

**HANDBOOK
of
RECEPTORS
and
CHANNELS**

**LIGAND-
and
VOLTAGE-GATED
ION CHANNELS**

Edited by

R. Alan North

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The Editor

R. Alan North is Principal Scientist at the Glaxo Institute for Molecular Biology in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. North graduated B.Sc. (Physiology, 1969), M.B., Ch.B. (Medicine, 1969), and Ph.D. (Pharmacology, 1973) from the University of Aberdeen. He served as House Officer and Registrar in the Aberdeen Hospitals and is a registered medical practitioner in the United Kingdom. During 18 years in the U.S., Dr. North held appointments as Associate Professor of Pharmacology at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, Chicago; Professor of Neuropharmacology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; and Senior Scientist at the Vollum Institute of Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland. He has also held Fellowships or Visiting Professorships at the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry in Munich; the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University, Flinders University in Adelaide; the Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology in Kiev; the Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universitaet in Frankfurt; and the University of Melbourne. Dr. North has received several prizes and awards including the Gaddum lectureship of the British Pharmacological Society.

Dr. North's professional interests are reflected in his membership of the Physiological Society, The Society of General Physiologists, The British Pharmacological Society, The Society for Neuroscience, and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. His work has been centered around a quantitative understanding of drug and transmitter action at the level of single cells and single molecules, primarily by electrical measurements. His extensive publications deal with the drug and neurotransmitter receptors, structure and function of potassium channels, drug abuse and drug dependence, the physiology of the autonomic and enteric nervous systems, pain mechanisms, psychoactive drugs, and mental illness.

Abstract

The last 10 years have witnessed an explosive increase in our understanding of the molecular and cellular diversity of membrane ion channels. This volume presents a current view of this information in a readily available format. It is an authoritative and comprehensive picture of the structure and function of each of the known classes of these ion channels. Each chapter provides up-to-date amino acid sequences (with data base accession numbers), current views of secondary, tertiary, and quaternary channel structure, and evolutionary relationships among channels. The relationship between primary structure and channel properties such as ligand binding, permeation, and gating have been elucidated by several approaches — from mutagenesis to modelling; these are clearly presented. Three chapters deal with voltage-gated channels (Potassium, K. G. Chandy and G. A. Gutman; Sodium, A. L. Goldin; Calcium, A. Stea, T. W. Soong, and T. P. Snutch), five describe the main families of ligand-gated channels (Nicotinic Acetylcholine, J. Lindstrom; 5-Hydroxytryptamine, J. J. Lambert, J. A. Peters, and A. G. Hope; Excitatory Amino Acids, R. Sprengel and P. H. Seeburg; γ -Aminobutyric Acid, R. F. Tyndale, R. W. Olsen, and A. J. Tobin; Glycine, D. Langosch), and one chapter covers cyclic nucleotide-gated cation channels (K.-W. Yau and T.-Y. Chen). The volume is an important source of information for researchers and students in molecular and cell biology, whether their primary interest be the physiology of membrane currents or the structure of membrane proteins.

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1	
Voltage-Gated K ⁺ Channels.....	1
K. George Chandy and George A. Gutman	
2.1.0 Introduction	1
2.1.0.1 Potassium Channels.....	1
2.1.0.2 The Extended Kv Channel Gene Family	1
2.1.1 <i>Shaker</i> -Related Gene Subfamily	3
2.1.1.1 Protein Sequence Comparisons.....	3
2.1.1.1.1 Divergence of N- and C-Terminal Regions; Repetitive Sequences	9
2.1.1.1.2 Posttranslational Modification	13
2.1.1.1.3 Species Conservation	14
2.1.1.1.4 <i>Shaker</i> -Subfamily Phylogenetic Tree	17
2.1.1.2 Genomic Organization	18
2.1.1.2.1 5'-Noncoding Introns in Kv1.1 and Kv1.2; Posttranscriptional Regulation?	18
2.1.1.2.2 Mapping Kv1.4 and Kv1.5 mRNAs	20
2.1.1.2.3 Chromosomal Locations	22
2.1.2 <i>Shab</i> -, <i>Shaw</i> -, and <i>Shal</i> -Subfamily Genes	23
2.1.2.1 <i>Shab</i> Subfamily	23
2.1.2.2 <i>Shaw</i> Subfamily.....	23
2.1.2.2.1 Amino Acid Sequence Alignment	23
2.1.2.2.2 Posttranslational Modification	26
2.1.2.2.3 Introns and Alternative Splicing	26
2.1.2.2.4 <i>Shaw</i> -Subfamily Phylogenetic Tree	26
2.1.2.2.5 Chromosomal Locations	27
2.1.2.3 <i>Shal</i> Subfamily	28
2.1.3 The Extended Voltage-Gated K ⁺ Channel Gene Family:	
Amino Acid Sequence Comparisons	28
2.1.3.1 Amino and Carboxy-Terminal Regions.....	33
2.1.3.2 The P-Region.....	34
2.1.3.3 The S4 Segment and Leucine Zipper	35
2.1.3.4 Kv-Channel Phylogenetic Tree	36
2.1.4 Tissue Distribution of Kv Channels	40
2.1.4.1 Tissue-Specific Expression of Kv Genes	40
2.1.4.2 Developmental Regulation and Induction	41

2.1.5	Structural and Electrophysiological Analyses of Kv Channels	42
2.1.5.1	Tetrameric Structure of Functional Kv Channels	42
2.1.5.2	Biophysical Properties of Cloned Kv Channels	46
2.1.5.3	Relating Cloned Kv Channel Genes to Native K ⁺ Channels	46
2.1.5.3.1	Mammalian Kv Channels	47
2.1.5.3.2	<i>Drosophila</i> Kv Channels	49
2.1.5.3.3	<i>Aplysia</i> Kv Channels	49
2.1.5.3.4	<i>Xenopus</i> Kv Channels	49
2.1.5.4	Identifying the Residues That Underlie Channel Inactivation	50
2.1.5.4.1	Rapid Inactivation Associated with the Amino-Terminus	50
2.1.5.4.2	The Receptor for the N-Terminal-Inactivating Ball	51
2.1.5.4.3	Inactivation Linked to the P-Region	51
2.1.5.4.4	Inactivation Linked to the S6 Segment	52
2.1.5.4.5	β -Subunits and Inactivation	52
2.1.5.5	Delineating the Binding Sites of Pharmacological Agents	53
2.1.5.5.1	External TEA- and K ⁺ -Binding Site	53
2.1.5.5.2	Internal TEA-Binding Site	53
2.1.5.5.3	Dendrotoxin-Binding Site	54
2.1.5.5.4	Charybdotoxin-Binding Site	54
2.1.5.5.5	Mast Cell Degranulation Peptide-Binding Site	55
2.1.5.5.6	4-Aminopyridine-Binding Site	56
2.1.5.5.7	Ethanol and Halothane	56
2.1.5.6	Experimentally Defining the Ion Conduction Pore	56
2.1.6	Conclusion	57
	Acknowledgments	58
	References	58
	Chapter 2	
	Voltage-Gated Sodium Channels	73
	Alan L. Goldin	
2.2.0	Introduction	73

2.2.1	Sodium Channel α -Subunits	75
2.2.1.1	Electric Eel	75
2.2.1.2	Squid	76
2.2.1.3	Jellyfish	77
2.2.1.4	<i>Drosophila</i>	83
2.2.1.5	Mammalian Brain	84
2.2.1.5.1	Rat Brain	84
2.2.1.5.2	Human Brain	86
2.2.1.6	Mammalian Skeletal Muscle	87
2.2.1.6.1	Rat Skeletal Muscle	87
2.2.1.6.2	Human Skeletal Muscle	87
2.2.1.7	Mammalian Cardiac Muscle	88
2.2.1.7.1	Rat Cardiac Muscle	88
2.2.1.7.2	Human Cardiac Muscle	88
2.2.1.8	Mammalian Peripheral Nerve	89
2.2.1.9	Mammalian Glial Cells	89
2.2.1.10	Other Sodium Channels	90
2.2.2	Sodium Channel β -Subunits	90
2.2.2.1	Rat β -Subunits	91
2.2.2.2	Human β -Subunits	92
2.2.3	Evolutionary Relationships	92
2.2.4	Structure–Function Correlations	94
2.2.4.1	Voltage Dependent Activation	94
2.2.4.2	Inactivation	96
2.2.4.3	Permeation	97
2.2.5	Clinical Correlations	98
2.2.6	Conclusion	99
	Acknowledgments	99
	References	100

Chapter 3

Voltage-Gated Calcium Channels	113
--------------------------------------	-----

Anthony Stea, Tuck Wah Soong, and Terry P. Snutch

2.3.0	Introduction	113
-------	--------------------	-----

2.3.1	Primary Structure of Calcium Channel α_1 -Subunits	114
-------	---	-----

2.3.1.1	Class A (α_{1A})	116
2.3.1.2	Class B (α_{1B})	116
2.3.1.3	Class C (α_{1C})	116
2.3.1.4	Class D (α_{1D})	117
2.3.1.5	Class E (α_{1E})	117
2.3.1.6	Comparison of Primary Structures	118
2.3.1.7	Species Differences	119
2.3.1.8	Chromosomal Location of Human Calcium Channel Subunit Genes	120
2.3.2	Spatial Distribution and Localization of Calcium Channel α_1 -Subunit Expression	120
2.3.2.1	Class A (α_{1A})	120
2.3.2.2	Class B (α_{1B})	128
2.3.2.3	Class C (α_{1C})	134
2.3.2.4	Class D (α_{1D})	135
2.3.2.5	Class E (α_{1E})	136
2.3.3	Structure and Function Studies	137
2.3.4	Primary Structure and Expression Of Calcium Channel Ancillary Subunits	138
2.3.4.1	α_2 and δ -Subunits	139
2.3.4.2	β -Subunit	139
2.3.4.3	γ -Subunit	144
2.3.5	Summary	145
	References	145

Chapter 4

Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptors	153
---	-----

Jon M. Lindstrom

2.4.0	Introduction	153
2.4.0.1	Muscle-Type AChRs	154
2.4.0.2	Neuronal AChRs That Do Not Bind α Bgt	154
2.4.0.3	Neuronal AChRs That Bind α Bgt	156
2.4.1	Structural and Functional Significance of AChR Subunit Amino Acid Sequences	158
2.4.1.1	Large N-Terminal Extracellular Domain	158
2.4.1.2	Transmembrane Domains M1, M2, and M3	163
2.4.1.3	Large Cytoplasmic Domain	164

2.4.1.4	Transmembrane Domain M4 and the C-Terminus	165
2.4.2	Three-Dimensional Structure of the AChR	165
	References	167
Chapter 5		
	5-HT ₃ Receptors	177
	Jeremy J. Lambert, John A. Peters, and Anthony G. Hope	
2.5.0	Introduction	177
2.5.1	Operational Definition of the 5-HT ₃ Receptor	179
2.5.2	Electrophysiological Characterization	179
2.5.2.1	5-HT ₃ Receptor Activation	179
2.5.2.2	5-HT ₃ Receptor Desensitization	180
2.5.2.3	The Voltage Dependence of 5-HT ₃ Receptor-Mediated Currents	181
2.5.2.4	Ion Selectivity of the 5-HT ₃ Receptor-Channel Complex	182
2.5.2.5	Single Channel Properties of 5-HT ₃ Receptors	187
2.5.3	Biochemical Characterization	188
2.5.3.1	Solubilization and Purification of 5-HT ₃ Receptors	188
2.5.3.2	Molecular Size of the 5-HT ₃ Receptor	189
2.5.4	Molecular Characterization	191
2.5.4.1	Cloning of 5-HT ₃ Receptor Subunits	191
2.5.4.2	Functional Studies Performed on Cloned 5-HT ₃ Receptors	193
2.5.4.3	The Relationship of 5-HT ₃ Receptor Amino Acid Sequence to Function	195
2.5.5	Conclusion	202
	Acknowledgments	203
	References	203
Chapter 6		
	Ionotropic Glutamate Receptors	213
	Rolf Sprengel and Peter H. Seeburg	
2.6.0	Introduction	213

2.6.1	AMPA Receptor Subunits	217
2.6.1.1	GluR-A (GluR1)	217
2.6.1.2	GluR-B (GluR2)	222
2.6.1.3	GluR-C (GluR3)	223
2.6.1.4	GluR-D (GluR4)	224
2.6.2	High-Affinity Kainate Receptor Subunits	225
2.6.2.1	GluR5	227
2.6.2.2	GluR6	230
2.6.2.3	GluR7	231
2.6.2.4	KA-1	232
2.6.2.5	KA-2	234
2.6.3	Orphan Receptor Subunits	234
2.6.3.1	Delta-1	234
2.6.3.2	Delta-2	236
2.6.4	NMDA Receptor Subunits	237
2.6.4.1	NMDAR1 (NR1)	238
2.6.4.2	NMDAR2 (NR2)	238
2.6.4.2.1	NMDAR2A (NR2A)	240
2.6.4.2.2	NMDAR2B (NR2B)	242
2.6.4.2.3	NMDAR2C (NR2C)	243
2.6.4.2.4	NMDAR2D (NR2D)	244
2.6.5	Kainate-Binding Proteins (KBPs)	246
2.6.5.1	Chick KBP	246
2.6.5.2	Frog KBP	249
2.6.6	Invertebrate Glutamate Receptor Subunits	250
2.6.6.1	DGluR-I	251
2.6.6.2	DGluR-II	252
2.6.6.3	DNMDAR-I	252
2.6.6.4	LymGluR	254
2.6.6.5	C-C06E1.4	254
2.6.7	Concluding Remarks	254
	Acknowledgments	256
	References	256
	Chapter 7	
	GABA _A Receptors	265
	Rachel F. Tyndale, Richard W. Olsen, and Allan J. Tobin	

2.7.0	Introduction	265
2.7.1	GABA _A Receptor Subunit Polypeptide Structure	267
2.7.2	Multiple GABA _A Receptor Subunits	268
2.7.2.1	The GABA _A Receptor α -Subunits	269
2.7.2.2	The GABA _A Receptor β -Subunits	271
2.7.2.3	The GABA _A Receptor γ -Subunits	273
2.7.2.4	The GABA _A Receptor δ -Subunits	273
2.7.2.5	The GABA _A Receptor ρ -Subunits	273
2.7.3	Heterogeneity of the GABA _A Receptor	274
2.7.3.1	GABA _A Receptor Subunit Polymorphisms	274
2.7.3.2	GABA _A Receptor Subunit Combinations	274
2.7.3.3	Alternative Mechanisms for GABA _A Receptor Heterogeneity	274
2.7.4	Gene Structure of the GABA _A Receptor	275
2.7.5	Chromosomal Localizations of GABA _A Receptor Subunits	277
2.7.6	Evolution of the GABA _A Receptor Gene Family	280
2.7.7	Conclusions	283
	Acknowledgments	283
	References	284
Chapter 8		
	Inhibitory Glycine Receptors	291
	Dieter Langosch	
2.8.0	Introduction	291
2.8.1	Functional Properties	291
2.8.2	Pharmacology	292
2.8.3	Receptor Structure and Subtypes	294
2.8.3.1	Purification and Reconstitution	294
2.8.3.2	Primary Structure of Subunits and Subunit I Isoforms	294

2.8.4	Localization	295
2.8.4.1	Distribution of GlyR Polypeptides	295
2.8.4.2	Localization of GlyR Transcripts	297
2.8.5	Heterologous Expression	298
2.8.6	Functional Domains	298
2.8.6.1	Ligand-Binding Sites	298
2.8.6.1.1	Interaction of Ligand-Binding Domains	298
2.8.6.1.2	Structure of Ligand-Binding Domains	299
2.8.6.2	Channel-Forming Domain	300
2.8.7	Developmental Regulation	300
2.8.7.1	Neonatal GlyR	300
2.8.7.2	Regulation of Transcript Synthesis	300
2.8.8	Pathology	301
	Acknowledgments	301
	References	302

Chapter 9

Cyclic Nucleotide-Gated Channels	307
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King-Wai Yau and Tsung-Yu Chen

2.9.0	Introduction	307
2.9.1	Cyclic Nucleotide-Activated Channels	307
2.9.1.1	Retinal Rod cGMP-Activated Channel	308
2.9.1.1.1	Bovine Rod cGMP-Activated Channel	310
2.9.1.1.2	Human Rod cGMP-Activated Channel	318
2.9.1.1.3	Mouse Rod cGMP-Activated Channel	320
2.9.1.1.4	Chicken Rod cGMP-Activated Channel	320
2.9.1.2	Retinal Cone cGMP-Activated Channel	320
2.9.1.2.1	Chicken Cone cGMP-Activated Channel	320

2.9.1.3	cAMP/cGMP-Activated Channel in Olfactory Receptor Neurons	321
2.9.1.3.1	Rat Olfactory cAMP/cGMP-Activated Channel	321
2.9.1.3.2	Bovine Olfactory cAMP/cGMP-Activated Channel	322
2.9.1.3.3	Catfish Olfactory cAMP/cGMP-Activated Channel	322
2.9.1.4	cGMP-Activated Channel in Pineal Gland	323
2.9.1.5	cGMP-Activated Channel in Invertebrate Photoreceptors	323
2.9.1.6	Putative cGMP-Activated Channel of Retinal On-Bipolar Cells	324
2.9.2	Cyclic Nucleotide-Modulated Channels	325
2.9.2.1	Renal cGMP-Modulated Channel	325
2.9.2.2	cAMP-Modulated K ⁺ Channel in Larval <i>Drosophila</i> Muscle	325
2.9.2.3	cAMP-Modulated Pacemaker (I_f) Channel in Cardiac Pacemaker Cells	326
2.9.2.4	<i>eag</i> K ⁺ Channel in <i>Drosophila</i>	326
2.9.2.5	KAT1 and AKT1 Channels in Plant	327
2.9.3	Conclusion	328
	Acknowledgments	328
	References	328
	Index	337