



CYCLE DE CONFÉRENCES DE CHIMIE

*Avec le concours de : Université Clermont Auvergne
INP Clermont Auvergne*

Mardi 2 novembre à 16 h

Amphi 9110 – Pôle Physique

Burkhard BECHINGER

Institut de Chimie de Strasbourg UMR 7177, Université de Strasbourg

Biophysical investigations of membrane-associated antimicrobial peptides and peptide mimetics

Biophysical and structural studies of peptide-lipid interactions, peptide topology and dynamics have changed our view how antimicrobial peptides insert and interact with membranes. In particular, chemical preparation methods, solid-state NMR and fluorescence spectroscopy techniques in combination with biological assays have allowed to reveal many mechanistic details.

Clearly, both the peptides and the lipids are highly dynamic, change and mutually adapt their conformation, membrane penetration and detailed morphology on a local and a global level. As a consequence, the peptides and lipids can form a wide variety of supramolecular assemblies in which the more hydrophobic sequences preferentially, but not exclusively, adopt transmembrane alignments and have the potential to form oligomeric structures similar to those suggested by the transmembrane helical bundle model. In contrast, charged amphipathic sequences tend to stay intercalated at the membrane interface, where they have been found to adopt mesophase structures in a lipid dependent manner. Although the membranes are soft and can adapt, at increasing peptide density they cause pronounced disruptions of the phospholipid fatty acyl packing (SMART model). At increasing local or global concentrations the peptides result in transient membrane openings, rupture and ultimately lysis.

Interestingly mixtures of peptides such as magainin 2 and PGLa which are stored and secreted naturally as a cocktail exhibit considerably enhanced antimicrobial activities when investigated together in antimicrobial essays but also in pore forming experiments applied to biophysical model systems. Our most recent investigations reveal that these peptides do not form stable complexes but act by specific lipid-mediated interactions and through the nanoscale properties of phospholipid bilayers.

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Coordinateur : Alain DEQUIDT ☎ 33 473 407 194 courriel : alain.dequidt@uca.fr

Institut de Chimie de Clermont-Ferrand (ICCF-UMR 6296)

Université Clermont Auvergne, 24, avenue Blaise Pascal, TSA 80026 63178 AUBIERE cedex-France