

## INVESTIGATION OF THE CANNABINOID SIGNALING IN ATOPIC DERMATITIS<sup>1</sup>

### BACKGROUND

Although **atopic dermatitis** (AD) is not a directly life-threatening disease, it affects **15-30%** of the **children** and **2-10%** of the **adults**. Its prevalence is especially high in industrial countries, and, by impairing quality of life of millions worldwide, it results in a **significant financial and psychological burden to the society** (Bieber 2008). Since research efforts of the past decades failed to unravel the fine details of its pathogenesis, **we still lack universally effective tools to manage it**. Thus, there is an **emerging demand** from both patients and the medical community to better understand its pathogenesis, which would hold out the promise of identifying novel therapeutic targets.

AD is characterized by a **complex disorganization of cutaneous barrier functions** (Kubo et al. 2012; Kuo et al. 2013b; Oláh et al. 2012). It is a **multifactorial inflammatory** disease (Kubo et al. 2012; Kuo et al. 2013b) with a complex, yet not fully unveiled pathogenesis. Although many open questions await to be answered, **epidermal keratinocytes are definitely key players** in the process, since their appropriate differentiation is crucially important in the development of the physicochemical barrier (Oláh et al. 2012), and they can also regulate cutaneous immune responses via the production of various cytokines and chemokines (Karsak et al. 2007).

Importantly, the endocannabinoid system (ECS), and in a wider sense the complex cutaneous cannabinoid signaling, recently emerged as key a regulator of skin (patho)physiology, and was shown by us and by others to substantially contribute to the regulation of skin biology (Bíró et al. 2009; Oláh and Bíró 2017; Tóth et al. 2019). Indeed, we showed that the skin-ECS i) negatively regulates human hair growth, as well as proliferation and survival of epidermal keratinocytes; ii) is indispensable for the homeostatic sebum production (another key component of the skin barrier) of sebaceous glands; iii) influences the biology of sweat glands; and iv) “tonically” suppresses maturation and degranulation of mast cells (Tóth et al. 2019). Moreover, we also demonstrated that “non-classical” **cannabinoid signaling** (e.g. via an adenosine A<sub>2A</sub> receptor-coupled pathway), activated by several non-psychotropic plant-derived cannabinoids, led to significant **anti-inflammatory** actions and complex cellular anti-acne effects in human sebocytes (Oláh et al. 2016b; Oláh et al. 2014). Of further importance, in a previous study, we have demonstrated the existence of a **functional relationship between** one of the most important endocannabinoid (eCB)-degrading enzymes, fatty acid amide hydrolase (**FAAH**) (Tóth et al. 2019), and the highly **AD-relevant** Toll-like receptor 2 (**TLR2**) **signaling** (Kuo et al. 2013a). Namely, we found that the protein (but not mRNA) expression and activity of **FAAH** can be **up-regulated by TLR2** activation in human epidermal keratinocytes (Oláh et al. 2016a).

**These findings collectively hint that cannabinoid signaling does indeed play a key role in epidermal (barrier) homeostasis. Thus, we intended to unveil novel aspects (including its impact on the mitochondrial biology) of the cutaneous cannabinoid signaling.**

### RESULTS

#### 1. Optimization of several experimental procedures

As planned in the research outline and the work plan, we started our study **by optimizing several experimental setups**. Namely:

- ✓ We optimized staining protocols for FAAH as well as for occludin (IHC).

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<sup>1</sup> Since the original submission (November 6, 2019) of the final report, multiple project-related manuscripts have been accepted for publication. The goal of this amendment is to provide the reviewers with *up-to-date* information about the results and scientific achievements of the project. All changes made in the final report as compared to its original version are highlighted by yellow background.

- ✓ Together with our collaborative partners (the group of prof. Jürg Gertsch), we determined the optimal culture conditions to measure eCB levels and FAAH-activity of cultured primary human epidermal keratinocytes (NHEKs), and the same procedures were also optimized for the analyses of intact skin samples.
- ✓ We optimized the assessment of several “mitochondrion-relevant” read-out parameters, such as enzyme activity assays, mitochondrial membrane potential, ATP production and mitochondrial ROS generation of NHEKs, and **published** our first data by using the newly optimized ATP measurement protocol (Ramot et al, *J. Invest. Dermatol.*, 2018, see below).
- ✓ Later on, via a newly established international collaboration, we managed to get access to a new thermosensitive fluorescent dye (MitoThermo Yellow), which is not commercially available yet, and started the adaptation of this measurement to our 2D and 3D cultures.
- ✓ Since due to some technical challenges, the first Seahorse experiments aiming to assess O<sub>2</sub> consumption of keratinocytes resulted in relatively poor reproducibility, we decided to complement the method by using a commercially available O<sub>2</sub> consumption measuring kit. Finally, the Seahorse experiments were performed within the confines of a newly established collaboration with Dr. Jakob Wikström (an expert in cutaneous mitochondrial biology) by a PhD student of the PI (Ms. Kinga Fanni Tóth), who spent one month in Dr. Wikström’s laboratory at the Karolinska Institutet as a visiting scientist (see below).
- ✓ In order to get a deeper insight to the cutaneous cannabinoid signaling, one PhD student of the PI (Ms. Dorottya Ádám) spent one month in the laboratory of dr. Ellen H. van den Bogaard (an expert in reconstructed skin techniques) at the Radboud University as a visiting scientist. In course of the said period, she was able to master the establishment and handling of several reconstructed skin equivalent model systems, including AD as well as psoriasis-mimicking inflammatory models, which have recently been adapted to our laboratory.

## 2. Investigation of the differentiation and immune processes of human epidermal keratinocytes

As mentioned above, disturbed differentiation of the epidermal keratinocytes is an important factor in the pathogenesis of AD. Identification of pharmacological agents exhibiting differentiation-improving biological effects is therefore of great clinical relevance. We found that **glycerol and xylitol** promoted differentiation of cultured primary human epidermal keratinocytes, most likely via modulating the activity of certain putative cannabinoid down-stream signaling pathways (e.g. MAPK cascade). Considering that they exerted anti-inflammatory effects as well, our data suggested that they could be beneficial in the treatment AD, and other diseases accompanied by barrier-impairment and inflammation. (**Published:** Páyer et al, *Exp. Dermatol.*, 2018; **co-last-authored by the PI.**)

Besides the above experiments, **anti-inflammatory efficiency of an *Echinacea purpurea*-derived alkylamide-rich extract** exhibiting potent CB<sub>2</sub> cannabinoid receptor agonism was investigated *in vitro* in a keratinocyte-based inflammatory model system, and also *in vivo* (by our collaborators) in targeted clinical trials enrolling AD patients. These data highlighted that CB<sub>2</sub> may be a promising therapeutic target in AD. (**Published:** Oláh et al, *J. Dermatol. Sci.*, 2017.)

Last, but not least, **in a preliminary study**, we found that activation of CB<sub>1</sub> receptor may differentially modulate **keratin 1 and 10 expression** in the human epidermis, suggesting that the impact of CB<sub>1</sub> on the keratinocyte differentiation might be more complex than as it was previously thought (**published** as a non-peer reviewed, but citable *Cover image*; Ramot et al, *Br. J. Dermatol.*, 2018).

## 3. Investigation of the effects of $\kappa$ -opioid receptor (KOR) on human epidermal keratinocytes

It has recently been shown that  **$\kappa$ -opioid receptor (KOR)** is down-regulated in lesional skin of patients suffering from AD (Tominaga et al. 2007) or psoriasis (Kupczyk et al. 2017). Since this correlated with the severity of itch, we hypothesized that homeostatic KOR signaling may act synergistically with the

eCB signaling in controlling (suppressing) cutaneous inflammatory processes. Our major findings on this topic were the following ones:

- ✓ KOR exerted remarkable anti-inflammatory effects, which supported the concept that its pharmacological activation could be a novel approach in the treatment of multiple inflammation-accompanied skin diseases, including not only psoriasis, but also AD.
- ✓ Importantly, the KOR-agonist nalfurafine had no detrimental impact on viability and proliferation of human keratinocytes even when applied at much higher concentrations than its potent anti-inflammatory dose.
- ✓ Finally, we compared KOR and prodynorphin (PDYN; the precursor of the major endogenous ligands of KOR) expression in the epidermis of healthy volunteers, and AD as well as psoriasis patients. Interestingly, our findings did not confirm the down-regulation of these molecules reported by others (Kupczyk et al. 2017; Tominaga et al. 2007) in the said diseases, which means that, at least in a subset of the patients, putative benefits of KOR-coupled signaling may still be exploitable by selective KOR agonists.
- ✓ These data have been presented at the annual meetings of the Hungarian Physiological Society (HPS; **1 poster**), the Hungarian Dermatological Society (HDS; **1 poster**), as well as at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inflammatory Skin Disease Summit (ISDS 2018; **1 poster** and **a related citable abstract**), and **we started the preparation of a manuscript** summarizing our findings.

#### 4. Role of the “classical” eCB-signaling in regulating keratinocyte biology

- ✓ By using several complementary experimental approaches (selective gene silencing, as well as receptor specific agonists and inverse agonists; immunoelectron microscopy of healthy human skin; calorimetry, immunohistomorphometry and *in situ* enzyme activity assays in organ-cultured full-thickness human skin [hSOC]; fluorescent/luminescent high-throughput screening methods on primary human epidermal keratinocytes) we showed that homeostatic eCB signaling is an important negative regulator of the epidermal mitochondrial activity.
- ✓ Moreover, we could also confirm that CB<sub>1</sub> cannabinoid receptor is expressed not only in the cell membrane (cmCB<sub>1</sub>), but also in the mitochondria (mtCB<sub>1</sub>) of the epidermal keratinocytes. Importantly, our data suggest that the two receptor sub-populations most probably play differential roles in regulating inflammatory responses and differentiation, and that (over)activation of mtCB<sub>1</sub>, but not cmCB<sub>1</sub>, may impair keratinocyte differentiation and hence occludin expression.
- ✓ We assessed expression of FAAH in lesional and non-lesional epidermis of patients suffering from AD, as well as in the skin of appropriate healthy control subjects. We found that FAAH was expressed at a higher level in the lesional epidermis of AD patients. Although because of the great inter-donor variability, this alteration did not reach the level of statistical significance, it supported the concept that dysregulation of the local homeostatic, anti-inflammatory eCB tone may contribute to the development of the symptoms of AD, therefore, we initiated the recruitment of AD patients to perform further functional analyses including eCB determination and *in situ* FAAH activity measurements by using our previously optimized protocols.
- ✓ Since we aimed to further investigate the putative role of eCB-dysregulation in the development of cutaneous inflammatory processes, besides AD patients, we analyzed skin samples of 4-4 subjects suffering from rosacea and PSO, i.e. two additional inflammation-accompanied skin diseases. We found that FAAH was tended to be up-regulated in rosacea, but remained largely unaltered in PSO. Thus, we decided to recruit not only AD, but, as special “negative controls”, PSO patients as well for our subsequent functional studies.
- ✓ We successfully completed the recruitment of healthy volunteers as well as of patients suffering from AD and psoriasis meeting our preset inclusion criteria (i.e. newly diagnosed patients with medium or severe lesions without previous treatment; 6 donors in each group). In our ongoing experiments the following end-points are being investigated:

- Levels of the most important eCBs in the skin samples (HPLC-MS; in collaboration with the group of prof. Gertsch)
- Activity of FAAH in the epidermis (specific activity assay; in collaboration with the group of prof. Gertsch)
- Expressional alterations of FAAH and occludin (IF/IHC)
- Expression of CB<sub>1</sub> cannabinoid receptors in the cell membrane (cmCB<sub>1</sub>) as well as in the mitochondria (mtCB<sub>1</sub>) of the keratinocytes (electron microscopy)
- Putative alterations in the epidermal mitochondrial activity (*in situ* activity assays)
- ✓ To further assess the putative role of mitochondrial biology in AD, we treated primary human epidermal keratinocytes with interleukin (IL)-4 and IL-13 to mimic an AD-like cutaneous inflammation. As revealed by the Seahorse measurements (performed at the Karolinska Institutet by a PhD student [Ms. Kinga Fanni Tóth] of the PI), the AD-mimicking cytokine milieu increased the O<sub>2</sub> consumption of keratinocytes. Importantly, this could be prevented by the co-administration of a FAAH-inhibitor (URB597) in a mtCB<sub>1</sub>-dependent manner, since the cell-penetrating CB<sub>1</sub> antagonist/inverse agonist AM251 (i.e. the one antagonizing both mtCB<sub>1</sub> and cmCB<sub>1</sub>) abrogated the effect, whereas the equipotent, but extracellularly-restricted CB<sub>1</sub> antagonist/inverse agonist hemopressin (i.e. the one acting only on cmCB<sub>1</sub>) failed to abolish it. These data strongly argue that AD-coupled inflammatory processes may up-regulate epidermal FAAH expression and activity, which in turn disturbs homeostatic mitochondrial activity in a mtCB<sub>1</sub>-dependent manner.
- ✓ These findings were presented at **2 national** (annual meetings of the Hungarian Physiological Society [HPS]) and **2 international meetings** (annual meeting of the International Cannabinoid Research Society [ICRS] and the European Society for Dermatological Research [ESDR]) in the forms of **2 posters** and **3 lectures** (among which **one was an invited, keynote lecture** delivered by the PI), **1 citable abstract**, and **1 *in extenso* manuscript** (Oláh et al, *Exp. Dermatol.*, 2020).

##### 5. Investigation of the pilosebaceous unit, a major contributor to the skin barrier

Besides, we decided to also investigate a special organ culture system, namely microdissected human hair follicles (HFs). Notably, HFs are reliable tools to study several aspects of cutaneous biology, including mitochondrial functions. Importantly, we managed to assess key histological mitochondrial read-out parameters in this model system, and we studied the role of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor- $\gamma$  (PPAR $\gamma$ ). We found that a PPAR $\gamma$  agonist increased the expression of several markers reflecting the activity of respiratory complexes in a concentration-dependent manner. Considering that several eCBs may activate not only CB<sub>1</sub>, but PPAR $\gamma$  too, these findings appear to be particularly important for the mitochondrial biology part of the current project, since they shed light to a so far neglected cross-talk between two closely connected, but “mitochondrial-biology-wise” antagonistic signaling systems, i.e. CB<sub>1</sub>- and PPAR $\gamma$ -coupled pathways. (**Published:** Ramot et al, *J. Invest. Dermatol.*, 2018.)

Exploration of the effects of cannabinoid signaling on the HFs is a key question from the perspective of the putative side effect-free future clinical administration of any topically applied cannabinoid-based medications. Therefore, we also assessed the effects of a non-psychoactive phytocannabinoid, (-)-cannabidiol (CBD; currently being investigated in a phase II clinical trial in AD; clinicaltrials.gov ID: NCT03824405), on the biology of human HFs. Interestingly, we found that CBD exerted differential effects on HF growth in a concentration-dependent manner, namely its lower micromolar concentrations triggered the onset of the regressive catagen phase most likely via the activation of TRPV4 ion channels. However, when applied at nanomolar concentrations, CBD had no significant effect on the hair cycle, but exerted anti-inflammatory actions via activating adenosine receptors, highlighting the importance of “cannabinoid-associated” signaling pathways in mediating cutaneous effects of different cannabinoids. These results were presented as a **poster** and a related **citable abstract**

at the **annual meeting of the ESDR** in 2017, and the **manuscript** summarizing the above findings was successfully **published** (Szabó et al, *J. Invest. Dermatol.* 2020; **co-last-authored by the PI**).

Since the above data highlighted the putative involvement of **adenosinergic signaling** in mediating cellular effects of certain cannabinoids as well as in regulating human hair growth, we also aimed to explore it in greater details. We found that adenosine treatment promoted the growing (anagen) phase of the hair cycle in an A<sub>2B</sub> receptor-dependent manner, and **published** the data (Lisztes et al, *J. Invest. Dermatol.*, 2020).

Sebaceous gland dysfunction has recently been recognized as an important factor in the pathogenesis of AD (Shi et al. 2015), and we have previously shown that some eCBs are central orchestrators of sebaceous lipogenesis (Tóth et al. 2019). Thus, we also investigated the impact of the eCB signaling on the sebocytes' biology. We found that the major eCB synthesizing and degrading enzymes were expressed in human sebaceous glands, and the elevation of the eCB-tone (due to the inhibition of the eCB reuptake process) led to significant anti-inflammatory actions, and to a moderate increase of the sebaceous lipogenesis, which could be beneficial in alleviating the symptoms of AD. The **manuscript** summarizing the above findings was successfully **published** (Zákány et al, *J. Invest. Dermatol.*, 2018; **co-first-authored by the PI**).

Moreover, we could also demonstrate that human sebocytes metabolized two “eCB-related” substances, namely oleoylethanolamide (**OEA**) and palmitoylethanolamine (PEA), raising the possibility that besides the “classical” eCBs, OEA and PEA might also regulate sebaceous gland biology. Following this line, we found that **GPR119** (the major receptor of OEA) is expressed in human sebocytes *in vitro*, as well as in human sebaceous glands *in situ*. Furthermore, we could also demonstrate that the OEA-GPR119-ERK1/2 MAPK cascade promoted sebocyte differentiation, and induced pro-inflammatory actions, highlighting the importance of assessing the roles of “non-classical” cannabinoid signaling in cutaneous biology. These findings were presented at **three national** (annual meeting of the **HPS**, annual meeting of the **HDS**, and **47<sup>th</sup> Annual “Membrane-Transport” meeting**) and **two international** (IID 2018 and ISDS 2018) **conferences** in the form of **4 poster presentations** and **2 related citable abstracts**. The manuscript summarizing all the available results **has already been accepted for publication** (Markovics et al, *J. Invest. Dermatol.*, 2020; **co-last-authored by the PI**).

We have recently shown that activation of the “non-classical” cannabinoid target **TRPV3** ion channels leads to strong pro-inflammatory response in human keratinocytes (Szöllősi et al. 2018), and it is up-regulated in the lesional epidermis of AD patients (unpublished observations). Thus, to assess another aspect of the “non-classical” cannabinoid signaling, we investigated its expression and role in human sebocytes, and found that activation of **TRPV3 suppressed sebaceous lipogenesis, and induced up-regulation and release of several pro-inflammatory cytokines**. Taken together, our data suggested that TRPV3 antagonists may be beneficial in inflammation-accompanied dry skin dermatoses. These data have been presented in the form of **1 oral** and **3 poster presentations at national and international conferences** (42<sup>th</sup> Symposium on hormones and Cell Regulation [European Society of Endocrinology]; annual meeting of the Hungarian Immunological Society [HIS], annual meeting of the HPS), and then have been published (Szántó et al, *J. Invest. Dermatol.*, 2019; **co-first-authored by the PI**).

#### **ADDITIONAL COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS**

In course of the project, certain additional experiments were also performed, since, although they were not planned in the original proposal, they held out the promise to provide important and relevant data to better understand the complexity of cutaneous inflammation and pruritus in AD. Moreover, it should also be noted that these additional side-projects provided invaluable benefit by enabling the PI to establish and further strengthen his national and international collaborative network. Newly established collaborations are highlighted by **bold red fonts**.

### 1. Investigation of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) in human keratinocytes

Since in a recent publication disturbance of the cutaneous serotonergic signaling has been suggested to contribute to the development of AD symptoms (Rasul et al. 2016), we decided to assess the effects of selected selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) in a keratinocyte model system. We found that fluoxetine (but, intriguingly, not the other tested SSRIs or serotonin) exerted remarkable anti-inflammatory actions, and prevented the release of the itch-mediator endothelins from human keratinocytes. Importantly, findings of this side-project provided a valuable additional, highly “AD-relevant” experimental end-point (i.e. the endothelin release). Moreover, although high concentrations and/or long-term treatments of fluoxetine exerted anti-proliferative actions, by using complementary model systems (2D cultures of immortalized as well as primary human epidermal keratinocytes, reconstructed epidermal-equivalents, and full-thickness human skin organ culture) we could also demonstrate that its potent anti-inflammatory concentration has no impact either on the proliferation or on the differentiation of the keratinocytes. Having dissected the promising phenomenon, we also scrutinized the mechanism of action, and found that fluoxetine acts via a non-serotonergic signaling pathway, most likely through inhibiting certain phosphodiesterases, and elevating intracellular levels of cAMP. The results have been presented at **2 national** (annual meetings of the Hungarian Physiological Society as well as of the Hungarian Immunological Society) and **1 international** (annual meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research) **conferences** in the forms of **3 posters** and **1 citable abstract** (all last-authored by the PI). Moreover, we **started the preparation of an *in extenso* manuscript**.

#### Collaborative partners involved in the project:

- ✓ Dr. August Wolff GmbH & Co. KG Arzneimittel (industrial collaborator)
- ✓ **Ellen H. van den Bogaard (Radboud University; reconstructed skin-equivalents)**

### 2. Investigation of the effects of nicotinic acid (NA) in human sebocytes

We also investigated the effects of nicotinic acid (NA; a member of the vitamin B3 complex) on sebocytes' biology. Interestingly, NA was proven to suppress excessive sebaceous lipogenesis induced by “pro-acne” agents via activating hydroxycarboxylic acid receptor 2 (HCA<sub>2</sub>), making this receptor a novel and previously unknown regulator of the lipid production of human sebocytes, which may therefore also contribute to the development of AD. These findings were presented at **2 national** (47<sup>th</sup> Annual “Membrane-Transport” meeting, annual meeting of the Hungarian Physiological Society) and **2 international** (International Investigative Dermatology meeting 2018, 3<sup>rd</sup> Inflammatory Skin Disease Summit 2018) **conferences** in the form of **4 poster presentations** and **2 citable abstracts**. Finally, following the guidance of the expert reviewers, we successfully **published** the manuscript (Markovics et al, *JCMM*, 2019; **co-last-authored by the PI**).

#### Collaborative partners involved in the project:

- ✓ Christos C. Zouboulis (expert in sebaceous biology)
- ✓ **Zoltán Benyó (expert in HCA<sub>2</sub> receptor biology)**

### 3. Exploration of the anti-acne effects of honokiol (HNK), a plant-derived putative tribbles homolog 3 (TRIB3) activator

Within the confines of a newly established international collaboration, we assessed the effects of the plant-derived **tribbles homolog 3** (TRIB3; a key cannabinoid target gene in sebocytes) activator **honokiol** (HNK) in human sebocytes, and found that it exerted complex anti-acne effects. These data provided new evidence that direct modulation of the activity of certain cannabinoid target genes may be a promising tool in regulating cutaneous inflammatory processes. The results were presented at the annual meeting of the Hungarian Physiological Society as well as of at the annual meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research (**2 posters** and **1 citable abstract; all last-authored by the PI**). Moreover, we **started the preparation of a manuscript** summarizing the above findings.

**Collaborative partners involved in the project:**

- ✓ Christos C. Zouboulis (expert in sebaceous biology)
- ✓ **Jack L. Arbiser (expert in TRIB3 biology)**

**4. Effects of volatile anesthetics on TRPM3**

Within the confines of another collaboration, we also investigated the effects of certain volatile anesthetics (namely chloroform, halothane, isoflurane, and sevoflurane) on the thermosensitive nociceptor ion channel transient receptor potential melastatin 3 (TRPM3). We found that they inhibited both the agonist-induced (pregnenolone sulphate and CIM0216), and heat-activated Ca<sup>2+</sup> signals and transmembrane currents in a concentration-dependent way in HEK293T cells overexpressing recombinant TRPM3. These data provided a better insight into the molecular mechanism of the analgesic effect of volatile anesthetics, and highlight possible novel strategies to attenuate TRPM3-dependent nociception. The **manuscript** describing the above effects **has been accepted for publication in *Biochemical Pharmacology* (Kelemen et al, *Biochemical Pharmacology*, 2020).**

**Collaborative partners involved in the project:**

- ✓ **Thomas Voets (expert in TRP channel biology)**

**NON-EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT-RELATED ACTIVITIES:**

Although only 1 review paper was originally planned to be published in course of the 3-year period, we managed to publish **4 review papers (2 first- and 1 co-last-authored by the PI)** as well as **1 book chapter**. For details, see the relevant parts of the “Dissemination, achievements” section.

**IMPACT, INNOVATION, FUTURE PERSPECTIVES**

The current basic research project performed with the support of the PD<sub>16</sub> grant of the NRDIO aimed to unveil delicate details of the complex cannabinoid signaling and its putative translational potential in AD or in other inflammation-accompanied skin diseases. We believe that our above detailed results have the potential to encourage further R & D & I activities and subsequent future clinical trials.

We are happy to report that a German company (whose name cannot be revealed yet due to the non-disclosure agreement) has recently expressed its interest in establishing a long-term relationship with our laboratory, and intends to initiate the “innovation chain” (e.g. management of intellectual property issues, feasibility studies, market research and positioning, marketing, etc.). If this relationship does indeed result in successful future clinical trials, it can be strongly hoped that our pre-clinical and clinical research efforts (besides resulting in definite commercial and economic values/income) will eventually result in obvious social impact, since the application of these novel products may improve quality of life of millions in Hungary and worldwide.

**DISSEMINATION, ACHIEVEMENTS**

By the time of the submission of the application, the PI had 13 accepted manuscripts (IF: ~65) among which 5 was first-authored (IF: ~26). In the original work plan of the proposal, we planned to publish/submit **2 original papers** as well as **1 review paper** in course of the project, and to present our data at **1 national** and at **1 international meeting each year**. We believe that this plan was markedly outperformed, as in the course of this 3-year project, **both the number of the publications as well as the cumulative impact factor of the PI were almost doubled**, and the **majority** of the newly published papers were **first- or last-authored** by the PI. Moreover, it is also noteworthy that **the PI has been invited to give keynote lectures at national** (annual meeting of the HPS in 2017) as well as **international** (annual meeting of the ESDR in 2017, the 4<sup>th</sup> Endocannabinoid Pharmacology Meeting in 2018, and the forthcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Cannabinoid Conference of the International Association for Cannabinoid Medicines in 2019) **conferences** indicating the increasing impact and international acknowledgement of his scientific work both at the dermatology and cannabinoid fields.

***In extenso publications (15 [IF: 71.388]; among which 6 are first-authored [IF: 30.817], 5 are last-authored [IF: 23.166], and 4 are co-authored by the PI [IF: 17.405]; citations are given according to Google scholar [05/07/2020]):***

- 1) Oláh A\*, Bíró T (2017): Targeting Cutaneous Cannabinoid Signaling in Inflammation - A “High”-way to Heal? *EBioMedicine* **16(2017)**:3-5. doi: 10.1016/j.ebiom.2017.01.003. \*Corresponding author. IF: **6.183**. Medicine (miscellaneous): **D1**; Citations: **9**. *This review paper focuses on summarizing the anti-inflammatory properties of the cutaneous cannabinoid signaling.*
- 2) Oláh A, Szabó-Papp J, Soeberdt M, Knie U, Dähnhardt-Pfeiffer S, Abels C, Bíró T (2017): *Echinacea purpurea*-derived alkylamides exhibit potent anti-inflammatory effects and alleviate clinical symptoms of atopic eczema. *J. Dermatol. Sci.* **88(1)**:67-77. doi: 10.1016/j.jdermsci.2017.05.015. IF: **3.675**. Dermatology: **D1**; Citations: **19**. *This paper demonstrates the (most likely CB<sub>2</sub>-dependent) anti-inflammatory effects of an Echinacea purpurea extract both in vitro and in vivo in clinical trials.*
- 3) Szöllösi AG, Oláh A, Bíró T, Tóth IB (2018): Recent advances in the endocrinology of the sebaceous gland. *Dermato-Endocrinology* **9(1)**:e1361576. doi: 10.1080/19381980.2017.1361576. IF: -. Dermatology: **D1**; Citations: **8**. *This review paper focuses on summarizing the endocrine regulation of the human sebaceous glands.*
- 4) Oláh A, Szekanecz Z, Bíró T (2017): Targeting cannabinoid signaling in the immune system: “High”-ly exciting questions. *Fr. Immunol.* **8**:1487. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2017.01487. IF: **5.511**. Immunology: **Q1**; Citations: **41**. *This review paper focuses on summarizing the immunological effects of the cannabinoid signaling.*
- 5) Zákány N\*, Oláh A\*, Markovics A, Takács E, Aranyász A, Nicolussi S, Piscitelli F, Allarà M, Pór Á, Kovács I, Zouboulis CC, Gertsch J, Di Marzo V, Bíró T, Szabó T (2018): Endocannabinoid tone regulates human sebocyte biology. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* **138(8)**:1699-1706. doi: 10.1016/j.jid.2018.02.022. IF: **6.29** \***Shared first-authorship**. Dermatology: **D1**; Citations: **9**. *This paper describes the expression and functional roles of the major members of the ECS in human sebocytes in vitro and sebaceous glands in situ.*
- 6) Szántó M\*, Oláh A\*, Szöllösi AG, Tóth KF, Páyer E, Czakó N, Pór Á, Kovács I, Zouboulis CC, Kemény L, Bíró T, Tóth BI (2019): Activation of TRPV3 inhibits lipogenesis and stimulates production of inflammatory mediators in human sebocytes – a putative contributor to dry skin dermatoses. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* **139(1)**:250-253. doi: 10.1016/j.jid.2018.07.015. IF: **6.29** (according to JCR 2018) \***Shared first-authorship**. Dermatology: **D1**; Citations: **9**. *This paper describes the lipostatic and pro-inflammatory role of TRPV3, an ionotropic cannabinoid receptor.*
- 7) Ramot Y, Alam M, Oláh A, Bíró T, Ponce L, Chéret J, Bertolini M, Paus R (2018): PPAR $\gamma$ -mediated signalling regulates mitochondrial energy metabolism in human hair follicle epithelium. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* **138**:1656-1659. doi: 10.1016/j.jid.2018.01.033. IF: **6.29**. Dermatology: **D1**; Citations: **4**. *This paper describes mitochondrial actions of a PPAR $\gamma$  activator in human hair follicles.*
- 8) Páyer E, Szabó-Papp J, Ambrus L, Szöllösi AG, András M, Dikstein S, Kemény L, Juhász I, Szegedi A, Bíró T\*, Oláh A\* (2018): Beyond the Physico-Chemical Barrier: Glycerol and Xylitol Markedly yet Differentially Alter Gene Expression Profiles and Modify Signaling Pathways in Human Epidermal Keratinocytes. *Exp. Dermatol.* **27(3)**:280-284. doi: 10.1111/EXD.13493. IF: **2.868** \***Shared last-authorship**. Dermatology: **D1**; Citations: **7**. *This paper demonstrates the effects of two polyols on the differentiation and immune properties of human epidermal keratinocytes.*
- 9) Tóth KF, Ádám D, Bíró T\*, Oláh A\* (2019): Cannabinoid signaling in the skin: Therapeutic potential of the “c(ut)annabinoid” system. *Molecules* **24**:918. doi: 10.3390/molecules24050918. IF: **3.060** (according to JCR 2018) \***Shared last authorship**. Pharmaceutical Science: **Q1**; Citations: **19**. *This review paper summarizes the available knowledge on the cutaneous cannabinoid signaling.*
- 10) Markovics A, Tóth KF, Sós KE, Magi J, Gyöngyösi A, Benyó Z, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T#, Oláh A# (2019): Nicotinic acid suppresses sebaceous lipogenesis of human sebocytes via activating hydroxycarboxylic acid receptor 2 (HCA<sub>2</sub>). *J. Cell Mol. Med.* **23**:6203–6214. doi: 10.1111/jcmm.14505. IF: **4.658** (according to JCR 2018) \***Shared last authorship**. Molecular Medicine: **Q1**; Citations: **3**. *This paper describes the lipostatic and anti-proliferative effects of nicotinic acid, and provides evidence that they are mediated via activating a previously unknown regulator of sebocyte function, namely hydroxycarboxylic acid receptor 2 (HCA<sub>2</sub>).*
- 11) Szabó IL, Lisztes E, Béke G, Tóth KF, Paus R, Oláh A\*, Bíró T\* (2020): The phytocannabinoid (-)-cannabidiol (CBD) operates as a complex, differential modulator of human hair growth: Anti-inflammatory submicromolar versus hair growth inhibitory micromolar effects. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* **140**:484-488. doi: 10.1016/j.jid.2019.07.690. IF: **6.290** (according to JCR 2018) \***Shared last authorship**. Dermatology: **D1**; Citations: **1**. *This paper describes the differential effects of the non-psychotropic phytocannabinoid cannabidiol on human hair follicles.*
- 12) Lisztes E, Tóth BI, Bertolini M, Szabó IL, Zákány N, Oláh A, Szöllösi AG, Paus R, Bíró T (2020): Adenosine promotes human hair growth and inhibits catagen transition in vitro – role of the outer root sheath keratinocytes. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* **140**:1085-1088.e6. doi: 10.1016/j.jid.2019.08.456. IF: **6.290** (according to



JCR 2018). Dermatology: D1; Citations: 1. This paper describes the role of the non-classical, purinergic branch of the cannabinoid signaling in human hair follicles.

13) Markovics A, Angyal Á, Tóth KF, Ádám D, Péntes Zs, Magi J, Pór Á, Kovács I, Töröcsik D, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, Oláh A\* (2020): GPR119 is a potent regulator of human sebocyte biology. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* doi: 10.1016/j.jid.2020.02.011. IF: 6.290 (JCR 2018); \*Shared last-authorship, corresponding author. Dermatology: D1; Citations (Google scholar): 0. This paper describes the role of the novel cannabinoid receptor GPR119 in the regulation of human sebocyte biology.

14) Kelemen B, Lisztes E, Vladár A, Hanyicska M, Almássy J, Oláh A, Szöllösi AG, Péntes Zs, Posta J, Voets T, Bíró T, Tóth BI (2020): Volatile anaesthetics inhibit the thermosensitive nociceptor ion channel transient receptor potential melastatin 3 (TRPM3). *Biochemical Pharmacology.* 174 (2020) 113826:1-11. doi: 10.1016/j.bcp.2020.113826. IF: 4.825 (JCR 2018); Pharmacology: Q1; Biochemistry: Q1; Citations (Google scholar): 0. This paper describes the effects of volatile anesthetics on TRPM3 channels.

15) Oláh A\*, Alam M\*, Chéret J, Kis NG, Hegyi Z, Szöllösi AG, Vidali S, Bíró T, Paus R (2020) Mitochondrial energy metabolism is negatively regulated by cannabinoid receptor 1 in intact human epidermis. *Exp. Dermatol.* ACCEPTED for publication. doi: 10.1111/exd.14110. IF: 2.868 (JCR 2018); \*Shared first authorship. Dermatology: Q1; Citations (Google scholar): 0 In this paper, we demonstrate the expression and functional role of mtCB<sub>1</sub> in human keratinocytes for the first time.

#### **Book chapters:**

- 1) Bíró T, Oláh A, Tóth BI, Szöllösi AG (2018) Endogenous Factors That Can Influence Skin pH. In: Surber C, Abels C, Maibach H (eds.) *pH of the Skin: Issues and Challenges*. Curr Probl Dermatol. Basel, Karger, vol. 54, pp. 54–63. doi: 10.1159/000489518. Citations: 1. Note that due to publisher's restriction, we were not allowed to mention any grants supporting our work.

#### **British Journal of Dermatology cover image (not peer-reviewed, but citable publication):**

- 1) Ramot Y, Oláh A, Paus R (2018): Cover Image: Neuroendocrine treatment of inherited keratin disorders by cannabinoids? *Br. J. Dermatol.* 178(6):1469. doi: 10.1111/bjd.16570. Citations: 7.

#### **Submitted manuscripts in the revision phase (2; 1 last-authored by the PI):<sup>2</sup>**

#### **Manuscripts in preparation (3; all 3 last-authored by the PI):**

- 1) Tóth KF, Szabó-Papp J, Ádám D, Péntes Zs, Niehues H, van den Bogaard EH, Kilić A, Soeberdt M, Abels C, Bíró T, Oláh A\*: The selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor fluoxetine exerts anti-inflammatory actions on human epidermal keratinocytes. \*Shared last-authorship.
- 2) Ádám D, Tóth KF, Sárkány F, Soeberdt M, Abels C, Oláh A\*, Bíró T\*: Activation of κ-opioid receptor (KOR) suppresses pro-inflammatory response of human epidermal keratinocytes. \*Shared last-authorship.
- 3) Tóth KF, Ádám D, Arany J, Faragó P, Arbiser JL, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, Oláh A\*: The putative tribbles homolog 3 (TRIB3) activator honokiol suppresses lipogenesis, and exerts anti-proliferative as well as anti-inflammatory effects on human sebocytes. \*Shared last-authorship.
- 4) Oláh A\*, Alam M\*, Kis G, Hegyi Z, Lerchner J, Vidali S, Zimmer A, Bíró T, Paus R: CB<sub>1</sub> regulates mitochondrial functions of human epidermal keratinocytes *in situ* and *in vitro*. \*Shared first-authorship.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Citable abstracts (9; 2 first-authored and 6 last-authored by the PI):**

- 1) Szabó IL, Herczeg-Lisztes E, Szöllösi AG, Bíró T, Oláh A (2017): (-)-cannabidiol differentially influences hair growth. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* 137(Number 10S Supplement 2):S238.
- 2) Oláh A, Alam M, Chéret J, Kis G, Hegyi Z, Szántó M, Bai P, Lerchner J, Bíró T, Paus R (2017): CB<sub>1</sub> is a novel regulator of epidermal mitochondrial functions. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* 137(Number 10S Supplement 2):S210.
- 3) Tóth KF, Szabó-Papp J, Péntes Zs, Kilić A, Soeberdt M, Abels C, Bíró T, Oláh A (2017): The selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor fluoxetine exerts anti-inflammatory actions on human epidermal keratinocytes. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* 137(Number 10S Supplement 2):S214.

<sup>2</sup> Note: These manuscripts have been accepted for publication since the submission of the original final report.

<sup>3</sup> Note: This manuscript has been accepted for publication since the submission of the original final report.

- 4) **Oláh A**, Markovics A, Tóth KF, Sós KE, Magi J, Gyöngyösi A, Benyó Z, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T (2018): Nicotinic acid suppresses sebaceous lipid synthesis of human sebocytes via activating hydroxycarboxylic acid receptor 2 (HCA2). *J. Invest. Dermatol.* **138(5)**:S224.
- 5) Tóth KF, Markovics A, Angyal Á, Magi J, Pór Á, Kovács I, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2018): Endocannabinoid-like molecule oleoylethanolamide promotes sebaceous lipid synthesis. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* **138(5)**:S224.
- 6) Ádám D, Tóth KF, Sárkány F, Soeberdt M, Abels C, **Oláh A**, Bíró T (2018): Activation of  $\kappa$ -opioid receptor (KOR) suppresses pro-inflammatory response of human epidermal keratinocytes. *Exp. Dermatol.* **27(Supplement 2)**:27.
- 7) Markovics A, Tóth KF, Sós KE, Magi J, Gyöngyösi A, Benyó Z, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2018): Sebaceous lipogenesis of human sebocytes is suppressed by nicotinic acid via the activation of hydroxycarboxylic acid receptor 2 (HCA2). *Exp. Dermatol.* **27(Supplement 2)**:36.
- 8) Tóth KF, Markovics A, Ádám D, Péntes Zs, Angyal Á, Magi J, Pór Á, Kovács I, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2018): GPR119 is a potent novel regulator of human sebocyte biology. *Exp. Dermatol.* **27(Supplement 2)**:38.
- 9) Tóth KF, Ádám D, Arany J, Faragó P, Arbiser JL, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2019): The putative tribbles homolog 3 (TRIB3) activator honokiol suppresses lipogenesis, and exerts anti-proliferative as well as anti-inflammatory effects on human sebocytes. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* **139(9S) Supplement 2**:S319.

**Posters (23; 4 first- and 14 last-authored by the PI of the project) and lectures (6; 5 first-authored lectures, among which 3 were invited, keynote lectures [highlighted below with bold red fonts]), presented at national and international meetings:**

- 1) Markovics A, Magi J, Tóth KF, Angyal Á, Sós KE, Zouboulis CC, Benyó Z, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2017): A nikotinsav biológiai hatásainak vizsgálata humán szebocitákon. 47<sup>th</sup>. *Membrane-Transport Conference (Sümege, Hungary; 05/16/2017-05/19/2017)* <https://www.remedicon.hu/261/47-membran-transzport-konferencia> **POSTER presentation.**
- 2) Magi J, Markovics A, Tóth KF, Angyal Á, Pór Á, Kovács I, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2017): A novel endocannabinoid oleoil-ethanolamid hatásainak vizsgálata humán szebocitákon. 47<sup>th</sup>. *Membrane-Transport Conference (Sümege, Hungary; 05/16/2017-05/19/2017)* <https://www.remedicon.hu/261/47-membran-transzport-konferencia> **POSTER presentation.**
- 3) Tóth KF, Szabó-Papp J, Péntes Zs, Kilić A, Soeberdt M, Abels C, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2017): Szelektív szerotonininvaszavétel-gátló farmakonok hatásainak vizsgálata keratinocitákon. *Annual meeting of the Hungarian Physiological Society (Debrecen, Hungary; 06/13/2017-06/16/2017)* <https://www.remedicon.hu/263/a-magyar-elettani-tarsasag-a-magyar-kiserletes-es-klinikai-farmakologiai-tarsasag-es-a-magyar-mikrocirkulacios-es-vaszkularis-biologiai-tarsasag-kozos-vandorgyulese/nyitolap> **POSTER presentation, awarded by poster award.**
- 4) Alimohammadi S, Magi J, Markovics A, Tóth KF, Angyal Á, Péntes Zs, Pór Á, Kovács I, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2017): Novel aspects of the endocannabinoid signaling in human sebocytes. *Annual meeting of the Hungarian Physiological Society (Debrecen, Hungary; 06/13/2017-06/16/2017)* <https://www.remedicon.hu/263/a-magyar-elettani-tarsasag-a-magyar-kiserletes-es-klinikai-farmakologiai-tarsasag-es-a-magyar-mikrocirkulacios-es-vaszkularis-biologiai-tarsasag-kozos-vandorgyulese/nyitolap> **POSTER presentation.**
- 5) **Oláh A**, Alam M, Chéret J, Kis G, Hegyi Z, Szántó M, Bai P, Szabó IL, Szegedi A, Lerchner J, Vidali S, Zimmer A, Bíró T, Paus R (2017): Role of mitochondrial CB<sub>1</sub> in human epidermal keratinocytes. *Annual meeting of the Hungarian Physiological Society (Debrecen, Hungary; 06/13/2017-06/16/2017)* <https://www.remedicon.hu/263/a-magyar-elettani-tarsasag-a-magyar-kiserletes-es-klinikai-farmakologiai-tarsasag-es-a-magyar-mikrocirkulacios-es-vaszkularis-biologiai-tarsasag-kozos-vandorgyulese/nyitolap> **ORAL presentation.**
- 6) Szabó IL, Herczeg-Lisztes E, Szöllösi AG, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2017): (-)-cannabidiol differentially influences hair growth. 47<sup>th</sup> *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) (Salzburg, Austria; 09/27/2017-09/30/2017)* <http://www.esdr2017.org/> **POSTER presentation.**
- 7) **Oláh A**, Alam M, Chéret J, Kis G, Hegyi Z, Szántó M, Bai P, Lerchner J, Bíró T, Paus R (2017): CB<sub>1</sub> is a novel regulator of epidermal mitochondrial functions. 47<sup>th</sup> *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) (Salzburg, Austria; 09/27/2017-09/30/2017)* <http://www.esdr2017.org/> **POSTER presentation.**
- 8) Tóth KF, Szabó-Papp J, Péntes Zs, Kilić A, Soeberdt M, Abels C, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2017): The selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor fluoxetine exerts anti-inflammatory actions on human epidermal keratinocytes. 47<sup>th</sup> *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) (Salzburg, Austria; 09/27/2017-09/30/2017)* <http://www.esdr2017.org/> **POSTER presentation.**
- 9) **Oláh A**, Alam M, Chéret J, Kis G, Hegyi Z, Szántó M, Bai P, Lerchner J, Bíró T, Paus R (2017): CB<sub>1</sub> is a novel regulator of epidermal mitochondrial functions. 47<sup>th</sup> *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) (Salzburg, Austria; 09/27/2017-09/30/2017)* <http://www.esdr2017.org/> **ORAL presentation.**
- 10) **Oláh A** (2017): The endocannabinoid system as a novel regulator of mitochondrial activity in human epidermis. 47<sup>th</sup> *Annual Meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) (Salzburg, Austria; 09/27/2017-09/30/2017)* <http://www.esdr2017.org/> **ORAL presentation; invited keynote lecture.**
- 11) **Oláh A**, Alam M, Kis G, Hegyi Z, Lerchner J, Vidali S, Zimmer A, Bíró T, Paus R (2017): CB<sub>1</sub> regulates mitochondrial functions of human epidermal keratinocytes *in situ* and *in vitro*. *The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the International Cannabinoid Research Society (ICRS) Montréal, Canada; 06/29/2017-06/27/2017.* <http://www.icrs2017.org/> **ORAL presentation.**

- 12) Kelemen B, Szántó M, **Oláh A**, Szöllösi AG, Kovács I, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, Tóth BI (2017): Activation of TRPV3 inhibits lipogenesis and stimulates production of inflammatory mediators in human sebocytes. *42<sup>th</sup> Symposium on hormones and Cell Regulation (European Society of Endocrinology - ESE) Ion Channels in Hormonal Homeostasis: Transient Receptor Potential Channels and Calcium Signaling; Mont-Saint-Odil, France 10/04/2017-10/07/2017.* <https://www.hormones-cell-regulation.eu/programmeing> **POSTER presentation.**
- 13) Kelemen B, Szántó M, **Oláh A**, Szöllösi AG, Kovács I, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, Tóth BI (2017): Activation of TRPV3 inhibits lipogenesis and stimulates production of inflammatory mediators in human sebocytes. *42<sup>th</sup> Symposium on hormones and Cell Regulation (European Society of Endocrinology - ESE) Ion Channels in Hormonal Homeostasis: Transient Receptor Potential Channels and Calcium Signaling; Mont-Saint-Odil, France 10/04/2017-10/07/2017.* <https://www.hormones-cell-regulation.eu/programmeing> **ORAL presentation.**
- 14) **Oláh A**, Szántó M, Kelemen B, Szöllösi AG, Pór Á, Kovács I, CC, Bíró T, Tóth BI (2017): TRPV3 decreases lipogenesis and promotes production of inflammatory mediators in human sebocytes. *46<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Hungarian Immunological Society; Velence, Hungary; 10/18/2017-10/20/2017* <https://www.remedicon.hu/267/magyar-immunologiai-tarsasag-46-vandorgyulese> **POSTER presentation, awarded by poster award.**
- 15) Tóth KF, Szabó-Papp J, Kilić A, Soeberdt M, Abels C, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2017): Investigation of the effects of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors on human keratinocytes. *46<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Hungarian Immunological Society; Velence, Hungary; 10/18/2017-10/20/2017* <https://www.remedicon.hu/267/magyar-immunologiai-tarsasag-46-vandorgyulese> **POSTER presentation.**
- 16) **Oláh A**, Markovics A, Tóth KF, Sós KE, Magi J, Gyöngyösi A, Benyó Z, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T (2018): Nicotinic acid suppresses sebaceous lipid synthesis of human sebocytes via activating hydroxycarboxylic acid receptor 2 (HCA2). *5<sup>th</sup> International Investigative Dermatology (IID) Meeting, 2018. 05.16-19., Orlando, Florida, USA* <http://iid2018.org/> **POSTER presentation.**
- 17) Tóth KF, Markovics A, Angyal Á, Magi J, Pór Á, Kovács I, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2018): Endocannabinoid-like molecule oleoylethanolamide promotes sebaceous lipid synthesis. *5<sup>th</sup> International Investigative Dermatology (IID) Meeting, 2018. 05.16-19., Orlando, Florida, USA* <http://iid2018.org/> **POSTER presentation.**
- 18) Tóth KF, Faragó P, Ádám D, Sárkány F, Markovics A, Arbiser JL, Zouboulis CC, **Oláh A**, Bíró T (2018): A tribbles homolog 3 (TRIB3) aktivátor honokiol vizsgálata humán szebocitákon. *Annual meeting of the Hungarian Physiological Society (Szeged, Magyarország; 2018. június 27-30.)* [http://www.regio10.hu/hu/?mod=webshop\\_cnt&cla=webshop\\_cnt&fun=showconflist&conf\\_id=4492](http://www.regio10.hu/hu/?mod=webshop_cnt&cla=webshop_cnt&fun=showconflist&conf_id=4492) **POSTER presentation.**
- 19) **Oláh A**, Szántó M, Tóth KF, Kelemen B, Szöllösi AG, Pór Á, Kovács I, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, Tóth IB (2018): A TRPV3 ioncsatorna aktivációja csökkenti a faggyúlipid-termelést, és gyulladásválaszt vált ki humán szebocitákban. *Annual meeting of the Hungarian Physiological Society (Szeged, Magyarország; 2018. június 27-30.)* [http://www.regio10.hu/hu/?mod=webshop\\_cnt&cla=webshop\\_cnt&fun=showconflist&conf\\_id=4492](http://www.regio10.hu/hu/?mod=webshop_cnt&cla=webshop_cnt&fun=showconflist&conf_id=4492) **POSTER presentation.**
- 20) Markovics A, Tóth KF, Sós KE, Magi J, Gyöngyösi A, Benyó Z, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2018): A nikotinsav a „hydroxycarboxylic acid receptor 2” (HCA2) aktiválásával csökkenti a humán szebociták faggyúlipid-termelését. *Annual meeting of the Hungarian Physiological Society (Szeged, Hungary; 06/27/2018-06/30/2018)* [http://www.regio10.hu/hu/?mod=webshop\\_cnt&cla=webshop\\_cnt&fun=showconflist&conf\\_id=4492](http://www.regio10.hu/hu/?mod=webshop_cnt&cla=webshop_cnt&fun=showconflist&conf_id=4492) **POSTER presentation.**
- 21) Sárkány F, Ádám D, Tóth KF, Faragó P, Soeberdt M, Abels C, **Oláh A**, Bíró T (2018): A  $\kappa$  opioid receptor (KOR) hatásainak vizsgálata humán epidermális keratinocitákon. *Annual meeting of the Hungarian Physiological Society (Szeged, Hungary; 06/27/2018-06/30/2018)* [http://www.regio10.hu/hu/?mod=webshop\\_cnt&cla=webshop\\_cnt&fun=showconflist&conf\\_id=4492](http://www.regio10.hu/hu/?mod=webshop_cnt&cla=webshop_cnt&fun=showconflist&conf_id=4492) **POSTER presentation.**
- 22) **Oláh A** (2018): (Endo)cannabinoid signaling and stress-related disorders in the integumentary system - Is “stoned” skin less stressed? *4<sup>th</sup> Endocannabinoid Pharmacology Meeting (Bern, Switzerland; 10/25/2018-10/26/2018)* <http://www.endocannabinoid-pharmacology.ch/2018.html> **ORAL presentation (invited, keynote lecture).**
- 23) Tóth KF, Markovics A, Ádám D, Péntzes Zs, Angyal Á, Magi J, Pór Á, Kovács I, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2018): A novel endocannabinoid oleoil-etanolamid hatásainak vizsgálata humán szebocitákon. *Annual meeting of the Hungarian Dermatological Society (Budapest, Hungary; 11/29/2018-12/01/2018)* <https://www.convention.hu/Rendezveny/Reszletek/MDT18/Koszonto> **POSTER presentation.**
- 24) Ádám D, Tóth KF, Sárkány F, Faragó P, Soeberdt M, Abels C, **Oláh A**, Bíró T (2018): A  $\kappa$  opioid receptor (KOR) hatásainak vizsgálata humán epidermális keratinocitákon. *Annual meeting of the Hungarian Dermatological Society (Budapest, Hungary; 11/29/2018-12/01/2018)* <https://www.convention.hu/Rendezveny/Reszletek/MDT18/Koszonto> **POSTER presentation.**
- 25) Ádám D, Tóth KF, Sárkány F, Soeberdt M, Abels C, **Oláh A**, Bíró T (2018): Activation of  $\kappa$ -opioid receptor (KOR) suppresses pro-inflammatory response of human epidermal keratinocytes. *3<sup>rd</sup> Inflammatory Skin Disease Summit (Vienna, Austria; 12/12/2018-12/15/2018)* <http://www.isds2018.org/> **POSTER presentation.**
- 26) Markovics A, Tóth KF, Sós KE, Magi J, Gyöngyösi A, Benyó Z, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2018): Sebaceous lipogenesis of human sebocytes is suppressed by nicotinic acid via the activation of hydroxycarboxylic acid receptor 2 (HCA2). *3<sup>rd</sup> Inflammatory Skin Disease Summit (Vienna, Austria; 12/12/2018-12/15/2018)* <http://www.isds2018.org/> **POSTER presentation.**
- 27) Tóth KF, Markovics A, Ádám D, Péntzes Zs, Angyal Á, Magi J, Pór Á, Kovács I, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2018): GPR119 is a potent novel regulator of human sebocyte biology. *3<sup>rd</sup> Inflammatory Skin Disease Summit (Vienna, Austria; 12/12/2018-12/15/2018)* <http://www.isds2018.org/> **POSTER presentation.**
- 28) Tóth KF, Ádám D, Kis NG, Hegyi Z, Péntzes Zs, Gyetvai Á, Paus R, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2019): A sejtfelszínen és mitokondriálisan kifejeződő CB1 receptor szubpopulációk szerepének vizsgálata epidermális keratinocitákon. *Annual meeting of the Hungarian Physiological Society (Budapest, Hungary; 06/05/2019-06/08/2019)* <http://www.eqcongress.hu/kongresszusadat/famel> **POSTER presentation.**
- 29) Tóth KF, Ádám D, Arany J, Faragó P, Arbiser JL, Zouboulis CC, Bíró T, **Oláh A** (2019): The putative tribbles homolog 3 (TRIB3) activator honokiol suppresses lipogenesis, and exerts anti-proliferative as well as anti-inflammatory effects on human sebocytes. *49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ESDR (Bordeaux, France; 09/18/2019-09/21/2019)* <http://esdrmeeting.org/> **POSTER presentation.**

### Public relations

Although it was not part of the official work plan, we strongly believe that dissemination of our latest findings towards the society is crucially important. Thus, in the past years we regularly joined to the **Researchers' night events**, where we had the chance to present our most intriguing data in layman's terms to the public.

### Other achievements

Since the long-term goal of the PD calls is to help the scientific development of the young PIs, and to **facilitate the establishment of their own teams**, it seems to be relevant to mention that in course of the project **the PI became supervisor of 3 PhD students, and started to form his independent research team**. Moreover, besides the above detailed publications and other achievements, one of the PhD students, Ms. Kinga Fanni Tóth was recently awarded by the prestigious *Skin Science Travel Award* of the European Society for Dermatological Research, which enabled her to visit the Karolinska Institutet, where, within the confines of a **newly established collaboration** with the team of Dr. Jakob Wikström, she performed important experiments related to cutaneous mitochondrial biology (see above). Finally, it should also be mentioned that, as a special recognition of his expertise, during the course of the current project, **the PI was requested to provide consultancy services to Botanix Pharmaceuticals Ltd.**, a company organizing the first human clinical trials using topically applicable CBD in acne (phase II), AD (phase II), psoriasis (phase Ib), and rosacea (phase Ib).

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