

The use of mass spectrometry in lipidomics

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Outlines

- **Brief introduction to lipidomics**
- **Analytical methodology: MS/MS structure elucidation of phospholipids**
- **Phospholipid analysis in lean and ob/ob mice by mass spectrometry**
- **MS/MS analysis of eicosanoids**

Lipidomics- A comprehensive analysis of lipid molecules in response to cellular stress and challenges

Lipids are very important!!

Nutrition

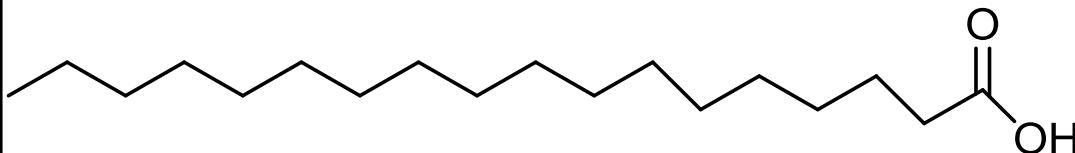
- Energy source
- Energy storage

Nutrition related diseases-

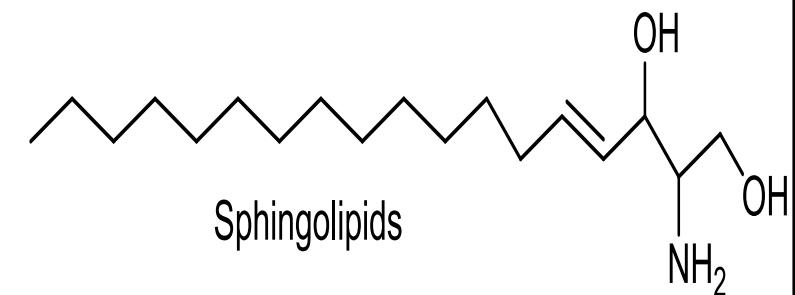
Atherosclerosis, diabetes

**Phospholipids are essential- membrane composition/
functional state of cells**

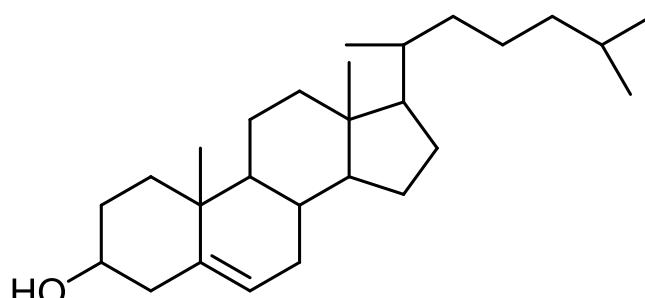
Structures of different lipids classes



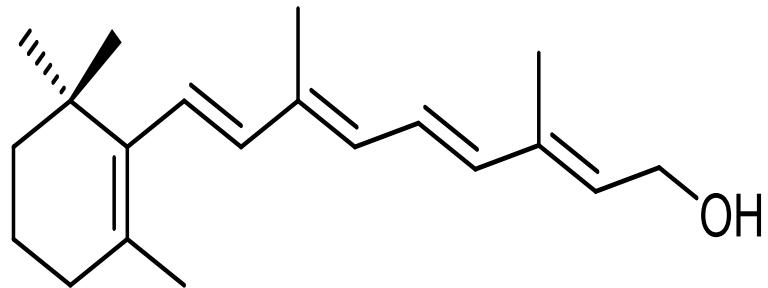
Fatty Acyl (FA), 18:0
saturated/unsaturated



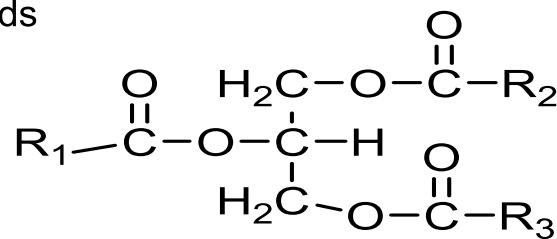
Sphingolipids



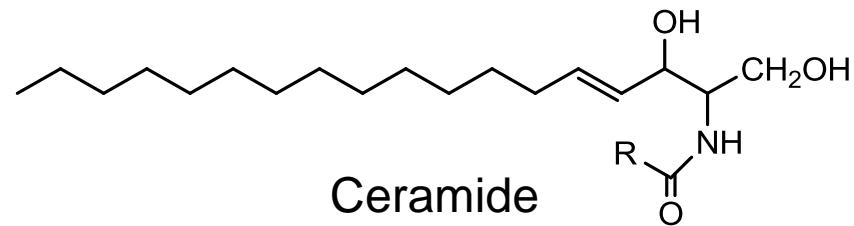
Sterol lipids



Prenol lipids (retinol)

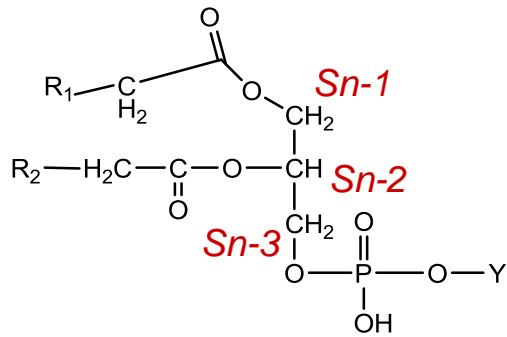


Glycerolipid, R =
saturated/unsaturated FA

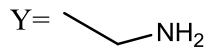


Ceramide

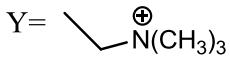
Structures of main phospholipids



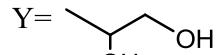
Phosphatidylethanolamine (PE)



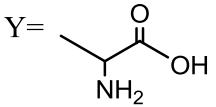
Phosphatidylcholine (PC)



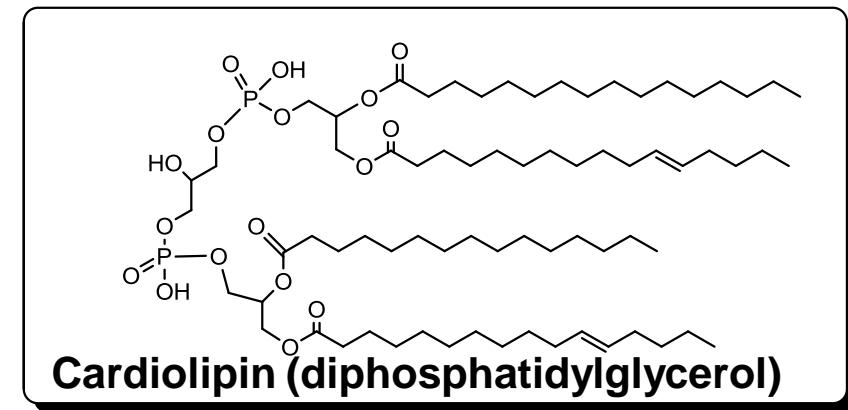
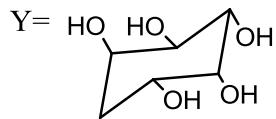
Phosphatidylglycerol (PG)



Phosphatidylserine (PS)



Phosphatidylinositol (PI)



Extraction of lipids by Bligh/Dyer method

- To a homogenized sample (1 ml containing internal standards) add methanol (2.5 ml) and chloroform (1.25 ml), sonicate by 4-5 bursts and added 1.0 ml water and 1.25 ml chloroform additionally and vigorously shaken.
- Centrifuge (1,000 x g) for 2 min and separate the chloroform layer (bottom layer) and repeat the process twice.
- Combine the chloroform soluble phase and evaporate to dryness and stored at -20 °C until analysis.

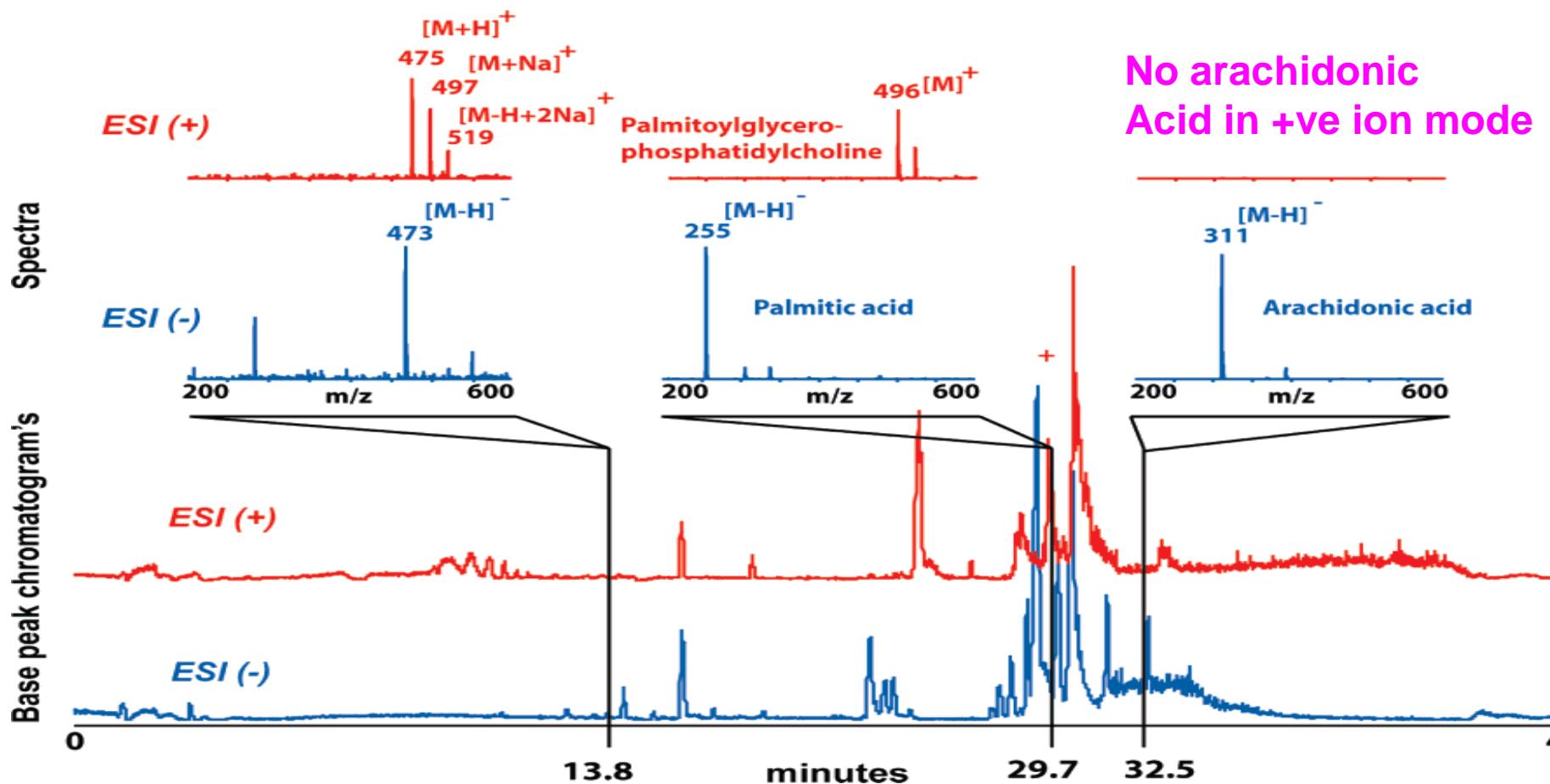
Shotgun lipidomics: intrasource separation of lipids for quantitative lipidomics

Group	Electrical Propensity	Lipid Classes
Anionic lipids	Carry net negative charge(s) at physiological pH	Cardiolipin, acylCoA, sulfatide, PtdIns (PtdInsP, PtdInsP ₂ , PtdInsP ₃), PtdGro, PtdSer, PtdH, etc.
Weak anionic lipids	Carry a net negative charge at alkaline pH	PE, lysoPE, ceramide, NEFA, eicosanoids, etc.
Neutral polar lipids	Neutral at alkaline pH	PC, lysoPC, SM, glycolipid, TAG, etc.
Special lipids	Vary	Acylcarnitine, sterols, etc.

The ionization efficiency of an analyte greatly depends on the electrical propensity of an individual analyte in its own microenvironment to lose or gain a charge

Source: Gross and Han,, 2004

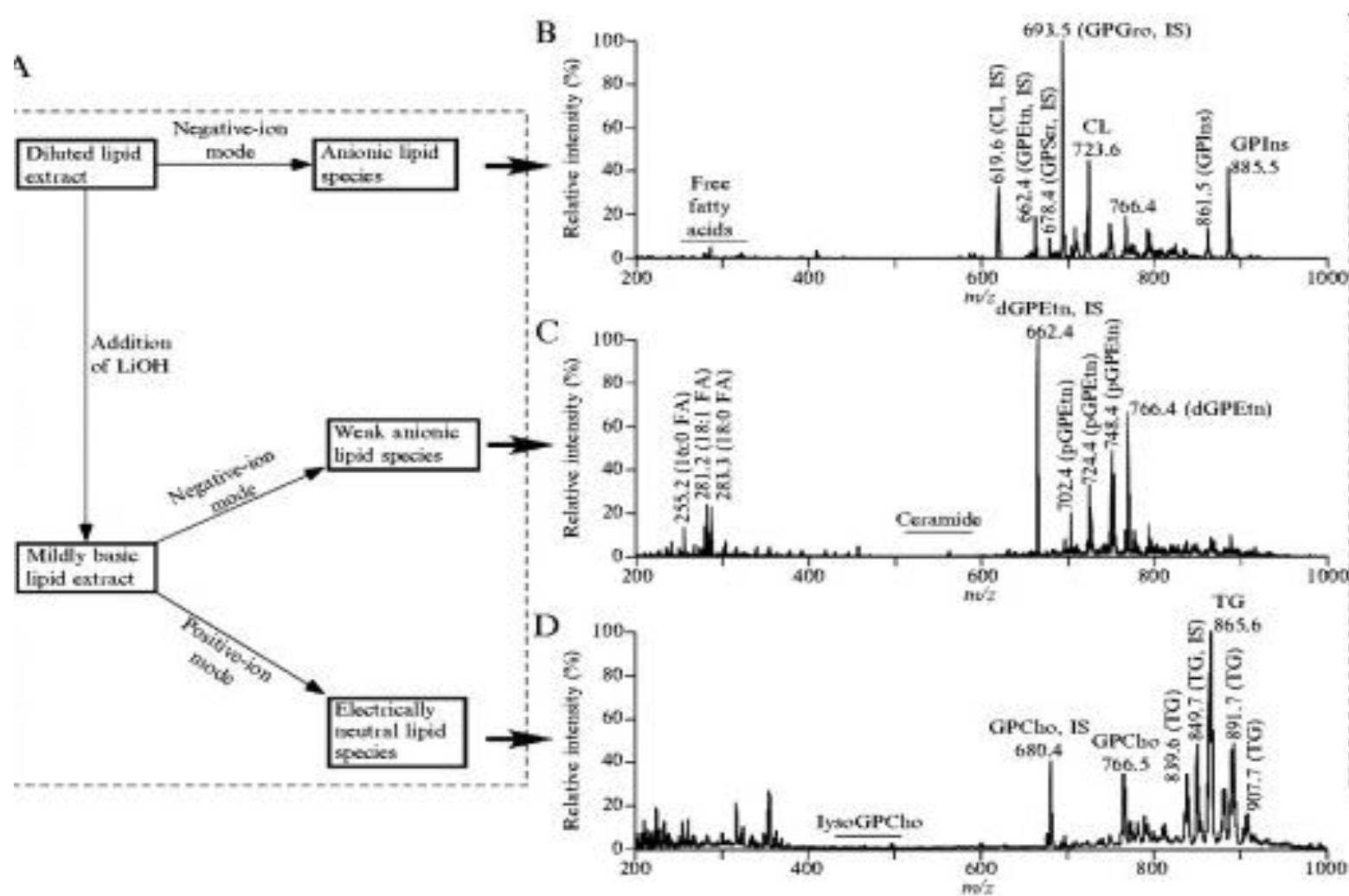
Increasing metabolite coverage using +ve and –ve ion mode



Representative Q1 scans of a methanolic extract of human blood serum

Source: Nordstrom et al. Analytical Chemistry, 2007

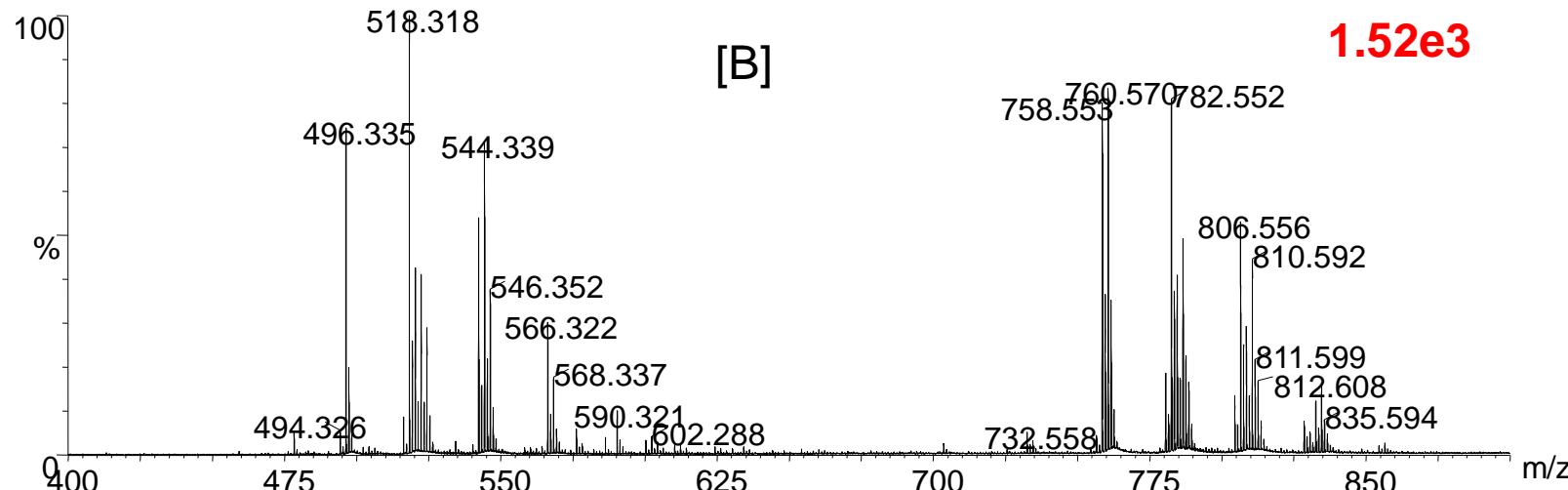
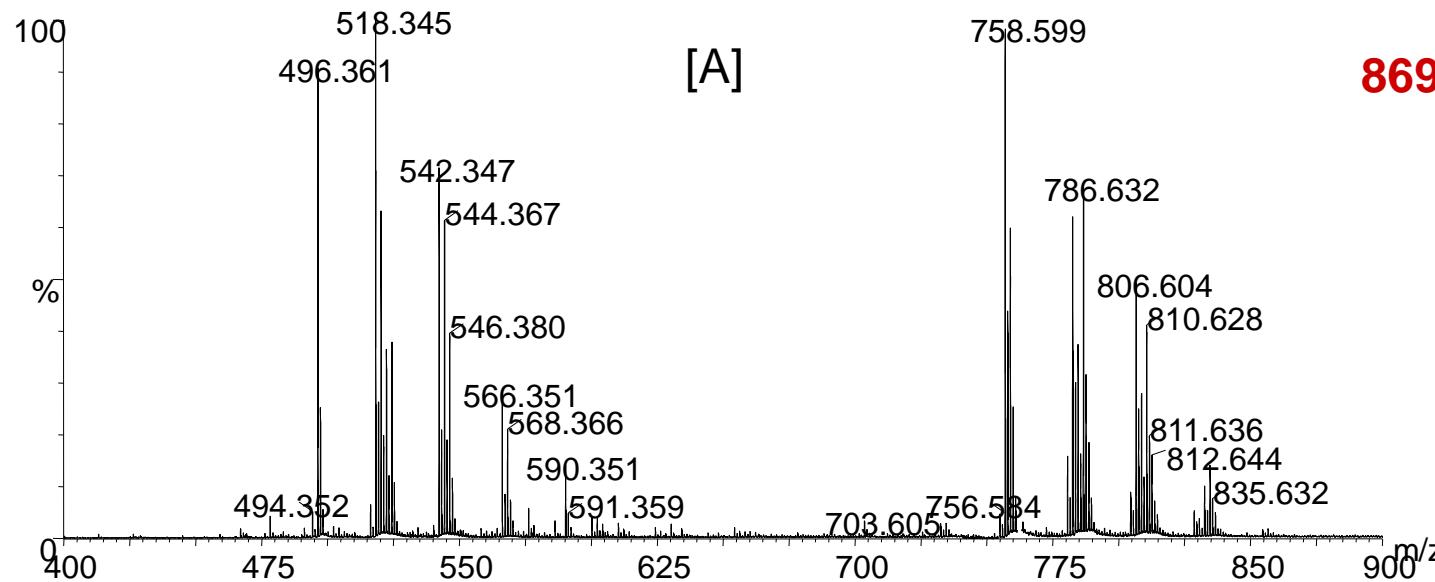
Application of shotgun lipidomics: intra-source separation of lipids



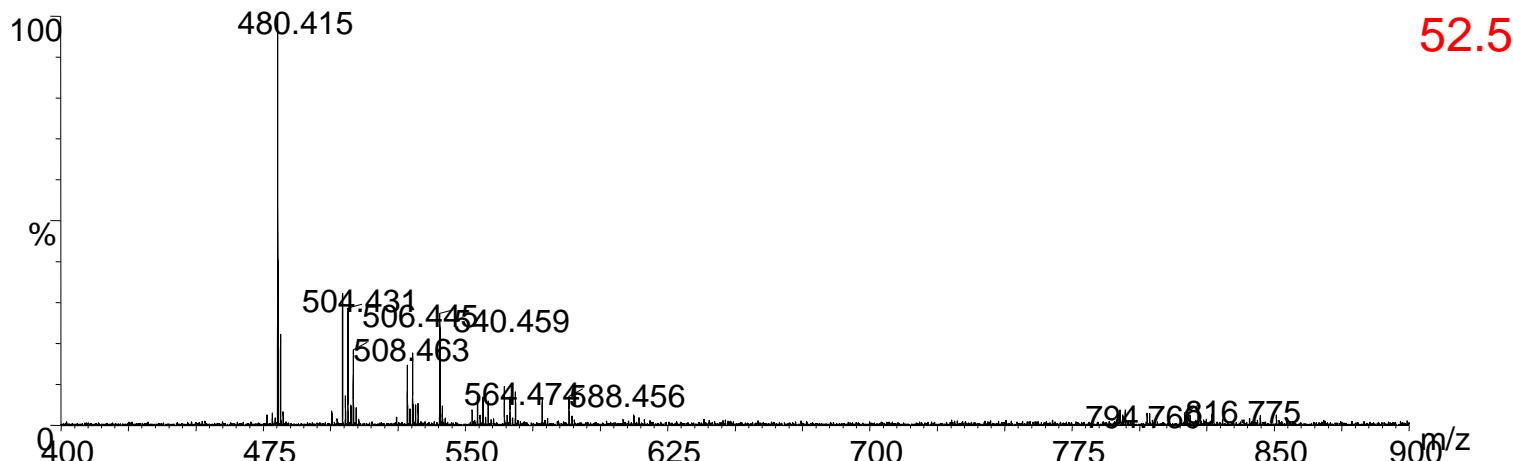
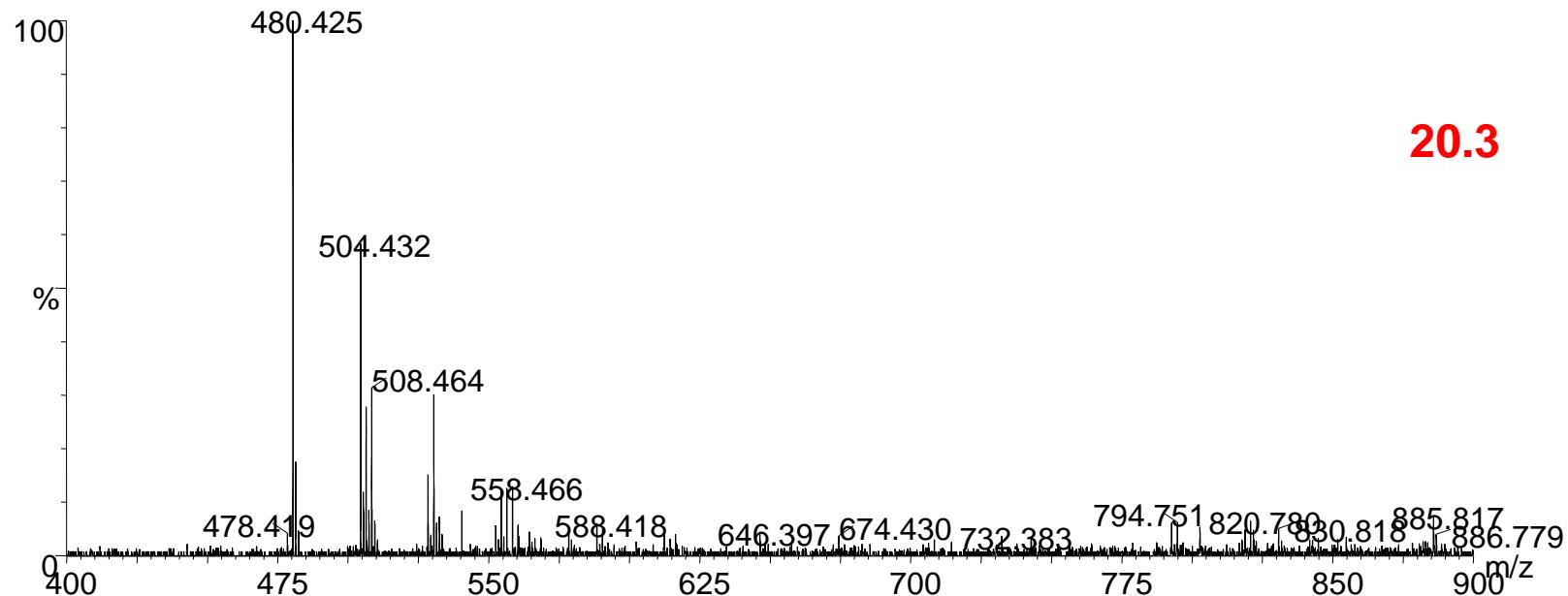
Source: Gross and Han, methods in Enzymology, 2007

Total scan of metabolites (Q1 SCAN + ion mode) for a plasma sample obtained from lean mouse [A]; ob/ob mouse

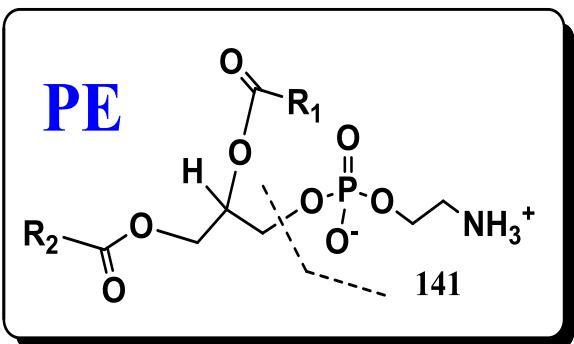
Total metabolomics



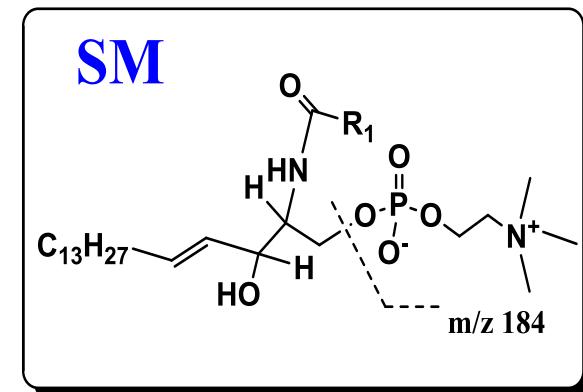
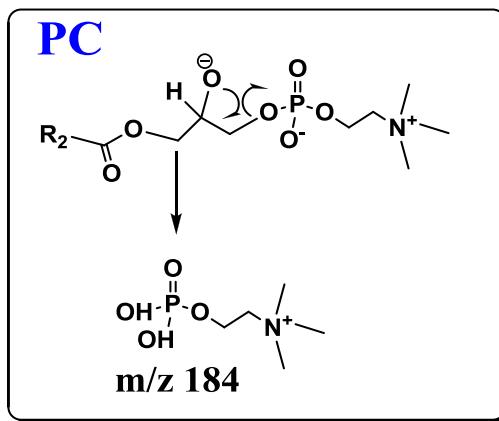
Total scan of metabolites (Q1 SCAN -ve ion mode) for a plasma sample obtained from lean mouse [A]; ob/ob mouse



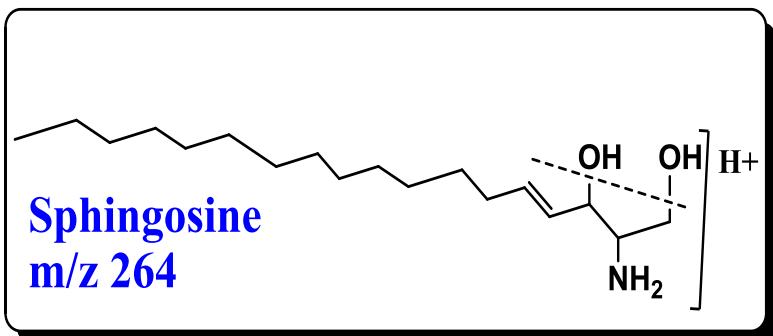
Profiling phospholipids and sphingosines in a complex mixture using MS/MS



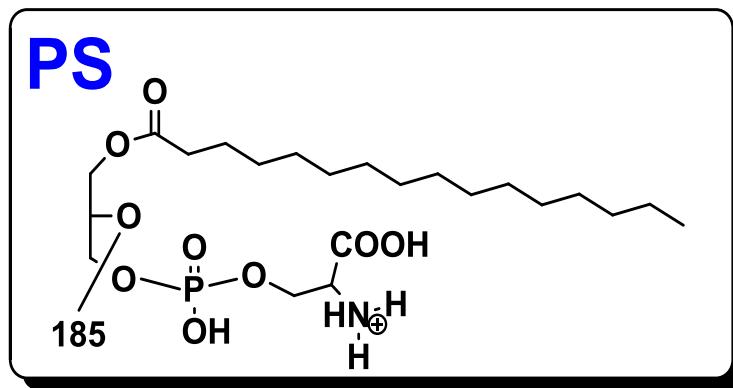
PE
Neutral Loss scan 141



PC & SM
Precursor ion scan 184

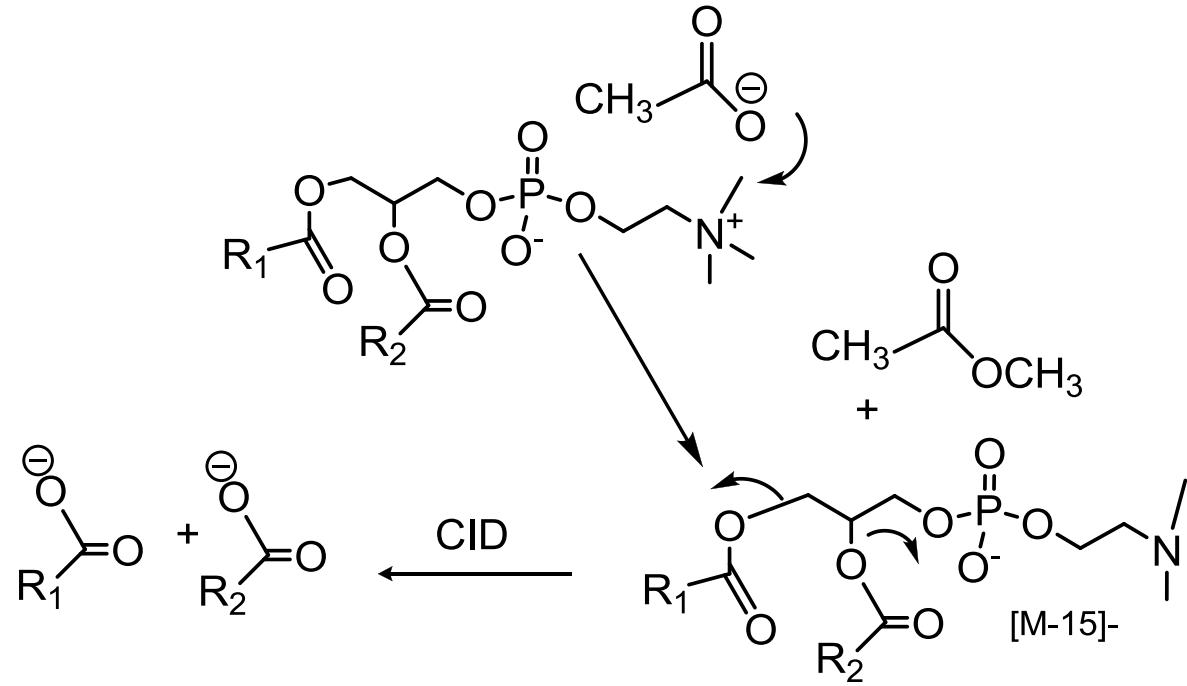


Ceramides and sphingosins
Precursor ion scan 264



PS
Neutral Loss scan 185

Phosphatidylcholine loses a methyl group to form a negatively charged, pseudomolecular ion



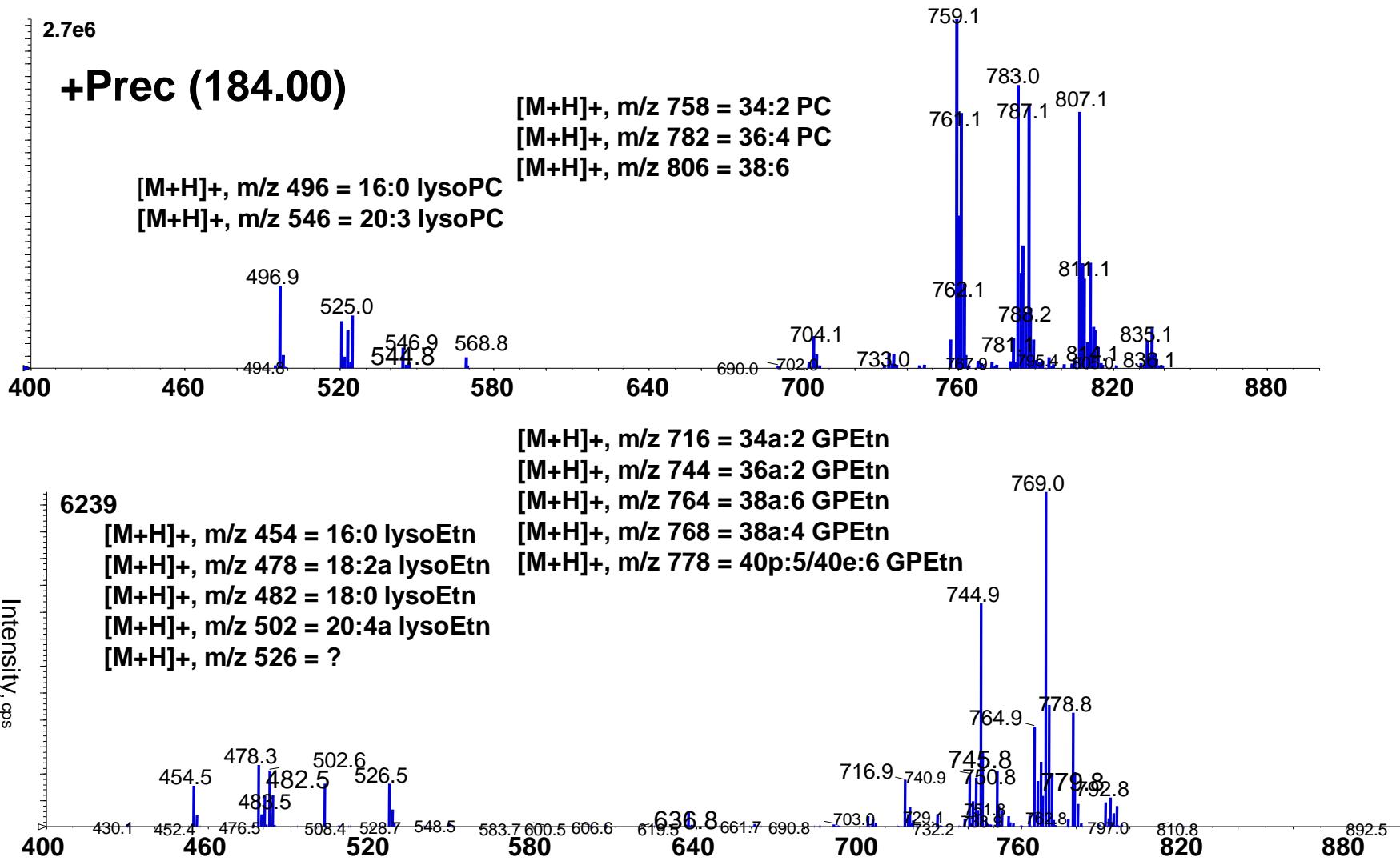
Phospholipids may undergo demethylation and then the loss of the fatty acyl groups from glycerophosphocholine backbone.

ESI-MS/MS analyses of various lipids

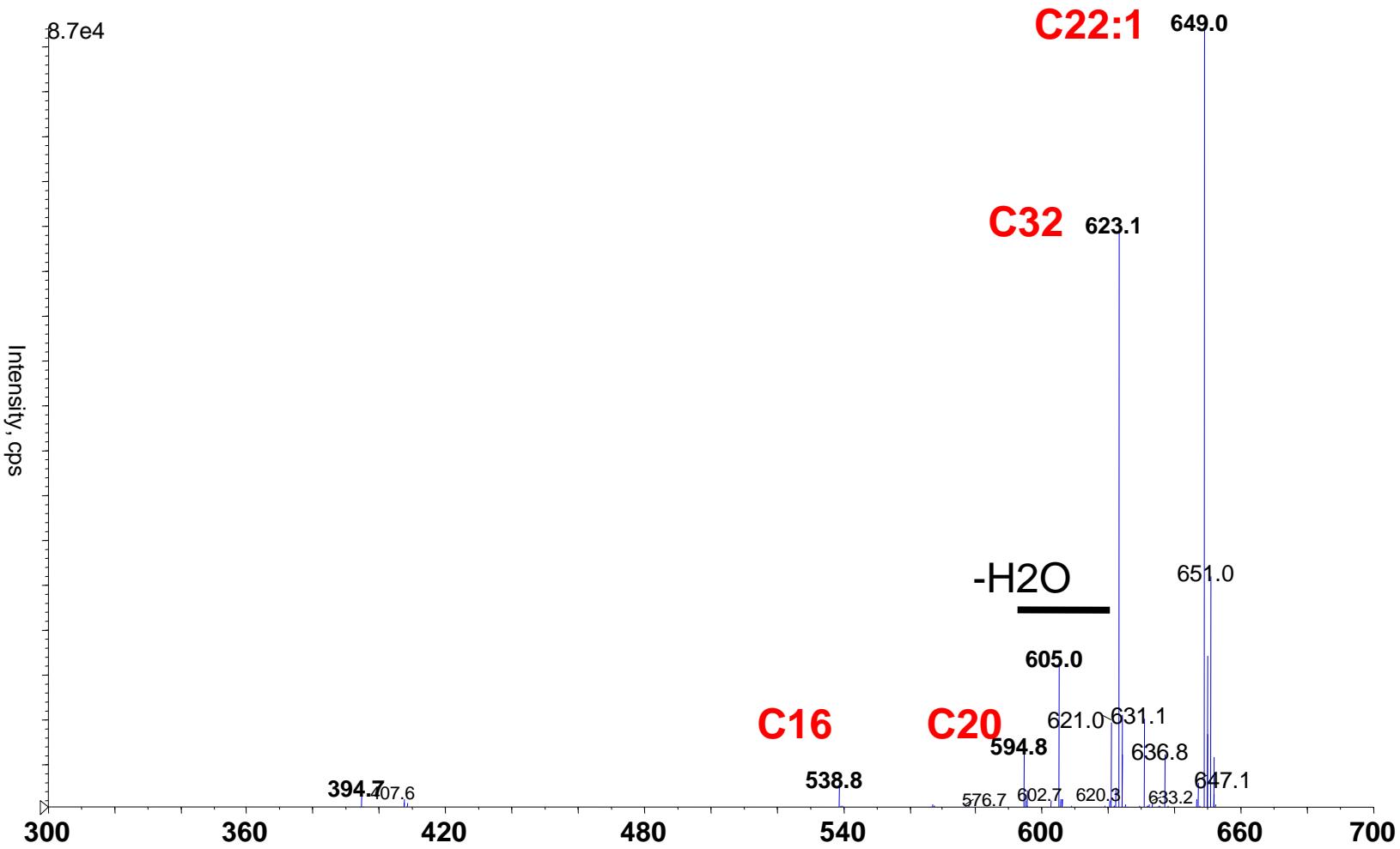
Lipid Class(s)	Precursor Ion	MS/MS Mode & Conditions	Fragment
cardiolipin	[M-2H] ²⁻	PI, <i>m/z</i> 153.0, 35 eV	glycerol phosphate derivative
PtdGro, PtdH	[M-H] ⁻	PI, <i>m/z</i> 153.0, 35 eV, *	glycerol phosphate derivative
PtdIns	[M-H] ⁻	PI, <i>m/z</i> 241.1, 45 eV	cyclic inositol phosphate
		PI, <i>m/z</i> 153.0, 35 eV	glycerol phosphate derivative
PtdInsP	[M-H] ⁻	PI, <i>m/z</i> 321.1, 53 eV	phosphoinositol phosphate
PtdInsP ₂	[M-H] ⁻	PI, <i>m/z</i> 401.1, 62 eV	diphosphoinositol phosphate
PtdSer	[M-H] ⁻	NL, 87.0 amu, 25 eV, *	serine
		PI, <i>m/z</i> 153.0, 35 eV	glycerol phosphate derivative
sulfatide	[M-H] ⁻	PI, <i>m/z</i> 97.0, 65 eV	sulfate
acylCoA	[M-2H] ²⁻	PI, <i>m/z</i> 339.0, 30 eV, *	doubly-charged CoA derivative
PE, lysoPE	[M-H] ⁻	PI, <i>m/z</i> 196.0, 50 eV	glycerol phosphoethanolamine derivative
ceramide	[M-H] ⁻	NL, 256.2 amu, 32 eV *	
		NL, 327.3 amu, 32 eV	
		NL, 240.2 amu, 32 eV *	2-trans-palmitoyl alcohol
PC, lysoPC, SM	[M+Li(Na)] ⁺	NL, 59.1 amu, -28 eV, *	trimethylamine
	[M+Li(Na)] ⁺	NL, 183.1 amu, -32 eV	phosphocholine
	[M+Li] ⁺	NL, 189.1 amu, -42 eV	lithium cholinephosphate
	[M+Na] ⁺	NL, 205.1 amu, -35 eV	sodium cholinephosphate
	[M+H] ⁺	PI, <i>m/z</i> 184.1, -30 eV, *	phosphocholine
	[M+Cl] ⁻	NL, 50.0 amu, 24 eV, *	methyl chloride
cerebroside	[M+Li] ⁺	NL, 162.2, -50 eV, *	
	[M+Cl] ⁻	NL, 36.0 amu, 30 eV	hydrogen chloride
MGDG	[M+Li(Na)] ⁺	PI, <i>m/z</i> 227(243), -45 eV	Li(Na)+galactose derivative
DGDG	[M+Li(Na)] ⁺	PI, <i>m/z</i> 227(243), -66 eV	Li(Na)+galactose derivative
acylcarnitine	[M+H] ⁺	PI, <i>m/z</i> 85.1, -20 eV, *	carnitine
chol. ester	[M+NH ₄] ⁺	PI, <i>m/z</i> 369.3, -50 eV, *	cholestane cation
TAG	[M+Li] ⁺	NL, X amu, -35 eV	a fatty acid

Source: Gross and Han, 2004

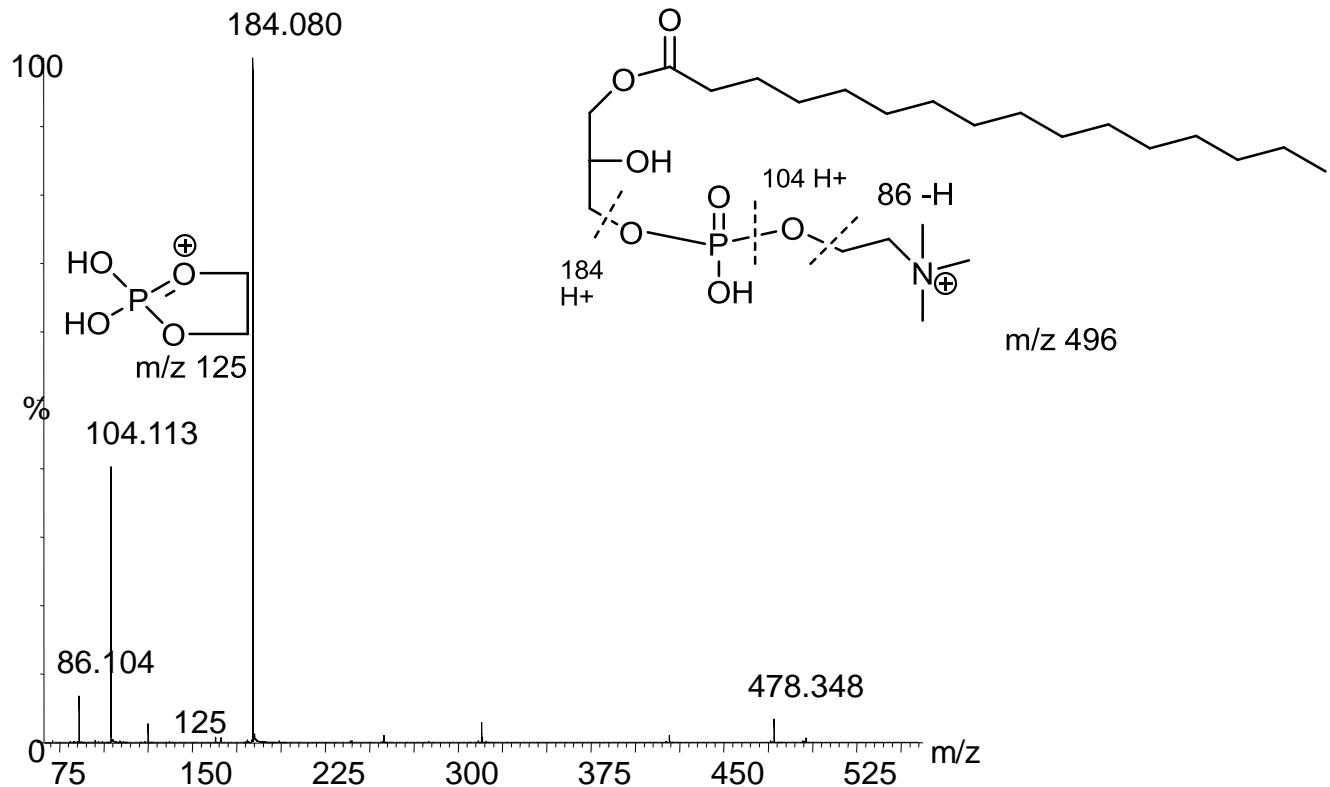
Profiling of phospholipids using precursor ion m/z 184 and neutral loss scan 141 for PC, SM and PE



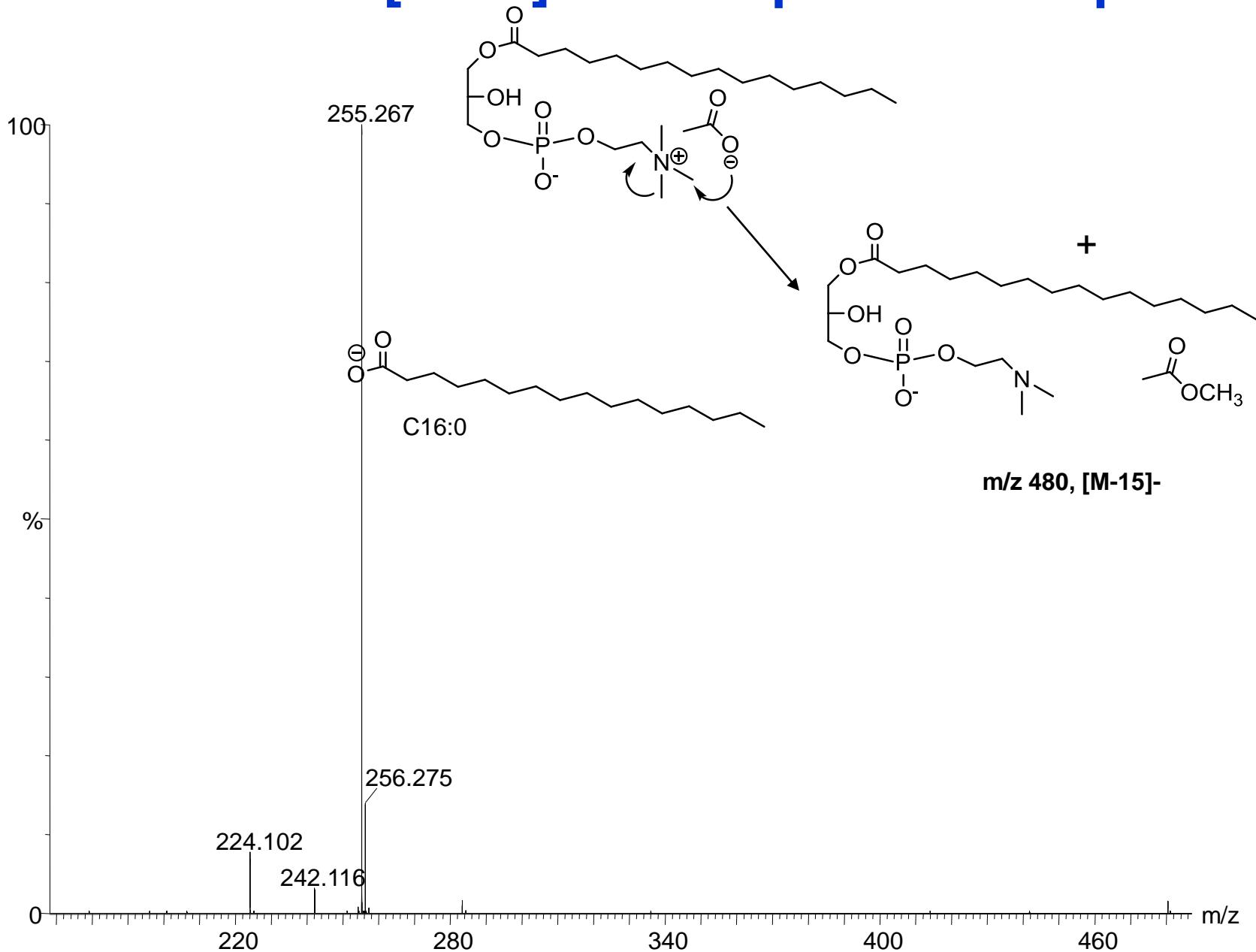
Precursor ion scan m/z 264 in +ve ion mode is specific to identify ceramides in a sample



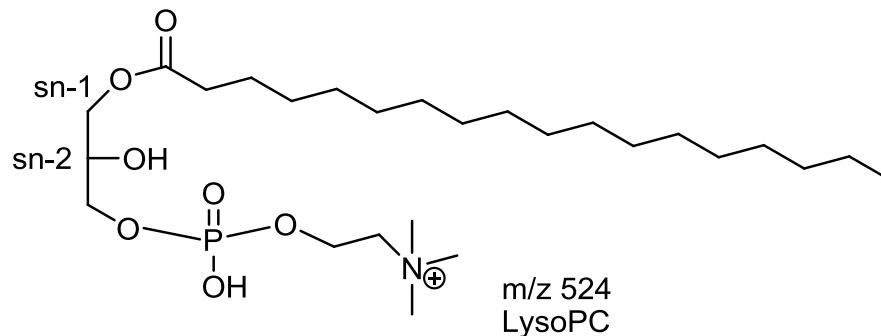
MSMS fragmentation of m/z 496 obtained from a plasma sample



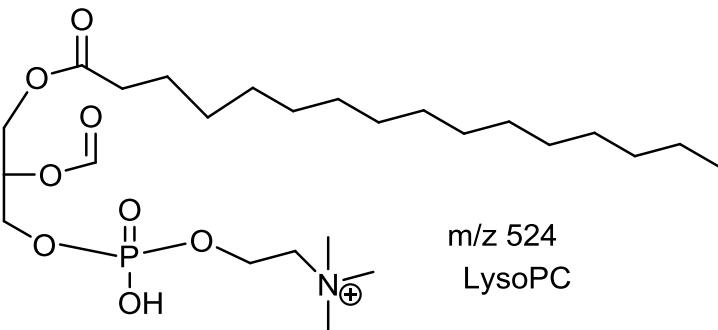
MS/MS of m/z 480 [M-15]- from a plasma sample



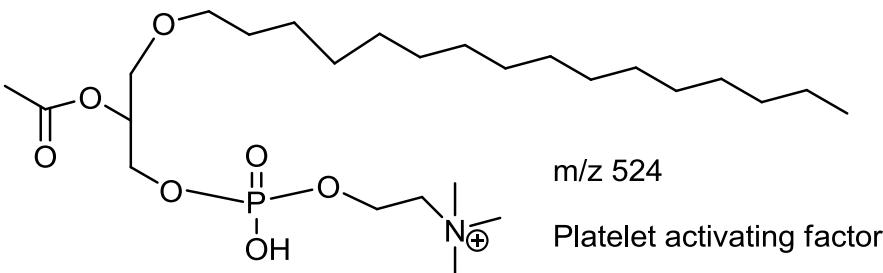
Several isomeric compounds exists and unambiguous identification is a challenge



m/z 524
LysoPC

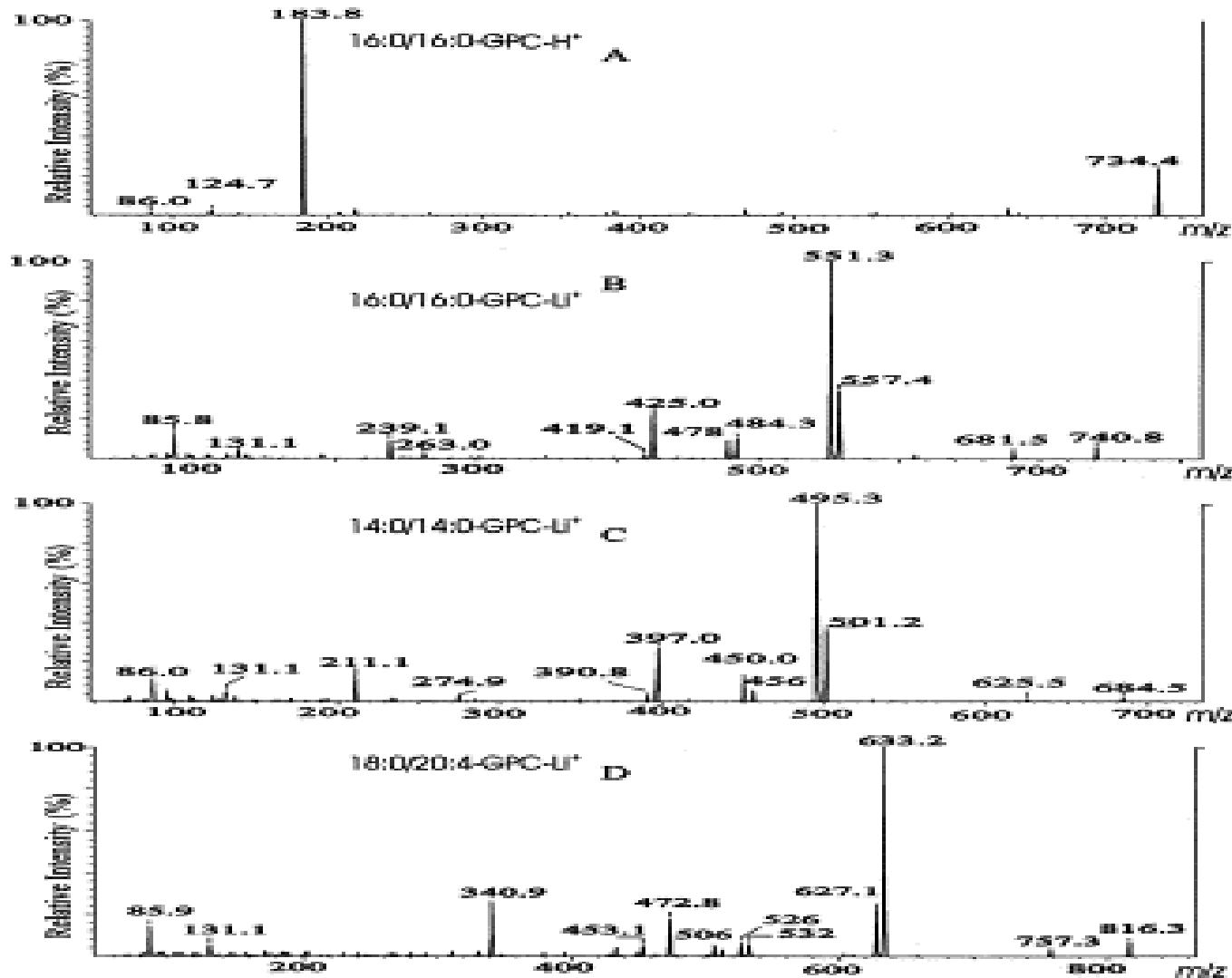


m/z 524
LysoPC



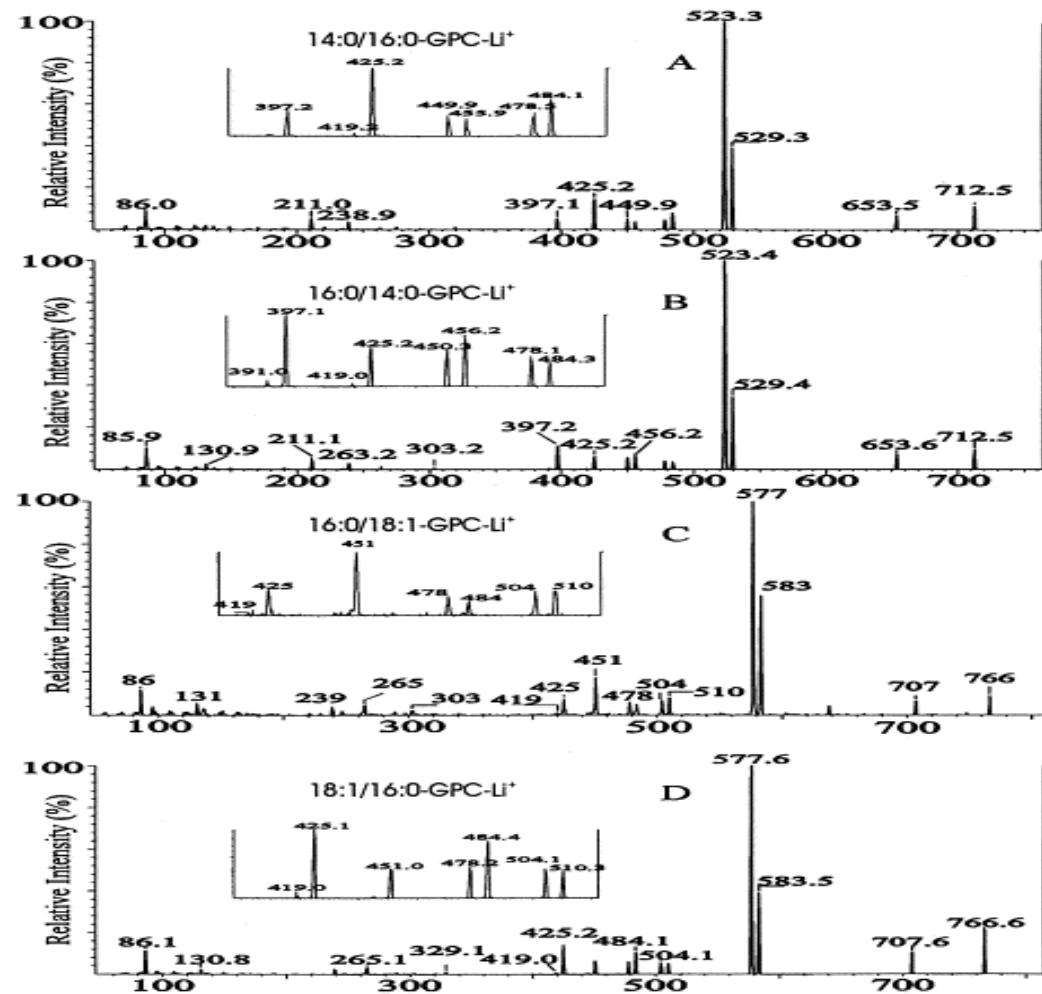
m/z 524
Platelet activating factor

Lithiated adducts of phosphocholine provide more structural information in their MS/MS spectra



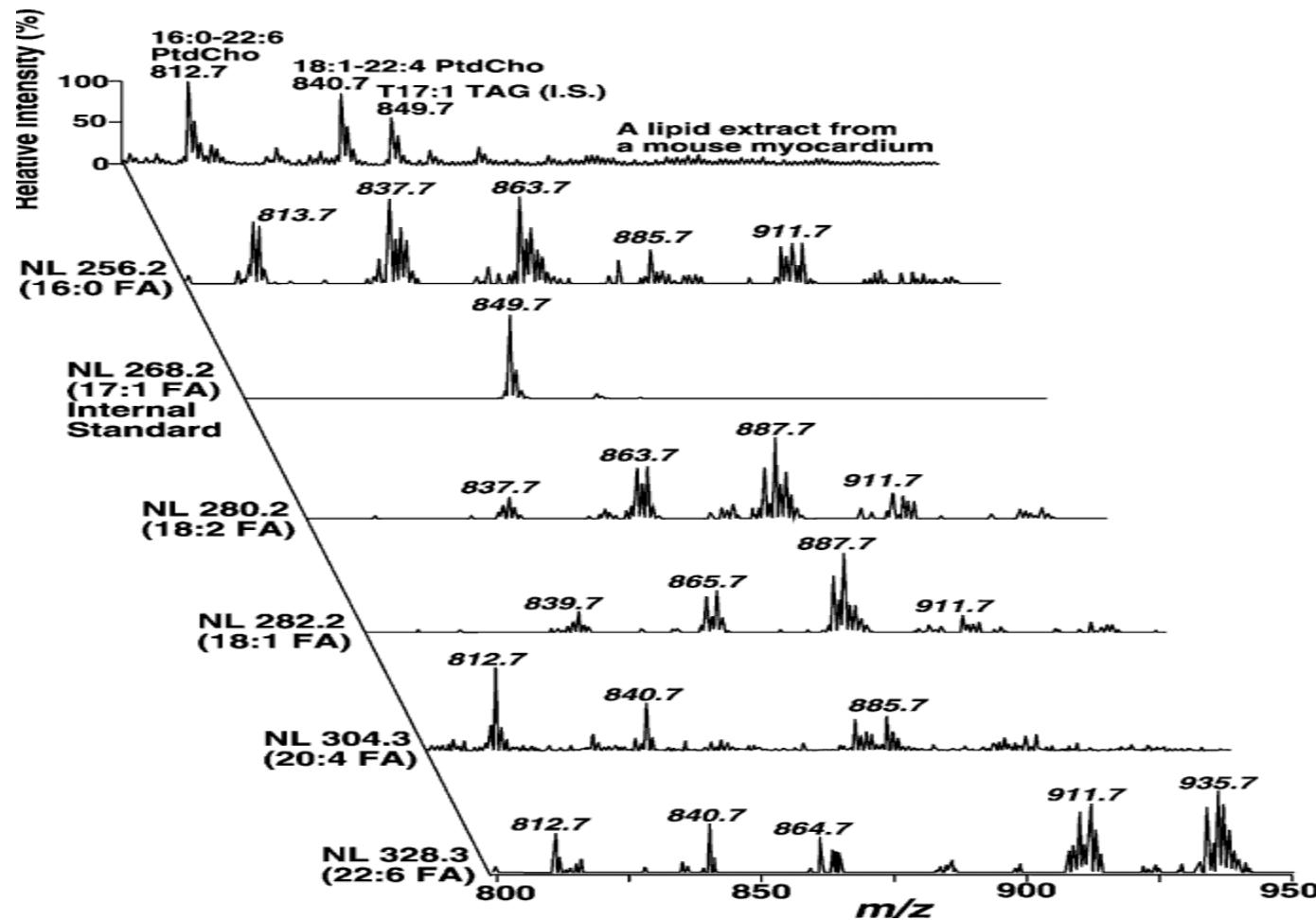
Source: Hsu et al. J. Am Soc. Mass Spectrom, 1998

Relative abundances of product ion can be used to distinguish positional isomers of lithiated phospholipids



Source: Hsu et al. J. Am Soc. Mass Spectrom, 1998

Neutral loss scans can be used to profile triacylglycerides (TAG)



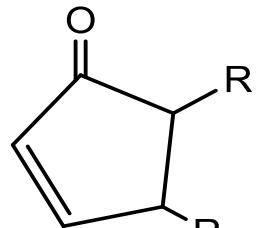
Source: Han and Gross, 2004

MS/MS analysis of eicosanoids

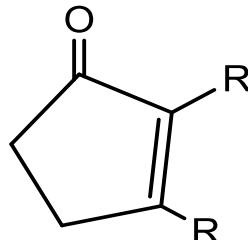
Eicosanoids, meaning 20 derived from a 20-carbon acid, arachidonic acid

-Important lipid mediators and elicit potent effects in various biological systems mediated through specific protein receptors

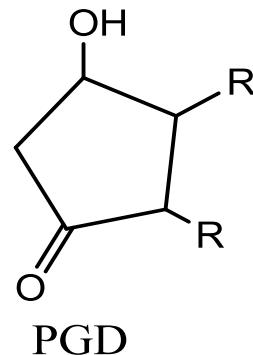
Structural representation PG based on ring features



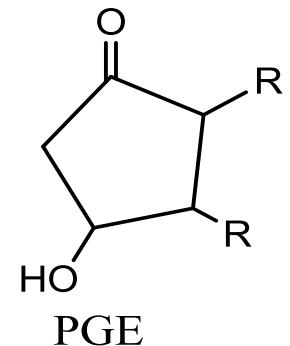
PGA



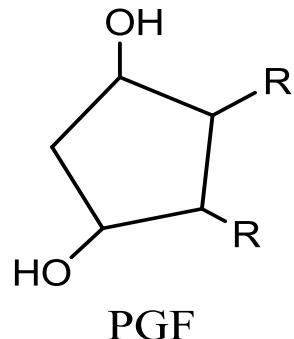
PGB



PGD



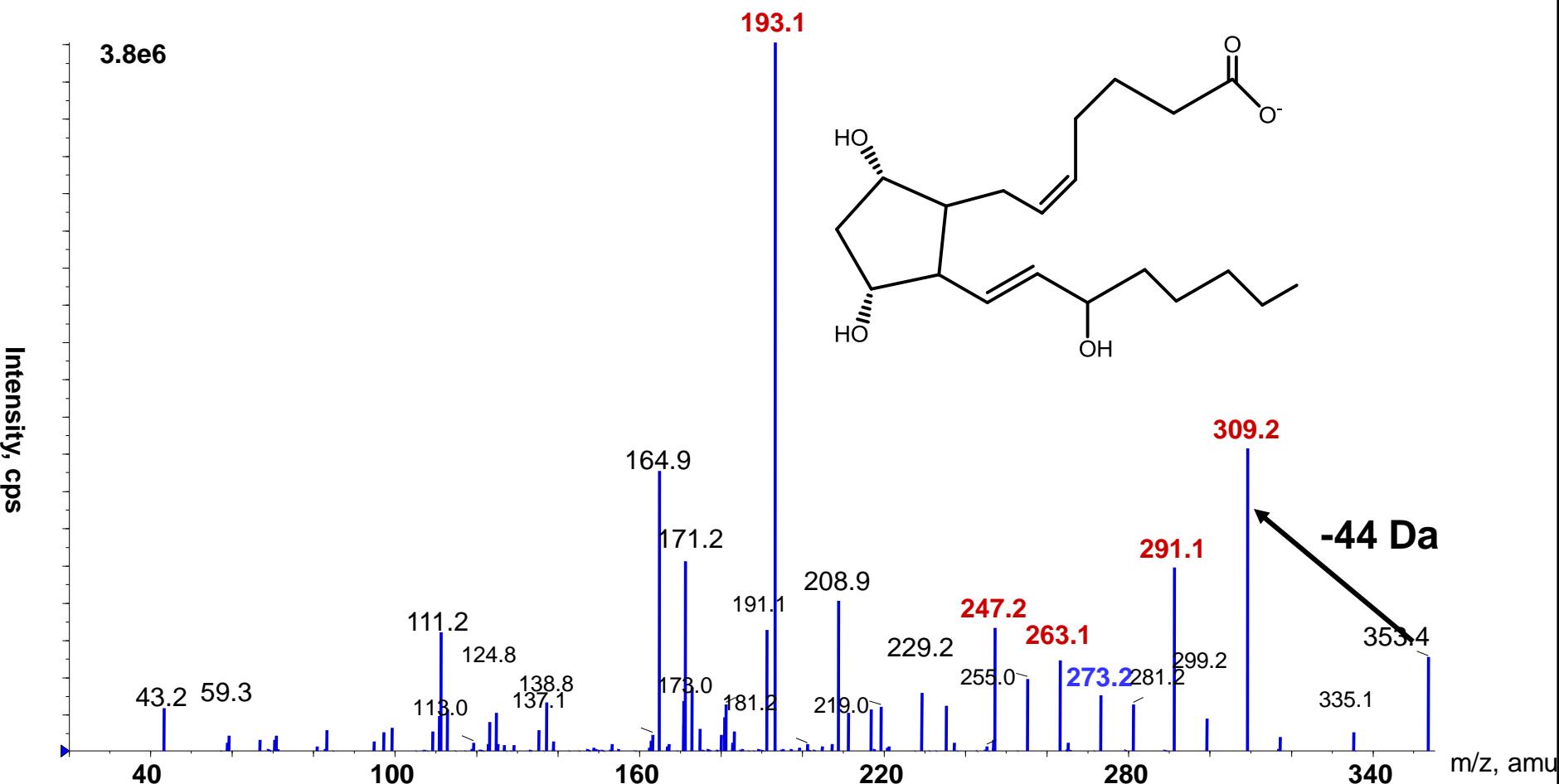
PGE



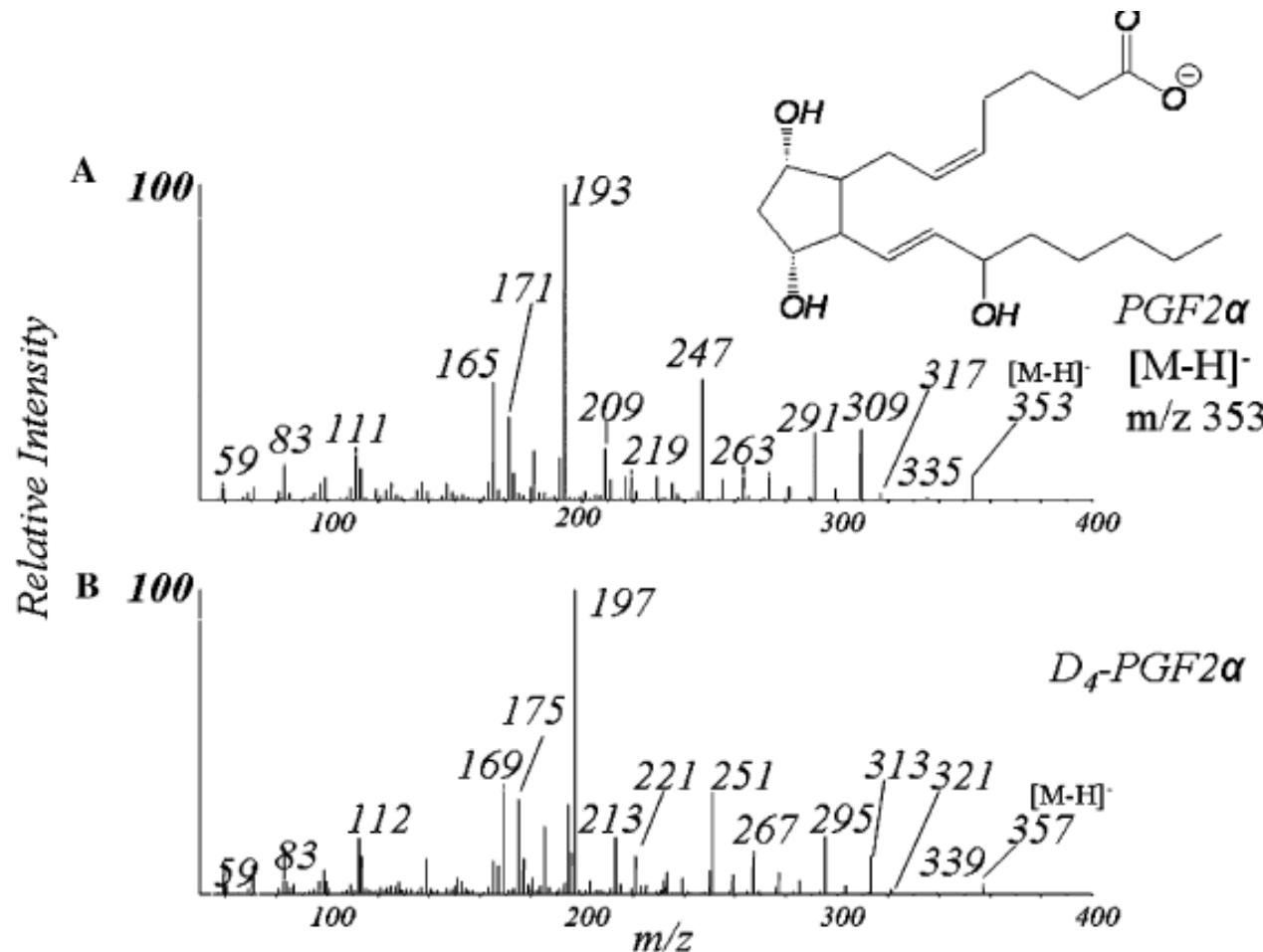
PGF

R = aliphatic chain

ESI-MS/MS of the [M-H]⁻ from PGF₂ α m/z 353 using a quadrupole mass spectrometer

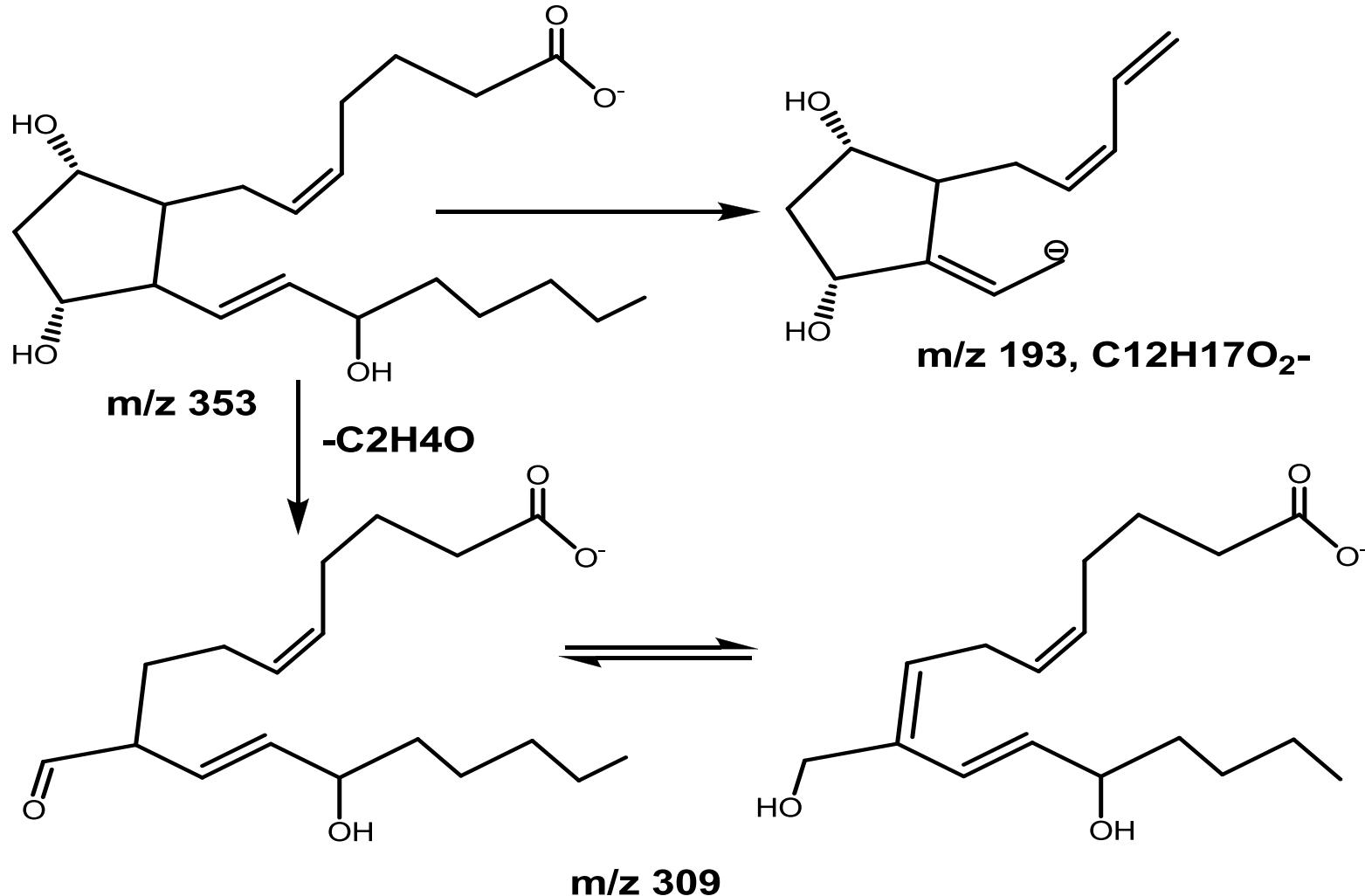


What information does deuterium labeling at C-2 and C-3 of PGF2 provide us for structure elucidation of PG?



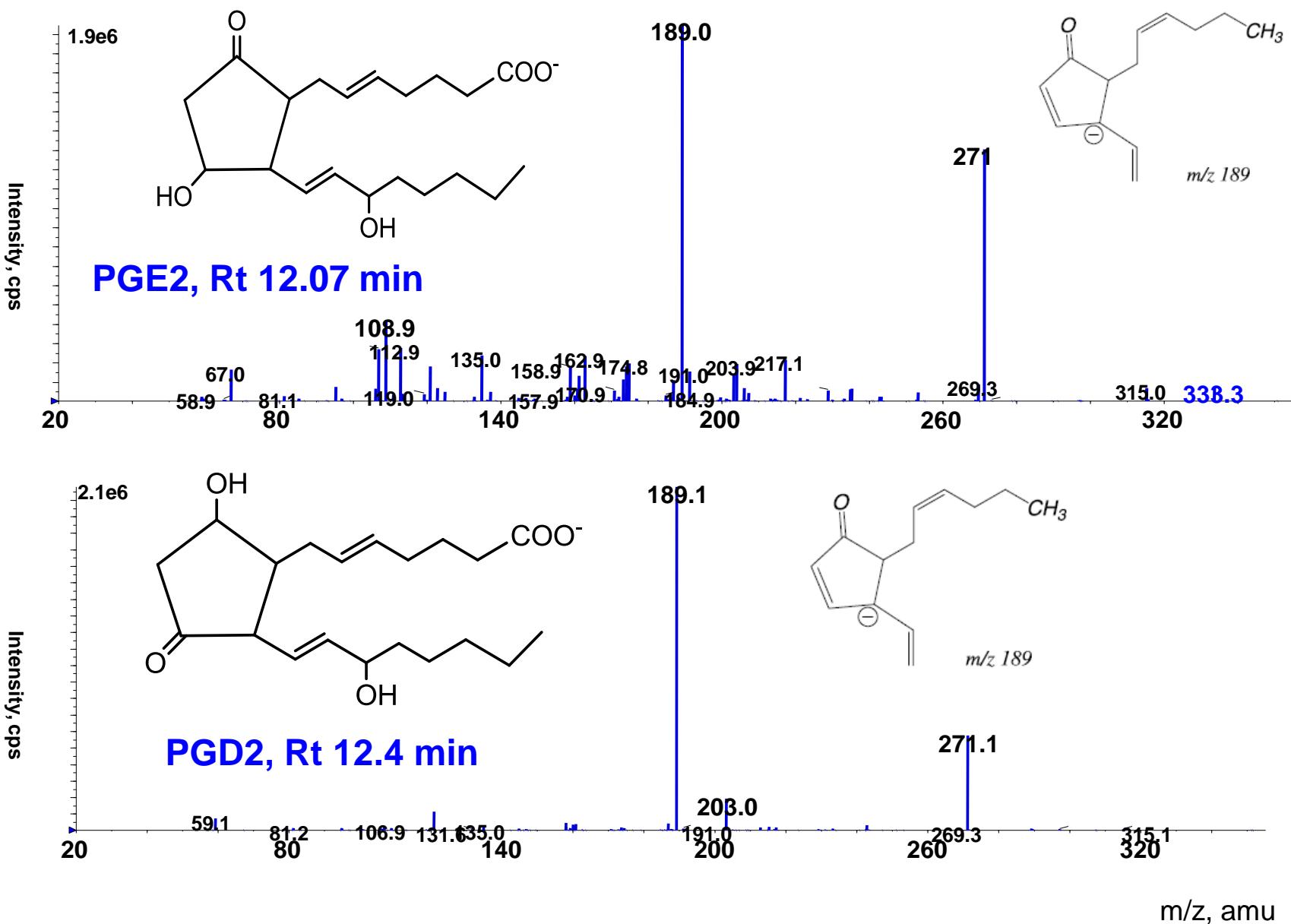
Source: Murphy et al. Analytical Biochemistry, 2005

Fragmentation scheme of PGF 2α [M-H] $^-$ m/z 353

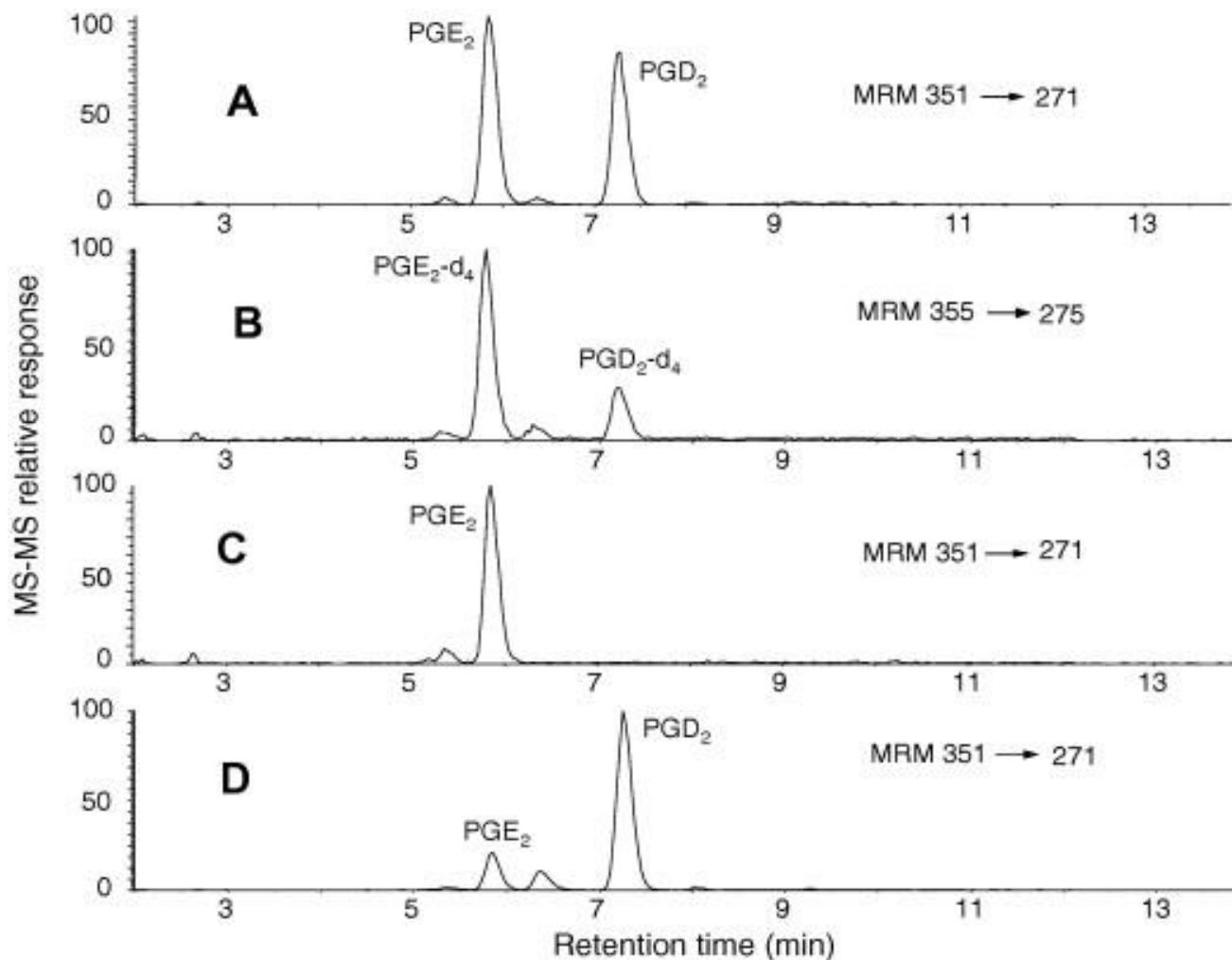


Ions m/z 309, 291, 273 and 193 are indicative of F2-ring

MS/MS fragmentation of PGE2 and PGD2 m/z 351.00



Deuterated PG standards are used for quantitative analysis of PGs in a extract



Source: Cao et al. Analytical Biochemistry, 2008

Library search for eicosanoid <http://www.lipidmaps.org/>

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LMSD: Lipid classification search results

Fatty Acyls [FA] ([W](#)) --> Eicosanoids [FA03]

LM_ID	Common Name	Systematic Name	Formula	Mass
LMFA03000001	8(9)-EpETE	(+/-)-8(9)-epoxy-5Z,11Z,14Z,17Z-eicosatetraenoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₀ O ₃	318.22
LMFA03000002	11(12)-EpETE	(+/-)-11(12)-epoxy-5Z,8Z,14Z,17Z-eicosatetraenoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₀ O ₃	318.22
LMFA03000003	14(15)-EpETE	(+/-)-14(15)-epoxy-5Z,8Z,11Z,17Z-eicosatetraenoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₀ O ₃	318.22
LMFA03000004	17(18)-EpETE	(+/-)-17(18)-epoxy-5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z-eicosatetraenoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₀ O ₃	318.22
LMFA03000005	11(R)-HEDE	11R-hydroxy-12E,14Z-eicosadienoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₆ O ₃	324.27
LMFA03000006	17R,18S-EpETE	17R,18S-epoxy-5Z,8Z,11Z,14Z-eicosatetraenoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₀ O ₃	318.22
LMFA03000008	15(R)-HEDE	15R-hydroxy-11Z-13E-eicosadienoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₆ O ₃	324.27
LMFA03000009	11S-HEDE	11S-hydroxy-12E,14Z-eicosadienoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₆ O ₃	324.27
LMFA03010000	Prostanoic acid skeleton	-	-	-
LMFA03010001	6-keto-PGF1 α	6-oxo-9S,11R,15S-trihydroxy-13E-prostenoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₄ O ₆	370.24
LMFA03010002	PGF2 α	9S,11R,15S-trihydroxy-5Z,13E-prostadienoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₄ O ₅	354.24
LMFA03010003	PGE2 (W)	9-oxo-11R,15S-dihydroxy-5Z,13E-prostadienoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₂ O ₅	352.22
LMFA03010004	PGD2 (W)	9S,15S-dihydroxy-11-oxo-5Z,13E-prostadienoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₂ O ₅	352.22
LMFA03010005	PGA1	9-oxo-15S-hydroxy-10Z,13E-prostadienoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₂ O ₄	336.23
LMFA03010006	PGF2 α -d4	9S,11R,15S-trihydroxy-5Z,13E-prostadienoic acid (3,3,4,4-d4)	C ₂₀ H ₃₀ D ₄ O ₅	358.27
LMFA03010007	PGD2-d4	9S,15S-dihydroxy-11-oxo-5Z,13E-prostadienoic acid (3,3,4,4-d4)	C ₂₀ H ₂₈ D ₄ O ₅	356.25
LMFA03010008	PGE2-d4	11R,15S-dihydroxy-9-oxo-5Z,13E-prostadienoic acid (3,3,4,4-d4)	C ₂₀ H ₂₈ D ₄ O ₅	356.25
LMFA03010009	PGG2	9S,11R-epidioxy-15S-hydroperoxy-5Z,13E-prostadienoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₂ O ₆	368.22

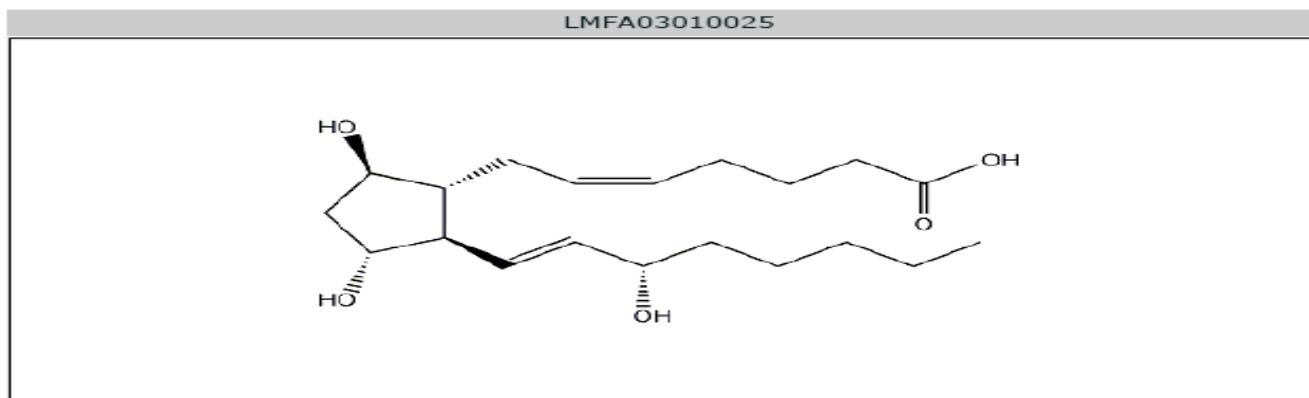


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Structure database (LMSD)



LM ID	LMFA03010025
Common Name	PGF2 β
Systematic Name	9R,11R,15S-trihydroxy-5Z,13E-prostadienoic acid
Synonyms	-
Exact Mass	354.24
Formula	C ₂₀ H ₃₄ O ₅
Category	Fatty Acyls [FA]
Main Class	Eicosanoids [FA03]
Sub Class	Prostaglandins [FA0301]
LIPIDBANK ID	XPR1764
PubChem Substance ID (SID)	4265968
KEGG ID	-

Conclusions

- Shotgun lipidomics approaches are high throughput and applicable to perform profiling as well as quantitative analysis of various lipids in biological samples.
- Tandem mass spectrometry analysis of phospholipids in +ve ion mode characterizes phospholipid polar head groups, whereas –ve ion mode provide fatty acid chain structural information
- Identification of phospholipids at a molecular level present a great challenge due to their structural diversity and dynamic metabolism.

Which ionization mode for which phospholipids?

Positive ion mode

PC

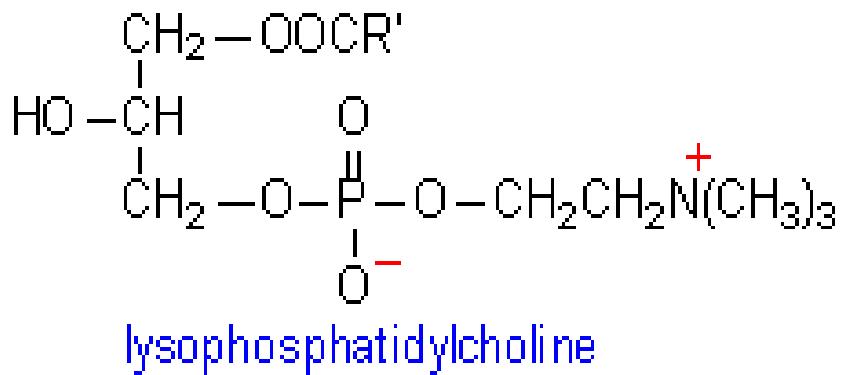
LPC

PE

LPE

SM

PS



Negative ion mode

PE

PA

PI

PI

PG

PIPs

PC = phosphatidylcholine

PA = phosphatic acid

PE = phosphatidylethanolamine

PS = phosphatidylserine

PG = phosphatidylglycerol

PI = phosphatidylinositol

PIP = PI monophosphate

SM = sphingomyelin

LPE = lysoPE

How phospholipids are synthesized?

