Transcriptional signatures of BALB/c mouse macrophages housing multiplying Leishmania amazonensis amastigotes.
José Osorio y Fortéa, Emilie de La Llave, Béatrice Regnault, Jean-Yves Coppée, Geneviève Milon, Thierry Lang, Eric Prina

To cite this version:
José Osorio y Fortéa, Emilie de La Llave, Béatrice Regnault, Jean-Yves Coppée, Geneviève Milon, et al.. Transcriptional signatures of BALB/c mouse macrophages housing multiplying Leishmania amazonensis amastigotes.. BMC Genomics, 2009, 10, pp.119. 10.1186/1471-2164-10-119. pasteur-00376739

HAL Id: pasteur-00376739
https://pasteur.hal.science/pasteur-00376739
Submitted on 20 Apr 2009

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L’archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire HAL, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d’enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.
Transcriptional signatures of BALB/c mouse macrophages housing multiplying *Leishmania amazonensis* amastigotes

José Osorio y Fortéa¹, Emilie de La Llave¹, Béatrice Regnault², Jean-Yves Coppée², Geneviève Milon¹, Thierry Lang¹* and Eric Prina¹*,§

¹ Institut Pasteur, Unité d’Immunophysiologie et Parasitisme Intracellulaire, Département de Parasitologie et Mycologie, 25 rue du Docteur Roux, 75724 Paris, France

² Institut Pasteur, Génopole Plate-Forme 2 - Puces à ADN, 28 rue du Docteur Roux, 75724 Paris, France

* These authors contributed equally to this work

§ Corresponding author

Email addresses:

JOF: josorio@pasteur.fr

ELL: emilie.de-la-llave@pasteur.fr

BR: beatrice.regnault@pasteur.fr

JYC: jean-yves.coppee@pasteur.fr

GM: genevieve.milon@pasteur.fr

TL: thierry.lang@pasteur.fr

EP: eric.prina@pasteur.fr
Abstract

Background: Mammal macrophages (MΦ) display a wide range of functions which contribute to surveying and maintaining tissue integrity. One such function is phagocytosis, a process known to be subverted by parasites like Leishmania (L). Indeed, the intracellular development of L. amazonensis amastigote relies on the biogenesis and dynamic remodelling of a phagolysosome, termed the parasitophorous vacuole, primarily within dermal MΦ.

Results: Using BALB/c mouse bone marrow-derived MΦ loaded or not with amastigotes, we analyzed the transcriptional signatures of MΦ 24h later, when the amastigote population was growing. Total RNA from MΦ cultures were processed and hybridized onto Affymetrix Mouse430_2 GeneChips®, and some transcripts were also analyzed by Real-Time quantitative PCR (RTQPCR). A total of 1,248 probe-sets showed significant differential expression. Comparable fold-change values were obtained between the Affymetrix technology and the RTQPCR method. Ingenuity Pathway Analysis software® pinpointed the up-regulation of the sterol biosynthesis pathway (p-value = 1.31e-02) involving several genes (1.95 to 4.30 fold change values), and the modulation of various genes involved in polyamine synthesis and in pro/counter-inflammatory signalling.

Conclusions: Our findings suggest that the amastigote growth relies on early coordinated gene expression of the MΦ lipid and polyamine pathways. Moreover, these MΦ hosting multiplying L. amazonensis amastigotes display a transcriptional profile biased towards parasite-and host tissue-protective processes.

Background

L. amazonensis are protozoan parasites belonging to the trypanosomatidae family. In natural settings, the L. amazonensis perpetuation relies on blood-feeding sand fly and rodent hosts.
The development of promastigotes proceeds within the gut lumen of the sand fly hosts and ends with metacyclic promastigotes. The latter, once delivered into the mammal dermis, differentiate as amastigotes mainly within the resident dermal macrophage (MΦ) acting as bona fide host cells. Following the parasite inoculation and before the development of the more or less transient skin damages that characterize cutaneous leishmaniasis there is an asymptomatic phase lasting for several days or weeks during which the intracellular amastigote progeny expands. This expansion takes place within a compartment named parasitophorous vacuole (PV) that displays properties similar to late endosomes/lysosomes and the size of which grows significantly for *Leishmania* belonging to the *mexicana* complex [1, 2]. In this study we sought to analyze the transcriptional signatures of a homogeneous population of MΦ derived *in vitro* from BALB/c mouse bone marrow CSF-1 dependent progenitors and hosting amastigotes that are actively multiplying. The Affymetrix GeneChip technology was used to compare the gene expression profiles of *L. amazonensis* amastigote-hosting bone marrow-derived MΦ and parasite-free ones. This *in vitro* transcriptomics approach was combined with the Ingenuity biological network analysis to highlight the mouse MΦ biological processes the multiplying *L. amazonensis* amastigotes rely on within their giant communal PV. Our findings suggest that MΦ hosting multiplying amastigotes contribute to carve a parasite-as well as a host tissue-protective environment.

**Results and Discussion**

*L. amazonensis* amastigotes subvert MΦ as host cells where they enter a cell-cycling phase lasting several days (Fig. 1A). We compared the transcriptomes of amastigote-free MΦ and amastigote-harbouring MΦ 24h after the uptake of amastigotes carefully purified from nude mouse lesions. At this time-point amastigotes were multiplying within a huge PV (Fig. 1B) and their population size had almost doubled (Fig. 1A). Among the 45,101 probe-sets of the Mouse430_2 GeneChip, 1,248 (2.77%) were displaying features of differential expression at
the 5% significance level (Fig. 2, see Additional file 1). Of these, 1,206 matched Ingenuity Pathway Analysis database version 5.5.1 which represented 898 genes with a known function. About 80% of these genes were incorporated into either Ingenuity’s canonical pathway or biological network (*i.e.* their products interact with other molecules in Ingenuity's knowledge base). The symbols of the modulated genes are specified in the text (fold change [FC] values between brackets), while their full names are given in Additional file 1. Furthermore, comparable FC values were obtained between the Affymetrix technology and the Real Time quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (RTQPCR) method (Table 1) [3].

Though transcriptional changes due to the phagocytic uptake process *per se*-known to occur mostly within the first 2 hours post particle addition- cannot be completely excluded, the МΦ transcript modulation - detected at 24 hours post the amastigote addition - very likely reflects МΦ reprogramming due to the presence of cell cycling amastigotes within giant PV. Indeed, in our experimental conditions, no extracellular amastigotes could be evidenced in the МΦ culture (a) after a brief centrifugation step and (b) one hour contact with adherent МΦ indicating that the phagocytic uptake of *L. amazonensis* amastigotes is a rapid and efficient process. Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that the size of the amastigote population hosted within the МΦ PV rapidly expands within the first 24 hours (Fig. 1A) [4]. Using also mouse bone marrow-derived МΦ as host cells for *Leishmania*, Gregory and coworkers demonstrated that the gene expression profiles of control МΦ and МΦ that have phagocytosed latex beads 24 hr before were very similar. They evidenced a statistically significant difference for only 15 probe sets. None of the 29 corresponding probe sets in the mouse 430 DNA Affymetrix gene chip was present in the list of 1248 modulated probe sets observed in presence of *L. amazonensis* amastigotes. Thus, these data strongly support our conclusion that the gene expression profile observed 24hr after the phagocytosis of *L. amazonensis* amastigotes was due to the presence of intracellular cell-cycling parasites.

- 4 -
L. amazonensis amastigotes set up an optimal sub cellular niche

*Modulation of MΦ genes encoding vacuolar proton ATPase sub-units*

Within their host cells, *L. amazonensis* amastigotes are known to multiply efficiently in the acidic environment of the MΦ PV [1]. In presence of amastigotes, we observed an up-regulation of the gene expression of eight isoforms of the V0 and V1 sub-units of the MΦ vacuolar proton ATPase (*atp6V0a1*, *atp6V0c*, *atp6V0d2*, *atp6V1a*, *atp6V1c1*, *atp6V1d*, *atp6V1g1* and *atp6V1h*: +1.27 < FC < +2.32) [5]. This could contribute to the sustained acidification of the PV lumen which has been shown to be important at least for the optimal amastigote nutrient acquisition [6, 7].

*Coordinated modulation of MΦ lipid metabolism*

The most relevant biological networks fitting our dataset were strongly associated to the function “lipid metabolism”, the most significant canonical metabolic pathway being “biosynthesis of steroids” (*p*-value = 1.31e-02). Indeed, several up-regulated genes (Fig. 3, Table 1) were involved i) in cholesterol uptake (*ldlr*: + 4.70), ii) in cholesterol transport (*fabp4*: + 6.42 and *stard4*: + 2.31) and iii) in sterol biosynthesis (*hmgcs1*, *hmgcr*, *mvd*, *idil*, *fdps*, *fdft1*, *sqle*, *lss*, *cyp51*, *sc4mol*, *hsd17b7*, *sc5d* and *dhcr24*: +1.95 < FC < +4.30). Worth is mentioning the most up-regulated gene encoding type II deiodinase (*dio2*, + 25.92), an enzyme converting intracellular thyroxin (T4) to tri-iodothyronine (T3), the more active form of thyroid hormone. It has previously been demonstrated in mouse hepatocytes that the molecular basis for the connection of T3 and cholesterol metabolism involves the master transcriptional activator of the aforementioned genes, namely *srebf2* (+ 1.84) the promoter of which contains a thyroid hormone response element [8]. Furthermore, thyroid hormone
receptors can activate transcription of target genes upon T3 binding and this could be facilitated by co-activators ncoa4 (+1.66) and brd8 (+1.08). Interestingly, opposite to dio2, the most down-regulated gene was cholesterol-25-hydrolase (ch25h: -6.57), an enzyme acting downstream this pathway by breaking down cholesterol and by synthesizing a co-repressor of srebf2 transcriptional activation [9]. Upstream this pathway, several up-regulated genes involved in glycolysis could also contribute to increase the supply of acetate (acsl3, adhfe1, akr1a1, aldoa, aldoc, eno2, hk2, hk3, ldha, pfkl, pkg1 and pkm2: +1.13 < FC < +2.61). Of note was the down-regulation of genes encoding enzymes competing i) with hmgcs1 for acetate (acaca: -1.32) and ii) with aldoa and aldoc for fructose, 1-6, biphosphate, which is needed to produce glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate upstream the sterol biosynthesis pathway (fbp1: -2.16). In addition, the up-regulation of the transcription factor encoded by atf3 (+1.77) was consistent with the down-modulation of fbp1. These data suggest that the available intracellular pool of sterol-synthesis molecular intermediates was maintained by a gene expression program relying on a coordinated regulation at both the transcriptional level by srebf2, atf1 (+1.84) and atf3, and also most likely at the post-transcriptional level by insig1 (+2.63) encoding a sterol-sensing protein that regulates the intracellular cholesterol level [10].

The expression of several genes involved in the fatty acid biosynthesis pathway was also up-regulated with the modulation of ppap2b (+8.53), scd1 (+2.68), scd2 (+2.45) and acsl3 (+2.09). Moreover, genes encoding fatty acid binding proteins that play a role in fatty acid uptake and transport were up-regulated (fabp3: +2.29, fabp4: +6.42 and fabp5: +1.57). Extracellular lipolysis was down-modulated (lipe: -2.20, lpl: -1.44 and apoc2: -1.63), while intracellular catabolism of triglycerides mediated via mgll was up-regulated (+3.40). Fatty acid transport to peroxisome was diminished with abcd2 down-modulation (-2.11). Since this was not described neither for L. major nor L. donovani [11], this could be unique for the L.
*mexicana* complex, all sub-species of which multiply within giant communal PV [1]. Indeed, previous experimental work performed with *L. mexicana* [12, 13], which is very close to *L. amazonensis* (both share the same distinctive feature to multiply within a communal PV), has shown that amastigotes could take advantage of the MΦ sterol biosynthesis pathway to produce ergosterol.

These data were in agreement with the sterol biosynthesis machinery of the MΦ host cell being exploited by the cell-cycling amastigotes for both their own cell membrane sterols, in particular ergosterol and the PV membrane sterol-dependent remodelling. Indeed, cholesterol availability might play a role in the formation of the PV lipid rafts [14] that could be involved in the control of fusion events leading to the sustained remodelling of the huge communal PV membrane where the aforementioned proton pump components are regularly delivered.

**Modulation of MΦ polyamine metabolism**

Polyamines (e.g. putrescine) derived from arginine catabolism are essential compounds for amastigote growth [15]. Using the Affymetrix technology we failed to detect, at the 5% significance threshold, arginase-2 (*arg2*) and ornithine decarboxylase-1 (*odc1*), two enzymes leading to the formation of polyamines through arginine catabolism. Indeed, while for *arg2* the raw fluorescence intensity values were below or close to the background level, for *odc1* the raw fluorescence intensities before data processing displayed only a slight increase (+1.21) in presence of amastigotes (see Additional file 1). However, the up-regulation of SLC7A2 (+4.14) in MΦ hosting amastigotes was a strong incentive for monitoring the abundance of *arg2* and *odc1* transcripts with a validated RTQPCR method. Using this method we did detect a slight variation of the expression of *arg2* (+1.91) and *odc1* (+1.18) (Table 1). Therefore, in presence of amastigotes, *arg2* could favour arginine transformation into ornithine, the latter being catalyzed in turn by *odc1* to generate putrescine (Fig. 4).
ODC1-antizyme plays a role in the regulation of polyamine synthesis by binding to and inhibiting ODC1. The transcript abundance of azin1 encoding ODC1-antizyme inhibitor-1 was higher (+1.96) when amastigotes were present, so that this inhibitor might prevent antizyme-mediated ODC1 degradation. Of note, ornithine could also be generated from proline by p4ha2 (+2.27), and putrescine from spermine and spermidine by the successive action of sat1 (+1.47) and maoa (+2.56). Spermidine synthase (srm) and spermine synthase (sms), two enzymes catalyzing the reverse reactions leading to the formation of spermine from putrescine, were not detected with Affymetrix (5% threshold), although their transcript abundance decreased in presence of amastigotes (-1.22 and -1.38, respectively; see supplementary information Table 1). No gene expression modulation was detected with Affymetrix for nos2 (5% threshold) that encodes a competing enzyme for arginine substrate leading to the production of microbe-targeting nitric oxide derivatives (fluorescence intensity was below the background level, see Additional file 1), and only a slight up-regulation was detected with RTQPCR (+1.28) (Table 1). The present data further extend former observations [15, 16], and highlight a coordinated gene expression modulation that sustains a metabolic flux leading to the biosynthesis of putrescine from arginine and proline via ornithine, and from spermine and spermidine.

**L. amazonensis amastigotes set up an optimal dermis niche**

Decreased expression of genes involved in the entry of non leishmanial microorganisms as well as in the sensing and processing of microbial molecules

Several genes involved in classical and alternate complement component pathways were down-regulated (c1qa, c1qb, serping1, c3, c4b, cfh, c5ar1 and pros1: -2.80 < FC < -1.35) as well as some genes of the Toll-like receptor signalling pathway (tlr2, tlr7, tlr8, cd14, mapk14, c-fos and nfkbia: -3.11 < FC < -1.61, and the negative regulator tollip: +1.67). These pathways are known to contribute to the entry of micro-organisms and the
sensing/processing of microbial molecules. In presence of the intracellular cell-cycling amastigotes these biological processes would be restricted, if not prevented. Indeed, it is conceivable that non-\textit{Leishmania} micro-organisms or microbial molecules might trigger a different MΦ transcriptional program that could interfere with the one already set up by \textit{L. amazonensis} amastigotes for their multiplication. Nevertheless, it has recently been demonstrated that the other \textit{L. amazonensis} developmental stage, the promastigote, was still able to enter MΦ already hosting amastigotes, to transform into amastigote and to multiply efficiently within the PV [17].

The above data suggested that \textit{L. amazonensis} amastigotes were able to control MΦ expression of the early complement components, the proteolytic products of which are known to be pro-inflammatory. This complement component pathway down-modulation was also recently described for human MΦ housing \textit{L. major} parasites [18]. The down-modulation of the Toll-like receptor pathway also suggested prevention of the inflammatory process signalling. At this stage, although some anti-inflammatory genes were not up-modulated (\textit{il10}: -2.97 and \textit{il10ra}: -2.16) the gene expression modulation for the majority of the listed genes involved in inflammatory processes showed that the presence of cell-cycling amastigotes imposed an immune unbalance favouring the shaping of a counter-inflammatory and safe dermis niche for these parasites (\textit{il1rn, il1b, il11ral, il17rb, il18, socs6, cd200, nfkbia, relB, c-fos} and \textit{anxA1}, an inhibitor of phospholipase A2 mediated-inflammation: 1.41 < | FC | < 4.19).

\textit{Decreased expression of genes involved in the chemokine-dependent MΦ traffic}

The down-modulation of the expression of genes encoding chemokine receptors (\textit{ccr2, ccr3, cx3cr1} and \textit{cmklr1}: -2.65 < FC < -1.83) suggested that amastigote-harbouring MΦ were less responsive to chemo-attractant gradients and thus less amenable to enter into the afferent
lymphatics. This is consistent with the dominant residence of *L. amazonensis*-hosting MΦ in the skin. In favour of this possible reduced emigration of MΦ from the dermis niche was the down-regulation of *itga4* (-2.06) encoding an integrin shown to contribute to the lymphatic adhesion/transmigration [19]. It is beyond the scope of this article to discuss about more than a dozen of chemokine receptor ligands the gene expression of which was modulated (see Additional file 1). Indeed, the interpretation is not that straightforward because of the complexity of their partial overlapping functions and/or common receptors.

*Decreased expression of genes involved in the cellular communication with leukocytes prone to display parasite-damaging functions*

The modulation of several transcripts indicated a prevention of MΦ communication with leukocytes that could be rapidly recruited such as NK lymphocytes, and T-lymphocytes. For instance, H60 is one of the ligand able to efficiently activate NK-lymphocytes by binding to the NKG2D receptor (encoded by *klrk1*). In presence of amastigotes, the *h60* MΦ expression was down-modulated (-2.07), suggesting the prevention of this “immune synapse” by which parasitized MΦ and NK lymphocytes can communicate. Interestingly, NKG2D receptor engagement by H60 ligand in MΦ, that normally leads to the production of MΦ leishmanicidal molecules such as NO and TNF-α [20], could be impaired in MΦ hosting amastigotes since the expression of *klrk1* gene was also down-modulated (-1.72). Besides, the gene expression of the co-stimulatory molecule CD86 was reduced (-1.83), while that of the inhibitory receptor CD274 (also referred to as B7-H1) was increased (+1.93). In addition, the transcript abundance of the co-stimulatory molecules ICAM1 (-1.76), ICAM2 (-1.85) and LFA-1 (or integrin-alpha L, -2.0) was also reduced. The down-modulation of several genes involved in antigen presentation by MHC class II molecules was recently discussed for human MΦ housing *L. major* parasites [18]. This data suggested plausible reduced
effectiveness of this other “immune synapse” involving TCR-dependent signalling by which MΦ and T-lymphocytes can communicate. Consistent with this was the reduced transcription level in MΦ hosting *L. amazonensis* amastigotes of *h-2ma* (-1.88) and of *ifngr1* (-1.83 FC) that encodes the receptor for IFNγ, a cytokine secreted by both activated NK- and T-lymphocytes and involved upstream the MHC class II gene up-regulation.

**Conclusion**

The Affymetrix GeneChip technology has allowed -for many cell lineages- the global analysis of several thousand transcripts simultaneously to be carried out in a robust fashion [21]. The remarkable coordination of gene expression as well as coherent biological interaction networks displayed by MΦ subverted as host cells by the multiplying *L. amazonensis* amastigotes allow highlighting the power of this technology at two different levels: (a) the amastigote-hosting MΦ transcriptional features *per se* and (b) the features of MΦ hosting cell-cycling amastigotes which would have been captured within the dermal environment. Further *in vivo* quantitative analysis will have to be set up for validating or not the present transcriptional profile at early stage after the first wave of amastigote multiplication in the ear dermis of naïve BALB/c mice. Overall, the gene expression profile of MΦ hosting amastigotes did not strictly fall into either of the MΦ “activation” profiles, as it was also the case for *L. chagasi* [22]. Nevertheless, consistent with the multiplication of the amastigote developmental stage, some overlap with features of the alternative MΦ activation could be observed, such as the up-regulation of *arg2* and *il1rn*, and the down-regulation of *cd14* (-1.73 FC).

In addition to the conversion of the MΦ arginine metabolism from a parasite-damaging pathway to a parasite-supportive one, the most clear-cut and novel output of the present analysis was the up-regulation of the MΦ fatty acid biosynthesis pathway. Coupled to the polyamine biosynthesis the MΦ lipids could not only be a source of nutrients for the
amastigotes but could also contribute to the PV unique membrane features [2, 23]. Lipids could not only influence the PV membrane curvature but also coordinate the recruitment and retention of key protein export to the PV where multiplying amastigotes are known to be attached [2]. This makes it conceivable that the multiplying amastigotes could take up trophic resources and sense non-trophic signals.

We have highlighted a promising set of transcripts accounting for the BALB/c mouse macrophage reprogrammed as cell-cycling amastigote hosting cells. We do not ignore that transcript modulation changes revealed by microarray analysis could be uncoupled to changes revealed by proteomic and phosphoproteomic analysis. We did not explore how these mRNA changes manifest at the level of the proteome but the present genomewide data will provide a unique resource (a) against which to compare any proteomic/phosphoproteomic data (b) to allow identifying novel small compounds displaying static or cidal activity towards cell-cycling amastigotes hosted within the macrophage PV. Indeed the readout assay we designed allows high content imaging in real time of (a) the amastigotes (b) the amastigotes-hosting PV as well as the macrophages per se [24] and can be up-scaled for high throughput screening of small compound libraries.

Methods

Mice, MΦ and amastigotes

Swiss nu/nu and BALB/c mice were used (following National Scientific Ethics Committee guidelines) for L. amazonensis (LV79, MPRO/BR/1972/M1841) amastigote propagation and bone marrow-derived MΦ preparation, respectively. Four amastigotes per MΦ were added. Parasite-harbouring MΦ (>98%) and parasite-free ones were cultured at 34°C either for 24h for transcriptomic studies or for different time periods for microscopy analyses [25].

Kinetic study of the intracellular amastigote population size.

At different time points post amastigote addition, MΦ cultures were processed for
immunofluorescence and phase contrast microscopy. Briefly, MΦ cultures on coverslips were fixed, permeabilized, incubated with the amastigote-specific mAb 2A3.26 and Texas Red-labelled conjugate, stained with Hoechst 33342 and mounted in Mowiol for observation under an inverted microscope as previously described (25). Ratios of amastigotes per MΦ (between 200 and 700 MΦ nuclei being counted) were calculated and expressed as mean numbers of amastigotes per MΦ at each time point.

**GeneChip hybridization and data analysis**

Total RNA were extracted from MΦ (RNeasy+ Mini-Kit, Qiagen), their quality control (QC) and concentration were determined using NanoDrop ND-1000 micro-spectrophotometer and their integrity was assessed [26] using Agilent-2100 Bioanalyzer (RNA Integrity Numbers ≥9). Hybridizations were performed following the Affymetrix protocol (http://www.affymetrix.com/support/downloads/manuals/expression_analysis_technical_manual.pdf). MIAME-compliant data are available through ArrayExpress and GEO databases (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/microarray-as/ae/, accession: E-MEXP-1595; http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/geo/, accession: GSE11497). Based on AffyGCQC program QC assessment [27], hybridizations of biological duplicates were retained for downstream analysis. Raw data were pre-processed to obtain expression values using GC-RMA algorithm [28]. Unreliable probe-sets called “absent” by Affymetrix GCOS software (http://www.affymetrix.com/support/downloads/manuals/data_analysis_fundamentals_manual.pdf) for at least 3 GeneChips out of 4 were discarded, as well as probe-sets called “absent” once within samples plus once within controls. LPE tests [29] were performed to identify significant differences in gene expression between parasite-free and parasite-harbouring MΦ. Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) multiple-test correction [30] was applied to control for the number of false positives with an adjusted 5% statistical significance threshold. A total of 1,248 probe-sets showing significant differential expression were input into Ingenuity Pathway
Analysis software v5.5.1 (www.ingenuity.com) to perform a biological interaction network analysis. Although a cross-hybridization study was performed by Gregrogy and coworkers (11) on a mouse U74av2 DNA Affymetrix gene chip (12,488 transcripts) with RNA from *Leishmania donovani*, it was important to also assess the absence of significant cross-hybridization in our experimental conditions. To this end, we compared the gene chip data obtained with MΦ RNA alone with those obtained with the same RNA preparation spiked with different amount of *L. amazonensis* RNA. Our data showed that *L. amazonensis* RNA did not interfere with mouse RNA hybridization onto GeneChips (data not shown). Indeed, fold-change values for a technical replicate of mouse RNA were not significantly different from those observed for mouse RNA spiked with up to 10% of *L. amazonensis* RNA taking the non-spiked mouse RNA as reference (one-sample one-sided Student’s t-test P-values < 5% for all 45,101 probe-sets, the 1,248 significantly modulated probe-sets, the probe-sets of the 107 genes in Table 1 and the probe-sets of the 13 genes in Figure 3). Therefore, the observed over-expressions were not due to cross-hybridization between the mouse and the amastigote transcripts, thus providing valid information about the reprogramming of macrophages hosting cell-cycling amastigotes.

**Real-time quantitative PCR**

RTQPCR were performed on cDNA from various biological samples including those used for the hybridizations using a LightCycler-480 (Roche). Primer sequences are available upon request. Gene expression analysis using qBase [31] allowed determining the normalized relative quantities between parasite-free and parasite-harbouring MΦ.

**Authors' contributions**

JOF performed the hybridization experiments, the bioinformatical, statistical and pathway analyses, prepared most of the figures and tables and drafted the manuscript. ELL contributed to the pathway analysis and participated in RTQPCR assays and analyses. BR was involved
in the design of the study and participated in hybridization experiments and statistical analyses. JYC reviewed the manuscript. GM participated in the conception of the study, in its design and coordination and contributed to draft the manuscript. TL participated in the conception of the study, in its design and coordination and reviewed the manuscript. EP was involved in the conception, the design and the coordination of the study, prepared and carried out the *in vitro* experiments and the RNA isolations, performed the RT-qPCR assays and analyses, participated in the preparation of figures and tables, in the analysis of the data and in manuscript preparation.

**Acknowledgements**
This research has received generous financial support from the Fonds Dédié Sanofi-Aventis/Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche “Combattre les Maladies Parasitaires” (PI E. Prina, Co-PI T. Lang), from Institut Pasteur and from Programme de Recherche Pestis (PI E. Carniel, Co-PI G. Milon). We are grateful to Dr. R. Nunnikhoven for his gift that allowed purchasing the Affymetrix core facility and to Roche for providing us with the LightCycler-480. All authors approved the manuscript and they have no conflicting financial interests.

**References**
1. Antoine JC, Prina E, Lang T, Courret N: *The biogenesis and properties of the parasitophorous vacuoles that harbour Leishmania in murine macrophages*. *Trends Microbiol* 1998, 6(10): 392-401.
2. Courret N, Frehel C, Gouhier N, Pouchelet M, Prina E, Roux P, Antoine JC: *Biogenesis of Leishmania-harbouring parasitophorous vacuoles following phagocytosis of the metacyclic promastigote or amastigote stages of the parasites*. *J Cell Sci* 2002,
115(Pt 11): 2303-2316.

3. Proenzano M, Mocellin S: Complementary techniques: validation of gene expression data by quantitative real time PCR. Adv Exp Med Biol 2007, 593: 66-73.

4. Antoine JC, Jouanne C, Lang T, Prina E, de Chastellier C, Frehel C: Localization of major histocompatibility complex class II molecules in phagolysosomes of murine macrophages infected with Leishmania amazonensis. Infect Immun 1991, 59(3): 764-775.

5. Lukacs GL, Rotstein OD, Grinstein S: Determinants of the phagosomal pH in macrophages. In situ assessment of vacuolar H(+)-ATPase activity, counterion conductance, and H+ "leak". J Biol Chem 1991, 266(36): 24540-24548.

6. Burchmore RJ, Barrett MP: Life in vacuoles--nutrient acquisition by Leishmania amastigotes. Int J Parasitol 2001, 31(12): 1311-1320.

7. McConville MJ, de Souza D, Saunders E, Likic VA, Naderer T: Living in a phagolysosome; metabolism of Leishmania amastigotes. Trends Parasitol 2007, 23(8): 368-375.

8. Shin DJ, Osborne TF: Thyroid hormone regulation and cholesterol metabolism are connected through Sterol Regulatory Element-Binding Protein-2 (SREBP-2). J Biol Chem 2003, 278(36): 34114-34118.

9. Lund EG, Kerr TA, Sakai J, Li WP, Russell DW: cDNA cloning of mouse and human cholesterol 25-hydroxylases, polytopic membrane proteins that synthesize a potent oxysterol regulator of lipid metabolism. J Biol Chem 1998, 273(51): 34316-34327.

10. Ikonen E: Cellular cholesterol trafficking and compartmentalization. Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol 2008, 9(2): 125-138.

11. Gregory DJ, Sladek R, Olivier M, Matlashewski G: Comparison of the effects of Leishmania major or Leishmania donovani infection on macrophage gene
expression. Infect Immun 2008, 76(3): 1186-1192.

12. Hart DT, Lauwers WJ, Willemsens G, Vanden Bossche H, Oppendoes FR: Perturbation of sterol biosynthesis by itraconazole and ketoconazole in Leishmania mexicana mexicana infected macrophages. Mol Biochem Parasitol 1989, 33(2): 123-134.

13. Roberts CW, McLeod R, Rice DW, Ginger M, Chance ML, Goad LJ: Fatty acid and sterol metabolism: potential antimicrobial targets in apicomplexan and trypanosomatid parasitic protozoa. Mol Biochem Parasitol 2003, 126(2): 129-142.

14. Dermine JF, Duclos S, Garin J, St-Louis F, Rea S, Parton RG, Desjardins M: Flotillin-1-enriched lipid raft domains accumulate on maturing phagosomes. J Biol Chem 2001, 276(21): 18507-18512.

15. Roberts SC, Tancer MJ, Polinsky MR, Gibson KM, Heby O, Ullman B: Arginase plays a pivotal role in polyamine precursor metabolism in Leishmania. Characterization of gene deletion mutants. J Biol Chem 2004, 279(22): 23668-23678.

16. Wanasen N, MacLeod CL, Ellies LG, Soong L: L-arginine and cationic amino acid transporter 2B regulate growth and survival of Leishmania amazonensis amastigotes in macrophages. Infect Immun 2007, 75(6): 2802-2810.

17. Real F, Pouchelet M, Rabinovitch M: Leishmania (L.) amazonensis: fusion between parasitophorous vacuoles in infected bone-marrow derived mouse macrophages. Exp Parasitol 2008, 119(1): 15-23.

18. Guerfali FZ, Laouini D, Guizani-Tabbane L, Ottones F, Ben-Aissa K, Benkahla A, Manchon L, Piquemal D, Smandi S, Mghirbi O, Commes T, Marti J, Dellagi K: Simultaneous gene expression profiling in human macrophages infected with Leishmania major parasites using SAGE. BMC Genomics 2008, 9: 238.

19. Johnson LA, Jackson DG: Cell traffic and the lymphatic endothelium. Ann N Y Acad
20. Diefenbach A, Jamieson AM, Liu SD, Shastri N, Raulet DH: Ligands for the murine NKG2D receptor: expression by tumor cells and activation of NK cells and macrophages. *Nat Immunol* 2000, 1(2): 119-126.

21. Shi L, Reid LH, Jones WD, Shippy R, Warrington JA, Baker SC, Collins PJ, de Longueville F, Kawasaki ES, Lee KY, Luo Y, et al: The MicroArray Quality Control (MAQC) project shows inter- and intraplatform reproducibility of gene expression measurements. *Nat Biotechnol* 2006, 24(9): 1151-1161.

22. Rodriguez NE, Chang HK, Wilson ME: Novel program of macrophage gene expression induced by phagocytosis of *Leishmania chagasi*. *Infect. Immun* 2004, 72(4): 2111-2122.

23. Steinberg BE, Grinstein S: Pathogen destruction versus intracellular survival: the role of lipids as phagosomal fate determinants. *J Clin Invest* 2008, 118(6): 2002-2011.

24. Osorio y Fortea J, Prina E, de La Llave E, Lecoeur H, Lang T, Milon G: Unveiling pathways used by *Leishmania amazonensis* amastigotes to subvert macrophage function. *Immunol Rev* 2007, 219: 66-74.

25. Prina E, Roux E, Mattei D, Milon G: *Leishmania* DNA is rapidly degraded following parasite death: an analysis by microscopy and real-time PCR. *Microbes Infect* 2007, 9(11): 1307-1315.

26. Schroeder A, Mueller O, Stocker S, Salowsky R, Leiber M, Gassmann M, Lightfoot S, Menzel W, Granzow M, Ragg T: The RIN: an RNA integrity number for assigning integrity values to RNA measurements. *BMC Mol Biol* 2006, 7: 3.

27. Osorio y Fortèa J, Prina E, Lang T, Milon G, Davory C, Coppee JY, Regnault B: Affygcqc: a web-based interface to detect outlying genechips with extreme
studentized deviate tests. *J Bioinform Comput Biol* 2008, 6(2): 317-334.

28. Wu Z, Irizarry RA, Gentleman R, Martinez-Murillo F, Spencer F: A Model-Based Background Adjustment for Oligonucleotide Expression Arrays. *J Am Stat Assoc* 2004, 99(9): 909-917.

29. Jain N, Thatte J, Braciale T, Ley K, O'Connell M, Lee JK: Local-pooled-error test for identifying differentially expressed genes with a small number of replicated microarrays. *Bioinformatics* 2003, 19(15): 1945-1951.

30. Benjamini Y, Hochberg Y: Controlling the false discovery rate: a practical and powerful approach to multiple testing. *J R Stat Soc B-Stat Methodol* 1995, 27: 289-300.

31. Hellemans J, Mortier G, De Paepe A, Speleman F, Vandesompele J: qBase relative quantification framework and software for management and automated analysis of real-time quantitative PCR data. *Genome Biol* 2007, 8(2): R19.

**Figures**

**Figure 1. Time course of intracellular amastigote population size increase and MΦ culture imaging**

**A:** time course experiment showing the evolution of the amastigote population within MΦ. Mean number of amastigotes per MΦ were plotted against the time points selected. Ten microscope fields split up into biological duplicates were visualized and more than 200 MΦ nuclei were counted. **B:** *L. amazonensis*-housing bone marrow-derived MΦ imaged 24hr post amastigote (4 parasites per MΦ) addition. Nuclei were stained with Hoechst (blue) and amastigote with 2A3.26 mAb and Texas Red-labelled conjugate (red). Image acquisition was
performed using an immunofluorescence and differential interference contrast inverted microscope (Zeiss Axiovert 200M). Asterisk: Parasitophorous vacuoles; arrow heads: Amastigotes.

**Figure 2. Affymetrix outcome**

**A:** Volcano plot. 1,248 probe-sets showed differential expression at the 0.05 threshold (green line): 605 positive and 643 negative FC values of which 454 in the right and 507 in the left upper corners (±1.75 FC threshold, red lines, blue circles). **B:** Fold-change distribution of the 1,248 probe sets.

**Figure 3. Modulation of the sterol biosynthesis pathway in L. amazonensis-hosting MΦ.**

*L. amazonensis*-hosting MΦ display an up-regulation of several genes involved in sterol biosynthesis (*, at least 2 probe-sets modulated).

**Figure 4. Modulation of the polyamine biosynthesis pathways in L. amazonensis-hosting MΦ.**

*L. amazonensis*-hosting MΦ display a gene expression coordination of several genes involved in polyamine biosynthesis (*, at least 2 probe-sets modulated; blue values determined by RTQPCR).

**Tables**

**Table 1 List of differentially expressed genes between L. amazonensis-harbouring MΦ and parasite-free MΦ.**

This table is an excerpt from the table of the 1,248 significantly modulated probe-sets, available as online Additional file 1, and contains some genes tested by RTQPCR.
When several probe-sets detect a target gene, data are only shown for the most modulated one. NM: No Modulation significantly detected with Affymetrix technology. NS: Not Significant p-value. Mean values obtained from the raw fluorescence intensities. Primer sequences for genes tested by RTQPCR are available upon request.
Table 1. List of differentially expressed genes between *L. amazonensis*-harbouring Φ and parasite-free Φ.

| Symbol | Name | Probe-set | LocusLink | Affymetrix (RTqPCR) | P-value |
|--------|------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---------|
| abcD2  | ATP-binding cassette, sub-family D (ALD), member 2 | 1438431_at | 26874 | -2.11 | 4.40e-03 |
| acaca  | acetyl-Coenzyme A carboxylase alpha | 1427595_at | 104746 | -1.32 | 4.79e-03 |
| acsl3  | acyl-CoA synthetase long-chain family member 3 | 1452771_s_at | 74205 | +2.09 | 1.48e-03 |
| adhfe1 | alcohol dehydrogenase, iron containing, 1 | 1424393_s_at | 76187 | +1.61 | 4.40e-02 |
| akrla1 | (aldehyde dehydro reductase) | 1430123_a_at | 58810 | +1.13 | 1.22e-03 |
| aldoA  | aldolase 1, A isoform | 1433604_x_at | 11674 | +1.72 | 1.28e-02 |
| aldoC  | aldolase 3, C isoform | 1451461_a_at | 11676 | +1.89 | 1.13e-02 |
| anxA1  | annexin A1 | 1444016_ata | 16952 | +2.68 | 4.47e-05 |
| apo2C  | apolipoprotein C-II | 1418069_at | 11813 | -1.63 | 4.57e-02 |
| arg2   | Arginase 2 | 1418847_at | 11908 | +1.84 | 4.20e-03 |
| atf1   | activating transcription factor 1 | 1417296_at | 11908 | +1.84 | 4.40e-03 |
| atf3   | activating transcription factor 3 | 1449363_at | 11910 | +1.77 | 1.09e-02 |
| atp6V0a1 | ATPase, H+ transporting, lysosomal V0 subunit a isoform 1 | 1460650_at | 11975 | +1.82 | 8.31e-03 |
| atp6V0c | ATPase, H+ transporting, V0 subunit C | 1435732_x_at | 11984 | +1.27 | 5.48e-13 |
| atp6V0d2 | ATPase, H+ transporting, V0 subunit D, isoform 2 | 1422508_at | 11975 | +1.82 | 6.97e-03 |
| atp6V1a | ATPase, H+ transporting, V1 subunit A | 1419546_at | 11975 | +2.31 | 1.10e-05 |
| atp6V1c1 | ATPase, H+ transporting, V1 subunit C, isoform 1 | 1419546_at | 11975 | +2.31 | 1.10e-05 |
| atp6V1d | ATPase, H+ transporting, V1 subunit D | 1422702_at | 12475 | -1.73 | 1.54e-03 |
| atp6V1h | ATPase, H+ transporting, lysosomal, V1 subunit H | 1448788_at | 12475 | +4.14 (+6.52) | 5.48e-13 |
| azin1  | antizyme inhibitor 1 | 1422702_at | 12475 | +3.96 | 1.46e-03 |
| brd8   | bromodomain containing 8 | 1427193_at | 78656 | +1.08 | 3.75e-02 |
| c1qa   | complement component 1, q subcomponent, alpha polypeptide | 1417063_at | 12259 | -1.48 | 3.15e-02 |
| c1qb   | complement component 1, q subcomponent, beta polypeptide | 1417063_at | 12259 | -1.77 | 3.15e-02 |
| c3     | complement component 3 | 1423954_at | 12266 | -2.37 | 7.05e-06 |
| c4b    | complement component 4 (within H-2S) | 1418021_at | 12268 | -1.76 | 4.55e-02 |
| c5r1   | complement component 5a receptor 1 | 1439002_at | 247623 | -2.16 | 4.68e-03 |
| ccr2   | chemokine (C-C motif) receptor 2 | 1421187_at | 12772 | -1.83 (-2.35) | 6.42e-03 |
| ccr3   | chemokine (C-C motif) receptor 3 | 1422957_at | 12771 | -2.58 (-3.88) | 2.49e-05 |
| cd14   | CD14 antigen | 1417268_at | 12771 | -2.58 (-3.88) | 2.49e-05 |
| cd200  | CD200 antigen | 1448788_at | 12771 | +4.14 (+6.52) | 5.48e-13 |
| cd274  | CD274 antigen | 1419714_at | 60533 | +1.93 | 1.61e-03 |
| cd86   | CD86 antigen | 1420404_at | 12524 | -1.83 (-1.03) | 1.44e-02 |
| cfh    | complement component factor h | 1450876_at | 12628 | -2.80 | 6.08e-06 |
| c-fos  | FBJ osteosarcoma oncogene | 1423100_at | 14281 | -1.93 | 3.30e-03 |
| ch25h  | cholesterol 25-hydroxylase | 1449227_at | 12642 | -6.57 | 1.39e-22 |
| cmklr1 | chemokine-like receptor 1 | 1450002_at | 13051 | +3.05 (+5.26) | 2.39e-05 |
| cyp51  | cytochrome P450, family 51 | 1450646_at | 13121 | +2.78 | 2.10e-07 |
| dicer2 | 24-dehydrocholesterol reductase | 1451895_at | 74754 | +3.17 | 2.69e-09 |
| dio2   | deiodinase, iodothyronine, type II | 1418937_at | 13371 | +25.92 (+41.03) | 0.00e+00 |
| eno2   | enolase 2, gamma neuronal | 1418829_a_at | 13807 | +2.60 | 6.08e-06 |
| fabp3  | fatty acid binding protein 3 | 1416023_at | 14077 | +2.29 | 5.58e-05 |
| fabp4  | fatty acid binding protein 4 | 1417025_at | 11770 | +6.42 | 0.00e+00 |
| fabp5  | fatty acid binding protein 5 | 1416022_at | 16592 | +1.57 | 4.70e-08 |
| fbp1   | fructose bisphosphatase 1 | 1448470_at | 14121 | -2.16 | 4.68e-03 |
| fdft1  | farnesyl diphosphate farnesyl transferase 1 | 1438322_x_at | 14137 | +2.62 | 4.00e-06 |
| fdps   | farnesyl diphosphate synthetase | 1423418_at | 110196 | +3.59 | 9.78e-12 |
| h-2ma  | histocompatibility 2, class II, locus DMa | 1422527_at | 14998 | -1.88 | 3.00e-03 |
| h60    | histocompatibility 60 | 1433943_at | 15101 | -2.07 | 5.30e-09 |
| hk2    | hexokinase 2 | 1422612_at | 15277 | +1.75 | 1.09e-02 |
| hk3    | hexokinase 3 | 1435490_at | 121032 | +2.03 | 3.72e-04 |
| hmcr   | 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-Coenzyme A reductase | 142729_at | 15357 | +1.95 | 2.34e-03 |
| hmgs1  | 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-Coenzyme A synthase 1 | 1433446_at | 208715 | +2.48 | 1.07e-06 |
| Gene Name     | Description                                                   | Probe ID       | Value  | Log2 Fold Change | p-value   |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|------------------|-----------|
| **hsd17b7**  | Hydroxysteroid (17β)-dehydrogenase 7                         | 1457248_s_at   | 15490  | +2.73            | 1.41e-05  |
| **icam1**    | Intercellular adhesion molecule                               | 1424067_at     | 15894  | -1.75            | 1.43e-02  |
| **icam2**    | Intercellular adhesion molecule 2                             | 1448862_at     | 15896  | -1.85            | 2.88e-02  |
| **idi1**     | Isopentenyl-diphosphate delta isomerase                       | 1451122_at*a   | 319554 | +2.72            | 2.77e-07  |
| **ifngr1**   | Interferon gamma receptor 1                                   | 1448167_at     | 15979  | -1.83 (-2.16)    | 4.66e-03  |
| **il10**     | Interleukin 10 receptor, alpha                                | 1450300_at     | 16153  | -2.97 (-4.46)    | 1.11e-07  |
| **il10ra**   | Interleukin 10 receptor, alpha chain 1                        | 1417505_s_at   | 16157  | +2.24 (+3.55)    | 9.89e-05  |
| **il11ra1**  | Interleukin 11 receptor, alpha chain 1                        | 1423017_at*a   | 16154  | -2.16 (-2.56)    | 4.40e-04  |
| **il17rb**   | Interleukin 17 receptor B                                      | 1420678_at*a   | 50905  | -1.41            | 2.93e-02  |
| **icam2**    | Intercellular adhesion molecule 2                             | 1449399_at*a   | 16176  | -3.09 (-5.17)    | 3.49e-07  |
| **il17rb**   | Interleukin 17 receptor B                                      | 1420678_at*a   | 50905  | -1.41            | 2.93e-02  |
| **il18**     | Intercelluar adhesion molecule 1                              | 1417932_at     | 16173  | -1.77 (-2.12)    | 1.06e-02  |
| **il1b**     | Intercellular adhesion molecule 1 beta                         | 1449399_at*a   | 16176  | -3.09 (-5.17)    | 3.49e-07  |
| **il1ra1**   | Intercellular adhesion molecule 1 alpha chain 1               | 1417505_s_at   | 16157  | +2.24 (+3.55)    | 9.89e-05  |
| **il18**     | Intercelluar adhesion molecule 1                              | 1417932_at     | 16173  | -1.77 (-2.12)    | 1.06e-02  |
| **il17rb**   | Interleukin 17 receptor B                                      | 1420678_at*a   | 50905  | -1.41            | 2.93e-02  |
| **icam2**    | Intercellular adhesion molecule 2                             | 1449399_at*a   | 16176  | -3.09 (-5.17)    | 3.49e-07  |
| **il18**     | Intercelluar adhesion molecule 1                              | 1417932_at     | 16173  | -1.77 (-2.12)    | 1.06e-02  |
| **il17rb**   | Interleukin 17 receptor B                                      | 1420678_at*a   | 50905  | -1.41            | 2.93e-02  |
| **il18**     | Intercelluar adhesion molecule 1                              | 1417932_at     | 16173  | -1.77 (-2.12)    | 1.06e-02  |
| **il17rb**   | Interleukin 17 receptor B                                      | 1420678_at*a   | 50905  | -1.41            | 2.93e-02  |
| **il18**     | Intercelluar adhesion molecule 1                              | 1417932_at     | 16173  | -1.77 (-2.12)    | 1.06e-02  |
| **il17rb**   | Interleukin 17 receptor B                                      | 1420678_at*a   | 50905  | -1.41            | 2.93e-02  |
Additional files

Additional file 1

File format: PDF

Title: List of the 1,248 probe-sets showing significant differential expression at the 5% adjusted significance level.

Description: This table lists all the probe-sets that were significantly modulated in MΦ housing multiplying amastigotes compared to uninfected ones.

Annotation files are updated quarterly on Affymetrix Support web site (http://www.affymetrix.com/support/technical/annotationfilesmain.affx).
Figure A: Graph showing the mean number of amastigotes per Mφ over time (hr) post amastigote addition.

Figure B: Microscopic image of infected macrophages. Stars indicate the location of amastigotes. Scale bar: 10 μm.
| Gene symbol | Fold change | Molecular intermediate |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------|
| hmgcs1*     | 2.48        | acetate                |
| hmgcr       | 1.95        | mevalonate             |
| mvd*        | 2.15        | squalene               |
| idi1*       | 2.72        |                        |
| fdps        | 3.59        |                        |
| fdft1*      | 2.62        | ergosterol             |
| sqle        | 4.30        | 7-dehydro-cholesterol  |
| lss         | 2.05        | lanosterol             |
| cyp51*      | 3.21        |                        |
| sc4mol      | 2.28        |                        |
| hsd17b7*    | 2.73        | cholesterol            |
| sc5d*       | 2.57        |                        |
| dhcr24      | 3.17        |                        |
Macrophage loaded with cell-cycling *L. amazonensis* amastigotes

- **arginine**
  - **slc7a2**: +4.14
- **arginine**
  - **arginine**: +1.91
- **inos**: +1.28
- **ornithine**: nitric oxide microbicidal effectors
- **proline**
- **p4ha2**: +2.27
- **odc1**: antizyme
  - **antizyme**: +1.96
- **odc1**: +1.18
- **srm**: -1.22
- **sms**: -1.38
- **spermidine**: +1.47
- **spermine**: +1.47
- **putrescine**: +1.47
- **maoa**: +2.56
- **PV**: ?

Legend: Transporter, Enzyme, Molecule