
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Bieker, James J

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): BIEKER

POSITION TITLE: Professor

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO	BS	05/1974	Chemistry
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL	PhD	04/1981	Biochemistry
Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, and The Rockefeller University, New York, NY	Postdoc	12/1985	Molecular Biology

A. Personal Statement

My lab discovered EKLF in 1992, and we have been actively pursuing the mechanism of its action using biochemical, molecular, cellular, and developmental approaches with NIH-funded studies ever since. EKLF is now the founding member (KLF1) of a family of eighteen proteins, some of which have been directly implicated in a range of normal and altered cellular control mechanisms. We have been particularly focused on illuminating EKLF-directed transcriptional and epigenetic controls that lead to regulated erythroid gene expression in both progenitors and late stages, and additionally in determining whether directed, quantitative control of its expression may enable its use in alleviation of hemoglobinopathies.

Our initial studies established the cognate DNA sequence and the role of EKLF as an activator of adult β -globin expression, demonstrated that β -thalassemia point mutations are not properly recognized by EKLF, showed that EKLF acts as a β -like globin switching factor in the red cell, and showed the surprising cell-restricted pattern of its expression during development. These have formed the basis for all subsequent studies by us and others on EKLF structure/function and regulation of downstream genes. EKLF is now recognized as a global regulator of erythroid gene expression.

I have not published or created research products under a different name.

1. I. J. Miller and **J. J. Bieker**, A Novel, Erythroid Cell-Specific Murine Transcription Factor That Binds to the CACCC Element and Is Related to the Krüppel Family of Nuclear Proteins. *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, 13, 2776-2786 (1993). PMID: PMC359658.
2. W. C. Feng, C.M. Southwood, and **J. J. Bieker**, Analysis of β -Thalassemia Mutant DNA Interactions with EKLF, an Erythroid Cell-Specific Transcription Factor. *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 269, 1493-1500 (1994).
3. D. Donze, T. M. Townes, and **J. J. Bieker**, Role of Erythroid Krüppel-like Factor (EKLF) in Human γ - to β -Globin Switching, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 270, 1955-1959 (1995).
4. C. M. Southwood, K. M. Downs, and **J. J. Bieker**, Erythroid Krüppel-like Factor (EKLF) exhibits an early and sequentially localized pattern of expression during mammalian erythroid ontogeny, *Developmental Dynamics*, 206, 248-259 (1996).

Ongoing and recently completed projects that I would like to highlight include:

R01 DK46865
(J.J. Bieker, PI)
8/1/93-1/31/30
Function of a Putative Determinant in Hematopoiesis

R21 DK139543
(J.J. Bieker, PI)
9/15/24-8/31/26
Development of selective degradation strategies towards mutant transcription factors

2023-0352
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
(J.J. Bieker and J.A Glassberg, dual-PI)
12/1/23-12/31/24
KLF1 modulating nanoparticles for in vivo SCD cure

R01 DK121671
(J.J. Bieker, PI)
4/15/20-1/31/25
Coordinate regulation of erythroid and macrophage lineages in development by EKLF/KLF1

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

2008-present Professor, Tisch Cancer Institute, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine
2006-2007 Interim Co-director, Black Family Stem Cell Institute, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine
2004-present Professor, Black Family Stem Cell Institute, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine
2002-present Professor, Cell, Developmental and Regenerative Biology Department,
The Mount Sinai School of Medicine
1999-2001 Associate Professor with Tenure, CDRB, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine
1994-1998 Associate Professor, CDRB, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine
1986-1993 Assistant Professor, Department of Cell, Developmental and Regenerative Biology (CDRB),
The Mount Sinai School of Medicine
1981-1985 Postdoctoral Research Associate with Dr. Robert G. Roeder, Department of Biological Chemistry
Washington University School of Medicine; and Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular
Biology, The Rockefeller University
1976-1981 Graduate Research Assistant with Dr. Lawrence B. Dumas
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Northwestern University
1973-1974 Undergraduate Research Assistant with Dr. Thomas J. Curphey
Department of Chemistry, St. Louis University

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

2025- Founding Editorial Board, *Blood RCI*
2017/2018 Vice-Chair/Chair, Committee on Red Cell Biology, American Society of Hematology
2015,18,20-26 Special Emphasis Panels, Ad hoc Study Sections, NIDDK, NHLBI, NCI
2009-2013 Member, ELB (now MCH) NIH Study Section
2007/2009 Vice-Chair/Chair, "Red Cell" Gordon Research Conference
2005-2008 Editorial Board, *Molecular and Cellular Biology*
2000-2006 Career Development Program Subcommittee, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
1998-2009 Ad hoc NIH Study Sections (Hem1, Hem2, HP, ELB, HT)
1991-1995 Associate Editor, *The Journal of Experimental Zoology*

Honors

2018 Guest Speaker, Scientific Program on Red Cell Biology, American Society of Hematology,
San Diego, CA

2013	Faculty Council Award for Academic Excellence
2012	Keynote Speaker, FASEB Conference on the Biology and Pathobiology of Krüppel-like Factors, Snowmass Village, CO
2008	Tohoku Medical Society Testimonial, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan
2006	Visiting Scientist, Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford University, Oxford UK
1994-1999	Scholar of the Leukemia Society of America
1974	Pi Mu Epsilon Honorary Mathematics Fraternity
1974	Leopold Marcus Award for Research in Chemistry
1973	Monsanto Summer Research Fellowship

C. Contribution to Science [all of the following have been supported by funds for me as PI]

1. Although our initial studies focused on characterizing EKLF's role in transcriptional activation of β -globin expression, it became clear that it also plays a role in the epigenetic profile of the locus by interacting with histone acetyltransferase and chromatin remodeling proteins. Many groups have been built upon these observations to show that EKLF is critical for forming the 3-dimensional structure of the locus. Importantly, our studies also showed that EKLF itself becomes modified as a result of these interactions, and that these alterations can have a direct effect on protein-protein interactions (also see below).
 - a. W. Zhang and **J. J. Bieker**, Acetylation and modulation of Erythroid Krüppel-like Factor (EKLF) activity by interaction with Histone Acetyltransferases, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 95, 9855-9860 (1998). PMCID: PMC21426.
 - b. W. Zhang, S. Kadam, B. M. Emerson, and **J. J. Bieker**, Site-Specific Acetylation by p300/CBP Regulates Erythroid Krüppel-like Factor (EKLF) Transcriptional Activity via its Interaction with the SWI/SNF Complex, *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, 21, 2413-2422 (2001). PMCID: PMC86874.
 - c. T. Sengupta, K. Chen, E. Milot, and **J. J. Bieker**, Acetylation of EKLF is essential for epigenetic modification and transcriptional activation of the β -globin locus, *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, 28, 6160-6170 (2008). PMCID: PMC2577412.
 - d. S. Soni, N. Pchelintsev, P.D. Adams, and **J.J. Bieker**, Transcription factor EKLF (KLF1) recruitment of the histone chaperone HIRA is essential for β -globin gene expression, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 111, 13337-13342 (2014). [highlighted in *Hematopoiesis News*]. PMCID: PMC4169976
2. EKLF remained recognized for its red cell-restricted expression, where it plays a positive role in early and late stages of erythropoiesis. However, an unexpected observation was that we found it also plays a role in the bipotential decisions emanating from the megakaryocyte-erythroid progenitor by repressing megakaryopoiesis, with its sumoylation status being critical for this effect. Others have built upon these studies to postulate that EKLF-deficient red cells exhibit an 'identity crisis', expressing a mix of meg and erythroid markers. These expression surprises have continued, as we showed that along with the differentiating erythroid cell it is also expressed in the central macrophage (but not other macrophage) of the erythroblastic island.
 - a. M. P. Frontelo*, D. Manwani*, M. Galdass, H. Karsunky, F. Lohmann, P. G. Gallagher, and **J. J. Bieker**, Novel role for EKLF in megakaryocyte lineage commitment, *Blood*, 110, 3871-3880 (2007). [*co-first authors] [highlighted as an *Inside Blood* preview]. PMCID: PMC2190608.
 - b. L. Xue, M. Galdass, M.N. Gnanapragasam, D. Manwani, and **J.J. Bieker**, Extrinsic and intrinsic control by EKLF (KLF1) within a specialized erythroid niche, *Development*, 141, 2245-2254 (2014). PMCID: PMC4034424.
 - c. M.N. Gnanapragasam, K.E. McGrath, S. Catherman, L. Xue, J. Palis, and **J.J. Bieker**, EKLF/KLF1-regulated cell cycle exit is essential for erythroblast enucleation, *Blood*, 128, 1631-1641 (2016). [highlighted in *Hematopoiesis News*]. PMCID: PMC5034741.
 - d. K. Mukherjee, L. Xue, A. Planutis, M.N. Gnanapragasam, A. Chess, and **J.J. Bieker**, KLF1/EKLF expression defines a unique macrophage subset during mouse erythropoiesis, *eLife*, 10, e61070 (2021). [highlighted in *Hematopoiesis News*]

- e. M.N. Gnanapragasam, P. Jiang, A.R. Dhara, P.N. Patel, M. Ramamoorthy, R.B Nowak, V.M. Fowler, and **J.J. Bieker**, EKLF/KLF1 coordinates specialized transcriptional networks required to maintain the integrity of terminal erythropoiesis, *Journal of Cell Science*, 138, jcs264036 (2025). [highlighted in *Hematopoiesis News*]
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3. In collaboration with Dr L Peters we characterized the neonatal anemia (*Nan*) mutation that maps to murine EKLF and found unusual molecular properties that partly explain the altered genetic output of the *Nan*/+ red cell. The remains an activate area for our labs as well as others, as its mechanism of effect, seen even in the presence of a wild type EKLF copy, is enigmatic.
 - a. M. Siatecka, K.E. Sahr, S.G. Andersen, M. Mezei, **J.J. Bieker***, and L.L Peters*, Severe anemia in the *Nan* mutant mouse caused by sequence-selective disruption of erythroid Krüppel-like factor, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 107, 15151-15156 (2010). [*co-corresponding authors] [highlighted in *Hematopoiesis News*; highlighted in *Health and Medicine Week*]. PMID: PMC2930539.
 - b. A. Planutis, L. Xue, C.D Trainor, M. Dangeti, K. Gillinder, M. Siatecka, L.L. Peters, A.C. Perkins, **J.J. Bieker**, Neomorphic effects by the *neonatal anemia* (*Nan*-EKLF) mutation contribute to systemic deficits in development, *Development*, 144, 430-440 (2017). [highlighted as an *In this Issue* preview; highlighted in *Hematopoiesis News*]. PMID: PMC5341802.
 - c. K.R. Gillinder, M.D. Ilsley, D. Nébor, R. Sachidanandam, M. Lajoie, G.W. Magor, M.R. Tallack, T. Bailey, M.J. Landsberg, J.P. Mackay, M.W. Parker, L.A. Miles, J.H. Graber, L.L. Peters, **J.J. Bieker**, A.C. Perkins, Promiscuous DNA-binding of a mutant zinc finger protein corrupts the transcriptome and diminishes cell viability, *Nucleic Acids Research*, 45, 1130-1143 (2017).
 - d. K. Mukherjee and **J.J. Bieker**, EKLF/Klf1 regulates erythroid transcription by its pioneering activity and selective control of RNA Pol II pause-release, *Cell Reports*, 41, 111830 (2022).
 4. In collaboration with Dr D Manwani, we determined the mutation that leads to a subtype of congenital dyserythropoietic anemia (CDA) to the same residue in human EKLF as had been found in the mouse *Nan* mutation. In combination with studies from other groups, this is now accepted as CDA Type IV. The resultant molecular, genetic, and biochemical changes remain of high interest to decipher.
 - a. J.A. Jaffray, W.B. Mitchell, M.N. Gnanapragasam, S.V. Seshan, X. Guo, C.M. Westoff, **J.J. Bieker**, and D. Manwani, Erythroid Transcription Factor EKLF/KLF1 Mutation Causing Congenital Dyserythropoietic Anemia Type IV in a Patient of Taiwanese Origin: Review of all reported cases and development of a clinical diagnostic paradigm, *Blood Cells, Molecules, and Diseases*, 51, 71-75 (2013). PMID: PMC4560093
 - b. L. Varricchio, A. Planutis, D. Manwani, J. Jaffray, W.B. Mitchell, A.R. Migliaccio*, and **J.J. Bieker***, Genetic disarray follows mutant KLF1-E325K expression in a congenital dyserythropoietic anemia patient, *Haematologica*, 104, 2372-2381 (2019). [*co-corresponding authors] [highlighted in *Hematopoiesis News*].
 - c. K. Kulczynska, **J.J. Bieker**, M. Siatecka, A Krüppel-like Factor 1 (KLF1) mutation associated with severe congenital dyserythropoietic anemia alters its DNA binding specificity, *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, 40, e00444-19 (2020). [highlighted as an *Article of Significant Interest*]
 5. Our observations on the cell-restricted expression pattern of EKLF immediately raised questions about the mechanism of this tight control. We analyzed its promoter and chromatin structure by in vitro and in vivo approaches, identified a strong enhancer, and used differentiating embryonic stem cells to identify the extracellular effectors of its expression during development. These studies form the basis for experiments that aim to quantitatively decrease levels of EKLF, as it has been shown (by others) that haploinsufficient levels are sufficient to dysregulate the human β -like globin locus, resulting in a therapeutically useful increase in γ - and/or ϵ -globin expression in the adult red cell.
 - a. X. Chen, M. Reitman, and **J. J. Bieker**, Chromatin structure and transcriptional control elements of the Erythroid Krüppel-like Factor (EKLF) gene, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 273, 25031-25040 (1998).

- b. C. A. Adelman, S. Chattopadhyay, and **J. J. Bieker**, The BMP/BMPR/Smad Pathway Directs Expression of the Erythroid-Specific EKLF and GATA1 Transcription Factors During Embryoid Body Differentiation in Serum-free Media, *Development*, 129, 539-549 (2002).
 - c. F. Lohmann and **J. J. Bieker**, Activation of Ekf expression during hematopoiesis by Gata2 and Smad5 prior to erythroid commitment, *Development*, 135, 2071-2082 (2008). [highlighted as an *In this Issue* preview]
 - d. F. Lohmann*, M. Dangeti*, S. Soni, X. Chen, A. Planutis, M.H. Baron, K. Choi, and **J.J. Bieker**, The DEK oncoprotein is a critical component of the EKLF/KLF1 enhancer in erythroid cells, *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, 35, 3726-3738 (2015). [*co-first authors] [highlighted in *Exp Hem* 43, 827 (15)]. PMCID: PMC4589598.
 - e. M.N. Gnanapragasam*, A. Planutis*, J. Glassberg, and **J.J. Bieker**, Identification of a genomic DNA sequence that quantitatively modulates KLF1 transcription factor expression in differentiating human hematopoietic cells, *Scientific Reports*, 13, 7589 (2023). [*co-first authors] [highlighted in *Hematopoiesis News*]
6. Yet another unexpected observation followed from the finding that EKLF interacts with corepressor proteins. Interestingly, the modification status of EKLF plays a critical role here as it does with its coactivator interactions (noted above). In this case, site-specific acetylation and sumoylation enable interactions with Sin3a, HDAC1, and Mi2 β . Although the strongest results of these changes appear related to meg/erythroid bipotential decision making (described above) and to primitive/definitive erythropoiesis, specific repression targets have remained elusive. As a result, any of the global red cell analyses performed by us and others keep these complexities in mind.
- a. X. Chen and **J. J. Bieker**, Unanticipated Repression Function Linked to Erythroid Krüppel-like Factor (EKLF), *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, 21, 3118-3125 (2001). PMCID: PMC86939.
 - b. X. Chen and **J. J. Bieker**, Stage-specific Repression by the EKLF Transcriptional Activator, *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, 24, 10416-10424 (2004). PMCID: PMC529052.
 - c. M. Siatecka, L. Xue, and **J. J. Bieker**, Sumoylation of EKLF Promotes Transcriptional Repression and Is Involved in Inhibition of Megakaryopoiesis, *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, 27, 8547-8560 (2007). PMCID: PMC2169404.
 - d. M. Siatecka, S. Soni, A. Planutis, and **J.J. Bieker**, Transcriptional activity of EKLF/KLF1 modulated by PIAS3, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 290, 9929-9940 (2015). PMCID: PMC4392289.

Complete List of Published Work in MyBibliography:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/james.bieker.1/bibliography/40735946/public/?sort=date&direction=descending>