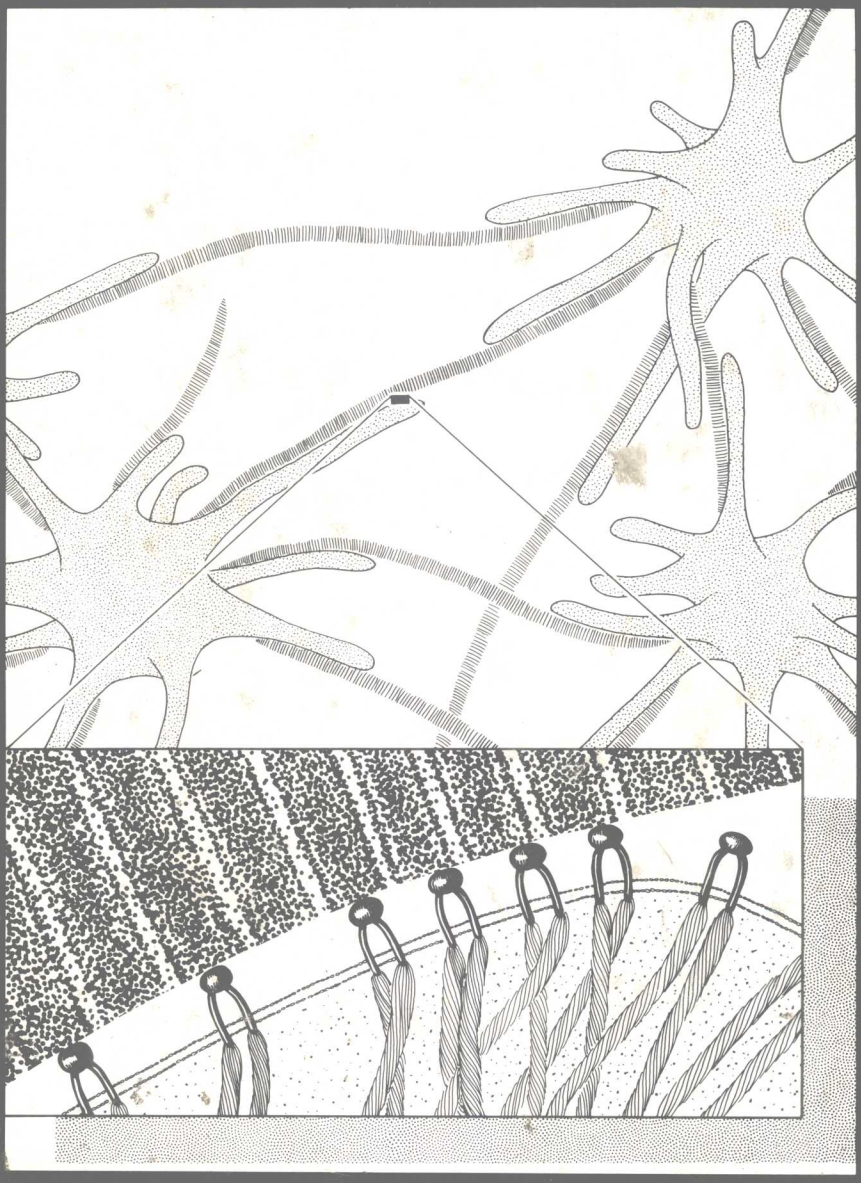
PLATELET MEMBRANE GLYCOPROTEINS



Edited by James N. George, Alan T. Nurden, and David R. Phillips

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Edited by

James N. George

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

Alan T. Nurden

Unité 150 INSERM
Hôpital Lariboisière
Paris, France

and

David R. Phillips

Gladstone Foundation Laboratories for Cardiovascular Disease
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California

PLENUM PRESS · NEW YORK AND LONDON

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

Platelet membrane glycoproteins.

Includes bibliographies and index.
1. Blood platelets. 2. Membrane proteins. 3. Glycoproteins. I. George, James N. II. Nurden, Alan T. III. Phillips, David R., 1942- . [DNLM: 1. Blood Platelets—physiology. 2. Glycoproteins—physiology.3. Membrane Proteins—physiology. QU 55 P716]
QP97.P55 1985 599'.0113 85-3498
ISBN 0-306-41857-6

A Division of Plenum Publishing Corporation
233 Spring Street, New York, N.Y. 10013

Printed in the United States of America

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Contributors

Ralph M. Albrecht, M.D. • School of Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Joel S. Bennett, M.D. • Hematology-Oncology Section, Department of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

Kenneth J. Clemetson, Ph.D. • Theodor Kocher Institute, University of Berne, CH-3000 Berne 9, Switzerland

Isaac Cohen, Ph.D. • Atherosclerosis Program, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and Department of Molecular Biology, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, Illinois 60611

Barry S. Coller, M.D. • Division of Hematology, Departments of Medicine and Pathology, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York 11794

Neville Crawford, Ph.D. • Department of Biochemistry, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, Royal College of Surgeons of England, London WC2A 3PN, England

Joan E. B. Fox, Ph.D. • The Gladstone Foundation Laboratories for Cardiovascular Disease, Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of California, San Francisco, California 94140

T. Kent Gartner, Ph.D. • Department of Biology, Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee 38152

James N. George, M.D. • Division of Hematology, Department of Medicine, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas 78284

Inger Hagen, Ph.D. • Research Institute for Internal Medicine, Section on Hemostasis and Thrombosis, Rikshospitalet, University of Oslo, Oslo 1, Norway

Thomas J. Kunicki, Ph.D. • The Blood Center of Southeastern Wisconsin, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

Lawrence L. K. Leung, M. D. • Division of Hematology-Oncology, Department of Medicine, The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, New York, New York 10021

Joseph C. Loftus • School of Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Ernst F. Lüscher, Ph.D. • Theodor Kocher Institute, University of Berne, CH-3000 Berne 9, Switzerland

Deane F. Mosher, M.D. • Department of Medicine, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Ralph L. Nachman, M.D. • Division of Hematology-Oncology, Department of Medicine, The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, New York, New York 10021

Alan T. Nurden, Ph.D. • Unité 150 INSERM, Hôpital Lariboisière, Paris ,Cedex 10, France

Donna M. Pesciotta • Department of Medicine, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Sharron L. Pfueller, Ph.D. • Department of Medicine, Monash University Medical School, Alfred Hospital, Prahran 3181, Victoria, Australia

David R. Phillips, Ph.D. • Gladstone Foundation Laboratories for Cardiovascular Disease, Cardiovascular Research Institute, and Department of Pathology, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, California 94140

Margaret J. Polley, Ph.D. • Division of Hematology-Oncology, Department of Medicine, The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, New York, New York 10021

Avner Rotman, Ph.D. • Department of Membrane Research, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel

Nils Olav Solum, Ph.D. • Research Institute for Internal Medicine, Section on Hemostasis and Thrombosis, Rikshospitalet, University of Oslo, Oslo 1, Norway

Preface

It was just about ten years ago that platelet membrane glycoproteins were first characterized and their abnormalities in congenital bleeding disorders first recognized. During this decade there has been a remarkable growth in our understanding of the structure and membrane organization of the platelet surface glycoproteins, their interactions with external ligands during the process of hemostasis, and their defects causing hemorrhagic disease. These studies have advanced the knowledge of platelet involvement in hemostasis from a cellular to a molecular level, and they have provided a model for contact interactions among other cell types. This seemed a proper time to ask those who contributed major observations and insights during these past years to review their progress and to assess the state of our present knowledge. We have planned this volume to begin with the biochemistry of platelet membrane glycoproteins themselves and proceed through their involvement in platelet function to the final considerations of the platelet's role in maintaining the integrity of the vascular system. Our aim was an integrated presentation on the blood platelet from the perspective of its highly specialized and reactive cell surface.

James N. George
Alan T. Nurden
David R. Phillips

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