

Role of Mechanical Forces in Asthma Pathogenesis

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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the
degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Medicine

December 2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA



Statement of Originality

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3rd December 2018

Conference Presentations

1. **Punnam Chander Veerati**, Kristy S Nichol, Andrew T Reid, Nathan W Bartlett, Peter A B Wark, Darryl A Knight, Chris L Grainge. *Mechanical Forces Suppress Innate Anti-Viral Immunity in Primary Human Airway Epithelial Cells Obtained from Asthmatic Donors*. American Thoracic Society (ATS) conference 2018 (Rapid Poster) – awarded ATS abstract scholarship.
2. **Punnam Chander Veerati**, Niamh M Troy, Andrew T Reid, Kristy S Nichol, Peter A B Wark, Darryl A Knight, Anthony Bosco, Nathan W Bartlett, Chris L Grainge. *Physiological Relevant Rhinovirus Infection Model in Differentiated Human Primary Bronchial Epithelial Cells from Healthy, Asthmatic and COPD Donors*. American Thoracic Society (ATS) conference 2018 (Poster presentation).
3. **Punnam Chander Veerati**, Nathan Bartlett, Kristy Parsons, Fatemeh Moheimani, Peter Wark, Darryl Knight, Chris Grainge. *Mechanical Forces Attenuate Anti-viral Immunity in Asthmatics*. Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) Annual Scientific Meeting 2017 (Oral presentation).
4. **Punnam Chander Veerati**, Nathan Bartlett, Darryl Knight, Chris Grainge. *Defining the roles of airway mechanical stress during viral exacerbations of asthma*. Australian Respiratory Epithelium Consortium Workshop 2016 (Post Graduate Short Course) (Oral presentation).

Acknowledgements

At first, I am indebted to my principle supervisor A/Prof Christopher Grainge for his continuous support, encouragement and motivation during my PhD and also thanks to other supervisors Dr Andrew Reid, Dr Nathan Bartlett and Prof Darryl Knight for their valuable suggestions and guidance.

A special big thanks to Chris again for sparing his time to correct my thesis drafts and guiding me to cross the finish line. A big thanks to Andrew as well for his comments on the drafts and also for helping in the lab with cell staining.

Many thanks to Mrs Kristy Nichol for her expert laboratory assistance. Thanks to other lab mates (Knight group and Bartlett group) as well, it was exciting to work along with everyone. Thanks to my fellow student Mr Prabuddha Pathinayake for being with me for lunch for the last 3.5 years. Special thanks to Kellie Fakes for her help at the Mater Hospital. I also would like to thank my near and dear friends whose presence made me feel at home in Newcastle. I would like to extend my thanks to the University of Newcastle for providing scholarship to pursue my PhD study.

On a personal note, this wouldn't be possible without the support of my loving wife (Uma), kid (Ayansh), parents, siblings and in-laws. Lastly, I thank all those who knowingly and unknowingly helped me during my PhD journey.

List of Contents

Statement of Originality	2
Conference Presentations	3
Acknowledgements	4
List of Contents	5
Abstract	16
List of Figures	18
List of Tables	28
List of Abbreviations	31
1 Chapter 1: Introduction.....	1
1.1 Asthma	2
1.2 Mechanical stress in general	3
1.2.1 Compressive stress	4
1.2.2 Shear stress	5
1.2.3 Tensile stress	5
1.3 Mechanical stress in humans	6
1.3.1 Impact of mechanical stress in lung development	7
1.4 Uncontrolled mechanical forces in lung pathophysiology	8
1.5 Modelling mechanical compression	9
1.6 Models of compressive stress	12
1.6.1 <i>In-vitro</i> models: Air-liquid interface cultures	12

1.6.2	<i>Ex-vivo models</i> : Precision cut lung slices and whole lung perfusion models	17
1.6.3	Clinical studies.....	17
1.7	Mechanical compression activates disease-associated pathways in the airway epithelium.....	18
1.7.1	EGFR activation and downstream signalling	18
1.7.2	Transforming growth factor β (TGF- β) signalling	19
1.7.3	Procoagulant factors.....	20
1.7.4	YKL-40	21
1.7.5	Mechanical compression induces airway remodelling	21
1.8	Mechanical compression induces epithelial cell unjamming	23
1.8.1	Collective migration	23
1.8.2	Cell jamming and cell shape.....	24
1.9	Rhinovirus (RV) infection	25
1.10	Project rationale.....	27
2	Chapter 2: Material and Methods	28
2.1	Cell Culture	29
2.1.1	Calu-3 cell line	30
2.1.1.1	Introduction	30
2.1.1.2	Growth media.....	30
2.1.1.3	Raising Calu-3 cells from liquid nitrogen	31
2.1.1.4	Calu-3 cells maintenance.....	31

2.1.1.5	Freezing Calu-3 cells	33
2.1.1.6	Calu-3 ALI cultures	34
2.1.2	HBEC 6KT cell line	36
2.1.2.1	Introduction	36
2.1.2.2	Growth media.....	36
2.1.2.3	Raising HBEC 6KT cells from liquid nitrogen.....	37
2.1.2.4	Maintenance and sub-culturing of 6KT cell line	37
2.1.2.5	Freezing HBEC 6KT cells	37
2.1.2.6	HBEC 6KT ALI cultures	38
2.1.3	BCi-NS1.1 Cell line.....	41
2.1.3.1	Growth media.....	41
2.1.3.2	Raising BCi-NS1.1 cells from liquid nitrogen	41
2.1.3.3	BCi-NS1.1 cells maintenance	42
2.1.3.4	Freezing BCi-NS1.1 cells.....	43
2.1.3.5	BCi-NS1.1 ALI cultures	43
2.1.4	Primary Bronchial epithelial cells (pBECs)	44
2.1.4.1	Collection of pBECs, ethics and safety:	44
2.1.4.2	Processing of pBECs:.....	45
2.1.4.3	pBECs storage in liquid nitrogen.....	45
2.1.4.4	pBEC ALI cultures.....	46
2.1.5	Conditionally reprogrammed (CR) pBECs.....	49
2.1.5.1	Introduction	49
2.1.5.2	3T3 fibroblasts growth, maintenance and irradiation.....	50
2.1.5.3	Co-culture seeding, maintenance, sub-culturing and storage ..	54
2.1.5.4	CR pBEC ALI optimisation and culture establishment	57

2.2	Cell compression system.....	58
2.2.1	System components.....	60
2.2.2	System Calibration.....	67
2.2.3	Cell compression.....	71
2.3	Virus infection.....	72
2.3.1	Introduction.....	72
2.3.2	Preparation of RV1B viral stocks:.....	72
2.3.3	Preparation of working virus stock:.....	73
2.3.4	UV inactivation.....	73
2.3.5	TCID ₅₀ Assay (Virus titre):.....	74
2.3.6	Virus infection to ALI wells.....	75
2.4	Measuring protein release from pBECs.....	76
2.4.1	ELISA.....	76
2.4.1.1	Indirect ELISA (MUC5AC).....	77
2.4.1.2	Sandwich ELISAs (total TGF- β_2 , IFN- λ 1/3, IL-8 and IFN- β):.....	79
2.4.2	Cytometric bead array.....	80
2.5	Measuring gene expression from pBECs.....	81
2.5.1	RNA extraction.....	81
2.5.2	Nanodrop – RNA quantification.....	81
2.5.3	Reverse Transcriptase - Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR).....	82
2.5.3.1	Introduction.....	82
2.5.3.2	Method.....	82

2.5.4	Quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR).....	84
2.5.4.1	Introduction	84
2.5.4.2	Method.....	84
2.5.5	RNA sequencing (RNA seq).....	86
2.5.5.1	Transcriptomic Profiling – RNA seq	86
2.5.5.2	RNA seq data preprocessing	86
2.5.5.3	Differential Gene Expression	87
2.5.5.4	Upstream regulator analysis	87
2.5.6	Nanostring	88
2.6	Cell morphology and protein estimation by staining	88
2.6.1	ALI Membrane processing and embedding	88
2.6.2	Haematoxylin and eosin staining	89
2.6.2.1	Rehydration.....	89
2.6.2.2	H&E staining	90
2.6.2.3	Dehydration and mounting.....	90
2.6.3	Periodic Acid Schiff (PAS) and Alcian Blue (AB) staining.....	91
2.6.4	Immunohistochemistry (IHC)	91
2.6.5	Immunofluorescence (IF) labelling.....	93
2.6.5.1	ALI Immunofluorescence methodology	93
2.7	Statistical analysis	96
3	Chapter 3: Cell line optimisation for ALI culture and viral infection.....	97
3.1	Introduction.....	98
3.2	Calu-3 cell line	101

3.2.1	Calu-3 ALI cultures barrier function	101
3.2.2	Calu-3 ALI cultures cell morphology	103
3.2.3	MUC5AC ELISA standards:	107
3.2.4	The implication of Calu-3 results (discussion)	110
3.3	HBEC-6KT cell line	111
3.3.1	Investigation of the role of ascorbic acid in HBEC-6KT ALI culture 112	
3.3.1.1	HBEC-6KT cell morphology in ALI cultures	112
3.3.1.2	HBEC-6KT ALI cultures TEER.....	112
3.3.2	Investigating the role of collagen (type IV) coating and HBEC-6KT differentiating medium in ALI culture.....	115
3.3.2.1	HBEC-6KT ALI cultures cell morphology	115
3.3.2.2	HBEC-6KT ALI cultures TEER.....	116
3.3.3	The implication of HBEC-6KT results (discussion)	119
3.4	BCi-NS1.1 cell line.....	120
3.4.1	BCi-NS1.1 ALI cultures with DMEM/F12 and ALI final media....	121
3.4.2	The implication of BCi-NS1.1 results (discussion).....	125
3.5	Conditionally reprogrammed (CR) epithelial cells	128
3.5.1	CR co-cultures and ALI establishment	129
3.5.2	Starvation media optimisation for viral infections.....	133
3.5.3	Rhinovirus infection to CR ALI cultures	136
3.5.3.1	CR ALI cell morphology and barrier function	138

3.5.3.2	RV1B RNA and TCID ₅₀ assay.....	139
3.5.3.3	Antiviral innate immune responses from CR ALI wells following RV1B infection	141
3.5.4	Healthy CR cells starvation media trial	145
3.5.5	Healthy CR cell barrier integrity	147
3.5.6	Antiviral innate immune and inflammatory responses in healthy CR cells following RV1B infection	147
3.5.7	Implications of CR results (Discussion)	154
3.6	Final discussion	159
4	Chapter 4: An <i>in-vitro</i> model of physiologically relevant RV1B infection in differentiated pBECs obtained from healthy, asthmatic and COPD donors	161
4.1	Background	164
4.1.1	Rhinovirus	164
4.1.2	RV induced innate immune and inflammatory responses.....	167
4.2	Results.....	172
4.2.1	Preliminary RV1B MOI dose titration: RV1B RNA and viral titre	172
4.2.2	RV1B induces altered interferon gene expression at different MOIs	176
4.2.3	Low MOI experimental timeline	179
4.2.4	Sample size	179
4.2.5	TEER measurement for barrier function	182
4.2.6	Ultra-low MOI RV1B infection.....	185

4.2.6.1	RV1B RNA replication.....	185
4.2.6.2	RV1B viral titre	186
4.2.6.3	RV1B capsid protein immunofluorescence	187
4.2.7	Epithelial innate immune responses	191
4.2.7.1	<i>IFN-β</i> gene expression and protein release from pBECs.....	191
4.2.7.2	<i>IFN-λ</i> gene expression and protein release from pBECs	198
4.2.7.3	Interferon-stimulated gene (ISG) expression	205
4.2.8	Inflammatory responses following RV1B infection.....	212
4.2.8.1	IL-6 protein release from pBECs following RV1B infection	212
4.2.8.2	IL-8 protein release from pBECs following RV1B infection	215
4.2.8.3	CXCL10 protein release from pBECs following RV1B infection 219	
4.2.8.4	CCL5 protein release from pBECs following RV1B infection .	221
4.2.9	<i>MUC5AC</i> gene expression and protein release from pBECs following RV1B infection	224
4.2.9.1	Muc5AC gene expression following RV1B infection	224
4.2.9.2	MUC5AC protein release from ALI pBECs following RV1B infection	228
4.2.9.3	AB/PAS staining for mucins in ALI cultures	233
4.2.9.4	Profiling MUC5AC expression through IHC staining	234
4.2.10	RNA sequencing.....	240
4.2.10.1	Differentially expressed gene (DEG) analysis	240
4.2.10.2	Upstream regulator analysis.....	247
4.3	Discussion	260
4.3.1	A new physiologically relevant model of rhinovirus infection	260

4.3.2	Asthma and COPD derived cells show reduced innate anti-viral immunity	264
4.3.3	Low MOI RV1B infection induce inflammatory cytokines and chemokines release from pBECs.....	268
4.3.4	No change in <i>MUC5AC</i> gene expression and protein release following ultra-low MOI RV1B infection.....	268
4.3.5	Delayed innate immune molecular driver genes in asthma and COPD following RV1B infection.....	270
4.3.6	Speculation.....	272
4.3.7	Future directions and limitations	274
4.4	Summary	275
5	Chapter 5: Airway mechanical stress.....	276
5.1	<i>In-vitro</i> compressive stress models and epithelial response.....	280
5.1.1	Compressive stress models	284
5.2	Exacerbation model.....	286
5.2.1	Sample size and patient characteristics	286
5.2.2	TEER measurement.....	287
5.2.3	Similar increase in viral RNA in infected groups with and without compression	290
5.2.4	Compression suppressed anti-viral IFN responses from pBEC ALI cultures following RV1B infection.....	293

5.2.4.1	Compression suppressed the induction of <i>IFN-β</i> gene expression from ALI cultures	293
5.2.4.2	Compression suppressed the release of <i>IFN-β</i> protein from pBEC ALI cultures following infection	296
5.2.4.3	Compression suppressed <i>IFN-λ</i> protein release but not gene expression from pBEC ALI cultures following RV1B infection.	299
5.2.5	TGF-β ₂ protein release from pBECs.....	304
5.3	Poor control model.....	306
5.3.1	Sample size and patient characteristics	306
5.3.2	TEER measurement.....	306
5.3.3	No change in cell-bound virus and virus release with compression 310	
5.3.4	Prior compression has mild suppression on anti-viral <i>IFN</i> responses from pBEC ALI cultures following RV1B infection.....	313
5.3.4.1	Prior compression had no change in <i>IFN-β</i> gene expression and protein release from pBECs following infection	313
5.3.4.2	Compression suppress <i>IFN-λ</i> protein release but not gene expression from pBECs following infection	318
5.3.5	TGF-β ₂ protein release from pBECs.....	323
5.3.6	Gene expression profile from asthmatic pBECs following four days of compression	326
5.4	Discussion	329
5.4.1	<i>In-vitro</i> , viral infection and apical compression models.....	329

5.4.2	Decreased TGF- β_2 response following compression, but no difference following RV1B infection	330
5.4.3	A trend of slight suppression of IFN responses with apical compression	333
5.4.4	No change in viral replication in both models	335
5.4.5	Future directions.....	335
5.4.6	Limitations	347
5.4.7	Summary	348
6	Chapter 6: Conclusions.....	349
6.1	Main findings	350
6.1.1	Optimisation of CR pBECs to ALI cultures and RV1B infections. 350	
6.1.2	Physiologically relevant RV1B infection model.....	351
6.1.3	Compression suppressed IFN response from asthmatic pBECs following RV1B infection	352
6.2	Summary	353
7	Chapter 7: Appendices.....	354
8	Chapter 8: References.....	358

Abstract

Asthma is characterised by bronchoconstriction which leads to clinical symptoms and generates mechanical forces within the airway. During virally induced asthma exacerbations, bronchoconstriction and viral infection occur simultaneously; these factors may interact in the airway leading to the apparent innate immune deficiencies demonstrated in some asthmatics. This led to our overarching hypothesis that “airway compressive forces suppress innate immunity following viral infection in asthmatics”.

To investigate this in *in-vitro* using a full experimental time course, there was a requirement for high cell numbers from individual patients with respiratory diseases such as asthma. Initially, we performed cell line optimisation to try to establish air-liquid interface (ALI) cultures. Later we used a conditionally reprogrammed (CR) technique on primary bronchial epithelial cells (pBECs) to proliferate indefinitely for extended passages and then used those at ALI.

In order to investigate the effects of apical compression on cells during viral infection, we wished to use a model which as closely as possible mimicked human airway infection *in-vivo*. Therefore we developed a physiologically relevant RV1B infection model and demonstrated for the first time that ultra-low multiplicity of infection induces delayed innate immune responses from cells obtained from asthma and COPD donors in comparison to healthy controls. Here we used cells obtained from COPD donors along with asthma to investigate anti-

viral responses; as previously it was shown that the anti-viral responses from COPD cells were also altered.

In order to investigate the effect of bronchoconstriction on anti-viral responses, we exposed pBECs obtained from asthmatic donors, grown at ALI to apical compressive stress mimicking bronchoconstriction along with physiologically relevant RV infection. We examined the effect of mechanical forces occurring prior to infection (mimicking poorly controlled asthma), or during viral infection (mimicking virally induced asthma exacerbation).

We demonstrate that apical compression suppresses innate immune responses from asthmatic pBECs under these conditions. Our data may explain why the patients with less well-controlled asthmatics appear more vulnerable to viral infection and why some asthmatics appear to have deficient Interferon (IFN) responses to natural infections.

List of Figures

Figure 1-1: ASM constriction in normal (A) and asthmatic airways (B).	3
Figure 1-2: Objects shrinks in size with the application of compression..	4
Figure 1-3: Frictional or tangential force generated with the application of shear stress.	5
Figure 1-4: Objects tend to expand in length with the application of tensile stress..	6
Figure 1-5: Schematic showing buckling of airways with epithelial folding (A). Pathological specimen from fatal asthma with epithelial folding and luminal closure (B).....	10
Figure 1-6: Maximal pressure developed in small (A) and large bronchi (B) during passive pressure (solid circle) and acetylcholine treatment (empty circle).....	11
Figure 1-7: Schematic of compression system (<i>in-vitro</i>).	13
Figure 2-1: RS2000 irradiator (Rad Source Technologies, USA) showing irradiation strength at different levels with their exposure time.	53
Figure 2-2: Schematic work flow of cell compression system.	59
Figure 2-3: Photograph of custom designed compression system in lab	60
Figure 2-4: 5% CO ₂ in synthetic air balance gas used for compression.	62
Figure 2-5: Air flow pressure regulators.	63
Figure 2-6: Humidifier bottle.....	64
Figure 2-7: Programmable logic controller (PLC) unit.....	65
Figure 2-8: Manifolds of sequential 3 way taps	65
Figure 2-9: Rubber bung with a needle.....	66
Figure 2-10: ALI transwell tight sealed with a rubber bung	66

Figure 2-11: Luer locks were used to connect the tubes with manifolds and needles with rubber bungs.....	67
Figure 2-12: Air bubble from pressure outlet tube immersed in a measuring cylinder of 30 cm column height for compression system calibration.....	68
Figure 2-13: Digital manometer displaying the terminal pressure.	69
Figure 2-14: Compressive stress pressure recorded using a digital manometer over 96 hour time period with 10 min interval.	70
Figure 2-15: ALI inserts fitted with rubber bungs to induce compression.....	71
Figure 2-16: RV1B induced CPE in TCID ₅₀ assay. RD-ICAM1 cells were infected with different dilutions of RV1B working virus stock in a 96 well plate..	75
Figure 3-1: Transepithelial resistance of Calu-3 ALI cultures.....	102
Figure 3-2: Representative microscopic images (apical view) of Calu-3 cells on day 7, day 14 and day 21.....	104
Figure 3-3: H&E image of paraffin-embedded pBEC (A) and Calu-3 (B) ALI section. The difference in colour between the pictures was due to microscope settings.	105
Figure 3-4: Immunofluorescence staining of Calu-3 cells β -tubulin and ZO-1.	106
Figure 3-5: MUC5AC ELISA standard curve.....	108
Figure 3-6: Biotinylated MUC5AC antibody optimisation for MUC5AC ELISA.	109
Figure 3-7: Representative images (apical view) of HBEC-6KT cells on day 0 (A), 7 (B), 14 (C) and 21 (D)..	113
Figure 3-8: HBEC-6KT ALI cultures TEER..	114
Figure 3-9: Representative microscopic images (apical view) of HBEC-6KT cells.	117

Figure 3-10: Representative paraffin-embedded HBEC-6KT ALI sections stained with H&E.	118
Figure 3-11: TEER of HBEC-6KT ALI cultures grown at PBS and collagen (type IV) coated membranes and with HBEC-6KT differentiation medium.....	119
Figure 3-12: Representative microscopic images (apical view) of BCI-NS1.1 cells seeded on collagen-coated membranes with DMEM/F12 media on day 0, 7, 14 and 21.....	123
Figure 3-13: Representative microscopic images (apical view) of BCI-NS1.1 cells on day 14, 21 and 28, fed with ALI final media.	124
Figure 3-14: Representative H&E image of a paraffin-embedded day 21 BCI-NS1.1 ALI section showing cilia on apical sides (black arrows).....	125
Figure 3-15: Microscopic images of CR cells obtained from healthy and mild asthmatic patients in co-culture media.....	131
Figure 3-16: CR_AS131 ALI culture immunofluorescence image of ZO-1 staining.	132
Figure 3-17: CR_AS131 ALI culture immunofluorescence images of ZO-1 (A) and β -tubulin (B) staining.....	132
Figure 3-18: Microscopic images of CR ALI cultures with different starvation media combinations.....	135
Figure 3-19: Microscopic images of CR-AS131 ALI wells with (panel1) and without RV1B infection (panel 2) at different time points.....	137
Figure 3-20: TEER of CR ALI cultures following a viral infection (n=1 well/time point).....	138
Figure 3-21: RV1B RNA expression and viral titre in CR ALI cultures in comparison to their parent pBECs.	140

Figure 3-22: RV1B infection readily induced <i>IFN-β</i> gene expression and protein release from parent cells and with delayed gene induction and no protein release from CR cells.	143
Figure 3-23: RV1B infection readily induced <i>IFN-λ</i> gene expression and protein release from parent cells and with slower gene induction and no protein release from CR cells.	144
Figure 3-24: Microscopic images of HC188_CR ALI cultures treated with a different combination of starvation media over 96 hour time points (columns).	146
Figure 3-25: TEER measurement of HC188 parent and CR cells.....	149
Figure 3-26: HC188 parent and CR cells <i>IFN-λ</i> protein release were quantified by ELISA from apical cell supernatants.	150
Figure 3-27: IP-10 protein release from HC188 parent and CR cells were quantified using cytometric bead array (CBA) from apical cell supernatants. .	151
Figure 3-28: IL-6 protein release from HC188 parent and CR cells were quantified using cytometric bead array (CBA) from apical cell supernatants.....	152
Figure 3-29: IL-8 protein release from HC188 parent and CR cells were quantified ELISA from apical cell supernatants.	153
Figure 4-1: Schematic image of pathways activated following RV infection in epithelial cells.....	168
Figure 4-2: Experimental timeline of RV1B infection for MOI dose titration. ...	172
Figure 4-3: RV1B MOI dose titration and viral titre.....	175
Figure 4-4: Induction of interferon gene expression following infection of RV1B at different MOIs in ALI pBEC cultures.	177
Figure 4-5: Low MOI RV1B infection experimental timeline.....	179

Figure 4-6: TEER of healthy, asthmatic and COPD ALI cultures.....	183
Figure 4-7: RV1B infection did not change TEER in different donor groups. ...	184
Figure 4-8: RV1B RNA quantification following ultra-low MOI RV1B infection.	188
Figure 4-9: RV1B viral titre quantification following ultra-low MOI RV1B infection.	189
Figure 4-10: Representative images of viral capsid protein (VP2) labelling using immunofluorescence.....	190
Figure 4-11: Induction of <i>IFN-β</i> gene expression using ultra-low MOI RV1B infection in ALI cultures.....	195
Figure 4-12: IFN-β protein release following ultra-low MOI RV1B infection from ALI cultures.....	196
Figure 4-13: Induction of <i>IFN-λ</i> gene expression using ultra-low MOI RV1B infection in ALI cultures.....	201
Figure 4-14: IFN-λ protein release following ultra-low MOI RV1B infection from ALI cultures.....	203
Figure 4-15: Induction of viperin mRNA expression following ultra-low MOI RV1B infection in ALI cultures.....	209
Figure 4-16: Induction of PKR mRNA expression following ultra-low MOI RV1B infection in ALI cultures.....	210
Figure 4-17: Induction of OAS1 mRNA expression following ultra-low MOI RV1B infection in ALI cultures.....	211
Figure 4-18: RV1B induced IL-6 protein release from ALI pBECs.	214
Figure 4-19: RV1B induced IL-8 protein release from ALI pBECs.	217

Figure 4-20: Change in IL-8 protein release with RV1B infection in respect to their donor controls.	218
Figure 4-21: RV1B induced CXCL10 protein release from ALI pBECs.	220
Figure 4-22: RV1B induced CCL5 protein release from ALI pBECs.	223
Figure 4-23: No change in <i>MUC5AC</i> gene expression following RV1B infection..	226
Figure 4-24: Change in <i>MUC5AC</i> gene expression with RV1B infection in respect to their donor controls.	227
Figure 4-25: No change in Muc5AC protein release from pBECs following RV1B infection..	231
Figure 4-26: Change in MUC5AC protein release from ALI pBECs following RV1B infection in respect to their donor controls..	232
Figure 4-27: Measurement of pBEC glycosylated mucin proteins using PAS and AB staining.....	236
Figure 4-28: Representative images of healthy, asthmatic and COPD ALI pBECs, both uninfected (top panel) and infected (bottom panel), stained for PAS/AB staining..	237
Figure 4-29: Measurement of MUC5AC expression through immunohistochemical analysis using anti- MUC5AC antibody on pBEC ALI cultures..	238
Figure 4-30: MUC5AC IHC representative images of ALI pBECs from healthy, asthmatic and COPD donors at 96 hours post-infection; uninfected (top panel) and infected (bottom panel).	239

Figure 4-31: Venn diagram showing the number of DEGs either unique to or shared by, each healthy, asthmatic and/or COPD donor groups in response to RV1B viral infection.....	243
Figure 4-32: An overview of the upregulated (A) and downregulated (B) DEG response stimulated by RV1B infection over time in ALI pBECs from healthy, asthmatic and COPD donors.	246
Figure 4-33: Molecular drivers responsible for DEG at 24 hours post-infection..	249
Figure 4-34: Molecular drivers responsible for DEGs at 48 hours post-infection in healthy (A), asthmatic (B) and COPD (C) cells.	250
Figure 4-35: Molecular drivers responsible for DEG at 72 hours post-infection in healthy (A), asthmatic (B) and COPD (C) cells.	251
Figure 4-36: Molecular drivers responsible for DEG at 96 hours post-infection in healthy (A), asthmatic (B) and COPD (C) cells.	252
Figure 4-37: Molecular drivers responsible for core response from all the groups following RV1B infection.	254
Figure 4-38: Molecular driver genes exclusive to the healthy group following RV1B infection.	255
Figure 4-39: Molecular driver genes exclusive to the COPD group following RV1B infection	256
Figure 4-40: Molecular driver genes exclusive to the asthmatic group following RV1B infection	257
Figure 4-41: Molecular driver genes common to both disease groups following RV1B infection	258

Figure 4-42: Molecular driver genes common to COPD and healthy groups following RV1B infection	259
Figure 5-1: Schematic showing airway narrowing with epithelial folding.....	279
Figure 5-2: Schematic showing epithelial compression (black arrows) in epithelial folded cells during bronchoconstriction.....	279
Figure 5-3: Schematic of <i>in-vitro</i> apical compression model developed by Ressler et al.....	280
Figure 5-4: <i>In-vitro</i> model of bronchoconstriction developed by Choe et al. ...	281
Figure 5-5: Exacerbation model experimental timeline	285
Figure 5-6: Poor control model experimental timeline.....	286
Figure 5-7: Exacerbation model ALI cultures TEER measurement.....	287
Figure 5-8: No change in TEER following compression and RV1B infection. .	289
Figure 5-9: Similar RV1B RNA copy numbers in virus and compression+virus groups at different time points, post infection.....	291
Figure 5-10: Viral RNA copy numbers from individual patients at different time points.....	292
Figure 5-11: <i>IFN-β</i> gene expression was suppressed by the application of compression following RV1B infection.....	294
Figure 5-12: <i>IFN-β</i> gene expression of individual patients at different time points.....	295
Figure 5-13: <i>IFN-β</i> protein release from pBECs was slightly suppressed by the application of compression following RV1B infection.....	297
Figure 5-14: <i>IFN-β</i> protein release from individual patients at different time points.....	298

Figure 5-15: No change in <i>IFN-λ</i> gene expression by the application of compression on ALI cultures following RV1B infection.	300
Figure 5-16: <i>IFN-λ</i> gene expression of individual patients at different time points.	301
Figure 5-17: IFN-λ protein release from pBECs was suppressed by the application of compression following RV1B infection.	302
Figure 5-18: IFN-λ protein release from individual patient cells at different time points.	303
Figure 5-19: Basal TGF-β ₂ protein release from asthmatic ALI pBECs.	305
Figure 5-20: TEER of poor control model ALI cultures.	307
Figure 5-21: No change in TEER values following compression and RV1B infection.	309
Figure 5-22: Similar RV1B RNA copy numbers in virus and compression+virus groups at different time points, post infection.	311
Figure 5-23: No difference in virus release pattern from pBECs in virus and compression+virus groups at different time points, post infection.	312
Figure 5-24: No change in <i>IFN-β</i> gene expression in virus and compression+virus groups at different time points, post infection.	314
Figure 5-25: IFN-β protein release from pBECs following RV1B infection with prior application of compression.	316
Figure 5-26: IFN-β protein release from individual patient cells at different time points.	317
Figure 5-27: No change in <i>IFN-λ</i> gene expression in virus and compression+virus groups at different time points, post infection.	319

Figure 5-28: IFN- λ protein release from pBECs was suppressed following RV1B infection with prior application of compression.....	321
Figure 5-29: IFN- λ protein release from individual patient cells at different time points.	322
Figure 5-30: Basal TGF- β_2 protein release from asthmatic ALI pBECs.	324
Figure 5-31: Basal TGF- β_2 protein release from asthmatic ALI pBECs.	325
Figure 5-32: Volcano plot displaying differentially expressed genes from asthmatic pBECs following four days of compression.....	327
Figure 5-33: Pre-compression: Model for poor control.....	340
Figure 5-34: Post-compression: Model for bronchoconstriction as a result of infection	341
Figure 5-35: Concurrent compression & infection: Model for bronchoconstriction at the point of infection.....	342
Figure 5-36: Pre compression & infection: Model for poor control	343
Figure 5-37: Infection & Post-compression: Model for bronchoconstriction as a result of infection.....	344
Figure 5-38: Continuous compression: Model of uncontrolled poor Asthma...	345
Figure 5-39: Infection in between episodes of bronchoconstriction: Model of uncontrolled Asthma exacerbation.....	346

List of Tables

Table 1-1: Summary of <i>in-vitro</i> compression studies with compression magnitude, duration and outcomes.....	14
Table 2-1: Supplements for serum-free DMEM/F-12 media	31
Table 2-2: Media change volume per flask	32
Table 2-3: Trypsin and D-PBS (1:3) volumes used in different flasks.....	32
Table 2-4: Volume of FBS required to inactivate trypsin in different flasks	33
Table 2-5: Supplements volume for 50 ml KSFM media.....	36
Table 2-6: New media supplements composition and concentration for HBEC 6KT ALI cultures	39
Table 2-7: 1:10 dilution of trypsin and D-PBS volume to different flasks.....	42
Table 2-8: ALI differentiation base media composition	48
Table 2-9: ALI initial media prepared by adding supplements to ALI differentiation base media	49
Table 2-10: ALI final media prepared by adding supplements to ALI differentiation base media	49
Table 2-11: Volume to prepare 10% DMEM for 3T3 fibroblasts.....	50
Table 2-12: Volume of 10% DMEM required to inactivate trypsin in different flasks.....	51
Table 2-13: Co-culture media composition	54
Table 2-14: pBEC and 3T3 fibroblast cell number for seeding.....	55
Table 2-15: differential trypsinisation (1:100) to remove feeder cells from flasks	56
Table 2-16: Master mix reaction components volume per reaction.....	83
Table 2-17: Cycling conditions of RT-PCR	83

Table 2-18: List of qPCR primers and probes	85
Table 2-19: Cycling parameters for TaqMan qPCR	86
Table 2-20: Automatic tissue processor program for ALI membrane processing	89
Table 2-21: Rehydration reagents and incubation time.....	90
Table 2-22: Dehydration reagents with incubation time	91
Table 2-23: Primary & secondary antibodies used for MUC5AC IHC staining. .	93
Table 2-24: Primary antibodies used in immunofluorescence.....	95
Table 2-25: Secondary antibodies used in immunofluorescence	95
Table 4-1: Probability of cells infected with “r” infectious units at different MOIs.	166
Table 4-2: Clinical characteristics of subjects	181
Table 4-3: IFN- β protein release from pBEC ALI cultures following RV1B infection was measured using ELISA.....	197
Table 4-4: <i>IFN-λ</i> gene expression from pBECs following RV1B infection	202
Table 4-5: IFN- λ protein release from pBEC ALI cultures following RV1B infection and was measured using ELISA.....	204
Table 4-6: Upregulated DEG response to RV1B infection from healthy, asthma and COPD cells.	244
Table 4-7: Downregulated DEG response to RV1B infection from healthy, asthma and COPD cells.	245
Table 4-8: Pathways regulated during the core response to RV1B infection ..	254
Table 4-9: Pathways affected by RV1B infection in pBECs from healthy donors only	255

Table 4-10: Pathways affected by RV1B infection in pBECs from healthy donors only	256
Table 4-11: Pathways affected by RV1B infection in pBECs from asthmatic donors only	257
Table 4-12: Pathways regulated following RV1B infection and common to both disease groups.....	258
Table 4-13: Pathways regulated following RV1B infection and common to COPD and healthy groups	259
Table 5-1: Significant genes either up or down regulated following four days of compression.....	328
Table 5-2: Possible experimental models with apical compression and viral infection	337
Table 7-1: Low MOI study patient demographics.....	355
Table 7-2: Exacerbation model patient demographics	356
Table 7-3: Poor control model patient demographics.....	357

List of Abbreviations

2-ME	2-mercaptoethanol
AB	Alcian blue
Ad-SV40	Adenovirus – simian virus 40
ALI	Air-liquid interface
ASM	Airway smooth muscle
BAL	Bronchoalveolar lavage
BCi-NS1.1	Basal cell immortalised – non-smoker 1.1
BEBM	Bronchial epithelial cell base medium
BEGM	Bronchial epithelial cell growth medium
BPE	Bovine pituitary extract
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
CaCl ₂	Calcium chloride
CBA	Cytometric bead array
CDK 4	Cyclin-dependent kinase 4
cDNA	Complementary deoxyribonucleic acids
CFM	Complete freezing media
CK19	Cytokeratin 19
CK5	Cytokeratin 5
cm H ₂ O	Centimetres of water
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CPE	Cytopathic effect
CR	Conditional reprogramming
DAB	3,3'-diaminobenzidine
DEG	Differentially expressed genes
DMEM	Dulbecco's modified eagle medium
DMEM/F12	Dulbecco's modified eagle medium/nutrient mixture F-12
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
D-PBS	Dulbecco's phosphate buffered saline
EGF	Epithelial growth factor
EGFR	Epidermal growth factor receptor
Egr-1	Early growth response protein 1

ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
ERK	Extracellular signal-regulated kinase
ET-1	Endothelin-1
EVOM	Epithelial volt/ohm meter
FBS	Fetal bovine serum
FDR	False discovery rate
FEV1	Forced expiratory volume in one second
FITC	Fluorescein isothiocyanate
FVC	Forced vital capacity
GM-CSF	Granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor
GMP	Good manufacturing practice
H&E	Hematoxylin and eosin
HB-EGF	Heparin binding-Epidermal growth factor
HBSS	Hank's balanced salt solution
HC	Hydrocortisone
HCO ₃ ⁻	bicarbonate
hEGF	Human epidermal growth factor
HLF	Human lung fibroblasts
hTERT	Human telomerase reverse transcriptase
ICAM-1	Intercellular adhesion molecule 1
ICS	Inhaled corticosteroids
IF	Immunofluorescence
IFN	Interferon
IFNAR	Interferon-alpha/beta receptor
IFN-β	Interferon beta
IFN-λ	Interferon lambda
IHC	Immunohistochemistry
IL-13	Interleukin-13
IL-6	Interleukin-6
IL-8	Interleukin-8
IP-10	Interferon gamma-induced protein 10
IRF-3	Interferon regulatory transcription factor -3
IRF-7	Interferon regulatory transcription factor -7

ISGs	Interferon stimulatory genes
ITS	Insulin-Transferrin-Selenium
JAK-1/TYK-2	Janus kinase 1/tyrosine kinase 2
KSFM	Keratinocyte serum-free media
LA	Linoleic acid
LDL	Low-density lipoprotein
LGA	Low gelling agarose
LIS	Lateral intercellular space
m ²	Square metre
MDA5	Melanoma differentiation associated protein 5
MgCl ₂	Magnesium chloride
MgSO ₄	Magnesium sulphate
MMP-9/TIMP-1	Matrix metalloproteinase-9/tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases-1
MOI	Multiplicity of infection
N	Newtons
NBF	Neutral buffered formalin solution
NF-κB	Nuclear factor kappa light chain enhancer of activated B cells
Pa	Pascals
PAI-1	Plasminogen activator inhibitor-1
PAS	Periodic acid schiff
pBECs	Primary bronchial epithelial cells
PBS	Phosphate-buffered saline
PCLS	Precision cut lung slice
PDE-4	Phosphodiesterase-4
PKR	Protein kinase R
PLC	Programmable logic controller
qPCR	Quantitative polymerase chain reaction
RIG-1	Retinoic acid inducible gene 1
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
ROCK	Rho-associated, coiled-coil containing protein kinase
RT-PCR	Reverse transcriptase - polymerase chain reaction
RV1B	Rhinovirus 1B

SI	International system
SOCS3	Suppressor of cytokine signalling 3
STAT-1	Signal transducer and activator of transcription 1
STAT-2	Signal transducer and activator of transcription 2
T ₃	Triiodothyronine
TACE	Transforming growth factor alpha converting enzyme
TBS-T	Tris-buffered saline –tween 20
TCID ₅₀	50% tissue culture infective dose
TEER	Trans-epithelial electrical resistance
TF	Tissue factor
TGF- α	Transforming growth factor alpha
TGF- β ₁	Transforming growth factor beta 1
TGF- β ₂	Transforming growth factor beta 2
TLR	Toll-like receptors
TMB	3,3',5,5'-trimethylbenzoate
TNS	Trypsin neutralizing solution
tPA	Tissue plasminogen activator
uPA	Urokinase plasminogen activator
uPAR	Urokinase-type plasminogen activator receptor
VEGF	Vascular endothelial growth factor
ZO-1	Zonula occludens-1