

## C3d,g In Normal Human Epidermal Basement Membrane

*Sir,*

We read with interest the recent report of L. Juhlin (*Acta Derm Venereol* (Stockh) 1989; 69; 492-496) regarding the detection of transferrin and C3d receptors in human skin. In reference to citations concerning our work, we would like to offering the following comments. Our studies have shown that C3d,g was present in normal human epidermal basement membrane, yet absent from dermal microvascular basement membranes, the epidermal basement membrane of a patient with documented congenital C3 deficiency, and papulonodular basal cell carcinoma tumour nest basement membranes (1, 2, 3). In contrast, we have not hitherto found any evidence of C3d receptors in human skin. Specifically, our direct immunofluorescence microscopy studies employing monoclonal antibodies directed against either CR1, CR2, or CR3, have not demonstrated any evidence of these complement receptors in normal skin or in the skin of our patient with congenital C3 deficiency. In addition, we have found that Raji cells (a lymphoblastoid cell line originally derived from a patient with Burkitt's lymphoma and expressing various C3 receptors including CR2) do not bind normal human epidermal basement membrane or epidermal cells. Nonetheless, it is possible that C3d receptors or C3d receptor analogues are present in human skin and

have not been identified by the antibodies or techniques employed in our studies. Further investigation of this issue would clearly be of interest.

In closing, we appreciate Dr Juhlin's interest in our work and hope these brief comments clarify statements regarding key aspects of our findings.

### REFERENCES

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2. Yancey KB, Uhle P, Basset-Seguín N. C3d,g: A recently identified constituent of normal human epidermal basement membrane. *J Assoc Mil Dermatol* 1989; 15: 19-21.
3. Basset-Seguín N, Uhle P, Emanuel D, Henry P, Yancey KB. Defective expression of basement membrane associated C3d,g in papulonodular basal cell carcinomas. *J Invest Dermatol* 1989; 92: 734-738.

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I am most grateful for this clarification by Drs Basset-Seguín and Yancey.

*Lennart Juhlin, Editor.*