

# **Tissue Chips for Drug Screening Program**

Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods Public Forum May 18-19, 2023

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# **Re-engineering the Translational Pipeline**

NCATS addresses long-standing bottlenecks in the translational research pipeline so that new treatments reach people faster.



#### **Translational Problems:**

- 90% of clinical drug development fails
- Average time to develop a drug takes 10-15 years
- Average to develop a drug to market, including cost of failures cost is \$2.6 billion
- Insufficient tools and technologies to predict toxicity and efficacy of new drugs

#### **NCATS Solutions:**

- Better predictive tools and human-based model systems
- Models that mimic the structure and function of human tissues
- Models that meet the needs for new therapeutic modalities that are humanspecific and personalized





# **NCATS Tissue Chips for Drug Screening Program**

### • Program Goal:

• Develop an *in vitro 3-D* culture system (**tissue chips/microphysiological systems**) that emulates organ physiology and function **using human cells and tissues** through advances in stem cell biology, microfluidics and bioengineering for risk assessment to accurately evaluate the efficacy, safety and toxicity of promising therapies



#### • Represents 10 Major Organ Systems

- Circulatory
- Endocrine
- Musculoskeletal • Nervous
- Gastrointestinal Reproductive
- Immune
- Respiratory
- Skin
- Urinary



Emulate Single organ chip





#### Hesperos 5-organ chip



https://ncats.nih.gov/tissuechip

#### **Tissue Chips Consortium 1.0 to Predict Drug Safety**

• James A. Thomson; Morgridge Institute for Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Human induced pluripotent stem cell and embryonic stem cell-based models for predictive neural toxicity and teratogenicity

> John P. Wikswo; Vanderbilt University <u>Neurovascular unit on a chip</u>: Chemical communication, drug and toxin responses

• Steven C. George; University of California, Irvine An integrated in vitro model of perfused <u>tumor and cardiac tissue</u>

- D. Lansing Taylor; University of Pittsburgh
- A <u>3-D biomimetic liver sinusoid</u> construct for predicting physiology and toxicity

 James M. Wells; Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Generating human intestinal organoids with an <u>enteric nervous system</u>

• John P. Lynch; University of Pennsylvania Modeling oxidative stress and DNA damage using a gastrointestinal organotypic culture system

George A. Truskey; Duke University
 <u>Circulatory system and integrated muscle tissue</u> for drug and tissue toxicity

• Rocky S. Tuan; University of Pittsburgh

Three-dimensional <u>osteochondral micro-tissue</u> to model pathogenesis of osteoarthritis

Linda Griffith; Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 All-human microphysical model of metastasis and therapy

• Thomas Hartung; Johns Hopkins University

A 3-D model of human brain development for studying gene/environment interactions

 Kevin K. Parker; Harvard University <u>Human cardio-pulmonary system</u> on a chip

• Joan E. Nichols; The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston Three-dimensional <u>human lung model</u> to study lung disease and formation of fibrosis

 Mark Donowitz; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore <u>Human intestinal organoids</u>: Pre-clinical models of non-inflammatory diarrhea

Teresa Woodruff; Northwestern University
 Ex Vivo Female Reproductive Tract Integration in a 3-D Microphysiologic

- Jonathan Himmelfarb; University of Washington, Seattle A tissue-engineered <u>human kidney</u> microphysiological system
- Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic; Columbia University Health Sciences Integrated <u>Heart-Liver-Vascular Systems</u> for Drug Testing in Human Health and Disease

Angela Christiano; Columbia University Health Sciences
Modeling complex disease using induced pluripotent stem cell-derived <u>skin</u>
<u>constructs</u>

Kevin E. Healy; University of California, Berkeley
Disease-specific integrated microphysiological human tissue models

• Michael L. Shuler; Cornell University Microphysiological systems and low cost microfluidic platform with analytics

#### NCATS, NIH Common Fund, NIBIB, NCI, NICHD, NIEHS, ORWH



# Are Tissue Chips Better Predictors of Human Physiological Response

- Liver is responsible for concentrating and metabolizing a majority of medications
- Drug-induced liver injury (DILI) is the most common cause of acute liver failure (15-20 per 100,000)
- Adverse drug reactions are an important cause of liver injury that may require discontinuation of the drug, hospitalization, or even liver transplantation



- A parenchymal channel
- B extracellular matrix
- C human hepatocytes
- D porous PDMS membrane •
- E stellate cells
- F Kupffer cells
- G endothelial cells
  - H vascular channel



### Differences in Steatosis (Fat Deposits) in Rat and Human Liver Chips following Fialuridine (FIAU) Treatment



Follow up blinded study to predict DILI caused by 22 compounds with known hepatotoxic (was advanced to human use based on previous preclinical data but was withdrawn due to toxicities which collectively are responsible for more than 200 patient deaths and 10 liver transplants, and (5) non-hepatotoxic compounds – liver chips showed an 87% sensitivity and 100% specificity in predicting drug toxicity, far outperforming liver spheroids (a common preclinical model) which showed a sensitivity of only 47%. *BioRxiv* 2022, doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.12.14.472674

Nature Commun Med 2022: 2; 154-170.



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or Advancing

## **Tissue Chips 2.0 for Disease Modeling and Efficacy Testing**



#### **Translational Needs:**

- Able to recapitulate in vivo functions and responses in both normal and disease states
- Capture the pathophysiology, mutation spectrum and phenotypic diversity of human diseases
- Stable tissue phenotype over weeks and months
- Reflect the multi-organ pathology and organ crosstalk
- Real-time functional readout and surrogate markers

Ronaldson-Bouchard et al, Cell Stem Cell (2018); Tavakol et al Cell Stem Cell (2021);



#### **Tissue Chips for Disease Modeling and Efficacy Testing**

Li-Huei Tsai, MIT Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias

Kam Leong, Columbia U Proteus Syndrome and DiGeorge Syndrome

Danielle Benoit, Lisa Delouise, Catherine Ovitt, U Rochester **Radiation-induced xerostomia** 

Kevin Kit Parker, William Pu, Harvard U Barth syndrome, catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia, arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy

> Steven George, David Curiel, Stacey Rentschler, UC Davis and WashU **atrial fibrillation**

Joseph Vincent Bonventre, Luke Lee, Brigham and Women's autosomal dominant/recessive models of polycystic kidney disease, Focal segmental glomerulosclerosis

> Christopher Hughes, UC Irvine Hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, Port Wine stain, Sturge-Weber syndrome

> > Hang Lin, U Pittsburgh Osteoarthritis, inflammatory arthritis, adipose-mediated diabetic joint complications

Clive Svendsen, Cedars-Sinai ALS; Parkinson's Disease

Aaron Bowman, Kevin Ess, John Wikswo, Vanderbilt U tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) epilepsy, DEPDC5associated epilepsy, & associated cardiac dysfunction

Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic, Columbia U Dox induced cardiomyopathy; multi-system pathologies involving heart, liver, skin, bone and vasculature

Donald Ingber, Harvard U influenza infection, COPD

Jonathan Himmelfarb, U Washington apolipoprotein L1 mediated kidney disease, drug induced and host-pathogen interaction induced renal thrombotic microangiopathies

Julie Kim, Northwestern U Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome

George Truskey, Duke U rheumatoid arthritis, atherosclerosis

#### **Type-2 Diabetes Mellitus**

- Andreas Stahl, Kevin Healy, Matthias Hebrok, Edward Hsiao, Holger Willenbring, UC Berkeley - <u>Pancreatic islet, liver, adipose</u>
- Lansing Taylor, U Pittsburgh Vascularized liver and pancreatic islets
- James Wells, Moo-Yeal Lee, Cincinnati Children's Hospital <u>Liver</u>, <u>pancreatic islet and intestine</u>

Modeling common and rare diseases; Mendelian and complex, multifactorial diseases



## Efficacy: Tissue Chips Model of Rare Autoimmune Demyelinating Neuropathies

- Chronic autoimmune demyelinating neuropathies are a group of rare neuromuscular disorders including chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP) and multifocal motor neuropathy (MMN)
- Tissue chip model consisting of co-culture of human primary Schwann cells (SC) and induced pluripotent stem cell-derived motoneurons (MNs)
- CIDP and MMN patient sera contains anti-GM1 IgM and IgG antibodies which is sufficient to activate the classical complement pathway in SC-MN tissue chips, resulting in detection of C3b and C5b-9
- Efficacy of **TNT005**, a monoclonal antibody that **inhibits C1s protease** rescued the serum-induced complement deposition and functional deficits while treatment with an isotype control antibody has no rescue effect
- Efficacy data included in an investigational new drug application

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Advanced Therapeutics, Volume: 5, Issue: 6, First published: 05 April 2022, DOI: (10.1002/adtp.202200030)

# **Responding to National Health Emergencies**

### • Opioid crisis

- HEAL awards issued in 2019 for program 'Tissue Chips to Model Nociception, Addiction and Overdose'
  - Sensory/pain circuitry; reward pathways
  - Blood-brain barrier (BBB) and respiratory control for overdose studies
  - Develop novel drug screening platforms for pain, opioid use disorder (OUD) and/or overdose
- COVID-19 pandemic
  - Through CARES Act Congressional supplemental funding, Emergency Awards issued in 2020 for administrative supplements and competitive revisions to:
    - Develop tissue chip models for COVID-19
    - Understand multiple tissue/organ pathologies
    - Model infection
    - Test candidate drugs and vaccines
    - Understand immune responses
    - Model complications from vulnerable and at-risk patient groups









JOHNS HOPKINS

THE OHIO STATE

UNIVERSITY

TA7

UNIVERSITY of

WASHINGTON

BIOSERVE

PI: Deok-Ho Kim

### Tissue Chips in Space-A Partnership Involving NCATS, NASA, CASIS and ISS-NL

Goal: Model age-related diseases under microgravity and to translate that understanding to improve human health on Earth

Cardiac dysfunction & engineered heart tissues











National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

Aim: study human biology and disease that otherwise would be difficult or take longer on Earth

Stanford

University

BIOSERVE

PI: Joseph Wu

UCSB

### LONGEVITY EXTENSION OF 3D TISSUES AND MICROPHYSIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS FOR MODELING OF ACUTE AND CHRONIC EXPOSURES TO STRESSORS

- Partnerships between NASA, NIH, BARDA and FDA
- GOALS:
  - To extend the tissue viability and physiological function of tissue chips or microphysiological systems to a minimum of 6 months
  - To incorporate automated engineering capabilities for real-time online readouts in these complex human in vitro model systems
  - To understand the influence of multiple types of **long-lasting or chronic stressors** on tissue or organ systems and facilitate the translation of results to humans
  - To better understand 1) disease pathomechanisms, 2) drug development, 3) clinical trial design, 4) chemical and environmental exposures and countermeasures, and 5) physiological changes due to the prolonged spaceflight environment

https://science.nasa.gov/science-news/biological-physical/miniature-avatars-take-on-nasas-biggest-challenge





### "Clinical Trials" on a Chip to Inform Clinical Trial Design and Implementation in



Exp Biol Med. 2020, 245:1155-1162

Source: cbinsights.com

#### Goal $\rightarrow$ Inform clinical trial design and execution

- 1. Establish recruitment criteria
  - 2. Patient stratification
- 3. **Develop clinically relevant biomarkers**

Phase 2: Test potential drugs fc efficacy and safet assessments in clinical trials





### **<u>'Clinical Trials' on-a-Chip Projects</u>**





## Building Confidence Towards Technology Adoption: Tissue Chip Validation Framework

agencies

### 3) Industrial (2019...)

- Use by industry and regulatory agencies
- Proprietary set of compounds
- CRO-type environment

### 2) Analytical (2017...)

- Independent: testing for **robustness**, **reproducibility**, **reliability**, **relevance**
- Validation set of compounds, biomarkers, assays
- TC Testing Centers

### 1) Physiological (2012...)

- Organ function and structure
- Training set of reference compounds
- TC developers







- Javelin Biotech (spin off from MIT)
  - CRO business model
- Texas A&M Tissue Chip Testing Consortium
  - Play for pay model with academia, government and industry
- BioSystics Analytic Platform
  - University of Pittsburgh
  - Tissue Chip Testing Centers:
    - Massachusetts Institute of Technology
    - Texas A&M University
  - MPS Database: <u>https://mps.csb.pitt.edu/</u>
    - University of Pittsburgh

Publications: (as of Oct 2017) A total of 506 original and review articles (cited over 5600 times) published in top tier journals, including *Nature Medicine, Nature Communications, Nature Materials, PNAS, Science, Science Translational Medicine, etc.* 





# The MPS-Db is designed to aggregate, analyze and model MPS experimental data relative to human and animal exposure data



#### Information

- · Experimental model reproducibility
- Compound safety and efficacy
- Mechanism(s) of disease progression
- Mechanism(s) of compound action(s)
- Computational models of ADME/Tox & disease



#### Actionable Knowledge

- Optimized experimental model design
- Improved ADME/Tox predictions
- Predicted drug/therapeutic candidates
- 'Preclinical' trial outcomes
- Design of clinical trials
- · Create patient digital twins



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Federated database supported by NCATS <u>mps.csb.pitt.edu/</u> www.biosystics.com/

### Commercial Activities around Tissue/Organ-on-chip Technologies



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### Commercial Activities around Tissue/Organ-on-chip Technologies





NORTIS

Parenchymal tis

Aspect

esphero

3D Biomatrix

 $H\mu$ REL CORPORATION

- NIH supports a number of spinoff and startup organoid and tissue chip companies
- At least 30 companies providing CRO-like services and/or selling a variety of tissue chip platforms and consumables
- Hepregen Global Organ On Chip market is projected to reach \$601.6 million by 2028 from an estimated \$80 million in 2022, at a CAGR of 39.9% organovo during 2023 and 2028

Jens IVI. Keim

**Greg Baxter** 

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**OrganoPlates®** SynTumor SynBBB

SynTox Vascularized micro-organ (VMO) platform

SynRAM

**3D cell culture chips** 

Cardiac Biowire™ II AngioChip

μOrgano

**Engineered Heart Tissue (EHT)** 

**3D Cardiac Systems** 

Nerve-on-a-Chip™

Standard / **Triple Chamber Neuron Device** 

Neuro Device

**Neuronal Diode** 

### **Tissue Chip Applications and Impact in Pharmaceutical Drug Development**



Adapted from Nature Reviews Drug Discovery, Low et al. 2020





# **Engaging Next Generation Scientists and Engineers**

- ✓ Global harmonization of regulatory use and standardization of platforms MPS World Summit
- ✓ Train next generation of MPS scientists International MPS Society



# **MPS WORLD SUMMIT** CONNECT, EXCHANGE, EDUCATE

2022 New Orleans, LA, USA 2023 Berlin, Germany (June 26-30) 2024 Seattle, WA USA 2025 ?

#### Inaugural Attendees 665 Total – 107 Trainees



Europe & Africa Americas Austrolasia

#### https://mpsworldsummit.com/

- 22 domestic travel awards for students and postdocs
- 13 International travel awards for students and postdocs
- 8 Best Poster and 7 Oral Awards



INTERNATIONAL MPS SOCIETY CONNECT, EXCHANGE, EDUCATE

https://impss.org/





### Summary of Tissue Chips Program



- Demonstration and validation for tox & safety studies
- Establishment of Testing Centers and Database Center
- ✓ Demonstration and validation for rare and common disease modeling and efficacy studies
- ✓ Clinical Trials on Chips
- Adoption and use by pharma in drug development
- Global harmonization for regulatory use and standardization of platforms – MPS World Summit
- ✓ Train next generation of MPS scientists – International MPS Society
- Regulatory qualification as drug development tools – Translational Centers for MPS





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#### Tissue Chips Consortium Program Lead: Danilo A. Tagle

Program Officers: Passley Hargrove-Grimes Dmitriy Kripkey Program Analyst: Kris Sunderic



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#### Trans-NIH MPS Working Group:

55 Program Officers from NCATS, NCI, NHLBI, NIA, NIAID, NIAMS, NIBIB, NICHD, NIDA, NIDCR, NIDCD, NIDDK, NEI, NIEHS, NIMH, NINDS, ORWH/OD



- FDA
- International Space Station National Lab
- Center for Advancement of Science in Space
- NASA
- IQ Consortium MPS Affiliate
- BARDA, VA