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Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization (MALDI):

Matrix molecules absorb laser light, enter an excited state, and collide with sample molecules, facilitating charge transfer to create ions.



Kamila Chughtai and Ron M.A. Heeren Chem Rev. Vol.110(5): pp3237–3277, 2010. Cryosectioning onto Indium Tin Oxide (ITO) coated glass slides and scanning digital image of slide for "teaching" FlexControl software on MALDI-TOF.



Cryosection image





Vacuum sublimation is used to apply an even microscopically thin uniform layer of matrix compound onto tissue section without the need for solvents.

Sublimation: the transition of a substance from solid to gas phase without an intermediate liquid phase.



How do we apply matrix for MALDI Imaging?

We built a vacuum sublimation apparatus.



exhaust

Heated sand bath

Vacuum at 0.05 Torr pressure is required in sublimation chamber and is monitored by electronic Pirani vacuum gauge.



750 Torr (atmospheric pressure)

0.05 Torr

Matrix deposition by vacuum sublimation.



Slides with matrix applied by vacuum sublimation.

Deposition of the matrix compound is at the molecular level because gaseous molecules recrystallize at the relatively cold surface of the tissue section attached to the cold condenser.

The uniformity of matrix deposition onto the slide attached to the cold condenser surface reflects the random Brownian motion of the released gaseous matrix molecules.



Adaptated MALDI plate holds slides for MALDIimaging Mass Spectrometry.

Conventional MALDI plate



MALDI plate for cryosections



Setting up a MALDI-IMS run after matrix sublimation.

(1) The slide is placed into a Bruker slide adaptor and into the MALDI-TOF instrument







MALDI-IMS in action.



After MALDI-IMS run is complete, cumulative spectra are uploaded for the entire tissue area imaged and individual lipids (peaks) can be selected to view their precise localization.



How are we applying MALDI-IMS to existing research projects?

Lipids as mediators of age-related changes in eye lens: "Quantitative and Spatial Analysis of Lipids in the aging eye lens".

 Acute kidney injury (UAB/UCSD O'Brien Center):
 "Early lipid changes in ischemia reperfusion related acute kidney injury using SWATH lipidomics coupled with MALDI tissue imaging"

•Lipid based mechanisms of immune suppression and antiinflammatory action by HDL in Lupus:

> "Modulation of HDL as a tool for the discovery of novel immune suppressive and anti-inflammatory lipids in Lupus"

Quantitative and Spatial Analysis of Lipids in the aging eye lens.



Zebrafish - an emerging model in biomedical

research



- \$0.39/tank/day (max fish per tank)
- 100-200 embryos weekly per sexually mature female
- Functional vision by 5 days of age
- Transparent embryos permeable to small molecules
- Various mutants model human ocular disorders





- \$0.75/cage/day (max 4-5 mice per cage)
- 6-8 pups monthly per sexually mature female
- Functional vision by 2 weeks of age

Stephen Watts, Ph.D., Department of Biology, Director UAB Aquatic Animal Research Core for NORC.

Elongation of posterior cells into cavity forming 1° fiber cells.

1° fiber cells lose nuclei/organelles, anterior cells divide, cells along equatorial edges forming 2° fiber cells (red).



Specific aims of the study:

- 1) To characterize and compare the lens lipidomes of Mice and Zebrafish.
- 2) To analyze the changes that occur in the lens lipdome with aging.
- 3) To determine where lipid changes are occurring in the lens.



Stephen Barnes, Ph.D., Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, Director UAB TMPL.





Mouse lens positive mode (Total lipids).



 PG O-44:2 (-PG)
 SM 38:4;2 (SM)
 LPE 12:3 (LPE_p)
 LPC 16:0
 PC 36:4 (16:0/20:4)
 PC 0-32:1 (PC) [alkyl link]

 PE 36:0 (-PE)
 SM 24:1;2 (SM)
 SM 32:3;4 (SM)
 SM 34:0;4 (SM)
 SM 34:1;3 (LCB 18:2, 2-2H2O, LCB 18:1;3-3H2O)

 LMMPE 18:0 (-MMPE)
 MM(monomethyl) PE 36:0 (-MMPE)
 MM(monomethyl) PE 36:0 (-MMPE)

Zebrafish lens positive mode (Total lipids).



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MS/MS fragments from782.6 m/z 36:4 PC (+mode).



Spectrum from MSMSALL_Pos F2.wiff (sample 1) - Pos F-2, Experiment 2, +TOF MS^2 (100 - 1500) from 782.632 min

ESI-MS/MS fragments from 840.7 m/z 36:4 PC acetate adduct (-mode).



Where in the lens are the changes in 16:0/20:4 PC occurring?



Spatial information on lens lipids provided by MALDI-Imaging MS.



MALDI-IMS on 16:0/20:4 PC(36:4) in1 year old mouse eye.





Lens 16:0/20:4 PC is localized exclusively to cortical region / of the lens where metabolically active epithelial cells are present.

MS/MS of protonated PC(36:4) in eye using MALDI Imaging MS platform.



Reduced diacyl phospholipids in lens nucleus.



Nothobranchius fuzeri: A naturally short-lived (rapidly aging) fish model for aging research.



Itamar Harel, Bérénice A. Benayoun, Ben Machado, Param Priya Singh, Chi-Kuo Hu, Matthew F. Pech, Dario Ricca, *et al.* A Platform for Rapid Exploration of Aging and Diseases in a Naturally Short-Lived Vertebrate. Cell, Volume 160, Issue 5, 1013 – 1026, 2015.

Early lipid changes in ischemia reperfusion related acute kidney injury using SWATH lipidomics coupled with MALDI tissue imaging.

Specific aims of the study:

1) To characterize the kidney lipidome of mice following acute injury (quantitatively).



2) To analyze where the changes in lipids occur in the kidney and to characterize those lipids that remain unchanged quantitatively but might be spatially altered.



Plasma creatinine and kidney histology in mice subjected to ischemia/reperfusion (IR) related kidney injury at early and late time-points.





Increases in renal ether-PE correlate with severity of AKI (as measured by plasma creatinine level.

1-ether, 2-acyl PE



Plasma creatinine (IR 0.5/6hrs)

10

12

MALDI-IMS on PE O-40:4 (782.6_641.6)



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AMC21 Immunology, Autoimmunity & Transplantation Strategic Planning