



**THE BASEMENT MEMBRANE ZONE:
MAKING THE CONNECTION**

American Academy of Dermatology

Study Notes

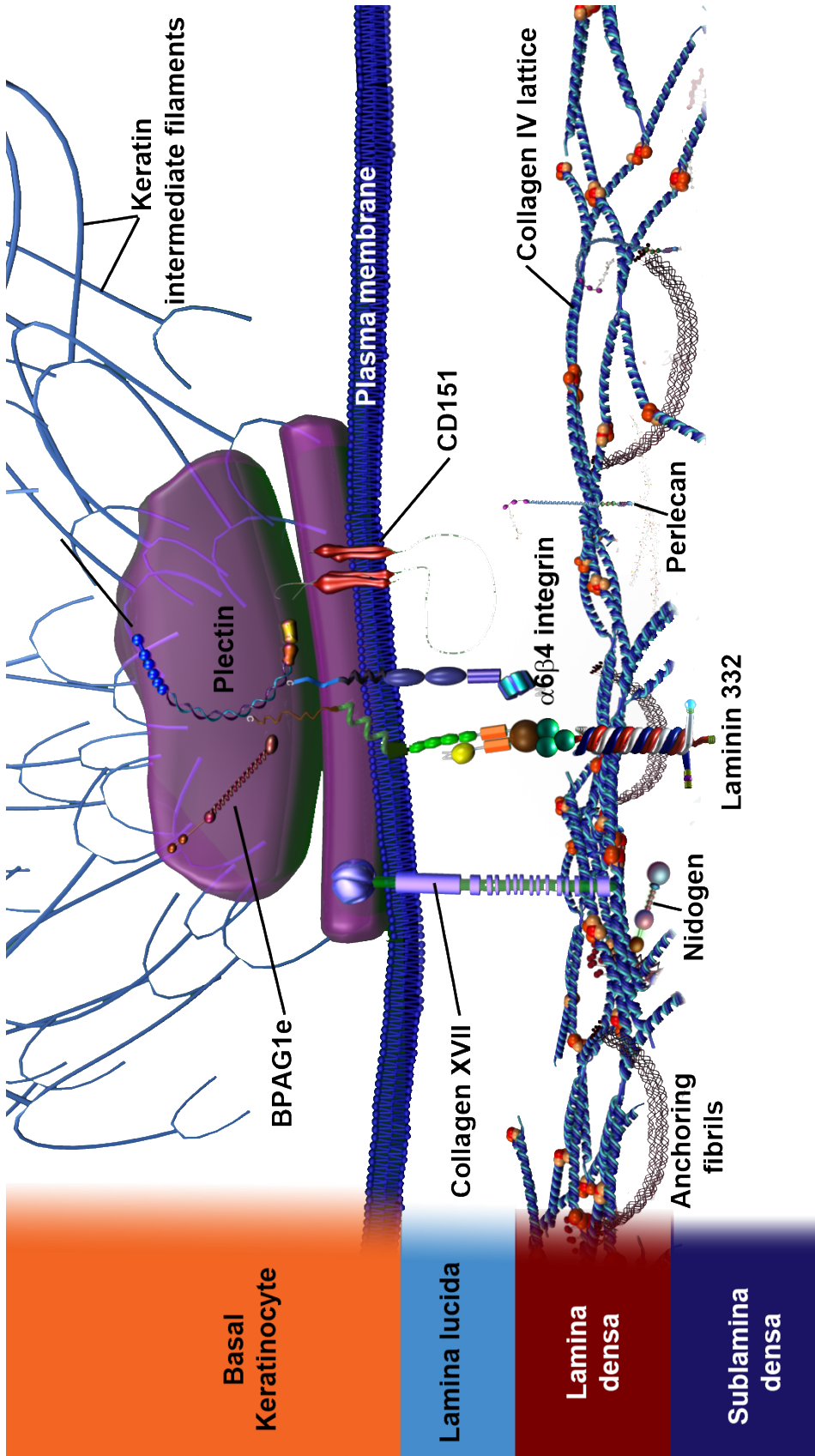
THE BASEMENT MEMBRANE ZONE: MAKING THE CONNECTION

Study Guide

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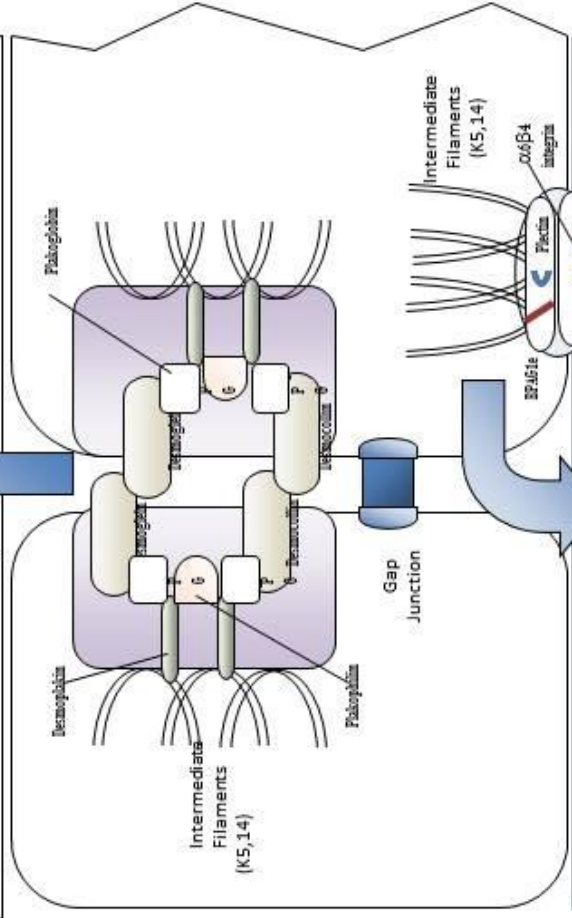
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Desmosome

- Cell-to-cell attachment.
- Binds keratin intermediate filaments, not actin like adherens junctions.
- Desmoglein/Desmocollin
- Plakoglobin (PG)
- Desmoplakin
- Plakophilin

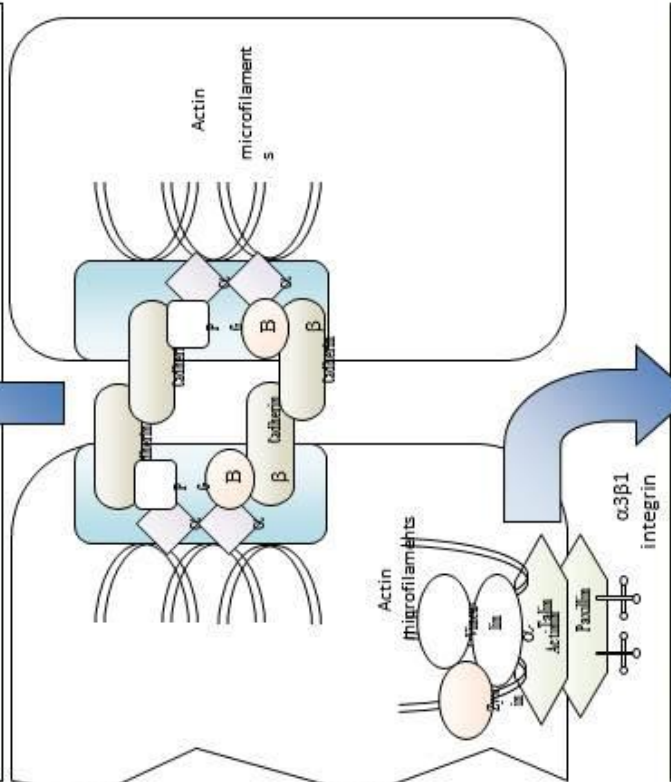


Hemidesmosome (HD)

- Basal cell-to-dermis attachment.
- Basal Keratinocyte:
 - Intermediate keratin filaments (K5,14)
 - HD (BPAG1e, plectin, COL XVII, $\alpha6\beta4$ integrin)
- Lamina Lucida:
 - Anchoring filaments (Laminin 332, COL XVII, nidogen)
 - $\alpha6\beta4$ integrin, CD151
 - COL XVII
- Lamina densa:
 - COL IV
 - Laminin 332,311, 511
 - Nidogen
 - Perlecan
- Sublamina densa
 - COL VII

Adherens Junction

- Cell-to-cell attachment.
- Binds actin microfilaments, not keratin like desmosomes.
- Classic cadherin
- Plakoglobin (PG)
 - α -catenin
 - β -catenin

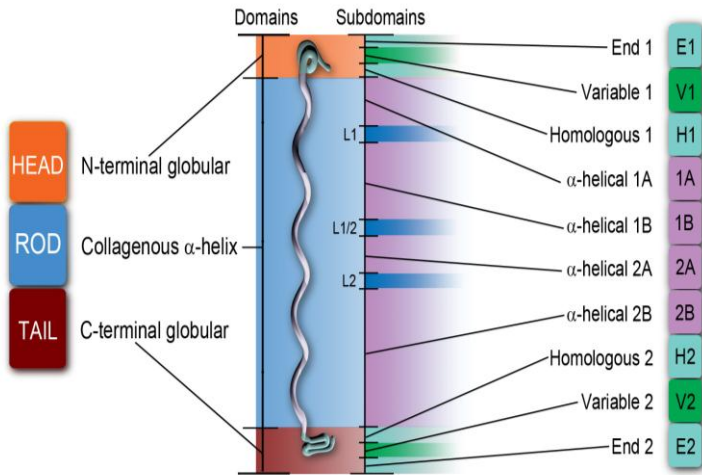
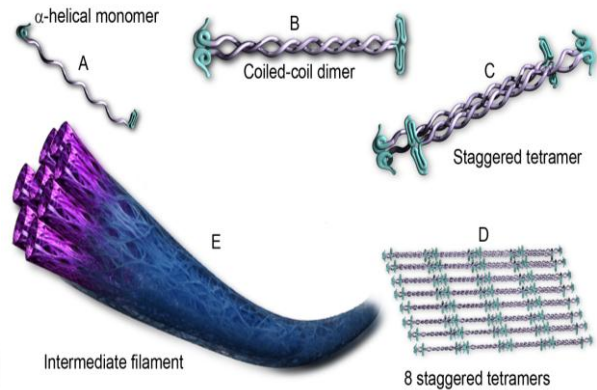


Focal (adherens) Contact

- Cell attachment to underlying substrate.
- Involved in cell signaling via $\alpha3\beta1$ integrin.
- Possible role in cell migration.
- Components (ZAP TV + integrin):
 - Zyxin
 - α -actinin
 - Paxillin
 - Talin
 - Vinculin
 - $\alpha3\beta1$ integrin
- Binds actin filaments, unlike HD, which binds intermediate filaments.

Intermediate Filaments, Type I & II

- **Classification:** Cytoskeletal protein
- **Molecular weight:** 40-64 kDa.
- **Location:** Basal keratinocyte.
- **Function(s):**
 - a. Structural/mechanical integrity.
 - b. Organizing cytoplasmic architecture.
 - c. Intracellular signaling.
 - d. Regulation of transcription.
- **Disease associations:**
 - a. Dominant epidermolysis bullosa simplex (DEBS) [K5, K14].
 - b. REBS [K14].
 - c. EBS, Köebner type [K5, K14].
 - d. EBS, Weber-Cockayne type [K5, K14].
 - e. EBS, Dowling-Meara type [K5, K14].
 - f. EBS with mottled pigmentation [K5, K14].
 - g. EBS with migratory circinate erythema [K5].
 - h. EBS with severe palmoplantar hyperkeratosis [K5].
 - i. Dowling-Degos disease [K5]
 - j. Epidermolytic hyperkeratosis [K1,K10]
 - k. Epidermolytic PPK [K1, K5, K9,K10, K16].
 - l. Diffuse non-epidermolytic PPK [K1].
 - m. Focal non-epidermolytic PPK [K6c, K16].
 - n. Ichthyosis hystrix, Curth-Mackin type [K1].
 - o. Cyclic ichthyosis with epidermolytic hyperkeratosis [K1, K10]
 - p. Greither's syndrome [K1].
 - q. Striate palmoplantar keratoderma [K1].

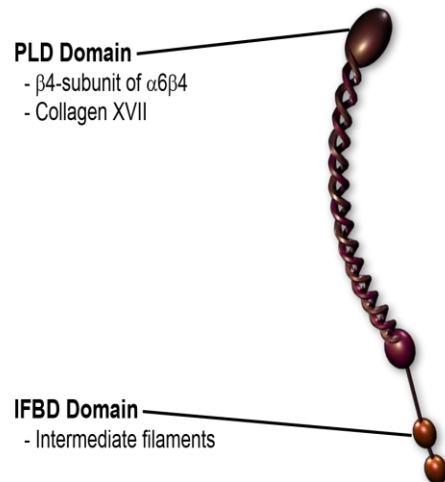
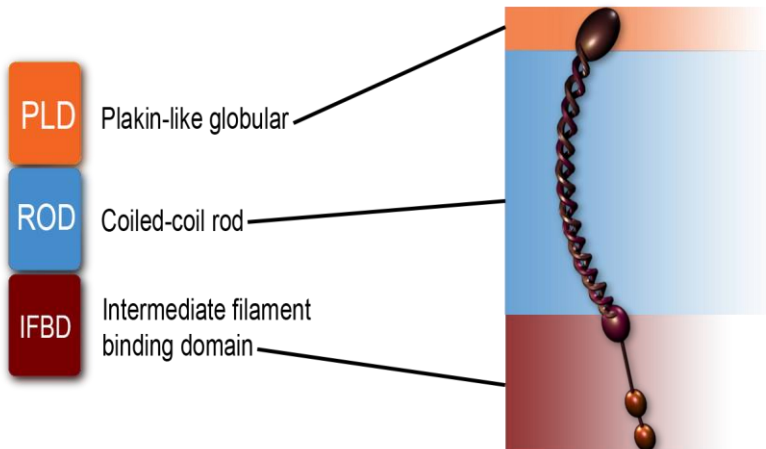


IF binds:
 - Plectin
 - BPAG1



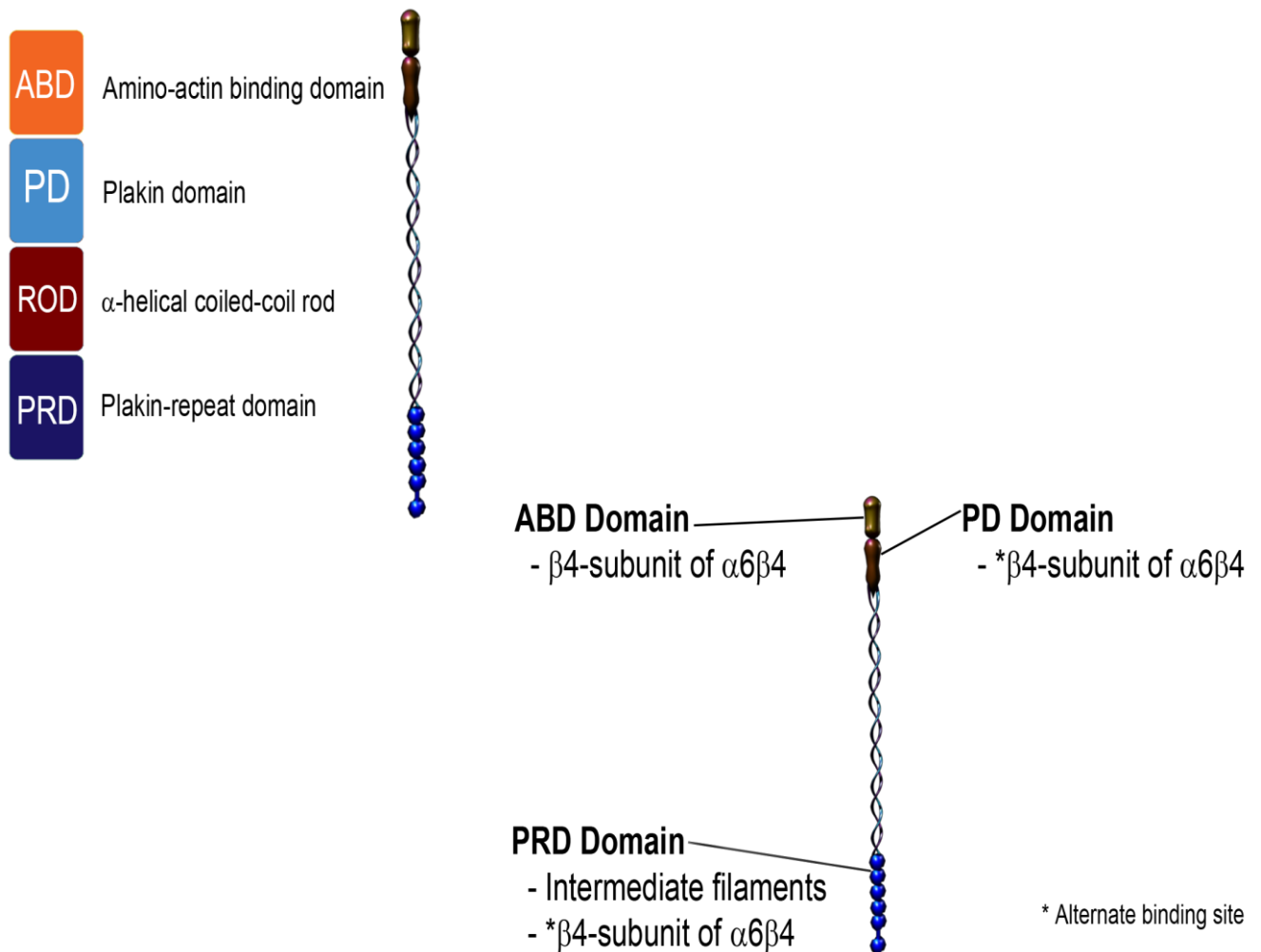
BPAG1e

- **Classification:** Plakin family of proteins.
- **Molecular weight:** 230 kDa
- **Location:** Basal keratinocyte, HD (inner plaque).
- **Function(s):**
 - a. Structural/mechanical integrity.
 - b. Component of hemidesmosome (type I).
 - c. Signaling (via $\beta 4$ integrin binding) for epidermal migration and cell polarity.
- **Disease associations:**
 - Bullous pemphigoid.
 - Paraneoplastic pemphigus.



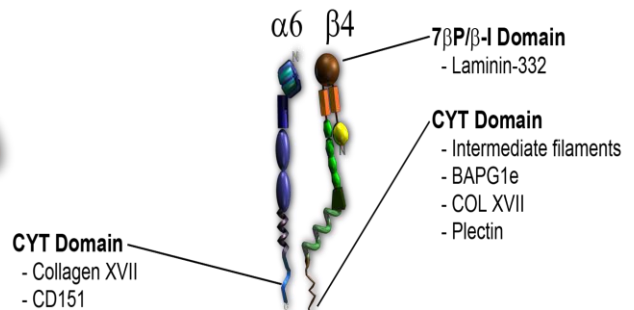
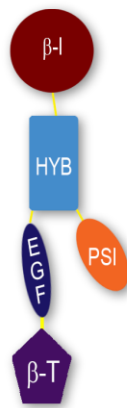
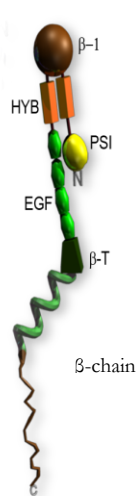
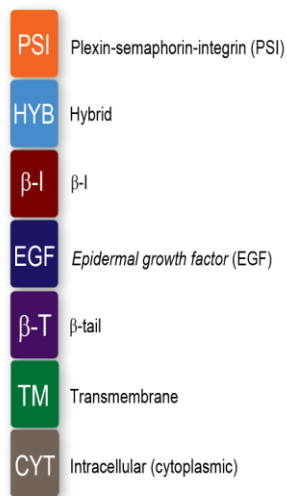
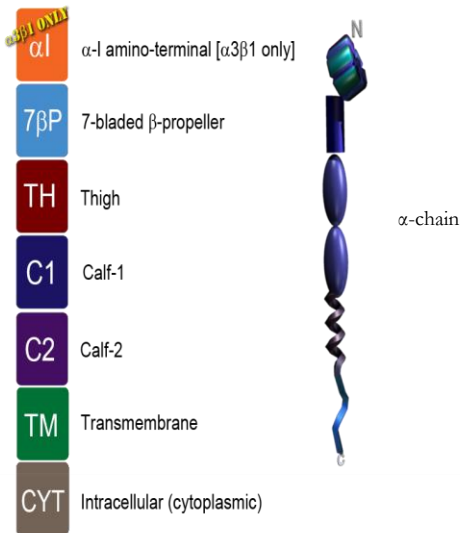
Plectin

- **Classification:** Plakin family of proteins.
- **Molecular weight:** 450-533 kDa.
- **Location:** Basal keratinocyte, HD (inner plaque).
- **Function(s):**
 - a. Structural/mechanical integrity of hemidesmosomes.
 - b. Linkage of intracellular cyokeratin proteins.
 - c. Scaffold for signaling proteins.
- **Disease associations:**
 - a. Epidermolysis bullosa simplex with muscular dystrophy.
 - b. Epidermolysis bullosa simplex with pyloric atresia.
 - c. Epidermolysis bullosa simplex Ogna variant.
 - d. Paraneoplastic pemphigus.
 - e. Bullous pemphigoid.



Integrins

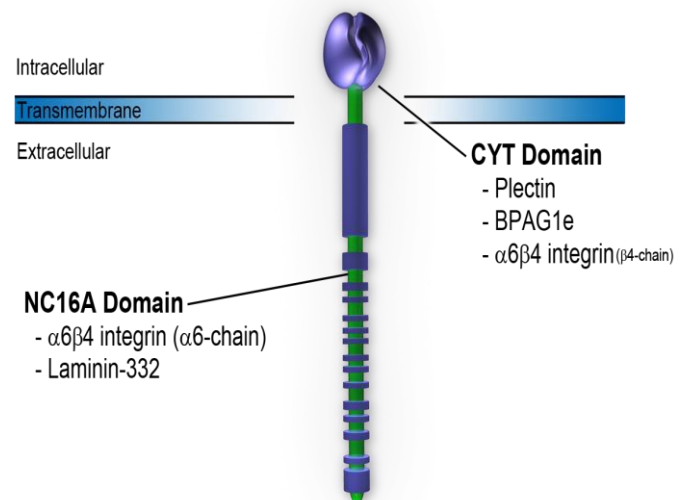
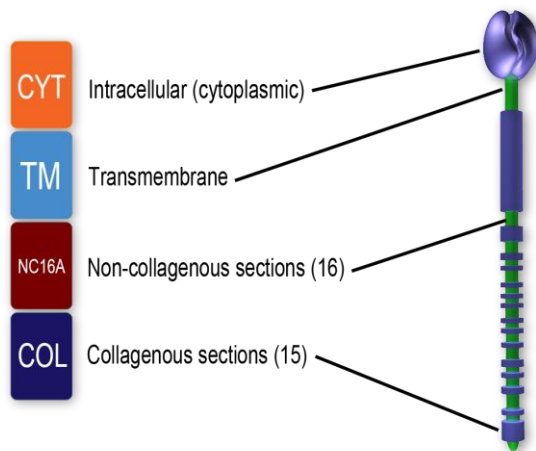
- **Classification:** Integrins ($\alpha 6\beta 4$, $\alpha 3\beta 1$)
- **Molecular weight:** 260-360 kDa
- **Location:** Basal keratinocyte, HD (outer plaque), lamina lucida.
- **Function(s):**
 - a. Structural/mechanical integrity.
 - b. Epidermal homeostasis (adhesion, differentiation, proliferation).
 - c. Cellular signaling.
 - d. Hair growth.
- **Disease associations:**
 - a. Junctional epidermolysis bullosa with pyloric atresia (Itga6, Itgb4).
 - b. Psoriasis (Itgb1).



Collagen XVII

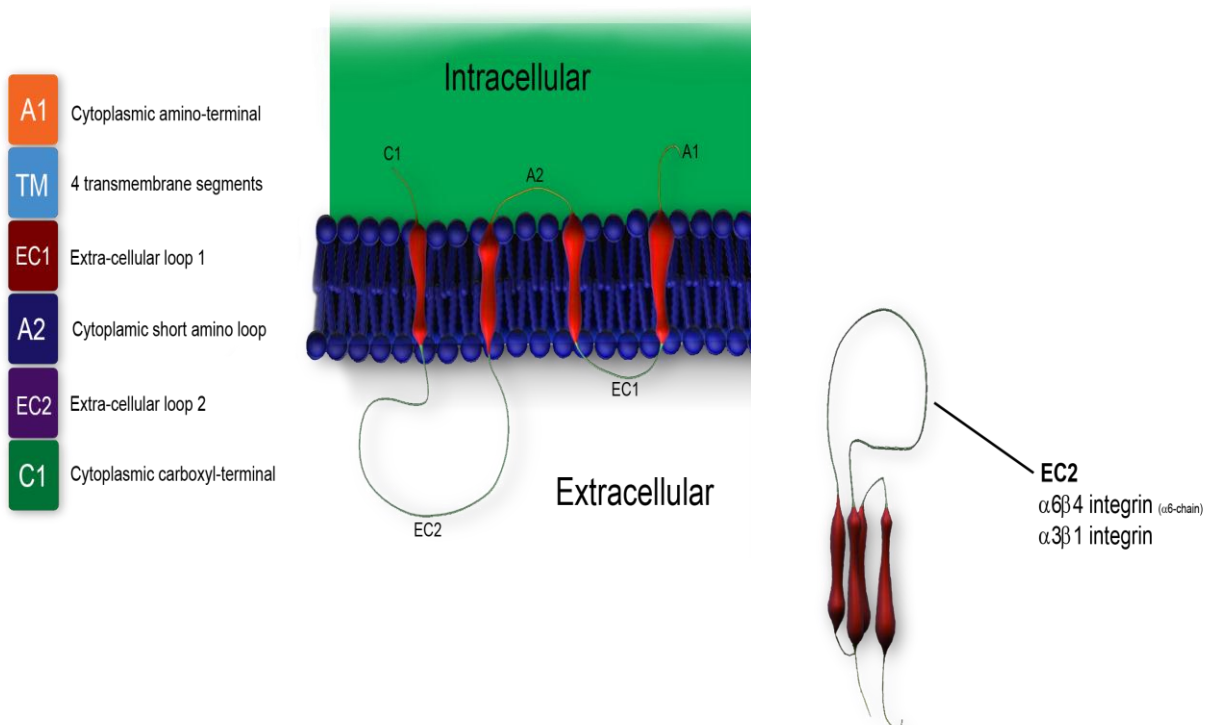
Classification: Transmembrane collagen

- **Molecular weight:** 180 kDa
- **Location:** Basal keratinocyte, HD (outer plaque), lamina lucida, lamina densa.
- **Function(s):**
 - a. Structural/mechanical integrity.
 - b. Basal cell adhesion/migration.
 - c. Tooth enamel formation.
- **Disease associations:**
 - a. Bullous pemphigoid.
 - b. Generalized atrophic benign epidermolysis bullosa (GABEB)
 - c. Junctional epidermolysis bullosa (JEB-other)(COL17A1).
 - d. Linear IgA bullous dermatosis.



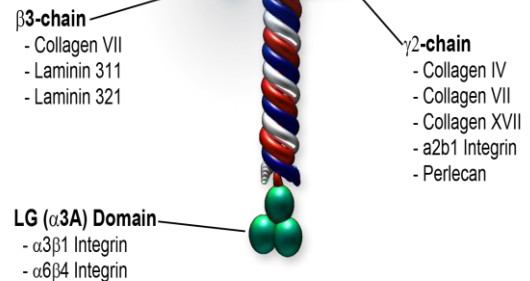
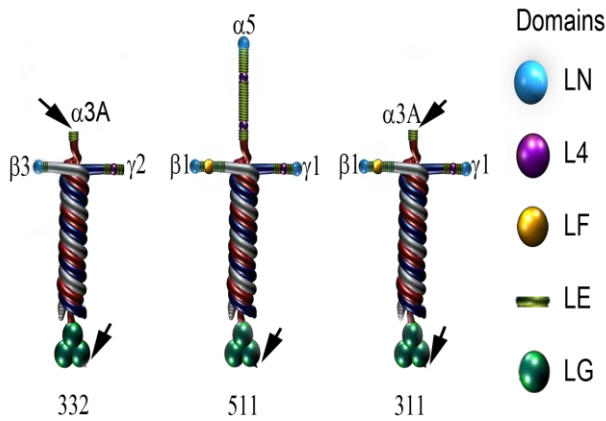
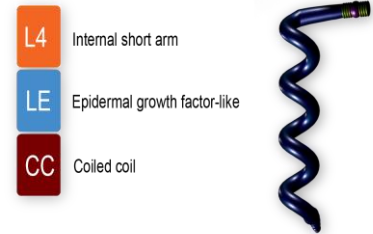
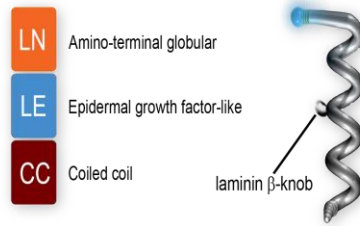
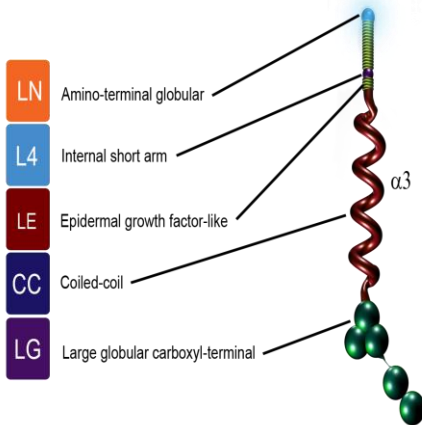
CD151

- **Classification:** Tetraspanin (cell surface proteins)
- **Molecular weight:** 29 kDa
- **Location:** Basal keratinocyte and lamina lucida.
- **Function(s):**
 - a. Structural/mechanical integrity.
 - b. Mediation of transmembrane signal transduction.
 - c. Mediation of cellular:
 - i. Development.
 - ii. Activation.
 - iii. Growth.
 - iv. Motility (i.e. invasion and metastasis of cancer cells).
 - d. Potential tumor marker (breast, liver).
 - e. Regulation of integrin function.
- **Disease associations:**
 - a. Nephropathy with pretibial epidermolysis bullosa and deafness.
 - b. Hereditary nephritis.
 - c. B-thalassemia minor.
 - d. Gingival squamous cell cancer.
 - e. Merkel cell carcinoma.
 - f. Pancreatic cancer.
 - g. Ductal breast carcinoma.
 - h. Prostate cancer (adenoma)
 - i. Hepatocellular cancer.
 - j. Lung cancer.



Laminins (332, 311, 511)

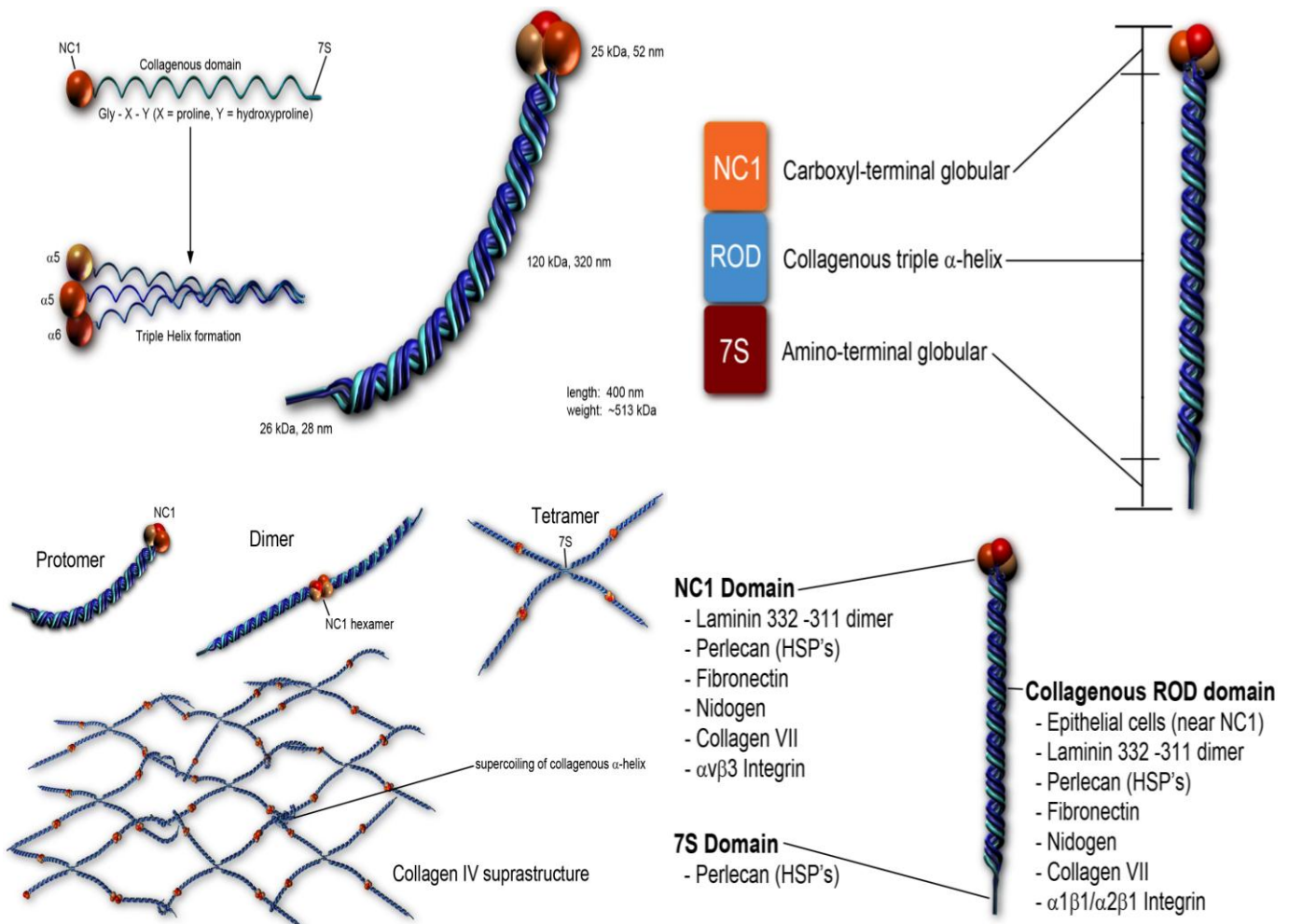
- **Classification:** Laminin family
- **Molecular weight:** ≈ 900 kDa
- **Location:** Lamina lucida and lamina densa.
- **Function(s):**
 - a. Structural/mechanical integrity.
 - b. Embryogenesis/organogenesis
 - c. Tissue morphogenesis (e.g. Hair follicle)
 - d. Regulation of cellular functions (e.g. proliferation, differentiation).
 - e. Tumorigenesis.
- **Disease associations:**
 - Junctional epidermolysis bullosa (LAMC2)
 - Herlitz type junctional epidermolysis bullosa (LAMA3, LAMB3)
 - Larygoonychocutaneous syndrome (LAMA3).
 - Generalized atrophic benign epidermolysis bullosa (LAMB3)
 - Squamous cell cancer.
 - Breast cancer.



↑ sites of proteolytic cleavage

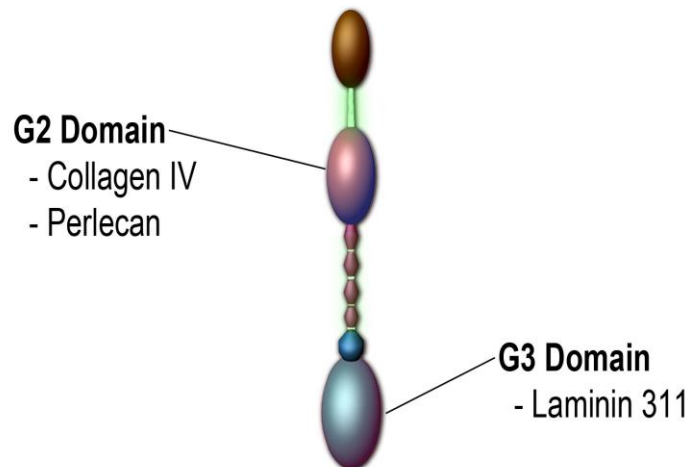
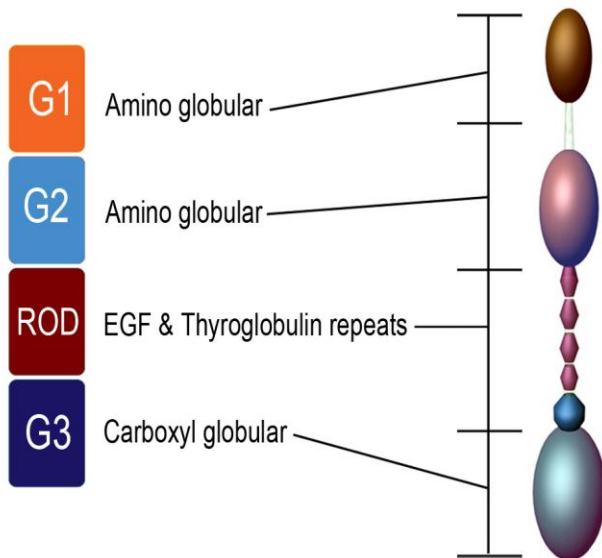
Collagen IV

- **Classification:** Collagen
- **Molecular weight:** 513 kDa.
- **Location:** Lamina densa, subamina densa.
- **Function(s):**
 - a. Structural/mechanical integrity.
 - b. Forms three-dimensional lattice framework for structural support, making up the majority of the lamina densa.
 - c. Tumorigenesis/invasive potential.
- **Disease associations:**
 - Porencephaly, familial [COL4A1].
 - Brain small vessel disease with hemorrhage [COL4A1].
 - Brain small vessel disease with Axenfeld-Rieger anomaly [COL4A1].
 - Angiopathy, hereditary, with nephropathy, aneurysms, and muscle cramps [COL4A1].
 - Alport syndrome (AR) [COL4A3, COL4A4].
 - Alport syndrome (AD) [COL4A3].
 - Hematuria, benign familial [COL4A3, COL4A4].
 - Leiomyomatosis, diffuse, with Alport syndrome [COL4A6].



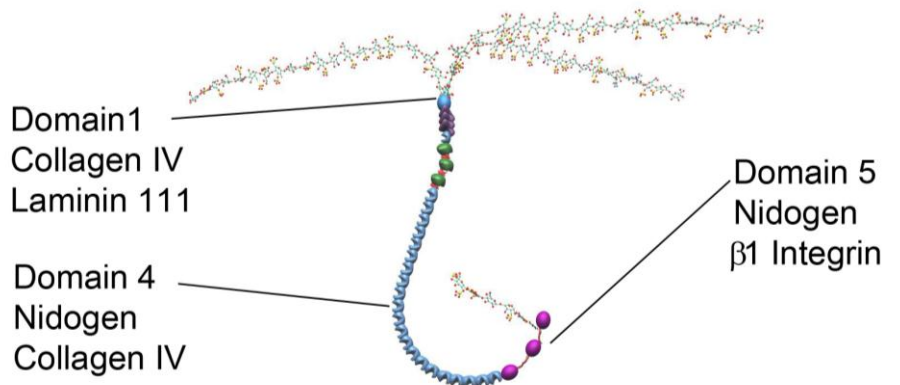
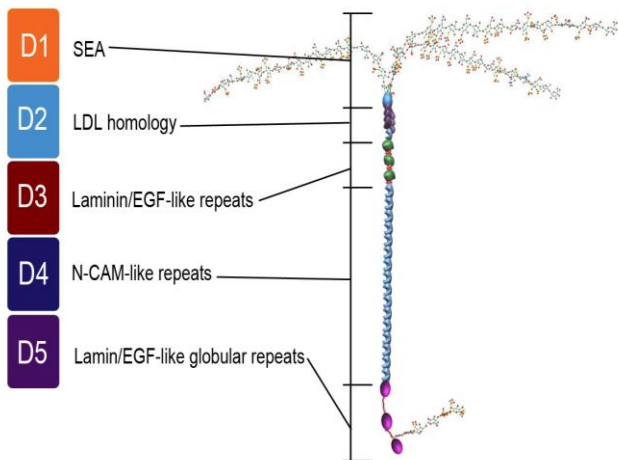
Nidogen (1 & 2)

- **Classification:** Nidogen family
- **Molecular weight:** 150-200 kDa
- **Location:** Lamina Densa.
- **Function(s):**
 - a. Structural/mechanical integrity.
 - b. Biomarker for ovarian cancer.
- **Disease associations:**
 - k. No genetic human disease.
 - l. Ovarian cancer serum biomarker.



Perlecan

- **Classification:** Heparin Sulfate Proteoglycan
- **Molecular weight:** 680-770 kDa
- **Location:** Lamina Densa.
- **Function(s):**
 - a. Structural/mechanical integrity.
 - b. Epidermal morphogenesis.
 - c. Regulation of tumor metastasis
 - d. Regulation of angiogenesis (inhibition & stimulation)
 - e. Regulation of fibrillogenesis
 - f. Initiation of chondrogenesis
 - g. Cellular signaling.
 - h. Growth factor delivery.
 - i. Role in developmental processes?
- **Disease associations:**
 - a. Dyssegmental dysplasia (MIM#224410).
 - b. Schwartz-Jampel syndrome, type I (MIM#255800).
 - c. Diabetes.
 - d. Atherosclerosis.
 - e. Arthritis.
 - f. Alzheimer's disease.
 - g. Malignancy (oral, pancreatic, liver, colon, breast).



Collagen VII

- **Classification:** Collagen
- **Molecular weight:** 290 kDa (*Anchoring fibril* ~870 kDa).
- **Location:** Lamina densa, sublamina densa.
- **Function(s):**
 - a. Structural/mechanical integrity.
- **Disease associations:**
 - h. Epidermolysis bullosa, pretibial.
 - i. Epidermolysis bullosa dystrophica, AD
 - j. Epidermolysis bullosa dystrophica, AR
 - k. Epidermolysis dystrophica, Bart type.
 - l. Epidermolysis dystrophica inversa.
 - m. Epidermolysis bullosa pruriginosa
 - n. Epidermolysis bullosa dystrophica localisata variant
 - o. Transient bullous dermolysis of newborn (DEB)
 - p. Bullous lupus erythematosus.
 - q. Potential role in RDEB squamous cell cancer tumorigenesis

