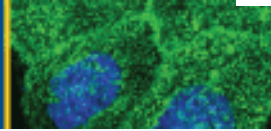


God must love galectins; he made so many of them.

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[Douglas N.W. Cooper](#) , [Samuel H. Barondes](#)

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Galectins are a family of proteins first identified as galactoside-binding lectins in extracts of vertebrate tissue (Barondes *et al.*, 1994a; Various authors, 1997). Sequencing of such proteins isolated from amphibians, birds, fish, and mammals revealed extensive sequence similarity, and in 1994, the galectin family was formally defined (Barondes *et al.*, 1994b) on the basis of both shared sequence and galactoside binding. Four human galectins, which had been discovered in various contexts, and which bore multiple names, were renamed galectin-1 through -4. Since that time, advances in molecular genetics have led to the identification of many new members of the galectin gene family, which have been discovered on the basis of sequence similarity. Here we call attention to these newly established galectins and to additional genes, whose sequence suggests that they too are galectin...

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