

**Defining the role of myeloid cells in the  
regulation of developmental, tumour and  
inflammation-stimulated  
lymphangiogenesis**

A thesis submitted for the degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy

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November 2010

# Abstract

Lymphatic vessels are an integral component of the cardiovascular system. These specialised vessels are essential for the return of interstitial fluid to the bloodstream, immune cell trafficking and the absorption of fats from the digestive tract. Despite the crucial role played by lymphatic vessels in homeostasis and human disease, little is known about the signals that regulate lymphatic vascular growth and development (lymphangiogenesis). The aim of this project was to investigate the role of two lineages of immune cells, macrophages and mast cells, in embryonic, tumour and inflammation-stimulated lymphangiogenesis.

The first aim of this study was to determine the expression pattern of LYVE-1, a marker expressed on lymphatic vessels and a sub-population of macrophages, during early embryonic development. LYVE-1 expression was documented for the first time in the yolk sac blood vasculature and in early embryonic arteries, inter-somitic veins and endothelial cells of the lung and endocardium. These results have important implications for the use of LYVE-1 as a specific marker of lymphatic vascular endothelium.

The major aim of this project was to investigate the role of cells of the macrophage lineage in lymphangiogenesis. Macrophages expressing LYVE-1 were intimately associated with developing lymphatic vessels in the mouse embryo. Characterisation of this sub-population of LYVE-1-positive macrophages revealed that they shared a gene expression profile with Tie2-expressing monocytes. Lineage tracing studies illustrated that, while localised in close association with lymphatic vessels, macrophages did not trans-differentiate to lymphatic endothelial cells during embryonic or tumour-stimulated lymphangiogenesis. These data provide strong support to exclude myeloid cells as a source of lymphatic endothelial progenitor cells. Characterisation of lymphatic vascular development in macrophage-

deficient mice revealed that macrophages play a key role in shaping the dermal lymphatic vasculature during development by regulating lymphatic endothelial cell proliferation.

The final aim of this study was to investigate the role of mast cells during embryonic and inflammation-stimulated lymphangiogenesis. While mast cells appeared to be dispensable for the construction of the lymphatic vasculature, they were found to play a key role in UVB irradiation-induced lymphangiogenesis. Hyperplastic lymphatic vessels were a striking feature of UVB irradiated tissue in mast cell-deficient mice, revealing a novel role for mast cells in restraining the magnitude of lymphangiogenesis stimulated by this inflammatory insult.

In conclusion, these studies provide strong evidence to exclude cells of the myeloid/macrophage lineage as a pool of lymphatic endothelial progenitor cells during development and in the tumour microenvironment. This work has discovered that macrophages define the calibre of dermal lymphatic vessels during development by restraining lymphatic endothelial cell proliferation. This is in contrast to previous studies which reported macrophages stimulate lymphangiogenesis in settings of inflammation. In addition, a previously undescribed role for mast cells in the regulation of inflammation-stimulated lymphangiogenesis was identified. Taken together, these data illustrate that the sources of signals driving embryonic and disease-stimulated lymphangiogenesis are likely to be distinct. As myeloid cells regulate lymphangiogenesis in disease states, the results of this project have important implications when considering the targeting of myeloid cells for lymphangiogenic therapies.

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# Declaration

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution to Emma Gordon and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

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Emma Gordon

# Publications

The following publications have resulted from work performed by the candidate during the period of this candidature:

**Gordon, E.,** Gale, N., Harvey ,N. Expression of the hyaluronan receptor LYVE-1 is not restricted to the lymphatic vasculature; LYVE-1 is also expressed on embryonic blood vessels. *Developmental Dynamics* 2008 Jul:237(7):1901-1909.

**Gordon, E.,** Rao, S., Pollard, J., Nutt, S., Lang, R., Harvey, N. Macrophages define lymphatic vessel calibre during development by regulating lymphatic endothelial cell proliferation. *Development* 2010 Nov 15:137(22):3899-3910.

# Acknowledgements

First and foremost, thankyou to my supervisor Natasha Harvey for guiding me through this PhD. Not only have you been my supervisor, you have been a mentor and a friend throughout this whole process, and I'm not sure I would have made it through without your support along the way. Thankyou for devoting so much of your time to this project! Secondly, to my co-supervisor Sharad Kumar, thanks for your support and advice over toasted cheese sandwiches. I am eternally grateful to you both.

To my lab buddies Jan, Gen and Kelly, you guys are not only my colleagues, you are my friends, and have made this experience "belissimo" during the good times and bearable during the tough times. You all have helped me both technically and emotionally, not to mention ensuring I always get my paperwork done on time. I've said it before and I'll say it again, thanks for putting up with my loud mouth for 3 and a half years. To Michele Grimabdeston and Boris Fedoric, thanks for all your help with the mast cell project and spending your weekends with the UV lamp. It's been a collaboration in the truest sense of the word, and I obviously couldn't have done those experiments without your hard work. For all the expert assistance and for providing essential cell lines for tumour models, thanks to Claudine Bonder. To Quenten Schwartz, Michaela Sherer and Samuela Kabbara, thanks for the delicious cakes in lab meetings and for asking the tough questions in an informal environment (so I had time to prepare some good answers for when it counted)! Thanks to Tony Cambareri, Kelly Wicks, Ghafar Sarvestani, Katherine Pilkington, Rosalie Kenyon and Mark Van Der Hoek for all their technical expertise. Thankyou to the funding sources for my Australian Postgraduate Award and Dawes Scholarship, who gave me the financial support which enabled me to undertake this PhD. To all our collaborators around the world, especially Sujata Rao, Jeffrey Pollard, Stephen Nutt, Richard Lang and Nick Gale, thankyou for sharing your mice, reagents and expertise which were essential for this project. Finally, to all members of the Melissa White and Molecular Regulation Labs, thanks for sharing your

office, tea room, tissue culture hood, and often reagents with me, and most importantly, thanks for making coming to work fun!

On a personal note, thank you to all my friends who have listened to me rant about my PhD over the years and for making sure I had a life outside of the lab. I would have never made it through without you guys. Thanks to Mojo for cuddles and walks when I needed a break from writing. Big shout out to my family, Paul for downloading TV shows for me to watch when I needed to procrastinate, and Mum for cooking me Sunday dinner. To my Dad, thank you for reading my thesis drafts and listening to me rehearse seminars. Even when you really had no idea what I was talking about, you tried to seem interested. You taught me that science is a huge rollercoaster, where you just have to ride out the lows and enjoy the highs.

# Abbreviations

%:	percentage
°C:	degrees Celsius
adj:	adjusted
AP:	alkaline phosphatase
APC:	antigen presenting cell
BEC:	blood endothelial cell
BMCMC:	bone marrow-derived cultured mast cell
BSA:	bovine serum albumin
CAM:	chorioallantoic membrane
cDNA:	complimentary DNA
cm:	centimeter
CO <sub>2</sub> :	carbon dioxide
CV:	cardinal vein
DA:	dorsal aorta
DAB:	3,3-diaminobenzidine
DAPI:	4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole
DLV:	dermal lymphatic vessel
DMEM:	Dulbecco's Modified Eagles Medium
DNA:	deoxyribonucleic acid
dNTP:	deoxynucleoside triphosphate
DTT:	dithiothreitol
E:	embryonic day
EBM-2:	Endothelial Basal Medium-2
EDTA:	ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
EGM-2:	EBM-2 supplemented with Endothelial Growth Media-2 MV SingleQuotes
FBS:	foetal bovine serum

Fig:	figure
h:	hour
H <sub>2</sub> O:	water
HA:	hyaluronic acid
HBBS:	Hanks balanced salt solution
HCl:	hydrochloric acid
HEPES:	4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid
HHF:	HBBS with 10 mM HEPES and 5% FBS
JLS:	jugular lymph sac
K <sub>3</sub> Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub> :	potassium ferricyanide
K <sub>4</sub> Fe(CN) <sub>6</sub> :	potassium ferrocyanide
kb:	kilobase
kJ/m <sup>2</sup> :	kilojoules per metre squared
LEC:	lymphatic endothelial cell
LLC:	Lewis lung carcinoma
LS:	lymph sac
LVAP:	Lymphatic Vessel Analysis Protocol
M:	molar
MAC:	macrophage
MACS:	magnetic activated cell sorting
mAmp:	milliampere
M-CSF:	macrophage colony-stimulating factor
mg:	milligrams
MgCl <sub>2</sub> :	magnesium chloride
min:	minute
ml:	millilitre
mm:	millimetre
mM:	millimolar
MMP:	matrix metalloproteinase

MQ:	milliQ
mRNA:	messenger RNA
n:	number of replicates
NaCl:	sodium chloride
NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> :	sodium dihydrogen phosphate
ng:	nanogram
NIH:	National Institute of Health
nm:	nanometers
nM:	nanomolar
NT:	neural tube
O <sub>2</sub> :	oxygen
OD:	optical density
PAGE:	polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
PBS:	phosphate buffered saline
PBS-T:	0.1% Triton X-100/PBS
PBS-Tw:	0.1% Tween20/PBS
PCR:	polymerase chain reaction
pen/strep:	penicillin/streptomycin
PFA:	paraformaldehyde
pH:	hydrogen ion concentration
PLB:	protein loading buffer
pmol:	picomol
PVDF:	polyvinylidene difluoride
RNA:	ribonucleic acid
RPMI:	Roswell Park Memorial Institute Media
RT:	room temperature
RT-PCR:	reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction
SDS:	sodium dodecyl sulphate
sec:	second

TAM:	tumour-associated macrophage
TBE:	Tris/boric acid/EDTA buffer
TBS-T:	Tris buffered saline/0.1% Tween 20
TEM:	Tie2-expressing monocyte
Tris:	Tris (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane
UVB:	ultraviolet B
v/v:	volume per volume
V:	volts
w/v:	weight per volume
WEHI:	Walter and Eliza Hall Institute
WT:	wild-type
xg:	x gravity
X-gal:	5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl- $\beta$ -D-galactosidase
$\alpha$ :	alpha
$\beta$ -gal:	$\beta$ -galactosidase
$\lambda$ :	lambda
$\mu$ g:	microgram
$\mu$ l:	microliter
$\mu$ m:	micrometre
$\mu$ M:	micromolar