Molecular structure identification in mass spectrometry by free-electron laser based ion spectroscopy

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FELIX – FREE ELECTRON LASER FOR INFRARED EXPERIMENTS





MASS SPECTROMETRY IN THE ANALYSIS OF COMPLEX MIXTURES



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COLLISION-INDUCED DISSOCIATION MS/MS FOR SMALL MOLECULE IDENTIFICATION



- Fragment spectrum not predictable from *QM first principles*
- MS/MS library search
- Identify only known unknowns

MS/MS IDENTIFICATION WORKFLOW





CONFIDENCE LEVELS IN MS-BASED MOLECULAR ID

Metabolite identification confidence

61M+ compounds (PubChem) Level 5 unit resolution..... 354 ± 1 Da..... 200k molecules ٠ ٠ Unique Feature Mass measurement accuracy, ± ppm ٠ Heuristic Filtering ٠ Level 4 Molecular Formula Increasing confidence Isotope abundance distribution, charge state and adduct ion determination Level 3 Orthogonal information **Tentative Structure** MS1 m/z database match fragmentation data (MS/MS) ٠ retention time • Level 2 collision cross section • spatial/temporal location ٠ Putative Identification optical spectroscopy ٠ MS/MS spectrum match NMR • Level 1 Validated Identification Reference standard1 confirmed identification confirms structure



INTEGRATE IR SPECTROSCOPY WITH MASS SPECTROMETRY





INFRARED ION SPECTROSCOPY (IRIS)





IR spectroscopy, but with

- selectivity of MS
- sensitivity of MS
- versatility of MS (LC, MS/MS, IMS)



EXPERIMENTAL: MODIFIED BRUKER AMAZON ION TRAP MASS SPECTROMETER



BIOMARKER DISCOVERY FOR METABOLIC DISEASES





TRANSLATIONAL METABOLIC LABORATORY AT RADBOUD UMC







Leo Kluijtmans





Ron Wevers



Dirk Lefeber



Udo Engelke



PYRIDOXINE DEPENDENT EPILEPSY (PDE)





IRIS CONFIRMS THAT *M/Z* 128 CID FRAGMENT IS PROTONATED P6C



REFERENCE-FREE IDENTIFICATION OF *M***/***Z* **186 BIOMARKER**





FULL IDENTIFICATION INCLUDING STEREOCHEMISTRY





Van Outersterp et al. *Anal. Chem.* **2021**, *93*, 15340 Engelke et al. *J. Clin. Invest.* **2021**, *131*, e148272

FULL IDENTIFICATION (LEVEL 1) INCLUDING STEREOCHEMISTRY USING SYNTHESIZED STANDARDS



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METABOLITE IDENTIFICATION

- Inclusion in newborn ٠ screening programs
- Pathophysiology of PDE •
- Treatment •







Engelke et al. J. Clin. Invest. 2021, 131, e148272



MS/MS LIBRARY ANNOTATIONS



TESTOSTERONE GLUCOSE GLUCOSE CHOLESTEROLOX NICOTINAMIDE ADENINE DINI SERINE TRYPTOPHAN PHOSE

PYRU GLUC NICOT









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EXAMPLE: MS/MS FRAGMENT ION OF HOMOCITRULLINE AT M/Z 127





HOMOCITRULLINE FRAGMENTATION TREE



Lara van Tetering, Sylvia Spies, Quirine Wildeman



Lara van Tetering, Sylvia Spies, Quirine Wildeman

IRIS SPECTRA IN THE HMDB



David Wishart, U of Alberta

AN AUTOMATED WORKFLOW FOR IRIS-BASED IDENTIFICATION





AUTOMATIC FINDING OF THE CORRECT ISOMER



Houthuijs, Berden, Engelke, Gautam, Wishart, Wevers, Martens, Oomens, Anal. Chem. **2023**, 95, 8998



AUTOMATIC FINDING OF THE CORRECT ISOMER



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COMBINED MS/MS + IRIS IDENTIFICATION



* Dührkop, Fleischauer, Ludwig, Aksenov, Melnik, Meusel, Dorrestein, Rousu, Böcker, *Nature Meth.* **2019**, *16*, 299





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CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

Combine with MS toolbox

- Ion mobility & LC separation
- Accurate mass determination
- MALDI imaging

New analytical applications

- Environmental: water contaminants, air pollutants
- Forensics: novel psychoactive substances
- Drug metabolism
- Synthetic/organic chemistry

New methodologies

- 2-color
- Strategies for rapid identification
- Benchtop IRIS





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