Lipid Diversity and Human Disease

Symposium

November 9, 2018
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Lipid Diversity and Human Disease
Rutgers Center for Lipid Research Symposium
November 9, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the organizing committee, we are pleased to welcome you to the fourth annual symposium of the Rutgers Center for Lipid Research (RCLR) entitled “Lipid Diversity and Human Disease.” We have brought together an outstanding group of scientists who will share their knowledge, results, and insights into how different classes of lipids mediate normal and pathophysiological functions related to human disease. We are certain that you will find the presentations and posters, which are designed to facilitate your interaction with other scientists, stimulating, informative, and enjoyable.

The RCLR is a center of the New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health (IFNH) that promotes multidisciplinary research on the biochemical, biophysical, cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in lipid metabolism, and extending this information to the underpinnings of lipid-based diseases such as obesity, lipodystrophy, diabetes, and heart disease. RCLR fosters interaction among faculty, postdoctoral associates, and students across the university. We hold monthly research meetings; postdoctoral associates and students can present their research and receive constructive feedback in a warm and friendly atmosphere. We also have an active seminar series that brings renowned scientists to Rutgers for interactions with RCLR members and the university community.

In closing, we want to convey our appreciation to the organizing committee and financial supporters for their help in bringing this symposium to fruition.

Sincerely,

Judith Storch, Ph.D.  George M. Carman, Ph.D.
Lipid Diversity and Human Disease
Rutgers Center for Lipid Research Symposium
November 9, 2018

Organizing Committee

Judith Storch
George M. Carman
Harini Sampath
Loredana Quadro
Judy Keller, Conference Coordinator

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Lipid Diversity and Human Disease
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Program

8:30 am  Registration and Poster Setup
9:00 am  Welcome and Introduction
Robert M. Goodman, Dean, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences
Judith Storch and George M. Carman, Rutgers Center for Lipid Research

Session 1  Chair: Judith Storch
9:15 am  Nihal Altan-Bonnet (NHLBI/NIH)
Vesicle-cloaked viruses are the optimal units of transmission
Discussion
9:55 am  Stephen L. Sturley (Barnard College, Columbia University)
Modifiers of genetic disorders: insights from a monogenic neurodegenerative lipidosis
Discussion
10:35 am  Coffee Break
11:00 am  Anna Nicolaou (University of Manchester, UK)
Fatty acids and their metabolites in skin health and disease
Discussion
11:45 am  Lunch and Posters

Poster Session  Chair: Harini Sampath
IFNH, 2nd floor

Session 2  Chair: Loredana Quadro
1:45 pm  Steven Farber (Carnegie Science)
Hooking lipid regulators—live imaging of zebrafish intestinal lipid flux through lipoproteins and lipid droplets
Discussion
2:25 pm  **Richard Gross** (Washington University School of Medicine)  
*The pleiotropic roles of plasmalogens in membrane structure and function*

Discussion

3:05 pm  *Coffee Break*

4:00 pm  **Nicolas Bazan** (Louisiana State University School of Medicine)  
*The elovanoids: new mediators of the omega-3 lipidome target transcriptome architecture for neuroprotection*

Discussion

4:45 pm  **Poster Awards: George M. Carman**
Dr. Nihal Altan-Bonnet, Ph.D.

Dr. Nihal Altan-Bonnet received her B.A. in Biology and Chemistry from Hunter College, City University of New York and her Ph.D. in Cell Biology from The Rockefeller University. She then conducted postdoctoral research with Dr. Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz at the National Institute of Child Health and Development at the NIH, before receiving a faculty position in the Department of Biological Sciences at Rutgers University, where she was a member of the Rutgers Center for Lipid Research. Dr. Altan-Bonnet returned to the NIH as an Earl Stadtman Investigator, becoming head of the Laboratory of Host-Pathogen Dynamics at the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute. In 2017, Dr. Altan-Bonnet was promoted to tenured Senior Investigator.

The Altan-Bonnet lab studies basic mechanisms of viral infectivity, thereby providing novel approaches to therapeutic intervention. In particular, the lab focuses on understanding the role of membranes and specifically lipids, in the viral lifecycle. Using cutting edge imaging and spectroscopic technologies combined with novel lipidomic and proteomic approaches, her investigations have been at the forefront of understanding the virus-host interface, revealing novel replication and transmission mechanisms shared by many different human viruses. The lab recently expanded studies to investigate the role of membranes during viral release from cells and discovered an entirely new mode of viral exit and transmission.

Dr. Altan-Bonnet has been recognized several times for her outstanding research, receiving the Young Investigator Award from the Theobald Smith Society of the American Society for Microbiology, and the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering. Dr. Altan-Bonnet was also a Kavli Fellow and a Scialog Fellow. She is a member of the American Society for Virology, American Society for Microbiology, and American Society for Cell Biology.
Nicolas G. Bazan, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Bazan is the Boyd Professor and founding Director of the Neuroscience Center of Excellence, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine, New Orleans. He is also the inaugural founder of The Ernest C. and Yvette C. Ville Chair for Research in Retinal Degeneration.

He received his M.D. from the University of Tucuman in Argentina, and subsequently trained at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and Harvard Medical School. He was a faculty member at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, and at the Universidad del Sur in Argentina he founded several academic and research programs in Biochemistry before joining the faculty of LSU Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Bazan’s research has focused on the fundamental cellular and molecular lipid signaling taking place in early stages of neurodegenerations and other brain and retinal dysfunctions. His laboratory has discovered cellular and molecular principles that reveal novel pro-homeostatic lipid mediators as well as their potential relevance in early stages of Alzheimer’s disease, experimental stroke, experimental epileptogenesis, and in human retinal pigment epithelial cells relevant to age-related macular degeneration.

Among numerous honors, Dr. Bazan is the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Molecular Neurobiology, Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Foundation and has been elected to the Royal Academy of Medicine, Spain and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. His research accomplishments have garnered many awards, including the Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award from the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, the Endre A. Balazs Prize of the International Society of Eye Research, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Proctor Medal, and the European Association for Vision and Eye Research Excellence Award.
Steven A. Farber, Ph.D.

Dr. Farber is Principal Investigator in the Department of Embryology of the Carnegie Institution for Science, Adjunct Associate Professor in the Johns Hopkins University Department of Biology, Director of Graduate Admissions for the Johns Hopkins University Department of Biology, and Scientific Advisor and Co-Founder of Project BioEYES.

Dr. Farber received his B.S.E.E degree from Rutgers University School of Engineering, and his M.S. in Technology and Policy and Ph.D. in Molecular Neurobiology, both from MIT. During his postdoctoral training in the lab of Marnie Halpern at the Carnegie Institution he learned the power of the zebrafish system and has pioneered its use for studies of lipid biology. He established his lab at the Kimmel Cancer of Thomas Jefferson University, and is currently back at the Carnegie Institution as a Principal Investigator.

Dr. Farber’s laboratory is internationally recognized for his use of zebrafish larvae to study the molecular and cell biology of lipids in live cells and organs. One overarching goal of his lab is to develop the tools needed to study the cell biology of lipids in the context of intact tissues and organs with the level of detail previously only possible in cultured cells or yeast. Dr. Farber has authored over 70 refereed publications. He was selected as a Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences, awarded the Viktor Hamburger Outstanding Educator Prize from the Society of Developmental Biology, and in 2018, the Elizabeth Jones Award for Excellence in Education from the Genetic Society of America.

In 2002, Farber started a Science Outreach Program that utilizes zebrafish to promote science literacy and teach genetics and the experimental process, with the mission of increasing the numbers of underrepresented minorities in science. In 2018, BioEYES reached over 115,000 children worldwide.
Richard W. Gross, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Gross is Professor of Medicine, Chemistry and Developmental Biology and Division Chief, Bioorganic Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology, Washington University School of Medicine.

He received his A.B. from Columbia University, his M.D. degree from New York University and his Ph.D. from Washington University, St. Louis. He had the privilege of being mentored by Dr. Gilbert Stork in synthetic organic chemistry, Dr. Burton Sobel in cardiology, Dr. David Kipnis in diabetes & metabolism, and Dr. Samuel Weissman in magnetic resonance and physical chemistry.

Dr. Gross' laboratory is internationally known for its work on lipidomics, phospholipases, the roles of membrane molecular dynamics in ion channel function, and for defining multiple critical aspects of membrane structure and function. He has authored over 200 peer-reviewed publications and has written numerous review articles. Dr. Gross was the principal investigator on a 20-year Program Project Grant on the biochemical mechanisms mediating diabetic cardiomyopathy, identifying mitochondrial dysfunction due to cardiolipin alterations as the significant mediators. He was a member of the Biochemistry and Biophysics of Membranes Study Section and has served as an Ad Hoc reviewer on numerous grants from the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association and American Diabetes Association. His research has been recognized by a Searle Scholar award and an Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association. He has served on the scientific board of the American Heart Association and recently received the Solomon Berson Award in Basic Science from New York University. Dr. Gross' activities have included policy development and hands on work on the national initiative for STEM education of indigent students as well as teaching, mentoring and advising a highly successful cadre of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.
Anna Nicolaou, Ph.D. C.Chem FRSC

Dr. Nicolaou is Professor of Biological Chemistry at the Faculty of Biology Medicine and Health, The University of Manchester, UK.

She received her B.S. in Chemistry, University of Athens, Greece, her Ph.D. degree in Bioorganic Chemistry, University of Athen, and CNRS Saclay, France, and she trained as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of London. Dr. Nicolaou established her laboratory at the University of Bradford and is currently a Professor at the University of Manchester.

The Nicolaou laboratory focuses on bioactive lipids, specializing in mass spectrometry-based lipidomics that, when coupled to functional, metabolic, signaling, protein and gene expression and regulation studies, can elucidate the biological roles of lipid networks in health and disease. She has a long-standing interest in skin lipids and the vital role they play in maintaining the structure and function of human skin, in health and disease. One of Dr. Nicolaou’s main research questions is to understand the role of eicosanoids and related bioactive lipids in skin inflammation and related disorders. She also has a strong interest in the mechanisms mediating the cross-talk between epidermal and dermal resident cells, in both supporting skin homeostasis and in response to inflammation, injury and wound healing. Other current applications of her lipidomics technology include the role of fatty acids and other bioactive lipids in cancer, reproductive tissues and the cardiovascular system, as well as biomarker discovery.

Dr. Nicolaou is currently co-chair of the Lipidomics Division of the European Federation for the Science and Technology of Lipids (EuroFedLipid), a member of the International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids and Leukotrienes (ISSFAL) board, and Executive Editor of BBA Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipids.
Stephen L. Sturley, Ph.D.

Dr. Sturley received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. from the University of Birmingham, England. He was an Associate Scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Professor of Medicine at Columbia University Medical Center, and is currently Professor of Biology at Barnard College, Columbia University.

His research program applies yeast genetic and biochemical approaches toward understanding human lipid metabolism and disease. He has established a gene discovery program that has identified several novel pathways of eukaryotic lipid homeostasis. Particular success has been attained with regard to sterol and lipid transport and most recently the role of lipotoxicity in neurodegeneration, mainly through studies of Niemann Pick type C (NP-C) disease, as well as obesity and diabetes. His laboratory combines genetic, genomic, biochemical and metabolic approaches in microorganisms such as yeast and marine algae, to murine and human models. Most recently, his colleagues and he have identified modifier pathways for autosomal recessive disorders such as NP-C. This has led directly to a clinical trial for histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors as well as the identification of phospholipid metabolic reactions as risk factors for NP-C disease. All these studies were initiated in microbial model systems, developed in animal studies (mouse) and in recent findings, extrapolated to humans. Dr. Sturley has served on a number of editorial boards including the Journal of Biological Chemistry.
Regulation of lipogenesis in the intestine
Akal, Tasleenpal (Rutgers University)

Thioesterase superfamily member 2 promotes hepatic VLDL secretion by channeling fatty acids into triglyceride biosynthesis
Alves-Bezerra, Michele (Weill Cornell Medical College)

Autophagy modulates lipid metabolism to support Liver Kinase B1 (LKB1)-deficient lung tumor growth
Bhatt, Vrushank (Rutgers University)

Role of DNA repair in cold-induced adaptive thermogenesis
Burchat, Natalie (Rutgers University)

Lipid flippase subunit Cdc50 mediates drug resistance and fungal virulence in Cryptococcus neoformans
Cao, Chengjun (Rutgers University)

Oxidative stress and DNA damage in mouse epidermis following exposure to nitrogen mustard
Composto-Wahler, Gabriella (Rutgers University)

Phosphorylation of yeast Nem1-Spo7 protein phosphatase complex by protein kinase C
Dey, Prabuddha (Rutgers University)

Increased uncoupled respiration of subcutaneous white adipose tissue is linked to systemic changes in glucose and lipid metabolism in humans
Diolintzi, Anastasia (Rutgers University)

Mice lacking ARV1 have reduced signs of metabolic syndrome and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
Gallo-Ebert, Christina (Genesis Biotechnology Group)

Decreased surfactant phospholipids in COPD patients correlate with pulmonary function
Garcia-Arcos, Itsaso (SUNY Downstate Medical Center)

β-apocarotenoids regulation of lipoprotein biosynthesis in placenta
Giordano, Elena (Rutgers University)

Storage lipid studies in tuberculosis reveal that foam cell biogenesis is disease-specific
Guerrini, Valentina (Rutgers University)

Low 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25OHD) in the obese elderly does not increase intact parathyroid hormone (iPTH) unlike 50-69 year old individuals
Hao, Lihong (Rutgers University)
Phosphorylation of yeast Pah1 phosphatidic acid phosphatase by casein kinase I
Hassaninasab, Azam (Rutgers University)

βeta-carotene 9′,10′-oxygenase (BCO2) and maternal cardiac hypertrophy
Holloway, Chelsee (Rutgers University)

The microbiome of vitamin A deficiency
Honarbakhsh, Maryam (Rutgers University)

New role of lysobisphosphatidic acid (LBPA) in cholesterol clearance and autophagy in
Niemann-Pick Type C disease
Ilnytska, Olga (Rutgers University)

Resolvins, phospholipids and the brain
Kane, Edward (Neurolipid Research)

Epigenetics, resolvins, chaperones and phospholipids in the CNS
Kane, Patricia (Neurolipid Research)

Retinol as a regulator of energy homeostasis during embryogenesis
Kim, Youn-Kyung (Rutgers University)

Tissue specific effects of DNA repair protein Ogg1
Komakula, Sai Santosh Babu (Rutgers University)

Phosphatidylserine synthesis is essential for the viability of the human fungal pathogen
Cryptococcus neoformans
Konarzewska, Paulina (Rutgers University)

Pah1 PA phosphatase activity depends on membrane phospholipid composition
Kwiatek, Joanna (Rutgers University)

Alterations in intestinal transit time, fecal lipid excretion, and small intestinal morphology
led to altered whole-body energy homeostasis in intestinal fatty acid-binding protein
(IFABP) null-mice
Lackey, Atreju (Rutgers University)

Enhanced resistance to trichothecenes and Fusarium head blight (FHB) by expression of
Arabidopsis and wheat non-specific lipid transfer proteins (nsLTPs) in wheat
McLaughlin, John (Rutgers University)

The conserved hydrophobic sequence LLI of yeast Spo7 is required for its regulatory role
in Nem1-Spo7 phosphatase function
Mirheydari, Mona (Rutgers University)
The role of the WRDPLVID domain of Pah1 phosphatidate phosphatase in physiological function
Park, Yeonhee (Rutgers University)

Inhibition of lipid transcription factor prevents cardiomyopathy in murine chronic chagas model
Plakkal Ayyappan, Janeesh (New Jersey Medical School, Newark)

Effect of alcohol exposure in utero on vitamin A metabolism in adult mice
Savio, Nicole (Rutgers University)

Catalysis of Diels-Alder cycloaddition by liposome activated Diels-Alderase Ribozyme
Shah, Bhavya (Rutgers University)

*Caulobacter crescentus* adapts to phosphate-starvation by synthesizing anionic glycolipids
Stankeviciute, Gabriele (Rutgers University-Camden)

Resistance to high fat feeding-induced decline in exercise capacity in liver fatty acid-binding protein null mice
Xu, Heli (Rutgers University)
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