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ИНСТИТУТ ЦИТОЛОГИИ РОССИЙСКОЙ АКАДЕМИИ НАУК

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**ПОРТФОЛИО АСПИРАНТА**

**СВЕРЧИНСКОГО Дмитрия Вадимовича**

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## 1. Общие сведения

**Лаборатория:** Лаборатория защитных механизмов клетки (ЛЗМК)

**Тема диссертационной работы:** Низкомолекулярные модуляторы шаперонной активности белка Hsp70 в применении к терапии социально значимых заболеваний

**Научный руководитель:** Маргулис Борис Александрович, д.б.н.

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## 2. Научные публикации

### Статьи:

1. Lazarev, V. F., **Sverchinsky, D. V.**, Ippolitova, M. V., Stepanova, A. V., Guzhova, I. V., & Margulis, B. A. (2013). Factors Affecting Aggregate Formation in Cell Models of Huntington's Disease and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. *Acta naturae*, 5(2), 81-9.
2. Gurskiy, Y. G., Garbuz, D. G., Soshnikova, N. V., Krasnov, A. N., Deikin, A., Lazarev, V. F., **Sverchinsky, D.**, Margulis, B. A., Zatsepina, O. G., Karpov, V. L., Belzhelarskaya, S. N., Feoktistova, E., Georgieva, S. G., ... Evgen'ev, M. B. (2016). The development of modified human Hsp70 (HSPA1A) and its production in the milk of transgenic mice. *Cell stress & chaperones*, 21(6), 1055-1064.
3. **Sverchinsky, D. V.**, Lazarev, V. F., Semenyuk, P. I., Mitkevich, V. A., Guzhova, I. V. and Margulis, B. A. (2017), Peptide fragments of Hsp70 modulate its chaperone activity and sensitize tumor cells to anticancer drugs. *FEBS Letters*, 591: 4074-4082. DOI:10.1002/1873-3468.12913
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6. David G Garbuz, **Dmitry Sverchinsky**, Artem Davletshin, Boris A Margulis, Vladimir Mitkevich, Aleksei M Kulikov, Michael B Evgen'ev (2019). The molecular chaperone Hsp70 from the thermotolerant Diptera species differs from the Drosophila paralog in its thermostability and higher refolding capacity at extreme temperatures. *Cell Stress and Chaperones*, 24(6). DOI: 10.1007/s12192-011-0257-7

Тезисы:

1. Химический препарат МК30 подавляет активность белка Hsp70 в клеточных моделях онкологических заболеваний. С. А. Нисканен, В. Ф. Лазарев, **Д. В. Сверчинский**, Е. С. Чухно, И. В. Гужова, Б. А. Маргулис. Сборник тезисов V молодежной конференции по молекулярной и клеточной биологии Института цитологии РАН. СПб, 2016.- 76 с
2. Пептидный фрагмент белка теплового шока Hsp70 ингибирует его шаперонную активность и увеличивает противоопухолевую активность доксорубина. **Д.В. Сверчинский**, В.Ф. Лазарев, А.Д. Никотина, И.В. Гужова, Б.Н. Маргулис. Успехи молекулярной онкологии, 2016 том 4, с 80-81.
3. Малые молекулы, подавляющие функцию шаперона hsp70, как средства противоопухолевой терапии. В.Ф. Лазарев, **Д.В. Сверчинский**, С.А. Нисканен, Е.Р. Михайлова, И.В. Гужова, Б.А. Маргулис. Acta Naturae спецвыпуск 2016 том 2, стр. 74
4. Hsp70 chaperone inhibitors: tools for search and anti-cancer activity. V. Lazarev, **D. Sverchinsky**, S. Niskanen, R. Suezov. I. Guzhova, B. Margulis. Stress management mechanisms and pathways, 2018.
5. Peptide parts of Hsp70 inhibit its own chaperonic activity: possible application in anti-cancer therapy. **D. Sverchinsky**, V. Lazarev, I. Guzhova, B. Margulis. Stress management mechanisms and pathways, 2018.
6. Белки пептиды и модуляторы активности шаперона hsp70 и их противоопухолевый потенциал. **Д.В. Сверчинский**, В.Ф. Лазарев, И.В. Гужова, Б.А. Маргулис. Acta Naturae спецвыпуск 2017, стр. 153.
7. Ингибиторы молекулярных шаперонов: инструменты для поиска и противоопухолевая активность. В.Ф. Лазарев, **Д.В. Сверчинский**, С.А. Нисканен, И.В. Гужова, Б.А. Маргулис. Acta Naturae спецвыпуск 2017, стр. 38.
8. Пептидные фрагменты Hsp70, как потенциальное средство в комбинированной противоопухолевой терапии. **Сверчинский Д.В.**, Лазарев В.Ф., Гужова И.В., Маргулис Б.А. Сборник тезисов международной конференции студентов, аспирантов и молодых ученых «Ломоносов-2018».
9. «Peptide parts of Hsp70 chaperone as potential agents of anticancer combination therapy». 43rd FEBS Congress, Biochemistry Forever (July 7-12, 2018 Prague, Czech Republic)

### **3. Участие в научных конференциях, симпозиумах, семинарах, выставках**

1. 2 Всероссийская конференция по молекулярной онкологии. 6-8 декабря 2016, Москва, Россия – стендовый доклад
2. 8th International Congress on Stress Responses in Biology and Medicine. 13-17 August 2017, Turku, Finland – стендовый доклад
3. VIII Российский симпозиум «Белки и пептиды». 22-24 сентября 2017, Москва, Россия – устный доклад.
4. Международная конференция студентов, аспирантов и молодых ученых «Ломоносов-2018». 9-13 апреля 2018, Москва, Россия – устный доклад.
5. 4 Всероссийская конференция по молекулярной онкологии. 17-19 декабря 2018, Москва, Россия – стендовый доклад

### **4. Участие в грантах**

РНФ №14-50- 00068, направление «Трансформированные и раковые стволовые клетки как мишени для противоопухолевых средств» - основной исполнитель (2016-2018)

РНФ №18-74-10087 «Поиск и верификация новых мишеней для комбинированной терапии вторичных повреждений после черепно-мозговой травмы» - исполнитель (с 2018)

### **5. Научно-педагогическая деятельность**

#### Научное руководство бакалаврами, магистрами, специалистами

Руководство выполнения выпускной квалификационной работы бакалавра ЛГУ Тананыкиной Е. К. (защита ВКР состоялась в 2019 году)

Руководство выполнения выпускной квалификационной работы бакалавра СПбГУ Копоновой А.Н. (Предполагаемый год защиты ВКР – 2021)

#### Чтение лекций, проведение семинарских и практических занятий

Отсутствует.

## 6. Дополнительная информация

### 7. Сведения об освоении основной образовательной программы подготовки научно-педагогических кадров в аспирантуре

#### Сдача кандидатских экзаменов:

1. Иностранный язык – «отлично»
2. История и философия науки – «отлично»
3. Клеточная биология, гистология, цитология – «отлично»

## RESEARCH ARTICLES

# Factors Affecting Aggregate Formation in Cell Models of Huntington's Disease and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

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**ABSTRACT** Most neurodegenerative pathologies stem from the formation of aggregates of mutant proteins, causing dysfunction and ultimately neuronal death. This study was aimed at elucidating the role of the protein factors that promote aggregate formation or prevent the process, respectively, glyceraldehyde-3-dehydrogenase (GAPDH) and tissue transglutaminase (tTG) and Hsp70 molecular chaperone. The siRNA technology was used to show that the inhibition of GAPDH expression leads to a 45–50% reduction in the aggregation of mutant huntingtin, with a repeat of 103 glutamine residues in a model of Huntington's disease (HD). Similarly, the blockage of GAPDH synthesis was found for the first time to reduce the degree of aggregation of mutant superoxide dismutase 1 (G93A) in a model of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The treatment of cells that imitate HD and ALS with a pharmacological GAPDH inhibitor, hydroxynonenal, was also shown to reduce the amount of the aggregating material in both disease models. Tissue transglutaminase is another factor that promotes the aggregation of mutant proteins; the inhibition of its activity with cystamine was found to prevent aggregate formation of mutant huntingtin and SOD1. In order to explore the protective function of Hsp70 in the control of the aggregation of mutant huntingtin, a cell model with inducible expression of the chaperone was used. The amount and size of polyglutamine aggregates were reduced by increasing the intracellular content of Hsp70. Thus, pharmacological regulation of the function of three proteins, GAPDH, tTG, and Hsp70, can affect the pathogenesis of two significant neurodegenerative diseases.

**KEYWORDS** neurodegenerative pathologies; glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase; chaperones; mutant proteins; aggregation.

**ABBREVIATIONS:** EGFP – enhanced green fluorescence protein; ALS – amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; HSP – heat shock protein; HD – Huntington's disease; GAPDH – glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase; HNE – hydroxynonenal; SDS – sodium dodecyl sulfate; PAAG – polyacrylamide gel; SOD – superoxide dismutase; tTG – tissue transglutaminase; PBS – phosphate buffer saline.

## INTRODUCTION

Progressive neuronal death in certain parts of the brain is the culprit in most neurodegenerative disorders. The development of these pathologies starts from intra- (Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases) or extracellular accumulation (Alzheimer's disease) of the aggregates of mutant proteins or their oligomers [1]. These structures are toxic for brain cells; they cause immediate neuronal death, although there is some evidence that they can exist in neurons for dozens of years and turn into an active toxic factor only at some moment in time [2].

There are two hypotheses for the aggregate formation of mutant proteins. According to one, the ag-

gregates can form due to the formation of hydrogen bonds between the  $\beta$ -sheets of a damaged or a mutant protein molecule [3]. These structures are inaccessible to strong dissociating solvents, in particular to sodium dodecylsulfate (SDS). The high density of the aggregating material presumably prevents the cell from using proteolytic systems, proteasomes, and phagosomes to fight the aggregates [4]. According to the second hypothesis, amyloid aggregates can form due to covalent cross-links between mutant protein molecules and other cell proteins. The formation of such cross-links is typical of the so-called polyglutamine pathologies, which are based on mu-

## The development of modified human Hsp70 (HSPA1A) and its production in the milk of transgenic mice

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**Abstract** The production of major human heat shock protein Hsp70 (HSPA1A) in a eukaryotic expression system is needed for testing and possible medical applications. In this study, transgenic mice were produced containing wild-type human Hsp70 allele in the vector providing expression in the milk. The results indicated that human Hsp70 was readily expressed in the transgenic animals but did not apparently preserve its intact structure and, hence, it was not possible to purify the protein using conventional isolation techniques. It was suggested that the protein underwent glycosylation in the process of expression, and this quite common modification for proteins expressed in the milk complicated its isolation. To check this possibility, we mutated all presumptive sites of glycosylation and tested the properties of the resulting modified Hsp70 expressed in *E. coli*. The investigation demonstrated that the

modified protein exhibited all beneficial properties of the wild-type Hsp70 and was even superior to the latter for a few parameters. Based on these results, a transgenic mouse strain was obtained which expressed the modified Hsp70 in milk and which was easy to isolate using ATP columns. Therefore, the developed construct can be explored in various bioreactors for reliable manufacture of high quality, uniform, and reproducible human Hsp70 for possible medical applications including neurodegenerative diseases and cancer.

**Keywords** Heat shock protein 70 · Transgenic mice · Glycosylation · Site-directed mutagenesis · *Escherichia coli*

### Introduction

Heat shock protein 70 (Hsp70) proteins and their co-chaperones have been studied in various prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms chiefly because of their participation in protein folding under normal and stress conditions and because of their apparent role in aging and various pathologies, such as neurodegeneration and cancer (Fleisner and Johnson 2005; Calderwood et al. 2007; Kim et al. 2013; Evgen'ev et al. 2014).

Hsp70, in humans encoded by the HSPA1A gene, is a key component of the machinery protecting the cell from various stress conditions (Nollen et al. 2000; Calderwood et al. 2007; Hart et al. 2011; Radons 2016). Briefly, Hsp70 binds partially unfolded or misfolded proteins and either assists in their refolding or directs them to a safe disposal (Mayer 2010; Dunon et al. 2015). Hsp70 may also have additional functions, including acting as cytokine-like molecules (Asea et al. 2000; Asea 2008a; Calderwood et al. 2007; Multhoff and Hightower 2011; Ghosh et al. 2015; Radons 2016). Thus, in

David G. Garbuz and Nataliya V. Soshnikova contributed equally to this work.

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# Peptide fragments of Hsp70 modulate its chaperone activity and sensitize tumor cells to anti-cancer drugs

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Most Hsp70 chaperone inhibitors exert anti-cancer effects; however, their high cytotoxicity proposed the use of peptide fragments of the chaperone as safer modulators of its activity and as complements to customary drugs. One such peptide, ICit-2, was found to inhibit substrate-binding and refolding activities of the chaperone. Using various approaches, we established that ICit-2 binds Hsp70, which may explain its inhibitory action. ICit-2 penetrates A-431 cancer cells and, in combination with doxorubicin (Dox), enhances the cytotoxicity and growth inhibitory effect of the drug. Similarly, using the B16 mouse melanoma model, we found that ICit-2 inhibits the rate of tumor growth by 48% compared to Dox alone, confirming that the peptide can be employed to sensitize resistant tumors to cytostatic medicines.

**Keywords:** anti-cancer; chaperone; Hsp70; molecular docking; peptidomimetic; substrate-binding

The molecular chaperone Hsp70 plays a significant role in the protection of tumor cells from a great number of anti-cancer drugs, particularly those inducing apoptosis [1]. Cancer cells typically contain an increased level of Hsp70 and so its expression or its function should be targeted to overcome chaperone-based protection. To date, only a few Hsp70 chaperone inhibitors have been tested in various cell and animal tumor models [2].

One of the small molecule inhibitors of Hsp70, VER-155008, an adenosine derivative with a high affinity to the nucleotide-binding domain (NBD) of the protein, was found to inhibit growth and stimulate apoptosis of cells from several tumor lines [3]. Another Hsp70 inhibitor, 2-phenylethanesulfonamide (known as pifithrin-1 or PES), also recognizes NBD, causing conformational alterations and the disruption of its

interaction with co-chaperones [4]. Similarly, JG-98, a novel compound that dissociates the link between Hsp70 and Bag-3, suppresses pro-survival signaling and reduces the proliferation rate in a variety of cancer cells [5]. The MKT-077 molecule was also shown to bind to Hsp70 and thus inhibit the chaperone activity that leads to tumor cell senescence [6,7].

Most of Hsp70 inhibitors display anti-cancer activity in cellular and animal tumor models; however, their clinical application is hampered by their high cytotoxicity [8]. Searching for safer Hsp70 inhibitors, we focused on peptides and identified a study in which A17 peptide aptamer over-expressed in tumor cells inhibited Hsp70 chaperone activity and, in combination with cisplatin or etoposide, demonstrated a pronounced anti-tumor effect [9]. Moreover, the expression of A17 in combination with Hsp90

## Abbreviations

DARTS, drug affinity responsive target stability; Dox, doxorubicin; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase; MST, microscale thermophoresis; NBD, nucleotide-binding domain; PES, phenylethanesulfonamide; SBD, substrate-binding domain.



# Sensitizing tumor cells to conventional drugs: HSP70 chaperone inhibitors, their selection and application in cancer models

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## Abstract

Hsp70 chaperone controls proteostasis and anti-stress responses in rapidly renewing cancer cells, making it an important target for therapeutic compounds. To date several Hsp70 inhibitors are presented with remarkable anticancer activity, however their clinical application is limited by the high toxicity towards normal cells. This study aimed to develop assays to search for the substances that reduce the chaperone activity of Hsp70 and diminish its protective function in cancer cells. On our mind the resulting compounds alone should be safe and function in combination with drugs widely employed in oncology. We constructed systems for the analysis of substrate-binding and refolding activity of Hsp70 and to validate the assays screened the substances representing most diverse groups of chemicals of InterBioScreen library. One of the inhibitors was AEAC, an N-amino-ethylamino derivative of colchicine, which toxicity was two-orders lower than that of parent compound. In contrast to colchicine, AEAC inhibited substrate-binding and refolding functions of Hsp70 chaperones. The results of a drug affinity responsive target stability assay, microscale thermophoresis and molecular docking show that AEAC binds Hsp70 with nanomolar affinity. AEAC was found to penetrate C6 rat glioblastoma and B16 mouse melanoma cells and reduce there the function of the Hsp70-mediated refolding system. Although the cytotoxic and growth inhibitory activities of AEAC were minimal, the compound was shown to increase the antitumor efficiency of doxorubicin in tumor cells of both types. When the tumors were grown in animals, AEAC administration in combination with doxorubicin exerted maximal therapeutic effect prolonging animal survival by 10–15 days and reducing tumor growth rate by 60%. To our knowledge,

## Introduction

Most of human tumors are known to contain high quantities of Hsp70 chaperone, suggesting that the protein is vital for the proper function of cancer cells<sup>1</sup>. Because of the cytoprotective power Hsp70 reduces the

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sensitivity of tumors to anti-cancer drugs (such as doxorubicin, etoposide, cisplatin, and others collectively known to induce apoptosis)<sup>2</sup>, an effective therapy should be at least partially based on targeting chaperone activity

in cancer cells. Inhibiting such activity would result in an improved response to chemotherapy with less severe side effects.

Some of anti-chaperone substances can inhibit the efficacy of the heat-shock response by reducing the heat shock factor 1-mediated transcription of heat shock protein genes, similar to the mechanisms of compounds such

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*Приложение 2*

**Участие в научных конференциях, семинарах и т.п.**

*Размещаются соответствующие копии документов*

**Дополнительная информация**  
*Размещаются соответствующие копии документов*