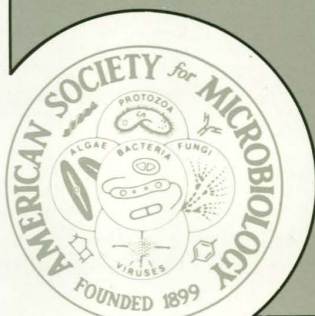


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Page 1

# MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY

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## Author Index

- Agabian, Nina, 1212  
 Alitalo, Kari, 1255  
 Arceci, Robert J., 1346  
  
 Barringer, Kevin J., 1316  
 Bedard, Pierre-Andre, 1371  
 Bedwell, David M., 1014  
 Beemon, Karen, 1155  
 Bernstein, Mitchell, 1191  
 Bertrand, Helmut, 1362  
 Birshstein, Barbara K., 1324  
 Bishop, J. Michael, 1148  
 Bissinger, Peter H., 1309  
 Bloom, Kerry, 1368  
 Bos, Timothy J., 1255  
 Brownlee, Clare, 1060  
 Brugge, Joan S., 1109  
 Burke, Dan, 1049  
  
 Calos, Michele P., 1026  
 Caratoli, Alessandra, 1271  
 Carle, George S., 983  
 Chae, Chi-Bom, 1005  
 Chalkley, Roger, 1289  
 Challoner, Peter B., 902  
 Chedid, Marcio, 959  
 Chin, William W., 1128  
 Clayton, Christine E., 1332  
 Clayton, David A., 1200  
 Conscience, Jean-François, 1183  
 Cregg, James M., 1316  
 Croop, James M., 1346  
 Culotta, Valeria Cizewski, 1376  
  
 Darling, Douglas S., 1128  
 Davies, Monique V., 946, 1233  
 DeMarco, Michael, 1109  
 Deuring, Renate, 875  
 Deutsch, Walter A., 965  
 Devault, Alain, 1346  
 Diamantis, Ioannis D., 1183  
 Didion, Thomas, 988  
 Dihanich, Melitta, 1100  
 Dorner, Andrew J., 1233  
 Dubin, Robert A., 1083  
  
 Ehrlich, Kenneth C., 1351  
 Ehrlich, Melanie, 1351  
 Elliott, David J., 1069  
 Emr, Scott D., 1014  
 Erikson, R. L., 1371  
  
 Felsenfeld, Gary, 893  
 Fendly, Brian M., 1165  
 Fisch, Tobe M., 1327  
 Fluck, Michele M., 995  
 Foreman, Pamela K., 1137  
 Fox, Larry G., 1109  
 Frankel, Wayne, 1284  
 Fu, Ying-Hui, 1120  
 Fuller, Margaret T., 875  
  
 Garcia-Blanco, Mariano A., 1060  
 Gasdaska, Pam, 1049  
 Ghazal, Peter, 1342  
 Granner, Daryl K., 1289  
 Groen, N. A., 1277  
 Gros, Philippe, 1346  
 Groudine, Mark, 902  
  
 Haase, Steven B., 1026  
 Haber, Daniel, 1346  
 Hacker, David, 995  
 Hamer, Dean H., 1376  
 Hamilton, Barbara, 1309  
 Hamlin, Joyce L., 1137  
 Hanahan, Douglas, 925  
 Hannigan, Gregory, 1060  
 Harless, Julie, 965  
 Hartwell, Leland, 1049  
 Hays, Thomas S., 875  
 Hennighausen, Lothar, 1342  
 Hershey, John W. B., 946  
 Hill, Alison, 1368  
 Hodin, Richard A., 1128  
 Hofer, Paul, 1183  
 Holland, Janice P., 1243  
 Holland, Michael J., 1243  
 Housman, David E., 1346  
 Howley, Peter M., 925  
 Hudziak, Robert M., 1165  
 Hwang, Inhwan, 1005  
  
 Ip, Y. Tony, 1289  
 Irving, Steven G., 1034, 1041  
 Israel, David I., 1233  
  
 Jacobs, Howard T., 1069  
 Jerry, D. Joseph, 935  
 Johnston, Leslie A., 935  
 Jones, Peter A., 885  
 Jongeward, Gregg D., 1014  
 June, Carl H., 1034  
  
 Kang, John, 1243  
 Katzenberg, Daniel R., 1324  
 Kaufman, Randal J., 946, 1233,  
 Kelley, Mark R., 965  
 Kelly, Kathleen, 1034, 1041  
 Kepes, François, 1191  
 Keski-Oja, Jorma, 1255  
 Kim, Ki-Han, 974  
 Kindler, Vincent, 1183  
 Knezetic, Joseph A., 893  
 Kobayashi, George S., 983  
 Kotarski, Michael A., 935  
 Kowalik, Klaus V., 988  
 Kozak, Leslie P., 935  
 Krag, Sharon S., 914  
 Krysan, Patrick J., 1026  
  
 Lambowitz, Alan M., 1362  
 Lambris, John D., 1100  
 Lazar, Mitchell A., 1128  
  
 Lengyel, Peter, 1060  
 Lewis, Gail D., 1165  
 Ling, Victor, 1224  
 Lizardi, Paul M., 1212  
 Lockshin, Curtis, 1342  
 Lohman, P. H. M., 1277  
 Lowenhaupt, Ky, 1173  
 Lubon, Henryk, 1342  
 Lugo, Tracy Gross, 1263  
 Lührmann, Reinhard, 1212  
  
 Macino, Giuseppe, 1271  
 Madden, Knut R., 1316  
 Mannix, Daniel G., 1120  
 Marshallsay, Brigitte, 1100  
 Marzluf, George A., 1120  
 McIntosh, Lee, 1362  
 Medoff, Gerald, 983  
 Mestel, Rosie, 1243  
 Michalowsky, Lesley A., 885  
 Mizel, Steven B., 959  
 Morelli, Giorgio, 1271  
 Moroni, Christoph, 1183  
 Morrison, Elizabeth, 1060  
 Moss, Stuart B., 902  
 Mottram, Jeremy, 1212  
 Mowatt, Michael R., 1332  
  
 Nair, Asha P. K., 1183  
 Nelson, F. Kenneth, 1284  
 Nelson, Jay, 1342  
 Nelson, Mary Anne, 1271  
 Nelson, Richard G., 1212  
 Nemeth, Susan P., 1109  
 Neumann, Dieter, 1298  
 Ng, William F., 1224  
 Nickels, Roxy, 1362  
 Nover, Lutz, 1298  
 Nusse, Roel, 1357  
  
 Paietta, John V., 1120  
 Pape, Michael E., 974  
 Pardue, Mary Lou, 1173  
 Pathak, Vinay K., 946  
 Perry, Karen L., 1212  
 Pertovaara, Liisa, 1255  
 Piatigorsky, Joram, 1083  
 Pollok, Brian A., 959  
 Prout, Mary, 875  
 Prywes, Ron, 1327  
  
 Rajan, T. V., 1284  
 Ray, Dan S., 1365  
 Raymond, Martine, 1346  
 Reynolds-Kohler, Catherine, 1342  
 Rich, Alexander, 1173  
 Robertson, Barbara, 875  
 Roeder, Robert G., 1327  
 Roelink, Henk, 1357  
 Roggenkamp, Rainer, 988  
 Romano, Nicoletta, 1271  
 Rosenwald, Anne G., 914  
 Ruis, Helmut, 1309  
  
 Rutherford, Michael, 1060  
 Ryden, Thomas A., 1155  
  
 Sabourin, Josanne R., 1362  
 Sarangi, Farida, 1224  
 Scharf, Klaus-Dieter, 1298  
 Schekman, Randy, 1191  
 Schuurin, Ed, 1357  
 Shepard, H. Michael, 1165  
 Shirakawa, Fumihiko, 959  
 Shtivelman, E., 1148  
 Siebenlist, Ulrich, 1034, 1041  
 Simmons, Daniel L., 1371  
 Simons, J. W. I. M., 1277  
 Sippola-Thiele, Maria, 925  
 Sistonen, Lea, 1255  
 Stanley, Pamela, 914  
 Steele, Paul E., 983  
 Stiles, Charles D., 1060  
 Stillman, Cathy A., 1316  
 Strobel, Scott A., 1014  
 Supakar, Prakash C., 1351  
 Suttles, Jill, 959  
  
 Thill, Gregory P., 1316  
 Tilley, Shermaine A., 1324  
 Topper, James N., 1200  
  
 Ullrich, Axel, 1165  
  
 van Deemter, Liesbeth, 1357  
 van Rooijen, M. L., 1277  
 Van Tuinen, Evert, 1100  
 van Zeeland, A. A., 1277  
 Veinot-Drebot, Lela, 1224  
 Venugopal, Sheela, 965  
 Verma, Inder M., 1336  
 Visvader, Jane, 1336  
 Vogt, Peter K., 1255  
 Vrieling, H., 1277  
  
 Wang, Enduo, 1243  
 Wasley, Louise C., 1233  
 Wawrousek, Eric F., 1083  
 Wieser, Rotraud, 1309  
 Williams, Bryan R. G., 1060  
 Winget, Marcy, 1165  
 Wisdom, Gregory S., 1332  
 Wise, Robert J., 1233  
 Witte, Owen N., 1263  
  
 Yannoni, Yvonne, 1371  
 Yao, Ching-Ho, 1092  
 Yao, Meng-Chao, 1092  
 Yip, Michele, 1243  
 Yun, Kyuson, 1014  
  
 Zastawny, Roman L., 1224  
 Zdzienicka, M. Z., 1277  
 Zhang, Daoling, 1351  
 Zipfel, Peter F., 1034, 1041

# MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY

Volume 9

March 1989

No. 3

## GENE EXPRESSION

<b>Gene Structure and Transcription in Mouse Cells with Extensively Demethylated DNA.</b> Lesley A. Michalowsky and Peter A. Jones.....	885-892
<b>Identification and Characterization of a Chicken <math>\alpha</math>-Globin Enhancer.</b> Joseph A. Knezetic and Gary Felsenfeld.....	893-901
<b>Control of Carbohydrate Processing: Increased <math>\beta</math>-1,6 Branching in N-Linked Carbohydrates of Lec9 CHO Mutants Appears To Arise from a Defect in Oligosaccharide-Dolichol Biosynthesis.</b> Anne G. Rosenwald, Pamela Stanley, and Sharon S. Krag.....	914-924
<b>An Ubiquitously Expressed Gene 3.5 Kilobases Upstream of the Glycerol-3-Phosphate Dehydrogenase Gene in Mice.</b> Leslie A. Johnston, Michael A. Kotarski, D. Joseph Jerry, and Leslie P. Kozak.....	935-945
<b>The Phosphorylation State of Eucaryotic Initiation Factor 2 Alters Translational Efficiency of Specific mRNAs.</b> Randal J. Kaufman, Monique V. Davies, Vinay K. Pathak, and John W. B. Hershey.....	946-958
<b>Interleukin 1 and Cyclic AMP Induce <math>\kappa</math> Immunoglobulin Light-Chain Expression via Activation of an NF-<math>\kappa</math>B-Like DNA-Binding Protein.</b> Fumihiko Shirakawa, Marcio Chedid, Jill Suttles, Brian A. Pollok, and Steven B. Mizel.....	959-964
<b>Transcriptional Regulation of Acetyl Coenzyme A Carboxylase Gene Expression by Tumor Necrosis Factor in 30A-5 Preadipocytes.</b> Michael E. Pape and Ki-Han Kim.....	974-982
<b>S-Phase-Specific Transcription Regulatory Elements Are Present in a Replication-Independent Testis-Specific H2B Histone Gene.</b> Inhwon Hwang and Chi-Bom Chae.....	1005-1013
<b>Mitogen-Induced Genes Are Subject to Multiple Pathways of Regulation in the Initial Stages of T-Cell Activation.</b> Steven G. Irving, Carl H. June, Peter F. Zipfel, Ulrich Siebenlist, and Kathleen Kelly.....	1034-1040
<b>Complexity of the Primary Genetic Response to Mitogenic Activation of Human T Cells.</b> Peter F. Zipfel, Steven G. Irving, Kathleen Kelly, and Ulrich Siebenlist.....	1041-1048
<b>Regulation of 2',5'-Oligoadenylate Synthetase Gene Expression by Interferons and Platelet-Derived Growth Factor.</b> Mariano A. Garcia-Blanco, Peter Lengyel, Elizabeth Morrison, Clare Brownlee, Charles D. Stiles, Michael Rutherford, Gregory Hannigan, and Bryan R. G. Williams.....	1060-1068
<b>Mutually Exclusive Synthetic Pathways for Sea Urchin Mitochondrial rRNA and mRNA.</b> David J. Elliott and Howard T. Jacobs.....	1069-1082
<b>Expression of the Murine <math>\alpha</math>B-Crystallin Gene Is Not Restricted to the Lens.</b> Robert A. Dubin, Eric F. Wawrousek, and Joram Piatigorsky.....	1083-1091
<b><i>cys-3</i>, the Positive-Acting Sulfur Regulatory Gene of <i>Neurospora crassa</i>, Encodes a Protein with a Putative Leucine Zipper DNA-Binding Element.</b> Ying-Hui Fu, John V. Palletta, Daniel G. Mannix, and George A. Marzluf.....	1120-1127
<b>A Novel Member of the Thyroid/Steroid Hormone Receptor Family Is Encoded by the Opposite Strand of the Rat <i>c-erbA<math>\alpha</math></i> Transcriptional Unit.</b> Mitchell A. Lazar, Richard A. Hodin, Douglas S. Darling, and William W. Chin....	1128-1136

Continued on following page

Continued from preceding page

<b>Avian Retroviral Long Terminal Repeats Bind CCAAT/Enhancer-Binding Protein.</b> Thomas A. Ryden and Karen Beemon .....	1155-1164
<b>Identification of Transcriptional Regulatory Elements in Human Mitochondrial DNA by Linker Substitution Analysis.</b> James N. Topper and David A. Clayton .....	1200-1211
<b>Isolation and Sequence of Four Small Nuclear U RNA Genes of <i>Trypanosoma brucei</i> subsp. <i>brucei</i>: Identification of the U2, U4, and U6 RNA Analogs.</b> Jeremy Mottram, Karen L. Perry, Paul M. Lizardi, Reinhard Lührmann, Nina Agabian, and Richard G. Nelson .....	1212-1223
<b>Effect of von Willebrand Factor Coexpression on the Synthesis and Secretion of Factor VIII in Chinese Hamster Ovary Cells.</b> Randal J. Kaufman, Louise C. Wasley, Monique V. Davies, Robert J. Wise, David I. Israel, and Andrew J. Dorner .....	1233-1242
<b>Sequences within the Spacer Region of Yeast rRNA Cistrons That Stimulate 35S rRNA Synthesis In Vivo Mediate RNA Polymerase I-Dependent Promoter and Terminator Activities.</b> Rosie Mestel, Michele Yip, Janice P. Holland, Enduo Wang, John Kang, and Michael J. Holland .....	1243-1254
<b>Enhanced <i>jun</i> Gene Expression Is an Early Genomic Response to Transforming Growth Factor <math>\beta</math> Stimulation.</b> Liisa Pertovaara, Lea Sistonen, Timothy J. Bos, Peter K. Vogt, Jorma Keski-Oja, and Kari Alitalo .....	1255-1262
<b>The BCR-ABL Oncogene Transforms Rat-1 Cells and Cooperates with <i>v-myc</i>.</b> Tracy Gross Lugo and Owen N. Witte .....	1263-1270
<b>Molecular Cloning of a <i>Neurospora crassa</i> Carotenoid Biosynthetic Gene (Albino-3) Regulated by Blue Light and the Products of the White Collar Genes.</b> Mary Anne Nelson, Giorgio Morelli, Alessandra Carattoli, Nicoletta Romano and Giuseppe Macino .....	1271-1276
<b>Hormonal Regulation of Phosphoenolpyruvate Carboxykinase Gene Expression Is Mediated through Modulation of an Already Disrupted Chromatin Structure.</b> Y. Tony Ip, Daryl K. Granner, and Roger Chalkley .....	1289-1297
<b>Cytoplasmic Heat Shock Granules Are Formed from Precursor Particles and Are Associated with a Specific Set of mRNAs.</b> Lutz Nover, Klaus-Dieter Scharf, and Dieter Neumann .....	1298-1308
<b>Functional Characterization of the Two Alcohol Oxidase Genes from the Yeast <i>Pichia pastoris</i>.</b> James M. Cregg, Knut R. Madden, Kevin J. Barringer, Gregory P. Thill, and Cathy A. Stillman .....	1316-1323
<b>Nucleotide Sequence of an Unequal Sister Chromatid Exchange Site in a Mouse Myeloma Cell Line.</b> Daniel R. Katzenberg, Shermaine A. Tilley, and Barbara K. Birshtein .....	1324-1326
<b>An AP1-Binding Site in the <i>c-fos</i> Gene Can Mediate Induction by Epidermal Growth Factor and 12-<i>O</i>-Tetradecanoyl Phorbol-13-Acetate.</b> Tobe M. Fisch, Ron Prywes, and Robert G. Roeder .....	1327-1331
<b>Differential Transcription of Exon 1 of the Human <i>c-fms</i> Gene in Placental Trophoblasts and Monocytes.</b> Jane Visvader and Inder M. Verma .....	1336-1341
<b>Cell-Specific Activity of the Modulator Region in the Human Cytomegalovirus Major Immediate-Early Gene.</b> Henryk Lubon, Peter Ghazal, Lothar Hennighausen, Catherine Reynolds-Kohler, Curtis Lockshin, and Jay Nelson .....	1342-1345
<b>The Three Mouse Multidrug Resistance (<i>mdr</i>) Genes Are Expressed in a Tissue-Specific Manner in Normal Mouse Tissues.</b> James M. Croop, Martine Raymond, Daniel Haber, Alain Devault, Robert J. Arceci, Philippe Gros, and David E. Housman .....	1346-1350

Continued on following page

Continued from preceding page

<b>Rapid Repression of Quiescence-Specific Gene Expression by Epidermal Growth Factor, Insulin, and pp60<sup>v-src</sup>.</b> Pierre-Andre Bedard, Yvonne Yannoni, Daniel L. Simmons, and R. L. Erikson.....	1371-1375
<b>Fine Mapping of a Mouse Metallothionein Gene Metal Response Element.</b> Valeria Cizewski Culotta and Dean H. Hamer .....	1376-1380

#### CELL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

<b>Expression of Replication-Dependent Histone Genes in Avian Spermatids Involves an Alternate Pathway of mRNA 3'-End Formation.</b> Peter B. Challoner, Stuart B. Moss, and Mark Groudine .....	902-913
<b>Cell-Heritable Stages of Tumor Progression in Transgenic Mice Harboring the Bovine Papillomavirus Type 1 Genome.</b> Maria Sippola-Thiele, Douglas Hanahan, and Peter M. Howley .....	925-934
<b>Dominant Effects of Tubulin Overexpression in <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>.</b> Dan Burke, Pam Gasdaska, and Leland Hartwell .....	1049-1059
<b>Deletions within the Amino-Terminal Half of the <i>c-src</i> Gene Product That Alter the Functional Activity of the Protein.</b> Susan P. Nemeth, Larry G. Fox, Michael DeMarco, and Joan S. Brugge.....	1109-1119
<b>The <i>PVT</i> Gene Frequently Amplifies with <i>MYC</i> in Tumor Cells.</b> E. Shtivelman and J. Michael Bishop.....	1148-1154
<b>p185<sup>HER2</sup> Monoclonal Antibody Has Antiproliferative Effects In Vitro and Sensitizes Human Breast Tumor Cells to Tumor Necrosis Factor.</b> Robert M. Hudziak, Gail D. Lewis, Marcy Winget, Brian M. Fendly, H. Michael Shepard, and Axel Ullrich .....	1165-1172
<b>A v-H-<i>ras</i>-Dependent Hemopoietic Tumor Model Involving Progression from a Clonal Stage of Transformation Competence to Autocrine Interleukin 3 Production.</b> Asha P. K. Nair, Ioannis D. Diamantis, Jean-François Conscience, Vincent Kindler, Paul Hofer, and Christoph Moroni.....	1183-1190
<b>Control of <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> Catalase T Gene (<i>CTTI</i>) Expression by Nutrient Supply via the RAS-Cyclic AMP Pathway.</b> Peter H. Bissinger, Rotraud Wieser, Barbara Hamilton, and Helmut Ruis.....	1309-1315
<b>Variation of Tandem Repeats in the Developmentally Regulated Procytic Acidic Repetitive Proteins of <i>Trypanosoma brucei</i>.</b> Michael R. Mowatt, Gregory S. Wisdom, and Christine E. Clayton.....	1332-1335
<b>Transient Expression of the Proto-Oncogene <i>int-1</i> during Differentiation of P19 Embryonal Carcinoma Cells.</b> Ed Schuurin, Liesbeth van Deemter, Henk Roelink, and Roel Nusse .....	1357-1361

#### CELL AND ORGANELLE STRUCTURE AND ASSEMBLY

<b>Interacting Proteins Identified by Genetic Interactions: a Missense Mutation in <math>\alpha</math>-Tubulin Fails To Complement Alleles of the Testis-Specific <math>\beta</math>-Tubulin Gene of <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>.</b> Thomas S. Hays, Renate Deuring, Barbara Robertson, Mary Prout, and Margaret T. Fuller .....	875-884
<b>Formation of Irregular Giant Peroxisomes by Overproduction of the Crystallin Core Protein Methanol Oxidase in the Methylotrophic Yeast <i>Hansenula polymorpha</i>.</b> Rainer Roggenkamp, Thomas Didion, and Klaus V. Kowallik .....	988-994

Continued on following page

Continued from preceding page

<b>Sequence and Structural Requirements of a Mitochondrial Protein Import Signal Defined by Saturation Cassette Mutagenesis.</b> David M. Bedwell, Scott A. Strobel, Kyuson Yun, Gregg D. Jongeward, and Scott D. Emr.....	1014-1025
<b>Accumulation of Viruslike Particles in a Yeast Mutant Lacking a Mitochondrial Pore Protein.</b> Melitta Dihanich, Evert Van Tuinen, John D. Lambris, and Brigitte Marshallsay.....	1100-1108
<b>SEC59 Encodes a Membrane Protein Required for Core Glycosylation in <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>.</b> Mitchell Bernstein, François Kepes, and Randy Schekman.....	1191-1199
<b>Immunological Identification of the Alternative Oxidase of <i>Neurospora crassa</i> Mitochondria.</b> Alan M. Lambowitz, Josanne R. Sabourin, Helmut Bertrand, Roxy Nickels, and Lee McIntosh.....	1362-1364
<b>Conserved Sequence Blocks in Kinetoplast Minicircles from Diverse Species of Trypanosomes.</b> Dan S. Ray.....	1365-1367

#### CHROMOSOME STRUCTURE AND DYNAMICS

<b>Antibody to a Human DNA Repair Protein Allows for Cloning of a <i>Drosophila</i> cDNA That Encodes an Apurinic Endonuclease.</b> Mark R. Kelley, Sheela Venugopal, Julie Harless, and Walter A. Deutsch.....	965-973
<b>Electrophoretic Analysis of <i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i> Chromosomal DNA.</b> Paul E. Steele, Georges F. Carle, George S. Kobayashi, and Gerald Medoff.....	983-987
<b>High-Level Recombination Specific to Polyomavirus Genomes Targeted to the Integration-Transformation Pathway.</b> David Hacker and Michele M. Fluck.....	995-1004
<b>Isolation of Human Sequences That Replicate Autonomously in Human Cells.</b> Patrick J. Krysan, Steven B. Haase, and Michele P. Calos.....	1026-1033
<b>Accurate Processing and Amplification of Cloned Germ Line Copies of Ribosomal DNA Injected into Developing Nuclei of <i>Tetrahymena thermophila</i>.</b> Meng-Chao Yao and Ching-Ho Yao.....	1092-1099
<b>Identification and Characterization of a Gene That Is Coamplified with Dihydrofolate Reductase in a Methotrexate-Resistant CHO Cell Line.</b> Pamela K. Foreman and Joyce L. Hamlin.....	1137-1147
<b>Nonrandom Distribution of Long Mono- and Dinucleotide Repeats in <i>Drosophila</i> Chromosomes: Correlations with Dosage Compensation, Heterochromatin, and Recombination.</b> Ky Lowenhaupt, Alexander Rich, and Mary Lou Pardue.....	1173-1182
<b>Identification of Members of the P-Glycoprotein Multigene Family.</b> William F. Ng, Farida Sarangi, Roman L. Zastawny, Lela Veinot-Drebot, and Victor Ling.....	1224-1232
<b>DNA Strand Specificity for UV-Induced Mutations in Mammalian Cells.</b> H. Vrieling, M. L. van Rooijen, N. A. Groen, M. Z. Zdzienicka, J. W. I. M. Simons, P. H. M. Lohman, and A. A. van Zeeland.....	1277-1283
<b>Mitotic Recombination Is Responsible for the Loss of Heterozygosity in Cultured Murine Cell Lines.</b> F. Kenneth Nelson, Wayne Frankel, and T. V. Rajan.....	1284-1288
<b>A Plant DNA-Binding Protein That Recognizes 5-Methylcytosine Residues.</b> Daoling Zhang, Kenneth C. Ehrlich, Prakash C. Supakar, and Melanie Ehrlich.....	1351-1356
<b>Acquisition and Processing of a Conditional Dicentric Chromosome in <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>.</b> Alison Hill and Kerry Bloom.....	1368-1370

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## p185<sup>HER2</sup> Monoclonal Antibody Has Antiproliferative Effects In Vitro and Sensitizes Human Breast Tumor Cells to Tumor Necrosis Factor

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**The *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene encodes the epidermal growth factor receptorlike human homolog of the rat *neu* oncogene. Amplification of this gene in primary breast carcinomas has been shown to correlate with poor clinical prognosis for certain cancer patients. We show here that a monoclonal antibody directed against the extracellular domain of p185<sup>HER2</sup> specifically inhibits the growth of breast tumor-derived cell lines overexpressing the *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene product and prevents *HER2/c-erbB-2*-transformed NIH 3T3 cells from forming colonies in soft agar. Furthermore, resistance to the cytotoxic effect of tumor necrosis factor alpha, which has been shown to be a consequence of *HER2/c-erbB-2* overexpression, is significantly reduced in the presence of this antibody.**

*HER2/c-erbB-2*, the human homolog of the rat proto-oncogene *neu* (4, 34), encodes a 1,255-amino-acid glycoprotein with extensive homology to the human epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor (4, 21, 33, 34, 42). The *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene product, p185<sup>HER2</sup>, has all of the structural features and many of the functional properties of subclass I growth factor receptors (reviewed in references 43 and 44), including cell surface location and an intrinsic tyrosine kinase activity. However, the ligand for this putative growth factor receptor has not yet been identified.

Amplification of the *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene has been found in human salivary gland and gastric tumor-derived cell lines (13, 34), as well as in mammary gland carcinomas (21, 22, 40, 42). Slamon et al. (35) surveyed 189 primary breast adenocarcinomas and determined that the *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene was amplified in about 30% of the cases. Most importantly, *HER2/c-erbB-2* amplification was correlated with a negative prognosis and high probability of relapse. Similar although less frequent amplification of the *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene has been reported for gastric and colon adenocarcinomas (45, 46). Experiments with NIH 3T3 cells also suggest a direct role for the overexpressed, structurally unaltered *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene product p185<sup>HER2</sup> in neoplastic transformation. High levels of *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene expression attained by coamplification of the introduced gene with dihydrofolate reductase by methotrexate selection (18) or by using a strong promoter (6) was shown to transform NIH 3T3 fibroblasts. Only cells with high levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup> are transformed, i.e., have an altered morphology, are anchorage independent, and will form tumors in athymic mice.

Overexpression of p185<sup>HER2</sup> may, furthermore, contribute to malignant tumor development by allowing tumor cells to evade one component of the antitumor defenses of the body, the activated macrophage (17). Macrophages play an important role in immune surveillance against neoplastic growth in vivo (1, 2, 38), and Urban et al. (39) have shown that tumor

cells made resistant to macrophages display enhanced tumorigenicity. Tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- $\alpha$ ) has been shown to play a role in activated macrophage-mediated tumor cell killing in vitro (3, 11, 23, 29, 39). NIH 3T3 cells transformed by a transfected and amplified *HER2/c-erbB-2* cDNA show increased resistance to the cytotoxic effects of activated macrophages or TNF- $\alpha$  in direct correlation with increased levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup> expression. Furthermore, breast tumor cell lines with high levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup> exhibit resistance to TNF- $\alpha$ . Resistance to host antitumor defenses could facilitate the escape of cells from a primary tumor to establish metastases at distant sites.

To further investigate the consequences of alteration in *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene expression in mammary gland neoplasia and to facilitate investigation of the normal biological role of the *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene product, we have prepared monoclonal antibodies against the extracellular domain of p185<sup>HER2</sup>. One monoclonal antibody (4D5) was characterized in more detail and was shown to inhibit in vitro proliferation of human breast tumor cells overexpressing p185<sup>HER2</sup> and, furthermore, to increase the sensitivity of these cells to the cytotoxic effects of TNF- $\alpha$ .

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Cells and cell culture.** Human tumor cell lines were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection. The mouse fibroblast line NIH 3T3/HER2-3<sub>400</sub>, expressing an amplified *HER2/c-erbB-2* cDNA under simian virus 40 early promoter control, and the vector-transfected control cell line NIH 3T3/CVN have been described previously (18).

Cells were cultured in a 1:1 mixture of Dulbecco modified Eagle medium and Ham nutrient mixture F-12 supplemented with 2 mM glutamine, 100 u of penicillin per ml, 100  $\mu$ g of streptomycin per ml, and 10% serum. Human tumor cell lines were cultured with fetal bovine serum (GIBCO Laboratories, Grand Island, N.Y.); NIH 3T3 derivatives were cultured with calf serum (Hyclone Laboratories, Inc., Logan, Utah.).

**Immunization.** Female BALB/c mice were immunized with NIH 3T3/HER2-3<sub>400</sub> cells expressing high levels of

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p185<sup>HER2</sup>. The cells were washed once with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and detached from the plate with PBS containing 25 mM EDTA. After low-speed centrifugation, the cells were suspended in cold PBS ( $2 \times 10^7$  cells per ml). Each mouse was injected intraperitoneally with 0.5 ml of this cell suspension on weeks 0, 2, 5, and 7.

On weeks 9 and 13, 100  $\mu$ l of a Triton X-100 membrane preparation of p185<sup>HER2</sup>, partially purified by wheat germ agglutinin chromatography (700  $\mu$ g of protein per ml) (25), was administered intraperitoneally. Three days before fusion, 100  $\mu$ l of the enriched p185<sup>HER2</sup> protein was administered intravenously.

**Fusion and screening.** Mice with high antibody titers as determined by immunoprecipitation of p185<sup>HER2</sup> were sacrificed, and their splenocytes were fused as described previously (26). Spleen cells were mixed at a 4:1 ratio with the fusion partner, mouse myeloma cell line X63-Ag8.653 (20), in the presence of 50% polyethylene glycol 4000. Fused cells were plated at a density of  $2 \times 10^5$  cells per well in 96-well microdilution plates. The hypoxanthine-azaserine (12) selection for hybridomas was begun 24 h later. Beginning at day 10 postfusion, supernatants from hybridoma-containing wells were tested for the presence of antibodies specific for p185<sup>HER2</sup> by an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay with the wheat germ agglutinin chromatography-purified p185<sup>HER2</sup> preparation (28). Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay-positive supernatants were confirmed by immunoprecipitation and cloned twice by limiting dilution.

Large quantities of specific monoclonal antibodies were produced by preparation of ascites fluid; antibodies were then purified on protein A-Sepharose columns (Fermentech, Inc., Edinburgh, Scotland) and stored sterile in PBS at 4°C.

**Immunoprecipitations and antibodies.** Cells were harvested by trypsinization, counted in a Coulter counter (Coulter Electronics, Inc., Hialeah, Fla.), and plated 24 h before being harvested for analysis of p185<sup>HER2</sup> expression. Cells were lysed at 4°C with 0.8 ml of HNEG lysis buffer (18) per 100-mm plate. After 10 min, 1.6 ml of lysis dilution buffer (HNEG buffer with 1% bovine serum albumin and 0.1% Triton X-100) was added to each plate, and the extracts were clarified by centrifugation at  $12,000 \times g$  for 5 min.

Antibodies were added to the cell extracts and allowed to bind at 4°C for 2 to 4 h. Immune complexes were collected by adsorption to protein A-Sepharose beads for 20 min and washed three times with 1 ml of HNEG buffer–0.1% Triton X-100. Autophosphorylation reactions were carried out for 20 min at 4°C in 50  $\mu$ l of HNEG wash buffer containing 5 mM MnCl<sub>2</sub> and 3  $\mu$ Ci of [ $\gamma$ -<sup>32</sup>P]ATP (5,000 Ci/mmol, Amersham Corp., Arlington Heights, Ill.). The autophosphorylation reaction conditions have been described previously (18). Proteins were separated on sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS)–7.5% polyacrylamide gels and analyzed by autoradiography.

The polyclonal antibody, G-H2CT17, recognizing the carboxy-terminal 17 amino acids of p185<sup>HER2</sup>, has been described previously (18). The anti-EGF receptor monoclonal antibody 108 (16) was provided by Joseph Schlessinger, Rorer Biotechnology, Inc.

**Fluorescence-activated cell sorting.** SK-BR-3 human breast tumor cells overexpressing the *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene (17, 22) or A431 human squamous carcinoma cells overexpressing the EGF receptor gene (14) were grown in T175 flasks. They were detached from the flasks by treatment with 25 mM EDTA–0.15 M NaCl, collected by low-speed centrifugation, and suspended at  $1 \times 10^6$  cells per ml in PBS–1% fetal bovine serum. One milliliter of each cell line was incubated with 10  $\mu$ g of either anti-*HER2/c-erbB-2* monoclonal antibody (4D5)

or a control antibody (40.1.H1) recognizing the hepatitis B surface antigen. The cells were washed twice and suspended on ice for 30 min in 1 ml of PBS–1% fetal bovine serum containing 10  $\mu$ g of goat anti-mouse immunoglobulin G F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragments conjugated with fluorescein isothiocyanate dye (Boehringer Mannheim Biochemicals, Indianapolis, Ind.). Unbound fluorescein dye was removed by two further washes. The cells were suspended at  $2 \times 10^6$  per ml in PBS–1% fetal bovine serum and analyzed with an EPICS 753 (Coulter) fluorescence-activated cell sorter. Fluorescein was excited by 300 mW of 488-nm argon laser light, and the emitted light was collected with a 525-nm band-pass filter with a 10-nm band width.

**Down-regulation assay.** SK-BR-3 cells were plated at  $1.5 \times 10^5$  cells per 35-mm culture dish in normal medium. After a 6-h period to allow attachment, the medium was replaced by 1.5 ml of methionine-free labeling medium containing 150  $\mu$ Ci of [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine per ml and 2% dialyzed fetal bovine serum. The cells were metabolically labeled for 14 h and then chased with medium containing 2% dialyzed serum and unlabeled methionine. Either a control monoclonal antibody (40.1.H1) or anti-p185<sup>HER2</sup> (4D5) was added to a final concentration of 2.5  $\mu$ g/ml. At 0, 5, and 11 h, extracts were prepared with 0.3 ml of lysis solution and 0.6 ml of dilution buffer. The p185<sup>HER2</sup> was immunoprecipitated with 2.5  $\mu$ l of polyclonal antibody G-H2CT17. The washed immune complexes were dissolved in sample buffer, electrophoresed on a SDS-7.5% polyacrylamide gel, and analyzed by autoradiography. Each time point determination was performed in duplicate. Autoradiograph band intensities were quantitated by using a scanner (Ambis Systems).

**Cell proliferation assays.** The anti-p185<sup>HER2</sup> monoclonal antibodies were characterized by using the breast tumor cell line SK-BR-3. Cells were detached by using 0.25% (vol/vol) trypsin and suspended in complete medium at a density of 4

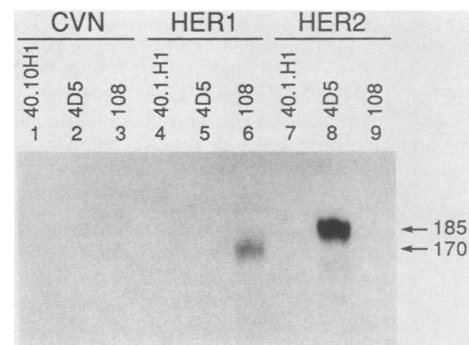


FIG. 1. Specificity of monoclonal antibody 4D5. Three cell lines, NIH 3T3/CVN, NIH 3T3/HER1-EGF receptor, and NIH 3T3/HER2-3<sub>400</sub>, were plated out at  $2.0 \times 10^6$  in 100-mm culture dishes. At 24 h, Triton X-100 lysates were prepared and divided into three portions. Either an irrelevant monoclonal antibody (6  $\mu$ g of anti-hepatitis B virus surface antigen, 40.1.H1; lanes 1, 4, and 7), anti-p185<sup>HER2</sup> monoclonal antibody 4D5 (6  $\mu$ g; lanes 2, 5, and 8), or anti-EGF receptor monoclonal antibody 108 (6  $\mu$ g; lanes 3, 6, and 9) was added and allowed to bind at 4°C for 4 h. The immune complexes were collected with 30  $\mu$ l of protein A-Sepharose. Rabbit anti-mouse immunoglobulin (7  $\mu$ g) was added to each 4D5 immunoprecipitation to improve the binding of this monoclonal antibody to the protein A-coated beads. Proteins were labeled by autophosphorylation and separated on an SDS-7.5% polyacrylamide gel. The gel was exposed to film at –70°C for 4 h with an intensifying screen. The arrows show the positions of proteins of *M*<sub>r</sub> 185,000 and 170,000.

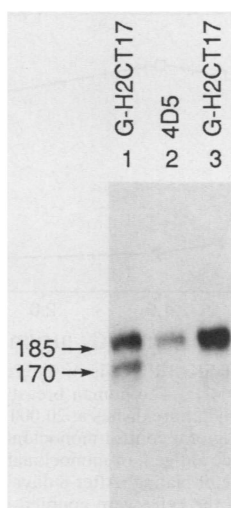


FIG. 2. Binding of monoclonal antibody 4D5 to unglycosylated receptor. NIH 3T3/HER2-3<sub>400</sub> cells were plated into two 100-mm plates at  $2 \times 10^6$  cells per plate. After 14 h, the antibiotic tunicamycin was added to one plate at 3  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ . After a further 5.5 h of incubation, Triton X-100 lysates were then prepared from each plate. Immunoprecipitations, the autophosphorylation reaction, and SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis were performed as described in the legend to Fig. 1. Lanes: 1, tunicamycin-treated cell lysate (one-third of a plate) immunoprecipitated with 2.5  $\mu\text{l}$  of a polyclonal antibody directed against the C terminus of p185<sup>HER2</sup>; 2, tunicamycin-treated cell lysate (one-third of a plate) immunoprecipitated with 6  $\mu\text{g}$  of 4D5; 3, untreated control lysate (one-third of a plate) immunoprecipitated with the polyclonal antibody. The arrows show the locations of proteins of  $M_r$  185,000 and 170,000.

$\times 10^5$  cells per ml. Aliquots of 100  $\mu\text{l}$  ( $4 \times 10^4$  cells) were plated into 96-well microdilution plates, the cells were allowed to adhere, and 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of media alone or media containing monoclonal antibody (final concentration, 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ) was then added. After 72 h, plates were washed twice with PBS (pH 7.5), stained with crystal violet (0.5% in methanol), and analyzed for relative cell proliferation as described previously (36).

For assays in which monoclonal antibodies were combined with recombinant human TNF- $\alpha$  ( $5.0 \times 10^7$  U/mg; Genentech, Inc.), cells were plated and allowed to adhere as described above. Following cell adherence, control medium alone or medium containing monoclonal antibodies was added to a final concentration of 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ . Cultures were incubated for another 4 h, and then increasing concentrations of TNF- $\alpha$  were added to a final volume of 200  $\mu\text{l}$ . Following 72 h of incubation, the relative cell number was determined by crystal violet staining. Some samples were analyzed by crystal violet staining following cell adherence for determination of the initial cell number.

## RESULTS

**Specificity of monoclonal antibody 4D5.** Monoclonal antibodies directed against the extracellular domain of p185<sup>HER2</sup> were prepared by immunizing mice with NIH 3T3 cells transfected with a *HER2/c-erbB-2* cDNA (HER2-3<sub>400</sub>) (17, 18) and overexpressing the corresponding gene product, p185<sup>HER2</sup>. One antibody exhibited several interesting biological properties and was chosen for further characterization. Antibody 4D5 specifically immunoprecipitated a single <sup>32</sup>P-

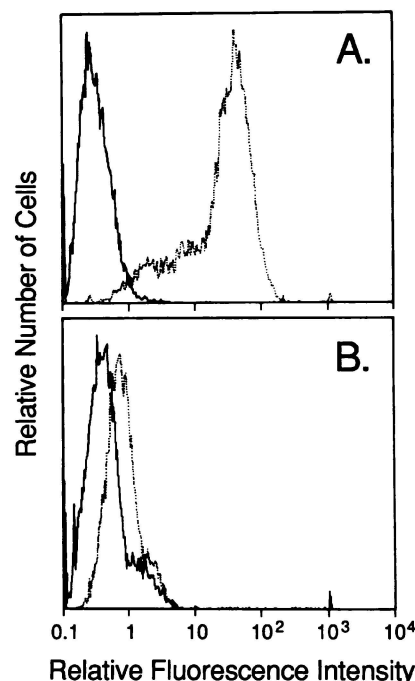


FIG. 3. Fluorescence-activated cell sorter histograms of human tumor cells binding anti-p185 monoclonal antibody 4D5. —, Binding by the control antibody, 40.1.H1, directed against the hepatitis B surface antigen; ·····, binding by the anti-*HER2/c-erbB-2* antibody, 4D5. The antibodies were first allowed to react with the cell surface. After a wash step, bound antibody was labeled by addition of fluorescein-conjugated F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragment of goat anti-mouse immunoglobulin G. (A) Binding of the antibodies to the human breast tumor line SK-BR-3, which contains an amplification of the *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene and expresses high levels of the *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene product p185<sup>HER2</sup>. (B) Binding of the same antibodies to the human squamous epithelial cell line A431. This cell line expresses low levels of mRNA for *HER2/c-erbB-2* and high levels ( $2 \times 10^6$  receptors per cell) of the EGF receptor.

labeled protein of  $M_r$  185,000 from NIH 3T3 cells expressing p185<sup>HER2</sup> (Fig. 1, lane 8). This antibody did not cross-react with the human EGF receptor (HER1; Fig. 1, lane 5), even when overexpressed in a mouse NIH 3T3 background (Fig. 1, lane 6). Furthermore, it did not immunoprecipitate any proteins from NIH 3T3 cells transfected with a control plasmid (pCVN) which expresses the neomycin resistance and dihydrofolate reductase genes only (Fig. 1, lane 2).

To determine the nature of the epitope recognized by 4D5, NIH 3T3/HER2-3<sub>400</sub> cells were treated with tunicamycin, which prevents addition of N-linked oligosaccharides to proteins (15, 41). Cells treated with this antibiotic for 5.5 h contained two proteins which were immunoprecipitated by a polyclonal antibody against the carboxy-terminal peptide of p185<sup>HER2</sup> (Fig. 2, lane 1). The polypeptide of 170,000  $M_r$  represents unglycosylated p185<sup>HER2</sup>. The upper band of ca. 185,000  $M_r$  comigrated with glycosylated p185<sup>HER2</sup> from untreated cells (Fig. 2, lane 3). Monoclonal antibody 4D5 efficiently immunoprecipitated only the glycosylated form of p185<sup>HER2</sup> (Fig. 2, lane 2). This experiment suggests either that the epitope recognized by 4D5 consists partly of carbohydrate, or, alternatively, that the antibody recognizes a conformation of the protein achieved only when it is glycosylated.

TABLE 1. Inhibition of SK-BR-3 proliferation by anti-p185<sup>HER2</sup> monoclonal antibodies<sup>a</sup>

Monoclonal antibody	Relative cell proliferation <sup>b</sup>
7C2 .....	79.3 ± 2.2
2C4 .....	79.5 ± 4.4
7D3 .....	83.8 ± 5.9
4D5 .....	44.2 ± 4.4
3E8 .....	66.2 ± 2.4
6E9 .....	98.9 ± 3.6
7F3 .....	62.1 ± 1.4
3H4 .....	66.5 ± 3.9
2H11 .....	92.9 ± 4.8
40.1.H1 .....	105.8 ± 3.8
4F4 .....	94.7 ± 2.8

<sup>a</sup> SK-BR-3 breast tumor cells were plated as described in Materials and Methods. Following adherence, medium containing 5 µg of either anti-p185<sup>HER2</sup> or control monoclonal antibodies (40.1.H1 and 4F4) per ml were added.

<sup>b</sup> Relative cell proliferation was determined by crystal violet staining of the monolayers after 72 h. Values are expressed as a percentage of results with untreated control cultures (100%).

The binding of monoclonal antibody 4D5 to human tumor cell lines was investigated by fluorescence-activated cell sorting (Fig. 3). This antibody was bound to the surface of cells expressing p185<sup>HER2</sup>. Figure 3A shows the 160-fold increase in cellular fluorescence observed when 4D5 was added to SK-BR-3 breast adenocarcinoma cells relative to a control monoclonal antibody. This cell line contains an amplified *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene and expresses high levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup> (17, 22). In contrast, the squamous carcinoma cell line A431, which expresses about  $2 \times 10^6$  EGF receptors per cell (14) but only low levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup> (4), exhibited only a twofold increase in fluorescence with 4D5 (Fig. 3B) when compared with a control monoclonal antibody.

The binding of 4D5 correlated with the levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup> expressed by these two cell lines. SK-BR-3 cells, expressing high levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup>, showed an 80-fold increase in relative fluorescence intensity compared with A431 cells. This experiment demonstrates that 4D5 specifically recognizes the extracellular domain of p185<sup>HER2</sup>.

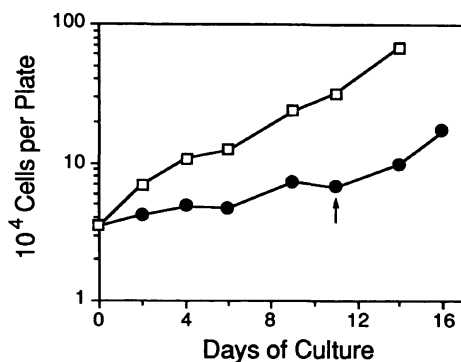


FIG. 4. Growth curve of SK-BR-3 cells treated with anti-*HER2/c-erbB-2* monoclonal antibody 4D5. Cells were plated into 35-mm culture dishes at 20,000 cells per plate in medium containing 2.5 µg of either control antibody (40.1.H1, anti-hepatitis B surface antigen) (□) or anti-p185<sup>HER2</sup> antibody 4D5 (●) per ml. On the indicated days, cells were trypsinized and counted in a Coulter counter. The determination for each time point and each antibody was done in duplicate, and the counts were averaged. The arrow indicates the day the cells were refed with medium without antibodies.

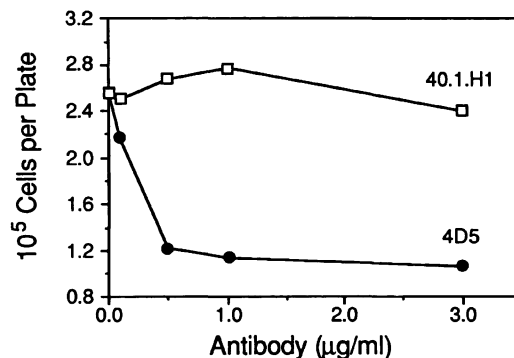


FIG. 5. Growth of SK-BR-3 cells in different concentrations of monoclonal antibody 4D5. The human breast tumor line SK-BR-3 was plated into 35-mm culture dishes at 20,000 cells per dish. Either 0.1, 0.5, 1.0, or 3.0 µg of a control monoclonal antibody (40.1.H1, anti-hepatitis B surface antigen) or monoclonal 4D5 antibody per ml was added at the time of plating. After 8 days of growth, the plates were trypsinized and the cells were counted in a Coulter counter. Each concentration of antibody was plated and counted in duplicate, and the cell numbers were averaged.

**Effects on cell proliferation.** We used the human mammary gland adenocarcinoma cell line, SK-BR-3, to determine whether monoclonal antibodies directed against the extracellular domain of p185<sup>HER2</sup> had any effect on the proliferation of cell lines overexpressing this receptorlike protein. SK-BR-3 cells were coincubated with several *HER2/c-erbB-2*-specific monoclonal antibodies or with either of two different control monoclonal antibodies (40.1.H1, directed against the hepatitis B surface antigen; 4F4, directed against recombinant human gamma interferon). Most anti-*HER2/c-erbB-2* monoclonal antibodies which recognize the extracellular domain inhibited the growth of SK-BR-3 cells (Table

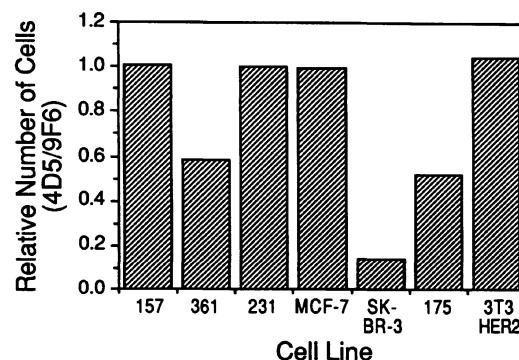


FIG. 6. Screening of breast tumor cell lines for growth inhibition by monoclonal antibody 4D5. Each cell line was plated in 35-mm culture dishes at 20,000 cells per dish. Either a control monoclonal antibody (9F6, anti-human immunodeficiency virus gp120) or the anti-p185<sup>HER2</sup> monoclonal antibody 4D5 was added on day 0 to 2.5 µg/ml. Because the different cell lines grow at different rates, the cell lines NIH 3T3/HER2-3<sub>400</sub> and SK-BR-3 were counted after 6 days, cell lines MDA-MB-157, MDA-MB-231, and MCF-7 were counted after 9 days, and cell lines MDA-MB-175VII and MDA-MB-361 were counted after 14 days. The difference in growth between cells treated with 4D5 and 40.1.H1 is expressed as the ratio of cell numbers with 4D5 versus a control monoclonal antibody, 9F6. Each cell line was assayed in duplicate for each antibody, and the counts were averaged.

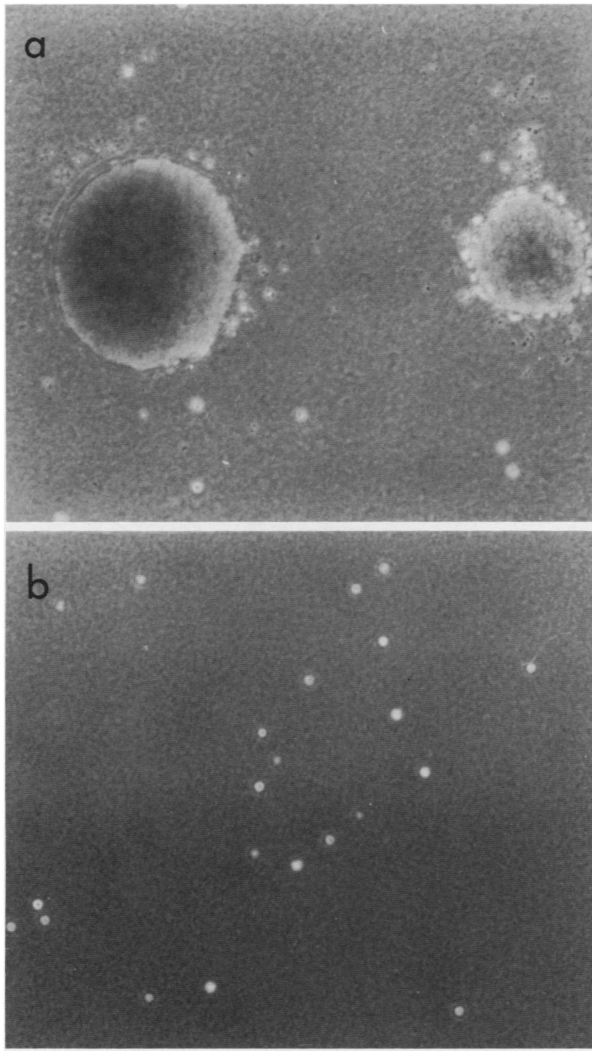


FIG. 7. Inhibition of anchorage-independent growth of NIH 3T3/HER2-3<sub>400</sub> cells by 4D5. Cells (20,000 per 60-mm plate) were plated in 0.2% soft agar over a 0.4% agar base. After 3 weeks, the plates were photographed at  $\times 100$  magnification by using a Nikon microscope with phase-contrast optics. (a) HER2-3<sub>400</sub> cells plated in agar containing 200 ng of a control antibody (TF-C8) per ml. (b) The same cells plated in agar containing 200 ng of 4D5 per ml.

1). Maximum inhibition was obtained with monoclonal antibody 4D5, which inhibited cellular proliferation by 56%. The control antibodies had no significant effect on cell growth.

Figure 4 compares the growth of SK-BR-3 cells in the presence of either a control antibody, 40.1.H1, or the anti-p185<sup>HER2</sup> antibody. Proliferation of the cells was inhibited when antibody 4D5 was present. The generation time increased from 3.2 to 12.2 days. To determine whether 4D5 treatment was cytostatic or cytotoxic, antibody was removed by medium change 11 days after treatment. The cells resumed growth at a nearly normal rate, suggesting that the antibody affected cell growth rather than cell viability. The dose-response curve (Fig. 5) showed that a concentration of 200 ng/ml inhibited growth by 50%, whereas maximum

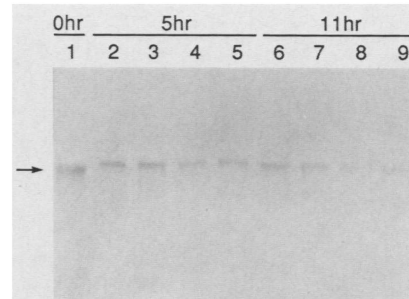


FIG. 8. Effect of antibody binding on p185<sup>HER2</sup> turnover. SK-BR-3 cells were labeled for 14 h with [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine. The label was then chased with cold methionine and either an irrelevant monoclonal antibody (40.1.H1, anti-hepatitis B surface antigen) or 4D5 was added to 2.5  $\mu$ g/ml. The cells on the plates were lysed at 0, 5, and 11 h, and <sup>35</sup>S-labeled p185<sup>HER2</sup> was quantitated by immunoprecipitation with the C-terminal specific polyclonal antibody. The 5- and 11-h time point determinations were performed in duplicate for each of the two antibodies. Proteins were separated by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. The fluor-treated gel was exposed to film for 4 h at room temperature. The arrow indicates the position of a protein of  $M_r$  185,000. Band intensities were quantitated by using an Ambis Systems scanner. Lanes; 1, 0 h; lanes 2 and 3, 40.1.H1 (5 h); lanes 4 and 5, 4D5 (5 h); lanes 6 and 7, 40.1.H1 (11 h); lanes 8 and 9, 4D5 (11 h).

effects were achieved by using a concentration of between 0.5 and 1  $\mu$ g/ml.

The effect of 4D5 on the proliferation of six additional breast tumor cell lines, as well as mouse NIH 3T3 fibroblasts transformed by p185<sup>HER2</sup> overexpression (NIH 3T3/HER2-3<sub>400</sub>), was tested in monolayer growth assays. Cells were plated at low density in medium containing 2.5  $\mu$ g of either a control antibody or 4D5 per ml. When the cultures approached confluency, cells were removed with trypsin and counted. 4D5 did not have any significant effect on the growth of the MCF-7, MDA-MB-157, MDA-MB-231, or NIH 3T3/HER2-3<sub>400</sub> cell lines (Fig. 6). It did, however, significantly affect the growth of the cell lines MDA-MB-361 (58% of control) and MDA-MB-175-VII (52% of control), which express high levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup> (17).

Interestingly, monoclonal antibody 4D5 had no effect on the monolayer growth of the NIH 3T3/HER2-3<sub>400</sub> cell line. However, it completely prevented colony formation by these cells in soft agar (Fig. 7), a property which had been induced by *HER2/c-erbB-2* amplification (18). In the presence of 200 ng of a control monoclonal antibody (antitissue factor, TC-C8) per ml, 116 (average of two plates) soft-agar colonies were counted, while the same cells plated simultaneously into soft agar containing 200 ng of 4D5 per ml did not yield any colonies.

**Monoclonal antibody 4D5 down-regulates p185<sup>HER2</sup>.** To determine whether the antiproliferative effect of 4D5 was due to enhanced degradation of p185<sup>HER2</sup>, we measured its rate of turnover in the presence or absence of antibody. p185<sup>HER2</sup> was metabolically labeled by culturing SK-BR-3 cells for 14 h in the presence of [<sup>35</sup>S]methionine. Cells were then chased for various times, and either a control antibody or 4D5 was added at the beginning of the chase period. At 0, 5, and 11 h, cells were lysed and p185<sup>HER2</sup> levels were assayed by immunoprecipitation and SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. p185<sup>HER2</sup> is degraded more rapidly after exposure of SK-BR-3 cells to 4D5 (Fig. 8). Densitometric evaluation of the data showed that the p185<sup>HER2</sup> half-life of

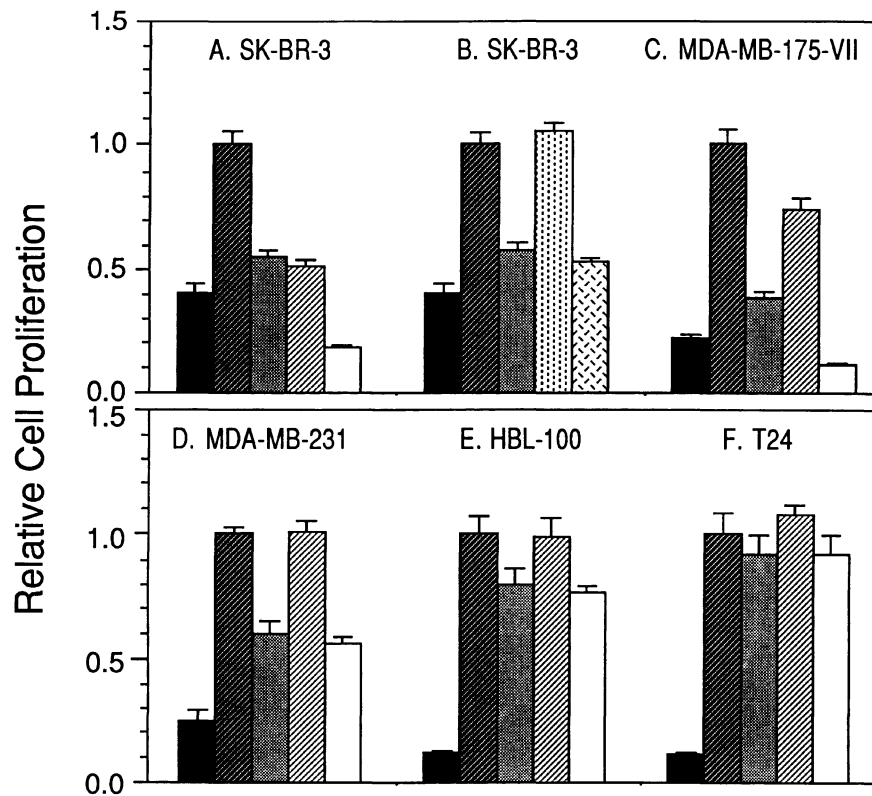


FIG. 9. Monoclonal antibody 4D5 sensitizes breast tumor cells to the cytotoxic effects of TNF- $\alpha$ . Cells were plated in 96-well microdilution plates ( $4 \times 10^4$  cells per well for SK-BR-3, MDA-MB-175-VII, and MDA-MB-231;  $10^4$  cells per well for HBL-100 and T24) and allowed to adhere for 2 h. Anti-*HER2/c-erbB-2* monoclonal antibody 4D5 (5  $\mu$ g/ml) or anti-hepatitis B surface antigen monoclonal antibody 40.1.H1 (5  $\mu$ g/ml) was then added for a 4-h incubation prior to the addition of TNF- $\alpha$  to a final concentration of  $10^4$  units/ml. After 72 h, the monolayers were washed twice with PBS and stained with crystal violet dye for determination of relative cell proliferation. In addition, some cell monolayers were stained with crystal violet following adherence in order to determine the initial cell density for comparison with cell densities measured after 72 h. The symbols denote initial cell density (■), untreated (control) cells (□), cells treated with TNF- $\alpha$  (■), 4D5 (▨), TNF- $\alpha$  plus 4D5 (▧), 40.1.H1 (▩); or TNF- $\alpha$  plus 40.1.H1 (⊞).

7 h decreased to 5 h in the presence of antibody (data not shown).

**Monoclonal antibody 4D5 enhances TNF- $\alpha$  cytotoxicity.** The addition of certain growth factors to tumor cells has been shown to increase their resistance to the cytotoxic effects of TNF- $\alpha$  (37). A prediction based on these findings would be that expression of oncogenes that mimic or replace growth factor receptor function may also increase the resistance of cells to this cytokine. Recently, it was shown that overexpression of the putative growth factor receptor p185<sup>HER2</sup> in NIH 3T3 cells caused an increase in the resistance of these cells to TNF- $\alpha$  (17). Furthermore, breast tumor cell lines with high levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup> also exhibited TNF- $\alpha$  resistance.

To further investigate the mechanism by which the 4D5 antibody inhibited cell growth, we investigated the response of three breast tumor cell lines to TNF- $\alpha$  in the presence or absence of this antibody. If the anti-p185<sup>HER2</sup> monoclonal antibody 4D5 inhibited proliferation of breast tumor cells by interfering with the signalling functions of p185<sup>HER2</sup>, addition of this antibody would be expected to enhance the sensitivity of tumor cells to TNF- $\alpha$ . Both SK-BR-3 (Fig. 9A) and MDA-MB-175-VII (Fig. 9C) were growth inhibited by both the monoclonal antibody 4D5 (5  $\mu$ g/ml; 50% and 25% inhibition, respectively) and high concentrations of TNF- $\alpha$

( $1 \times 10^4$  units/ml; 50% and 60% inhibition, respectively). However, the combination of TNF- $\alpha$  and monoclonal antibody 4D5 reduced the SK-BR-3 and MDA-MB-175-VII tumor cell number to a level below that initially plated, indicating the induction of a cytotoxic response. In a separate experiment, SK-BR-3 cell viability was determined directly by using trypan blue dye exclusion, yielding identical results to those described above that were obtained by using crystal violet staining (data not shown). A control monoclonal antibody, 40.1.H1, did not inhibit SK-BR-3 breast tumor cell proliferation, nor did it induce an enhanced sensitivity of this cell line to the cytotoxic effects of TNF- $\alpha$  (Fig. 9B). In addition, the growth of the breast tumor cell line MDA-MB-231, which does not express detectable levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup> (17), was unaffected by monoclonal antibody 4D5, and the growth inhibition seen with the combination of 4D5 and TNF- $\alpha$  was similar to that observed with TNF- $\alpha$  alone (Fig. 9D). Furthermore, neither HBL-100 (30), a nontransformed but immortalized human breast epithelial cell line (Fig. 9E), nor T24 (27), a human bladder carcinoma cell line (Fig. 9F), expressed high levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup> (data not shown), and neither demonstrated growth inhibition by 4D5 or an enhanced growth-inhibitory or cytotoxic response to the combination of TNF- $\alpha$  and monoclonal antibody 4D5. These results demonstrate that only tumor cells which

overexpress p185<sup>HER2</sup> will become sensitized to the cytotoxic effects of TNF- $\alpha$  by antibody 4D5.

#### DISCUSSION

We have prepared monoclonal antibodies against the extracellular domain of the *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene product, p185<sup>HER2</sup>, and have found that one of these, 4D5, strongly inhibits the growth of several breast tumor cell lines and furthermore sensitizes p185<sup>HER2</sup>-overexpressing breast carcinoma cell lines SK-BR-3 and MDA-MB-175-VII to the cytotoxic effects of TNF- $\alpha$ . Monoclonal antibody 4D5 is specific for p185<sup>HER2</sup> and shows no cross-reactivity with the closely related human EGF receptor expressed in mouse fibroblasts. Of six mammary carcinoma cell lines tested, only the three lines which express high levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup> (SK-BR3, MBA-MB-175, and MDA-MD-361 [17]) were growth inhibited, and 4D5 did not inhibit the proliferation of a nontransformed human breast epithelial cell line, HBL-100, or the bladder carcinoma cell line T24.

In the presence of the antibody, the inhibition of SK-BR-3 cell growth was nearly complete, but the effect was cytostatic rather than cytotoxic. This property of 4D5 is similar to that described for a subset of monoclonal antibodies to the EGF receptor (19, 31, 32) which inhibit the growth of A431 cells, a human squamous epithelial carcinoma line expressing high levels of the EGF receptor. In this case, these inhibitory antibodies compete with radiolabeled EGF for binding to the receptor, and antibodies which do not block EGF binding have no effect on A431 cell growth. It has been suggested (J. Mendelsohn and H. Masui, Clin. Res. 35:600A, 1987) that these antibodies inhibit cell growth by interfering with an autocrine system involving the EGF receptor and an essential growth factor, transforming growth factor alpha, that is produced by the cells (5). It is therefore intriguing to speculate that antibody 4D5 analogously interferes with ligand binding to the *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene product. Since an appropriate ligand for the putative *HER2/c-erbB-2* receptor has not yet been identified, this possibility cannot yet be tested directly.

The 4D5 antibody had no effect on the growth of NIH 3T3 cells transformed by *HER2/c-erbB-2* overexpression. However, it reversed one property conferred on these cells by amplification of the *HER2/c-erbB-2* cDNA: the formation of colonies in soft agar was prevented by 200 ng of 4D5 antibody per ml. This result is similar to those obtained by Drebin et al. (8) with a monoclonal antibody to the rat *neu* oncogene-encoded p185<sup>neu</sup>. They also observed that an anti-p185<sup>neu</sup> monoclonal antibody inhibited colony growth in soft agar and tumor formation by *neu*-transformed NIH 3T3 cells in athymic mice (7-10). This effect was attributed to a lowering p185<sup>neu</sup> levels by an increase in receptor turnover triggered by antibody binding. The apparent discrepancy between 4D5 effects on proliferation of breast tumor cells versus transfected mouse fibroblast cells is most probably a reflection of the fact that SK-BR-3 cells are authentic cancer cells, in contrast to the NIH 3T3 model system. Whereas SK-BR-3 cells may have evolved to be dependent on *HER2/c-erbB-2*-mediated signals for both growth and transformation characteristics, NIH 3T3 cells have acquired a transformed phenotype only as a result of *HER2/c-erbB-2* overexpression, but may proliferate normally in response to other serum growth factors, even in the presence of blocking anti-p185<sup>HER2</sup> antibody.

Previous work has shown that high-level expression of p185<sup>HER2</sup> will transform NIH 3T3 cells and has suggested a casual role for amplification of the *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene in

mammary gland neoplasia. We have shown here that *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene overexpression in NIH 3T3 cells is associated with increased resistance to the monokine TNF- $\alpha$  and that breast tumor cell lines which overexpress p185<sup>HER2</sup> are resistant to the cytotoxic effects of TNF- $\alpha$ . The mechanism by which 4D5 inhibits breast tumor cell proliferation and reverses phenotypes associated with high levels of p185<sup>HER2</sup> expression, such as resistance to TNF- $\alpha$ , is not clear. However, these results suggest that in addition to its ability to transform cells by virtue of overexpression (6, 18), *HER2/c-erbB-2* could play a role in tumor progression by allowing tumor cells overexpressing p185<sup>HER2</sup> to evade one component of the antitumor immunosurveillance of the host, the activated macrophage (17). These properties of the *HER2/c-erbB-2* gene product may in part explain the aggressive, single-step induction of mammary adenocarcinoma in transgenic mice bearing the *neu* oncogene (24), which encodes the mutated rat homolog of p185<sup>HER2</sup>.

The experiments presented here demonstrate that a monoclonal antibody which recognizes the extracellular domain of p185<sup>HER2</sup> inhibits the proliferation of breast tumor cells which overexpress this receptorlike protein. Moreover, treatment with this antibody also sensitizes these tumor cells to the cytotoxic effects of TNF- $\alpha$ . Monoclonal antibodies specific for p185<sup>HER2</sup> may therefore be useful therapeutic agents for the treatment of human neoplasias, including certain mammary carcinomas, which are characterized by the overexpressing of p185<sup>HER2</sup>.

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