

Abstract Submitted  
for the MAR16 Meeting of  
The American Physical Society

**Lipid transfer energetics between free-standing and solid supported membranes: reconciling discrepancies.** BENNY WAH, JOSEPH ADAMS, JEFFREY BREIDIGAN, LI GE, PIOTR HORBAL, Univ of Illinois - Chicago, LIONEL PORCAR, University of Delaware, SUMIT GARG, URSULA PEREZ-SALAS, Univ of Illinois - Chicago — The membranes of animal cells have significant variation in the lipid and protein composition. If it weren't for the active work of proteins that maintain most of these variations, membranes would ultimately homogenize throughout by mixing. It has been long been recognized that the study of the passive movement of lipids between and within membranes can provide insight into this energetic toll. Using small angle neutron scattering, a non-invasive in situ technique, we recently demonstrated that tags or small structure changes in the lipids can have a huge effect on their transport characteristics. In the present study we compare lipid transfer and energetics between supported free standing membranes. We find that exchange and flipping process are comparable while the presence of the surface slightly increases inter and intra-membrane transport rates. The activation energies for exchange appear to be nearly unaffected by the presence of the surface while for flip-flop it slightly increases. The increase in the rates due to the presence of the surface may possibly explain the apparent contradicting behavior previously reported on supported flat membrane systems and in free-standing membranes.

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Date submitted: 24 Nov 2015

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