

# **Proteomic Analysis of Three Dimensional Organotypic Liver Models**

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

Doctor of Philosophy  
in  
Chemical Engineering

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September 15<sup>th</sup> 2015

Blacksburg, VA

Keywords: Shotgun Proteomics, Liver, *In vitro*

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## Abstract

*In vitro* liver models that closely mimic the *in vivo* microenvironment are central for understanding hepatic functions and intercellular communication processes. Bottom-up shotgun proteomic analysis of the hepatic cells can lend insight into such processes. This technique employs liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) for relative quantification of protein abundances by measuring intensities of their corresponding peptides. Organotypic 3D liver models have been developed in our laboratory that consist of hepatocytes and liver sinusoidal endothelial cells (LSECs) separated by a polyelectrolyte multilayer (PEM), which serves as a mimic for the Space of Disse. Each component within these models is easily separable allowing for systematic evaluation of the cells and PEMs. In this study, proteomes of hepatocytes from PEM containing models, cultured with and without LSECs, were compared to those from monolayers. Changes in core metabolism were evaluated among all culture conditions. Overall, all cultures were ketogenic and performed gluconeogenesis. The presence of the PEM led to increases in proteins associated with mitochondrial-based  $\beta$ -oxidation and peroxisomal proteins. The PEMs also limited production of structural proteins, which are linked to dedifferentiation of hepatocytes, suggesting that cell-ECM interactions are essential for maintenance of their liver-like state. The presence of LSECs increased levels

of carboxylesterases and other phase I and phase II detoxification enzymes suggesting that intercellular signaling mediates enzyme abundance. Taken together, these results suggest that the cell-cell (from the LSECs) and cell-ECM (from the PEMs) interactions exert different, yet crucial effects, and both are required for the preservation of metabolic liver functions and differentiated phenotypes. Changes in the PEMs as a result of cell culture were also evaluated but exhibited minimal differences at this time point. Proteomes of LSECs monolayers were also characterized. Enzymes related to the metabolism of amino acids, lipids, oxidative phosphorylation and phase I and phase II detoxification processes were all identified in LSECs monolayers highlighting their role in these processes. Characterization of 3DHL LSECs was not possible due to ion suppression resulting from the presence of excess contaminant proteins. Nonetheless, this study provides a foundation in which LSECs from 3D liver models can be compared against in future studies.

## **Acknowledgments**

First and foremost, I would like to thank my family. Mom and Dad, thanks for always being there to listen to me and giving me the best advice that you could in any situation. This degree is not only my achievement but also yours as well. To my brothers, Ivan and Jeffrey, thank you for always being there, I love you both very much and without you guys there to calm me down while I was doing this, I might not have been able to do it.

I also offer my deepest thanks to my primary advisor, Professor Padma Rajagopalan, for all of your guidance, support and advice throughout my graduate studies here at Virginia Tech. I sincerely thank you for everything that you have taught me but most importantly, I am very grateful to you for pushing me to always be better and giving me the opportunity to grow as a scientist in your group.

To my co-advisor, Professor Rich Helm, thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn in your lab and for taking the time to teach and advise me over the past couple of years. I have gained several skills that I know will serve me well in the future. I would also like to thank you for supporting me throughout my graduate studies here at Virginia Tech.

Collectively, I thank both of my advisors for their patience throughout these past few years, I realize now that it was not an easy task but I am forever grateful that you both took a chance on me.

To all of my lab mates in the Rajagopalan research group, past and present, including Dr. Adam Larkin, Dr. Era Jain, Dr. Gaurav Jain, Cigdem Arca, Brandon Veres, Sophia Orbach, Margaret Cassin, Andrew Ford, Rebekah Less and Kristen Sheerer, thank you for being there and listening to me with both personal and research related issues. All of

those late nights, afternoon coffees, and scientific debates are memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I wish you all nothing but the best.

To my lab mates in the Helm research group, Dr. Keith Ray, Dr. Sherry Hildreth, Evan Foley and Jody Jervis. Keith and Sherry, thank you for all of the help with proteomics and helping me learn mass spectrometry. Jody, thanks for your help with reagents and sample prep. Finally, thank you to all of you for all around good conversations.

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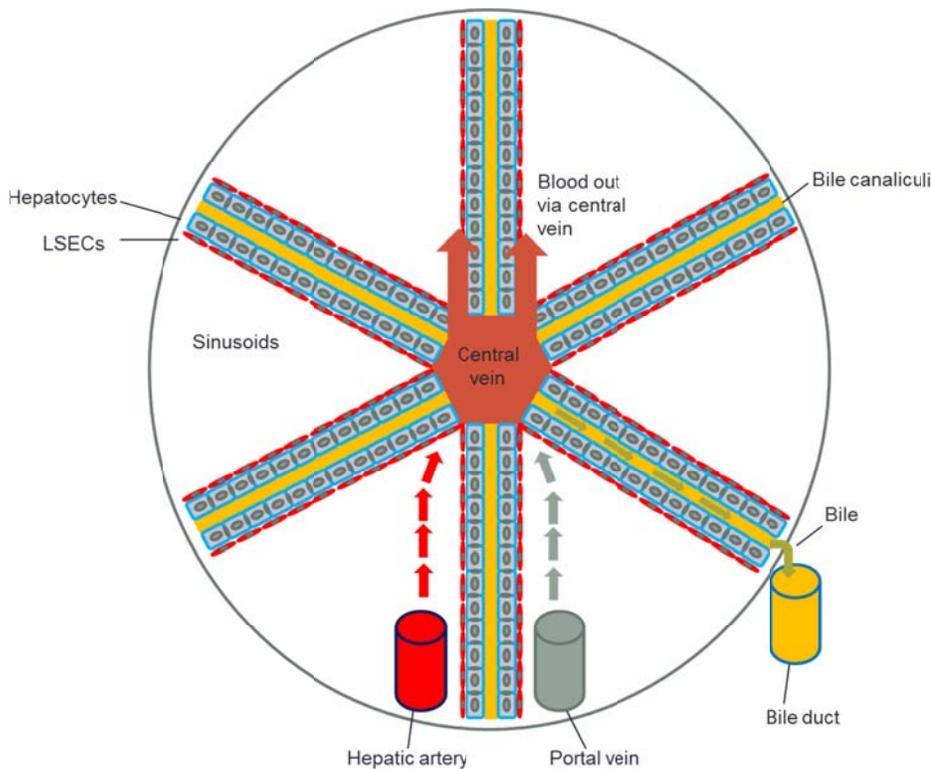
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# Chapter 1: Introduction

## 1.1 Background and significance

The liver is a highly vascularized organ and performs many physiological functions including synthesis of blood plasma proteins, carbohydrate, lipid, and amino acid metabolism, biotransformation of drugs and environmental toxins and bile acid production [1-3]. The liver is divided into two major sections, the right and left lobes where each lobe is made of units known as lobules as shown schematically in **Figure 1**.



**Figure 1: Schematic of the liver lobule which consists of sinusoids where the exchange of macromolecules to and from the blood as well as bile transport occurs.**

Each lobule contains sinusoids, which are blood vessels that contain fenestrated endothelium. The sinusoid is where the transfer of nutrients and oxygen occurs between the blood and the hepatocytes, the parenchymal cells of the liver. These sinusoids are made of hepatic cords that radiate from the central vein with hepatocytes on both sides. Blood enters the

liver through both the portal vein from the gut and the hepatic artery from the heart and exits through the central vein [1]. The majority of the blood supply (~75%) comes from the portal vein, which stems from the spleen and gastrointestinal (GI) tract, with the remaining coming from the hepatic artery [4]. Bile canaliculi are present between plates of hepatocytes, allowing for the transport of bile to the bile duct. Bile from the bile duct is subsequently stored in the gallbladder.

The liver can be broken up into three distinct regions known as the periportal, midzonal and pericentral regions [3]. Oxygen concentrations vary across these regions [3, 5]. For example, oxygen concentrations at the periportal region range between 84-90  $\mu\text{M}$  while at the pericentral region are 42-49  $\mu\text{M}$  [6, 7]. In addition to varying oxygen concentrations, different metabolic functions, such as glucose and lipid metabolism, are performed in each of these regions [3, 8, 9]. While glycolysis is performed by all hepatocytes, it has been shown that this process is mainly performed in the pericentral region [3, 10-12]. Conversely, gluconeogenesis occurs mainly in the periportal region [10-12]. Studies have also shown that fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation occurs in the periportal region while lipogenesis occurs in the pericentral region [13-15].

Hepatocytes (approximately 70% by volume) are the parenchymal cell of the liver and are responsible for most of the major functions performed by the organ. *In vivo*, the hepatocytes exhibit a polygonal morphology and have distinct apical and basal surfaces that aid in the maintenance of polarity of the cells [16]. The apical and basal surfaces also allow for the transport of molecules between the parenchyma, biliary system and the blood. For example, bile acids are transported through the bile canaliculi across the apical surface to the bile duct and albumin is transported along the basal surface where it is released into systemic circulation. The basal surfaces of hepatocytes are also in contact with the Space of Disse (SoD), allowing

exchange of waste, nutrients, as well as oxygen between the parenchyma and the blood. Thus, both of the apical and basal surfaces are essential and allow for maintenance of the highly differentiated state of hepatocytes and proper liver function [16]. The non-parenchymal cells (NPCs) of the liver include the liver sinusoidal endothelial cells (LSECs, approximately 10% by volume), Kupffer cells (KCs, approximately 5% by volume), hepatic stellate cells (HSCs, approximately 5% by volume), and other cell types, such as natural killer (NK) cells (approximately 10% by volume). Hepatocytes are separated from the NPCs by a protein rich interface known as the SoD, which contains ECM proteins, proteoglycans, glycosaminoglycans, and other molecules that help to maintain the highly differentiated state of hepatic cells [1, 17, 18]. *In vivo*, the thickness of the SoD ranges from 0.5 – 1  $\mu\text{m}$  [18, 19]. Studies have shown a gradient of ECM components within the SoD exists, however, the predominant components are type I and type III collagens and fibronectin [20, 21].

LSECs line the sinusoidal wall and function as the scavengers [1, 22]. Studies have demonstrated that LSECs possess scavenger receptors (SRs) [22] such as SR-A [23], SR-B[24] SR-H [25] and also FC- $\lambda$ RIIb2 (Commonly referred to as SE-1) [26]. LSECs also exhibit high endocytotic activity enabling effective uptake of plasma proteins [27, 28], acetylated low density lipoproteins (AcLdL) [29], chylomicrons [30], lysosomal enzymes [31] and ECM components, such as collagen and hyaluronic acid [32-34]. LSECs play a role in the immune response via the uptake of viral particles and endotoxins such as lipopolysaccharides (LPS) [34-37]. LSECs have been described as a molecular sieve because they exhibit features called fenestrae, which are nanoscale pores that enable the passage of endogenous factors, such as oxygen, and waste between the blood and the parenchyma [1, 22]. The size of these fenestrae is species dependent and ranges between 100 nm – 200 nm in diameter [38].

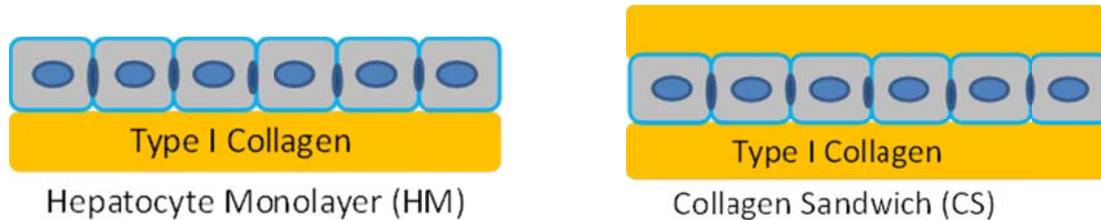
KCs are the resident liver macrophages and are derived from circulating monocytes [39]. KCs are responsible for the removal of waste and cellular debris such as damaged red blood cells and their vesicles [1, 40, 41]. These cells predominantly reside in the hepatic lumen but can migrate between the endothelium and the parenchyma, and also possess high endocytotic activity [42]. Due to their location within the sinusoid, KCs are the first macrophages that come into contact with the bacteria and endotoxins derived from the GI tract highlighting their role as part of the immune response in the liver [43]. Studies have shown that KCs become activated in response to the endotoxin, LPS [44, 45] and activate the inflammatory pathways in hepatocytes via toll like receptor (TLR) signaling [44, 46-48]. KCs are also the main mediators of the acute phase response via secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as interleukin-6 (IL-6) tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ) and nitric oxide (NO) [49-51] and anti-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-10 and transforming growth factor- $\beta$  (TGF- $\beta$ ) [49, 52]. KCs also secrete these same cytokines during liver regeneration [53-55].

HSCs typically reside in the SoD and are quiescent under healthy conditions [1]. Under healthy conditions, HSCs are responsible for the storage of retinoic acid and vitamin A (retinol) in their lipid droplets [1, 56, 57]. HSCs are also highly involved in ECM remodeling by synthesizing matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) [58-60], which degrade ECM proteins. HSCs also synthesize tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases (TIMPs), to regulate ECM degradation by binding to MMPs thus causing their inactivation [61-63]. However, during diseased states, such as liver fibrosis, an imbalance of this regulatory process occurs where increased TIMP expression leads to the inactivation of MMPs [64]. HSCs become activated as evident by the lack of lipid droplets and myofibroblastic morphology. They also exhibit proliferative and fibrogenic phenotypes resulting in the secretion of large amounts of ECM proteins such as type I and type

III collagens, in the Space of Disse, causing the progression of fibrosis [1, 56, 65, 66]. During fibrogenesis, ~ 4-8 fold increase in type I and type III collagen, ~8-fold increase in hyaluronan and ~2-fold increases in heparin sulfate concentrations over normal healthy conditions have been observed [67, 68].

## 1.2 *In vitro* hepatic cultures

Efforts to study the liver *in vitro* have mainly used hepatocytes cultured in monolayer or sandwiched between layers of collagen (**Figure 2**).



**Figure 2:** Schematic representation of hepatocyte monolayers and collagen sandwich hepatocyte cultures.

However, due to dedifferentiation, monolayers lose their hepatic phenotypes and functions beginning as early as 4 hours in culture, thus limiting their use for long term studies [69]. Collagen sandwich (CS) cultures maintain hepatocyte polarity and have been shown to promote stable hepatic functions, such as albumin and urea secretions, for up to six weeks in culture [70, 71]. Other studies have also used hepatocyte spheroids, which have been shown to maintain stable hepatic functions due to the presence of homotypic interactions [72-78]. However, due to the absence of a blood vessel structure, transport of oxygen and nutrients relies solely on diffusion [73]. Earlier studies have shown that oxygen diffusion is limited within spheroids, and is only exhibited up to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  - 200  $\mu\text{m}$  in depth, resulting in necrosis of the cells in the core [73, 79]. While HM, CS, and mono-cellular spheroids have all been widely studied, the lack heterotypic interactions with the NPC types limit their physiological relevance to *in vivo*

situations. To address this issue, co-cultures of hepatocytes and other cell types including LSECs [80], fibroblasts [81, 82], and other cell types [83, 84] have been developed and has been shown to maintain hepatic phenotypes for several weeks, highlighting the importance of heterotypic cellular interactions. Encapsulation of more than one cell type in spheroids has also been shown to enhance hepatic function and has been established as models for toxicological studies. Hepatocytes have been encapsulated in spheroids with fibroblasts [85, 86], HSCs [87], and with LSECs and fibroblasts together [88]. Chen *et al.* designed human ectopic artificial livers (HEALs) by encapsulating hepatocytes, fibroblasts and LSECs in a RGD (arginine-glycine-aspartic acid) modified poly(ethylene glycol) diacrylate gel [88]. They reported up to ~3-fold higher mRNA expression of the detoxification enzymes, Cytochrome p450 (CYP) 3A4, 1A2, 2D6, 2E1, and 2C in the 3D HEALs in comparison to 2D cultures. HEALs also exhibited sustained albumin and urea production over 8 days indicating that these cultures maintained hepatic functions. While these cultures facilitate heterotypic cellular interactions, they do not recapitulate the stratified architecture of the liver.

Thus, recent studies have focused upon development of relevant *in vitro* cultures that mimic both the stratified architecture and facilitate heterotypic interactions [19, 89-93]. Mimicking the SoD is the main focus of these studies where researchers have begun using synthetic materials [92, 94, 95], native ECM [93, 96, 97] and biomaterials [19, 89-91] to recreate the interface. Kasuya *et al.* utilized a microporous polyethylene terephthalate (PET) membrane to separate hepatocytes, bovine pulmonary microcapillary endothelial cells (BPMECs), and HSCs [92, 94, 95]. In this culture, hepatocyte and HSCs were seeded below the membrane, while BPMECs were seeded directly above. Varying pore sizes on the membrane ranging from 0.4  $\mu\text{m}$  – 8  $\mu\text{m}$  were used to determine which promoted the greatest extent of morphogenesis. It was determined

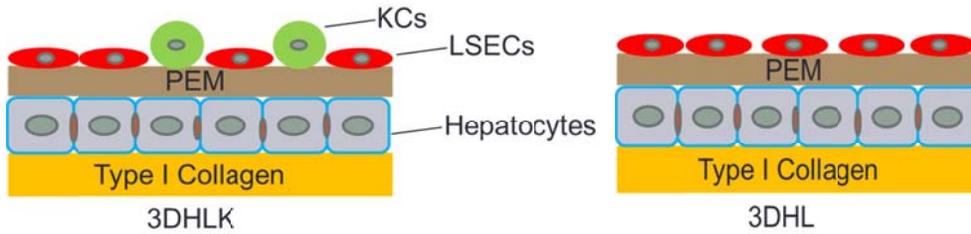
that direct contact between BPMECs and HSCs as facilitated by larger pore sizes cause increased migration of HSCs resulting in ~80% coverage of the top surface of the membrane after 14 days in culture [98]. This also resulted in ~60 % decreased coverage of BPMECs and a loss of their phenotype as measured by AcLDL staining, thus less morphogenesis was observed. However, the optimal pore size of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  promoted HSCs contacts with the ECs which allowed for maintained phenotype for up to 40 days and thus, promoted morphogenesis. In a separate study, it was also shown that the extent of morphogenesis was also temporally regulated [99]. Induction of morphogenesis was performed by activating BPMECs via a Matrigel™ overlay method which has been shown to promote capillary tube formation using primary human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) [100]. Upon 8 days of culture, HSCs were given enough time to make contact with the BPMECs before induction of morphogenesis. When Matrigel™ was added on day 8, morphogenesis decreased by ~ 40% as compared to when induction was performed on day 2. These results suggest highlight the importance of recapitulating the spatial characteristics of the liver. Jindal *et al.* developed a 3D model where hepatocytes were embedded within a type I collagen gel with rat heart microvessel endothelial cells (RHMECs) seeded directly above [96, 97]. Their results demonstrated that the excretion of proline by RHMECs resulted in ~2-fold increased albumin secretion during the first week of culture [96]. Upon addition of a competitive inhibitor of proline, albumin secretion decreased by up to ~60%. This indicates the presence of intercellular signaling via the diffusion of small molecules, plays a role in maintaining hepatic functions. This study was recently extended to include LSECs sandwiched above, below and in the same plane as the embedded hepatocytes and hepatic phenotypes and functions were compared among the three different configurations [101]. LSEC phenotype was measured by hepatic sinusoidal endothelial cell marker, cluster of differentiation

32b (CD32b), and was shown to be preserved for up to four weeks in culture when LSECs were present either below or in the same plane as the hepatocytes. Both of these configurations also exhibited up to ~2-fold higher albumin secretion over the 28 days as compared to cultures in which LSECs were seeded above the hepatocytes. However, urea productions did not differ among the culture conditions. The reasons for the differences in the observed trends were not addressed in this study. Nonetheless, this study supports the claim that both multicellular interactions and spatial orientation can enhance hepatic function. However, these studies were not able to capture all of the features of the SoD in terms of its mechanical and chemical properties, thus limiting its physiological relevance.

Another method that has been used to mimic the SoD employs polyelectrolyte multilayers (PEMs) [19, 89, 90]. PEMs are thin films that assembled using a layer-by-layer (LbL) deposition method [102, 103]. These films are assembled by sequentially depositing oppositely charged polyelectrolytes (PEs) on a surface to the desired amount of layers [104]. Deposition of each sequential PE is driven by electrostatic interactions between each layer [103, 105]. LbL provides the advantages of controlling the film thickness and tuning the physical properties of the resulting film by changes in pH, concentration, and deposition time of the PE solutions [105-108]. *In vitro* liver models using PEMs, which were assembled using biocompatible cationic and anionic PEs, were either directly deposited on cells [89-91] or assembled on an inert substrate prior to culture [19, 106]. Kim *et al.* deposited a PEM comprising alternating layers of the PEs, chitosan (cationic layer) and hyaluronic acid (anionic layer), directly above a monolayer of primary rat hepatocytes [89, 90]. Human LSECs were seeded above the PEM, resulting in all hepatic cells exhibiting differentiated characteristics [89]. Phenotypes of each of the individual cells were preserved in these cultures as indicated by di-peptidyl peptidase IV immunostaining

for the presence of bile canaliculi in the hepatocytes and AcLDL uptake, a functional marker of LSECs [89]. Hepatic functions were also maintained in the liver models which exhibited up to ~2-fold increased albumin secretion in liver models over a 7 day culture period. These values were similar to what was observed for CS cultures, whereas HM cultures exhibited ~50% decrease [89]. Additionally, ~40% - 45% decrease in urea production was also observed in these cultures over a seven day culture period, similar to what was observed in CS cultures. HMs exhibited ~70% decrease in urea over the same time period. Additionally, CYP1A1/2 enzyme activities were also measured in the liver models and were shown to exhibit ~4-16 fold increase as compared to HM, CS, hepatocyte-PEM cultures, and co-cultures. The low viscosity (~1.6 mPa s - 2 mPa s) of the PEMs was similar to that of water indicating a high degree of hydration promoting the potential diffusion of signaling molecules, which would enable heterotypic cellular communication. This work was also performed using rat LSECs and was cultured over 12 days [90]. LSECs in the 3D liver models exhibited maintenance of the phenotypic marker, sinusoidal endothelial 1 (SE-1). These liver models also exhibited ~3-6 fold increased albumin secretions on day 12 over their 2D counterparts and HMs as compared to values on day 4 of culture [90]. Up to ~20% increased urea production was also observed over the culture period in the liver models whereas HMs exhibited ~60% decrease. Detzel *et al.* also showed that these liver models were able to maintain physiologically relevant ratios of cholic acid:chenodioxycholic acid (CA:CDCA) between ~3.1 - 6.3 indicating maintenance of bile homeostasis, an important function in liver metabolism [91]. This work highlights that cell polarity, heterotypic cellular interactions, as well as mimicking the spatial characteristics are all essential for maintenance of hepatic functions and phenotypes.

Larkin *et al.* extended this work using a detachable, optically transparent PEM that exhibited a Young's modulus (YM) value of approximately 41 kPa under hydrated conditions [19, 106]. This YM value is similar to what has been reported for bulk liver tissues [19, 106]. 3D organotypic liver models incorporating hepatocytes, LSECs, and KCs were assembled using these PEMs as shown schematically in **Figure 3**.



**Figure 3: Schematic of the 3D liver models consisting of hepatocytes, LSECs and KCs (3DHLK) and hepatocytes and LSECs (3DHL).**

In this figure, “H”, “L”, and “K” are hepatocytes, LSECs, and KCs respectively. These 3D models maintained expression of SE-1 and CD163, phenotypic markers for rat LSECs and rat KCs, respectively [19]. Hepatic functions such as albumin, urea, and CYP1A1 isozyme activity were also assessed. Albumin secretions were significantly higher in 3DHLK and 3DHL as compared to HM, CS, and their 2D co-culture counterparts throughout a 12 day culture period while urea production remained stable [19]. CYP1A1 activity exhibited ~15 fold increase in 3DHL cultures over a 12 day culture while ~50% less activity was shown in 3DHLK models. Additionally, in contrast to their monocellular and 2D counterparts, only 3D cultures exhibited proliferation of all cell types to cellular ratios similar to what has been observed *in vivo*. After 16 days of culture, the ratio of hepatocyte:LSECs was ~ 6.6- 6.7:1 in both the 3DHL and 3DHLK models while the ratio of hepatocytes:KCs was ~12.3:1 in the 3DHLK models [19]. Proliferation of the cell types were corroborated by the analysis of transcriptional signatures where gene sets implicated in liver development and regeneration, such as Proteinaceous Extracellular Matrix

and NCAM1 interactions, was among the top 30 that were up-regulated in 3DHLK as compared to 3DHL hepatocytes. Additional gene expression analyses performed on the 3DHLK hepatocytes also showed the up-regulation of the gene set, netpath IL-4 up, suggesting that this pathway was active. This result suggests that cytokine signaling could be a potential mediator in allowing the maintenance of hepatic phenotypes and functions, along with the observed proliferation trends as compared to 3DHL, HM and CS hepatocytes. The *in vivo*-like characteristics exhibited by these liver models makes them ideal to study a wide variety of processes including intercellular signaling and key factors associated with the maintenance of liver functions. A key aspect of these models is the ease of separation of each individual component. The ability to isolate individual model components allows for studies of the biochemistry of each cell type via investigations of their proteomes. Studies such as these would aid in a deeper understanding of how liver functions are affected by each cell type and can be performed using mass spectrometry.

### **1.3 Mass spectrometry**

In general, mass spectrometry (MS) is an analytical technique that relies on the measurement of gas phase ions to characterize the structure and abundance of a variety of molecules via the mass to charge ( $m/z$ ) ratio. This process is usually preceded by a liquid chromatography step for separation of these molecules by mass (size exclusion), electrostatic interactions (cationic or anionic), or phase (hydrophilic or hydrophobic interactions) before entry into the mass spectrometer [109]. A liquid sample containing the analyte(s) of interest is first ionized using either electrical or chemical ionization. One of the most commonly used methods for the analysis of peptides from digested proteins is electrospray ionization (ESI) where an acidic solution containing peptides is sprayed through a nozzle with an applied positively-

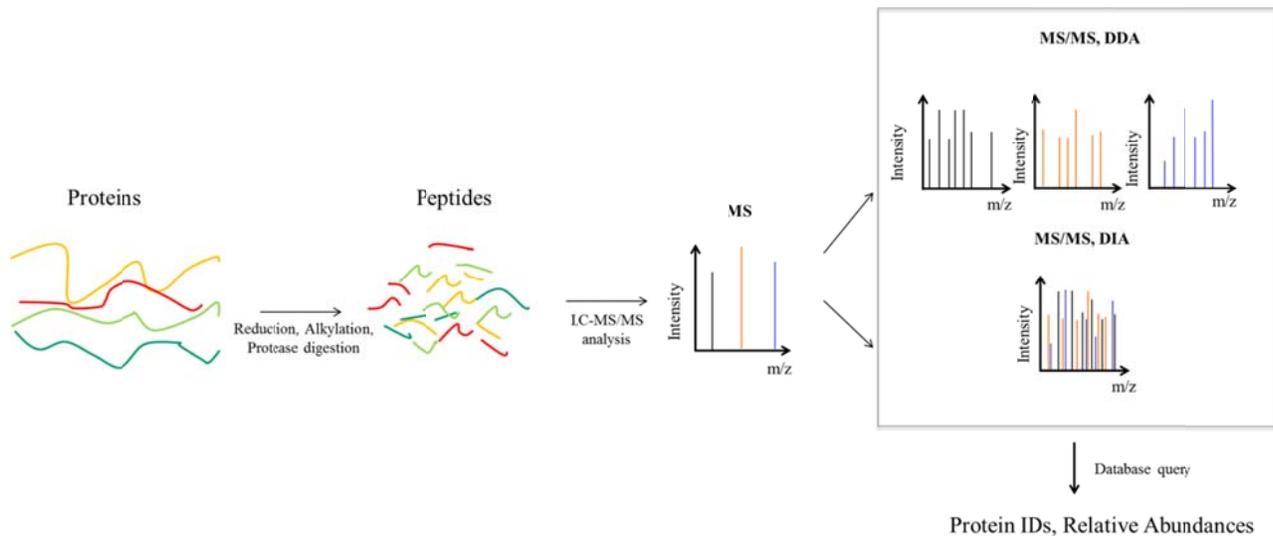
charged voltage. The application of dry heated nitrogen gas to the spray induces evaporation of the carrier solvent leaving the positively-charged peptides in the gas phase. These peptide ions (so-called “precursor” ions) travel through the mass analyzer where another voltage is applied that generates an electric field causing their acceleration. These ions enter a field free region to a detector that records the  $m/z$  along with the ion intensity. Since the chromatographic separation prior to the ionization step separates the peptides based upon a physiochemical feature, there will be a retention time for each ion along with a  $m/z$  value and ion intensity for each scan during the MS analysis. The  $m/z$  value combined with the retention time provides an exact mass retention time (EMRT) pair. When combined with ion intensity values for each scan, the combined EMRT and ion intensity is essentially a recording of a peptide peak in a normal chromatographic separation. The maximum ion intensity for an EMRT can be used to quantify the relative abundance of peptides between experimental conditions, but gives no information on the amino acid sequence for the particular EMRT.

Sequence information in MS-based proteomics is obtained through the use of a duty cycle where the mass spectrometer is programmed to switch between collecting the precursor ion EMRT data and subsequently fragmenting these ions. Fragmentation is induced through the application of high energy, which causes collision-induced fragmentation, resulting in product ions. This type of experiment is often referred to as tandem mass spectrometry or MS/MS. This fragmentation leads to the formation of b- and y- ions, resulting from ions that contain the N and C-terminus of the peptides respectively. The amino acid sequence can be deduced by calculating the residue masses from adjacent members of the ion series relative to the known masses of amino acids. The combined EMRT and associated fragmentation pattern (MS and MS/MS) are compared to predicted fragments from an *in silico* database to identify the peptide along with the

protein or proteins it was originally a part of. The relative peptide abundances can be calculated based on the intensity of the ions from the MS experiments across experimental conditions, which can then be used as a measure for relative changes in protein levels across similar sample types. This is commonly referred to as shotgun proteomics. While this process can provide relative abundances, such measures do not provide absolute concentrations, as each ion will have characteristic ionization and fragmentation efficiencies.

#### **1.4 Data dependent and data independent analysis**

Recent advances in liquid chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) have revolutionized the fields of proteomics [110, 111] to the point where it is now relatively routine to obtain protein profiles by quantifying peptides from any biological specimen with a sequenced genome. There are two types of analyses that can be characterized as shotgun proteomic techniques, data dependent analysis (DDA) and data independent analysis (DIA). Both techniques share a common goal that seeks to quantify relative protein abundances, study protein-protein interactions and characterize post-translational modifications (PTMs) in complex biological samples using peptides that are analyzed via LC-MS/MS (**Figure 4**) [112].



**Figure 4: Overview of the shotgun proteomics approach using both DDA and DIA approaches. The initial steps for both approaches are the same (see text for details). The main difference between DDA and DIA analyses reside the way in which peptides are fragmented. DDA uses an *a priori* set of criteria to fragment isolated peptides directly matching precursor and fragment ions. DIA methods fragment all peptides at once, relying upon time matching precursors and fragments through the use of gas phase ion mobility and vendor specific software. The resulting data sets are essentially the same (precursor and fragment ions), and this information is used in database queries to determine protein identifications (IDs) and subsequently relative abundances between experimental conditions.**

The processing of samples for DDA and DIA are the same as shown in **Figure 4**. Proteins are isolated from each experimental specimen and subjected to reduction, alkylation and protease digestion, producing peptides amenable to chromatographic separation, ionization, fragmentation and analysis. This “bottom up” approach is preferred for complex protein lysates as peptides are easier to separate, detect and analyze via LC-MS/MS, essentially due to their lower molecular weights relative to their intact counterparts [110]. Precursor ions and their respective fragments are obtained from the analysis and used to sequence a peptide that is queried against a protein database, such as UniProt, for identification. Relative protein levels can be obtained by comparing ion intensities (MS) across experimental conditions. Functional enrichment and targeted assays can be used to focus on particular processes, pathways or metabolites. The difference between DDA and DIA resides in the method by which fragmentation is accomplished (**Figure 4**).

In DDA experiments, select precursor ions are analyzed via LC-MS/MS based on criteria such as intensity, which is set *a priori*. This technique isolates particular precursor ions and fragments them one at a time, providing a direct link between the precursor and fragment ions. In a typical DDA experiment the instrument will acquire one precursor ion scan followed by 10 fragment ion scan, for the 10 most abundant precursor ions. As a consequence, DDA experiments spend a considerable amount of time collecting fragmentation data while the separation is still occurring. In contrast, a DIA experiment fragments all precursor ions at once switching between one precursor ion scan and one fragmentation scan. Thus DIA experiments can provide more information relative to DDA [113]. While the DIA experiment increases the amount of information that can be obtained from a sample, the downstream data analysis requires specialized software for extracting the sequence and protein identifications. Instrumental design is such that a DDA mass spectrometer cannot perform DIA experiments and *vice versa* as a DIA-based instrument require additional functional units that aid in matching precursor and fragment ions. The mass spectrometer used in the work described in this thesis (Waters™ Synapt G2-S), makes use of a drift tube where precursor ions of different charge states and sizes are separated in time followed by fragmentation. The timing of elution from the drift tube and the downstream fragment ions are then matched using proprietary software to permit assignment of precursor ions to their corresponding fragment ions. These matched sets are then queried against a database for peptide identification.

## **1.5 Protease digestion**

One of the key features of a shotgun, bottom up approach is the analysis of proteins based on their peptide components [114]. Peptide generation is invariably accomplished by protease digestions with either trypsin [115, 116], lysyl endopeptidase [117-119] or a sequential

combination of the two [120-123]. Trypsin selectively cleaves proteins on the C-terminal side of arginine and lysine residues. Lysyl endopeptidase cleaves at the C-terminal side of lysine. One main difference between these two proteases is that their activities vary with the environment. Most digestions are aided by the use of strong denaturing agents, such as urea, allowing more access to the cleavage sites [124, 125]. However, trypsin activity has been shown to be limited under these harsh conditions where urea concentrations are typically 6-8 M [121]. Conversely, lysyl endopeptidase is still active under these conditions and is able to provide cleavage when protein denaturation is maximized [122, 126-128]. Recent studies have shown that the sequential combination of lysyl endopeptidase followed by trypsin permits more complete digestion [127, 129, 130]. Digestion with lysyl endopeptidase is typically done first because of its preserved activity in the presence of high concentrations of urea. Trypsin is subsequently added after dilution of the denaturing agent and the digestion is allowed to continue. This two-step process increases the amount of peptides that do not have “missed cleavages” or peptides that have sites that were not cleaved by either of the two proteases. Missed cleavages are problematic for database searching as allowing for high levels increases the search time dramatically due to the possibility of more potential peptides. Additionally, larger peptides typically do not ionize as well, reducing their overall ion intensities. Wiśniewski *et al.* performed a comparison between the sequential combination of the lysyl endopeptidase/trypsin as compared to trypsin alone using HeLa cells [120]. They observed ~2-fold increase in the amount of unique peptides resulting in ~30% more protein identifications when using sequential digestion. In another study used to compare digestion efficiencies, Glatter *et al.* measured the amount of fully cleaved (FCP) and missed cleaved peptides (MCP) in *saccharomyces cerevisiae* cultures [121]. Their results showed ~9% increase in FCPs and ~21% decrease in MCPs using the sequential combination of

lysyl endopeptidase followed by trypsin as compared to trypsin alone. However, this only resulted in ~2% increase in protein identification. Saveliev *et al.* used a different approach in which both trypsin and lysyl endopeptidase were added simultaneously under non-denaturing conditions to HeLa cells and yeast protein extract [131]. They demonstrated ~9.3% and ~20% increase in protein identifications in HeLa and yeast cells respectively using sequential digestion. Taken together, these results demonstrate the advantages to the use of multiple proteases for protein digestion.

## 1.6 Quantification methods

Quantification has become a requirement in the field of proteomics especially with regards to biological studies where it is crucial to interpret the response of cells to their environment [132, 133]. This can be done through label or label free quantification which can provide absolute or relative quantification of proteins. Some labeling strategies that are typically employed are stable isotope labeling of amino acids (SILAC) and isobaric tags for relative and absolute quantitation (iTRAQ). SILAC relies on the incorporation of stable isotopes such as  $^{15}\text{N}$  or  $^{13}\text{C}$  into metabolically active cells. Cells are typically grown in media that lacks an essential amino acid but is supplemented by a non-radioactive isotopic form of that same constituent. As cell division occurs, each natural amino acid will be subsequently be replaced by its labeled form [134]. Studies have shown no adverse effects to NIH-3T3 cells in terms of morphology, doubling time and differentiation using this method [135]. This method has also been used in for determination of metabolic differences between a murine hepatocarcinoma cell line (Hepa1-6) and primary hepatocytes [136]. Relative abundances of proteins can be determined by measuring the intensity of the labeled peptides, which would have the same sequence but altered mass, as compared to those that are unlabeled. Alternatively, iTRAQ relies on the use of tags that bind to

amine groups of peptides [134]. These iTRAQ tags are all isobaric and consist of an amine reactive group, a reporter group, and a balance group making them indistinguishable during the LC step. During MS/MS fragmentation, the reporter ion is released and has a distinct mass [137]. These reporter ions can be used to measure the relative abundance of peptides which corresponds to the proteins of interest. Although these techniques are generally considered more accurate, they can become very expensive and laborious [138]. Label free quantification (LFQ) provides an alternative to these methods. LFQ relies on comparing intensities of peptide ions which has been shown to be directly related to the abundance of the protein [139]. LC-MS/MS data from a DIA experiment first has to be processed through specialized software, such as Protein Lynx Global Server (PLGS), for protein identification [140]. This program matches fragment ions with their associated precursors based on elution time and ion mobility profiles as described earlier. These peptides are then matched to proteins in a database such as provided by UniProt. To quantify the abundance of these proteins, techniques such as the TOP3 method are typically employed where the sum of the three most intense ions for a given protein are compared across experimental conditions [141, 142]. The commercial software Scaffold, and the open-source ISOQuant are available for these types of quantitative analyses. For biological interpretation of these results methods such as functional enrichment are typically utilized for statistical overrepresentation and identification of associated pathways as compared to a reference genome [143].

## **1.7 Liver proteomics**

Proteomic investigations of liver cultures in the literature are somewhat limited. Most studies have focused upon characterizing the proteome using whole liver tissue [144-146], hepatocytes cultured in either sandwich or monolayer configurations [147-149] or specific

cellular compartments such as the plasma membranes or mitochondria [150-152]. Similar to many previous studies, these are also limited to relatively short culture periods, usually not exceeding 24 hours. Using freshly isolated whole liver tissue, elucidation of murine liver proteome identified approximately 2200 proteins [144]. Upon functional enrichment using gene ontology (GO), ~1500 proteins were annotated to the term metabolism ( $p$ -value =  $7.2 \times 10^{-37}$ ). Other studies have also been conducted using whole liver tissue in order to elucidate the mechanisms of liver regeneration after a partial hepatectomy (PHx) [153-156]. Kumar *et al.* observed up-regulation of processes corresponding to fatty acid and glucose metabolism through the first 3 hours of liver regeneration in mice subjected to either 70% or 90% PHx [153]. Additionally, increases in the cytokine IL-6 was also observed [157]. Similar trends were also observed 168 hours after 70% PHx where fatty acid, amino acid and bile acid metabolic processes were up-regulated as compared to sham operated rats [154]. Collectively, the results suggest a shift towards lipid metabolism during the liver regeneration. While these studies have broadened our understanding of liver biology, the effects of individual cell types was not addressed. Therefore, studies have also been performed on characterizing the differences between primary hepatocytes and cell lines. Hepa 1-6 cells, a murine hepatoma cell line, exhibited ~2-fold lower levels in ~2000 proteins as compared to primary murine hepatocytes cultured for 14 hours [136]. Proteins found in reduced levels included CYPs, mitochondrial proteins, and proteins related to fatty acid metabolism. The proteomes of the hepatoma cell lines, Hep3B and HepG2 cells, have also been compared to primary human hepatocytes [149]. Increased levels of vimentin and caldesmon were observed in both cell lines suggesting that they exhibited more similar proteomes to mesenchymal cells than primary hepatocytes. Additionally, proteins related to proliferation and cell motility were present in higher levels in the cell lines.

Detoxification enzyme levels were preserved in primary hepatocytes. These results demonstrate an inherent difference between hepatic cell lines and primary hepatocytes.

Dedifferentiation of cultured primary hepatocytes has also recently been evaluated. Cultured rat HMs exhibited increases in proteins related to cytoskeletal remodeling and cell migration over a 72 hour culture period as compared to Matrigel™ sandwiched cultures [148]. Additionally, reduced levels of proteins related to lipid, cholesterol and fatty acid metabolism were also observed. Matrigel™ sandwiched cultures consisting of primary human hepatocytes also exhibited loss of key liver metabolic functions such as glycolysis, xenobiotic metabolism and alcohol metabolic processes when cultured for 15 days as compared to freshly isolated cells [147]. However, these investigations do not take into account the interactions with the non-parenchymal cells. To begin addressing this, a proteomic analysis on all of the individual liver cell types (hepatocytes, LSECs, KCs, HSCs and cholangiocytes) was performed resulting in the identification of over 11,000 proteins, constructing the largest published murine liver proteome to date [158]. This allowed for the characterization of physiological roles for each liver cell type. For example, the top three most abundant proteins in hepatocytes were fatty acid binding protein 1 (Fabp1), carbamoyl phosphate synthase (Cps1) and glutathione-s-transferase (Gstp1) suggesting that these cells are involved in lipid metabolism, the urea cycle and biotransformation. KCs and cholangiocytes were enriched in S100 proteins and prothymosin proteins respectively, indicating their involvement in the immune response. HSCs were highly enriched in intracellular trafficking proteins such as annexins and Rab GTPases. LSECs were enriched in cytoskeletal proteins such as actins, myosins and tropomyosins and asialoglycoprotein receptors, highlighting their roles in transducing mechanical forces and membrane trafficking. Within this same study, proteomic changes induced by dedifferentiation

of primary hepatocytes were also evaluated over a 7 day culture where increases in cytoskeletal proteins were observed, matching previous observations [147, 148]. While this study has begun to elucidate the proteome of each of the liver cell types individually, the global changes induced on one cell type in the presence and absence of another has only been characterized for some proteins, including but not limited to, albumin, urea and some CYPs. Only two studies thus far have begun to elucidate these changes, although not at the proteomic level [96, 159]. Hepatocytes embedded within collagen (CS) and adipocyte-derived (Adipogel) were used to evaluate the effect of ECM on metabolites [159]. Changes in glucose, amino acid, and metabolic fluxes in the media led to the conclusion that the Adipogel matrix increased TCA cycle metabolism, urea cycle fluxes and amino acid uptake and transamination reactions throughout the culture period. This resulted in enhanced hepatic functions indicating that soluble factors from adipocytes contributed to these trends. While these studies have provided insight into overall liver function, additional studies with multicellular *in vitro* systems are needed to more fully understand ECM development and cellular signaling processes. Studies such as these would allow for a deeper understanding of liver biology and pathology. Considering the current body of information on organotypic liver models, there is a need for a proteomic evaluation of these systems to provide a more unbiased view of performance. The objectives of the work performed and described in this thesis are as follows:

1. Study the changes in the hepatocyte proteome in the presence and absence of LSECs in 3DHL organotypic liver models.
2. Study the changes in the PEM as a result of cell culture in the presence and absence of LSECs.
3. Characterize the proteome of LSEC monolayers.

## **Chapter 2: Studying the changes in the hepatocyte proteome and PEMs in the presence and absence of LSECs in 3DHL organotypic liver models**

In this chapter, contributions were made by Sophia M. Orbach and Margaret E. Cassin from the Rajagopalan research group. Sophia M. Orbach assembled the liver models and Margaret E. Cassin assembled the PEMs. All sample preparation and proteomic analyses were performed by Lucas T. Vu.

### **2.1 Introduction**

The liver is a highly vascularized organ that performs many essential metabolic functions, including lipid, cholesterol, and carbohydrate metabolism [1]. Other liver functions include the biotransformation of toxins and xenobiotics to substances that can be excreted [1, 3]. The majority of these functions are carried out by the hepatocytes, the parenchymal cells that constitute about 80% of a mammalian liver's cell mass [1, 3]. The non-parenchymal cells (NPCs) include the liver sinusoidal endothelial cells (LSECs), Kupffer cells (KCs), hepatic stellate cells (HSCs), and other cell types such as those involved in the immune response (*i.e.*, natural killer cells) [1, 49]. Hepatocytes are separated from NPCs *in vivo* by a protein-rich interface that contains extracellular matrix (ECM) proteins, proteoglycans, glycosaminoglycans and other molecules that help maintain the highly differentiated state of hepatic cells [1]. This interfacial region, termed as the Space of Disse (SoD), is where the mass transfer between blood plasma and liver cells takes place [160].

Efforts to study the liver *in vitro* have mainly used hepatocytes cultured in monolayers (hepatocyte monolayers, HMs) or sandwiched between layers of type I collagen (collagen sandwich, CS) [70, 71, 147, 148, 161]. While monolayers begin to lose hepatic phenotypes within 4 hours [69], CS cultures have been shown to promote stable hepatic functions for up to six weeks [70, 71]. HM and CS have been widely studied, but lack of heterotypic interactions

with NPCs limiting their physiological relevance to *in vivo* situations. To address this issue, co-cultures of hepatocytes and NPCs have been developed and were shown to maintain hepatic phenotypes for several weeks [74, 75, 80-84]. Encapsulation of one or more cell types in spheroids has also been shown to enhance hepatic functions such as albumin, urea, and cytochrome p450 enzyme activities and have been established as models for toxicological studies [85, 87, 88, 162-164]. While these cultures facilitate cell-cell interactions, they do not recapitulate the stratified architecture of the liver [165].

An *in vitro* liver model that incorporated a polyelectrolyte multilayer (PEM) as a SoD mimic has recently been described [19, 89, 90]. These PEMs are thin films, composed of the biocompatible polyelectrolytes, which exhibit physical and chemical properties similar to the bulk liver and the Space of Disse. The low viscosity of these PEMs allows for the diffusion of soluble molecules enabling for heterotypic cellular communications. Models incorporating hepatocytes, LSECs, and KCs were assembled used the PEM to separate the cell types and were arranged to mimic the three dimensional *in vivo* architecture. These models exhibited maintenance of hepatic phenotypes and functions throughout a 16-day culture period and exhibited cellular ratios similar to those observed *in vivo* [19]. One main advantage to the use of these liver models is the ease of separation of the individual components. Therefore, various combinations of hepatocytes, PEMs and NPCs can be constructed and evaluated, allowing insights to both cell-cell communication and metabolic processes [19, 89, 90].

Previous work on liver models directed towards understanding signaling events typically evaluate processes at the transcriptional level [19, 81, 88, 166, 167]. Comparison of CS cultures to HMs suggested up-regulation of genes related to alcohol, cholesterol, fatty acid, xenobiotic, and carbohydrate metabolism [166]. To expand this further, the genomic signatures of 3D PEM-

based liver models consisting of hepatocytes, KCs and LSECs were compared against those without KCs [166]. It was determined that gene sets related to liver development, proliferation, and the interleukin-4 (IL-4) pathway were up-regulated in the presence of KCs, suggesting modulation of these processes through intercellular signaling.

Transcriptional profiling does not account for control at post-transcriptional or post-translational levels [110]. As a result, there is a poor correlation between transcript and protein abundances with time-matched samples [146, 158, 168-170]. Untargeted proteomic analysis can provide insight into protein abundances, which may not directly reflect enzymatic activities. Nonetheless, the determination of protein abundances can contribute to understanding liver physiological processes, including the effects of the local environment. Abundance changes can then be evaluated in subsequent studies using targeted approaches and/or enzyme activity measurements. These proteomic datasets can add to the body of information required to model and eventually predict performance through application of the tools of systems biology.

Most liver proteome studies have been performed on single cell types and/or cell lines, generally with an emphasis on defining primary versus cell line differences [136, 149] or evaluating the dedifferentiation of primary hepatocytes [147, 148]. Primary rat hepatocyte dedifferentiation was evaluated by comparing protein profiles of HMs to those sandwiched with collagen and the commercial matrix Matrigel™ where it was shown that the sandwich constructs limited dedifferentiation [148]. Another recent comprehensive study of freshly isolated mouse primary liver cells (hepatocytes, LSECs, KCs, HSCs, and cholangiocytes) resulted in identification of over 11,000 proteins. In this same study, hepatocyte dedifferentiation was also evaluated, where enrichment of structural proteins such as the annexins were shown to be indicative of this process [158]. While these studies provide an initial view of liver proteome

landscape, evaluation of the effects of NPCs and the ECM on hepatocyte proteomes has not been explored over extended culture periods. We report here on the effects of a PEM and LSECs on hepatocyte proteomes in 3D organotypic liver models. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to investigate these effects on hepatocyte proteomes allowing for insights into intercellular signaling and hepatic biochemistry.

## **2.2 Materials and methods**

### **2.2.1 Chemicals and reagents**

Cell culture supplies including Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM), phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), penicillin, streptomycin and human plasma fibronectin and trypsin (0.25% EDTA) were purchased from Life Technologies (Grand Island, NY). 4-[2-hydroxyethyl] piperazine-1-ethanesulfonic acid (HEPES), glucagon, glutaraldehyde, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), hyaluronic acid (HA), hydrocortisone, Percoll, Type IV collagenase, chloroform, ammonium bicarbonate (AmBic), urea, trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), sodium 3-hydroxybutyrate, lithium acetoacetate and mass spectrometry grade trypsin and endothelial cell growth supplement were purchased from Sigma Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). Mass spectrometry grade lysyl endopeptidase (Lys-C) was purchased from Wako (Richmond, VA). LC-MS grade solvents were purchased from Spectrum Chemicals (New Brunswick, NJ). All other chemicals, unless noted otherwise, were purchased from Fisher Scientific (Pittsburgh, PA).

### **2.2.2 Isolation and culture of hepatocytes and non-parenchymal cells**

The primary hepatocytes and LSECs were harvested from two adult female Lewis rats (Harlan, Dublin, VA) that weighed between 170 and 200 grams. Animal care and surgical procedures were conducted as per procedures approved by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Hepatocytes were isolated

using a two-step collagenase perfusion as previously described [19, 89, 90, 171]. Viability of isolated hepatocytes were  $\geq 97\%$  and was determined via trypan blue exclusion. Hepatocytes were cultured on a type I collagen coated 12-well plates at a density of 500,000 cells per well. Hepatocyte cultures were maintained in high glucose (25mM) DMEM supplemented with 10% (v/v) heat inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS), 200 U/mL penicillin and 200  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  streptomycin, 0.5 U/mL insulin, 4 nM glucagon, and 16  $\mu\text{M}$  hydrocortisone. Media exchange was performed daily. LSECs were purified using a differential adhesion method [19, 90] and were cultured on a fibronectin coated flask. LSECs were maintained in endothelial cell medium consisting of Media 199 supplemented with 10% (v/v) heat inactivated FBS, 100 U/mL penicillin and 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  streptomycin, and 30  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  endothelial cell growth supplement.

### **2.2.3 Type I collagen isolation**

Type I collagen was isolated from rat tail tendons as previously reported [71, 172]. Briefly, tendons were dissected from tails and dissolved in a 3% acetic acid solution overnight at 4°C. The solution was subsequently passed through cheesecloth filters and centrifuged at 13,000  $\times g$  for 2 hours at 4°C. The supernatant was precipitated using 30% (w/v) sodium chloride and the resultant precipitate was dissolved in 0.6% (v/v) acetic acid for 48 hours at 4°C. The solution was dialyzed against 1 mM hydrochloric acid and sterilized by chloroform. The concentration of collagen was determined by measuring the optical density at 280 nm.

### **2.2.4 Polyelectrolyte multilayer (PEM) assembly**

Type I Collagen (cationic) and HA (anionic) were used for the assembly of PEMs using methods as previously described [19, 106]. Collagen was diluted in 1% (v/v) acetic acid and HA was dissolved in 18 M $\Omega$  cm water. Both solutions were maintained at a concentration of 1.5 mg/mL and a pH of 4.0. PEMs were assembled on a hydrophobic polytetrafluoroethylene

(PTFE) substrate (McMaster-Carr, Atlanta, GA) using a robotic deposition system (NanoStrata Tallahassee, FL). The PTFE substrates were sonicated in toluene for one hour, rinsed in 18 M $\Omega$  cm water, and dried overnight. Water contact angle measurements were used to verify the hydrophobicity of the substrate and ranged between 110°-115° (Averaged over 10 measurements per substrate). Deposition times of 30 min were used for each polyelectrolyte with a 10 minute rinse in 18 M $\Omega$  cm water maintained at a pH of 4.0 between each deposition. The PEMs used in these studies consisted of 15 bilayers (BL). A BL is defined as the deposition of one cationic and one anionic layer. PEMs were cross-linked with 8% (w/v) glutaraldehyde for 30 seconds, rinsed in deionized (DI) water for 48 hours, dried and stored at room temperature. Prior to cell culture, PEMs were sterilized under germicidal UV for 1 hour.

### **2.2.5 Liver model assembly**

Hepatocytes were cultured on a type I collagen gel for 72 hours. The PEMs were overlaid above the hepatocytes and were hydrated with hepatocyte media for 1 hour at 37°C. LSECs were then seeded above the PEMs at a density of 25,000 cells per well to form the three-dimensional liver model, which will be referred to as 3DHL throughout. “H” and “L” refer to the hepatocytes and LSECs respectively. 3DH liver models were formed by overlaying the PEMs, but without the addition of LSECs. The 3DHL, 3DH and HM cultures were maintained for three days with the media exchanged every 24 hours. Spent culture medium was snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C. All experiments were performed in triplicate.

### **2.2.6 Hepatocyte isolation and processing of lysates**

Hepatocytes were separated from both the 3DHL and 3DH liver models by lifting the PEM from the culture. The hepatocytes on the underlying gel were washed with PBS and released from the collagen gel using a 0.1% collagenase solution in Krebs-Ringer buffer. HM cultures were

subjected to the same digestion with collagenase. Hepatocytes were collected by centrifugation at  $800 \times g$  for 2 minutes and were subsequently lysed and treated with a protease inhibitor cocktail (Sigma-Aldrich). The lysis buffer contained the following components: 4.3 mM Tris-HCl, 660  $\mu$ M Tris, 500  $\mu$ M EDTA, 15 mM NaCl, 350  $\mu$ M SDS, 0.1% (v/v) Triton X-100, 310  $\mu$ M sodium azide and 150  $\mu$ M sodium vanadate and was supplemented with a protease inhibitor (PI) cocktail. The PI cocktail contained 104mM 4-(2-Aminoethyl) benzenesulfonyl fluoride hydrochloride (AEBSF), 80  $\mu$ M Aprotinin, 4 mM Bestatin, 1.4 mM epoxide 64 (E-64), 2 mM Leupeptin and 1.5 mM Pepstatin A (Sigma-Aldrich). Protein concentrations were determined using a commercial BCA protein assay kit (ThermoFisher). LC-MS grade methanol was added to hepatocyte lysates (70  $\mu$ g) and incubated at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  overnight. Samples were centrifuged ( $13,000 \times g$ , 20 min) and the protein pellets were dried in a vacuum concentrator and re-suspended in freshly prepared 8 M urea in 100 mM ammonium bicarbonate (AmBic) to a concentration of approximately 1 mg/mL. The proteins were reduced using dithiothreitol (DTT, 45 mM in 100 mM AmBic) for 1 hour at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  and subsequently alkylated at room temperature in the dark for 30 minutes with iodoacetamide (100 mM in 100 mM AmBic). Excess iodoacetamide was quenched with DTT/100 mM AmBic, which also diluted the urea to approximately 2M.

Protein digestion utilized a two-step procedure [120]. Lys-C was added at a ratio of 1:50 (Lys-C:protein) and incubated overnight at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  with shaking. After dilution with 100 mM AmBic, trypsin was added at the same ratio as was used with Lys-C. Incubation was performed for 4 hours at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  with shaking. Digestion was quenched by adding trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) until the pH was less than 3.0. The resultant acidified peptides were desalted using  $\text{C}_{18}$  OMIX Tips (Agilent Technologies). The tips were conditioned prior to use with LC-MS grade methanol and subsequently equilibrated with Solvent 1 (50:50 water:acetonitrile supplemented with 0.1 %

TFA) followed by Solvent 2 (98:2 water: acetonitrile supplemented with 0.1 % TFA). The peptides were bound to the tips by repeated aspiration and dispensing, desalted using Solvent 2, and eluted using Solvent 1. The recovered peptides were dried in a vacuum concentrator and reconstituted in Solvent 2 (1  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{L}$ ) for analysis via LC-MS/MS.

### **2.2.7 PEM isolation and processing**

The PEMs were removed from each well and were treated with trypsin (0.25% EDTA) for seven minutes to remove the LSECs and rinsed in 0.1X PBS, (pH = 7.4). PEMs were subsequently snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  until further processing. PEMs from each culture condition (3DHL and 3DH) as well as fresh, unused PEMs, referred to as fresh PEMs (FPs) all of identical surface area, were suspended in freshly prepared 8 M urea in 100 mM AmBic and heated at  $95^{\circ}\text{C}$  overnight. PEMs were subsequently subjected to the same reduction, alkylation, digestion, and desalting steps as described in the previous section.

### **2.2.8 LC-MS analysis**

Approximately 3  $\mu\text{g}$  of each peptide sample was loaded onto an Acquity UPLC I-class system equipped with a CSH130  $\text{C}_{18}$  1.7  $\mu\text{m}$ , 1.0 x 150 mm column maintained at  $45^{\circ}\text{C}$  (Waters Corporation, Milford, MA). The mobile phases were 0.1% formic acid in water (Solvent A) and 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile (Solvent B). Separations were performed at a flow rate of 50  $\mu\text{L}/\text{min}$ , using a 110 minute gradient from 3-40% solvent B, with all samples analyzed in duplicate. The column effluent was sprayed directly into a Synapt G2-S mass spectrometer using the high definition mass spectrometry (HDMS<sup>E</sup>) mode (continuum, positive-ion, “resolution” MS settings). Source conditions were as follows: capillary voltage, 3.0 kV; source temperature,  $120^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; sampling cone, 60 V; desolvation temperature,  $350^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; cone gas flow, 50 L/hr; desolvation gas flow, 500 L/hr; nebulizer gas flow, 6 bar. Both low energy (4 and 2 V in the trap

and transfer regions, respectively) and elevated energy (4 V in the trap and ramped from 20 to 50 V in the transfer region) scans were 1.2 seconds each for the  $m/z$  range of 50 to 1800. For the ion mobility separation (IMS), the IMS and transfer wave velocities were 600 and 1200 m/sec, respectively. Wave height within the ion mobility cell was ramped from 10 to 40 V. For lock mass correction, a 1.2 second low energy scan was acquired every 30 seconds from a 100 fmol/ $\mu$ L [Glu1]-fibrinopeptide B solution (50:50 acetonitrile: water supplemented with 0.1 % formic acid). The infusion rate on the lock spray was 10  $\mu$ L/min, and introduced into the mass spectrometer at a capillary voltage of 3.0 kV. Lock mass correction was invoked during the data analysis phase of the work.

### **2.2.9 Data analysis**

Raw data files were analyzed using Protein Lynx Global Server (PLGS, Version. 3.0, Waters™ Corporation). LC-MS data was queried against a combined rat and bovine proteome concatenated with a randomized decoy database, allowing for two missed trypsin cleavages. A minimum peptide length was set to five amino acids, with carbamidomethylation of cysteine set as a fixed modification. Oxidation of methionine, proline (*i.e.*, hydroxyproline) and lysine (*i.e.* hydroxylysine) were set as variable modifications. Additionally, galactosylation and glucosylgalactosylation of lysine, glycosylation of proline, conversion of N-terminal glutamine to pyro-glutamate and deamidation of asparagine and glutamine were also set as variable modifications. The criteria used for protein identification utilized both a false discovery rate (FDR) of less than 5% and required at least two peptides per protein. The raw PLGS output was then processed using ISOQuant's TOP3 method [141], where the sum of the three most intense peptides was compared across culture conditions. Proteins that were significantly changing in each of the liver cultures were analyzed both manually and computationally via

Protein Analysis Through Evolutionary Relationships (Panther) [173] and The Database for Annotation, Visualization and Integrated Discovery (DAVID) [174] to assess enriched KEGG pathways. PEM protein identification was performed in the same way as the lysates with the addition of allysine and hydroxyallysine, and carbamylation of lysine and the N-terminus as variable modification and enrichment of oxidation of proline. The protein identifications for the PEMs were performed against two different databases. The first database contained the combined rat and contaminants proteome. The second database contained the contaminants list and the rat proteome limited to those associated with the extracellular matrix (392 proteins) to aid in studying changes in ECM [175]. This database was derived using the following criteria in UniProt; Gene ontology (GO) term, go:0031012, which corresponds to the extracellular matrix and both the organism *Rattus norvegicus* (Rat) [10116] and proteome:up000002494 were used to limit the search to rat proteins. Both of these databases contained randomized decoy sequences that allowed for determination of a false discovery rate. The mass spectrometry proteomics data for the hepatocyte lysates have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium [176] via the PRIDE partner repository with the dataset identifier PXD002491.

### **2.2.10 Ketone body measurements**

LC-MS grade methanol (800  $\mu$ L) was added to spent cell culture media (200  $\mu$ L) and incubated at -80°C overnight. Centrifugation (13,000  $\times$  g, 20 min) was subsequently performed and the supernatant was collected for LC-MS/MS analysis. Samples (5  $\mu$ L) were injected into a Agilent 1100c-ABSciex 3200 Qtrap LC-MS/MS (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA), which was operated in negative ion mode. Separations were accomplished via hydrophilic interaction liquid chromatography (HILIC; Kinetex 2.6  $\mu$ m, 100 Å, 100  $\times$  2.1 mm, Phenomenex, Torrance, CA). The column was equilibrated using 100% mobile phase A (95:5, acetonitrile:50 mM ammonium

formate, pH 3.2) for 20 minutes. Gradient conditions: 0-8 min, 100% A; 8-16 min, linear gradient up to 30% B (50:40:10 acetonitrile:water:ammonium formate, pH = 3.2); 16-18 min, linear gradient up to 100 % B; 18-24 min, 100% B; 24-34 min, linear gradient to 100 % A. The column was then re-equilibrated for 20 minutes with mobile phase A before the injection of the next sample.

Multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) was used in negative ion mode to detect the precursor/product ion pairs of 103.1/58.9 and 101.1/56.9 for  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate and acetoacetate, respectively. The mass spectrometer acquisition parameters were set as follows: Source temperature 300 °C; ion spray voltage, -4000.0 V; declustering potential, -17.0 V, entrance potential, -7.0 V, collision energy, -30.0 V, and collision cell exit potential, -5.0 V. The results were quantified by comparing the peak areas of known concentrations of  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate and acetoacetate in Analyst (v.1.6). Concentrations used for quantification ranged from 1  $\mu$ M – 60  $\mu$ M, prepared in fresh unused hepatocyte media.

### **2.2.11 Glucose measurements**

Concentrations were determined with a glucose analyzer (YSI 2700, Yellow Springs Instruments), maintained at the Virginia Tech Metabolic Phenotyping Core Facility. Spent media samples from the 3DHL, 3DH and HM cultures were measured for glucose levels and compared against fresh un-used hepatocyte media.

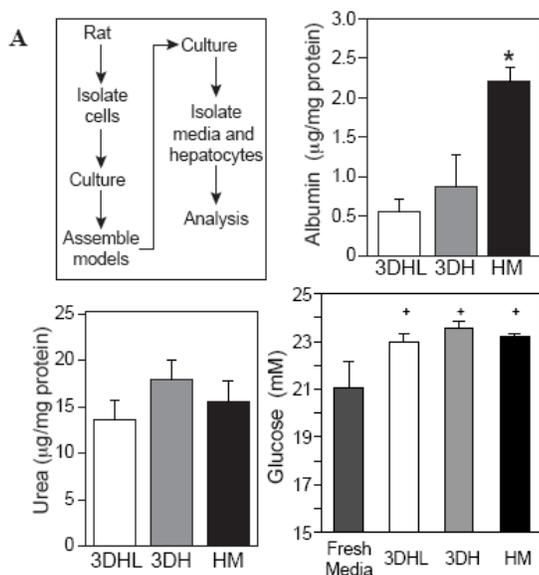
## 2.2.12 Statistical analyses

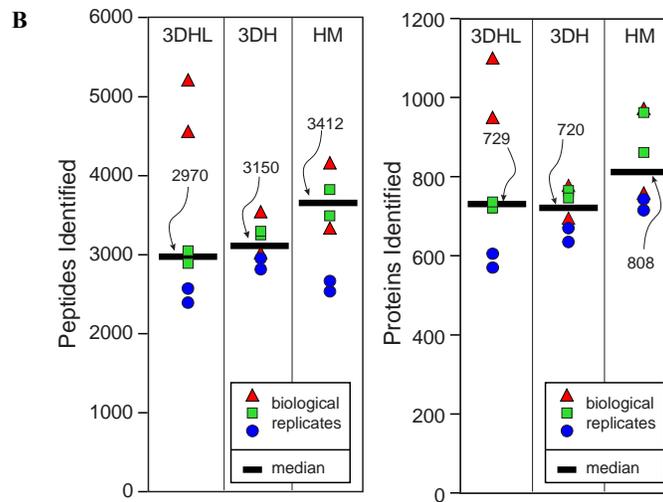
All data are reported as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation and are  $n = 3$  unless otherwise specified. Statistical significance was determined using a two-tailed Student's *t*-test. The Benjamini-Hochberg correction was applied to account for multiple hypotheses testing with corrected *p* values ( $p < 0.05$ ) being considered significant.

## 2.3 Results

### 2.3.1 Overview and liver model functions

The process by which samples were prepared as well as global functional data are provided in **Figure 5A**. Liver models containing primary rat hepatocytes, LSECs and PEMs were assembled forming the 3DHL and 3DH liver models. HMs served as controls. After 72 hours after, hepatocytes and PEMs were separated and subjected to processing to peptides that were amenable to bottom-up proteomic analyses.



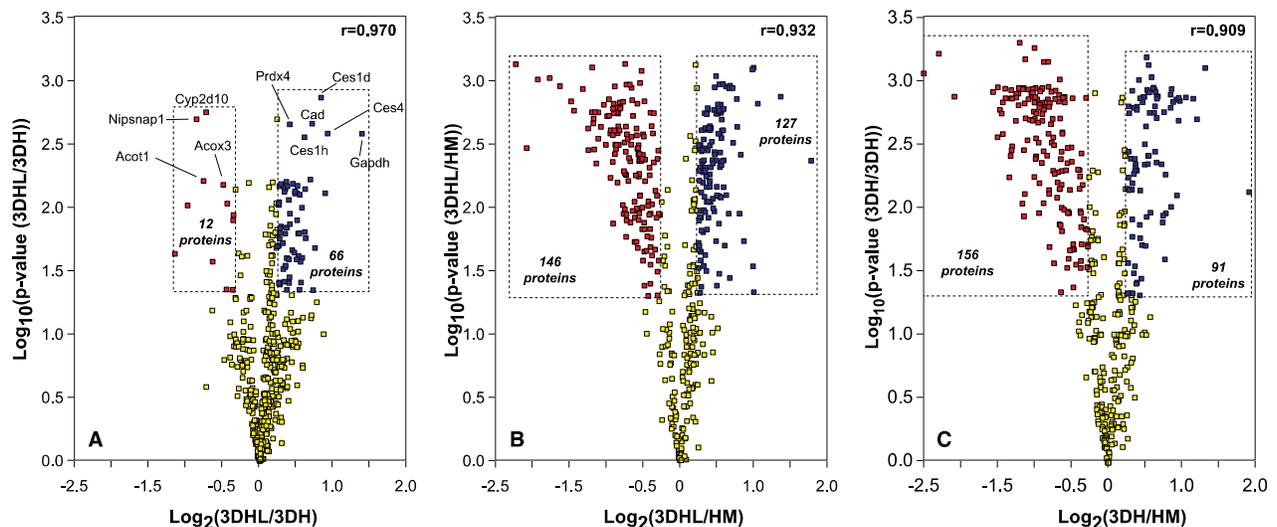


**Figure 5: Culture characterization and proteomic overview A, Experimental overview, extracellular albumin (\*,  $p < 0.01$ , HM vs. 3DHL and 3DH), urea and glucose levels for each culture condition at the time of hepatocyte harvest. B, Proteins and peptides identified from hepatocyte lysates for each construct. Biological and technical replicates are indicated as well as the median number for each.**

Albumin secretion, urea production and glucose metabolism were measured to assess liver model function at the end of the culture period (**Figure 5A**). Albumin secretion was ~4 fold and 2.5 fold higher in the HM as compared the 3DHL and 3DH liver models respectively. This trend can be attributed to hepatocyte stabilization which takes approximately 2-3 days after introduction of the PEMs as previous results have shown [89]. Urea production and glucose levels were comparable across cultures conditions with glucose concentrations slightly higher than that of basal media (22.3 mM), which is suggestive of hepatocytes in a gluconeogenic state. The untargeted, bottom-up LC-MS analyses using data-independent acquisition (DIA) [177] and ISOQuant processing [141] provided identification and relative abundances ratios of the proteins from each construct. Overall, ~2500-5000 peptides were used to identify ~600-1000 proteins across the three culture conditions (**Figure 5B**).

### 2.3.2 PEM-containing liver constructs and hepatocyte monolayers have different proteomic signatures favoring $\beta$ -oxidation and ketogenesis

The results from the initial identifications and subsequent label-free quantification by ISOQuant led to 474 proteins with relative abundance ratios between hepatocytes from the three models. These proteins are depicted in **Figure 6**, where proteins that exhibited a fold change of at least 20% and were considered significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) are highlighted. This was deemed to be an acceptable cutoff based on other experiments performed using *in vitro* hepatocyte cultures [148, 178]. In the case of the 3DHL vs. 3DH comparison (**Figure 6A**), 79 proteins exhibited at least a 20% fold change (those marked in blue and red), with 66 proteins exhibiting higher levels in 3DHL relative to the 3DH liver models and 13 proteins exhibiting higher levels in 3DH relative to 3DHL. Results from the other pairwise comparisons are shown in **Figure 6B** and **Figure 6C**. Based on these distributions and their Pearson's correlation coefficients, the 3DHL and 3DH samples are the most similar, whereas the 3DH and HM samples are most dissimilar.



**Figure 6: Volcano plots illustrating proteins that are significantly different in each construct. A, 3DHL vs. 3DH; B, 3DHL vs. HM; C, 3DH vs. HM. Proteins that are in higher abundance for each comparison are in blue and those in lower abundance are in red. Selected proteins are indicated for the 3DHL vs. 3DH comparison. Pearson correlations for each comparison are indicated in the upper right of each plot.**

The proteins that changed significantly in relative levels in each comparison were next evaluated for statistically overrepresented KEGG pathways using DAVID [174]. The results are indicative of fatty acid/branched chain amino acid metabolism in the 3D liver models, glycolysis/gluconeogenesis in HMs and drug metabolism in 3DHL liver models (**Table 1**).

**Table 1: DAVID analysis of enriched KEGG pathways. Only terms exhibiting *p*-values less than 0.05 are shown.**

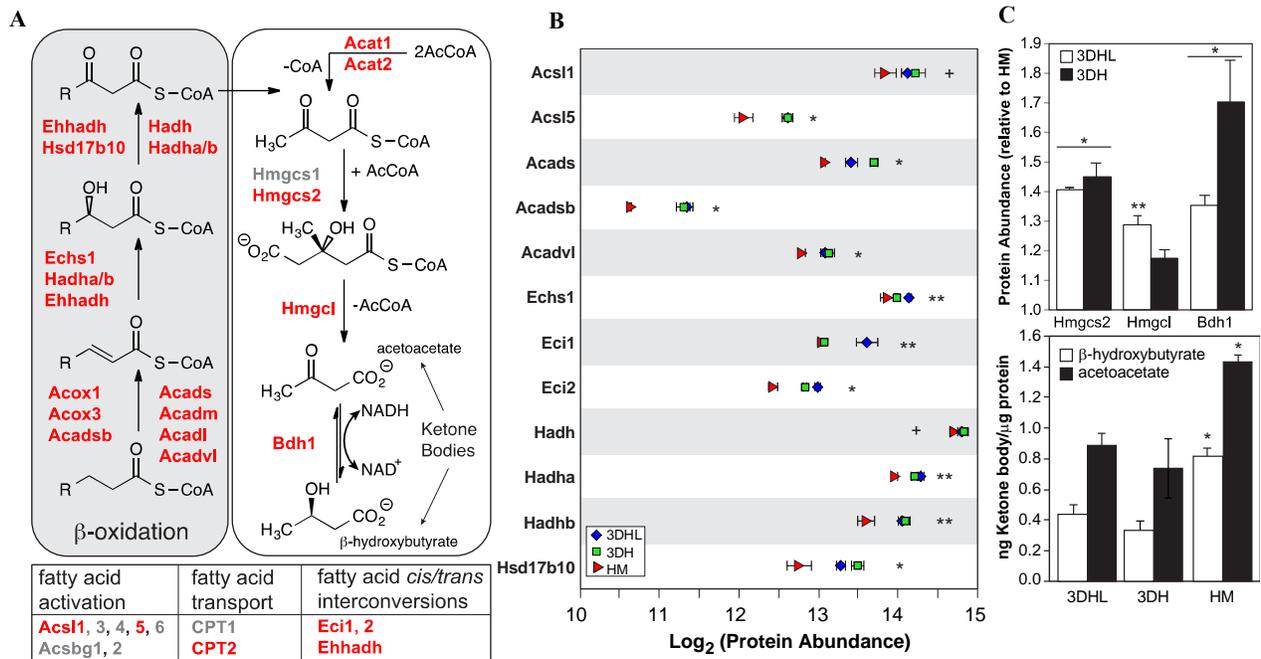
KEGG pathway	Proteins	<i>p</i> -value	Enrichment	Comparison
Ribosome	33	1.50E-34	HM	3DHL vs HM
Ribosome	30	7.30E-29	HM	3DH vs HM
Valine, leucine and isoleucine degradation	18	4.90E-20	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Fatty acid metabolism	15	7.60E-16	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Valine, leucine and isoleucine degradation	13	1.00E-13	3DH	3DH vs HM
Butanoate metabolism	12	1.80E-12	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Fatty acid metabolism	11	3.80E-11	3DH	3DH vs HM
Butanoate metabolism	8	1.80E-07	3DH	3DH vs HM
Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis	13	8.40E-07	HM	3DHL vs HM
Tryptophan metabolism	8	1.30E-05	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis	12	1.40E-05	HM	3DH vs HM
Ascorbate and aldarate metabolism	6	1.90E-05	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Drug metabolism	7	2.60E-05	3DHL	3DHL vs 3DH
Drug metabolism	9	2.80E-05	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
PPAR signaling pathway	8	3.30E-05	3DH	3DH vs HM
beta-Alanine metabolism	6	5.50E-05	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Limonene and pinene degradation	5	5.70E-05	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450	8	5.90E-05	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Lysine degradation	7	6.40E-05	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Primary bile acid biosynthesis	5	7.30E-05	3DH	3DH vs HM
Drug metabolism	7	8.90E-05	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
PPAR signaling pathway	8	1.40E-04	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Glycine, serine and threonine metabolism	6	2.10E-04	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Arginine and proline metabolism	7	2.10E-04	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Propanoate metabolism	6	2.10E-04	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Retinol metabolism	7	3.40E-04	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Fatty acid elongation in mitochondria	4	3.80E-04	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Glutathione metabolism	8	9.10E-04	HM	3DH vs HM
Primary bile acid biosynthesis	4	2.80E-03	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Pentose and glucuronate interconversions	4	2.80E-03	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Drug metabolism	6	3.60E-03	3DHL	3DHL vs 3DH

Ascorbate and aldarate metabolism	4	3.80E-03	3DHL	3DHL vs 3DH
Tryptophan metabolism	5	4.60E-03	3DH	3DH vs HM
beta-Alanine metabolism	4	6.70E-03	3DH	3DH vs HM
Arginine and proline metabolism	5	7.60E-03	3DH	3DH vs HM
Propanoate metabolism	4	1.50E-02	3DH	3DH vs HM
Pentose phosphate pathway	5	1.50E-02	HM	3DH vs HM
Glycine, serine and threonine metabolism	4	1.60E-02	3DH	3DH vs HM
Porphyrin and chlorophyll metabolism	4	1.70E-02	3DHL	3DHL vs 3DH
Drug metabolism	5	1.70E-02	3DH	3DH vs HM
Limonene and pinene degradation	3	1.70E-02	3DH	3DH vs HM
Metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450	7	1.70E-02	HM	3DH vs HM
Synthesis and degradation of ketone bodies	3	1.80E-02	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Pyruvate metabolism	4	1.90E-02	3DH	3DH vs HM
Lysine degradation	4	2.00E-02	3DH	3DH vs HM
Porphyrin and chlorophyll metabolism	4	2.10E-02	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Pentose phosphate pathway	5	2.20E-02	HM	3DHL vs HM
Drug metabolism	7	2.90E-02	HM	3DH vs HM
Starch and sucrose metabolism	4	3.30E-02	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Ascorbate and aldarate metabolism	3	3.30E-02	3DH	3DH vs HM
Antigen processing and presentation	5	3.50E-02	3DHL	3DHL vs 3DH
Glutathione metabolism	4	3.90E-02	3DHL	3DHL vs 3DH
Pentose and glucuronate interconversions	3	4.40E-02	3DHL	3DHL vs 3DH
Steroid hormone biosynthesis	4	4.70E-02	3DHL	3DHL vs HM
Tyrosine metabolism	5	6.10E-02	HM	3DHL vs HM

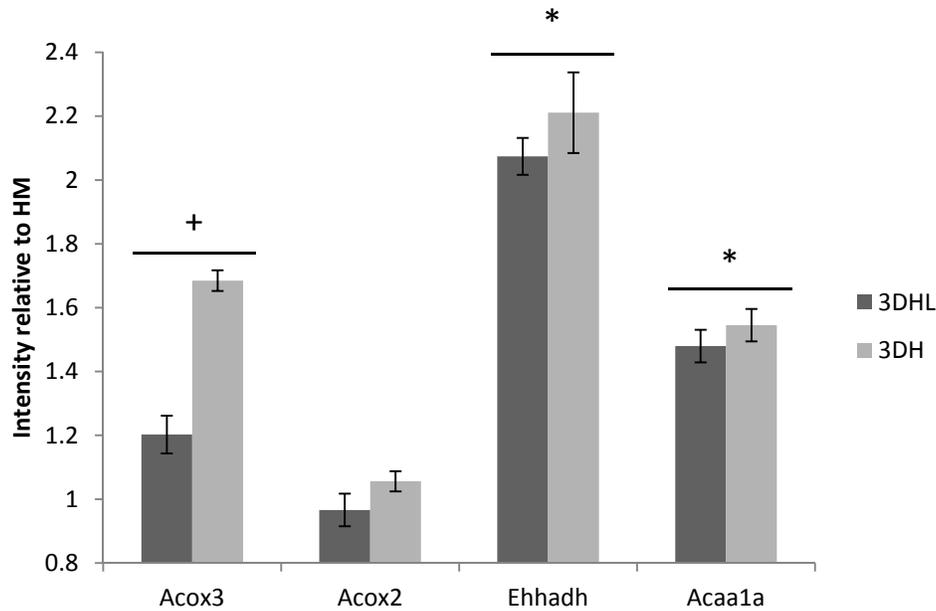
Ribosomes were also an enriched term but require detailed isolation in order to obtain actively translating ribosomes required for accurate proteomic analysis [179]. For example, a recent study showed that in order to obtain actively translating ribosome for quantification, addition of cyclohexamide is necessary to halt translation and should be performed before cell lysis [180]. This step was not performed and is not within the scope of this study and therefore will not be discussed. Proteins associated with mitochondrial fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation and ketone body formation (**Figure 7A**) were enriched in the PEM-containing liver models (**Figure 7B**). For example, two acyl-CoA ligases required for fatty acid activation (Acs11 and Acs15) were present in higher abundance in 3DHL liver models over the HMs, with similar increases in the 3DH vs.

HM comparison. The acyl-CoA dehydrogenase enzymes short chain (Acads), short and branched chain (Acadsb) and very long chain (Acadvl) also exhibited increases in the 3DHL and 3DH liver models as compared to HMs. While the enoyl-CoA hydratase (Echs1) was more abundant in the 3DHL model relative to HMs, there was no significant difference when 3DH was compared to HM. Both identified enoyl-CoA isomerases (Eci1 and Eci2) exhibited greater abundances in 3DHL liver models as compared to HM, while only Eci2 showed significant increase in 3DH liver models. Hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase (Hadh) and subunits of the trifunctional enzyme (Hadha and Hadhb) all exhibited significant increases in the 3DHL liver models. Further interrogation of the lipid metabolism proteins also indicated increases in Acyl-CoA oxidase (Acox3), bifunctional enzyme (Ehhadh) and peroxisomal 3 ketoacyl-CoA thiolase (Acaa1a) in the 3DHL and 3DH liver models as compared to HMs (**Figure 8**) indicating that both mitochondrial and peroxisomal processes are contributing to  $\beta$ -oxidation in the PEM containing liver models.

The formation of ketone bodies or ketogenesis is supported by significant increases in three of the four proteins that make up this energy-generating pathway: hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA synthase (Hmgcs2), hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA lyase (Hmgcl) and  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase (Bdh1) (**Figure 7A**). Hmgcs2, Hmgcl, and Bdh1 all show increases in 3DHL as compared to HM (**Figure 7C**), although only Hmgcs2 and Bdh1 showed significant increases in 3DH over HM. The changes in proteins associated with ketone body production prompted us to determine presence and concentrations of ketone bodies in the cell culture media using a targeted LC-MS/MS approach [181]. Contrary to protein abundances where the PEM containing liver models exhibited higher levels of these proteins, concentrations of acetoacetate and  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate in the cell culture media were significantly higher in the HMs (**Figure 7C**).



**Figure 7: Fatty acid metabolism and ketogenesis pathways are modulated by the local environment. A, Schematic of the main steps in fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation. Proteins identified in this study are shown in bold. B, Relative protein abundances for proteins associated with fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation that change significantly based upon the culture conditions (+,  $p < 0.05$  HM vs. 3DHL and 3DH; \*,  $p < 0.01$  HM vs. 3DHL and 3DH; \*\*,  $p < 0.05$  3DHL vs. 3DH). C, Protein abundance ratios for proteins associated with ketogenesis (top; \*,  $p < 0.01$  HM vs. 3DHL and 3DH; \*\*,  $p < 0.01$  HM vs. 3DHL) and levels of the two main ketone bodies, acetoacetate and  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate (bottom) as measured by LC-MS (\*,  $p < 0.01$  HM vs. 3DHL and 3DH for individual metabolites).**

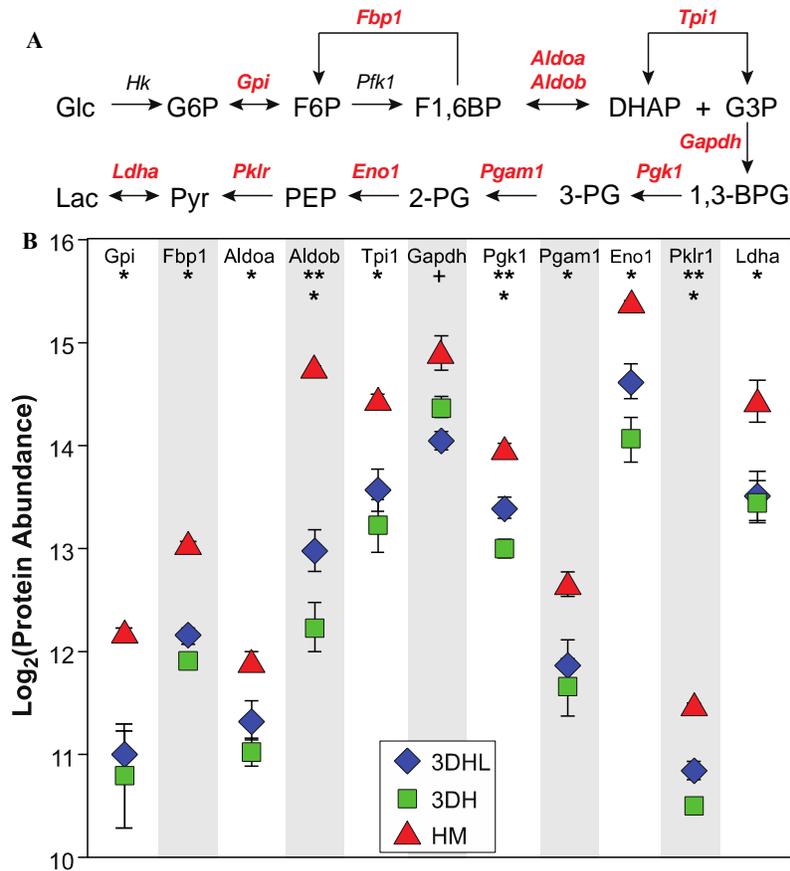


**Figure 8: Peroxisomal processes are also modulated by the local environment. Relative protein abundance ratios for enzymes associated with peroxisomal fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation that change significantly based upon the culture conditions (+,  $p < 0.05$  HM vs. 3DHL and 3DH; \*,  $p < 0.01$  HM vs. 3DHL).**

### 2.3.3 HMs contain higher levels of several glycolytic and gluconeogenic enzymes

Glucose concentrations in conditioned media were higher than that of fresh media (**Figure 5A**), indicative of a gluconeogenic state. Eleven enzymes involved in glycolysis and gluconeogenesis exhibited significantly increased levels in the HM cultures (**Figure 9A and B**), including glucose 6 phosphate isomerase (Gpi), fructose-1,6-bisphosphatase (Fbp1), a key regulatory enzyme for gluconeogenesis, fructose bisphosphate aldolase A and B (Aldoa and Aldob), triosephosphate isomerase (Tpi1), glyceraldehyde 3 phosphate dehydrogenase (Gapdh), phosphoglycerate kinase 1 (Pkg1), phosphoglycerate mutase 1 (Pgam1), alpha-enolase (Eno1), pyruvate kinase isozymes R/L (Pklr) and L-lactate dehydrogenase A (Ldha). While the proteomic data would suggest higher glucose levels in HMs as compared to both the 3DHL and 3DH liver models, glucose production rates are under control of both allosteric effectors as well as thermodynamic constraints [182]. Thus, as with the ketone body measurements, the extracellular glucose concentrations obtained by measurement do not directly correlate with what

would be predicted based upon protein abundance measures. Nonetheless, all constructs provide local environments where the hepatocytes synthesize glucose even though the extracellular glucose concentrations present in the media are four times higher than what is observed *in vivo*.

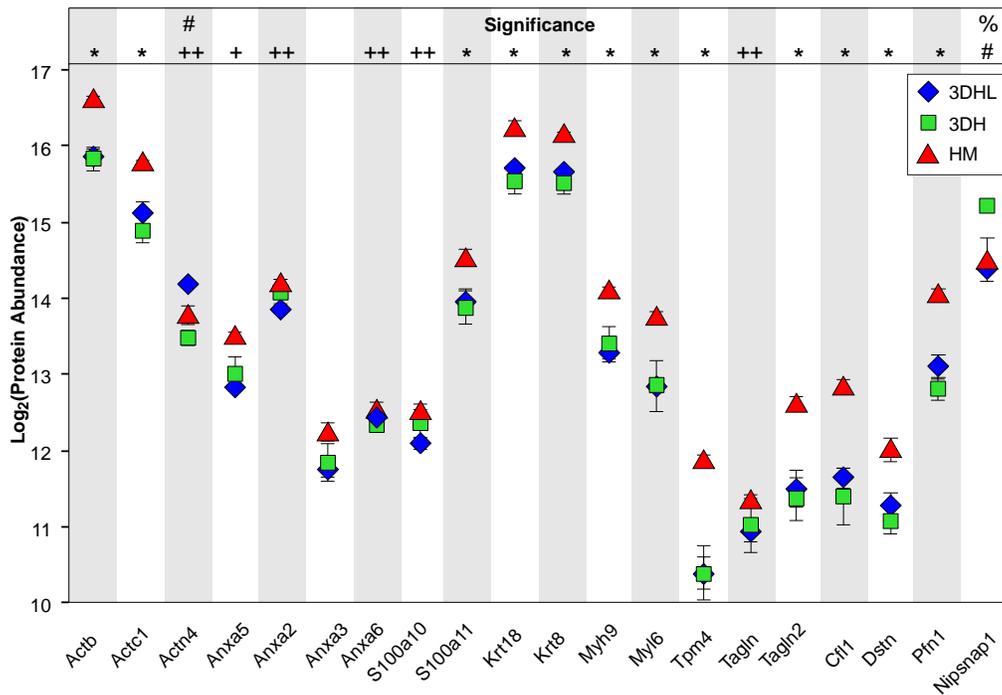


**Figure 9: Proteins associated with glucose processing are more abundant in hepatocyte monolayers. A, Pathway with proteins identified in this study are shown in bold. B, Proteins abundances, n = 3 (+  $p < 0.05$  HM vs. both 3DHL and 3DH; \*  $p < 0.01$  HM vs. both 3DHL and 3DH; \*\*  $p < 0.05$  3DHL vs. 3DH). Note that the rate-limiting enzyme for gluconeogenesis fructose-1,6-bisphosphatase 1 (Fbp1) is more abundant in monolayers than the conditions that utilize a PEM.**

### 2.3.4 Structural and trafficking proteins in HMs are indicative of dedifferentiation

A hallmark of hepatocyte dedifferentiation is the modification of cell shape and structure [70, 71, 89]. Several structural and trafficking proteins were found in higher abundance in HMs relative to the other two constructs (**Figure 10**). Actin (Act1 and Actc1), annexins (Anxa 2, 3, and 5), S100 proteins (S100-A10 and S100-A11), keratins (Krt 8 and Krt18), myosins (Myl6 and

Myh9), tropomyosins (Tpm4), transgelins (Tagln and Tagln2), cofilin (Cfl1), destrin (Dstn) and profilin (Pfn1) all exhibited increased levels in HM. As a whole, the increased levels of structural proteins observed in the HM cultures are indicative of changes in hepatocyte morphology and migration, both of which being key features of the dedifferentiation process. These results support the claim that the PEM slows the dedifferentiation process regardless of the presence of the LSECs.

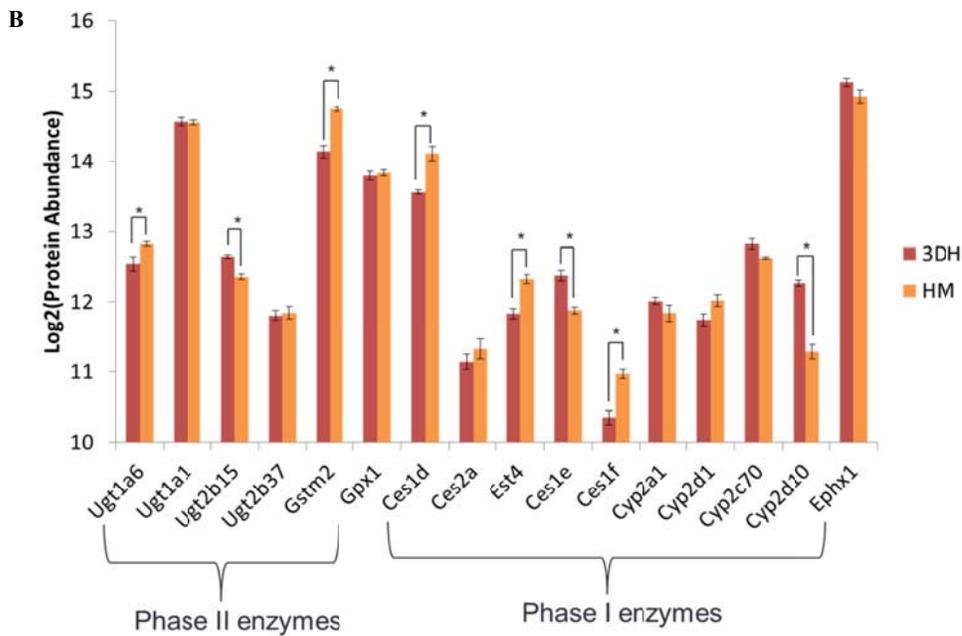
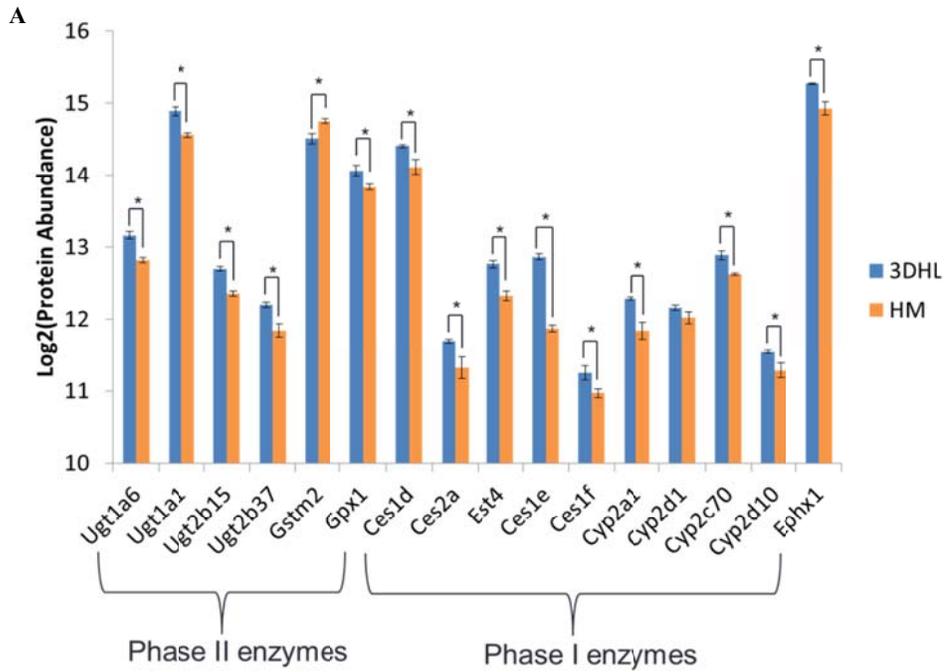


**Figure 10: PEMs and LSECs mitigate production of proteins associated with hepatocyte dedifferentiation. Protein abundances comparisons across culture conditions (+  $p < 0.05$ , HM vs. both 3DHL and 3DH; \*  $p < 0.01$ , HM vs. both 3DHL and 3DH; ++  $p < 0.01$ , HM vs. 3DHL; #  $p < 0.01$ , 3DHL vs. 3DH; %  $p < 0.01$ , HM vs. 3DH).**

### 2.3.5 3DHL liver models exhibit higher levels of proteins associated with drug metabolism

KEGG pathways related to drug metabolism were highly enriched in the 3DHL liver models (Table 1 and Figure 11). Several of the Phase I and Phase II detoxification enzymes quantified exhibited significantly increased levels in 3DHL as compared to HM (Figure 11A) and as compared to 3DH (Figure 11C), including, UDP-glucuronosyltransferases (Ugt), glutathione-S-transferases (Gst), peroxidases (Gpx), carboxylesterases (Ces and Est), cytochrome

p450s (Cyp), and epoxide hydrolases (Ephx). However, only 3 of the 16 enzymes (Ugt2b15, Ces1e, and Cyp2d10) exhibited increased abundance in 3DH as compared to HMs (**Figure 11B**). These results support the claim that detoxification enzyme abundance within the liver models is enhanced by the presence of LSECs.



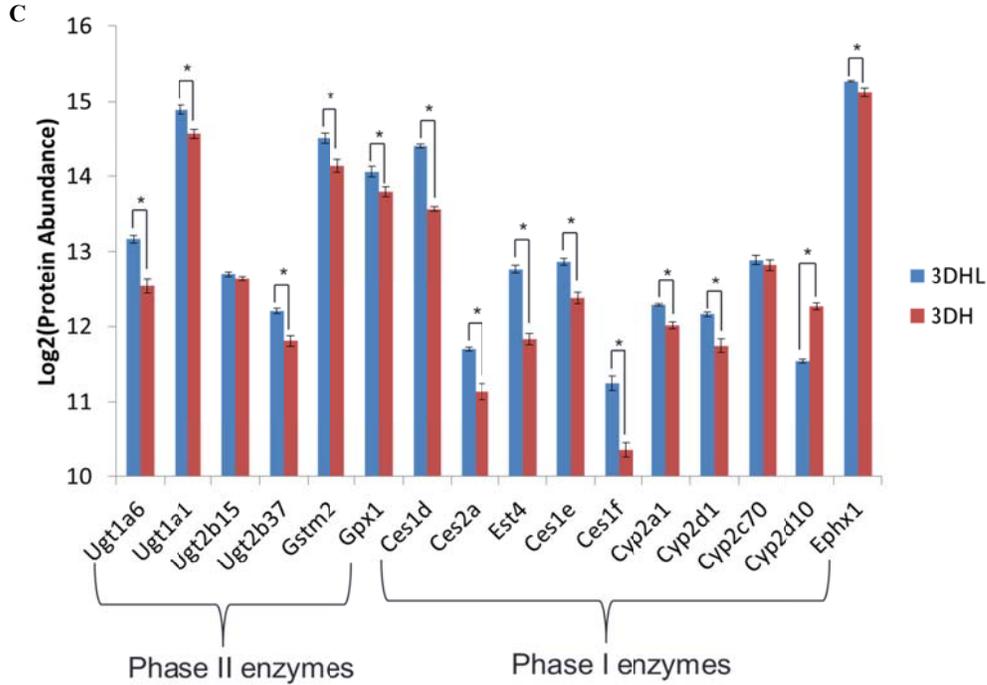


Figure 11: Drug metabolism-related proteins are higher in abundance in 3DHL as compared to HM (A). Proteins abundances were also compared in 3DH as compared to HM (B) and 3DHL as compared to 3DH (C). Proteins are organized based upon class: Phase I and II enzymes (\*  $p < 0.01$ ).

### 2.3.6 Proteomic analysis of the PEMs show limited matrix remodeling

PEMs were isolated from each liver model at the same time point as the hepatocytes and LC-MS/MS analysis was performed and analyzed using ISOQuant. Protein identifications were performed using two different databases, one that contained proteins associated with the ECM in the Uniprot database and one that contained the entire rat proteome. **Table 2** lists the proteins that were identified from the analysis of the PEMs using the ECM database ordered by the intensities of their top 3 peptides in both 3DHL and 3DH.

**Table 2: Changes in ECM protein abundances are limited at this time point. Proteins identified in PEMs from 3DHL and 3DH liver models were compared against fresh unused PEMs (FP).**

Description	UniProt ID	3DHL/FP	<i>p</i> -value (3DHL/FP)	Top3 intensity in 3DHL	3DH/FP	<i>p</i> -value (3DH/FP)	Top3 intensity in 3DH
Collagen alpha-1(I) chain	P02454	1.34 ± 0.18	0.64	1647494	1.30 ± 0.06	0.46	1601713
Collagen alpha-2(I) chain	P02466	1.06 ± 0.08	0.72	948819	1.08 ± 0.05	0.59	960251
Protein Col28a1	D3ZN64	1.36 ± 0.08	0.63	578870	1.56 ± 0.21	0.76	664470
Collagen alpha-1(II) chain	P05539	1.21 ± 0.02	0.82	621105	1.21 ± 0.14	0.94	621505
Protein Col4a2	F1M6Q3	1.43 ± 0.07	0.58	591665	1.35 ± 0.08	0.49	558587
Collagen alpha-1(III) chain	P13941	1.07 ± 0.06	0.78	435902	1.17 ± 0.13	0.56	475615
Collagen alpha-1(XI) chain	P20909	1.03 ± 0.18	0.92	413335	1.19 ± 0.49	0.70	474677
Protein Col10a1	D3ZGL7	1.16 ± 0.05	0.70	314566	1.21 ± 0.01	0.54	327520
Procollagen, type XI, alpha 2	Q6MGB2	1.50 ± 0.16	0.67	305476	1.58 ± 0.16	0.44	321260
Collagen alpha-1(V) chain	G3V763	1.47 ± 0.11	0.63	279135	1.53 ± 0.10	0.44	291147
Procollagen, type VII, alpha 1 (Predicted)	D3ZE04	0.71 ± 0.33	0.63	182346	0.80 ± 0.45	0.69	206414
Protein Col4a5	F1LUN5	1.26 ± 0.02	0.76	187260	1.24 ± 0.03	0.62	184668
Protein Col5a2	F1LQ00	0.66 ± 0.58	0.66	197287	0.40 ± 0.52	1.05	118631
Protein Col4a1	F1MA59	0.74 ± 0.18	0.65	113061	0.73 ± 0.23	0.57	112147
Collagen alpha-1(XXVII) chain	Q80ZF0	0.95 ± 0.17	0.78	31720	0.94 ± 0.02	0.57	31217
Procollagen, type XI, alpha 2 (Mapped)	F6T0B3	0.58 ± 0.07	0.72	15466	0.65 ± 0.10	0.67	17065
Fibromodulin	P50609	0.32 ± 0.06	0.95	16696	0.29 ± 0.02	0.83	14989
Protein Col14a1	D3ZZT9	0.51 ± 0.09	0.70	16525	0.44 ± 0.06	0.52	14457

Using this database, no significant differences were observed between PEMs from 3DHL or 3DH as compared to a fresh PEM (FP) among any of the proteins identified. These results indicate that changes in the ECM proteins in the PEMs as a result of cell culture are limited but detectable after 3 days. In order to verify that cellular contamination was not contributing to these trends, PEMs were re-analyzed using the entire rat proteome and the results are shown in

**Table 3.**

**Table 3: Results from the analysis performed using the entire rat proteome. Changes in PEM protein abundances are limited at this time point. Proteins identified in PEMs from 3DHL and 3DH liver models were compared against fresh unused PEMs (FP) \* indicates a significant change ( $p < 0.05$ ).**

Description	UniProt ID	3DHL/FP	<i>p</i> -value (3DHL/FP)	Top3 intensity in 3DHL	3DH/FP	<i>p</i> -value (3DH/FP)	Top3 intensity in 3DH
Collagen alpha-1(I) chain	P02454	1.60 ± 0.56	0.10	1494775	1.48 ± 0.41	0.11	1405701
Collagen alpha-2(I) chain	P02466	1.65 ± 0.13	0.04*	185584	1.64 ± 0.06	5.57E-04*	183974
Protein Chmp4b1	D4A9Z8	1.61 ± 0.50	0.22	83035	1.69 ± 0.44	0.14	89235
Protein Krt78 OS=Rattus norvegicus	F1MAC2	6.09 ± 8.88	0.64	68987	5.79 ± 8.31	0.67	67517
Collagen alpha-1(XXIII) chain	Q810Y4	1.52 ± 1.23	0.87	40250	0.80 ± 0.53	0.55	20842
Unique cartilage matrix-associated protein	B9TQX4	2.69 ± 2.63	0.28	28989	2.75 ± 3.10	0.55	26518
Protein Lbh (Fragment)	F1M635	1.42 ± 0.69	0.46	26136	3.47 ± 0.07	0.01*	52299
RE1-silencing transcription factor	O54963	1.30 ± 0.08	0.42	5563	0.87 ± 0.18	0.85	4197

These results show very little difference between the 3DHL and 3DH as compared to the FP. The only exceptions to this were in levels of collagen alpha 2(I) chain and protein LBH (limb-bud-and-heart). However, given that this database was not made to specifically identify ECM proteins, accuracy in the quantification of these proteins is limited [175]. Additionally, protein LBH is one of the lower abundant proteins, based on the intensities of the top 3 peptides and thus accurate quantification also becomes difficult. Nonetheless, no other cellular components were identified as significantly changing between PEMs from the liver models as compared to the FPs, suggesting that the cells were sufficiently removed from the PEMs. Further studies such as fluorescent imaging would need to be performed to verify complete removal of the cells.

## 2.4 Discussion

This study was designed to measure the effect of the local environment on the primary rat hepatocyte proteome. The local environments employed differed in the presence and absence of PEMs and LSECs. Distinct proteomic profiles were observed with hepatocytes from both the 3DHL and 3DH models relative to HMs (**Figure 5 and Figure 6**), with the most dramatic

difference related to lipid (**Figure 7 and Figure 8**), glucose (**Figure 9**), and drug (**Figure 11**) metabolism. Hepatocyte dedifferentiation was also evaluated (**Figure 10**) where it was determined that structural and trafficking proteins served as potential markers for this process.

The majority of proteins in the fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation (mitochondrial and peroxisomal) and ketogenesis pathways were found in higher abundances in the 3DHL and 3DH liver models when compared to HMs (**Figure 7A-C and Figure 8**). When intracellular concentrations of glucose in the liver are low, increases in fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation occur resulting in production of acetyl-CoA. Ketone bodies are subsequently produced and transported to extrahepatic tissues where conversion back to acetyl-CoA occurs for utilization as an energy source [183]. Changes in proteins associated with ketogenesis prompted the quantification of ketone bodies in the cell culture media. The investigation confirmed the presence of ketone bodies in spent media, although in contrast to the protein abundance data, HMs exhibited higher levels of both acetoacetate and  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate when compared to the 3DHL and 3DH liver models (**Figure 7C**). This discrepancy is not surprising considering that protein abundances do not account for changes in enzyme activity due to changes in protein-protein interactions and/or post-translational modifications. Bdh1, for example, requires lipid binding for full enzymatic activity [184], and is also known to be O-GlcNAcylated [185]. Nonetheless, the organotypic liver models are producing ketone bodies and utilizing fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation as an energy source. This occurs despite the fact that the extracellular glucose concentration was in excess of 20 mM, more than twice the normal blood glucose concentrations [186].

Previous studies have demonstrated the enrichment of fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation [151, 153-155] and ketogenesis [187-189] pathways during liver regeneration. In addition to these studies, freshly isolated primary hepatocytes have also been shown to up-regulate fatty acid metabolism

along with the simultaneous down-regulation of glycolytic pathways when compared to a hepatoma cell line (Hepa1-6) [136]. Based on the results from this study, hepatocytes from the 3DHL and 3DH liver models are exhibiting some similarities to what has been observed during liver regeneration. This also correlates with the previous observation of proliferation in both the 3DHL and 3DHLK liver models [19]. It is also worthy to note that while ketone body levels were lower in the PEM containing cultures, the ratio of acetoacetate to  $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate for all constructs was maintained at levels similar to what has been observed after a partial hepatectomy [190]. This observation supports the concept that the liver models do not disrupt ketogenesis product ratios.

While lipid metabolism was shown to be favored in the 3DHL and 3DH liver models, the HM proteome exhibited higher levels of proteins related to glycolysis/gluconeogenesis (**Figure 9**). While very few *in vitro* liver model studies measure glucose, two recent studies showed that HM and CS cultures lost their ability to perform gluconeogenesis and glycolysis even when stimulated with insulin and glucagon after 3-4 days in culture [191, 192]. One significant difference between the aforementioned studies and this work is the composition of the cell culture media, an extremely important consideration in organotypic liver models. The hepatocyte medium used in this study contained FBS, glucagon and insulin throughout the culture period with daily media exchanges. This environment led to slightly increased glucose levels after three days of culture, suggesting that the glucagon supplement is overriding the effects of insulin and potentially placing the cells in a state perceived as starvation. However, enzyme activity will need to be verified to test this hypothesis. Additionally, while protein abundances for glucose metabolism were higher in the HMs, when comparing 3DHL and 3DH, there were measurable differences in protein abundances for two key steps in glycolysis and gluconeogenesis, including

Pklr and Fbp1 (**Figure 9**). Based on these observations, we hypothesize that the 3DHL liver models are initiating a shift towards glucose metabolism, and that this is due to the presence of LSECs. Studies utilizing longer culture times will be needed to confirm this hypothesis. In the very least, organotypic liver model studies should routinely include glucose measurements to assess the temporal status of glucose metabolism.

It has been shown that genomic changes in hepatocyte monolayers occur as early as 4 hours, essentially marking the beginning of dedifferentiation [69]. In addition to changes in the genome, previous studies have also shown that after seven days in culture, alterations in hepatocyte morphology are observed, resulting from increases in actin stress fibers [70, 71, 89]. Although very few studies have characterized the proteomic changes associated with this process [147, 148], we identified several proteins that exhibited increased protein abundances in HMs as compared to 3DHL and 3DH (**Figure 10**). Azimifar *et al.* evaluated hepatocyte proteomes at time points similar to those used in our work [158]. The proteomic changes reported as being related to dedifferentiation were increases in structural and trafficking proteins [158]. Annexins are multifunctional proteins often associated with cancer growth and membrane trafficking [193]. In our study, annexin A2, A3 and A5 levels in the HM was higher relative to the 3DH and 3DHL, suggestive of dedifferentiation. Additionally, S100 proteins (S100-A10 and S100-A11), which facilitate cell-cell contact through annexin proteins [194], were also identified as being significantly increased in HMs as compared to 3DHL and 3DH. Other structural proteins identified in this study and those that were also identified in our own were keratins (Krt 8), actins (Act1 and Actc1) and alpha-actinin-4 (Actn4). Krt18 was not identified in the study performed by Azimifar *et al.* Keratins are intermediate filament proteins that are present within the cytoskeleton and have been observed to increase in levels in dedifferentiated hepatocytes [195].

Alpha actinin proteins are involved in the cross linking of actin stress fibers [196], which have been shown to form during dedifferentiation. Proteins related to cell migration and motility were also increased in HM as compared 3DHL and 3DH such as myosins (Myl6 and Myh9), tropomyosins (Tpm4), transgelins (Tagln and Tagln2), cofilin (Cfl1), destrin (Dstn) and profilin (Pfn1). Myosins and tropomyosins regulate the contraction and movement of cells [195]. Silencing of transgelin proteins has been shown to inhibit the migration and invasion of huh7, hepatocarcinoma cells [197]. Cofilin, destrin and profilin are proteins that regulate actin dynamics by initiating and inhibiting the polymerization, de-polymerization and recycling of actin fibers [198-200]. Previous observations have shown that HMs exhibit a flattened and larger morphologies indicative of cell spreading and increased contractility of the cells [70]. Taken together, these results provide a foundation for understanding structural and cell migration proteins and how they contribute to the dedifferentiation in hepatocytes. Such information could be useful for assessing intercellular signaling processes associated with diseases such as cirrhosis and hepatocarcinoma.

The ECM plays a crucial role in maintaining hepatic function [88]. For example, synthesis of collagen by hepatocytes has been shown to contribute to enhancing albumin and urea production [96, 201]. However, in-depth studies on the ECM itself have not been performed on liver models. Proteomic analysis of the PEMs from the 3DHL and 3DH liver models and fresh/unused samples (FPs) was performed to study the effects of the cell culture and any potential ECM remodeling. Current methods used to study ECM are typically inaccurate in part due to the database used from protein identification [202]. While the most abundant proteins are usually identified, the lower abundant ECM components are not usually found due to the fact that many of these databases are too large and thus may assign ECM peptides to other proteins

[203]. Thus, a recent study limited their searches to ECM proteins and also databases that only contained various types of collagen in order to improve accuracy in identification [175]. In this study, we employed the same method where a database limited to ECM proteins was used for protein identification. Upon quantification, the results showed no statistical significance with respect to abundance changes in any ECM component identified (**Table 2**). Additionally, no other cellular components were identified suggesting that any these trends are attributed only to the PEMs (**Table 3**). We conclude from these results, that after 72 hours, only minor changes in the PEMs have occurred. Future studies will focus upon quantifying changes in serum proteins and other small molecules in the PEMs as these could be lend insight into signaling processes.

The biotransformation of drugs, xenobiotics and normal cellular waste products is a critical liver function. The 3DHL liver models exhibited significantly higher levels of phase I and phase II detoxification enzymes as compared to both 3DH and HMs (**Figure 11**), implicating LSECs in modulating the increase. Previous studies in our group have shown preserved activity of CYP1A1 for up to 12 days in culture [19, 89, 166]. Other studies were focused upon genomic changes or changes in enzymatic activity after induction in hepatocyte cultures [81, 86, 88]. Moreover, other studies have also been conducted on HMs cultured for a short period of time (40 hours) or on HepG2 cells treated with acetaminophen, amiodarone and cyclosporin and assessed changes in the drug metabolizing proteome [178, 204]. In our cultures, the presence of multiple cell types and extended culture period is more physiologically relevant. Our results demonstrate increases in levels of CESs, CYPs, UGTs, GSTs, GPXs and EPHXs enzymes. The class of enzymes that was most represented in this data and exhibited the most change between the 3DHL and 3DH cultures was the carboxylesterases enzymes suggesting LSECs modulate their levels. Carboxylesterases are a class of phase I and lipid processing enzymes that hydrolyze

molecules containing esters (such as lipids), amides, thioesters and carbamates [205, 206]. Increased extracellular glucose concentrations (25 mM) in cultured primary mouse hepatocytes leads to increased levels of *Ces1d* (76% identical to *Ces1d* in rat), with the increase linked to the farnesoid X receptor, FXR. This transcriptional regulator is typically activated by lipophilic compounds such as bile acids, providing global control of lipid and glucose metabolism [207, 208], where high glucose concentrations favor lipogenesis and glycogen formation. *Ces1g* knockout mice are obese and exhibit non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, a phenotype that can be rescued solely by the addition of polyunsaturated fatty acids [209]. These studies suggest that increased glucose levels in the environment could modulate the levels of carboxylesterase enzymes. As the carboxylesterases were present in significantly higher amounts in the 3DHL models, we propose that the increase was due to the presence of the LSECs. Further studies are needed to determine the signaling molecules and pathways involved.

## **2.5 Conclusions**

MS based proteomic analyses were performed to assess the effects of PEMs and LSECs on hepatocyte function in organotypic liver models. The systems evaluated were shown to produce urea, albumin and glucose. Shifts to fatty acid metabolism and ketone body production were shown by both proteomics as well as a quantitative assessment of ketone body concentrations. Liver models that included PEMs and/or LSECs exhibited higher levels of proteins associated with lipid metabolism, and more specifically fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation and ketogenesis. Although minimal changes in the PEM were found, they served a critical role in maintaining differentiated hepatocytes. Several carboxylesterases exhibited a dependence on the presence of LSECs demonstrating their effect on the levels of detoxification enzymes present in these liver models.

## Chapter 3: Investigation of the liver sinusoidal endothelial cell proteome

### 3.1 Introduction

The liver is a core organ that performs many essential metabolic functions including biotransformation of xenobiotics, synthesis of blood plasma proteins, and cholesterol, steroid and bile acid metabolism [1, 4, 8, 12, 210, 211]. The majority of these functions are carried out by the hepatocytes, the parenchymal cells that make up ~70% of the liver by volume [1]. The non-parenchymal cells (NPCs); the liver sinusoidal endothelial cells (LSECs), Kupffer cells (KCs) and hepatic stellate cells (HSCs) make up ~ 10%, ~5% and ~5% of the liver by volume respectively [1, 3]. All of these cells make up the sinusoid, the basic functional unit of the liver, and are arranged in a stratified, three-dimensional architecture, where the NPCs are separated from the hepatocytes by the Space of Disse.

Sinusoids are essentially capillary vessels that make up the hepatic cords that radiate from the central vein as described in **Chapter 1**. LSECs line the sinusoid walls and exhibit features known as fenestrae, which are pores on the surface of LSECs [32, 38]. Fenestrae structures and rapid endocytic uptake mechanisms endow LSECs with a scavenger role. Hence, LSECs play a crucial role in protein turnover and clearance of foreign and waste substances [34, 212] such as albumin [27, 28], low density lipoproteins [29, 213-216], ECM components [25, 32-34, 217], viral particles and endotoxins [34, 35] and immune complexes [26, 218]. To perform this role, LSECs utilize scavenger receptors (SRs) [22] such as SR-A [23], SR-B[24] SR-H [25] and also FC- $\lambda$ RIIb2 (Commonly referred to as SE-1) [26] as described in **Chapter 1**.

LSECs also play a role in maintaining balanced glucose and lipid levels in the liver via their scavenging abilities [32, 219, 220]. However, very few studies have investigated these mechanisms beyond endocytosis to specifically address how LSECs contribute to liver

metabolism. Studies have been performed using primary porcine NPCs cultured in a bioreactor to investigate their contribution to ammonia metabolism in the liver [221]. NPCs consumed ~ 4-fold higher glutamine within the first 24 hours of culture which correlated with ~ 2-fold increase ammonia production as compared to hepatocytes cultured under the same condition. This study highlights the roles of NPCs in core metabolism. Nedredal *et al.* extended this work by investigating the contributions of LSECs to ammonia metabolism [222]. They showed that porcine LSECs cultured in a bioreactor exhibited ~6-fold increase in ammonia production along with ~3-fold increase in consumption of glutamine by LSECs. These results highlight the role of LSECs in amino acid metabolism.

Interactions between the hepatocytes and the NPCs are essential for maintenance of a functional liver [3, 84, 223]. *In vitro* liver models that mimic the *in vivo* architecture have recently been developed [19, 89, 90, 92-94, 96, 101]. These models incorporate the hepatocytes as well as a combination of NPCs and all have shown enhanced hepatic functions as compared to their monocellular counterparts. Transcriptome analysis has been used to study the effects of intercellular communication on various types of co-cultures [81, 88]. These studies also investigated the effects of clinically relevant drugs on phase I and phase II enzyme expression but give no further insight into other physiological processes. Additionally, an in depth analysis of the proteomes of each cell type in these models has not been performed.

While the function of LSECs have been widely studied, to the best of our knowledge, there has only been one investigation that has evaluated their proteomes [158]. Freshly isolated primary murine LSECs, were shown to be enriched in cytoskeletal proteins such as actins, myosins and tropomyosins and asialoglycoprotein receptors, highlighting their roles in transducing mechanical forces and membrane trafficking [158]. However, no further analysis of

the LSEC proteome was performed. In this study, we sought to evaluate the LSEC proteome from cells cultured in monolayer format for 72 hours and provide preliminary data on the LSEC proteome when cultured with hepatocytes in a 3D liver model.

## **3.2 Materials and methods**

### **3.2.1 Chemicals and reagents**

Cell culture supplies including Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium (DMEM), phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), penicillin, streptomycin and human plasma fibronectin and trypsin (0.25% EDTA) were purchased from Life Technologies (Grand Island, NY). 4-[2-hydroxyethyl] piperazine-1-ethanesulfonic acid (HEPES), glucagon, glutaraldehyde, ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), hyaluronic acid (HA), hydrocortisone, Percoll, Type IV collagenase, chloroform, ammonium bicarbonate (AmBic), urea, trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), and mass spectrometry grade trypsin and endothelial cell growth supplement were purchased from Sigma Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). Mass spectrometry grade lysyl endopeptidase (Lys-C) was purchased from Wako (Richmond, VA). LC-MS grade solvents were purchased from Spectrum Chemicals (New Brunswick, NJ). All other chemicals, unless noted otherwise, were purchased from Fisher Scientific (Pittsburgh, PA).

### **3.2.2 Isolation and culture of hepatocytes**

The primary hepatocytes were harvested from six adult female Lewis rats (Harlan, Dublin, VA) that weighed between 170 and 200 grams. Animal care and surgical procedures were conducted as per procedures approved by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Hepatocytes were isolated using a two-step collagenase perfusion as previously described [19, 89, 90, 171]. Viability of isolated hepatocytes were  $\geq 97\%$  and was determined via trypan blue exclusion. Hepatocytes were

cultured on a type I collagen coated 12-well plates at a density of 500,000 cells per well. Hepatocyte cultures were maintained in high glucose (25mM) DMEM supplemented with 10% (v/v) heat inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS), 200 U/mL penicillin and 200 µg/mL streptomycin, 0.5 U/mL insulin, 4 nM glucagon, and 16 µM hydrocortisone. Media exchange was performed daily.

### **3.2.3 LSEC monolayer isolation**

LSECs were also harvested from six adult female Lewis rats. LSECs were purified from the total NPC fraction using a differential adhesion method [19, 90] and were cultured on a fibronectin-coated flask. LSECs were maintained in endothelial cell medium consisting of Media 199 supplemented with 10% (v/v) heat inactivated FBS, 100 U/mL penicillin and 100 µg/mL streptomycin, and 30 µg/mL endothelial cell growth supplement. Endothelial cell media was exchanged daily. After 72 hours, isolation of the LSECs was performed. LSECs in the flask was washed three times with 1X PBS and treated with trypsin (0.25% EDTA) for 7 minutes. 15 mL of hepatocyte media, which corresponds to three times the volume of trypsin used, was subsequently added to neutralize the trypsin activity. LSECs were collected by centrifugation at  $900 \times g$  for 7 minutes, lysed and treated with a protease inhibitor cocktail. The lysis buffer used contained the following components: 4.3 mM Tris-HCl, 660 µM Tris, 500 µM EDTA, 15 mM NaCl, 350 µM SDS, 0.1% (v/v) Triton X-100, 310 µM sodium azide and 150 µM sodium vanadate and was supplemented with a protease inhibitor (PI) cocktail. This PI cocktail contained 104mM 4-(2-Aminoethyl) benzenesulfonyl fluoride hydrochloride (AEBSF), 80 µM Aprotinin, 4 mM Bestatin, 1.4 mM epoxide 64 (E-64), 2 mM Leupeptin and 1.5 mM Pepstatin A (Sigma-Aldrich). Lysates were snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  until further processing.

### **3.2.4 Type I collagen isolation**

Type I collagen was isolated from rat tail tendons as previously reported [71, 172]. Briefly, tendons were dissected from tails and dissolved in a 3% acetic acid solution overnight at 4°C. The solution was subsequently passed through cheesecloth filters and centrifuged at 13,000  $x g$  for 2 hours at 4°C. The supernatant was precipitated using 30% (w/v) sodium chloride and the resultant precipitate was dissolved in 0.6% (v/v) acetic acid for 48 hours at 4°C. The solution was dialyzed against 1 mM hydrochloric acid and sterilized by chloroform. The concentration of collagen was determined by measuring the optical density at 280 nm.

### **3.2.5 Polyelectrolyte multilayer (PEM) assembly**

Type I Collagen (cationic) and HA (anionic) were used for the assembly of PEMs using methods as previously described [19, 106]. Collagen was diluted in 1% (v/v) acetic acid and HA was dissolved in 18 M $\Omega$  cm water. Both solutions were maintained at a concentration of 1.5 mg/mL and a pH of 4.0. PEMs were assembled on a hydrophobic polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) substrate (McMaster-Carr, Atlanta, GA) using a robotic deposition system (NanoStrata Tallahassee, FL). The PTFE substrates were sonicated in toluene for one hour, rinsed in 18 M $\Omega$  cm water, and dried overnight. Water contact angle measurements were used to verify the hydrophobicity of the substrate and ranged between 110°-115° (Averaged over 10 measurements per substrate). Deposition times of 30 min were used for each polyelectrolyte with a 10 minute rinse in 18 M $\Omega$  cm water maintained at a pH of 4.0 between each deposition. The PEMs used in these studies consisted of 15 bilayers (BL). A BL is defined as the deposition of one cationic and one anionic layer. PEMs were cross-linked with 8% (w/v) glutaraldehyde for 30 seconds, rinsed in deionized (DI) water for 48 hours, dried and stored at room temperature. Prior to cell culture, PEMs were sterilized under germicidal UV for 1 hour.

### 3.2.6 Liver model assembly

Hepatocytes were cultured on a type I collagen gel for 72 hours. The PEMs were overlaid above the hepatocytes and were hydrated with hepatocyte media for 1 hour at 37°C. LSECs were then seeded above the PEMs at a density of 25,000 cells per well to form the three-dimensional liver model, which will be referred to as 3DHL throughout. “H” and “L” refer to the hepatocytes and LSECs respectively.

### 3.2.7 LSEC isolation and processing of lysates

LSECs were isolated from the liver models by removing the PEMs from the culture and treated with trypsin (0.25% EDTA) for 7 minutes. 15 mL of hepatocyte media, which corresponds to three times the volume of trypsin used, was subsequently added to neutralize the trypsin activity. LSECs were collected by centrifugation at  $900 \times g$  for 7 minutes, lysed and treated with a protease inhibitor cocktail as described in section 3.2.3. Protein concentrations were determined using a commercial BCA protein assay kit (ThermoFisher). Lysates were snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C until further processing. Hepatocytes and PEMs were also isolated as described in **Chapter 2**. LSEC lysates from both the monolayers and 3DHL liver models were also processed using the same methods as described in **Chapter 2**. LC-MS grade methanol was added to 20 µg of LSEC lysate and incubated at -80°C overnight. Samples were centrifuged ( $13,000 \times g$ , 20 min) and the protein pellets were dried in a vacuum concentrator and re-suspended in freshly prepared 8 M urea in 100 mM ammonium bicarbonate (AmBic) to a concentration of approximately 1 mg/mL. The proteins were reduced using dithiothreitol (DTT, 45 mM in 100 mM AmBic) for 1 hour at 37°C and subsequently alkylated at room temperature in the dark for 30 minutes with iodoacetamide (100 mM in 100 mM AmBic). Excess

iodoacetamide was quenched with DTT/100 mM AmBic, which also diluted the urea to approximately 2M.

Protein digestion utilized a two-step procedure [120]. Lys-C was added at a ratio of 1:50 (Lys-C:protein) and incubated overnight at 37°C with shaking. After dilution with 100 mM AmBic, trypsin was added at the same ratio as was used with Lys-C. Incubation was performed for 4 hours at 37°C with shaking, at which time the digestion was quenched by adding trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) until the pH was less than 3.0. The resultant acidified peptides were desalted using C<sub>18</sub> OMIX Tips (Agilent Technologies). The tips were conditioned prior to use with LC-MS grade methanol and subsequently equilibrated with Solvent 1 (50:50 water:acetonitrile supplemented with 0.1 % TFA) followed by Solvent 2 (98:2 water: acetonitrile supplemented with 0.1 % TFA). The peptides were bound to the tips by repeated aspiration and dispensing, desalted using Solvent 2, and eluted using Solvent 1. The recovered peptides were dried in a vacuum concentrator and reconstituted in Solvent 2 (1 µg/µL) for analysis via LC-MS/MS.

### **3.2.8 LC-MS analysis**

Approximately 7 µg of each peptide sample was loaded onto an Acquity UPLC I-class system equipped with a CSH130 C<sub>18</sub> 1.7 µm, 1.0 x 150 mm column maintained at 45°C (Waters Corporation, Milford, MA). The mobile phases were 0.1% formic acid in water (Solvent A) and 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile (Solvent B). Separations were performed at a flow rate of 50 µL/min, using a 110 minute gradient from 3-40% solvent B, with all samples analyzed in duplicate. The column effluent was sprayed directly into a Synapt G2-S mass spectrometer using the high definition mass spectrometry (HDMS<sup>E</sup>) mode (continuum, positive-ion, “resolution” MS settings). Source conditions were as follows: capillary voltage, 3.0 kV; source temperature,

120°C; sampling cone, 60 V; desolvation temperature, 350°C; cone gas flow, 50 L/hr; desolvation gas flow, 500 L/hr; nebulizer gas flow, 6 bar. Both low energy (4 and 2 V in the trap and transfer regions, respectively) and elevated energy (4 V in the trap and ramped from 20 to 50 V in the transfer region) scans were 1.2 seconds each for the m/z range of 50 to 1800. For the ion mobility separation (IMS), the IMS and transfer wave velocities were 600 and 1200 m/sec, respectively. Wave height within the ion mobility cell was ramped from 10 to 40 V. For lock mass correction, a 1.2 second low energy scan was acquired every 30 seconds from a 100 fmol/μL [Glu1]-fibrinopeptide B solution (50:50 acetonitrile: water supplemented with 0.1 % formic acid). The infusion rate on the lock spray was 10 μL/min, and introduced into the mass spectrometer at a capillary voltage of 3.0 kV. Lock mass correction was invoked during the data analysis phase of the work.

### **3.2.9 Data analysis**

Raw data files were analyzed using Protein Lynx Global Server (PLGS, Version. 3.0, Waters™ Corporation). LC-MS data was queried against a combined rat and bovine proteome concatenated with a randomized decoy database, allowing for two missed trypsin cleavages. A minimum peptide length was set to five amino acids, with carbamidomethylation of cysteine set as a fixed modification. Oxidation of methionine, proline (*i.e.*, hydroxyproline) and lysine (*i.e.* hydroxylysine) were set as variable modifications. Additionally, galactosylation and glucosylgalactosylation of lysine, glycosylation of proline, conversion of N-terminal glutamine to pyro-glutamate and deamidation of asparagine and glutamine were also set as variable modifications. The criteria used for protein identification utilized both a false discovery rate (FDR) of less than 5% and required at least two peptides per protein. The raw PLGS output was then quantified using PLGS expression analysis using the TOP3 method [141], where the sum of

the three most intense peptides was compared across culture conditions (*i.e.* LSEC monolayers vs 3DHL LSECs). This allows for relative quantification of protein abundances between the two experimental conditions. Categorical annotation was performed on the results from the LSEC monolayers to assess statistically significant pathways as compared to the rat proteome [158, 174].

### 3.3 Results

#### 3.3.1 Characterization of LSEC monolayers

In this study, LSECs were isolated and cultured as monolayers for 72 hours and proteomes were characterized.

**Table 4: Comparison of the number of proteins identified in both LSECs from monolayers and those from 3DHL liver models. Confidently identified proteins were derived using a false discovery rate of less than 1%.**

Culture_replicate	Number of confidently identified proteins
LSEC monolayer_1	127
LSEC monolayer_2	324
LSEC monolayer_3	356
3DHL_1	10
3DHL_2	37
3DHL_3	28

Overall, in the LSEC monolayers, 127-356 rat proteins were confidently identified in the three replicates (**Table 4**). This list was limited to proteins that were confidently identified by employing a false discovery rate (FDR) of less than 1%. One replicate resulted in significantly less identifications which could potentially be due to biological variation between samples. The list of proteins from each replicate is presented in Appendix A, **Tables A1-A3**, of this dissertation. To determine statistically over-represented processes, as compared to the rat genome, categorical annotation using DAVID was employed [158].

**Table 5** only lists select KEGG pathways that were statistically significant in all three replicates of LSECs. The complete list of statistically significant processes is presented in Appendix A, **Table A4**. Other statistically significant processes included Parkinson's disease and Huntington's disease. These KEGG pathways were not included in Table 5 because many of the proteins annotated to these pathways were also included in Oxidative phosphorylation. These proteins included those that were part of the electron transport chain (Complexes I- IV).

**Table 5: Metabolic functions are performed by LSECs. List of KEGG pathways that were enriched in all three replicates of LSEC monolayers.**

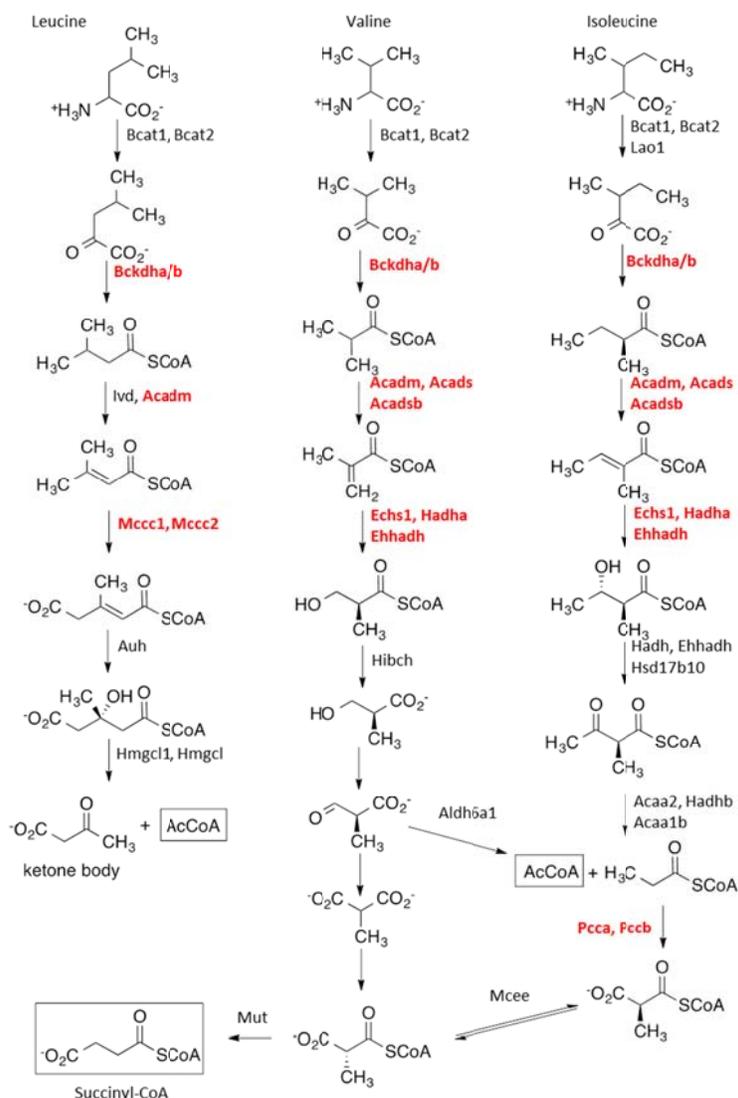
KEGG Pathway	<i>p</i> -value
Valine, leucine and isoleucine degradation	7.20E-33
Fatty acid metabolism	3.60E-19
Oxidative phosphorylation	2.30E-11
Drug metabolism	3.80E-07

The most enriched KEGG pathways in LSECs are branched chain amino acid metabolism (valine, leucine and isoleucine degradation), fatty acid metabolism, oxidative phosphorylation and drug metabolism. This suggests that some of the key functions performed by LSECs are related to core metabolism. Proteins in at least two of the three replicates that were identified in this study and were part of the enriched pathways of the catabolism of valine, leucine and isoleucine are presented in **Table 6** and **Figure 12**

**Table 6: Proteins related to branched chain amino acid degradation were identified in LSEC monolayers.**

UniProt ID	Gene ID	Protein description
P35738	Bckdhb	branched chain keto acid dehydrogenase E1, beta polypeptide
P11960	Bckdha	branched chain ketoacid dehydrogenase E1, alpha polypeptide
P15651	Acads	acyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, short chain
P08503	Acadm	acyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, medium chain
P70584	Acadsb	acyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, short/branched chain
P14604	Echs1	enoyl Coenzyme A hydratase, mitochondrial
Q64428	Hadha	trifunctional protein, alpha subunit
Q60587	Hadhb	trifunctional protein, beta subunit
Q510C3	Mccc1	methylcrotonoyl-Coenzyme A carboxylase 1 (alpha)

Q5XIT9	Mccc2	methylcrotonoyl-Coenzyme A carboxylase 2 (beta)
P07633	Pccb	propionyl coenzyme A carboxylase, beta polypeptide
P14882	Pcca	propionyl-coenzyme A carboxylase, alpha polypeptide



**Figure 12: Valine, leucine, and isoleucine degradation pathway with proteins identified in this study highlighted in red.**

These pathways share many proteins with mitochondrial fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation (Acads, Acadm, Acadsb, Echs1, Hadha, and Hadhb) due to the ultimate formation of acetyl-CoA (AcCoA) (Figure 12) from branched chain amino acids. Proteins identified in at least two of the three replicates of this study that are involved in fatty acid metabolism are presented in Table 7.

**Table 7: Proteins related to mitochondrial fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation were identified in LSEC monolayers.**

UniProt ID	Gene ID	Protein description
P18163	Acs11	acyl-CoA synthetase long-chain family member 1
O88813	Acs15	acyl-CoA synthetase long-chain family member 5
P18886	Cpt2	carnitine palmitoyltransferase 2
P15651	Acads	acyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, short chain
P08503	Acadm	acyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, medium chain
P15650	Acadl	acyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, long-chain
P70584	Acadsb	acyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, short/branched chain
P45953	Acadv1	acyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase, very long chain
P14604	Echs1	enoyl Coenzyme A hydratase, mitochondrial
Q64428	Hadha	trifunctional protein, alpha subunit
Q60587	Hadhb	trifunctional protein, beta subunit

Proteins in this list are related to the formation of fatty acyl-CoA (Acs11 and Acs15), transport of fatty acids into the mitochondria (Cpt2) and the steps of  $\beta$ -oxidation (Acads, Acadm, Acadsb, Acadv1, Echs1, Hadha, and Hadhb) were identified in LSEC monolayers. This suggests LSECs could be utilizing lipids and amino acids as metabolic inputs for derivation of energy. Future studies will need to be performed to verify this hypothesis. In addition to proteins related to the metabolism of amino acids and lipids being present in LSECs, proteins related to oxidative phosphorylation were also identified and is shown in **Table 8**.

**Table 8: Proteins related to oxidative phosphorylation were identified in LSEC monolayers.**

UniProt ID	Gene ID	Protein description
Q6P6W6	Ndufa10	NADH dehydrogenase (ubiquinone) 1 alpha subcomplex 10-like 1; NADH dehydrogenase (ubiquinone) 1 alpha subcomplex 10
Q66HF1	Ndufs1	NADH dehydrogenase (ubiquinone) Fe-S protein 1
Q641Y2	Ndufs2	NADH dehydrogenase (ubiquinone) Fe-S protein 2
P19234	Ndufv2	NADH dehydrogenase (ubiquinone) flavoprotein 2
Q920L2	Sdha	succinate dehydrogenase complex, subunit A, flavoprotein (Fp)
P21913	Sdhb	succinate dehydrogenase complex, subunit B, iron sulfur (Ip)
P32551	Uqcrc2	ubiquinol cytochrome c reductase core protein 2
Q68FY0	Uqcrc1	ubiquinol-cytochrome c reductase core protein I
Q5M915	Uqcrh	ubiquinol-cytochrome c reductase hinge protein
P20788	Uqcrfs1	ubiquinol-cytochrome c reductase, Rieske iron-sulfur polypeptide 1
P10888	Cox4i1	cytochrome c oxidase subunit IV isoform 1
P12075	Cox5b	cytochrome c oxidase subunit Vb

P11240	Cox5a	cytochrome c oxidase, subunit Va
P10818	Cox6a1	cytochrome c oxidase, subunit VIa, polypeptide 1
P11951	Cox6c2	cytochrome c oxidase, subunit Vic
P19511	Atp5f1	ATP synthase, H <sup>+</sup> transporting, mitochondrial F0 complex, subunit B1
P31399	Atp5h	ATP synthase D chain, mitochondrial; ATP synthase, H <sup>+</sup> transporting, mitochondrial F0 complex, subunit d
P29419	Atp5i	ATP synthase, H <sup>+</sup> transporting, mitochondrial F0 complex, subunit E
Q6PDU7	Atp5l	ATP synthase, H <sup>+</sup> transporting, mitochondrial F0 complex, subunit G
P15999	Atp5a1	ATP synthase, H <sup>+</sup> transporting, mitochondrial F1 complex, alpha subunit 1, cardiac muscle
P10719	Atp5b	ATP synthase, H <sup>+</sup> transporting, mitochondrial F1 complex, beta polypeptide; similar to ATP synthase beta chain, mitochondrial precursor
P35435	Atp5c1	ATP synthase, H <sup>+</sup> transporting, mitochondrial F1 complex, gamma polypeptide 1
Q06647	Atp5o	ATP synthase, H <sup>+</sup> transporting, mitochondrial F1 complex, O subunit

Various subunits from each of the proteins of each complex of the electron transport chain were identified. Complex I (NADH dehydrogenase), complex II (Succinate dehydrogenase), complex III (ubiquinol:cytochrome c reductase), complex IV (cytochrome c oxidase) and ATP synthase (F<sub>0</sub> and F<sub>1</sub> subunits) were identified in LSECs suggesting the presence of oxidative phosphorylation and the synthesis of ATP which are processes involved in fulfilling the energy requirements of the cells.

Another essential function of the liver is the biotransformation of drugs and xenobiotics to substances that are excreted from the body. This data suggests that LSECs play an important role in this process and exhibit proteins related to phase I (cytochrome p450 enzymes, CYPs and flavin containing monooxygenase 3) and phase II detoxification (glutathione s-transferases and UDP glucuronyltransferases) processes as shown in **Table 9**.

**Table 9: Proteins related to drug metabolism were identified in LSEC monolayers. These proteins were arranged by class where Cyp and Fmo enzymes are phase I with the remaining classified as phase II detoxification enzymes.**

UniProt ID	Gene ID	Protein description
P11711	Cyp2a1	cytochrome P450 2A1
Q64614	Cyp2c6	cytochrome P450 2C6
P05179	Cyp2c7	cytochrome P450 2C7
P11510	Cyp2c12	cytochrome P450 2C12
P05182	Cyp2e1	cytochrome P450 2E1
Q9EQ76	Fmo3	flavin containing monooxygenase 3

P24473	Gstk1	glutathione S-transferase kappa 1
P57113	Gstz1	glutathione transferase zeta 1
P08011	Mgst1	microsomal glutathione S-transferase 1
P20720	Ugt1a2	UDP glucuronosyltransferase 1A2
P08430	Ugt1a6	UDP glucuronosyltransferase 1A6
P70624	Ugt1a7	UDP glucuronosyltransferase 1A7
Q64550	Ugt1a1	UDP glucuronosyltransferase 1A1
Q64638	Ugt1a5	UDP glucuronosyltransferase 1A5
P09875	Ugt2b1	UDP glucuronosyltransferase 2B17
P36511	Ugt2b15	UDP glucuronosyltransferase 2B36

### 3.3.2 Preliminary analysis of the 3DHL LSECs

Initially, the goal of this study was to characterize the proteomic changes between LSECs cultured as monolayers against those in 3DHL liver models. However, upon analysis of the number of confidently identified proteins between LSEC monolayers and 3DHL LSECs, drastic differences were observed as shown in **Table 4**. Further interrogation of the raw data suggested that the contaminant peptides in the 3DHL LSECs were causing suppression of the rat peptides and thus less proteins identifications resulted. This was verified by examining the differences in the contaminant proteins between the two culture conditions. Select proteins are presented in **Table 10** with the full list of contaminants compared shown in Appendix A, **Table A5**.

**Table 10: List of select contaminant proteins that were compared between LSECs from monolayers and 3DHL liver models.**

Protein description	Fold change (3DHL/LSEC)
Chain B, Porcine E-Trypsin (E.C.3.4.21.4) [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	7.69 ± 0.84
Chain A, Crystal Structure Of The First Active Autolysate Form Of The Porcine Alpha Trypsin [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	7.77 ± 0.81
Chain A, Crystal Structure Of Porcine Beta Trypsin With 0.01% Polydocanol [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	10.59 ± 0.84
Chain A, Trypsin (E.C.3.4.21.4) Complexed With Inhibitor From Bitter Gourd [Sus scrofa (Contaminant)]	10.70 ± 0.79
Chain A, Complex Of The Second Kunitz Domain Of Tissue Factor Pathway Inhibitor With Porcine Trypsin [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	11.02 ± 0.83
Trypsin precursor (EC 3.4.21.4) [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	11.13 ± 0.84
Chain A, Porcine E-Trypsin (E.C.3.4.21.4) [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	11.59 ± 0.38
Chain E, Leech-Derived Trypsin Inhibitor TRYPSIN COMPLEX [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	12.55 ± 0.83
Chain C, Porcine E-Trypsin (E.C.3.4.21.4) [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	19.69 ± 0.69

gi 2190337 emb CAA41735.1  serum albumin [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	1.23 ± 0.96
gi 1351907 sp P02769 ALBU_BOVIN Serum albumin precursor (Allergen Bos d 6) (BSA) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	1.25 ± 0.96

The contaminant proteins exhibiting the greatest fold change in 3DHL as compared to LSEC monolayers were components of porcine (*Sus scrofa*) trypsin (~1.5-19.6 fold change). These results indicate that the ion suppression resulted from excess trypsin present in the 3DHL LSECs. The amount of excess trypsin may have been due to experimental error where incomplete aspiration of the media and trypsin occurred after centrifugation during the isolation of the 3DHL LSECs. This did not occur during the isolation of the LSEC monolayers because the size of the resulting cell pellet after centrifugation was large enough so that aspiration could be performed without disruption of cell pellet. During the 3DHL LSEC isolation, the cell pellet was not as clearly defined possible due to a decreased amount of cells. Additionally, levels of bovine serum albumin were also increased in the 3DHL LSECs as compared to LSEC monolayers (~1.2 fold change) suggesting the potential for endocytosis of these contaminants. Additionally, these trends could also be attributed to the residual media and trypsin components left from incomplete aspiration after centrifugation. Future studies will need to be performed in order to test the hypothesis of possible endocytosis of the serum albumin by the LSEC. However, based on these results, it is not possible to accurately quantify the differences in the LSEC monolayers and 3DHL LSEC proteomes between the two culture conditions due to the presence of tryptic proteins that are causing ion suppression.

### 3.4 Discussion

In this study the proteome of LSEC monolayers were characterized in order to gain insight into their physiological processes prior to assembly of a 3D liver model. Based on categorical annotation, valine, leucine and isoleucine degradation (**Table 6**), fatty acid

metabolism (**Table 7**), oxidative phosphorylation (**Table 8**) and drug metabolism (**Table 9**) were among the most significantly enriched KEGG pathways, indicating that these core functions are performed by LSECs monolayers. It is worthy to note that categories related to neurodegenerative disorders, such as Parkinson's disease and Huntington disease, were also found to be statistically significant in the LSEC monolayers. Upon further investigation, it was determined that proteins corresponding to oxidative phosphorylation were also annotated to these pathways. Many studies have shown that mitochondrial dysregulation, specifically to Complex I, is implicated in Parkinson's disease patients [224-226]. Similar observations have also been reported for Huntington's disease, where the activities of Complexes II and III have been shown to decrease under diseased states [227-229]. However, since these diseases are not liver specific, annotations to these pathways are not relevant to our studies and therefore are not discussed. Within the context of the liver, catabolism of leucine and isoleucine leads to the formation of acetyl-CoA, the entry point into the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle. Acetyl-CoA is also produced via fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation (acyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenases, enoyl Coenzyme A hydratase and trifunctional enzymes). Additionally, valine and isoleucine are both metabolized and form succinyl-CoA, which also enters the TCA cycle (**Figure 12**). Electrons produced from the TCA cycle are passed into the electron transport chain, which consist of proteins that span between the intermembrane space and the matrix of the mitochondria, where oxidative phosphorylation occurs. Each complex in the electron transport chain performs a separate function and is linked to these metabolic processes [182]. Complex I accepts electrons from the reduced form of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NADH), which serves as the link between processes such as glycolysis, fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation, amino acid degradation and the electron transport chain. Complex II accepts electrons from succinyl-CoA which provides a link between the TCA cycle

and the electron transport chain. Ubiquinone, in its reduced form, is produced from Complexes I and II and is a substrate for Complex III where it is oxidized while cytochrome c is reduced. The reduced cytochrome c is passed to Complex IV where reduction of oxygen occurs resulting in the formation of water. As electrons are passed through each complex, protons ( $H^+$ ) are also transported into the mitochondrial intermembrane space. Accumulation of  $H^+$  drives the formation of adenosine triphosphate (ATP). As  $H^+$  re-enters the matrix side of the mitochondria through the  $F_0$  subunit of ATP synthase, ATP is formed. Together this process results in an energy currency (ATP) that the cells will utilize to drive all metabolic processes. Further work will be needed to characterize the activity of each of these electron transport chain complexes, and their roles in the LSECs from monolayers and 3D models.

With regards to drug metabolism, the role that LSECs play has not been investigated in great detail. One study has shown an effect of acetaminophen toxicity on LSECs, but was limited to measuring cell viability and metabolite levels *in vivo* [230]. Only one such study has been performed to date focusing on characterizing the proteome of freshly isolated primary murine LSECs [158]. Their results highlighted the role of LSECs in supporting cellular structure and membrane trafficking. However, results relating to the detoxification abilities of LSECs were not discussed. In terms of phase I detoxification proteins, both our study and that of Azmifar *et al.* identified CYP2E1 and FMO3 [158]. Microsomal glutathione S-transferase, glutathione S-transferase kappa 1, UDP glucuronosyltransferase 2B17, 1A1, 1A7, and 1A6 were among the commonly identified phase II enzymes in both studies. Among the CYP family, CYP 2A1, 2C6, 2C7, 2C12, and 2E1 were identified in this study. This family of enzymes is responsible for performing the biotransformation of drugs, xenobiotics and steroids [1, 231, 232]. For example, CYP2A1 catalyzes the transformation of testosterone to  $7\alpha$ -hydroxytestosterone [233, 234]. CYP

2C6 catalyzes the transformation of drugs such as Warfarin, an anticoagulant, and Diclofenac, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), in rats [235, 236]. CYP2E1 is ethanol inducible and metabolizes low molecular weight compounds such as ethanol, acetaminophen, and carbon tetrachloride [231, 237]. Among the phase II enzymes, GST and UGT enzymes were identified in the LSEC monolayers. This family of enzymes is involved in the conjugation of drugs and xenobiotics, yielding products that are excreted from body [238]. GSTs conjugate glutathione to products from phase I detoxification [239, 240]. For example, n-acetyl-p-benzoquinoneimine, a product formed from the conversion of acetaminophen by CYP2E1, is conjugated to glutathione via GSTs [239]. As a result of this conjugation, glutathione depletion occurs resulting in increased toxicity due to acetaminophen [240]. UGT enzymes perform glucuronidation in which uridine- 5'-diphospho- $\alpha$ -D-glucuronic acid (UDPGA) is conjugated to alcohols, phenols, carboxylic acids, thiols and amines allowing for excretion via the bile or urine [238, 241]. Taken together, these results highlight the role of LSECs in metabolism of amino acid, lipids and oxidative phosphorylation and phase I and phase II detoxification processes.

Preliminary analysis of the LSECs from 3DHL liver models determined that a technical error was performed during the isolation. Incomplete removal of the supernatant after centrifuging occurred leaving a minute, yet significant amount of contaminant proteins along with the cells (**Table 10**). It is possible that the LSECs could be performing endocytosis on the components present within the microenvironment such as HA from the PEMs and bovine proteins from the cell culture media. However, further imaging studies using labeled serum proteins, such as albumin, would be needed to confirm this hypothesis. Nevertheless, given the amount of trypsin present in these samples, accurate quantification was not feasible. Future studies will have to take this into account to ensure accurate quantification and also determine if

it is possible to separate the role of the HA containing PEMs from that of the hepatocytes on LSECs.

### **3.5 Conclusions**

The investigation of LSEC proteomes cultured in a monolayer format, as well as in the 3D liver models was performed. LSECs monolayers were enriched in functions related to core metabolism and detoxification, including branched chain amino acid and lipid metabolism. These functions play a critical role in fulfilling the energy needs of the cells. When these cells were cultured for 3 additional days in the 3D liver models, large amounts of serum and trypsin proteins from the media were identified. This technical limitation did not allow for firm conclusions to be made on the differences between LSEC monolayers and those cultured in the 3DHL liver models. It is possible that the LSECs may be performing endocytosis of the serum components, a known role of these cells. Future studies will be needed to confirm this hypothesis. Nonetheless, this study provides the foundation upon which more in-depth analyses can be performed using the 3DHL LSECs.

## **Chapter 4: Future work**

The work presented in this dissertation evaluated the effects of the PEMs and LSECs on hepatocytes proteomes after six days of culture, permitting 72 hours of assembled liver model functional activity. Proteomic datasets for HMs, 3DH and 3DHL liver models indicated the PEM was the major factor in the resulting proteome. Characterization of the proteome of LSEC monolayers after 72 hours established an initial proteome for this cell type as well. In conjunction with the 3DHL/3DH/HM study, we determined that the hepatocytes at 72 hours are in a physiologically starved state producing both glucose and ketone bodies, even though the media glucose concentration was well above the normal postprandial concentration [186]. While these results provide new insights into organotypic liver model function, they also suggest new testable hypotheses worthy of further exploration.

### **4.1 Functional characterization and media studies**

During the time frame evaluated, the hepatocytes were observed to be in a gluconeogenic state, releasing both glucose and ketone bodies to the medium. This does not mimic the metabolic state of a normal functioning liver. Initial evaluation of glucose levels during longer culture periods would determine if the cells begin to function as traditional hepatocytes using the current media formulation. If they do not, then media formulations may need to be modified, starting with a reduction in glucagon levels. Use of a rapid glucose analyzer would permit real time studies to be performed to assess for optimal glucagon levels. The presence and absence of epidermal growth factor (EGF) could also be evaluated as it has been shown to promote DNA synthesis and is commonly used in hepatocyte media [19, 70, 71, 89-91, 101]. However, it was not used in the proteomics investigations discussed in Chapters 2 and 3. These studies will provide a foundation for producing a model that utilizes glucose as feedstocks instead of lipids in

accordance with a normal functioning liver tissue. In addition to glucose measurements, functional markers such as albumin and urea production will also need to be measured to assess liver function

#### **4.2 Evaluation of hepatocyte proteomes in the presence of both the LSECs and PEMs utilizing longer culture periods and optimized media conditions**

The results from the above projects provide a functional model system that can be re-evaluated at the proteome level. An initial study would center on the 3DH and 3DHL models, and it is recommended that evaluation of the PEMs also occur at these time points as well. This could potentially provide information on matrix remodeling that is conducive to liver function. Future work should also include elucidating the effects of hepatocytes on the LSECs as this was the original aim of Chapter 3. Care should be taken when isolating the cells from the PEMs to make sure all of the components of the media and other possible contaminants are removed. Introduction of an extra wash step after isolation of the cells, but before lysis, possibly with a buffer solution like PBS, would be beneficial. This would allow for more accurate quantification of protein content and proteomic differences between culture conditions. However, it is also possible the contaminants will never be completely eliminated due to the rapid scavenger and endocytotic activities of these cells. Imaging studies using fluorescently labeled albumin may allow a rapid assessment of the extent to which contamination is due to normal LSEC function. Such studies must also bear in mind that rat LSECs are small and thus there will always be the challenge of detection limits for LSEC proteomics.

#### **4.3 Proteomics and metabolomics of more complex models**

To expand this study further, the addition of the other NPC types and their effect on the hepatocyte proteome should be evaluated. The first experiment would be to determine the differences between liver models containing hepatocytes, LSECs, and a PEM with and without

the addition of KCs. Standard conditions ascertained previously should be employed, with assessment of urea, albumin and glucose performed as well. If possible, more than one time point should be chosen and the PEMs should be harvested. This would provide insight into how communication among the three cells types influences hepatocyte proteomes. Additionally, in order to gain insight into how KCs are influenced by the other two cell types, comparison to fresh KCs should also be performed. This should also be compared to models where only KCs and hepatocytes are present, but separated by a PEM.

The analyses of hepatocyte proteomes obtained from liver models have begun to yield insight into the effects of cell-ECM and cell-cell interactions. However, metabolite profiles have not been assessed. For example, the data in Chapter 2 suggested increased abundance of proteins related to both mitochondrial and peroxisomal  $\beta$ -oxidation. Therefore, lipid levels in the cell culture media are expected to decrease. Thus analysis of the “lipidome” can be performed where one could selectively separate lipids from the cell culture media using protocols as previously described [242, 243]. These protocols involve liquid-liquid extraction methods with mixtures of methanol, methyl-*tert*-butyl-ether, and water. This mixture induces a phase separation where lipids will be separated into an organic solvent. LC-MS/MS analysis can be performed on this fraction and metabolite identification could be performed using the Lipid Metabolites and Pathways Strategy (LIPID MAPS). This kind of study could serve as a validation or could be in contrast to the proteomic predictions.

#### **4.4 Assessment of intercellular signaling processes**

One of the initial goals of this work was to ascertain the paracrine signaling process between cell types. These types of studies are always a challenge since signaling molecules are difficult to detect by MS in a media composed of 10% FBS. While cytokines are difficult to

detect unless they are specifically targeted, it should be pointed out that some studies have linked amino acids, such as proline and glutamine, to enhancement of hepatic function [96, 244]. However, no direct link to any intercellular signaling pathway has been elucidated. Evaluation of the more hydrophilic substances in an untargeted way may provide clues as to signaling processes. Another potential intracellular route would be an assessment of the phosphopeptide pools derived from hepatocytes generated under different culture conditions. Changes in the phosphoproteome are essentially related to signaling pathways and could possibly provide a path back to the source of the signal. For example, phosphorylation of the glycoprotein 130 (GP130) receptor plays a role in activation of the janus kinase/signal transducer and activator of transcription (JAK/STAT) or the mitogen activated protein kinase (MAPK) pathways activated by IL-6 [157, 245]. In addition to the phosphoproteome, protein-protein interactions could also be studied using MS based techniques coupled with affinity purification [246]. Such interactions exist in many pathways such as those activated by transforming growth factor- $\beta$  (TGF- $\beta$ ), where a complex known as the apoptosome, which consists of cytochrome C, apoptotic protease activating factor -1 (APAF-1) and caspase 9 forms. The formation of the apoptosome leads to the activation of caspase 3 and consequently apoptosis of hepatocytes [247, 248]. Thus, coupling results from both of these studies together could yield great insight into signaling processes.

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## Appendix A

**Table A1: Proteins identified in LSEC monolayer replicate 1**

UniProt ID	Protein description
P26772	10 kDa heat shock protein_mitochondrial
Q64591	2_4-dienoyl-CoA reductase_mitochondrial
Q68G44	3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-Coenzyme A synthase 2 (Mitochondrial)
O70351	3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase type-2
P13437	3-ketoacyl-CoA thiolase_mitochondrial
P63039	60 kDa heat shock protein_mitochondrial
P06761	78 kDa glucose-regulated protein
Q7TPI5	Ac2-281
P17764	Acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase_mitochondrial
G3V796	Acetyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase_medium chain
P68035	Actin_alpha cardiac muscle 1
P68136	Actin_alpha skeletal muscle
P62738	Actin_aortic smooth muscle
P60711	Actin_cytoplasmic 1
P63269	Actin_gamma-enteric smooth muscle
Q499N5	Acyl-CoA synthetase family member 2_mitochondrial
P29410	Adenylate kinase 2_mitochondrial
Q6P9Y4	ADP/ATP translocase 1
Q09073	ADP/ATP translocase 2
G3V7J0	Aldehyde dehydrogenase family 6_subfamily A1_isoform CRA_b
Q66HF8	Aldehyde dehydrogenase X_mitochondrial
Q64057	Alpha-aminoadipic semialdehyde dehydrogenase
P04764	Alpha-enolase
P00507	Aspartate aminotransferase_mitochondrial
P19511	ATP synthase F(0) complex subunit B1_mitochondrial
P15999	ATP synthase subunit alpha_mitochondrial
P10719	ATP synthase subunit beta_mitochondrial
P31399	ATP synthase subunit d_mitochondrial
P29419	ATP synthase subunit e_mitochondrial
D3ZAF6	ATP synthase subunit f_mitochondrial
Q6PDU7	ATP synthase subunit g_mitochondrial
P35435	ATP synthase subunit gamma_mitochondrial
Q06647	ATP synthase subunit O_mitochondrial
Q7TP24	Ba1-667
P18418	Calreticulin
P07756	Carbamoyl-phosphate synthase [ammonia]_mitochondrial

P97601	Chaperonin 10
G3V936	Citrate synthase
Q68FY0	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 1_ mitochondrial
P20788	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit Rieske_ mitochondrial
P00406	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 2
P10888	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 4 isoform 1_ mitochondrial
P11240	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 5A_ mitochondrial
Q5EB99	Cytochrome P450-like
Q64614	Cytochrome P450PB-1 (Fragment)
P29147	D-beta-hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P0C2X9	Delta-1-pyrroline-5-carboxylate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
G3V6P2	Dihydrolipoamide S-succinyltransferase (E2 component of 2-oxo-glutarate complex)_ isoform CRA_a
Q641Y0	Dolichyl-diphosphooligosaccharide--protein glycosyltransferase 48 kDa subunit
P07153	Dolichyl-diphosphooligosaccharide--protein glycosyltransferase subunit 1
P25235	Dolichyl-diphosphooligosaccharide--protein glycosyltransferase subunit 2
P13803	Electron transfer flavoprotein subunit alpha_ mitochondrial
Q68FU3	Electron transfer flavoprotein subunit beta
Q66HD0	Endoplasmic
Q5BJ93	Enolase 1_ (Alpha)
P14604	Enoyl-CoA hydratase_ mitochondrial
O88752	Epsilon 1 globin
B0BNJ4	Ethylmalonic encephalopathy 1
B2RYW9	Fumarylacetoacetate hydrolase domain-containing protein 2
Q99521	Gastrin-binding protein (Fragment)
P10860	Glutamate dehydrogenase 1_ mitochondrial
P04041	Glutathione peroxidase 1
P04906	Glutathione S-transferase P
Q5I0P2	Glycine cleavage system H protein_ mitochondrial
Q64599	Hemiferrin
P02091	Hemoglobin subunit beta-1
P11517	Hemoglobin subunit beta-2
P15865	Histone H1.4
Q6I8Q6	Histone H2A
Q00715	Histone H2B type 1
P62804	Histone H4
Q9WVK7	Hydroxyacyl-coenzyme A dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P22791	Hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA synthase_ mitochondrial
Q63280	Keratin K5 (Fragment)
A0A0G2K509	Keratin_ type II cytoskeletal 5
Q4FZU2	Keratin_ type II cytoskeletal 6A
Q498S9	LOC498793 protein (Fragment)

P15650	Long-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P04636	Malate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P08503	Medium-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q4V8K1	Metalloreductase STEAP4
Q02253	Methylmalonate-semialdehyde dehydrogenase [acylating]_ mitochondrial
Q31266	MHC class I RT1.Aw3 protein
P08011	Microsomal glutathione S-transferase 1
O89035	Mitochondrial dicarboxylate carrier
P04182	Ornithine aminotransferase_ mitochondrial
P00481	Ornithine carbamoyltransferase_ mitochondrial
P24368	Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase B
Q9R063	Peroxiredoxin-5_ mitochondrial
Q9WVK3	Peroxisomal trans-2-enoyl-CoA reductase
Q63412	Product of unknown function (Fragment)
P62963	Profilin-1
P67779	Prohibitin
Q5XIH7	Prohibitin-2
D3ZRN3	Protein Actb12
D3ZBE6	Protein Atp5h11
P11598	Protein disulfide-isomerase A3
Q63081	Protein disulfide-isomerase A6
P04785	Protein disulfide-isomerase
D4A2K1	Protein Hoga1
D3ZFH5	Protein Itih2
G3V908	Protein Kb15
M0R4D7	Protein LOC100910820
D3ZFH6	Protein Phb-ps1
F1LZW6	Protein Slc25a13
D3ZB81	Protein Slc25a31
Q5XI04	Protein Stom
P52873	Pyruvate carboxylase_ mitochondrial
Q63223	Rat hemoglobin beta-chain (Fragment)
Q5RJR9	Serine (Or cysteine) proteinase inhibitor_ clade H_ member 1_ isoform CRA_b
P12346	Serotransferrin
P29457	Serpin H1
P02770	Serum albumin
P48721	Stress-70 protein_ mitochondrial
P21913	Succinate dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] iron-sulfur subunit_ mitochondrial
F1LPV8	Succinyl-CoA ligase subunit beta
P07895	Superoxide dismutase [Mn]_ mitochondrial
R9PY10	Taste receptor type 1 member 2

P24329	Thiosulfate sulfurtransferase
Q64428	Trifunctional enzyme subunit alpha_ mitochondrial
Q60587	Trifunctional enzyme subunit beta_ mitochondrial
P08542	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B17
P08541	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B2
D3ZLR6	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B37
P09118	Uricase
Q9Z2L0	Voltage-dependent anion-selective channel protein 1
P81155	Voltage-dependent anion-selective channel protein 2

**Table A2: Proteins identified in LSEC monolayer replicate 2**

UniProt ID	Protein description
Q9R1Z0	Voltage-dependent anion-selective channel protein 3
P81155	Voltage-dependent anion-selective channel protein 2
Q9Z2L0	Voltage-dependent anion-selective channel protein 1
P45953	Very long-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P09118	Uricase
Q9JJW3	Up-regulated during skeletal muscle growth protein 5
P70624	UGT1A7
P19488	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B37
P08541	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B2
P08542	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B17
P36511	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B15
P09875	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B1
P08430	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1-6
Q64638	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1-5
P20720	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1-2
Q64550	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1-1
Q60587	Trifunctional enzyme subunit beta_ mitochondrial
Q64428	Trifunctional enzyme subunit alpha_ mitochondrial
P32089	Tricarboxylate transport protein_ mitochondrial
Q510E7	Transmembrane emp24 domain-containing protein 9
Q07984	Translocon-associated protein subunit delta
Q7TPJ0	Translocon-associated protein subunit alpha
Q9Z311	Trans-2-enoyl-CoA reductase_ mitochondrial
P24329	Thiosulfate sulfurtransferase
Q9Z0V6	Thioredoxin-dependent peroxide reductase_ mitochondrial
P97615	Thioredoxin_ mitochondrial
F8WFI0	Taste receptor type 1 member 2
P07895	Superoxide dismutase [Mn]_ mitochondrial
Q07116	Sulfite oxidase_ mitochondrial

P70631	Succinyl-CoA synthetase alpha subunit (Fragment)
Q68FT4	Succinyl-CoA ligase subunit beta (Fragment)
P21913	Succinate dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] iron-sulfur subunit_ mitochondrial
Q920L2	Succinate dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] flavoprotein subunit_ mitochondrial
P48721	Stress-70 protein_ mitochondrial
Q4FZT0	Stomatin-like protein 2_ mitochondrial
P17178	Sterol 26-hydroxylase_ mitochondrial
Q6AXV4	Sorting and assembly machinery component 50 homolog
Q4V7D1	Signal sequence receptor_ alpha
Q63965	Sideroflexin-1
P15651	Short-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P70584	Short/branched chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q68FP2	Serum paraoxonase/lactonase 3
P55159	Serum paraoxonase/arylesterase 1
P02770	Serum albumin
P12346	Serotransferrin
Q5U3Z7	Serine hydroxymethyltransferase
Q64380	Sarcosine dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P52759	Ribonuclease UK114
Q5EB60	RGD1308874 protein (Fragment)
F1LVY2	Retinol dehydrogenase 7
P55006	Retinol dehydrogenase 7
P50169	Retinol dehydrogenase 3
P50170	Retinol dehydrogenase 2
Q498D5	Regulator of microtubule dynamics protein 2
Q63223	Rat hemoglobin beta-chain (Fragment)
P49432	Pyruvate dehydrogenase E1 component subunit beta_ mitochondrial
P26284	Pyruvate dehydrogenase E1 component subunit alpha_ somatic form_ mitochondrial
P52873	Pyruvate carboxylase_ mitochondrial
Q68FT3	Pyridine nucleotide-disulfide oxidoreductase domain-containing protein 2
G3V908	Protein Kb15
D4A2K1	Protein Hoga1
Q62902	Protein ERGIC-53
P04785	Protein disulfide-isomerase
A0A0G2JSZ5	Protein disulfide-isomerase A6
Q63081	Protein disulfide-isomerase A6
Q5I0H9	Protein disulfide-isomerase A5
P38659	Protein disulfide-isomerase A4
G3V6T7	Protein disulfide-isomerase A4
P11598	Protein disulfide-isomerase A3
F1LR47	Protein Cyp2c6v1

M0RB90	Protein Cyp2c6v1
A0A0G2K455	Protein Ces2
D3ZBE6	Protein Atp5h11
M0RA88	Protein Aldh112
A0A0G2K047	Protein Acss3
D3ZGU2	Protein Acss3
F1M1W1	Protein Acsm1
D3ZIQ1	Protein Acot4
D3ZA93	Protein Acot13
M0RDK9	Protein Acad8
P07633	Propionyl-CoA carboxylase beta chain_ mitochondrial
P14882	Propionyl-CoA carboxylase alpha chain_ mitochondrial
Q5XIH7	Prohibitin-2
P67779	Prohibitin
Q2V057	Probable proline dehydrogenase 2
Q4KLP0	Probable 2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase E1 component DHKTD1_ mitochondrial
P16036	Phosphate carrier protein_ mitochondrial
Q9WVK3	Peroxisomal trans-2-enoyl-CoA reductase
P07896	Peroxisomal bifunctional enzyme
P97562	Peroxisomal acyl-coenzyme A oxidase 2
Q9R063	Peroxiredoxin-5_ mitochondrial
Q9Z0V5	Peroxiredoxin-4
D3ZZR9	Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase
P24368	Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase B
P00481	Ornithine carbamoyltransferase_ mitochondrial
P04182	Ornithine aminotransferase_ mitochondrial
Q497B0	Omega-amidase NIT2
Q8K4G6	O-acetyl-ADP-ribose deacetylase MACROD1 (Fragment)
P19804	Nucleoside diphosphate kinase B
Q05982	Nucleoside diphosphate kinase A
P11915	Non-specific lipid-transfer protein
Q5BJZ3	Nicotinamide nucleotide transhydrogenase
B2RZD6	Ndufa4 protein
P56522	NADPH:adrenodoxin oxidoreductase_ mitochondrial
Q66HF1	NADH-ubiquinone oxidoreductase 75 kDa subunit_ mitochondrial
P20070	NADH-cytochrome b5 reductase 3
Q641Y2	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] iron-sulfur protein 2_ mitochondrial
P19234	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] flavoprotein 2_ mitochondrial
Q6P6W6	NADH dehydrogenase (Ubiquinone) 1 alpha subcomplex 10
Q1HCL7	NAD kinase 2_ mitochondrial
C8CHS6	Mitochondrial superoxide dismutase 2 (Fragment)

P38718	Mitochondrial pyruvate carrier 2
P63031	Mitochondrial pyruvate carrier 1
Q9WVA1	Mitochondrial import inner membrane translocase subunit Tim8 A
P62076	Mitochondrial import inner membrane translocase subunit Tim13
O89035	Mitochondrial dicarboxylate carrier
B0BN52	Mitochondrial carrier 2
P97521	Mitochondrial carnitine/acylcarnitine carrier protein
O88994	Mitochondrial amidoxime reducing component 2
P97700	Mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein
D4A1W8	Microsomal triglyceride transfer protein
P08011	Microsomal glutathione S-transferase 1
Q562C4	Methyltransferase-like protein 7B
D4A197	Methylmalonyl CoA epimerase (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_d
Q02253	Methylmalonate-semialdehyde dehydrogenase [acylating]_ mitochondrial
Q510C3	Methylcrotonoyl-CoA carboxylase subunit alpha_ mitochondrial
Q5XIT9	Methylcrotonoyl-CoA carboxylase beta chain_ mitochondrial
P0C5H9	Mesencephalic astrocyte-derived neurotrophic factor
P70580	Membrane-associated progesterone receptor component 1
P08503	Medium-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P57113	Maleylacetoacetate isomerase
P04636	Malate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q7TNX8	LRP16-like protein
O88813	Long-chain-fatty-acid--CoA ligase 5
P18163	Long-chain-fatty-acid--CoA ligase 1
P15650	Long-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q924S5	Lon protease homolog_ mitochondrial
Q63010	Liver carboxylesterase B-1
Q64573	Liver carboxylesterase 4
P10867	L-gulonolactone oxidase
Q58FK9	Kynurenine--oxoglutarate transaminase
A0A0G2K4P6	Kynurenine/alpha-aminoadipate aminotransferase_ mitochondrial
Q64602	Kynurenine/alpha-aminoadipate aminotransferase_ mitochondrial
Q61G03	Keratin_ type II cytoskeletal 73
Q4FZU2	Keratin_ type II cytoskeletal 6A
Q6P6Q2	Keratin_ type II cytoskeletal 5
Q6IMF3	Keratin_ type II cytoskeletal 1
P12007	Isovaleryl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P56574	Isocitrate dehydrogenase [NADP]_ mitochondrial
P22791	Hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA synthase_ mitochondrial
P17425	Hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA synthase_ cytoplasmic
P97519	Hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA lyase_ mitochondrial

Q9WVK7	Hydroxyacyl-coenzyme A dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q4QQW3	Hydroxyacid-oxoacid transhydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P15865	Histone H1.4
D4AB01	Histidine triad nucleotide binding protein 2 (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_a
P11517	Hemoglobin subunit beta-2
P02091	Hemoglobin subunit beta-1
Q64599	Hemiferrin
P14659	Heat shock-related 70 kDa protein 2
Q5XHZ0	Heat shock protein 75 kDa_ mitochondrial
P63018	Heat shock cognate 71 kDa protein
P55063	Heat shock 70 kDa protein 1-like
B2RYT7	Haloacid dehalogenase-like hydrolase domain containing 3
Q9QYU8	H protein
P29411	GTP:AMP phosphotransferase AK3_ mitochondrial
P97576	GrpE protein homolog 1_ mitochondrial
Q5PQT3	Glycine N-acyltransferase
Q510P2	Glycine cleavage system H protein_ mitochondrial
Q562C3	Glycine C-acetyltransferase (2-amino-3-ketobutyrate-coenzyme A ligase)
F1LNI0	Glycerol-3-phosphate dehydrogenase
Q0VGK3	Glycerate kinase
P24473	Glutathione S-transferase kappa 1
P04041	Glutathione peroxidase 1
D3ZT90	Glutaryl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase (Predicted)
D4ADD7	Glutaredoxin 5 homolog (S. cerevisiae) (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_b
P28492	Glutaminase liver isoform_ mitochondrial
P10860	Glutamate dehydrogenase 1_ mitochondrial
Q8CJG5	Gene
Q99521	Gastrin-binding protein (Fragment)
B2RYW9	Fumarylacetoacetate hydrolase domain-containing protein 2
P14408	Fumarate hydratase_ mitochondrial
P30839	Fatty aldehyde dehydrogenase
B0BNJ4	Ethylmalonic encephalopathy 1
Q6MGB5	Estradiol 17-beta-dehydrogenase 8
P56571	ES1 protein homolog_ mitochondrial
P07687	Epoxide hydrolase 1
P14604	Enoyl-CoA hydratase_ mitochondrial
P23965	Enoyl-CoA delta isomerase 1_ mitochondrial
D3ZIL6	Enoyl Coenzyme A hydratase domain containing 2 (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_a
P52555	Endoplasmic reticulum resident protein 29
P85834	Elongation factor Tu_ mitochondrial
Q66HF3	Electron transfer flavoprotein-ubiquinone oxidoreductase_ mitochondrial

Q68FU3	Electron transfer flavoprotein subunit beta
P13803	Electron transfer flavoprotein subunit alpha_ mitochondrial
Q6P6S9	Ectonucleoside triphosphate diphosphohydrolase 5
P61805	Dolichyl-diphosphooligosaccharide--protein glycosyltransferase subunit DAD1
P25235	Dolichyl-diphosphooligosaccharide--protein glycosyltransferase subunit 2
P07153	Dolichyl-diphosphooligosaccharide--protein glycosyltransferase subunit 1
Q641Y0	Dolichyl-diphosphooligosaccharide--protein glycosyltransferase 48 kDa subunit
Q68G41	Dodecenoyl-Coenzyme A delta isomerase (3_2 trans-enoyl-Coenzyme A isomerase)
D0VYQ0	DLST protein
Q63342	Dimethylglycine dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q8K4C0	Dimethylaniline monooxygenase [N-oxide-forming] 5
Q9EQ76	Dimethylaniline monooxygenase [N-oxide-forming] 3
Q01205	Dihydrolipoyllysine-residue succinyltransferase component of 2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase complex_ mitochondrial
P08461	Dihydrolipoyllysine-residue acetyltransferase component of pyruvate dehydrogenase complex_ mitochondrial
Q6P6R2	Dihydrolipoyl dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
B2GV15	Dihydrolipoamide branched chain transacylase E2
Q64592	Delta3_ delta2-enoyl-CoA isomerase
Q62651	Delta(3_5)-Delta(2_4)-dienoyl-CoA isomerase_ mitochondrial
Q8VID1	Dehydrogenase/reductase SDR family member 4
P29147	D-beta-hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P84850	D-2-hydroxyglutarate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q68FS4	Cytosol aminopeptidase
Q64614	Cytochrome P450PB-1 (Fragment)
Q5EB99	Cytochrome P450-like
P05182	Cytochrome P450 2E1
P05179	Cytochrome P450 2C7
P05178	Cytochrome P450 2C6
P24470	Cytochrome P450 2C23
P11510	Cytochrome P450 2C12_ female-specific
P11711	Cytochrome P450 2A1
D3Zfq8	Cytochrome c-1 (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_c
P35171	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 7A2_ mitochondrial
P11951	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 6C-2
D3ZD09	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 6B1
P12075	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 5B_ mitochondrial
P11240	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 5A_ mitochondrial
P10888	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 4 isoform 1_ mitochondrial
P00406	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 2
P20788	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit Rieske_ mitochondrial
B2RYS2	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 7
Q5M915	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 6_ mitochondrial

P32551	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 2_ mitochondrial
Q68FY0	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 1_ mitochondrial
O35796	Complement component 1 Q subcomponent-binding protein_ mitochondrial
G3V936	Citrate synthase
Q6UPE0	Choline dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P97601	Chaperonin 10
B0K020	CDGSH iron-sulfur domain-containing protein 1
P04762	Catalase
P18886	Carnitine O-palmitoyltransferase 2_ mitochondrial
Q8K3R0	Carboxylic ester hydrolase
M0R7R1	Carboxylic ester hydrolase
Q63108	Carboxylesterase 1E
P16303	Carboxylesterase 1D
P10959	Carboxylesterase 1C
P07756	Carbamoyl-phosphate synthase [ammonia]_ mitochondrial
A0JN30	Canopy 2 homolog (Zebrafish)
P18418	Calreticulin
P35565	Calnexin
B5DFA3	Bucs1 protein
Q3B8N9	Biphenyl hydrolase-like (Serine hydrolase)
Q9ES38	Bile acyl-CoA synthetase
Q63276	Bile acid-CoA:amino acid N-acyltransferase
Q99NC6	Beta-actin FE-3 (Fragment)
Q5EB89	Bckdha protein (Fragment)
Q7TP24	Ba1-667
Q7TP27	Ba1-651
F1LU71	AU RNA binding protein/enoyl-coenzyme A hydratase (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_a
Q5BJQ0	Atypical kinase ADCK3_ mitochondrial
Q06647	ATP synthase subunit O_ mitochondrial
P35435	ATP synthase subunit gamma_ mitochondrial
Q6PDU7	ATP synthase subunit g_ mitochondrial
D3ZAF6	ATP synthase subunit f_ mitochondrial
P29419	ATP synthase subunit e_ mitochondrial
P35434	ATP synthase subunit delta_ mitochondrial
P31399	ATP synthase subunit d_ mitochondrial
P10719	ATP synthase subunit beta_ mitochondrial
P15999	ATP synthase subunit alpha_ mitochondrial
P19511	ATP synthase F(0) complex subunit B1_ mitochondrial
P00507	Aspartate aminotransferase_ mitochondrial
Q510N0	Arylacetamide deacetylase
B2RZ09	Arginine-rich_ mutated in early stage tumors (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_b

Q5XI85	Aminomethyltransferase
P70473	Alpha-methylacyl-CoA racemase
D4ACE9	Alpha-aminoadipic semialdehyde synthase_ mitochondrial
Q64057	Alpha-aminoadipic semialdehyde dehydrogenase
P14046	Alpha-1-inhibitor 3
P11884	Aldehyde dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q66HF8	Aldehyde dehydrogenase X_ mitochondrial
G3V9W6	Aldehyde dehydrogenase
Q0D2L3	Agmatinase_ mitochondrial
P24483	Adrenodoxin_ mitochondrial OS=Rattus norvegicus GN=Fdx1 PE=2 SV=1
Q09073	ADP/ATP translocase 2
Q05962	ADP/ATP translocase 1
Q7TP48	Adipocyte plasma membrane-associated protein
Q9WUS0	Adenylate kinase 4_ mitochondrial
P29410	Adenylate kinase 2_ mitochondrial
Q6AYQ8	Acylpyruvase FAHD1_ mitochondrial
O55171	Acyl-coenzyme A thioesterase 2_ mitochondrial
G3V7C4	Acyl-coenzyme A thioesterase 1
Q6AYT9	Acyl-coenzyme A synthetase ACSM5_ mitochondrial
F1LNW3	Acyl-coenzyme A oxidase
Q5M9H2	Acyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase_ very long chain
Q499N5	Acyl-CoA synthetase family member 2_ mitochondrial
D3ZF13	Acyl carrier protein
P60711	Actin_ cytoplasmic 1
P62738	Actin_ aortic smooth muscle
P68035	Actin_ alpha cardiac muscle 1
Q9ER34	Aconitate hydratase_ mitochondrial
M0RAP9	Acetyltransferase component of pyruvate dehydrogenase complex
G3V796	Acetyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase_ medium chain
P17764	Acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase_ mitochondrial
Q7TPA1	Ab1-114
Q7TMB6	Aa2-174
P06761	78 kDa glucose-regulated protein
P63039	60 kDa heat shock protein_ mitochondrial
Q9JLJ3	4-trimethylaminobutyraldehyde dehydrogenase
G3V728	4-nitrophenylphosphatase domain and non-neuronal SNAP25-like protein homolog 1 (C. elegans)_ isoform CRA_b
P50554	4-aminobutyrate aminotransferase_ mitochondrial
P24008	3-oxo-5-alpha-steroid 4-dehydrogenase 1
P97532	3-mercaptopyruvate sulfurtransferase
P13437	3-ketoacyl-CoA thiolase_ mitochondrial
P29266	3-hydroxyisobutyrate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial

O70351	3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase type-2
P35738	2-oxoisovalerate dehydrogenase subunit beta_ mitochondrial
P11960	2-oxoisovalerate dehydrogenase subunit alpha_ mitochondrial (Fragment)
Q5X178	2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q64591	2_4-dienoyl-CoA reductase_ mitochondrial
Q5M875	17-beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase 13
D3ZTP0	10-formyltetrahydrofolate dehydrogenase
P26772	10 kDa heat shock protein_ mitochondrial

**Table A3: Proteins identified in LSEC monolayer replicate 3**

UniProt ID	Protein description
Q9R1Z0	Voltage-dependent anion-selective channel protein 3
P81155	Voltage-dependent anion-selective channel protein 2
Q9Z2L0	Voltage-dependent anion-selective channel protein 1
P45953	Very long-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P97524	Very long-chain acyl-CoA synthetase
P09118	Uricase
Q9JJW3	Up-regulated during skeletal muscle growth protein 5
Q68G32	Ugt1a7c protein (Fragment)
F1LLV5	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase
F1M7N8	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B37
Q68G19	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B35
D4A132	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B10
Q7TT85	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B
Q5EBC8	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B
Q6T5F3	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1A9
Q8VD44	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1A8
Q8VD43	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1A7C
Q63662	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1A6
Q8VD45	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1A5
Q6T5F0	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1A5
Q5DT04	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1A1
P97886	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1
Q62789	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B7
P19488	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B37
P08541	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B2
P08542	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B17
P36511	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B15
P09875	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 2B1
Q91Y43	UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1A6 (Fragment)

Q5FWT0	Ubc protein (Fragment)
P69897	Tubulin beta-5 chain
Q6P9T8	Tubulin beta-4B chain
Q4QRB4	Tubulin beta-3 chain
P85108	Tubulin beta-2A chain
Q60587	Trifunctional enzyme subunit beta_ mitochondrial
Q64428	Trifunctional enzyme subunit alpha_ mitochondrial
P32089	Tricarboxylate transport protein_ mitochondrial
Q510E7	Transmembrane emp24 domain-containing protein 9
Q63584	Transmembrane emp24 domain-containing protein 10
Q07984	Translocon-associated protein subunit delta
Q9Z311	Trans-2-enoyl-CoA reductase_ mitochondrial
P24329	Thiosulfate sulfurtransferase
Q9Z0V6	Thioredoxin-dependent peroxide reductase_ mitochondrial
P11232	Thioredoxin
R9PY10	Taste receptor type 1 member 2
P07895	Superoxide dismutase [Mn]_ mitochondrial
P70631	Succinyl-CoA synthetase alpha subunit (Fragment)
F1LPV8	Succinyl-CoA ligase subunit beta
P13086	Succinyl-CoA ligase [ADP/GDP-forming] subunit alpha_ mitochondrial
P21913	Succinate dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] iron-sulfur subunit_ mitochondrial
Q920L2	Succinate dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] flavoprotein subunit_ mitochondrial
P48721	Stress-70 protein_ mitochondrial
Q4FZT0	Stomatin-like protein 2_ mitochondrial
P17178	Sterol 26-hydroxylase_ mitochondrial
A1E0X5	Steroid 5 alpha-reductase (Fragment)
Q66HN6	Solute carrier family 27 (Fatty acid transporter)_ member 2
Q63965	Sideroflexin-1
P15651	Short-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P70584	Short/branched chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q68FP2	Serum paraoxonase/lactonase 3
P55159	Serum paraoxonase/arylesterase 1
P02770	Serum albumin
P12346	Serotransferrin
Q5U3Z7	Serine hydroxymethyltransferase
Q64380	Sarcosine dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P52759	Ribonuclease UK114
P55006	Retinol dehydrogenase 7
P49432	Pyruvate dehydrogenase E1 component subunit beta_ mitochondrial
P26284	Pyruvate dehydrogenase E1 component subunit alpha_ somatic form_ mitochondrial
P52873	Pyruvate carboxylase_ mitochondrial

Q68FT3	Pyridine nucleotide-disulfide oxidoreductase domain-containing protein 2
P04785	Protein disulfide-isomerase
Q63081	Protein disulfide-isomerase A6
Q510H9	Protein disulfide-isomerase A5
P38659	Protein disulfide-isomerase A4
P11598	Protein disulfide-isomerase A3
P07633	Propionyl-CoA carboxylase beta chain_ mitochondrial
P14882	Propionyl-CoA carboxylase alpha chain_ mitochondrial
Q68FZ8	Propionyl coenzyme A carboxylase_ beta polypeptide
P67779	Prohibitin
P62963	Profilin-1
Q63412	Product of unknown function (Fragment)
Q2V057	Probable proline dehydrogenase 2
Q4KLP0	Probable 2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase E1 component DHKTD1_ mitochondrial
Q63654	Polyubiquitin (Fragment)
Q07969	Platelet glycoprotein 4
P06765	Platelet factor 4
P16036	Phosphate carrier protein_ mitochondrial
Q9WVK3	Peroxisomal trans-2-enoyl-CoA reductase
P97852	Peroxisomal multifunctional enzyme type 2
P07896	Peroxisomal bifunctional enzyme
Q63448	Peroxisomal acyl-coenzyme A oxidase 3
P97562	Peroxisomal acyl-coenzyme A oxidase 2
P07872	Peroxisomal acyl-coenzyme A oxidase 1
Q9R063	Peroxiredoxin-5_ mitochondrial
Q9Z0V5	Peroxiredoxin-4
P24368	Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase B
P10111	Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase A
P00481	Ornithine carbamoyltransferase_ mitochondrial
P04182	Ornithine aminotransferase_ mitochondrial
Q497B0	Omega-amidase NIT2
G3V8V6	O-acetyl-ADP-ribose deacetylase MACROD1
P19804	Nucleoside diphosphate kinase B
Q05982	Nucleoside diphosphate kinase A
P11915	Non-specific lipid-transfer protein
Q5EBA4	Nipsnap1 protein (Fragment)
Q5BJZ3	Nicotinamide nucleotide transhydrogenase
P56522	NADPH:adrenodoxin oxidoreductase_ mitochondrial
Q66HF1	NADH-ubiquinone oxidoreductase 75 kDa subunit_ mitochondrial
P20070	NADH-cytochrome b5 reductase 3
D3ZCZ9	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] iron-sulfur protein 6_ mitochondrial

Q641Y2	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] iron-sulfur protein 2_ mitochondrial
P19234	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] flavoprotein 2_ mitochondrial
B2RYS8	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] 1 beta subcomplex subunit 8_ mitochondrial
Q5BK63	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] 1 alpha subcomplex subunit 9_ mitochondrial
Q63362	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] 1 alpha subcomplex subunit 5
D3ZS58	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] 1 alpha subcomplex subunit 2
Q561S0	NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] 1 alpha subcomplex subunit 10_ mitochondrial
Q5XIH3	NADH dehydrogenase (Ubiquinone) flavoprotein 1
B0BNE6	NADH dehydrogenase (Ubiquinone) Fe-S protein 8 (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_a
Q5RJN0	NADH dehydrogenase (Ubiquinone) Fe-S protein 7
B2RYW3	NADH dehydrogenase (Ubiquinone) 1 beta subcomplex_ 9
D4A565	NADH dehydrogenase (Ubiquinone) 1 beta subcomplex_ 5 (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_b
Q6P6W6	NADH dehydrogenase (Ubiquinone) 1 alpha subcomplex 10
Q1HCL7	NAD kinase 2_ mitochondrial
B0BN52	Mitochondrial carrier 2
P97521	Mitochondrial carnitine/acylcarnitine carrier protein
O88994	Mitochondrial amidoxime reducing component 2
D4A1W8	Microsomal triglyceride transfer protein 1
P08011	Microsomal glutathione S-transferase 1
Q562C4	Methyltransferase-like protein 7B
D4A197	Methylmalonyl CoA epimerase (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_d
Q02253	Methylmalonate-semialdehyde dehydrogenase [acylating]_ mitochondrial
Q510C3	Methylcrotonoyl-CoA carboxylase subunit alpha_ mitochondrial
Q5XIT9	Methylcrotonoyl-CoA carboxylase beta chain_ mitochondrial
P0C5H9	Mesencephalic astrocyte-derived neurotrophic factor
P70580	Membrane-associated progesterone receptor component 1
P08503	Medium-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P57113	Maleylacetoacetate isomerase
P04636	Malate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q7TNX8	LRP16-like protein
F1LPB3	Long-chain-fatty-acid--CoA ligase 5
P18163	Long-chain-fatty-acid--CoA ligase 1
P15650	Long-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q63010	Liver carboxylesterase B-1
Q64573	Liver carboxylesterase 4
P10867	L-gulonolactone oxidase
Q58FK9	Kynurenine--oxoglutarate transaminase 3
A0A0G2K4P6	Kynurenine/alpha-aminoadipate aminotransferase_ mitochondrial
Q64602	Kynurenine/alpha-aminoadipate aminotransferase_ mitochondrial
Q61G05	Keratin_ type II cytoskeletal 75
Q61G03	Keratin_ type II cytoskeletal 73

Q4FZU2	Keratin_type II cytoskeletal 6A
A0A0G2K509	Keratin_type II cytoskeletal 5
P12007	Isovaleryl-CoA dehydrogenase_mitochondrial
P56574	Isocitrate dehydrogenase [NADP]_mitochondrial
Q63617	Hypoxia up-regulated protein 1
Q6P136	Hyou1 protein
P22791	Hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA synthase_mitochondrial
P97519	Hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA lyase_mitochondrial
Q9WVK7	Hydroxyacyl-coenzyme A dehydrogenase_mitochondrial
F1LQI1	Hydroxyacyl glutathione hydrolase
Q4QQW3	Hydroxyacid-oxoacid transhydrogenase_mitochondrial
B0BNF9	Hydroxyacid oxidase 1
Q6IN39	Hsd17b4 protein
Q00715	Histone H2B type 1
P06349	Histone H1t
P15865	Histone H1.4
D4AB01	Histidine triad nucleotide binding protein 2 (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_a
P02091	Hemoglobin subunit beta-1
P01946	Hemoglobin subunit alpha-1/2
Q64599	Hemiferrin
P06762	Heme oxygenase 1
P34058	Heat shock protein HSP 90-beta
Q5XHZ0	Heat shock protein 75 kDa_mitochondrial
P63018	Heat shock cognate 71 kDa protein
P55063	Heat shock 70 kDa protein 1-like
B2RYT7	Haloacid dehalogenase-like hydrolase domain containing 3
Q9QYU8	H protein
P29411	GTP:AMP phosphotransferase AK3_mitochondrial
P97576	GrpE protein homolog 1_mitochondrial
Q5PQT3	Glycine N-acyltransferase
Q510P2	Glycine cleavage system H protein_mitochondrial
Q562C3	Glycine C-acyltransferase (2-amino-3-ketobutyrate-coenzyme A ligase)
Q0VGK3	Glycerate kinase
P04797	Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase
P24473	Glutathione S-transferase kappa 1
Q6PDW8	Glutathione peroxidase
P04041	Glutathione peroxidase 1
D3ZT90	Glutaryl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase (Predicted)
D4ADD7	Glutaredoxin 5 homolog (S. cerevisiae) (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_b
P28492	Glutaminase liver isoform_mitochondrial
P10860	Glutamate dehydrogenase 1_mitochondrial

Q99521	Gastrin-binding protein (Fragment)
B2RYW9	Fumarylacetoacetate hydrolase domain-containing protein 2
P14408	Fumarate hydratase_ mitochondrial
P97612	Fatty-acid amide hydrolase 1
P30839	Fatty aldehyde dehydrogenase
B0BNJ4	Ethylmalonic encephalopathy 1
Q6AYS8	Estradiol 17-beta-dehydrogenase 11
P56571	ES1 protein homolog_ mitochondrial
P07687	Epoxyde hydrolase 1
P14604	Enoyl-CoA hydratase_ mitochondrial
Q5XIC0	Enoyl-CoA delta isomerase 2_ mitochondrial
P23965	Enoyl-CoA delta isomerase 1_ mitochondrial
Q5EB49	Enolase 1_ (Alpha)
Q66HD0	Endoplasmin
P52555	Endoplasmic reticulum resident protein 29
P85834	Elongation factor Tu_ mitochondrial
P62630	Elongation factor 1-alpha 1
Q66HF3	Electron transfer flavoprotein-ubiquinone oxidoreductase_ mitochondrial
Q68FU3	Electron transfer flavoprotein subunit beta
P13803	Electron transfer flavoprotein subunit alpha_ mitochondrial
P25235	Dolichyl-diphosphooligosaccharide--protein glycosyltransferase subunit 2
P07153	Dolichyl-diphosphooligosaccharide--protein glycosyltransferase subunit 1
Q6TUG0	DnaJ homolog subfamily B member 11
D0VYQ0	DLST protein
Q63342	Dimethylglycine dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q8K4C0	Dimethylaniline monooxygenase [N-oxide-forming] 5
Q9EQ76	Dimethylaniline monooxygenase [N-oxide-forming] 3
Q01205	Dihydrolipoyllysine-residue succinyltransferase component of 2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase complex_ mitochondrial
P08461	Dihydrolipoyllysine-residue acetyltransferase component of pyruvate dehydrogenase complex_ mitochondrial
Q6P6R2	Dihydrolipoyl dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
B2GV15	Dihydrolipoamide branched chain transacylase E2
P0C2X9	Delta-1-pyrroline-5-carboxylate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q62651	Delta(3_5)-Delta(2_4)-dienoyl-CoA isomerase_ mitochondrial
Q8VID1	Dehydrogenase/reductase SDR family member 4
P29147	D-beta-hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q68FS4	Cytosol aminopeptidase
Q5EB99	Cytochrome P450-like
P05182	Cytochrome P450 2E1
P05179	Cytochrome P450 2C7
P05178	Cytochrome P450 2C6
P11510	Cytochrome P450 2C12_ female-specific

A0A0G2JTZ5	Cytochrome P450 2A3
P11711	Cytochrome P450 2A1
P11951	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 6C-2
P10818	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 6A1_ mitochondrial
P12075	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 5B_ mitochondrial
P11240	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 5A_ mitochondrial
P10888	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 4 isoform 1_ mitochondrial
P00406	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 2
P20788	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit Rieske_ mitochondrial
B2RYS2	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 7
Q5M915	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 6_ mitochondrial
P32551	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 2_ mitochondrial
Q68FY0	Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 1_ mitochondrial
P00173	Cytochrome b5
O35796	Complement component 1 Q subcomponent-binding protein_ mitochondrial
P01026	Complement C3
Q8VHF5	Citrate synthase_ mitochondrial
G3V936	Citrate synthase
Q6UPE0	Choline dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
P97601	Chaperonin 10
P24268	Cathepsin D
P04762	Catalase
P18886	Carnitine O-palmitoyltransferase 2_ mitochondrial
D3ZP14	Carboxylic ester hydrolase
O70631	Carboxylic ester hydrolase
Q8K3R0	Carboxylic ester hydrolase
F7F3M3	Carboxylic ester hydrolase
F1LLV6	Carboxylic ester hydrolase
Q63108	Carboxylesterase 1E
P16303	Carboxylesterase 1D
P10959	Carboxylesterase 1C
P07756	Carbamoyl-phosphate synthase [ammonia]_ mitochondrial
B3FBF8	Carbamoylphosphate synthase (Fragment) 1
A0JN30	Canopy 2 homolog (Zebrafish)
P18418	Calreticulin
P35565	Calnexin
Q5VLR5	BWK4
B5DFA3	Bucs1 protein
Q99PU6	Branched-chain alpha-keto acid dihydrolipoyl acyltransferase (Fragment)
B0BNK6	Branched chain keto acid dehydrogenase E1_ beta polypeptide
Q3B8N9	Biphenyl hydrolase-like (Serine hydrolase)

Q9ES38	Bile acyl-CoA synthetase
Q63276	Bile acid-CoA:amino acid N-acyltransferase
Q99NC6	Beta-actin FE-3 (Fragment)
A1Z0K8	Beta-actin (Fragment)
A0A068F1Y2	Beta-actin (Fragment)
Q5EB89	Bckdha protein (Fragment)
Q7TP24	Ba1-667
F1LU71	AU RNA binding protein/enoyl-coenzyme A hydratase (Predicted)_ isoform CRA_a
Q5BJQ0	Atypical kinase ADCK3_ mitochondrial
M0RAD5	ATP-dependent Clp protease proteolytic subunit
Q06647	ATP synthase subunit O_ mitochondrial
P35435	ATP synthase subunit gamma_ mitochondrial
Q6PDU7	ATP synthase subunit g_ mitochondrial
D3ZAF6	ATP synthase subunit f_ mitochondrial
P29419	ATP synthase subunit e_ mitochondrial
G3V7Y3	ATP synthase subunit delta_ mitochondrial
P31399	ATP synthase subunit d_ mitochondrial
P10719	ATP synthase subunit beta_ mitochondrial
P15999	ATP synthase subunit alpha_ mitochondrial
P19511	ATP synthase F(0) complex subunit B1_ mitochondrial
P00507	Aspartate aminotransferase_ mitochondrial
Q5XI85	Aminomethyltransferase
P70473	Alpha-methylacyl-CoA racemase
P04764	Alpha-enolase
Q64057	Alpha-aminoadipic semialdehyde dehydrogenase
P14046	Alpha-1-inhibitor 3
B4F768	Aldh4a1 protein (Fragment)
P11884	Aldehyde dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q66HF8	Aldehyde dehydrogenase X_ mitochondrial
G3V9W6	Aldehyde dehydrogenase
G3V7J0	Aldehyde dehydrogenase family 6_ subfamily A1_ isoform CRA_b
Q0D2L3	Agmatinase_ mitochondrial
P24483	Adrenodoxin_ mitochondrial
Q09073	ADP/ATP translocase 2
Q6P9Y4	ADP/ATP translocase 1
Q7TP48	Adipocyte plasma membrane-associated protein
Q9WUS0	Adenylate kinase 4_ mitochondrial
P29410	Adenylate kinase 2_ mitochondrial
Q6AYQ8	Acylpyruvase FAHD1_ mitochondrial
O88267	Acyl-coenzyme A thioesterase 1
Q6AYT9	Acyl-coenzyme A synthetase ACSM5_ mitochondrial

F1M9A7	Acyl-coenzyme A oxidase
F1LNW3	Acyl-coenzyme A oxidase
F1LQC1	Acyl-coenzyme A oxidase
F1M609	Acyl-coenzyme A oxidase
Q6IMX8	Acyl-CoA thioesterase 2
Q6IN15	Acyl-CoA synthetase long-chain family member 5
Q499N5	Acyl-CoA synthetase family member 2_ mitochondrial
B3DMA2	Acyl-CoA dehydrogenase family member 11
P60711	Actin_ cytoplasmic 1
P62738	Actin_ aortic smooth muscle
P68136	Actin_ alpha skeletal muscle
P68035	Actin_ alpha cardiac muscle 1
Q9ER34	Aconitate hydratase_ mitochondrial
M0RAP9	Acetyltransferase component of pyruvate dehydrogenase complex
Q6IMX3	Acetyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase_ short chain_ isoform CRA_a
G3V796	Acetyl-Coenzyme A dehydrogenase_ medium chain
P17764	Acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase_ mitochondrial
P06761	78 kDa glucose-regulated protein
P63039	60 kDa heat shock protein_ mitochondrial
D3ZCS9	5-hydroxyisourate hydrolase
Q9JLJ3	4-trimethylaminobutyraldehyde dehydrogenase
G3V728	4-nitrophenylphosphatase domain and non-neuronal SNAP25-like protein homolog 1 (C. elegans)_ isoform CRA_b
P50554	4-aminobutyrate aminotransferase_ mitochondrial
P24008	3-oxo-5-alpha-steroid 4-dehydrogenase 1
P13437	3-ketoacyl-CoA thiolase_ mitochondrial
G3V9U2	3-ketoacyl-CoA thiolase_ mitochondrial
P07871	3-ketoacyl-CoA thiolase B_ peroxisomal
P21775	3-ketoacyl-CoA thiolase A_ peroxisomal
P21775	3-ketoacyl-CoA thiolase A_ peroxisomal
P29266	3-hydroxyisobutyrate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
O70351	3-hydroxyacyl-CoA dehydrogenase type-2
Q68G44	3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-Coenzyme A synthase 2 (Mitochondrial) O
P35738	2-oxoisovalerate dehydrogenase subunit beta_ mitochondrial
P11960	2-oxoisovalerate dehydrogenase subunit alpha_ mitochondrial (Fragment)
Q5X178	2-oxoglutarate dehydrogenase_ mitochondrial
Q8CHM7	2-hydroxyacyl-CoA lyase 1
Q64591	2_4-dienoyl-CoA reductase_ mitochondrial
Q5M875	17-beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase 13
D3ZTP0	10-formyltetrahydrofolate dehydrogenase
P26772	10 kDa heat shock protein_ mitochondrial

**Table A4: Full list of enriched pathways as identified by DAVID**

<b>KEGG Pathway</b>	<b>Proteins Annotated</b>	<b>p-value</b>
Valine, leucine and isoleucine degradation	30	7.20E-33
Fatty acid metabolism	21	3.60E-19
Butanoate metabolism	18	4.00E-17
Parkinson's disease	27	1.60E-13
Huntington's disease	29	3.30E-12
Citrate cycle (TCA cycle)	14	4.80E-12
Propanoate metabolism	14	1.80E-11
Oxidative phosphorylation	24	2.30E-11
Arginine and proline metabolism	15	9.70E-10
Ascorbate and aldarate metabolism	10	1.50E-09
Lysine degradation	13	4.90E-09
Tryptophan metabolism	13	8.40E-09
Limonene and pinene degradation	8	2.50E-08
Alzheimer's disease	24	2.50E-08
Pyruvate metabolism	12	3.00E-08
Drug metabolism	14	3.80E-07
beta-Alanine metabolism	9	3.80E-07
Metabolism of xenobiotics by cytochrome P450	12	3.10E-06
Fatty acid elongation in mitochondria	6	4.00E-06
PPAR signaling pathway	11	1.10E-04
Retinol metabolism	10	1.40E-04
Primary bile acid biosynthesis	6	1.60E-04
Cardiac muscle contraction	11	2.10E-04
Drug metabolism	8	7.10E-04
Glycine, serine and threonine metabolism	7	7.80E-04
Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis	10	1.80E-03
Alanine, aspartate and glutamate metabolism	6	4.30E-03
Synthesis and degradation of ketone bodies	4	5.10E-03
Biosynthesis of unsaturated fatty acids	5	1.20E-02
Histidine metabolism	5	1.20E-02
Glycerolipid metabolism	6	2.10E-02
Pentose and glucuronate interconversions	4	2.20E-02
Porphyrin and chlorophyll metabolism	5	2.80E-02
Glutathione metabolism	6	3.30E-02

**Table A5: Full list of contaminant proteins identified in this study**

Description	Fold change (3DHL/LSEC)
gi 229725 pdb 1BPT  Bovine Pancreatic Trypsin Inhibitor (BPTI) Mutant (Tyr 23 Replaced By Ala) (Y23A) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.03 ± 0.26
gi 442692 pdb 1BTI  Bovine Pancreatic Trypsin Inhibitor (Bpti) Mutant With Phe 22 Replaced By Ala (F22a) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.03 ± 0.31
gi 231268 pdb 7PTI  Bovine Pancreatic Trypsin Inhibitor (BPTI) Mutant (Cys 30 Replaced By Ala, Cys 51 Replaced By Ala) (C30A, C51A) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.10 ± 0.38
gi 442882 pdb 1FAN  Bovine Pancreatic Trypsin Inhibitor (Bpti) Mutant With Phe 45 Replaced By Ala (F45a) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.11 ± 0.34
gi 443137 pdb 1NAG  Bovine Pancreatic Trypsin Inhibitor (Bpti) Mutant With Asn 43 Replaced By Gly (N43g) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.11 ± 0.34
gi 231307 pdb 8PTI  Bovine Pancreatic Trypsin Inhibitor (BPTI) Mutant (Tyr 35 Replaced By Gly) (Y35G) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.12 ± 0.34
gi 442595 pdb 1AAL A Chain A, Bovine Pancreatic Trypsin Inhibitor (Bpti, Basic) Mutant With Cys 30 Replaced By Val And Cys 51 Replaced By Ala (C30v,C51a) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.15 ± 0.30
gi 1364186 emb CAA27065.1  unnamed protein product [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.24 ± 0.41
gi 7546571 pdb 3BTE I Chain I, The Crystal Structures Of The Complexes Between Bovine Beta- Trypsin And Ten P1 Variants Of Bpti. [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.29 ± 0.24
gi 115115 sp P04815 BPT2_BOVIN Spleen trypsin inhibitor I precursor (SI-I) (Contains: Spleen trypsin inhibitor II (SI-II); Spleen trypsin inhibitor III (SI-III)) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.34 ± 0.50
gi 2136706 pir  S66290 alpha 1 antichymotrypsin - bovine (fragment) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.80 ± 0.54
gi 27807487 ref NP_777193.1  serine (or cysteine) proteinase inhibitor, clade A (alpha-1 antiproteinase, antitrypsin), member 3 [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.83 ± 0.82
gi 2136705 pir  S66289 alpha 1 antichymotrypsin - bovine (fragment) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	0.87 ± 0.81
gi 28603766 ref NP_788819.1  serine (or cysteine) proteinase inhibitor, clade A (alpha-1 antiproteinase, antitrypsin), member 5 [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	1.02 ± 0.51
gi 27806743 ref NP_776414.1  inter-alpha-trypsin inhibitor (protein HC), light [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	1.11 ± 0.76
gi 27807205 ref NP_777093.1  serine (or cysteine) proteinase inhibitor, clade A (alpha-1 antiproteinase, antitrypsin), member 7 [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	1.12 ± 0.75
gi 27806941 ref NP_776307.1  serine (or cysteine) proteinase inhibitor, clade A (alpha-1 antiproteinase, antitrypsin), member 1 [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	1.12 ± 0.92
gi 2190337 emb CAA41735.1  serum albumin [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	1.23 ± 0.96
gi 1351907 sp P02769 ALBU_BOVIN Serum albumin precursor (Allergen Bos d 6) (BSA) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	1.25 ± 0.96
gi 418694 pir  ABBOS serum albumin precursor (validated) - bovine [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	1.25 ± 0.96
gi 3024050 sp O02668 ITIH2_PIG Inter-alpha-trypsin inhibitor heavy chain H2 precursor (ITI heavy chain H2) (Inter-alpha-inhibitor heavy chain 2) [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	1.25 ± 0.75
gi 1703026 sp P50447 A1AT_PIG Alpha-1-antitrypsin precursor (Alpha-1 protease inhibitor) (Alpha-1-antiproteinase) [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	1.36 ± 0.67
gi 28373262 pdb 1CO7 I Chain I, R117h Mutant Rat Anionic Trypsin Complexed With Bovine Pancreatic Trypsin Inhibitor (Bpti) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	1.43 ± 0.71
gi 27806789 ref NP_776392.1  transthyretin (prealbumin, amyloidosis type I) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	2.64 ± 0.76
cra hCP1609934.2  keratin 1 (epidermolytic hyperkeratosis) [Homo sapiens (contaminant)]	3.06 ± 0.82
rf NP_006112.2  keratin 1 [Homo sapiens (contaminant)]	3.06 ± 0.82
spt P13645  Keratin, type I cytoskeletal 10 (Cytokeratin 10) (K10) (CK 10) [Homo sapiens (contaminant)]	3.16 ± 0.81
sp P04264  K2C1_HUMAN Keratin, type II cytoskeletal 1 (Cytokeratin 1) (K1) (CK 1) (67 kDa cytokeratin) (Hair alpha protein) [Homo sapiens (contaminant)]	3.19 ± 0.76

trm Q8N175  Keratin 10 [Homo sapiens (contaminant)]	3.19 ± 0.79
cra hCP1812051  keratin 10 (epidermolytic hyperkeratosis; keratosis palmaris et plantaris) [Homo sapiens (contaminant)]	3.22 ± 0.79
gb AAA59199.1  keratin 10 [Homo sapiens (contaminant)]	3.25 ± 0.76
pir KRHU0  keratin 10, type I, cytoskeletal - human [Homo sapiens (contaminant)]	3.25 ± 0.82
gb AAA59468.1  keratin-10 [Homo sapiens (contaminant)]	3.35 ± 0.76
gi 4139559 pdb 3TGI I Chain I, Wild-Type Rat Anionic Trypsin Complexed With Bovine Pancreatic Trypsin Inhibitor (Bpti) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	4.06 ± 0.67
gi 664893 emb CAA28886.1  trypsin inhibitor precursor [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	4.06 ± 0.71
gi 230373 pdb 1TPA I Chain I, Anhydro-Trypsin (E.C.3.4.21.4) Complex With Pancreatic Trypsin Inhibitor [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	4.90 ± 0.60
pdb 1EPT_B  B Chain B, Porcine E-Trypsin (E.C.3.4.21.4) [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	7.69 ± 0.84
gi 1942351 pdb 1AKS A Chain A, Crystal Structure Of The First Active Autolysate Form Of The Porcine Alpha Trypsin [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	7.77 ± 0.81
pdb 1FNI_A  A Chain A, Crystal Structure Of Porcine Beta Trypsin With 0.01% Polydocanol [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	10.59 ± 0.84
gi 494360 pdb 1MCT A Chain A, Trypsin (E.C.3.4.21.4) Complexed With Inhibitor From Bitter Gourd [Sus scrofa (Contaminant)]	10.70 ± 0.79
gi 2914482 pdb 1TFX A Chain A, Complex Of The Second Kunitz Domain Of Tissue Factor Pathway Inhibitor With Porcine Trypsin [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	11.02 ± 0.83
spt P00761  Trypsin precursor (EC 3.4.21.4) [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	11.13 ± 0.84
gi 999626 pdb 1EPT A Chain A, Porcine E-Trypsin (E.C.3.4.21.4) [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	11.59 ± 0.38
pdb 1AN1_E  E Chain E, Leech-Derived Tryptase InhibitorTRYPSIN COMPLEX [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	12.55 ± 0.83
gi 999628 pdb 1EPT C Chain C, Porcine E-Trypsin (E.C.3.4.21.4) [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	19.69 ± 0.69
gi 3024051 sp P79263 ITIH4_PIG Inter-alpha-trypsin inhibitor heavy chain H4 precursor (ITI heavy chain H4) (Inter-alpha-inhibitor heavy chain 4) (Inter-alpha-trypsin inhibitor family heavy chain-related protein) (IHRP) (Major acute phase protein) (MAP) [Sus scrofa (contaminant)]	1.49 ± 0.66
gi 115114 sp P00974 BPT1_BOVIN Pancreatic trypsin inhibitor precursor (Basic protease inhibitor) (BPI) (BPTI) (Aprotinin) [Bos taurus (contaminant)]	1.49 ± 0.66