Kidney organoids recapitulate human basement membrane assembly in health and disease

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SUMMARY

Basement membranes (BMs) are complex macromolecular networks underlying all continuous layers of cells. Essential components include collagen IV and laminins, which are affected by human genetic variants leading to a range of debilitating conditions including kidney, muscle, and cerebrovascular phenotypes. We investigated the dynamics of BM assembly in human pluripotent stem cell-derived kidney organoids. We resolved their global BM composition and discovered a conserved temporal sequence in BM assembly that paralleled mammalian fetal kidneys. We identified the emergence of key BM isoforms, which were altered by a pathogenic variant in COL4A5. Integrating organoid, fetal and adult kidney proteomes we found dynamic regulation of BM composition through development to adulthood, and with single-cell transcriptomic analysis we mapped the cellular origins of BM components. Overall, we define the complex and dynamic nature of kidney BM assembly and provide a platform for understanding its wider relevance in human development and disease.

KEYWORDS

Extracellular matrix, basement membrane, fetal kidney, glomerular development, organoids, matrisome, collagen IV, laminin, Alport syndrome.

Impact statement

Kidney organoids are a high-fidelity system for investigating basement membrane regulation in development and disease.
INTRODUCTION

Basement membranes (BMs) surround tissues providing cells with an interface for physical and signaling interactions (Jayadev and Sherwood, 2017). They are composed of laminins, collagen IV, nidogens, heparan-sulfate proteoglycans (Kruegel and Miosge, 2010) and many minor components that combine to form biochemically distinct BMs across different tissues (Randles et al., 2017). BMs play active morphogenetic roles that are critical for tissue and cell fate specification (Kyprianou et al., 2020; Li et al., 2003), and variants in BM genes are associated with a broad range of human diseases (Chew and Lennon, 2018; Gatseva et al., 2019). Despite increasing knowledge of BM composition and function there is limited understanding about BM regulation, yet this is required for new mechanistic insights into BM-associated human disease.

BMs form early in embryogenesis through binding interactions with cell surface receptors (Miner and Yurchenco, 2004) and typically an initial laminin network is required for further incorporation of collagen IV, nidogen and perlecan into nascent BMs (Jayadev et al., 2019; Matsubayashi et al., 2017) thus following an assembly hierarchy for de novo BM formation. BMs are also highly dynamic, remodeling during morphogenesis to form tissue-specific BMs (Bonnans et al., 2014), such as the glomerular basement membrane (GBM) in the kidney, which functions as a size selective filter. Situated between podocytes and endothelial cells in the glomerular capillary wall, the GBM is formed by the fusion of separate podocyte and endothelial BMs, and further remodeled into a mature GBM. This involves replacement of laminin $\alpha_1\beta_1\gamma_1$ (termed laminin-111) and collagen IV $\alpha 1\alpha_1\alpha_2$ networks by laminin-511 then -521, and collagen IV $\alpha 3\alpha_4\alpha_5$ (Abrahamson et al., 2013; Abrahamson and St John, 1993). These transitions are important for long term GBM function and genetic variants in COL4A3,
COL4A4 and COL4A5 or the laminin gene LAMB2 cause defective GBMs and human disease (Barker et al., 1990; Zenker et al., 2004).

The study of BM assembly is challenging due to the technical difficulties in tracking large, spatiotemporally regulated components. Most understanding about vertebrate BMs comes from immunolocalization and genetic knock-out studies (Abrahamson et al., 2013) and for composition, mass spectrometry (MS)-based proteomics has enabled global analysis (Naba et al., 2016; Randles et al., 2015). Proteomics also allows time course studies, which have provided insight into matrix dynamics during development and in disease progression (Hebert et al., 2020; Lipp et al., 2021; Naba et al., 2017). However, proteomics lacks the spatial context that is captured by localization studies including fluorescent tagging of endogenous proteins. Such investigations in Drosophila and C. elegans have unraveled dynamic features of BM assembly in embryogenesis and repair (Howard et al., 2019; Keeley et al., 2020; Matsubayashi et al., 2020). The development of a system to study human BM assembly would facilitate investigation of both morphogenesis and disease.

Kidney organoids generated from pluripotent stem cells (PSCs) contain self-organised 3D structures with multiple kidney cell types and they represent an attractive system for investigating early development (Combes et al., 2019b; Takasato et al., 2015). Organoids derived from induced PSCs (iPSCs), reprogrammed from patient somatic cells have further use in personalized disease modelling and therapy screening (Czerniecki et al., 2018; Forbes et al., 2018). The nephron is the functional unit of the kidney and during differentiation, kidney organoids pattern into early nephron structures with clusters of podocytes and endothelial cells, and a complex tubular epithelial system. Furthermore, organoids show transcriptomic homology to the first trimester human fetal kidney (Takasato et al., 2015) and differentiation is further advanced by in vivo implantation (Bantounas et al., 2018). Whilst understanding about cell types in kidney organoids has progressed
significantly, there is a knowledge gap about extracellular matrix and BM assembly during differentiation.

We investigated BM assembly during kidney development using organoids and fetal kidney tissue. With proteomics we defined a complex sequence of BM assembly during organoid differentiation and demonstrated the utility of this experimental system for investigating BM remodelling in both early development and human disease. Furthermore, we compared the organoid matrix to the E19 mouse kidney and adult human kidney matrix and defined the cellular origins of BM components. Overall, we demonstrate that kidney organoids represent a high-fidelity system to study the dynamics of human BM assembly.

RESULTS

Kidney organoids form BM networks that are altered with defective COL4A5

To improve understanding of BM assembly and regulation, we investigated human kidney organoids. We differentiated wild-type iPSCs into intermediate mesoderm cells in 2D culture, and then 3D-kidney organoids (Figures 1A and Figure 1–figure supplement 1A). We confirmed differentiation to glomerular clusters (WT1+/NPHS1+/CD31+) and CDH1+ tubular structures in day 18 organoids (Figure 1B) and compared morphology to mouse and human fetal kidney tissue. Day 11 organoids had cell clusters amongst mesenchymal tissue, and at day 14, discernable nephron-like structures (Figure 1–figure supplement 1A). At day 18, organoids had regions resembling the nephrogenic zone at embryonic day 19 (E19) in the mouse and between 8-10 wpc in human but lacked distinct cortico-medullary differentiation (Figures 1C and Figure 1–figure supplement 1A-B). By immunofluorescence, we verified the localization of BM integrin receptors adjacent to laminin+ BM-like structures at day 25 of organoid differentiation (Figure 1–figure supplement 1C). Using transmission electron microscopy and immunoelectron microscopy, we observed advanced podocyte differentiation with primary podocyte processes and confirmed assembly of laminin+ BM
structures (Figure 1D and Figure 1–figure supplement 2A-B). We also detected likely endothelial cells present in glomerular structures (Figure 1B and Figure 1–figure supplement 2B) and a BM-like matrix between podocytes and endothelial cells in day 25 organoid glomeruli (Figure 1–figure supplement 2A-B). Together, these findings demonstrate that kidney organoids mimic the normal progression of kidney differentiation with the concomitant assembly of BM structures in vitro.

To determine the role of organoids as a model to study abnormal BMs in kidney disease, we investigated iPSC lines from patients with Alport syndrome (AS), a genetic disorder caused by variants in collagen IV genes (Barker et al., 1990). We selected iPSC lines from a mother and son, both carrying a likely pathogenic X-linked missense variant in COL4A5 (c.3695G>A; p.Gly1232Asp) and a variant of unknown significance in COL4A4 (c.3286C>T; p.Pro1096Ser; Figure 1E; see Supplementary file 1 and Supplementary information for clinical details). AS patient-derived organoids progressed through differentiation and formed WT1+/NPHS1+/CDH1+ glomeruli and CDH1+ tubules, (Figures 1F and Figure 1–figure supplement 3) with no evident abnormalities by light microscopy. We found comparable distribution of the collagen IV α4 chain in AS and wild-type organoids (Figure 1–figure supplement 3) confirming assembly of a collagen IV α3α4α5 network, which is described in AS patients with missense variants (Yamamura et al., 2020b). Since laminin compensation is reported in X-linked AS (Abrahamson et al., 2007; Kashtan et al., 2001), we examined the deposition of laminin-β2 (LAMB2) in AS organoids. We found increased LAMB2 in AS organoids, most notable in extra-glomerular BM (Figure 1G), and further confirmed increased LAMB2 levels with immunoblotting (Figure 1H). Together, these findings demonstrate the potential of kidney organoids to reveal abnormal patterns of BM assembly in human development and disease.

A conserved sequence of BM assembly in kidney organoids
Having identified BM structures in kidney organoids, we next explored the potential for this system to model human BM assembly. Studies in mouse and invertebrate development have shown a sequence of BM assembly with initial laminin deposition followed by incorporation of collagen IV, nidogen and perlecan (Jayadev et al., 2019; Matsubayashi et al., 2017; Urbano et al., 2009). To investigate the assembly sequence in organoids, we used whole-mount immunofluorescence to examine the temporal co-deposition of COL4A1 with laminin (using a pan-laminin antibody), and nidogen with perlecan during differentiation. We found punctate deposits of pan-laminin in interrupted BM networks around cell clusters in day 11 organoids, and in continuous BMs around CD31+ endothelial and epithelial structures in day 18 and 25 organoids (Figure 2A). Conversely, COL4A1 was weakly detected in day 11 organoids, partially co-distributed with laminin by day 18, and within continuous BM networks by day 25 (Figure 2A). Nidogen and perlecan colocalized in discreet, interrupted BMs in day 11 organoids and later in linear BM networks around tubules and NPHS1+ glomerular structures on day 18 and 25 (Figure 2B). Together, these findings indicate that kidney organoids recapitulate the sequence of BM assembly described in vivo, reinforcing their fidelity as system for investigating BM dynamics.

**Time course proteomics reveals complex dynamics of BM assembly**

To understand global BM dynamics, we investigated organoids at day 14, 18 and 25 with time course proteomic analysis. We broadly separated intracellular and extracellular proteins by fractionation (Figures 3A, 3B and Figure 3–figure supplement 1A) based on solubility (Lennon et al., 2014). Overall, we detected 5,245 proteins in the cellular fraction and 4,703 in the extracellular fraction (Supplementary file 2), and by cross-referencing with the human matrisome (Naba et al., 2016) we identified 228 matrix proteins in kidney organoids (Figure 3–figure supplement 1B and Supplementary file 2). Principal component analysis highlighted discreet clustering for the organoid time points based on matrix protein abundance (Figure 3–figure supplement 1C). There was an increase in matrix abundance
from day 14 to 25 (Figure 3B) and 203 (~90%) of matrix proteins were detectable at all time points (Figure 3C). This initial analysis confirmed a gradual assembly of matrix during organoid differentiation. To address global BM composition, we identified BM proteins using the comprehensive BM gene network (Jayadev et al., 2021) curated in basement membraneBASE (https://bmbasedb.manchester.ac.uk/). The organoid extracellular fraction was enriched for BM proteins compared to the cellular fraction (Figure 3D), which was expected as these are large, highly cross-linked proteins and hence, difficult to solubilize. Furthermore, we observed an increasing trend for BM protein levels through day 14 to 25 (Figure 3D), again indicating BM deposition over time, and corroborating our immunofluorescence findings. In total, we identified 78 BM proteins (Figure 3E) including components deposited early in kidney morphogenesis (e.g., COL4A1, COL4A2, LAMA1, LAMB1, LAMC1) (Figures 3F and Figure 3–figure supplement 1D). LAMA5 and LAMB2, two key components of the mature GBM, only appeared amongst the most abundant BM components at day 25 (Figure 3–figure supplement 1D) indicating a temporal expression of GBM laminins during organoid differentiation (Figure 3F). This was confirmed by marked upregulation of mature GBM proteins from day 18 to 25, with LAMB2 scoring with the highest fold-change followed by LAMA5 and COL4A3 (Figures 3G and 3H). LAMA5 was also enriched from day 14 to 18 together with other GBM proteins (COL4A3, AGRN) and early BM collagens and laminins (COL4A1, COL4A2, LAMC1, LAMA1) (Figures 3G, 3H and Figure 3–figure supplement 1E).

During GBM assembly, an initial laminin-111 (α1αβ1γ1) network is sequentially replaced by laminin-511 then -521 (Abrahamson et al., 2013). We therefore reasoned that day 14 to 18 would represent a period of intense BM assembly and initial GBM differentiation. In support of this hypothesis, a pathway enrichment analysis of upregulated proteins from day 14 to 18 revealed an overrepresentation of terms associated with BM assembly and remodeling, including laminin interactions, degradation of extracellular matrix (ECM) and collagen chain trimerization (Figure 3–figure supplement 1F). Together, this global proteomic analysis
revealed new insights into the complexities of BM dynamics and the distinct temporal emergence of BM isoforms required for long term functional integrity of the GBM.

Tracking collagen IV and laminin isoforms during organoid differentiation

To confirm the temporal sequence of specific BM isoforms we investigated the distribution of COL4A1, COL4A3, LAMA5, LAMB1, LAMB2 in organoid BMs through day 14 to 25 by immunofluorescence (Figure 4D). As described earlier, COL4A1 appeared on day 11 (Figure 2A) and partial colocalization with laminin on day 14, and as continuous BM networks from day 18 (Figure 4A). Conversely, COL4A3 was scarce from day 14 to 18, but clearly colocalized with laminin in glomerular structures on day 25 (Figure 4A). We detected LAMA5 from day 18 and this increased in glomerular structures at day 25. LAMB1 was widely distributed from day 14 to 25 whereas LAMB2, detected from day 18 onwards, was enriched in glomerular structures at day 25. These findings not only confirm a temporal emergence of specific BM isoforms, but also highlight specific localization to glomerular structures later in differentiation.

We then hypothesized that distinct cell types would express specific BM isoforms to concentrate their distribution and therefore analyzed single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) data from day 25 kidney organoids (Combes et al., 2019b) to map the expression profile for BM genes (Figure 4–figure supplement 1A, Supplementary file 3). We found NPHS2+/PODXL+ podocytes were the main source of COL4A3, COL4A4 (Figures 4B and Figure 4–figure supplement 1A) and they also had high levels of expression for LAMA5 and LAMB2. PECAM1+/KDR+ endothelial cells, MAB21L2+/CXCL14+ stromal cells and PAX8+/PAX2+ nephron cell lineages all expressed COL4A1, COL4A2, LAMB1, LAMC1 and LAMA1 was detected in the nephron cell cluster whereas LAMA4 was expressed by both endothelial and stroma cells (Figures 4B and Figure 4–figure supplement 1A). These
findings align with current understanding of kidney development \textit{in vivo} and indicate that kidney organoids recapitulate the known cell specific contributions to BM assembly during glomerulogenesis.

Since the developmental transition from the $\alpha_1\alpha_1\alpha_2$ to the $\alpha_3\alpha_4\alpha_5$ network of collagen IV is key for long term GBM function and reduced or absent $\alpha_3\alpha_4\alpha_5$ leads to loss of function (Miner and Sanes, 1996), we mapped the localization of collagen IV isoforms in day 25 organoids and compared to laser microdissected E19 mouse glomeruli (Supplementary file 4). With proteomic analysis we identified 25 BM proteins in the maturing E19 glomeruli and these were also detected in kidney organoids. Identifications included COL4A1, COL4A2 and COL4A3 (Figure 4C) thus indicating presence of $\alpha_1\alpha_1\alpha_2$ and $\alpha_3\alpha_4\alpha_5$ networks. We compared the localization of COL4A1 and COL4A3 by immunofluorescence in the mouse and NPHS2$^+$ glomeruli in kidney organoids (Figure 4D). We observed a similar distribution of COL4A1, but for COL4A3, we found GBM-like and extraglomerular distribution in kidney organoids (Figure 4D). Therefore, kidney organoids initiate collagen IV isoform transitions during glomerulogenesis. To further explore mechanisms of transition, we investigated the expression of LIM homeodomain transcription factor 1-beta (LMX1b) and FERM-domain protein EPB41L5 in day 25 organoids (Figure 4–figure supplement 1B). LMX1b and EPB41L5 are proposed regulators of GBM assembly and isoform transitions during development (Maier et al., 2021; Morello et al., 2001). Moreover, EPB41L5 is also implicated in regulating the incorporation of laminin-511 and -521, into stable GBM scaffolds. We found that similar cell populations expressed EPB41L5 and LAMA5 (Figure 4–figure supplement 1B), and there was an increase in EPB41L5 protein levels from day 14 to 18 (Figure 4–figure supplement 1C), coinciding with an increase in LAMA5 (Figures 3G-H). Together, these findings demonstrate that kidney organoids initiate isoform transitions during glomerular differentiation, with the expression of known BM regulators.
BSMs in late-stage organoids and fetal kidneys are highly correlated

To relate BM assembly in organoids to a comparable in vivo system, we examined whole fetal kidneys. Having verified morphological similarity between day 25 organoids and E19 mouse fetal kidney (Figure 1C), we used this timepoint for comparison by proteomic analysis. We generated cellular and extracellular fractions from whole fetal kidneys (Figures 5A, Figure 5–figure supplement 1A-B) and identified 208 matrix components from a total of 5,071 proteins (Figure 5A; Supplementary file 4). These included 83 BM proteins and the most abundant were those seen early (COL4A1, COL4A2, COL18A1, LAMB1, LAMC1) and later (LAMA5) in BM assembly (Figure 5–figure supplement 1C). We compared these findings to a proteomic dataset from the E18.5 mouse kidney (Lipp et al., 2021), and found considerable overlap, with a further 130 matrix protein identifications (Figure 5C), including key GBM components COL4A3, COL4A4, COL4A5 and COL4A6. We then compared the BM proteins from each organoid timepoint with E19 mouse kidneys (Figure 5D) and found the highest overlap (58.4%) between E19 and day 25 kidney organoids. In line with previous findings (Hale et al., 2018), this comparison highlighted later expression of TINAG and TINAGL1 in day 25 organoids, also detected in E19 mouse kidneys but not in day 14 or day 18 organoids. TINAGL1 was also detected in E19 mature glomeruli (Figure 4C) and in proteomic studies of adult human glomeruli (Lennon et al., 2014) but its role for BM biology remains unknown. In addition, the overlap for other structural and matrix-associated proteins was lower than for BM proteins (Figure 5–figure supplement 1D), which highlights conservation of BM composition between mouse and kidney organoids. To further verify similarities, we performed a Spearman’s rank correlation and found E19 had the higher correlation with more differentiated organoids (Figures 5E and Figure 5–figure supplement 1E).

Next we analyzed scRNA-seq datasets from E18.5 mouse kidneys (Combes et al., 2019a); Figure 5F) and from 8- and 9-wpc human kidneys (Young et al., 2018) (Figure 5–figure
supplement 2) to identify cells expressing specific BM genes (Supplementary file 3). In the mouse we found mature GBM components expressed by Synpo+/Nphs2+ podocytes (Col4a3, Col4a4, Lama5, Lamb2), Plvap+/Pecam1+ vascular cells (Lama5, Lamb2), and Cited1+/Crym+ nephrin progenitor cell lineages, and Aldob+/Fxyd2+ tubular, vascular and Six2+ stromal cells predominantly contributing with Col4a1, Col4a2, Lamb1 and Lamc1 expression (Figure 5F). Lama1 was mainly expressed by Clu+/Osr2+ S-shaped bodies and Gata3+/Wfcd2+ ureteric bud/distal tubular cells, and Lama4 restricted to vascular and stromal cells. A similar pattern was observed in the embryonic human kidney (Figure 5–figure supplement 2), and these findings were also consistent with our findings in day 25 kidney organoids (Figure 4B and Figure 4–figure supplement 1). Interestingly, immune cells also contributed for Col4a1 and Col4a2 expression in both mouse and human kidneys. Collectively, these findings highlight the conservation of BM gene expression across organoids and fetal kidneys.

Basement membranes are dynamic through embryonic development to adulthood

Having observed dynamic BM composition during kidney development we then compared composition in adulthood. For this, we analyzed proteomic data from isolated adult human nephron compartments and identified 71 glomerular BM proteins, and 61 in the tubulointerstitium (Supplementary file 6). We compared BM networks in the adult kidney with both developmental systems (day 25 kidney organoids and E19 mouse kidney) and found a significant overlap with 44 of 107 BM proteins shared amongst all datasets. These included core components (COL4A1, COL4A2, LAMA1, LAMB1, LAMC1, HSPG2, COL18A1, NID1, NID2), mature GBM components (COL4A3, COL4A5, LAMA5, LAMB2) and many minor structural proteins (Figure 6A). We found a strong correlation between both matrix and BM networks in glomerular and tubulointerstitial compartments, but lower correlation between adult and developmental datasets (Figures 6B and Figure 6–figure supplement 1). Interestingly, the correlation between adult and development data was
lower for BM than for all matrix proteins, suggesting that although kidney BMs retain a consistent profile through development to adulthood, there is diversification within distinct kidney compartments.

To understand cellular origins of BM components through development to adulthood, we analyzed adult human kidney scRNA-seq data (Young et al. 2018; Supplementary file 3), and as with organoids and mouse fetal kidney, we found COL4A1, COL4A2, LAMB1 and LAMC1 predominantly expressed by endothelial and tubular cells. Although podocyte markers were not enriched in the adult dataset, we detected COL4A3 and COL4A4 expression by PAX8+ nephron cell types, and LAMA5 and LAMB2 mainly expressed by KRT5+/EMCN+ endothelial cells (Figure 6C). LAMA4 was widely detected in both E18.5 mouse kidney and day 25 organoids (Figures 3B, 4F and Figure 4–figure supplement 1), but barely present in the adult kidney (Figure 6C), consistent with previous reports of transient expression in human kidney development (Miner, 1999). These findings demonstrate consistent cellular origins for BM components through development to adulthood.

To further verify the extent of this consistency, we selected minor BM components across all scRNA-seq datasets (Figure 6D). These included: FBLN1 and TGFBI both implicated in BM remodeling (Boutboul et al., 2006; Feitosa et al., 2012); FRAS1 and FREM2 important for branching morphogenesis (Chiotaki et al., 2007; Petrou et al., 2008); and TINAG and TINAGL1, with unknown roles in BM function. We found a common pattern of enrichment amongst the developmental datasets for FBLN1, which was expressed by stromal cells; FRAS1 and FREM2 were expressed by podocyte and nephron cell clusters; and TGFBI by stromal cells, nephron progenitors, and by immune cells. In human adult kidneys FBLN1 was mainly present in pelvic epithelial cells and FRAS1/FREM2 in ureteric bud/distal tubule cells, thus indicating spatiotemporal expression of these components. TINAG and TINAGL1 had variable patterns of cell expression across datasets. This comparative analysis shows
conservation of distinct cell types contributing to BM assembly during kidney development and uncovers diversification in cellular origins of BM components in adult kidneys.

DISCUSSION

Mammalian kidney development involves a series of morphogenetic events that proceed in an orchestrated manner to give rise to ~1,000,000 nephrons in the human kidney and 1000’s in the mouse. Many of these processes require spatiotemporal assembly and remodeling of BMs throughout nephrogenesis (Figure 7). Here we demonstrate the fidelity of kidney organoids as a system for investigating assembly and regulation of kidney BMs in health and disease with the following key findings: 1) the identification of a conserved sequence of BM component assembly during kidney organoid differentiation, 2) evidence of global BM dynamics during organoid differentiation with high correlation to fetal kidney BM composition and 3) the diversification of the cellular origin of BM components during kidney development.

BM organoids are complex structures and proteomic studies have highlighted this complexity in homeostasis and disease (Lennon et al., 2014; Randles et al., 2015). During development, BMs are also highly dynamic and undergo intense remodeling (Kyprianou et al., 2020) but understanding of BM assembly and regulation is limited by lack of appropriate systems to track components that are spatiotemporally regulated and undergoing turnover (Naylor et al., 2020). Human fetal tissue has limited availability and studies are restricted to static time points and the technical limitations of imaging in mouse models also impairs investigation of the dynamic BM environment in vivo. However, BM studies in Drosophila and C. elegans have provided important insights into BM dynamics and turnover using fluorescent tagging of endogenous proteins (Keeley et al., 2020; Matsubayashi et al., 2020) and these studies highlight the power of studying BM dynamics.
Despite the developmental limitations with iPSC-derived kidney organoids, including lack of directional cues, vascularization, and cortical-medullary segmentation (Romero-Guevara et al., 2020), this system has morphological and molecular features comparable to fetal kidney tissue that overcome species differences and provides a complex **in vitro** environment to examine BM assembly (Bantounas et al., 2018). We demonstrated that kidney organoids differentiate into glomerular structures containing the cells required for GBM assembly and single-cell transcriptomic studies have also shown over 20 other distinct cell populations in kidney organoids (Combes et al., 2019a; Wu et al., 2018). Cross-talk between different cell types is essential for BM assembly and influences composition (Byron et al., 2014) hence, the multiple cell types in the organoid system enable BM formation and remodeling. A key finding from this study is that organoids form BMs early during differentiation, and more importantly, recapitulate a sequence of assembly events with initial deposition of laminin followed by incorporation of collagen IV, nidogen and perlecan (Brown et al., 2017; Sasaki et al., 2004).

Kidney organoids have also provided new insights into disease processes (Rooney et al., 2021; Tanigawa et al., 2018; Tian and Lennon, 2019). We found that organoids with a pathological missense variant in **COL4A5** differentiated and deposited core BM proteins, including a collagen IV $\alpha3\alpha4\alpha5$ network, which is described in missense variants. In one study 64 out of 146 patients with X-linked Alport syndrome had the collagen IV $\alpha5$ chain in the GBM (Yamamura et al., 2020a). Despite evidence of protein secretion, the GBM fails to maintain function in these patients. Interestingly, we found increased deposition of LAMB2 in extraglomerular BMs in Alport organoids. Dysregulation of glomerular laminins, including LAMB2, in patients with Alport syndrome and animal models has been reported (Abrahamson et al., 2007; Kashtan et al., 2001), but the mechanisms are unclear. Our findings in Alport organoids demonstrate the utility of this system to dissect abnormal mechanisms of BM assembly.
To define global BM composition in kidney organoids we used MS-based proteomics and identified 78 BM proteins dynamically expressed throughout the differentiation time course. Core GBM components including laminin-521 and collagen IV α3α4α5, which only appear in mature glomeruli, were also detected. Developmental isoform transitions in the GBM involving laminin and collagen IV are described in humans and rodents (Abrahamson and St John, 1993) and in current understanding, immature glomeruli assemble a primary GBM containing laminin-111 and collagen IV α1α2α1 that is later replaced by laminin-521 and collagen IV α3α4α5 in mature glomeruli. In keeping with these observations, we found a temporal and spatial emergence of mature collagen IV and laminin isoforms within glomerular structures in kidney organoids, and in scRNA-seq data we confirmed podocyte expression of mature GBM markers. These findings demonstrate that kidney organoids can efficiently recapitulate the spatiotemporal emergence of GBM components. The triggers for isoform switching remains unknown but two regulators, LMX1b and EPB41L5, have been implicated. Studies in Lmb1 knockout mice suggest that podocyte expression of this transcription factor is not essential for initial GBM assembly but linked to Col4a3/Coll4a4 expression during glomerulogenesis as demonstrated by reduced collagen IV α3α4α5 network in the GBM in null Lmb1 newborn mice (Morello et al., 2001). We found podocyte specific expression of LMX1b/COL4A3/COL4A4 in day 25 kidney organoids, and moreover, confirmed deposition of COL4A3/COL4A4 in a GBM pattern within NPHS2+-glomerular structures in organoids. In addition, podocyte expression of EPB41L5, a component of the podocyte integrin adhesion complex, was linked to GBM assembly in vivo and incorporation of laminin-511/521 into extracellular BM networks in vitro (Maier et al., 2021). In this study, we detected EPB41L5 in organoid and mouse proteomic datasets, with cell expression patterns matching LAMA5, indicating the potential for this system to unravel further insights into GBM regulation.
There are few proteomic studies addressing the spatiotemporal changes in BM during development. One study of mouse kidney development, defined the global ECM composition through development to adulthood and described a sequence of changes in interstitial matrix over development (Lipp et al., 2021). With our sample fractionation strategy and analytical pipeline, we detected a further 130 matrix proteins, including key GBM components (COL4A3, COL4A4, COL4A5, COL4A6) and BM regulators such as PAPLN and HMCN1 (Keeley et al., 2020; Morrissey et al., 2014). Our findings further demonstrated that late-stage kidney organoids (at day 25) and mouse kidneys on E19 share a very comparable BM profile. We also verified similar patterns of BM gene expression between kidney organoids and fetal human and mouse kidneys, especially for collagen IV and laminin isoforms. Overall, these data demonstrate the high-fidelity with which kidney organoids recapitulate BM gene expression and protein composition seen in vivo. Thus, we conclude that kidney organoids are a highly tractable model that can be used to study the dynamic nature of human BM assembly in both health and disease.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

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### Human fetal kidney

Formaldehyde-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) human fetal kidney sections were provided by the Joint MRC/Wellcome Trust Human Developmental Biology Resource (HDBR) (http://hdbr.org). The HDBR obtains written consent from the donors and has ethics approval (REC reference: 08/H0712/34+5) to collect, store and distribute human material sampled between 4- and 21-weeks post conception. All experimental protocols were approved by the Institute’s Ethical Committee (reference 010/H0713/6) and performed in accordance with institutional ethical and regulatory guidelines.

### Induced pluripotent stem cells

Human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) derived from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) of a healthy individual were generated as previously described (Wood et al., 2020). Whole blood PBMCs were isolated using a Ficoll-Paque (GE17-1440, GE Healthcare) and grown in StemSpan Erythroid Expansion Medium (02692, Stem Cell Technologies) for 8 days before being transduced using CytoTune-iPS 2.0 Sendai virus (A16517, Invitrogen) and grown on vitronectin (A14700, Gibco) coated plates in ReproTeSR medium (05926, Stem Cell Technologies). When large enough, colonies were manually isolated and grown in TeSR-E8 medium (05991, STEMCELL). iPSCs derived from patients with Alport syndrome (see clinical presentation below) were generated at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, in collaboration with the Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell Initiative (HipSci, www.hipsci.org; Kilpinen et al., 2017). Following ethical approval (REC Reference...
11/H1003/3) and patient consent, dermal fibroblasts were obtained from skin biopsies and programmed to iPSC. For this study, we investigated three members of the same family: a male index patient and his mother carrying a likely pathogenic COL4A5 variant (c.3695G>A; p.Gly1232Asp, PM1_strong, PM2_moderate, PM5_moderate, PP3_moderate, posterior probability 0.988) and a COL4A4 variant of uncertain significance (c.3286C>T; p.Pro1096Ser, PM2_moderate, PP3_moderate, posterior probability 0.5), and his sister carrying only the COL4A5 variant. All human cell lines have been authenticated using short tandem repeat profiling. All experiments were performed with mycoplasma-free cells.

Clinical presentation

The male index patient, aged 4, presented with recurrent episodes of macroscopic hematuria and persistent microscopic haematuria and his mother also exhibited microscopic hematuria. He underwent a kidney biopsy, which had normal appearances by light microscopy and immunohistochemical analysis did not show glomerular deposition of immuno-reactants. With electron microscopy the glomerular basement membrane (GBM) was thinned in some glomerular capillary loops. In one or two others the GBM was irregularly thickened with lamination. There were also electron-lucent lacunae between the laminations, some of which contained electron-dense regions and the ultrastructural changes, in combination with the highly suggestive presentation and family history, confirmed a diagnosis of Alport Syndrome. The patient subsequently developed hypertension and was treated with antihypertensive medications, including renin-angiotensin system blockade, and exhibited slow decline in his kidney function. He eventually progressed to end stage kidney disease and received a pre-emptive kidney transplant from his healthy father at the age of 19. Subsequent genetic testing identified a likely pathogenic missense variant in COL4A5 (c.3695G>A; p.Gly1232Asp) and a variant of unknown significance in COL4A4 (c.3286C>T; p.Pro1096Ser). Further genetic testing in the family confirmed that both the patient’s mother and sister carried one or both variants. His mother
had both the COL4A5 and COL4A4 variants and exhibited persistent microscopic hematuria and urine protein:creatinine ratios (uPCR) ranging from 17 to 30 mg/mmol and estimated glomerular filtration rate steady between 74 to 85 ml/min/1.73m² body surface area over 5 years to most recent follow-up aged 55. The index patient’s sister shared only the COL4A5 variant and exhibited persistent hematuria with proteinuria (uPCR 264 mg/mmol falling to 45-89 mg/mmol on institution of renin-angiotensin system blockade aged 25). Serum creatinine was normal with eGFR >90 ml/min/1.73m² body surface area at last follow-up aged 30. The COL4A4 variant was also detected in the index case’s healthy maternal grandmother (in whom urinalysis was normal) but the COL4A5 variant was absent from both maternal grandparents, suggesting a de novo variant in his mother. Pathogenicity was assessed following ACMG coding criteria (COL4A5 variant: PM1_STR, PM2_MOD, PM5.MOD, PP3.MOD; COL4A4 variant: PM2.MOD, PP3.MOD).

**Kidney organoid differentiation**

We differentiated human iPSCs (Supplement file 1) to kidney organoids as previously described (Takasato et al., 2015). iPSCs were maintained at 37 °C in TeSR™-E8 medium with 25x Supplement (05991, 05992, STEMCELL) in 6-well plates (3516, Corning) coated with vitronectin (A14700, Gibco). Prior to differentiation (day 0) cells were dissociated with TrypLE (12563029, Thermo Fisher Scientific), counted with a hemocytometer and seeded in vitronectin-coated 24-well plates (3524, Corning) at a density of 35,000 cells/cm² in TeSR™-E8™ medium with Revitacell 10 μl/ml (A2644501, Gibco). Intermediate mesoderm induction was performed by changing medium after 24 hours to STEMdiff™ APEL™2 (05270, STEMCELL™) with 3% protein free hybridoma medium (12040077, Gibco) and 8 μM CHIR99021 (4423/10, Tocris Bioscience) for 4 days. On day 5, CHIR99021 was replaced by 200 ng/ml FGF-9 (100-23, Peprotech) and 1 μg/ml Heparin (H3393, Sigma Aldrich). On Day 7, cells were dissociated with TrypLE, counted, and pelletized into organoids (250,000 cells each) by centrifuging them at 400x g/min four times. Organoids were carefully placed on 0.4
μm Millicell Cell Culture Insert in 6-well plates (PICM0RG50, Millipore), and cultured for 1 hour in APEL™2 medium with 5 μM CHIR99021 and subsequently in APEL™2 medium supplemented with 200 ng/mL FGF9 and 1 μg/mL Heparin until Day 11. From day 12, organoids were grown in STEMdiff™ APEL™2 without growth factors, with medium changed at every 2 days.

Mice
All mouse handling and experimental procedures were approved by the Animal Ethics Committee of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences (ICB) - University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil; reference 019/2015). Two-month-old Swiss female mice were housed in an experimental animal facility (ICB, USP) kept in groups of 3-4 subjects per cage (41x34x16 cm) at 12-hour light/dark cycle at 25 °C, with free access to water and chow. Mating occurred overnight, and females were checked for vaginal plugs on the next morning to determine if mating had occurred and gestation was timed accordingly (embryonic day 1). Pregnant dams were separate and kept in individual cages (30x20x13 cm) under the same conditions mentioned previously. Fetuses were collected on the embryonic day 19 (E19), following C-section surgery in the pregnant mice under anesthesia with 25 mg/kg avertin (T48402, Sigma-Aldrich). Fetal kidneys were dissected and processed for histological analysis, or snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen for proteomic analysis.

Whole mount immunofluorescence
Whole organoids were fixed with 2% (wt/vol) paraformaldehyde at 4 °C for 20 minutes, washed with Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS; D8537, Sigma-Aldrich) and blocked with 1x casein blocking buffer (B6429, SigmaAldrich) for 2 hours at room temperature. Samples were incubated at 4 °C overnight with primary antibodies diluted in blocking buffer. After thoroughly washing with 0.3% (vol/vol) Triton X-100 in PBS, the samples were incubated at 4 °C overnight with Alexa Fluor-conjugated secondary antibodies. Nuclei were stained with HOECHST 33342 solution (B2261, SigmaAldrich). Samples were mounted in glass-
bottomed dishes (P35G-1.5-10-C, MatTek) with ProLong Gold Antifade mountant (P36934, Invitrogen), and imaged with a Leica TCS SP8 AOBS inverted confocal microscope, using hybrid detectors with the following detection mirror settings: FITC 494-530 nm; Texas red 602-665 nm; Cy5 640-690 nm. When it was not possible to eliminate fluorescence crosstalk, the images were collected sequentially. When acquiring 3D optical stacks, the confocal software was used to determine the optimal number of Z sections. Only the maximum intensity projections of these 3D stacks are shown in the results. 3D image stacks were analyzed with ImageJ v 1.53g software (Rasband, W.S., ImageJ, U. S. National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA; available at https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/, 1997-2018).

Histology and immunofluorescence
For light microscopy, FFPE sections were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) for morphological analysis. Images were acquired on a 3D-Histech Pannoramic-250 microscope slide-scanner (Zeiss) using the Case Viewer software (3D-Histech). For immunofluorescence microscopy, either cryosections or FFPE were subjected to nonspecific binding site blocking with 10% normal donkey serum in 1% BSA/PBS, and treated with primary and secondary antibody solutions (see Key Resources Table). FFPE samples were submitted to heat-induced antigen retrieval with 10 mM sodium citrate buffer (pH 6.0) in a microwave for 15 min and treated with 0.1M glycine/6M urea solution for 30 minutes at room temperature prior to blocking. The slides were mounted and analyzed with a Zeiss Axioimager.D2 upright microscope equipped with a Coolsnap HQ2 camera (Photometrics). Images were acquired with the Micromanager Software v1.4.23 and processed using ImageJ.

Electron microscopy
Whole mount primary antibody labelling was performed as described above. After overnight incubation at 4 °C with a rabbit pAb anti-laminin antibody (ab11575, Abcam), organoids were washed with PBS-Triton and incubated overnight at 4 °C with a goat anti-rabbit IgG labelled
with 10nm gold (ab39601, Abcam) diluted 1:400. Samples were then fixed with 4% paraformaldehyde and 2.5% (wt/vol) glutaraldehyde (Agar Scientific, UK) in 0.1 M HEPES (H0887, SigmaAldrich) pH 7.2, and postfixed with 1% osmium tetroxide (R1024, Agar Scientific) and 1.5% potassium ferrocyanide (214022, The British Drug House, Laboratory Chemicals Division) in 0.1M cacodylate buffer (pH 7.2) (R1102, Agar Scientific) for 1 hour, then with 1% uranyl acetate (R1100A, Agar Scientific) in water for overnight. Samples were dehydrated, embedded with low viscosity medium grade resin (T262, TAAB Laboratories Equipment Ltd) and polymerized for 24 hours at 60 °C. For transmission EM, sections were cut with Reichert Ultracut ultramicrotome and observed with FEI Tecnai 12 Biotwin microscope at 80kV accelerating voltage equipped a Gatan Orius SC1000 CCD camera.

**SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting**

Organoid samples were homogenized in ice cold Pierce™ IP Lysis Buffer Proteins (87787, ThermoFisher) supplemented with EDTA-free protease inhibitor cocktail (04-693-159-001, Roche) to extract proteins. Following, proteins were resolved by SDS-PAGE in a NuPAGE 4-12% Bis-Tris gel (NP0322, Invitrogen) and wet-transferred to nitrocellulose membrane (Z612391, Whatman). Gel loading was assessed by Ponceau S staining (P7170, SigmaAldrich). Membranes were blocked with Odyssey blocking buffer (927-40000, LI-COR) for 1 hour, and were probed with specific primary and secondary antibodies (see Key Resources Table) diluted in Tris-buffered saline soliton (TBS). Protein bands were visualized using the Odyssey CLx imaging system (LI-COR Biosciences), and background-corrected band optical densitometry was determined using ImageJ.

**Sample enrichment for proteomics analysis**

Kidney organoids samples (days 14, 18 and 25 of differentiation) were pooled accordingly (n=3 pools per time point), and E19 mouse fetal kidneys (n=6) were enriched for matrix proteins as previously described (Lennon et al., 2014). Briefly, samples were manually homogenized and incubated in a Tris-buffer (10 mM Tris pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 25 mM
EDTA, 1% Triton X-100 and EDTA-free protease inhibitor cocktail) for 1 hour to extract soluble proteins. The supernatant (fraction 1) was collected by centrifuging (at 14,000x g for 10 min) and the remaining pellet was resuspended in an alkaline detergent buffer (20 mM NaOH, 0.5% in PBS-Triton) and incubated for 1 hour to solubilize and disrupt cell-matrix interactions. The supernatant (fraction 2) was collected by centrifugation and the pellet treated with 0.4 µg Benzonase (E1014-25KU, Sigma-Aldrich) in PBS (D8537, Sigma-Aldrich) for 30 min at room temperature to remove DNA/RNA contaminants. After inactivating Benzonase at 65 °C for 20 min, samples were centrifuged and the remaining pellet was resuspended in a 5x reducing sample buffer (100 mM Tris pH 6.8, 25% glycerol, 10% SDS, 10% β-mercaptoethanol, 0.1% bromophenol blue) to yield the ECM fraction. Fractions 1 and 2 were combined (1:1) into a cellular fraction.

**Laser microdissection microscopy**

E19 mouse kidneys (n=4) were embedded in OCT for cryosectioning. 10-µm-thick cryosections were acquired and placed onto MMI membrane slides (50102, Molecular Machines and Industries), fixed with 70% ethanol and stained with haematoxylin and eosin to allow visualization of maturing mouse glomeruli using a 40x/0.5 FL N objective. 150 glomeruli (per samples) were laser dissected around the Bowman’s capsule using an Olympus IX83 Inverted fluorescence snapshot microscopy equipped with MMI CellCut Microdissection system and the MMI CellTools software v.5.0 (Molecular Machines and Industries). Laser settings were speed = 25 µm/s, focus = 16.45 µm, power = 72.5%. Sections were collected onto sticky 0.5 ml microtube caps (Molecular Machines and Industries) and stored at -80°C.

**Trypsin digestion**

For in-gel digestion, protein samples from E19 mouse kidneys were briefly subjected to SDS-PAGE to concentrate proteins in the gel top, and stained with Expedeon InstantBlue
(Z2, Fisher Scientific). After distaining, gel-top protein bands were sliced and transferred to a V-bottomed perforated 96-wells plate (Proxeon) and incubated with 50% acetonitrile (ACN) in digestion buffer (25 mM NaHCO₃) for 30 min at room temperature. After centrifuging (1500 rpm for 2 min), gel pieces were shrunk with 50% ACN and completely dried by vacuum centrifugation for 20 min at -120 °C. After rehydrating gel pieces, proteins were reduced with 10 mM dithiothreitol (DTT; D5545, Sigma-Aldrich) in digestion buffer for 1 hour at 56 °C and alkylated with 55 mM iodoacetamide (IA; I149, Sigma-Aldrich) in digestion buffer for 45 min at room temperature in the dark and spun down. Gel pieces were shrunk with alternating 100% ACN and dried by vacuum centrifugation. Protein digestion with 1.25 ng/l trypsin (V5111, Promega) was carried out at 37 °C overnight, followed by centrifugation to collected the resulting peptides. Finally, samples were dried by vacuum centrifugation and resuspended in 50% ACN in 0.1% formic acid. For in-solution digestion, samples were sonicated in lysis buffer (5% SDS in 50 mM TEAB pH 7.5) using a Covaris LE220+ Focused Ultrasonicator (Covaris), reduced with 5 mM DTT for 10 min at 60 °C and alkylated with 15 mM IA for 10 min at room temperature in the dark. After quenching residual alkylation reaction with 5 mM DTT, samples were spun down, acidified with 1.2% formic acid and transferred to S-Trap Micro Spin columns (Protifi). Contaminants were removed by centrifugation, and protein digestion with 0.12 g/l trypsin (in 50 mM TEAB buffer) was carried out 1 hour at 47 °C. Trapped peptides were thoroughly washed with 50 mM TEAB, spun down, washed with 0.1% formic acid, and eluted from the S-trap columns with 30% ACN in 0.1% formic acid solution.

Offline peptide desalting

Peptide samples were incubated with 5.0 mg Oligo™ R3 reverse-phase beads (1133903, Applied Biosystems) in 50% ACN in a 96-well plate equipped with 0.2 m polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) membrane filter (3504, Corning). After centrifuging, the bead-bound peptides were washed twice with 0.1% formic acid, spun down and eluted with 30% ACN in 0.1% formic acid. Retrieved peptides were dried by vacuum centrifugation and sent to the
Bio-MS Core Research Facility (Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, University of Manchester) for mass spectrometry analysis.

**Mass spectrometry data acquisition and analysis**

Peptide samples were analyzed by liquid chromatography (LC)-tandem mass spectrometry using an UltiMate® 3000 Rapid Separation LC (RSLC, Dionex Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA) coupled to a Q Exactive™ Hybrid Quadrupole-Orbitrap™ (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA) mass spectrometer. Peptides were separated on a CSH C18 analytical column (Waters) using a gradient from 93% A (0.1% formic acid in water) and 7% B (0.1% formic acid in ACN) to 18% B over 57 min followed by a second gradient to 27% B over 14 min both at 300 nl/min. Peptides were selected for fragmentation automatically by data dependent acquisition. Raw spectra data were acquired and later analyzed using Proteome Discoverer software v.2.3.0.523 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). MS data was searched against SwissProt and TrEMBL databases (v. 2018_01; OS = *Mus musculus* for mouse samples; OS=Homo sapiens for kidney organoids) using SEQUEST HT and Mascot search tools. Tryptic peptides with ≤ 1 missed cleavage were considered for the search, and mass tolerance for precursor and fragment ions were 10 ppm and 0.02 Da, respectively. Carbamidomethylation of cysteine was as fixed modification, oxidation of methionine, proline and lysine, and N-terminal acetylation as dynamic modifications. False discovery rate (FDR) for peptide/protein identifications was set to 1%, and protein validation was performed using Target/Decoy strategy. Label-free protein abundances were determined based on precursor ion intensity, and relative changes in protein abundance by calculating abundance ratios accordingly. Results were filtered for significant FDR master proteins identified with ≥ 1 unique peptide detected in 2/3 of replicates. The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository (Perez-Riverol et al., 2019) with the dataset identifiers: PXD025838, PXD025874, PXD025911 and PXD026002.
Enrichment and interactome analyses

Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analysis was performed using the DAVID bioinformatics resource v.6.8 ((Huang et al., 2009); available at https://david.ncifcrf.gov), and term enrichment was determined through Fisher’s exact test with Benjamini-Hochberg correction, with a term selected as enriched when FDR < 0.1. Pathway enrichment was performed for proteins differentially expressed using the Reactome database ((Jassal et al., 2020); available at https://reactome.org/). To generate interactome figures, a list of proteins was uploaded to STRING v.11.0 (Szklarczyk et al., 2015) to obtain a collection of high confident protein-protein interactions (combined score ≥ 70%), which was further uploaded into Cytoscape v.3.8.1 (Shannon et al., 2003) to customize the interactomes.

Single cell RNA-sequencing analysis

We selected three published single cell-RNA sequencing datasets generated from kidney organoids (GSE114802), fetal and adult human kidneys (EGAS00001002325, EGAS00001002553), and fetal mouse kidney (GSE108291) to identify the cellular origins of BM genes. We first removed the low-quality cells from the dataset to ensure that the technical noise do not affect the downstream analysis. We also remove the lowly expressed genes as they do not give much information and are unreliable for downstream statistical analysis (Bourgon et al., 2010). In order to account for the various sequencing depth of each cell, we normalized the raw counts using the deconvolution-based method (Lun et al., 2016a). We then identified the genes that have high variance in their biological component and use these genes for all downstream analysis. We then applied PCA and took the first 14 components of PCA as input to tSNE and used the first 2 components of tSNE to visualize our cells. The cells were then grouped into their putative clusters using the dynamic tree cut method. We used the findMarkers function from Scran package to identify the marker genes for each of the clusters (Lun et al., 2016b). findMarkers uses t-test for the statistical test and reports p-value of the high rank genes that are DE between the group and all other group. These marker genes were then used to manually annotate the cell types of a cluster (see
Supplementary file 3 for clustering annotation details). We also applied SingleR to define the cell types based on matched with annotated bulk datasets (Aran et al., 2019). We used the plotDots function from scater package to produce the dotplots (McCarthy et al., 2017).

Statistical analysis
Statistical analysis was carried out within Proteome Discoverer using an in-built Two-way ANOVA test with post-hoc Benjamini-Hochberg correction. Principal component analysis (PCA) and unsupervised hierarchical clustering based on a Euclidean distance-based complete-linkage matrix were performed using Rstudio (v. 1.2.5042, http://rstudio.com) with the ggplot2 package (v.3.3.2, https://ggplot2.tidyverse.org) that was also used to generate PCA plots and heat maps. For the integrated proteomic analysis, previously published young human glomerular and kidney tubulointerstitial data (PRIDE accession PXD022219) was re-processed with Proteome Discoverer to allow direct comparisons with newly acquired data. Then, kidney organoid, mouse and human proteomics datasets were compared using Spearman Rank correlation. Dataset comparisons, for both cellular and ECM cellular fractions, were performed separately for the matrisome proteins only and basement membrane proteins only. The ComplexHeatmap package (v2.2.0, (Gu et al., 2016); http://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/ComplexHeatmap.html) was used to generate correlation plots.

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DEVELOPMENT OF INTERESTS
The authors declare no conflicts of interests.

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Figure 1. Kidney organoid basement membranes are altered in human disease. (A) Schematic representing the differentiation of iPSC’s to 3D kidney organoids. (B) Whole-mount immunofluorescence for kidney cell types: left image shows glomerular structures (g) with WT1+ cells and CDH1+ tubule segments (dashed line); right image shows a glomerular-like structure (g) containing podocytes (NPHS1+) and endothelial cells (CD31+). (C) Representative photomicrographs of day 18 kidney organoids (left) and human and mouse fetal kidneys (right) to demonstrate the comparable histological structure; inset shows an organoid glomerular structure (g). (D) Transmission electron photomicrographs of a glomerular- (upper panels) and tubule-like structures (lower panels) in a day 25 kidney organoid. In the top-right zoomed area, note features of organoid podocytes (P): a primary process (PP) and distinct intercalating foot processes (thin arrowheads) lining a basement membrane (arrows). Asterisks indicate glycogen granules. In the lower panels, a tubule-like structure in the organoid, and a basement membrane (arrows) labelled with a 10-nm gold-conjugated anti-laminin antibody (see large arrowheads in the zoomed area). (E) Right,
pedigree from a family with a pathogenic missense variant in COL4A5 (c.3695G>A; p.Gly1232Asp, posterior probability 0.988) and a uncertain significance variant in COL4A4 (c.3286C>T; p.Pro1096Ser [VUS], posterior probability 0.5). Left, Sanger sequencing data for the COL4A5 variant found in the mother and 2 siblings, which changes the amino acid from glycine to aspartic acid located in the triple-helical region of the collagen IV trimer. (F) Representative whole mount immunofluorescence images of wild-type and Alport kidney organoids show glomerular structures (g) containing WT1+ cells, and an intricate cluster of CDH1+ epithelial tubules. (G) Immunofluorescence for LAMB2 shows increased protein deposition in extraglomerular sites (*). NPHS2 was used as a podocyte marker to identify glomerular structures (g). (H) Immunoblotting for LAMB2 using total lysates from wild-type (n=3) and Alport organoids (n=3 per group): bar chart shows relative fold change (to wild-type). LAMB2 band optical density was normalized by Ponceau stain and compared by one-way ANOVA and Tukey’s multiple comparison tests (*p-value < 0.05; ns: not significant). Pooled data are presented as median, error bars indicate the 95% confidence interval for the median. See Figure 1-Data source 1. See Figure 1-figures supplement 1-3.

Figure 2. Sequential assembly of basement membranes components. (A) Confocal immunofluorescence microscopy of wild-type kidney organoids showing the temporal emergence and BM co-distribution of COL4A1 and panlaminin and (B) perlecan and nidogen on days 11, 18 and 25 of differentiation. NPHS1 and CD31 were used respectively as markers for podocyte and endothelial cells in glomerular like structures (g). Arrowheads indicate interrupted BM segments, large arrows indicate diffuse BM networks, and thin arrows indicate intracellular droplets of BM proteins.

Figure 3. Time course proteomics reveals complex dynamics of basement membrane assembly. (A) Schematic for sample enrichment for matrix (ECM) proteins for tandem MS analysis (created with BioRender.com). (B) Bar graphs show the relative abundance of matrix proteins and non-matrix proteins identified by MS analysis in the cellular and ECM
fractions of kidney organoids on days 14, 18 and 25 (n=3 pools per time point). Pooled data are presented as median, error bars indicate the 95% confidence interval for the median. (C) Venn diagrams showing identification overlap for matrix proteins detected in organoids on days 14, 18 and 25. (D) Matrix proteins are classified as basement membrane, other structural and ECM-associated proteins. Bar charts show the number of matrix proteins per each category in both cellular and ECM fractions, and line charts show the changes in the relative abundance (percentage of total matrix abundance) for the matrix categories over the time course differentiation. Pooled data are presented as median, error bars indicate the 95% confidence interval for the median. (E) Protein interaction network showing all BM proteins identified over the kidney organoid time course MS study (nodes represent proteins and connecting lines indicate protein-protein interaction). (F) Heat map showing the log_{10}-transformed abundance levels of BM proteins identified in the ECM fraction along kidney organoid differentiation time course (proteins detected only in one time-point are not shown). (G) Volcano plots show the log_{2}-fold change (x-axis) versus -log_{10}-p-value (y-axis) for proteins differentially expressed in the ECM fraction of kidney organoids from day 14 to 18, and 18 to 25 (n=3 per time point). Key BM proteins significantly up-regulated (FC ≥ 1.5, p-value < 0.05, Two-way ANOVA test, n=3) are indicated. (H) Time-dependant changes in the relative abundance (percentage of total protein intensity) of key BM proteins in the ECM fraction of kidney organoids during differentiation. Pooled data are presented as median. See Figure 3-figure supplement 1.

Figure 4. Key collagen IV and laminin isoform transitions occur during kidney organoid differentiation. (A) Immunofluorescence for key collagen IV and laminin isoforms showing their emergence and distribution in kidney organoid BM. Panlaminin antibody was used to co-label organoid BM; glomerular structures are indicated (g). (B) Re-analysis of a kidney organoid scRNA-seq dataset GSE114802, (Combes et al., 2019b) confirms cellular specificity for collagen IV and laminin isoform gene expression. tSNE plots represent the cell type clusters identified, and colour intensity indicate the cell-specific level of expression for
the selected BM genes. (C) Proteomic analysis of laser-captured maturing glomeruli from E19 mouse kidneys \((n=4)\). Histological images show the laser dissected glomeruli, and the protein interaction network shows 25 BM proteins identified (nodes represent proteins and connecting lines indicate protein-protein interaction). (D) Immunofluorescence for specific collagen IV isoforms in maturing glomeruli in E19 mouse kidney and in glomerular structures (indicated by dashed lines) in day 25 organoids. NPHS2 was used to label podocytes. Arrowheads indicate outer Bowman’s capsule (mouse) or glomerular surface (organoid), large arrows indicate GBM (mouse) or GBM-like deposition (organoid); thin arrows indicate mesangial matrix (mouse) or internal glomerular deposition (organoid). See Figure 4-figure supplement 1.

**Figure 5. Basement membranes in mouse fetal kidneys are comparable to kidney organoids.** (A) Schematic representation of the E19 mouse kidney sampled for MS-based proteomics, and a Venn diagram showing the overlap for matrix proteins identified in the cellular and ECM fractions. (B) Bar charts show enrichment for matrix proteins in both cellular and ECM fractions \((n=6)\), as indicated by the number and relative abundance of proteins in each matrix category. Pooled data are presented as median, error bars indicate the 95% confidence interval for the median. (C) Expanded fetal mouse kidney matrisome represented as a protein interaction network (nodes represent proteins identified in this and in a previous study (Lipp et al., 2021), and connecting lines indicate protein-protein interaction). (D) Comparison of BM proteins identified in the E19 mouse fetal kidney* (MFK) and human kidney organoids (HKO) during differentiation (asterisks indicate that corresponding human ortholog proteins are shown). (E) Spearman rank correlation analysis for matrix and BM protein abundance (ECM fraction) comparisons between E19 mouse fetal kidney (MFK) and human kidney organoids (HKO). (F) Re-analysis of a E18.5 mouse kidney scRNA-seq dataset GSE108291, (Combes et al., 2019a) confirms cellular specificity for collagen IV and laminin isoform gene expression. tSNE plots represent the cell type clusters
identified, and colour intensity indicate the cell-specific level of expression for the selected BM genes. See Figures 5-figures supplement 1 and 2.

**Figure 6. Basement membranes are dynamic through embryonic development to adulthood.** (A) Integrative interactome showing a common core of 44 BM proteins across day 25 organoid, E19 mouse kidney, adult human glomerular and tubulointerstitial compartments. Venn diagrams indicate in which dataset each BM protein was detected. Nodes represent proteins, and lines indicate protein-protein interactions. (B) Spearman rank correlation analysis for matrix and BM protein abundance (ECM fraction) comparisons between E19 mouse fetal kidney (MFK), human kidney organoids (HKO) and adult human glomerulus and kidney tubulointerstitium. (C) Re-analysis of an adult human kidney scRNA-seq dataset EGAS00001002553, (Young et al., 2018)) confirms cellular specificity for collagen IV and laminin isoform gene expression. tsNE plots represent the cell type clusters identified, and colour intensity indicate the cell-specific level of expression for the selected BM genes (*proximal tubule cells were not included). (D) Cell expression of minor BM components through kidney development to adulthood. Dot plots show the level of expression of target genes in all published datasets re-analysed in this study (*proximal tubule cells were not included). See Figure 6-figure supplement 1.

**Figure 7. Overview of the developmental milestones in human and mouse kidney morphogenesis, and a comparison human kidney organoids.** Differentiation is dated in human as week-post conception (wpc), in mouse as embryonic days (E) and in kidney organoids as day of differentiation, and measures (cm or mm) indicate specimen size in each model. Three sets of embryonic kidneys develop in mammals in a temporal sequence: from the pronephros to the mesonephros (both temporary), and then to the metanephros (permanent). Metanephric nephron formation (nephrogenesis) commences in humans at 5 wpc, in mice at E10.5, and in kidney organoid from day 11, when the laminin starts to deposit as basement membrane networks. Following the same developmental stage in
human and mouse kidneys, kidney organoids start to form discernable renal vesicles on day 14, and distinct comma- and S-shaped bodies on day 18; day 25 organoids, which most closely resemble late capillary loop stage nephrons in vivo, comprise more mature structures including glomeruli with capillary lumens, proximal tubules, and distal tubules. Meanwhile a conserved sequence of basement membrane assembly was detected in kidney organoids, and laminin and collagen IV developmental isoform transitions were identified between day 14 and day 25.

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES AND FILES

Figure 1–figure supplement 1. Morphological characteristics of wild-type kidney organoids and fetal human kidney. (A) Bright field images (left) and H&E staining (right) of human kidney organoids on day 11, 14, 18 and 25 of differentiation. (B) H&E staining of human fetal kidney at 8 wpc, 12 wpc, 17 wpc, and 21 wpc highlights normal human kidney development. (C) Immunofluorescence for integrin beta-1 (ITGB1) in day 25 kidney organoid (wild-type). Anti-panlaminin or anti-collagen IV antibodies were used to label basement membranes. In the glomerulus (g), note the distribution of ITGB1 adjacent to the basement membrane.

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Supplementary file 1. Human fetal kidney and hiPSC general information.

Supplementary file 2. Human kidney organoid proteome and matrix proteins

Supplementary file 3. scRNA-seq kidney datasets- cell clustering and expression data.

Supplementary file 4. E19 mouse maturing glomerulus proteome and matrix proteins.

Supplementary file 5. E19 mouse kidney proteome and matrix proteins.

Supplementary file 6. Human adult kidney glomerular and tubulointerstitial proteome and matrix proteins.

SOURCE DATA
This project contains the following source data hosted at:
https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.c.5429628

Figure 1 Original IF Images: B Whole-mount immunofluorescence for kidney cell types; F Representative whole mount immunofluorescence images of wild-type and Alport kidney organoids; G Immunofluorescence for LAMB2.

Figure 1 Original light microscope Images: C Representative photomicrographs of day 18 kidney organoids (left) and human and mouse fetal kidneys (right).
Figure 1 Original TEM Images: D Transmission electron micrographs of tubular BM in day 25 kidney organoid and E19 mouse fetal kidney.

Figure 1 Original western blotting image: H Immunoblotting for LAMB2 using total lysates from wild-type and Alport organoids.

Figure 2 Original IF Images: A Confocal immunofluorescence microscopy of wild-type kidney organoids; B perlecan and nidogen on days 11, 18 and 25 of differentiation.

Figure 4 Original IF Images: A Immunofluorescence for key type IV collagen and laminin isoforms showing their emergence and distribution in kidney organoid BM; D Immunofluorescence for specific collagen IV isoforms in maturing glomeruli in E19 mouse kidney and in glomerular structures (indicated by dashed lines) in day 25 organoids.

Figure 1-figure supplement 2A Original TEM photomicrographs: A Transmission electron microscopy of day 25 kidney organoids shows advanced differentiation of glomerular structures.

Figure 1-figure supplement 2B Original TEM photomicrographs: B Transmission electron microscopy of day 25 kidney organoids shows advanced differentiation of glomerular structures.

Figure 1-figure supplement 1C Original IF images: C Immunofluorescence for integrin beta-1 (ITGB1) in day 25 kidney organoid (wild-type). Anti-panlaminin or anti-collagen IV antibodies were used to label basement membranes.
C

Hematoxylin & eosin staining

Day 18 kidney organoid

TeSR-E8

Pluripotent cells

APEL2/CHIR

Primitive streak

APEL2/FGF9/Heparin

Intermediate mesoderm

Day 0

Day 1

Day 5

Day 7

Day 11

Day 25

CHIR pulse

3D self-organization

APEL2/FGF9/Heparin

Nephrogenesis

Further maturation

2D culture

3D culture

Kidney organoid differentiation

D

Day 18 kidney organoid

CDH1 WT

CD31 NPHS1

21 wpc-human kidney

Day 25 kidney organoid

G

NPHS2

LAMB2

Merge

E19 mouse kidney

Glomerular-like structure

Tubule-like structure

200 μm

200 μm

200 μm

200 μm

E

COL4A4(c.3286C>T)+/-(1)

COL4A4(c.3286C>T)+/-(2)

COL4A4(c.3286C>T)+/-(3)

COL4A5(c.3695G>A)+/-(1)

COL4A5(c.3695G>A)+/-(2)

COL4A5(c.3695G>A)+/-(3)

Nephrogenic zone

Maturing cortex

F

G

Wild-type

COL4A5+/-

COL4A5+/-

COL4A5+/-(4)

COL4A5+/-

COL4A5+/-

COL4A5+/-(4)

COL4A5+/-

COL4A5+/-

COL4A5+/-

Collagen IV expression

LAMB2 expression

Merge

H

COL4A5 expression

LAMB2 expression

Wild-type

COL4A5+/-

COL4A5+/-

ns

ns

* >LAMB2

(1) COL4A4(c.3286C>T)+/-(2)

(2) COL4A4(c.3286C>T)+/-(3)

(3) COL4A5(c.3695G>A)+/-(4)

(4) COL4A5(c.3695G>A)+/-(5)
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A

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H33342</td>
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<td>H33342</td>
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B

50 μm
### Cell cycle

- **Endothelium**
- **Nephron**
- **Neuron**
- **Podocyte**
- **Stroma**

### Log10-protein abundance

**Basement membrane proteins**

- **Mouse maturing glomeruli**
  - **Day 14**
  - **Day 18**
  - **Day 25**

**Diagram B: Day 25 kidney organoid**

- **Cell cluster type**
  - Cell cycle
  - Endothelium
  - Nephron
  - Neuron
  - Podocyte
  - Stroma

**Expression**

- **Day 25 organoid**
- **E19 mouse fetus**
Day 25 kidney organoid

**E19 mouse**

**D14 organoid**

**D18 organoid**

**D25 organoid**

**Ad hum glom**

**Ad hum TI**

**Basement membrane proteins**

**FBLN1**

**FRAS1**

**FREM2**

**TGFBI**

**TINAGL1**

**TINAG**

**Cell cycle**

**NumDetected**

**Endothelium**

**NephronNeuronPodocyteStroma**

**NumDetected Average**

**Fbln1**

**Fras1**

**Frem2**

**Tgfbi**

**Tinagl1**

**Tinag**

**Day 25 kidney organoid**

**Average**

**Fibroblast/stroma**

**Stroma-related nephron progenitor**

**UB/DT**

**Podocyte**

**Cap mesenchyma**

**Fibroblast**

**Vasculature/endothelium**

**Immune cell**

**Other**

**FBLN1**

**FRAS1**

**FREM2**

**TGFBI**

**TINAGL1**

**TINAG**

**Adult human kidney**

**CD/UB/Nephron**

**Vasculature/endothelium**

**Fibroblast**

**Ureteric epithelium/CD**

**Endothelium**

**Tubular epitheliumUreteric epithelium**

**Immune cell**

**Other**

**Pelvic epithelium**

**DT/LH**

**Ureteric epithelium**

**Immune cell**

**Collecting duct/ureteric bud/nephron**

**Immune cell**

**Collecting duct/tubular epithelium**

**Collecting duct/ureteric bud/nephron**

**Ureteric epithelium**

**Immune cell**

**Endothelium**

**Ureteric epithelium/collecting duct**

**Pelvic epithelium**

**DT/LH**

**Fibroblast**

**Vasculature/endothelium**

**Distal tubule/loop of Henle**

**Ureteric epithelium**

**Immune cell**

**Tubular epithelium**

**Immune cell**

**Collecting duct/tubular epithelium**

**Collecting duct/ureteric bud/nephron**

**Ureteric epithelium**

**Immune cell**

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**Immune cell**

**Collecting duct/tubular epithelium**

**Collecting duct/ureteric bud/nephron**

**Ureteric epithelium**

**Immune cell**

**Endothelium**

**Ureteric epithelium/collecting duct**

**Pelvic epithelium**

**DT/LH**
Human kidney organoid

Human

Mouse

Human kidney organoid

Basement membrane assembly

Further maturation
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