## CONTENTS

### Introduction
- Atherosclerosis and coronary heart disease  
- Lipoprotein(a), a genetic risk factor of atherosclerosis  
- Apolipoprotein(a), the distinguishing protein of Lipoprotein(a)  
- Apolipoprotein(a)'s similarity with plasminogen and its evolution  
- Proposed role of apolipoprotein(a) in pathogenesis of atherosclerosis  
- Characterisation of 5' flanking region of apolipoprotein(a) gene and its transcriptional regulation  
- Summary of work done in the laboratory  

### Materials
- Chemicals  
- Enzymes, bacterial strains and mammalian cell lines  
- Vectors and primers  

### Methods
- Preparation of competent cells and transformation  
- Plasmid isolation  
- Preservation of cultures and clones  
- Revival of mammalian cell lines  
- Maintenance of mammalian cell lines and cell culture  
- Preparation of nuclear extract  
- Transfection  
- Luciferase assay  
- DNA quantitation  
- Agarose gel electrophoresis  
- Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis: native, denaturing and SDS-PAGE  
- Restriction enzyme digestion  
- DNA elution from agarose gel  
- DNA elution from polyacrylamide gel  
- Polymerase chain reaction amplification  
- Ligation  
- Colony hybridization and blue/white screening  
- 5' end labelling of synthetic oligonucleotide  
- End labelling by Klenow filling reaction  
- Body-labelling by PCR  
- Purification of radiolabelled probe  
- DNA sequencing: Sanger's and Maxam-Gilbert method  
- DNase I footprinting assay  
- Electrophoretic mobility shift assay  
- UV Cross-linking  
- South-Western blot assay  
- Purification of the binding factor(s) by biotin streptavidin
Results

(-716 to -314) region upregulates human apo(a) gene
Six imperfect dyad symmetry elements found in the positive regulatory region (-716 to -314)
A HeLa-specific protein binds to a synthetic DNA fragment containing DSE4 region (-640 to -616)
Characterisation of the cis-element binding aTR
A single polypeptide of 107,000 Da size is involved in binding to the (-643 to -616) fragment
The (-643 to -616) fragment represses luciferase reporter gene expression under heterologous SV40 promoter
HepG2-specific factors bind to the (-716 to -616) fragment
Separation of binding factors on SDS-PAGE renders inability to bind to the (-716 to -616) region
Characterisation of cis-element binding to the HepG2 specific trans-acting factors
More than one DSE is required in DNA probe for the formation of DNA-protein complexes with HepG2-specific factors
Cross-linking of DNA-protein complexes by UV irradiation
The fragment 'b' (-706 to -616) forms the most stable DNA-protein complex with HepG2-specific trans-acting factors
Purification of the trans-acting factor(s) using biotinylated cis-element and streptavidin magnetic beads
Purification of the UV cross-linked DNA-protein complex using biotinylated fragment 'a', HepG2 nuclear extract and streptavidin magnetic beads

Discussion

Eukaryotic transcriptional regulation
Proposed model of transcriptional activation of apo(a) gene by four HepG2-specific factors
Tissue-specific repression of apo(a) gene by a Hela-specific factor

Bibliography

Appendix