

# CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION .....	9
2. SCHWANN CELLS AS THE PROMINENT PERIPHERAL GLIAL CELLS .....	11
2.1. FUNCTIONAL SPECIALIZATION OF THE PERIPHERAL GLIAL CELLS AND THEIR CYTOPLASMIC DOMAINS .....	12
3. PERIPHERAL GLIAL CELLS DURING DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM .....	15
3.1. MULTIPOTENTIAL NEURAL CREST CELLS .....	16
3.2. SCHWANN CELL PRECURSORS .....	17
3.2.1. <i>The survival of Schwann cell precursors is dependent on neuronal factors</i> .....	18
3.2.2. <i>Are Schwann cell precursors leaders or followers?</i> .....	20
3.2.3. <i>Non-specific cholinesterase molecules of Schwann cell precursors         as an adhesive substrate for growing axons</i> .....	21
3.3. IMMATURE SCHWANN CELLS AND THEIR DIFFERENTIATION .....	28
3.3.1. <i>Morphological changes during maturation of Schwann cells</i> .....	29
3.3.2. <i>Molecular events during maturation of Schwann cells (Influence of the axon         on differentiation of Schwann cells)</i> .....	29
3.4. SCHWANN CELLS AT THE DORSAL ROOT ENTRY ZONE .....	35
3.4.1. <i>Utility of non-specific cholinesterase histochemistry in immature dorsal         root entry zone of rat embryos</i> .....	36
3.5. DEVELOPMENT AND MATURATION OF THE SCHWANN CELL-DERIVED ENVELOPE OF THE MOTOR TERMINALS AND THE DENDRITIC PORTION OF AFFERENT AXONS .....	37
3.5.1. <i>Development and maturation of the terminal Schwann cells         at the neuromuscular junction</i> .....	37
3.5.2. <i>Development and maturation of the specialized Schwann cells in the sensory         nerve formations</i> .....	39
4. CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR CHANGES DISTAL TO PERIPHERAL NERVE INJURY .....	42
4.1. SCHWANN CELLS AND MACROPHAGES DURING DESTRUCTION OF THE MYELIN SHEATH .....	43
4.2. SCHWANN CELL PROLIFERATION DURING WALLERIAN DEGENERATION .....	46
4.3. IMPORTANCE OF THE DISTAL STUMP FOR NERVE REGENERATION .....	48
4.4. MOLECULAR CHANGES IN THE SCHWANN CELLS OF THE DISTAL NERVE STUMP .....	48
4.4.1. <i>Neurotrophins and their receptors</i> .....	49
4.4.2. <i>Extracellular matrix molecules and integrins</i> .....	52
4.4.3. <i>Re-expression of non-specific cholinesterase activity in Schwann cells         of the distal nerve stump</i> .....	53
4.4.4. <i>Histochemical demonstration of DPP-IV activity in Schwann cells         of the distal nerve stump</i> .....	57
5. SCHWANN CELLS AND SOME GENERAL ASPECTS OF REGENERATION IN THE PERIPHERAL NERVOUS SYSTEM .....	59
5.1. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BEHAVIOR OF SCHWANN CELLS DURING DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION OF THE PERIPHERAL NERVE .....	60
5.2. TERMINAL AND SPECIALIZED SCHWANN CELLS AND THEIR ROLE FOR REINNERVATION OF THE NEUROMUSCULAR JUNCTION AND SENSORY NERVE FORMATIONS, RESPECTIVELY .....	60

5.2.1. <i>Terminal Schwann cells</i> .....	61
5.2.2. <i>Specialized Schwann cells</i> .....	62
5.3. THE BASAL LAMINA OF SCHWANN CELLS AND ITS ROLE IN AXONAL REGROWTH .....	64
5.4. THE BASAL LAMINA AND DIFFERENTIATION OF PERIPHERAL GLIAL CELLS IN ADULT RATS .....	66
<b>6. SCHWANN CELLS AND BASIC MODELS OF PERIPHERAL NERVE REPAIR MANAGEMENT .....</b>	<b>71</b>
6.1. SCHWANN CELLS IN CRUSH NERVE INJURY .....	72
6.2. THE ROLE OF SCHWANN CELLS AFTER THE DISCONNECTION OF NERVES ...	73
6.2.1. <i>The injured zone or gap</i> .....	73
6.2.2. <i>The place of injury</i> .....	73
6.2.3. <i>Timing of nerve repair</i> .....	74
6.2.4. <i>Suture</i> .....	74
6.2.5. <i>Autogeneous graft</i> .....	75
6.3. MISDIRECTION AND THE PROBLEM OF CORRECT NAVIGATION OF THE REGROWING AXONS .....	76
6.3.1. <i>Formation of the pseudoperineurial layers by Schwann cells</i> .....	79
6.4. SCHWANN CELLS AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF BRIDGING THE NERVE GAP .....	81
6.4.1. <i>Nerve allografts</i> .....	81
6.4.2. <i>Acellular nerve grafts</i> .....	82
6.4.3. <i>Acellular muscle grafts</i> .....	90
6.4.4. <i>Entubation of the damaged peripheral nerve</i> .....	92
<b>7. THE MIGRATORY CAPACITY OF SCHWANN CELLS .....</b>	<b>98</b>
7.1. MIGRATION DURING DEVELOPMENT AND NERVE REGENERATION .....	98
7.2. THE MIGRATION OF SCHWANN CELLS IN ACELLULAR GRAFTS .....	99
7.3. THE MIGRATION OF SCHWANN CELLS IN TUBULAR PROSTHESIS .....	99
7.3.1. <i>Diffusible molecules</i> .....	100
7.3.2. <i>Substrate and substrate bound molecules</i> .....	102
7.3.3. <i>Fibroblasts may restrict the migration of Schwann cells</i> .....	103
7.4. THE STIMULATION OF SCHWANN CELL MIGRATION BY DENERVATED MUSCLE .....	104
<b>8. SCHWANN CELLS AND AXON REGENERATION OF THE CNS NEURONS .....</b>	<b>106</b>
8.1. RESIDENT SCHWANN CELLS IN THE SPINAL CORD AND THEIR INTERACTION WITH ASTROCYTES .....	107
8.2. IMPLANTATION OF SCHWANN CELLS INTO THE CNS AS A POTENT APPROACH FOR REMYELINATION OF DEMYELINATED AXONS .....	108
8.3. REGENERATION OF AXONS IN THE DORSAL SPINAL ROOTS AND THROUGH THE TRANSITIONAL ZONE OF THE SPINAL NERVE ROOTS ..	109
8.4. RECONNECTION OF THE SPINAL CORD MOTONEURONS AND THE STRIATED MUSCLES BY NERVE GRAFT .....	110
<b>SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>ABBREVIATIONS .....</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>REFERENCE .....</b>	<b>120</b>