

Zagreb Spring Symposium of Applied CVascular Physiology & Treatment

# Is sepsis an immunological disease? Then...

**Didier Payen, MD,PhD**

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University Paris 7 Denis Diderot

**Thank You Ina, so « amazing » energy to achieve it...**



**Nice, Octobre 2022**

# Immunité-inflammation: nouveaux concepts

**Didier Payen, MD,PhD**

Professor Emérite  
Université Paris 7, Denis Diderot

**Le Sepsis: est une maladie immunologique?  
Si oui, y a-t-il des conséquences thérapeutiques?**

**Didier Payen, MD,PhD**

**Professeur Emérite  
Université Paris 7 Denis Diderot**

**What is factually observed?**

## Quels sont aspects factuels?

### The Facts

- Only **30% of patients** suffering from **severe sepsis** have **positive blood culture** → **70 % do not!**
- **Inflammation can persist** despite adequate treatment against pathogens
- **Endocarditis** patients **rarely (2%) experienced septic shock**, despite frequent **positive BC**
- **Severe infections can be controlled only by immunomodulation** without traitement against pathogen. Ex: **COVID-19**
- **Secondary infections** rate is **relatively incompressible** (20 to 30%) and can be controlled by **immuno-stimulation**

## During 20 yrs, what happened?

- Sepsis definition more or less **stable till the Sepsis 3**, more **concerned by OF**
- Epidemiology → ↑ **incidence, age, comorbidities**
- **Better education, faster diagnosis, reasonable recommendations (SSC x 3)**
- Huge technological progresses: **genotyping; transcriptomic; proteomic; metabolomic...**
- More clear picture of **immuno-inflammatory processes**
- Reasonable supportive therapy: **Fluid amount; pressors; ventilation; RRT; ECorp Circ...**

## In sepsis, what is killing patients?

- Infection itself? Probaly not initially
- Shock and Hypoperfusion: do the patient died **because** of shock or **with** shock?
- Systemic inflammation? → modulation might be a major advance
- Energetic failure? Protection or recovery from **cell energetic failure** might be successful...
- High susceptibility... genetic factors; epigenetic ...



## THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

NEW YORK AND LONDON  
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY

1921

*DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF PRACTITIONERS AND  
STUDENTS OF MEDICINE*

BY

THE LATE SIR WILLIAM OSLER, BT., M.D., F.R.S.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, LONDON; REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE,  
OXFORD UNIVERSITY; HONORARY PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,  
BALTIMORE; FORMERLY PROFESSOR OF THE INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE, MCGILL  
UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL, AND PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL MEDICINE IN  
THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

### *Immunity.*

- Not all exposed to-the infection take the disease.
- Some families seem more susceptible than others;
- The **blood-serum of persons suffering from advanced chronic disease** was found to **be less destructive to the *staphylococci aureus* than normal human serum**

**Let's refresh your  
knowledge**

**Quelques rappels...**

## The key cells of immune system

- **Resident cells in tissues**

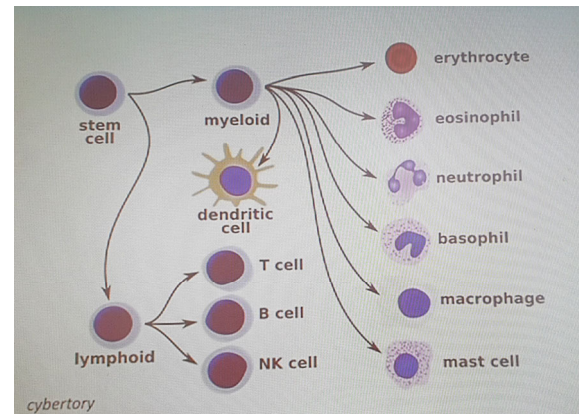
- Ex: *macrophages; dendritic cells; mast cells*

- **Circulatory cells**

- Ex: *neutrophils; monocytes; eosinophils; lymphocytes*

- **Tissue cells**

- Ex: *epithelial cells (structural)*



## The actors of the immune response

- **Innate response:** monocytes macrophages dendritic cells

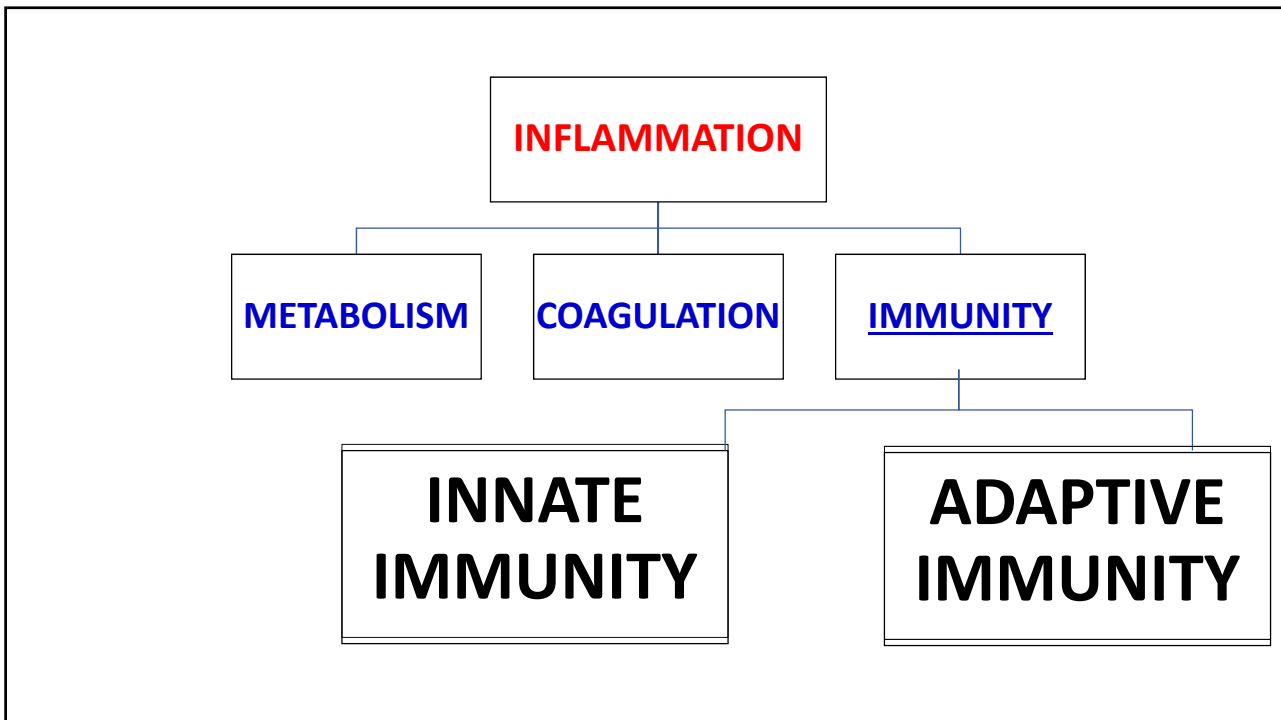
- **Cellular plasticity:** dendritic cells ↔ monocytes ↔ macrophage
- **Immune memory:** epigenetic = “Trained Immunity” +++ for BCG
- **APCells to Lymphocytes** (HLA class I; II)

- **Adaptive response:** “naïve” cells; specific cells Ex: SARS-Cov-2

- **T Lymphocyte:** T4, T8, T<sub>reg</sub>
- **NK cells**
- **B Lymphocyte** → Specific Antibodies «neutralising» +++ Vaccine

- **Mediators:**

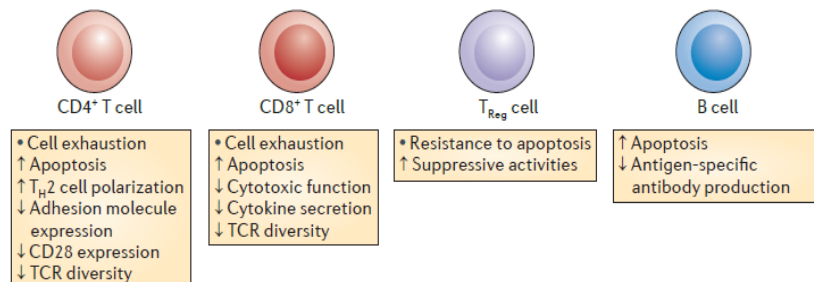
- **Cytokines** pro- anti inflammatory
- **Lymphokines; chemokines**



## Sepsis-induced immunosuppression: from cellular dysfunctions to immunotherapy

Richard S. Hotchkiss<sup>1</sup>, Guillaume Monneret<sup>2</sup> and Didier Payen<sup>3</sup>

### b Effects of protracted sepsis on the adaptive immune system



Nature Reviews Immunology | AOB, published online 15 November 2013; doi:10.1038/nri3552



## Chronology of the immune response against infection

- **Innate Immunity** 0 - 4 hours
  - **Recognition; pre-fixed response, non-specific** mechanisms
  - **Early response** 4 – 96 hours
  - Pathogens recognition by **highly conserved microbial motifs**
  - **Starting** and **amplifying** the inflammatory response
- **Adaptative immune response** > 96 heures
  - **Transportation towards Lymphoid tissue**
  - **Specific identification of the pathogen**
  - **B & T Lymphocytes Response** → **Specific ABodies** or effective cells

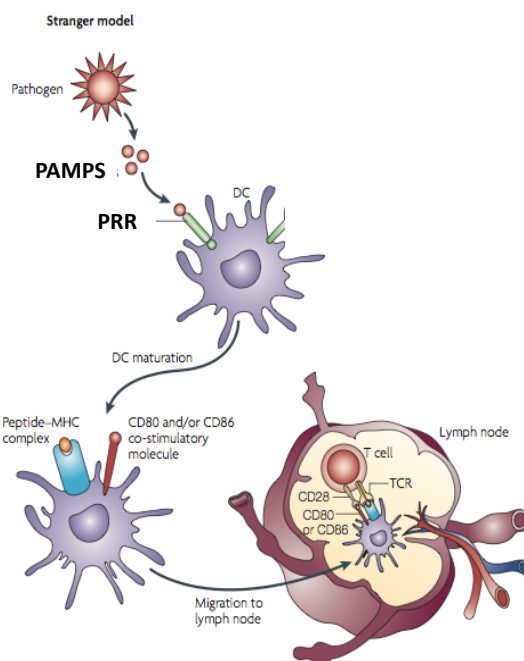


## Sepsis: we better understand and conceptualize ...

From the last 20 years, concept moved a lot... especially

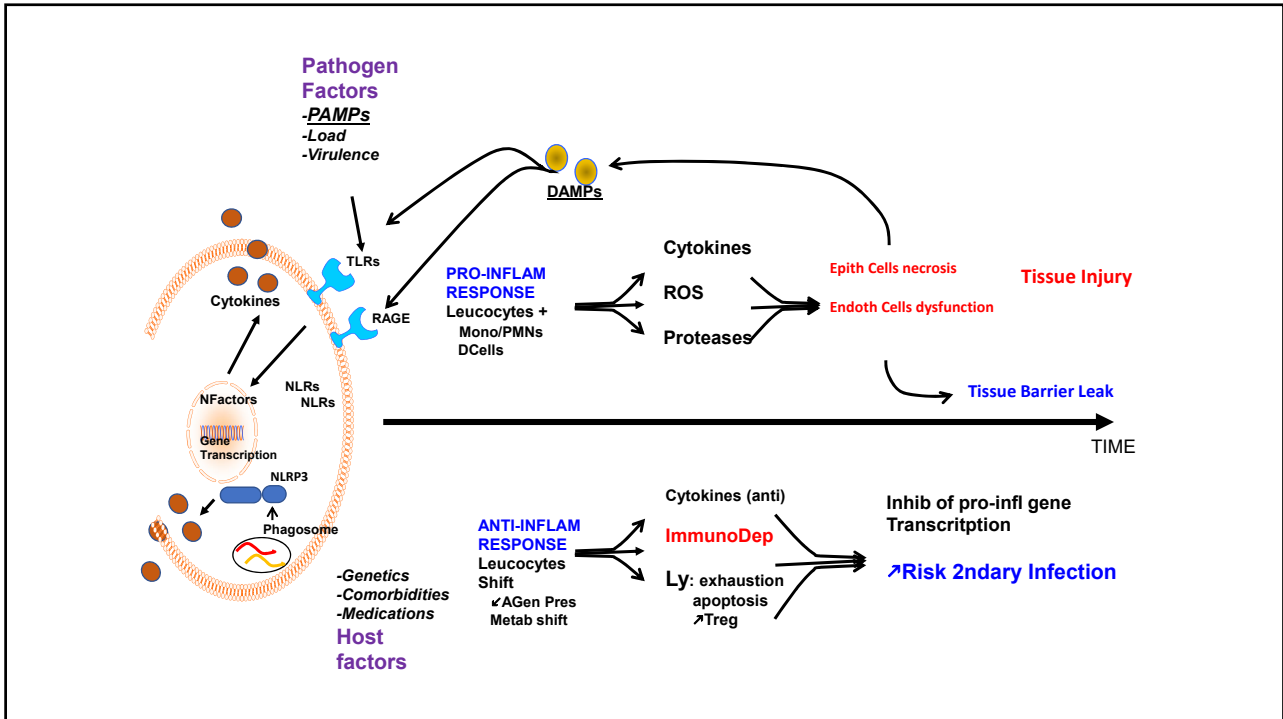
- from infection itself to immuno-inflammatory response leading to Organ Failure,
- with a kinetic of rapid changes in patterns.

# Le concept... le modèle « étranger » et le modèle « danger »



**1994 Matzinger:**  
**Stranger/Danger model**  
**Pathogen-Associated Molecular patterns**

- Bacteria → PAMPs
- Fixed at cell receptors
- TLRs, NODs, etc...
- Induce DNA transcription → *mediators synthesis*



**La chronologie est cruciale...**

## Immunity

### Human Monocytes Undergo Functional Re-programming during Sepsis Mediated by Hypoxia-Inducible Factor-1 $\alpha$

Irina N. Shalova,<sup>1</sup> Jyue Yuan Lim,<sup>1</sup> Manesh Chittozhath,<sup>1</sup> Annelies S. Zinkernagel,<sup>2,3</sup> Federico Beasley,<sup>2</sup> Enrique Hernández-Jiménez,<sup>1</sup> Victor Toledano,<sup>1</sup> Carolina Cubillos-Zapata,<sup>1</sup> Annamaria Rapisarda,<sup>4</sup> Jimmiao Chen,<sup>1</sup> Kaibo Duan,<sup>1</sup> Henry Yang,<sup>1</sup> Michael Poidinger,<sup>1</sup> Giovanni Mellillo,<sup>5</sup> Victor Nizet,<sup>6</sup> Francisco Amalich,<sup>5</sup> Eduardo López-Collazo,<sup>7</sup> and Subhra K. Biswas<sup>1,\*</sup>

Immunity 42, 484–498, March 17, 2015

The dynamic nature of sepsis → at least **2 phases** have been recognized:

- an **early inflammatory** phase and
- a **late immunosuppressive phase**

**Early phase:** → **leukocyte activation, cytokine storm, and a systemic inflammatory response**

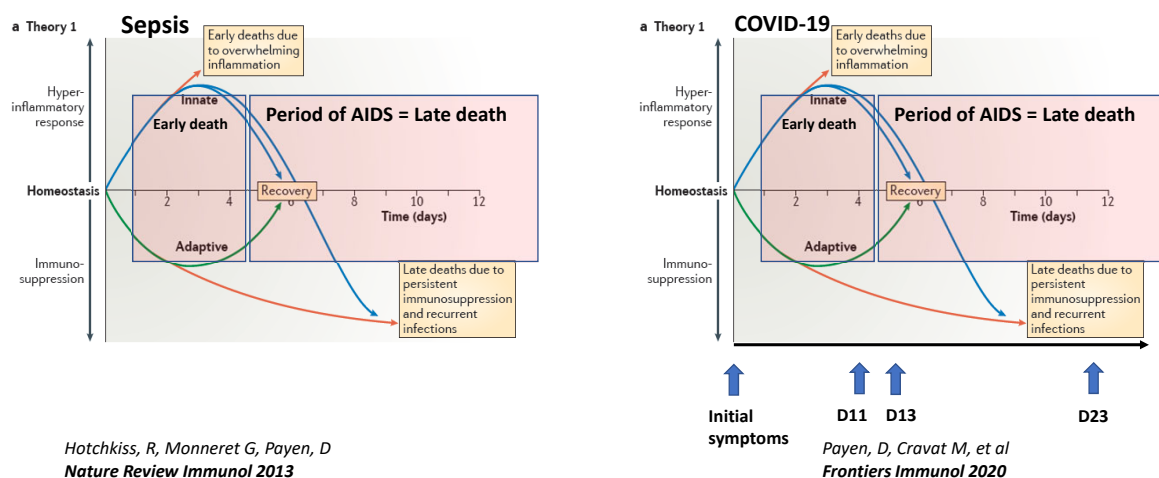
**Later phase:** → **immunosuppression, leukocyte deactivation, increased risks of secondary infection, and higher mortality**

more complicated because the **overlapping between inflammatory and immunosuppressive processes**

- May explain the **FAILURE** of numerous RCTs
- to **REDUCE MORTALITY**

## Chronology in Sepsis & COVID-19 clinic, biology, inflammation → longitudinal studies

### AIDS: Acute Immuno-Depressed Syndrome

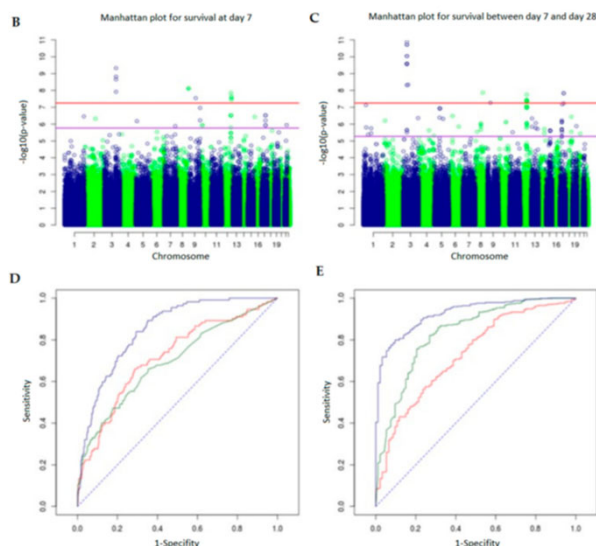


## Genetic Predisposition to the Mortality in Septic Shock

### Patients: From GWAS to the Identification of a Regulatory Variant Modulating the Activity of a CISH Enhancer

Thomas Huet, Audrey Brisebarre, Claire Dupuis, Sabrina Baaklini, Denis Puthier, Christine Brun, Lydie C. Pradel, Pascal Rihet, and Didier Payen 4,\*

Int. J. Mol. Sci. 2021, 22, 5852.



### 832 Multicentric septic shock patients (PROWESS data base)

Association of **139 SNPs with death**. The **most significant SNPs** were within the **CISH gene involved in cytokine regulation**

**Manhattan plots** show the association of **SNPs with (B) Early mortality: the GWAS identified 12 SNPs (C) Late mortality: the GWAS identified 16 SNPs ≠ than early**

**ROC curves** for the prediction of **early (D) and late (E) mortality with SAPS II (red), SNPs (green), and both (blue)**.

## Phase 1

### Acute phase

Despite progresses in supportive therapies (adequate fluid management; limitation on iatrogenic complications, ...)

still **50% of the patients who die, are dying during the 1st post-admission 4 days**

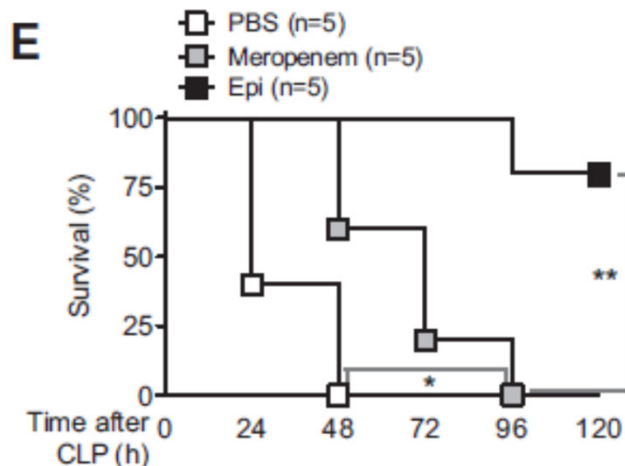
**Is is time for another approach?**

## Anthracyclines Induce DNA Damage Response-Mediated Protection against Severe Sepsis

Nuno Figueiredo, ... and Luis F. Moita

Immunity  
Article

Immunity 39, 874–884,  
2013



- **epirubicin** i.p. at the time of CLP and again 24 hr later **increased the survival** ( $p < 0.001$ )
- **Independently from mouse strain**
- “ “ “ “ of **sepsis origins** (pneumonia or peritoneal sepsis)
- **epirubicin-treated + CLP** has **similar bacterial load in blood and organs** 24 hr post-CLP → **inflammation kills, not infection!**
- a **substantial reduction in the levels of inflammatory mediators** (TNF, IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, and HMGB1)

## Is it relevant for the clinician?

### D0: Oesophagectomy

#### D1 Early post-operative period

- Hypoxemia** with pleural effusion → chest drainage
- CCVasc collaps** responding to fluid challenge
- Acute Kidney Injury** AKIN3

#### D8: severe SIRS

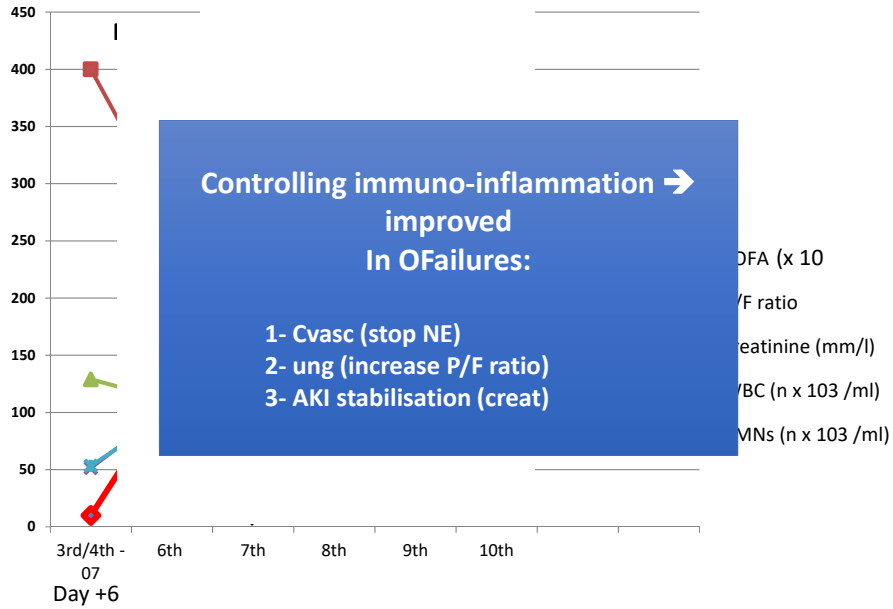
WC $\uparrow$  from 6 400 to 64 600  
 BAL: 10<sup>2</sup> Citrobacter, ECBU (-), HC (-), HC sur PAC (-), Plèvres (-)  
 OGDF: No fistulae  
 TDM IV opacifié: **NO leak, NO mediastinitis**

#### D11: M O S F

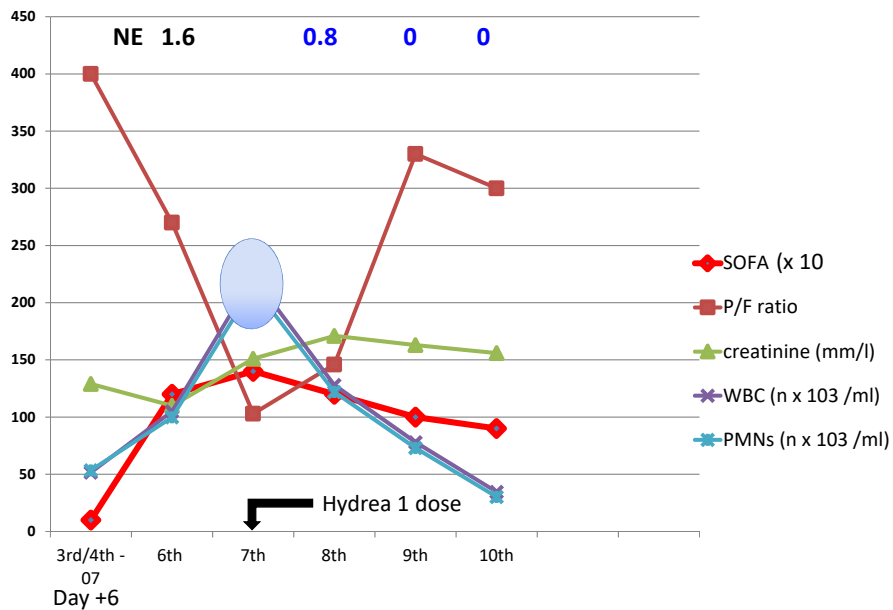
**GB: 223 000 98% PMNs (Chronic ttmt fro ITP with GFactor)**  
 BC+ : multiple bacteria Serratia et Citrobacter, Tracheal asp >10<sup>7</sup> Citrobacter,  
 OGDF & TDM no fistulae  
 AB: 3 molecules (Cefotax; linezolid; Imipenem)



### Let's see the results of immune monitoring...



### Let's see the results of immune monitoring...



## CXCL5-mediated recruitment of neutrophils into the peritoneal cavity of *Gdf15*-deficient mice protects against abdominal sepsis

Isa Santos<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Henrique G. Colaço<sup>1,3</sup>, Ana Neves-Costa<sup>1,3</sup>, Elsa Seixas<sup>4</sup>, Tiago R. Velho<sup>5</sup>, Dora Pedrosa<sup>6</sup>, André Barros<sup>7</sup>, Rui Martins<sup>8</sup>, Nuno Carvalho<sup>9,10</sup>, Didier Payen<sup>11</sup>, Sebastian Weis<sup>12,13</sup>, Hyon-Seung Yi<sup>14</sup>, Minhong Shong<sup>15</sup>, and Luis F. Moita<sup>1,2,3</sup>

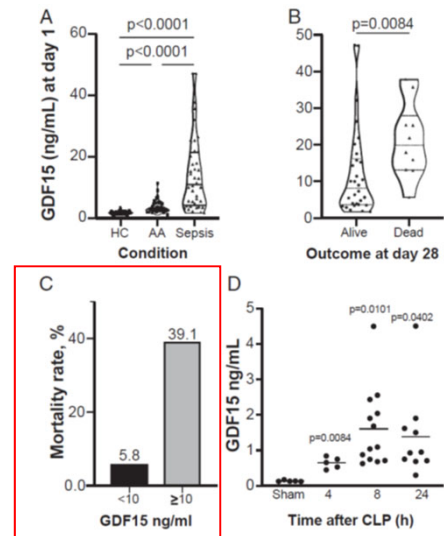
PNAS USA, 2020 Jun 2; 117(22): 12281–12287.

### Significance

Sepsis remains a leading cause of death. New insights into its pathophysiology are likely to be key to the development of effective therapeutic strategies against sepsis. Given the role of GDF15 in metabolism regulation and in cachexia during late stages of cancer, features that also occur in sepsis, elucidation of the possible mechanistic role of GDF15 in sepsis is of great importance. We find that septic patients have very high levels of GDF15 in the peripheral blood, which correlate with clinical outcomes. Using *Gdf15*-deficient mice, we show that GDF15 plays a causal role in sepsis by delaying the local control of infection. These findings suggest GDF15 as a potential therapeutic target in sepsis secondary to a bacterial infection.

### GDF15 (induced by infection)

- (A) Serum levels in the AA and SS compared with the HC group.  
 (B) Serum levels of GDF15 in septic patients D1 of ICU admission & outcome at D28 post admission.

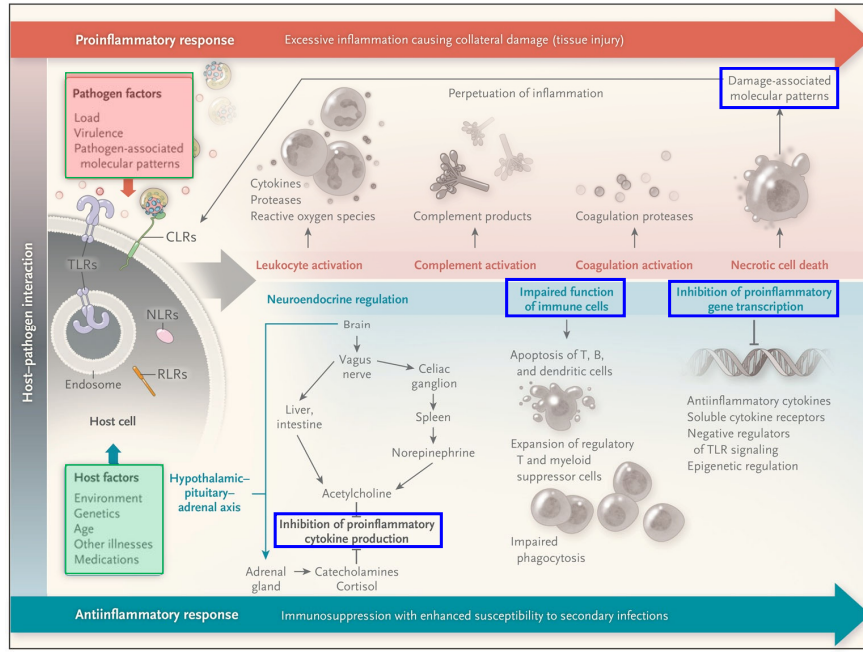


## Phase 2

Starts early and lasts more than 5 days



## It is the Host Response to Sepsis that kills more than the infection?

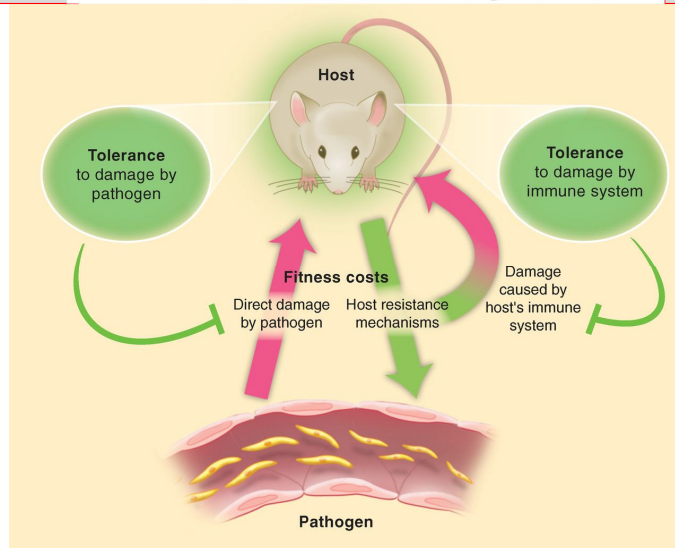


- "Threat" vs. non-threat
- Tolerating pathogens
- Limiting host response

## Disease Tolerance as a Defense Strategy

Ruslan Medzhitov,<sup>1\*</sup> David S. Schneider,<sup>2\*</sup> Miguel P. Soares<sup>3\*</sup>

- Stress hormones
- Anti-inflammatory actions
- Pro-resolving actions



Medzhitov et al. Science 2012; 355:936-41

## Disease Tolerance as a Defense Strategy

Ruslan Medzhitov,<sup>1\*</sup> David S. Schneider,<sup>2\*</sup> Miguel P. Soares<sup>3\*</sup>

Tissue tolerance to damage may largely differ

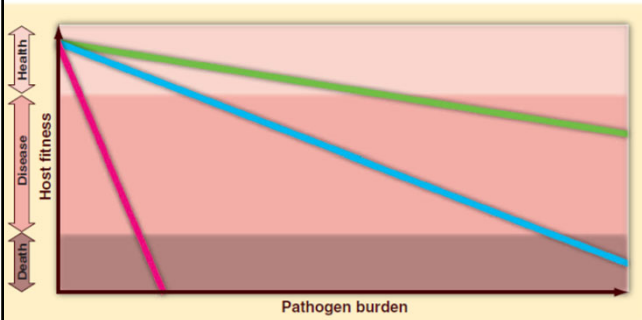


Fig. 2. Different tissues and physiological processes vary in tolerance capacity. Tissues depicted in red have the lowest tolerance to damage, the blue has an intermediate tolerance, and the green has the highest tolerance capacity.



Disease Tolerance as a Defense Strategy  
Ruslan Medzhitov et al.  
*Science* 335, 936 (2012);  
DOI: 10.1126/science.1214935

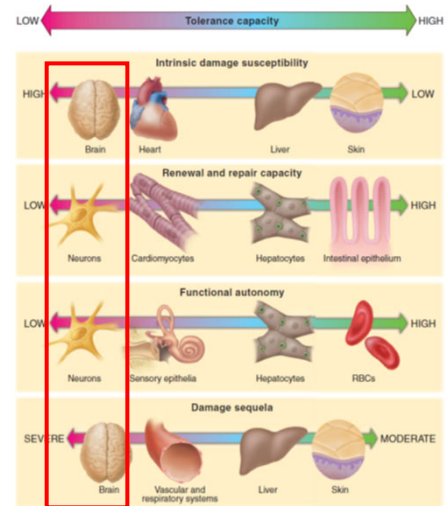


Fig. 3. Tolerance capacity is a function of intrinsic damage susceptibility, repair capacity, functional autonomy, and damage sequelae of different tissues and organs. Although tissues generally tend to fall at the same end of the four spectra, the four characteristics do not necessarily correlate with each other.

**Un des meilleurs marqueurs  
pour évaluer l'état immunitaire  
en pratique clinique...**

**Expression à la surface monocyttaire sanguine de l'HLA-DR  
(marqueur de l'expression du MHC class II)**

**Synapse immunitaire entre immunité innée et adaptative**

### Monocytic HLA-DR expression in intensive care patients: Interest for prognosis and secondary infection prediction\*

Crit Care Med 2009 Vol. 37, No. 10

Anne-Claire Lukaszewicz, MD; Marion Griénay, MD; Matthieu Resche-Rigon, MD, PhD; Romain Pirracchio, MD; Valérie Faivre, PhD; Bernadette Boval, MD; Didier Payen, MD, PhD

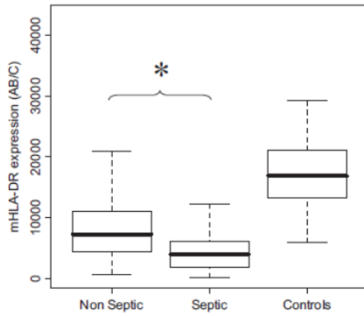


Table 2. Severity scores, early mHLA-DR within the first 3 days after admission and 28-day mortality in different patient categories

Categories	Sepsis (n = 90)	Neurologic (n = 85)	Hemorrhagic (n = 29)	Trauma (n = 20)	Postop (n = 16)	Miscellaneous (n = 43)
SAPS II	46 (33-59)	37 (30-49)	32 (24-50)	32 (22-38)	26 (24-34)	43 (32-55)
SOFA day 0	5 (2-10)	4 (3-7)	6 (4-8)	3 (2-5)	3 (1-6)	3 (2-6)
Early mHLA0DR	2843 (1329-5829)	7174 (4708-10345)	7219 (3556-11046)	5164 (2552-12581)	8303 (3850-10210)	4847 (2235-11337)
28-day mortality, n; (%)	12 (13.3)	15 (17.6)	6 (20.7)	1 (5.0)	1 (6.2)	3 (7.0)

### Monitoring of circulating monocyte HLA-DR expression in a large cohort of intensive care patients: relation with secondary infections

Annals of Intensive Care (2022) 12:39  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13613-022-01010-y>

C. de Roquetaillade<sup>1,2†</sup>, C. Dupuis<sup>2</sup>, V. Faivre<sup>3</sup>, A. C. Lukaszewicz<sup>4</sup>, C. Brumpt<sup>5</sup> and D. Payen<sup>6†</sup>

1053 Pts; 592 pts: 2 HLA-DR Mes

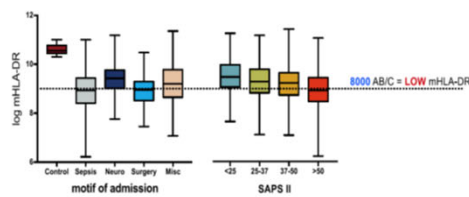


Fig. 1 Initial mHLA-DR measurement according to the motif of admission and initial severity, comparison with controls. Low mHLA-DR expression is defined by a level < 8000 AB/C

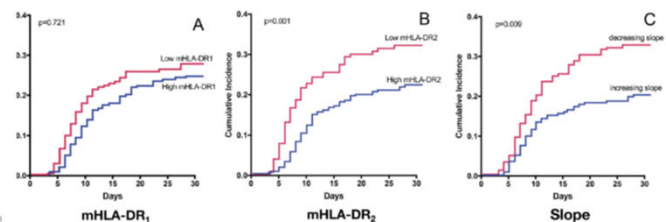
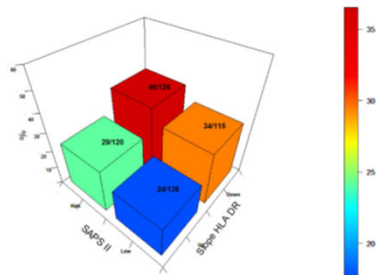


Fig. 2 Cumulative incidence of the occurrence of nosocomial infection depending on different levels of early mHLA-DR expression (A), second mHLA-DR expression (B), and depending on the trend of mHLA-DR (C) in patients with two measurements (n=592). Low mHLA-DR expression is defined by a level < 8000. p-value estimated by a multivariate substitution survival model



Relation between SAPS II—the slope of mHLA-DR and the occurrence of secondary infection at day 28.

# The COVID-19 clinical phenotypes

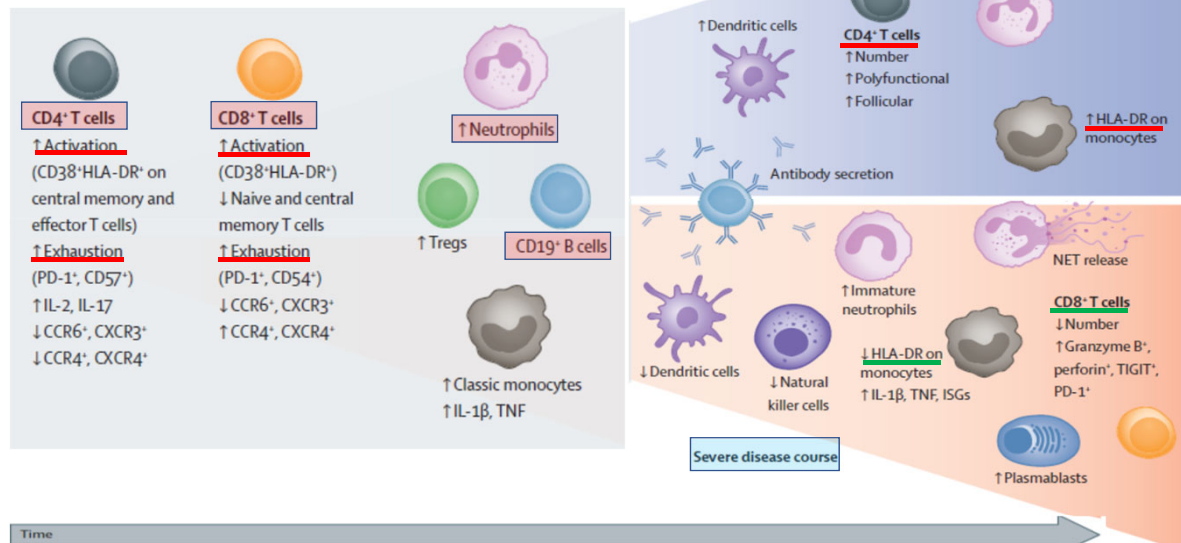
## The COVID-19 puzzle: deciphering pathophysiology and phenotypes of a new disease entity

Marcin F Osuchowski\*, Martin S Winkler\*, Tomasz Skirecki, Sara Cajander, Manu Shankar-Hari, Gunnar Lachmann, Guillaume Monneret, Fabienne Venet, Michael Bauer, Frank M Brunkhorst, Sebastian Weis, Alberto Garcia-Salido, Matthijs Cox, Jean-Marc Cavallion, Florian Uhle, Markus A Weigand, Stefanie B Flahé, W Jost Wiersinga, Raquel Almansa, Amanda de la Fuente, Ignacio Martin-Loeches, Christian Meisel, Thibaud Spinetti, Joerg C Scheffold, Catia Cilloniz, Antoni Torres, Evangelos J Giamarellos-Bourboulis, Ricard Ferrer, Massimo Girardin, Andrea Cossarizza, Mihai G Netea, Tom van der Poll, Jesús F Bermejo-Martín, Ignacio Rubio

*Lancet Respir Med* 2021

Published Online May 6, 2021

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600\(21\)00218-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2213-2600(21)00218-6)



# A Longitudinal Study of Immune Cells in Severe COVID-19 Patients

Didier Payen<sup>1</sup>, Maxime Cravat<sup>2</sup>, Hadil Maadadi<sup>3</sup>, Carole Didelot<sup>4</sup>, Lydia Prosic<sup>4</sup>, Claire Dupuis<sup>5</sup>, Marie-Reine Losser<sup>3,6†</sup> and Marcelo De Carvalho Bittencourt<sup>2,4,7\*\*</sup>

Frontiers in Immunology | October 2020 | Volume 11 | Article 580250

### Patients' characteristics

Age (y.o.)	66 [60; 72]/(54 75)
Gender (male)	12 (80)
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	29 [24.5; 32]/(22 43)

### Outcomes

VAP	4 (26.7)
Delay before VAP (miss=11)	13.5 [7; 15.5]/(1 17)
ICU LOS	12 [10; 23]/(5 30)
Death	3 (20)

### On admission

Delay 1st Symptoms	9 [7; 14]/(1 18)
SAPS2	49 [42; 65]/(22 80)
SOFA	7 [4; 8]/(4 12)
SOFA resp	3 [3; 4]/(0 4)

### Metabolic parameters

Albuminemia (miss=1) (g/l)	25.5 [23.1; 27.4]/(18.2 31.5)	35–52
Cholesterol (miss=8) (g/l)	3.2 [2.5; 4]/(1.8 4)	< 2
TG (miss=4) (g/l)	2.1 [1.3; 2.4]/(1.1 2.8)	<1.5
Glycemia (g/l)	1.5 [1.2; 1.8]/(0.9 3.3)	<1.2
Lactate (mM/l)	1.3 [1; 1.5]/(0.8 1.6)	<2

### Nonspecific markers of inflammation

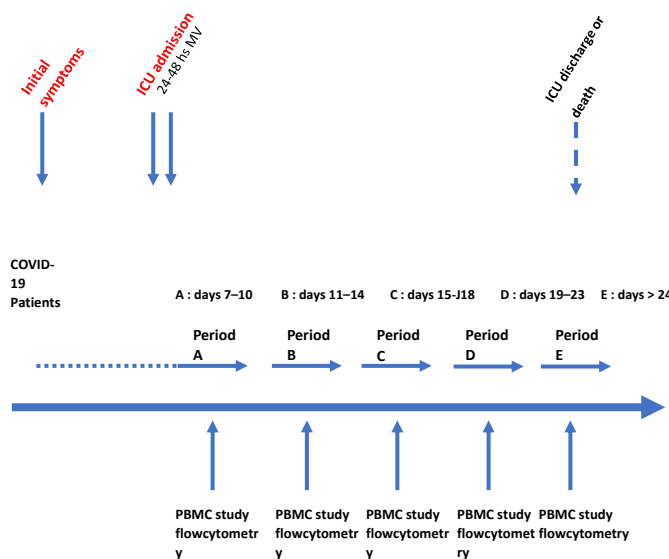
PCT (miss=2)	0.9 [0.5; 3.1]/(0.1 37)	
CRP (miss=1) mg/ml	174.4 [134; 284]/(85 389.2)	0;0–10.0
LDH	439.5 [397; 525]/(388 885)	120–246
Ferritin (miss=3) (µg/l)	888.5 [451; 2385]/(348 7200)	22–322
Ddimers (miss=1) (µg/l)	1742 [1599; 3220]/(804 10000)	45–500
Fibrinogen (miss=2) (g/l)	7.8 [6.5; 8.2]/(4.3 9.9)	1.7–4
C3 (miss=7) (g/l)	1.6 [1.4; 1.8]/(1.2 2.4)	0.9–1.7
C4 (miss=7) (g/l)	0.4 [0.3; 0.4]/(0.3 0.5)	0.12–0.36

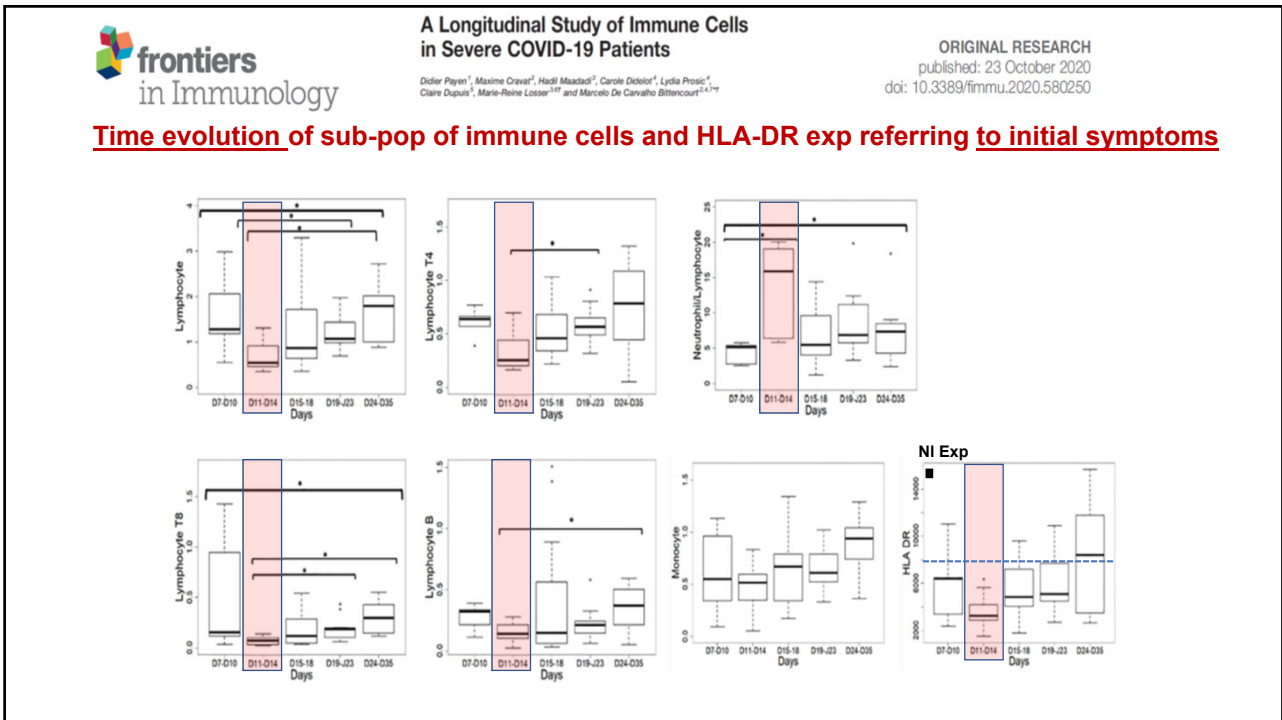
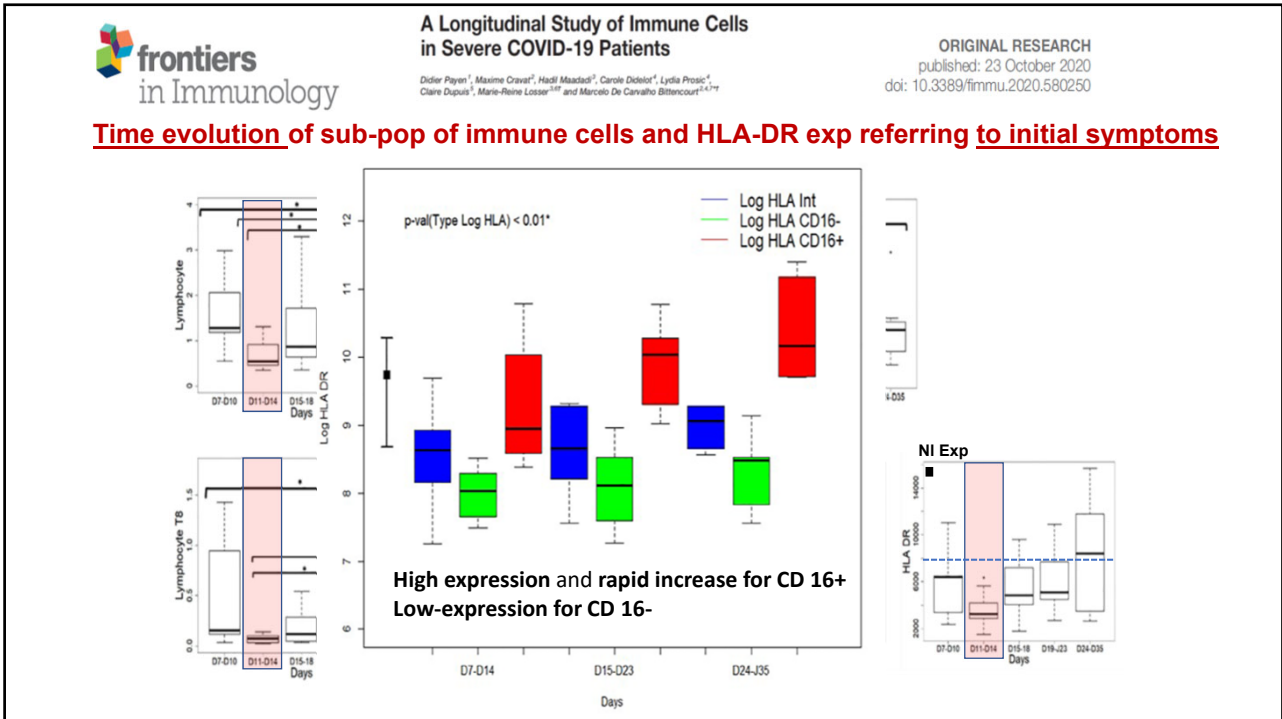


## A Longitudinal Study of Immune Cells in Severe COVID-19 Patients

Didier Payen<sup>1</sup>, Maxime Cravat<sup>2</sup>, Hadil Maadadi<sup>3</sup>, Carole Didelot<sup>4</sup>, Lydia Prosic<sup>4</sup>, Claire Dupuis<sup>5</sup>, Marie-Reine Losser<sup>3,6†</sup> and Marcelo De Carvalho Bittencourt<sup>2,4,7\*\*</sup>

ORIGINAL RESEARCH  
published: 23 October 2020  
doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2020.580250





## To conclude

- Yes, Sepsis is an **inflammatory disease with fast track phases**
- As a consequence, **therapeutic strategies have to integrate the kinetic of the process**
- Nothing is good or bad, it has to be **adapted to the patient's tolerability**
- What could be initially efficient might be dangerous later on: ex GCst in COVID-19...
- **Immunoscope** is then required, cheap, easy to get, repeatable, and quantifiable...

# The Immunoscope...

**Inflammation monitoring** is crucial  
to know at which immune phase the patient is.

## Monitoring the immune response in sepsis: a rational approach to administration of immunoadjuvant therapies

Fabienne Venet<sup>1</sup>, Anne-Claire Lukaszewicz<sup>2</sup>, Didier Payen<sup>2</sup>, Richard Hotchkiss<sup>3</sup> and Guillaume Monneret<sup>1</sup>



Current Opinion in Immunology 2013, 25:477–483

### Monitoring innate immune alterations in sepsis and related therapies

at least 1500 patients

### Recent clinical studies evaluating mHLA-DR predictive value regarding outcome in injured patients

1st author, Journal, Year	No. of patients	Pathology	1st author, Journal, Year	No. of patients	Pathology
Monneret, Intensive Care Med, 2006	93	Septic shock	Chéron, Crit Care, 2010	105	Trauma
Venet, Crit Care Med, 2007	14	Severe burns	Wu, Crit Care, 2011	79	Severe sepsis
Lukaszewicz, Crit Care Med, 2009	283	ICU patients	Wu, Crit Care, 2011	35	Severe sepsis
Berres, Liver Int, 2009	38	Decompensated liver cirrhosis	Zhang, Eur J Neurol, 2011	53	Neurologic patients
Landelle, Intensive Care Med, 2010	209	Septic shock	Berry, Intensive Care Med, 2011	100	Cirrhosis
Lin, Blood, 2011	40	B cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma	Gouel-Chéron, PLoS One, 2012	100	Trauma
			Trimmel, Shock, 2012	413	ICU patients



## Cohort of 13 post sepsis or septic shock patients

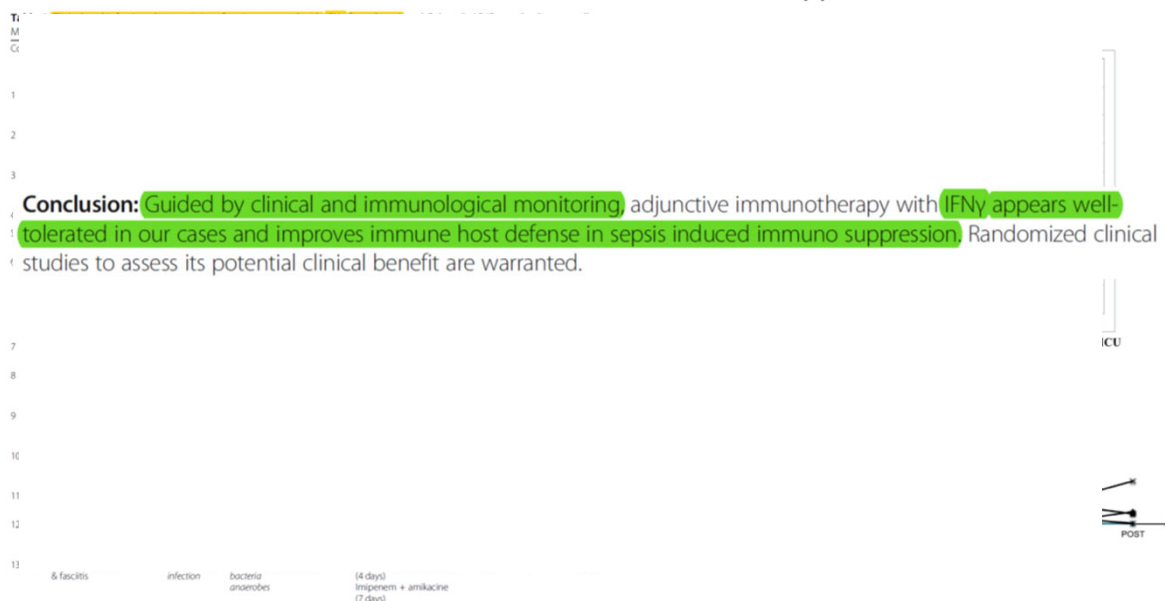
### criteria to decide IFN $\gamma$ :

- (1) an ICU stay **over 7 days**;
- (2) a **repeatedly diagnosed secondary infections /colonization** or an **uncontrolled initial infection despite adequate antimicrobial therapy and/or interventional procedure**;
- (3) a **stable (at least 2 measurements) low level of mHLA-DR expression** (<8,000 antibody bound/cell (AB/C in our laboratory)).

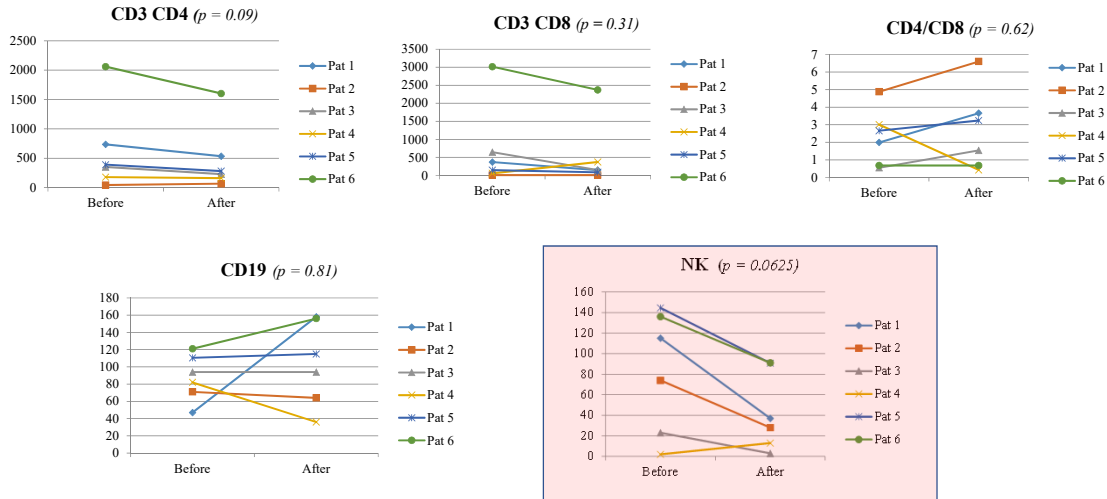
Didier Payen<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Valerie Faivre<sup>1,2</sup>, Jordi Miatello<sup>3,4</sup>, Jenneke Leentjens<sup>5</sup>, Caren Brumpt<sup>6</sup>, Pierre Tissières<sup>3,4</sup>, Claire Dupuis<sup>1</sup>, Peter Pickkers<sup>7,8</sup> and Anne Claire Lukaszewicz<sup>1,2†</sup>

Payen et al. *BMC Infectious Diseases* (2019) 19:931  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12879-019-4526-x>

### Multicentric experience with interferon gamma therapy in sepsis induced immunosuppression. A case series



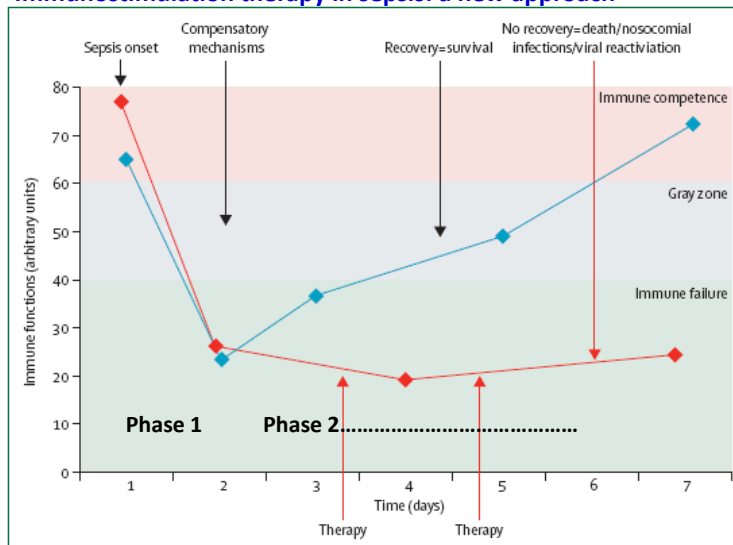
## Immuno-phenotyping of white cells (flowcytometry)



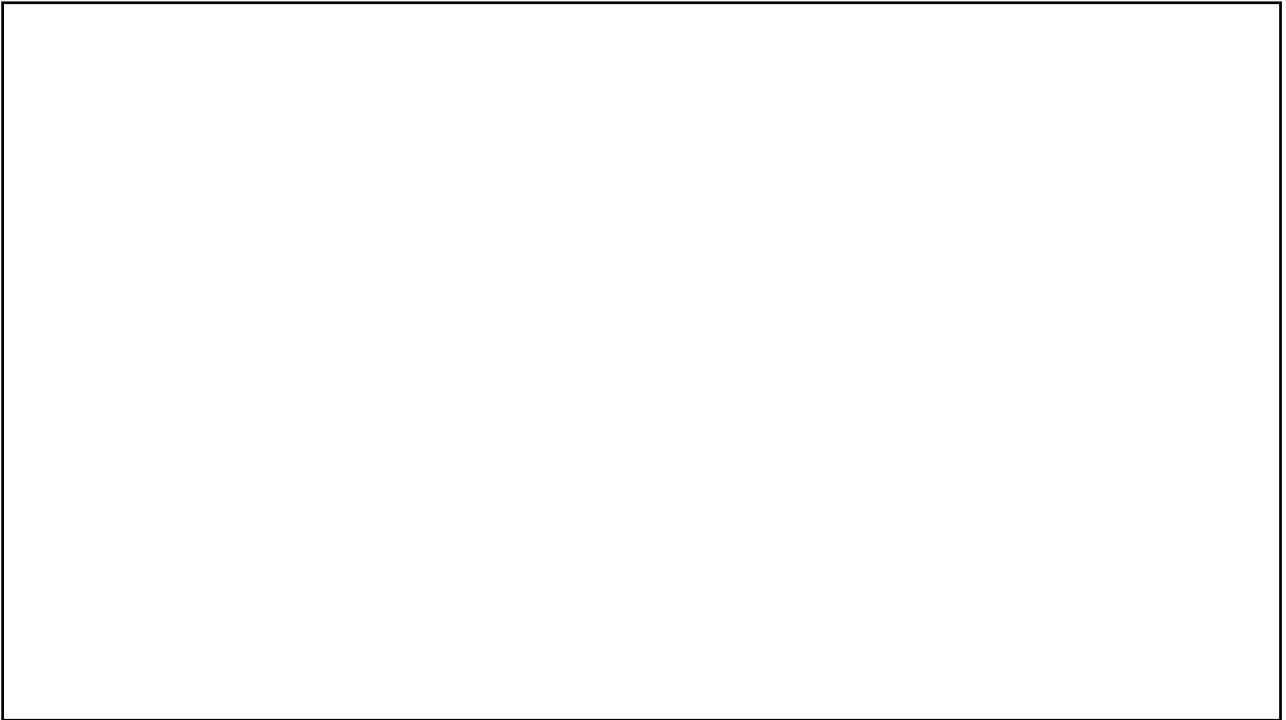
## Immunsuppression in sepsis: a novel understanding of the disorder and a new therapeutic approach

Richard S Hatchkiss, Guillaume Monneret, Didier Payen

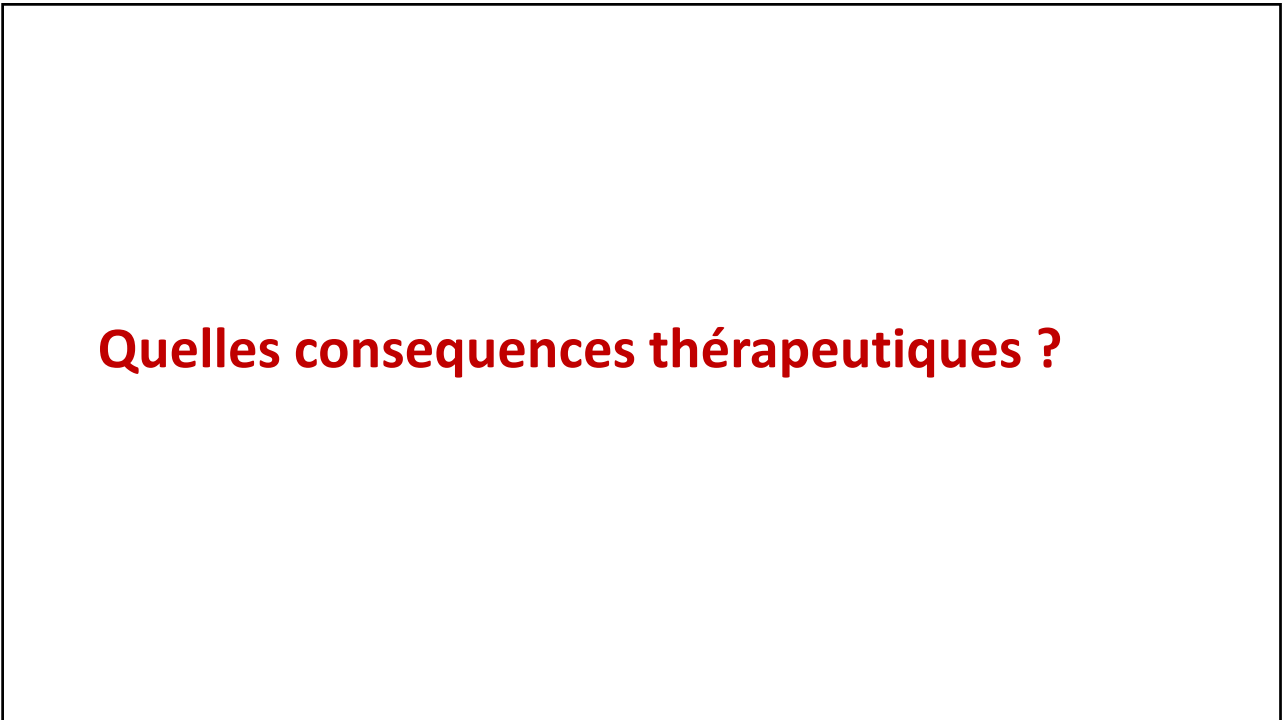
### Immuno-stimulation therapy in sepsis: a new approach



THELANCETID-D-12-00762R2 February 2013



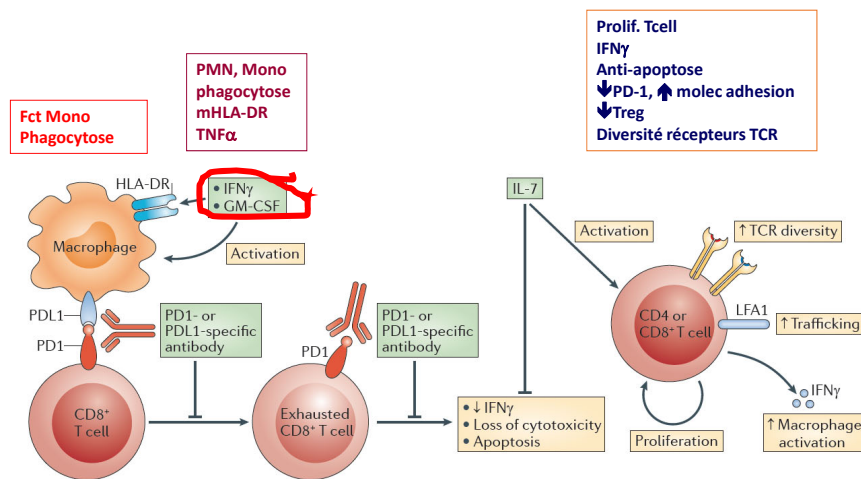
**Quelles conséquences thérapeutiques ?**



# L'immunosuppression?

## Sepsis-induced immunosuppression: from cellular dysfunctions to immunotherapy

Richard S. Hotchkiss<sup>1</sup>, Guillaume Monneret<sup>2</sup> and Didier Pagan<sup>3</sup>



IFN $\gamma$ : signalling, epigenetics and roles in immunity, metabolism, disease and cancer immunotherapy

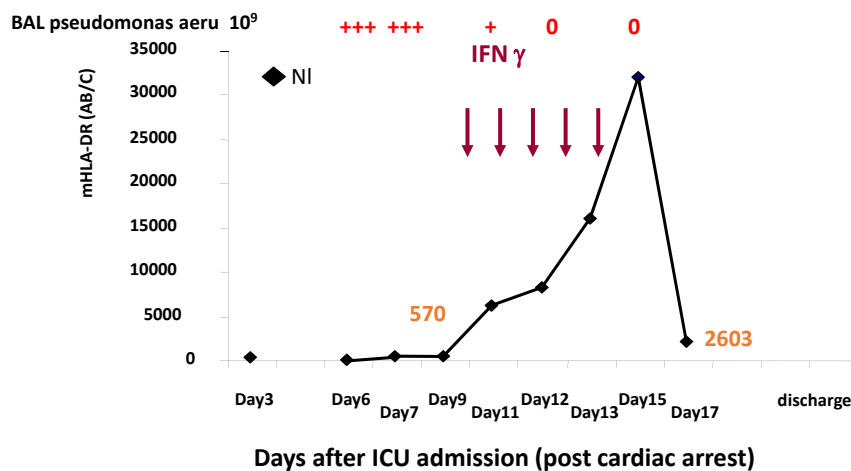
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## What is interferon $\gamma$ ?

- produced by **innate-like lymphocytes** and by **adaptive lymphocytes**:
  - **T helper 1 (TH1) cells** and **cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs)**, in response to **cytokine** and **antigen stimulation**.
- acts on **its receptor**  $\rightarrow$  **rapid and transient activation of nuclear factors** (*Janus kinase (JAK)*–*signal transducer*) and **activator of transcription** (STAT) **signaling** and **interferon-stimulated gene (ISG) induction**.
- Over time, **the cellular IFN $\gamma$  response evolves +++**
  - **impacting the expression and function** of various **enzymes** and **regulators** of **metabolism**, **chromatin** and **transcription**  $\rightarrow$  **reprogrammed cellular state**

### Monocytic HLA-DR expression in intensive care patients: Interest for prognosis and secondary infection prediction\*

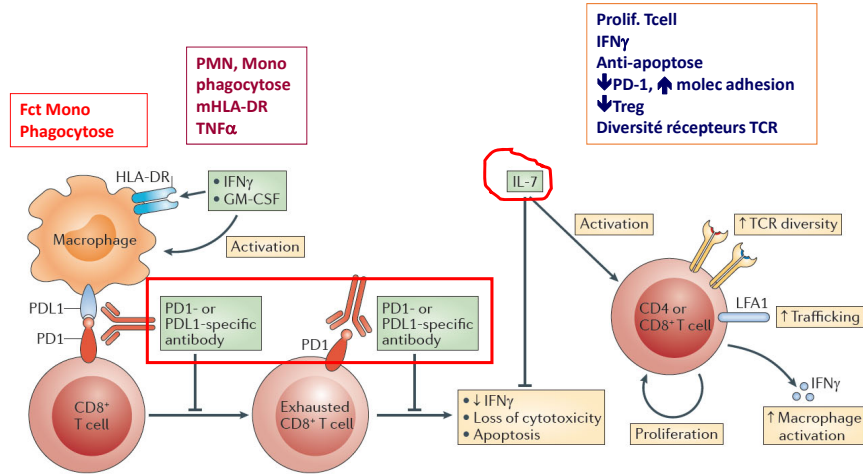
Anne-Claire Lukaszewicz, MD; Marion Grienay, MD; Matthieu Resche-Rigon, MD, PhD; Romain Pirracchio, MD; Valérie Faivre, PhD; Bernadette Boval, MD; Didier Payen, MD, PhD



Lukaszewicz et al. Crit Care Med 2009; 37: 2746–2752

### Sepsis-induced immunosuppression: from cellular dysfunctions to immunotherapy

Richard S. Hotchkiss<sup>1</sup>, Guillaume Monneret<sup>2</sup> and Didier Payen<sup>3</sup>

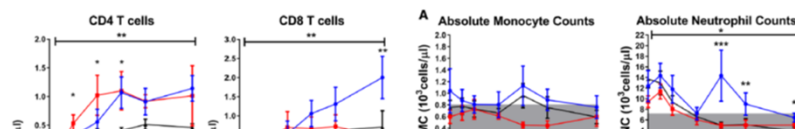
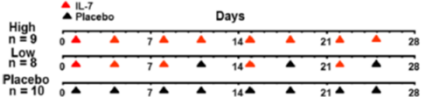


NATURE REVIEWS | IMMUNOLOGY 2013 59

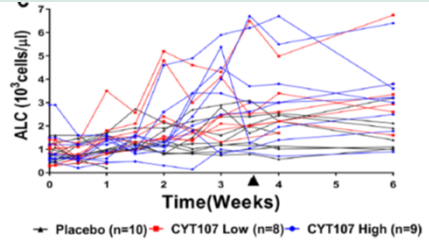
### Interleukin-7 restores lymphocytes in septic shock: the IRIS-7 randomized clinical trial



#### A Dosing Regimen: CYT107 vs. Placebo

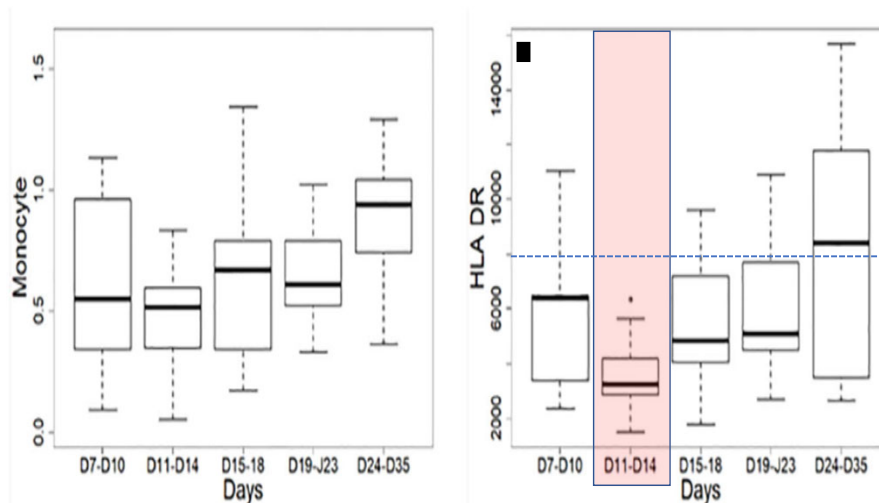


**RESULTS.** CYT107 was well tolerated without evidence of inducing cytokine storm or worsening inflammation or organ dysfunction. CYT107 caused a 3- to 4-fold increase in absolute lymphocyte counts and in circulating CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells that persisted for weeks after drug administration. CYT107 also increased T cell proliferation and activation.



**Time evolution of sub-pop of immune cells and HLA-DR exp referring to initial symptoms**

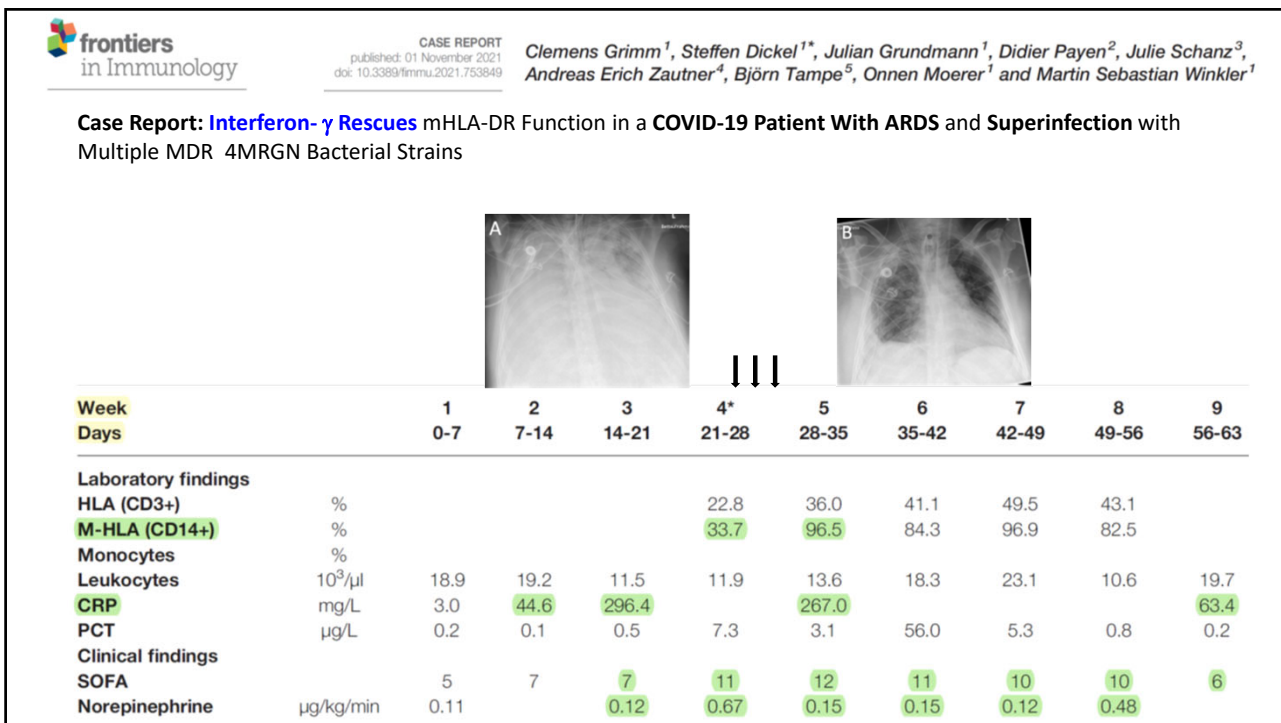
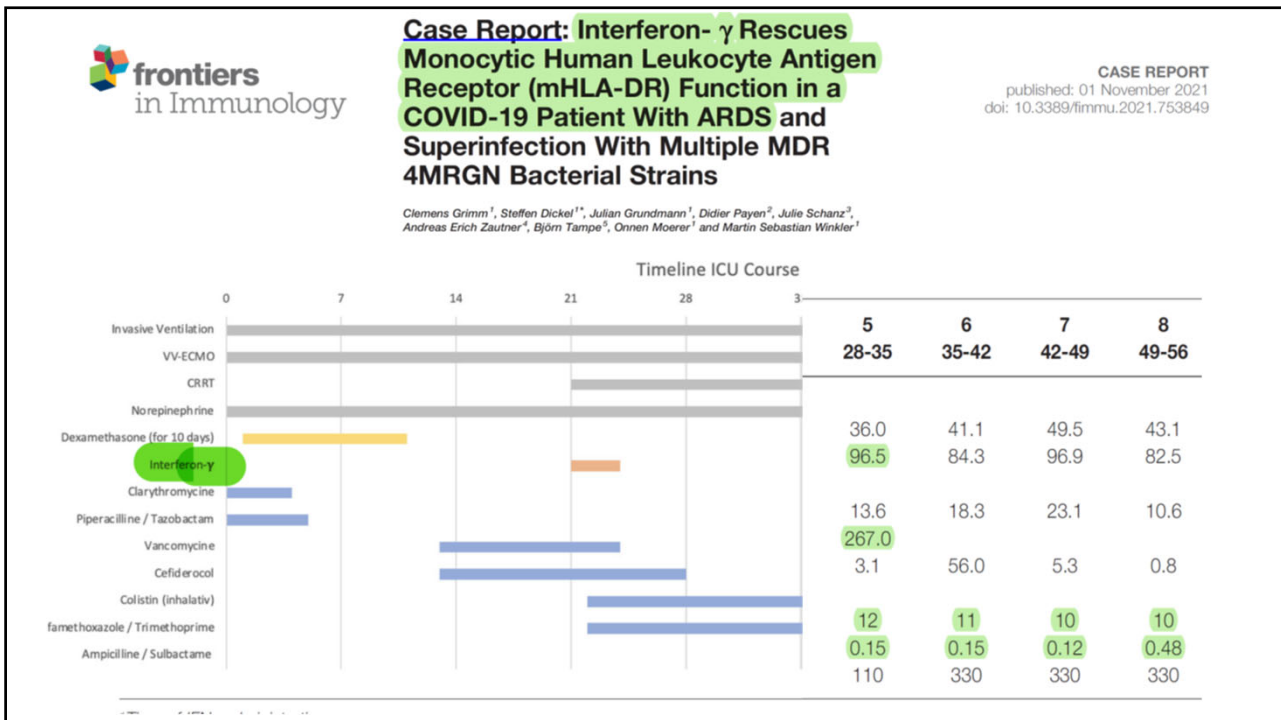
NI Exp


**Case Report: Interferon- $\gamma$  Restores Monocytic Human Leukocyte Antigen Receptor (mHLA-DR) in Severe COVID-19 With Acquired Immunosuppression Syndrome**

**Methods:** We report a case of one-time INF $\gamma$  injection (100 mcg s.c.) in a superinfected 61-year-old man with COVID-19-associated acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), with monitoring of mHLA-DR expression and clinical tolerance.

**Observations:** Low mHLA-DR pretreatment expression (26.7%) was observed. INF $\gamma$  therapy leading to a rapid increase in mHLA-DR expression (83.1%).

**Conclusions:** Severe ARDS in a COVID-19 patient has a deep reduction in mHLA-DR expression concomitantly with secondary infections. The unique INF $\gamma$  injection was safe and led to a sharp increase in the expression of mHLA-DR. Based on immune and



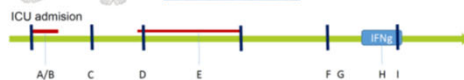


## Interferon gamma as an immune modulating adjunct therapy for invasive mucormycosis after severe burn -a case report

Dina M. Tawfik<sup>1</sup>, Caroline Dereux<sup>2</sup>, Jan-Alexis Tremblay<sup>3</sup>, Andre Boibieux<sup>2</sup>, Fabienne Braye<sup>2</sup>, Jean-Baptiste Cazauran<sup>2</sup>, Meja Rabodonirina<sup>2</sup>, Elisabeth Cerrato<sup>1</sup>, Audrey Guichard<sup>1</sup>, Fabienne Venet<sup>4</sup>, Guillaume Monneret<sup>1,4</sup>, Didier Payen<sup>5</sup>, Anne-Claire Lukaszewicz<sup>2</sup>, Julien Textoris<sup>6, 1\*</sup>

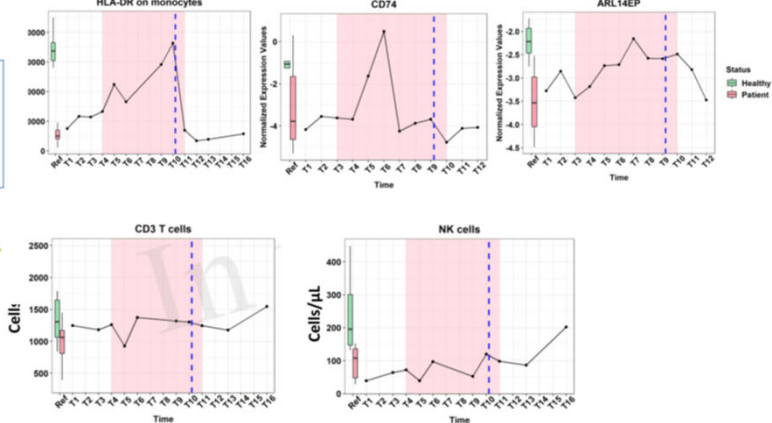


- A. Hypovolemic + cardiogenic shock (vasopressors+inotropes; 5 days)
- B. KDIGO 2 AKI
- C. Occlusive syndrome + bacteremia with ent. faecalis
- D. Peritonitis on sigmoid perforation
- E. Septic shock
- F. Tracheal intubation
- G. Peri-stomal ulcerations
- H. IFN $\gamma$  treatment
- I. Abdominal wall surgery



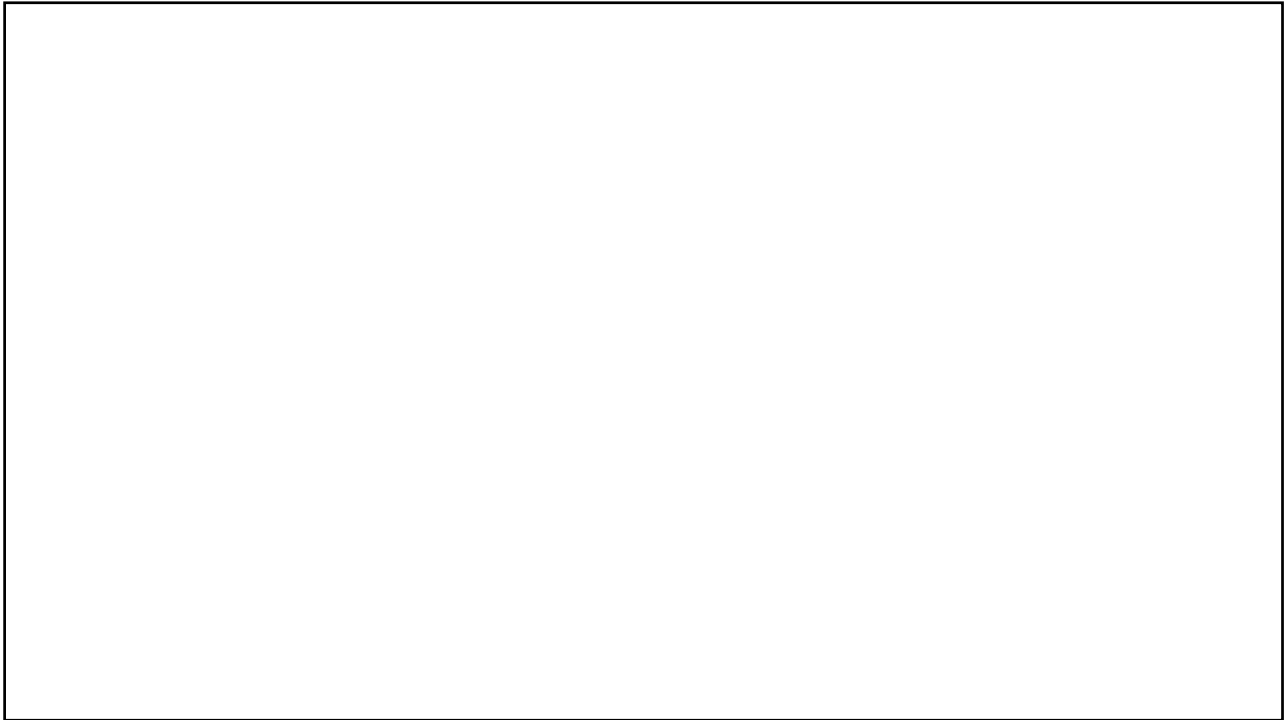
### A. Antigen Presentation

Figure 2.TIF



## To conclude

- **PAIDs** is a **synd** that concerns **all acute situations**, particularly **severe sepsis**; it is always present **1 or 2 days** after injury
- **IMMUNOSCOPE IS ESSENTIAL**
  - Blood measurements: WBC (fractions), NCLRatio; semi-quantitative cytokine level
  - Flowcytometry: HLA-DR; Ly sub-populations
- **HLA-DR is a good candidate** and is **cheap** and **fast** to be measured, in association with **semi-quantitative IL-6, IL-10 levels**.
- **Immuno-stimulation by IFN $\gamma$  seems to be well tolerated**; can be given repeatedly, can be used in **pediatric pts**, even under anti-rejection treatment for transplant.



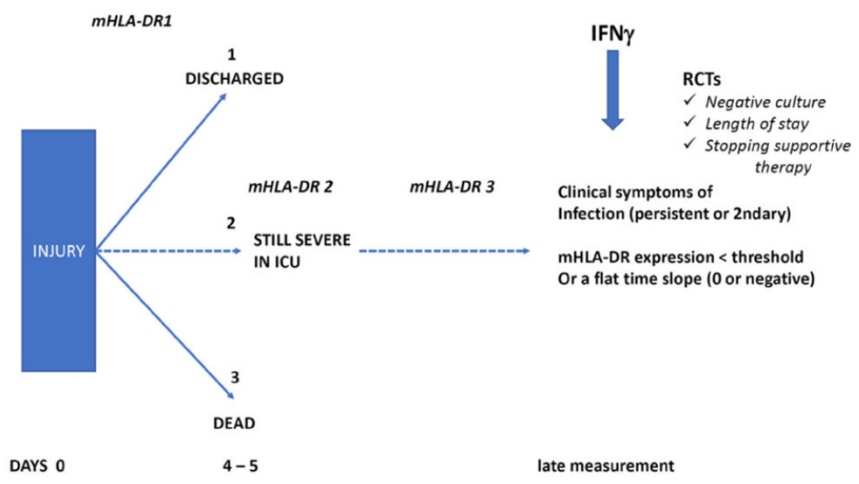
Didier Payen<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Valerie Faivre<sup>1,2</sup>, Jordi Miatello<sup>3,4</sup>, Jenneke Leentjens<sup>5</sup>, Caren Brumpt<sup>6</sup>, Pierre Tissières<sup>3,4</sup>, Claire Dupuis<sup>1</sup>, Peter Pickkers<sup>7,8</sup> and Anne Claire Lukaszewicz<sup>1,2†</sup>

Payen et al. *BMC Infectious Diseases* (2019) 19:931  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12879-019-4526-x>

**Table 1** Clinical and infection characteristics of patients treated with IFN $\gamma$  for cohort 1 and Cohort 2. ABC = antibodies per cell. MFI = Mean Fluorescence Intensity

Cohort 1

Age	Diagnosis at admission
1 30	Cardiac arrest
2 83	Postop cardiogenic shock
3 73	Cardiogenic shock
4 63	Peritonitis
5 42	Peritonitis
6 64	Peritonitis
7 65	Postoperative pneumonia
8 56	Pneumonia
9 34	Pneumonia
10 56	Cervical cellulitis septicemia
11 60	Fasciitis
12 74	Keto-acidosis
13 82	Rectal Fistula & fasciitis



### Multicentric experience with interferon gamma therapy in sepsis induced immunosuppression. A case series

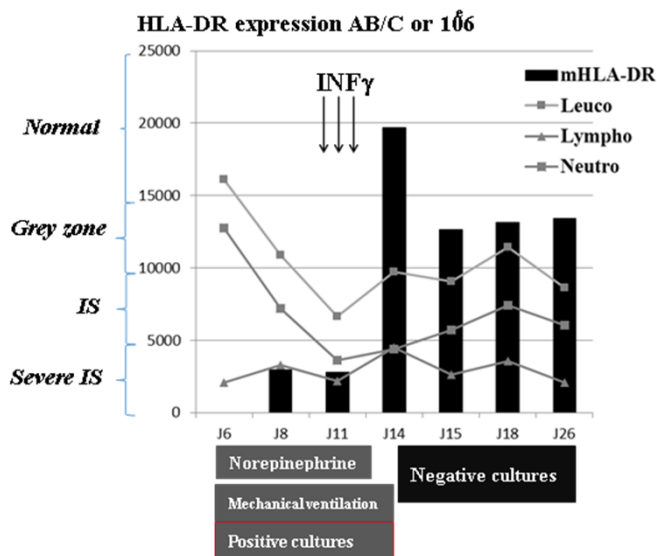
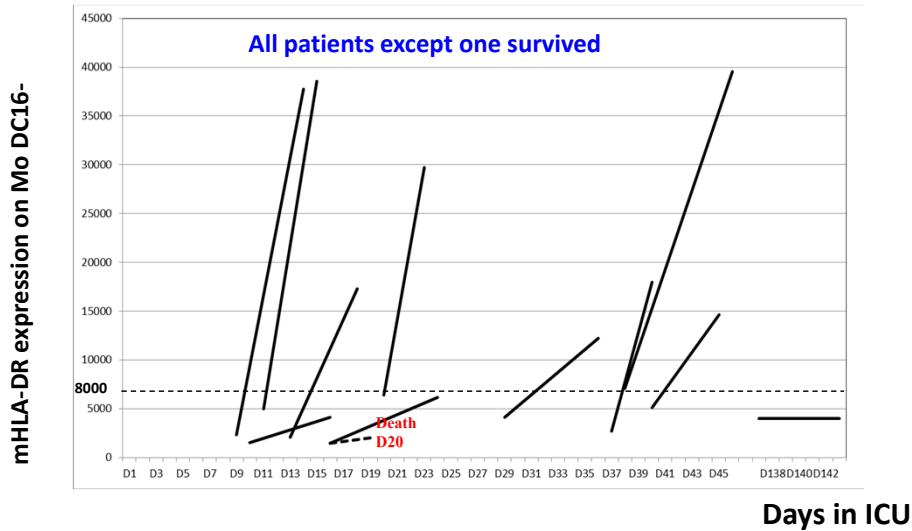
mHLA-DR expression

(7 days)

## Cohort of 13 post sepsis or septic shock patients

100 mcg subcut (Imukin®, Boehringer, Ingelheim, Germany) as previously reported, during at least 3 days with a maximum duration of 8 days

Delay from admission: 18.6 Days



**22 months old boy** OLT (biliary atresia), was admitted for **cholangitis** with **emergence of MAXI-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*** and **catheter-related ESBL-producing *Klebsiella pneumonia*** infection.

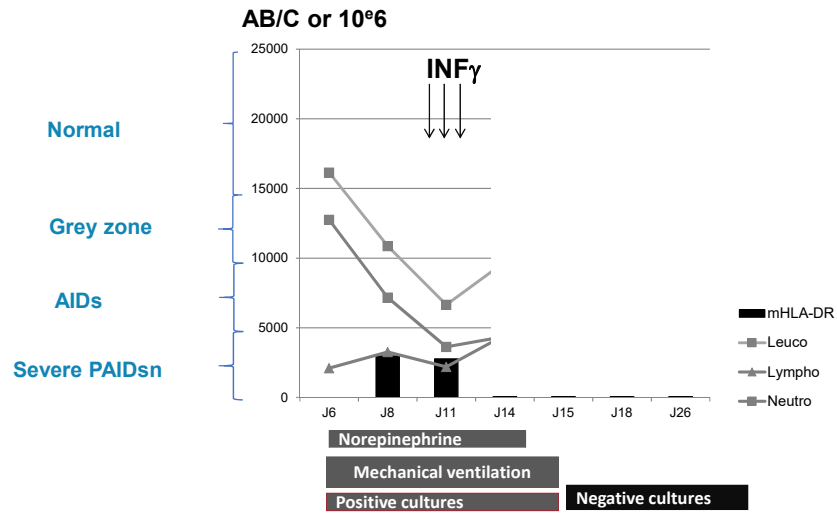
The **persistent severity** (+ acquired colistin resistance) motivated the **decision to treat the child by IFN $\gamma$**  (repetitive low mHLA-DR expression (= 2773 AB/C)  $\rightarrow$  **IFN $\gamma$  20mcg x 3 days**

**day 1 IFN $\gamma$** , the **HD and patient status improved spectacularly**  $\rightarrow$  **child extubated (day 2).**

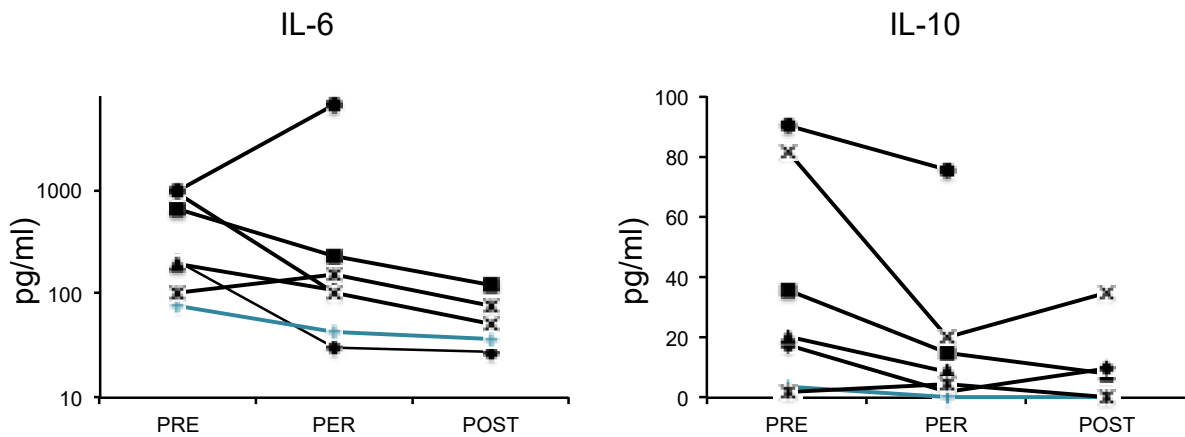
**mHLA-DR expression increase was rapid and sustained**

All immunosuppressive treatment to prevent rejection was maintained

**TotoR *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* septic shock – severe ARDS – peritonitis in a 15 months post-LT child**



**Evolution on IL-6 and IL-10 plasma levels**

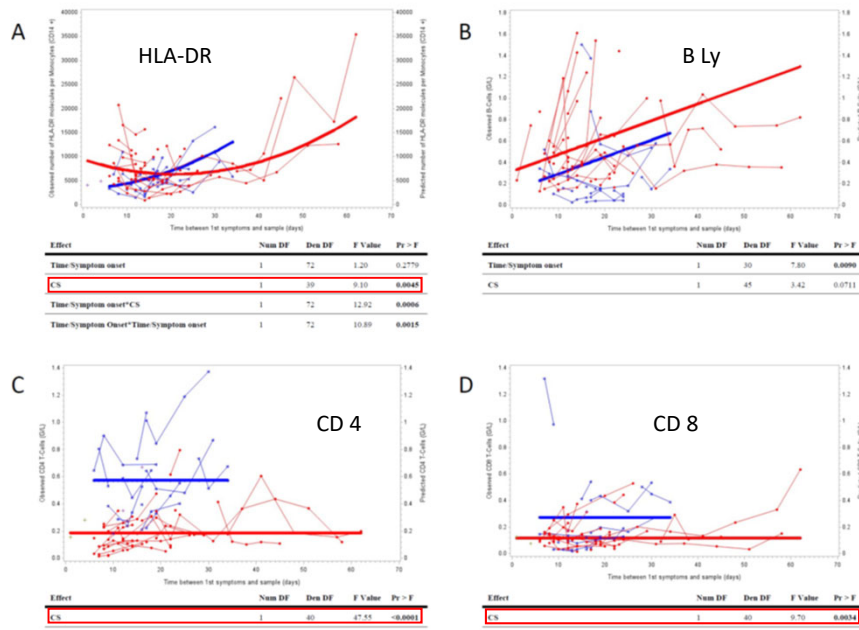


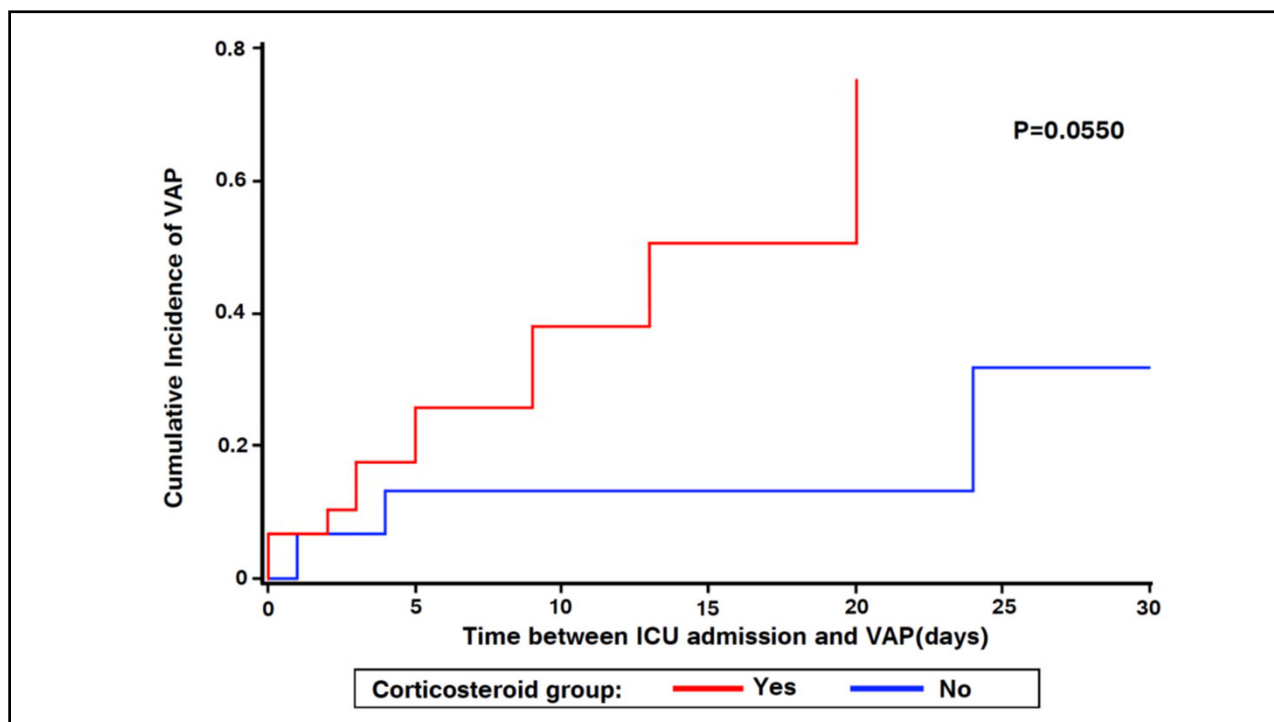
## Effect of glucocorticoids on human inflammation in severe ICU COVID-19: our results...

Variable	A: < D15	B: D15-D23	C: after D 23	Normal Range	p-A <sup>*</sup>	p-B <sup>*</sup>	p-C <sup>*</sup>
<b>Non specific markers of inflammation</b>							
<b>Fibrinogen (g/L)</b>				1.7 - 4.0	<b>0.011</b>	0.259	0.537
No CS	8.85 (6.4-11.0)	7.90 (5.75-9.30)	7.40 (5.50-8.90)				
CS	7.00 (4.7-10.1)	6.95 (3.90-8.90)	6.92 (6.15-8.65)				
<b>D-Dimer (µg/L)</b>				<500	<b>0.021</b>	0.551	0.723
No CS	2454 (1868-4462)	1439 (1051-2225)	1583 (960-2436)				
CS	1228 (534-10000)	1022 (442-7396)	2322 (1277-2781)				

Variable	A: < D15	B: D15-D23	C: after D 23	Normal Range	p-A <sup>*</sup>	p-B <sup>*</sup>	p-C <sup>*</sup>
<b>Innate immunity</b>							
<b>HLA-DR (AB C)</b>				16884 (5842-29175)	<b>0.038</b>	0.978	0.658
No CS	3330 (2305-6349)	5760 (4710-7541)	6629 (4929-12079)				
CS	7102 (4815-10174)	5291 (3820-9748)	7026 (5749-8548)				
<b>HLA-DR CD16<sup>-</sup> (AB C)</b>					<b>0.014</b>	0.934	0.790
No CS	2540 (1696-4570)	4744 (3064-6179)	4858 (2977-8072)				
CS	5740 (3616-9793)	4404 (2978-6863)	5210 (4233-5520)				
<b>HLA-DR interm (AB C)</b>					<b>0.072</b>	0.642	0.537
No CS	4697 (2993-8982)	10623 (6088-15069)	9916 (5633-25529)				
CS	8990 (4975-16340)	7882 (6092-19432)	13825 (9499-16293)				
<b>HLA-DR CD16<sup>+</sup> (AB C)</b>					0.471	0.891	0.262
No CS	19714 (8101-34843)	28671 (18550-38491)	17337 (17262-61055)				
CS	25495 (13425-43846)	31547 (17576-42681)	38877 (12865-55668)				

Adaptative Immunity							
<b>Lymphocyte (<math>10^9/L</math>)</b>							
No CS	0.78 (0.52-1.38)	1.09 (0.73-1.71)	1.49 (1.18-2.01)	1.8 (1.0-2.8)	0.741	0.805	0.790
CS	0.89 (0.63-1.41)	1.17 (0.64-1.35)	1.45 (1.14-1.79)				
<b>B-Cells (<math>10^9/L</math>)</b>							
No CS	0.19 (0.13-0.28)	0.15 (0.07-0.37)	0.19 (0.12-0.50)	0.2 (0.1-0.5)	<b>0.021</b>	<b>0.015</b>	0.084
CS	0.41 (0.24-0.62)	0.44 (0.29-0.61)	0.71 (0.36-0.87)				
<b>B-Cells (%)</b>							
No CS	20.6 (17.8-25.8)	13.6 (9.7-21.0)	12.9 (10.8-19.0)		<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>0.045</b>
CS	46.0 (37.1-51.5)	44.1 (36.5-51.4)	41.0 (30.6-46.9)				
<b>T-Cells (<math>10^9/L</math>)</b>							
No CS	0.50 (0.30-0.91)	0.78 (0.53-1.13)	1.03 (0.86-1.43)	1.2 (0.7-2.1)	0.568	0.934	0.929
CS	0.63 (0.41-1.05)	0.80 (0.45-0.97)	10.07 (0.59-1.34)				
CS	46.0 (37.1-51.5)	44.1 (36.5-51.4)	41.0 (30.6-46.9)				
<b>T-Cells (<math>10^6/L</math>)</b>							
No CS	0.50 (0.30-0.91)	0.78 (0.53-1.13)	1.03 (0.86-1.43)	1.2 (0.7-2.1)	0.568	0.934	0.929
CS	0.63 (0.41-1.05)	0.80 (0.45-0.97)	10.07 (0.59-1.34)				
<b>CD8+ Cells (<math>10^9/L</math>)</b>							
No CS	0.09 (0.03-0.15)	0.13 (0.11-0.40)	0.32 (0.22-0.48)	0.4 (0.2-0.9)	0.420	0.186	0.340
CS	0.10 (0.08-0.17)	0.09 (0.06-0.15)	0.17 (0.10-0.27)				
<b>NK-Cells (<math>10^9/L</math>)</b>							
No CS	0.12 (0.04-0.17)	0.14 (0.07-0.18)	0.15 (0.10-0.20)	0.3 (0.09-0.6)	0.095	0.187	<b>0.024</b>
CS	0.18 (0.10-0.27)	0.24 (0.10-0.35)	0.43 (0.23-0.41)				



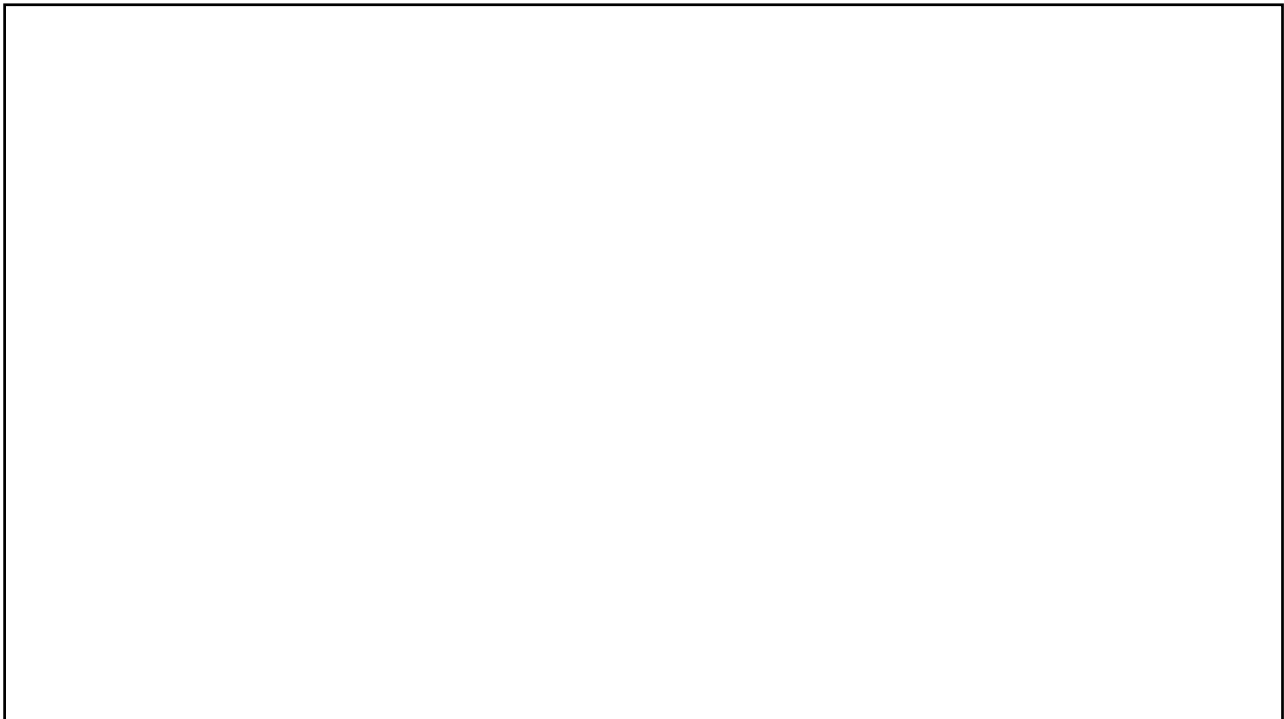


## To conclude

### • IMMUNOSCOPE IS ESSENTIAL

- Blood measurements: WBC (fractions), NCLRatio; semi-quantitative cytokine level
- Flowcytometry: HLA-DR; Ly sub-populations

- **Initial phase with excessive inflammation** might be modulated by different drugs to **limit the tissue damage induced by inflammation**.
  - Anti-tumoral drug?
  - GCs for COVID-19
- **Late phase with immunodepression: Immuno-stimulation by IFN $\gamma$**  seems to be **well tolerated**; can be given repeatedly, can be used in pediatric pts, even under anti-rejection treatment for transplant
- **HLA-DR is a good candidate to characterize the inflammatory status: cheap** and **fast** to be measured, in association with **semi-quantitative IL-6, IL-10 levels**.



## Immune regulation by glucocorticoids

Derek W. Cain and John A. Cidlowski

NATURE REVIEWS | IMMUNOLOGY

2017

### Perspectives

#### Clinical efficacy in COVID-19 patients requiring O<sub>2</sub> is clear:

- The **molecular** and **cellular mechanisms** that underlie **immunoregulatory** effects of GCs are **still being to be elucidated**.
- **Substantial gaps in our knowledge** of GCs mediated regulation of immunity, especially **regarding cell-lineage –specific functions**.
- **Adverse effects of excess GCs** are wide-ranging. **A deeper understanding is necessary to achieve a safe GCs therapy**.



**If MHC class II expression is depressed, could stimulation help to severe cases?**

### **In summary ...**

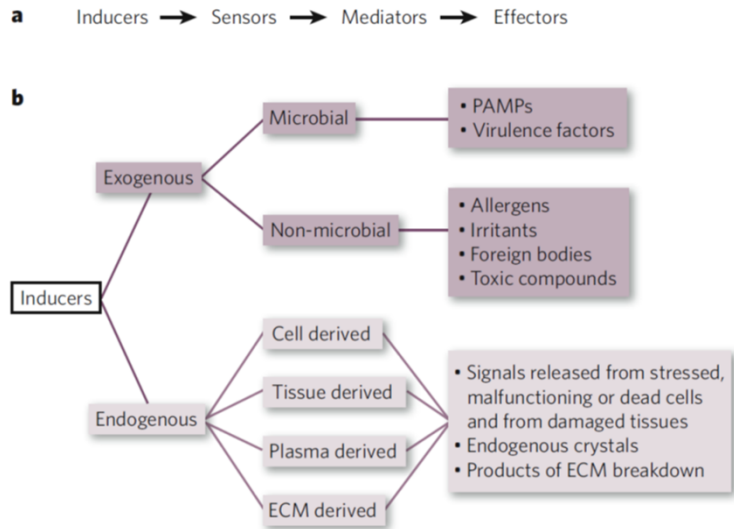
- **Over simplistic view** leads to **mistakes**: → **RCTs always failed** despite solid basic science background
- **Infection does not kill by itself** but **mainly the host response**
  - **Concept of septic phases**
  - **Inflammation Bmarkers; organ damage BMarkers, etc...**
- **Time** for infection treatment is crucial (SSC x 3)
  - **Golden hours; AB administration; fluid is necessary but not too much!**  
**Pressors YES but for what BP level?**
- **Elderly patients SHOULD be treated.**
- **Exp models** are **not easily transposable** to human beings

# Origin and physiological roles of inflammation

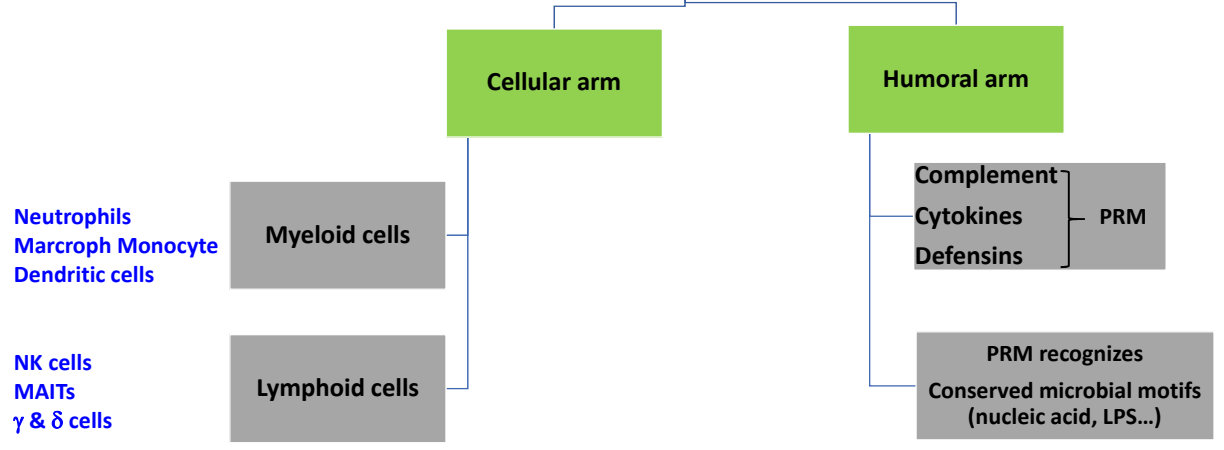
NATURE|Vol 454|24 July 2008|doi:10.1038/nature07201

Ruslan Medzhitov<sup>1</sup>

## The inflammatory pathway.



## INNATE IMMUNITY



This system is the only that control microbial infections in the 1<sup>st</sup> days following contact during 1<sup>ary</sup> infection

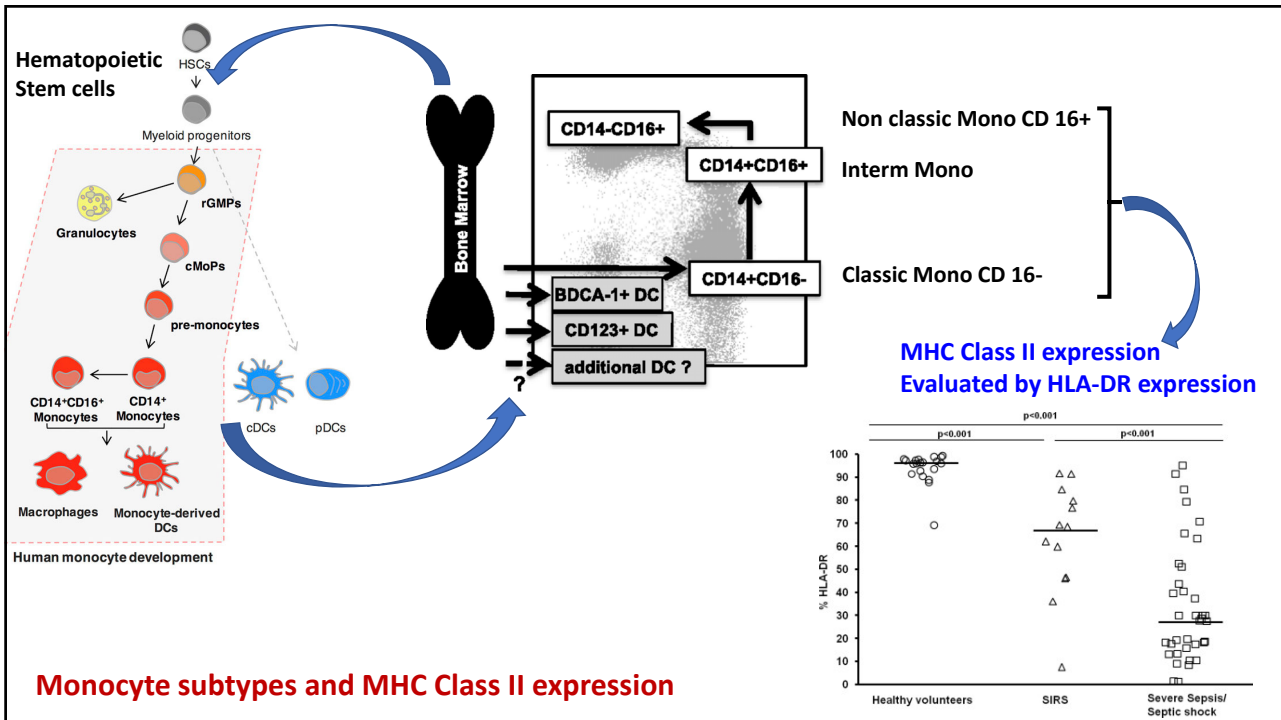
# Refreshing knowledge

**Immune system:** AP Response; innate immunity; adaptive immunity with cellular and humoral components...

**Infection phases:** early vs late

**AIDS syndrome:** Acquired Immuno Depressed Syndrome

**HLA-DR and MHC Class II and CIITA:** (MHC class II transactivator) → antiviral activity by activation of invariant chain CD 74 → block SARS-Cov-2 entry (*Science 2020*)



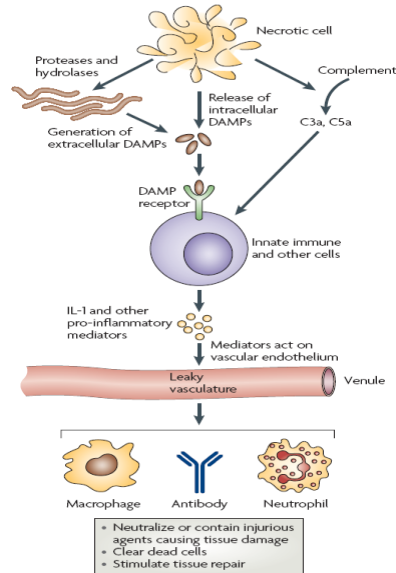
## How dying cells alert the immune system to danger

Hajime Kono and Kenneth L. Rock NATURE REVIEWS IMMUNOLOGY VOLUME 8 | APRIL 2008 | 279

e-mails: [hajime.kono@umassmed.edu](mailto:hajime.kono@umassmed.edu)  
[kenneth.rock@umassmed.edu](mailto:kenneth.rock@umassmed.edu)

### Cell death and inflammation.

- Necrotic cell death → **DAMPs** → receptors on leukocytes → + prod of pro-inflam cytokines (IL-1).
- Other molecules **proteases; hydrolases** act on **EC components** → + **mediators** (complement fragments) or **DAMPs** → prod of **pro-inflam cytokines** by host cells.
- Pro-inflam mediators → **local vascular endothelium** → 'leaky', attracts **neutrophils** and **monocytes/macrophages** → **soluble (antibody) and cellular defenses in the tissue**



## Is it relevant for the clinician?

### D0: Oesophagectomy

#### D1 Early post-operative period

- **Hypoxemia** with pleural effusion → chest drainage
- **CCVasc collaps** responding to fluid challenge
- **Acute Kidney Injury** AKIN3

#### D8: severe SIRS

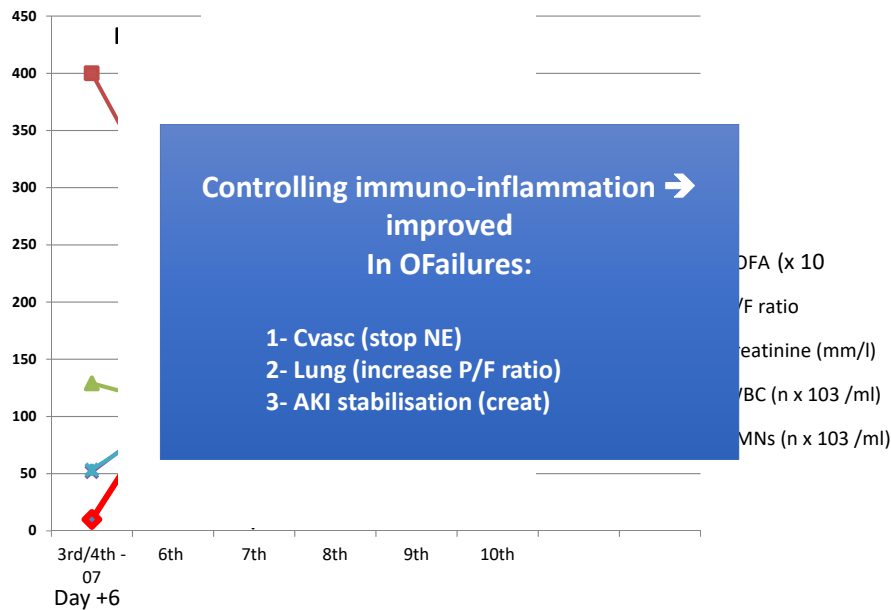
WC↑ from 6 400 to 64 600  
 BAL: 10<sup>2</sup> Citrobacter, ECBU (-), HC (-), HC sur PAC (-), Plèvres (-)  
 OGDF: No fistulae  
 TDM IV opacifié: **NO leak, NO mediastinitis**

#### D11: M O S F

**GB: 223 000 98% PMNs (Chronic ttmt fro ITP with GFactor)**  
**BC+** : multiple bacteria Serratia et Citrobacter, Tracheal asp >10<sup>7</sup> Citrobacter,  
**OGDF & TDM** no fistulae  
**AB:** 3 molecules (Cefotax; linezolid; Imipenem)



## Let's see the results of immune monitoring....



## Immunity

### Human Monocytes Undergo Functional Re-programming during Sepsis Mediated by Hypoxia-Inducible Factor-1 $\alpha$

Irina N. Shalova,<sup>1</sup> Jyue Yuan Lim,<sup>1</sup> Manesh Chittezhath,<sup>1</sup> Annelies S. Zinkemagel,<sup>2,6</sup> Federico Beasley,<sup>2</sup> Enrique Hernández-Jiménez,<sup>3</sup> Victor Toledano,<sup>3</sup> Carolina Cubillos-Zapata,<sup>3</sup> Annamaria Rapisarda,<sup>4</sup> Jimmiao Chen,<sup>1</sup> Kaibo Duan,<sup>1</sup> Henry Yang,<sup>1</sup> Michael Poidinger,<sup>1</sup> Giovanni Mellillo,<sup>5</sup> Victor Nizet,<sup>2</sup> Francisco Arnalich,<sup>5</sup> Eduardo López-Collazo,<sup>3</sup> and Subhra K. Biswas<sup>1,\*</sup>

Immunity 42, 484–498, March 17, 2015

In line with the **dynamic nature of sepsis**, **2 phases** have been recognized in this disease: an **early inflammatory phase** and a **late immunosuppressive phase**

**Early phase:** characterized by **leukocyte activation, cytokine storm, and a systemic inflammatory response**

**Later phase:** characterized by **immunosuppression, leukocyte deactivation, increased risks of secondary infection, and high mortality**

more complicated with the **overlapping co-existence of inflammatory and immunosuppressive processes**

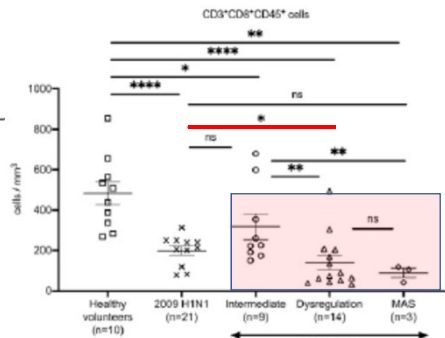
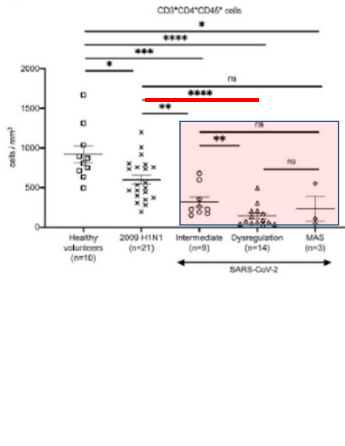
➔ **The FAILURE of numerous RCTs to REDUCE MORTALITY**

**Cell Host & Microbe**

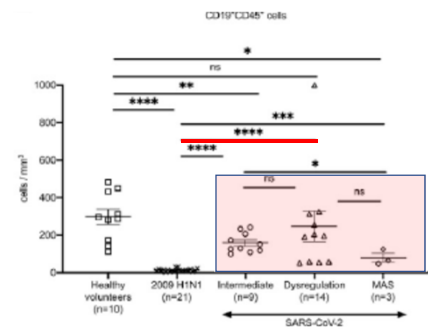
**Complex Immune Dysregulation in COVID-19 Patients with Severe Respiratory Failure**

Evangelos J. Giamarellos-Bourboulis, Mihai G. Netea, Nikolaos Rovina, ..., Nikolaos Koulouris, Charalambos Gogos, Antonia Koutsoukou

Giamarellos-Bourboulis et al., 2020, Cell Host & Microbe 27, 1-9 June 10, 2020 © 2020 Elsevier Inc. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chom.2020.04.009>

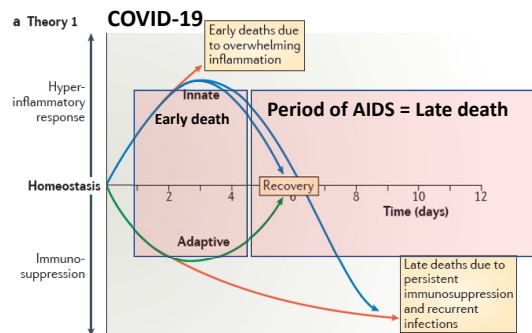
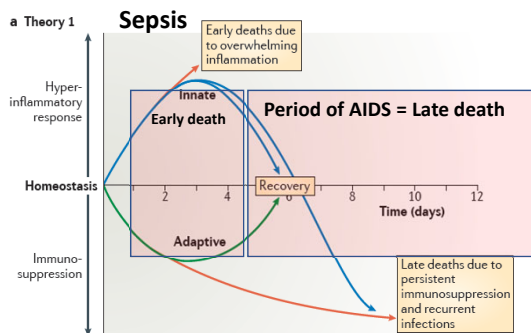


**Comparison between H1N1 pts & SARS-Cov-2 phenotypes**



**Sepsis & COVID-19 clinic, biology, inflammation evolve overtime → longitudinal studies**

**AIDS: Acute Immuno-Depressed Syndrome**



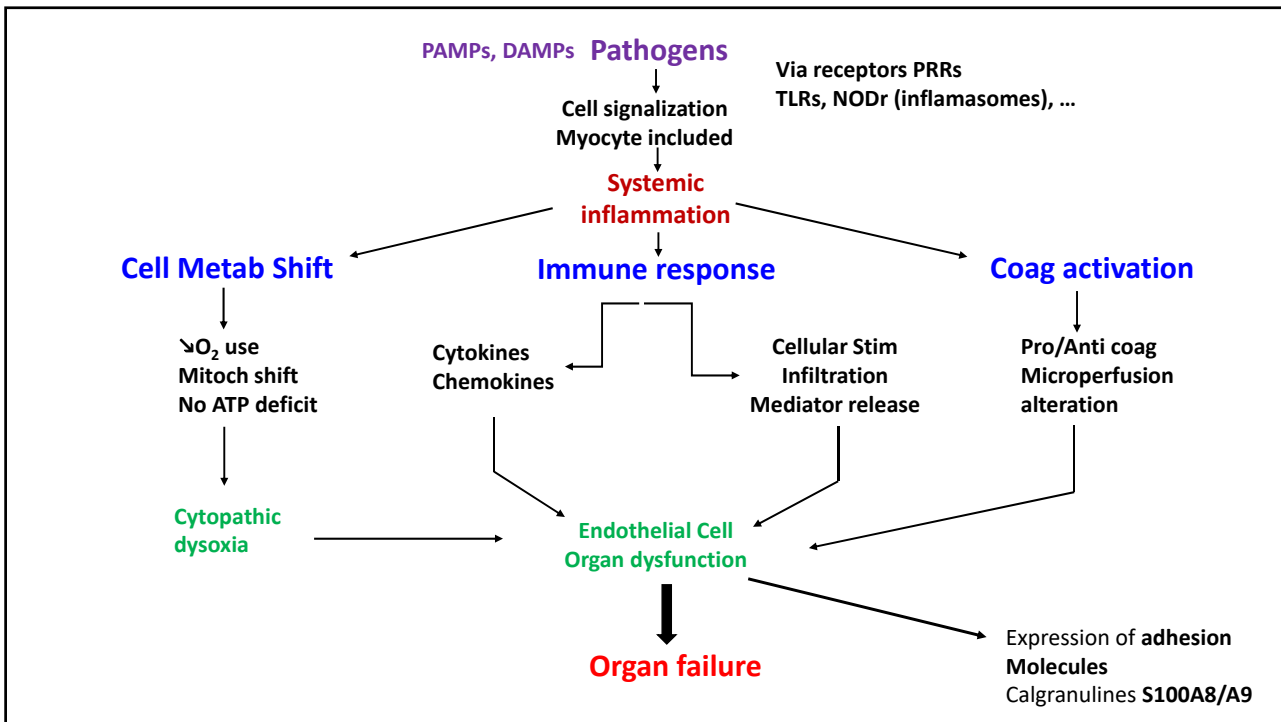
Initial symptoms

D11 D13

D23

Hotchkiss, R, Monneret G, Payen, D Nature Review Immunol 2013

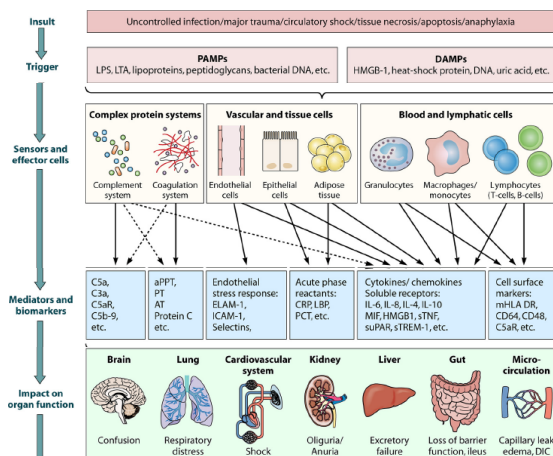
Payen, D, Cravat M, et al Frontiers Immunol 2020



## New Approaches to Sepsis: Molecular Diagnostics and Biomarkers

Konrad Reinhart,<sup>a</sup> Michael Bauer,<sup>a,b</sup> Niels C. Riedemann,<sup>a</sup> and Christiane S. Hartog<sup>a,b</sup>

Clinical Microbiology Reviews October 2012 Volume 25



Globally, similar mechanisms for all tissues → dysfunction

