

**Activity and mRNA abundance of enzymes for fatty acid synthesis and desaturation in mammary cell cultures**

by

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Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

in

Animal Sciences

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August, 1998

Blacksburg, Virginia

Key words: milk fat, acetyl-CoA carboxylase, fatty acid synthetase, stearoyl-CoA desaturase, conjugated linoleic acid, *trans*-vaccenic acid

## ABSTRACT

### **Activity and mRNA abundance of enzymes for fatty acid synthesis and desaturation in mammary cell cultures**

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The effect of exogenous unsaturated fatty acids on cellular fatty acid biosynthesis in mammary cells was examined. Under normal situations, even though the diet of a dairy cow contains considerable amounts of unsaturated fatty acids, *viz.* oleic acid (18:1) and linoleic acid (18:2), the major 18-carbon fatty acid that enters the circulation post-ruminally for delivery to the mammary gland is saturated fatty acid, *viz.* stearic acid (18:0). This is due to extensive ruminal biohydrogenation of unsaturated fatty acids. Studies have indicated that saturated fatty acids such as 18:0 are enhancers and that certain unsaturated fatty acids are inhibitors of *de novo* fatty acid synthesis in tissues such as the liver and adipose tissue. The present study investigated the effect of *cis* and *trans* isomers of 18:1 and 18:2 on *de novo* fatty acid synthesis and desaturation in mouse and bovine mammary epithelial cell cultures, and compared it with the effect caused by 18:0. In the first experiment 12.5, 25, 50 or 100  $\mu$ M stearic acid (SA), oleic acid (OA), elaidic acid (EA), *trans*-vaccenic acid (TVA), linoleic acid (LA) or conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) were supplemented in the media of mouse mammary epithelial (MME) cells that were grown to confluence in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM). As indicated by cellular palmitic acid (16:0) content and fatty acid synthetase (FAS) activity,

when compared with SA all unsaturated fatty acid treatments inhibited *de novo* fatty acid synthesis in MME cells. In addition, OA at all concentrations and LA and CLA at 50 and 100  $\mu\text{M}$  inhibited cellular stearoyl-CoA desaturase (SCD) activity and mRNA abundance. However, EA and TVA, when compared with SA, enhanced SCD activity and mRNA abundance at 12.5 and 25  $\mu\text{M}$ . In the second experiment 25, 50 or 100  $\mu\text{M}$  SA, OA, TVA, LA or CLA were supplemented in the media of bovine mammary epithelial cells that were grown to confluence in DMEM. As indicated by cellular 16:0 content, acetyl-CoA carboxylase (ACC) activity and FAS activity, treatment with the unsaturated fatty acids inhibited *de novo* fatty acid synthesis at all concentrations, when compared with SA. Unsaturated fatty acid treatments also reduced the abundance of ACC and FAS mRNA in the cells. When compared with SA at all treatment-concentrations, OA and LA inhibited whereas TVA and CLA enhanced cellular SCD activity and mRNA abundance in the bovine cells. In both cell types, CLA and TVA appeared to be the most potent inhibitors of saturated fatty acid biosynthesis.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A sincere note of gratitude to those who made this work possible. I am grateful to my major advisor Dr. Joseph Herbein for giving me the opportunity to work under his advisorship, and also for the motivation, training, valuable advices and guidance he gave. His support and patience in guiding me step by step through the doctoral program is beyond my words.

My sincere gratitude to Dr. Thomas Keenan for his inspiration, valuable advices and guidance during the entire period of my research, and also for his generosity in allowing me to use the facilities in his laboratory. My sincere gratitude to Dr. Eric Wong for giving me the privilege to use the facilities in his laboratory and for the valuable training and guidance he gave me during the research. I sincerely thank Dr. Ronald Pearson for his constructive criticisms and valuable guidance in statistical analysis. My sincere thanks to Dr. Susan Duncan for her valuable advices, suggestions and support during the course of my research.

Thanks to Wendy Wark for helping me with fatty acid analysis and for being always helpful. Thanks to Michelle Weisbarth for helping me get started with my research. I thank Kerry Waite and Kristy Weatherly for their time and patience in helping me with my laboratory work and for being supportive. Thanks to my colleagues Abey and Juan for their support, sharing of information and useful comments. Thanks to Pat Boyle for

the time she always spared to answer my questions. I am grateful to Dr Michael Akers for permitting me to use his laboratory facilities for the DNA analysis.

I sincerely acknowledge the financial support (Pratt Fellowship) provided by the Pratt Fellowship Foundation.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge Dr. James Ntambi at the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Mark Magnuson at Vanderbilt University, and Drs. Mike Barber and Maureen Travers at Hannah Research Institute, Scotland, for their generosity in donating the cDNA probes for the Northern blot assays.

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## REPRESENTATION OF FATTY ACIDS

### FATTY ACID

Name	Representation
Palmitic acid .....	16:0
Stearic acid .....	18:0
Oleic acid.....	<i>cis</i> $\Delta^9$ -18:1
Elaidic acid .....	<i>trans</i> $\Delta^9$ -18:1
<i>Trans</i> -Vaccenic acid.....	<i>trans</i> $\Delta^{11}$ -18:1
Linoleic acid .....	18:2
Conjugated linoleic acid.....	<i>cis</i> $\Delta^9$ , <i>trans</i> $\Delta^{11}$ -18:2