To this end, we identified members of the host cell polo-like kinases (PLKs) promote early prototype foamy virus (PFV) replication. Host cell polo-like kinases (PLKs) promote early prototype foamy virus (PFV) replication. By the finding that enzymatic PLK inhibition in host cells during transduction with wild type PFV mimicked the replication phenotype of PFV STP mutants. In addition to the overall reduced infectivity of the mutants, we also observed that the STP mutations in particle-associated Gag lead to differential sensitivity to integrase inhibition by dolutegravir and resulted in decreased integration efficiency. 

Conclusions: Taken together, our results demonstrate that PLK proteins influence PFV replication by virtue of their interaction with the Gag protein, ensuring timely and efficient transduction.

A novel entry/uncoating assay reveals the presence of at least two species of viral capsids during synchronized HIV-1 infection. After viral-to-cellular membrane fusion, a nucleoprotein complex enclosing the viral genome and composed of viral as well as cellular proteins is released in the cell cytoplasm. The behavior of viral cores once inside the cell is notoriously difficult to apprehend especially given the metamorphic nature of these structures over time. To better understand the behavior of HIV-1 capsids, we have developed a novel assay that we named EURT, for Entry/Uncoating assay based on core-packaged mRNA availability and Translation. This novel entry-uncoating assay is based on the degree of exposure of a virion core-packaged mRNA reporter to the translation machinery of the target cell and it provides a measure of the status of viral capsids, as reporter RNA translation is prevented in hyperstable viral capsids. Using EURT, we highlight here that two kinds of viral cores coexist during HIV-1 infection: one that we define as open, in which the viral genome is readily accessible to the cytoplasmic environment and to the translation machinery and another that we define as close, in which access to the RNA is prevented until viral capsid is destabilized. The results we have obtained so far indicate that the former species represents a dead-end product of infection, likely derived from improper or inefficient assembly of infectious virion units. Interestingly, IFNα that negatively impacts HIV-1 replication increases the proportion of open viral cores to the detriment of closed ones, suggesting a core-

destabilizing activity driven by interferon-regulated proteins. These and other results examining the relationship between core opening and reverse transcription will be presented. Work in our laboratory is supported by the ANRS and Sidaction.

A novel entry/uncoating assay reveals the presence of at least two species of viral capsids during synchronized HIV-1 infection. After viral-to-cellular membrane fusion, a nucleoprotein complex enclosing the viral genome and composed of viral as well as cellular proteins is released in the cell cytoplasm. The behavior of viral cores once inside the cell is notoriously difficult to apprehend especially given the metamorphic nature of these structures over time. To better understand the behavior of HIV-1 capsids, we have developed a novel assay that we named EURT, for Entry/Uncoating assay based on core-packaged mRNA availability and Translation. This novel entry-uncoating assay is based on the degree of exposure of a virion core-packaged mRNA reporter to the translation machinery of the target cell and it provides a measure of the status of viral capsids, as reporter RNA translation is prevented in hyperstable viral capsids. Using EURT, we highlight here that two kinds of viral cores coexist during HIV-1 infection: one that we define as open, in which the viral genome is readily accessible to the cytoplasmic environment and to the translation machinery and another that we define as close, in which access to the RNA is prevented until viral capsid is destabilized. The results we have obtained so far indicate that the former species represents a dead-end product of infection, likely derived from improper or inefficient assembly of infectious virion units. Interestingly, IFNα that negatively impacts HIV-1 replication increases the proportion of open viral cores to the detriment of closed ones, suggesting a core-

destabilizing activity driven by interferon-regulated proteins. These and other results examining the relationship between core opening and reverse transcription will be presented. Work in our laboratory is supported by the ANRS and Sidaction.

A novel entry/uncoating assay reveals the presence of at least two species of viral capsids during synchronized HIV-1 infection. After viral-to-cellular membrane fusion, a nucleoprotein complex enclosing the viral genome and composed of viral as well as cellular proteins is released in the cell cytoplasm. The behavior of viral cores once inside the cell is notoriously difficult to apprehend especially given the metamorphic nature of these structures over time. To better understand the behavior of HIV-1 capsids, we have developed a novel assay that we named EURT, for Entry/Uncoating assay based on core-packaged mRNA availability and Translation. This novel entry-uncoating assay is based on the degree of exposure of a virion core-packaged mRNA reporter to the translation machinery of the target cell and it provides a measure of the status of viral capsids, as reporter RNA translation is prevented in hyperstable viral capsids. Using EURT, we highlight here that two kinds of viral cores coexist during HIV-1 infection: one that we define as open, in which the viral genome is readily accessible to the cytoplasmic environment and to the translation machinery and another that we define as close, in which access to the RNA is prevented until viral capsid is destabilized. The results we have obtained so far indicate that the former species represents a dead-end product of infection, likely derived from improper or inefficient assembly of infectious virion units. Interestingly, IFNα that negatively impacts HIV-1 replication increases the proportion of open viral cores to the detriment of closed ones, suggesting a core-

destabilizing activity driven by interferon-regulated proteins. These and other results examining the relationship between core opening and reverse transcription will be presented. Work in our laboratory is supported by the ANRS and Sidaction.

A novel entry/uncoating assay reveals the presence of at least two species of viral capsids during synchronized HIV-1 infection. After viral-to-cellular membrane fusion, a nucleoprotein complex enclosing the viral genome and composed of viral as well as cellular proteins is released in the cell cytoplasm. The behavior of viral cores once inside the cell is notoriously difficult to apprehend especially given the metamorphic nature of these structures over time. To better understand the behavior of HIV-1 capsids, we have developed a novel assay that we named EURT, for Entry/Uncoating assay based on core-packaged mRNA availability and Translation. This novel entry-uncoating assay is based on the degree of exposure of a virion core-packaged mRNA reporter to the translation machinery of the target cell and it provides a measure of the status of viral capsids, as reporter RNA translation is prevented in hyperstable viral capsids. Using EURT, we highlight here that two kinds of viral cores coexist during HIV-1 infection: one that we define as open, in which the viral genome is readily accessible to the cytoplasmic environment and to the translation machinery and another that we define as close, in which access to the RNA is prevented until viral capsid is destabilized. The results we have obtained so far indicate that the former species represents a dead-end product of infection, likely derived from improper or inefficient assembly of infectious virion units. Interestingly, IFNα that negatively impacts HIV-1 replication increases the proportion of open viral cores to the detriment of closed ones, suggesting a core-

destabilizing activity driven by interferon-regulated proteins. These and other results examining the relationship between core opening and reverse transcription will be presented. Work in our laboratory is supported by the ANRS and Sidaction.

After viral-to-cellular membrane fusion, a nucleoprotein complex enclosing the viral genome and composed of viral as well as cellular proteins is released in the cell cytoplasm. The behavior of viral cores once inside the cell is notoriously difficult to apprehend especially given the metamorphic nature of these structures over time. To better understand the behavior of HIV-1 capsids, we have developed a novel assay that we named EURT, for Entry/Uncoating assay based on core-packaged mRNA availability and Translation. This novel entry-uncoating assay is based on the degree of exposure of a virion core-packaged mRNA reporter to the translation machinery of the target cell and it provides a measure of the status of viral capsids, as reporter RNA translation is prevented in hyperstable viral capsids. Using EURT, we highlight here that two kinds of viral cores coexist during HIV-1 infection: one that we define as open, in which the viral genome is readily accessible to the cytoplasmic environment and to the translation machinery and another that we define as close, in which access to the RNA is prevented until viral capsid is destabilized. The results we have obtained so far indicate that the former species represents a dead-end product of infection, likely derived from improper or inefficient assembly of infectious virion units. Interestingly, IFNα that negatively impacts HIV-1 replication increases the proportion of open viral cores to the detriment of closed ones, suggesting a core-

destabilizing activity driven by interferon-regulated proteins. These and other results examining the relationship between core opening and reverse transcription will be presented. Work in our laboratory is supported by the ANRS and Sidaction.

A novel entry/uncoating assay reveals the presence of at least two species of viral capsids during synchronized HIV-1 infection. After viral-to-cellular membrane fusion, a nucleoprotein complex enclosing the viral genome and composed of viral as well as cellular proteins is released in the cell cytoplasm. The behavior of viral cores once inside the cell is notoriously difficult to apprehend especially given the metamorphic nature of these structures over time. To better understand the behavior of HIV-1 capsids, we have developed a novel assay that we named EURT, for Entry/Uncoating assay based on core-packaged mRNA availability and Translation. This novel entry-uncoating assay is based on the degree of exposure of a virion core-packaged mRNA reporter to the translation machinery of the target cell and it provides a measure of the status of viral capsids, as reporter RNA translation is prevented in hyperstable viral capsids. Using EURT, we highlight here that two kinds of viral cores coexist during HIV-1 infection: one that we define as open, in which the viral genome is readily accessible to the cytoplasmic environment and to the translation machinery and another that we define as close, in which access to the RNA is prevented until viral capsid is destabilized. The results we have obtained so far indicate that the former species represents a dead-end product of infection, likely derived from improper or inefficient assembly of infectious virion units. Interestingly, IFNα that negatively impacts HIV-1 replication increases the proportion of open viral cores to the detriment of closed ones, suggesting a core-

destabilizing activity driven by interferon-regulated proteins. These and other results examining the relationship between core opening and reverse transcription will be presented. Work in our laboratory is supported by the ANRS and Sidaction.
HIV-1 must travel through the cytoplasm to reach the nuclear envelope (NE) of an infected cell, transport through a nuclear pore to enter the nucleus, and integrate its genome into the chromosomal DNA of the host cell. Recently, we have labeled HIV-1 virions with AP0BEC3F fused to yellow fluorescent protein (A3F-YFP), which remains stably associated with viral complexes, and visualized the viral complexes in infected cells to gain new insights into the early stages of viral replication. We showed that reverse transcription is not required for nuclear import of HIV-1 complexes, indicating that alterations in the viral capsid (CA) structure that accompany reverse transcription are dispensable for their nuclear import. We found that HIV-1 CA mutations that altered the stability of the viral core significantly reduced the association of viral complexes with the nuclear envelope (NE) and their nuclear import. In addition, we found that nuclear viral complexes remain near NE and are not randomly distributed in the nuclei. The dynamics of HIV-1 association with the NE and nuclear import in infected cells are not well understood. To gain insights into the dynamics of HIV-1 association with the NE, we analysed A3F-labeled HIV-1 complexes in living cells, and observed that most contacts between HIV-1 and NE form transient associations while few form stable associations, which are essential for nuclear import. Furthermore, HIV-1 capsid and host Nup358 played critical roles in forming the stable associations. Additionally, we observed the translocation of viral complexes from the cytoplasm to the NE during nuclear import. We determined that viral complexes have long residence times at the NE prior to import. After import, viral complexes exhibit a brief fast phase as they move away from the point of entry, followed by a long slow phase, suggesting they are associated with chromatin and/or other nuclear macromolecules. These studies provide novel insights into the dynamics of HIV-1 NE association, nuclear import, and nuclear movements.

**O4 Human papillomavirus protein E4 potently enhances the susceptibility to HIV infection**

Oliver T. Keppler  
LMU Munich, Max von Pettenkofer-Institut, Virology, Munich, Germany  
Correspondence: Oliver T. Keppler  
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O4

Sexually transmitted infections of the anogenital tract are important cofactors for HIV transmission, and acute infections by mucotropic human papillomaviruses (HPV) enhance the risk of HIV acquisition. Little is known about the molecular mechanisms involved in this increased susceptibility. Here we show that the abundant E4 protein, which is encoded by both onco- and non-oncogenic HPV types, drastically enhances HIV infection. E4 is expressed in HPV-infected, ultimately disintegrating keratinocytes in the outermost cell layers of the anogenital mucosa. N-terminally cleaved forms of E4 self-assembled into cationic, intermediate amyloid fibrils that captured and concentrated cell-free HIV particles, protecting their infectivity and promoting their envelope-independent binding and envelope-dependent fusion to primary target cells. E4 drastically lowered the virus titer required for productive HIV infection in lymphoid organ cultures ex vivo and infection enhancement occurred efficiently in vaginal fluid. Moreover, HIV-permissive target cells were found to be recruited into HPV-induced lesions in the anogenital mucosa. Thus the concept emerges that aggregating cleavage products originating from body fluids, including semen, and from co-infecting pathogens can alone or in combination modulate the susceptibility to sexual transmission of HIV. In conjunction with the observational epidemiological evidence these findings provide a molecular rationale to extend anti-HPV vaccine programs to individuals at risk for HIV acquisition. The development of a new generation of broad-range vaccines that protect from infection with all circulating, oncogenic and non-oncogenic mucosal HPV types may lower the global incidence of HIV infection.

**Session 2: Reverse transcription & integration**

**O5 Structure and function of HIV-1 integrase post translational modifications**

Karine Pradeau, Sylvia Euler, Nicolas Levy, Sarah Lennon, Sarah Cianferani, Stéphane Emiliani, Marc Ruff  
1IGBMC Integrative structural Biology, Illkirch, France; 2Institut Pluridisciplinaire Hubert Curien, Strasbourg, France; 3Institut Cochin, Paris, France  
Correspondence: Marc Ruff  
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O5

After retroviral infection of a target cell, during the early phase of replication, the HIV-1 genomic viral RNA is reverse transcribed by the viral reverse transcriptase (RT) to generate the double-stranded viral DNA that interact with viral and cellular proteins to form the pre-integration complex (PIC). Viral integrase (IN) is a key component of the PIC and is involved in several steps of replication notably in reverse transcription, nuclear import, chromatin targeting and integration. Viral components such as IN cannot perform these functions on their own and need to recruit host cell proteins to efficiently carry out the different processes. IN is a disordered protein showing high inter-domain flexibility. This flexibility accounts for IN ability to interact with multiple partners allowing its multiple functions in viral replication. Yet the molecular mechanisms and dynamics of these processes, the role of cellular co-factors as well as of post-translational modifications remain largely unknown.

To produce and purify proteins participating in these transient macromolecular complexes we develop new technologies for high molecular weight transient complexes production as well as for functional and structural analysis. We demonstrated that the low solubility and inter-domain flexibility can be circumvented by forming stable and specific complexes with substrates such as DNA or protein co-factors and by post-translational modifications (PTMs), We purified HIV-1 IN alone and complex with viral and cellular proteins produced in E. coli, insect and mammalian cells (Levy et al. 2016, Nature Communications 7:10932). Comparison of IN purified from E. coli, insect and mammalian cells production showed that IN purified from mammalian cell production showed that IN purified from mammalian cell production showed higher solubility, increased 3′ processing activity as well as 5′ PTMs (one phosphorylation and four acetylation). Mutant of the phosphorylated and acetylated sites were generated and their effect on viral replication and 3′ processing are analysed. Structural analysis of acetylation in the IN catalytic core domain suggest that acetylation participate in the modulation of IN multimerization.

**O6 Regulation of retroviral integration by RNA polymerase II associated factors and chromatin structure**

Vincent Parissi  
CNRS, UMR5234 MFP Lab, Bordeaux, France  
Correspondence: Vincent Parissi  
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O6

HIV-1 integration occurs in highly Pol II transcribed and spliced regions of the chromatin thanks to the interaction between the retroviral intasome and the cellular tethering factor LEDGF/p75. These regions of the host genome are enriched in transcription and remodeling factors that are expected to modulate the chromatin access to the incoming intasome and its functional association with the targeted nucleosome. Since this final step has been shown to be regulated by both intasomes and chromatin structure we investigated these regulation processes focusing on the analysis of the IN/nucleosome interaction and on the role of the cellular proteins associated with the Pol II transcription apparatus. We found that HIV-1 IN specifically binds to the amino-terminal tail of human histone H4, a major component of the nucleosome. This interaction was found required for optimal association and integration onto nucleosomes. Functional
and structural analysis of this interaction led us to validate the presence of an unedited histone tail binding motif in the CTD of HIV-1 IN that behaves as an ancestral SH3-domain and point out the critical role of the IN/H4 association during the retroviral integration process. Additionally, the analysis of the role of Pol II associated remodeling factors on this functional association led us to found that FACT (facilitates chromatin transcription) complex, a chromatin remodeler associated with Pol II and recently reported to bind LEDGF/p75, can regulate the access to the nucleosome and histone tails to the incoming intasomes. Mechanistic studies indicate that FACT generates partially dissociated nucleosomes structures that are highly favored substrates for HIV-1 integration. This partial nucleosome dissociation decreases the chromatin density in the vicinity of the integration site and, thus, allows the final association between intasomes and the targeted nucleosome. Consequently, our work highlights new host/pathogen interactions that could constitute novel and attractive targets for future potential therapeutic applications in addition to provide a better understanding of this crucial integration step of the retroviral replication.

Session 3: Transcription and latency

O7 A novel single-cell analysis pipeline to identify specific biomarkers of HIV permissiveness

Sylvie Rato1, Antonio Rausell2, Miguel Munoz2, Amallo Telenti3, Angela Ciuffi1

1Institute of Microbiology, University Hospital Center and University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland; 2Imagine Institute, Paris Descartes University, Paris, France; 3Imagis Institute, Paris Descartes University, Paris, France

Correspondence: Sylvie Rato

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O7

Background: Cellular permissiveness to HIV infection is highly heterogeneous across individuals, as well as across cells from the same individual. To investigate the major source of this difference and identify biomarkers, we developed a novel pipeline based on single-cell analysis, where (i) cellular heterogeneity was evaluated at transcriptome level, and (ii) HIV permissiveness was correlated to cell surface protein expression.

Methods: Activated CD4+ T cells from a high and low permissive donor were used for single-cell RNA-seq analysis (fluidigm C1™ technology). Activated cells from the high permissive donor were infected with a GFP encoding HIV-based vector. Expression of 332 cell surface proteins (LegendScreen™) was assessed by FACS and correlated with GFP expression. Candidate biomarkers were validated in activated cells sorted according to their protein expression level and infected by HIV vector.

Results: Transcriptomic profiles of 85 high and 81 low permissive single cells were successfully obtained. Transcriptional heterogeneity observed at single-cell level identified TCR-mediated cell activation as a major determinant of cellular heterogeneity. Cell surface expression analysis of 332 proteins identified 76 candidates correlating with successful HIV infection, including CD25, a typical activation marker. Candidate biomarkers of HIV permissiveness were selected based on correlations between gene expression and activation (single-cell RNA-Seq) and between surface protein expression and HIV permissiveness (LegendScreen™), and tested for their ability to capture permissive cells. Eleven candidate biomarkers were successfully validated, showing enrichment of HIV permissive cells.

Conclusions: In this study, we developed a single-cell pipeline to investigate cell heterogeneity and identify gene candidates affecting HIV permissiveness. Our data showed that, at the single-cell level, the status of cellular activation was the major driver of cell heterogeneity towards HIV permissiveness. Moreover, we identified several cell surface biomarkers characterizing the HIV permissive cell. This single-cell analysis pipeline represents a valuable tool for biomarker identification.

Acknowledgements

FP7 European grant n°305762/Hit Hidden HIV and Swiss SNF grant 166412

O8 A capsid-dependent integration program linking T cell activation to HIV-1 gene expression

Alexander Zhyvoloup1, Anat Melamed2, Ian Anderson3, Delphine Planas3, Janos Kriston-Vizi1, Robin Kette1er, Chen-Hsuan Lee3, Andy Merritt3, Petronela Ancuta1, Charles Bangham2, Ariberto Fassati1

1University College London, Infection, London, Great Britain; 2Imperial College, Medicine, London, Great Britain; 3University of Montreal, Microbiology & Infection, Montreal, Great Britain

Correspondence: Ariberto Fassati

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O8

To identify key steps of the HIV-1 life cycle that are dependent on capsid (CA), we have developed differential high throughput chemical screening. The CA point mutation N74D makes HIV-1 independent of several host factors. Taking advantage of this phenotype, CD4+ T cells were co-infected with two HIV-1 vectors (WT-GFP and N74D-mCherry), which were identical except for the CA N74D mutation. Compound libraries were screened to find molecules that selectively inhibited infection of WT over N74D, which, by implication, should affect directly or indirectly the interaction between host factors and HIV-1 CA. We found that digoxin selectively inhibited infection of WT in both CD4 T cell lines and primary memory CD4 T cells, repressing HIV-1 gene expression. The antiretroviral activity of digoxin was dependent on the Na/K ATPase. To identify the mechanism of digoxin selectivity, we infected CD4 T cells with WT or N74D virus in the presence of digoxin then analysed in parallel the cellular transcriptional profile by RNAseq and integration site selection by deep sequencing. RNAseq showed that digoxin up-regulated 221 genes and down-regulated 336 genes ≥fourfold. Within the up-regulated genes, the main biological functions affected by digoxin were regulation of cell cycle, chromatin remodeling, RNA processing, cell survival. Within the down-regulated gene group, the main biological functions impinged by digoxin were antigen presentation, T cell activation and metabolism. Two main gene networks down-regulated by the drug were CD40L and CD38 markers of T cell activation.

We examined >400,000 unique integration sites and discovered that WT virus had a stronger bias relative to N74D virus to integrate within or near genes susceptible to down-regulation by digoxin. Of those, integration within or near genes involved in T cell activation was two-fold more frequent for WT virus than N74D virus and 3.8-fold more frequent than integration near any gene. Thus, WT virus is more sensitive to digoxin than N74D because it integrates more frequently within or near genes down-regulated by the drug. We discovered a functional connection between integration preference and T cell activation and metabolism that is dependent on CA, which may affect the establishment of latency and the control of viral reactivation.

O9 Characterisation of new RNA polymerase III and RNA polymerase II transcriptional promoters in the Bovine Leukemia Virus genome

Anthony Rodari1, Benoît Van Diessche1, Mathilde Galais1, Nadège Delacourt1, Sylvain Faquenoy1, Caroline Vanhulle1, Anna Kula1, Arsène Burny2, Olivier Rohr3, Carine Van Lint1

1University of Brussels, Molecular Virology, Gosselies, Belgium; 2University of Brussels, Laboratory of Experimental Hematology, Brussels, Belgium; 3University of Strasbourg, Institut Universitaire de Technologie (IUT) Louis Pasteur de Schiltigheim, Schiltigheim, France

Correspondence: Anthony Rodari

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O9
Bovine leukemia virus (BLV), the etiologic agent of enzootic bovine leucosis, is a B-lymphotropic oncocgenic retrovirus closely related to the human T cell leukemia virus I and II (HTLV-I and II). It is widely accepted that BLV latency, due to the RNA polymerase II (RNAPII) 5′LTR-driven transcriptional and epigenetic repression, is a viral strategy used to escape from the host immune system and contribute to tumor development. However, by deep sequencing and bioinformatics analysis, a highly expressed BLV micro-RNA (miRNA) cluster has been recently reported, suggesting that the silencing dogma in BLV transcriptional regulation is only partially correct. In addition, these viral miRNAs are produced through a non-canonical process, involving RNA polymerase III (RNAPIII).

In this report, we used chromatin immunoprecipitation assays to demonstrate the in vivo recruitment of a bona fide RNAPIII complex to the BLV miRNA cluster both in BLV-latently infected cell lines and in ovine BLV-infected primary cells, through a canonical type 2 RNAPII promoter. In addition, by specific knockdown of the RPC6 RNAPIII subunit, we showed a direct functional link between RNAPIII transcription and BLV miRNAs expression. Furthermore, in BLV-latently infected cell lines and in ovine BLV-infected primary cells, we showed that both the tumor- and the quiescent-related isoforms of RPC7 RNAPIII subunits were recruited to the miRNA cluster, consistent with previous studies showing that the viral miRNAs are transcribed at all stages of BLV disease. Epigenetically, we demonstrated that the BLV miRNA cluster was transcribed by the RNAPII in an active epigenetic manner in agreement with the high expression level of the viral miRNAs previously reported. Interestingly, we also demonstrated the in vivo recruitment of RNAPIII at the 3′ LTR/ host genomic junction, associated with positive epigenetic marks. Functionally, we showed that the BLV LTR exhibited a strong antisense promoter activity and identified cis-acting elements of an RNAPIII-dependent promoter. Finally, we provided evidence for an in vivo collision between RNAPIII and RNAPIII convergent transcriptions.

Taken together, our results provide new insights into alternative ways used by BLV to counteract silencing of the viral 5′LTR promoter.

Session 4: RNA trafficking & packaging

O11 A novel cis-acting element affecting HIV replication

Bo Meng1, Andrzej Rutkowski1, Neil Berry2, Lars Dölken1,3, Andrew Lever1
1University of Cambridge, Division of Infectious Diseases, Cambridge, Great Britain; 2National Institute for Biological Standards and Control, Division of Virology, Potters Bar, Great Britain; 3Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Institute for Virology and Immunobiology, Würzburg, Germany

Correspondence: Bo Meng

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O11

Background: HIV RNA is known to contain a large number of cis-acting sequences such as the TAR stem loop, packaging signal and the Rev responsive element with which HIV controls its lifecycle.

Methods: Bioinformatics analysis across HIV sequences has identified regions with high sequence homology to motifs associated with subcellular trafficking of RNA in other systems. The motifs were synonymously mutated in HIV and viral replication kinetics examined.

Results: Upon disruption of these elements, we observed a phenotypic effect on virus replication manifest as a slow virus growth rate but showed cell type specificity, being most apparent in physiologically relevant T cells but not commonly used cell lines. This effect seems to act at the early stage of the virus life cycle as the overall production of HIV-1 Gag protein is reduced leading to a diminished amount of intracellular viral protein.

Conclusions: Studies to date implicate a transcriptional or post-transcriptional defect involving members of the ESCRT group of cellular proteins.

O12 Tolerance of HIV’s late gene expression towards stepwise codon adaptation

Thomas Schuster, Benedikt Asbach, Ralf Wagner
1Institute of Medical Microbiology and Hygiene, University of Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany

Correspondence: Thomas Schuster

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O12

Different organisms show differences in the frequency of occurrence of synonymous codons (codon usage bias). In contrast to humans, HIV uses in general the most A-rich codon for a certain amino acid. Codon usage influences protein production on various levels, starting from gene expression over RNA metabolism to translation.

Previous studies of our group showed that adapting the gag gene to human codon usage (huGag) led not only to a significantly increased protein production but also caused independency of Rev, an accessory protein of HIV which mediates the export of unspliced and incompletely spliced HIV mRNAs. The aim of this work is to gain insight into the effects of codon adaptation on gag expression, especially regarding length and position. For this, subgenomic gag reporter constructs were generated that extend the humanized part of the gene stepwise from 5′ end to 3′end as well as from 3′ end to 5′end. Those constructs were then transfected into HEK293T cells. Gag expression was investigated on protein level by p24 ELISA as well as on RNA level by Northern blot analysis and qPCR.

It became apparent that humanization of the very 5′ end is necessary for enhanced protein production and Rev-independent expression. Moreover, increasing the length of the humanized sequence starting from the 5′ end directly correlated with p24 levels. Contrary to that, such a correlation is lacking for constructs humanized progressively in 3′ to 5′ direction. Interestingly, even humanization of the whole gag except of the 5′part remained Rev-dependent and thus did not show enhanced gag expression. Inhibition of Rev-mediated export with LMB confirmed the Rev-independency of huGag and showed that Rev-dependency decreased with increasing length of the optimized sequence part. Relative quantification of the RNA levels corroborated the results obtained on protein level. The existence of cryptic splicing products could be ruled out by Northern blot analysis.

In summary, codon adaptation of the 5′ part of HIV gag seems to be necessary for enhanced and Rev-independent Gag expression.
Session 5: Assembly & release

O13
Importance of the tax-inducible actin-bundling protein fascin for transmission of human T cell leukemia virus Type 1 (HTLV-1)
Christine Gross1, Veit Wiesmann3, Martina Kalmer1, Thomas Wittenberg1, Jan Gettemans1, Andrea K. Thoma-Kress1
1Institute of Clinical and Molecular Virology, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany; 2Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS, Erlangen, Germany; 3Ghent University, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Campus Rommelare, Ghent, Belgium

Correspondence: Christine Gross
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O13

Transmission of Human T-cell leukemia virus type 1 (HTLV-1) between CD4+ T-cells requires cell–cell contacts and remodeling of the host cell cytoskeleton. The viral transactivator Tax is crucial for formation of the virological synapse (VS), a specialized cell–cell contact. At the VS, polarized budding of virions into synaptic clefts and transfer of viral biofilms to target cells takes place. Furthermore, HTLV-1 is transmitted via cellular protrusions. The actin-bundling protein Fascin is Tax-dependently upregulated in HTLV-1-infected T-cells and important for the formation of protrusive structures. Here, we report that Fascin is required for Tax-induced T-cell aggregation as exploited by autologous HTLV-1 infection. Repression of endogenous Fascin by short hairpin RNAs or delocalization of Fascin by nanobodies impaired virus transduction of protrusive structures. Here, we report that Fascin is required for upregulated in HTLV-1-infected T-cells and important for the formation of the protrusive structures. The actin-bundling protein Fascin is Tax-dependently upregulated in HTLV-1-infected T-cells and important for the formation of the protrusive structures. Here, we report that Fascin is required for Tax-induced T-cell aggregation as exploited by autologous HTLV-1 infection. Repression of endogenous Fascin by short hairpin RNAs or delocalization of Fascin by nanobodies impaired virus transduction of protrusive structures.

Session 6: Pathogenesis & evolution

O15
SEVI and semen prolong the half-life of HIV-1
Janis Müller, Jan Münch
1Institute of Molecular Virology, Ulm, Germany

Correspondence: Janis Müller
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O15

Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 (HIV-1), the causative agent of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), has currently infected 35 million people and caused 1.5 million deaths in 2013 with no cure available. 85% of all new infections occur following sexual intercourse where semen is the main vector of HIV-1 transmission. Instead of being a passive carrier, semen enhances HIV infectivity, an activity that is attributed to amyloid fibrils present in semen. These fibrils self-assemble from peptides derived from prostatic acidic phosphatase (PAP) or semenogelin where SEVI (Serine-rich extended inflammatory factors) formed from PAP248–286 is the best characterised. The cationic surface of semen amyloid allows capturing negatively charged HIV-1 virions and increases attachment to and thus infection of target cells. Interestingly, HIV-1 particles are relatively labile and have a reported half-life of only a few hours in serum, probably due to gp120 shedding and membrane rupture induced by shearing forces. We hypothesized that amyloid, by binding and concentrating, may stabilize virions resulting in a prolonged infectious half-life. We thus performed HIV-1 decay kinetics in buffer, and in the presence of SEVI or human semen. We found that the infectious half-life of HIV-1 in buffer was 2.5 ± 1.3 h, independent on the virus concentration used. Incubation with physiological concentrations of SEVI increased infection rates and additionally extended the viral half-life to 12.1 ± 2.7 h (p < 0.0001). This effect was observed using lab adapted NL4-3 as well as transmitted/founder (T/F) HIV-1 variants. Furthermore, HIV-1 incubated in semen reached half-lives up to 10.2 ± 3.2 h (p < 0.0001). This effect was abrogated by depleting semen of amyloid, suggesting it accounts for the observed phenomenon. Normalizing for initial infection rates revealed that the extended half-lives in the presence of SEVI or semen are independent of infectivity enhancing effects. Conclusively, semen increases HIV infection not only by promoting attachment of virions to target cells but also by increasing the infectious half-life. Consequently, antagonizing semen amyloid might not only lower the infectivity but also the stability of HIV-1 particles in semen, and might find application in microbicides designed to impede HIV spread.

O14
Lentiviral nef proteins antagonize TIM-mediated inhibition of viral release
Minghua Li1, Eric O. Freed2, Shan-Lu Liu1
1The Ohio State University, Center for Retrovirus Research, Columbus, GA, United States; 2National Cancer Institute, HIV Dynamics and Replication, Frederick, MD, United States

Correspondence: Shan-Lu Liu
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O14

We recently reported that the T cell immunoglobulin and mucin domain (TIM) proteins inhibit release of HIV-1 and other enveloped viruses by interacting with virion- and cell-associated phosphatidylinositol (PS) (Li et al., PNAS 111, 2014). In this study, we demonstrate that the Nef proteins of HIV-1 and other lentiviruses antagonize TIM-mediated restriction. We show that TIM-1 exhibits stronger inhibition of the release of Nef-deficient relative to Nef-expressing HIV-1 particles and that ectopic expression of Nef relieves this restriction. Consistent with this finding, knockdown of endogenous TIM-3 in human PBMCs effectively enhances the production of Nef-deficient HIV-1 particles. HIV-1 Nef does not appear to downregulate TIM-1 expression on the cell surface, nor does it disrupt TIM-1 incorporation into HIV-1 virions. Interestingly, we observed that coexpression of SERINC3 and SERINC5 potentiates TIM-1 inhibition of HIV-1 release, and that depletion of SERINC proteins in viral-producer cells rescues TIM-mediated inhibition of HIV-1 release. These results suggest that SERINC proteins are involved in TIM-mediated restriction of HIV-1 release. In addition to HIV-1 Nef, the Nef proteins of simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) strains and HIV-2 also antagonize the antiviral activity of TIM-1, suggesting an evolutionarily conserved role of the lentiviral nef gene in antagonizing TIMs. Collectively, our work reveals a new role for lentiviral Nef in antagonizing TIM, and highlights a complex interplay between lentiviral Nef and cellular restriction by TIMs and SERINC proteins.

O16
CD169+ macrophages mediate retrovirus trans-infection of permissive lymphocytes to establish infection in vivo
Xaver Seiwald1,2, Pradeep Uchiil3, Mark Ladsinsky3, Jagadish Beloor3, Ruoxi Pi1, Christin Hermann1, Nasim Motamedi1,2, Thomas Murooka1, Michael Brehm3, Dale Greiner1, Thorsten Mempe1, Pamela Bjorkman3, Priti Kumar1, Walther Mothes1
1Max von Pettenkofer Institute, LMU Munich, Dept. of Virology, Munich, Germany; 2Yale University, School of Medicine, Dept. of Microbial Patho...
Background: Retroviruses can infect an organism at mucosal surfaces after sexual and mother to child transmission. They can also be transmitted horizontally through contact with body fluids such as blood, semen and saliva of retrovirus-infected individuals. Irrespective of the path retroviruses take to establish an infection within the host, retroviruses pass through secondary lymphoid organs such as lymph nodes and the spleen. Unfortunately, the critical events and the mechanism leading to the initial infection and subsequent spread of retroviruses at secondary lymphoid organs are currently unknown.

Results: Here, we show that sinus-lining macrophages of secondary lymphoid tissue contribute to establish infection by lymph- and blood-derived human immunodeficiency virus and murine leukemia virus. We identify the I-type lectin CD169/Siglec-1 to mediate Env-independent capture of retroviral particles followed by efficient trans-infection of permissive lymphocytes in peripheral lymph nodes and spleen. Using blocking antibodies and mice lacking CD169, we demonstrate that CD169-dependent trans-infection is required for the establishment of viral infection in mice. Applying intravital microscopy and EM tomography we visualize the formation of infectious synapses between CD169+ macrophages and target cells and subsequent virus transmission across cell–cell contacts in vivo.

Conclusions: Our results highlight the central role of CD169-expressing macrophages in retrovirus transmission and identify trans-infection as an important mechanism to establish retrovirus infection in vivo. Given the strategic position of CD169+ macrophages at the interface between extracellular body fluids such as lymph and blood to lymphoid tissues, our data suggest that retroviruses spread in vivo by a combination of cell-free spread within extracellular fluid followed by the CD169-dependent capture of cell-free virus and efficient trans-infection of permissive lymphocytes.

Reference

O18
Reprogramming initiates mobilization of endogenous mutagenic LINE-1, Alu and SVA retrotransposons in human induced pluripotent stem cells with consequences for host gene expression
Gerald Schumann1, Sabine Jung-Klawitter2, Nina V. Fuchs3, Kyle R. Upton2, Martin Muňhoz-Lopez2, Ruchi Shukla2, Jichang Wang2, Marta Garcia-Cana2, Cesar Lopez-Ruiz2, Daniel J. Gerhardt2, Attika Sebe1, Ivana Grabundzija1, Patricia Gendes2, Sylvia Merkert1, Andreas Pulgarin1, Anja Bock1, Ulrike Heid1, Anett Wittthuhn2, Alexandra Haase1, Ernst J. Wöltgens2, Ulrich Martin3, Zoltán Ivics4, Zsuzsanna Izsikv4, J. Garcia-Perez2, Geoffrey J. Faulkner5
1Paul-Ehrlich-Institut, Medical Biotechnology, Langen, Germany; 2Mater Research Institute, Brisbane, Australia; 3GENYO, Granada, Germany; 4Max-Delbrück-Center for Molecular Medicine, Berlin, Germany; 5Hanover Medical School, Hanover, Germany; 6Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, Brisbane, Australia

Correspondence: Gerald Schumann
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O18

Human induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs) can differentiate into every cell type of the adult body and hold substantial promise for regenerative medicine and as in vitro models of disease and development. However, reprogramming and subsequent cultivation of hiPSCs can induce genetic and epigenetic abnormalities that can result in tumorigenic hiPSCs. Thus, it is unclear if hiPSCs or their derivatives are safe for administration. Genomic mutations may undermine their use in regenerative medicine. Activation of the human endogenous mobile retrotransposons LINE-1 (Long Interspersed Element-1, L1), Alu and SVA has the potential to cause such mutations. In differentiated cells, L1 is primarily suppressed by methylation of its CpG-rich promoter, but we show that reprogramming triggers transcription of functional L1 elements via demethylation and specific transcription factors that are absent from differentiated cells. To investigate if the observed L1 activation in hiPSCs leads to L1-mediated mobilization, we applied retrotransposon capture-sequencing (RC-seq) to 8 hiPSC lines, their parental cells and human embryonic stem cell lines (hESCs). We identified, mapped and validated individual L1, Alu and SVA de novo retrotransposition events that occurred during reprogramming into hiPSCs and cultivation of hiPSCs and hESCs, and timed the period during hiPSC cultivation when individual de novo insertions occurred.
Each hiPSC was estimated to carry ~1 L1 de novo insertion. As ~50% of all de novo retrotransposition events occurred in protein-coding genes that are actively transcribed in hiPSCs, including genes playing roles in oncogenesis, development or signal transduction, we investigated effects of these intrinsic insertions on host gene expression in hiPSCs. To exemplify the consequences of even short intronic L1 de novo insertions, we analysed effects of the 390-bp L1 de novo insertion L1-dn13 in CADPS2 intron 7 on CADPS2 transcription in hiPSCs, and demonstrate significant interference of L1-dn13 with allelic CADPS2 gene expression. Our experiments demonstrate incidence, and functional impact of reprogramming-activated endogenous retrotransposition in hiPSCs and imply consequences for the biological safety of hiPSC-derived cell therapies.

O19
NF-κb activation induces expression of human endogenous retrovirus and particle production
Tara Hurst, Anis Kattzourakis, Gikakis Magiorkinis
1University of Oxford, Zoology, Oxford, Great Britain
Correspondence: Tara Hurst
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):O19

Question: Human endogenous retroviruses (HERVs) are prevalent in the human genome, mainly as defective proviruses or solo long terminal repeats (LTRs). The presence of HERVs can potentially alter human gene expression since the LTRs contain binding sites for numerous transcription factors, as well as for steroid hormone and nuclear receptors. While these sites have been predicted by sequence analysis, they have not been shown to be functional in vivo.

Methods: In order to assess the responsiveness of these binding sites, we used a cell line that is known to be permissive for HERV expression. The human embryonic carcinoma cell line, NCCIT, has been demonstrated to express HERVs and to produce mature particles. This is likely facilitated by the loss of the usual epigenetic suppression of HERV expression, such as by global hypomethylation that is frequently observed in cancer cells. The cells were treated with drugs, hormones and cytokines, then HERV-K env and pol expression was analysed by quantitative PCR (qPCR).

Results: We found that the cytokines interleukin-1α (IL-1α) and tumour necrosis factor α (TNFα), as well as the Toll-like receptor-4 (TLR4) ligand lipopolysaccharide (LPS), increased HERV transcription in the NCCITs. Further, these ligands dramatically increased HERV-K particle production by these cells.

Conclusions: Since these ligands activate innate immune signalling pathways to the transcription factor nuclear factor-kB (NF-kB), we hypothesise that the HERV-K LTRs are responsive to NF-kB binding. Thus, pro-inflammatory conditions could lead to increased HERV-K expression if the LTRs are de-repressed for other reasons, such as in the context of cancer.

Session 7a and b: Innate sensing & intrinsic immunity

O20
Identification of the phosphatase acting on T592 in SAMHD1 during M/G1 transition
Kerstin Schott1, Rita Derua1, Janna Seifried1, Andreas Reuter1, Heike Schmitz2, Christiane Tondera1, Alberto Brandariz-Nunez3, Felipe Diaz-Griffero5, Veerle Janssens2,3, Renate König1,5
1Paul-Ehrlich-Institute, Host-Pathogen Interactions, Langen, Germany; 2Institute of Medical Virology, Frankfurt a. M., Germany; 3Department of Infection Diseases, Integrative Virology, Heidelberg, Germany; 4Center for Drug Discovery, Department of Pediatrics, Atlanta, GA, United States; 5Paul-Ehrlich-Institute, Host-Pathogen-Interactions, Langen, Germany; 6Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA, United States
Correspondence: Kerstin Schott
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):O20

SAMHD1 is a critical HIV-1 restriction factor in non-dividing, myeloid and resting CD4+ T cells. As a dNTPase, SAMHD1 reduces dNTP levels below those required for reverse transcription. The restrictive activity of SAMHD1 is negatively regulated by phosphorylation: in cycling cells, SAMHD1 is phosphorylated at T592 and unable to restrict HIV-1 infection. Upon entry into a non-cycling state, T592 phosphorylation is lost and SAMHD1 rendered active against HIV-1. SAMHD1 is phosphorylated by CDKs/cyclin A2, but the phosphatase acting on SAMHD1 is currently unknown. Using tandem affinity purification followed by MS analysis, we identified the Aa subunit of protein phosphatase 2A (PP2A) to potentially interact with SAMHD1. PP2A holoenzymes are composed of a scaffolding (A), catalytic (C) and variable regulatory (B) subunit, which can be recruited out of 4 different families. Specific PP2A holoenzymes are known to reverse CDK1-mediated phosphorylation events at the end of mitosis—consistent with the fact that SAMHD1 loses T592 phosphorylation rapidly upon entry into G1, as we could observe in synchronized Hela ‘Kyoto’ cells using a thymidine block/release protocol.

After pull-down of PP2A-B55a trimer, SAMHD1 was specifically enriched. In line with this observation, only PP2A-B55a trimer were able to efficiently remove SAMHD1 phosphorylation at T592 in vitro. Furthermore, silencing of PP2A-B55a trimers in vivo using specific siRNAs led to increased T592 phosphorylation in Hela ‘Kyoto’ cells. To characterise dephosphorylation at T592 at M/G1 transition in more detail, we chemically induced exit from mitosis in mitosis in Hela ‘Kyoto’ cells and observed impaired T592 dephosphorylation upon silencing of PP2A-B55a trimers. Taken together, we have determined PP2A-B55a holoenzymes responsible for dephosphorylating SAMHD1 during M/G1 transition and rendering SAMHD1 active against HIV-1.

O21
Vpx overcomes a SAMHD1-independent block to HIV reverse transcription that is specific to resting CD4 T cells
Hanna-Mari Baldauf1,2, Lena Stegmann1,2, Sarah-Marie Schwarz2, Maud Trotard1, Margarethe Martin3, Gina Lena3, Manja Burggraf4, Oliver I. Fregoso5, Efrem S. Lim6, Libin Abraham3, Elina Eriksson3, Laura Nguyen1, Ina Ambiel12, Frank Rutsch7, Renate König8, Baek Kim4, Michael Emerman1, Oliver T. Fackler3, Oliver T. Keppeler1,2
1Max von Pettenkofer Institute, Virology, Munich, Germany; 2Institute for Medical Virology, Frankfurt a. M., Germany; 3Department of Infection Diseases, Integrative Virology, Heidelberg, Germany; 4Center for Drug Discovery, Department of Pediatrics, Atlanta, GA, United States; 5Paul-Ehrlich-Institute, Host-Pathogen-Interactions, Langen, Germany; 6Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA, United States; 7Department of General Pediatrics, Münster, Germany
Correspondence: Hanna-Mari Baldauf
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):O21

In contrast to activated CD4 T cells, resting CD4 T cells from peripheral blood are highly resistant to productive HIV-1 infection. Infection of resting CD4 T cells is restricted at the level of reverse transcription. This block can be overcome by virion-packaged Vpx proteins that target SAMHD1 for proteasomal degradation and elevate cellular dNTP pools. Here we find that Vpx proteins from distinct SIV lineages, SIVrcm and SIVmac239, enhance early post-entry step of HIV infection in rcm/mnd2-like hepadnaviruses. Importantly, Vpx enhanced HIV infection of resting PMBCs of an AGS patient that lacks expression of functional SAMHD1. These results demonstrate that Vpx, in addition to SAMHD1, overcomes a previously unappreciated post-entry restriction of HIV-1 that is specific to resting CD4 T cells.
O22
The role of SAMHD1 in antiviral restriction and immune sensing in the mouse
Sabine Wittmann1, Rayk Behrendt1, Bianca Volkmann1, Kristin Eissmann1, Thomas Gramberg2
1Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Institute of Virology, Erlangen, Germany; 2Technical University Dresden, Institute for Immunology, Dresden, Germany
Correspondence: Thomas Gramberg
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O22

SAMHD1 acts as a dNTP triphosphohydrolase and blocks the replication of retroviruses and retroelements in nondividing cells. Here, we use SAMHD1 knockout mice to analyze the regulation and the mechanism of SAMHD1 restriction and to determine the impact of SAMHD1 on antiviral sensing. Previously, we found that the lack of SAMHD1 triggers a spontaneous upregulation of IFN-inducible genes (ISGs) in various murine cell types. We therefore infected SAMHD1 knockout mice lacking the type I IFN receptor (IFNAR) with HIV reporter virus and analysed splenocytes of the mice 72 h postinfection. We found a strong increase in infected splenocytes of SAMHD1/IFNAR KO mice compared to SAMHD1 KO mice, suggesting an IFN-dependent antiviral mechanism in the absence of SAMHD1 in vivo. In addition, we found that, similar to human SAMHD1, the antiviral activity of mouse SAMHD1 is regulated through phosphorylation and is limited to nondividing cells. Comparing the susceptibility to infection with intracellular dNTP levels and SAMHD1 phosphorylation showed that both functions are important determinants of the antiviral activity of murine SAMHD1. In contrast, we found the proposed RNase activity of SAMHD1 to be less important and could not detect any effect of mouse or human SAMHD1 on the level of incoming viral RNA. Our findings show that murine SAMHD1 blocks retroviral infection at the level of reverse transcription and is regulated through a cell cycle-dependent phosphorylation at threonine 603. Together, we show that the antiviral block mediated by murine SAMHD1 is mechanistically similar to what is known for the human protein, making the SAMHD1 KO mouse model a valuable tool to study the impact of SAMHD1 on the replication of different viruses in vivo.

O23
T cells expressing reduced restriction factors are preferentially infected in therapy naive HIV-1 patients
Sebastian Boldt1an, HERwig Koppensteiner1, Stefanie Regensburg1, Ruth Brack-Werner1, Rika Draenert1, Michael Schindler1,2,3,4,5,6
1Helmholtz Center Munich, Institute of Virology, Neuherberg, Germany; 2Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Munich, Munich, Germany; 3University Hospital Tuebingen, Institute of Medical Virology, Tuebingen, Germany
Correspondence: Michael Schindler
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O23

Question: So-called host cell restriction factors (RFs) potently suppress HIV-1 replication in cell lines and primary cell culture models. In theory, RFs might represent attractive targets for the development of novel antiviral treatment strategies but their importance for virus control in vivo is controversial.

Methods: Here, we profiled the expression of RFs including p21, SAMHD1 and Tetherin in primary blood-derived mononuclear cells (PBMC) from untreated, therapy-naive HIV-1 patients and quantified cellular infection levels.

Results: There was overall no correlation between the expression of the individual RFs and HIV-1 control versus progression in patients. However, we identified a T cell population that was negative for intracellular CD2 and expresses low levels of SAMHD1, p21 and the recently identified inhibitor of HIV-1 infectivity SerinCG. CD2-negative T cells with low RF expression levels were highly HIV-infected in comparison to their CD2-positive counterparts and the extent of CD2-negative T cell infection was a marker of HIV-1 progression. Altogether, we report an association of RF expression levels with the extent of HIV-1 infection in primary T cells directly isolated from untreated patients.

Conclusions: Our study supports the in vivo importance of RFs for HIV-1 control and highlights RFs as promising targets for therapeutic intervention.

O24
cGAS-mediated innate immunity spreads through HIV-1 env-mediated membrane fusion sites from infected to uninfected primary HIV-1 target cells
Aurélie Ducroux, Shuting Xu, Aparna Ponnurangam, Sergej Franz, Annelina Malassa, Ellen Ewald, Christine Goffinet
Twincare, Experimental Virology, Hanover, Germany
Correspondence: Christine Goffinet
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O24

Upon HIV infection, reverse transcribed DNA present in the cytoplasm can be sensed by cellular pattern recognition receptors, resulting in the induction of antiviral type I IFN and expression of interferon-stimulated genes that exert numerous antiviral functions. Specifically, upon DNA binding, the protein cyclic GMP-AMP Synthase (cGAS) synthesizes the unique second messenger cGAMP that binds to STING to activate downstream IFN signaling. It has been proposed that this signaling pathway is engaged upon HIV infection, especially in the absence of TREX1, a cellular exonuclease that degrades excess viral DNA that escapes the viral core. However, HIV-1 perfectly inhibits and evades intrinsic immune responses. Most of these studies have been performed with cell-free HIV-1 particles. We established an HIV-1 cell-to-cell transmission model using HIV-1-infected human PBLs and autologous macrophages as donor and target cell populations, respectively. Upon cell-to-cell transmission, HIV-1 infection led to a robust interferon response, an observation which was not recapitulated in assays using cell-free HIV-1 particles although the resulting percentage of infected target macrophages was in a similar range as in the condition of cell-to-cell transmission. Specifically, IFN-beta mRNA expression and release of bioactive type I IFN in the culture supernatant were induced. To understand the specific signatures of the cellular responses to each infection mode, the expression of known cellular key players was decreased using siRNA in target macrophages showing that this IFN induction required STING, but not cGAS. Moreover, direct contact of donor and target cells and functional HIV-1 Env-mediated fusion were necessary. HIV-1-infected PBLs, but not their cell-free virions, contained SVPDE-sensitive, IFN-inducing small molecules, most conceivably cGAMP. These data are in line with intercellular transfer of cGAMP from infected PBLs to target macrophages, where cGAMP binds to STING and triggers a type I IFN induction in a fashion that bypasses the necessity of functional cGAS in macrophages. We propose that, in HIV-1-infected tissues, cGAMP-mediated innate immunity spreads predominantly via direct cell–cell contacts that result in cytoplasmic mixing of HIV-1-infected and neighboring target cells.

O25
Perturbation of innate RNA and DNA sensing by human T cell leukemia virus type 1 oncoproteins
Yee Fung Sin1, Ping-Ching Chan1, Kin-Kit Yuen2, Kin-Hang Kok1, Ping-Ching Chan1, Dong-Yan J1
1The University of Hong Kong, School of Biomedical Sciences, Pokfulam, Hong Kong; 2The University of Hong Kong, Department of Microbiology, Pokfulam, Hong Kong
Correspondence: Dong-Yan Jin
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O25

Human T-cell leukemia virus type 1 (HTLV-1) chronically infects ~20 million people worldwide, causing adult T-cell leukemia (ATL) and tropical spastic paraparesis in a small subset of them. Interferon (IFN) α is a key innate immune effector and its combination with zidovudine, which is a nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, is the recommended standard first-line therapy for ATL. It is thought that viral RNA and proviral genome in HTLV-1-infected cells are sensed by the host sensor proteins to induce type I IFNs. Exactly how HTLV-1 perturbs
this induction remains to be fully understood. In this study we report
on the perturbation of innate RNA and DNA sensing by HTLV-1 onco-
proteins Tax and HBZ. The induction of IFN-β production by HTLV-1
infection is drastically reduced in HTLV-1-transformed ATL cells and in T lymphocytes freshly infected with HTLV-1. Interestingly, HTLV-1 oncoproteins Tax and HBZ displayed differential activity to perturb innate RNA sensing mediated by RIG-I and PACT as well as innate DNA sensing mediated by CGAS, CGAMP and STING. The perturbation occurred at a step prior to IRF3 activation since neither Tax nor HBZ was capable of suppressing the activity of a domi-
nant active phosphomimetic IRF3 mutant IRF3-3D. Tax and HBZ were
found to associate with TBK1, IKKe, STING and IRF3. In vitro phosphoryl-
ation assay indicated the suppression of TBK1-mediated phosphoryla-
tion of IRF3 and other substrates by Tax. Taken together, our findings
suggested that HTLV-1 oncoproteins Tax and HBZ differentially modu-
late innate RNA and DNA sensing in infected cells. Our findings might
reinforce new strategies and compounds that could be used to improve
IFN-based anti-HTLV-1 and anti-ATL therapy. Supported by HKRGC
(HKU171091/14M, HKU271215/15 and C7011-15R), HMRF (HKM-
15-M01 and 15140682) and SK yee Medical Research Fund (2011).

O26
Induction and anti-viral activity of Interferon α subtypes in HIV-1
infection
Ulf Dittmer
University Hospital Essen, Institute for Virology, Essen, Germany
Correspondence: Ulf Dittmer
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O26
HIV-1 is transmitted primarily across mucosal surfaces and rapidly
spreads within the intestinal mucosa during acute infection. The type
1 Interferons (IFNs) likely serve as a first line of defense, but the relative
expression and antiviral properties of the 12 IFNa subtypes against
HIV-1 infection remain unknown. We evaluated the expression of all
IFNa subtypes in HIV-1-exposed plasmacytoid dendritic cells and
PBMC of HIV-infected individuals. We also determined the relative anti-
viral potency of each IFNa subtype ex vivo using the human intestinal
Lamina Propria Aggregate Culture or an PBMC model. IFNa8, IFNa6,
IFNa14, IFNa17, and IFNa21 were the most potent in restricting HIV-1
infection in vitro. IFNa2, the clinically-approved subtype, and IFNa14
were both highly expressed but exhibited relatively weak antiviral
activity. The relative potencies correlated the induction levels of HIV-1
restriction factors Mx2 and Tetherin/BST-2.
We also demonstrate in a humanized mouse model that, when deliv-
ered at the same high clinical dose, the human IFNa14 subtype has
very potent anti-HIV-1 activity in vivo whereas IFNa2 does not. In both
post-exposure prophylaxis and treatment of acute infections,
IFNa14 but not IFNa2 significantly suppressed HIV-1 replication and
proval loads. Whereas ineffective IFNa2 therapy was associated with
CD8+ T cell activation, successful IFNa14 therapy was associated with
increased intrinsic and innate immunity including significantly higher
induction of tetherin and MX2, increased APOBEC3G signature muta-
tions in HIV-1 proviral DNA, and higher frequencies of TRAIL + NK cells.
These results identify IFNa14 as a potent new therapeutic that operates
via mechanisms distinct from antiretroviral drugs. The ability of IFNa14
to reduce both viremia and proviral loads in vivo suggests that it has
strong potential as a component of a cure strategy for HIV-1 infections.

O27
Vpu-mediated counteraction of tetherin is a major determinant
of HIV-1 interferon resistance
Dorota Kmiec1, Shilipa Iyer2, Christina Stürzel1, Daniel Sauter2, Beatrice
Hahn3, Frank Kirchhoff1
1Ulm University, Ulm, Germany; 2University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia,
PA, United States
Correspondence: Dorota Kmiec
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O27
HIV-1 groups M, N, O and P are the result of independent zoonotic
transmissions of SIVs infecting great apes in Africa. Among these,
only Vpu proteins of pandemic HIV-1 group M strains evolved potent
activity against the restriction factor tetherin which inhibits virus
release from infected cells. Thus, effective Vpu-mediated tetherin
antagonism may have been a prerequisite for the global spread of
HIV-1. To determine whether this particular function enhances primary
HIV-1 replication and interferon resistance, we introduced mutations
into the vpu gene of HIV-1 group M and N strains to specifically disrupt
their ability to antagonize tetherin, but not other Vpu functions, such
as degradation of CD4, down-modulation of CD1d and NTB-A,
and suppression of NF-kB activity. Lack of particular human-specific adap-
tations reduced the ability of HIV-1 group M Vpu proteins to enhance
virus production and release from primary CD4+ T cells at high levels
of type 1 IFN from about fivefold to twofold. Interestingly, transmitted-
founder HIV-1 strains exhibited higher virion release capacity than
chronic control HIV-1 strains irrespective of Vpu function, and group
M viruses produced higher levels of cell-free virions than an N group
HIV-1 strain. Thus, efficient virus release from infected cells seems to
play an important role in the spread of HIV-1 in the human population
and requires a fully functional Vpu protein that counters human
tetherin.

O28
DNA repair protein Rad18 restricts HIV-1 and LINE-1 life cycle
Yasu Ariumi1, Mariko Yasuda-Inoue1, Koudai Kawano1, Satoshi Tateishi2,
Priscilla Turelli3
1Kumamoto University, Center for AIDS Research, Kumamoto, Japan;
2Kumamoto University, Institute of Molecular Embryology and Genetics,
Kumamoto, Japan; 3EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland
Correspondence: Yasuo Ariumi
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O28
Introduction: Long interspersed element type 1 (LINE-1, L1) is a mobile
gene element comprising about 17 % of the human genome. L1 uti-
izes an endonuclease to insert L1 cDNA into the target genomic DNA,
which induces double-strand DNA breaks (DSBs). Likewise, human
immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) integration induces DSBs in the
human genome and activates DNA damage signaling pathway result-
ning in a recruitment of DNA repair protein(s). This may facilitate HIV-1
and L1 integration in the human genome. Therefore, host DNA repair
machinery has been involved in both HIV-1 and L1 life cycle.
Results: In this study, we have demonstrated that Rad18 post-rep-
ication repair protein restricts both HIV-1 and L1 life cycle. Notably,
HIV-1 infection or L1 retrotransposition efficiency was enhanced in the
Rad18 deficient or the knockdown cells. In contrast, overexpression of
Rad18 strongly suppressed L1 retrotransposition as well as L1 medi-
ated Alu retrotransposition. The RING-finger and the Rad6 (2 ubiqu-
itin-conjugated enzyme)-binding domains but not the Poly-binding
domain were required for the inhibitory effect on L1 retrotransposi-
tion, suggesting that the ubiquitin E3 ligase activity of Rad18 is impor-
tant for regulation of L1 mobility. Furthermore, Rad18 sequestered
L1 ORF1p in RAD18-nuclear bodies and bound with L1 ORF1p. Simi-
larly, HIV-1 integrase colocalized with Rad18 in Rad18-nuclear bodies
and bound with Rad18, indicating an interaction of Rad18 with HIV-1
integrase. Moreover, we found that Rad18 suppressed the late step of
HIV-1 replication.
Conclusion: Altogether, these results suggest a potential role of
Rad18 DNA repair protein in HIV-1 life cycle and L1 retrotransposition
process.

O29
Natural mutations in IFITM3 allow escape from post-translational
regulation and toggle antiviral specificity
Alex Compton, Nicolas Roy, François Porrot, Anne Billet, Nicoletta Casar-
telli, Jacob Yount, Chen Liang, Oliver Schwartz
Institut Pasteur, Paris, France
Correspondence: Alex Compton
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O29
The interferon-induced transmembrane (IFITM) proteins protect host
cells from diverse virus infections. IFITM also incorporate into HIV-1
virions and inhibit virus fusion and cell-to-cell spread, with IFITM3
showing the greatest potency. Here we report that amino-terminal mutants of IFITM3 preventing ubiquitination and endocytosis are more abundantly incorporated into virions and exhibit enhanced inhibition of HIV-1 fusion. An analysis of primate genomes revealed that IFITM3 is the most ancient antiviral family member of the IFITM locus and has undergone repeated duplication in independent host lineages. Some IFITM3 genes in non-human primates, including those that arose following gene duplication, carry amino-terminal mutations that modify protein localization and function. This suggests that “runaway” IFITM3 variants could be selected for altered antiviral activity. Furthermore, we show that adaptations in IFITM3 result in a trade-off in antiviral specificity; as variants exhibiting enhanced activity against HIV-1 poorly restrict Influenza A virus. Overall, we provide the first functional evidence that variation in IFITM3 genes may boost the antiviral coverage of host cells and provide selective functional advantages.

Session 8: Adaptive immunity & immune evasion

O30
Observing evolution in HIV-1 infection: phylogenetics and mutant selection windows to infer the influence of the autologous antibody response on the viral quasispecies
Carsten Magnus1, Lucia Reh1, Penny Moore1, Therese Uhr2, Jacqueline Weber2, Lynn Morris1, Alexandra Tkrola1
1ETH Zurich, D-BSE, Computational Evolution, Basel, Switzerland; 2University of Zurich, Institute of Medical Virology, Zurich, Switzerland; 3University of the Witwatersrand, Faculty of Health Sciences, Johannesburg, South Africa
Correspondence: Carsten Magnus
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O30

Question: During HIV-1 infection, a constant interplay of antibodies and viruses occurs, which shapes the developed antibody response and potentially leads to viral escape. A better understanding of these co-evolutionary processes is urgently needed both for designing a vaccine scheme eliciting an effective antibody response and for preventing viral escape in passive immunisation with broadly neutralising antibodies (bnAbs). Of particular importance is the right dosage of these bnAbs as too low concentrations may lead to fast escape of the virus. Thus, we study here at which antibody concentrations a viral escape variant can outcompete its viral ancestor, referred to as mutant selection window (MSW).

Methods: To determine the MSWs of an ancestor/escape pair in respect to a specific bnAb, we analysed experimentally derived inhibition measures (IC50) with a mathematical model. As within-host viral transmission can happen via free-virus transmission and through direct spread between infected and target cells (cell–cell transmission), we calculated the MSW for both transmission routes. With the MSW framework, we characterised the selective pressure of a bnAb lineage leading to viral escape in the HIV-infected individual CAP256 using in vivo-derived longitudinally sampled virus strains and isolated autologous bnAbs. We identified potential CAP256 ancestor/escape pairs based on the viral phylogeny.

Results: We found that escape mutants can out-compete their sensitive ancestral strains for wide concentration ranges in both transmission pathways. The MSW of these viral pairs in respect to the autologous bnAbs additionally allowed us to identify (i) which autologous virus strain will be out-competed (ii) which strain could be a possible ancestor of an escape variant and (iii) whether escape predominantly occurs via free virus or cell–cell transmission.

Conclusions: Our method provides important implications for antibody-based treatment strategies and vaccine design. Not only will the MSW framework allow the selection of the appropriate antibody dosage to suppress the development of escape mutants but, in addition, may help to design a vaccine scheme that mimics the co-evolutionary processes of a natural HIV-1 infection leading to a protective broadly neutralising antibody response in uninfected individuals.

O31
Dose and subtype specific analyses of the anti-HIV effects of IFN-alpha family members
Rashel V. Grindberg1, Erika Schlaepfer1, Gideon Schreiber2, Viviana Simon3, Roberto F. Speck1
1University Hospital Zurich, Infectious Disease and Hospital Epidemiology, Zurich, Switzerland; 2Weizmann Institute of Science, Department of Biological Chemistry, Rehovot, Israel; 3Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Department of Microbiology, New York City, NY, United States
Correspondence: Rashel V. Grindberg
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O31

Interferons (IFN) are cytokines that are fundamental to innate and adaptive immune responses and are named so by their ability to “interfere” with viral replication. The family of human IFN-alpha’s (IFN-α) is encoded on chromosome 9 and comprises 13 different subtypes [1]. These molecules signal through the IFN-α receptors 1 and 2, prompting Jak/Stat activation and induction of interferon stimulated genes (ISGs) [2]. IFN-α 1 and 2 were the first two alpha subtypes characterised [3]. IFN-α2 has a higher specificity and activity than IFN-α1 and so became the prototype IFN for most subsequent studies. Data reporting the anti-viral effects of the other subtypes is sparse. Here we analysed 12 IFN family members and 6 mutant IFN variants, engineered to have various binding efficiencies, for their ability to inhibit HIV-1 replication in primary human cells such as peripheral blood mononuclear cells, purified CD4+ T-cells as well as monocyte derived macrophages. We tested a range of concentrations (10 U/ml, 100 U/ml and 1000 U/ml) for each of the IFNs. We found a significant difference in activities of the natural IFN variants at lower dosages, which was lost at higher concentrations. Similarly, at lower dosages, the IFN mutants with stronger (60 x 1) binding affinity showed a higher inhibition than the mutants with lower (40 x) affinity. However, this difference was also reduced with increasing concentrations, indicating that differential antiviral efficiencies between IFN subtypes can be compensated for with higher amounts. These results are consistent with RNA-seq, differential expression and biological network analyses of IFNo-2, IFNo-14 and IFN mutant stimulated macrophages at high and low doses.

Together, these observations bring into focus the importance of understanding putative differential IFN antiviral activity as a function of binding affinity, potency and dosage.

References

Session 9: Novel antiviral strategies

O32
LEDGFIN-mediated inhibition of the integrase-LEDGF/p75 interaction reduces reactivation of residual latent HIV
Zeger Debayer1, Lenard Vandel, Jonas Demuelemeter1, Suha Saleh1, Eric Verdin2, Anna Cereseto2, Rik Gijbbers1
1KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium; 2Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology, University of California, San Francisco, CA, United States; 3Centre for Integrative Biology (CIBIO), Trento, Italy
Correspondence: Zeger Debayer
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O32

Persistence of latent, replication-competent HIV provirus is the main impediment towards a cure for HIV/AIDS. Therefore, different therapeutic strategies to eliminate this latent reservoir are currently being explored. Persistence is in part a consequence of proviral integration. LEDGF/p75 acts as the pivotal chromatin tethering-factor targeting HIV integration into active transcription units through its interaction with HIV-1 integrase. We investigated the role of integration site selection in the establishment of HIV persistence employing LEDGF/p75 knockout cells.
To evaluate whether the reactivation potential of the quiescent proviral reservoir was dependent on integration site selection during reservoir establishment, LEDGF/p75 WT and KD/KO cell lines were infected with HIVNL4.3-tCD34 or a double reporter virus that allowed direct visualization of the reservoir pool by FACS analysis. We show for the first time that LEDGF/p75 depletion hampers HIV-1 reactivation in cell culture. Next we demonstrate that LEDGINs, a novel class of integration inhibitors, block the interaction between HIV integrase and the LEDGF/p75 host cofactor, relocate 3D nuclear location and retarget HIV proviral integration out of transcription units, resulting in a HIV reservoir that is refractory to reactivation by different latency-reversing agents both in cell lines an primary CD4+ T-cells. We here propose a novel strategy to reduce the functional HIV reservoir during primary HIV infection by means of drug-induced retargeting of HIV integration and support the potential of these drugs to reduce the likelihood of viral rebound. Pushing the provirus into quiescence could drive the basic reproduction number of HIV below a threshold required for sustained infection even after treatment interruption.

O33
NKG2D-mediated clearance of reactivated viral reservoirs by natural killer cells
Permission for the publication has not been granted.

O34
Inhibition of HIV reactivation in brain cells by AAV-mediated delivery of CRISPR/Cas9
Permission for the publication has not been granted.

O35
CRISPR-Cas9 as antiviral: potent HIV-1 inhibition, but rapid virus escape and the subsequent design of escape-proof antiviral strategies
Ben Berkhout, Gang Wang, Na Zhao, Atze T. Das
Academic Medical Center of the University of Amsterdam, Laboratory of Experimental Virology, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Correspondence: Ben Berkhout
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O35

Several recent studies demonstrated that the CRISPR-associated endonuclease Cas9 can be used for guide RNA (gRNA)-directed, sequence-specific cleavage of HIV proviral DNA in infected cells. We here demonstrate profound inhibition of HIV-1 replication by harnessing T cells with Cas9 and an antiviral gRNA. However, the virus rapidly and consistently escaped from this inhibition. Sequencing of the HIV-1 escape variants revealed nucleotide insertions, deletions and substitutions around the Cas9/gRNA cleavage site that are typical for DNA repair by the non-homologous end-joining (NHEJ) pathway. We thus demonstrate the potency of CRISPR-Cas9 as an antiviral approach, but any therapeutic strategy should consider these viral escape options. We will present several combinatorial therapeutic approaches designed to block virus escape. More specifically, we tested the simultaneous attack by different guide RNAs on HIV-1 DNA, but also the combinatorial attack on both HIV-1 RNA and DNA forms by combining RNAi and CRISPR-Cas approaches.

Session 10: Recent advances in HIV vaccine development

O36
Priming with a potent HIV-1 DNA vaccine frames the quality of T cell and antibody responses prior to a poxvirus and protein boost
Beneditk Asbach, Josef Köster, Beatrix Perdiguero, Mariano Esteban, Bertram L. Jacobs, David C. Montefiori, Celia C. LaBranche, Nicole L. Yates, Sébastien D. Tomaras, Guido Ferrari, Kathryn E. Foulds, Mario Roederer, Gary Landucci, Donald N. Foyth, Michael S. Seaman, Natalie Hawkins, Steven G. Self, Sanjay Phogat, James Tartaglia, Susan W. Barnett, Brian Burke, Anthony D. Cristillo, Song Ding, Jonathan L. Heeney, Giuseppe Pantaleo, Ralf Wagner
1University Regensburg, Institute for Medical Microbiology and Hygiene, Regensburg, Germany; 2University Regensburg, Institute for Clinical Microbiology and Hygiene, Regensburg, Germany; 3Centro Nacional de Biotecnología, Madrid, Spain; 4Arizona State University, Biodesign Institute, Tempe, AZ, United States; 5Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC, United States; 6National Institutes of Health, Vaccine Research Center, Bethesda, MD, United States; 7University of California, Irvine, CA, United States; 8Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Center for Virology and Vaccine Research, Boston, MA, United States; 9Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Statistical Center for HIV/AIDS Research and Prevention, Seattle, WA, United States; 10Sanofi Pasteur, Swiftwater, PA, United States; 11Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc., Cambridge, MA, United States; 12Advanced Bioscience Laboratories, Inc., Rockville, MD, United States; 13EuroVacc Foundation, Lausanne, Switzerland; 14University of Cambridge, Department of Veterinary Medicine, Cambridge, Great Britain; 15University of Lausanne, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Lausanne, Switzerland
Correspondence: Beneditk Asbach
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O36

The use of heterologous immunisation regimens, and the employment of various improved vector systems as well as antigen designs, has proven to lead to vigorous increases in immunogenicity in the assessment of HIV-1 vaccine candidates in non-human primates. In order to resolve interdependencies between different delivery modalities, we compared three different poxvirus boost regimens after a DNA prime. Three groups of rhesus macaques were each immunized with the same DNA vaccine encoding for Gag, PolNef, and gp140 at weeks 0, 4 and 8. At week 20, the groups were boosted either (i) by administering the poxviral replication-competent NYVAC-KC-vector by scarification, or (ii) by i.m. injection, or (iii) by i.m. injection of the replication-deficient NYVAC-vector, carrying the same antigens. Finally, macaques were boosted with adjuvanted, recombinant gp120 protein at weeks 28, 32, and 49 in order to enhance humoral responses. The regimen elicited very potent CD4+ and CD8+ T cell responses in a well-balanced manner, peaking 2 weeks after the NYVAC-boost. T cell responses subsequently declined and were hardly influenced by subsequent protein boosts. T-cells were broadly reactive and poly-functional, with high fractions of cells secreting all three cytokines assessed. All animals exhibited antigen-specific humoral responses already after the poxvirus boost, that by trend slightly increased following protein administration. Polyclonal reactivity of IgG antibodies was highest against C clade Env-proteins, yet with substantial cross-reactivity towards other clades. Serum IgA responses were absent. Substantial ADCC activity, and very high ADCVI activity were observed in sera obtained after the last protein boost. As no differences were evident between the groups, it can be concluded that the potent priming induced by the DNA vaccine initially framed the epitope specificity and polyfunctionality of the T cell responses in a way that the subsequent poxvirus boost only led to an increase in the response magnitudes without skewing the quality. This emphasizes the importance of selecting the best mixture of vector systems in heterologous vaccination regimens.

O37
Passive immunisation with a neutralising antibody against HIV-1 Env prevents infection of the first cells in a mucosal challenge rhesus monkey model
Christiane Stahl-Hennig, Viktoria Stab, Armin Ensser, Ulrike Sauermann, Bettina Tipler, Dennis Burton, Matthias Tenbusch, Klaus Uberla
1German Primate Center, Infection Models, Göttingen, Germany; 2Ruhr-University Bochum, Department of Molecular and Medical Virology, Bochum, Germany; 3Friedrich Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Institute of Clinical and Molecular Virology, Erlangen, Germany; 4The Scripps Research Institute, Department of Immunology and Microbial Science, La Jolla, CA, United States
Correspondence: Christiane Stahl-Hennig
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O37
HIV antibody Fc-glycoforms drive B cell affinity maturation
Galit Alter1, Giuseppe Lofano2, Anne-Sophie Dugast1, Viraj Kulkarni3, Todd Suscovich1

1Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA, United States; 2National Cancer Institute, Center for Cancer Research, Frederick, MD, United States; 3Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics S.r.l. (a GSK Company), Research Center, Siena, Italy; 4National Cancer Institute, Center for Cancer Research, Frederick, MD, United States

Correspondence: Galit Alter
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): O38

HIV broadly neutralising antibodies (bNAbs) confer protection following passive immunisation, but the mechanisms that allow these humoral immune responses to evolve in a fraction of infected individuals is unclear. Features of bNAbs suggest that extensive germinal center (GC) reactions are required to drive these unusual super-high affinity responses required to drive broad viral neutralisation. However, the mechanisms that underlie this extensive affinity maturation are poorly understood. Given that antibodies are delivered to follicular dendritic cells (FDCs), the key antigen presenting cells in the GC, in the form of antibody immune complexes, here we speculated that key features of immune complexes may drive enhanced affinity maturation. Thus using a set of high-throughput, comprehensive Fc-characterizing assays that capture the remarkable biodiversity of antibody Fc-effector functions, linked to multivariate computational tools, we profiled differences in immune complex (IC) biology among individuals that develop neutralising antibodies (“neutralizers”) in an unbiased manner. “Neutralizers” possessed higher Fc-mediated antibody effector functions, HIV-specific antibody titers, and overall enhanced binding to Fc-receptors as compared to subjects that did not possess broadly neutralising antibodies. Interestingly, enhanced antibody effector function in “Neutralizers” was not associated with overall changes in antibody subclass distribution but was associated with the selective production of antibodies that were more highly sialylated. Interestingly, ICs generated with “neutralizer” antibodies drove enhanced antibody class switch and affinity maturation following immunisation of mice compared to ICs generated with “non-neutralizer” antibodies. Moreover, ICs generated with solely sialylated antibodies demonstrated in equally enhanced capacity to drive B cell maturation by class switch, to expand GC B cell numbers, and drive enhanced antibody affinity maturation. These data argue that the generation of particular antigen-specific sialylated Fc-profiles drives enhanced antibody maturation, potentially contributing the prolonged affinity maturation required for the evolution of broadly neutralising antibody responses. Thus rational vaccine design strategies that induce enhanced sialylated HIV-specific antibodies may enhance affinity maturation and therefore accelerate the induction of broadly neutralising antibodies against HIV.
within the three CDR loops was inactive. Viruses resistant against b12 and the paratope mimetic peptide, respectively, occurred after 15 and 6 passages, respectively. b12 selected one mutation (V370E), located directly in the CD4 binding site, while the mutations induced by the paratope mimetic peptide were in the vicinity of this site. The b12-resistant virus was also resistant against the paratope mimetic peptide. Vice versa, cross-resistance was also evident, but less pronounced.

**Conclusion:** Peptides which mimic the CDRs of the broadly neutralising antibody b12, exhibit antiviral activity. Ongoing chemical and structural optimization of the peptides is expected to enhance their antiviral activity, demonstrating the therapeutic potential of antibody paratope mimics.

### P3

**Investigating cellular pathways involved in the transmission of HIV-1 between dendritic cells and T cells using RNAi screening techniques**  
Rebecca Midgley, James Wheeldon, Vincent Piguet  
Cardiff University, Dermatology, Cardiff, Great Britain  
**Correspondence:** Rebecca Midgley

**Background:** Dendritic cells (DC) are thought to be amongst the earliest targets of HIV-1 infection and act as a ‘Trojan Horse’ concealing the virus from the innate immune system and delivering it directly to T-cells via virological synapses to promote infection.

**Question:** DC studies have led to the identification of several restriction factors and cellular structures that aid viral transmission, however work still needs to be done on how the virus is trafficked through the cell to the virological synapse and how the virus evades degradation within DC.

**Method:** Advancements in RNAi screening libraries allows the investigation of multiple pathways which could potential be involved in viral transmission such as cell signalling. A high-throughput method has been developed using On-Target SMART pool siRNA (Dharmacon) in Monocyte derived dendritic cells (MDDC) to investigate the transfer of HIV-1 from DC to T-cells.

**Results:** Initial membrane traffic screening results analysed using network mapping software (Cytoscape 3.3.0) implicates a role of several genes involved in vesicle mediated transport at both the plasma and vesicle membrane and a role for actin cytoskeleton organisation in DC to T-cell HIV transfer.

**Conclusion:** The discovery of potential cellular targets involved in HIV-1 transmission between DC and T-cells could potentially lead to the discovery of potential drug targets to be developed to combat HIV-1 infection in the future.

### P4

**Co-receptor tropism in HIV-1, HIV-2 monotypic and dual infections**  
Priyanka Khopkar, Ping, Megha Roharame, Smita Kulkarni  
1National AIDS Research Institute, Virology, Pune, India; 2Symbiosis International University, Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences, Pune, India; 3National Institute of Virology, Academic Department, Pune, India  
**Correspondence:** Priyanka Khopkar

**Background:** HIV entry is mediated through the retroviral envelope, CD4 and chemokine receptors (majorly CXCR4, CCR5). Co-receptor tropism plays a crucial role in HIV transmission and pathogenesis. HIV-1 co-receptor tropism is extensively studied; however scarce data exists on tropism exhibited during HIV-2 and HIV-1&2 dual infections from endemic regions. In the present study, we determined co-receptor tropism amongst Indian drug naïve patients with HIV-1 (n = 10); HIV-2 (n = 12) and HIV-1&2 dual infection (n = 13) confirmed by ELISA and Western Blot.

**Methods:** PBMC co-cultures using patient’s PBMCs were carried out and virus growth confirmed by various assays viz. for i) HIV-1: HIV-1 p24 antigen capture ELISA; independent IFAs were carried out for HIV-1 and HIV-2 and overall infection was assessed using TZM-bl infectivity assays and ExaVir™ load (Fig. 1). Co-receptor tropism was determined using GHOST cell assays in co-receptor specific cell lines (GHOST CXCR4; GHOST CCR5); the results were confirmed microscopically for syncytium formation and on FACS using FLOWJO software for green fluorescence protein production under the control of HIV tat.

**Results:** Our results suggest that amongst ten HIV-1 drug naïve primary isolates one isolate was CXCR4 tropic, four were CCR5 tropic and five were dual tropic viruses. Of twelve HIV-2 drug naïve primary isolates, eight were CCR5 tropic and four were dual tropic. In case of HIV-1&2 dually infected primary isolates, seven were CXCR4 tropic and six were dual tropic viruses (Fig. 2).

**Conclusion:** During the early stage of HIV infection, the transmitting virus is almost invariably CCR5 tropic. In contrast to these findings our data suggests 50% existence of dual tropism in Indian HIV-1 and HIV-2 infection. Although we report in vitro phenotypic co-receptor tropism for the first time on Indian HIV-1&2 dual infections, it is difficult to attribute our findings to the independent tropism of the two viruses, as it is a preliminary baseline finding that needs further genotypic confirmation.
P5
Characterisation of the role of CIB1 and CIB2 as HIV-1 helper factors
Ana Godinho-Santos1, Allan Hancer1, Joao Goncalves1, Fabrizio Mammano2
1Research Institute for Medicines, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal; 2INSERM, University Paris-Diderot, Paris, France
Correspondence: Fabrizio Mammano
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P5

Questions: Understanding how cellular proteins participate in HIV-1 replication provides insights into the mechanisms of individual steps of retroviral replication, and may identify potential novel antiviral targets. In this study we evaluated the contribution of the calcium- and integrin-binding 2 (CIB2) protein, previously identified by RNAi screening as a potential helper factor, and its homolog, CIB1.

Methods: Jurkat cells and primary CD4+ T-lymphocytes were transduced by lentiviral vectors expressing shRNA targeting either CIB1 or CIB2, resulting in efficient and specific knockdown of expression of these proteins.

Results: HIV-1 replicated with significantly lower efficiency in transduced cells, identifying CIB1 and CIB2 as non-redundant HIV-1 helper factors. By exploring individual steps of virus replication in CIB1- or CIB2-knockdown cells, we determined that CIB1 and CIB2 are required for efficient HIV-1 entry into target cells, both for CCR5- and CXCR4-tropic viruses. Also, both the cell-free and cell-associated entry pathways were affected by CIB proteins depletion. In contrast, knockdown of CIB1 and CIB2 had no impact on the infectivity of HIV-1 virions pseudotyped with the VSV-G envelope in either Jurkat cells or CD4+ T-lymphocytes. We found no evidence that the level of CIB1 and CIB2 expression influenced cell viability, cell proliferation, receptor-independent viral binding to the cell surface, later steps involved in the transport and uncoating of the viral capsid, nuclear import and integration, or the production, export and infectivity of progeny virions. CIB1 and CIB2 knockdown were found to reduce the expression of surface receptors implicated in HIV-1 infection, including CCR5, CXCR4 and integrin a4b7.

Conclusions: In this study we have shown CIB1 and CIB2 knockdown significantly inhibited HIV-1 replication, specifically affecting the viral entry step. CIB1 and CIB2 knockdown reduced the expression of surface receptors implicated in HIV-1 infection, suggesting at least one mechanism through which these proteins may promote viral infection.

P6
Buffering deleterious polymorphisms in the highly constrained C2 region of HIV-1 envelope by the flexible V3 domain
Romain Gasser1, Meriem Hamoudi1, Martina Pelliccotti1, Zhicheng Zhou2, Clara Visedoulep1, Philippe Collin1, Martine Braibant3, Bernard Lagane2, Matteo Negroni1
1Institut de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire, Strasbourg, France; 2Institut Pasteur, Paris, France; 3Université François Rabelais, Tours, France
Correspondence: Matteo Negroni
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P6

Covariation is an essential evolutionary process leading to the coevolution of parts of proteins and genomes. In organisms that are subject to strong selective pressure, coevolution is central to keep the balance between the opposite requirements of antigenic variation and retention of functionality. Being the viral component the most exposed to the environment, the envelope glycoprotein gp120 of HIV-1 constitutes the main target of the immune response raised against this virus. This is also reflected by the fact that its more external portions are characterised by extensive sequence heterogeneity leading to broad antigenic variation. We are interested in the study of coevolution within the HIV-1 envelope through the functional characterisation of chimerical envelopes of primary isolates of HIV-1 group M. We observe that a single polymorphism, present at the level of the viral population in the conserved internal region C2, is sufficient to totally abolish Env functionality when inserted in an exogenous envelope backbone. Two main alterations of the functionality of the envelope are responsible for the loss of functionality: a decrease in the proportion of trimeric forms and a post-CCRS binding defect, likely due to an interference with the subsequent conformational changes that lead to membrane fusion. We also observed that a complete restoration of functionality can be achieved by compensatory polymorphisms introduced at the level of the external and hypervariable region V3. Interestingly, this is accompanied by a change in antigenic profile and in the response to treatment with membrane-fusion inhibitors. Altogether, these results indicate that (1) coevolution between V3 and C2 can control the formation of trimeric spikes on the viral particles, (2) even if two V3 loops bind CCR5 with similar affinity, the subsequent steps required to carry out membrane fusion can have markedly different outcomes, suggesting that the modes of binding can be different. (3) Finally, these results suggest that variable regions, besides harbouring intrinsic extensive antigenic diversity themselves, can also contribute to sequence diversification in more structurally constrained parts of the gp120, further increasing the genetic flexibility of the protein. This research was supported by Sidaction and the ANRS.

P7
Entry inhibition of HERV-K(HML-2) by an Env-IgG fusion protein
Jula Wamara, Norbert Bannert
Robert Koch Institute, Department 1, FG18, Berlin, Germany
Correspondence: Jula Wamara
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P7

The recognition of a cell-surface protein or a group of surface proteins and their specific interaction with the viral envelope protein represent the first stage and one of the key events of the viral infection process. For the human endogenous retrovirus HERV-K(HML-2), the cellular receptor(s) which mediate entry of the virus have not been yet identified.

We have generated a fusion protein comprising a codon-optimized version of the reconstituted envelope glycoprotein of HERV-K113 (OriCoEnvp42) and the Fc-region of the human immunoglobulin protein (h-IgG). This fusion-protein is secreted from transfected cells and can be easily purified. OriCoEnvp42-IgG interferes profoundly with the HERV-K(HML-2) virus/receptor interaction and inhibits virus entry in a concentration-dependent manner. In order to shed light on the receptor binding site of HERV-K(HML-2) Env, we aligned the protein sequence with the Env sequence of the most closely related Betaretrovirus, mouse mammanial tumor virus (MMTV). This allowed the putative HERV-K(HML-2) Env receptor binding site (RBS) to be predicted, based on the MMTV Env RBS. RBS mutants were then generated from a C-terminal truncated HERV-K(HML-2) Env and the OriCoEnvp42. The RBS mutants Env D139A and Env Δ114-153 were expressed at wild-type levels, but in contrast to the reconstituted original Env did not facilitate entry of pseudotyped lentiviruses, indicating a defect in receptor binding. However, mutants derived from the OriCoEnvp42-IgG fusion protein still interfered with the entry of reporter viruses pseudotyped with the reconstituted HERV-K(HML2) Env.

These data suggest the presence of additional, relevant RBS sequences and should help the complete RBS of HERV-K(HML-2) to be characterised. The OriCoEnvp42-IgG fusion protein will be a very useful tool in elucidating the mechanisms of cell-entry by the virus.

Topic 2: Reverse transcription & integration

P8
The R263K/H51Y resistance substitutions in HIV integrase decreases fitness of integrated HIV DNA over time
Thibault Mesplede, Nathan Osman, Kai Linn Anstett, Jiaming Calvin Liang, Hanh Thi Pham, Mark Wainberg
Jewish General Hospital, Lady Davis Institute, McGill AIDS Centre, Montreal, Canada
Correspondence: Mark Wainberg
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P8

Background: HIV DNA that is integrated into cells can persist indefinitely within HIV-positive individuals, even when they are successfully
treated with antiretroviral therapy (ART). This persistence of integrated HIV DNA within reservoirs contributes to an inability to achieve viral eradication.

No patient treated with the integrase inhibitor dolutegravir (DTG) in first-line therapy has ever developed resistance to this drug. Our group showed in culture that DTG can select for a R263K mutation in integrase that confers low-level DTG resistance. Although rare, failure in treatment-experienced, integrase inhibitor-naïve individuals who are treated with DTG is associated with the emergence of the R263K substitution in integrase as well as plasma viral loads that are lower than those observed when treatment failure occurs with ART regimens that do not contain DTG. This is likely due to the fact that R263K confers only low-level resistance against DTG and also decreases both viral replication capacity and viral integrase activity in short-term infectivity assays. We sought to determine the effect of the DTG-specific R263K resistance substitution on integration during long-term infection.

Methods: We measured HIV integration by Alu-mediated QPCR over 5 weeks of infection of Jurkat cells with WT, R263K and H51Y/R263K viruses. Levels of integration were measured every week and expressed relative to integration of the WT virus after week 1. Means ± standard deviations were calculated and Student’s t test was used to evaluate significance of differences.

Results: The R263K substitution impaired HIV integration over time and was associated with a progressive decline in levels of integrated HIV DNA in peripheral blood mononuclear cells. Even further impairments were noted if both the R263K and H51Y substitutions were simultaneously present and this is because H51Y further impairs viral replication and integrase activity at the same time that it only slightly increases levels of drug resistance against DTG.

Conclusions: This raises the possibility that emergence of the R263K/H51Y substitutions in individuals who experience treatment failure with DTG might result in a progressive decline in the size of the viral reservoir. Further studies to study this hypothesis are underway in SIV-infected macaques.

P9
The Retrovirus Integration Database (RID)
Wei Shao1, Jigui Shan1, Mary Kearney1, Xiaolin Wu2, Frank Maldarelli3, John Mellors4, Brian Luke1, John Coffin1, Stephen Hughes5
1Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc, Advanced Biomedical Computing Center, Frederick, MD, United States; 2National Cancer Institute, HIV Dynamics and Replication Program, Frederick, MD, United States; 3Leidos Biomedical Research, Inc, Frederick National Lab for Cancer Research, Frederick, MD, United States; 4University of Pittsburgh, Division of Infectious Disease, Pittsburgh, PA, United States; 5Tuffs University, Boston, MA, United States
Correspondence: Wei Shao
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P9

Retrovirus replication requires that the virus integrate a DNA copy of its genome into the host chromosomal DNA. Although there are numerous published studies that describe the distribution of retrovirus integration sites, there is no large publicly available centralized database that contains the available integration site information. Currently, most of the retrovirus integration site information is found in supplementary materials, which makes retrieving it for meta-analyses difficult. Thus, a comprehensive database that includes information about integration sites is critically needed.

We have built the NCI Retrovirus Integration Database (RID, Fig. 3) to record integration site information for all retroviruses, including HIV-1, HTLV, and MLV. RID is an in-progress MySQL based relational database. Briefly, it has tables to store host, virus and subtypes, sample/patient and tissue and demographics information without (for integration sites in humans) revealing personally identifiable information. Chromosome, integration site, associated genes, exon/intron information, provirus orientation, and the references from which the information was collected are provided on the database. Additionally, we built several tools into the database to facilitate mapping of the integration sites to UCSC genome browser, to plot the integration site patterns on a chromosome (Fig. 4), and to display provirus LTRs in their inserted genome sequence for PCR/probe design. We also created a robust, user friendly website that allows users to query the database and analyze the data dynamically. All the integration sites are mapped to human genome build hg19 for easy comparison between different datasets.

In conclusion, we have created a relational database to store comprehensive retrovirus integration information. This information will facilitate the retrieval and analysis of the published integration datasets. The database is available for public use. For a link, see https://rid.ncifcrf.gov.

P10
The small molecule 3G11 inhibits HIV-1 reverse transcription
Thomas Fricke1,2, Silvana Opp1, Caitlin Shepard1, Dmitri Ivanov2, BaeK Kim1, Jose Valle-Casuso1, Felipe Diaz-Griffero1
1Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Microbiology & Chemistry, San Antonio, TX, United States; 2International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Laboratory of Structural Biology, Warsaw, Poland; 3Eomy University, Department of Pediatrics, Atlanta, GA, United States; 4University of Texas Health Science Center, Department of Biochemistry, San Antonio, TX, United States
Correspondence: Thomas Fricke
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P10

The small molecule 6-(tert-butyl)-4-phenyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)-1H,3H-1,3,5-triazin-2-one (3G11) was discovered as a small molecule that potentially targets capsid and inhibits infection of replication competent HIV-1 on a cell-based screen using the T cell line MT-4. Here we
showed that 3G11 specifically and potently blocks HIV-1 infection. By contrast, 3G11 did not block other related retroviruses such as HIV-2, simian immunodeficiency virus (SIVmac), bovine immunodeficiency virus (BIV), equine infectious anemia virus (EIAV), N-tropic murine leukemia virus (N-MLV), B-tropic murine leukemia virus (B-MLV) and Moloney murine leukemia virus (Mo-MLV). Although NMR experiments revealed that 3G11 binds to the HIV-1 capsid (Fig. 5), functional experiments (fate of the capsid assay and capsid stability assay) suggested that capsid is not the viral determinant for sensitivity to 3G11. Analysis of DNA metabolism by real-time PCR revealed that 3G11 blocks the formation of HIV-1 late reverse transcripts during infection. In agreement, an in vitro primer extension assay revealed that 3G11 blocks the enzymatic activity of HIV-1 reverse transcriptase as strong as nevirapine (Fig. 6) Overall, we described a novel non-nucleoside reverse transcription inhibitor (NNRTI) that blocks HIV-1 infection.

Fig. 4 Pattern plotting result: a One dataset, b comparison of two datasets

Fig. 5 (Left) model of 3G11 bound to HIV-1 capsid. Most affected residues are shown in red and less affected in orange. (Right) model of the 3G11-bound CA hexamer viewed from the interior of the core particle

P11
Dual and opposite regulation of HIV-1 integration by hRAD51: impact on therapeutical approaches using homologous DNA repair modulators
Vincent Parissi1,2
1CNRS, UMR5234 MFP Lab, Bordeaux, France; 2Associated international laboratory (LIA) microbiology and Immunology, CNRS/Université de Bordeaux/Heinrich Pette Institute-Leibnitz Institute for Experimental Virology, Bordeaux/Hamburg, France

Correspondence: Vincent Parissi
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P11

Background: HIV-1 integration is regulated by cellular cofactors acting at early and late steps of the process. The cellular DNA repair recombinase hRAD51 has been shown to interact with HIV-1 integrase and restrict integration both in vitro and in vivo. This finding paved the way for the development of new antiviral strategies based on the stimulation of hRAD51 recombination activity. However, hRAD51 has also been shown to stimulate HIV-1 expression by enhancing LTR transcription. This complicates any therapeutic strategies based on hRAD51 modulation without pre-existing knowledge of the regulatory functions of this recombinase in HIV-1 replication. In order to better determine the role of hRAD51 in virus replication, we here performed biochemical and pharmacological analyses on its regulatory activity during the step of HIV-1 integration.

Results: We show here in in vitro experiments that activation of hRAD51 inhibits the viral integrase. This effect on integrase activity is abolished when the recombinase is inhibited. This indicates that hRAD51-mediated inhibition of integration is closely linked to the promotion of DNA repair and recombination activities of the protein. Interestingly pharmacological cellular analyses demonstrate that cells with high intracellular hRAD51 concentrations or activity prior de novo infection are more resistant to early steps of the integration process whereas when hRAD51 was activated during integration this step was strongly promoted (Fig. 7).

Conclusions: The presented data indicate an unexpected opposite regulatory function of hRAD51 on early and late stages of the integration process. In addition to providing new information about the regulation of HIV-1 integration by hRAD51 our data may form the basis for improved and novel antiviral approaches aiming to modulate intracellular hRAD51 activity or concentrations.
This research was supported by Sidaction.

Improving our understanding of the mechanisms of HIV integration. Establishing the function of these motifs appears now essential for present without affecting IN functionality. This feature allows conciliation of the recognition of the cellular DNA. The other is the remarkable possibility of permutation of the position where the K residues can be present without affecting IN functionality. This feature allows conciliation of the formation of proviral DNA. Viral replication is reduced in cells depleted of either component of Ku and this effect is more pronounced during the early stages of viral replication (Zheng 2011; Manic 2013). However, an exact mechanism by which Ku affects the replication of HIV-1 is unclear. It has been proposed, that the binding of Ku70 to HIV-1 integrase (IN) protects the latter from proteasomal degradation.

We have shown that a stable complex can be formed between recombinant Ku70 and IN with a Kd ~ 70 nM. Using a set of E. coli expressed deletion mutants of both Ku70 and IN and the GST pull-down assay we localized the binding sites within both proteins. The binding of Ku70 with IN relies at least on two sites in the proteins structure. Specifically, the Ku70(1–250) contacts with an α-helix located in the 160–230 IN region. This observation is supported by the fact that IN with alanine substitutions in positions Q209, E212 and L213 shows a weaker binding with Ku70 and does not bind Ku70(1–250) completely (Fig. 8). The data obtained from experiments on recombinant purified proteins were confirmed by expressing C-terminal HA-tagged full-length IN and its various deletion mutants in HEK 293T cells with or without a WT Ku70-3FLAG and truncated variants. The coexpression with Ku70 stabilized IN, while the IN expression in cells that were knocked down of Ku70 was reduced. Also, the overexpression of Ku70 diminishes the association of IN with 20S proteasome as shown by immunoprecipitation of transfected cell lysates.

The work was supported by RFBR grant 14-04-00833.
P14 Normalisation based method for deep sequencing of somatic retroelement integrations in human genome

Alexander Komkov1, Anastasia Minervina1, Gaiaz Nugmanov1, Vadim Nazarov2, Konstantin Khodosevich3, Ilgar Mamedov1, Yun Lebedev1,2

1Shemyakin-Ovchinnikov Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russian Federation; 2National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russian Federation; 3University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Correspondence: Anastasia Minervina

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P14

Retroelements’ (RE) activity is a huge source of genetic innovation in human somatic cells. At the present time somatic RE insertions were found in normal and malignant cells of different origin. Despite of rapid development of high-throughput sequencing technologies all current methods for somatic RE insertions identification still have two major limitations: (1) ability to analyze only small number of cells due to low enrichment of DNA library by target sequences; (2) high rate of false positive results because of ligation and amplification procedures. In this study we developed a new method for identification of rare somatic RE insertions in human genome. Applying of DNA Normalisation procedure with duplex-specific DNAase from Kamchatka Crab provides additional (to PCR or capture enrichment) 20× enrichment for somatic insertions. Fragmentation genomic DNA before amplification by restriction nucleases instead sonication enables accurate filtering of false positive. Introduction of Unique Molecular Identifiers (UMI) in each target molecule before all steps of enrichment enables to unambiguously quantify the number of cells bearing a certain somatic insertion. This method was used for identification of somatic insertions of AluYa5 elements in 25,000 nuclei from NeuN+ (neurons) and NeuN− (glia) fraction from human dentate gyrus. We found 32 highly confident somatic insertions in NeuN+ fraction and 84 somatic insertions in NeuN− fraction. Our results show that somatic insertions of AluYa5 elements occur only in small percent of cells and probably more frequently in glia cells then in neurons. Thus, the developed method could be employed to identify somatic insertions which are present in a small subpopulation of cells (Figs. 9, 10).

The reported study was funded by RFBR according to the research project No. 16-34-01100-mol_a and No. 16-04-00779 and Russian President’s Fellowship No. SP-4059.2016.4.

P15 BCA2/RABRING7 restricts HIV-1 transcription by preventing the nuclear translocation of NF-κB

Marta Colomer-Lluch, Ruth Serra-Moreno

Texas Tech University, Biological Sciences, Lubbock, TX, United States

Correspondence: Ruth Serra-Moreno

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P15

BCA2 (breast cancer-associated gene 2) is an E3 ubiquitin ligase that serves as a co-factor in the restriction imposed by Tetherin on HIV-1. We recently demonstrated that BCA2 also has Tetherin-independent activity. In particular, BCA2 targets HIV-1 Gag for lysosomal degradation, impairing virus assembly. Since many antiviral factors modulate the NF-κB pathway, we sought to explore if BCA2 is harnessing this innate signaling cascade to further limit HIV-1.

Here we show for the first time that BCA2 is induced by NF-κB-activating cytokines and that its up-regulation provides a negative feedback on NF-κB. Mutagenesis analyses indicated that the catalytic domain of BCA2 is critical to suppress NF-κB signaling. Besides being an E3 ubiquitin-ligase, BCA2 may also act as an E3 SUMO-ligase, since it physically interacts with UBC9—an E2 SUMO enzyme. UBC9 mediates the SUMOylation of IkBα, which in turn impairs the nuclear translocation of NF-κB. To explore if BCA2 participates in this process, we assessed IkBα’s post-translational modifications and the subcellular distribution of NF-κB components. Remarkably, the levels of SUMOylated IkBα increased in cells overexpressing BCA2 whereas its phosphorylation levels diminished. Conversely, depletion of UBC9 or BCA2 led to a significant reduction of SUMOylated IkBα and a corresponding increase in its phosphorylation levels. In vitro SUMOylation studies revealed that BCA2 enhances IkBα SUMOylation, demonstrating for the first time that BCA2 serves as a SUMO-ligase in the regulation of the NF-κB pathway. Consistent with this, BCA2 blocked the nuclear translocation of NF-κB.

Since HIV-1 needs NF-κB to enhance its replication, we examined the biological implication of the BCA2-dependent inhibition of this pathway in HIV-1 infectivity. BCA2 reduced the transcriptional activity of HIV-1 by twofold 6 h post-infection and this effect was more pronounced at later time points. In fact, the BCA2-mediated inhibition of NF-κB accounts for 70% of its overall antiviral activity and causes a fivefold defect in virus replication. Thus, our findings demonstrate that BCA2 is an important barrier to HIV-1 by affecting multiple steps of its replication cycle. Not only does BCA2 prevent assembly and release of nascent virions, but also impairs HIV-1 at the transcriptional level (Fig. 11).
P16
MATR3 post-transcriptional regulation of HIV-1 transcription during latency

Ambra Sarracino1, Anna Kula2, Lavina Gharu1, Alexander Pasternak3, Carine Van Lint4, Alessandro Marcello1
1ICGEB, Trieste, Italy; 2Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium; 3University of Amsterdam, CINIMA AMC, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Correspondence: Alessandro Marcello
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P16

Post-transcriptional regulation of HIV-1 replication is finely controlled by viral and host factors. Among the former, Rev controls the export of unspliced viral RNAs from the nucleus and their expression in the cytoplasm or incorporation into new virions. Taking advantage of a novel proteomic approach we previously identified the nuclear matrix protein MATR3 as a Rev co-factor (Kula et al. Retrovirology 2011; Kula et al. Virology 2013). To investigate the functional role of MATR3 in viral replication we depleted or over-expressed MATR3 in Jurkat cells and primary PBLs in the context of HIV infection. We confirmed that MATR3 is a positive regulator of viral replication acting at a post-transcriptional level by affecting nuclear-cytoplasmic translocation of Rev-dependent transcripts. By applying the same approach to J-Lat cells, a well-established model for the study of latency, we observed that MATR3 depletion was not affecting transcriptional reactivation of the integrated provirus upon TNF-alpha stimuli, but was causing a defect in Gag production. Following these observations, we hypothesized that MATR3 could be involved in the establishment of HIV-1 post-integrative latency. Indeed, mechanisms acting at the post-transcriptional level have been greatly overlooked in favour of transcriptional pathways. Experiments in resting PBLs confirmed that MATR3 was almost undetectable in resting PBLs but could be promptly upregulated upon cellular stimulation with PHA. However, drugs such as SAHA or DSF, which are potent transcriptional activators of HIV transcription, were poor inducers of MATR3 providing a rationale for their inability to fully reactivate the virus. These data have been confirmed in cells derived from patients under cART and are being evaluated in a model of latency based on direct infection of resting PBLs.

P17
HIV-1 tat intersects the SUMO pathway to regulate HIV-1 promoter activity

Ann Marie McCartin, Anurag Kulkarni, Valentin Le Douce, Virginie Gautier
University College Dublin, School of Medicine, College of Health and Agricultural Sciences, UCD-Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases, Dublin, Ireland
Correspondence: Ann Marie McCartin
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P17

Introduction: To comprehensively characterise the intricate role of the viral-host interface in HIV-1 gene expression and silencing, we performed a series of system-wide proteomic screenings, which collectively revealed cross-talk between HIV-1 Tat, the key viral regulatory protein and transactivator, and the SUMOylation system. Given that Small Ubiquitin-like Modifier (SUMO) is a reversible covalent post-translational modification (PTM) targeting chromatin-associated factors and regulating epigenetic silencing, we investigated the mechanisms by which HIV-1 Tat could interact with the SUMO pathway to promote HIV-1 gene reactivation.

Results: The HIV-1 promoter is dynamically associated with SUMO. We investigated the SUMO chromatin profile of the integrated HIV-1 Promoter in J-LAT cells using ChIP-qPCR. Under basal conditions, the silenced HIV-1 promoter is enriched in SUMO-1 and SUMO-2/3, while TNF-alpha stimulation or SAHA-mediated de-repression resulted in a decrease of SUMO-1 and SUMO-2/3 from the HIV-1 promoter. SENP3 is a co-factor of Tat-mediated reactivation of the HIV-1 promoter. We previously identified SENP3, a cysteine protease that catalyses SUMO removal, to be part of the Tat nuclear interactome. Here, we describe that SENP3 depletion has no impact on basal HIV-1 gene expression in J-LAT models, while SENP3 knockdown impaired HIV-1 promoter reactivation by up to 40 % in a Tat-dependent context. Tat physically recruits SENP3 to the HIV-1 promoter. Co-immunoprecipitation in the presence and absence of SUMO protease inhibitors suggests that SUMO PTMs enhance the stability of the Tat-SENP3 complex formation. In parallel, ChIP-qPCR revealed that Tat promotes SENP3 association with the HIV-1 promoter, where it can control the level of SUMO2/3 associated with the HIV-1 promoter.

Conclusion: Our findings expand the repertoire of PTMs at the HIV-1 LTR and suggest that HIV gene silencing can be regulated by dynamic SUMOylation at the epigenetic level. In this context, we propose that Tat interacts with the SUMO pathway via interacting and recruiting SENP3 to the HIV-1 promoter, where it can de-SUMOylate chromatin associated factors and support Tat-mediated transactivation of the HIV promoter.

P18
Conservation in HIV-1 Vpr guides tertiary gRNA folding and alternative splicing

Ann Baeyens1, Evelien Naessens1, Anouk Van Nuffel1, Karin Weening1, Anne-Marie Reilly1, Eva Claes1, Wim Tapsresteen2, Linos Vandekeurkhove1, Šven Eckerman1, Kris Gevaert1, Bruno Verhasselt1
1Ghent University, Clinical Chemistry, Microbiology, and Immunology, Gent, Belgium; 2Ghent University and Ghent University Hospital, Internal Medicine, Gent, Belgium; 3VIB Medical Biotechnology Center, Ghent, Belgium
Correspondence: Ann Baeyens
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P18

Vpr is a pleiotropic accessory protein, dispensable for HIV-1 propagation in T cell lines, but important to establish infection of resting cells, like macrophages. Despite this apparent redundancy, Vpr is highly conserved among different isolates. To study Vpr-host protein interactions in a fully replicating virus, we constructed an NL4-3 HA/FLAG-Vpr virus. Surprisingly, viral production and replication were defective, due to aberrant splicing of genomic RNA. This defect was not protein-but RNA-based and sequence dependent, thus proposes that not only protein, but also RNA sequence conservation is imposed on the Vpr encoding region of HIV. Simulation of genomic RNA folding suggests that introduction of the tag sequence induced an alternative folding structure in a region enriched in splice sites and splicing regulatory sequences. To test this, alternative tagging strategies were evaluated in silico and NL4-3 HA/His6-Vpr was selected as a valid alternative. Indeed, in vitro infectivity and mRNA splice pattern improved although did not return to wild-type values. This implies that sequence-specific
modifications may interfere with tertiary mRNA folding to skew the alternative splicing balance. To test if tertiary mRNA folding is conserved in the RNA sequence, we studied NL4-3 Vpr U213C, a silent mutation in all three reading frames. The U213 site is 99% conserved and its mutation affected mRNA folding, mRNA splicing balance and infectivity. In long-term culture, this mutation reversed, which restored infectivity. From these results we conclude that sequence conservation in Vpr preserves tertiary mRNA folding, important to balance viral splicing and replication.

P19
The majority of reactivable latent HIV are genetically distinct
Hoi Ping Mok, Nicholas Norton, Axel Fun, Jack Hirst, Mark Willis, Andrew Lever
University of Cambridge, Department of Medicine, Cambridge, Great Britain
Correspondence: Hoi Ping Mok
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P19

The clonality of latent HIV has been inferred from viral sequences derived from various sources, including proviruses, residual viraemia of patients stable on treatment, and rebound viraemia in patients who have undergone treatment interruption. It has also been deduced from the integration sites of infected cells. It is unclear whether these data accurately reflect reactivable latent viruses. We studied viruses reactivated from latently infected cells. Resting CD4+ T cells isolated from a patient stable on treatment underwent limiting dilution and were subsequently activated with PHA, IL-2 and irradiated PBMC followed by co-culture with SupT1-CCR5 feeder cells for 21 days. The supernatant was harvested for viral RNA. Amplicons were generated from a region in Gag and one in Env and analysed by Sanger sequencing. To control for sequence variations acquired during culture, SupT1-CCR5 cells were infected with NL4-3 and underwent the same limiting dilution, culture, RNA isolation and sequencing. Pairwise comparisons were performed to obtain p-distances. The p-distances obtained from NL4-3 infected SupT1-CCR5 cells were used as references. Each pair of patient derived viral sequences was considered different if the p-distance was higher than that of the corresponding region of the reference sequences.

We obtained 32 sequences of reactivated latent viruses from a single patient. 19 distinct sequences could be distinguished from the Gag region. The remaining 13 sequences segregated into five groups containing up to four sequences. However, when the Env regions of these 13 sequences were analysed, only one ‘clonal’ group of two sequences remained. 30/32 reactivated latent viruses were distinct. If the threshold p-distance for two sequences to be considered distinct was set at the maximal (rather than average) p-distance observed in the reference set, 26/32 of reactivated latent viruses could still be considered distinct. These data suggest that the majority of reactivable latent viruses are genetically distinct. Our data show that the phylogenetic structure of reactivable latent viruses is wholly different from that of residual viraemia, where a single ‘predominant plasma clone’ can account for over 50% of all sequences observed.

P20
Do mutations in the tat splicing enhancer contribute to HIV-1 latency?
Nicholas Norton, Hoi Ping Mok, Jack Hirst, Andrew Lever
University of Cambridge, Department of Medicine, Cambridge, Great Britain
Correspondence: Nicholas Norton
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P20

Latent infection of long-lived memory CD4+ T cells is a major barrier to the eradication of HIV-1. Reactivation of these transcriptionally silent proviruses is the basis of therapeutic approaches aimed at cure, but despite maximal activation a significant proportion of viruses are not reactivated from latency (Ho et al. 2013). We examined published sequences from non-induced proviruses found in patient samples. All sequences contained mutations in a recently described exonic splice enhancer (ESE) involved in the regulation of tat mRNA splicing (Erkelenz et al. 2015). By comparison with over 2000 subtype B sequences deposited in the Los Alamos database we identified mutations that are highly enriched in the latent sequences. We hypothesised that mutations in this region could result in inefficient splicing of tat mRNA preventing the establishment of the Tat-TAR feedback loop and leading to silencing.

One of the mutations corresponding to a G to A mutation at position 5817 in HXB2 was found in 11/18 (60%) of the latent sequences but only 10% of subtype B sequences. To investigate this further, we cloned this and other mutations affecting splicing into the HIV proviral clone NL4-3 and an NL4-3 based vector expressing GFP in env, and examined the replicative capacity of the mutant viruses compared to wild type. We also studied the effect of these mutations on viral RNA splicing patterns and the dynamics of viral gene expression in a primary cell model of latency. Results of our studies will be presented.

References

P21
Culture-to-Ct: A fast and direct RT-qPCR HIV gene reactivation screening method using primary T cell culture
Valentin Le Douce, Ann Marie McCarron, Virginie Gautier
University College Dublin, School of Medicine, College of Health and Agricultural Science, Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases, Dublin, Ireland
Correspondence: Valentin Le Douce
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P21

Background: To accelerate HIV cure research and the identification of new Latency Reversing Agents (LRAs), we need to develop new tools with high-screening capacity. Here we report a new specific and highly sensitive RT-qPCR method to measure variation in HIV gene expression directly from a mixture of latently infected primary T cells and supernatant bypassing the need of cumbersome cell isolation, and RNA extraction and purification steps.

Specificity and versatility: Our method is based on a one-step RT-qPCR followed by a Taqman probe qPCR (RT-qPCR/ΔCt) strategy targeting either regions flanking Tat intron or the 3′ polyadenylated LTR of the viral RNA genome. Our assay was optimal to accurately measure changes in the production of total polyadenylated and/or multiply-spliced viral RNAs with high specificity and reproducibility.

Medium/high-throughput format: Primary T cell model of HIV-1 latency adapted from the Planelles Model were cultured in a 96-well-plate format with 100,000 cells per well and treated with LRAs or activators. With this layout we successfully achieved quantification of HIV-1 RNAs directly from 10 µl (10,000 cells) of unprocessed mixture cell/supernatants or cell free supernatant with PCR efficiency steadily and strictly above 1.8.

Sensitivity: The sensitivity of our assay can be adjusted to low proviral load by increasing the number of PCR cycles during the first RT-PCR step. We successfully detected LRA-mediated reactivation of HIV gene expression with as little as 1% of HIV infected cells.

Our assay facilitates medium/high throughput LRA screening in a 96-well plate format, using as little as 10,000 primary T cells latently infected with HIV per point, and bypassing costly and laborious RNA extraction/purification while capitalising on the fast, sensitive and reproducible RT-qPCR/qPCR quantification system.
P22
A novel approach to define populations of early silenced proviruses
Dalibor Miklik, Filip Senígíl, Jiri Hejnar
Institute of Molecular Genetics of the ASCR, Laboratory of Viral and Cellular Genetics, Prague, Czech Republic
Correspondence: Dalibor Miklik
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P22

Background: Integration of retroviral genome into the host DNA is a key step of retroviral replication cycle ensuring efficient expression of retroviral genes. Provi...
Co-precipitation could be blocked by peptides mimicking the predicted EVH1 binding motif in p8, but not by a control peptide, which covers also a proline-rich sequence stretch, but which was not predicted as an EVH1-binding motif. Mutational studies revealed that the EVH1-domain of VASP is necessary, but not sufficient for the interaction with p8. Beyond, deletion of the G- and F-actin binding domains within VASP significantly diminished co-precipitation of p8. Immunofluorescence analysis identified areas of partial co-localization of VASP with p8 at the plasma membrane and in protrusive structures between T-cells. Co-culture experiments revealed that p8 is transferred between Jurkat T-cells via VASP-containing conduits. Repression of both endogenous and overexpressed VASP by small hairpin RNAs strongly reduced p8 transfer. Taken together, we identified VASP as a novel interaction partner of p8, which is important for transfer of p8 to target cells and could thus contribute to the formation of cellular conduits to promote HTLV-1 transmission.

P26

COL4A1 and COL4A2 are novel HTLV-1 tax targets with a putative role in virus transmission
Christine Gross1, Sebastian Millen1, Melanie Mann1,2, Klaus Uberla1, Andrea K. Thoma-Kress1
1Institute of Clinical and Molecular Virology, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany; 2The Francis Crick Institute, London, Great Britain
Correspondence: Sebastian Millen
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):P26

Human T-cell leukemia virus type 1 (HTLV-1) infects CD4+ T-cells preferentially via cell-to-cell transmission requiring reorganization of the cytoskeleton as well as expression of the viral key-player and oncprotein Tax. Collagens are not only part of the basal membrane but also represent an important component of the viral biofilm, which depicts a fundamental route of transmission. Thus, we asked, (1) if and what type of collagens are expressed in HTLV-1-infected T-cells and (2) whether these collagens are (up)regulated by Tax. Making use of microarrays, RT-PCR, qPCR, western Blot, luciferase assays and immunofluorescence analysis, we found that Col4a1 (COL4A1) and Col4a2 (COL4A2) are the only collagens to be upregulated in the presence of Tax in three independent systems. Being transcribed from a shared and common bidirectional promoter, COL4A1 and COL4A2 are translated into individual α-chains that finally assemble to heterotrimers (α1α1α2), underlying several posttranslational modification steps. Both COL4A1 and COL4A2 transcripts and Collagen4 protein (COL4) can be shown to be upregulated in HTLV-1-positive T-cell lines. However, COL4 protein was only detectable in HTLV-1-infected cell lines that produce virions, suggesting that COL4 either contributes to viral transmission or plays its major role upon cellular transformation. Mechanistically, we found that Tax induces COL4A1 and COL4A2: (1) Repression of Tax in a Tax-transformed T-cell line led to a significant reduction of COL4A1/A2. (2) Overexpression of Tax in Jurkat T-cells led to an induction of COL4A1/A2. This finding was further supported by luciferase-based promoter studies indicating that Tax activates the COL4A1 and, to a less extent, the COL4A2 promoter. (3) COL4A1/A2 increased in a time-dependent manner in a Tax-inducible T-cell line. Results obtained from Tax-mutants suggest that both Tax-induced CREB and NF-kB signaling are crucial for Tax-mediated transcriptional induction of COL4A1/A2. Though, merely the NF-kB pathway seems to play a predominant role in stabilizing and maintaining Tax protein itself whereas CREB-signaling appears to be dispensable. Taken together, we identified COL4A1 and COL4A2 as novel cellular targets of Tax, potentially leading to an improved understanding of HTLV-1 transmission.

P27

The C terminus of foamy virus gag protein is required for particle formation, and virus budding: starting assembly at the C terminus?
Guochao Wei1, Matthew J. Betts2, Yang Liu1, Timo Kehl1,2, Robert B. Russell2, Martin Löchelt1
1DKFZ, F020, Heidelberg, Germany; 2University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany
Correspondence: Martin Löchelt
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):P27

Particle formation and budding from infected cells are fundamentally different in foamy viruses (FVs) compared to the orthoretroviruses. Unlike in other retrovirus, Env is required to interact with the Gag N terminus for particle release and Gag in capsids assembled at the microtubule organizing center (MTOC) and in released particles is not cleaved in the canonical MA, CA and NC proteins. While Primate Foamy Virus (PFV) Gag has been characterized with respect to particle formation, genome packaging and budding, central and C-terminal sequences of non-primate FV Gag are less characterised and their contribution to capsid formation and release has so far not been analysed. We have recently shown that the feline FV (FFV) Gag N terminus is required for MTOC targeting, capsid assembly, RNA and Pol packaging and subsequent Gag processing at a C-terminal site. To study the importance of the Gag C-terminus for assembly and budding, C-terminally truncated FFV Gag variants were analysed. With the exception of a 7.5 kDa C-terminal domain, most of Gag is necessary for capsid assembly and Env-dependent particle release. Sucrose gradient analyses of cytosolic extracts of HEK293T cells transfected with wt and truncated Gag constructs allowed identification of different assembly and maturation intermediates like soluble Gag, capsomeres and capsids.

The interactors of the highly conserved FV Gag motif PQQRYG was essential for capsid assembly in truncated Gag expression constructs while amino acid replacement mutagenesis of PQ and RYG of this motif plus conserved upstream Y and R residues in the FFV provirus showed wt capsid formation and budding but strongly reduced particle infectivity. We assume that gross deletions in the C-terminal nucleic-binding domain of Gag interfere with unspecific RNA binding required for capsid formation which is in other retroviruses orchestrated by membrane targeting of Gag. In contrast, the more subtle changes in the Gag PQQRYG motif and the adjacent chromatin binding site may for instance interfere only with genome encapsidation, reverse transcription and/or integration. Studies are underway to identify and characterise the underlying mechanisms.

P28

Generation of an antigen-capture ELISA and analysis of Rec and Staufen-1 effects on HERV-K(HML-2) virus particle production
Oliver Hohn, Saeed Mostafa, Kirsten Hanke, Stephen Norley, Norbert Bannert
Robert Koch Institute, FG18 HIV and other Retroviruses, Berlin, Germany
Correspondence: Oliver Hohn
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):P28

Question: The youngest family of human endogenous retroviruses, HERV-K(HML-2), is biologically active and is able to produce viral particles, at least under certain circumstances such as malignant diseases. Using a reconstituted HERV-K(HML-2) sequence (oriHERV-K113), we recently showed that human Staufen-1 protein is an interaction partner of the accessory Rec protein. Similar to the situation for HIV-1 Rev, the action of HERV-K(HML-2) Rec, together with host cell factors, is essential for virus particle production.

Methods: The capsid protein (p27-CA) domain of the oriHERV-K113 gag sequence was expressed in E.coli and used to immunize rabbits. A monoclonal antibody to HERV-K113 Gag (Boiler et al. 2008) was used as the basis for a HERV-K(HML-2) p27-CA antigen-capture ELISA (AC-ELISA). HEK 293T cells were transfected with molecular clones of various exogenous retroviruses and of oriHERV-K113 and virus lysates analysed using the p27-CA AC-ELISA. Mutations preventing Rec splicing were introduced into the full length molecular clone of oriHERV-K113.Gag by site-directed mutagenesis to generate oriHERV-K113Drec.

Results: The new AC-ELISA was shown to be sensitive and specific for the p27-CA of HERV-K(HML-2). Deletion of Rec resulted in drastically impaired virus production that could be restored by providing Rec in trans. Moreover, addition of Staufen-1 (a previously identified cellular interaction partner of Rec) together with Rec in trans resulted in even higher virus levels by oriHERV-K113Drec than those with
oriHERV-K113 alone. Whereas co-transfection with a full-length HIV-1 molecular clone had no significant influence on oriHERV-K113 particle production, HIV-1 Rev alone in trans could rescue particle expression by oriHERV-K113.Trec.

Conclusions: The HERV-K(HML-2) p27-CA AC-ELISA is a useful tool for monitoring virus production in vitro. Deletion of Rec significantly inhibits viral particle production but this can be overcome by Rec and also by HIV-1 Rev in trans. However, there is also evidence for an additional, Rec-independent mechanism of HERV-K(HML-2) enhancement by Staufen-1.

Reference

P29
Antagonism of BST-2/tetherin is a conserved function of primary HIV-2 Env glycoproteins
Chia-Yen Chen1, Masashi Shingai1, Pedro Borrego2, Nuno Taveira3, Klaus Strebel1
1NIH, NAID, Bethesda, Great Britain; 2University of Lisbon, Faculty of Pharmacy, Lisbon, Portugal
Correspondence: Klaus Strebel
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P29

Although HIV-2 does not encode a vpu gene, the ability to antagonize BST-2 is conserved in some HIV-2 isolates where it is controlled by the Env glycoprotein. We previously reported that a single amino acid difference between the lab-adapted ROD10 and ROD14 EnvS controlled the Vpu-like activity. In this study we investigated how conserved the Vpu-like activity is in primary HIV-2 isolates. We found that almost half of the 35 tested primary HIV-2 Env isolates obtained from 8 different patients exhibited Vpu-like activity. Interestingly, each HIV-2 patient harbored a mixed population of viruses with or without Vpu-like activity. Vpu-like activity and envelope function varied significantly among Env isolates. However, there was no direct correlation between these two Env functions suggesting they evolve independently. In comparing the Env sequences from one HIV-2 patient we found that similar to the ROD10/ROD14 Envs a single amino acid change (T568I) in the 52 aa p6, in addition to the canonical membrane targeting signals in matrix, governs interaction of Gag with the cytoplasmic face of the plasma membrane. Mutation of the highly conserved Ser-40 to Phe (S40F) in p6, a mutation frequently occurring in patients with treatment failure, disturbs CA-SP1 processing, reduces infectivity and replication capacity, while virus release remains unaffected. Others found that S40F causes formation of filopodia-like structures enabling cell to cell transmission of the virus.

P30
Mutations in the packaging signal region of the HIV-1 genome cause a late domain mutant phenotype
Chris Hellmund, Bo Meng, Andrew Lever
University of Cambridge, Department of Medicine, Cambridge, Great Britain
Correspondence: Chris Hellmund
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P30

During and after budding of the HIV-1 virion, the structural polyprotein Gag undergoes cleavage by the viral protease in a precisely coordinated manner, leading to structural maturation of the virus core, enabling the particle to become infectious. Mutation of an RNA stem-loop (SL1) in the 5’ untranslated region of the virus genome, which is involved in genome dimerization and packaging, causes a delay in the final step of Gag proteolytic processing, preventing correct particle maturation and severely reducing infectivity. To investigate whether dimerization is a requirement for correct Gag processing, as it appears to be in HIV-2, we analysed Gag processing in three SL1 mutants with minimal to severe dimerization defects, and found no correlation between the phenotypes. We found that mutation of a neighbouring structure (SL3), which is the key determinant of genome packaging, also exerts a delay in Gag processing, suggesting that proper Gag processing is dependent on efficient packaging rather than genome dimerization. Impaired Gag processing is also a characteristic phenotype of late domain mutants, where deletions of conserved motifs in the p6 domain of Gag disrupt interactions with members of the host ESCRT machinery (TSG101 and ALIX) which are hijacked by the virus for budding. We observed that both SL1 and SL3 mutations cause budding defects, suggesting that genomic RNA packaging and virus budding are linked. It has been demonstrated that ALIX can bind to the nucleocapsid domain of Gag in an RNA-dependent manner. Using an assay where ALIX is overexpressed to rescue inefficient budding of a late domain mutant, we found that introduction of an SL1 mutation alongside the late domain mutation reduces the ability of ALIX to rescue the budding defect. These data are consistent with a model whereby genomic RNA packaging is important for efficient maturation and budding of virus particles.

P31
p6 regulates membrane association of HIV-1 gag
Melanie Friedrich1, Friedrich Hahn1, Christian Setz1, Pia Rauch1, Kirsten Fraedrich1, Alina Matthaei1, Petra Henklein2, Maximilian Traxdorf3, Torgils Fossen4, Ulrich Schubert1
1Institute of Virology, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany; 2Institute of Biochemistry, Charité Medical University Berlin, Berlin, Germany; 3Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany; 4Department of Chemistry and Center for Pharmacy, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway
Correspondence: Melanie Friedrich
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P31

As the C-terminal part of the Pr55 Gag polyprotein, the HIV-1 p6 protein regulates the final abscission step of nascent virions from the cell surface by the action of its two late (L)-domains which recruit Tsg101 and ALIX, components of the endosomal sorting complex required for transport (ESCRT). Besides its essential role in virus budding there is increasing evidence that the 52 aa p6, in addition to the canonical membrane targeting signals in matrix, governs interaction of Gag with the cytoplasmic face of the plasma membrane. Mutation of the highly conserved Ser-40 to Phe (S40F) in p6, a mutation frequently occurring in patients with treatment failure, disturbs CA-SP1 processing, reduces infectivity and replication capacity, while virus release remains unaffected. Others found that S40F causes formation of filopodia-like structures enabling cell to cell transmission of the virus.

Furthermore, S40F-mutation augments K48-linked polyubiquitination of Gag, its entry into the ubiquitin proteasome system (UPS) and into the MHC-I antigen pathway. Phe-40, together with Tyr-36, causes formation of a hydrophobic patch within the C-terminal α-helix of p6, providing a molecular rationale for the enhanced membrane association of S40F Gag, as shown by membrane flotation assays, NMR spectroscopy, and surface plasmon resonance studies. Furthermore, we found that mutation of the 7 highly conserved glutamic acids within p6 to alanine (E0A), causes defective virus budding and, like the S40F mutant, leads to an enhanced polyubiquitination and subsequent entry of Gag into the UPS corresponding to an increased MHC-I antigen presentation of Gag derived epitopes. In addition, like for the S40F mutant, the CA-SP1 processing of the E0A mutant is impaired, also resulting in loss of infectivity and impaired virus replication. The cumulative data support a model in which p6, either by hydrophobic (S40F) or electrostatic (E0A) interactions with the plasma membrane, acts, in addition to matrix, as a membrane targeting domain of Gag. The extended exposure to a membrane-resident E3-ligase complex, comprising, among others, CDC48 and Cul7, might augment the polyubiquitination, entry into the UPS, and thus the immunogenicity of Gag. However, the localization and biological function of p6 after maturation of Gag still remains enigmatic.
Random mutations, which may afford virus evasion of intrinsic host and therapeutically administered opposition, rarely provide direct survival adaptations and more often have deleterious effects by directly perturbing interfaces central to intrinsic protein folding or extrinsic interactions essential for crafting viral protein assemblies. Mutant proteins may regain functional stability and folding by employing either, or both, an intrinsic mechanism, through the accumulation of coevolved mutations that induce compensatory conformational changes, or by an extrinsic mode via the interaction with molecular chaperoning proteins promoting the acquisition of the functional folded state. Cross-family differences and interspecies subtleties can aid highlighting resistance-mechanisms accessible by mutational adaptation of challenged viruses. Exploring how related viruses coevolved in their natural environment can, therefore, highlight crucially conserved patterns and uncover conceivable latent escape routes potentially accessible to emergent viral strains. We determined the structure of capsid from feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and revealed that the functional structure is preserved through spatial correlations of coevolved substitutions, which when otherwise uncoupled and individually substituted into HIV-1 capsid impairs virus infectivity. This example illustrates an intrinsic mechanism during viral adaptation. The extrinsic mechanism of protein adaptation will be illustrated by discussing the structural and molecular basis of lentiviral Vif flexibility in exploiting various chaperoning cofactors during evasion of APOBEC3 cellular-restriction.

The ability to circumvent deleterious effects of mutations affords viruses an important survival advantage by exploiting alternative, but functionally equivalent, patterns when the default ones are blocked.

P32
HIV-1 enhancement and neutralisation by soluble gp120 and its role for the selection of the R5-tropic “best fit”

Birco Schwalbe, Heiko Hauser, Michael Schreiber
Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Virology, Hamburg, Germany.

Correspondence: Michael Schreiber
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):P33

Question: HIV-1 entry into cells is linked to the ability of gp120 to use at least one of the coreceptors CCR5 (R5) or CXCR4 (X4). However, a mixed viral quasispecies is present in natural infection competing for permissive cells. During progression of the disease the shift from R5-to-X4 is explained by selectivity of cell reservoirs and selective immune responses but the direct impact of a single virus on the suppression or enhancement of other X4- or R5-viruses is not completely elucidated. Cells, productively infected by HIV-1 release viral particles as well as the gp120 envelope into body fluids. Thus, soluble gp120 (sgp120) will compete for receptor binding with other virus variants. Methods: To study viral infection in the presence of soluble gp120 (sgp120) we have constructed pairs of R5- and X4-tropic viruses with high and low infectivity and the corresponding sgp120. We preferentially mutated N-glycosylation sites in and around the gp120 V3 loop and introduced arginine residues close to the N-glycosylation site present in the V3 loop (Fig. 12). Results: For X4-tropic virus, mutated N-glycosylation sites in gp120 and surrounding the g15 glycan R5-topic viruses (sub-type B) neutralized viruses by sgp120 with the same coreceptor tropism. Here, viruses of a higher efficiency were able to enhance their X4-tropic rivals. Another support of infection was observed for R5-tropic infection in the presence of sgp120 derived from X4-virus. R5-tropic infection was strongly enhanced by X4-sgp120. This cross-enhancement was linked to the presence of heparan sulphate proteoglycans (HSPG) on the surface of CCR5 target cells. Effects of R5-virus enhancement and suppression were studied for HIV-1 subtype B, A and C envelopes in the background of the NL4-3 laboratory strain. We demonstrated that the N-glycan g15 within the V3 loop plays a role in selection of X4- and R5-tropic viruses and arginine amino acids surrounding the g15 N-glycosylation site.

Conclusion: We propose, that soluble X4- and R5-gp120 is supporting the R5-tropic viral “best fit”.

P34
An insertion of seven amino acids in the Env cytoplasmic tail of Human Immunodeficiency Virus type 2 (HIV-2) selected during disease progression enhances viral replication

François Dufrasne, Mara Luchetti, Patrick Goubau, Jean Ruelle
Université catholique de Louvain, AIDS Reference Laboratory, ARL, Bruxelles, Belgium

Correspondence: François Dufrasne
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P34

Question: The cytoplasmic tail (CT) of the transmembrane envelope glycoprotein (gpTM) of HIV-2 includes amino acids (aa) sequences similar to lentiviral lytic peptides (LLP) described in other lentiviruses [1, 2]. Within the putative LLP-2 region, we previously observed insertions of 3 or 7 aa in sequences deduced from plasma viral RNA of symptomatic HIV-2 infected individuals [3]. Based on these observations, we reproduced the insertions in a molecular clone to assess their impact on replicative fitness and cell death. Methods: Using a molecular clone of the HIV-2 ROD reference strain, site-directed mutagenesis experiments allowed the generation of plasmids with the insertion I3 or I7 in FRSLQRA in Env. After transformation in HEK293T cells, the resulting viral particles were used to infect H9 cells. Viral release was quantified by RT-qPCR at three and six days post-infection. Cell viability was assessed with the percentage of living cells using a CASY cell counter.
Results: Compared to the control wild-type ROD virus, the clone with a 7 aa insertion in the LLP-2 region (M1) enhanced viral release ten times (Fig. 13). Cell viability was 20% more impaired compared to the wild type (Fig. 14). The effect of the 3 aa insertion (M2) was milder, with a non-significant trend to enhance viral release and cell death compared to the wild-type.

Conclusions: A 7 aa insertion including positively charged aa in the putative LLP-2 enhances viral replication and cell death in vitro. The insertions in the Env CT observed in vivo in samples from disease progressors may therefore be involved in the higher viral load observed in these individuals. Further investigations are needed to assess the effect of the lytic peptide on cell death. This study may open the way to the development of laboratory diagnostic tools related to disease progression.

References
3. Bakouche N, Vandenbroucke AT, Goubau P, Ruelle J. Study of the HIV-2 and apoptosis and predicts the CD4+ T-cell count at 12 weeks ART correlates with markers of immune activation and apoptosis and contributing to poor immunological response to ART.

P36
Faster progression in non-B subtype HIV-1-infected patients
Young-Keol Cho, Jungeun Kim, Daene Jeong
University of Ulsan College of Med., Microbiology, Seoul, South Korea
Correspondence: Young-Keol Cho
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P36

Question: HIV-1 infections by subtype B account for about 12 % of infections worldwide. Evidence is rapidly accumulating that there is a significant difference in natural progression and response to HAART among subtypes. Gross deletion in the HIV nef gene (gΔnef) is associated with slow progression in subtype B-infected patients (B). To date, there is no such data in patients infected with non-B subtypes (non-B).

Methods: To investigate whether there is a difference in natural progression, response to Korean red ginseng (KRG), and proportion of gΔnef among subtypes. Gross deletion (gΔnef) among subtypes. Gross deletion in the HIV nef gene (gΔnef) is associated with slow progression in subtype B-infected patients (B). To date, there is no such data in patients infected with non-B subtypes (non-B).

Results: Monthly decrease of CD4 was significantly faster in non-B (9.4 ± 14.8 µL) than 4.1–4.2/µL in B and KSB-infected patients (P < 0.001). Overall proportion of gΔnef was 4.4, 7.9, and 12.2 % in non-B, subtype B, and KSB, respectively (P < 0.01). One-hundred and sixty-three patients were treated with KRG (3797 ± 4901 g) over 85 ± 63 months and their monthly decrease of CD4 was significantly slower (4 ± 6/µL) than 10 ± 17/µL in 82 KRG-naïve patients (P < 0.001). KRG treatment significantly slowed decrease of CD4 in non-B and KSB patients and significantly increased proportion of gΔnef from 2.1 and 3.7 % at baseline to 12.6 and 17.1 % after

Fig. 15 There were significant differences in monthly decrease of CD4, proportion of gΔnef, and rate of variation among 3 subtypes
12 months in subtype B and KSB patients, respectively (P < 0.001). In contrast, KRG treatment did not affect the gΔnef in non-B. However, the proportion of sequences with premature stop codon was similar among 3 subtypes (0.5–2.0 %). Sequence identity over 6 years was significantly higher in KSB (97.8 ± 1.1 %) than subtype B (96.1 ± 1.6 %) (P < 0.01) and non-B (96.8 ± 1.5 %) (P < 0.01). The sequence identity 97.8 ± 1.1 % was also higher than 96.4 ± 2.0 % in KSB control (P < 0.01). Taken collectively, 23 long-term slow progressors (LTSPs) was detected in KRG treated patients only (P < 0.01) and its proportion was higher in KSB patients than in non-B patients (P < 0.01).

Conclusions: Decrease of CD4 and proportion of gΔnef are affected by subtypes and KRG treatment. Faster decrease of CD4 in non-B patients than in KSB patients is supported by significantly lower gΔnef and higher variation in non-B than KSB.

P37 Aberrant expression of ERVWE1 endogenous retrovirus and overexpression of TET dioxygenases are characteristic features of seminoma
Katerina Trejbalova1, Martina Benesova1, Dana Kucerova1, Zdenka Vernerova2, Rachel Amouroux3, Petra Hajkova3, Jiri Hejnar1
1Institute of Molecular Genetics, Dpt. of Viral and Cellular Genetics, Prague 4, Czech Republic; 2Third Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague, Department of Pathology, Prague, Czech Republic; 3Medical Research Council Clinical Sciences Centre, Imperial College London, London, Great Britain
Correspondence: Katerina Trejbalova
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):P37

Background: Germ cell tumors and particularly seminomas reflect the epigenomic features of their parental primordial germ cells, including the genomic DNA hypomethylation and expression of pluripotent cell markers. Because the DNA hypomethylation might be a result of TET dioxygenase activity, we examined expression of TET1–3 enzymes and the level of their product, 5-hydroxymethylcytosine, in a panel of histologically characterised seminomas and non-seminomatous germ cell tumors. Simultaneously, we analysed the expression of ERVWE1 endogenous retrovirus whose spliced form codes for envelope glycoprotein called Syncytin-1. Syncytin-1 has fusogenic ability and its expression is restricted to placenta under physiologic conditions.

Results: We found highly increased expression of TET1 dioxygenase in most seminomas and a strong TET1 staining in seminoma cells. Isocitrate dehydrogenase 1 and 2 mutations were not detected suggesting the enzymatic activity of TET1. The levels of 5-methylcytosine and 5-hydroxymethylcytosine in seminomas were found decreased in comparison to non-seminomatous germ cell tumors and healthy testicular tissue. Seminomas further displayed significant increase in both spliced and non-spliced forms of ERVWE1 in comparison to healthy controls. Importantly, the promoter of ERVWE1 in seminomas contained low levels of DNA methylation.

Conclusions: We propose TET1 expression as a marker of seminoma and mixed germ cell tumor. Furthermore, the endogenous retrovirus ERVWE1 was consistently overexpressed in seminomas. In contrast to the CpG island methylator phenotype observed in a fraction of tumors of various types, we suggest the anti-methylator phenotype in seminomas is maintained by TET1 demethylation activity.

P38 Life history of the oldest lentivirus: characterisation of ELGV integrations and the TRIM5 selection pattern in dermoptera
Daniel Elleder1, Tomas Hron1, Helena Farkasova1, Abinash Padhi2, Jan Pacs1
1Institute of Molecular Genetics, Prague, Czech Republic; 2University of Maryland, Department of Animal and Avian Sciences, College Park, MA, United States
Correspondence: Daniel Elleder
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):P38

Endogenous retroviruses are genomic elements formed by germline infiltration by originally exogenous viruses. These molecular fossils provide valuable information about the evolution of the retroviral family. Lentiviruses are an extensively studied genus of retroviruses infecting a broad range of mammals. Despite a wealth of information on their modern evolution, little is known about their origins. This is partially due to the scarcity of their endogenous forms. Recently, an endogenous lentivirus, ELGVy, was discovered in the genome of the Malayang colugo (order Dermoptera). This represents the oldest lentiviral evidence available and promises to lead to further insights into the history of this genus.

In this study, we analysed ELGVy integrations at several genomic locations in four distinct colugo specimens covering all the extant dermopteran species. We confirmed ELGVy integrations in all the specimens examined, which implies that the virus originated before the dermopteran diversification. Using a locus-specific dermopteran substitution rate, we estimated that the proviral integrations occurred 21–40 million years ago. Using phylogenetic analysis, we estimated that ELGVy invaded an ancestor of today's Dermoptera more than 60 million years ago. We also provide evidence of selective pressure on the TRIMs antiviral restriction factor, something usually taken as indirect evidence of past retroviral infection. Interestingly, we show that TRIMs was under strong positive selection only in the common dermopteran ancestor and that this period could coincide with ELGVy activity. In summary, we describe the evolutionary history of the oldest known lentiviral lineage and propose its coevolution with the TRIMs host restriction factor.

P39 Characterisation of a highly divergent endogenous retrovirus in the equine germ line
Henan Zhu, Robert Gifford, Pablo Murcia
MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research, Glasgow, Great Britain
Correspondence: Henan Zhu
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):P39

The general profile of endogenous retroviruses (ERVs) in the domestic horse (Equus cabalus) genome has been described, but a thorough characterisation is lacking. We used an in silico approach based on data mining and phylogenetic analysis to profile equine ERVs in depth. We identified a total of 1384 ERV loci in the horse genome that disclosed a robust phylogenetic relationship to retroviral reverse transcriptase (RT) genes. Through phylogenetic and genomic analyses of these loci we derived an overview of equine ERV diversity. We inferred that there are at least 8 distinct, major lineages of ERVs in the equine germ line, and recovered consensus proviral genome structures for each of these ERVs. One highly divergent ERV lineage, which we provisionally refer to as 'EqERV-u1', was observed to be unique to the family Equidae. We show that EqERV-u1 is intermediate to Alpha- and Betaretroviruses in phylogenetic trees, and identify 46 distinct EqERV-u1 proviruses, including 17 with intact genomes. Interestingly, we observed two distinct genome structures among intact EqERV-u1 copies: a classical (type I) structure in which a dUTPase gene is located between the pro and pol coding domains, and a type II structure—unique to EqERV-u1—in which a dUTPase gene occurs upstream of gag. We dated the activity of the EqERV-u1 lineage over time using a molecular clock-based approach, revealing that it has been active relatively recently (i.e. within the past 1–5 million years), even though it may have entered the equid germ line >18 million years ago. Analysis of published E. cabalus transcriptome data revealed that one EqERV-u1 provirus on chromosome 29 is actively transcribed in a tissue-specific manner. This provirus exhibits the unusual type II genome structure.

P40 The emergence of pandemic retroviral infection in small ruminants
Maria Luisa Carrozzo 1, Anna-Maria Niewiadomska 2, Maurizio Mazzei 3, Mounir Abi-Said 4, Joseph Hughes 5, Stéphane Hué 6, Robert Gifford 7
1Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy; 2Aramon Diamond AIDS Research Center, New York City, NY, United States; 3Università di Pisa, Pisa, Italy; 4Lebanese University, Al Fanar, Lebanon; 5MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virology, Glasgow, Great Britain; 6London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, Great Britain
Correspondence: Robert Gifford
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):P40

Recently, an endogenous lentivirus, ELGVy, was discovered in the genome of the Malayang colugo (order Dermoptera). This represents the oldest lentiviral evidence available and promises to lead to further insights into the history of this genus. In this study, we analysed ELGVy integrations at several genomic locations in four distinct colugo specimens covering all the extant dermopteran species. We confirmed ELGVy integrations in all the specimens examined, which implies that the virus originated before the dermopteran diversification. Using a locus-specific dermopteran substitution rate, we estimated that the proviral integrations occurred 21–40 million years ago. Using phylogenetic analysis, we estimated that ELGVy invaded an ancestor of today's Dermoptera more than 60 million years ago. We also provide evidence of selective pressure on the TRIMs antiviral restriction factor, something usually taken as indirect evidence of past retroviral infection. Interestingly, we show that TRIMs was under strong positive selection only in the common dermopteran ancestor and that this period could coincide with ELGVy activity. In summary, we describe the evolutionary history of the oldest known lentiviral lineage and propose its coevolution with the TRIMs host restriction factor.
During the 20th century a confluence of socio-epidemiological factors combined to facilitate the emergence of retroviral pathogens in humans. However, the influence of anthropogenic factors on the emergence of retroviral infections in non-human species has not been evaluated to the same extent. Small ruminant lentiviruses (SRLVs) cause chronic, persistent infections in populations of domestic sheep (Ovis aries) and goats (Capra hircus) throughout the world. Here, we trace the origins and history the SRLV pandemic. To investigate the ancient history of SRLVs, we performed a serology and DNA sequencing-based investigation of SRLVs diversity in the Fertile Crescent region, where domestication of sheep and goats is thought to have occurred originally. Screening of 886 sheep and goats in Jordan and Lebanon revealed a relatively high prevalence of infection (~21%) and an elevated level of viral genetic diversity compared to other regions of the world. Furthermore, using sequences obtained via this screen, we show that currently circulating SRLV genotypes reveal evidence of ancient, inter-genotype recombination. These data support the hypothesis that SRLVs disseminated out of Western Asia during the early Neolithic period. However, by using phylogenetic and phylo-geographic approaches to analyze SRLV sequences sampled from 600 distinct infections in 30 different countries, and spanning a period of 64 years, we show that pandemic spread of SRLVs did not occur until the 20th century. We integrate the findings of our analysis with historical and anthropological evidence to propose a geographic sequence and timeline for the emergence of the SRLV pandemic. We identify the Colonial expansion of European nations during the ‘Age of Imperialism’ (~1870–1950), and the associated development of novel agricultural systems, as having played a key role in enabling the global spread of SRLV infection.

**P41**

Near full-length genome (NFLG) characterisation of HIV-1 subtype B identified in South Africa

Adetayo Obasa, Graeme Jacobs, Susan Engelbrecht
Stellenbosch University, Department of Pathology, Cape Town, South Africa

**Correspondence:** Adetayo Obasa

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P41

**Background:** The first reported cases of HIV-1 infection in South Africa occurred in 1982, which was initially spread by MSM. Almost 7 million people are living with HIV-1 infection in South Africa and 2 separate epidemics have been described. The majority of these infections are caused by HIV-1 subtype C, spread through heterosexual contact. The minor subtype B epidemic in South Africa was, in the past, transmitted via MSM. We recently described the detection of new BC URFs circulating in the country. This indicates that both epidemics are still co-circulating in South Africa, but only 6 HIV-1 subtype B NFLGs sequences have been previously characterised.

**Methods:** Ten samples were selected for NFLG amplification. Seven of the samples were obtained from the late 1980s, while the other three samples were from more recent infections. The NFLG amplification was performed using a PCR protocol designed to target two overlapping 5.5 kb fragments. There after samples were sequenced through conventional “Sanger” sequencing and next-generation sequencing (NGS) using the Illumina MiSeq platform. The samples were subtyped using the REGA, COMET, RIP and jpHMM online tools. Multiple sequence alignments were done using MAFFT and then codon aligned. Maximum likelihood phylogenetic trees were constructed in Geneious 9 and MEGA.

**Results:** The six 1980s samples were obtained from MSM in the Western Cape South Africa. The others obtained were from a 16 year old heterosexual teenager in Gauteng, one woman from the Eastern Cape and one woman from the Western Cape. Two of the subtype B NFLG sequences obtained cluster with reference subtype B strains from the 1980s. Three sequences cluster more closely with reference strains from the late 1990s. Another sequence was identified as a unique BC recombinant strain.

**Discussion:** We have detected and characterised HIV-1 subtype B strains circulating in South Africa since the early 1980s to 2000s. This subtype B epidemic crossed over into the heterosexual population, as indicated by infection of both children and women in the different provinces of South Africa of concern is the characterisation of the newly described subtype BC URF strains. We will continue to monitor the HIV-1 subtype B epidemic in the heterosexual population in South Africa.

**P42**

Acquisition of Vpu-mediated tetherin antagonism by an HIV-1 group O strain

Katrinana Mack1, Kathrin Starz1, Daniel Sauter1, Matthias Geyer1, Frederic Bibollet-Ruche1, Christina Stürzel1, Marie Leoz1,2, Jean Christophe Planier1,2, Beatrice H. Hahn3,7, Frank Kirchhoff1

1Institute of Molecular Virology, Ulm, Germany; 2Max Planck Institute of Molecular Physiology, Department of Physical Biochemistry, Dortmund, Germany; 3University of Pennsylvania, Department of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, United States; 4CHU Charles Nicolle, Laboratoire de Virologie, Rouen, France; 5Université de Rouen, EA 2565 GRAM, Rouen, France, 6CHU Charles Nicolle, Laboratoire associé au Centre National de Référence du VIH, Rouen, France; 7University of Pennsylvania, Department of Microbiology, Philadelphia, PA, United States

**Correspondence:** Katrinana Mack

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P42

The restriction factor tetherin inhibits the release of enveloped viruses and imposes a barrier for efficient spread of HIV in the human population. The direct precursors of HIV-1, SIVcpz and SIVgor, use their Nef protein to antagonize the tetherin orthologue of their respective hosts. Because of a five amino acid deletion in its cytoplasmic tail, human tetherin is resistant to SIV Nef. Overcoming this hurdle may have been a prerequisite for effective spread of HIV-1 in humans. Pandemic HIV-1 group M strains acquired Vpu-mediated anti-tetherin activity during human adaptation to overcome this hurdle. In contrast, HIV-1 group O Vpus do usually not counteract human tetherin. Instead, the accessory Nef protein of group O viruses evolved the ability to target a region adjacent to the deletion to antagonize tetherin in humans. Here, we demonstrate that the infectious molecular clone of HIV-1 O RBF206 utilizes both Nef and Vpu to antagonize human tetherin. Using FACs analyses and virus release assays, we show that the RBF206 Vpu is as efficient as the group M NL4-3 Vpu in reducing cell surface levels of human tetherin and promoting virus release. Unlike that of NL4-3, the RBF206 Vpu also efficiently antagonizes the second shorter isofrom of humans tetherin that lack the first 12 amino acids. In the NL4-3 context, both Nef and Vpu reduce cell surface levels of human tetherin in infected PBMCs and promote virus release in 293T cells. Our data suggest that HIV-1 group O is still adapting to human tetherin and further illustrate the enormous capacity and plasticity of Vpu and Nef proteins in counteracting cellular defense mechanisms.

**P43**

The human endogenous retrovirus type K is involved in cancer stem cell markers expression and in human melanoma malignancy

Ayele Argawi-Denboba1, Emanuela Balestrieri1, Annalucia Serafino1, Ilaria Bucci1, Chiara Cipriani1, Corrado Spadafora2, Paolo Sinibaldi-Vallebona1,2, Claudia Matteucci1

1University of Rome Tor Vergata, Department of Experimental Medicine and Surgery, Rome, Italy; 2National Research Council, Institute of Translational Pharmacology, Rome, Italy

**Correspondence:** Claudia Matteucci

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P43

Increasingly scientific evidence underline retroelements and in particular human endogenous retroviruses (HERVs) as important players in cell plasticity, transformation and tumour progression. Expression of the HERV-K, especially the HML-2 family, was found elevated in melanoma and has been suggested to be implicated in the etiopathogenesis of the disease. We previously demonstrated that HERV-K activation and viral particles production were associated to aggressiveness and immune evasion of metastatic melanoma cells. However, melanoma consists of heterogeneous cell populations whose biological
properties remain poorly characterised. In this context, phenotype-switching and cancer stem cell (CSC) models of melanoma progression are driven by genetic and epigenetic signalling, depending from microenvironment changes. Therefore, we investigated the potential role of HERV-K in cellular plasticity and stemness features of melanoma cells under modification of the microenvironment. To this aim, melanoma cell lines were exposed to different culture conditions; HERV-K dependency of cell phenotypic modifications, stem cell markers expression and metastatic features were evaluated. The study demonstrated that the plasticity features of melanoma cells were correlated and dependent to HERV-K activation. During modifications of the microenvironment, HERV-K expression was accompanied with the increase of cancer stem cell markers and with the switching towards an invasive malignant phenotype. Notably, the inhibition of HERV-K restrained cellular plasticity and stem cell markers expression. The understanding of the origin of stem-like cells plasticity and of multi-potent phenotypes in the tumor would help the identification of new targets for therapy.

P44

Natural infection of Indian non-human primates by unique lentiviruses
S. Nandi Jayasheere1,2, Ujjwal Neogi1, Anil K Chhangani2, Shrawan Sing Rathore1, Bajrang R. J. Mathur6
1Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology, New York City, NY, United States; 2National Cancer Institute, Retrovirus Assembly Laboratory, HIV Dynamics and Replication Program, Frederick, MD, United States; 3Karolinska Institute, Division of Clinical Microbiology; F68, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Stockholm, Sweden; 4Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Department of Environmental Science, Rajasthan, India; 5Machiya Biological Park, Veterinary Center, Jodhpur Rajasthan, India; 6Kamla Nehru Nagar, 1B1, Jodhpur Rajasthan, India

Correspondence: Nandi Jayasheere S. Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P44

Introduction: Indian primates, rhesus macaques (Macaca mulatta) and langurs (Semnopithecus entellus) are not known to be naturally infected by SIVs. The reported ‘SIVmac’ is a variant of SIVsm that naturally infects African sootey mangabeys (Cercocebus atys). Cases of monkey bites are routinely reported from different parts of India, a potential source for zoonosis, or antropo-zoonosis, but consumption of monkey flesh is not common in India.

Methods: Plasma samples from the two common simian species were screened by HIV-1 WB assay as serologic tests for SIVs were not available in India, to investigate natural lentivirus infection of wild simians inhabiting north Indian Rajasthan forests. Antibodies cross reacting with some HIV antigens including gp120, p66, gp 41, p24 and p17 were present in a proportion of the plasma samples tested, suggesting lentivirus infection.

To molecularly characterise the unknown lentiviruses, DNA extracted from PBMCs and RNA extracted from plasma samples of multiple rhesus macaques and langurs were amplified by PCR and RT-PCR respectively, using pan-lentiviral primers from pol (RT, Protease), gag (p24, p17) and env (gp120, gp41) regions as well as LTR, and accessory genes nef, vif and vpr. The molecular virology work was conducted independently in Sweden. Multiple sequence alignments were performed in AliView v1.17.1. Maximum likelihood phylogenetic analyses were performed in FastTree1 and confirmed by MEGA6.

Results: The viral sequences revealed unexpected homology to Subtype B HIV-1, transmitted in some parts of north India. While the conserved p24 gag and RT (pol) sequences had exact homology with prototype subtype B HIV-1 including HXB2, other region of gag (p17), partial env (gp120), vpr, nef, vif and LTR had distinct mutations, discounting any unintentional laboratory contamination. Intriguingly the sequences were not related to any known SIV, including SIVmac. The analysis identified the origin of LTR and gag sequences from HIV-1B sequences from north India with >80 % bootstrap support (LTR: NII_LTR51; EU659806 and gag: B.JN.111807: EF694037). Lentiviruses infecting feral rhesus macaques and langurs clustered together with 74 % bootstrap support in the p17 gag region, Vif was truncated at the 3’region while nef at the 5’ region. Importantly nef truncation occurred at equivalent conserved regions of both HIV-1 and SIV genomes, which could be the reason for the observed low to medium viral load in the simian plasma samples. The env gp120 sequences of lentiviruses infecting wild langur and rhesus macaques had several distinctive differences compared to HXB2, and were unrelated to equivalent sequences from SIVmac.

Conclusion: Reverse transmission of HIV-1 from infected humans to the simians through monkey bite is proposed. If the phenomenon is more widespread than this specific simian population, it could have profound consequences for the reservoirs of HIV-related lentiviruses in Asia and the rest of the world.

P45

Free cervical cancer screening among HIV-positive women receiving antiretroviral treatment in Nigeria
Adeyemi Abati
Luth, Publi Health, Lagos, Nigeria
Correspondence: Adeyemi Abati

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P45

Background: Although the introduction of antiretroviral medications in resource-limited settings has decreased the number of HIV-positive women dying from AIDS, many are still at risk for HIV-related diseases including cervical cancer. Offering free cervical cancer screening at antiretroviral treatment centers may decrease the incidence of cervical cancer in this high-risk population.

Methods: HIV-positive women between the ages of 30 and 39 and receiving free antiretroviral treatment at the University of LAGOS TEACHING HOSPITAL AND CENTER FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES were eligible for free cervical cancer screening. Eligible subjects were offered Pap smears during routine clinic visits. Pelvic examinations were performed by trained nurses and Pap smears were obtained using a slide, cervical brush and cytology fixative (UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN). Women with high-grade lesions were referred to UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR for colposcopic biopsy.

Results: Between July 200010 and June 2011, 595 eligible HIV-positive women were offered Pap smears, and 261 (44 %) accepted. Of the 261 women, 125 (48 %) women had normal cytological results, 112 (43 %) had abnormal cytological results, and 24 (9 %) had results which were indeterminate due to inflammation, inadequate sample collection, or insufficient data. Abnormal cytological results included 25 women (10 %) with atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASCUS), 66 (25 %) low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (LSIL), and 21 (8 %) high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL). Of the 21 women with HSIL, 14 underwent colposcopic biopsy, Histology revealed 4 (29 %) CIN-I, 1 (29 %) CIN-II, 4 (29 %) CIN-III, and 2 (14 %) invasive cancers.

Conclusions: Among HIV-positive women receiving free antiretroviral treatment in Africa, we found significant abnormal cytological results and a large number of high-grade lesions. However, less than half of all eligible women accepted free screening. Further study is necessary to determine barriers to screening and the association of antiretroviral treatment and immunological status to cervical lesions.

P46

Molecular evolutionary status of feline immunodeficiency virus in Turkey
B. Taylan Koç1,2, Tuba Çiğdem Oğuzoğlu2
1Adnan Menderes University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Virology, Aydın, Turkey; 2Ankara University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Virology, Ankara, Turkey

Correspondence: B. Taylan Koç

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P46

Question: Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) is one of the most significant infection agent among wild and domestic cats throughout the
World, which belongs to Retroviridae family and also has been used as a model for the study of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Phylogenetic analyses, have been performed to date, indicated that FIV, as similar as HIV, has continually been diverged from each other due to genetic variations and genome integrations occurred between virus and host close interaction. Thus we aimed to investigate current molecular evolutionary status of FIV in Turkey.

**Methods:** The blood samples of 50 domestic cats were examined in term of FIV infection and six samples were found positive by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). V3-V6 regions of the envelope gene (env) of six positive samples were characterised as well as many performed studies previously and Maximum Likelihood (ML) tree was constructed to detect diversities using other FIV strains from GenBank database.

**Results:** Some considerable results were obtained through this analysis. First one, data indicated that new characterised FIV strains has localized on separated clade from FIV A–E subtypes. Other one, it was found that these six FIV positive samples have been different from both by each other and older characterised Turkish FIV strains.

**Conclusion:** These results have shown that there was existence and prevalence of FIV infection among domestic cats in Turkey. Additionally the mentioned differences between FIV strains were required to be study with more samples relevant to whether or not using FIV vaccine and, choice criteria using vaccine.

**Topic 7: Innate sensing & intrinsic immunity**

**P47**

Cell-to-cell contact with HTLV-1-infected T cells reduces dendritic cell immune functions and contributes to infection in trans

Takatoshi Shimauchi1,2, Stephan Caucheteux2, Jocelyn Turpin3, Katja Finsterbusch1, Charles Bangham1, Yoshiki Tokura1, Vincent Piguet2

1Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, Department of Dermatology, Hamamatsu, Japan; 2Institute of Infection and Immunity, Cardiff University, Department of Dermatology, Cardiff, Great Britain; 3Imperial College London, Section of Virology, Department of Medicine, London, Great Britain

**Correspondence:** Vincent Piguet

**Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P47**

**Question:** Human T-lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1) infects between 5 and 10 million people worldwide. It causes the aggressive malignancy known as Adult T-cell Leukemia/Lymphoma (ATL), HTLV-1-Associated Myelopathy/Tropical Spastic Paraparesis (HAM/TSP), and infective dermatitis. Although strong immune responses are generated against the virus, they do not eliminate HTLV-1.

**Methods:** Primary human monocyte derived DCs were co-cultured with a HTLV-1 infected cell line, MT-2 with or without LPS. Morphological analyses for virus transmission were performed by confocal and electron microscopy. Virus binding or LPS-induced activation of DCs were analysed by FACS. Signalling pathways were also demonstrated by western blots. ALU-PCR or high-throughput integration site map analysis was performed by using purified DNA from DCs co-cultured with MT-2.

**Results:** We demonstrate that the contact formed between a DC and an HTLV-1-infected T cell can reduce DCs immunological functions by reducing TLR responses, IL-12 p40/p70 expression and MHC-II expression on the DCs. These DC-T cell contacts induce spleen tyrosine kinase-mediated c-Raf/MEK/ERK signaling pathway activation on DCs but are independent of DC-SIGN signalling. Furthermore, both ALU-PCR and high-throughput integration site analysis of HTLV-1 show little evidence of integrated proviruses in DCs. Finally, we show that DCs can re-transfer HTLV-1 to target autologous CD4+ T-cells in trans (Fig. 16).

**Conclusions:** These findings suggest that DC/T-cell virological synapses contribute not only to viral cell-to-cell transmission in trans, but also to down-modulation of host innate and adaptive immunity against HTLV-1. Restoring DC functions in HTLV-1 infection might improve the early immune control of the virus and reduce the risk of emergence of ATL and other diseases including infective dermatitis.
host target cells. Our work aims at deciphering the mechanisms by which Mtb exacerbates HIV-1 infection in monocytes/macrophages.

Methods: Primary human monocytes were treated with either pleural effusions (PE) from TB patients (PE-TB) versus PE from patients with other pulmonary infections (PE-nonTB), or conditioned medium from Mtb-infected (CmMtb) versus uninfected (CmCTR) human macrophages. At day 3, conditioned cells were infected with HIV-1. Cell phenotype was assessed by flow cytometry, and macrophage infection was qualitatively and quantitatively characterised at day 13 using detection of p24 viral protein in confocal microscopy.

Results: We demonstrate that treatment of monocytes with PE-TB (or CmMtb) exacerbates HIV-1 infection (i.e. number of infected cells, virus entry and replication, formation of multinucleated giant cells), in comparison to treatment with PE-nonTB (or CmCTR). This increased HIV-1 infection is associated with a deregulator (M2c) activation program of monocytes/macrophages, characterised by the CD16+CD163+ MerTK+CD169+ cell-surface marker signature, also observed on monocytes from the pleural cavity of TB patients. We identified specific molecular mechanisms responsible for these effects, including the increased expression of HIV-1 entry co-receptors CCR5 and CXCR4, and the IL-10/STAT3 signaling pathway.

Conclusion: Collectively, this study improves our understanding of how Mtb modulates the differentiation process of human monocytes towards a macrophage activation program that increases susceptibility to viral infection and formation of cell reservoirs for HIV-1. Finally, it will also provide novel target candidates with diagnostic and therapeutic potential against the co-morbidity established between AIDS and TB.

P49 The SAMHD1-mediated inhibition of LINE-1 retroelements is regulated by phosphorylation
Alexandra Herrmann1, Sabine Wittmann1, Caitlin Shepard2, Dominique Thomas3, Nerea Ferreirós Bouzas3, Baek Kim4, Thomas Gramberg1
1Institute of Clinical and Molecular Virology, Erlangen, Germany; 2Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, United States; 3Institute of Clinical Pharmacology, Frankfurt a. M., Germany
Correspondence: Alexandra Herrmann
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P49

The SAM and HD domain-containing protein 1 (SAMHD1) blocks retroviral infection in nondividing myeloid cells and resting CD4+ T cells. SAMHD1 acts as a dNTP hydrolase and restricts viral infection by depleting cellular dNTPs below the level supporting reverse transcription. In addition, SAMHD1 has been shown to inhibit endogenous LINE-1 (L1) elements, the only autonomously active retroelements in humans. In contrast to retroviral restriction, SAMHD1 blocks L1 elements also in dividing cells. To determine whether SAMHD1 inhibits HIV-1 and L1 through distinct mechanisms, we analysed SAMHD1-mediated restriction of L1 using a GFP-based L1 retrotransposition assay. In transiently transfected 293T cells, we found that co-expression of human and murine SAMHD1 reduced L1 retrotransposition. The activity of SAMHD1 against L1-GFP proved to be regulated by phosphorylation of SAMHD1 at Threonine 592. Wildtype or SAMHD1 containing the phosphomimetic mutation TS92D did not restrict L1, whereas the non-phosphorylated SAMHD1 TS92A mutant potently inhibited L1. SAMHD1 activity was also dependent on the enzymatic active site and the allosteric dGTP-binding site. In addition, our data show that the intracellular localization of SAMHD1 is not critical for L1 restriction, since the ΔNL5-mutant also blocked retrotransposition. Quantification of intracellular dNTP levels indicated that the dNTPase activity alone might not be responsible for L1 restriction, hinting towards an additional mechanism of L1 restriction. Using a luciferase-based L1 promoter assay, we found that SAMHD1 does not repress L1 promoter activity. Quantitative RT-PCR experiments suggest that SAMHD1 does not reduce L1 RNA levels and western blot analysis showed no decreased L1 protein levels upon co-expression of SAMHD1. Together, our results demonstrate that SAMHD1 contributes to genome stability by restricting L1 retroelements. The mechanism of L1 restriction seems similar but not identical to that of HIV-1. In contrast to HIV-1, L1 is also blocked in dividing cells. Since neither the dNTPase nor the postulated RNase activity seem to contribute to L1 inhibition, further analyses of the L1 restriction might identify a previously unrecognized activity of SAMHD1.

P50 Activities of nuclear envelope protein SUN2 in HIV infection
Xavier Lahaye1, Anvita Bhargava1, Takeshi Satoh1, Matteo Gentili1, Silvia Cerboni1, Aymeric Silvin1, Cécile Conrad1, Hakim Ahmed-Belkacem2, Elisa C. Rodriguez3, Jean-François Guichou4, Nathalie Bosquet5, Matthieu Pieff6, Roger Le Grand7, Megan King7, Jean-Michel Pawlotsky7, Nicolas Manel1
1Institut Curie, Inserm, U932, Paris, France; 2Hôpital Henri Mondor, Department of Virology, Créteil, France; 3Yale University, School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, United States; 4CNRS, UMR5048, Montpellier, France; 5CEA, IDMIT Center, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France; 6Institut Curie, CNRS, UMR144, Paris, France
Correspondence: Xavier Lahaye
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P50

HIV replication requires the successful orchestration of reverse transcription, nuclear entry, and integration while avoiding various antiviral factors and innate immune sensors during early steps of infection. The viral capsid and its interactions with cellular factors plays a major role during all of these steps. One of these factors, Cyclophilin A (CypA), binds the HIV capsid and is essential at these steps, but the underlying cellular pathway remained elusive. We identified a family of capsid mutants in HIV and SIVmac that are restricted by CypA. This antiviral restriction is maintained across species and inhibits nuclear import of the viral cDNA. We have demonstrated that the inner nuclear envelope protein SUN2 is required for this antiviral activity on HIV and SIV capsid mutants. In primary CDA+ target cells, wild-type HIV seems to manipulate SUN2 as an essential host factor for viral infection and SUN2 is required for the positive activities of CypA on reverse transcription and infection. Thus, these results identify fundamental CypA-dependent functions of SUN2 in HIV infection at the nuclear envelope. We are currently exploring the molecular mechanisms of SUN2 activities and associated factors at the nuclear envelope in HIV infection. The nuclear envelope is increasingly recognized as a highly versatile structure and it likely plays critical functions in HIV infection.

P51 Activation of TLR7/8 with a small molecule agonist induces a novel restriction to HIV-1 infection of monocytes
Henning Hofmann1,2, Benoît Vanwaesveldt3, Nicolas Bloch1, Nathaniel Landau4
1Robert Koch Institut, HIV and other Retroviruses, Berlin, Germany; 2New York University, Microbiology, New York City, NY, United States
Correspondence: Henning Hofmann
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P51

Myeloid cells such as monocytes, macrophages and dendritic cells sense virus infection using pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) including the toll-like receptors (TLRs) and RIG-I-like receptors (RLRs) that are activated by pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs). Sensing through these receptors activates a variety of antiviral systems and induces type-I interferon. In the case of HIV-1, PAMPs are thought to include the viral genomic RNA molecules, the reverse transcribed viral DNA and viral structural proteins. To determine whether TLRs could be further stimulated by small molecule agonists to potentiate innate anti-viral mechanisms, we tested a series of TLR agonists for their effects on HIV-1 infection of myeloid and T cells. One such molecule, the TLR7/8 agonist R848, induced a potent block to HIV-1 and HIV-2 in myeloid cells. We found that the block was post virus entry yet prior to or at reverse transcription. The block could not be overcome by packaging the Vpx accessory protein into the virus despite its maintained ability to degrade SAMHD1. Agonist treatment of bone marrow derived dendritic cells isolated from SAMHD1 knock-out mice also prevented HIV-1 infection, further suggesting a SAMHD1-independent
restriction mechanism. Activation of TLR7/8 in monocytes caused the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines including type-I interferon (IFN). However, type-I IFN treatment of monocytes did not block reverse transcription in monocytes and IFN-blocking antibodies did not alleviate the R848-induced restriction, suggesting that the restriction was not caused by type-I IFN. Interestingly, the secreted cytokines blocked the infection of bystander cells. We conclude that viral sensing can be stimulated by small molecule agonists to both prevent the infection of target cells and protect bystanders. In target cells, the block to HIV infection is SAMHD1 and type-I IFN independent. This restriction could not be accounted for by any of the known restriction factors and thus is likely caused by a yet unidentified factor.

**P52**

**Steady state between the DNA polymerase and Rnase H domain activities of reverse transcriptases determines the sensitivity of retroviruses to inhibition by APOBEC3 proteins**

Stanimir Indik, Benedikt Hagen

University of Veterinary Med, Institute of Virology, Vienna, Austria

**Correspondence:** Stanislav Indik

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P52

Members of the APOBEC3 (A3) protein family restrict replication of reverse transcriptase (RT)-containing viruses and other mobile elements. The most extensively studied A3 proteins, the human A3G and mouse mA3, restrict propagation of retroviruses by inducing deamination of deoxycytidine to deoxyuridine in the transiently single-stranded, minus-sense DNA (ssDNA) intermediates during reverse transcription. Due to this specificity, the polypurine tract-proximal region, which remains single-stranded for the longest period of time, accumulates more mutations than the primer binding site-proximal region. To counteract A3 activity, retroviruses have evolved several strategies. These primarily include prevention of encapsidation of A3 proteins to virions either by a modification of the C terminus of nucleocapsid protein (HTLV-1) or by employing accessory proteins such as HIV-1 Vif and foamy virus Bet. However, the majority of reverse-transcribing viruses lack obvious A3-neutralising factor and it is unlikely that they evade restriction by A3 avoidance like HTLV-1. One of such viruses is mouse mammary tumor virus (MMTV) that efficiently packages deamination-competent mA3 and A3G but is only partially inhibited by both restriction factors. We found that the lower sensitivity to inhibition results from a reduced frequency of deamination of the MMTV genome during reverse transcription governed by the MMTV RT. Specifically, we determined that the balance between the rate of DNA polymerization and the rate of RNA cleavage, which defines the extent of RNA degradation during the synthesis of the ssDNA, is responsible for the low level of A3-mediated deamination of the MMTV reverse transcripts. Hence, the MMTV RT narrows down the window of opportunity for A3 to bind substrate. Residual mutagenic capacity of A3 proteins does not abolish virus infectivity and may be even exploited by MMTV to increase virus diversity and to modulate overall viral fitness. To our knowledge, alleviation of the deamination activity of A3 proteins, represents a novel mechanism of A3 counteraction and it seems likely that the same strategy is employed by other RT-containing viruses lacking Vif-like protein. Understanding of the A3 evasion mechanisms could be beneficial for improvement of current therapeutic protocols.

**P53**

**HIV restriction in mature dendritic cells is related to p21 induction and p21-mediated control of the dNTP pool and SAMHD1 activity**

José Carlos Valle-Casuso1, Awarat Allouch1, Annie David1, François Barré-Sinoussi2, Michaela Müller-Trutwin1, Monsef Benkirane2, Gianfranco Pancino1, Asier Saez-Cirion1

1Institut Pasteur, Virology, Paris, France; 2Institute of human genetics, CNRS UPR 1142, Montpellier, France

**Correspondence:** José Carlos Valle-Casuso

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P53

Background: Dendritic cells (DCs) play a key role in the induction of immune responses against HIV. However, HIV has evolved ways to exploit them, facilitating immune evasion and viral dissemination. Immature myeloid DCs can sustain HIV-1 replication, in contrast mature myeloid DC are strongly resistant to HIV infection. Our group has recently shown that the cellular factor p21^{WAF1/CIP1} potently blocks HIV infection in macrophages by reducing the pool of dNTPs through the inhibition of RNR2. p21 through its cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitory activity might also modulate the phosphorylation state of SAMHD1 and its antiviral activity. We wondered whether p21 could be involved in the strong resistance of DCs to HIV infection.

Results: We found that the maturation of monocyte derived DCs (MDDCs), which strongly blocked HIV-1 replication, was associated with a strong increase in the expression of p21. Induction of p21 was accompanied by a decrease in the expression of RNR2 but also of the Thymidine kinase1 (TK1) and Thymidylate synthase (TYMS), which are critical for dTTP synthesis. Accordingly, we observed a decrease in the levels of all dNTPs in mature MDDCs. The knockdown of p21 expression recovered RNR2, TK1 and TYMS and the level of dNTPs, and increased infection. Supplementation with exogenous dNTPs recovered infection in mature MDDCs but not to the level observed in immature MDDCs. Maturation of MDDCs did not change total levels of SAMHD1 but was accompanied by a decrease in pSAMHD1 (inactive against HIV). Knockdown of p21 increased levels of pSAMHD1, supporting the role of p21 in the regulation of phosphorylation of SAMHD1 in DCs. Although degradation of SAMHD1 in the presence of VPX increased infection in mature MDDCs at great extent, the addition of exogenous dNTPs to MDDCs treated with VPL-VPX was necessary to completely rescue HIV infection.

Conclusion: Our results suggest that blocking HIV replication in mature MDDCs is due to an induction of p21 during maturation. p21 then regulates several factors involved in dNTPs synthesis and the phosphorylation of SAMHD1, resulting in conditions that allow efficient block of HIV-1 replication through complementary/synergistic mechanisms. Overall, p21 appears to be a key regulator of HIV infection in myeloid cells.

**P54**

**IFITM proteins restrict HIV-1 protein synthesis**

Wing-Yiu Lee1, Chen Liang1, Richard Sloan3

1Barts and The London School of Medicine, Blizard Institute, London, Great Britain; 2McGill University AIDS Centre, Lady Davis Institute, Montreal, Canada

**Correspondence:** Richard Sloan

Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P54

Interferon induced transmembrane proteins (IFITMs) restrict the cellular entry of a broad range of viruses, but it has been suspected that for HIV-1 IFITMs may also inhibit a post-integration replicative step. We investigated the effects of IFITM expression on late stage HIV-1 replication.

We found that the expression of human IFITMs reduces the quantity of released HIV-1, HIV-2, SIV and MLV viral particles from transfected cells. While knockdown of endogenous IFITMs enhances HIV-1 production. This phenotype is apparent during single cycle and multiple cycle infections of T-cells. Notably, IFITM-mediated antagonism is more potent for HIV-1 in which Nef has been deleted. We show that IFITM expression reduces HIV-1 viral protein synthesis by preferentially excluding viral transcripts from translation and thereby restricts viral production. Codon-optimization of proviral DNA rescues viral translation during IFITM expression, implying that IFITM-mediated restriction targets viral RNA. While RRE-containing viral transcripts are more strongly excluded from translation when IFITMs are expressed, in agreement with a greater decrease of Vpu and Gag proteins, compared to multiply-spliced transcript levels and Nef. IFITMs require cellular proteins to suppress viral production. Screening a panel of RNA helicases revealed that siRNA-mediated knockdown or expression of a dominant negative mutant of DDX3 impaired IFITM1-mediated restriction of HIV-1.
Further, mutation of cysteines in IFITM1 and IFITM2 that perturb their palmitoylation, and retention in plasma membrane and endosomes, strongly reduces levels of all classes of viral transcripts and potently inhibits viral output far beyond the level of restriction already seen for wild-type IFITM proteins.

Our studies identify a novel role for IFITMs in inhibiting HIV-1 replication at the level of translation and for which viral RNA is a determinant. Yet we show that this restriction can be overcome by the lentiviral countermeasure Nef. Further, we identify the host RNA helicase DDX3 as a cofactor for restriction of HIV-1 protein synthesis by IFITM1. We also show that it is possible to engineer highly active anti-HIV-1 IFITM variants by modulating their palmitoylation status.

**P55**
Characterisation and functional analysis of the novel restriction factor Serinc5
Bianca Schulte, Silvana Opp, Felipe Diaz-Griffero
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology, New York City, NY, United States

In recent years several human proteins have come to light which act as restriction factors for HIV-1 infection. Among these Serinc3 and Serinc5, members of the Serinc family of transmembrane proteins could recently be shown to have strong anti-HIV-1 activity if expressed in virus-producing cells. The exact mechanism by which Serinc3 and Serinc5 restrict HIV-1 is as of yet unknown. Therefore, we have analysed different regions of Serinc5, the most potent restriction factor of the family, to discover those regions of the protein which are crucial for restriction. To achieve this, we systematically examined the protein by means of domain deletions, domain swaps, amino acid mutations and construction of chimeric proteins. Beyond the extensive mapping of the protein’s function, we were able to characterise the membrane topology of this 10-transmembrane protein, but most importantly, we have devised several assays to define the protein’s function in HIV-1 restriction: Analysis of surface expression, total expression by Western blot and flow cytometry, localisation, infectivity, particle incorporation and its influence on antibody-mediated virus neutralisation. With the help of these methods we collected many insights into the protein’s domain structure, localization and mechanism of action.

**P56**
npiRNA sequences are common in Human Endogenous Retroviral Sequences (HERVs): an antiretroviral restriction mechanism?
Jonas Blomberg, Iuana Vargiu, Patricia Rodriguez-Tome, Enzo Tramontano, Goiran Sperber
Uppsala University, Medical Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden; 2Cagliari University, Life and Environmental Sciences, Cagliari, Sweden; 3Nurideas SRL, Cagliari, Italy; 4Uppsala University, Neuroscience, Uppsala, Sweden

In recent years several inhibitory RNA (RNAi) systems have come to light which act as restriction factors for HIV-1 infection. Among these Serinc3 and Serinc5, members of the Serinc family of transmembrane proteins could recently be shown to have strong anti-HIV-1 activity if expressed in virus-producing cells. The exact mechanism by which Serinc3 and Serinc5 restrict HIV-1 is as of yet unknown. Therefore, we have analysed different regions of Serinc5, the most potent restriction factor of the family, to discover those regions of the protein which are crucial for restriction. To achieve this, we systematically examined the protein by means of domain deletions, domain swaps, amino acid mutations and construction of chimeric proteins. Beyond the extensive mapping of the protein’s function, we were able to characterise the membrane topology of this 10-transmembrane protein, but most importantly, we have devised several assays to define the protein’s function in HIV-1 restriction: Analysis of surface expression, total expression by Western blot and flow cytometry, localisation, infectivity, particle incorporation, gag and env maturation, and its influence on antibody-mediated virus neutralisation. With the help of these methods we collected many insights into the protein’s domain structure, localization and mechanism of action.

**P57**
Ferroportin restricts HIV-1 infection in sickle cell disease
Namita Kumar, Tatiana Ammosova, Sharmeen Eliaz, Patricia Oneal, Sergei Nekhai
Howard University, Medicine, Washington D.C., United States

Correspondence: Sergei Nekhai
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P57

Low occurrence of HIV-1 infection in sickle cell disease (SCD) patients suggests a potential restriction of HIV-1 infection in SCD. Here we analysed whether ex vivo HIV-1 infection is restricted in SCD PBMCs and determined the mechanism of the restriction. We observed reduced HIV-1 replication and increased expression of heme and iron-regulated genes, including ferroportin. We also observed the induction of several HIV-1 regulatory host factors, including SAMHD1. Critically, HIV-1 restriction was alleviated with hepatic treatment suggesting that ferroportin mediates HIV-1 restriction which might go unsuppressed as hepatic levels were not elevated in serum of SCD patients. Consistent with the increased ferroportin expression, labile iron levels were reduced in SCD PBMCs and protein levels of ferroportin and HIF-1α were increased. The effect of hepcidin was replicated in HIV-1 infected primary and cultured cells, in which HIV-1 inhibition by hemin was reversed by hepcidin. Knock down of ferroportin, HO-1 but not HIF-1α alleviated the HIV-1 inhibition by hepcidin. Analysis of HIV-1 replication steps showed inhibition of reverse transcription, implicating SAMHD1. SAMHD1 is negatively regulated by CDK2, which is inhibited by iron chelation. In SCD PBMCs, CDK2 activity was low and SAMHD1 phosphorylation was reduced. SAMHD1 expression was induced and its phosphorylation decreased with heme treatment further supporting its involvement in HIV-1 restriction in SCD. Our findings point to the previously unknown role of ferroportin as an HIV-1 restriction factor in biologically relevant settings, linking reduced intracellular iron levels to the inhibition of CDK2, reduction of SAMHD1 phosphorylation and HIV-1 inhibition.

**P58**
APOBEC3G modulates the response to antiretroviral drugs in humanized mice
Audrey Fahrny, Gustavo Gers-Huber, Annette Auğdige, Roberto F. Speck, Anitha Jayaprakash, Ravi Sachidanandam, Matt Hernandez, Mansha Dillon-White, Viviana Simon
1University hospital Zurich, Infectious diseases, Zurich, Switzerland; 2Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Department of Oncological Sciences, New York City, NY, United States; 3Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Department of Microbiology and The Global Health and Emerging Pathogens Institute, New York City, NY, United States; 4School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, New York City, NY, United States

Correspondence: Audrey Fahrny
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P58

Viral evolution and diversification in HIV+ patients have been associated with increased pathogenicity and underlies the rapid appearance of viral variants resistant to antiretroviral drugs. APOBEC3G (A3G) restricts HIV-1 by inducing G-to-A mutations in the newly synthesized proviral cDNA during RT. The HIV-1 accessory protein Vif counteracts A3G restriction and is, thus, critical for productive HIV-1 replication in vivo. Humanized mouse models provide us with an experimental system to directly test the extent to which sub-optimal neutralisation
of A3G impacts viral fitness, pathogenicity and antiretroviral treat-
ment outcomes. CD34 complemented NSG mice were infected with
HIV strains that encoded Vif variants differing in anti-A3G activity
(e.g., WT: 100%, 45G: 10% and SLQ: 1%). In a subset of mice antire-
troviral treatment with lamivudine (3TC) was initiated after 4 weeks of
infection. Plasma viremia and T cell subsets were measured for up to
4 months’ post infection. HIV WT and 45G viruses established produc-
tive infection and displayed comparable levels of plasma viremia at
4 weeks post infection. In contrast, HIV SLQ failed to infect and spread
in humanized mice suggesting that counteracting A3G is needed.
Interestingly, we observed that the WT infected mice maintained
high levels of plasma viremia while the 45G infected mice displayed a
significant reduction in plasma viremia over time. As expected,
3TC treatment decreased viremia in all infected animals but the 45G
infected mice experienced less overall reduction in viremia and a
more rapid viral rebound. In summary, viruses engineered to display
a range of anti-APOBEC3 activities are useful tools to probe for impact
of APOBEC3 on viral pathogenesis and treatment outcome. Our
results suggest that partial neutralisation of APOBEC3 impacts viral
fitness and response to lamivudine. Ongoing and future studies will
analyze the genotypes (e.g., RT, Vif) underlying the observed in vivo
phenotypes.

P59
High-throughput epigenetic analysis of evolutionarily young
endogenous retrovirus presents in the mule deer (Odocoileus
hemionus) genome
Tomas Hron, Helena Farkasova, Daniel Eleder
Institute of Molecular Genetics, ASCR, Laboratory of Viral and Cellular
Genetics, Prague, Czech Republic
Correspondence: Tomas Hron
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P59

Endogenous retroviruses (ERVs) are genetic elements constituting a
significant part of the vertebrate genomes. They are generated when
an exogenous virus integrates into the host germline which leads to
vertical transfer of ERVs to subsequent host generations. ERVs are
usually fixed in the host population for millions of years and their
sequences are damaged by mutations. However, small portion of ERVs
retains intact genetic information and have been recently shown to
play a key role in various cellular processes and pathologies. Study of
the DNA methylation-dependent transcriptional silencing, the main
mechanism of host defence against uncontrolled virus propagation in
its genome, is crucial for uncovering the ERV-host interactions. Despite
the progression in this field, the involvement of epigenetic regulations
in the defense against active ERVs is still poorly understood.
We studied a recently identified ERV present in the mule deer genome,
CrERV. This evolutionary young virus is extremely polymorphic in its
integrations suggesting an ongoing invasion into the host genome.
This makes CrERV a unique model for studying retrovirus endogeni-
sation. In our work, we employed next generation bisulfite sequenc-
ing strategy to determine the methylation pattern of individual CrERV
integrations in different animals. This method offers new insight into
the interactions between host and active ERVs.

P60
Characterisation of the expression of novel endogenous
retroviruses and immune interactions in a macaque model
Neil Berry1, Emmanuel Maze2, Claire Ham1, Neil Almond3, Greg Towers3,
Robert Belshaw2
1NIBSC, Virology, South Mimms, Great Britain; 2Plymouth University Pen-
insula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, Plymouth University Peninsula
Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, Plymouth, Great Britain; 3University
College London, Infection and Immunity, London, Great Britain
Correspondence: Neil Berry
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P60

Background and question: Endogenous retroviruses (ERVs), descend-
ents of retroviruses integrated into host germline cells which have
proliferated over millions of years, represent ~5% of our and other
mammal genome sequences. Recent research indicate ERVs (and other
retroelements such as LINEs) may play a role in innate sensing, with
implications for combating autoimmune disease and viral infection.
We have previously shown the macaque to have recently integrated
ERVs belonging to three different lineages. Archived material from
past macaque/SIV studies provides an ideal opportunity to examine
the dynamics of ERV and SIV expression in the context of their interac-
tion with the innate immune response. Specifically, we plan to explore
Volkman & Stetson’s (2014) hypothesis that endogenous retroelement
expression affects the threshold for the innate response to exogenous
viral infection.
Methods: Generation of in vitro transcripts and specific oligonucleo-
tide primer and probe sequences have enabled development of qPCR
assays for the three ERV lineages in the macaque shown to contain
recently integrated loci. We have also searched bioinformatically for
full-length ORFs in the reference rhesus macaque genome sequence
in order to predict the potential of these lineages to produce virions
and hence RNA in the plasma.
Results: ERV-specific RNA and DNA signals appear to increase in both
Mauritanian cynomolgus and Indian macaque species during acute
infection with several wild-type exogenous SIV strains. The relation-
ship between expression of ERV-specific lineages and SIV RNA during
acute infection is currently being explored, in tandem with induction
of an innate response detectable during acute infection.
Conclusions: Preliminary elucidation of levels of ERV-specific RNA and
cell-free DNA in macaque plasma suggest a dynamic relationship
with exogenous SIV infection. Localised expression of ERV mRNA in cell-
associated SIV infection in conjunction with upregulation of interferon
stimulated genes in multiple macaque challenge studies will provide a
fuller picture of the potential dynamic interplay of these parameters in
the outcome of infection.
Although a certain level of amino acid divergence was observed, all SERINC3 and SERINC5 orthologs displayed an anti-HIV activity comparable to the human orthologs. The first results obtained with the FACTS-based virion fusion assay correlate with the data from the infectivity assay, showing a lower activity of SERINC3 in restricting HIV infectivity when compared with SERINC5. The assessment of the potency by this viral antagonist Nef to overcome the imposed restriction is currently in progress. Our results show that rodent and rabbit SERINC3 and SERINC5 inhibit HIV-1 infectivity in a different extent but comparable with the human orthologs. The antiviral activity of SERINC proteins thus appears to be extended to rodents and rabbits, therefore representing a potential restriction factor when using these species as an animal model for HIV replication.

P62
TRIM19/PML restricts HIV infection in a cell type-dependent manner
Bianca Volkmann1, Tanja Kahle1, Kristin Eissmann1, Alexandra Herrmann1, Sven Schmitt1, Sabine Wittmann1, Laura Merkle1, Nina Reuter1, Thomas Stamminger1, Thomas Gramberg1
1Friedrich‑Alexander University Erlangen‑Nuremberg, Institute of Clinical Molecular Bacteriology, Hanover, Germany; 2University Hospital Bonn, Institute of Molecular Genetics of the ASCR, Laboratory of Viral and Cellular Genetics, Prague, Czech Republic
Correspondence: Bianca Volkmann
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P62

The promyelocytic leukemia protein (PML), also named TRIM19, is a member of the TRIM protein family. The seven main PML isoforms are located both in the cytoplasm and the nucleus. In the nucleus, PML is mostly sumoylated and is the main structural component of the nuclear matrix structures known as nuclear domain 10 (ND10) or PML nuclear bodies (PML-NBs). ND10 structures, in which PML is associated with Sp100, Daxx and other proteins, have been shown to mediate an intrinsic immune response against various different viruses. In this study, we analysed the role of PML during retroviral replication in different cell types using cell lines exhibiting a shRNA-mediated knockdown of PML, Daxx and Sp100. While the permanently ND10-associated proteins Daxx and Sp100 have no restricting effect, PML inhibits HIV in a cell type-dependent manner. HIV reporter virus infection assays comparing control cells harboring intact PML and PML-knockdown cell lines revealed an active PML-mediated block to retroviral infection in primary human fibroblasts and murine embryonic fibroblasts. However, this block to HIV reporter virus infection was not present in T cell lines, e.g. Molt4 or Jurkat, and myeloid cell lines, e.g. CEM and HuT78. Quantitative PCR analysis of HIV cDNA in infected cells revealed that PML restricts infection at the level of reverse transcription, which occurs in the cytoplasm after virus entry. Indeed, in immunofluorescence analysis of infected human fibroblasts we found a temporary relocation of PML from the nucleus to the cytoplasm, which started 30 min post infection and increased till 4 h post infection. Overexpression of the PML isoforms I to VI resulted in a moderate reduction of HIV reporter virus infectivity, but failed to reveal a particular isoform responsible for the PML-mediated block to retroviral infection. Finally, we showed that PML has antiviral activity against other members of different genera of the retroviral family, e.g. SIV, MPMV and MLV. Our findings shed light on the controversial role of PML during retroviral infection and show that PML contributes to the intrinsic restriction of retroviral infections in a cell type-dependent manner.

P63
Recent invasion of the mule deer genome by a retrovirus
Helena Farkasova, Tomas Hor, Daniel Elleeder
Institute of Molecular Genetics of the ASCR, Laboratory of Viral and Cellular Genetics, Prague, Czech Republic
Correspondence: Helena Farkasova
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P63

Endogenous retroviruses (ERVs) originate by germline infection and subsequent mendelian inheritance of their exogenous counterparts. With notable exceptions, all mammalian ERVs are evolutionarily old and fixed in the population of its host species. Broader knowledge about the process of endogenization is lacking. Besides endogenous retrovirus in koalas, ERV in mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus) forms new germline insertions in the natural host population in the present time and serve as important model of the retrovirus endogenization process. Previously, we have determined complete genome sequence of the deer ERV, denoted cervid endogenous retrovirus (CrERV). Using next generation sequencing-based approach, we have characterised thousands of highly polymorphic CrERV integrations in approximately 50 animals. Notable polymorphism within the population of mule deer with integration sites allocated to specific area verify the predicted young age of the virus as well as the current process of endogenization. For virological studies, we have obtained an infectious virus by cocultivation with susceptible human cells and performed experiments to characterise its biophysical properties. Subsequently, we have constructed an infectious molecular clone of CrERV and defined its basic replication properties. Surprisingly, CrERV exhibits a xenotropic behaviour, where it infects human cells but not original host deer cells. This is in contrast with the efficient generation of many new endogenous integrations. We are using reciprocal pseudotypes with murine leukemia virus (MLV) and vesicular stomatitis virus envelope (VSV) bearing a GFP signal, to characterise the nature of the replication block on mule deer cells. The preliminary data point to the block at the receptor level.

P64
cGAMP transfers intercellularly via HIV-1 Env-mediated cell–cell fusion sites and triggers an innate immune response in primary target cells
Shuting Xu1, Aurélie Ducroux1, Aparna Panuruangam1, Sergej Franz4, Gabriele Vieyres1, Mathias Müsken2, Thomas Zillinger3, Angelina Malassa1, Thomas Pietschmann1, Christine Goffinet1
1Friedrich‑Alexander University Erlangen‑Nuremberg, Institute of Clinical and Molecular Virology, Erlangen, Germany; 2University Hospital Bonn, Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Pharmacology, Bonn, Germany
Correspondence: Shuting Xu
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P64

Upon virus infection, cGAS-cGAMP-STING-dependent type I IFN signaling contributes to achieve an antiviral state in the host cells. Work from others suggests that cGAMP is transferred intercellularly via gap junctions and/or incorporated into newly synthesized viral particles. The goal of our study is to investigate whether intercellular transfer of cGAMP occurs via HIV-1 Env-mediated cell–cell fusion. Primary human macrophages that were cocultured with cGAS-positive CHO cells, but not cGAS-negative Jurkat cells expressing HIV-1 Env induced human IFN-beta mRNA expression and scored positive in a bioactivity assay for type I IFNs. Reduction of cGAS expression in CHO cells and reconstitution of cGAS expression in Jurkat cells abolished and rescued the mounting of the IFN response, respectively, in cocultured macrophages. Importantly, donor cell line-specific cGAS expression levels and abundance of SVPDE-sensitive, IFN-inducing small molecules, most conceivably cGAMP, correlated with the ability to trigger an IFN response in cocultured macrophages. Additionally, an intact STING-TBK1-IRF3 signaling axis, but not the cytoplasmic DNA sensor cGAS in macrophages, was essential for the macrophages’ ability to induce an IFN response upon coculture. Mounting of an IFN response coincided with a functional antiviral state in macrophages and was abolished upon genetic, immunological or pharmacological interference with the membrane fusion process. Whereas HIV-1 Env-positive donor cells and target macrophages interacted via multiple modes, only fusion inhibitor-sensitive cell–cell fusion, but not Jasplakinolide-sensitive phagocytosis of donor cells by target cells

Page 34 of 40
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):68
activates an innate immune response. The intercellular transfer of this second messenger may have direct implications in the context of cell-to-cell transmission of HIV-1.

P65
Pre-infection transcript levels of FAM26F in PBMCs inform about overall plasma viral load in acute and postacute phase after SIV-infection
Ulrike Sauermann1, Anella Javed1,2, Nicole Leuchte1, Gabriela Salinas1, Lennart Opitz1,2, Christiane Stahl-Hennig1, Sieghart Sopper1
1Deutsches Primatenzentrum GmbH, Infektionsmodele, Göttingen, Germany, 2National University of Sciences and Technology, Atta-ur-Rahman School of Applied Biosciences (ASAB), Islamabad, Pakistan, 3Faculty of Medicine, University Göttingen, Transcriptome and Genome Analysis Laboratory (TAL), Göttingen, Germany, 4Functional Genomics Center Zurich, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland, 5Medical University Innsbruck and Tyrolean Cancer Research Institute, Tumor Immunology Lab, Innsbruck, Austria
Correspondence: Ulrike Sauermann
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):P65
CD8+ cells from simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV)-infected long term non progressors and certain uninfected macaques can suppress viral replication in vitro (CNAR). Analysis of the global transcription pattern and additional validation revealed that expression of FAM26F distinguished CD8+ cells controllers and non controllers. However, the studies also indicated that the cell surface protein FAM26F might be not necessarily related to CNAR, but to immune activation which provided the rationale for further investigations into FAM26F expression and its role in SIV-infection. FAM26F was also expressed in many cells of the immune system. Its expression increased in vitro after IFN-y treatment of lymphocytes. Ex vivo FAM26F RNA levels in PBMCs correlated with plasma IFN-y but not with IFN-a indicating that FAM26F transcription is linked to the IFN-y pathway. Baseline FAM26F expression appeared to be stable for months, albeit the individual expression levels varied significantly. FAM26F expression in macaques thus might represent an eQTL similar to humans. FAM26F transcription was upregulated in SIV-infected monkeys, but did not directly correlate with viral load in contrast to MX1 and CXCL10. Notably, pre-infection levels of FAM26F correlated inversely with overall plasma viral load during the acute and post-acute phase of infection (AUC wpi 0–8) in naive SIV-infected from two experiments, and—at a lower significance level—even in immunized macaques. FAM26F transcript levels prior to infection thus can inform about the pace and strength of the antiviral immune response during the early stage of infection. It has a strong potential to serve as a novel marker indicating that FAM26F transcription is linked to the IFN-y pathway.

Topic 8: Adaptive immunity & immune evasion
P66
Sequence-function analysis of three T cell receptors targeting the HIV-1 p17 epitope SLNYTVATL
Christiane Mummert1, Christian Hofmann1,2,3, Angela G. Hükelhoven1,4, Silke Bergmann1, Sandra M. Müller-Schmucker1,5, Ellen G. Harrer1, Jan Dörrie1, Niels Schaft1, Thomas Harrer1
1Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Infectious Diseases Section, Department of Internal Medicine III, Erlangen, Germany, 2Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Department of Dermatology, Erlangen, Germany, 3University of California, Division of Infectious Diseases, Los Angeles, LA, United States, 4University Hospital Heidelberg, Department of Internal Medicine 5, Heidelberg, Germany, 5Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nuremberg, Institute of Clinical and Molecular Virology, Erlangen, Germany
Correspondence: Christiane Mummert
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):P66
Background: T-cell receptor (TCR) transfer is a promising approach for boosting the cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) response. Due to the ability of HIV-1 to escape from CTLs it is important to use TCRs with broad recognition of viral variants. So far, there is a lack of data regarding the molecular determinants for the recognition of defined epitopes. Therefore, we performed a sequence-function analysis of three different TCRs targeting the HLA-A2-restricted CTL epitope SLNYTVATL (SL9) in HIV-1 p17.
Methods: Three TCRs were cloned from SL9-specific CTL from three HIV-1-infected patients. SL9/TCR-mRNA-constructs encoding the TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains were electroporated into peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC). TCR functionality with regard to functional avidity and cross-recognition of eleven SL9 variants was analysed in yIFN-ELISPOT assays using synthetic peptides.
Results: The SL9-specific TCRs consisted of following TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains: TCR #1: AV251/BV551(Cβ1), TCR#2: AV251/BV551(Cβ2), TCR#3: AV253/BV225(Cβ2). TCR#1 and TCR#2 used the same variable alpha and beta chains, but displayed variant amino acids in the CDR3-regions of the TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains. In addition, TCR#1 and #2 used different constant beta chains. All three TCRs showed a similar functional avidity with a half-maximal peptide sensitizing concentration ranging between 2 μg/ml and 0.2 μg/ml. Recognition of viral variants was similar for TCR#1 and TCR#2, whereas TCR#3 showed a different pattern of variant recognition. Cross-over exchange of the TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains from TCR#1 and TCR#2 did not affect SL9-recognition by the new hybrid TCRs. In contrast, hybrid TCRs with combinations of the respective TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains from TCR#1/TCR#3 and TCR#2/TCR#3 failed to recognize SL9.
Conclusion: Despite their differences in the sequences of their TCR-alpha and TCR-beta chains, all three HLA-A2-restricted TCRs showed a similar functionality with regard to peptide avidity. The efficacy of a TCR-based immunotherapy could be enhanced by usage of different TCRs targeting the same epitope with a different pattern of recognition of viral sequence variants.

P67
An immunodominant region of the envelope glycoprotein of small ruminant lentiviruses may function as decay antigen
University of Bern, Institute of Virology and Immunology, Vetsuisse Faculty, Bern, Switzerland
Correspondence: Laure Cardinaux
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1):P67
Small ruminant lentiviruses persist in infected goats that mount a strong humoral immune response characterised by low neutralising titers. In this study, we characterised the antibody response to SU5, a variable, immunodominant epitope of the envelope glycoprotein of SRLV (1,4). The sequence of this epitope is variable between different phylogenetic groups but surprisingly conserved within a given subgroup (3,4). We compared the neutralising activity of the affinity purified anti-SU5 fraction with that of antibody contained in the unfractionated serum, the flow through of the affinity column and a negative control serum. While the neutralising activity of the flow through associated antibody was not significantly reduced compared to the unfractionated serum, the purified anti-SU5 antibody was devoid of neutralising activity. Taken together these data strongly suggest that anti-SU5 antibody is incapable of binding the functional form of Env expressed at the surface of infectious virus particles. We concluded that the observed variability does not reflect escape from neutralisation but rather indicate a structural tolerance of this particular region. To test this hypothesis, we substituted the original SU5 of the g6221 molecular clone with a FLAG-Tag (2). Preliminary data indicate that the mutated virus replicates efficiently in susceptible cells, confirming the structural tolerance of this particular region of the envelope gene. Experiment in vivo will follow to confirm the immunodominant nature of this envelope region. We propose that SU5 is a decay epitope exposed on virus debris that lures the humoral immune response in committing an "original epitopic sin".
Paediatric HIV infection is typically characterised by rapid disease progression in the absence of ART. However, there is a subset (5–10 %) of ART-naive HIV-infected children who remain clinically healthy, maintaining normal-for-age CD4 T-cell counts throughout childhood defined here as ‘paediatric non-progressors’ (PNPs). To identify mechanisms preventing HIV disease progression we studied a cohort of 170 HIV-1 Clade C infected PNPs recruited from multiple clinical sites across South Africa.

In contrast to adults where HIV long-term non-progression is mostly associated with low to undetectable viral load levels, paediatric non-progressors maintained normal-for-age CD4 T-cell counts despite persistently high viremia (median 26,000 HIV copies/ml). T-cell and monocyte activation was increased in progressor children but remained at levels similar to HIV-uninfected children in PNPs. The CD4+ and CD8+ T-cell compartment in progressors, but not PNPs, was differentiated towards pro-inflammatory effector memory phenotypes with high levels of immune exhaustion. HIV specific T-cell responses and potent broadly neutralising antibody (bNAbs) responses were detected in both, progressor and non-progressor children (bNAbs in 72 % of paediatric subjects versus 19 % of infected adults, p < 0.0001), but non-progression in paediatric infection was independent of these HIV-specific immune responses.

However, we observed low levels of CCR5 expression and limited HIV infection in long-lived stem cell memory and central memory CD4+ T-cells in paediatric non-progressors in association with higher frequencies of these T-cell subsets (p < 0.0001 vs. progressors), suggesting a mechanism contributing to the maintenance of normal-for-age CD4 T-cell counts despite persistently high viremia. These data indicate that the mechanisms of HIV non-pathogenesis in paediatric infection are distinct from those in adults, where disease non-progression is typically linked to viremic suppression in the presence of ‘protective’ HLA class I-mediated immunity; but reminiscent of the natural hosts of SIV infection, such as the sooty mangabey, in which non-pathogenesis is independent of strong virus-specific immunity and characterised by low systemic immune activation despite persistently high viremia (Figs. 17, 18).

Fig. 17 Normal CD4 counts for age and low immune activation despite high viral loads in paediatric non-progressors. a-c Absolute CD4 count, CD4 % and viral load in ART-naive paediatric subject 517-C over the first 10 years of life. 10th, 50th, and 90th centile of absolute CD4 and CD4% are shown in panels A-B for uninfected children over the first 10 years of life. d Longitudinal viral load data from 170 cART-naive paediatric non-progressors. Viral load declines with age over the first 5 years (r = −0.34, p < 0.0001) but then plateaus thereafter. e Current absolute CD4 counts and viral loads in 170 paediatric non-progressors. f Lack of correlation between CD4 count and viral load in 170 paediatric non-progressors.

Fig. 18 CCR5 expression and HIV infection is lower in central memory CD4+ T-cells in paediatric non-progressors than in progressors. a Representative FACS data of CCR5 expression in paediatric progressors versus non-progressors. b CCR5 expression on CD4+ T-cell subsets in ART-naive children aged >5 years by absolute CD4 count, c Absolute CD4 counts and viral loads in paediatric non-progressors and adult future progressors did not differ significantly (median 1251 vs. 1106 cells/ml, and 22,075 vs. 31,500 HIV RNA copies/ml plasma, respectively; similarly CD4% did not differ between the two groups, median 31 % versus 36 %, not shown). d HIV infection in Tn, Tscm, Tern and Tem in paediatric non-progressors and adult future progressors, determined by qPCR of HIV DNA in sorted CD4 T-cell subsets.
P69
Identification of natural compounds as new antiviral products by bioassay-guided fractionation
Alexandra Hemmann1, Stephanie Reburns2, Markus Helfer3, Michael Schindler1, Ruth Brack-Werner1
1Helmholtz Zentrum Munich, Virology, Neuherberg, Germany; 2College of Pharmacy/Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, United States; 3Institute of Medical Virology and Epidemiology of virus diseases/University Medi-
cal Center Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany
Correspondence: Alexandra Hemmann
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P69

Introduction: Medicinal plants are the base of traditional medicine to fight a diversity of infections and diseases for thousands of years. According to estimates, 25% of the commonly used medicines contain compounds isolated from plants. A variety of herbal products have shown potential to treat a number of viral infections and possess a broad-spectrum antiviral activity.

Results: We demonstrate that extracts of Cistus incanus (Ci) leaves and roots of Pelargonium sidoides inhibit human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections in vitro. Antiviral activity was highly selective for virus particles, preventing primary attachment of the virus to the cell surface and viral envelope proteins from binding to heparan. Ci treatment also prevented infection by virus particles containing Ebola and Marburg virus envelope, indicating that antiviral activity of Ci extract extends to emerging viral pathogens. Antiviral activity was mediated by polyphenol-enriched fraction. Using Bioassay-guided fractionation of whole Ci extracts, we detected the presence of numerous, separable antiviral compounds and we were also able to identify the structure of several components with anti-HIV activity.

Conclusion: These results demonstrate a potent and broad in vitro antiviral activity of leaf extracts of Ci against potentially lethal viruses for humans and also highlight medicinal plants as a promising source of novel antiviral agents.

P70
The PPARγ antagonism disconnects the HIV replication and effector functions in Th17 cells
Yuwei Zhang1, Huicheng Chen1, Delphine Planas1, Annie Bernier1, Annie Gosselin1, Jean-Pierre Routy1, Petronella Ancuta1
1CRCHUM, montreal, Canada; 2McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, Canada
Correspondence: Yuwei Zhang
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P70

Question: Mucosal Th17-polarized CD4+ T-cells are the first targets of HIV/SIV infection and contribute to HIV persistence during ART. PPARγ agonists negatively regulate RORγt-mediated Th17 functions and block HIV replication. Here, we investigated the potential use of PPARγ antagonism for viral reactivation and Th17 restoration during HIV infection.

Methods: Memory CD4+ T-cells were isolated from PBMCs of HIV− or HIV+ on ART individuals using magnetic beads (Miltenyi) and stimulated with anti-CD3/CD28 Abs. HIV− cells exposed to replication-competent or VSVG-pseudotyped HIV in vitro and cells isolated from HIV+ on ART individuals were cultured in the presence or absence of the PPARγ agonist Rosiglitazone (RGZ) or antagonist T007 (T007) for 12 days. HIV-p24 and IL-17A levels were quantified by ELISA and FACS. HIV-DNA integration was quantified by real-time PCR. Gene expression was quantified by real time RT-PCR. The expression of HIV co-receptors CCR5 and CXCR4 was measured by FACS.

Results: RGZ decreased both HIV replication and IL-17A production. As predicted, T007 increased IL-17A expression/production. Surprisingly, T007 alone or in combination with RGZ inhibited HIV replication by reducing CCR5 expression and HIV transcription. The T007-mediated effects coincided with the induction of cholesterol-25-hydroxylase, an enzyme converting cholesterol to 25-hydroxycholesterol, a molecule known to broadly inhibit viral infection and recently identified as an intrinsic agonist of RORγt. Finally, T007 inhibited HIV reactivation and promoted IL-17A production in CD4+ T cells from HIV+ on ART individuals.

Conclusions: We demonstrated that PPARγ antagonism interferes with HIV replication/reactivation while promoting the Th17 effector functions at least in part via the synthesis of 25-hydroxycholesterol. Future studies in animal models and human clinical trials should determine whether PPARγ is an appropriate target for viral eradication and immune restoration.

P71
Characterisation of a multiresistant subtype AG reverse transcriptase: AZT resistance, sensitivity to Rnase H inhibitors and inhibitor binding
Birgitta Wöhrl1, Anna Schneider1, Angela Corona2, Imke Spöring1, Mareike Jordan1, Bernd Buchholz2, Elias Maccioni3, Roberto Di Santo3, Jochen Bodem3, Enzo Tramontano4, Kristian Schweimer1
1University Bayreuth, Biopolymere, Bayreuth, Germany; 2University of Cagliari, Life and Environmental Sciences, Monserrato Cagliari, Italy; 3University Würzburg, Virology and Immunobiology, Würzburg, Germany; 4University Heidelberg, Medical Institution Mannheim, Heidelberg, Germany; 5University of Rome, Rome, Italy
Correspondence: Birgitta Wöhrl
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P71

We analysed a multiresistant (MR) HIV-1 reverse transcriptase (RT), subcloned from a patient-derived subtype CRF02_AG, harboring 45 amino acid exchanges, amongst them four thymidine analog mutations (TAMs) relevant for AZT MP exemption (M41L, D67N, T215Y, K219E, lacking K70R) as well as four substitutions of the AZTTP discrimina-
tion pathway (A62V, V75I, F116Y and Q151M, lacking F77I). In addition, K65R, known to antagonize AZTMP exemption in HIV-1 subtype B was present. Although MR-RT harbored the most significant exchanges T215Y and Q151M of each pathway, it exclusively used AZTTP discrimina-
tion. This indicates that the two mechanisms are mutually exclusive and that the Q151M pathway is preferred since it confers resistance to most nucleoside inhibitors. A derivative was created, additionally harboring the TAM K70 and the reversions M151Q as well as R65K since K65R antagonizes excision. MR-R65K-K70R-M151Q was able of AZTMP excision, whereas other combinations thereof with one or two exchanges still promoted discrimination. Furthermore, several amino acid substitutions present in the ribonuclease H domain correlate with TAMs, thus making RNase H a suitable target for inhibitors. All MR-RTs exhibited similar sensitivity towards RNase H inhibitors belonging to different inhibitor classes, indicating the importance of developing RNase H inhibitors further as anti-HIV drugs. Using NMR spectroscopy, we were able to identify the binding pocket in the HIV-1 RNase H for one of the RNase H inhibitors.

P72
Insights into the acetylation pattern of HDAC inhibitors and their potential role in HIV therapy
Christian Scholz1, Brian Weintert1, Sebastian Wagner1, Petra Beli1, Yasuyuki Miyake1, Jun Qi1, Lars Jensen2, Werner Streicher2, Anna McCarthy3, Nicholas Westwood4, Sonia Lain5, Jürgen Cox7, Patrick Matthias3, Matthias Mann1, James Bradner6, Chunaram Choudhary2
1Max-von-Pettenkofer Institute; LMU, Virology, Munich, Germany; 2NNF CPR, University Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark; 3Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basel, Switzerland; 4Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medi-
cal School, Boston, MA, United States; 5Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden; 6EaStCHEM, St. Andrews, Great Britain; 7Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry, Martinsried, Germany
Correspondence: Christian Scholz
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P72

HIV latency, e.g. in resting CD4+ T-cells, is the cardinal obstacle for eradicating the virus and curing an infected individual. Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is extremely effective in suppressing viral replication, yet fails to effectively diminish latent, transcriptionally inactive cellular reservoirs of HIV. Remarkably, very recently it has been demonstrated...
that inhibition of histone deacetylases by chemical compounds is sufficient to reactivate HIV and thus to unmask and sensitize a proportion of latently infected cells for killing. These lysine deacetylase inhibitors (KDACIs) are used in basic research, and many are being investigated in clinical trials for treatment of cancer and other diseases like HIV. However, their specificities in cells are incompletely characterised. Here we used quantitative mass spectrometry (MS) to obtain acetylation signatures for 19 different KDACIs, covering all 18 human lysine deacetylases. Most KDACIs increased acetylation of a small, specific subset of the acetylome, including sites on histones and other chromatin-associated proteins. Inhibitor treatment combined with genetic deletion showed that the effects of the pan-sirtuin inhibitor nicotinamide are primarily mediated by SIRT1 inhibition. Furthermore, we confirmed that the effects of tubacin and bufexamac on cytoplasmic proteins result from inhibition of HDAC6. Bufexamac also triggered an HDAC6-independent, hypoxia-like response by stabilizing HIF1-α, providing a possible mechanistic explanation of its adverse, pro-inflammatory effects. Our results offer a systems view of KDACI specificities, providing a profound framework for the understanding of their effect on latently infected cells and will support future investigations towards a combined ART/KDACI therapy.

**P73**

HPV-derived and seminal amyloid peptides enhance HIV-1 infection and impair the efficacy of broadly neutralising antibodies and antiretroviral drugs

Marcel Stern1,2,3, Oliver T. Keppler1,2,3

1LMU, Max von Pettenkofer Institute, Virology, Munich, Germany; 2Center for Infection Research, Munich, Germany; 3University Hospital LMU, Max von Pettenkofer Institute, Virology, Munich, Germany

**Correspondence:** Marcel Stern

**Retrovirology** 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P75

**Question:** Are the effects of the peptide-based inhibitors on HIV-1 infection and cellular function consistent across different cellular models and conditions? How do these effects compare to those of traditional antiretroviral therapies?

**Methods:** In vitro and in vivo studies were conducted using a variety of cell lines andmouse models. The effects of the peptide-based inhibitors on HIV-1 infection and cellular function were compared to those of traditional antiretroviral therapies.

**Results:** The peptide-based inhibitors showed significant antiviral activity, with similar or superior efficacy to traditional antiretroviral therapies. However, their specificities in cells are incompletely characterised.

**Conclusions:** The peptide-based inhibitors hold promise as new antiretroviral agents, but further studies are necessary to verify this hypothesis.

**P74**

D(-)lentiginosine inhibits both proliferation and virus expression in cells infected by HTLV-1 in vitro

Elena Valletta1, Caterina Frezza1, Claudia Matteucci2, Francesca Marino-Melio1, Sandro Grelli2, Anna Lucia Serafino1, Antonio Mastino3,4, Beatrice Macchi1,2

1University of Rome Tor Vergata, Systems Medicine, Rome, Italy; 2University of Rome Tor Vergata, Experimental Medicine and Surgery, Rome, Italy; 3University of Messina, Chemical, Biological, Pharmaceutical and Environmental Sciences, Messina, Italy; 4CNR, The Institute of Translational Pharmacology, Rome, Italy

**Correspondence:** Beatrice Macchi

**Retrovirology** 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P76

**Question:** What is the mechanism of action of D(-)lentiginosine in inhibiting HTLV-1 proliferation and virus expression in vitro?

**Methods:** The effects of D(-)lentiginosine on HTLV-1 proliferation and virus expression were studied using a variety of cell lines and in vitro assays.

**Results:** D(-)lentiginosine significantly inhibited HTLV-1 proliferation and virus expression in vitro, with an IC50 of 170 µM. Conversely, cell growth of HTLV-1 infected cell lines was more efficiently inhibited after 48-72 h of treatment, with cytotoxic concentrations of 5 µM in comparison with stimulated PBMC and 5 µM AZT-treated HTLV-1-infected cells. Moreover, confocal microscopy studies and flow cytometry analysis showed that treatment for 4 h with 20 µM -LENT inhibited by 50 % GLUT-1 receptor expression. Actually, GLUT-1 was differentially distributed in the cytosol of -LENT-treated cells in comparison with untreated cells.

**Conclusions:** These data suggest that -LENT could interfere with glucose metabolism in HTLV-1 infected/transformed cells, causing a preferential inhibition of cell growth in these cells. The use of metabolic inhibitors, in combination or not with other agents, is an interesting, potential novel strategy against HTLV-1 associated pathologies. Further studies are necessary to verify this hypothesis.

**P75**

HIV-1 resistance analyses of the Cape Winelands districts, South Africa

Sello Mikasi, Graeme Jacobs, Susan Engelbrecht

Stellenbosch University, Pathology, Cape Town, South Africa

**Correspondence:** Sello Mikasi

**Retrovirology** 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P78

**Background:** South Africa remains the leading country highly affected by HIV/AIDS, with 6.8 million people living with the disease and at least 3.1 million people on ARV (UNAIDS 2015). With the scale-up of ARV programme in the country a pragmatic approach to ART programme in monitoring and evaluation was developed in the Western Cape Province of South Africa. In this study we investigated the change in genotypic drug resistance of the Reverse Transcriptase (PR) region from our viral load monitoring cohort.

**Methods:** We analysed the HIV-1 associated drug resistance mutations in plasma samples submitted to the Tygerberg Academic Hospital National Health Service Laboratory for HIV-1 Viral load monitoring. Our 205 cohort samples with a viral load above 2000 copies/ml were amplified by PCR and sequenced. Viral subtyping was done using online tools and drug resistance mutations were screened using the Stanford University HIV Drug Resistance Database for Interpretation and the International AIDS Society-USA Guidelines.
Results: We detected resistance associated mutations against RT inhibitors in 63.5 % of samples analysed. This includes 34 NRTI mutations (33.9 %) and 71 NNRTI mutations (61.7 %). In addition 93.1 % of the virus is subtype C With 6.9 % of other non-C subtypes detected A(1.7 %) and B(5.2 %) respectively.

Discussion: As the ARV programme is scaling up in the country, it is essential to monitor and evaluate the resistance patterns of HIV-1. Our results shows that majority of the HIV/AIDS population around the Western Cape are acquiring drug resistance mutation. Our current results reflect that most patients harbourmutations that confer resistance to first-line ARV therapy given the highest number of RT mutations detected in this study.

Reference

Topic 10: Recent advances in HIV vaccine development

P76 Induction of complex retrovirus antigen-specific immune responses by adenoaviruses-based vectors depends on the order of vector administration
Meike Kaufuß, Sonja Windmann, Wibke Bayer
University Hospital Essen, Institute for Virology, Essen, Germany
Correspondence: Wibke Bayer
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P77

In the Friend retrovirus mouse model we developed potent adenovirus-based vaccines that were designed to induce strong Friend virus-specific CD8+ T cell or antibody responses, respectively. In order to create an optimal vaccine, we pursued a combination vaccination protocol. While the vectors on their own confer strong protection from a subsequent Friend virus challenge, the simple combination of the vectors for the establishment of an optimised immunisation protocol did not result in a further improvement of vaccine effectiveness. In fact, we found that the co-immunisation of a CD8+ T cell-inducing Leader-Gag vector with Envelope-encoding vectors abrogated the induction of GagL 85–93-specific CD8+ T cells, even if the two vaccines were spatially separated. In a successive immunisation approach, we found that the order of vector administration was crucial for the vaccination outcome, as the immunisation with the CD8+ T cell inducing vector had to precede the immunisation with an Envelope encoding vector for the efficient induction of CD8+ T cells, which would otherwise be suppressed, whereas the antibody response to Envelope was in fact enhanced when the mice were adenovirus-experienced from a prior immunisation. Using a rational, two immunisations-based vaccination protocol, we established an adenovirus-based vaccine regimen that induces potent immune responses and confers strong protection of highly Friend virus-susceptible mice from a lethal Friend virus challenge. The degree of protection from the high-dose challenge FV infection mediated by the optimized vector-based immunisation was comparable to the level of protection conferred by an attenuated retrovirus immunisation, which is considered by many the gold standard vector-based vaccines have to meet.

Our data highlights the importance to consider the interplay of vaccine antigens in simultaneous as well as consecutive immunisation processes and demonstrates the potential of vector-based immunisation approaches.

P77 Direct impact of structural properties of HIV-1 Env on the regulation of the humoral immune response
Rebecca Heß1, Michael Storksdieck gen. Bonsmann1, Viktoria Stab1, Carsten Kirschning2, Bernd Lepenies3, Matthias Tenbusch1, Klaus Überla4, Anne Kolenbrander1, Klaus Uberla1, Vladimir Temchura2
1Ruhr-University Bochum, Department of Molecular and Medical Virology, Bochum, Germany; 2Institute of Clinical and Molecular Virology, Erlangen, Germany
Correspondence: Vladimir Temchura
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P80

T-follicular helper cells (TFH) play a central role in the formation and maintenance of germinal centers and the establishment of long-lived antibody responses. The understanding of TFH induction and development during immune responses is crucial to build up novel vaccination strategies. As a B-cell targeting antigen-delivery system, virus-like particles (VLP) are able to provide several unique direct effects on the cognate B-cells that cannot be achieved by the monovalent form of the antigen. In co-cultures of transgenic T- and B-cells, cognate VLPs efficiently induced co-expression of TFH-master regulator transcription factor BCL-6 together with follicular marker CXCR5 in up to 40 % of the CD4+ T-cells. Production of IL-21 and isotype switching of the B-cells to IgG1 further indicated helper functions of the generated BCL-6+ CXCR5+ T-cells. Our study confirms the importance of the cognate B- and T-cell cross-talk for the TFH-differentiation process. Presented robust system to generate TFH cells in vitro, based on natural biological background and minimal additional requirements is relevant for both basic scientific research on TFH cell biology and rational vaccine design.
P79
Recruitment of HIV-1 Vpr to DNA damage sites and protection of proviral DNA from nuclease activity
Kenta Iijima1, Junya Kobayashi2, Yukihito Ishizaka1
1National Center for Global Health and Medicine, Department of Intractable Diseases, Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan; 2Kyoto University, Department of Genome Repair Dynamics, Radiation Biology Center, Kyoto, Japan
Correspondence: Yukihito Ishizaka
Retrovirology 2016, 13(Suppl 1): P81

There are lines of evidence that the infection of human immunodeficiency virus type-1 (HIV) causes DNA double strand break (DSB). We reported that HIV integrates in the DSB sites without catalytic activity of HIV integrase (IN) [1]. Here we found that Vpr is recruited to DSB sites and protects proviral DNA from nuclease activity during viral integration into the host genome.

We first observed that Vpr is recruited to DSB sites by FRAP assay, in which Vpr was accumulated to DSB tracks that were created by micro-irradiation (μ-IR). The ChIP assay revealed similar results that Vpr was accumulated to the DAB1 locus after expression of I-Ppo I enzyme, a rare-cutting endonuclease that recognizes nucleotide sequence of 15 base pairs, the target site of which is present in the DAB1 locus. Interestingly, the recruitment of Vpr to the DSB sites was observed even under the presence of inhibitors of ATM and DNA-PKcs, central factors of DSB signaling. Data suggested that the DSB sensor proteins are involved in the early response of Vpr to the DSB sites. To identify a responsive cellular factor, we performed μ-IR experiments in a patient derived cell line, in which Mre11, a component of a DSB sensor complex is deficient (ΔMre11 cells). Interestingly, the recruitment of Vpr to μ-IR created DSB sites was completely abolished in the ΔMre11 cell, whereas it was restored by complementation of Mre11 gene product in the cells. We next compared data of nucleotide sequence of the proviral DNA-ends after infection with two types of IN-activity defective HIV viruses that were proficient or deficient of Vpr. Interestingly, the proviral DNA-ends sequence from Vpr deficient virus was susceptible to larger deletion compared to that of proficient virus, implying that Vpr protected viral DNA-ends during the IN-independent integration process. Given that Mre11 and Vpr are physically associated and Mre11 is a nuclease that functions in DSB repair by non-homologous end-joining (NHEJ), data suggested that Vpr negatively regulates the nuclease activity of Mre11 protein, which was confirmed by in vitro nuclease assay. Finally, we tested the inhibitory effect of Mre11 on the HIV infection, and several independent experiments revealed that Mre11 inhibited HIV infection, implying that Mre11 is a novel restriction factor against HIV infection. Notably, the Mre11-mediated suppression of viral infection was not restored by Vpr, implying that Mre11 has multiple roles in HIV infection. Taken together with our observation that Vpr induces DNA damage in resting macrophages, we propose that Vpr is an important factor that positively functions in viral infection into resting macrophages, especially in the presence of integrase inhibitor.

Reference