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# Investigation of diabetic cardiomyopathy and its treatment by copper chelation

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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#### **Abstract**

Diabetes mellitus is estimated to affect approximately 7% of the populations living a western lifestyle. Of the multiple etiologies associated with diabetes, heart failure is the most common cause of death. A specific type of heart disease called diabetic cardiomyopathy is thought to be partially responsible. At this time, no one specific treatment is available for diabetic cardiomyopathy due to the wide variety of possible complex molecular changes, including metabolic disturbances, myocardial fibrosis, LV hypertrophy, and increased ROS production.

Abnormal copper metabolism in diabetes has been proposed to form part of the pathway that leads to diabetic cardiomyopathy. Our group have shown that treatment with the copper (Cu<sup>II</sup>) chelator, triethylenetetramine, ameliorates the effects of diabetes on the heart at both the functional and molecular level.

This thesis aimed to further these studies by increasing our understanding of the mechanism of triethylenetetramine action on the diabetic heart. This was primarily achieved through the use of microarray technology but included the use of a range of molecular experimental techniques.

During this investigation it was determined that the most suitable microarray platform for our studies was the Affymetrix GeneChip® system. Using this system we identified more than 1600 gene changes associated with diabetes in the left ventricle wall. A disproportionate number of significant messenger RNA transcript changes were associated with the mitochondria and further investigation of these genes revealed changes associated with perturbed lipid metabolism and increased oxidative stress.

A second study investigated the molecular mechanisms underpinning improved cardiac function in the left ventricle of the heart from diabetic and sham animals treated with triethylenetetramine. There was an observed decrease in diabetic cardiac tissue triglyceride towards normal, possibly through improvement of the structure and stability of the mitochondria. Only a small number of changes in gene expression were detected after triethylenetetramine treatment using microarray technology, and none were detected using real time-quantitative PCR.

The final aim of this thesis was to understand the absorption and excretion of triethylenetetramine by both sham and diabetic animals. Our study found differences in the ability of diabetic animals to absorb and metabolise triethylenetetramine compared to sham animals. Also, the length of exposure was found to be an influencing factor in triethylenetetramine metabolism.

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#### **Abbreviations**

ACC Acetyl-CoA carboxylase

AGE Advanced glycation end products

ALP Alkaline phosphatase
ALT Alanine aminotransferase
Angptl4 Angiopoeitin-like protein 4
ANOVA Analysis of variance
ANCOVA Analysis of covariance
AP-1 Activating protein 1

AST Aspartate aminotransferase

AT II Angiotensin II

ATP Adenine triphosphate

ATP7A Cation-transporting P-type ATPase 7A ATP7B Cation-transporting P-type ATPase 7B

ATX1 Anti-oxidant protein 1
BSA Bovine serum albumin

BW Body weight

°C Temperature (degrees celsius)

CAD Coronary artery disease

CCCP Carbonyl cyanide *m*-chlorophenylhydrazone

CHAPS 3-[(3-Cholamidopropyl)dimethylammonio]-1-propanesulfonate hydrate

cmH<sub>2</sub>o Centimeters of water (pressure)

CoA Coenzyme A

COX Cytocrome oxidase

Cox17 Cytochrome oxidase assembly, subunit17

CPT Carnitine palmytoyl transferase cRNA Complementary ribonucleic acid

CS Citrate synthase

CTGF Connective tissue growth factor

CTR Copper transport protein

Cu Copper

CV Coefficient of variation CVD Cardiovascular disease

Cy-3/5 Cyanine-3/5

Cytb5 Cytochrome b5 (mitochondrial)

Da Peptide mass (Dalton)

DAG Diacylglycerol

DAT  $N_1$ ,  $N_{10}$ -diacetyltriethylenetetramine

DCM Diabetic cardiomyopathy DEPC Diethylpyrocarbonate

DTT Dithiothreitol

dNTP Deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate

DNA Deoxyribonucleic acid
DNase Deoxyribonuclease
ECM Extracellular matrix

EDTA Ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid

ES Enrichment score

ET Endothelin FA Fatty acid

FAO Fatty acid oxidation FAT Fatty acid transporter FDR False discovery rate

Fe Iron

FFA Free fatty acid

FMOC 9-Fluorenylthoxycarbonyl chloride

g Mass (gram)

g Acceleration due to gravity yGCS y-glutamylcysteine synthetase

GAPDH Glyceraldyhyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase
GF-AAS Graphite furnace - atom absorption spectroscopy
GFAT Glutamine:fructose-6-phosphate amidotransferase

GEO Gene expression omnibus GIcNAc UDP-*N*-acetylglucosamine

GLUT Glucose transporter
GO Gene ontology

GSEA Gene-set enrichment analysis

GSH Glutathione

GST Glutathione S-transferase

HAD Hexamethylenediamine dihydrochloride

hCTR Human copper transport protein

HDL High density lipoprotein

HEPES 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid

HF Heart failure
HNO<sub>3</sub> Nitric acid
H<sub>2</sub>O Water

H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> Hydrogen peroxide

HOAD L3-hydroxyacyl CoA:NAD<sup>+</sup> oxidoreductase HPLC High performance liquid chromatography

hr Time (hour) HW Heart weight

HW/BW Heart weight/body weight ratio

ICP-MS Inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometer

IDH isocitrate dehydrogenase

IgG Immunoglobulin G IL-1β Interlukin-1β

KEGG Kyoto encyclopaedia of genes and genomes LC-MS Liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry

LPL Lipoprotein lipase
LV Left ventricle

MAT N<sub>1</sub>-acetyltriethylenetetramine MCD Malonyl-CoA decarboxylase MES Maximum enrichment score

μg Mass (microgram) mg Mass (milligram)

MIAME Minimum information about microarray experiments

min Time (minute)

M Amount of substance per litre (molar)

mm Length (millimetre)

μM Amount of substance per litre (micromolar) mM Amount of substance per litre (millimolar)

μl Volume (microlitre) ml Volume (millilitre)

MMLV Moloney Murine Leukemia virus

mol Amount of substance mmol Amount of substance MMP Matrix metalloproteinase

Mn Manganese

mRNA Messenger ribonucleic acid MRI Magnetic resonance imaging

MT Metallothionein

mtDNA Mitochondrial deoxyribonucleic acid

MVEC Microvascular endothelial cell

NAD+ Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide

NADPH Reduced nicontinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate

NCBI National Center for Biotechnology Information

NF-κB Nuclear factor-κB nm Length (nannometre)

NO Nitric oxide

NOD Non-obese diabetic mouse
NOS Nitric oxide synthases
NTP Nucleotide triphosphate
OCT Optimum cutting temperature

O/N Overnight ONOO Peroxynitrite

OXPHOS Oxidative phosphorylation

PAI-1 Plasminogen activator inhibitor-1
PARP Poly-(ADP-ribose) polymerase
PBS Phosphate buffered saline
PCR Polymerase chain reaction
PDH Pyruvate dehydrogenase

PDK Pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase
PDP Pyruvate dehydrogenase phosphatase
PEPK Phosphoenolpyruvate carboxykinase

PET Positron-emission tomography

PKC Protein kinase C

PPAR Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor

RAGE Receptor of AGE

REML Restricted maximum-likelihood

RNA Ribonucleic Acid RNase Ribonuclease

ROS Reactive oxygen species rpm Revolutions per minute RT Room temperature

RT-qPCR Real time quantitative polymerase chain reaction

s Time (second)

SAPE Streptavidin-phycoerythrin

SCO Synthesis of cytochrome oxidase

SDS Sodium dodecyl sulphate

SHR Spontaneously hypertensive rat snRNP Small nuclear ribonucleoprotein

SOD Superoxide dismutase

STZ Streptozotocin
TBS Tris buffered saline
TCA Tricarboxylic acid cycle

TEM Transmission electron microscope

TETA Triethylenetetramine

Tfam Transcription factor A, mitochondrial

TG Triglyceride

TGF- $\beta$ 1 Transforming growth factor -  $\beta$ 1 TIE TGF- $\beta$ 1 inhibitory elements

TIGR The Institute for Genomic Research TOC Tri-functional β-oxidation complex

TNF- $\alpha$  Tumour necrosis factor- $\alpha$ 

TXN Thioredoxin UCP Uncoupling protein

UV Ultraviolet

VLDL Very low-density lipoprotein

yCCS Yeast copper chaperone for superoxide dismutase

ZDF Zucker diabetic fatty rat

Zn Zinc