCs in the modulation of OPC mobility, a novel concept in the migration of nonexcitable cells.

Evidence for a VOCC role in neuronal migration first came from imaging studies of granule cell migration in acute cerebellar slices, in which blockade or enhancement of Ca^{2+} influx through N-type VOCCs reduced or promoted the rate of granule cell movement, respectively (Komuro and Rakic 1992, 1998). Interestingly, different VOCCs may be involved in Ca^{2+} signaling for axon extension and soma translocation in migrating neurons (Tam et al., 2000).

Oligodendroglial precursor cells exhibit many electrical properties characteristic of neurons: they express the neuronal type of Na^+ channels, Ca^{2+} -activated as well as delayed and transient K^+ outward currents, and inwardly rectifying K^+ currents. They also express GABA receptors and are capable of firing action potentials (Sánchez-Gómez and Matute, 1999; Kárádóttir et al., 2008; Paez et al., 2009). Our data show that golli facilitates voltage-mediated Ca^{2+} entry in the plasma membrane of migrating OPCs, however it is not yet known whether it does this through direct interaction with VOCCs or indirectly through interactions with other molecules or ion channels. Activation of GABA receptors leads to a depolarizing event sufficient to activate voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels in OPCs (Kirchhoff and Kettenmann, 1992). However, our previously published data (Paez et al., 2007) suggest that golli is not affecting the activity of ionotropic or metabotropic glutamate receptors in cultured OPCs. Another possibility is that golli regulates VOCCs through modulation of K^+ channels, which are essential for maintaining the electrical properties of the plasma membrane in oligodendroglial cells (Butt and Kalsi, 2006). The possibility of golli influencing VOCCs through an action on K^+ channels remains to be explored.

We previously found that the golli effect on process extension/retraction is mediated through L-type VOCC (Paez et al., 2007). In this study we provide evidence that golli-modulation of VOCCs increases the amplitude of spontaneous Ca^{2+} oscillations

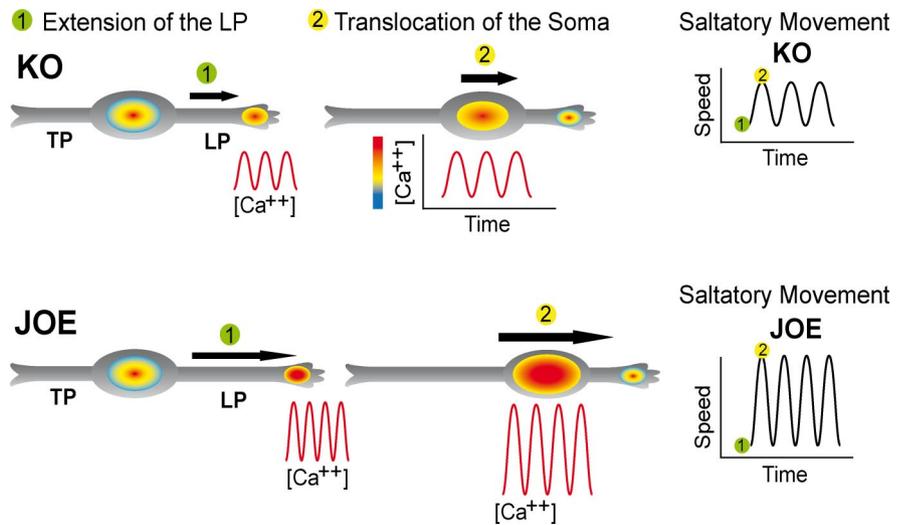


Figure 11. OPC migration and Ca^{2+} transients. Schematic illustration of the link between Ca^{2+} transients and OPC migration. The bipolar migrating OPCs exhibits a leading (LP) and a trailing (TP) process. Repetitive fluctuations of voltage-mediated $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$ have been associated with the movement of the soma and the extension of the leading processes. We postulate that golli promotes OPC migration by increasing the size of these voltage-mediated Ca^{2+} oscillations. The color gradient at the growing tip and soma represents the intracellular level of Ca^{2+} .

in the soma and in the leading process of migrating OPCs. We postulate that golli modulation of L-type VOCC is accelerating cell migration by promoting Ca^{2+} dependent soma translocation and leading process formation. This mechanism points to a key role for golli proteins in the regulation of the rate of OPC migration through spontaneous Ca^{2+} oscillations, and for the first time provides evidence that functional voltage-gated Ca^{2+} channels are necessary for the migration of OPCs in vitro and in vivo.

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