

# OptiPrep™ Mini-Review MS16

## Bacterial and fungal extracellular vesicles

### 1. Introduction

It is widely recognized that mammalian cells, bacteria and fungi release extracellular vesicles into the surrounding medium; these vesicles are involved in communication between cells and the delivery of biologically and clinically important molecules to other cells. With regard to bacteria and fungi, the term “extracellular vesicles” (EVs) covers the outer membrane vesicles (OMVs) produced by Gram-negative bacteria and the membrane vesicles (MVs) produced by Gram-positive bacteria and other organisms such as fungi. In all cases; EVs are distinct from the intracellular vesicles present in the cytoplasm. The OMVs from Gram-negative bacteria in particular are widely researched and have been shown to be important in the transfer of virulence factors and the initiation of immune and inflammatory responses in host cells.

- ◆ **Section 2** briefly reviews the current OptiPrep™-based methodology; this is described in detail in [Application Sheet S60](#). It has its own short reference list
- ◆ The principal aim of this Mini-Review however is to provide a bibliography of all the published papers that have reported the use of an iodixanol gradient.
  - ◆ **Section 3a is devoted to Gram –ve bacteria**
  - ◆ **Section 3b to Gram +ve bacteria and mycobacteria**
  - ◆ **Section 3c to mycoplasmas**
  - ◆ **Section 3d to fungi**
  - ◆ **Section 3e to the relatively new Biofilm structures**
  - ◆ **Section 3f contains references to methodological reviews**
  - ◆ **All references are listed alphabetically according to first author**

Related research areas that have reported the use of gradients prepared from OptiPrep™ are:

- ◆ The analysis of the microvesicles that are expressed from the surface of mammalian cells is covered in [OptiPrep™ Mini-Review MS17](#) and [Application Sheet S61](#)
- ◆ The control and organization of membrane trafficking within mammalian cells that permits the movement of vesicles to, and ultimately their fusion with, the plasma membrane or a specific plasma membrane domain is covered in [Optiprep™ Mini-Review MS10](#) and [OptiPrep™ Application Sheet S45](#)
- ◆ These other Mini-Reviews or OptiPrep™ Application Sheets can be accessed from the OptiPrep™ flash drive or from the following website: [www.axis-shield-density-gradient-media.com](http://www.axis-shield-density-gradient-media.com), click on “Mini-Reviews” or “Methodology”. On the flash drive return to “Mini-Reviews” or “Application Sheets”.

### 2. Methodological summary

Various forms of pre-gradient processing are employed, during which intact bacteria and aggregated material in the culture medium are mostly removed and the EVs concentrated. This is covered in much greater detail in [Application Sheet S60](#)

**The first step is clarification** of the bacterial broth to remove intact cells by centrifugation; the time and *g*-force used varies widely and reflects the size of the organism. Generally rcf's of approx. 10,000 *g* are used for 10-20 min, but there are examples both of lower and higher *g*-forces so that the range spans 4,000-12,000 *g*. Occasionally this first step is carried out in two stages in which the broth is centrifuged for 30 min at 5,000 *g* and then the supernatant at 7,500 *g*. This strategy may minimize the entrapment (and consequent loss) of vesicles into the pellet by the rapidly sedimenting much larger bacteria. Fungal cells appear to sediment satisfactorily at lower speeds such as 2,500 *g* for 10 min. **Commonly the second step is volume reduction** since ultimately the vesicles will be sedimented in a fixed-angle ultracentrifuge rotor, prior to gradient purification. Large volumes of clarified medium

can pose a problem for this final pre-gradient step. The Beckman 45Ti for example which accommodates 6x94 ml tubes has a maximum *g*-force of 235,000 *g*, but the vesicles at the top of the sample experience initially only 80,000 *g*. Tangential filtration devices (e.g. 70-100 kDa cut-off) are popular or centrifugal filters are popular for this volume reduction step.

**Residual bacteria** in the broth may then be removed by vacuum filtration through either a 0.45 or 0.22 µm filter or both pore size filters sequentially, before the EVs are sedimented in a fixed-angle rotor; the conditions vary quite widely, from approx. 40,000 *g* for 1 h to 140-150,000 *g* for 2-3 h..

**Ammonium sulphate** precipitation of OMVs from the clarified broth of Gram-ve bacteria has been used a few cases. The precipitation process may only require about half an hour at 4°C but can be as long as overnight. Moreover the resuspended pellet requires dialysis overnight prior to further processing.

**Iodixanol gradient purification** of the EVs, regardless of the pre-gradient technology, involves adjustment of the suspension to a density of approx. 1.241 g/ml (sometimes higher 1.267 g/ml or lower 1.215 g/ml).for subsequent flotation through a discontinuous iodixanol gradient; During centrifugation at 100-200,000 *g* for 12-16 h the gradient will become more or less continuous; gradients run for shorter times (e.g. 2 h) will retain some of their discontinuous nature.

**The density of MVs in iodixanol gradients** is generally >1.11 g/ml, many banding between 1.13 and 1.15 g/ml; although occasionally densities of as high as 1.20 g/ml have been observed. There is also evidence of heterogeneity amongst EV populations from a single bacterial type.

The first published paper to describe the use of OptiPrep™, of which we have a record, was by Horstman and Kuehn, published in 2000. It documented the purification of OMVs from enterotoxin-containing *Escherichia coli*; the OMVs were shown to contain the pathogenic enterotoxin, lipids and specific proteins characteristic of the outer membrane and proteins from the periplasmic space, but no markers of the cytosol or inner membrane (see Section 3a - *Escherichia coli* ).

### 3. Bibliography of publications reporting analytical studies on iodixanol-purified OMVs and MVs (references are sorted alphabetically according to first author)

#### 3a. Gram-negative bacteria

##### *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*

**Rompikuntal, P.K.**, Thay, B., Khan, M.K., Alanko, J., Penttinen, A-M., Asikainen, S., Wai, S.N. and Oscarsson, J. (2012) *Perinuclear localization of internalized outer membrane vesicles carrying active cytolethal distending toxin from Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* Infect. Immun., **80**, 31-42

##### *Burkholderia pseudomallei*

**Nieves, W.**, Heang, J., Asakrah, S., Höner zu Bentrup, K., Roy, C.J. and Morici, L.A. (2010) *Immuno-specific responses to bacterial elongation factor Tu during Burkholderia infection and immunization* PLoS One **5**: e14361

##### *Borrelia burgdorferi*

**Coleman, J.L.**, Crowley, J.T., Toledo, A.M. and Benach, G.L. (2013) *The HtrA protease of Borrelia burgdorferi degrades outer membrane protein BmpD and chemotaxis phosphatase CheX* Mol. Microbiol., **88**, 619–633

**Crowley, J.T.**, Toledo, A.M., LaRocca, T.J., Coleman, J.L., London, E. and Benach, J.L. (2013) *Lipid exchange between Borrelia burgdorferi and host cells* PLoS Pathog., **9**: e1003109

**Toledo, A.**, Coleman, J.L., Kuhlow, C.J., Crowley, J.T. and Benach, J.L. (2012) *The enolase of Borrelia burgdorferi is a plasminogen receptor released in outer membrane vesicles* Infect. Immun., **80**, 359-368

##### *Campylobacter jejuni*

**Jang, K-S.**, Sweredoski, M.J., Graham, R.L.J., Hess, S. and Clemons Jr., W.M. (2014) *Comprehensive proteomic profiling of outer membrane vesicles from Campylobacter jejuni* J. Proteom., **98**, 90-98

### *Escherichia coli*

- Balsalobre, C.**, Silvan, J.M., Berglund, S., Mizunoe, Y., Uhlin, B.E. and Wai, S.N. (2006) *Release of the type I secreted  $\alpha$ -haemolysin via outer membrane vesicles from Escherichia coli* Mol. Microbiol., **59**, 99-112
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- Blenkiron, C.**, Simonov, D., Muthukaruppan, A., Tsai, P., Dauros, P., Green, S., Hong, J., Print, C.G., Swift, S. and Phillips, A.R. (2016) *Uropathogenic Escherichia coli releases extracellular vesicles that are associated with RNA* PLoS One, **11**, e0160440
- Chen, L.**, Valentine, J.L., Huang, C.-Jr., Endicott, C.E., Moeller, T.D., Rasmussen, J.A., Fletcher, J.R., Boll, J.M. et al (2016) *Outer membrane vesicles displaying engineered glycotopes elicit protective antibodies* Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, **113**, E3609–E3618
- Daleke-Schermerhorn, M.H.**, Felix, T., Soprova, Z., ten Hagen-Jongman, C.M., Vikström, D., Majlessi, L., Beskers, J., Follmann, F., de Punder, K., van der Wel, N.N. et al (2014) *Decoration of outer membrane vesicles with multiple antigens by using an autotransporter approach* Appl. Environ. Microbiol., **80**, 5854–5865
- Davis, J.M.**, Carvalho, H.M., Rasmussen, S.B. and O'Brien, A.D. (2006) *Cytotoxic necrotizing factor type I delivered by outer membrane vesicles of uropathogenic Escherichia coli attenuates polymorphonuclear leukocyte antimicrobial activity and chemotaxis* Infect. Immun., **74**, 4401-4408
- Ficurilli, M.**, Liu, C., Riviello, C., Pozo, M.J. and Meers, P.R. (2015) *Delivery of liposomal contents to outer membrane vesicles from Gram negative bacteria* Biophys. J. **108 (Suppl.1)**, 408a
- Ghosal, A.**, Upadhyaya, B.B., Fritz, J.V., Heintz-Buschart, A., Desai, M.S., Yusuf, D., Huang, D. et al (2015) *The extracellular RNA complement of Escherichia coli* Microbiol. Open, **4**, 252–266
- Horstman, A.L.** and Kuehn, M.J. (2000) *Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli secretes active heat-labile enterotoxin via outer membrane vesicles* J. Biol. Chem., **275**, 12489-12496
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- Kim, O.Y.**, Choi, S.J., Jang, S.C., Park, K.-S., Kim, S.R., Choi, J.P., Lim, J.H., Lee, S.-W. et al (2015) *Bacterial protoplast-derived nanovesicles as vaccine delivery system against bacterial infection* Nano Lett. **15**, 266–274
- Kunsmann, L.**, Rüter, C., Bauwens, A., Greune, L., Glüder, M., Kemper, B., Fruth, A., Wai, S.N., He, X., Lloubes, R. et al (2015) *Virulence from vesicles: Novel mechanisms of host cell injury by Escherichia coli O104:H4 outbreak strain* Sci. Rep., **5**: 13252
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- McBroom, A.J.** and Kuehn, M.J. (2007) *Release of outer membrane vesicles by Gram-negative bacteria is a novel envelope stress response* Mol. Microbiol., **63**, 545-558
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- Roier, S.**, Zingl, F.G., Cakar, F., Durakovic, S., Kohl, P., Eichmann, T.O., Kiug, L., Gadermaier, B. et al (2016) *A novel mechanism for the biogenesis of outer membrane vesicles in Gram-negative bacteria* Nat. Comm., **7**: 10515
- Roy, K.**, Hamilton, D.J., Munson, G.P. and Fleckenstein, J.M. (2011) *Outer membrane vesicles induce Immune responses to virulence proteins and protect against colonization by enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli* Clin. Vaccine Immunol., **18**, 1803–1808
- Valentine, J.L.**, Chen, L., Perregaux, E.C., Weyant, K.B., Rosenthal, J.A., Heiss, C., Azadi, P., Fisher, A.C., Putnam, D. et al (2016) *Immunization with outer membrane vesicles displaying designer glycotopes yields class-switched, glycan-specific antibodies* Cell Chem. Biol., **23**, 655–665

### *Flavobacterium columnare*

- Laanto, E.**, Penttinen, R.K., Bamford, J.K.H. and Sundberg, L.-R. (2014) *Comparing the different morphotypes of a fish pathogen - implications for key virulence factors in Flavobacterium columnare* BMC Microbiol., **14**:170

### *Francisella novicida*

- Chen, L.**, Valentine, J.L., Huang, C.-Jr., Endicott, C.E., Moeller, T.D., Rasmussen, J.A., Fletcher, J.R., Boll, J.M. et al (2016) *Outer membrane vesicles displaying engineered glycotopes elicit protective antibodies* Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, **113**, E3609–E3618

**McCaig, W.D.**, Koller, A. and Thanassi, D.G. (2013) *Production of outer membrane vesicles and outer membrane tubes by Francisella novicida* J. Bacteriol., **195**, 1120-1132

#### **Francisella tularensis**

**Chen, L.**, Valentine, J.L., Huang, C-Jr., Endicott, C.E., Moeller, T.D., Rasmussen, J.A., Fletcher, J.R., Boll, J.M. et al (2016) *Outer membrane vesicles displaying engineered glycotopes elicit protective antibodies* Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, **113**, E3609–E3618

#### **Haemophilus influenzae**

**Roier, S.**, Blume, T., Klug, L., Wagner, G.E., Elhenawy, W., Zangger, K., Prassl, R., Reidl, J., Daum, G., Feldman, M.F. and Schild, S. (2015) *A basis for vaccine development: comparative characterization of Haemophilus influenzae outer membrane vesicles* Int. J. Med. Microbiol., **305**, 298–309

**Roier, S.**, Zingl, F.G., Cakar, F., Durakovic, S., Kohl, P., Eichmann, T.O., Kiug, L., Gadermaier, B. et al (2016) *A novel mechanism for the biogenesis of outer membrane vesicles in Gram-negative bacteria* Nat. Comm., **7**: 10515

**Sharpe, S.W.**, Kuehn, M.J. and Mason, K.M. (2011) *Elicitation of epithelial cell-derived immune effectors by outer membrane vesicles of non-typeable haemophilus influenzae* Infect. Immun., **79**, 4361-4369

#### **Haemophilus parasuis**

**McCaig, W.D.**, Loving, C.L., Hughes, H.R. and Brockmeier, S.L. (2016) *Characterization and vaccine potential of outer membrane vesicles produced by Haemophilus parasuis* PLoS One **11**: e0149132

#### **Legionella pneumophila**

**Fernandez-Moreira, E.**, Helbig, J.H. and Swanson, M.S. (2006) *Membrane vesicles shed by Legionella pneumophila inhibit fusion of phagosomes with lysosomes* Infect. Immun., **74**, 3285-3295

#### **Marinobacter guineae – see Shewanella livingstonensis**

#### **Mycobacterium tuberculosis – see Section 3b**

#### **Neisseria gonorrhoeae**

**Pérez-Cruz, C.**, Delgado, L., López-Iglesias, C. and Mercade, E. (2015) *Outer-inner membrane vesicles naturally secreted by Gram-negative pathogenic bacteria* PLoS One, **10**: e0116896

#### **Porphyromonas gingivalis**

**Cecil, J.D.**, O'Brien-Simpson, N.M., Lenzo, J.C., Holden, J.A., Chen, Y-Y., Singleton, W., Gause, K.T., Yan, Y., Caruso, F. and Reynolds, E.C. (2016) *Differential responses of pattern recognition receptors to outer membrane vesicles of three periodontal pathogens* PLoS One **11**: e0151967

#### **Pseudoalteromonas - see Shewanella livingstonensis**

#### **Pseudomonas aeruginosa**

**Ballok, A.E.**, Filkins, L.M., Bomberger, J.M., Stanton, B.A. and O'Toole, G.A. (2014) *Epoxide-mediated differential packaging of Cif and other virulence factors into outer membrane vesicles* J. Bacteriol., **196**, 3633–3642

**Bauman, S.J.** and Kuehn, M.J. (2006) *Purification of outer membrane vesicles from Pseudomonas aeruginosa and their activation of an IL-8 response* Microbes Infect., **8**, 2400-2408

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**Bomberger, J.M.**, MacEachran, D.P., Coutermarsh, B.A., Ye, S., O'Toole, G.A. and Stanton, B.A. (2009) *Long-distance delivery of bacterial virulence factors by Pseudomonas aeruginosa outer membrane vesicles* PLoS Pathog., **5**:e1000382

**Choi, Y.**, Kwon, Y., Kim, D-K., Jeon, J., Jang, S.C., Wang, T., Ban, M., Kim, M-H., Jeon, S.G. et al (2015) *Gut microbe-derived extracellular vesicles induce insulin resistance, thereby impairing glucose metabolism in skeletal muscle* Sci. Rep., **5**: 15878

**Couto, N.**, Schooling, S.R., Dutcher, J.R. and Barber, J. (2015) *Proteome profiles of outer membrane vesicles and extracellular matrix of Pseudomonas aeruginosa biofilms* J. Proteome Res., **14**, 4207–4222

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- Toyofuku, M.**, Zhou, S., Sawada, I., Takaya, N., Uchiyama, H. and Nomura, N. (2014) *Membrane vesicle formation is associated with pyocin production under denitrifying conditions in Pseudomonas aeruginosa PAO1* Environ. Microbiol., **16**, 2927–2938
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#### *Psychrobacter fjøii* - see *Shewanella livingstonensis*

#### *Salmonella enterica*

- Bai, J.**, Kim, S.I., Ryu, S. and Yoon, H. (2014) *Identification and characterization of outer membrane vesicle-associated proteins in Salmonella enterica Serovar Typhimurium* Infect. Immun., **82**, 4001–4010
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#### *Salmonella typhimurium*

- Liu, Q.**, Liu, Q., Yi, J., Liang, K., Liu, T., Roland, K.L., Jiang, Y. and Kong, Q. (2016) *Outer membrane vesicles derived from Salmonella Typhimurium mutants with truncated LPS induce cross-protective immune responses against infection of Salmonella enterica serovars in the mouse model* Int. J. Med. Microbiol., **306**, 697–706

#### *Shewanella livingstonensis*

- Frias, A.**, Manresa, A., de Oliveira, E., López-Iglesias, C. and Mercade, E. (2010) *Membrane vesicles: a common feature in the extracellular matter of cold-adapted Antarctic bacteria* Microb. Ecol., **59**, 476–486

### *Shewanella vesiculosa*

**Pérez-Cruz, C.**, Carrión, O., Delgado, L., Martínez, G., López-Iglesias, C. and Mercade, E. (2013) *New type of outer membrane vesicle produced by the Gram-negative bacterium Shewanella vesiculosa M7T: implications for DNA Appl. Environ. Microbiol.*, **79**, 1874-1881

### *Tannerella forsythia*

**Cecil, J.D.**, O'Brien-Simpson, N.M., Lenzo, J.C., Holden, J.A., Chen, Y-Y., Singleton, W., Gause, K.T., Yan, Y., Caruso, F. and Reynolds, E.C. (2016) *Differential responses of pattern recognition receptors to outer membrane vesicles of three periodontal pathogens* PLoS One **11**: e0151967

**Veith, P.D.**, Chen, Y-Y., Chen, D., O'Brien-Simpson, N.M., Cecil, J.D., Holden, J.A., Lenzo, J.C. and Reynolds, E.C. (2015) *Tannerella forsythia outer membrane vesicles are enriched with substrates of the type IX secretion system and TonB-dependent receptors* J. Proteome Res., **14**, 5355–5366

### *Treponema denticola*

**Cecil, J.D.**, O'Brien-Simpson, N.M., Lenzo, J.C., Holden, J.A., Chen, Y-Y., Singleton, W., Gause, K.T., Yan, Y., Caruso, F. and Reynolds, E.C. (2016) *Differential responses of pattern recognition receptors to outer membrane vesicles of three periodontal pathogens* PLoS One **11**: e0151967

### *Vibrio cholerae*

**Elluri, S.**, Enow, C., Vdovikova, S., Rompikuntal, P.K., Dongre, M., Carlsson, S., Pal, A., Uhlin, B.E., Wai, S.N. (2014) *Outer membrane vesicles mediate transport of biologically active Vibrio cholerae cytotoxin (VCC) from V. cholerae strains* PLoS One, **9**: e106731

**Mondal, A.**, Tapader, R., Chatterjee, N.S., Ghosh, A., Sinha, R., Koley, H., Saha, D.R., Chakrabarti, M.K., Wai, S.N. and Pala, A. (2016) *Cytotoxic and inflammatory responses induced by outer membrane vesicle-associated biologically active proteases from Vibrio cholerae* Infect. Immun., **84**, 1478-1490

**Roier, S.**, Zingl, F.G., Cakar, F., Durakovic, S., Kohl, P., Eichmann, T.O., Kiug, L., Gadermaier, B. et al (2016) *A novel mechanism for the biogenesis of outer membrane vesicles in Gram-negative bacteria* Nat. Comm., **7**: 10515

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### *Vibrio tasmaniensis*

**Vanhove, A.S.**, Dupertuy, M., Charrière, G.M., Le Roux, F., Goudenège, D., Gourbal, B., Kieffer-Jaquinod, S., Couté, Y., Wai, S.N. and Destoumieux-Garzón, D. (2015) *Outer membrane vesicles are vehicles for the delivery of Vibrio tasmaniensis virulence factors to oyster immune cells* Environ. Microbiol., **17**, 1152–1165

### *Yersinia pestis*

**Eddy, J.L.**, Gielda, L.M., Caulfield, A.J., Rangel, S.M. and Lathem, W.W. (2014) *Production of outer membrane vesicles by the plague pathogen Yersinia pestis* PLoS One, **9**: e107002

## **3b. Gram-positive bacteria and mycobacteria**

### *Bacillus anthracis*

**Wolf, J.M.**, Rivera, J. and Casadevall, A. (2012) *Serum albumin disrupts Cryptococcus neoformans and Bacillus anthracis extracellular vesicles* Cellular Microbiology (2012) 14(5), 762–773

### *Bacillus subtilis*

**Brown, L.**, Kessler, A., Cabezas-Sanchez, P., Luque-Garcia, J.L. and Casadevall, A. (2014) *Extracellular vesicles produced by the Gram-positive bacterium Bacillus subtilis are disrupted by the lipopeptide surfactin* Mol. Microbiol., **93**, 183–198

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**Prados-Rosales, R.**, Brown, L., Casadevall, A., Montalvo-Quiros, S. and Luque-Garcia, J.L. (2014) *Isolation and identification of membrane vesicle-associated proteins in Gram-positive bacteria and mycobacteria* MethodsX, **1**, 124–129

### *Clostridium perfringens*

**Jiang, Y.**, Kong, Q., Roland, K.L. and Curtiss III, R. (2014) *Membrane vesicles of Clostridium perfringens type A strains induce innate and adaptive immunity* Int. J. Med. Microbiol., **304**, 431–443

### ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis***

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