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## Proteomic analysis of physiological versus pathological cardiac remodeling in animal models expressing mutations in myosin essential light chains

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### Abstract

In this study we aimed to provide an in-depth proteomic analysis of differentially expressed proteins in the hearts of transgenic mouse models of pathological and physiological cardiac hypertrophy using tandem mass tag labeling and liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry. The 43 mouse model, expressing the 43-amino-acid N-terminally truncated myosin essential light chain (ELC) served as a tool to study the mechanisms of physiological cardiac remodeling, while the pathological hypertrophy was investigated in A57G (Alanine 57 → Glycine) ELC mice. The results showed that 30 proteins were differentially expressed in 43 versus A57G hearts as determined by multiple pair comparisons of the mutant versus wild-type (WT) samples with  $P < 0.05$ . The A57G hearts showed differential expression of nine mitochondrial proteins involved in metabolic processes compared to four proteins for 43 hearts when both mutants were compared to WT hearts. Comparisons between 43 and A57G hearts showed an upregulation of three metabolically important mitochondrial proteins but downregulation of nine proteins in 43 hearts. The physiological model of cardiac hypertrophy (43) showed no changes in the levels of  $Ca^{2+}$ -binding proteins relative to WT, while the pathologic model (A57G) showed the upregulation of three  $Ca^{2+}$ -binding proteins, including sarcalumenin. Unique differences in chaperone and fatty acid metabolism proteins were also observed in 43 versus A57G hearts. The proteomics data support the results from functional studies performed previously on both animal models of cardiac hypertrophy and suggest that the A57G- and not 43- mediated alterations in fatty acid metabolism and  $Ca^{2+}$  homeostasis may contribute to pathological cardiac remodeling in A57G hearts.

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## Keywords

Myosin ELC; Transgenic mice; Molecular proteomics; Pathological hypertrophy

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## Introduction

The heart, in response to various types of stimuli such as mechanical, hemodynamic or genetic, has the ability to adapt to increased workloads through the hypertrophy of muscle cells (Hunter and Chien 1999; Lorell and Carabello 2000). The nature of the workload increase may vary depending on the stimulus. If the heart fully adapts to the new loading condition, reaching new equilibrium, the hypertrophic response is considered physiological. This type of hypertrophy is characterized by a normal organization of cardiac structure, normal or enhanced cardiac function, relatively normal patterns of gene expression, and is also reversible (Bernardo et al. 2010). On the other hand, genetic hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), which originates from mutations in all major sarcomeric proteins of the heart, can be manifested by pathological cardiac remodeling, left ventricular (LV) enlargement, fibrosis, filament disarray and sudden cardiac death (SCD) (Maron 2002; Moolman et al. 1997; Spirito et al. 2000).

Cardiac muscle contraction consists of the ATP-dependent cyclic attachments and detachments of the myosin cross-bridges to the actin-tropomyosin-troponin filaments (Geeves and Holmes 2005). The myosin cross-bridge is the molecular motor of the heart; it binds ATP and actin and its lever arm region, supported by the regulatory (RLC) and essential light chains (ELC), amplifies small conformational changes generated in the motor domain into large movements needed to produce force and sarcomere shortening (Rayment et al. 1993). Myosin ELC constitutes an essential part of the lever arm structure and plays a role in force development and muscle contraction (Kazmierczak et al. 2009; Miller et al. 2005; Timson 2003; VanBuren et al. 1994). Similar to other sarcomeric proteins, mutations in the ventricular ELC (encoded by *MYL3*) are implicated in cardiomyopathies. Compared to  $\beta$ -myosin heavy chain (MHC) or myosin binding protein-C, mutations in the ELC are quite rare, but they are also associated with malignant outcomes (Kaski et al. 2009; Lee et al. 2001; Morita et al. 2008; Olson et al. 2002; Poetter et al. 1996; Richard et al. 2003).

This study focuses on two types of hypertrophic remodeling of the heart associated with mutations in the myosin ventricular ELC (UniProt—P08590) (Hernandez et al. 2007). The A57G (Alanine57  $\rightarrow$  Glycine) variant of ELC was found in patients diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) with a classic asymmetric septal hypertrophy phenotype and occurrences of SCD (Lee et al. 2001). The A57G mutation in the human ventricular myosin ELC has been expressed in transgenic mouse hearts (Kazmierczak et al. 2013) and investigated for the mechanisms specific to HCM. Another type of hypertrophy associated with the myosin ELC that we explore here is of physiological nature and characterized by a normal cardiac function. In the  $\beta$ -myosin heavy chain mouse model, the endogenous mouse ELC is partially replaced by the  $\beta$ -myosin heavy chain amino-acid N-terminally truncated human ventricular ELC protein (Kazmierczak et al. 2009). Our published data on  $\beta$ -myosin heavy chain mice show that as the mice grow older, the hearts of  $\beta$ -myosin heavy chain mice hypertrophy, but the ventricles do not show any

pathologic phenotype (Kazmierczak et al. 2009, 2014). Magnetic resonance imaging confirmed normal cardiac function in >7 month-old 43 mice compared with age matched controls (Kazmierczak et al. 2009, 2014). These two ELC animal models were investigated for the physiological (43) versus pathological (A57G) manifestations of cardiac remodeling using molecular proteomics approaches, and the results were compared with those obtained for transgenic WT-line 1 expressing full length non-mutated human ventricular ELC (Kazmierczak et al. 2009; Muthu et al. 2011).

Proteomics is a powerful technique (Cui et al. 2011; Dewey et al. 2013) which allows us to compare the classes of biological, cellular and functional processes that are similar and/or different between these two hypertrophic phenotypes. The isobaric chemical labeling, utilizing the tandem mass tag (TMT) labeling method, was used because this technique has been shown to be efficient in the quantification accuracy, precision, and reproducibility of results (Li et al. 2012; Megger et al. 2014). TMT labeling reagents share an identical structure and therefore enable the identification and quantitation of proteins in different samples using tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) (Rauniyar and Yates 2014). Briefly, protein extracts from tissues or cells are reduced, alkylated and digested. After proteolysis the samples are labeled separately with different TMT isotopic variants and then combined before sample fractionation (Li et al. 2012; Rauniyar and Yates 2014). The TMT label contain three functional parts: a reporter ion group, a mass normalization group, and an amine-reactive group (Rauniyar and Yates 2014). The amine-reactive group reacts with the N-terminal amine groups and epsilon-amine groups of lysine residues, while MS fragmentation of a susceptible linker between the reporter ion group and the mass normalization group results in reporter ions of different masses being dissociated from isolated peptides. The relative abundance of the peptide labeled with the specific TMT tag variant is determined by the relative intensity of the reporter ions associated with the specific peptide (Rauniyar and Yates 2014).

## Materials and methods

All animal studies were conducted in accordance with institutional guidelines. The University of Miami has an Animal Welfare Assurance (A-3224-01, effective November 23, 2011) on file with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), National Institutes of Health.

### Sample preparation

Three hearts from each group of mice (3.5–4 month-old females) were subjected to the proteomic studies. Transgenic mice expressing mutations in the human ventricular myosin ELC were previously generated and characterized (Kazmierczak et al. 2013, 2009, 2014; Muthu et al. 2011). After euthanasia, the hearts were immediately excised and washed briefly with cold PBS, then weighed and flash frozen. It has been demonstrated previously that hearts prepared in this manner are of excellent quality for subsequent proteomic investigation (Gomes et al. 2009; Gomes et al. 2006).

## Protein digestion

Urea (8 M, 300  $\mu$ L) containing protease and phosphatase inhibitors (Sigma Chemical Company, St. Louis, MO) was added to powdered cardiac muscle (20 mg) from WT, 43, and A57G mice. Each tissue was then lightly sonicated and mixed for 1 h followed by centrifugation at 15,800 $\times g$  for 10 min. Protein concentration was determined using the Bio-Rad RC/DC method. 100  $\mu$ g of each sample was placed into polypropylene microcentrifuge tubes. 45  $\mu$ L of 100 mM triethyl ammonium bicarbonate (TEAB) were added to each sample and the final volume adjusted to 100  $\mu$ L with ultrapure water. 5  $\mu$ L of 200 mM tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP) were added to each sample and the samples were incubated at 55  $^{\circ}$ C for 1 h. 5  $\mu$ L of 375 mM iodoacetamide were then added to the samples, and left for 30 min in the dark. Six volumes of pre-chilled ( $-20$   $^{\circ}$ C) acetone were subsequently added to each sample, and they were left overnight at  $-20$   $^{\circ}$ C. Samples were then centrifuged at 8000 $\times g$  for 10 min at 4  $^{\circ}$ C and supernatants removed without disturbing the pellet. The pellets were redissolved in 100  $\mu$ L of TEAB and 2.5  $\mu$ g of trypsin (trypsin gold sequencing grade, Promega, Madison, WI) were then added (ratio 2.5  $\mu$ g of trypsin per 100  $\mu$ g of protein), and the samples were left to digest overnight at 37  $^{\circ}$ C.

## TMT labeling and peptide fractionation

After proteolysis, heart samples were labeled separately with different isotopic variants of TMT (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA) according to the manufacturer's instructions and then combined. 6-Plex TMT was utilized, allowing the comparison of up to 6 heart samples in a single LC-MS/MS analysis. Each set of TMT labeling was carried out using pooled WT (TMT label 126), WT-line 1 (TMT label 127), 43 (TMT label 129), and A57G (TMT label 130) (Kazmierczak et al. 2009; Muthu et al. 2011). Three independent sets of TMT labeling were carried out on each set using lysates from different hearts with the exception of the pooled WT sample. The pooled WT used in these proteomic experiments contained pooled lysates from three different wild-type line 1 mice (Kazmierczak et al. 2009; Muthu et al. 2011). The pooled WT sample was the same for all three independent sets of TMT labeling allowing us to compare the labeling efficiency and reproducibility of mass spectrometry runs because the identical pooled WT sample was labeled independently in each of the three independent TMT experiments.

Briefly, TMT tags were dissolved in anhydrous acetonitrile and added to the digested heart samples and incubated for 1 h at room temperature. Quenching of excess TMT tags was carried out by adding 10 % (w/v) hydroxylamine to a final concentration of 0.5 % and incubating for 15 min. TMT labeled peptides were fractionated using SCX SpinTips (Protea Biosciences, Inc, Morgantown, WV). Stepwise elution of peptides from the SCX columns was carried out using 20, 60, 80, 125, 150, 200, 400, and 500 mM ammonium formate in 10 % acetonitrile at pH 3. Eluted fractions were desalted using SDB columns (GL Sciences, Tokyo, Japan).

## LC-MS/MS

Labeled peptides were analyzed by LC-MS/MS on a Thermo Scientific Q ExactivePlus Orbitrap Mass spectrometer with an attached Proxeon nanospray source and a Waters UPLC (Waters Corporation, Milford, MA, USA). Digested peptides were loaded onto a 100 micron

× 25 mm Magic C18 100Å 5U reverse phase trap (using material from Bruker, Billerica, MA) where they were desalted online before being separated using a 75 micron × 150 mm Magic C18 200Å 3U reverse phase column (packed using material from Bruker). Elution of peptides occurred over a 60 min gradient with a flow rate of 300 nL/min. MS survey scans were obtained for the m/z range 300–1600, and MS/MS spectra were acquired using a top 15 method, where the top 15 ions in the MS spectra were subjected to HCD (High Energy Collisional Dissociation). The mobile phases were A: water with 0.1 % TFA and B: 100 % acetonitrile. The mobile phases at different gradient time points: 0 min 98 % A/2 % B, 45 min 65 % A/35 % B, 50 min 20 % A/80 % B, 51 min 98 % A/2 % B, 60 min 98 % A/2 % B. An isolation mass window of 2.0 m/z was utilized for the precursor ion selection, and a normalized collision energy of 30 % was used for fragmentation. A 5 s duration was used for the dynamic exclusion.

### Protein identification

Protein identification and initial quantification were performed with Proteome Discoverer (ver. 1.4.0.288, Thermo Fisher Scientific). Three different sets of TMT 6-Plex were carried out and analyzed by LC–MS/MS. The same master mix of WT hearts was used as one of the labeled samples in all TMT-6 plex LC–MS/MS runs to provide a reference set to allow all the runs to be compared. The UniProt database used (version 02192014) contained 28266 proteins and 29282 decoy sequences. Parameters used included cleavage semi set as yes, missed cleavage sites set at 2, static modifications: carbamidomethyl (C), TMT 6-Plex (K), and TMT 6-Plex (N-term), variable modifications: oxidation (M), deamidation (N, Q). The fragment mass tolerance was set at 0.1 Da and the precursor mass tolerance set at 20 ppm. Peptide identifications were validated based upon q-value using the percolator function in Proteome Discoverer. Peptides with false discovery rates >1 % (*q* value >0.01) were discarded.

### Quantitative data analysis

Scaffold Q + (version 4.4.1, Proteome Software Inc., Portland, OR) was used to quantitate label based quantitation (TMT) peptide and protein identifications using quantitative files obtained from Proteome Discoverer. Peptide identifications were accepted if they could be established at greater than 99.0 % probability by the Peptide Prophet algorithm (Keller et al. 2002) with Scaffold delta-mass correction. Protein identifications were accepted if they could be established at greater than 7.0 % probability to achieve an FDR less than 2.5 % and contained at least 3 identified peptides. Protein probabilities were assigned by the Protein Prophet algorithm (Nesvizhskii et al. 2003). Proteins that contained similar peptides and could not be differentiated based on MS/MS analysis alone were grouped to satisfy the principles of parsimony. Proteins sharing significant peptide evidence were grouped into clusters. Channels were corrected by the matrix [0.000,0.000,1.000,0.000,0.000]; [0.000,0.000,1.000,0.000,0.000]; [0.000,0.000,1.000,0.000,0.000]; [0.000,0.000,1.000,0.000,0.000]; [0.000,0.000,1.000,0.000,0.000]; [0.000,0.000,1.000,0.000,0.000]; [0.000,0.000,1.000,0.000,0.000] in all samples according to the algorithm described in i-Tracker (Shadforth et al. 2005). Acquired intensities in the experiment were globally normalized across all acquisition runs. Individual quantitative samples were normalized within each acquisition run. Intensities for each peptide identification were normalized

within the assigned protein. The reference channels were normalized to produce a 1:1 fold change. All normalization calculations were performed using medians to multiplicatively normalize data. Differentially expressed proteins were determined using Mann–Whitney Test analysis which was Bonferroni Corrected for multiple sample analysis. The coefficient of variance (CV) for each protein identified was calculated using the Scaffold program. Independently, the pooled WT sample data from the three runs were normalized to total intensity, averaged, and accuracy estimated by calculating the CV ( $S.D./mean \times 100$ ) of the measurements.

### Western blotting

Independent validation of some of the MS data was done by Western blotting using protein specific antibodies. Changes in total protein were determined with 20  $\mu$ g (for vinculin blot) or 16  $\mu$ g (all other blots) of each muscle lysate. Heart homogenates were separated on a 12 % polyacrylamide gel (for vinculin blot, Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA) or 4–20 % Stain-Free Criterion Gels (all other blots, Bio-Rad) and transferred to nitrocellulose membranes (Bio-Rad). Stain-Free gels were activated by UV transillumination for 1 min prior to transferring. The membranes were then probed with the respective antibodies. All Western blotting procedures were carried out at room temperature with agitation except when stated otherwise. Blocking for vinculin was done in 1:1 (v/v) of TBS (5 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris, pH 7.5) and blocking buffer (Rockland, Limerick, PA, USA blocking buffer for fluorescent Western blotting; cat# MB-070-010) for 1 h at room temperature. The membranes were then incubated in primary antibody in TBST (5 mM NaCl, 50 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 0.05 % (v/v) Tween-20) : Blocking buffer (1:1 v/v) overnight at 4 °C, washed and incubated in secondary antibody in TBST: Blocking buffer (1:1 v/v) for 1 h at room temperature and washed. For all other blots, the membranes were blocked in 3 % non-fat milk (w/v) in TBST for 1 h, then incubated in primary antibody in TBST (no blocking reagent) for 2 h, washed, incubated in secondary antibody in TBST (no blocking reagent) for 1 h, and washed. Immunoblotting for vinculin was done using rabbit monoclonal antibody specific for vinculin (E1E9 V, Cat. #13901, Cell Signaling, Danvers, MA, USA; dilution 1:1000) with GAPDH (Sigma; Cat# G8795, dilution 1:10,000) used as a loading control. A goat anti-rabbit antibody conjugated with the fluorescent dye, IR red 800 (Rockland, Cat #611-132-002, dilution 1:4000) and goat anti-mouse antibody conjugated with fluorescent Cy5 (Rockland, Cat. #611-610-110-121, dilution 1:4000) were used as secondary antibodies. Immunoblotting for other proteins of interest was carried out using the following antibodies at the dilutions indicated: PSMA6 1:10,000 (Cat. #3782-1, Epitomics, now Abcam, Cambridge, MA, USA), PSMA3 1:10,000 (Cat. #376601, Epitomics), Rpt4 1:2000 (Cat. #PW8830, Biomol), Ezrin 1:1000 (4A5, Cat. #sc-32759, Santa Cruz, Dallas, TX, USA), HSP-90 $\beta$  1:1000 (D-19, Cat #sc-1057, Santa Cruz). Peroxidase-conjugated rabbit anti-mouse (Cat. #A9044, Sigma) and goat anti-rabbit (Cat. #A0545, Sigma) secondary antibodies were used at a dilution of 1:40,000. These blots were normalized to total protein (determined by quantification of the total protein on membranes transferred from Stain-Free gels). The vinculin blot was scanned using the Odyssey Infrared Imaging System (LI-COR Inc., Lincoln, NE, USA), and the band intensities were quantified using Image J software ([imageJ.en.softonic.com](http://imageJ.en.softonic.com)) as described earlier (Yuan et al. 2015). All other blots were incubated with Westar Supernova ECL

Substrate (Cod. XLS3, 0200, Cyanagen, Bologna, Italy) and imaged using the Chemidoc MP (Bio-Rad). The band intensities were quantified using ImageLab Version 5 (Bio-Rad).

## Statistics

**Proteomic results**—Differentially expressed proteins had a  $P$  value  $<0.05$ ; at least two labeled unique peptides from the same protein were detected in all three independent experiments.  $P$  values were calculated using Bonferroni Corrected Mann–Whitney tests (Scaffold 4.0), which takes into account a multiple sample analysis.

**Western blotting**—Mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) are shown ( $n = 4$  hearts per experimental group). Comparisons were performed by one-way ANOVA.  $P < 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

## Results

In this study, we performed an in-depth proteomic analysis to identify the major signaling pathways involved in cardiac remodeling in the hearts of 3.5–4 month-old of pathologic (A57G) versus physiologic (43) mouse models of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. The results collected using transgenic (Tg) mice expressing the 43 amino acid N-terminal truncated ELC (43) and A57G mutated ELC were compared to those of age and gender matched transgenic WT-ELC mice. TMT labeling and liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (LC–MS/MS) were used to pinpoint the differences in the signaling cascades involved in these two different models of cardiac growth. Although a label-free approach has been found to outperform a TMT approach for proteome coverage (Megger et al. 2014), we used the TMT approach because the label-free method was observed to be less accurate than the TMT approach (Megger et al. 2014). Isotopic variants of TMT contain an amine-reactive group which reacts with the N-terminal amine groups and epsilon-amine groups of the lysine residues of peptides. The TMT labels contain the mass normalization groups which allow the different isotopic variants of TMT tag on the peptide to have the same mass.

Using a TMT quantitative proteomic approach we identified the proteins differentially expressed in the hearts of 43 versus A57G mice and differentially expressed in each hypertrophy model versus WT-line 1 controls. The identified proteins and the group comparisons are presented in Tables 1, S1, S2 and S3. Figure 1 presents a bar chart comparing the number of the up- and down-regulated proteins in all heart models of cardiac hypertrophy. The analysis of the results shows that 30 proteins were different in 43 versus A57G (Table 1). Examples include mitochondrial NAD(P) transhydrogenase and aldehyde dehydrogenase, which were both 1.46-fold downregulated in 43 relative to A57G hearts (Table 1). There were also differences between the two mouse models of hypertrophy and WT hearts with 35 proteins differentially expressed in 43 versus WT (Table S1), and 51 that were differently expressed in A57G versus WT (Table S2; Fig. 1).

To quantify the reproducibility of the experiments, CV of the intensity values across all runs were determined using the scaffold program (Table S3). 86 % of the quantified peptides showed a CV equal to or below 25 %, and the average coefficient of variance of all quantified peptides was 22.5 %. For the 3 replicates of pooled WT samples (used in runs 1–

3), CVs of less than 4 % were obtained. Sample wide fold changes between different samples show that very little changes occurred between the pooled WT runs (Fig. S1). Significant differences in sample wide fold changes were observed when pooled WT or individual WT samples were compared to 43 or A57G hearts (Fig. S1). Figure S2 shows a Venn diagram of the number of proteins identified with two TMT labeled unique peptides in the WT pooled sample in the three different runs (Fig. S2). Altogether 26 % of the proteins were detected in only one run. For the proteins that were found to be differentially expressed in 43 relative to A57G hearts the number of unique peptides that were quantified was 7 (Table S4). A sample file of cytochrome b-c1 complex peptides detected and the relative intensity of the different peptides in the different heart samples is shown in Table S5.

### Comparison between physiological and pathological hypertrophy

Tables 1 and S1, and Fig. 2 present differentially expressed proteins in the hearts of 43 versus A57G mice. Signaling pathways different between these two animal models included proteins involved in metabolic processes. Classification of differentially expressed proteins into pathways using the Panther program, which utilizes the Gene Ontology (GO) classification scheme, revealed 19 proteins involved in metabolic processes that were significantly different in 43 versus A57G hearts. There were also significant differences between heart models in biogenesis, cellular organization, and biological regulation (Fig. 2a; Tables 1, S1). In addition to biological processes (Fig. 2a), many significant differences between physiological (43) and pathological (A57G) hypertrophy heart models were noted in pathways involved in cellular processes (Fig. 2b), and in molecular functions (Fig. 2c). An example of a protein downregulated in 43 relative to A57G is Succinyl-CoA ligase [GDP-forming] subunit beta (mitochondrial) (Table 1). This protein is involved in the tricarboxylic acid cycle and catalyzes the GTP-dependent ligation of succinate and CoA to form succinyl-CoA.

Metabolic changes with respect to the actomyosin ATPase activity in skinned papillary muscle fibers from 43 hearts suggested that pathways involved in ATP production might be affected in this model of cardiac hypertrophy (Kazmierczak et al. 2009). Indeed, aldehyde dehydrogenase was downregulated while trifunctional enzyme subunit alpha and 3-ketoacyl-CoA thiolase expression levels were higher only in 43 hearts when compared to control hearts (Table 2). These enzymes play important roles in metabolism of corticosteroids and lipid peroxidation (aldehyde dehydrogenase), fatty acid metabolism (trifunctional enzyme and 3-ketoacyl-CoA thiolase), and in other processes such as growth control and may regulate the energetic and metabolic pathways specific for the physiological type of hypertrophy observed in transgenic 43 hearts.

Several calcium-binding proteins were altered in the hypertrophied transgenic hearts (Table 3). Interestingly, the myosin light polypeptide 6 (gene *MYL6*) was down-regulated in the pathological hypertrophy heart model compared with WT (Tables 3, S2). *MYL6* encodes for the smooth muscle myosin ELC, which is essential for myosin's contractile function. In addition, *MYL2*, depicting the mouse ventricular myosin regulatory light chain (UniProt # P51667, MLRV\_MOUSE) was significantly downregulated in A57G versus 43 hearts (Table 3). As a part of the myosin lever arm, the light chain structurally supports myosin

during the power stroke and force generation, but also was shown to play a role in the regulation of gene expression (Li and Sarna 2009). In addition it was shown to function as a transcription factor to promote NOX2 (NADPH oxidase 2) expression following myocardial ischemia/reperfusion injury in a phosphorylation-dependent manner (Zhang et al. 2015a, 2015b). Other altered calcium-binding proteins in A57G mice included sarcocalumenin, calcium-binding mitochondrial carrier protein ARALAR1 and mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein, which were all higher in A57G hearts when compared to WT hearts (Tables 3, S1). Upregulation of ARALAR1 may have important physiological implications, as this calcium-binding protein localizes to mitochondria and is involved in catalysis of the calcium-dependent exchange of cytoplasmic glutamate with mitochondrial aspartate across the mitochondrial inner membrane, and thus functions as a calcium-regulated metabolite carrier (Del Arco et al. 2000). Likewise, the mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein, which transports 2-oxoglutarate across the inner mitochondrial membrane, was upregulated in the A57G model (Tables 3, S1). The transport of 2-oxoglutarate across the inner mitochondrial membrane is important in several metabolic processes, including the malate-aspartate shuttle, the oxoglutarate/isocitrate shuttle, gluconeogenesis from lactate, and in nitrogen metabolism. The 43 hearts showed no statistically significant changes in the levels of calcium-binding proteins relative to WT hearts (Table 3). When compared with pathologic model of cardiac hypertrophy, sarcocalumenin (gene *SRCA*), ARALAR1 (gene *SMCI*), sarcoplasmic reticulum histidine-rich calcium-binding protein, isoform CRA\_a (gene *G5E8J6*), and mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein (gene *M2OM*) were all lower in 43 compared with A57G hearts (Tables 3, S2). The histidine-rich calcium-binding protein, which exhibits high-capacity calcium-binding properties, has been suggested to be a potential regulator of both SERCA2a and RyR2 functions (Bers and Guo 2005). Overexpression of histidine-rich calcium-binding protein in neonatal or adult rat cardiomyocytes increased SR calcium storage capacity and decreased sarcoplasmic reticulum calcium-induced calcium-release (Fan et al. 2004).

Among chaperones that constitute another important group of proteins, many were differentially altered in both models of hypertrophy when compared with WT hearts (Table 4). Several heat shock proteins were downregulated in both A57G and 43 mice relative to WT hearts. Heat shock protein (HSP)-90 $\beta$  and stress-induced phosphoprotein 1 were both found to be downregulated in 43 hearts relative to A57G hearts (Tables 1, 4). In an autoimmune myocarditis-induced chronic heart failure rat model HSP-90 $\beta$  was suggested to play a protective role (Sanzen et al. 2010). Increased levels of stress-induced phosphoprotein-1 have been associated with cancer (Cho et al. 2014).

Table 5 presents cytoskeletal proteins that were differentially altered in both models of cardiac hypertrophy. Changes in the levels of important cytoskeletal proteins included cofilin-2, meosin, and cytoplasmic dynein 1 heavy chain 1 (Table 5). Moesin is an important cytoskeletal protein which has been shown to interact with ezrin and radixin (Amsellem et al. 2014). Interestingly, meosin and stress-induced phosphoprotein-1, which were both downregulated in 43 hearts and not in A57G hearts, have been recently suggested to be possible sero-diagnostic markers of psoriasis (Maejima et al. 2014). Among cytoskeletal proteins altered in pathologic (A57G) versus physiologic (43) hypertrophy was myosin heavy chain 6 ( $\alpha$ -MHC) downregulated in A57G hearts (Table 5). The upregulation of the  $\beta$ -

MHC in mouse myocardium and the switch from the  $\alpha$ -MHC to  $\beta$ -MHC has been previously reported in older A57G animals (Kazmierczak et al. 2013). Upregulation of  $\beta$ -MHC was also seen in other mouse models of heart disease (Barefield et al. 2014) and occurred in response to a wide variety of pathological insults (reviewed in (Harvey and Leinwand 2011)).

Independent validation of HSP-90 $\beta$  by Western blotting (Fig. 3a) showed that this protein was downregulated in 43 hearts relative to both WT and A57G hearts. This result is consistent with the mass spectrometry data which also showed downregulation of HSP-90 $\beta$  in 43 hearts relative to both WT and A57G hearts (Tables 1, 4). Collectively, these results suggest that altered heat shock protein expression occurs differently in the two transgenic heart models. Investigation of cytoskeletal and proteasome proteins that were not differentially expressed in transgenic hearts by Western blotting showed that vinculin (Fig. 3b), two 20S proteasome subunits, PSMA3 (Fig. 3c), PSMA6 (Fig. 3d) and one 19S proteasome subunit, Rpt4 (Fig. 3e) were all unchanged similar to what was detected by the proteomic results. The proteasome is a complex unit made up of over 32 subunits (Cui et al. 2014), and changes in expression have often been observed in cardiac diseases (Powell et al. 2012). However, no changes in expression of proteasome subunits were observed in our study in either A57G or 43 heart models. Another cytoskeletal protein, ezrin, which was not differentially expressed in the proteomic studies was found to be greater in the A57G hearts when compared to 43 hearts ( $P < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 3f), while it was similar among 43 and WT hearts. The proteomic results for ezrin, although not statistically significant, suggested a trend towards increased expression levels of ezrin in A57G hearts relative to 43 hearts (Table S3). Bar graphs in Fig. 3 represent the data (average  $\pm$  SD) from Western blots performed on four hearts per group of mice.

## Discussion

Hypertrophic cardiac remodeling is a highly important phenomenon; however, the molecular mechanisms and signaling pathways underlying this process are not fully understood. Recognition of functional, structural, metabolic, and molecular differences between non-toxic and disease-causing mutations is critical in the effort to develop potential target-specific therapeutic approaches. Disease severity depends on various factors, e.g. disease-modifying genes, cardiac load, and non-genetic modifiers including epigenetic modifications, post-translational modifications of proteins, and environmental disease triggers (van der Velden et al. 2015). In addition to distinguishable morphological and functional phenotypes between HCM and physiological cardiac hypertrophy, the signaling cascades were shown to be distinctive (Chung and Leinwand 2014; McMullen et al. 2007). The physiologic and pathological growth of the myocardium is typically initiated by membrane-bound receptors that promote intracellular signaling through multiple GTPase proteins, kinases, and phosphatases (Chang et al. 2015; Chen et al. 2015a; Heineke and Molkenin 2006). The MAPK (mitogen-activated protein kinase) signaling pathways consist of a sequence of successively functioning kinases that ultimately result in the dual phosphorylation and activation of p38, c-Jun N-terminal kinases (JNKs) and extracellular signal-regulated kinases (ERKs) (Garrington and Johnson 1999; Yujiri et al. 1999).

In this report, we investigated the molecular pathways leading to HCM versus physiologic hypertrophy using a quantitative proteomic approach applied to transgenic mouse hearts carrying mutations in the human cardiac myosin ELC (Kazmierczak et al. 2014). Gene-manipulated mouse models that closely recapitulate the clinical phenotypes of human inherited cardiomyopathies are invaluable in demonstrating the true cause of the disease and are useful in exploring pathogenic mechanisms. Our previous investigations showed that even though transgenic  $\beta$ -43 mice develop substantial cardiac hypertrophy, there were no signs of histopathology or fibrosis and no altered cardiac function (Kazmierczak et al. 2009; Muthu et al. 2011). Therefore, this mouse model served as an excellent tool to study the signaling pathways that might underlie the physiological type of cardiac hypertrophy. On the other hand, the A57G mice showed clear evidence of pathological morphology and function (Kazmierczak et al. 2013; Muthu et al. 2011), and our mechanics studies suggested that the A57G allele may cause HCM by means of a discrete modulation of myofilament function, reduced maximal force, and increased myofilament  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  sensitivity (Kazmierczak et al. 2013). Therefore, the A57G mouse model was ideally suited to investigate the pathways specific to pathological ventricular remodeling.

The proteomic data suggest that multiple signaling pathways might be affected in the hearts of  $\beta$ -43 and A57G mice. The A57G hearts showed more proteins that were altered in this mouse model compared with  $\beta$ -43 when both heart models were compared to WT hearts. Importantly, while the  $\beta$ -43 hearts showed no changes in the levels of calcium-binding proteins relative to WT hearts, the A57G hearts demonstrated an upregulation or downregulation of various calcium-binding proteins localized in different cellular compartments, when compared with WT or  $\beta$ -43 hearts. Alterations in calcium-binding proteins in A57G mice observed in our proteomic experiments are in accordance with functional studies on papillary muscle fibers from Tg-A57G mice showing significant changes in the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -mediated regulation of muscle contraction in the A57G versus WT myocardium (Kazmierczak et al. 2013; Kazmierczak et al. 2014). In contrast, no disruption of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -dependent force development was observed in transgenic  $\beta$ -43 versus WT hearts (Kazmierczak et al. 2009, 2014).

The expression of other important calcium-binding proteins, e.g. sarcalumenin and the mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein, as well as several chaperone proteins including the heat shock protein beta-1 and 10 kDa heat shock protein, was downregulated in  $\beta$ -43 versus A57G hearts. Expression of HSP-90 $\beta$  and stress-induced phosphoprotein 1 was also downregulated in  $\beta$ -43 relative to A57G and WT hearts. The decreased levels of HSP-90 $\beta$  in  $\beta$ -43 hearts were verified by Western blotting.

Since several heat shock proteins were observed to be involved in cardiovascular diseases, it is conceivable that their levels of expression are differentially altered in the pathologic versus physiologic models of hypertrophy (Chen et al. 2015b). On the other hand, the mitochondrial proteins NADH dehydrogenase (ubiquinone) iron-sulphur protein 4, cytochrome c oxidase subunit 5B and cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 7 were all upregulated in  $\beta$ -43 versus A57G hearts. Ubiquinone, cytochrome c oxidase and the cytochrome b-c1 complex are all critical for ATP production in the mitochondria. The group of cytoskeletal proteins that were upregulated in  $\beta$ -43 versus A57G hearts included the

myosin heavy chain 6 ( $\alpha$ -MHC) and the myosin light polypeptide 6 (smooth muscle ELC). Interestingly, the switch from the  $\alpha$ -MHC to  $\beta$ -MHC has been previously reported in older A57G animals (Kazmierczak et al. 2013), and was also seen in other mouse models of HCM (Barefield et al. 2014; Harvey and Leinwand 2011). The alterations in the smooth muscle ELC expression in 43 versus WT hearts (downregulation) or its upregulation in 43 versus A57G hearts, could be due to the inability of the 43 myocardium to produce the full length ELC protein with the intact N-terminal extension shown to be needed to maintain the proper actomyosin molecular contacts during force generation and muscle contraction (Muthu et al. 2011).

Pathologic cardiac hypertrophy manifests itself through the reappearance of fetal metabolic patterns with decreased fatty acid metabolism (reduced oxidative metabolism) and increased glucose utilization (Allard et al. 1994; Barger and Kelly 1999; Doenst et al. 2010; Razeghi et al. 2001; Uehara et al. 1998). Changes in these two metabolic profiles, specifically metabolic intermediates affecting cardiomyocyte function, might be contributing factors to the development of pathological heart remodeling. It has been reported that increased preference for glucose utilization in overload-induced hypertrophy increases flux through the hexoamine biosynthesis pathway (Young et al. 2007). Other studies reported that upregulation of O-linked  $\beta$ -*N*-acetylglucosamine (O-GlcNAc) signaling is required for activation of the transcriptional reprogramming that occurs at the onset and progression of cardiac hypertrophy, while cardiac-specific genetic ablation of O-linked  $\beta$ -*N*-acetylglucosamine transferase, which catalyzes O-GlcNAc synthesis, prevents transverse aortic constriction (TAC)-induced hypertrophy (Facundo et al. 2012; Watson et al. 2010). Furthermore, production and efflux of lactate from the myocardium are increased in hypertrophied hearts (Smith et al. 1990). Two related proteins involved in fatty acid metabolism, trifunctional enzyme subunit alpha, and 3-ketoacyl-COA thiolase were observed to be upregulated in 43 hearts relative to WT hearts. Although A57G hearts also show a trend towards increased levels of these two proteins relative to WT hearts, these increases were not statistically significant. 3-ketoacyl-COA thiolase is also called trifunctional enzyme subunit beta, and the mitochondrial trifunctional protein is associated with the inner mitochondrial membrane and involved in the final step of beta-oxidation utilizing long chain fatty acids as substrate. Mice lacking the mitochondrial trifunctional enzyme alpha subunit resulted in fetal growth retardation, neonatal hypoglycemia and sudden death (Ibdah et al. 2001). Lack of the trifunctional protein has also been linked to severe fatty acid oxidation disorder with cardiac and neurologic involvement (den Boer et al. 2003). In addition, reduced rates of fatty acid oxidation are observed in pathologic cardiac hypertrophy, which in turn may lead to accumulation of free fatty acids and their derivatives, and play a role in the development of pathological versus physiological hypertrophy (Stanley et al. 1997).

Changes in the activity of the ubiquitin proteasome system have been reported to play important roles in hypertrophic hearts, and increased protein expression levels together with changes in proteasome activity were shown to be associated with cardiac dysfunction (Depre et al. 2006). Mutants of myosin binding protein C, the thick filament-containing protein, have also been shown to impair the ubiquitin proteasome system (Sarikas et al. 2005).

However, no differences were detected in the levels of these proteasome subunits suggesting that the expression levels of the proteasome complex in these heart models were similar.

## Conclusions

Collectively, our data suggest that the A57G mediated alterations in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  homeostasis and fatty acid metabolism may be important in the pathological cardiac remodeling observed in transgenic A57G hearts. The physiological hypertrophy associated with the truncation mutation in myosin ELC does not seem to be driven by changes in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  homeostasis and may be due to differential regulation of chaperones, metabolic proteins, and cytoskeletal proteins. The proteomic data for the A57G hearts support our functional studies on A57G hearts suggesting that alterations in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  homeostasis and the  $\alpha$ - to  $\beta$ -MHC switch may contribute to the pathological cardiac remodeling and be responsible for the development of HCM. Our findings on 43 hearts suggest that increases in the key mitochondrial and cytoskeletal proteins might be to compensate for hypertrophic growth and to prevent the 43 hearts from transitioning from physiological to pathological cardiac remodeling and heart failure.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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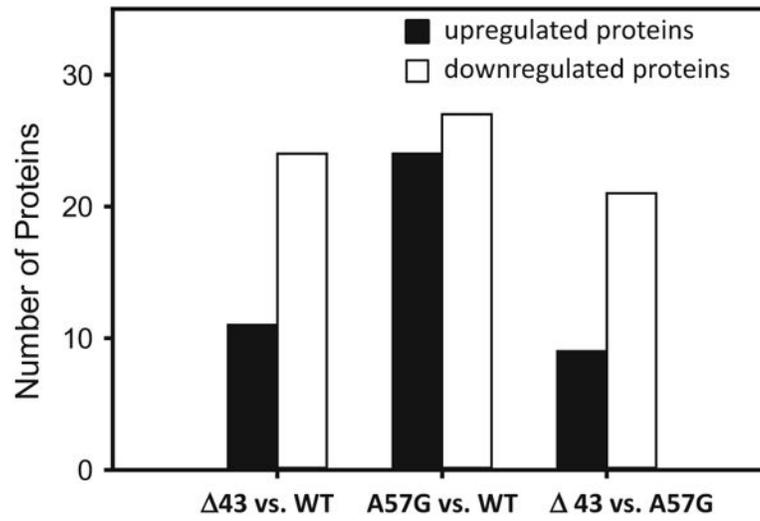
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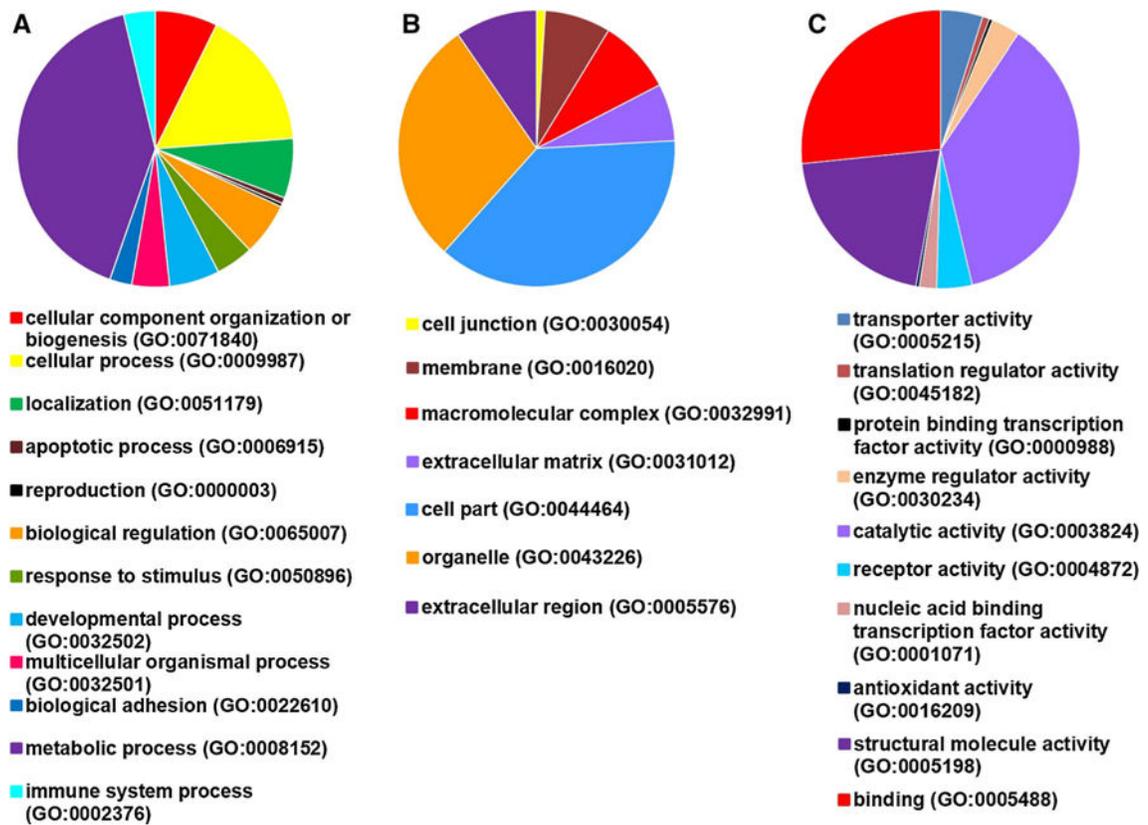
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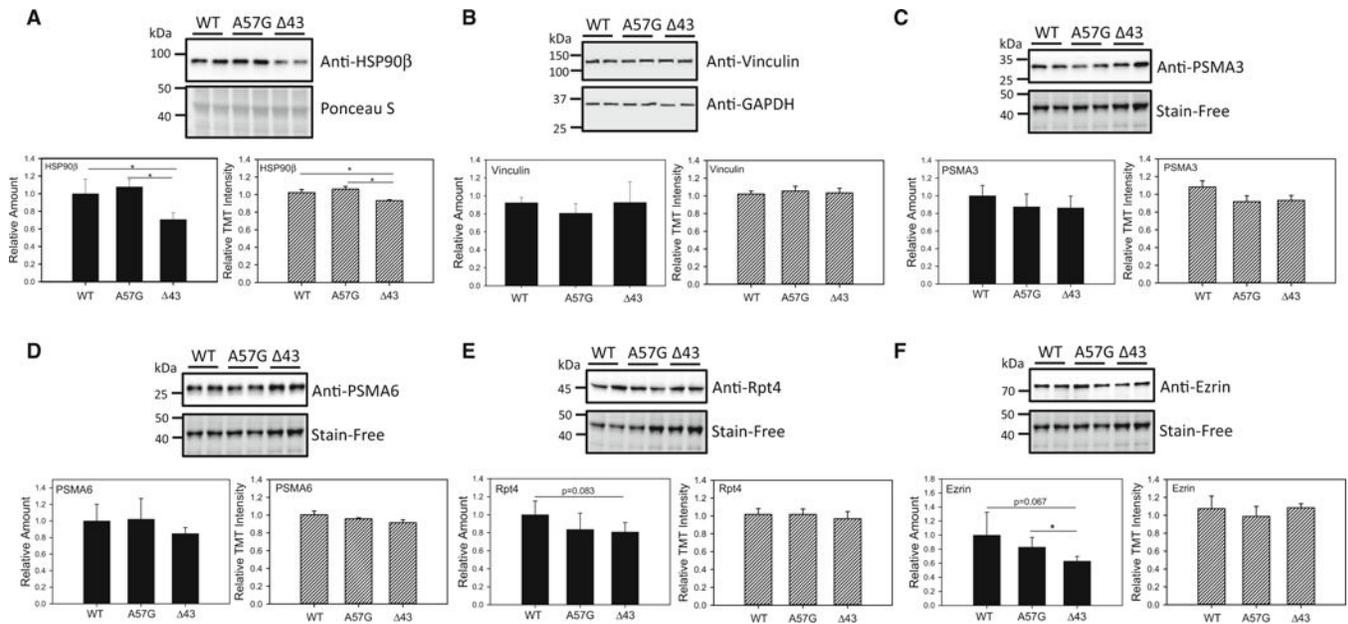
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**Fig. 1.** Summary of proteomic analysis showing the number of statistically significantly upregulated and downregulated proteins in the hearts of physiological ( $\Delta 43$ ) and pathological (A57G) mouse models of hypertrophy and in the hearts of transgenic WT-ELC mice



**Fig. 2.** Processes affected in physiological (43) versus pathological (A57G) cardiac hypertrophy. **a** Biological processes; **b** cellular processes; **c** molecular function

**Fig. 3.**

Validation of proteomic analyses by Western blotting in WT,  $\Delta 43$  and A57G hearts. **a** Expression of HSP-90 $\beta$ . **b** Expression of Vinculin; **c** expression of 20S proteasome subunit, PSMA3. **d** Expression of 20S proteasome subunit, PSMA6. **e** Expression of 19S proteasome subunit, Rpt4. **f** Expression of Ezrin. Bar charts containing *black bars* indicate the protein expression determined by Western blotting, while *striped white bars* represent the protein expression as determined by TMT labeling of heart lysates and quantification by mass spectrometry. Note no changes in expression of any proteasome subunits between A57G and  $\Delta 43$  hearts, while differences between pathological (A57G) and physiological ( $\Delta 43$ ) hypertrophy were noted in expression of HSP-90 $\beta$  and Ezrin

**Table 1**

Proteins differentially expressed in the ELC transgenic mouse models of physiological (43) versus pathological (A57G) cardiac hypertrophy

Protein	Accession number	Molecular weight (kDa)	Mann–Whitney test (Bonferroni corrected) <i>P</i> value	43 versus A57G* (FC)
Elongation factor 2	EF2_MOUSE	95	<0.0001	–1.16
Complement C3	CO3_MOUSE	186	<0.0001	–1.15
Aldehyde dehydrogenase, mitochondrial	ALDH2_MOUSE	57	<0.0001	–1.46
Heat shock protein HSP 90-beta	HS90B_MOUSE	83	<0.0001	–1.14
Leucine-rich PPR motif-containing protein, mitochondrial	LPPRC_MOUSE	157	<0.0001	–1.17
NAD(P) transhydrogenase, mitochondrial	NNTM_MOUSE	114	<0.0001	–1.46
Delta-1-pyrroline-5-carboxylate dehydrogenase, mitochondrial	AL4A1_MOUSE	62	<0.0001	–1.25
Stress-induced-phosphoprotein 1	STIP1_MOUSE	63	<0.0001	–1.15
Cluster of Troponin T, cardiac muscle	K3W4R6_MOUSE	35	0.00018	1.14
Mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein	M2OM_MOUSE	34	0.0017	–1.29
Alpha-1B-glycoprotein	A1BG_MOUSE	57	0.0018	1.39
Elongation factor 1-gamma	EF1G_MOUSE	50	0.0025	–1.14
Cluster of Myosin-6	MYH6_MOUSE	224	0.0039	1.11
Succinyl-CoA ligase [GDP-forming] subunit beta, mitochondrial	SUCB2_MOUSE	47	0.0068	–1.14
Cluster of Inorganic pyrophosphatase 2, mitochondrial	D3Z636_MOUSE	38	0.0069	–1.25
Coiled-coil-helix-coiled-coil-helix domain-containing protein 3, mitochondrial	CHCH3_MOUSE	26	0.0083	1.18
Cluster of Myosin regulatory light chain 2, ventricular/cardiac muscle isoform	MLRV_MOUSE	19	0.011	1.08
Histidine rich calcium binding protein, isoform CRA_a	G5E8J6_MOUSE	85	0.017	–1.10
Clathrin heavy chain 1	CLH1_MOUSE	192	0.017	1.25
Sarcalumenin	SRCA_MOUSE	99	0.02	–1.12
Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 5B, mitochondrial	COX5B_MOUSE	14	0.02	1.12
Serpin H1	SERPH_MOUSE	47	0.021	–1.15
Calcium-binding mitochondrial carrier protein Aralar1	CMC1_MOUSE	75	0.024	–1.12
Short-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, mitochondrial	ACADS_MOUSE	45	0.031	–1.15
Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein U	G3XA10_MOUSE	87	0.038	–1.19
Cluster of Long-chain-fatty-acid-CoA ligase 1	ACSL1_MOUSE	78	0.039	–1.05
Citrate lyase subunit beta-like protein, mitochondrial	CLYBL_MOUSE	38	0.042	–1.12
Cytochrome b-c1 complex subunit 7	Q9CQB4_MOUSE	14	0.046	1.15
Isovaleryl-CoA dehydrogenase, mitochondrial	IVD_MOUSE	46	0.048	–1.11
NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] iron-sulfur protein 4, mitochondrial	E9QPX3_MOUSE	20	0.048	1.19

Negative fold change (FC) values indicate proteins that were significantly downregulated in 43 versus A57G hearts, while positive values indicate proteins that were significantly upregulated in 43 versus A57G hearts with significance (\*) defined as  $P < 0.05$

**Table 2**  
Mitochondrial proteins involved in metabolic processes that show altered expression levels in transgenic ELC mice

Protein name	UniProt	Gene	PANTHER protein class	A57G versus WT (FC)	43 versus WT (FC)	43 versus A57G (FC)
Aldehyde dehydrogenase, mitochondrial	P47738	ALDH2_MOUSE	Dehydrogenase	1.20*	-1.21*	-1.46*
Alpase inhibitor, mitochondrial	O35143	E9PV44_MOUSE	-	-1.58*	-1.20	1.32
Citrate lyase subunit beta-like protein, mitochondrial	Q8R4N0	CLYBL_MOUSE	-	1.07	-1.03	-1.11*
Cytochrome C oxidase subunit 5B, mitochondrial	P19536	COX5B_MOUSE	Oxidase	-1.12	1.04	1.12*
Cytochrome B-C1 complex subunit 7	Q9CQB4	Q9CQB4_MOUSE	-	-1.07	1.07	1.15*
Delta-1-pyrroline-5-carboxylate dehydrogenase, mitochondrial	Q8CHT0	AL4A1_MOUSE	Dehydrogenase	-1.14*	-1.42*	-1.25*
Isovaleryl-CoA dehydrogenase, mitochondrial	Q9JH15	IVD_MOUSE	Dehydrogenase	1.10	1.00	-1.11*
Cluster of inorganic pyrophosphatase 2, mitochondrial	D3Z636	D3Z636_MOUSE	-	1.19*	-1.03	-1.25*
FUMARATE hydratase, mitochondrial	P97807	FUMH_MOUSE	Lyase	1.14*	1.03	-1.09
3-Ketoacyl-CoA thiolase, mitochondrial	Q8BWT1	THIM_MOUSE	Acetyltransferase	1.14	1.16*	-1.03
Mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein	Q9CR62	M2OM_MOUSE	Calmodulin	1.28*	1.00	-1.29*
NAD(P) Transhydrogenase, mitochondrial	Q61941	NNTM_MOUSE	Dehydrogenase	1.13*	-1.29	-1.46*
NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] 1 alpha Subcomplex subunit 9, mitochondrial	Q9DC69	NDUA9_MOUSE	Dehydrogenase	1.13*	1.00	-1.13
NADH dehydrogenase [ubiquinone] iron-sulphur protein 4, mitochondrial	E9QPX3	E9QPX3_MOUSE	-	-1.07	1.13	1.19*
succinyl-CoA ligase [GDP-forming] subunit beta, mitochondrial	Q9Z2I8	SUCB2_MOUSE	Ligase	1.20*	1.07	-1.14*
Short-chain specific acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, mitochondrial	Q07417	ACADS_MOUSE	Dehydrogenase	1.13	1.00	-1.15*
Trifunctional enzyme subunit alpha, mitochondrial	Q8BMS1	ECHA_MOUSE	Dehydrogenase, hydratase, epimerase	1.10	1.13*	1.03

\*  $P < 0.05$ . FC fold change. Negative FC values indicate proteins that were downregulated, while positive FC values those which were upregulated

**Table 3**

Calcium-binding proteins with altered expression levels in transgenic ELC mice

Protein name	UniProt	Gene	PANTHER protein class	A57G versus WT (FC)	A57G 43 versus WT (FC)	A57G 43 versus A57G (FC)	A57G versus 43 (FC)
Sarcalumenin	Q7TQ48	SRCA_MOUSE	Calcium-binding protein	1.12*	1.03	-1.12*	1.12*
Mitochondrial 2-oxoglutarate/malate carrier protein	Q9CR62	M2OM_MOUSE	Calmodulin	1.28*	1.00	-1.29*	1.29*
Calcium-binding mitochondrial carrier protein Aralar1	Q8BH59	CMC1_MOUSE	Calmodulin	1.17*	1.07	-1.12*	1.12*
Sarcoplasmic reticulum histidine-rich calcium-binding protein, isoform CRA_A	G5E8J6	G5E8J6_MOUSE	-	-1.11	1.13	-1.10*	1.10*
Myosin regulatory light chain 2, ventricular/cardiac muscle form	P51667	MLRV_MOUSE	Calmodulin	-1.15*	-1.08	1.08*	-1.08*
Myosin light polypeptide 6	Q60605	MYL6_MOUSE	Calmodulin	-1.44*	-1.22	1.17	-1.17

\*  $P < 0.05$ ; FC fold change, negative FC values indicate proteins that were downregulated, while positive FC values those which were upregulated

Table 4

Chaperone proteins with altered expression levels in transgenic ELC mice

Protein name	UniProt	Gene	PANTHER protein class	A57G versus WT (FC)	43 versus WT (FC)	43 versus A57G (FC)
Alpha-crystallin B chain	P23927	CRYAB_MOUSE	Chaperone	-1.21*	-1.21	1.00
Stress-70 protein, mitochondrial	P38647	GRP75_MOUSE	Hsp70 family chaperone	-1.18*	-1.13*	1.04
Heat shock protein beta-1	P14602	HSPB1_MOUSE	Chaperone	-1.34	-1.43*	1.00
Endoplasmic-like protein-related	P08113	ENPL_MOUSE	Hsp90 family chaperone	-1.19*	1.07	1.07
BAG family molecular chaperone regulator 3	Q9JLV1	BAG3_MOUSE	Chaperone	-1.24*	-1.12	1.13
10 KDA heat shock protein, mitochondrial	Q64433	CH10_MOUSE	Chaperonin	-1.25*	-1.24*	1.00
Heat shock protein HSP 90-alpha	P07901	HS90A_MOUSE	Hsp90 family chaperone	-1.22	-1.36*	-1.17
Heat shock protein HSP 90-beta	P11499	HS90B_MOUSE	Hsp90 family chaperone	1.03	-1.10*	-1.14*
Heat shock 70 KDA protein 4	Q3U2G2	Q3U2G2_MOUSE	Hsp70 family chaperone	-1.07	-1.16*	-1.08
Stress-induced-phosphoprotein 1	Q60864	STIP1_MOUSE	Chaperone	1.00	-1.13*	-1.15*
Heat shock cognate 71 KDA protein	P63017	HSP7C_MOUSE	Hsp70 family chaperone	-1.03	-1.17*	-1.12

\*  $P < 0.05$ ; FC fold change, negative FC values indicate proteins that were downregulated, while positive FC values those which were upregulated

**Table 5**

Cytoskeletal proteins with altered expression levels in transgenic ELC mice

Protein name	UniProt	Gene	PANTHER protein class	A57G versus WT (FC)	43 versus WT (FC)	43 versus A57G (FC)
Moessin	P26041	MOES_MOUSE	Actin family cytoskeletal protein	-1.15	-1.16*	-1.04
Cofilin-2	P45591	COF2_MOUSE	Non-motor actin binding protein	-1.29*	-1.22*	1.04
Cytoplasmic dynein 1 heavy chain 1	Q9JHU4	DYHC1_MOUSE	Microtubule binding motor protein	-1.03	-1.08*	-1.07
Glutathione S-transferase Omega-1	O09131	GSTO1_MOUSE	Cytoskeletal protein	-1.43*	-1.31*	1.10
Myosin-6	Q02566	MYH6_MOUSE	Actin binding motor protein	-1.07*	1.00	1.11*
Myosin light polypeptide 6	Q60605	MYL6_MOUSE	Actin family cytoskeletal protein, calmodulin	-1.43*	-1.22	1.17
Elongation factor 1-gamma	Q9D8N0	EF1G_MOUSE	Cytoskeletal protein, translation elongation factor	1.10	-1.07	-1.14*

\*  $P < 0.05$ ; FC fold change, negative FC values indicate proteins that were downregulated, while positive FC values those which were upregulated