New View on Pathogenesis of Cardiovascular Calcification

Elena Aikawa MD, PhD Director, Heart Valve Translational Research Program

> Cardiovascular Medicine Brigham and Women' s Hospital Harvard Medical School

AP VALVE 2016 Seoul, Korea, August 18, 2016





Macrocalcification and microcalcification in human plaque detected by micro-CT



Collaboration with Dr. Sheldon Weinbaum

### Microcalcifications contribute to plaque instability

### Exstracellular vesicles generate microclacifications



Microclacifications generate high stress concentrations



Courtesy of Dr. Sasha Singh

EM-based FEA by Natalia Maldonado, PNAS 2013

We currently do not understand the mechanism underlying microcalcification formation!

### Microcalcifications contribute to plaque instability

Matrix vesicles generate microclacifications



Microclacifications generate high stress concentrations





Courtesy of Dr. Sasha Singh

We currently do not understand the mechanism underlying microcalcification formation!

Calcification Program



Sophie E.P. New, PhD



Joshua Hutcheson, PhD



Claudia Goettsch, PhD



Payal Vyas, PhD

# The role of extracellular vesicles (exosomes) in the formation of microcalcifications

# Extracellular vesicles contribute to physiology and pathology



# Extracellular vesicles observed in calcifying atherosclerotic plaques



Calcifying arteries show macro- and microcalcification detected by density-dependent scanning electron microscopy



Krohn J et al, ATVB 2016

Calcifying arteries show macro- and microcalcification detected by density-dependent scanning electron microscopy



Krohn J et al, ATVB 2016

# NanoSight nanoparticle tracking analysis reveals size and numbers of extracellular vesicles







#### **Osteogenic Media**



### Mechanism of extracellular vesicle calcification



New, SEP & Aikawa E, ATVB 2013

# Smooth muscle cells in osteogenic conditions recapitulate fibrotic and calcific responses



Collagen - Collagen Probe Calcification - Near Infrared Calcium Tracer

Hutcheson et al, Nature Materials 2016

Extracellular vesicles accumulate between collagen fibers

### Density Dependent Color Scanning Electron Microscopy

**Electron Microscopy** 





Human

Mouse

### Scanning electron microscopy combined with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy Human tissue



Collagen Calcification

# Advanced



### Scanning electron microscopy combined with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy Human tissue 3D model





Collagen Calcification

# Advanced





NIRF signal indicates calcification in EV aggregates after 5 days in collagen hydrogels



Previous knowledge was limited to TEM in calcified tissues! We have provided time course and 3-D observations using structure illumination microscopy.

# FTIR spectra indicates microcalcification maturation after 5 days in collagen hydrogels



#### Hutcheson et al, Nature Materials 2016

### A model of microcalcification genesis and growth



### Microcalcification Genesis and Growth

NanoSight Zeta Potential Structure Illumination Confocal Zeta Potential Structure Illumination FTIR Confocal X-ray Spectroscopy SEM TEM Electron Diffraction FE-SEM

FTIR Confocal Two-photon FE-SEM

Hutcheson et al, Nature Materials 2016

### "Harmful" microcalcifications were detected in a 3D hydrogel model by FEA



SMC-derived microcalcification formed in a 3D hydrogel model

FEA: Stress concentration (red color) around microcalcification. Stress concentration factor = 6 (600% increase in stresses)

Same as above, but with the image of the microcalcification superposed on the stress concentration image

Collaboration with Dr. Sheldon Weinbaum

### "Harmful" microcalcifications were detected in a 2D bydrogol model by FEA



Volume 594 / Number 11 / 15 june 2016

The journal of

cation formed in a

n (red color) . Stress 600% increase in

the image of the osed on the ge

# Altered morphology and size of microcalcifications growing in a 3D hydrogels after BiP treatment





J. Ruiz, J. Hutcheson, E. Aikawa, unpublished data

# Collagen degradation within the fibrous cap leads to microcalcification formation



Hutcheson et al, Nature Materials 2016

### Collagen degradation within the fibrous cap leads to microcalcification formation



Hutcheson et al, Nature Materials 2016

### Number of protein groups identified in extracellular vesicles



#### Sortilin mass spectrometry

Day 14		Day 21	
СМ	OM	CM	OM
	-	-	-
6	14	9	17

Human Genome Wide Association Study (GWAS) showed association of Sortilin with cardiovascular calcification

Sort1 gene encoding sortilin protein is associated with the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

Nat Genet. 2008;40 Nature. 2010;466

Genome-wide association study for coronary artery calcification with follow-up in myocardial infarction.

Circulation. 2011;124

# Osteogenic environment promotes loading of sortilin into extracellular vesicles (EV)

Sortilin immunogold

Sortilin western blot







Mean ± SD n>3, \*P<0.05

### Sortilin promotes calcification potential of EV

#### **TNAP** activity



Mean  $\pm$  SD n $\geq$ 3, \*P<0.05

### Rab11 regulates Golgi-to-plasma membrane transport

### Calcifying SMC Control Osteogenic Sortilin Sortilin Golgi Golgi merge merge

#### Silencing of Rab 11 reduces Sortilin protein



Silencing of Rab 11 reduces SMC calcification



### Phosphorylation of sortilin C-terminus accelerates SMC calcification and EV calcification potential



## Novel biology of Sortilin



## Novel biology of Sortilin



### Acknowledgments



#### Brigham and Women's Hospital

Claudia Goettsch Joshua Hutcheson Sophie New Max Rogers Jona Krohn Jessica Ruiz Jose-Luiz Figueiredo Kevin Croce Peter Libby Masanori Aikawa

#### <u>Massachusetts</u> <u>General Hospital</u>

Rainer Kohler Timur Shtatland Filip Swirski Farouc Jaffer Matthias Nahrendorf Ralph Weissled<u>er</u>

#### Imperial College London Sergio Bertazo

Funding sources: R01 HL 114805 R01 HL 109506 Harvard CATALYST Reynolds Foundation Leducq Foundation TPEN, NIH AHA National Kowa Company Ltd



American Heart Association.







THE HARVARD CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE CENTER