#### **Supplementary Materials**

#### **BINDING CONSTANTS AND FREE ENERGIES OF BINDING**

Binding of an allocrite from water to the transporter is defined by the transporter-water binding constant,  $K_{tw}$ , which can be expressed as the product of the lipid-water partition coefficient,  $K_{lw}$ , and the transporter-lipid binding constant,  $K_{tl}$  of the allocrite [Supplementary Equation 1]. The corresponding free energies of binding, are given in [Supplementary Equations 2-5]. *R* is the molar gas constant, *T*, the absolute temperature, and  $C_{w}$ , the molar concentration of water. For details see ref.<sup>[1]</sup>.

 $K_{\rm tw} = K_{\rm lw} \cdot K_{\rm tl} \tag{S1}$ 

$$\Delta G_{\rm tw}^0 = \Delta G_{\rm lw}^0 + \Delta G_{\rm tl}^0 \tag{S2}$$

$$\Delta G_{\rm tw}^0 = -R \, \mathrm{T} \ln(C_{\rm w} \, K_{\rm tw}) \tag{S3}$$

$$\Delta G_{\rm lw}^0 = -R \, \mathrm{T} \ln(C_{\rm w} \, K_{\rm lw}) \tag{S4}$$

$$\Delta G_{\rm tl}^0 = -RT\ln K_{\rm tl} \tag{S5}$$

# The lipid-water partition coefficient $K_{lw}$ depends on the packing density $\pi_m$ and the surface potential $\psi_m$ of the membrane

The lipid-water partition coefficient  $K_{lw}$  can be assessed from surface activity measurements that provide the air-water partition coefficient,  $K_{aw}$  and the cross-sectional area of the compound, perpendicular to its amphiphilicity axis,  $A_D$ . With these parameters and the appropriate lateral membrane packing density  $\pi_m$ , the lipid-water partition coefficient can be calculated according to Supplementary Equation 6, where  $N_A$  is the Avogadro number, R the molar gas constant and T the absolute temperature. Increasing the lateral membrane packing density of the membrane reduces the lipid-water partition coefficient.  $K_{lw}$  increases with increasing negative surface potential  $\psi_m$  of the membrane [Supplementary Equation 7], where F is the Faraday



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constant and z the charge of the allocrite<sup>[1]</sup> (Experimental details are given in refs.<sup>[2-4]</sup>). The corresponding free energy is given in Supplementary Equation 8.

$$K_{\rm lw} = K_{\rm aw} \cdot e^{-\pi_{\rm m} A_{\rm D} N_{\rm A} / RT}$$
(S6)

$$K_{\rm lw} = K_{\rm aw} \cdot e^{-\pi_{\rm m} A_{\rm D} N_{\rm A}/RT} \cdot e^{-\psi_{\rm m} F z/RT}$$
(S7)

$$\Delta G_{\rm lw}^0 = \Delta G_{\rm aw}^0 - \pi_{\rm m} A_{\rm D} N_{\rm A} - \psi_{\rm m} Fz \tag{S8}$$

## The transporter-lipid binding constant $K_{tl}$ depends on the dielectric constant $\varepsilon_m$ of the membrane

According to Coulomb's law the electrostatic potential, U, acting between two charges,  $q_{\rm D}$  and  $q_{\rm A}$  of opposite sign (where D stands for electron donors (or HBAs) and A for electron acceptors (or HBDs)), depends on the dielectric constant of the medium (i.e., membrane)  $\varepsilon_{\rm m}$ , and the distance between the charges r, where  $\varepsilon_0$  represents the permittivity of the vacuum (see Supplementary Equation 9).

$$U = q_{\rm D} \cdot q_{\rm A} / 4\pi\varepsilon_0 r \varepsilon_{\rm m} \tag{S9}$$

At least two H-bonds (i.e., one pattern) are (is) required for allocrite binding to ABCB1. Binding occurs according to a modular principle, the total free energy of binding thus corresponds to the sum of all the individual free energies per hydrogen bond  $\Delta G_{H_i}^0$ [Supplementary Equation 10]. The corresponding binding constant is given below [Supplementary Equation 11].

$$\Delta G_{\rm tl}^0 = -U_{\rm total} = \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta G_{\rm H_i}^0 \tag{S10}$$

$$K_{\rm tl} = K_0 \cdot e^{-U_{\rm total}/RT} \tag{S11}$$

#### **KINETIC TWO-SITE BINDING MODEL**

To evaluate the bell-shaped binding constants, the model by Stein and coworkers<sup>[5]</sup> was used [Supplementary Equation 12]. It is based on the principles of Michaelis - Menten kinetics and takes into account a basal activity of ATP hydrolysis,  $V_0$ , in the absence of an exogenous allocrite,

$$V_{\rm S} = \frac{K_1 K_2 V_0 + K_2 V_1 C_{\rm S} + V_2 C_{\rm S}^2}{K_1 K_2 + K_2 C_{\rm S} + C_{\rm S}^2} \tag{S12}$$

where  $V_S$  is the ATPase activity as a function of the substrate (allocrite) concentration *S*,  $V_1$ , is the maximum velocity, if only activation occurred, and  $K_1$  is the allocrite concentration that gives half this maximal increment in ATPase activity.  $V_2$  is the activity at infinite concentration of the allocrite and  $K_2$  is the substrate concentration which gives half-maximal reduction of ATPase activity from the value  $V_1$ .

### EXPERIMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF BINDING CONSTANTS AND FREE ENERGIES OF BINDING FOR THE MEMBRANES USED

We measured the ABCB1 ATPase activity in live mouse embryo fibroblasts, NIH3T3 and NIH-MDR1-G185 cells (NIH3T3 cells transfected with the human *MDR1* gene<sup>[6]</sup>) (see e.g.<sup>[1]</sup>), in inside-out plasma membrane vesicles of the same cells e.g.,<sup>[7]</sup> or in both e.g.,<sup>[8]</sup>. The lateral membrane packing density of mouse embryo fibroblast membranes was determined as  $\pi_m = 30$  mN/m at 37 °C<sup>[1]</sup>. The relatively low membrane packing density of mouse embryo fibroblast membrane packing density of mouse embryo fibroblast plasma membranes is consistent with the low cholesterol content of embryonic cell membranes<sup>[9]</sup>.

The binding constants and the corresponding free energies of binding were assessed according to Supplementary Equations 1-5. The lipid-water partition coefficients were assessed either by isothermal titration calorimetry or by surface activity measurements. If the lipid-water partition coefficient,  $K_{lw}$  was determined by isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC) (according to ref.<sup>[10]</sup>), POPC vesicles with a lateral packing density,  $\pi_m = 30 \text{ mN/m}$  at 37 °C<sup>[11]</sup>, corresponding to the lateral packing density of mouse embryo fibroblast membranes at the same temperature were used as model systems. At room temperature POPC vesicles exhibit a packing density of  $\pi_m = 32 \text{ mN/m}^{[12]}$ .

If the lipid-water partition coefficient,  $K_{lw}$  was derived from surface activity measurements (see refs.<sup>[2,3]</sup> according to Supplementary Equations 6-8, the air-water partition coefficient,  $K_{aw}$ , the cross-sectional area,  $A_D$ , of the allocrite (both derived from surface activity measurements), and the independently determined lateral packing

density,  $\pi_m$  of the membrane of interest (30 mN/m in the case of mouse embryo fibroblasts), were used.

We derived the transporter-water binding constant,  $K_{tw(1)}$  from steady-state ATPase activity measurements according to Supplementary Equation 12, assuming that the reciprocal of the concentration of half-maximum activation  $K_1$  is directly proportional to the binding constant of the substrate from water to the transporter,  $K_{tw(1)}$  i.e.,  $1/K_1 = K_{tw(1)}$ . An analogous equation can be derived for  $K_2^{[1]}$ .

The ATPase activity in mouse embryo fibroblast plasma membranes vesicles was measured according to Litman<sup>[13]</sup> (for details see<sup>[7]</sup>). The total protein concentration in these assays was 0.49  $\mu$ M and the ABCB1 concentration was 5.4 nM.

The transporter-lipid binding constant  $K_{tl}$  was assessed as the quotient of the binding constants  $K_{tw}$  and  $K_{lw}$  (see Supplementary Equation 1).

#### Membrane concentration of allocrites at K<sub>1</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>

For hydrophobic substrates, the membrane concentration of allocrites,  $C_m$  is usually much higher than the aqueous concentration, and is given by Supplementary Equation 13, where  $C_m$  in [mole allocrite/mole lipid]  $\approx$  [mole allocrite / liter lipid]. Replacing the aqueous substrate concentration  $C_w$ , in the simple Michaelis-Menten equation (see e.g. Equation 9 in ref.<sup>[4]</sup>), by the membrane concentration  $C_m$ , (or mole fraction  $r_b$ ) yields Supplementary Equation 13 and adapted for a two-state model Supplementary Equations 14 and 15. The latter equations allow estimating the molar concentration of allocrites at the concentrations of half-maximum ABCB1 activation and inhibition.

$$C_{\rm m} \approx r_{\rm b} = K_{\rm M} \cdot K_{\rm lw} \tag{S13}$$

$$r_{\rm b} \approx K_1 \cdot K_{\rm lw} \tag{S14}$$

$$r_{\rm b} \approx K_2 \cdot K_{\rm lw} \tag{S15}$$

#### **BELL-SHAPED ATPase ACTIVITY CURVES**

### Supplementary Table 1. Change of membrane order parameter, $S_{mol}$ upon addition of allocrites

The relevant allocrite concentration range was determined in terms of the mole fraction,  $r_{b(1)}$  (or  $r_{(2)}$ ) which is the product of the lipid-water partition coefficient,  $K_{lw}$ , and the concentration of half-maximum activation or inhibition  $K_1$  (or  $K_2$ ) (see Supplementary Equations 13-15).

Allocrite	Lipid NMR	D-lab el	T (°C	K <sub>lw</sub> (M <sup>-1</sup> )	K <sub>1</sub> (M)	K <sub>2</sub> (M)	<b>r</b> <sub>bl</sub>	r <sub>b2</sub>	S <sub>mol</sub> %at	Ref.
		NMR	)						K <sub>2</sub> *	
C6-gluc	DPPC	C2	45	7.2	$2.17 \cdot 10^{-2}$	3.64.10-2	1.6.10-1	2.6.10-1	-5	[11]
C10-gluc	DPPC	C2	45	$1.6 \cdot 10^3$	-	3.26.10-4	-	5.2.10-1	-5	[11]
C12-mal	POPC	C2	35	$5.0 \cdot 10^{3}$	-	2.53.10-5	-	$1.3 \cdot 10^{-1}$	-6	[11]
C12EO8	POPC	С9,	22	$4.8 \cdot 10^{3}$	9.04·10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.49.10-5	4.3·10 <sup>-3</sup>	7.1.10-2	-3	[14]
		C19								
Verap.	POPC	С9,	22	$4.7 \cdot 10^2$	9.50·10 <sup>-7</sup>	3.70.10-5	4.5.10-4	$1.7 \cdot 10^{-2}$	-17	[15]
		C10								

\*Decrease in the order parameter, taking the  $S_{mol}$  value in the absence of detergents or drugs as 100%

#### **ABCB1 ACTIVITY IN LIVE CELLS**

The ATP consumed in a cell is immediately re-synthesized which allows monitoring the ATP hydrolysis rate by measuring the ATP synthesis rate. Most cells in culture are glycolytic (producing two molecules of ATP and two molecules of lactic acid per molecule of glucose consumed). Lactic acid diffuses out of the cell in the protonated form and gives rise to an extracellular acidification rate. This allows measuring ATP hydrolysis by a flow through Cytosensor microphysiometer<sup>[16]</sup>. The short stimulation times (2-3 min), followed by a drug flush-out period, before applying the next higher drug concentration allows keeping cells under glycolytic conditions and minimizes potential cytotoxic side effects. The same batch of cells could be used for several ABCB1 titrations, and yielded highly reproducible data<sup>[1]</sup>. For each concentration, the *second* stimulation point (at 260 s) was plotted for curve fitting (for detailed stimulation schedules see ref.<sup>[11]</sup>, Figure 1 therein). Supplementary Figure 4 shows an example, for details see Figure legend. In the case of longer stimulation times or transporters with higher activity than ABCB1 such as CFTR a Bionas microphysiometer was used that monitors the ECAR and OCR<sup>[17]</sup>.

#### **MOLECULAR DYNAMICS (MD) SIMULATIONS**

We performed MD simulations with the Type IV fold protein Sav1866<sup>[18,19]</sup> which was used as a model system for ABCB1. In these simulations we observed the spontaneous closure of the TMD cavity observed in the nucleotide free apo-form of ABCB1. This suggests that the Sav conformation observed in the X-ray structure might correspond to a transition state. "Key interactions between helices 3 and 4 that are shown in our simulations to stabilize the outward-closed state are present in the X-ray structures, which nevertheless show the TMD in an outward-open state. In the crystal of Sav1866, the TMDs from neighboring proteins form contacts that could artificially stabilize the outward-open conformation (see ref.<sup>[20]</sup>, Supplementary Figure 9 therein)". "Variation of crystal contacts under different crystallization conditions have been suggested to explain the wide distribution of conformations observed in ABC transporter. Our simulations further suggest that lipids diffusing into the TMD cavity could stabilize the outward-open conformation (see ref.<sup>[20]</sup> and references therein)"

#### **COMBINING MD SIMULATIONS WITH EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS**

*Resting state*. With two ATPs bound, Sav1866 was outward closed<sup>[20]</sup>.

The high intracellular ATP concentration  $(c_{ATP} = 1-10 \text{ mM})^{[21,22]}$  and the comparatively low K<sub>m</sub> values for ATP binding  $(c_{ATP} = 0.4-0.8 \text{ mM})^{[23,24]}$  are consistent with two ATP molecules bound under resting conditions. Using fluorescent nucleotide derivatives Sharom and colleagues showed that the resting state P- glycoprotein bound two molecules of 2'(3')-O-(2,4,6-trinitrophenyl) adenosine 5'-triphosphate (TNP-ATP). An outward closed conformation was also observed for the two bacterial type IV ABC transporters McjD<sup>[25]</sup> and LmrA<sup>[26]</sup> (for review see also<sup>[27,28]</sup>).

*ATP hydrolysis*. Upon release of the inorganic phosphate, an asymmetric occupation state of the NBDs occurred, which initiated the opening of the TMDs towards the extracellular side<sup>[20]</sup>.

According to Sharom and colleagues allocrite binding to the transporter induces ATP hydrolysis<sup>[23]</sup>. Using fluorescent nucleotide derivatives, they demonstrated that the vanadate-trapped transition state bound only one nucleotide molecule<sup>[29]</sup>.

*Post hydrolysis state*. In the post hydrolysis state (i.e., asymmetric occupation state of the NBDs), the TMDs adopt an outward-open conformation that allows for water influx<sup>[20]</sup>.

A modest outward opening of the TMDs was observed in the post hydrolysis state of LmrA in DDM micelles<sup>[30]</sup>. We assume that influx of water molecules, reduces allocrite-transporter interactions according to a solvation exchange mechanism and promotes allocrite flopping<sup>[31]</sup>.

*Resetting to the resting state.* MD simulations showed that the binding of ATP to the empty NBS restores the symmetric occupancy state and favors the outward-closed conformation. The polar part of the allocrites on the extracellular side of the cavity between the TMDs is entirely squeezed out from the protein into the membrane.

Experimentally, a squeeze out into the extracellular membrane leaflet (not into the aqueous phase) was demonstrate e.g. by Omote and Al-Shawi<sup>[32]</sup>.

Thus, in the simulations, the TMD cavity's spontaneous closure remains closed in the case of symmetric nucleotide occupancy states and reopens in the case of asymmetric occupancy states<sup>[20]</sup>.

### SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES



Supplementary Figure 1A-D. Amino acid residues with HBD side chains of ABCB1 at the level of the membrane (NBDs are truncated). Same structures as in Figure 2A-D. Hydrogen bonding amino acids (green) are shown with van der Waals radii. Lipids (black) are surrounding the transporter. The structures were modelled by Yanyan Xu in the context of ref.<sup>[33]</sup>



Supplementary Figure 2A-D. Phenyl residues of ABCB1 at the level of the membrane. Same structures as in Figure 2A-D. Phenyl residues (pink) are shown with van der Waals radii. The structures were modelled by Yanyan Xu in the context of ref.<sup>[33]</sup>.



Supplementary Figure 3. Stimulatory or inhibitory interactions between verapamil and other compounds in correlation to their molecular weight and estimated hydrogen bonding energy (see<sup>[34]</sup>). Verapamil shows cooperative stimulation with compounds (1-4) (blue); allosteric, non-competitive inhibition with compounds (5,7-10) (violet); and competitive inhibition with compound (11) (red). (1) progesterone; (2) propranolol; (3) amitryptiline; (4) diltiazem; (5) amiodarone (with two iodines); (6) verapamil; (7) colchicine; (8) gramicidin S; (9) daunorubicin; (10) vinblastine; (11) cyclosporine A. Experimental data are taken from Litman *et. al.*<sup>[35]</sup>.



**Supplementary Figure 4.** Time-dependent ECAR of NIH-MDR-G185 ( $\bullet$ ) and NIH-3T3 (wild type) ( $\circ$ )cells induced by increasing concentrations of dibucaine normalized to the basal ECAR at time = 0, defined as 100%. Cells in MEM medium were exposed to two subsequent dibucaine injections in each measurement cycle. The stars\* indicate the second stimulation point where steady state ATP hydrolysis rates can be reached. After this point the drug was flushed out with drug-free medium until basal activity was reached again. Notably, upon flushing out the second, inhibitory dibucaine molecule, the activity increases strongly at the three highest concentrations. The down peaks at the injection points reflect the cellular the transient increase in pH caused by the injection of the concentrated cationic drug solution. It is less pronounced in NIH-MDR-G185 than in wild type cells. Analogous Figures are shown in ref.<sup>[1]</sup>.

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