



NSI Meeting Announcement

Date: March 8, 2005, 15.00–15.45

Venue: Rikshospitalet, Auditorium A3.3067

Reflections on the development and 46 years work in immunology

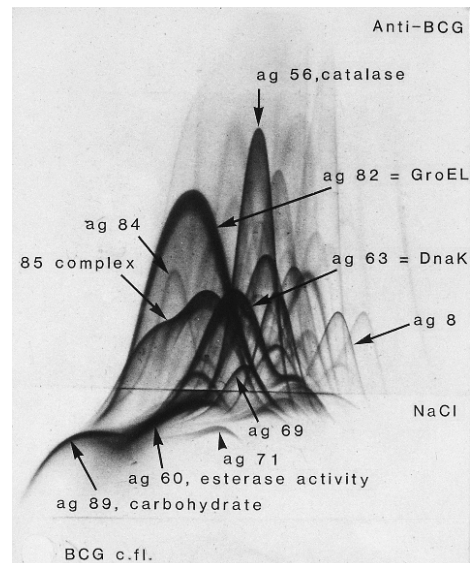
Prof. Morten Harboe,
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The development in immunology will be illustrated from my personal work during this period.

It started by studies of allotypes, genetic polymorphism in human IgG before its constituent light and heavy chains were discovered in 1961. In studies of myeloma proteins, the Gm and Inv genetically determined factors were localized on the heavy and light chains respectively. Characterization of a rare Gm(b+) myeloma protein was essential in the subsequent demonstration of the four subclasses of human IgG.

The second part is related to immunological aspects of mycobacterial infections in which genetic factors strongly influence the course after infection. In leprosy and tuberculosis immune reactions are protective but also responsible for tissue damage and important clinical symptoms. Antigens actively secreted from BCG bacilli and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* characterized by crossed immunoelectrophoresis are now used in diagnostic assays and in candidate new vaccines against tuberculosis.

Finally, studies on complement will illustrate demonstration that the C3 and C4 components are essential reactors in the direct anti-globulin reaction, how complement contributes to tissue damage in disease, and how the alternative pathway is essential for the control and effect of complement activation.



Norwegian Society for Immunology (NSI)