

**Review Article****APPLICATIONS OF PROTEOMICS IN ANIMAL MODEL**Jagatheesh K*¹, Pavankumar P¹, Elangovan N¹, Padmavathi P¹, Swathi D² and Mary Tryphena²¹Molecular Pharmacology Research Lab, Periyar University, Salem, India²Dept of Pharmacology, KLR Pharmacy College, Paloncha, India***Corresponding author e-mail:** kjagatheesh@gmail.com**ABSTRACT**

Proteomics is a relatively new approach for understanding the pathology and pathogenesis of various diseases. It has also been used for characterizing the modifications in protein expression during the development of diseases. Proteomics is defined as a scientific approach used to elucidate all protein species within a cell or tissue, and many researchers are taking advantage of proteomic technology to elucidate protein changes between healthy and diseased states. Animal model plays an important role in the proteomics technology to find out biomarkers, for diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of various diseases. There are several animal models used in proteomic studies they are *Caenorhabditis elegans* (worm), *Drosophila melanogaster* (fly), *Mus musculus* (mouse) and Canine. This review shows several applications of animal models in proteomics.

Keywords: Proteomics, Animal Models and Canine**INTRODUCTION**

Proteomics is the study of the large scale of proteins, particularly their structure and functions. The word proteome is a blend of “protein and genome” and was coined by Marc Wilkins in 1994¹. Proteins are the vital part of living organisms, as they are the main component of the physiological metabolic pathways of cells. Proteome is the entire complement of proteins, including the modifications made to a particular set of proteins, produced by an organism or system. Proteomics encompasses the analysis of protein expression, protein structure and protein interaction. Protein analysis shows how changes in the abundance of particular proteins coordinate the biochemical activities of the cell. Proteomics is much more complicated than genomics mostly because, an organism’s whole genome is more (or) less constant, and the proteome differs from cell to cells from time to time. This is because distinct genes are expressed in distinct cell types. Not only does the translation from mRNA cause differences, many proteins are also subjected to a wide variety of chemical modifications after translation. Many of these post

translational modifications are critical to the proteins function. The post translational modifications include phosphorylation, ubiquitination, methylation, acetylation, glycosylation, oxidation, nitrosylation.

The analysis of protein structure and protein interactions can provide important functional information. Proteins carry out their activities in the cell by interacting with other molecules. Establishing specific interactions between proteins can therefore help to assign individual functions and link proteins into pathways and networks. Knowledge of a protein’s three-dimensional structure can help to predict interactions with other proteins and with smaller molecules, which can be very useful in the development of effective drugs. The comparison of protein structures also provides a further way to determine evolutionary links between genes and investigate their functions. Post-translational modifications of proteins can be determined by different ways. One way which a particular protein can be studied to develop an antibody, this is specific to that of modification. For example, there are antibodies which only recognize certain proteins as

phosphor-specific antibodies. The most common way is two-dimensional gel electrophoresis². Several methods are available to identify probe protein interactions. The traditional method is yeast two hybrid analysis. New methods include protein microarrays, Immunoaffinity chromatography, mass spectrometry, dual polarization, interferometry, microscale thermophoresis and experimental methods such as phage display and computational methods. This review is mainly focused on the use of animal models in proteomic analysis.

Animal models

Animal models are widely used to study the underlying mechanisms and consequences of a disorder. The use of these model organisms to mimic human diseases has become very popular as it enables either the identification of a human gene product (or pathway) that is directly involved in a disease state or the development of biological screens for molecules or gene products that suppress the disease or stop its progression. There are several animal models used in proteomic studies they are *Caenorhabditis elegans* (worm), *Drosophila melanogaster* (fly), *Mus musculus* (mouse) and *Canine*³.

***Caenorhabditis elegans* (worm)**

C. elegans, the simplest multi cellular organism with a well-understood developmental biology, was introduced as a model by Sydney Brenner in the 1960s. Worms replicate clonally, are easy to grow, and possess a simple nervous system and other mechanisms that make them readily available for genetic studies.

***Drosophila melanogaster* (fly)**

More complex than the nematode, *D. melanogaster* replicates easily and is a multicellular organism with a complex nervous system. A variety of genetic tools are available with this organism and it possesses the same cell types and biology as vertebrates.

***Mus musculus* (mouse)**

Rodents (rats and mice) are widely used as organisms to study the basic biology, development, genetics, signaling pathways, drug responses and metabolism, and are especially useful as a model for humans because of the repertoire of complex behaviors that are available. Mice are easy to breed, manipulate and handle, and can be genetically engineered. Transgenesis (the introduction of new DNA sequences into the germ line, resulting in the production of transgenic animals) and gene targeting (the integration by homologous recombination of new DNA sequences into the genome of an organism

at the sites where its expression can be controlled) technologies are available for the mouse owing to pluripotent embryonic stem cells³⁶ and germ line manipulations.

Canine

Example for *canine* animal is dog. Some dog breeding is more sensitive to certain drugs than other breeds. Collies and related breeds, for instance, can have adverse reactions to drugs such as ivermectin and loperamide. Drug sensitivities result from a mutation in the multi-drug resistance gene (MDR1). This gene encodes a protein, P-glycoprotein that is responsible for pumping many drugs and other toxins out of the brain. Dogs with the mutant gene can not pump some drugs out of the brain as a normal dog would, which may result in abnormal neurologic signs. The results may be an illness, requiring an extended hospital stay or even death.

There are many advantages to use animal models.

1. They are genetically homogenous within a particular animal model.
2. Environmental factors, like dietary intake, can be tightly controlled.
3. It is also possible to induce diabetes in a well defined manner and to perform intervention and prevention studies in a short time span compared to the time needed for studies in humans.
4. Animal models allow researchers to study tissues that are difficult to obtain from the human subject.

APPLICATIONS OF PROTEOMICS IN ANIMAL MODELS

Proteomics in Biomarker

Proteomics offers potential for tracing mechanism of complex diseases, differential diagnosis, classification of diseases and therapeutic monitoring. The varying abundance of specific proteins in healthy and diseased samples (or) samples representing the progression of a disease can help to reveal useful markers and novel drugs. A small set of proteins fully differentiate tumor samples from controls. This comprises osteopontin, interleukin-18, cystatin C and CD40 antigen. Comparison of protein expression in breast-cancer mouse model, the humanized p53.R270H mice, showed common discriminatory expression of osteopontin. However, other biomarkers showed distinct expression in the two different breast-cancer models, indicating that different mammary tumor sub-types with respect to molecular and estrogen receptor status reveal divergent serum biomarker sets⁴.

Proteomic analyses of carcinogen exposed liver showed significant up-regulation of cellular stress responsive proteins that include, superoxide dismutase, heat shock protein 60 and peroxiredoxin. Caspase-8 precursor, vimentin, Rho GDP dissociation inhibitor was identified in rat liver bearing malignant, transformed cells following 18 weeks after carcinogen withdrawal. Annexin A5 and fructose-1, 6-bisphosphatase was regulated after three weeks of exposure indicating their potential usefulness as early predictive biomarkers for liver carcinogenesis⁵. Increasing incidence of cardiovascular diseases, specifically atherosclerosis and heart failure, prioritized the search for novel biomarkers. Biomarkers are needed for the diagnosis, prognosis, therapeutic monitoring and risk stratification of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and heart failure, leading causes of mortality and morbidity⁶. A correlation was established between an increase in H-FABP expression and decreases in PCNA expression that regulates cardiomyocyte growth and differentiation in the mouse neonatal hearts⁷.

Proteomics in Toxicology

Toxicology is likely to prove one of the most important applications of proteomics. 2DE is a highly sensitive means of screening for toxicity and probing toxic mechanisms. In one ongoing study, a group at Imperial College London/SmithKline Beecham recently reported an ongoing 2DE- and NMR-based study of glomerular nephrotoxicity in the rat following exposure to puramycin aminonucleoside⁸. By monitoring the proteins in the urine, the study has permitted a more detailed understanding of the nature and progression of the proteinuria associated with glomerular nephrotoxicity than has been previously possible. In a second recent example, a study of lead toxicity in a rabbit model identified a number of proteins that change expression following increased lead exposure, of which several molecules, provisionally identified as glutathione-S-transferase variants, may be developed into valuable markers of lead toxicity in humans⁹. Other notable reports to emerge recently in proteomic toxicology include an analysis of cyclosporine. A toxicity, which revealed a novel toxic mechanism involving the calcium binding protein calbindin-D¹⁰, and the ongoing studies of liver protein changes following exposure of rodents to peroxisome proliferators being conducted by Argonne National Laboratories and Large Scale Proteomics Corporation^{11,12}. However, although numerous other toxicological studies have used proteomic tools such as 2DE and MS, the potential of

proteomics in routine toxicology have yet to be realized.

Proteomics in Diabetes

Diabetes is a disease caused by deficiency in insulin production (type I), or a deficiency in insulin receptor signaling (type II) that implies glycemic control in affected individuals and results in increased blood sugar levels. This disease has numerous co-morbidities including heart diseases, nephropathy and retinopathy¹³.

Type I diabetes (T1D): In T1D, autoimmune responses observed towards the pancreatic β -cells may affect the protein expression profiles in several tissues. Proteomic analysis will be useful in order to elucidate the changes imposed by various immunological mediators and lack of insulin. As β -cell destruction is central in the pathogenesis of T1D, a natural focus of several proteomic studies has been used to examine the effects of cytokines and ion in the islets of Langerhans and β -cells¹⁴⁻¹⁷. Nerup and coworkers investigated the effect of IL-1 β on the protein expression profiles of rat islets of langerhans from Wistar Furth (WF) rats^{18, 19} and bio-breeding diabetes prone (BB-DP) rats^{20, 21}. Islets from WF rats were isolated from neonatal rats and stimulated with IL-1 β in-vitro. The protein expression profile was analyzed using 2-DPAGE and identified with PMF. 1400 protein spots were detected and 105 of those showed a change in the level of expression after stimulation¹⁸. When using islets from BB-DP, 1815 protein spots were detected and 82 of those changed their level of expression²⁰.

Type II diabetes (T2D):

Diet-induced animal model used for insulin resistance, the fructose-fed Syrian golden hamster, to investigate changes in the proteome of the hepatocyte ER. The animals were fed fructose for two weeks to induce insulin resistance. The insulin resistant animals and healthy controls were sacrificed, hepatocytes were isolated and ER fraction was prepared using differential centrifugation. The ER proteome was analyzed using the 2-D PAGE and spots were identified using MS/MS. After analysis, 34 spots were identified as differentially expressed between insulin resistance and control animals. The change in expression of one of the differentially expressed protein ER 60, is involved in degradation of APO, this contribute to the dyslipidemia associated with insulin resistance. Fetal under nutrition can result in increased incidence of T2D. The effects of an isocholeic, low-protein diet on the islets of rat fetuses were studied²³. The serum protein has been the subject of many studies, frequently with

the goal of identifying biomarkers. Serum protein profiling can also be used to achieve a better understanding of the pathophysiology of disease. Peptides and small proteins make up an important subset of the proteome, which is different to study with conventional gel-based methods. Boddle et al.²⁴ demonstrated the usefulness of MS-based proteomics and quantification of proteins based on the differential analysis of the MS signals for this type of experiment. The authors compared the peptide content of the experiment from different mice²⁵.

Redox proteomics studies in animal models

These studies were conducted on transgenic *Caenorhabditis elegans*. It is an invertebrate model to study the role of A β aggregations, oxidized stress and cell death. Transgenic *C. elegans* was created by expressing human A β using a body wall muscle specific promoter and an A β Michigan consisting of the signal peptide fused to the A β sequence²⁶. This shows an increased ROS formation and protein oxidation which lead to February deposition of peptide supporting soluble aggregates of peptide are toxic²⁷. These symptoms are similar to those observed in AD patients supporting A β -induced oxidative stress and subsequent neurodegeneration in AD^{27, 28}. Increased protein carbonyls and progressive paralysis in *C.elegans* supports amyloid hypothesis states that A β induced oxidative stress leads to neuronal cell death in AD²⁹. DNA microarray of *C.elegans* shows that stress related genes are upregulated. Those genes are $\alpha\beta$ -crystalline and tumor necrosis factor related proteins which are homologous to human genes³⁰. To explain the link between oxidative stress, oxidatively modified proteins and A β expression redox proteomics were applied in two different forms of *C.elegans*³¹, CL 4176, CL 2337; both showed the oxidation of different proteins as that in AD brain. Antioxidant compounds-ginkgobiloba extracts Egb 71al, ginkgolides, lipoic acid, polyphenol green tea that prevents A β induced pathological behavior was tested on *C.elegans*^{32, 33}.

ANIMAL MODELS RELATED TO CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL OPHTHALMOLOGY

Proteomics of diabetic retinal disease

Investigation of the etiology of this disease is limited due to the absence of animal models that faithfully replicate the disease. The animal model displays only pathological changes related to early stages of diabetic retinopathy. A comprehensive 2-D MALDI-TOF and LC-ESI-MS/MS study has identified a large number of differentially expressed proteins in rat retinas from animals with ten weeks of diabetes³⁴.

Many investigations use vitreal samples from patients undergoing vitreoretinal surgery as an alteration to investigate the molecular mechanism involved in this disease³⁵⁻³⁷. Proteins in endothelial cells of retina cathepsin, a lysosomal cysteine protease involved in the degradation of extravascular matrix and calreticulin, a calcium binding protein known to have anti-angiogenic activity³⁸.

Proteomics of glaucoma

The trabecular meshwork is located in the anterior portion of the eye, where it facilitates the outflow of the aqueous portion of the eye into Schlemm's canal. This out flow mechanism for aqueous humor may become impaired by a more resistant trabecular meshwork leading to increased intraocular pressure. If pharmacological intraocular pressure lowering therapy is not responding then surgical removal of the trabecular meshwork, or a trabeculectomy, may be advised. Analysis of surgical removed material using 1-DE, MS/MS has resulted in the identification of a previously unconnected protein Cochlin associated with the trabecular meshwork of glaucoma but not normal cadaver trabecular meshwork³⁹. Separation of trabecular meshwork cell proteins by 2-D coupled with MS identification has indicated that the expression of ECM proteins and proteins involved in ECM secretion is increased following transforming growth factor β 2 treatment⁴⁰. As aqueous humor TGF β 2 levels are elevated in glaucomatous eyes⁴¹, increased production and secretion of ECM protein by trabecular meshwork cells in response to this cytokine represents a potential mechanism for reduced aqueous out flow in glaucoma. Calpain activation may represent an important mechanism of apoptotic ganglion cell death in glaucoma. Activation of calpains from monkey retinal tissue with extracellular calcium leads to proteolysis of a number of major retinal proteins including vimentin, beta-tubulin, HSP70 and alpha-enolase⁴².

Proteomics of age-related macular degeneration (AMD)

AMD is characterized by central visual loss resulting from damage to the photoreceptor cells in the macular region of the retina and is initiated by deterioration of the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE), which lies behind this light-sensing cells providing metabolic support^{43, 44}. An in-solution digests LC-MS/MS approach of lipid-free preparations of drusen obtained from post-mortem normal and AMD eyes resulted in the identification of 129 proteins⁴⁵. Analysis of the monkey drusen proteome revealed similar proteins as the human study including annexin, complement components, crystallins,

vitronectin as well as a high prevalence of immunogenic proteins including antibodies against mucrysatllin and annexin II⁴⁶. Lipofuscin also accumulates in the RPE where it may constitute up to 20% of these cells in elderly individuals⁴⁷. The accumulation of lipofuscin in the RPE has also been associated with a number of sight-threatening diseases including AMD⁴⁸. It may contribute to retinal degeneration by augmentation the generation of ROS and mitochondrial and nuclear DNA damage in the aging RPE⁴⁹. Initial studies using 2-DE resulted in the identification of a limited number of proteins from retinal lipofuscin, which were largely abundant cellular proteins⁵⁰.

Proteomics of ocular surface disease

Ocular surface disease encompasses surface injuries, dry eyes and other surface problems such as allergies. Tears have been the starting material for a number of proteomic studies of ocular surface disease and indeed other ocular pathologies⁵¹⁻⁵³. Tear fluid is reported to have a high protein content⁵⁴, and also contains important electrolytes⁵⁵. The protein profile of tear fluid may be altered in both ocular surface diseases and injuries, and also in certain systematic diseases such as diabetes mellitus and cystic fibrosis^{56, 57}. Total protein concentration is composed of just four proteins, cystatin, lipocalin, lysozyme and lactoferrin⁵⁸. A direct MALDI-TOF MS approach along with a complementary method involving size exclusion HPLC by Fung et al., comprehensively identified the presence of another abundant class of protein in tear fluid, lachrymal-specific proline rich proteins⁵⁹ which are present in various PTM forms. Altered cytokine and chemokine profiles in tears have been reported in ocular inflammatory diseases, with the cytokines secreted differing between different inflammatory diseases^{60, 61}.

Animal models related to lung diseases

Proteomic studies can also be applied to animal models. This provides a specific opportunity to identify proteins involved in particular metabolic and pathophysiologic pathways. Mouse models are used to study disease processes in homogenous genomic backgrounds. The BALF of O3-sensitive C57Bl/6 and the O3-resistant C3H/HeJ mice used for the identification of proteins involved in the regulation of susceptibility to oxidative stress. They found a significant strain-specific differences in the expression of two isoforms of the antioxidant protein 2 (AOP2). C3H/ HeJ mice expressed only AOP2a, whereas AOP2b found only in C57Bl/6 mice. In addition, the levels of the anti-inflammatory Clara cell protein 16 (CC16) were higher in the resistant C3H/HeJ mice. Thus, AOP2 and CC16 might

participate in pathways protecting the respiratory tract from oxidative injury⁶². The study of the mechanism of oxidative lung injury in mice was analyzed. Proteins present in BALF of mice exposed to room air were compared with those exposed to hyperoxia (100% oxygen). Both the amounts of thioether S-methyltransferase and the amounts of 1-cysteine peroxiredoxin were decreased after hyperoxia, indicating their involvement in the pathogenesis of oxidative stress. Thioether S-methyltransferase is abundantly expressed in murine lungs and is important for methylation of thioethers to more water-soluble ions suitable for urinary excretion. 1-cysteine peroxiredoxin, also abundantly expressed in lung tissue, is an antioxidant. Genetically modified mice are of particular interest for studying the impact of the over expression or lack of single proteins on the proteome of cells and biofluids. In the future, interesting results can be expected from proteomics of lungs obtained from transgenic and knockout mice⁶³.

Proteomics in heart failure

Analysis of ventricular proteomic changes during the initial inception, development, and progression to heart failure revealed large-scale pattern differences⁶⁴. Major alterations observed in heart failure relate to inflammation, calcium signaling, growth and deaths, and cytoskeletal/matrix remodeling targets. In more specific genetic models of cardiomyopathy, such as Rac1 transgenic mice, proteins regulated in heart failure include creatine kinase M-chain, tubulin beta-chain, manganese superoxide dismutase, and malate dehydrogenase⁶⁵. Similarly, in canine models of acute heart failure due to ischemia, certain proteins are up-regulated, including nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD) isocitrate dehydrogenase and mitochondrial adenosine triphosphate (ATP) synthase D chain, whereas creatine kinase M chain and myosin light chain-1 were decreased⁶⁶. In terms of plasma, the aforementioned protein candidates are also consistent with the efforts of the Human Proteomic Organisation (HUPO) to analyze the human plasma sub proteome systematically. The initial analysis identified families of proteins involved in inflammation, signaling, growth and differentiation, cytoskeletal, channel/receptors, and remodeling processes⁶⁷.

Proteomic identification of rat brainstem cytosolic proteins

Nerve injury often results in chronic neuropathic pain (NP) characterized by allodynia, a painful response to a normally nonpainful stimulus, and hyperalgesia, an increased response to a painful stimulus. Neuropathic

pain involves co-regulation of many genes and their translational products in both peripheral and central nervous system. The proteomic analysis showed expressional changes in cytosolic protein levels in rat brainstem tissues following ligation of lumbar 5 and 6 (L5, L6) spinal nerves, which generates a model of peripheral neuropathic pain. Proteins from brainstem tissue homogenates were fractionated by two-dimensional (2-DE) gel electrophoresis to produce a high-resolution map of the brainstem soluble proteins. Several of the identified proteins, including fatty acid binding protein-brain (FABP-B), major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class 1, T-cell receptor (TCR) alpha chain, and interleukin-1 (IL-1), showed significantly higher levels in the NP rat brainstem. Proteomic analysis has identified several proteins with differential expression levels in neuropathic pain. The differential expression of these proteins may reflect their role in primary and/or secondary events leading to the progression of disease and ultimately are contributing to the pathogenesis of neuropathic pain⁶⁸.

Animal models related to age-related cerebral degeneration.

Senescence-accelerated mouse prone 10 (SAMP10) strain is a model of age-related neurodegeneration in the limbic forebrain. Two-dimensional fluorescence difference gel electrophoresis was performed and to compare protein expression in the limbic, non-limbic forebrains of SAMP10 and control mice at various ages. Among the protein spots in which patterns of aging in expression in the limbic forebrain differed between SAMP10 and control, three proteins were identified by mass spectrometry: pyridoxal phosphate phosphatase (PLPP), collapsing response mediator protein 2 (CRMP-2) and a-internexin. Expression of PLPP was increased in the limbic forebrain of 3-month-old SAMP10 mice. Levels of CRMP-2 and phosphorylated ainternexin were increased in the limbic forebrain of SAMP10 mice at age 8 months and remained high until 14 months. Aging in SAMP10 mice was associated with an abnormality of PLPP, CRMP-2 and ainternexin, all of which are known to be involved in the brain cytoskeleton formation and associated with acute and chronic neurodegenerative conditions. These proteins are promising targets for further investigation of the mechanisms underlying brain aging⁶⁹.

Animal models related to hepatitis B virus proteins

Hepatitis B virus transgenic mice (HBV-Tg mice) have been widely used as animal models in the study of pathogenesis and control of hepatitis B. It is important for the evaluation of such animal models to

define the physiological differences between HBV-Tg and wild-type mice. The protein expression and metabolite profiling of HBV-Tg mice were investigated using integrated proteomic and metabonomic techniques. This study focused on 6–8-week-old HBV-Tg mouse liver which represents the typical state of early pathological lesions. These proteins, which changed three fold or more compared with those of the reference gel, were identified by matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF/MS). Additionally, dozens of metabolites were discovered as biomarkers in the liver of HBV-Tg mice using HPLC/MS and multivariate data analysis. The integrated results clearly showed that the HBV antigens could alter lipid metabolism in vivo and induce organism oxidative stress⁷⁰.

Animal models related to liver fibrosis

Liver fibrosis is the sequel of chronic liver diseases and the main reason for increased mortality in affected patients. The pathogenesis of liver fibrosis is complex and modulated by numerous exogenous and genetic factors. While exogenous factors (like alcohol consumption, co-infections etc.) have already been characterized, the identification of gene variants which significantly contribute to liver fibrosis is challenging. The detection of these genes can theoretically contribute to clinical advances in the identification of patients at risk for severe fibrosis and the development of anti-fibrotic therapies based on the pathophysiology behind the gene variants. Animal models bear the advantage of unlimited supply and the possibility to control for environmental factors. Thus, the cross-breeding of inbred mouse strains and their genetic manipulation by transgene and knockout technologies has been used to successfully identify yet unknown gene loci which contribute to liver fibrosis. Thus, animal models seem to be a valuable tool to identify conserved molecular pathways of fibrogenesis⁷¹.

Proteomic analysis in mammary glands of rat offspring

BisphenolA (BPA) is a ubiquitous environmental contaminant with established endocrine disruptor properties. The effect of prenatal exposure to BPA on the rat mammary gland proteome in postnatal rats was investigated. Since the BPA exposure was only during pregnancy and the investigators measured the changes in protein expression at days 21 and 50 postpartum, this appears to occur as a consequence of early developmental alterations. Because there was no change in vaginal opening and circulating estrogen and progesterone concentrations, that the

protein changes in the mammary gland are permanent and may occur as a consequence of epigenetic alterations in this target tissue. Furthermore, the changes in protein expression of vimentin, SPARC, 14-3-3, phospho-AKT, c-Raf, phospho-ERKs, and TGF- β are consistent with increased susceptibility for cancer development⁷².

Proteomics in animal models of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases

The risk of developing neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Parkinson's disease (PD) increases with age. AD and PD are the two most common neurodegenerative diseases that currently affect millions of persons. Proteomics studies have identified a number of common proteins and/or functional categories that change in AD and/or PD model systems and compared protein expression overlap in AD, PD, Huntington's disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis⁷³. Alzheimer's disease is an age related neurodegenerative disease. It is characterized by the presence of senile plaques, amyloid β -peptide (A β), neurofibrillary tangles and synaptic loss⁷⁴. In addition, gliosis, chronic inflammatory reactions, excitotoxic damage and oxidative stress contribute to the progression of AD⁷⁵⁻⁸¹. Oxidative stress is mainly due to imbalance in the pro-oxidant/antioxidant mechanism. The proteins undergo oxidative damage by the formation of protein carbonyls and 3-nitrotyrosine (3-NT). Protein carbonyls are formed by free radical⁸²⁻⁹² mediated oxidation of amino acid residue side chains. 3-NT is formed by nitration of tyrosine residues that play an important role in regulating the function of the protein⁹³. PTM of proteins leads to unfold and degradation of the damaged proteins^{94, 95}. In AD increased levels of oxidized proteins are converted with the loss of the activity of the 20s proteasome, a major enzyme for the degradation of oxidized proteins⁹⁶⁻¹⁰⁰. Amyloid beta-peptide (1-42) has been implicated as a mediator of oxidative stress in AD. Additionally, Abeta (1-42) has been shown to induce cholinergic dysfunction when injected into rat brain, a finding consistent with cholinergic deficits documented in AD¹⁰¹⁻¹⁰³. The overall findings are consistent with the hypotheses that the mechanisms for energy production, protection from oxidative damage and improper protein clearance, and synapse integrity are disrupted and contribute to AD and PD pathogenesis. Animal models that take advantage of known genetic mutations in both familial and sporadic forms of AD and PD have shed light on important physiological processes that may be implicated in disease pathogenesis. Additional studies of this nature, that utilizes proteomics as a tool to understand the disease etiology, will help in

the development of treatments to slow or prevent these devastating neurodegenerative disorders¹⁰⁴.

Proteomic analysis of Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

It is a fatal neurodegenerative disease that affects motor neurons and atrophy. 10% is due to familial or inherited form while 20% is due to mutation in Cu⁺/Zn²⁺ superoxide dismutase (SOD1).

Mouse models

The Wobbler mouse is used¹⁰⁵ which has a spontaneous mutation in gene VPS 54 which is involved in vesicular trafficking¹⁰⁶. A mutation in the SOD1 gene, particularly glycine at position 93 is replaced by alanine (SOD1^{G93A}) leads to FALS¹⁰⁷. This SOD1^{G93A} is created in transgenic animals¹⁰⁸. The pathological features observed in mSOD1 transgenic mice include specific & progressive loss of motor neurons, the formation of phosphorylated neurofilament inclusions¹⁰⁹, astrogliosis¹¹⁰ and muscle atrophy. These features are different in different model of animals. Ex: accumulation of vacuoles was observed in enlarged axons of SOD1^{G93A}, SOD1^{G374} mice^{111, 112} and in SOD1^{G93A} rats^{113, 114} but not in several other mSOD1 mouse models¹¹⁵.

In-vitro models

Cultures of motor neurons are used for molecular mechanisms of neurodegeneration studies and identify triggers that induce motor death. Immortalized mouse motor neuron cell lines like NSC34¹¹⁶ are used as in-vitro models to study ALS. When P62 was co-expressed with SOD1 in NSC34, it greatly increases the aggregates with mSOD1¹¹⁵. But the expression of mSOD1, solely in neurons does not lead to ALS^{117, 118}. It may be necessary to have mSOD1 in astrocytes or microglia cells to trigger ALS¹¹⁹. When a healthy neuron is surrounded by mSOD1 expressing non neuron cells then it undergoes degeneration and when mSOD1 expressing neurons are surrounded by healthy non neuron cells they survived¹²⁰.

Proteomic changes in models of ALS

In ALS animal models, alteration of protein chaperones is observed which leads to unfolding of protein formation of aggregate and non-degradation of miss-folded proteins. It may be due to dysregulation of sub groups of chaperones by mSOD1 in such animals. What may be significant, however, is the selectivity of a decrease in specific classes of chaperones including chaperonin sub-units 5, 6A, HSP70, HSP40 and the increase in HSP25, HSP27, protein disulfide isomerase etc.,

It is not only due to altered HSP expressions but also due to protein – protein interaction. Ex: interaction between HSP70 and to its co-chaperone and HSP27, HSP25 and α , β -crystalline which SOD1^{G93A}. This leads to complex formation. This represents a second mechanism for mediating mSOD1 cytotoxicity. The third mechanism for ALS is oxidation of HSP70, HSP4, and disulfide associated proteins 4-hydroxy-2-non T enol modification in SOD1^{G93A}. Oxidative PTM of specific amino acid in key proteins serves as spinal transduction mechanism¹²¹. Normally HSP 70 delivers the misfolded proteins to proteasome for degradation but its dysregulation alters its normal action. With m SOD1 over expression in ALS models, the demand for HSP 70 (as they are ATP mediated) and related protein chaperone function increases. So the accumulation of m SOD1, protein aggregation influences energy production. In ALS models proteins involved in glycolysis, tricarboxylic acid cycle and related energy metabolism show a pattern of down-regulation, suggesting a reduction in energy production available for the maintenance of normal motor neuron function.

CHALLENGES PROTEOMICS IN ANIMAL MODELS

Proteomics studies in animal models form the basis for the next step—the study of human patients. However, animal models particularly rodent models, are highly biased there are number of important challenges discussed below

1. Handling and storage of clinical samples need to be optimized and standardized. Freeze/thaw protocols need to be validated fully, particularly for the study of blood cells.
2. The enormous volume of data generated by proteomics platforms such as mass spectrometry and protein arrays will require creative advances in bioinformatics.
3. Inter- and intra-assay normalization for autoantibody profiling remains to be resolved, a task that is of the highest priority for the future.

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4. Improvements in technologies, particularly more reproducible methods for printing proteins, and better methods for performing and quantitating mass spectrometry, are required.
5. The generation of high-affinity, non-cross-reactive antibodies is perhaps the biggest challenge facing the future development of reverse-phase protein microarrays. Without prior protein separation, the accuracy of the results depends solely on the specificity of the antibodies that are used.
6. Newly developed detection technologies using alternative fluorophores need to be validated further. Fluorophores that emit in the infrared range permit scanning at higher wavelengths.
7. The development of reagents such as MHC-tetramers for studying human antigen-specific immune responses may fundamentally alter our understanding of autoimmune disease pathogenesis¹²⁰⁻¹²¹.
8. Finally, Since the Determination of significant differences between mass spectrometry datasets from biological samples is one of the major challenges of proteome informatics.

CONCLUSION

Proteomics in an animal model is used to identify and understand the biochemistry of proteins. Proteomics is the foundation for constructing and extracting useful knowledge to biomedical research. This new direction promises greater understanding of disease pathogenesis, diagnostic tests and identification of disease biomarkers for treatment and prognosis. It is highly probable that some of these techniques will become accepted as diagnostic and prognostic tools in the future of clinical medicine. In this article we have reviewed animal models applied in various diseases and applications. These techniques have a unique strength in studying proteins in their native state.

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