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## Biochemical Studies Of Abce1

Lynn Sims  
*University of Central Florida*



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BIOCHEMICAL STUDIES OF ABCE1

by

LYNN M. SIMS

B.S. University of Central Florida, 2003

M.S. University of Central Florida, 2011

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
in the Burnett School of Biomedical Science  
in the College of Graduate Studies  
at the University of Central Florida  
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Major Professor: Robert Y. Igarashi

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## ABSTRACT

The growth and survival of all cells require functional ribosomes that are capable of protein synthesis. The disruption of the steps required for the function of ribosomes represents a potential future target for pharmacological anti-cancer therapy. ABCE1 is an essential Fe-S protein involved in ribosomal function and is vital for protein synthesis and cell survival. Thus, ABCE1 is potentially a great therapeutic target for cancer treatment. Previously, cell biological, genetic, and structural studies uncovered the general importance of ABCE1, although the exact function of the Fe-S clusters was previously unclear, only a simple structural role was suggested. Additionally, due to the essential nature of ABCE1, its function in ribosome biogenesis, ribosome recycling, and the presence of Fe-S within ABCE1, the protein has been hypothesized to be a target for oxidative degradation by ROS and critically impact cellular function. In an effort to better understand the function of ABCE1 and its associated Fe-S cofactors, the goal of this research was to achieve a better biochemical understanding of the Fe-S clusters of ABCE1. The kinetics of the ATPase activity for the *Pyrococcus abyssi* ABCE1 (*PabABCE1*) was studied using both *apo*- (without reconstituted Fe-S clusters) and *holo*- (with full complement of Fe-S clusters reconstituted post-purification) forms, and is shown to be jointly regulated by the status of Fe-S clusters and  $Mg^{2+}$ . Typically, ATPases require  $Mg^{2+}$ , as is true for *PabABCE1*, but  $Mg^{2+}$  also acts as a unusual negative allosteric effector that modulates ATP affinity of *PabABCE1*. Comparative kinetic analysis of  $Mg^{2+}$  inhibition shows differences in the degree of allosteric regulation between the *apo*- and *holo-PabABCE1* where the apparent  $K_m$  for ATP of *apo*-

*Pab*ABCE1 increases >30 fold from ~30  $\mu\text{M}$  to over 1 mM when in the presence of physiologically relevant concentrations of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ . This effect would significantly convert the ATPase activity of *Pab*ABCE1 from being independent of cellular energy charge ( $\varphi$ ) to being dependent on  $\varphi$  with cellular  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$ .

The effect of ROS on the Fe-S clusters within ABCE1 from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* was studied by *in vivo*  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  labeling. A dose and time dependent depletion of ABCE1 bound  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  after exposure to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  was discovered, suggesting the progressive degradation of Fe-S clusters under oxidative stress conditions. Furthermore, our experiments show growth recovery, upon removal of the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , reaching a growth rate close to that of untreated cells after ~8 hrs. Additionally, a corresponding increase (~88% recovery) in the ABCE1 bound  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  (Fe-S) was demonstrated. Observations presented in this work demonstrate that the majority of growth inhibition, induced by oxidative stress, can be explained by a comparable decrease in ABCE1 bound  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  and likely loss of ABCE1 activity that is necessary for normal ribosomal activity.

The regulatory roles of the Fe-S clusters with ABCE1 provide the cell a way to modulate the activity of ABCE1 and effectively regulate translation based on both cellular energy charge and the redox state of the cell. Intricate overlapping effects by both  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$  and the status of Fe-S clusters regulate ABCE1's ATPase activity and suggest a regulatory mechanism, where under oxidative stress conditions, the translational activity of ABCE1 can be inhibited by oxidative degradation of the Fe-S clusters. These findings uncover the regulatory function of the Fe-S clusters with

ABCE1, providing important clues needed for the development of pharmacological agents toward ABCE1 targeted anti-cancer therapy.

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I am indebted to the many assistants I have had the pleasure of training over the years. Michelle Josey, whom I first met when I was her junior mentor for her undergraduate honors thesis, helped me tremendously when my research studies changed direction. In no time at all, with her assistance, my research was underway and we were working together to solve everyday problems. Also, I will never forget the dedicated support I received from Tayler Croom. She was always willing to perform any task assigned to her, even if it required coming to the lab late at night or in the early morning hours. I was sad to see her leave but not surprised when she moved on to graduate school. Luckily, there is always an endless supply of eager undergraduates who want to obtain research experience, such as Matt Szasz and Nora Vera, who were very willing to help me out even late in the evening. Additionally, I must thank Brian Tish and Shirlynn Chu for aid in protein purifications and the preparation of laboratory protocols. Assistance from Brian Tish was invaluable, especially during a particular two week protein purification marathon we endured. Shirlynn Chu was an excellent protocol writer with great attention to detail. The great deal of motivation that was expressed by all of my assistants was certainly inspiring.

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## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

### ATP Binding Cassette Proteins

#### Structure and Topology of ABC Proteins

ATP binding cassette (ABC) transporter proteins comprise one of the largest and most ancient protein superfamilies, and are present in all three domains of life [8-11]. In humans, the ABC superfamily of proteins consists of forty-nine functional proteins divided into subfamilies A through G [12]. Most ABC proteins typically have four to six transmembrane domains (TMDs) that span the membrane. The majority of ABC proteins function in transport of a wide variety of solutes, such as sugars, lipids, ions, and drugs, across membranes and are crucial for many processes within the cell [9, 10, 13]. Some ABC transporters, such as the ABC transporters ABCC1 (MRP1), have been implicated in causing multidrug resistance with some cancer treatments, because therapeutic compounds are often transported out of the cell [14].

Proteins are classified as ABC transporters based on their primary sequence and organization of their nucleotide binding domains (NBDs) [8]. ABC proteins contain one or two conserved ATP-binding domains which can exist as a single peptide or more than one peptide that dimerizes with another to form a fully functional transporter [15-17]. The conserved NBDs contain the canonical Walker A ([AG]-x(4)-G-K-[ST]) and Walker B (D-E-x(5)-D) motifs, typical of ATP binding proteins, separated by approximately 125 amino acids [18]. ABC proteins also contain an ABC signature sequence (LSGGQ) located between the Walker A and Walker B motifs which sets ABC



proteins apart from other ATPases [19]. The signature sequences within the NBDs are thought to provide some molecular interactions forming dimers in a distinctive head-to-tail orientation.

### Mechanism of ATP Hydrolysis

The precise mechanism of ATP hydrolysis is still under debate and may not be universal among wide family of ABC proteins. In general, within the NBD, there are several conserved motifs involved. The formation of the NBD dimers, involves a conserved glutamate residue within the Walker B motif and the D-loop, which likely serves to catalyze ATP hydrolysis via an acid-base mechanism. The Q loop is believed to provide communication between the NBDs and the TMDs. A conserved lysine within the Walker A motif is thought to form hydrogen bonds with the  $\alpha$ - and  $\gamma$ -phosphate while a conserved histidine contacts the  $\gamma$ -phosphate. Most ATPases require  $Mg^{2+}$  in a complex with ATP in order to neutralize the negative charge of the phosphates. A  $Mg^{2+}$  ion coordinates with the oxygen atoms of the  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -phosphates as well as residues within the Q loop, and water molecules [20-23]. The aromatic residue of the A-loop stabilizes the nucleotide by  $\pi$ - $\pi$  stacking interactions between the aromatic ring of tyrosine and the adenine of ATP [24].

The ATP hydrolysis cycle can vary for each ABC transporter. For instance, the NBDs may be symmetric or asymmetric and may have equal or unequal ATPase activities. Within the p-glycoprotein, ATP hydrolysis occurs at only one of the NBDs per cycle and alternates between the two NBDs [25]. Cooperativity between the NBDs of p-glycoprotein is required. As for CFTR, there is cooperativity between the NBDs,

although the hydrolysis rate may be slower in NBD1 [14]. In general, the ATP hydrolysis cycle is thought to involve first the binding of ATP to one or both NBDs, causing dimerization of the NBDs, resulting in a closed conformation. Once ATP is hydrolyzed, the conformational changes are reversed, opening the channel allowing solutes to flow through, and the enzyme is then ready for the next cycle [14].

### ABCE1: The Lone Member of Subfamily E

ABCE1 (also known as Rli1 [26], Pixie [27] or hp68 [28]) is one of the most unique members of the ABC superfamily. To this date, there are only two known subfamilies (E and F) of ABC proteins that do not have TMDs and are not membrane spanning proteins. Subfamily F consists of only three members that are associated with important processes, such as translation initiation and elongation in eukaryotes [29]. There is only one known member of subfamily E, ABCE1 [30] that has essential roles during multiple ribosome related functions from ribosome biogenesis, ribosome recycling and steps of protein synthesis.



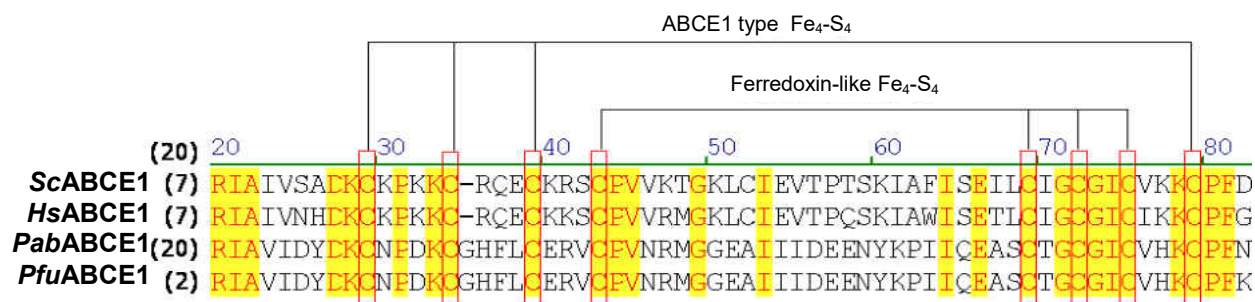
### **Figure 1. Schematic of ABCE1 protein domains**

Schematic representation of the domains within ScABCE1 indicates the relative locations of Fe-S domain and the NBDs.

What distinguishes ABCE1 from the other ABC proteins having no TMDs is that ABCE1 contains a domain having two ferredoxin-like iron-sulfur (Fe-S) clusters (Figure 1). This domain contains the characteristic sequence (CxPxxCxxxCxnKCP) with four

cysteines for binding a Fe<sub>4</sub>-S<sub>4</sub> type Fe-S cluster, similar to the sequences (CPx<sub>n</sub>Cx<sub>2</sub>Cx<sub>2</sub>C) found in Fe-S cluster containing ferredoxin (Figure 2) [31].

Comparative analysis of ABCE1 primary sequences reveals conservation among diverse organisms, including those from two *Pyrococcal* species. All contain the conserved ATP binding domains and conserved cysteines found in their Fe-S domains [31]. Such conservation suggests these domains must be important for the general function of ABCE1.

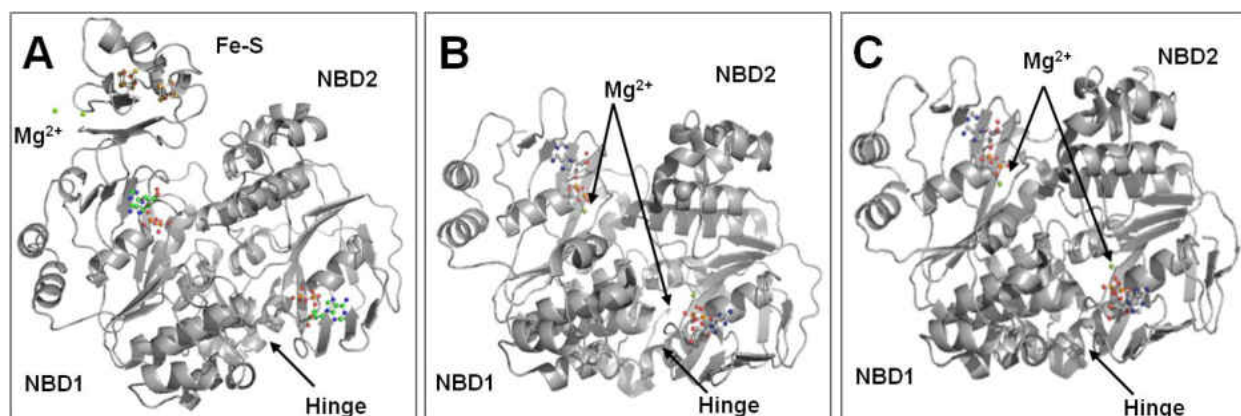


**Figure 2. Primary sequence alignment of the Fe-S domain of ABCE1**

Partial primary sequence alignment of the Fe-S domain indicates eight conserved cysteine residues, shown with red boxes, as well as other important residues (highlighted) within the indicated species (*S. cerevisiae* (Sc), *H. sapiens* (Hs), *P. abyssi* (Pab), *P. furiosus* (Pfu)).

The X-ray diffraction crystallographic structures (Figure 3) of ABCE1 alone have been determined, with and without the Fe-S cluster domain, from *Pyrococcus furiosus*, *Pyrococcus abyssi*, and *Sulfolobus solfataricus* [31-34]. The protein has three distinct domains with a hinge region clearly separating the two NBDs. The hypothesis has been presented that the hinge region is involved in mechanical conformational changes between the two NBDs upon ATP hydrolysis [13]. While these three structures are not of the human ABCE1 (*HsABCE1*), the availability of these structures that have a high

degree of sequence homology, and structural homology, should aid in understanding of how binding partners, both protein and RNA, may interact with them. The information from the structures of these thermophilic ABCE1s provides a great starting point for biochemical understanding of this important protein.



**Figure 3. X-Ray diffraction crystallographic structures of ABCE1 for three archeal species**

Shown is the (A) X-Ray structure of *Pyrococcus abyssi* (PDB 3BK7 [33]) and (B) *Pyrococcus furiosus*, ΔFe-S (PDB 1YQT [32]), and (C) *Sulfolobus solfataricus* ΔFe-S (PDB 3OZX [31]), as previously published. All three indicate the binding of two ADP molecules within each of the nucleotide binding domains. The two Fe-S clusters are shown in the complete structure of *P. abyssi*.

Iron-Sulfur Cluster Biogenesis

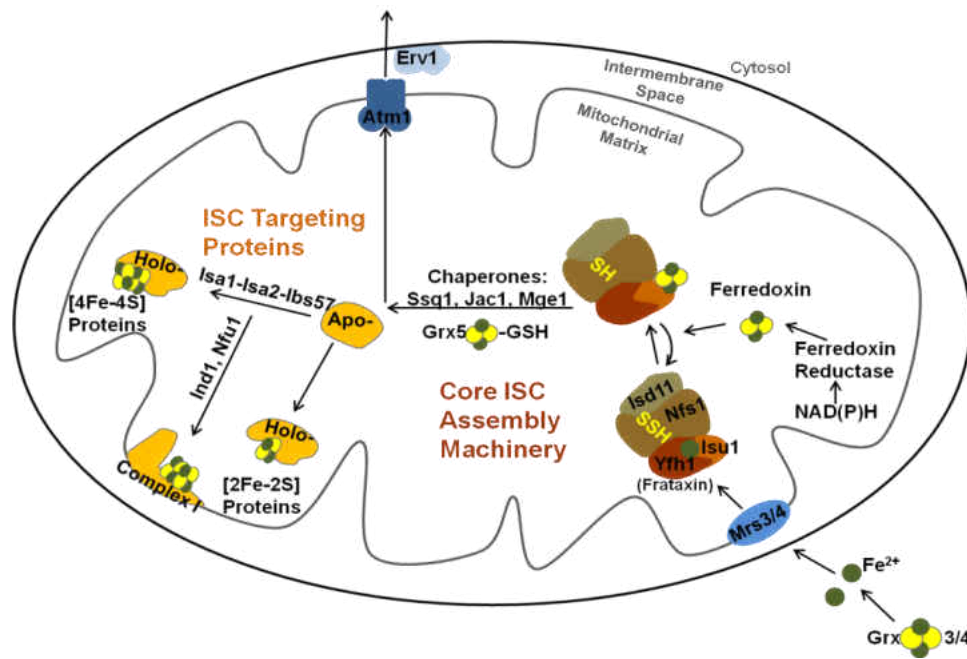
Iron-sulfur clusters are cofactors found in proteins that function in a wide variety of processes and are found in bacteria, plant chloroplasts, and many animal tissues [35] Initially, the primary function of Fe-S clusters was believed to be electron transfer although other functions have been discovered, such as catalysis and radical generation. Some of the well known Fe-S proteins are aconitase [36], Complex I and II of the mitochondrial electron transport chain, and nitrogenase [37]. Fe-S clusters have

now been recognized in a wide range of important cellular processes such as, enzymatic Lewis-acid catalysis, regulation of gene expression, DNA-RNA metabolism, and ribosome biogenesis [1]. Additionally, a role for Fe-S clusters in recognition of damaged bases in DNA base excision repair as in the DNA glycosylases, endonuclease III and MutY [38, 39] has been demonstrated.

Mitochondria play a central role in the metabolism of iron in the Eukaryotic cell, as well as the synthesis of heme, iron regulation, oxidative phosphorylation, and the assembly of Fe-S clusters. Iron-sulfur cluster assembly is performed by the core Iron Sulfur Cluster (ISC) assembly machinery within the mitochondrial matrix. Mitochondria also participate in the assembly of cytosolic and nuclear Fe-S proteins. The key to this function lies in the presence of the Cytosolic Iron-sulfur Assembly (CIA) machinery.

The most current model for Fe-S cluster maturation by the ISC machinery within the mitochondria of *S. cerevisiae* involves at least seventeen proteins and have three major steps [4] (Figure 4). First, after  $\text{Fe}^{+2}$  is transported into the mitochondria by monothiol glutaredoxins (Grx3/4) [40, 41], the cysteine desulfurase complex of Nfs1-Isc11 donates a sulfur, while Yfh1 (frataxin) likely donates iron and interacts with the scaffold protein, IscU. Formation of  $\text{Fe}_2\text{-S}_2$  cluster on IscU occurs with incorporation of reductive electrons from the electron transport chain involving ferredoxin, ferredoxin reductase, and NAD(P)H. The second major step includes a chaperone system made up of Ssq1, Jac1, and Mge1, which induces the release of the Fe-S cluster from Isu1. Another monothiol glutaredoxin, Grx5, then transfers the Fe-S to *apo*-proteins to form  $\text{Fe}_2\text{-S}_2$  *holo*-proteins. The third step involves the formation of more complex Fe-S

clusters. This is accomplished by the ISC targeting factors, or several proteins that are each involved in the assembly of specific Fe<sub>4</sub>-S<sub>4</sub> proteins.

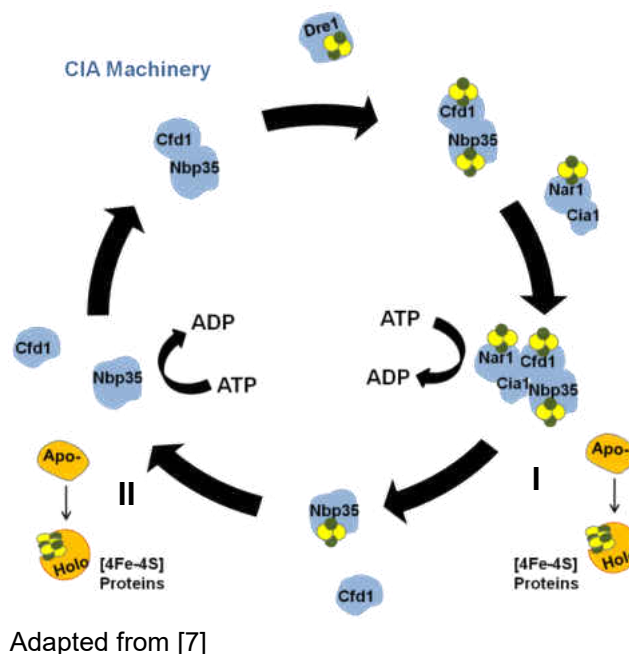


Adapted from [1-3]

**Figure 4. Representation of proteins involved in the core Iron Sulfur Cluster (ISC) assembly machinery within the mitochondria**

Cytosolic *apo*-proteins receive their Fe-S clusters exported from the mitochondria through, yet another ABC protein, the ABC transporter ABCB7 (Atm1 in yeast) [42] (Figure 4). Following export from the mitochondria, Fe-S clusters are then delivered to cytosolic *apo*-proteins via the CIA machinery in a ATP dependent process [7] (Figure 5). Limited information is available about the transfer reaction, although Dre2 [43] and Erv1, a FAD-linked sulfhydryl oxidase are suspected to be involved [44]. The two P-loop NTPases, Cfd1 and Nbp35 are involved in the initial step of the CIA machinery [45].

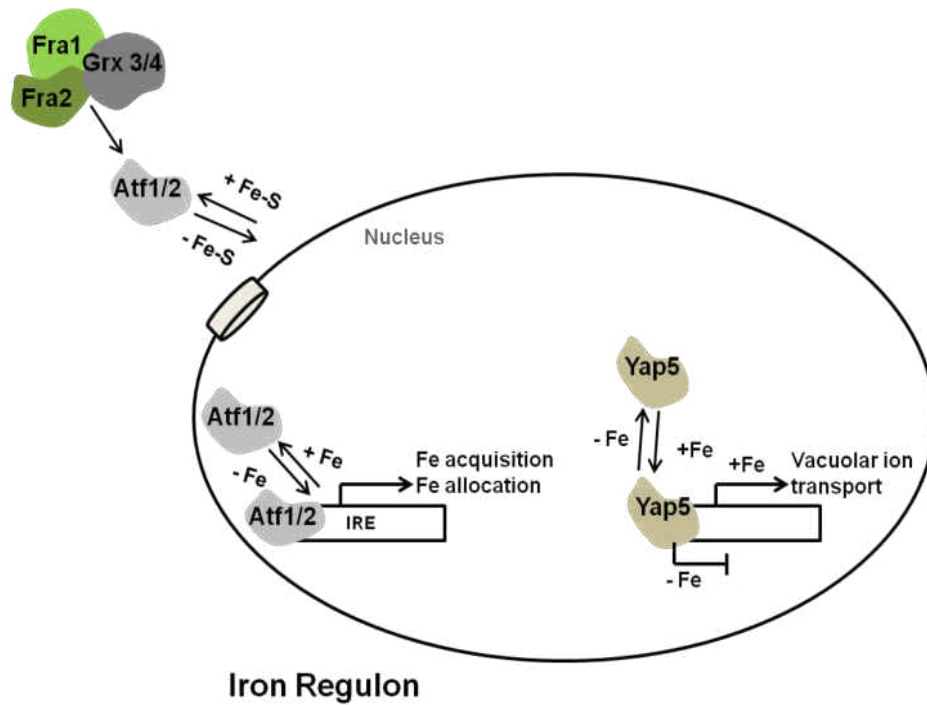
The Fe-S clusters are assembled involving the Cfd1-Nbp35 complex, Dre2, and an iron and sulfur source. Cfd1 binds available iron to promote entry into the CIA machinery [7, 46]. Ultimately, a complex consisting of the Fe-S protein Nar1 and the scaffold protein Cia1 then transiently interact with Cfd1-Nbp35, promoting Fe-S cluster transfer, facilitated by energy from ATP hydrolysis, to cytosolic and nuclear *apo*-proteins (I, Figure 5). Following dissociation of Nar1-Cfd1, *holo*-Nbp35 supports Fe-S assembly of a second subset of cytoplasmic and nuclear *apo*-proteins [7] (II, Figure 5).



**Figure 5. A current model for the steps involved in the Cytosolic Iron-sulfur Assembly (CIA) cycle**

Cellular iron regulation is intimately linked to cytosolic Fe-S cluster assembly based on iron availability. In yeast, the genes involved in iron uptake, storage and utilization are controlled transcriptionally and post-transcriptionally by the iron regulon, involving transcription factors Aft1 and Aft2 [7] (Figure 6). Communication between the

mitochondrial Fe-S assembly to Aft, in the iron regulon, is mediated by cytosolic Fe-S proteins, Fra1 and Fra2 [5, 7]. Fra1 and Fra2 bind with Grx3 or Grx4 [47] in a signaling pathway where the presence of bound Fra1 or Fra2 results in the repression of Aft1 activity of the iron regulon, by blocking translocation of Aft1 to the nucleus. The Fra-Grx interaction is thought to function as a signaling intermediate between mitochondrial Fe-S cluster biosynthesis and activation of iron regulon transcription [5].



Adapted from [4, 5].

**Figure 6. Illustrative description of the iron regulon**



## ABCE1 and Disease

### ABCE1 is Essential for Cell Survival

The importance of ABCE1 in Eukaryotes was first observed when it was found to be one of 356 genes in *S. cerevisiae* that cause a lethal phenotype when deleted as part of a systematic genome-wide deletion analysis [48]. More recent studies have shown that disruption of this cytosolic Fe-S cluster pathway is also lethal since it causes ABCE1 to be devoid of its Fe-S clusters [49]. Importantly, the studies demonstrated the significance of the Fe-S clusters by genetic tetrad analysis of heterozygous site-specific mutations at the key cysteine residues that coordinate the Fe-S clusters [50]. While the function of the Fe-S clusters in ABCE1 was initially elusive, a recent study by Barthelme *et al.* (2011) suggested a structural role. In their study with the *S. solfataricus* ABCE1, the turnover rates and affinity for ATP were not affected by the oxidation state. Furthermore, deletion of the entire Fe-S domain abolished ribosomal binding [34], suggesting that the Fe-S domain or the presence of the Fe-S clusters was required for ribosome binding. While these studies clearly show the essentialness of the Fe-S clusters in ABCE1, the oxidatively sensitive experiments were not conducted in a proper anaerobic environment and thus a role that is more significant than a simple structural component is very possible for the Fe-S clusters of ABCE1.

### Expression of ABCE1 in Cancer Cells and Tissue

ABCE1 is a key protein involved in ribosomal function and thus could be hypothesized to be critical for protein synthesis in relation to tumor growth and cancer.

Several studies have investigated the expression levels of multiple ABC transporters in various tissues [51-57], including ABCE1. An earlier report showed that there are two ubiquitously expressed transcripts for ABCE1 (2.4 kb and 3.8 kb in size) in the 15 human tissues examined, albeit that differential expression between tissues is evident [52]. Langmann *et al.* investigated the expression levels of 47 ABC proteins in 20 different human tissues [57]. This study showed ABCE1 was expressed in all tissues, though highly expressed in testis, prostate, and the trachea. Another study, investigating the role of ABC transporters in drug permeability, demonstrated that ABCE1 expression was increased in brain microvessel endothelial cells of five different mammalian species, including human [53].

The precise role that ABCE1 has in tumorigenesis, progression of cancer, or resistance to therapeutics is not clear. Nevertheless, some data show the hyper-expression of ABCE1 in some tumors [58-60]. Investigating the expression levels of 47 ABC transporters in melanoma versus normal melanocytes, Heimerl *et al.* demonstrated that ABCE1 is highly expressed in all cell lines investigated [58]. Additionally, there is a significant increase in expression of ABCE1 in Y79 cells, a chemotherapeutic resistant retinoblastoma cell line [51]. Acquired drug resistance among cancer cell lines could be the result of gene duplication or other genomic alterations of ATP transporter genes. In fact, thirteen ABC transporter genes, including ABCE1, were shown to have multiple gene copies in over 80% of cancer cell lines studied [61].

More recently, the role of ABCE1 has been investigated in specific cancers, such as colon cancer, a very aggressive small cell lung cancer, and hepatocellular carcinoma

[59, 60]. Two peptides derived from ABCE1 are capable of inducing cytotoxic T lymphocytes that react against colon cancer [60] while another study verified the up-regulation of ABCE1 in colon cancer tumors [59]. The proliferation, invasiveness and apoptotic nature of a small cell lung cancer cell line (HCl-H446) was investigated upon the down-regulation of ABCE1 [62]. The knock-down of ABCE1 inhibited proliferation of NCI-H446 cells by 30%. Additionally, an siRNA based knockdown of ABCE1 reduced invasiveness and induced apoptosis as compared to cells that were not transfected with the ABCE1 targeting siRNA [62].

The role of microRNAs (miRNAs) has been investigated for their regulation of ABCE1 in hepatocellular carcinoma [56, 63]. miRNAs are noncoding RNAs that generally repress gene expression and miRNA expression can be deregulated in some cancers. This has been studied in hepatocellular carcinoma cell lines and tumor tissue, where miR-124 and miR-203 have been shown to be epigenetically silenced by methylation. Interestingly, ABCE1 was identified as a possible target of miR-203 in hepatocellular carcinoma cells [56], indicating a possible explanation for high ABCE1 expression levels in some cancers. This was qualitatively confirmed where most of the tumors examined demonstrated high ABCE1 expression levels with a corresponding low expression of miR-203, providing further evidence of the potential role of miR-203 in regulating ABCE1 [63]. There are limited data on the role of ABCE1 in cancer, although this protein is clearly important for cell survival and controlling its activity as a form of cancer treatment could be effective in limiting or eliminating tumor growth.

## Role of ABCE1 in Viral Life Cycle

ABCE1 was initially identified as the RNAse L Inhibitor (RLI) that inhibited the binding of RNA and the anti-viral nuclease activity of RNAse L [26], indicating a role for ABCE1 in viral infections. ABCE1 was also introduced as a modulator of a protein-RNA interaction in relation to HIV. RNAse L is thought to be the major pathway for interferon mediated antiviral defense and may modulate the stability of both the HIV mRNA transcripts, intended for the expression of the HIV proteins, or the viral genomic RNA that will be inserted into capsids for viral particle production [64, 65]. The capsid protein is translated as part of the Gag polypeptide, which also includes the matrix, nucleocapsid, and three other small peptides. All six peptides are formed following post-translational processing by a HIV-1 protease, resulting in mature functional proteins (Figure 7).

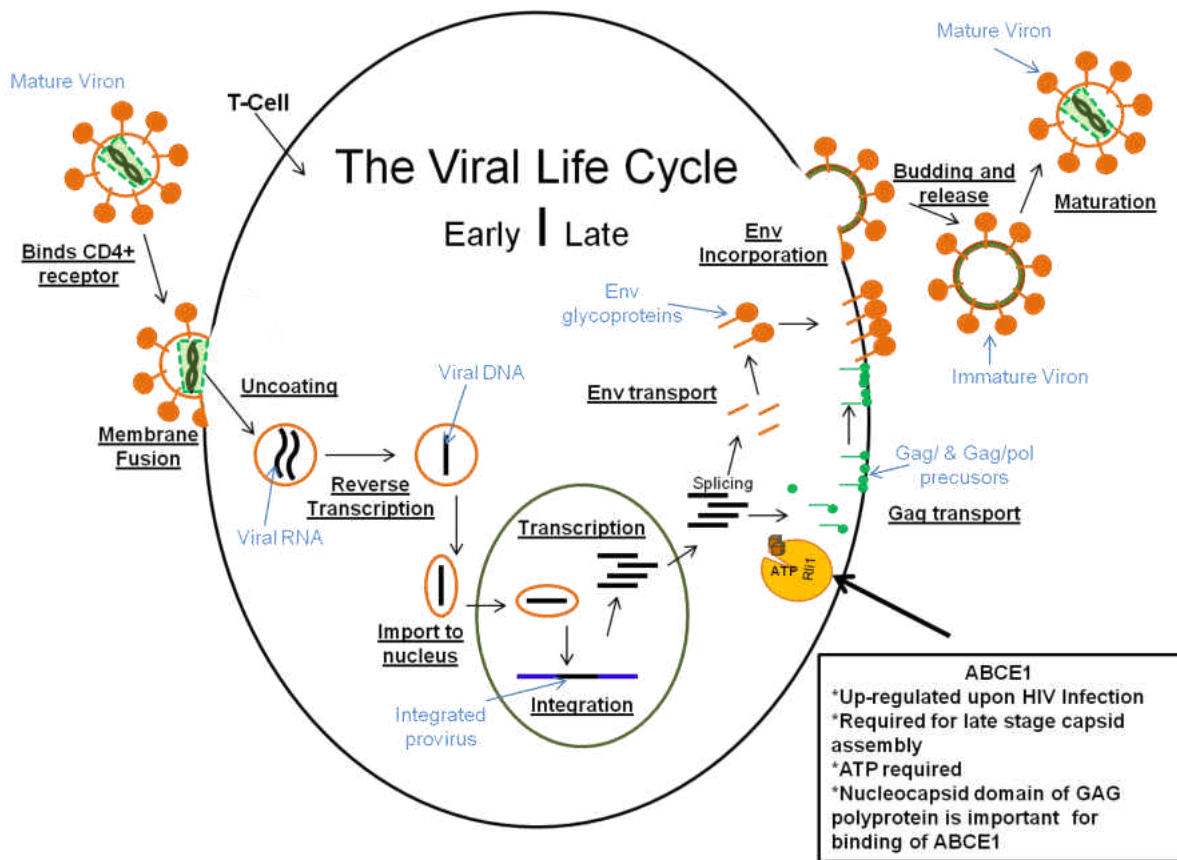


**Figure 7. Schematic of the HIV-1 Gag polyprotein**

The expression of ABCE1 appears to be upregulated upon HIV infection, which increases the virulence of HIV by decreasing the 2'-5'A/RNAse activity [26, 66]. Additionally, ATP and ABCE1 were shown to be required for late stage capsid assembly which is part of the HIV life cycle (Figure 8) [67]. Lingappa *et al.* narrowed the portion of the GAG polypeptide where ABCE1 binds to the nucleocapsid domain (NC) domain. A

recent study confirmed that the NC domain is required for ABCE1 binding, although it is not binding directly [68]. The data suggest GAG dimerization via the NC domain results in exposure of an ABCE1 binding domain located outside the NC domain [68].

The viral life cycle involves several steps starting from invasion and leading to the maturation within the cell. First a mature virion binds CD4<sup>+</sup> cells through a receptor on the surface of the cell. Next, membrane fusion results in the entry of the packaged viral RNA where the coat proteins are then removed exposing the RNA. The RNA is then transcribed to DNA by the viral reverse transcriptase, imported to the nucleus, and integrated into the endogenous DNA. The incorporated viral DNA is then transcribed into the GAG polypeptide, which is then processed to form the proteins required for maturation of viral particles. HIV exploits endogenous ABCE1, requiring its ATPase activity, for use in assembly of the viral capsids at the membrane prior to budding and release of new mature virions (Figure 8). The required use of ABCE1 by HIV capsid assembly intermediates indicates importance of this protein and its potential use as a target for anti-viral therapeutics.



**Figure 8. Role of ABCE1 in the HIV viral life cycle.**

### ABCE1: Ribosome Biogenesis, Translation, and Recycling

#### Ribosome Biogenesis

The growth and survival of all cells require functional ribosomes that are capable of protein synthesis. Ribosomes are the most complex and most abundant ribozyme in the cell and their production is not merely dependent on the transcription of the ribosomal RNA (rRNA). The ribosome is an intricate protein-RNA complex that has defined folds and sites of interactions for not only the binding of tRNA and mRNA, but

also for numerous factors that regulate the process of translation. Recent structural biology efforts have shed light on structures of both the prokaryotic [69] and eukaryotic [70] ribosomes, but more information needs to be established about how the cell produces such a complex structure. To produce the proper structure of the ribosome, multiple processing events are required in the nucleolus after the transcription of the nascent single ~9.1 Kbase rRNA (80S) [71] . The nascent rRNA is processed by a complex pathway of molecular events involving multiple cleavages to form the respective subunit precursors, trimming by exonucleases, base modifications, structural remodeling to give it the correct fold, followed by their export from the nucleus to the cytoplasm. The sizes of the intermediate rRNA molecules are known, but how the different fragments are produced or how they associate is not well defined. Over 200 non-ribosomal proteins that includes ABCE1, many of which are uncharacterized or undefined, are suspected to be involved in many of these steps [72]. Biochemical understanding of the processing of such RNA molecules to form one of the cell's most important super-structures and learning how small RNA may regulate such a process represents an emerging paradigm in both RNA biology and cancer biology [73, 74]. Undoubtedly, current and future studies will uncover much about the currently unknown processes that are required in ribosome maturation and their impairment leading to cancer. Such processes represent potential molecular targets for the next generation of pharmacological anti-cancer therapies.

## Ribosome Maturation and Translation

Among the numerous proteins involved in ribosome biogenesis translation, and recycling, ABCE1 has been identified to play a crucial role in this process. In two simultaneous studies, the importance of the cytosolic Fe-S assembly machinery to both ABCE1 and ribosome biogenesis was demonstrated [49, 50]. The disruption of the cytosolic Fe-S assembly machinery resulted in impaired ABCE1 and nuclear accumulation of pre-ribosomes and ribosomal proteins in *S. cerevisiae*. ABCE1 was shown to co-sediment with 40S, 60S, 80S pre-ribosomes, polysomes, and other ribosomal proteins. Additionally, genetic suppression of ABCE1 causes a similar accumulation of pre-ribosomes in the nuclei [49, 50]. These studies show an important connection between the process of cytosolic iron-sulfur (Fe-S) cluster formation and the function of ABCE1 and the process of ribosome biogenesis. As noted above, ABCE1 interacts with polysomes and it also takes an active role at some stage of protein translation by interacting with eukaryotic initiation factors [75, 76].

The association of *S. solfataricus* ABCE1 with 30S ribosomes occurs when the enzyme is, at least partially, in the closed state where a minimum of one ATP is bound [34]. Wild-type (ABCE1<sup>wt</sup>, with AMPPNP) and several mutants (ABCE1<sup>E238/485Q</sup>, ABCE1<sup>E238Q</sup>, ABCE1<sup>E485Q</sup>, with no AMPPNP required) of ABCE1 bind 30S ribosomal particles, suggesting a conformational switch to the closed state is required for stable association with 30S ribosome particles. In the same study, the Fe-S domain was shown to be required for 30S ribosome association. Upon the deletion of the Fe-S domain, ABCE1<sup>ΔFe-S</sup>, no association with 30S or 50S particles was observed. The



presence of Fe-S clusters was required but the oxidation state of the Fe-S clusters had no effect on 30S binding. In this case, ABCE1<sup>C54S</sup>, a mutant with one paramagnetic cluster retains binding with 30S particles while the Fe-S defective mutant (ABCE1<sup>C24S</sup>) does not [34]. These data collectively demonstrate the importance of ABCE1 and its Fe-S clusters in ribosome maturation as well as the connection between Fe-S biogenesis, ribosome biogenesis, and ultimately the survival of the cell.

### Ribosome Recycling

A role for ScABCE1 in ribosome recycling was proposed when ABCE1 was discovered to be involved in the splitting of 40S and 60S ribosomes following translation termination [76-78]. Initially, ABCE1 was demonstrated to physically interact with eukaryotic release factors eRF1/Sup35 and eRF3/Sup45 [78]. Later, the interaction of ABCE1 with Dom34 was shown to be involved in the splitting of 40S and 60S ribosomes following translation termination [76-78].

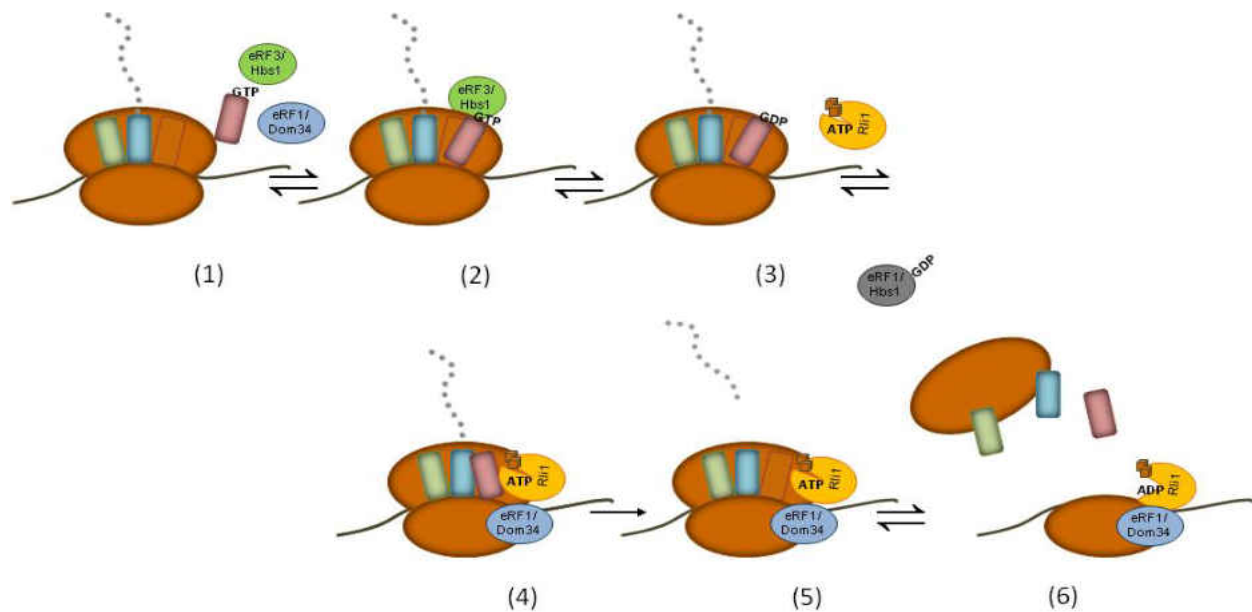
Interestingly, the concentration of Mg<sup>2+</sup> seems to affect the dissociation of post-termination complexes into their respective subunits. Ribosomes were found to dissociate in the presence of 1.0 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> while dissociation does not occur in the presence of 2.5 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> and required release factors. However, ribosomes efficiently dissociated with the addition of ABCE1 at the higher Mg<sup>2+</sup> concentration. Dissociation (~40%) of ribosomes occurs efficiently below 2.5 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> and decreases significantly between Mg<sup>2+</sup> concentrations of 3.5-10mM. This study reveals that ABCE1 can accelerate ribosome recycling when lower (~1.0 mM) Mg<sup>2+</sup> concentrations are available.

Also, ABCE1 can still recycle and is required for ribosome recycling in the presence of higher (~2.5 mM)  $Mg^{2+}$  concentrations [76].

In the work done by Barthelme *et al.* [36] with ABCE1 isolated from *S. solfataricus*, the interaction between ABCE1 and the peptide release factor aRF1 was found to promote translation post-termination and ribosome recycling. Their structural data suggest that upon ATP binding, ABCE1 undergoes a conformational switch from an open (ADP bound) to a closed (ATP bound) state. Using sucrose gradient centrifugation, they showed that the closed state is required for ABCE1 30S ribosomal particle association. The involvement of aRF1 alone or ABCE1 $\Delta^{Fe-S}$  cannot promote ribosome breakdown indicating that ABCE1 and its Fe-S cluster domain is required for this process to occur. Additionally, ATP hydrolysis by ABCE1 is required for the release of ABCE1 from 30S subunits to begin a new cycle, resulting in continuous ribosomal recycling [34].

Recently, Shoemaker and Green [79] investigated the role of ScABCE1 in ribosome recycling using an *in vitro* yeast translation system. A stepwise account of the ordered events leading to peptide release and ribosome recycling involving activity of ScABCE1, Hbs1 and Dom34, was proposed (Figure 9). Shoemaker and Green then investigated whether ScABCE1 had a role in eRF1/eRF3-mediated peptide release, thus a dual role in translation termination as well as ribosome recycling [77]. The rate of peptide release was measured using elongated ribosome complexes and different combinations of eRF1, eRF3, eRF3 $^{H348E}$  (no GTPase activity), and ScABCE1. Results showed that both ScABCE1 and eRF3 $^{WT}$  can promote peptide release in the presence

of eRF1. Also, a striking increase in peptide release rates (48 fold) in the presence of all three wild-type enzymes was observed, indicating a synergistic effect in the presence of both eRF3<sup>WT</sup> and ScABCE1.



Adapted from [77, 80]

**Figure 9. Model for the proposed dual function of ScABCE1 in translation termination and ribosome recycling.**

- 1.) eRF1:eRF3 or Dom34:Hbs1 bind
- 2.) GTP hydrolysis by eRF3 or Hbs1 and conformation change in ribosome or eRF3/Dom34
- 3.) eRF1:GDP or Hbs1:GDP dissociation
- 4.) Accommodation of eRF1 or Dom34 to the active site, ScABCE1 association
- 5.) Peptide release (promoted by ScABCE1, independent of ATP hydrolysis)
- 6.) ScABCE1:eRF1 or ScABCE1:Dom34, ATP hydrolysis, ribosome splitting

Recently, the interaction between Dom34 and ABCE1 has been confirmed by cryo-electron microscopy reconstructions of eukaryotic and archeal ribosome recycling complexes [80]. Particularly, the Fe-S domain of ABCE1 interacts with CTD of Dom34, stabilizing the complex and inducing a conformational change affecting the central

domain of Dom34. This conformational change results in a direct interaction between Dom34 and the peptidyl transferase center [80], providing an explanation of how ABCE1 could promote peptide release was proposed based on interactions between ScABCE1 and Dom34 [77].

The dual roles ABCE1 has in translation termination and ribosome biogenesis has been clearly established. Although the studies have identified the function of ABCE1 in translation termination and recycling, a proposal has been made that a similar role likely occurs during ribosome maturation. In this case, evidence suggests ABCE1 splits 80S-like ribosome complexes, resulting in pre-40S ribosomes, during ribosome maturation [81].

### Hypotheses

Much remains to be elucidated about the biochemical roles and mechanism of ABCE1 in relation to translation, ribosome recycling, and viral lifecycles. While the previous genetic and cell biological experiments have shown the crucial function of ABCE1 in translation as well as its connection with Fe-S assembly, the precise biochemical role of the Fe-S clusters or the mechanism of ATP hydrolysis is currently unknown.

The work in this dissertation aims to biochemically define the ATPase activity of *PabABCE1*, to establish the nature of the requirement of the Fe-S clusters, and to determine what effect ribosomes have on its activity. This study also proposes that oxidative stress affects the Fe-S status of ABCE1 and ultimately affects the function of ABCE1 in relation to protein synthesis and cell growth.

Data generated from this study should provide some intricate clues to the ATPase activity of this unique enzyme, its function in relation to ribosome recycling, and the effects of oxidative stress on the function of ABCE1. There are no known pharmaceuticals developed against Fe-S proteins. Determining the specific biochemical role that ABCE1 has in ribosome biogenesis may lead to the development of a novel anti-cancer pharmaceutical to cause impaired ribosome biosynthesis of uncontrollably dividing cells such as tumor cells.

## CHAPTER 2: REGULATION OF THE ATPASE ACTIVITY OF ABCE1 FROM *PYROCOCCUS ABYSSI* BY FE-S CLUSTER STATUS AND $Mg^{2+}$ : IMPLICATION FOR RIBOSOMAL FUNCTION

### Introduction

Biogenesis and the functions of the ribosome are supported by numerous proteins at various stages. Among these proteins, ABCE1 is essential for ribosome function and for cellular viability in eukaryotic systems. ABCE1 is the lone member of class E in the wide family of ATP Binding Cassette (ABC) proteins [31, 49, 50, 82, 83]. While most members of the ABC protein family have trans-membrane domains (TMDs) and function as transporters of various metabolites, ABCE1 has no TMDs [84]. Instead, ABCE1 has two nucleotide binding domains that are connected by a hinge region and uniquely has a domain containing two  $Fe_4S_4$  clusters (Figure 1). The exact function of these  $Fe_4S_4$  clusters has been somewhat enigmatic.

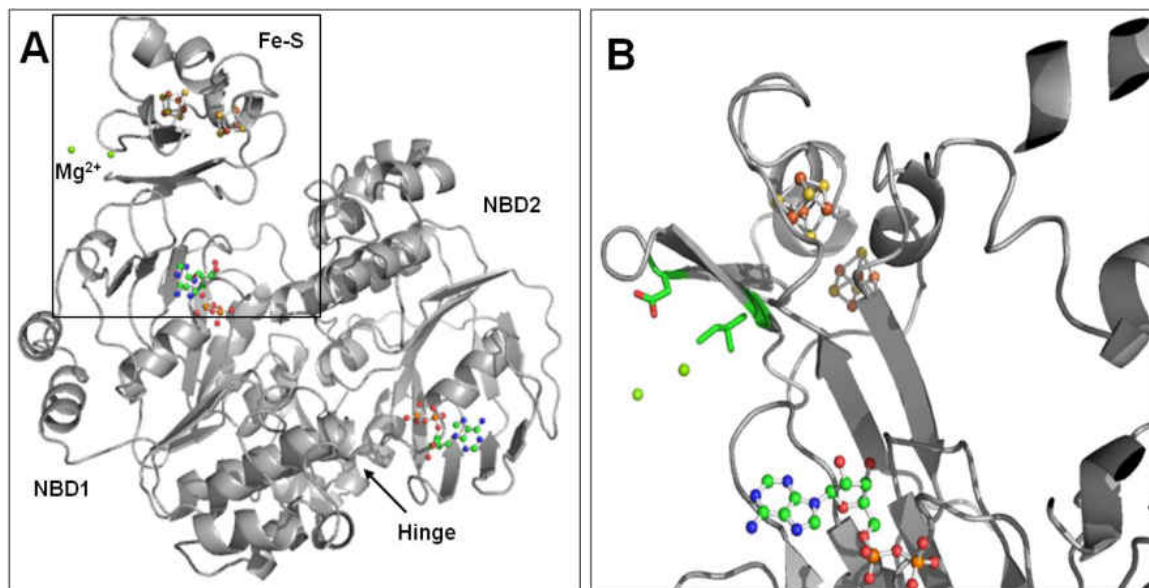
ABCE1 was initially identified as the RNAseL Inhibitor (RLI) that inhibited the binding of RNA and the anti-viral nuclease activity of RNAse L, which is involved in the pathway for interferon mediated antiviral defense [26]. Later, ABCE1 was also found to be a modulator of a protein-RNA interaction in relation to HIV [64, 65]. The expression of ABCE1 appears to be upregulated upon HIV infection, which increases the virulence of HIV by decreasing the 2'-5' oligoA/RNAse activity [26, 66]. Later, ABCE1 has also been shown to be required for late stage capsid assembly as part of the HIV life cycle [67].

The critical importance of ABCE1 in Eukaryotes was first observed when it was found to be one of 356 genes in *S. cerevisiae* that cause a lethal phenotype when deleted as part of a systematic genome-wide deletion analysis [48]. A later study showed the specific *in vivo* essentiality of the Fe-S clusters of ABCE1 where the cytosolic Fe-S cluster assembly system was disrupted and led to stalling of ribosome maturation [50]. In these studies in cells with disrupted Fe-S cluster assembly, the Fe-S clusterless form of ABCE1 (*apo*-ABCE1) accumulated *in vivo* and was found bound to nucleolar non-functional immature ribosomes and also to cytoplasmic polysomes. Furthermore, tetrad analysis using strains with heterozygous mutations of the Fe-S cluster ligating cysteine residues further showed the specific importance of the Fe-S clusters toward the function of ABCE1 where the homozygous mutated progeny did not grow [50]. These studies showed the essential nature of ABCE1 and its Fe-S clusters in ribosome assembly and maturation.

Recent cell biological studies have shown that ABCE1 and its ATPase activity have roles in translation termination and ribosome recycling. First, it was demonstrated with *Hs*ABCE1 that ATP hydrolysis is required for ribosome dissociation [76]. Studies with the ABCE1 from *Sulfolobus solfataricus* showed that the Fe-S domain is required for association with ribosomes [34]. In a more recent study, the role of *S. cerevisiae* ABCE1 and other recycling factors, Dom34 and Hbs1, in ribosome recycling was investigated and results show the ATPase activity is significantly increased in the presence of Hbs1 and/or Dom34. Additionally, *Sc*ABCE1 can promote recycling prior to the release of the peptide [77].

The structures of ABCE1 from two *Pyrococci* have been determined with (*P. abyssi*) and without (*P. furiosus*) the Fe-S cluster domain [32, 33]. A recent cryo-electron microscopy reconstruction of mixed complexes of *S. cerevisiae* ribosome recycling factors and *P. furiosus* ABCE1 shows interactions with Dom34/Pelota near the peptidyl transferase center on the ribosomes [80]. The structures of these thermophilic ABCE1s are a great starting point for biochemical understanding of this important protein. Much remains to be elucidated about the biochemical roles and mechanism of this protein in relation to ribosome biogenesis, translation and possibly with viral lifecycles. Among the key questions are: how is the energy derived from ATP hydrolysis utilized, what is the role of the Fe-S clusters, and how does it interact with immature and mature ribosomes? Toward the goal of better biochemical understanding for some of these aspects, the hydrolysis of MgATP by the *Pyrococcus abyssi* ABCE1 (*PabABCE1*) was studied in the present work. Somewhat unexpectedly, the ATP hydrolysis activity was found to be very sensitive to the concentration of  $Mg^{2+}$ , which may possibly be relevant to a mode of regulation *in vivo*.





**Figure 10. Structure of *PabABCE1*, ligands and cofactors.**

Shown is the complete crystal structure (A) and Fe-S domain (B) of *PabABCE1* (PDB 3BK7, ([33]). The two Fe-S clusters and both ADP molecules located with each of the nucleotide binding domains are shown in colored ball-and-stick models and green spheres represent two  $Mg^{2+}$  ions. Labels refer to different parts of the proteins as described in the Introduction. A box is shown in Panel (A) to indicate the section shown in Panel (B).

## Materials and Methods

### Expression and Purification of *PabABCE1*

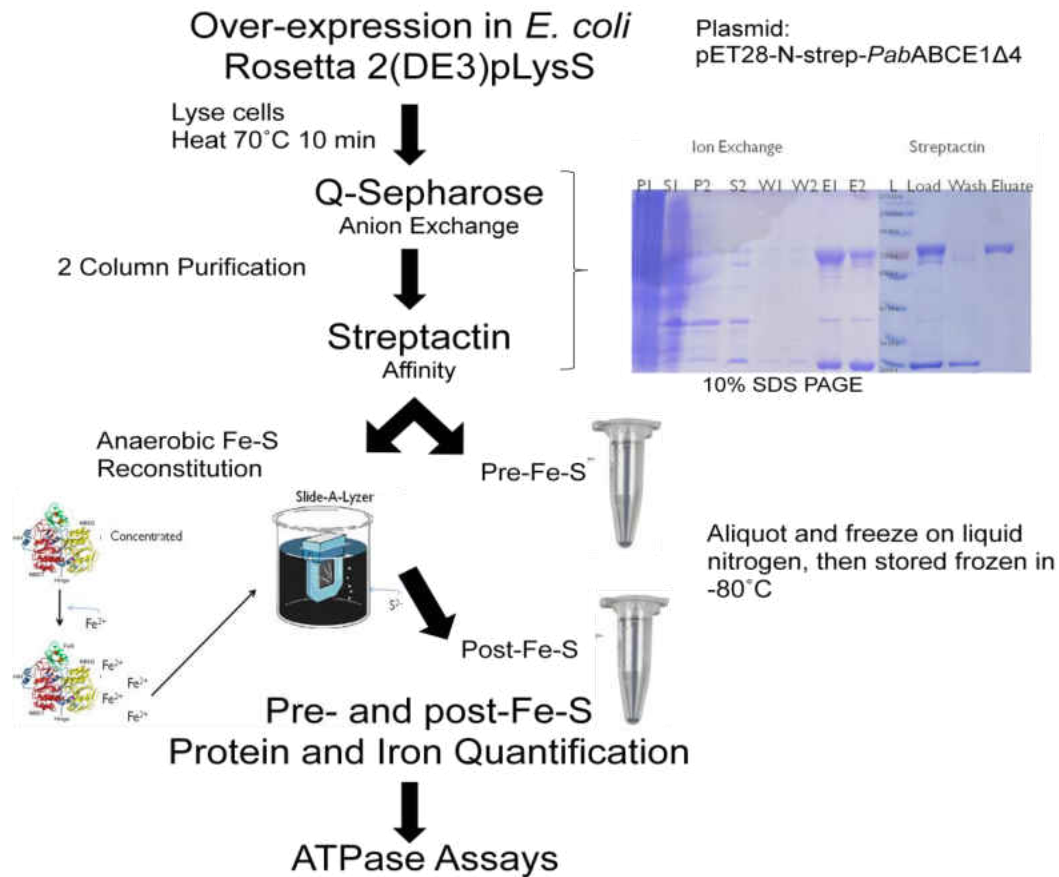
Recombinant protein was expressed in *E. coli*, Rosetta2 BL21(DE3)pLysS transformed with plasmid pET28-N-strep-*PabABCE1*Δ4 (gift from K.P. Hopfner). Briefly, cells were grown to an optical density of 0.8 followed by induction with 0.5 mM IPTG for 4 hours at 37 °C. Purification was performed as described [33] with one modification (Figure 11): Q-sepharose was used for ion exchange chromatography. Following Streptactin affinity chromatography, protein was concentrated to 35 μM using

a Vivaspin 20 concentrator (GE Healthcare). Protein concentration was determined by standard BCA assay with TCA precipitation of purified protein in order to remove reductants [85].

### Fe-S Reconstitution

The 'as purified' *PabABCE1*, designated the *apo-PabABCE1*, typically contained ~0.9 Fe per protein. The *holo-PabABCE1* was prepared by reconstituting the Fe-S cluster after purification. The Fe-S reconstitution procedure was conducted in an anaerobic glove box containing at least 5% H<sub>2</sub> and less than 1 ppm O<sub>2</sub>. The buffer for the concentrated protein was exchanged to 50 mM Tris, pH 8.0, 200 mM NaCl, 5 mM DTT simultaneously with the Fe-S cluster reconstitution by dialysis overnight at 4 °C. All buffers, protein, and other solutions were degassed and buffers were stored in the glove box for at least 6 hours prior to beginning Fe-S reconstitution. Dialysis was performed using a Slide-A-Lyzer MINI dialysis device, 10K MWCO (Thermo Scientific). FeCl<sub>2</sub> was added anaerobically to degassed protein (15:1 Fe:protein ratio) for 5 min prior to dialysis. The protein supplemented with Fe<sup>2+</sup> was placed into dialysis and equilibrated against 500 fold greater volume of buffer containing 20 μM sodium sulfide. Dialysis/Fe-S reconstitution proceeded overnight at 4 °C. The buffer was then thoroughly exchanged to dialysis buffer containing no sodium sulfide. The protein was then removed from dialysis and aliquots in crimp-sealed vials were prepared, frozen on liquid N<sub>2</sub>, and stored at -80 °C until ready for use. Concentration of bound iron was determined by a colorimetric assay [86] with an additional procedure of modifying DTT by incubating samples with 20 mM iodoacetamide at 37 °C for 1 hour, prior to the

colorimetric detection of Fe. The reconstituted *holo-PabABCE1* contained  $8.5 \pm 0.6$  Fe per protein.



**Figure 11. Purification and post purification Fe-S cluster reconstitution scheme**

### RNA Extraction and Purification

Total RNA was extracted from fresh cultures of *S. cerevisiae*. Yeast cells were disrupted using the BeadBeater (BioSpec) using 0.5 mm beads and shaking 2 min increments for a total of 20 min maintaining a temperature of 4 °C. Total RNA was

extracted and purified using Tri-Reagent (Ambion) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Total RNA was quantified using a UV spectrophotometer while its purity and quality was monitored by ensuring the 260:280 nm ratio was close to 2.0.

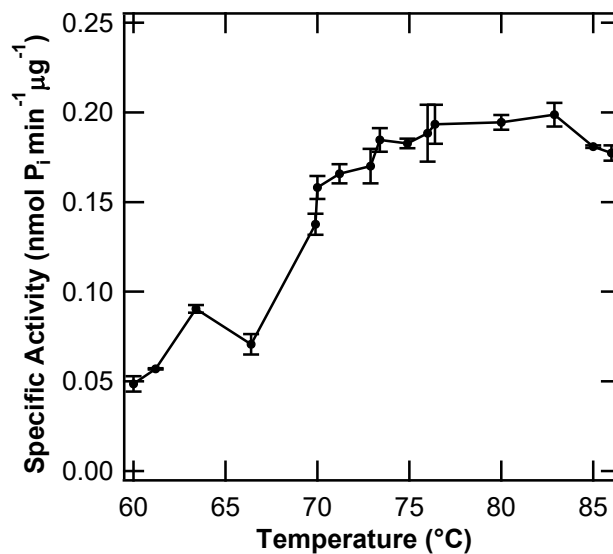
### ATPase Assays

ATPase assays for *PabABCE1* were performed at 70 °C for 30 min with 10 pmol *PabABCE1* in 100 mM MOPS, pH 7.5 in a total reaction volume of 200  $\mu$ L. Anaerobic and reducing conditions were achieved by first degassing all reagents and adding 5mM DTT in an anaerobic chamber for samples that contained *PabABCE1* with its Fe-S clusters (*holo-PabABCE1*). Magnesium, ADP, and ATP concentrations are indicated in figure legends for each experimental set. A micro-scale malachite green assay [87-89], with some modifications, was employed for determination of ATPase activity. Briefly, the reaction contained 0.11 mM malachite green, 0.74 N sulfuric acid, 0.31% (w/v) ammonium molybdate, and 0.018% (v/v) Tween-20 in a final volume of 300  $\mu$ L. Following ten minutes of incubation at room temperature,  $A_{630\text{nm}}$  measurements were achieved using an Infinite 200 PRO micro plate reader (Tecan). Background correction was achieved with care by performing the same reactions with increasing amounts of ATP with no enzyme present. A standard curve was generated and the amount of background phosphate generated from the corresponding amount of ATP was subtracted from the reactions with enzyme present. Typical measurements at 0.9 fold of  $V_{\text{max}}$  for a standard ATP titration were about 25 fold above the background.

## Results

### Temperature Dependence of *PabABCE1*

As *PabABCE1* originates from a hyperthermophile that thrives in elevated temperatures, the temperature dependence of its ATPase activity was investigated (Figure 12). Activity is very low below 60 °C, but activity increases with temperature above 65 °C, reaching a plateau around 80 °C. All work described hereafter was performed at 70 °C.



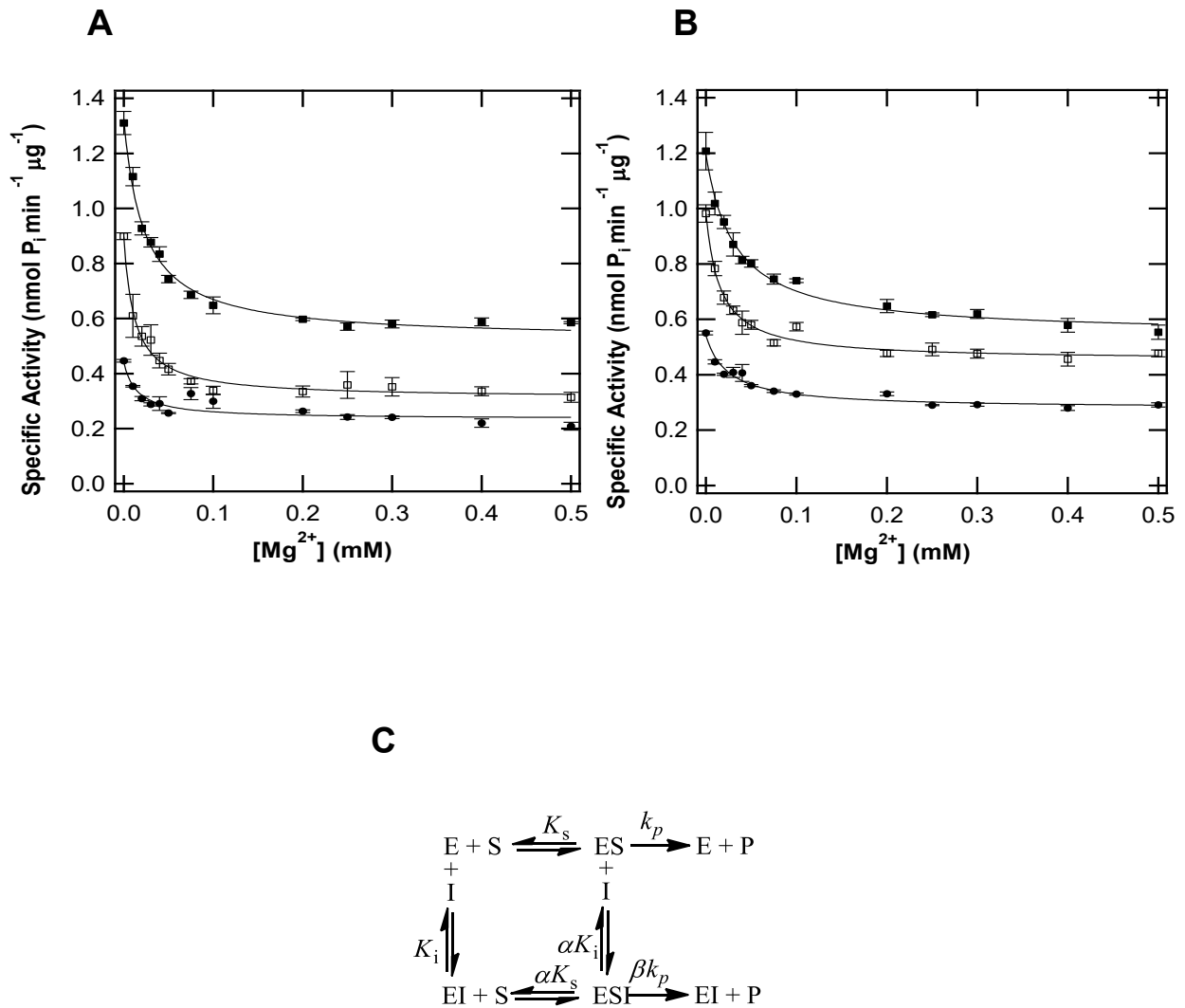
**Figure 12. Temperature dependence of *PabABCE1* ATPase activity.**

Specific activity of holo-*PabABCE1* was determined over a range of temperatures (60 °C - 85 °C) in the presence of 1.0 mM ATP and 1.0 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> for 1 hour.

### Mg<sup>2+</sup> Dependence of *PabABCE1* ATPase Activity

Most ATPases require Mg<sup>2+</sup> in the form of a Mg<sup>2+</sup>-ATP complex to counter the charge on the phosphoesters. This allows ATP to bind in the active site of an ATPase

and facilitate its subsequent hydrolysis. Toward the goal of fully characterizing the ATPase activity of *PabABCE1* and eventually understanding how it relates to ribosomal modification and function, the kinetics for ATPase activity of *PabABCE1* were characterized. Most ATPases have an optimal  $Mg^{2+}$  to ATP ratio, and determination of biochemical parameters for ATP are typically performed with a slight excess of  $Mg^{2+}$  where  $K_d \sim 10^{-5}$  M (p 247 in [90]) and thus nearly all the ATP in solution exists as MgATP. A preliminary determination of the optimal  $Mg^{2+}$  concentration was initially performed, and surprisingly an inhibitory sensitivity to  $Mg^{2+}$  was found. Two  $Mg^{2+}$  ions are observed (Figure 10AB) in the X-ray diffraction structure [33] of *PabABCE1*, but are in an odd location in the structure. The assignment of these observed electron densities as  $Mg^{2+}$  ions is often difficult to verify and their possible relevance to the apparent  $Mg^{2+}$  inhibition properties is difficult to interpret. Inhibition by  $Mg^{2+}$  for an ATPase is rare, but has been previously observed for other ATPases [91-96]. For these studies, both the as purified *apo*- form, without *in vitro* Fe-S cluster reconstitution, and the *holo*- form, loaded with full complement of Fe-S cluster by reconstitution after purification, were inspected. ATPase activity was determined with increasing  $[Mg^{2+}]$  ( $MgCl_2$ ) in the presence of 1.2, 0.4 and 0.12 mM ATP for both the *apo*- and *holo*-forms of *PabABCE1* (Figure 13AB). *PabABCE1* ATPase activity was the highest without any externally added  $Mg^{2+}$  and was apparently inhibited by  $Mg^{2+}$ , even at very low concentrations (10  $\mu$ M) of  $Mg^{2+}$ .



**Figure 13. Mg<sup>2+</sup> inhibition of *PabABCE1* ATPase activity.**

ATPase activity in the presence of increasing Mg<sup>2+</sup> concentrations (0-0.5 mM) for the *apo-PabABCE1* (A) and *holo-PabABCE1* (B). Specific activity was determined in the presence of 1.2 mM ATP (■), 0.4 mM ATP (□) and 0.12 mM ATP (●).

The inhibition appears to be non-linear and saturates at ~50-40% of non-inhibited activity without Mg<sup>2+</sup>. Also, the activity does not approach zero as it would if it were a classical simple inhibition system, as in the case of a pure competitive or pure non-

competitive inhibition. The data were fit to a function that describes partial competitive inhibition:

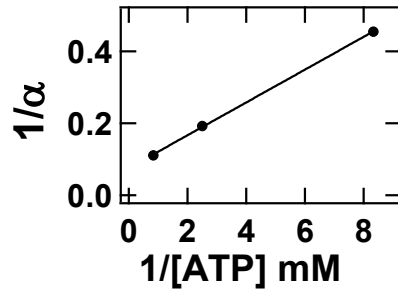
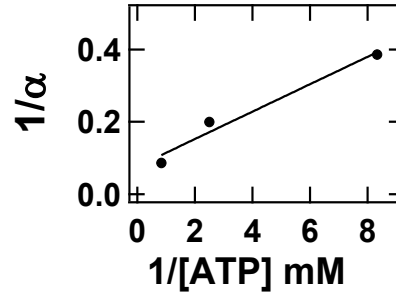
$$v = \frac{V_{\max}[S]}{K_s \frac{\left(1 + \frac{[I]}{K_i}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{[I]}{\alpha K_i}\right)} + [S]} \quad (2.1)$$

where [I] is the total added  $Mg^{2+}$  concentration and  $\alpha$  is a factor by which  $K_s$  changes when I (inhibitor), in this case  $Mg^{2+}$ , occupies the enzyme or similarly a factor by which  $K_i$  changes when S (substrate) occupies the enzyme. This function describes the rate for system shown in Figure 13C where  $\alpha > 1$  and  $\beta = 1$  (p 162 in [90]).

The data obtained without  $Mg^{2+}$  were initially fitted to a standard Michaelis-Menten equation to estimate  $V_{\max}$  and  $K_m$ . The data with increasing  $Mg^{2+}$  were fit to Eq. 2.1 by non-linear fitting both individually for each titration curve and also by global fitting (IGOR Pro, Wavemetrics). Similar values for  $V_{\max}$  and  $K_m$  were obtained, whether  $Mg^{2+}$  titrations were fit individually or globally (Table 1).

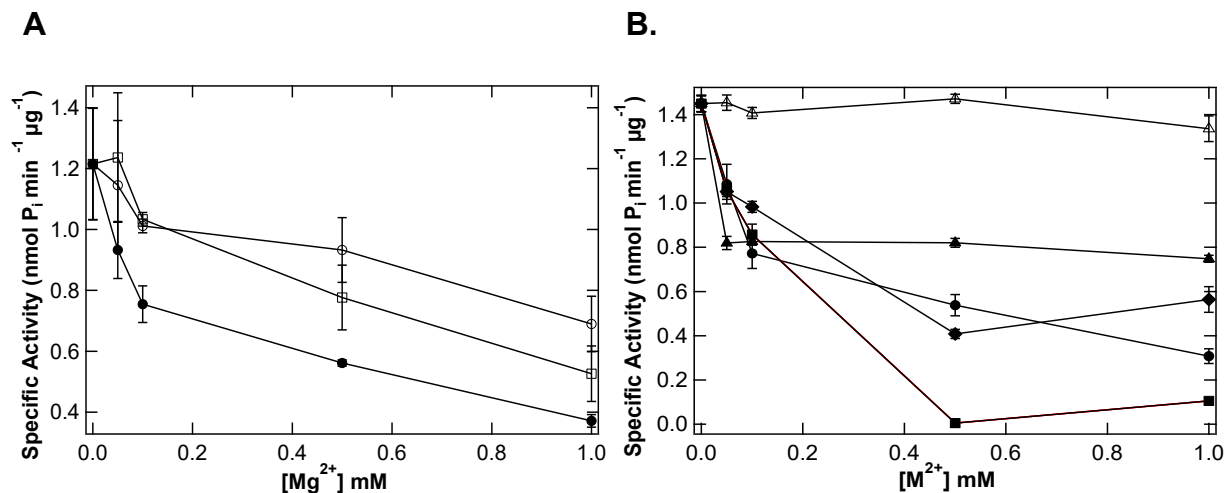
By a global fitting procedure, linking  $\alpha$  among the data does not yield satisfactory fits. Global fits where the values for  $\alpha$  were allowed to float yields satisfactory fits where the value for  $\alpha$  increases as [ATP] increased with a somewhat linear relationship between the inverse of  $\alpha$  and the inverse of [ATP] (Figure 14AB).



**A****B****Figure 14. Alpha factor increases linearly with [ATP]**

Data from Figure 13 were fitted to equation 1 globally while allowing the  $\alpha$  value to vary for *apo-PabABCE1* (A) and *holo-PabABCE1* (B).

$Mg^{2+}$  inhibition was investigated with both *apo*- and *holo*- forms of *PabABCE1* and found to be slightly different. The *apo-PabABCE1* exhibits higher  $V_{max}$  and  $K_m$ , and values of  $\alpha$  were larger at higher [ATP] for the *apo*-enzyme. This suggests a complex mechanism of regulation for this enzyme by both the status, *i.e.* the occupancy or oxidation state, of the Fe-S clusters, and effects of  $Mg^{2+}$ . To verify the inhibition assigned to  $Mg^{2+}$  and not  $Cl^-$ , ATPase assays were also performed with MgOAc and  $MgSO_4$  or other divalent metal chloride ions, and similar levels of inhibition were observed with corresponding concentrations (Figure 15AB).



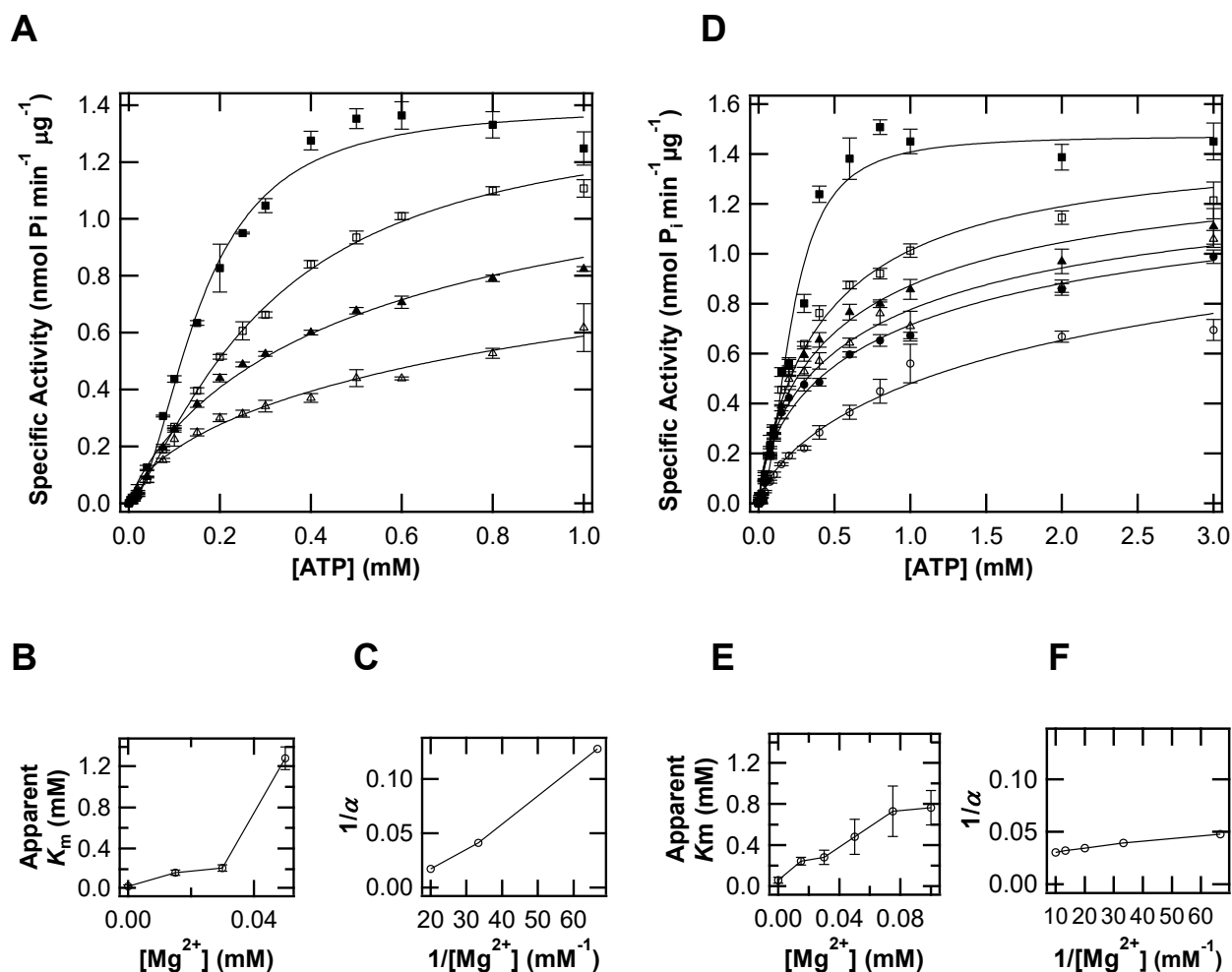
**Figure 15. Activity of *Holo-PabABCE1* in the presence of various anions or divalent metal ions**

ATPase activity in the presence of increasing Mg<sup>2+</sup> concentrations (0-1.0 mM) for MgSO<sub>4</sub> (□) and Mg (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>3</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) (○) (A) or various divalent metal chloride ions (B). FeCl<sub>2</sub> (■), MgCl<sub>2</sub> (●), MnCl<sub>2</sub>(◆), ZnCl<sub>2</sub>(▲), CaCl<sub>2</sub>(△).

#### Dependence of ATP Hydrolysis Parameters on Mg<sup>2+</sup>

Mg<sup>2+</sup> clearly has inhibitory effects on the ATPase activity of *PabABCE1*, which is peculiar for an ATPase. For the vast majority of ATPases, Mg<sup>2+</sup> typically affects the  $K_m$  of MgATP,  $V_{max}$  of ATP hydrolysis, or both. Biochemical parameters with respect to [ATP] were determined in the presence of varying Mg<sup>2+</sup> concentration for both the *apo*- and *holo-PabABCE1* (Figure 16AD). The rates for each individual data set at the various [Mg<sup>2+</sup>] concentrations were initially fit to the Hill form of the Michaelis-Menten equation and showed that  $V_{max}$  did not significantly change, but showed increasing apparent  $K_m$  values with increasing concentration of MgCl<sub>2</sub> (Figure 16BE). The data were also fit to the Hill form (*i.e.* [S] raised by  $n$  as [S] <sup>$n$</sup> ) of Eq. 2.1 by global fitting

methods. The data fit well, yielding global  $V_{max}$ ,  $K_m$  and  $K_i$  values that were comparable to those determined from the  $[Mg^{2+}]$  titrations (Table 1).



**Figure 16. ATP saturation kinetics of *PabABCE1* ATPase activity with varying  $[Mg^{2+}]$ .**

The effects of  $Mg^{2+}$  on the ATPase activity and affinity on *PabABCE1* were determined for by titration of ATP in the presence of increasing  $[Mg^{2+}]$ . ATPase activity vs  $[ATP]$  plotted for *apo-PabABCE1* (A) with No  $Mg^{2+}$  (■), 0.015 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  (□), 0.03 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  (▲), and 0.05 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  (Δ). ATPase activity vs  $[ATP]$  plotted for *holo-PabABCE1* (B) with no  $Mg^{2+}$  (■), 0.015 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  (□), 0.03 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  (▲), 0.05 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  (Δ), 0.075 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  (●), and 1.0 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  (○). Apparent  $K_m$  are plotted vs  $[Mg^{2+}]$  for *apo-* (B) and *holo-PabABCE1* (E). Plots of  $1/\alpha$  vs  $1/[Mg^{2+}]$  are shown for *apo-* (C) and *holo-PabABCE1* (F).

There appears to be a dependence of  $n$  with respect to  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$ . Interestingly, the Hill constant is near 2 in the absence of any added  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  for both the *apo*- and *holo*-enzymes and decreases to  $n = 0.6$  as  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$  is increased to 0.1 mM. This apparent cooperativity may be due to cooperative interaction between the two ATPase domains within the enzyme in the absence of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ . Addition of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  appears to disrupt this cooperativity. Also, for both forms of the enzyme in the absence of externally added  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ , some product inhibition appears to exist at ATP concentrations greater than  $\sim 0.5$  mM. Activity peaks at around 0.5 mM ATP and then has a slight decreasing trend toward higher concentrations. Such behavior is observed in some ATPases when there is insufficient  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  and the  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ : ATP ratio is below optimum. This suggests that ATP itself, not only MgATP, may be binding in an inhibitory fashion at high ATP concentrations and that, while  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  is inhibitory,  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  is definitely required. This point is further explored below.

**Table 1. Kinetic parameters for  $\text{Mg}^{+2}$  inhibition of *apo*- and *holo*-PabABCE1.**

	$V_{\max}$ (nmol $\text{P}_i$ $\text{min}^{-1}$ $\text{mg}^{-1}$ )	$K_m$ (mM)	$K_i$ ( $\mu\text{M}$ )
<b>Globally fitted from <i>apo</i>-PabABCE1</b>	1.71 $\pm$ 0.09	0.35 $\pm$ 0.05	7.2 $\pm$ 0.3
<b><math>\text{Mg}^{2+}</math> titrations<sup>a</sup> <i>holo</i>-PabABCE1</b>	1.34 $\pm$ 0.05	0.16 $\pm$ 0.02	6.9 $\pm$ 0.2
<b>Globally fitted from <i>apo</i>-PabABCE1</b>	1.39 $\pm$ 0.03	0.029 $\pm$ 0.007	0.7 $\pm$ 0.5
<b>ATP titration<sup>b</sup> <i>holo</i>-PabABCE1</b>	1.47 $\pm$ 0.05	0.047 $\pm$ 0.01	0.3 $\pm$ 0.1

<sup>a</sup>Kinetic constants were determined by global fitting using Eq. 2.1 applied to data in Figure 13.  $V_{\max}$ ,  $K_m$  and  $K_i$  were kept linked while  $\alpha$  was allowed to vary.

<sup>b</sup>Kinetic constants were determined by global fitting using Eq. 2.1 with  $[\text{S}]$  raised by  $n$  as  $[\text{S}]^n$  and applied to data in Figure 16.  $V_{\max}$ ,  $K_m$  and  $K_i$  were kept linked while  $n$  and  $\alpha$  were allowed to vary.

As was the case for the  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$  titrations shown in Figure 13, the ATP titration data could only be fit when  $\alpha$  was allowed to vary with  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$ . For both the apo- and holo- forms of PabABCE1, there is a linear relationship between the inverse of  $\alpha$  with the inverse of  $[\text{Mg}^{2+}]$ . A significant difference is observed when comparing the slopes for these replots between apo- and holo-PabABCE1 (Figure 16CF). The slope appears to be much steeper for the apo-PabABCE1 and thus indicates that the apo-PabABCE1 is more sensitive to  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  inhibition. This suggests the involvement of both Fe-S cluster status and  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  in a complex regulatory mechanism that is not currently understood for this enzyme.

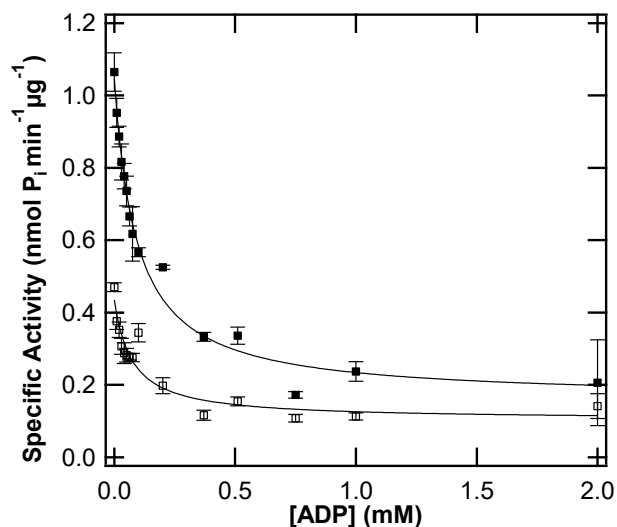
#### Effect of $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ on Product (ADP) Inhibition

A possible mechanism for the inhibitory effect of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  on this ATPase may be by exacerbating product inhibition. ADP is a product of ATP hydrolysis and often acts as an inhibitor for many ATPases [97]. The PabABCE1 may be extremely sensitive to product inhibition in conjunction with  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ . To probe the effect of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  on product inhibition, reactions of holo-PabABCE1 with constant concentration of ATP (0.3 mM) were titrated with ADP, with and without inhibitory concentrations of  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  (0.05 mM) (Figure 17). The ATPase activity in the presence of 50  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ , without ADP, was diminished by about 50% as expected. With increasing [ADP], PabABCE1 ATPase activity was inhibited in a hyperbolic fashion. However, in contrast to a standard simple inhibitor, the activities do not diminish to zero with increasing [ADP]. Attempts were made to fit the data to standard functions describing simple inhibition kinetics, but were not satisfactory. Since ADP often exhibits mixed inhibition behavior, the data were fit to

the following function describing hyperbolic mixed inhibition or a combination of partial competitive and partial non-competitive inhibition:

$$v = \frac{V_{\max}[S]^n}{\alpha K_s \frac{\left(1 + \frac{[I]}{K_i}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{\beta[I]}{\alpha K_i}\right)} + ([S]^n) \frac{\left(1 + \frac{[I]}{\alpha K_i}\right)}{\left(1 + \frac{\beta[I]}{\alpha K_i}\right)}} \quad (2.2)$$

where  $\alpha$  is a coefficient for  $K_s$  as in Eq 2.1,  $\beta$  is a coefficient on the rate constant  $k_p$  for product formation and  $[I]$  represents the inhibitor concentration of ADP in this case. This function represents the equilibrium model shown in Figure 13C where  $\alpha > 1$  and  $0 < \beta < 1$  (p 179 in [90]). Note that  $\alpha$  described here is with respect to ADP and is distinct from  $\alpha$  for  $Mg^{2+}$  inhibition in the previous section. Comparison of the kinetic constants derived from data sets with and without 50  $\mu M$   $MgCl_2$  shows minimal differences for apparent  $K_i$  for ADP (Table 2). While only limited interpretations should be made from fitting only the two curves in Figure 17, it does not appear that  $Mg^{2+}$  greatly affects the inhibition by ADP. The experiment does show that  $Mg^{2+}$  again decreases the rate by more than 50% and that ADP acts as a partial inhibitor, where  $\beta$  is about 0.17 both with and without  $Mg^{2+}$ , indicating that the rate constant for product formation is decreased to 17% with saturating ADP.

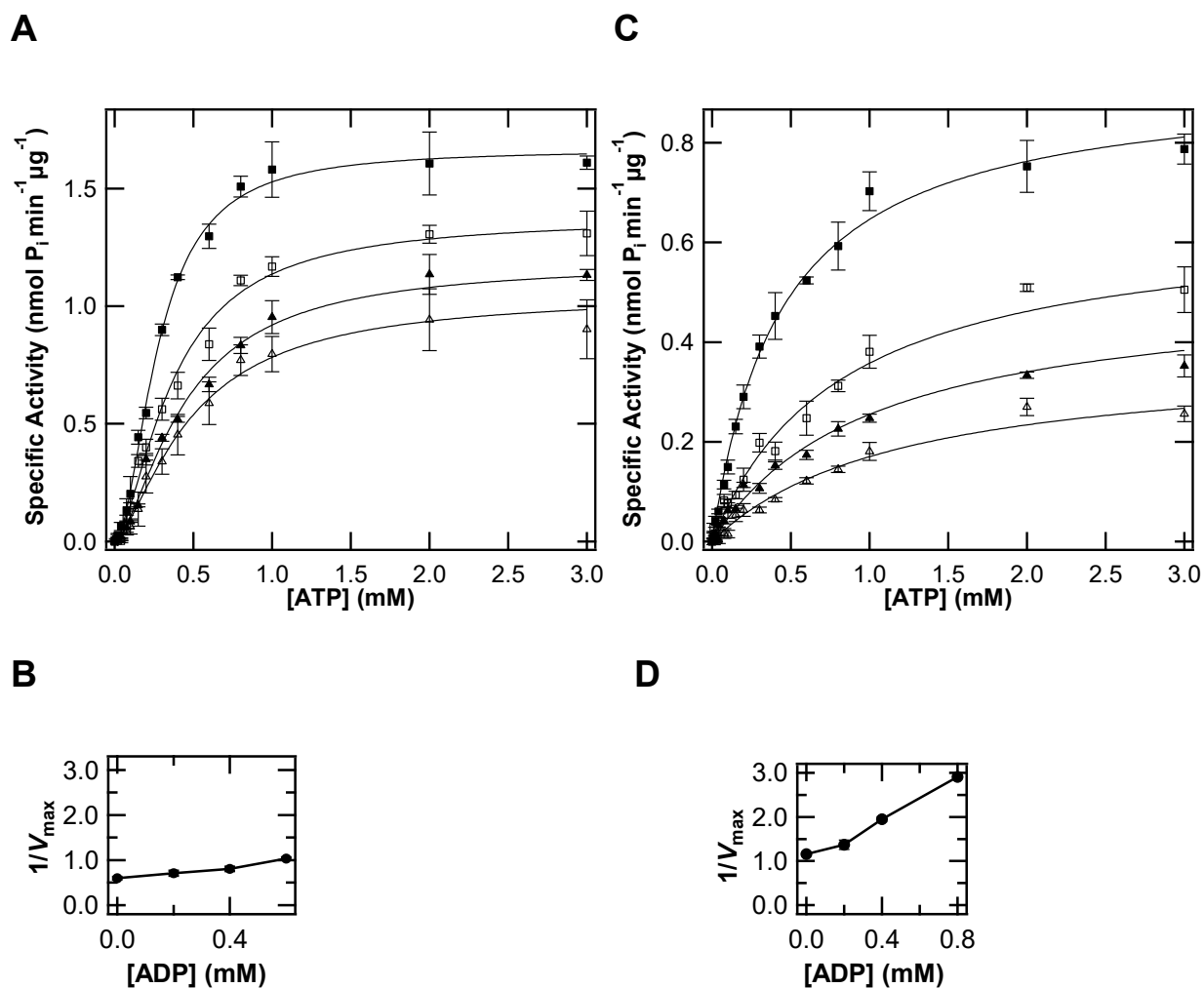


**Figure 17. Inhibition by ADP of *holo-PabABCE1* ATPase activity with and without 0.05 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup>.**

ATPase activity of *holo-PabABCE1* is plotted with 0.3 mM ATP and with increasing [ADP] (0-2.0 mM) in the presence of Mg<sup>2+</sup> (■) and 0.05 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> (□).

To further probe the effects of Mg<sup>2+</sup> on ADP inhibition of *PabABCE1*, ATP saturation kinetics were examined in the presence of varying ADP as an inhibitor, both with and without added 0.05 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> (Figure 18AC). Initially, the data were fit using standard Hill form of the Michaelis-Menten equation. Replots of the apparent  $V_{\max}$  in the presence of inhibitor ( $V_{\max_i}$ ) are somewhat linear, but not perfect (Figure 18BD). In the case of a classical intersecting, linear non-competitive inhibitor (mixed inhibition), replots of  $1/(V_{\max_i})$  versus [ADP] should be linear, but appear not to be. Attempts were also made to globally fit the data in Figure 18 A and C to functions for a classical mixed inhibitor, but these did not yield satisfactory fits. Given that titrations with ADP at fixed [ATP] do not diminish the ATPase activity to zero, Eq. 2.2 for hyperbolic mixed inhibitor was applied to the data sets in Figure 18A and C by global fitting methods, and

satisfactory fits were obtained. Kinetic constants obtained from this procedure are presented in Table 2.



**Figure 18. ATP saturation kinetics of *holo-PabABCE1* ATPase activity with varying ADP and Mg<sup>2+</sup>.**

The effects of ADP on the ATPase activity and affinity of *holo-PabABCE1* were determined. ATPase activity vs [ATP] is plotted for reactions without any added Mg<sup>2+</sup> (A) for no ADP (■), 0.2 mM ADP (□), 0.4 mM ADP (▲) and 0.6 mM ADP (△) or for reaction containing 0.05 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> (C) for No ADP (■), 0.2 mM ADP (□), 0.4 mM ADP (▲) and 0.8 mM ADP (△). Replots of 1/V<sub>max</sub> vs [ADP] are shown for without added Mg (B) and with 0.05 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> (D).



The value of  $V_{\max}$  in the presence of  $Mg^{2+}$  decreased by about ~50%, as shown above. The  $K_m$  increased in the presence of  $Mg^{2+}$  by ~3 fold from 90  $\mu M$  to 320  $\mu M$ . The addition of  $Mg^{2+}$  only minimally affected the  $K_i$  for ADP, changing from 100  $\mu M$  to 75  $\mu M$ . Even the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  parameters with ADP as the inhibitor for conditions with and without  $Mg^{2+}$  did not change. As seen before for the ATP titrations with varying  $Mg^{2+}$  (Figure 16), the most conspicuous change that occurred with the presence of  $Mg^{2+}$  was that it abolished apparent cooperativity where  $n$  changes from ~2 to ~1 for all concentrations of ADP. These data taken together suggest that inhibitory effect upon addition of  $Mg^{2+}$  was not due to modulation of product inhibition through MgADP.

**Table 2. Kinetic parameters for ADP inhibition of *holo-PabABCE1* with and without 0.05 mM  $MgCl_2$ .**

	$Mg^{2+}$ (mM)	$V_{\max}$ (nmol $P_i$ $min^{-1} mg^{-1}$ )	$K_m$ (mM)	$K_i$ (mM)	$\alpha$	$\beta$
<b>Globally fitted ADP titrations<sup>a</sup></b>	0.00	1.56±0.02	0.15±0.02	0.07±0.01	1.3±0.1	0.17±0.01
	0.05	0.68±0.02	0.17±0.02	0.36±0.02	0.13±0.02	0.17±0.01
<b>Globally fitted ATP titrations with varying ADP</b>	0.00	1.67±0.02	0.090±0.002	0.102±0.002	7.4±0.4	0.17±0.02
	0.05	0.87±0.01	0.32±0.01	0.074±0.001	7.4±0.7	0.14±0.02

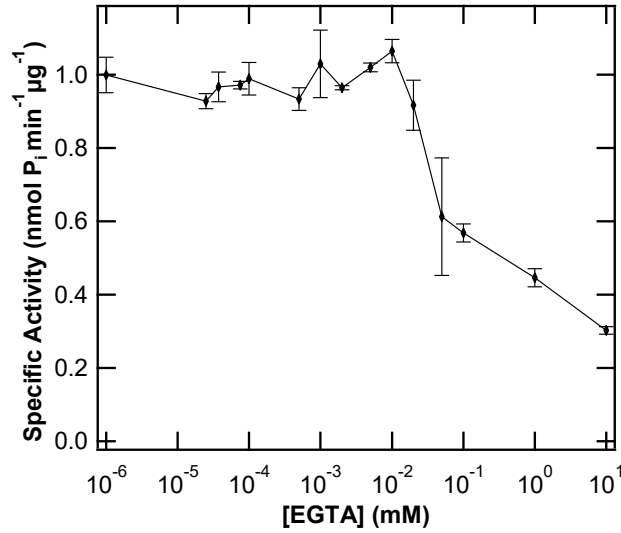
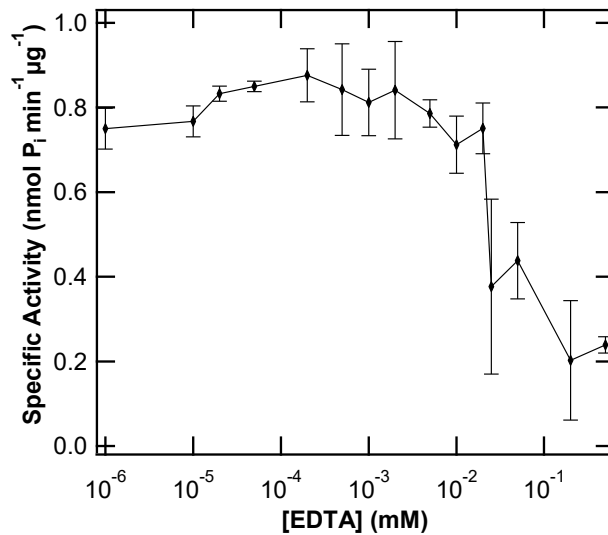
<sup>a</sup>Kinetic constants were determined by global fitting using Eq. 2.2 applied to data in Figure 17.  $V_{\max}$ ,  $K_m$  and  $K_i$   $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  were kept linked while  $n$  was allowed to vary.

<sup>b</sup>Kinetic constants were determined by global fitting using Eq. 2.2 applied to data in Figure 18.  $V_{\max}$ ,  $K_m$  and  $K_i$   $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  were kept linked while  $n$  was allowed to vary.

### Divalent Metal Chelators, EDTA and EGTA, Affect Activity of PabABCE1

The apparent ATPase activity by *PabABCE1* without externally added  $Mg^{2+}$  and its inhibition with added  $Mg^{2+}$  raises the following question: does ATP hydrolysis by this

enzyme occurs without any  $Mg^{2+}$ ? Alternatively, does *PabABCE1* indeed require  $Mg^{2+}$  as a cofactor, and could there be  $Mg^{2+}$  associated with the as-prepared form of *PabABCE1*? This was evaluated by adding EDTA or EGTA to chelate the  $Mg^{2+}$ , presumably bound to the enzyme, and thus inhibiting the ATPase activity. The addition of EDTA or EGTA to ATPase reactions with 0.3 mM ATP, but no added  $Mg^{2+}$ , resulted in a decrease in activity (Figure 19AB). For both EDTA and EGTA, approximately 20  $\mu$ M was sufficient to decrease ATPase activity. This observation suggests that  $Mg^{2+}$  is likely required for ATP hydrolysis, and that the as-purified form of *PabABCE1* probably has some  $Mg^{2+}$  bound with high affinity.

**A****B**

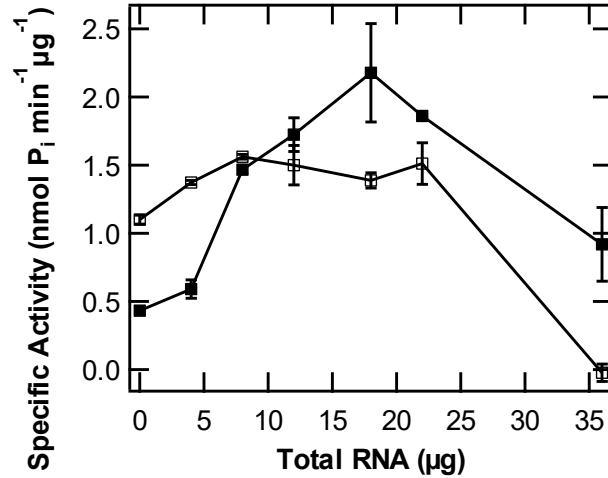
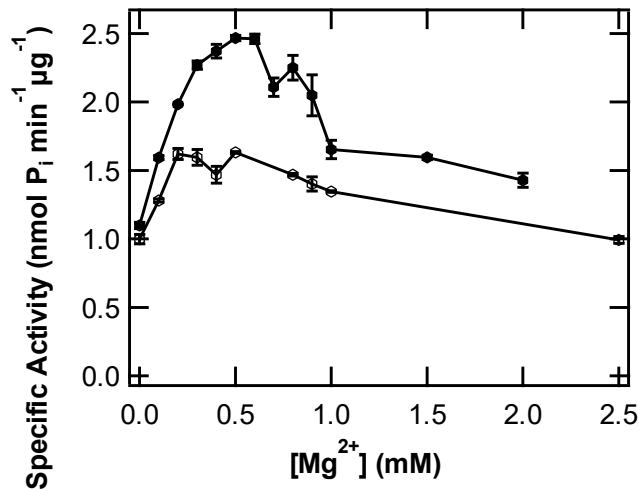
**Figure 19. Mg<sup>2+</sup> bound to *PabABCE1* shown by inhibition of ATPase activity with EDTA or EGTA.**

The effect divalent metal chelators on the ATPase activity of *PabABCE1* were observed with increasing concentrations of EDTA (0-0.5 mM) (A) or EGTA (0-10 mM) (B) in the presence of 0.3 mM ATP and without any added Mg<sup>2+</sup>.

### Effect of Total RNA on Mg<sup>2+</sup> Inhibition

ABCE1 has been shown to be associated with both polysomes and immature nascent ribosomes. ABCE1 has been shown to be functionally essential for both ribosome biogenesis and ribosome recycling [49, 50, 98]. Thus ABCE1 interacts with ribosomes in some sort of intimate way and possibly remodels RNA-RNA or RNA-protein interactions, most likely in an MgATP dependent way. Structural and biochemical analysis of RNA and ribosome structures have shown well the importance of Mg<sup>2+</sup> in stabilizing structure [99, 100] and also the possible movement of Mg<sup>2+</sup> upon ribosomal structural changes [101]. Therefore, RNA could have some effect, through Mg<sup>2+</sup>, to modulate the ATPase activity of *PabABCE1*. For the ABCE1 from *S. solfataricus*, addition of ribosomes has been shown to stimulate ATPase activity [34]. Total RNA from yeast, containing 80-85% rRNA [83], was added to *PabABCE1* ATPase reactions to observe possible effects (Figure 20A). Indeed, addition of RNA did have significant effects. Addition of total RNA from *S. cerevisiae* to *PabABCE1* without added Mg<sup>2+</sup> moderately increased ATPase activity by roughly 1.5 fold. The activity increased up to 20 µg of added total RNA, and then decreased with higher amounts of RNA. Inclusion of 0.5 mM total Mg<sup>2+</sup> to ABCE1 inhibited its ATPase activity by more than 50% as observed above. Interestingly, addition of total RNA to the Mg<sup>2+</sup> inhibited reaction increased the ATPase activity by ~4 fold from the Mg<sup>2+</sup> inhibited activity. While, the binding of *PabABCE1* to the *S. cerevisiae* rRNA, contained in the total RNA, may not be a specific interaction and the high temperature may result in the disruption of rRNA secondary structure, the fact that Mg<sup>2+</sup> inhibition diminishes is highly significant.

To further confirm the apparent reversal of the  $Mg^{2+}$  inhibition of *PabABCE1* ATPase activity by addition of RNA,  $Mg^{2+}$  was titrated in the presence of two fixed concentrations of RNA (Figure 20B). In contrast to the  $Mg^{2+}$  titration experiment in Figure 13, addition of  $Mg^{2+}$  in the presence of 10 or 20  $\mu g$  of RNA stimulated the ATPase activity of *PabABCE1*. The ATPase activity increased as  $[Mg^{2+}]$  neared the presumed physiological conditions and then declined at much higher concentrations. The addition of 20  $\mu g$  RNA had a greater activating effect than 10  $\mu g$  and maximum activation with respect to  $Mg^{2+}$  required about double the concentration of  $Mg^{2+}$ . This experiment utilized 0.3 mM ATP and maximal activity required between 0.3 to 0.6 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  giving a ratio of 1:1-1:2 between ATP and  $Mg^{2+}$ , which is very common for ATPases.

**A****B**

**Figure 20. Total RNA activates *PabABCE1* ATP hydrolysis in the presence of inhibitory concentrations of Mg<sup>2+</sup>.**

The affect of total RNA on the inhibition of *PabABCE1* by Mg<sup>2+</sup> was observed by (A) determining the specific activity in the absence (□) or presence (◆) on 0.5 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> and 0.3 mM ATP while increasing the amount of total RNA from 0-35 µg and (B) determining the specific activity in the presence of constant (◇) 10 µg or (◆) 20 µg total RNA and 0.3 mM ATP while increasing the amount of Mg<sup>2+</sup> from 0-2.0 or 2.5 mM.

The exact mechanism for interaction between the RNA,  $Mg^{2+}$  and *PabABCE1* may be complex. An interpretation could be made that the RNA is simply acting as a “sponge” for  $Mg^{2+}$ . RNA can definitely bind  $Mg^{2+}$  and may possibly counteract the inhibitory effects of  $Mg^{2+}$ , but that would not necessarily explain activation of the ATPase activity. The exact biochemical or molecular mechanism for RNA to reverse the inhibitory effects of  $Mg^{2+}$  is not possible to interpret from the experiments here. While this investigation used total RNA from *S. cerevisiae*, ribosomes contained in the total RNA are likely to be involved in this effect. However, the data seem to clearly indicate that both  $Mg^{2+}$  and some form of RNA positively affect the ATPase activity of *PabABCE1*.

### Discussion

ABCE1 is an essential protein found in eukaryotic and archaeal organisms that is essential for ribosome biogenesis and ribosome recycling. While recent studies [32, 34, 49, 50, 77, 80] highlight the crucial role of this protein in critical cellular processes, very little is known at the biochemical mechanistic level. Key questions to be answered in the future are 1) how does it interact with ribosomes and what exactly are the transformations that it enacts on ribosomes, 2) what is the role of the Fe-S clusters, and 3) how is the energy from ATP utilized? Toward the goal of elucidating some of these unknowns, this study sought to characterize the ATP hydrolysis activity of *PabABCE1*.

## Mg<sup>2+</sup> Inhibition of the *Pab*ABCE1 and Other ATPases

Somewhat unexpectedly, the experiments described in this work clearly show that Mg<sup>2+</sup> apparently inhibits the ATP hydrolysis activity of ABCE1 from *P. abyssi*. We do not know if Mg<sup>2+</sup> is involved in regulation of ABCE1 enzymes from other organisms. Such inhibition by Mg<sup>2+</sup> is definitely unusual for an ATPase, but is not without precedent. For instance, the activity of human GCH I, an enzyme that regulates cellular levels of tetrahydrobiopterin, is inhibited by Mg<sup>2+</sup> due to the decrease in Mg<sup>2+</sup>-free GTP [102]. Also, the ATPase activity of CASK, Ca<sup>2+</sup>/calmodulin-activated Ser-Thr kinase, has been shown to function in an Mg<sup>2+</sup> independent manner [96]. The ATPase activity of chloroplast coupling factor 1 has complex Mg<sup>2+</sup> inhibition properties at physiologically relevant concentrations of free Mg<sup>2+</sup> [93]. Some ATPases are very sensitive to Mg<sup>2+</sup> mediated product inhibition where Mg<sup>2+</sup>-ADP binds tightly to such systems as the F<sub>0</sub>F<sub>1</sub> ATPase [103-105] or the hRAD51, an enzyme involved in homologous recombination [94, 106]. Such inhibition has been termed ADP-induced Mg<sup>2+</sup>-dependent inhibition [91, 107-109] where it is likely to be caused by tight binding and slow release of Mg<sup>2+</sup>-ADP once Pi leaves or the binding of a triple complex of Mg<sup>2+</sup>-ADP-Pi at the catalytic site [92, 97]. All these examples show the importance of Mg<sup>2+</sup> having a role in the regulation of enzyme activity.

The data presented here show that *Pab*ABCE1 is evidently inhibited by Mg<sup>2+</sup>. The Mg<sup>2+</sup> inhibition did not occur at high concentration, but at physiologically relevant low to mid μM-concentrations of Mg<sup>2+</sup>. The addition of increasing [Mg<sup>2+</sup>] decreased the ATPase activity in a saturating fashion, but did not decrease to the limit of no activity as



it would in the case of classical simple inhibition (Figure 13AB). Analysis of the kinetics for ATP hydrolysis, in the presence of varying  $Mg^{2+}$ , shows characteristics of complex partial inhibition. The data sets for both Figure 13 and Figure 16 fit well to a function that models partial competitive inhibition [90], where the  $V_{max}$  does not change but the apparent  $K_m$  increases in the presence of inhibitor. This is demonstrated by the significant increase in  $K_m$ , where  $Mg^{2+}$  seems to adversely affect the affinity for ATP by *PabABCE1*. The  $\alpha$  values for this fitting cannot be held constant, but vary linearly between  $1/\alpha$  and  $1/[Mg^{2+}]$  (Figure 16CF), which may correlate to an additional equilibrium involving  $Mg^{2+}$ , perhaps in an allosteric fashion to affect the  $K_m$  towards ATP. Magnesium(II) may bind elsewhere on the protein to alter its conformation and shift the enzyme to a state with low affinity toward ATP. For the *apo-PabABCE1*, the apparent  $K_m$  for ATP increases from  $\sim 30 \mu M$  to 1.2 mM with the addition of only  $50 \mu M$   $Mg^{2+}$ , a concentration that is significantly lower than physiological conditions. This effectively alters the *apo-PabABCE1* ATPase activity from essentially not being dependent on the cellular energy charge in the absence of  $Mg^{2+}$  to being modulated by cellular energy charge ( $\phi$ ) where intracellular ATP concentrations fluctuate dependent on cellular conditions and metabolism [110].

As noted above, several ATPases have apparent  $Mg^{2+}$  inhibition through tight MgADP product binding. ADP product inhibition is typical for most ATPases, and was further examined here with the *PabABCE1* in relation to  $Mg^{2+}$ . Addition of increasing [ADP] decreases activity in a saturating way to about 15-18%, with or without added  $Mg^{2+}$ . Kinetic analysis of ATPase activity with varying [ADP] and contrasting between

no externally added  $Mg^{2+}$  and with 0.05 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  shows that  $Mg^{2+}$ -dependent inhibition is not due to MgADP. Global fitting of the ADP inhibition data (Figure 17) to a model for complex hyperbolic mixed inhibition [90] shows only a small decrease in  $K_i$  for ADP from  $\sim 100 \mu M$  to  $\sim 75 \mu M$ , but indicates a significantly altered  $K_m$  by 3.5 fold (not the apparent  $K_m$  with respect to added ADP) with addition of  $Mg^{2+}$ . The values for the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  parameters for ADP inhibition determined by global fitting analysis are reasonable with  $\alpha$  indicating effectively a decreased apparent affinity toward ATP and  $\beta$  indicating an effective decrease in apparent catalytic rate constant. Importantly here with respect to  $Mg^{2+}$ , the  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  values determined from both data sets, with and without added  $Mg^{2+}$ , are essentially the same. These data, taken together, show that the  $Mg^{2+}$ -dependent inhibition of *PabABCE1* ATPase activity is independent of ADP inhibition.

Magnesium(II) ion also appears to alter the cooperativity with respect to [ATP] on *PabABCE1*. The Hill coefficient is near  $n = 2$  without added  $Mg^{2+}$ , but decreases to around  $n = 1$  when  $Mg^{2+}$  is added. Interestingly, there is a difference between the ATP-bound and the  $Mg^{2+}$ -ATP bound X-ray structures of the *E. coli* HlyB [21], haemolysin B, a different ABC protein, where there are twice as many water contacts in the ATP-bound form as there are in the  $Mg^{2+}$ -ATP-bound structure. Additionally, asymmetry between the two NBDs was discovered in the presence of  $Mg^{2+}$  in the HlyB ABC protein. The full mechanism of where  $Mg^{2+}$  may bind and how it inhibits the *PabABCE1* cannot be fully elucidated from this study and needs further investigation.

## Mg<sup>2+</sup> and Fe-S Cluster Status as Possible Component of *PabABCE1* Regulation and Impact on Translation

Magnesium(II) ions are obviously important for growth and regulation of metabolism. More specifically, intracellular Mg<sup>2+</sup> concentrations have an effect on protein synthesis [111]. The importance of Mg<sup>2+</sup> for ribosomal structural integrity and its role in stabilizing, and possibly regulating, ribosomal RNA-RNA and RNA-protein interactions is well appreciated [99, 100, 112-114].

Addition of total RNA (from *S. cerevisiae*) appears to reverse the Mg<sup>2+</sup> to an apparent activator of ATP hydrolysis. This result is fitting with a model where the *PabABCE1* ATPase activity is inhibited at cellular [Mg<sup>2+</sup>], but is ready to encounter a ribosome to enact its full activity. Such a model warrants further experiments that are beyond the scope of the current work. Furthermore, current experiments do not show if this would be a general model for all ABCE1 or possibly only specific to *P. abyssi*. In relation specifically to ABCE1 and ribosome recycling in eukaryotes, Mg<sup>2+</sup> concentration does affect dissociation of ribosomal subunits at post-termination where 1.0 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> is permissible, but 2.5 mM Mg<sup>2+</sup> and higher is inhibitory [98].

This study suggests complex and somewhat opposing dual roles for Mg<sup>2+</sup> in the mechanism of the *PabABCE1*, which may be very appropriate for an enzyme that interacts intimately with ribosomes. First, Mg<sup>2+</sup> may bind somewhere other than the MgATP sites to allosterically alter the affinity and cooperativity of MgATP binding. Second, as shown by the EDTA chelation experiment (Figure 19) and by the slight ATP substrate inhibition in the absence of added Mg<sup>2+</sup>, Mg<sup>2+</sup> is required for ATPase activity,

likely in the form of MgATP. The apparent tight binding of  $Mg^{2+}$  and the apparent inhibition at cellular concentrations of  $Mg^{2+}$  may be part of a regulatory mechanism for the *PabABCE1* where needless and deleterious ATP hydrolysis is inhibited in the absence of ribosomes. These results correlate with a model where the *PabABCE1* ATPase activity is inhibited at cellular  $[Mg^{2+}]$ , but is ready to encounter a ribosome to enact its full activity. RNA and ribosomes are well known to chelate  $Mg^{2+}$  and binding to a ribosome may remove the bound  $Mg^{2+}$  and alleviate the inhibition. Such a model warrants further experiments that are beyond the scope of the current work. Furthermore, current experiments do not show if this would be a general model for all ABCE1 or possibly only specific to *P. abyssi*. In relation, specifically to ABCE1 and ribosome function in eukaryotes,  $Mg^{2+}$  concentration does affect dissociation of ribosomal subunits at post-termination where 1.0 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  is permissible, but 2.5 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  and higher has been observed to be inhibitory [98].

An aspect of ABCE1 that has been rather elusive to define is the role of the Fe-S clusters. The inhibition by  $Mg^{2+}$  was probed with both the holo- and Fe-S cluster deficient *apo-PabABCE1*. The  $K_i$  values for  $Mg^{2+}$  determined from global fitting of data in Figure 16 showed a 4-fold increase of the apparent  $K_m$  for ATP between the *apo*- and *holo*-forms. Furthermore, the slope for plots of  $1/\alpha$  vs.  $1/[Mg^{2+}]$  is steeper (Figure 16CF) for the *apo*- form. This indicates that the *apo-PabABCE1* without its full complement of Fe-S clusters is more sensitive to  $Mg^{2+}$  inhibition and would be more sensitive to overall energy charge. This observed modality for inhibition through  $Mg^{2+}$  may be a possible mechanism for regulation of ABCE1 by Fe-S cluster status. A purely structural role for

the Fe-S clusters has been made [34], suggesting that the *apo*- form may just degrade. Studies in yeast clearly show that the *in vivo apo*-ABCE1, produced by inhibiting the Fe-S cluster assembly machinery, does exist both in the nucleolus, bound to immature ribosomes, and in the cytoplasm, bound to stalled polysomes [49]. This may be a basis for regulation of translation with respect to oxidative stress. Recent studies have shown that oxidative stress globally inhibits translation [115, 116]. Previous studies on the *S. solfataricus* ABCE1 by Barthelme *et al.* suggests that its ATPase activity is not affected by mutations of the Fe-S cluster ligands, but do show that ribosome binding is negatively affected by deletion of the Fe-S cluster domain [34]. The *S. solfataricus* ABCE1 may not be affected by  $Mg^{2+}$  as the *Pab*ABCE1 or strict anaerobic conditions may not have been maintained where a difference could have been observed. Clearly, more biochemical studies are necessary to truly understand the role(s) of the Fe-S clusters on ABCE1.

Ribosomal modification in either the context of ribosome biogenesis or translation is an extremely complex series of events. This work shows the somewhat unusual  $Mg^{2+}$  inhibition of the ATPase activity of *Pab*ABCE1. This inhibition by  $Mg^{2+}$  is not through modulation of MgADP product inhibition. The degree of inhibition by  $Mg^{2+}$  appears to be different between the *apo*- and *holo*- forms of *Pab*ABCE1. The work taken together supports a model where *Pab*ABCE1 is jointly regulated by  $Mg^{2+}$ , Fe-S cluster status, and the likely binding of ribosomes.

A model can be envisioned where resting ABCE1 bound with  $Mg^{2+}$  is allosterically inhibited. Binding to active ribosomes, ABCE1, with associated release

factors, performs mechanical work upon ATP hydrolysis, resulting in rearrangement of ribosome, where  $Mg^{2+}$  could be moved to a different site upon structural changes of the ribosome.

## CHAPTER 3: ABCE1 IRON-SULFUR CLUSTERS ARE SENSITIVE TO REACTIVE OXYGEN SPECIES RESULTING IN GROWTH INHIBITION IN *SACCHAROMYCES CEREVISIAE*

### Introduction

Exposure to oxidative stress is a common drawback to all known aerobically respiring organisms [117]. Oxidative stress is most generally caused from the full or partial reduction of oxygen ( $O_2$ ), forming an endogenous reactive oxygen species (ROS), such as superoxide ( $O_2^{\bullet-}$ ), hydroxyl radical ( $\bullet OH$ ), hydroxide ion ( $OH^-$ ) and hydrogen peroxide ( $H_2O_2$ ) [118]. Additionally, environmental exposure to oxidants, such as ionizing radiation or heavy metals, can also form ROS. Reactive oxygen species are a normal consequence of aerobic metabolism. Therefore, cells have evolved several different antioxidant mechanisms for limiting oxidative stress and damage to macromolecules [117-121]. Oxidative stress occurs when the buildup of ROS overwhelms the cells' natural defense systems that are evolved to fight against oxidative effects.

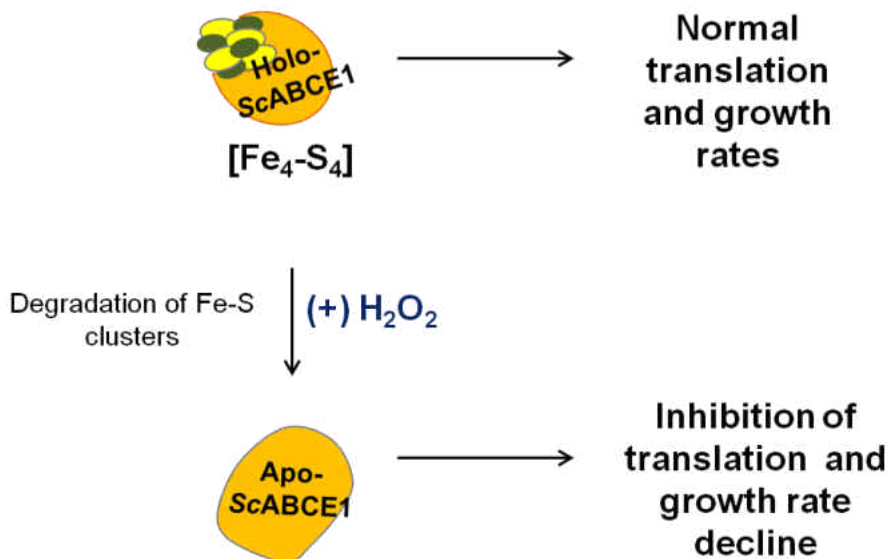
Oxidative stress defense mechanisms can consist of enzymatic and non-enzymatic systems that are either constitutively present or induced during an adaptive response [117]. Non-enzymatic defense involves antioxidants such as glutathione, thioredoxin, and glutaredoxin [40, 122, 123]. There are several enzymatic antioxidants including catalase, superoxide dismutase, glutathione reductase and peroxidase, as well as thioredoxin reductase [117, 124, 125]. All of these systems work together to maintain the redox state of the cell.

Oxidative stress can result in damage to proteins, DNA, RNA, and lipids as well as the disruption of cellular signalling cascades. Direct oxidation to proteins can result in protein disfunction, degradation, or aggregation [126]. This can have a direct effect on translation, especially if the target is a protein or other component of the translation apparatus. A reversible inhibition of protein synthesis due to ROS has been demonstrated [115, 119]. Cells treated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> resulted in the phosphorylation of eIF2 $\alpha$  by Gcn2 kinase, which inhibits translation initiation [12]. Interestingly in the same study, a slower rate of ribosomal runoff in polysome analysis following H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treatment was demonstrated, suggesting inhibition of translation downstream of initiation, at elongation and termination. While the inhibition of translation is a clear result of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced oxidative stress, the precise target of oxidation by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and the mechanism of inactivation is still unknown.

The direct target of oxidation could be the translation complex or it may be a specific components involved in the translation cycle [121, 127]. Some proteins are more sensitive to ROS induced oxidative stress, especially those that contain oxygen sensitive Fe-S clusters. Proteins containing Fe-S clusters can serve as a target or a source of further oxidative damage [128]. As a target of ROS, Fe-S clusters could be converted, by superoxide, to an unstable oxidized state where it loses an Fe<sup>2+</sup> which also produces H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Hydrogen peroxide can react with ferrous iron released during Fe-S degradation, generating a hydroxyl radical in the Fenton reaction, eventually resulting in a chain reaction that forms more ROS species resulting in systemic oxidative stress [118].



ABCE1 could be at the interface between Fe-S biogenesis, protein synthesis, and oxidative stress. In yeast, a defect in the core ISC machinery in the mitochondria due to depletion of yfh1 (frataxin), results in reduced incorporation of  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  into ABCE1 [129] and increased sensitivity to oxidative stress. Since ABCE1 functions in such vital cellular processes as ribosome biogenesis, translation initiation, and ribosome recycling, ABCE1 is central to cell growth and survival [34, 49, 50, 76, 82, 130, 131]. The dependence of ABCE1 function on the status of its Fe-S clusters and their essential nature suggests ABCE1 as a likely target for oxidative damage by ROS. This study aims to address whether excess ROS exposure to cells could have an effect on Fe-S clusters of ScABCE1, a cytosolic Fe-S protein, and also whether the effect correlates with the growth inhibition expected when translation is inhibited (Figure 21).



**Figure 21. Model depicting the effect of exposure to to excess  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  on ABCE1 Fe-S clusters**

## Materials and Methods

### Recombinant Expression of ABCE1 in *S. cerevisiae*

The diploid *S. cerevisiae* strain, Y258 (MATa pep4-3, his4-580, ura3-53, leu2-3,112), transformed with BG1805-ScABCE1-His6-HA-ZZ was used for all experiments (Open Biosystems). The BG1805-ScABCE1-His6-HA-ZZ vector provides expression of ScABCE1 with an HA fusion tag on the C-terminus, of under the control of the GAL1 promotor. In all experiments, cells were originally grown in SC medium lacking uracil and containing 2% raffinose with or without 2% galactose unless otherwise noted. Briefly, cells were either induced by the addition of 2% galactose or un-induced for 24 hours. The cells were then pelleted centrifugation (2,000 X g, 5 min) and lysed using the bead-beating method. Cell lysate was then subjected to SDS-PAGE, the proteins were transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane and probed with either mouse anti-HA primary antibody (1:5,000) (Covance, MMS-101P) or mouse anti-actin (1:500) (Abcam, ab8224) primary antibody. Colorimetric detection was performed subsequent to the incubation of the membranes with a alkaline phosphatase (AP)-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG secondary antibody.

### Treatment of Cells with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

Cells were subjected to oxidative stress by the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (0-20 mM) to the culture media once they reached an optical density of ~1.4. This was followed by a 30 min incubation (unless otherwise noted) at 30 °C and shaking (180 RPM). Samples at the indicated H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration and time intervals were analyzed by pelleting cells by

by centrifugation (2000 x g, 8 min), then washed as described previously [132], frozen with liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C.

#### *In vivo* <sup>55</sup>Fe Incorporation

*In vivo* labeling of yeast cells was performed following the addition of 1 μCi <sup>55</sup>Fe per liter and allowing growth to an optical density of ~1.3-1.5, at 30°C, shaking at 180 RPM in SC medium lacking uracil, 2% raffinose, 2% galactose. When appropriate, cells were then subjected to oxidative stress by addition of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> as described above or in figure legends. Cells were then harvested by centrifugation (2000 x g, 8 min) washed as described previously [132].

#### Immunoprecipitation

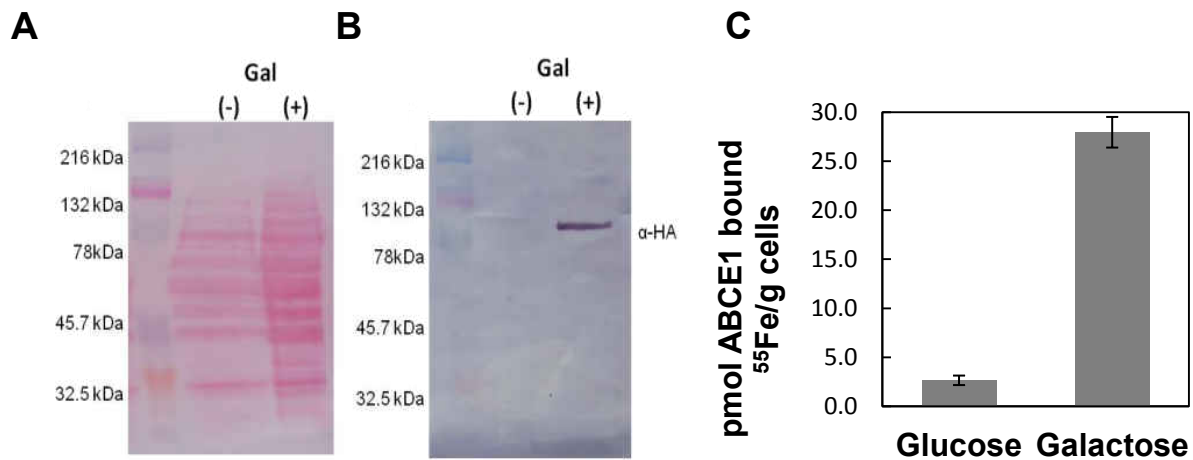
All immunoprecipitations were conducted in an anaerobic chamber containing at least 5% H<sub>2</sub> and less than 1 ppm O<sub>2</sub>. All buffers were degassed and stored in the anaerobic chamber for at least 12 hours prior to beginning immunoprecipitations. Following growth to the desired optical density, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treatments where indicated, ScABCE1 was isolated by immunoprecipitation described Pierik *et al* [132] with a slight modification. Briefly, lysates were divided evenly to provide duplicate samples, then were incubated in the presence of α-HA antibody (100 ng) for one hour at 4 °C followed by a one hour incubation with 100 μL IgG Sepharose (50% slurry in 50 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.5). Beads were then washed 4 times with 1 ml TNETG buffer (20 mM Tris pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 2.5 mM EDTA, 0.5% Triton X-100, 10% glycerol), then 2 mL of

scintillation fluid was added. The amount of  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  bound to ScABCE1-HA was measured with a liquid scintillation analyzer.

## Results

### The Stability and Persistence of ScABCE1 Protein Upon Treatment with $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$

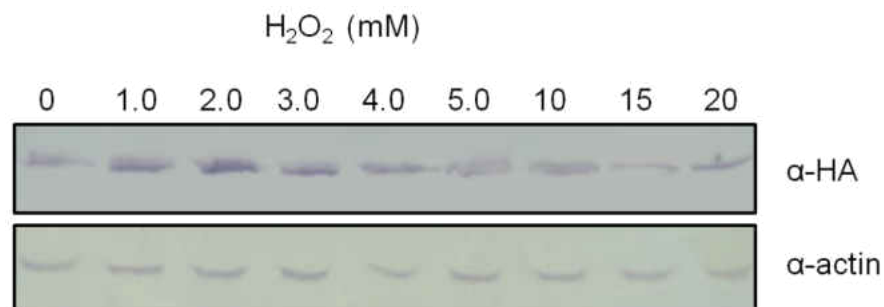
Since observations for this study must rest solely on the amount of  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  specifically associated with ABCE1-HA, the ability to detect the ABCE1-HA bound  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  in the absence or presence of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  is a necessity. Immunoprecipitation performed on lysate from cells not expressing ABCE1-HA reveal negligible detection of  $^{55}\text{Fe}$ , while detection in induced cells indicates expression and specific detection of ABCE1-HA by the  $\alpha$ -HA antibody (Figure 22 ABC).



**Figure 22. Recombinant expression and detection of  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  bound to ScABCE1-HA in *S. cerevisiae***

Recombinant expression of ScABCE1-HA was confirmed by polyacrylamide electrophoresis (A) followed by a western blot (B) using an  $\alpha$ -HA antibody (C) control  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  measurements from immunoprecipitations of uninduced cells (glucose) and induced cells (2% raffinose + 2% galactose).

The amount of detectable protein present in the cells should not decrease upon the treatment of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, although it is possible that with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treatment, ABCE1-HA could become undetectable due to insolubility or the protein being degraded. This could result in the absence of the protein in the soluble fraction, which would prevent accurate interpretation of results. The ability to detect ABCE1-HA consistently over a wide range of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentrations, to confirm integrity of ABCE1-HA peptide upon peroxide treatment was important for future experiments. Cells were subjected to 0-20 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> with fixed amount of antibody, followed by SDS-PAGE and western blot analysis (Figure 23). This allowed the identification of available (soluble) ABCE1-HA so that any distinct differences in the ability to detect ABCE1-HA or any changes in protein amount upon exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> could be determined.



**Figure 23. ScABCE1 expression analysis following oxidative stress**

*S. cerevisiae* expressing BG1805-ScABCE1 were subjected to oxidative stress by the addition of the indicated [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>] for 30 minutes. Western blots were probed for α-HA (ScABCE1) or α-actin.

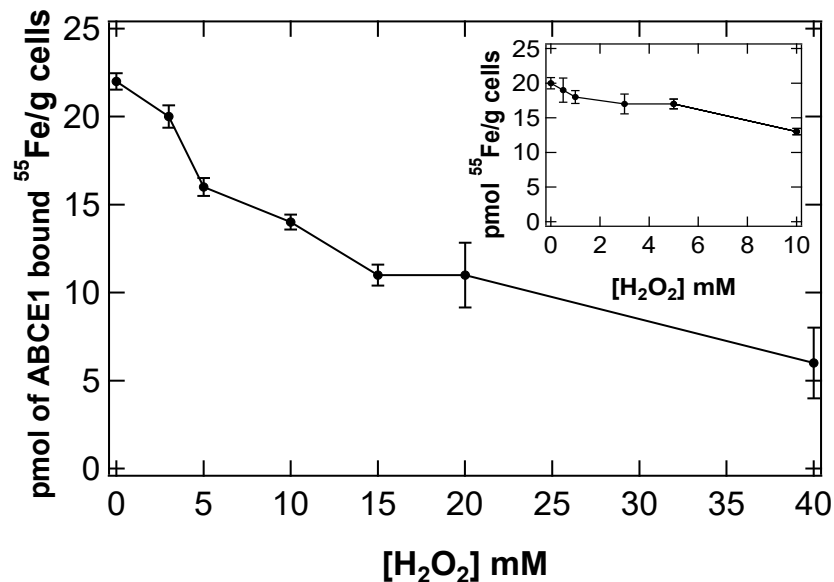
Western blot analysis demonstrated there was no significant decrease in the amount of ABCE1-HA present in the cells upon treatment with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentrations up

to 20 mM (Figure 23). In fact, there seems to be a slight increase of ABCE1-HA upon treatment with lower concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (1-4 mM).

Next, the experimental strategy for immunoprecipitation was to determine an optimal fixed amount of ABCE1-HA but still limiting the amount of ABCE1-HA being detected to a fraction of the available ABCE1-HA. This ensures that even if there were any changes in the amount of protein in future experiments, the depletion of <sup>55</sup>Fe bound ABCE1-HA due to the effects of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> could be accurately detected rather than just a decrease in the availability of ABCE1-HA. An optimal limiting amount of α-HA antibody and IgG sepharose was determined and described in the methods section.

#### ABCE1 Bound Iron is Depleted with Exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

To explore whether exposure to the prooxidant H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> has an effect on the occupancy of Fe-S clusters within ABCE1, cells were treated with increasing amounts of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Overexpression of ABCE1 has been shown to provide resistance to prooxidants, including H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (0.25mM), in a *tet*-regulatable system [133].



**Figure 24. <sup>55</sup>Fe depletion from ScABCE1-HA with increasing [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>].**

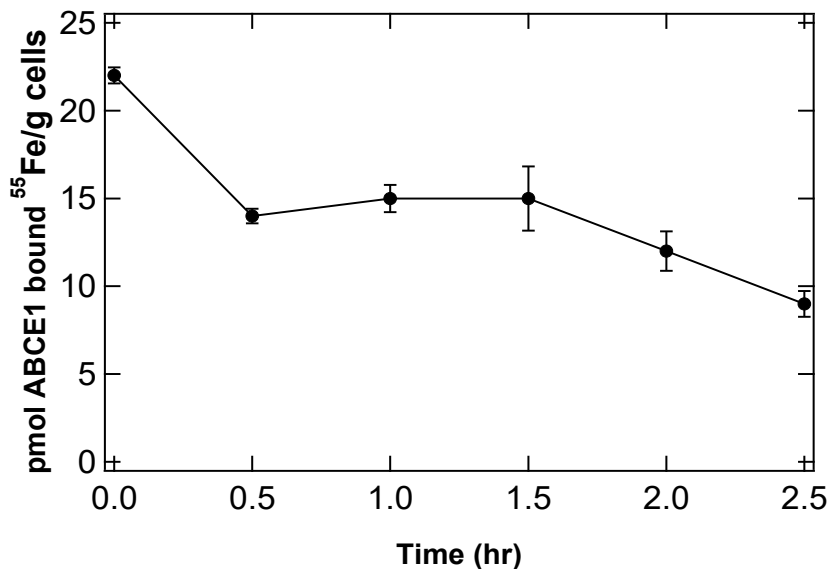
*S. cerevisiae* Y258 transformed with BG1805-ScABCE1-HA, were subjected to oxidative stress by the addition of increasing H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration (0-40 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) for 30 min, in 1.5% raffinose/2%galactose.

At H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentrations under 5 mM, a minimal decrease in ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe was observed, suggesting some resistance to oxidative stress in the presence of lower H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentrations (Figure 24, inset). At higher concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, there was a dose dependent decrease in the amount of ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe with exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. The depletion of <sup>55</sup>Fe reached ~75% with the addition of 40 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. These data suggest that ROS generated from H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> or H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> itself affects the Fe-S cofactors bound to ABCE1-HA.

#### ABCE1 Bound Iron Declines Due to Continued Exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

To support the conclusion that H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> caused the reduction in the amount of ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe, cells were subjected to oxidative stress over time with a constant

amount of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. The effect on ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe due to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> induced oxidative stress were consistent between experiments, where there was a ~40% decreased of ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe (Figure 24) after 30 min of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> exposure. Continued exposure to 10 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> resulted in a gradual decline in the amount of ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe where after 2.5 hours ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe decreased by ~62% (Figure 25).



**Figure 25.** <sup>55</sup>Fe depletion from ScABCE1 over time following treatment with 10 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>.

*S. cerevisiae*, Y258 transformed with BG1805-ScABCE1-HA, were subjected to oxidative stress by the addition of 10 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for 30 min. Aliquots of cells were harvested, washed, and weighed, every 30 min. for up to 2.5 hours.

There appears to a lag in the time between 0.5 and 1.5 hours of exposure, possibly due to resistance or some other adaptive response (Figure 25). This suggests there may be sufficient antioxidant resistance to maintain a level of functional (or <sup>55</sup>Fe bound) ABCE1. After 1.5 hours, the balance between antioxidant resistance and



oxidative stress could have been shifted, perhaps due to the build-up of ROS. These data provide additional support for the hypothesis that exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> affects the Fe-S status of ABCE1. Here, the effects of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> are likely partial or total degradation of the Fe-S clusters, since the Fe-S clusters (<sup>55</sup>Fe) were already incorporated into ABCE1-HA. In addition, the possible negative impact of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> on <sup>55</sup>Fe incorporation over time is also very possible.

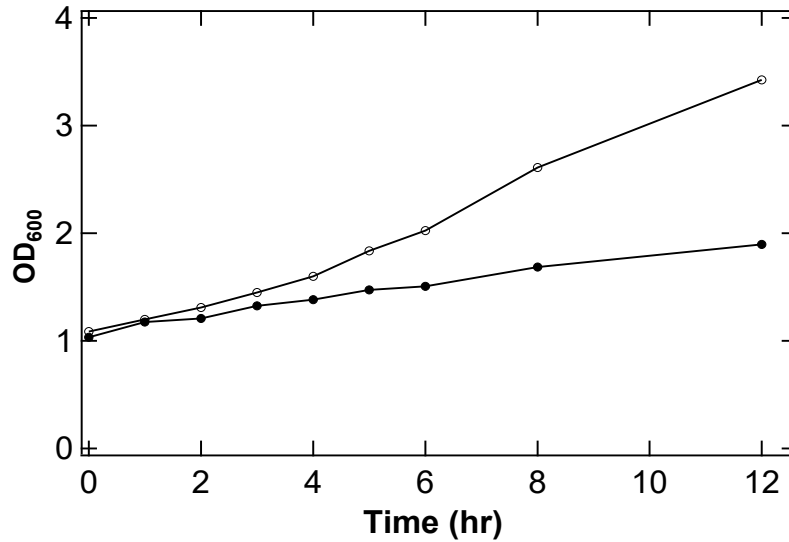
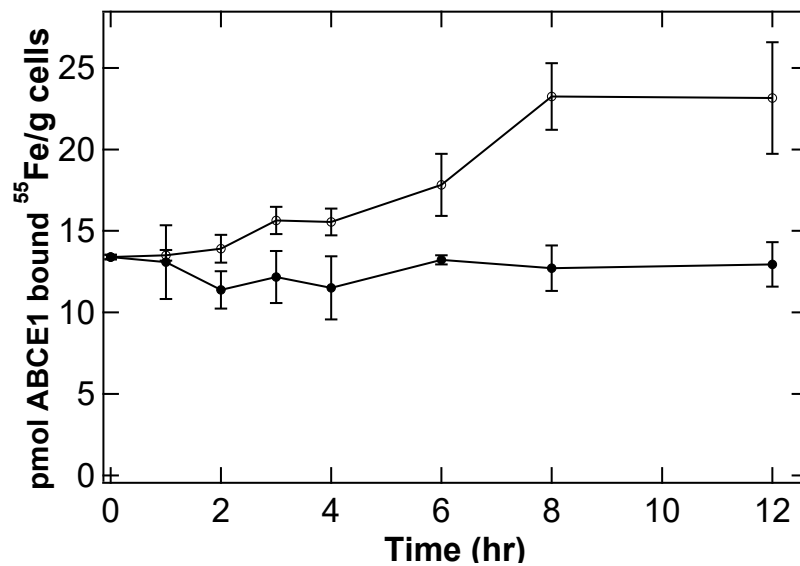
#### Growth Rate can be Recovered Upon the Removal of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

If the decrease in growth is the result of the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, then the growth rate should recover after the removal of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Upon media exchange and removal of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, the growth rate began to increase gradually to ~6 hrs/doubling, almost completely recovered from the toxic effects of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Figure 26A). Meanwhile, the growth rate remained very low for cells with continuous exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> where there was only slightly increasing and the doubling time extended to ~12 hrs. Thus, the growth rate of the stressed cells is ~50% lower than that of the recovering cells. The 40% reduction in ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe described above can be the source of almost all the growth inhibition observed upon continued exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. These data suggest that, during conditions of oxidative stress, the key mediator between growth and growth inhibition could be the Fe-S status of ABCE1.

#### Following Exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, the Majority of ABCE1 Bound Iron can be Recovered

Results from the growth recovery experiment suggest the removal of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> allows the restoration of function of ABCE1-HA. If the ABCE1-HA bound <sup>55</sup>Fe show a

corresponding increase over time, upon the removal of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, then the Fe-S cluster and function of ABCE1-HA has likely been restored. Following removal of the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, the amount of ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe began to increase within the first 2 hours of recovery, where in comparison the amount ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe did not increase in the cells subjected to continued exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Figure 26B). After ~8 hrs, the amount of <sup>55</sup>Fe bound to ABCE1 reached a maximum where it stayed through 12 hrs. The amount of ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe following recovery was within 12% of the original amount prior to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treatment. The original, untreated cells contained ~26 pmol <sup>55</sup>Fe/g cells whereas at 12 hrs post-recovery, there were ~23 pmol <sup>55</sup>Fe/g cells. Following media exchange, the amount of ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe detected cells that were subjected to, continued exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> continued to decline to ~56%. What is most notable is that the initiation of increase of growth rate corresponds to the same time that the ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe started to increase (Figure 26AB). Combined, these data further support that the Fe-S clusters of ABCE1 are degraded upon oxidative stress and its activity is likely negatively modulated by loss of its Fe-S clusters. In turn, translation may be affected with decreased ABCE1 activity upon Fe-S cluster degradation and likely affects overall cellular growth rate.

**A****B**

**Figure 26. Repletion of ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe in cells subjected to oxidative stress with 10 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, occurs within 4 hours**

*S. cerevisiae*, Y258 transformed with BG1805-ScABCE1-HA, were grown to an OD<sub>600</sub> of 1.0, subjected to oxidative stress for 30 min by the addition of 10 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Cells were then harvested and resuspended in fresh media containing <sup>55</sup>Fe, consisting of (O) No H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and (●) 10 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. The OD<sub>600</sub> was monitored (A) in conjunction with the amount of <sup>55</sup>Fe determined from immunoprecipitations (B).

## Discussion

### Effect of ROS on ABCE1 Function in Translation

This study aimed to address the proposed effect of ROS on the Fe-S clusters within the the cytosolic Fe-S protein, ScABCE1 (Figure 21). The global effect that H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> has on translation in yeast has been previously shown where protein synthesis declines with even mild oxidative stress [115, 119]. In *S. cerevisiae*, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> has been shown to cause global translation inhibition and a corresponding dose-dependent decrease in growth rate, which can be reversed [115, 134]. The effects of oxidative stress have been observed at all stages of translation, including initiation, elongation, and termination [115]. Previously, in yeast, a defect in the core ISC machinery, by deletion of Yfh1 (frataxin), in the mitochondria demonstrated diminished incorporation of <sup>55</sup>Fe into ABCE1 [129]. In the same study, deletion of Yfh1 caused a considerable decrease in growth rates, demonstrating increased sensitivity to oxidative stress induced by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, which was attributed to a defect in activities of mitochondrial Fe-S proteins. What exactly caused the global translation inhibition, growth rate decline, and ultimate toxicity demonstrated in wild-type cells was unknown. Due to the essential nature of ABCE1, its function in ribosome biogenesis, ribosome recycling, and the presence of Fe-S within ABCE1, the protein has been deemed a target for ROS, accounting for the growth inhibition typically observed under oxidative stress conditions [133].

The work presented here investigates the specific role of ABCE1 in response to oxidative stress in yeast. Our results demonstrate a 30 min of treatment with [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>] >5mM was required to see a marked decrease in ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe (Figure 24),

suggesting overexpression of ABCE1 could confer resistance to oxidative stress. Resistance to the effects of oxidative stress, due to overexpression of ABCE1-HA, was demonstrated in a Fe-S defective strain (*mxrΔ*), and an antioxidant defective strain (*sod2Δ*), which are normally sensitive to prooxidants [133]. This may explain the high concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> required in our system, where the endogenous ABCE1 is supplemented by the recombinant ABCE1-HA. ABCE1 may be up-regulated as a defense mechanism, upon exposure to low levels of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, although this warrants further investigation.

The data shown in this work also shows a slight increase in ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe between 30 min and 1.5hrs following H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (Figure 25). It could be resistance caused by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced expression of antioxidant defense systems, including possible up-regulation of ABCE1, which may have been able to fight against the toxic effects of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for a short period of time until they were overwhelmed. An alternative is that at the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> concentration used in the experiment, a limit for direct Fe-S degradation could have been reached after 30 minutes. Over time, the buildup of additional H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> induced ROS can occur, overwhelming the cellular anti-oxidant defense systems where Fe-S degradation can continue.

Our initial experiments were principally restricted to the measurement of the amount ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe depleted from Fe-S clusters pre-incorporated into ABCE1. A dose and time dependent depletion of ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe under oxidative stress conditions induced by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was observed. While our experiments primarily measured the degradation of pre-incorporated <sup>55</sup>Fe (Fe-S) upon H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treatment, experiments

conducted by others have shown the disruption of incorporation of  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  to ABCE1 upon treatment with  $\text{Cu}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  and paraquat [133]. The results presented here show the damaging effects the buildup of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  can have on cell survival, through the likely degradation of the essential Fe-S clusters.

#### Implications for the Role of ABCE1 During Oxidative Stress

Although ABCE1 has been considered a credible target for ROS, the effects of oxidation *in vivo* were not investigated until recently. Here we have shown that  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  exposure results in a diminishment of the ABCE1 bound  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  amount, suggesting direct oxidative degradation of the Fe-S clusters. Observations presented in this work demonstrate that the majority of growth inhibition, induced by oxidative stress, can be explained by a comparable decrease in ABCE1 bound  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  (Figure 26AB) and likely loss of ABCE1 activity to facilitate ribosomal activity [49, 50]. Interestingly, our experiments show growth recovery upon removal of the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , reaching a growth rate close to that of untreated cells after ~8 hrs. Additionally, a corresponding increase (~88% recovery) in the ABCE1 bound  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  (Fe-S) was demonstrated. The results suggest a regulatory mechanism, where under oxidative stress conditions, the activity of ABCE1 supporting protein synthesis can be inhibited temporarily by oxidative degradation of the Fe-S clusters. In agreement with our data, the nuclear accumulation of Rps2-GFP was observed when yeast was exposed to various oxidants, which was subsequently rescued by overexpression of ABCE1 [133]. In our case, the cause of reduced growth and a decrease of ABCE1 bound  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  is very likely caused by oxidative damage to the Fe-S, decreasing the amount of  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  (Fe-S) bound to ABCE1 and

causing a growth rate decline, although a decrease in  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  incorporation could contribute over time.

A model can be envisioned where, under periods of stress, translation could be repressed by means of temporarily suppressing the function of ABCE1 via its oxidatively sensitive Fe-S clusters. Once the cause of the oxidative stress is removed ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ), normal cellular processes can be eventually restored. These data reveal that ABCE1 is likely to be at the center of an intricate balance between translation, cell growth, and cellular redox status.

## CHAPTER 4: SUMMARY

### Introduction

ABCE1 is an essential Fe-S protein involved in ribosomal function and vital for protein synthesis and cell survival, and thus has strong potential as a therapeutic target for cancer treatment. The function of ABCE1 in tumorigenesis, progression of cancer, or resistance to therapeutics is unclear, but nevertheless is likely to be significant. Additionally, the essential role of ABCE1 in viral infections, such as HIV/AIDS, could be important chemotherapeutic target toward the control of one of the most widespread pandemics. Previously, cell biological, genetic, and structural studies uncovered the cellular importance of ABCE1. The function of the Fe-S clusters of ABCE1 has been unclear until recently, where only a simple structural role was previously suggested. In an effort to better understand the function of ABCE1 and its associated Fe-S cofactors, the goal of this research was to elucidate the function of the Fe-S clusters of ABCE1 from a biochemical standpoint.

Upon biochemical analysis of *PabABCE1*, the ATPase activity was found to be regulated by its Fe-S cluster status and  $[Mg^{2+}]$ , while total RNA had a positive effect on the regulation. Additionally, the Fe-S clusters were determined to regulate the function of ABCE1 based on the redox state of the cell. The oxidatively labile Fe-S clusters of ABCE1 are lost under oxidative stress, resulting in a decrease in growth rate. This oxidative effect was reversible where an increase in ABCE1 bound Fe content



coincided with an increase in growth rate. The two major studies described here uncovered a more likely regulatory role for the Fe-S clusters of ABCE1.

### Mg<sup>2+</sup> Dependence of *Pyrococcus abyssi* ABCE1

#### Role of Fe-S Status and [Mg<sup>2+</sup>] in the Function of ABCE1

The ATPase activity of the *PabABCE1* was studied using both *apo*- and *holo*-forms, and was shown to be regulated by both Fe-S cluster status and Mg<sup>2+</sup>. The rates were determined at the various [Mg<sup>2+</sup>] concentrations and the data were fit to the Hill form of the Michaelis-Menten equation which determined that the apparent  $K_m$  values for ATP hydrolysis increased with increasing concentration of Mg<sup>2+</sup> while the  $V_{max}$  did not change significantly. Physiological [Mg<sup>2+</sup>] inhibits the *PabABCE1* ATPase for both *apo*- and *holo*-*PabABCE1*, although the *apo*-*PabABCE1* is more sensitive to Mg<sup>2+</sup> inhibition. This is demonstrated by at least a 30 fold increase in the apparent ATP  $K_m$  of *apo*-*PabABCE1*, which is above the typical metabolic concentration of ATP.

*PabABCE1* does require Mg<sup>2+</sup>, like most ATPases, but Mg<sup>2+</sup> also acts as a negative allosteric effector that controls the ATP affinity of *PabABCE1*, and does not inhibit by exacerbating product inhibition. Interestingly, an apparent cooperativity was seen in the absence of added Mg<sup>2+</sup>, where the Hill constant is near 2 for both the *apo*- and *holo*- enzymes and decreases as [Mg<sup>2+</sup>] is increased. A cooperative interaction between the two ATPase domains within the enzyme in the absence of Mg<sup>2+</sup> may occur, where the addition of Mg<sup>2+</sup> appears to disrupt the cooperativity. This suggests some

type of allosteric effect of  $Mg^{2+}$  binding to induce conformational change upon  $Mg^{2+}$  binding.

ABCE1 requires its Fe-S clusters for proper function in ribosome biogenesis and recycling. The inhibitory effect of  $Mg^{2+}$  could be alleviated and slightly activated by the presence of total RNA. All these data combined suggest that the function of *Pab*ABCE1 can be regulated by not only Fe-S status but also cellular energy charge ( $\phi$ ) in the presence of cellular  $[Mg^{2+}]$ .

#### Future Perspectives for Studying the Regulatory Roles of $Mg^{2+}$ and Fe-S Cluster Status

The main goal of this study was investigate the function of the Fe-S clusters associated with ABCE1 from a biochemical perspective. Comparative analysis of ABCE1 primary sequences reveals conservation among diverse organisms, from the archeal *Pyrococcus abyssi* ABCE1 to the human ABCE1, and suggests an important cellular function. Even with the high degree of sequence homology of ABCE1 and presumed structural homology between the ABCE1 from these organisms, the conclusions drawn from the studies with *Pab*ABCE1 may still not be directly extended to *Hs*ABCE1 or even *Sc*ABCE1. Once these proteins are able to be purified in sufficient quantity and appropriate quality for biochemical analysis, and kinetic analysis, then the question of  $Mg^{2+}$  sensitivity can be addressed.

The abolished cooperativity seen in *Pab*ABCE1 with added  $Mg^{2+}$  could be a consequence of NBDs that differ in activity or sensitivity to the inhibitory  $[Mg^{2+}]$ . In this case, the  $Mg^{2+}$  could bind in a fashion that inhibits one of the NBDs, while the other is still active, which can explain the  $Mg^{2+}$  titration curves that never reached an activity of

zero. To address this possibility, construction of point mutations at one or both of the catalytic amino acids (glutamate and/or aspartate) within each of the NBDs would be necessary to inactivate one NBD while allowing the activity of the other to be discretely studied.

The interpretation of the influence of RNA presented in this work should be interpreted with some caution, but may be significant. The work here suggests that  $Mg^{2+}$  may be bound to an inhibitory site on ABCE1 until it comes into contact with a binding partner such as, the ribosome, Dom34, or eRF3 [80]. Once associated with the translation apparatus, the inhibitory  $Mg^{2+}$  is released or relocated, resulting in ABCE1 activity. This hypothesis could be addressed using a reconstituted *in vitro* yeast translation system to address how  $Mg^{2+}$  could regulate the function of ABCE1 in ribosomal subunit splitting [77].

The *in vivo* effects of excess  $Mg^{2+}$  in relation to ribosome recycling are not yet clear. Since the RNA experiments in this work show a 2 fold increase in activity at a maximum of 0.5 mM  $Mg^{2+}$  followed by a decline in activity, the  $Mg^{2+}$  associated with pabABCE1 activity could have declined due to excess RNA. To test this hypothesis, experiments involving the addition of increasing amount of  $Mg^{2+}$  could be performed. In this case, an increased amount of available  $Mg^{2+}$  could result in a more dramatic activation of *PabABCE1* in the presence of RNA as opposed to the condition without added  $Mg^{2+}$ .

Sensitivity to  $Mg^{2+}$  by either *ScABCE1* or *HsABCE1* has not yet been demonstrated. It may be specific only to hyperthermophiles. In fact, some

hyperthermophiles are known to have high intracellular salt concentrations and studies on DNA polymerase demonstrate that high salt concentrations protects the DNA from heat-induced cleavage, by preventing depurination [135, 136]. *HsABCE1* is particularly important, mainly because it directly applies to a function in humans where cancer is prevalent. Depletion of *HsABCE1* in the small cell lung cancer cell line, affects the proliferation of the cancer, suggesting a direct role for ABCE1 in cancer invasiveness [62]. The link between magnesium and cancer is somewhat complicated due to the fact that magnesium deficiency can either help prevent or promote tumor development [137]. Additionally, the alteration in the expression of magnesium channels has been demonstrated. If the ATPase activity of *HsABCE1* is sensitive to magnesium as in *PabABCE1*, then magnesium deficiency could promote tumor development. The hypothesis could be tested using a cell line overexpressing a  $Mg^{2+}$  transporter, such as SLC41A1, which is associated with magnesium deficiency in some tissues [138, 139]. Here, a deficiency of  $Mg^{2+}$  in the cell would be expected to allow cells to proliferate due to increased activity of *HsABCE1*.

#### Effect of Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) on ABCE1 Fe-S Clusters

##### Impact of Reactive Oxygen Species on the Fe-S Status and Function of ABCE1

The data presented in this work support the hypothesis that, during conditions of oxidative stress, one of the key mediators between growth and growth inhibition could be the Fe-S status of ABCE1. The oxidatively labile Fe-S clusters of ABCE1 can be degraded upon oxidative stress, and ABCE1 and/or its Fe-S cluster activity decreased

due to the partial or total degradation of the Fe-S clusters. In turn, translation is affected with decreased ABCE1 activity resulting in a decrease in cellular growth rate.

Some resistance to oxidative stress was discovered, in the presence of relatively low H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> while at higher concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (>5mM) there was a dose dependent decrease in the amount of ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe with exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Most (~75%) of the <sup>55</sup>Fe was depleted with the addition of 40 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. The dose dependent decrease in ABCE1-HA bound <sup>55</sup>Fe suggests degradation of the ABCE1-HA bound Fe-S clusters due to ROS generated from H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> or H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> itself. Additionally, continued exposure to 10 mM H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> resulted in a progressive decline in ABCE1-HA bound <sup>55</sup>Fe, supporting the conclusion obtained with the dose dependent data.

Our results suggest a regulatory mechanism, where under oxidative stress conditions, the translational activity of ABCE1 can be inhibited temporarily by oxidative degradation of the Fe-S clusters. This was demonstrated when a growth recovery and concurrent increase in ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe, upon removal of the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, occurred reaching a growth rate (~88% recovery) close to that of untreated cells after ~8 hrs. Combined, these data further support that the Fe-S clusters of ABCE1 are degraded upon oxidative stress and ABCE1 activity is likely negatively modulated by loss of its Fe-S clusters.

#### Future Perspectives for Studying the Role of ROS in Regulation of ABCE1 Activity

The main goal in this study was to investigate the effects of ROS on the function of ScABCE1 in *S. cerevisiae*. Translation repression due to the effects of ROS has

been documented [115, 119]. Since ScABCE1 has an essential function in ribosome biogenesis and recycling, the protein is ultimately linked to translation and cell survival. The work here suggests that exposure to ROS such as H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> itself can affect the function of ScABCE1, due to the likely degradation of its Fe-S cofactors. A structural role has been suggested for the Fe-S domain, where ScABCE1 Fe-S clusters are required to interact with Dom34 during ribosome recycling and/or the rescue of stalled ribosomes [77, 80, 140]. A defect in the export of ribosomes from the nucleus during oxidative stress has been demonstrated [133]. In our system, a decrease in translation would be expected to follow degradation of ABCE1 associated Fe-S clusters following treatment with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. This hypothesis could be addressed by monitoring the depletion of ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe while simultaneously monitoring the progress of global translation using <sup>35</sup>S cysteine/methionine. Upon recovery, or removal of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, a likewise increase in ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe as well as an increase in the amount of protein bound <sup>35</sup>S cysteine/methionine, providing a direct link to oxidative stress and translational output.

A few additional questions could be presented: Does exposure to H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> result in a defect in ribosome recycling or only the export of ribosomes from the nucleus? Does oxidative stress abolish the binding of ABCE1 to partners such as, the ribosome, Dom34, or eRF3, during ribosome biogenesis or recycling? Additionally, does ScABCE1 become sequestered to stress granules during oxidative stress and then released upon recovery? One preliminary experiment could be to investigate the apparent  $K_d$  for ribosome binding in the presence of ROS. Some of these other questions could be answered using the reconstituted *in vitro* yeast translation system

described previously [77] or utilizing a GFP-ScABCE1 fusion protein to determine the location of ScABCE1 during oxidative stress. In this case, ribosome splitting would decline in the presence of a prooxidant and possibly co-localize with proteins associated with stress granules such as Tia-1 or Tiar [141]. If the effects of oxidative stress result in abolished interactions with recycling factors, then co-immunoprecipitation experiments would show the absence of Dom34, in cells exposed to a prooxidant as well as a decrease in growth rate.

The work presented here investigated the effect of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> on Fe-S clusters already loaded into ScABCE1. Treatment with Cu(NO<sub>3</sub>) or paraquat has shown a decrease in ABCE1 bound <sup>55</sup>Fe, indicative of disruption of Fe-S incorporation into ABCE1 [133]. The effect of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> on the incorporation of Fe-S clusters has not been determined and could be addressed in our system by simply adding H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and <sup>55</sup>Fe simultaneously. If ROS affects the incorporation of Fe-S into ScABCE1, at what step does ROS affect the Fe-S clusters in the cytosolic machinery? This could be addressed by monitoring the presence of <sup>55</sup>Fe in each of the proteins involved in the CIA complex, possibly answering the question of whether the Fe-S are more labile during the transfer to ABCE1 or at some point prior to that.

The effect of ROS on ABCE1 in relation to cancer is not quite clear. Metabolism in cancer cells is known to vary and overproduction of ROS is common in many cancers [142]. If this is so, and ABCE1 function is regulated by ROS resulting in translation inhibition, how do cancer cells continue to proliferate? This suggests there may be

other factors involved in the progression of cancer due to the effects of ROS and further research in the area is needed.

The studies described in this dissertation point to a regulatory role for the Fe-S clusters of ABCE1, where the ATPase activity and likely ribosome binding is modulated based on redox and occupancy status of the Fe-S cluster. The ATPase activity of *PabABCE1* is regulated by its Fe-S status and cellular charge, in terms of  $[Mg^{2+}]$  and the *in vivo* work in *S. cerevisiae* show the Fe-S clusters of *ScABCE1* can be regulated by the physiological state of the cell, in this case oxidative stress. Both of these concepts have implications in cancer progression or tumorigenesis and provide clues needed for a future research for the development of cancer or viral therapeutics to target ABCE1.



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