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So many molecules So little time

- How do we cope?
- Patterns
- Subsets
- Practical application to disease when possible
 - **What information do we have for our veterinary patients?**
 - **Can we extrapolate info from human disease?**

Interleukins (from IL-1 to IL-38), interferons, transforming growth factor β , and TNF- α : Receptors, functions, and roles in diseases



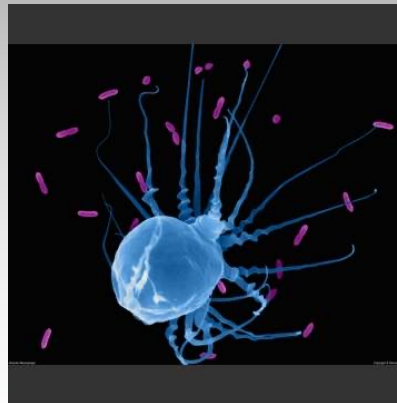
Mübeccel Akdis, MD, PhD, Alar Aab, MSc, Can Altunbulakli, MSc, Kursat Azkur, DVM, Rita A. Costa, MSc, Reto Cramer, PhD, Su Duan, MD, Thomas Eiwegger, MD, Andrzej Eljaszewicz, PhD, Ruth Ferstl, PhD, Remo Frei, PhD, Mattia Garbani, PhD, Anna Globinska, MSc, Lena Hess, MD, Carly Huitema, PhD, Terufumi Kubo, MD, Zsolt Komlosi, MD, Patricia Konieczna, PhD, Nora Kovacs, MD, Umut C. Kucuksezer, PhD, Norbert Meyer, MD, Hideaki Morita, MD, Judith Olzhausen, PhD, Liam O'Mahony, PhD, Marija Pezer, PhD, Moira Prati, MSc, Ana Rebane, PhD, Claudio Rhyner, PhD, Arturo Rinaldi, MSc, Milena Sokolowska, MD, PhD, Barbara Stanic, PhD, Kazunari Sugita, MD, Angela Treis, PhD, Willem van de Veen, PhD, Kerstin Wanke, PhD, Marcin Wawrzyniak, PhD, Paulina Wawrzyniak, MSc, Oliver F. Wirz, MSc, Josefina Sierra Zakzuk, MD, and Cezmi A. Akdis, MD *Davos, Switzerland*

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J Allergy Clin Immunol 138:984-1010, October 2016

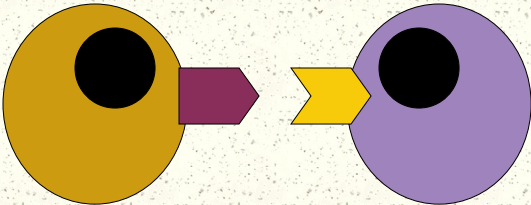
Why should veterinary dermatologists know so much about immunology in general and cytokines in particular?

- Skin is one of the largest immune organs
- Keratinocytes are second only to macrophages in cytokine-producing abilities
- We deal with a large number of inflammatory and/or immunologic disorders mediated by cytokines
- Understanding cytokines leads to improved therapy
- WE ARE USING therapeutics that target them!



How do cells communicate with each other?

Surface molecules

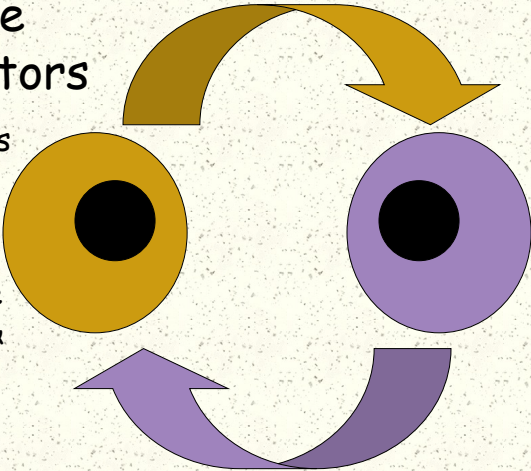


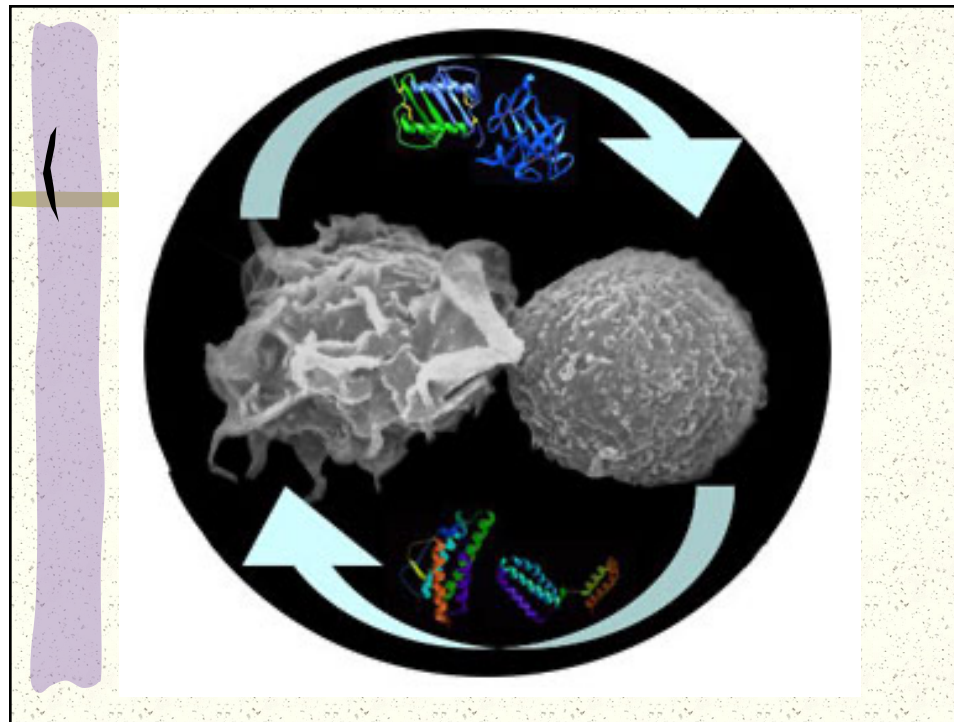
5

How do cells communicate with each other?

Soluble Mediators

- Cytokines
- Lipids
- Bioactive Amines & Peptides





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If you remember nothing else . . .

- # No single cytokine can regulate a vital process like an immune response
- # Rather, it takes a constellation of cytokines, tuned in concert, that produce complex phenotypes like “tissue damage” or “recovery from tissue damage.”

#

Lawrence Steinman



What are cytokines?

Small molecular weight regulatory proteins

Growth

Differentiation

Survival (or death!)

Effector function

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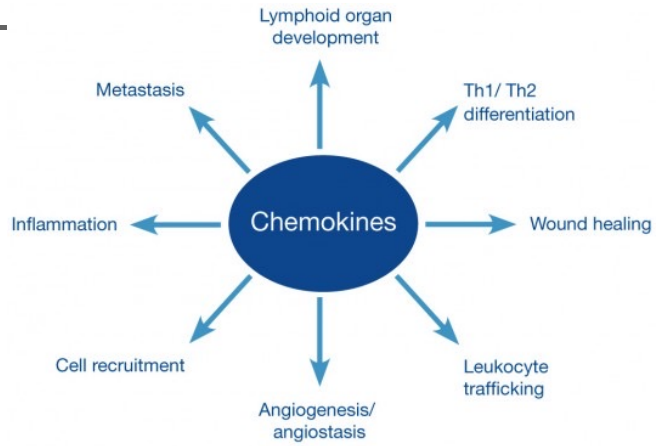
Chemokines

Cytokine subset

Lower molecular weight (8-10 kd)

Mediate chemotaxis (cellular migration along gradient)--this recruits inflammatory cells to infection

immune homeostasis host defense



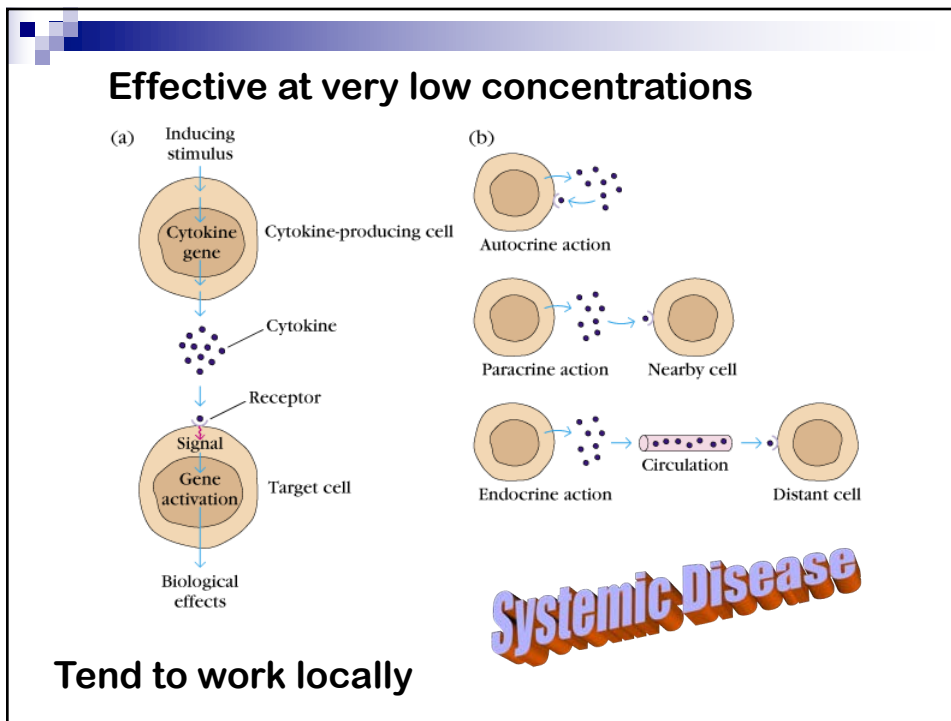
11



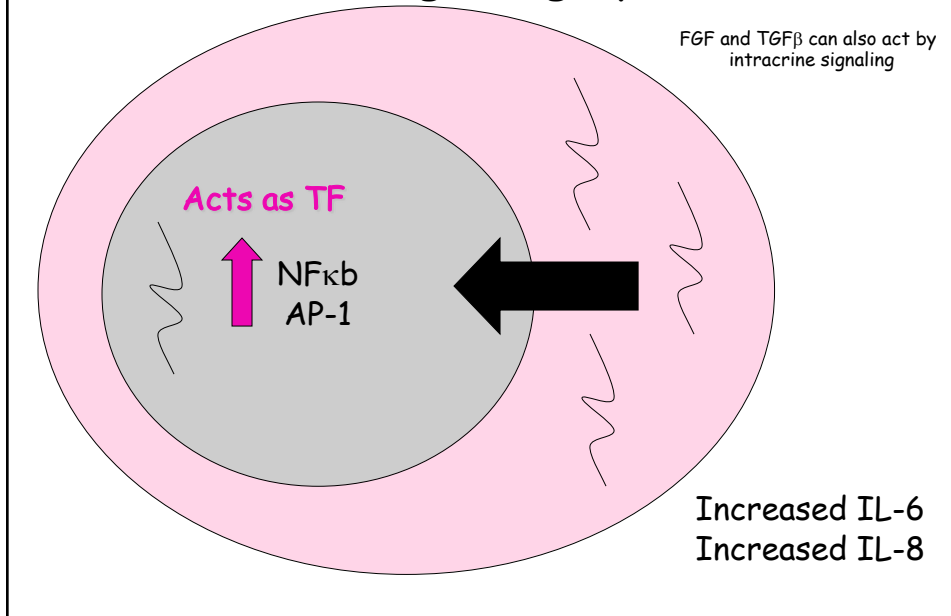
Cytokines vs. Hormones

Properties	Hormones	Cytokines
Producers	Few	Many
Targets	Many	Few
Biological Role	Homeostasis	Homeostasis
Redundancy	Low	High
Pleiotropy	Low	High
Circulation	Yes	Rarely
Influence	Widespread	Local
Inducers	Physiologic variation	External insults

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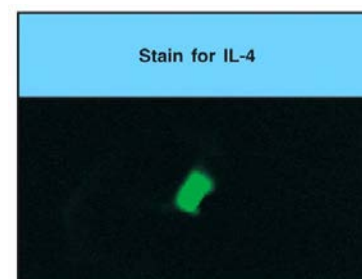
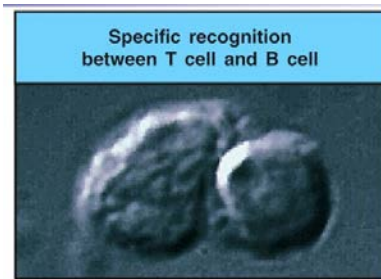
Intracrine Signaling: pro IL-1 α



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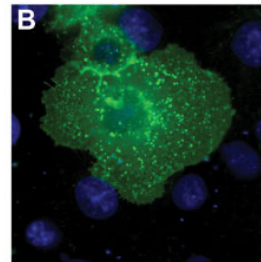
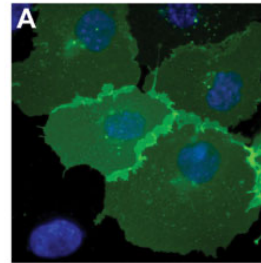
Restriction to Local Sites Is Critical

- Producer cells close to target cells
- Small amounts secreted
- Directional release



Restriction to Local Sites Is Critical

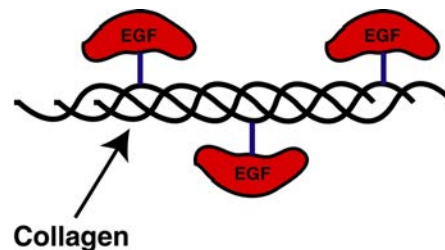
- Producer cells close to target cells
- Small amounts secreted
- Directional release
- **Receptor endocytosis**



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Restriction to Local Sites Is Critical

- Producer cells close to target cells
- Small amounts secreted
- Directional release
- Receptor endocytosis
- **Bind to extracellular matrix**



Restriction to Local Sites Is Critical

- Producer cells close to target cells
- Small amounts secreted
- Directional release
- Receptor endocytosis
- Bind to extracellular matrix
- **Quenching in circulation by soluble receptors, other binding proteins**
 - Basis by which Etanercept (Enbrel) works
- **Natural antagonists**
 - IL-1 RA, TNFRp55 (soluble TNF receptor)

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Restriction to Local Sites Is Critical

- High levels of circulating proinflammatory cytokines = “cytokine storm”
- The killer in toxic shock, severe influenza
- Severe malaise of food poisoning
- Post-viral encephalopathies

Additional Controls On Activity

Secretion brief and limited

- not stored pre-formed
- synthesis initiated by gene transcription
- mRNA short-lived
- cytokines produced as needed

Not all cytokines active after
synthesis--must be processed

IL-1, TGF- β

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Cytokine Concepts

Pleotropy: one cytokine has multiple activities, e.g.

IL-1

IL-2

IL-6

TNF- α

IFN γ

Cytokine Concepts

Pleotropy: one cytokine has multiple activities

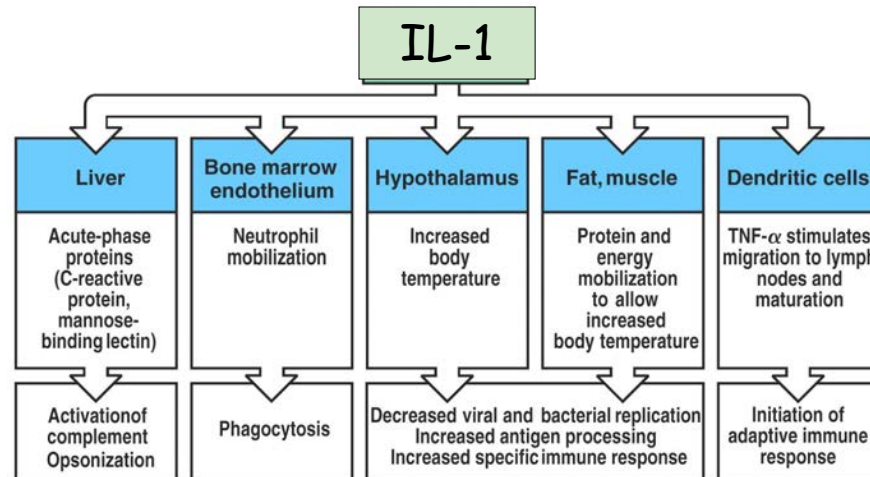
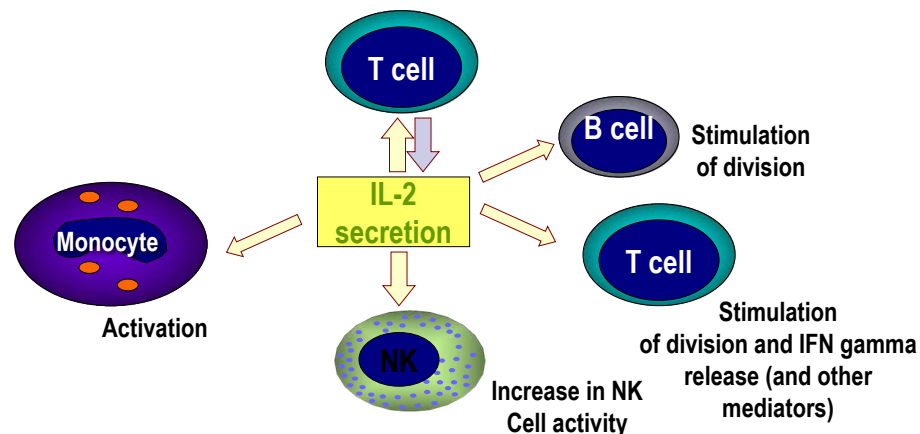


Figure 2-46 Immunobiology, 6/e. © Garland Science 2005

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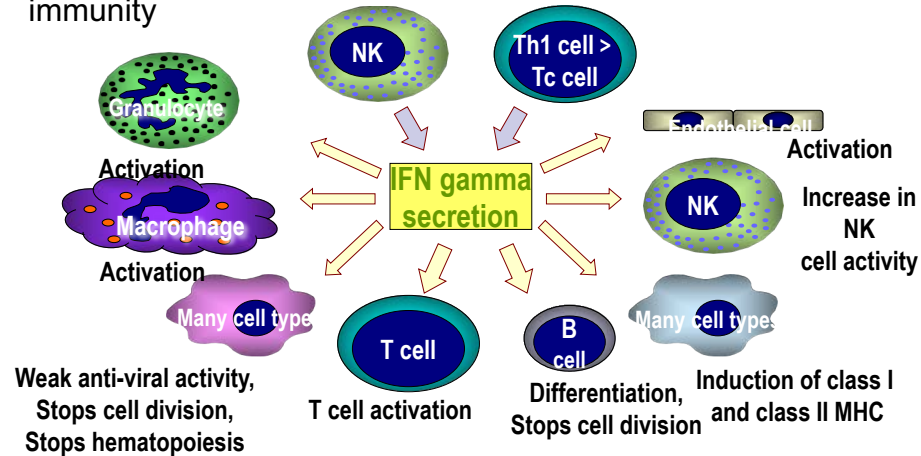
Interleukin-2 (IL-2)

- Produced by Th >> Tc, NK, NKT cells
- Main growth factor for T cells
- Affects function of many cells



Interferon-gamma (IFN- γ)

- Produced by Th cells >> Tc and NK cells
- Also produced by macrophages
- Numerous functions in both **natural** and **specific** immunity



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Cytokine Concepts

Redundancy: multiple cytokines have same or similar activities

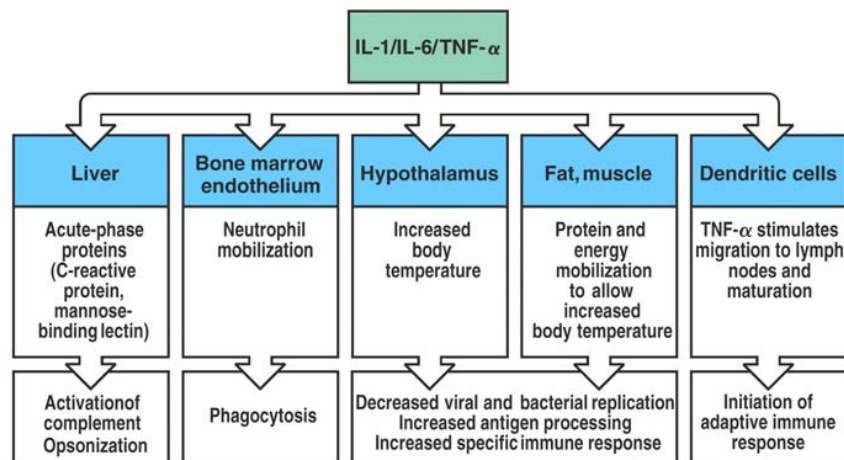


Figure 2-46 Immunobiology, 6/e. (© Garland Science 2005)

Cytokine Concepts

Redundancy: multiple cytokines have same or similar activities (may come from different sources)

IL-1 α and IL-1 β

IL-2 and IL-15

IL-4 and IL-13

TNF α and TNF β

IL-31 and TSLP

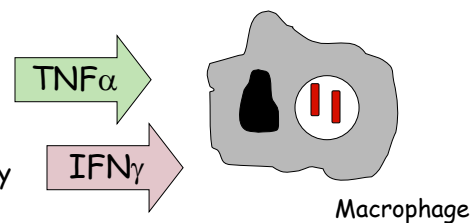
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Cytokine Concepts

Synergism: Two cytokines acting together to enhance a biologic effect



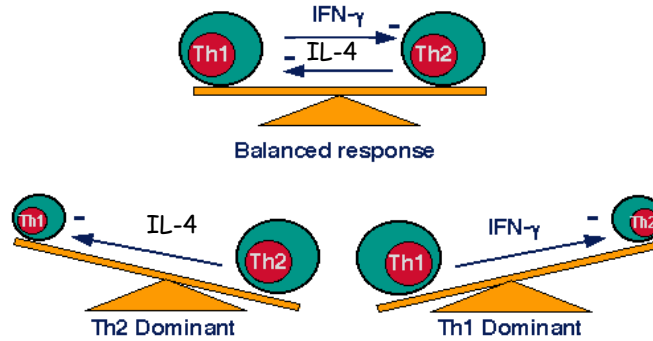
Why we have
Innate and
Adaptive Immunity



Cytokine Concepts

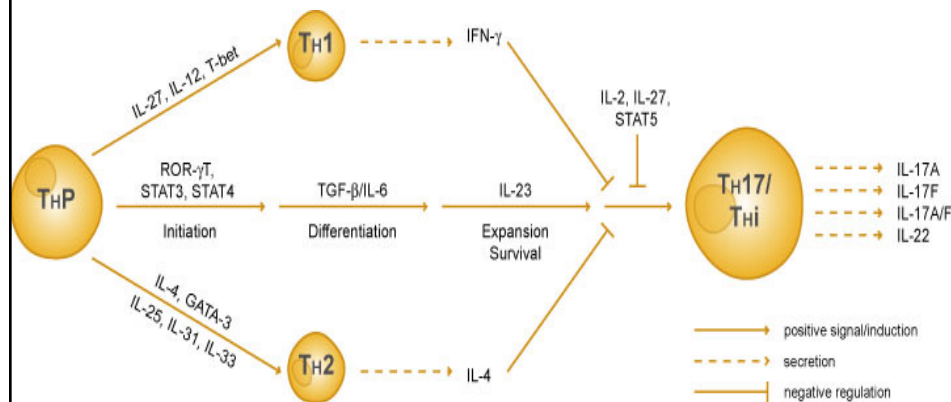
Antagonism: Two cytokines oppose each other's effects

Counter regulation of Th cell subsets



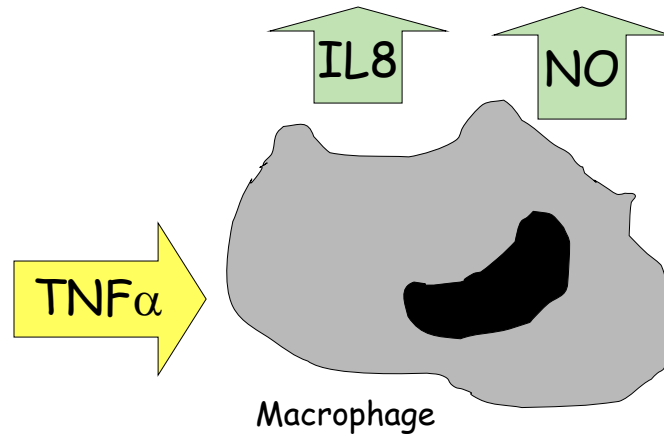
30

Development of Th-17 cells inhibited by IFN- γ or IL-4



Cytokine Concepts

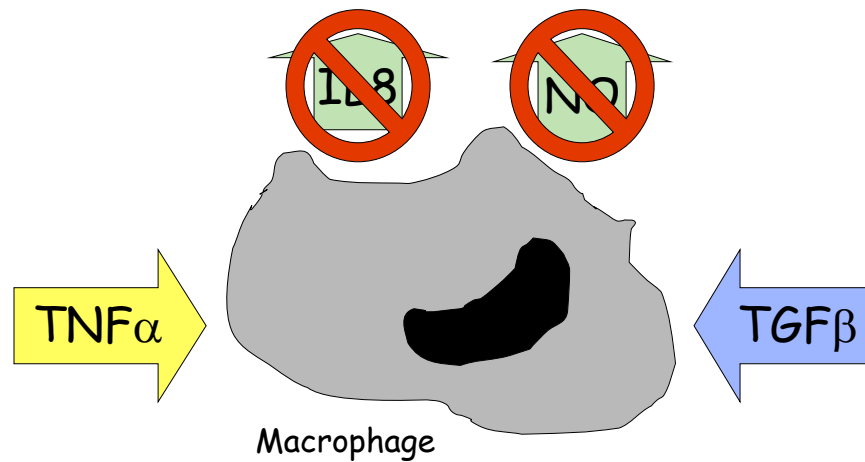
Antagonism: Two cytokines oppose each other's effects



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Cytokine Concepts

Antagonism: Two cytokines oppose each other's effects



Cytokine Concepts

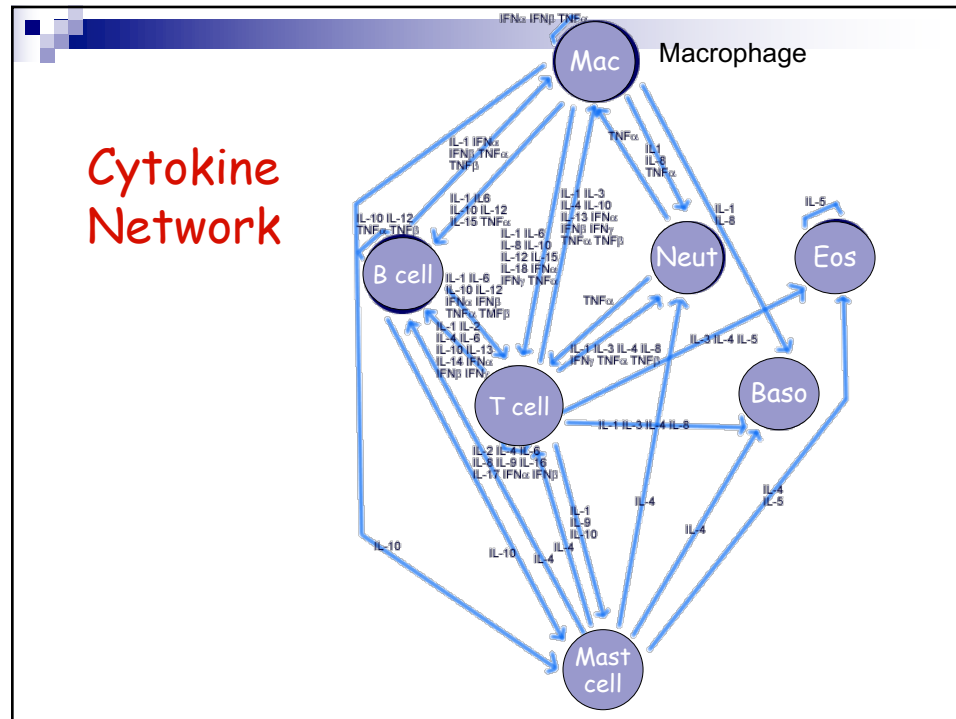
Cytokines act in context

Effects of a cytokine are determined by target cell's state of activation or differentiation or the milieu into which it is secreted

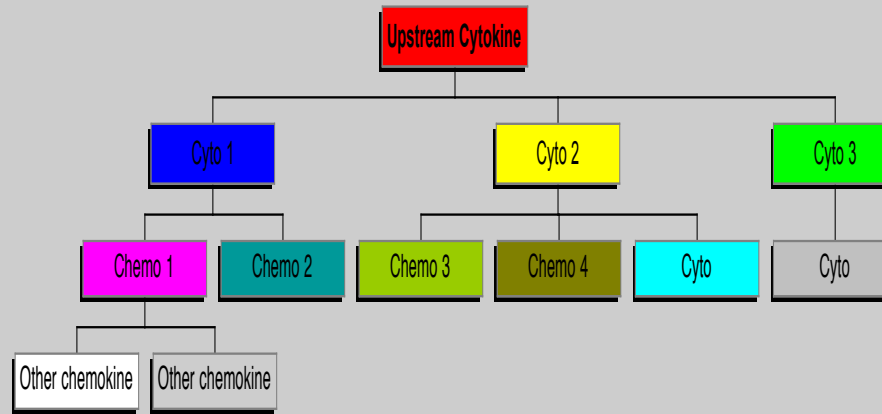
TGF β

1. activates monocytes but deactivates macrophages
2. anti-inflammatory at low concentrations but profibrotic at high concentrations
3. In the absence of proinflammatory cytokines, induces Treg; in the presence of proinflammatory cytokines induces Th17

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Cytokine Cascades

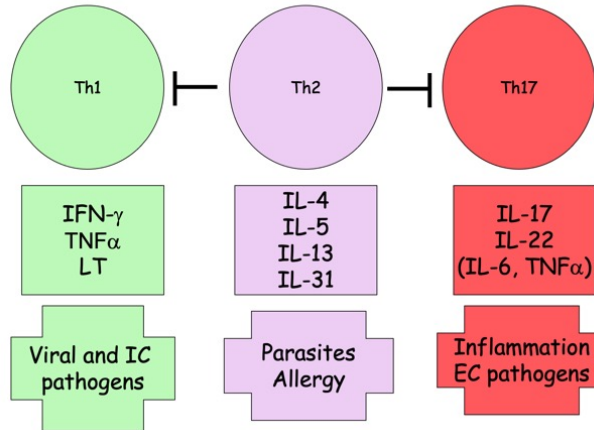


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Let's focus on disease-related cytokines that we work with DAILY

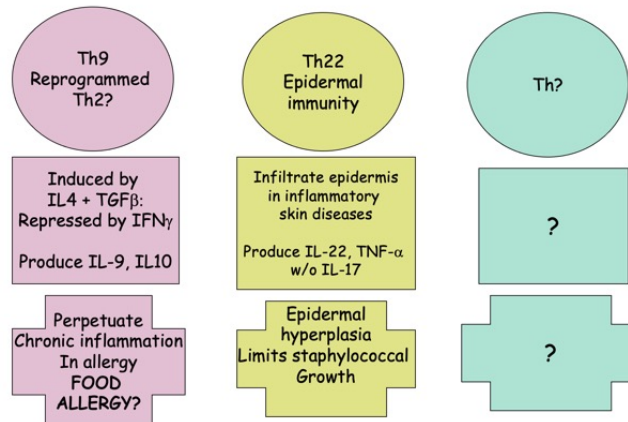
THE EFFECTOR T CELL TRILOGY

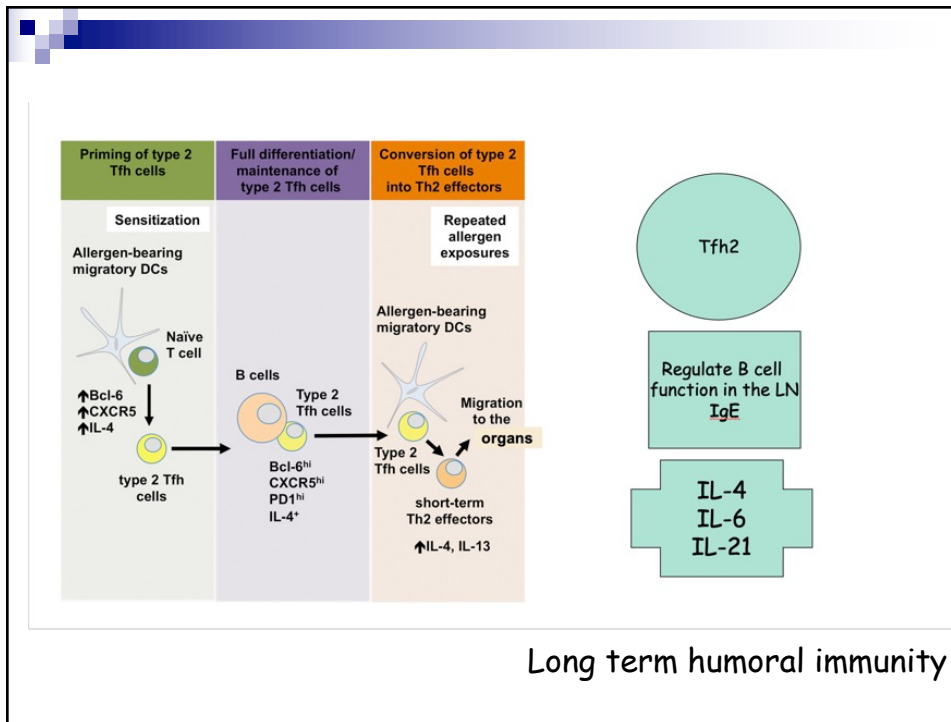


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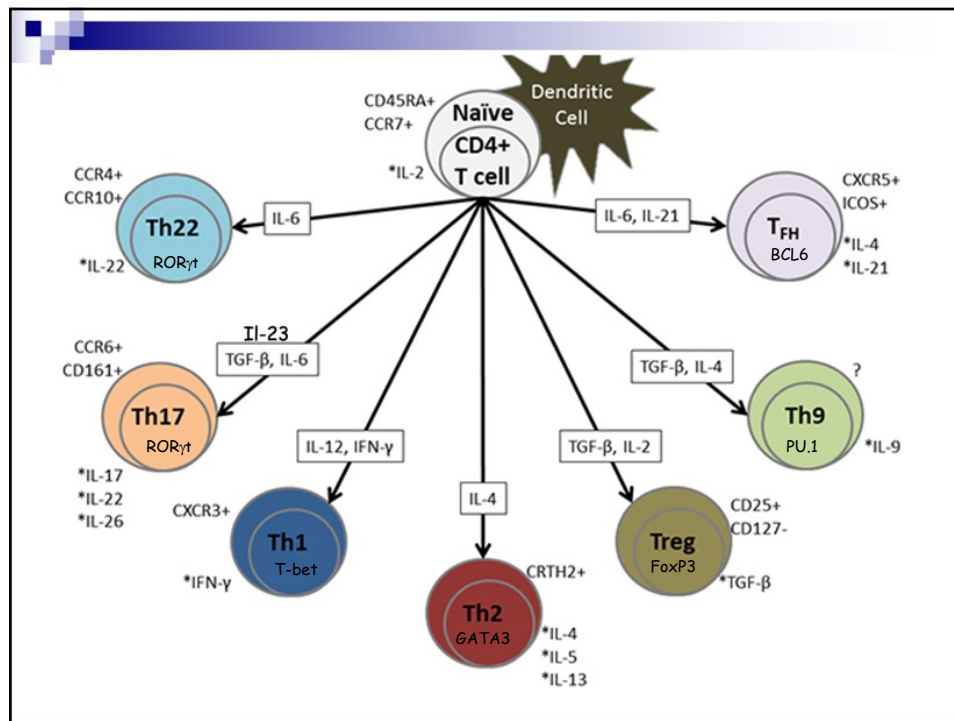
Oh no! Are there more?

Even More Subsets:
Are T helper cells as plastic as macrophages?

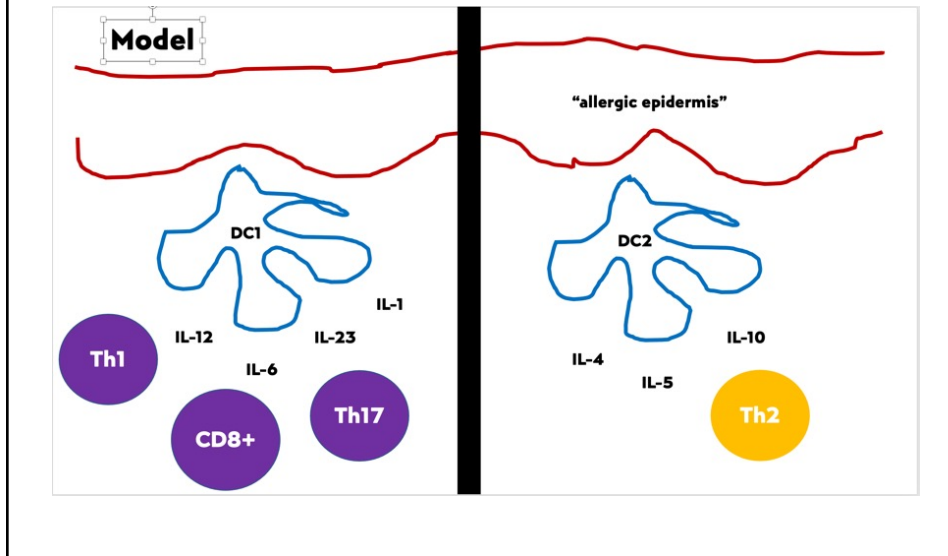




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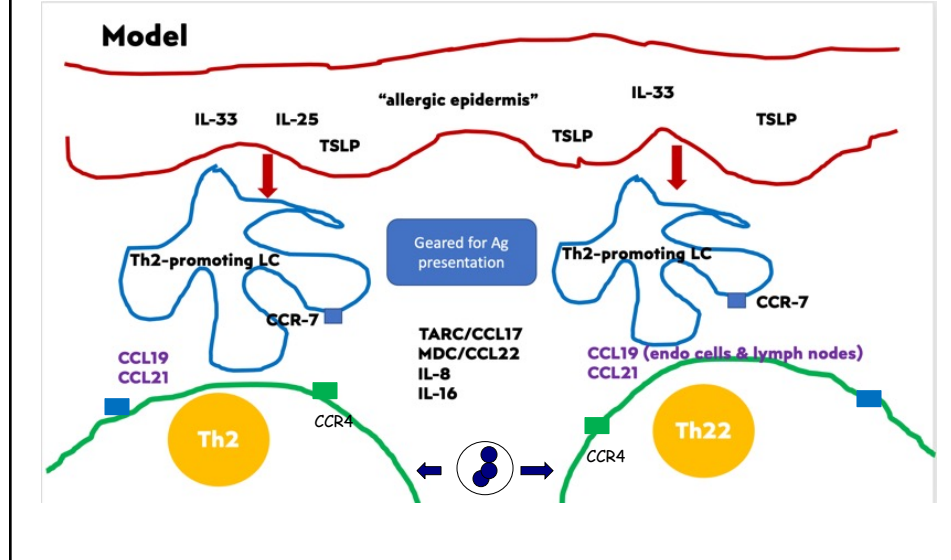


Dendritic cell activity: DC1 vs DC2

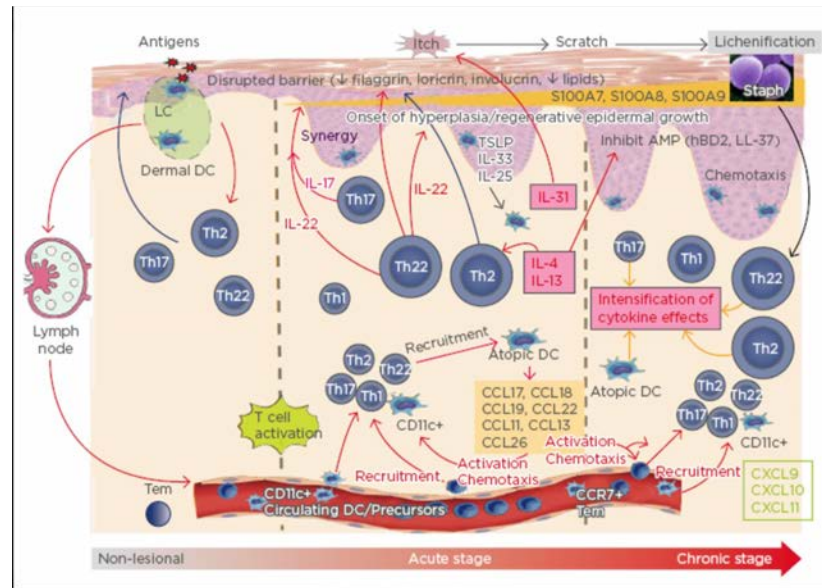


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Langerhans cells are special



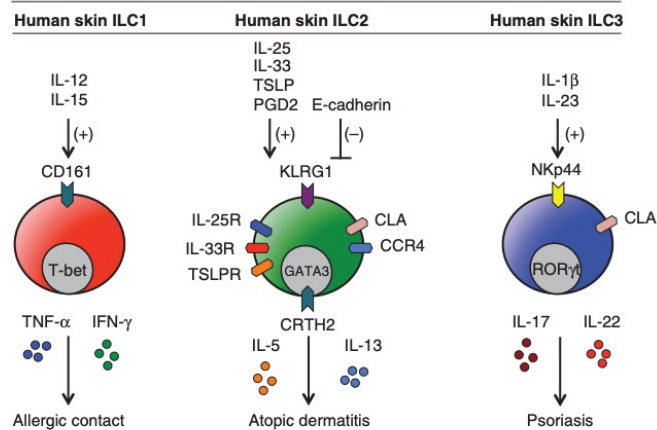
THE COMPLEXITY OF CYTOKINES IN ATOPIC DERMATITIS



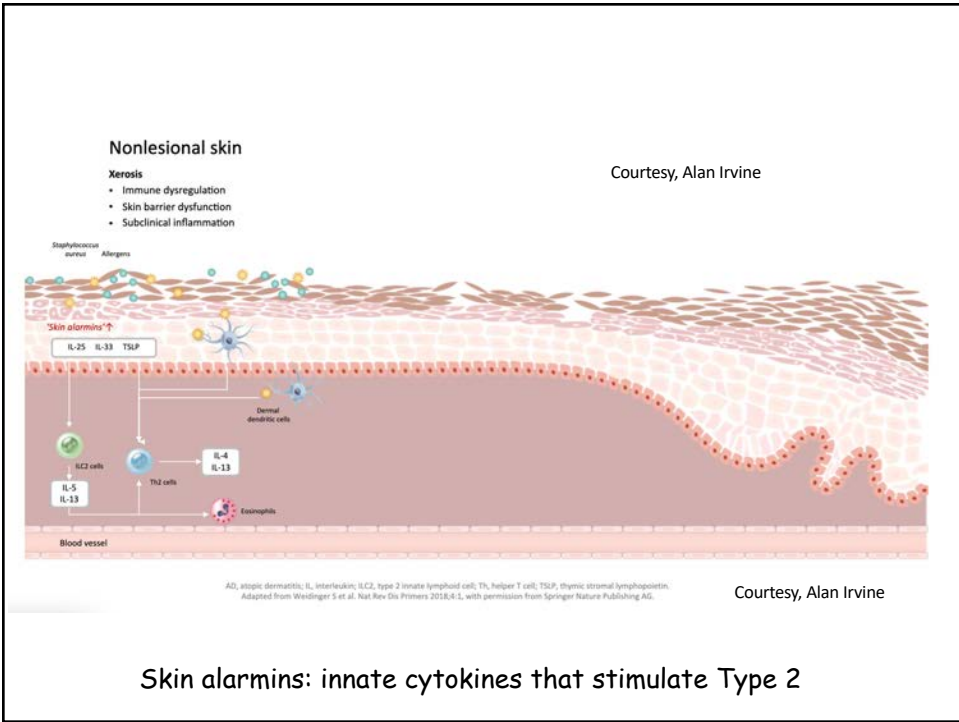
<https://www.emjreviews.com/dermatology/symposium/translating-evidence-to-practice-from-clinical-research-to-real-world-experience/>

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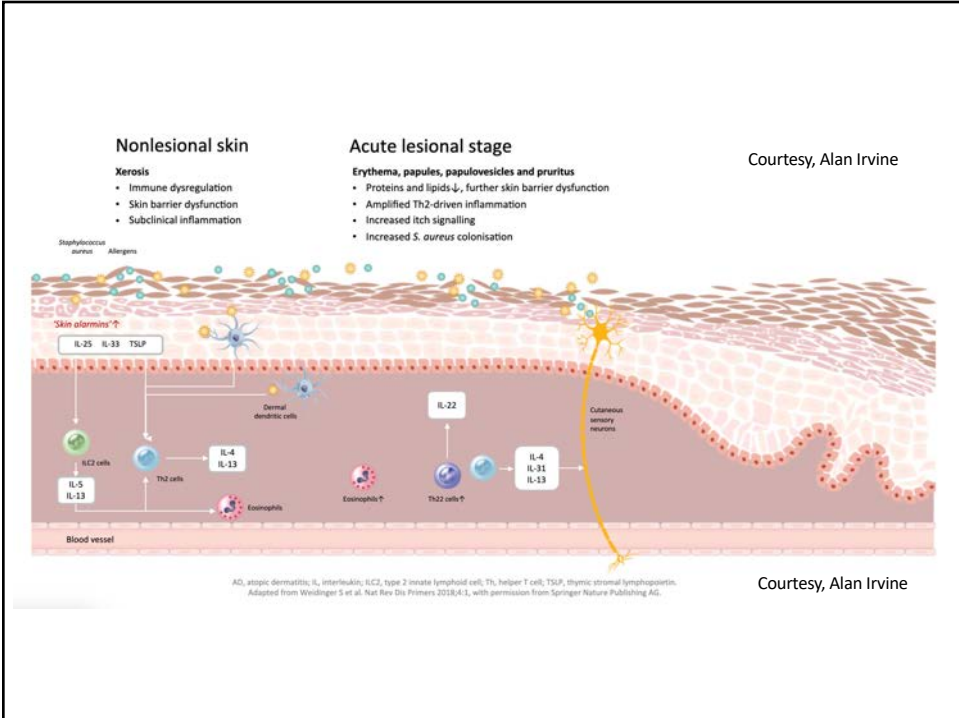
Innate lymphoid cells in AD

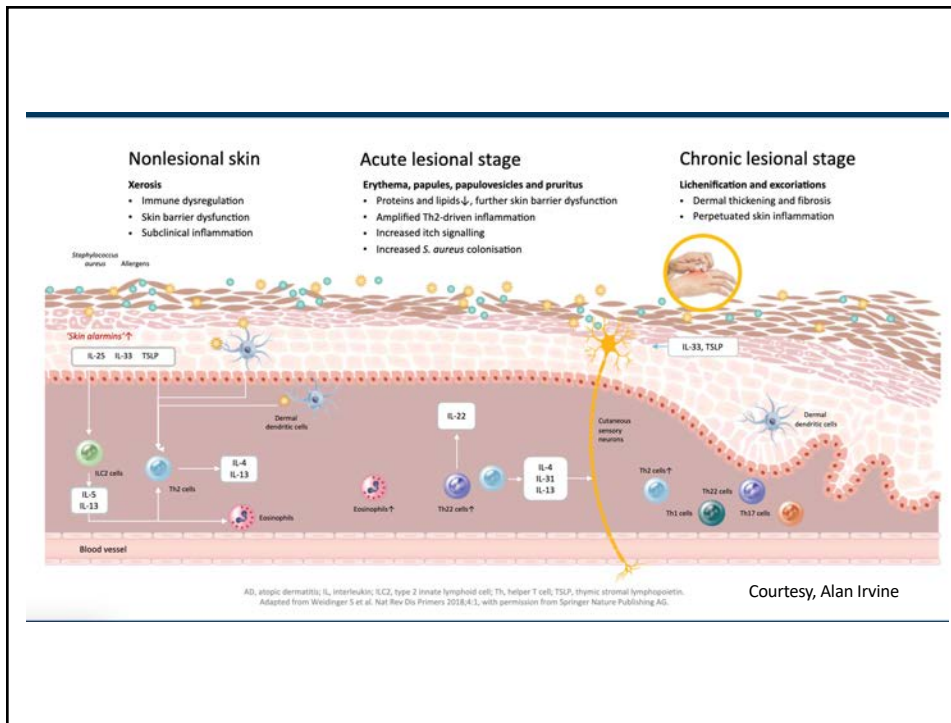


JID 2015; 135:673

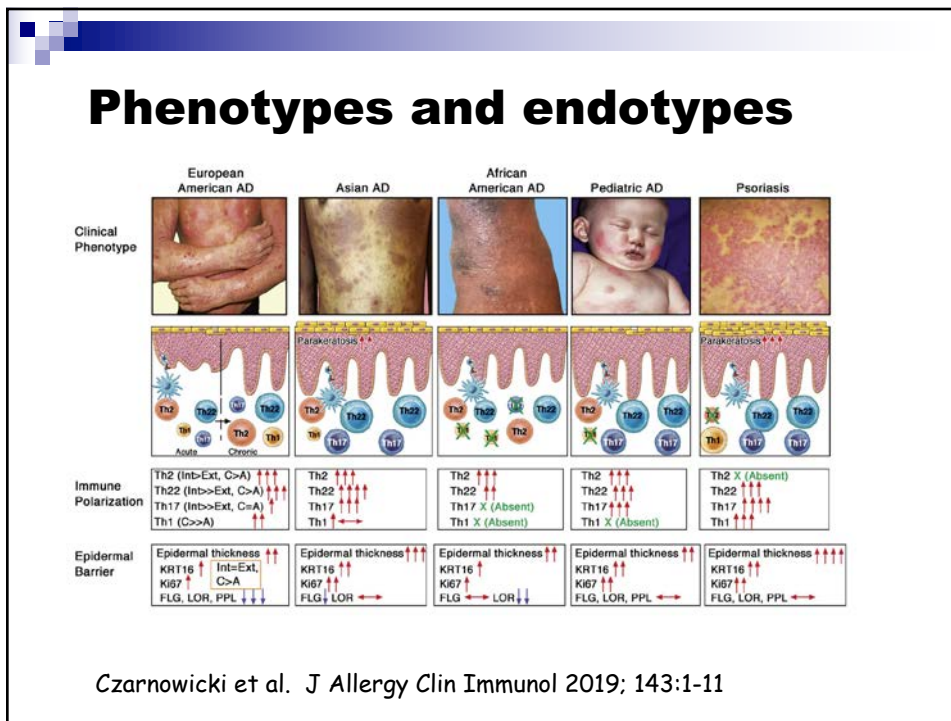


Skin alarmins: innate cytokines that stimulate Type 2





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Atopic dermatitis breed phenotypes

Breed differences in distribution of atopic dermatitis

Will we learn that these have endotypes?

Veterinary Dermatology

DOI: 10.1111/1365-3164.12103.00025.x

Breed-associated phenotypes in canine atopic dermatitis

22:143-149, 2010

50

Early Activation of Th2/Th22 Inflammatory and Pruritogenic Pathways in Acute Canine Epicutaneous challenge Atopic Dermatitis Skin Lesions with HDM ^{MD Open}

Thierry Olivry^{1,2}, David Mayhew³, Judy S. Paps¹, Keith E. Linder^{2,4}, Carlos Peredo⁵, Deepak Rajpal⁶, Hans Hofland^{6,7} and Javier Cote-Sierra⁸

a

c

6 h **24 h** **48 h**

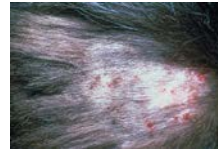
ALOX5 NGF ALOX5AP NMB CMA1 CTSS MASTIN CTSC ALOX5AP ALOX5 IL31 ALOX5 IL13RA2 IL13 TSLP NTRK1 NMB HDC HNMT NGE NTRK1 CTSC MASTIN CTSS TPS1 CMA1 IL6 IL33 TSLP IL4 IL13RA2 IL13 ALOX5AP CYSLTR1 ALOX5 LTA4H

proteases
cytokines
bombesins
histamine
neurotrophins
leukotrienes

> 1.5 fold change
HDM vs control, P < 0.05
italicized = downregulated
size proportional to fold change

4 PHENOTYPIC SYNDROMES ARE THESE FELINE ENDOTYPES?

- Self induced alopecia
- Miliary dermatitis
- Eosinophilic dermatitis (eosinophilic granuloma complex)
- Head and neck pruritus



Andrea Cecilia Wolberg DVM and Alejandro Blanco, DVM - 08/05/2015

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TRANSCRIPTOME OF EOSINOPHILIC PLAQUES

Received: 21 April 2022 | Accepted: 21 July 2022
DOI: 10.1111/vid.13125

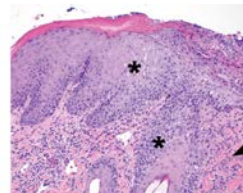
2023; 34:40

Veterinary Dermatology

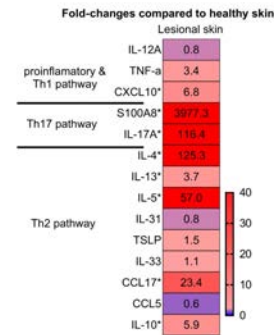
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Transcriptome analysis of selected cytokine and chemokines in the eosinophilic plaques of cats with atopic skin syndrome

Cheryl Vargo¹ | Elizabeth W. Howerth² | Frane Banovic¹



4 affected, 5 healthy



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Investigating the epithelial barrier and immune signatures in the pathogenesis of equine insect bite hypersensitivity

Iva Cvitas^{1,2,3*}, Simone Oberhänsli⁴, Tosso Leeb^{3,5}, Martina Dettwiler^{3,6}, Elliane Müller^{3,6,7,8}, Remy Bruggman¹, Eliane Isabelle Marti^{1,3}

Epidermal barrier

- ✓ Downregulation mRNA tight junction
- ✓ Alterations in keratins

Immune signatures for Th2 and Th1

- ✓ IL-13R
- ✓ IL-5R
- ✓ IL-4R

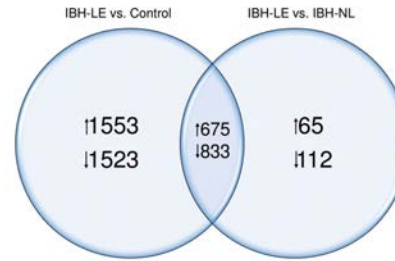
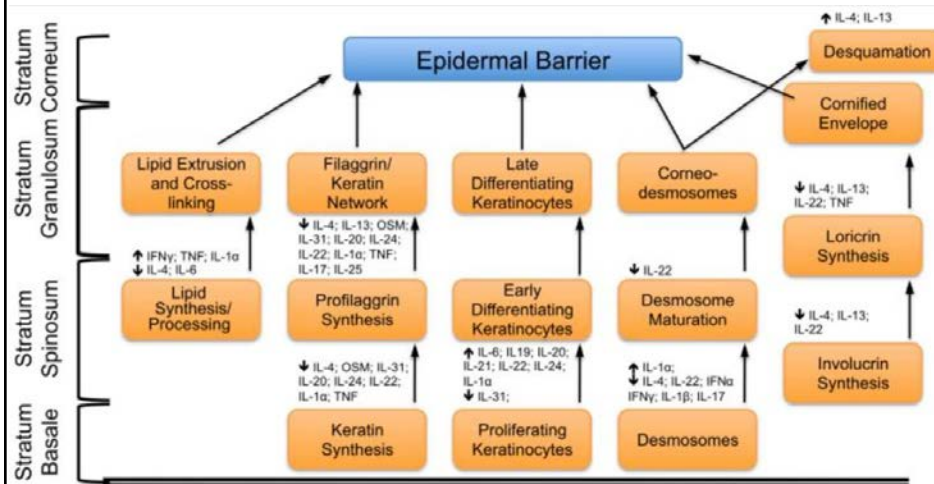


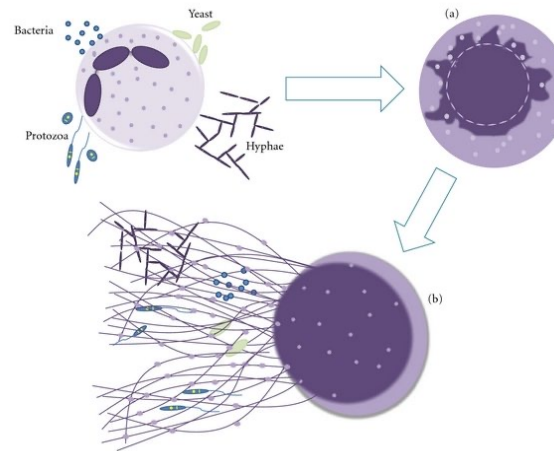
Fig 3. Venn diagram of DEGs shared between IBH-LE vs. H and IBH-LE vs. IBH-NL comparisons ($p < 0.05$). The numbers of up- and down-regulated genes are indicated. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0221181.g003>

Impact of Type 2 cytokines (and others) on the skin barrier



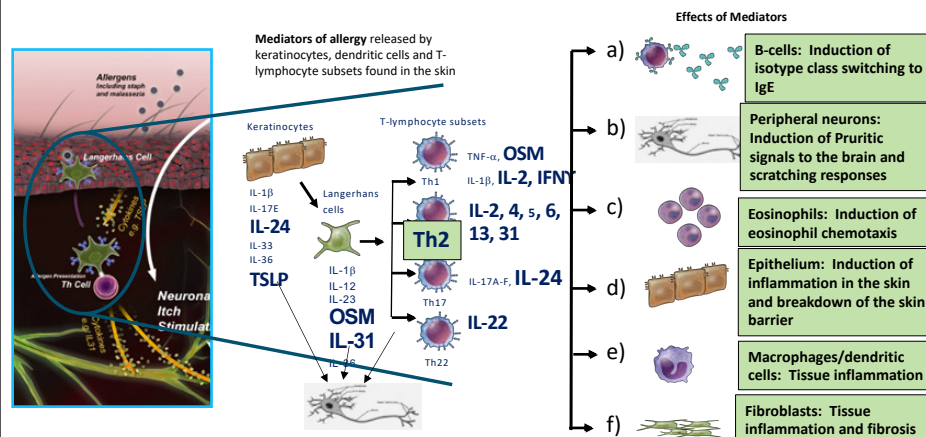
Additional impact of IL-4 and IL-13 revealed by dupilumab in atopic humans

- Inhibition of neutrophil chemotaxis and phagocytosis
- Inhibition of neutrophil killing
- Inhibition of neutrophil NETS (*neutrophil extracellular traps*)
- Neutrophil function restored in patients treated with dupilumab



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What we are learning now – new potential targets



Courtesy, Dr. Andrea Gonzales, Zoetis

THE COMPLEXITY OF ATOPIC ITCH

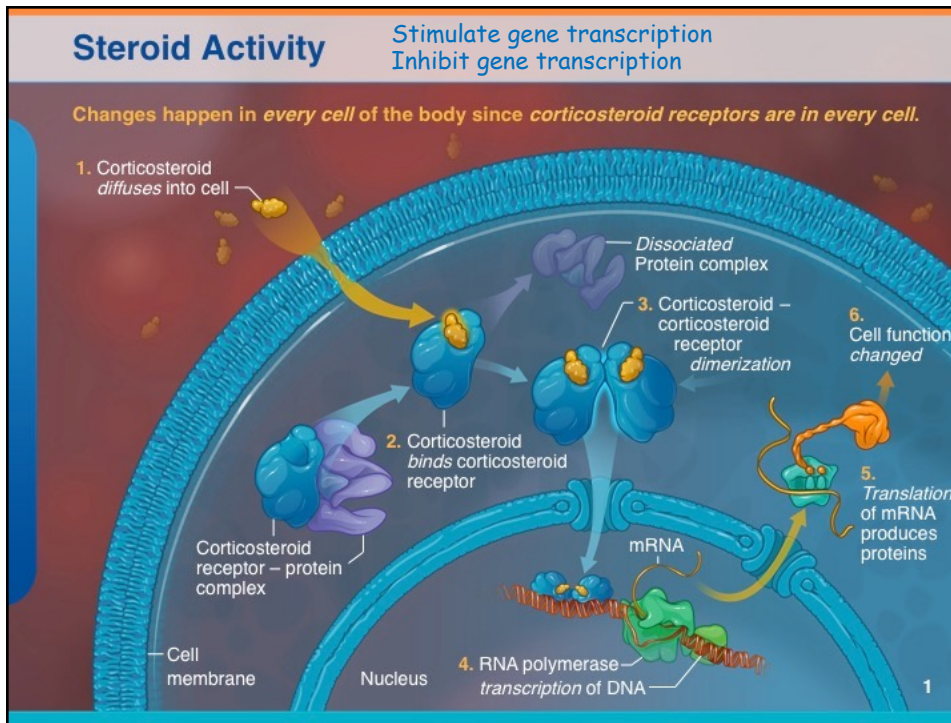
- ◎ Interleukin 31
- ◎ TSLP
- ◎ IL24
- ◎ IL-4
- ◎ IL-13
- ◎ Proteases and PARs
- ◎ Histamine via H4R
- ◎ Serotonin
- ◎ Neuropeptides
 - Substance P
 - CGRP (calcitonin gene-related peptide)
 - GRPR (gastrin-releasing peptide receptor)
 - VIP



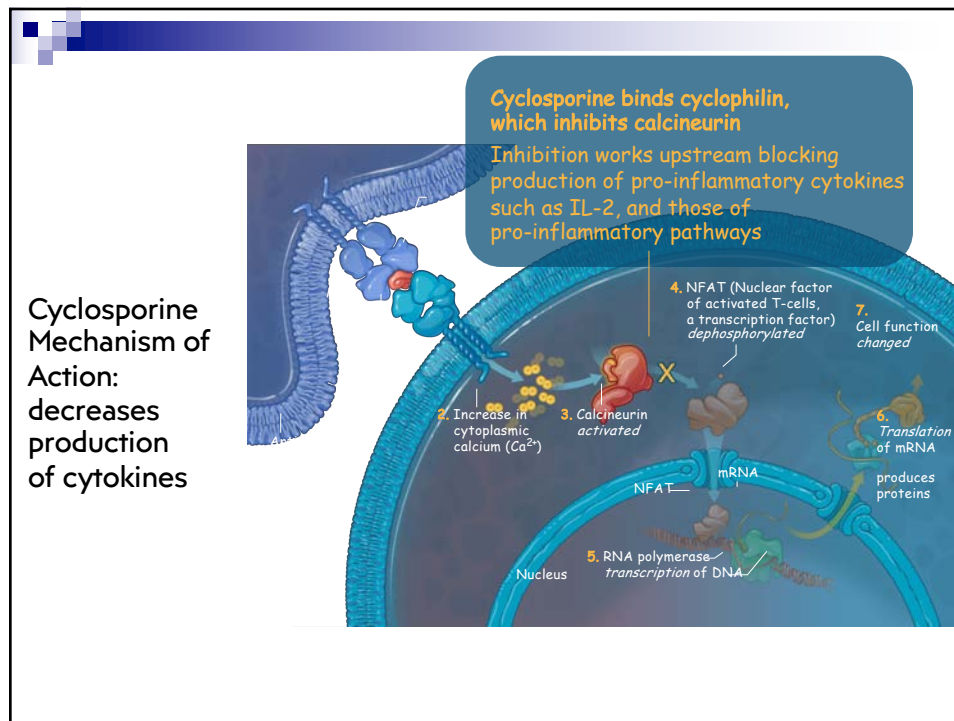
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Other things you want to know

- How do steroids work in atopic dermatitis?
 - **What is the GR? How does it work?**
- How does cyclosporine work?
 - **What molecule does it bind? How does that work?**
 - **Why does it take several weeks to provide efficacy?**
- How does oclacitinib work?
 - **What does oclacitinib bind? How does it work?**
 - **What is JAK? What is STAT?**
 - **Be able to describe the selectivity of oclacitinib with regard to mechanism of action at recommended dosage and frequency**
- How does Lokivetmab (Cytoint) work?
 - **What does it bind?**
 - **Why is the target important?**
- How does allergy immunotherapy work?
 - **Why does it take so long for this approach to provide help?**



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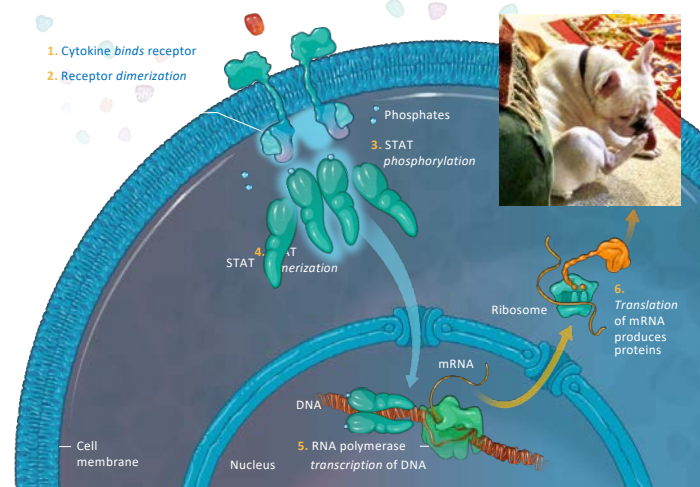


CsA inhibits more than IL-2 production

- Calcineurin inhibitors like CsA directly affect function of the innate immune system as well as the acquired immune system
- Directly affect keratinocytes
- Cyclophilins are present in most cells
- We don't know all the effects of calcineurin inhibitors

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JANUS KINASE (JAK) SIGNALING SUMMARY



JANUS KINASE (JAK) INHIBITION



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apoquel

Cytokine binds receptor

IL-13, IL-4, IL-2, IL-3, IL-6

JAK

Blocked pathways

APOQUEL binds JAK and works after cytokines bind to receptor

CYTOPOINT

IL-31 cytokine

CYTOPOINT neutralizes only IL-31 cytokine before binding to receptor

Downstream signaling is not triggered



Post Grooming
Folliculitis/Furunculosis

+ Culture for
Pseudomonas aeruginosa

Let's hypothesize
the cytokine response



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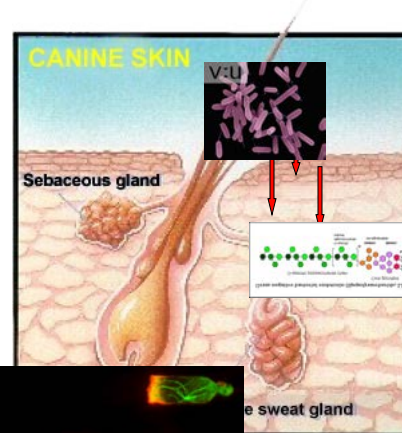
Endotoxin binds TLR on keratinocytes
and Langerhans cells
(TLR2, 4 on KC, TLR4 on LDC)

KC and LDC secrete proinflammatory
Cytokines (IL1, TNF α) and chemokines
(IL8, others-CCL2/MCP-1, CCL20/MIP3a),
upregulation of defensins, MHC Class II,
ICAM-1

Endotoxin binds TLR 4 on dermal DC
and macrophages (tissue ones AND the
ones called in by the chemokines!)

Secretion of IL-1, TNF α , IL-6,
IL-8, others), upregulation of killing
power in macrophages

Meanwhile, the neutrophils are coming!



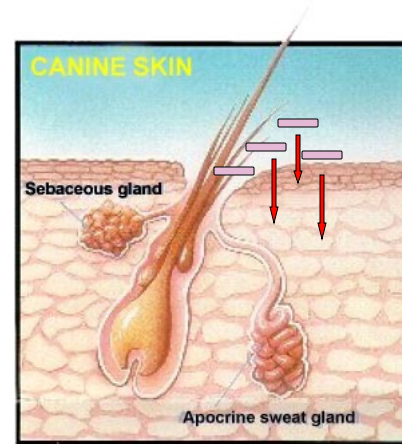
Neutrophils phagocytose and kill when they can (reactive oxygen species)

Neutrophils also die and release NETS (neutrophil extracellular traps) which are chromatin decorated with antimicrobial peptides from granules

Bacteria and toxins mopped up

Why are these dogs so painful?

Endotoxins stimulate prostaglandins which sensitize nerve fibers to lesser stimuli; other factors e.g. substance P, histamines, etc.



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