

THE INHIBITION OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS-1 INTEGRATION BY DESIGNED ZINC FINGER PROTEIN

SUPACHAI SAKKHACHORNPHOP

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL CHIANG MAI UNIVERSITY AUGUST 2011 600256426



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EXAMINING COMMITTEE	THESIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Kid Cham CHAIRPERSON (Awden Cappier ADVISOR
Prof. Kiat Ruxrungtham, M.D.	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chatchai Tayapiwatana
Bu E. Lue MEMBER	
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bruce E. Torbett	Prof. Dr. Carlos F. Barbas, III
Sweln Oggna MEMBER	CO- L CO-ADVISOR
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chatchai Tayapiwatana	Prof. Dr. Watchara Kasinrerk
CO V C - MEMBER	CO-ADVISOR
Prof. Dr. Watchara Kasinrerk	Prof. Thira Sirisanthana, M.D.
MEMBER	

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Prof. Thira Sirisanthana, M.D.

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Supachai Sakkhachornphop

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Author

Mr. Supachai Sakkhachornphop

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Thesis Advisory Committee

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chatchai Tayapiwatana Advisor

Prof. Dr. Carlos F. Barbas, III Co-advisor

Prof. Dr. Watchara Kasinrerk Co-advisor

Prof. Thira Sirisanthana, M.D. Co-advisor

ABSTRACT

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Integration of the human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) genome into the host chromosome is a crucial step in the HIV life cycle. The highly conserved cytosine-adenine (CA) dinucleotide sequence immediately upstream of the cleavage site is imperative for integrase (IN) activity. As this viral enzyme has an important role early stage of infection, interference with the IN substrate has become an attractive strategy for therapeutic intervention. In this study, the integrase recognition sequence at the 2-LTR-circle junctions of HIV-1 DNA was used to design a six-contiguous zinc finger protein (ZFP), namely 2LTRZFP by using zinc finger tools. The designed motif fused to green fluorescent protein (GFP) was expressed and purified from *E. coli* to determine its binding properties. The binding affinity of 2LTRZFP-GFP to its target DNA via surface plasmon resonance (SPR) was on a

nanomolar scale. The competitive SPR indicated the 2LTRZFP-GFP specifically interacted with its target DNA. The qualitative binding activity was subsequently determined by electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA) and demonstrated the aforementioned correlation. To investigate an intracellular function of 2LTRZFP-GFP, the 293T stable line of transduced with 2LTRZFP-GFP was produced and challenged with VSV-G pseudotyped lentiviral red fluorescent protein (RFP). The result demonstrated the dramatic suppression of RFP expression by 2LTRZFP-GFP. In addition, a third-generation lentiviral vector and pCEP4 expression vector were used to deliver the 2LTRZFP-GFP transgene into human T-lymphocytic cells for production of stable cell lines in long-term expression studies. These cell lines were challenged with HIV-1 _{NL4-3}. 2LTRZFP-GFP successfully inhibited viral integration and replication as measured by an Alu-gag qPCR and p24 antigen assay, respectively. These findings indicated that viral integration can be inhibited by intracellular immunization with 2LTRZFP-GFP indicating its potential for use in HIV gene therapy.

ชื่อเรื่องวิทยานิพนธ์

การยับยั้งการอินที่เกรทเชื้อ เอชไอวี-1 โดยซิงก์ฟังเกอร์โปรตีน

ที่ออกแบบ

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นายศุภชัย ศักดิ์ขจรภพ

ปริญญา

วิทยาศาสตรคุษฎีบัณฑิต (วิทยาศาสตร์ชีวการแพทย์)

คณะกรรมการที่ปรึกษาวิทยานิพนธ์

รศ. คร. ชัชชัย ตะยาภิวัฒนา อาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาหลัก
Prof. Dr. Carlos F. Barbas, III อาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาร่วม
ศ. คร. วัชระ กสิณฤกษ์ อาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาร่วม
ศ. นพ. ธีระ ศิริสันธนะ อาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาร่วม

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กระบวนการอินทิเกรชั่นของเอชไอวี-1 คีเอ็นเอ เข้าสู่โครโมโซมเจ้าบ้านโคยเอนไซม์อินทิ เกรส เป็นขั้นตอนที่สำคัญในระยะแรกสำหรับการแบ่งตัวของไวรัส เอนไซม์อินทิเกรสทำการตัดคื เอ็นเอเป้าหมายบริเวณปลายสามไพร์มของแอลที่อาร์ เพื่อเตรียมชิ้นคีเอ็นเอเข้าไปเชื่อมต่อกับคีเอ็น ดังนั้นการรบกวนหรือยับยั้งไม่ให้อินทิเกรสทำงานได้จึงเป็นกลยุทธ์ที่น่าสนใจในการ รักษาในระดับยืน ในการศึกษานี้ผู้วิจัยได้ใช้โมเลกุลเป้าหมายคือ ดีเอ็นเอบริเวณรอยต่อของสอง แอลที่อาร์ของเชื้อไวรัสเอชไอวี-1 เป็นต้นแบบในการออกแบบซิงก์ฟิงเกอร์โปรตีนที่จำเพาะ ซิงก์ ฟิงเกอร์โปรตีนที่ออกแบบจากซิงก์ฟิงเกอร์ทูล มีจำนวน 6 ฟิงเกอร์มีชื่อว่า 2LTRZFP โปรตีนนี้ถูก เชื่อมต่อกับโปรตีนที่เรื่องแสงสีเขียว (GFP) ซึ่งสามารถเตรียมได้จากแบคทีเรียอีโคไล และทำให้ บริสุทธิ์เพื่อใช้ทำการทคสอบการเข้าจับกันระหว่างซิงก์ฟิงเกอร์โปรตีนและคีเอ็นเอเป้าหมาย วิธีเซอร์เฟสพลาสมอนเร โซแนนซ์ (SPR) โดยได้ค่าคงที่ในการเข้าจับในระดับนาโนโมลาร์ ในขณะที่วิธี คอมเพ็ททิทีฟเซอร์เฟสพลาสมอนเรโซแนนซ์ชี้ให้เห็นว่า 2LTRZFP-GFP จับกับคีเอ็น เอเป้าหมายอย่างจำเพาะ การเข้าจับกันเชิงคุณภาพระหว่างซิงก์ฟิงเกอร์โปรตีนและคีเอ็นเอเป้าหมาย ถูกทำการทคสอบ โดยวิธีอิเล็กโตร โมบิลิตี้ชิพแอสเซ (EMSA) ผลการทคลองที่ใด้มีความสอคคล้อง กับวิธีเซอร์เฟสพลาสมอนเรโซแนนซ์ คังกล่าว เพื่อศึกษาหน้าที่ของ 2LTRZFP-GFP ภายในเซลล์ เซลล์ 293T ถูกนำส่งยืน 2LTRZFP-GFP โดยไวรัสเพื่อสร้างเซลล์ที่มีการแสดงออกของ 2LTRZFP-GFP อย่างถาวร และทำการท้าทายด้วยเชื้อวีเอสวี-จี ซูโดไทป์เลนติไวรัสที่มีโปรตีนเรื่องแสงสีแดง (RFP) ผลการทคลองพบว่า 2LTRZFP-GFP ลดการแสดงออกของโปรตีนเรื่องแสงสีแดง (RFP) ได้ ยิ่งไปกว่านั้น ชัดเจน เลนติไวรัลเวคเตอร์และพีเซ็พโฟเวคเตอร์ถูกนำมาใช้ในการนำส่งยืน เข้าในเซลล์เพาะเลี้ยงชนิดที-ลิมโฟไซท์ของมนุษย์เพื่อทำการสร้างเซลล์ที่มีการ

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แสดงออกของ 2LTRZFP-GFP อย่างถาวร เซลล์เหล่านี้ถูกท้าทายด้วยเชื้อเอชไอวี-วัน เอ็นแอลโฟว์-ทรี พบว่า 2LTRZFP-GFP ยับยั้งกระบวนการอินทิเกรชั้นและการแบ่งตัวของไวรัสได้สำเร็จโดยวัด จาก Alu-gag qPCR และ p24 antigen assay ตามลำคับ การค้นพบนี้แสดงให้เห็นว่ากระบวนการอินทิเกรชั่นของไวรัสสามารถถูกยับยั้งได้โดย 2LTRZFP-GFP ในเซลล์ ซึ่งแนวความคิดใหม่นี้เป็นการสร้างนวัตกรรมการรักษาผู้ติดเชื้อเอชไอวีในระดับยืนต่อไปในอนาคต

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ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

% Percent

α Alpha

β Beta

Ψ Psi-sequences

°C Degrees Celsius

AIDS Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

Alu Arthrobacter luteus

BBQ BlackBerry Quencher

bp Base pair (s)

BSA Bovine serum albumin

CA Capsid protein

CCR5 C-C chemokine receptor type 5

CD4 Cluster of differentiation 4

cDNA Complementary DNA

CMV Cytomegalovirus

cPPT Central polypurine tract

 C_{t} S Cycle thresholds

CXCR4 C-X-C chemokine receptor type 4

Cys Cysteine

DAPI 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole

DMEM Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's medium

xxii

DNA

Deoxyribonucleic acid

ds-DNA

Double-stranded DNA

DTT

Dithiothreitol

EBV

Epstein-Barr virus

E. coli

Escherichia coli

EIA

Enzyme immunoassay

ELISA

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

EMSA

Electrophoretic mobility shift assay

ECL

Enhanced Chemiluminescence

ENV

Envelope

ERD

ERF repressor domain

FAM

6-carboxyfluorescein

FBS

Fetal bovine serum

FP

Fusion protein

GAPDH

Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase

GAG

Group specific antigens

GFP

Green fluorescent protein

gm

Gram (s)

HAART

Highly active antiretroviral therapy

HEPES

4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid

hr

Hour (s)

HIV

Human Immunodeficiency virus-1

His

Histidine

HCl

Hydrochloric acid

xxiii

HRP

Horseradish peroxidase

HSCs

Hematopoietic stem cells

IN

Integrase

IPTG

Isopropyl β-*D*-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG)

kb

Kilo base pair (s)

KCl

Potassium chloride

Kd

Dissociation constant

kDa

Kilodaltons

KRAB

Kruppel associated box

LB

Luria-Bertani

Leu

Leucine

LTR

Long terminal repeat

M

Molar (s)

MA

Matrix protein

mAb

Monoclonal antibody (-ies)

MFI

Mean fluorescence intensity

MHC

Major histocompatibility complex

MgCl₂

Magnesium Chloride

min

Minute (s)

ml

Milliliter (s)

MOI

Multiplicity of infection

mPGK

Murine phosphoglycerate kinase

Mw

Molecular weight

NaCl

Sodium chloride

xxiv

NaN₃

Sodium azide

NaOH

Sodium hydroxide

NC

Nucleocapsid protein

NEF

Negative Regulatory Factor

ng

Nanogram (s)

NLS

Nuclear localization signal

NNRTIs

Non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors

nin

Nanometer (s)

nM

Nanomolar (s)

NRTIs

Nucleoside/nucleotide reverse transcriptase inhibitors

OD

Optical density

OriP

Origin of replication

PBS

Phosphate buffered saline

PBS

Primer binding site

PCR

Polymerase chain reaction

Phe

Phenylalanine

pI

Isoelectric point

PICs

Preintegration complexs

PMSF

Phenylmethylsulfonylfluoride

POL

Polymerase

PPT

Polypurine tract

PRIs

Protease inhibitors

qPCR

Quantitative polymerase chain reaction

RCL

Replication competent lentiviruses

RFP

Red fluorescent protein

RNA

Ribonucleic acid

rpm

Revolutions per minute

RRE

Rev-responsive element

RT

Reverse transcriptase

S

Second (s)

scFv

Single-chain variable fragments

SD

Standard deviation

SDS-PAGE

Sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel

electrophoresis

SIN

Self-inactivating

siRNAs

Small interfering RNAs

shRNAs

Short hairpin RNAs

SPR

Surface plasmon resonance

ss-DNA

Single-stranded DNA

TAT

Transactivator of transcription

TBP

TATA-box binding protein

TSO

Target site overlap

Tyr

Tyrosine

μg

Microgram (s)

μl

Microliter (s)

μm

Micrometer (s)

 μM

Micromolar (s)

V

Volt(s)

xxvi

VIF

Viral infectivity factor

VPR

Viral protein R

Vpu

Viral protein U

VSV-G

Vesicular stomatitis virus G glycoprotein

V/V

Volume /Volume

WHO

World Health Organization

WPRE

Woodchuck hepatitis virus post-transcriptional

regulatory element

W/V

Weight/Volume

ZFP

Zinc finger protein

ZnSO₄

Zinc sulfate