cells is summed. In this model, all of the overlapping starburst cells would excite the ganglion cells; for geometric reasons, the summed input to the DS cell would be greatest when the stimulus lies directly over the dendritic field of the DS ganglion cell. Such a mechanism seems implausible: a broad annulus presented around the DS cell's dendritic field would stimulate the ganglion cell because of the summed outputs of the neighboring starburst cells. (iv) Inhibitory inputs [from other retinal neurons or from the starburst cells' own release of γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA) (14)] could somehow negate the laterally conducted effects of the overlapping starburst cells. (v) The starburst cells could play a role other than the transmission of the information about moving stimuli. Whether one of these or some other possibility is correct, the discussion must clearly be reopened. Our results, together with those of Bloomfield (12), challenge the validity of all current models of retinal directional selectivity (15).

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- 9. This method combines the advantages of extracellular recording (intracellular recordings in rab-bit retina are difficult and brief) with identification of the recorded cell, which usually requires intracellular recordings. It can also be used for the study of infrequently occurring types of cells in retina or in other neural tissues because it solves the problem of sampling bias that may occur with metal electrodes [W. R. Levick and L. N. Thibos, Prog. Retinal Res. 2, 267 (1983)].
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- A model by Borg-Graham [thesis, Massachusetts 15. Institute of Technology (1991)] points out that many amacrine cells can have the asymmetry necessary for a DS input to the ganglion cells. To carry out this function, however, the postulated non-starburst amacrine must (i) have a density and dendritic spread similar to that of the starburst cell; (ii) lie on a direct excitatory pathway to the DS cell; (iii) generate no action potentials; and (iv) have a suitably short electrotonic length constant. No other known amacrine cell meets even the first two of these requirements.
- 16 Supported by NIH grant R37-EY01075. We thank M. Beauchamp for assistance with the stimulusgenerating program.

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Cloning of a Delta Opioid Receptor by **Functional Expression**

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Opiate drugs have potent analgesic and addictive properties. These drugs interact with receptors that also mediate the response to endogenous opioid peptide ligands. However, the receptors for opioids have eluded definitive molecular characterization. By transient expression in COS cells and screening with an iodinated analog of the opioid peptide enkephalin, a complementary DNA clone encoding a functional δ opioid receptor has been identified. The sequence shows homology to G protein-coupled receptors, in particular the receptors for somatostatin, angiotensin, and interleukin-8.

Opiate drugs such as morphine affect the perception of pain, consciousness, motor control, and autonomic function by interacting with specific receptors expressed throughout the central and peripheral nervous systems (1). The endogenous ligands of these opiate receptors have been identified as a family of more than 20 opioid peptides that derive from the three precursor proteins proopiomelanocortin, proenkephalin, and prodynorphin (2). Although the opioid peptides belong to a class of molecules distinct from the opiate alkaloids, they share common structural features including a positive charge juxtaposed with an aromatic ring that is required for interaction with the receptor (3).

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Classical pharmacological studies have defined three classes of opioid receptors— δ , μ , and κ that differ in their affinity for various opioid ligands and in their distribution (4). The δ receptors bind with the greatest affinity to enkephalins and have a more discrete distribution in the brain than either μ or κ receptors, with high concentrations in the basal ganglia and limbic regions. Although morphine interacts principally with µ receptors, peripheral administration of this opiate induces release of enkephalins (5). Thus, enkephalins may mediate part of the physiological response to morphine, presumably by interacting with δ receptors. Despite pharmacological and physiological heterogeneity, the three types of opioid receptors inhibit adenylyl cyclase, increase K⁺ conductance, and inactivate Ca²⁺ channels through a pertussis toxin-sensitive mechanism. These results and others suggest that opioid receptors belong to the large family of cell surface receptors that signal through G proteins (6).

Previous reports have described the isolation of two cDNAs that may function as opiate receptors. The sequence of a cDNA

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encoding a protein that binds morphine shows homology to the phosphatidylinositol-linked members of the immunoglobulin superfamily but does not show the anticipated homology to G protein-coupled receptors (7). A putative κ receptor cDNA does show homology to G protein-coupled receptors but confers low-affinity binding to the alkaloid bremazocine and lacks the expected ligand selectivity (8).

To isolate a clone for the δ opioid receptor, we prepared a cDNA library from NG108-15 cells, which express approximately 300,000 δ receptors per cell (9), and trans-



Fig. 1. Binding of [³H]diprenorphine to intact NG108-15 cells, COS cells transfected with DOR-1 [COS (DOR-1)], and COS cells transfected with the CDM8 vector [COS (CDM8)] (*18*).



Fig. 2. Agonists for the δ opiate receptor reduce cAMP accumulation in cells transfected with DOR-1. NG108-15 cells and COS cells transfected with either DOR-1 [COS (DOR-1)] or the vector control [COS (CDM8)] were stimulated with 5 μ M forskolin in the presence of 1 mM 3-isobutyl-1-methyl xanthine and 500 nM DPDPE or 100 nM etorphine. Cyclic AMP was assayed after 8 min at 37°C (Diagnostic Products, Los Angeles, California). Naloxone (100 μ M) inhibited the decrease in cAMP stimulation observed in NG108-15 cells and COS (DOR-1) cells but not the relatively small reduction in cAMP levels seen in COS cells transfected with CDM8 vector alone.

fected the library into COS cells. Screening with 125 I-labeled [D-Ala², D-Leu⁵]-enkephalin (DADLE) identified one cluster of positive cells (10). After extraction of the DNA from

these cells and two rounds of purification and retransfection, an individual cDNA (DOR-1) was isolated. Using an autoradiographic assay, we determined that the binding of 125 I-labeled

A			* 20	1	40	
DOR-1 SOMATOSTATIN RECEPTOR		MFPNGTASSPSS	MELVPSARAELQSSPLVNLSDAFPSAFPSAGANASGSPGARS MFPNGTASSPSSSPSPSPSGSCGEGACSRGPGSGAADGMEEPGRN MALNSSAEDGIKRIODC			
107715-88-3 +10.75 -50 (0.010-86.94)	ENSIN RECEPTOR					
ILS REC			MSNITDPQMW			
	PEPTIDE RECEPTOR BINDING RECEPTOR					
OPIOID	BINDING RECEPTOR	60	SAWPGWGWPPPAALRI 80	NLTSSPAPTASPS	100	
DOR-1	ASSLALAIAI			MUTVIENT.AT.AT		
SOMAT	ASONGTLSEGOGSAILI					
ANG	PKAGRHSYIFVMI					
IL8	SPCMLETETLNKYVV					
F-PEP	EEVSYESAGYTVLRILP					
OPB-R	PGPAHPFLOPPWAVALW			Contraction of the second s		
	- 120		140	160	7	
DOR-1	SAKYLMET-WPFGELLC	KAVLSIDYYNMFTSI	FTLTMMSVDRYIAVC	HPVKALDFRTPAK	AKLINICIWY	
SOMAT	VTSTLLRH-WPFGALLC	RLVLSVDAVNMFTSI	YCLTVLSVDRYVAVVI	HPIKAARYRRPTV	AKVVNLGVWV	
ANG	AVYTAMEYRWPFGNHLC	KIASASVTFNLYASVI	FLLTCLSIDRYLAIV	HPMKSRLRRTMLV	AKVTCIIIWL	
IL8	AASKVNGWIFGTFLC	KVVSLLKEVNFYSGI	LLLACISVDRYLAIV	HATRTLTQKRHLV	-KFVCLGCWG	
F-PEP	IVSMAMGEKWPFGWFLC	KLIHIVVDINLFGSV	FLIGFIALDRCICVL	HPVWAQNHRTVSI	AMKVIVGPWI	
OPB-R	NFIYALHGEWYFGANYC		YSMTAIAVDRYMAIII		TRIVIGSIWI	
	180	200		220		
DOR-1	LASGVGVPIMVMAVTOP					
SOMAT	LSLLVILPIVVFSRTAA					
ANG	MAGLASLPAVIHRNVYF					
IL8	LSMNLSLPFFLFRQAYH				and you have been a state of the state of	
F-PEP	LALVLTLPVFLFLTTVT		CONTRACTOR AND A CONTRACTOR OF			
OPB-R	LAFLLAFPQCLYSKIKV		and the second state of th		CFPLLIMGIT	
DOR-1	240	260		280		
SOMAT	YCLMLLRLRSVRLL YVLIIAKMRMVALK					
ANG	YTLIWKALKKAYEI					
IL8	YGFTLRTLFKAHMG					
F-PEP	YGLIAAKIHKKGMI					
OPB-R	YTIVGITLWGGEIPGDT				CONTRACTOR AND A DESCRIPTION OF A DESCRI	
ord a	300	320	MANILI V V VIERICAL.	340	221NK	
DOR-1	DPLVVAALHLCIALGYA	the state of the second state of the second state of the	FKRCFROLCR-T		ROATTRERVT	
SOMAT	DDATVSOLSVILGYA					
ANG	SDIVDTAMPITICIAYF		The second state of the second s	Construction of the second second second second second		
ILS	RNNIGRALDATEILGFL					
F-PEP	YKIIDILVNPTSSLAFF					
OPB-R	WKYIOOVYLASFWLAMS					
	360 370					
DOR-1	ACTPSDGPGGGAAA-					
SOMAT	DFQPENLESGGVFRNGT					
ANG	SSSAKKPASCFEVE					
IL8	SSNL					
	MED TOTAL					
F-PEP OPB-R	TELQAM YTVTRMESMSVVFDSND					

mouse somatostatin receptor, rat angiotensin receptor, human interleukin-8 receptor, human N-formyl peptide receptor, and a putative ĸ opioid binding receptor (8). Identical amino acids are indicated in bold type. Seven predicted transmembrane domains are underlined. Consensus sequences for N-linked glycosylation in the predicted extracellular domains are shown with an asterisk. The nucleotide sequence for DOR-1 has been submitted to Gen-Bank under accession number L07271. (B) Proposed structure of DOR-1. Potential sites for extracellular asparagine-linked glycosylation (branched structures) and cytoplasmic cysteine-linked palmitoylation (beaded structure) are shown at the NH2-terminal and COOHterminal domains, respectively. Solid circles indicate intracellular consensus sites for phos-



phorylation by cyclic nucleotide-dependent kinases and protein kinase C. Two predicted amphiphilic helical structures (shaded circles) occur in the third cytoplasmic loop and the COOH-terminus. A disulfide bridge may link the second and third extracellular domains and aspartate residues (-) occur in the second and third transmembrane domains.

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Table 1. DOR-1 confers δ -selective high-affinity binding of [³H]diprenorphine to transfected COS cell membranes (19).

Opiate alkaloid ligands	3.8				
	3.8				
Diprenorphine					
Etorphine	13.5				
Levorphanol	107				
Morphine	1,100				
Dextrorphan	>50,000				
Opiate peptide ligands					
DADLE	4.8				
TIPP	5.4				
DSLET	2.3				
DPDPE	17.5				
Dynorphin 1-17	239				
DÁGO	>50,000				
Morphiceptin	>50,000				
Somatostatin 14	>50,000				
Des-Tyr-DADLE	>50,000				

DADLE to COS cells transfected with DOR-1 can be competed by nanomolar concentrations of the alkaloids diprenorphine, morphine, etorphine, and levorphanol and the peptides DADLE, [D-Ser²]-Leu enkephalin-Thr (DSLET) and D-penicillamine^{2,5}-enkephalin (DPDPE). High concentrations (>5 μ M) of dextrorphan (the inactive enantiomer of levorphanol) and the μ -selective peptide [D-Ala², N-methyl Phe⁴, Gly⁵-ol]-enkephalin (DAGO) do not compete with DADLE.

Intact COS cells transfected with DOR-1 also bound to the opiate antagonist [³H]diprenorphine with high affinity (Fig. 1), and membranes from these cells showed considerable ligand specificity (Table 1). In addition to the δ -selective peptide agonists DSLET and DPDPE, the antagonist Tyrtetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid-Phe-Phe (TIPP) competed for diprenorphin binding sites with high affinity [dissociation constants (K_d 's) in the low nanomolar range]. In contrast, dextrorphan, the inactive peptide des-Tyr-DADLE, and the µ-selective peptides DAGO and morphiceptin (Tyr-Pro-Phe-Pro amide) only partially displaced diprenorphine, while the κ -preferring opioid dynorphin has the expected low affinity. Some somatostatin receptor ligands acts as antagonist at μ opioid receptors (11) and the K_d of DOR-1 transfected cells for somatostatin exceeds 10 μ M. Thus, the selectivity of DOR-1 for different ligands agrees with values obtained for native δ receptors in NG108-15 cells (12) and supports the contention that DOR-1 encodes a δ opioid receptor.

To determine whether the receptor encoded by DOR-1 can transduce a physiological signal, we have measured the accumulation of adenosine 3',5'-monophosphate (cAMP) in transfected cells (Fig. 2). Both the alkaloid etorphine and the peptide DPDPE reduced the forskolin-stimulated increase of cAMP by approximately 40%. The

Fig. 4. Northern and Southern blot analysis of DOR-1. (A) A Northern blot of polyadenylated RNA (5 µg) from NG108-15 cells hybridized with either the complete protein-coding or the 3' noncoding region of DOR-1 (19) shows multiple transcripts with both probes. (B) A Northern blot containing polyadenylated RNA (10 µg) from dissected mouse and rat tissues hybridized with the protein-coding region of DOR-1 shows multiple transcripts in different brain regions but no signal in the liver (19). (C) Southern blot analysis of DNA



isolated from NG108-15 cells, mouse, rat, and human tissue with the entire DOR-1 cDNA as probe shows a single strongly hybridizing and multiple weakly hybridizing species from each source (19). NG108-15 cells contain a δ receptor gene from the mouse but not the rat parent used to produce this hybrid cell line (9).

antagonist naloxone blocked this reduction. Thus, DOR-1 confers functional coupling of opioid ligands to the inhibition of adenyl cyclase with the appropriate pharmacology.

The nucleotide sequence of DOR-1 predicts a protein of 372 amino acids with considerable homology to G protein-coupled receptors (Fig. 3). As with many of these receptors, two consensus glycosylation sites occur in the NH2-terminal domain of DOR-1 and a pair of cysteine residues proposed to form a disulfide bond occur in the first two extracellular loops (13). By similar analogy, the second and third transmembrane domains contain aspartate residues that may provide a counterion for the amino group of the ligand and confer the guanosine triphosphate (GTP) sensitivity of agonist binding (13). Further, the COOH-terminal domain of the protein contains a number of cysteine residues that may undergo palmitoylation (13). Multiple consensus sequences for phosphorylation appear on several cytoplasmic domains and may mediate the observed regulation of receptor function in response to continued opiate exposure (14).

The δ receptor shows somewhat greater homology to the receptors for somatostatin (37% identity), angiotensin (31% identity), and the chemotactic factors interleukin-8 (22% identity) and N-formyl peptide (21% identity) than to the putative κ receptor (8) (Fig. 3). All these receptors bind to peptide ligands and some of these, like opioids, elicit chemotaxis (15). The close homology of DOR-1 with the receptor for somatostatin has particular significance. Somatostatin and analogs of somatostatin bind to opioid receptors (11). Furthermore, opioid receptors and somatostatin receptors inhibit neurotransmitter release by reducing Ca²⁺ currents and increasing K⁺ conductance, and both receptors couple to these ion channels through the same G_{α} subunit (16).

Northern blots of RNA from NG108-15 cells show multiple transcripts (Fig. 4A), raising the possibility that this probe hybridizes to the mRNA for related receptors. However, a fragment derived from the 3'untranslated region of DOR-1 recognizes all but the shortest of these transcripts and hybridization of DOR-1 cDNA to genomic Southern blots reveals a single strongly hybridizing species (Fig. 4C). Thus, the heterogeneity of hybridizing species may not reflect multiple genes but presumably derives from alternative RNA splicing, the use of alternative transcription initiation, or alternative polyadenylation sites within a single gene. As in NG108-15 cells, multiple transcripts appear in most brain regions, with no clear evidence for differential expression (Fig. 4B).

The identification of multiple transcripts hybridizing to the DOR-1 cDNA raises the possibility that these encode distinct receptors. Previous studies have suggested the existence of δ receptor subtypes (17), but whether these reflect different receptor proteins remains unknown. The relation of DOR-1 to μ and κ opioid receptors is also of considerable interest. The presence of the multiple transcripts in the NG108-15 cells, which do not express μ or κ receptors, makes it unlikely that these transcripts account for the various opioid receptors probably originate from distinct genes.

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- Å random primed, size-selected cDNA library from NG108-15 cells was prepared in the plasmid expression vector CDM8 [A. Aruffo and B. Seed, *ibid*. 84, 8573 (1987)] and transfected into COS cells by electroporation. After 3 days, the cells were screened for opioid binding with 10 to 20 nM mono-¹²⁵I-labeled DADLE (at an approximate specific activity of 2000 Ci/mmol) that had been puri-

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Prevention of Programmed Cell Death in Caenorhabditis elegans by Human bcl-2

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Programmed cell death is a physiological process that eliminates unwanted cells. The *bcl-2* gene regulates programmed cell death in mammalian cells, but the way it functions is not known. Expression of the human *bcl-2* gene in the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans* reduced the number of programmed cell deaths, suggesting that the mechanism of programmed cell death controlled by *bcl-2* in humans is the same as that in nematodes.

Cell death is a normal part of development and homeostasis in both vertebrates and invertebrates (1). Extensive loss of neurons occurs during vertebrate development (2), and in mature animals cell death serves to eliminate autoreactive immune cells and virally infected cells (3). In mammals, bcl-2 prevents some, but not all, cell deaths (4-7). For instance, expression of the bcl-2 gene can prevent the death of myeloid or neuronal cells that occurs after withdrawal of certain growth factors (4), but it cannot protect cells from being killed by cytotoxic T cells (7). Inhibition of cell death by improperly regulated expression of bcl-2 may also be oncogenic, as when bcl-2 is activated by t(14;18) translocations in human follicular lymphoma (8) or when bcl-2is overexpressed in transgenic mice (5). The activation and execution of an intracellular suicide pathway is referred to as programmed cell death (1).

Programmed cell death occurs in the nematode Caenorhabdits elegans. Of the

1090 somatic cells formed in the course of the development of an adult worm, 131 cells undergo programmed cell death (9), and the genetic pathway by which cell death occurs has been extensively characterized (1). We tested whether programmed cell deaths in nematodes and humans can occur by way of the same molecular pathway by constructing a vector (hsbcl-2) that places expression of the human bcl-2 gene under control of the nematode heat shock promoter (10) and generating transgenic nematodes with rol-6 as a cotransformation marker (11, 12). Normally, cells undergoing programmed cell death are observable only for a short period, because the cell corpse is rapidly engulfed (9). We therefore used ced-1(e1735) mutants because this mutation prevents engulfment, allowing the cell corpses to accumulate (13).

We used antibody staining to demonstrate that transgenic nematode embryos express the human bcl-2 protein. After heat shock, embryos from transgenic parents were fixed and labeled with monoclonal antibodies to human bcl-2 (14), and then staining was visualized by fluorescence microscopy (15). Transgenic sequences in

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- 18. Binding to intact cells was carried out in modified KRB (12) for 20 min at room temperature and binding to membranes in 25 mM Hepes, 1% albumin, 5 mM MgCl₂, pH 7.7, for 1 hour at 4°C. Specific binding was defined by the displacement with diprenorphine.
- 19. RNA was isolated using the Fast Track mRNA Isolation Kit (Invitrogen), and Northern blot analysis performed at 65°C as described [T. G. Boulton et al., Cell 65, 663 (1991)], followed by autoradiography for 1 week at 70°C with an enhancing screen. Repeated studies consistently showed a wide range of transcripts, with no evidence for RNA degradation either by staining the gels with ethidium bromide or by rehybridization with a probe for β actin. Southern blots were washed in 0.2× standard sodium citrate, 0.1% SDS at 55°C.
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nematodes are carried and transmitted as an extrachromosomal array (11), so we expected to see *bcl-2* expression in those progeny that carried the transgene, and not in their nontransgenic siblings. A proportion of offspring from transgenic parents were positive for *bcl-2* staining (Fig. 1). Staining was most prominent in the perinuclear regions of the cytoplasm, remained strong for up to 8 hours after heat shock, and was still



Fig. 1. Expression of human *bcl-2* (*10*, *12*). A mixed population of transgenic and nontransgenic sibling embryos from *hsbcl-2* parents were stained with antibodies to human *bcl-2* and examined by phase contrast (**A**) and fluorescence microscopy (**B**) (*15*). Expression of *bcl-2* is seen in one of two embryos. Scale bar, 10 μ m.

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