Corrigendum

Hypotheses on the evolution of hyaluronan: A highly ironic acid

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doi:10.1093/glycob/cwt218

Glycobiology vol. 23 no. 4 pp. 398–411, 2013

The authors regret that some errors were made in the description of the ABO blood groups on page 402 of the original article. The corrected text appears below.

Galactose is commonly located at the nonreducing termini of complex N-glycans, O-glycans and glycolipids. One straightforward example is the ABO blood groups, the complex sugars critically important for blood transfusions. They must be identified in Blood Banking in order to avoid immune-based red cell hemolysis. The entire issue rests on the terminal galactose of blood group B that must be distinguished from the terminal N-acetylgalactosamine of blood group A. This simple difference appears to be sufficient to cause massive immune-based red cell hemolysis in a transfusion blood type mismatch. That is the critical and only difference between the two A and B blood groups and an example of how important galactose residues may be in immune recognition. In a multitude of glycoconjugates, it is the last sugar to be added. Many lectins and antibodies appear to be able to recognize this galactose moiety. In fact, one family of lectins are now termed galectins (Barondes et al. 1994).