

Proteomic dissection of large extracellular vesicle surfaceome unravels interactive surface platform

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Abstract

The extracellular vesicle (EV) surface proteome (surfaceome) acts as a fundamental signalling gateway by bridging intra- and extracellular signalling networks, dictates EVs' capacity to communicate and interact with their environment, and is a source of potential disease biomarkers and therapeutic targets. However, our understanding of surface protein composition of large EVs (L-EVs, 100–800 nm, mean 310 nm, ATP5F1A, ATP5F1B, DHX9, GOT2, HSPA5, HSPD1, MDH2, STOML2), a major EV-subtype that are distinct from small EVs (S-EVs, 30–150 nm, mean 110 nm, CD44, CD63, CD81, CD82, CD9, PDCD6IP, SDCBP, TSG101) remains limited. Using a membrane impermeant derivative of biotin to capture surface proteins coupled to mass spectrometry analysis, we show that out of 4143 proteins identified in density-gradient purified L-EVs (1.07–1.11 g/mL, from multiple cancer cell lines), 961 proteins are surface accessible. The surface molecular diversity of L-EVs include (i) bona fide plasma membrane anchored proteins (cluster of differentiation, transporters, receptors and GPI anchored proteins implicated in cell-cell and cell-ECM interactions); and (ii) membrane surface-associated proteins (that are released by divalent ion chelator EDTA) implicated in actin cytoskeleton regulation, junction organization, glycolysis and platelet activation. Ligand-receptor analysis of L-EV surfaceome (e.g., ITGAV/ITGB1) uncovered interactome spanning 172 experimentally verified cognate binding partners (e.g., ANGPTL3, PLG, and VTN) with highest tissue enrichment for liver. Assessment of biotin inaccessible L-EV proteome revealed enrichment for proteins belonging to COPI/II-coated ER/Golgi-derived vesicles and mitochondria. Additionally, despite common surface proteins identified in L-EVs and S-EVs, our data reveals surfaceome heterogeneity between the two EV-subtype. Collectively, our study provides critical insights into diverse proteins operating at the interactive platform of L-EVs and molecular leads for future studies seeking to decipher L-EV heterogeneity and function.

KEYWORDS

extracellular vesicles, mass spectrometry-based proteomics, surface proteins, surfaceome, vesicle heterogeneity

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1 | INTRODUCTION

Extracellular vesicles (EVs), membranous vesicles released by cells into extracellular space, are laden with proteins and nucleic acids which they can transfer between cells to elicit functional response and therefore serve as an effective means of intercellular signalling, both in physiological as well as pathological conditions (Xu et al., 2018; Claridge, Lozano et al., 2021). Critical to EV function are the EV surface proteins which regulate their interaction with the extracellular environment (recipient cells, ECM) (Hu et al., 2020), dictate biodistribution (Hoshino et al., 2015), half-life in circulation (Buzás et al., 2018) and pharmacokinetics (Charoenviriyakul et al., 2018). In cancer, EV surface proteins not only mobilize pro-metastatic bone marrow cells (through transfer of active surface MET) (Peinado et al., 2012) but also regulate EV homing to specific organs (to lungs via surface integrins ITGA6/B4 and ITGA6/B1, and to liver via integrins ITGAV/B5) (Hoshino et al., 2015) to establish pre-metastatic niches and enhance metastasis. EV surface proteins (e.g., PD-L1) also regulate immune escape to promote tumorigenesis in lung cancer (Kim et al., 2019). Moreover, EV surface proteins are not only a source of potential disease biomarkers (Al-Nedawi et al., 2008; Melo et al., 2015) but also enable capture of EVs as liquid biopsy (Yoshioka et al., 2014) and systemic clearance of pathogenic EVs (Zaborowski et al., 2019) in the clinic. EV surface proteins also have therapeutic potential in bone healing (Furuta et al., 2016), provide cardio protection (Vicencio et al., 2015), and rescue neuronal function impairment (Yang et al., 2017). Recently, functionalization of EV surface proteins is emerging as an effective means to design vehicles that can potentially deliver therapeutic drugs to target sites (Gao et al., 2018; Mentkowski & Lang, 2019; Ohno et al., 2013; Tian et al., 2018) or to develop potential cancer vaccines (Yaddanapudi et al., 2019). Because EVs are released in high number, their collective surface area represents a large interactive platform, engaging proteins, lipids and glycans; understanding players of this dynamic interactome is thus pivotal.

Based on their size, EVs can be broadly categorized into large EVs (L-EVs, 100–1000 nm) and small EVs (S-EVs, 30–150 nm) (Kowal et al., 2016; Xu et al., 2015). While several studies have catalogued role of S-EVs in many pathologies (e.g., cancer [Xu et al., 2018], cardiovascular disease [Bellin et al., 2019], and neurodegenerative diseases [Howitt & Hill, 2016]), L-EVs—although relatively understudied compared to S-EVs—are now also starting to gain prominence for their signalling role, either complementing or contrasting S-EV function (Tkach et al., 2018). We have previously shown that L-EVs can be further segregated based on their varying densities, namely L-EVs displaying buoyant density of 1.07–1.11 g/ml which are distinct from L-EVs of relatively higher buoyant density (1.22–1.30 g/ml) (Rai, Greening, et al., 2021). While heavy density L-EVs represent midbody remnants of cytokinetic origin, our understanding of low-density L-EVs remains limited.

Besides their size-based categorization, it is important to note that cells release heterogeneous sub-populations of EVs (Ji et al., 2014; Rai, Poh, et al., 2021; Tauro et al., 2013; Théry et al., 2018) which can be categorised based on their origin (e.g., plasma membrane budding that give rise to shed microvesicles [Al-Nedawi et al., 2008], EVs of endosomal origin called exosomes [Jeppesen et al., 2019; Xu et al., 2018], shed midbody remnants derived from cytokinetic bridges [Rai, Greening, et al., 2021], migrasomes released by migrating cells [Wiklander et al., 2015]), floatation density (e.g., light vs. heavy density EVs [Kowal et al., 2016; Rai et al., 2019; Rai, Poh, et al., 2021]) and/or biochemical compositions (Jeppesen et al., 2019; Kowal et al., 2016) (e.g., EPCAM/A33⁺ EVs [Tauro et al., 2013]). Depending on isolation strategies employed, heterogeneous vesicles co-purify (e.g., S-EVs can arise from plasma membrane budding or are endosomally-derived) due to overlapping characteristics (Théry et al., 2018; Tkach et al., 2018). Thus, while these subtype categorizations are useful at an operational level, there is growing awareness of EV heterogeneity and the need to study it. Fundamental questions regarding L-EV form and function remain unanswered, these include our insight into their surface proteome landscape.

By definition, cellular surfaceome encompasses all plasma membrane proteins with at least one amino acid residue exposed to the extracellular space (Bausch-Fluck et al., 2018). Several studies have characterized S-EVs surfaceome (Castillo et al., 2018; Cvjetkovic et al., 2016; Hu et al., 2018; Jeppesen et al., 2014; Jung et al., 2020; Wu et al., 2019; Xu et al., 2019; Zaborowski et al., 2019); we previously characterized surfaceome of S-EVs by proteolytically “shaving” surface proteins using proteinase K (Xu et al., 2019). However, we noted that proteinase K treatment compromises L-EVs integrity, calling for an alternative strategy to define surface landscape of L-EVs. The focus of this paper is directed at defining surface protein landscape of L-EVs (buoyant density of 1.07–1.11 g/mL) by using membrane impermeant biotin to label and enrich for surface proteins and identify them using mass spectrometry.

2 | METHODS

2.1 | Cell culture

SW620 (CCL-227, ATCC) and LIM1863 cells (Whitehead et al., 1987) (Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Melbourne) cells were cultured in RPMI-1640 (Life Technologies). MDA MB 231 (HTB-26, ATCC) and U87 (HTB-14, ATCC) cells were cultured in DMEM (Life Technologies). Complete culture media included media supplemented with 5% (v/v) Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS, Life Technologies) and 1% (v/v) Penicillin Streptomycin (Pen/Strep, Life Technologies) at 37°C with 10% CO₂. Cells were passaged with trypsin-EDTA (Gibco).

2.2 | Generation of cell conditioned media

Cells (SW620, LIM1863, MDA MB 231, and U87) were cultured in CELLLine AD-1000 Bioreactor classic flasks (Integra Biosciences) as previously described (Rai, Greening, et al., 2021). Cells (3×10^7) in 15 ml of complete culture media were added to the lower cell-cultivation chamber for 72 h at 37°C with 10% CO₂. The upper nutrient supply chamber contained 500 ml RPMI or DMEM (5% FBS, 1% Pen/Strep) that was replaced every four days. The lower chamber was washed three times with serum-free media. For LIM1863 cells, which grow as floating organoids, cells were recovered and washed in serum free media (150 g, 5 min) and re-introduced back into the lower chamber. Cells in the lower chamber were then cultured in 15 ml of media supplemented with 0.5% (v/v) insulin transferrin selenium (Invitrogen) and 1% Pen/Strep). Thereafter, conditioned medium (CM) in the cell cultivation chamber was collected every 2 days.

2.3 | Isolation of large and small EVs

CM was centrifuged at 500 g (5 min, 4°C) and 2,000 g (10 min, 4°C) and the supernatant either processed for EV isolation or stored at -20°C until further use. The supernatant was centrifuged at 10,000 g (30 min, 4°C, SW28 rotor; Optima XPN Ultracentrifuge, Beckman Coulter) to pellet crude L-EVs and then at 100,000 g (1 h, 4°C, 41 Ti rotor; Optima XPN Ultracentrifuge) to pellet crude S-EVs. EV-pellets were resuspended in ~200 µl PBS and subjected to top-down isopycnic (iodixanol-density) ultracentrifugation (Ford et al., 1994; Tauro et al., 2013), whereby EVs were then over (discontinuous gradient of OptiPrep™, 40% [3 ml], 20% [3 ml], 10% [3 ml], and 5% [2.5 ml] [diluent: 0.25 M sucrose/PBS solution]) and ultracentrifuged at 100,000 g for 18 h (4°C, 41 Ti rotor; Optima XPN Ultracentrifuge). Twelve equal fractions were collected, diluted in PBS (2 ml) and centrifuged at either 10,000 g (30 min, 4°C, Eppendorf 5430R) or 100,000 g (1 h, 4°C, TLA-55 rotor; Optima MAX-MP Tabletop Ultracentrifuge) to collect L-EV and S-EV containing fractions, respectively. Density of each fraction was determined as previously described (Rai, Fang, et al., 2021; Rai, Poh, et al., 2021). Pellets were further washed in PBS, reconstituted in PBS and stored at -80°C until further use.

2.4 | Immunoblotting

Protein quantification (microBCA™ Protein Assay Kit (23235, Thermo Fisher Scientific)) and Western blotting (iBlot 2 Dry Blotting System, Thermo Fisher Scientific) were performed as per manufacturer's instructions. Dot blot analysis was performed using 96-well Bio-Dot (Bio-Rad Laboratories) as per manufacturer's instructions with proteins were lysed in 50 mM HEPES (1% SDS). Rabbit antibodies raised against, MET (Santa Cruz Biotechnology), CD63 (Santa Cruz), ANXA1 (Abcam), GAPDH (Cell Signalling), and GFP (Abcam) were used. Mouse antibodies ALIX (BD Biosciences), TSG101 (BD Biosciences) were used. Secondary antibodies used were IRDye 800 goat anti-mouse IgG or IRDye 700 goat anti-rabbit IgG (1:15000, LI-COR Biosciences).

2.5 | Biophysical characterization of EVs

Cryo-electron microscopy (Tecnai G2 F30) on EVs (2 µg) was performed as described (Rai, Fang, et al., 2021; Xu et al., 2015). Vesicle particle size was determined using a NanoSight NS300, Nanoparticle tracking analysis (NTA) (Malvern) system fitted with a NS300 flow-cell top plate with a 405 nm laser as described (Rai, Greening, et al., 2021). Samples ($1 \mu\text{g} \mu\text{l}^{-1}$) were diluted in 500 µl PBS (1:10,000) and injected using 1 ml syringes (BD Biosciences) (detection threshold = 10, flowrate = 50, temperature = 25°C). Each analysis consisted of 60 s video captures. Data was analysed using NTA software 3.0 (Malvern).

2.6 | Global proteomic sample preparation of EVs

Global mass spectrometry-based proteomics of EVs (10 µg in 50 µl) was performed as previously described (Poh et al., 2021) using single-pot solid-phase-enhanced sample preparation (SP3) method (Claridge, Lozano et al., 2021; Hughes et al., 2019). Briefly, samples were solubilised in 1% (v/v) sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS), 50 mM HEPES pH 8.0, incubated at 95°C for 5 min and cooled. Samples were reduced with 10 mM dithiothreitol (DTT) for 45 min at 25°C followed by alkylation with 20 mM iodoacetamide for 30 min at 25°C in the dark. The reaction was quenched to a final concentration of 20 mM DTT. Magnetic beads were prepared by mixing SpeedBeads™ magnetic carboxylate modified particles (65152105050250, 45152105050250, Cytiva) at 1:1 (v:v) ratio and washing twice with 200 µl MS-water. Magnetic beads were reconstituted to a final concentration of 100 µg/µl. Magnetic beads were added to the samples at 10:1 beads-to-protein ratio and 100% ethanol (EA043, ChemSupply) added for a final concentration of 50% ethanol (v/v). Protein-bound magnetic beads were washed three times with 200 µl of 80% ethanol and reconstituted in 50 mM TEAB and digested with trypsin (Promega, V5111) at a 1:50 enzyme-to-substrate ratio for 16 h at 37°C with constant shaking (1000 rpm). The peptide mixture was acidified to a final concentration of 2% formic acid

(pH ~1-2) and centrifuged at 20,000g for 1 min. The peptide digests were frozen at -80°C and dried by vacuum centrifugation (Savant SPD121P, Thermo Fisher Scientific), reconstituted in 0.07% trifluoroacetic acid, and quantified by Fluorometric Peptide Assay (23290, Thermo Fisher Scientific) as per manufacturer's instruction.

2.7 | Surface biotin-labelling of EVs and proteomic sample preparation

EV surface proteins were biotinylated using Pierce™ Cell Surface Biotinylation and Isolation Kit (A44390, Thermo Fisher Scientific) as per manufacturer's recommendation. Briefly, 100 µg EVs (L-EVs or S-EVs) were labeled with 0.25 mg/ml EZ-Link Sulfo-NHS-SS-Biotin for 10 min at room temperature. EVs were then washed twice with ice-cold TBS (10,000 g for 30 min for L-EVs or 100,000 g for 1 h for S-EVs). Labelled EVs were then lysed (30 min on ice) as per manufacturer's instructions. To assess bound and released EV surface proteins, biotinylated EVs in PBS were treated with 5 mM EDTA for 15 min at room temperature (Rogers et al., 2020). Samples were centrifuged at either 10,000 g (30 min, 4°C, Eppendorf 5430R) or 100,000 g (1 h, 4°C, TLA-55 rotor; Optima MAX-MP Tabletop Ultracentrifuge) to collect L-EV and S-EV with their membrane bound proteins (pellet fraction), respectively. Supernatants (containing the released proteins) were processed for SP3-based tryptic protein digestion (as above). The pellet fractions were resuspended in 1 ml PBS, re-centrifuged and pellet fractions reconstituted in 50 µl of PBS.

Biotin-labelled proteins were then captured onto NeutrAvidin Agarose slurry (30 min at room temperature with end-over-end mixing on a rotor). Samples were loaded onto epTIPS (Eppendorf, 200 µl) fitted with 20 µm nylon net (NY2004700, Merck Millipore), washed three times as per manufacturer's instruction, and reduced in 10 mM DTT in 100 mM triethylammonium bicarbonate (TEAB) for 45 min at 25°C. Eluted proteins were then alkylated with 20 mM iodoacetamide (IAA) for 30 min at 25°C in the dark. The reaction was quenched to a final concentration of 20 mM DTT and digested with trypsin (Promega, V5111) at a 1:50 enzyme-to-substrate ratio for 16 h at 37°C. The resultant peptides were acidified to a final concentration of 2% formic acid (FA), peptides desalted using SDB-RPS Stage-Tips (Rai, Poh et al., 2021) followed by elution with 30%–80% acetonitrile (ACN), 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid, and dried by vacuum centrifugation. Peptides were reconstituted in 0.07% trifluoroacetic acid and quantified by Fluorometric Peptide Assay (23290, Thermo Fisher Scientific). SP3-based tryptic protein digestion for global proteome was performed as previously described (Claridge, Rai et al., 2021).

2.8 | Proteomic liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry

Peptides were analysed on a Dionex UltiMate NCS-3500RS nanoUHPLC coupled to a Q-Exactive HF-X hybrid quadrupole-Orbitrap mass spectrometer equipped with nanospray ion source in positive mode as described (Greening et al., 2019; Kompa et al., 2021). Peptides were loaded (Acclaim PepMap100 C18 3 µm beads with 100 Å pore-size, Thermo Fisher Scientific) and separated (1.9-µm particle size C18, 0.075 × 250 mm, Nikkyo Technos Co. Ltd) with a gradient of 2%–28% acetonitrile containing 0.1% formic acid over 95 min at 300 nl min⁻¹ followed by 28%–80% from 95 to 98 min at 300 nl min⁻¹ at 55°C (butterfly portfolio heater, Phoenix S&T). An MS1 scan was acquired from 350 to 1650 *m/z* (60,000 resolution, 3 × 10⁶ automatic gain control (AGC), 128 msec injection time) followed by MS/MS data-dependent acquisition (top 25) with collision-induced dissociation and detection in the ion trap (30,000 resolution, 1 × 10⁵ AGC, 60 msec injection time, 28% normalized collision energy, 1.3 *m/z* quadrupole isolation width). Unassigned, 1, 6–8 precursor ions charge states were rejected and peptide match disabled. Selected sequenced ions were dynamically excluded for 30 s. Data was acquired using Xcalibur software v4.0 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). The MS-based proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository and are available via ProteomeXchange with identifier (PXD026658).

2.9 | Data processing

MaxQuant (v1.6.6.0) with its built-in search engine Andromeda (Cox & Mann, 2008) was used to perform peptide identification and quantification as described (Kompa et al., 2021). Human-only (UniProt #74,823 entries) sequence database (Jan 2020) with a contaminants database was employed. Cysteine carbamidomethylation was set as a fixed modification and N-terminal acetylation and methionine oxidations as variable modifications; for biotin surface proteome analysis additional Thioacyl (DSP) (C(3)H(4)OS) was employed. False discovery rate (FDR) was 0.01 for protein and peptide levels. Enzyme specificity was set as C-terminal to arginine and lysine using trypsin protease, and a maximum of two missed cleavages allowed. Peptides were identified with an initial precursor mass deviation of up to 7 ppm and a fragment mass deviation of 20 ppm. Protein identification required at least one unique or razor peptide per protein group. Contaminants, and reverse identification were excluded from further data analysis. 'Match between run algorithm' in MaxQuant (Nagaraj et al., 2012) and label-free protein quantitation (maxLFQ) was performed. All proteins and peptides matching to the reversed database were filtered out.

For both L-EVs and S-EVs, we investigated three biological replicates for global proteome (three cell lines: LIM1863, SW620, U87), three biological replicates for biotin capture proteome (three cell lines: SW620, MDA MB 231, U87), two biological

replicates for EDTA bound biotin capture (two cell lines: MDA MB 231, SW620), two biological replicate for EDTA released biotin capture proteome (two cell lines: MDA MB 231, SW620).

For global surface proteome (Table S1), for each cell line, protein was identified at least once in one biological replicate and detected at least once in EVs from at least two cell lines. For biotin-captured surfaceome, EVs from three cell lines were analysed, with three biological replicates for each cell line. Proteins selected for downstream bioinformatics analysis include those that were identified in at least 2 biological replicates, irrespective of the donor cells. For biotin-captured surfaceome that are removed by EDTA, EVs from two cell lines were analysed, with two biological replicates for each cell line. Proteins selected for downstream bioinformatics analysis include those that were identified in at least two biological replicates, irrespective of the donor cells.

Experimental parameters are submitted to EV-TRACK knowledgebase (EV-TRACK ID: EV210261) (Van Deun et al., 2017).

2.10 | Bioinformatics and statistics

Cellular surfaceome data used include proteins previously experimentally verified as a cell surface protein atlas (CSPA) (Bausch-Fluck et al., 2015) or predicted as surfaceome proteins based on SURFY (Bausch-Fluck et al., 2018). Voronoi tree maps (i.e., in silico surfaceome tree map) were generated using <http://wlab.ethz.ch/surfaceome>. Venn diagrams were created using www.interactivenn.net. Gene Ontologies, KEGG and Reactome pathways were obtained using g:Profiler (Raudvere et al., 2019) or DAVID analysis (Huang et al., 2009). Cytoscape (Shannon, 2003) was used to generate EnrichmentMap (Merico et al., 2010) (plugin v3.7.1) and GeneMania-based radial interaction map (Warde-Farley et al., 2010) (plugin v3.5.1). Sankey diagram of ligand-receptor interactions was generated using <http://www.rna-society.org/cellinker/> (Zhang, Liu, et al., 2021). Volcano plot, principal component analysis plot, Pearson correlation matrix and hierarchical clustering was performed using Perseus (Tyanova et al., 2016). Data were analyzed and bar plots/violin plots generated using GraphPad Prism (v8.0.1) or Microsoft Excel. One-way ANOVA (multiple comparisons) test was performed using Perseus and statistical significance defined at $p < 0.05$.

2.11 | Fluorescence microscopy

Immunofluorescence was performed, as previously described (Rai, Greening, et al., 2021). Generation of SW620 cells stably-expressing plasma membrane-targeting Growth Associated protein 43 or GAP43 (1-20 a.a.) (Zuber et al., 1989) fused to GFP (SW620-GAP-GFP cells) is described previously (Rai, Poh, et al., 2021). Briefly, cells (cultured on Nunc® Lab-Tek® Chamber Slide™ [Sigma-Aldrich] to 60%–80% confluency) fixed (4% formaldehyde for 5 min), permeabilized (0.2% [v/v] Triton X-100 in PBS, 5 min) and blocked (3% [w/v] bovine serum albumin [BSA, Sigma] in TTBS (0.2% [v/v] Triton X-100) (blocking solution) for 30 min at room temperature. Cells were then incubated with primary antibodies (1:100) MET (Santa Cruz Biotechnology), ALIX (BD Biosciences), TSG101 (BD Biosciences) or EEA1 (Cell Signalling) antibodies in blocking solution for 1 h at room temperature. Cells were washed and incubated with secondary antibodies (1:200) (Alexa Fluor 488-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG or Alexa Fluor 568-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG (Invitrogen) in blocking solution for 20 min at room temperature (in the dark). Cells were washed three times in TTBS. Where indicated, nuclei were stained with Hoechst stain ($10 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$) for 1 min. Cells were imaged using a Zeiss AxioObserver Z1 microscope (Zeiss) or Zeiss Confocal LSM 780 PicoQuant FLIM (Zeiss) and images were analysed using Zen 2011 (Blue edition, Zeiss).

3 | RESULTS

3.1 | Isolation and characterization of large EVs

We isolated large EVs (L-EVs) and small EVs (S-EVs) released by four different cell lines using differential centrifugation coupled to density gradient separation (Figure 1a) as previously described (Rai et al., 2019; Suwakulsiri et al., 2019; Tauro et al., 2013) and characterized them (for their buoyant densities, size, morphology, presence of specific proteins) to meet the experimental requirements as set out by the International Society for Extracellular Vesicles (ISEV) guidelines (Théry et al., 2018). While both L-EVs and S-EVs displayed buoyant densities of 1.07–1.11 g/ml and were positive for EV marker ANXA1 (Figure S1), S-EVs were enriched in CD63 consistent with previous reports (Rai, Greening, et al., 2021; Rai et al., 2019; Suwakulsiri et al., 2019). Cryo-EM revealed that both EV subtypes were spherical in shape and morphologically intact with L-EVs (mean 310 nm) significantly ($p < 0.0001$) larger than S-EVs (mean 110 nm) (Figure 1b,c). Interestingly, there was no striking difference in mode size (i.e., size of the majority of EVs in the samples, e.g., 185.5 nm [L-EVs] vs. 168.7 nm [S-EVs] for MDA-MB-231, Figures S2 and S3); this could be due to bias of NTA towards certain particle size ranges (especially 50–150 nm [Théry et al., 2018; Van Der Pol et al., 2014]). However, NTA analysis of EVs from three cell lines suggests that percentage of EVs >200 nm was higher in L-EV versus S-EVs, similar to cryoEM analysis of EVs from SW620 cells (Figure S4). Although the two EV subtypes from different cell lines clustered based on donor cells (Figure S5), mass-spectrometry revealed that S-EVs are enriched in classical markers of

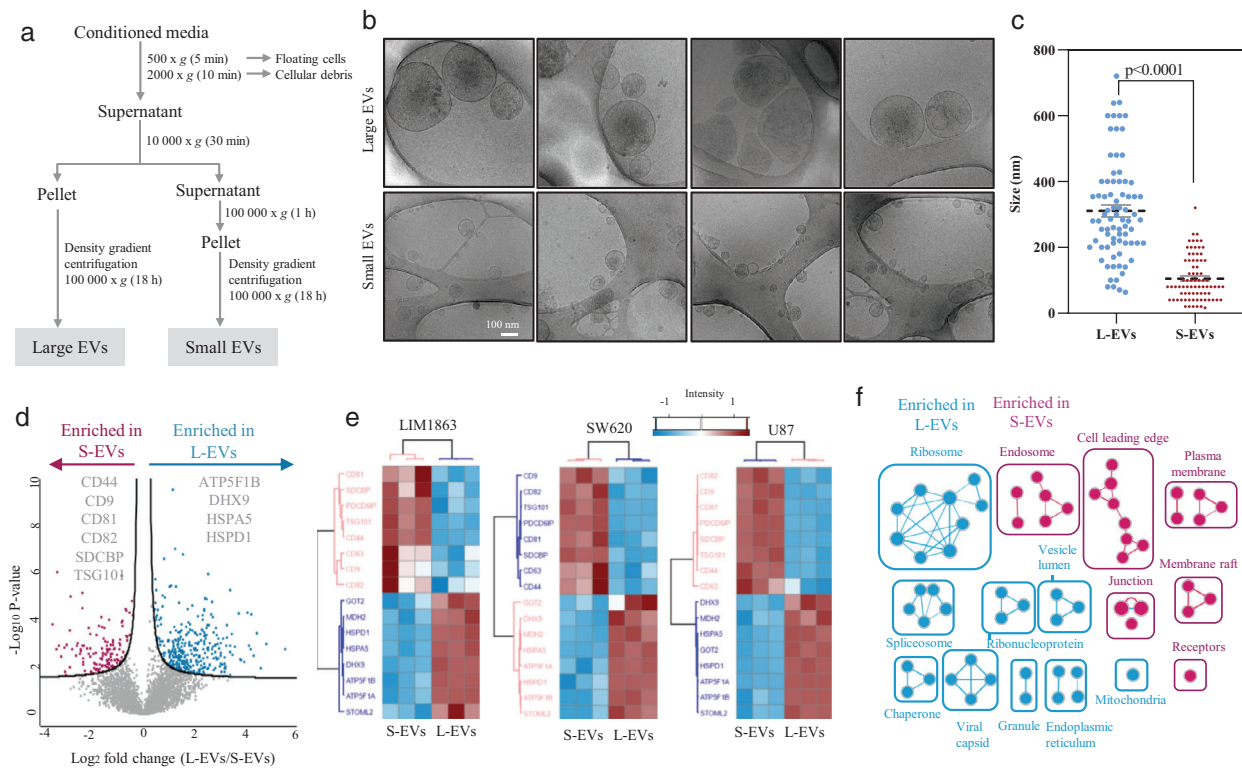


FIGURE 1 Isolation and characterization of large and small EVs. (a) Workflow for isolation of L-EVs and S-EVs. (b) Cryo-electron microscopic images of L-EVs and S-EVs isolated from SW620 cells. (c) Histogram represents diameter of L-EVs and S-EVs based on cryo-EM images. Data presented as mean \pm s.e.m (standard error of mean). (d) Volcano plot of protein abundance between L-EVs and S-EVs using mass spectrometry-based proteomics; comparisons of log₂ fold changes versus *p*-values (Student's *t*-test). (e) Heat map of selected proteins enriched in L-EVs or S-EVs from three indicated cell lines (*p*-value < 0.05). (f) EnrichmentMap of Gene Ontology (cellular components) processes overrepresented in L-EVs or S-EVs. Node size represents gene number

small EVs (Kowal et al., 2016; Kugeratski et al., 2021; Rai, Greening, et al., 2021; Xu et al., 2015), (CD44, CD63, CD81, CD82, CD9, PDCD6IP, SDCBP, TSG101) (Figures 1d–f, S6, and Tables S1 and S2) whereas L-EVs were enriched in previously reported large EV proteins (Kowal et al., 2016; Minciacchi et al., 2015; Rai, Greening, et al., 2021; Xu et al., 2015) (ATP5F1A, ATP5F1B, DHX9, GOT2, HSPA5, HSPD1, MDH2, STOML2), ribosomal (RPS5, RPL9/35), endoplasmic reticulum (CANX, CALR, TMEM33), mitochondrial (TIM44, ALDH2, PUS1), spliceosomal (DDX5, DDX39B, SNRPD1/2/3) and ribonucleoproteins (HNRNPU, HNRNPK) (Figures 1d–f, S6, and Tables S1 and S2), as previously described (Rai, Greening et al., 2021; Rai, Fang et al., 2021; Suwakulsiri et al., 2019).

3.2 | Workflow for defining EV surfaceome

The workflow used in this study to define EV surfaceome using quantitative mass spectrometry-based proteomics is outlined in Figure 2. We mapped experimentally verified cell-surface proteins (CSPA) (Bausch-Fluck et al., 2015) and surfaceome proteins based on cell surfaceome predictor SURFY (Bausch-Fluck et al., 2018) onto global EV protein profiles. Next, we verified their EV surface localization by enriching surface proteins using amine reactive, membrane-impermeant and thiol-cleavable Sulfo-NHS-SS-Biotin and subsequently identifying using mass spectrometry. Because EDTA can successfully chelate metal ions such as calcium to release surface bound proteins (such as ANXA1 [Rogers et al., 2020]) without compromising EV integrity (Rogers et al., 2020; Santucci et al., 2019), we also incubated EVs with EDTA and define the released proteins as the “EV surface-associated proteome.” This led to the identification of 291 and 456 surface, and 122 and 67 surface-associated proteins in L-EVs and S-EVs, respectively.

3.3 | Large EVs contain a sub-set of cellular surfaceome

We first interrogated distribution of known cellular surface proteins in global proteome of both EV-subtypes isolated from three different cell lines (SW620, LIM1863, U87) (Figures 3 and S5). In L-EVs, 2539/4143 proteins were detected in at least 2/3 datasets,

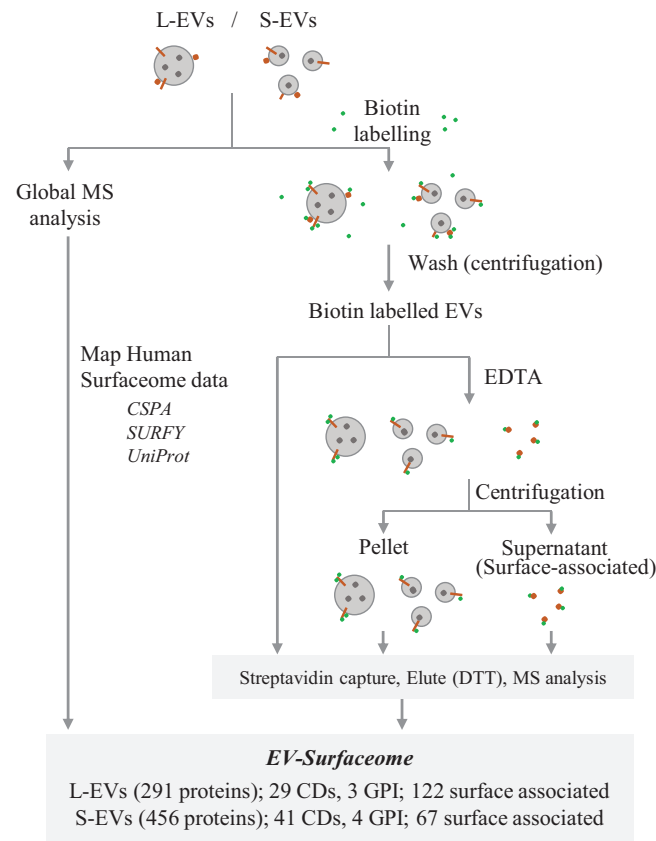


FIGURE 2 Workflow for capturing surface proteins of large and small EVs. The workflow used in this study to define large and small EV surfaceome is outlined in Figure 3. Experimentally verified cell-surface proteins (CSPA) (Bausch-Fluck et al., 2015) and cellular surfaceome predicted by SURFY (Bausch-Fluck et al., 2018) were mapped onto global EV protein profiles. Surface proteins were captured using membrane-impermeant Sulfo-NHS-SS-Biotin and subsequently identified by mass spectrometry. We also define a pool of EV-surface associated proteome by treating EVs with EDTA and assessing released proteins. CD; cluster of differentiation, GPI; Glycosylphosphatidylinositol

of which 284 are cellular surfaceome (CSPA proteins [Bausch-Fluck et al., 2015]) and 190 predicted as surfaceome (SURFY proteins [Bausch-Fluck et al., 2018]) (Figure 3a). In S-EVs, 2449/3086 proteins were detected in at least 2/3 datasets, of which 295 were CSPA and 236 SURFY proteins (Figure 3b). Mapping L-EVs and S-EVs data onto the functionally annotated in silico surfaceome tree map revealed striking diversity in protein classes identified, which include transporters, adhesion molecules (cadherins), integrins, ephrins, receptors (including RTKs) and proteases (Figure 3c,d). These proteins include bona fide cell-surface proteins such as cluster of differentiation (CD) proteins (54 in L-EVs and 60 in S-EVs), GPI-anchored proteins (10 in L-EVs and 11 in S-EVs) that do not have transmembrane domains, integrins and membrane transporters (Figure 3c,d and Table S1). Of 638 human surfaceome identified between both EV-subtypes, 61 and 57 were significantly enriched ($q < 0.05$) in L-EVs and S-EVs, respectively (Figure 3e and Table S1), with their gene ontology (biological process) enrichment analysis presented in Figure S7. Interestingly, we also found that 170/190 SURFY proteins in L-EVs displayed differential abundance (FDR < 0.05) in L-EVs from 3 different cell lines (SW620, LIM1863, U87, Figure S8A, Table S3). Moreover, several of these proteins (with higher abundance in L-EVs from U87 vs. SW620 and LIM1863) were also detected in greater abundance (e.g., APLP2, ERMP1, HMI3, LMAN2, RPN1) in U87 L-EVs as compared to U87 S-EVs (Figure S8A). Amongst proteins with higher abundance in L-EVs from CRC cell lines (SW620 or LIM1863) versus U87 L-EVs, none displayed higher abundance when compared with CRC S-EVs, however, several of these proteins (MUC13, CDH17, ACE, ACE2, TSPAN8) are reported as intestine-enriched proteins in Human Protein Atlas (Uhlén et al., 2015) (Figure S8B).

3.4 | Biotin capture of large EVs surface proteome

Next, we employed Sulfo-NHS-SS-Biotin-based capture coupled with proteomic profiling to ascertain surface localization and identify additional EV surface proteins (not annotated as cellular surfaceome by CSPA/SURFY) (Figure 4 and Table S4). In L-EVs from different cell lines (SW620, MDA MB 231, U87), 291 proteins were detected in at least two data sets, whereas 456/1365 proteins were identified for S-EVs (Figures 4a and S9A).

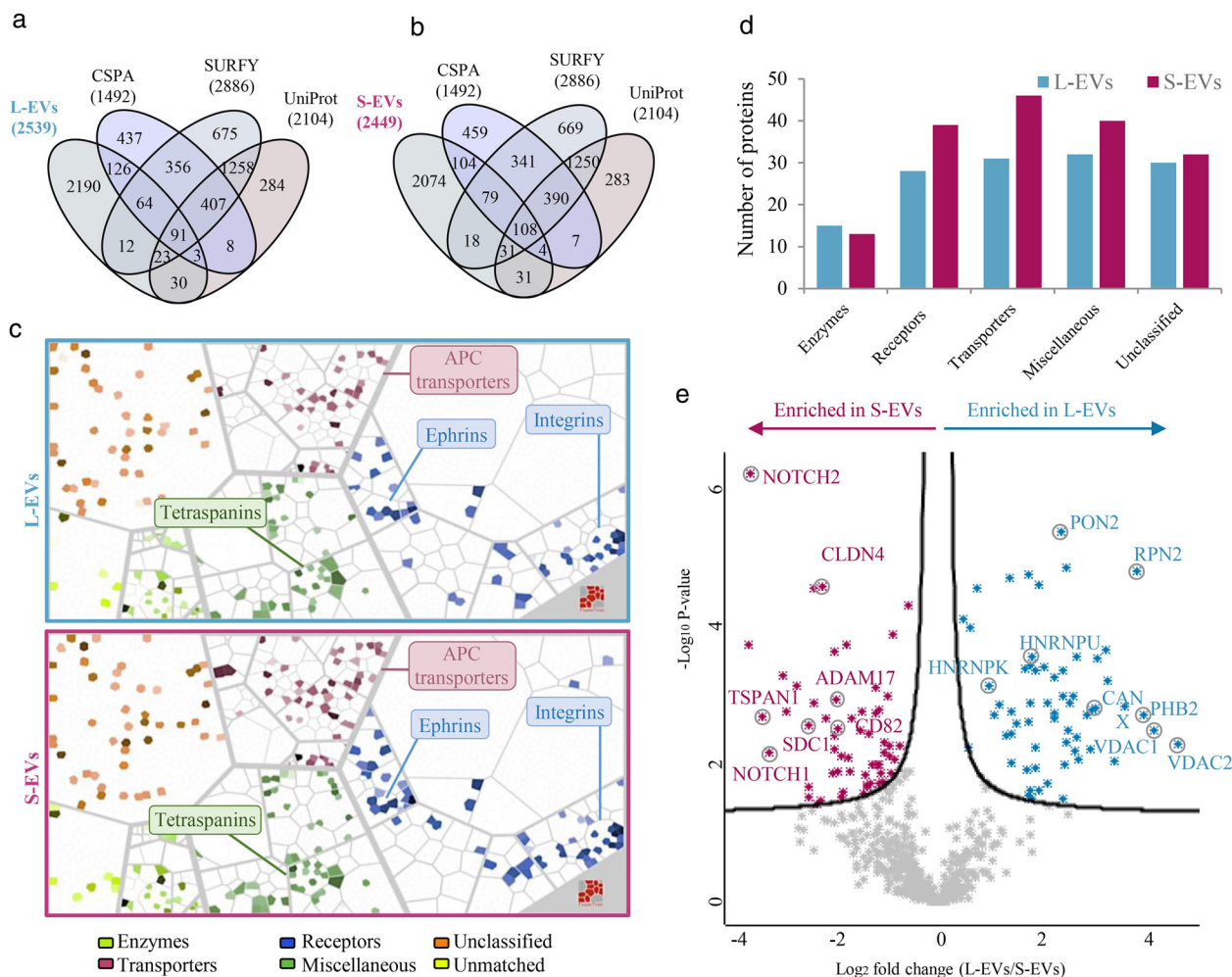


FIGURE 3 Large EVs contain classical cellular surfaceome. Venn diagram of total proteins identified in (a). L-EVs or (b). S-EVs versus surface proteins reported in CSPA (Bausch-Fluck et al., 2015), SURFY (Bausch-Fluck et al., 2018) or UniProt. (c) Voronoi tree maps for L-EV and S-EV proteomes generated on wlab.ethz.ch/surfaceome. Light colour indicates low expression; dark colour indicates strong expression. White genes are not expressed. (d) Different classes of SURFY (Bausch-Fluck et al., 2018) predicted cellular surface proteins identified in each EV-subtype. (e) Volcano plot of differentially abundant surfaceome proteins in L-EVs and S-EVs

An important feature of membrane anchored proteins is the presence of membrane spanning transmembrane domain (TM). Upon cursory inspection, within the biotin-captured L-EV proteome, 36/291 proteins were annotated by UniProt to contain at least single TM region and 37/291 as surface PM protein by SURFY (Figure 4a and Table S4); proteins ranged from “containing single” to multiple TM domains (e.g., one TM for EPHA, four for ABCCL1, 13 for NPC1L1) (Table S4). In contrast, 238/291 L-EVs surface biotin proteins not predicted to contain TM domain (by UniProt/SURFY) are cellular surface proteins demonstrated by CSPA (Figure 4a).

Overall, 86/291 proteins are CSPA/SURFY proteins (i.e., plasma membrane proteins) versus 5/291 annotated as non-surface membrane proteins by SURFY, that is, intracellular origin; this suggests that L-EVs mainly arise from plasma membrane (Figure 4a and Table S4). We refer to CSPA/SURFY proteins (86/291) as “classical surface proteins” and the rest 205/291 as “non-classical surface proteins.” cursory inspection revealed that classical proteins were mainly membrane anchored proteins (e.g., integrins, solute carrier [SLC] transporters, cluster of differentiation [CDs]), whereas non-classical were proteins that themselves lack TM domain but help in organization of junction proteins (e.g., DSG1, RAC1, RHOA, CTNNA1) and secreted proteins such as annexins, chemokine (S100A8), 14-3-3 proteins and enzymes (PGK1) (Table S4).

Differential abundance of biotin surface proteins in S-EVs and L-EVs is also provided in Figure S5 and Table S4. We note that compared to L-EVs, several receptors were enriched in S-EVs (Figure S9B–E). Moreover, fluorescence microscopy revealed, that consistent with their enrichment in S-EVs, MET (a receptor tyrosine kinase) co-localized with endosomal/exosomal markers (EEA1, ALIX and TSG101) (Figure S9F), which supports their active sorting into S-EVs.

Next, we compared L-EV surface proteome with global EV proteome; biotin captured proteomes were significantly enriched in CD proteins, receptors and transporters, which further demonstrates successful enrichment of membrane surface proteins

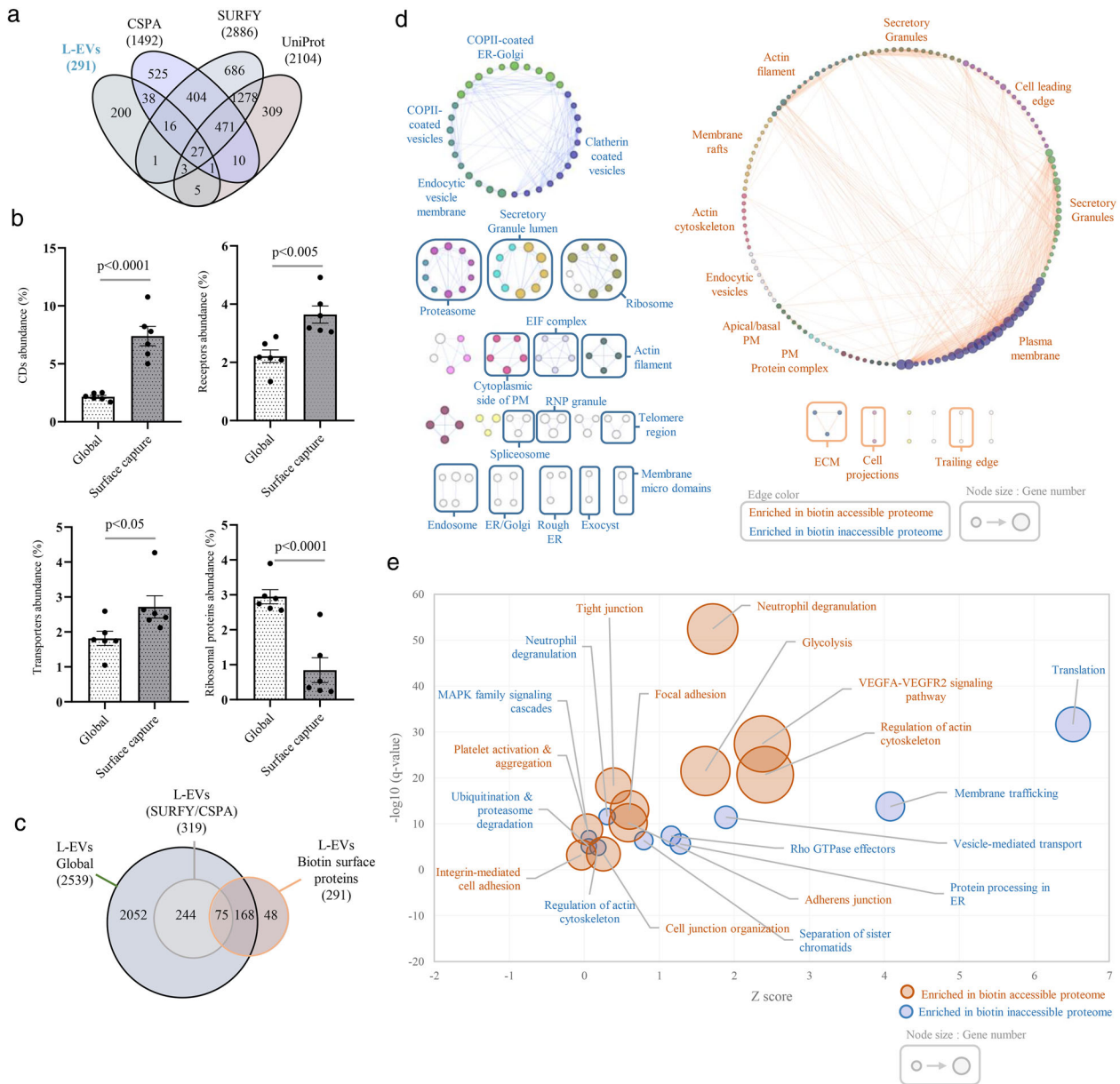


FIGURE 4 Proteome profiling of biotin accessible and inaccessible large EV proteomes. (a) Venn diagram of biotin-captured surface proteins in L-EVs *versus* surface proteins reported in CSPA (Bausch-Fluck et al., 2015), SURFY (Bausch-Fluck et al., 2018) or UniProt. (b) Bar plot of relative abundance of number of indicated classes of proteins identified *versus* total number of proteins identified in global or biotin-captured surface proteome. (c) Venn diagram of biotin captured L-EV surface proteins and global L-EV proteome. Inner circle in L-EV proteome represents a subset of SURFY/CSPA proteins detected in L-EV global proteome. (d) Enrichment Map of Gene Ontology (cellular components) terms overrepresented in L-EV surface proteome versus biotin inaccessible L-EV proteome. (e) KEGG and Reactome pathways overrepresented in L-EV surface proteome versus biotin inaccessible L-EV proteome

(Figure 4b). Importantly, 75 proteins that were annotated as CSPA/SURFY surface proteins in the global L-EV proteome, we verify as surface accessible proteins (Figure 4c). An additional 168 proteins in global L-EV proteome not annotated as cell surface proteins were also biotin accessible (Figure 4c). Biotin capture also enabled identification of an additional 48 surface proteins which were not detected in the global EV proteome (Table S5).

3.5 | Bioinformatic assessment of biotin accessible/inaccessible proteomes in L-EVs

We next constructed EnrichmentMap of Cellular Ontologies in 291 biotin captured proteins vs 2052 biotin inaccessible proteins (Figure 4d). Biotin captured proteins were enriched for “plasma membrane” proteins, “membrane raft” proteins, “cell projection,” “leading edge,” and “trailing edge” (Figure 4d and Table 1), which again suggests that these L-EVs likely arise from budding of

TABLE 1 Cellular components and functional pathways enriched in L-EV surface accessible and inaccessible proteome

Surface biotin captured proteome	Cellular component	Pathways	Number of proteins	G:Profiler terms	-Log10 (q-value)	Gene names
Surface biotin captured proteome	Cellular component	Plasma membrane	177	GO:0005886	25.6	AFDN, ANXA3, ARPC2, CAPI, CFL1, CTTN, DLGI, EEF2, ENAH, FSCN1, GNAI2, GPI, ITGA2, ITGA6, LMO7, RTN4, SLC16A3, SLC29A1, TPBG, TWFI
			56	GO:0009986	16.6	ANXA1, ANXA2, HLA-A, HLA-B, HSP90AB1, ICAMI, IGHG1, ITGA1, ITGA2, ITGA3, ITGA6, ITGAV, ITGB1, ITGB5, KRT4, LMO7, MSN, PDIA3, RALA, TPBG
			81	GO:0120025	11.1	ANXA3, ARPC2, CAPG, CAPZB, CFL1, CTTN, DLGI, ENAH, FSCN1, GNAI2, GNBI, GOT1, GPI, HSP90AB1, ITGA2, ITGA6, LCPI, MSN, TPBG, TWFI
			101	GO:0005856	20.7	ALDOC, ARPC2, CAPI, CAPG, CAPZB, CFL1, CTTN, DLGI, ENAH, FLG, FSCN1, GNAI2, KRT17, LASP1, MYL12A, NPML, PLS3, POFIB, STOML2, TWFI
			34	GO:0045121	15.3	ATP1B1, ATP1B3, ATP2B1, BSG, CD177, DLGI, EEF2, GNAI2, GNAI3, ICAMI, ITGA1, LDHB, MYOF, PGK1, S100A10, SLC2A1, SLC9A3R1, STOML2, VCL, VDACL
			5	GO:0031254	3.6	EZR, FLOT1, FLOT2, MSN, MYH9
			67	REAC:R-HSA-6798695	31.7	ADGRE5, CAPI, CD59, DNAJC5, DSCI, DSG1, EEF2, FABP5, FLG2, GSN, IQGAPI, ITGAV, MME, RAC1, RHOA, S100A8, SERPINB6, SPTANI, TXNDC5, VCL
			16	WP:WP534	11.6	ALDOA, ALDOC, ENO1, ENO2, GAPDH, GOT1, GPI, LDHA, LDHB, MDH1, MDH2, PGAMI, PGK1, PKM, SLC2A1, TPII
			29	KEGG:04810	11.4	ACTB, ACTG1, ACTN1, ACTN4, ARPC2, BAIAP2, CDC42, CFL1, ENAH, EZR, GSN, IQGAPI, ITGA1, ITGA2, ITGA6, ITGB4, MSN, MYH9, MYL12A, PFN1
			23	KEGG:04510	7.3	ACTB, ACTG1, ACTN1, ACTN4, CDC42, CTNNB1, FLNA, FLNB, ITGA1, ITGA2, ITGA3, ITGA5, ITGA6, ITGAV, ITGB1, ITGB4, ITGB5, MYL12A, RAC1, RAPIB
Functional pathways		Adherens junction	14	KEGG:04520	6.9	ACTB, ACTG1, ACTN1, ACTN4, AFDN, BAIAP2, CDC42, CTNNA1, CTNNB1, IQGAPI, LMO7, RAC1, RHOA, VCL
			24	REAC:R-HSA-76002	5.6	ACTN1, ACTN4, ALB, ALDOA, ANXA5, CAPI, CD63, CD9, CDC42, CFL1, FLNA, GNAI3, GNBI, HSPA5, PFN1, PPIA, RAC1, RAPIB, TAGLN2, YWHAZ
			15	WP:WP185	4.8	CAPNS1, CDC42, ITGA1, ITGA2, ITGA3, ITGA5, ITGA6, ITGAV, ITGB1, ITGB4, ITGB5, RAC1, RAPIB, TLN1, VCL
			15	WP:WP185	4.8	CAPNS1, CDC42, ITGA1, ITGA2, ITGA3, ITGA5, ITGA6, ITGAV, ITGB1, ITGB4, ITGB5, RAC1, RAPIB, TLN1, VCL

(Continues)

TABLE 1 (Continued)

	Pathways	Number of proteins	G:Profiler terms	-Log10 (q-value)	Gene names
Biotin inaccessible proteome	Cellular component	87	GO:0005840	31.1	EIF2AK2, RPL10, RPL13A, RPL17, RPL18A, RPL19, RPL21, RPL23, RPL24, RPL29, RPL3, RPL31, RPL32, RPL34, RPL37A, RPL6, RPL7, RPL8, RPS26, RPS27L
	Proteasome complex	42	GO:0000502	26.7	ADRM1, ECPAS, PSMB3, PSMC2, PSMC3, PSMC5, PSMC6, PSMD11, PSMD12, PSMD13, PSMD2, PSMD3, PSMD4, PSMD5, PSMD6, PSMD7, PSME1, TXNL1, UCHL5, VCP
	Ribonucleoprotein granule	55	GO:0035770	8.9	AGO2, CAPRINI, CKAP4, DDX3X, DDX6, DHX9, EIF2S1, FMRI, GRB7, HNRNPK, PSMC2, PSMC3, ROCK1, RPL6, RPLP0, RPS4X, RPS6, SERPINB1, TUBB, VCP
	Eukaryotic 43s preinitiation complex	13	GO:0016282	8.5	EIF1, EIF3A, EIF3B, EIF3C, EIF3D, EIF3E, EIF3F, EIF3G, EIF3H, EIF3I, EIF3K, EIF3L, EIF3M
	Spliceosomal complex	45	GO:0005681	7.9	DDX5, EFTUD2, HNRNPA3, HNRNPC, HNRNPF, HNRNPK, HNRNPM, HNRNPR, HNRNPJ, LGALS3, MAGOHB, PABPC1, PRPF8, RALY, RHEB, SNRNP200, SNRPE, SRSF1, UAF1, UPPF1
	Clathrin-coated vesicle	45	GO:0030136	7.7	APIB1, APIG1, APIS1, AP2A2, AP3B1, BCAP31, CLTA, HIP1R, M6PR, MYO6, PIK3C2A, RAB14, SNX3, SPG21, TMED10, TMED9, VPS11, VPS16, VPS18, VPS33B
	Golgi-associated vesicle	28	GO:0005798	6.7	ACTR1A, ADAM10, APIG1, APIS1, ARCNI, CLTA, CLTC, COPA, COPB1, COPB2, COPG1, COPG2, COPZ1, NUCB1, RAB14, SPG21, TMED10, TMED2, TMED7, TMED9
	COPI-coated vesicle	13	GO:0030137	4.6	ACTR1A, ARCNI, COPA, COPB1, COPB2, COPE, COPG1, COPG2, COPZ1, SEC22B, TMED10, TMED2, TMED7
	Exocyst	10	GO:0000145	3.5	EXOC1, EXOC2, EXOC3, EXOC4, EXOC5, EXOC6, EXOC7, EXOC8, RAB10, SEPTIN2
	Actin filament	24	GO:0005884	2.2	ARPC3, CARMIL1, CORO1B, COTL1, EHRP1L1, FYN, GNG12, MARK2, MYO1B, MYO1C, MYO6, NCKAP1, PDLIM5, SRC, TPM1, TPM2, TWTF2, VPS11, VPS18
	Cytoplasmic side of PM	30	GO:0009898	2.0	AKT1, EXOC1, FYN, GNAI1, GNA13, GNAI1, GNAS, GNG12, KRAS, LYN, MAP2K2, PKP4, PPP3CA, RAB21, RACGAP1, SI00A6, SNX5, SRC, SYK, YES1

(Continues)

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Functional pathways	Pathways	Number of proteins	G:Profiler terms	-Log10 (q-value)	Gene names
	Chromosome, telomeric region	29	GO:0000781	1.9	CBX3, CDK1, FEN1, H3-3A, HATI, MACROH2A1, MCM2, MCM4, MCM5, MCM7, PARP1, PCNA, POLR2B, PPP1CA, PPP1CC, PRKDC, PTGES3, RPA2, SSB, XRCC5
	Rough ER membrane	10	GO:0030867	1.7	CCDC47, PLOD1, RPL27, RPS26, SEC61A1, SEC61G, SEC63, SRPRA, SSR4, UBA1
	Translation	140	REAC:R-HSA-72766	52.4	DDOST, RPL10, RPL13A, RPL17, RPL19, RPL21, RPL23, RPL29, RPL3, RPL31, RPL32, RPL34, RPL37A, RPL7, RPL8, RPN1, RPS27L, SEC61A1, SSR1, SSR4
	Membrane trafficking	174	REAC:R-HSA-199991	27.4	COPE, COPG2, CSNK1D, FNBPL1, LMAN1, LMAN2, RAB1A, SARIB, SEC13, SEC22B, SEC23A, SEC23IP, SEC24C, SEC31A, TJP1, TMED10, TMED2, TMED7, TMED9, TRIP10
	Neutrophil degranulation	135	REAC:R-HSA-6798695	21.5	ACLY, CAPN1, CKAP4, DDOST, DERA, DIAPH1, GGH, GUSB, LTA4H, MLEC, NAPRT, NME2, PDXK, PNP, PRDX4, PTPN6, ROCK1, SLC44A2, UBR4, VCP
	Vesicle-mediated transport	176	REAC:R-HSA-5653656	20.7	COPE, COPG2, CSNK1D, FNBPL1, HSPH1, HYOU1, LMAN1, LMAN2, RAB1A, SARIB, SEC13, SEC22B, SEC23A, SEC24C, SEC31A, TJP1, TMED10, TMED2, TMED7, TRIP10
	Separation of sister chromatids	72	REAC:R-HSA-195258	18.3	CKAP5, DYNCH1, DYNCH2, DYNCH11, DYNLL1, KIF2A, KNTC1, PAFAH1B1, PPP1CC, PPP2CB, PPP2RIA, PSMD5, RCC2, RPS27, SEC13, SMC1A, TUBA1B, TUBB3, TUBB4B, ZW10
	Ubiquitination & proteasome degradation	65	REAC:R-HSA-983168	3.4	CUL1, CUL3, DTX3L, GLMN, LNPEP, LRSAM1, NPEPPS, PSMD5, RBX1, RNFI14, SKP1, STUB1, THOPI, TPP2, UBA1, UBA5, UBE2L3, UBE2N, UBE2O, UFL1
	Regulation of actin cytoskeleton	50	KEGG:04810	3.2	ARHGAP35, ARPC1B, ARPC5, DIAPH1, GNG12, IQGAP3, ITGB6, KRAS, MAP2K1, MAP2K2, MYL12B, PAK4, PIP4K2A, PIP4K2C, PPP1CA, PPP1CB, PPP1CC, ROCK2, SLC9A1, SSH3

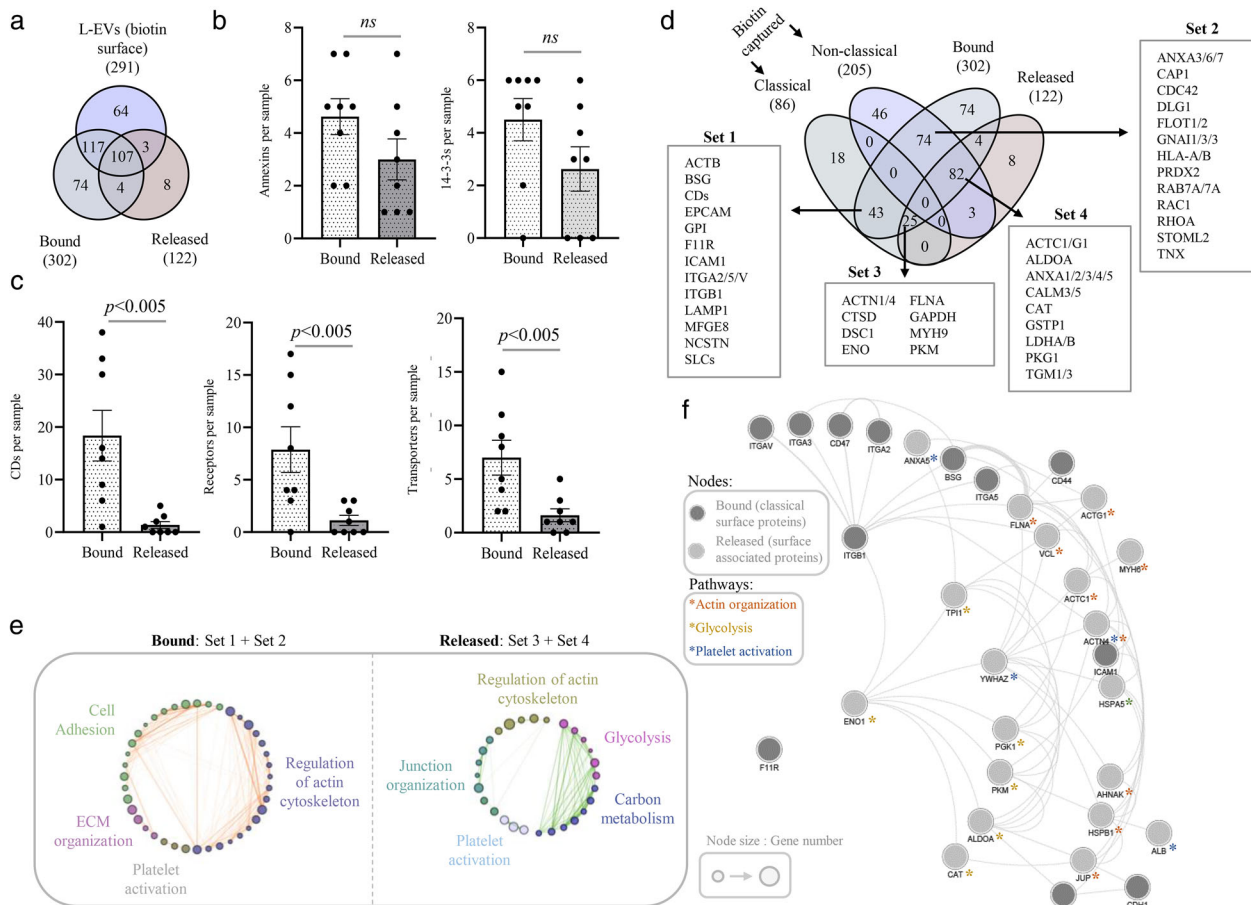


FIGURE 5 Surface-associated proteins in large EVs. (a) Venn diagram of proteins identified in L-EV surface proteome, and proteins that remain either bound or are released from L-EV surface following EDTA treatment. Bar plot of protein numbers of indicated classes that are either released (b) or remain bound (c) with EVs following EDTA treatment. (d) L-EV biotin surface proteome was divided into CSPA/SURFY proteins (i.e., classical cellular surfaceome) or non-CSPA/SURFY proteins (i.e., non-classical surface proteins); Venn diagram reveals pool of these proteins that remain either bound or are released from L-EV surface following EDTA treatment. (e) EnrichmentMap of KEGG and Reactome pathways overrepresented in L-EV proteins that remain either bound or are released from L-EV surface following EDTA treatment. (f) GeneMania-based radial interaction map of membrane-bound and membrane-associated (i.e., released) proteins in L-EVs. Nodes represent the proteins, and the edges represent evidence-based direct physical interactions. Pathway involvement for indicated proteins are asterisk-colour coded

plasma membrane. KEGG/Reactome terms enriched include “cell adhesion,” “tight junction,” “glycolysis,” “MAPK signalling,” and “cell-ECM interactions” (Figure 4e, Tables 1 and S6).

We argue that biotin inaccessible proteins represent luminal proteins. In this regard, biotin inaccessible proteins were enriched for “COPI/II-coated vesicles,” “proteasome,” “ribosomes,” “EIF complex,” “spliceosome,” and “ER/Golgi” (Figure 4d and Table 1). These proteins were implicated in “translation,” “protein processing in ER,” and “MAPK signalling cascade” (Figure 4e). While how these proteins/structures are sorted into EVs is not understood, enrichment of “membrane trafficking,” and “vesicle-mediated transport” in biotin inaccessible proteome supports for an active sorting mechanism.

3.6 | Surface associated proteins of L-EVs

Previous studies have shown that a pool of proteins can associate with EV surface and are functional (Costa-Silva et al., 2015; Ringuette Goulet et al., 2018; Rogers et al., 2020; Sung et al., 2015). Presence of CSPA/SURFY proteins (86/291 as classical surface proteins) versus 205/291 as non-CSPA/SURFY proteins strongly suggests that L-EVs also contain a subset of proteins that are associated on the surface. Indeed, we found that EDTA-treatment effectively released 122 proteins (now referred to as EV surface-associated) from the surface of L-EVs (Figure 5a, Tables 2 and S4), including annexins and 14-3-3 proteins (Figure 5b), but not membrane proteins including CDs, receptors and transporters (Figure 5c).

EV surface-associated proteome included both classical and non-classical surface proteins (Figure 5d); we noted that a subset of both classical and non-classical proteins could be partly released by EDTA treatment. Bound classical L-EV surface proteins

TABLE 2 L-EV and S-EV surface-bound and surface-associated proteome

Gene_Name	Protein_Name	Uniprot ID	L-EVs			S-EVs			CDs	Membrane Alimen main-class
			Biotin (n = 9)	Bound (n = 4)	Released (n = 4)	Biotin (n = 9)	Bound (n = 4)	Released (n = 4)		
ACTB	Actin, cytoplasmic 1	ACTB_HUMAN	5	2		6	1	1	Y	Transporters
ATP1B1	Sodium/potassium-transporting ATPase subunit beta-1	AT1B1_HUMAN	5	3		8	1		Y	Transporters
ATP1B3	Sodium/potassium-transporting ATPase subunit beta-3	AT1B3_HUMAN	6	4		8	1	CD298	Y	Transporters
BSG	Basigin	BASI_HUMAN	8	4		9	3	CD147	Y	Unclassified
CALR	Calreticulin	CALR_HUMAN	4	2		2			Y	
CAPZA1	F-actin-capping protein subunit alpha-1	CAZAI_HUMAN	3	2		6	2	1		
CAPZA2	F-actin-capping protein subunit alpha-2	CAZAA2_HUMAN	3	2		5	1			
CD44	CD44 antigen	CD44_HUMAN	3	2		7		CD44	Y	Unclassified
CD59	CD59 glycoprotein	CD59_HUMAN	3	2		8	1	CD59	Y	
EPCAM	Epithelial cell adhesion molecule	EPCAM_HUMAN	3	3		6	2	CD326	Y	Unclassified / GPI
FIIR	Junctional adhesion molecule A	JAMI_HUMAN	7	3		7	2	CD321	Y	Miscellaneous
FLOT1	Flotillin-1	FLOT1_HUMAN	8	4		7	1			
FLOT2	Flotillin-2	FLOT2_HUMAN	5	3		6	2			
ICAM1	Intercellular adhesion molecule 1	ICAM1_HUMAN	4	2		7	1	CD54	Y	Unclassified
ITGA2	Integrin alpha-2	ITA2_HUMAN	5	4		9	2	CD49b	Y	Receptors
ITGA3	Integrin alpha-3	ITA3_HUMAN	4	2		8		CD49c	Y	Receptors
ITGA5	Integrin alpha-5	ITA5_HUMAN	3	2		7	2	CD49e	Y	Receptors
ITGAV	Integrin alpha-V	ITAV_HUMAN	4	2		8	2	CD51	Y	Receptors
ITGB1	Integrin beta-1	ITB1_HUMAN	8	4		9	3	CD29	Y	Receptors
LAMP1	Lysosome-associated membrane glycoprotein 1	LAMP1_HUMAN	3	2		6	1	CD107a	Y	Receptors
MELTF	Melanotransferrin	TRFM_HUMAN	4	3		7	1	CD228	Y	
MFGE8	Lactadherin	MFGM_HUMAN	3	2		7	1		Y	GPI anchored
MVP	Major vault protein	MVP_HUMAN	5	2		6				

(Continues)

TABLE 2 (Continued)

Gene_Name	Protein_Name	Uniprot ID	L-EVs			S-EVs			CDs	Membrane Almen main-class
			Biotin (n = 9)	Bound (n = 4)	Released (n = 4)	Biotin (n = 9)	Bound (n = 4)	Released (n = 4)		
P4HB	Protein disulfide-isomerase	PDIA1_HUMAN	5	2		4	1			
PDIA6	Protein disulfide-isomerase A6	PDIA6_HUMAN	4	3		5				
PLEC	Plectin	PLEC_HUMAN	3	2		5	1			
SET	Protein SET	SET_HUMAN	3	2		1				
SLC3A2	4F2 cell-surface antigen heavy chain	4F2_HUMAN	8	4		9	3	1	CD98 Transporters	
SLC7A5	Large neutral amino acids transporter small subunit 1	LATL_HUMAN	6	3		7	2	1	Y Transporters	
TFRC	Transferrin receptor protein 1	TFRL_HUMAN	4	2		6	1	1	Y	
TXN	Thioredoxin	THIO_HUMAN	5	2		6	2			
ACTC1	Actin, alpha cardiac muscle 1	ACTC_HUMAN	6	3	3	4	1	1		
ACTG1	Actin, cytoplasmic 2	ACTG_HUMAN	9	4	4	9	4	4		
ACTN4	Alpha-actinin-4	ACTN4_HUMAN	9	4	3	9	3	1	Y	
ALB	Albumin	ALBU_HUMAN	9	4	4	8	3	3		
ALDOA	Fructose-bisphosphate aldolase A	ALDOA_HUMAN	8	4	3	9	3	2		
ANXA1	Annexin A1	ANXA1_HUMAN	8	4	3	9	3	1		
ANXA2	Annexin A2	ANXA2_HUMAN	9	4	4	9	4	4		
ANXA5	Annexin A5	ANXA5_HUMAN	7	4	3	9	2	1		
AZGP1	Zinc-alpha-2-glycoprotein	ZA2G_HUMAN	3	3	3	6		1		
CALML5	Calmodulin-like protein 5	CALL5_HUMAN	7	4	3	5	2	3		
CASPI4	Caspase-14	CASPE_HUMAN	7	4	3	7	2	3		
CAT	Catalase	CATA_HUMAN	5	3	3	6	1	2		
DCD	Dermcidin	DCD_HUMAN	6	3	3	7	2	3		
DSCI	Desmocollin-1	DSCI_HUMAN	6	4	3	7	1	3	Miscellaneous	
DSGI	Desmoglein-1	DSGI_HUMAN	8	4	4	9	2	4	Miscellaneous	

(Continues)

TABLE 2 (Continued)

Gene_Name	Protein_Name	Uniprot ID	L-EVs			S-EVs			CDs	Membrane Almen main-class
			Biotin (n = 9)	Bound (n = 4)	Released (n = 4)	Biotin (n = 9)	Bound (n = 4)	Released (n = 4)		
DSP	Desmoplakin	DESP_HUMAN	9	4	3	9	3	4		
ENO1	Alpha-enolase	ENO1_HUMAN	7	4	3	9	3	2	Y	
GSTP1	Glutathione S-transferase P	GSTP1_HUMAN	4	4	3	7	1	1		
H4CI	Histone H4	H4_HUMAN	3	4	3	5		1		
HSPA8	Heat shock cognate 71 kDa protein	HSPA8_HUMAN	7	4	3	9	4	2	Y	
JUP	Junction plakoglobin	PLAK_HUMAN	9	4	3	9	2	3		
MSN	Moesin	MOES_HUMAN	9	4	3	9	3	3		
MYH6	Myosin-6	MYH6_HUMAN	7	3	3	5		1		
MYH9	Myosin-9	MYH9_HUMAN	8	4	3	8	2	1	Y	
PDIA3	Protein disulfide-isomerase A3	PDIA3_HUMAN	7	3	4	7	1			
PGK1	Phosphoglycerate kinase 1	PGK1_HUMAN	7	4	3	9	2	2		
PKM	Pyruvate kinase PKM	KPYM_HUMAN	5	4	3	9	2	2	Y	
PKP1	Plakophilin-1	PKP1_HUMAN	7	3	3	6	1	2		
SERPINB2	Serpin B2	SPB2_HUMAN	6	3	4	6	1	3		
SFN	14-3-3 protein sigma	1433S_HUMAN	5	3	3	7	3	2		
TGM1	Protein-glutamine gamma-glutamyltransferase K	TGM1_HUMAN	6	3	3	7	2	2		
TGM3	Protein-glutamine gamma-glutamyltransferase E	TGM3_HUMAN	7	3	3	7	1	3		
TPPI	Triosephosphate isomerase	TPPI_HUMAN	8	4	3	9	3	1	Y	
VCL	Vinculin	VINC_HUMAN	6	3	3	8	2	1		
YWHAE	14-3-3 protein epsilon	1433E_HUMAN	7	4	3	9	3	2		
YWHAZ	14-3-3 protein zeta/delta	1433Z_HUMAN	9	4	3	9	3	2		

that are prone to removal by EDTA (24, **set 1**) are predominantly non-membrane anchored and include actinins (ACTN1/4) and enzymes (GAPDH, PKM, ENO1, PGK), whereas bound non-classical proteins (non-CSPA/SURFY proteins) that are removed by EDTA (83, **set 2**) include annexins, enzymes (CALM3/5, CAT, LDHA/B, TGM1/3), junction assembly proteins (DSG1), cytoskeleton proteins (EZR, ACTC1/G1, MSN), chemokine (S100A9), 14-3-3 proteins; these proteins are implicated in “glycolysis,” “regulation of actin cytoskeleton,” “junction organization,” and “platelet activation” (Figure 5d,e and Table S7). In contrast, bound classical cellular surface proteins on L-EVs resistant to removal by EDTA (43, Figure 5d set 3) were membrane proteins (CDs, receptors such as integrins, LAPM1, SLC transporters, GPI anchored proteins), which are implicated in “adhesion” and “ECM organization” (Figure 5e and Table S7). While we do not understand how these surface associated proteins bind to L-EV surface, they have been previously reported to physically interact with several proteins of classical surface proteome (Figure 5f and Table 2). Furthermore, we also noted that 93/291 biotin-capture L-EV proteome displayed differential abundance in L-EVs from different cell lines (SW620, U87, MDA MB 231, Table S8) which also includes several proteins (CTNNA1, EZR, SLCA5, SLC9A3R1, VIL1) that were readily removed by EDTA (Figure S10).

3.7 | Bioinformatics assessment of large EV surface proteome interactome

Interaction of surface proteins in cancer S-EVs to their cognate binding partners at distal sites have been shown to dictate EV-homing to specific organs (Hoshino et al., 2015) to develop pre-metastatic niches and enhance metastasis (Costa-Silva et al., 2015; Grange et al., 2011; Hood et al., 2011; Hoshino et al., 2015; Jung et al., 2009; Peinado et al., 2012). To gain insight into potential interactome of the surfaceome of cancer L-EVs, we next employed manually curated resource Cellinker that catalogues literature-supported ligand-receptor interactions (Zhang, Wang, et al., 2021) to retrieve potential surface engagements for 52 classical surfaceome (detected in >3 biotin capture experiments and annotated as SURFY/CSPA proteins). This resulted in 172 experimentally verified binding partners, encompassing 108 cell-adhesion interactions, 65 ECM-receptor interactions, 39 cytokine-cytokine receptor interactions and 36 secreted protein-receptor interactions (Figure 6a–c and Table S9). Protein receptor interactions for L-EV surface-associated proteins are listed in Table S10. DAVID-based analysis of the cognate binding partners revealed tissue enrichment for liver (Figure 6d). These interactions involved L-EVs ITGAV/ITGB1 with ANGPTL3, PLG and VTN, which display tissue enrichment in the liver (Figure 6e,f), a primary metastatic site for colorectal and breast cancers (Chen et al., 2017; Ku et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2018). Because exosomal integrin ITGAV/B5 was shown to be linked to liver metastasis (Hoshino et al., 2015), whether both EV-subtypes may share similar organ-specific homing and enhance metastasis warrants future investigation.

4 | DISCUSSION

In this study, we found that the protein diversity on surface of L-EVs (buoyant density of 1.07–1.11 g/ml) includes bona fide plasma membrane-anchored proteins (CDs, transporters, receptors) implicated in cell-cell and cell-ECM interactions, as well as membrane surface-associated proteins (actin cytoskeleton components, enzymes, chemokines) implicated in actin filament organization, platelet activation and glycolysis. A pre-requisite for successful identification of surface proteins by membrane impermeant Sulfo-NHS-SS-biotin, a well-established agent which has been extensively used to identify cell surface proteins (Li et al., 2019) as well as small EVs without compromising their integrity (Cvjetkovic et al., 2016; Diaz et al., 2016), is purified EV preparations that are morphologically intact as demonstrated in Figure 1. Significant enrichment of bona fide membrane proteins in affinity-purification using avidin-beads, as compared to global L-EV proteome, indicates high surface labeling specificity (Figures 3 and 4). Based on these results, we are confident that our experimental data reliably provides a comprehensive map of L-EV surfaceome.

Expectedly, L-EVs surface proteome comprised proteins of TM domain containing surface receptors, CDs, transporters and GPI anchored proteins. Several of these surface proteins are drivers of cancer progression from primary tumour growth, remodelling of the tumour microenvironment, invasive outgrowth (MET [Peinado et al., 2012], EGFR [Liu et al., 2009]), immune regulation and metastatic spread (integrins [Sökeland & Schumacher, 2019]). The diversity of transporters encompassing ABC transporters, metal transporters (CNNM3/4), lactate transporters (SLC16A3), carboxylic acids transporters (SLC16A1/MTC) and SLC transporters (amino acid). S-EV-mediated horizontal transfer of membrane-embedded drug efflux pumps to sensitive cancer cells is well-known, leading to acquired drug resistance in vitro and in vivo (Bebawy et al., 2009; Levchenko et al., 2005; Lv et al., 2014; Sousa et al., 2015; Zhao et al., 2021). Besides their role in chemoresistance, membrane transporters also dictate organ tropism of circulating EVs (Wu et al., 2020).

Resonating S-EVs capturing tissue-specific signatures of organs they originate from Hoshino et al. (2020), we also noted that L-EVs from different cell lines clustered based on donor cells (Figure S5). Moreover, we identified 170/190 SURFY proteins in L-EVs displaying differential abundance (FDR < 0.05) in L-EVs based on donor cells (SW620, LIM1863, U87). Several of these proteins, for example, ICAMI (Piao et al., 2017), SLC9A1 (Guan et al., 2018), and TPBG (Zhang, Liu, et al., 2021) enriched in U87 L-EVs (vs. SW620 and LIM186 L-EVs) have been implicated in glioblastoma disease progression. Interestingly, similar

carried 17 intestinal specific proteins, including ACE/CD143, CDHR2 and MUC13. CDHR2 is a cell adhesion molecule expressed in intestinal epithelium in a tissue-specific way (<https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENSG00000074276-CDHR2/tissue>) (Uhlén et al., 2015) and has the potential to diagnose gastrointestinal adenocarcinomas (Panarelli et al., 2012; Su et al., 2008). Thus, L-EV surface proteins such as CDHR2 could potentially enable capture/detection of intestinal EV sub-population (amongst the bulk circulating EVs). Combined with our previous report of L-EVs carrying oncogenic KRAS (G12V mutant variant) (Rai, Greening, et al., 2021), L-EVs surfaceome could potentially provide immunocapture-based avenue for cancer biomarker diagnostics.

Besides transmembrane anchored proteins, we also identified proteins that were associated with the surface of L-EVs. Several surface-associated proteins have been documented to dictate EV function; whereas EV surface ANXA1 promotes microcalcification (Rogers et al., 2020), FN1 facilitates cellular migration through tissues (Sung et al., 2015), TGFBI triggers fibroblast differentiation (Ringuette Goulet et al., 2018) and MIF establishes pre-metastatic niche in the liver (Costa-Silva et al., 2015). We show that major components of glycolytic pathways were also present on L-EV surface (ALDH7A1, ALDOA, ENO1, GAPDH, LDHA, LDHB, PGAM1, PGK1, PKM, TPI1). Secretion of glycolytic enzymes (GAPDH, PKM, TPI1) in sera of colon cancer patients has been associated with 5-fluorouracil resistance (Shin et al., 2009). The mechanism of glycolytic protein secretion is only beginning to emerge, which includes export via EVs (exosomes via tetraspanins (Perez-Hernandez et al., 2013) and shed microvesicles via caveolin-1 (Raikar et al., 2006)) or via SNARE-driven unconventional secretion (Miura et al., 2012). These proteins then localize to surface of cells and/or potentially EVs (Gómez-Arreaza et al., 2014). Besides their well-known role in glycolysis, these proteins (GAPDH, TPI, PKM) also carry out multiple moonlighting functions in cancer such as attachment (Gründel et al., 2016), proliferation (Hsu et al., 2016) and migration via surface localization (Gómez-Arreaza et al., 2014). Currently, how glycolytic proteins associate with cell or EV outer surface remains unknown, but are potentially mediated by direct interactions with surface proteins (Figure 6); indeed, extracellular PKM is a ligand for cell surface EGFR (Hsu et al., 2016).

We also found that non-classical surfaceome of L-EVs include proteins that assist in the assembly of junction complex (DLG1/3, CTNNA1/B1/D1, RHOA, NECTIN2, VCL) and components of actomyosin bundle (ACTN1, ACTN4, MYH6, MYH9) (Table 1). While these are classically annotated in the cytoplasmic side of plasma membrane, they were also removed from EV surface following EDTA treatment (Table 1); likely due to a subpopulation of EVs displaying inside-out topology (Cvjetkovic et al., 2016). Along this line, L-EV surface associated proteins also include actin and actin binding proteins that are typically intracellular proteins. While cytosolic proteins likely originate from damaged cells, attach to the surface of EVs and are hence co-purified, it is not uncommon for cytosolic proteins such as functional histones to be released extracellularly and bind to extracellular structure such as neutrophil extracellular traps or protein granules (Nakazawa et al., 2017; Yousefi et al., 2020). Alternatively, actins are also found extracellularly, co-localise with and is a ligand for TREM-1 (a potent amplifier of pro-inflammatory innate immune response) on the surface of activated mouse macrophage (Fu et al., 2017). Our current data also concurs our previous finding that actins are peripheral surface exposed proteins on S-EVs removed by proteinase K treatment (Xu et al., 2019), a finding that is also corroborated by other groups employing biotin labelling of surface proteins (Castillo et al., 2018; Cvjetkovic et al., 2016). In contrast, classical CD63⁺, CD81⁺, and CD9⁺ S-EVs were shown to lack cytoskeletal constituents that make up actin filaments, microtubules, or intermediate filaments (Jeppesen et al., 2019), however we have previously shown that cytoskeleton constituents including actins are found in EPCAM⁺/A33⁺ S-EVs (Tauro et al., 2013).

EVs can arise from different parts of cells (e.g., exosomes are endosomally derived, microvesicles are plasma membrane derived, midbody remnants are derived from cytokinetic bridges), with several extracellular EV-subtypes being discovered whose route of biogenesis is yet to be unravelled. Based on our data, we propose that the majority of L-EVs arise from plasma membrane as we see striking enrichment of plasma membrane proteins in L-EV surfaceome. Their involvement in “cell projection,” “leading edge,” and “trailing edge” (Figure 4d and Table 1) also suggests that a subset of L-EVs could also represent EVs released by migrating cells also known as migrasomes (Jiang et al., 2019). It should be noted that although midbody remnants are also L-EVs by definition (200–600 nm) (Rai, Greening, et al., 2021), midbody remnants display higher buoyant density (1.22–1.30 g/ml) compared to L-EVs purified in this study (1.07–1.11 g/ml). Whether these L-EV subtypes have distinct surfaceome warrants future investigation.

Phenotypic diversity in EVs is gaining vested interest with S-EVs carrying multiple smaller EVs within its lumen.: such morphological diversity is observed in EVs released by single cell-type (Théry et al., 2018) as well isolated from body fluids (plasma [Gallart-Palau et al., 2015], serum [Chen et al., 2013], cerebrospinal fluid [Chen et al., 2013; Emelyanov et al., 2020] and semen [Poliakov et al., 2009]). Some studies suggest that such EV phenotypic diversity could be an artefact due to high speed centrifugation (Issman et al., 2013), however, cells have been shown to release EVs encapsulating smaller EVs (Wiklander et al., 2015; Zabeo et al., 2017), with such EV diversity also evident in unprocessed EVs from ejaculates (Höög & Lötvall, 2015). In our data, assessment of biotin inaccessible proteins (enriched for “COPI/II-coated vesicles,” “ribosomes” that are associated with “ER/Golgi”) strongly suggest that sub-populations of L-EVs could potentially contain smaller EVs within its lumen. Indeed, mitochondria can be actively sorted into plasma membrane blebs that are subsequently released in EVs (Islam et al., 2012; Nicolás-Ávila et al., 2020). Alternatively, L-EVs not only encapsulate mitochondria but also co-purify with free mitochondria themselves (Puhm et al., 2019). While enrichment of mitochondrial proteins in L-EVs is in accord with our previous findings (Xu et al., 2015), we did not find discernible cristae-containing mitochondria from our cryo EM imaging. In our data, we do note that VDAC1/2 were also labelled with biotin, thus L-EV subtype, in the absence of cristae phenotypes, could potentially include

mitochondria-derived vesicles (VDAC enriched, ~200 nm, lack cristae) (Soubannier et al., 2012) that package mitochondrial matrix proteins (hence explaining their biotin inaccessibility). Mito-vesicles are known to selectively package mitochondrial proteins (exclude complex proteins and TOM20 which were also not detected in L-EV biotin surface proteome) (Soubannier et al., 2012) and are released extracellularly (D'Acunzo et al., 2021). Although, we do not know the mechanisms underlying their biogenesis, intracellular mitovesicles are targeted either to lysosomes or MVB (Matheoud et al., 2016; Sugiura et al., 2014) which could facilitate their release to extracellular space.

In summary, our study provides a first comprehensive map of L-EV surface proteins. While density gradient-based purifications of EVs are regarded as a gold-standard by ISEV (Théry et al., 2018) and can separate EVs from soluble secreted proteins and heavy density EVs/protein aggregates, it is now apparent that other cellular organelles could potentially share biophysical properties which results in co-enrichment and preclude L-EV assessment for their form and function. Moreover, while size-based (i.e., large *versus* small) broad categorization of EVs is useful at an operational level, future dissection calls for immunocapture of L-EV sub-populations if we are to resolve their origins, cargo and function ((an approach successfully used to classify S-EV subpopulations) successfully used to classify S-EV subpopulations).

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

A.R. and D.W.G conceptualised the idea. A.R. designed the experiments and wrote the manuscript. A.R., H.F., B.C. and D.W.G. performed experiments. A.R. performed bioinformatics analysis. A.R., H.F., B.C., R.J.S. and D.W.G. authors reviewed manuscript for submission.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors have no conflicts to declare.

DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY

The MS-based proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository (Jarnuczak & Vizcaino, 2017) and are available via ProteomeXchange with identifier PXD024733. Experimental parameters submitted to EV-TRACK knowledgebase (EV-TRACK ID: EV210261) (Van Deun et al., 2017).

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found in the online version of the article at the publisher’s website.

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