

Unravelling von Willebrand Factor

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Unravelling von Willebrand Factor

Active von Willebrand Factor in conditions of (un)balanced haemostasis

1. The VHH S-VWFA1 inhibits platelet binding to active VWF in solution, but does not affect platelet binding to active VWF immobilized to collagen. (*this thesis – Chapter 2*)
2. Extensive method validation and establishment of a reference interval for active VWF are crucial steps towards reproducible results and allow for the interpretation of “abnormal” values. (*this thesis – Chapter 3*)
3. The increase in circulating (active) VWF following strenuous exercise is attenuated by repetition of the exercise, likely through exhaustion or adaptation of the endothelium. (*this thesis – Chapters 4, 5*)
4. Acute exacerbations of COPD are associated with increased platelet-monocyte complexes, (active) VWF and thrombin generation, together contributing to the increased thrombotic risk of these patients. (*this thesis - Chapter 6*)
5. VHHs are a promising tool for future immunodiagnostics as well as therapeutic applications, as they are particularly capable of binding hidden epitopes that are not accessible to conventional antibodies. (*this thesis, valorisation*)
6. Force and VWF function are so closely intertwined that VWF may be considered the Star Wars Jedi knight of our body, that uses ‘the force’ to guard the bloodstream. (*Timothy A. Springer, Blood, 2014*)
7. The endothelium is analogous to a chameleon, constantly moulding itself to the needs of the underlying tissue and the influence of blood flow and composition. (*modified from: William C. Aird, Circ. Res. 2007*)
8. Multidisciplinary teams of medical specialists and scientists are required in large (academic) hospitals to accelerate (translational) research efforts and tackle complex healthcare problems.
9. Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted. (*William Bruce Cameron 1 Cor 13:1-2*).
10. When you’re doing science, you have to be prepared to take the road where it takes you – and it’s hard to predict where the road is going to take you. (*William G. Kaelin Jr., Nobel Prize of Medicine Winner 2019*).