

Brief Communication

Genetic Nomenclature for New Lymphocyte Antigens Controlled by the *I* Region of the *H-2* Complex

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Several laboratories have recently reported studies of new alloantigenic specificities preferentially expressed on lymphocytes and apparently controlled by genes in the *Ir* region [hereafter designated the *I* region (Klein *et al.* 1974)] of the *H-2* gene complex (Hauptfeld *et al.* 1973, David *et al.* 1973, Sachs and Cone 1973, Götze *et al.* 1973, Hammerling *et al.* 1973). These antigens have been designated by various laboratories as *Ir-1.1* (Hauptfeld *et al.* 1973), *Lna* (David *et al.* 1973b) and " β " (Sachs and Cone 1973). To avoid confusion in the literature and to establish a standard nomenclature for these new antigens, representatives of the laboratories concerned met during the *H-2* workshop in Bar Harbor, Maine, October 8-10, 1973, and agreed upon the following notation: 1) The system of antigens and the controlling genetic element(s) will be provisionally designated *Ia* (*I*-region-associated antigens). This symbol was chosen as a general, descriptive term having no specific connotations with regard to possible relationships of these antigens with *Ir-1* or *Lad* genes or the tissue or cellular distribution of these antigens. When further information on these questions becomes available, the notation can be modified as necessary. 2) If it is found that these antigens are controlled by more than one genetic locus in the *I* region, the separate loci will be designated by numbers, *Ia-1*, *Ia-2*, *Ia-3*, etc. 3) If it is found that there are multiple *Ia* loci, some of which control antigens specific for B lymphocytes (bursa-equivalent lymphocytes) and some of which control antigens specific for T lymphocytes (thymus-derived lymphocytes), those loci may be distinguished by the symbols *Iab* and *Iat* respectively. Multiple loci of each type would be denoted *Iab-1*, *Iab-2*, etc. and *Iat-1*, *Iat-2*, etc. 4) Alleles at the *Ia* loci should be designated by a superscript which

corresponds to the *H-2* haplotype of origin of that allele, for example *Ia^b* or *Ia-1^b* or *Iab^b*, etc., if the allele is a part of, or derived by recombination from the *H-2^b* haplotype. 5) Distinct alloantigenic specificities of the Ia system will be given sequential numerical designations, Ia.1, Ia.2, Ia.3, etc. In referring to these specificities, care should be taken to use the complete specificity designation, Ia.1, etc., whenever there is any possibility of confusion with specificities of the H-2 system, H-2.1, etc.

References

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