### METABOLIC CONTROL OF TRANSLATION IN ANGIOGENESIS

ENDOTHELIAL METABOLISM: an hallmark of physiological, pathological and therapeutic angiogenesis



#### **Endothelial metabolic pathways**



#### Decoding endothelial metabolism

#### Metabolic pathways in angiogenesis

During angiogenesis, endothelial cells undergo metabolic changes that facilitate the formation of a sprout by stalk cells, which is directed by the tip cell. Key regulators of endothelial cell metabolism, PFKFB3, CPT1A, and GLS1, might be new therapeutic targets for various conditions.



## Endothelial growth factors and their receptors control metabolism and metabolic pathways



Rohelenova et al., 2018

Trends in Cell Biology

#### LETTER

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#### FGF-dependent metabolic control of vascular development

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#### Vascular endothelial growth factor B controls endothelial fatty acid uptake

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### **Open question:**

Do metabolites and metabolic pathways regulate endothelial growth factor receptors ?

#### Key metabolic pathways in endothelial cells



### Arterial concentrations of free amino acids in whole blood and plasma

	Whole blood	Plasma	
	(µM)	$(\mu M)$	$P^*$
Taurine	$207.0 \pm 26.4$	$39.4 \pm 3.1$	< 0.001
Aspartate	$186.3 \pm 16.0$	<u> </u>	—
Threonine	$138.7 \pm 11.6$	$112.4 \pm 9.1$	< 0.01
Serine	$166.9 \pm 10.3$	$121.1\pm7.9$	< 0.001
Glutamine†	$587.7 \pm 34.3$	$565.0 \pm 21.1$	NS
Proline	$192.1 \pm 16.5$	$167.3 \pm 8.4$	NS
Citrulline	$50.7 \pm 3.5$	$35.9 \pm 3.0$	< 0.005
Glycine	$337.4\pm20.2$	$201.0 \pm 15.1$	< 0.001
Alanine	$291.7\pm21.8$	$225.4 \pm 17.8$	< 0.005
a-Amino-			
butyrate	$25.9 \pm 4.1$	$26.8 \pm 4.1$	$\mathbf{NS}$
Valine	$251.6 \pm 20.2$	$236.1 \pm 15.1$	NS
Cystine		$111.3 \pm 11.5$	
Methionine	$15.9\pm1.6$	$18.9 \pm 1.9$	NS
Isoleucine	$62.4 \pm 5.1$	$58.9 \pm 3.0$	$\mathbf{NS}$
Leucine	$130.1 \pm 10.3$	$126.4 \pm 6.0$	$\mathbf{NS}$
Tyrosine	$61.1\pm4.6$	$53.9 \pm 3.6$	$\mathbf{NS}$
Phenylalanine	$54.3 \pm 3.8$	$53.4 \pm 2.7$	NS

\*P = significance of difference between whole blood and plasma concentration (paired *t*-test).

### Comparison of glucose and glutamine consumption and fate in ECs





Kim et al., 2017

### Glutamine metabolism



Altam et al., 2017

## Genetic and pharmacological inhibition of glutamine metabolism (e.g. glutaminolysis)



Altam et al., 2017

# Is glutamine metabolism important during adult and pathological angiogenesis ?



Hindlimb ischaemia



#### Tumor xenografts

### Endothelial glutaminolysis is required during tumor growth





Α







# Endothelial glutaminolysis is required during ischemic angiogenesis



### Endothelial glutaminolysis controls endothelial growth factor receptors synthesis







0.5

0.0

G/s<sup>fl/fl</sup>

Vegfr2

Gls<sup>i∆EC</sup>

Fgfr1

#### Endothelial glutaminolysis controls endothelial growth factor receptors synthesis





#### Transcription + Translation = Gene expression



#### **Transcription and translation**



#### mRNA translation: cooperation and integration of different signals



Truitt and Ruggero, 2016

#### Signaling pathways regulating mRNA translation



#### ISR pathway



#### Translation control of angiogenesis



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#### Internal Translation Initiation Mediated by the Angiogenic Factor Tie2\*

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#### mTORC as a master control of mRNA translation



#### mTORC1 activation by amino acids and growth factors



#### mTORC1-dependent controls of translation in ECs



# mTORC1 regulates endothelial growth factor receptors synthesis via glutaminolysis



# Glutaminolysis regulates endothelial growth factor receptors synthesis via mTORC



#### Endothelial-specific deletion of *GLS1* affects mTORC1 activation and VEGFR2 translation in tumor ECs



#### Rate of translation by polysome profiling analyses



### mTORC1 blockade impairs VEGFR2 and FGFR1, but not VEGFR1 or CDH5 mRNA translation



#### Glutaminolysis blockade impairs VEGFR2 and FGFR1 mRNA translation





### Transaminases (TAs) inhibition impairs VEGFR2 and FGFR1 translation









Endothelial cell

### Aspartate (Asp) drops during both glutaminolysis and transamination blockade



### Glutamine-derived aspartate drops during both glutaminolysis and transamination blockade



Β



## Aspartate (Asp) rescues translation and mTORC1 activation upon TAs inhibition





#### Endothelial glutaminolysis drives mTORC activation in retina angiogenesis



#### Aspartate rescues glutaminolysis blockade in retinal angiogenesis



#### Glutamine metabolism is critical in tumor endothelial cells



#### Conclusions

- Endothelial glutaminolysis is required during tumor and ischemic angiogenesis.
- Transaminases couple glutamine-derived carbons to aspartate synthesis in EC.
- mTORC1 activation is driven by glutamate and aspartate metabolism in EC.
- mTORC1-activation leads to control of endothelial growth factor receptor translation.



#### Future perspectives

- 1. Dissect the translational control mechanisms in angiogenesis by translatome analyses.
- 2. Decode the metabolic role of GOT1 and GOT2 transaminases in ECs.
- 3. Evaluate a combined therapy consisting of glutaminolysis or transaminases blockade plus VEGF inhibitors that may provide a new avenue in anti-angiogenic resistance.



### Take home message



Can we study mRNA translation during in vivo angiogenesis ?

#### Methods for Translation Measurement Based on Luminescent Labeling of Newly Produced Peptides





#### Active translation in retinal angiogenesis



unpublished

#### Active Translation during angiogenic sprouting



unpublished

#### MetRS



ANL Metabolic labeling  $\rightarrow$  FUNCAT

### mTORC1 pathway controls translation during retinal angiogenesis



unpublished