

# Extracellular Ribonucleic Acids (RNA) in Stroke and Inflammation: Novel Targets for Therapy

*Klaus T. Preissner*

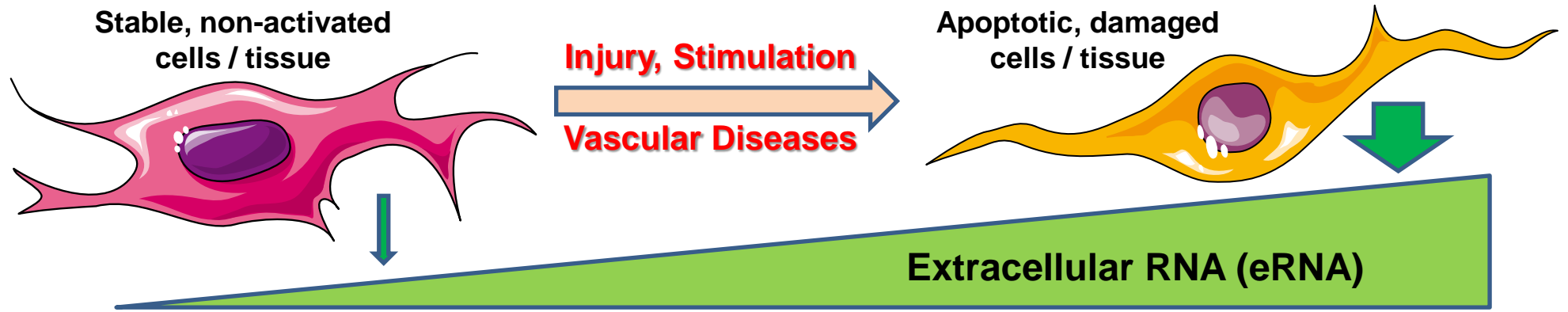
Depart. of Biochemistry, Medical School  
Justus-Liebig-University  
Giessen (Germany)



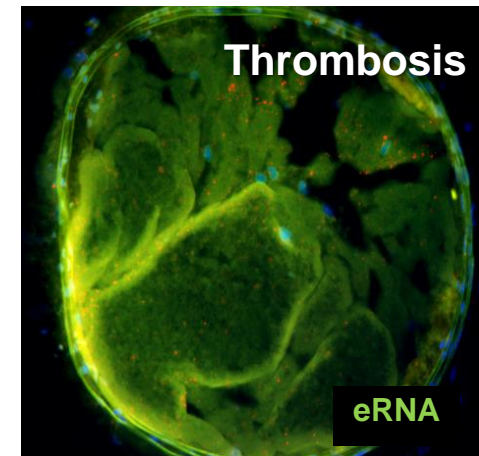
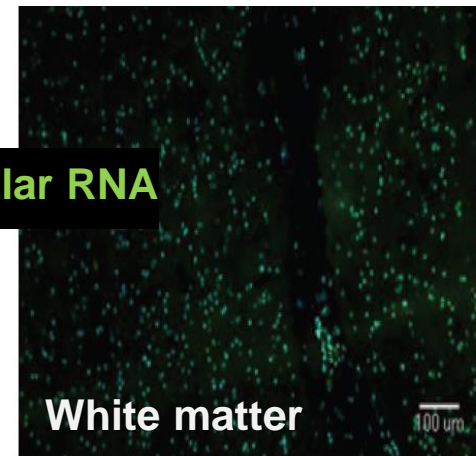
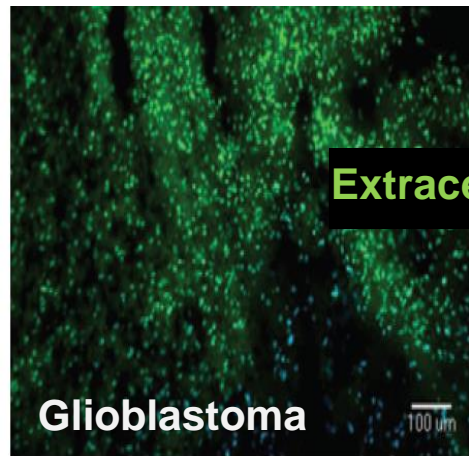
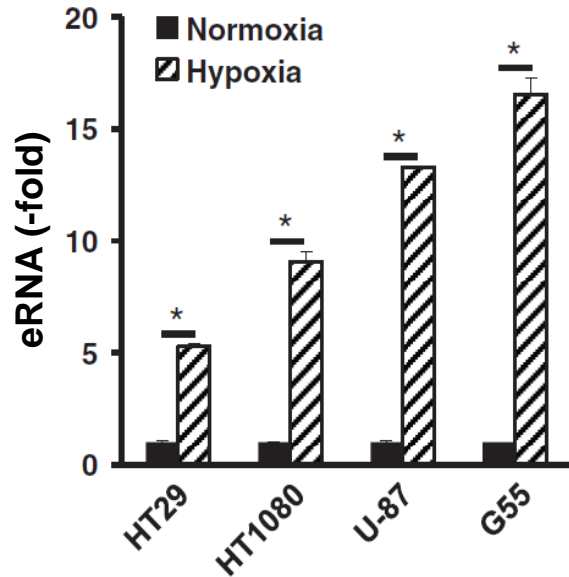
JCR - Busan 2015



# Distribution and Cellular Release of Extracellular RNA

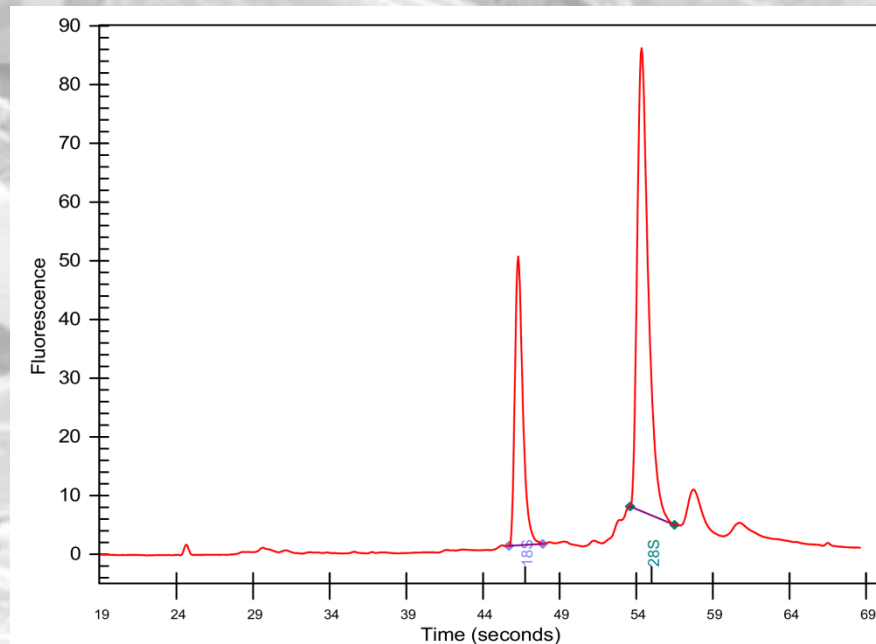
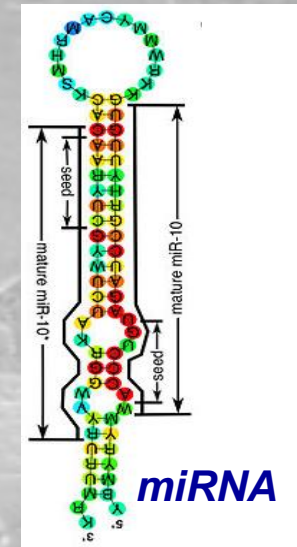
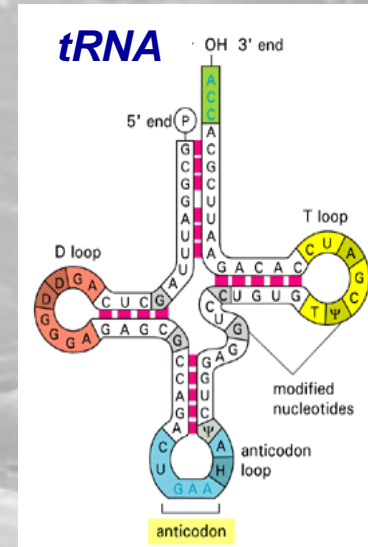
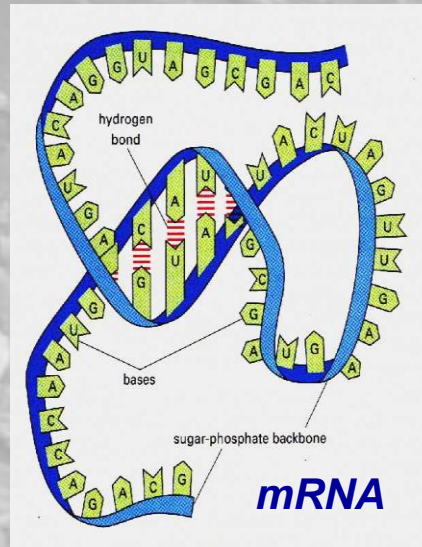
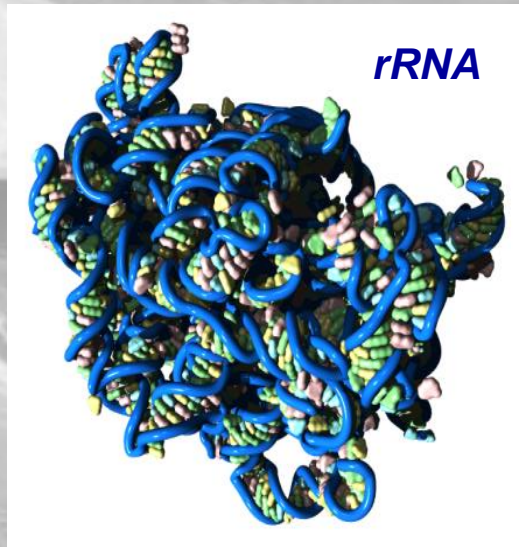


## eRNA liberation from tumor cells (hypoxia)





# Natural Appearance of Self Extracellular RNA (eRNA)

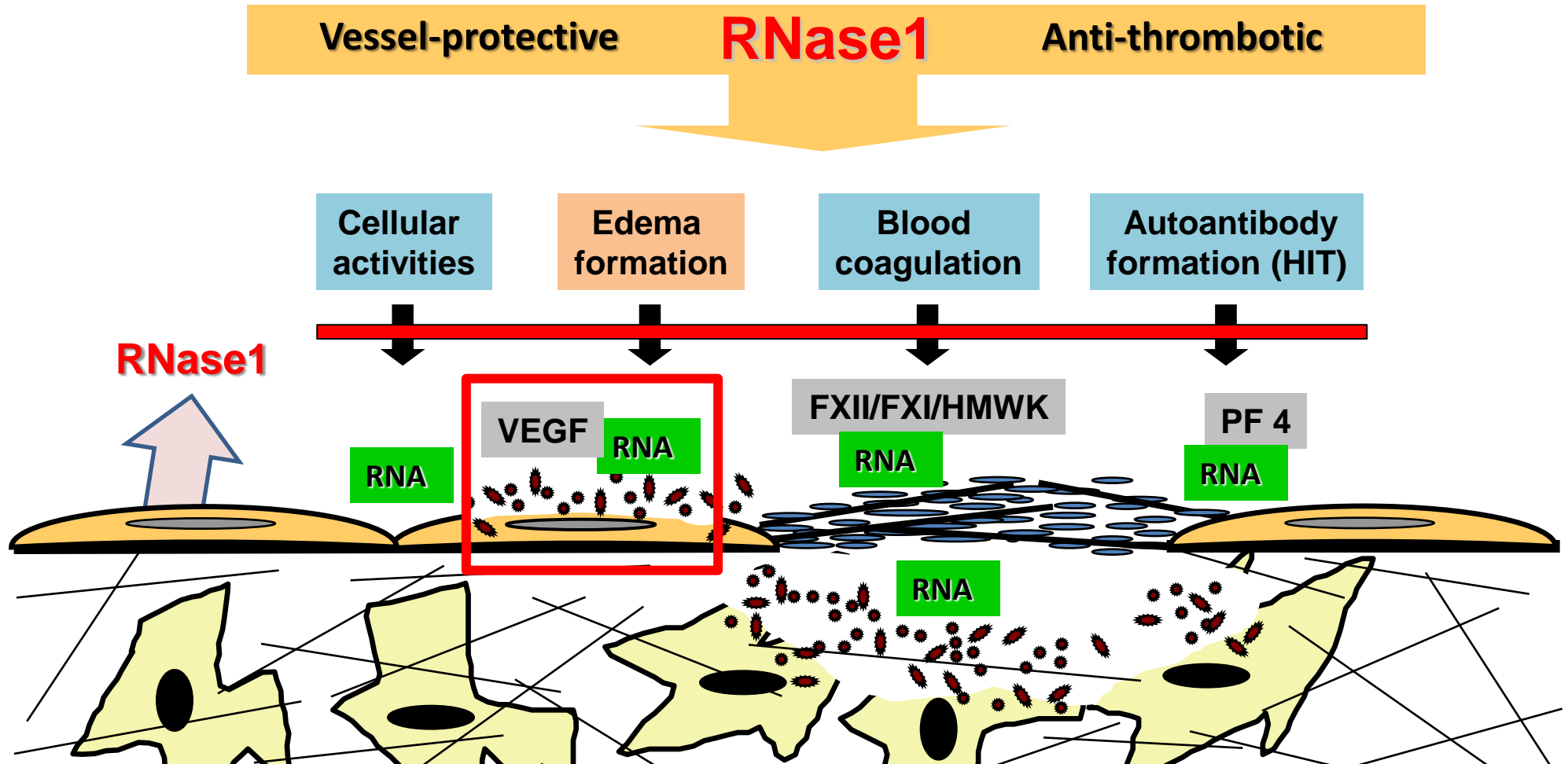


< 28S rRNA

< 18S rRNA

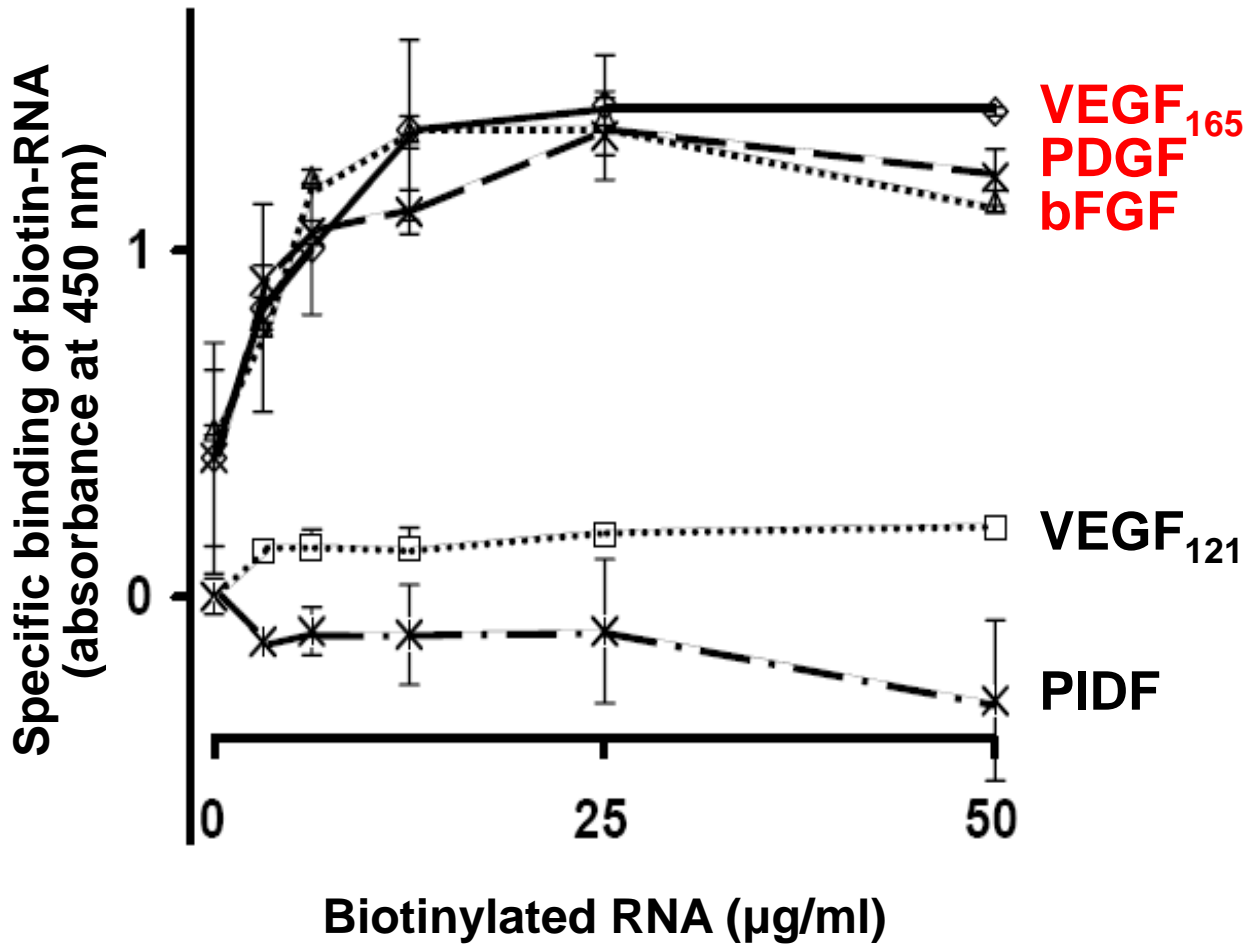
**Capillary electrophoresis of plasma-eRNA**

# The Extracellular RNA / RNase System and Vascular Homeostasis



*Fischer et al., Blood 2007; Kannemeier et al., PNAS 2007; Shibamiya et al., Blood 2009; Fischer et al., T&H 2011; 2012; Can Res 2013; Jaax et al., Blood 2013; Cabrera-Fuentes et al. T&H 2014*

# Specific Binding of Proteins to Extracellular RNA (eRNA)



## eRNA-Binding Proteins

### Cytokines

VEGF, PDGF, bFGF, ...

### Chemokines

Platelet factor 4, SDF-1, ...

### Serine proteases

FSAP, F-XII, F-XI, prekallikrein

### Serine protease inhibitors

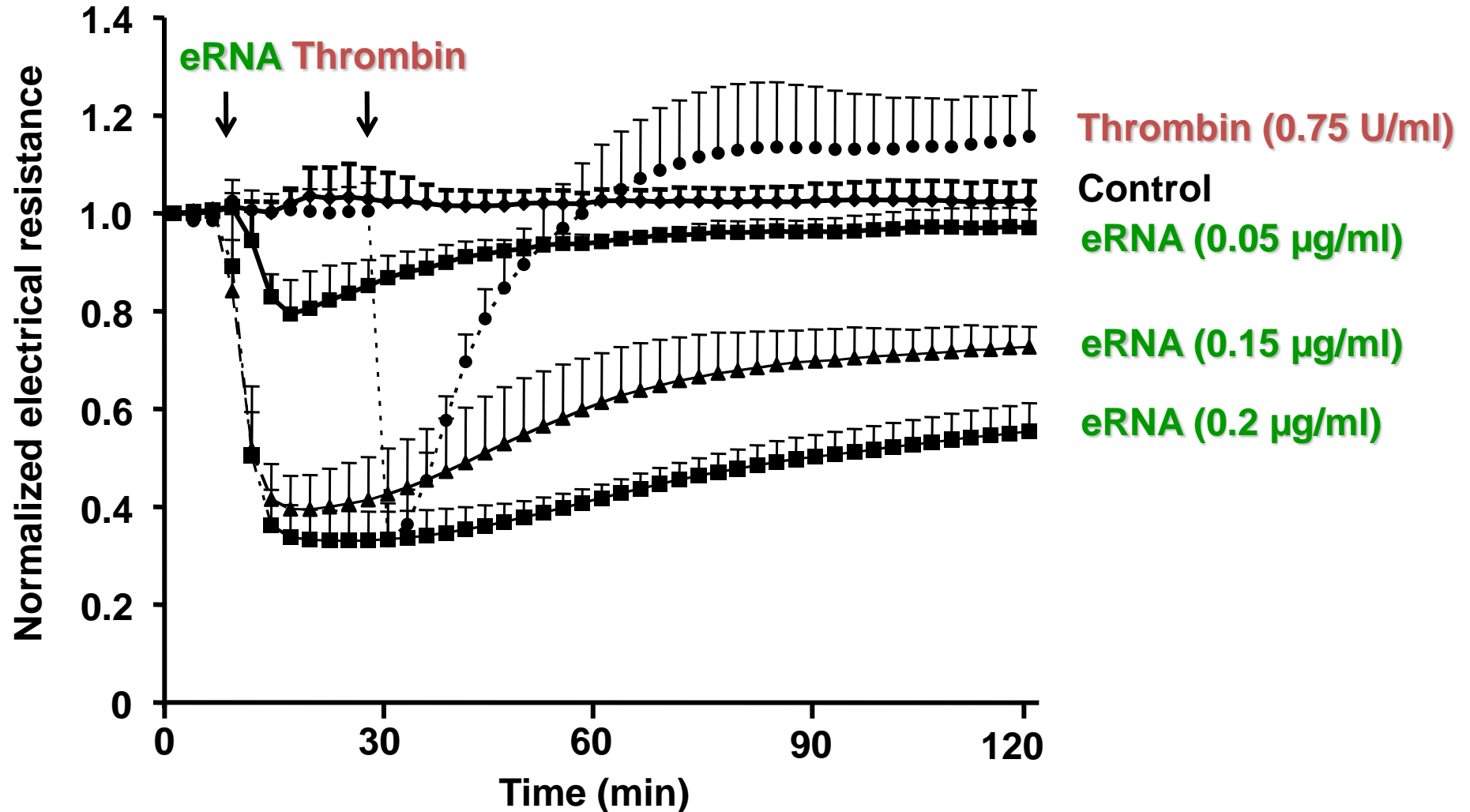
Plasminogen activator inhibitor-1

### ECM molecules

Fibrillar collagens, fibrin, vWF

# Induction of Endothelial Cell Permeability by Extracellular RNA

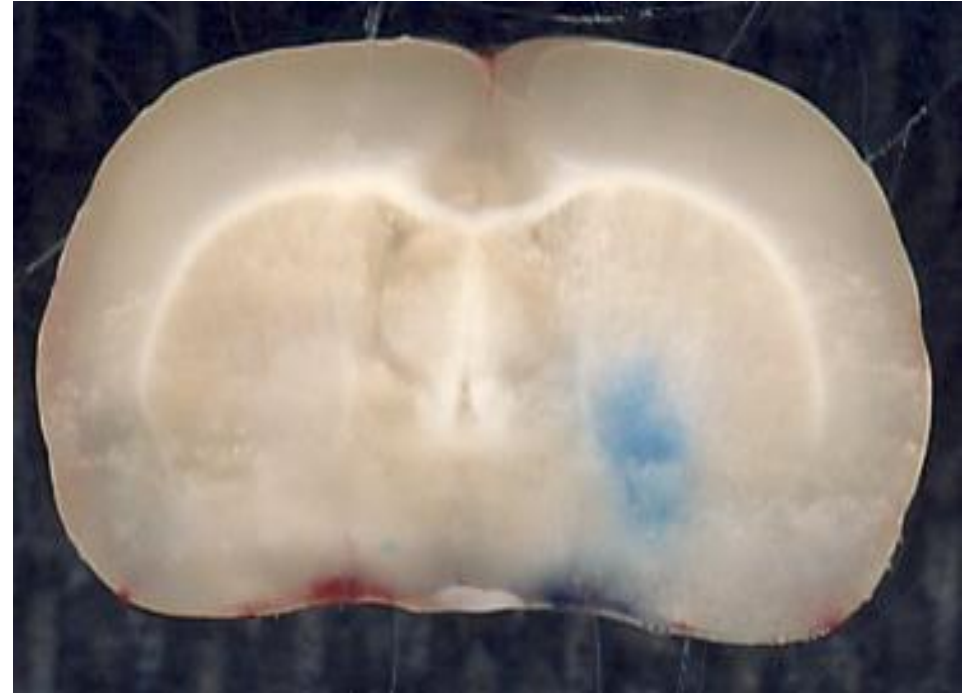
(Porcine brain microvascular endothelial cells)



# **Influence of RNase1 Administration on Brain Edema in a Stroke Model (Ligation) in Rats (I)**



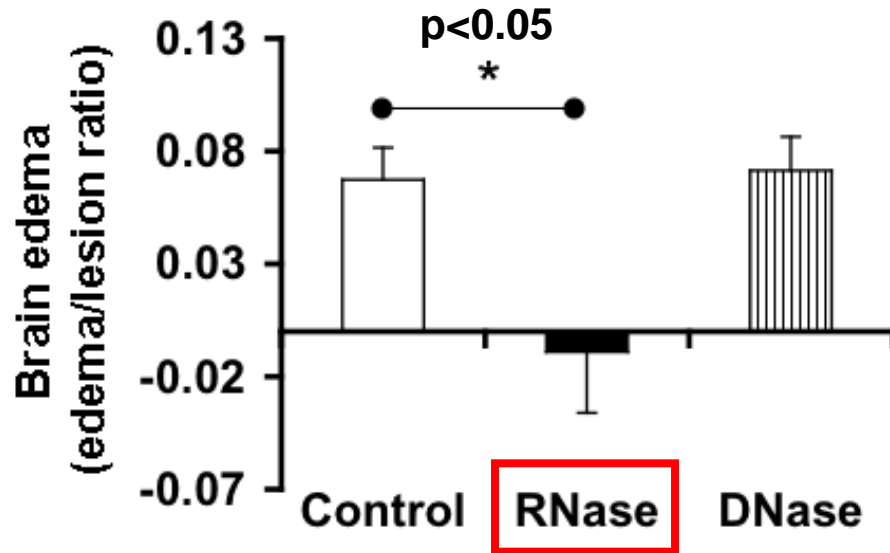
**Ischemia (Control)**



**Ischemia, RNase1 Treatment**

# Influence of RNase1 Administration on Brain Edema in a Stroke Model (Ligation) in Rats (II)

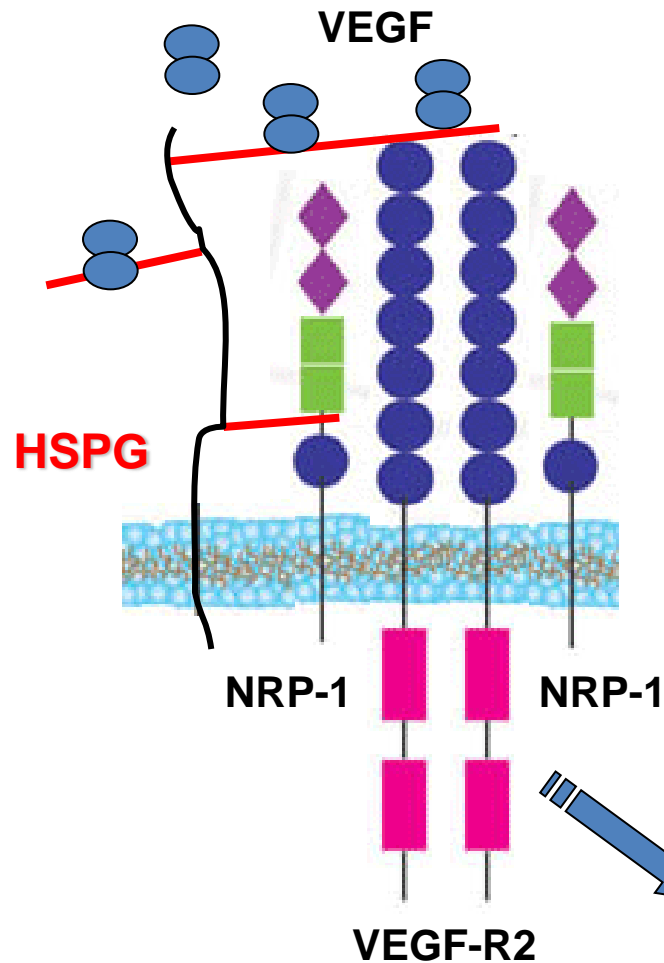
## A. Brain edema



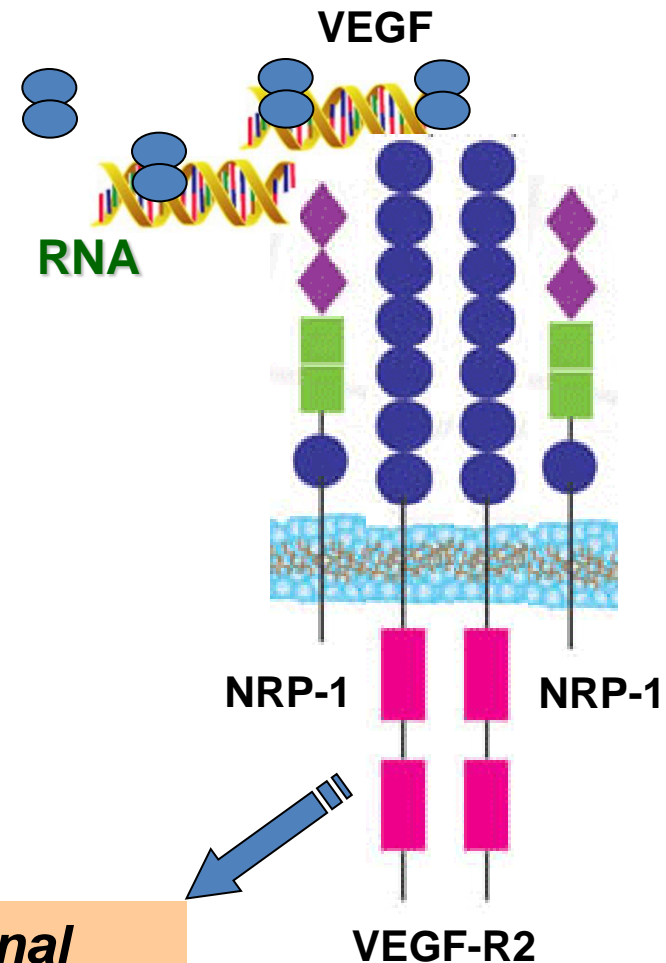


# Extracellular RNA-dependent Cell Signaling in Endothelial Cells: A Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF)-dependent Process

## Heparansulfate-Proteoglycans



## Ribonucleic acids (RNA)

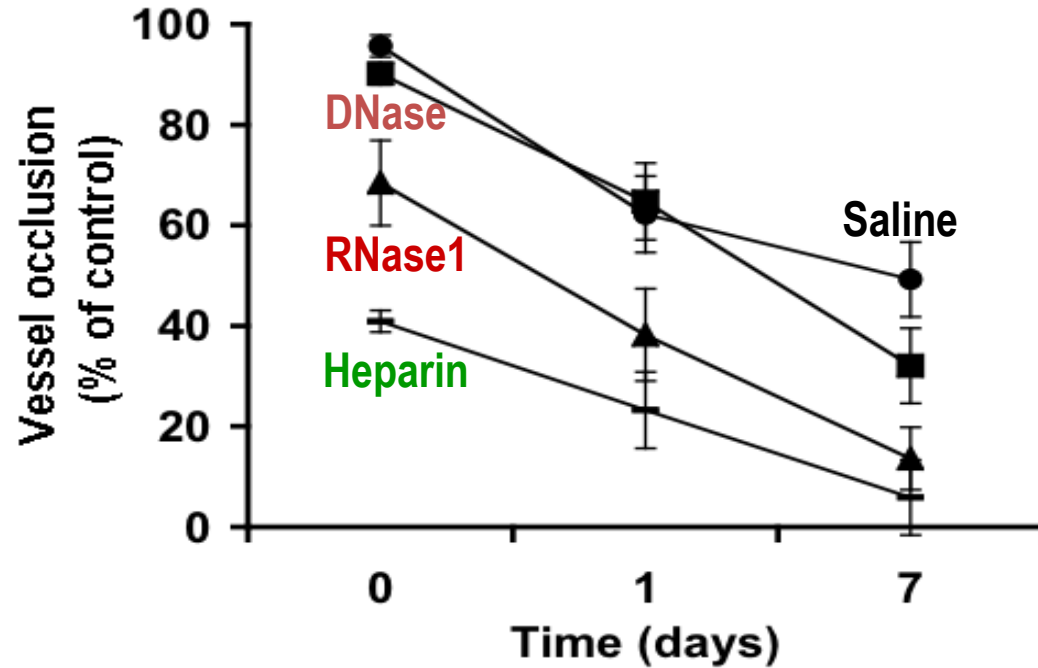


**Signal  
Transduction**

# Extracellular RNA-mediated Thrombus / Edema Formation *in vivo*:

(Rat model of FeCl<sub>3</sub>-induced *Sinus sagittalis* thrombosis)

## A. Venous occlusion rate

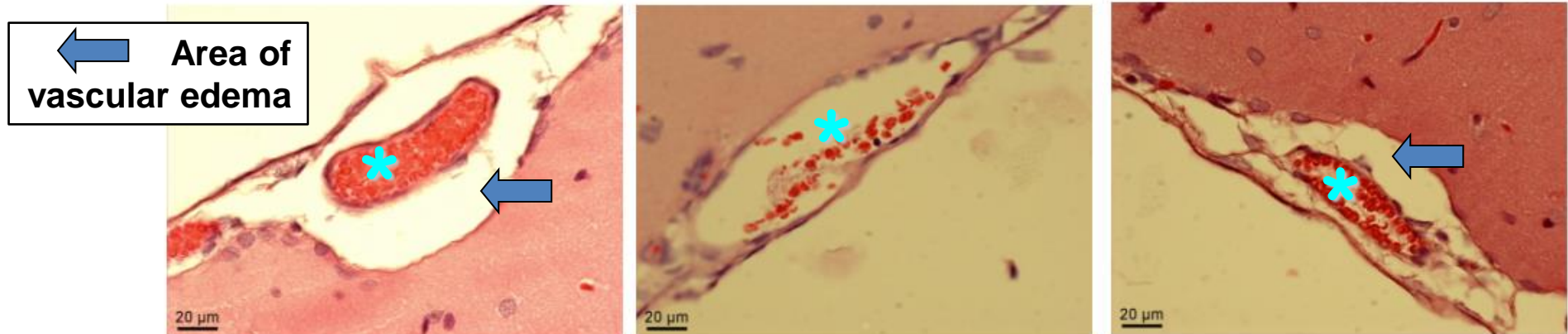


## B. Histology

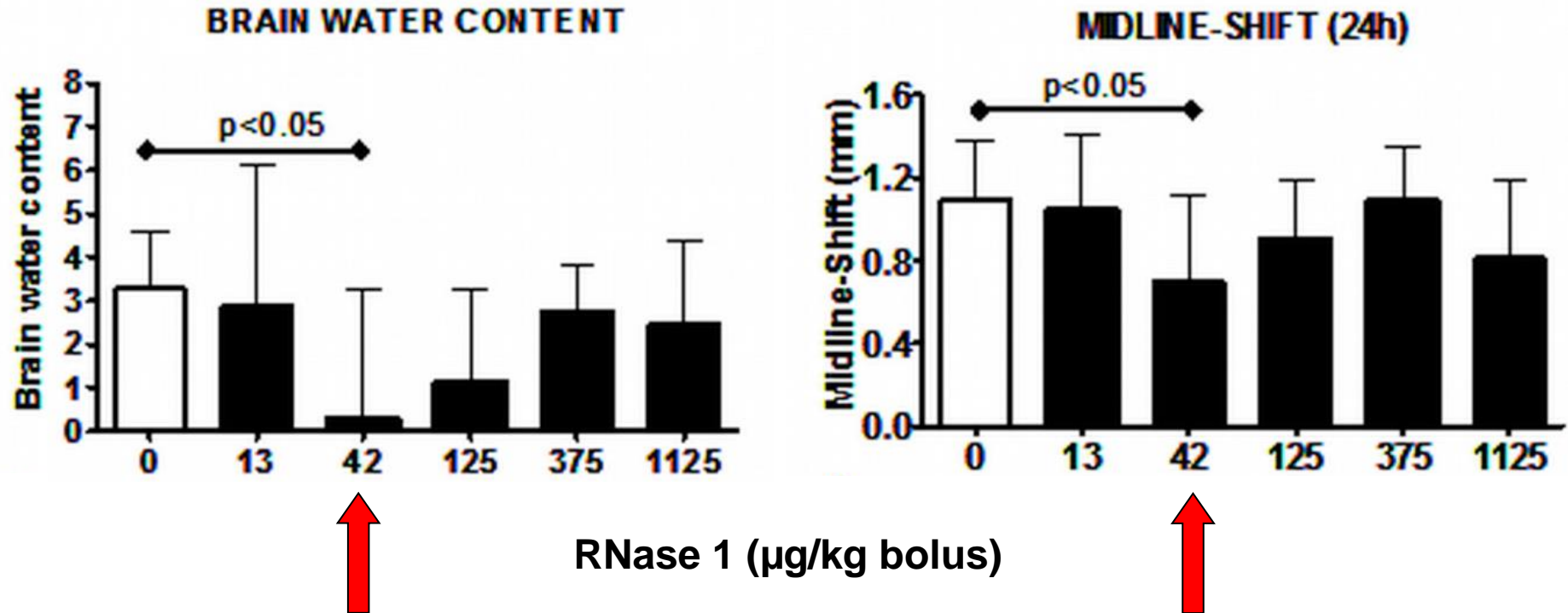
Control

RNase1

Heparin



# RNase 1 Administration in a Stroke Model in Rats: Dose-Response Relationship

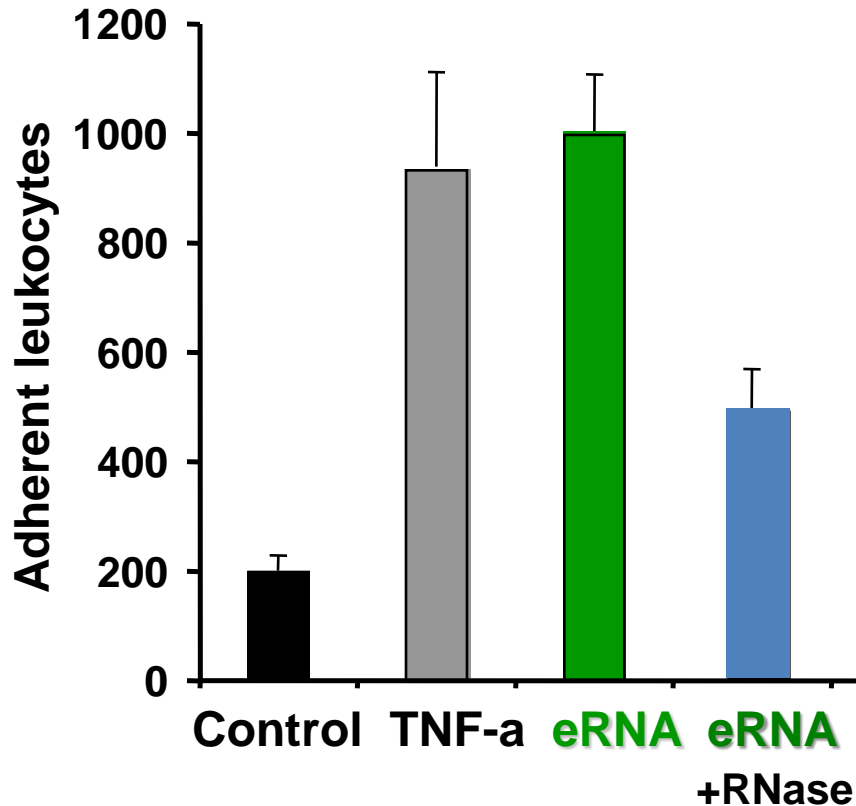


**RNase1** serves as natural neuro- and vessel-protective factor in a dose-dependent manner: Point of application ?

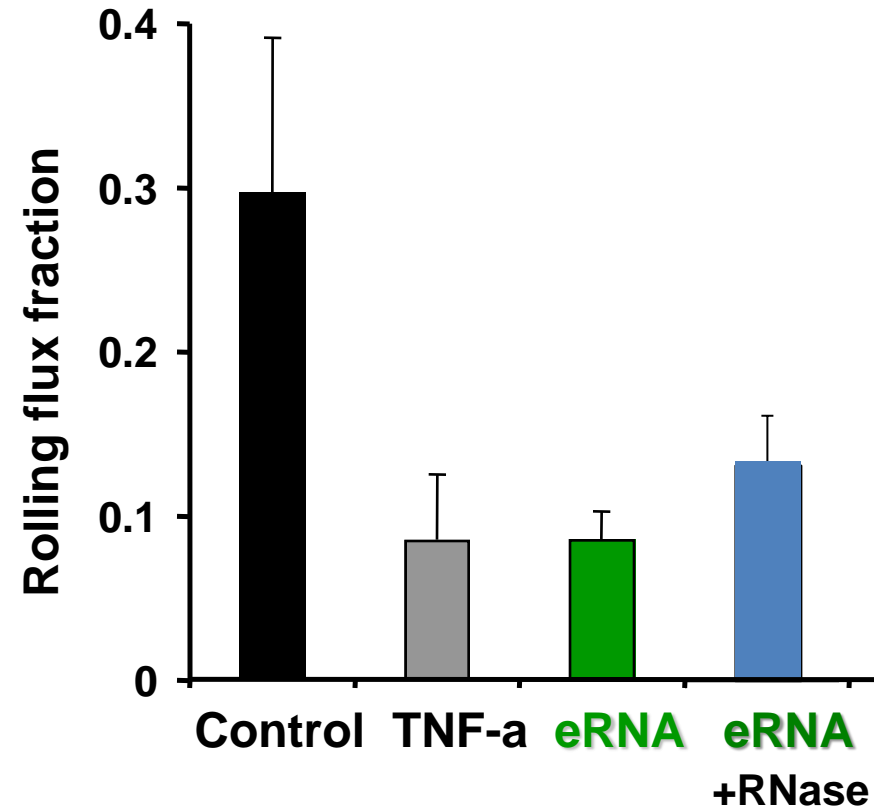
# Influence of Extracellular RNA on Leukocyte – Vessel Wall Interactions *in vivo*

(Cremaster muscle vascular model)

## Leukocyte Adhesion



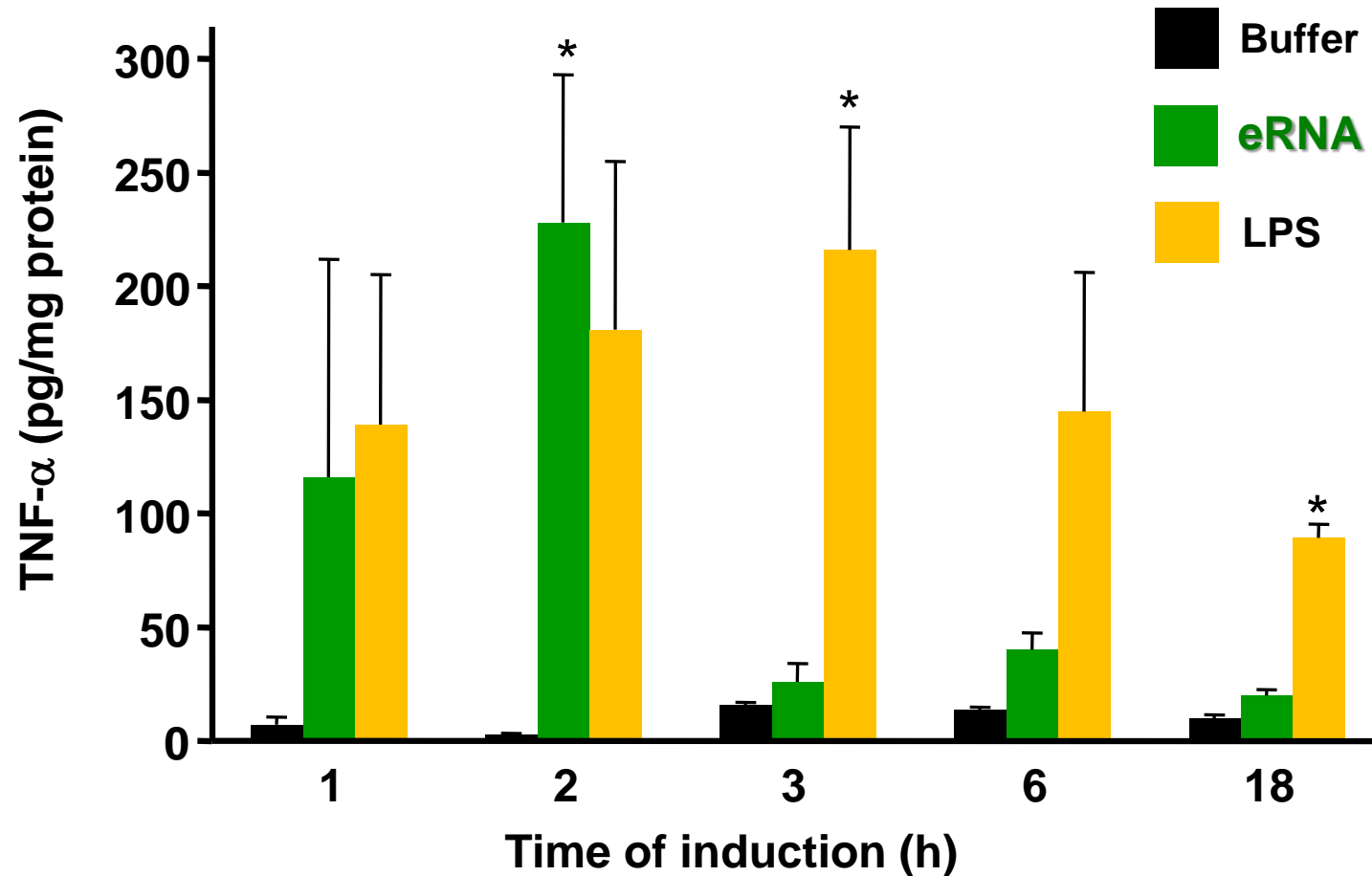
## Leukocyte Rolling



**Extracellular RNA** acts as cell adhesion-promoting factor, in part by a **VEGF-receptor**-dependent mechanism



# Extracellular RNA-induced Release of TNF- $\alpha$ from Monocytes



**Extracellular RNA** induces TNF- $\alpha$  to promote leukocyte adhesion

# Diverse Functions of Self-Extracellular RNA

- Blood coagulation, thrombosis
- **Vascular permeability, oedema formation**
- Inflammation, leukocyte trafficking
- Cardiac ischemia-reperfusion injury
- Tumor progression and metastasis

## Patho-physiological Role in Atrial Fibrillation ?

Kannemeier et al., PNAS 2007; Fischer et al., Blood 2007; FASEB J 2009;  
Thromb Haemost 2012; Cancer Res 2013; Jaax et al., Blood 2013

# Acknowledgements .....



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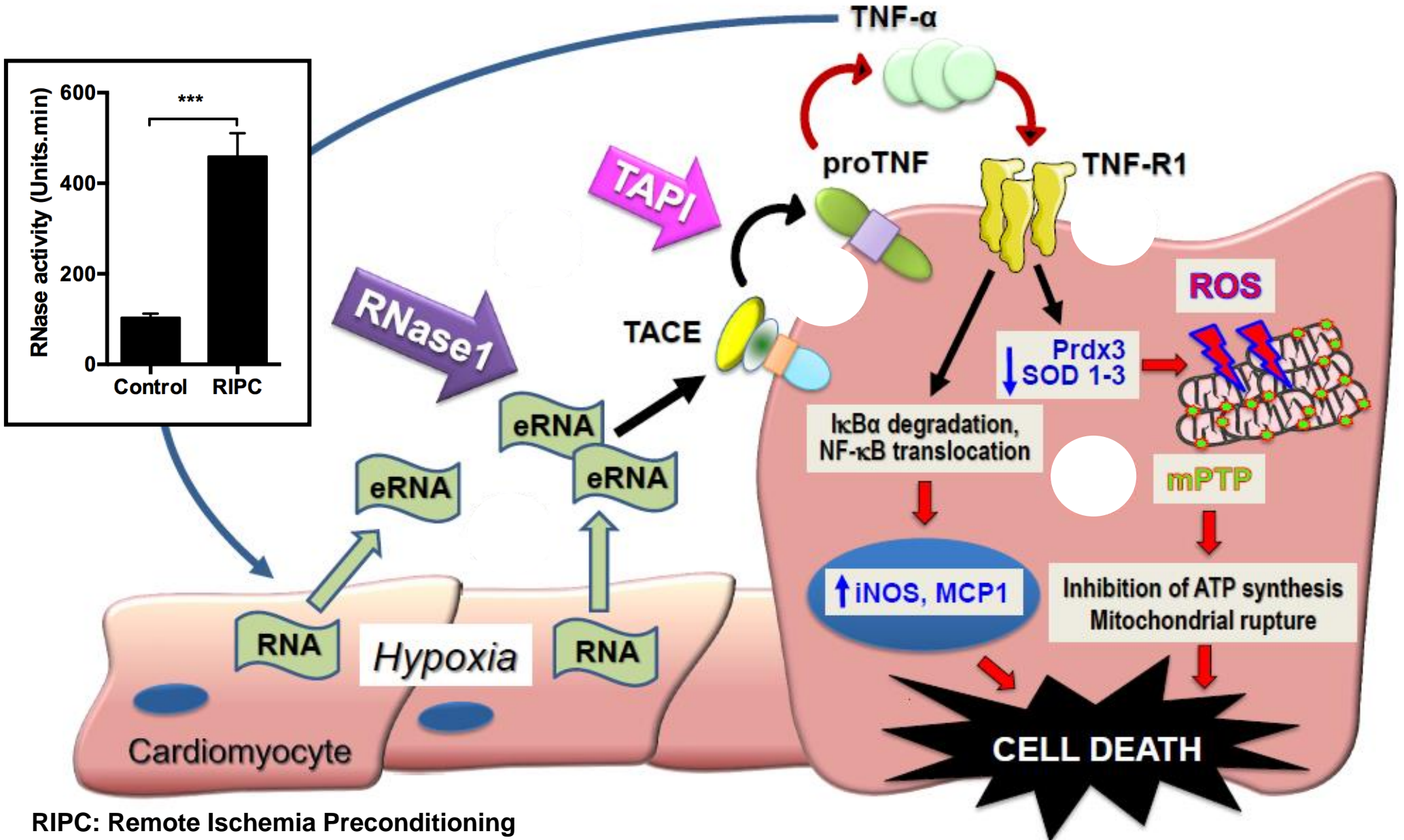
**Peter Volk**

Dept. Neurology, JLU (Giessen)

**Martina Walberer, Tibo Gerriets**



# Damaging Interplay Between eRNA and TNF- $\alpha$ in Cardiac Ischemia/Reperfusion Injury





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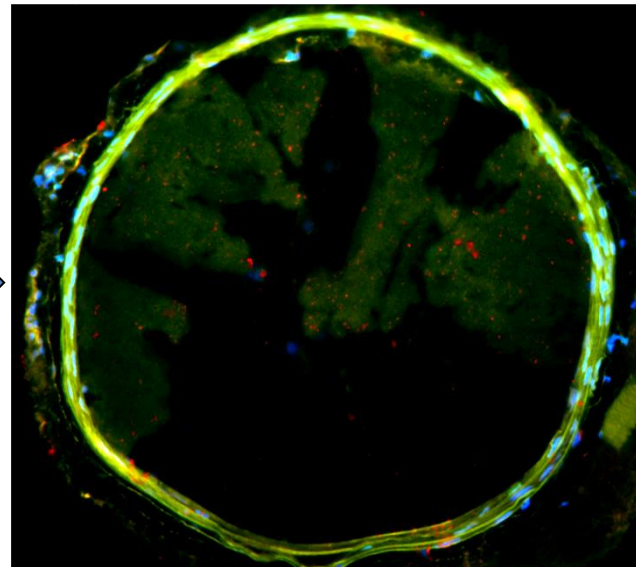
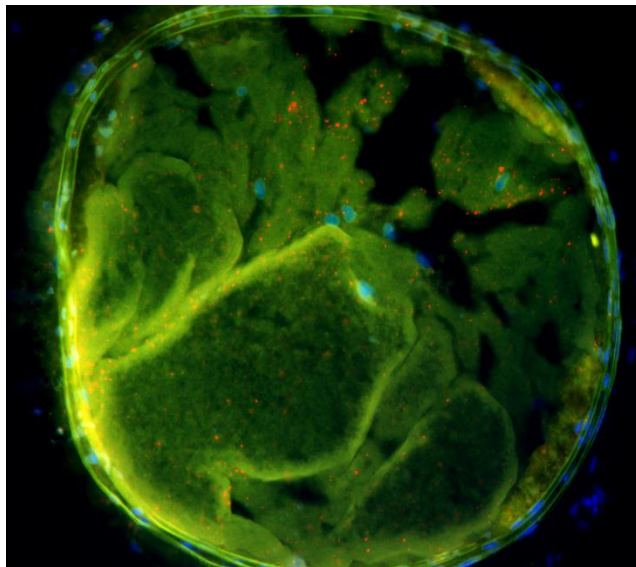
International Society for  
Thrombosis and Hemostasis

# (Damaging) Functions of Self-Extracellular RNA

- Extracellular RNA:

- Blood coagulation, thrombosis
- **Vascular permeability, edema formation**
- Inflammation, atherosclerosis, ischemia/reperfusion injury
- Tumor progression and metastasis

*(Kannemeier et al., PNAS 2007; Fischer et al., Blood 2007; FASEB J 2009; Thromb Haemost 2012; Cancer Res 2013; Jaax et al., Blood 2013; Simseyilmaz et al., Circulation 2014)*

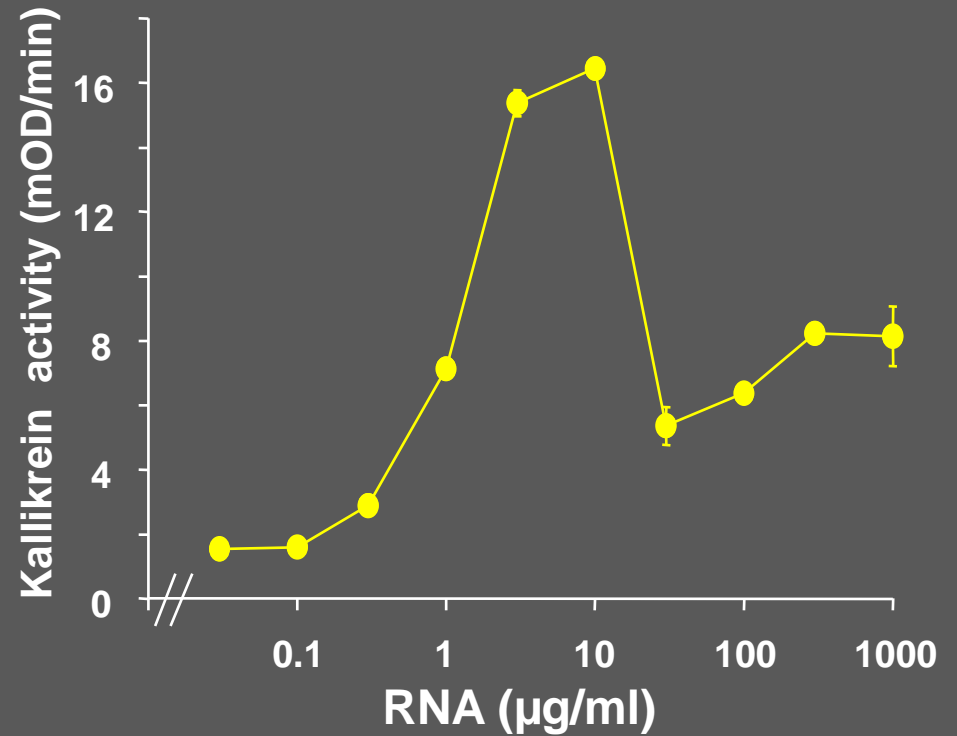
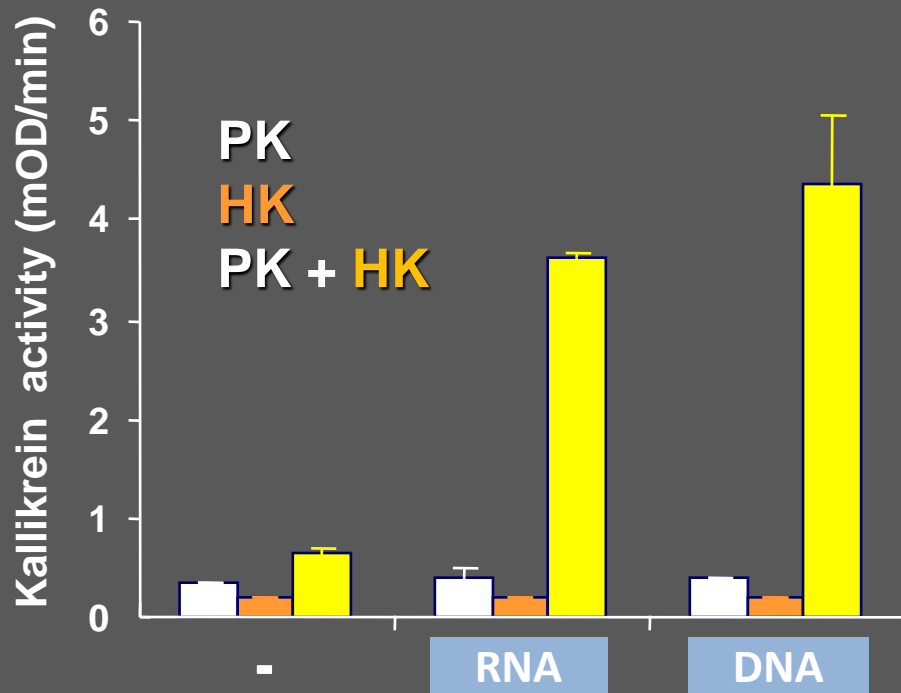


Proposed mechanism

**exRNA** is a natural **auto-activation factor** for proteases of the **CONTACTPHASE** of blood coagulation.

*Kannemeier et al., PNAS 2007*

# Nucleic Acids and Contactphase Activation

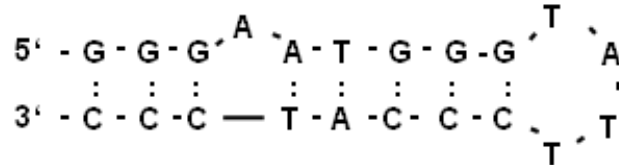


# Procoagulant RNA / DNA Oligonucleotides

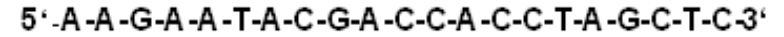
hairpin structures

linear structures

DNA

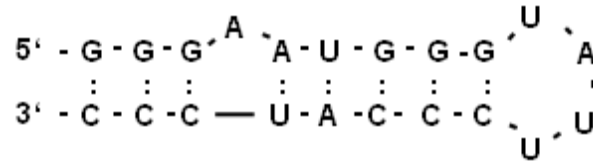


21mer-H1 ( $\Delta G < 0$ )

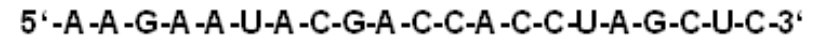


21mer-L1 ( $\Delta G > 0$ )

RNA

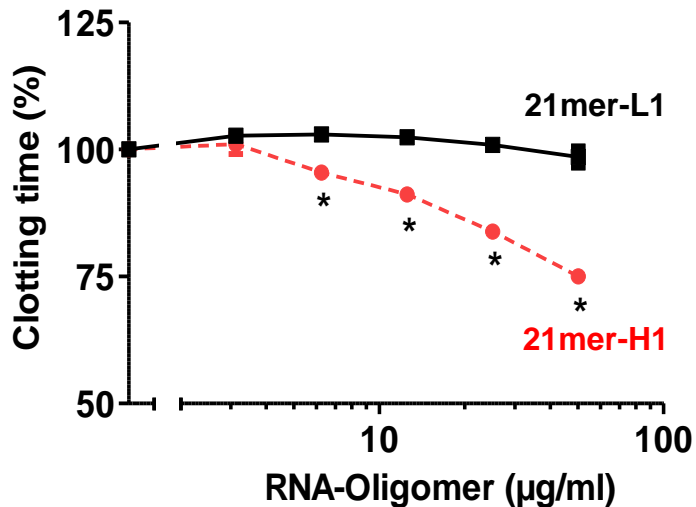


21mer-H1 ( $\Delta G < 0$ )

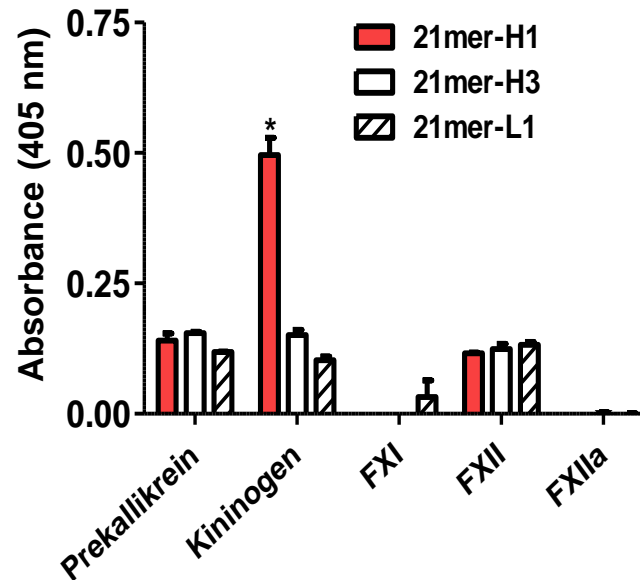


21mer-L1 ( $\Delta G > 0$ )

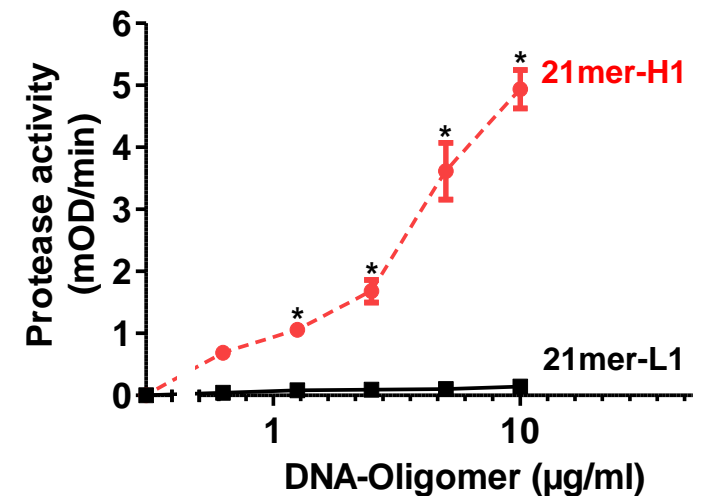
Clotting time



Kininogen binding

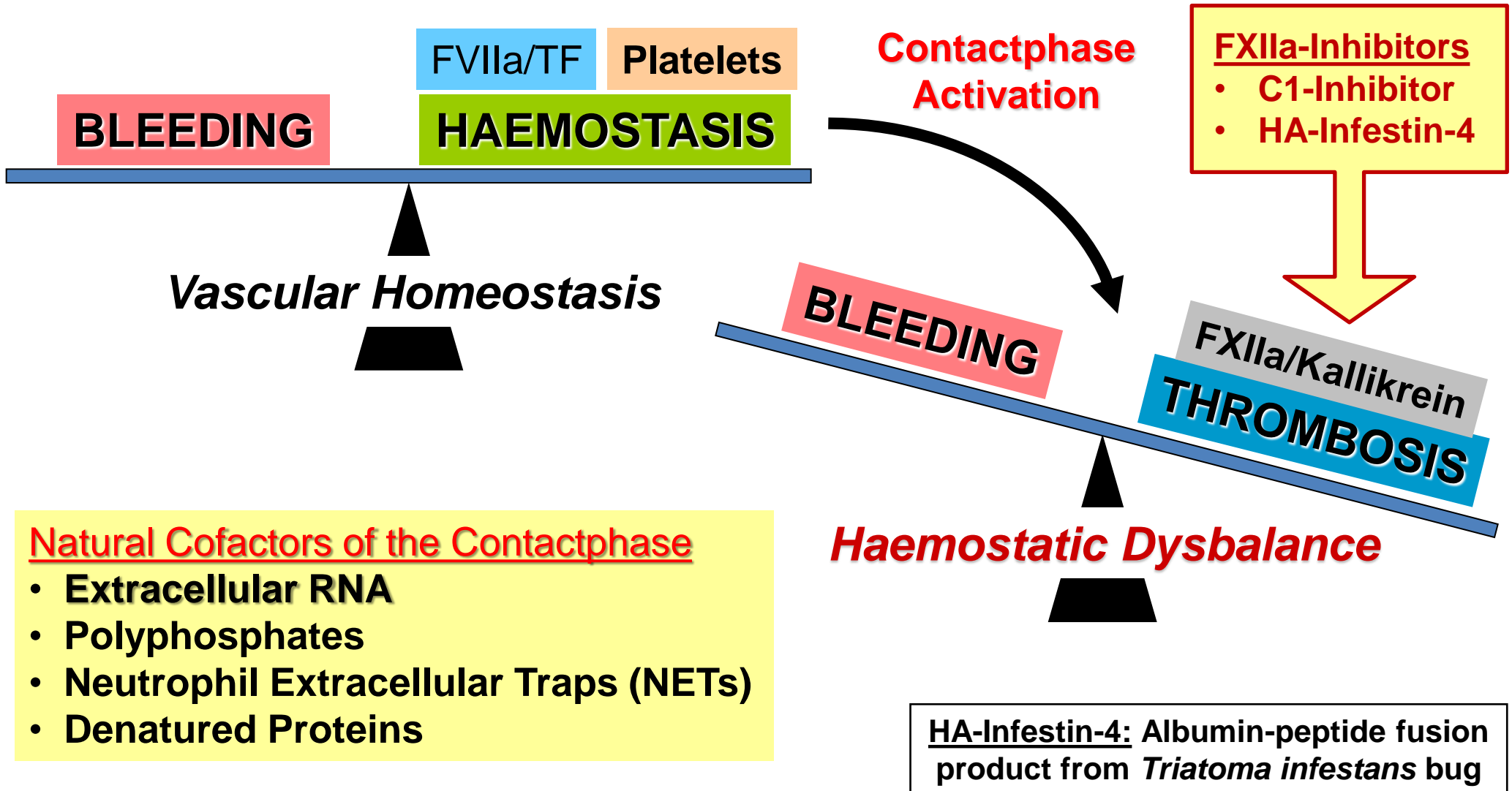


Protease activity





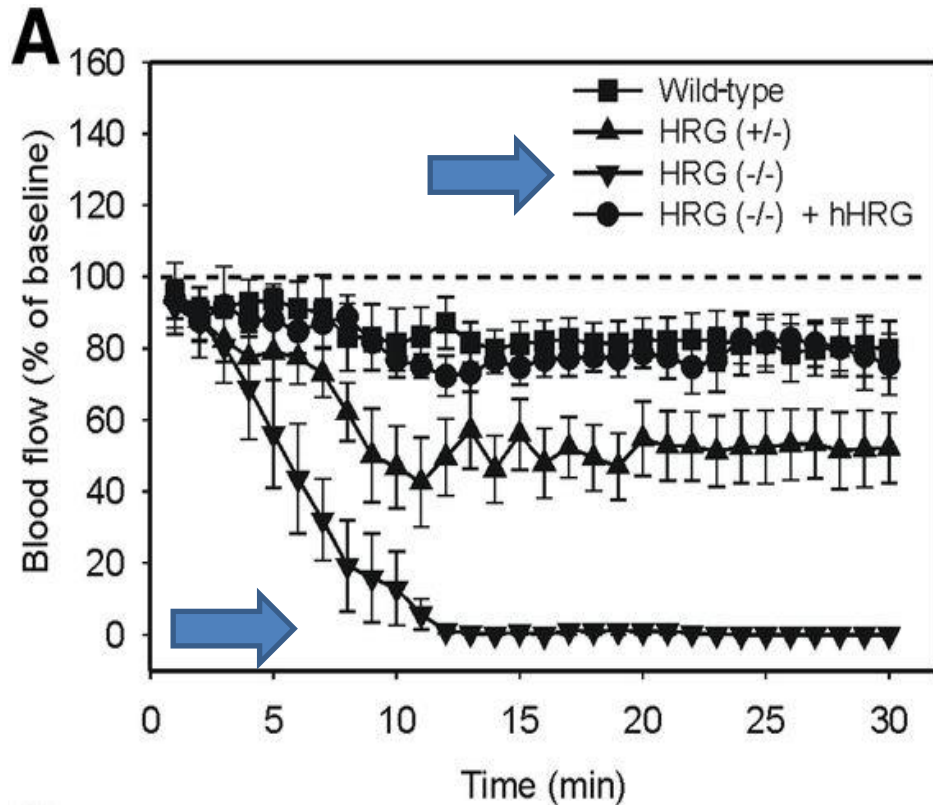
# The Transition from Haemostasis to Thrombosis: Factor XIIa Makes the Difference



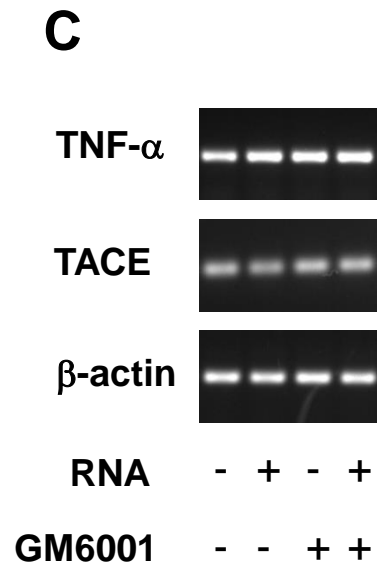
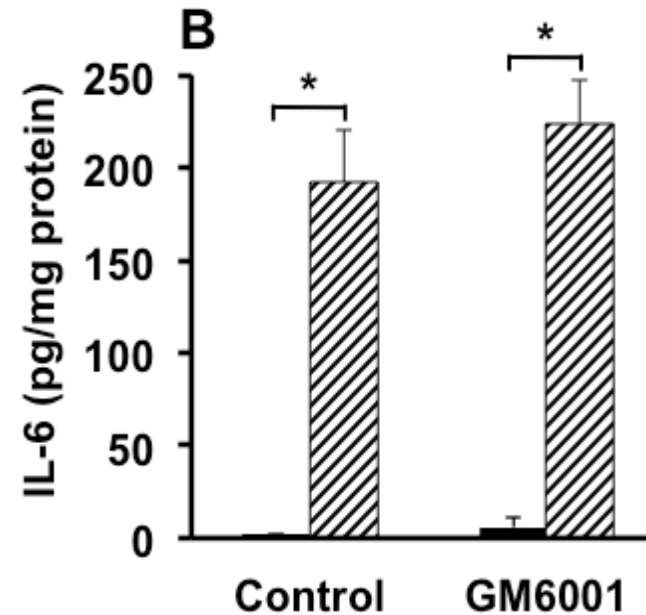
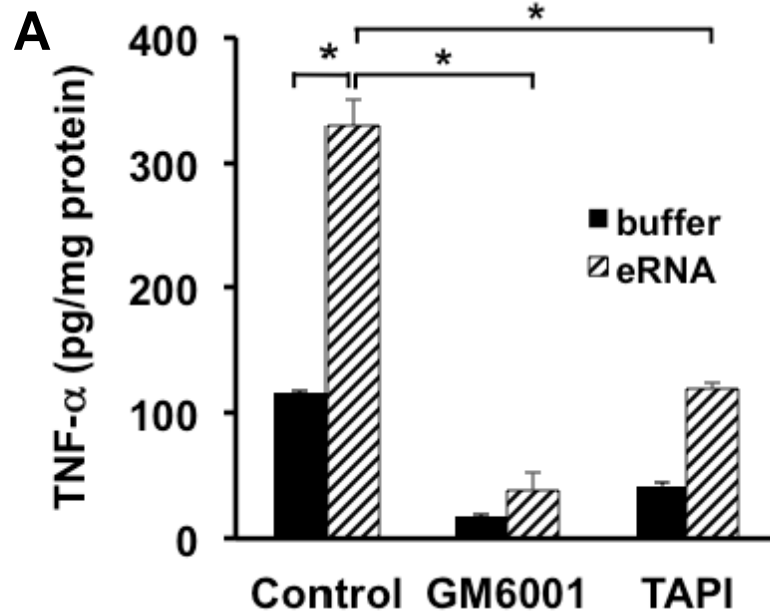
# Histidine-rich Glycoprotein (HRG) Deficiency: Accelerated Thrombosis After FeCl<sub>3</sub>-induced Arterial Injury

## Histidine-rich Glycoprotein (HRG):

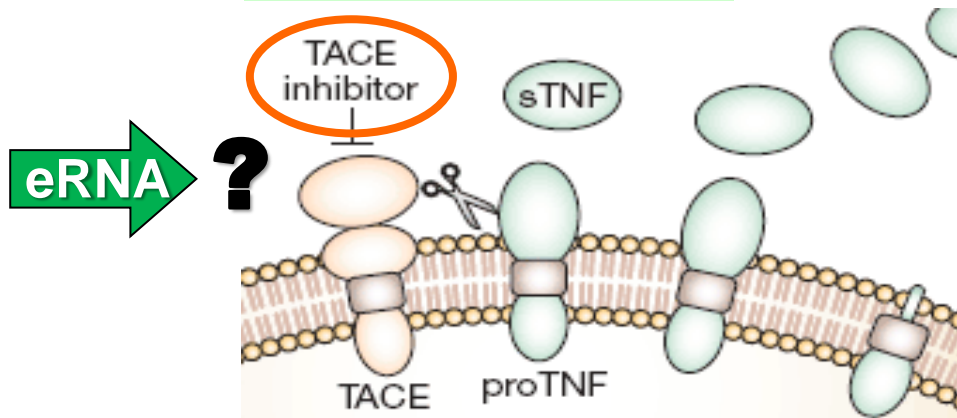
- Plasma and platelet protein, deficiency is associated with thrombophilia
- Binds to heme, heparinoids, thrombospondin, plasminogen, divalent metal ions
- Regulates cell adhesion, angiogenesis, coagulation and fibrinolysis



# Extracellular RNA-induced TNF- $\alpha$ Release: Contribution of the Sheddase TACE / ADAM-17



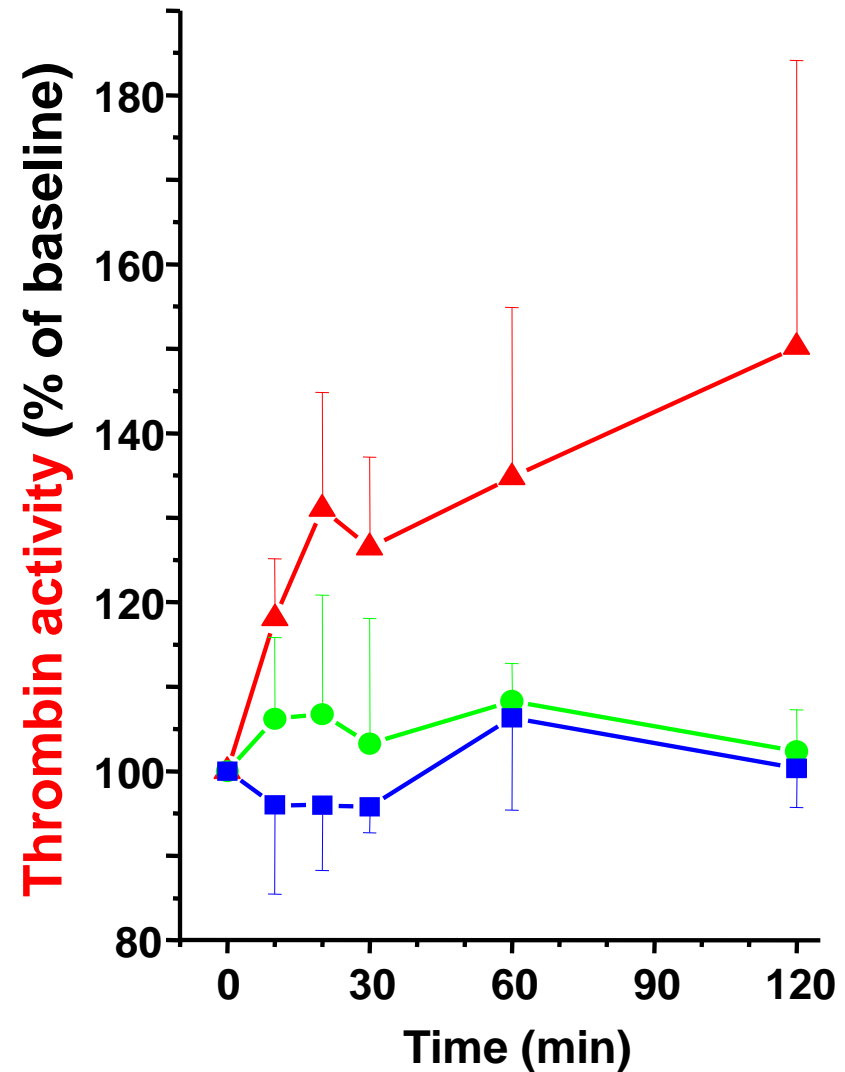
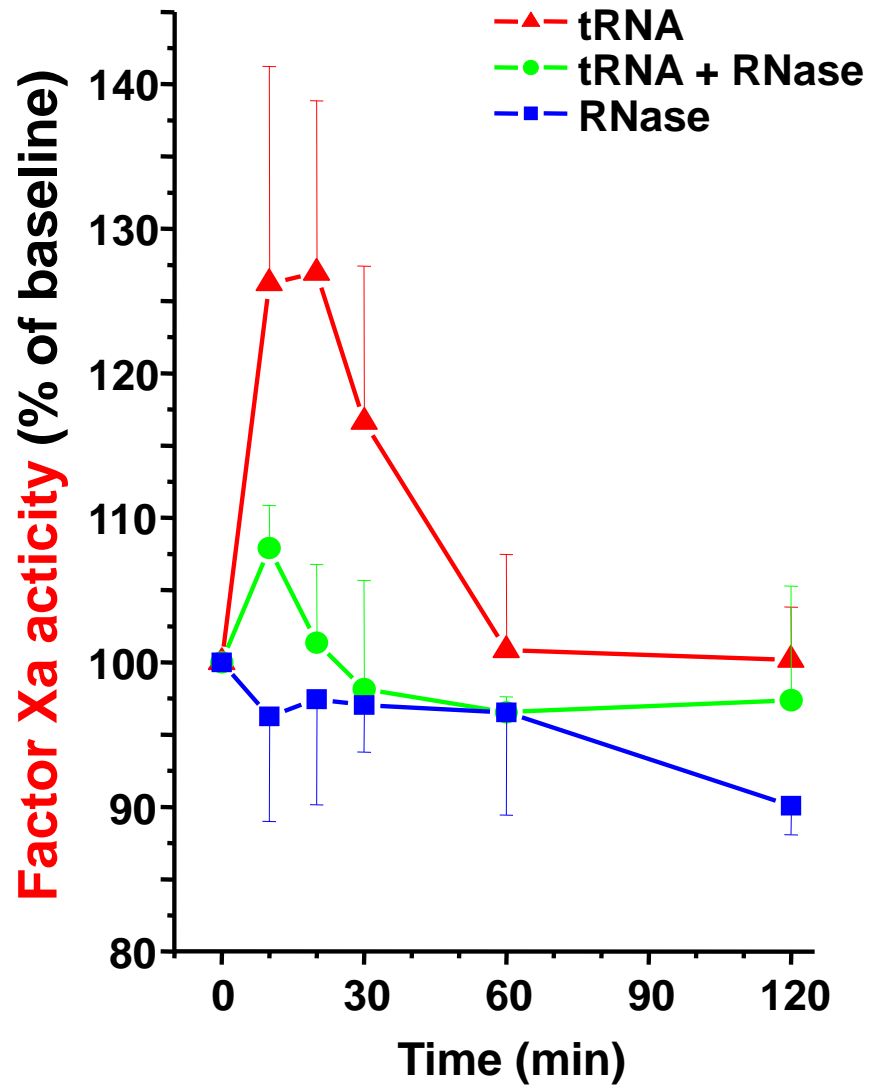
## Proposed mechanism



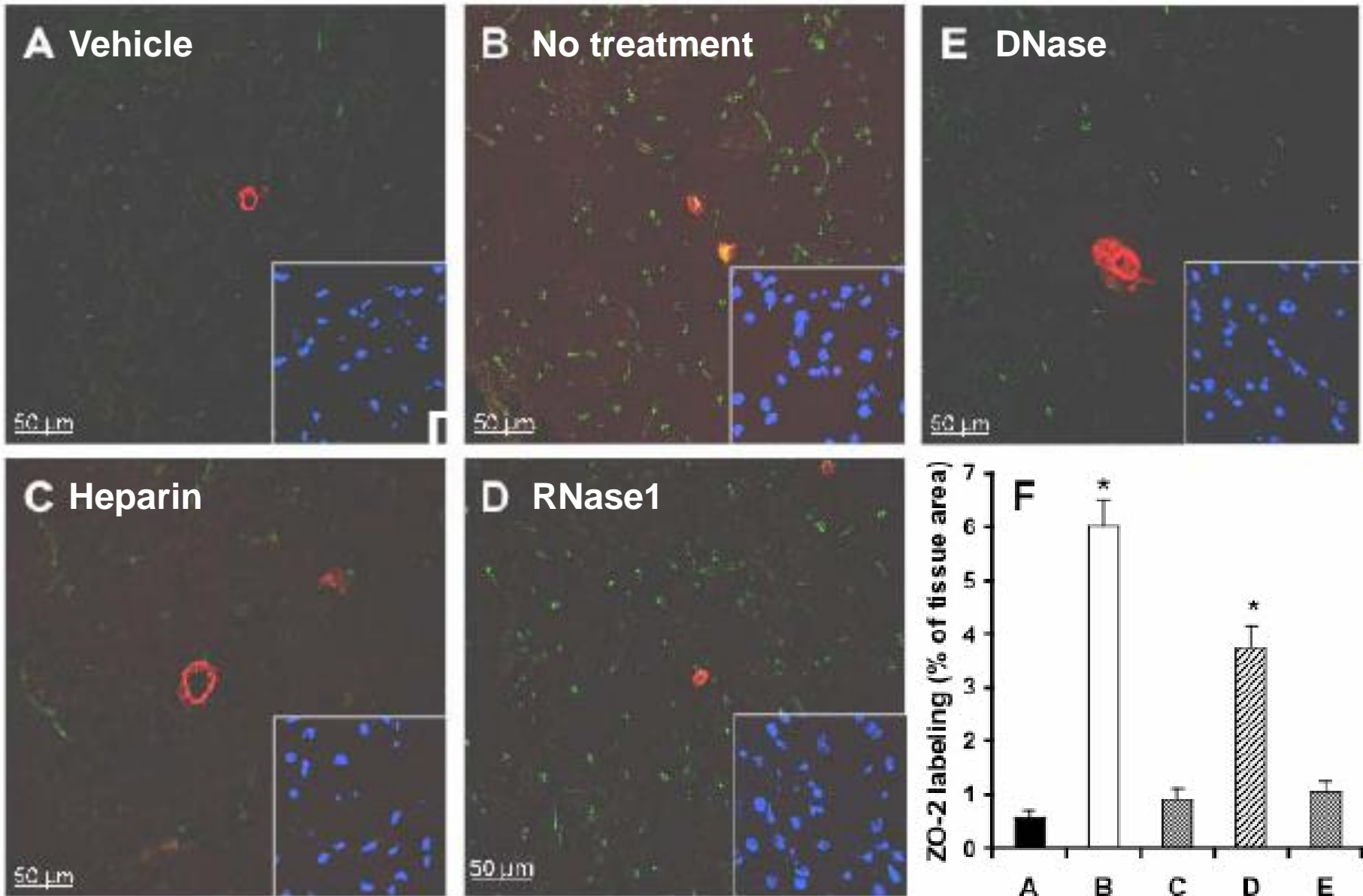
**Extracellular RNA** promotes TACE-induced cleavage of membrane-bound pro-TNF.

**TACE / ADAM-17: Tumor Necrosis Factor- $\alpha$  Converting Enzyme** has >70 substrates.

# Procoagulant Activity of Extracellular RNA *in vivo*



# Influence of RNase on Vessel Integrity: Analysis of ZO-2 in Ischemic Brain Regions





# Expression and Distribution of Vascular RNase1

## Extracellular RNase1

- Member of the RNaseA-family
- Thermostable enzyme (17 kDa)
- Major pancreatic ribonuclease
- Non-toxic factor for host cells

