An alfalfa cDNA encodes a protein with similarity to human snRNP-E

Heribert Hirt, Anton Gartner and Erwin Heberle-Bors
Institute of Microbiology and Genetics, University of Vienna, Althanstrasse 14, A-1090 Vienna, Austria

Submitted December 16, 1991

Small nuclear ribonucleoproteins (snRNPs) are complexes composed of discrete sets of proteins associated with the small nuclear RNAs U1, U2, U5 and U4/U6. These snRNAs have been shown to be required for a variety of RNA processing reactions in euakaryotic cells (1, 2). U1 snRNP acts at the 5′ splice site, U2 snRNP interacts with the branch point and U5 snRNP probably associates with the 3′ splice site (3). The specific roles of the individual snRNA associated proteins in RNA processing are still unclear. However, at least some of the snRNA associated proteins appear to be necessary for specific interaction of the snRNA with the pre-mRNA. A subset of these proteins is recognized by autoantibodies from patients with the autoimmune disease systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) (4, 5). These autoantibodies react with the Sm epitope and can precipitate U1, U2, U4, U5 and U6 snRNPs from human extracts (6). This led

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We appreciate the generous gift of the alfalfa cDNA library from J.Györgyey. This work was supported by a grant from the Österreichischer Fond zur Förderung der Wissenschaften.

REFERENCES