

procedures, which is not the case with a conventional confocal detection system. This specific feature enables in situ aqueous-phase detection without perturbing equilibrium conditions, which should contribute to both sensitive and reproducible analysis.

3. *Bimolecular fluorescence quenching and recovery method*

Hamachi and coworkers manufactured a sophisticated detection principle called “bimolecular fluorescence quenching and recovery” (BFQR) [38]. They used a supramolecular hydrogel matrix, where fluorescent lectins were noncovalently fixed to act as a molecular recognition scaffold. Though the detection mechanism is rather complicated and not straightforward, it enables one to read out fluorescently a series of lectin–saccharide interactions without washing processes, in a manner similar to the evanescent-type detection principle. Moreover, the developed method BFQR does not require prior labeling of the target saccharides. The latter feature resembles that of a surface plasmon resonance detection principle used much more widely [39]. To the present, however, relatively simple, synthetic saccharide quenchers have been utilized, limiting the application of this technology to more complex samples, e.g., body fluids and tissue extracts.

3 General Procedures

A general procedure for glycan profiling experiments using the GlycoStation™ system has been described [37]. Although there might be a variety of sample forms depending on experimental purposes, e.g., sera, urine, cell lysates, and tissue extracts, the core experimental procedure is common to all of the sample forms: i.e., it comprises (1) sample preparation, (2) protein quantification, (3) labeling with an appropriate fluorescent reagent (e.g., Cy-3), (4) application of the labeled sample onto the lectin microarray plate, and (5) data analysis, essentially as described [40, 41]. General procedures are outlined in Fig. 1.

In the following section, a typical procedure using cell lysates and Cy-3 labeling is described, while variously modified procedures are also available, some of which are described later.

3.1 *Sample Preparation: Cell Lysate*

The following protocol assumes that a cell pellet is washed extensively with PBS, and is kept frozen at -80°C until use:

1. Melt the cell pellet gradually on ice
2. Add 1 mL of PBS-Tx (PBS containing 1% (w/v) Triton X-100) to the cell pellet and suspend the cells with a pipette

3. Disrupt the cells by sonication (1–2 min on ice)
4. Centrifuge the above sample at $14,000\times g$ at 4°C for 5 min
5. Recover the supernatant with a pipette
6. Quantify protein by an appropriate method (e.g., Pierce/Micro BCATM Protein Assay Reagent Kit, #23235)

3.2 *Fluorescent Labeling and Application to the Lectin Microarray*

1. *Cy3 labeling*

- (a) Dilute samples to $50\ \mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ by adding PBS-Tx based on the result of the above protein assay
- (b) Put $20\ \mu\text{L}$ of each sample ($50\ \mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) into a tube containing $100\ \mu\text{g}$ of Cy3-SE (succinimide ester), mix with a pipette, and spin down by brief centrifugation
- (c) Put the tubes into a shading bag and incubate them for 1 h at room temperature (25°C) in the dark

2. *Gel filtration to remove excess free Cy3-SE:*

Remove excess Cy3-SE reagent by gel filtration using appropriate equipment (e.g., Pierce/ZebaTM Desalt Spin Columns, $0.5\ \text{mL}$, #89882)

3. *Sample application to LecChipTM*

- (a) Measure each volume of Cy3-labeled samples with a pipette
- (b) Prepare a total volume of $500\ \mu\text{L}$ by adding an appropriate probing buffer (e.g., GP Biosciences Probing Solution); the protein concentration becomes $2\ \mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ as $1\ \mu\text{g}$ of protein is eluted
- (c) Dilute these samples to $2\ \mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, $1\ \mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, $500\ \text{ng}/\text{mL}$, $250\ \text{ng}/\text{mL}$, $125\ \text{ng}/\text{mL}$, $62.5\ \text{ng}/\text{mL}$, and $31.25\ \text{ng}/\text{mL}$ by adding the same probing buffer
- (d) Put LecChipTM in a frozen state at -20°C into an incubation box to melt the keeping solution (provided by the supplier) in wells of the LecChipTM
- (e) Remove the keeping solution
- (f) Apply $100\ \mu\text{L}$ of these samples to each well of the LecChipsTM with a pipette
- (g) Incubate the LecChipsTM in an incubation box at 20°C for 16 h

4. *Scanning with GlycoStationTM Reader 1200*

Scan the LecChips with GlycoStationTM Reader 1200. The following conditions are recommended for the first trial: gain (70–125), exposure time (133, 199 ms), cumulative count (4). In order to detect relatively weak signals while avoiding saturation of strong signals, take some other scans while adjusting the gain and the exposure time.

3.3 Data Analysis

Data analysis is a critical part of lectin microarray experiments, because the data obtained from each microarray analysis shows systematic variation in microarray quality, scanner detection stability, sample preparation reproducibility, and labeling efficiency. For this purpose, an initial step to normalize the obtained signal intensities is essential. In this section, the two fundamental procedures required for data analysis are described [42–44].

1. Gain merging

Kuno et al. developed a gain-merging procedure to expand the dynamic range of signal intensities obtained by lectin microarray analysis [42]. This procedure is necessary because of the optical properties of the scanning system, but is practically useful when analyzing a series of clinical samples, which often give a wide range of binding signals. When performing an analysis, a lectin microarray slide is scanned under two different gain conditions; one is a higher gain to “rescue” weak signals below 1,000 and the other is a lower gain to “suppress” strong signals over 40,000. Here, appropriate lectins for “merging” are selected, to give moderate signal intensities (i.e., 1,000–40,000) under both higher and lower gain conditions. Then, a merging factor (F) is determined as the average of higher (Int^{H})/lower (Int^{L}) ratios calculated for individual merging lectins by (1):

$$F = \text{Averaged} (\text{Int}^{\text{H}} / \text{Int}^{\text{L}}) \quad (1)$$

The over-range intensities ($>40,000$) obtained under the higher gain condition (e.g., $\text{Int}^{\text{H}}_{(\text{lectin A})}$) are replaced with theoretical intensities ($\text{Int}^{\text{T}}_{\text{d lectin cT}}$) by (2):

$$\text{Int}^{\text{T}}_{(\text{lectin A})} = \text{Int}^{\text{L}}_{(\text{lectin A})} \times F \quad (2)$$

2. Normalization

Four different normalization methods are available to process lectin microarray data: “max,” “mean,” “particular lectin,” and “median.” For these normalization procedures, the signal intensity is multiplied by a normalization factor N for each array, which is calculated by $N = 1/\mu$, where μ is either the highest signal intensity of all of the lectins on the array (max), the mean of all of the lectins on the array (mean), the signal intensity of one selected lectin on the array (particular lectin), or the median of all of the lectins on the array (median). Required procedures depend significantly on experimental procedures and research purposes. For example, the author usually uses a mean normalization method for comparative purposes when dealing with a series of stem cells [45–47], because this gave the best result for glycan analysis of CHO and its mutant LEC cells [44]. On the other hand, a max-normalization procedure is widely used for differential glycan profiling targeting clinical samples for glycan-related bio-marker investigation [16, 17, 28, 48, 49].

4 Targets of the Lectin Microarray

Since its first publication in 2005, most reports of the lectin microarray have concerned its basic aspects; e.g., development of the array substrates and their fabrications. Recently, however, an increasing number of applications of lectin microarray technology have been reported, e.g., in glycan-related biomarker investigations, stem cell profiling toward regeneration medicine, microbial infections, and glycoprotein profiling in the light of functional glycomics (for representative applications, see Table 1). In the following section, relevant technologies required in various orders of hierarchy (i.e., molecular, cellular, tissue and body fluid orders) are briefly described.

4.1 Samples of Homogeneous Glycome

1. *Oligosaccharides*

There are few reports describing the application of the lectin microarray to free oligosaccharides [10, 34], probably because a substantial merit of this microarray is its direct applicability to glycoproteins without liberation of oligosaccharides. Alternatively, most monoamine-coupling fluorescent reagents (e.g., 2-aminopyridine and 2-aminobenzamide) are of the UV-excited type, which are not compatible with the present glass substrate (UV-fluorescence positive). Uchiyama et al. used TAMRA (tetramethylrhodamine)-labeled three representative *N*-linked oligosaccharides (i.e., M6 high-mannose type, α -2-6-disialobiantennary, and asialobiantennary glycans) for analysis by an evanescent-field activated fluorescence-type scanner [34]. Notably, without a washing procedure, relatively weak bindings of these monovalent oligosaccharides could be seen toward a restricted set of lectins, while they were lost immediately after a buffer replacement procedure. Signal patterns observed for these oligosaccharides are relatively clear, as has been evident when sequential glycosidase digestion was performed for a complex-type sialobiantennary *N*-glycan [10].

2. *Purified glycoproteins*

As described, glycoproteins are major targets for direct analysis by the lectin microarray, either in their purified (e.g., glycoprotein drugs) or crude (e.g., cell supernatant and body fluids) forms. The analysis provides glycan profiles regarding both *N*- and *O*-glycans [8–13]. Because the profiles obtained are unique to individual glycoproteins and states of the cells which produce them, the method contributes to the validation of glycoprotein drugs [12]. In combination with a specific antibody against core protein, highly sensitive monitoring of glycan profiles of target glycoproteins in the course of their production is possible (described later).

Table 1 Representative research papers reporting applications of the lectin microarray

Application fields and paper titles (year)	Reference
1. Glycan synthesis and glycoprotein production	
<i>Pichia pastoris</i> -produced mucin-type fusion proteins with multivalent <i>O</i> -glycan substitution as targeting molecules for mannose-specific receptors of the immune system (2011)	Gustafsson et al. [50]
Chemoenzymatic synthesis and lectin array characterization of a class of <i>N</i> -glycan clusters (2009)	Huang et al. [51]
Engineering of mucin-type human glycoproteins in yeast cells (2008)	Amano et al. [52]
A lectin array-based methodology for the analysis of protein glycosylation (2007)	Rosenfeld et al. [12]
2. Glycoprotein profiling relevant to functional glycomics	
Survey of glycoantigens in cells from α -1,3-galactosyltransferase knockout pig using a lectin microarray (2010)	Miyagawa et al. [53]
Transient expression of an IL-23R extracellular domain Fc fusion protein in CHO vs HEK cells results in improved plasma exposure (2010)	Suen et al. [54]
Glycomic analyses of glycoproteins in bile and serum during rat hepatocarcinogenesis (2010)	Nakagawa et al. [55]
Testicular angiotensin-converting enzyme with different glycan modification: characterization on glycosylphosphatidylinositol-anchored protein releasing and dipeptidase activities (2009)	Kondoh et al. [56]
Poly lactosamine on glycoproteins influences basal levels of lymphocyte and macrophage activation (2007)	Togayachi et al. [57]
Functional glycosylation of human podoplanin: glycan structure of platelet aggregation-inducing factor (2007)	Kaneko et al. [58]
3. Development of disease-related glycoprotein markers	
A unique <i>N</i> -glycan on human transferrin in CSF: a possible biomarker for iNPH (2011)	Futakawa et al. [59]
Multilectin assay for detecting fibrosis-specific glyco-alteration by means of the lectin microarray (2011)	Kuno et al. [16]
Lectin microarray profiling of metastatic breast cancers (2011)	Fry et al. [60]
Identification of various types of α 2-HS glycoprotein in sera of patients with pancreatic cancer: possible implication in resistance to protease treatment (2010)	Kuwamoto et al. [61]
<i>Wisteria floribunda</i> agglutinin-positive mucin 1 is a sensitive biliary marker for human cholangiocarcinoma (2010)	Matsuda et al. [48]
High levels of E4-PHA-reactive oligosaccharides: potential as marker for cells with characteristics of hepatic progenitor cells (2009)	Sasaki et al. [62]
4. Glycan profiling of stem cells relevant to regenerative medicine	
Possible linkages between the inner and outer cellular states of human induced pluripotent stem cells (2011)	Saito et al. [47]
Glycome diagnosis of human induced pluripotent stem cells using the lectin microarray (2011)	Tateno et al. [46]
Lectin microarray analysis of pluripotent and multipotent stem cells (2011)	Toyoda et al. [45]
5. Glycan profiling relevant to pathogen infection	
HIV-1 and microvesicles from T cells share a common glycome, arguing for a common origin (2009)	Krishnamoorthy et al. [63]
Analyzing the dynamic bacterial glycome with a lectin microarray approach (2006)	Hsu et al. [64]

3. *Eukaryotic cells*

As mentioned previously, glycan structures differ significantly between different types of cells (species and states). According to this concept, i.e., “cellular glycomics,” the lectin microarray should work ideally for differentiation of different types of cells. The first demonstration was made by Ebe et al. [65] using CHO and its LEC mutant strains, and work in this context was further extended in a more systematic manner by Tao et al. [13]. These studies used detergent-solubilized cell membrane fractions as a glycoprotein source. However, significant care is necessary for the preparation of such glycoprotein fractions, which may contain interfering materials, such as non-glycosylated cytoplasmic proteins and immature glycoproteins included in the endoplasmic reticulum and Golgi apparatus.

Tateno et al. reported a convenient method to profile a cell-surface glycome using a commercial CellTracker dye (Invitrogen) [66]. This series of reagents passes freely through the cell membrane, but once inside the cell, they are transformed into cell-impermeant forms. One of the commercial products, Orange™ CMRA, can fluoresce only after it is metabolized by endogenous esterase. The procedure is simple and applicable to an extensive range of eukaryotic cells [44].

4. *Bacterial cells*

Hsu et al. [64] successfully profiled glycosylation patterns of closely related *Escherichia coli* strains, including pathogenic ones. Those authors differentiated commensal and pathogenic strains in a manner of facile fingerprinting. More recently, Yasuda et al. reported an alternative method to analyze bacterial glycomes with emphasis on differential profiling of 16 strains of *Lactobacilli casei* species [67]. They found CYTOX Orange, usually used for intracellular nuclear staining, to be the best dye to be incorporated into the bacterial cells and bound to DNA. Despite the organisms being from the same species, almost all binding patterns obtained for these 16 strains were unique. It should also be noted that the current systems of the lectin microarray, largely composed of plant lectins, can work for bacterial glycome profiling.

5. *Virus and related particles*

Krishnamoorthy et al. reported an interesting analysis of glycan profiles of the HIV virus which focused on comparison with virus-resembling microvesicles, which are secreted from host cells [63]. Lectin microarray analysis using 68 lectin probes revealed that glycome signatures of HIV and host cell microvesicles were almost identical. This observation provides important support for the “exosome” hypothesis that HIV largely relies on the biosynthetic machineries of host cells, and thus they should give totally the same glycan profiles. For this analysis, the authors utilized a sensitive ratiometric two-color detection method (described later).

4.2 Samples of Nearly Homogeneous Glycome

1. Tissue sections

Matsuda et al. developed a skilful technique for differential glycan profiling targeting small areas (i.e. 1.5 mm diameter, 5 μm thickness) of paraffin-embedded and formalin-fixed tissue sections [48]. The method provides clinicians with a very useful approach to differential glycan analysis. Considering that tissue samples to be compared are of the same date and same individual, the data obtained are more reliable than those obtained from sera. In fact, the authors applied the technique to an investigation of glycoprotein markers for diagnosis of cholangiocarcinoma, a representative malignant tumor, for which no useful markers are presently available. As a result, they found that *Wisteria floribunda* agglutinin specific for GalNAc was the best probe to differentiate cholangiocarcinoma lesions from normal bile duct epithelia ($p < 0.0001$) [49]. Though not yet performed, combination with laser micro-dissection followed by high-throughput differential glycan profiling should become a powerful means for future biomarker discovery.

4.3 Samples of Highly Heterogeneous or Complex Glycomes

1. Body fluids (bile, sera) in biomarker investigations

Body fluids, such as patient sera and urine, are primary targets for biomarker diagnosis. Under the concept of glycoproteomics, an increasing number of researchers of both glycomics and proteomics have been involved in the discovery phase of glycoprotein markers. For this realization, however, one should consider the fact that serum is a highly heterogeneous mixture of glycoproteins originating from many different organs. Therefore, their individual cellular glycomes are also heterogeneous. A well-organized strategy is described, which relies on the high-sensitivity technique of the lectin microarray at two different phases [6, 7]. One is the tissue-section targeted analysis described above, and the other an antibody-overlay method described below.

5 Modified Technologies of the Lectin Microarray

1. Antibody-overlay method in biomarker qualification/verification

Kuno et al. reported a highly practical approach to the differential glycan profiling of an antibody-targeted glycoprotein in the course of biomarker development [28]. As the discovery phase of biomarker development proceeds, several biomarker candidates (i.e., glycoproteins) are nominated, whereas it is not yet certain that they really work as robust diagnostic markers, e.g., for hepatocellular carcinoma. For the purpose of pre-validation (i.e., qualification

or verification), it is important to carry out the analysis on several dozen clinical samples (e.g., usually body fluids such as sera). Therefore, establishment of a high-throughput procedure such as the lectin microarray is particularly important in glycoprotein biomarker development. The developed method makes maximum use of an antibody, which is raised against the protein moiety of the target glycoprotein: the antibody is used for enrichment (immunoprecipitation), semi-quantification (Western blotting), and overlay to the lectin microarray (*lower* scheme in Fig. 1). A target glycoprotein included in each clinical sample need not be fluorescence-labeled, and thus high-throughput (>100 samples) analysis is easily performed. Therefore, the lectin microarray is used in two steps in the strategy developed for glycoprotein biomarker investigation. The approach was applied to the investigation of an hepatic fibrosis marker, α -1-acid glycoprotein probed with *Maackia amurensis* lectin (MAL) and *Aspergillus oryzae* lectin (AOL) [16].

2. Dual color measurement

Pilobello et al. developed a method for the rapid evaluation of glycosylation changes of heterogeneous mammalian samples using a ratiometric two-color lectin microarray approach [68]. This approach is reminiscent of a proteomic procedure called two-dimensional differential in-gel electrophoresis (2-D DIGE), which uses two differentially labeled (i.e., Cy3/Cy5) protein samples [69]. When focusing on differential analysis, this approach can be extremely useful to enhance substantial differences in the glycome. However, it should be mentioned that these two methods, i.e., proteomic 2-D DIGE and the glycomic dual color method, are essentially different in that the latter procedure includes “competition” between immobilized lectins toward a set of various glycans. In other words, quantitative comparison of lectin signals needs careful consideration.

6 Perspective

The technology of the lectin microarray described here is expanding its application fields rapidly to broad areas of life sciences, which include both basic and applied sciences. Because the method is still new, relatively few researchers appreciate its innovative features, which previous technologies have lacked, i.e., discrimination based on biological affinity. However, considering that every biological phenomenon comprises cellular communications, it is quite natural to assume that carbohydrate-protein (e.g., lectins) interactions are fundamental for carcinogenesis, embryogenesis, morphogenesis, pathogenesis, etc. Thus it should not be surprising that the lectin microarray platform works very well to analyze, differentiate, and elucidate these complex cellular processes under the basic concept of cellular glycomics/glycoproteomics. For further development of the system, however, production of a series of recombinant lectins is necessary, considering the history of restriction enzymes [18]. In this context, several groups have already shifted to

using recombinant lectins for improved sensitivity [70] and resolution [46]. If a recombinant lectin is established with a good bacterial expression system, its propagation to produce new lectins with a wider glycome coverage and a better cost effectiveness is feasible. An alternative approach is to synthesize “artificial” lectins equipped with boronic acid functionalized peptidyl ligands to carbohydrates [71]. In this regard, the lectin microarray enters its really creative phase, and is poised for further development.

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Uncorrected Proof

