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1 **Kidney Dopamine D1-like Receptors and Angiotensin 1-7 Interaction Inhibits Renal**
2 **Sodium Transporters**

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7 **Running Title:** G protein-coupled receptor interaction

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20 **Abstract**

21 The role of dopamine D1-like receptors (DR) in the regulation of renal sodium transporters,
22 natriuresis, and blood pressure is well established. However, the involvement of Angiotensin
23 (Ang) 1-7—Mas receptor (MasR) in the regulation of sodium balance and blood pressure is not
24 clear. This study aims to investigate the hypothesis that Ang 1-7 could regulate sodium
25 homeostasis by modulating renal dopamine system. Sprague Dawley rats were infused with
26 saline alone (vehicle) or saline with Ang 1-7, Ang 1-7 antagonist A-779, DR agonist SKF38393,
27 and antagonist SCH23390. Infusion of Ang 1-7 caused significant natriuresis and diuresis when
28 compared to saline alone. Both natriuresis and diuresis were blocked by A-779 and SCH23390.
29 SKF38393 caused a significant, SCH23390 sensitive, natriuresis and diuresis and A-779 had no
30 effect on SKF38393 response. Concomitant infusion of Ang 1-7 and SKF38393 did not show a
31 cumulative effect when compared to either agonist alone. Treatment of renal proximal tubules
32 with Ang 1-7 or SKF38393 caused a significant decrease in Na/K-ATPase and Na/H-Exchanger
33 (NHE) 3 activity. While SCH23390 blocked both Ang 1-7 and SKF38393 induced inhibition,
34 DR response was not sensitive to A-779. Additionally, Ang 1-7 activated protein kinase (PK) G,
35 enhanced tyrosine hydroxylase activity via serine-40 phosphorylation and increased renal
36 dopamine production. These data suggest that Ang 1-7 via PKG enhances tyrosine hydroxylase
37 activity which increases renal dopamine production and activation of DR and subsequent
38 natriuresis. These studies provide evidence for a unidirectional functional interaction between
39 two G protein-coupled receptors to regulate renal sodium transporters and induce natriuresis.

40 **Keywords:** Na/K-ATPase, Na/H-Exchanger, Natriuresis, Renal Tubules

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42 **Introduction**

43 It is well established that renal dopamine system plays a pivotal role in maintaining body fluid
44 and electrolyte balance and long term blood pressure regulation especially during sodium replete
45 condition (17, 40, 53). Renal dopamine activates D1-like receptors (DR) and inhibits tubular
46 sodium transporters such as Na/K-ATPase and Na/H-Exchanger (NHE) 3 and causes natriuresis
47 and diuresis (10, 23, 36, 51). It is believed that the renal dopaminergic system is a local
48 independent system that acts in an autocrine or paracrine manner (2, 3, 12). The renal dopamine
49 production is dependent upon the tubular uptake of L-3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine (L-DOPA)
50 and enzymatic activity of aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase (AADC) which converts L-
51 DOPA to dopamine (2, 3, 12). The proximal tubules exhibit a high concentration of AADC and
52 are considered the primary source of renal dopamine (3, 12, 13, 17). It has been demonstrated
53 that renal specific deletion of AADC in mice leads to the development of hypertension and salt
54 sensitivity (57). Although, it has been postulated that other transporters belonging to solute
55 carrier superfamily which include basolateral organic cation transporters (OCT1, OCT2, and
56 OCT3) and apical transporters (OCTN1, OCTN2, and OCTN3) also play a role in dopamine
57 transport, their impact on sodium regulation is not clear (30, 31, 55). It is widely perceived that
58 L-DOPA, freely filtered by the glomerulus, is transported into proximal tubules mainly by
59 sodium-independent L-amino acid transporter (LAT) 2 making it a rate-limiting step in
60 dopamine synthesis (3, 11, 27, 45). However, recent studies show that an alternative pathway
61 involving tyrosine hydroxylase an enzyme which converts tyrosine to L-DOPA, a rate-limiting
62 step in neuronal dopamine synthesis, could be contributing to tubular dopamine production (52).

63 Renal Dopamine interacts with Angiotensin (Ang) II receptors, both type 1 and type 2 to
64 regulate sodium balance and blood pressure (15, 35, 40, 41, 46, 50). While the interaction with

65 Ang II type 1 receptor is antagonistic in that dopamine suppresses Ang II-mediated
66 antinatriuretic pathway, the interaction with type 2 receptors is synergistic as DR stimulation
67 induces natriuresis via Ang type 2 receptor (15, 35, 40, 41, 46, 50). However, little is known
68 about the interaction of renal dopamine with Ang 1-7—Mas receptor (MasR) system. The role of
69 Ang 1-7 in renal sodium is controversial, with some studies suggesting antinatriuretic effect
70 while others showing natriuretic effect (21, 37, 38, 43). It has been shown that Ang 1-7 can
71 activate serine/threonine protein kinases and inhibits renal proximal tubular sodium transporters
72 however, the mechanism remains unclear (14, 34). It is reported that Ang 1-7 activates protein
73 kinase (PK) G and PKG has been shown to stimulate tyrosine hydroxylase by phosphorylating
74 the enzyme at serine-40 (22, 26). Activation of tyrosine hydroxylase converts tyrosine to L-
75 DOPA, a rate limited step in dopamine synthesis. Interestingly, both PKG and tyrosine
76 hydroxylase are highly expressed in epithelial cells (1, 16, 20, 29, 52). Therefore, here we test
77 the hypothesis that Ang 1-7—MasR signaling could increase renal dopamine production via
78 tyrosine hydroxylase stimulation which will activate renal DR and induce natriuresis and
79 diuresis.

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86 **Experimental procedure**

87 **Materials**

88 Angiotensin (Ang) 1-7 (Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro), A-779 (D-Ala⁷-Ang-(1-7)—a selective
89 Ang 1-7 antagonist, ouabain—a Na/K-ATPase inhibitor, S3226 (3-[2-(3-guanidino-2-methyl-3-
90 oxo-propenyl)-5-methyl-phenyl]-N-isopropylidene-2-methyl-acrylamide dihydro-chloride)—a
91 Na/H-Exchanger (NHE) 3 inhibitor, KT5823—a protein kinase (PK) G inhibitor, HBH (3-
92 Hydroxybenzylhydrazine dihydrochloride)—an aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase (AADC)
93 inhibitor, (3-Iodo-L-tyrosine)—a tyrosine hydroxylase inhibitor, KT5720—a protein kinase (PK)
94 A inhibitor, monoclonal anti-tyrosine hydroxylase antibody (catalog number: T2928), anti-
95 phospho-tyrosine hydroxylase (pSer⁴⁰) antibody (catalog number: SAB4503789), secondary
96 antibodies and other analytical grade chemicals, unless otherwise mentioned, were purchased
97 from Millipore Sigma (St. Louis MO, USA). Protein kinase G-1 antibody (catalog number:
98 3248) was purchased from Cell Signaling (Danvers, MA).

99 *Surgical procedure for Ang 1-7 renal response*

100 Eight-week-old male Sprague Dawley rats (Harlan, Indianapolis, IN) were group housed and had
101 free access to water and normal rodent diet. All the experimental procedures were approved by
102 IACUC. Surgeries were performed as detailed before (39), briefly, rats were anesthetized with
103 isoflurane/oxygen mixture and blood pressure was measured by catheterizing the left carotid
104 artery with a solid state pressure transducer connected to power lab (ADI Colorado Springs CO,
105 USA). For drug administration, the left jugular vein was catheterized with PE50 and for urine
106 collection, a midline abdomen incision was made to catheterize urinary bladder. Throughout the
107 surgery, the animals were infused with normal saline (1% body wt ml/h) and blood pressure and
108 heart rate were continuously monitored. To determine the effect of Ang 1-7 on sodium and water

109 excretion rats were infused with saline alone or saline with Ang 1-7 ($1 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$) or
110 SKF38393 ($1 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$). A-779 ($100 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$), SCH23390 ($100 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$) or KT5823 (10
111 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$) were administered intravenously as a single bolus dose immediately prior to the
112 initiation of Ang 1-7 or SKF38393 infusion. The procedure consisted of a 40 min stabilization
113 period after the surgery followed by a 45 min collection of urine in the absence of drugs (saline
114 alone) followed by another 45 min period urine collection during drug infusion. Urine and
115 plasma sodium concentration was measured by atomic absorbance spectroscopy (Perkin Elmer
116 AA400) and creatinine levels were measured by creatinine analyzer (model 2, Beckman, CA).
117 Urinary volume was measured by Rainin electronic pipet (Mettler-Toledo Rainin, Oakland CA,
118 USA). Glomerular filtration rate (GFR, ml/min) was calculated based on the clearance of
119 creatinine, and fractional excretion of sodium (FE_{Na} , %) was calculated based on the clearance of
120 sodium and creatinine. Urinary dopamine was measured by HPLC-mass spectrometry as detailed
121 before (6).

122 *Na/K-ATPase and Na/H-Exchanger activity*

123 A separate group of rats was used to prepare renal proximal tubules as detailed in our previous
124 publications (6-8). Renal proximal tubules were incubated for 10 min at 37°C with Ang 1-7 (0.1
125 $\mu\text{mol/L}$), SKF38393 ($0.1 \mu\text{mol/L}$), A-779 ($10.0 \mu\text{mol/L}$), SCH23390 ($10.0 \mu\text{mol/L}$), KT5823
126 ($1.0 \mu\text{mol/L}$), HBH ($100 \mu\text{mol/L}$), and 3-Iodo-L-tyrosine ($100.0 \mu\text{mol/L}$). Na/K-ATPase activity
127 was determined by the method of Quigley and Gotterer (47) with slight modification as reported
128 earlier (6-8). The tubules were lysed by rapid freezing and thawing with liquid nitrogen and
129 protein was assayed by using a BCA kit (Thermo Fisher). The lysed tubular suspension (0.1 mg
130 protein/ml) was used to assay ouabain (4 mmol/L)-sensitive Na/K-ATPase activity, using end-

131 point phosphate hydrolysis of ATP (4 mmol/L) (6-8). NHE3 activity was measured in proximal
132 tubular brush border membranes as detailed before (7).

133 *Tyrosine hydroxylase and Protein Kinase G expression and activity*

134 Tyrosine hydroxylase expression and phosphorylation were determined by ELISA or western
135 blotting according to our previously published standardized protocol (5, 9). Briefly, microplates
136 were coated with an antigen (equal amount of cell lysate protein) and incubated with anti-
137 tyrosine hydroxylase or anti-phospho-tyrosine hydroxylase (pSer⁴⁰) antibody and quantitated by
138 ELISA (5). We also coated microplates with an anti-tyrosine hydroxylase or anti-phospho-
139 tyrosine hydroxylase (pSer⁴⁰) antibody followed by incubation with an equal amount of cell
140 lysate protein followed by ELISA (5). Renal proximal tubular tyrosine hydroxylase activity was
141 measured as described by Baillien et al (4). Briefly, proximal tubules were homogenized in
142 potassium phosphate buffer (50 mmol/L, pH 6.0) and 80 mg (1mg/ml protein concentration) was
143 added to an assay mixture containing 25 mmol/L L-tyrosine, ferrous ammonium sulfate (10
144 mmol/L), catalase (3,200 units), ascorbic acid (1 mmol/L), tetrahydrobiopterin and 0.1 mmol/L
145 HBH dissolved fresh in a small volume of 0.01 mol/L HCl, 50 mmol/L potassium phosphate
146 buffer pH 6.0 without and with 3-Iodo-L-tyrosine (100 µmol/L). The mixture was incubated for
147 15 min at 37°C and the reaction was stopped by adding chilled 10% trichloroacetic acid and
148 DOPA was measured by HPLC-mass spectrometry as described by Haavik and Flatmark (28)
149 and detailed in our previous publication (6). PKG expression was determined by ELISA (5) and
150 activity was measured as described by Fiscus and Murad (25) and detailed previously (9). Renal
151 proximal tubular PKA activity was determined as detailed by Corbin and Reimann (18) in the
152 absence and presence of forskolin (10 µmol/L), KT5720 (0.3 µmol/L) and KT5823 (1.0 µmol/L).

153 **Statistical analysis**

154 Differences between means were evaluated by using ANOVA followed by post-hoc Newman-
155 Keuls multiple test. $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant. For in vivo experiments
156 (drug infusion), 10-12 rats were used in each group, and for ex vivo experiments involving
157 proximal tubules, 6-8 rats were used in each group. Experiments involving biochemical analysis
158 were performed in quadruplicate. ELISA was performed in quintuplicate i.e. at least 5 wells were
159 used for a single sample.

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172 **Results**

173 *Effect of Ang 1-7 on urine flow, urinary sodium excretion, fractional excretion of sodium, and*
174 *urinary dopamine excretion*

175 Intravenous administration of Ang 1-7 significantly increased urine flow (UF), urinary sodium
176 excretion (UNa), and fractional excretion of sodium (FENa) when compared to saline infusion
177 alone (fig 1A-C). Ang 1-7 had no effect on GFR (fig 1D). Ang 1-7 –mediated increases in UV,
178 UNa, and FENa were abolished by Ang 1-7 antagonist A-779 and DR blocker SCH23390 (fig
179 2A-C). SKF38393 –mediated natriuresis and diuresis was blocked by SCH23390 but was
180 insensitive to A-779 (fig 2A-C). Concomitant administration of Ang 1-7 and SKF38393 did not
181 have a cumulative effect on natriuresis or diuresis when compared to Ang 1-7 or SKF38393
182 alone (fig A-C). A-779 per se had no effect while SCH23390 alone or in combination with A-
183 779 reduced UF, UNa, or FENA but the difference was not statistically significant when
184 compared to saline (data not shown). Ang 1-7 and SKF38393 had no effect on blood pressure as
185 compared to saline (mean arterial pressure, mmHg, saline— 107.33 ± 5.36 , Ang 1-7— $101.03 \pm$
186 6.01 , SKF38393— 105.65 ± 4.88). A-779 and SCH23390 also had no significant effect on blood
187 pressure (data not shown).

188 Ang 1-7 administration caused a profound increase in urinary dopamine excretion as compared
189 to saline (dopamine pmol/min, saline— 4.63 ± 0.41 , Ang 1-7— $8.91 \pm 0.71^*$, $*P < 0.05$ vs. saline).
190 The increase in dopamine production was blocked by A-779 and KT5823 but was insensitive to
191 SCH23390 (Ang 1-7+A-779— 5.32 ± 0.51 , Ang1-7+KT5823— 5.03 ± 0.44 , Ang 1-
192 7+SCH23390— $9.1 \pm 0.89^*$, $*P < 0.05$ vs. saline). In the absence of Ang 1-7, SKF38393,
193 SCH23390, A-779 and KT5823, per se, had no significant effect on basal dopamine excretion
194 (data not shown).

195 *Effect of Ang 1-7 on renal sodium transporters*

196 Incubation of renal proximal tubules with Ang 1-7 or SKF38393 inhibited Na/K-ATPase and
197 NHE3 activity significantly as compared to saline (fig 3A,B). The inhibitory effect of Ang 1-7
198 on sodium transporters was sensitive to both A-779 and SCH23390 (fig 3A,B). However,
199 SCH23390 and not A-779 blocked DR –mediated inhibition of sodium transporters. Concomitant
200 incubation of proximal tubules with Ang 1-7 and SKF38393 did not have a cumulative inhibitory
201 effect on the sodium transporters (fig 3A,B). A-779 and SCH23390 had no effect on basal Na/K-
202 ATPase (nmol pi/min/mg protein, saline—225.33 ± 16.36, A-779—239.29 ± 21.22,
203 SCH23390—241.69 ± 19.89) and NHE3 activity ($^{22}\text{Na}^+$ nmol/mg protein/min, saline—5.3 ±
204 0.42, A-779—4.9 ± 0.39, SCH23390—5.1 ± 0.44).

205 *Effect of Ang 1-7 on protein kinase G and tyrosine hydroxylase expression and activity*

206 Ang 1-7 had no effect on PKG expression in renal proximal tubules (PKG-1 (α/β), OD at 450
207 nm; saline—0.67 ± 0.11, Ang 1-7—0.74 ± 0.13). However, Ang 1-7 significantly increased
208 proximal tubular PKG activity which was blocked by A-779 and PKG inhibitor KT5823 but was
209 insensitive to SCH23390 (fig 4A). KT5823 could inhibit PKA activity at higher concentration.
210 As illustrated in figure 4B, the concentration of KT5823 (1.0 $\mu\text{mol/L}$) used in the present study
211 had no effect on PKA activity whereas KT5720, a more specific PKA inhibitor, reduced both
212 basal activity and forskolin-induced activation of PKA. Ang 1-7 did not affect tyrosine
213 hydroxylase expression (OD at 450 nm; saline—0.83 ± 0.17, Ang 1-7—0.91 ± 0.13), figure
214 4C—lower panel and supplement figure 1 [URL: <https://figshare.com/s/49cecaa9c0fe7a7c6949>
215 DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.9201893]. However, Ang 1-7 significantly increased tyrosine
216 hydroxylase serine-40 phosphorylation (fig 4C—upper panel, fig 4D and supplement fig 2,
217 [URL: <https://figshare.com/s/49cecaa9c0fe7a7c6949> DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.9201893]) and

218 activity (fig 4E), both of which were blocked by A-779 and KT5823 while SCH23390 had no
219 effect (fig 4C-E). Tyrosine hydroxylase inhibitor 3-Iodo-L-tyrosine had no effect on Ang 1-7-
220 mediated serine-40 phosphorylation (fig 4C—upper panel, fig 4D) but reduced basal tyrosine
221 hydroxylase activity and abolished Ang 1-7-induced stimulation (fig 4E). The basal tyrosine
222 hydroxylase activity was not affected by A-779, SCH23390 or KT5823 (data not shown).

223 *Effect of protein kinase G, tyrosine hydroxylase and dopamine decarboxylase inhibition on Ang*
224 *1-7-mediated inhibition of renal sodium transporters*

225 Exposure of proximal tubules to PKG, tyrosine hydroxylase, and AADC inhibitors KT5823, 3-
226 Iodo-L-tyrosine and HBH respectively had no effect on basal Na/K-ATPase (fig 5A) or NHE3
227 activity (data not shown). However, inhibition of PKG, tyrosine hydroxylase and AADC
228 abolished Ang 1-7 –mediated regulation of both Na/K-ATPase and NHE3 (fig 5B,C). Inhibitors
229 of PKG, tyrosine hydroxylase, and AADC failed to abolish SKF38393-induced inhibition of
230 Na/K-ATPase or NHE3 (data not shown).

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239 **Discussion**

240 The present study demonstrates that Ang 1-7—MasR signaling increases renal dopamine
241 production by stimulating PKG—tyrosine hydroxylase activity. Moreover, the increased
242 dopamine production via DR inhibits renal sodium transporters Na/K-ATPase and NHE3 and
243 induces natriuresis and diuresis in response to Ang 1-7—MasR stimulation. Our results suggest
244 that Ang 1-7—MasR signaling regulates renal sodium excretion by modulating local dopamine
245 production.

246 Ang 1-7, a relatively newer member of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system, is
247 enzymatically generated directly from Ang I and Ang II by neprilysin and angiotensin-
248 converting enzyme 2 respectively or indirectly by angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 –mediated
249 conversion of Ang I to Ang 1-9, which is converted to Ang 1-7 by neprilysin or angiotensin-
250 converting enzyme (48, 56). Proximal tubules are exposed to circulating Ang 1-7 as well as Ang
251 1-7 from the glomerular filtrate. In addition, kidneys are exposed to locally generated Ang 1-7
252 explaining the higher renal vs. circulating Ang 1-7 levels. The role of Ang 1-7, unlike Ang II, in
253 kidney electrolyte regulation is not clear. While earlier reports suggested anti- natriuretic and
254 diuretic properties of renal Ang 1-7 in rats, recent reports show that Ang 1-7 deficit could
255 contribute to Ang II-mediated sodium and water retention and subsequent increase in blood
256 pressure (32). The exact mechanisms for these discrepancies are not known, however, the
257 variability in animal model, experimental site (*ex vivo* vs. *in vivo*) and drug administration route
258 could be possible causes for the variable outcome of Ang 1-7 effect on renal sodium regulation.
259 In here, we found that acute Ang 1-7 administration caused robust natriuresis and diuresis
260 without affecting GFR or blood pressure suggesting a tubular effect. As expected, the
261 intravenous infusion of SKF38393 caused significant natriuresis and diuresis. Interestingly, the

262 effects of Ang 1-7 were abolished by both Ang 1-7 antagonist and DR blocker however, the
263 effect of DR agonist was insensitive to Ang 1-7 antagonist. These data suggest that Ang 1-7—
264 MasR –mediated sodium excretion involves DR activation while the natriuretic response to
265 SKF38393 is independent of Ang 1-7—MasR signaling. These findings are novel as they
266 identify a unidirectional, as opposed to mutual, interaction between two G protein-coupled
267 receptors to increase renal sodium excretion.

268 To identify the mechanisms for Ang 1-7—MasR and DR interaction in increasing sodium
269 excretion, we assessed the effect of Ang 1-7—MasR signaling on renal tubular sodium
270 transporters. The exposure of renal proximal tubules to Ang 1-7 or SKF38393 inhibited Na/K-
271 ATPase and NHE3 activity. Interestingly, the Ang 1-7 –induced inhibition of sodium
272 transporters was sensitive to both A-779 and SCH23390 while DR effect was independent of
273 Ang 1-7 signaling. These data show that Ang 1-7—MasR inhibits renal tubular transporters via
274 DR activation and is in agreement with aforementioned in vivo finding. To find a link between
275 Ang 1-7—MasR and DR signaling as it relates to renal sodium regulation, we first measured
276 urinary dopamine excretion. We found that Ang 1-7 treated rats exhibited a significant increase
277 in urinary dopamine level which was blocked by A-779 but insensitive to SCH23390 suggesting
278 that increased dopamine production involves Ang 1-7—MasR signaling but is independent of
279 DR. Taken together, our data show that Ang 1-7—MasR stimulation increases renal dopamine
280 production which activates DR causing inhibition of Na/K-ATPase and NHE3 activity. The role
281 of Ang 1-7 in dopamine production and renal sodium regulation is conflicting. In contrast to our
282 data, Pawlak et al (44) reported that AT1R blockade is needed for Ang 1-7-mediated dopamine
283 production in rat hypothalamus and Stragier et al (49) showed that conversion of Ang 1-7 to Ang
284 3-7 is responsible for dopamine production in rat striatum. Lara et al (33, 34) have shown that

285 Ang 1-7 via AT1R stimulates Na⁺-ATPase in adult pig renal tubules and inhibits Na/K-ATPase
286 in MDCK cells, however, the same group failed to observe Ang 1-7-mediated inhibition of
287 Na/K-ATPase in pig renal tubules (14). Consistent with our studies, DelliPizzi et al have shown
288 renal natriuretic effects of Ang 1-7 in rats (19). The exact mechanisms for these discrepancies are
289 not clear however the plausible explanation could be differences in animal model, central vs.
290 peripheral effect of Ang 1-7, water and sodium replete vs. deplete condition and local renin-
291 angiotensin concentration. Nevertheless, we suggest that DR dependent inhibition of sodium
292 transporters could, in part, be responsible for Ang 1-7—MasR-mediated natriuresis and diuresis
293 as these transporters are responsible for more than 60% of transcellular proximal tubular sodium
294 reabsorption (24, 54).

295 In neuronal cells, the rate-limiting step of dopamine synthesis involves tyrosine
296 hydroxylase –mediated conversion of tyrosine to L-DOPA which is decarboxylated to dopamine
297 by AADC (42). However, it is widely perceived that in kidney dopamine is locally synthesized
298 and involves apical uptake of filtered L-DOPA mainly via Lat 1 and Lat 2 (1-3, 11-13, 27, 45).
299 The involvement of transporters belonging to solute carrier superfamily have also been suggested
300 (30, 31, 55). However, the role of tyrosine hydroxylase, which is highly expressed in epithelial
301 cells, has not been fully assessed in renal dopamine synthesis (1, 20, 29, 52). The activity of
302 tyrosine hydroxylase is highly regulated by serine phosphorylation involving various
303 serine/threonine kinases and phosphatases (22). While an increase in phosphorylation at serine-
304 40 is known to activate the enzyme, the role of serine-19 or serine-31 is not clear (22). Herein,
305 we found that Ang 1-7 had no effect on tyrosine hydroxylase expression but increased enzyme
306 serine-40 phosphorylation and activity. Ang 1-7 also increased PKG activity in renal tubules
307 without affecting PKG expression. Ang 1-7 mediated activation of both tyrosine hydroxylase and

308 PKG were sensitive to A-779 but independent of DR signaling. Additionally, Ang 1-7—MasR –
309 mediated serine-40 phosphorylation and activation were blocked by PKG inhibition. These data
310 provide strong evidence that Ang 1-7—MasR pathway increases dopamine production via
311 activation of tyrosine hydroxylase involving PKG.

312 To further substantiate the involvement of PKG—tyrosine hydroxylase in Ang 1-7—Mas
313 R mediated sodium excretion, we assessed Ang 1-7-induced inhibition of Na/K-ATPase and
314 NHE3 in the absence and presence of PKG, tyrosine hydroxylase, and AADC inhibitors. We
315 found that Ang 1-7—MasR –mediated inhibition of renal sodium transporters was sensitive to
316 PKG, tyrosine hydroxylase, and AADC inhibitors while these inhibitors had no effect on DR
317 signaling. Additionally, the infusion of PKG inhibitor abolished Ang 1-7-mediated increase in
318 urinary dopamine excretion. These data suggest that Ang 1-7—MasR –mediated renal sodium
319 regulation involves the modulation of local renal dopamine synthesis.

320 **Limitations:** The transport of renal tubular L-DOPA and tyrosine is complex and involves both
321 apical and basolateral, sodium-dependent and independent transporters. A detailed study is
322 warranted to identify the involvement of individual transporter in Ang 1-7—MasR signaling as it
323 relates to renal dopamine synthesis and sodium regulation. The investigation of these
324 transporters is beyond the scope of this study.

325 In conclusion, our data show that Ang 1-7—MasR invokes robust natriuresis and diuresis via
326 activation of renal DR. Mechanistically, Ang 1-7—MasR increased PKG activity, which
327 activates tyrosine hydroxylase by serine-40 phosphorylation. The activation of tyrosine
328 hydroxylase leads to increased dopamine production and DR stimulation which in turn inhibits
329 renal sodium transporters Na/K-ATPase and NHE3. These phenomena lead to natriuresis and
330 diuresis in response to Ang 1-7. While Ang 1-7—MasR –mediated renal sodium regulation is

331 dependent upon DR stimulation, SKF38393—DR –induced sodium excretion does not involve
332 Ang 1-7—MasR signaling. Taken together, this study provides a novel insight into the
333 complexity of renal sodium and dopamine regulation involving Ang 1-7—MasR and DR
334 interaction.

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337 **Disclosures**

338 No conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise, are declared by the author(s).

339

340 **Author Contributions**

341 A.A.B. conception and design of research; A.A.B and A.D.D performed experiments and
342 analyzed data; A.A.B. interpreted results of experiments, prepared figures and drafted
343 manuscript; M.F.L. edited and revised manuscript; all authors approved the final version of the
344 manuscript.

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527 **Figure legends**

528 **Figure 1.** Effect of angiotensin (Ang) 1-7 on urine flow (UF), urinary sodium excretion (UNa),
529 fractional excretion of sodium (FENa), and glomerular filtration rate (GFR). Rats were infused
530 with saline and urine was collected for 45 min to establish a baseline. One group was continued
531 on saline while the other group was administered Ang 1-7 in saline for 45 min. (A) Urine flow,
532 (B) urinary sodium excretion, (C) fractional excretion of sodium and (D) glomerular filtration
533 rate were measured as detailed in material and method. * $P < 0.05$ vs. saline, repeated measures
534 ANOVA followed by Newman-Keuls post hoc test; n=10-12 rats.

535 **Figure 2.** Effect of angiotensin (Ang) 1-7 and dopamine D1-like receptor (DR) agonist
536 SKF38393 on urine flow (UF), urinary sodium excretion (UNa), and fractional excretion of
537 sodium (FENa). Rats were infused with saline alone or saline with Ang 1-7, SKF38393, Ang 1-7
538 antagonist A-779, and DR blocker SCH23390. After initiating drug infusion, urine was collected
539 for 45 to measure (A) Urine flow, (B) urinary sodium excretion, (C) fractional excretion of
540 sodium. * $P < 0.05$ vs. saline, 1-way ANOVA followed by Newman-Keuls post hoc test; n=10-12
541 rats.

542 **Figure 3.** Effect of angiotensin (Ang) 1-7 and dopamine D1-like receptor (DR) agonist
543 SKF38393 on renal proximal tubular sodium transporters Na/K-ATPase and Na/H-Exchanger
544 (NHE) 3. Proximal tubules were incubated with Ang 1-7 and SKF38393 in the presence and
545 absence of Ang 1-7 antagonist A-779 and DR blocker SCH23390. Na/K-ATPase activity was
546 measured directly in lysed tubules (A), while NHE3 activity was measured in brush border
547 membranes isolated after incubation of tubules with desired drugs (B). * $P < 0.05$ vs. saline, 1-way
548 ANOVA followed by Newman-Keuls post hoc test, n=6-8 rats. Na/K-ATPase and NHE3 were
549 assayed in quadruplicate from each rat.

550

551 **Figure 4.** Effect of angiotensin (Ang) 1-7 on protein kinase (PK) G and tyrosine hydroxylase
552 expression and activity. Renal proximal tubules were incubated with Ang 1-7 in the presence and
553 absence of Ang 1-7 antagonist A-779, DR blocker SCH23390, PKG inhibitor KT5823, and
554 tyrosine hydroxylase inhibitor 3-Iodo-L-tyrosine. Renal proximal tubular PKG activity (A) and
555 protein kinase A activity (B). Tyrosine hydroxylase (TH) expression and phosphorylation were
556 determined by western blotting (C) and ELISA (D). Tyrosine hydroxylase activity was
557 determined by HPLC-mass spectrometry (E). * $P < 0.05$ vs. saline, 1-way ANOVA followed by
558 Newman-Keuls post hoc test; n=6-8 rats. PKG and tyrosine hydroxylase activity was assayed in
559 quadruplicate while expression and serine-40 phosphorylation (ELISA) was performed in
560 quintuplicate from each rat.

561 **Figure 5.** Role of dopamine synthesis enzymes on angiotensin (Ang) 1-7 –induced inhibition of
562 sodium transporters Na/K-ATPase and Na/H-Exchanger (NHE) 3. Proximal tubules were
563 incubated with Ang 1-7 and SKF38393 in the presence and absence of PKG inhibitor KT5823,
564 tyrosine hydroxylase inhibitor 3-Iodo-L-tyrosine, and aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase
565 (AADC) inhibitor 3-Hydroxybenzylhydrazine dihydrochloride (HBH). Na/K-ATPase activity
566 was measured directly in lysed tubules (A and B), while NHE3 activity was measured in brush
567 border membranes isolated after incubation of tubules with desired drugs (C). * $P < 0.05$ vs. saline,
568 1-way ANOVA followed by Newman-Keuls post hoc test, n=6-8 rats. Na/K-ATPase and NHE3
569 were assayed in quadruplicate from each rat.

570

Figure 1

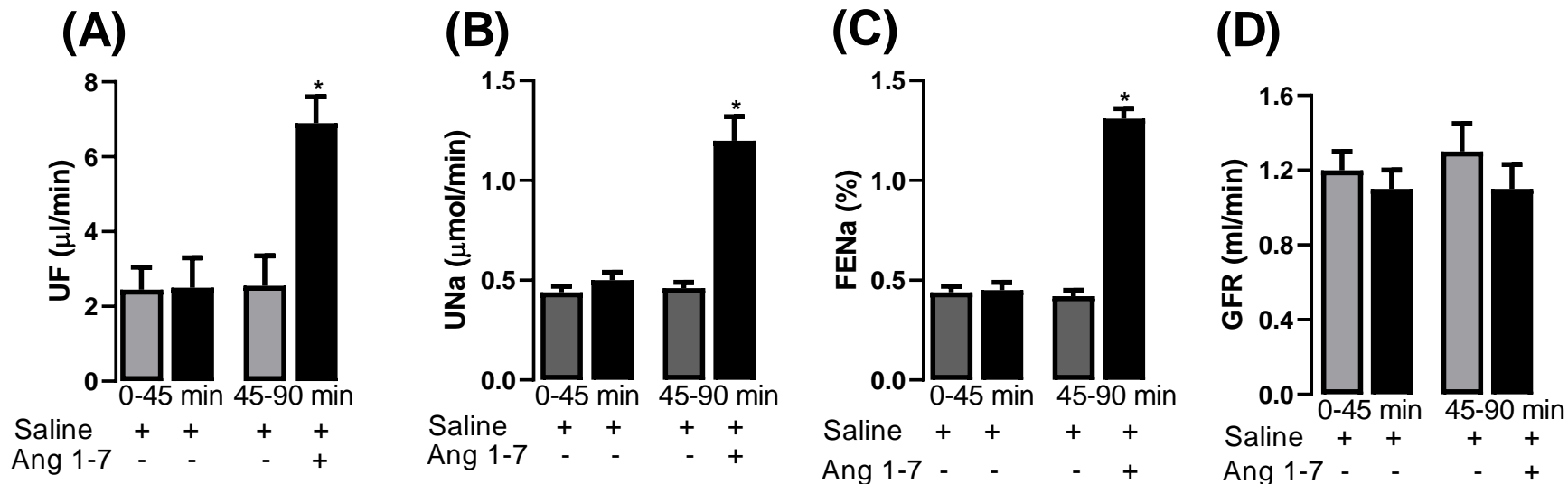
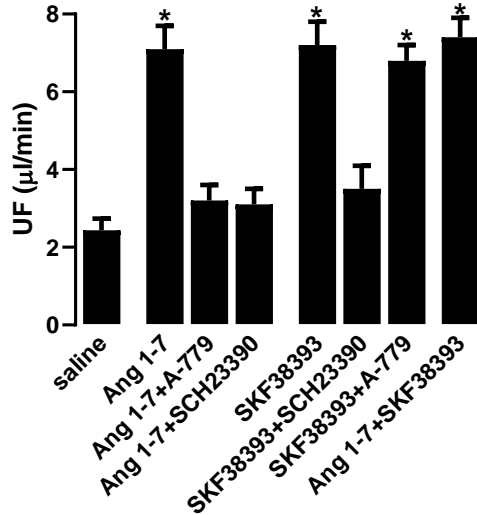
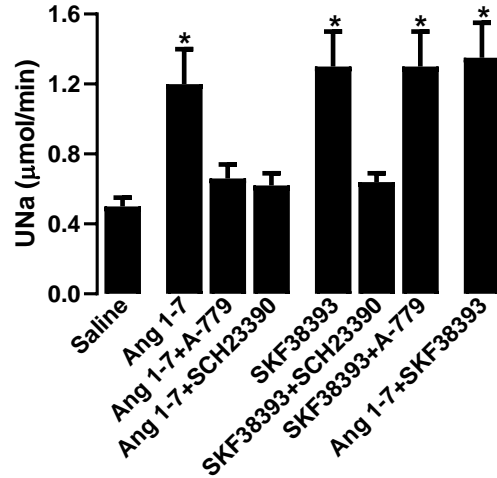


Figure 2

(A)



(B)



(C)

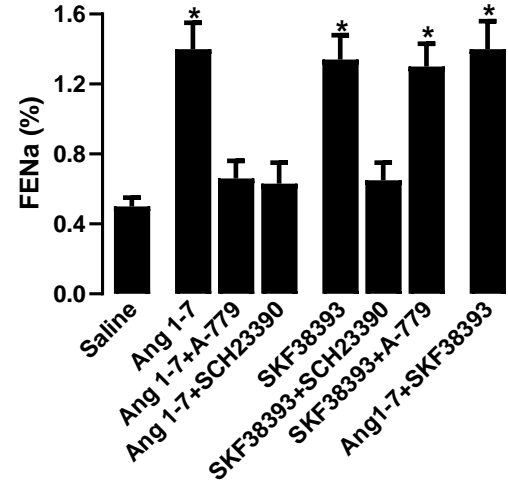


Figure 3

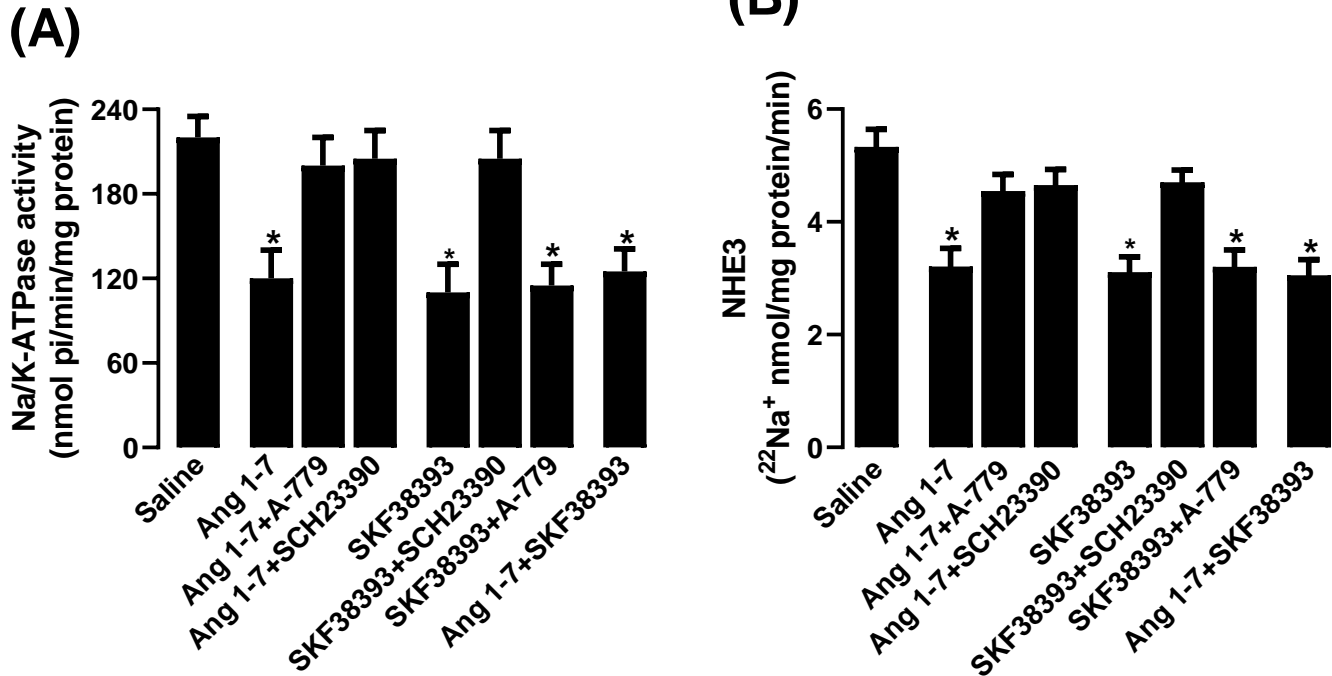


Figure 4

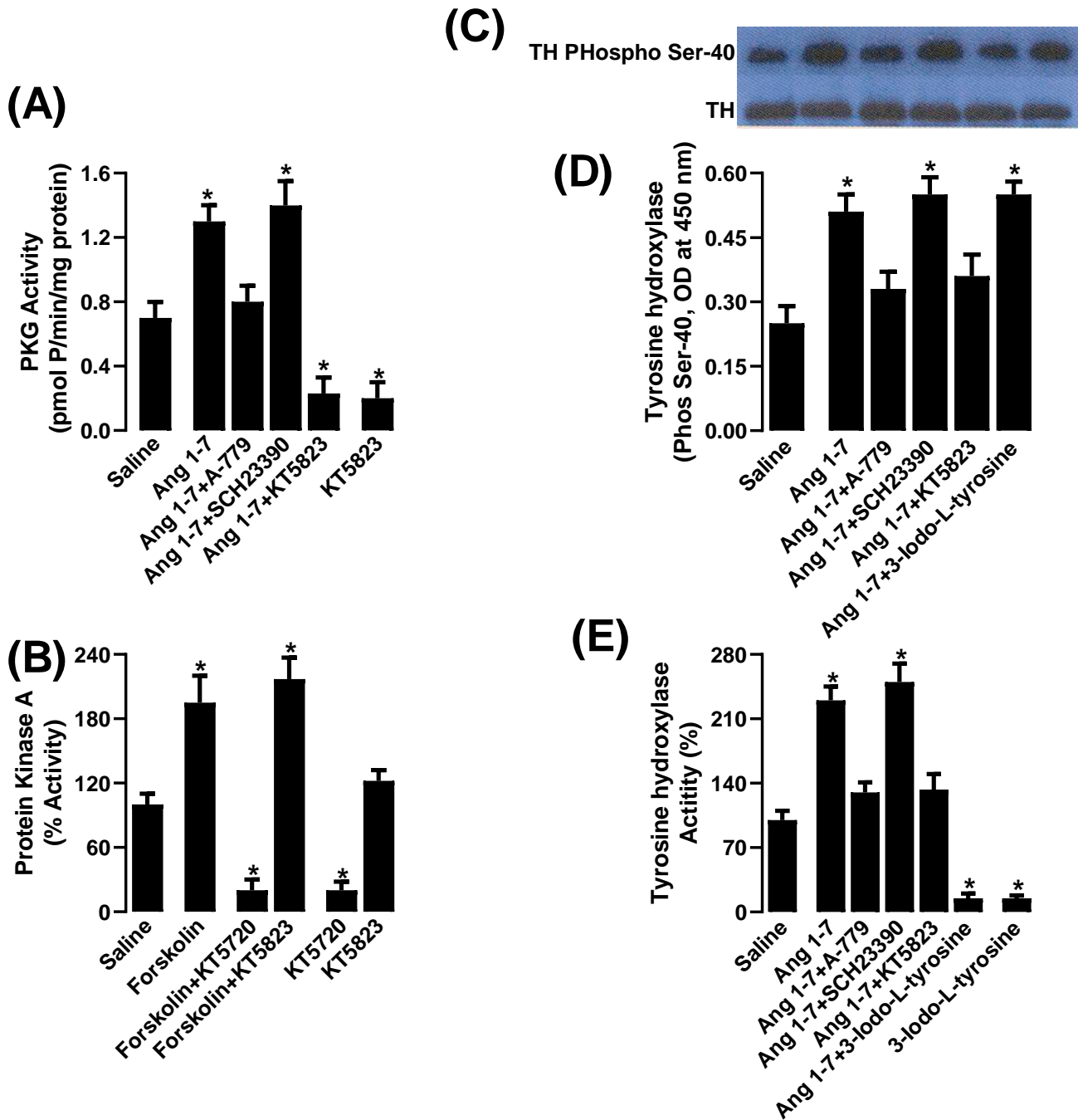


Figure 5

