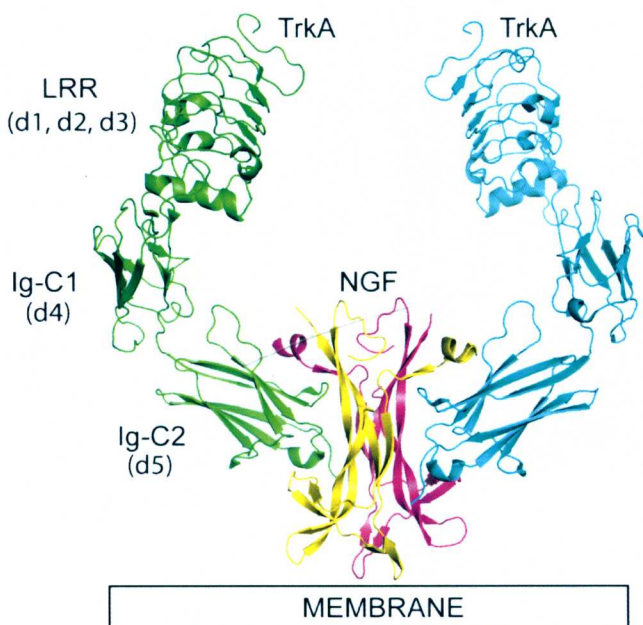


NEUROTROPHINS

EDITED BY
GERALD LITWACK



VITAMINS AND HORMONES, VOLUME 104





VOLUME ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR

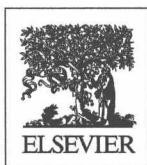
VITAMINS AND HORMONES

Neurotrophins

Series Editor

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ACADEMIC PRESS

An imprint of Elsevier
elsevier.com

Cover photo credit:

Bertrand, T.

Crystal Structures of Neurotrophin Receptors Kinase Domain
Vitamins and Hormones (2017) **104**, pp. 1-18.

Academic Press is an imprint of Elsevier

50 Hampshire Street, 5th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139, United States

525 B Street, Suite 1800, San Diego, CA 92101-4495, United States

The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB, United Kingdom
125 London Wall, London, EC2Y 5AS, United Kingdom

First edition 2017

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ISBN: 978-0-12-812263-1

ISSN: 0083-6729

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Publisher: Zoe Kruze

Acquisition Editor: Alex White

Editorial Project Manager: Helene Kabes

Production Project Manager: Vignesh Tamil

Cover Designer: Miles Hitchen

Typeset by SPi Global, India



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Neurotrophins

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PREFACE

Neurotrophins were first discovered to be growth factors involved in neuronal development and functioning. Later on, they were shown to function in the immune system and reproductive system. These factors are first synthesized in the form of proneurotrophin precursors that become cleaved to generate the C-terminal mature neurotrophins. They bind and activate Trk (tropomyosin-related kinase) receptors and a p75 neurotrophin receptor (p75^{NTR}). The four family members of neurotrophins are comprised by the nerve growth factor (NGF), the brain-derived nerve growth factor (BDNF), neurotrophin-3 (NT-3), and neurotrophin 4/5 (NT-4/5). NGF and BDNF are prominent and have been most studied. NGF binds and activates the membrane Trk receptor leading to the activation of Ras-mitogen-activated protein kinase, phospholipase C, extracellular signal-regulated kinase, and phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase. BDNF activates the TrkB receptor that is involved in the development of the visual cortex, growth of neurons, and brain development. NT-3 activates TrkC (and to a lesser extent TrkB). NT-3 promotes neurite ganglion outgrowth. NT-4/5 activates TrkB and may be involved in bipolar disorder.

This volume is organized so that crystal structures and basic structural studies on neurotrophins and their receptors appear first. The following section focuses on neurotrophin functions and the final section concentrates on the biological actions of neurotrophins related to clinical conditions and disease.

To open with structural studies, T. Bertrand is the author of "Crystal structures of neurotrophin receptors kinase domain." This is followed by "BDNF pro-peptide: a novel modulator of synaptic plasticity" by M. Kojima and T. Mizui. Then, A. Travaglia and D. La Mendola report on "Zinc interactions with brain-derived neurotrophic factor and related peptide fragments." The "Structural characterization of p75 neurotrophin receptor: a stranger in the TNFR superfamily" is the subject of M. Vilar. Next, C. Sato reviews "Releasing mechanism of neurotrophic factors via polysialic acid." This is followed by M. Martorella, K. Barford, B. Winkler, and C.D. Deppmann who describe the "Emergent role of Coronin-1a in neuronal signaling." Finally, M. Budzinska, K.B. Wicher, and M. Terenzio report on the "Neuronal Roles of the Bicaudal D Family of Motor Adaptors."

Chapters on biological activities of neurotrophins open with “BDNF and hippocampal synaptic plasticity” by G. Leal, C.R. Bramham, and C.B. Duarte. K.E. Boschen and A.Y. Klintsova describe “Neurotrophins in the brain: interaction with alcohol exposure during development” and A.S. Sahay, D.P. Sundrani, and S.R. Joshi report on “Neurotrophins: role in placental growth and development.”

In the final section devoted to clinical conditions, J. Janssens, D. Lu, B. Ni, W. Chadwick, S. Siddiqui, A. Azmi, H. Etienne, A. Jushaj, J. van Gastel, B. Martin, and S. Maudsley offer “Development of precision small-molecule pro-neurotrophic therapies for neurodegenerative diseases.” “The role of neurotrophins in inflammation and allergy” is described by S. Manti, P. Brown, M.K. Perez, and G. Piedimonte. M. Dhobale reports on “Neurotrophic factors and maternal nutrition during pregnancy.” “The role of neurotrophin signaling in gliomagenesis: a focus on the p75 neurotrophin receptor (p75^{NTR}/CD271)” is authored by M.M. Alshehri, S.M. Robbins, and D.L. Senger. S.I. Hodgetts and A.R. Harvey write on “Neurotrophic factors used to treat spinal cord injury.” “Neurotrophins and migraine” is the topic of L.B. Martins, A.L. Teixeira, and R.B. Domingues. H. Geoffroy and F. Noble focus on “BDNF during withdrawal.” In conclusion, N.F. Frydenlund and M. Mahalingam report on “Neurotrophin receptors and perineural invasion—analyses in select lineage-unrelated cutaneous malignancies with a propensity for perineural invasion.”

The illustration on the cover is a reproduction of Fig. 1 in Chapter 1 by Thomas Bertrand: “Crystal structures of neurotrophin receptors kinase domain.” The legend of this figure is: “Structure of the dimeric nerve growth factor complexed with the extracellular domain of TrkA (pnb code 2IFG). Both immunoglobulin-like domains (d5, d4) and the leucine-rich repeats (d3, d2, and d1) are labeled. The localization of the cell membrane is indicated by a *rectangular box*.”

Publication of this volume was facilitated by the efforts of Helene Kabes of Elsevier (Oxford, UK) and by Vignesh Tamilselvvan of Elsevier (S&T Book Production, Chennai, India).

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September 15, 2016

CONTENTS

<i>Contributors</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xvii</i>
1. Crystal Structures of Neurotrophin Receptors Kinase Domain	1
T. Bertrand	
1. Introduction	1
2. Crystal Structure of TrkA, TrkB, and TrkC Kinase Domain	4
3. Pharmacological Approach: The Selectivity Issue	13
4. Conclusion and Future Directions	16
Acknowledgments	16
References	16
2. BDNF Propeptide: A Novel Modulator of Synaptic Plasticity	19
M. Kojima and T. Mizui	
1. Neurotrophins and Their Biological Actions	20
2. NT Receptors and Their Signaling	20
3. Synthesis, Intracellular Trafficking, and Secretion of BDNF Protein	21
4. Modulation of Synaptic Function by BDNF	22
5. BDNF Prodomain: New Roles Beyond a Molecular Chaperone	22
6. BDNF and Its Propeptide Are Localized in Presynaptic Dense Core Vesicles	23
7. The BDNF Propeptide Is a Novel Synaptic Modulator	24
8. Role of the Val66Met Polymorphism in BDNF Propeptide-Dependent LTD	25
9. Discussion	25
References	26
3. Zinc Interactions With Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor and Related Peptide Fragments	29
A. Travaglia and D. La Mendola	
1. Introduction	30
2. Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor	31
3. Zinc in the Brain	38
4. Zinc(II) Interaction With BDNF and Related Peptides	41
5. Zinc, BDNF, and Diet	47

6. Conclusion	48
Acknowledgments	49
References	49
4. Structural Characterization of the p75 Neurotrophin Receptor: A Stranger in the TNFR Superfamily	57
M. Vilar	
1. TNFR Superfamily	58
2. Structural Characterization of p75 ^{NTR}	60
3. The Transmembrane Domain (TMD)	66
4. The Intracellular Domain (ICD)	70
5. Conclusions and Future Directions	79
Acknowledgments	79
References	79
5. Releasing Mechanism of Neurotrophic Factors via Polysialic Acid	89
C. Sato	
1. Introduction	90
2. Biochemical Features of BDNF	91
3. Regions and Cellular Distribution of BDNF	95
4. Extracellular Secretion of BDNF	97
5. Conclusion	105
Acknowledgments	105
References	106
6. Emergent Role of Coronin-1a in Neuronal Signaling	113
M. Martorella, K. Barford, B. Winkler, and C.D. Deppmann	
1. Introduction	114
2. The Coronin Family of Proteins	114
3. Type I Coronins as Actin Regulators	118
4. Coronin-1a as a Signaling Effector Protein	121
5. Conclusions and Future Directions	128
Acknowledgments	129
References	129
7. Neuronal Roles of the Bicaudal D Family of Motor Adaptors	133
M. Budzinska, K.B. Wicher, and M. Terenzio	
1. Introduction	134
2. The BICD Family of Cargo Adaptors	136

3. Role of BicD in <i>Drosophila</i> Development	138
4. Mammalian BICDs and Their Role in Mitotic Cells	139
5. Role of BICD in Neurons	141
6. BICDs and NT Signaling	143
7. Conclusions	146
Acknowledgments	147
References	147
8. BDNF and Hippocampal Synaptic Plasticity	153
G. Leal, C.R. Bramham, and C.B. Duarte	
1. Introduction	154
2. Basic Mechanisms of LTP	157
3. The Neurotrophin Family and Its Receptors	159
4. TrkB Localization and Signaling	160
5. Synthesis and Secretion of BDNF	162
6. BDNF and LTP in the Hippocampus	164
7. p75 ^{NTR} and LTD	177
8. Interplay Between Glucocorticoids and BDNF to Determine Cellular Response to Stress	180
9. Concluding Remarks	182
References	183
9. Neurotrophins in the Brain: Interaction With Alcohol Exposure During Development	197
K.E. Boschen and A.Y. Klintsova	
1. Introduction	198
2. Neurotrophins and the Developing Brain	198
3. Alcohol as a Teratogenic Agent	199
4. Neurotrophins as Targets of Alcohol Exposure	204
5. Interactions Between Developmental Alcohol Exposure and Neurotrophins in the Brain: Molecular and Intracellular Effects	208
6. Interactions Between Developmental Alcohol Exposure and Neurotrophins: Neuroanatomical and Behavioral Effects	215
7. Neurotrophins as Compensatory/Neuroprotective Molecules Following Developmental Alcohol Exposure	225
8. Conclusions	228
Acknowledgments	228
References	228

10. Neurotrophins: Role in Placental Growth and Development	243
A.S. Sahay, D.P. Sundrani, and S.R. Joshi	
1. Introduction	244
2. Role of Neurotrophins in Placental Growth and Development	246
3. Neurotrophins in Different Regions of the Placenta	248
4. Cross Talk of Neurotrophins With Other Growth Factors and Proteases Involved in Placental Development	250
5. Role of Neurotrophins in Pregnancy	252
6. Conclusion and Future Directions	255
Acknowledgments	256
References	256
11. Development of Precision Small-Molecule Proneurotrophic Therapies for Neurodegenerative Diseases	263
J. Janssens, D. Lu, B. Ni, W. Chadwick, S. Siddiqui, A. Azmi, H. Etienne, A. Jushaj, J. van Gastel, B. Martin, and S. Maudsley	
1. Introduction	264
2. Mammalian Neurotrophin Ligand–Receptor System	265
3. Neurotrophin Ligand–Receptor Biological Functionality	270
4. Proneurotrophin-Based Therapy for Age-Related Neurodegeneration	280
5. Future Developments in Small-Molecule Neurotrophic Agents	294
References	295
12. The Role of Neurotrophins in Inflammation and Allergy	313
S. Manti, P. Brown, M.K. Perez, and G. Piedimonte	
1. Introduction	314
2. NTs and Allergic Disease	320
3. NTs and Inflammatory Responses	323
4. Conclusions	335
References	336
13. Neurotrophic Factors and Maternal Nutrition During Pregnancy	343
M. Dhobale	
1. Introduction	344
2. Neurotrophic Factors	345
3. Maternal Nutrition	347
4. Association Between Maternal Nutrition and Neurotrophic Factors Through One Carbon Cycle	355

5. Consequences of Altered Maternal Nutrition in Pregnancy	358
References	359
14. The Role of Neurotrophin Signaling in Gliomagenesis: A Focus on the p75^{NTR} Neurotrophin Receptor (p75^{NTR}/CD271)	367
M.M. Alshehri, S.M. Robbins, and D.L. Senger	
1. General Overview	368
2. Malignant Glioma: A Major Clinical Challenge	368
3. Glioma Disease Reservoirs	370
4. Molecular Determinants of Glioma Invasion and Progression	372
5. The Role of the Neurotrophins and Their Cognate Receptors in Glioma Progression	374
6. A Role for p75 ^{NTR} in Cancer: Extending Beyond Glioma	384
7. Conclusions and Future Directions	385
Acknowledgments	389
References	389
15. Neurotrophic Factors Used to Treat Spinal Cord Injury	405
S.I. Hodgetts and A.R. Harvey	
1. Introduction	406
2. Neurotrophins	428
3. Selected Examples of Other Growth Factors	434
4. Combinations of Factors	438
5. Location of Neurotrophic Factor Delivery	439
6. Mode of Neurotrophic Factor Delivery	441
7. Timing of Neurotrophic Factor Delivery	443
8. Conclusion	444
Acknowledgments	444
References	444
16. Neurotrophins and Migraine	459
L.B. Martins, A.L. Teixeira, and R.B. Domingues	
1. Introduction	459
2. Neurotrophins and Pain	460
3. Migraine Pathophysiology	463
4. Neurotrophins and Migraine	465
5. Conclusion and Future Directions	469
References	470

17. BDNF During Withdrawal	475
H. Geoffroy and F. Noble	
1. Introduction	476
2. BDNF Alterations Following Chronic Administration of Drugs of Abuse	476
3. Protracted Abstinence, Incubation, and Craving: How Is BDNF Involved?	483
4. Peripheral BDNF Levels	486
5. Polymorphism in BDNF Gene: Predictive Value in Drug Addiction?	489
6. Conclusion and Future Directions	490
Acknowledgments	491
References	491
 18. Neurotrophin Receptors and Perineural Invasion: Analyses in Select Lineage-Unrelated Cutaneous Malignancies With a Propensity for Perineural Invasion	 497
N.F. Frydenlund and M. Mahalingam	
1. Introduction	498
2. PNI in Cancer	498
3. Definitions	499
4. Incidence of PNI in Cutaneous Malignancies	500
5. Prognostic Impact of PNI in cSCC and DM	502
6. The Biological Underpinnings of PNI: The Role of Neurotrophins	506
7. Clinical Potential of Neurotrophins as Therapeutic Targets	518
8. Personal Observations	519
9. Conclusions	523
References	524