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## Recent highlights of ATVB: Platelet signaling pathways and new inhibitors

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### Introduction

The major physiological role of platelets is in the formation of hemostatic plugs at sites of penetrating vascular injury that serve to limit blood loss. The aberrant intravascular activation of platelets can, if unchecked, lead to thrombotic events that cause myocardial infarction and stroke. A number of antiplatelet agents are used clinically to limit platelet activation in patients at risk of arterial thrombotic events. However, their use can be associated with a significant risk of bleeding. An improved understanding of platelet signaling mechanisms should identify safer targets for antiplatelet therapy.

Our understanding of the breadth and complexity of signaling pathways that marshal platelet activation has expanded rapidly over the past decade<sup>1–4</sup>. Recent work published in *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology (ATVB)* and other journals has provided further insight into the regulation of platelet signaling events and identified new targets against which to develop novel antiplatelet agents.

### Purinergic Receptors

One of the cornerstones of current antiplatelet therapy targets ADP mediated platelet activation and aggregation via the P2Y<sub>12</sub> receptor. However, a major challenge of the thienopyridine-based P2Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitors, such as clopidogrel and prasugrel, is the occurrence of high on-treatment platelet reactivity, defined as a higher than expected platelet response to agonist<sup>5</sup>. Armstrong and colleagues have recently described an important contribution of platelet turnover to high on-treatment platelet reactivity<sup>6</sup>. In vitro and ex vivo studies

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demonstrated that the relatively short half-life of clopidogrel and prasugrel was associated with poor inhibition of aggregation of newly formed reticulated platelets on ADP stimulation<sup>6</sup>. By comparison non-thienopyridine based P2Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitors, such as ticagrelor, maintained a good level of platelet inhibition even when untreated platelets were introduced<sup>6</sup>. However, further studies are required to establish if there is any clinical benefit of non-thienopyridine based P2Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitors in the context of high on-treatment platelet reactivity.

In addition to expressing P2Y<sub>12</sub> platelets also express P2Y<sub>1</sub>, thought to regulate initial Ca<sup>2+</sup> mobilization and shape change. Currently available therapies, however, only target P2Y<sub>12</sub> leaving P2Y<sub>1</sub> mediated platelet activation intact. The diadenosine tetraphosphate derivative, GLS-409, has recently been developed as an inhibitor of both P2Y<sub>1</sub> and P2Y<sub>12</sub> (Figure) (Table)<sup>7</sup>. GLS-409 potentially inhibited platelet aggregation and protected against recurrent coronary thrombosis in a canine model<sup>8</sup>. Encouragingly, bleeding was only marginally, and non-significantly, prolonged after administration of GLS-409 in a canine model. It remains to be determined if dual P2Y<sub>1</sub>/P2Y<sub>12</sub> antagonists will be used in the clinic in place of the classical unimodal P2Y<sub>12</sub> inhibitors<sup>9</sup>.

P2Y<sub>12</sub>-dependent platelet activation also plays a role in the pathologic response to sepsis. Wild-type mice treated with clopidogrel and P2Y<sub>12</sub> deficient mice had reduced platelet aggregation, platelet-leukocyte aggregate formation and lung injury in a sepsis-induced inflammation model<sup>10</sup>. Interestingly, no protection was observed in P2Y<sub>1</sub> deficient mice, which indicates that platelet activation in response to septic challenge is primarily driven by activation of P2Y<sub>12</sub><sup>10</sup>. These findings are consistent with a study showing reduced neutrophil recruitment and lung injury in ticagrelor treated mice subject to abdominal sepsis. Together, these studies suggest that platelets contribute to sepsis-induced lung injury by enhancing the recruitment of neutrophils<sup>11</sup>.

### Protease-activated receptors (PARs)

Thrombin is an extremely potent platelet agonist activating human platelets by proteolytic cleavage of PAR1 and PAR4, which are high and low affinity receptors, respectively (Figure)<sup>12</sup>. Interestingly, PAR1 activation leads to rapid and transient signaling whereas PAR4 activation leads to prolonged signaling that is required for stable thrombus formation<sup>13</sup>. Two PAR1-specific antagonists, vorapaxar and atopaxar, have been developed<sup>14, 15</sup>. Recent studies analyzed the effect of triple antiplatelet therapy on cardiovascular death by adding vorapaxar to standard antiplatelet therapy (aspirin and clopidogrel). Patients receiving triple therapy had reduced cardiovascular death but also had an increase in intracranial hemorrhage<sup>14, 16</sup>. Nevertheless, vorapaxar has been approved for use in patients with a history of cardiovascular disease with no history of a stroke but it needs to be used with another platelet inhibitor.

Although effective in inhibiting PAR1 activation, a limitation of vorapaxar is its long half-life and slow off rate. This limitation has driven the search for alternative PAR1 antagonists with improved pharmacokinetic profiles. One such agent is the cell-permeable peptide based inhibitor PZ-128, which binds to the intracellular C-terminus of PAR1 and blocks downstream G-protein signaling (Figure) (Table)<sup>17</sup>. In preclinical studies, PZ-128 inhibited

platelet aggregation and thrombus formation<sup>17</sup>. In a recent phase I study published in *ATVB*, intravenous administration of PZ-128 resulted in inhibition of platelet activation<sup>18</sup>. These studies indicate that PZ-128 is a rapid, specific and reversible inhibitor that can be used for short-term inhibition of platelet activation.

To date, the majority of studies have focused on PAR1. Recently, there has been a shift to understanding the contribution of PAR4 to platelet activation. For instance, a recent study identified seven PAR4 variants in a cohort of 236 cardiac patients. One of these PAR4 variants, Tyr157Cys, was predicted to lead to significant structural changes and partial loss of function<sup>19</sup>. Indeed, platelets isolated from patients with the Tyr157Cys PAR4 variant demonstrated impaired aggregation in response to a PAR4 specific agonist and thrombin. Interestingly, the Tyr157Cys PAR4 variant localized primarily to the perinuclear space likely limiting PAR4 availability at the plasma membrane<sup>19</sup>. In addition, a racially dimorphic gain-of-function PAR4 variant Ala120Thr has been described<sup>20, 21</sup>. This PAR4 variant is associated with increased PAR4 reactivity and calcium flux in platelets<sup>21</sup>. These clinical studies highlight the potential for genetic diversity in PAR4 in the human population.

PAR4 is also being considered as an alternative target for the development of antiplatelet agents. Indeed, a first-in-class small molecule PAR4 inhibitor, BMS-986120, has been developed (Table)<sup>22</sup>. In a non-human primate model, BMS-986120 potentially inhibited arterial thrombosis with only a minor prolongation of bleeding time<sup>22</sup>. In a recent phase I clinical trial published in *ATVB*, BMS-986120 was well tolerated and inhibited both platelet aggregation and thrombosis *ex vivo*<sup>23</sup>. It will be interesting to see if these PAR1 and PAR4 inhibitors can overcome some of the limitations of current therapies and join our arsenal of antiplatelet agents.

### Collagen-GPVI-Fc $\gamma$ receptor

The platelet-specific collagen receptor glycoprotein (GP)VI, in complex with the Fc $\gamma$  receptor (Fc $\gamma$ R), plays a critical role in both platelet adhesion and activation (Figure)<sup>24</sup>. A number of GPVI inhibitors have been developed as possible antiplatelet agents, such as inhibitory anti-GPVI antibodies and a soluble GPVI-Fc fusion protein called Revacept<sup>25</sup>. Additionally, a number of C-type lectin-like proteins have been identified in snake venoms that modulate GPVI activity. This includes the GPVI specific agonist Trowaglerix, which was purified from *Tropidolaemus wagleri* venom and potentially induces platelet aggregation<sup>26</sup>. In contrast to full-length Trowaglerix protein, however, hexa and decapeptides (Tro $\alpha$ 6 and Tro $\alpha$ 10) derived from the C-terminal region of Trowaglerix function as potent inhibitors of collagen-induced platelet aggregation (Figure) (Table)<sup>27</sup>. Interestingly, docking studies indicate that the decapeptide binds to a cleft between the D1 and D2 domains but does not disrupt GPVI-collagen binding<sup>28</sup>. Both the hexa and decapeptide also strongly inhibited thrombus formation in mesenteric and carotid ferric chloride models without prolonging bleeding after tail transection<sup>27</sup>.

GPVI inhibitors are also effective in protecting against cardiac ischemia-reperfusion injury. For instance, both anti-GPVI monoclonal antibody infusion, which induces shedding of GPVI from platelets, and Revacept administration reduced infarct size in a murine cardiac ischemia-reperfusion model<sup>29, 30</sup>. These studies indicate that GPVI-dependent activation of

platelets contributes to cardiac injury and that anti-GPVI therapies may be useful adjuvants in patients with myocardial infarction undergoing revascularization.

Collagen-mediated activation of GPVI can also be negatively regulated by endogenous mechanisms. Leukocyte-associated immunoglobulin-like receptor-1 (LAIR1) is expressed in megakaryocytes and negatively regulates GPVI signaling by binding to collagen (Figure)<sup>31, 32</sup>. Smith and colleagues generated megakaryocyte-specific LAIR1 knockouts to study the effect of LAIR1 on megakaryocyte and platelet function<sup>33</sup>. LAIR1 deficiency did not affect megakaryocyte development. Consistent with serving as a negative regulator of GPVI, collagen related peptide stimulation of GPVI on platelets from megakaryocyte specific LAIR1 knockouts caused an enhancement in aggregation that was accompanied by increased phosphorylation of Fc $\gamma$ R, Src and spleen tyrosine kinase (Syk)<sup>33</sup>. It should be noted that LAIR1 expression has not been detected in platelets<sup>34</sup>. It is proposed that the impaired capacity to activate GPVI in megakaryocytes may, in some way, be transmitted to and persist in formed platelets although the mechanism behind this remains to be elucidated<sup>33</sup>.

GPVI-mediated platelet activation can also be interrupted at a point further downstream in the intracellular signaling pathway. T-cell ubiquitin ligand-2 (TULA2) is a histidine phosphatase that binds and dephosphorylates Syk (Figure)<sup>35</sup>. Studies with TULA2 knockout mice showed that TULA2 limits Syk phosphorylation in collagen related peptide stimulated platelets leading to a restriction of GPVI-mediated activation<sup>36</sup>. In addition, another study found that dephosphorylation of Syk by TULA2 may also serve to limit activation downstream of Fc $\gamma$ RIIA<sup>37</sup>. Mice with reduced TULA2 and expressing human Fc $\gamma$ RIIA had enhanced Syk and phospholipase C $\gamma$ 2 (PLC $\gamma$ 2) phosphorylation after stimulation with an Fc $\gamma$ RIIA-specific agonist when compared to wild-type controls<sup>37</sup>. Finally, in a model of anti-GPIX antibody mediated heparin-induced thrombocytopenia the absence of TULA2 expression markedly worsened thrombocytopenia and shortened bleeding times consistent with increased activation of TULA2-deficient platelets<sup>37</sup>.

Activation of Syk downstream of the tyrosine kinase coupled receptors GPVI, C-type lectin-like receptor 2 and Fc $\gamma$ RIIA is critical for platelet activation. Despite early studies suggesting a central role of Syk in regulating platelet activation, deletion of Syk was not associated with increased bleeding<sup>38</sup>. Recent work by van Eeuwijk and colleagues revealed a relatively mild hemostatic defect in platelet-specific Syk knockout mice<sup>39</sup>. However, these mice were strongly protected in a model of arterial thrombosis<sup>39</sup>. Similar findings were observed when a selective Syk inhibitor, BI1002494, was administered to wild-type mice (Table)<sup>39</sup>. Syk inhibitors have also been investigated as a possible therapy for heparin-induced thrombocytopenia. For instance, administration of PRT-060318 protected against spontaneous formation of thrombi in the pulmonary vasculature and preserved platelet counts in a humanized Fc $\gamma$ RIIA and Platelet Factor 4 mouse model (Table)<sup>40</sup>.

### CaIDAG-GEFI

The calcium- and DAG-regulated guanine exchange factor-1 guanine exchange factor (CaIDAG-GEFI) is a critical activator of the small GTPases of the Ras-related protein 1 (Rap1) subfamily<sup>41</sup>. As the major guanine nucleotide exchange factor expressed in platelets

the capacity of CalDAG-GEFI to regulate Rap1 mediated platelet activation has been studied extensively. GTP-loading of Rap1 by CalDAG-GEFI induces platelet adhesion, in part, through activation of integrin  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta$ 3<sup>42, 43</sup>. Rap1 activation is also required for a number of other platelet processes, including granule secretion, thromboxane A2 generation, spreading and clot retraction<sup>41</sup>. Platelets from CalDAG-GEFI knockout mice revealed a blunted aggregatory response after stimulation with a range of physiological agonists<sup>44</sup>. These results indicated that CalDAG-GEFI-mediated activation of Rap1 provides a common signaling pathway for platelet activation downstream of numerous receptors, including the PARs, P2Y12 and GPVI (Figure)<sup>44</sup>. In addition, CalDAG-GEFI knockout mice had reduced thrombosis in a variety of experimental models<sup>44–46</sup>. However, loss of CalDAG-GEFI also resulted in a pronounced bleeding phenotype after tail transection indicating an important function in primary hemostasis. In recent work published in *ATVB*, Piatt and colleagues generated CalDAG-GEFI transgenic mice that express ~10% of wild-type levels of CalDAG-GEFI<sup>47</sup>. Platelets from these mice had an impaired response to PAR4, GPVI and P2Y12/P2Y1 specific agonists but it was less severe than platelets from CalDAG-GEFI knockout mice<sup>47</sup>. Importantly, CalDAG-GEFI low mice had a similar level of protection against thrombosis compared to CalDAG-GEFI knockouts but had a much milder bleeding diathesis<sup>47</sup>.

Platelets have also been shown to play a role in the development of atherosclerotic plaques in mouse models<sup>48–50</sup>. These studies highlight the potential of antiplatelet therapies to limit atherogenesis<sup>51</sup>. Recent studies have shown that P2Y12-deficient, Apolipoprotein E double deficient mice had smaller lesions than controls<sup>52</sup>. Similarly, low density lipoprotein receptor deficient mice reconstituted with CalDAG-GEFI deficient bone marrow had significantly smaller lesions than controls<sup>53</sup>. These studies indicate that platelet activation contributes to atherogenesis in mice and an additional benefit of antiplatelet therapy in humans maybe a reduction in lesion progression.

### **Nuclear receptor subfamily 1 members**

A recent study found that two members of the nuclear receptor subfamily 1 of transcription factors, Farnesoid X Receptor (FXR) and Liver X Receptor (LXR), and the associated Retinoid X Receptor (RXR), are expressed in human platelets (Figure)<sup>54–56</sup>. RXR forms heterodimeric complexes with both FXR and LXR<sup>56</sup>. Recent studies revealed a surprising non-genomic function for these transcription factors in the regulation of platelet activation. Stimulation of human platelets with FXR and LXR ligands strongly inhibited both platelet aggregation and granule release<sup>54, 55</sup>. The capacity of FXR ligands to induce accumulation of cGMP likely accounts for the observed impairment in platelet activation<sup>55</sup>. Interestingly, treatment of platelets with FXR and LXR ligands impaired integrin  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta$ 3 activation and outside-in signaling<sup>56</sup>. Moreover, infusion of either FXR or LXR ligands into mice inhibited platelet accumulation at sites of vascular injury<sup>54, 55</sup>. Stimulation of platelets with RXR ligands also results in inhibition of platelet aggregation, granule secretion and integrin  $\alpha$ IIb $\beta$ 3 outside-in signaling<sup>56</sup>. Further work is required to determine whether FXR, LXR and RXR ligands could serve as viable antiplatelet agents.

## Phosphoinositides and platelet kinases

Activation of platelet receptors initiates downstream signaling events that includes the generation of the small molecule signaling intermediate phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate through the action of phosphatidylinositol 3-kinases (Figure). Phosphoinositide-dependent protein kinase 1 (PDK1) is activated through binding of phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate enabling phosphorylation of downstream signaling targets that include members of the Akt family of kinases<sup>57</sup>. Platelet-specific PDK1 deficiency is associated with reduced platelet activation due to impaired integrin  $\alpha$ IIB $\beta$ 3-mediated outside-in signaling<sup>58</sup>. A small molecule PDK1 inhibitor has also been found to inhibit activation of human platelets<sup>59</sup>. Another study showed that PDK1 deficient platelets had reduced aggregation and granule release after stimulation with the GPVI specific agonist collagen related peptide<sup>60</sup>. PDK1 was also found to be essential for the collagen-induced increase in intracellular  $[Ca^{2+}]$  in part through a Rac1-PLC $\gamma$ 2 dependent pathway<sup>60</sup>. As in earlier reports<sup>58</sup>, platelet specific PDK1 knockout mice exhibit reduced arterial thrombosis and were also protected from ischemic stroke<sup>60</sup>.

Additional platelet kinases have been found to regulate the metabolism of phosphoinositides in platelets, including the transient receptor potential melastatin-like 7 (TRPM7) channel (Figure). TRPM7 is a constitutively active divalent cation selective channel that regulates intracellular  $[Ca^{2+}]$  and  $[Mg^{2+}]$  but also functions as a serine/threonine kinase<sup>61</sup>. Studies with TRPM7 deficient megakaryocytes and megakaryocytes expressing kinase-dead TRPM7 revealed an important role of the cation channel, but not kinase, function in platelet biogenesis<sup>62</sup>. TRPM7 deficiency in megakaryocytes was associated with impaired proplatelet formation and abnormal megakaryocyte microtubule assembly that led to macrothrombocytopenia<sup>62</sup>. In a subsequent study, Gotru and colleagues explored the kinase function of TRPM7 in platelets<sup>63</sup>. While platelet biogenesis was normal in mice expressing a kinase-dead TRPM7, loss of kinase activity markedly reduced arterial thrombosis<sup>63</sup>. Interrogation of signaling downstream of GPVI and C-type lectin-like receptor-2-mediated receptor activation in platelets containing kinase-dead TRPM7 revealed a common deficit in Syk, linker for activation of T cells and PLC $\gamma$ 2 phosphorylation. Consistent with an impaired activation of PLC $\gamma$ 2, platelets containing a kinase-dead TRPM7 produced significantly less inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate.

## Platelet Oxidases

Lipoxygenases are a family of enzymes that catalyze the oxygenation of polyunsaturated fatty acids that leads to the generation of a variety of active signaling molecules. 12-Lipoxygenase (12-LOX), named for the ability of this family member to oxidize arachidonic acid at carbon 12, is expressed in both megakaryocytes and platelets<sup>64</sup>. Oxidation of arachidonic acid by 12-LOX results in the formation of 12(S)-hydroperoxyicoso-5,8,10,14-tetraenoic acid that is reduced to 12(S)-hydroxy-5,8,10,14-eicosatetraenoic acid by glutathione peroxidase (Figure). Oxidation of dihomo- $\gamma$ -linolenic acid by 12-LOX also generates 12(S)-hydroxy-8Z,10E,14Z-eicosatrienoic acid (Figure). Administration of dihomo- $\gamma$ -linolenic acid or 12(S)-hydroxy-8Z,10E,14Z-eicosatrienoic acid to mice resulted in a 12-LOX-dependent inhibition of platelet activation and thrombosis<sup>65, 66</sup>. There is a growing body of evidence supporting the involvement of 12-LOX in platelet activation with

inhibition or gene deletion effectively abrogating platelet aggregation in response to stimulation through PAR1, PAR4, GPVI and Fc $\gamma$ RIIa<sup>67–69</sup>. A recent study showed that a novel and selective 12-LOX small molecule inhibitor, ML-355 (Table), reduced platelet activation and arterial thrombosis in mice with a minimal effect on hemostasis<sup>69</sup>.

Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADPH) oxidase 2 (NOX2) is a membrane bound enzyme that catalyzes the generation of superoxide from NADPH. Studies of patients with Chronic Granulomatous Disease, which is caused by a genetic deficiency for NOX2, indicate that NOX2 is the primary producer of superoxide in stimulated platelets<sup>70</sup>. Reactive oxygen species (ROS) generated from superoxide can markedly increase platelet reactivity<sup>71</sup>. ROS contributes significantly to thrombosis with deletion of the anti-oxidant enzyme glutathione peroxidase-3 is resulting in increased platelet activation and thrombosis<sup>72</sup>. Consistent with these findings, NOX2-deficient platelets had a selective defect in response to collagen related peptide stimulation accompanied by a reduced capacity for ROS production and impaired phosphorylation of PLC $\gamma$ 2 and Syk<sup>73</sup>. In addition, NOX2 deficient mice had reduced thrombosis in the laser-injury model but had no impairment of hemostasis<sup>73</sup>. These data strongly support a role for NOX2 in GPVI-dependent platelet activation and suggests that selective NOX2 inhibitors could find utility as antiplatelet agents.

A recent study suggested that platelet NOX activity is regulated by the class III phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase vacuolar protein sorting 34 (VPS34)<sup>74</sup>. VPS34-dependent generation of phosphatidylinositol 3-phosphate has previously been found to regulate NOX-dependent ROS generation in leukocytes by binding to the gp40phox subunit<sup>75, 76</sup>. Studies with platelets from platelet-specific VPS34 knockout mice demonstrated that VPS34 is also essential for NOX-dependent ROS generation<sup>74</sup>. Importantly, VPS34 deficient platelets had a reduced capacity to form the active NOX complex at the plasma membrane leading to impaired ROS generation<sup>74</sup>. This impairment led to reduced platelet aggregation and reduced thrombus formation<sup>74</sup>. However, an independent study found that VPS34 deficiency in megakaryocytes disrupts platelet biogenesis and resulted in lower platelet counts and abnormal granule formation. These changes may also contribute to the reduced thrombosis<sup>77</sup>.

## Filamin A

The actin-binding protein filamin A functions as an important regulator of platelet activation and shape change. Filamin A mediates platelet activation through interaction with a variety of binding partners, including GPIIb $\alpha$ , GPVI and Syk<sup>78</sup>. Studies have suggested that filamin A-GPIIb $\alpha$  binding facilitates activation of integrin  $\alpha$ IIB $\beta$ 3<sup>79</sup>. Structural studies, however, indicate that filamin A may also directly interact with and regulate the activation of integrin  $\alpha$ IIB $\beta$ 3 (Figure)<sup>80</sup>. Interestingly, platelets isolated from a patient with a filamin A gain-of-function mutation that potentiates its interaction with integrin  $\alpha$ IIB $\beta$ 3 had increased ADP-induced platelet aggregation, dense granule release and integrin  $\alpha$ IIB $\beta$ 3 activation<sup>81</sup>. Despite enhanced recruitment of talin to integrin  $\alpha$ IIB $\beta$ 3 in ADP-stimulated platelets from the patient, Rap1 activation was unchanged supporting a GPIIb $\alpha$  independent mechanism<sup>81</sup>. The retinue of confirmed filamin A binding partners increased recently with the identification of

stromal interaction molecule 1, which is a critical regulator of store operated calcium entry<sup>82</sup>. In contrast to other filamin A interactions, binding of stromal interaction molecule 1 likely inhibits platelet activation by limiting store operated calcium entry<sup>82</sup>.

### Phosphatidylserine Exposure

Strong agonist-mediated activation of platelets leads to exposure of phosphatidylserine on the outer leaflet of the plasma membrane in a subpopulation of platelets. Exposure of phosphatidylserine confers procoagulant activity on this subpopulation by increasing the assembly of coagulation protease/cofactor complexes, such as prothrombinase complex, which enhances thrombin generation. Agonist-mediated phosphatidylserine exposure requires intracellular and mitochondrial accumulation of calcium, which facilitates cyclophilin D mediated formation of the mitochondrial transition pore and the disruption of the inner mitochondrial membrane<sup>83, 84</sup>. Activation of apoptotic pathways, involving Bax/Bak mediated activation of caspase-9, can also lead to platelet phosphatidylserine exposure<sup>85</sup>. It was previously unclear if phosphatidylserine exposure driven by apoptosis caused inner mitochondrial membrane disruption. Recent work published in *ATVB* demonstrated that both agonist and apoptosis-initiated phosphatidylserine exposure involves disruption of the inner, but not the outer mitochondrial membrane<sup>86</sup>. Furthermore, the authors showed that activation of caspase-9 is required for inner mitochondrial membrane disruption and phosphatidylserine exposure after initiation of apoptosis<sup>86</sup>.

Exposure of phosphatidylserine also requires activation of phospholipid scramblases that transfer phosphatidylserine from the inner leaflet of the membrane to the outer plasma membrane surface. Scott syndrome is a bleeding disorder that is caused by defective phosphatidylserine exposure on platelets. Scott syndrome patients have a truncated version of the critical calcium-sensitive phospholipid scramblase TMEM16F present in the plasma membrane of platelets and other cells (Figure)<sup>87, 88</sup>. Platelets from TMEM16F knockout mice showed impaired exposure of phosphatidylserine after stimulation with calcium ionophore or a combination of collagen and thrombin<sup>88, 89</sup>. This evidence strongly supports the involvement of TMEM16F in phosphatidylserine exposure on platelets. Consistent with the importance of TMEM16F-mediated phosphatidylserine exposure TMEM16F gene specific knockout mice were also protected against arterial thrombosis<sup>88</sup>. The role of platelet resident TMEM16F has been further explored using platelet specific TMEM16F knockout mice<sup>90</sup>. The thromboprotection observed in platelet specific TMEM16F largely phenocopies that seen in global TMEM16F knockouts<sup>90</sup>. Although TMEM16F is also expressed in the endothelium these findings indicate that TMEM16F-mediated phosphatidylserine exposure on the platelet surface is sufficient to support the formation of procoagulant platelets. An additional study showed that phosphatidylserine exposure on platelets stimulated with convulxin/thrombin was dependent on TMEM16F, whereas phosphatidylserine exposure on platelets stimulated with collagen/thrombin was dependent on two pathways one of which involved mitochondrial depolarization mediated by TMEM16F<sup>91</sup>.

### Summary

Recent studies have revealed a series of novel mechanisms that either positively or negatively regulate signaling events downstream of receptor mediated platelet activation. In



a number of cases, it appears that disruption of these pathways can selectively inhibit thrombosis while leaving essential hemostatic processes largely intact. These pathways may be of considerable interest as potential targets for development of a new generation of antiplatelet agents. Other work has focused on the development of novel anti-platelet agents that inhibit established targets such as P2Y<sub>12</sub>, PAR1 and GPVI. These agents may overcome some of the limitations of established therapies. It remains to be determined whether these novel agents will find clinical utility.

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## Non-standard abbreviations and acronyms

<b>12-LOX</b>	12-Lipoxygenase
<b>CaDAG-GEFI</b>	calcium- and DAG-regulated guanine exchange factor-1; guanine exchange factor
<b>FXR</b>	Farnesoid X Receptor
<b>FcγR</b>	Fcγ receptor
<b>GP</b>	glycoprotein
<b>LAIR1</b>	Leukocyte-associated immunoglobulin-like receptor-1
<b>LXR</b>	Liver X Receptor
<b>PAR</b>	protease-activated receptor
<b>NOX2</b>	NADPH oxidase 2
<b>PDK1</b>	phosphoinositide-dependent protein kinase 1
<b>PLCγ2</b>	phospholipase Cγ2
<b>RAP1</b>	Ras-related protein 1
<b>ROS</b>	reactive oxygen species
<b>RXR</b>	Retinoid X Receptor
<b>Syk</b>	spleen tyrosine kinase
<b>TRPM7</b>	transient receptor potential melastatin-like 7
<b>TULA2</b>	T-cell ubiquitin ligand-2
<b>VPS34</b>	vacuolar protein sorting 34

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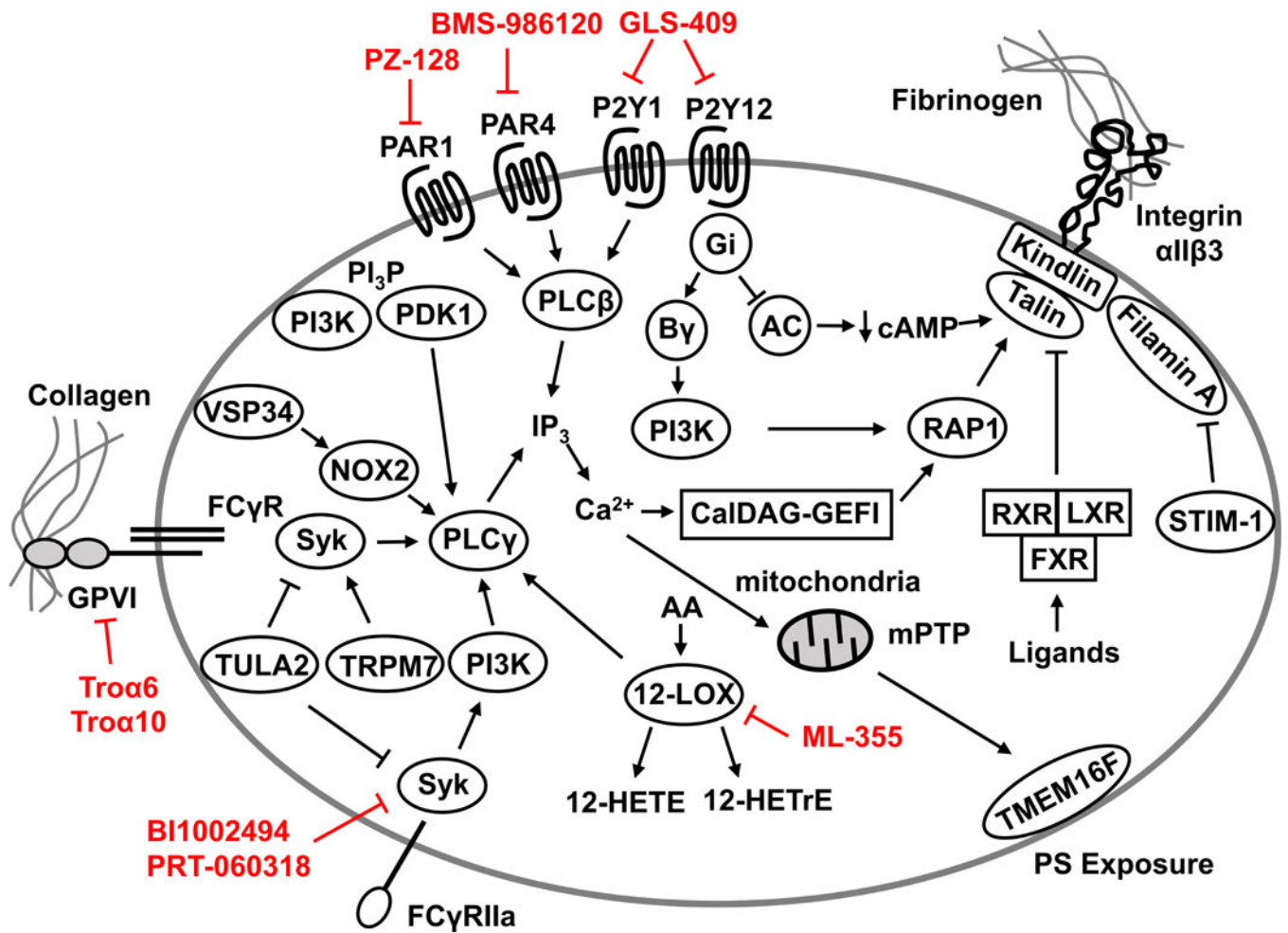
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**Figure. Platelet signaling pathways**

Overview of some of the intracellular platelet signaling pathways required for platelet activation. Novel anti-platelet agents in various stages of preclinical and clinical development are annotated (red).



**Table**

## Novel antiplatelet agents under development

<b>Target</b>	<b>Drug</b>	<b>Ref</b>
P2Y1 / P2Y12	GLS-409	8
PAR1	PZ-128	18
PAR4	BMS-986120	23
GPVI	Troα.6, Troα.10	27
Syk	BI1002494, PRT-060318	39, 40
12-LOX	ML-355	69

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