



Review article

Role of antigens and virulence factors of *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi in its pathogenesis

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ABSTRACT

Salmonella enterica serovar Typhi (*S. Typhi*), the aetiologic agent of typhoid fever, is a human restricted pathogen. The molecular mechanism of *Salmonella* pathogenicity is complex. The investigations of the molecular mechanisms of *Salmonella* virulence factors have shown that pathogenic *Salmonella* spp. are distinguished from their non-pathogenic relatives by the presence of specific pathogenicity genes, often organized in so-called pathogenicity islands (PIs). The type III secretion system (T3SS) proteins encoded by two *Salmonella* PIs (SPIs) are associated with the pathogenicity at molecular level. The identification of T3SS has provided new insight into the molecular factors and mechanisms underlying bacterial pathogenesis. The T3SS encoded by SPI-1 contains invasion genes; while SPI-2 is responsible for intracellular pathogenesis and has a crucial role for systemic *S. enterica* infections. These studies reveal a complex set of pathogenic interferences between intracellular *Salmonella* and its host cells. The understanding of the mechanisms by which *Salmonella* evade the host defense system and establish pathogenesis will be important for proper disease management.

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1. Introduction

Salmonella enterica serovar Typhi (*S. Typhi*) is a facultative intracellular pathogen that causes typhoid fever in humans (the only known natural hosts and reservoir of infection) (Mweu and English 2008). The organisms are noncapsulated, nonsporulating, Gram-negative anaerobic bacilli, which have characteristic flagellar, somatic, and outer coat antigens (Shahane et al. 2007). Typhoid remains a major health problem, especially in developing world where there is substandard water supply and lack of sanitation (Crum Cianflone 2008; Bhunia et al. 2009; Crump and Mintz 2010; Dougan et al. 2011). *S. Typhi* is transmitted through contaminated food and water, following ingestion, the bacteria spread from the intestine via blood to the intestinal lymph nodes, liver, and spleen where they multiply. Significant morbidity and mortality is associated with this disease possibly affecting over 90 million people globally each year (Majowicz et al. 2010). The risk of acquiring typhoid fever is increased among clinical microbiologists and travelers to regions where the disease is endemic (Levine et al. 2004).

Due to the rapid and widespread emergence of *S. Typhi* serotypes with resistance to multiple antibiotics and changing modes of bacterial presentation, typhoid fever is becoming increasingly difficult to diagnose and treat (Feng 2000; Akinyemi et al. 2005; Yang et al. 2010). The emergence of multidrug-resistant strains of *S. Typhi* has added a sense of urgency to develop more effective typhoid vaccines (Levine et al. 2004). Despite recent advances (Wahid et al. 2007; Tacket et al. 2000), the pace of progress in this area of vaccinology is not fast enough and needs to be accelerated (Sztein 2007). Finally, there is a need of continuous surveillance and sharing of antimicrobial susceptibility data for *Salmonella* among countries worldwide (de Oliveira et al. in press) to ensure the effectiveness of control programmes (Pui et al. 2011).

2. Pathogenesis of typhoid fever

Typhoid is a systemic disease that varies in severity. Recently a novel model has been reported that allows analyses of the pathogenesis of *S. Typhi* in a humanized non-obese diabetic (NOD) severe combined immune deficient (SCID) mouse model (Libby et al. 2010). The understanding of typhoid fever pathogenesis, especially the cellular and molecular phenomena that are responsible for clinical manifestations of this disease, has greatly increased with several important discoveries (Andrade and Andrade 2003). These include:

- Bacterial type III protein secretion system.
- The virulence genes of *Salmonella* spp. encoding five different Sips (*Salmonella* invasion protein) namely Sip A, B, C, D and E, which are capable of inducing apoptosis in macrophages.
- The function of Toll R2 and Toll R4 receptors present in the macrophage surface (originally discovered in *Drosophila*). The Toll family receptors are critical in cell signaling mediated through macrophages in association with lipopolysaccharide-binding protein (LBP) and CD14.
- The lines of immune defense between intestinal lumen and internal organs.
- The fundamental role of the endothelial cells in inflammatory deviation from bloodstream into tissues infected by bacteria.

2.1. Intestinal mucosal immunity (first line of defense)

The infectious dose of *S. Typhi* in volunteers varies between 1000 and 1 million organisms (Hornick et al. 1970). The low gastric pH is an important defense mechanism as the bacteria must

survive the gastric acid barrier to reach the small intestine. In the small intestine, bacteria move across the intestinal epithelial cell (CEI) and reach the M cells, thus penetrating in the Peyer's patches (Fig. 1; Denise et al. 2004). The M cells are specialized epithelial cells overlying Peyer's patches that have probably originated from CEI and small pockets in the mucosal surface. After contact with M cells, the infectious bacteria are rapidly internalized and they reach a group of antigen-presenting cells (APCs), being partially phagocytized and neutralized. The infected phagocytes are organized in discrete foci that become pathological lesions, surrounded by normal tissue. Lesion formation is a dynamic process that requires the presence of adhesion molecules such as ICAM1 (Inter-Cellular Adhesion Molecule 1), VCAM-1 (Vascular Cell Adhesion Molecule 1) and the balanced action of cytokines [tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- α , interleukin (IL)-12, IL-18, IL-14, IL-15 and interferon (IFN)- γ]. Failure to form pathological lesions results in abnormal growth and dissemination of the bacteria in the infected tissue. Some bacteria escape this barrier, and reach the developed lymphoid follicles (Peyer's patches); formed mainly by mononuclear cells as T lymphocytes, as well as dendritic cells (DC). DC presents the bacterial antigens to immune cells that provoke activation of T and B lymphocytes.

2.2. Dissemination from intestinal mucosa's lamina propria

The T and B lymphocytes come out from the lymphatic nodules and reach liver and spleen via reticuloendothelial system (Fig. 1). In these organs the bacteria are killed mainly by phagocytosis through the macrophage system. However, *Salmonella* are able to survive and multiply within the mononuclear phagocytic cells (House et al. 2001). At a threshold level, determined by the number of bacteria, the bacterial virulence and the host immune response, the bacteria are released from their sequestered intracellular habitat into the bloodstream. This bacteremic phase of disease is characterized by dissemination of the organisms. The most common sites of secondary infection are the liver, spleen, bone marrow, gallbladder and Peyer's patches in the terminal ileum. In liver, *S. Typhi* provokes Kupffer cell activation. Kupffer cells have high microbicidal power and neutralize the bacteria with oxidative free radicals, nitric oxide as well as enzymes, active in acid pH. The survived bacteria invade hepatocytes and cause cellular death, mainly by apoptosis.

3. Host immune defense

The main host defense against *Salmonella* spp. occurs through the neutrophils, followed by mononuclear cells. These inflammatory cells produce cytokines as TNF- α , IFN- γ , IL-1, IL-2, IL-6 and IL-8. The Kupffer cells are the main TNF- α producer in the liver. Clearance of bacteria from tissues requires the CD28-dependent activation of CD4⁺, T cell receptor (TCR)- α β T cells and is controlled by Major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class II genes (McSorley and Jenkins 2000; Hess et al. 1996). DC and B-cells are involved in the initiation and development of T-cell immunity to *Salmonella* (Mastroeni et al. 2000; Yrlid et al. 2000). Interaction between B and T-cells is needed for the development of antibody response to *Salmonella* proteins and for isotype switching of antibody response against lipopolysaccharide antigens (Sinha et al. 1997). Resistance to reinfection with virulent *Salmonella* microorganisms (secondary infection) in immunized mice requires the presence of CD4⁺ dependent Th1 type immunological memory, CD8⁺ T cells and anti-*Salmonella* antibodies (Mastroeni et al. 1993; Thompson et al. 2009). The development of *Salmonella*-specific CD4 effector responses has been examined in both susceptible and resistant mice. These studies suggest massive expansion of

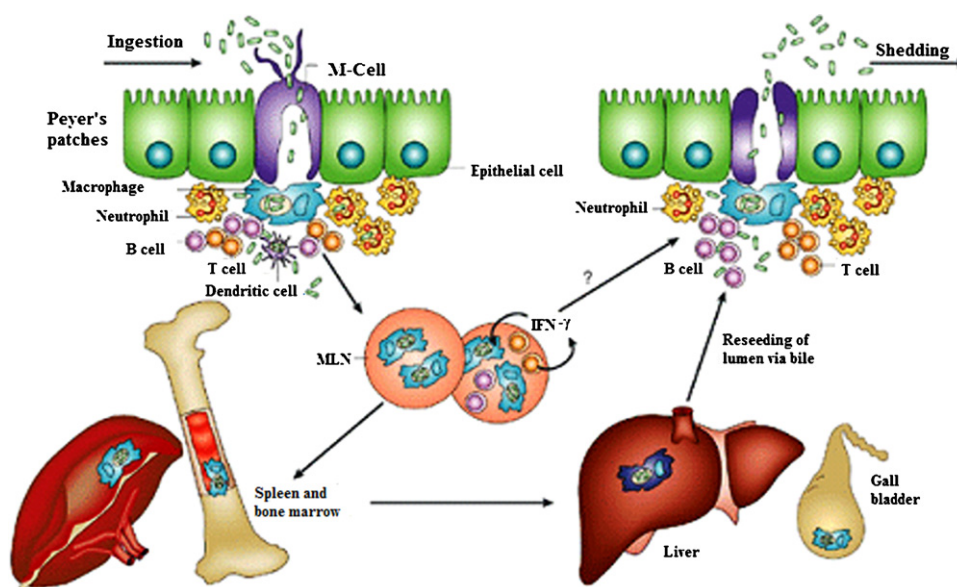


Fig. 1. Schematic representation of persistent infection with *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi in humans: bacteria enter the Peyer's patches of the intestinal tract mucosal surface by invading M cells – specialized epithelial cells that take up and transcytose luminal antigens for uptake by phagocytic immune cells. This is followed by inflammation and phagocytosis of bacteria by neutrophils and macrophages and recruitment of T and B cells. In systemic salmonellosis, such as typhoid fever, *Salmonella* may target specific types of host cells, such as dendritic cells and/or macrophages that favour dissemination through the lymphatics and blood stream to the mesenteric lymph nodes (MLNs) and to deeper tissues. This then leads to transport to the spleen, bone marrow, liver and gall bladder. Bacteria can persist in the MLNs, bone marrow and gall bladder for life, and periodic reseeding of the mucosal surface via the bile ducts and/or the MLNs of the small intestine occur, and shedding can take place from the mucosal surface. Interferon- γ (IFN- γ), which can be secreted by T cells, has a role in maintaining persistence by controlling intracellular *Salmonella* replication. Interleukin (IL)-12, which can increase IFN- γ production and the proinflammatory cytokine tumor-necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) also contribute to the control of persistent *Salmonella*.

Adopted from Denise et al. (2004).

Salmonella-specific CD4 T cells and rapid acquisition of Th1 effector functions, namely the enhanced ability to secrete TNF- α , IFN- γ and IL-2 upon restimulation (Johanns et al. 2010; Griffin and McSorley 2011).

Epithelial cells seem to play the central role in coordinating the inflammatory response to intestinal pathogens. The interaction of *Salmonella* spp. with epithelial cells leads to the generation of a great number of biochemical signals by these cells. These include the basolateral release of chemokines (including IL-8) and apical secretion of “pathogen-elicited epithelial chemoattractant” (PEEC). These substances are partially responsible for guiding the recruitment and traffic of PMNs (Polymorphonuclear Leukocytes) across CELs. After initial localization in resident phagocytes (macrophages) the bacteria associate mainly with PMNs in early phase of infection. It was therefore reasonable to assume that PMNs control early bacterial growth in tissue. However, evidence for a predominant role of mononuclear cells and not the PMNs in early resistance to the disease has been provided (Hormaeche et al. 1990). In a study *S. Typhimurium* (the rodent counterpart of *S. Typhi* that causes salmonellosis in mice/rats with typhoid like symptoms) infection was shown to induce IL-8 secretion by intestinal epithelium that was mediated through increase in intracellular calcium. This phenomenon was found to be NF- κ B dependent (Gewirtz et al. 2002). A functional T3SS (type III secretion systems) is required for the induction of PMN transmigration. Furthermore, protein synthesis in both bacteria and epithelial cells is also required for this activity. Invasion of *Salmonella* spp. into epithelial cells is insufficient for trans-epithelial signaling to PMNs, and PMN migration occurs even when *Salmonella* spp. invasion is blocked. The ‘inflammatory deviation’ that happens when blood leukocytes migrate across endothelial cells into hepatic and spleen tissues is another important event. This phenomenon occurs through the action of adhesion molecules named integrins (chain $\alpha\beta$) in inflammatory cells and selectins in endothelial cells (E and P). Afterward, selectins are substituted by ICAM and VCAM proteins (whose partner in

inflammatory cells is VLA4 or $\alpha4\beta1$ integrin). The inflammatory microenvironment is completed by chemokines that are capable of stimulating leukocyte motility (chemokinesis) and directed movement (chemotaxis) of neutrophils and mononuclear cells. Chemokines bind to CC and CXC receptors in the surface of inflammatory cells. The chemokines help the blood leukocyte migration directly to host cells infected by bacteria. TNF- α is produced by macrophages and other mononuclear cells and has much antibacterial activity against *Salmonella* spp. Besides the macrophage phagocytosis, TNF- α in association with IFN- γ , IL-2 and other cytokines, is responsible for the neutralization of these invasive bacteria. Bacteria infested Peyer's patches produce strong inflammatory reaction with the recruitment of leukocytes. The potent inflammatory reaction against *Salmonella* species provokes host cell death, as well as apoptosis of both inflammatory and epithelial cells following nutrient deprivation and termination of bacterial replication (Santos et al. 2011). The inflammatory response of the Th1-dominant type is destructive for host cells and for bacteria; it attenuates progressively and coincides with increase of the Th2-immune response. Th2 cells produce IL-4, IL-10, IL-13 and transforming growth factor (TGF) that cause powerful protective effect on host cells (hepatocytes, CELs, inflammatory cells, etc.) through partial inhibition of cytokines associated with the Th1 response.

Salmonella flagella have been implicated in host early innate immunity against *Salmonella* as these cause intestinal epithelial or macrophage inflammation following infection. Ciacci-Woolwine et al. (1998) and Wyant et al. (1999) reported that *S. Typhi* flagella induced cytokine release from human monocytes and impaired antigen presentation by human macrophages. Flagellin of *Salmonella* suppresses epithelial apoptosis and limits disease during enteric infection (Fig. 2) (Vijay-Kumar et al. 2006). It has been demonstrated that flagellin was the component that activated Toll-like receptor 5 (TLR) (Hayashi et al. 2001; Steiner 2007). Moreover, studies have identified Intracellular IL-1-converting enzyme

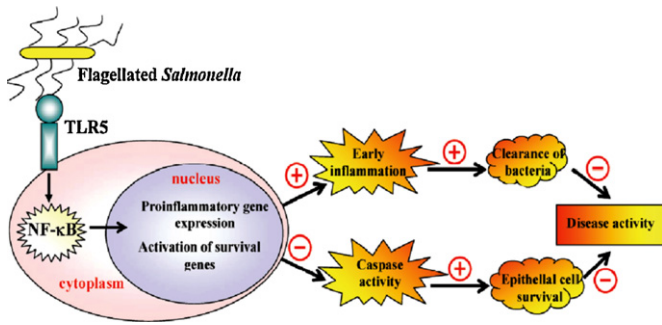


Fig. 2. Flagellin of *Salmonella* bacteria stimulates the activations of TLR5 and NF- κ B, suppresses epithelial apoptosis and limits disease during enteric infection. Adopted from Zhang et al. (2008).

protease-activating factor (IpaF) as an essential sensor for cytoplasmic flagellin (Miao et al. 2006; Franchi et al. 2006), which activates caspase-1 and induces the production of the proinflammatory cytokine IL-18 (Broz et al. 2010).

Using TLR5-deficient mice Feuillet et al. (2006) showed that while TLR5 was crucial for the *in vivo* recognition of flagellin, it may also participate in the detection of systemic infection by *S. Typhimurium*. TLR5 activates NF- κ B and the mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs) leading to the secretion of many cytokines, including IL-6, IL-12, and TNF- α , whereas IpaF permits the activation of caspase-1 and secretion of mature IL-1 β .

The activation of macrophages by Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) from *Salmonella* species also results in the release of a variety of inflammatory cytokines, such as IL-6 and IFN- β , which were not detected in macrophages of TLR4 knockout mice (Takeuchi et al. 1999). Following binding to LPS, in association with proteins MD2 and CD14, TLR4 dimerizes and undergoes a conformational change required for the recruitment of downstream Toll/interleukin-1 receptor (TIR) domain-containing adaptor molecules to activate both NF- κ B and MAPKs (Mahieu and Libert 2007). Further, TLR4 triggers the early response to *Salmonella* and TLR4 and TLR2 are required sequentially for efficient macrophage function in *Salmonella* infections (Weiss et al. 2004). TLR2 can recognize *Salmonella* lipoproteins and lipoteichoic acid (Takeuchi et al. 1999; Bulut et al. 2001), probably in cooperation with TLR6 and/or TLR1 (Takeuchi et al. 2001; Hemmi et al. 2000). TLR9 is activated by bacterial DNA (detecting unmethylated Cp motifs). Totemeyer et al. (2005) have demonstrated that TLR1, TLR2, and TLR9 are up-regulated while TLR6 is down-regulated which accounts for the plateau phase observed during sublethal *S. Typhimurium* infection in rodents. These results suggest that in addition to TLR4, the TLR2-TLR1 complex and TLR9 may play a role in controlling infection, particularly in the later stages when the bacterial growth is suppressed, possibly at the adaptive phase of the immune response (Zhang et al. 2008).

3.1. Clinical manifestations

S. Typhi is responsible for typhoid fever in humans, a disease with high clinical toxicity and possible evolution to death (Balows et al. 1991; Murray et al. 1995). The clinical symptoms in patients with typhoid fever are related to cellular microbiological phenomena (Cossart et al. 1996). The bacterial invasion of several host cells and the inflammatory response (neutrophils, monocytes-macrophages, T and B lymphocytes) with high cytokine production are important elements causing the clinical manifestations. Cytokines (IL-1, IL-6, TNF- α , IFN- α , β and γ) are also responsible for fever emergence, lasting for four weeks in untreated typhoid cases. The potent inflammatory reaction against *Salmonella* spp. has the inconvenience of provoking host cell death, as well

as the apoptosis of both inflammatory and epithelial cells. The increase in cytokines in peripheral blood causes fever after an incubation period of 5–21 days. Initially there is low fever, that rises progressively, and by the second week it is often high and sustained (39–40 °C). The fever occurs in more than 80% of patients (Khan et al. 1998). The classic disease description includes bacteremia and fever during the first week, as well as nonspecific symptoms such as chills, headache, anorexia, sore throat, myalgia, psychosis and mental confusion in 5–10% of the cases. A coated tongue, tender abdomen, hepatomegaly, and splenomegaly are common. In the second week, a few rose spots, blanching erythematous maculopapular lesions, approximately 2–4 mm in diameter, appear in 5–30 percent of cases. These usually occur on the abdomen and chest and more rarely on the back, arms, and legs. A relative bradycardia in relation to fever, intestinal constipation or diarrhea in smaller number of patients (mainly in young children and adults with HIV infection) may occur. Without treatment or correct diagnosis, the typhoid fever may prolong to the third week and the inflammatory lesions become intense in Peyer's patches and intestinal lamina propria (with abundant monocytes, macrophages and lymphocytes). A lymphoid hyperplasia in the ileocecal area followed by ulceration and necrosis (cellular death), with subsequent gastrointestinal bleeding or intestinal perforation occurs. These phenomena result in appearance of several clinical symptoms such as jaundice (due to hepatocyte death and cholangiocyte activation) and increased activity of enzymes aspartate aminotransferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), glutamyl transpeptidase, alkaline phosphatase, etc. Further complications in 10–15 percent of patients may result in death, after the third week of disease. The fever declines in the 4th week of disease in 90% of the survivors, without antibiotic therapy. However, weakness and weight loss may persist for many months. Pyogenic meningitis, acute cholangitis and mural endocarditis are rare manifestations of typhoid fever. The true "sepsis", which constitutes severe typhoid fever disease, is caused by LPS/endotoxin molecules that are abundant at the surface of Enterobacteria such as *Salmonella* spp. and *Escherichia coli*. These molecules are capable of activating the macrophages, through cell surface receptors like CD14, Toll R2 and Toll R4 (in humans). The *viaB*-locus allows *S. Typhi* to modulate host responses by evading innate immune surveillance through TLR5 and TLR4 (Raffatellu et al. 2008). The inflammatory response of the Th1-dominant type is destructive for host cells and for bacteria. The Th1 response attenuates progressively, and this coincides with an increase in the Th2-immune response. Th2 cells produce IL-4, IL-10, IL-13, TGF- β , that cause a powerful protective effect in the host cells through the partial inhibition of the cytokines associated with Th1 cells. The predominance of Th1 immune response can be detected by immunohistochemistry using specific antibodies. Cytokines (as IFN- γ) in peripheral mononuclear cells can also be detected by flow cytometer or "ELISPOT". The ELISPOT technique is a recent discovery that is capable of evaluating cellular frequencies in a quantitative way, through identification of cells producing IFN- γ which characterizes a Th1 immune response.

The deficiency in inhibiting the proinflammatory cytokines TNF- α , IFN- γ , IL-2, etc., will result in cellular destruction predominantly in relation to cellular protection. This phenomenon provokes serious tissue lesions such as intestinal perforation and hemorrhage. The gastrointestinal bleeding should be attributed to endothelial cell activation through the increase of inflammatory cytokines and circulating LPS/endotoxin, primarily in the intestine. This results in high rate of endothelial cell death, and erosion of a necrotic tissue through the enteric vessel wall. The basal membrane of vessels is rich in collagen and is exposed, that allows the adherence of activated platelets. In addition, endothelial cells with the participation of pro and anticoagulation systems also activate the

coagulation cascade. This microenvironment becomes responsible for the bleeding and CEI death, ulcerated lesions and intestinal (usually ileal) perforation. B lymphocytes are found in the central area of lymphoid follicles, and migrate across vascular walls together with T lymphocytes. Some lymphocytes are retained in the mesenteric lymph nodes that become plasma cells in intestinal mucosa's lamina propria. At this stage, these cells become capable of producing IgG and IgM, as well as secretory IgA, which is the first line of intestinal defense. The final molecular junction of dimeric IgA occurs within intestinal lamina propria. In this site, IgA receives a protecting component produced by CEIs and remains resistant to digestive enzymes. Later, IgA is secreted into the intestinal lumen, together with other protectors' elements of intestinal mucosa such as intestinal microbiota and local antimicrobial, the secretory IgA constitutes the main element of the intestinal humoral defense.

One of the major clinical features of salmonellosis is diarrhea, which is caused by SPI-1 T3SS translocated proteins. The SopB protein appears to play an important role in the activation of secretory pathways, the attraction of neutrophils to the sites of infection (thereby increasing inflammation), and an alteration of ion balances within cells (Wallis and Galyov 2000). Additionally, SopB which probably influences the ion balance in cells through the antagonism of chloride channels in the infected cells. The alteration of ion balances within the cells can lead to fluid secretion into the intestinal tract and subsequent diarrhea. Other proteins such as SipA, SopA, SopD, and SopE2 may also play a role in *Salmonella*-associated gastroenteritis (Wallis and Galyov 2000; Zhang et al. 2003).

4. Virulence factors and protein secretion mechanisms of *S. enterica*

The complex pathogenesis of systemic *S. enterica* infections correlates with the presence of a large number of defensive as well as offensive virulence factors (Groisman and Ochman 1997). To date, more than 300 genes have been annotated as regulatory genes in *Salmonella* and of those, 14 regulators including SpvR, FruR, IHF, PhoP/PhoQ, SsrA/SsrB, SlyA, Hnr, RpoE, SmpB, CsrA, RpoS, CRP, OmpR/EnvZ, and Hfq are required for virulence regulation during systemic infection in an acute mouse infection model (Yoon et al. 2009, 2011).

As a facultative intracellular pathogen, *S. enterica* can adapt to the intracellular environment, and the two-component regulatory system PhoPQ appears to be an important sensor for the transition between extra- and intracellular life (Groisman 2001). The PhoPQ system has also been shown to regulate a large number of genes in *Salmonella* (Prost and Miller 2008).

Many of the *Salmonella* virulence factors, such as adhesion, invasion, and toxin genes are clustered in certain areas of the chromosome known as "*Salmonella* pathogenicity islands" (SPI) (Santos et al. 2003). The SPI can be located on the chromosome or on a plasmid, are flanked by repeat sequences, and tend to have a varied G/C composition as compared to surrounding region. SPI are characterized by a base composition different from the core genome and are often associated with tRNA genes and mobile genetic elements, like IS elements, transposons or phage genes (Schmidt and Hensel 2004). By now, 15 SPIs have been identified in *S. Typhi* (Parkhill et al. 2001; Vernikos and Parkhill 2006) two of these, SPI-1 and SPI-2 encode T3SS (Kuhle and Hensel 2004).

Two hallmarks of *Salmonella* pathogenesis, the host invasion and intracellular proliferation, are directly linked to genes in SPI. SPI-1 contains invasion genes; while SPI-2 is required for intracellular pathogenesis and has a crucial role for systemic *S. enterica* infections (Hansen-Wester and Hensel 2001).

4.1. Type III protein secretion systems (T3SS)

Although termed secretion systems, the biological function of T3SS is the translocation of proteins from the bacterial cytoplasm into the host cell, thus functioning as 'molecular syringes' (Hueck 1998). The T3SS is a complex of proteins that allows for the transfer of virulence factors directly into the host cells and is associated with at least 20–30 structural and regulatory proteins involved in cellular invasion, many of which have homology to proteins in the flagellar export apparatus (Marlovits et al. 2004; Gala'n and Wolf-Watz 2006; Marlovits and Stebbins 2010). While over 30 TTSS effectors have been identified to date (McGhie et al. 2009; Thomas and Holden 2009), the list is thought to be an underestimate of the true effector repertoire because several virulence phenotypes are dependent on TTS but are not linked to any known effectors (Lapaque et al. 2009; Srinivasan et al. 2009; Niemann et al. 2011).

In contrast to the type II secretion system, translocation via the T3SS occur independent of an N-terminal conserved *sec*-sequence that is cleaved after secretion. T3SS is an ATP-dependent system. T3SS are restricted to Gram-negative bacteria and are present in a number of different species, where they perform distinct functions ranging from antiphagocytic and cytotoxic effects on host cells (Ysc/Yop system of *Yersinia* spp.), invasion of host cells (*S. enterica* SPI-1 system, *Shigella* spp. Mxi/Spa system), intracellular pathogenesis (*S. enterica* SPI-2 system, *Chlamydia* spp. T3SS) to the establishment of symbiotic relationships such as that observed for the insect endosymbiont *Sodalis glossinidius* and the plant symbiont *Rhizobium* spp. *S. enterica* possesses two distinct T3SS with roles in different phases of pathogenesis. Although *S. enterica* was the first example of a pathogen employing two T3SS, genome sequencing revealed that multiple T3SS also occur in other species such as *Yersinia* spp., *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Burkholderia pseudomallei* (Pallen et al. 2003).

4.2. *Salmonella* pathogenicity island-1 type III secretion system: intestinal invasion and onset of diarrhea

Salmonella have evolved intricate measures to invade host cells following the epithelial attachment. Upon its interaction with host cells, T3SS facilitates endothelial uptake and invasion (Fig. 3) (Zhang et al. 2008).

The base structure of the T3SS complex spans the cell membrane and the cell wall of *Salmonella*, and a needle structure protrudes from the base that interacts with host cells. Within the base and needle structure is an inner rod that forms the conduit between the bacterial cytoplasm and the host cell membrane (Gala'n and Wolf-Watz 2006). On the cytoplasm side of the T3SS structure, there is a set of export machinery that contains an ATPase complex that facilitates the transport of effector molecules through the inner rod to a translocase structure in the host cell membrane. The T3SS structural genes located on SPI-1 include *prgHIJK*, *spaMNOPQRS*, and *invABCEFGH*, as well as multiple regulatory and effector genes. The major T3SS regulatory protein is HilA, whose expression is mediated by a number of environmental factors important for cell survival (Lostroh and Lee 2001). The assembly of the SPI-1 T3SS appears to be built from the base up. An assembly model starts with the assembly of the inner ring structure, which spans the cell membrane and is assembled from PrgH and PrgK protein subunits (Gala'n and Wolf-Watz 2006). Next, the cytoplasmic export machinery, which is composed of the InvA, InvC, SpaP, SpaQ, SpaR, and SpaS proteins, is assembled. Also, the outer ring structure, composed of InvG and InvH, is assembled in the outer membrane and connected to the inner ring structure and is stabilized with the aid of the regulatory protein InvJ. The completed base structure allows for the assembly of the needle and inner rod structures, which are

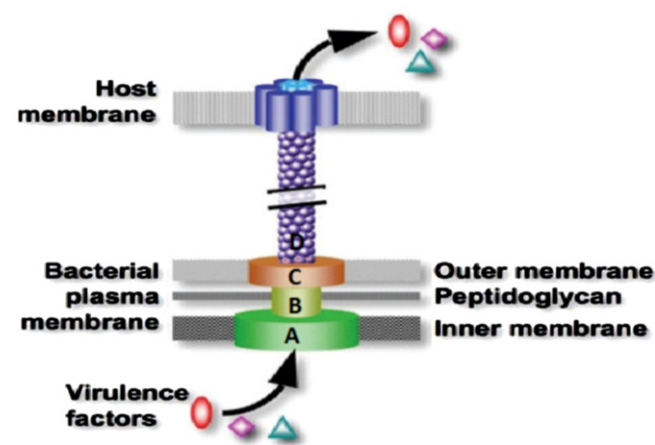


Fig. 3. Schematic representation of the *Salmonella* pathogenicity island 1 associated type III secretion system. The base structure of the T3SS is composed of the inner ring structure (A), which is composed of PrgHK protein subunits; the cytoplasmic export machinery (B), which is composed of the InvAC and SpaPQRS; and the outer ring structure (C), which is composed of InvGH and connected to the inner ring structure. The completed base structure allows for the assembly of the needle (D) and inner rod structures, which are made up of PrgJ and PrgI subunits, respectively, that interact with the host cell membrane.

Modified from Zhang et al. (2008).

made up of PrgJ and PrgI subunits, respectively (Marlovits et al. 2004; Gala'n and Wolf-Watz 2006).

The completed SPI-1 T3SS allows for effector proteins to be translocated from the bacterial cytoplasm to the host cell. In the bacterial cytoplasm, chaperone molecules bind to the effector proteins and accompany the molecule to the export machinery of the T3SS. The SPI-1 secreted effectors SopE and SopE2 act as guanine nucleotide-exchange-factors (GEFs) for the small GTPases Cdc42 and Rac (Thomson et al. 2004) (Fig. 4). Additional SPI-1 translocated effectors of *Salmonella* affect actin dynamics during the invasion process. SipA binds and stabilizes actin and SipC, which forms part of the T3SS delivery pore, can independently cause actin rearrangements via its distinct actin-bundling and actin-nucleating domains that results in membrane ruffling (Lostroh and Lee 2001; McGhie et al. 2001; Myeni and Zhou 2010). In addition to modulating actin, SipC interacts directly with Exo70, a component of the exocyst

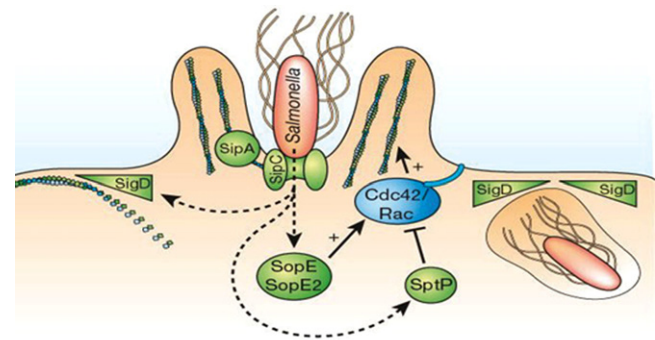


Fig. 4. Entry into host cells is mediated by the T3SS and its effectors encoded by SPI-1. Membrane attachment to the cortical actin cytoskeleton is loosened by SigD/SopB. SopE and SopE2 enhance Cdc42 and Rac1 activity directly by acting as guanine nucleotide-exchange factors. SipA and SipC alter cytoskeletal structure, SipC by nucleating actin and initiating polymerization and SipA by binding actin and modulating actin bundling. These cytoskeletal rearrangements are downregulated by the GAP (GTPase-activating protein) activity of SptP, which inactivates Cdc42 and Rac. SigD also is involved in sealing invaginating regions of the plasma membrane to form intracellular vacuoles.

Adopted from Zhang et al. (2008).

Table 1
Salmonella Pathogenicity Island 1 associated type III secretion system effector proteins.

Effector proteins	Effect on host cell
SipA	Rearrangement of cytoskeleton/neutrophil recruitment
SipB	Actin nucleation/translocation of other effectors
SipC	Translocation of other effectors
SopA	Immune cell recruitment, fluid secretion
SopB	Cytoskeleton rearrangement, neutrophil recruitment, fluid secretion
SopC	Neutrophil recruitment, fluid secretion
SopD	Neutrophil recruitment, fluid secretion
SopE	Rearrangement of cytoskeleton
SptP	Rearrangement of cytoskeleton

Modified from Lostroh and Lee (2001).

complex, which mediates docking and fusion of exocytic vesicles with the plasma membrane (Nichols and Casanova 2010; Malik-Kale et al. 2011). Recent work suggests that SopE can also activate RalA, a GTPase that is required for assembly of the exocyst (Nichols and Casanova 2010) and has been implicated in Fc gamma receptor-mediated phagocytosis (Corrotte et al. 2010). Thus SopE and SipC together appear to direct fusion of exocytic vesicles with the plasma membrane at the site of entry, presumably as a source of membrane for the expanding ruffle or phagocytic cup (Nichols and Casanova 2010). *Salmonella* also alters the actin cytoskeleton, through manipulation of phosphoinositides. The plasma membrane is intimately associated with actin cytoskeleton, and this interaction depends on phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PtdIns (4,5) P2). SigD/SopB is an SPI-1 translocated inositol phosphatase that induces the rapid disappearance of PtdIns (4,5) P2 from invaginating regions of the membrane during *Salmonella* invasion (Bakowski et al. 2010) and can hydrolyse a number of phosphor inositides and inositol phosphates *in vitro* and has diverse effects on host cells (Patel et al. 2009; Bakowski et al. 2010; Braun et al. 2010). This increases elasticity to facilitate the remodelling of the plasma membrane associated with *Salmonella* entry (Raucher et al. 2000). PtdIns (4,5) P2 has also been implicated in vesicle fission during the creation of phagosomes and clathrin-coated vesicles, and accordingly, SigD is also involved in sealing plasma membrane invaginations to form bona fide vacuoles. After invasion, an additional SPI-1 effector, SptP, acts as a GTPase-activating protein (GAP) for Cdc42 and Rac1, thereby inactivating these G proteins and returning cell morphology to a relatively normal state (Knodler and Steele-Mortimer 2003). SptP is a bifunctional protein, with its GAP domain at the amino terminus, and a protein tyrosine phosphatase domain at the carboxy terminus. A potential target for the tyrosine phosphatase activity of SptP is the intermediate filament protein vimentin, which is recruited to the membrane ruffles stimulated by *Salmonella* (Murli et al. 2001). Other studies have also identified another intermediate filament protein involved in *Salmonella* entry, SipC, which binds cytokeratins and expression of dominant negative cytokeratin-18 inhibits *Salmonella* entry into HEp2 cells (Carlson et al. 2002) (Fig. 4). Some of the translocated proteins and their functions have been summarized in Table 1.

Membrane ruffling is characterized by a rearrangement of cell membrane and cytosol such that the *Salmonella* bacterium is surrounded by the host cell and internalized (Jones et al. 1993; Goosney et al. 1999). Once *Salmonella* is internalized, the microorganism resides in the membrane bound vacuole/*Salmonella*-containing vacuole (SCV; Knodler and Steele-Mortimer 2003). As the SCV matures, it migrates from the luminal border of the cell to the basal membrane where the *Salmonella* interact with and enter into the macrophages associated with Peyer's patches in the submucosal space (Ohl and Miller 2001; Pegues et al. 2005). The formation of SCV occurs separately from

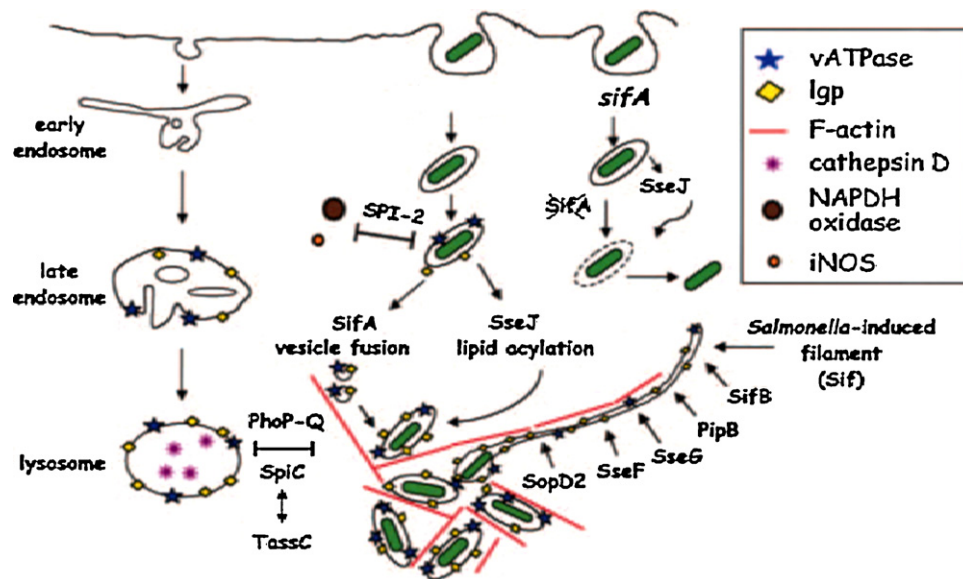


Fig. 5. Attachment and internalization of *Salmonella* in a host cell. After attachment to the host cell surface, *Salmonella* can express a type III secretion system that facilitates endothelial uptake and invasion through the translocation of effector proteins from the bacterial cell to the host cell cytosol. These effector proteins interact with the cytoskeleton, leading to membrane ruffling. Membrane ruffling allows the bacterium to be surrounded by the host cell membrane and internalized in the membrane-bound *Salmonella*-containing vacuole (SCV). SCVs do not interact extensively with late endosomes or lysosomes. In macrophages, evidence implicates the SPI-2 effector protein SpiC (which interacts with the host protein TassC) and the PhoP-Q regulon in this process. SifA, SifB, SseJ, SseF, SseG, PipB and SopD2 are examples of SPI-2 translocated proteins that localize to the SCV and Sifs in epithelial cells. Loss of vacuolar membrane from the *sifA* requires the action of SseJ.

Modified from Waterman and Holden (2003).

the normal endocytic processing pathways present in host cells. Further, it also acquires some of the endosomal markers involved in intracellular processing; though, it does not fuse with lysosomal compartments (Fig. 5; Unsworth and Holden 2000; Alonso and Garcia-del Portillo 2004). More recently, SopB was found to manipulate the SCV surface charge resulting in the inhibition of SCV and lysosome fusion (Bakowski et al. 2010; Jonathan et al. 2011). This separation helps, *Salmonella* to avoid being killed by the normal phago-lysosomal processing pathways (Holden 2002). The SCVs are important for *Salmonella* survival and transport in epithelial cells and play a key role in the survival of the bacterium within phagocytic cells such as macrophages during invasive infections. Therefore, the ability to survive and proliferate in SCV is very important for virulence of *Salmonella* (Tierrez and Garcia-del Portillo 2005; Foley and Lynne 2008).

4.3. *Salmonella* pathogenicity island-2 type III secretion system: intracellular survival and systemic infection

Invasive *Salmonella* infections are associated with T3SS encoded on SPI-2. The SPI-2 T3SS genes are only expressed inside the host cell SCV. Many of the genes encoded on SPI-2 encode for the structure of secretion system apparatus (*ssaG* through *ssaU*), secretion system effector (*sseABCDEF*), secretion system chaperones (*sscAB*), and secretion system regulatory (*ssrAB*) genes required for a functional T3SS (Hensel 2000). The SPI-2 T3SS secretion apparatus expression is regulated through SsrA-SsrB 2-component regulatory system, which is subsequently regulated by a second 2-component regulatory system, OmpR-EnvZ (Lee et al. 2000; Garmendia et al. 2003). A number of environmental conditions have been associated with the induction of the expression of SPI-2 T3SS genes through the OmpR-EnvZ regulatory system, including low osmolarity, low levels of certain nutrients, and acidification of the SCV (Cirillo et al. 1998; Lee et al. 2000). The activated SPI-2 T3SS facilitates the transfer of effector proteins from *Salmonella* across the SCV membrane to interact with targets in the host cells. The first SPI-2 effector protein to be identified and characterized was SpiC

(Uchiya et al. 1999). Lee et al. (2002) have identified a novel host cell protein as a target for SpiC, which has been named TassC. TassC was identified by a yeast two-hybrid screen and was also shown to interact with SpiC by pull-down and co-immune precipitation experiments. SpiC appears to exclude TassC from associating with the SCV. Many SPI-2 T3SS effector proteins including, SifA, SifB, SseJ, SseF, SseG, PipB and SopD2 interact with microtubule bundles and their associated motor proteins and are involved in the formation of *Salmonella*-induced filaments (SIF) that extend from SCV (Table 2 and Fig. 5; Waterman and Holden 2003; Abrahams and Hensel 2006). The formation of SIF takes place as the result of the fusion of SCV with other vesicles in the cell (Abrahams and Hensel 2006). They are enriched in lysosomal membrane glycoproteins (lgps) such as LAMP1 (García-del Portillo et al. 1993). The major functions of SIF are not fully understood; however, it is likely that SIF are important for pathogenesis and may play a role in intracellular replication of *Salmonella* because their formation often coincides with replication of the microorganisms (Knodler and Steele-Mortimer 2003). SpiC is translocated into the cytosol of host

Table 2

Salmonella pathogenicity island 2 associated type III secretion system effector proteins.

Effector proteins	Effect on host cell
SpiC	Disruption of vesicular transport
SseF	Aid in <i>Salmonella</i> -induced filament formation
SseG	Aid in <i>Salmonella</i> -induced filament formation
SifA	<i>Salmonella</i> -containing vacuole membrane integrity
SifB	Targeting to <i>Salmonella</i> induced filaments
SspH2	Cytoskeleton rearrangement
Srft	Apoptosis
Ssel	Cytoskeleton rearrangement
SseJ	<i>Salmonella</i> -containing vacuole membrane dynamics/acyl transferase
PipB	Targeting to <i>Salmonella</i> induced filaments
SopD2	Targeting to <i>Salmonella</i> induced filaments/late endosomes

Modified from Waterman and Holden (2003).

macrophages, where it interacts with the endomembrane system and interferes with normal secretory pathways of the host (Uchiya et al. 1999). This disruption likely protects organisms from bactericidal compounds, including reactive oxygen and reactive nitrogen molecules that are able to kill bacteria (Hensel 2000). Systemic infections are severe manifestations of salmonellosis. To facilitate systemic infection, intracellular *Salmonella* present in immune cells such as macrophages and DC may be carried from the intestinal tract to other areas of the body. Dendritic cells are important migratory phagocytes that are widely distributed throughout the body in lymphoid and non-lymphoid tissues (Sundquist et al. 2004). The ability of DC to migrate throughout the body potentially facilitates the spread of *Salmonella* to various parts of the body. While in DC, the *Salmonella* do not appear to replicate but remain viable, possibly in a small colony variant state with reduced metabolic activity and increased persistence (Tierrez and Garcia-del Portillo 2005). Genes encoded on SPI-2 T3SS appear to suppress antigen presentation by DC, which limits a robust immune response by the infected cells (Waterman and Holden 2003). A proteomics analysis of *S. Typhi* grown in low pH, low magnesium, minimal media (MgM or LPM) was reported. MgM is designed to approximate the phagosome of infected macrophages and is known to induce expression of SPI-2 virulence genes and other genes related to virulence and intra macrophage survival (Ansong et al. 2008; Shi et al. 2009). The combination of lowered metabolic activity and immunosuppression contributes to the persistence of *Salmonella* within host cells. When macrophages or DC enter the organ systems, the *Salmonella* can spread to adjacent cells and trigger apoptosis, which leads to increased pathology among the infected cells (Sheppard et al. 2003; Tierrez and Garcia-del Portillo 2005).

4.4. Other SPIs

The role of genes that belong to other pathogenicity islands in *S. Typhi* pathogenesis has not been investigated in depth yet. Other than these two major PIs, there are other PIs that have been identified most of which are of utmost importance to the virulence and survival of the bacterium. Such islands are SPI-3, SPI-4 and SPI-5. It has been suggested that when genes associated with SPI-3, SPI-4, and SPI-5 together with SPI-1 and SPI-2 are inactivated, *S. Typhi* loses the ability to express several virulence-associated traits, a factor that could begin to explain the loss of host range of these serovars. The magnesium transport system *mgtBC* is located on SPI-3 and magnesium availability is a key signal for *Salmonella* in the intracellular environment (Charles et al. 2009; Sheikh et al. 2010). SPI-4 carries genes (*spi4R* and *spi4D*) that are predicted to encode a type I secretion system whereas *pipAB* and *sopB* genes which encodes for TTSS-1 and TTSS-2 effector proteins are located on SPI-5 (Faucher et al. 2006). SPI-6 carries *pagN* and genes that encodes the *safA-D* and *tcsA-R* chaperone-usher fimbrial operons. Another important island is SPI-7 which is responsible for the production of the Vi polysaccharide capsule and also carries genes for potential virulence factors such as a phage encoding the *sopE* effector protein of SPI-1, a type IV pilus and a putative type IV secretion system (Helena and Seth-Smith 2008). SPI-8 encodes two bacteriocin pseudogenes and a degenerate integrase; notably, genes conferring immunity to the bacteriocins remain intact. SPI-9, carry genes that encodes a type I secretory apparatus and a single, large repeats in toxin (RTX)-like protein. On SPI-10, the *prpZ* locus encoding for proteins with homology to eukaryotic-type Ser/Thr protein phosphatase and kinases has been found to promote survival in macrophages (Faucher et al. 2008). SPI-11 carries *pagC* and *pagD* genes that encodes for macrophage survival and serum resistance (Harris et al. 2006). SPI-12 carries genes that encode for TTSS-2 effector proteins (Morgan 2007).

4.5. Plasmid-encoded virulence

In addition to the virulence factors associated with the SPI-1 and SPI-2 T3SS, some factors such as virulence or antimicrobial resistance can be found on plasmids (Rotger and Casadesus 1999; Sheppard et al. 2003). Strains from many serovars lack virulence plasmids; however, some of the most important serovars for human health, including *S. Typhimurium*, *S. Enteritidis*, and *S. Choleraesuis* are known to harbor virulence plasmids (Lu et al. 1999; Villa and Carattoli 2005; Yu et al. 2006). These virulence plasmids have a genetic locus called *Salmonella* plasmid virulence, which contains *spvRABCD* genes. The *spv* genes appear to be important for bacterial multiplication within host cells during extra-intestinal infections (Guiney et al. 1995). Additional virulence genes located on virulence plasmids include those encoding fimbriae (*pef-BACDI*) and serum resistance (*traT*; Rotger and Casadesus 1999). Although most virulence plasmids are not self-transmissible, some appear to contain a full concert of transfer (*tra*) genes that allow the plasmids to be transferred to additional strains by conjugation (discussed subsequently), potentially increasing the virulence of the recipients (Ahmer et al. 1999). Due to their conservation among members of a particular serovar, virulence plasmids provide a significant advantage to the strains harboring these plasmids (Foley and Lynne 2008).

5. Apoptosis and the human toll receptor activated in typhoid fever

Typhoid fever is an important example of severe sepsis, because it presents an enormous amount of cellular death (necroapoptosis) besides severe toxemia. The role of Toll R2 and Toll R4 receptors has been studied in *Drosophila*. The innate immune system uses Toll family receptors to sign organisms' presence and initiate host defense. Bacterial lipoproteins (BLP) expressed in all bacteria species are potent activators of "Toll-like receptor 2" (Toll R2). The innate immune system includes macrophages and natural killer (NK) cells that act directly on pathogens through cytokines and other stimulatory molecules, which activate the adaptive immune responses (cellular and molecular) through T and B lymphocytes (Modlin et al. 1999). The innate immune system (first line of defense) identifies the pathogens by standard recognition receptors, which attach to microbial macromolecules. In this way, macrophage mannose receptors attach to structures with repeats of polymannose. Before the discovery of the Toll R2 receptors the CD14 receptors, were considered as of fundamental importance to recognize LPS/endotoxin on the surface of Gram negative bacteria. The difference between CD14 and Toll R2 is that the former are a "GPI" (glycosyl-phosphatidylinositol) receptor, that does not cross the cellular membrane, and does not transmit signals to cytoplasm or activate protein chains of macrophages (Hoffmann et al. 1999; Modlin et al. 1999). In contrast, Toll R2 molecules cross the cellular membrane, and transmit sign for the signal transduction chains. The activation of these protein pathways spreads to the transcriptional factor NF- κ B that will migrate to the cellular nucleus starting from the cytoplasm. NF- κ B recognizes and liberates genes encoding the adhesion molecules, TNF- α and other Th1 cytokines (IFN- γ , IL-2, etc.). The patients with deficient immune response to combat the infection by macrophage activation may develop septic shock (Morrison & Ryan 1987). The pathogens have molecular antigens such as LPS, glycolipid of mycobacteria, lipoteichoic acid, mannans of yeast, and RNAs of virus that are recognized by receptors (Janeway 1989; Medzhitov et al. 1997).

Two LPS binding proteins, BPI (bactericidal permeability increasing protein) and LBP (lipopolysaccharide binding protein) are of fundamental importance, because their association with LPS results

in distinct effects. BPI (55 kD) which is present in neutrophils with selective toxicity against Gram-negative bacteria has an antimicrobial role. This protein is more effective when it acts on neutrophils in synergism with defensins (intestinal mucosa's antimicrobial). LBP increases the cell sensitivity to LPS allowing the effector cells to be activated by subpicomolar LPS concentrations (Tobias et al. 1986; Ulevitch and Tobias 1999). LBP also carries out an important role in the bacterial clearance of peripheral blood through CD14.

Studies have indicated that Toll family receptors (TLRs) in association with LBP and CD14 are critical in LPS mediated signaling (Hoffmann et al. 1999). Presently six members of the TLR family are known, two of which, TLR2 and TLR4, are associated with LPS signaling. Several lines of evidence support the view that TLR4 is the receptor for gram negative bacterial LPS and TLR2 is the receptor for gram positive peptidoglycan and lipoproteins (Schwandner et al. 1999; Takeuchi et al. 1999). TLR2 is the first member of the TLR family that was found to be involved in responsiveness to LPS. Evidence was also provided that TLR2 directly bind LPS (Yang et al. 1998). In addition to TLR2, TLR4 was also found to be involved positive bacteria, in LPS-mediated signaling. Positional cloning of the *Lps* gene, which governs responses to LPS, disclosed the defect in the LPS-hyporesponsive mouse strains C3H/HeJ and C57BL/10ScCr is due to mutation in the TLR4 gene (Poltorak et al. 1998; Qureshi et al. 1999) while overexpression of either TLR2 or TLR4 has been reported to confer responsiveness to LPS in cell lines (Yang et al. 1998; Chow et al. 1999). It was also shown that hTLR2 (Toll-like human receptor 2) and hTLR4 (Toll-like human receptor 4) can interact with CD14 located on the surface of monocytes/macrophages to form the LPS receptor complex. LPS treatment leads to receptor oligomerization and to subsequent recruitment of IRAK (Yang et al. 1999). Toll is a type I transmembrane receptor with an extracellular domain containing leucine-rich repeat (LRR) and a cytoplasmic domain similar to that of mammalian interleukin-1 receptor (IL-1R) (Aliprantis et al. 1999, 2000; Nomura et al. 2000). This domain communicates with an adapting protein MyD88 (myeloid differentiation factor 88) that interacts with TLR4 starting cell signaling as follows: IL-1R associated kinase (IRAK-1), TNF- α receptor (TNFR) associated factor 6 (Traf-6) and NF- κ B inducing kinase (NIK). The kinases IRAK-1 and NIK phosphorylate inactive an complex in the cytoplasm named I κ Bs (IKK α and IKK β), causing its degradation through ubiquitination-proteasome. This reaction releases the NF- κ B/REL (REL – reticuloendotheliosis oncogene, signal responsive transcriptional factor) dimer, and NF- κ B migrates to the nucleus resulting in activation of immunomodulatory genes. This, in turn, causes the synthesis of cytokines, adhesion molecules (ICAMs), stress proteins (HSPs), and activation of inhibitors of apoptosis genes (IAPs). TLR2 transmits a proapoptotic signal via death receptors and FADD protein (fan-associated death domain). The FADD contacts a homologous area in the caspase-8 prodomain, that cleaves effective caspases 3 and 7 and activates the apoptosis program (Aliprantis et al. 1999, 2000). Finally there is binding of TLR2 to the cell apoptosis machinery (Aliprantis et al. 2000).

6. Vaccines against typhoid fever

None of the currently available typhoid vaccines is ideal. The first line of parenteral whole cell vaccines has been associated with fever and systemic reactions. Although licensed, it is considered unsuitable for mass immunization and no longer in use (Garmony et al. 2002). Consequently two vaccines have been developed. The first is a live oral vaccine based on Ty21a (an attenuated strain of *S. Typhi*) that is well-tolerated and the other is Vi-based parenteral subunit vaccine (based on the purified capsular polysaccharide *S. Typhi* Vi antigen). Both these vaccines are well tolerated but are only moderately protective.

One of the obstacles in developing of the vaccines has been the variety of typhoidal and non-typhoidal salmonellosis caused by different serovars and strains. Efforts are being made to develop improved attenuated *S. Typhi* vaccine strains. The most promising strains include CVD 908-*htrA*, CVD 906, CVD 909, Ty800, and M01ZH09 (Levine et al. 2001, 2004; Tacket et al. 2000; Hohmann et al. 1996; Jain 2009). These attenuated strains of *S. Typhi* could also be candidates to serve as carrier of foreign antigens from other pathogens.

The outer membrane proteins (OMPs) of *Salmonella* have been exploited as the possible candidate for conferring protection against typhoid. Our laboratory has been able to isolate, purify and characterize a Novel non-porin OMP from the outer membranes of *S. Typhi* with an apparent molecular mass of 49 kDa that is highly immunogenic, evokes humoral and cell-mediated immune responses, and confers 100% protection to immunized rats against challenge with very high doses of *S. Typhimurium*. This OMP provides a promising target for the development of candidate vaccine against typhoid (Hamid and Jain 2008, 2010).

7. Conclusion

Salmonella has been around for long and large number of studies has been carried out in an effort to combat its infections. *Salmonella* has evolved a remarkable mechanism for adaptation to its intracellular environment. Studies on bacterial pathogenesis have allowed insight into the complex process of highly adapted interactions between pathogens and their hosts at the cellular and molecular levels. Immunologists and microbiologists have long appreciated murine infection with *Salmonella* as a model that allows a natural route of challenge and detailed study of bacterial virulence factors and innate and adaptive immunity. Further, the elucidation of the molecules and mechanisms underlying bacterial pathogenesis is a major focus of microbiological research which yields practical applications from refined diagnostics to new antibiotics and improved vaccines against *Salmonella* infections, to use *Salmonella* strains as live carriers for recombinant vaccines, and to develop novel forms of treatment that target the function of specific virulence factors.

Disclosure

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