

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Harvard Medical School Brigham and Women's Hospital VA Boston Healthcare System



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# **CHRONIC RESPONSE TO IMPLANTS:** α-Smooth Muscle Actin and Lubricin

M. Spector, Ph.D.

# WOUND HEALING REGENERATION VERSUS REPAIR



# WOUND HEALING REGENERATION VERSUS REPAIR



First identified "macrophages" and "microphages" (polymorphonuclear neutrophils, PMNs) in an organism around a foreign body

### I. Metchnikoff



In 1923 a piece of glass was removed from a patient's back; it had been there for a year. It was surrounded by a minimal amount of fibrous tissue, lined by a glistening synovial sac, containing a few drops of clear yellow fluid.

**Marius Nygaard Smith-Peterson** 

J. Bone Jt. Surg., 30-B:59 (1948) **Rabbit Ear Chamber** 

IA Silver in, TK Hunt,

#### Diagrams removed due to copyright restrictions.

DR Knighton, et al., Surg 90:62 (1981)

**Healing Dead Space Wound** 

Advancing arterial circulation



**Unfilled Dead Space** 

Photos removed due to copyright restrictions.

From I. Silver, in TK Hunt & JE Dunphy Fund. of Wound Management (1979)







Image removed due to copyright restrictions. Graph of regional oxygen tension vs. distance around the foreign body.

> IA Silver in, TK Hunt, Wound Healing and Wound Infection (1980)





# In addition to wounds, where else do dead spaces form in the body?







# Synovium: Macrophage-like (Type A) and Fibroblast-like (Type B) Cells



# WOUND HEALING REGENERATION VERSUS REPAIR



# **ACTIN ISOFORMS**

- β cytoplasmic (most cells)
- γ cytoplasmic (most cells)

**Contractile** Actins

- α skeletal muscle
- α cardiac muscle
- α (vascular) smooth muscle (SMA)
- γ (enteric) smooth muscle

# **TISSUE CLASSIFICATION**

- Muscle Cells (contractile cells)
  - skeletal
    α-skeletal actin
  - cardiac
    α-cardiac actin
  - smooth muscle  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$ -smooth muscle actin
- Connective Tissue Cells

 - "myofibroblasts" (SMA; contractile cells)\*: dermal wound closure, fibrotic (scar) contractures, Dupuytren's Disease

• \* G. Majno, G. Gabbiani, et al., Science, 1971

# FIBROBLAST BEHAVIOR IN FIBROUS TISSUE AROUND IMPLANTS

- Proliferation and increased matrix synthesis of fibroblasts leads to an increase in the thickness and density of the scar tissue.
- Fibroblast contraction results in scar contracture.

# **BREAST IMPLANTS Capsular Contracture**

Removed implant: viewing the outside of the fibrous capsule



Capsule

Inside of the fibrous capsule

Implant

Photos removed due to copyright restrictions. See http://www.implantforum.com/capsular-contracture/

# **CAUSE OF CAPSULAR CONTRACTION**

Myofibroblasts, and the regulatory protein TGF-β, were found in the contracted capsules around silicone breast implants but not in non-contracted capsules. Mature skin scar tissue did not contain TGF-β or myofibroblasts.

> Lossing C, and Hansson HA, Plast Reconstr Surg 91:1277 (1993)

#### Cellular and molecular composition of fibrous capsules formed around silicone breast implants with special focus on local immune reactions<sup>☆</sup>

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Double staining for "heat shock protein,"\* HSP60, (arrowhead) and for smooth muscle actin (arrow). Cells expressing both, yellow. The implant duration was 14 months.

\* HSP60 (heat shock protein expression, reflects the effect of mechanical or other forms of stress exerted on the implant and capsule.

D. Wolfram, J. Autoimmunity 23:81 (2004)

Macrophages (CD68+ cells) in a capsule with an implant duration of 9 years. \* Silicone implant; (arrows) macrophages; cells of the "frontier layer" in bracket. Original magnification: 400x.



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# Uncemented Glenoid Component in Total Shoulder Arthroplasty

SURVIVORSHIP AND OUTCOMES

BY SCOTT DAVID MARTIN, MD, DAVID ZURAKOWSKI, PHD, AND THOMAS S. THORNHILL, MD Department of Orthopedics, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

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White arrows: Radiolucencies due to osteolysis associated with particulate wear debris

and movement of the prosthesis (loosening)

- What is the make-up of the periprosthetic tissue?
- Why is it so persistent?

Fig. 1 Kaplan-Meier survival curves with clinical and radiographic failure as the end points.

Graph removed due to copyright restrictions.

Martin S. D. et.al. J Bone Joint Surg 2005:87:1284-1292

Fig. 3 Prevalence of radiolucent lines around the glenoid components.

Graph removed due to copyright restrictions.

Martin S. D. et.al. J Bone Joint Surg 2005:87:1284-1292

# α-Smooth muscle actin-expressing cells and lubricin in periprosthetic tissue

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Abstract: The objective of the study was to evaluate the distributions of the following: (1) cells expressing the contractile actin isoform,  $\alpha$ -smooth muscle actin ( $\alpha$ -SMA) and (2) a lubricating and antiadhesion glycoprotein, lubricin, in the tissue around loose joint replacement prostheses in human subjects: periprosthetic tissue resected at revision arthroplasty of noncemented glenoid components of total shoulder arthroplasties from 10 patients. Samples of periprosthetic tissue were stained with monoclonal antibodies to  $\alpha$ -SMA and lubricin.  $\alpha$ -SMA was found in cells, principally of fibroblast morphology, in many of the fields of view (FOVs) in samples from all patients. Moderate correlations were observed between the percentage of FOVs containing a-SMA-expressing cells and the percentages of FOVs containing polyethylene ( $R^2$  = 0.79) and metallic ( $R^2 = 0.75$ ) particles. Lubricin was identified (1) as a discrete layer on the surface, (2) within the extracellular matrix, and (3) intracellularly. These

lubricin-positive features were found in samples from all patients. Strong correlations were noted between the percentage of FOVs with matrix and intracellular lubricin staining ( $R^2 = 0.97$ ) and between the percentages of FOVs with surface and matrix staining for lubricin ( $R^2 = 0.96$ ). Having established the presence of  $\alpha$ -SMA and lubricin in periprosthetic tissue, hypotheses regarding their role in the development and persistence of periprosthetic tissue can be synthesized for future study, for example,  $\alpha$ -SMA-enabled contracture of the fibrous periprosthetic tissue results in its densification, and lubricin-coated surfaces interfere with integrative repair processes necessary for resorption and remodeling. © 2009 Wiley Periodicals, Inc. J Biomed Mater Res 00A: 000–000, 2009

Key words: periprosthetic tissue; lubricin; smooth musclke actin; prosthesis

Tissue was resected during revision of symptomatic, non-cemented, glenoid components of Kirschner-IIc total shoulder arthroplasty



#### Shoulder

#### 10 µm

# **α-Smooth Muscle Actin Immunohistochemistry**

50 µm

10 µm

Source: Funakoshi, T., M. Spector et al. J Biomed Mater Res A 93A, no. 2 (2009): 515-527.

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10 µm

 $\cap$ 

## **α-Smooth Muscle Actin Immunohistochemistry**



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#### J. Bone Joint Surg. 65A:575 (1983)

## The Synovial-Like Membrane at the Bone-Cement Interface in Loose Total Hip Replacements and Its Proposed Role in Bone Lysis<sup>\*</sup>

BY STEVEN R. GOLDRING, M.D.<sup>†</sup>, ALAN L. SCHILLER, M.D.<sup>†</sup>, MERRILEE ROELKE, M.S.<sup>†</sup>, CAROL M. ROURKE<sup>†</sup>, DONALD A. O'NEILL, M.D.<sup>‡</sup>, AND WILLIAM H. HARRIS, M.D.<sup>†</sup>, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

From the Departments of Medicine, Orthopaedic Surgery, Pathology, and Medical Services (Arthritis Unit), Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and New England Deaconess Hospital, Boston

This membrane, rather than being a nondescript so-called fibrous membrane, has the histological and histochemical characteristics of a synovial-like lining. The synovial-like cells are adjacent to the cement layer. Deep to them macrophages predominate. Inflammatory cells are absent. Cell cultures of this membrane contain stellate cells similar to those found in cell cultures of normal and rheumatoid synovial tissue. This membrane has the capacity to produce large amounts of prostaglandin  $E_2$  and collagenase. Four photos removed due to copyright restrictions.

S. Goldring, *et al.*, J. Bone Joint Surg. 65A:575 (1983)

Note the absence of any basement membrane

# Lubricin/Superficial Zone Protein/PRG4

- A glycoprotein synthesized by synovial cells and identified in synovial fluid was found to provide the principal boundary lubrication for articular cartilage of joints (Swann 1977).
- Later a protein synthesized by chondrocytes in the superficial zone or articular cartilage (named superficial zone protein; Schumacher 1994) was found to be homologous with lubricin.
- *Prg4* is the name given to the gene that was found to encode these homologous glycoproteins (Ikegawa 2000).
- Proteins with various structures, properties and functions may result from this same gene as a result of alternative exon splicing during gene expression, and post translational modification of the protein.

-Four such spice variants have been found for human and mouse.

• Lubricin/SZP has been found on the surface of meniscus, and in tendons and ligaments.

## Adult Bovine



Calf



# Lubricin Immunohistochemistry

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C

#### 50 µm





The lubricin layer on the surfaces of the tissue folds will prevent integrative binding necessary for remodeling.

## Lubricin Immunohistochemistry

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100 µm



50 µm



# C C 10 μm

Lubricin Immunohistochemistry

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0 µm

# Lubricin Immunohistochemistry



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# CHRONIC RESPONSE TO IMPLANTS IN SOFT TISSUE \*

- Persistence of macrophages\* at the implant surface due to dead space /hypoxia and presence of fibroblasts\* results in synovium
- Proliferation and increased matrix synthesis of fibroblasts can result from mechanical perturbation by the implant or by agents released by the implant, leading to an increase in the thickness and density of the scar tissue under the control of macrophages.

\* and in bone in cases where bone formation has been prevented

# Theory to Explain α-SMA and Lubricin in Periprosthetic Tissue

- The micromovement of a prosthesis stimulates the expression of α-SMA and lubricin
  - directly as a result of mechanical stimulation of selected cells
  - indirectly by inducing macrophages to release elevated levels of TGF-β, which up-regulates α-SMA and lubricin
- Myofibroblast (*i.e.*, α-SMA expressing fibroblast) contraction activates latent TGF-β1 from extracellular matrix.
- Particulate bebris further stimulates the release of TGF-β by macrophages during phagocytosis.

# Effects of α-SMA and Lubricin on Prosthetic Performance

- Myofibroblast contraction can result in scar contracture and densification of the fibrous tissue.
- The "synoviocytes" express lubricin which can interfere with healing; remodeling of the scar tissue.

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