

**IASOC 2004**

**Ischia, September 18-23, 2004**

**Integrins as Drug Targets: Rational and  
Combinatorial Development of Selective Ligands  
for Integrins**

**Horst Kessler**

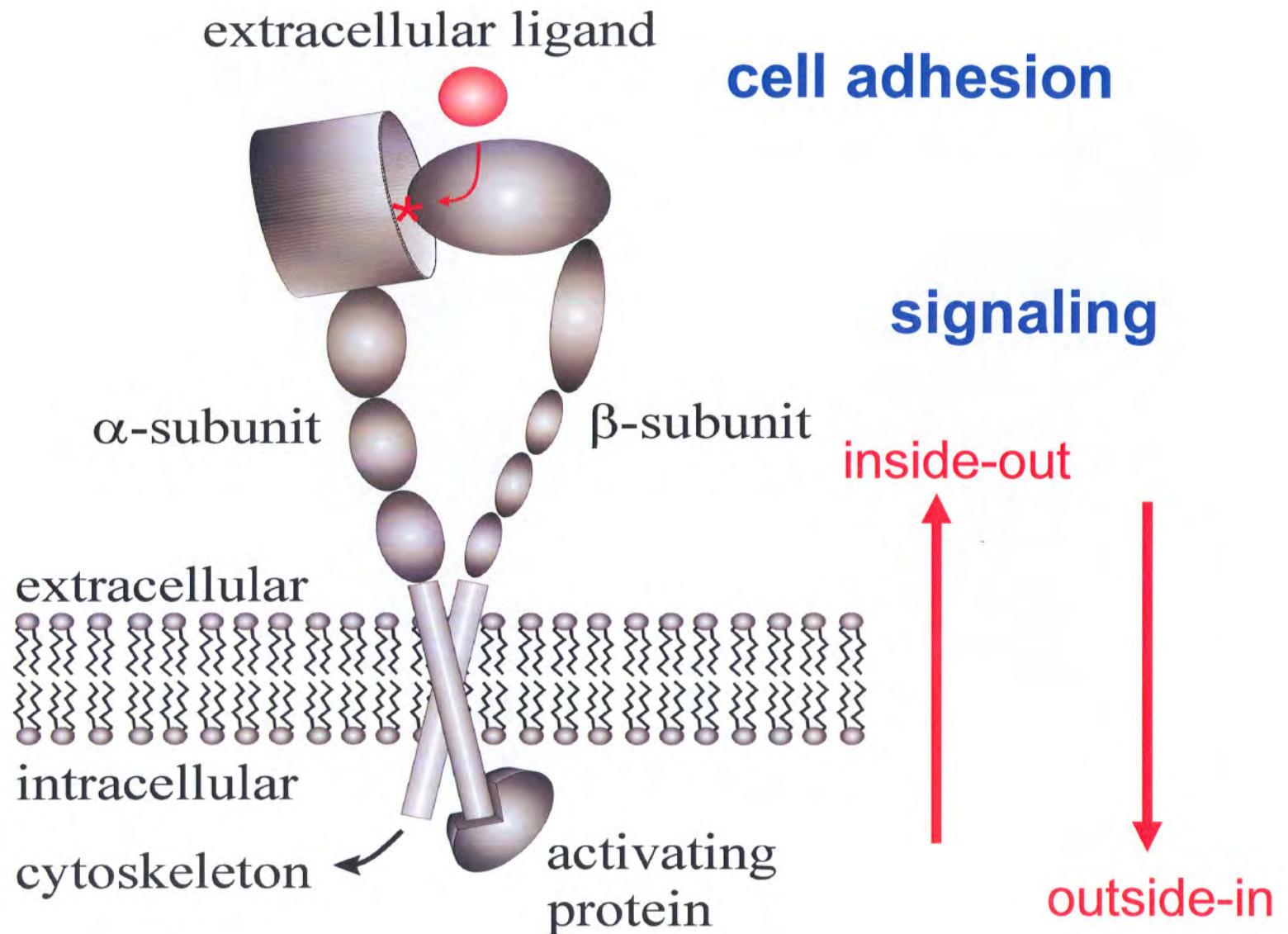
**Technische Universität München**

**[www.org.chemie.tu-muenchen.de](http://www.org.chemie.tu-muenchen.de)**

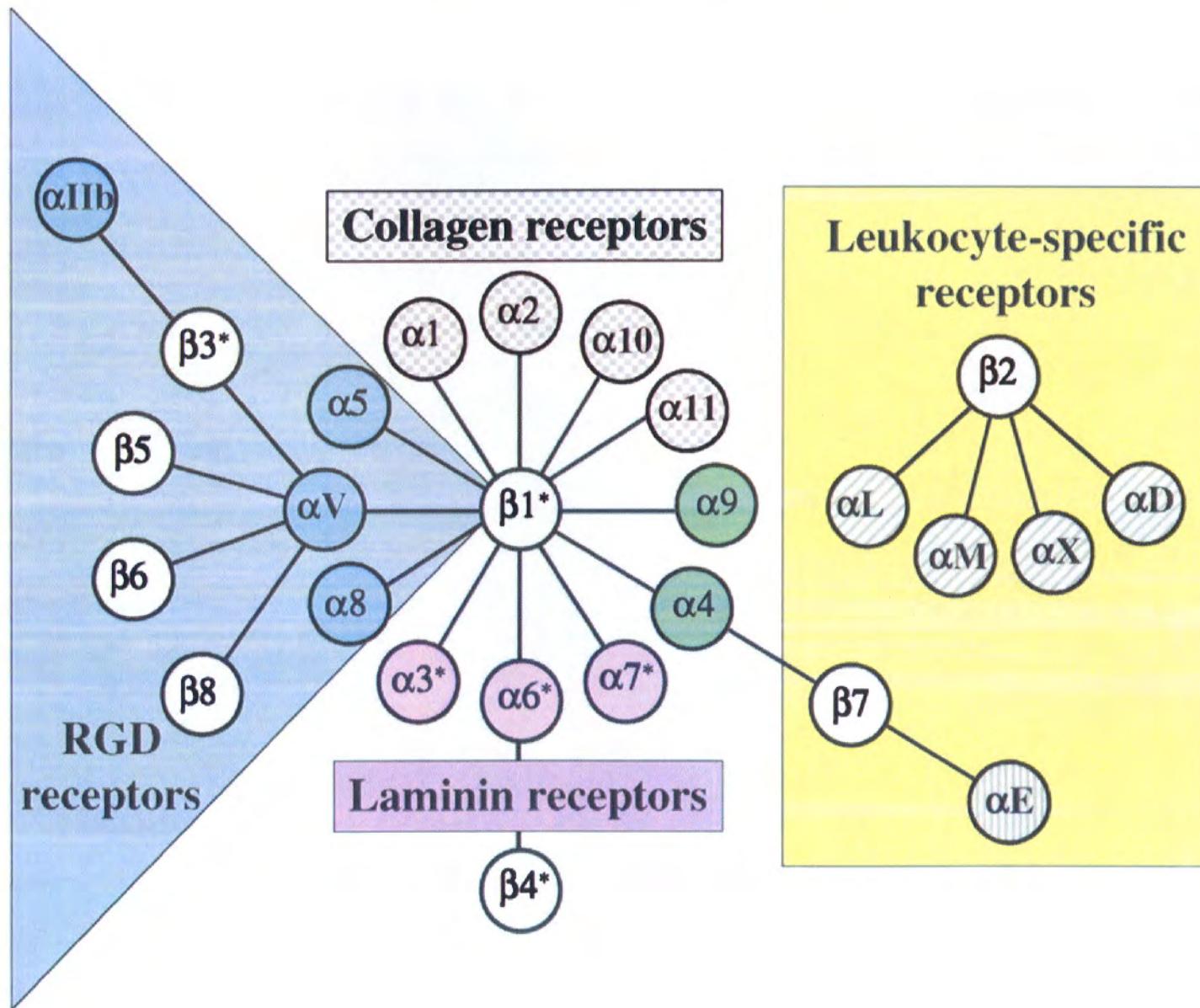
# Outline

1. Introduction
2. RGD Peptides
3. Applications
  - 3.1. Therapy
  - 3.2. Diagnosis
  - 3.3. Biomaterials
4. From Peptides to Non-Peptides
5. Mechanism of Signal Transduction
6. Non-RGD Peptidomimetics

# Biology of Integrins



# The Integrin Receptor Family



# Integrins and Their Ligands (blue: RGD binding)

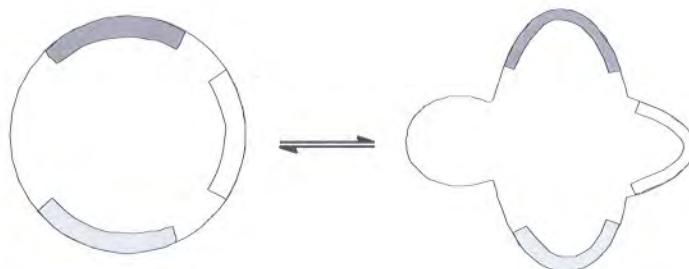
## **Where comes the specificity ?**

- additional binding epitopes ?**
- different bioactive conformations ?**
- both ?**

## A Linear Peptide Can Adopt Multiple Conformations



## Flexible Molecules in Solution



not active

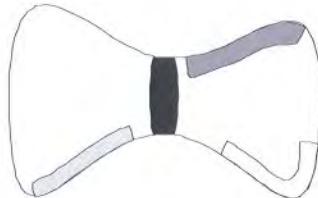
active

## Receptor



The more the structure of the free ligand in solution resembles the structure of the ligand in the complex, the stronger the binding, i.e. the more active is the ligand

## Fixation of the conformation via cyclization



inactive

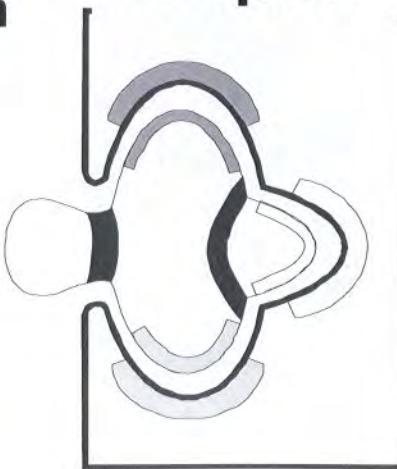
mismatched case



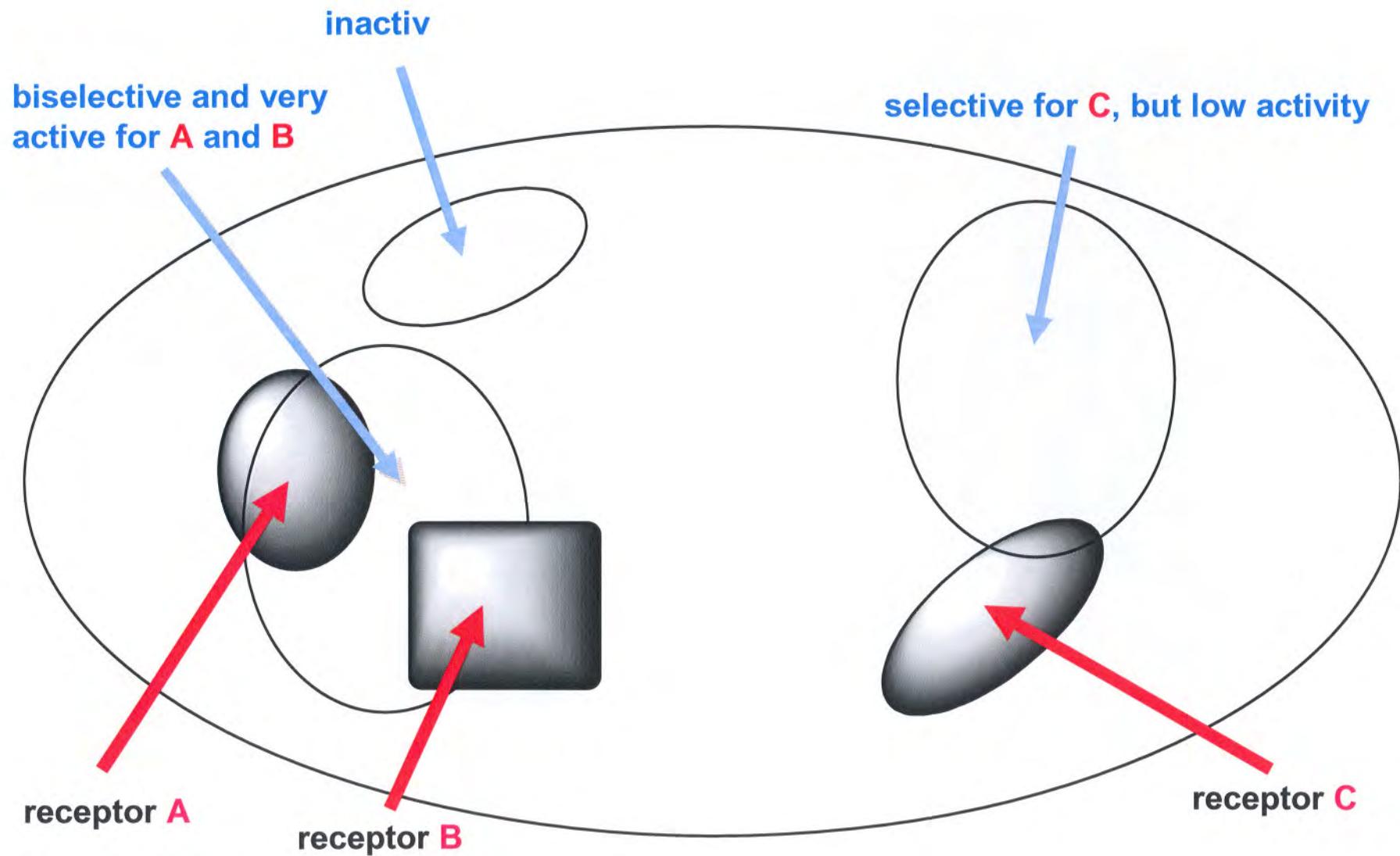
super-active

matched case

## complex



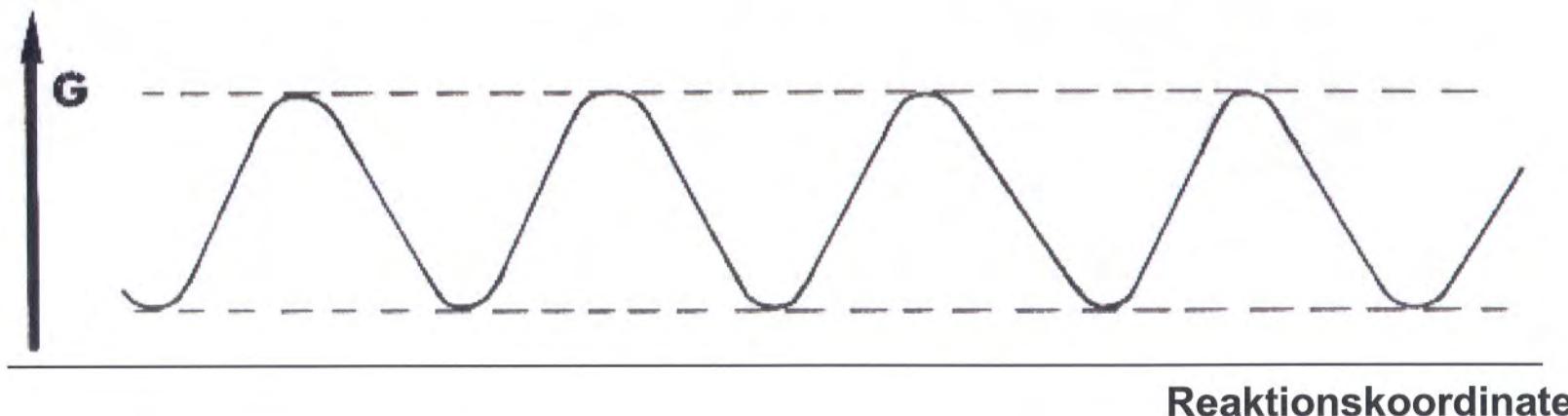
# The Conformational Space for Flexible and “Rigid” Ligands



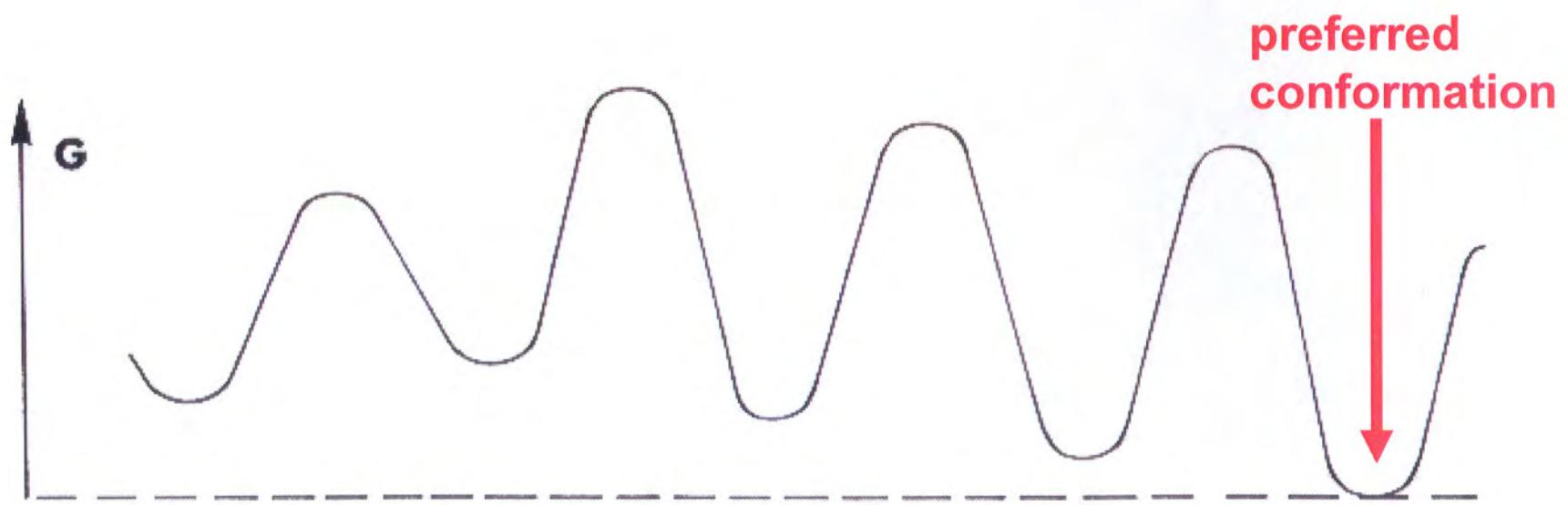
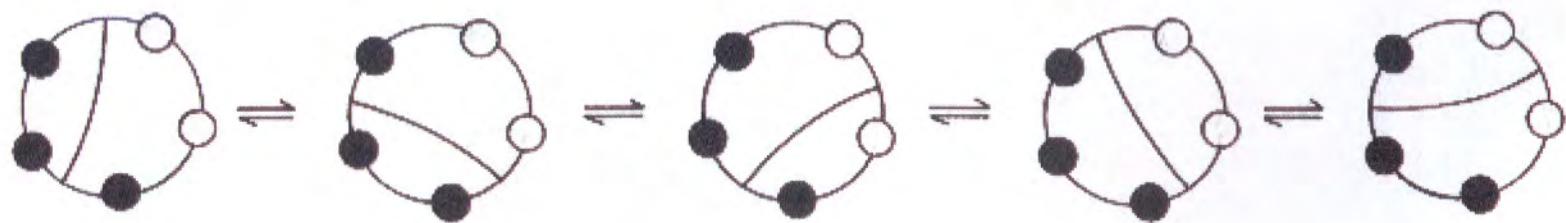
# A Cyclic Peptide of Five Identical Amino Acids Exhibits a Fast Equilibrium of Five Degenerated Identical Structures (Effektive C<sub>5</sub> Symmetry)



„Energie“

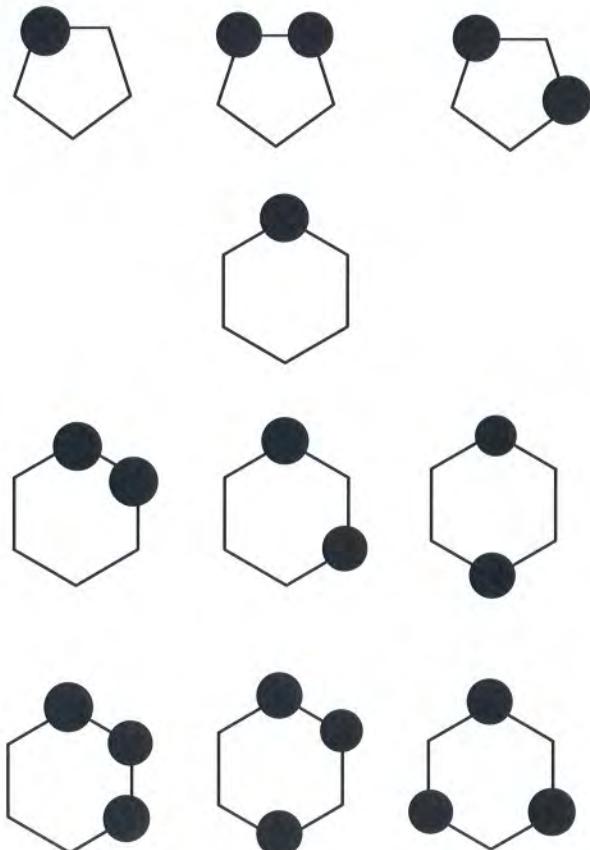


## Distortion of Symmetry



# Search for Preferred Conformations

## (often incorrectly called “rigid” conformation)



the chirality of the amino acids  
controls the backbone conformation

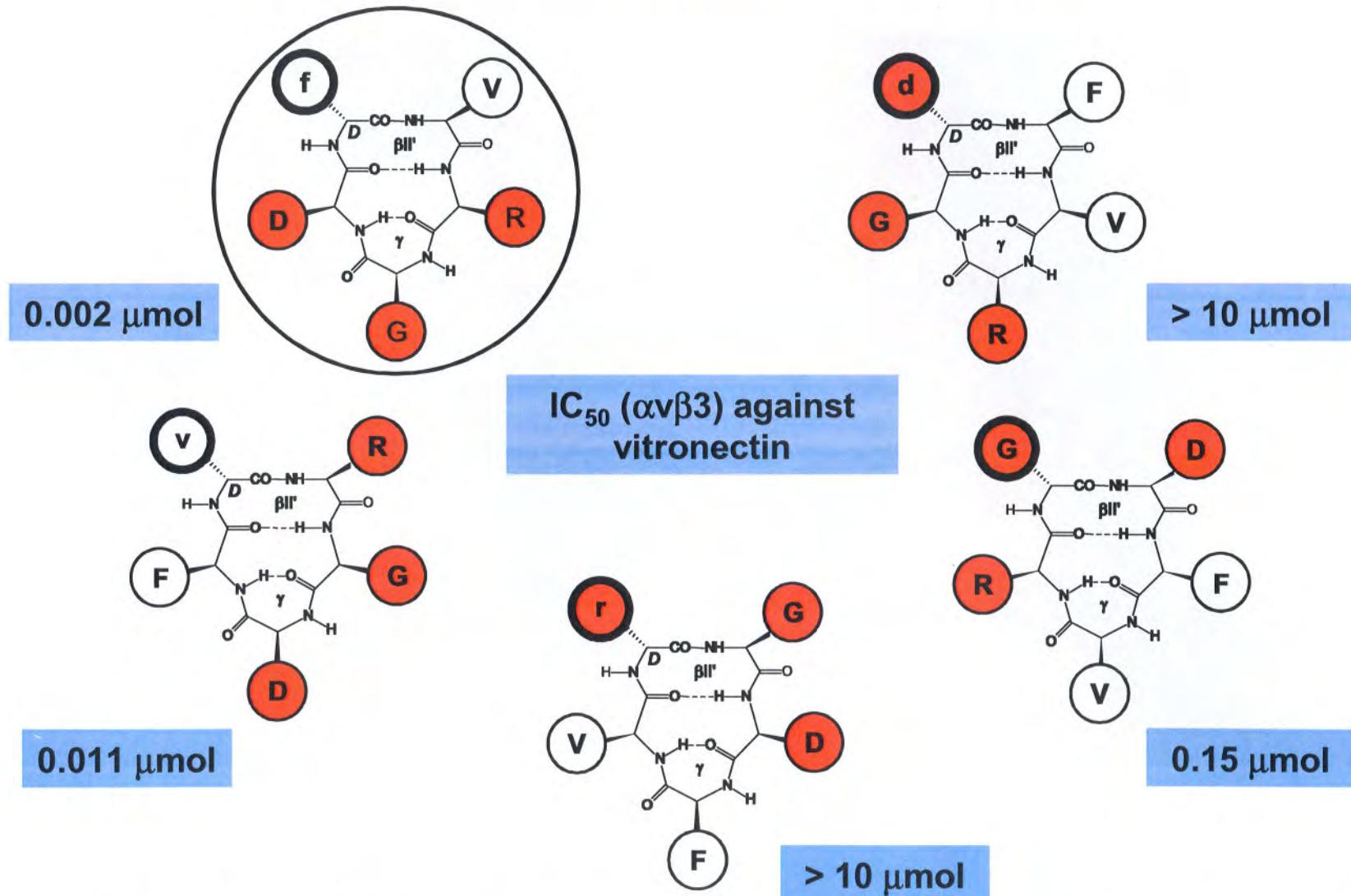
penta- and hexapeptides

● = D-Ala, Gly, D-Pro, L-Pro

all corners = L-Ala

## D-Amino Acid Scan of cyclo(RGDFV)

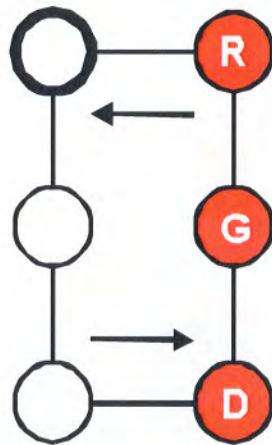
linear reference GRGDSPK: 1.2 μmol



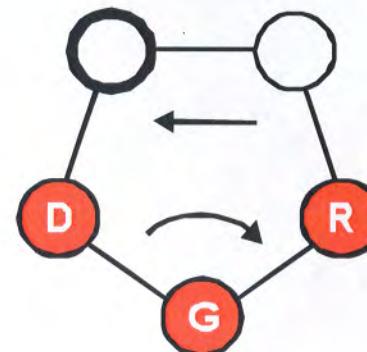
# Selectivity of Peptide Integrin Antagonists



linear: flexible = nonselective



stretched:  $\alpha IIb\beta 3$ -selective



kinked:  $\alpha v\beta 3$ -selective

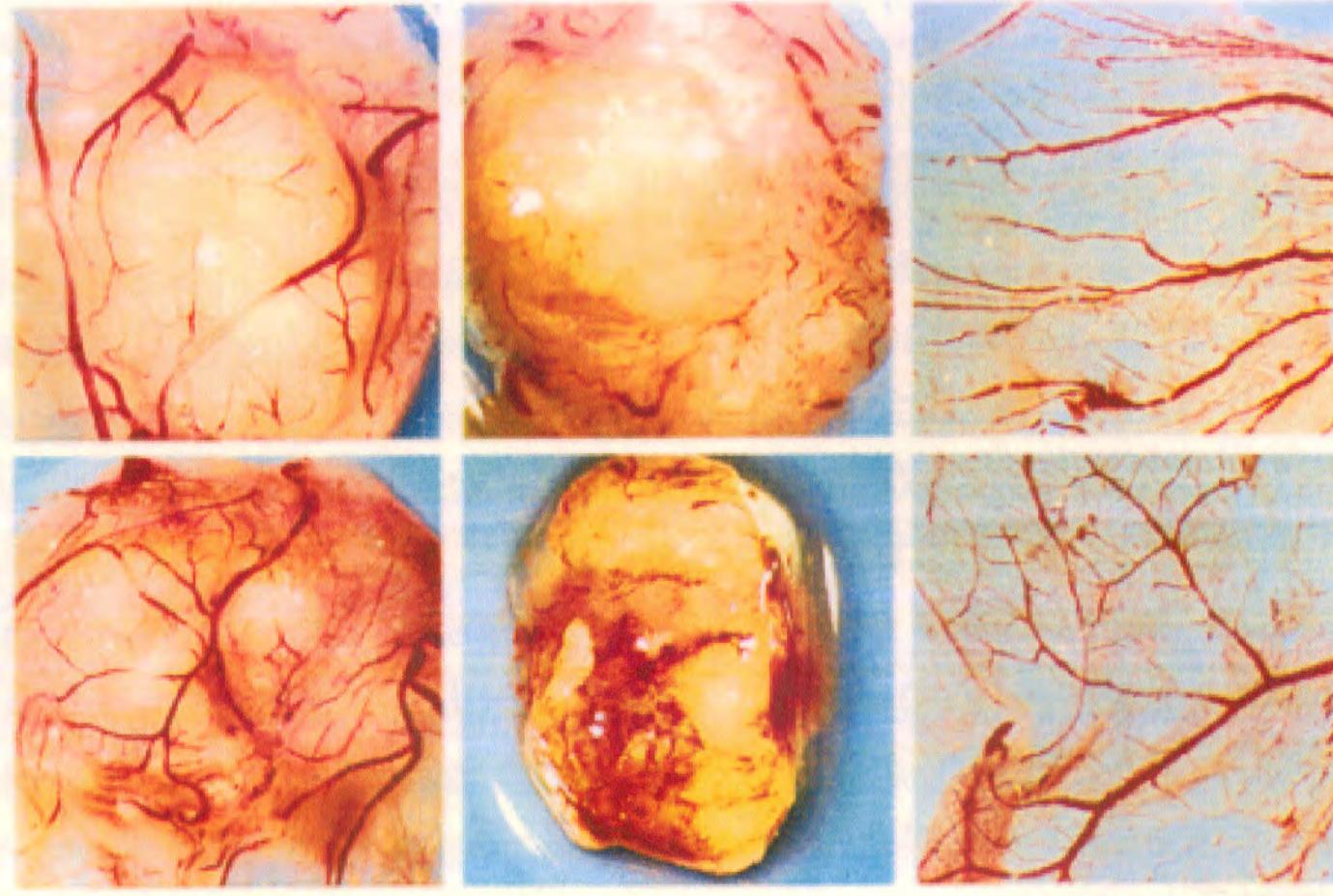
cyclic: rigid = selective

## Conformation can differentiate between different $\alpha$ integrin subunits

M. Pfaff, K. Tangemann, B. Müller, M. Gurrath, G. Müller, H. Kessler, R. Timpl, J. Engel; *J. Biol. Chem.* **1994**, 269, 20233-20238

G. Müller, M. Gurrath, H. Kessler; *J. Comp-Aided Mol. Design* **1994**, 8, 709-730.

# Inhibition of Neoangiogenesis of Human Tumours on Chicken Chorioallantoic Membranes

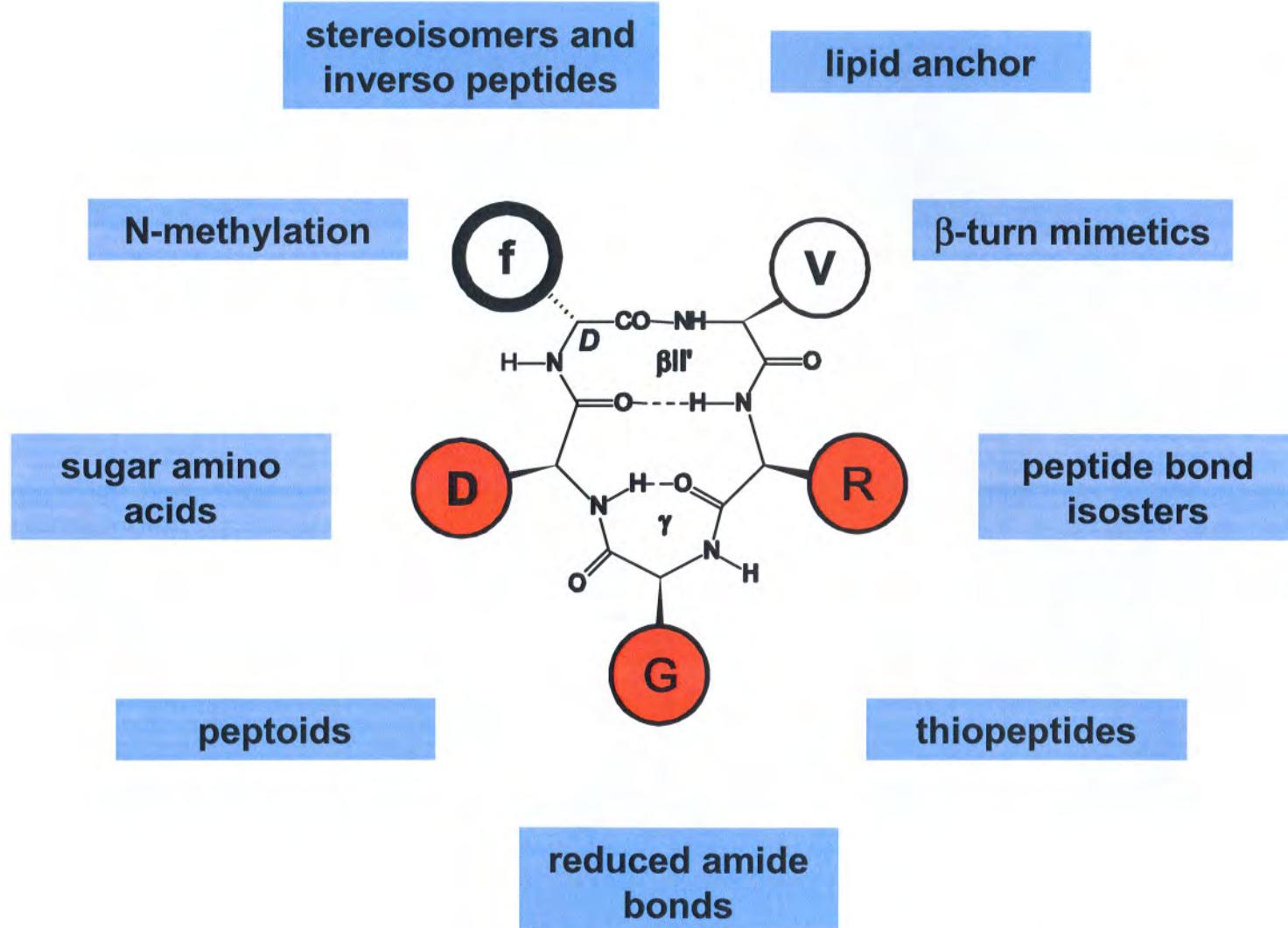


*cyclo(R $\beta$ ADfV)*

*cyclo(RGDfV)*

*benachbarte CAM  
mit cyclo(RGDfV)*

# Derivatization of the RGD-Cyclopentapeptide

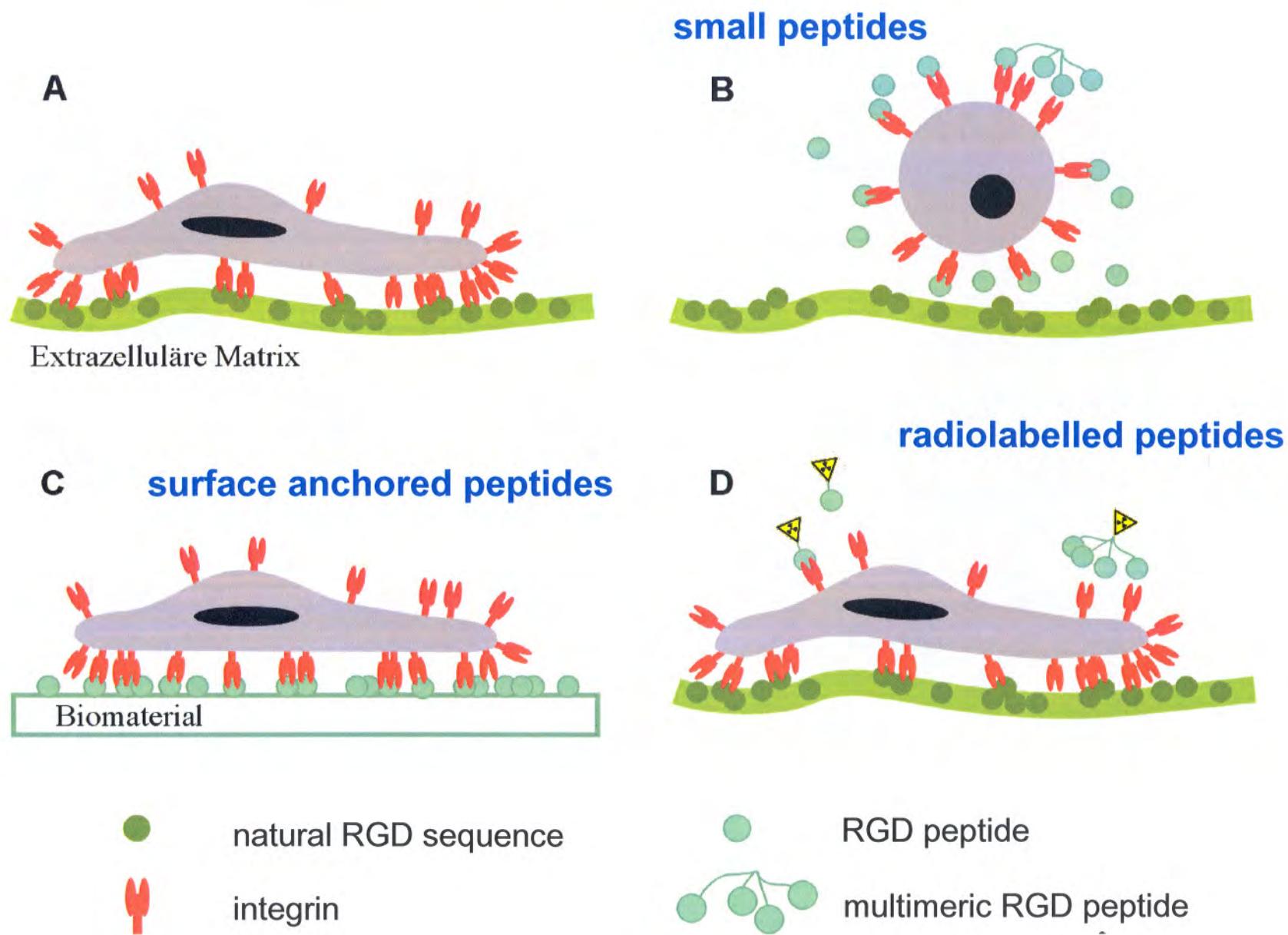


## Effect of N-Methylation of the Peptide Bonds in cyclo(RGDfV)

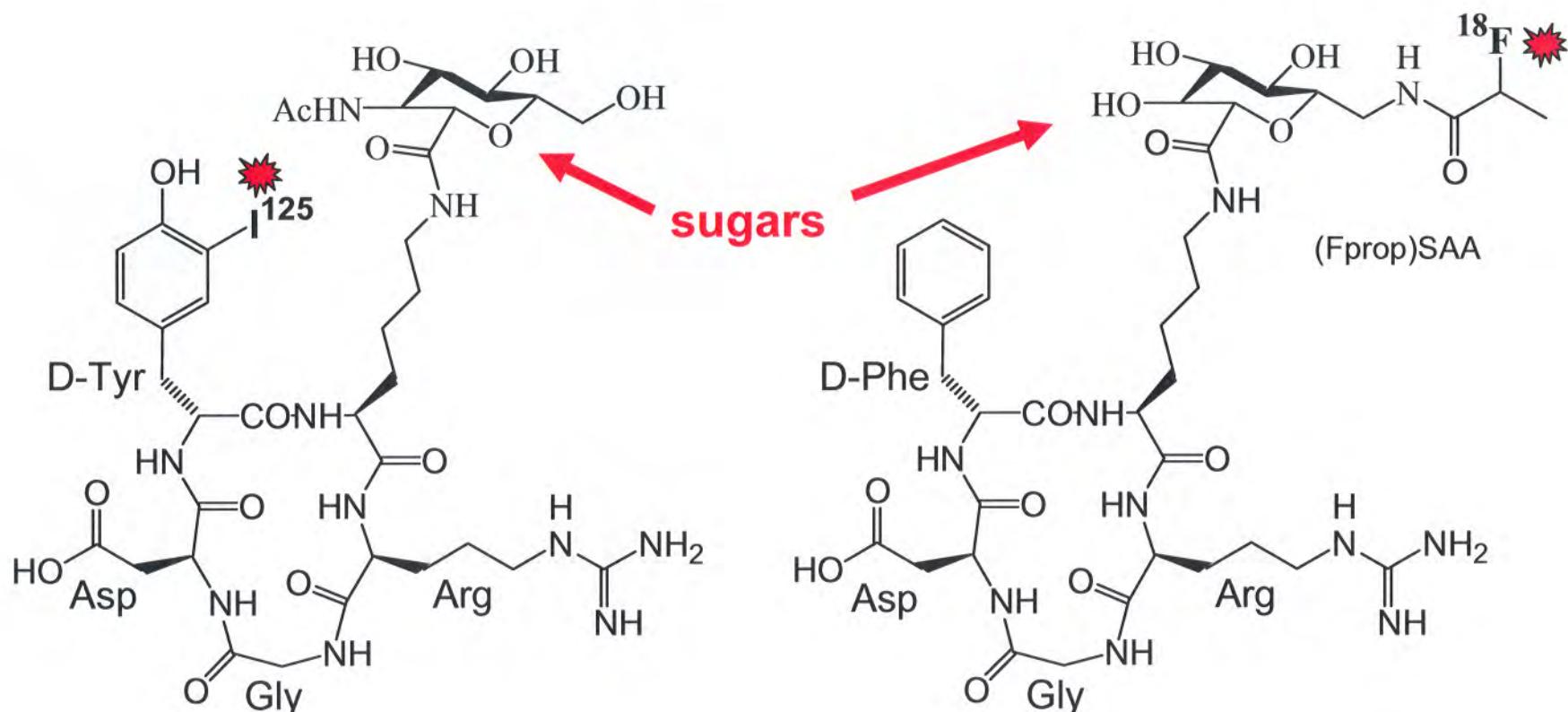
	IC <sub>50</sub> [nM] ( $\alpha\beta 3$ )
cyclo(-[NMe]R-GDfV)	5.5
cyclo(R-[NMe]G-DfV)	45
cyclo(RG-[NMe]D-fV)	560
cyclo(RGD-[NMe]f-V)	1400
cyclo(RGDf-[NMe]V-) ( Cilengitide, EMD 121974)	0.58

clinical phase II for treatment of different cancers  
in 2004: *orphan drug* status for treatment of glioma

# Applications of Integrin Ligands



# Glycosylated RGD-Containing Peptides: Tracer for Tumor Targeting and Angiogenesis Imaging with Improved Biokinetics



Cancer Res. 2001, 61, 1781

J. Nucl. Med. 2001, 42, 326

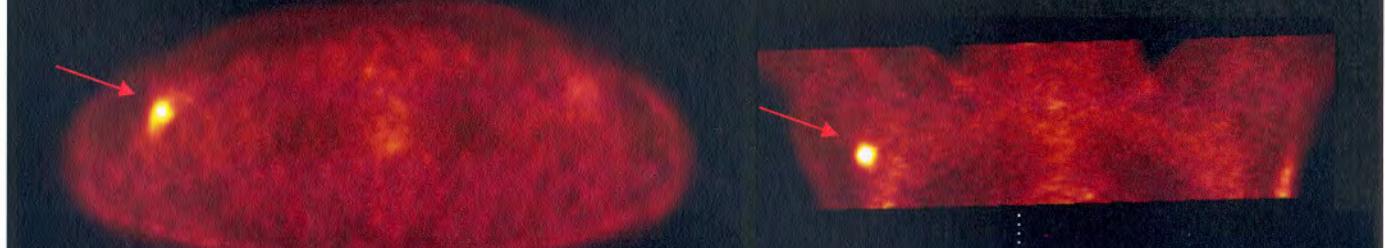
RGD peptide without a sugar residues exhibited low contrast because of rapid clearance also from the tumor tissue

# [<sup>18</sup>F]Galacto-RGD Axillary Lymph Note Metastasis / Melanoma

CT



PET

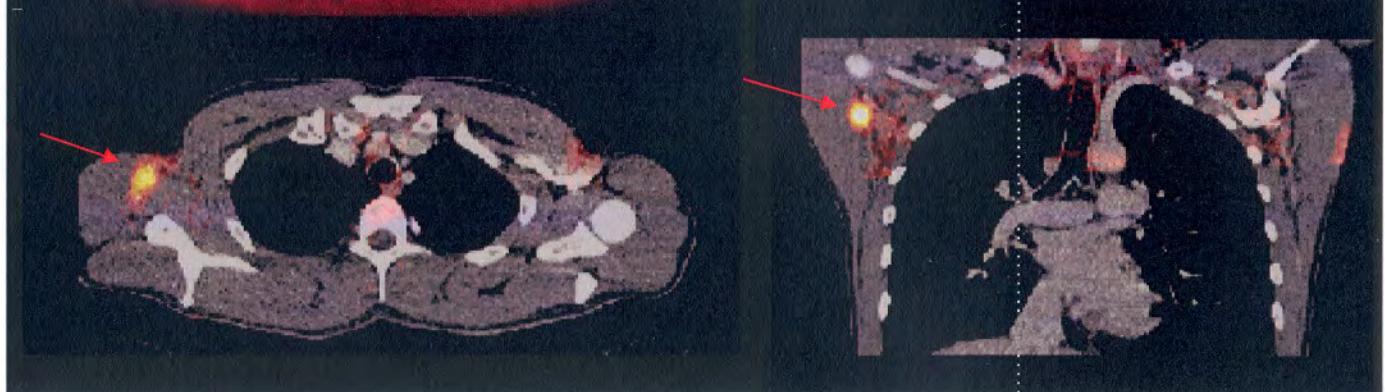


Galacto-RGD

220 MBq; 2h p.i.

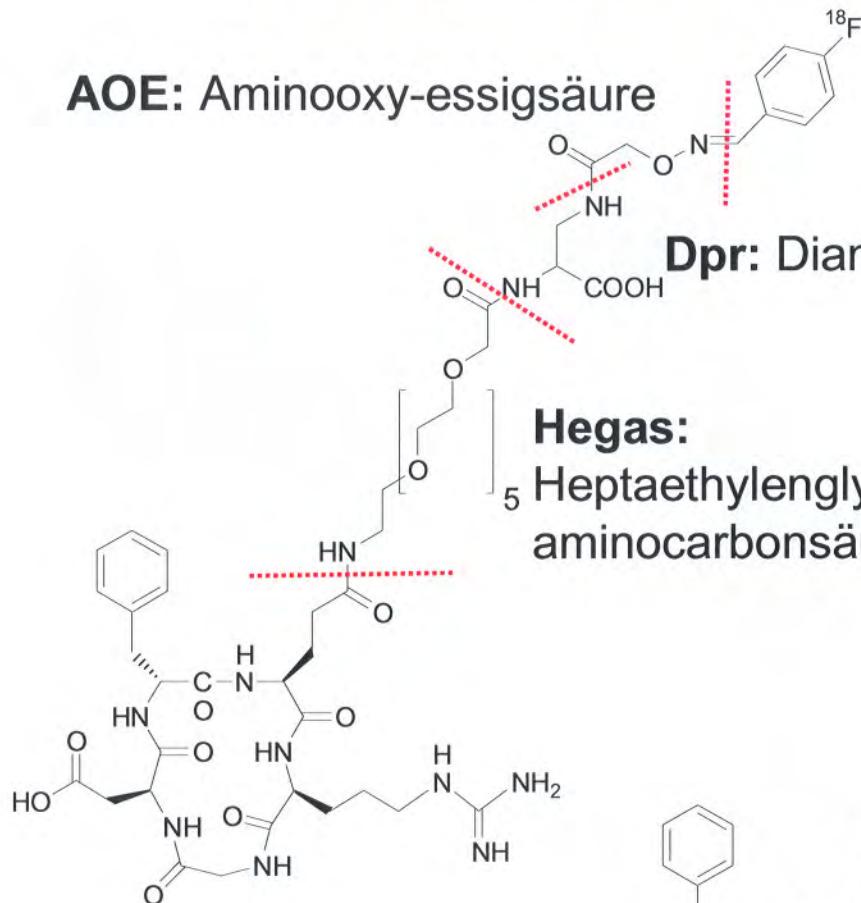
PET/CT-Fusion

Galacto-RGD



# Monomeric and Dimeric $^{18}\text{F}$ -c(RGDfE)-Peptides

AOE: Aminooxy-essigsäure

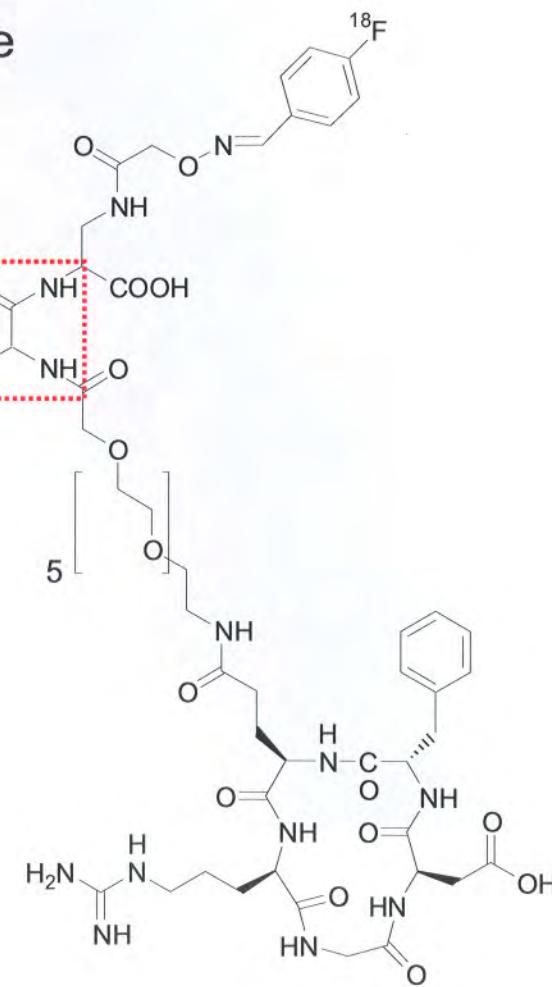
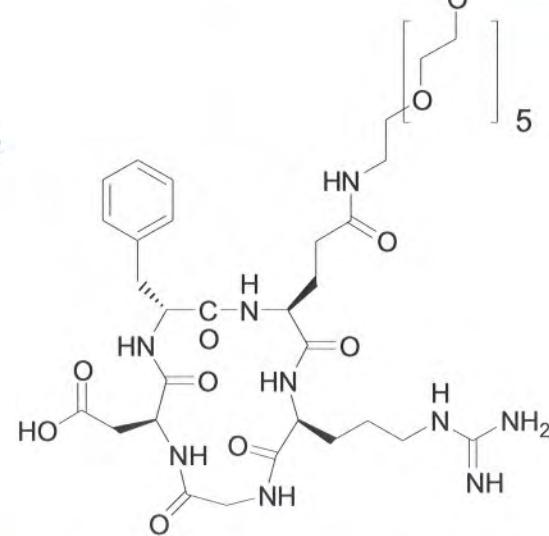


c(RGDfE)

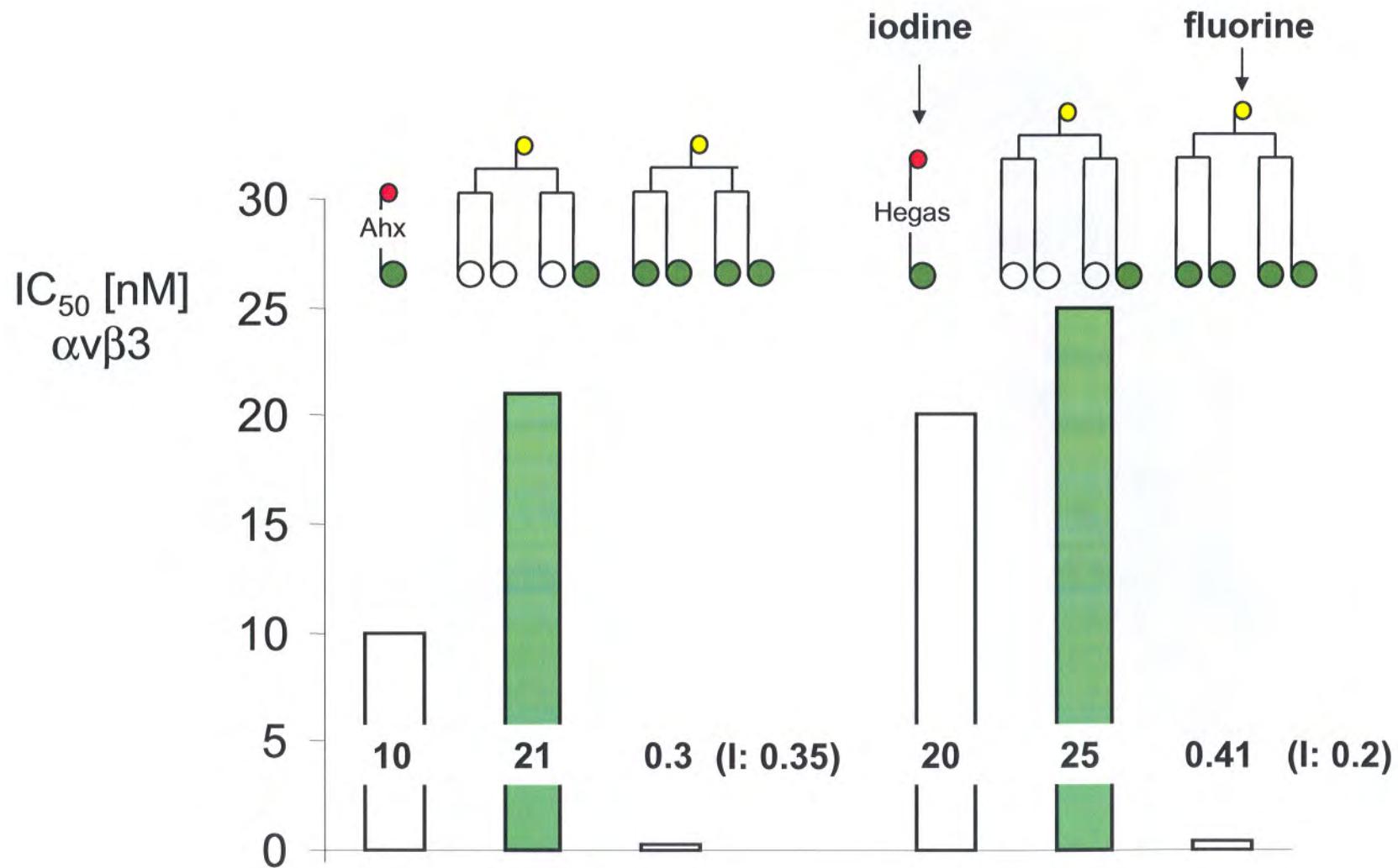
[ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]FBA:  
4-[ $^{18}\text{F}$ ]Fluorbenzaldehyd

Dpr: Diaminopropionsäure

Hegas:  
Heptaethylenglykol-  
aminocarbonsäure

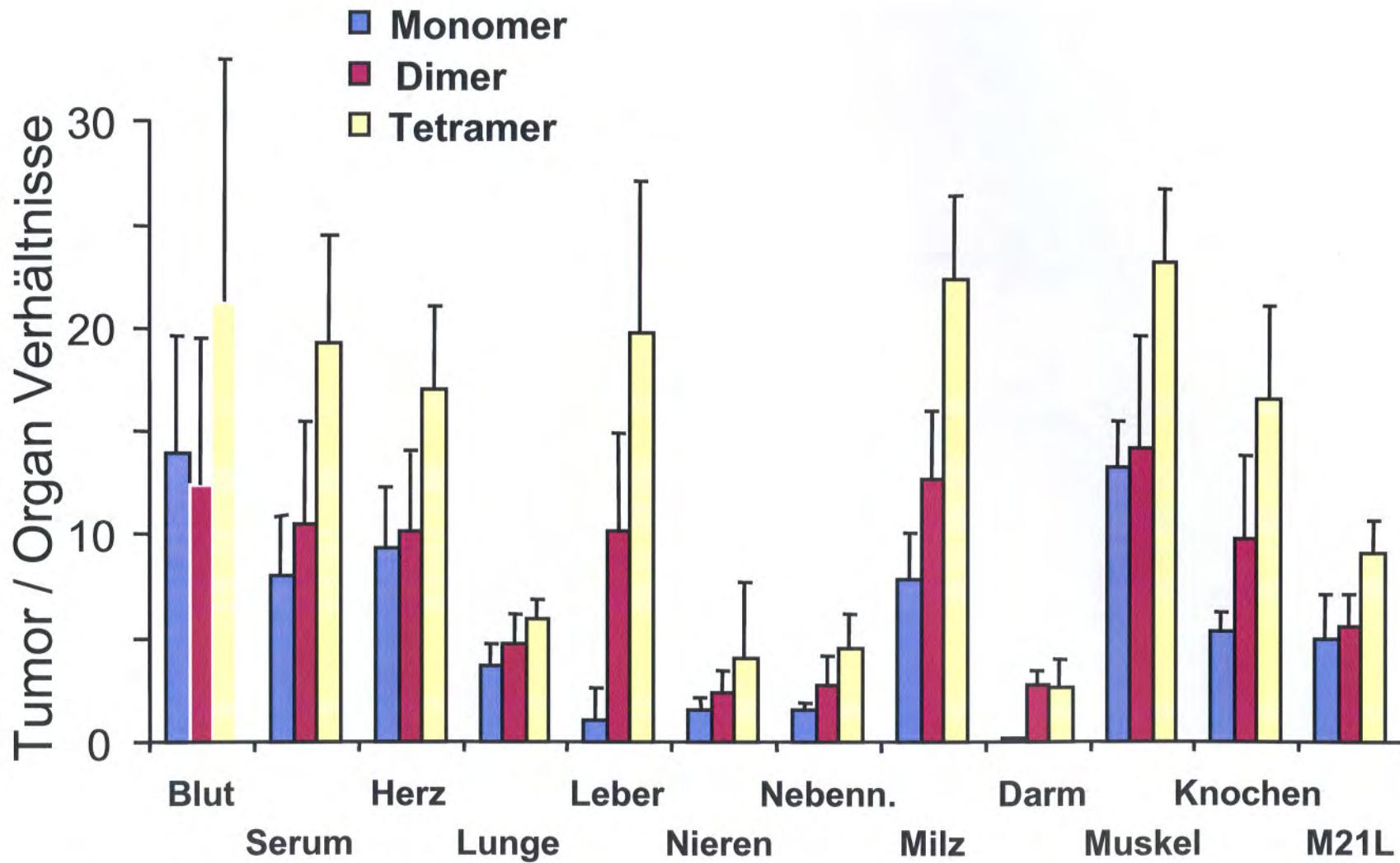


# Multimeric RGD Peptides

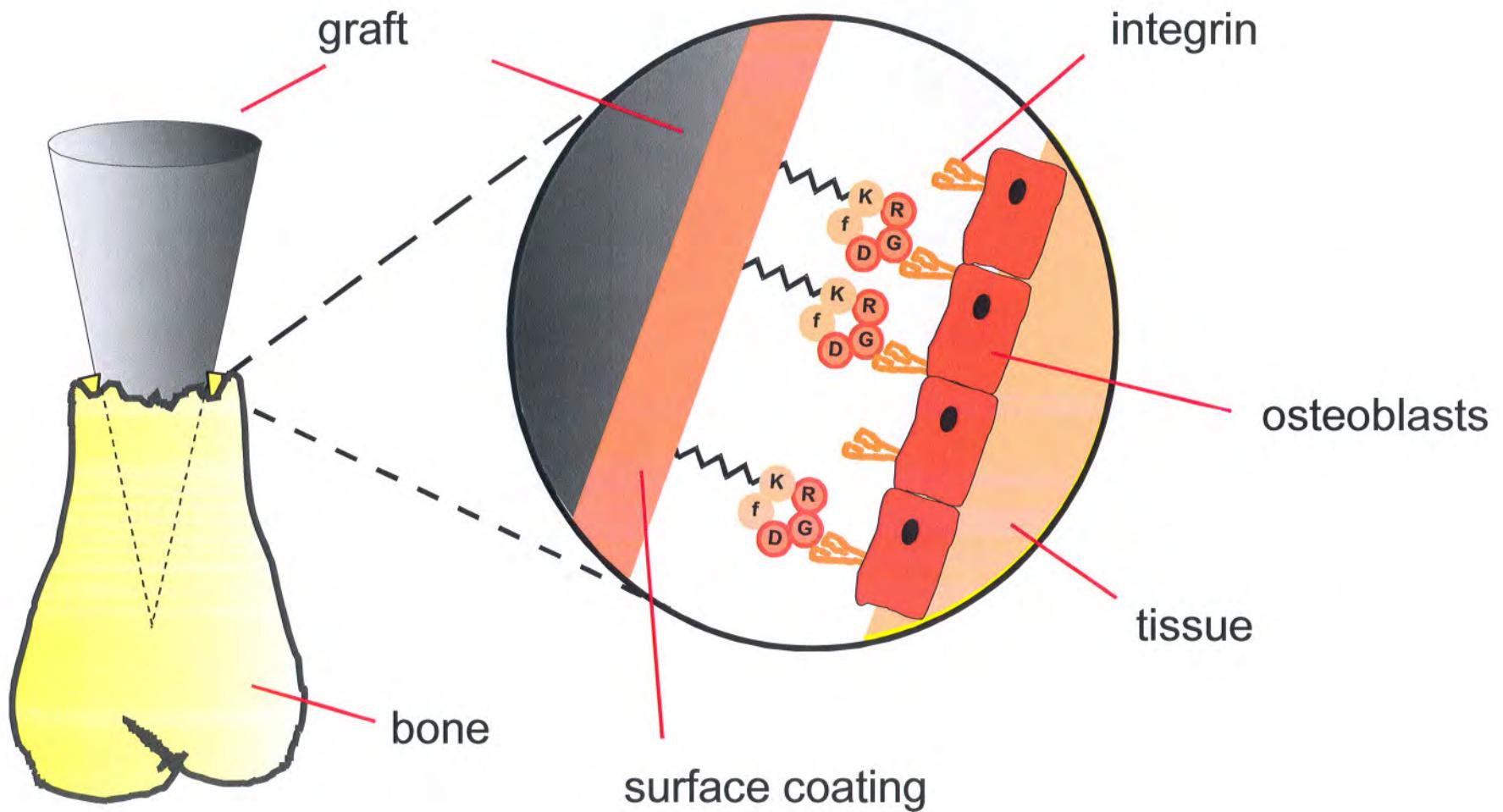


## Tumor to Organ Rations

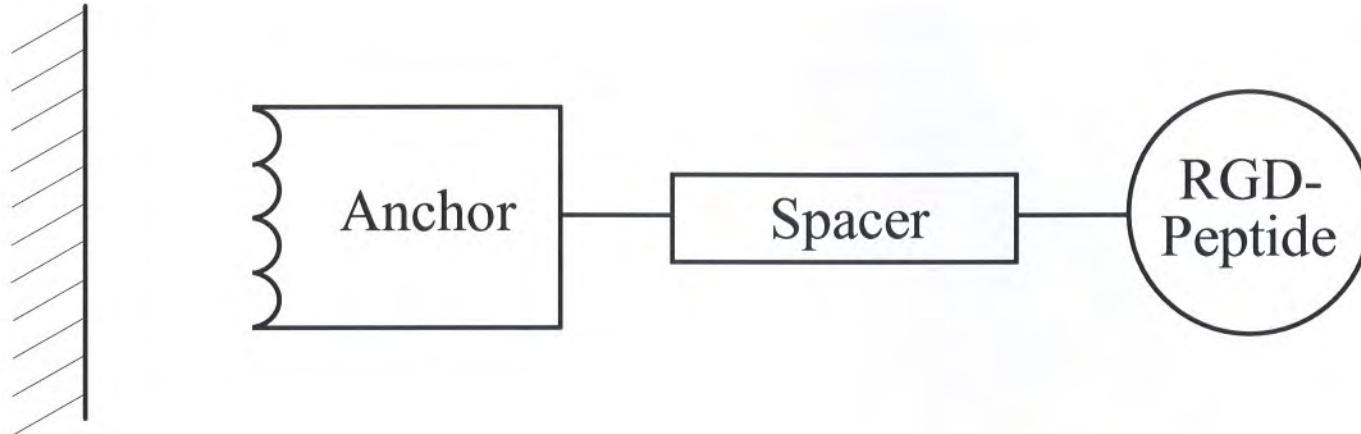
nude mice, M21-( $\alpha\beta 3+$ )-melanoma, 2 h p.i. (n=3-5)



# Surface Coating of Biomaterials



# Design of Coating Molecules



PMMA  
 $\text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$   
Ti /  $\text{TiO}_2$   
gold  
SiH  
-NH<sub>2</sub> (BSA)

acrylate  
thiolate  
phosphonate  
isonipecotic  
acid

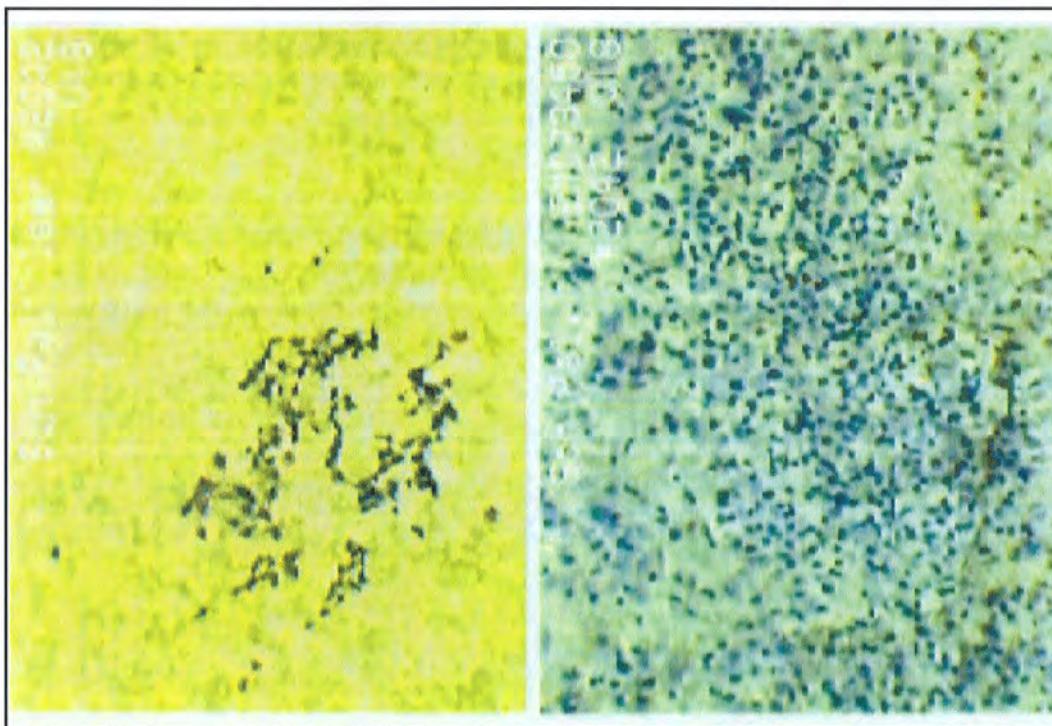
aminohexanoic  
acid (Ahx)<sub>n</sub>  
HEGAS

(RGDfK)-NH<sub>2</sub>  
(RADfK)-NH<sub>2</sub>  
(RGDfE)-COOH  
(RADfE)-COOH

# Applications of $\alpha v$ Selective Inhibitors

## Biomaterials

- surface anchoring  
(biocompatibility)

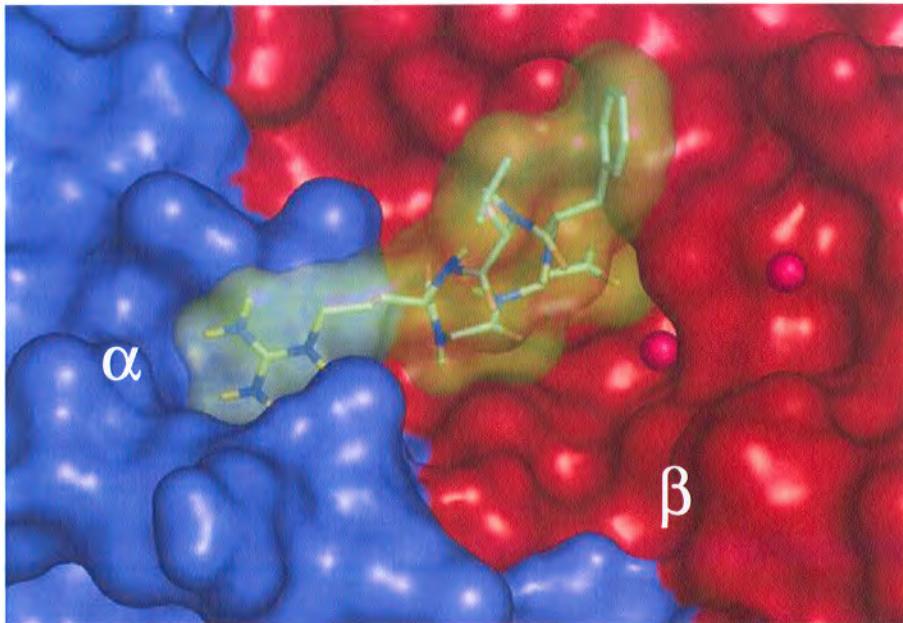


not coated

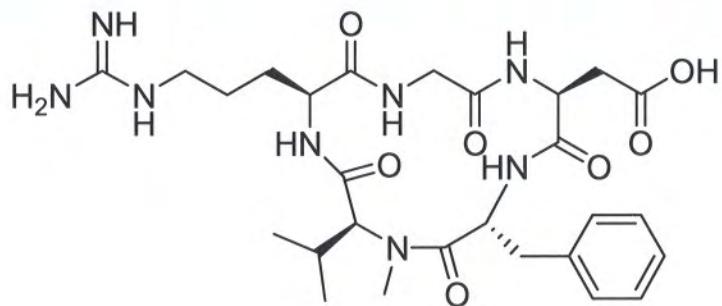
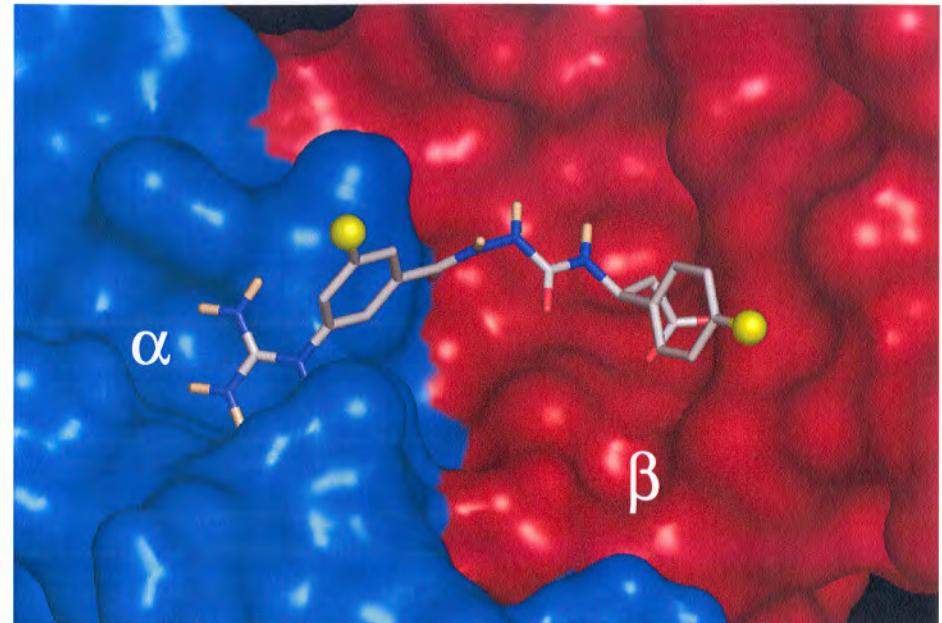
RGD coated

# Modeling of Non-Peptidic Ligands for Coating of Surfaces

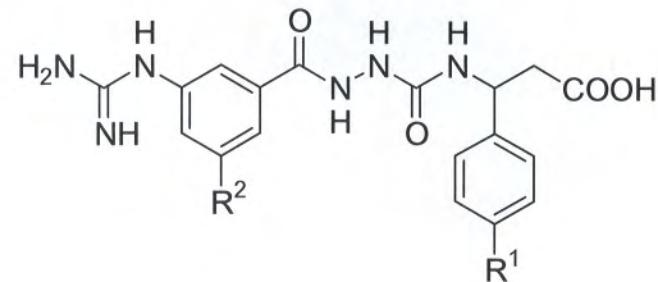
X-ray structure



automated docking

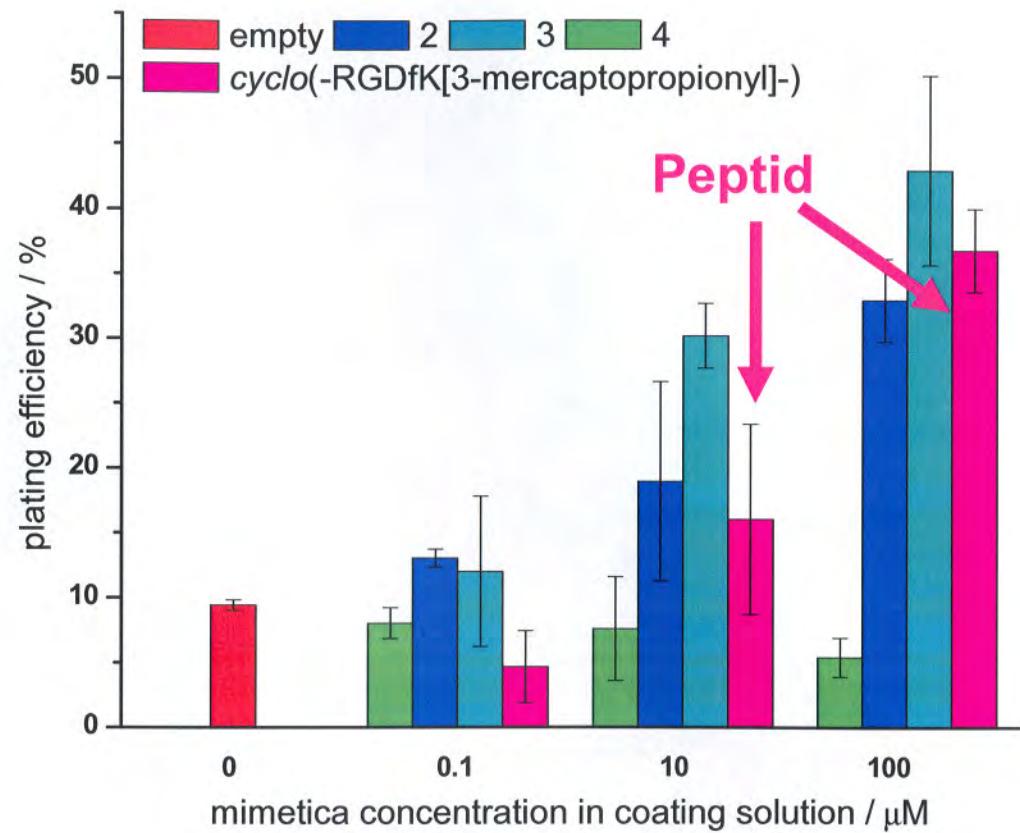
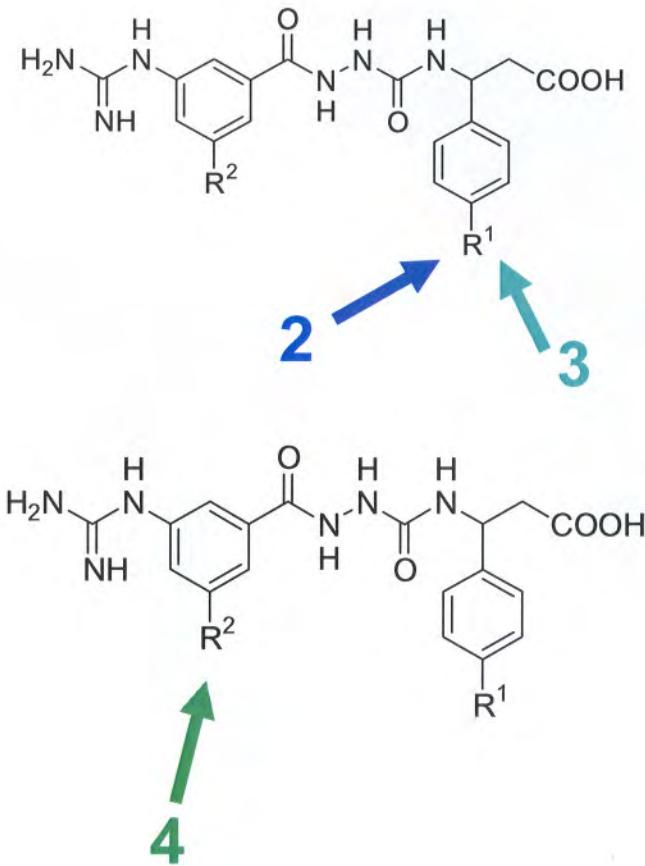


Cilengitide (I)

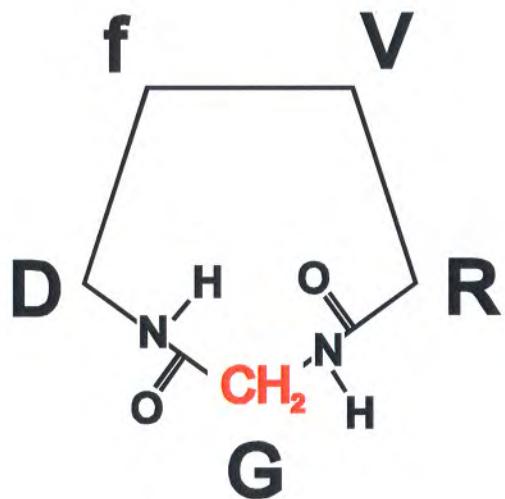


L.Marinelli, A. Lavecchia, K.E. Gottschalk, E. Novellino, H. Kessler, *J. Med. Chem.*  
2003, 46, 4393-4404.

# Stimulated Cell Adhesion on Titanium

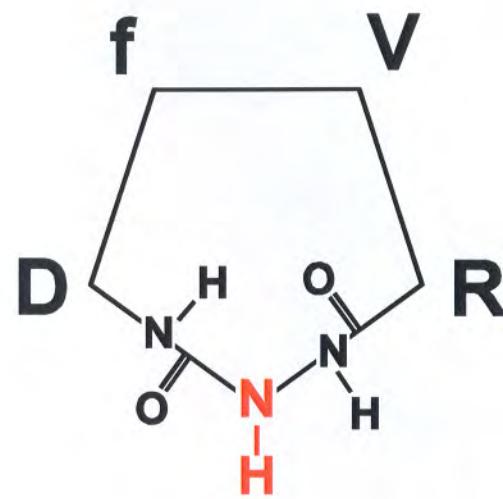


## Aza Peptide Mimic



lead

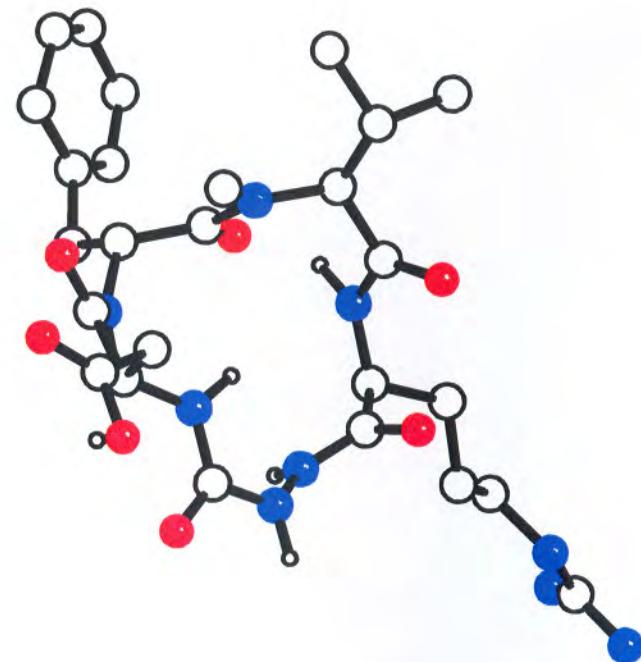
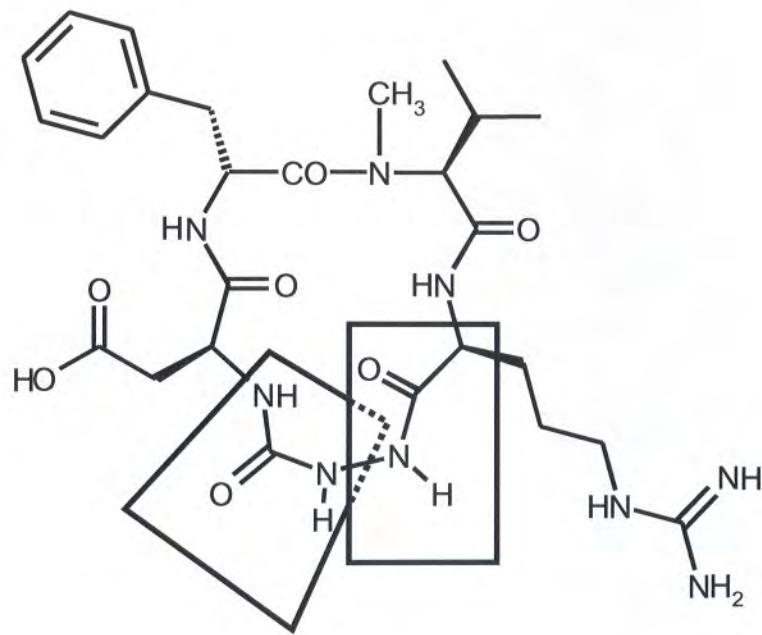
$IC_{50} = 2.5 \text{ nM } \alpha v \beta 3$   
 $1700 \text{ nM } \alpha IIb \beta 3$



Aza-Gly-derivative

$IC_{50} = 3.5 \text{ nM } \alpha v \beta 3$   
 $5800 \text{ nM } \alpha IIb \beta 3$

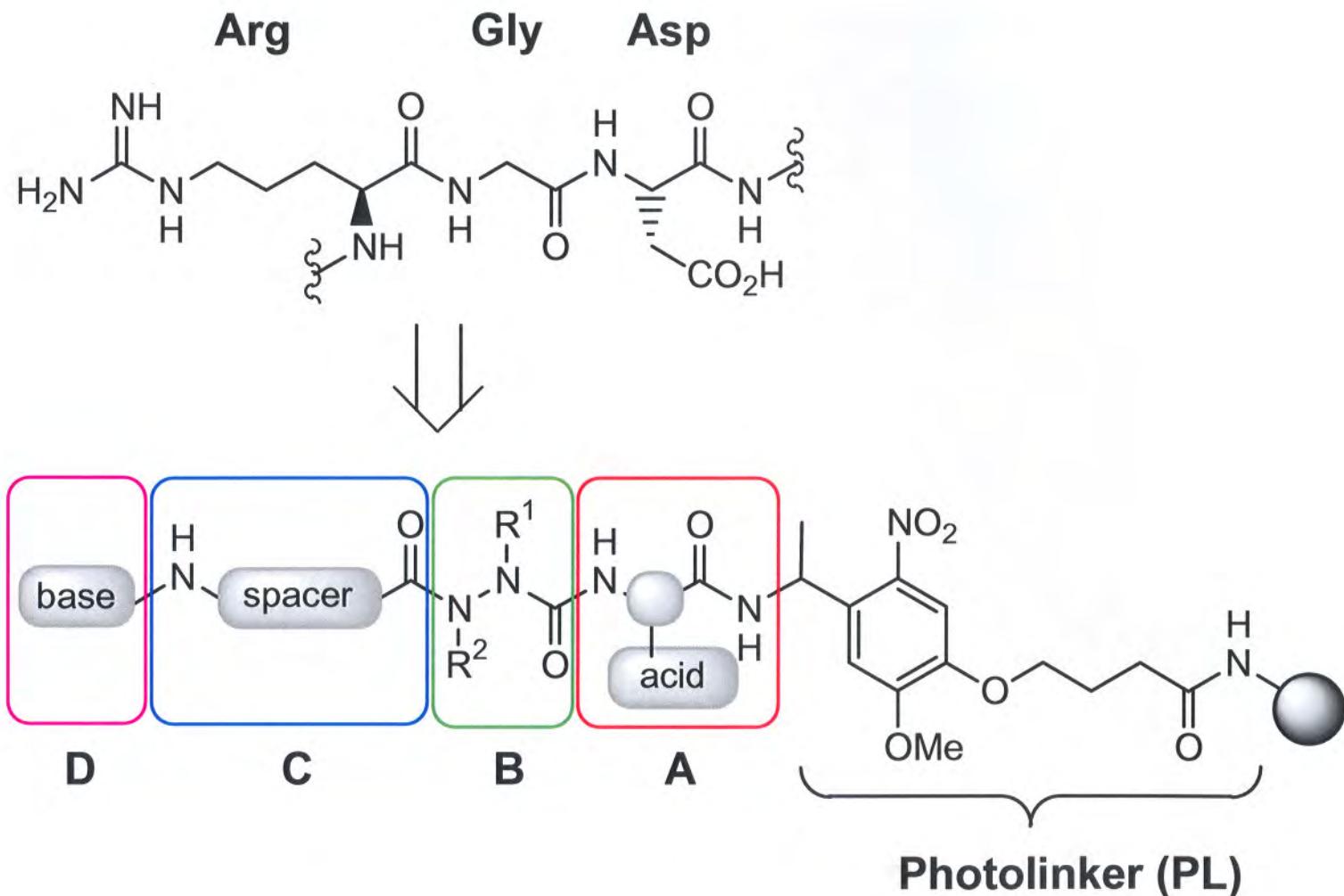
## Structure of cyclo(RazaGDf[NMe]V)



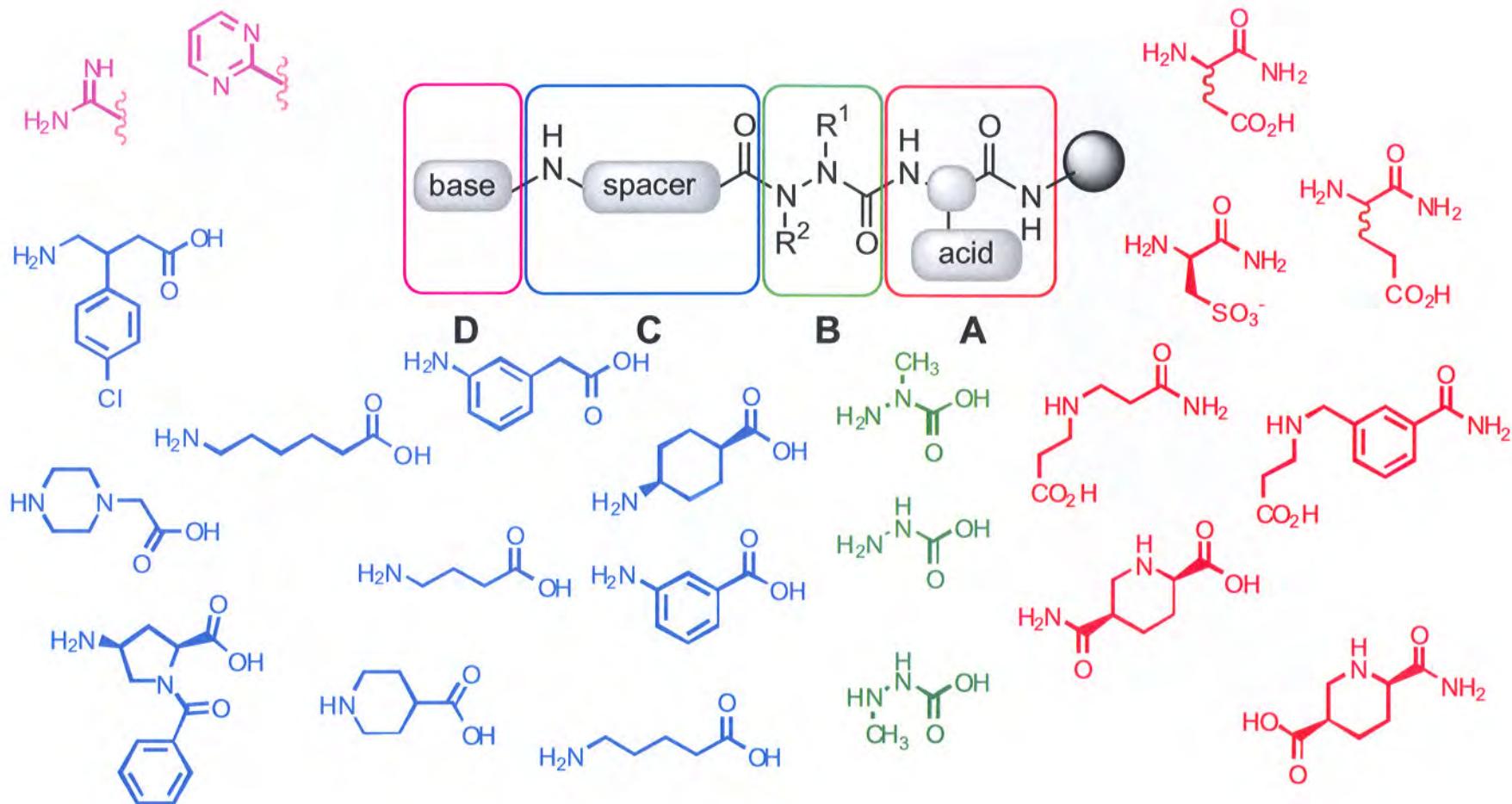
cyclo(-Arg-azaGly-Asp-D-Phe-[NMe]-Val-)

IC<sub>50</sub> 6 nM (αvβ3)

# Design of Modularly Assembled RGD Mimetics



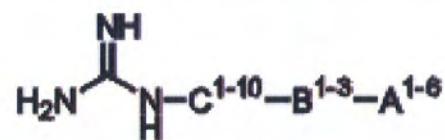
# Design of an RGD Mimetic Library: Building Blocks A-D



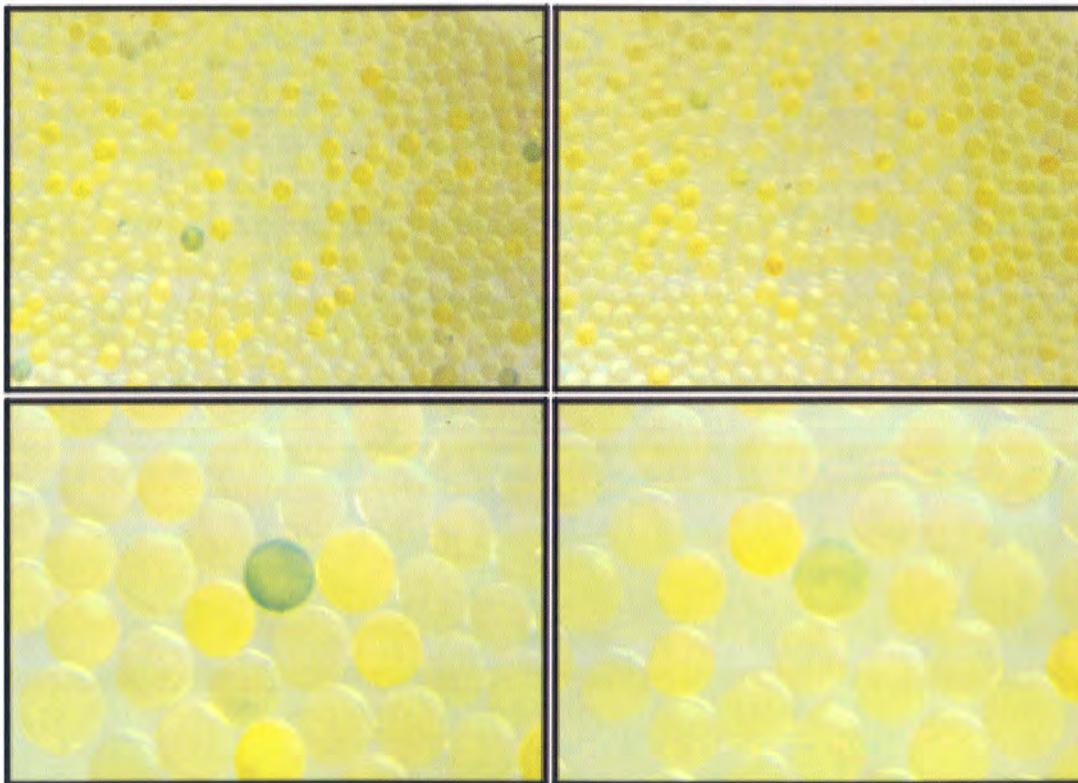
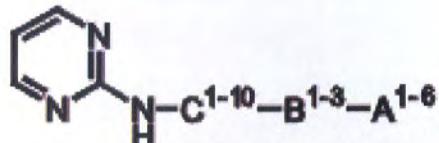
C.Gibson G. A. G. Sulyok, D. Hahn, S. L. Goodman, G. Hölzemann, H. Kessler .  
Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. 2001, 40, 165-169.

# On Bead Screening of Libraries with 330 Compounds

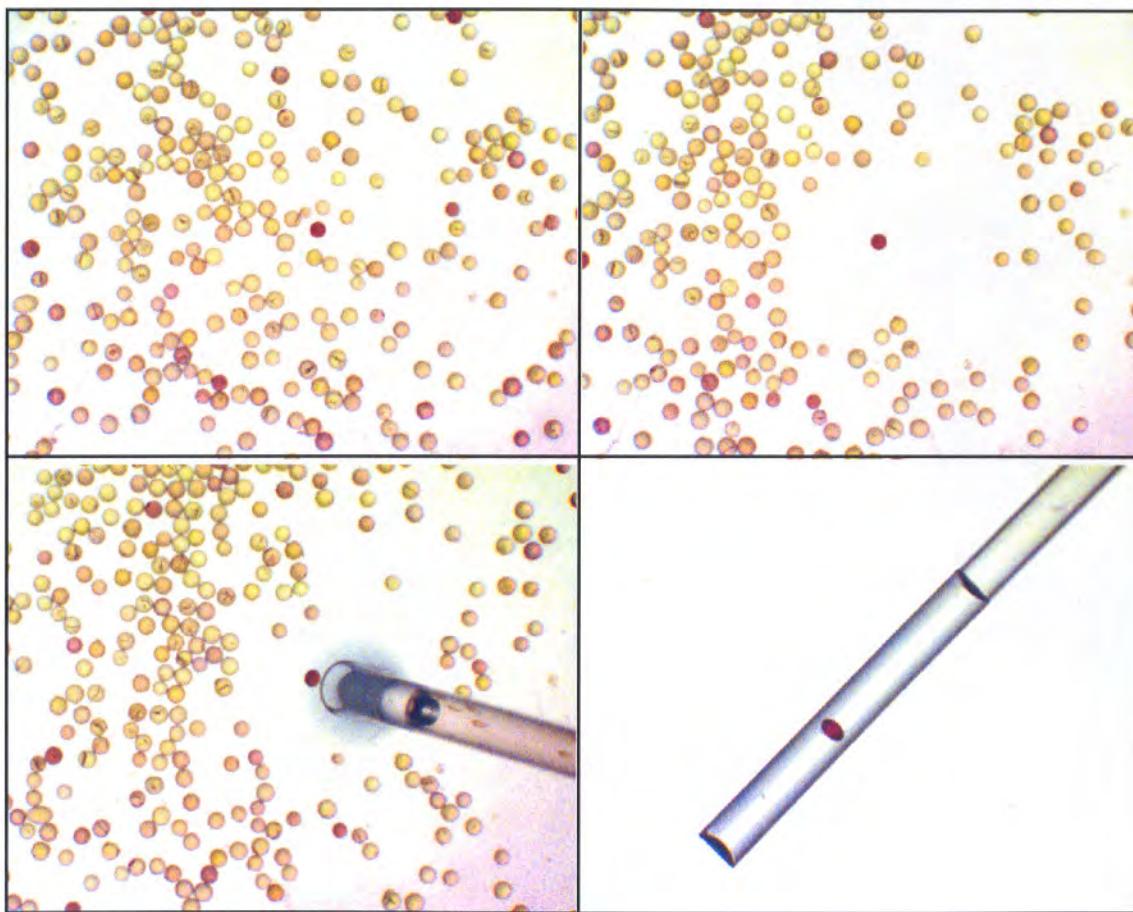
guanidine library



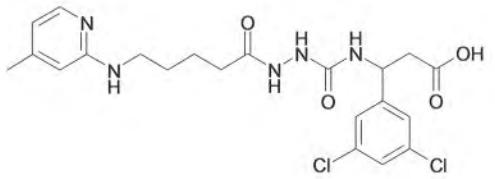
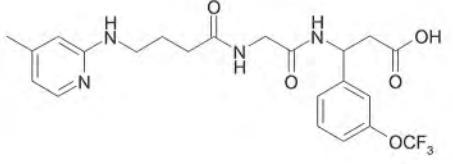
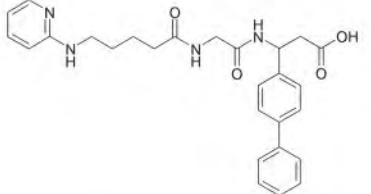
pyrimidine library



## Selection of an Active Compound



## Some Selected $\alpha v\beta x$ Inhibitors

Compound	$IC_{50}$ (nM) on integrin			
	$\alpha v\beta 3$	$\alpha v\beta 5$	$\alpha v\beta 6$	$\alpha IIb\beta 3$
cyclo(RGDf(NMe)V)	4	70	550	600
cyclo(RazaGDfV)	4	500	6000	6000
	64	2500	2	> 10000
	45	7	0.2	> 10000
	0.45	2670	0.6	4050

# Evolution of a Lead Structure: The RGD Sequence

**GRGDSPK**

Identification of  
binding sequence

**c(RGDfV)**

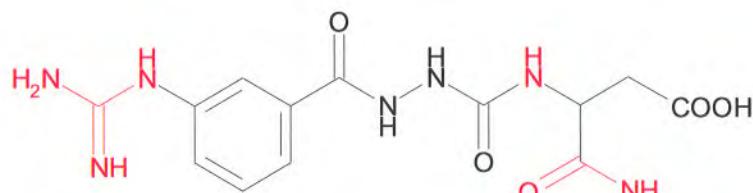
Cyclisation and  
'spatial screening'

**c(RGDf[NMe]V)**

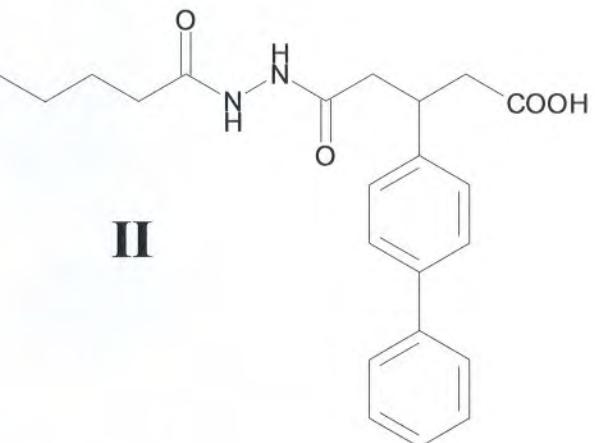
Optimisation

**c(RazaGDf[NMe]V)**

Peptidomimetics



**I**



**II**

**I**  
RGD mimetics  
(combinatorial library)

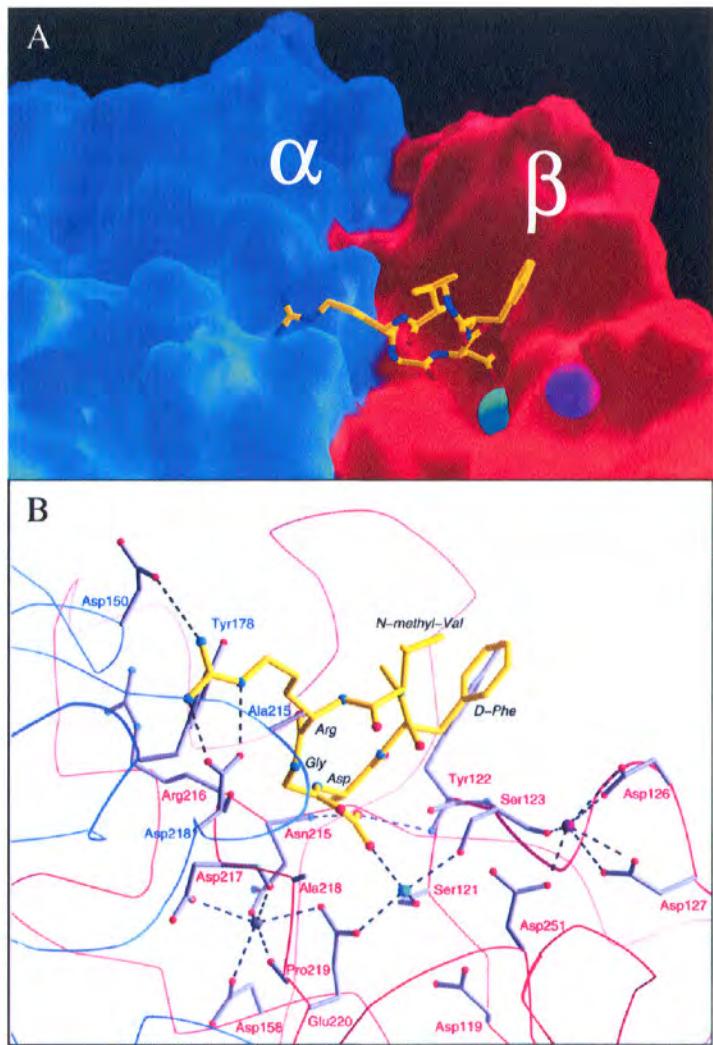
**II**  
Optimisation  
(Pfizer's 'Rule of 5')

**Small molecules can distinguish  
between different  $\beta$  subunits**

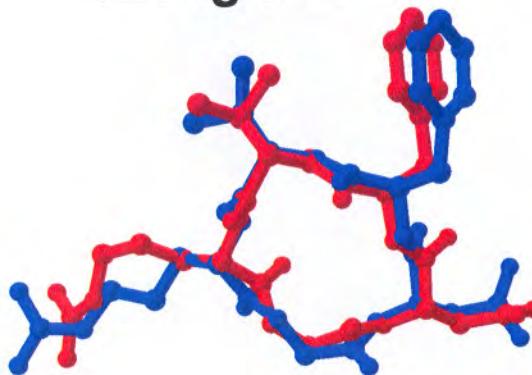
**and between  $\alpha IIb$  and  $\alpha v$**

→ **small ligands bind in the interphase  
between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$**

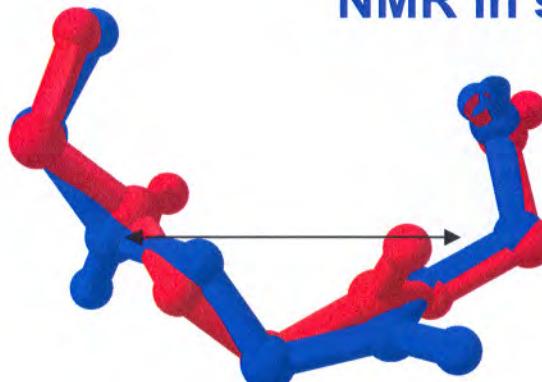
# Integrin Structure – the Complex (2002)



cilengitide



X-ray in complex  
NMR in solution



# Structural Basis of SAR

## Experimental activities

D-Phe 2.5 nM

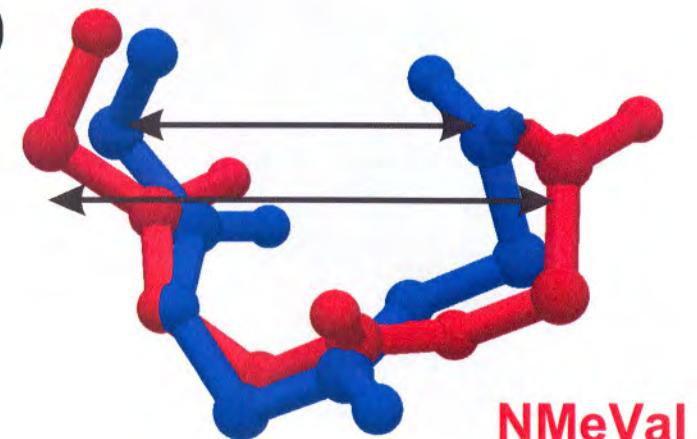
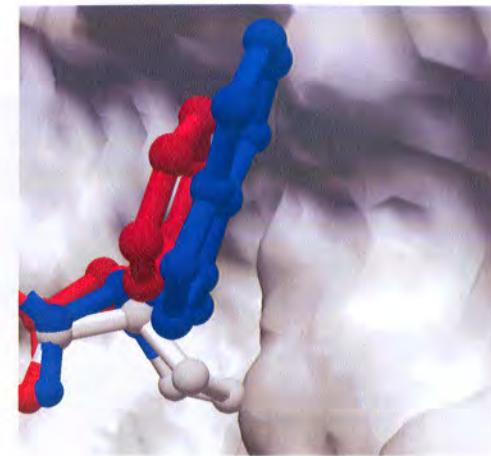
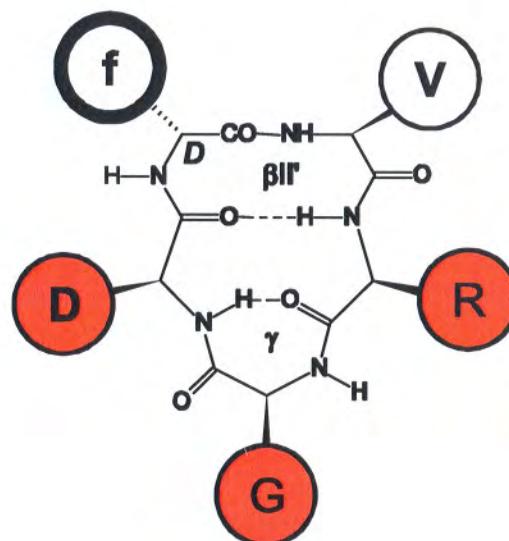
D-Trp 0.2 nM

D-Pro 580 nM

Val 2.5 nM

NMeVal 0.6 nM

higher selectivity

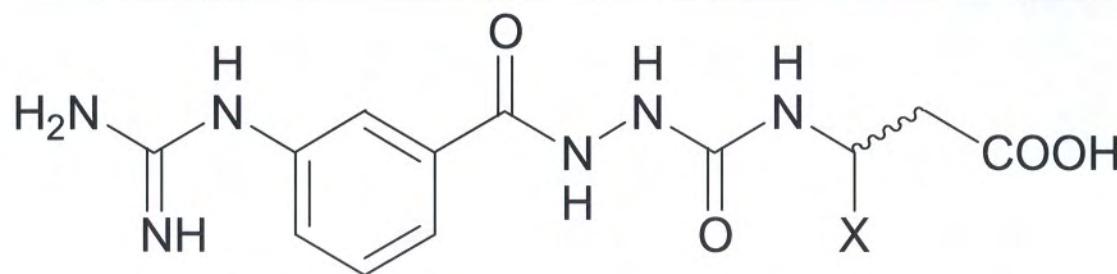
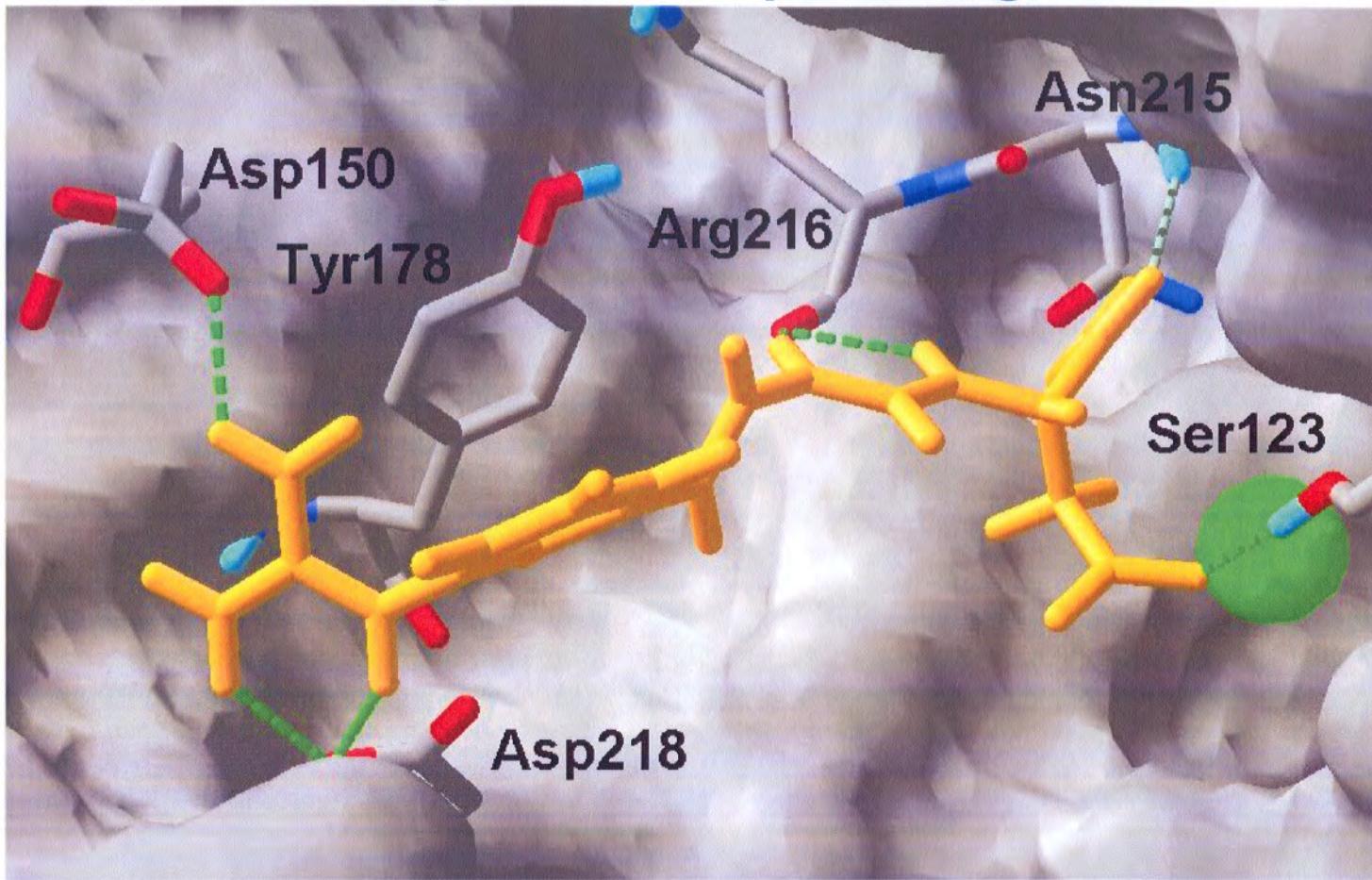


Val

V  
a

NMeVal

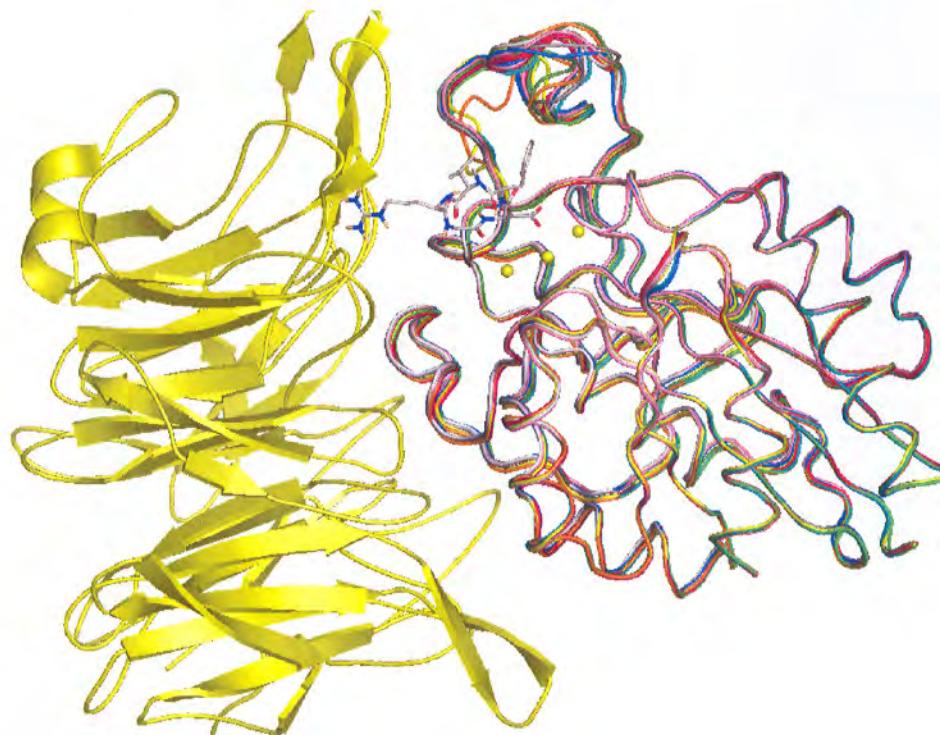
## Docking of Non-Peptidic Ligands



L.Marinelli, A. Lavecchia, K.E. Gottschalk, E. Novellino, H. Kessler,  
*J. Med. Chem.* **2003**, *46*, 4393-4404.

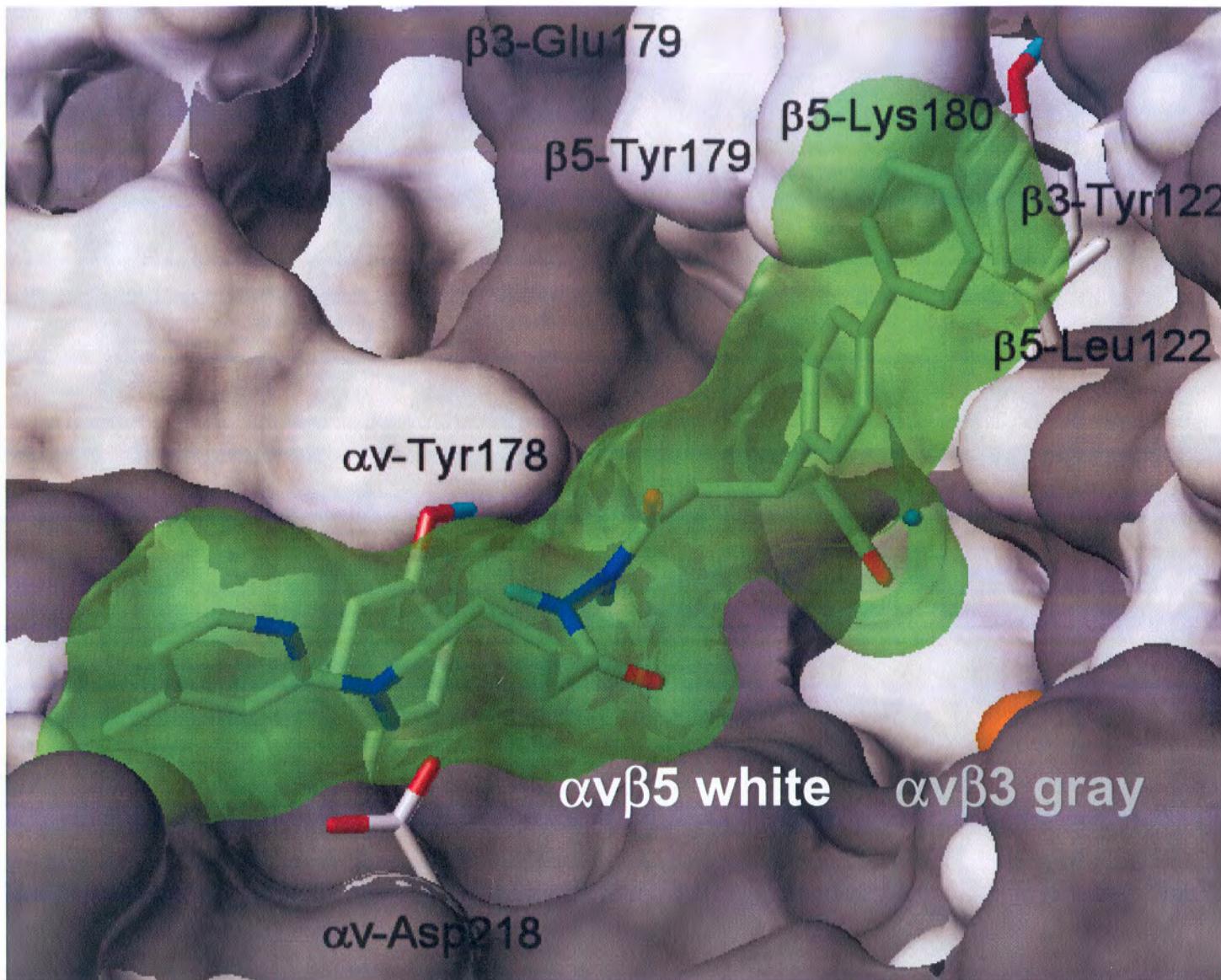
## Homology Models of $\beta_5$

- Secondary structure of  $\alpha_v\beta_3$  (yellow) with RDG-ligand (grey)
- Homology models of  $\beta_5$  subunit (different colors) show great similarity except SDL (Lys159 – Phe189)



L.Marinelli, K.E. Gottschalk, A. Meier, E. Novellino, H. Kessler,  
*J. Med. Chem.* **2004**, *47*, 4166-4177.

## Selectivity between $\alpha v\beta 5$ and $\alpha v\beta 3$



# Glycophorin A and Integrins Have a Common Dimerization Motif

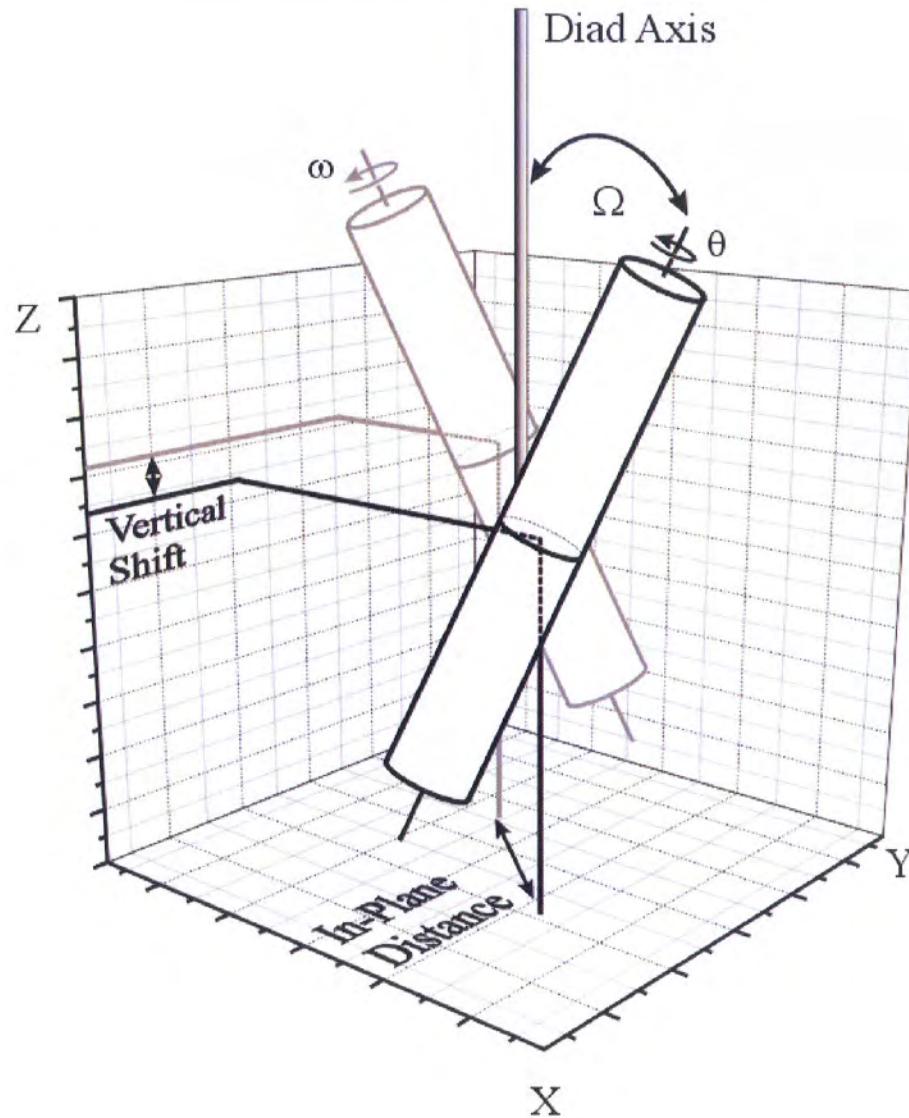
## GXXXG motif

	75	LI	79	GV	83	GV	87	T	GpA
1091	Y	LY	VL	SG	IG	GL	LL	L	LLIF
1107	P	LI	VG	SS	VG	GL	LL	L	ALIT
1103	P	II	MG	SS	VG	AL	LL	L	ALIT
1107	P	LI	VG	SS	IG	GL	LL	L	ALIT
1115	W	VI	LL	SA	FA	GL	LL	L	MLLI
1133	G	VI	IG	SI	IA	GI	LL	L	LALV
993	W	LV	LV	AV	GA	GL	LL	L	GLII
985	V	II	SS	SL	LL	GL	IV	L	LLIS
1000	W	II	IL	AI	LF	GL	LL	L	GLLI
1016	W	II	LV	AI	LA	GI	LM	L	ALLV
1039	W	VI	LL	GV	LA	GL	LV	L	ALLV
975	W	VI	IL	AI	LL	GL	LV	L	AILL
981	W	II	AI	SL	LV	GI	LI	F	LLLA
1124	W	IL	IG	SV	LG	GL	LL	L	ALLV
998	W	WV	LV	GV	LG	GL	LL	L	TILV
995	W	VI	IL	AV	LA	GL	LL	L	AVLV
1125	P	II	IK	GS	VG	GL	LV	L	IVIL
730	I	PI	VA	GV	VA	GI	VL	I	GLAL
702	A	AI	VG	GT	VA	GI	VL	I	GILL
720	L	VV	LL	SV	MG	AI	LL	I	GLAA
721	M	TI	LL	AV	VG	SI	LL	V	GLAL
709	P	MI	ML	GV	SL	AT	LL	I	GVVL
725	Q	AI	VL	GC	VG	GI	VA	V	GLGL
688	I	IF	IV	TF	LI	GL	LK	V	LIIR
	FNNWLIPLLLPLLALLLLLCLW								

Corresponding Residues of Integrin Sequences

Interfacial Residues of GpA						
	<sup>75</sup> L	<sup>79</sup> I	<sup>83</sup> G	<sup>87</sup> V	<sup>83</sup> G	<sup>87</sup> V
C				1		
G			7	1	20	
S			10	4	1	
F		1		1		1
Y		1				
M	1					
T	1		1	1		1
A	2		6	1	3	
P	1					
W	1					
V	6	3		9		3
I	8	18		4		8
L	4	1		2		15
						16

# Global Search of Helix-Helix Interactions: Degrees of Freedom

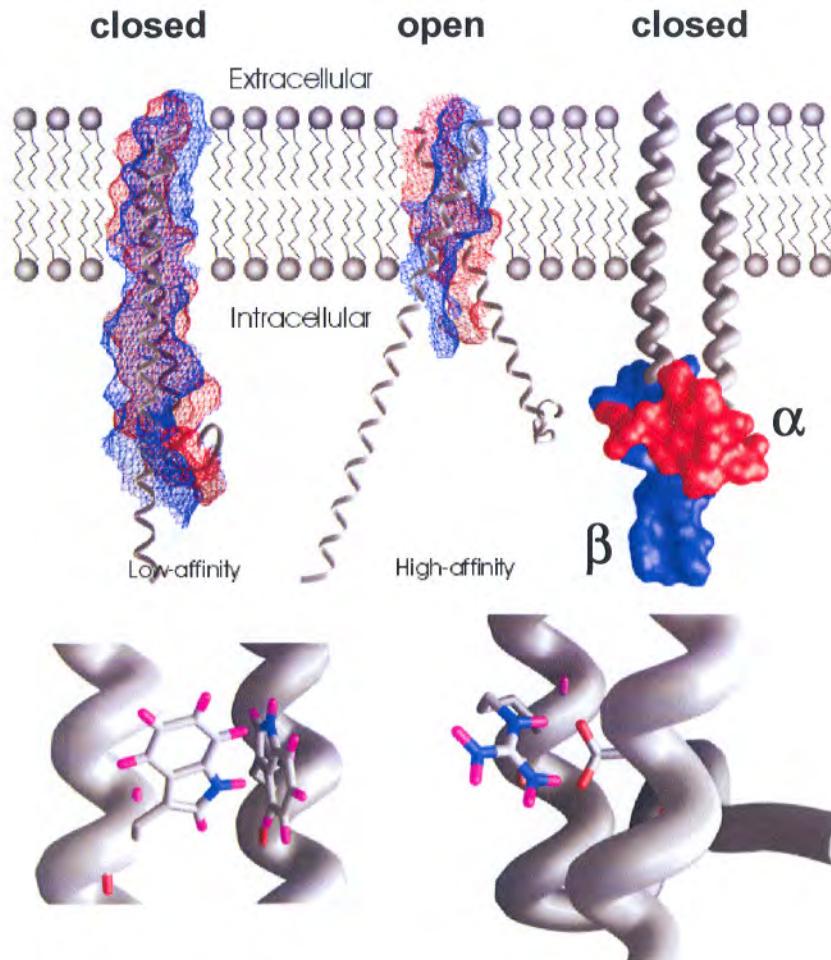


# Integrin Subtypes Globally Searched

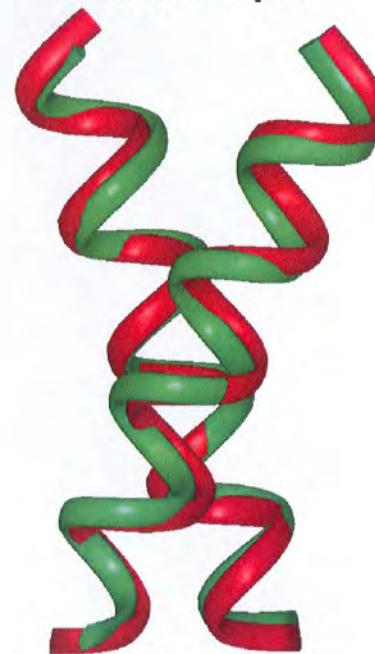
	$\beta 1$	$\beta 2$	$\beta 3$	$\beta 5$	$\beta 6$	$\beta 7$	$\beta 8$
$\alpha 1$	X						
$\alpha 2$	X						
$\alpha 3$	X						
$\alpha 4$						X	
$\alpha 5$	X						
$\alpha 6$	X						
$\alpha 7$	X						
$\alpha D$			X				
$\alpha L$			X				
$\alpha M$			X				
$\alpha V$	X			X	X	X	X
$\alpha IIb$				X			

**16 different  
integrins**

# Open and Closed Conformation Comparison with Experimental Results



Similarity of the open form and GpA



GpA: red

Integrin: green

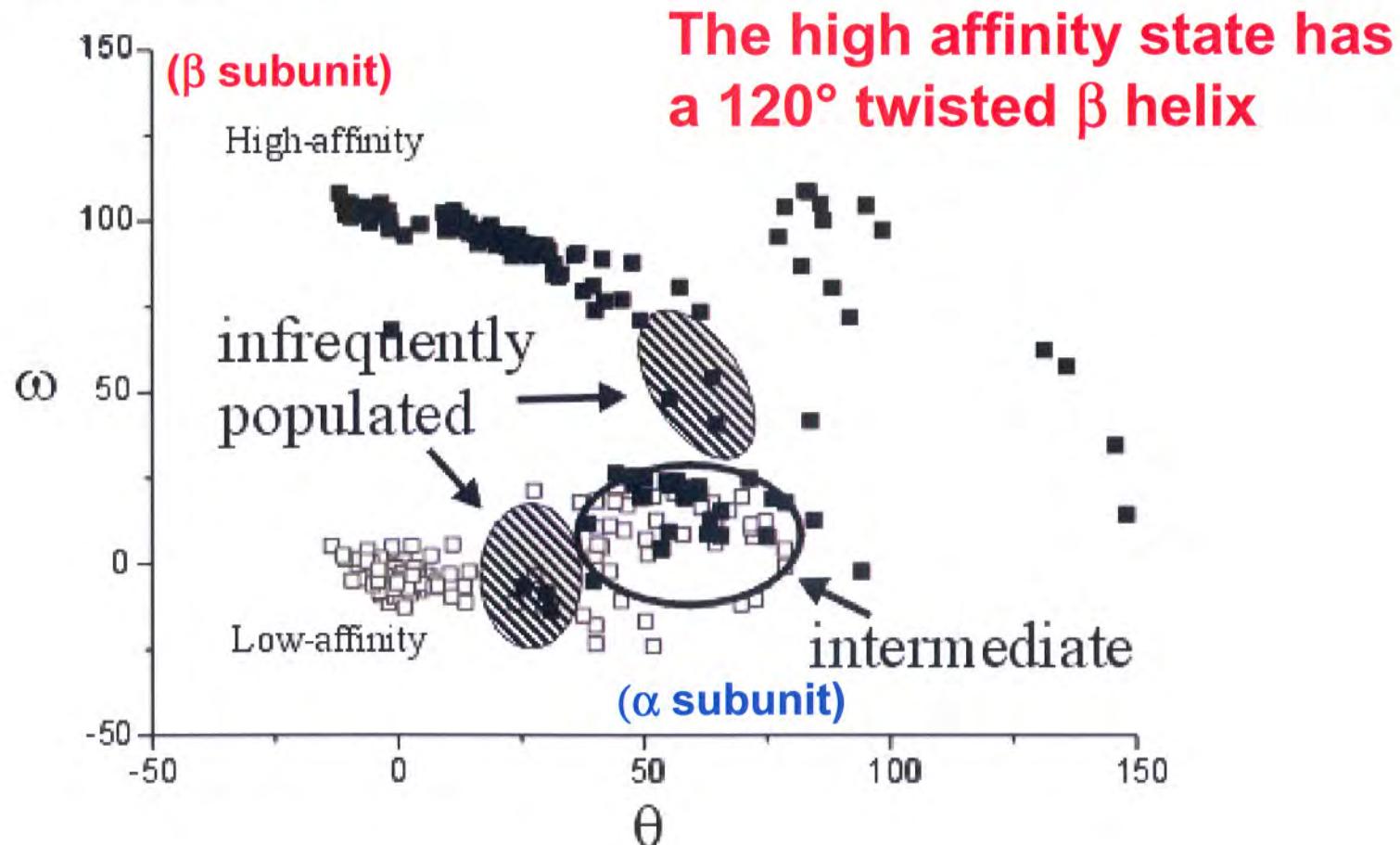
Haas et al. *J.Biol.Chem.* 1996, 271, 6017-26  
Vallar et al. *J.Biol.Chem.* 1999, 274, 17257-66

Hughes et al. *J.Biol.Chem.* 1996, 271, 6571-4  
Lu et al. *J.Biol.Chem.* 2001, 276, 14642-8

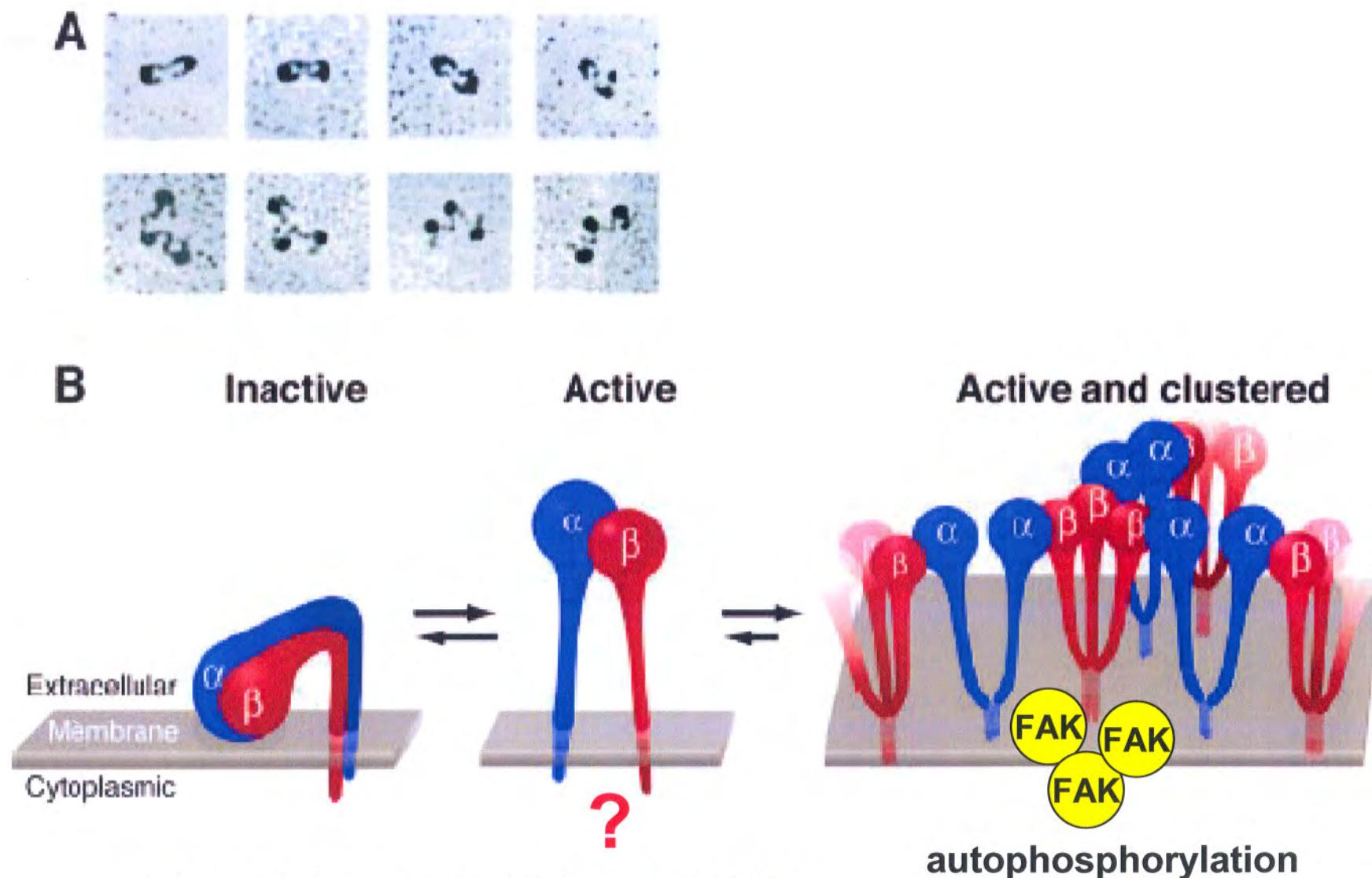
MacKenzie et al. *Science* 1997, 276, 131-133

## Transition Between High-Affinity and Low-Affinity State: Three States?

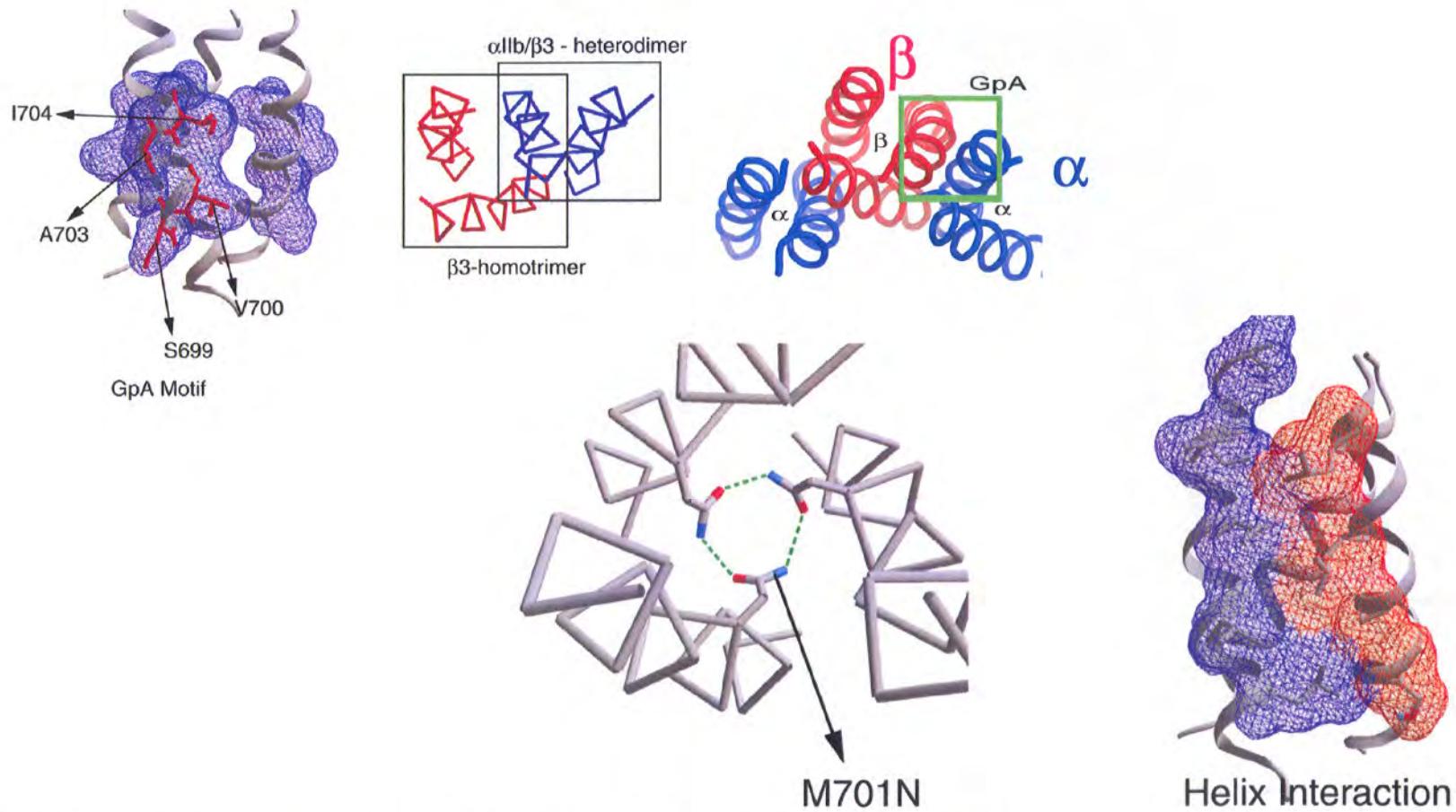
High temperature molecular dynamics simulations starting from open and closed conformations (150 calculations per starting structure)



# Oligomerization of Integrin Subunits from $\alpha IIb\beta 3$

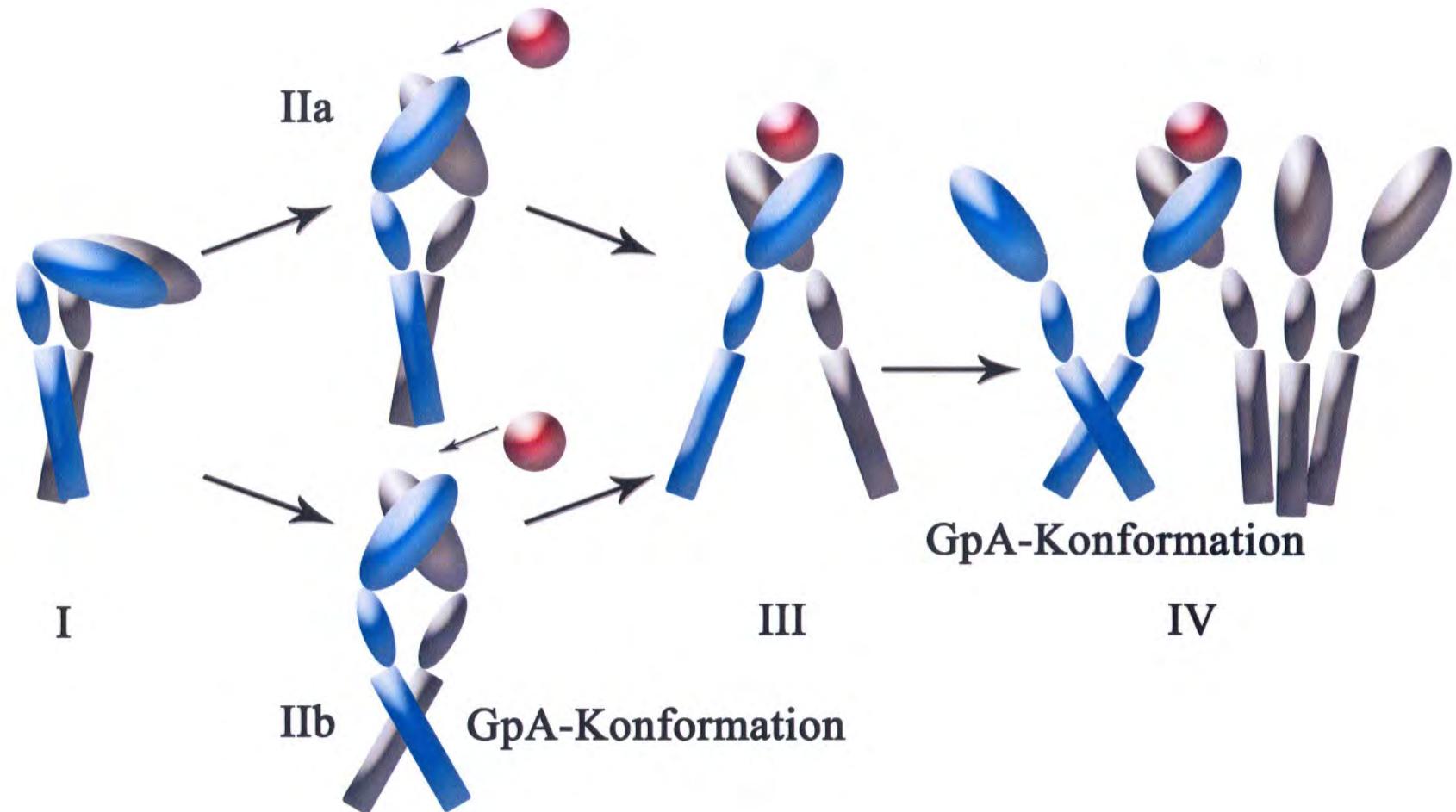


# The Trimer of the $\beta$ Subunit allows Dimers of $\alpha$ to Associate



K. Gottschalk, H. Kessler, *Structure* 2004, 12, 1109-1116

# Activation of Integrins and Formation of Focal Adhesions



## Acknowledgement (RGD)

cyclic peptides	Marion Gurrath Gerhard Müller Michael Dechantsreiter	R. Timpl J. Engel S. Goodman	(MPI Martinsried) (Uni Basel) (Merck KGaA)
aza-peptides	Jochen Wermuth Harald Schmidt	A. Jonczyk G. Hölzemann M. Wiesner	(alle Merck KGaA)
non-peptide	Christoph Gibson Gabor Sulyok		
radio-labeling	Armin Modlinger Martin Sukopp	M. Schwaiger R. Haubner H. J. Wester	alle Nuklearmed. Klinik TUM
biomaterials	Martin Kantlehner Claudia Dahmen Ulrich Hersel Jörg Auernheimer	E. Sackmann et al. J. Spatz et al. M. Stutzmann el al. B. Jeschke et al.	(TUM, Biophysik) (Uni Heidelberg) (Schottky-Institut) (Merck-Biomaterials)
modelling	Kay Gottschalk Robert Günther Luciana Marinelli	A. Brunger P. Adams A. Lavecchia	(Stanford) (Berkeley) (Uni Napoli)