

Methods in Enzymology

Volume 78

Interferons

Part A

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Preface

Progress in interferon research, as in other areas, has reflected advances in the development of new biological and chemical technologies. The methods described in Volumes 78 and 79 of "Interferons" reflect these achievements. By the early 1970s, basic studies on interferon induction allowed the production of small amounts of interferon so that studies on its purification could begin. Of the three classes of interferon (fibroblast, leukocyte, and immune), fibroblast and leukocyte interferons were the focus of attention in many laboratories. The methods for purifying these interferons are described in Volume 78.

With the development of sensitive methods for the assay of amino acids and peptides, the application of high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) to protein purification was convenient and feasible, particularly with substances that were available in minute amounts. The purification of interferon by reverse and normal phase HPLC was the first achievement of the purification of proteins by these high-performance procedures. Since then, numerous other proteins have been purified by HPLC with the use of these same techniques. As has been illustrated by additional examples, achievements in interferon research, as in this case, initiated the foundations for achievements in other areas.

Even though some of the interferons were purified, only small amounts were available. However, it was possible to determine their amino acid composition, peptide maps, and some of their amino acid sequences even with picomole to nanomole (0.2 to 20 μg) amounts. The sections in Volume 79 describe these methods.

After the development of assays that could detect the synthesis of biologically active interferons in cell-free extracts and by microinjection directly into intact cells from isolated mRNA, it was feasible to consider cloning the DNA coding for these molecules. The methods leading to and including the construction and identification of DNA recombinants containing the interferon-coding sequences are described in Volume 79.

As a result of the rapid application of these techniques, the complete amino acid sequences of human fibroblast and several leukocyte interferons are now known (see Figs. 1 and 2). Both of these have been expressed in bacteria. Recombinant leukocyte interferon has been purified to homogeneity and has been in clinical trial for about seven months. The isolation of monoclonal antibodies to leukocyte interferon was instrumental in the effective purification of recombinant human leukocyte interferon as well as in the development of convenient immunoassays for the detection of leukocyte interferon. Crystals of recombinant interferon have been obtained and will enable the elucidation of their tertiary structure by X-ray

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5'
S1
met thr asn lys cys leu leu gln ile ala leu leu leu cys phe ser thr thr ala leu ser MET SER TYR ASN
ATG ACC AAC AAG TGT CTC CTC CAA ATT GCT CTC CTG TTG TGC TTC TCC ACT ACA GCT CTT TCC ATG AGC TAC AAC

10
LEU LEU GLY PHE LEU GLN ARG SER SER ASN PHE GLN CYS GLN LYS LEU LEU TRP GLN LEU ASN GLY ARG LEU GLU
TTG CTT GGA TTC CTA CAA AGA AGC AAT TTT CAG TGT CAG AAG CTC CTG TGG CAA TTG AAT GGG AGG CTT GAA
100 150

30
TYR CYS LEU LYS ASP ARG MET ASN PHE ASP ILE PRO GLU GLU ILE LYS GLN LEU GLN GLN PHE GLN LYS GLU ASP
TAT TGC CTC AAG GAC AGG ATG AAC TTT GAC ATC CCT GAG GAG ATT AAG CAG CTG CAG CAG TTC CAG AAG GAG GAC
200 250

60
ALA ALA LEU THR ILE TYR GLU MET LEU GLN ASN ILE PHE ALA ILE PHE ARG GLN ASP SER SER SER THR GLY TRP
GCC GCA TTG ACC ATC TAT GAG ATG CTC CAG AAC ATC TTT GCT ATT TTC AGA CAA GAT TCA TCT AGC ACT GGC TGG
250 300

80
ASN GLU THR ILE VAL GLU ASN LEU LEU ALA ASN VAL TYR HIS GLN ILE ASN HIS LEU LYS THR VAL LEU GLU GLU
AAT GAG ACT ATT GTT GAG AAC CTC CTG GCT AAT GTC TAT CAT CAG ATA AAC CAT CTG AAG ACA GTC CTG GAA GAA
350 400

110
LYS LEU GLU LYS GLU ASP PHE THR ARG GLY LYS LEU MET SER SER SER LEU HIS LEU LYS ARG TYR TYR GLY ARG ILE
AAA CTG GAG AAA GAA GAT TTT ACC AGG GGA AAA CTC ATG AGC AGT CTG CAC CTG AAA AGA TAT TAT GGG AGG ATI
400 450

130
LEU HIS TYR LEU LYS ALA LYS GLU TYR SER HIS CYS ALA TRP THR ILE VAL ARG VAL GLU ILE LEU ARG ASN PHE
CTG CAT TAC CTG AAG GCC AAG GAG TAC AGT CAC TGT GCC TGG ACC ATA GTC AGA GTG GAA ATC CTA AGG AAC TTT
500 550

160
TYR PHE ILE ASN ARG LEU THR GLY TYR LEU ARG ASN END
TAC TTC ATT AAC AGA CTT ACA GGT TAC CTC CGA AAC TGA AGATCTCTAGCCTGTCCCTCTGGGACTGGACAATIGCTTCAAGCA
550 600

TTCTTCAACCAGCAGATGCTGTTAAGTGACTGATGGCTAATGTACTGCAAAATGAAAGGACACTAGAAGATTTTGAAATTTTATTAAATATGAGTT
650 700

ATTTTATTTATTTAAATTTTATTTGGAAAAATAAATTTTITGGTGCAAAA
750
3'

```

Fig. 1. DNA and amino acid sequence corresponding to recombinant human leukocyte interferon A (IFLrA). See Volume 79 for references.

crystallography. Despite these achievements, much needs to be learned about the biological activity, mode of action, and the clinical efficacy of the interferons. The availability of sufficient amounts for these studies will undoubtedly lead to new insights during this next phase of interferon research. Very much needs to be learned about the "old" interferons, and we will certainly have some additional new ones in the future. The methods in these volumes cover the gamut of these paths.

The contributors to these volumes have spent much time and effort in preparing detailed reports of their methodologies. I am grateful to them all for their many excellent contributions. The staff of Academic Press has been most efficient and supportive throughout this undertaking. Drs. Colowick and Kaplan have provided much sound advice since the time these volumes were initiated. Many colleagues and associates have given me numerous useful suggestions. Special thanks are owed to Sophie Cuber who, with accustomed dedication and thoroughness, provided es-

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AAT CGT AAA GAA GGA CAT CTC ATA TAA ATA GGC CAT ACC CAT GGA GAA AGG ACA TTC TAA CTG CAA CCT
                                     -100
TTC GAA GCC TTT GCT CTG GCA CAA CAG GTA GTA GGC GAC ACT GTT CGT GTT GTC AAC S1 Met Thr Asn Lys
                                     ATG ACC AAC AAG
Cys Leu Leu Gln Ile Ala Leu Leu Leu Cys Phe Phe Thr Thr Ala Leu Ser Met Ser Tyr Asn Leu Leu
TGT CTC CTC CAA ATT GCT CTC CTG TTG TGC TTC TTC ACT ACA GCT CTT TCC ATG AGC TAC AAC TTG CTT
                                     1
Gly Phe Leu Gln Arg Ser Ser Asn Phe Gln Cys Gln Lys Leu Leu Trp Gln Leu Asn Gly Arg Leu Glu
GGA TTC CTA CAA AGA AGC AGC AAT TTT CAG TGT CAG AAG CTC CTG TGG CAA TTG AAT GGG AGG CTT GAA
                                     100
Tyr Cys Leu Lys Asp Arg Met Asn Phe Asp Ile Pro Glu Glu Ile Lys Gln Leu Gln Gln Phe Gln Lys
TAC TGC CTC AAG GAC AGG ATG AAC TTT GAC ATC CCT GAG GAG ATT AAG CAG CTG CAG CAG TTC CAG AAG
                                     200
Glu Asp Ala Ala Leu Thr Ile Tyr Glu Met Leu Gln Asn Ile Phe Ala Ile Phe Arg Gln Asp Ser Ser
GAG GAC GCC GCA TTG ACC ATC TAT GAG ATG CTC CAG AAC ATC TTT GCT ATT TTC AGA CAA GAT TCA TCT
Ser Thr Gly Trp Asn Glu Thr Ile Val Glu Asn Leu Leu Ala Asn Val Tyr His Gln Ile Asn His Leu
AGC ACT GGC TGG AAT GAG ACT ATT GTT GAG AAC CTC CTG GCT AAT GTC TAT CAT CAG ATA AAC CAT CTG
                                     300
Lys Thr Val Leu Glu Glu Lys Leu Glu Lys Glu Asp Phe Thr Arg Gly Lys Leu Met Ser Ser Leu His
AAG ACA GTC CTG GAA GAA AAA CTG GAG AAA GAA GAT TTC ACC AGG GGA AAA CTC ATG AGC AGT CTG CAC
                                     400
Leu Lys Arg Tyr Tyr Gly Arg Ile Leu His Tyr Leu Lys Ala Lys Glu Tyr Ser His Cys Ala Trp Thr
CTG AAA AGA TAT TAT GGG AGG ATT CTG CAT TAC CTG AAG GCC AAG GAG TAC AGT CAG TGT GCC TGG ACC
Ile Val Arg Val Glu Ile Leu Arg Asn Phe Tyr Phe Ile Asn Arg Leu Thr Gly Tyr Leu Arg Asn 166 END
ATA CTC AGA GTG GAA ATC CTA AGG AAC TTT TAC TTC ATT AAC AGA CTT TAC GGT TAC CTC CGA AAC TGA
                                     500
AGA TCT CCT AGC CTG TGC CTC TGG GAC TGG ACA ATT GCT TCA AGC ATT CTT CAA CCA GCA GAT GCT GTT
                                     600
TAA CTG ACT GAT GGC TAA TGT ACT GCA TAT GAA AGG ACA CTA GAA GAT TTT GAA ATT TTT ATT AAA TTA
                                     700
TGA GTT ATT TTT ATT TAT TTA AAT TTT ATT TTG GAA AAT AAA TTA TTT TTG GTG CAA AAG TCA ACA TGG
                                     +
CAG TTT TAA TTT CGA TTT GAT TTA TAT AAC CAT CCA TAT TAT AA
                                     800

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FIG. 2. DNA and amino acid sequence corresponding to human fibroblast interferon as deduced from the DNA sequence of the gene. See Volume 79 for references.

sential editorial assistance; and to Robert Pestka, for his skill and conscientiousness in preparing the comprehensive Subject Index for this volume.

During the preparation of these volumes, my family has accepted and borne many of my responsibilities in good spirit. Joan has continually sustained an atmosphere for this and other work to be accomplished. Robert, Sharon, and Steven have provided many joys and much good humor vital to me.

SIDNEY PESTKA

METHODS IN ENZYMOLOGY

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