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**Lipid Interactions With The  
Cardiac Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> Exchanger**

By

Danny Paul Goel

A Thesis  
Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
For the Degree of

**MASTER OF SCIENCE**

Department of Physiology  
Faculty of Medicine  
University of Manitoba  
and the Division of Stroke and Vascular Disease  
St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre  
Winnipeg, Manitoba

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**Lipid Interactions with the Cardiac Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> Exchanger**

**BY**

**Danny Paul Goel**

**A Thesis/Practicum submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies of The University  
of Manitoba in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the degree**

**of**

**Master of Science**

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## ABSTRACT

Cardiac sarcolemmal  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange is critical for the regulation of intracellular pH and its activity contributes to ischemia / reperfusion injury. It also plays an important role during ischemia / reperfusion injury in diabetics. The  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger is altered during insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, however, the mechanism for this inhibition has yet to be determined. Coincidentally, the cardiac sarcolemmal membrane phospholipids are also altered during insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. It has been suggested that the membrane phospholipid environment does not modulate  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange. The present study was carried out to determine the effects on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange of modifying the endogenous membrane phospholipids through the addition of exogenous phospholipase A<sub>2</sub>, phospholipase C, phospholipase D, specific phospholipids and saturated and unsaturated fatty acids. Phospholipase D selectively hydrolyses phosphatidylcholine into phosphatidic acid and choline. Incubation of 0.825 U phospholipase D with 1 mg of porcine cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles hydrolyzed  $34 \pm 2\%$  of the sarcolemmal phosphatidylcholine and increased the phosphatidic acid  $10.2 \pm 0.5$  fold, as determined by thin layer chromatography. Treatment of cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles with phospholipase D resulted in a  $46 \pm 2\%$  inhibition of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange.  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange was measured as a function of reaction time,  $\text{pH}_o$  and extravesicular  $\text{Na}^+$ . All of these parameters of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange were inhibited following phospholipase D treatment when compared to untreated controls. Passive efflux of  $\text{Na}^+$  following phospholipase D treatment was unaffected. Phosphatidylcholine content was depleted

approximately 50% following phospholipase C treatment. However, treatment of sarcolemmal vesicles with phospholipase C had no effect on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange. Phospholipase  $\text{A}_2$  generated only non-specific sarcolemmal effects.

The effects on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange of a direct addition of specific lipids to the sarcolemmal membrane was investigated. Lysophosphatidylcholine, lysoplasmethylcholine, lysophosphatidylserine, lysophosphatidylinositol and lysophosphatidylethanolamine had no effect. The fatty acids linoleic acid and linolenic acid also had no effect on cardiac  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange. However, eicosapentanoic acid and docosahexanoic acid both had an inhibitory effect on the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger. These cardiac SL vesicles were subsequently exposed to 10-100 $\mu\text{M}$  eicosapentanoic acid (EPA) or docosahexanoic acid (DHA).  $^{22}\text{Na}$  was utilized as a tracer to determine the amount of  $\text{H}^+$ -dependent  $\text{Na}^+$  uptake.  $\text{H}^+$ -dependent  $\text{Na}^+$  uptake was inhibited by up to 50% following  $\geq 50\mu\text{M}$  EPA or  $\geq 25\mu\text{M}$  DHA treatment. This inhibition was observed as a function of reaction time and in the presence of varying transsarcolemmal  $\text{H}^+$  gradients. These fatty acids inhibited  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange without altering passive ion permeability. This study demonstrates that specific alterations in the cardiac sarcolemmal membrane phospholipids influence the activity of the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger.

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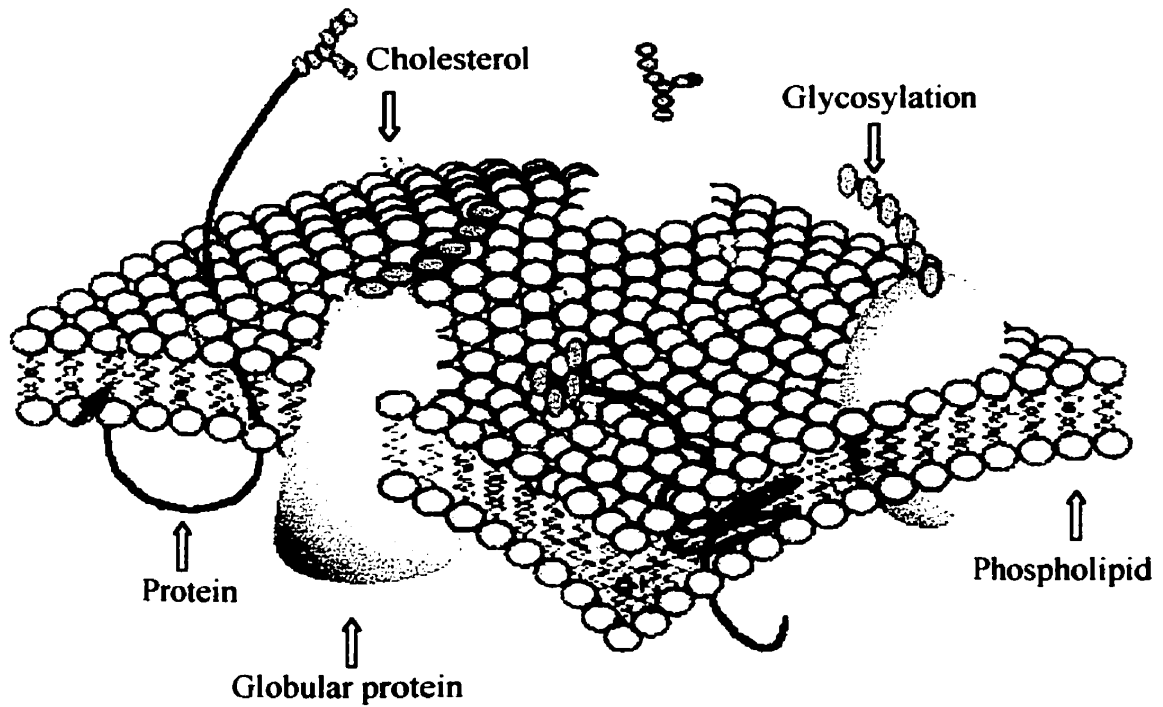
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## **A. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **I. The Cell Membrane**

#### ***1. Fluid Mosaic model***

Many have established the importance of cellular membranes both physiologically and pathophysiologically. The cell membrane maintains cellular isolation from its outer environment. It is also involved in cell signaling and provides a selective permeable barrier (1). The membrane is arranged in two layers classically known as a phospholipid bilayer. The functional role of lipids contained within biological membranes was initially proposed by Gorter and Grendell in 1925 (2). This was established through analysis of an erythrocyte membrane phospholipid monolayer on an air-water interface. Decades later, these preliminary experiments lead to the discovery of vertical “flip flop” movements of phospholipids and lateral motions of proteins embedded within and traversing the bilayer. Singer and Nicholson (460) further clarified this in 1976 and coined the term “Fluid Mosaic Model” (Figure 1). Each of the numerous components within the lipid bilayer has a specific function and plays an identifying role. The major components of this cellular membrane include phospholipids, fatty acids, proteins and cholesterol.



**Figure 1.** Singer and Nicholson's "Fluid Mosaic Model"

- = polar head groups
- ⌚ = fatty acids



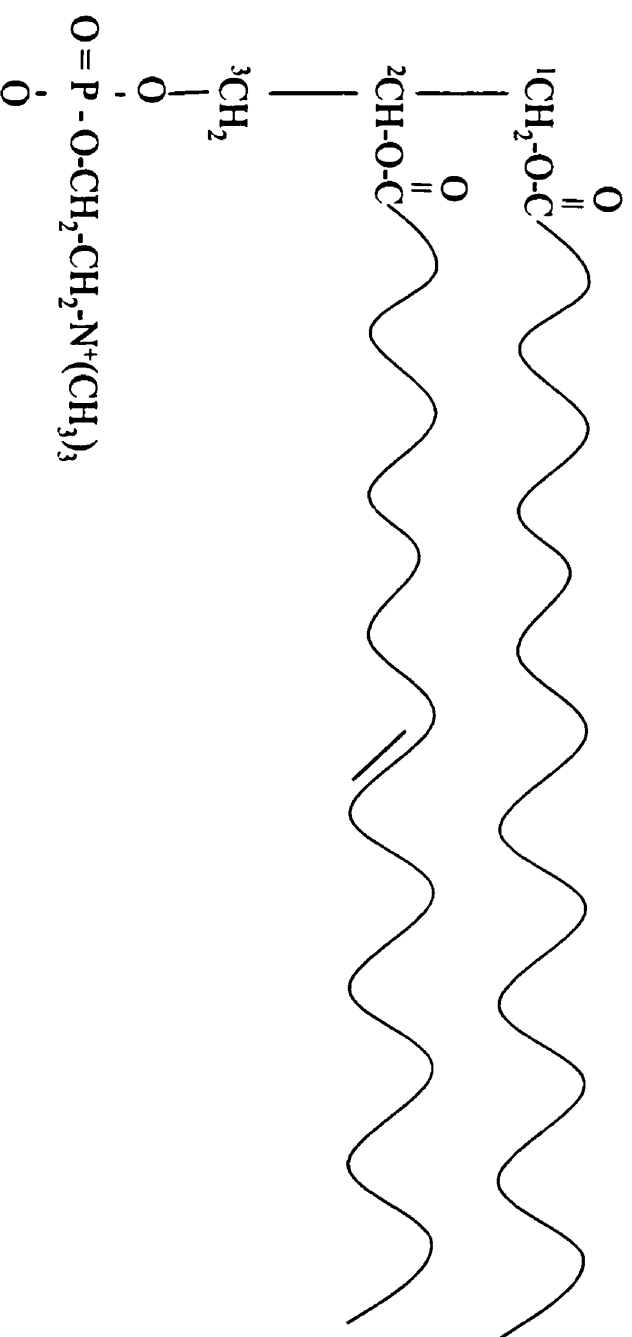
## **2. Phospholipids**

Within biological membranes exist two types of lipids, glycerophospholipids (GPL) and sphingolipids (SPL). Structurally, GPL's consist of a glycerol backbone to which two fatty acids are attached via an ester bond at positions sn-1 and sn-2. At sn-3, a phosphate group is attached to a highly polar head group (**Figure 2a**). A plasmalogen is a GPL or an SPL where a vinyl ether bond attaches the fatty acid to the sn-1 position. SPL's have only one fatty acid attached to a sphingosine backbone as opposed to the glycerol backbone found in GPL's. For simplicity, both GPL's and SPL's will be referred to as phospholipids (1).

Both GPL's and SPL's are considered amphipathic (i.e. hydrophobic and hydrophilic portions). The hydrophilic segment consists of the polar head group, whereas the hydrophobic portion is the fatty acid species bound to the glycerol backbone.

The nomenclature of GPL's depends on their specific components. Glycerophospholipids are named according to the head groups attached to the glycerol backbone. For example, phosphatidylcholine has a choline head group attached to the glycerol backbone. It is referred to as a GPL species, but within these species exist many different classes depending on the combination of fatty acids attached to the glycerol backbone. Some examples of fatty acids are linoleic, oleic, lauric, myristic, palmitic, stearic, linolenic and arachidonic acid. These fatty acids can either be saturated (contain no double bonds) or be unsaturated (contain double bonds). More information on fatty acids is found later in this treatise.

There are many phospholipids within the cellular membrane. Phosphatidylcholine (PC) is the most abundant phospholipid found within mammalian membranes. As much

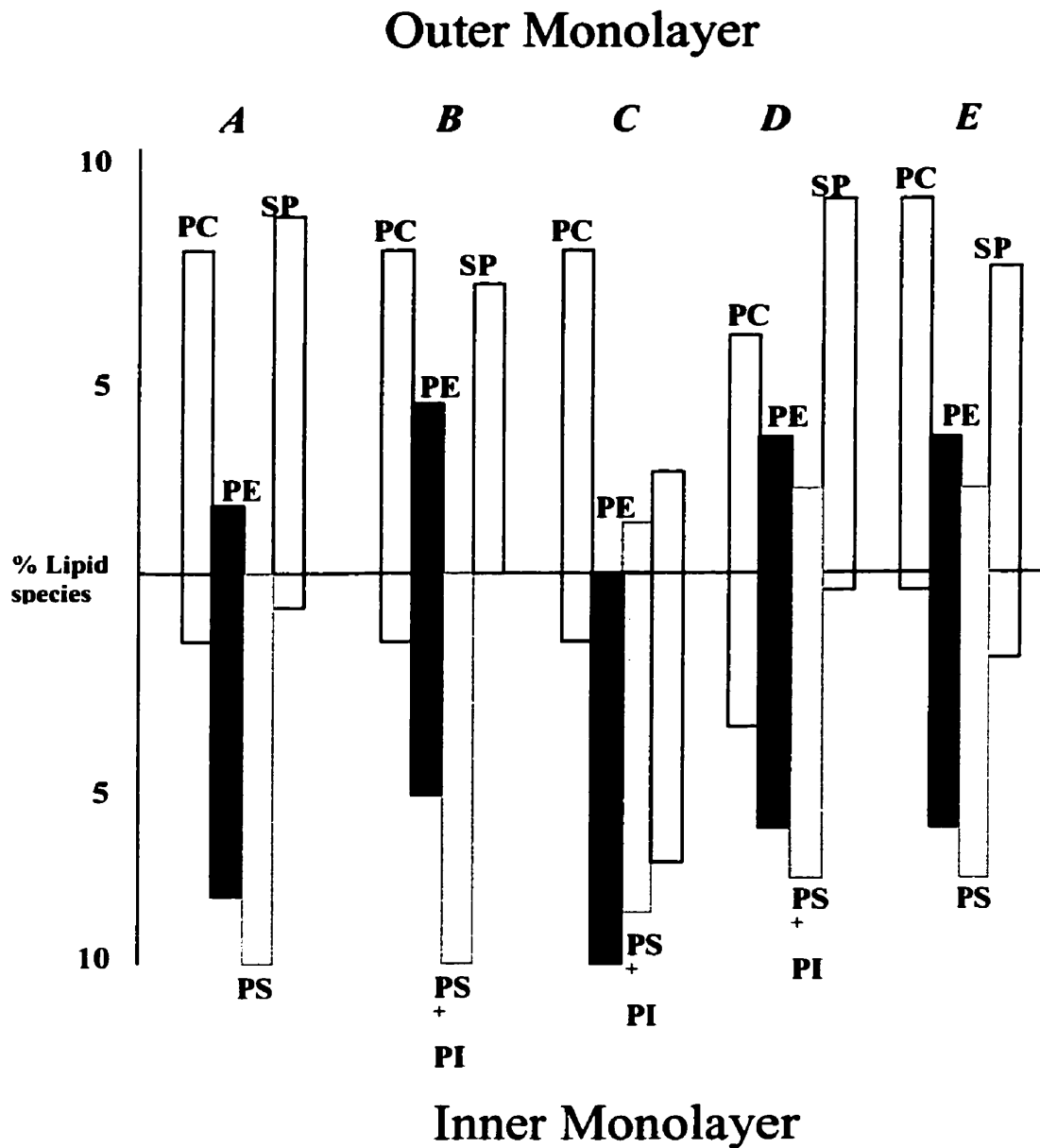


**Figure 2a. Phospholipid structure containing saturated and unsaturated fatty acids.**  
 Phospholipids include a head group (eg. Choline, ethanolamine etc), a phosphate group attached to a glycerol backbone and fatty acids (unsaturated or saturated) attached to the glycerol moiety.

as 50% of total membrane phospholipids consist of PC (3). Others phospholipids include phosphatidylethanolamine (PE), sphingomyelin (SPH), phosphatidylinositol (PI), phosphatidylserine (PS), cardiolipin (CDL), phosphatidylglycerol (PG), lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC), and phosphatidic acid (PA). These phospholipids distribute themselves asymmetrically across the membrane. Certain phospholipids are found on the inner portion of the bilayer, and others on the outer layer (4) (Figure 3). Phospholipids such as PC and SPH exist predominately in the outer membrane, while PI and PS occupy the inner membrane (Figure 3).

The function of certain ion exchangers depends upon the membrane phospholipid composition. Philipson was the first to examine the influence of phospholipids on  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange (5,6). Phosphatidylcholine enriched reconstituted proteoliposomes from dog heart sarcolemma showed no change in  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange (NCX). However, PC:PE reconstituted vesicles (90:10, weight:weight) stimulated  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange activity (7). Vemuri and Philipson (8) reported optimal  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange occurs in the presence of PS, CDL and PA. NCX is depressed in the presence of PI and phosphatidylglycerol (PG) (8). The stimulatory effect of acidic phospholipids on NCX has also been reported (8-10). Other ion transporters such as the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -ATPase (11-13) and  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{K}^+$  ATPase (14) are also dependent upon the phospholipid environment which surrounds them.

Lysophospholipids, such as lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC), lysophosphatidylethanolamine (LPE), lysophosphatidylinositol (LPI) and



**Figure 3. Phospholipid asymmetry in plasma membranes.** (A). Human erythrocyte membrane, (B) rat liver blood sinusoidal plasma membrane, (C) rat liver continuous plasma membrane, (D) pig platelet plasma membrane, (E) VSV envelope derived from hamster kidney BHK-21 cells (adapted from (15))

lysophosphatidylserine (LPS) have been shown to modulate the activity of ion transporters. Lysolipids are phospholipids with one fatty acid group removed. Voltage dependent  $\text{Na}^+$ -channels (16),  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{K}^+$  ATPase (17), inward rectifier  $\text{K}^+$  channels (18) and  $\text{K}^+$ -ATP channels (19) are affected by certain lysophospholipids. Lundback et al reported the effect of lysophospholipids on gramicidin channel function (20). Yamaguchi et al have shown LPC inhibits the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{HCO}_3^-$  (21). LPC also affects cardiac  $\text{Na}^+$  channels (16,22,23),  $\text{K}^+$  channels (18,24) and inhibits the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{K}^+$  ATPase (25,26). The  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger has been reported to be unaffected by the phospholipid environment (21,27). However, Hoque et al reported a stimulated  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger in rat cardiomyocytes following LPC addition (28). The effects are thought to occur via alterations in the mechanical properties of the membranes (20).

Lysophospholipids have important biological actions outside of their effect on ion transport proteins. For example, lysophosphatidylcholine induces the expression of growth factors in human endothelial cells (29). Lysophosphatidic acid induces vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation (30). Lysoplasmethylcholine stimulates myocardial protein kinase (PKA) (31).

LPC is normally present in concentrations of 140 -150 $\mu\text{M}$  (32,33). Certain pathological situations cause alterations in membrane phospholipids. Ischemia is one example. Phosphatidylethanolamine shifts from the inner membrane, where it is normally located, to the outer membrane following 60 minutes of ischemia in neonatal rat cardiomyocytes (34). Phosphoinositide (phosphatidylinositol, phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate and phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate) breakdown is increased in

reperfused rat hearts subjected to 30 minutes of ischemia (35). An elevation of LPC following ischemia has been reported by many labs (36-41). Lysophosphatidylcholine is a mediator of ischemia-induced arrhythmias (42-45).

LPC can increase in the hearts of animals in a variety of diseases. In genetically determined myopathic hamster hearts, the levels of PC, PE, diphosphatidylglycerol (DPG) and PA were decreased while PI and LPC were elevated (46). LPC is also increased in diabetic patients where it has been suggested to inhibit the activity of the  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{K}^+$  ATPase (47).

### **3. Cholesterol**

The integral role of cholesterol in stabilizing the phospholipid bilayer has been well established (48,49). Interestingly, many authors have determined the preferential affinity for cholesterol to attach to certain phospholipids (50-52). Sphingomyelin and other membrane stabilizing phospholipids attract cholesterol. Although this association for phospholipids is weak, the ratio of cholesterol to phospholipid contributes to overall membrane fluidity.

The quantity of cholesterol within membranes varies among the different subcellular membranes. This variation was first established in 1971 by Colbeau *et al* in rat liver subcellular membranes (53). The inner mitochondrial membrane contains less cholesterol than the outer mitochondrial membrane. Similarly the smooth endoplasmic reticulum contains less cholesterol than the rough endoplasmic reticulum. The greatest quantity of cholesterol is found in the plasma membrane.

Cholesterol interacts with membrane-bound proteins (54-56). Kutryk *et al* (57) examined the effect of increasing membrane cholesterol on the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger. Cholesterol enrichment of sarcolemmal vesicles leads to a stimulation of  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange while inhibiting  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ - $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  ATPase and  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{K}^+$  ATPase (57). This was confirmed by others (8). Oxidized cholesterol had the opposite effect on  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange, indicating the importance that cholesterol charge and structure has on membrane proteins and their function (461).

#### **4. Fatty Acids**

Fatty acids are carboxyl acids. They are attached to hydrocarbon chains which are 4-36 carbons long. They may be saturated (no double bonds) or unsaturated (double bonds). Single and multiple double bonds within fatty acids are referred to as monounsaturated (MUFA) and polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA), respectively. The double bonds within unsaturated fatty acids cause a “kink” to develop within the hydrocarbon chain. This prevents side-by-side alignment of fatty acids resulting in liquid fat at room temperature (eg. vegetable oil). Saturated fatty acids are solids or gels at room temperature (eg. margarine). They may also be branched or unbranched. Some fatty acids contain hydroxyl groups or three carbon ringed structures. Combined, these factors make up the specific physical properties of each individual fatty acid, including melting temperature and solubility. The length of the hydrocarbon chain determines the solubility of fatty acids. As the length of the hydrocarbon chain increases, solubility decreases (1).

The PUFA's have a special clinical importance in a variety of disease states. For example, mortality by coronary heart disease is reduced as a consequence of dietary long chain PUFA administration (58-61). The long chain PUFA's prevent arrhythmias induced by ischemia. This was shown in animals (62-65) and is thought to function in a similar manner in humans (59,66-68). There is also a role for PUFA's in diabetes mellitus. Dietary addition of docosahexanoic acid (DHA) improved metabolic control in diabetic patients (69). Interestingly, the basal levels of DHA, EPA and arachidonic acid (AA) are similar to control non-diabetic levels (70).

Fatty acids have also been reported to affect the activity of certain ion exchangers. The PUFA's linoleic acid and linolenic acid stimulate the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger (71). Eicosapentanoic acid, a PUFA, inhibits the  $\text{I}_{\text{Na}}$  channel in human embryonic kidney cells (HEK293t) (72). Other fatty acids such as palmitoleic acid caused a large stimulation of the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger (73). The unsaturated fatty acids oleic, linolenic, linoleic and linoelaidic acid had similar effects (73). These fatty acids also stimulate the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -ATPase in erythrocyte membranes (74). However, the opposite effects have been reported by others. Animals restricted to an unsaturated n-3 fatty acid diet containing docosahexanoic acid (C22:6) and eicosapentanoic acid (C20:5) show a decrease in rat cardiac sarcoplasmic reticulum  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -ATPase activity (75). These fatty acids (DHA and EPA) also prevent ouabain toxicity (76). This prevention is due to a decrease in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  influx following ouabain addition (77). The  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Li}^+$  antiporter is inhibited in DHA fed diabetic patients (69).



As indicated in the preceding pages, PUFA's also prevent ventricular fibrillation observed in rats following coronary ligation (62) and in monkeys (63). Intravenous infusion of DHA and EPA into canine myocardium prevented ventricular fibrillation following ischemia (65,78). This anti-arrhythmic effect of PUFA's may function via  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (79) or  $\text{K}^+$  channel inhibition (80). The effect of DHA and EPA on the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger remains undetermined. However,  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange activity in linoleic or linolenic enriched cells remains unaltered (81).

### ***5. Phospholipases***

Phospholipases are enzymes which hydrolyse phospholipids. This breakdown is necessary for constant phospholipid turnover. Several phospholipases exist within biological membranes. Phospholipase  $\text{A}_2$ , C and D are the most common. Each phospholipase has a specific phospholipid cleavage point. Each phospholipase will yield specific, structurally different by-products.

#### ***i. Phospholipase $\text{A}_2$***

There are three types of intracellular phospholipase  $\text{A}_2$  ( $\text{PLA}_2$ ) species found within mammalian tissue. The first  $\text{PLA}_2$  is a 14-15 kDa protein which is known as low-molecular weight  $\text{PLA}_2$ . This low-molecular weight  $\text{PLA}_2$  is localized in the membrane of cardiomyocytes (82). The second type is the 85 kDa high-molecular weight  $\text{PLA}_2$  (83,84). Both of these phospholipases are  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  dependent. The  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permits the translocation of the phospholipases to the plasma membrane from the cytoplasm (84). The third type is a  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -independent, 40 kDa phospholipase. This phospholipase has

been identified in canine myocardium (85) and is specific for *sn*-2-arachidonoyl plasmalogens (86).

The function of phospholipase A<sub>2</sub> is to cleave the ester linkage at the *sn*-2 position of phosphatidylcholine. This cleavage gives rise to a free fatty acid (usually arachidonic acid as it is most abundant in choline and ethanolamine containing phospholipids) and lysophosphatidylcholine (**Figure 2b**). The Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent PLA<sub>2</sub> yields lysoplasmenylcholine as it is plasmalogen specific (86). Removal of the choline from the LPC yields lysophosphatidic acid (LPA).

Gross and colleagues report an increase in PLA<sub>2</sub> activation following 15 minutes of ischemia (87). This increase in PLA<sub>2</sub> activity has also been reported following a 2-minute ischemic period (88). The levels of plasmalogen specific PLA<sub>2</sub> also increase following 15 minutes of ischemia in rabbit myocardium (89). This PLA<sub>2</sub> is also stimulated in response to interleukin-1 and thrombin (90,91).

The effect of PLA<sub>2</sub> on membrane ion exchangers has also been examined. Its effects are both direct and indirect. For example, although the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase remains unaffected following the addition of PLA<sub>2</sub> (92), the by-products of PLA<sub>2</sub>, lysophosphatidylcholine and arachidonic acid do affect ion transport (16,18,21-26,28,93). Angiotensin II dependent Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> ATPase inhibition is thought to occur via a PLA<sub>2</sub> signaling pathway (94). Inhibition of PLA<sub>2</sub> by mepacrine prevents angiotensin II induced inhibition of the Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> ATPase (94).

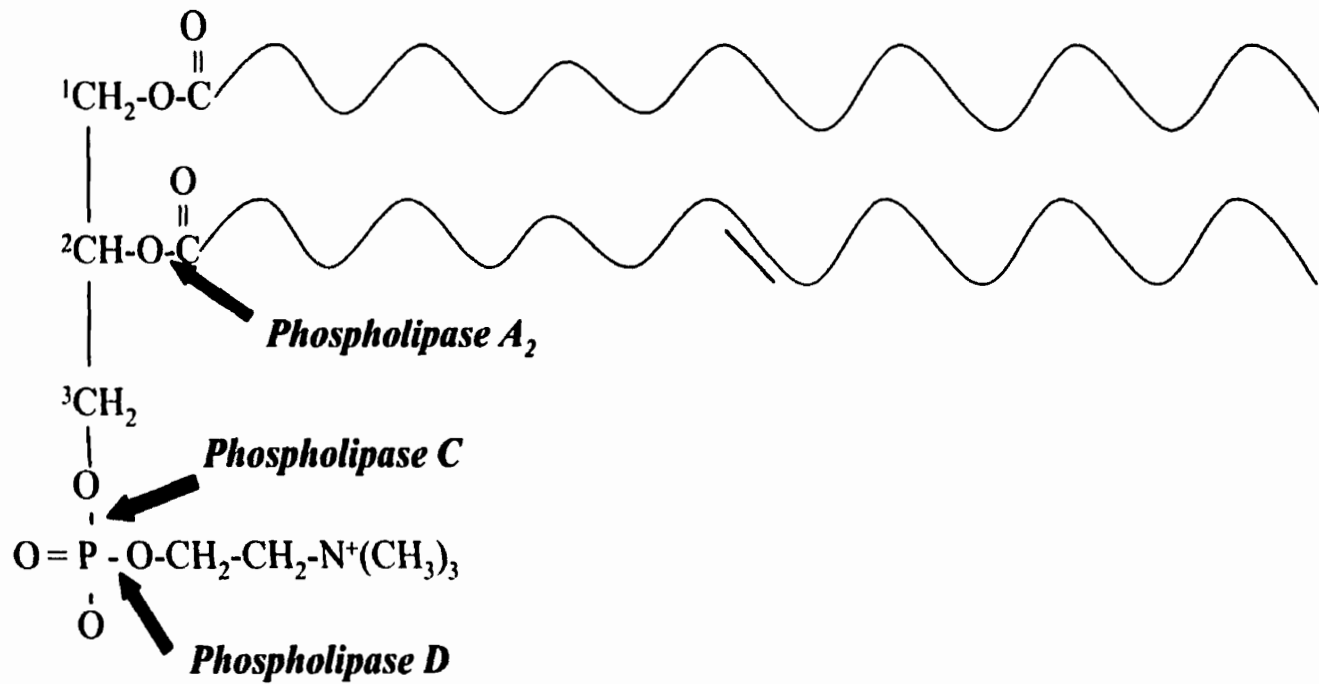
## ***ii. Phospholipase C***

There are ten isozymes of phosphoinositide specific-phospholipase C (PI-PLC). These have been localized in many types of organisms including bacteria, plants and mammals (95-99). These isozymes can be classified as either  $\beta$  (4),  $\alpha$  (2) or  $\delta$  (4) according to their structure (100,101). Of the three types of subfamilies, the  $\delta$  group is the smallest, approximately 85 kDa. In addition, the structure of the  $\delta$  PLC isozyme is simple as it is contained in eukaryotes such as yeast and slime molds (100,102,103). The  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  isozymes are between 140 kDa – 150 kDa.

The isozymes share some similar features, while differ in others (103-106). The activity of PI-PLC is dependent on the presence of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . The major substrates are the phosphoinositides (phosphatidylinositol (PtdIns), phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate (PtdIns 4-P) and phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate (PtdIns-4,5-P<sub>2</sub>) (107). However, the discovery of two  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -independent non-phosphoinositide utilizing PI-PLC's have been reported (108,109).

The location of the isozymes varies. The  $\delta_1$  and  $\gamma_1$  isoforms are located in ventricular myocytes (110,111). Little, however, is known about the localization of the PLC isozymes within cardiac cells.

The function of phospholipase C is to hydrolyze the phosphoinositides. This generates 1,4,5-triphosphate (IP<sub>3</sub>) and *sn* 1,2-diacylglycerol (DAG) (112) (**Figure 2b**). IP<sub>3</sub> and DAG are potent second messengers. IP<sub>3</sub> is known to cause  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release from the sarcoplasmic reticulum (113,114), while DAG activates protein kinase C which activates a number of regulating factors downstream (115,116).



**Figure 2b. Phospholipase action and their specific by-products.** Each phospholipase cleavage point is site specific, thereby generating specific by-products.

The addition of phospholipase C modulates the activity of many ion exchangers. Phospholipase C addition to vesicular lipids causes  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  uptake to decrease (117). Phospholipase C also decreases the interaction of ATP with the membranes (117). A decrease in  $\text{PIP}_2$  causes depression in NCX and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  pump (118).  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{K}^+$  ATPase, SR  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  ATPase and gastric  $\text{K}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  ATPase have all been modulated by phospholipase C (14,119,120). Furthermore,  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange activity is enhanced following the addition of phospholipase C (6). This stimulation occurs irrespective of the increase in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  permeability observed (6). This stimulation of the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger was also observed by others using phosphatidylinositol-specific PLC (121).

### ***iii. Phospholipase D***

Phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylethanolamine and phosphatidylinositol are the preferential substrates for phospholipase D. Cleavage of the phospholipid generates two products, a polar head group and phosphatidic acid (122) (**Figure 2b**).

Kanfer *et al* were the first to isolate phospholipase D (PLD) from rat brain tissue (123). Phospholipase D was also isolated from rat lung (124). Phospholipase D exists in a variety of organelles and tissue types and is stimulated by many factors (125). The majority of the PLD within the myocardium has been localized to the sarcolemmal membrane (126). A significant portion also exists in the sarcoplasmic reticulum membrane (126). Others have confirmed this localization of phospholipase D within the myocardium (127,128).

The PLD's can be separated into two categories. The first category consists of membrane bound PLD's which are stimulated by phosphoinositides such as phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bis phosphate (129). Within this primary subdivision are two types of phospholipase D sub-species, PLD1 and PLD2 (130,131). Both PLD1 and PLD2 are stimulated by phosphatidylinositol 4,5 bisphosphate and phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5 triphosphate. However, only PLD1 is stimulated by fatty acids, such as oleate (132). The activity of this PLD is dependent on the presence of sodium oleate (133,134). The second subdivision is dependent upon G-protein ribosylation factor (ARF) (135,136). The oleate and ARF regulated PLD's are membrane bound (137). Other PLD isozymes present within the plasma membrane are dependent upon other factors such as guanosine 5'-(3-thio)-triphosphate (GTP $\gamma$ S) (138-140).

The second subdivision of PLD's is a cytosolic isozyme which was identified in a number of tissue types (141-143). Calcium stimulates this form of PLD (141,143). In addition, the cytosolic isoform of PLD cleaves phospholipids non-specifically. Unlike the membrane bound PLD isozymes, the cytosolic PLD differs in its preference for non-phosphatidylcholine substrates. Substrates of the cytosolic PLD include PE or PI (141-143).

The modulatory effect of phospholipase D on certain ion exchangers has been demonstrated. Philipson and colleagues report a stimulation of Na<sup>+</sup>-Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchange following the addition of phospholipase D (144). This stimulation occurred following a 10-fold increase in phosphatidic acid levels subsequent to phospholipase D addition (144). Phosphatidic acid also affects ion transport. Phosphatidic acid increases

intracellular levels of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (145). This increase is thought to occur via sarcoplasmic reticulum  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release. The addition of thapsigargin and ryanodine (sarcoplasmic reticulum  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel inhibitors) attenuated the phosphatidic acid induced increase in intracellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  (145). The increase in  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release from the sarcoplasmic reticulum by phosphatidic acid was also reported under in vitro conditions (146).

Plasmalogen phosphatidic acid augments  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange activity (147). This experiment was carried out in proteoliposomes containing plasmenylcholine. These proteoliposomes were exposed to phospholipase D generating plasmalogenic phosphatidic acid. This resulted in an 8-fold stimulation of the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger (147). At present, no study has examined the influence of phospholipase D, or its by-products, on the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger.

Laminin increases the production of collagenase IV. This increase in collagenase IV is thought to occur through a laminin-induced phospholipase D intermediate (148). Williger *et al* report the reliance of matrix metalloproteinase-9 secretion on the presence and subsequent production of phosphatidic acid by phospholipase D (149). A role for phospholipase D during meiosis has also been shown (150).

Phospholipase D activity is reduced in the sarcolemma, sarcoplasmic reticulum and mitochondrial membranes of diabetic myocardium (151). The reduction of PLD activity in diabetic cardiac sarcolemma is reversed by insulin administration. Insulin only partially restored phospholipase D activity in the sarcoplasmic reticulum and mitochondrial membranes (151). Ischemia-reperfusion insults stimulate PLD activation (152). This activation also occurs in pre-conditioned hearts (153,154).

## **II. The Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> Exchanger**

### ***1. Historical perspective***

Cells acquire the raw materials from the extracellular environment that are necessary for energy production. The by-products of this cellular metabolism must be released back into the external environment. The mechanism most frequently used to release such products from the cell is simple diffusion. Simple diffusion occurs when there is an unequal solute concentration on either side of a permeable membrane. Through this process the solute will eventually equilibrate its concentration in accordance with the second law of thermodynamics. However, achieving maximum entropy and equilibrium in living organisms would ultimately lead to death. The cellular membrane in living organisms prevents this by allowing only certain solutes to traverse. This selective permeability is accomplished in part through the physical characteristics of the lipid bilayer. The hydrophobic core in the lipid bilayer prevents uncontrolled movement of all polar solutes and inorganic ions, with the exception of water. To regulate transport of substances such as sugars, amino acids and inorganic ions, certain proteins are present within the bilayer. These protein exchangers import solutes in some instances, and export solutes in others.

This type of regulation is present in the myocardium. Cardiac cells are constantly producing protons because of their intense metabolism (155). The internal pH of myocytes is maintained between 7.3–7.4. However, at an external pH of 7.4 and a membrane potential of –60mV, it would be expected that the intracellular pH would be approximately 6.4 with passive distribution according to the Donnan equilibrium.



Therefore, the internal pH in cardiac cells is maintained at one pH unit more alkaline than would be expected. This strongly suggested to early scientists in this area that a H<sup>+</sup> extruding mechanism must be present in the myocardium. In 1961, P. Mitchell suggested the existence of an antiporter which regulated fluctuations in the [H<sup>+</sup>] of the cell. The ability of cardiac cells to regulate their pH was first demonstrated by Ellis and Thomas (156). They examined pH<sub>i</sub> in Purkinje fibers from rat, guinea pig and ferret ventricle. Extracellular CO<sub>2</sub> was varied while pH<sub>i</sub> was measured. Variations in extracellular CO<sub>2</sub> initially increased pH. This was followed by pH restoration, however, at a new basal pH (156), suggesting the existence of a pH regulatory mechanism.

Knowledge concerning the regulation of pH in the myocardium was greatly advanced by the discovery of the Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger in the 60's. This was followed by discoveries of several Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchangers within other cell types and in bacterium *Streptococcus faecalis* (157,158). In 1976, the Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger was discovered in membrane of epithelial cells (159), rat liver mitochondria (160) and analyzed in the kidney (161). Several investigators have now identified the NHE as the major protein responsible for H<sup>+</sup> extrusion in cardiac cells (162,163). However, it wasn't until 1989 that the human Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger was cloned (164). The role of the NHE during certain pathological situations has stimulated the need for more information concerning the structural and functional characteristics of the Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger. **Table 1** chronologically illustrates the discoveries involving the NHE over the past 40 years.

**Table 1. Significant findings regarding the Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger in chronological order (165).**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Finding</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
1961	First prediction of Na <sup>+</sup> -H <sup>+</sup> antiport by P.Mitchell	(166)
1967	First experimental demonstration of Na <sup>+</sup> -H <sup>+</sup> antiport in rat liver mitochondria	(167)
1972	Demonstration of NHE in bacterium <i>S. faecalis</i> .	(157)
1976	Electroneutral NHE is documented in the plasmalemma of epithelial cells.	(161)
1981	Demonstration of inhibition of mammalian NHE antiporter by amiloride and analogs	(168)
1982	First evidence that the activity of the mammalian exchanger is allosterically activated by intracellular protons	(169)
1981-1983	Growth factor activation of NHE participates in mitogenesis	(170-173)
1983	First demonstration of NHE activity in heart	(462)
1985	First biochemical identification and characterization of NHE activity in myocardial sarcolemmal membranes	(174)
1987	Cloning of the major NHE antiporter gene of <i>E. coli</i>	(175)
1989	Cloning of the human NHE-1 isoform	(164)
1990	Elucidation that growth factors induce phosphorylation of the NHE-1	(176)
1991	Purification and reconstitution of the functional NhaA, the electrogenic NHE anti-porter of <i>E. coli</i>	(177)
1992	Cloning of the plasmalemmal NHE of the yeast <i>Schizosaccharomyces pombe</i>	(178)
1989-1995	Cloning of the distinct isoforms of NHE (NHE 1-5); determination of their expression in different tissues	(179-185)
1993-1994	Experimental evidence of oligomerization of mammalian NHE antiporters: NHE1 and NHE3 form stable homodimers in the	(186,187)

**membrane**

1994	The cytoplasmic carboxyl terminal domain of the NHE-1 can bind calmodulin in a Ca <sup>2+</sup> - dependent manner	(188,189)
1995	The C-terminal segment of NHE-1 interacts with mammalian heat-shock protein	(190)
1998	Identification of a novel mitochondrial NHE isoform, NHE-6	(191)
1999	Clinical trials using NHE inhibitors during ischemia-reperfusion injury and balloon angioplasty	(192)

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## **2. Structure**

The NHE-1 is a 110-kDa glycoprotein containing 815 amino acids. The model initially proposed of the NHE-1 by Sardet *et al* consisted of 2 domains (164). The first was a hydrophobic N-terminal domain containing 500 amino acids forming 10-12 transmembrane helices. A second domain, a 315 amino acid hydrophilic portion referred to as the C-terminal cytoplasmic domain, served as the “sensor” for activation of the NHE-1. The topology of the NHE-1 is represented in **Figure 4**.

The eukaryotic NHE cytoplasmic domain is larger than that present in bacterium (193). Functionally, the cytoplasmic domain translates signals into either inhibitory or stimulatory modulation of the NHE. The cytoplasmic domain shares little similarity between isoforms. Stimulation of the NHE via phosphorylation occurs at the cytoplasmic domain. For example, activation of the NHE-1 proceeds via a phospholipase C-diacylglycerol-PKC induced phosphorylation of this cytoplasmic domain (164). In addition to the PKC dependent NHE phosphorylation, phorbol esters and other growth factors activate certain kinases to phosphorylate the NHE (176,194). NHE phosphorylation occurs at residue 635 of the cytoplasmic tail. Removal of this residue does not prevent NHE activation. This indicates that NHE stimulation must be occurring through some other mechanisms (195,196). To examine the location upon which these factors were stimulating NHE, the non-phosphorylatable residues, 567-635 were removed. This eliminated growth factor induced NHE stimulation, however NHE activation remained (195). For this reason, NHE stimulation through  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -calmodulin binding was suggested (197,198)

# NHE1

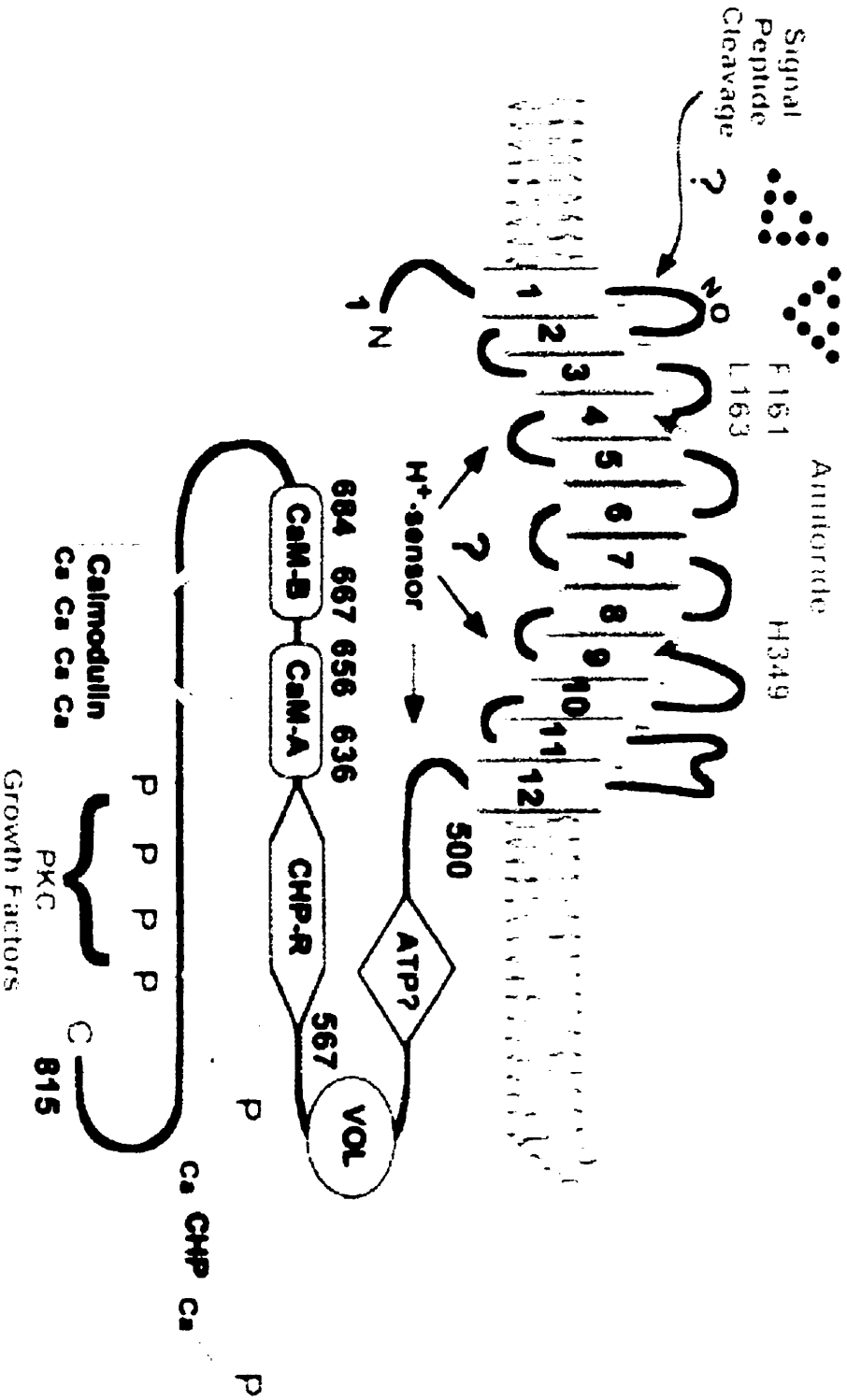


Figure 4. Topological representation of NHE-1 (199)

(203-205). Residues 637-656 of the cytoplasmic tail are responsible for the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -calmodulin binding site on the NHE (188,206) **Figure 4**. Activation of protein kinase II via  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -calmodulin binding is thought to stimulate NHE (197,198,203-205). Other factors which bind and activate the NHE are hsp70 (189), which binds the carboxyl-terminal region of the NHE and a 24kDa protein which remains unidentified (207).

The transmembrane segments (TMS) are responsible for actual ion exchange (208,209). The number of transmembrane spanning regions varies between NHE isoforms. There is homology of amino acids within the transmembrane segments between NHE isoforms. The first TMS forms a sequence necessary for signaling (196), and shares the least homology amongst the various NHE isoforms (210). The different transmembrane segments (TMS) have special functions. Sites for glycosylation, amiloride binding and  $\text{H}^+$  sensors are present.

The N and O linked glycosylated sites are restricted to the first N-terminal domain (211). This glycosylation adds 20 kDa to the molecular mass of the NHE-1 protein (176,212). The actual molecular mass of NHE-1 is 91 kDa. Glycosylation promotes proper packaging and transport of the NHE to the membrane (213,214). The exact function of glycosylation in  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange has yet to be determined. Some tissues may contain different levels of glycosylation serving an unknown function (212). Removal of the glycosylated segments has no effect in some cell types (211,212,215), yet stifles ion exchange in others (216). Not all NHE isoforms, such as NHE-3, are glycosylated (211,217).

The TMS vary between isoforms in their sensitivity for inhibitors (218-220). The fourth and ninth TMS are involved in amiloride sensitivity. For example, loss of sensitivity occurs following replacement of the Leu167 residue with Phe167 in the 4<sup>th</sup> TMS (221,222). Mutagenesis of an analogous site in rabbit NHE-2 (Leu143 to Phe143) replicates the previous finding (223). Alterations of the His349 residue in the ninth TMS to Tyr, Phe, Gly or Leu have minimal effects on amiloride sensitivity (224).

The stimulation of the NHE by H<sup>+</sup> occurs via allosteric activation (225). This activation is thought to occur via protonation of an ionizable group such as a histidine residue on the cytoplasmic side. Protonation is thought to cause a conformational change and subsequent stimulation of the NHE. A histidine residue between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> TMS has been suggested to serve as the H<sup>+</sup> sensor in *Escherichia coli* NHE (226). Although the bacterial NHE is not completely homologous with mammalian NHE, a similar histidine residue may serve an analogous role. Wakabayashi *et al* have established the N-terminal domain as the site for H<sup>+</sup>-induced activation (195), whereas the cytoplasmic domain senses a certain pH<sub>i</sub> to which the NHE becomes active (195).

Little is known about the tertiary and quaternary structure of the NHE. Some suspect NHE functions as a monomer (164), while others suggest a homodimeric configuration (187,227). Monomer interaction is thought to occur within the transmembrane region (187) via disulfide bonds (227), however, the exact location has yet to be determined.

### **3. Location and isoform**

Several different isoforms of the Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger have been identified throughout mammalian tissue. To date, six different isoforms of the Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger

exist and are all located in select areas of mammalian tissue.  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange isoform-1 (NHE-1), is a ubiquitous glycoprotein that is the predominant isoform found in the myocardium. The NHE-1 isoform is also found in the human thyroid gland, adult brain, placenta and breast. Other isoforms such as NHE-2, NHE-3 and NHE-4 are located in areas of the stomach, intestine and kidney, respectively (181,184). The NHE-5 isoform of the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger is localized in non-epithelial tissue, which is distinct from all other isoforms (180). Recently, a sixth isoform of NHE has been discovered in the mitochondrial inner membrane (191) (**Table 2**). The NHE-6 isoform shares the least amino acid similarity to the other five, with a  $\approx 20\%$  homology. This is in contrast to the other isoforms, which share anywhere from a 34%-60% amino acid similarity. The function of NHE-6 is still under debate but is considered to regulate  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{H}^+$  in the mitochondria (191).

It is apparent that not only is the function of the NHE-1 important, so is its tissue distribution. Petrecca *et al* have localized the distribution of the NHE-1 in adult rat atrium and ventricle (228). They characterized the exact location of the NHE-1 at the intercalated disks adjacent to connexin 43 and in the transverse tubules (228). This may be important as connexin 43 and NHE may function synergistically to regulate gap junction conductance. The relationship between  $\text{pH}_i$  and gap junction conductance has been reported (229,230). Amiloride-induced NHE inhibition and subsequent intracellular acidosis inhibits gap



**Table 2. Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> isoforms and their specific locations within mammalian tissue.**

Isoform	Location
NHE-1	Ubiquitous; Fibroblasts, cardiac cell membrane, intestinal and renal epithelial cells, skeletal muscle, vascular smooth muscle, brain
NHE-2	Stomach, kidney, intestine, adrenal gland and trachea and skeletal muscle .
NHE-3	Intestine, kidney and stomach.
NHE-4	Stomach, kidney.
NHE-5	Brain, testes, spleen and skeletal muscle.
NHE-6	Inner mitochondrial membrane.

**References:** (164,179-181,183-185,191,231-234)

junction conductance (235). The subcellular location of the NHE differs from other ion-transporters. The  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger has been localized to areas similar to the NHE, as it is present in the sarcolemma of rat and guinea pig myocytes (236,237).

#### ***4. Function of the $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$ exchanger***

The regulation of pH is crucial. Whole body physiology is affected by changes in body fluid  $[\text{H}^+]$ . The intracellular pH is normally acidic compared to the extracellular environment. The  $[\text{H}^+]$  of body fluids averages 0.00004 mEq/liter. The changes observed during whole body acidosis result from alterations in intracellular pH. Both bicarbonate and hydrogen ions diffuse through the cellular membrane but may take several hours to equilibrate with the external environment. The only exception to this is red blood cells which can equilibrate rapidly.

The functional pH within the myocardium is ~ 7.0-7.3. (156,238). Alterations in pH cause changes in electrical-contraction coupling, contraction and cardiac action potential disturbances (239). Intracellular acidosis has been reported to potentiate the amount of atrial natriuretic peptide secreted during a given pressure overload (240). The pH in a cell also regulates protein synthesis (241), metabolic enzyme systems (242), contractile apparatus (243), ion conduction and cell division and proliferation (244-246). For example, the rate limiting enzyme in glycolysis, phosphofructokinase, increases its activity in response to a rise in intracellular pH (242,247). A decrease in pH negatively affects contractility in perfused hearts and in Purkinje fibers (248-251). A decrease in pH of 0.22 units led to a 50% decrease in contractility (250). Sodium and calcium currents

are also reduced by acidosis in a dose dependent manner (252-254). These alterations in ionic conductance are not only associated with changes in contractile tension in the heart but may also lead to arrhythmias. Intracellular pH can effectively regulate cell growth as well. Alterations in pH of only 0.3 units cause diminished mitogenic stimulation of cells in culture (245).

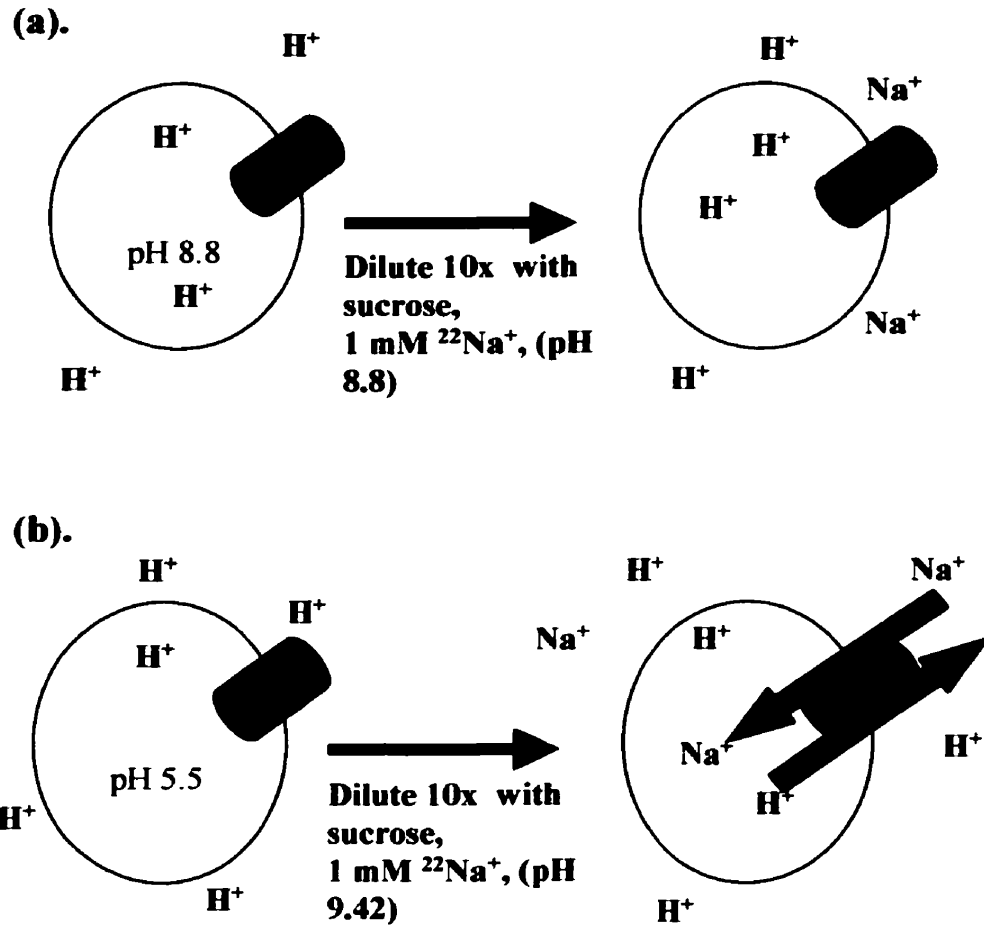
To maintain intracellular [pH], the NHE-1 extrudes a single  $H^+$  in exchange for one  $Na^+$  while maintaining electroneutrality (255,256). The NHE can also function in reverse. Reversing the  $Na^+$  gradient leads to intracellular acidification and extrusion of  $Na^+$  (257) (258-260). Approximately 60% of all  $H^+$  ions removed from myocytes are accounted for by the NHE (261). The ability of the NHE to restore pH following acidosis has been shown in sarcolemmal vesicles (174), freshly isolated rat myocytes (262), chick myocytes (257) and sheep Purkinje fibers (156,263).

$Na^+$ - $H^+$  exchange is highly regulated and can increase or decrease depending upon the ionic conditions. Although there are two ions exchanged, the  $Na^+$ - $H^+$  exchanger requires the presence of both gradients in order to function optimally. For example, the activity of the exchanger, when measured in cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles, is increased when the concentration of extravesicular  $Na^+$  is increased (257). Therefore, NHE activity is influenced by the  $[Na^+]$ , and the intracellular  $[Na^+]$  is influenced by NHE activity as well (257).

Ideally, optimal exchange occurs in the presence of a  $Na^+$  gradient. However, because under basal conditions a large  $Na^+$  gradient is normally present with 142mEq/L  $Na^+$  in the extracellular space and 10mEq/L intracellularly, it is the  $H^+$  gradient which commonly fluctuates the most and stimulates  $Na^+$ - $H^+$  exchange activity. Therefore, the

activity of the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger is primarily dependent upon the presence of a  $\text{H}^+$  gradient. Vesicular  $\text{Na}^+$  uptake is near zero when both internal and external pH are similar (257). The NHE has a differential sensitivity to intracellular and extracellular  $\text{H}^+$ . Intracellular  $\text{H}^+$  will stimulate the exchanger more than  $\text{H}^+$  in the extracellular space (Figure 5). This differential sensitivity to intracellular  $\text{H}^+$  is likely due to the structure of the NHE. The NHE possesses a cytoplasmic domain that is highly sensitive to  $[\text{H}^+]$  (195). A co-operative relationship also exists between  $\text{H}^+$  and NHE as the activity of the exchanger can increase substantially following small  $\text{pH}_i$  fluctuations (257). The NHE is, however, particularly sensitive within a specific range of intracellular and extracellular  $[\text{H}^+]$ 's. At a  $\text{pH}_o$  of 7.6, the NHE functions optimally when  $\text{pH}_i$  is 6.8, but decreases activity and eventually ceases as  $\text{pH}_i$  approaches 7.6 (257). It is controversial whether the NHE is inactive during basal conditions in the heart when intracellular pH is in the range of 7.2-7.4.

The NHE is also capable of substituting other ions for  $\text{Na}^+$  during exchange. Intravesicular release of  $\text{H}^+$  increases with the presence of extracellular  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Rb}^+$  and  $\text{Li}^+$  (264). This indicates a non-specific exchange mechanism for  $\text{Na}^+$  (264). In addition, the uptake of  $\text{K}^+$  and  $\text{Rb}^+$  was diminished when  $\text{H}^+$  was replaced with intracellular  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Li}^+$ . Sodium uptake is decreased as intracellular  $\text{H}^+$  was replaced with  $\text{Li}^+$  or  $\text{Rb}^+$  (264). Prior to this, Pierce and colleagues demonstrated the ability of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Li}^+$  to inhibit  $\text{H}^+$ -dependent  $\text{Na}^+$  uptake (265). This was consistent with competitive inhibition at the active transport site. They also reported an increase in  $\text{Na}^+$  efflux with  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Li}^+$



**Figure 5. Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange requires both Na<sup>+</sup> and H<sup>+</sup> gradients to function.** a). Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange remains inactive when diluted in similar pH. b). NHE activity requires the presence of both Na<sup>+</sup> and H<sup>+</sup> gradients.

present extracellularly (265). Clearly, alterations in the ionic environment of the cardiomyocyte will have striking effects on  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange and pH.

It is thought that the NHE functions in an ATP dependent fashion. The exact mechanism by which the NHE is ATP dependent remains unclear. Phosphorylation by ATP of residues within the cytoplasmic domain has been suggested. Removing segments of the cytoplasmic tail activated by ATP attenuates NHE stimulation. (266). The ATP dependence of the NHE has been challenged (267-270). Evidently, further research in this area is necessary.

### ***5. Pharmacological properties***

There has been considerable attention surrounding the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger following the discovery of its importance during several pathological situations. For this reason, inhibition of the NHE family has become important clinically. Papillary muscle alkalization can also be attenuated following NHE inhibition (271). Several NHE blockers have been used extensively for attenuating the degree of damage following an ischemic event (272-303). The more potent inhibitors of NHE include amiloride, ethylisopropylamiloride, dimethylamiloride, methylisobutyl amiloride, HOE 642 (cariporide), HOE 694, cimetidine, clonidine and harmaline (**Table 3**).

#### ***a. Amiloride and analogs***

Structurally, the diuretic amiloride consists of a pyrazinoylguanidine moiety. The pyrazine ring contains an amino group on positions 3 and 5 and a chloro group on

position 6. Johnson et al first described NHE inhibition by amiloride (304). NHE inhibition by amiloride has been examined in several cell types (305-308).

The various isoforms of  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange vary in their degree of inhibition by amiloride. The order of sensitivity to amiloride is as follows: NHE-1 is the most sensitive, followed by NHE-2 and NHE-3 (219,220,309-311). The mechanism of action of amiloride is via competitive inhibition with  $\text{Na}^+$  for the external surface of the NHE antiporter (259,312,313). Increasing extracellular  $\text{Na}^+$  decreases the degree of inhibition by amiloride and its analogs. In addition, amiloride analogs also bind to the NHE on an alternate site (314).

The structure of amiloride is important for optimal inhibitory potency. To date, more than one thousand amiloride analogs have been isolated (315). The potency of amiloride for NHE is greatest when position 5 on the pyrazine ring is replaced by a hydrophobic substituent. Kleyman *et al* report a 100nm  $\text{IC}_{50}$  of amiloride for NHE following this substituent replacement (316). The transport of amiloride and its analogs depends on a number of factors. Inhibition of NHE occurs when amiloride is protonated. (305). The hydrophobicity of amiloride determines the degree to which it will dissipate a  $\text{H}^+$  gradient across a membrane (225,317). Furthermore, the lipophilic nature of amiloride enables it to accumulate in the cells. This may disrupt the kinases and other modulators causing NHE inhibition (318,319).

Amiloride is a non-specific inhibitor of the NHE. The  $\text{IC}_{50}$  for inhibition of the NHE is much lower when compared to inhibitory concentrations of amiloride for the epithelial  $\text{Na}^+$  channel (320),  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange (321),  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{K}^+$  ATPase (307) and the

**Table 3. Pharmacological properties of mammalian Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger isoforms.** .  
 (adapted from Orłowski *et al*; Characteristics of the plasma membrane Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup>  
 exchanger gene family. In: The Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger, ed. Larry Fliegel,  
 publisher: R.G. Landes Company, 1996) (221).

<b>Inhibition Constants (<math>K_{0.5}</math>)</b>			
<b>Inhibitor</b>	<b>Rat</b>	<b>NHE1 Rabbit</b>	<b>Human</b>
<i>Amilorides family</i>			
<b>Amiloride</b>	1.6uM	1uM	3uM
<b>EIPA</b>	15nM	20nM	22nM
<b>DMA</b>	23nM		100nM
<b>Benzamil</b>	120nM		
<b>Others</b>			
<b>HOE 694</b>			160nM
<b>Cimetidine</b>	26uM		28uM
<b>Clonidine</b>	210uM		
<b>Harmaline</b>	140uM		



Na<sup>+</sup>-glucose cotransporter (322). Increasing the [amiloride] inhibits voltage gated Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup> and Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels (323,324), Na<sup>+</sup>-Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchange in cardiac cells (324), Na<sup>+</sup>-glucose, Na<sup>+</sup>-alanine, Na<sup>+</sup>-PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> cotransporters (322), Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> ATPase in vesicles and intact cells (307,325), and the nicotinic receptor (326). Amiloride is capable of inhibiting not only NHE, but also voltage gated Na<sup>+</sup> (327) and Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels (328) and the Na<sup>+</sup>-Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchanger, albeit poorly. The IC<sub>50</sub> of amiloride necessary to inhibit Na<sup>+</sup>-Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchange is much higher (303), approximately 1mM (321). Amiloride poorly inhibits the Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> ATPase at a concentration of 3mM (307). The exact mechanism of how amiloride inhibits the Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> ATPase is undetermined but it probably interacts with the Na<sup>+</sup> binding site. Ultimately, the amiloride family of drugs produces significant changes on myocardial action potential characteristics and contractile function (329). The intensity of these effects is dependent upon the specific amiloride analogue, its concentration, and the duration of exposure to drug (329).

***b. Other Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange inhibitors***

Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange is also inhibited by HOE 694, HOE 642 (cariporide), cimetidine (histamine H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonist) (330,331), clonidine (α<sub>2</sub>-agonist) (331,332), harmaline (hallucinogen which inhibits some Na<sup>+</sup> transport systems) (331,333,334) and loperamide (opiate antagonist) (335). These agents differ from amiloride and the HOE compounds chemically. However, structurally they bear a slight resemblance to amiloride. Cimetidine and harmaline inhibit NHE with a similar sensitivity as amiloride (219,220).

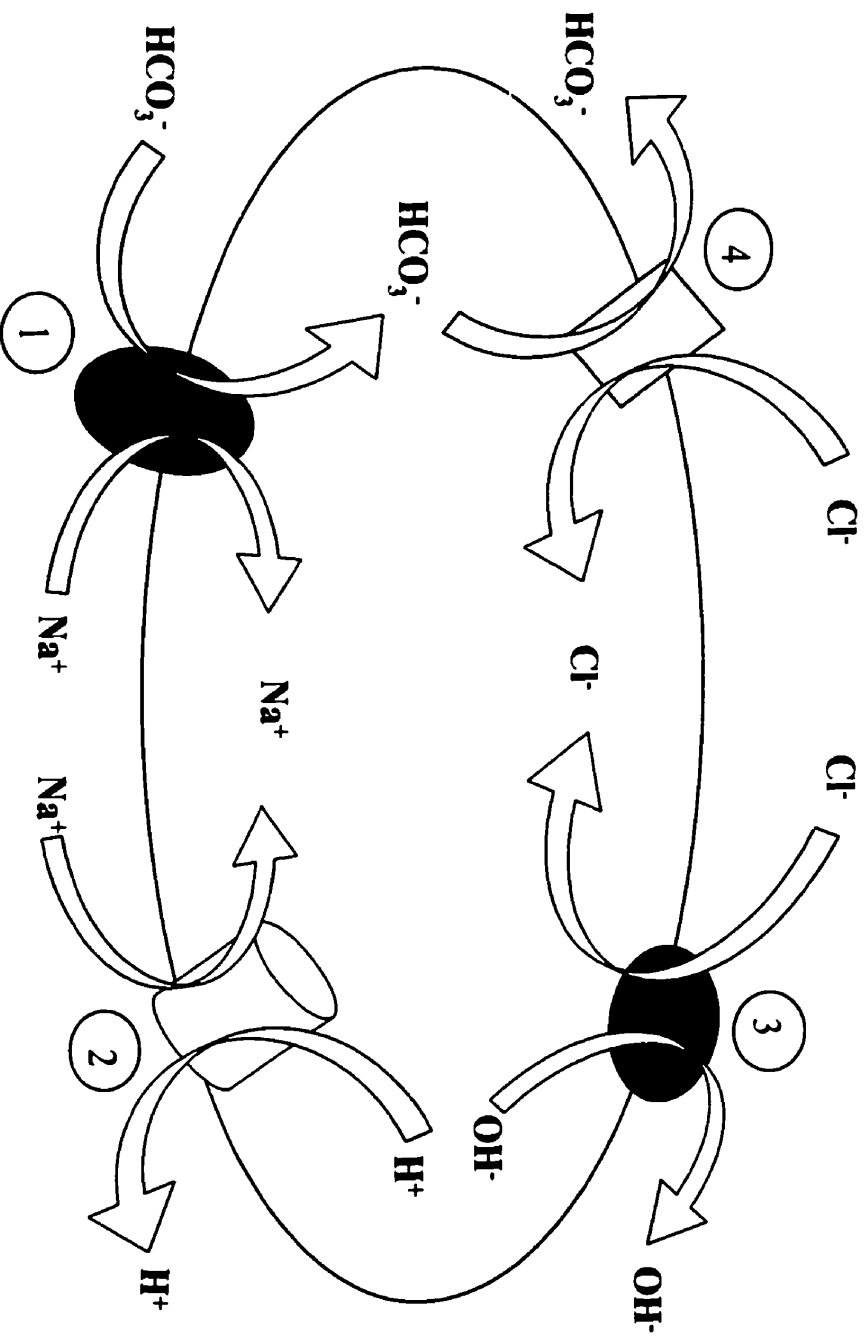
Cariporide (4-isopropyl-3-methylsulfonylbenzoylguanidine methanesulfonate) (HOE 642) is an important inhibitor of NHE. Cariporide is both structurally and functionally distinct from amiloride. Cariporide is a benzoylguanidine derivative, unlike amiloride which is a pyrazinoylguanidine moiety. It is functionally similar to HOE 694, the NHE inhibitor which was synthesized prior to cariporide. Functionally, it is more specific for the NHE-1 isoform (336,337) than amiloride which is a non-specific inhibitor of NHE and other ion transporters.

Clinically, cariporide is an important NHE inhibitor. It decreases the amount of injury observed following oxidative stress (338), the exposure to lysophosphatidylcholine (an ischemic metabolite) (28) and ischemia-reperfusion challenge (337). Cariporide is currently being examined in the clinical trial GUARDIAN during ischemia-reperfusion injury and has proven to be beneficial (192).

#### **6. Other pH regulating mechanisms**

Along with  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange regulating  $\text{pH}_i$  within the acidic range, there exist three additional ion exchangers responsible for pH maintenance. The  $\text{Na}^+\text{-HCO}_3^-$  co-transporter is known to maintain pH during basal conditions. The  $\text{Na}^+\text{-HCO}_3^-$  co-transporter, unlike the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger, transports both ions into the cell. However, it along with the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger, functions exclusively to maintain pH following acidosis (339-341). The activity of the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-HCO}_3^-$  co-transporter is optimal at rest (162,329,340,342), as opposed to the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger which is optimal under acidic conditions.

Maintenance of basal pH following alkalosis is also important, and carried out through two other ion-exchangers. The  $\text{Cl}^-/\text{OH}^-$  and  $\text{Cl}^-/\text{HCO}_3^-$  function to decrease intracellular pH following an alkaline load in the heart (343) (**Figure 6**). These transporters move  $\text{OH}^-$  and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  out of the cell while  $\text{Cl}^-$  enters. Conversely, recovery from acidosis in the neonatal myocardium is dependent upon the  $\text{Cl}^-/\text{HCO}_3^-$  transporter when the NHE-1 is inhibited (344).



**Figure 6. pH regulators of cardiomyocytes: 1. Na<sup>+</sup>-HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> symport, 2. Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger, 3. Cl<sup>-</sup>-OH<sup>-</sup> exchanger and 4. Cl<sup>-</sup>-HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> exchanger**

### **III. Physiological / Pathological Modulation of the Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> Exchanger**

#### ***1. Humoral factors***

The Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger is modulated physiologically by a number of extracellular factors including angiotensin II, endothelin, thrombin,  $\alpha$ -adrenergic agonists such as phorbol esters (196,271,278,345-353) and enalapril (354). An increase in intracellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> and subsequent activation of calmodulin stimulate the Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger (355,356). Toxic metabolites such as hydrogen peroxide also modulate the activity of the NHE (357). Furthermore, a tyrosine-kinase stimulation of NHE via a receptor coupled mechanism has also been reported (176). Membrane phospholipids have been shown to modulate NHE in whole, intact cardiomyocytes. Karmazyn and colleagues have shown a lysophosphatidylcholine-induced stimulation of Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange in whole cells. In contrast, Demaureux *et al* report that altering membrane phospholipids has no effect on the NHE (27).

#### ***2. Cell volume regulation***

Another important function of the NHE is cell volume regulation during osmotic shrinkage (358,359). Under physiological conditions, cells are bathed in an external molarity of 300mOsm/L. This concentration is similar to the intracellular molarity. Ions like Na<sup>+</sup> change their intracellular and extracellular concentrations in response to a variety of stimuli. To maintain ionic equilibrium, water will move across the cell membrane. Under normal circumstances, cells will freely accumulate H<sub>2</sub>O because it will easily pass through the cell membrane. If extracellular [Na<sup>+</sup>] changes, this can lead to

cell shrinkage or swelling. If severe, cell survival is maintained through ion extrusion. Reduction of cellular volume is accomplished mainly through  $K^+$  and  $Cl^-$  movement and/or efflux of solutes such as taurine, inositol, betaine or glutamine (360-362). Conversely, cells can increase their intracellular volume. A cell volume increase occurs under two situations. The first occurs during exposure of the cell to a hyperosmotic medium. This exposure leads to cell shrinkage, followed by volume increase. Secondly, cell swelling in a hypoosmolar solution leads to a loss of ions. However, when returned to an anisomolar environment, the cells shrink. To reestablish normal cell size, an increase in cell volume must occur. This type of cell volume increase occurs rapidly (363,364). Parker and co-workers observed an increase in extracellular  $H^+$  during cell volume increase (365). Cala *et al* proposed a model for NHE involvement during cell shrinkage (366). Cala *et al's* model suggests NHE activation following cell shrinkage. This causes a subsequent increase in  $pH_i$ . This alkalization results in stimulation of the  $Cl^-/HCO_3^-$  followed by  $Cl^-$  and  $Na^+$  uptake. This leads to an overall increase in  $H_2O$  uptake via osmosis (366). This NHE stimulation occurs in a variety of cell types (188,367-371). Prevention of cell volume regulation with NHE inhibition was observed in *Amphiuma* and dog erythrocytes (366).

It is worth noting, however, that not all NHE isoforms respond similarly to hyperosmotic challenge. NHE-2 responds to hyperosmotic challenge in certain cells and not others (268,348). The NHE-3 isoform is inhibited and unaffected by hyper and hypotonicity, respectively (268,348).

### ***3. Ischemia-reperfusion injury***

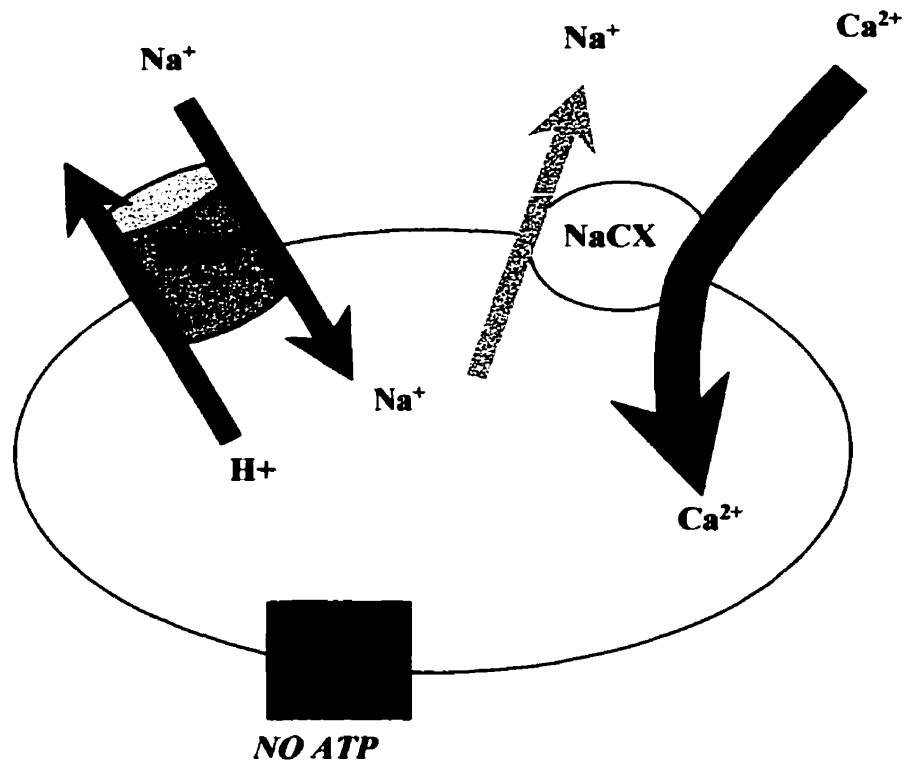
Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death worldwide. Ischemic heart disease comprises the largest fraction of this. The prevalence of ischemic heart disease makes it a serious problem facing clinicians today. Approximately 25% of all deaths related to cardiovascular disease are attributable to ischemic lesions. Ischemic heart disease claims the lives of greater than 200,000 Americans below the age of 65 each year with more than 25 times that number who suffer from associated complications (372). Similarly, in Canada, cardiovascular disease accounted for 40% of all deaths in 1988 (373) and 21% (374) of total medical costs in 1986. With approximately \$5.2 billion and \$11.6 billion spent on direct and indirect medical costs, respectively, cardiovascular disease is the most expensive disease to treat today (374). The mortality rate of individuals suffering from ischemic heart disease is also relatively high with approximately 60% of all cardiovascular deaths attributed to ischemic heart disease (375).

Ischemia is defined as inadequate blood flow to the tissues where oxygen supply does not meet the metabolic demands of the tissue. This causes an accumulation of lactate and  $[H^+]$  within the heart and a decrease in the ATP energy supply. Under normal conditions, 50%-70% of oxygen consumption in the heart is derived from fatty acids as the primary energy source. In diabetes, 90%-99% of total myocardial oxygen consumption occurs through fatty acid metabolism (376). During ischemia, the level of glycolysis is increased with a concomitant decrease in the metabolism of fatty acids and glucose. Anaerobic glycolysis provides an important source of ATP during ischemia (377). Although ATP is being provided, accumulation of glycolytic products during low-

flow or no-flow ischemia may be detrimental to the heart (378). This increase in myocardial lactate levels and decrease in intracellular pH leads to myocardial cell injury if uncontrolled (378).

Intracellular pH, therefore, becomes a central issue in ischemia / reperfusion injury. The pH is strictly controlled and maintained despite constant fluctuations in acidic events inside the cell. This control is especially crucial in the myocardium where the internal pH must be regulated at 7.0-7.3 (156,238). To maintain this  $[pH]_i$ , the  $Na^+ - H^+$  exchanger regulates the  $[H^+]$ . The predominant form in the myocardium, NHE-1, extrudes one  $H^+$  for the uptake of a single  $Na^+$  (255,256). Events such as ischemia, which are associated with large changes in pH, activate the  $Na^+ - H^+$  exchanger. During ischemia, a large increase in intracellular and extracellular  $[H^+]$  occurs. During reperfusion, a  $[H^+]$  gradient is established that is thought to stimulate the  $Na^+ - H^+$  exchanger and remove  $H^+$  in exchange for extracellular  $Na^+$  (379). This  $Na^+$  increase brings  $Ca^{2+}$  into the cell through the sarcolemmal  $Na^+ - Ca^{2+}$  exchanger (**Figure 7**). Accumulation of calcium in the myocardium is associated with adverse effects on cardiac structure and performance and is a major cause of cell damage (380-382). Inhibition of any of the above steps would potentially counteract the deleterious effects of ischemia / reperfusion injury on the heart by ultimately reducing  $Ca^{2+}$  accumulation. Many have tested this hypothesis through inhibition of the  $Na^+ - H^+$  exchanger during an ischemia / reperfusion episode with amiloride analogues and other





**Figure 7. Ischemia-reperfusion injury and the role of the Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger.** The NHE becomes active during reperfusion causing excess Na<sup>+</sup> to accumulate intracellularly. This Na<sup>+</sup> stimulates the NaCX to function in reverse allowing [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>i</sub> increase. This causes Ca<sup>2+</sup> induced cell damage. The NaK pump remains inactive as ATP stores are diminished.

related inhibitors (272-303). Inhibition of the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger will decrease the amount of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  accumulated and protect the myocardium from an otherwise damaging injury (257,383-385).

Pierce and colleagues have conclusively demonstrated the beneficial effects of NHE inhibition during the onset of reperfusion (284,285,386), (387). Many others have confirmed these findings (273,276,278,290,294,337,345). This follows the idea that NHE activation is optimal during the reperfusion phase and inhibition during this phase is critical to prevent  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -induced cell damage. Pharmacological inhibition of the NHE becomes increasingly important when the severity and duration of ischemic heart disease is increased.

Interestingly, the first clinical trial of NHE inhibition during ischemia was presented at the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Session of the American College of Cardiology. The study known as GUARDIAN (Guard During Ischemia Against Necrosis) has generated some interesting results involving patient mortality and infarction following by-pass surgery (192). Patients were selected based on the presence of unstable angina and non-Q wave myocardial infarctions. They required either a percutaneous or by-pass surgical intervention. Each patient was given between 20 and 100 mg of cariporide (HOE 642) or placebo every 8 hours for 2 –7 days prior to treatment. Patients were assessed at day 36 with a follow up scheduled at 6 months. Although the results failed to show a substantial reduction in mortality and infarction, other subgroups within the trial did show favorable results. These data provided encouraging results and an incentive to examine NHE inhibition in more detail. A clinical trial involving HOE 642 (Cariporide) was shown to improve left ventricular function when used prophylactically prior to

angioplasty (388). ESCAMI (Evaluation of the Safety and the Cardioprotective Effects of Eniporide in Acute Myocardial Infarction ), has been initiated to evaluate the effectiveness of EMD 96785 (Eniporide) prior to balloon angioplasty. The results are yet to be fully announced.

#### **4. Cardiac hypertrophy**

Protein synthesis and cell proliferation is affected by  $pH_i$ . The involvement of NHE as a downstream regulator of many hypertrophic stimuli has been suggested (389). Inhibition of the NHE is, therefore, a potential target to attenuate these events. This approach has been used to prevent restenosis observed after carotid artery balloon angioplasty (390,391). Inhibition of the NHE prevents stretch-induced activation of protein synthesis (392). Peiro *et al* have demonstrated the involvement of NHE in vascular smooth muscle hypertrophy (393). Cardiac hypertrophy was inhibited by the NHE blocker cariporide (394). Although NHE stimulation has effects on hypertrophy, hypertrophic conditions also influence the NHE. Recently, Ito *et al* have shown that cardiac hypertrophy diminishes the degree of NHE stimulation caused by angiotensin II and endothelin (350). This decrease in stimulation is thought to occur via abnormal protein kinase C signaling. Although this was observed in aortic banded rats, similar findings were demonstrated in infarcted rabbit myocardium (395).

#### **5. Diabetes**

##### **a. Pathology of ischemia in diabetes**

Cardiovascular dysfunction is a major cause of death in patients with diabetes as well(396). Diabetics will suffer a myocardial infarction at a rate of two-and-a-half to

five times greater than non-diabetics (397,398). Along with having a poorer prognosis, (397,398) the long term mortality rate (3-5 years) following an acute myocardial infarction is 2-3 times higher (399-404) with women and young diabetics showing the most pronounced detrimental effects (405,406). It is interesting to note that women suffering from diabetes, who are normally at a lower risk of developing coronary artery disease, are at a greater disadvantage and more vulnerable to re-infarction and death after myocardial infarction. In 1981 the number of estimated deaths from diabetes in the United States was 34,750, which corresponds to a mortality rate of 15.2/100,000 (407). Diabetes is also implicated as a contributory cause in a substantial proportion of deaths from other diseases, particularly those of the cardiovascular-renal system. Diabetes is ranked seventh among the leading causes of death in the United States and is particularly associated with deaths in the elderly. As one considers our aging population, a decrease in the prevalence of ischemic heart disease in the diabetic population does not seem likely, thereby placing a larger task on researchers and clinicians in the future.

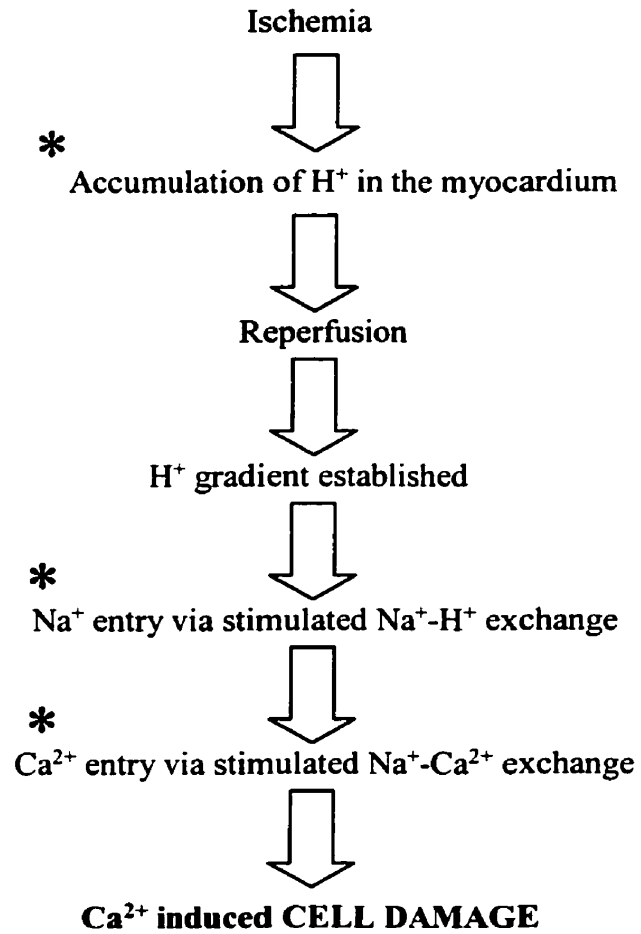
Paradoxically, despite the clinical data that supports an increased susceptibility to ischemia / reperfusion injury in diabetes, many laboratories have shown an increased resistance of hearts from diabetic animals to ischemia (291,408-416). If the above schema (**Figure 8**) is correct, then it may be used to detect the mechanisms which may be responsible for the increased resistance of the diabetic heart to ischemia / reperfusion challenge. Several points within the cascade of events shown in **Figure 8** may be altered by the diabetic state and are worthy of discussion.

The  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchanger plays a central role within the schema of events illustrated in **Figure 8**. If pharmacological inhibition of the exchanger protects the heart from

ischemia / reperfusion injury, then the resistance observed in diabetic hearts to ischemia / reperfusion injury may involve an endogenous inhibition of the  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchanger. Interestingly, a reduced  $[\text{pH}]_i$  recovery was observed in diabetic cardiac papillary muscle in response to an acid load (291). This reduced recovery was similar to control hearts perfused with a  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchange blocker (411). This suggests that  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchange was depressed in diabetic hearts. This was directly demonstrated by Pierce and colleagues who found a depressed  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchange in cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles harvested from diabetic rats (430). This, therefore, suggests that a depression in  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchange is present during diabetes and may play an important role in protecting the heart from ischemia / reperfusion injury through the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  overload cascade proposed in **Figure 8**. Interestingly, the membrane phospholipids in diabetic cardiac sarcolemma are altered.

***b. Possible explanations for inhibited NHE-1 during diabetes.***

As shown in **Figure 8**, intracellular  $[\text{H}^+]$  is a central feature that initiates a cascade of ionic changes that ultimately ends in cardiac injury. Anything that alters the generation of  $[\text{H}^+]$  within the cardiomyocytes in response to the ischemic challenge will affect this entire cascade and cardiac viability. For example, the degree to which lactate and  $\text{H}^+$  will accumulate largely depends on the myocardial glycogen stores present prior to ischemia. Depletion of these glycogen stores, within the myocardium, has been shown to be beneficial to the heart. Less glycogen leads to a decrease in lactate and  $\text{H}^+$  accumulation that causes the  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchanger to become less activated. In diabetes, attenuation of cardiac glycolytic metabolism is observed under basal conditions (417-420). It has been



**Figure 8. The central role for Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange in ischemic – reperfusion injury.** Diabetes (\*) alters several steps in this cascade to provide resistance from ischemia – reperfusion injury.

proposed that the decrease of glucose metabolism observed in diabetics may be due to an attenuated insulin dependent glucose uptake or elevated fatty acid levels (408,420,421). This decrease in glucose metabolism leads to less  $[H^+]$  and lactate production. Less  $[H^+]$  accumulation does not stimulate  $Na^+-H^+$  exchange activity and protects the myocardium via an attenuation of  $Ca^{2+}$  influx (see **Figure 8**). Glucose metabolism is further dependent upon glycogen stores within the myocardium. Pre-ischemic glycogen stores are reported to be increased in a diabetic myocardium (422). The relationship between degree of damage following ischemia and levels of pre-ischemic glycogen stores within the diabetic myocardium are not clearly established (378,423).

The mechanism responsible for the inhibition of the  $Na^+-H^+$  exchanger is not completely understood, however, several possibilities exist (**Table 4**). For example, if the number of  $Na^+-H^+$  exchanger proteins were decreased, this may result in lower activity. This decreased expression could be detected by a change in the amount of mRNA expressed for the exchanger in the diabetic heart. However, Pierce et al compared mRNA levels from 1 and 8 week diabetic hearts and found no change when compared to controls (424).

This finding was recently supported by others (418) where the mRNA levels remained unchanged even after a short ischemic event. The mRNA levels reported during diabetes, therefore, suggest that the depressed  $Na^+-H^+$  exchanger may instead involve a defect at the translational level. Such an alternative mechanism may involve hormonal changes that occur during diabetes. Thyroid hormones are reported to activate the  $Na^+-H^+$  exchanger in renal brush-border membranes (425). Thyroid hormones are known to be depressed in

**Table 4. Possible Mechanisms of Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> Exchange Depression and Consequent Resistance to Ischemia / Reperfusion Injury during Diabetes**

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**Postulated Mechanisms**

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1. Levels of Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange mRNA
  2. Altered levels of Thyroid Hormones and Insulin
  3. Intracellular Calcium
  4. Alteration in Membrane Phospholipid Environment
  5. Type and Duration of Diabetes
-



chemically-induced diabetic hearts (426). Thus, it is possible that this may contribute to a depressed cardiac  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange observed in chronic diabetes. Furthermore, stimulation of the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger by insulin has also been reported in frog skeletal muscle fibers (427). Therefore, a lack of both of these hormones in IDDM may directly or indirectly inhibit this exchanger conferring cardioprotection following ischemia / reperfusion injury.

Calcium has also been shown to modulate the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger by two pathways: 1) a calcium / calmodulin binding site on the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger and 2) a calcium / calmodulin dependent protein kinase II which phosphorylates and activates the exchanger. Increases in  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]$  stimulate the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger and a decrease inhibits it through diminished phosphorylation (428).  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  levels were found to be depressed in both acute and chronic diabetes (see (429) for review). If depressed  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  levels are present intracellularly prior to ischemia, this may serve to inhibit the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger (**Figure 8**). If  $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_i$  is reduced during ischemia because of a depressed  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange and  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange (see above), then one would expect the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  / calmodulin augmentation of  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange to be less than optimal as well.

Little is known about factors that regulate the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger at the membrane level. The phospholipid environment may alter the activity of the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger during diabetes. Others have reported striking effects on other ion transporters within the myocardium following the addition of phospholipases, enzymes that hydrolyze specific phospholipids (5). Phospholipids within the sarcolemmal membrane from the myocardium of diabetic animals are altered when compared to non-diabetic animals

**(Table 5).** Levels of phosphatidic acid, lysophosphatidylcholine and phosphatidylethanolamine are significantly changed in sarcolemmal membranes from diabetic animals (200). It is reasonable to suggest, therefore, that a change in phospholipid content within the diabetic rat sarcolemmal membrane may contribute to the depression in  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchange activity. **Table 5** also indicates elevated levels of lysophosphatidylcholine from 6-8 week old diabetic rats (200). Because this lipid has been shown to enhance the activity of the  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchanger in non-diabetics (28), it is also unlikely that this lipid provides a mechanism for the resistance observed in diabetics. It is apparent that the phospholipid environment may be a modulator of  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchange but, at present, its role in modulating the exchanger during diabetes remains unclear.

As shown in **Figure 8**, the  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger is another important protein involved in ischemia / reperfusion injury. A decrease in  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange should provide cardioprotection by decreasing  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry. Less  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  entry during ischemia leads to reduced damage in the myocardium. A depressed cardiac sarcolemmal  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchange in diabetes has been reported (202,430).

Clinical data supports an increased susceptibility to ischemic injury in diabetics (426,431-433). In contrast, experimental data reports a resistant myocardium. Diabetes mellitus can be subdivided into Type I, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) and Type II, non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM). NIDDM is the predominant form of diabetes in the human population (426). Clinically, these types of diabetes differ from one another. NIDDM individuals suffer from elevated insulin and cholesterol levels, hypertension, hypertriglyceridemia, obesity and impaired glucose tolerance. IDDM have depressed insulin levels are usually not obese. The response of the NIDDM

**Table 5. Alterations of Phospholipid Species in the Diabetic Cardiac Sarcolemma**

<b>Phospholipid Species</b>	<b>Diabetic Membrane</b>
Phosphatidylcholine	N/C
Lysophosphatidylcholine	INCREASED
Phosphatidylethanolamine	DECREASED
Sphingomyelin	N/C
Phosphatidylserine	N/C
Phosphatidylinositol	N/C
Diphosphatidylglycerol	N/C
Phosphatidic Acid	DECREASED

N/C = no significant change Reference: (200-202)

model to ischemia / reperfusion injury is consistent with the clinical findings which support a hypersensitive response. Pierce et al (434) demonstrated a poorer recovery of developed tension in hearts from 6 and 9-month-old NIDDM rats following both severe and moderate ischemic insults. Surprisingly, a mild resistance was observed in these NIDDM rats at 3 months of age (434). This age dependent sensitivity to ischemia / reperfusion injury is similar in obese, NIDDM diabetic humans which makes the JCR-LA model an ideal model to study diabetes-induced myocardial dysfunction. The status of the cardiac  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchanger or the  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{Ca}^{2+}$  exchanger in these NIDDM rats is unknown at this time. The type of diabetes and the duration of diabetes, therefore, may also be important factors to consider regarding mechanisms by which the myocardium suffers damage after ischemia. However, this remains controversial as both resistance and hypersensitivity has been observed in acute and chronic IDDM (see (435) for review). Further work in both types of diabetes is clearly necessary.

## **6. Tumor growth**

The microenvironment surrounding tumors is metabolically deficient. This leads to acidosis (436-440). Maintenance of the pH therefore becomes critical in order to sustain tumor growth. The pH regulating capacity of the NHE has been implicated in maintaining tumorigenesis. Pouyssegur *et al* report the inability of NHE deficient cells to produce tumors (441). Rotin and colleagues have further implicated the presence of NHE as a necessary component to tumor growth (367). In a recent study, Reshkin and colleagues illustrate how serum deprived tumor cells upregulate NHE activity to augment

tumor invasion (442). This is in contrast to the NHE downregulation seen in normal serum deprived cells. This points to a critical role for the NHE during proliferation and maintenance of tumorigenesis. Interestingly, phorbol esters, which also stimulate NHE, act to maintain and promote tumor growth.

### ***7. Apoptosis***

Programmed cell death occurs in myocardium subjected to an ischemia-reperfusion event (443). Veinot et al have reported apoptosis to be the initial mechanism of cell death following a myocardial infarction. Furthermore, the degree of apoptosis is increased following reperfusion (444). The exact mechanism responsible for apoptosis remains unclear. However, it is interesting that inhibition of NHE decreases the degree of apoptosis following ischemia. NHE inhibitors attenuate apoptosis in metabolically inhibited cardiomyocytes (445), ischemic myocardium (446) and during in vivo coronary artery occlusion (447). Therapeutic interventions aimed at the NHE, therefore, not only prevent immediate damage, but can attenuate the extent of programmed cell death observed in ischemic myocardium.

## B. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### I. Materials

<b>Product</b>	<b>Source</b>
Acetic Acid	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
Acetone	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
Adenosine Triphosphate	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville, ON)
Adsorbant papers (TLC)	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
Alamethecin	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville, ON)
Ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> )	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
Ammonium Hydroxide (NH <sub>4</sub> OH)	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville, ON)
Ammonium Molybdate	Malinckrodt Inc. (Parls, Kentucky)
ANS	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville, ON)
Bovine serum albumin	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville, ON)
Calcium Chloride ( <sup>45</sup> Ca)	Mandel Scientific Co. Ltd (Guelph, ON)
CAPS	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville, ON)
CHES	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville, ON)
Chloroform	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
Coomassie Brilliant Blue	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville, ON)
Cupric sulfate	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville, ON)
Deoxyribonuclease I (DNase)	Worthington Biochem Corp. (Lakewood, NJ)
Dithiotreitol	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville, ON)
Docosahexanoic Acid	Doosan Serdary Laboratories (Toronto, ON)

EGTA	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Eicosapentanoic Acid	Doosan Serdary Laboratories (Toronto, ON)
Folic Acid and Cioclaten's Phenol Reagent	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville, ON)
HEPES	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Hydrochloric Acid(HCl)	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
Linoleic Acid	Doosan Serdary Laboratories (Toronto, ON)
Linolenic Acid	Doosan Serdary Laboratories (Toronto, ON)
Lysophosphatidic Acid	Doosan Serdary Laboratories (Toronto, ON)
Lysophosphatidylcholine	Doosan Serdary Laboratories (Toronto, ON)
Lysophosphatidylethanolamine	Doosan Serdary Laboratories (Toronto, ON)
Lysophosphatidylinositol	Doosan Serdary Laboratories (Toronto, ON)
Magnesium Chloride	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
Methanol	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
MES	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Millipore Filters	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
Phospholipase A <sub>2</sub>	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Phospholipase C	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Phospholipase D	Calbiochem, (La Jolla, CA)
Potassium Chloride	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Potassium Diphosphate	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
<i>p</i> -nitrophenol phosphate	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
SDS	Bio Rad Laboratories. (Hercules, CA)

Sodium Azide	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Sodium Carbonate	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Sodium Chloride ( <sup>22</sup> Na)	Mandel Scientific Co. Ltd (Guelph, ON)
Sodium Chloride	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Sodium Bisufite	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Sodium Hydroxide	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
Sodium Sulfite	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Sodium Tartarate	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Sucrose	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
Sulfuric Acid	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
TAPS	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Tetrasodium Pyrophosphate	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Thin Layer Chromatography Plates (K6F-Silica)	Fisher Scientific (Napean, ON)
Trizma Base	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)
Trizma Maleate	Sigma-Aldrich Canada Ltd. (Oakville,ON)

The Millipore filters, thin layer chromatography plates and organic solvents were supplied by Fisher Scientific. A 0.1mL aliquot of 1000  $\mu\text{Ci}$  <sup>22</sup>Na was supplied by NEN Life Sciences. Phospholipase D (*Streptomyces chromofuscus*) was obtained from Calbiochem, La Jolla CA. Phospholipids were purchased from Doosan Serdary, Toronto



ON. Deoxyribonuclease I was supplied by Worthington Biochemical Corporation, Lakewood, NJ. All other materials, including phospholipase C (*Clostridium perfringens*), were supplied by Sigma, St. Louis, MO. Plasmalogen phosphatidic acid was generously supplied by Dr. David A. Ford of St. Louis University School of Medical Biochemistry, St. Louis, USA.

## II. Methods

### *1. Sarcolemmal membrane preparation*

Pigs (65-85 kg) were anaesthetized with telazol using a dose of 1 mL / 23 kg animal body weight. Hearts were removed and immediately placed in an ice cold water bath. The right and left ventricles were separated and left ventricle used for the sarcolemmal preparation. Between 50-60g of the left ventricle was excised and endocardium and epicardium removed. A 175 mL solution (**solution 1**) consisting of 0.25M sucrose, 1mM Dithiothreitol (DTT) , 20mM Tris [hydroxymethylamino] methane (TRIS), 0.25mM Tetrasodium Pyrophosphate and 1M KCl (pH 7.4) was added. Tissue was scissor minced and homogenized in a cold waring blender, 2X 10 seconds at high speed. The final volume was brought to 320mL with **solution 1** and centrifuged at 48,400 X g for 35 minutes. During the spin, 1-2g of the remaining left ventricle was removed and placed into 20mL of 0.25M sucrose, 1mM DTT and 20mM TRIS (**solution 2**). This was minced, homogenized in a glass teflon Wheaton homogenizer, filtered through several layers of gauze and stored in a test tube in the fridge until day 2. From previous spin, supernatant was discarded and resultant pellets were resuspended in a small volume of **solution 1**. Each pellet was homogenized in a cold waring blender at high speed for 1X

10 seconds and recentrifuged at 48,400 X g for 35 minutes. Resultant pellets were resuspended in **solution 1** and glass teflon homogenized in a cold Wheaton Homogenizer. Homogenate was then added to an Erlenmeyer flask containing 135,000 Units Activity of Deoxyribonuclease I (DNase I) in 10 mL of **solution 2**. This was then incubated for 45 minutes at 30 °C with intermittent shaking. Following incubation, 10 ml aliquots of the homogenate was removed into centrifuge tubes and subject to polytron for 10-15 second bursts at a setting of 20. This was repeated for the total homogenate volume and pooled together. Homogenate was then centrifuged for 15 minutes at 17,400 X g and supernatant was recentrifuged for 45 minutes at 175,000 X g. During spin, several discontinuous sucrose gradients were layered in the following volumes; 4mL of 11% sucrose (w/v), 6mL of 26% sucrose (w/v), 5mL of 29% sucrose (w/v), 4mL of 32% sucrose (w/v) and 4mL of 34% sucrose (w/v). Following centrifugation, the pellet was carefully homogenized in a cold Wheaton homogenizer to avoid bubble formation. Approximately 4 mL of this homogenate, which was resuspended in 48% sucrose, was carefully added to the bottom of 6 discontinuous sucrose gradients using a glass pasteur pipette and a 30mL syringe. This homogenate was spun overnight in an SW28 swing bucket rotor at 24K. Following overnight centrifugation, membrane fractions were collected. Collection of the top fraction, F1, constitutes an 11% sucrose medium. At the 11%-26% interface, sarcolemma was identified as a concentrated cloudy protein band deemed F2. For our purposes, Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange was carried out on this F2, sarcolemma fraction. The fractions at the 26%-32% (F3) and 32%-34% (F4) were also collected. The band of interest (F2) was diluted with a suspension medium containing 200mM sucrose, 25 mM Mes, 8 mM KOH and centrifuged for 2 hrs at 175 000 X g. These pellets were

resuspended in the same sucrose, Mes solution in protein concentrations of 1-3 mg / mL. Purity and enzyme activity of all fractions was determined using specific marker assays.  $K^+$ -stimulated *p*-nitrophenylphosphatase activity of the sarcolemmal vesicles was  $11.5 \pm 2.0 \mu\text{mol} / \text{mg per h}$  ( $n = 7$ ).  $Na^+$ - $K^+$  ATPase activity was  $10.9 \pm 3.4$  and  $35.2 \pm 10.2 \mu\text{mol} / \text{mg per h}$  in the absence and presence of  $12.5 \mu\text{g} / \text{mL}$  alamethicin respectively (**Table 6**). The cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles were frozen in liquid  $N_2$ , and stored at  $-80^\circ\text{C}$  for subsequent analysis, while the remaining fractions were discarded.

## ***2. $Na^+$ - $H^+$ exchange measurement***

$H^+$ -dependent  $Na^+$  uptake was examined in control and phospholipase D treated vesicles as described elsewhere in detail (448). Briefly,  $5\mu\text{L}$  of  $^{22}\text{Na}$  ( $0.1 \mu\text{Ci}$ ) was added to the bottom of a polystyrene tube containing  $25\mu\text{L}$  uptake medium (  $200\text{mM}$  sucrose,  $30 \text{mM}$  Ches,  $40 \text{mM}$  KOH,  $0.1 \text{mM}$  EGTA and  $0.1 \text{mM}$   $Na^+$  ( $\text{pH } 10.61$ ).  $Na^+$  was diluted 100 fold in uptake medium to generate a  $0.1\text{mM}$   $Na^+$  solution ( $100\mu\text{L}$   $1\text{mM}$   $Na^+$  in  $900\mu\text{L}$  uptake medium). A  $20\mu\text{L}$  aliquot of sarcolemmal membrane protein ( $11 \mu\text{g}$ ) was placed on the side of the tube following a predetermined equilibration time at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ .  $Na^+$ - $H^+$  exchange was initiated by vortexing the mixture generating final assay concentrations of  $180 \text{mM}$  sucrose,  $10 \text{mM}$  Mes,  $17.5 \text{mM}$  Ches,  $17 \text{mM}$  KOH,  $0.05 \text{mM}$  EGTA  $0.05 \text{mM}$   $Na^+$  and a final extravesicular  $\text{pH}$  of  $9.33$ . Calibration of all assay media was done carefully using an Orion 82-10  $\text{pH}$  electrode to ensure accuracy. Following a preset time (2-5 seconds),  $3 \text{mL}$  of stop solution ( $100 \text{mM}$  KCl,  $20 \text{mM}$  Hepes,  $\text{pH } 7.5$ ) was added to the polystyrene tube to arrest the reaction. KCl was added to our stop

**Table 6. Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> ATPase and K<sup>+</sup>-pNPPase activities in cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles isolated from healthy animals.**

<b>Fraction</b>	<b>K<sup>+</sup>-pNPPase (<math>\mu\text{mol}/\text{mg per h}</math>)</b>	<b>Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> ATPase (<math>\mu\text{mol}/\text{mg per h}</math>)</b>
H	0.1 ± .06	0.2 ± .05
<b>F2</b>	<b>11.5 ± 2.0</b>	<b>†10.9 ± 3.4</b> <b>‡35.2 ± 10.2</b>
F3	2.8 ± .9	1.7 ± .9
F4	0.6 ± .09	0.7 ± .1

Values are represented as means ± S.E. of 7 different animals. F2 represents the purified cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles. Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> ATPase activity in the †absence and ‡presence of 12.5  $\mu\text{g} / \text{mL}$  alamethicin. Homogenate (H), fraction 3 (F3) and fraction 4 (F4).

media to prevent non-specific  $\text{Na}^+$  binding to the Millipore filters and the extravesicular surface of sarcolemmal vesicles. The reaction mixture was filtered rapidly through 0.45  $\mu\text{M}$  Millipore filters, followed by an additional 2 X 3 mL wash with the same stop solution. Total stop solution was therefore 9 mL and volumes greater than 9 mL did not affect  $^{22}\text{Na}$  uptake, whereas, less than 9 mL resulted in greater background values. Filters were removed, placed in vials with scintillant, dried and radioactivity quantified using scintillation spectroscopy. Blank samples were included to deduct non-specific retention of  $\text{Na}^+$  to the Millipore filters. Blanks were treated in a similar manner except 3 mL ice-cold stop solution was added immediately prior to the inclusion of 20  $\mu\text{L}$  sarcolemmal protein. Blank counts were approximately 10% of total counts per minute (cpm) and subtracted accordingly.

### ***3. Passive efflux of $\text{Na}^+$***

$\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange was carried out as mentioned above. However, uptake of  $\text{Na}^+$  was permitted for a reaction time of 1 minute. Following uptake, 450  $\mu\text{L}$  of an efflux medium consisting of 20  $\mu\text{M}$  dimethylamiloride (DMA),  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , a sucrose solution (200mM sucrose, 25mM Mes, 8mM KOH pH 5.5) and an uptake solution in a volume ratio of 30,270,1188 and 1485  $\mu\text{L}$  respectively was added. This efflux solution contained no  $\text{Na}^+$ , creating an optimum gradient for  $\text{Na}^+$  to passively exit the vesicles. DMA was added as a precautionary measure to ensure the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchanger was inoperable. Passive efflux was measured for 2 and 15 seconds following the addition of efflux medium, stopped with 9mL of stop solution (as mentioned above) and subsequently filtered. Controls were

permitted an uptake time of 1 minute, however, no efflux media was added. The effects of phospholipase D on membrane fluidity were quantified through the use of this experiment. Further variations in the  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange protocol involved increasing the extravesicular pH and  $\text{Na}^+$  while keeping all other parameters identical.

#### ***4. Treatment with phospholipase D***

Cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles (100 $\mu\text{g}$ ) were exposed to 2.54  $\mu\text{L}$  of phospholipase D (32.5 U/mL) for 50 min  $\pm$  10 min at 25°C. Therefore, unless otherwise specified, the final phospholipase D / mg sarcolemmal protein ratio was 0.825 U / mg protein. Control tubes were treated in a similar manner except the enzyme was denatured in boiling water for 60 minutes prior to its use in the assay. Following treatment,  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange activity was examined immediately, as previously mentioned.

#### ***5. Treatment with lysophospholipids***

Several lysophospholipids were incubated with sarcolemmal vesicles between 1 and 11 minutes. Lysophospholipids were suspended in 200mM sucrose, 25mM Mes and 8mM KOH (pH 5.5) to yield final concentration of 10mM lysophospholipid. This was diluted 100-1000 fold to yield a final concentrations of 10, 25, 50 and 100 $\mu\text{M}$  lysophospholipid. Pre-incubation of lysophospholipids was carried out over 3 minutes with a subsequent  $\text{Na}^+$  uptake time of 2, 5 and 30 seconds.

#### ***6. Treatment with plasmalogen phosphatidic acid***

Approximately 285 $\mu$ L of a 4.78 mg/mL plasmalogen phosphatidic acid solution was aliquoted and dried with N<sub>2</sub> gas. Complete removal of the chloroform from the phosphatidic acid was essential. To ensure dryness, 500 $\mu$ L of methanol was added to the partially dried phospholipid and subsequently evaporated with N<sub>2</sub> gas. The phosphatidic acid was then resuspended in 2mL of 200mM sucrose, 25mM Mes, 8mM KOH pH 5.5 to yield a final phospholipid concentration of 1mM. To promote dissolution of the phosphatidic acid into solution, a probe sonicator was used at an amplitude setting of 45-50. It was essential to keep the phosphatidic cold as sonication would result in a excessive heat generation. Following dissolution, pre-determined concentrations of phosphatidic acid were used and pre-incubated with our sarcolemmal vesicles for 1 to 5 minutes. Following pre-incubation, Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange was carried out as mentioned above.

### ***7. Treatment with fatty acids***

Several fatty acids were incubated with sarcolemmal vesicles. Fatty acids were initially removed into chloroform yielding a stock concentration of 10mM. An aliquot of this stock was removed and dried with N<sub>2</sub> gas. A pre-determined volume of 200mM sucrose, 25mM Mes, 8mM KOH pH 5.5 was added to yield a working stock of 1mM fatty acid. These were subsequently diluted 100-1000 fold to yield final fatty acid concentrations of 10, 25, 50 and 100 $\mu$ M. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was examined for 2, 5 and 30 seconds following a 3 minute pre-incubation time.

### ***8. Phospholipid separation***

Sarcolemmal vesicles (1 mg) were incubated with boiled and unboiled phospholipase D (0.825 U/mg protein) for 60 minutes at 25°C. The treated sarcolemma was centrifuged

in the tabletop ultracentrifuge for 15 minutes at 80K. Pellets were removed using 300 $\mu$ L H<sub>2</sub>O and resuspended in a 2:1 chloroform/methanol solution. Pellets were homogenized in a glass-glass Wheaton homogenizer to ensure complete dissolution of the phospholipids into the chloroform/methanol/H<sub>2</sub>O solution (2:1:5%). This was then placed in glass conical tubes at 4°C for overnight extraction of phospholipids. The following day, 1 mL of 0.01N HCl was added to each sample and centrifuged at 1000 X g for 10 minutes. The upper phase was removed from each tube following the spin to remove any contaminating protein. Lipids were centrifuged 3X 10 minutes at 1000 X g following the addition of 1-1.5 mL chloroform:methanol:0.01N HCl (3:48:47). The aqueous upper phase was removed following each spin. Following the final spin, 0.5mL of a neutral solution consisting of chloroform:methanol:H<sub>2</sub>O (3:48:47) was added and immediately removed and discarded. Approximately 1 drop of NH<sub>4</sub>OH was added to the phospholipids to buffer any HCl which may have been present. This was followed by the addition of approximately 15-20 drops of HPLC grade methanol to clear the cloudy suspension. Phospholipids were stored at 4°C overnight to allow further extraction. During this time, K6F silica gel thin layer chromatography (TLC) plates were marked for solvent fronts and activated overnight in the oven at 100°C. To spot the TLC plates, 0.9mL of the clear phospholipid suspension was dried using N<sub>2</sub>. The phospholipids were never dried to completeness as this accelerated the degradation process. To these partially dried phospholipids, 100 $\mu$ L of a chloroform:methanol:H<sub>2</sub>O solution (75:25:2) was added. This was then spotted on the origin 2 cm from the edge of the TLC plate (refer to diagram). Spots were dried with N<sub>2</sub> gas. This was repeated 2X 50 $\mu$ L with the same chloroform:methanol:H<sub>2</sub>O solution and spotted on the previous 100 $\mu$ L. The



phospholipids were separated using 2-D thin layer chromatography. The first solvent phase was chloroform:methanol:ammonium hydroxide 65:25:4 and the second dimension was run in 75:15:30:15:7.5 chloroform:methanol:acetone:acetic acid:H<sub>2</sub>O to ensure complete separation of phospholipids. Phospholipid spots were dried for approximately 1-2 hours following each dimension. Acid hydrolysis using 12N HCl was carried out between dimension 1 and 2 to improve phosphatidic acid separation from phosphatidylinositol, phosphatidylserine and lysophosphatidylcholine.

### ***9. Phospholipid quantification***

Following separation, the phospholipids were stained with a medium containing 30% methanol, 0.03% Coomassie Blue, 0.6% NaCl and 70% H<sub>2</sub>O. Staining was carried out for 30 minutes and followed by a destaining period of 10 minutes using a 30% methanol, 0.6% NaCl and 70% H<sub>2</sub>O medium. TLC plates were then subsequently dried and quantified as a percentage of control using the Molecular Analyst program on the Bio Rad Densitometer. Background was subtracted from each phospholipid individually.

### ***10. Protein assay***

Protein concentration was measured using the method described by previously (121). Briefly, duplicate tubes were prepared for both standards and experimental tubes. Standard tubes consisted of Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) (0.1 mg/mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O at concentrations between 0 and 0.1 mg/mL BSA. Sarcolemmal fractions (H, P<sub>3</sub>, F1, F2, F3 and F4, see above) were diluted 10 fold and sarcolemmal membranes diluted 100 fold. All tubes contained 3 mL of a media consisting of 2% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and 0.1N NaOH, 10%

SDS, 1% CuSO<sub>4</sub> and 2% Na Tartarate. This was followed by the addition of Folic Acid and Cioclaten's Phenol Reagent (1:1 dilution). Absorbance was measured by the spectrophotometer at 750 nm to determine protein concentration.

### **12. Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> ATPase assay**

Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> ATPase activity was determined by the method described previously (121). Standard, blanks, controls and experimental tubes were prepared in duplicates. Standard tubes contained KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O only, whereas blanks, controls and experimental tubes contained a media consisting of 0.25M Tris, 600mM NaCl, 17.5mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 5mM EGTA, 25mM NaN<sub>3</sub> and 30mM ATP, 37°C @ pH 7.0. Final reaction volume was 1mL and was carried out in a 37°C water bath. Reaction time was 14 minutes. Inorganic phosphate produced was measured using Fiske and SubbaRow and ANS reagent as described previously (121). Absorbance was measured at 690nm where the values of KCl free tubes were subtracted from KCl containing tubes giving net Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> ATPase activity in μmol/P<sub>i</sub>/mg/hr.

### **13. K<sup>+</sup>-nitrophenylphosphatase assay**

P-nitrophenylphosphatase activity was measured as described elsewhere (121). Briefly, duplicate tubes were prepared for standard, control, blank and experimental tubes. Standard tubes contained *p*-nitrophenol substrate and H<sub>2</sub>O. All other tubes contained a *cocktail* consisting of 0.25M Tris, 25mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 5mM EGTA, pH 7.8 @ 37°C +/- protein and 200mM KCl. Once prepared, tubes were placed into a 37°C water bath for 5-7 minutes to allow *p*-nitrophenol liberation. Tubes were subsequently placed

into an ice bath for 30 minutes and 2mL of 1N NaOH added. Absorbance was measured at 410nm where values from KCl-free tubes (controls) were subtracted from KCl containing tubes. Specific activity was calculated as  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{mg}/\text{hr}$ .

#### ***14. Statistics***

Data are expressed as a mean  $\pm$  S.E. Statistical determination was done using a Student *t*-test and was considered significant at  $p < 0.05$ .

## C. RESULTS

The effect on  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange of phospholipids in the cardiac sarcolemmal membrane was determined using two phosphatidylcholine-specific phospholipases. Phospholipase D, which hydrolyses phosphatidylcholine into phosphatidic acid, and phospholipase C, which hydrolyses phosphatidylcholine into diacylglycerol were used. Thin layer chromatography was employed for both phospholipase C and D treated vesicles in order to separate the phospholipid classes. **Figure 9** illustrates the membrane phospholipid alterations observed following phospholipase D addition. Phospholipase D activity generated a statistically significant decrease in phosphatidylcholine in treated cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles when compared to controls. A significant increase in phosphatidic acid generation following phospholipase D treatment was also observed when compared to controls over a series of samples (**Table 7**).

$\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange was examined as a function of varying concentrations of phospholipase D. There was a significant depression of  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange when cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles were treated with 0.4, 0.8 and 1.6 U phospholipase D / mg sarcolemma (**Figure 10**). A 30-60% decrease in  $^{22}\text{Na}^+$  uptake was observed when measured as a function of increasing phospholipase D concentrations.

$\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange was measured over a number of reaction times as a function of phospholipase D treatment.  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange was significantly inhibited following phospholipase D treatment at all reaction times except at 1 minute where  $\text{Na}^+$  uptake saturates (**Figure 11**).

**Table 7. Membrane phospholipid alterations in phospholipase D treated cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles.**

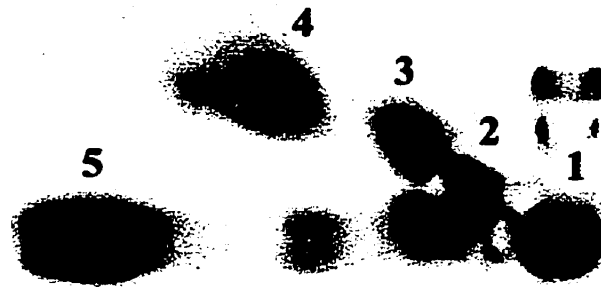
<b>Phospholipid classes</b>	<b>% of Control</b>
Phosphatidylcholine	70 ± 5*
Phosphatidylethanolamine	85 ± 6*
Sphingomyelin	92 ± 9
Phosphatidylinositol	113 ± 7
Phosphatidylserine	90 ± 13
Phosphatidic Acid	908 ± 77*
Lysophosphatidylcholine	113 ± 6

Sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with 0.82 U phospholipase D / mg protein for 60 minutes at 25°C (pH 5.5). Phospholipids were extracted and separated on two-dimensional thin layer chromatography as described in Materials and Methods. Data are represented as mean ± S.E. for 3-5 separate experiments. \* $P < 0.05$  versus controls.

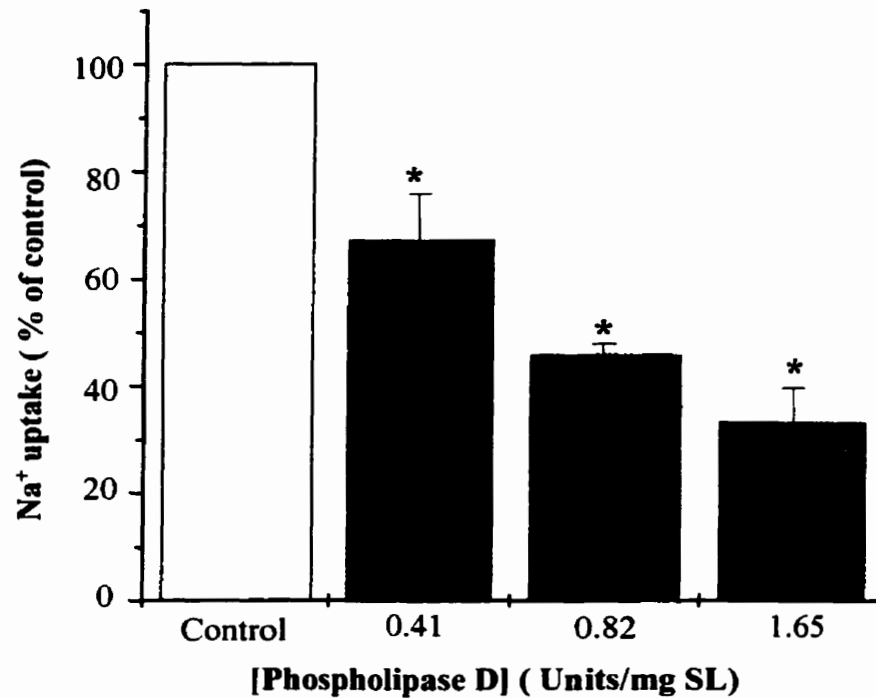
**control**



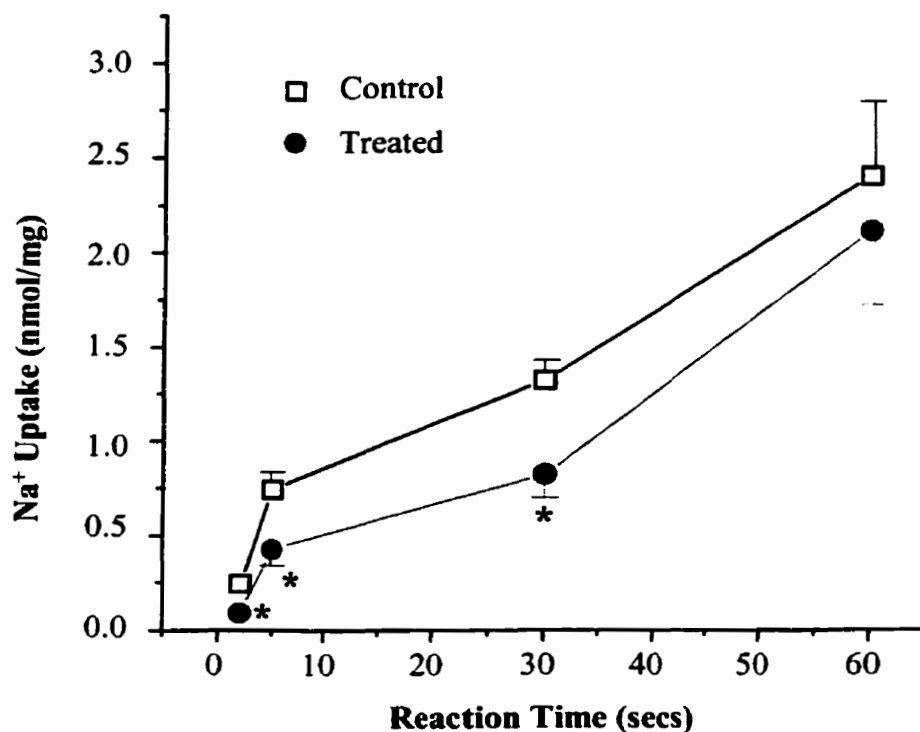
**treated**



**Figure 9. Thin layer chromatography of control and PLD treated sarcolemmal vesicles.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with 0.05U/mg PLD for 60 minutes at 25°C. Control contained boiled inactive PLD. 1. Origin, 2. Sphingomyelin, 3. Phosphatidylethanolamine, 4. Phosphatidylcholine, 5. Phosphatidic acid.



**Figure 10. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake as a function of variable concentrations of phospholipase D.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with phospholipase D for 60 minutes at 25°C (pH 5.5). Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange was examined for 5 seconds with a final concentration of 0.05 mM Na<sup>+</sup>, pH 9.33. Data are represented as means ± S.E. of 3 separate experiments. Controls were examined in a similar manner but contained boiled inactive phospholipase D. \**P* < 0.05 versus control.



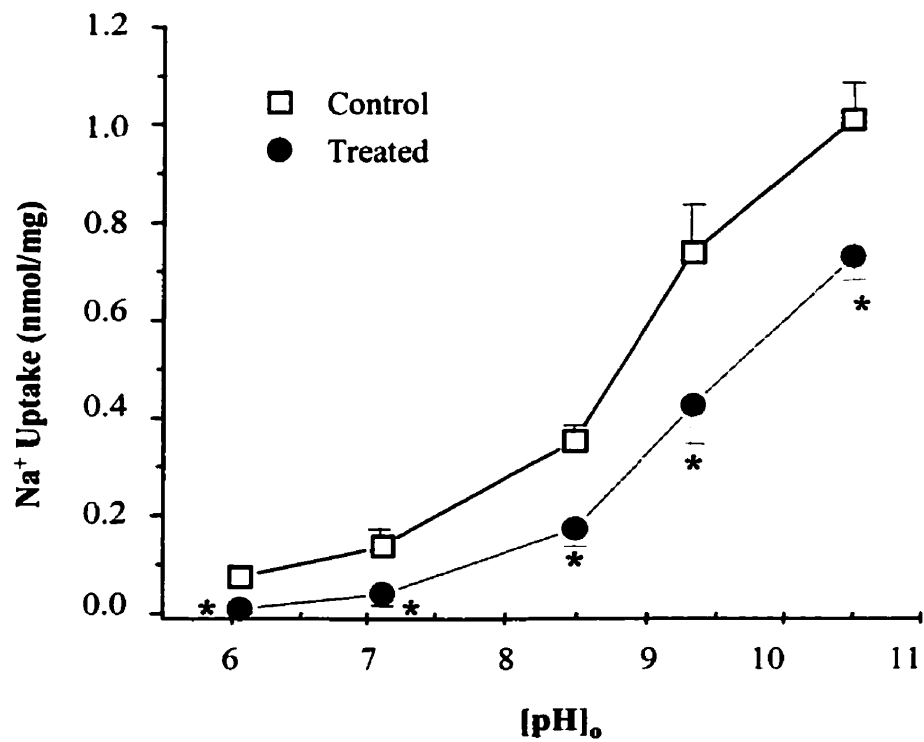
**Figure 11. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in phospholipase D treated sarcolemmal vesicles as a function of reaction time.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with 0.82 U phospholipase D / mg sarcolemma for 60 minutes at 25°C (pH 5.5). Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was examined in a final solution consisting of 0.05 mM Na<sup>+</sup>, pH 9.33. Data are represented as mean ± S.E. of 4-7 separate experiments. \**P* < 0.05 versus control.



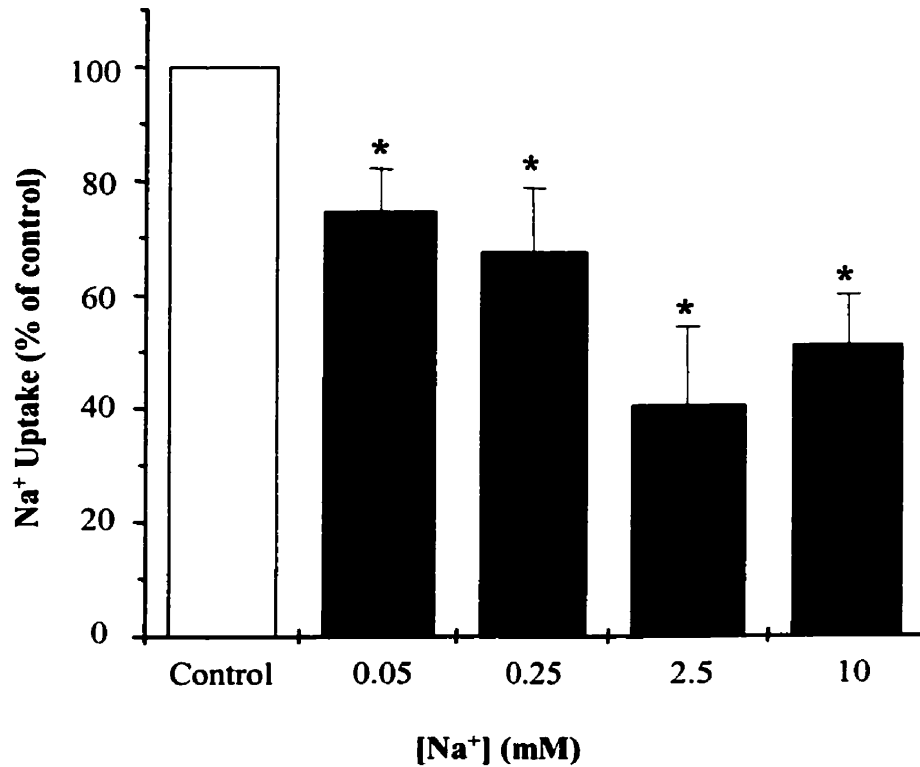
$\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange was also examined at varying extravesicular  $[\text{pH}_o]$ . In control vesicles,  $\text{Na}^+$  uptake exhibited an appropriate increase as the transsarcolemmal  $\text{H}^+$  gradient increased, as demonstrated previously (25). Phospholipase D treatment significantly inhibited  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange at all extravesicular pH values examined (**Figure 12**).

The effect of varying the extracellular  $[\text{Na}^+]$  was studied in control vesicles and vesicles treated with phospholipase D (**Figure 13**).  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange was inhibited by phospholipase D treatment at all extracellular  $\text{Na}^+$  concentrations examined (0.05 - 10 mM). These differences were statistically significant when compared to controls that contained the boiled, inactive form of phospholipase D.

Although an inhibition of  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange was observed, this decrease in activity may be simply due to an increase in the passive ion permeability of the sarcolemmal vesicles. Vesicles were loaded with  $^{22}\text{Na}$  via  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange for 1 minute, then rapidly diluted into a medium that was optimal for measuring passive  $\text{Na}^+$  efflux from the vesicles as the  $\text{Na}^+$  moved down its transsarcolemmal concentration gradient (25). Consistent with the results from **Figure 11**, the initial load of intravesicular  $\text{Na}^+$  after 1 minute of  $\text{H}_i^-$ -dependent uptake was not different between control vesicles and those treated with phospholipase D ( $2.40 \pm 0.40$  nmol / mg and  $2.11 \pm 0.39$  nmol / mg respectively). Passive  $\text{Na}^+$  efflux was then initiated and measured after 2 and 15 seconds. This resulted in a 30 and 50% depletion of vesicular  $\text{Na}^+$  content. Dimethylamiloride (20  $\mu\text{M}$ ) was included in the efflux medium to ensure  $\text{Na}^+$ - $\text{H}^+$  exchange was not operable.



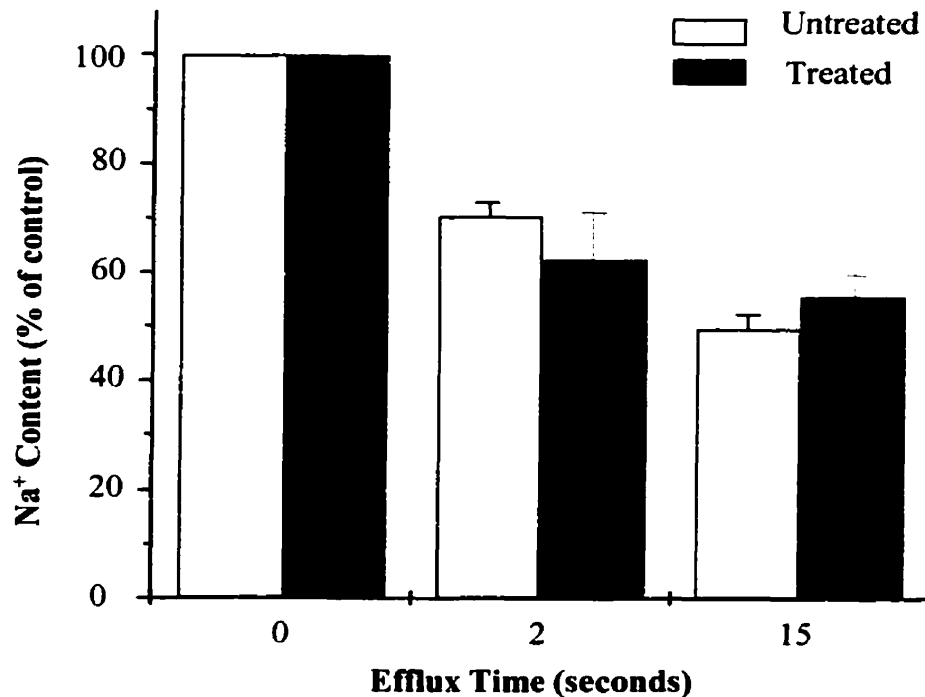
**Figure 12. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in phospholipase D treated sarcolemmal vesicles as a function of [pH]<sub>o</sub>.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were pre-incubated with 0.82 U phospholipase D / mg protein as described. Final pH of the medium was 9.33, and 0.05 mM Na. Na<sup>+</sup> uptake occurred for a period of 5 seconds. Data are from 4-7 separate experiments as means ± S.E. \**P* < 0.05 vs control.



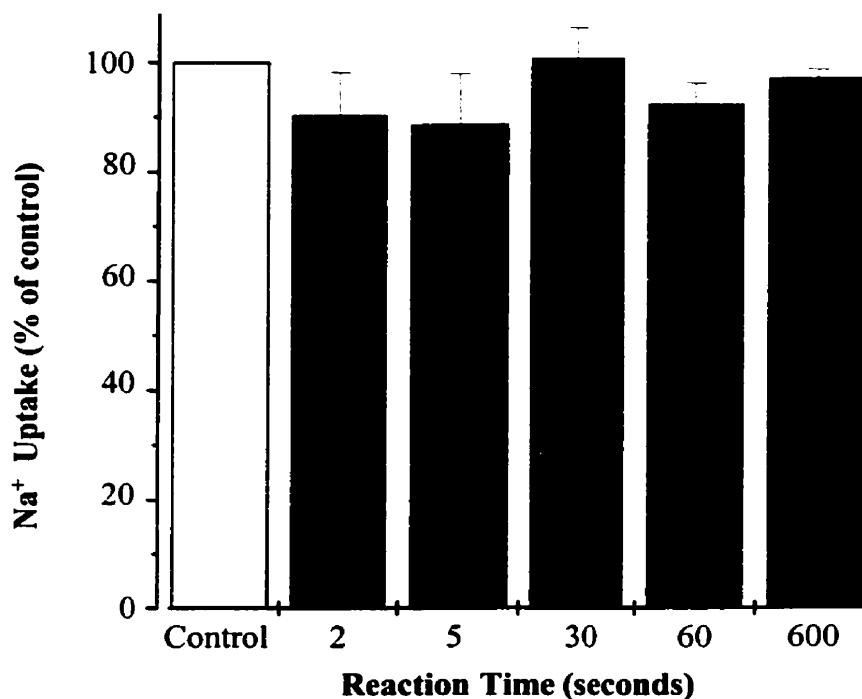
**Figure 13. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in phospholipase D treated sarcolemmal vesicles as a function of extravesicular Na<sup>+</sup>.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with 0.82 U phospholipase D / mg protein as described. The reaction time was for 5 seconds in a medium containing a final pH 9.33. Data from 4-7 separate experiments are represented as mean  $\pm$  S.E. \**P* < 0.05 versus control.

There was no statistically significant difference observed in passive Na<sup>+</sup> efflux from phospholipase D treated vesicles and control vesicles (**Figure 14**).

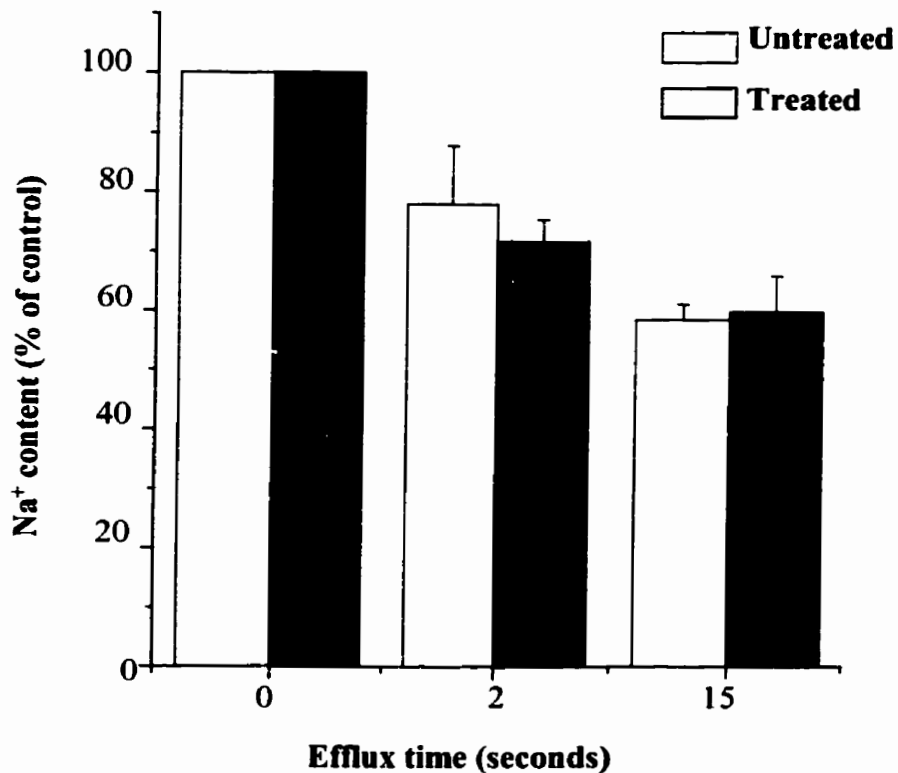
Treatment of cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles with phospholipase D generates phosphatidic acid but also diminishes the total phosphatidylcholine pool (**Table 6**). In order to identify whether a phosphatidic acid increase or phosphatidylcholine decrease may be responsible for the change in Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup>, cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles were treated with a phosphatidylcholine-specific phospholipase C. Phospholipase C also depletes the phosphatidylcholine pool but generates diacylglycerol instead of phosphatidic acid. As shown in **Figure 15**, Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange was unaffected by phospholipase C treatment over a number of reaction times. In addition, passive permeability of Na<sup>+</sup> in the cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles was unaffected following phospholipase C treatment (**Figure 16**).



**Figure 14. Passive permeability of Na<sup>+</sup> from control and phospholipase D treated sarcolemmal vesicles.** Control and treated sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with inactive and active phospholipase D, respectively, for 60 minutes at 25°C in pH 5.5. Following incubation, H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was initiated for 1 minute in a medium containing 1 mM Na<sup>+</sup>. Passive efflux was carried out in a Na<sup>+</sup> free medium and terminated at 2 and 15 seconds. Data are represented as mean ± S.E. for 3 separate experiments.



**Figure 15. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in phospholipase C treated sarcolemmal vesicles as a function of reaction time.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with 0.05 U phospholipase C / mg protein for 60 minutes at 25°C in pH 5.5. Following treatment, Na<sup>+</sup> uptake occurred for 2 seconds to 10 minutes in a final medium consisting of 0.05 mM Na<sup>+</sup>, pH 9.33. Controls were examined in similar manner but contained boiled inactive phospholipase C. Data are represented as mean ± S.E. of 3-4 separate experiments. \**P* < 0.05 versus control.



**Figure 16. Passive permeability from control and phospholipase C treated sarcolemmal vesicles.** Control and treated sarcolemmal vesicles were pre-incubated with inactive and active phospholipase C, respectively, for 60 minutes at 25°C in pH 5.5. Following incubation, H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was initiated for 1 minute in a medium containing 1mM Na<sup>+</sup>. Passive efflux was carried out in a Na<sup>+</sup> free medium and terminated at 2 and 15 seconds. Data are represented as mean ± S.E. for 3 separate experiments.

The effects of certain fatty acids on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange were also investigated. Gamma ( $\gamma$ )-linolenic acid and linoleic acid did not affect  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange activity when compared to controls. These results were in contrast to those obtained following the addition of eicosapentanoic acid (EPA) and docosahexanoic acid (DHA) (**Table 8**). The addition of 10-100 $\mu\text{M}$  EPA resulted in a dose dependent inhibition of the cardiac  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger (**Figure 17**). A statistically significant inhibition was present at 50 and 100 $\mu\text{M}$  EPA. This inhibition was consistent across variations in reaction time (**Figure 18**) and extracellular pH (**Figure 19**). The addition of 10-100 $\mu\text{M}$  DHA also resulted in a dose-dependent inhibition of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange activity (**Figure 20**). Cardiac  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange was inhibited by 20-50% following DHA treatment. The greatest inhibition was observed at 100 $\mu\text{M}$  DHA. Therefore, examination of DHA on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange across variable reaction times was carried out at 100 $\mu\text{M}$ . The inhibition was statistically significant when examined across 2, 5, 30 and 60 seconds of uptake (**Figure 21**).

The membrane destabilizing effect of fatty acids has been well documented (6,8). For this reason the inhibition was thought to result from an increase in ion permeability. To determine the nature of this observed inhibition, passive ion permeability following ion loading of the vesicles was examined. At 100 $\mu\text{M}$  DHA and EPA, there was no statistically significant difference between control and PUFA treated vesicles (**Figure 22**). Therefore, it can be concluded that the PUFA dependent inhibition of cardiac  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange was not due to an increase in ion permeability.

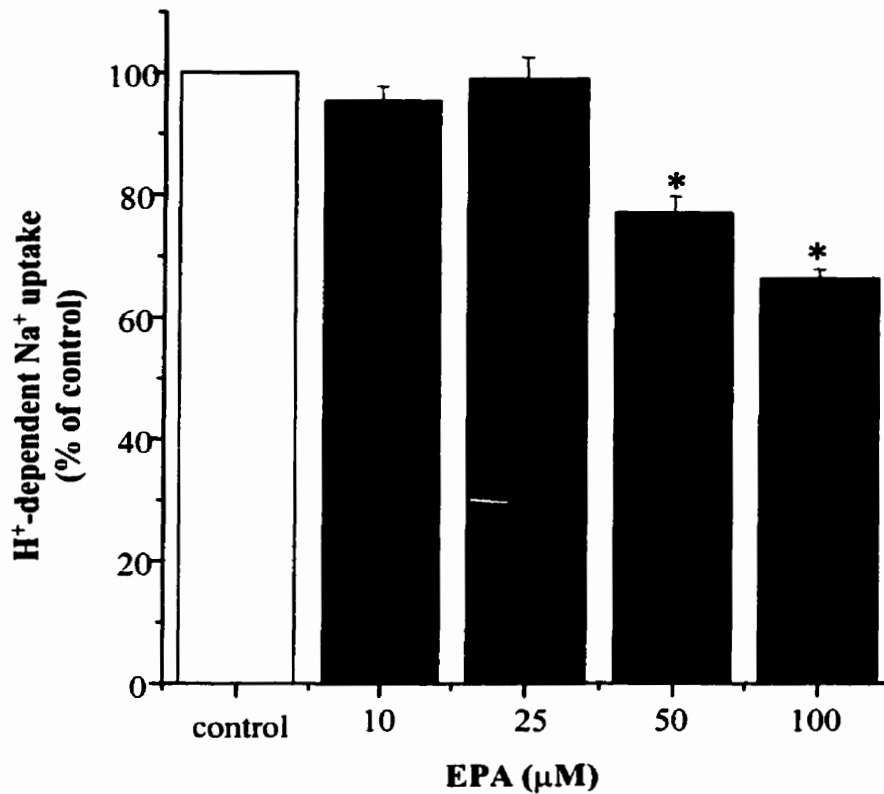


**Table 8. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in PUFA treated cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles.**

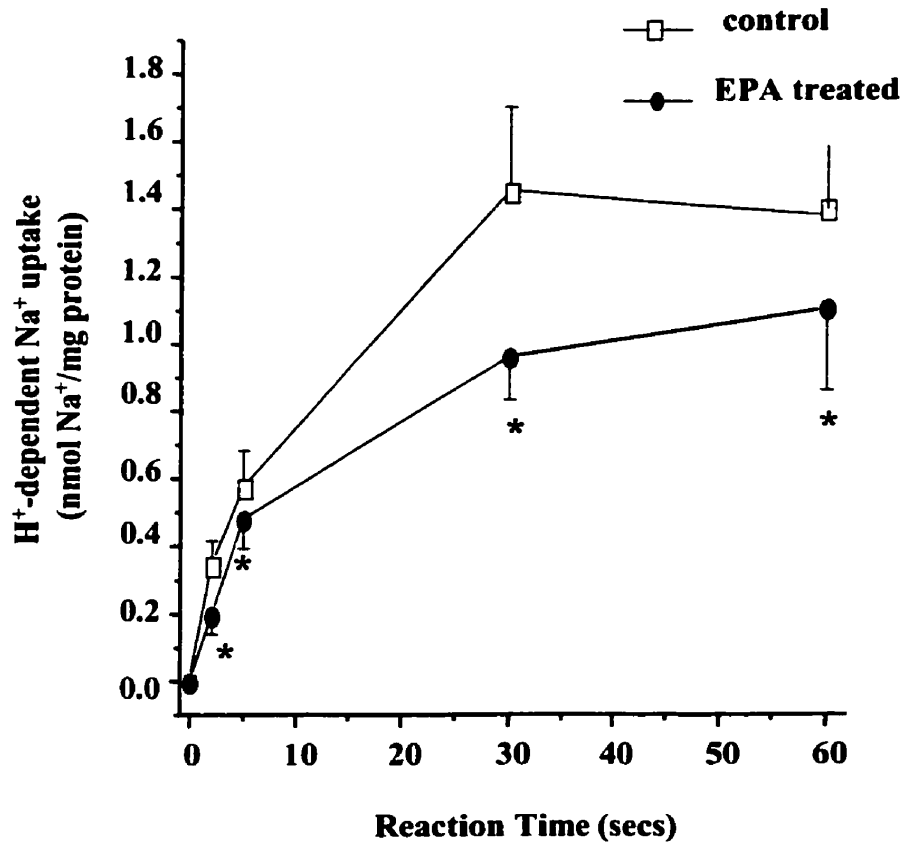
<b>Linoleic Acid</b>	<b>Linolenic Acid</b>	<b>Eicosapentanoic Acid</b>	<b>Docosahexanoic Acid</b>
99 ± 5	96 ± 1	76 ± 3 <sup>*</sup>	66 ± 8 <sup>*</sup>

Sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with 50µM of either linoleic, linolenic acid, eicosapentanoic acid or docosahexanoic acid at 25°C (pH 5.5). H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was carried out for 5 seconds in final solution consisting of 0.05mM Na<sup>+</sup>, pH 9.33. Data are represented as a percentage of control ± S.E.

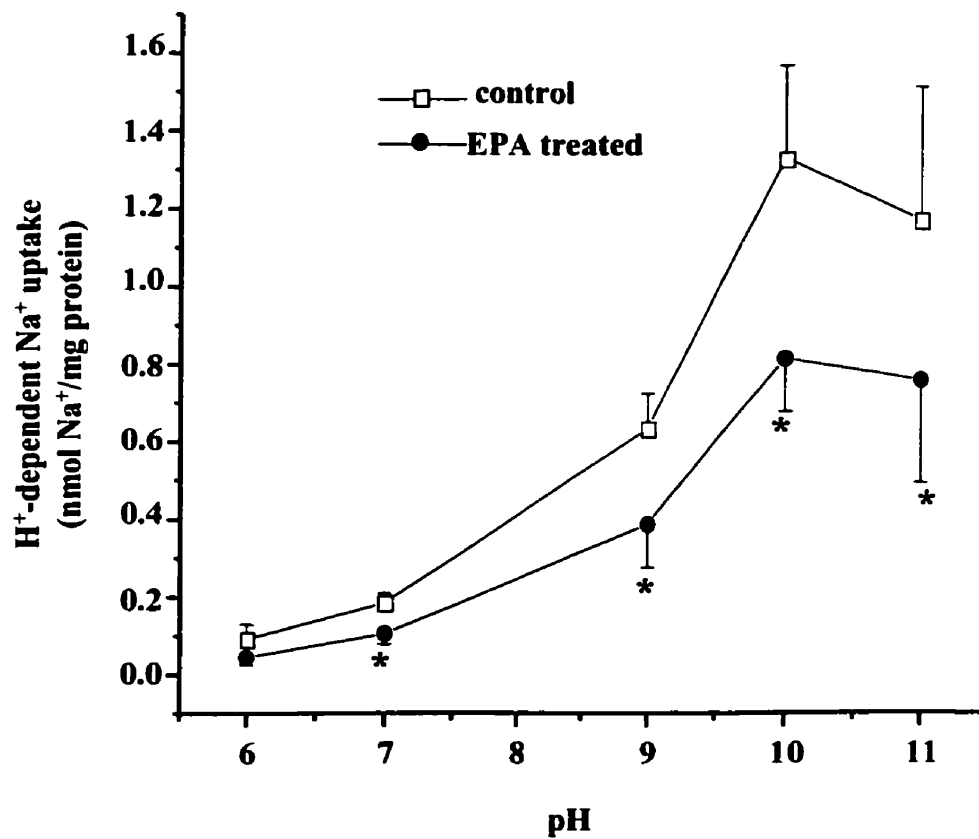
*\*P < 0.05.*



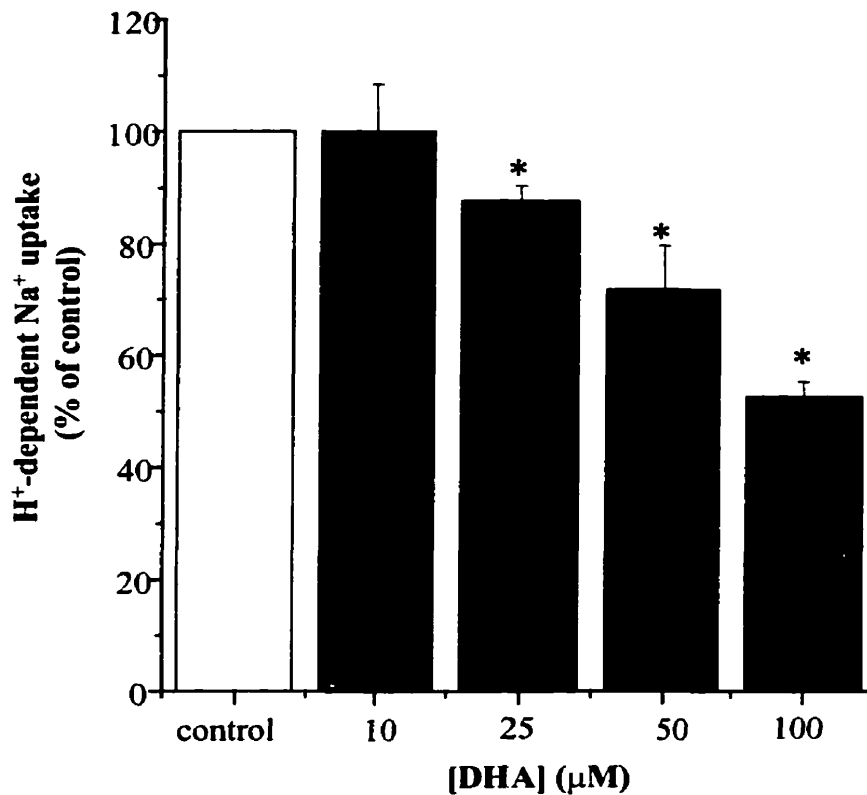
**Figure 17. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in sarcolemmal vesicles as a function of variable concentrations of eicosapentanoic acid.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with variable concentrations of eicosapentanoic acid at 25°C (pH 5.5). Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange was examined for 5 seconds with a final concentration of 0.05mM Na<sup>+</sup>, pH 9.33. Data are represented as means ± S.E. of 3-5 separate experiments. Controls were examined in a similar fashion but contained fatty acid vehicle only. \**P* < 0.05 versus control.



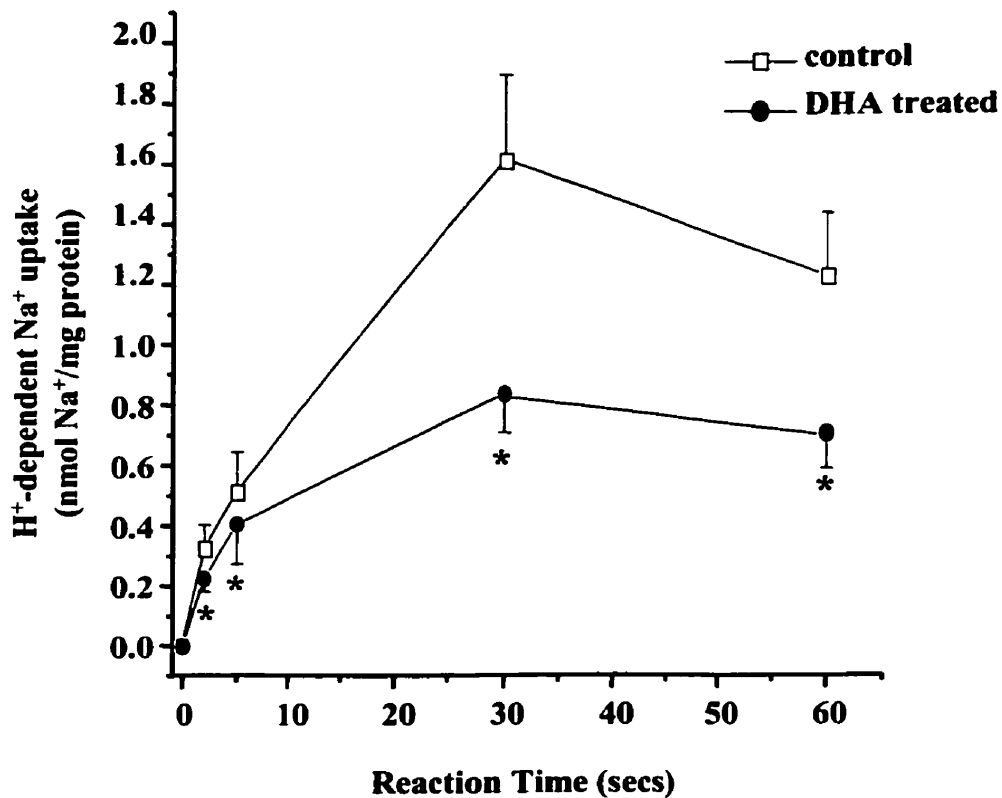
**Figure 18. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake as a function of variable reaction time in eicosapentanoic acid treated sarcolemmal vesicles.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with 100 $\mu$ M of eicosapentanoic acid at 25 $^{\circ}$ C (pH 5.5). Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was examined in a final solution consisting of 0.05mM Na<sup>+</sup>, pH 9.33. Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  S.E. of 3-5 separate experiments. \* $P < 0.05$  versus control.



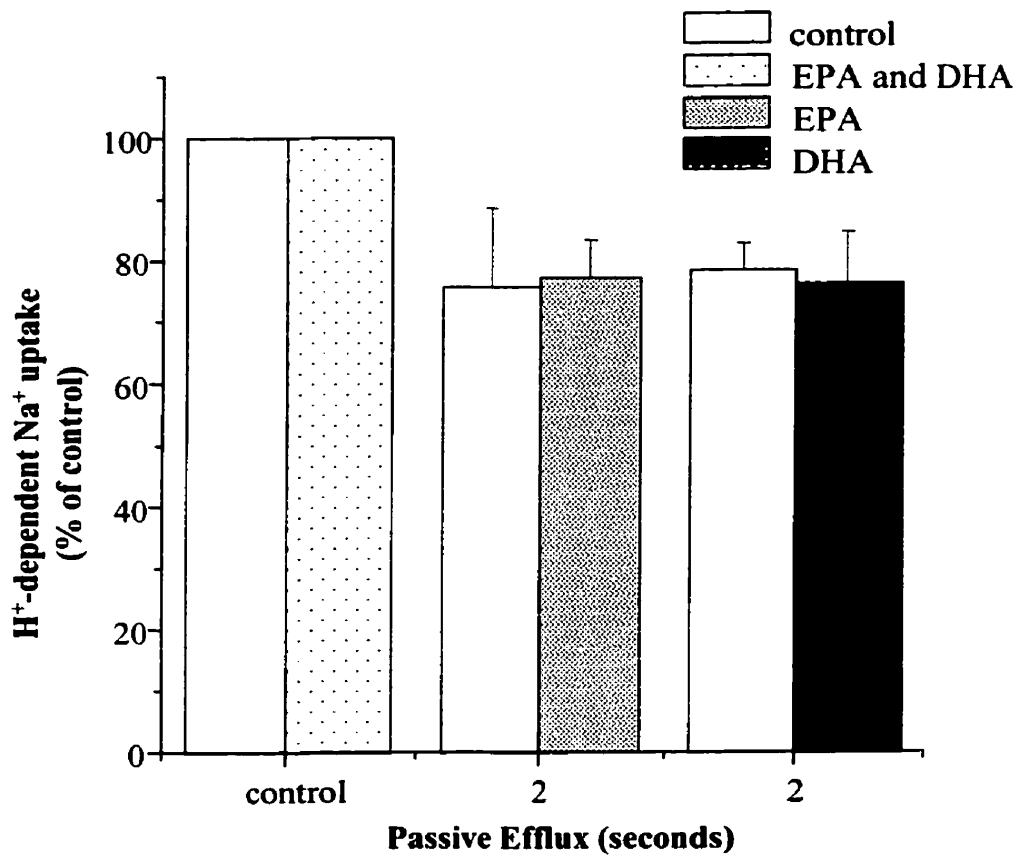
**Figure 19. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in eicosapentanoic acid treated sarcolemmal vesicles as a function of [pH]<sub>o</sub>.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with 100μM eicosapentanoic acid as described. Na<sup>+</sup> uptake occurred for a period of 5 seconds, while extravesicular pH was varied. Final Na<sup>+</sup> concentration for the medium was 0.05mM. Data are from 4-7 separate experiments as means ± S.E. \**P* < 0.05 vs control.



**Figure 20. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in sarcolemmal vesicles as a function of variable concentrations of docosahexanoic acid.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with variable concentrations of eicosapentanoic acid at 25°C (pH 5.5). Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange was examined for 5 seconds with a final concentration of 0.05mM Na<sup>+</sup>, pH 9.33. Data are represented as means ± S.E. of 3-5 separate experiments. Controls were examined in a similar fashion but contained fatty acid vehicle only. \**P* < 0.05 versus control.



**Figure 21. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake as a function of variable reaction time in docosahexanoic acid treated sarcolemmal vesicles.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with 100 $\mu$ M of docosahexanoic acid at 25°C (pH 5.5). Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was examined in a final solution consisting of 0.05mM Na<sup>+</sup>, pH 9.33. Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  S.E. of 3-5 separate experiments. \* $P < 0.05$  versus control.



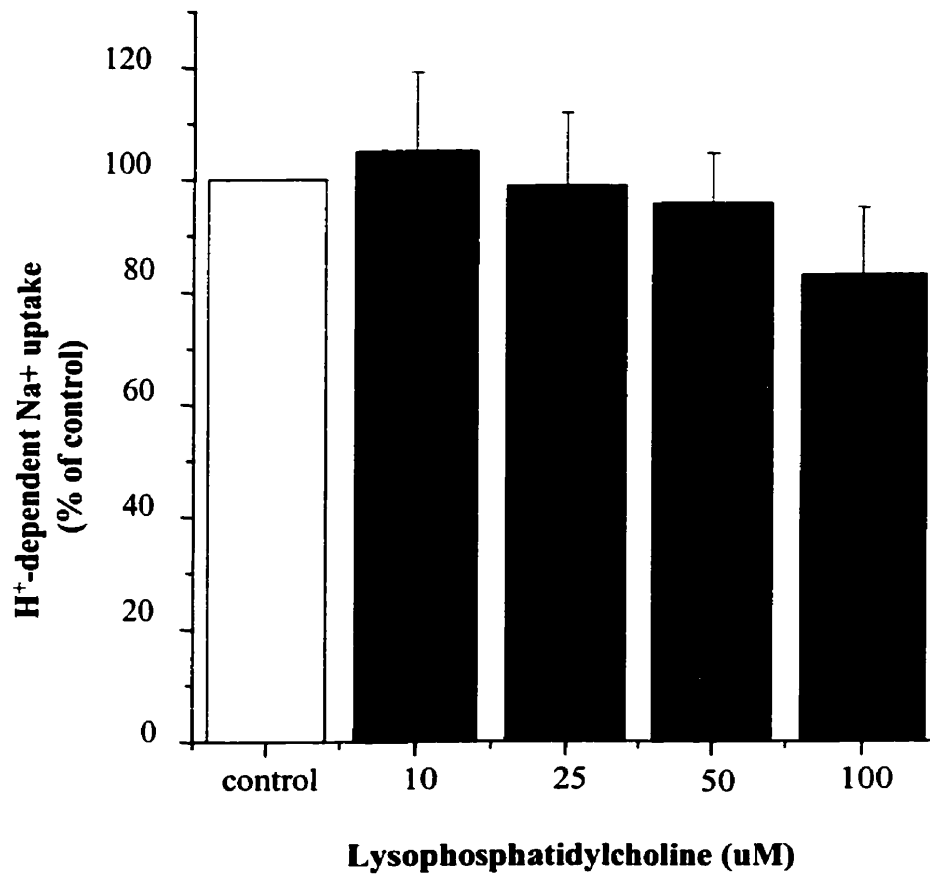
**Figure 22. Passive efflux of Na<sup>+</sup> from sarcolemmal vesicles treated with eicosapentanoic acid and docosahexanoic acid.** Control and treated sarcolemmal vesicles were incubated with PUFAs (EPA and DHA) and PUFA vehicle, respectively, at 25°C in pH 5.5. Following incubation, H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was initiated for 1 minute in a medium containing 1mM Na<sup>+</sup>. Passive efflux was carried out in a Na<sup>+</sup> free medium and terminated at 2 seconds. Data are represented as mean ± S.E. for 3-4 separate experiments.

The effect of lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC) on the activity of the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger was examined. Different concentrations of LPC (10, 25 50 and 100 $\mu\text{M}$  LPC) were incubated with sarcolemmal vesicles. **Figure 23** shows no statistically significant difference at any concentration of LPC. When  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange was examined at various reaction times (2, 5 and 30 seconds), no concentration of LPC produced a statistically significant change in  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange activity (**Figure 24**).

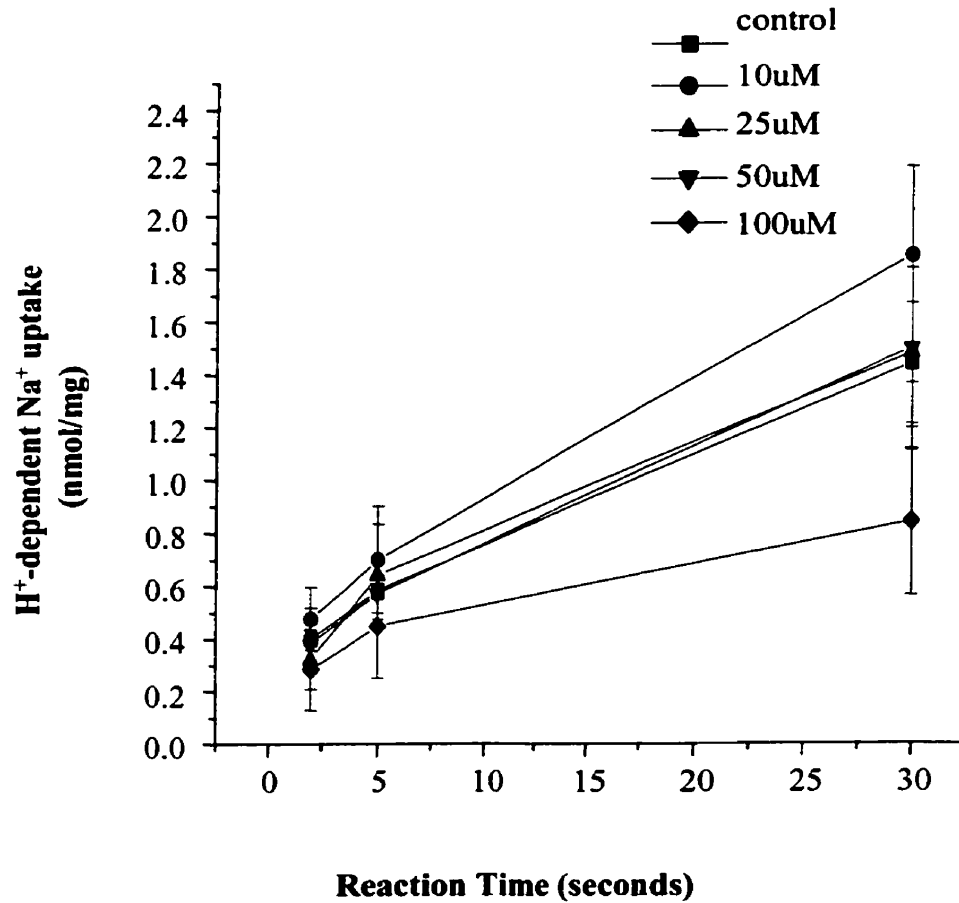
The effects of plasmalogen LPC, lysoplasmeneylcholine ( $\text{LP}_\text{E}\text{C}$ ), on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange activity were also examined. At concentrations of 10, 25, 50 and 100 $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{LP}_\text{E}\text{C}$ , there was no change in  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange activity (**Figure 25**). This finding was consistent across variable reaction times (**Figure 26**).

To further analyze the dependence of the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger on membrane phospholipids, a number of lysophospholipids were incubated with sarcolemmal vesicles. Lysophosphatidylserine (LPS), lysophosphatidylinositol (LPI) and lysophosphatidylethanolamine (LPE) were pre-incubated with cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles for 2 minutes. Incubation with LPS, LPI and LPE produced no statistically significant changes in  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange activity (**Figure 27**). When examined at variable reaction times, the results were similar (**Figure 28**).

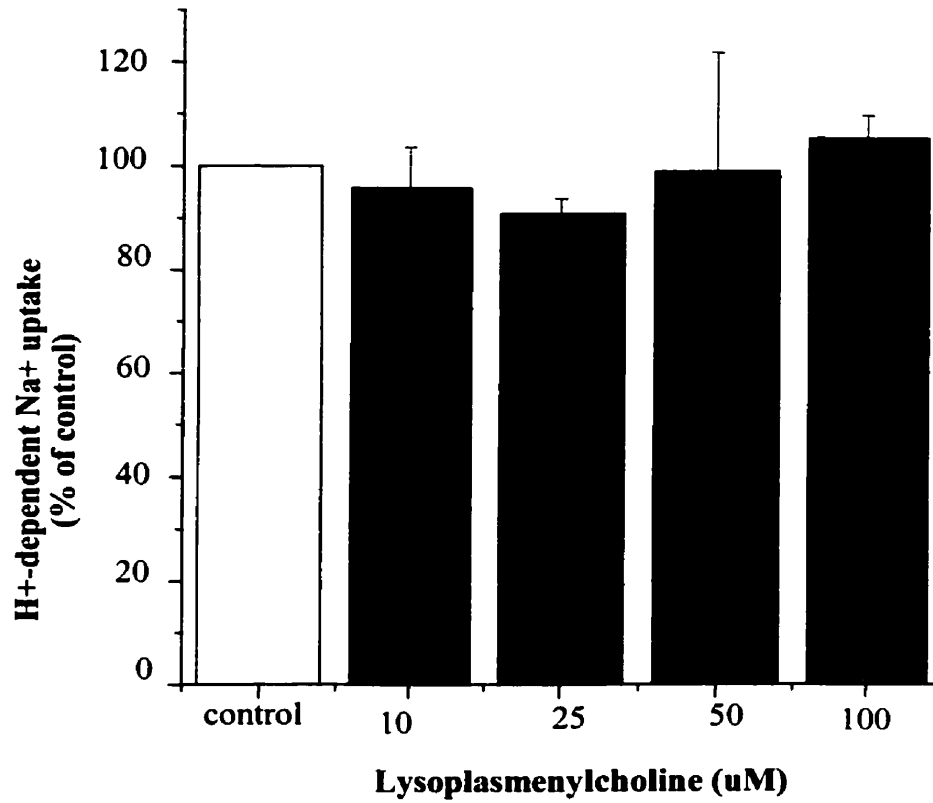




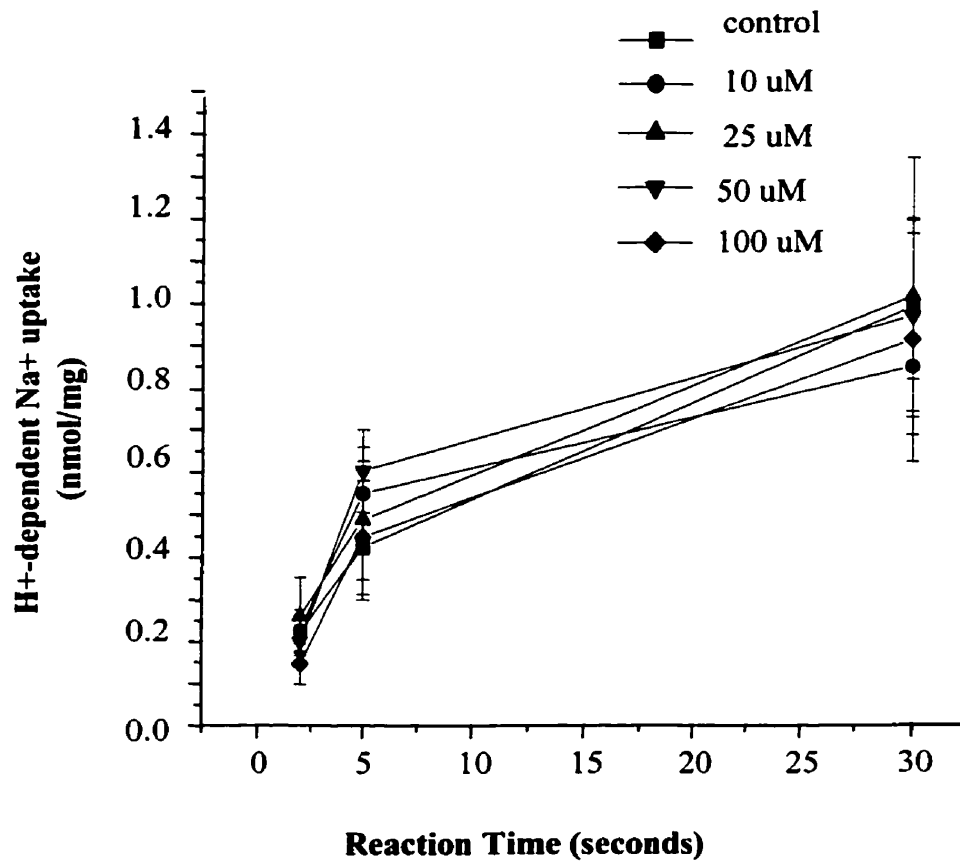
**Figure 23. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in LPC treated sarcolemmal vesicles.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were pre-incubated with 10, 25, 50 and 100uM LPC for 3 minutes. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was examined for 5 seconds in pH 10.61 at T=25°C.



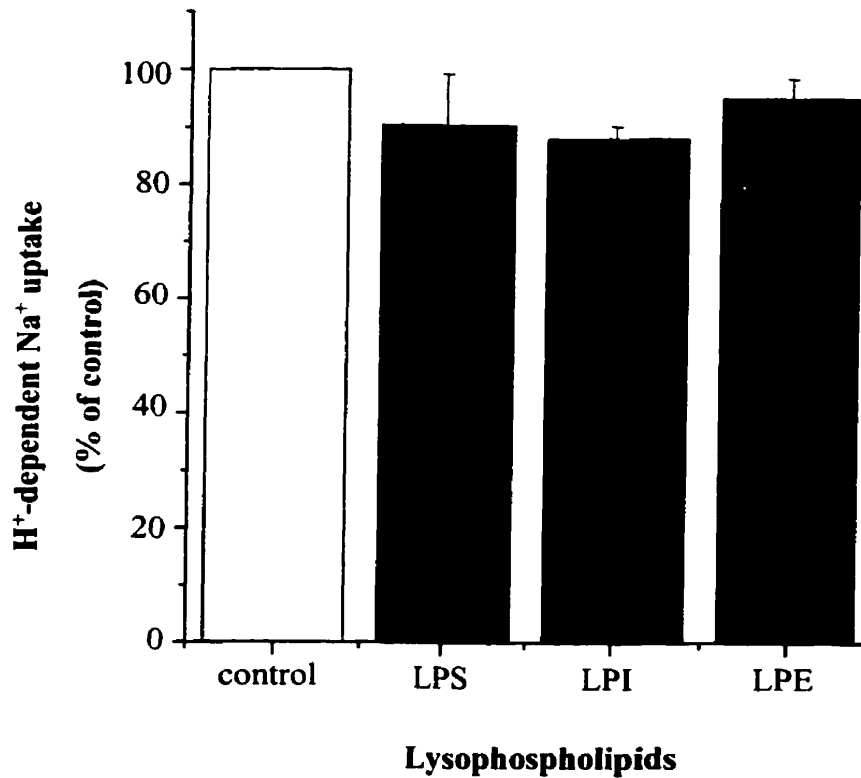
**Figure 24. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in LPC treated vesicles as a function of reaction time.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were pre-incubated with 50uM LPC for 3 minutes at pH 5.5, T = 25°C. Reaction was carried out in pH 10.61 media for 2, 5 and 30 seconds, [Na<sup>+</sup>]<sub>i</sub> = 0.05mM



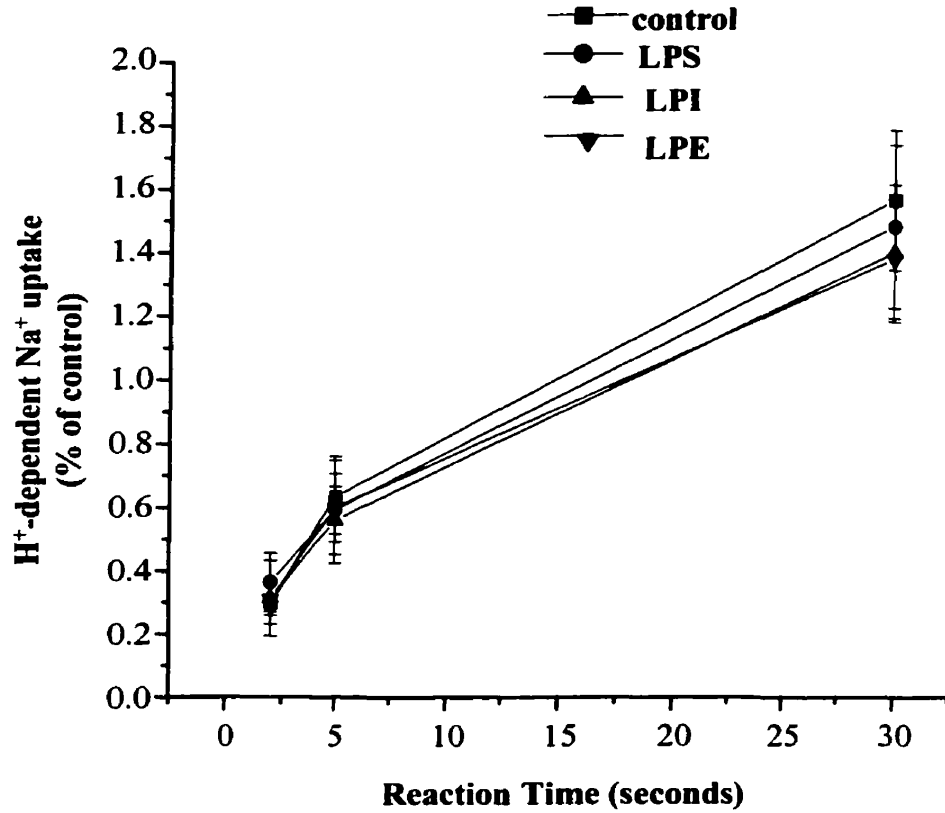
**Figure 25. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in LPeC treated sarcolemmal vesicles.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were pre-incubated with 10, 25, 50 and 100uM of LPeC for 3 minutes in pH 5.5, T=25°C. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was examined for 5 seconds in pH 10.61, [Na<sup>+</sup>] 0.05mM.



**Figure 26. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in lysoplasmenylcholine (LPeC) treated sarcolemmal vesicles as a function of reaction time and [LPeC].** Sarcolemmal vesicles were pre-incubated with 10, 25, 50 and 100 uM LPeC for 3 minutes in pH 5.5, T=25°C. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was examined at 2, 5 and 30 seconds in pH 10.61, [Na<sup>+</sup>] 0.05 mM.



**Figure 27. H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake as a function of variable lysophospholipids.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were pre-incubated with 50uM lysophosphatidylserine (LPS), lysophosphatidylinositol (LPI) and lysophosphatidylethanolamine (LPE) for 2 minutes. Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was examined in a final solution consisting of 0.05mM [Na<sup>+</sup>], pH 9.33 for 5 seconds. Data are represented as mean  $\pm$  S.E. of 3 separate experiments.



**Figure 28. Time course in H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake in lysophosphatidylserine (LPS), lysophosphatidylinositol (LPI) and lysophosphatidylethanolamine (LPE) treated sarcolemmal vesicles.** Sarcolemmal vesicles were pre-incubated with 50uM LPS, LPI and LPE for 2 minutes at 25°C (pH 5.5). Na<sup>+</sup> uptake was examined in a final solution consisting of 0.05mM Na<sup>+</sup>, pH 9.33. Data are represented as mean ● S.E. of 3 separate experiments.

## D. DISCUSSION

This study demonstrates that the cardiac sarcolemmal  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger requires a suitable phospholipid environment for optimal activity and that phospholipase D-induced changes in the exchanger-associated phospholipids inhibit the exchanger activity. Following phospholipase D treatment, all parameters of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange ( $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{pH}_o$  and reaction time dependency) were inhibited. The striking difference between the effects of phospholipase C and D on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange strongly implicates phosphatidic acid as the lipid moiety responsible for the effects on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange. Changes in the membrane phosphatidylcholine content by up to 20 % with phospholipase C treatment did not alter  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange. However, phospholipase D inhibited  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange by 30 - 60% when compared to controls. Phospholipase D hydrolyses phosphatidylcholine as well but instead generates phosphatidic acid. However, it is also possible that phospholipase D action may inhibit  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange through an alteration of the phosphatidylcholine / phosphatidic acid ratio (449). Another potential explanation for the observed inhibition of the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger could be as a result of an increase in passive  $\text{Na}^+$  permeability of the vesicles. However, when passive efflux was examined, no difference between control and phospholipase D treated cardiac sarcolemmal vesicles was observed. Alternatively, a decrease in the total volume of the vesicles may also account for the observed inhibition. However, when  $\text{H}^+$ -dependent  $\text{Na}^+$  uptake was examined as a function of time, there was no difference between control and phospholipase D treated vesicles following 1 minute of

Na<sup>+</sup> uptake. Since total intravesicular Na<sup>+</sup> loading capacity was unaltered, this suggests vesicular size and volume were not changed in a meaningful manner.

In contrast to the conclusions of others (27), our data argue persuasively that membrane phospholipids can modulate Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange activity. The previous work did not directly examine the effects of endogenous phospholipids on Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange (27). Instead, their conclusions were based on effects observed where phospholipid flippase activity was stimulated. The flippase allows for preferential distribution of negatively charged phospholipids to the inner leaflet of the phospholipid bilayer (450). Our results demonstrating a lack of effect of changes in membrane phosphatidylcholine content on Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange are, therefore, consistent with the conclusions of Demareux *et al* (27). However, the present results extend these observations to identify clear, class dependent effects of specific phospholipids on the exchanger. The degree of inhibition generated by phospholipase D treatment in the present study is also similar to that observed previously by the Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup> ATPase and Ca<sup>2+</sup> ATPase (5). The Na<sup>+</sup>-Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchanger also exhibits a phospholipid-specific modulatory response (121).

The interaction of phospholipids with the Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger has relevance to ischemia-reperfusion injury where exchange activity is altered. Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange is stimulated during the acidic load which occurs in ischemia-reperfusion injury (379,451). Interestingly, others have shown that sarcolemmal phospholipase D is depressed following 30 minutes of post-ischemic reperfusion (449). Our results may partly explain why prior exposure of the myocardium to a brief ischemic event offers a cardioprotective effect to future episodes of ischemia. Preconditioning has been reported to increase the amount of phospholipase D activity within the myocardium (452). Our data would



suggest that this phospholipase D action would inhibit  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange and may account for the cardioprotection observed following preconditioning (453-455). Inhibition of the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger during ischemia is beneficial to the myocardium (284). In summary, in contrast to previous suggestions, the cardiac  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger is sensitive to the membrane phospholipid environment. The exchanger appears to be affected by specific phospholipid classes, namely phosphatidic acid. This effect may play an important role in the cardioprotective effects observed in ischemic preconditioning.

The PUFA study demonstrates that specific fatty acids can significantly inhibit the activity of the cardiac sarcolemmal  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger. Following DHA and EPA treatment, all of the parameters of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange that were examined were altered (fatty acid concentration, reaction time and extravesicular pH). Two observations support the contention that the inhibition of the exchanger was not artifactual but reflects a real, direct interaction of the lipids with the exchanger. First, the inhibition of exchange by DHA and EPA was not due to an increase in the passive permeability characteristics of the membrane. Fatty acids are known to compromise the passive permeability of membranes (73). An increase in sarcolemmal leakiness would inhibit the capacity of the vesicles to maintain an ionic load and give the appearance of a direct inhibitory effect on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange. However, DHA and EPA did not affect passive ion permeability under the assay conditions employed in the present study. Second, the effects of the PUFA's on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange were specific to the PUFA tested. Following exposure to  $50\mu\text{M}$  LA and LNA, the activity of the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger remained unaltered. This lack of effect of LA and LNA on cardiac  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange agrees with the findings of Gore et al (81) that enrichment of cells with LA or LNA did not alter  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange. In contrast, the

addition of DHA and EPA significantly inhibited H<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup> uptake. This difference in the effects of specific fatty acids on Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange implies a structural specificity of the effect. DHA and EPA are longer chain fatty acids than LA and LNA. The capacity of the cis double bonds found in PUFA's together with the longer chain length may induce a sufficient disturbance in membrane order near the exchanger to alter its activity. This is also consistent with previous studies of the effects of phospholipases on cardiac sarcolemmal Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange. Although treatment of sarcolemmal vesicles with phospholipase D resulted in a significant change in Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange, there was no effect after phospholipase C treatment (see results). Again, this implies the Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger is sensitive to specific alterations in its lipid environment.

Our current results may have important clinical significance from two perspectives. First, the concentrations of PUFA's that induced an effect on the exchanger in the present study are within the range expected to be found in plasma from individuals consuming a diet enriched in PUFA (458) and in pathological conditions like ischemia (78). Secondly, our results have mechanistic importance in pathological conditions like ischemia/reperfusion. The Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchanger is known to play a critical role in the initiation of arrhythmias and damage during ischemia-reperfusion challenge (257,260,384,385). Pharmacological inhibition of Na<sup>+</sup>-H<sup>+</sup> exchange significantly reduces ischemia-induced arrhythmias, contractile dysfunction, damage and necrosis (284,285,302,303,329,379,459). Billman has reported the anti-arrhythmic effects of DHA and EPA following ischemia (65,78). Although inhibition of Ca<sup>2+</sup> or K<sup>+</sup> channels has been suggested as mechanisms by which PUFA's exert their anti-arrhythmic effect (79,80) our results provide a clear and important alternative mechanistic explanation. By

inhibiting the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  overload will be reduced or prevented (386), and the arrhythmias, contractile dysfunction, damage and necrosis associated with the ischemic/reperfusion insult will be avoided. This conclusion, however, is limited to DHA and EPA and cannot explain the cardioprotective actions of other PUFA's (62,63).

In summary, our study is the first to demonstrate a potent effect of DHA and EPA on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange. Our results provide insight into the cardioprotective action of PUFAs like DHA and EPA during ischemia/reperfusion and further insight into the interactions of lipids with the exchanger. Given their anti-hyperlipidemic and anti-arrhythmic actions, PUFA's may become an essential recommendation as a nutritional supplement with beneficial cardiovascular effects.

Lysolipids are another species of lipid that may alter  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange. Karmazyn et al (456) have shown that LPC stimulated NHE-1 in cardiomyocytes. Others have reported inhibitory affects of LPC on other ion transporters as well. The  $\text{Na}^+\text{-Ca}^{2+}$  exchange in sarcolemmal vesicles (457),  $\text{Na}^+\text{-K}^+$  ATPase (25) and the  $\text{Na}^+\text{-HCO}_3^-$  in ventricular myocytes (21) are all inhibited by LPC. However, Yamaguchi et al reported no effect of LPC on the cardiac  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger (21). Therefore it is unclear if LPC does alter  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange. If it does stimulate  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange, three potential mechanisms may account for this action. LPC may alter  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange via a direct effect on the exchanger or, through an indirect signaling mechanism, or via some combination of both of these effects. Karmazyn and colleagues (456) hypothesized that LPC stimulation of  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchange occurred via a protein kinase pathway. To address the direct effect of lysolipids on  $\text{Na}^+\text{-H}^+$  exchanger, we have examined the effects of LPC in isolated sarcolemmal membranes instead of cardiomyocytes. Using a sarcolemmal

membrane preparation removes the influence of kinases or other second messengers. In our study, there was no effect of lysophospholipids on the cardiac sarcolemmal  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchanger. Furthermore, lysophosphatidylcholine, lysophosphatidylserine, lysophosphatidylinositol and lysophosphatidylethanolamine had no effect.

The length of fatty acid carbon chain could contribute to the inability of these lysolipids to alter  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchange function. LPC, LPE, LPS and LPI all contain short carbon chains. The length of the fatty acid chain appears to play a significant role as long chain fatty acids significantly affect NHE activity when compared to shorter chain fatty acids

Interestingly, the result of studies evaluating the effects of phospholipase  $\text{A}_2$  (generating LPC) are in agreement with the results observed here (a lack of effect on  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchange). Our study, therefore, is the first of its kind to evaluate the direct effects of individual pure lysolipids on cardiac  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchange and clearly rules out a direct effect of these lipids on  $\text{Na}^+ - \text{H}^+$  exchange.

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