



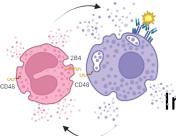
The Allergic Effector Unit and the Mast cells as Masterminds from Inflammation to its Resolution

Francesca-Levi Schaffer, PharmD, PhD, FRCP Hon

Chair of Immunopharmacology

Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics Unit, School of Pharmacy, Institute for Drug Research, Faculty of Medicine, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel





Mast Cells, Eosinophils and Allergy

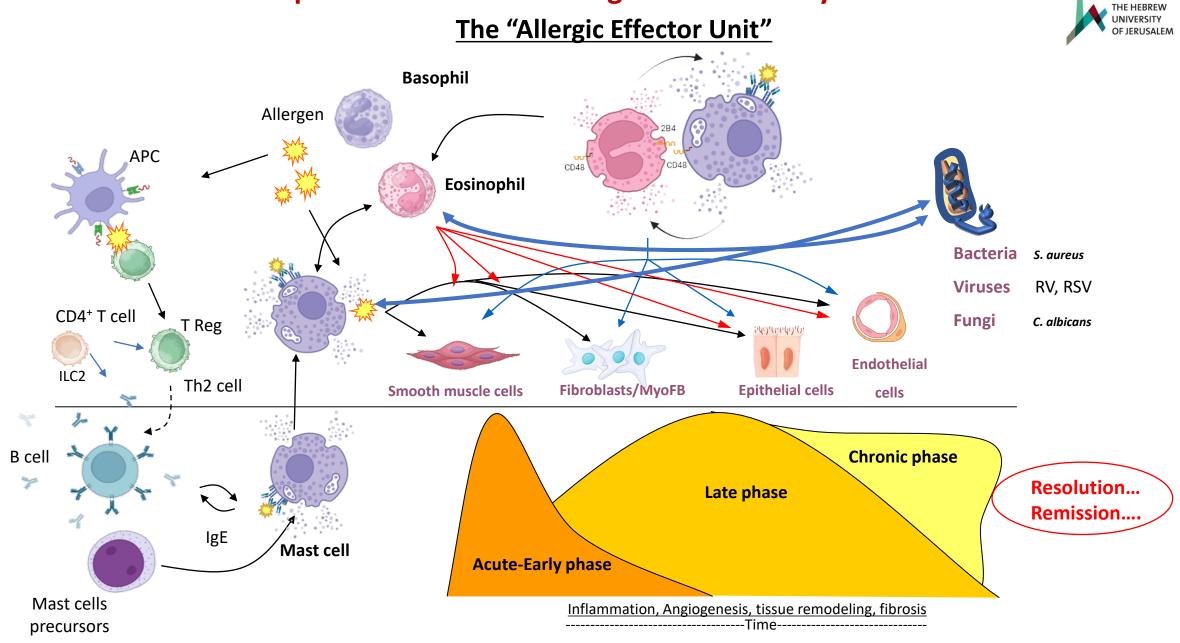


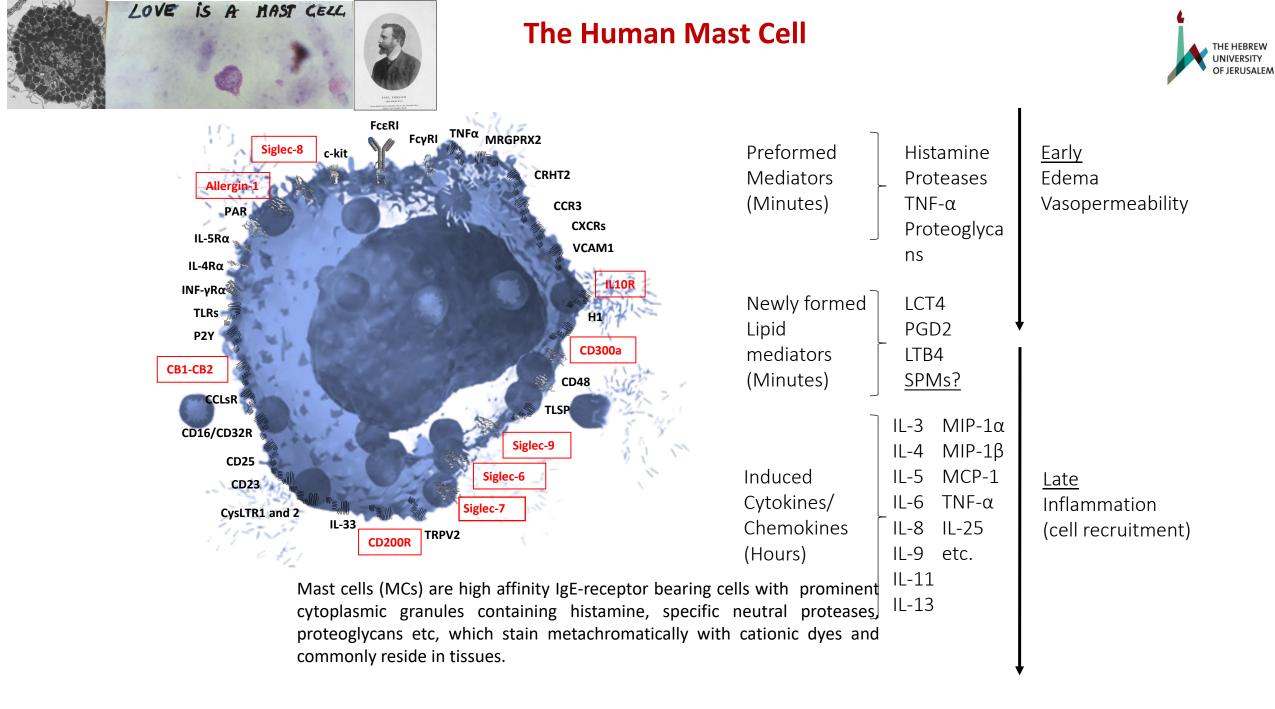
In <u>ALLERGIC DISEASES (</u>but also in several other diseases with different etiopathogenesis), <u>MAST CELLS</u> are usually associated with <u>EOSINOPHILS.</u>

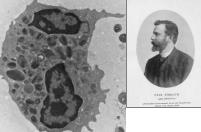
My research GOAL has long been to determine new immunopharmacological targets, principally for the treatment of <u>allergy</u>, focusing on <u>mast cells</u>, on <u>eosinophils</u> and on their soluble and physical cross-talk, that we have defined, i.e., the <u>"Allergic Effector Unit" (AEU)</u>.



Our Oversimplified View of the Allergic Inflammatory Reaction

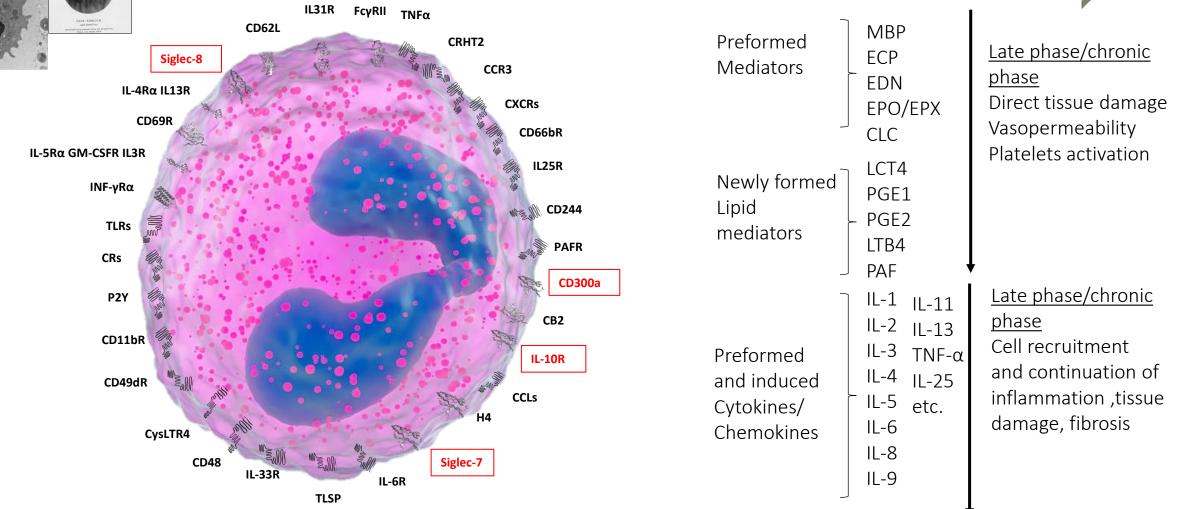






The Human Eosinophil





Eosinophils (Eos) are granulocytes containing highly basic pre-formed mediators and cytokines, usually residing in the blood entering in the tissues where there is an inflammatory response. They also reside in some tissues, such as the gut, mammary glands, uterus, adipose tissue, thymus, lungs and might influence tissue homeostasis.



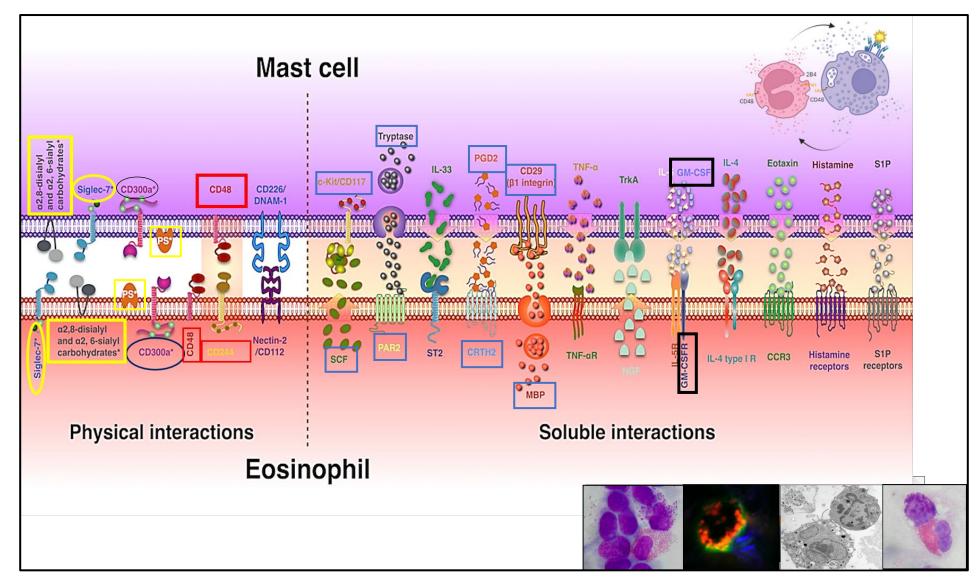
Mast cells are long lived cells that, after activation, regenerate their mediators and their potential to be re-activated Levi-Schaffer F et al. Cell Immunol. 1989; Levi-Schaffer F et al. Eur J Immunol. 1990; Levi-Schaffer F et al. J Immunol. 1990; Levi-Schaffer F et al. Cell Immunol. 1993

Eosinophils Maintain Their Capacity to Signal and Release Eosinophil Cationic Protein Upon Repetitive Stimulation with the Same Agonist Simon HU et al J Immunol. 2000

Proteomic analysis of human eosinophil activation mediated by mast cells, granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor and tumor necrosis factor alpha GM-CSF provided the strongest signal and the highest rate of protein synthesis (1018 spots) followed by TNF- (747 spots) and HMC-1 sonicate (611 spots). Levi-Schaffer F, et al. **Proteomics**. 2002

The Allergic Effector Unit: Mast Cells and Eosinophils as Key Players of Al



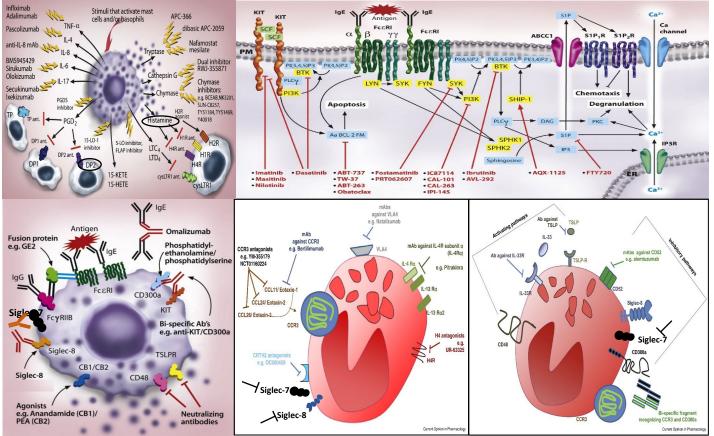


Landolina N et al., Adv Immunol, 2015, Gangwar RS, Landolina N et al, Pharm Ther, 2016

Shamri R et al., Clin Exp Allergy, 2018, Puzzovio PG and Levi-Schaffer F, J All Clin Immunol Pract, 2021

Puzzovio PG and Levi-Schaffer F, Front Pharmacol, 2021, Levi-Schaffer F et al., JACI, 2022, Zoabi Y et al Biomedicines, 2022

Therapeutic Strategies for Allergy MC and Eos "Soluble" and Cellular Targets



Newer strategies

• <u>Anti-IgE mAb (omalizumab,</u> <u>ligelizumab</u>)

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- Anti-TSLP mAb
- <u>Anti-IL-5/IL-5Rα (mepolizumab,</u> reslizumab, benralizumab)
- Anti-IL-4Rα (dupilumab)
- <u>Anti-TNFα (adalimumab,</u> infliximab)
- <u>Anti-IL-13 (lebrikizumab,</u> tralokinumab)
- Anti-Siglec 8 (lirentelimab)
- KIT inhibitors (imatinib, avapritinib, masitinib, fenebrutinib, midostaurin)
- Anti-KIT mAbs(barzolvolimab)
- Jak inhibitors (abrocitinib, ruxolitinib, upadacitinib, delgocitinib)

Harvima IT et al, **J Allergy Clin Immunol,** 2014; Landolina N et al., **Curr Opin Pharm**, 2014 ; Bulfone-Paus S et al, **Trends Immunol**, 2017 ;Gangwar RS et al, **Pharmacol Ther**, 2017; Puzzovio P and Levi-Schaffer F, **Comprehensive Pharmacology,** 2020

Puzzovio PG and Levi-Schaffer F, Frontiers in Pharmacology 2021; Puzzovio P et al., J Allergy and Clin Immunol in practice, 2022; Levi-Schaffer F. et al, J Allergy Clin Immunol, 2022; Zoabi Y et al, Biomedicines, 2022; Metz M et al, Allergy, 2023; Metz et al. <u>Mast cell silencing:</u> A novel therapeutic approach for urticaria and other mast cell-mediated diseases. Allergy 2023

Older strategies

(H1)

•

Anti-cholinergic, β2

MC stabilizing drugs:

Pharmacol. Res., 2022

Anti-leukotrienes

agonists, Anti-histamines

Cromones, Puzzovio PG et al.,

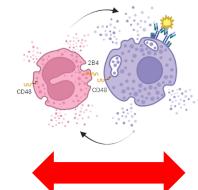
Anti-inflammatory drugs:

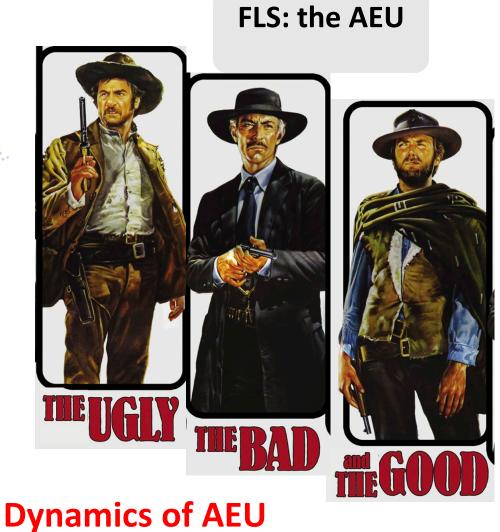
Glucocorticosteroids,

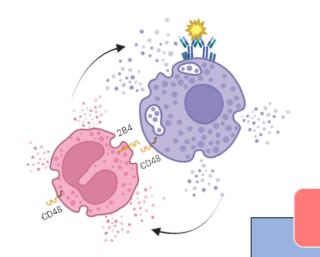
The Allergic Effector unit (AEU): always the Ugly and the Bad?











Main Points Of The Lecture



Pro-inflammatory AEU soluble interactions : GM-CSF

Pro-inflammatory AEU physical interactions : CD48

Pro-resolution AEU: CD300a, RvD1

What is the best target for therapy?

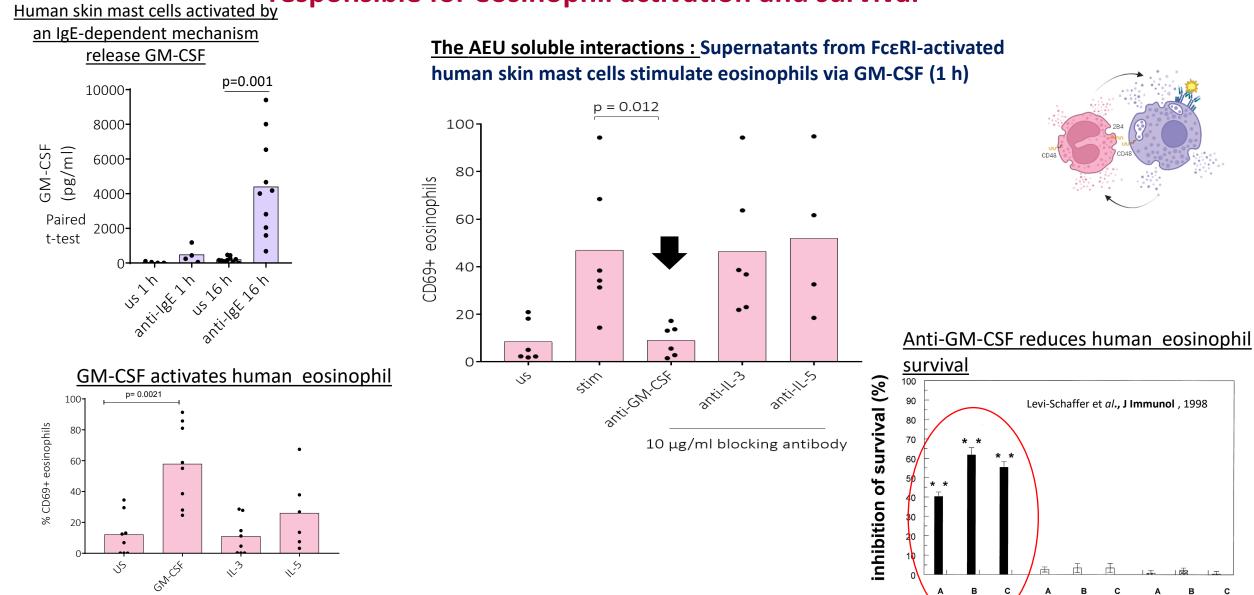
AEU soluble interactions: Human skin mast cells-derived GM-CSF is the main mediator responsible for eosinophil activation and survival

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anti-GM-CSF

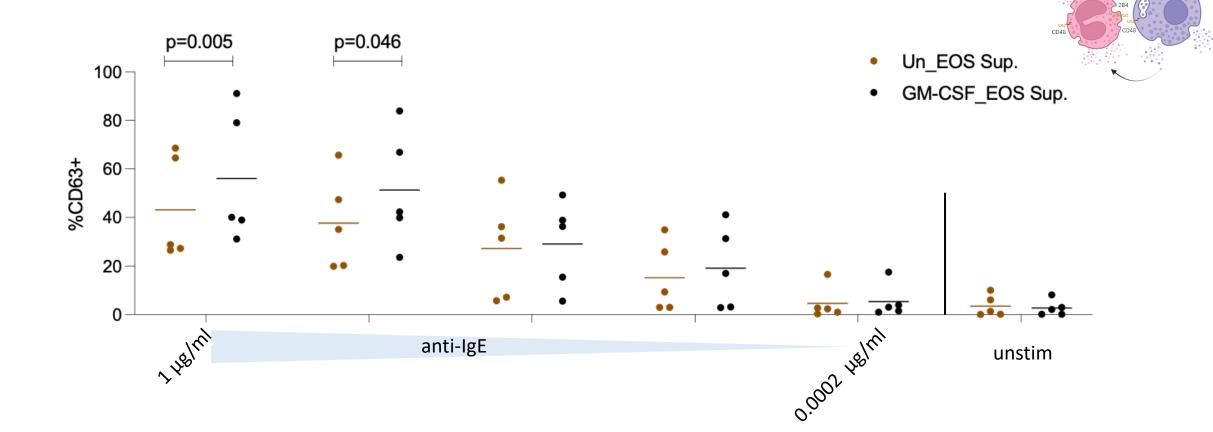
anti-IL-

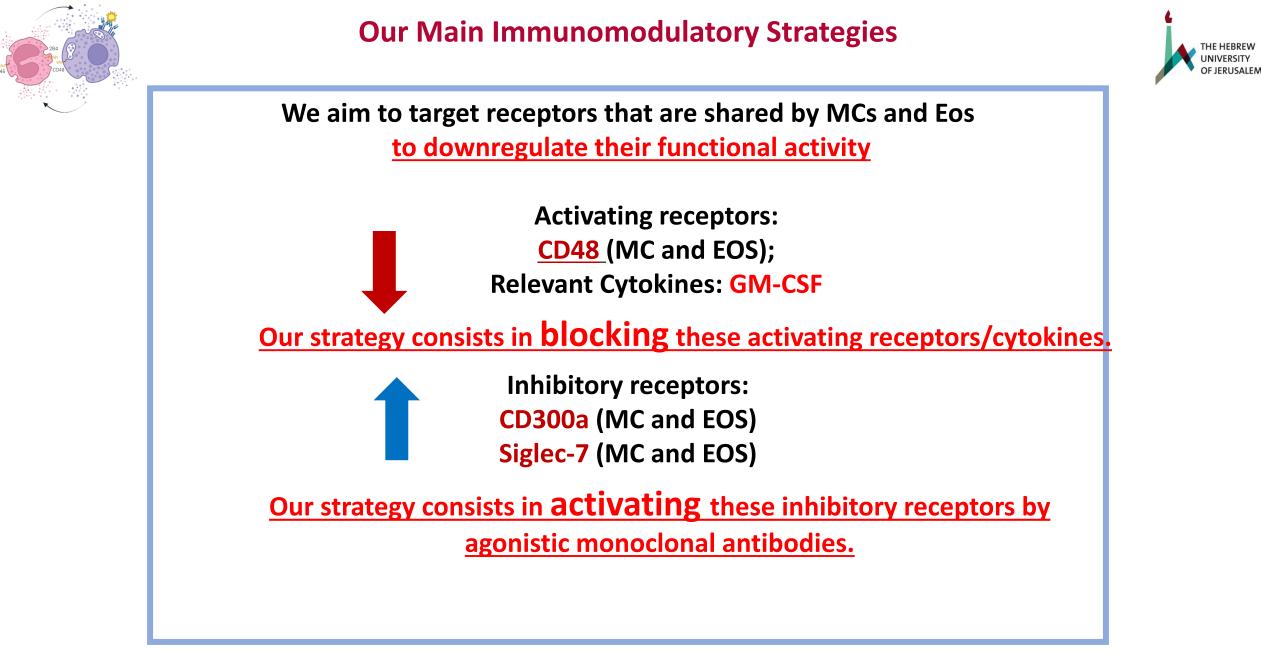
anti-IL-3



Luo, Levi-Schaffer, Maurer, Frischbutter manuscript in preparation

AEU soluble interactions: Supernatants from GM-CSF-treated eosinophils amplify human skin mast cell IgE- dependent activation





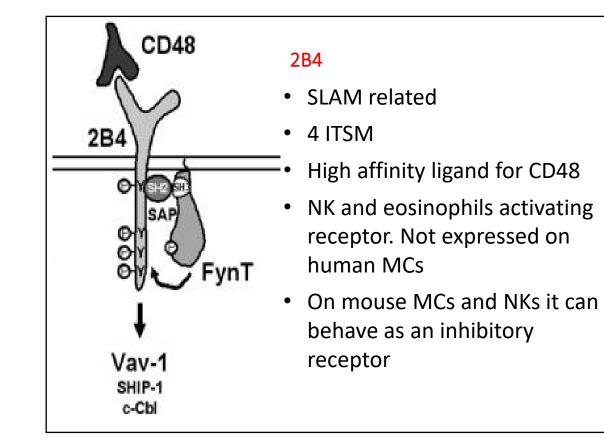


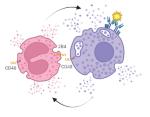
The CD2 family: CD48 and 2B4 (CD244) role in the AEU physical interactions



GPI

- GPI (glycosylphosphatidylinositol)
- Soluble form
- Membrane bound form on leukocytes
- Co-activating and activating receptor
- High affinity ligand for 2B4





The human AEU physical interactions

Eosinophils are quickly attracted by mast cells to form "synapse-like" couples



Cord blood derived mast cells (CBMC) + Peripheral blood eosinophils (pbEos)

01:30

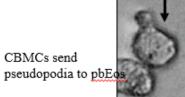
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Physical interactions of CBMC-pbEos in short-term co-cultures:

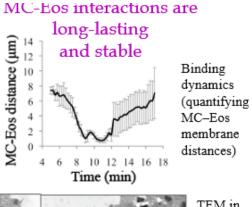
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01:00

CBMCs and pbEos interact in short co-cultures (timelapse photomicrographs)



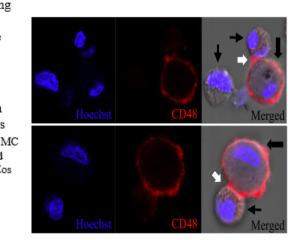
03:30 04:00 04:30 03:00 Scatter BrightField CFSE composite 100 conj %



TEM in MC-Eos cc (1h) MC with lipid bodies, Eos with vacuoles um

Binding MC-MC Eos-Eos rates in MC-Eos MC-Eos cc (5'- 1h)

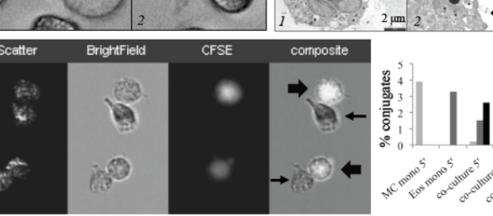
Physical contact involves MC-CD48 and EOS-2B4



12.0conjugates/HPF 10.0 8.0 6.0 4.02.0Ab- 150150 -sola2BA DASIDIBA blocking of MC/Eos:

14.0

Multispectral imaging flow cytometry of Eos interactions with CFSE-labeled MCs



Elishmereni M et al, Allergy 2011

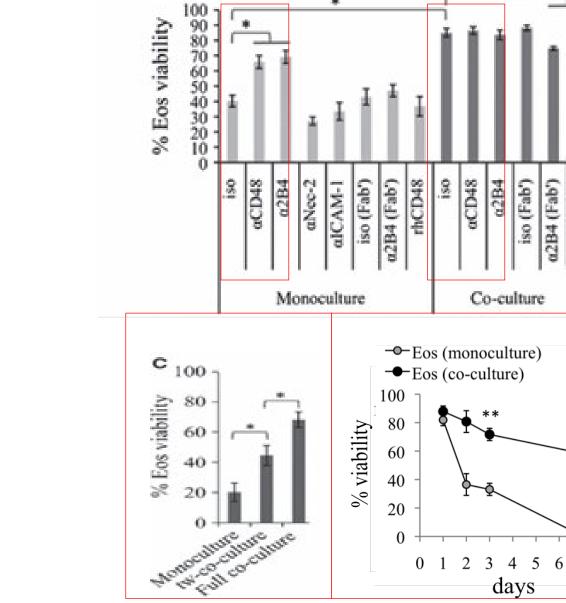
co-culture 15

co-culture 60

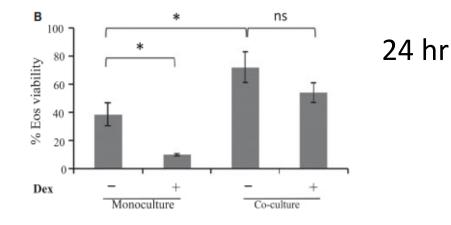
The human AEU physical interactions

CD48-2B4 interaction between the two cells is one of the underlying mechanisms for the physical contact induced <u>Eos viability</u> that is also carried out by soluble interactions

- MCs increase Eos survival. ٠ The effect requires both soluble and **physical** communication.
- **GM-CSF** is critical for the soluble ٠ effect, but is overridden by the physical contact.
- It involves 2B4-CD48 interactions. ٠
- .Eos increased slightly but ٠ significantly MC survival.



Dexamethasone does not inhibit MCs induced Eos survival



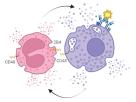
Elishmereni M et al, Allergy, 2011

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rhCD48

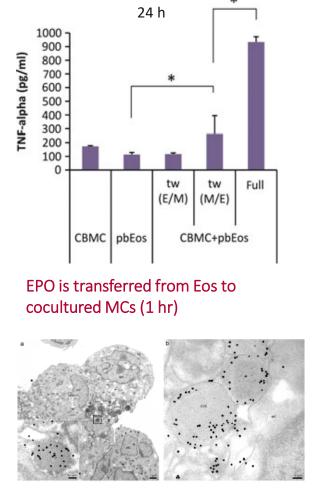
7 8

days

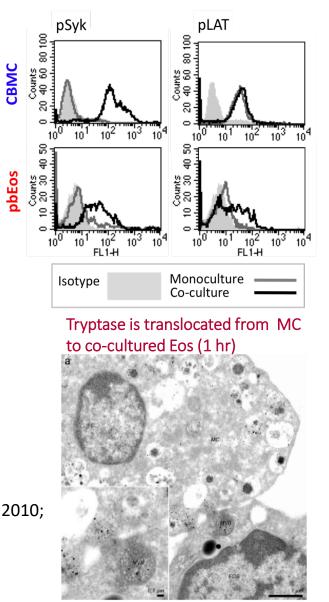


The Human AEU Physical interactions

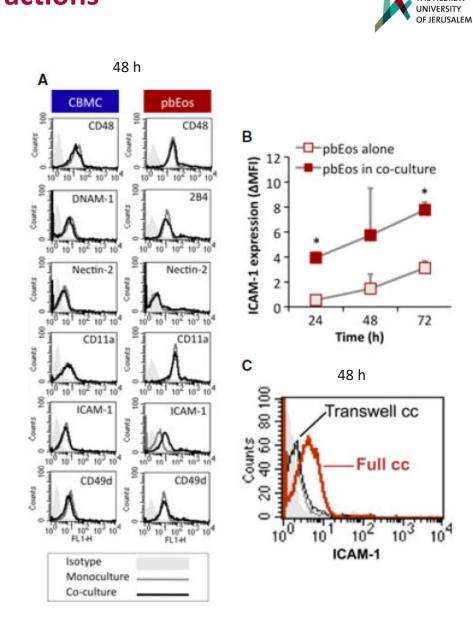
Cell activation: MCs and Eos



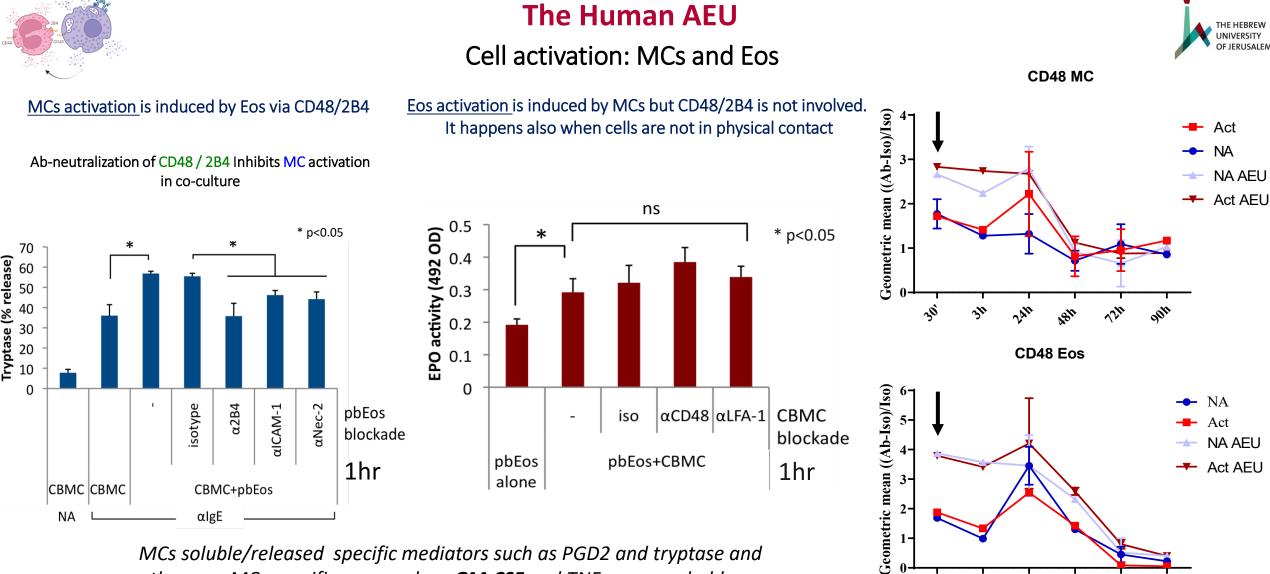
Elishmereni M and Levi-Schaffer F, Int J Biochem Cell Biol, 2010; Minai-Fleminger Y et al., Cell Tissue Res, 2010; Elishmereni M et al., Allergy, 2011; Elishmereni M et al., Allergy, 2013; Elishmereni M et al, JID, 2014.



pbEos



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MCs soluble/released specific mediators such as PGD2 and tryptase and other non-MCs specific ones such as **GM-CSF** and TNF- α are probably more prominent than the physical contact in inducing Eos EPO/EPX release.

1811

+DHA

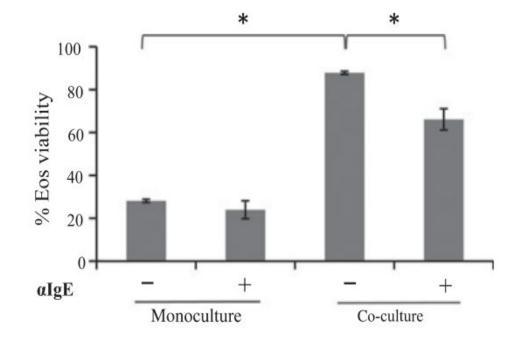
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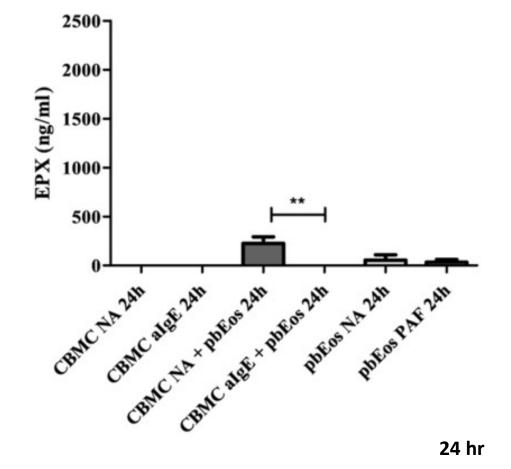
30

3Ò









72 hr

Elishmereni M et al., Allergy, 2011; Puzzovio PG, Hadas P, George T et al, Pharmacol Res, 2023

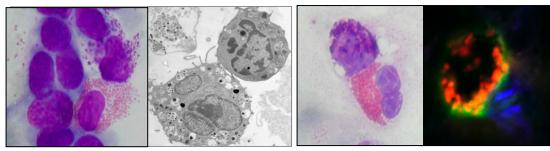
CD48 as Target for Anti-Allergy/Anti-Inflammation Intervention by "Inhibiting Activation"



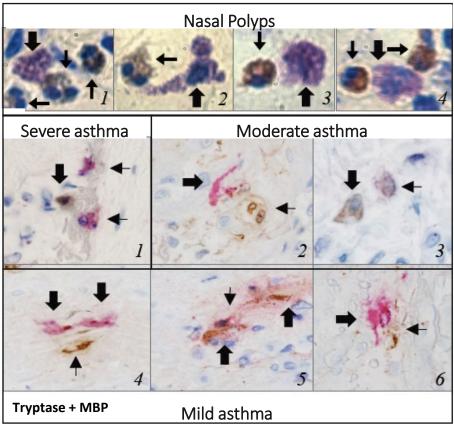
- CD48 is one of the 291 mouse asthma signature-genes (Zimmerman N et al., J Clin Invest, 2003).
- <u>Allergic lung inflammation</u> is inhibited in mice treated with <u>anti-CD48 blocking Abs</u>. <u>2B4</u> is an activating receptor on Eos (Munitz A et al., J Immunol, 2005 and Am J Respir Crit Care Med, 2007).
- MC-CD48 is important in the pro-inflammatory <u>AEU</u> as ligand of Eos-2B4 (Elishmereni M et al., **Allergy**, 2011 and J **Invest Dermatol**, 2014).
- The severity of <u>AD in 2B4KO</u> mice is reduced (Minai-Fleminger Y et al., **Clin Exp allergy**, 2014; Elishmereni M et al., **J Invest Dermatol**, 2014).
- <u>Both MCs and Eos express CD48</u>, a main player of their interaction with <u>S. aureus</u> (Rocha-de-Souza C. M. et al., Infect Immun, 2008; Minai-Fleminger Y et al., Clin Exp allergy, 2014; Gangwar RS and Levi-Schaffer F, Allergy, 2016).
- Eos-associated CD48 is modulated by cell activation and gives rise to soluble CD48 (<u>sCD4</u>8). sCD48 is a decoy receptor (in vitro and in vivo) (Gangwar RS and Levi-Schaffer F, Allergy, 2016).
- Human asthma: mCD48 and sCD48 are potential new biomarkers for the disease (Gangwar RS et al., Allergy, 2017).
- Is CD48 a biomarker for airway inflammation and <u>non-allergic asthma</u>? (Breuer O et al., J Immunol Res, 2018).
- CD48 expression on nasal polyps eosinophils is a biomarker for non-allergic asthmatics (Zoabi Y. et al, Int Arch allergy Immunol, 2021)
- CD48 expression on nasal polyps eosinophils is a biomarker for <u>non-allergic asthmatics</u> (Zoabi Y. et al, **Int Arch allergy Immunol**,2021)
- <u>COVID-19</u> patients present with upregulation of CD48 expression on leukocytes (Pahima H et al., Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol, 2022)

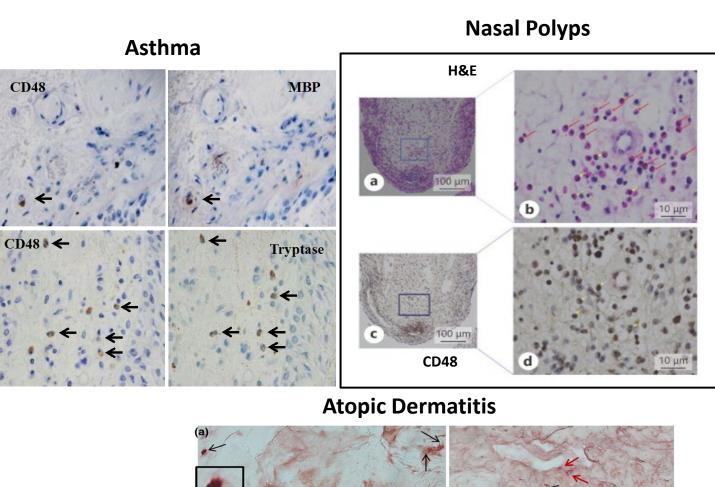
The Human AEU and CD48 in asthma, nasal polyposis, and atopic dermatitis





Congo-red + Toluidine Blue





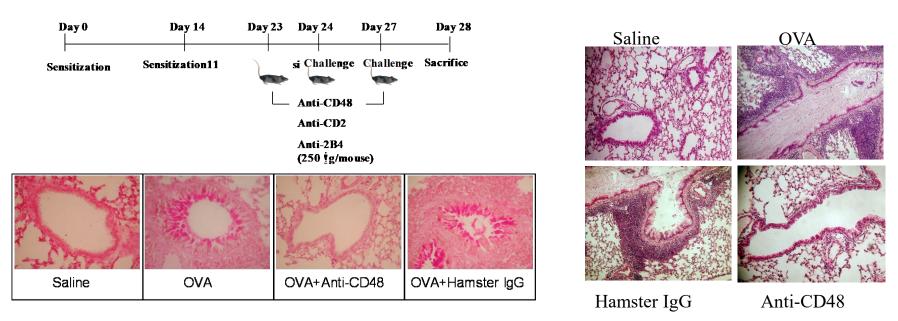
EDN

CD48

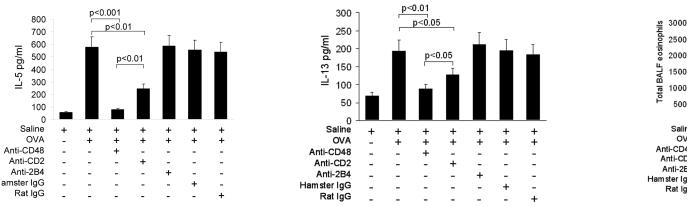
Elishmereni M and Levi-Schaffer F, Int J Biochem Cell Biol, 2010; Minai-Fleminger Y et al., Cell Tissue Res, 2010; Elishmereni M et al., Allergy, 2011; Elishmereni M et al, Allergy 2013; Minai-Fleminger Y et al, Clin Experimental Allergy 2014; Gangwar R et al, Allergy 2017; Zoabi Y et al., Int Arch Allergy Immunol 2021

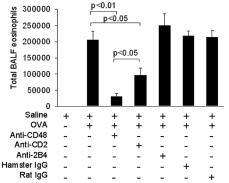
Neutralization of CD48 but not of 2B4 Inhibits Mouse Asthma





Decrease of eosinophilia, cytokine and chemokine production

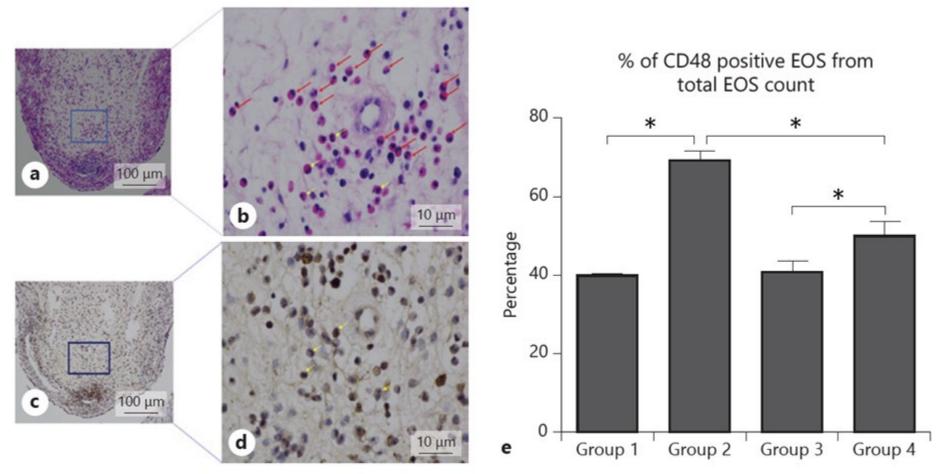




Munitz et al., Am J Respir Crit Care Med, 2007

Nasal Polyps: CD48 Expression is increased on Eosinophils in Chronic Rhinosinusitis /Asthmatic Patients

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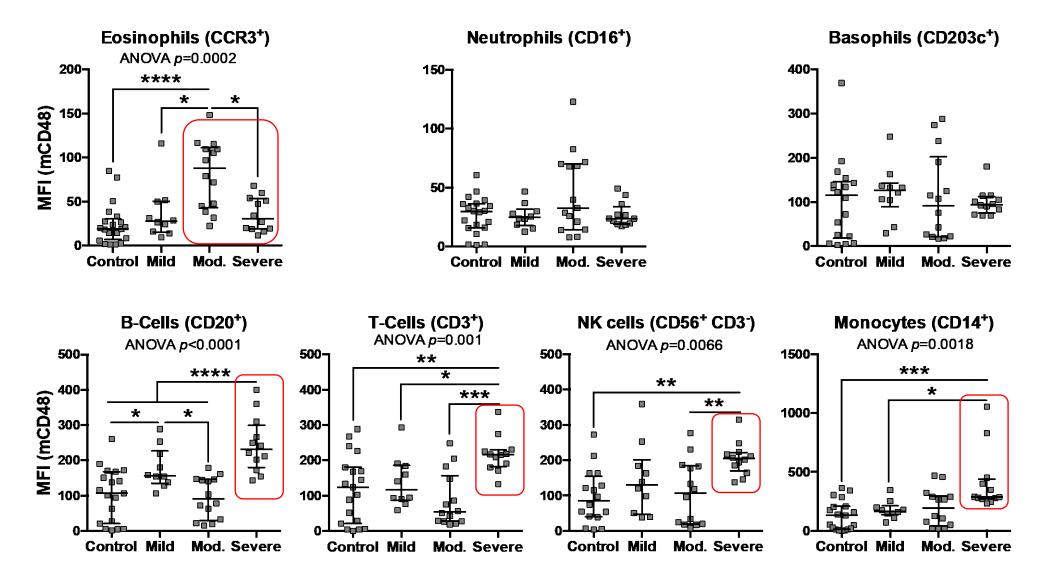


Immunohistochemical analysis of **CD48 positive eosinophils in NPs**. Eosinophils in *allergy–asthma–* NP (group were identified by H&E staining; or with anti-CD48 mAb. Red arrows show CD48 negative eosinophils. Yellow arrows show CD48 positive eosinophils; Comparison of the percentage of CD48 expressing eosinophils among the different groups . Group 1:allergy–asthma– ;Group 2:**allergy–asthma+;**Group 3:allergy+asthma+;

Zoabi Y et al., Int Arch Allergy Immunol, 2021

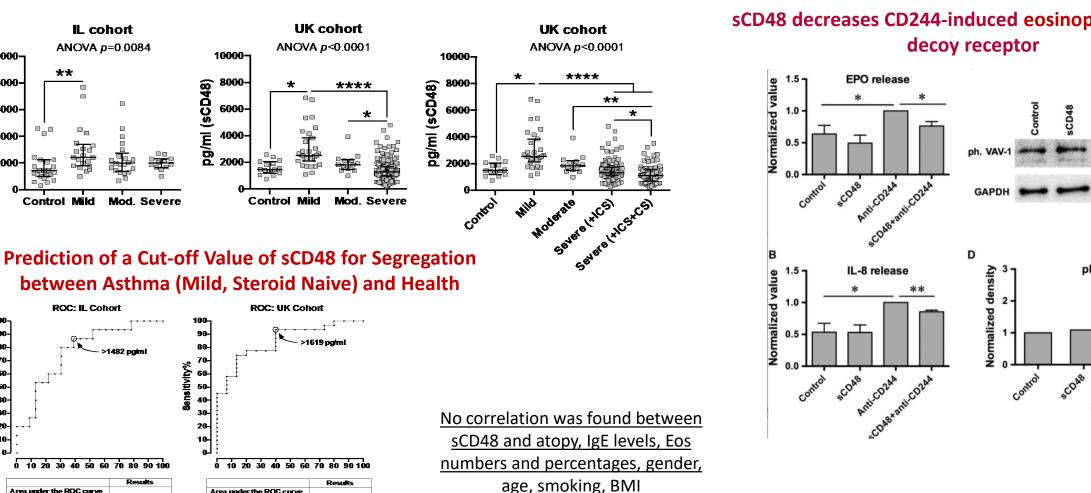
mCD48 is Differentially Expressed on Blood Leukocytes of Asthma Patients with Varying Severity

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Gangwar RS et al. Allergy 2017

sCD48 is Elevated in Serum of Mild Asthma and Decreased in Moderate and **Severe Asthma**



sCD48 decreases CD244-induced eosinophil activation:

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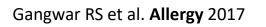
Anti-CD24

CD48

ph. Vav-1

Anticonak sconstanticonak

CD48+ nti-CD24



0.7710

0.07732

0.0052

0.6194 to 0.9226

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

A rea under the ROC curve

Апеа

Std. Error

P value

95% confid

IL cohort

ANOVA p=0.0084

Mod. Severe

nsitivity%

60

Area under the ROC curve

95% confidence interval

0 8495

0.0004

0.05729

0.7371 to 0.9618

Алеа

Std. Error

D value

**

Control Mild

ROC: IL Cohort

10000-

10000-

90

70

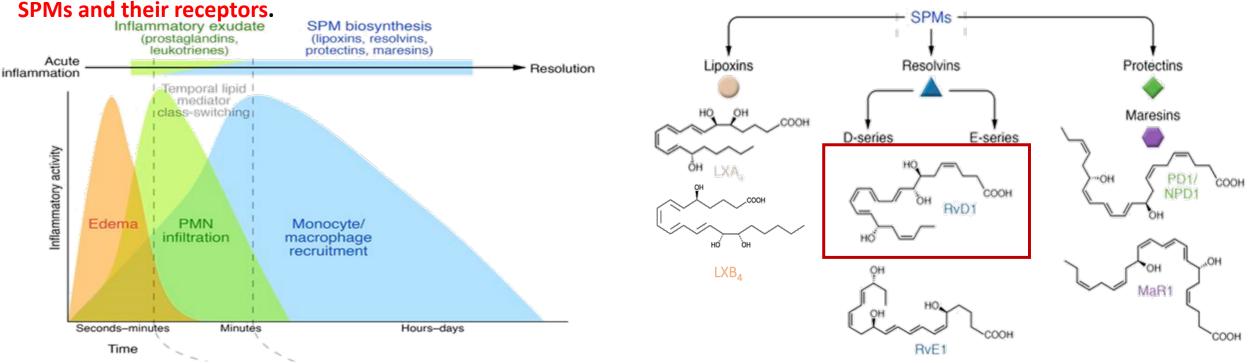
20 10

%Allvitisme8

Resolution of inflammation-SPMs: last but not least!!!

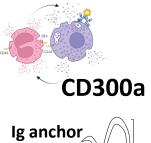


Al is usually a chronic disease characterized by absence of resolution, but sometimes by remission phases. Resolution of inflammation is an active process regulated by the release of specialized pro-resolving lipid mediators (SPMs) from leukocytes. We have hypothesized that in AI mast cells can produce pro-resolution mediators and orchestrate not only the initiation but also the resolution of AI. Resolution in AI can also be modulated via the activation of inhibitory receptors (IRs) such as <u>CD300a</u>, a "threshold" IR, expressed and functional on the membrane of mast cells and eosinophils, by their natural ligand/s. Moreover, resolution can be orchestrated by a cross-talk between IRs and



SPMs are a physiological mechanisms for AI resolution. Importantly in asthma their levels are reduced in adult patients (Planagumà et al., AJRCCM, 2008) and in pediatric severe asthma patients (Hasan et al., Pediatr Crit Care Med, 2012).

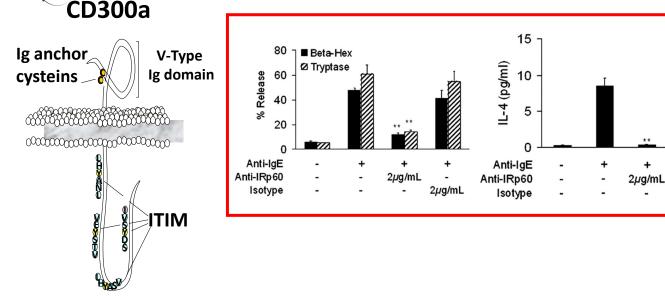
Modified from: Serhan C and Levy BD, J Clin Invest, 2018

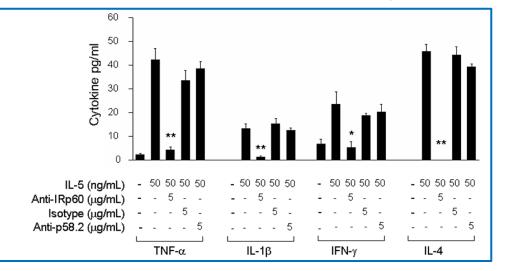


Expression of CD300a on CBMCs and on pbEos and in the AEU

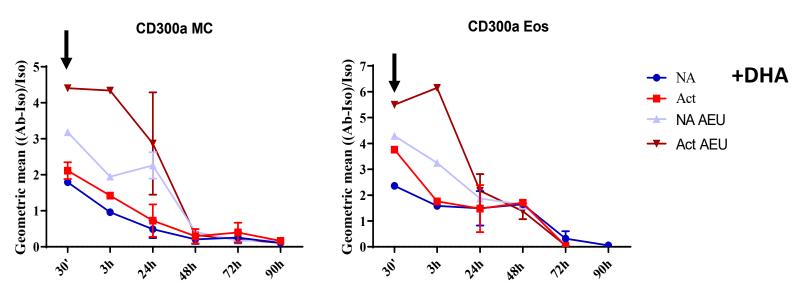
2µg/mL





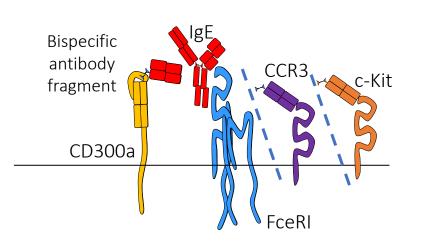


- It belongs to the Ig superfamily. And to the CD300 family with 8 members some IRs and some ARs
- It has a mouse homologue, LMIR-1.
- 3 classical and one non classical ITIMs
- Expressed on: NK cells, neutrophils, T and B lymphocytes, <u>mast cells</u>, <u>eosinophils</u>, <u>basophils</u>. Expressed on some malignant cells.
- CD300a recognizes phosphatidylserine (PS) and phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) on apoptotic, activated ,transformed or virus infected cells.
- It has a paired AR, CD300c



Bachelet I et al., J Immuno, 2005; Munitz A et al., Blood 2006; George T and Levi-Schaffer F unpublished

CD300a: past and recent works



Abrogation of allergic reactions by a bispecific antibody fragment linking IgE to CD300a

Ido Bachelet, MSc,* Ariel Munitz, MSc,* and Francesca Levi-Schaffer, PhD Jerusalem, Israel J ALLERGY CLIN IMMUNOL



Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Volume 118, Issue 5, November 2006, Pages 1082-1089

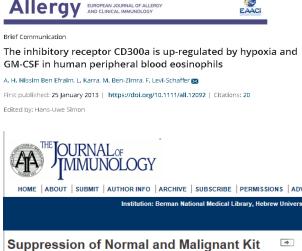
VOLUME 117, NUMBER 6



Mechanisms of asthma and allergic inflammation

Reversal of airway inflammation and remodeling in asthma by a bispecific antibody fragment linking CCR3 to CD300a

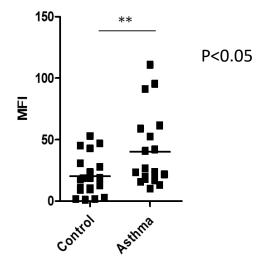
Ariel Munitz, MSc^{*}, Ido Bachelet, MSc^{*}, Francesca Levi-Schaffer, PhD 📥 🔛



Suppression of Normal and Malignant Kit Signaling by a Bispecific Antibody Linking Kit with CD300a

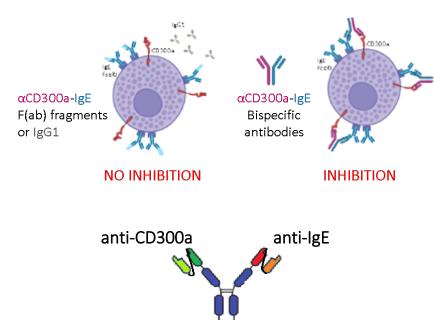
Ido Bachelet, Ariel Munitz, Beata Berent-Maoz, David Mankuta[†] and Francesca Levi-Schaffer2,

> CD300a is increased on peripheral blood eosinophils of asthmatic patients (unpublished data)



2022:New generation of engineered bispecific mAbs





Recombinant bi-specific Ab produced by the "crossmab" technique

INICAL & EXPERIMENTAL TRUSTED EVIDENCE IN ALLERGY

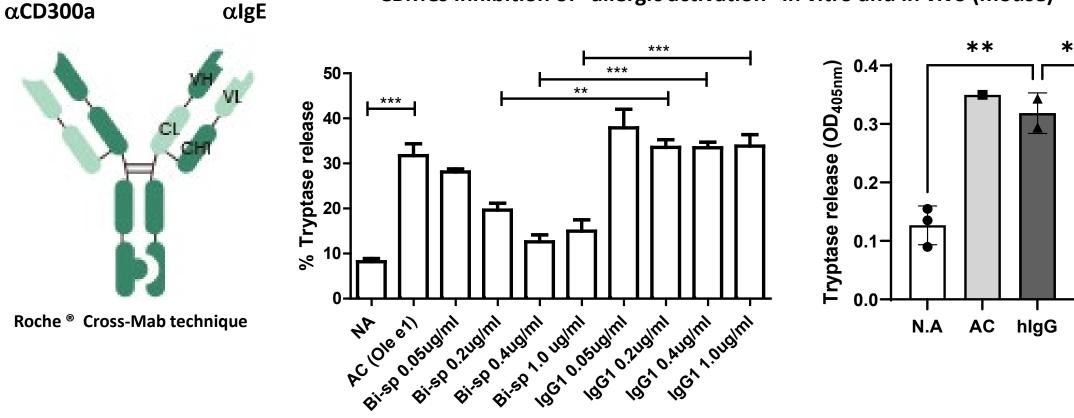
RESEARCH LETTER

Dexamethasone and CD300a activation display additive inhibitory effect on human and murine mast cell functions

Pratibha Gaur, Fidan Rahimli Alekberli, Laila Karra, David Mankuta, Micha Ben-Zimra, Francesca Levi-Schaffer 🔀

First published: 02 April 2021 | https://doi.org/10.1111/cea.13872

Where are we going with CD300a? Engineered α CD300a- α IgE bispecific Ab



CBMCs inhibition of "allergic activation" in vitro and in vivo (mouse)

Bis

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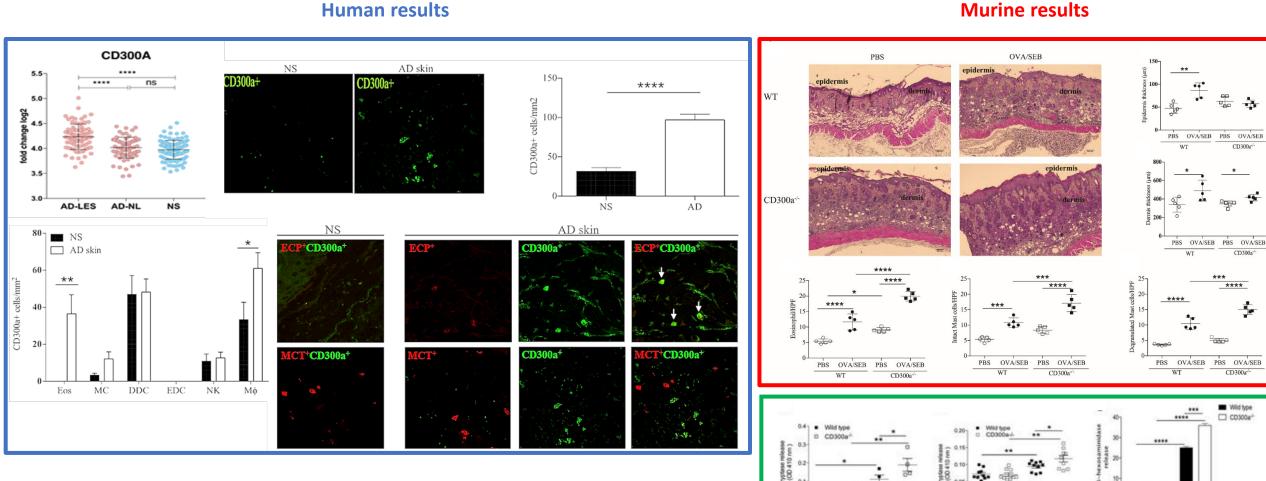
CD300a expression is upregulated in human AD lesional skin, and AD-induced CD300a^{-/-} mice display <u>higher inflammatory features</u>



Non activated

anti-lof

Activated



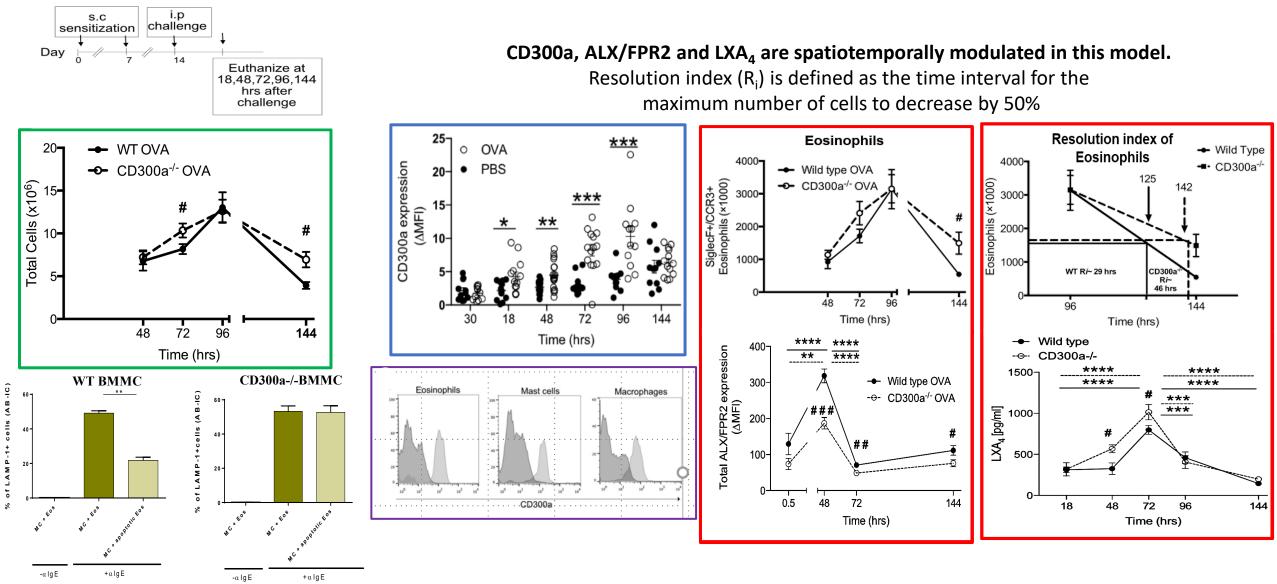
Human results

*p< 0.05, **p<0.005, ***p<0.001, ****p<0.0001

Karra L, Gangwar RS, Puzzovio PG et al., Allergy, 2019

CD300a expression is timely upregulated in OVA/Alum AP model in mice and CD300a ^{-/-} mice display increased allergic <u>inflammation</u> and <u>impaired resolution</u>





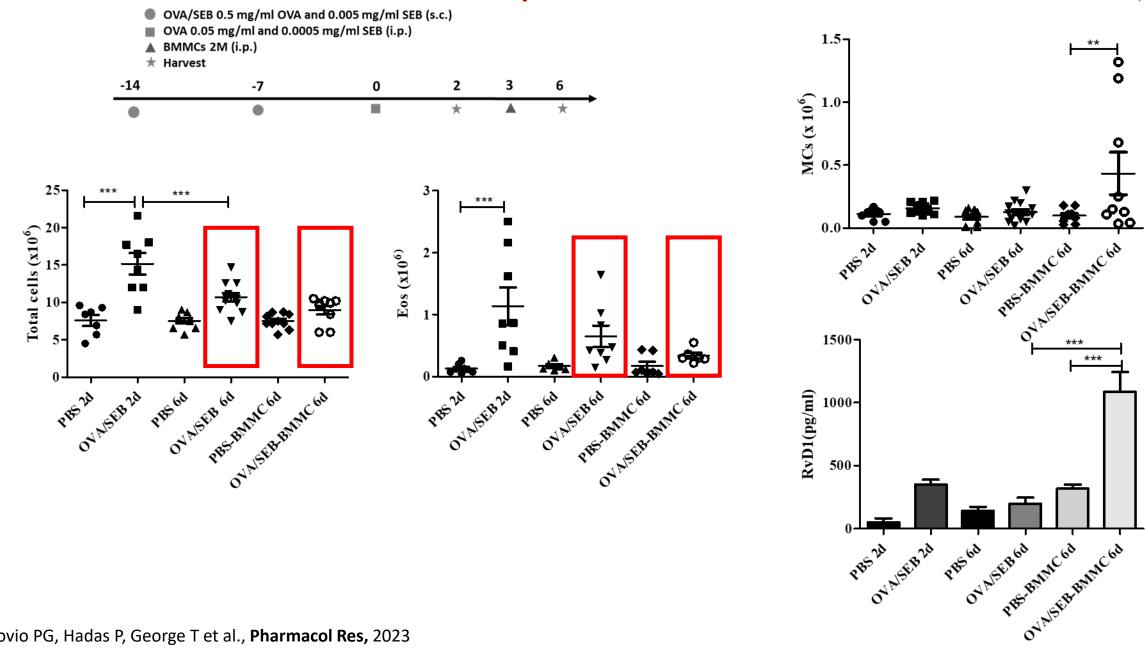
Karra L, Gangwar RS, Shamri R et al, J Immunol, 2018

*p< 0.05, **p<0.005, ***p<0.001, ****p<0.0001

"MC Overshooted" Mice Show a Trend of Reduced Inflammation in an **OVA/SEB AP model**



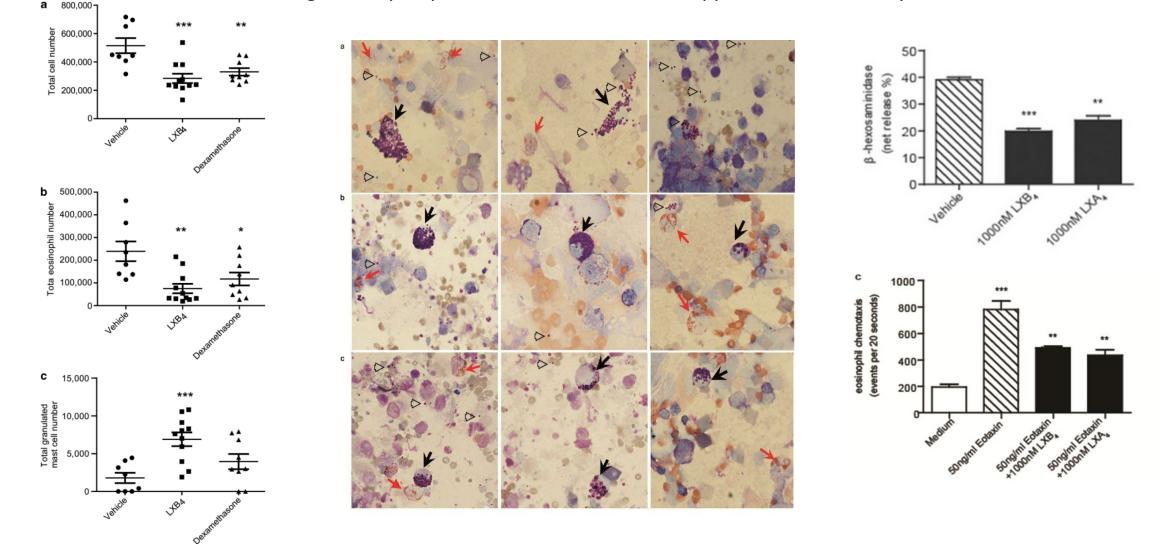
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Lipoxin B4 promotes the resolution of allergic inflammation in the upper and lower airways of mice



Here, we provide evidences that LXB4 mediates anti-inflammatory and pro-resolving actions for allergic airway responses in murine models of upper and lower airway mucosal inflammation



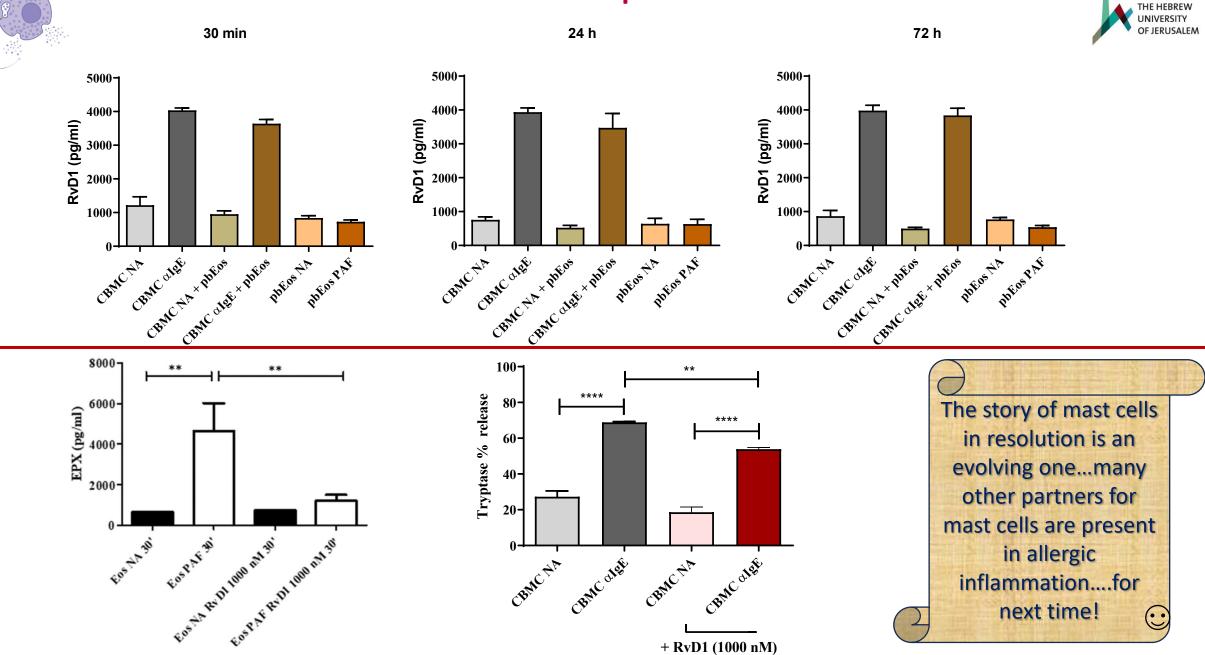
Karra L et al, Mucosal Immunol, 2015

Human MCs release RvD1 after IgE-mediated activation



*** 3000 *** 5000-*** 4000 4000 LAD-2 NA RvD1 (bg/m]) 3000 1000 1000 RvD1 (pg/ml) RvD1 (pg/ml) 2000 3000 □ LAD-2 aIgE 2000 CBMCs: cord blood-1000 1000 derived MCs LAD2 alg. 30 CBMCs NA30 CBMCsale.30 LAD2. NA 39 FSMCs: foreskin-30 2411 1811 1211 derived MCs *** 4000-4000-*** NPMCs: nasal (lm/gd) 1000-3000-1000-RvD1 (pg/ml) 5000-1000-1000-250 polyps-derived MCs relative expression (%) 200-15-Lipoxygenase LAD-2: Laboratory 150-1000of Allergic 100-ABMC NA IN ARMC* ale III Diseases-2 cell line FSMC HA38 FSMC alef 30 50 CBMC XA30 CBMC algE 30 CBMC ALGE ADT CBMC ADT

The human AEU continues to produce RvD1 over time

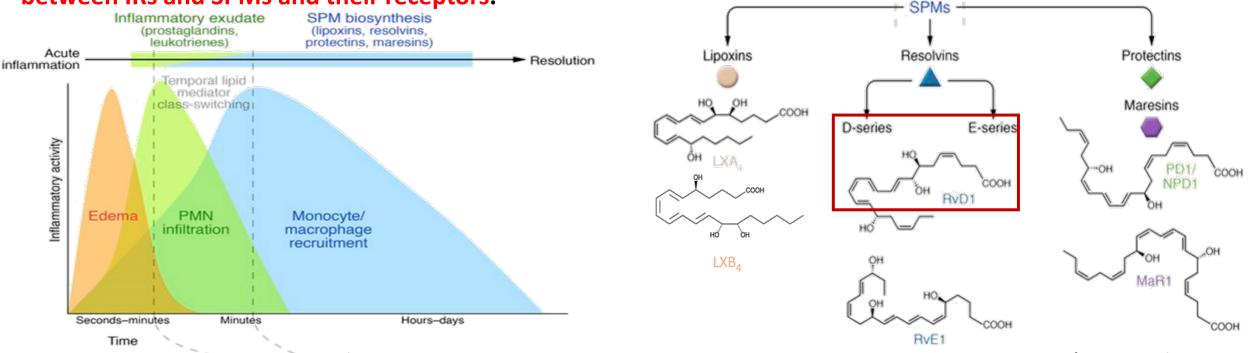


Puzzovio PG, Hadas P, George T et al, **Pharmacol Res**, 2023; George T and Levi-Schaffer, **unpublished**

Resolution of inflammation-SPMs: last but not least!!!

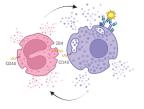
UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Al is usually a chronic disease characterized by absence of resolution, but sometimes by remission phases. Resolution of inflammation is an active process regulated by the release of specialized pro-resolving lipid mediators (SPMs) from leukocytes. We have hypothesized that in Al mast cells can produce pro-resolution mediators and orchestrate not only the initiation but also the resolution of Al. Resolution in Al can also be modulated via the activation of inhibitory receptors (IRs) such as CD300a, a "threshold" IR, expressed and functional on the membrane of mast cells and eosinophils, by their natural ligand/s. Moreover, resolution can be orchestrated by a cross-talk between IRs and SPMs and their receptors.



SPMs are a physiological mechanisms for AI resolution. Importantly in asthma their levels are reduced in adult patients (Planagumà et al., AJRCCM, 2008) and in pediatric severe asthma patients (Hasan et al., Pediatr Crit Care Med, 2012).

Modified from: Serhan C and Levy BD, J Clin Invest, 2018



Summary



In the frame of allergy, we have demonstrated:

- The important pro-inflammatory role of the AEU and of the dominant roles of GM-CSF and of the activating receptor CD48.
- The immunomodulatory role of the inhibitory receptor CD300a as anti-inflammatory player and its interplay in resolution of allergic inflammation.
- The role of IgE-dependent activated MCs might play by producing **Resolvin D1** in **resolution of allergic inflammation**.

Conclusions

Allergic inflammation (and inflammation in other diseases with a different etiopathology in which MCs and Eos have prominent roles) can be down-regulated by immunopharmacological modulation of the AEU and of MCs/Eos by blocking GM-CSF, the activating receptor CD48, or by activating the inhibitory receptor CD300a (and Siglec-7), and/or by administering exogenous SPMs in a time-dependent fashion. Moreover, the expression/production of these receptors/mediators might provide new diagnostic tools for allergic diseases and for tailoring personalized therapy. Importantly new drugs should ideally try to specifically and timely target mast cells and eosinophils to limit the inflammation flares and induce the resolving/reparative stages, ultimately leading to a new homeostasis.



The AEU



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D Thanks to my past and present students and to all my great collaborators.

Thank you!

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Research grants related to this presentation: ISF (Israel Academy of Science) BSF (United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation) MOKED (IL) Personalized Medicine (IL) Aimwell Trust Foundation (UK) Rosetrees Trust (UK) Emalie Gutterman Fund (USA)