**Publication of a TIGG Special Issue, “Galectins updated: new discoveries, revisions and rebuttals”**

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Galectins are a group of lectins, defined by affinity for β-galactosides and shared structural similarity. Since their discovery in the mid-1970’s and their definition in 1994, wide occurrence of galectins has been proved in not only vertebrates but also invertebrates like nematode and many other organisms including plant, fungi and even virus. Their functions are extensively associated with development, immunity, infection, carcinogenesis, metastasis of malignant cells, etc., but still there remains much to be elucidated, which include non-lectin function(s) as cytosolic proteins. One of the editors (J. H.) edited the first special issue of TIGG with focus on galectins in 1997 by collecting 18 mini-review articles on a few topics. On the occasion of an EMBO Work Shop focusing on galectins entitled: Transducing glycan information into function: Lessons from galectins (Nov. 27th–Dec. 1st, 2016, Mandelieu-la-Napoule, South France), it became evident that the number of galectin researchers are still increasing with wider basic and application areas from many countries. As a result, various novel aspects of this group of mysterious proteins (behaving as both lectins and non-lectins) have been shown. In parallel, genome-wide search approach has revealed a significant number of galectin-related proteins, sharing sequence and structural similarity but lacking galactoside binding-activity. These observations raise a basic question once again; what should be defined as galectins? Hence, one of the editors (J. H.) made up his mind to issue another version of galectin special edition by collaboration with Hakon and Sachiko. Excitingly, many galectin researchers from many countries agreed to join this project.

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