TOWARDS QUANTITATIVE SYSTEMS BIOLOGICAL TISSUE MODELS BY USING WHOLE SLIDE IMAGING

Niels Grabe

TOWARDS QUANTITATIVE SYSTEMS BIOLOGICAL TISSUE MODELS BY USING WHOLE SLIDE IMAGING

- **1**. Systems biology drives towards tissue models
- 2. Quantitative spatial data of tissues are missing: why whole slide imaging is essential for systems biology of tissues
- 3. PART A: Generating data : Quantifying spatial protein expression data in human skin (Full slides & TMAs)

Application of quantitative spatial profiles for

- 1. Reconstructing networks
- 2. Building tissue classifiers
- 3. Qualitative network reasoning
- 4. PART B: Generating data: Quantitative morphological analysis of dynamic wound healing via 3D in vitro cultures (Full slides)
 - 1. Analysis of cellular streams in tissues

"DRIVING THE SYSTEMS BIOLOGY OF TISSUES"

- **×** So far mostly reductionist approach in biology:
 - + Classic: Phenotype \rightarrow Isolation of isolated genes \rightarrow Function?
 - + 2001: Sequencing of the human genome
 - + Less genes than expected (24.000) \rightarrow gene networks are essential
- **×** Systems biological approach:
 - + Quantitative and qualitative model building of cellular networks which can explain certain aspects of the functional behavior of a dynamic system
- **×** Tissue Systems Biology:
 - + Concerns building models of human tissue and diseases
 - + Highly relevant for clinically oriented research
 - + Requires spatial data (morphology, expression data)
 - + Requires insights into mechanisms of spatial control



GRAPHICAL MODELLING SYSTEM



(1) Variable Sheet Editor, (2) Functions Library, (3) Graphical Model Editor
(4) Emerging Tissue Morphology, (5) Parameter Window, (6) Dynamically generated graphs



Sütterlin T, Huber S, Dickhaus H, Grabe, N.

Modeling multi-cellular behavior in epidermal tissue homeostasis via finite state machines in multi-agent systems *Bioinformatics* (2009), 25, 2057-2063.

STATE BASED SPATIAL MODELING OF CELL DIFFERENTIATION



N. Grabe, K. Neuber. A multi-cellular systems biology model predicts epidermal morphology, kinetics, and Ca++ flow. *Bioinformatics* (2005) Sep 1;21(17):3541-7

WHAT DRIVES THE MODEL ? EMERGENCE OF THE CALCIUM GRADIENT



Grabe N, Neuber K. A multicellular systems biology model predicts epidermal morphology, kinetics and Ca2+ flow , *Bioinformatics*. 2005 Sep 1;21(17):3541-7.

WHERE ARE THE SPATIAL DATA??

- Simulation proof of principle shown, but:
- **×** Two key questions:
 - + <u>How</u> are genes & proteins spatially expressed in the skin?
 - + Why are they expressed the way they are?
- × What do we know?
 - + 20041 publications in pubmed ("epidermis human skin")
 - + Buried in pubmed? "Partly yes" but:
 - No quantitative spatial expression data for skin available !
 - + No networks are available !

Review

Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology 6, 328-340 (April 2005) | doi:10.10

The cornified envelope: a model of cell death in the skin

Eleonora Candi, Rainer Schmidt & Gerry Melino

The epidermis functions as a barrier against the environment by means of several layers of terminally differentiated, dead keratinocytes – the cornified layer, which forms the endpoint of epidermal differentiation and death. The cornified envelope replaces the plasma membrane of differentiating keratinocytes and consists of keratins that are enclosed within an insoluble amalgam of proteins, which are crosslinked by transglutaminases and surrounded by a lipid envelope. New insights into the molecular mechanisms and the physiological endpoints of cornification are increasing our understanding of the pathological defects of this unique form of programmed cell death, which is associated with barrier malfunctions and whthyosis.

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AUTOMATIC WHOLE SLIDE IMAGING (WSI) = VIRTUAL MICROSCOPY (VM), SLIDE SCANNING



PART A

Generating data : Quantifying spatial protein expression data in human skin (Full slides & TMAs)

- 1. Reconstructing networks
- 2. Building tissue classifiers
- 3. Qualitative network reasoning

QUANTITATIVE SPATIAL PROFILES (QSPS)



APPLICATIONS OF EPIDERMAL QUANTITATIVE SPATIAL PROFILING



APPLICATIONS OF EPIDERMAL QUANTITATIVE SPATIAL PROFILING



IRRITATION PREDICTION BY IMAGING OF HSP27

- ★ Mattek EFT Cultures treated with 0.4% SDS for 1h, 6h, 16h, 24h
- **x** Profiling of Heat Shock Protein HSP27



CLASSIFICATION OF SKIN IRRITATION





APPLICATIONS OF EPIDERMAL QUANTITATIVE SPATIAL PROFILING



RECONSTRUCTING PROTEIN NETWORKS OF EPIDERMAL DIFFERENTIATION



Grabe, Pommerencke, Steinberg, Dickhaus, Tomakidi, *Reconstructing Protein Networks of Epithelial Homeostasis*, Bioinformatics, 2007

EXISTENCE OF ROBUST MECHANISMS FOR SPATIAL REGULATION OF DIFFERENTIATION





APPLICATIONS OF EPIDERMAL QUANTITATIVE SPATIAL PROFILING



HUMAN PROTEIN ATLAS

- **x** Largest Knowledge Ressource on Spatial Protein Expression Patterns
- × 8832 antibodies against all types of human tissue
- × 7,334,244 images of tissue microarrays (TMA)



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CAN THE HPA USED TO GENERATE QSPS?

Skin tissue sections are "just" Tissue Microarrays and no whole slide scans

- **x** => No, it cannot generate the required data:
 - No fluorescent staining => image segmentation automatically not with sufficient quality
 - + Too few sections => intra-tissue variation too high
- **×** What could HPA data be used for?
 - + Not direct comparison of QSPs but abstraction of QSPs in the form of Signatures
- ★ Technically challenging: combination of QSP approach with color unmixing (→Robert Murphy)

SPATIAL SIGNATURES

Basal Signature

Intermediate Signature



NUCLEI DETECTION

× Epidermal Differentiation in 9 Layers

Transcription Factor Grainy Head Like 1 (GRHL)



NUCLEI DETECTION & QUANTIFICATION

× Bands overlayed with staining intensities

Transcription Factor Grainy Head Like 1 (GRHL)

COLOR DECOMPOSED DAB/HEMALAUN STAIN



LARGE SCALE NETWORK OF KEY GROWTH FACTORS IN EPIDERMAL WOUND HEALING



APPLICATIONS OF EPIDERMAL QUANTITATIVE SPATIAL PROFILING



Enables => Correlative Analysis of Pathways in Keratinocyte Differentiation

PART B

- 1. PART B: Generating data: Quantitative morphological analysis of dynamic wound healing (Full slides)
 - 1. Analysis of cellular streams in tissues

A NEW STANDARDIZED SKIN PUNCH MODEL

- × Built on basis of a commercial skin culture system (Mattek)
- × Dermis (Fibroblasts) + Epidermis (Keratinocytes)
- × Full stratification (all differentiation stages)
- **x** Reproducible(+), availability (+), costs (-), grown-up already (-)



SYSTEMATIC HISTOLOGICAL ANALYSIS



WOUND CLOSURE IN NOVEL IN VITRO FULL SKIN MODEL - DAY 0 TO DAY 10 (24 TISSUES)



TOWARDS MODELING TONGUE EXTENSION

- **×** Tongue extension: not only migration !!
- Interplay of proliferation, differentiation, migration <u>during full</u> <u>period of epidermal remodelling</u>
- **x** Differention already at day 1: Keratin K1/10 staining:



PROLIFERATION ANALYSIS BY IMAGE PROCESSING

Organotypic skin punch model

Differentiation

Wound compartments

 DAB-staining: Ki67 positive nuclei = brown

TOWARDS A MODEL OF EPIDERMAL CELL STREAMS



REMODELLING IN OSCILLATING WAVES



DOES PROLIFERATION INDUCE PULSING IN THE WOUND EDGE? (NO)

 Proliferation extending homeostasis has decay pattern => Oscillating cell efflux into wound is cause for oscillating cell numbers in viable compartment V



DOES PROLIFERATION INDUCE PULSING IN THE INNER WOUND? (PARTLY)

- × Oscillation appears to pump some cells into the wound
- × Outer wound filled by proliferation by multiplying migration
- **x** To inner wound proliferation importance prevails

Influx into <u>outer</u> wound area

Influx into <u>inner</u> wound area



DYNAMIC DIFFERENTIATION INDUCES PULSING OF WOUND EDGE

- × Differentiation measured by corneal thickness
- Initial migratory depletion triggers pulsing differentiation in wound edge



TOWARDS A MODEL OF EPIDERMAL CELL STREAMS



TOWARDS QUANTITATIVE SYSTEMS BIOLOGICAL TISSUE MODELS BY USING WHOLE SLIDE IMAGING

- 1. Systems biology drives towards tissue models
- 2. Quantitative spatial of tissues are missing: why whole slide imaging is essential for systems biology of tissues
- **3.** PART A: Generating data : Quantifying spatial protein expression data in human skin (Full slides & TMAs)
 - 1. Application of quantitative spatial profiles for
 - 1. Reconstructing networks
 - 2. Building tissue classifiers
 - 3. Qualitative network reasoning
- 4. PART B: Generating data: Quantitative morphological analysis of dynamic wound healing (Full slides)
 - 1. Analysis of cellular streams in tissues

KEY CONCEPT

× Systematic pertubation studies of tissue require integration of

- + in vitro-models (organotypic cell culture systems)
- + in silico-models

× Realisation

- Quantitative data from native tissue
- + Quantitative data from in-vitro cultures using Whole-Slide Imaging
- + Multiple technologies (multipPhoton, confocal) will complement
- + Computational multi-cellular multi-agent platform for this data



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 - **BMBF GERONTOSYS**
 - **BMBF VIRTUAL LIVER**

OPEN POSITIONS AVAILABLE !



Jutta Funk









Claudia Ernst



Petra Narrog