Protein Chemistry and Biosynthesis

Dintzis - 1961

Howard



1928-2024

Howard & Renée, 2009



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1952 – finishes PhD on the dielectric properties of serum mercaptalbumin solutions - supervisor Larry Oncley

1953 - Studies on electrostatic forces between protein molecules.

1954-1956 - Works with Max Perutz at the MRC (Cambridge, UK). In the building where Rutherford worked (1900). Building closed at 17:00 and reopened at 7:00. They could enter the building to change the diffraction plates

- he stood at a table next to an interesting fellow: Francis Crick.

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- They worked on solving structures using a computer only after 20:00 until one of the valves burned!

- Visits Faraday's laboratory at the Royal Institution at the invitation of Lawrence Bragg (then president, newly elected) and sees the instruments Faraday has built for his experiments.

- Receives an invitation from Linus Pauling to go to CalTech

1956 - despite the huge teaching load accepts Pauling's invitation and goes to the US Decides to study protein biosynthesis using radioactively labeled amino acids.

- Initially uses mouse pancreas and liver but gives up both systems for what he initially imagined.

- Uses Jerome Vinograd's laboratory in the Department of Biology for initial experiments.

Vinograd's laboratory resembles the MRC; dynamic with people always willing to discuss results from other laboratories.

Among the people attending Vinograd's laboratory was a post-graduate student: Mat Meselson.

Dintzis meets Henry Borsook in the neighboring building where Borsook studies hematopoiesis in anemic rabbits -> source of reticulocytes.

When Dintzis explained to Borsook what he wanted to do, he was perplexed that Borsook did not accept that proteins were encoded in DNA

Borsook believed that proteins were copied from preexisting molecules by a molding process.

His research slowed down when Dintzis accepts an invitation to the Department of Biology at MIT

1958 - restarts experiments in a new environment with crucial advantages.

Presence of Vernon Ingram -> fingerprinting
Presence of Michael Naughton -> worked with Fred
Sanger on paper chromatography of peptides.

- ³H-Leucine with high specific activity becomes available

1960 - sends the manuscript to John Edsall and publishes it in PNAS.

1961 - moves again to Johns Hopkins with Michael Naughton

1970 - shows that globin biosynthesis begins with a methionine.

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HISTORY OF PROTEIN STRUCTURE











972 NATURE JUNE 5, 1937 The Cyclol Theory and the 'Globular' Proteins* By Dr. D. M. Wrinch Wrinch, Nature **139**, 972-973, 1937











§9. CONCLUSION

structures. These cage molecules explain in one simple scheme the existence of megamolecules of definite molecular weights capable of highly specific reactions, of crystallizing, and of forming monolayers of very great insolubility. The agreement between the properties of the globular proteins and the cyclol structures proposed for them is indeed so striking that it gives an adequate justification for the cyclol theory, especially in view of the fact that this great variety of independent facts are on this theory seen to be logical consequences of one simple postulate.

§9. CONCLUSION

composition of proteins. The original idea of native proteins as long chain polymers of amino-acid residues, while consistent with the facts relating to the chemical composition of proteins in general, was not a necessary deduction from these facts. Moreover it is incompatible with the facts of protein crystallography, both classical and modern, with the phenomena of denaturation, with Svedberg's results which show that the native proteins have definite molecular weights, and with the high specificity of proteins discovered in studies in immunochemistry and enzyme chemistry. All these facts seem to demand a highly organized structure for the native proteins, and the assumption that the residues function as two-armed units leading to long-chain structures must be discarded. The cyclol hypothesis introduced

Langmuir, Proc. Phys. Soc. 51(4):592-612, 1939

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DISCUSSION

Dr D. WRINCH: I do not want to-night to go into any details regarding the theoretical aspects of protein structure, but rather to thank Dr Langmuir for the new light which he has thrown on the subject. I would also point out how critical it is for the future progress of our knowledge of protein structure—upon which of course the future of medicine also depends—that additional data should be obtained. It is perhaps hardly realized by workers in physics that we do not yet know the complete composition of any single globular protein. Data regarding the chemical composition of insulin are still very incomplete and make it impossible at present to locate the side chains. Such chemical data are urgently needed and can be obtained by the application of the established methods of chemical analysis. Dr Langmuir has stressed the great importance of applying to the proteins all the techniques of physics which are appropriate. Great progress in the isolation and crystallization of proteins now provides for physical investigations an almost unlimited wealth of material.

Langmuir, Proc. Phys. Soc. 51(4):592-612, 1939













A SPECIFIC CHEMICAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GLOBINS OF NORMAL HUMAN AND SICKLE-CELL ANÆMIA HÆMOGLOBIN By Dr. V. M. INGRAM Medical Research Council Unit for the Study of the Molecular Structure of Biological Systems, Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge

Ingram, Nature 178:792-794, 1956



















Monod (*BBActa* **16**:99, 1955) & Spiegelman (*J. Bacteriol.* **68**:419, 1954) have clearly shown that, under certain conditions, protein synthesis can proceed with no significant contribution from preexisting proteins or readily demonstrable peptides. ...under the conditions used, more that 97 percent and possibly all of the precursor material for protein synthesis consists of free amino acids.

The negative evidence that no intermediate compounds could be found by the rough survey methods used cannot be considered in any sense crucial evidence

Steinberg et al., Science 124:389-395, 1956







































SCIENTIFIC PRECURSORS 60









Rabbit globin peptides obtained by trypsin digestion β -GLOBIN

01. VLSPADK
UZ. INIK
04 IGSHGGEYGAEAVER
05. MFLGFPTTK
06. TYFPHFDFTHGSEQIK
07. AHGK
08. K
09. VSEALTK
10. AVGHLDDLPGALSTLSDLHAHK
11. LR
12. VDPVNFK
13. LLSHCLLVTLANHHPSEFTPAVHASLDK
14. FLANVSTVLTSK
15. YR

Numerados em ordem crescente do N->C

01. VHLSSEEK 02. SAVTALWGK 03. VNVEEVGGEALGR 04. LLVVYPWTQR 05. FFESFGDLSSAHAVMSNPK 06. VK 07. AHGK 08. K 09. VLAAFSEGLNHLDNLK 10. GTFAK 11. LSELHCDK 12. LHVDPENFR 13. LLGNVLVVVLSHHFGK 14. EFTPQVQAAYQK 15. VVAGVANALAHK 16. YH



