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STELLINGEN

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Collagens and Retinal Müller Cells in Healthy and Diseased Vitreoretinal Interface

Shaochong Bu

1. The vitreo-retinal interface is a complex extracellular matrix structure that undergoes a constant remodeling process during ageing and diseases. (this thesis)
2. The heterogeneous distribution of the collagens in the inner limiting membrane suggests that this basement membrane is a complex structure despite its homogeneous gross appearance. (this thesis)
3. Retinal Müller cells are actively involved in the formation of epiretinal membranes in vitreomacular diseases. (this thesis)
4. The cellular and collagenous components in the epiretinal membrane may influence the strength of adhesion between the epiretinal membrane and the underlying retina. (this thesis)
5. Retinal Müller cells contain certain “organelles”, such as focal adhesions, that may sense the elastic moduli of the surrounding substrate and regulate cellular functions. (this thesis)
6. Increased rigidity of tissues during ageing and fibrotic diseases could provide an environment that facilitates the upregulation of α -smooth muscle actin in retinal Müller cells which promotes membrane contraction. (this thesis)
7. Transforming growth factor- β can induce cell specific responses in terms of collagen synthesis. (this thesis)
8. It takes more than a few cell markers and immunocytochemistry to identify specific cells.
9. Science relies on evidence.
10. 有志者事竟成。 Where there is a will, there is a way.
11. 海纳百川，有容乃大。 The sea refuses no river owing to its tolerance.