

1. PRESENTATION

2. INTRODUCTION

3. GOVERNING BODIES

4. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Nat. Stem Cell Bank
Molecular Neuroendocrinology
Biomaterials
hESC/iPSC Differentiation
Epigenetic Architecture
Cellular Reprogramming
Cardiorenervation
Cellular Morphology
Optomics
Stem Cell Differentiation

DRUG DISCOVERY

Sensory Biology
RNA Transport
Epithelial Cell Biology
Peptides and Proteins
Structural Biology
Organic Molecules
Mol. Structure and Simulation
Polymer Therapeutics
Bioinformatics and Genomics

BIOMEDICINE

Molecular Biology of Cancer
Cellular and Molecular Biology
Neurobiology
Cellular Pathology
Multiple Sclerosis
Autoimmune Pathology
Cellular Biology
Molecular Genetics
Cellular Organisation
Molecular Recognition

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES

Proteomics
Sequencing
Microarray Analysis
Peptide Synthesis
Electron Microscopy
Molecular Screening
Confocal Microscopy
Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
Radioactivity Protection

5. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Scientific production
Competitive financing
Scientific collaboration
Awards

6. FACTS AND FIGURES

Personnel and administration
Training programme
Sponsorship and donations
Science outreach activities
Presence in the press



4.2

Programas Científicos · *Scientific Programmes*

Programa de descubrimiento de Nuevos Fármacos

Drug Discovery Programme

El Programa de Descubrimiento de Nuevos Fármacos está dirigido fundamentalmente a la identificación y validación de nuevas dianas moleculares en patología humana, y al diseño de compuestos con posible actividad farmacológica.

The Drug Discovery Programme is mainly aimed at the identification and validation of new molecular targets in human pathology, and the design of compounds with possible pharmacological activity.



Departamento · Department

Identificación de Dianas Moleculares *Identification of Molecular Targets*

4.2.1

Laboratorio · Laboratory

Biología Sensorial · *Sensory Biology*

Responsable · *Team Leader*: Rosa María Planells Cases (rplanells@cipf.es)

DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA ACTIVIDAD INVESTIGADORA

Patologías como cáncer, diabetes, quemaduras, lesiones postoperatorias van acompañadas de estados dolorosos para los que se carece de tratamiento adecuado. El dolor se puede interpretar como un proceso de plasticidad sináptica. La lesión tisular aguda o el daño neuronal liberan neuropéptidos mediadores de la inflamación que aumentan la excitabilidad de los nociceptores. Como consecuencia del aumento de su actividad, se puede producir una sensibilización del sistema nervioso a dos niveles: periférico y central. El receptor de vanilloides o TRPV1, además de ser transductor de estímulos térmicos y químicos, tiene un papel clave en la hipersensibilidad térmica que acompaña a un tejido inflamado. Nuestros estudios sugieren la existencia de diversas poblaciones subcelulares de receptor, cuya movilización a la membrana plasmática parece estimulada en condiciones inflamatorias o patológicas. Nuestro grupo está interesado en comprender las vías de regulación transduccional, evaluando la existencia de complejos macromoleculares con este receptor.

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Post-operative pathologies such as cancer, diabetes, burns, and lesions are accompanied by painful states which lack adequate treatment. Pain can be understood as a process of synaptic plasticity. Acute tissue injury and neuronal damage release inflammatory neuropeptide mediators that increase nociceptor excitability. As a result, an increase of high threshold nociceptor activity occurs, leading to sensitization of the nervous system at both peripheral and central levels. The vanilloid receptor TRPV besides being a transducer of thermal and chemical stimuli has a key role in the thermal hypersensitivity that accompanies an inflamed tissue. Our studies suggest the existence of diverse receptor subcellular populations whose mobilisation to the plasma membrane is provoked in inflammatory or pathological conditions. Our group is interested in understanding the transductional regulation routes, and evaluating the existence of macromolecular complexes within the receptor.

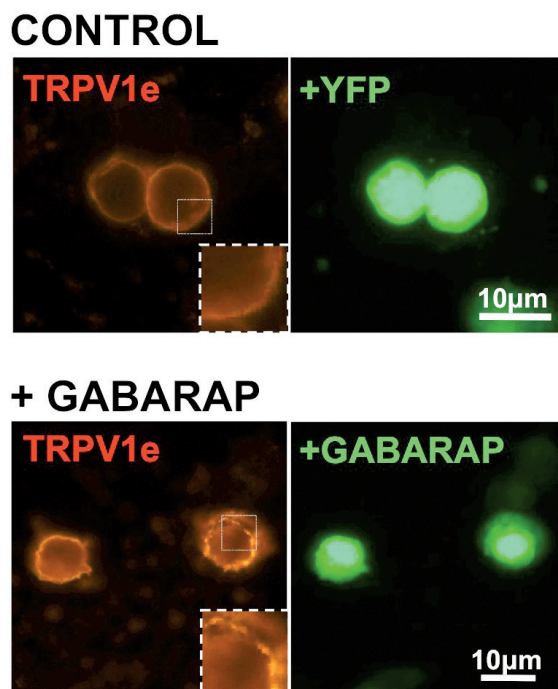


Figura 1. Inmunomarcado de TRPV1 (en rojo) en la membrana plasmática en células HEK293 no permeabilizadas Control (expresando transitoriamente TRPV1+YFP) o +GABARAP (expresando TRPV1+GABARAP) marcadas con anti-TRPV1e, un anticuerpo que reconoce un epítipo extracelular del receptor TRPV1, y posteriormente permeabilizadas con detergente para marcar GABARAP. Las fotos muestran un drástico incremento en la expresión superficial de TRPV1 en células que co-expresan GABARAP.

Figure 1. GABARAP expression enhances surface and cytosolic expression and internalisation of TRPV1. Immunolabelling of non-permeabilised intact Control (TRPV1+YFP) or GABARAP (TRPV1+GABARAP) cell membranes with anti-TRPV1e (Red), an antibody that recognises an extracellular epitope, and later detergent-permeabilised for GABARAP staining (Green), displayed a drastic increase of surface TRPV1 in cells co-expressing GABARAP.

50

1. PRESENTATION

2. INTRODUCTION

3. GOVERNING BODIES

4. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Nat. Stem Cell Bank

Molecular Neuroendocrinology

Biomaterials

iPSC/iPS Differentiation

Epigenetic Architecture

Cellular Reprogramming

Cardiogenesis

Cellular Morphology

Cytomics

Stem Cell Differentiation

DRUG DISCOVERY

Sensory Biology

RNA Transport

Epithelial Cell Biology

Peptides and Proteins

Structural Biology

Organic Molecules

Mol. Structure and Simulation

Polymer Therapeutics

Bioinformatics and Genomics

BIOMEDICINE

Molecular Biology of Cancer

Cellular and Molecular Biology

Neurobiology

Cellular Pathology

Multiple Sclerosis

Autoimmune Pathology

Cellular Biology

Molecular Genetics

Cellular Organisation

Molecular Recognition

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES

Proteomics

Sequencing

Microarray Analysis

Peptide Synthesis

Electron Microscopy

Molecular Screening

Confocal Microscopy

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Radioactivity Protection

5. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Scientific production

Competitive financing

Scientific collaboration

Awards

6. FACTS AND FIGURES

Personnel and administration

Training programme

Sponsorship and donations

Science outreach activities

Presence in the press



Equipo Investigador
Research Team

Investigadores • Researchers

Judith Estévez Herrera

Predoctorales • Pre-doctoral students

Lucía Sanz Salvador
 María Grazia Ciardo
 Imelda Ontoria Oviedo

Técnicos • Technicians

Laura Hermida Carballo
 María Herrero Baena
 Amparo Andrés Bordería
 Majedeline Belguiti

Colaboradores • Collaborators

Sergio Laínez Vicente

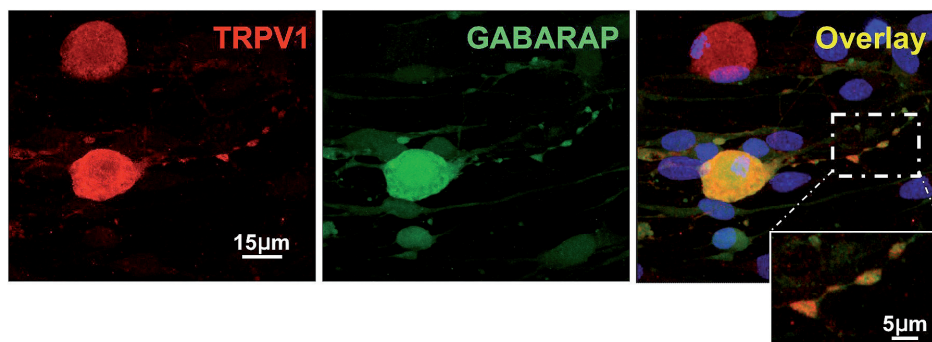


Figura 2. Inmunofluorescencia en cultivos primarios de ganglio raquídeo de ratas neonatales ilustra la colocalización de TRPV1 y GABARAP tanto en el soma como en las prolongaciones sinápticas (foto magnificada). Imágenes secuenciales se adquirieron por microscopía confocal (Servicio Confocal CIPF). Izquierda: TRPV1 se marcó (en rojo) con un anticuerpo Anti-TRPV1 (generado contra un epítipo intracelular del receptor TRPV1); Centro: con un anticuerpo contra GABARAP (verde); derecha: colocalización. Los núcleos se marcaron con DAPI.

Figure 2. Immunostaining with TRPV1 and GABARAP in neonatal rat dorsal root ganglia primary cultures illustrates its colocalisation both at the cell body and synaptic processes (magnified). Sequential images were acquired by confocal microscopy (CIPF Confocal Facility). Left: TRPV1 (in red) was labelled with an antibody generated against an intracellular epitope of TRPV1; Middle: with a GABARAP antibody (green); Right: Overlay. Nuclei were stained with DAPI.

LÍNEAS DE INVESTIGACIÓN

- Vías de regulación transduccional del receptor TRPV1.
- Evaluación de la existencia de complejos macromoleculares con el receptor TRPV1.

LINES OF RESEARCH

- *Transductional regulation pathways of TRPV1 receptor.*
- *Evaluation of existence of macromolecular complexes with TRPV1 receptor.*

PUBLICACIONES 2009 • PUBLICATIONS 2009

1. Planells-Cases R, Jentsch T.J. Chloride channelopathies. *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 2009 Mar;1792(3):173-89.
2. Camprubí-Robles M, Planells-Cases R, Ferrer-Montiel A. (2009) Differential contribution of SNARE-dependent exocytosis to inflammatory potentiation of TRPV1 in nociceptors. *FASEB J*. 2009 Nov;23(11):3722-33.
3. Moreno-Manzano V, Rodríguez-Jiménez FJ, García-Roselló M, Laínez S, Erceg S, Calvo MT, Ronaghi M, Lloret M, Planells-Cases R, Sánchez-Puelles JM, Stojkovic M. (2009). Activated spinal cord ependymal stem cells rescue neurological function. *Stem Cells*. 2009 Mar;27(3):733-43.



Departamento · Department

Identificación de Dianas Moleculares *Identification of Molecular Targets*

4.2.2

Laboratorio · Laboratory

Laboratorio de Transporte de ARN · RNA Transport

Responsable · Team Leader: Susana Rodríguez Navarro (srodriguez@cipf.es)

DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA ACTIVIDAD INVESTIGADORA

La expresión génica en células eucariotas depende de la acción coordinada de numerosos complejos multiproteicos. Estos complejos regulan la transcripción, la biogénesis del RNA mensajero y su exportación al citoplasma. La cooperación entre ellos es necesaria para que el mensaje codificado en el DNA sea correctamente interpretado.

A pesar de que numerosos estudios, en diferentes laboratorios, han aportado nuevos datos sobre el acoplamiento de estos procesos en el núcleo, llegar a describir con detalle los diferentes pasos que gobiernan la expresión génica es nuestro objetivo principal. Durante estos años hemos conseguido describir en más detalle la función del factor de transcripción / exportación Sus1. Sus1 es un factor crucial para el acoplamiento de la transcripción tanto de activación como de elongación hasta la salida del mRNA del núcleo. La mayoría de los factores que participan en estos procesos están conservados con homólogos que abarcan desde la levadura hasta los humanos.

En nuestro laboratorio utilizamos *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* como organismo modelo de estudio de los procesos conservados que controlan la expresión génica en células eucariotas.

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Gene expression in eukaryotes depends on the coordinated action of several multiprotein complexes. These complexes regulate transcription, mRNA biogenesis and the export of a mature mRNA out of the nucleus. The interplay between these factors is necessary to ensure that a correct message is translated. Although numerous studies from many labs have shed light on how mRNAs are exported, deciphering the functional connectivity of the different steps in RNA biogenesis and its exportation is still a major challenge. Recent studies (including our work) point to a functional relationship between gene expression and the nuclear organisation of chromatin. The aim of our research project is to better understand how mRNAs are exported from the nucleus to the cytoplasm and how this process is coupled to transcription. Since Sus1 is a key factor in this coupling process and participates in different steps of the process, studying its function will help us to understand better gene expression. Most factors involved in transcription and mRNA export are conserved from yeast to humans.

*Therefore, our laboratory uses the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* yeast as a model system to study the conserved pathways, which control gene expression in eukaryotic cells.*

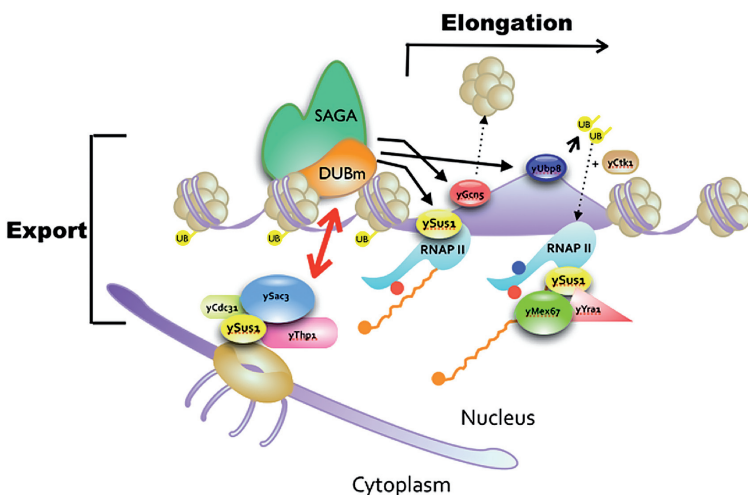


Figure 1. Sus1 plays a broad role in gene expression.

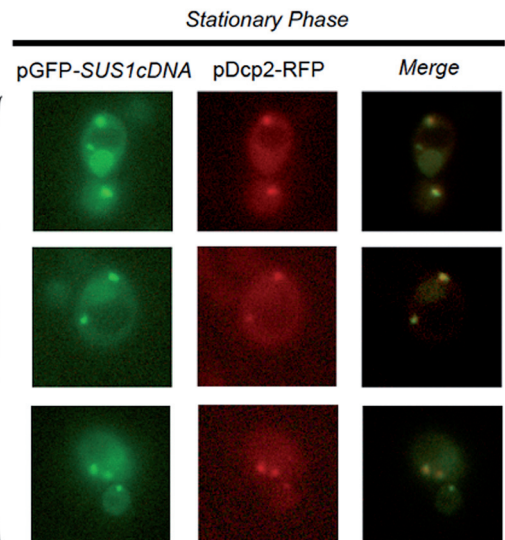
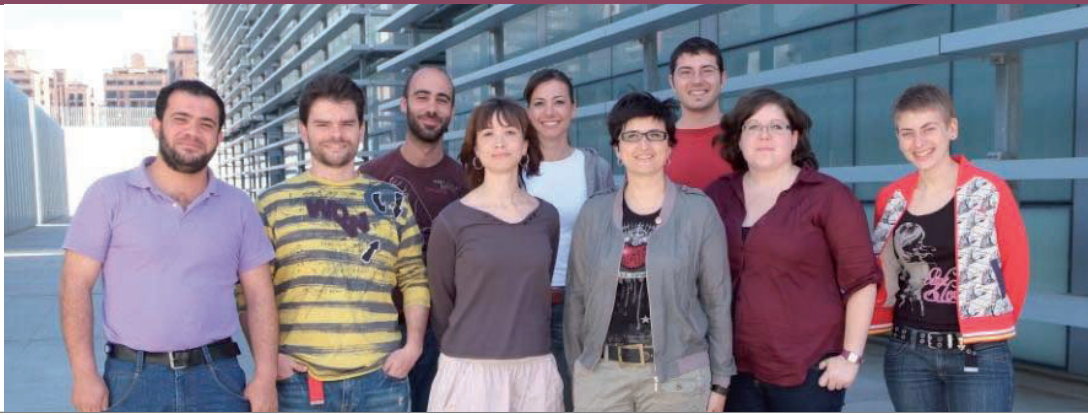


Figure 2. Sus1 is able to colocalise with P-bodies.

- 1. PRESENTATION
- 2. INTRODUCTION
- 3. GOVERNING BODIES
- 4. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES
 - REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
 - Nat. Stem Cell Bank
 - Molecular Neuroendocrinology
 - Biomaterials
 - iPSC/iPSC Differentiation
 - Epigenetic Architecture
 - Cellular Reprogramming
 - Cardiogenesis
 - Cellular Morphology
 - Cytomics
 - Stem Cell Differentiation
 - DRUG DISCOVERY
 - Sensory Biology
 - RNA Transport
 - Epithelial Cell Biology
 - Peptides and Proteins
 - Structural Biology
 - Organic Molecules
 - Mol. Structure and Simulation
 - Polymer Therapeutics
 - Bioinformatics and Genomics
 - BIOMEDICINE
 - Molecular Biology of Cancer
 - Cellular and Molecular Biology
 - Neurobiology
 - Cellular Pathology
 - Multiple Sclerosis
 - Autoimmune Pathology
 - Cellular Biology
 - Molecular Genetics
 - Cellular Organisation
 - Molecular Recognition
 - TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES
 - Proteomics
 - Sequencing
 - Microarray Analysis
 - Peptide Synthesis
 - Electron Microscopy
 - Molecular Screening
 - Confocal Microscopy
 - Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
 - Radioactivity Protection
- 5. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY
 - Scientific production
 - Competitive financing
 - Scientific collaboration
 - Awards
- 6. FACTS AND FIGURES
 - Personnel and administration
 - Training programme
 - Sponsorship and donations
 - Science outreach activities
 - Presence in the press



Equipo Investigador
Research Team

Investigadores • Researchers

Pau Pascual García
María Micaela Molina Navarro

Predoctorales • Pre-doctoral students

Bernardo Cuenca Bono
Encarna García Oliver

Técnicos • Technicians

Ana Llopis Moreno

Colaboradores • Collaborators

Despoina Alexandraki
Varinia Garcia Molinero

 **LÍNEAS DE INVESTIGACIÓN**

- Papel de Sus1 en exportación de mRNAs acoplada a transcripción. Asociación de Sus1 con cromatina y RNA
- Estudio de la relación genética entre Sus1 y factores implicados en procesamiento de RNAs mensajeros
- Estudio de la funcionalidad de los intrones de Sus1
- Estudio de proteínas de unión a RNA importantes para la exportación de mRNAs
- Papel de Sus1 en silenciamiento telomérico

LINES OF RESEARCH

- *Sus1 role in transcription coupled to export; Sus1 association with chromatin and RNA.*
- *Genetic interaction between Sus1 and mRNA processing factors.*
- *Study of the relevance of Sus1 introns.*
- *Study of RNA binding proteins necessary for mRNA export*
- *Role of Sus1 in telomeric silencing*

 **PUBLICACIONES 2009 • PUBLICATIONS 2009**

1. Pascual-García P, Rodríguez-Navarro S. A tale of coupling; Sus1 function in transcription and mRNA export. RNA Biol. 2009 Apr-Jun;6(2):141-4.
2. Rodríguez-Navarro S. Insights into SAGA function during gene expression. EMBO Rep. 2009 Aug;10(8):843-50.



Departamento · Department

Identificación de Dianas Moleculares *Identification of Molecular Targets*

4.2.3

Laboratorio · Laboratory

Biología de Células Epiteliales · *Epithelial Cell Biology*

Responsable · *Team Leader*: Marcel Vergés Aiguaviva (mverges@cipf.es)

54

DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA ACTIVIDAD INVESTIGADORA

Estudiamos el mecanismo molecular de funcionamiento de retromer en sorting endosomal y nos centramos en su papel en el transporte polarizado de proteínas. Retromer es un complejo multimérico constituido por cinco subunidades Vacuolar protein sorting (Vps) organizadas en dos subcomplejos; el heterotrímero formado por Vps26-Vps35-Vps29 es responsable de reconocer la carga, mientras un dímero de dos sorting nexins – normalmente, SNX1 y / o SNX2 – deforma la membrana para asegurar un sorting eficiente. Se requiere retromer para la recuperación de endosoma-a-Golgi de receptores que transportan hidrolasas al lisosoma, asegurando así la reutilización de dichos receptores. Además, retromer media vías hacia la membrana plasmática, tales como la transcitosis del receptor de las inmunoglobulinas poliméricas (pIgR) en células epiteliales polarizadas, materia que fue foco de nuestro interés en el pasado. También se ha implicado a retromer en el transporte de proteínas cuya alteración puede conducir a enfermedades (en particular, enfermedades neurodegenerativas) o a afectar procesos de desarrollo.

Principalmente, estudiamos el papel de retromer en el tráfico intracelular y targeting a la membrana plasmática de la proteína precursora del péptido β -amiloide (APP) y del enzima β -secretasa (BACE). La escisión de APP por BACE conduce a la vía amiloidogénica, esto es, a la producción del péptido β -amiloide y al consiguiente progreso de la enfermedad de Alzheimer. Para tal fin, utilizamos dos modelos de células polarizadas en cultivo, que son neuronas y células Madin-Darby canine kidney (MDCK), las cuales comparten algunos mecanismos de sorting polarizado (FIG).

RESEARCH SUMMARY

We study the molecular mechanism of retromer's function in endosomal sorting and focus on its role in polarised protein transport. Retromer is a multimeric complex made up of five Vacuolar protein sorting (Vps) subunits organised into two subcomplexes; the heterotrimer formed by Vps26-Vps35-Vps29 is responsible for cargo recognition, whereas a dimer of two sorting nexins – normally, SNX1 and / or SNX2 – deforms the membrane to assure efficient sorting. Retromer is required for endosome-to-Golgi retrieval of receptors that transport hydrolases to the lysosome, thus ensuring the receptors' reuse. In addition, it mediates pathways to the plasma membrane, such as transcytosis of the polymeric immunoglobulin receptor (pIgR) in polarised epithelial cells, a matter that was the focus of our interest in the past. Retromer has also been implicated in the transport of proteins, the alteration of which can lead to diseases (in particular, neurodegenerative diseases) or affect developmental processes. These are aspects that we address in our current research.

Primarily, we study the role of retromer in intracellular traffic and plasma membrane targeting of the amyloid precursor protein (APP) and β -secretase (the β -site APP cleaving enzyme or BACE). APP cleavage by BACE leads to the amyloidogenic pathway, that is, the production of the β -amyloid peptide and the resultant progression of Alzheimer's disease. To this end, we use two models of polarised cells in culture, i.e. neurons and Madin- Darby canine kidney (MDCK) cells, which share some mechanisms of polarised sorting (FIG).

LÍNEAS DE INVESTIGACIÓN

- Papel de retromer en tráfico intracelular y targeting polarizado a la membrana plasmática de APP y BACE.
- Implicación del tráfico intracelular mediado por retromer en diferenciación neuronal.

LINES OF RESEARCH

- *Role of retromer in intracellular traffic and polarised plasma membrane targeting of APP and BACE.*
- *Implication of retromer-mediated intracellular traffic in neuronal differentiation.*

1. PRESENTATION

2. INTRODUCTION

3. GOVERNING BODIES

4. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
 Nat. Stem Cell Bank
 Molecular Neuroendocrinology
 Biomaterials
 hESC/iPSC Differentiation
 Epigenetic Architecture
 Cellular Reprogramming
 Cardiogenesis
 Cellular Morphology
 Cytomics
 Stem Cell Differentiation

DRUG DISCOVERY

Sensory Biology
 RNA Transport
 Epithelial Cell Biology
 Peptides and Proteins
 Structural Biology
 Organic Molecules
 Mol. Structure and Simulation
 Polymer Therapeutics
 Bioinformatics and Genomics

BIOMEDICINE

Molecular Biology of Cancer
 Cellular and Molecular Biology
 Neurobiology
 Cellular Pathology
 Multiple Sclerosis
 Autoimmune Pathology
 Cellular Biology
 Molecular Genetics
 Cellular Organisation
 Molecular Recognition

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES

Proteomics
 Sequencing
 Microarray Analysis
 Peptide Synthesis
 Electron Microscopy
 Molecular Screening
 Confocal Microscopy
 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
 Radioactivity Protection

5. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Scientific production
 Competitive financing
 Scientific collaboration
 Awards

6. FACTS AND FIGURES

Personnel and administration
 Training programme
 Sponsorship and donations
 Science outreach activities
 Presence in the press



Equipo Investigador
Research Team

Predoctorales • Pre-doctoral students

Yasmina Cuartero Aguado

Técnicos • Technicians

Maravillas Mellado Lopez

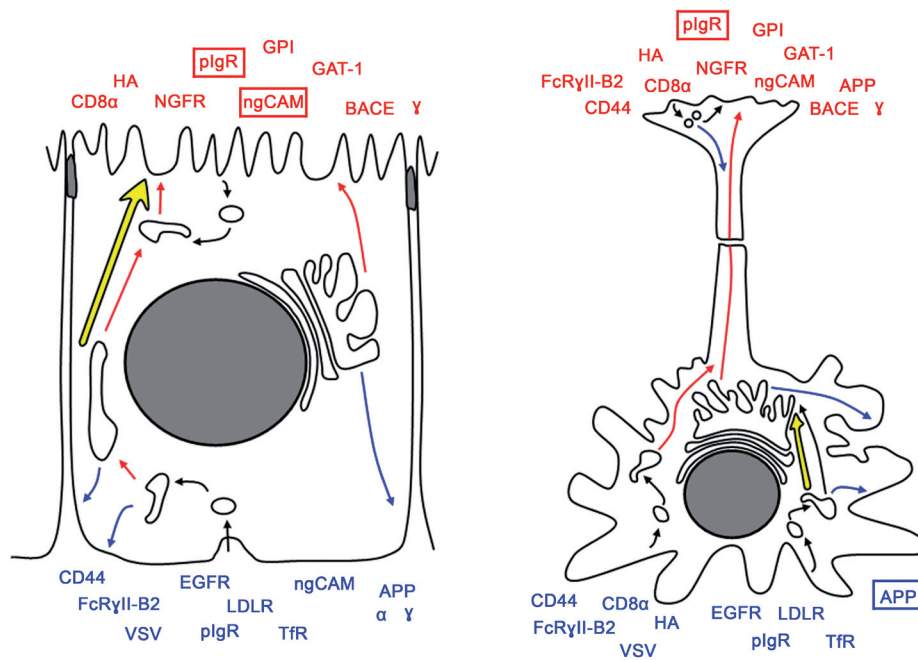


Figure. Comparison of polarised traffic in epithelial MDCK cells (left) and neurons (right): Examples of endogenous and exogenous proteins sharing or not an analogous targeting between the two cell types are shown. Proteins apically targeted in MDCK cells, or to the axon in neurons, and their major apical pathways, are shown in red. Those proteins/pathways headed toward the basolateral plasma membrane in MDCK cells, or to the dendritic domain in neurons, are in blue. Only their preferential targeting is indicated, although if a protein has a split distribution it is shown at both surfaces. When evidence of transcytosis has been provided, proteins following this indirect route are marked in a rectangle at their final destination. The implication of retromer, highlighted in yellow arrows, is shown for pIgR transcytosis in MDCK cells and for endosome-to-Golgi retrieval of receptors in neurons; while not demonstrated in neurons, it is assumed for either SorLA or sortilin. See *Int. Rev. Cell Mol. Biol.* 271 (4): 153-198 (2008) for abbreviations description and details.



Departamento · Department

Química Médica Medicinal Chemistry

Laboratorio · Laboratory

Péptidos y Proteínas · Peptides and Proteins

4.2.4

Responsable · Team Leader: Enrique Pérez Payá (eperez@cipf.es)



DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA ACTIVIDAD INVESTIGADORA

En nuestro laboratorio utilizamos una aproximación basada en la biología química para la caracterización de interacciones proteína-proteína de relevancia en patologías y para el desarrollo de moléculas moduladoras que son posibles candidatos a fármacos.

Nuestro grupo ha sido pionero en la identificación de moléculas inhibitoras de la formación del apoptosoma (complejo multiproteico formado por Apaf-1, procaspasa-9 y citocromo c). Una vez llevada a cabo la transferencia de los inhibidores de Apaf-1 al sector industrial, se investiga sobre el desarrollo farmacéutico en aplicaciones médicas asociadas a patologías y procesos de isquemia/reperfusión presentes en trasplantes y otras intervenciones quirúrgicas. Además, el grupo está interesado en el estudio de las implicaciones de la proteína Apaf-1 en vías de señalización celular independientes de apoptosis.

La segunda línea de investigación se basa en el descubrimiento previo en nuestro grupo de un hexapéptido que mediante su unión selectiva a ciclina A, inhibe la actividad enzimática del complejo cdk-2/ciclina A. Esta actividad inhibitoria se traduce en un efecto citotóxico sobre células tumorales mediante la inducción de apoptosis. Actualmente se explora este efecto en líneas celulares que son resistentes a los tratamientos clásicos empleados en procesos cancerígenos. Los esfuerzos también se han centrado en la producción de mutantes de la ciclina A recombinante y el estudio de su actividad en presencia de dicho inhibidor.

Alrededor de 2,5 millones de personas son afectadas cada año por envenenamiento de serpiente, lo cual constituye un problema de salud pública en América Latina. Debido a esto, se ha iniciado una nueva línea de investigación enfocada en la identificación de moléculas con capacidad inhibitoria de proteínas presentes en venenos de serpientes. En particular se está trabajando con neuro y miotoxinas, como BaP1 y la fosfolipasa PLA₂ respectivamente.

RESEARCH SUMMARY

We use chemical biology-based strategies for the study of protein-protein interactions of relevance in pathologies.

Our laboratory is one of the first who discovered molecules which inhibit the apoptosome formation (multiprotein complex formed by Apaf-1, procaspase-9 and cytochrome c). After a successful transfer of the Apaf-1 inhibitors to the pharmaceutical sector, we are currently developing molecules that may find medical applications associated with pathologies and ischemia/reperfusion processes which occur during transplant and surgery. Additionally, we aim to elucidate the role of Apaf-1 protein in apoptosis-independent signalling pathways.

Our second line of research is based on the identification of new non ATP-competitive inhibitor of cdk-2/cyclin A complexes. We explore the initial identification of an inhibitory hexapeptide that triggers apoptosis in cancer cells to induce death in cell lines which are resistant to classical anti-cancer therapies. We also produce a mutant variant of cyclin A in order to study its activity in the presence of the inhibitor.

Around 2.5 million people suffer each year from snake venom poisoning. This represents one of the major concerns in the public health of Latin America. Therefore, we have begun a new line of investigation which is focused on identification of inhibitors of proteins which are present in snake venom. In particular, we are focused on neuro and myotoxins BaP1 and phospholipase PLA₂, respectively.



LÍNEAS DE INVESTIGACIÓN

- Moduladores de rutas apoptóticas. Inhibidores de la actividad del apoptosoma.
- Inhibidores de la actividad quinasa del complejo cdk-2 / ciclina A como reguladores de ciclo celular.
- Identificación de moléculas inhibitoras de neuro y miotoxinas procedentes de venenos de serpientes.

56

1. PRESENTATION

2. INTRODUCTION

3. GOVERNING BODIES

4. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Nat. Stem Cell Bank

Molecular Neuroendocrinology

Biomaterials

iPSC/iPSC Differentiation

Epigenetic Architecture

Cellular Reprogramming

Cardiogenesis

Cellular Morphology

Cytomics

Stem Cell Differentiation

DRUG DISCOVERY

Sensory Biology

RNA Transport

Epithelial Cell Biology

Peptides and Proteins

Structural Biology

Organic Molecules

Mol. Structure and Simulation

Polymer Therapeutics

Bioinformatics and Genomics

BIOMEDICINE

Molecular Biology of Cancer

Cellular and Molecular Biology

Neurobiology

Cellular Pathology

Multiple Sclerosis

Autoimmune Pathology

Cellular Biology

Molecular Genetics

Cellular Organisation

Molecular Recognition

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES

Proteomics

Sequencing

Microarray Analysis

Peptide Synthesis

Electron Microscopy

Molecular Screening

Confocal Microscopy

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Radioactivity Protection

5. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Scientific production

Competitive financing

Scientific collaboration

Awards

6. FACTS AND FIGURES

Personnel and administration

Training programme

Sponsorship and donations

Science outreach activities

Presence in the press



Equipo Investigador
Research Team

Investigadores • Researchers

Mar Orzáez Calatayud
Anna Gortat
Mónica Sancho Medina

Predoctorales • Pre-doctoral students

Laura Mondragón Martínez

Técnicos • Technicians

Eli-Ana Sirvent Segura
Ana Giménez Giner
Alicia García Jareño
Inmaculada Micó Mateu
Susana Rubio Tirados
Rebeca Montava Vilaplana

Colaboradores • Collaborators

Tatiana Guevara Rozo
Yadira Palacios Rodríguez
Andrés Herrera Aguilar (GRISOLIA)
Guillermo García Láinez
Amparo García López
Fabián Gilberto Villalta Romero

LINES OF RESEARCH

- Discovery of molecules that modulate signalling pathways in apoptosis Cdk-2 / cyclin A inhibitors
- Inhibitors of kinase activity of the complex cdk-2 / cyclin A as regulators of cell cycle
- Discovery of new inhibitors of neuro and myotoxins present in snake venom.

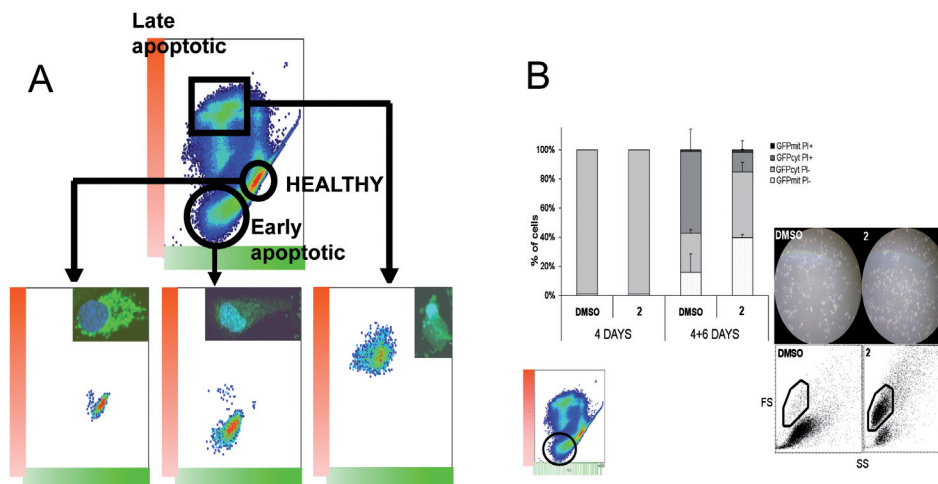


Figure 1. Apaf-1 inhibitor (2) provides protection against apoptosis to healthy cells and permits recovery of early apoptotic cells. (A) Example of sorting experiment. Hela CytC-GFP cells submitted to 1%O₂, 18%CO₂ for 4 days are physically separated regarding the intensity of GFP and PI. Cells positive for GFP (GFP+) and negative for PI (PI-) are referred as healthy. GFP-/PI- cells are referred as early apoptotic. GFP-/PI+ cells are referred as late apoptotic. (B) Early apoptotic cells recover from apoptosis. Early apoptotic cells continue progression through the cell death program after additional 6 days of hypoxia in absence of the Apaf-1 inhibitor (increased number of late apoptotic cells in the control; 4+6 days DMSO). Early apoptotic cells recover from the insult in presence of the Apaf-1 inhibitor (increased number of healthy cells and decreased number of late apoptotic cells in 4+6days, 2). Quantification using GFP/PI ratio and example of crude flow cytometry results.

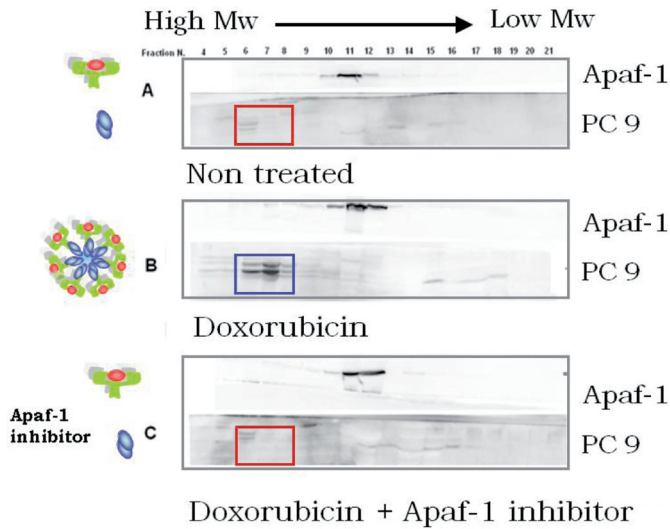


Figure 2. Apaf-1 inhibitors inhibit apoptosome formation in vivo. Gel filtration results for HeLa cells extracts. Cells were treated with PBS (A), dox 1.25 μ M (B) or dox in the presence of QM56 50 μ M, drug-equivalents (C), for 24 hours. Cells extracts were obtained and a gel filtration chromatography was developed. 750 μ L fractions were collected and a Western-Blot against Apaf-1 (circled green) and procaspase 9 (circled orange) was performed.

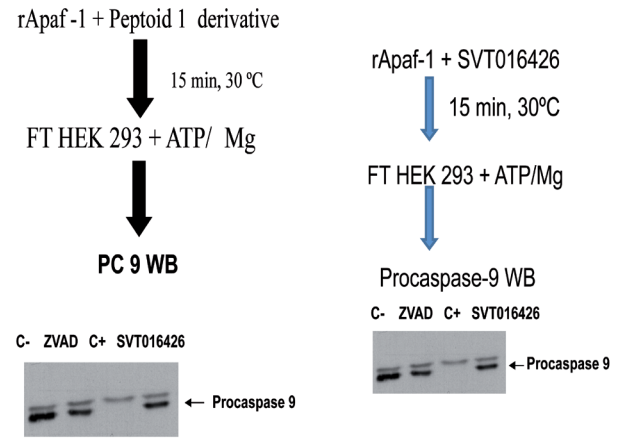


Figure 3. rApaf-1 is preincubated with SVT016426, 5 μ M, and added to HEK 293 FT extracts. Western-Blot against procaspase 9 was performed. C-, is a negative control of untreated FT. C+, is a positive control with rApaf-1 without SVT016426. zVAD, is a control of FT in the presence of rApaf-1 in the presence of the general caspase inhibitor peptide aVAD-fmk.

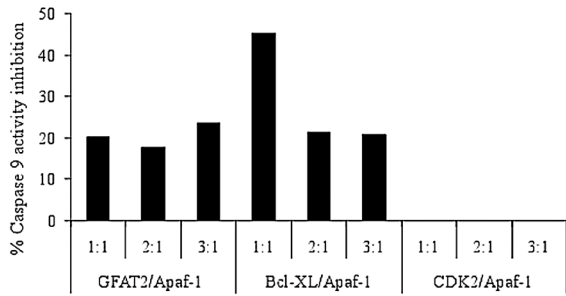


Figure 4. In vitro apoptosome reconstitution assay. 40 mM rApaf-1 was incubated with GFAT2, Bcl-XL and CDK2 proteins at a ratio concentration 1:1, 1:2 and 1:3 for 30 min at 30°C. The rest of the components of the apoptosome were added according to the protocol described in Methodology section. Finally, caspase 9 activity was measured and results were expressed as caspase 9 activity inhibition

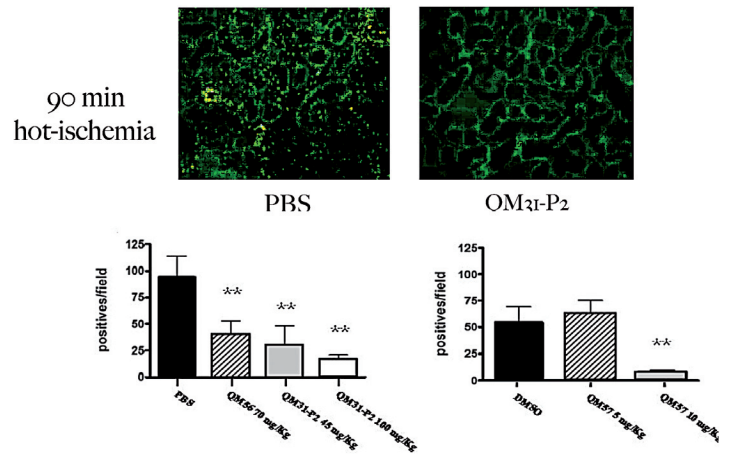


Figure 5. TUNEL assay applied to selected preparations of the hot ischemia animal model. Results were evaluated by Kruskal-Wallis test. PBS and DMSO are vehicle controls.

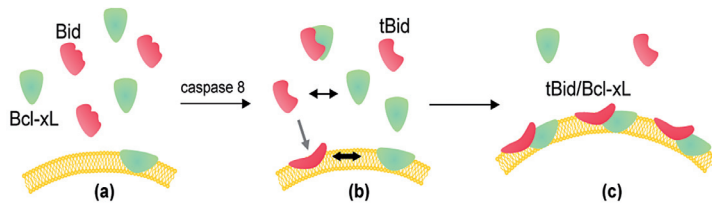
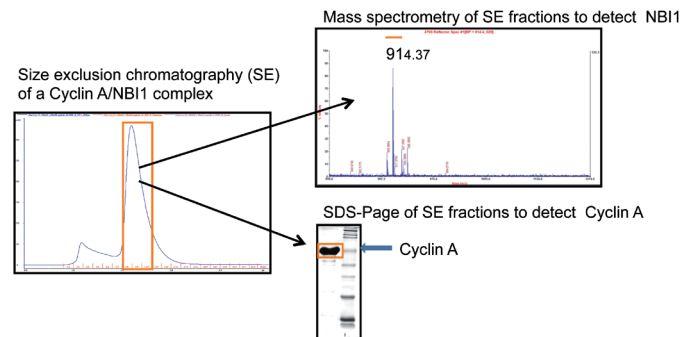


Figure 6. Proposed model for the interactions between tBid and Bcl-xL. (a) Initially the proteins do not interact. (b) Upon cleavage, tBid bind to Bcl-xL promoting each other binding to the membrane. (c) As a consequence Bcl-xL inhibition of tBid happens mainly at the membrane.

Figure 7. Size exclusion chromatography purification of the Cyclin A/NB1 complex. Main peak aliquots were subjected to both mass spectrometry that allowed NB1 peptide identification and electrophoresis for cyclin A identification.



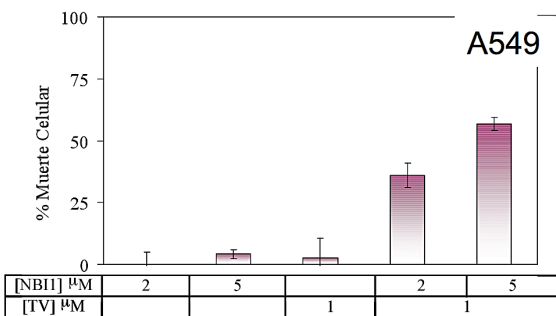


Figure 8. Erlotinib (TV) –resistant A549 lung cancer cells are resistant to individual treatments with TV 1 μ M or NBI1 up to 5 μ M. However a co-treatment of 1 μ M TV in the presence of 5 μ M NBI1 induces cell death.

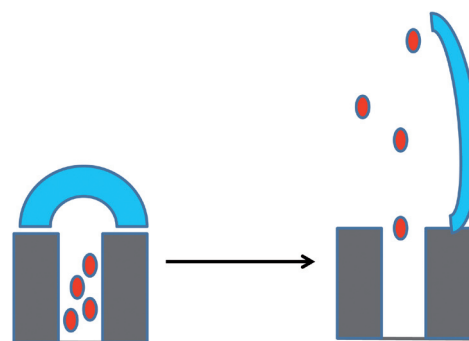
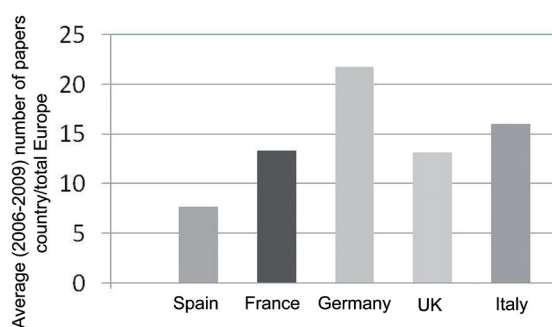
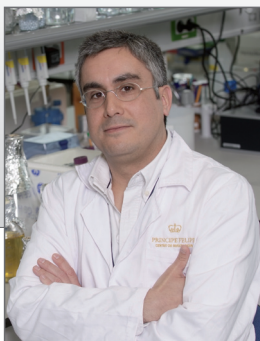


Figure 9. The SMPS-device (black) encapsulates a cargo (red) that is restrained inside because the gate-like scaffold is in the close position. An external insult would turn the system to an open position and the cargo is released.



PUBLICACIONES 2009 • PUBLICATIONS 2009

- Orzáez, M., Gortat, A., Mondragón, L., Bachs, O., Pérez-Payá, E. ATP non-competitive inhibitors of cyclin-dependent kinase/cyclin complexes. *ChemMedChem*. 2009 Jan;4(1):19-24. Review.
- Mondragón, L., Galluzzi, L., Mouhamad, S., Vicencio, J.M., Vitale, I., Orzaez, M., Moure, A., Messeguer, A., Pérez-Payá, E., Kroemer, G. A chemical inhibitor of Apaf-1 exerts mitochondrioprotective functions and interferes with the intra-S-phase DNA damage checkpoint. *Apoptosis*. 2009 Feb;14(2):182-90.
- Orzáez, M., Gortat, A., Mondragon, L., Pérez-Payá, E. Peptides and peptide mimics as modulators of apoptotic pathways. *ChemMedChem*. 2009 Feb;4(2):146-60. Review.
- Orzáez, M., Mondragón, L., García-Jareño, A., Mosulén, S., Pineda-Lucena, A., Pérez-Payá, E. Deciphering the antitumoral activity of quinacrine: binding to and inhibition of Bcl-xL. *Bioorg Med Chem Lett*. 2009 Mar 15;19(6):1592-5.
- Mulero, M.C., Aubareda, A., Orzáez, M., Messeguer, J., Serrano, E., Martinez-Hoyer, S., Messeguer, A., Pérez-Payá, E., Pérez-Riba, M. Inhibiting the calcineurin-NFAT signaling pathway with an Rcan-derived peptide without affecting general phosphatase activity. *J Biol Chem*. 2009 Apr 3;284(14):9394-401.
- Santamaría, B., Benito-Martín, A., Conrado, A., Aroeira, L., Reyero, A., Vicent, M.J., Orzaez, M., Celdrán, A., Esteban, J., Selgas, R., Ruiz-Ortega, M., López-Cabrera, M., Egido, J., Pérez-Payá, E., Ortíz, A. A nanoconjugate Apaf-1 inhibitor protects mesothelial cells from cytokine-induced injury. *PLoS One*. 2009 Aug 13;4(8):e6634.
- Vicent, M.J., Cascales, L., Carbajo, R.J., Cortés, N., Messeguer, A. Pérez-Payá, E. Nanoconjugates as intracorporeal neutralizers of bacterial endotoxins. *J Control Release*. Epub 2009 Oct 30.
- García-Saez, A., Ries, J., Orzáez, M., Pérez-Payá, E., Schwillie, P. Membranes promote tBID interaction with BCL-XL. *Nat Struct Mol Biol*. 2009 Nov;16(11):1178-85
- Mulero, M.C., Orzáez, M., Messeguer, J., Messeguer, A., Pérez-Payá, E., Pérez-Riba, M. A fluorescent polarization-based assay for the identification of disruptors of the RCAN1/calcineurin A protein complex. *Anal Biochem*. Epub 2009 Nov 3. 16(11) 1178-85
- Mas-Moruno, C., Cascales, L., Mora, P., Cruz, L.J., Pérez-Payá, E., Albericio, F. Design and facile solid-phase synthesis of peptide-based LPS-inhibitors containing PEG-like functionalities. *Biopolymers*. 2009;92(6):508-17. 92(6) 508-17



Departamento · Department

Química Médica Medicinal Chemistry

Laboratorio · Laboratory

Biología Estructural · Structural Biology

4.2.5

Responsable · Team Leader: Antonio Pineda-Lucena (apineda@cipf.es)

DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA ACTIVIDAD INVESTIGADORA

En nuestro grupo estamos particularmente interesados en proteínas implicadas en la invasión celular y metástasis. Este interés radica en el hecho de que la mayoría de las muertes relacionadas con cáncer no se producen debido a tumores localizados, sino que en un 90% de los casos ocurren como consecuencia de procesos metastásicos. En este contexto, uno de nuestros objetivos principales es el de lograr una caracterización detallada de heparanasa humana, una enzima clave en la regulación de la matriz extracelular, y quizás un potencial biomarcador de metástasis. Otros proyectos en los que trabajamos actualmente incluyen la caracterización estructural del dominio de hemopexina de MT1-MMP (Dra. Alicia Garcia-Arroyo, CNIC), y el complejo entre Hsp90 y su cofactor Tah1 (Dr. Walid Houry, University of Toronto).

Por otro lado, la RMN es una técnica no invasiva muy potente que es capaz de detectar y caracterizar un gran número de componentes metabólico simultáneamente. Una de las aplicaciones más interesantes de la metabonomía mediante RMN es el estudio de cultivos con células intactas. Esto permite caracterizar el mecanismo de acción de fármacos, y poner de manifiesto el efecto sobre la diana (on-) y sobre otras moléculas biológicas (off-) lo que puede dar pie a estudios de toxicidad. Nuestro laboratorio está muy interesado en ahondar en esta metodología para estudiar los cambios que un compuesto químico puede ocasionar a lo largo del tiempo a una célula eucariota. La viabilidad del método se ha demostrado con la obtención de resultados preliminares y con la posibilidad de mantener células vivas durante un periodo de tiempo dentro del espectrómetro.

RESEARCH SUMMARY

We are particularly interested in protein targets relevant in cell invasion and metastasis. This interest comes from the realisation that 90% of the time it is not localised tumors that kill cancer patients, but the process of metastasis. In this context, one of our main aims is to gain a detailed characterisation of human heparanase, a key enzyme in the regulation of the extracellular matrix, and perhaps a potential biomarker of metastasis. Other projects we are working on, within this area of research, include the structural characterisation of the hemopexin domain of MT1-MMP (Dr. Alicia Garcia-Arroyo, CNIC), and the complex between Hsp90 and its cofactor Tah1 (Dr. Walid Houry, University of Toronto).

Furthermore, we are working with 1H-NMR spectroscopy which is a very powerful, non-invasive technique that can provide information on a wide range of molecular processes. NMR has the ability to detect and characterise an abundance of metabolic components simultaneously, even when their identities are unknown. A particularly relevant application of metabonomics using NMR is the characterisation of intact cultured cells. It opens the possibility of characterising the mechanism of action of drugs, and of revealing on and off-target effects, thus opening an avenue for predictive toxicity studies. Our laboratory is extremely interested in the possibility of using this technology to study the time evolution of changes induced by chemicals on intact eukaryotic cells. Initial results have shown the feasibility of such studies and have revealed it is possible, under the right experimental conditions, to maintain intact cells in the NMR spectrometer for a period of time.

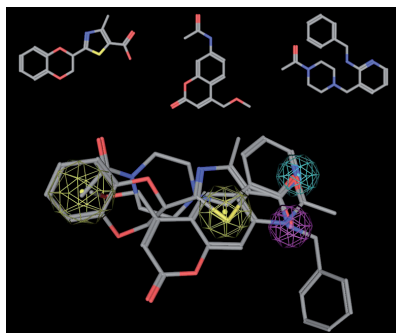


Figura. Estructura de tres fragmentos químicos que satisfacen una hipótesis farmacofórica dirigida a la búsqueda de nuevos inhibidores frente a heparanasa.

Figure. Structure of three chemical fragments satisfying a pharmacophore hypothesis developed for the identification of novel heparanase inhibitors.

60

1. PRESENTATION

2. INTRODUCTION

3. GOVERNING BODIES

4. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
Nat. Stem Cell Bank
Molecular Neuroendocrinology
Biomaterials
iPSC/iPSC Differentiation
Epigenetic Architecture
Cellular Reprogramming
Cardiogenesis
Cellular Morphology
Cytomics
Stem Cell Differentiation

DRUG DISCOVERY

Sensory Biology
RNA Transport
Epithelial Cell Biology
Peptides and Proteins
Structural Biology
Organic Molecules
Mol. Structure and Simulation
Polymer Therapeutics
Bioinformatics and Genomics

BIOMEDICINE

Molecular Biology of Cancer
Cellular and Molecular Biology
Neurobiology
Cellular Pathology
Multiple Sclerosis
Autoimmune Pathology
Cellular Biology
Molecular Genetics
Cellular Organisation
Molecular Recognition

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES

Proteomics
Sequencing
Microarray Analysis
Peptide Synthesis
Electron Microscopy
Molecular Screening
Confocal Microscopy
Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
Radioactivity Protection

5. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Scientific production
Competitive financing
Scientific collaboration
Awards

6. FACTS AND FIGURES

Personnel and administration
Training programme
Sponsorship and donations
Science outreach activities
Presence in the press



Equipo Investigador
Research Team

Investigadores • Researchers

Rodrigo J. Carbajo Martínez
Rosa M^a Farrás Rivera
Anne-Kathrin Schott
Beatriz Jiménez Garrido

Rafael Gozalbes Botella
David MacIntyre

Predotorales • Pre-doctoral students

Silvia Mosulén Machuca
Guillermo Badenes Belmonte

Técnicos • Technicians

Leticia Ortí Pérez
Jehzabel Pendás Meneau
Pablo Mateos Gregorio

 **LÍNEAS DE INVESTIGACIÓN**

- Caracterización estructural de proteínas de interés terapéutico e identificación de moduladores de la actividad biológica de estas dianas.
- Determinación de perfiles metabólicos mediante espectroscopía de Resonancia Magnética Nuclear

LINES OF RESEARCH

- *Structural characterisation of proteins of pharmaceutical interest and the identification of modulators of the biological activity of these targets.*
- *Determination of metabolic profiles by NMR spectroscopy.*

 **PUBLICACIONES 2009 • PUBLICATIONS 2009**

1. Jantus Lewintre E, Reinoso Martín C, Montaner D, Marín M, José Terol M, Farrás R, Benet I, Calvete JJ, Dopazo J, García-Conde J. Analysis of chronic lymphocytic leukemia transcriptomic profile: differences between molecular subgroups. *Leuk Lymphoma*. 2009 Jan;50(1):68-79.
2. Gozalbes R, Barbosa F, Nicolăi E, Horvath D, Froloff N. Development and validation of a pharmacophore-based QSAR model for the prediction of CNS activity. *ChemMedChem*. 2009 Feb;4(2):204-9.
3. Lewintre EJ, Martin CR, Ballesteros CG, Montaner D, Rivera RF, Mayans JR, García-Conde J. Cryptochrome-1 expression: A new prognostic marker in B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia. *Haematologica*. 2009 Feb;94(2):280-284.
4. Rodríguez A, Roy J, Martínez-Martínez S, López-Maderuelo MD, Niño-Moreno P, Ortí L, Pantoja-Uceda D, Pineda-Lucena A, Cyert MS, Redondo JM. A conserved docking surface on calcineurin mediates interaction with substrates and immunosuppressants. *Mol Cell*. 2009 Mar 13;33(5):616-26.
5. Orzáez M, Mondragón L, García-Jareño A, Mosulén S, Pineda-Lucena A, Pérez-Payá E. Deciphering the antitumoral activity of quinacrine: Binding to and inhibition of Bcl-xL. *Bioorg Med Chem Lett*. 2009 Mar 15;19(6):1592-5.
6. Ortí L, Carbajo RJ, Pieper U, Eswar N, Maurer SM, Rai AK, Taylor G, Todd MH, Pineda-Lucena A, Sali A, Marti-Renom MA. A kernel for the Tropical Disease Initiative. *Nat Biotechnol*. 2009 Apr;27(4):320-1.
7. Ortí L, Carbajo RJ, Pieper U, Eswar N, Maurer SM, Rai AK, Taylor G, Todd MH, Pineda-Lucena A, Sali A, Marti-Renom MA. A kernel for open source drug discovery in tropical diseases. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis*. 2009;3(4):e418. Epub 2009 Apr 21.
8. Jantus Lewintre E, Reinoso Martín C, García Ballesteros C, Pendas J, Benet Campos C, Mayans Ferrer JR, García-Conde J. BCL6: somatic mutations and expression in early-stage chronic lymphocytic leukemia. *Leuk Lymphoma*. 2009 May;50(5):773-80.
9. Gozalbes R, Mosulén S, Carbajo RJ, Pineda-Lucena A. Development and NMR validation of minimal pharmacophore hypotheses for the generation of fragment libraries enriched in heparanase inhibitors. *J Comput Aided Mol Des*. 2009 May 7. Epub ahead of print.
10. Sánchez C, Salas AP, Braña AF, Palomino M, Pineda-Lucena A, Carbajo RJ, Méndez C, Moris F, Salas JA. Generation of potent and selective kinase inhibitors by combinatorial biosynthesis of glycosylated indolocarbazoles. *Chem Commun (Camb)*. 2009 Jul 21;(27):4118-20.
11. Olano C, Gómez C, Pérez M, Palomino M, Pineda-Lucena A, Carbajo RJ, Braña AF, Méndez C, Salas JA. Deciphering biosynthesis of the RNA polymerase inhibitor streptolydigin and generation of glycosylated derivatives. *Chem Biol*. 2009 Oct 30;16(10):1031-44.
12. Chem Biol. 2009 Oct 30;16(10):1031-44.
13. Vicent MJ, Cascales L, Carbajo RJ, Cortés N, Messeguer A, Pérez Payá E. Nanoconjugates as intracorporeal neutralizers of bacterial endotoxins. *J Control Release*. Epub 2009 Oct 30.



Departamento · Department

Química Médica Medicinal Chemistry

4.2.6

Laboratorio · Laboratory

Moléculas Orgánicas (Unidad Mixta Cipf-Uveg) · *Organic Molecules (Mixed Unit Cipf-Uveg)*Responsable · **Team Leader:** Santos Fustero Lardiés (sfustero@cipf.es)

DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA ACTIVIDAD INVESTIGADORA

La Química Médica es la disciplina que se refiere al descubrimiento, identificación y obtención de nuevas entidades químicas con actividad biológica a nivel molecular, con el fin último de conseguir fármacos más seguros y eficaces para el tratamiento de diversas patologías.

La principal finalidad de la investigación que desarrollamos en el Laboratorio de Moléculas Orgánicas es la síntesis de nuevos compuestos con potencial actividad biológica. Para ello, el nivel de investigación elemental consiste en el desarrollo de nuevas metodologías de síntesis que permitan acceder a dichas moléculas de manera eficaz y selectiva. En este sentido, nuestro grupo de investigación está interesado en la síntesis de compuesto organofluorados, puesto que es bien conocido que la introducción de flúor o agrupaciones fluoradas en moléculas orgánicas conduce, a menudo, a cambios beneficiosos en sus propiedades químicas y farmacológicas. Por otra parte, también estamos interesados en el diseño y síntesis de nuevos peptidomiméticos y otras moléculas orgánicas pequeñas capaces de activar o inhibir dianas terapéuticas concretas. En este contexto resulta esencial la colaboración con distintos departamentos del Centro a la hora de identificar dichas dianas terapéuticas así como realizar los ensayos biológicos correspondientes. Además, a partir de compuestos bioactivos, llevamos a cabo estudios de relación estructura-actividad (SAR) con el fin de encontrar estructuras optimizadas cuya síntesis a escala de multigramo permitirá realizar ensayos in vivo.

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Medicinal Chemistry is the subject that refers to the discovery, identification and preparation of new chemical entities biologically active at the molecular level. Its ultimate goal is to achieve safer and more efficient drugs for the treatment of diverse pathologies.

The main aim of the research that we develop in the Organic Molecules laboratory is the synthesis of new compounds with potential biological activity. Therefore, the fundamental research level is made up of the development of new synthetic methodologies leading to those molecules in a simple and selective manner. In this sense, our research group is interested in the synthesis of organofluorine compounds, since it is well known that the introduction of fluorine atoms into organic molecules often improves their chemical and pharmacological properties. Additionally, we are also interested in the design and synthesis of new peptidomimetics and other small molecules capable of activating or inhibiting specific therapeutic targets. In this context, the collaboration with different research groups is essential in order to identify the aforementioned targets as well as to carry out the corresponding biological assays. Moreover, we also perform structure-activity relationship (SAR) studies of bioactive compounds in order to obtain optimised structures, the multigram synthesis of which will allow for the performance of in vivo assays.

LÍNEAS DE INVESTIGACIÓN

- Síntesis de compuestos organofluorados y de nuevos peptidomiméticos.
- Aplicaciones sintéticas de la química fluorosa.
- Estudios de relación estructura-actividad (SAR) de compuestos bioactivos.
- Diseño, síntesis y evaluación biológica de moduladores de interacciones proteína-proteína y de inhibidores de la interacción RRE-Rev del virus VIH-1.

LINES OF RESEARCH

- *Synthesis of organofluorine compounds and new peptidomimetics.*
- *Synthetic applications of fluorous chemistry.*
- *Structure-activity relationship (SAR) studies of bioactive compounds.*
- *Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of modulators of protein-protein interactions and inhibitors of the RRE-Rev interaction of HIV-1 virus.*

62

1. PRESENTATION

2. INTRODUCTION

3. GOVERNING BODIES

4. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Nat. Stem Cell Bank

Molecular Neuroendocrinology

Biomaterials

iPSC Differentiation

Epigenetic Architecture

Cellular Reprogramming

Cardiogenesis

Cellular Morphology

Cytomics

Stem Cell Differentiation

DRUG DISCOVERY

Sensory Biology

RNA Transport

Epithelial Cell Biology

Peptides and Proteins

Structural Biology

Organic Molecules

Mol. Structure and Simulation

Polymer Therapeutics

Bioinformatics and Genomics

BIOMEDICINE

Molecular Biology of Cancer

Cellular and Molecular Biology

Neurobiology

Cellular Pathology

Multiple Sclerosis

Autoimmune Pathology

Cellular Biology

Molecular Genetics

Cellular Organisation

Molecular Recognition

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES

Proteomics

Sequencing

Microarray Analysis

Peptide Synthesis

Electron Microscopy

Molecular Screening

Confocal Microscopy

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Radioactivity Protection

5. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Scientific production

Competitive financing

Scientific collaboration

Awards

6. FACTS AND FIGURES

Personnel and administration

Training programme

Sponsorship and donations

Science outreach activities

Presence in the press



Equipo Investigador
Research Team

Investigadores • Researchers

Juan Francisco Sanz Cervera
José Luis Aceña Bonilla
Julio Piera Balaguer
María Sánchez Roselló

Laia Albert Mocholí
Vanessa Rodrigo Argente
Natalia Mateu Sanchis
Ignacio Ibáñez Sánchez

Antonio Monteagudo Juliá
Fathemed Mojarrat

Predoctorales • Pre-doctoral students

Amador García Sancho

Técnicos • Technicians

Gema Chiva Tárrega

Colaboradores • Collaborators

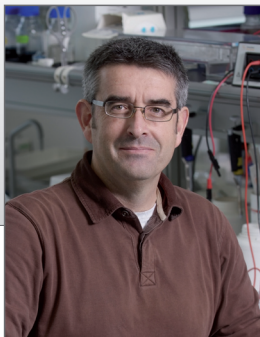
Salvador Vilanova Esteban
Francisco Jose Sala de Oyangueren

PUBLICACIONES 2009 • PUBLICATIONS 2009

1. Fustero S, del Pozo C, Catalán S, Alemán J, Parra A, Marcos V, García Ruano JL. A new strategy for the synthesis of optically pure β -fluoroalkyl β -amino acid derivatives. *Org Lett.* 2009 Feb 5;11(3):641-4.
2. Fustero S, Chiva G, Piera J, Sanz-Cervera J F, Volonterio A, Zanda M, Ramirez de Arellano C. New fluorinated peptidomimetics through tandem aza-Michael addition to α -trifluoromethyl acrylamide acceptors: Synthesis and conformational study in solid state and solution. *J Org Chem.* 2009 Apr 17;74(8):3122-32.
3. Fustero S, Sanz-Cervera JF, Aceña JL, Sánchez-Roselló M. Nitrogen-containing organofluorine derivatives: an overview. *Synlett.* 2009 525-549.
4. García Sancho A, Wang X, Sui B, Curran DP. Comparison of the relative reactivities of the triisopropylsilyl group with two fluoruous analogs. *Adv Synth Catal* 2009 May 1;351(7-8):1035-1040.
5. Fustero S, Sánchez-Roselló M, Aceña JL, Fernández B, Asensio A, Sanz-Cervera JF, del Pozo C. Cross-metathesis reactions as an efficient tool in the synthesis of fluorinated cyclic β -amino acids. *Journal of Organic Chemistry* (74):3414-3423 (2009)
6. Fustero S, Mateu N, Albert L, Aceña JL. Straightforward stereoselective access to cyclic peptidomimetics. *J Org Chem.* 2009 May 1;74(9):3414-23.
7. García Ruano JL, Parra A, Marcos V, del Pozo C, Catalán S, Monteagudo S, Fustero S, Poveda A. Asymmetric synthesis of indolines through intramolecular shifting of aromatic sulfinyl groups. Role of the π,π -stacking interactions in these unusual SNAr processes. *J Am Chem Soc.* 2009, 131 (26), 9432-9441.
8. Fustero S, García Sancho A, Aceña JL, Sanz-Cervera JF. Fluorous TBAF: A convenient and selective reagent for fluoride-mediated deprotections. *J Org Chem.* 2009. 74(16):6398-6401.
9. Olimpieri F, Tambaro S, Fustero S, Lazzari P, Sánchez-Roselló M, Pani L, Volonterio A, Zanda M. Synthesis and enzymatic evaluation of novel partially fluorinated thiol dual ACE/NEP inhibitors. *Bioorg Med Chem Lett.* 2009 Aug 15;19(16):4715-9.
10. Fustero S, Simón-Fuentes A, Sanz-Cervera JF. Recent advances in the synthesis of pyrazoles. *A review. Organic Preparations and Procedures International.* 2009 (41):253-290.
11. Fustero S, Bello P, Fernández B, del Pozo C, Hammond GB. AuX₃-mediated selective head-to-head dimerization of difluoropropargyl amides. *J Org Chem* 2009 Oct 16;74(20):7690-6.
12. Fustero S, Mojarrad F, Pérez Carrión MD, Sanz-Cervera JF, Aceña JL. Organocatalytic anti-selective Mannich reactions with fluorinated aldimines: Synthesis of anti- β -fluoroalkyl- β -amino alcohols. *European Journal of Organic Chemistry* pp. 5208-5214 (2009)
13. Fustero, S.; Catalán; Aceña, J. L.; del Pozo, C. A new strategy for the synthesis of fluorinated 3,4-dihydropirimidinones. *Journal of Fluorine Chemistry.* 2009 Dec. (130):1145-1150.
14. Sanz-Cervera JF, Blasco R, Piera J, Cynamon M, Ibáñez I, Murguía M, Fustero S. Solution versus fluorous versus solid-phase synthesis of 2,5-disubstituted 1,3-azoles: Preliminary antibacterial activity studies. *J Org Chem.* 2009 Dec 4;74(23):8988-96.

LIBROS O CAPÍTULO EN LIBROS / BOOKS OR CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

1. Fustero S, Sanz-Cervera JF, Simón-Fuentes A, Román R, Catalán S, Murguía, M. New fluorinated pyrazole and uracil derivatives: Synthesis and biological activity. *Fluorinated Heterocycles, ACS Symposium Series 1003*, pp. 182-209. Editorial: American Chemical Society, Washington DC. (2009)
2. Fustero, S. Fluorine in Medicinal Chemistry and Chemical Biology. *ChemMedChem* (4):2124-2125 (2009)



Departamento · Department

Química Médica *Medicinal Chemistry*

4.2.7

Laboratorio · Laboratory

Estructura y Simulación Molecular · *Molecular Structure and Simulation*Responsable · *Team Leader*: José Gallego Sala (jgallego@cipf.es)

DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA ACTIVIDAD INVESTIGADORA

El ARN casi siempre se pliega sobre sí mismo formando una amplia variedad de estructuras tridimensionales que contienen bucles, intersecciones helicoidales e interacciones terciarias. Recientemente se han descrito nuevas funciones biológicas para este biopolímero, que fundamentalmente se localizan en los genomas de virus ARN, en las regiones no traducidas de moléculas de ARNm, y en la enorme cantidad de transcritos de ARN no codificante identificados en mamíferos. Por su riqueza funcional, estos ARN humanos, bacteriales y virales representan dianas de alto potencial terapéutico que, por estar relativamente inexploradas respecto a dianas proteicas, están siendo interrogadas mediante diversas estrategias. Nuestro laboratorio se dedica al estudio de la estructura y función de estas secuencias, así como al análisis de los factores que rigen el reconocimiento específico de ácidos nucleicos por ligandos orgánicos. Para ello utilizamos un amplio abanico de técnicas biofísicas, bioquímicas y computacionales.

Las interacciones terciarias entre hélices desempeñan un papel clave en el plegamiento y la función de muchas secuencias de ARN pero están pobremente caracterizadas, particularmente en disolución. Nuestro laboratorio trabaja en el análisis de este tipo de interacciones en ribozimas. Otro de nuestros objetivos es el bloqueo de la interacción RRE-Rev del virus VIH-1. RRE es un bucle interno formado por el ARN genómico del virus y reconocido por la proteína viral Rev. Tratamos de identificar ligandos orgánicos que se unan al bucle RRE de manera específica, y que puedan servir como punto de partida para el diseño de nuevos agentes antivirales.

RESEARCH SUMMARY

RNA molecules are almost always structured and adopt a great variety of folds containing loops, helical junctions and tertiary interactions. In addition, new biological functions have been recently ascribed to this biopolymer, which commonly localise in viral RNA genomes, in the untranslated regions of mRNA molecules, and in the great quantity of non-coding RNA transcripts recently identified in mammalian cells. These human, viral and bacterial RNAs provide multiple potential targets for drug development that are unexploited from a pharmacological point of view and are currently being explored with different strategies. Our research focuses on the study of the structure and function of these RNA sequences, and on the analysis of the forces governing the specific recognition of nucleic acids by small organic molecules. To achieve these goals, we use a combination of biochemical, biophysical and computational techniques.

Tertiary interaction between secondary structure domains play a key role in the folding and function of many RNA sequences but are poorly characterised, particularly in solution. Our laboratory is currently analyzing this type of interactions in hammerhead ribozymes. We also aim to inhibit the RRE-Rev interaction of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) with small organic molecules. RRE is an asymmetric internal loop contained in the genomic RNA of HIV-1 that is specifically recognised by the virally-encoded protein Rev. We are searching for ligands that bind specifically to the RRE loop, as they may serve as leads for the design of new anti-HIV-1 agents.



LÍNEAS DE INVESTIGACIÓN

- Bloqueo de la interacción RRE-Rev del virus VIH-1 mediante ligandos orgánicos de bajo peso molecular.
- Análisis del mecanismo de reconocimiento del ADN de doble hélice por fármacos antitumorales bisnaftalimídicos.
- Estudio del mecanismo de plegamiento de ribozimas de cabeza de martillo.
- Relación entre la estructura y actividad de secuencias de ARN que regulan la transcripción del ARN del virus de la gastroenteritis transmisible.

64

1. PRESENTATION

2. INTRODUCTION

3. GOVERNING BODIES

4. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
 Nat. Stem Cell Bank
 Molecular Neuroendocrinology
 Biomaterials
 hESC/iPSC Differentiation
 Epigenetic Architecture
 Cellular Reprogramming
 Cardiogenesis
 Cellular Morphology
 Cytomics
 Stem Cell Differentiation

DRUG DISCOVERY

Sensory Biology
 RNA Transport
 Epithelial Cell Biology
 Peptides and Proteins
 Structural Biology
 Organic Molecules
 Mol. Structure and Simulation
 Polymer Therapeutics
 Bioinformatics and Genomics

BIOMEDICINE

Molecular Biology of Cancer
 Cellular and Molecular Biology
 Neurobiology
 Cellular Pathology
 Multiple Sclerosis
 Autoimmune Pathology
 Cellular Biology
 Molecular Genetics
 Cellular Organisation
 Molecular Recognition

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES

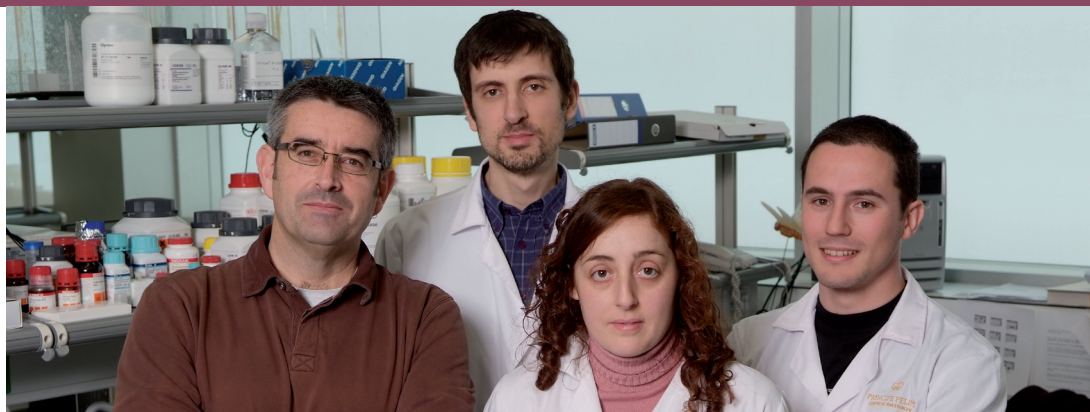
Proteomics
 Sequencing
 Microarray Analysis
 Peptide Synthesis
 Electron Microscopy
 Molecular Screening
 Confocal Microscopy
 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
 Radioactivity Protection

5. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Scientific production
 Competitive financing
 Scientific collaboration
 Awards

6. FACTS AND FIGURES

Personnel and administration
 Training programme
 Sponsorship and donations
 Science outreach activities
 Presence in the press



Equipo Investigador
Research Team

Investigadores • Researchers

David Dufour Rausell
Luís González Bulnes

Técnicos • Technicians

Lorena Pérez Gaspar
Ali Abu Qattam (GRISOLIA)

LINES OF RESEARCH

- Inhibition of the HIV-1 Rev-RRE interaction with small organic molecules.
- Analysis of the molecular mechanisms governing the recognition of double-helical DNA by antitumour bisnaphthalimide drugs.
- Study of the folding mechanism of hammerhead ribozymes.
- Relationship between structure and activity of RNA sequences regulating the transcription of transmissible gastroenteritis virus RNA.

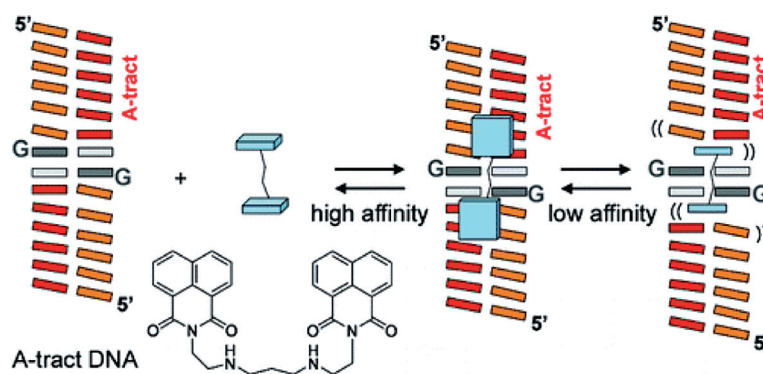


Figura. Interacción de dos pasos entre ADN de doble-hélice y la bisnaptalimida antitumoral elinafide, revelada por efectos indirectos de secuencia (González-Bulnes y Gallego, 2009).

Figure. Indirect Effects Modulating the Interaction between DNA and a Cytotoxic Bisnaphthalimide Reveal a Two-Step Binding Process (González-Bulnes & Gallego, 2009).

PUBLICACIONES 2009 • PUBLICATIONS 2009

1. González-Bulnes, L.; Gallego, J. Indirect effects modulating the interaction between DNA and a cytotoxic bis-naphthalimide reveal a two-step binding process. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2009, 131 (22),7781–7791.
2. Dufour, D.; de la Peña, M.; Gago, S.; Flores, R.; Gallego, J. Structure-function analysis of the ribozymes of chrysanthemum chlorotic mottle viroid: a loop-loop interaction motif conserved in most natural hammerheads. *Nucleic Acids Research*. 2009 Feb;37(2):368-81.
3. de la Peña, M.; Dufour, D.; Gallego, J. Three-way RNA junctions with remote tertiary contacts: a recurrent and highly versatile fold. *RNA*. 2009 Nov;15(11):1949-64.
4. Loakes, D.; Gallego, J.; Pinheiro, V.B.; Kool, E.T.; Holliger, P. Evolving a polymerase for hydrophobic base analogues. *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. 2009 Oct 21;131(41):14827-37.
5. Pekkala, S.; Martinez, A.I.; Barcelona, B.; Gallego, J.; Bendala, E.; Yefimenko, I.; Rubio, V.; Cervera, J. Structural insight on the control of urea synthesis: identification of the binding site for N-acetyl-L-glutamate, the essential allosteric activator of mitochondrial carbamoyl phosphate synthetase. *Biochemical Journal*. 2009 Nov 11;424(2):211-20.



Departamento · Department

Química Médica Medicinal Chemistry

4.2.8

Laboratorio · Laboratory

Polímeros Terapéuticos · Polymer Therapeutics

Responsable · Team Leader: **María Jesús Vicent Docón** (mjvicent@cipf.es)

66

DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA ACTIVIDAD INVESTIGADORA

Los Polímeros Terapéuticos son considerados las primeras nanomedicinas poliméricas. Su valor terapéutico en clínica ya ha sido demostrado sobre todo en cáncer, sin embargo todavía existen retos y oportunidades para mejorar esta plataforma tecnológica. Se considera que las áreas que facilitarán un mayor desarrollo son: (i) el transporte de anticancerígenos dirigidos a nuevas dianas moleculares y su combinación, (ii) el desarrollo de nuevos y complejos materiales poliméricos con estructura definida y (iii) el tratamiento de patologías diferentes al cáncer. Estas líneas de investigación son las directrices actuales en nuestro laboratorio.

En este contexto, nuestra actividad investigadora se centra en el desarrollo de conjugados poliméricos de segunda generación, nuevas nanomedicinas con aplicación tanto en terapia anticancerígena como en medicina regenerativa. El desarrollo de nuevos portadores poliméricos biodegradables, la utilización de terapia de combinación o el diseño de conjugados dirigidos a nuevas dianas moleculares son algunas de las aproximaciones que sigue el laboratorio de Polímeros Terapéuticos para conseguir nanofármacos más específicos y efectivos.

Nuestros sistemas poliméricos se basan principalmente en el ácido-L-glutámico y están diseñados para permitir el estudio de la influencia de su estructura tridimensional en la internalización celular de agentes bioactivos para así explorar un mayor rango de aplicaciones terapéuticas. Por otro lado, la multivalencia de los soportes poliméricos nos permite el desarrollo de terapia de combinación e incluso de sistemas de transporte más específicos cuando se incorporan residuos dirigentes (anticuerpos o péptidos) lo que aumenta marcadamente el valor terapéutico de estas nanoconstrucciones híbridas.

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Polymer Therapeutics could be considered the first polymeric nanomedicines. Clinical proof of concept for polymer conjugates has been already achieved mainly as anticancer therapy, however, many challenges and opportunities still lay ahead providing scope to develop this platform technology further. Delivery of new anticancer agents focusing on novel molecular targets and their combination, development of both new and exciting polymeric materials with defined architectures and treatment of diseases other than cancer are the most exciting and promising areas, and therefore are the driven research lines in the Polymer Therapeutics Laboratory.

In this context, our research activity is focussed on the design of second generation polymer conjugates, novel nanomedicines with application in cancer and tissue regeneration. The development of novel biodegradable polymeric carriers, the use of combination therapy or the design of nanoconjugates directed at novel molecular targets are some of the approaches we are following in order to achieve highly specific and effective nanopharmaceuticals.

Our polymeric systems are mainly based on L-glutamic acid and are designed to allow the study of the influence of the spatial conformation on the intracellular trafficking of bioactive agents, allowing for the exploration of a broader range of therapeutic applications. Additionally, polymer multivalency allows the use of combination therapy and even the presence of targeting residues (antibodies or peptides) markedly enhancing, therefore, the therapeutic value of these hybrid nanoconstructs.

1. PRESENTATION

2. INTRODUCTION

3. GOVERNING BODIES

4. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Nat. Stem Cell Bank
Molecular Neuroendocrinology
Biomaterials
iPSC/iPSC Differentiation
Epigenetic Architecture
Cellular Reprogramming
Cardiogenesis
Cellular Morphology
Cytomics
Stem Cell Differentiation

DRUG DISCOVERY

Sensory Biology
RNA Transport
Epithelial Cell Biology
Peptides and Proteins
Structural Biology
Organic Molecules
Mol. Structure and Simulation
Polymer Therapeutics
Bioinformatics and Genomics

BIOMEDICINE

Molecular Biology of Cancer
Cellular and Molecular Biology
Neurobiology
Cellular Pathology
Multiple Sclerosis
Autoimmune Pathology
Cellular Biology
Molecular Genetics
Cellular Organisation
Molecular Recognition

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES

Proteomics
Sequencing
Microarray Analysis
Peptide Synthesis
Electron Microscopy
Molecular Screening
Confocal Microscopy
Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
Radioactivity Protection

5. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Scientific production
Competitive financing
Scientific collaboration
Awards

6. FACTS AND FIGURES

Personnel and administration
Training programme
Sponsorship and donations
Science outreach activities
Presence in the press



Equipo Investigador
Research Team

Investigadores • Researchers

Rut Lucas Domínguez
Fabiana Canal
Joaquín Sanchis Martínez
Ana Armiñan de Benito

Coralie Deladriere
Laura Mondragón Martínez

Técnicos • Technicians

María Helena Ferrandis

Claudia Scholz
María Amparo Baiget
Marta Ayerbe García

Predoctorales • Pre-doctoral students

Vanessa Giménez Navarro
Inmaculada Conejos Sánchez

Colaboradores • Collaborators

Gianni Ciofani
Gabriela de Jesús Rodríguez Escalona

LÍNEAS DE INVESTIGACIÓN

- Desarrollo de nuevos polímeros biodegradables (nanomateriales) para su utilización como portadores versátiles en sistemas de transporte dirigido de agentes bioactivos (tales como, fármacos de bajo Mw, péptidos, oligonucleótidos (i.e. siRNA), anticuerpos o pequeñas proteínas).
- Diseño racional, síntesis y evaluación biológica de conjugados polímero fármaco anticancerígenos.
- Polímeros terapéuticos diseñados como terapia de combinación para el tratamiento de tumores hormono-dependientes (cáncer de mama y próstata).
- Diseño racional, síntesis y evaluación biológica de nuevos nanoconjugados y sistemas híbridos con aplicación en reparación y regeneración de tejidos.
- Transporte de fármacos a través de la barrera hematoencefálica. Aplicación en enfermedades neurodegenerativas.
- Utilización de técnicas físico-químicas para conseguir una caracterización exhaustiva de las macromoléculas sintetizadas.

LINES OF RESEARCH

- *Development of new biodegradable polymers (nanomaterials) to be used as versatile carriers in targeted delivery systems, to allow delivery of bioactive agents of different nature (such as, low Mw drugs, peptides, oligonucleotides (i.e. siRNA), antibodies or small proteins).*
- *Rational design, synthesis and biological evaluation of novel polymer anticancer drug conjugates.*
- *Polymeric Combination Therapy (endocrine + chemo-therapy in the same polymer carrier) for the treatment of hormone-dependent cancers (breast and prostate cancer).*
- *Rational design, synthesis and biological evaluation of novel polymer conjugates and hybrid polymeric systems for tissue regeneration and repair.*
- *Transport across the BBB. Application on neurodegenerative diseases.*
- *Use of physico-chemical techniques to achieve an exhaustive biophysical characterisation of the complex hybrid macromolecules synthesized.*

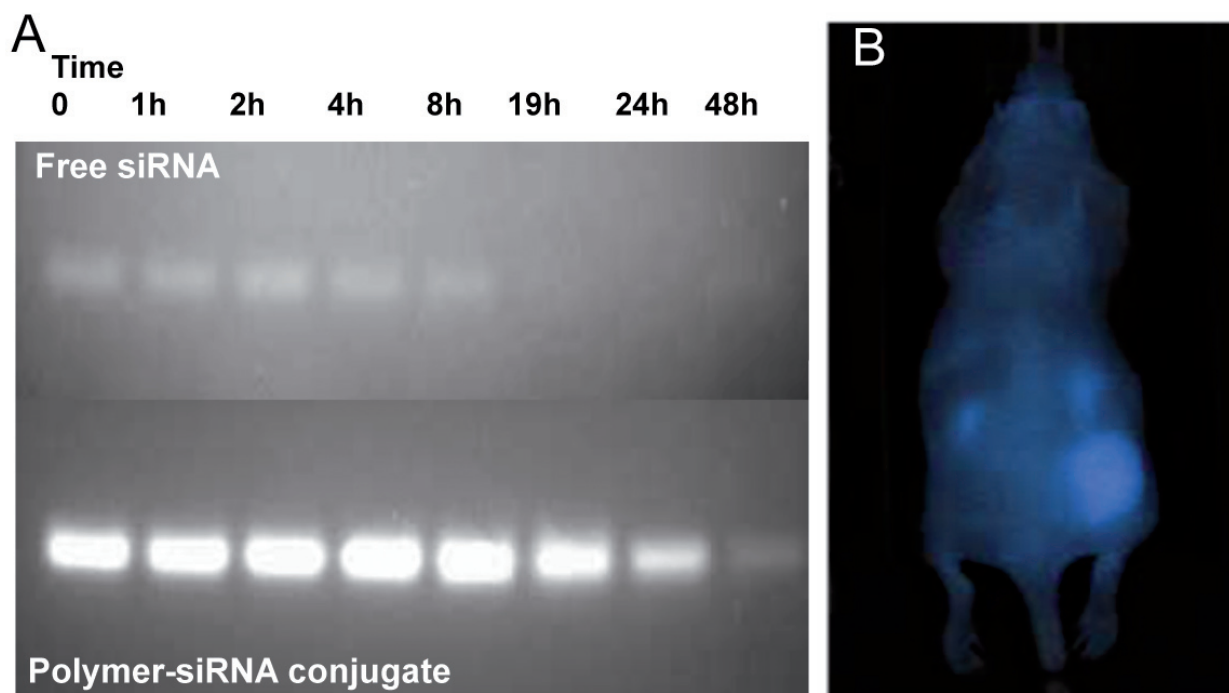


Fig. 1. Panel A. Aumento significativo de la estabilidad en plasma de una secuencia de siRNA después de su conjugación con un soporte polimérico. Panel B. Imagen in vivo de la eliminación renal y acumulación de en tumor de nanoconjugados terapéuticos marcados con Cy5.5 (Proyecto en colaboración con el laboratorio del Dr S. Schwartz Jr, CIBBIM-Nanomedicina en Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona).

Fig. 1. Panel A. Significant enhancement of plasma stability in a siRNA sequence after its conjugation to a polymeric carrier. Panel B. In vivo image of the renal clearance and tumor accumulation of therapeutic nanoconjugates labeled with Cy5.5 (Project in collaboration with Dr. Schwartz Jr lab, CIBBIM-Nanomedicina en Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona).

PUBLICACIONES 2009 · PUBLICATIONS 2009

ARTÍCULOS INTERNACIONALES · INTERNATIONAL ARTICLES

1. Santamaría B, Benito-Martin A, Conrado Ucero A, Reyero A, Vicent MJ, Orzáez M, Celdrán A, Selgas R, Ruíz-Ortega M, López Cabrera M, Egido J, Pérez-Payá E, Ortiz A. A nanoconjugate Apaf-1 inhibitor protects mesothelial cells from cytokine-induced injury. PlosOne 2009 Aug 13;4(8):e6634.
2. Vicent MJ, Cascales L, Carbajo RJ, Cortés N, Messeguer A, Pérez Payá E. Nanoconjugates as intracorporeal neutralizers of bacterial endotoxins. J Control Release. Epub 2009 Oct 30.
3. Vicent MJ, Ringsdorf H, Duncan R. Polymer Therapeutics: Clinical Applications and Challenges for Development. Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews. 2009 Nov 12;61(13):1117-1120.
4. Greco F, Vicent MJ. Combination therapy: opportunities and challenges for polymer-drug conjugates as anticancer nanomedicines. Advanced Drug Delivery Reviews. 2009 Nov 12;61(13):1203-13

LIBROS O CAPÍTULOS EN LIBROS / BOOKS OR CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

1. Autores / Authors: L. Mondragón, M. Orzáez, A. Gortat, M. Sancho, A. Messeguer, M.J. Vicent, E. Pérez-Payá.
 Título / Title: Molecules that bind a central protein component of the apoptosome, APAF-1, and modulate its activity.
 Ref: The apoptosome as an up-and-coming therapeutic tool.
 Editorial / Publisher: F. Cecconi Ed. Springer.
 Año / Year: 2009

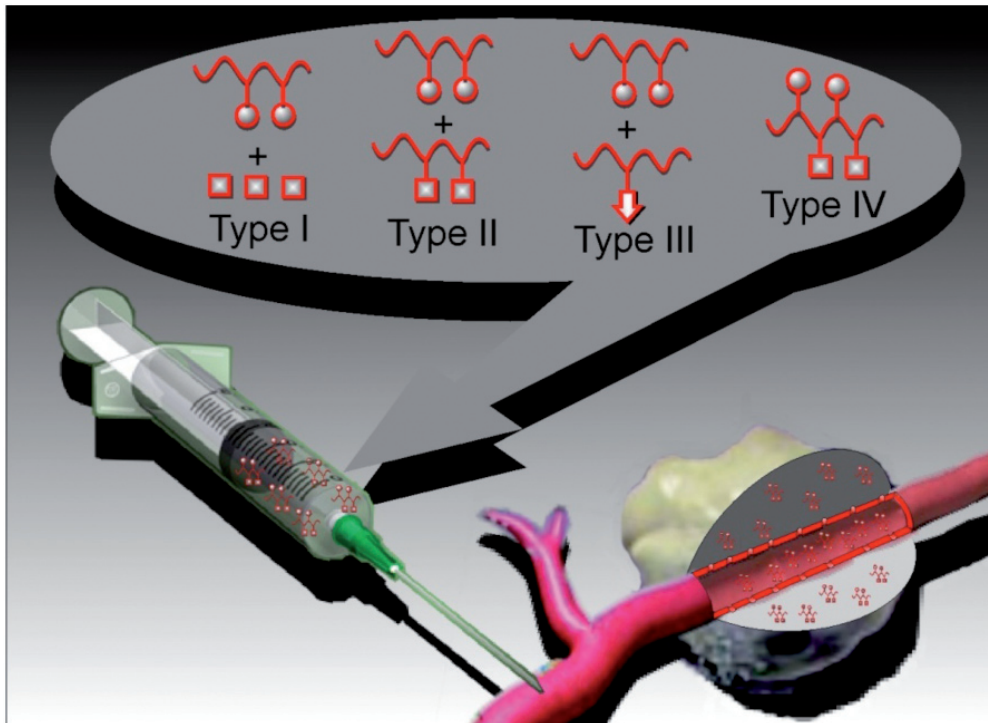


Fig. 2: Representación esquemática de los diferentes tipos de Terapia de Combinación Polimérica utilizada para el transporte específico de fármacos.

Fig. 2: Scheme of the different types of Polymeric Combination Therapy used for specific drug delivery.



Departamento · Department

Bioinformática y Genómica *Bioinformatics and Genomics*

4.2.9

Laboratorio · Laboratory

Bioinformática · *Bioinformatics*

Responsable · *Team Leader*: Joaquín Dopazo Blázquez (jdopazo@cipf.es)

DESCRIPCIÓN DE LA ACTIVIDAD INVESTIGADORA

Hoy en día, los principales avances en biomedicina vienen de la genómica y la bioinformática, entendidas bajo la perspectiva de la biología de sistemas. Con esta filosofía, el objetivo general de nuestro departamento es relacionar la estructura genómica y las mutaciones (a través de nuestra unidad de genómica comparativa) con sus efectos a nivel regulatorio, celular y fenotípico (genómica funcional) tratando de entender los mecanismos de acción subyacentes (genómica estructural).

El análisis del enorme volumen de datos producido por las técnicas de alto rendimiento (microarrays, secuenciación de nueva generación, GWAS, etc.) es reconocido hoy en día como uno de los principales cuellos de botella para el uso eficiente de las metodologías genómicas.

Nuestro departamento está firmemente involucrado en el desarrollo de algoritmos y herramientas bioinformáticas innovadoras en contacto directo con investigadores de laboratorio. Por ello, hemos desarrollado programas para el análisis de la expresión génica (GEPAS, el servidor de web más usado en su género), filogenómica (Phylemon), interpretación funcional de experimentos a escala genómica (Babelomics), alineamientos estructurales de RNAs (SARA), etc.

Formamos parte de tres importantes iniciativas nacionales: el instituto de bioinformática (INB), el CIBER de enfermedades raras y la red española de cáncer (RTICC). También estamos involucrados en varios consorcios internacionales, como el MAQCII, que intenta establecer el uso correcto de los microarrays con propósito pronóstico y diagnóstico, el SEQC, que intenta establecer controles de calidad en las metodologías de secuenciación de nueva generación o el STAR, que busca la caracterización de la variabilidad en el genoma de la rata (Saar et al., 2008 Nat. Genet).

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Today's biomedicine is thriving on the wings of genomics and bioinformatics, understood under the prism of systems biology.

Following this philosophy, the general objective of our department is to relate the mutations and genomic structure (through our Comparative Genomics unit) to their effect at a cellular, regulatory and phenotypic level (Functional Genomics) trying to understand the mechanism of action (Structural Genomics).

The analysis of the huge amounts of data produced by the new high-throughput technologies (microarrays, next generation sequencing,

GWAS, etc.) is nowadays recognised as the main bottleneck hindering the efficient and extensive use of genomics technology. Our department has a strong commitment to the development of innovative analysis algorithms and bioinformatics tools, in close contact with laboratory researchers. Thus we have developed state-of-the-art programmes for gene expression data analysis (GEPAS, the most extensively used web server in its genera), phylogenomics (Phylemon), functional interpretation of genome-scale experiments (Babelomics), structural alignment of RNAs (SARA), etc.

We also form part of three large initiatives in Spain: the Spanish Institute of Bioinformatics (INB), the CIBER of rare diseases and the Spanish Cancer Network, as well as being involved in several international consortia such as the MAQCII, which aims to establish best practices in the use of microarrays for prognostic and diagnostic purposes, the SEQC, which aims to establish quality control criteria in next generation sequencing methodologies, and the STAR consortium, which targets the characterisation of the variability in the rat genome (Saar et al., 2008 Nat. Genet).

LÍNEAS DE INVESTIGACIÓN

- Genómica funcional: Relaciones entre la expresión de los genes, sus mutaciones y la función, dentro de la biología de sistemas, en el contexto de las enfermedades.
- Genómica comparativa: Análisis de los patrones y procesos ocurridos durante la evolución del genoma y su aplicación en salud humana y enfermedades.

70

1. PRESENTATION

2. INTRODUCTION

3. GOVERNING BODIES

4. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Nat. Stem Cell Bank

Molecular Neuroendocrinology

Biomaterials

hESC/iPSC Differentiation

Epigenetic Architecture

Cellular Reprogramming

Cardiogenesis

Cellular Morphology

Cytomics

Stem Cell Differentiation

DRUG DISCOVERY

Sensory Biology

RNA Transport

Epithelial Cell Biology

Peptides and Proteins

Structural Biology

Organic Molecules

Mol. Structure and Simulation

Polymer Therapeutics

Bioinformatics and Genomics

BIOMEDICINE

Molecular Biology of Cancer

Cellular and Molecular Biology

Neurobiology

Cellular Pathology

Multiple Sclerosis

Autoimmune Pathology

Cellular Biology

Molecular Genetics

Cellular Organisation

Molecular Recognition

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES

Proteomics

Sequencing

Microarray Analysis

Peptide Synthesis

Electron Microscopy

Molecular Screening

Conical Microscopy

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Radioactivity Protection

5. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Scientific production

Competitive financing

Scientific collaboration

Awards

6. FACTS AND FIGURES

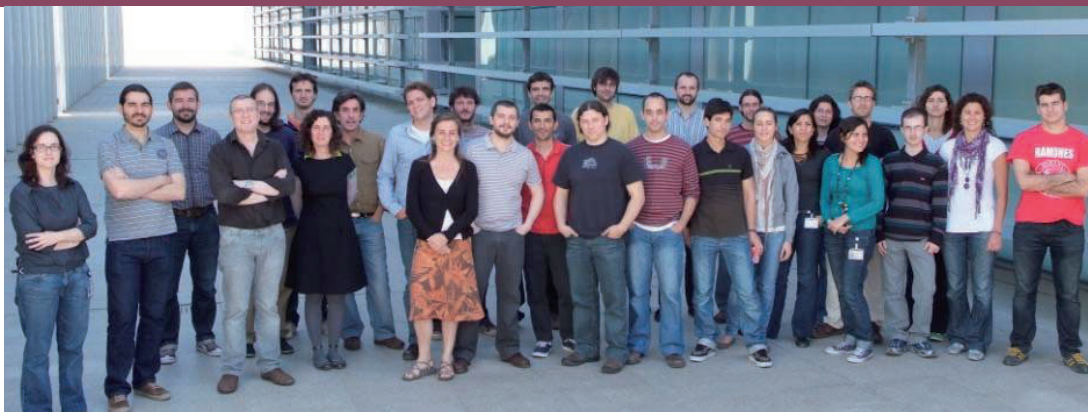
Personnel and administration

Training programme

Sponsorship and donations

Science outreach activities

Presence in the press



Equipo Investigador
Research Team

Investigadores • *Researchers*

Marc A. Martí Renom
Hernan J. Dopazo
Ana Victoria Conesa Cegarra
Fatima Al-Shahrour
David Montaner González
Javier Santoyo Lopez (CIBERER)
Francisco Garcia Garcia
Joaquín Tárraga Jiménez
Emidio Capriotti
Davide Bau
Pablo Minguez
Sonia Tarazona Campos
Stefan Goetz (CIBERER)

Patricia Sebastián León
François Serra

Técnicos • *Technicians*

Pablo Escobar López
Jose Carbonell Caballero
Ignacio Medina Castello (CIBERER)
Rafael Carlos Jimenez Domenech (CIBERER)
Luis Pulido López (CIBERER)
Martina Marbà Maya
Alicia Amadoz Navarro
Enrique Vidal Ocabo
Adriana Cucchi
Federico Jose Garcia Lopez

Jordi Durban Sanchez
Stefania Bossi
Federico José García López
Luz García Alonso
Chiara Russo
Carlos Baeza Delgado
Veronica Llorens Rico
David Gomez Cabrero
Joan Antón Puig
Isabel Barragan
Ignacio Ponzoni
Valeria Carreira
Inmaculada Rapado
Luba Pardo
Mateus Patrici

Predoctorales • *Pre-doctoral students*

Eva Alloza Anguiano
Leonardo Arbiza Brustin

Colaboradores • *Collaborators*

Giorgio Valentini

- Genómica estructural: Uso de las leyes de física y la evolución para desarrollar y aplicar métodos bioinformáticos para entender y caracterizar la regulación de la célula.

LINES OF RESEARCH

- *Functional genomics: Decipher the interplay between gene expression, mutations and function under the systems biology prism, in the context of diseases.*
- *Comparative genomics: Analysis of patterns and processes that occurred during the evolution of our genome, and their application to human health and disease.*
- *Structural genomics: Use of the laws of physics and evolution to develop and apply computational methods to understand and characterise cell regulation beyond proteins.*

PUBLICACIONES 2009 • *PUBLICATIONS 2009*

1. Rattei T, Tischler P, Götz S, Jehl MA, Hoser J, Arnold R, Conesa A, Mewes HW. SIMAP-a comprehensive database of pre-calculated protein sequence similarities, domains, annotations and clusters. *Nucleic Acids Res.* Epub 2009 Nov 11.
2. Aggarwal M, Sánchez-Beato M, Gómez-López G, Al-Shahrour F, Martínez N, Rodríguez A, Ruiz-Ballesteros E, Camacho FI, Pérez-Rosado A, de la Cueva P, Artiga MJ, Pisano DG, Kimby E, Dopazo J, Villuendas R, Piris MA. Functional signatures identified in B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma profiles. *Leuk Lymphoma.* 2009 Oct;50(10):1699-708.
3. van Heerden JH, Conesa A, Stein DJ, Montaner D, Russell V, Illing N. Parallel changes in gene expression in peripheral blood mononuclear cells and the brain after maternal separation in the mouse. *BMC Res Notes.* 2009 Sep 25;2:195.
4. Madhusudhan, MS. Webb, B. Marti-Renom, M.A. Eswar, N. Sali, A. Alignment of multiple protein structures based on sequence and structure features. *Protein Eng Des Sel.* 2009 Sep;22(9):569-74.

5. Brumos J, Colmenero-Flores JM, Conesa A, Izquierdo P, Sanchez G, Iglesias DJ, Lopez-Climent MF, Gomez-Cadenas A, Talon M. Membrane transporters and carbon metabolism implicated in chloride homeostasis differentiate salt stress responses in tolerant and sensitive Citrus rootstocks. *Funct Integr Genomics*. 2009. Aug;9(3):293-309.
6. Birmingham A, Selfors LM, Forster T, Wrobel D, Kennedy CJ, Shanks E, Santoyo-Lopez J, Dunican DJ, Long A, Kelleher D, Smith Q, Beijersbergen RL, Ghazal P, Shamu CE. Statistical methods for analysis of high-throughput RNA interference screens. *Nat Methods*. 2009 Aug;6(8):569-75. Review.
7. Martin-Coello, J., Dopazo, H., Arbiza, L., Ausio J., Roldán, E. & M. Gomendio. Sexual selection drives weak positive selection in protamine genes and high promoter divergence, enhancing sperm competitiveness. *Proc Roy Soc B*. 2009 Jul 7;276(1666):2427-36.
8. Minguez P, Gotz S, Montaner D, Al-Shahrour F, Dopazo J. SNOW, a web-based tool for the statistical analysis of protein-protein interaction networks. *Nucl. Acids Res*. 2009 Jul 1;37:W109-114.
9. Capriotti E, Marti-Renom MA. SARA: a server for function annotation of RNA structures. *Nucl. Acids Res*. 2009 Jul 1;37:W260-5.
10. Medina I, Montaner D, Bonifaci N, Pujana M A, Carbonell J, Tarraga J, Al-Shahrour F, Dopazo J. Gene set-based analysis of polymorphisms: finding pathways or biological processes associated to traits in genome-wide association studies. *Nucl. Acids Res*. 2009 Jul 1;37:W340-344.
11. Nueda M J, Sebastián P, Tarazona S, García-García F, Dopazo J, Ferrer A, Conesa A. Functional assessment of time course microarray data. *BMC Bioinformatics*. 2009 Jun 16;10 Suppl 6:S9.
12. Fornes O, Aragues R, Espadaler J, Marti-Renom MA, Sali A, Oliva B. ModLink+: improving fold recognition by using protein-protein interactions. *Bioinformatics*. 2009 Jun 15;25(12):1506-12.
13. Jones AR, Lister AL, Hermida L, Wilkinson P, Eisenacher M, Belhajjame K, Gibson F, Lord P, Pocock M, Rosenfelder H, Santoyo-Lopez J, Wipat A, Paton NW. Modeling and managing experimental data using FuGE. *OMICS*. 2009 Jun;13(3):239-51.
14. Orti L, Carbajo RJ, Pieper U, Eswar N, Maurer SM, Rai AK, Taylor G, Todd MH, Pineda-Lucena A, Sali A, Marti-Renom MA. A kernel for open source drug discovery in tropical diseases. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis*. 2009;3:e418.
15. Orti L, Carbajo RJ, Pieper U, Eswar N, Maurer SM, Rai AK, Taylor G, Todd MH, Pineda-Lucena A, Sali A, Marti-Renom MA. A kernel for the Tropical Disease Initiative. *Nat Biotechnol*. 2009 Apr;27(4):320-1.
16. Montaner D, Minguez P, Al-Shahrour F, Dopazo J. Gene set internal coherence in the context of functional profiling. *BMC Genomics*. 2009 Apr 27;10:197.
17. Montaner D, Minguez P, Al-Shahrour F, Dopazo J. Gene set internal coherence in the context of functional profiling. *BMC Genomics*. 2009 Apr 27;10:197.
18. Nobre LS, Al-Shahrour F, Dopazo J, Saraiva LM. Exploring the antimicrobial action of a carbon monoxide-releasing compound through whole-genome transcription profiling of *Escherichia coli*. *Microbiology*. 2009 Mar;155(Pt 3):813-24.
19. Dopazo J. Formulating and testing hypotheses in functional genomics. *Artif Intell Med*. 2009 Feb-Mar;45(2-3):97-107.
20. Jantus Lewintre E, Reinoso Martin C, Montaner D, Marin M, Jose Terol M, Farras R, Benet I, Calvete JJ, Dopazo J, Garcia-Conde J. Analysis of chronic lymphocytic leukemia transcriptomic profile: differences between molecular subgroups. *Leuk Lymphoma*. 2009 Jan;50(1):68-79.
21. Pieper U, Eswar N, Webb BM, Eramian D, Kelly L, Barkan DT, Carter H, Mankoo P, Karchin R, Marti-Renom MA, Davis FP, Sali A. MODBASE, a database of annotated comparative protein structure models and associated resources. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 2009 Jan ;37:D347-54.
22. Dopazo H. Bioinformática, Genómica y Evolución. Una alianza estratégica para la biología de este siglo. *Ciencia Hoy*. 2009. 19(113):88-93.

LIBROS O CAPÍTULOS EN LIBROS / BOOKS OR CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

1. Dopazo J. Functional profiling methods in cancer. Ed. Grützmann R, Pilarsky C, eds. *Cancer Gene Profiling*. Vol. 576. Totowa, New Jersey 07512-1165 USA: Humana Press. 2009.
2. Marti-Renom MA, Capriotti E, Shindyalov I, Bourne P. *Structural Comparison and Alignment*. Ed. Structural Bioinformatics. 2nd ed. New Jersey, USA: Wiley-Blackwell. 2009.
3. Minguez P, Dopazo J. Protein Interactions for Functional Genomics. Ed. Li X-L, Ng S-K, eds. *Biological Data Mining in Protein Interaction Networks*. Hershey, USA: Idea Group Inc (IGI). 2009.
4. Hernán Dopazo & Arcadi Navarro (Eds)". *Evolución y Adaptación: 150 años después del origen de las especies*. Ed. Editorial Obrapropia. Valencia. España. 2009.
5. Serra, F., Arbiza L., H. Dopazo. *Genómica Comparativa y Selección Natural. Aplicaciones en el Genoma Humano*. Hernán Dopazo y Arcadi Navarro (Eds). Obrapropia. Valencia. España. 2009.

1. PRESENTATION

2. INTRODUCTION

3. GOVERNING BODIES

4. SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Nat. Stem Cell Bank

Molecular Neuroendocrinology

Biomaterials

iPSC Differentiation

Epigenetic Architecture

Cellular Reprogramming

Cardiogenesis

Cellular Morphology

Cytomics

Stem Cell Differentiation

DRUG DISCOVERY

Sensory Biology

RNA Transport

Epithelial Cell Biology

Peptides and Proteins

Structural Biology

Organic Molecules

Mol. Structure and Simulation

Polymer Therapeutics

Bioinformatics and Genomics

BIOMEDICINE

Molecular Biology of Cancer

Cellular and Molecular Biology

Neurobiology

Cellular Pathology

Multiple Sclerosis

Autoimmune Pathology

Cellular Biology

Molecular Genetics

Cellular Organisation

Molecular Recognition

TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES

Proteomics

Sequencing

Microarray Analysis

Peptide Synthesis

Electron Microscopy

Molecular Screening

Confocal Microscopy

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance

Radioactivity Protection

5. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY

Scientific production

Competitive financing

Scientific collaboration

Awards

6. FACTS AND FIGURES

Personnel and administration

Training programme

Sponsorship and donations

Science outreach activities

Presence in the press

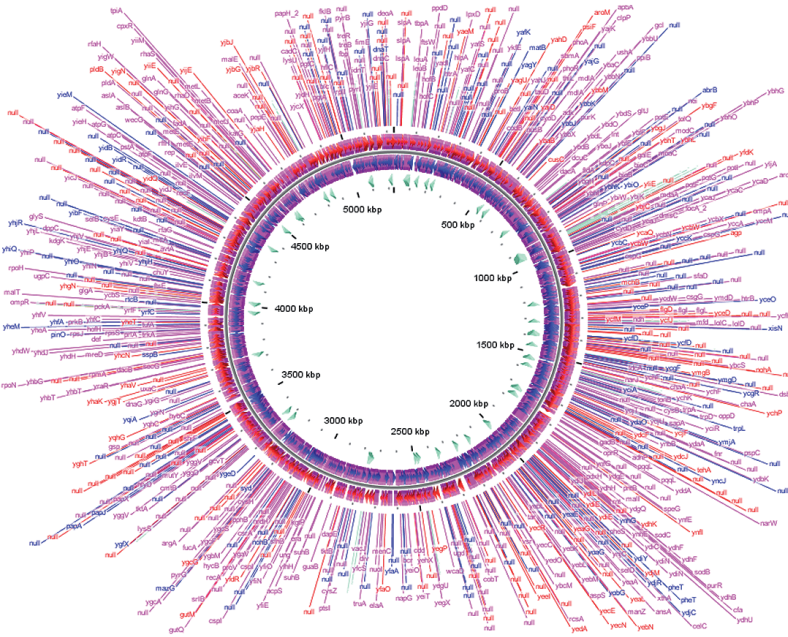


Figura 1. Resecuenciación de una cepa patógena de *E. coli* por secuenciación de nueva generación, mapeo de las lecturas y análisis de las mutaciones con respecto a la cepa salvaje.

Figure 1. Resequencing of a pathogenic *E. coli* strain with next-generation sequencing technologies, mapping of the reads and analysis of the mutations found with respect to the wildtype.

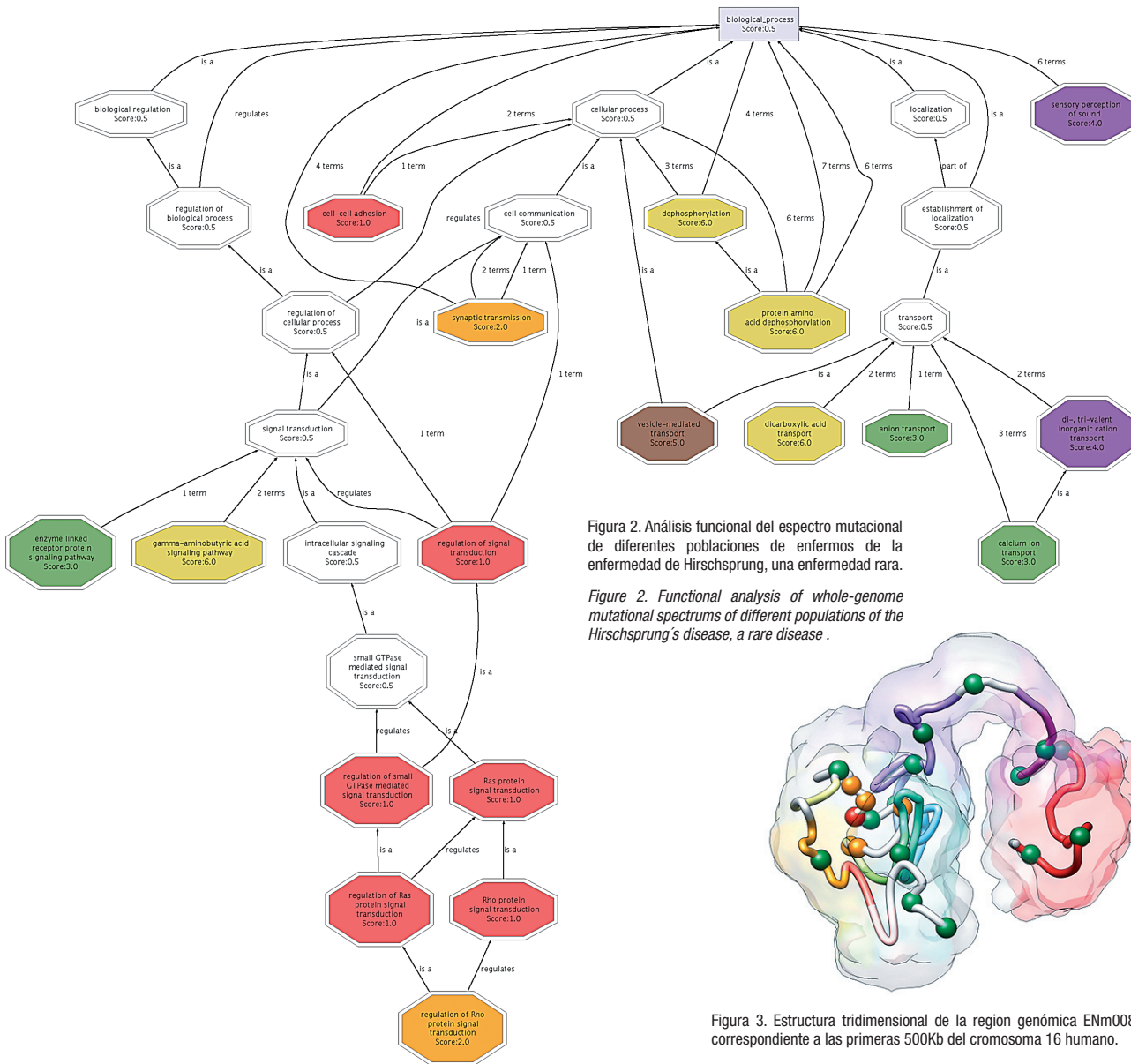


Figura 2. Análisis funcional del espectro mutacional de diferentes poblaciones de enfermos de Hirschsprung, una enfermedad rara.

Figure 2. Functional analysis of whole-genome mutational spectrums of different populations of the Hirschsprung's disease, a rare disease.

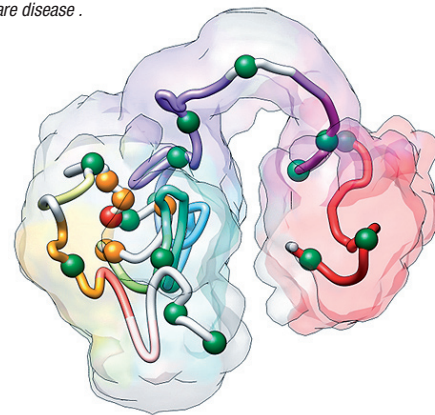


Figura 3. Estructura tridimensional de la región genómica ENM008 de ENCODE correspondiente a las primeras 500Kb del cromosoma 16 humano.

Figure 3. Three-dimensional folding of the ENM008 ENCODE region corresponding to the first 500Kb of chromosome 16 in the Human genome.