Integrative Systems biology– Renal Diseases: A road to a holist view of chronic disease mechanism



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The challenge in chronic disease

- Descriptive disease categorization with multiple pathogenetic mechanisms
 - Problems of 'mixed bag' diseases:
 - Unpredictable disease course and response to therapy
 - Nephrology as an *'art of trial and error'*
- Shift in our disease paradigms:
 - Mechanism based patient management
 - Define the disease process active in the individual patient
 - Base prognosis on specific disease process
 - Target therapy to interfere with the mechanism currently destroying endorgan function

Molecular Nephrology approach



Tower of Babylon:

Search for the universal language for the medicine of the 21st century



Pieter Bruegl: 1563. Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien

Molecular Nephrology approach



Systems analysis view of renal disease

Harness the capabilities of genome wide analyses for an integrated view of regulatory networks activated in glomerular disease:

- 1. Develop cohorts for clinical and molecular phenotyping
- 2. Generate molecular map of renal disease
- 3. Integrate multi-level information
- 4. Develop strategies for outreach and clinical implementation

The advantage of being a Nephrologist: Biopsy centered clinical and molecular phenotyping



Research networks for molecular analysis of renal disease

Standardized protocol implemented: >3100 biopsies procured

Biorepositories for molecular analysis of chronic renal disease



2560 renal biopsies for gene expression studies24 European Centers



1165 Nephrotic Syndrome Patients in Registry235 incipient Nephrotic syndrome Cohort18 Centers in North-America



625 CKD patients in 5 Centers in Mid-West



180 Diabetic Nephropathy Cohort in Pima Interventional Trial80 protocol biopsies available for molecular analysis







Integrative Biology for target identification in CKD :

Case Study 1:

 The shared common pathway of CKD: Defining molecular context from genotype to phenotype

Case Study 2:

- Identify molecular mechanism and non-invasive correlates of fibrosis in CKD
- Case Study 3:
 - Molecular stratification of nephrotic syndrome

Case Study 1: The shared common pathway of CKD: Defining molecular context from genotype to phenotype



Disease Causality: Genetic variance can be linked to clinical phenotype

- Genetic studies identify genetic variances associated with clinical phenotypes.
- Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS) gives lists of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) with genome wide significant *p*values



Association studies project SNPs onto Phenotype



What's the Biology in between?

Rethinking the Problem: Systems Genetics





Systems genetics concepts

Genetic variants affect regulatory and proteomic machinery of the cell, leading to disruption in a metabolic pathway resulting in clinical trait / renal disease phenotype.

Integration SNPs – transcriptsclinical traits



Systems Genetics in CKD

- Link polymorphism via regulatory networks to disease phenotypes
- 1. Integration of SNP with mRNA levels (eQTL Concept): Renal mRNA levels of CKDgen candidate genes
- Systems Genetics Concept: CKD candidate genes are drivers in pathways associated with CKD.
- 3. Network concepts:

CKD candidate genes, renal function analyses, and detection of shared transcript co-regulation => pathway enrichment analyses => CKD pathway network





Heatmap: GFR-correlation of candidate genes

29 CKDgen associated mRNAs: Sig. correlation with eGFR ?

> l r l ≥ 0.25 FDR ≤ 0.01

Red: Tub-int (17) Blue: Glom (5)

Range of GFR correlation: -0.76 to 0.788

Martini et al. JASN, 2014









Systems genetics of CKD



Pathway network associated with shared CKDgen co-regulated transcripts. Spring embedded algorithm. Node size reflects degree of connectivity, edge thickness increasing with more genes shared among two pathways. Node color reflects number of transcript associated with pathway: (multiple=red, few=green)

Definition of highly interconnected nodes (clusters)





Metabolism

Xenobiotic Metabolism Signaling Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor Signaling PPARgamma signaling PXR/RXR Activation LPS/IL-1Mediated Inhibition of RXRFunction Tryptophan Metabolism...

Inflammation – Stress response

NRF2-mediated Oxidative Stress Response Cdc42 Signaling NF-kappaB Signaling Dendritic Cell Maturation CD28 Signaling in T helper Cells...

Lupus Nephritis pathways



Differentially regulated genes were enriched in pathways indicated by the blue color.

Diabetic Nephropathy pathways



eQTL – GWAS integration: Tissue compartment specific eQTLs



Study 2: Identify molecular mechanism and non-invasive correlates of fibrosis in CKD



Pima protocol Biopsy Cohort: Clinical Characteristics



Structure: Fractional Interstitial Area (FIA)



- Toluidine blue stained biopsies
- 15 x 15 μm yellow grid,
 225 intersections on 40x image
- Grid intersections on interstitial tissue marked in red.
- Interstitial area= outside of
 tubular and vascular structures
- Repeated for a total of 10 grids for average fractional interstitial area

FIA:
29.5% (±9.6)
in Pima biopsies
vs
11.9% (±2.8) in living
kidney donor biopsies



Transcript correlating with Fractional Interstitial Area

Tubulo-interstitial transcript correlated with FIA: 651 genes: FDR \leq 0.05, | r | >0.36



Molecular Concepts associated with FIA in early DKD

Topological Mapping of enriched Gene Ontology Terms

	Biological Processes	Cellular Compartment
	Immune system process	Extracellular region
	Immune response	Extracellular matrix (ECM)
	Response to stimulus	Proteinaceous ECM
	Defense response	Extracellular space
	Response to stress and wounding	Integral to plasma membrane
	Organic acid metabolic process	Mitochondrion
	Cellular ketone metabolic process	Cytoplasmic part
	Oxoacid metabolic process	Cytoplasm
	Carboxylic acid metabolic process	Mitochondrial lumen & matrix
	Cellular amino acid metabolic pro.	Cell fraction
	Amine metabolic process	Mitochondrial membrane

Integration into functional context: Morphogenomics networks

- Correlation of intrarenal structural lesions with gene expression in early DKD:
 - 651 genes: (FDR ≤ 0.05 | r | = 0.36 0.68)
 - Display of three levels of evidence
 - Correlated mRNAs
 - Prior knowledge
 - Natural language processing:
 - » Co-citation of genes in Pubmed abstract sentence
 - Unbiased sequence analysis:
 - Automated Promoter analysis defining Transcription Factor binding sites

Integration with multi-level evidence of gene function to identify underlying regulatory mechanism

 Gene (=Node) centred network displaying transcriptional dependencies as connections (=Edges)

Transcriptional network RNA ≈ FIA in early DKD



FIA associated mRNA correlate with ACR 8 years after biopsy

FIA-mRNAs: 5 of 651 ACR correlation at time 0 (biopsy)

442 of 651ACR correlation8.25 years afterbiopsy.

All major network gene nodes retained


FIA transcript in progressive DKD

555 / 651 (85.3%) **FIA-mRNAs** regulated (q<0.05) in progressive DKD (European indication biopsies, N=17) VS living kidney donor biopsy (N=31)





Integration of human and murine transcriptomes in CKD

Cross-species regulatory networks in Diabetic Glomerulopathy



Hodgin et al, Diabetes, 2013

Human-mouse transcriptional networks: Shared pathways

	# genes observed in pathway		
Canonical pathway	Human- DBA	Human- db/db	Human- eNOS-KO db/db
Cytokine receptor degradation signaling (JAK-STAT pathway and regulation)	27	17	21
Migration (VEGF signaling)	15	9	11
VEGFR1 and VEGFR2-mediated signaling	11	8	8
HIF-1-alpha transcription factor network	8	4	7
Angiopoietin receptor Tie2-mediated signaling	6	5	
HGF receptor (c-met) signaling	6	4	
Regulation of nuclear SMAD2/3 signaling		5	9
Regulation of Androgen receptor activity		6	5
IL6-mediated signaling events	8		8
IL2 receptor beta chain in T cell activation	6		7
EGFR1	10		
Signaling events mediated by PTP1B	7		
Alpha6Beta4Integrin		5	
Endothelin pathway		5	
C-MYB transcription factor network			9
CDC42 signaling events			7

Hitting targets in DN: Jak-Stat Pathway as key driver



Berthier et al., Diabetes. 2009

Jak2 in Human Progressive DN and non-diabetic Kidney Diseases



CTRL





Berthier et al., Diabetes. 2009

Phase II trial of Jak 2 inhibition in diabetic nephropathy

Baricitinib, oral JAK2 inhibitor, currently in Phase II for RA and Psoriasis => Repurposed in Diabetic Nephropathy

RCT by Eli Lilly in DN

- Primary outcome:
 - Change in urine ACR from baseline to 24 weeks
- Study completed in Nov 2014
 - Late braking trial report at ADA in June 2015

From target identification to phase II completion in 42 months



Abbreviations: eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; UACR = urinary albumin/creatinine ratio.



Mixed model repeated measures analysis of log-transformed data with results back transformed. *p-value<0.05; **p-value<0.01 based on treatment difference compared to placebo.

Reductions in 24-hour UACR were observed at 3 and 6 months (Figure 3).

Urine IP-10 (pg/mg Creatinine)



Mixed model repeated measures analysis of log-transformed data with results back transformed. *p-value<0.05; **p-value<0.01 based on treatment difference compared to placebo.

Plasma sTNF R2 (pg/ml)

Plot of Least Square Means +/- Standard Error for sTNF R2



Mixed model repeated measures analysis of log-transformed data with results back transformed. *p-value<0.05; **p-value<0.01; ***p-value <0.001 based on treatment difference compared to placebo.

Analysis of diabetic endorgan damage across tissues, species and disciplines

Defining treatment response in Diabetic endorgan damage across

Species:

• Human - Mouse

Endorgans:

• Nerve – Kidney - Eye

Disciplines:

- Neurology (Feldman)
- Nephrology (Brosius, Pennathur)
- Ophthalmology (Gardner)
- Bioinformatics (Kretzler)
- Computer Science (Jagadish)



Predicton of CKD Progression Selection of patients at risk

Risk Prediction:

Use outcome to select predictor from genomic data set



From tissue to urine: Non-invasive Biomarkers for CKD progression



Discovery and validation cohort for GFR prediction: intra-renal mRNA



Table 1a. Demographic characteristics of participating CKD patients from the discovery ERCB cohort.

Disease type	CKD patients	eGFR	Age	Gender
	(n=164)	(ml/min per 1.73 m2)	(years)	(male/female)
SLE	30	63.7±29.4	34.7±13.3	7m/23f
IgAN	24	75.9±37.9	36.4±14.6	18m/6f
MGN	18	88.9±41.4	53.4±19.3	10m/8f
FSGS	16	73.4±38.4	46.2±17.6	7m/9f
HTN	20	43.9±25.1	57.2±12.1	15m/5f
DN	17	44.3±24.9	58.3±10.7	12m/5f
MCD	12	100.7±33.9	35.8±16.8	8m/4f
RPGN	21	46.6±31.5	58.5±14.1	12m/9f
TMD	6	93.4±29.4	46.0±14.5	4m/2f
Total	164	66.4±37.2	46.9±17.6	93m/71f

Table 1b. Demographic characteristics of the first validation group of CKD patients from ERCB.

Disease type	CKD patients	eGFR	Age	Gender
	(n=55)	(ml/min per 1.73 m2)	(years)	(male/female)
SLE	10	60.1±31.5	37.1±13.8	4m/6f
IgAN	17	50.8±34.1	46.0±17.5	12m/5f
MGN	4	54.4±32.4	58.7±23.6	2m/2f
MPGN	1	40.6	65	1m
FSGS	8	55.9±36.0	43.6±18.6	6m/2f
HTN	1	33.2	57.1	1f
DN	1	97.3	44.8	1m
MCD	4	86.0±44.5	44.4±19.3	4m
RPGN	5	20.9±15.0	50.4±21.7	4m/1f
Other	4	84.2±71.7	37.4±14.6	3m/1f
Total	55	56.1±38.0	45.1±17.6	37m/18f

Affymetrix

TLDA (qRT-PCR)

eGFR Predictor panel





Observed eGFR-MDRD (Log2 transformed)

Intra-renal EGF correlation with eGFR in European CKD/DKD



EGF expression in normal human tissue



Data derived from BioGPS portal Wu et al., Genome Biology, 2009

EGF, top up-stream regulator of GFR slope correlated genes



CLOVA3 CDC42EP1 CDC42	U R E
	т
THEST MYCH	Т
	с с
SOX4 SINAP25 SI LATA ISE REINAS FRM2	N

Top 10 upstream regulators of eGFR slope correlated genes.			
Upstream	Molecule	p-value of	Target molecules in dataset
Regulator	Туре	overlap	
EGF	growth	2.09E-12	ACTN1, APOA1, B4GALT5, CCL20, CCND2, C
	factor		LCN2, LTF, MYC, MYCN, NCAN, NOS2, NRP1
			VCAN,VIM
TP53	transcription	4.83E-11	ACTN1,ALOX5,ANLN,ANTXR1,ANXA1,AP
	regulator		EIF4G3,ELF4,FHL1,FHL2,GDF15,GLIPR1,
			NRP1,PBK,PDLIM1,PFN1,PMEPA1,PPFIB
			THBS2,TMSB10/TMSB4X,TNFSF9,TOP2A
IL1B	cytokine	3.45E-10	ADAMTS1,ANTXR1,ANXA1,CCL2,CCL20,0
			HSD11B1,ICAM1,IER3,ITGB3,ITGB8,LAM0
			SERPINA3, SNAP25, SOD2, SOX9, SPP1, TA
TGFB1	growth	1.36E-09	ACTN1,ALOX5,CCL2,CCL20,CCND2,CD20
	factor		FCER1A,FHL1,FNDC3B,FOSL2,GDF15,G0
			KDM5B,KITLG,KLF9,KRT18,LAMC1,LAMC
			OSM, PDLIM7, PKIG, PMEPA1, PNMT, SERP
			TSC22D3,TUBA1A,VCAN,VIM,ZYX
IL6	cytokine	1.28E-08	ADAMTS1,ANXA1,APOA1,ARL4C,CCL2,C
			LCN2,LTF,MET,MPO,MYC,NOS2,PSMB10
			UBE2C,VIM,XRCC5
TNF	cytokine	2.54E-08	ALOX5, ANXA1, APAF1, APOA1, CCL2, CCL2
			GDF15,HIF1A,HSD11B1,ICAM1,IDE,IER3,
			MET,MMD,MMP7,MPO,MYC,NCAN,NFKB
			SOX9,SPHK1,SPP1,TAC1,TAPBP,TFPI2,T
CSF2	cytokine	9.96E-08	ALOX5, ANLN, ANXA1, APAF1, CCL2, CD63,
			NOS2,NRP1,OSM,RRM2,SOD2,SPP1,THE
CEBPA	transcription	1.13E-07	ANXA1,ARL4C,CCL20,CCND2,FHL1,G0S2
	regulator		PTPRE,SOD2,SPP1,TAC1,TGFB2,TRIB1,1
NFkB	complex	1.48E-07	CCL2,CCL20,CCND2,CD44,CD74,CFB,CL
			ITGB8,LCN2,MYC,NFKBIZ,NOS2,SENP2,S
ERBB2	kinase	3.46E-07	CCL20,CCND2,CLDN3,COL4A1,DHH,DUS
			MYCN,NNMT,NOS2,NRP1,PMEPA1,RRM2
			VCAN,VIM

Figrue legend:

red node: positively corrlated with eGFR slope;

green node: negatively correlated with eGFR slope;

red edge: lead to activation;

blue edge: leads to inhibition;

yellow edge: findings incosistent with state of downstream molecule;



Urinary EGF/Cr. Protein (Log₂)



Urinary EGF/Cr. Protein (Log₂)

NEPTUNE Virtual Microscopy Archive of Nephrotic Syndrome



Barisoni et al. 2013

Urinary EGF protein and tubular damage

NEPTUNE: Interstitial Fibrosis / Tubular Atrophy

Urine



Association with disease progression



Slope of eGFR decline %/yr (mixed effects model)

&

Time to renal event (ESRD or 40% reduction of baseline eGFR)

Urinary EGF predicts GFR slope%





Correlation between ACR predicted eGFR slope versus the observed slope is r=0.25

uEGF: Hazard Ratio for time to event in glomerular disease



Multivariable-adjusted hazard ratios urinary EGF/Cr for outcomes. HRs adjusted by age, gender, eGFR and ACR and obtained by independent Cox regression models in each study cohort.

Case Study 3: Molecular Subgroups for targeted treatment of FSGS/MCD





Molecular Phenotype - Clinical Outcome

Precision Medicine approach:

Define functional disease group => associate with outcome => predictors of group





Tubulointerstitial gene expression PCA FSGS and MCD patients



PCA: Overlap of MCD and FSGS, but FSGS subgroup

PCA of normalized Affymetrix ST2.1 based gene expresssion data set of 68 FSGS and 51 MCD patients



FSGS-MCD cluster - tubulointerstitial mRNA data



*=significant differences among clusters

ERCE ╶╼╴ **Cluster 1 Cluster 2 Cluster 3 GFR** 104 **69** 94 1777 Martin

Validation in independent ERCB cohort

Concordant expression in 196/202 genes between ERCB and NEPTUNE cluster 3 vs 1+2



Replication in second NEPTUNE cohort





Time to Complete Proteinuria Remission per molecular subgroup





What transcript are responsible for molecular subgroups?





Transcriptional Networks in Cluster 3 vs 1+2

FONT II Clinical Trail in multi-drug resistant FSGS:

LY86

- \geq 16 weeks of Adalimumab (24 mg/m², max 40)
- Outcome: 4/16 (25%) with 50% reduction in UPC with preserved eGFR
- No clinical or laboratory features that predicted response

309 probesets q<0.01 plus FC>2, co-expression interaction network (IPA 8.5)



– renal tissue

Identify a surrogate marker for patients with worse clinical outcome:

- 1. Reflects renal tissue mRNA
- 2. Urine ("liquid biopsy")
- 3. Histology


Association tissue transcripts encoded proteins in matching urine samples



Association tissue transcripts encoded proteins in matching urine samples



Precision Medicine for Nephrotic Syndrome



(mod. National Research Council, 2011)

Sharing Knowledge in the Informational Commons

Nephromine: Kidney specific web based search engine:



Welcome to Nephromine

A completely redesigned Nephronine

The new interface optimizes workflow from search to visualization by combining three interactive panes on one screen— search & filter, datasets & concepts, and visualize & share.

- Multi-gene search allows users to see the data in novel combinations.
- Smart search with auto-complete provides suggestions to select from based on text input making searching the database easier than ever before.
- · Interpret results with fold change.
- Standardized result sets with analysis conventions that support meta-analysis make your research consistent.
- Upload gene lists to use as filters on analyses or in concept association analysis.
- Export data and visualizations directly to Excel, PowerPoint, and SVG.

IMPORTANT NOTE: ALL CURRENT USERS NEED TO RE-REGISTER FOR ACCESS TO NEPHROMINE 4. Click the "Not a user? Register now!" link in the Login tab on this page.

Nephromine was developed as collaboration between Compendia Bioscience and the Personalized Molecular Nephrology Research Laboratory at the University of Michigan. This resource is modeled after Oncomine and combines a growing compendium of publicly available renal gene expression profiles, a sophisticated analysis engine, and a powerful web application designed for data mining and visualization of gene expression data.

Nephromine provides researchers with a rich set of publicly available renal gene expression data, packaged with the tools and interface necessary to analyze it, all aimed at advancing a molecular

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Operating System:

- Microsoft Windows XP Professional, version 2002, Service Pack 2 or higher is recommended.
- Microsoft Windows Vista
- Mac OS X

Browser Configuration:

Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE) 8 is supported



Nephromine 4.0

Combined data base and systems biology search engine for standardized analysis by the renal research community

Empower Participatory Research From predefined analyses to domain expert driven knowledge discovery



Translational Research: Data Integration & Analysis

The Challenge:

Data Integration & Analysis



Athey and Omenn, 2009

Overview at http://lanyrd.com/2014/transmart/sdfqkf/

A solution:

tranSMART



Open-source solution for sharing, integration, standardization and analysis of heterogeneous data from collaborative translational studies supported by an open-data biomedical research community



tranSMART in renal disease

Implemented for NEPTUNE consortium 09/2014:

- Data exploration
 - Combining diverse data sets and studies with my unique background

Hypothesis generation

- Leveraging the unpredicted observations for disruptive insights
- Develop ancillary study concepts
 - Using live cohorts to test hypotheses, and enrich core data set with ancillary data in the process



Translational Medicine in Renal Disease

Molecular mechanism emerging:

- Prognostic and predictive biomarkers
- Integration along all steps of the Genotype-Phenotype continuum using data sets rapidly becoming available
- ⇒ Novel Therapeutic Targets

Identified intervention points to be tested:

 Molecular characterized cohorts in place to test identified targets across diseases and continents

Team Science in Renal Research



