Computational Modeling and Bioinformatics of Cancer Angiogenesis at the Molecular, Cellular, Tissue, and Whole-Body Scales

S.D. Finley, M.O. Engel-Stefanini, P.I. Imoukhuede, G. Liu, W.-H. Tan, C.G. Rivera, L.-H. Chu, F. Mac Gabhann and A.S. Popel

> Systems Biology Laboratory Department of Biomedical Engineering School of Medicine Johns Hopkins University







Breast cancer heterogeneity

•Cancer is a complex and heterogeneous disease, manifested at every scale (genetic and epigenetic; protein; cellular; tumor microenvironment (eg, cancer cells, vascular, lymphatic, immune); whole body.

•Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed female malignancy in the United States. Approximately 210,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer have been diagnosed in 2010 and 40,000 patients have died from it.

•Triple-negative breast cancers (TNBC) are more aggressive than other breast cancers (ER+; PR+, HER2+) and more likely to metastasize and recur; the survival rates are significantly lower.

•There are multiple types of TNBC with distinct genetic signatures and drug response, e.g. basal like (BL-1 and BL-2), androgen receptor signaling (LAR), and mesenchymal-like (M and MSL) subtypes.

•We show that response to anti-angiogenic therapy is sensitive to the tumor microenvironment; personalized medicine.

Angiogenesis (neovascularization) growth of new blood vessels from pre-existing microvasculature

 Physiological (development, exercise, wound healing)

Pathological (cancer, age-related macular degeneration)

 Over 70 diseases and engineered tissues are angiogenesis dependent

Background from AP Pathak (JHU), 2011

Balance between endogenous pro- and antiangiogenic factors



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Molecular Inhibitors

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Thrombospondin-1 Collagen IV and XVIII fragments CXC chemokine Platelet Factor-4 Tissue Inhibitors of Metalloproteinases Pigment Epithelium Derived Factor (PEDF)

Molecular Activators

Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor

Fibroblast Growth Factor (FGF) Platelet-Derived Growth Factor (PDGF) Matrix Metalloproteinases (MMPs) Transforming Growth Factor-β (TGF)

The Angiome: Protein-protein interaction (PPI) angiogenic network



Chu, Rivera, Bader & Popel 2011

Angiome PPI with cellular localization



Multiscale multi-modular computational modeling of tumor angiogenesis

- HIF-1α - Hypoxia

Endothelial Cell

Multiscale multi-module computational framework





Cancer anti-angiogenic therapeutics

Tumor VEGF concentration can decrease or increase after intravenous administration of mAb bevacizumab (Avastin) depending on the tumor microenvironment

Implications for personalized medicine

Endothelial Cell

VEGF-VEGFR interactions





Whole-body multiscale model of VEGF distribution



Stefanini et al Cancer Research 2010; Finley et al, 2011

Quantitative flow cytometry measurements of receptor density on endothelial and tumor (MDA-MB-231) cells



Imoukhuede & Popel Exp Cell Res 2011; Finley et al 2011

Experimental expression of VEGF121/165/xxx isoforms



mAb extravasation causes plasma VEGF increase



Stefanini et al Cancer Research 2010

Predicted response of tumor interstitial VEGF to bevacizumab Effect of tumor microenvironment - Personalized Medicine



NRP1 = NRP2 = 10,000 molecules/cell

Finley et al 2011

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Collaborators:

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