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# **Efferocytosis Fuels Requirements of Fatty Acid Oxidation and the Electron Transport Chain to Polarize Macrophages for Tissue Repair**

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# **SUMMARY**

During wound injury, efferocytosis fills the macrophage with a metabolite load nearly equal to the phagocyte itself. A timely question pertains to how metabolic phagocytic signaling regulates the signature anti-inflammatory macrophage response. Here we report the metabolome of activated

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Jason Kinchen is an employee of Metabolon.

DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization, S.Z., S.W., and E.B.T.; Methodology, S.Z., S.W., and M.D.; Formal Analysis, A.G., M.S., and J.M.K.; Investigation, S.Z., M.D., N.S.C., P.T.S., and E.B.T.; Resources, S.W., I.B.-S., D.R.G., N.S.C., L.Y.-C., and P.T.S.; Writing-Original Draft, S.Z.; Writing-Review & Editing, S.Z. and E.B.T.; Funding Acquisition, S.Z. and E.B.T.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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The RNaseq datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available at GEO: GSE121681 (WT = Wild-Type, AC = Apoptotic Cell. LPS = lipopolysaccharide).

macrophages during efferocytosis to reveal an interleukin-10 (IL-10) cytokine escalation that was independent of glycolysis yet bolstered by apoptotic cell fatty acids and mitochondrial βoxidation, the electron transport chain, and heightened coenzyme  $NAD^{+}$ . Loss of IL-10 due to mitochondrial complex III defects was remarkably rescued by adding NAD<sup>+</sup> precursors. This activated a SIRTUIN1 signaling cascade, largely independent of ATP, that culminated in activation of  $IL-10$  transcription factor PBX1.  $II-10$  activation by the respiratory chain was also important in vivo, as efferocyte mitochondrial dysfunction led to cardiac rupture after myocardial injury. These findings highlight a new paradigm whereby macrophages leverage efferocytic metabolites and electron transport for anti-inflammatory reprogramming that culminates in organ repair.

# **In Brief**

Zhang et al. show that the phagocytic engulfment of dying cells by macrophages (efferocytosis) results in elevated cellular fatty acids, which fuel mitochondrial respiration and activate an NAD+ dependent signal transduction cascade. This metabolic signaling pathway promotes an antiinflammatory response for wound healing and organ repair following myocardial infarction.

# **Graphical Abstract**



# **INTRODUCTION**

Macrophages preserve systemic self-tolerance and promote inflammation resolution and tissue repair through efferocytosis (Poon et al., 2014). In addition to the recognition and engulfment of dying cells, efferocytosis triggers the production of anti-inflammatory and tissue-reparative cytokines (Fadok et al., 1998) as well as inflammation-resolving bioactive lipids (Serhan and Savill, 2005). While these host-protective responses act in part through lipid-activated nuclear receptor transcription factors (A-Gonzalez et al., 2009), the signal transduction role of metabolites during efferocytic reprogramming is largely untested. This is likely important during syndromes of metabolite imbalance, where the anti-inflammatory

potential of macrophages is often depressed and contributes to disease progression (Tabas and Glass, 2013).

It is now well appreciated that intracellular metabolism is integrated with the balance of cell activation. In macrophages, glycolysis is required for both pro-inflammatory polarization and the mobilizing of biosynthetic precursors to combat bacterial infection (Palsson-McDermott et al., 2015). Elevated glucose utilization is also necessary for alternative macrophage activation, the latter initiated by the cytokine interleukin-4 (IL-4) and further accompanied by increased oxidative phosphorylation (Huang et al., 2016). In the case of efferocytosis, biosynthetic precursors are in abundant supply within the phagocytic body, raising the prospect that apoptotic cell catabolism could provide substrates for macrophage reprogramming. Early studies of efferocytosis implicate cellular metabolism for the energetic currency that is necessary for actin-mediated engulf-ment of external bodies (Oren et al., 1963). Separately, mitochondrial uncoupling proteins (Park et al., 2011) and components of mitochondrial fission machinery (Wang et al., 2017) are necessary for multiple rounds of efferocytosis; this is of particular importance during tissue injury, which is characterized by heightened cell turnover. Taken together, these examples emphasize a conserved interplay between efferocytosis and cellular and mitochondrial metabolism; however, what is left unsolved is whether the catabolism of dying cells is integrated to the signature macrophage anti-inflammatory response.

To comprehend relationships between cellular metabolism, inflammation, and tissue repair, we report the metabolome of macrophages during efferocytosis. We implemented unbiased global metabolic pathway analyses to reveal a unique association between fatty acid oxidation (FAO), mitochondrial respiration, and inflammation during the catabolism of apoptotic cells. From our investigation, we discovered that efferocytosis significantly elevated long-chain fatty acid content in macrophages, activated the respiratory chain, and was required to stimulate a macrophage anti-inflammatory response through the generation of metabolic signaling intermediates, particularly NAD+. This non-canonical mitochondrial response was found to also be important during tissue injury, supporting its significance to the broad pathophysiology of wound healing.

# **RESULTS**

#### **Evidence that Anti-inflammatory Efferocytosis Exerts a Mitochondrial Bias**

Clearance of dying cells (efferocytosis) during tissue injury associates the metabolism of apoptotic cells by macrophages with gene expression of anti-inflammatory cytokines (Serhan and Sa-vill, 2005). Surprisingly, the underlying metabolic relationships of efferocytosis to basic mechanisms of gene expression remain mysterious. To address potential connections, we first searched for in vivo evidence of metabolic polarization in tissue injury macrophages that were both anti-inflammatory and efferocytic. We employed myocardial infarction (MI) as a clinically relevant model of injury in which defects in efferocytosis lead to heart failure (Wan et al., 2013). To isolate efferocytes, we induced MI in transgenic MHC-Cre mCherry reporter mice. Using this previously validated approach (DeBergeet al., 2017), we could distinguish CD11b+Ly6c-Ly6g-F4/80+CD64+ macrophages that accumulated either high (HI) or low (LO) mCherry signal, consistent with

efferocytosis of high versus low levels of injured cardiac cells, respectively. CD64+ mCherry-HI cardiac macrophages expressed heightened levels of the canonical antiinflammatory cytokine  $II-10$  (Figure 1A), relative to their mCherry-LO counterparts. We further queried for unique signs of metabolic activation. Relative to tissue-sorted monocytes and neutrophils, Ms consumed more oxygen, and in particular, mCherry-HI (efferocytic) Ms (which also expressed  $II-10$ ) exhibited the highest oxygen consumption rate (OCR) (Figure 1B). This heightened OCR was not incompatible with the hypoxic stress that occurs during MI. For instance, we injected PIMOnidazole (Varia et al., 1998), which labels free sulfhydryls of hypoxic cells, and could identify both hypoxic (PIMO+) and non-hypoxic (PIMO-) cardiac Mᶲs (Figure 1C), the majority of which were, interestingly, PIMO negative at 12 hr post MI. To test associations between hypoxia and efferocytic IL-10, we sorted PIMO+mCherry-,PIMO+mCherry+, PIMO-mCherry-, and PIMO-mCherry+ cardiac macrophages (Figure S1) and measured  $IL-10$  gene expression by qPCR. PIMO-mCherry+ (non-hypoxic efferocytic) macrophages registered the highest  $IL-10$  mRNA levels (Figure 1C), consistent with the notion that cardiac macrophages in areas of oxygen availability have the highest capacity to secrete IL-10. Thus, in a model where efferocytosis is necessary for both inflammation resolution and organ function (Howangyin et al., 2016; Wan et al., 2013), the anti-inflammatory polarization of efferocytic Mᶲs directly coincided with heightened oxidative respiration.

To dig deeper into the cell-intrinsic relationships between efferocytic cellular metabolism and cytokine production, we modeled these events in culture. We elicited activated primary peritoneal macrophages. For apoptotic cells we chose human Jurkat T cells, which are standardized targets for macrophage co-cultivation (Fadok et al., 1998); this also permitted us to distinguish the gene expression response in a species-specific manner after RNA sequencing (see also STAR Methods). In culture, we began with a non-biased screen of secreted chemo kines and cytokines. This approach confirmed that apoptotic cells (Annexin V+, PI−) specifically and reproducibly induced macrophages to produce the canonical antiinflammatory cytokine IL-10 (Fadok et al., 1998) (Figures 1D and 1E). This response was also validated with primary autologous apoptotic thymocytes and primary splenocytes (Figure 1F). Pro-reparative TGF-β was additionally induced after efferocytosis, as previously reported (Xiao et al., 2008) (Figure S2A), while pro-inflammatory TNF-α was suppressed (Figure S2B). Also induced was GM-CSF, which was recently shown to regulate leukocyte accumulation in heart (Anzai et al., 2017). The specificity of the efferocytic cytokine phenotype was underscored by cytokines that were not affected (Figure S2C). Unexpectedly, IL-9 (Figure S2A) and *Eotaxin* (Figure S2B), the former linked to Tregulatory cell function (Eller et al., 2011) and the latter to eosinophil responses, were also regulated by efferocytosis (Jose et al., 1994).

Consistent with our in vivo data, basal OCR was significantly elevated in Ms that were fed apoptotic cells (Figure 1G). This was in contrast to Mᶲs co-cultivated with either live cells or inert polystyrene beads (Figure 1H). Remarkably, efferocytes exhibited heightened mitochondrial spare respiratory capacity, consistent with an elevated bioenergetics reserve, potentially provided by the introduction of exogenous metabolic substrates. Glycolytic extracellular acidification rate (ECAR) also trended higher during efferocytosis (Figure 1G);

however, the ratio of OCR to ECAR was higher during apoptotic cell engulfment relative to non-efferocytes, consistent with a mitochondrial bias during efferocytosis.

#### **The Efferocytosis Metabolome**

A mitochondrial bias suggested a role for fatty acid utilization. To directly probe metabolic remodeling during efferocytosis, we performed unbiased liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). Over 255 total biochemicals were altered with a  $p < 0.05$ , with 181 induced and 74 downregulated (Table S1). Unbiased analysis of the LC-MS/MS readings identified reproducible global changes in metabolites (Figure 2A and Table S1). Metabolite set enrichment analysis highlighted noteworthy escalations in long-chain free fatty acids as well as fatty acid metabolism (Figure 2B). Random forest analysis (Lunetta et al., 2004) revealed that lipid metabolites such as 3-hydroxybu-tyrylcarnitine, behenoylcarnitine, and arachidoylcarnitine were top enriched metabolites in efferocytes (Figure S3A). We further examined lipid metabolites that are involved in FAO. Long-chain fatty acids hexadecanedioate, myristoylglycerol, and linoleoyl-carnitine were also increased in efferocytes. Furthermore, CPT substrate palmitoylcarnitine was also elevated (Figure 2C).

In separate experiments, in which we screened transcriptomic responses to efferocytosis, gene ontology enrichment analysis of canonical pathways from our mRNA-seq analysis revealed the most significantly mobilized pathways; these included mitochondrial electron transport (Figure 2D). Sequencing reads were aligned to murine gene annotation files to distinguish from human sequence (Alvey et al., 2017). Consistent with the metabolomics profile, we also validated that apoptotic cell stimulation of primary macrophages induced expression of genes involved in FAO, the electron transport chain, and oxidative phosphorylation pathways (Figure 2E). In line with these data, qPCR validation did not show contamination from apoptotic cell mRNAs, as control experiments in which apoptotic cells were co-cultivated with macrophages at 4°C did not phenocopy the efferocytosis gene signature. At first approximation, these parallel analyses of principal cytokine, transcriptional, and metabolic modules revealed an efferocytic signature that coupled antiinflammatory cytokine production to fatty acid breakdown and mitochondrial metabolism.

## **FAO Is Required for Efferocytosis-Induced IL-10 Production, whereas Glycolysis Is Not**

Given the emphasis on fatty acids and the mitochondrion from our functional respiration and metabolite analyses, and given that apoptotic cells are a significant source of external lipid substrate, we hypothesized that apoptotic cells cultured with heightened fatty acids may additively fuel IL-10 production during their catabolism in phagocytes. To this point, we cultivated apoptotic cells with increasing concentrations of fatty acid-supplemented media to elevate fatty acid content (Spector et al., 1979), subsequently induced apoptosis, and overlaid normalized ratios of apoptotic cells to macrophages. Figure 3A demonstrates that levels of IL-10 secretion directly correlated with increasing doses of fatty acid supplementation; this was specific to IL-10, as TNF-α was not affected, as might be suspected under lipotox-icity. Evidence for fatty acid induction of IL-10 in T cells *per se* was not found (Figure S4A). To address if FAO is required for IL-10 generation in efferocytes, we initially added etomoxir (ETO) to target CPT1 enzymes involved in FAO (Carroll et al., 1978). We found that ETO reduced OCR in macrophages after efferocytosis (Figure 3B), as

well as IL-10, but this was independent of TGF-β production (Figure 3C). However, recent findings indicate that ETO disrupts coenzyme A homeostasis (Divakaruni et al., 2018), and so we specifically targeted *Cpt1 and Cpt2* gene expression with siRNAs (Figure S6) and then found similar results (Figure 3D). Separately, previous reports elegantly described IL-4 induced macrophage polarization that required glucose utilization (Huang et al., 2016). Efferocytosis was distinctly characterized by the inability of glycolysis inhibitors to blunt IL-10 production (Figures 3E and 3F).

# **Requirements for the Mitochondrial Electron Transport Chain during Efferocytosis-Induced IL-10 Generation**

Consistent with a significant role of the mitochondrion during efferocytic IL-10 regulation, we interestingly documented evidence for spatial localization of mitochondria proximal to phagocytic cups (Figure S4B). Furthermore, elevations in oxygen consumption were consistent with heightened mitochondrial electron transport and mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation, and the electron transport chain is coupled to mitochondrial FAO (Schönfeld et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2010). Electron transport is catalyzed in part by Rieske iron-sulfur protein, or RISP (Hartl etal., 1986). RISP has been newly implicated in activities beyond electron transport (Ansó et al., 2017); however, such a non-canonical role in macrophages is unclear and of unique significance to inflammation. To test the hypothesis that electron transport contributes to efferocytic anti-inflammatory polarization, we crossed Rispfl/fl mice (Waypa et al., 2013) with a myeloid and macrophage recombinase, LysMcre. Rispfl/fl LysMcre mice developed and matured to both normal body size and dietary intake and did not present with any significant sign of immunocompromise. In primary macrophages, immunoblots confirmed reduction of RISP protein (Figure 4A). RISP is encoded by nuclear gene *ubiquinol-cytochrome c reductase (Uqcrfs1)*, and the failure of RISP to be imported into the mitochondrial inner membrane did not overtly compromise macrophage mitochondrial morphology (Figure 4B). Risp-deficient macrophages also exhibited reduced oxygen consumption at baseline and a compensatory increase in glycolysis, as indicated by moderately elevated extracellular acidification (Figure 4C). Importantly, Risp-deficient macrophages were proficient at phagocytosis (Figure 4D). To test if Risp was required for anti-inflammatory efferocytic polarization, we measured IL-10 production. Super-natants from Risp-deficient macrophages exhibited clear reductions in IL-10 that were specific to efferocytosis (Figure 4E). This was not a generalized defect, as mutant macrophages were competent at producing pro-inflammatory cytokine TNF-α in response to LPS. To address potential off-target effects during cellular differentiation in germline *Rispfl/fl LysMcre* mice, we reproduced our findings after RNA silencing in mature macrophages (Figure 4F). We next targeted signaling that was downstream of apoptotic cell binding and added Antimycin A after apoptotic cell engulfment, which inhibits complex III activity (Rich, 1983). Figure 4G depicts that Antimycin A also led to IL-10 suppression. We independently corroborated these findings with a structurally dissimilar complex III inhibitor, myxothia-zol (Figure 4H) (Ikeda et al., 1965). Although ATP in Risp-deficient macrophages was acutely reduced during efferocytosis, these levels quickly recovered (Figures S5A and S5B). Moreover, efferocytic IL-10 was not inhibited by interfering with mitochondrial membrane potential (Figure S5C). Separately, complex III and RISP are significant sources of mitochondrial reactive oxygen species (mROS) (Chandel et al., 2000).

Efferocytic IL-10 was also not blocked with inhibitors of mROS, interestingly, in contrast to TGF-β (Figure S5D).

# **An Intact Electron Transport Chain Is Necessary for Increased NAD+ Availability and IL-10 Production during Efferocytosis**

Metabolic rewiring alters the availability of functional metabolites that regulate macrophage function (Jha et al., 2015). Our nonbiased analysis of Risp deficiency during efferocyotsis revealed specific reductions in nicotinate and nicotinamide metabolism. This included changes in NAD+ metabolites MNA and adenosine 5'-diphosphoribose (ADP-ribose) (Figure 5A), as well as aspartate, which is dependent on a suitable NAD+/NADH ratio within the malate-aspartate shuttle. Nicotinamide and quinolinate were not changed (Figure S3B). Focused pathway analyses corroborated an increased ratio of oxidized coenzyme nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide NAD<sup>+</sup> to NADH in efferocytes, which was further reduced with *Risp* deficiency (Figures 5B and 5C). Thus, aside from its role in metabolic redox reactions, we considered a novel role for NAD<sup>+</sup> during efferocytic anti-inflammatory reprogramming. To test this, we added  $NAD^+$  precursor NMN to *Rispfl/fl LysMcre* macrophages during efferocytosis and found that NMN was sufficient to rescue IL-10 production (Figure 5D). Remarkably, NAD-dependent IL-10 was specific to efferocytosis, as NAD<sup>+</sup> supplementation alone, in the absence of apoptotic cell feeding, did not lead to elevated IL-10.

# **NAD-Dependent IL-10 Acts through Sirtuins**

Elevated NAD<sup>+</sup>/NADH ratios support the activity of sirtuin deace-tylases (Tanner et al., 2000). We first investigated a role for SIRT2 given previous links to macrophage polarization and bacterial phagocytosis (Ciarlo et al., 2017); however, Sirrt2-deficient phagocytes remained relatively competent at generating IL-10 after efferocytosis (Figure 6A). This was in contrast to Sirt1, which displayed elevated protein levels after efferocytosis (Figure 6B) and was also required relatively more than  $Sirt2$  for IL-10 generation (Figure 6C). SIRT1 protein activity (Chatterjee et al., 2018) was reduced during efferocytosis under Risp deficiency (Figure 6D). Further, and as predicted from a temporal sequence in which NAD<sup>+</sup> is upstream of SIRT1 protein activity, *Sirt1*-deficient macrophages were refractory to IL-10 rescue after supplementation with NAD+ precursor NMN (Figure 6E). To address mechanistic links to  $IL-10$  gene regulation, we explored the role of the transcription factor Pbx-1, or pre-B cell leukemia transcription factor-1 (Pbx-1), which is required for IL-10 expression (Chung et al., 2007). To determine if the SIRT1- $IL-10$  axis involved *Pbx-1*, we performed chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) for PBX-1 protein, during efferocytosis and also after knocking down Sirt1. Consistent with our hypothesis, Sirt1 deficiency reduced PBX-1 binding to the apoptotic cell response element of the IL-10 promoter (Figure 6F). Furthermore, in *Risp*-deficient macrophages, PBX1 binding to the  $IL-10$  promoter was reduced and partially rescued by NMN (Figure 6G). Pbx1-knockdown also abrogated efferocytic  $IL-10$  (Figure 6H), as predicted (Chung et al., 2007). These data support the contention that efferocytic accumulations in  $NAD<sup>+</sup>$  in turn signal through SIRT1 and PBX1 protein to induce  $IL-10$  gene expression.

# **Myeloid Mitochondrial Dysfunction Impairs IL-10-Dependent Wound Healing and Inflammation Resolution**

To address the in vivo significance of our findings, we examined Risp-dependent IL-10 in the aforementioned model of tissue injury requiring efferocytosis (Wan et al., 2013) and macrophage IL-10 polarization (Shiraishi et al., 2016) during MI. To isolate myocardial macrophages that were participating in efferocytosis, we induced MI in transgenic mCherry mice, described above, that specifically express red cardiomyocytes (Zhang et al., 2015). Double-positive CD64+ (macrophage) mCherry+ efferocytes exhibited heightened Rispdependent OCR and expression of genes involved in oxidative phosphorylation (Figures 7A and 7B). In myeloid *Risp*-deficient mice, MI also led to acute mortality, with more than half of subjects succumbing to death between 4 and 7 days post MI (Figure 7C). Necropsy revealed increased myocardial rupture of the left ventricular free wall and evidence of hemothorax (Figure 7C). Importantly, increases in ventricular rupture were independent of macrophage accumulation, as cardiac flow cytometry revealed similar macrophage levels in the injured myocardium, preceding ventricular rupture (Figure 7D). Within cardiac extracts, IL-10 and  $TGF- $\beta$  mRNA were greatly reduced (Figure 7E).$ 

# **DISCUSSION**

Phagocytosis has evolved beyond nutritional uptake to couple with the active synthesis of anti-inflammatory cytokines. An integration of immunity with nutrient sensing would permit efficient energy utilization during anabolic demand. Now, as cellular metabolism is appreciated to contribute to diverse cell functions beyond biosynthetic demand, less appreciated are the fundamental mechanisms to explain how metabolic intermediates participate in non-energetic signal transduction. Mitochondria facilitate immunologic function (Buck et al., 2017) and also act as platforms for superoxide signaling (Chandel et al., 2000; Tait and Green, 2012) and the generation of metabolites that regulate the epigenetic landscape (Jha et al., 2015). A unique aspect of efferocytic catabolism is the potential of metabolic substrates, derived from the apoptotic cell, to directly influence macrophage polarization. In this context, cellular imbalances of lipids and proteins during disease could particularly compromise the integrated metabolic response of macrophages to promote tissue repair.

Early in inflammation, acute-phase monocytes and macrophages are highly glycolytic, particularly under limiting oxygen tensions. Glycolytic remodeling is important for macrophage polarization (Haschemietal., 2012). For example, macrophages that are in contact with Th2-derived cytokines such as IL-4 partially utilize glucose for alternative macrophage polarization (Huang et al., 2016). In our hands, the generation of antiinflammatory IL-10 was not blocked by inhibitors of glycolysis (Figure 3), although extracellular acidification did trend higher during efferocytosis. One likely explanation is the abundant substrate supply provided by the apoptotic cell, which could preclude needs to mobilize metabolites that are pre-stored in the phagocyte. Relative to modest effects on glycolysis, OCR was significantly elevated during apoptotic cell metabolism, in comparison to that reported for IL-4, where macrophages may use internal lipid stores to fuel mitochondrial metabolism (Huang et al., 2014). IL-4 and apoptotic cells may work together

to cooperatively program macrophages for tissue repair (Bosurgi et al., 2017), and it will be informative to examine if IL-4 modulates efferocytic mitochondrial activation.

Changes in macrophage metabolites from our nonbiased me-tabolomics during efferocytosis were both intuitive and less self-evident. For example, we are intrigued by efferocyticassociated escalations in sedoheptulose-7-phosphate (Table S1), which has separately been linked to macrophage polarization in connection with the pentose phosphate pathway/PPP (Ha-schemi et al., 2012). Studies that directly interfere (Köhler et al., 1970) with ratelimiting enzymes of this pathway during efferocytosis would be interesting to validate potential causal relationships of the PPP to cytokine signaling. Furthermore, consistent with increased lipid metabolism, efferocytosis led to accumulations of the monoacylglycerol 1 palmitoleoyl glycerol, which may be formed by lipases during the breakdown of triglycerides or diglycerides (Chandak et al., 2010). Efferocytes also accumulated dephosphocoenzyme A, a direct precursor of coenzyme A. In line with increased gene expression of TCA enzymes, TCA metabolites pyruvate, citrate, and α-ketoglutarate were reduced after apoptotic cell engulfment. Efferocytosis induced itaconate, which can inhibit the accumulation of proin-flammatory succinate during endotoxin challenge (Lampropoulou et al., 2016). Levels of succinate trended lower in efferocytes (Table S1) but were not statistically different. Efferocytosis may also suppress the macrophage response to lipopolysaccha-ride/LPS (Fadoketal., 1998). Itremainsto be determined if efferocytic metabolites contribute to this suppression. Though the above changes represent just a snapshot of the dynamic flux occurring during efferocytosis, our global analysis provides a foundation from which to test other specific metabolic pathways.

In functional mitochondria, electron transport recycles mitochondrial NADH to NAD+. This occurs together with a secondary oxidation of cytosolic NADH alongside mitochondrial shuttles that transport reducing agents across mitochondrial membranes (Titov et al., 2016). Thus, mitochondrial NAD<sup>+</sup> is coupled to NAD<sup>+</sup>/NADH balance in the cytosol. In macrophages, the synthesis of NAD<sup>+</sup> by nicotinamide phosphoribosyl-transferase (NAMPT) promotes cytoskeletal activation during cellular adhesion (Venter et al., 2014). NAD<sup>+</sup> accumulation in efferocytes required Risp, and additional reductions in nicotinate and nicotinamide are consistent with efferocytic regulation of the NAD<sup>+</sup> pool. Decreases in NAD <sup>+</sup>/NADH ratio can also lead to increased 2-hydroxyglutarate (2-HG), and this imbalance can impair hematopoietic stem cell differentiation (Ansió et al., 2017). 2-HG, as well as αketoglutarate, are further linked to altered epigenetic methylation on key immunoregulatory genes (Liu et al., 2017). Though our preliminary analyses do not reveal significant Rispdependent changes in 2-HG in the setting of efferocytosis, this does not discount the possibility that other mitochondrial-dependent epigenetic alterations may be functioning, and this is an interesting focus for future studies.

#### **The Mechanism of IL-10 Induction by NAD+ Is through SIRTs**

The integration of  $NAD<sup>+</sup>$  with sirtuin histone deacetylases (Tanner et al., 2000) supports the concept of gene regulation by metabolic signaling. The seven sirtuin isoforms differ in both subcellular localization and function, and SIRT3, SIRT4, and SIRT5 localize to mitochondria (Kim et al., 2010). Given that SIRT1 is cytosolic in its localization, this

suggests that alterations in the mitochondrial pool of  $NAD<sup>+</sup>$  during efferocytosis also affect the cytosolic pool. SIRT1 has also been linked to LXR (Li et al., 2007), and LXR is known to regulate efferocytosis (A-Gonzalez et al., 2009). In skeletal cells, SIRT1 controls the transcription of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor-gamma co-acti-vator-1α (PGC-1α) (Amat et al., 2009), which separately has been linked to IL-10 induction (Morari et al., 2010) and oxidative metabolism in macrophages (Vats et al., 2006). Elevated oxygen consumption, in conjunction with requirements for SIRT1, also hints that increased mitochondrial biogenesis could in principle be a component of the efferocytic  $IL-10$ response.

Our findings in heart support the physiologic relevance of our cellular working model (Figure S7, Working Model). Within the myocardium, efferocytosis is required to preserve ventricular systolic function after MI (Wan et al., 2013; Dehn and Thorp, 2017). Although MI creates an acutely ischemic microenvironment that dampens oxidative respiration, the resolving phase of inflammation accumulates non-hypoxic macrophages, some of which may generate IL-10 in the myocardium. The significance of *Risp*-dependent reductions in IL-10 or NAD in vivo may be tested by restoring IL-10 or NMN (Yamamoto et al., 2014) specifically in macrophages with mitochondria dysfunction and during tissue injury. IL-10 is a key protective factor in heart (Krishnamurthy et al., 2009), and its secretion is necessary for wound closure through activation of epithelial proliferation (Quiros et al., 2017). Risp was also required for efferocytic TGF-β, which contributes to early replacement fibrosis. Furthermore, it will be interesting to determine how pattern recognition receptor ligands released from necrotic cells during tissue injury could potentially rewire phagocyte metabolic bias (Krawczyk et al., 2010).

#### **Limitations of Study**

A caveat to our findings in heart is that *LysMcre* may be expressed in certain nonmacrophage cells, such as the neutrophil. Neutrophil lipolysis and FAO were recently linked to cellular autophagy, differentiation, and inflammation (Riffelmacher et al., 2017). However, in our hands, *LysMcre* deletion of *Risp* did not alter cardiac neutrophil accumulation (Figure 7). Additional aspects of our working model warrant future study. For example, potential signaling axes between apoptotic cell receptors and the mitochondria remain to be fully elucidated. In this context, receptor-mediated signal transduction could cooperatively amplify the mitochondrial response during efferocytosis. In addition, the electron transport chain may function during other core macrophage functions. This includes phagocyte recruitment, phagocyte proliferation and survival, and antigen presentation. In the setting of disease, it will be important to elucidate just how varied metabolite composition contributes to macrophage function and NAD+ generation, such as during cardiometabolic pathophysiology. For example, atherosclerotic progression is characterized by the turnover and pro-inflammatory phagocytosis of cholesterol-laden foam cells and cholesterol crystals (Hansson et al., 2015). Carbon tracing during metabolite flux from apoptotic foam cells to phagocyte has the potential to implicate additional unique immunometabolic cues that may fuel these nonresolving inflammatory disorders. These molecular pathways may also be relevant to pathologies where natural somatic mitochondrial mutations contribute to mitochondrial dysfunction.

# **STAR**★**METHODS**

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

# **KEY RESOURCES TABLE**







# **CONTACT FOR REAGENT AND RESOURCE SHARING**

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the first author Shuang Zhang, shuangzhang2017@u.northwestern.edu.

# **EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS**

### **Mouse Models**

C57BL/6J mice were bred in our facility and our colonies are refreshed yearly with mice purchased from the Jackson Laboratory. LysmCre mice were purchased from the Jackson Laboratory and bred in house. Uqcrfs1; RISPfl/fl mice were provided by Dr. Paul Schumacker and was generated as described (Waypa et al., 2013). aMHC-mCherry mice were obtained from the Jackson Laboratory. Ten-to sixteen-week-old mice were used for experiments. Investigators were not blinded to the group allocation for some studies. Mice were housed in temperature-and humidity-controlled environments and kept on a 12:12h day/night cycle with access to standard mouse chow and water *ad libitum*. All studies were approved and reviewed by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Northwestern University (Chicago, Illinois), protocol #IS00000375.

#### **In Vivo Models of Inflammation and Tissue Repair**

For experimental MI: Surgeries were performed on mice 12–16 weeks of age and as described (Wan et al., 2013). Surgeries were performed by an individual blinded to the genotype. Mice were anesthetized with Avertin and secured in a supine position and endotracheal-intubated and ventilated with an Inspira Advanced Safety Single Animal Pressure/Volume Controlled Ventilator (Harvard Apparatus, Holliston, MA) with room air supplemented with oxygen to maintain blood gases within normal physiological limits. The chest wall was shaved and left thoracotomy was performed. With the aid of a dissecting microscope, the left ventricle was visualized and left coronary artery on the anterior wall was permanently ligated with monofilament nylon 8–0 sutures (Ethicon, Somerville, NJ) 2mm distal to the site of its emergence from under the left atrium. Blanching/pale discoloration and hypokinesis of the anterior wall verified LAD ligation. The chest wall was closed with 7–0 nylon sutures and the skin and subcutaneous tissue was closed. Sham operations were performed on animals by passing the suture beneath the LAD without ligating the vessel.

# **METHOD DETAILS**

#### **Efferocytosis Ex Vivo**

Peritoneal macrophages were elicited in mice with thioglycollate broth (Sigma-Aldrich) and harvested after lavage. Adherent macrophages were co-cultivated with apoptotic Jurkat T cells. Tcells were induced to apoptosis after ultravioliet irradiation and early apoptotic cells (ACs) were identified as annexin V positive, propidium iodide negative, and overlaid at a ratio of 5 ACs to 1 phagocyte. Non-engulfed Tcells were removed from adherent phagocytes, 1 hr post co-cultivation. Engulfment was confirmed by microscopic and flow cytometric analysis with fluorescently labeled apoptotic cells.

#### **Unbiased Analysis of Efferocytic Secretome**

Cell culture supernatant was collected 5 hr post co-cultivation. Chemokines and cytokines were analyzed with a Bio-Plex Pro Mouse cytokine 23-plex from Bio Rad using a Luminex 200 multiplex instrument (Luminex, Austin, TX) and MAGPIX analysis. Additional

cytokines, including IL-10, were validated by independent ELISA. For IL-1b measurements, 5mM ATP was added 3 hr after LPS stimulation.

#### **RNA-Sequencing and Bioinformatics**

Adherent peritoneal macrophages were stimulated with apoptotic thymocytes for 6 hr, versus control. RNA was isolated from cells with Trizol and RNA quality assessed at the Northwestern Genomics core with RNA integrity values of 10 for a minimum of 100 ng per sample. Library construction was performed in lab and sequencing was performed at the Genomics Core facility at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University. Sequencing libraries were constructed using an Illumina TruSeq Stranded mRNA prep kit LT for mRNA sequencing and constructs sequenced on NextSeq 500 instrument and HiSeq 2500 System from Illumina. For RNaseq, the quality of DNA reads, in FASTQ format, was evaluated using FastQC. Adapters were trimmed and reads were aligned to the *Mus* musculus genome (mm10) using STAR (Dobin et al., 2013). Read counts for each gene were calculated using HTSeq-count in conjunction with a gene annotation file for mm10 obtained from University of California Santa Cruz at genome.ucsc.edu. Normalization and differential expression were determined using DESeq2. The cutoff for determining significantly differentially expressed genes was an FDR-adjusted p value less than 0.05. Transcriptome analysis was performed at the bioinformatics core at Northwestern University with assistance from Matthew Schipma, PhD.

#### **Metabolomics of Efferocytosis**

Metabolomics analyses were carried out in with Metabolon (Durham, NC) as previously described (Evans et al., 2009; Masri et al., 2014) and with the University of Michigan Metabolomics Core. Briefly, control and Risp-deficient peritoneal macrophages were treated as indicated. Cell lysates were harvested, methanol extracted, and analyzed by ultra-high performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (UPLC-MS/MS; positive mode), UPLC-MS/MS (negative mode) and gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC-MS). Metabolites were identified by automated comparison of the ion features in the experimental samples to a reference library of chemical standard entries that included retention time, molecular weight (m/z), preferred adducts, and in-source fragments as well as associated MS spectra, and curated by visual inspection for quality control. These data are listed in Table S1.

#### **Respiratory and Glycolytic Analyses**

To measure the extracellular acidification rate (ECAR) and OCR, apoptotic cell-treated primary macrophages were plated on an XF24 cell culture microplates coated with CellTak. Experiments were conducted in XF assay medium containing 25 mM glucose, 2 mMLglutamine, and 1 mM Na pyruvate, and analyzed using a Seahorse XF24 extracellular flux analyzer (Agilent Technologies). Where indicated, the following were injected: ATPsynthesis inhibitor oligomycin (1.5 mM), carbonyl cyanide 4-(trifluoromethoxy) phenylhydrazone (FCCP; 1.5 mM) to uncouple ATP synthesis, rotenone (100 nM) to block complex I, and antimycin A (1 mM) (Sigma) to block complex III. Basal ECAR, OCR, and spare respiratory capacity were generated by Wave Desktop software (Agilent Technologies).

# **Transmission Electron Microscopy**

Macrophages were cultured on sterilized Thermanox plastic coverslips and cultivated with apoptotic cells. Subsequently, coverslip were fixed with 0.1 M sodium cacodylate buffer (pH 7.3) containing 2% paraformaldehyde and 2.5% glutaraldehyde for 30 min at room temperature and were kept at 4\_C and then processed for TEM. Coverslips were flatembedded in resin and cured in a 60\_C oven. Samples were sectioned on a Leica Ultracut UC6 ultramicrotome into 70nm sections and collected on 200 mesh copper grids. Samples were processed and imaged on an FEI Tecnai Spirit G2 TEM at the Advantaged Imaging Center at Feinberg School of Medicine with assistance from Lennell Reynolds Jr.

### **Immunoprecipitation**

Whole cell extract was isolated from macrophages treated with or without apoptotic cells. Pbx-1 binding to chromatin was pulled down via chromatin immunoprecipitation. In brief, chromatin was sonicated into 200–1000 bp following crosslinking. After overnight incubation with isotype IgG or PBX-1 antibody, 100ul of protein A beads was added into the solution and incubated for 1hr at 4C. The protein-bound beads were collected, DNA was eluted and reverse cross-linked. DNA was recovered by phenol/chloroform extraction and ethanol precipitation.

### **Immunoblots**

Cells were lysed in RIPA buffer, resolved on 10% polyacrylamide gels and transferred to nitrocellulose membranes. Membranes were blocked using 5% milk and then incubated in the primary antibody overnight. Antibodies were anti-RISP, anti-SIRT1, anti-CPT1A, anti-CPT2, and anti-a-tubulin. Membranes were rinsed 3 times with tween solution and then incubated with secondary antibody. Secondary antibodies utilized were anti-mouse IgG, HRP-linked and anti-rabbit IgG, HRP-linked.

## **Chromatin Immunoprecipitation and SIRT1 Activity**

Chromatin for chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) was prepared and proteins crosslinked to DNA. Chromatin was incubated overnight with antibodies against PBX-1 or isotype control. PCR primers were designed to amplify the IL-10 apoptotic cell response element (Chung et al., 2007) and were performed in primary macrophages after siRNA knockdown of indicated genes. SIRT1 activity was measured with the Sirt1 Activity Assay Kit from Abcam, Cambridge, MA and as described (Chatterjee et al., 2018).

#### **Flow Cytometric Analysis after Experimental MI**

Infarcted mice were anesthetized with isoflurane and peripheral blood drawn into citrate anticoagulant solution. Hearts were harvested, perfused with saline to remove peripheral cells, minced with fine scissors, and incubated in a cocktail of collagenase and DNase. Cells were filtered through a 70mm strainer and pelleted at 500×g. Total cell numbers were counted by Trypan blue staining and cell suspensions were rinsed with Hank's Balanced Salt Solution supplemented with 0.2% (wt/vol) bovine serum albumin and1% wt/vol fetal calf serum.

# **QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

Statistical analyses were performed with GraphPad Prism (GraphPad Software, La Jolla, CA). Comparisons between two groups were performed using two-tailed, unpaired t test with 95% confidence interval. For comparisons of more than two variables, 1-way ANOVA was utilized with 95% confidence interval. Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM. For qPCR and murine model of myocardial infarction, power and sample size were estimated based on our previous work. The statistical parameters and criteria for significance can be found in the figure legends.

# **Supplementary Material**

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# **Highlights**

- **•** Engulfment of dying cells elevates macrophage fatty acids and oxygen consumption
- **•** Mitochondrial respiration during efferocytosis is required for NAD homeostasis
- **•** NAD mobilization is required for anti-inflammatory responses in macrophages
- **•** Defects in myeloid mitochondrial complex III impair wound healing





(A) In a model of tissue injury, B6 mice transgenic for cardiac-specific *(Myh6-Cre)*  expression of mCherry were subject to myocardial infarction (MI). Cardiac extracts were prepared and flow cytometry employed to isolate cardiac macrophages (Mf s) (CD11b +F4/80+Ly6g—CD64+) that included low (LO) and high (HI) mCherry+ dying and apoptotic cells (ACs). mCherry-LO and -HI phagocyteswere sorted and relative gene expression normalized to β2m as assessed by qPCR and plotted as fold change over *IL-10*  from Ms from naive hearts. (B) Cardiac Ly6g+ neutrophils (PMN), LycHI, Ly6g-

monocytes (Mo), CD64+ Mfs, and Ms staining for mCherry were interrogated for basal OCR by functional respiration analysis. (C) Cardiac Mfs were stained with hypoxia probe PIMOnidazole and mCherry and sorted for qPCR. (D-F) Elicited primary Ms were cocultivated with early (Annexin V positive, propidium iodide negative) ACs. Non-engulfed cells were removed from adherent phagocytes, and cell culture medium was analyzed for secreted cytokines. (D) IL-10 responsewith viable Jurkat cells (VCs) versusACs. (E) Time course analysis of IL-10 production. (F) IL-10 secretion after adding primary thymocytes (T) or primary splenocytes (S). (G) OCR of primary elicited  $Ms \pm$  indicated treatments and quantified basal OCR. To ascertain basal and spare respiratory capacity (SRC), efferocytes were administered sequential treatments ofoligomycin, CCCP, and rotenone plus antimycin. Minutes 0–18 is basal OCR and 54–81 min is SRC. Area underthe curve quantifications are displayed. Also measured was the extracellular acidification rate (ECAR) as a reflection of glycolysis. (H) Ms were co-cultivated with inert beads and/or live cells.

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**Figure 2. Global Metabolomic Profile of Efferocytosis Highlights FAO Utilization**

(A) Heatmap after unsupervised hierarchical clustering of metabolitesfrom primary peritoneal Mᶲs, minus (−) versus plus(+) apoptotic cells (n = 5 percondition). Shades of red and blue indicate an increase or decrease of metabolites, respectively. (B) Metabolite set enrichment analysis of significantly altered core pathways. Asterisks indicate pathways of interest. (C) Selected lipid metabolites of interest. (D) Gene ontology analysis after mRNA sequencing screen. # indicates pathways of interest. (E) qPCR validation of selected FAO,

lipolysis, TCA, and inflammatory genes versus control (non-filled bars in bottom panel). \*p  $<$  0. 05. Inset is magnification of data  $<$  1.



#### **Figure 3. Efferocytic IL-10 Is Fueled by and Requires FAO, Not Glycolysis**

(A) Apoptotic cells (ACs) were previously cultured in increasing concentrations of fattyacid-supplemented growth media (μg/L fatty acid per liter), prior to co-cultivation with macrophages/M at equivalent ACs to M ratios and ELISAs performed. (B) FAO-inhibitor etomoxir (ETO) suppresses AC-induced OCR in efferocytes. (C) IL-10 and TGF-β production in AC-treated Ms  $\pm$  ETO. (D) IL-10 production in AC-treated Cpt1- and Cpt2deficient Ms. (E) IL-10 production in AC-treated Ms  $\pm$  2-deoxyglucose (2DG). (F) IL-10 production in AC-treated Ms  $\pm$  glucose-inhibitor UK5099 and IL-1 β production in LPS-

treated Ms  $\pm$  UK5099. 5 mM ATP was added 3 hr after LPS addition. \*p < 0.05 versus control.

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**Figure 4. Electron Transport Dysfunction Reduces the Capacity of Efferocytes to Produce IL-10** Elicited peritoneal M\$s were harvested from *Rispfl/fl* and *Rispfl/fl LysMcre* mice. (A) Ms RISP protein was quantified by immunoblot. (B) Transmission electron micrograph of a *Risp*-deficient M. (C) OCR and ECAR profiles of *Risp*-deficient Ms. (D) Photomicrographs and quantification of efferocytosis. Ms remain unlabeled while apoptotic cells (ACs) are labeled green. n.s., not statistically significant. (E) IL-10 in cell supernatants 12 hr after efferocytosis. TNF-α was measured 6 hr after LPS stimulation. (F) IL-10 production was measured in macrophages after *Risp* knockdown with siRNA. (G) Acute inhibitor

antimycin/AntA added at 100 nM 1 hr post AC feeding. IL-10 was measured with ELISA. (H) Myxothiazol inhibitor of electron transfer to RISP was added to efferocytes and IL-10 measured by ELISA. \*p < 0.05.

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**Figure 5. NAD+ Supplementation Partially Rescues Efferocytic IL-10 Production from Macrophages Deficient in RISP**

(A) NAD metabolism scheme with a focus on NAD breakdown and buildup of MNA metabolite 1-methylnicotinamide (n-methylnicotinamide). Graphed is the relative change of indicated metabolites in Risp-deficient or control efferocytes, with versus without apoptotic cells. (B) Risp deficiency (LysMcre) reduces the increased NAD<sup>+</sup>/NADH ratio in Ms during efferocytosis of apoptotic cells (ACs). (C) Ms treated with or without ACs for 3 hr were harvested and used for direct measure of NAD<sup>+</sup> levels. (D) Peritoneal efferocytes were

administered NAD<sup>+</sup> precursor NMN and IL-10 measured by ELISA.  ${}^*p$  < 0.05 relative to control.



#### **Figure 6.** *Sirtl* **Is Required for NAD-Dependent IL-10 Production and Activation of the IL-10Transcription Factor PBX**

(A) Sirt2+/+ and Sirt2−/− peritoneal macrophages were challenged with apoptotic cells (ACs), and absolute IL-10 levels were measured by ELISA. (B) Immunoblot of SIRT1 protein in primary Ms during efferocytosis. (C) IL-10 levels were compared between Sirt2 and Sirtl-deficient Ms during efferocytosis. (D) SIRT1 protein activity measured in control versus Risp-deficient Ms that were treated with versus without ACs. (E) NMN supplementation rescues absolute levels of IL-10 production in *Risp*-deficient efferocytes, but not Sirf1-deficient efferocytes. (F) PBX1 ChIP-IL-10 qPCR was performed in

efferocytes treated with Sirf1 siRNA versus scrambled (Scr) control. (G) PBX1 ChIP-IL-10 qPCR before and after efferocytosis in control, Risp-deficient, and Risp-deficient macrophages with NMN supplementation. (H) IL-10 production after Sirt1 siRNA and/or *Pbx1* siRNA in primary Ms. \*indicates  $p < 0.05$  versus control.

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**Figure 7. Macrophage Mitochondrial Dysfunction Impairs IL-10-Associated Cardiac Repair** Rispfl/fl and Rispfl/fl LysMcre mice were subjected to experimental myocardial infarction (MI) at the left anterior descending artery, as described in STAR Methods. (A) Cardiac extracts were prepared and flow cytometry employed to isolate left ventricular cardiac Ms (CD45+CD11b+F4/80+Ly6g—CD64+). Mice transgenic for cardiac-specific expression of the fluor mCherry were subjected to MI, and cardiac Ms containing mCherry were interrogated for OCR in *Rispfl/fl LysMcre* mice. (B) Gene expression by qPCR from indicated cell types, sorted directly from heart. (C) Representative images and Kaplan-Meier

survival plot and rupture quantification of indicated mice after MI. n = 10 (Cre---) versus 11 (Cre+) and  $p = 0.02$ . (D) Levels of indicated immune cell subsets (PMN, neutrophil; Mo, monocyte; M, macrophage) after MI. (E) Gene expression of indicated inflammatory mediators from cardiac extracts. \*p < 0.05.