A microscopic view of several red blood cells, showing their characteristic biconcave disc shape. The cells are densely packed and have a reddish-pink hue. The background is a soft, out-of-focus red, suggesting a blood smear or a similar biological sample.

# PROTEIN 4.1R ON THE STRUCTURE OF RED BLOOD CELL MEMBRANE

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# WHAT WE'RE CURIOUS ABOUT

- Red blood cells perform the most important blood duty. A single drop of blood contains millions of red blood cells which are constantly traveling through your body delivering oxygen and removing waste. If they weren't, your body would slowly die. Because of this, An essential attribute of the red cell is its

# WHY WE'RE DOING THIS RESEARCH...

- It has become clear that the simple model of red cell membrane organization, which endured for so long based on an irreversibly assembled membrane skeleton and a population of

# THE HYPOTHESIS...

- ◉ We suggest that 4.1R protein organizes a macromolecular complex of skeletal and transmembrane proteins at the junctional node and that perturbation of this macromolecular complex not only is responsible for

# 4.1R PROTEIN..

- Protein 4.1R (4.1R) is a multifunctional component of the red cell membrane. It forms a ternary complex with actin and spectrin, which defines the nodal junctions of the membrane-skeletal network, and its attachment to the

# WHAT WE

# ALREADY KNOW...

- By performing various western blots, we have previously shown that the membranes of mouse red cells lacking 4.1R have greatly impaired shear resistance. The same is true of human 4.1R-deficient cells. This is because we now know that deletion of 4.1R in mouse red cells leads to a large diminution of actin accompanied by extensive

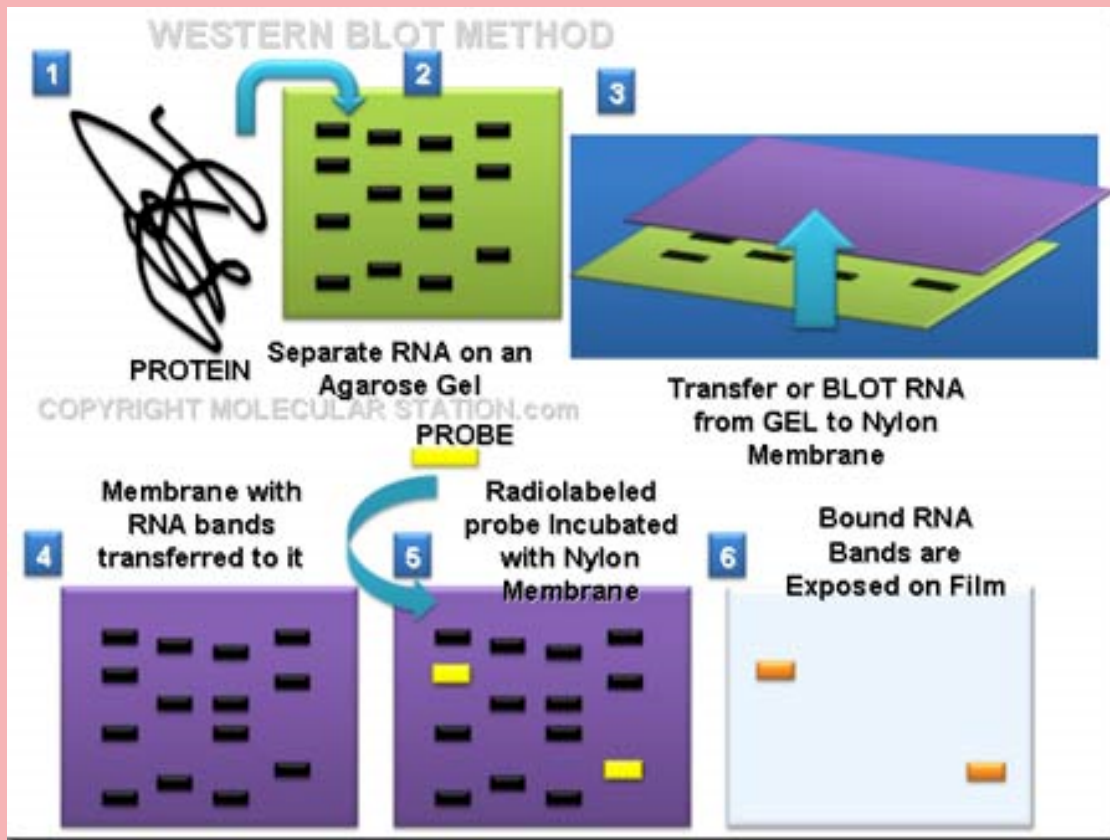
# MATERIALS

- ◉ A SulfoLink kit
- ◉ A Cholesterol Quantification Kit
- ◉ pMAL vector
- ◉ MBP resin
- ◉ monoclonal anti-MBP antibody
- ◉ a DC Protein Assay Kit
- ◉ SDS/PAGE
- ◉ Electrophoresis reagents
- ◉ SuperSignal West Pico chemiluminescence detection kit
- ◉ HRP-conjugated anti-mouse IgG and HRP-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG

# WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR

- **Mice** -4.1R knockout mice had to be generated
- **Generation of Antibodies**-Antibodies against mouse transmembrane proteins GPC, band 3, Rh, RhAG, XK, Kell, Duffy, LW, and CD47 were raised in rabbit by using synthetic peptides as antigens.
- **Phalloidin Staining of Red Cells.**-Freshly drawn blood was washed three times in PBG buffer
- **Electron Microscopy**- Mouse erythrocytes were attached to poly-L-lysine-coated coverslips by centrifugation at  $200 \times g$  for 5 min at room temperature
- **Preparation of Red Cell Membranes**- RBCs

# WHAT IS A WESTERN BLOT?



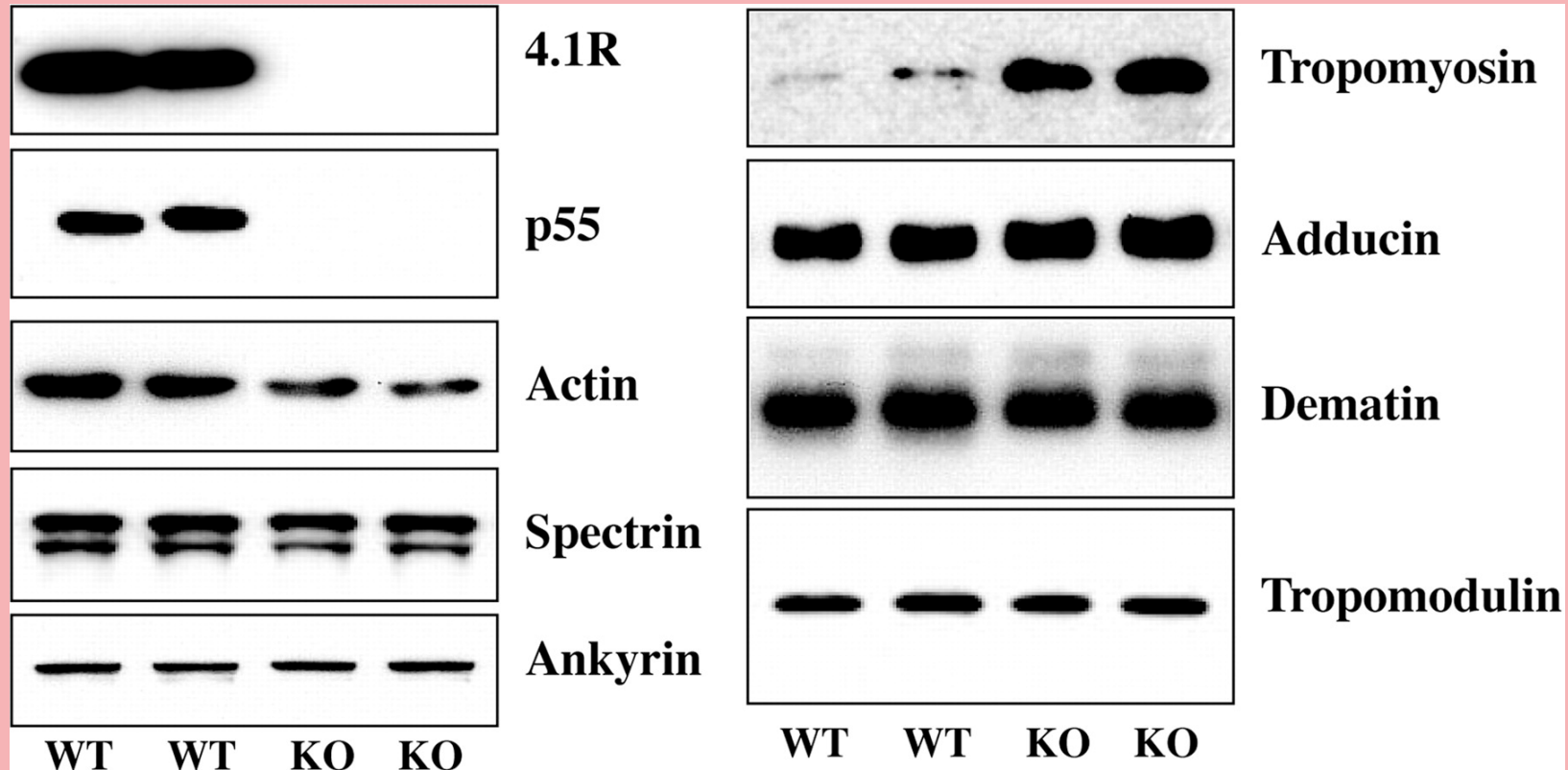
Western blotting is a technique used to identify and locate proteins based on their ability to bind to specific antibodies. So, the Western Blot



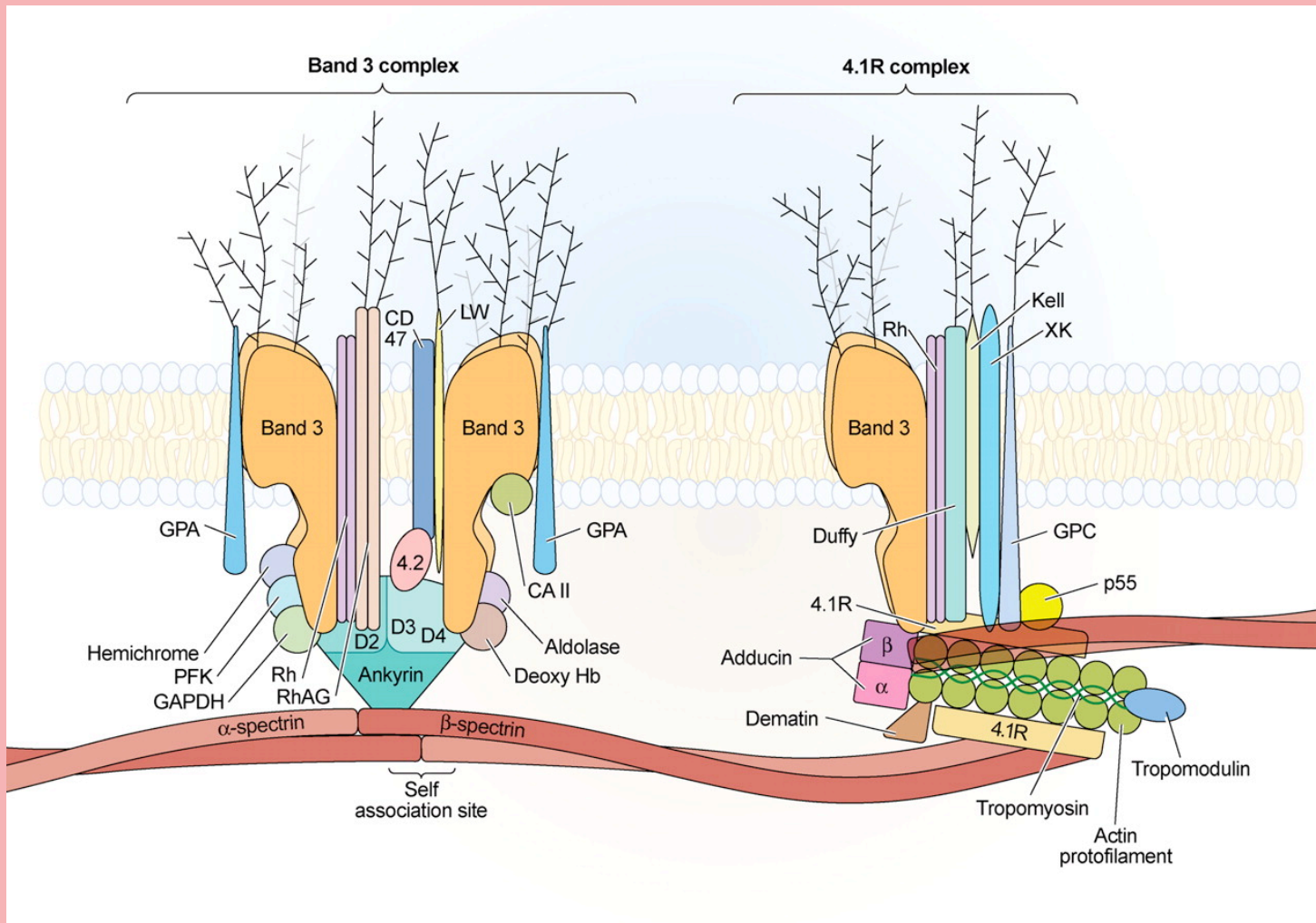
# WHAT WE'RE PLANNING TO DO IN THE FUTURE

- ◉ **SDS/PAGE and Western Blot Analysis-** Aliquots of RBC ghosts, matched for cholesterol content, have to be separated by 10% SDS/PAGE. The proteins have to be transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane.
- ◉ **Flow Cytometry Analysis** -RBCs from wild-type and 4.1R knockout mice have to be washed three times in PBS supplemented with 0.1% BSA (PBS-BSA). Cells have to be washed four times with PBS-BSA before flow cytometry analysis.
- ◉ **Preparation of Recombinant Proteins** - The full-length 4.1R 80-kDa, GST-tagged 30-kDa, 16-kDa, 10-kDa, and 22/24-kDa domains of 4.1R have to be constructed and purified as described previously
- ◉ **Pull-Down Assay** - To measure the binding of 4.1R 80-kDa, 30-kDa, 16-kDa, 10-kDa, and 22/24-kDa domains to the lipid bilayer

# Immunoblots of membrane skeletal proteins in red cells of 4.1R<sup>+/+</sup> and 4.1R<sup>-/-</sup> mice



# Schematic representation of two types of multiprotein complexes in the red cell membrane



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ANY



QUESTIONS?