Cellular Stress Response



Literature Talk **Chun (Alice) Li** April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 When we are stressed...



Physical injuries



Working too hard



Excessive eating



Bad night of sleep

To destress



What would the cell do if it is stressed?



**Cells will initiate relevant stress response pathways to destress as well!** 

#### Why do we need cellular stress response?



Stress response is key to the return to cellular and/or organismal homeostasis

Key types of stress response



**DNA damage response** 

Key types of stress response



**DNA damage response** 

Cellular Heat Shock Effect



#### Protein/lipid/DNA destabilization due to elevated temperature; Increased cell cycle arrest and cell death

Velichko, A. K. et al. Cell. Nol. Life. Sci. 2013, 70, 4229.

## Heat Shock Response (HSR) Discovery



First described by **Ferruccio Ritossa in 1962 in Italy** 

De Maio, A. et al. Cell Stress Chaperones. 2012, 17, 139.

## Heat Shock Response (HSR) Discovery





First described by **Ferruccio Ritossa in 1962 in Italy** 

Observed different chromosomal puffs in Drosophila genome during elevated temperatures

= increased expression of an unknown protein







Trimerized active HSF



Hentze, N. et al. *eLife*. **2016**, *5*, e11576. Akerfelt, M.; Morimoto, R. I.; Sistonen, L. Nat. Rev. Mol. Cel. Biol. **2010**, *11*, 545.





Conserved amount prokaryotes and eukaryotes 5-10% of total cellular protein content



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#### Function – maintain proteostasis, cellular housekeeping = chaperones



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Assist folding of newly synthesized polypeptide

Protein complex assembly

**Ensure correct folding** 



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#### Function — maintain proteostasis, cellular housekeeping = chaperones





Classified by size/molecular weight



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Each class contains multiple members



Classified by size/molecular weight

Each class contains multiple members

Different Hsp families/members have different functions and locations

HSP70

HSP90





#### Hsp70 substrate recognition

#### Recognize 5-residue hydrophobic core (preferably aliphatic residues)



Hydrophobic residues usually buried in globular proteins — exposure in solution indicates unfolded/misfolded

Rüdiger, S.; Germeroth, L.; Schneider-Mergener, J.; Bukau, B. EMBO J. 1997, 16, 1501.



















1) only binds to **native-like proteins** 

2) not just as a foldase, but also assist **protein conformational maturation** 



Similar to Hsp70, both requires ATP; can accept partially folded structures from Hsp70
Heat shock proteins important in oncological/neurological disease settings as molecular chaperones

**Cancer Cell** 

#### **Tumor environment**

eg. Hypoxia, acidosis, nutrient-deprivation







What if Hsp or other chaperones not working properly? Or overloaded with unfolded proteins?

Key types of stress response



**DNA damage response** 



BiP as an HSP70 family chaperone







Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER)

Unfolded protein response happening in the ER

## Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER)

#### Unfolded protein response happening in the ER



#### **Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER)**

Initial protein folding and maturation

Ca<sup>2+</sup> reservoir

Gluconeogenesis

Lipid synthesis

Biogenesis of autophagasomes and peroxisomes Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) environment important for protein folding

### Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) environment important for protein folding

#### **Difference in folding conditions**

Parameter	ER	Cytosol
Redox state	Oxidizing	Reducing
Calcium	From 0 to 1 mM	<1 µM
	free Ca <sup>++</sup> major	
	protein-bound storage	
Energy generating system	No	Yes
Glycosylation machinery	Yes	No
Proteolytic machinery	No	Many
HSP70 chaperones	BiP/GRP78, GRP170	HSP70 ,HSC70
HSP90 chaperones	GRP94	HSP90
Stress response	ER stress response $=$	Heat shock response
	unfolded protein response	and metabolic stress

Comparison of conditions that affect protein folding and disposal of misfolded proteins (parameter) and the response to changes in these conditions between the ER and the cytosol.

#### Many chaperones/folding assisting proteins are Ca<sup>2+</sup> dependent











Hetz, C. Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell. Biol. 2012, 13, 89.

Cancer cells bypassed apoptotic signals and utilize UPR as pro-survival mechanism



Hetz, C. Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell. Biol. 2012, 13, 89.



Cancer Stage	Tumour Stress	Tumour Requirement
Transformation	Oncogene activation Tumour suppressor loss	Increased protein folding capacity
Progression	Limiting oxygen and nutrient environment	Oxygen and nutrient supply
Metastasis	Cell detachment	Migratory phenotype
Chemoresistance	Chemotherapy treatment	Adaptation to chemotherapy induced stress and death

Cancer Stage	Tumour Stress	Tumour Requirement	UPR contribution
Transformation	Oncogene activation Tumour suppressor loss	Increased protein folding capacity	Protein folding Pro-survival UPR activation
Progression	Limiting oxygen and nutrient environment	Oxygen and nutrient supply	Proliferation Angiogenic factors Metabolic rewiring
↓ Metastasis	Cell detachment	Migratory phenotype	EMT trancription factors Loss of cell-cell contacts Vimentin
Chemoresistance	Chemotherapy treatment	Adaptation to chemotherapy induced stress and death	Pro-survival UPR activation Drug Efflux CSC expansion





Many key UPR players are founds in aggregates associated with neurodegenerative diseases

Protein misfolding and aggregation





What about macromolecules other than proteins?

Key types of stress response



**DNA damage response** 



**Double/single strand break** 



#### **Double/single strand break**



**UV-crosslinking thymine dimers** 



**Double/single strand break** 



8-oxoG formation

**Base alterations/oxidations** 



**UV-crosslinking thymine dimers** 



**Double/single strand break** 



**UV-crosslinking thymine dimers** 



8-oxoG formation

**Base alterations/oxidations** 



**Bulky adduct formation** 

## Bulky adduct formation



#### Benzopyrene

- Formed at 300-600C incomplete combustion
- found in forest fire, tobacco smoke, and food like grilled meats




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During DNA replication, will commonly use A as complementary base pair - causing G -> T mutation DNA damage happening DAILY



DNA damage happening DAILY



**Environmental exposures** 

Yousefzadeh, M. et al. eLife. 2021, 10, e62852.

# DNA damage happening DAILY

#### **Endogenous DNA adducts**



**Environmental exposures** 

Yousefzadeh, M. et al. eLife. 2021, 10, e62852.

### *Different damage = different repair pathways*



### *Different damage = different repair pathways*



Double strand break repair



Happens during G0/G1 phase of cell cycle

Error-prone repair

Happens during S/G2 phase of cell cycle High-fidelity repair

### Non-homologous end joining (NHEJ)



Scully, R. et al. Nat. Rev. Mol. Cell. Biol. 2019, 20, 698. Nemoz, C. et al. Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol. 2018, 25, 971.

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Error-prone repair

Happens during S/G2 phase of cell cycle High-fidelity repair















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p53 and phospho-p53 level









Senesence readout by β-gal staining (black) Apoptosis readout by cell count

In MCF7 cells, low dose/short time of doxorubicin treatments leads to senescence;

Song, Y. S.; Lee, B. Y.; Hwang, E. S. Mech. Ageing. Dev. 2005, 126, 580.



Senesence readout by β-gal staining (black) Apoptosis readout by cell count

In MCF7 cells, low dose/short time of doxorubicin treatments leads to senescence; Higher dose leads to apoptosis

Song, Y. S.; Lee, B. Y.; Hwang, E. S. Mech. Ageing. Dev. 2005, 126, 580.





Senesence readout by β-gal staining (black) Apoptosis readout by cell count

Increased p53 and phospho-p53 levels observed in apoptotic conditions

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# Recognizing DSB and other DNA damage – DNA damage response (DDR)

#### In order to perform DNA damage repair, early DDR is needed to recognize the need



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**DDR dysfunction** 

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#### eg. BRCA1 and breast cancer



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Impaired high-fidelity DSB repair







Irinotecan, DNA topoisomerase I inhibitor

Maximize DNA lesions going into mitosis — exceed the survival limit of cancer cell = apoptosis





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AZD7762, Chk1/2 inhibitor



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**DNA damage response** 





Low level reactive oxygen species are important for endogenous physiological signaling and activity



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Supraphysiological concentration of ROS – reacts with DNA, proteins, lipids, etc.



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Supraphysiological concentration of ROS – reacts with DNA, proteins, lipids, etc.

Chronically oxidized cellular environment commonly associated with tumor, neurodegenerative diseases, aging, etc.

 $H_2O_2$ 



 $H_2O_2$ 



# Examples of oxidative damage on macromolecules



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#### Examples of oxidative damage on macromolecules













NRF2(NFE2L2) acts as an oxidative stress sensor through KEAP1

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KEAP1 is an E3 ligase that negatively regulates NRF2 under normal conditions



NRF2(NFE2L2) acts as an oxidative stress sensor through KEAP1

KEAP1 is an E3 ligase that negatively regulates NRF2 under normal conditions KEAP1 has more than 20 Cys residues to "sense" oxidation







**Purpose** 

short-term oxidative stress release, eg. catalase to destroy H2O2



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Work with NF-kB, mTOR, p53, HSP, AP-1, and more for long-term cytoprotection and reprogramming



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Work with NF-κB, mTOR, p53, HSP, AP-1, and more for long-term cytoprotection and reprogramming

Act as a tumor suppressor for early carcinogenesis

# NRF2 role with cancer



Increased malignancy

#### NRF2 status Turned on only upon stress

*Effect Protect cells from oxidative damage* 

Prevent cancer onset

# NRF2 role with cancer



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#### **Constitutively on with mutations**

Protective against endogenous high level of ROS Increase resistance and survival of cancer cells — poor patient outcomes

# Pleiotropic response of ROS signaling



#### ROS physiological and pathological signaling are very complicated

Conclusion



Our cells are trying very hard to maintain cellular and organismal homeostasis
