



Receptors and
Recognition

Series B Volume 17

Monoclonal Antibodies to Receptors

Probes for Receptor
Structure and Function

Edited by
M. F. Greaves

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*Leukaemia Research Fund Centre
Institute for Cancer Research,
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About the series

Cellular Recognition – the process by which cells interact with, and respond to, molecular signals in their environment – plays a crucial role in virtually all important biological functions. These encompass fertilization, infectious interactions, embryonic development, the activity of the nervous system, the regulation of growth and metabolism by hormones and the immune response to foreign antigens. Although our knowledge of these systems has grown rapidly in recent years, it is clear that a full understanding of cellular recognition phenomena will require an integrated and multidisciplinary approach.

This series aims to expedite such an understanding by bringing together accounts by leading researchers of all biochemical, cellular and evolutionary aspects of recognition systems. This series will contain volumes of two types. First, there will be volumes containing about five reviews from different areas of the general subject written at a level suitable for all biologically oriented scientists (Receptors and Recognition, series A). Secondly, there will be more specialized volumes (Receptors and Recognition, series B), each of which will be devoted to just one particularly important area.

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Preface

Receptor specific antibodies are excellent probes for a wide range of biological investigations on receptor structure and function. The hybridoma technology (Kohler and Milstein, 1975) has inevitably had a major impact on this field with most of the better known receptors now identified with monoclonal antibodies. This volume of the *Receptors and Recognition* series provides reviews of recent developments in this field and emphasizes in particular the new opportunities afforded by the judicious application of monoclonal reagents. It is assumed that most readers will be familiar with the now fairly routine methods of cell fusion, hybridoma cloning and selection for producing monoclonal antibodies and so few details of the basic technical procedures are described. Several good reviews on this topic are however available (see Galfre and Milstein, 1981; Goding, 1980; Yelton and Scharf, 1981; McMichael and Fabre, 1982).

By no means all vertebrate receptor species are discussed here; omissions include antibodies to low density lipoprotein receptors (Beisiegel *et al.*, 1981; Kita *et al.*, 1981), prolactin and growth hormone receptors (Friesen *et al.*, 1982; Simpson *et al.*, 1983) and the hepatocyte asialoglycoprotein receptor (Schwartz *et al.*, 1981; Harford *et al.*, 1982). Nevertheless the coverage is comprehensive and critical and the individual chapters provided illustrate vividly the rapid progress being made. In addition to monoclonal antibodies three other types of receptor antibodies are described in this volume: experimentally induced polyclonal antibodies, human autoantibodies, and anti-anti-hormone (= anti-idiotypic) antibodies. The latter reagents are capable of recognizing hormone or neurotransmitter receptors via 'molecular mimicry' and are discussed in detail by Strosberg and Schreiber in Chapter 2, and also by Ross (Chapter 5), Kohn *et al.* (Chapter 9) and Fuchs *et al.* (Chapter 8) (see also Sege and Peterson, 1978; Shechter *et al.*, 1982; Wassermann *et al.*, 1982; Homcy *et al.*, 1982; Cleveland *et al.*, 1983).

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1 Introduction

MELVYN F. GREAVES

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1.1 DIVERSITY OF APPLICATIONS OF ANTI-RECEPTOR ANTIBODIES

Successful applications of monoclonal antibodies to receptor biology are remarkably diverse (Table 1.1) and are perhaps best exemplified by the many elegant studies on nicotinic acetylcholine receptors which range from gene cloning and detailed protein subunit anatomy to the immunopathology of myasthenia gravis.

In many of these studies it is clear that monoclonal antibodies have had distinct advantages. Since these reagents can be selected for high affinity and bind to a single epitope, they permit a fine anatomical dissection of a receptor molecule and its subunits (see for example chapters by Ross, Fraser, Kohn *et al.*, Fuchs *et al.*, and also Sanchez-Madrid *et al.*, 1983; Tzartos *et al.*, 1981; Gullick and Lindstrom, 1983) and enable functional effects of antibodies to be linked to a particular site. The species specificity of selected monoclonal antibodies has also been important for allocating receptor genes to particular chromosomes by somatic cell genetics (references in Table 1.1; see also Goodfellow and Solomon, 1982).

1.2 SPECIFICITY OF ANTIBODIES TO RECEPTORS

It is important to appreciate that different regions or subunits of receptors are not equipotent immunologically; as far as a mouse immune response (for example) is concerned, certain areas of receptor will be 'immunodominant' (see Tzartos *et al.*, 1981). In addition, the physical form of the receptor material used for both immunization and hybridoma screening has a marked influence on the spectrum of antibody specificities and affinities obtained. Thus antibodies raised and selected against isolated receptors or their subunits may preferentially recognize intracytoplasmic domains of receptor unavailable on the cell surface (cf. Froehner, 1981) or subunit determinants which are cryptic or unavailable in the complete, native structure. Also, since isolation of receptors usually involves denaturation, antibodies raised against purified receptors may not recognize conformation-dependent regions or may only do so with low affinity (Tzartos *et al.*, 1981). As discussed by Fuchs *et al.* (Chapter 8), antibodies raised against denatured versus non-denatured receptors do show the anticipated specificity differences.

The hybridoma screening or selection procedure itself introduces a strong bias into the apparent repertoire of antibody specificities. Thus selective screening of monoclonal antibodies by inhibition of ligand binding may create the impression that many or most antibodies raised against receptors recognize the receptor's binding site for hormone, neurotransmitter, etc., whilst in fact this is almost certainly not the case. Firstly, although antibody binding may prevent interaction of receptor with its natural ligand (e.g. acetylcholine) or

Table 1.1 Some examples of applications of monoclonal anti-receptor antibodies

	Receptors (R)	Reference (example)
1. Affinity purification of receptors	Trf R and others	See Chapter 13 by Schneider; also Jacobs and Cuatrecasas (1981)
2. Biosynthesis, processing and membrane insertion of receptors	ACh R	Anderson and Blobel (1981) Fuchs <i>et al.</i> (Chapter 8)
	Insulin R	Hedo <i>et al.</i> (1983) Chapter 11 by Jacobs <i>et al.</i>
	IL-2 R	Chapter 3 by Leonard <i>et al.</i>
	Trf R	Schneider, C. <i>et al.</i> (1982) Chapter 10 by Trowbridge and Newman
3. Biochemical characterization, subunit anatomy and inter-relationships	AChR	Tzartos <i>et al.</i> (1981, 1982) Gullick and Lindstrom (1983) Chapter 8 by Fuchs <i>et al.</i>
	β_2 Adr R	Chapter 6 by Fraser
	T cell Ags	Chapter 7 by Terhorst
	LDL R	Schneider, W.J. <i>et al.</i> (1982)
	C3b R	Chapter 5 by Ross Springer <i>et al.</i> (1982)
	Steroid H R	Chapter 4 by Moncharmont and Parikh
4. Receptor localization <i>in situ</i>	Asialo GP R	Schwartz <i>et al.</i> (1981) Harford <i>et al.</i> (1982)
	Trf R	Gatter <i>et al.</i> (1983)
	Steroid H R	Chapter 4 by Moncharmont and Parikh
	ACh R	Swanson <i>et al.</i> (1983)
5. Identification of 'traffic' pathways for receptor-ligand internalization and recycling	Trf R	Hopkins and Trowbridge (1983) Enns <i>et al.</i> (1983)
	Asialo GP R	Geuze <i>et al.</i> (1983)
	LDL R	Brown <i>et al.</i> (1983)
	EGF R	Chapter 12 by Schlessinger <i>et al.</i> (See also Cuatrecasas and Roth, 1983 and Brown <i>et al.</i> (1983) for review)

6. Functional studies of receptor-response coupling	TSH R	Chapter 9 by Kohn <i>et al.</i>
	EGF R	Chapter 12 by Schlessinger <i>et al.</i>
	Trf R	Chapter 10 by Trowbridge and Newman
	IL 2 R	Chapter 3 by Leonard <i>et al.</i>
	Insulin R	Chapter 11 by Jacobs <i>et al.</i>
7. Genetic mapping of receptors	T cell Ags	Chapter 7 by Terhorst See also Chapter 2 by Strosberg and Schreiber
	EGF R	Waterfield <i>et al.</i> (1982)
	Trf R	Goodfellow <i>et al.</i> (1982)
	ACh R	See Chapter 13 by Schneider
	Trf R	
8. Molecular cloning of receptors	TSH R	Chapter 9 by Kohn <i>et al.</i>
	ACh R	Chapter 8 by Fuchs <i>et al.</i>
		Tzartos <i>et al.</i> (1982)
	β_2 Adr R	Chapter 6 by Fraser; see also Chapter 2 by Strosberg and Schreiber for review.
	LDL R	Tolleshaug <i>et al.</i> (1982) Beisiegel <i>et al.</i> (1981)

TSH, thyroid-stimulating hormone/thyrotropin; ACh, acetylcholine; Trf, transferrin; IL-2, interleukin 2; β_2 Adr, adrenergic (receptor); T cell Ags, T lymphocyte, cell surface antigens; Steroid H, steroid hormone; EGF epidermal growth factor; Asialo GP, asialoglycoprotein; C3b, complement component(s) C3b (see Chapter 5 by Ross); LDL, low-density lipoprotein.

various agonists/antagonists (e.g. α -toxin) used as affinity probes for the binding site, the reverse is often not the case (see Fuchs *et al.*, Chapter 8). Assuming that the antibodies do not possess a much higher affinity for the receptor than the binding site specific probe (which seems very unlikely with, for example, the acetylcholine receptor), this observation suggests that immunoglobulins recognize epitopes close to but distinct from the receptor binding site(s) and inhibit by steric hindrance.

Secondly, there are theoretical reasons for anticipating a low or modest frequency of anti-binding site antibodies. Most of the receptors discussed in this volume have phylogenetically conserved combining site specificity; other, functionally less important, regions of the structure would be expected to have accumulated more sequence polymorphism and potential antigenicity. In