

STIM1 mutations: new mutations and different phenotypes

D. Cassandrini¹, A. Rubegni¹, G. Bertocci¹, D. Tolomeo^{1,4}, V. Guglielmi², G. Vattermi², P. Tonin², S. Matà³, G. Ricci⁴, A. Malandrini⁵, G. Siciliano⁴, A. Federico⁵, F.M. Santorelli¹, L. Merlini⁶

¹IRCCS Fondazione Stella Maris, Molecular Medicine Laboratory, Pisa, ²Department of Neuroscience, Biomedicine and Movement Sciences, University of Verona, Verona, ³Careggi University Hospital, Neurology Unit, University of Florence, Florence, ⁴Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Pisa, Pisa, ⁵Department of Medicine, Surgery and Neurosciences, University of Siena, Siena, ⁶DIBINEM-Department of Biomedical and Neuromotor Sciences, University of Bologna

Tab.1: clinical and genetic characteristics

Mutation	SC c.252T>A/p.D84E	GN c.326A>G/p.H109R	PA c.312A>T/p.K104N	BG c.2246G>A/p.R749H	RD c.1889C>T/p.S630F	GB c.1894_1897del/p.H632fs*0	TD c.412G>A/p.V138I
Gender	M	F	M	M	M	M	M
Age of onset	15 months	Infantile onset	Infantile onset	39 yrs	54 yrs	Birth	6 months
Age at last examination	44 yrs	32 yrs	32 yrs	57 yrs	56 yrs	32 yrs	26 yrs
Muscle weakness	Diffuse and marked muscle weakness	Limb-girdle muscle weakness	Limb-girdle muscle weakness	Proximal muscle weakness in upper limbs Distal muscle weakness in lower limbs	-	Ptosis Shoulder girdle weakness Scapular winging	Diffuse muscle weakness (with distal limb predominance)
Myalgia	+	+	-	-	+	-	-
Walking	with support	Normal	Normal	with support, waddling gait	Normal	Normal	Foot drop, unable to walk on heels
Contractures	Diffuse and severe: limited mouth opening, rigid spine, limited all proximal and distal joints movement	Elbows, wrists, heels	Knees and Achilles tendons	-	-	-	-
Respiratory dysfunction	restrictive defect	-	-	sleep apnoea syndrome	-	-	maximal Expiratory Pressure reduction
Cardiac dysfunction	-	-	-	-	-	Mitral valve prolapse left anterior fascicular block	-
Ophthalmic findings	ptosis Reduced lateral and upward gaze keratoconus, miosis	Corneal transplantation	-	-	-	-	-
Dermatologic findings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CK level (X normal)	12 x	4 x	4 x	5 x	8 x	3 x	normal
Asplenia	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thrombocytopenia	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
Hypocalcemia	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Muscle CT imaging	severe involvement of cervical and spinal extensors, subscapularis, hamstrings, and posterior lower leg muscles	fatty replacement of pelvic muscles and thigh muscles, particularly in the anterior compartment	-	fatty replacement of glutei, all thigh muscles (symmetrical) and leg muscles with sparing of popliteus and posterior tibialis	not done	not done	fatty replacement of paravertebral muscles, vastus intermedius and anterior compartment of thigh muscles
Histology	Tubular aggregates, fiber size variability, internal nuclei, type I fiber predominance	tubular aggregates	tubular aggregates	severe muscle dystrophy with inflammatory infiltrates	type I fiber atrophy, rimmed vacuoles in some fibers and cores in others	mild variation in fiber size	congenital fiber type size disproportion
Additional features	short stature low MCHC levels migraine	epilepsy sensory neural hearing loss hypothyroidism	-	MGUS	lumbar stenosis	Gilbert syndrome sensory neural hearing loss	-

Results and Conclusions

In the clinical study and molecular characterization of 332 patients with neuromuscular disorders tested with a multigene panel in NGS, we identified rare variants in 305 cases. Herein we report on seven patients (age ranged 26-57 years) who harbored mutations in the *STIM1* gene (Table 1). The age of onset of the affected patients ranged from birth to adulthood. Two patients presented clinical characteristic compatible with Stormorken syndrome, 3 out of 7 presented with congenital muscle weakness, 1 with adult onset of non-specified myopathy, and a single case referred only myalgia. The ability to walk was quite conserved in all patients. The mutations we identified (Fig. 1) satisfied canonical criteria for pathogenicity, were distributed throughout the gene (Fig. 2), and five out of 7 were novel. The three-dimensional model of the functional domains presenting missense variants is shown in Fig. 1. Of interest, variant p.D84E is a recurrent mutation in Stormorken syndrome. Muscle biopsy showed the presence of tubular aggregates in 3 patients, and type I fiber atrophy in 2 patients. Two presented non-specific myopathic signs (Fig. 3). Our work expand the heterogeneity of *STIM1* mutations and the associated phenotypes.

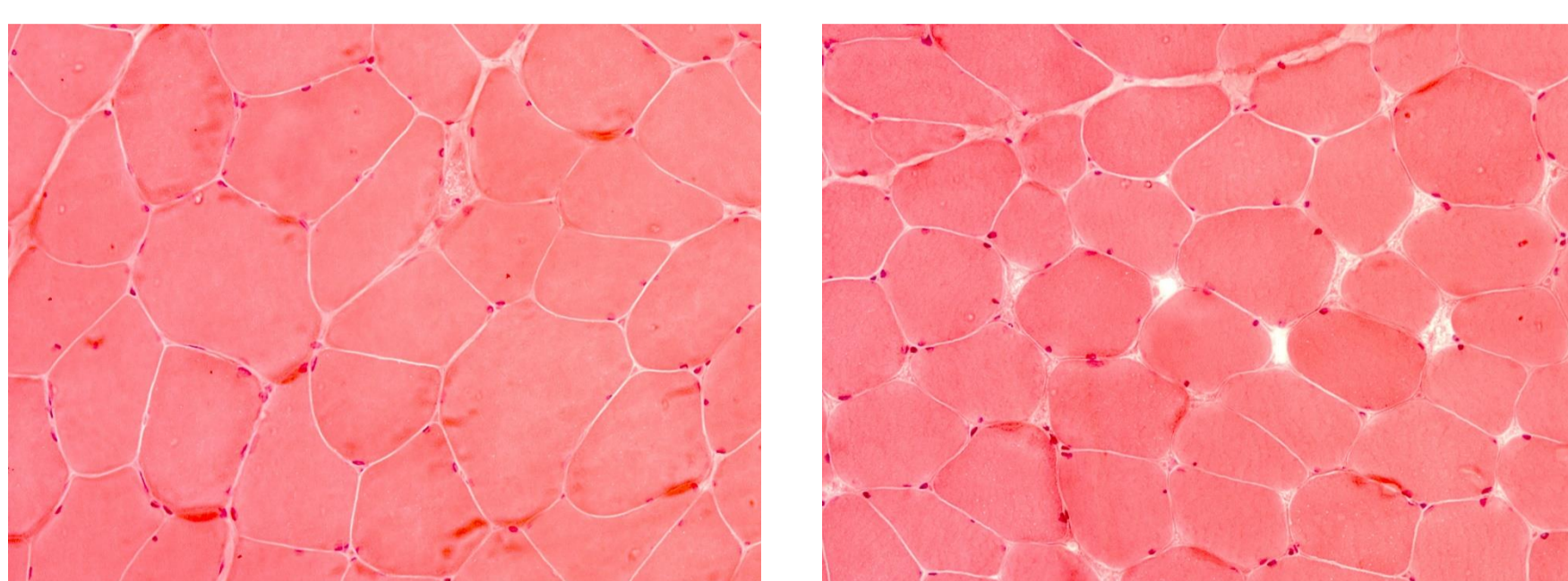
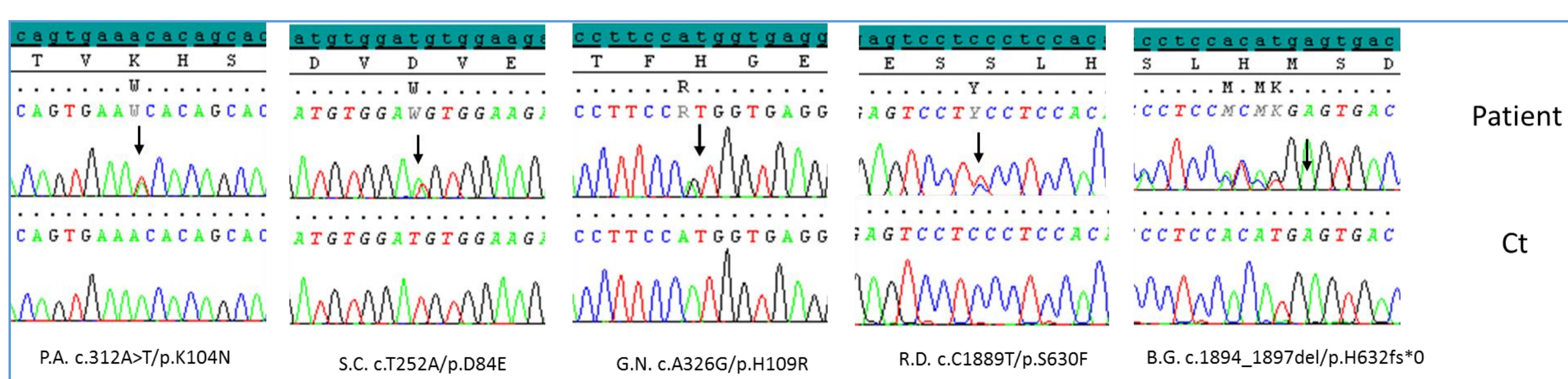


Fig. 3 Muscle biopsy analysis of patient GB showing mild variation in fiber size.



Background and Objective

STIM1 is a reticular Ca^{2+} sensor composed of a luminal and a cytosolic domain. Dominant mutations in the *STIM1* gene cause three allelic conditions: tubular aggregate myopathy, York platelet dysfunction syndrome, and Stormorken syndrome (a complex phenotype including myopathy, hyposplenism, hypocalcaemia and bleeding diathesis).

Methods

We tested blood DNA for the coding exons and flanking introns of 241 neuromuscular genes using a targeted multiexon amplicon panel (SureSelect, Agilent technology). Data were analyzed using a routine bioinformatic pipeline that adopts the Ingenuity Variant analysis suite (Qiagen, <https://apps.ingenuity.com>). Sanger sequencing was used to confirm mutations and assess segregation in the families. Western blotting was performed in skeletal muscle using a commercially available monoclonal antibody ab57834 (Abcam).

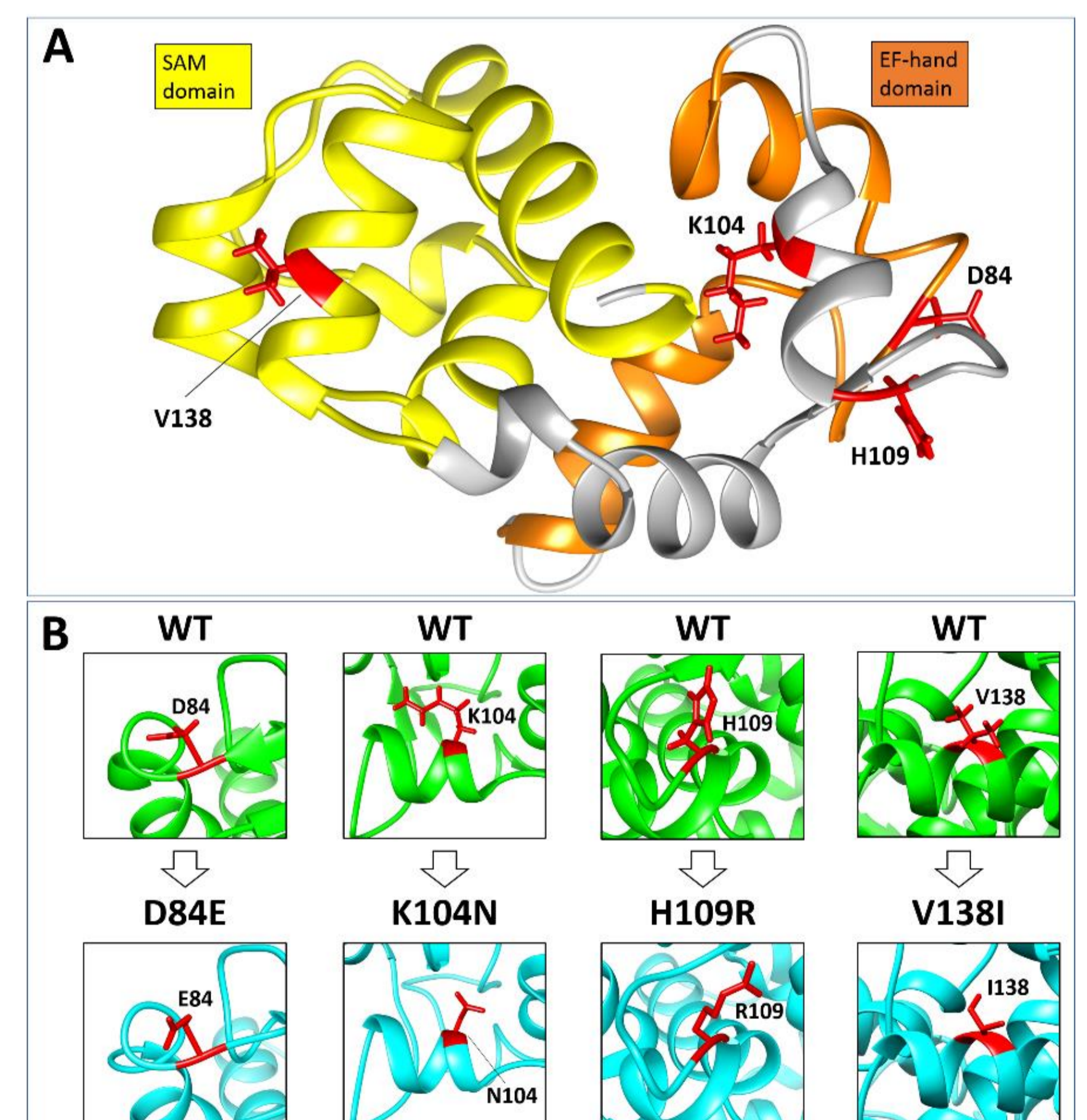
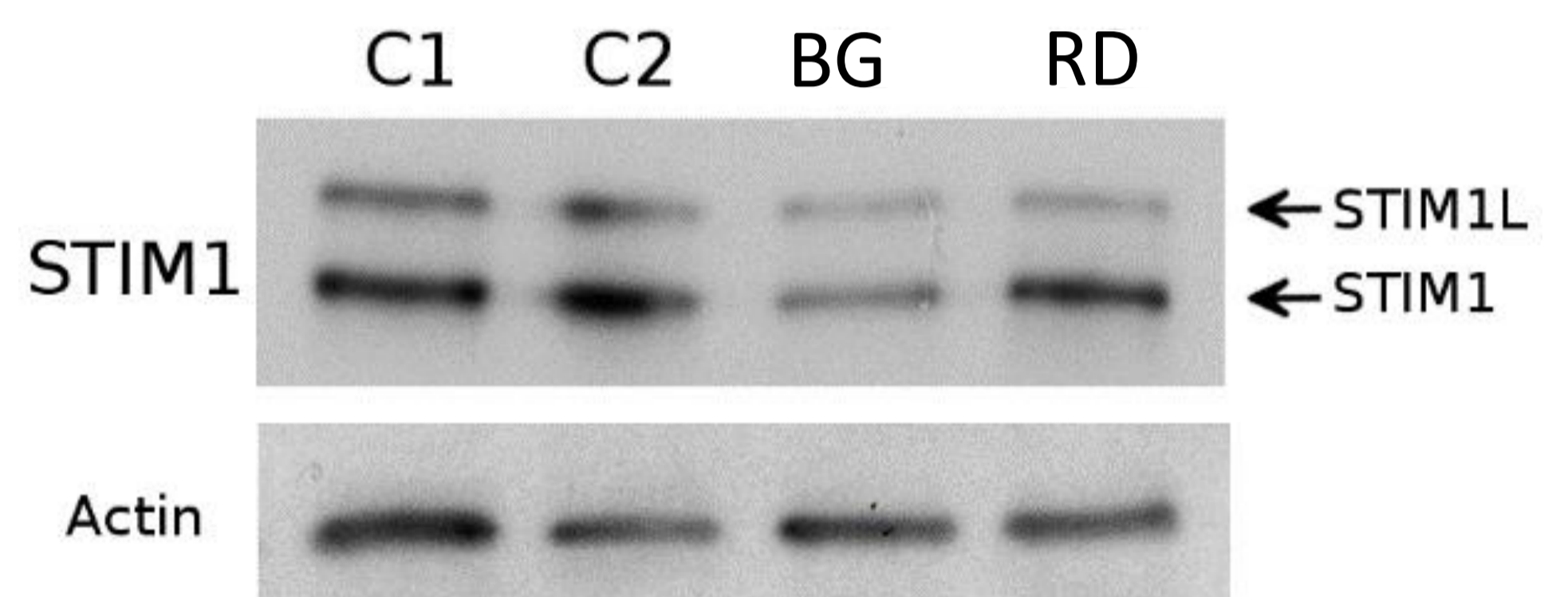


Fig. 1: Three dimensional modeling. **A.** View of the three dimensional model of the Ca^{2+} - sensing region of *STIM1* (PDB entry: 2K60, residues 58-201) consisting of the EF-hand and sterile alpha motif (SAM) domains (Stathopoulos et al, 2008). Mutated residues are highlighted in red. **B.** Close view of the structure around residues 84, 104, 109 and 138 in wild-type and mutated *STIM1*.

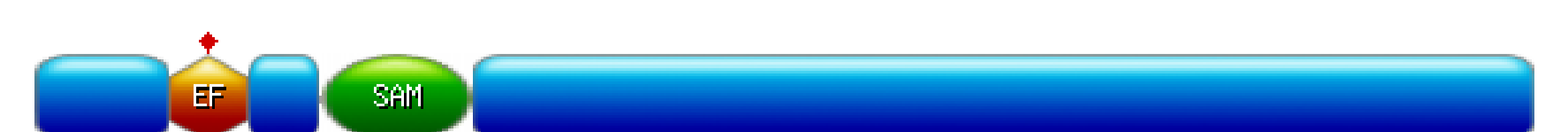


Fig. 2: Scheme of the protein structure (<https://prosite.expasy.org/cgi-bin/prosite/PSImage.cgi>)