

## Allergy-immunology glossary

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*Towards a clear designation of some of the terms used in allergology and immunology.*

<p><b>Platelet activating factor (PAF)</b></p>	<p>A phospholipid autacoid with potent effects throughout the innate immune system.<sup>1</sup> It is derived from membrane phospholipids in several cell types, including mast cells and endothelial cells. PAF can cause bronchoconstriction and vascular dilatation and leak.<sup>2</sup> It induces platelets and leukocytes aggregation and is involved in chemotaxis of eosinophils, neutrophils and monocytes.<sup>3</sup> PAF stimulates receptors coupled to G proteins which activate phospholipases C and A2, inducing the formation of diacylglycerol, inositolphosphate and arachidonic acid (A2). It is selectively degraded by two small families of PAF acetylhydrolases (PAF-AHs). Recent studies have revealed that PAF synthesis takes place in the absence of cellular activation.<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>العامل المنشط للصفيحات<sup>4</sup></p>
<p><b>PAF acetylhydrolases (PAF-AHs)</b></p>	<p>PAF-AHs constitute a unique subfamily of phospholipases A2, specific for short acyl chains in the sn-2 position of the phospholipid. Given the existence of two pools of PAF, intra- and extracellular, the acetylhydrolases can be divided into two subclasses: those found in the cytosol and enzymes secreted to blood plasma or other body fluids.<sup>5</sup> They are Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent.<sup>1</sup> Two of the PAF-AHs are specific oxidized phospholipid phospholipases that reduce inflammation, but also remove oxidatively truncated phospholipids that induce apoptosis. Expression of plasma PAF-AH is increased by stimulation with LPS and other inflammatory agonists, and decreased by anti-inflammatory drugs and cytokines.<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>الهيدروليز الاستيلي للعامل المنشط للصفيحات<sup>4</sup></p>

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