

# **Sulfenylation of Human Liver and Kidney Microsomal Cytochromes P450 and Other Drug-Metabolizing Enzymes as a Response to Redox Alteration\***<sup>®</sup>

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**The lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) provides an oxidizing environment to aid in the formation of disulfide bonds, which is tightly regulated by both antioxidant proteins and small molecules. On the cytoplasmic side of the ER, cytochrome P450 (P450) proteins have been identified as a superfamily of enzymes that are important in the formation of endogenous chemicals as well as in the detoxication of xenobiotics. Our previous report described oxidative inhibition of P450 Family 4 enzymes via oxidation of the heme-thiolate cysteine to a sulfenic acid (-SOH) (Albertolle, M. E.** *et al.* **(2017)** *J. Biol. Chem.* **292, 11230 –11242). Further proteomic analyses of murine kidney and liver microsomes led to the finding that a number of other drug-metabolizing enzymes located in the ER are also redox-regulated in this manner. We expanded our analysis of sulfenylated enzymes to human liver and kidney microsomes. Evaluation of the sulfenylation, catalytic activity, and spectral properties of P450s 1A2, 2C8, 2D6, and 3A4 led to the identification of two classes of redox sensitivity in P450 enzymes: heme-thiolate-sensitive and thiol-insensitive. These findings provide evidence for a mammalian P450 regulatory mechanism, which may also be relevant to other drug-metabolizing enzymes. (Data are available via ProteomeXchange with identifier PXD007913.)** *Molecular & Cellular Proteomics 17: 10.1074/mcp.RA117.000382, 889–900, 2018.*

The endoplasmic reticulum  $(ER)^1$  is a site of protein translation, posttranslational processing, and small molecule me-

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Published, MCP Papers in Press, DOI 10.1074/mcp.RA117.000382 Author contributions: M.A. and F.P.G. designed research; M.A. and T.T.N.P. performed research; M.A., T.T.N.P., and F.P.G. analyzed data; M.A. and F.P.G. wrote the paper; A.P. and F.P.G. contributed new reagents/analytic tools.

<sup>1</sup> The abbreviations used are: ER, endoplasmic reticulum; AGC, automatic gain control; CID, collision-induced dissociation; DTT, dithiothreitol; FDR, false discovery rate; FMO, microsomal flavin-containing monooxygenase; HCD, higher-energy collisional dissociation; HEPPS, tabolism (1). Posttranslational processing includes glycosylation of proteins for sorting, disulfide bond formation, and specific proteolytic cleavages. The ER lumen is an oxidizing environment that aids in the production of disulfide bonds, which is maintained at a homeostatic level by both small molecules (ascorbate) and proteins (protein disulfide isomerases) (2, 3). The cytosolic side of the ER remains a reducing environment to preserve the normal function of integral ER proteins.

Cytochromes P450 (CYP, P450) are found in the cytoplasmic side of the ER and are most well-known for the ability to metabolize xenobiotics and important endogenous substrates (*e.g.* steroids and vitamins) (4). These proteins have been of interest in the pharmaceutical industry since their initial discovery, and enzymes in P450 Subfamilies 1A, 2C, 2D, and 3A are involved in the metabolism and clearance of a large majority of small molecule drugs currently approved for clinical use in humans (4). P450 regulation involves genetic and epigenetic aspects, as well as transcriptional regulation by both endogenous and exogenous factors (5). Posttranscriptional mRNA processing is also known and has also been found to be highly controlled (5).

Previous work from our laboratory described the oxidative inhibition of P450 Family 4 enzymes via  $H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>$  (6). This oxidation occurred through the sulfenylation (-SOH) of the hemethiolate cysteine ligand, thus reversibly inactivating the enzyme.

Cysteine-sulfenic acid oxidative modifications are important for regulating many cellular processes, including cell metabolism, growth factor receptor signaling, and stress signaling (7). Challenges in the thiol-redox field include identifying sites of oxidation and enzymes capable of reversing the modification and the roles that sulfenylated proteins play in biology (8). Current theories for the production of sulfenic acids include redox relays using peroxiredoxins, local sites of high oxidant production (*e.g.* NADPH oxidase, mitochondria),

<sup>3-[4-(2-</sup>hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl]propanesulfonate; ICDID, isotopecoded dimedone/iododimedone (labeling); MH-, exact mass of protonated parent ion; NCE, normalized collision energy; P450 or CYP, cytochrome P450; TCEP, *tris*(carbethoxymethyl)phosphine.

and direct diffusion across plasma membranes (9). Sulfenylation can lead to disulfide bond formation with glutathione or other free thiols or can be reversed by either glutaredoxin or protein disulfide isomerase (7). Recently, new evidence has emerged that ER-localized tyrosine-protein phosphatase nonreceptor type 1 (PTP1B) sulfenyl groups can be reduced via thioredoxin reductase (10).

Here we describe the importance of cysteine oxidation in the context of other P450s and identify thiol sensitive and insensitive enzymes. Heme-thiol sensitivity is adopted as a term used here to describe enzymes that experience direct oxidation of the heme-thiolate center, thus altering heme-iron coordination and catalytic activity. Conversely, thiol insensitivity is used to describe enzymes that do not exhibit sensitivity to thiol oxidation up to 1 mm concentrations of  $H_2O_2$ .

Further findings from a proteomic analysis of sulfenylated proteins in both murine kidney and liver microsomes indicated that other P450 enzymes are also sulfenylated, including enzymes in the P450 2a, 2c, 2d, and 3a subfamilies, identified here. A subsequent screen in human liver and kidney microsomes yielded similar results. These analyses of human and murine microsomes from livers and kidneys revealed sulfenylation of many other important drug-metabolizing enzymes including UDP-glucuronyltransferases, epoxide hydrolase, flavin-containing monoxygenases (FMOs), monoamine oxidases, and carboxylesterases. Using enzymatic activity assays, isotope-coded dimedone/iododimedone (ICDID) labeling (Fig. 1), and spectral studies, we further investigated the effect of  $H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>$  on human recombinant P450s 1A2, 2C8, 2D6, and 3A4. We observed that P450s 2C8, 2D6, and 3A4 experienced heme-thiol sensitivity (with the modification to P450s 2C8, and 2D6 being reversible) and that P450 1A2 is thiolinsensitive to  $H_2O_2$ . This redox phenomenon may represent a new regulatory mechanism for many P450s.

### EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Chemicals-TCEP, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (30% w/v), paclitaxel, 6-hydroxypaclitaxel, dextromethorphan, dextrorphan, testosterone, 6β-hydroxytestosterone, phenacetin, and acetaminophen were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. Iododimedone (melting point 145–146 °C; high-resolution mass spectrometry calculated for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub>l m/z 266.9882 (MH<sup>+</sup>), observed 266.9881 ( $\Delta$  0.4 ppm)) and  $d_6$ -dimedone (melting point 147–148 °C; high-resolution mass spectrometry calculated for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>D<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub> m/z 147.1292 (MH<sup>+</sup>), observed 147.1284 (Δ 5.4 ppm)) were prepared as described previously (6).

*Enzymes—*Human P450s 1A2 (11), 2C8 (12), 2D6 (13), and 3A4 (14) (all with C-terminal (His) $_6$  tags) were expressed and purified as described previously. *Escherichia coli* recombinant rat NADPH-P450 reductase and human liver cytochrome  $b_5$  ( $b_5$ ) were prepared as described by Hanna *et al.* (15) and Guengerich (16), respectively.

*Murine Tissue Samples—*All experiments using mice were conducted with approved protocols by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Vanderbilt University and in accordance with the NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. 129/Sv mice carrying one copy of the human cytochrome P450 4A11 gene (*CYP4A11*) (under control of its native promoter were generated as previously described (17)) were provided normal chow diet (Purina Laboratory Rodent 5001; Purina, St. Louis, MO) with free access to water and were housed in an Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care-accredited, temperaturecontrolled facility with a 12-h light-dark cycle. All studies were conducted in mice aged 6 –28 weeks of age. *CYP4A11* transgenic mice were crossed with pure Sv129 wild-type mice and offspring were genotyped for the presence of a single copy of the human *CYP411* gene as previously described (17). Organs were collected from male transgenic mice immediately after sacrifice and used for microsomal preparations as described below.

*Human Tissue Samples—*Tissues were collected and stored by the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Tissue Repository using Cooperative Human Tissue Network approved standard operating procedures under a waiver of consent and anonymized. After collection, areas of necrosis or cauterized areas were removed and then sectioned into normal and tumor tissue. A representative section of each tissue type and/or disease type was fixed in formalin and processed, and a hematoxylin and eosin stained section was obtained and reviewed by a board-certified pathologist to ensure sample integrity and usefulness in research. Kidney and liver samples (five each, collected within one year of analysis, decoded) used for this study were snapfrozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at  $-80$  °C.

*Enzymatic Assays—*Assays with P450s were performed as described previously with P450 2C8-paclitaxel as substrate (12, 18), P450 2D6— dextromethorphan as substrate (13, 19), P450 3A4 testosterone as substrate (20), and P450 1A2—phenacetin as substrate (21).  $b_5$  was only used in the P450 3A4 incubations.

*Protein Oxidation—*Purified recombinant P450 (5 nmol stock solution, stored at  $-80$  °C in 50 mm potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) containing 20% glycerol (v/v), 1 mm DTT, and 0.1 mm EDTA) was thawed on ice and reduced for 30 min by the addition of 1 mm TCEP at 4 °C. A Zeba Spin Desalting Column (Thermo) pre-equilibrated with oxidation buffer (100 mm potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) containing 0.1 mm EDTA and sparged with Ar) was used to remove reducing agents. Reduced protein was then diluted to a concentration of 500 nm using oxidation buffer. Aliquots were treated with varying amounts of  $H_2O_2$  or TCEP. Aliquots for the activity assay were incubated with  $H_2O_2$  or TCEP for 15 min at 37 °C. Human erythrocyte catalase (10 units, Sigma-Aldrich catalogue #C3556) was added and incubations proceeded at 23 °C for 5 min to remove  $H_2O_2$ . These samples were used to measure enzymatic activity as described above.

*ICDID Labeling of Recombinant P450s—*Additional aliquots of oxidized protein (from above, 100 pmol) were incubated with 5 mm  $d_6$ -dimedone (from a 50 mm stock suspended in 100 mm sodium 3-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl]propanesulfonate (HEPPS) buffer (pH 8.0) containing 5% NaCl (w/v)) for 2 h at 37 °C. Trichloroacetic acid was then added to a final concentration of 10% (w/v), and the samples were incubated on ice for 15 min. The enzymes in the samples were pelleted by centrifugation (12,000  $\times$  *g*, 15 min, 4 °C). The supernatant was removed from each sample, and the pellet was washed with ice-cold CH<sub>3</sub>CN. The pellet was resuspended in 20  $\mu$  of 100 mm HEPPS buffer (pH 8.0) containing 2% (w/v) SDS and 1 mm TCEP, and reduction proceeded for 30 min at 37 °C.  $(d_0)$ -lododimedone (100 mM, in DMSO) was added to a final concentration of 10 mM, and incubation was done at 23 °C in the dark for 30 min. Samples were subjected to SDS- polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (10% Bis-Tris, NuPAGE, Invitrogen) separation and stained with SimplyBlue SafeStain (Invitrogen). The M<sub>r</sub> region corresponding to each P450 was excised, digested with trypsin (8 ng/ $\mu$ I) for 16 h in 25 mm NH<sub>4</sub>HCO<sub>3</sub> (pH 7.8) at 37 °C, and subjected to LC-MS/MS analysis.

*Preparation of Microsomes—*Microsomes from human and murine tissues were prepared with slight modifications of published methods (22). For ICDID labeling studies, buffer A (0.10 M Tris acetate buffer

#### TABLE I

*Sulfenylated murine microsomal proteins. Proteins with respective gene names identified in microsomes of murine livers and kidneys at 5% peptide FDR. Modifications are presented as cysteine (C) and sequence location. Tissue location is denoted as liver (L) or kidney (K) by the modification*



Shared peptide sequences: <sup>1</sup>STGKRICAGEGLARMELF, <sup>2</sup>LFFTCLLQRF.



FIG. 1. General workflow for isotope-coded dimedone/iododimedone labeling of proteins. In the case of recombinant protein assays, prereduced protein was removed of reductant, exposed to varying concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, and coincubated with  $d_6$ -dimedone to label sulfenic acids. Additionally, microsomes were incubated with *d*<sub>6</sub>-dimedone. After incubation, samples were then reduced with TCEP and free thiols were counter-alkylated with ( $d_0$ )-iododimedone. Samples were then subjected to LC-MS/MS analysis.

(pH 7.4) containing 0.10 M KCl, 1.0 mm EDTA, and 20  $\mu$ M butylated hydroxytoluene) was sparged with Ar before use. Tissue samples were homogenized in buffer A using a Teflon®-glass Potter-Elvehjem device and centrifuged at  $10^4 \times g$  for 20 min. at 4 °C. Postmitochondrial supernatants were then treated as described (22), and the final microsomal pellets were resuspended in 100 mm HEPPS buffer (pH 8.0) containing 1.0 mm EDTA. Aliquots of these samples were incubated with 10 mm  $d_6$ -dimedone for 1 h at 37 °C. Aliquots were reduced with 1.0 mm TCEP at 37 °C for 30 min, and then 10 mm (d<sub>o</sub>)-iododimedone was added. The protein concentrations of microsomes were estimated using a bicinchoninic acid assay (Pierce). Alkylated microsomes (60  $\mu$ g protein) were subjected to SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (10% acrylamide gel, *vide supra*), and the P450 region (M, 40–60 kDa) was excised, digested with trypsin (8 ng/ $\mu$ l) for 16 h in 25 mm NH<sub>4</sub>HCO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH 8.0) at 37 °C, and subjected to LC/MS/MS analysis as described below.

*LC-MS/MS Analysis—*Extracted peptides from murine microsomes or recombinant P450s were analyzed on a nanoLC Ultra system (Eksigent Technologies, Dublin, CA) interfaced with an LTQ Orbitrap XL mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA). Approximately 2.5  $\mu$ g (microsomes) or 10 pmol (recombinant P450) of peptides were reconstituted in 0.1% HCO<sub>2</sub>H (v/v) and pressure-loaded (1.5  $\mu$ l min $^{-1}$ ) onto a 360  $\mu$ m outer diameter  $\times$  100  $\mu$ m inner diameter

microcapillary analytical column packed with Jupiter octadecylsilane (C18) (3  $\mu$ m, 300 Å, Phenomenex) and equipped with an integrated electrospray emitter tip. Peptides were then separated with a linear gradient formed with  $0.1\%$  HCO<sub>2</sub>H in H<sub>2</sub>O (solvent A) and  $0.1\%$ HCO<sub>2</sub>H in CH<sub>3</sub>CN (solvent B) (all v/v) by increasing from 2-45% B (v/v) over a period of  $0-45$  min at a flow rate of 500 nl min<sup>-1</sup>. The spray voltage was set to 2.3 kV and the heated capillary temperature to 200 °C. Higher energy collisional dissociation (HCD) and collisioninduced dissociation MS/MS spectra were recorded in the data-dependent mode using a Top 2 method for each fragmentation mode. MS1 spectra were measured with a resolution of 70,000, an AGC target of 1e6, and a mass range from *m/z* 300 to 1,500. HCD MS/MS spectra were acquired with a resolution of 7,500, an AGC target of 1e5, and a normalized collision energy of 35. Collision-induced dissociation MS/MS spectra were acquired with normalized collision energy of 35 with a 50 ms max injection time. Peptide *m/z* values that triggered MS/MS scans were dynamically excluded from further MS/MS scans for 20 s, with a repeat count of 1.

For samples produced with human microsomes, an analytical column was packed with 20 cm of C18 reverse phase material (Jupiter, 3  $\mu$ m beads, 300 Å, Phenomenex) directly into a laser-pulled emitter tip. Peptides (500 ng) were loaded on the capillary reverse phase analytical column (360  $\mu$ m outer diameter  $\times$  100  $\mu$ m inner diameter)

# TABLE II

*Sulfenylated human microsomal proteins. Proteins with respective gene names identified in microsomes prepared from human livers and kidneys, at 5% peptide FDR. Modifications are presented as cysteine (C) and sequence location, with the percentage sulfenylation (SD, n 5 different tissue samples) indicated in parentheses*  $\overline{a}$ 



Description	Gene Name	Modifications Found in Liver				Modifications Found in Kidney	
[N-oxide-forming] 5		$C248(28 \pm 0\%)$	C <sub>31</sub>	C <sub>22</sub>			
Amine oxidase [flavin-containing] A	<b>MAOA</b>	$C374^{21*}$ (39 $\pm$ 2%)	$C165(32 \pm 1\%)$	$C306(31 \pm 2\%)$	C <sub>266</sub>	C201 <sup>20</sup> (40 $\pm$ 4%)	C <sub>165</sub>
		C201 <sup>20</sup> (35 $\pm$ 1%)				$C374^{21*}(42 \pm 4\%)$	C <sub>266</sub>
Amine oxidase [flavin-containing] B	<b>MAOB</b>	$C156(36 \pm 1\%)$	C297 (37 $\pm$ 1%)	$C365^{21*}$	C192 <sup>20</sup>	C297 (37 $\pm$ 1%)	$C192^{20}$
						$C156(41 \pm 3\%)$	$C365^{21*}$
Serum paraoxonase/arylesterase 1	PON <sub>1</sub>	$C42(29 \pm 2\%)$	C <sub>284</sub>			$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	
Serum paraoxonase/lactonase 3	PON <sub>3</sub>	C42 (38 $\pm$ 7%)				$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	
UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1-4	UGT1A4	C187 (37 $\pm$ 4%)					
UDP-glucuronyltransferase 1-6	UGT1A6	C176				C176	
UDP-glucuronyltransferase 1-7	UGT1A7					C174	
UDP-glucuronyltransferase 1-9	UGT1A9					C <sub>153</sub>	
UDP-glucuronyltransferase 2A3	UGT2A3					C31	
UDP-glucuronyltransferase 2B10	UGT2B10	C281 <sup>22</sup> (40 $\pm$ 4%)				$\equiv$	
UDP-glucuronyltransferase 2B15	UGT2B15	C <sub>28322</sub>					
UDP-glucuronyltransferase 2B17	<b>UGT2B17</b>	C <sub>28322</sub>					
UDP-glucuronyltransferase 2B4	UGT2B4	$C127(28 \pm 6\%)$	C514			$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	
UDP-glucuronyltransferase 2B7	UGT2B7	$C282(35 \pm 5\%)$					

TABLE II—*continued*

Shared peptide sequences: <sup>1</sup>RFTCR, <sup>2</sup>NPESNYCLK, <sup>3</sup>ELGATECINPQDYK, <sup>4</sup>VCLIGCGFSTGYGSAVNVAK, <sup>5</sup>VIPLFTPQCGK, <sup>6</sup>VTPGSTCAVF-GLGGVGLSAVMGCK, <sup>7</sup>VTPGSTCAVFGLGGVGLSVVMGCK, <sup>8</sup>SPCMQDR, <sup>9</sup>CLVEELRK, <sup>10</sup>DFIDCFLIK, <sup>11</sup>ECYSVFTNR, <sup>12</sup>VLQNFSFKPCK, <sup>13</sup>ACQLAHQHTDQVIQLR, <sup>14</sup>RLPNPCEDKDQL, <sup>15</sup>HPEYQEQCR, <sup>16</sup>LQCFPQPPK, <sup>17</sup>NCIGQAFAMAEMK, <sup>18</sup>EIEWDDLAQLPFLTMCI(/L)K, <sup>19</sup>LRCFPQPPR, <sup>20</sup>QCGGTTR, <sup>21</sup>I(/L)CELYAK, <sup>22</sup>PFLPNVDFVGGLHCK.

Single amino acid variation (leucine/isoleucine) in peptide sequences that cannot be determined from MS/MS fragmentation.

using a Dionex Ultimate 3000 nanoLC and autosampler. The mobile phase solvents consisted of 0.1% HCO<sub>2</sub>H, 99.9% H<sub>2</sub>O (solvent A) and  $0.1\%$  HCO<sub>2</sub>H, 99.9% CH<sub>3</sub>CN (solvent B v/v). Peptides were eluted at a flow rate of 400 nl/min. The 90-min gradient consisted of the following: 1–3 min, 2% B (sample loading from autosampler); 3–70 min, 2– 40% B; 70 –78 min, 40 –95% B; 78 –79 min, 95% B; 79 – 80 min, 95–2% B; 80 –90 min (column re-equilibration), 2% B (all v/v). A Q-Exactive mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific), equipped with a nanoelectrospray ionization source, was used to mass analyze the eluting peptides. The instrument method consisted of MS1 using an MS AGC target value of 1e6, followed by up to 20 MS/MS scans of the most abundant ions detected in the preceding MS scan. A maximum MS/MS ion time of 100 ms was used with a MS2 AGC target of 1e5 and an intensity threshold of 5e4. Dynamic exclusion was set to 15 s, HCD collision energy was set to 27 NCE, and peptide match and isotope exclusion were enabled.

*Peptide Data Analysis—*Raw data files were analyzed using Myri-Match software (Version 2.2.140) (23) and, in the case of the murine microsomes also MS-GF- (v2016.12.12) (24), against a decoy protein database consisting of a forward and reversed human Uniprot/Swissprot database with only reviewed proteins included (Version 20170202—20,165 entries). For murine microsomes, a murine Uniprot/Swissprot database with only reviewed proteins included was used (Version 20150825—16,718 entries). Trypsin (human microsomes and recombinant P450) or chymotrypsin (murine microsomes) with fully specific digestion was used as the enzyme search parameter. The number of missed cleavages permitted was two. Precursor ion mass tolerance was set at 10 ppm, and the fragmentation tolerance was 20 ppm for the database search. Methionine oxidation (15.9949 Da, dynamic) and cysteine modifications by  $d_6$ -and  $d_0$ dimedone (*i.e.* derived from iododimedone) (144.1057 and 138.0681 Da, respectively, dynamic) were included as variable search modifications. For the murine microsomes and recombinant P450 assays, an additional low-resolution search was performed with the same databases where precursor ion mass tolerance was set at 10 ppm and fragmentation tolerance set at 0.5 *m/z*. The maximum Q values of peptide spectrum matches were adjusted to achieve a peptide false discovery rate (FDR)  $\leq$ 5%, using IDPicker software (Version 3.1.642.0) (25). A spectral library of peptides was then created with IDPicker and loaded into Skyline Software for confident identification

and quantitation of precursors pertaining to cysteine-containing peptides. MS<sup>1</sup> precursor quantitation was performed as described previously (26, 27). The retention time of the identified peptide was used to position a retention time window  $(± 2.0$  min) across the run lacking the same peptide identification. Second, the resolution for extracting the MS1 filtering chromatogram of the target precursor ions with both light and heavy labeled peptides was set to 60,000 at 400 Th. Then extracted ion chromatograms for the top three isotopic peaks were manually inspected for proper peak picking of MS1 filtered peptides, and those with isotopic dot product scores lower than 0.8 were rejected. Additional criteria were used to further ensure the high accuracy and precision of quantification: S/N 3.0 and baseline separation was required between the isotopic peaks of a quantifiable peptide and unknown isobaric interference. The ratios of peptide areas of light peptides to their heavy isotopes (RL:H) were calculated automatically. Quantification results were obtained from five biological replicates for human microsomes, four biological replicates for murine microsomes, and two biological replicates for recombinant protein.

*Spectroscopy*—P450s were oxidized with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> as above, but the procedure was adapted slightly for spectroscopic assays. The enzyme was diluted with oxidation buffer to 1.0  $\mu$ M prior to introduction of 1.0 mm TCEP or 500  $\mu$ m H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. After oxidation, 30 units of catalase were added, and each sample was incubated at 23 °C for 5 min. To this solution, final concentrations of 1.0  $\mu$ M NADPH-P450 reductase, 150  $\mu$ M L- $\alpha$ -1,2-dilauroyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine, and 0.1 unit/ml protocatechuate dioxygenase (Sigma) were added to an anaerobic cuvette, with NADPH (300 nmol, in aqueous solution) in a sidearm of the cuvette. Samples were degassed, 20  $\mu$ M 3,4-dihydroxybenzoate (Sigma, substrate for protocatechuate dioxygenase) was added to remove oxygen (28), and samples were further degassed using a manifold attached to both vacuum and purified Ar (29, 30) and placed under an anaerobic CO atmosphere. The valves of the cuvettes were sealed and multiple UV-visible absorbance spectra were recorded using an OLIS/Hewlett Packard 8452 diode array spectrophotometer (On-Line Instrument Systems, Bogart, GA). Spectra were collected from 380 to 600 nm before and after the addition of NADPH and then sodium dithionite (6).

*Experimental Design and Statistical Rationale—*All chemoproteomic studies using tissue were performed with at least four biolog-



FIG. 2. **Spectral analysis of oxidized P450s.** TCEP-pretreated P450s were treated with 500  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and (after the removal of residual H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> by catalase) reconstituted with NADPH-P450 reductase, deaerated, and placed under an anaerobic atmosphere of CO. Following the addition of NADPH, spectra were recorded for the TCEP-reduced (Fig. 2A) and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-oxidized (Fig. 2B) samples (NADPH-P450 reductase (POR), blue traces). Following NADPH addition, sodium dithionite (Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) was added as a stronger reducing agent (dithionite, orange traces). Analysis was performed for P450s 1A2 (*A*), 2C8 (*B*), 2D6 (*C*), and 3A4 (*D*).

ical replicates to evaluate biological variability. Enzymatic activity and labeling assays using recombinant-purified enzymes were performed in biological duplicate and showed consistent results. Values of means with standard deviation are presented.

# RESULTS

*Identification of Sulfenylated P450s in Murine Microsomes—*Following our report that identified oxidation of P450 Subfamily 4 enzymes in murine kidney and liver microsomes (6), further analysis led to the identification of other sulfenylated cysteines from other P450s in Subfamilies 2, 3, and 26 (Table I, [Supplemental Table S1\)](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1). Of these, the murine P450 3a, 2c, 2d, and 2e proteins are known drug-metabolizing enzymes in mice (31). These results indicate that many P450s may be inhibited by oxidative posttranslational modification of cysteines.



FIG. 3. Mechanism of loss of activity due to sulfenylation. In the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, the heme-thiolate ligand becomes oxidized and loses its coordination with the heme iron. The sulfenic acid is not reduced by NADPH-P450 reductase but can be reduced by dithionite, re-forming the heme coordination.

*Identification of Sulfenylated Drug-Metabolizing Enzymes in Human Kidney and Liver Microsomes—*The murine data (Table I, [Supplemental Table S1\)](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1) led to the expansion of the proteomic study to human microsomes. Frozen human kidney and liver tissues from five individuals were rapidly fractionated into microsomal fractions in deaerated buffer and labeled using an isotope-coded ICDID strategy for relative quantitation (Fig. 1) (32). After excising the 40 – 60 kDa P450 region and digesting the proteins with trypsin, we identified 347 modified proteins in the kidney microsomes at a 5% peptide FDR (Table II, [Supplemental Table S2,](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1) [Fig. S1\)](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1). In addition, 380 modified proteins were identified in the liver microsomal fractions (5% peptide FDR, Table II, [Supplemental Table S3,](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1) [Fig. S1\)](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1). Of these proteins, 11 P450s were sulfenylated in the kidney microsomes and 24 P450s in liver microsomes. The identified P450s included enzymes that are important in the metabolism of both endogenous and xenobiotic substrates.

In addition to the P450 enzymes, we identified other modified proteins important in drug metabolism, including UDPglucuronyl transferases, epoxide hydrolase, FMOs, monoamine oxidases, and carboxylesterases. Other previously known sulfenylated proteins were also identified, including protein disulfide isomerases (33) and aldehyde dehydrogenases (34). MS1 precursor intensities for peptides were quantified using Skyline software (26).

*Spectral Analysis of Recombinant P450s for Thiol Sensitivity to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>* – P450s 1A2, 2C8, 2D6, and 3A4 were selected for further analysis. To confirm that these P450 enzymes were affected by sulfenylation, we utilized their spectral properties to determine if heme coordination or interaction with NADPH-P450 reductase was disrupted. In the presence of CO, disruption of the heme-thiol ligation either prevents reduction of the heme or yields the inactive form, cytochrome P420 (the five-coordinate ferrous-CO complex, which has a maximal absorbance at P420 nm) so that a characteristic 450 nm spectrum is not observed (35). *tris-*(Carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP)-pretreated P450s were treated with 500  $\mu$ M H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and (after the removal of residual  $H_2O_2$  by catalase) reconstituted with NADPH-P450 reductase, deaerated, and placed under an anaerobic atmosphere of CO. Following the addition of NADPH, spectra were recorded for the TCEP-reduced (Fig. 2*, left column*) and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-oxidized (Fig. 2, *right column*) samples. Sodium dithionite, which reduces both sulfenic acids and the heme iron, was subsequently added to both samples (Fig. 3).

P450 1A2 was very insensitive to  $H_2O_2$ , with only a slight increase in 450 nm absorbance after dithionite addition (Fig. 2*A*). P450s 2D6 (Fig. 2*B*) and 2C8 (Fig. 2*C*) both exhibited sensitivity to  $H_2O_2$ -dependent oxidation, with a noted decrease in 420 nm absorbance (indicative of the inactive form, cytochrome P420) and an increase in 450 nm absorbance indicative of reestablishment of the heme-thiol ligand (Fig. 3). P450 3A4 (Fig. 2*D*) exhibited a complete loss of 450 nm absorbance in the oxidized sample, which was not reversible upon addition of dithionite and increased absorbance at 420 nm.

*Oxidative Inhibition of P450 1A2, 2C8, 2D6, and 3A4 Catalytic Activities—*The enzymatic activity of P450 1A2 was largely uninhibited with preincubation of up to 1 mm  $H_2O_2$ , using phenacetin as a substrate, consistent with the spectral results (Fig. 4A). P450 2C8 showed sensitivity to  $H_2O_2$ , with an approximate IC<sub>50</sub> of 150  $\mu$ M and a loss of 87% activity at 1 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, using taxol as a substrate (Fig. 4B). P450 2D6 was also inhibited by  $H_2O_2$ , with an estimated IC<sub>50</sub> of  $\sim$ 300  $\mu$ m (Fig. 4*C*) and loss of 70% activity at 1 mm  $H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>$ , using dextromethorphan as a substrate. An IC<sub>50</sub> of  $\sim$ 300  $\mu$ m H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was determined for P450 3A4, using testosterone as a substrate (Fig. 4*D*), with a loss of 95% of activity at 1 mm  $H_2O_2$ .

*Sulfenylation of P450s 1A2, 2C8, 2D6, 3A4—*P450s 1A2, 2C8, 2D6, and 3A4 were subjected to ICDID labeling followed by LC-MS/MS analysis of tryptic peptides (Fig. 1). For P450 1A2, this assay allowed three of the seven cysteines to be quantified (Fig. 5*A*, [supplemental Fig. S2\)](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1). Cys-458 (hemethiol ligand) and Cys-504 showed low levels of sulfenylation up to 1 mm  $H_2O_2$ . Additionally, Cys-159 showed very high levels of oxidation, but this did not impair the enzymatic activity of P450 1A2 (Figs. 4*A* and 5*A*), indicating that P450 1A2 is insensitive to thiol oxidation.

Five thiol-containing peptides were quantified for P450 2C8 (Fig. 5*B*, [Supplemental Fig. S3\)](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1). Cys-338, Cys-51, Cys-151, and Cys-435 (heme-thiol ligand) were sulfenylated in an  $H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>$ -dependent manner, while Cys-266 was oxidation insensitive.

Two peptides of P450 2D6 could be quantified (Fig. 5*C*, [Supplemental Fig. S4\)](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1). Cys-443 (heme-thiol ligand) showed an  $H_2O_2$ -dependent increase in sulfenylation compared with the reduced control.

P450 3A4 ICDID labeling allowed for the quantitation of four of the seven cysteines (Fig. 5*D*, [Supplemental Fig. S5\)](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1). The





FIG. 4. **Oxidative inhibition of P450 catalytic activity.** Prereduced P450 was incubated with varying concentrations of  $H_2O_2$ , or TCEP as a reduced control. Enzymes were then reconstituted and enzymatic activity assays were performed as in the experimental procedures. (*A*) P450 1A2 was incubated with the substrate phenacetin, and acetaminophen was monitored as the product. The reduced control enzymatic rate was 1.85  $\pm$  0.01 min $^{-1}$ . (*B*) P450 2C8 was incubated with taxol, and  $6\alpha$ -hydroxytaxol was monitored as the product. The reduced control enzymatic rate was calculated as  $5.5 \pm 0.4$  min<sup>-1</sup>. (C) P450 2D6 was incubated with dextromethorphan and dextrorphan was monitored as the product. The reduced control enzymatic rate was  $5.6 \pm 0.1$  min<sup>-1</sup>. (D) P450 3A4 was incubated with testosterone and  $6\beta$ -hydroxytestosterone was monitored as the product. The reduced control enzymatic rate was 11.3  $\pm$  0.3 min<sup>-1</sup>. Samples were acquired in biological duplicate and presented as means  $\pm$  S.D. (range).

FIG. 5. **Sulfenylation of P450s 1A2, 2C8, 2D6, and 3A4.** Prereduced enzyme was coincubated with  $d_6$ -dimedone and varying concentrations of  $H_2O_2$  or TCEP. Proteins were then reduced and counter alkylated with  $d_0$ -iododimedone. Labeled samples were then subjected to LC-MS/MS analysis and heavy/light ratios were quantified as described in the experimental procedures. Peptides for P450 1A2 (*A*), 2C8 (*B*), 2D6 (*C*), and 3A4 (*D*) were acquired in biological duplicate and presented as means  $\pm$  S.D.

heme-thiol cysteine (Cys-442) showed a significant  $H_2O_2$ -dependent increase in sulfenylation. Cys-468 also showed an H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-dependent increase in sulfenylation, but peptides containing the di- and trioxidized cysteine sulfinic  $(SO_2^-)$  and sulfonic  $(\mathrm{SO}_3^{-})$  acids (respectively) were also found [\(Supple-](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1)



FIG. 6. **Crystal structure of P450s highlighting positions of cysteine.** Crystal structures for 1A2 (*A*), 2C8 (*B*), 2D6 (*C*), and 3A4 (*D*) were adapted from the RCSB Protein Data Bank [\(rcsb.org\)](http://rcsb.org). The accession numbers used were 2HI4, 2NNJ, 5TFT, and 5G5J, respectively.

[mental Fig. S6\)](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1), suggesting that Cys-468 is very sensitive to oxidation.

## **DISCUSSION**

ICDID labeling of murine liver and kidney microsomes provided the interesting finding that P450s other than the Subfamily 4 enzymes previously described (6) also contained oxidatively modified cysteines. This result may seem inconsistent with previous activation studies involving other P450s and dithiothreitol, which found no significant differences in enzymatic rates (6). However, this is probably because it is a regular practice to dialyze against dithiothreitol when removing imidazole after His<sub>6</sub>-nitrilotriacetic acid/nickel (NTA-Ni<sup>2+</sup>) purification and storage. P450 4A11 is unusual in its ability to readily oxidize in the presence of air, at least under these conditions. This labeling strategy was then expanded to human liver and kidney microsomes. Many other P450s were found to be sulfenylated in these samples (Table II, [Supple](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1)[mental Tables S2 and S3\)](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1). While our knowledge of transcriptional regulation, sequence variation, and inhibition is extensive for many P450s (4), knowledge of posttranslational regulation of P450s is limited, with research mostly focused on glycosylation, phosphorylation, ubiquitination, and nitration (24, 36). Cysteine oxidation may play a role in physiological posttranslational regulation as well.

Cysteine sulfenylation was found in a total of 57 drugmetabolizing enzymes. The group includes UDP-glucuronyl transferases, FMOs, and carboxylesterases, suggesting that many microsomal enzymes are modified by oxidation. These results seem reasonable, in that many enzymes have been found to be regulated by oxidation to form cysteine sulfenic

acids (34, 37). Additionally, a comparison of the results presented here and a recent study on sulfenylated proteins (38) revealed that 21% (kidney microsomes) and 14% (liver microsomes) of proteins were identified in both datasets. This comparison may indicate that the RKO adenocarcinoma cell line studied by Gupta *et al.* (38) likely has similar basal proteins that are oxidized. More in-depth studies of the non-P450 enzymes will be required to further verify sensitivity of catalytic activity to oxidation and effects that oxidation may have on activity and regulation.

Relative quantitation of the modified cysteines (Table II, [Supplemental Fig. S1\)](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1) yielded similar levels of  $d<sub>6</sub>$ -dimedone labeling, which may be due in part to the one hour incubation time with microsomes. While dimedone has been shown to be selective, the low reactivity of dimedone with sulfenic acids requires extended incubation times to achieve sufficient labeling (rate of 0.8 min<sup>-1</sup> under the reported conditions) (39, 40). The modified cysteines identified are likely sensitive to oxidation, but the amount of labeling observed may be representative of the equilibrium of a saturated system. Overall, 35 and 33% of all cysteine-containing peptides identified were modified with  $d_6$ -dimedone in kidney and liver microsomes, respectively. Since more than half of the peptides identified were not sulfenylated, the likelihood that this observation is an artifact would seem to be low. Furthermore, a control experiment was performed in which kidney and liver tissues were homogenized in 5 mm TCEP, fractionated into microsomes, labeled, and subjected to LC-MS/MS analysis as described under "Experimental Procedures". Approximately 6% of all cysteine-containing peptides from both the

kidney and liver samples were modified with  $d_6$ -dimedone, suggesting that some sulfenylated cysteines may have been inaccessible to the TCEP reducing agent [\(Supplemental Fig.](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1) [S7\)](http://www.mcponline.org/cgi/content/full/RA117.000382/DC1). Also, the fractionation and labeling protocol may have introduced a slightly oxidative environment that modified highly susceptible cysteines. Nevertheless, this experiment serves as a control for our positive results.

Four drug-metabolizing P450s were chosen for more indepth oxidative inhibition studies.

Interestingly, P450 1A2 was resistant to oxidation, as established by spectral, inhibition, and dimedone labeling studies (Figs. 2*A*, 4*A*, and 5*A*, respectively). Of note was the hyperoxidation of Cys-159, which did not affect the catalytic activity of P450 1A2 (Fig. 5*A*). This ancillary cysteine is positioned away from the active site, and its modification has a negligible effect on function (Fig. 6*A*). The resistance to oxidation is proposed to be related to access of oxidants or to stabilization of the heme-thiol system due to either the surrounding amino acid residues or the overall structure of the protein.

P450 2C8 showed an 87% loss of catalytic activity at 1 mm H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> compared with the reduced control (Fig. 3B). This inhibition may seem surprising in light of the large number of cysteines contained in P450 2C8 (Fig. 7), but the heme thiol peptide was still modified. Despite the gradual loss of activity, the spectral and ICDID labeling studies (Figs. 2*B* and 5*B*) showed a high loss and recovery of the heme-thiol ligand spectrally and significant sulfenic acid labeling (Cys-435). Only four of the 16 thiols were quantified because of the clustering of thiols in the sequence; *i.e.* some tryptic peptides contained up to four cysteines and spanned 25 amino acids.

P450 2D6 showed less loss of activity (70%) than P450 2C8 but still exhibited inhibition after treatment with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 4*C*) and the ability of the heme-thiol to re-ligand the heme iron in the spectral analysis (Fig. 2*C*). This diminished response was reflected in ICDID analysis, which showed lower amounts of sulfenylation of the heme-thiol Cys-443 and also Cys-191 (Fig. 5*C*).

Oxidized P450 3A4 showed an inability of the heme-thiol to re-ligand to the heme-iron (after dithionite reduction), as judged by the spectra (Fig. 2*D*). This irreversible inactivation is proposed to be related to stabilization of the oxidized thiol by surrounding residues and is a unique feature among P450s tested. ICDID labeling showed high amounts of sulfenylation on several cysteine thiols, including the heme-thiol Cys-442, indicating a high susceptibility to oxidation. This sensitivity of the non-heme thiols can be considered in light of the report that a cysteine-depleted variant of P450 3A4 has increased activity compared with the wild-type enzyme (41). We concur that the cysteine residues are not essential but that the presence of the (non-heme peptide) sulfenic acids appears to be inhibitory to catalytic activity, through an unknown mechanism.



FIG. 7. **Number of cysteines found in human P450 enzymes.** Cysteines of P450 sequences obtained from Uniprot [\(uniport.org\)](http://uniport.org) were counted. The average number of cysteines in the human proteome (49) was applied to the average length of human P450s (501 amino acids) to determine the expected number of cysteines to be 11.3 (dotted vertical line).

There has been difficulty designing probes that can directly measure local bursts of  $H_2O_2$  and not just a cumulative or average amount over time, especially in prominent production areas such as the plasma membrane, endoplasmic reticulum, and peroxisomes (42). When looking at redox issues, one mainly focuses on a concentration of  $H_2O_2$  for which the effect can be reversed. This is the case for three of the four P450s tested spectrally, suggesting that this treatment does not irreversibly destroy the protein.

These spectral studies have been challenging to interpret because the proper conditions have not yet been identified to produce a homogenous sample of stable sulfenylated hemethiol cysteine P450 protein in large quantities. The spectral studies in conjunction, with the observation that sulfenylated cysteines cause enzymatic inhibition, lead us to believe this phenomenon is blocking steps in the P450 catalytic cycle. This blocked step may be reduction of the heme iron. This

could be occurring directly (most likely) or through a peripheral oxidation that limits reductase binding. It may also reduce the ability for the heme iron to bind oxygen (or carbon monoxide in the case of the inhibitory or spectral studies, respectively). The spectral studies also require physical changes (*i.e.* vacuum and slight bubbling) to remove the existing oxygen in the sample. These manipulation conditions likely affect some protein irreversibly, accounting at least in part for the cytochrome P420 seen in the pre-reduced samples. What is most relevant is the change in the amount of P450 seen between the reductase- and dithionite -reduced spectra (Fig. 2).

It has been known that some P450s can catalyze reactions with the use of  $H_2O_2$  alone for quite some time (43–46). Also, mutating residues around the proximal heme ligand allows for alterations in both the heme redox potential and reactivity (47). P450s are also known to produce  $H_2O_2$  as a byproduct of catalysis (48). CYP4A11  $H_2O_2$  production was measured to be 5  $\mu$ M min<sup>-1</sup>, which would be 25 nmol  $H_2O_2$  min<sup>-1</sup> under our experimental conditions (6). Typical incubation times would likely not produce enough  $H_2O_2$  to produce an inhibitory effect. These data point to the significance of  $H_2O_2$  in the catalytic cycle of P450s and of the residues surrounding the heme-thiol ligand. The presence of a biological mechanism that limits potentially harmful  $H_2O_2$  shunting in certain mammalian P450s, but is not present in others (*e.g.* P450 1A2), seems reasonable but more studies are needed to evaluate the significance of this phenomenon.

Our finding of both thiol-sensitive and insensitive P450s expands the knowledge of potential post-translational modifications found in drug-metabolizing enzymes. In general, cysteines are reactive, underrepresented in the proteome, and conserved among proteomes (49). In an accounting of all human P450s, the number of cysteines varies from two to 15 (Fig. 7). Using the average length of all human P450s (501 amino acids) and the overall percent of cysteines found in the human proteome (2.26% (49)), the expected number of cysteines in human P450s would be 11. Due to the deviation from this number, these cysteines may play important roles other than heme coordination and further investigation in cellular systems may be of interest.

The drug-metabolizing enzymes found to be sulfenylated in our proteomic screen and the subsequent validation of the inhibitory nature of this oxidative modification in P450s pose many new questions and potentially provide insight into the biological regulation of P450s. In further studies, a major goal is to determine the biological role of heme-thiolate sulfenylation and its relevance to oxidative stress.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY

The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE [1] partner repository with the dataset identifier PXD007913.

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