Introduction
For years the protein depletion toolkit was limited primarily to immuno-affinity chromatography and other biologically-derived tools. While effective for many applications, such tools were not efficient for “omics” sample preparation, when throughput, economy and simplicity were required. Furthermore, these same separation tools often denatured proteins which limited their use in applications which required the measurement of function, structure or bio-activity. BSG is dedicated to create new methods and applications to drive efficient workflows and better data quality for all proteomic and biomarker analyses.
To achieve these goals, BSG has developed a chemical library of general non-specific adsorbents, or stated another way - beads with weak affinity or imperfect fit interactions. Without the use of antibodies, progressive displacement allows the beads to bias for or against certain proteins, without compromising protein integrity. For albumin depletion, choose from: AlbuSorb™ for binding of albumin, AlbuSorb™ PLUS for combined albumin & immunoglobulin depletion, AlbuVoid™ for negative selection or voidance of albumin with low abundance enrichment of remainder sub-proteome, and AlbuVoid™ LC-MS On-Bead for on-bead digestion of the enriched serum sub-proteome. All remove 90-95% albumin, regardless of species in simple spin-filter formats.

The BSG Advantage
All of our products have these 4 features in common:
1. Consumable Use: not derived from biologicals, no regeneration, cost-effective, no specialized instruments or HPLC.
2. Functional Integrity: retains enzymatic and biological activity for functional and chemical proteomics.
3. Enrichment or Depletion: strategies for both enrichment of low abundance proteomes, or depletion of high abundance proteins.

Most proteomic enrichments use immuno-affinity. We don’t.
Here is how we enrich differently!

BSG supports two albumin depletion strategies:
Bind it or Void it

The applications and references for use of these products follows.
Serum Biomarkers
Diabetes


In brief, the inventors disclose methods and compositions for limiting development of and/or treating diabetes, involving compounds of formula A-B, wherein A is a pancreatic β cell targeting moiety, and B is an inhibitor of expression and/or activity of Apolipoprotein CIII (apoCIII), protein kinase A (PKA), Src kinase, and/or β1 integrin. The patent states "...to evaluate the levels of apoCIII in sera, albumin is removed from serum samples using standard techniques, such as ... AlbuSorb™ (Biotech Support Group) ...". The inventors describe that ApoCIII can be identified using any suitable technique, including but not limited to MALDI mass spectrometry.


Lowering the levels of apolipoprotein CIII is beneficial to prevent development of type 1 diabetes. AlbuSorb™ was used on isolated islet cells from sera in prediabetic rats undergoing antisense treatment. AlbuSorb™ removed >90% albumin from serum samples. The method involved adding serum to a binding buffer with AlbuSorb™ powder followed by mixing and centrifugation. The supernatant was collected, freeze dried in 100ml 0.1% TFA and run on ACE C18 column 20-60%. The apolipoprotein CIII elutes were analyzed with by area under the curve measurements. Analysis of apolipoprotein CIII was done using MALDI mass spec.


The glycoprotein Apolipoprotein C-III (apoCIII) inhibits lipolysis and its expression is documented to play a vital role in the development of hypertriglyceridemia when increased. The aim of this study was to determine apoCIII’s increased levels in serum in T1D patients and that it affects the function and survival of pancreatic β cells in vitro. Authors Holmberg et al used AlbuSorb™ to remove albumin from rat serum samples. Scientists setup experiments implementing the animal model diabetes-prone BB rat (DPBB) to ascertain if apoCIII increases contributed to calcium increase and B-cell death in vivo. To evaluate such levels, scientists used AlbuSorb™ (Biotech Support Group) to remove albumin from serum samples. Scientists discovered that treating prediabetic animals with an antisense against apo CIII prolonged diabetes onset.

Cancer
Biotech Support Group described a panel of protein biomarkers dysregulated in cancer at the 2017 HUPO World Congress, that took place September 17-21, 2017 in Dublin, Ireland. This research shows that there are three common pathways which change in the bloodstream regardless of the primary tumor, stage, metastatic disease, or tumor burden. Five different cancers – lung, breast, pancreatic, lymph and ovary, were profiled along with normal/healthy individuals of approximate age and matched sex for comparison.

The presentation is entitled "Stroma Liquid Biopsy – Biomarkers of the Dysregulation of the Serum Proteome in Cancer"

Unique AlbuVoid™ workflow supported a new window of observation, uncovering a common dysregulated pattern of proteins, across different primary tumors which can be monitored and quantified by LC-MS.

Workflow Considered:
- Albumin Depletion Using AlbuVoid™ bead separation
- On-Bead & Eluate Digestion
- Single 3 hour LC-MS acquisition
- TMT labels or targeted label-free
- >200 Proteins observed
- Primary tumors: Breast, Lung, Pancreas, Lymphoma, Ovary

This research suggests there are biomarkers dysregulated regardless of the primary tumor, stage of progression or tumor burden. The study which collaborated with the Rutgers Center for Integrative Proteomics shows a most distinguishable pattern of early dysregulation observable as a cancer serum phenotype to date. New observations after using AlbuVoid™ LC-MS On-bead protocols include: Variant sub-populations (also known as proteoforms) of a common blood protein – Alpha-1-Antitrypsin, with functional reporting features severely distinguishable between cancer patients and normal/healthy individuals, and a measurable serum cancer profile that can be modeled with categorical biomarker proteins taken from inflammation, blood coagulation, tissue remodeling, and glycolysis, as well as new markers of unknown function.


Biomarker discovery from genomic analysis of singular biomarkers or protein panels can be enhanced by doing albumin depletion experiments and on bead digestion. Using AlbuVoid™ LC-MS On-bead protocols, over 200 spectrally quantified proteins from healthy/normal or disease cancerous sera of pancreatic, breast, lung patients are obtained. Individuals from pancreatic, breast and lung cancer sera are analyzed by adding a binding buffer. The bead retains serum proteome and albumin is depleted. Subsequently the serum proteins on bead are analyzed by wash, reduction, alkylation, trypsin digestion and are labelled. Spectra from liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) runs and proteins analyzed by Xandem with protein filters are obtained. An example of a protein is the SERPIN family protease inhibitor. It allows validating quantitative proteomics data, discovering newly annotated serum proteome.


Authors showed how 0.05% citrus flavonoid nobiletin inhibited PhIP-induced rat prostate and colon carcinogenesis. AlbuSorb™ was used for albumin depletion from serum samples to enable leptin expression. Following this, serum samples were diluted and denatured in the presence of sodium dodecyl sulfate and 2-mercaptoethanol by heating at 100-C for 5 min. Then, proteins in each sample were electrophoretically. To prevent, nonspecific binding on the membranes 5% skim milk at room temperature for 1 h, followed by incubation with a polyclonal rabbit antileptin antibody allowed for leptin expression by western blot.


In this study, a functional proteomics technology was used to systematically monitor metabolic enzyme and protease activities from resolved serum proteins produced by a modified 2-D gel separation and subsequent Protein Elution Plate, a method collectively called PEP. AlbuVoid™ was used to remove Albumin and enrich the low abundance serum proteome. The article states "The most dramatic difference for enzyme activity detection in using the AlbuVoid™ for serum protein enrichment was demonstrated. ... Compared with the direct serum proteinase measurement, both the levels and species of proteases were increased significantly in the enriched serum sample. ...protease activity in the direct serum analysis suggested that the protease levels in the serum were below the detection threshold of protease activity...and it is necessary to use AlbuVoid™ to enrich these low level proteases to bring them to a high enough level to be detected.” Both qualitative and quantitative differences in the metabolic enzyme and protease activity were detected between breast cancer patient and control group, providing excellent biomarker candidates for breast cancer diagnosis and drug development.

In brief, the article’s authors report a on a functional proteomics top-down method to systematically monitor metabolic enzyme activities in resolved serum proteins produced by a modified 2-D gel separation and subsequent Protein Elution Plate, a method collectively called PEP. The article states "Since most of the functional proteins or enzymes exist at relatively low level in the human serum and there is a limited loading capacity on the 2-DE gel, it is important to enrich the low abundance proteins before 2-DE and PEP analysis. AlbuVoid™ (Biotech Support Group, Monmouth Junction NJ) has been shown to effectively enrich low abundance serum proteins while depleting the Albumin…whereby more functional features were observed with AlbuVoid™ than without...". The study identified several potential functional enzyme biomarkers from lung cancer patient serum and evidence that the methods provide an alternative and complementary approach to sequence annotation for the discovery of biomarkers in human diseases.

Serum Proteomics / On-Bead Digestion


Serum samples can offer unique challenges in LC-MS proteomic analyses including: 1) the high abundance of Albumin accounting for about 50% of the total protein mass and, 2) proteolytic resistance, in large part due to substantial amount of glycosylation, a modification that manifests proteolytic resistance. In this short report, we describe new methods using a surface/bead based product, AlbuVoid™, which depletes Albumin through a negative selection or voidance strategy, retaining the vast amount of the remaining serum proteome on the bead. We then combine this novel enrichment, with a direct and seamless integration with Trypsin digestion, a method conventionally referred to as on-bead digestion. We evaluated the digestion time as a parameter to identify whether different sub-populations of peptides and proteins can be observed by LC-MS analyses. Using 2 different allotted digestion times - 4 hours, and overnight, each with a singular 3 hour gradient LC-MS run, between 400-500 total proteins were observed for both human and rat sera, with overlapping and distinct sub-populations observable at each digest time. These results support that the described methods gain efficiencies over other high abundance depletion and in-solution digestion workflows. We solicit that such workflows will minimize many of the inconsistencies of proteolytic hydrolysis for both discovery and quantitative serum proteomic applications.


Using the new AlbuVoid™ LC-MS On-Bead product, we spectrally quantified over 200 total proteins, 21 of which were differentially observed as either over or under expressed in the cancer sera. These results support new efficiencies for serum proteomics. We solicit that such workflows will minimize many of the inconsistencies of proteolytic hydrolysis for both discovery and quantitative serum biomarker applications.


Serum

Functional Proteomics

Xing Wang, Michael Davies, Swapan Roy and Matthew Kuruc. Bead Based Proteome Enrichment Enhances Features of the Protein Elution Plate (PEP) for Functional Proteomic Profiling. Proteomes 2015, 3(4), 454-466. doi: 10.3390/proteomes3040454

In this short case study, the enrichment of select sub-populations of proteins is beneficial to systematically analyze protein functions of a whole enzyme family from an entire proteome. AlbuVoid™ was used to remove Albumin and enrich the low abundance proteome, noting that distinguishable activity features are presented from the lung cancer vs. the normal sera. KinaSorb™ was used to enrich for both a narrow spectrum substrate profile—Hexokinase activity, and a broad-spectrum protein kinase activity. The number of observable features was consistent with such narrow and broad-spectrum activities. AlbuVoid™ enrichment and PEP processing proved suitable for profiling the functional activities of Hexokinase, Protease and Alkaline Phosphatase. These enzyme feature profiles are indicative of the functional diversity that can be generated, annotated and compared within and between sample phenotypes, using the combined methods.
A Genetic Engineering News article describes a joint collaboration with ArrayBridge (St. Louis, MO). The article describes the combination of first low abundance protein enrichment/high abundance protein depletion with the Biotech Support Group product – AlbuVoid™, followed by a modified 2-dimensional electrophoretic separation, and transfer via the ArrayBridge PEP plate into microplates. From there, the resolved functionally active proteins were measured and characterized.

Swapan Roy, Matthew Kuruc. The Functional Subproteomes of Serpin Protease Inhibitors are Now Open for LC-MS Biomarker Discovery. MOJ Proteomics Bioinform 2016, 3(6): 00106

The authors consider that the conformational variants of the unique family of protease inhibitors annotated as SERPINs, are most often underrepresented in proteomic analyses. This limits understanding the complex regulation that this family of proteins presents to the networks within the protease web of interactions. Using bead-based separation provided by the NuGel™ family of proteomic enrichment products - notably AlbuVoid™ & AlbuSorb™, the authors demonstrate their utility to satisfy investigations of serum SERPINs. The authors also suggest their use to develop functional profiles of the SERPIN Proteoform, and how those can establish relationships to disease phenotypes, gene mutations, and deregulated mechanisms.

Application Report. AlbuSorb™ Product Extension combines Albumin and Immunoglobulin Depletion in a Consumable Format

From a foundational NuGel™ platform chemistry, a library of bead architectures has been created to support proteomic enrichment. These beads are general non-specific protein adsorbents, or stated another way - beads with weak affinity or imperfect fit interactions. Two of our products support Albumin Removal: AlbuSorb™ for selective binding of Albumin & AlbuVoid™ for negative selection or voidance of Albumin with consequent enrichment of the remaining serum proteome on the bead. We now report on adding Immunoglobulin depletion as an extension to AlbuSorb™. A LC-MS/MS analysis on human serum revealed between 500-600 total proteins, many of which are qualitatively and quantitatively biased to sub-proteomes either depleted of Immunoglobulins, or not depleted of Immunoglobulins. AlbuSorb™ PLUS designates and distinguishes AlbuSorb™ without immunoglobulin depletion, from AlbuSorb™ with Immunoglobulin depletion. Here we compare proteomic data derived from AlbuSorb™, AlbuSorb™ PLUS (which includes Immunoglobulin depletion), and AlbuVoid™.


Using AlbuSorb™’s albumin depletion method first and then digest the depleted albumin solution (flow through fraction) for the subsequent LC-MS analysis of peptides, either 1-dimensional LC or 2-dimensional LC (ion exchange and reversed phase) with MS analysis. In this paper, authors use AlbuSorb™ from Biotech Support Group in a sample of serum (i.e., 30 μL) containing the protein drug along with a binding buffer provided (i.e., 250 μL) and then 40 mg of AlbuSorb™ powder is added in a spin-tube. At room temperature, the sample was mixed for 5-10 min on a rotating shaker, the spin-tube was centrifuged for 2 min, and the supernatant was collected for further analysis.

Plasma Biomarkers

Authors Espes et al published an article in the journal Diabetologia which discovered an increase in hormone betatrophin in type 1 diabetics as compared to health individuals. Betatrophin causes an increase of pancreatic β cell replication and regulates glucose levels. Found in liver and adipose tissue, the hormone also increases β cell mass expansion. The article states: "Plasma samples were depleted of albumin using AlbuVoid Albumin Depletion Kit (Biotech Support Group, Monmouth Junction, NJ, USA). Data were normalized for total protein content." Betatrophin increases proliferation of beta cell and this study identified double the concentration of betatrophin as
measured by western immunoblot using a betatrophin primary antibody in type 1 diabetics. Moreover factors such as age in healthy controls displayed a direct relationship with increase in betatrophin whereas triacylglycerol, LDL-cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol levels and insulin were not affected. Increasing concentrations of betatrophin did not prevent against the loss of C-peptide suggesting type 1 diabetes on betatrophin treatment would benefit from combination treatment. The authors concluded, “An intervention in patients with type 1 diabetes with betatrophin treatment might require supraphysiological dosing as well as combination with immune regulatory treatment.”

**Urine**


Proteinuria in urine samples causes contamination of urine samples for proteomics research. Sample preparation protocols with depletion could complement precipitation techniques as less contamination is present in exosomal fractions upon depletion, enrichment, concentration and sample clarification. The article cites protocols of proteomic workflows for biomarker discovery involving isolating exosomes from urine. Urine exosome isolation via ultracentrifugation upon performing depletion provides researchers with knowledge of renal regulation and could lead to the identification of biomarkers for diabetic nephropathy and diabetic mellitus. By removing albumin using AlbuSorb™, authors identified more urinary proteins such as flipotillin-2, lamp-1, PODXL, tsg-101 from exosomal fractions of urine samples. Upon depletion of high abundance proteins such as albumin, urine exosomes from diabetic and health controls were analyzed by LC-MS/MS and selected reaction monitoring (SRM). The research cites AMBP, MLL3, VDAC1 as proteins in urinary exosomes of diabetic nephropathy patients.

**Cerebrospinal Fluid**


Authors Pottiez et al published a chapter in the book Expression Profiling in Neuroscience, Neuromethods titled, Proteomic Profiling of Cerebrospinal Fluid, on proteomic profiling platforms which analyze cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for protein biomarkers and developing protein profiles of CSF for early identification of neurological diseases. Authors provide examples of affinity-based systems for removing most abundant proteins and cite AlbuSorb™ albumin depletion kit from Biotech Support Group. Moreover variations of protein concentration yielded by immunodepletion of CSF samples from nondemented (ND) patients and patients with HIV-associated dementia (HAD) are recorded.

**Synovial fluid**


Approximately 65% of the total protein in normal synovial fluid consists of human serum albumin. Authors Kaisa E. Happonen et al cite AlbuSorb™ for albumin depletion from synovial fluid for detecting and measuring Proline arginine rich end leucine-rich repeat protein (PRELP). Scientists demonstrated that PRELP inhibits MAC by decreasing C9 polymerization, thereby preventing limiting complement attack on basement membranes. Proper identification of low-abundance proteins in synovial fluid that may prevent disease biomarkers discovery is enhanced by albumin depletion. After using AlbuSorb™, synovial fluid proteins on two-dimensional polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (2D-PAGE) are studied. The report demonstrates that Tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS), coupled with multidimensional liquid chromatography (LC) and database searching is effective for protein identification and characterization. Examples of elevated biomarker candidates which are elevated in erosive or nonerosive rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are G3PDH, Peptidylprolyl isomerase, Cystatin B, Phosphoglycerate mutase 1, α2-plasmin inhibitor, S100A8 (calgranulin A), IgG1H Nie, Thymosin-β4.

**Patent Citations**


Narain, Niven Rajin et al authored a patent on methods for detecting biomarkers of cardiovascular diseases, monitoring disease progression and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Cells are treated with a test agent and modulation of the agent is correlated to level of cardiovascular disease biomarker in cells. The patent also cites protein purification and isolation methods from cells or tissues. One medium of cells are those cultured in serum
containing medium. The patent quotes "In one embodiment, the cells can be cultured in serum containing medium: The volume of the medium can be reduced using 3k MWCO Vivaspin columns (GE Healthcare Life Sciences), then can be reconstituted with 1×PBS (Invitrogen®). Serum albumin can be depleted from all samples using AlbuVoid column (Biotech Support Group, LLC) following the manufacturer’s instructions with the modifications of buffer-exchange to optimize for condition medium application.”


The patent provides sample preparation research application to track modulators of disease processes and experiment data on metabolomics, transcriptomics, single nucleotide polymorphisms using sample preparation and an artificial intelligence based informatics platform. Serum containing media are reduced using columns, reconstituted with buffers and serum albumin is depleted using Biotech Support Group’s AlbuVoid™. Secretome sample preparation of cultures and conditioned media requires reduction using dithiothreitol (DTT), alkylation using iodoacetamide and desalting using acetone precipitation. Pooled aliquots of tryptic digests are labeled using iTRAQ, and analyzed using liquid chromatography mass spectrometry.


Inventors Narain et al describe the invention of a cellular modeling system which develops molecular signatures allowing scientists to gain insight into the mechanisms of disease by providing information on tissue microenvironment. The invention created "hubs" which are drug discovery candidates obtained from a combination of "network biology, genomic, proteomic, metabolomic, transcriptomic, and bioinformatics tools and methodologies". Thus information on disease diagnosis or intervention and insight into mechanisms of drug toxicity is obtained. The patent states: "In one embodiment, the cells can be cultured in serum containing medium: The volume of the medium can be reduced using 3k MWCO Vivaspin columns (GE Healthcare Life Sciences), then can be reconstituted with 1×PBS (Invitrogen®). Serum albumin can be depleted from all samples using AlbuVoid™ column (Biotech Support Group, LLC) following the manufacturer’s instructions with the modifications of buffer-exchange to optimize for condition medium applications.”
**Albumin Removal Kits**

- Unique surface chemistries, no antibodies
- depletes Albumin 90-95%

### AlbuVoid™

**Selectively Voids Albumin, Binds Low Abundance Proteome**

- Albumin voids in flow-through, >95%
- <30 minute protocol
- Low abundance enrichment equivalent or better than hexa-peptides or antibodies
- On-bead digestion protocols, efficient LC-MS workflows
- Disposable, cost-effective, no column regeneration or cross-contamination
- Mild elution maintains native structure with retained enzymatic, functional & bio-activities
- Species agnostic

![2DE analysis of AlbuVoid™ treated sheep serum. Samples were reduced, alkylated and total protein normalized. The circled regions indicate the albumin zone.](image)

### AlbuSorb™

**Selectively Binds Albumin**

- Removes serum albumin >90%
- Economical small ligand surface architecture (not dye-based), bio-affinity performance
- Consumable, cost-effective, no column regeneration or cross-contamination
- Species agnostic
- Compatible with
  - LC-MS
  - Microarrays
  - Functional assays

### AlbuVoid™ LC-MS On-Bead

**Selectively Voids Albumin, Binds Low Abundance Proteome before LC-MS use**

- Seamless workflows
- Label, label free & glyco-compatible
- Unique proteolytic efficiencies

![Non-reduced SDS-PAGE profiles](image)

Left lane: Normal human pooled serum control
Right lane: Flow-through from AlbuSorb™

### AlbuSorb™ PLUS

**Selectively Binds Albumin & Immunoglobulin**

- 400 µg total serum protein mass per prep
- > 85% Albumin, 85% IgG depleted from 25 µl serum

AlbuSorb™ combines with an optimized immobilized Protein A to create AlbuSorb™ PLUS. Unlike immuno-affinity, the surfaces utilized are disposable eliminating cycle to cycle variance and cross-contamination.

Lane 1: Human Serum Control
Lane 2: Serum after treatment with AlbuSorb™ PLUS

### AlbuTrial™ Kit

Don’t know which one to try? Try both. The AlbuTrial kit has 1 gram of AlbuSorb™, and 5 preps of AlbuVoid™

**www.biotechsupportgroup.com**