423 MULTIMERIN2 effects on tumoural vessel development

E. Lorenzon[1], M. Schiappacassi[1], S. Marastoni[1], F. Todaro[1], R. Colladel[1], A. Colombatti[1], M. Mongiat[1]. [1]*CRO-National Cancer Institute, OS2, Aviano, Italy*

Background: MULTIMERIN2 (MMRN2) is a secreted protein belonging to a family of ECM molecules termed EMILINs. Given its specific localization in tight contact with the endothelial cell surface, we have hypothesized that MMRN2 may affect angiogenesis.
Material and Methods: For these investigations we have employed human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVEC) and over-expressed or down-regulated MMRN2 by means of adenoviral vectors carrying the MMRN2 coding sequence or siRNA sequences, respectively. Following the alteration of MMRN2 endogenous expression we have thus analyzed different parameters of the angiogenic process *in vitro* as well as verified tumour angiogenesis *in vivo*.
Results: We have found that endothelial cells specifically adhere to MMRN2, the interaction though does not influence HUVECs proliferation and viability. On the contrary the treatment of endothelial cells with recombinant MMRN2 induces a significant reduction of cell motility as well as an impairment of tubules formation in Matrigel. This negative effect on the angiogenic process has been confirmed *in vivo* by means of the Matrigel plug assays. At the molecular level these findings are supported by a phosphoproteomic analysis following treatment with MMRN2 which highlighted a significant reduction of the phosphorilation levels of different Tyrosine Kinase Receptors (RTKs) and other molecules regulating endothelial cell migration.
To verify whether the angiogenetic impairment induced by MMRN2 could lead to a decreased tumour growth we have injected tumour cells overexpressing or not MMRN2 in nude mice. A striking reduction of tumour growth was observed in xenografts overexpressing MMRN2 and this effect was accompanied by a significant decrease of blood vessels.
Conclusions: These preliminary data indicate that MMRN2 exerts a profound effect on endothelial cell function by affecting the activation of different RTKs on the cell surface. The inhibition of RTK functions leads to an inhibitory effect on blood vessel development that results in an impairment of tumour growth *in vivo*. For this reason MMRN2 may represent a promising novel tool for the development of new antiangiogenic drugs for cancer treatment.

424 Aberrant retinoic acid signaling in astrocytic gliomas

B. Campos[1], J. Felsberg[2], P. Lichter[3], G. Reifenberger[2], A. Unterberg[1], C. Herold-Mende[1]. [1]*University of Heidelberg, Department of Neurosurgery, Heidelberg, Germany*, [2]*University of Düsseldorf, Department of Neuropathology, Düsseldorf, Germany,* [3]*German Cancer Research Center, Division of Molecular Genetics, Heidelberg, Germany*

Background: In glioma immature cell populations influence tumour growth and seem to be irresponsive to physiological differentiation stimuli, persisting in an undifferentiated developmental state. Here we investigated potential disruptions in the retinoic acid (RA) differentiation pathway that could lead to a loss of differentiation capacity and impact on patient prognosis.
Materials and Methods: Expression of key-molecules belonging to the RA differentiation pathway was analyzed on a tissue microarray comprising tumour samples from 283 astrocytic gliomas WHO II-IV and further studied in primary glioma cell lines.
Results: Contrary to previous findings in other tumour entities expression of RA signaling molecules increased with tumour malignancy. This included tumour grade-dependent expression of (1) the intracellular RA-binding protein CRBP1 ($p < 0.001$) catalyzing cellular retinoid up-take, (2) ALDH1A1 ($p = 0.012$) capable of activating RA precursors, (3) the RA-degrading enzyme CYP26B1 ($p < 0.001$) and (4) the intracellular RA-binding protein FABP5 ($p < 0.001$) which can hinder RA-induced differentiation diverting RA into an alternative signaling pathway. On the other hand, expression of the RA-binding protein CRABP2 which fosters differentiation decreased with tumour malignancy ($p < 0.001$). In WHO IV high expression of CRBP1 was associated with increased tumour cell proliferation ($p < 0.001$) and elevated FABP5 levels correlated with an undifferentiated tumour phenotype ($p = 0.003$). Finally, ALDH1A1, discussed as potential (cancer) stem-cell marker besides its involvement in RA signaling, proved to be an independent marker for poor patient survival ($p = 0.016$).
Conclusions: Our data indicate that a complex deregulation of RA signaling exerts an unfavorable influence on patient prognosis and seems to be involved in the loss of differentiation capacity in glioma.

425 IGFBP-3 knockout mice develop earlier mammary tumours following dimethylbenz[a]anthracene treatment

M.J. Blouin[1], M. Bazile[1], M. Zakikhani[1], M. Pollak[1]. [1]*Jewish General Hospital, McGill University, Lady Davis Institute, Cancer Prevention Center, Montreal, Canada*

Background: Insulin-like growth factor binding protein-3 (IGFBP-3) is the main carrier protein for IGFs in the circulation. IGFBP-3 antagonizes IGF-I growth-promoting and anti-apoptotic activities in several experimental systems. It has been shown that recombinant human IGFBP-3 can slow the growth of breast cancer and other tumour cells in culture by sequestration of IGFs thus reducing their binding, and blocking their anti-apoptotic activity. It has also been suggested that IGFBP-3 could act independently of IGF signaling. The goal of this study is to determine the role of IGFBP-3 in breast cancer development.
Material and Methods: To study breast carcinogenesis, we used medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA) and dimethylbenz[*a*]anthracene (DMBA) protocol. Fourteen wild-type and 15 IGFBP-3 knock-out female mice were treated with MPA and DMBA while 3 mice of both genotypes were treated only with MPA as controls. Mice were followed for up to 13 months for breast tumour appearance, including measurement of tumour size weekly. Mice were also monitored for behavioral changes, weight loss (>20%), and dehydration according to the established guidelines and protocols approved by McGill University's Animal Ethics Committee. At the time of euthanasia, blood, tumours and tissues were collected and frozen until use. Downstream signaling was analyzed by western blot and hormone levels by ELISA.
Results: In general, IGFBP-3 knockout mice were slightly smaller than wild type mice. They also developed breast tumours significantly earlier than the wild type (mean: 13.9 ± 1.1 vs. 24.1 ± 3.4 weeks, range: 9 to 26 weeks vs. 9 to 45 weeks, respectively, $p = 0.0207$). The number of tumours was not influenced by the presence of IGFBP-3. No significant differences between the tumours in wild type and IGFBP-3 knockout mice were observed in levels of phospho-AKT ^{Ser473}, or total insulin or IGF-1 receptors.
Conclusion: These data show that IGFBP-3 has an important role in delaying mammary gland carcinogenesis. However, by the time tumours became macroscopic, signaling downstream of IGF-1 receptor is not increased in the absence of IGFBP-3, and underlying mechanisms are under study.

426 Impact of hypoxia on furin trafficking and the formation of invadopodia

D. Arsenault[1], K. Harper[1], C.M. Dubois[1]. [1]*Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Sherbrooke, Paediatrics (Immunology Division), Sherbrooke, Canada*

The ability of cancer cells to invade and metastazize is the major cause of death in cancer patients. Recent studies indicate that tumoural invasion and metastasis, triggered by the hypoxic microenvironment, involves strategic relocalization of convertases, adhesion molecules, and metalloproteases. Furin, a proprotein convertase, is well known to be implicated in cancer invasion and progression by its ability to activate tumourigenic substrates. Recently, initiation of cancer invasion has been linked to the formation of actin-rich protusions, invadopodia. The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of hypoxia on furin relocalization and its implication in invadopodia formation and cancer cell invasion.
We used the invasive fibrosarcoma cell line, HT-1080, stably transfected with eGFP-tagged furin to determine the influence of hypoxia on furin cellular localization. Our results indicated that in hypoxic cells, furin is relocalized at the plasma membrane and is internalized via both clathrin- and caveolin/raft dependent endocytosis. Using furin trafficking mutants, we demonstrated that filamin-A, a cytoskeletal tethering protein, is essential for the membrane localization of furin under hypoxia. We further demonstrated that in hypoxic cells, furin and its substrate MT1-MMP relocalized to specific pericellular compartments and this relocalization was associated with an increased cell ability to convert pro-MT1-MMP into its active form. Because MT1-MMP is known to be involved in ECM degradation at site of invadopodia, we further looked at the implication of cell-surface furin in the formation and functions of these structures. Using a matrix degradation assay, we found that furin colocalized at invadopodia sites under hypoxic conditions. This was associated with an increase in both formation and functions of invadopodia. Such event was linked to the ability of the cell to migrate in a 3D invasion assay. Using furin trafficking mutants, we also showed that furin redistribution to the plasma membrane under hypoxia was essential for the increase in both invadopodia production and cell invasion.
Our results suggest that hypoxia promotes the formation of a peripheral processing compartment in which furin is concentrated for enhanced processing of substrate involved in the formation of invadopodia leading to cell invasion.

427 Array CGH analysis of matched patient samples from primary breast tumour tissue and immunomagnetically isolated cancer cells from sentinel lymph nodes and bone marrow

S. Tveito[1], L. Meza-Zepeda[1], O. Fodstad[1]. [1]*Institute for Cancer Research, Department of Tumourbiology, Oslo, Norway*

Background: Metastasis is the leading cause of death in patients with solid epithelial tumours, and circulating tumour cells are thought to represent the origin of metastatic disease. In some cancers, the sentinel lymph node (SLN) is the hypothetical first lymph node reached by metastasizing cancer cells from the primary tumour, and the bone marrow (BM) is another compartment known to harbor disseminated cells. In this study, we have