



# Computational design of catalytic triadbased organophosphate capture proteins

#### Chu Wang The Cravatt Laboratory The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla RosettaCON 2013

## In Collaboration with Dr. Sridharan Rajagopalan, Baker Lab, UW



#### **Organophosphates (OPs) are Highly Toxic**

#### **Pesticides**



Parathion

Paraoxon

Malathion

**Nerve agents** 



## Molecular Target of OP Toxicity – Acetylcholine Esterase (AChE)



## AChE -- an Essential Serine Hydrolase (SH) with a Conserved Catalytic Triad-based Active Site





**Serine Hydrolase** 

> 200 enzymes, ~ 1% of proteome Proteases, esterase, lipase etc

## Electrophilic OPs are Potent Inhibitors of SHs by Covalently Modifying the Serine Nucleophile







disabled acetylcholinesterase

## **Bioscavengers to Prevent OP Poisoning**

- Recombinant human butyrylcholinesterase (BChE) to sequester highly toxic OPs
  - 65kDa, large amounts required for stoichiometric inhibition.
  - 350 mg of human BCHE per 1 mg of cyclosarin.
  - Unwanted hydrolysis of endogenous esters, leading to imbalance of these metabolites in blood.
- *De Novo* Designs of proteins with activated serine nucleophiles as a new panel of OP scavenger agents
  - Smaller and diverse scaffolds
  - Specific for individual OP scavenging and detection
  - Controllable activity against endogenous substrates
- Towards design of *de novo* serine hydrolases.

#### **Active-Site Nucleophiles in Native Enzymes**



## Active-Site Nucleophiles in Previous De Novo Designed Enzymes



RA series by Jiang et al. Science, 2008



**Buried Lysine** 





ECH series by Richter et al. JACS, 2012



Cys-His Dyad



### **Challenges in Designing a Serine Nucleophile**



- Serine hydroxyl has a pKa of ~13 (vs. 8.00 for Cys and 10.5 for Lys)
- Requires precise designed interactions within the catalytic triad to activate
- How to screen and pick designs with activated serine nucleophile???

### **Activity-based Protein Profiling (ABPP)**



Liu Y et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 2000; Jessani et al, Nature Method, 2005.

#### **OP-based Activity-based Probes for SHs**





- Fluorophore -- detection (in-gel fluoresence)
- Biotin western blotting, enrichment
- Alkyne "click chemistry" to conjugate with azidefunctionalized fluorophore or biotin

### Activity-Based Protein Profiling (ABPP) of Serine Proteases



#### **Profiling Proteome-wide SH Activities** in Cancer <sup>12</sup> PNGaseF kDa 100 -APH\* 75 -BCHE Angiotensinase C 50 -- PS-PL1 37 -Esterase D Complement 1s 25kDa Hydrolase uPA Cathepsin A 25 -

**Secreted Proteomes of Cancer Cells** 

### **Profiling SH Activities in Cancer**



**Secreted Proteomes of Cancer Cells** 

## **Overall Workflow**



# Theozyme & RosettaMatch & Design



- Transition state of syn- or anti- attack of serine nucleophile in R or S isomers of OP
- Ensemble of Ligand conformers constructed by OpenEye's Omega software.
- RosettaMatch includes the Ser-His-Asp/Glu triad and an backbone NH as oxyanion hole

# **Screen By ABPP using OP-probes**





Fluorescence

- 2mL of E.coli culture
- Lyse the pallet
- Prepare soluble lysate
- Label with FP-Rh for 1 hour
- Run SDS gel
- Scan fluorescence
- Stain with Coomassie blue
- Normalize fluorescence/abundance
- Fast screening (50 designs per day)



#### Coomassie Blue

# **OSH55 Identified as a Potential Hit**



J.Blue

Ser and His knockouts abolish FP labeling



# **Optimizing OSH55 Triad by RosettaDesign**



# Three OSH55 Variants with Increased OP Reactivity and Accurate Triad Design





# Improve OP Reactivity of OSH55.4 by Yeast Surface Display



## Specific OP Adduction with S151 in the Triad

![](_page_22_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Measurement of Rate of OP Labeling by Fluorescence Polarization

![](_page_23_Figure_1.jpeg)

## OSH55.4 1 Reacts with OP as FAST as **Native Serine Hydrolases**

![](_page_24_Figure_1.jpeg)

OSH55.4\_1-WT

![](_page_24_Figure_3.jpeg)

– 1.0 uM

📥 2.0 uM

🕂 5.0 uM

![](_page_24_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_5.jpeg)

# Structural Characterization of OSH55.4\_1 Complexed with OPs

OSH55.4\_1 with FPyne

OSH55.4\_1 with DFP

![](_page_25_Figure_3.jpeg)

# **Conclusion and Future Directions**

- *De Novo* Design of proteins with authentic catalytic triads
- Xtal structures confirm very accurately designed interactions
- Serine nucleophile in the catalytic triad is activated
- The designed serine reacts with OP as fast as those in native SHs
- The designed protein binds to a toxic OP agent -- DFP
- ABPP can aid screening and testing functional protein designs
- Towards designs of enzymes with hydrolytic activity
- Towards designs of protein scavengers of toxic OP agents

# Acknowledgement

- Prof. David Baker and Prof. Benjamin Cravatt
- Sridharan Rajagopalan, Kai Yu,-- UW
- Megan L. Matthews Scripps
- Crystallographers at NSGC, Columbia University
- Aleksandr Miklos EXCET Inc.
- Defense Threat Reduction Agency (D.B.) and National Caner Institute (B.F.C.) for funding
- Sir Henry Wellcome Fellowship (S.R.) and NIH/NIEHS K99/R00 Fellowship (C.W.)