

HANDBOOK OF EXPERIMENTAL IMMUNOLOGY
IN FOUR VOLUMES

Volume 2: Cellular Immunology

EDITED BY

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Preface

The pace of progress in immunology has not slackened since the last edition of this handbook. The subject now draws heavily on molecular biology and genetics and this has necessitated the inclusion of an additional volume on **Genetics and Molecular Immunology**. The explosion in the development of hybridoma technology and cell culture, since the last edition, can be seen from the many chapters in each volume that employ monoclonal reagents and cell lines. Some idea of the expansion of the field can be gained from the **Cellular Immunology** volume where contributions on phagocytes and lymphocytes now occupy 30 chapters compared to 12 in the previous edition. A new section on immunoregulation contains 14 chapters and there are now 6 chapters devoted to mammalian cell membrane antigens in the **Immunochemistry** volume.

It is now no longer possible for one editor to keep in touch with the enormous expansion in this field, and I am much indebted to my co-editors Len and Leonore Herzenberg who have joined me in the task of co-opting research workers in the wide range of disciplines now contributing to the field of immu-

nology. I am particularly grateful to my wife Dr Caroline Blackwell for her help with the massive editing task.

Amongst the many new features of this edition is the provision of overviews for many of the sections. I am most grateful to our contributors in the methodology sections for their efforts to achieve a consistent style of presentation of the procedures, and I hope that this will help in the accessibility of the descriptive material. A work of this size inevitably takes a number of years to put together but considerable effort has gone into introducing up to date material into the chapters. This has been achieved by enabling and encouraging contributors to introduce new material and references during the proof stages of their chapters.

I wish to thank Hilary Fienley for her careful and thorough index, and Nigel Palmer and his staff at Blackwell Scientific Publications Edinburgh office without whom production of the new edition would have been impossible. Per Saugman has as always, maintained a benevolent paternal interest in the project.

D.M.W.

Contents

List of contributors xi

Preface xvii

VOLUME 2 CELLULAR IMMUNOLOGY

Phagocytes

- 41 Overview: The function of receptors in phagocytosis
S. D. WRIGHT AND S. C. SILVERSTEIN
- 42 Overview: The mononuclear phagocyte system
R. VAN FURTH
- 43 Plasma membrane markers to study differentiation, activation and localization of murine macrophages. Ag F4/80 and the mannosyl, fucosyl receptor
S. GORDON, PHYLLIS M. STARKEY, D. HUME, R. A. B. EZEKOWITZ, S. HIRSCH AND J. AUSTYN
- 44 Methods for studying the ontogeny of mononuclear phagocytes
C. C. STEWART
- 45 Macrophage cell lines
P. RALPH
- 46 *In vitro* determination of phagocytosis and intracellular killing by polymorphonuclear and mononuclear phagocytes
P. C. J. LEIJH, R. VAN FURTH AND THEDA L. VAN ZWET
- 47 Secreted proteins of resting and activated macrophages
ZENA WERB, M. J. BANDA, R. TAKEMURA AND S. GORDON
- 48 Macrophage membrane receptors
J. STEWART, ELIZABETH J. GLASS, D. M. WEIR AND M. R. DAHA
- 49 Dendritic cells
R. M. STEINMAN, W. C. VAN VOORHIS AND D. M. SPALDING
- 50 Reduction and excitation of oxygen by phagocytic

leukocytes: biochemical and cytochemical techniques

J. A. BADWEY, J. M. ROBINSON, M. J. KARNOVSKY AND M. L. KARNOVSKY

- 51 Locomotion and chemotaxis of leukocytes
P. C. WILKINSON

- 52 Assays for phagocyte ecto-enzymes
P. J. EDELSON

The lymphoid system

- 53 Overview: Lymphocytes and their relations
H. S. MICKLEM
- 54 Physical methods for separation of lymphocyte subpopulations
R. G. MILLER
- 55 Preparative immunoselection of lymphocyte populations
S. V. HUNT
- 56 Genetic markers for following cell populations
J. D. ANSELL AND H. S. MICKLEM
- 57 Following cellular traffic: methods of labelling lymphocytes and other cells to trace their migration *in vivo*
E. C. BUTCHER AND W. L. FORD
- 58 Human leukocyte subpopulations
P. BEVERLEY
- 59 Lymphokines
J. KAPPLER AND PHILLIPA MARRACK
- 60 Natural killer cells
H. WIGZELL AND U. RAMSTEDT
- 61 Genetics and cell distributions of mouse cell surface alloantigens
LORRAINE FLAHERTY AND J. FORMAN
- Lymphocyte responses
- 62 Overview: Lymphocyte responses
G. J. V. NOSSAL

- 63 Lymphocyte responses to polyclonal B and T cell activators
EVA SEVERINSON AND EVA-LOTTA LARSSON
- 64 Assays for immunoglobulin-secreting cells
D. W. DRESSER
- 65 Limiting dilution analysis of effector cells and their precursors *in vitro*
M. ZAUDERER
- 66 *In vitro* evaluation of human lymphocyte function
H. C. LANE, GAIL WHALEN AND A. S. FAUCI
- 67 Assay for *in vivo* adoptive immune response
G. M. IVERSON
- 68 Analysis of cytotoxic T cell responses
ELIZABETH SIMPSON AND P. CHANDLER
- 69 T cell lines and hybrids in mouse and man
C. G. FATHMAN AND E. G. ENGLEMAN
- 70 B cell growth factors
MAUREEN HOWARD

Immunoregulation

- 71 Overview: Helper and suppressor T cells
K. OKUMARA AND T. TADA
- 72 Overview: Ir genes
B. BENACERRAF
- 73 Overview: Idiotypic regulation
K. RAJEWSKY
- 74 Overview: Epitope-specific regulation
LEONORE A. HERZENBERG
- 75 Overview: T cell clones
H. CANTOR
- 76 Subtractive cDNA hybridization and the T-cell receptor genes
M. M. DAVIS
- 77 Detection of suppressor cells and suppressor factors for delayed-type hypersensitivity responses
S. D. MILLER AND M. K. JENKINS

- 78 Detection of suppressor cells and suppressor factors for antibody responses
C. WALTENBAUGH AND B. S. KIM
- 79 Contrasuppressor T cells: a practical guide to the identification of contrasuppressive effects in immunoregulatory systems
D. R. GREEN
- 80 Antigen-specific suppressor molecules produced by T cells
M. TANIGUCHI AND T. TOKUHISA
- 81 Immunosuppressive agents
D. J. G. WHITE AND J. F. L. SHAW
- 82 Studies of autoimmune diseases
ELIZABETH S. RAVECHE AND A. D. STEINBERG
- 83 Primary immunodeficiencies: definitions and diagnosis
F. S. ROSEN
- 84 Studying immune regulation with protein and peptide antigens
N. SHASTRI AND E. E. SERCARZ

VOLUME 1 IMMUNOCHEMISTRY

Antigens

- 1 Overview: Antigens
M. SELA
- 2 Preparation of synthetic antigens
M. SELA AND SARA FUCHS
- 3 Haptens and carriers
O. MÄKELÄ AND I. J. T. SEPPÄLÄ
- 4 Isolation and identification of bacterial antigens
I. R. POXTON AND C. CAROLINE BLACKWELL
- 5 Preparation of viral antigens
C. J. BURRELL
- 6 Antigens of parasites
T. W. PEARSON AND M. W. CLARK
- 7 Fungal antigens
JOAN L. LONGBOTTOM AND P. K. C. AUSTWICK

- 8 Immunization of experimental animals
D. W. DRESSER
- 9 Carbohydrate antigens in higher animals
S. HAKOMORI AND R. KANNAGI
- 10 The chemistry and standardization of allergens
S. DREBORG, R. EINARSSON, JOAN L. LONG-
BOTTOM

**Immunoglobulins:
Purification and characterization**

- 11 Overview: The quest for antibody homogeneity:
the *sine qua non* for structural and genetic
insights into antibody complementarity
E. A. KABAT
- 12 Immunochemical analysis of human and rabbit
immunoglobulins and their subunits
D. R. STANWORTH AND M. W. TURNER
- 13 Purification and characterization of monoclonal
antibodies
R. R. HARDY
- 14 Preparation and purification of active fragments
from mouse monoclonal antibodies
P. PARHAM
- 15 Determination of the three-dimensional struc-
tures of immunoglobulins
A. B. EDMUNDSON AND KATHERYN R. ELY
- 16 Immunoabsorbents
SARA FUCHS AND M. SELA
- 17 Two-dimensional crystals of immunoglobulins
J. REIDLER, E. E. UZGIRIS AND R. D. KORN-
BERG
- 18 Sources of myeloma proteins, and M-com-
ponents
M. POTTER

Mammalian cell membrane antigens

- 19 Overview: Mammalian cell surface antigens
R. D. KORNBERG
- 20 Membrane and secretory immunoglobulins:
structure, biosynthesis and assembly
J. W. GODING

- 21 Class I MHC antigens of mouse and humans
J. E. COLIGAN AND T. J. KINDT
- 22 Glycoprotein antigens of the lymphocyte sur-
face and their purification by antibody affinity
chromatography
A. F. WILLIAMS AND A. N. BARCLAY
- 23 Immunofluorescence methods to study cell sur-
face and cytoplasmic proteins, and their dynamics
E. R. UNANUE AND J. BRAUN
- 24 Measurement of lateral diffusion by fluore-
scence photobleaching recovery
N. O. PETERSEN, S. FELDER AND E. L. ELSON

**Antibody interaction with soluble and cellular
antigens**

- 25 Overview: Introduction to methods used to
study the affinity and kinetics of antibody-
antigen reactions
M. W. STEWARD
- 26 Radioimmunoassays and related methods
A. E. BOLTON AND W. M. HUNTER
- 27 Enzyme immunoassays: heterogenous and
homogeneous systems
R. M. NAKAMURA, A. VOLLER AND D. E. BID-
WELL
- 28 Preparation and use of fluorochrome conjugates
G. D. JOHNSON AND E. J. HOLBOROW
- 29 Flow cytometry and fluorescence activated cell
sorting (FACS)
D. R. PARKS, L. L. LANIER AND L. A. HER-
ZENBERG
- 30 Data analysis in flow cytometry
W. A. MOORE AND R. A. KAUTZ
- 31 Purification and coupling of fluorescent proteins
for use in flow cytometry
R. R. HARDY
- 32 Immunodiffusion and immunoelectrophoresis
Ö. OUCHTERLONY AND L.-Å. NILSSON
- 33 Passive cutaneous anaphylaxis
Z. OVARY

- 34 Solid-phase radioimmune assays
C. J. NEWBY, K. HAYAKAWA AND LEONORE A. HERZENBERG
- 35 Immunological techniques for the identification of antigens and antibodies by electron microscopy
G. A. ANDRES, K. C. HSU AND BEATRICE C. SEGAL
- 36 Affinity targeting and fusion of vesicles to cells
W. GODFREY, J. GUYDEN AND L. WOFSY
- 37 Immunotoxins
OLIVIA MARTINEZ AND L. WOFSY
- 38 Kinetics of antibody reaction and the analysis of cell surface antigens
D. W. MASON AND A. F. WILLIAMS

Complement

- 39 Complement technology
R. A. HARRISON AND P. J. LACHMANN
- 40 Complement fixation by monoclonal antigen-antibody complexes
R. R. HARDY

VOLUME 3 GENETICS AND MOLECULAR IMMUNOLOGY

Molecular approaches to immunology

85. Overview: Introductory comments on molecular immunology
D. BALTIMORE
- 86 Construction and screening of recombinant DNA libraries in bacteriophage lambda
P. W. TUCKER
- 87 The major histocompatibility complex of the mouse
L. SMITH, M. STEINMETZ AND L. HOOD
- 88 The murine immunoglobulin heavy chain constant region gene locus
N. M. GOUGH AND SUZANNE CORY
- 89 The Igh-V genes of the mouse
R. RIBLET AND P. H. BRODEUR

- 90 Classification of mouse V_H sequences
RENATE DILDROP
- 91 Transfection for lymphocyte cell surface antigens
PAULA KAVATHAS AND L. A. HERZENBERG
- 92 Lymphoid cell gene transfer
SHERIE L. MORRISON AND V. T. OI

Immunoglobulin genetics

- 93 Overview: Allotypes
H. H. FUDENBERG
- 94 Human immunoglobulin allotypes
M. S. SCHANFIELD AND ERNA VAN LOGHEN
- 95 New methods for human allotyping
D. ZELASCHI, M. J. JOHNSTON, C. J. NEWBY AND LEONORE A. HERZENBERG
- 96 Gm and disease
Y. NAKAO AND T. SASAZUKI
- 97 Mouse immunoglobulin allotypes
MARILYN PARSON, LEONORE A. HERZENBERG, A. M. STALL AND L. A. HERZENBERG
- 98 Rat immunoglobulin allotypes
G. A. GUTMAN
- 99 Rabbit immunoglobulin allotypes
ROSE G. MAGE

Genetics of the major histocompatibility complex

- 100 Overview: The murine MHC
D. B. MURPHY
- 101 The MHC of the laboratory rat, *Rattus norvegicus*
G. W. BUTCHER AND J. C. HOWARD
- 102 Human HLA genetics and disease associations
GLENYS THOMSON
- 103 Common assays for identifying immune response genes
C. WALTEBAUGH AND S. D. MILLER

Resources

- 104 The mouse linkage map
MARGARET C. GREEN
- 105 Somatic cell genetics and the human gene map
M. E. KAMARCK AND F. H. RUDDLE
- 106 Inbred, congenic, recombinant-inbred and mutant mouse strains
R. W. MELVOLD

**VOLUME 4
APPLICATIONS OF IMMUNOLOGICAL
METHODS IN BIOMEDICAL
SCIENCES**

Monoclonal antibodies

- 107 Overview: Monoclonal antibodies
C. MILSTEIN
- 108 Schemata for the production of monoclonal antibody-producing hybridomas
T. J. KIPPS AND L. A. HERZENBERG
- 109 Hybridoma immunoglobulin isotype switch variant selection with the fluorescence activated cell sorter
T. J. KIPPS AND L. A. HERZENBERG
- 110 Isotype switch variants
A. RADBRUCH
- 111 Growing hybridoma and producing monoclonal antibodies *in vivo*
K. OKUMURA AND S. HABU

**Applications:
Monoclonal Antibodies**

- 112 Neurobiology
JANET WINTER, KAREN L. VALENTINO AND L. F. REICHARDT
- 113 Monoclonal antibodies in the study of parasites and host-parasite relationships
E. HANDMAN AND G. F. MITCHELL
- 114 Application of monoclonal antibodies in bacteriology
C. CAROLINE BLACKWELL AND F. P. WINSTANLEY

- 115 Applications of monoclonal antibodies in virology
W. GERHARDT AND T. BACHI
- 116 Special applications of tissue section immunologic staining in the characterization of monoclonal antibodies and in the study of normal and neoplastic tissues
R. V. ROUSE AND R. A. WARNKE
- 117 Monoclonal antibodies directed to carbohydrate antigens
R. KANNAGI AND S. HAKOMORI
- 118 Macrophages
J. C. UNKELESS AND T. A. SPRINGER

**Applications:
Immunological methods**

- 119 Application of immunological techniques in bacteriology
F. P. WINSTANLEY AND C. CAROLINE BLACKWELL
- 120 Application of immunological methods in virology
E. J. STOTT AND D. A. J. TYRRELL
- 121 Applications of immunological methods in mycology
JOAN L. LONGBOTTOM
- 122 Applications of immunological methods in protozoology
E. H. R. LUMSDEN
- 123 Applications of immunological methods in helminthology
W. J. L. SOULSBY AND SHEELAGH LLOYD
- 124 Immunological aspects of human pregnancy
J. A. MACINTYRE AND W. PAGE FAULK
- 125 Applications of immunological techniques to the study of the tumour-host relationship
G. J. DOUGHERTY, C. A. ALLEN AND NANCY M. HOGG

Additional clinical applications of immunological methods

- 126 Tests of immune function
S. J. URBANIAK, M. C. MCCANN, A. G. WHITE, G. R. BARCLAY AND A. B. KAY

x *Contents*

- 127 Provocation tests and measurements of mediators from mast cells and basophils in asthma and allergic rhinitis

O. CROMWELL, S. R. DURHAM, R. J. SHAW,
JUDITH A. MACKAY AND A. B. KAY

- 128 Methods for detecting immune complexes in biological fluids

M. H. KLEIN AND K. SIMINOVITCH

- 129 Immunohistochemistry in pathology

EADIE HEYDERMAN, I. STRUDLEY AND T. C. RICHARDSON

- 130 Quantification of IgE and IgG4 both as total immunoglobulins and as allergen-specific antibodies

T. G. MERRETT

General methods for immunologic studies

- 131 Statistical aspects of planning and design of immunological experiments

R. A. ELTON AND W. H. MCBRIDE

- 132 Guidelines to statistical analysis

W. LUTZ

- 133 Laboratory animal techniques for immunology

W. J. HERBERT, F. KRISTENSEN, with RUTH
M. AITKEN, M. B. ESLAMI, ANNE FERGUSON,
KATHLEEN G. GRAY, W. J. PENHALE

Index to Volume 2 xix

Chapter 41

Overview: the function of receptors in phagocytosis

S. D. WRIGHT & S. C. SILVERSTEIN

The attachment step, 41.1
Receptors function independently of one another, 41.3
Engulfment, 41.3

Cytoskeletal proteins, cell motility, and the energetics of phagocytosis, 41.5
Transmembrane signals, 41.6

Fc receptors are constitutively active, 41.6
Some problems and strategies in the study of the roles of receptors in phagocytosis, 41.9

Mononuclear phagocytes together with polymorphonuclear leucocytes comprise the most numerous classes of phagocytic cells in higher organisms. Rabinovitch has termed these cells 'professional' phagocytes because they have made a full-time occupation out of eating. Leucocytes are not the only 'professional' phagocytes in the body. The pigmented epithelial cells of the retina phagocytose the fragments of rod outer segments that are shed daily by the rod cells [1]. Thus being a professional phagocyte is not a unique property of motile cells of haematopoietic (mesenchymal) origin.

A role for phagocytosis in antimicrobial defence has been recognized since the time of Metchnikoff [2]. Less widely appreciated is the role phagocytosis plays in homeostatic functions such as the turnover of surfactant in the lung [3], and the removal of senescent erythrocytes [4]. In each of these instances, the material to be removed is specifically and selectively phagocytosed without apparent injury to neighbouring cells and tissues. The authors believe that this specificity is a consequence of receptor-ligand interactions that govern the ingestion process.

Macrophages have on their plasma membranes binding sites for more than forty ligands (Table 41.1). Receptors of defined molecular weight and subunit composition have been identified for a few of these ligands (e.g. IgG [5], complement [6,7]). The presence of specific receptor proteins for the remaining ligands is inferred by their specific and saturable binding to leucocytes and by the inability of other ligands to compete for binding.

At present, only a few of these receptors (i.e. those for IgG, complement, oligosaccharides) are known to promote ingestion of particles. It seems unlikely that the remaining receptors play a major role in phagocytosis since their ligands are soluble and bind poorly

to micro-organisms or other particulate matter. (Fibronectin is a special case and will be discussed later in this chapter.) For this reason, the authors have focussed on mechanisms by which IgG, complement, and oligosaccharides promote phagocytosis. Implicit in their discussion is the assumption that uptake of all particulate materials by phagocytic leucocytes, be they latex beads or IgG-coated bacteria, is governed by receptor-ligand interactions; and that the general principles established in studies of the uptake of IgG, complement-, or oligosaccharide-coated particles will be broadly applicable to other receptor-ligand systems.

The attachment step

Phagocytosis can be divided both conceptually and experimentally into a series of processes that culminate in the total engulfment of a particle. The first step in this series is the attachment of the particle to the phagocyte's surface [8]. In general, attachment occurs over a broad temperature range and independently of the expenditure of metabolic energy by the phagocyte. Engulfment, on the other hand, is strictly dependent on cellular metabolism and is entirely halted at temperatures below 18–20 °C [9,10]. Particles coated with some ligands (e.g. complement) bind more efficiently to their corresponding receptors at 37 °C than at 4 °C; particles coated with other ligands, such as IgG, bind with roughly equal efficiency at both temperatures.

Attachment *per se* does not predestine the particle for ingestion. Erythrocytes or smooth encapsulated bacteria can be bound to the surfaces of phagocytic leucocytes with concanavalin A [11], F(ab)₂ antibody fragments [12], fibronectin [13], or complement [14,15], and will remain on the phagocyte's surface for

Table 41.1. Receptors on the surface of macrophages¹

Ligand	Name of receptor (if different from ligand)	Comments	Reference
<i>Receptors that constitutively promote phagocytosis</i>			
IgG _{2a}	FcRI	Murine	[5]
IgG _{1,2b}	FcRII	Murine	[5]
IgG ₃		Murine	[5]
IgG ₁	Fc _γ R _{hi}	Human	[86]
Immune complexes	Fc _γ R _{lo}	Human	[86]
IgE			[87]
Mannose/GlcNAc- containing oligosaccharides			[88]
Galactose-containing oligosaccharides			[4]
<i>Receptors that promote phagocytosis in a regulated fashion</i>			
C3b and C4b	CR1	Also inhibits complement enzymes	[6]
C3bi	CR3		[7]
C3d and C3dg	CR2		[57]
<i>Receptors for fast-acting regulators</i>			
Fibronectin			[13]
Serum amyloid P component 'lymphokine'		Secreted by lymphocytes in response to a factor from phagocytosing macrophages	[60]
Insulin			[58]
Adrenalin			[89]
Histamine			[90]
Somatomedin			[91]
Calcitonin			[92]
Parathormone			[93]
<i>Receptors for long-term regulators</i>			
γ-Interferon (macrophage activating factor)			[94]
Colony stimulating factor			[95]
<i>Receptors that mediate pinocytic uptake of ligands</i>			
α ₂ Macroglobulin-protease complex			[96]
LDL			[97]
Acetyl-LDL			[97]
VLDL			[98]
Transferrin			[99]
(Receptors for Fc, C3, and oligo- saccharides also mediate pinocytosis)			
<i>Receptors for chemoattractants</i>			
Formyl-methionyl-leucyl-phenylalanine			[100]
C5a			[100]
Thrombin			[101]
<i>Miscellaneous receptors</i>			
Elastase			[102]
Lactoferrin			[103]
Fibrin			[104]
Tumour cell		Presumed to exist because 'activated' macrophages bind tumour cells	[105]
Clq			[106]

¹ It should be noted that for each ligand there may be multiple distinct receptors. Additional surface proteins that may be receptors are described in Table 118.1 in the chapter by Unkeless & Springer.

several hours at 37 °C. That these particles can be ingested is evident when IgG directed against the surface of the particle is added to the cultures. Under these conditions the particles are ingested [16,17]. These results indicate that signals generated by the ligation of specific membrane receptors are required to promote internalization.

Receptors function independently of one another

Phagocytosis-promoting receptors diffuse freely in the plane of the plasma membrane [18,19] and function independently of one another in mediating particle ingestion. For example, macrophages that are functionally depleted of Fc receptors after spreading on IgG-coated surfaces still phagocytose via their receptors for C3 and for oligosaccharides; conversely, macrophages whose complement receptors have been depleted by spreading on a complement-coated surface or inactivated by treatment with proteolytic enzymes still phagocytose via their Fc receptors [18]. Moreover, signals generated via one class of phagocytosis-promoting receptors are not transmitted to other classes of phagocytosis-promoting receptors on the same cell. For example, ligation of macrophage Fc receptors does not stimulate complement receptor function [18]. Nevertheless, two receptors may complement one another if ligands for each are present on a single particle. Ehlenberger & Nussenzweig [20] reported that erythrocytes bearing complement and a limiting number of IgG molecules are phagocytosed to a greater extent than erythrocytes bearing the same number of IgG molecules alone. Under the conditions of their experiment, complement receptors were unable to promote ingestion. However, attachment is the rate limiting step in Fc-receptor mediated phagocytosis [21]. Thus ligands that enhance attachment such as complement thereby enhance the efficiency of interaction of ingestion-promoting ligands, such as IgG with their corresponding receptors.

Engulfment

Generation of a signal that promotes membrane internalization, as occurs when Fc receptors are ligated, produces a membrane response that is restricted to the segments of membrane in contact with the particle initiating the signal [16]. The advancing pseudopods adhere closely to the surface of the particle (Fig. 41.1), even to the point of enveloping each particle in a separate vacuole. These and other observations led Griffin *et al.* [16,22] to propose a general hypothesis (the 'zipper' mechanism) to explain these findings. Essentially, the 'zipper' concept predicts that movement of a phagocyte's plasma mem-

brane along the surface of a ligand-coated particle is governed by the availability of receptors on the surface of the phagocyte and is guided by the distribution of ligands on the surface of the particle. Several lines of evidence support this hypothesis, the most compelling of which is an experiment in which B lymphocytes were coated circumferentially or hemispherically with IgG antibodies to membrane IgM and then incubated with macrophages. Lymphocytes coated circumferentially with IgG were engulfed. Lymphocytes coated on one hemisphere with IgG were bound to the macrophages via this IgG cap, but they were not engulfed. Ultrastructural histochemistry confirmed that the macrophage membrane extends over the surface of the IgG-coated capped lymphocyte only in the areas of the IgG cap [22]. Thus, engulfment requires the sequential and circumferential interaction of receptors on the surface of the phagocyte with corresponding ligands on the surface of the particle.

Scanning electron micrographs of the engulfment of IgG-coated erythrocytes by macrophages show that these phagocytes extend several broad, relatively flat pseudopods over the particle. As these pseudopods advance they form a smooth cup-like structure whose rim ultimately covers the entire particle. There is no evidence that these advancing pseudopods fuse with one another; rather, formation of the phagocytic cup involves considerable membrane flow and remodelling such that the final event in closure of the phagocytic vacuole is the fusion of membranes over a small hole (punctum) at the point where the advancing pseudopods meet [23]. Thus the extent of membrane fusion required to close a phagocytic vacuole may be no greater than that required to close a pinocytic vesicle.

Within a span of 15–30 min macrophages can ingest sufficient particles to cause the interiorization of 30–40% of their total surface area. These cells have large internal stores of plasma membrane (perhaps as much as two-fold the amount of the surface [24,25]) and the authors presume that these internal membrane stores are inserted into the cell surface to replace plasma membrane interiorized with the ingested particles. Such redistribution of membrane from internal stores to the cell surface has been shown to accompany phagocytosis in amoebae [26,27] and in leucocytes [28], and may explain the constancy of plasma membrane composition in phagocytosing leucocytes suggested by the experiments of Tsan & Berlin [29] over a decade ago.

Cohn, Hubbard, Steinman and their associates [10,30,31] have made imaginative use of lactoperoxidase (LPO) catalysed surface iodination to examine the surface proteins incorporated into the membrane of the phagosome. These investigators labelled the surface membranes of fibroblasts [31,32] and macro-