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Targeted analysis of chondrocyte central metabolites in response to cyclical compression and shear deformations

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Abstract

Osteoarthritis results in deterioration of articular cartilage, the soft tissue covering

articulating surfaces of bones in joints like the knee and hip. Prior studies show that

cyclical mechanical stimulation of articular cartilage results in synthesis of cartilage

matrix, suggesting that therapeutic mechanical stimulation might be beneficial for

cartilage repair in osteoarthritis. Several prior studies identify ion channels and

cytoskeletal molecules as components of chondrocyte mechanotransduction. The

pathways of central metabolism, glycolysis, the pentose phosphate pathway, and the

tricarboxylic acid cycle, are necessary for producing non-essential amino acids that are

needed for synthesizing matrix proteins for cartilage repair. However, it is currently

unknown if and how levels of central metabolites change with applied mechanical

stimulation of chondrocytes. Here, we show that applied cyclical shear and compressive

deformations drive changes in multiple central metabolites. These results add to a rich

picture of chondrocyte mechanotransduction including calcium signaling, ion channels,

integrins, and cytoskeletal components. By finding compression- and shear-induced

changes in central metabolites, these data support the potential for therapeutic

mechanotransduction toward cartilage repair. Future studies may build on these results

to understand the relationships between mechanical stimulation and chondrocyte central

metabolism.

Keywords

cartilage; chondrocyte; mechanotransduction; osteoarthritis; metabolism

Introduction

Articular cartilage is the soft tissue lining diarthrodial joints like the knee and hip. This tissue contains a single cell type—the articular chondrocyte—and is subjected to cyclical loads during daily activities such as walking. These loads cause tissue-level deformations that result in mechanical stimulation of articular chondrocytes. Tissue-level deformations include tension, compression, and shear-based on *in vivo* measurements (Chan et al. 2016).

A key feature of the most common joint disease, osteoarthritis (OA), is the deterioration of articular cartilage (Tonge et al. 2014). This deterioration results in alterations of both the extracellular and pericellular cartilage matrices, with concomitant changes in various cartilage mechanical properties. For example, after joint injury, there are significant decreases in the indentation modulus of the mouse pericellular matrix after just 3 days with a reduction of ~50% after 1 month (Chery et al. 2020). In contrast, exercise typically results in improved cartilage health. Patients with a history of marathon running had ~25% thicker cartilage than age-matched controls (Mosher et al. 2010).

Early observations show that cyclical mechanical stimulation of cartilage and chondrocytes results in production of matrix molecules (Mauck et al. 2006; Sah et al. 1989) through chondrocyte mechanotransduction. This shows the potential for mechanical stimulation to drive therapeutic production of matrix for cartilage repair. While several ion channels (Ely et al. 2025) and various cytoskeletal components (Haudenschild et al. 2011; Ohashi et al. 2006) have been implicated in chondrocyte mechanotransduction, many questions remain regarding the specific cascade of signals that results in increased matrix production.

Central metabolism (*i.e.* energy metabolism) is a network of enzymes and small

molecule intermediates called metabolites used by cells to harvest carbon and energy to

support cellular function. Substrates include glucose and glutamine, which can be

metabolized to produce non-essential amino acids. Functioning central metabolism,

including both glycolysis and cellular respiration, involves oxygen consumption and is

essential for producing the non-essential amino acids required for cartilage regeneration.

For example, non-essential amino acids make up 83.1, 71.4, and 74.5% of the primary

sequences for the key cartilage matrix proteins encoded by COL2A1, COL6A1, and

ACAN (types II and VI collagen and aggrecan).

We hypothesized that mechanical stimulation would alter the production of central

metabolites in articular chondrocytes. Toward this goal, we harvested articular

chondrocytes, expanded them in monolayer culture, and then encapsulated them in

physiologically stiff agarose (Jutila et al. 2015; Zignego et al. 2014). Embedded

chondrocytes were then stimulated with cyclical shear and compressive strains at

physiological levels. Immediately after mechanical stimulation, metabolites were

extracted. Levels of central metabolites were then quantified using targeted metabolomic

profiling. We found changes in levels of several metabolites demonstrating that

mechanical stimulation affects chondrocyte central metabolism. Futures studies can build

on these results to further understand how mechanical stimuli influence chondrocyte

metabolism to maintain cartilage and improve repair during disease.

Methods

Chondrocyte harvest and culture

To assess central metabolism in chondrocyte mechanotransduction, chondrocytes were isolated from cartilage using established methods (Zignego et al. 2015; Zignego et al. 2014). Primary Human Chondrocytes (PHCs) were obtained from discarded tissue from Stage-IV osteoarthritis patients (n=5 male and n=5 female) undergoing total joint replacement under IRB approval. Bovine chondrocytes (BCs, n=5) were harvested from knee joints of 18–22-month-old cattle obtained from a local abattoir. Articular cartilage was digested with Type I Collagenase (2 mg/mL in DMEM with penicillin and streptomycin, Gibco, Waltham, MA, USA) for 14 h at 37 ºC. Isolated chondrocytes were cultured in phenol-red-free Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's medium (DMEM, Gibco, Waltham, MA, USA) supplemented with Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS, 10% v/v, Bio-Techne, Minneapolis, MN, USA), penicillin (10,000 I.U./mL), and streptomycin (10,000 µg/mL, Sigma, St. Louis, MO, USA) in 5% CO_2 at 37 ºC. First passage cells were used for experiments.

To provide a three-dimensional environment in the range of physiological stiffness, chondrocytes were encapsulated in high-stiffness agarose (Jutila et al. 2015). After trypsinization, cells were washed with 1X PBS and resuspended in DMEM (without phenol red) and mixed with low melting temperature agarose (Sigma Aldrich) at a final concentration of 4.5% wt/vol with ~500,000 cells/gel and allowed to solidify for 10 min. Hydrogels were cast in a cylindrical aluminum mold to have a nominal diameter of 0.5" and a height of 0.25" following a previously established protocol (Jutila et al. 2015). In this system, chondrocyte viability was previously found to be >90% (Zignego et al. 2014).

Agarose gels were placed in a 24-well tissue culture plates (Falcon) with 2 mL custom

DMEM media containing 4.5g/L glucose, 2 mM L-glutamine,110mg/L sodium pyruvate,

10% FBS, and 1% PenStrep and cultured overnight in 5% CO_2 at 37ºC. Prior to loading

media was replaced with PBS for 1 hr and incubated in 5% CO_2 at 37ºC.

<u>Mechanical Stimulation</u>

To evaluate the effects of physiological loading on chondrocyte central metabolism,

agarose-embedded chondrocytes were subjected to mechanical stimuli. Stimuli included

applied cyclical shear and compressive strains in a tissue culture environment. A total of

N=10 PHCs (n=5 male and n=5 female) and N=5 BC samples were used.

Chondrocyte-embedded agarose constructs from each bovine or human donor were

randomized into five experimental groups: Unloaded controls (U), 15 minutes of cyclical

compressive strain (15C), 15 minutes of cyclical shear strain (15S), 30 minutes of cyclical

compressive strain (30C), and 30 minutes of cyclical shear strain (30S). For both

compressive and shear stimulation, mean strains were 5% with an amplitude of 2.5%.

Each experiment was performed at 1.1Hz with 5% preload applied for 15 minutes to allow

for stress relaxation. Mechanical stimulation of samples from each donor was completed

over the course of a single day. On instances where multiple donors were available on

the same day, simultaneous loading for each group across all available donors was

performed.

For each loading group, the hydrogel was removed from PBS, placed within the

polysulfone sample cup, and resubmerged in fresh PBS to prevent drying during loading

(Figure 1). The bioreactor was then placed inside the trigas incubator and powered on to

provide mechanical stimulation within a tissue culture environment. In the case of an

uneven number of hydrogels, an agarose hydrogel containing no cells was used to

balance the load from the hydrogels on the plunger plate.

Figure 1: Chondrocyte bioreactor inside a trigas incubator with laser displacement
sensor suspended overhead. During normal experimentation, the sensor is absent from
the incubator.

Immediately after mechanical stimulation, hydrogels were removed from the

bioreactor and bisected using a sterile scalpel. One-half of the sample was used for

oxygen measurement and the other half was used for targeted metabolomic analysis.

Oxygen Measurement and Metabolite Extraction

An oxygen measurement system (OX-10, Unisense, Aarhus, Denmark) was used to

quantify oxygen tension immediately after mechanical stimulation. Probes were calibrated

to 0% O_2 tension using a nitrogen sparged water bath and 100% O_2 tension using an

atmospheric air sparged water bath. 2-point calibration curves were then used to quantify

oxygen saturation readings from each bisected sample. The oxygen probe was inserted

into the hydrogel and oxygen readings were measured for 1 minute, with the minimum

oxygen tension during the measurement recorded for each sample (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Oxygen probe needle embedded within an agarose hydrogel. The probe
was retracted after each reading and used to collect a pre and post reading atmospheric
baseline.

The other half of the hydrogel which was not probed for oxygen readings was

immediately wrapped in autoclaved aluminum foil and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen to

preserve current metabolite levels after mechanical stimulation. After freezing for 1-2

minutes, the gel was extracted and crushed using a sterile aluminum rod. The pulverized

hydrogel was then placed in a 2.5mL Eppendorf tube and allowed to freeze in -80°C

overnight. This process was completed for all hydrogels for all experimental groups. After

freezing for at least 12 hours, the crushed gels were removed from the freezer and

homogenized into a powder using a Cryomill (Verder Scientific, Haan, Germany).

Following Cryo-milling, the powder was suspended in extraction buffer (70:30:1%

Methanol:Acetone:formic acid). Formic acid facilitated metabolite release from the

homogenized agarose (Supplemental Material B). Each hydrogel was extracted with 5mL

of extraction buffer at -80°C overnight. The following morning, samples were centrifuged

(4,000 rpm, 10 minutes), and the supernatant was extracted and dried down using a

vacuum centrifuge at 45°C (Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany) until only the dried pellet of

concentrated metabolites remained. These metabolite pellets were then resuspended in

50µL 50:50 HPLC water:acetonitrile and sent for mass spectrometry analysis.

<u>Mass spectrometry analysis of mechanically stimulated constructs</u>

After metabolite extraction, levels of central metabolites were quantified using LC-MS

and a previously established protocol (Brahmachary et al. 2023) (Liquid Chromatography-

Mass Spectrometry, C18 Column, Agilent 6538 Q-TOF). Quality control included analysis

of blank samples of 50:50 HPLC Water:Acetonitrile every ten samples. For quantification,

analytical standards containing 18 key central carbon metabolites were included within

the run at concentrations of 100, 50, 10, 5, 2, and 1µg/mL. To quantify individual

metabolite concentrations, calibration curves were constructed based on the known

standard concentration and the measured intensity (Supplemental Material C). A pool was

created for each loading group and was assembled from 5 randomly chosen 10µL

samples from each group to aid in fragmentation identification of each standard

metabolite in the sample. After the mass spectrometry analysis was completed, sample

data were converted from intensity peaks into concentration values and exported for

statistical analysis and visualization.

<u>Statistical analysis of metabolites</u>

Once the data had been trimmed, the remaining three male human, three female

human, and five bovine donors could be combined for a total of 65 samples and analyzed

on a per-metabolite basis. A total of 18 standard metabolites were used for mass

spectrometry calibration; Two different forms of NADH as well as HSCoA were not

detected due to low measured experimental values, leaving a total of 15 central

metabolites for comparison (Supplemental Material C). Metabolites and their pathways

within central carbon metabolism were identified and calibration ability was recorded for

all 18 metabolites (Table 1).

Table 1: Individual metabolites paired with their common pathway name and branch
association when used in central carbon metabolism. Calibration capability and
statistical significance is also reported as checks or X's.

Metabolite Name (Pathway Name)	Pathway Branch Involvement	Calibrated using Standards	Statistically Significant betw. groups	Significant Groups

#1 Oxaloacetic Acid (Oxaloacetate)	TCA Cycle	✅	❌	
#2 Fumaric Acid (Fumarate)	TCA Cycle	✅	❌	
#3 Phosphoenolpyruvic Acid (PEP)	Glycolysis	✅	❌	
#4 Malic Acid (Malate)	TCA Cycle	✅	✅	U-15C, U-30C, U-30S
#5 2-Oxoglutaric Acid (α-ketoglutarate)	TCA Cycle	✅	❌	
#6 6-p-gluconate	PPP	✅	❌	
#7 Citric Acid (Citrate)	TCA Cycle	✅	❌	
#8 Sedoheptulose-7-phosphate	PPP	✅	❌	
#9 Succinic Acid (Succinate)	TCA Cycle	✅	✅	U-30S, 15S-30S
#10 Fructose-6-phosphate	Glycolysis	✅	❌	

#11 Glutamic Acid (Glutamine)	TCA Cycle	✅	❌	
#12 Lactic Acid (Lactate)	Glycolysis	✅	✅	U-30S
#13 Glutamine	TCA Cycle	✅	✅	U-15C, U-30C, U-15S, U-30S
#14 Fructose / Glucose (Glucose)	Glycolysis	✅	✅	U-30C, U-30S
#15 Pyruvic Acid (Pyruvate)	Glycolysis	✅	✅	U-15C, U-30C, U-15S, U-30S
#16 NADH$_1$ (NADH)	All	❌	❌	
#17 HSCoA	TCA Cycle	❌	❌	
#18 NADH$_2$ (NADH)	All	❌	❌	

For each of the detectable 15 metabolites, statistical analysis was performed using

Graphpad Prism. Outlier identification was performed using the ROUT method. One-way

ANOVA was performed to test for differences in mean concentrations between the

experimental groups. Additional pairwise comparisons were performed using Tukey's

HSD for multiple testing correction. T-tests were used to compare metabolite levels

between chondrocytes from male and female donors using the Holm-Sidak correction for

multiple testing between experimental groups. Metabolites with significant differences are

visualized using violin plots. Statistical significance between group concentrations is

reported using the asterisk system (*: $p < 0.05$ | **: $p < 0.01$ | ***: $p < 0.001$ | ****: $p < 0.0001$).

All other metabolites without detectable group differences are shown in violin plots in

Supplemental Material D.

Results

<u>Oxygen Concentration</u>

While oxygen readings were performed for each hydrogel that was loaded during the

experimentation process, statistical analysis of the oxygen readings revealed no

significant differences in oxygen tension regardless of loading condition. This is likely

because there was not sufficient time for chondrocytes to utilize measurable oxygen

during the short time span of the mechanical stimulation.

<u>Targeted Metabolomics</u>

Toward understanding how mechanical stimuli affects chondrocyte central metabolite

levels, we performed targeted metabolomic profiling after cyclical shear and compressive

stimulation. Six of the fifteen measured metabolites resulted in at least one significant

between-group difference. Of these six, three are related to glycolysis and three are

related to the TCA cycle. Five out of six metabolites showing significant differences and

also decreases in quantity in the mechanically stimulated groups suggesting that

mechanical stimulation either decreased production or increased consumption of these

metabolites. For the human OA donors, there were no detected differences in any

measured metabolite levels between male and female donors (n=5 each).

Outliers Removed: (14) Fructose_Glucose

Heat Map: (14) Fructose_Glucose

Figure 3: Concentration values for glucose decreased significantly when hydrogels
were exposed to loading for 30 minutes. Note that because the cells are cultured and
suspended in high-concentration glucose during expansion and embedding that glucose
levels are naturally orders of magnitude above other metabolites.

Glucose, the input to glycolysis, decreased after both 30 minutes of cyclical

compression and shear compared to unloaded controls (Figure 3).

Outliers Removed: (15) Pyruvic Acid

Heat Map: (16) Pyruvic Acid

Figure 4: pyruvic acid levels showed a dramatic decrease in all groups when compared to the unloaded control. Note that the unloaded control group exhibited right-skewedness, while the other loaded groups were relatively uniform.

239   The output of glycolysis, pyruvate, decreased in response to both 15 and 30 minutes

240   of both shear and compressive stimulation (Figure 4).

Figure 5: Lactic acid levels were decreased across all samples, but only the 30-minute shear group showed a statistically significant difference.

Pyruvate can be converted to lactate, and lactate decreased after 30 minutes of shear stimulation (Figure 5). These results indicate that there was substantial consumption of glycolytic metabolites in response to both applied shear and compression for chondrocytes.

Figure 6: Succinic acid shows up-concentration in only the 30-minute shear group
when compared to the unloaded or 15-minute shear group. It should be noted that both
compression groups and the 30S group showed a right-skewed distribution of
concentration when compared to the unloaded and 15S groups.

255   Within the TCA cycle, succinate increased after 30 minutes of shear stimulation

256   compared to both 15 minutes of shear and unloaded controls (Figure 6).

(4) Malic Acid

Figure 7: Malic Acid showed a decrease in concentration between the unloaded
control group and the 15min & 30 min compression groups that was significantly
different. The control also showed significant difference when compared to the 30min
shear group.

Malate levels decreased after 15 and 30 minutes of compression as well as 30 minutes

of shear stimulation (Figure 7).

Outliers Removed: (13) Glutamine

Figure 8: Concentration values for all loading durations and orientations showed a decrease in glutamine concentration relative to the control values that was significantly different.

Glutamine can provide carbon to the TCA cycle, and glutamine levels decreased for

both 15 and 30 minutes of compression and shear compared to unloaded controls (Figure

8). These data indicate that cyclical shear and compression induced substantial TCA

activity in articular chondrocytes.

Discussion

This study explored how cyclical mechanical stimulation influences chondrocyte

metabolism using targeted metabolomic profiling of molecules from glycolysis, the

pentose-phosphate pathway, and TCA cycle. Variation in key metabolites reveals

details into how chondrocyte activity responds to cyclical shear and compressive stimuli.

Importantly, the complexity of these larger biochemical networks limits the

interpretability of metabolite dysregulation as a change in abundance could result from

changes in either production and/or consumption of any given metabolite (Doran et al.

2024).

Glycolytic metabolites (glucose, pyruvate, and lactate) were substantially

decreased in mechanically stimulated samples compared to unloaded controls, which

may be a result of decreased production, increased consumption, or a combination

thereof. This may indicate a shift toward a glycolytic, Warburg-like profile often seen in

pathological conditions (Jiang et al. 2023) or increased fueling of the TCA cycle to

promote production of non-essential amino acids for production of matrix proteins.

Additionally, glutamine—a primary carbon source for the TCA cycle—was

reduced in all mechanically stimulated groups compared to unloaded controls, indicating

dysregulated glutamine metabolism as a result of mechanical stimulation. Succinate

levels increased under both shear and compressive loading which may be linked with

downstream redox signaling or mitochondrial stress, as supported by findings in

osteoarthritic bone tissues (Shodiev et al. 2024). Alternatively, this altered TCA activity

may support production of key non-essential amino acids for matrix production. These

results suggest that mechanical loading affects metabolic activity in chondrocytes, likely

through increased energy demand that may be associated with cell stress and/or

production of non-essential amino acids for protein synthesis.

Beyond this system, our findings may have broader implications for cyclical

loading in osteoarthritis progression. The effect of mechanotransduction on central

metabolism and signaling is increasingly recognized in all joint tissues (Zhao et al.

2020). These results support the idea that metabolism is not a passive outcome of cell

function, rather a key response to mechanical signals. This is an emerging paradigm

with great therapeutic potential as increased understanding might lead to therapeutic

exercise interventions that use mechanical stimuli to direct chondrocyte metabolism

toward increased production of non-essential amino acids for protein production and

maintenance of the extracellular matrix.

A primary limitation of this study is that these targeted metabolomic profiles only

provide a static snapshot of metabolite levels at 15-minute time intervals. For oxygen

consumption, it is likely that measuring oxygen consumption immediately after loading

does not provide sufficient time for chondrocytes to appreciably consume oxygen, and

later timepoints might provide additional insights. Furthermore, without advanced

stoichiometric modeling, we cannot determine whether changes reflect altered

production or consumption (flux) of individual metabolites.

Future work should incorporate improved temporal resolution potentially with live

cell imaging, functional assays, stoichiometric modeling, and isotope tracing to better

resolve metabolic flux and pathway dynamics. These methods would help quantify

nutrient utilization and identify specific biochemical reactions altered by mechanical

stimuli. Given the small sample size (n=5 each) of male and female donors, future

studies should also explore potential sex differences, hormonal influences, and

mitochondrial regulation in more detail. These findings could ultimately guide tissue

engineering approaches and personalized interventions for OA by identifying optimal

mechanical loading parameters that support metabolic-based repair and maintenance of

articular cartilage.

These mechanically induced metabolic changes may serve as both a mechanism

of adaptation and a contributor to degeneration, depending on cellular context and load

magnitude. In healthy tissue, enhanced mitochondrial metabolism under physiological

loading supports ECM synthesis and redox homeostasis, facilitating tissue maintenance

and adaptation (Coleman et al. 2016). However, excessive loading can shift the

metabolic profile toward upregulated glycolysis,and impaired mitochondrial respiration.

This metabolic reprogramming can cause an accumulation of metabolic intermediates

and increased production of reactive oxygen species, which can activate inflammatory

cascades and drive the expression of inflammatory cytokines (Huang et al. 2023; Tan

et al. 2022). Overall, these data suggest that mechanical stimuli drive changes in central

metabolism in primary chondrocytes with potential implications for production of non-

essential amino acids needed for cartilage homeostasis. Additionally, results further

highlight mechanical signals as an active mediator of metabolism in chondrocytes and

regulation may prove a promising target for modulating tissue health in both normal and

disease states.

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Conflict of Interest

Drs. June and Brahmachary are co-founders of OpenBioWorks. Dr. June also owns stock in Beartooth Biotech. These companies were not involved in this study.

Supplemental Material

A: Bioreactor Design and Drawings

Bioreactor design was based loosely on the format of modern 3-d printers like the Ender 3 Pro. In this design, a gantry suspends actuated components above a working volume. Primary design materials were selected to be both 6061 hot extruded/rolled aluminum, and polysulfone. These materials are corrosion resistant, relatively easy to machine, are safe to autoclave, and readily available (McMaster-Carr). CAD work was performed primarily in SolidWorks Design Suite. Post-Processing CAM G-code was produced using Fusion-360 for each sub-assembly component exported from

SolidWorks. Milling work was done primarily using a SuperMax-YCM 30 CNC endmill and

Fagor 8025 controller. Lathe work was performed using an Enco 1236 metal lathe. All

components which were not readily available for purchase were designed and

manufactured in-house. The final rendered design is shown below.

Render of fully assembled machine, showing differences in component material and
assembly orientation.

Off-the-shelf components were used when available. Drawings for each individual

custom component are listed below.

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Drawing (7) 6061 Center Mount:

- #6-32 Tapped Hole
- 0.13
- 0.25
- 0.27
- Ø0.19
- 0.47
- 0.37
- Ø0.10
- 0.25
- 1.13
- 0.50
- 1.13
- 0.13
- 0.75

DESIGNER:	Erik Myers	OWNERSHIP:	Dr. June Research Lab	
MATERIAL:	6061 Alloy	DWG NO.	(7) 6061 Center Mount	A4
All units are in inches		SCALE :2:1	SHEET 1 OF 1	

Drawing (8) 6061 Horizontal Mount:

- 0.25
- Ø0.13
- 0.30
- 1.00
- 0.20
- Ø0.23
- 0.20
- 0.20
- 0.39
- 1.97

DESIGNER:	Erik Myers	OWNERSHIP:	Dr. June Research Lab	
MATERIAL:	6061 Alloy	DWG NO.	(8) 6061 Horizontal Mount	A4
All units are in inches		SCALE :2:1	SHEET 1 OF 1	

B: Metabolite Extraction and Factor Analysis

During the process of metabolite extraction, it was discovered that the previously

used protocol extraction buffer (70:30:1% Methenol:Acetone:HCl) created a film in the

supernatant which could clog the electro-spray ionization nozzle within the mass

spectrometry machine. After the extraction of the first four donors with this method,

the buffer was switched to the current buffer (70:30:1% Methanol:Acetone:Formic

acid). Unfortunately, Donors #1 was unable to be cleaned substantially with the use

of acetonitrile dilutions and column filtering and were subsequently removed from the

data set. Donors #3 and #4 were able to be rescued using the same technique of

HPLC Water:Acetonitrile dilution and column filtering with centrifugal spinning, but the

results of their mass spectrometry analysis differ from the remaining 12 donors in

particular metabolite concentrations.

390  Since three of the remaining 14 samples were extracted using a different extraction

391 buffer (Donors 2,3, and 4), a preliminary analysis was performed using MetaboAnalyst to

392 discover if there were concerning differences in the reported results from the mass

393 spectrometry analysis. A Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was performed that

394 showed immediate obvious separations between groups (Figure 3.42).

Figure 4.1: (Top) PCA analysis on a per-donor basis revealed differences between
Donor 2 and the remaining donor conglomerate. Donors 3 and 4 also showed some
separation but were included in the study due to significant overlap in groupings.
(Bottom) Scree plot showing contribution of principal components, with 46.1% of
variance being explained in the first two components.

Donor 2 showed clear differences when compared to other groups in the first two

principal components, which explains 46.1% of the variance in the donor data sets. This

result was concerning enough to prompt the removal of donor 2 from the dataset.

Additionally, a dendrogram of the donor groupings also suggested donor 2 was clearly

separated from the other donors.

Figure 4.2: Donor 2 not only grouped exclusively with itself, but also showed greater magnitude of separation than any other grouping in the dendrogram.

410   Once donor #2 had been removed from the dataset, analyses were re-run to see the

411   apparent differences in donors 2 and 3 from the remainder of the dataset (Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.3: (Top) PCA of trimmed dataset shows separation of donors 3 and 4, but without a clear independent grouping to warrant removal from the dataset. (Bottom) Scree plot still shows a large contribution from the first 5 principal components, with 44.1% of the variance being explained with the first two components.

Donors 3 and 4 showed greater separation from the other responses once donor 2 was removed, but the resulting dendrogram suggested the differences were not as pronounced (Figure 3.45).

Figure 4.4: Dendrogram of the trimmed dataset shows grouping of donors 3 and 4.
However, the Euclidian distance is relatively small in comparison to the separation seen
by donor 2, suggesting that donors 3 and 4 may not be different enough to remove from
the dataset.

426 Given the results of the initial donor PCA and dendrograms, the decision was made

427 to exclude donor 2 from the dataset moving forward. This is the trimmed dataset with

428 N=13 bovine and human donors.

429 Since 1/3 of the initial donor set was comprised of bovine cells (Donors 11-15), it was

430 necessary to assess the effect of species on data grouping. If there was enough evidence

431 to suggest that human and bovine donors reacted differently to mechanical stimulation,

432 further statistical analyses would require species separation. Again, a PCA was performed

433 to explore differences in metabolite profiles in a two-dimensional projection based on

434 species (Figure 3.46).

Figure 4.5: (Top) PCA analysis of species-based variation revealed considerable
overlap between human and bovine donors, with 44.1% of the total variance explained
in the first two components. (Bottom) Scree plot shows percentage of variation
explained by five principal components.

While Figure 3.46 did demonstrate different variation in the first PC the overlap in the

variance of human samples when compared to bovine donors, the overlap of groups

suggests that there is not a difference between human and bovine donors. The larger

variance of the human samples in the first PC is most likely because human donors are

different in many aspects including age, race, sex, weight, and OA progression at the time

of joint donation. Bovine donors, for the most part, are very uniform in age, sex, weight,

and health at the time of donation. Regardless, the results of the PCA suggest that human

and bovine donors can be treated as similar in future statistical analyses.

Before the metabolite-specific statistical analyses could be performed, final analyses

were performed and differences based on the donor gender in the metabolic response

profiles were explored to determine if there were effects on metabolic response based on

donor gender (Figure 3.47).

Figure 4.6: (Top) Gender-based PCA showed significant overlap and similarities in variation between male and female donors. (Bottom) Scree plot shows even greater contribution of first two principal components, explaining 47.8% of total variance.

It should be noted that the gender-based comparison was performed only with the

remaining nine human donors, since the sex of bovine donors is unknown. A median

heatmap was also used to check for trends in differences between male and female

donors for metabolite concentrations (Figure 4.9).

Figure 4.7: Median heatmap of group metabolite intensities separated by sex reveals
no concerning differences between male and female. Group median intensities are
normalized versus the unloaded control intensity. Oxaloacetate showed decreased
median values for all male donors, but this trend is due to the very poor signal quality of
oxaloacetate.

Based on the evidence from Figure 3.46 and Figure 3.47, it was decided to perform

individual metabolite statistics with all male human, female human, and bovine samples

together.

Quantitative Analysis Calibration Report

Batch Data Path	J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\QuantResults\20241016_EMPB.batch.bin		
Analysis Time Stamp	10/17/2024 2:51:43 PM	Analyst Name	MSU\w68p731
Report Generation Time	10/17/2024 3:01:12 PM	Reporter Name	MSU\w68p731
Calibration Last Update	10/17/2024 2:44:43 PM	Batch State	Processed
Analyze Quant Version	12.0	Report Quant Version	12.0

Oxaloacetic acid   **Relative Standard Error**   19.5

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	4339	4338.5718	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	6882	3440.8785	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5		5.0000	2830	565.9365	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	21438	2143.7896	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	5040	503.9518	25.1
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	7216	721.5529	25.1
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50		50.0000	25400	507.9989	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	10401	208.0238	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100		100.0000	57204	572.0359	

Batch Data Path	J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\QuantResults\20241016_EMPB.batch.bin
Analysis Time Stamp	10/17/2024 2:51:43 PM
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Analyze Quant Version	12.0

Analyst Name	MSU\w68p731
Reporter Name	MSU\w68p731
Batch State	Processed
Report Quant Version	12.0

Fumaric acid   **Relative Standard Error**   63.3

Fumaric acid - 6 Levels, 4 Levels Used, 6 Points, 4 Points Used, 3 QCs

y = 11094.208348 * x
R^2 = 0.93242736
R = 0.99670746
Type:Linear, Origin:Force, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	19313	19313.2350	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	32785	16392.4565	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	63249	12649.7619	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	104112	10411.1998	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	22830	2283.0124	17.6
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	29339	2933.9388	17.6
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50		50.0000	114409	2288.1841	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	46163	923.2534	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100		100.0000	166094	1660.9379	

Quantitative Analysis Calibration Report

Batch Data Path	J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\QuantResults\20241016_EMPB.batch.bin		
Analysis Time Stamp	10/17/2024 2:51:43 PM	**Analyst Name**	MSU\w68p731
Report Generation Time	10/17/2024 3:01:12 PM	**Reporter Name**	MSU\w68p731
Calibration Last Update	10/17/2024 2:44:43 PM	**Batch State**	Processed
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Phosphoenol pyruvic acid   Relative Standard Error   92.9

Phosphoenol pyruvic acid - 6 Levels, 4 Levels Used, 6 Points, 4 Points Used, 3 QCs

$y = 18542.440752 * x$
$R^2 = 0.83605625$
$R = 0.99335970$
Type:Linear, Origin:Force, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	38922	38921.6693	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	62609	31304.4547	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	110393	22078.5255	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	169441	16944.1467	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	91142	9114.2201	5.3
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	98246	9824.5547	5.3
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50		50.0000	358953	7179.0538	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	195611	3912.2131	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100		100.0000	618005	6180.0474	

Quantitative Analysis Calibration Report

Batch Data Path	J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\QuantResults\20241016_EMPB.batch.bin		
Analysis Time Stamp	10/17/2024 2:51:43 PM	Analyst Name	MSU\w68p731
Report Generation Time	10/17/2024 3:01:12 PM	Reporter Name	MSU\w68p731
Calibration Last Update	10/17/2024 2:44:43 PM	Batch State	Processed
Analyze Quant Version	12.0	Report Quant Version	12.0

Malic acid   **Relative Standard Error**   702.9

Malic acid - 6 Levels, 4 Levels Used, 6 Points, 4 Points Used, 3 QCs

$y = 28162.943371 * x$
$R^2 = 0.72511611$
$R = 0.98791981$
Type:Linear, Origin:Force, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	230497	230496.8239	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	434882	217441.0116	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	341166	68233.1080	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10		10.0000	832618	83261.8434	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	515318	51531.7608	26.6
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	754162	75416.1743	26.6
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50	x	50.0000	1368923	27378.4633	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	752517	15050.3378	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100		100.0000	3328353	33283.5306	

Batch Data Path   J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\QuantResults\20241016_EMPB.batch.bin
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2-oxoglutaric acid   **Relative Standard Error**   127.5

2-oxoglutaric acid - 6 Levels, 4 Levels Used, 6 Points, 4 Points Used, 3 QCs

$y = 42262.815848 * x$
$R^2 = 0.55002382$
$R = 0.94566437$
Type:Linear, Origin:Force, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	110469	110469.4405	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	140790	70395.1849	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	301094	60218.8013	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	359665	35966.4585	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	177139	17713.9404	21.0
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	238920	23892.0076	21.0
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50		50.0000	689329	13786.5735	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	372107	7442.1371	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100		100.0000	1173641	11736.4149	

Batch Data Path	J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\QuantResults\20241016_EMPB.batch.bin
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6-p-gluconate   **Relative Standard Error**   48.7

6-p-gluconate - 6 Levels, 4 Levels Used, 6 Points, 4 Points Used, 3 QCs

y = 6953.123018 * x
R^2 = 0.96359528
R = 0.99245400
Type:Linear, Origin:Force, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	11551	11550.6892	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	14890	7444.9646	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	40688	8137.6027	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	65914	6591.3538	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	34092	3409.1531	13.4
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	41224	4122.4235	13.4
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50		50.0000	180628	3612.5537	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	109010	2180.1951	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100		100.0000	316522	3165.2152	

Quantitative Analysis Calibration Report

Citric acid **Relative Standard Error** 141.8

Citric acid - 6 Levels, 4 Levels Used, 6 Points, 4 Points Used, 3 QCs

$y = 25576.573461 * x$
$R^2 = 0.45405141$
$R = 0.97355672$
Type:Linear, Origin:Force, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	68773	68773.0530	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	103483	51741.4495	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	168564	33712.7097	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	220640	22063.9796	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	120100	12009.9917	22.2
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	164786	16478.6083	22.2
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50		50.0000	616142	12322.8408	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	287487	5749.7379	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100		100.0000	858937	8589.3657	

Quantitative Analysis Calibration Report

sedoheptulose-7-phosphate   **Relative Standard Error**   131.6

sedoheptulose-7-phosphate - 6 Levels, 5 Levels Used, 6 Points, 5 Points Used, 3 QCs
y = 3468.776788 * x
R^2 = 0.91937126
R = 0.98525823
Type:Linear, Origin:Force, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	8513	8512.8089	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	13249	6624.4038	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	39798	7959.5605	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	60929	6092.9112	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	36018	3601.8028	20.5
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	48245	4824.4706	20.5
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50	x	50.0000	165592	3311.8370	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	94825	1896.4907	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100		100.0000	234760	2347.6043	

Quantitative Analysis Calibration Report

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Succinic acid   **Relative Standard Error**   28.5

Succinic acid - 6 Levels, 6 Levels Used, 6 Points, 6 Points Used, 3 QCs

$y = 29046.412952 * x + 16237.571093$
$R^2 = 0.98695103$
$R = 0.99345409$
Type:Linear, Origin:Ignore, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	50746	50746.0617	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	95487	47743.3427	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	193268	38653.6478	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	387204	38720.3677	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	167171	16717.1130	42.1
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	309095	30909.5335	42.1
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50	x	50.0000	1210956	24219.1215	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	571050	11420.9950	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100	x	100.0000	3039562	30395.6206	

Batch Data Path	J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\QuantResults\20241016_EMPB.batch.bin
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Analyze Quant Version	12.0

Analyst Name	MSU\w68p731
Reporter Name	MSU\w68p731
Batch State	Processed
Report Quant Version	12.0

Fructose-6-phosphate   **Relative Standard Error**   138.0

Fructose-6-phosphate - 6 Levels, 5 Levels Used, 6 Points, 5 Points Used, 3 QCs
$y = 2847.720965 * x$
$R^2 = 0.94756735$
$R = 0.99399015$
Type:Linear, Origin:Force, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	6752	6751.6727	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	14596	7298.1885	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	29113	5822.5066	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	44094	4409.4108	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	19865	1986.5162	34.9
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	32874	3287.3763	34.9
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50	x	50.0000	137341	2746.8232	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	63368	1267.3590	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100		100.0000	235551	2355.5105	

Quantitative Analysis Calibration Report

Glutamic Acid   **Relative Standard Error**   291.6

Glutamic Acid - 6 Levels, 5 Levels Used, 6 Points, 5 Points Used, 3 QCs

$y = 5193.856472 * x$
$R^2 = 0.78361519$
$R = 0.97852086$
Type:Linear, Origin:Force, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	24178	24177.5898	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	36698	18349.1413	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	84141	16828.2844	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	95877	9587.6854	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	50514	5051.4224	22.1
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	69193	6919.3410	22.1
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50	x	50.0000	243656	4873.1171	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	154818	3096.3668	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100		100.0000	410601	4106.0123	

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Lactic acid   **Relative Standard Error**   26.8

Lactic acid - 6 Levels, 5 Levels Used, 6 Points, 5 Points Used, 3 QCs

y = 15922.537453 * x + 24979.608934
R^2 = 0.99880281
R = 0.99940123
Type:Linear, Origin:Ignore, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	35047	35046.5926	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	48820	24410.0634	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	101712	20342.3121	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	204224	20422.4333	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	111794	11179.4303	18.2
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	144844	14484.4067	18.2
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50	x	50.0000	817828	16356.5596	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	463901	9278.0201	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100		100.0000	2324781	23247.8112	

Glutamine   **Relative Standard Error**   99.0

Glutamine - 6 Levels, 4 Levels Used, 6 Points, 4 Points Used, 3 QCs

$y = 39093.395286 * x$
$R^2 = 0.87327323$
$R = 0.99910190$
Type:Linear, Origin:Force, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	87134	87133.7552	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	129906	64953.0716	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	212091	42418.2437	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	367474	36747.3925	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	111961	11196.0949	41.1
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	203651	20365.0738	41.1
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50		50.0000	488020	9760.4033	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	350973	7019.4623	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100		100.0000	1223898	12238.9806	

Quantitative Analysis Calibration Report

Fructose/Glucose   **Relative Standard Error**   55.4

Fructose/Glucose - 6 Levels, 6 Levels Used, 6 Points, 6 Points Used, 3 QCs

$y = 1319.050544 * x + 7295.774601$
$R^2 = 0.99717191$
$R = 0.99858495$
Type:Linear, Origin:Ignore, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	4373	4372.7731	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	9243	4621.5065	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	15497	3099.4421	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	24658	2465.8207	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	10603	1060.2812	33.2
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	17117	1711.6984	33.2
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50	x	50.0000	72440	1448.8088	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	34731	694.6155	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100	x	100.0000	139163	1391.6350	

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Pyruvic acid   **Relative Standard Error**   259.0

Pyruvic acid - 6 Levels, 5 Levels Used, 6 Points, 5 Points Used, 3 QCs

y = 6328.315707 * x - 18716.835534
R^2 = 0.95781715
R = 0.97868133
Type:Linear, Origin:Ignore, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	13440	13439.7243	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	17168	8583.8982	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5		5.0000	20871	4174.1839	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	44665	4466.4658	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	36087	3608.6610	49.5
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	74910	7491.0283	49.5
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50	x	50.0000	200855	4017.1028	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	182157	3643.1356	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100	x	100.0000	661804	6618.0396	

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NADH-1 **Relative Standard Error** 547.3

NADH-1 - 6 Levels, 6 Levels Used, 6 Points, 6 Points Used, 3 QCs

$y = 278.089217 * x + 30128.460850$
$R^2 = 0.03109740$
$R = 0.17634456$
Type:Linear, Origin:Ignore, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	50	50.2955	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	15096	7547.9082	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	463	92.6655	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	51966	5196.6295	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	29113	2911.3293	18.8
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	38029	3802.9004	18.8
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50	x	50.0000	159396	3187.9101	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	69470	1389.3914	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100	x	100.0000	519	5.1852	

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HS-CoA **Relative Standard Error** 89.3

HS-CoA - 6 Levels, 4 Levels Used, 6 Points, 4 Points Used, 3 QCs

y = 759.454629 * x - 4165.033533
R^2 = 0.92818014
R = 0.96342106
Type:Linear, Origin:Ignore, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1		1.0000	765	764.6817	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2		2.0000	1921	960.6338	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	3937	787.4508	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	6557	655.7325	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	2797	279.7010	29.0
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	4241	424.0736	29.0
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50	x	50.0000	19998	399.9621	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	12275	245.5024	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100	x	100.0000	78157	781.5719	

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NADH-2   **Relative Standard Error**   206.9

NADH-2 - 6 Levels, 6 Levels Used, 6 Points, 6 Points Used, 3 QCs

y = 6210.972224 * x - 22463.050593
R^2 = 0.94479142
R = 0.97200382
Type:Linear, Origin:Ignore, Weight:None

Calibration STD Path	Type	Level	Enable	Conc.	Response	RF	Level RSD
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_1_Std.d	Calibration	1	x	1.0000	7219	7219.3765	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_2_Std.d	Calibration	2	x	2.0000	8880	4440.0325	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__05_5_Std.d	Calibration	5	x	5.0000	27597	5519.4442	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__04_10_Std.d	Calibration	10	x	10.0000	37466	3746.5698	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__88_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	22386	2238.6353	7.1
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241017_EMPB__00_10_Std.d	QC	10	x	10.0000	24742	2474.2453	7.1
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__03_50_Std.d	Calibration	50	x	50.0000	172342	3446.8412	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__87_50_Std.d	QC	50	x	50.0000	87213	1744.2529	
J:\6538\shared\20241016_01_Eric_TCAcells_BEHC18-100\20241016_EMPB__02_100_Std.d	Calibration	100	x	100.0000	655161	6551.6061	

D: Metabolite Plots where no differences were detected in initial F-test

(1) Oxaloacetic Acid

(2) Fumaric Acid

Heat Map: (2) Fumaric Acid

Outliers Removed: (3) Phosphoenolpyruvic Acid

Heat Map: (3) Phosphoenolpyruvic Acid

(5) 2-Oxoglutaric Acid

Heat Map: (5) 2-Oxoglutaric Acid

Outliers Removed: (7) Citric Acid

Heat Map: (7) Citric Acid

Outiers Removed: (8) Sedoheptulose-7-phosphate

Heat Map: (8) Sedoheptulose-7-phosphate

Outliers Removed: (10) Fructose-6-phosphate

(10) Full Heat Map: (10) Fructose-6-phosphate

Outliers Removed: (11) Glutamic Acid

Heat Map: (11) Glutamic Acid

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