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Contribution of Immunology to Platelet Disorders

Preface

Substantial progress have been made in the field of platelet immunology during the recent years: the relationship between structural defects of membrane glycoproteins and pathological conditions now is well established, which affords a biochemical support to the definition of thrombopathies. The biochemistry of these glycoproteins itself is in constant progress. Murine monoclonal antibodies largely contribute to this progress. Knowledge of the genetic polymorphism of platelet alb-antigens is also improving. In the mean time the genetic background of the alloimmunisation to PLA1 antigen has been analysed, although probably not yet well explained. It means that equivalents of the so-called immune response genes do exist in our species.

For all these reasons it seemed convenient to organise a symposium on Platelet Immunology. The meeting took place during the postgraduate course on Immunobiotechnology, Immunogenetics and Blood Transfusions under the auspices of the CNTS Institute and the University Pierre et Marie Curie. It was my privilege to welcome our guests who made outstanding contributions to the subject: C. Engelfriet, the leader in the field, A. von dem Borne, A. Nurden, C. Mueller-Eckhardt, U. Seligsohn and J. McGregor. Owing to the efficient help of C. Kaplan the meeting indeed was successful. So I hope that serologists, biochemists and clinicians will find in this volume valuable, up-to-date and useful informations on practice and research in platelet immunology today.

Prof. Charles SalmonS