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## Aquaporins and Aquaglyceroporins: Observing the relationship between structure and function

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"In the late 1980's, Gheorghe Benga observed the first water channel protein in situ in the human RBC membrane <sup>7</sup>. Benga examined the binding of <sup>203</sup>Hg-PCMBS to the membrane proteins of resealed red blood cell ghosts <sup>7</sup>. In order to avoid having the <sup>203</sup>Hg-PCMBS bind to all sulfhydryls, SH groups not involved with water permeability were blocked by N-ethylmaleimide (NEM). Because water permeability was inhibited, Benga hypothesized that one of the bands on the SDS-PAGE gel was a water channel protein <sup>7</sup>."

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### REFERENCE

7. G. Benga, Birth of water channel proteins- the aquaporins, *Cell Biology International* 27 (2003) 701-709.