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Pathogenesis of Occupational & Environmental Asthma: new targets for investigation

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Disclosures

- **Research:** GlaxoSmithKline, MedImmune, US EPA, NIAID, NHLBI, NIEHS, NCCAM
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Outline

- Review of immunopathogenesis of occupational asthma
- Innate Immune mechanisms involved in environmental and occupational asthma
- Oxidative stress and environmental and occupational asthma

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Sensitization to occupational allergens

HMW vs. LMW sensitizers
Reference:
Dykewicz MS.
J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2009 Mar;123(3):519-28;

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High Molecular Weight Allergens

- Immunopathology typically due to IgE production to high molecular weight allergens
- Airway inflammation is typically eosinophilic
- Occupational sensitization to a given agent may be due to different allergens compared to other allergy associated with the same agent
 - Bakers asthma associated exposure to agents such as thioredoxins in wheat
 - Oral allergy due to wheat associated with omega 5 gliadin

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High molecular weight allergens

Allergen	Industry, process, or occupation
High molecular weight	
Animal and insect-derived	
Bird proteins (dusts, serum)	Bird breeders
Crustaceans: snow crab, prawns	Seafood processors
Eggs (dusts)	Food processors
Insects	Beekeepers, farmers, grainery workers, silk processing, dockworkers
Mammalian proteins in hair, dander, urine	Research labs, veterinarians, breeders, pet shop workers
Pharmaceutical enzymes, eg. penicillin	Pharmaceutical industry, health care workers
Sea urchin (spine granules)	Opium processing workers
Bacterial and fungal-derived	
Avicella subtilis-derived enzymes	Detergent formulators
Penicillium casei	Cheese workers
Thermophilus tokodi	Meatcure workers
Plant-derived	
Dates dust	Breadbakers
Latices, natural rubber	Health care workers
Plant enzymes (papain, bromelain)	Food, pharmaceutical industries
Polylactams	Latex glove manufacturers, nursing
Nicotinic gases (nicot, guai, vapors)	Printing/bookbinders, food, carpet manufacture
Wheat flour	Bakers

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Low molecular weight sensitizers

- Some cause disease via IgE mediated mechanisms
 - » Phthalic anhydride
 - » TMA
 - » Chromium salts
 - » Nickel salts
 - » Epoxy amines
 - » Penicillin
- Others involve mechanisms which are incompletely understood
 - » Innate mechanisms
 - » Cell mediated mechanisms
 - » Isocyanates may have multiple mechanisms

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Low molecular weight allergens

Low molecular weight	Exposures
Penicillins (in hair bleaching solutions)	Hairdressers
Metals and metal salts	
Chromium	Miners and cement, electroplating and tanning workers
Cobalt	Mineral workers and diamond drillholes
Nickel sulfate	Metals plating
Platinum	Other workers
Organic chemicals	
Acid anhydrides (grouped: isocyanate isocyanide)	Plastics industry, dye, insecticide makers, organic chemical manufacture (used in epoxy resin)
Acrylates, methacrylates (artificial nail glue)	Printing industry, hairdressing
Hydroquinone	Shells, dyes, laboratory workers
Diisopropylamine in hair dye	Hairdressers
Polysulfonates (grouped: sulfonamide diisocyanates)	Polysulfonates, foam coatings, adhesives production, and end use settings (eg. epoxy resins, foam workers)
Paracetamol (acetaminophen, paracetamol)	Hospital and pharmaceutical workers

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Irritant-induced asthma

- Often linked to a single initial event
- Often not IgE mediated
- Likely involves epithelial cell injury
- Increased methacholine reactivity
- Traditionally called RADs

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New areas of investigation for OA

- Can we extrapolate lessons from the "hygiene hypothesis"?
- Can we extrapolate lessons from the biology of environmental/air pollution research to the unique exposures of OA?
- Specific interest in oxidative stress?

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Innate Immunity and OA

Animal handlers

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Pollutants shown to enhance recall response to allergen

- Ozone
- NO₂/SO₂
- Endotoxin
- Diesel Exhaust
- ETS
- Responses include:
 - » IgE
 - » PMNs
 - » Eosinophils
 - » Airway Reactivity

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Airborne Endotoxin Predicts Symptoms in Non-Mouse-sensitized Technicians and Research Scientists Exposed to Laboratory Mice
 Pacheco et al, AJRCCM Vol 167, pp. 983-990, (2003)

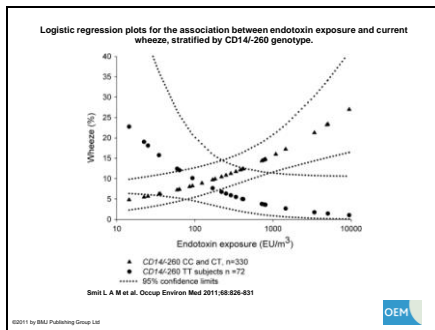
- Mouse sensitized workers had increased symptoms linked to allergen levels
- Non-mouse sensitized workers had increased symptoms associated with endotoxin levels
- Risk factors for both symptomatic groups included atopy and allergy to domestic pets
- Findings suggest interactions between LPS and allergic inflammation

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Gene-environment interactions influence airways function in laboratory animal workers
 Pacheco et al. JACI Vol 126(2) , Pages 232-240,2010

- Decreased FEV1 and FEV25-75 seen in endotoxin exposed workers with the CD14-1619AG/GG genotype
- Findings suggest a role for CD14/LPS biology in occupational lung disease

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Logistic regression plots for the association between endotoxin exposure and current wheeze, stratified by CD14/-260 genotype. Each symbol represents a group of workers with the same estimated exposure level. Associations were adjusted for sex, age, smoking habits and farm childhood.

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Hexamethylene diisocyanate asthma is associated with genetic polymorphisms of CD14, IL-13, and IL-4 receptor α
 Bernstein D, et al. JACI 120(2), Pages 418-420, 2011

TABLE 1. Logistic regression analyses of associations of genotype \times genotype combinations and exposure to HDI or HDI and/or TDI with occupational asthma confirmed by SIC-positive (DA+) versus SIC-negative (DA-) workers in all diisocyanate-exposed workers (A), and of genotype \times genotype combinations with DA+ versus DA- in HDI-exposed workers (B), after adjusting for significant demographic characteristics

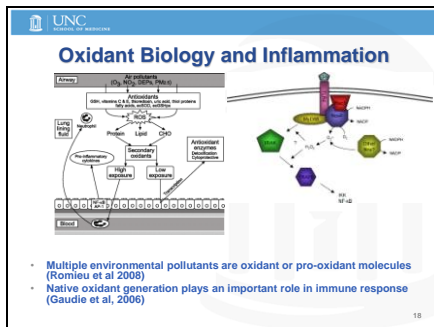
Genotype \times genotype combinations of IL4RA (SNP), IL13 (SNP), and CD14 (SNP) (SNPs)	Patients			OR (95% CI) for genotype among diisocyanate-exposed workers
	Exposure \times genotype combination main effect	Exposure \times genotype effect (OR, 95% CI)	Genotype \times genotype combination by exposure interaction	
A. All workers				
IL4RA RR	403	0.021	200	1.57 (0.74-3.28)†
IL4RA R and IL13 RR	376	0.03	191	1.66 (0.86-3.17)†
IL4RA R and CD14 CT	403	0.03	195	2.06 (1.25-3.39)†
IL4RA R and IL13 RR and CD14 CT	301	0.04	163	3.55 (1.93-6.91)‡
B. HDI workers only				
IL4RA RR	202			1.51 (0.70-3.26)†
IL4RA R and IL13 RR	300			1.58 (0.82-3.08)†
IL4RA R and CD14 CT	311			3.08 (1.75-5.40)†
IL4RA R and IL13 RR and CD14 CT	189			3.88 (1.91-7.88)‡

OR, Odds ratio.
 †Main effect represents a significant main effect. Genotype \times genotype interaction for IL4RA RR \times IL13 RR genotype in the HDI VV genotype, IL13 CT genotype in the HDI VV genotype, and IL13 CT \times IL13 RR genotype in the HDI VV genotype. Genotype \times genotype interaction for IL4RA RR \times IL13 RR genotype in the HDI VV genotype. For example, IL4RA R and IL13 RR compare the combination of IL4RA R (SNP) \times R and IL13 RR (SNP) \times RR with all other combinations of IL4RA (SNP) and IL13 (SNP).
 ‡Adjusted for smoking.
 † Adjusted for smoking and ethnicity.
 ‡ Adjusted for smoking and ethnicity.

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- Interim summary: innate immunity**
- Innate immunity results in:
 - » Increased antigen presentation capability
 - » Increased inflammation
 - Innate immunity (CD14) influences symptoms and risk of disease
 - » Bioaerosols
 - » Event TDI
 - Gene X exposure
 - » CD14 TT genotype increased wheeze at low LPS
 - » Decreased wheeze at high LPS
 - » CD14 CC or CT associated with wheeze with high LPS

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GSTM1 and related genes

NRF2 nuclear transcription factor

- Epidemiological literature too extensive to review here. In summary, GSTM1 null individuals have increased risk for:
 - » Ozone induced asthma exacerbation
 - » PM induced lung and CV disease
 - » Perinatal exposure to tobacco smoke and increased risk of asthma/wheezing disease
 - » Associated with increased risk for isocyanate asthma and response to LPD
- GSTM1 Null challenge studies:
 - » Associated with increased response to diesel exhaust
 - » Associated with increased response to tobacco smoke

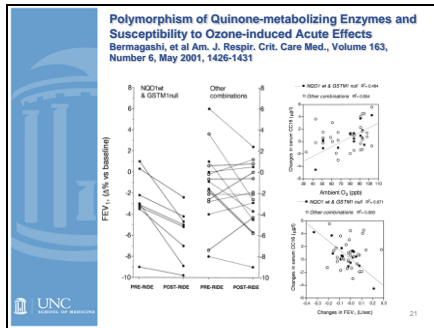
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GSTM1 genotype and ozone response

Lung Function
Inflammation

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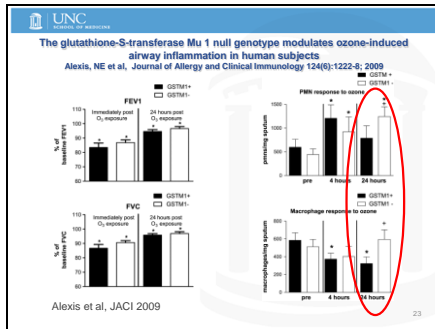
Effect of GSTM1 genotype and ozone induced decreases in FEF25-75 in asthmatics

Romieu et al, Thorax 2004;59:8-10

- GSTM1 null asthmatics have increased asthma symptoms with ozone exposure than do GSTM1 sufficient persons

Group	Subgroup	All asthmatics		Moderate and severe asthmatics	
		Coefficient 95% CI ml/s 50 ppb O ₃	Percentage 95% CI change FEF ₂₅₋₇₅ /50 ppb O ₃	Coefficient 95% CI ml/s 50 ppb O ₃	Percentage 95% CI change FEF ₂₅₋₇₅ /50 ppb O ₃
Fluoro	GSTM1 null	29	-35.1 -9.1 to -10.9*	18	-80.8 -122.7 to -28.9*
	GSTM1 positive	47	-10.1 -38.7 to 17.7	17	-34.4 -72.8 to 4.8
	Genotype effect		40.0 7.5 to 72.6*		46.4 20.7 to 72.0*

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GSTM1 genotype and PM response

Lung Function
Inflammation

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DEP effect on the response to allergen stratified by GSTM1 genotype
Gilliland et al, Lancet. 2004 Jan 10;363(9403):119-25

	Clean air and allergen	DEP and allergen	Difference	p ^a
IgE (U/mL)	9.8 (6.4)	121.2 (134.1)	111.4 (129.7)	0.002
Interleukin 4 (U/mL)	0.3 (0.1)	6.0 (5.0)	5.7 (4.9)	<0.0001
Interferon γ (ng/L)	1.2 (0.6)	0.6 (0.5)	-0.6 (0.8)	0.002
Interferon γ/Interleukin 4	4.8 (2.7) [‡]	0.6 (1.4) [‡]	0.1 (0.3) [‡]	<0.0001
Histamine (mmol/L)	3.1 (1.3)	15.0 (7.4)	11.8 (7.0)	<0.0001

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DEP effect on the response to allergen stratified by GSTM1 genotype
Gilliland et al, Lancet. 2004 Jan 10;363(9403):119-25

	GSTM1			GSTT1			GSTP1		
	Med (n=14)	Present (n=5)	p	Med (n=9)	Present (n=10)	p	Med (n=25)	UV (n=6)	p
IgE	9.9 (2.0-24.3)	8.9 (4.3-25.6)	0.40	7.8 (2.6-24.3)	7.8 (2.6-16.7)	0.57	7.8 (2.0-24.5)	8.4 (2.6-18.8)	3.00
Clean air and allergen	100.6 (8.8-53.4)	49.8 (14.2-79.4)	0.02	89.3 (13.3-234.5)	49.3 (8.8-312.5)	0.35	123.5 (44.0-534.6)	31.9 (8.8-79.4)	0.02
DEP and allergen	102.5 (1.0-210.5)	65.5 (1.5-200.6)	0.03	84.7 (8.1-550.5)	45.9 (1.5-288.8)	0.35	130.3 (6.7-565.5)	27.7 (1.0-200.6)	0.03
Difference									
Clean air	2.9 (1.3-5.9)	2.6 (1.9-6.7)	0.96	2.8 (2.2-4.3)	2.9 (1.3-6.7)	0.65	2.9 (2.3-6.7)	3.0 (1.9-6.0)	0.63
and allergen	16.9 (2.9-27.6)	8.6 (3.1-29.0)	0.08	15.7 (7.3-25.8)	16.4 (2.9-27.6)	1.00	17.2 (6.2-27.6)	8.5 (2.9-25.5)	0.04
Difference	14.0 (-0.2-24.7)	7.4 (1.2-22.3)	0.02	12.9 (3.0-21.8)	12.7 (-0.2-24.7)	0.97	13.8 (3.2-24.7)	5.2 (-0.2-13.6)	0.01

Values are median (range), p values calculated with Wilcoxon rank-sum test.

Table 3. Effects of GSTM1, GSTT1, and GSTP1 genotype on nasal IgE (U/mL) and Histamine (mmol/L) when exposed to allergen plus clean air or allergen plus diesel exhaust particles (DEP)

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NASAL RESPONSES IN 19 SUBJECTS AFTER EXPOSURE TO CLEAN AIR PLUS ALLERGEN OR SECONDHAND SMOKE EXPOSURE PLUS ALLERGEN, AND THE DIFFERENCES IN RESPONSE
Gilliland et al, Am J Resp Crit Care Med. Vol 174. pp. 1335-1341

Response	Median (minmax)			p Value
	Clean Air + Allergen	SHS + Allergen	Difference	
IgE, U/ml	12.2 (1.1-27.5)	101.5 (23.5-746.5)	95.0 (8.9-725.5)	< 0.0001
IL-4, U/ml	0.2 (0.2-0.7)	3.5 (0.2-13.3)	3.2 (-0.4-13.1)	< 0.0001
IFN-γ, ng/L	0.6 (0.2-1.6)	0.3 (0.1-1.4)	-0.2 (-1.5-0.1)	< 0.0001
Histamine, nM	3.6 (0.9-6.8)	12.5 (0.9-24.7)	9.1 (-0.9-20.6)	< 0.0001

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Effect of GSTs genotypes on SHS/allergen response
Gilliland et al, Am J Resp Crit Care Med. Vol 174. pp. 1335-1341

Median Difference (minmax)

Genotyping	n	IgE (U/ml)	IL-4 (U/ml)	IFN- (ng/L)	Histamine (nM)
GSTM1					
Present	5	46.7 (8.9-95.0)	3.2 (0.0-5.4)	-0.2 (-1.0-0.1)	8.4 (-0.9-10.2)
Null	14	173.3 (11.3-725.5)	4.0 (-0.4-13.1)	-0.2 (-1.5-0.1)	9.4 (-0.9-20.6)
p Value		0.03	0.33	0.61	0.43
GSTP1					
Ile/Ile	13	162.2 (24.6-725.5)	2.9 (0.0-13.1)	-0.2 (-0.9-0.1)	10.2 (2.3-20.6)
Ile/Val	6	51.0 (8.9-423.6)	3.3 (0.4-12.2)	-0.5 (-1.5-0.1)	4.6 (0.9-10.1)
p Value		0.07	0.93	0.20	0.03 ²⁸

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GSTM1 genotype and occupational asthma

TDI
LPS

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Table 4

Glutathione S-transferase genotypes and allergic responses to diisocyanate exposure.
Piiirila, Paivi; Wikman, Harri; Luukkonen, Ritva; Kaaria, Katja; Rosenberg, Christina; Nordman, Henrik; Norppa, Hannu; Vainio, Harri; Hirvonen, Ari
Pharmacogenetics. 11(5):437-445, July 2001.

Table 4. The odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for the influence of combined genotypes of GSTM1 and GSTM3 to clinical parameters among diisocyanate asthma patients

Genotype	Atopy in prick testing	High total IgE	Specific IgE positivity	Lair reaction in challenge test
GSTM1 present/GSTM1 (AA and BB)	1.0 (reference)	1.0 (reference)	1.0 (reference)	1.0 (reference)
GSTM1 null/GSTM1 AA	0.74 (0.21-2.61) ^a	0.81 (0.21-1.07) ^a	0.20 (0.04-0.91) ^a	5.56 (1.35-22.9) ^a
	0.76 (0.21-2.73) ^a	1.08 (0.24-4.80) ^a	0.09 (0.01-0.73) ^a	11.00 (2.19-55.3) ^a

^aCrude ORs; ^bORs adjusted for age, gender and smoking; ^cORs adjusted for age, gender, smoking and atopy.

Table 4. The odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for the influence of combined genotypes of GSTM1 and GSTM3 to clinical parameters among diisocyanate asthma patients: ^aCrude ORs; ^bORs adjusted for age, gender and smoking; ^cORs adjusted for age, gender, smoking and atopy.

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Table 3
N-Acetyltransferase genotypes as modifiers of diisocyanate exposure-associated asthma risk. Wikman, Harriet; Piirila, Pålvi; Rosenberg, Christina; Luukkonen, Riiva; Kaaria, Katja; Nordman, Henrik; Norppa, Hannu; Valiño, Harri; Hirvonen, Ari Pharmacogenetics. 12(3):227-233, April 2002.

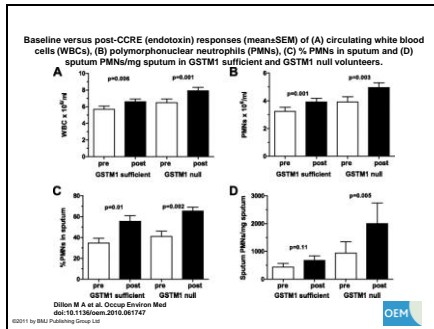
Genotype	Case/control	MDI		HDI, MDI, TDI	
		ORP (95% CI)	Case/control	ORP (95% CI)	Case/control
GSTM1	Fast	619	1.0	1325	1.0
	Slow	1918	3.34 (3.04-3.65) ^a	4320	4.14 (3.76-4.52) ^a
GSTM1	Fast	914	1.0	2319	1.0
	Slow	1418	3.72 (3.62-3.82) ^a	3910	2.48 (2.34-2.64) ^a
NAT1	Fast	513	1.0	1218	1.0
	Slow	1714	3.16 (3.00-3.32) ^a	3819	3.04 (2.84-3.24) ^a

CI, confidence interval; HDI, hexamethylene diisocyanate; MDI, diphenylmethane diisocyanate; OR, odds ratio; TDI, toluene diisocyanate; ORP, statistically significant associations are shown; ^aP for interaction 0.040; ^bcrude OR; ^cOR adjusted for age, gender, smoking and atopy; ^dP for interaction 0.350; ^eP for interaction 0.660.

Table 3. Number of cases/controls and asthma risks associated with GSTM1/NAT1 high-risk genotype combinations. CI, confidence interval; HDI, hexamethylene diisocyanate; MDI, diphenylmethane diisocyanate; OR, odds ratio; TDI, toluene diisocyanate; ORP, statistically significant associations are shown; ^aP for interaction 0.040; ^bcrude OR; ^cOR adjusted for age, gender, smoking and atopy; ^dP for interaction 0.350; ^eP for interaction 0.660.

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Baseline versus post-CCRE (endotoxin) responses (mean±SEM) of (A) circulating white blood cells (WBCs), (B) polymorphonuclear neutrophils (PMNs), (C) % PMNs in sputum and (D) sputum PMNs/mg sputum in GSTM1 sufficient and GSTM1 null volunteers.

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Summary GSTM1

- Oxidative stress likely plays a very important role in occupational asthma
- GSTM1 and related genes modulate both acute response to occupational agents and risk for permanent disease
- Potential development of biomarkers for exposure and risk of disease
- Potential interventions

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