

Protein terminology tangle

SIR—The independent approaches used to identify calcium- and lipid-binding proteins, and phospholipase A₂- and blood coagulation inhibitors, means that many names are used for each member of the same protein family. A common nomenclature (see table) would improve communication between laboratories and reduce the considerable confusion that exists at the moment. The term 'annexin' which was suggested by Geisow (*FEBS Lett.* 203, 99; 1986) because of the membrane-binding properties of these proteins, has been combined with the numbering system of Pepinsky et al. (*J. biol. Chem.* 263, 10799; 1988). Forty-one

researchers have now agreed to these suggestions; we can provide a list of their names and addresses to interested readers on request.

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Calcium/phospholipid-binding proteins

Annexin	I	II	III	IV
Previous terminology	Lipocortin I p35 Calpactin II Chromobindin 9 GIF	Calpactin I Lipocortin II p36 Chromobindin 8 Protein I PAP-IV	Lipocortin III PAP-III 35- α Calcimedlin	Endonexin I Protein II 32.5K Calelectrin Lipocortin IV Chromobindin 4 PAP-II PP4-X 35- β Calcimedlin
Annexin	V	VI	VII	VIII
Previous terminology	PAP-I IBC Lipocortin V 35K Calelectrin Endonexin II PP4 VAC- α 35- γ Calcimedlin Calphobindin I Anchorin CII	p68, p70, 73K 67K Calelectrin Lipocortin VI Protein III Chromobindin 20 67K Calcimedlin Calphobindin II	Synexin	VAC- β