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Platelet-Specific Antigens

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The current system of human platelet antigen (HPA) nomenclature, adopted in 1990, is overseen by the Platelet Nomenclature Committee of the ISBT and the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis. As with blood groups, there are platelet antigen systems and specific antigens within those systems. The HPA nomenclature pertains to “all protein alloantigens expressed on the platelet membrane, except those coded by genes of the major histocompatibility complex (MHC).” (p241) (See , Immunology, HLA/Major Histocompatibility Complex.) Currently, there are 6 HPA systems: HPA-1, HPA-2, HPA-3, HPA-4, HPA-5, and HPA-15. Complete tables of HPA terms are available at the IPD-HPA Database, <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ipd/hpa/>.