

pounds isolated from *Streptomyces platensis* may be useful in the treatment of thrombocytopenia. Compounds obtained from the marine sponge *Aplysina archeri* have been reported to inhibit the growth of the feline leukemia virus. Scalarane-type bishomo-sesterterpenes isolated from the marine sponge *Phyllospongia foliascens* have been reported to exhibit cytotoxic, antithrombotic, and vasodilation activities. It should be noted that a number of natural products are based on the coumarin nucleus and as such may exhibit antithrombotic and antiplatelet activities. A number of blood-sucking animals have small, low-molecular-weight proteins in their salivas that interfere with the clotting of blood and therefore might be of value as potential anticoagulants. *Streptomyces hygroscopicus ascomyceticus* manufactures a macrolide that has been reported to have immunosuppressant activity and may prove to be beneficial in preventing transplant rejection in humans. It is entirely possible that these compounds and others offer sufficient structural diversity, range of biological activities, and differing mechanisms of action that new, safer, and more efficacious drugs to treat blood-based disorders could well burgeon from this library.

A wide variety of natural products are claimed to possess immunosuppressant activity, but it is often difficult to dissect this activity away from associated cytotoxicity [101]. Since the first heart transplant in the late 1960s, medicine has progressed to the point where most organ transplants have become relatively routine procedures. The survival of individuals with transplants is owed in large part to the discovery of the fungal metabolite cyclosporine A in 1970 and its widespread use starting in 1978. Indeed, cyclosporine A has achieved such success that it is currently being evaluated for value in the treatment of Crohn's disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, and rheumatoid arthritis. Research efforts abound in the area of natural products and immunosuppression. A methyl analog of oligomycin F isolated from *Streptomyces ostreogriseus* has been reported to quite effectively suppress B-cell activation and T-cell activation in the presence of mitogens at concentrations comparable to that of cyclosporine A. Concanamycin F first isolated from *Streptomyces diastatochromogenes* in 1992 has been found to possess a wide array of biological activities including immunosuppressive and antiviral activities. The experimental immunosuppressant (+)-discodermolide isolated from the marine sponge *Discodermia dissoluta* exhibits relatively nonspecific immunosuppression, causing the cell cycle to arrest during G<sub>2</sub> and M phases. This compound's current primary interest is as a potential antineoplastic agent since it stabilizes microtubules and prevents depolymerization, effectively causing cell cyclic arrest during the metaphase to anaphase transition. This same mode of activity is shared with Taxol (Paclitaxel), the epothilones, eleutherobin, and the sarcodictyins. The didemnins, cyclic peptides, were first isolated from the marine tunicate *Trididemnum solidum* and exhibit immunosuppressive activity through a generalized cytotoxicity mediated by inhibition of progression through the G<sub>1</sub> phase of the cell cycle by an unknown mechanism. The trichopolyns I to V from the fungus *Trichoderma polysporum* are