

# A novel high-throughput screen for identifying lipids that stabilise membrane proteins in detergent based solution

Bernadette Byrne



# Membrane proteins and lipids



# **Lipid loss**

- Detergents disrupt the membranereplacing lipid
- Lipids are lost during isolation stages

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# **Relipidation, but which lipids?**

• Adding lipids during purification and/or crystallization has been successful



• If not sure what to add can use commercially available additive screen, good for crystallization, but less so for nanodisc preparation

## **Designing a cost effective lipid screen**

- Collaborative project (part of EU ITN)
  - Imperial, University of Leeds, Molecular Dimensions, Anatrace
- Put together a database of lipids known to have roles in structure and function
  - LipidMaps
  - PDB
  - Literature searches
- Business case

# Designing a cost effective lipid screen

- 96 well plate format
- 32 different conditions in triplicate
- Exclude expensive lipids (eg Pls)
- Different versions of the sample lipid (eg POPC, DMPC etc included if appropriate)
- Try to cover as much lipid space as possible
- Example conditions





### **Screen production process**



### **Three Test proteins**

- Human A<sub>2A</sub>R + BRIL, 7 TMs, expressed in insect cells
- Aspergillus nidulans, UapA-G411V<sub>Δ1-11</sub>, 14 TMs, expressed in *S. cerevisiae*
- *Thermatoga maritima* pyrophosphatase, Tm-Ppase, expressed in *S.cerevisiae*



# **Testing membrane proteins-hA<sub>2</sub>AR**

• Known interactions with CHL. Purified in absence of CHS



# **Testing membrane proteins-UapA**

• PE and PI known to have a role in dimer formation



Cecchetti et al, 2021

# **Testing membrane proteins-Tm-PPase**

• Pyrophosphatase, no known lipid dependencies



### Summary

- Successfully identified CHS as stabilizing A<sub>2A</sub>R
- For both A<sub>2A</sub>R and UapA identified novel lipids worth further investigation
- For TmPPase revealed a non-specific lipid effect
- Demonstrated the validity of the screen
- Identified that the MAGs are not particularly useful

# **Further work**

- Optimise screen conditions (replace MAGs)
- Long term stability of the screen
- Screening with a larger number/variety of membrane proteins
- Use with other stability analysis methods
- Assess use of screen as a source of lipids for crystallization screening and nanodisc reconstition
- All dependent on funding!!

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