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Identification of candidate protein markers of Bovine Parainfluenza Virus Type 3 infection using an *in vitro* model

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Abstract

Bovine Parainfluenza Virus Type 3 (BPI3V) infections are often asymptomatic, causing respiratory tissue damage and immunosuppression, predisposing animals to severe bacterial pneumonia, the leading cause of Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) mortality. As with many pathogens, routine BPI3V serology does not indicate the presence of damaged respiratory tissue or active infection. In vitro proteomic marker screening using disease relevant cell models could help identify markers of infection and tissue damage that are also detectable during in vivo infections. This study utilised a proteomic approach to investigate in vitro cellular responses during BPI3V infection to enhancing the current understanding of intracellular host-virus interactions and identify putative markers of in vivo infection. Through 2D gel electrophoresis proteomic analysis, BPI3V Phosphoprotein P and host T-complex Protein 1 subunit theta were found to be accumulated at the latter stages of infection within bovine fibroblasts. These proteins were subsequently detected using targeted multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mass spectrometry in the plasma of animals challenged with BPI3V, with differential protein levels profile observed dependant on animal vaccination status. Potential mechanisms by which BPI3V overcomes host cellular immune response mechanisms allowing for replication and production of viral proteins were also revealed. Assessment of circulating protein marker levels identified through an in vitro approach as described may enable more effective diagnosis of active viral infection and diseased / damaged respiratory tissue in animals and allow for more effective utilisation of preventative therapeutic interventions prior to bacterial disease onset and significantly aid the management and control of BRD.
Introduction

Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) is a multifactorial disease characteristic of a viral-bacterial synergistic infection with predisposition from environmental stressors. The disease constitutes a major source of economic loss through mortality, clinical disease and associated treatments with long lasting reduced growth performance of infected young stock (Griffin, 1997). Bovine Parainfluenza Virus-3 (BPI3V) is one of the major viral pathogens of the BRD complex (Kahrs, 2001). BPI3V induced respiratory tract damage, resulting from the destruction of the ciliated respiratory epithelium (Bryson, 1985) and immunosuppression via depression of local cellular immunity by impairment of alveolar macrophage phagocytosis (Baker et al., 1997, Trigo et al., 1985), predisposes animals to more severe secondary bacterial and mycoplasma infections (Cusack et al., 2003, Kapil and Basaraba, 1997). With the absence of severe clinical symptoms (Vaucher et al., 2008), infected animals may not be detected prior to the onset of more severe infections (AFBI/DAFM, 2012). Furthermore, routinely employed BPI3V-antibody ELISA cannot differentiate between vaccinated and infected animals, and by the time infected animals convalesce the virus has been cleared from the system and respiratory tract damage has already occurred. Molecular diagnostic techniques are hindered by the presence of vaccine derived genetic material, often requiring on-going virus amplification in order to generate sufficient genetic material for accurate diagnosis. Consequently, there are no commercial tests available for differentiation between BPI3V vaccinated and non-vaccinated animals. Anti-mortem diagnostic tests for BPI3V such as immunohistochemistry and virus isolation provide limited information on the current health status of an animal and can only determine pathogen exposure but not the presence of diseased tissue (Fulton and Confer, 2012), further illustrating the need for the development of alternative diagnostics capable of detecting infected animals (and the presence of diseased tissue) at early stages of infection.

The development of biomarker based diagnostic tests relies on the detection of disease markers accumulated/released from localised tissues regions in circulating bio-fluids. Primary cell
cultures offer a clean system that closely resembles relative tissue types for the identification of high confidence candidate markers for in vivo diagnostics. With the death of BPI3V infected cells, proteins are released into the extracellular space and ultimately into circulating bio-fluids. The detection of such markers would indicate not only the presence of viral infection but also damaged respiratory tissue, an indicator of underlying disease. Suitable primary cell models to investigate BPI3V associated tissue damage include epithelial cells (the initial site of infection) and fibroblasts (the major component of lung interstitium and likely secondary site of infection following BPI3V release from epithelial cells). Whilst epithelial cells are the most promising cell types for candidate biomarker screening previous studies on Human Parainfluenza Virus-3 (hPIV-3) and the closely related paramyxovirus Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in A549 adenocarcinomic human alveolar basal epithelial cells have indicated an apoptotic response to infection, with an arrest in protein production (van Diepen et al., 2010, Brasier et al., 2004). Such conditions are unfavourable for biomarker screening which relies on the accumulation of disease specific markers within tissues and their eventual release into circulating biofluids. Foetal Calf Lung (FCL) cells are known to facilitate in vitro growth of BPI3V (Shephard et al., 2003) and may provide conditions favourable for viral replication without shut down of host protein production, however little is understood about the interactions of BPI3V with respiratory fibroblasts at the intracellular level. Therefore, this study has set out to assess the proteomic responses of FCL cells during an in vitro BPI3V infection by 2 Dimensional Gel Electrophoresis (2D GE) profiling, and to determine whether identified candidate protein markers of in vitro infection can also be observed within the plasma of animals following in vivo infection. Such markers released from infected cells or diseased tissue, could be utilised to not only diagnose animals exposed to the viral pathogens but also determine virus induced respiratory tract damage and enable early treatment measures to be employed to prevent progression to more severe clinical disease states.
Materials and methods

Chemicals and reagents

GMEM, trypsin, gentamicin and glutamine were purchased from Invitrogen (Life Technologies, Paisley, UK). Dithiothreitol (DTT), iodoacetamide (IAA), and Readysol IEF were purchased from GE Healthcare (Buckinghamshire, UK). LC-MS grade formic acid, acetonitrile and H2O were purchased from Fisher Scientific (MA, USA). All other reagents were electrophoresis grade and purchased from Fisher Scientific. Sequencing grade modified trypsin was purchased from Promega (WI, USA).

In vitro identification of candidate BPI3V protein biomarkers

Cell culture and virus preparation

Foetal Calf Lung (FCL) cells were prepared within the cell culture department of the Veterinary Science Division at the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Northern Ireland. Throughout this study FCL cells were maintained at 37°C, 5% CO2 and adapted to low serum conditions via continuous passage in GMEM (supplemented with 1% glutamine, 0.1% gentamicin) with reducing foetal calf serum (FCS) concentration. Following adaption, cell viability and integrity was assessed by Alamar Blue (Invitrogen) and lactose dehydrogenase (LDH) (Roche, Basel, Switzerland) cytotoxicity assays using manufacturer’s protocols.

Preparation of samples for in vitro biomarker screening

FCL cells were seeded at a density of 6.25x10⁵ cells per ml in 375ml culture flasks. Cells were grown for 4 days until monolayered, then infected with BPI3V (isolate 2005/015033-Lung A – propagated in FCL cells (TCID₅₀ 10⁸.²/ml)) a m.o.i. of 10:1 and incubated for 1hr. Media was removed and cells washed 3 times with GMEM containing no FCS which was removed and replaced with GMEM containing 0.5% FCS. Lysates were prepared from BPI3V infected FCL flasks at 24hrs and 48hrs (n=6) post-infection (p.i.). 27hrs prior to sample collection, media was
removed and cells washed 3 times over a period of 3hrs with GMEM containing no FCS. Then
washing media was removed and replaced with GMEM continuing no supplements. After 24hrs
culture media was removed from flasks and FCL monolayers washed twice with PBS and 1ml of
Lysis buffer (7M Urea, 2M Thiourea, 4% CHAPS, Roche Protease Inhibitor (1 tablets per 10ml
buffer) (Roche Applied Science, Lewes, East Sussex, United Kingdom) added and incubated for
15min to facilitate cell lysis prior to protein concentration determination. Lysates were similarly
prepared from uninfected cells (0hrs, n=6) as control.

2D Gel Electrophoresis and image acquisition

Cellular lysates were concentrated and desalted using 10kDa MW cut-off devices (Millipore, MA,
USA) and 500µg of each sample was dissolved in rehydration buffer (final concentration 8M Urea,
2% CHAPS, 0.5% IPG buffer, 0.002% bromophenol blue and 18mM DTT) and allowed to
rehydrate overnight with IEF strips. 2D GE was performed using 13cm pH 3-10 non-linear IPG
strips (GE Healthcare, Buckinghamshire, UK) in the first dimension and 12.5% SDS PAGE in the
second dimension as described previously (Kinkead et al., 2015). Gels were fixed and stained using
the LSB colloidal staining method (Anderson et al., 1995), scanned using an Epson Perfection v750
Pro scanner calibrated with a Monaco iT8 transparency reference target (iT8.7/1-1993
MONT45:2010:12) and analysed using Ludesi REDFIN v3 software (Kafoo Group, Sweden). Gel
images from analysis of pooled samples were used as a reference for warping and spot matching -
approximately 20 manual warping anchors were applied to all gels prior to automatic alignment.
Spot borders and locations were manually refined to ensure accurate location and matching prior to
spot selection.

Mass-spectrometry analysis of protein gel spots

Gel spots were excised using a Gelpal spot cutter (Genetix) from pooled FCL lysates (comprised of
an equal amount of all samples, n=3) and in gel digestion was performed using modifications to a
previously described protocol (Shevchenko et al., 2006). Digests were evaporated to dryness using
a MiVac Quattro Concentrator operating under aqueous settings for 4hr at 30°C. Tryptic peptides
were resuspended in 12µl of a 0.1% formic acid, 2% acetonitrile solution and analysed using a
Thermo Scientific LTQ ORBITRAP XL mass spectrometer connected to a Dionex Ultimate 3000
(RSLCnano) chromatography system. Each sample was loaded onto a Biobasic Picotip Emitter
(120mm length, 75µm ID) packed with Reprocil Pur C18 (1.9µm) reverse phase media column and
separated by an increasing acetonitrile gradient, using a 19min reverse phase gradient at a flow rate
of 250nL/min. The mass spectrometer was operated in positive ion mode with a capillary
temperature of 200°C, a capillary voltage of 31V, a tube lens voltage of 85V and with a potential of
1900V applied to the frit. All data was acquired with the mass spectrometer operating in automatic
data dependent switching mode. A high-resolution MS scan (mass range of 300-2000Da) was
performed using the Orbitrap to select the 7 most intense ions prior to MS/MS analysis using the
Ion trap.

Protein identification and functional classification

Raw mass spectrometry data was processed and de novo peptide analysis performed using PEAKS
Studio version 6 (Bioinformatics Software Inc.). Parent mass tolerance and fragment ion error were
set at 20ppm and 1.0Da respectively. A maximum of 3 missed cleavages and 1 non-specific
cleavage were allowed. A fixed Post Translational Modifications (PTM) of carbamidomethylation
was selected and a maximum of 3 variable PTMs per peptide. Peptides were searched against a
combined Uniprot Bos Taurus and Bovine Parainfluenza Virus-3 database. A false discovery rate
of 1% was applied with the requirement of at least 1 unique peptide per protein match. Correct
identification was only allowed for peptides that corresponded to a protein with matching molecular
weight and pI on 2D gels. The Panther database (version 8.1, http://www.pantherdb.org/) was used
for functional classification of identified proteins. As the bovine proteome lacks high-level
annotation as compared to the human proteome, missing functional classifications were determined
based on human homologues. Where functional classification could not be determined using Panther, AmiGO (version 1.8, http://amigo.geneontology.org/cgi-bin/amigo/go.cgi) experimental evidence code gene ontology annotations were selected.

**In vivo assessment of candidate BPI3V protein biomarkers**

BPI3V infection protein marker candidates selected from *in vitro* proteomic analysis were screened in bio-banked plasma samples from BPI3V challenged vaccinated and non-vaccinated calves (Gray et al., 2015).

**In-solution tryptic digestion of proteins for targeted MRM analysis by UPLC-MS/MS**

10µl of 1µM yeast ADH (internal recovery control) and 20µl of plasma was diluted to a final volume of 100µl with 100mM ammonium bicarbonate. Samples were reduced with 10µl of 100mM DTT, 100mM ammonium bicarbonate for 60ºC for 30mins followed by alkylation with 10µl of 200mM iodoacetamide, 100mM ammonium bicarbonate for 1hr. 50µl of Promega sequencing grade trypsin (80µg/ml in 10% acetonitrile, 10mM ammonium bicarbonate) was added and samples were incubated at 37ºC for 16hrs. 10µl of 10% formic acid was then added to stop the reaction and peptides were purified and concentrated by C18 solid phase extraction (SPE) using an Empore C18 96 well solid phase extraction (SPE) plate (Sigma Aldrich). The resin was conditioned with 100µl of 0.1% formic acid, 99.9% acetonitrile and washed twice with 200µl 0.1% formic acid (wash buffer) prior to addition of digested samples. The plate was washed with 200µl of wash buffer and peptides eluted with three washes of 150µl 0.1% formic acid, 60% acetonitrile. The combined eluates were dried using a MiVac (GeneVac) operating at 40ºC H₂O.

**Targeted MRM analysis of peptides by UPLC-MS/MS**

*In silico* peptide fragmentation and selection of MRM transitions (Supplementary File 1) was performed using Skyline (MacLean et al., 2010) and BLAST search performed by MRMpath
Dried peptides were reconstituted in 20µl 0.1% formic acid, 3% acetonitrile, 96.9% H₂O and 8µl of sample was injected onto an ACQUITY UPLC® CSHT130 C18 column (100mm x 2.1mm i.d., 1.7µm, 130Å; Waters Corporation, Milford, MA, USA). Column and autosampler temperature were maintained at 30ºC and 8ºC respectively, and chromatographic separation performed at a flow rate of 100µl/min with mobile phase consisting of 99.9% H₂O, 0.1% formic acid (A) and 99.9% Acetonitrile, 0.1% formic acid (B). The elution gradient was as follows:

0 – 1 min isocratic at 1% of B, 1 – 30 min linear gradient from 1 - 45% of B, 30 – 31 linear gradient from 45 - 95% of B, 31 – 33 min isocratic at 95% of B, 33 min at isocratic 1% B and finally 33 – 35 min isocratic at 1% of B. Mass spectrometry was performed using a Waters Quattro Premier QqQ operating in positive-ion mode (ESI+) with the capillary voltage set to 3000V and the sampling cone voltage 35V. The desolvation, collision and cone gas flows were set at 500 L/h, 0.3 ml/min and 50 L/h respectively. Source and desolvation temperatures were 120ºC and 400ºC respectively. Inter-channel and inter-scan delay were maintained at 0.005s, scan range at 0.5Da, and dwell at 0.025s for all peptides.

Statistical analysis

Two-way ANOVA with post-hoc bonferroni test was applied for the analysis of FCS media content and BPI3V infection in Alamar Blue cell viability and LDH cell cytotoxicity assays. Significantly different protein spots were selected using ANOVA within Ludesi Redfin software. Linear and non-linear regression for protein quantification and correlation between estimated and identified protein MW and pI was performed using Prism Graphpad version 5. SIMCA version 13 (Umetrics) was employed for multivariate statistical analysis of spot volumes obtained from 2D GE. Principle component analysis was applied to Pareto scaled data, excluding spots with %CV greater than 50%.

For targeted peptide analysis by UPLC-MS, ANOVA with bonferroni post-hoc test was performed for statistical analysis using Prism Graphpad (version 5). Statistical analysis of temporal changes in protein levels between experimental groups throughout the study was assessed using a paired two-
tailed t-test. TargetLynx was used for the extraction of raw data and analysis. Integration parameters were: retention time window 0.2 min, mean smoothing, width 3, 3 iterations, automatic apex peak tracking and integration window extend of 5. Peak area values for the respective peptides were corrected using the peak area of internal trypsin self-digestion products and spiked yeast ADH was employed to assess peptide recovery. ADH standards in the range of 100µM to 10nM facilitated the relative quantification of protein levels in plasma.

Results

In vitro identification of candidate BPI3V markers of infection

Optimization of in vitro models for BPI3V infection studies

Adaption of FCL cells to low serum growth conditions (to minimize contamination of cell lysates with serum derived proteins) had no negative impact on viability or integrity of cells throughout the sample collection period (Supplementary File 2). Increased cytotoxicity and decreased cell viability were observed as a result of BPI3V infection at 72hrs p.i. thereby restricting the sampling period to 48hrs p.i.

Identification of in vitro BPI3V infection markers by 2D GE analysis of FCL lysates

Figure 1 illustrates representative gel images obtained following 2D GE analysis of mock/BPI3V infected FCL lysates. 2D gels revealed excellent protein separation and resolution by pI and MW, with an average of 738 spots detected within FCL lysates across all gels. Spots identified visually as being significantly different within infected compared to control FCL cells are indicated. 57 spots were found to have fold change (FC) >1.5 (up- or down-regulated relative to 0hrs mock infected FCL cells) and p<0.05 from one-way ANOVA (performed in Ludesi software) (Supplementary File 3), representing an alteration of 19% of detectable proteins in response to BPI3V infection. These spots (illustrated in Figure 1) were selected for protein identification by liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LC-MS).
LC-MS identification of differentially expressed protein spots

The identity and sequence coverage of the 57 spots analysed by LC-MS are illustrated in Table 1. The estimated MW and pI of selected spots were determined by matching against a reference gel map for MRC-5 fibroblasts (Rubporn et al., 2009). Data analysis was performed using Peaks Studio (version 6) and 53 of 57 spots submitted for LC-MS were identified against a combined Uniprot KB Bos taurus and BPI3V database. Blast searching revealed at least 1 unique peptide sequence per protein, with average sequence coverage of 26.5% (ranging from 1-89%). These annotations correspond to 35 unique proteins with a number of protein isomers detected as indicated by varying estimated pI (Table 2). Surprisingly, the only BPI3V related protein significantly altered was Phosphoprotein P (9 isomers with isoelectric points ranging from pI 5.2 to 5.9). However, other BPI3V proteins may have be present but did not pass marker selection criteria (FC > 1.5, p < 0.05 and high spot volume for MS/MS) or were poorly resolved membrane proteins (haemagglutinin neuraminidase and fusion glycoprotein) a known limitation of 2D GE. This protein was observed to be the second most abundant protein within cells at 48hrs p.i. (Figure 1), with only actin having a slightly higher spot volume. Furthermore, gel spots corresponding to T-complex proteins 1 subunit theta and 14-3-3 protein were significantly up-regulated in BPI3V infected cells during the latter stages of infection (48hrs p.i.) with high intracellular abundance (Figure 1D). There was a significant (p<0.001) correlation between the estimated and database protein pI (R² = 0.9887) and MW (R² = 0.875) values for spots characterised by LC-MS, confirming reliability in the identities conferred on selected proteins.

Functional classification of differentially expressed markers of in vitro BPI3V infection

Table 2 illustrates the functional classification, biological process and subcellular location of identified proteins determined using the Gene Ontology tools PantherDB and AMIGO. The proportional subcellular location of all differentially expressed proteins in FCL cells following
BPI3V infection is illustrated in Figure 2A. The majority of proteins were associated with either cytoplasmic, nuclear or cytoskeletal sub-cellular locations, with a small number originating from organelles and only collagen alpha 1 found to exist in the extracellular matrix as a secretory protein.

Figure 2B&C and Figure 2D&E illustrate the biological processes and molecular functions respectively of differentially expressed proteins. The majority of up-regulated proteins are involved in metabolic, cellular and developmental processes, and on closer inspection these proteins have key roles in mRNA translation, protein synthesis and post-translational modification as well as intracellular protein transport (Table 2 and Figure 2B and D). Furthermore, the only identified proteins involved in immune system processes were heat shock proteins 27kDa and 70kDa. Down-regulated proteins were associated with a wide range of biological processes, however 33% of the molecular functions were associated with structural molecule activity and upon closer inspection of Uniprot KB annotation these proteins were involved in maintaining cellular, sub-cellular and extra-cellular structures.

Proteins which were down-regulated at 24hrs and 48hrs p.i. as a result of BPI3V infection (collagen alpha 1, Heat shock 27kDa protein 1, and PDZ and LIM domain protein 1) are involved in supporting cellular structures in stress conditions and trafficking proteins to the cytoskeleton based on Gene Ontology (GO) annotation. At 24hrs and 48hrs p.i. a number of down-regulated proteins share biological functions associated with maintenance of cell morphology (Ezrin and Lipoma Preferred Partner) and in cytoskeleton regulation (LIM and SH3 protein domain protein 1). The protein down-regulation observed in latter stages of infection is not surprising and is likely to be associated with the visible changes in cell morphology reported in BPI3V infected cells (including detachment of cell monolayers and pyknosis, loss of cilia, intracytoplasmic inclusion bodies and syncytium formation (Campbell et al., 1969). Between 24hrs to 48hrs p.i. different expression profiles were only observed for 3 proteins: Proteasome subunit alpha type-5, 14-3-3 protein theta and 60S acidic ribosomal protein p0. The proteins up-regulated as a result of BPI3V infection are involved in a number of biological processes relating to protein production translation.
(Nucleophosmin, Eukaryotic translation initiation factors 2 and 6, 60S ribosomal protein p0), protein folding (T-complex protein 1 subunit theta, Protein Disulphate Isomerase A3, Tubulin Specific Chaperone E), protein modification (Proteasome subunit beta type, Proteasome subunit alpha type 5, GANAB, aspartyl aminopeptidase), and protein trafficking (Annexin) (Table 2). Furthermore, BPI3V infection resulted in an up-regulation of proteins involved in the maintenance of cell structure (Fascin, Lamin A/C, Moesin, L-caldesmon, non-muscle myosin heavy chain, calponin-3) and cell signalling (14-3-3 protein beta/alpha/theta, cystathionine gamma lyase, osteoclast stimulating factor 1). Finally, up-regulated isocitrate dehydrogenase and 6-phosphogluconolactonase catalyse the reactions that produce NADPH and NADH, which are necessary for a number of reducing reactions such as post-translational protein modification (Smolkova and Jezek, 2012). Taken, these altered protein relationships in response to infection may reflect the exploitation of the host cell to aid the replication of viral proteins and transport to the cell membrane for budding.

Quantification of selected protein markers of in vitro BPI3V infection within plasma of BPI3V challenged animals

Targeted proteomic analysis was performed to assess changes in the levels of Phosphoprotein P, 14-3-3 protein beta/alpha and T-complex protein subunit theta as these are proteins found in high abundance during the latter stages of infection by proteomic analysis of in vitro infected cells and have the potential to be released from infected tissues into circulating biofluids. Yeast ADH loading controls demonstrated low variability (CV=11.6 and excellent recovery (96%) following SPE and no significant differences in spiked ADH levels were observed between vaccinated and non-vaccinated animals at any stage throughout the study. Proteotypic peptides for Phosphoprotein P and T-complex protein subunit theta were detected and quantified within plasma at days 0, 1, 2, 5, 6, 14 and 20 post-BPI3V challenge in both vaccinated and non-vaccinated study groups. However, no peptides corresponding to 14-3-3 protein beta/alpha were detectable in plasma at any time point.
Unique peptides for phosphoprotein P and T-complex protein 1 subunit theta were found to be significantly (p<0.05) up-regulated at day 5 p.i. in non-vaccinated animals compared to vaccinated animals at the same stage as illustrated in Figure 3. Plasma levels of Phosphoprotein P (Figure 3A) were found to increase significantly (p<0.05) from day 1 to day 5 post-BPI3V challenge in non-vaccinated animals.
Discussion

Lysates obtained from mock and BPI3V infected FCL cells were profiled by 2D Gel Electrophoresis to assess host cell proteome responses to BPI3V infection and identify potential in vivo infection markers of diagnostic potential. 57 proteins spots were significantly altered in FCL cells as a result of BPI3V infection, corresponding to 35 unique protein identifications. Whilst to date there are no reports relating the effects of BPI3V infection on the intracellular proteome or the proteomic effects of paramyxoviruses on respiratory fibroblasts, intracellular proteomic responses to Human Parainfluenza Virus-3 (hPIV-3) (van Diepen et al., 2010) and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) (Brasier et al., 2004, Munday et al., 2010, van Diepen et al., 2010, Hastie et al., 2012, Ternette et al., 2011) infections have been investigated. Such studies have reported similar findings to the current investigation, with an up-regulation of lamin A/C (van Diepen et al., 2010) 20, 22], nucleophosphim (van Diepen et al., 2010), protein disulphate isomerase A3 (PDIA3) (Hastie et al., 2012), indicating host-cell immune responses to BPI3V infection - as PDIA3 mediates MCH class I peptide presentation and lamin A/C represses viral replication (Mou et al., 2008). In A549 respiratory epithelial cells paramyxovirus infection resulted in an up-regulation of host-proteins linked to apoptotic processes and a shut-down of transcription, RNA processing and protein biosynthesis (van Diepen et al., 2010, Munday et al., 2010). However, this study’s findings indicate that BPI3V does not induce complete shut-down of host protein synthesis or apoptosis in fibroblasts, resulting in virus-host mRNA competition for virus propagation. Fibroblast pro-inflammatory response to UV inactivated virus has been observed due to stress mediators present in HeLa propagation cultures (Bedke et al., 2009, Oliver et al., 2006), however, no such pro-inflammatory response was observed in this study. As FCL fibroblasts were employed for BPI3V propagation the model system for biomarker screening employed closely reflects that which occurs in vivo - i.e. the presence of not only virus induced protein changes but also the stress response from surrounding tissue sites. Furthermore, any stress response markers produced during viral replication should closely match the in vivo response within the lung interstitium, and therefore as a
model of determining BPI3V candidate markers this study closely matches *in vivo* conditions in specific tissue regions. An increase in the levels of proteins associated with RNA translation, protein folding and post-translational-modification were observed in BPI3V infected fibroblasts. Up-regulated annexin A11, previously observed inside influenza virions (Shaw et al., 2008) and thought to play a role in virus assembly, could be assisting trafficking of viral proteins to the plasma membrane and budding. These observations suggest that fibroblasts respond to BPI3V infection by increasing the production of proteins to combat the competitive effects of viral mRNA and the associated demand for protein folding and protein modification. Furthermore, the down-regulation of key intra- and extra-structural proteins reflects how BPI3V infection induces changes in cell morphology.

Phosphoprotein P, T-complex protein 1 subunit theta and 14-3-3 protein beta/alpha, levels of which were significantly increased within BPI3V infected FCL cells, were selected as potential diagnostic markers of *in vivo* BPI3V infection. Whilst other proteins involved in anti-viral immune response mechanisms were significantly altered in BPI3V infected cells (e.g Lamin A/C and PDIA3) they were not selected due to lower intracellular abundance and associated reduced chance for detection in circulating bio-fluids. Phosphoprotein P is involved in the assembly of viral RNA polymerase complex and is associated with intracellular defence avoidance (Gale and Katze, 1998) through shutdown of host cell protein production (Gainey et al., 2008, Komatsu et al., 2007). Transcriptional activity of BPI3V proteins is highest at 3’ region, and as Phosphoprotein P occurs in the second ORF (Vainionpää and Hyypiä, 1994), its expression is elevated relative to other BPI3V viral proteins. A high intracellular abundance of Phosphoprotein P has been reported previously in studies performing 2D GE investigations of other paramyxoviruses (Hastie et al., 2012). However, within virions Phosphoprotein P represents only a small proportion of total protein (Ellis, 2010), and a significant quantity of free Phosphoprotein P may not be encapsulated within budding virions. A high level of free Phosphoprotein P may therefore be released into the circulatory system as infected cells die making it detectable as a marker of tissue death. Such diagnostic approaches
based on proteins released from infected cells have previously been employed for Dengue and West-Nile Virus (Alcon et al., 2002, Yeh et al., 2012), enabling rapid identification of infected individuals prior to antibody response and differentiation of live virus antibody responses from inactivated virus vaccines. Molecular chaperone T-complex protein 1 subunit theta and signalling/binding protein 14-3-3 protein beta/alpha were also found to be accumulated within cells at the latter stages of in vitro infection, and might be candidate markers of tissue damage in vivo.

Targeted multiple-reaction-monitoring (MRM) tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) analysis was performed to determine the presence or otherwise of proteins identified through in vitro analysis within plasma of vaccinated and non-vaccinated animals challenged with BPI3V and to assess their potential as diagnostic markers of in vivo infection. Unique peptides corresponding to Phosphoprotein P and T-complex protein 1 subunit theta were detected in bovine plasma, however 14-3-3 protein beta/alpha could not be detected. Levels of Phosphoprotein P and T-complex protein 1 subunit theta were significantly up-regulated in non-vaccinated animals compared to those vaccinated at day 5 post BPI3V challenge. Peak BPI3V titre in vivo has been demonstrated to occur between days 4 to 6 p.i., and furthermore, vaccinated animals respond quicker, clearing the infections rapidly (Xue et al., 2010). In particular for Phosphoprotein P, increasing levels in non-vaccinated animals from day 0 to day 5 p.i. compared to vaccinated animals, mirrors that of viral shedding observed in vaccinated animals compared to non-vaccinated, i.e. virus titre peaking at days 4-6 p.i. in non-vaccinated animals and days 1-2 p.i. in vaccinated animals (Xue et al., 2010). This is not surprising as when more infected cells die, increased levels of intracellularly accumulated Phosphoprotein P and T-complex protein 1 subunit theta will be released into the circulation. However, the levels of both these proteins dropped from day 5 to 6 post-BPI3V challenge in non-vaccinated animals. These findings indicate that it is possible that these proteins are rapidly degraded in the circulation and although their presence in plasma is an indicator of a specific virus induced damage to the respiratory tract there may be a limited window for their useful diagnostic application.
In conclusion, this study has demonstrated that proteomic analysis of BPI3V infection *in vitro* is capable of identifying protein infection markers, which subsequently are detectable in plasma of animals following BPI3V infection. BPI3V induced alterations to the intracellular proteome of respiratory fibroblasts resulted in elevated levels of host-proteins associated with mRNA translation, protein translation, post-translational modification and cellular protein trafficking. Viral (Phosphoprotein P) and host (T-complex protein 1 subunit theta) proteins accumulated intracellularly during the latter stages of infection may be released into the circulation, and elevated levels were found to occur in plasma of non-vaccinated BPI3V challenged animals at periods associated with peak virus titre. Compared to serological ELISA, which relies on the measurement of a single parameter (antibodies), assessment of such protein markers would provide increased information on the health status of pre-convalescent animals during infection outbreaks, or verify absence of sub-clinical disease in those identified as seropositive. Further research is needed to validate these markers on a larger scale and to develop more applicable diagnostic tests which can quantify protein levels in routine analysis. The utilisation of such markers diagnostically would improve disease management decisions through the identification of animals undergoing active BPIV3 infection and the presence of necrotic tissue, a major risk factor for the development of more severe bacterial pneumonia. Such a proteomic approach to the identification of markers of infection may also be relevant to other viruses which persist for longer periods within hosts offering longer useful diagnostic windows.

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References


SYNCYTIAL VIRUS ON BOVINE PULMONARY ALVEOLAR MACROPHAGE FUNCTION.

American Journal of Veterinary Research, 46, 1098-1103.


**Table 1:** LC-MS identification of 2D GE spots from BPI3V infected FCL cells at 24hr and 48hrs p.i. Spots were excised from coomassie stained gels and analysed by LC-MS using Thermo XL Orbitrap coupled to a Dionex HPLC system. Spectra were imported into Peaks Studio (version 6), de novo sequenced and analysed against a combined UniprotKB *Bos Taurus* and BPI3V sequence database for the identification. Spots were matched based on MW and pI calibration from gels. FC = fold change, p = significance (one-way ANOVA).

**Table 2:** Classification of biological processes, molecular functions and subcellular locations of the identified differentially expressed proteins. The Panther database (version 8.1, http://www.pantherdb.org/) was used for functional classification of identified proteins. Where functional classification could not be determined using Panther, AmiGO (version 1.8, http://amigo.geneontology.org/cgi-bin/amigo/go.cgi) experimental evidence code gene ontology annotations were selected. Subcellular location was determined from Uniprot KB annotation. As
the bovine reference database is small, where annotation was not possible human homologues substituted.
Figure 1: Representative images of control and BPI3V infected FCL cells at 24hrs and 48hrs p.i. Cell lysates from (A) control, (B) 24hr post-BPI3V infection and (C) 48hr post-BPI3V infection FCL cells were analysed by 2D Gel Electrophoresis using 13cm pH 3-10 NL IPG strips in the first dimension and 12.5% SDS-PAGE lab cast gels in the second dimension. Gels were scanned using an Epson v750 Pro scanner and spot matching, warping and statistical analysis performed using Ludesi Redfin. Differentially expressed protein spots are indicated with circles on each gel. (D) The 3D spots for the proteins 14-3-3protein beta/alpha, Phosphoprotein P and T-complex protein 1 subunit theta at each sampling point are indicated. Gel image adjustments were performed automatically by Ludesi Redfin.

Figure 2: Subcellular location, biological processes and molecular function of differentially expressed FCL cell proteins as a result of BPI3V infection. Subcellular location, was determined from UniprotKB annotation for the proteins selected by 2D GE and identified by LC-MS. Biological processes and molecular function was determined from Gene Ontology analysis performed using Panther DB (and AMIGO where no annotation was available). As the bovine reference database is small, where annotation of subcellular location was not possible human homologues substituted.

Figure 3: Quantification of Phosphoprotein P and T-Complex Protein 1 Subunit Theta markers for BPI3V infection by UPLC-MS/MS. At day 0-6 p.i. (n=6) and day 14-20 p.i.(n=3). Values represent mean ± S.E.M. Relative quantification of the peptide markers was performed by interpolating the average peptide intensity (integrated peptide area) and normalizing against trypsin auto digestion products (fixed volume of trypsin per sample added prior to C18 SPE) to account for variations in recovery.
Control

24hr p.i.

48hr p.i.

A

B

C

D

Phosphoprotein P (Spots 27, 44, 47, 82, 182, 235, 255, 601, 819)

Control 24hr p.i. 48hr p.i.

T-complex protein 1 subunit theta (Spots 138, 133)

Control 24hr p.i. 48hr p.i.

14-9 3 protein beta/alpha (Spot 1:1)

Control 24hr 48hr
A

Sub-cellular Location

- Cytoplasm, 38%
- Cytoskeleton, 18%
- Nucleus, 21%
- Mitochondrion, 4%
- Golgi apparatus, 2%
- Extracellular matrix, 2%
- Endoplasmic reticulum, 4%
- Cell membrane, 5%
- Cell projection, 4%
- Secreted, 2%

B

Molecular Function

- catalytic activity, 31%
- binding, 31%
- structural molecule activity, 23%
- enzyme regulator activity, 4%
- translation regulator activity, 7%
- translation regulator activity, 5%

C

Molecular Function

- catalytic activity, 18%
- structural molecule activity, 33%
- motor activity, 4%
- receptor activity, 5%
- enzyme regulator activity, 5%
- transcription regulator activity, 2%
- translation regulator activity, 5%

D

Biological Process

- metabolic process, 29%
- cellular process, 17%
- response to stimulus, 2%
- development process, 10%
- system process, 8%
- generation of precursor metabolites and energy, 2%
- transport, 6%
- cellular component organization, 10%
- response to stimulus, 4%

E

Biological Process

- cellular process, 16%
- development process, 18%
- system process, 9%
- localization, 9%
- communication, 9%
- cell cycle, 6%
- transport, 6%
### Phosphoprotein P

- **Normalized Intensity**
- **Day p.i.**
- **Non-vaccinated**
- **Vaccinated**

### T-complex Protein 1

- **Normalized Intensity**
- **Day p.i.**
- **Non-vaccinated**
- **Vaccinated**
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<td>UP</td>
<td>UP</td>
<td>Calcium ion binding; calcium-dependent phospholipid binding</td>
<td>Synaptic vesicle exocytosis; intracellular protein transport; calcium-mediated signaling; fatty acid metabolic process; cell motion</td>
<td>Cytoplasm; nucleus</td>
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<td>Non-muscle myosin heavy chain</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>UP</td>
<td>UP</td>
<td>Motor activity; structural constituent of cytoskeleton; protein binding; small GTPase regulator activity</td>
<td>Muscle contraction; sensory perception; intracellular protein transport; vesicle-mediated transport; cytokinesis; cell motion; mitosis; intracellular signaling cascade; cellular component morphogenesis; mesoderm development; muscle organ development</td>
<td>Cytoplasm; cell membrane</td>
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<td>Nucleophosmin</td>
<td>57</td>
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<td>UP</td>
<td>Intracellular protein transport; nucleosome and ribosome assembly; viral reproduction</td>
<td>rRNA metabolic process</td>
<td>Nucleus; cytoskeleton</td>
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<td>6-Phosphogluconolactonase</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>UP</td>
<td>UP</td>
<td>Hydrolyase activity</td>
<td>Pentose-phosphate shunt</td>
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<td>14-3-3 protein beta/alpha</td>
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<td>Protein binding; innate immune response; apoptotic process; activation of MAPK activity</td>
<td>Cell cycle; signal transduction; protein binding</td>
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<td>Cystathionine gamma-lyase</td>
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<td>Heat shock 70 kDa protein</td>
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<td>Immune system process; protein folding; protein complex assembly; response to stress; protein complex biogenesis</td>
<td>Hsp70 family chaperone</td>
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<td>Proteasome subunit beta type</td>
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<td>Calponin-3</td>
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<td>Muscle contraction</td>
<td>Structural constituent of cytoskeleton; actin binding</td>
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<td>Isocitrate dehydrogenase (NAD) subunit alpha</td>
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<td>Generation of precursor metabolites and energy; carbohydrate metabolic process; tricarboxylic acid cycle</td>
<td>Oxidoreductase activity</td>
<td>Mitochondria</td>
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<td>Eukaryotic translation initiation factor 6</td>
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<td>Translation; regulation of translation</td>
<td>Translation initiation factor activity</td>
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