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Cx36 makes channels coupling human pancreatic beta-cells, and
correlates with insulin expression

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Fig 1S : Lipid rafts of islet cell membranes also contain Cx43.

A) Western blots detected Cx43 in extracts of purified islet cell membrane (m), total isolated islets (T) and intact pancreas. Forty μg proteins were loaded per lane (0.4 μg for HUVEC cells). Immunolabeling of α -smooth muscle actin served as loading reference. Extracts of wild type human endothelial cells from the umbilical vein (HUVEC) and liver served as positive and negative controls, respectively. B) Discontinuous sucrose density gradient centrifugation of a Triton X-100 lysate of human islets showed that most Cx43 (middle panel) was recovered in fractions 5-6, which were enriched in lipid rafts as judged by the presence of the GM1 ganglioside (top panel). The bottom panel shows the western blot with an antibody against Cx43. Fraction 2 = 35% sucrose; fraction 8 = 5% sucrose.

