Washington University in St.Louis School of Medicine

**Experimental Molecular Therapeutic Strategies for Treating Barth Syndrome:** Elucidation of the Functional Role of the Mitochondrial Lipidome

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### Disclaimer

-All experiments and analysis were performed while at Washington University School of Medicine. The data and conclusions presented do not necessarily reflect the opinions of my current employer.



### **Overview**

### **Barth Syndrome Mouse Model**

Cardiac lipidomic, metabolic, and adaptive mechanisms

Effects of cardiac specific upregulation of cardiolipin synthase and the subsequent lipidomic and bioenergetic effects

Targeting phospholipases by transgenically expressing/ablating iPLA<sub>2</sub>γ and its subsequent lipidomic effects





Novel interpretation of the role of the mitochondrial lipidome in health and disease as it relates to Barth syndrome

#### Multi-Omic Integrated Strategy to Elucidate Functional Changes in Pathophysiology





Signaling Lipidomic Analysis



#### **Bioenergetic Analysis**

#### Cardiac Anionic Lipidomic Spectrum







Values represent the mean  $\pm$  S.E. cardiolipin molecular species content (nmol/mg protein) in 2 month old WT and Tafazzin knockdown mice (N = 4)

**Respiratory and Enzymatic Characterization** 



#### **Electron Transport Chain Activities**



# **Oxidized Lipidomics**



Calcium Influx Immune Response

#### **Arachidonic**





**Prostanoids** 



Vasodilation Vasoconstriction Inflammation







**Anti-Inflammatory** 

### Cardiac Oxidized Lipid Analysis



WT 🔄 TAZ KD

### Transcriptomics/GSEA Analysis



- Demonstrates the lipidomic abnormalities discovered in boys with Barth syndrome
- Displays altered substrate utilization (decreased fatty acid and increased glutamate stimulated respiration)
- Demonstrates altered mediator lipidomic signature
- Compensatory enzyme kinetics (Adenine nucleotide translocase and Electron transport chain) and gene expression (microarray analysis)



The CLS Model Provides a Molecular Therapeutic Tool to Investigate the Role of Cardiolipin in Attenuating Mitochondrial Dysfunction in Disease





Kiebish et al 2012 (in press JBC)



#### Mitochondrial Enzyme Activities



#### Mitochondrial Respiration



Pyruvate = Normal Glutamate = Palm-Carnitine =



#### Transcriptomics/GSEA Analysis





Goal was to use cardiolipin synthase over expression in the heart to attenuate altered cardiolipin molecular species in Barth Syndrome, thus restoring the homeostatic balance of mitochondrial substrate utilization

#### Cardiolipin Molecular Species



Values represent the mean  $\pm$  S.E. cardiolipin molecular species content (nmol/mg protein) in WT, Taz, CLS, and Taz x CLS treated with doxycyline for 2 months (N = 4)

#### Di/Monolyso - Cardiolipin Molecular Species



Values represent the mean  $\pm$  S.E. cardiolipin molecular species content (nmol/mg protein) in WT, Taz, CLS, and Taz x CLS treated with doxycyline for 2 months (N = 4)

**Choline Glycerophospholipid Molecular Species** 



Values represent the mean  $\pm$  S.E. choline glycerophospholipid molecular species content (nmol/mg protein) in WT, Taz, CLS, and Taz x CLS treated on doxycyline for 2 months (N = 4)

**Bioenergetic Analysis** 





 Although cardiolipin molecular species were less remodeled in the Taz X CLS mouse model, the overall bioenergetic phenotype was attenuated, possibly suggesting that alternative factors may be influencing bioenergetics

#### iPLAy-TG and KO Mouse Model

#### iPLA<sub>2</sub>γ KO



### iPLA<sub>2</sub>γ-TG





Tafazzin inducible shRNA Knockdown Mouse Model



Does iPLA<sub>2 $\gamma$ </sub> expression attenuate dysfunctional cardiolipin remodeling as well as effect survival of the cross?

#### (iPLAy-TG or KO) X Tafazzin KD Mouse Model

#### **Cardiolipin Molecular Species**



Values represent the mean <u>+</u> S.E. cardiolipin molecular species content (nmol/mg protein) in WT, Taz, Taz x iPLA $\gamma$ KO, and Taz x iPLA $2\gamma$ -TG treated on doxycyline for 2 months (N = 4)

### Conclusion

- Through the utilization of various transgenic models as well as investigating dynamic flux of the lipidome, we can elucidate the lipidomic/bioenergetic connection that initiates pathological sequalae or that can be identified for therapeutic efficacy
- Regulation of the mitochondrial lipidome may hold unknown mechanism that go well beyond just structure and enzyme kinetics
- The inducible Tafazzin shRNA knockdown mouse model of Barth Syndrome is an invaluable tools to discover unknown mechanism that embody the Barth Syndrome phenotype which can be therapeutically targeted









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Ethanolamine Glycerophospholipid Molecular Species



Values represent the mean  $\pm$  S.E. ethanolamine glycerophospholipid molecular species content (nmol/mg protein) in WT, Taz, CLS, and Taz x CLS treated on doxycyline for 2 months (N = 4)

#### **Cardiolipin Molecular Species**



Kiebish et al 2012 (in press JBC)