

CONTENTS

Contributors

ix

Preface

xiii

1. Role of Hemichannels in CNS Inflammation and the Inflammasome Pathway

1

Yeri Kim, Joanne O. Davidson, Katherine C. Gunn, Anthony R. Phillips,
Colin R. Green, and Alistair J. Gunn

1. Introduction

2

2. Role of Connexin Hemichannels in the Inflammatory Cascade
of the CNS

4

3. Connexin Hemichannels and Their Roles in Response to Injury
and Inflammation

12

4. Conclusion

25

References

26

2. P2X7 Receptor as a Therapeutic Target

39

Elena De Marchi, Elisa Orioli, Diego Dal Ben, and Elena Adinolfi

1. Introduction

41

2. P2X7 Receptor Ligands

43

3. Agonists and ATP-Competitive Antagonists

44

4. Agonists

46

5. Antagonists

46

6. Allosteric Modulators

49

7. P2X7 in Inflammation

51

8. P2X7 Receptor in Infectious Diseases

53

9. P2X7 Receptor in Osteoporosis

54

10. P2X7 Receptor in Rheumatoid Arthritis

55

11. P2X7 Receptor in Diabetes

56

12. P2X7 Receptor in Neurological Disorders

57

13. Multiple Sclerosis

57

14. Alzheimer's Disease

58

15. Huntington's Disease

59

16. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

59

17. Epilepsy

60

18. P2X7 Receptor in Mood Disorders

61

19. P2X7 Potential in Oncologic Treatment	62
20. Conclusions and Future Perspectives	66
Acknowledgments	66
References	66
 3. Polymodal Transient Receptor Potential Vanilloid Type 1 Nocisensor: Structure, Modulators, and Therapeutic Applications	 81
Minghua Cui, Vijayakumar Gosu, Shaherin Basith, Sunhye Hong, and Sun Choi	
1. Introduction	82
2. Expression and Regulation of TRPV1 Channel	84
3. Structural Aspects of TRPV1 Channel	85
4. Modulators of TRPV1 Channel	97
5. Therapeutic Roles of TRPV1 and Its Modulators in Pain and Other Disorders	106
6. Conclusion	112
Acknowledgments	113
References	113
 4. TRPM8 Ion Channels as Potential Cancer Biomarker and Target in Pancreatic Cancer	 127
Nelson S. Yee	
1. Introduction	128
2. Overview of TRPM8 Channels	129
3. Roles of TRPM8 Channels in Malignant Tumors	133
4. Expression of TRPM8 in Pancreatic Cancer	133
5. TRPM8 is Overexpressed in Pancreatic Cancer Cell Lines and Tissues	137
6. TRPM8 is Aberrantly Expressed in Premalignant and Malignant Pancreatic Tumors	138
7. Biological Roles of TRPM8 Channels in Pancreatic Cancer	140
8. TRPM8 is Required for Proliferation of Pancreatic Cancer Cells	143
9. Downregulation of TRPM8-Induced Replicative Senescence	143
10. TRPM8 is Required for Invasion in Pancreatic Cancer Cells	144
11. Mechanisms for the Biological Roles of TRPM8 Channels in Cancer	147
12. TRPM8 as a Cancer Biomarker and Therapeutic Target	149
13. Conclusion and Future Perspectives	150
Acknowledgments	151
References	151

5. Ion Channels in the Eye: Involvement in Ocular Pathologies	157
Jonathan P. Giblin, Nuria Comes, Olaf Strauss, and Xavier Gasull	
1. Introduction	158
2. The Ocular Surface	160
3. Lens	172
4. Aqueous Humor Inflow Pathway	173
5. Aqueous Humor Outflow Pathway	175
6. Retina	183
7. The Retinal Pigment Epithelium	197
Acknowledgments	205
References	206
6. Calcium-Activated Potassium Channels: Potential Target for Cardiovascular Diseases	233
De-Li Dong, Yun-Long Bai, and Ben-Zhi Cai	
1. Introduction	234
2. Big Conductance Ca^{2+} -Activated K^+ Channel	234
3. Role of BKCa in Cardiovascular System	235
4. Perspective for BKCa Channels as Potential Target for Cardiovascular Diseases	243
5. Intermediate Conductance Ca^{2+} -Activated K^+ Channel	243
6. Role of IKCa in Cardiovascular System	244
7. Perspective for IKCa Channels as Potential Target for Cardiovascular Diseases	247
8. Small Conductance Ca^{2+} -Activated K^+ Channels	248
9. Role of SKCa in Cardiovascular System	249
10. Perspective for SKCa Channels as Potential Target for Cardiovascular Diseases	251
Acknowledgment	252
References	252
7. The Modulation of Potassium Channels in the Smooth Muscle as a Therapeutic Strategy for Disorders of the Gastrointestinal Tract	263
Diego Currò	
1. Gut Motility and Functional Gastrointestinal Diseases	264
2. Gastrointestinal Smooth Muscle Contractility	266
3. Ion Channels	268

4. Concluding Remarks: Ideal Requirements of New Channel Modulators to be Considered Possible New Pharmacotherapeutic Options	295
References	297
8. Targeting the Channel Activity of Viroporins	307
Janet To, Wahyu Surya, and Jaume Torres	
1. Introduction	308
2. The Influenza A Virus Matrix Protein 2 (IAV M2 or AM2)	310
3. The Hepatitis C Virus p7 Protein (HCV-p7)	317
4. The Coronavirus Envelope Protein (CoV E)	324
5. The Respiratory Syncytial Virus Small Hydrophobic Protein (RSV SH)	327
6. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus Viral Protein U (HIV-1-Vpu)	331
7. 6K, Agnoprotein, and 2B	332
8. Host-Cell Responses Triggered by Viroporin Activity	334
9. Modulation of Protein-Protein Interactions Involving Viroporins	335
Acknowledgments	337
References	337
9. Contribution of Automated Technologies to Ion Channel Drug Discovery	357
Arturo Picones, Arlet Loza-Huerta, Pedro Segura-Chama, and Cesar O. Lara-Figueroa	
1. Introduction	358
2. Nonfunctional Assays	360
3. Functional Assays	360
4. Concluding Remarks	369
Acknowledgments	371
References	371
<i>Author Index</i>	379
<i>Subject Index</i>	441