### **Metabolomics of stored Red Blood Cells**

Hansen lab - Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics - University of Colorado Denver - Anschutz Medical Campus



University of Colorado Denver

Dpt. Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics Metabolomics core Director, University of Colorado BEST 2015, Scott Murphy Lecture – Long Beach, CA - USA 10/22/2015 Angelo D'Alessandro, PhD

### **Acknowledgments and Disclosures**



### My real reason: my father is a non-reumunerated volunteer donor in Italy (>50 donations)





### Aldo D'Alessandro



### Why does it matter? Leading causes of death under age of 15-59



#### What do they have in common?

### Leading causes of death require High % Transfusion



Center for Disease Control, 2014

### Is blood the answer to ...?

### **LIFE-SAVING**

- ~ 108 million units donated per year (2014 data)
- 4.5 million patients (**15 million units/year**) in the US alone
- Life saving therapy for leading causes of death under age of 50:
  - Massive recipients (trauma patients, military forces, surgical patients);
  - **Chronic recipients** (blood cancers requiring bone marrow irradiation, genetic diseases beta-thalassemia, sickle cell anemia)





### In vitro storage



#### Long-stored blood: is it safe?

### Blood Transfusion 2009

#### Red cell storage: When is better not good enough?

John R. Hess

Blood Bank, University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

"Blood for transfusion must be safe, effective, available and cheap," the late John Collins said in a meeting of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine in 1973 during efforts to license the 5-week CPDA-1 blood storage solution<sup>1</sup>. These objectives seem clear individually, but it is usually in their interactions that controversy arises and hard decisions must be made. Most of us are familiar with the interactions of blood safety and the cost of new tests or of new restrictions on the donor population and the availability of components. We all struggle to find new voluntary donors with healthy lifestyles and to justify and pay for increasingly sensitive testing.

However, the interactions between blood's effectiveness and its availability or its cost are less well known. In part this is because the whole concept of blood effectiveness is poorly defined. To the extent that red cell effectiveness has measurable meaning, red cells must be intact, circulate, and survive to be effective, so measures of their hemolysis, *in vivo* recovery, and survival have been gold standards for a technique to collect and manufacture blood components more efficiently<sup>3</sup>.

Conventional thinking suggests that blood should be separated into components as quickly as possible<sup>4</sup>. This thinking has been incorporated into regulations saying that blood must be separated into components within 8 hours or cooled to refrigerator temperatures within that time. As most blood, 70% in some countries, is collected on mobile blood drives away from component manufacturing facilities, this has led to most mobile-blood-drive-collected blood being stored on ice with the resulting loss of platelet function. Additional platelets must then be collected by apheresis to make up for this loss.

Two decades ago, Dutch investigators noted that platelets derived from units of whole blood held warm overnight for processing the next morning actually had better platelet yields and better platelet function than those processed immediately after collection. Holding blood warm overnight is also attractive because it allows all the component manufacturing to

### OLD BLOOD, NEW BLOOD, NO BLOOD? NEED FOR ULTRA HIGH THROUGHPUT

### 90 MILLION UNITS/YEAR Randomized Clinical Trials suggest no major association between storage duration and adverse outcomes

"Restrictive transfusion strategies are safe in most clinical settings, liberal transfusion strategies have not been shown to confer any benefit to patients but have the potential for harm"



Stein et al, 2015; Holst et al., 2015

### **NHLBI** awaits advances for the next 5 years

1. Identifying and quantifying the components of each transfusion product (i.e., red blood cells, platelets, plasma, plasma fractions, etc.) "What's in the bag?" OBSERVATIONAL

2. Identifying the appropriate, physiologicallyrelevant markers to determine transfusion effectiveness "How do we know if it works?" CORRELATIVE (with gold standards)

3. Identifying improved methods for preparing classical products."How can we make better products?" High Throughput and modeling Spitalnik et al. 2015

### **Metabolomics: closer to the phenotype**



### Integrated Omics: putting the pieces together



### **Metabolomics: from NMR to UPLC-MS**



# **Specificity**

### Instrumentation

#### **Performance Characteristics**

Resolving power	240,000 @ <i>m/z</i> 200
Mass range	50 to 6,000 <i>m/z</i>
Scan rate*	Up to 18 Hz at resolution setting of 15,000 @ <i>m/z</i> 200
Mass accuracy *	Internal: <1 ppm RMS External: <3 ppm RMS
Sensitivity	Full MS: 500 fg buspirone on column S/N 100:1 SIM: 30 fg buspirone on column S/N 100:1
Dynamic range	>5000:1
Polarity switching	One full cycle in <1 sec (one full positive mode scan and one full negative mode scan at a resolution setting of 60,000)
Multiplexity	Up to 10 precursors/scan
Analog inputs	One (1) analog input (0–1 V) One (1) analog (0–10 V)

#### Dionex Ultimate 3000 UHPLC

High Pressure Tolerance: Up to 15,000 psi High Reproducibility/Efficiency





	M <sup>3</sup> - C18	M <sup>15</sup> - HILIC
Run Time	3 minutes	15 minutes
Separation	++	+++
Efficiency	+++	++
Coverage	Up to 3,500 features	Up to 15,000 features

2X



\*Under defined conditions

### Metabolome coverage



### Metabolite assignment: golden rules and databases



### **1.** What's in the bag?

### **Study Design: RBC Storage in AS-3**



## 

5 donors 11 time points

### AS-3 (Nutricel)

NaCl	70 mM
NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	23 mM
Citric acid	2 mM
Na-citrate	23 mM
Adenine	2 mM
Glucose	55 mM
рН	5.8

Supernatants: 20 µl (for up to 100 runs)

#### Packed RBCs: 0.1 ml (for up to 100 runs)

#### + and - ion mode

220 analytical runs



### How long is too long? Cells

Min

### **RBC Extracts**

#### AS3: Significant metabolic lesions tend to accumulate by storage day 14



Metabolites increasing by storage day 14

Metabolites decreasing within storage day 14

D'Alessandro et al, Transfusion 2015

### How long is too long? Supernatants

Min

**Supernatants** 

### Significant metabolic lesions tend to accumulate by storage day 14



Metabolites decreasing by storage day 14

Metabolites increasing within storage day 14

Metabolites washed out be leukoreduction processing

D'Alessandro et al, Transfusion 2015

#### The analysis also covers plasticizers such as DEHP and other phthalates



4 min method!

D'Alessandro et al, under review

### How long is too long? PLS-DA answer

#### AS3: Significant metabolic lesions tend to accumulate by storage day 14



D'Alessandro et al, Transfusion 2015



### AS3 preserves energy metabolism but not DPG



### Pitfalls of metabolic alterations on cell physiology in aged RBCs: impaired oxygen delivery



#### Lower pH: Bohr effect

Involving N-terminal amino groups of the  $\alpha$ -subunits and the C-terminal histidine of the  $\beta$ -subunits

#### Impaired Energy & Redox Metabolism During Storage

Still ~50% glucose at the end of the storage: and Hb glycation increases (diabetes marker)



#### pH lowers and glycolysis slows down



D'Alessandro et al., Haematologica 2012; Vox Sanguinis 2013; Transfusion 2015

#### Acidification slows down glycolysis and PPP



Lactate

Cohen and Rosemeyer et al., EJB 1969; Erecinska et al., J Neurochem 1995; Rapoport et al, EJB 1977

#### **Pentose Phosphate Pathway: transient activation**



### **Amino Acid Homeostasis is impaired**



### **Glutathione Homeostasis: synthesis**



### **Glutathione Homeostasis: turn-over**



5-Oxoproline, a marker of GSH turnover



D'Alessandro et al, Vox Sanguinis and Transfusion 2015; Pertinhez et al, Blood Transfusion 2014

### Where does oxidative stress come from?

Oxygen jumps from one Hb molecule to another, a process that promotes formation of oxygen radicals and triggers Haber Weiss and Fenton's reactions



#### D'Alessandro et al, 2015; Spitalnik and Francis, 2015

### **Oxygen-induced production of ROS**

Oxygen jumps from one Hb molecule to another, a process that promotes formation of oxygen radicals and triggers Haber Weiss and Fenton's reactions



D'Alessandro et al Haematologica 2012



# Hb autoxidation keeps in check antioxidant defenses during storage


## ...and membrane protein: Band 3



## **Anaerobic Storage of RBCs**



Low Oxygen Saturation





Adapted from Castagnola et al., 2010

**Anaerobic Storage of RBCs** 



Adapted from Castagnola et al, 2010

## Normal storage results in band 3 fragmentation



#### D'Alessandro et al. 2012; Rinalducci et al, 2012

# ...and GAPDH oxidation, affecting activity and potentially band 3 binding



Haines et al, submitted

# ...and GAPDH oxidation, affecting activity and potentially band 3 binding



Haines et al, submitted

## RBC vesiculation increases with storage to get rid of oxidized proteins



Delobel et al, 2012; Kriebardis et al, 2010

## **Can we quantify the proteome?**



## **Can we quantify the proteome?**



# Protein markers in RBC sups correlate with storage duration



## **Summary: Metabolic adaptation during storage**



## Vesiculation ends up affecting morphology, surface to volume ratios and ultimately osmotic fragility

#### Table 2. SEM erythrocyte shape classification.

Day	Discocyte (%)	Reversibly* changed RBC (%) (echinocyte and stomatocyte shape)	Irreversibly* changed RBC (%) (spheroechinocyte, spherostomatocyte, spherocyte, ovalocyte, and degenerated shapes)
7	75.3±4.1	$15.5 \pm 1.9$	$9.2 \pm 3.5$
14	$55.8 \pm 2.7$	$29.1 \pm 2.4$	$15.1 \pm 0.9$
21	51.0±4.0	$32.6 \pm 2.6$	16.4±1.4
28	$45.6 \pm 3.3$	$35.6 \pm 1.7$	$18.8 \pm 1.6$
35	$35.2 \pm 1.9$	$42.3 \pm 2.2$	$22.5 \pm 3.1$
42	$23.7 \pm 2.5$	$45.3 \pm 3.8$	31.0 2.9

\*Reversible and irreversible changes were classified based on classification by Berezina et al.<sup>23</sup> However, Bessis<sup>22</sup> shape classification details are provided as well (bold).



#### **Summary: Oxidation of RBCs promotes storage lesions**



D'Alessandro et al. Transfusion 2015

## 2. How do we know if it works?

#### Correlative analysis with golden standards of transfusion medicine



Metabolite	R value*
G6P	-0.41‡
2-Oleoylglycero phosphocholine ADP	0.36‡ 0.51‡

Van 'T Erve et al., 2014/2015

#### **Energy metabolism indeed correlates to morphology**



D'Alessandro et al, in preparation

#### ATP poorly correlates with hemolysis and 24h in vivo recovery

**Humans** 



Van 't Erve et al. (Hess JR), 2014 D'Alessandro/Dumont et al. In preparation

#### Correlative analysis with 24h in vivo survival and hemolysis



D'Alessandro/Dumont et al. In preparation

## Metabolite/Metabolite correlations might reveal unexplored connections of RBC metabolic pathways



#### Linear Correlation Coefficients



Papers in preparation – Collaboration with Hod E. – Columbia University and Yang X. – Houston, Texas

### Metabolite/Metabolite correlations might reveal unexplored connections of RBC metabolic pathways



L'Acqua et al., in preparation – Collaboration with Hod E. – Columbia University

## **Protein markers in RBC sups correlate with hemolysis**



D'Alessandro et al. submitted



## Take home messages

- We can use Omics technologies to describe "what's in the bag" (AS, cell processing, pathogen inactivation, inter-donor variability)
- Omics data can be used to correlate to transfusion outcomes and 24h in vivo survival, hemolysis, morphology
- Alternative additive solutions (e.g. AS-7, anti-oxidants) or storage strategies (anaerobic storage), as well as alternatives to transfusion of donated RBCs (*ex vivo* generation of RBCs) can be tested through omics technologies
- Design and testing of novel storage strategies/solutions will be sped up by the joined efforts of transfusion experts, omics investigators and bioinformatics groups: systems biology will create *in silico* predictive models that will be refined on the basis of experimental results

## Thank you for your attention!

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3. How can we make better products?

## **Supplementation of antioxidants**

## 24h recovery, microparticles and alloimmunization parameters are improved by vitamin C in mice



Stowell et al, Transfusion 2013

### GSH homesostasis was improved by vitamin C and N-Acetylcysteine supplementation



## Supplementation of antioxidants (vitamin C and NAC) relieved oxidative stress albeit depressed metabolism



## Supplementation of antioxidants (vitamin C and NAC) relieved oxidative stress albeit not morphology after 28 days



Pallotta et al, Blood Transfusion 2014b

### DHA and Glucose share the same transporter in mature RBCs



Troadec et al, 2008

### Ascorbate (vitamin C) and glucose compete for the same transporter: metabolism is depressed



## **Anaerobic storage**

Yoshida et al, 2007, 2008 and 2010; Dumont et al, 2008; Zolla and D'Alessandro, 2013; Longo et al, 2014; D'Alessandro et al, 2013

### Anaerobic storage: metabolic modulation via oxygen removal



## **Deoxygenation apparatus for anaerobic storage**



Zolla and D'Alessandro, 2013

## Metabolomics changes during anaerobic storage: Reduced hemolysis, vesiculation and improved morphology

Table 1 – RBC-shed microparticles			
Storage day	Microparticles (counted events in the arbitrary time window inside the gated area)		
42 (control)	5234 <u>+</u> 125		
42 (deoxygenated)	1865 <u>+</u> 78		



Table 2 – SEM erythrocyte shape classification						
Storage	Discocyte	Reversibly*	Irreversibly* changed			
Day	(%)	changed RBC (%)	RBC (%)			
		(echinocyte and stomatocyte shape)	(spheroechinocyte, spherostomatocyte, spherocyte, ovalocyte, and degenerated shapes)			
0	76.5+3.1	19.2 <u>+</u> 5.7	4.3 <u>+</u> 2.6			
42	20.6 <u>+</u> 2.5	43.2 <u>+</u> 3.8	36.2 <u>+</u> 2.9			
Control						
42	32.1 <u>+</u> 1.9	45.4 <u>+</u> 2.2	22.5 <u>+</u> 3.1			
Deoxygen						
ated						
* Reversible and irreversible changes were classified based on classification criteria, as previously reported D'Alessandro et al. [12]						


### Morphology score improved during anaerobic storage







Zolla and D'Alessandro, 2013

#### Lower Haemolysis, higher Osmotic resistance



### Metabolomics changes during anaerobic storage: Enhanced glycolysis



D'Alessandro, Gevi et al, 2013

## Anaerobic storage: membrane proteomics profiles of leukoreduced units moderately improved



2DE spot number

Longo et al, 2014

Membrane PRDX2

Control

42days

42days

deoxygenated

#### Metabolomics changes during our anaerobic storage No shift towards the PPP albeit elevated oxidative stress



Energy metabolism > Redox poise? Is down-regulation of PPP an issue? Storage of RBCs from

**G6PDH-deficient donors** 

# G6PD activity in enzyme deficient donors (Greek area) during routine storage in the blood bank (leukofiltered, SAGM)

G6PD-def (n=6; Mediterranean variant vs control pool) From 5 Class II and one Class III mutants (high to mild deficiency 10-25%, no clinical symptoms unless stressed)



\*NS = non-stored = Day 0

### Metabolic profiles are consistent with what observed in matched controls (SAGM, leukofiltered), but anticipated at day 7



#### **Metabolic adaptations result in increased glycolysis:** If cells can't shift to PPP, enhance Embden Meyerhoff



Tsounakas et al. 2015, under review

#### MetHb reductase uses NADH to counteract Hb iron oxidation



#### ...units from G6PD-def donors have better morphology

Storage days



12

# However, metabolic adaptations result in impaired glutathione homeostasis...



Tsounakas et al. 2015, under review

# ... more oxidative stress sensitive and vesicles are loaded with oxidized Hb and complement components...



Tsounakas et al. 2015, under review

But G6PDH-def RBCs lyse faster when exposed to control plasma (simulation of transfusion associated stress in trauma recipients)

Ctrl

G6PDH def.



#### G6PD as DONOR of stored RBC



Tsounakas et al. 2015, under review

CO<sub>2</sub> levels and alkalinization are important: teachings from Alkaline additive solutions

#### **Chloride shift and Chloride free Additive Solutions**





#### Rationale for the beneficial metabolic effect of intracellular alkalinization



Lactate

Cohen and Rosemeyer et al., EJB 1969; Erecinska et al., J Neurochem 1995; Rapoport et al, EJB 1977

#### Alkaline additive solution modulate the redox poise and energy metabolism



Cancelas et al, 2015; D'Alessandro et al., under review

#### Is beneficial effect of anaerobiosis pH dependent? Anaerobic storage + 5 CO<sub>2</sub> %



Yoshida et al., Transfusion 2007 and 2008; Sparrow, Blood Transfusion 2012; D'Alessandro et al, Mol Biosyst 2012

#### Carbon dioxide masks pH effects on anaerobic storage promoting ATP generation at the expenses of DPG



Solid line=AN-CO<sub>2</sub>, Dotted line=AN+CO<sub>2</sub>, Dashed line=Control

Dumont et al, 2015