

Targeting the cancer stroma with a fibroblast activation protein-activated promelittin protoxin

Aaron M. LeBeau,¹ W. Nathaniel Brennen,¹ Saurabh Aggarwal,² and Samuel R. Denmeade^{1,2,3}

Departments of ¹Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences and ²Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and ³The Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Maryland

Abstract

Fibroblast-Activation Protein- α (FAP) is a membrane-bound serine protease that is expressed on the surface of reactive stromal fibroblasts present within the majority of human epithelial tumors but is not expressed by normal tissues. FAP is a postprolyl peptidase that differs from other dipeptidyl prolyl peptidases such as di-prolylpeptidase 4 in that it also has gelatinase and collagenase endopeptidase activity. Therefore, FAP represents a potential pan-tumor target whose enzymatic activity can be exploited for the intratumoral activation of prodrugs and protoxins. To evaluate FAP as a tumor-specific target, putative FAP-selective peptide protoxins were constructed through modification of the prodomain of melittin, a 26 amino acid amphipathic cytolytic peptide that is the main toxic component in the venom of the common European honeybee *Apis mellifera*. Melittin is synthesized as promelittin, containing a 22 amino acid NH₂-terminal prodomain rich in the amino acids proline and alanine. In this study, peptides containing truncated melittin prodomain sequences were tested on erythrocytes to determine the optimal prodomain length for inhibiting cytolytic activity. Once optimized, modified promelittin peptides were generated in which previously identified FAP substrate sequences were introduced into the prodomain. Peptide protoxins were identified that were efficiently activated by FAP and selectively toxic to FAP-expressing cell lines with an IC₅₀ value in the low micromolar range that is similar to melittin. Intratumoral injection of an FAP-activated protoxin

produced significant lysis and growth inhibition of human breast and prostate cancer xenografts with minimal toxicity to the host animal. [Mol Cancer Ther 2009;8(5):1378–86]

Introduction

The growth of an epithelial neoplasm requires the formation of a supporting tumor stroma to supply nutrients and growth factors for tumor cell survival and continued growth. This invasive growth is associated with characteristic changes in the supporting stroma that include the induction of tumor blood vessel formation; the recruitment of reactive stromal fibroblasts, lymphocytes, and macrophages; the release of peptide-signaling molecules and proteases; and the production of an altered extracellular matrix (1–5). The tumor stroma compartment represents a major component of the mass of most carcinomas, with 20% to 50% commonly seen in breast, lung, and colorectal cancers and reaching >90% in carcinomas that have desmoplastic reactions (5, 6).

Reactive tumor stromal fibroblasts differ from fibroblasts of normal adult tissues with regard to morphology, gene expression profiles, and production of important biological mediators such as growth factors and proteases (1, 7, 8). A highly consistent trait of tumor stromal fibroblasts is the induction of the membrane-bound serine protease fibroblast-activation protein- α (FAP). FAP was originally identified as an inducible antigen expressed on reactive stroma and given the name Fibroblast Activation Protein. FAP was independently identified by a second group as a gelatinase expressed by aggressive melanoma cell lines and was given the name “seprase” for surface expressed protease (9). Subsequent cloning of FAP and seprase revealed that they are the same cell-surface serine protease (10).

FAP was originally reported to be a cell-surface antigen recognized by the F19 monoclonal antibody on human astrocytes and sarcoma cell lines *in vitro* (11). In one series using human tissues, FAP was detected in the stroma of over 90% of malignant breast, colorectal, skin, and pancreatic tumors (7, 11). In a small study, FAP was detected in the stroma of 7 of 7 prostate cancers (12). FAP is also expressed by a subset of soft tissue and bone sarcomas (7). FAP-positive fibroblasts also accompany newly formed tumor blood vessels (10). In nonmalignant tissue, FAP is expressed by reactive fibroblasts in wound healing, rheumatoid arthritis, liver cirrhosis, and in some fetal mesenchymal tissues (7). Cheng et al. (13) also showed that, such as human FAP, mouse FAP is expressed by reactive fibroblasts within human cancer xenografts. In contrast, most normal adult tissues show no detectable FAP protein expression (7). In a recent study, Ghilardi et al. (14) used real-time PCR to quantify gene expression from laser

Received 9/17/08; revised 2/11/09; accepted 2/19/09; published OnlineFirst 5/5/09.

Grant support: NIH grant 5R01CA124764 to SRD and a DOD prostate cancer predoctoral mentorship grant W81XWH-07 (W.N. Brennen).

The costs of publication of this article were defrayed in part by the payment of page charges. This article must therefore be hereby marked *advertisement* in accordance with 18 U.S.C. Section 1734 solely to indicate this fact.

Requests for reprints: Samuel R. Denmeade, Department of Oncology, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Cancer Research Building I, Rm 1M43, 1650 Orleans Street, Baltimore, MD 21231. Phone: 410-955-8875; Fax: 410-614-8397. E-mail: denmesa@jhmi.edu

Copyright © 2009 American Association for Cancer Research.

doi:10.1158/1535-7163.MCT-08-1170

capture dissected tumor endothelium and found a significant increase in FAP expression compared with normal endothelium. This suggests that FAP expression may also be induced in both reactive tumor stroma and endothelium.

FAP is a member of the enzyme class known as postprolyl peptidases that are uniquely capable of cleaving the Pro-Xxx amino acid bond (15). This group of proteases includes the well-characterized dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP4) as well as DPP2, DPP6, DPP7, DPP8, DPP9, prolyl carboxypeptidase, and prolyl endopeptidase. The substrate preferences for many of these prolyl peptidases are not entirely known but, such as DPP4, they all have dipeptidase activity. Like DPP4, FAP is a type II integral membrane protein able to cleave peptides containing proline as the penultimate amino acid. FAP differs from DPP4 in that it also has gelatinase and collagenase activity (16). This additional gelatinase/collagenase activity may be unique to FAP among the family of prolyl proteases.

The selective tumor expression and unique enzymatic activity of FAP make it a potentially attractive therapeutic target. Recently, our laboratory mapped all of the FAP cleavage sites in recombinant human gelatin and identified a series of peptide substrates that are efficiently cleaved by FAP (17). These peptide substrates can be coupled to cytotoxic small molecules to make FAP-activated prodrugs. Alternatively, the peptides could be incorporated into the activation domain of cytolytic proteins and peptides to produce FAP-activated protoxins. In this regard, we have generated an FAP-activated peptide toxin by incorporating an FAP-selective peptide sequence into the prodomain of the cytolytic peptide melittin.

Melittin, a 26 amino acid amphipathic peptide, is the main toxic component in the venom of the common European honeybee *Apis mellifera* (18). The ability of melittin to induce the lysis of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells has been well-documented (19–21). The exact mechanism by which melittin disrupts both natural and synthetic phospholipid bilayers is still largely unknown. In an aqueous milieu, melittin has a net + 6 charge and exists as a random coiled monomer. It has been suggested that melittin can produce its toxic effects either by forming a transmembrane pore structure made up of melittin aggregates or by binding to the membrane surface and acting in a detergent-like manner leading to an increase in membrane permeability (18, 21).

In the honeybee, melittin is secreted into the venom glands as promelittin possessing an NH₂-terminal prodomain made up of 22 amino acids. The prodomain is highly negatively charged containing nine acidic amino acid residues (22). The presence of the prodomain confers an overall negative charge to the molecule and decreases the ability of melittin to interact with the surface of the cell membrane. In the prodomain amino acid sequence, every second amino acid is either proline or alanine. Promelittin activation *in vivo* is the result of the stepwise cleavage of the prodomain into 11 dipeptide fragments by a DPP4-like protease present in honeybee venom gland extracts (22). By acetylating the promelittin peptide or adding an extra amino acid residue at the NH₂ terminus, the stepwise activation of pro-

melittin by DPP4 dipeptidase activity is prevented. This observation suggested that the promelittin prodomain could be readily reengineered to produce a prodomain that can be removed by a non-DPP4-like endopeptidase such as FAP. In this study, we report studies done to determine the minimal prodomain length required to inactivate the cytolytic activity of melittin. Subsequently, we substituted putative FAP peptide substrates into this truncated prodomain to identify an FAP-melittin peptide that is selectively toxic to FAP-producing cells. Finally, we evaluated the anti-tumor effect of an FAP-melittin protoxin after intratumoral injection of peptide into human prostate and breast cancer xenografts.

Materials and Methods

All reagents for Fmoc solid-phase peptide synthesis were purchased from Anaspec. Unless stated otherwise, all other reagents were purchased from Sigma. His-tagged FAP lacking the transmembrane domain was produced and purified in our laboratory as previously described (17). FAP activity was confirmed through activation of the dipeptide substrate Ala-Pro-AFC.

Cell Lines

The human prostate cancer cell line LNCaP and the human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 were purchased from American Type Culture Collection. LNCaP was maintained in RPMI 1640 and MCF-7 in DMEM media supplemented with 10% serum, 1% pen/strep, and 2 mmol/L L-glutamine (Invitrogen) in a 37°C incubator with 5% CO₂ and 98% humidity as previously described (23).

Generation of FAP-Transfected Cells

The full-length human FAP cDNA was generated as previously described (17) and cloned into the multiple cloning site of a pIRESneo3 vector (Clontech). Neomycin-selected colonies were obtained and evaluated for FAP expression through fluorescence-activated cell sorting analysis using supernatant from an anti-FAP F19 monoclonal antibody producing hybridoma line obtained from American Type Culture Collection as the primary antibody. Colonies expressing the highest levels of FAP were expanded and maintained under neomycin selection for use in *in vitro* studies.

Peptide Synthesis

Promelittin peptides were synthesized on Fmoc-Gln(Trt) Rink amide 4-methyl benzhydrylamine resin and were elongated using standard Fmoc solid-phase peptide conditions on an AAPTEC Apex 396 peptide synthesizer as previously described (24). The prodomain for each peptide was of variable length, but the mature melittin peptide sequence, NH₂-GIGAVLKVLTGLPALISWIKRKRQQ-NH₂, was the same for each peptide. The cleavage and deprotection of the peptides from the resin were carried out using a cleavage cocktail of trifluoroacetic acid/thioanisole/water/phenol/EDT (82.5:5:5:2.5, v/v) for 4 h. The peptides were precipitated from the cleavage cocktail using cold ether and dissolved in water for reversed-phase high-performance liquid chromatography purification. Reversed-phase high-performance liquid chromatography purification was

Table 1. Prodomain amino acid sequence of promelittin peptides

Toxin		HD ₅₀ (μmol/L)	Net charge
PM11	APEPEPAPEPEAEADAEADPEA	>100	-3
PM11a	PEPEPAPEPEAEADAEADPEA	>100	-3
PM10	EPEPAPEPEAEADAEADPEA	>100	-3
PM10a	PEPAPEPEAEADAEADPEA	>100	-2
PM9	EPAPEPEAEADAEADPEA	95.5 ± 3.4	-2
PM9a	PAPEPEAEADAEADPEA	73.0 ± 4.7	-1
PM8	APEPEAEADAEADPEA	64.0 ± 4.2	-1
PM8a	PEPEAEADAEADPEA	59.3 ± 2.7	-1
PM7	EPEAEADAEADPEA	66.6 ± 2.9	-1
PM7a	PEAEADAEADPEA	52.0 ± 2.3	0
PM6	EAEADAEADPEA	55.9 ± 3.5	0
PM6a	AEADAEADPEA	48.4 ± 1.9	1
PM5	EADAEADPEA	37.6 ± 2.5	1
PM5a	ADAEADPEA	29.2 ± 1.8	2
PM4	DAEADPEA	22.3 ± 1.1	2
PM4a	AEADPEA	11.8 ± 0.6	3
PM3	EADPEA	8.6 ± 0.3	3
PM3a	ADPEA	6.2 ± 0.2	4
PM2	DPEA	4.7 ± 0.3	4
PM2a	PEA	1.8 ± 0.1	5
PM1	EA	1.7 ± 0.1	5
PM1a	A	1.5 ± 0.1	6
PM0		1.3 ± 0.1	6

NOTE: HD₅₀, concentration required to lyse 50% of RBC in a 2% RBC solution. Charge, net charge on the full length peptide.

done on a Waters Δ 600 semiprep system using a Phenomenex Luna 10u C₁₈ 250 × 10 mm semiprep column. The high-performance liquid chromatography gradient profile was linear starting at 100% solvent A (0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in H₂O) and changing to 100% solvent B (0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in acetonitrile) over 25 min with a flow rate of 8 mL/min. Fractions of the desired purity (>95% as determined using an analytic reversed-phase high-performance liquid chromatography) were pooled and lyophilized. The purified promelittin peptides were mass analyzed on an Applied Biosystems Voyager DE-STR MALDI-TOF mass spectrometer at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics Facility using a matrix of 10 mg/mL 2,5-dihydroxy benzoic acid in 50% ethanol/water. The mass spectrometer was calibrated using the ProteoMass Peptide MALDI Calibration kit (Sigma). All spectra were acquired in the positive ion mode.

Hemolysis Assays

Hemolysis assays were done as previously described (23). Briefly, peptides were dissolved in DMSO and serially titrated by 2-fold dilution using 1× PBS buffer. The peptides were incubated over a range of concentrations with washed human RBC at a concentration of 2% v/v for 1 h at 37°C. The control for zero hemolysis was RBCs suspended in PBS buffer alone, and the 100% hemolysis control consisted of RBCs in the presence of 1% Triton X-100. After incubation with the peptides, the RBCs were pelleted and 50 μL of each sample were transferred in triplicate to a clear flat-bottomed 96-well polystyrene

plate. Hemolysis was assessed by measuring the absorbance of the samples at 540 nm with a Molecular Devices Spectra Max Plus automatic plate reader.

Promelittin FAP Digestion

One hundred micrograms of each promelittin peptide were incubated with 2 μg of purified FAP in 200 μL of FAP assay buffer containing 100 mmol/L Tris, 100 mmol/L NaCl (pH 7.8) at 37°C. Aliquots of the digests were taken every hour for 8 h, desalted using P10-C₁₈ ZipTips (Millipore), and spotted (0.5 μL) on a MALDI-TOF plate using the 2,5-dihydroxy benzoic acid matrix. Spectra were collected on an Applied Biosystems Voyager DE-STR MALDI-TOF mass spectrometer in positive ion mode.

Cytotoxicity Assays

Assays were done using MCF-7 breast cancer cells transfected with a full-length FAP expression vector. Vector only-transfected MCF-7 cells served as a control. Cells were exposed to peptides over a range of concentrations for 72 h prior and then cell viability was determined using an 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide cell proliferation assay (Promega) as previously described and according to manufacturer's instructions (23).

In vivo Assays: Tumor Xenograft Studies

Mouse care and treatment was approved by and done in accordance with the guidelines of the Animal Care and Use Committee of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Cells maintained under standard conditions were detached by treatment with 0.25% trypsin-EDTA solution and washed in HBSS. They were then suspended in a 60% mixture of Matrigel Matrix (BD Biosciences) in HBSS at a concentration of 2.0 × 10⁶ cells per 100 μL of solution. LNCaP cells were then injected into the subcutis overlying the rear flanks of 6-week-old male nude mice (Harlan). MCF-7 cells were injected s.c. into 6-wk-old female nude mice previously implanted s.c. with a slow release estrogen pellet (0.72 mg of 17β-estradiol; Innovative Research of America) in the contralateral flank. Weekly tumor measurements were made with calipers and the tumor volume (in cm³) was calculated by the formula 0.5236 × L × W × H. The mice were euthanized by CO₂ overdose, and the tumors were weighed and processed for histochemical analysis as previously described (23). Balb-c mice (Harlan) were used for i.v. toxicity studies as previously described (23).

Statistical Analysis

For the *in vitro* proliferation studies, *P* values were derived from the Student's *t* test. All statistical tests were two-sided, and *P* value of <0.05 was considered to be statistically significant. For the *in vivo* studies, data, presented as mean ± SE, were evaluated using ANOVA analysis. *P* value of <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

Promelittin Prodomain Truncation

A total of 22 promelittin peptides, representing every possible prodomain length, were synthesized (Table 1). Using the truncated promelittin peptides, we investigated how much of the prodomain was necessary to inhibit the

cytolytic ability of melittin. The goal was to find the minimal length melittin prodomain that could be subsequently modified to produce the minimal length FAP-activated melittin peptide toxin. Whereas PM11 represents the full-length prodomain, peptides PM0-PM10 represent products of the stepwise two amino acid cleavage of promelittin by DPP4. Peptides PM1a-PM11a are non-DPP4 substrates because they do not contain dipeptide units at the NH₂ terminus ending with either proline or alanine. To assess the relative degree of inhibition of the lytic ability of each promelittin peptide toward eukaryotic cells, human erythrocytes were used as a model membrane. The hemolytic dose necessary to lyse 50% of the erythrocytes (i.e., HD₅₀) was determined for each promelittin peptide (Table 1). These studies revealed that the promelittin peptides containing the longest prodomains were the least hemolytic toward human erythrocytes. The full-length promelittin peptide (PM11), PM11a, PM10, and PM10a, all had HD₅₀ values above 100 μmol/L. Appreciable hemolysis was not

observed until approximately half of the pro-domain had been removed. PM6, with a 12 amino acid prodomain sequence and a net charge of 0, had an HD₅₀ of 55.9 μmol/L. As the pro-domain sequence decreased one amino acid at a time and the net negative charge of the peptide increased, the HD₅₀ for each peptide steadily decreased (Table 1). PM0 (melittin) was found to have an HD₅₀ of 1.3 μmol/L. Likewise, the 7 shortest promelittin peptides were hemolytic with HD₅₀ values at or below 10 μmol/L.

Based on these results, the 14 amino acid pro-domain length of PM7, which had an HD₅₀ of 66.6 μmol/L, was selected for further studies aimed at developing an FAP-activated toxin. PM7 was found to be ~50-fold less hemolytic than the fully processed melittin. Although longer length prodomains had higher HD₅₀ values in the hemolysis assay, the 40 amino acid PM7 was selected because this starting peptide length allowed for the introduction of modifications and additions to the prodomain that would produce peptides that were <50 amino acids

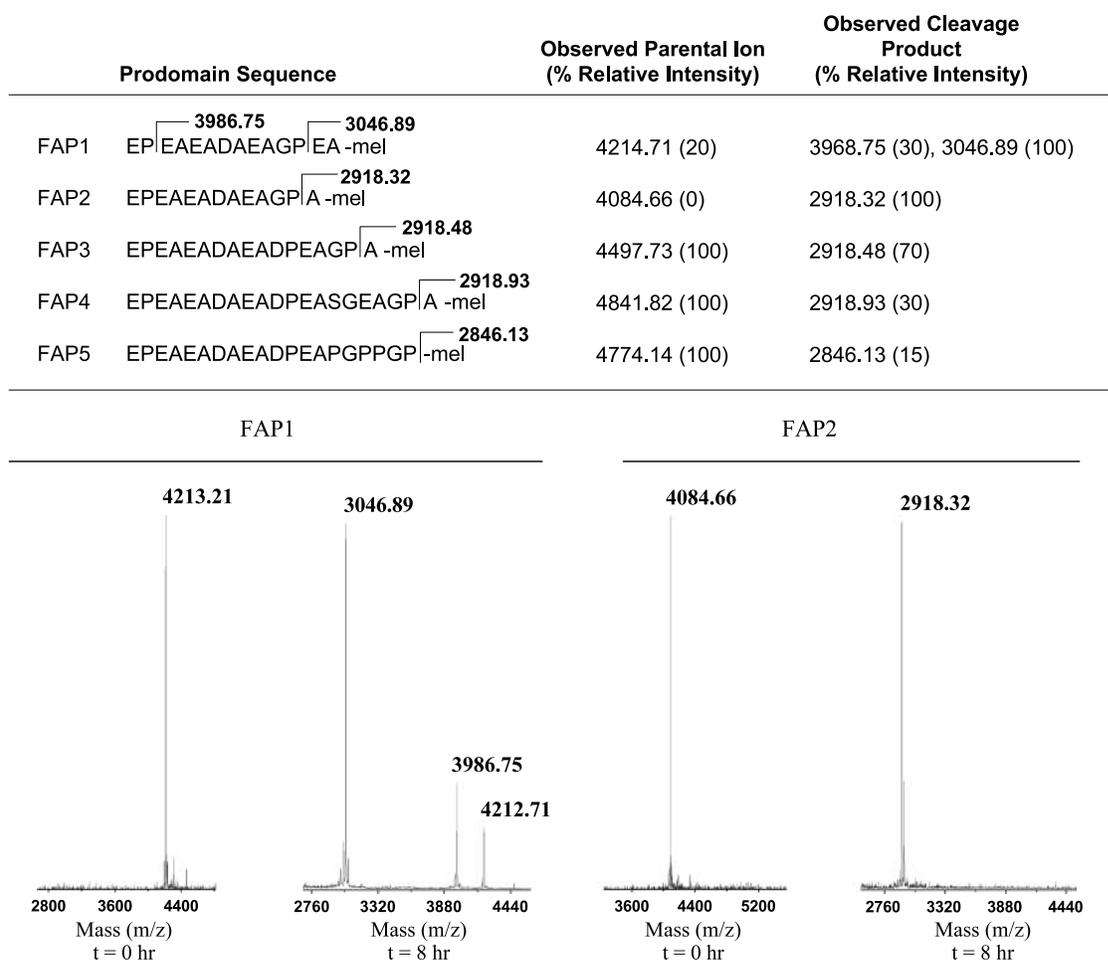


Figure 1. FAP cleavage of the modified promelittin peptides. The prodomain sequence of modified protoxins (FAP 1-5) with cleavage site and mass of cleavage fragment delineated. MALDI-TOF analysis was used to evaluate the extent of cleavage. The relative intensity of each mass fragment is based on a comparison of the relative peak height for each individual trace, with the largest peak for each experiment arbitrarily set to 100. *Bottom*, representative MALDI trace for FAP1 and FAP2 (100 μg) at time 0 and 8 h after exposure to active FAP (2 μg total).

in length. Peptides longer than 50 amino acids were technically difficult to synthesize and this precluded the use of longer length promelittins (e.g., PM11) as the starting sequence.

Generation of an FAP-Cleavable Promelittin Prototoxins

Previous studies in our laboratory and others have documented that the most preferred FAP-cleavable peptide sequences contain Pro in the P1 position and Gly in the P2 position with a suggestion that Ala in the P'1 position is also favored (17, 25). Based on our previous studies characterizing FAP cleavage substrates from a map of cleavage sites within human gelatin, five candidate prototoxins were synthesized using the prodomain of PM7 (i.e., FAP1-5; Fig. 1A; ref. 16). In FAP1, the Asp-4 of the PM7 prodomain was changed to a Gly to reproduce the Gly-Pro preference in the P1 and P2 positions ascribed to FAP (17). Because the effect on the ability of FAP to hydrolyze a peptide containing an acidic Glu residue in the P1 position was not known, FAP2 was designed such that the prodomain sequence was kept the same as that for FAP1 with the exception that Glu-2 of the prodomain of FAP1 was removed to create the FAP preferred P2-P1-P'1 sequence of Gly-Pro-Ala. For FAP3, the P2-P1-P'1 sequence of Gly-Pro-Ala was inserted between the NH₂ terminus of melittin and the full-length native PM7 prodomain sequence. FAP4 had a seven amino acid FAP cleavable peptide substrate (SGEAGPA) inserted between the NH₂ terminus and the PM7 prodomain, whereas FAP5 had a repetitive (Pro-Gly-Pro)₂ motif inserted between the NH₂ terminus of melittin and the prodomain of PM7. FAP4 and FAP5 were the two largest peptides synthesized, 46 and 47 amino acids, respectively. FAP2 was the shortest, consisting of only 39 amino acids. The hemolytic activity of these FAP candidate prototoxins was assayed and all were found to have HD₅₀ values between 50 and 70 μmol/L (Table 2).

FAP Cleavage Assays

To assess FAP cleavage, the FAP candidate prototoxins were assayed *in vitro* with purified recombinant FAP to characterize the extent of FAP-mediated cleavage. The peptides (100 μg) were digested with FAP (2 μg) for a total of 8 hours at 37°C. Every 2 hours, aliquots were taken and the progress of the digest was monitored using matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometry (Fig. 1). After 8 hours, the only prototoxin that was completely digested by FAP was FAP2 (Fig. 1). The digested FAP2 yielded only 1 cleavage product with a mass of 2,918.32 m/z, corresponding to the hydrolysis of the Gly-Pro↓Ala bond. FAP1, which differed from FAP2 by only one Glu residue, did show some of the desired cleavage product at 3,046.89 m/z (Fig. 1). However, the FAP1 digest was incomplete, leaving uncut starting material and other cleavage by-products. FAP3, FAP4, and FAP5 were cleaved to varying degrees, but none were cleaved as well as FAP2 (Fig. 1). Finally, although mature melittin also contains an internal proline residue, MALDI-TOF analysis showed that it was not cleaved by FAP (data not shown).

FAP Promelittin Prototoxins Selectively Kill FAP-Expressing Human Breast Cancer Cell Lines

To evaluate the selectivity of each FAP-activated prototoxin for the ability to kill FAP-positive versus FAP-negative cancer cells, we transfected the human breast cancer cell line MCF-7 with either FAP or vector only controls. These cells were then used to assess the effect of each prototoxin on growth as assayed by 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide assay. In this assay, mature melittin showed no selectivity and was able to kill both cell lines at approximately equally low micromolar concentrations (Table 2). Compared with melittin, the modified promelittin peptides were ~30- to 40-fold less toxic against the vector only-transfected FAP-negative MCF-7 cells. In contrast, against the transfected FAP-producing cell line, FAP2 was the most toxic peptide surveyed with an IC₅₀ of 5.2 μmol/L. This peptide was also the most selective and was ~7-fold more active against the FAP-positive versus FAP-negative MCF-7 cells. All of the other promelittin peptides had fold differences in cytotoxicity of less than two (Table 2). FAP2 was the only prototoxin in this series that showed a significant therapeutic index *in vitro*.

To eliminate the potential for nonspecific cleavage of the FAP2 sequence by DPP4, we subsequently generated a DPP4-"resistant" version of FAP2 by adding an acetylated NH₂-terminal glycine to the FAP2 peptide to generate Ac-FAP6. Ac-FAP6 was cleaved by FAP to the same extent as FAP2 (data not shown) and had the highest HD₅₀ (72 μmol/L) of all of the FAP-activated prototoxins (Table 2). This acetylated peptide showed increased specificity with an IC₅₀ of 47.9 versus 35.1 μmol/L for FAP2 against FAP-negative cells. However, Ac-FAP6 was nearly as potent as FAP2 with an IC₅₀ value of 6.1 μmol/L against FAP-positive cells for an overall higher ~8-fold difference in toxicity against FAP-positive and FAP-negative cells.

In vivo Antitumor Activity of FAP Promelittin Prototoxins

Before performing *in vivo* efficacy studies, we did toxicity studies *in vivo* with the administration of the prototoxins i.v. and intratumorally. Melittin is a nonspecific cytolytic toxin. Therefore, as expected, melittin was highly toxic to mice with an i.v. LD₁₀₀ (i.e., single dose that kills 100% of

Table 2. HD₅₀ values and cytotoxicity of FAP Melittin prototoxins against FAP-negative and FAP-positive MCF-7 human breast cancer cells

Toxin	HD ₅₀ (μmol/L)	IC ₅₀ (μmol/L)		
		FAP neg	FAP pos	Fold diff
FAP1	56.9 ± 3.1	45.6 ± 5.6	26.8 ± 1.1	1.7
FAP2	54.2 ± 2.2	35.1 ± 2.0	5.2 ± 0.4	6.7
FAP3	60.0 ± 3.7	33.1 ± 2.3	18.9 ± 1.7	1.8
FAP4	70.5 ± 5.1	50.1 ± 4.9	28.1 ± 2.2	1.8
FAP5	67.5 ± 3.5	27.6 ± 1.2	18.3 ± 2.0	1.5
Ac-FAP6	72.2 ± 3.6	47.9 ± 2.9	6.1 ± 0.3	7.9
Melittin	1.3 ± 0.1	1.4 ± 0.1	1.3 ± 0.2	1.1

Abbreviations: FAP neg, FAP negative; FAP pos, FAP positive; fold diff, fold difference.

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.