LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Proposed NF- κ B/I κ B family nomenclature

A meeting entitled "NF- κ B, Rel, and Dorsal: Structure and Function" was held at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. During that meeting, the need for a coherent nomenclature regarding the different NF- κ B family members was discussed. It is evident that the NF- κ B/rel/dorsal family members are more complex at the genetic and biochemical level than previously realized. The meeting participants met to propose a set of guidelines to provide for consistency and uniformity in the designation of both the NF- κ B/rel and I κ B family members.

As a result of this discussion, the nomenclature outlined in Table 1 has been proposed. The members of this group were satisfied that this nomenclature would assist in communication among research investigators within the field and in the general scientific community and would facilitate further understanding of this increasingly complex family of related genes.

Table 1. NF- κ B/Rel and I κ B proteins

Chromosomal locus ^a	Gene ^b	Proteins	Former names
<i>A. NF-κB/Rel Proteins</i>			
NFKB1	<i>nfkb1</i>	NF- κ B1 (p105 or p50)	KBF1, p110, EBP-1
NFKB2	<i>nfkb2</i>	NF- κ B2 (p100 or p52)	p100, p97, p98/p55, p50B, p49 NF- κ B, Lyl10, H2TF1
		NF- κ B (p50/p65) ^c	NF- κ B complex
REL	<i>c-rel</i>	Rel	
RELA	<i>rela</i>	RelA or p65 ^d	p65 NF- κ B
RELB	<i>relb</i>	RelB	RelB, I-rel
	<i>dorsal</i>	dorsal	
	<i>dif</i>	Dif, Cif	dorsal-related immunity factor, cecropia immunoresponsive factor
<i>B. IκB Proteins</i>			
IKBA	<i>ikba</i>	I κ B- α	37 kD; MAD-3; pp40, RL/IF-1, ECI-6/I κ B α
IKBB ^e	<i>ikbb</i>	I κ B- β	43 kD
NFKB1	<i>nfkb1</i>	I κ B- γ	70 kD, p105/pdI, carboxy-terminal portion of p105
BCL3	<i>bcl3</i>	Bcl-3	46–56 kD
	<i>cactus</i>	cactus	

^aRefers to locus on the human genome.

^bRefers to nonhuman homologs (mice, rabbit, rat, chicken, insect, etc.).

^cIt is proposed that the NF- κ B p50/p65 designation to refer to the NF- κ B complex be kept.

^dThe preferred designation will be RelA, but for historical reasons the use of p65 will remain operational.

^eChromosomal localization not yet established.

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