

Discussions for a

National Molecular Microscopy Laboratory

Sriram Subramaniam, Ph.D.

Laboratory of Cell Biology Center for Cancer Research National Cancer Institute

September 2014





Outline of presentation

1





Imaging gaps in biology and medicine



Subramaniam, Curr. Opin. Microbiol. (2005)







2005-2014: A 10-year plan in molecular microscopy









Focused ion beam Scanning Electron Microscopy for rapid 3D imaging of cells and tissue









Imaging receptor arrays and signaling complexes in intact cells









Cryo-electron tomography of HIV









From spikes to structure









Structure determination without crystallography: A biochemist's dream



Purified protein complex



Vision for a structure determination machine

S. Subramaniam, U.S. Patent No. 6,987,266 B2 (issued Jan 2006)





Recent progress in cryo-EM field



The emergence of atomic resolution cryo-EM

Henderson, Quart. Rev. Biophys. (1995)

The potential and limitations of neutrons, electrons and X-rays for atomic resolution microscopy of unstained biological molecules

RICHARD HENDERSON MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 2QH, UK

I. SUMMARY 171

- 2. INTRODUCTION 172
- 3. PHASE CONTRAST VERSUS OTHER MODES OF MICROSCOPY 173
- 4. RELATIVE INFORMATION CONTENT OF PHASE CONTRAST COMPARED WITH HOLOGRAPHY AND DIFFRACTION 174
- 5. NEUTRONS 175
- 6. THE FEASIBILITY OF NEUTRON MICROSCOPY 176
- 7. ELECTRONS VERSUS X-RAYS 176
- 8. ELECTRON MICROSCOPY 180
- 9. WAVELENGTH AND ENERGY DEPENDENCE FOR ELECTRONS AND X-RAYS 183
- 10. CONCLUSION 185
- 11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 186
- 12. REFERENCES 187
- 13. APPENDIX: FORMULAE FOR TABLE 2 189

2014: Structure of a dynamic metabolic enzyme implicated in cancer (3.0 Å)



1990: First atomic resolution model from electron crystallography of 2D protein crystals (3.5 Å)

1995: Articulation of prospects of obtaining atomic resolution protein structures without crystals

2008: First near-atomic resolution icosahedral viral structures (3.9 Å)

2013: First near-atomic resolution membrane protein structure (3.4 Å)







Glutamate receptor gating cycle





Meyerson et al Nature (2014)







Glutamate receptor gating cycle



Precise knowledge of protein movements will enable design of drugs that trap distinct functional states





Comparison between cryo-EM and X-ray maps of β -galactosidase





Cryo-EM structure of β -galactosidase at 3.2 Å resolution





Fitted with X-ray coordinates

Fitted with cryo-EM coordinates

Cryo-EM can provide atomic resolution structures of fulllength proteins under native conditions









Antibody neutralization









Antibody neutralization



3D structure of trimeric Env









Antibody neutralization



3D structure of trimeric Env



Cell-cell transmission









Antibody neutralization



3D structure of trimeric Env



Cell-cell transmission

A complete understanding of the problem requires integration of information across cellular and molecular scales



Pathway to the nucleus





Focused ion beam Scanning Electron Microscopy for rapid 3D imaging of cells and tissue



Iteration of slicing and imaging







Focused ion beam Scanning Electron Microscopy for rapid 3D imaging of cells and tissue



Iteration of slicing and imaging









Focused ion beam Scanning Electron Microscopy for rapid 3D imaging of cells and tissue



Iteration of slicing and imaging



Heymann et al (2006)







A journey into T-cell synapses









A journey into T-cell synapses









Intimate contact at the cell-cell interface









Synapses between primary T-cells



Do et al (2014)







HIV transfer to fetal astrocytes







fetal astrocyte

HIV-infected T-cell



Correlative live confocal and ion-abrasion SEM imaging: A cell biologist's dream



3D image of entire T-cell







Correlative live confocal and ion-abrasion SEM imaging: A cell biologist's dream



Narayan et al J. Struct. Biol. (2014)







The dynamic HIV spike









Molecular architecture of trimeric HIV envelope glycoproteins



Subtomogram averages at ~ 20 Å resolution







Catching HIV in the act with electron tomography



closed

open

Liu et al, *Nature* (2008) White et al *PLoS Path*. (2010) Tran et al *PLos Path*. (2012) Meyerson et al *PNAS* (2013)





Structures of soluble HIV-1 Env immunogens at

~ 6Å - 9Å resolution







Why FNL?

- c-CRADA mechanism for facile collaborations with industrial and academic collaborators
- Strong infrastructure can be established at FNL for collaborations requiring support for pre-microscopy (biochemistry) and post-microscopy (computing) applications
- CCR/NCI cryo-EM program already has footprint at ATRF
- Proximity to many leading institutions along East Coast with strong structural biology programs



NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

Scope

- Similarities and differences with DOE national laboratories that support high resolution electron microscopy
- National laboratory versus local academic user facilities
- Private sector and NIH-wide participation
- Synergy between components that provide user access to existing technologies versus those that develop breakthrough technologies
- Budget considerations





Leadership

- Set clear long-term vision for laboratory
- Important to maintain both technology development and routine user access components of laboratory
- Nucleation of highly motivated multi-disciplinary teams that can identify and tackle difficult challenges
- Effective strategies to stay at forefront of new developments in structural and cell biology
- Opportunity to establish internationally unique center



Training

- Mechanisms to host long-term and short-term visits from extramural researchers
- Core team of specialists to provide support in all aspects of structural investigation from biochemistry to computation
- Resident scholar program
- Strong training partnerships with neighboring institutions
- Peer review and competitive award by extramural study section panel

