

**These slides are based on the presenter's studies on Low Dose Medicine.**

*The information presented here is not to be considered as a prescription, and we do not accept medical or legal responsibility for misuse of the information presented. This information is for educational purposes, for licensed health care professionals within their scope of practice and it is intended as scholastic information only. Only the Doctor can decide if the information can be considered for their patient alongside with all the other necessary treatments and therapies.*

***The Presenter declares his conflict of interests with  
GUNA Pharmaceuticals***



INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF  
PHYSIOLOGICAL REGULATING MEDICINE



# *CITOMIX UPDATES*

Pharmacology Insights

Webinar

Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

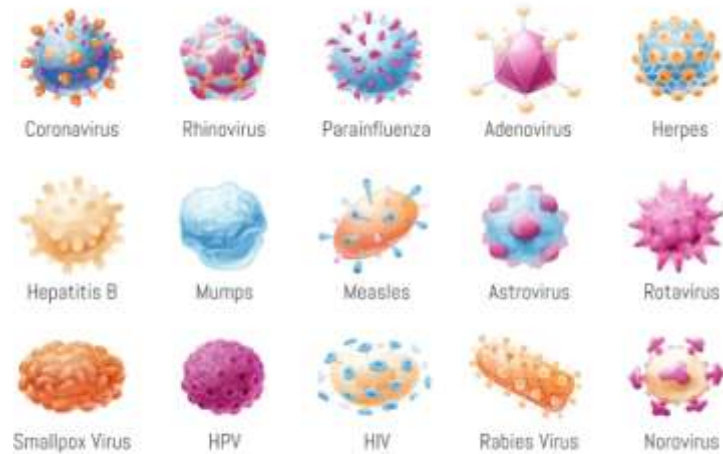
Alessandro Perra – Scientific Director of Guna Pharmaceuticals



guna.it

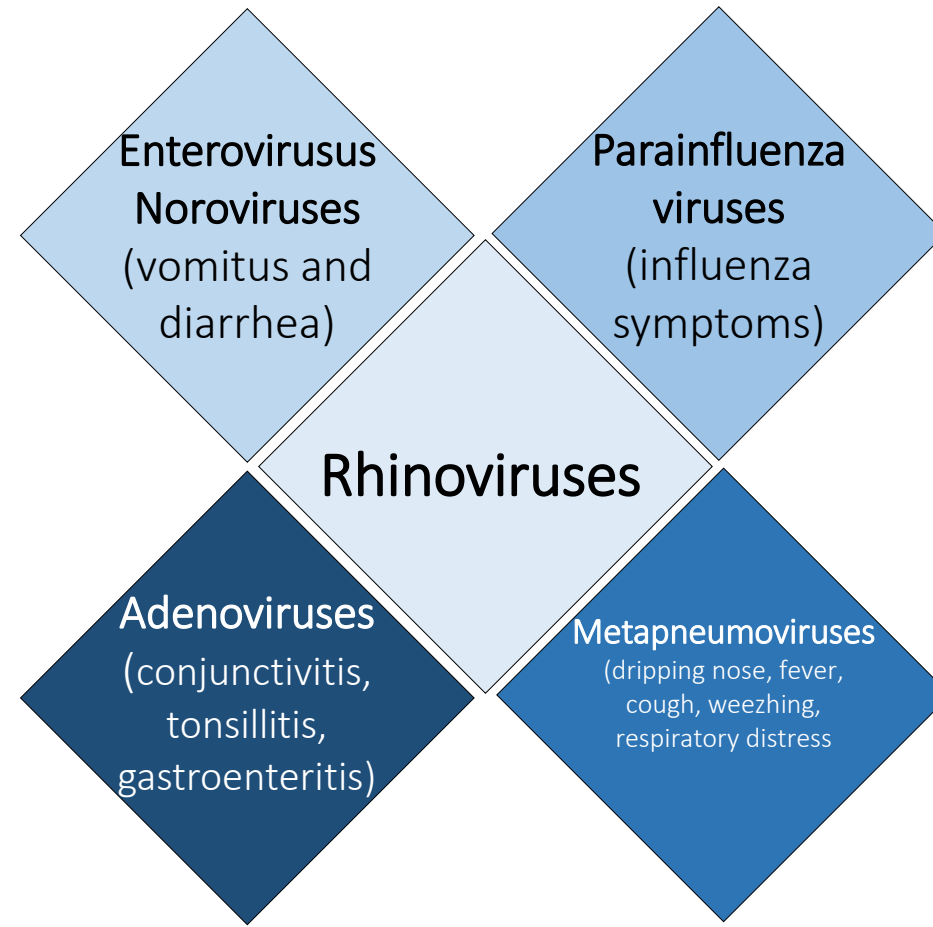


# The big challenge of winter season 2024-2025

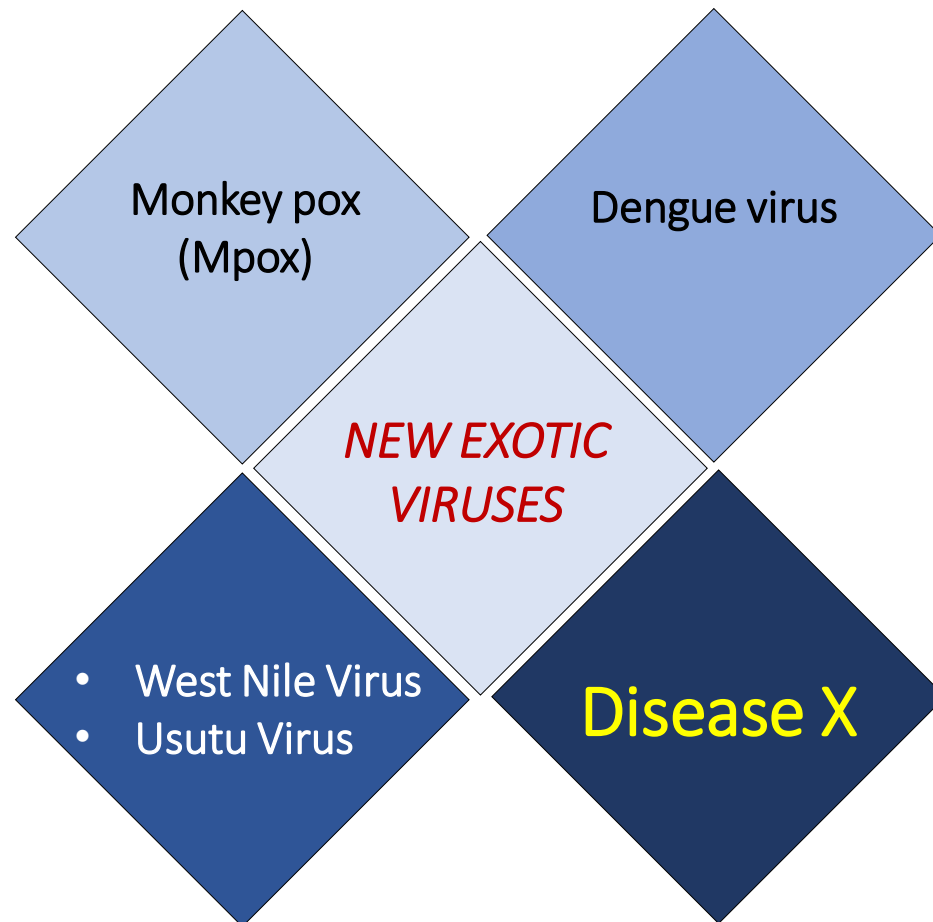


*The co-circulation of several,  
different viral species*

## *Virus actually in circulation, ...and a little out of season*

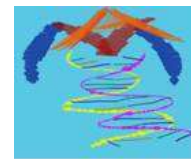
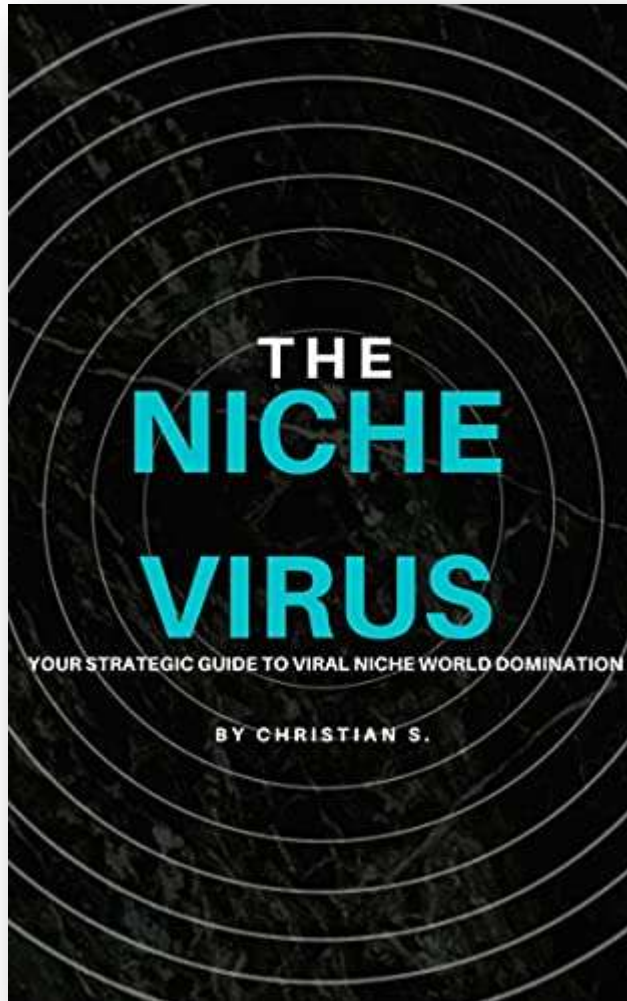


## *...and new «exotic» viruses*

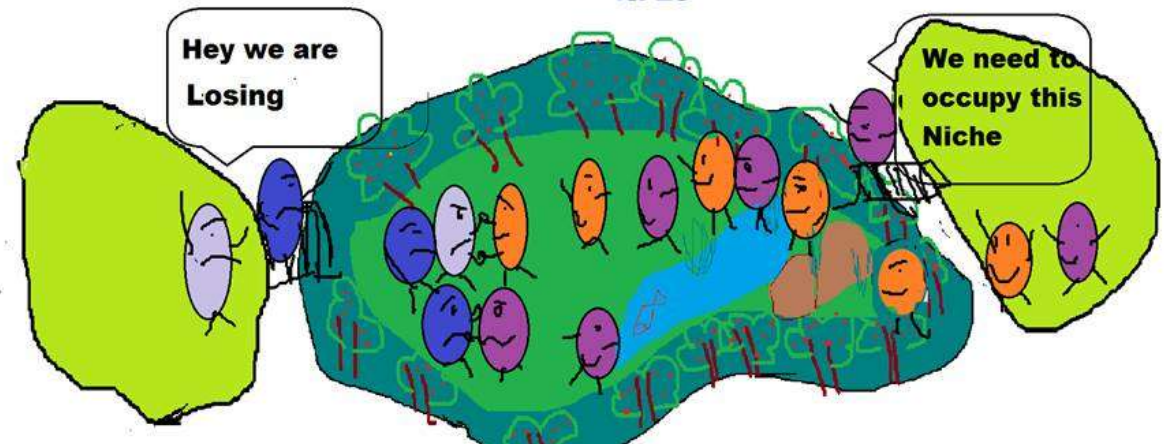
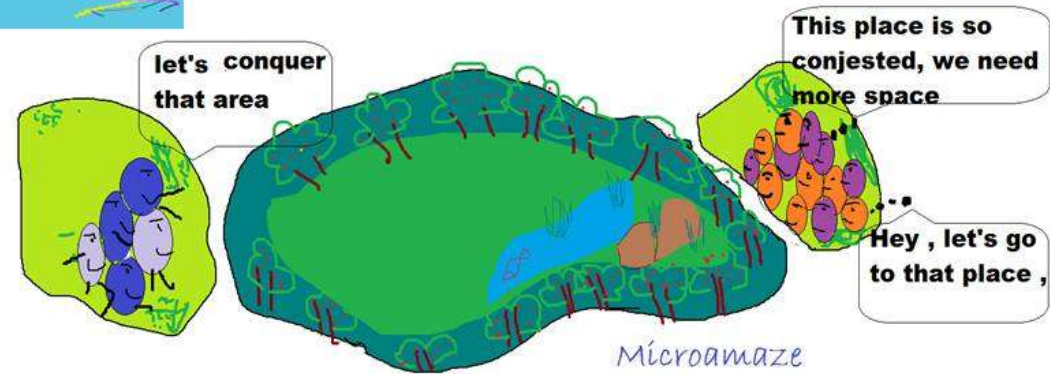




# Winter season 2024-2025: the concept of ECOLOGICAL NICHE

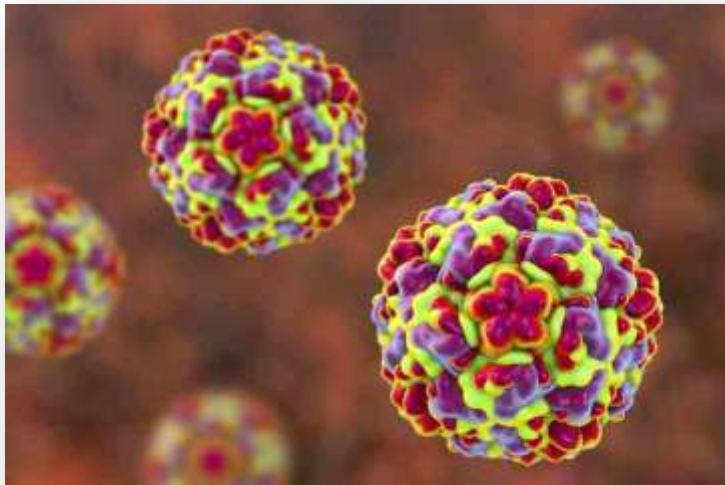


## ECOLOGICAL NICHE

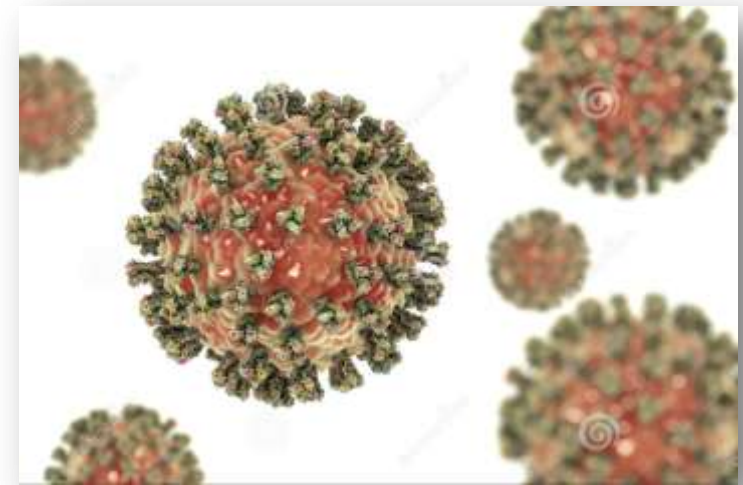


# Winter season 2024-2025

## Be careful with these 2 guys



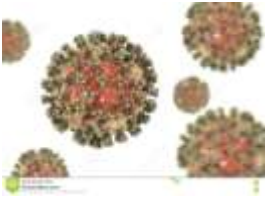
RHINO



PARA-



## Human Parainfluenza Virus



Parainfluenza viruses are paramyxoviruses and are classified as types 1, 2, 3 e 4. They share an antigenic cross-reactivity but tend to cause different diseases of different severity

They are interested in both children and adults



- Types 1 e 2 normally cause fall epidemics, with recurrency of different sero types every other year (2024 should show the prevalence of Type 2)



Oh DY, Biere B, Grenz M, Wolff T, Schweiger B, Dürwald R, Reiche J. Virological Surveillance and Molecular Characterization of Human Parainfluenzavirus Infection in Children with Acute Respiratory Illness: Germany, 2015–2019. *Microorganisms*. 2021 Jul 14;9(7):1508.

<https://www.msmanuals.com/it-it/professionale/malattie-infettive/virus-respiratori/infezioni-da-virus-parainfluenzali>



**Tropism, replication competence, and innate immune responses of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 in human respiratory tract and conjunctiva: an analysis in ex-vivo and in-vitro cultures**



*Kerrie P Y Hui, Man-Chun Cheung, Ranawaka A P M Perera, Ko-Chun Ng, Christine H T Bui, John CWHo, Mandy M T Ng, Denise I T Kuok, Kendrick C Shi, Sai-Wah Tsao, Leo L M Poon, Malik Peris, John M Nicholls, Michael CW Chan*

# Mutual assistance between viruses

*Hui KPY, Cheung MC, Perera RAPM, et al. Tropism, replication competence, and innate immune responses of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 in human respiratory tract and conjunctiva: an analysis in ex-vivo and in-vitro cultures [published online ahead of print, 2020 May 7]. Lancet Respir Med. 2020;S2213-2600(20)30193-4. doi:10.1016/S2213-2600(20)30193-4*

# ‘Tripledemic:’ What Happens When Flu, RSV, and COVID-19 Cases Collide?

# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE IMMUNE SYSTEM HAS TO FACE SEVERAL VIRUSES SIMULTANEOUSLY OR SEQUENTIALLY?



“The innate immune system takes up arms”



- <https://www.the-scientist.com/what-happens-when-you-catch-more-than-one-virus-70817>
- <https://ki.se/en/labmed/divisions/division-of-clinical-microbiology/team-innate-immune-responses-during-viral-infections>
- Kawai, T., Akira, S. Innate immune recognition of viral infection. Nat Immunol 7, 131–137 (2006). <https://doi.org/10.1038/ni1303>

# EDUCATIONAL AGREEMENT



PREMISE: A **SYSTEMIC** AND **SYNTHETIC** VIEW OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM



FOCUSING THE ATTENTION ON INNATE IMMUNITY AND CELL-MEDIATED IMMUNE RESPONSE

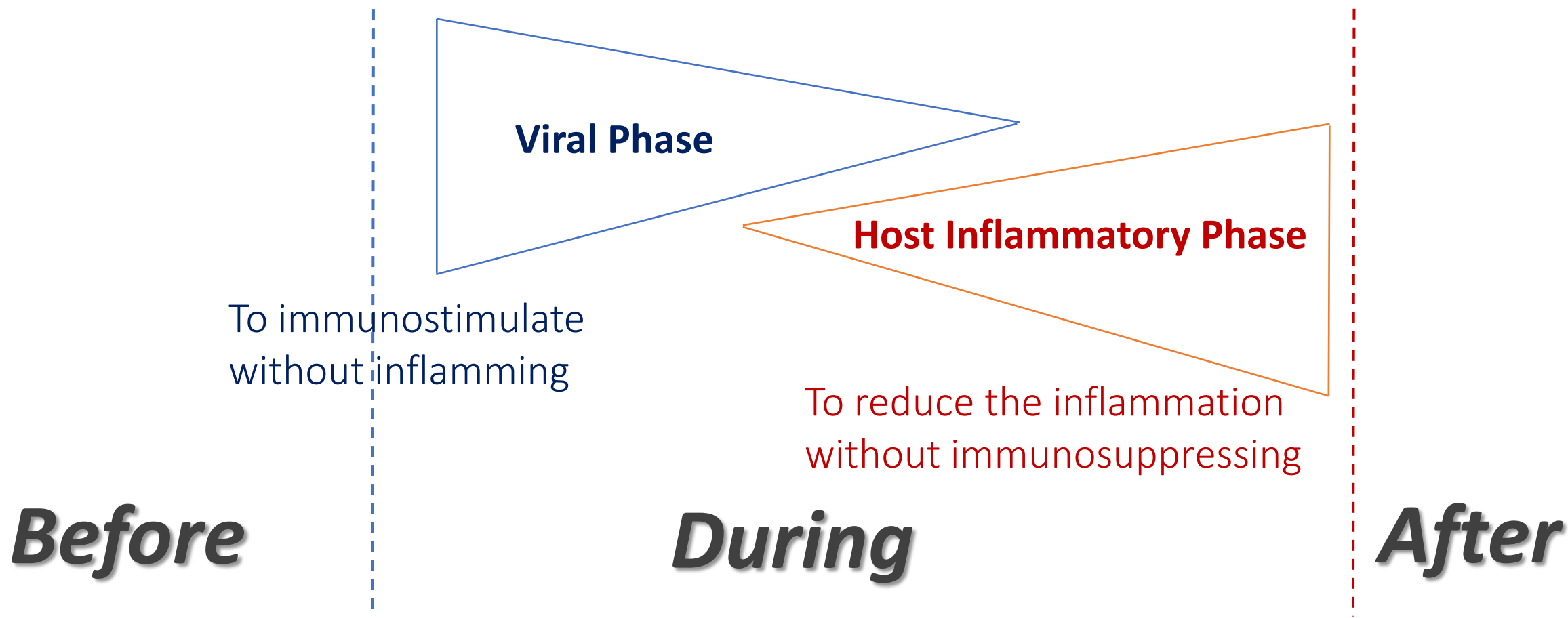


SINGLE LOW DOSE CYTOKINES AND A MULTICOMPONENT MEDICATION (**CITOMIX**) TO DRIVE THE IMMUNE RESPONSE



EVIDENCE FROM THE RESEARCH... AND A NEWS

# Our (unique) goal in infectious diseases





A SHORT BUT  
FUNDAMENTAL  
PREMISE

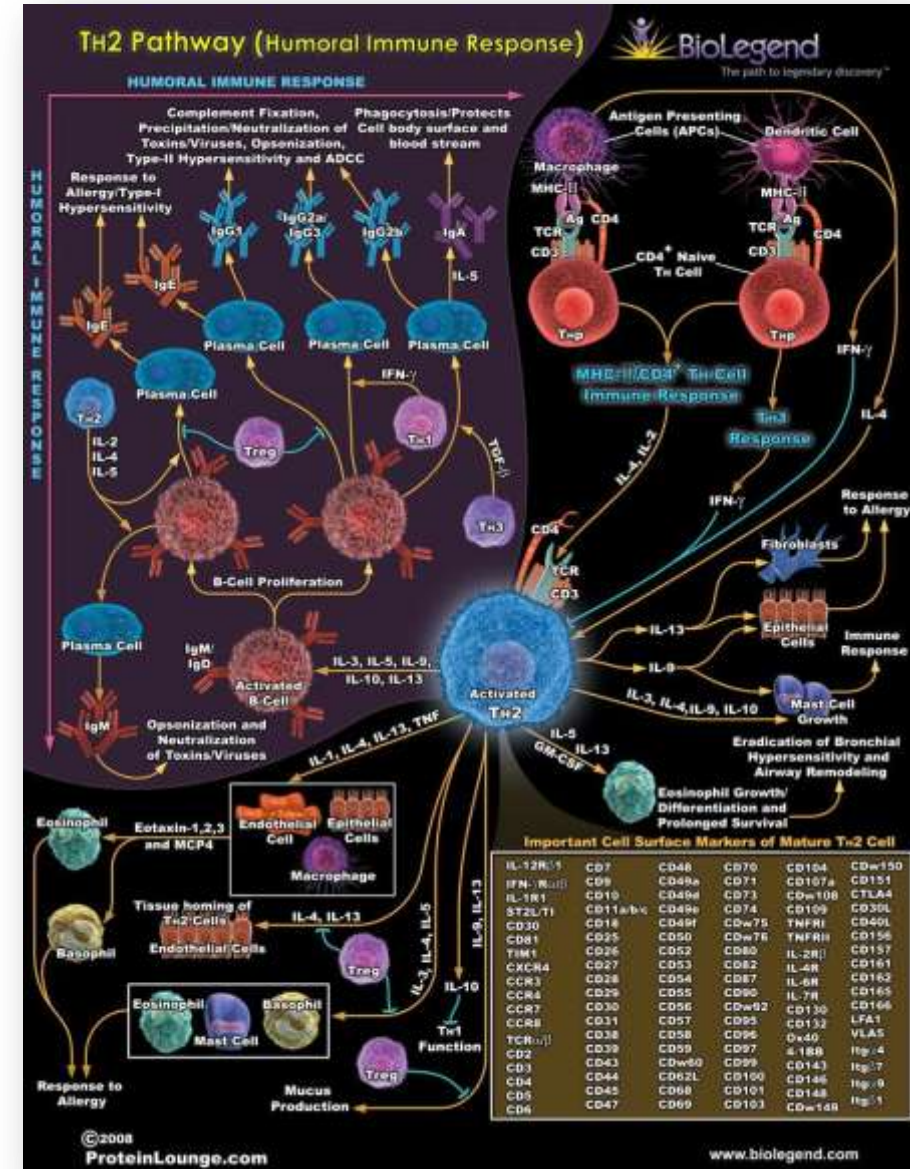
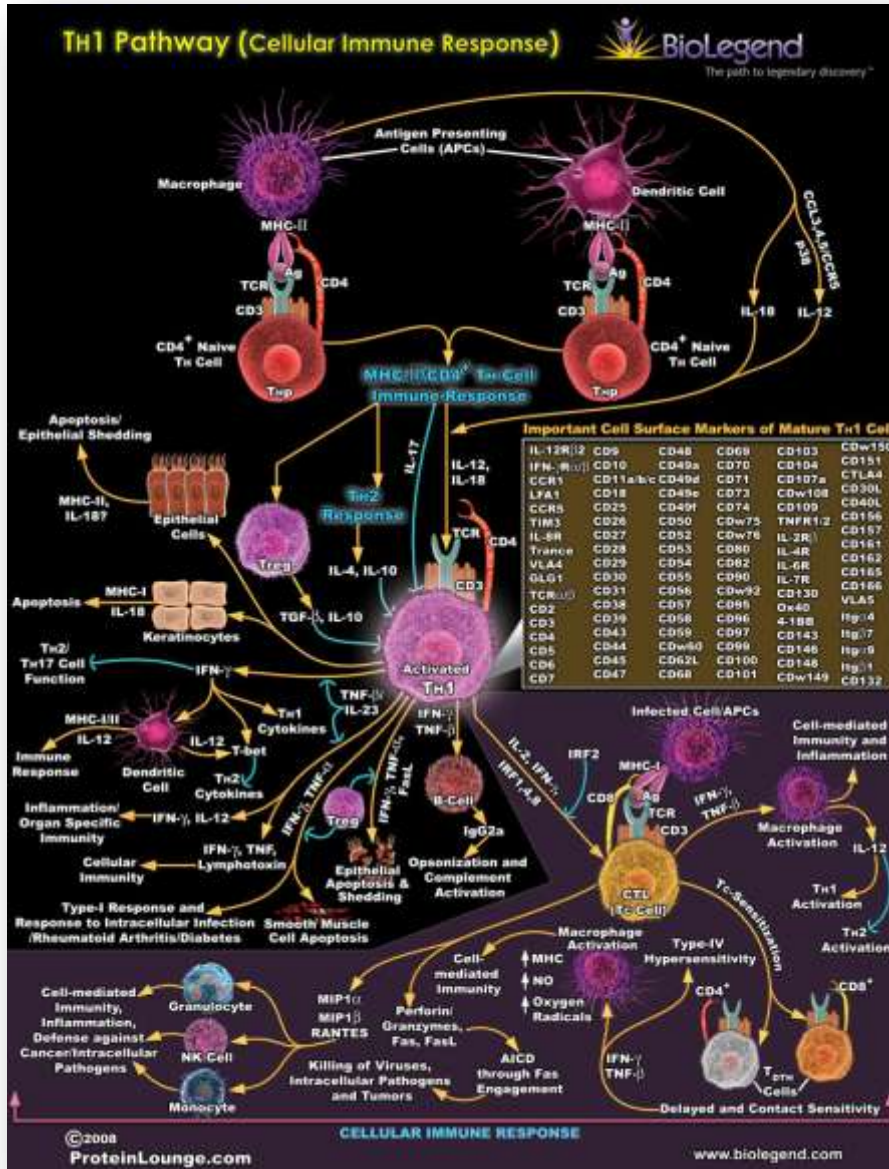


*Essential bases  
of Immunology*





# The Complexity of the Immune System



# The Immune System Orchestra





ASPECIFIC CYTOLYSIS OF

- INFECTED CELLS
- CANCER CELLS



RECOGNITION AND PHAGOCYTOSIS



IL-12, IFN- $\gamma$       NK ACTIVATION      DIRECT ELIMINATION OF PATHOGEN

COMPARISON BETWEEN 2 IMMUNITIES

INNATE	ADAPTIVE
Fast	Slow
Transitory	Stable
Genetically trasmitted	Individual; genetic adaptation

**Th1**

- Cell-mediated immune response (activation of CD8<sup>+</sup> in T cytotoxic cells via IFN- $\gamma$ )
- Defense vs viruses and bacteria
- Inflammation

**T<sub>H</sub>2**

- Humoral Immunity (B cells activation via IL-4)
- Defense vs parasites
- Allergy

**T<sub>H</sub>17**

- Tissue damage repair
- Defense vs fungi
- Inflammation
- Autoimmune response

**T-reg**

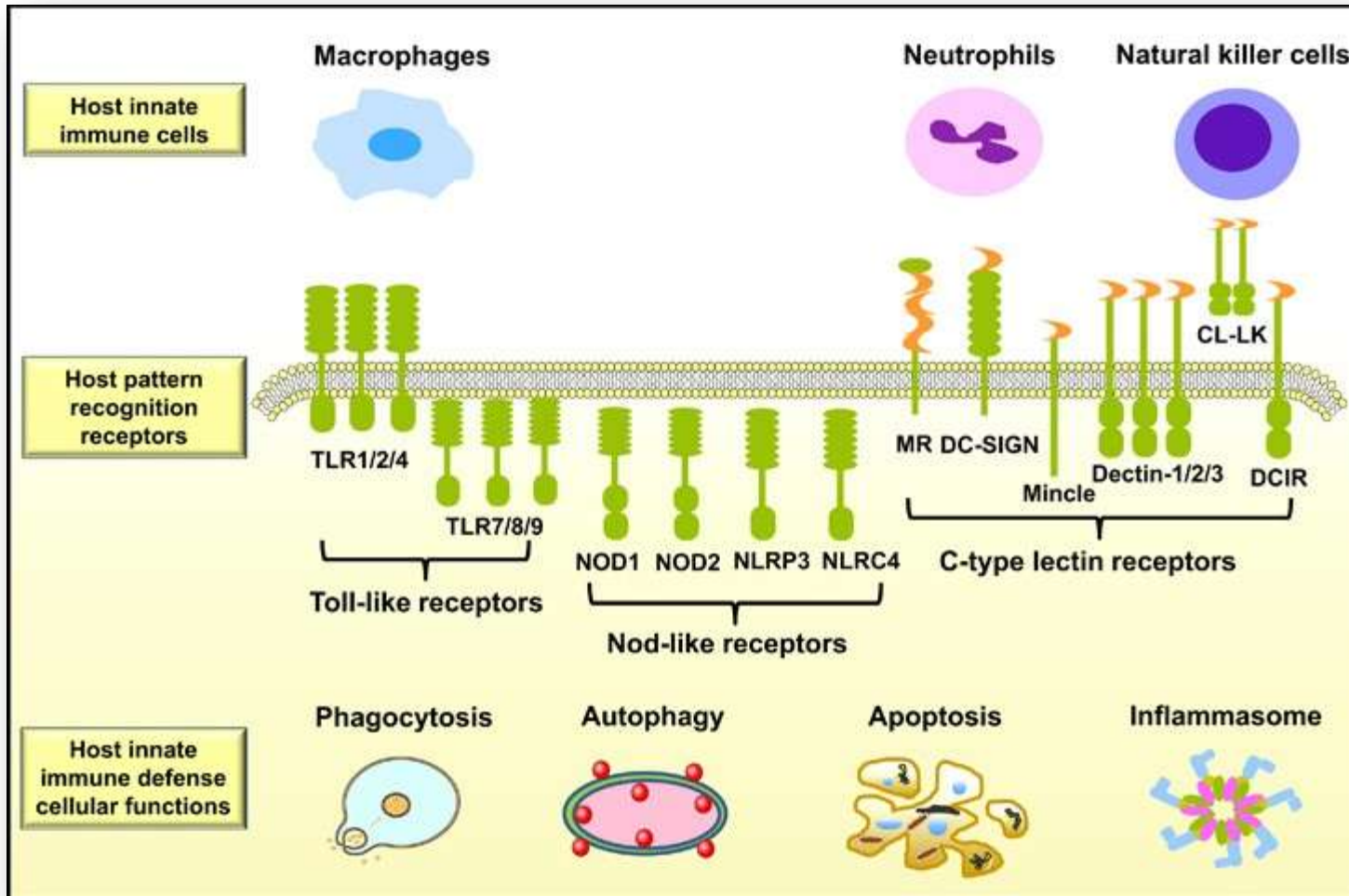
- Immune Homeostasis
- Immune response regulations
- Immunodeficiency

**T<sub>fh</sub>**

- Maturation and differentiation of B cells (via IL-4 and IL-21)
- Autoimmune response

PAMPs: Pathogen Associated Molecular Patterns  
 TLRs: Toll-Like Receptors  
 MCH-II: Complesso maggiore di istocompatibilità di classe II  
 TCR: T-cell receptor

# INNATE IMMUNITY



## Players of Innate Immunity:

- **Anatomic barriers**
- **Physiological barriers** (lisozima, interferons, and complement complex)
- **Inflammatory barriers**
- **Endocytosis/Phagocytosis**

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

# Trained Innate Immunity, Epigenetics, and Covid-19

Alberto Mantovani, M.D., and Mihai G. Netea, M.D.

Article Figures/Media Metrics

September 10, 2020  
N Engl J Med 2020; 383:1078-1080  
DOI: 10.1056/NEJMcibr2011679

7 References

**I**NNATE IMMUNITY IS MEDIATED BY DIFFERENT CELL TYPES AND CELL-ASSOCIATED OR fluid-phase pattern-recognition molecules and plays a key role in tissue repair and resistance against pathogens.<sup>1</sup> Exposure to selected vaccines, such as bacille Calmette–Guérin (BCG) or microbial components, can increase the baseline tone of innate immunity and trigger pathogen-agnostic antimicrobial resistance (known as trained innate immunity). Such training is directly relevant to resistance against infectious diseases, including Covid-19. A recent study by de Laval et al.<sup>2</sup> pinpoints a driver of durable innate immune memory conferred by myeloid cells (monocytes, macrophages, and neutrophils).

**Editors**  
Elizabeth G. Phimistee, Ph.D., Editor

**NEJM CareerCenter**  
PHYSICIAN JOBS OCTOBER 2, 2020

INNATE IMMUNITY REPRESENTS 90% OF OUR DEFENSIVE IMMUNOLOGICAL POTENTIAL.



- ASPECIFIC CYTOLYSIS OF
- INFECTED CELLS
  - CANCER CELLS

PATHOGEN

RECOGNITION AND PHAGOCYTOSIS

MACROFAGE

IL-12, IFN- $\gamma$

NK ACTIVATION

DIRECT ELIMINATION OF THE PATHOGEN

PAMPs RELEASE

TLRs

DENDRITIC CELL

MCH-II

TCR

CD4<sup>+</sup>  
naïve

Th1

IL-12  
IL-27

IL-6  
IL-21

Tfh

- Maturation and differentiation of B cells (via IL-4 and IL-21)
- Autoimmune response

- Cell-mediated immune response (activation of CD8<sup>+</sup> in T cytotoxic cells via IFN- $\gamma$ )
- Defense vs viruses and bacteria
- Inflammation

Th2

- Humoral Immunity (B cells activation via IL-4)
- Defense vs parasites
- Allergy

Th17

- Tissue damage repair
- Defense vs fungi
- Inflammation
- Autoimmune response

T-reg

- Immune Homeostasis
- Immune response regulations
- Immunodeficiency

IL-4  
IL-25

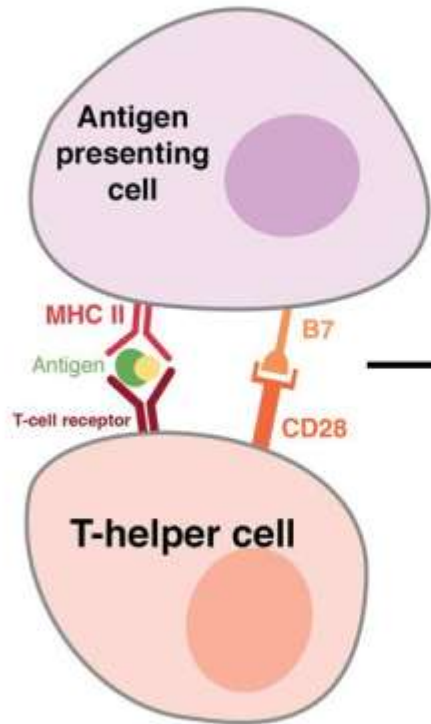
IL-2  
TGF- $\beta$

IL-6  
IL-21; IL-23

PAMPs: Pathogen Associated Molecular Patterns  
TLRs: Toll-Like Receptors  
MCH-II: Complesso maggiore di istocompatibilità di classe II  
TCR: T-cell receptor

# Activation and Class-switching of B-cells

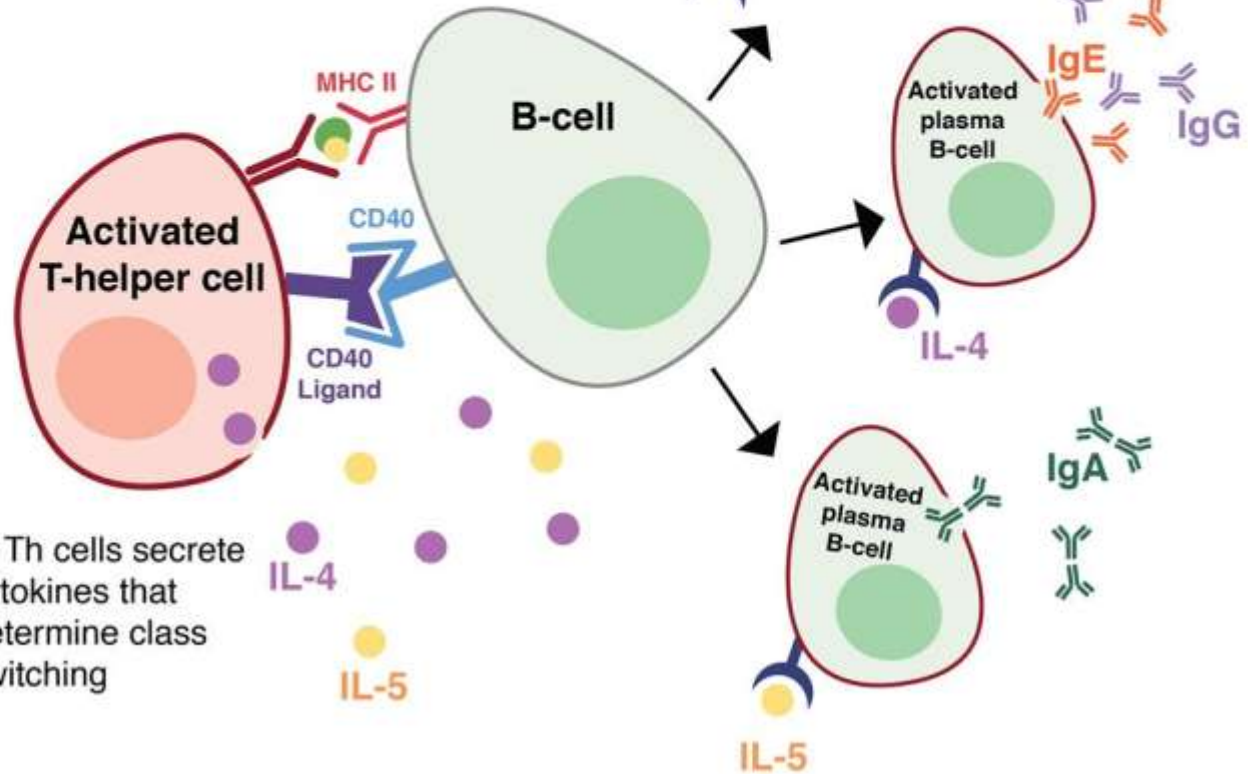
1. APC presents antigen to T-helper cells



2. B7 is expressed and interacts with CD28, activating T-helper cells

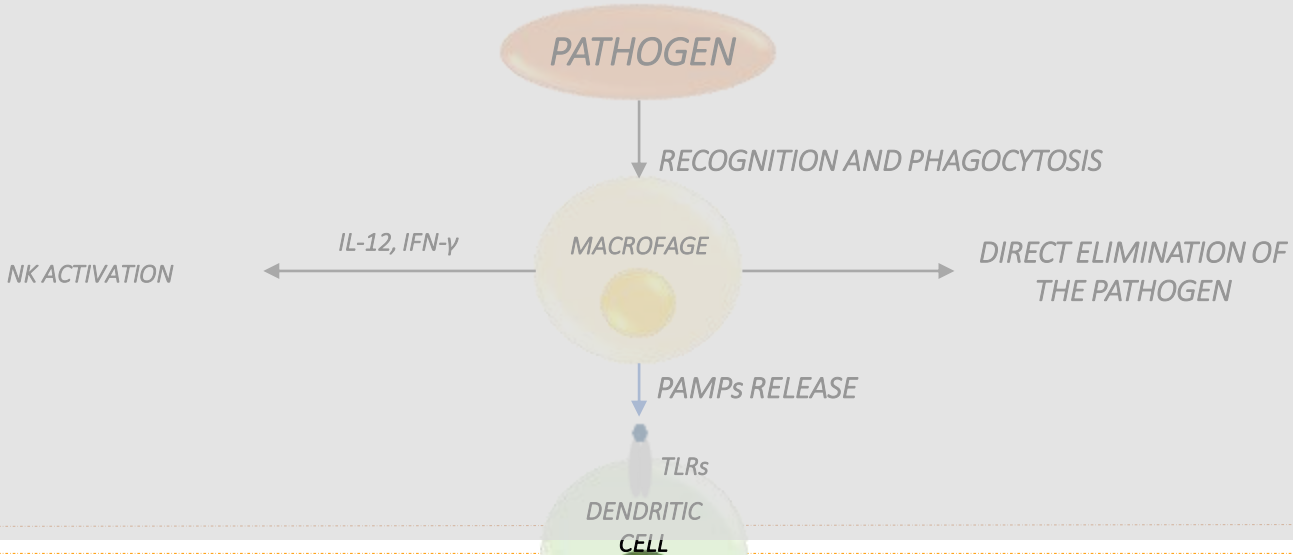
2

3. Activated Th cells interact with B-cells via CD40 ligand, activating B-cells to proliferate, differentiate, and secrete antibodies



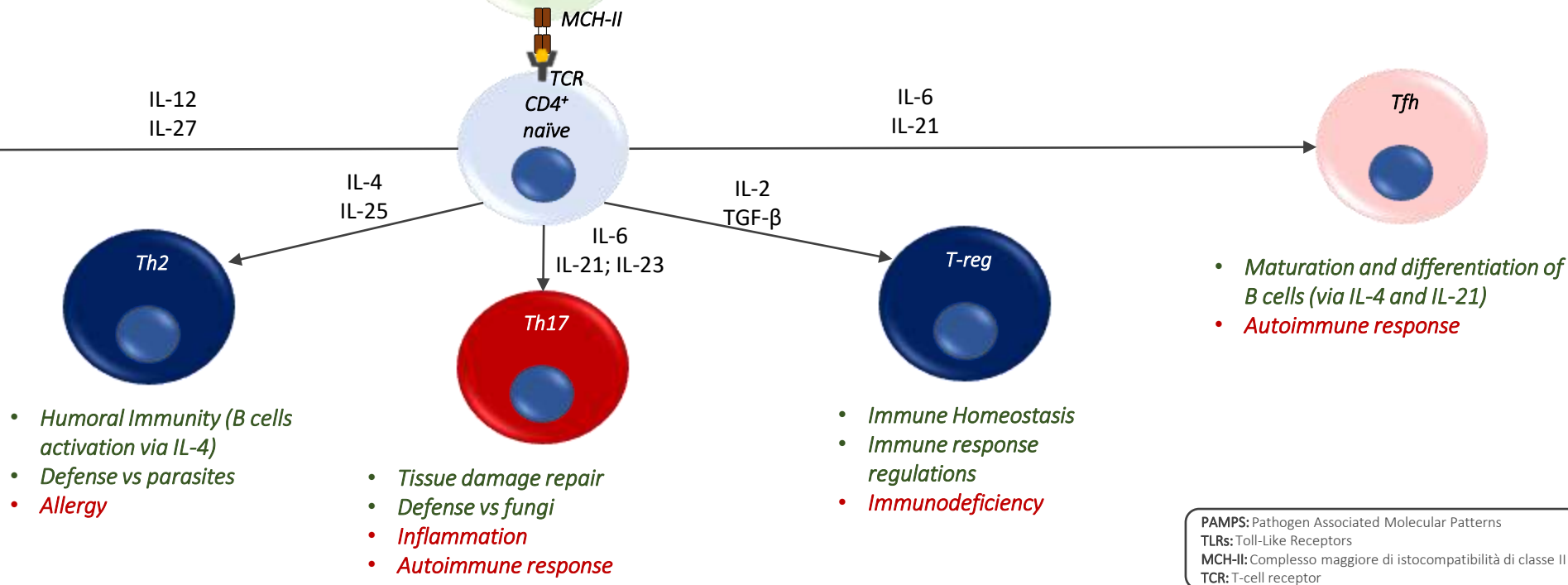
4. Th cells secrete cytokines that determine class switching

- ASPECIFIC CYTOLYSIS OF
- INFECTED CELLS
  - CANCER CELLS

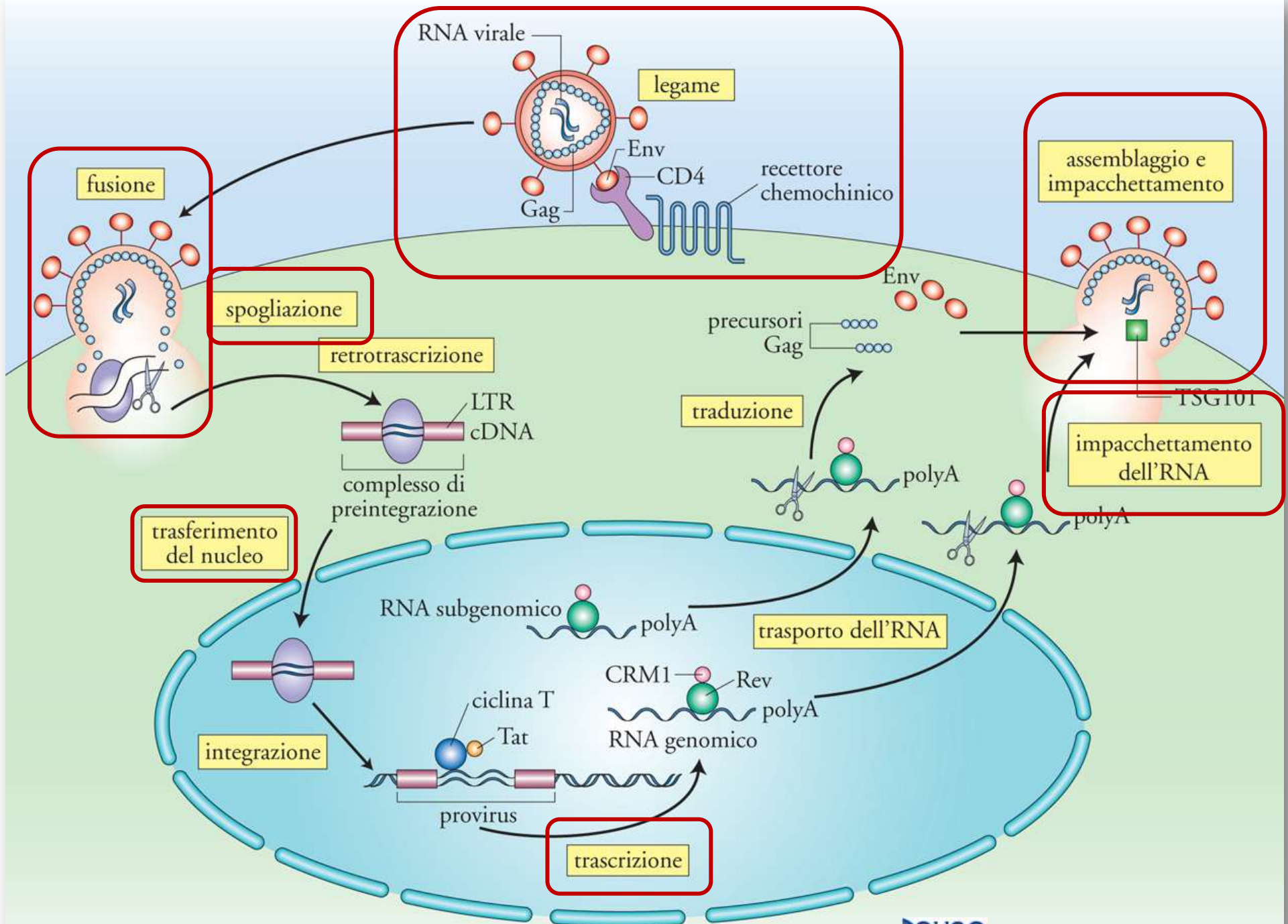


Th1

- Cell-mediated immune response (activation of CD8<sup>+</sup> in T cytotoxic cells via IFN- $\gamma$ )
- Defense vs viruses and bacteria
- **Inflammation**



PAMPs: Pathogen Associated Molecular Patterns  
 TLRs: Toll-Like Receptors  
 MCH-II: Complesso maggiore di istocompatibilità di classe II  
 TCR: T-cell receptor

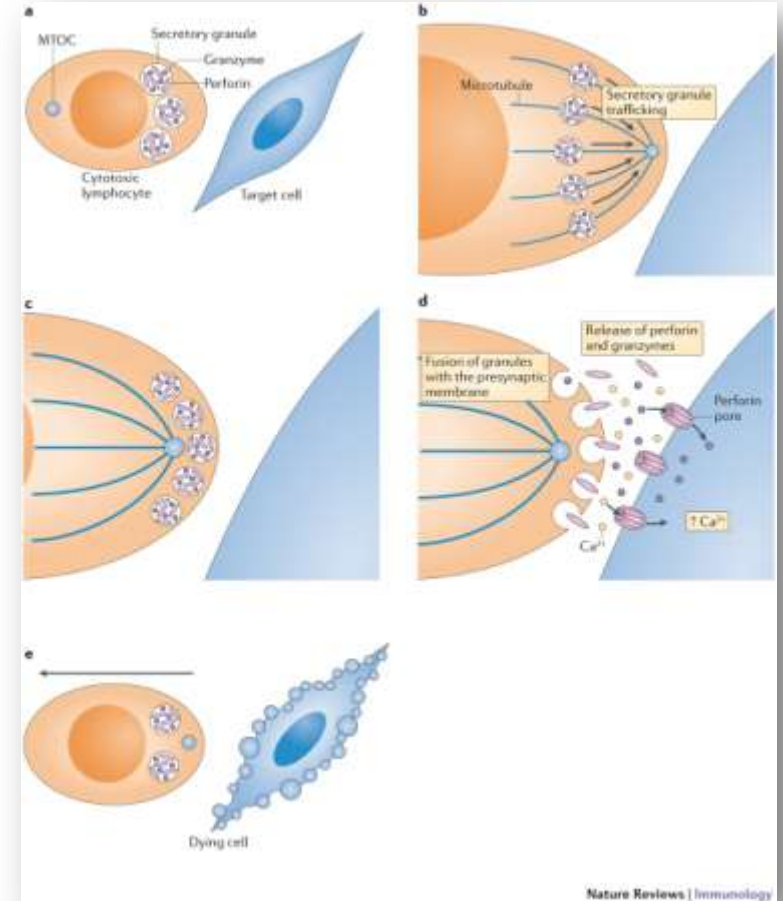
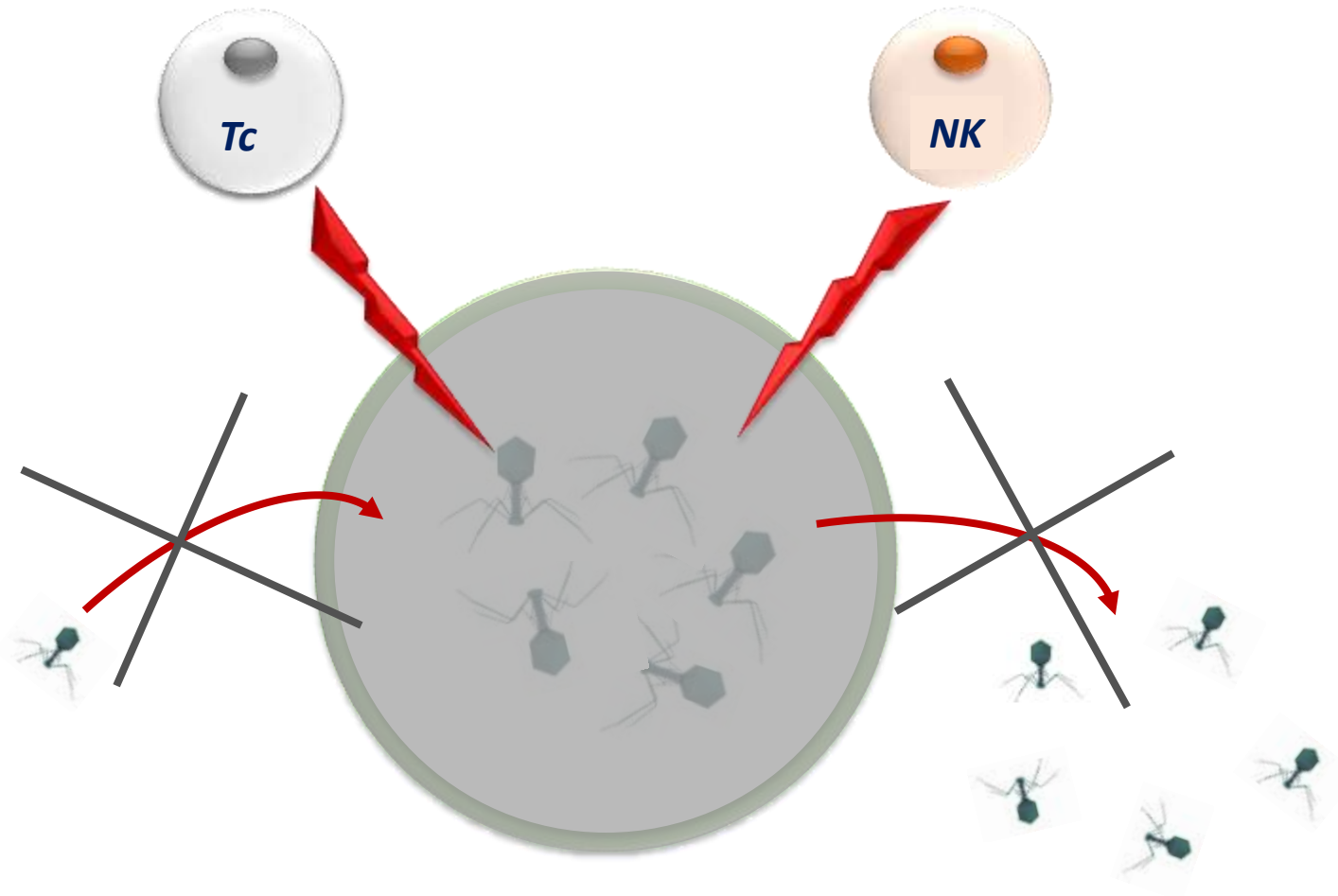






# Viral Infections and the *Cell-Mediated Immune Response*

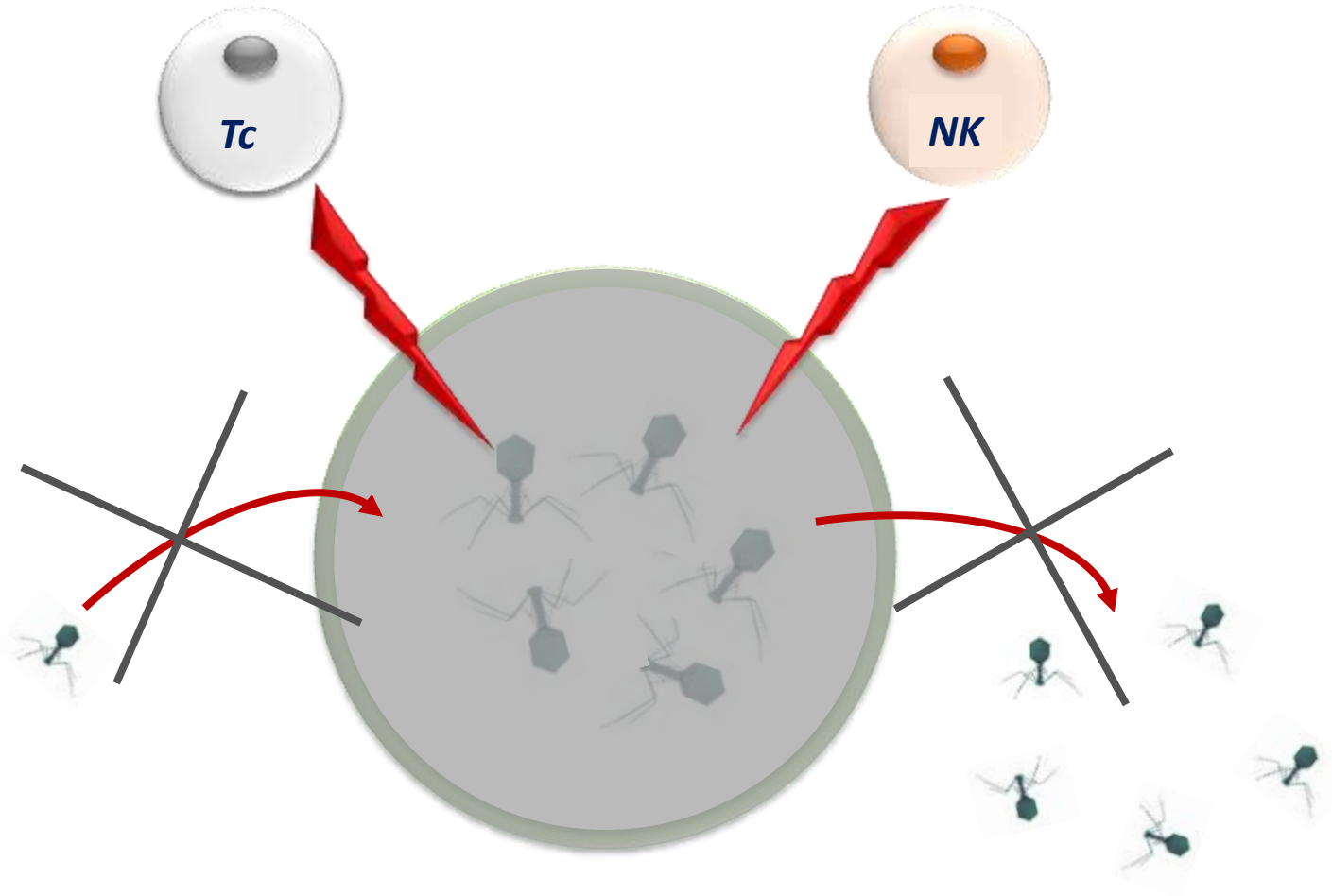
# Viral Infections and *CYTOTOXIC ACTIVITY OF Tc and NK-cells*





# How to support the activity of T-cytotoxic cells and NK cells?

## 2 important CYTOKINES



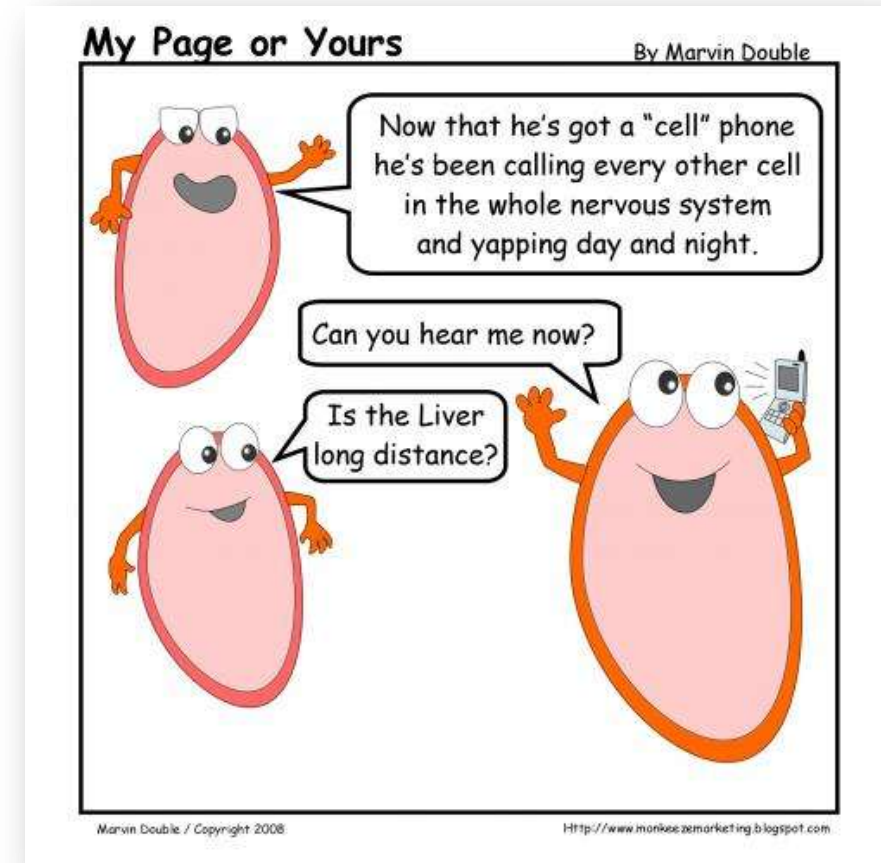
IL-2

IFN- $\gamma$

# Signaling Molecules

## The Foundation for LDM

*CYTYOKINES are **MESSENGERS**,  
**THE WORDS** used by the 3  
homeostatic control systems and  
**BY THE CELLS** to speak each other  
...and to lead the  
Immune System physiology.*



T<sub>cytotoxic</sub>



CD8+

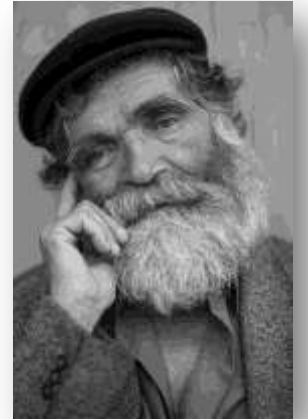


IFN- $\gamma$

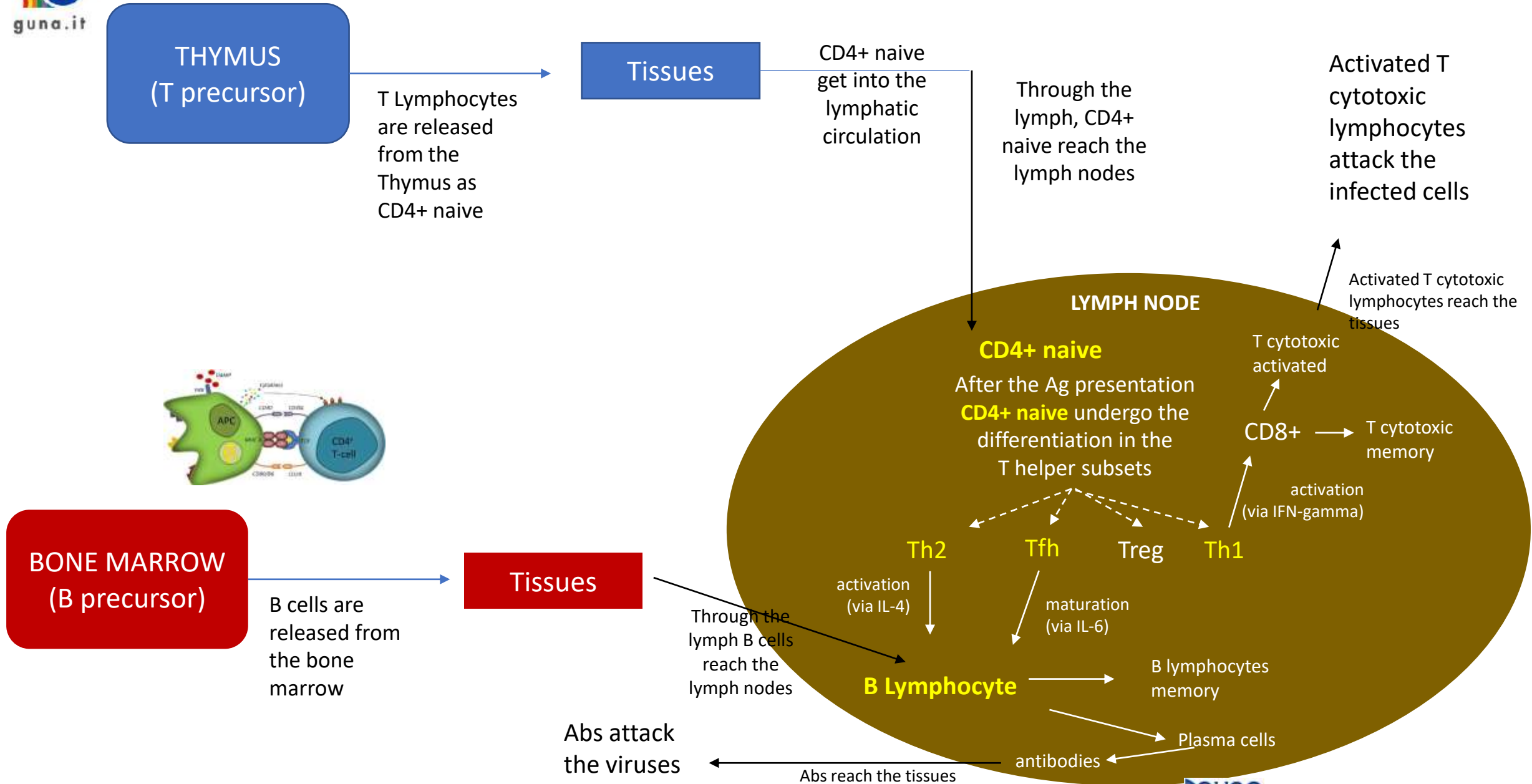
IL-2



NK cells



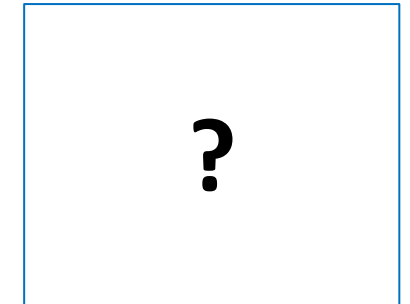
# Pathways of Lymphocytes maturation and circulation



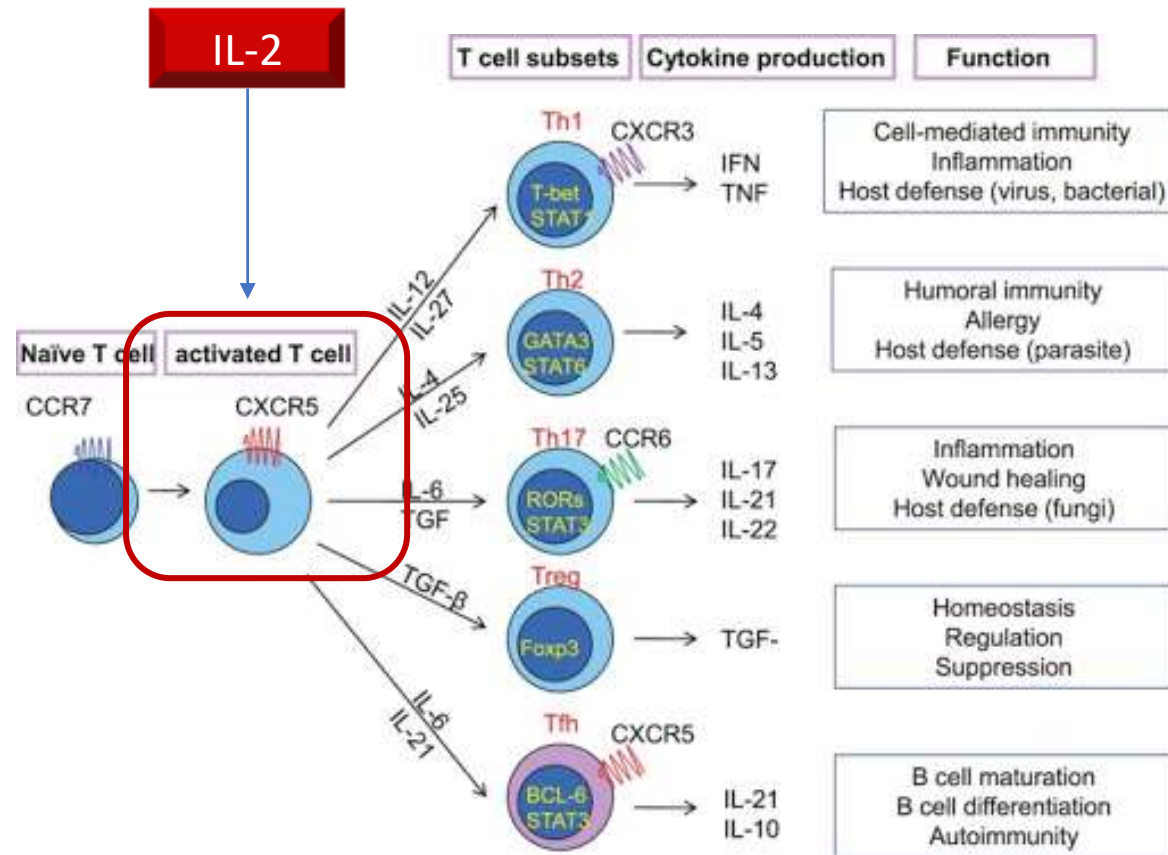
# Central role of cytokines in the modulation of the Immune System

- Cytokines are the great performers of the immune response, the real regulators
- The chance to have them under the form of low dose medications is an extraordinary therapeutic opportunity
- In Guna pharmacological range stand out, for immunoregulation purposes:

- IL-1
- IL-2
- IL-4
- IL-6
- (IFN-alpha)/IFN- gamma
- GCSF



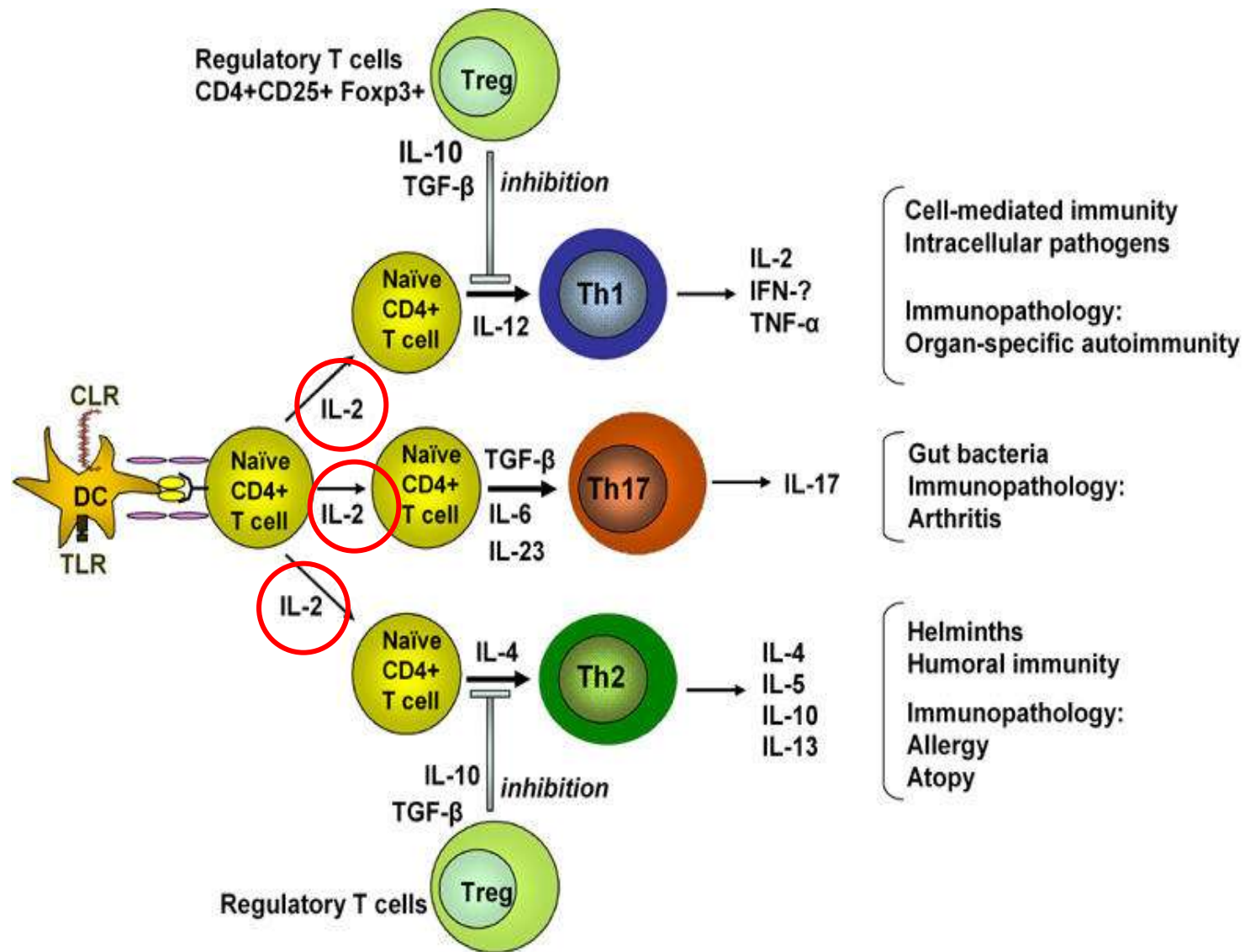
# INTERLEUKIN-2 INDUCES THE CLONAL EXPANSION OF T CELLS



## INTERLEUKIN-2 INDUCES THE CLONAL EXPANSION OF T CELLS

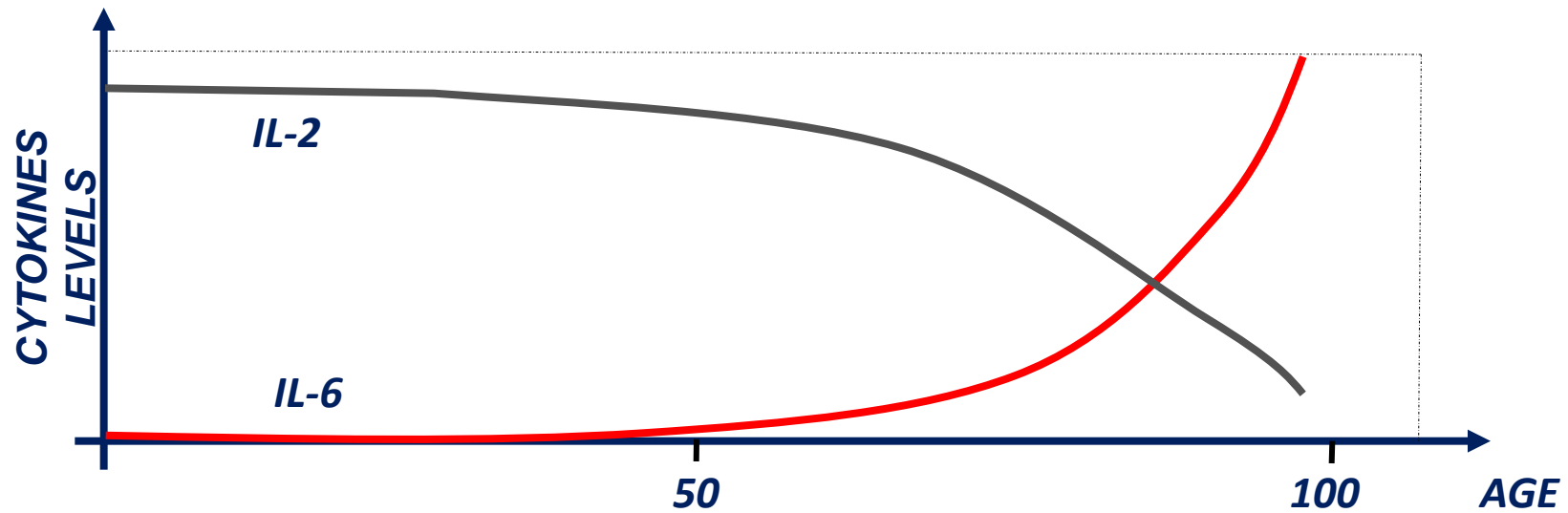
- Interleukin-2 (IL-2)**, identified more than 40 years ago, **was initially called T Cell Growth Factor**; it induces the T cells to enter the S phase of the cell cycle, favoring their **expansion**. From the outset, its fundamental role in the management of the immune response and the pharmacological potential associated with it was evident.
- IL-2** is produced by activated T cells and has a key role in triggering immune responses. **The main effect of IL-2 is to induce the clonal expansion of T cells after antigen recognition; moreover, IL-2 induces the proliferation of activated B cells, increases the levels of Natural Killer (NK) cells, supports cytotoxicity mediated by T cells (CTL - Cytotoxic T-lymphocytes), stimulates the production of other cytokines including TNF, IFN- $\gamma$  and GM-CSF.**





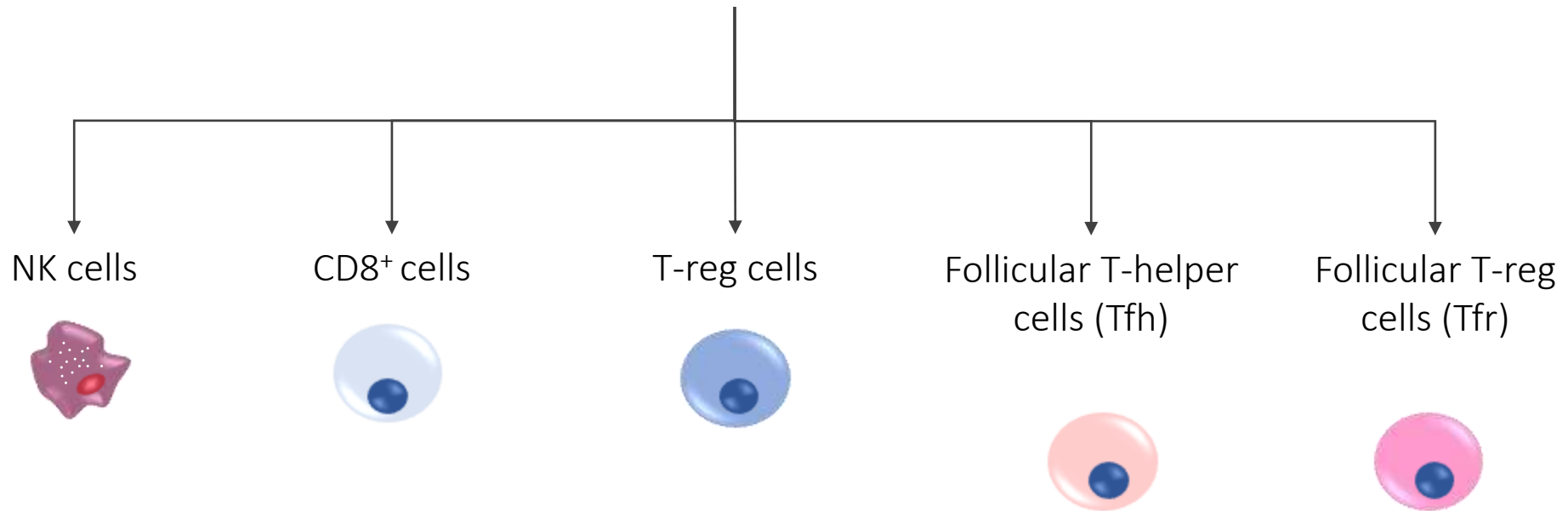
Antigen presentation to naïve T cells results in the development of Th1, Th2 or Th17 cells depending on the cytokine milieu.

# IL-2/IL-6 RATIO AND AGING



## IL-2 AND ANTIVIRAL IMMUNE RESPONSE

*IL-2 LOW DOSE regulates expression and function of:*



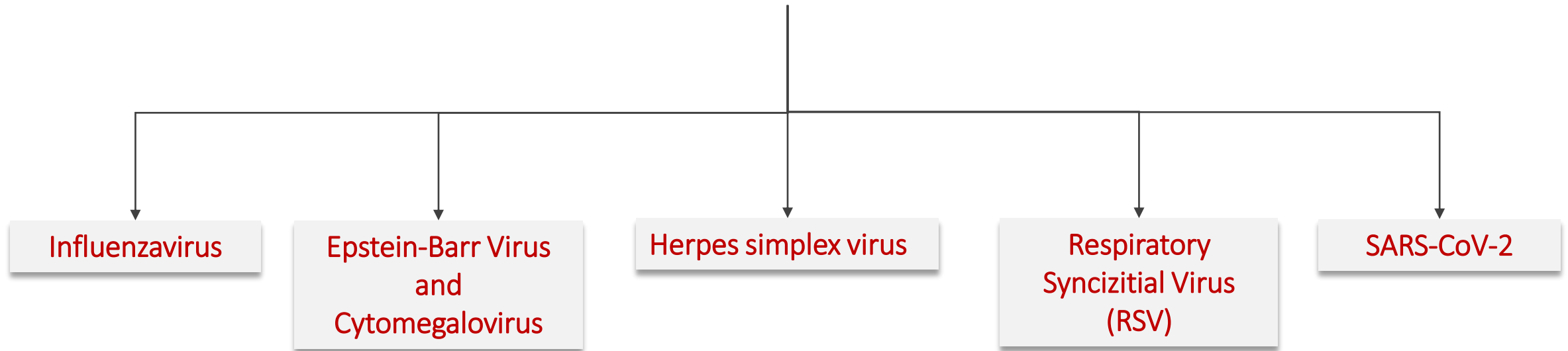
## REGULATORY EFFECT OF IL-2 UPON IMMUNOLOGICAL HOMEOSTASIS IN PRESENCE OF VIRAL INFECTIONS

IL-2 *low dose* supports the host antiviral response and counteracts the tendency towards the infection chronicization

IL-2 *low dose* modulates the inflammatory response, when overexpressed, and contains the pathological damage

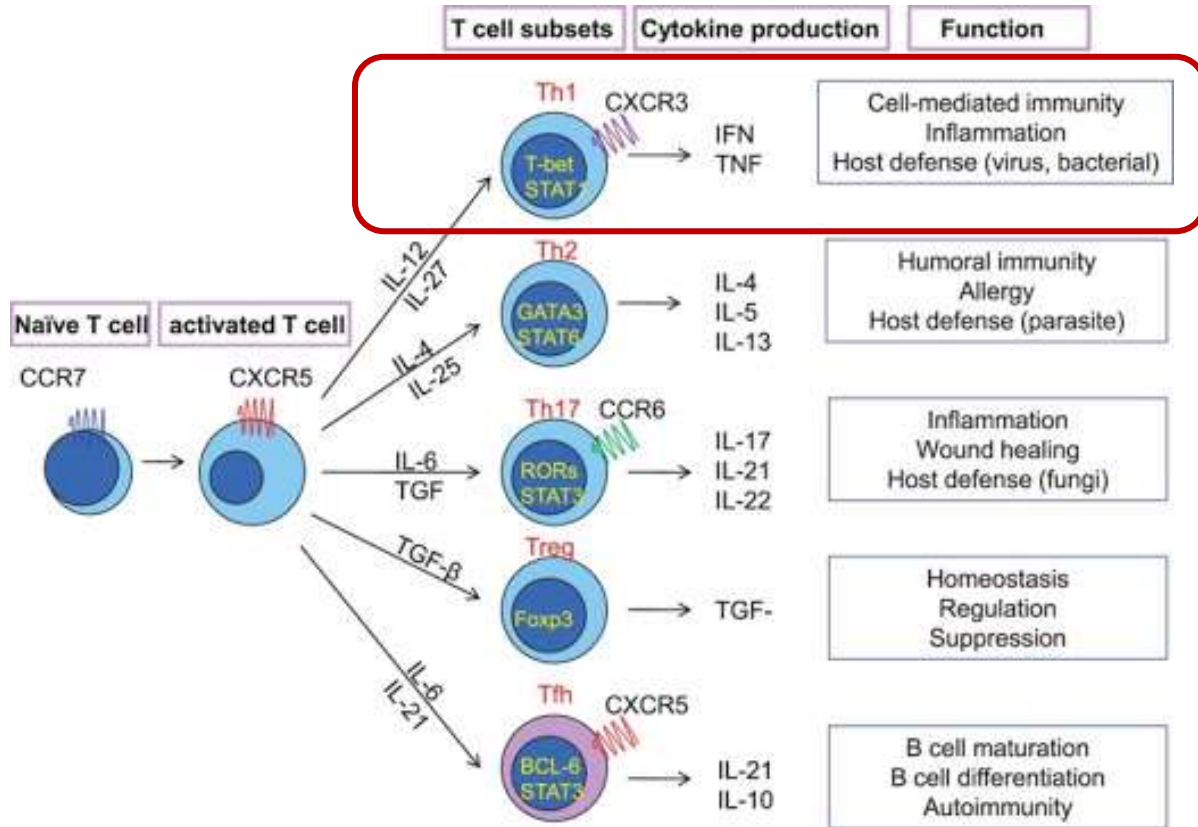
IL-2 *low dose* counteracts the onset of autoimmune diseases and neoplastic diseases secondary to viral infections

## *IL-2 LOW DOSE CONTRIBUTES TO THE ANTIVIRAL RESPONVS VERSUS*





# INTERFERON- $\gamma$ ACTIVATES CD8+ IN T CYTOTOXIC CELLS



IFN- $\gamma$

INTERFERON- $\gamma$  AND  $\alpha$  ARE PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN THE ONSET OF THE CYTOLITIC RESPONDS

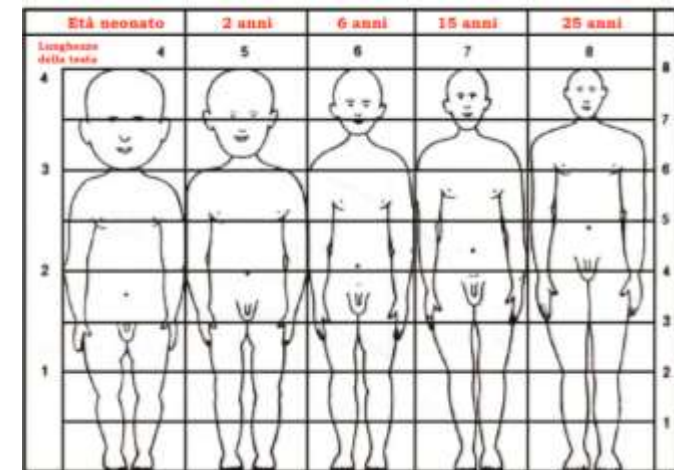
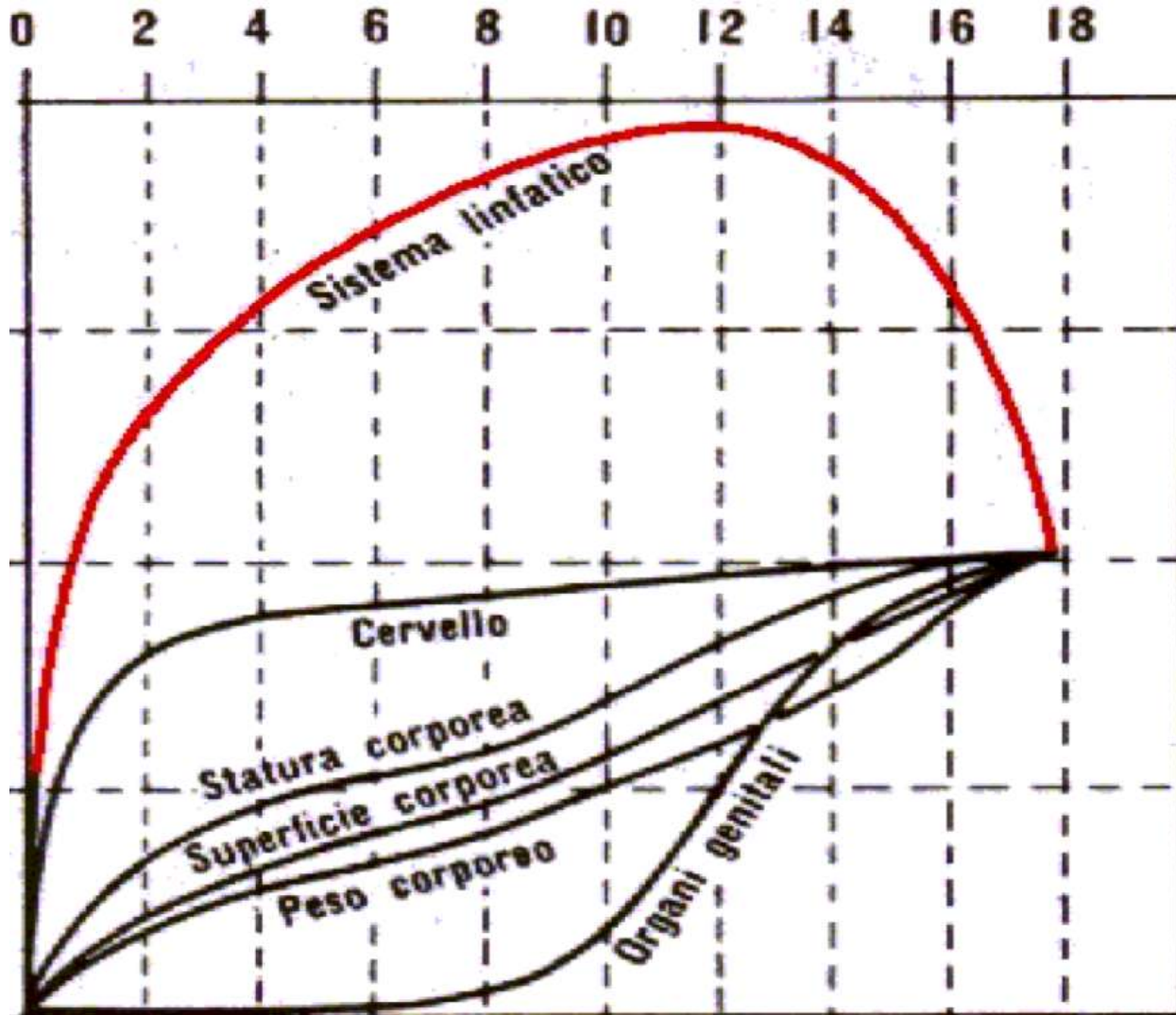
- IFN- $\gamma$  can activate a cell-mediated immune response (IFN- $\gamma$  stimulates CD8 + to differentiate into cytotoxic T effector cells) ideal against viruses. The Tc, in fact, operate the non-specific cytolysis of the cell infected with the virus (the Natural Killer - NK cells - instead, operate the specific cytolysis).
- Interferon- $\alpha$  (in some papers alpha seems to be favored over gamma; it is interesting how Interferon- $\alpha$  prevents the virus from penetrating through the viropexy mechanism, used by many viruses, into the cells not yet infected

[IFN- $\gamma$  is also used by the body for the synthesis (conversion) into IFN- $\alpha$  (it is a bit like the mechanism of reciprocity between hormone T4 and T3, where T4 is the precursor of the hormone T3, true effector of the activity thyroid)]

## LOW IMMUNOCOMPETENCE IN CHILDREN

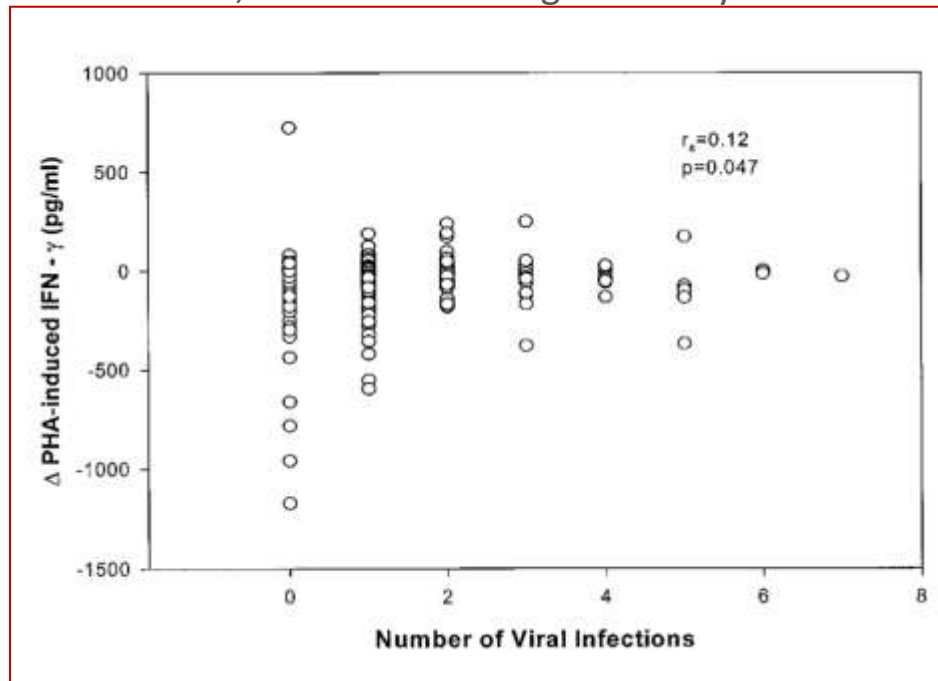


### Immune System Development Timeline in Children



## Cytokines response pattern, viruses exposure and respiratory infections during the first year of life

285 children, monitored during the first year of life



**Reduced production of IFN- $\gamma$**  in the first year of life (57–26 pg/ml, p 0.001)

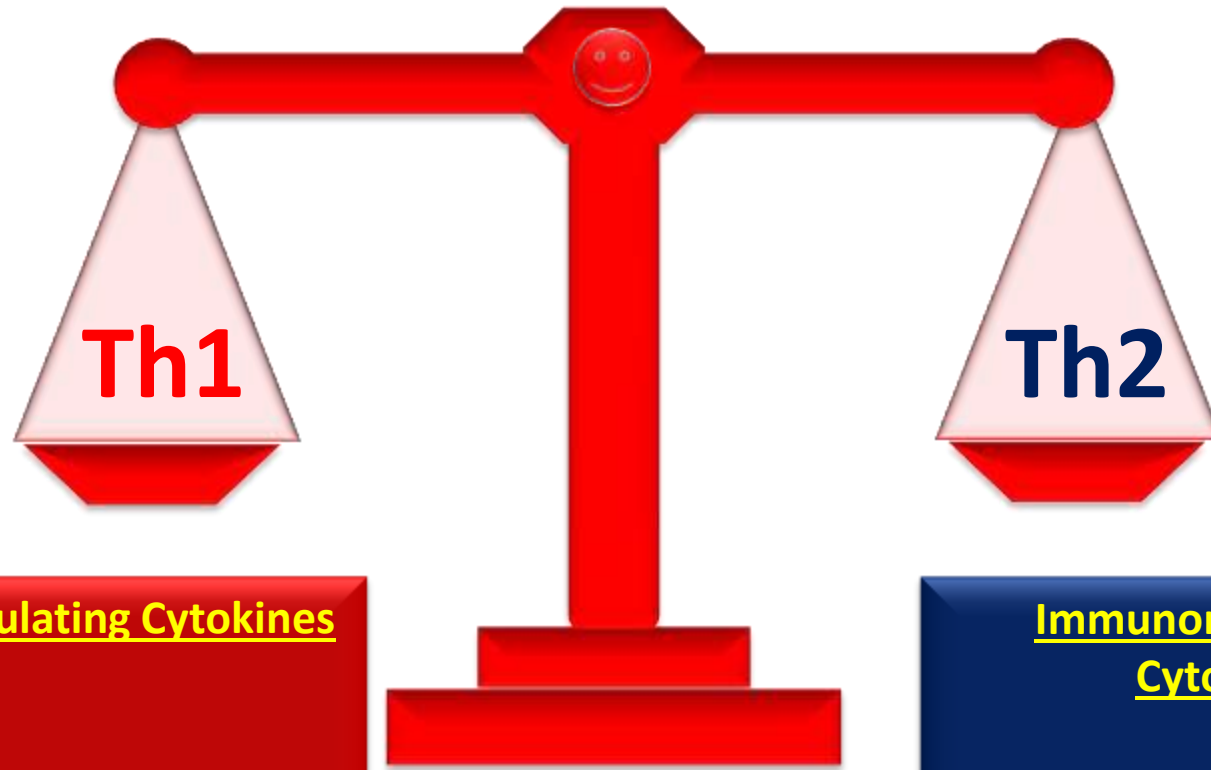
Significant positive correlation between number of respiratory infections and reduced production of **IFN- $\gamma$**  (rs 0.12, p 0.047)



# When do viruses have a party?



# Immunological homeostasis



GOOD

## Immunostimulating Cytokines

- *IFN- $\gamma$*
- *IL-2*
- *IL-1*
- *IL-6*
- *GCSF*

## Immunomodulating Cytokines

- *TGF- $\beta$*
- *IL-4*
- *IL-10*

GOOD





# ...susceptibility to viral attacks

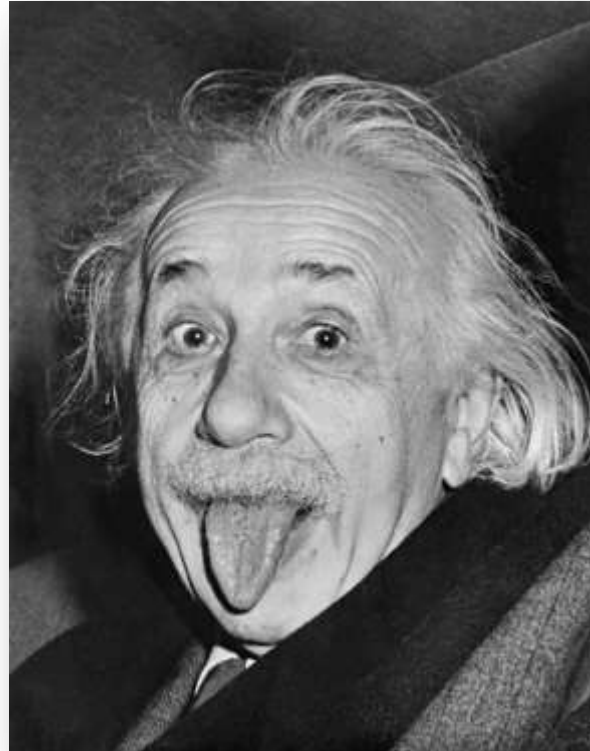
## Immunostimulating Cytokines

- *IFN- $\gamma$*
- *IL-2*
- *IL-1*
- *IL-6*
- *GCSF*

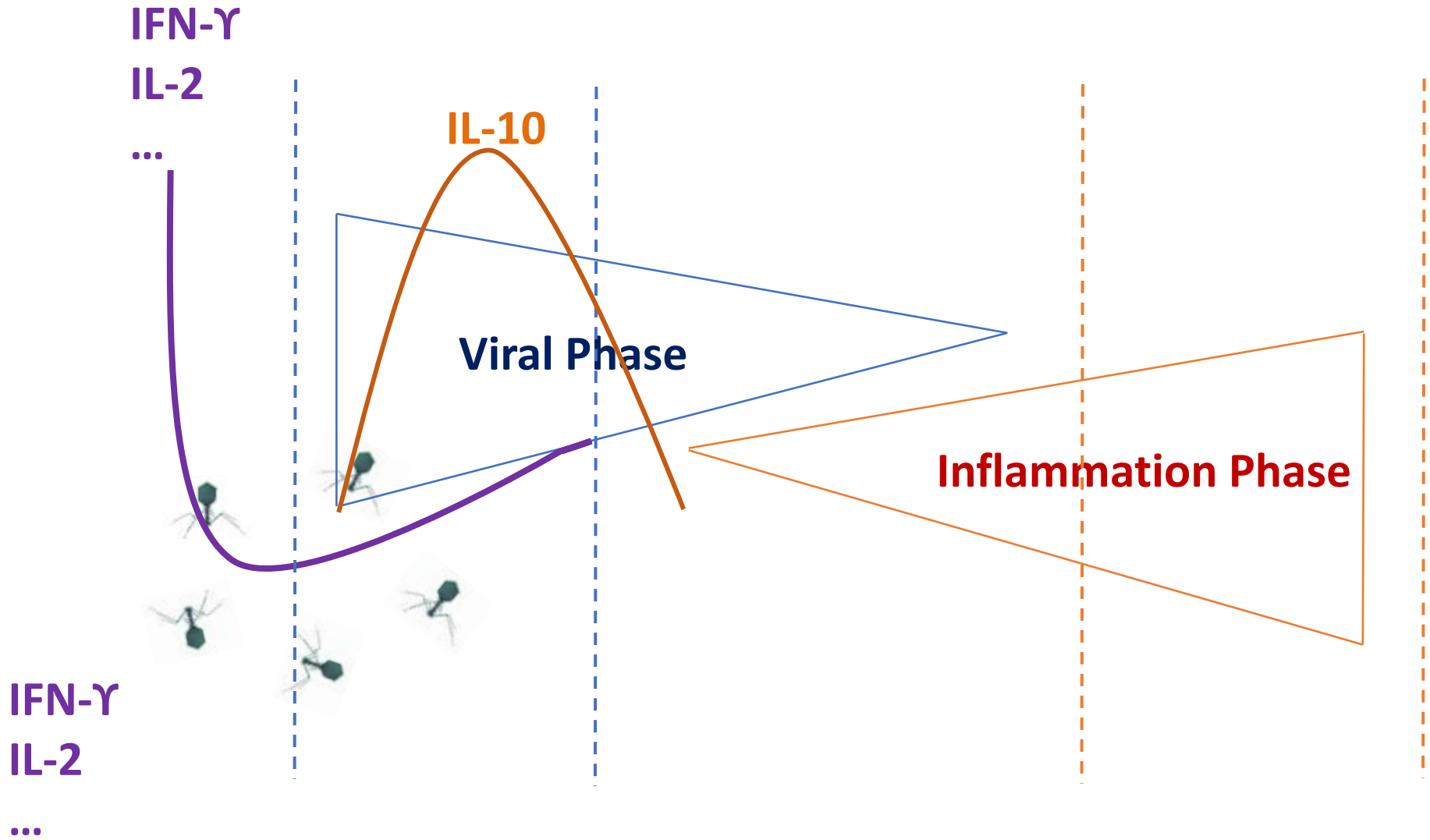
## Immunomodulating Cytokines

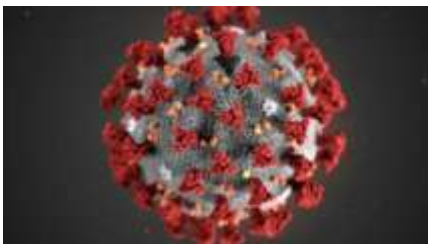
- TGF- $\beta$
- *IL-4*
- *IL-10*

Unavoidable necessity of **IFN- $\gamma$**  in the antiviral  
immuno-protection  
(...also because virus are SUPER SMART)



# Space-Time Immunomodulation





Under viral attack



Cytokines UP

**IL-10**

Concentrazione  
Fisiologica

- *IL-1*
- *IL-6*
- *IL-2*
- *IL-8*
- *INF- $\gamma$*

HEALTH

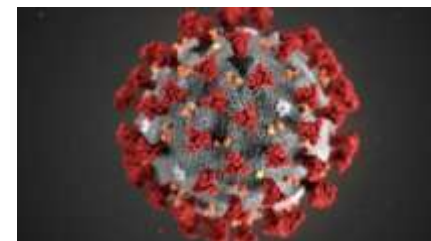
Concentrazione  
Fisiologica

- *TGF- $\beta$*
- *IL-4*
- *IL-10*

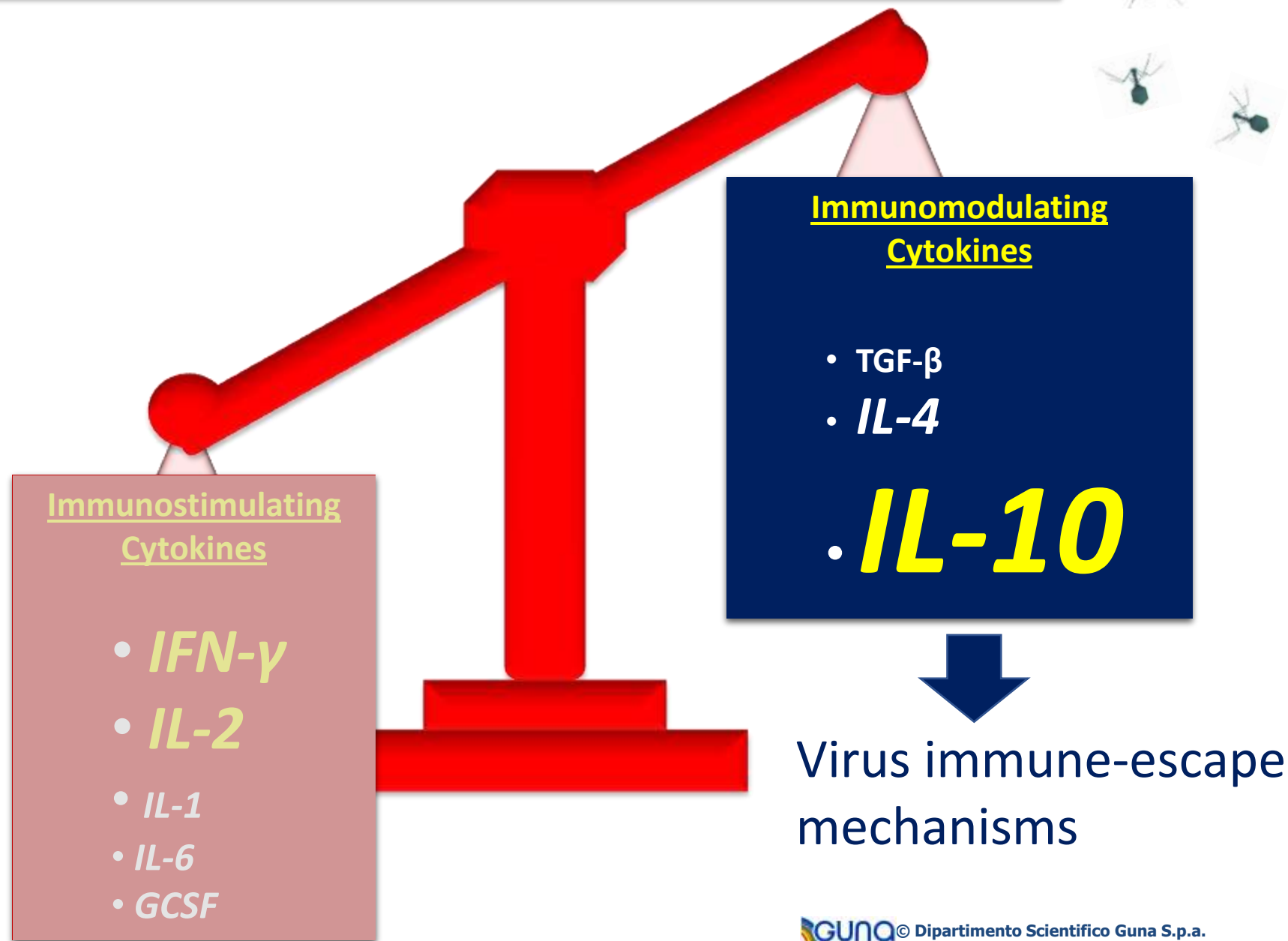
Cytokines DOWN

**• *IFNs***

Under viral attack



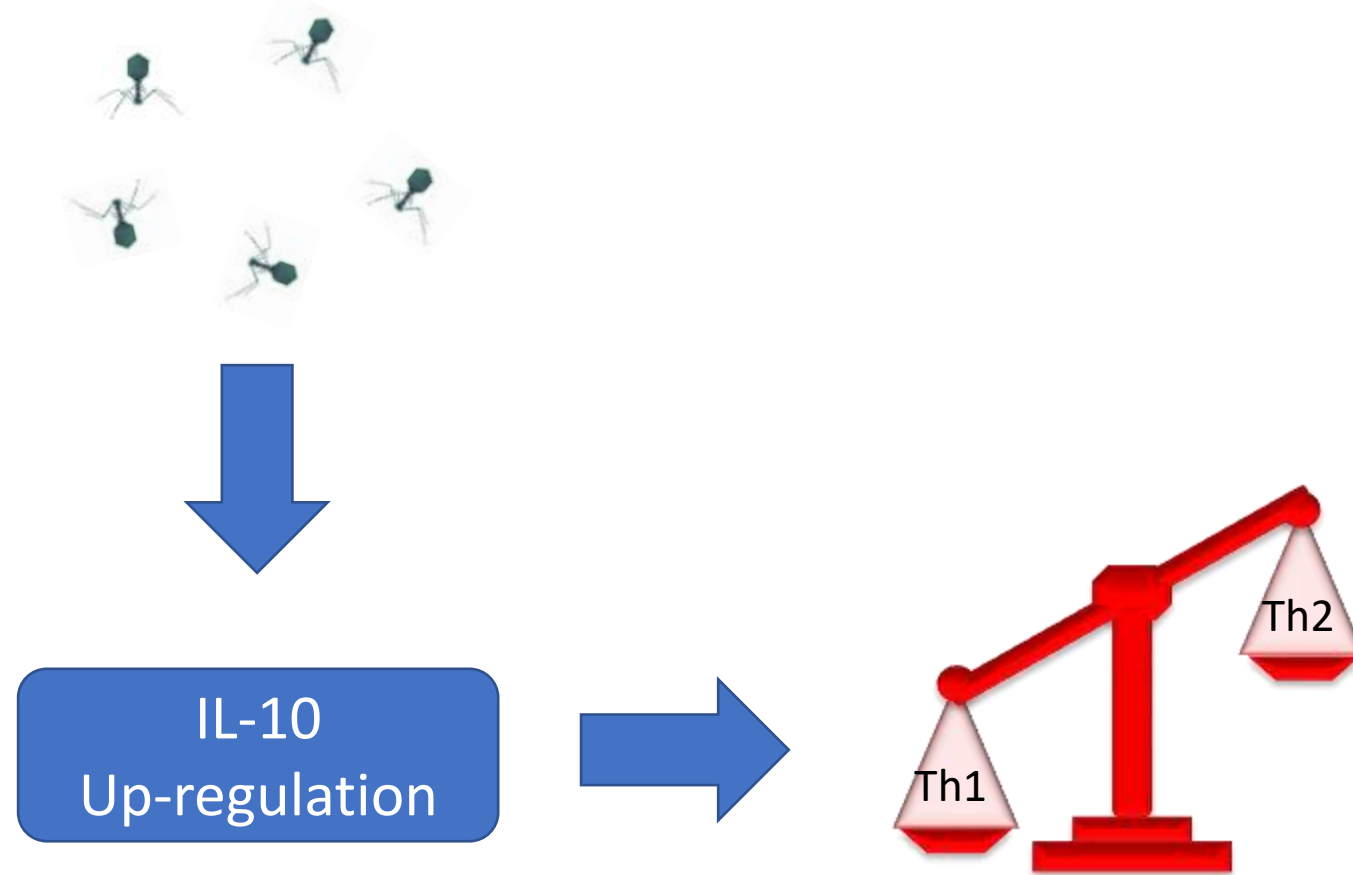
# ...under viral attack





# IMMUNE-ESCAPE MECHANISMS

Viral infection and inhibition of cell-mediated immune response



# IMMUNE-ESCAPE MECHANISMS

Virale infection and IFNs inhibition

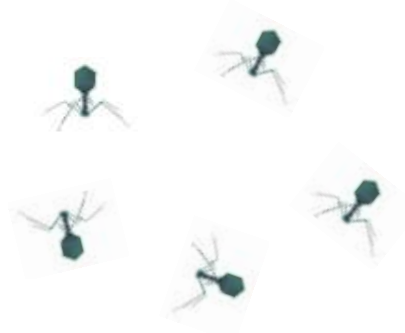
IFN-alpha

IFN-beta

IFN-gamma

NK activation

Tc activation



We need to increase the  
expression of **IFN- $\gamma$** ...

# Inborn errors of type I IFN immunity in patients with life-threatening COVID-19

Qian Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Paul Bastard<sup>2,3\*</sup>, Zhiyong Liu<sup>1\*</sup>, Jérémie Le Pen<sup>4\*</sup>, Marcela Moncada-Velez<sup>1\*</sup>, Jie Chen<sup>1\*</sup>, Masato Ogishi<sup>1\*</sup>, Ira K. D. Sabli<sup>5\*</sup>, Stephanie Hodeib<sup>6\*</sup>, Cecilia Korof<sup>7\*</sup>, Jérémie Rosain<sup>2,3\*</sup>, Kaya Bilguvar<sup>8\*</sup>, Junqiang Ye<sup>7\*</sup>, Alexandre Bolze<sup>9\*</sup>, Benedetta Bigio<sup>10\*</sup>, Rui Yang<sup>11\*</sup>, Andrés Augusto Arias<sup>12,13,14\*</sup>, Qinhua Zhou<sup>15\*</sup>, Yu Zhang<sup>11,12\*</sup>, Fanny Onodi<sup>13</sup>, Sarantis Korniotis<sup>13</sup>, Léa Karpf<sup>13</sup>, Quentin Philippot<sup>2,3</sup>, Marwa Chbihi<sup>2,3</sup>, Lucie Bonnet-Madin<sup>14</sup>, Karim Dorgham<sup>15</sup>, Nikaia Smith<sup>16</sup>, William M. Schneider<sup>1</sup>, Brandon S. Razoooky<sup>1</sup>, Hans-Heinrich Hoffmann<sup>1</sup>, Eleftherios Michailidis<sup>1</sup>, Leen Moens<sup>17</sup>, Ji Eun Han<sup>1</sup>, Lazaro Lorenzo<sup>2,3</sup>, Lucy Bizien<sup>2,3</sup>, Philip Meade<sup>18</sup>, Anna-Lena Neehus<sup>2,3</sup>, Aileen Camille Ugurbil<sup>1</sup>, Aurélien Corneau<sup>19</sup>, Gaspard Kerner<sup>2,3</sup>, Peng Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Franck Rapaport<sup>1</sup>, Yoann Seeleuthner<sup>2,3</sup>, Jeremy Manry<sup>2,3</sup>, Cecile Masson<sup>20</sup>, Yohann Schmitt<sup>20</sup>, Agatha Schlüter<sup>21</sup>, Tom Le Voyer<sup>2,3</sup>, Taushif Khan<sup>22</sup>, Juan Li<sup>1</sup>, Jacques Fellay<sup>23,24,25</sup>, Lucie Rousset<sup>26</sup>, Mohammad Shahrooei<sup>27,28</sup>, Mohammed F. Alosaimi<sup>29</sup>, Davood Mansouri<sup>30,31,32</sup>, Haya Al-Saud<sup>33</sup>, Fahd Al-Mulla<sup>34</sup>, Feras Almourfi<sup>35</sup>, Saleh Zaid Al-Muhsen<sup>35</sup>, Fahad Alsohime<sup>36</sup>, Saeed Al Turki<sup>36,37</sup>, Rana Hasanato<sup>38</sup>, Diederik van de Beek<sup>38</sup>, Andrea Biondi<sup>39</sup>, Laura Rachele Bettini<sup>39</sup>, Mariella D'Angio<sup>39</sup>, Paolo Bonfanti<sup>40</sup>, Luisa Imberti<sup>41</sup>, Alessandra Sottini<sup>41</sup>, Simone Paghera<sup>41</sup>, Eugenia Quiros-Roldan<sup>42</sup>, Camillo Rossi<sup>43</sup>, Andrew J. Oler<sup>44</sup>, Miranda F. Tompkins<sup>45</sup>, Camille Alba<sup>45</sup>, Isabelle Vandernoot<sup>46</sup>, Jean-Christophe Goffard<sup>47</sup>, Guillaume Smits<sup>48</sup>, Isabelle Migeotte<sup>48</sup>, Filomeen Haerynck<sup>49</sup>, Pere Soler-Palacin<sup>50</sup>, Andrea Martin-Nalda<sup>50</sup>, Roger Colobran<sup>51</sup>, Pierre-Emmanuel Morange<sup>52</sup>, Sevgi Keles<sup>53</sup>, Fatma Çölkelen<sup>54</sup>, Tayfun Ozelcik<sup>55</sup>, Kadriye Kart Yasar<sup>56</sup>, Sevta Senoglu<sup>56</sup>, Şemsi Nur Karabela<sup>56</sup>, Carlos Rodríguez Gallego<sup>57,58</sup>, Giuseppe Novelli<sup>59</sup>, Sami Hraiech<sup>60</sup>, Yacine Tandjaoui-Lambiotte<sup>61,62</sup>, Xavier Duval<sup>63,64</sup>, Cédric Laouénan<sup>63,64,65</sup>, COVID-STORM Clinicians†, COVID Clinicians†, Imagine COVID Group†, French COVID Cohort Study Group†, CoV-Contact Cohort†, Amsterdam UMC Covid-19 Biobank†, COVID Human Genetic Effort†, NIAID-USUHS/TAGC COVID Immunity Group†, Andrew L. Snow<sup>66</sup>, Clifton L. Dalgard<sup>65,67</sup>, Joshua Milner<sup>68</sup>, Donald C. Vinh<sup>69</sup>, Trine H. Mogensen<sup>69,70</sup>, Nico Marr<sup>22,71</sup>, Andrés N. Spaan<sup>1,72</sup>, Bertrand Boisson<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Stéphanie Boisson-Dupuis<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Jacinta Bustamante<sup>1,2,3,73</sup>, Anne Puef<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Michael Ciancanelli<sup>1,74</sup>, Isabelle Meyts<sup>75,76</sup>, Tom Maniatis<sup>7,76</sup>, Vassili Soumelis<sup>13,77</sup>, Ali Amara<sup>1\*</sup>, Michel Nussenzweig<sup>78,79</sup>, Adolfo García-Sastre<sup>80,81,82</sup>, Florian Krammer<sup>18</sup>, Aurora Pujol<sup>21</sup>, Darragh Duffy<sup>16</sup>, Richard Lifton<sup>83,84,85\*</sup>, Shen-Ying Zhang<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Guy Gorochov<sup>15\*</sup>, Vivien Béziat<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Emmanuelle Jouanguy<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Vanessa Sancho-Shimizu<sup>2\*</sup>, Charles M. Rice<sup>1\*</sup>, Laurent Abel<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Luigi D. Notarangelo<sup>11,12</sup>§, Aurélie Cobat<sup>1,2,3</sup>§, Helen C. Su<sup>11,12</sup>§, Jean-Laurent Casanova<sup>1,2,3,79,86</sup>§

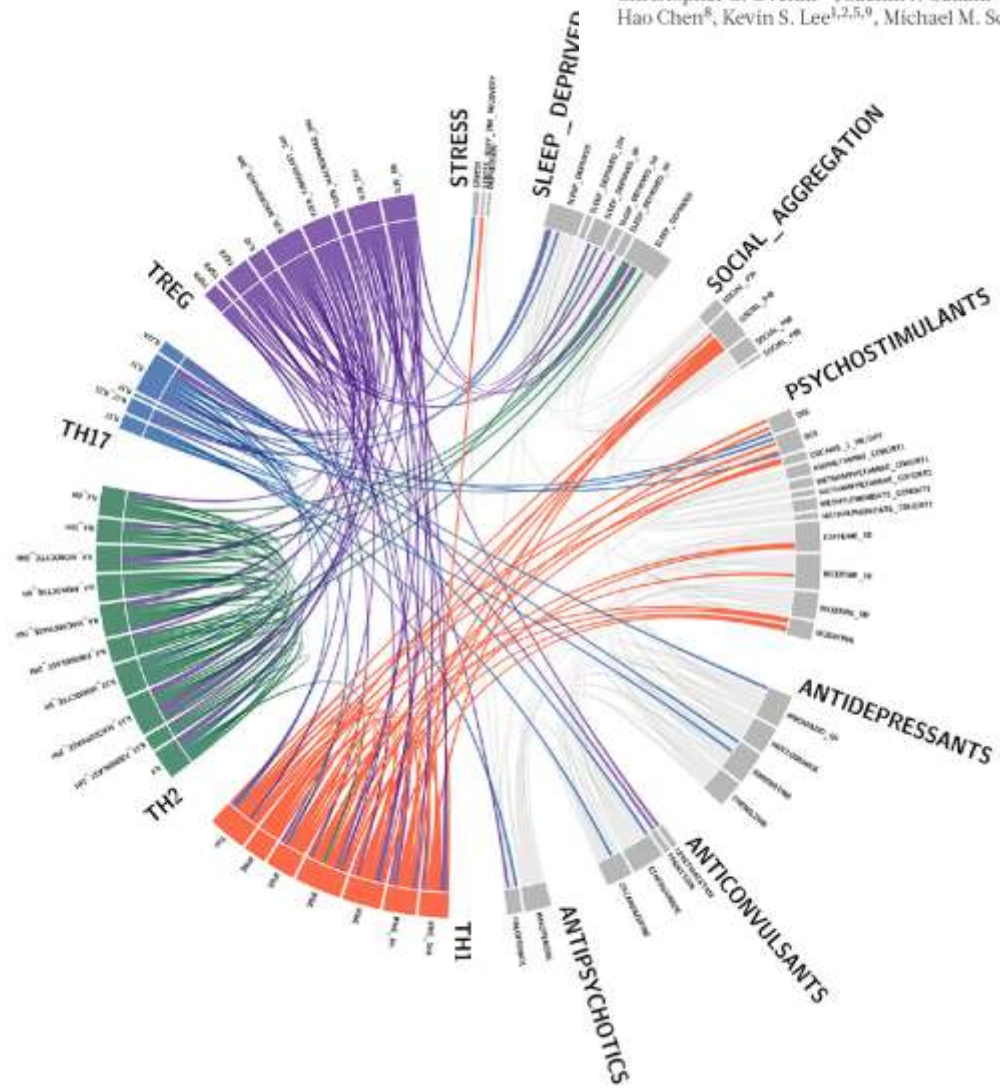
<sup>1</sup>St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases, Rockefeller Branch, The Rockefeller University, New York, NY, USA. <sup>2</sup>Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases, Necker Branch, INSERM U1163, Necker Hospital for Sick Children, Paris, France. <sup>3</sup>University of Paris, Imagine Institute, Paris, France. <sup>4</sup>Laboratory of Virology and Infectious Disease, The Rockefeller University, New York, NY, USA. <sup>5</sup>Department of Paediatric Infectious Diseases & Virology, Imperial College London, Norfolk Place, London, UK. <sup>6</sup>Yale Center for Genome Analysis and Department of Genetics, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA. <sup>7</sup>Zukerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA. <sup>8</sup>Helix, San Mateo, CA, USA. <sup>9</sup>Primary Immunodeficiencies Group, University of Antioquia UdeA, Medellín, Colombia. <sup>10</sup>School of Microbiology, University of Antioquia UdeA, Medellín, Colombia. <sup>11</sup>Laboratory of Clinical Immunology and Microbiology, Division of Intramural Research, NIAID, NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA. <sup>12</sup>NIAID Clinical Genomics Program, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA. <sup>13</sup>Université de Paris, Institut de Recherche Saint-Louis, INSERM U976, Hôpital Saint-Louis, 75010 Paris, France. <sup>14</sup>Laboratory of Genomes & Cell Biology of Disease, INSERM U944, CNRS UMR 7212, Université de Paris, Institut de Recherche Saint-Louis, Hôpital Saint-Louis, Paris, France. <sup>15</sup>Sorbonne Université, Inserm, Centre d'immunologie et des maladies infectieuses-Paris (CIMI PARIS), AP-HP Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France. <sup>16</sup>Translational Immunology Lab, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France. <sup>17</sup>Laboratory for Inborn Errors of Immunity, Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Transplantation, Department of Pediatrics, University Hospitals Leuven, KU Leuven, Belgium. <sup>18</sup>Department of Microbiology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, USA. <sup>19</sup>Sorbonne Université, UMS037, PASS, Plateforme de cytométrie de la Pitié-Salpêtrière CyPS, F-75013 Paris, France. <sup>20</sup>Bioinformatics Platform, Structure Fédérative de Recherche Necker, INSERM UMR1163, Université de Paris, Imagine Institute, Paris, France. <sup>21</sup>Neurometabolic Diseases Laboratory, IDIBELL-Hospital Duran i Reynals, CIBERER U759, and Catalan Institution of Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA), Barcelona, Spain. <sup>22</sup>Department of Immunology, Research Branch, Sidra Medicine, Doha, Qatar. <sup>23</sup>School of Life sciences, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland. <sup>24</sup>Precision Medicine Unit, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland. <sup>25</sup>Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, Lausanne, Switzerland. <sup>26</sup>Infectious Disease Susceptibility Program, Research Institute-McGill University Health Centre, Montréal, Québec, Canada. <sup>27</sup>Specialized Immunology Laboratory of Dr. Shahrooei, Sina Medical Complex, Ahvaz, Iran. <sup>28</sup>Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Clinical and Diagnostic Immunology, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium. <sup>29</sup>Department of Pediatrics, College of Medicine, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. <sup>30</sup>Department of Clinical Immunology and Infectious Diseases, National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran. <sup>31</sup>The Clinical Tuberculosis and Epidemiology Research Center, National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (NRI-TLD), Masih Daneshvari Hospital, Shahid Beheshti, University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

**Clinical outcome upon infection with SARS-CoV-2 ranges from silent infection to lethal COVID-19. We have found an enrichment in rare variants predicted to be loss-of-function (LOF) at the 13 human loci known to govern TLR3- and IRF7-dependent type I interferon (IFN) immunity to influenza virus, in 659 patients with life-threatening COVID-19 pneumonia, relative to 534 subjects with asymptomatic or benign infection. By testing these and other rare variants at these 13 loci, we experimentally define LOF variants in 23 patients (3.5%), aged 17 to 77 years, underlying autosomal recessive or dominant deficiencies. We show that human fibroblasts with mutations affecting this pathway are vulnerable to SARS-CoV-2. Inborn errors of TLR3- and IRF7-dependent type I IFN immunity can underlie life-threatening COVID-19 pneumonia in patients with no prior severe infection.**

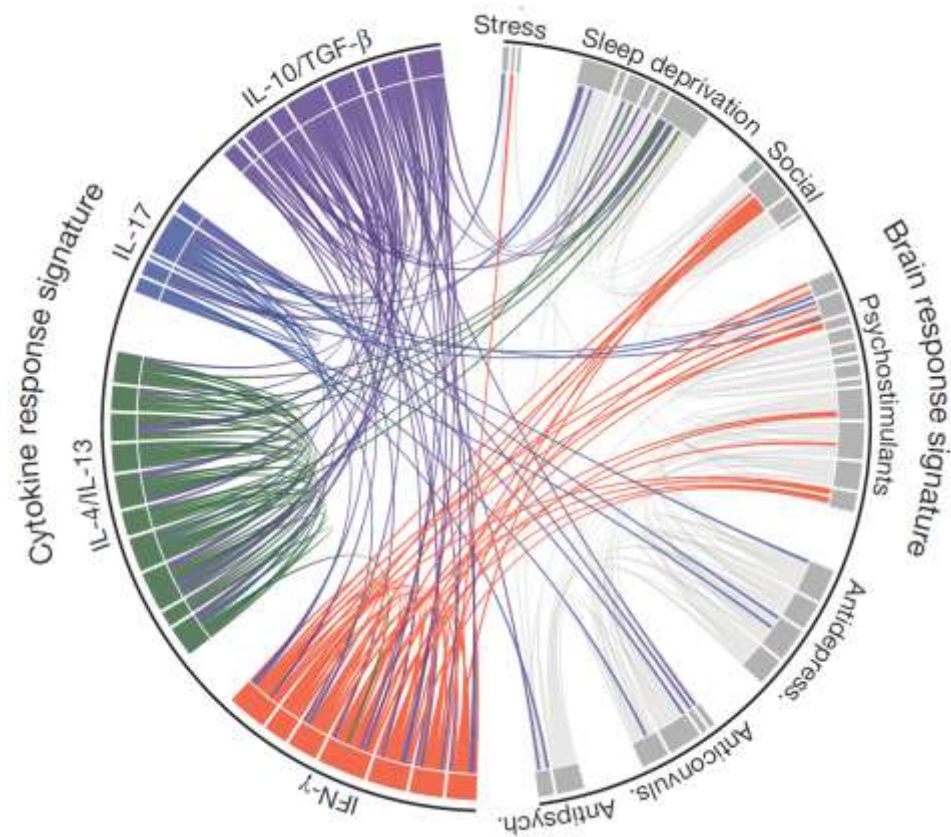


## Unexpected role of interferon- $\gamma$ in regulating neuronal connectivity and social behaviour

Anthony J. Filiano<sup>1,2</sup>, Yang Xu<sup>3</sup>, Nicholas J. Tustison<sup>4</sup>, Rachel L. Marsh<sup>1,2</sup>, Wendy Baker<sup>1,2</sup>, Igor Smirnov<sup>1,2</sup>, Christopher C. Overall<sup>1,2</sup>, Sachin P. Gadani<sup>1,2,5,6</sup>, Stephen D. Turner<sup>7</sup>, Zhiping Weng<sup>8</sup>, Sayeda Najamussahar Peerzade<sup>3</sup>, Hao Chen<sup>8</sup>, Kevin S. Lee<sup>1,2,5,9</sup>, Michael M. Scott<sup>5,10</sup>, Mark P. Beenhakker<sup>5,10</sup>, Vladimir Litvak<sup>3\*</sup> & Jonathan Kipnis<sup>1,2,5,6\*</sup>



Transcriptome analysis





...and we need to counteract the overexpression of IL-10

IL-6  $\longrightarrow$  IL-10

Since the Immune System is an orchestra...  
...do we have to think in terms of **single soloist** or in terms of  
**many musicians?** ...



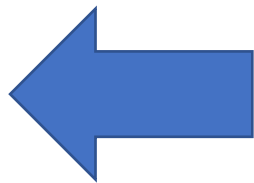
# CITOMIX

Our (and only our) goal:

- *To immunostimulate without inflaming*
- *To control the inflammation without immunosuppression*

# CITOMIX

- *Vaccinium vitis*
- *Ananassa sativa*
- *Hydrocotyle asiatica 4X*
  
- *Vasa lymphatica suis*
- *Medulla ossis suis*
- *Thymuline*
  
- **IL-1 beta**
- **IL-2**
- **IL-4**
- **IL-6**
- **IFN-gamma**
- **GCSF**



To immunostimulate  
without inflaming



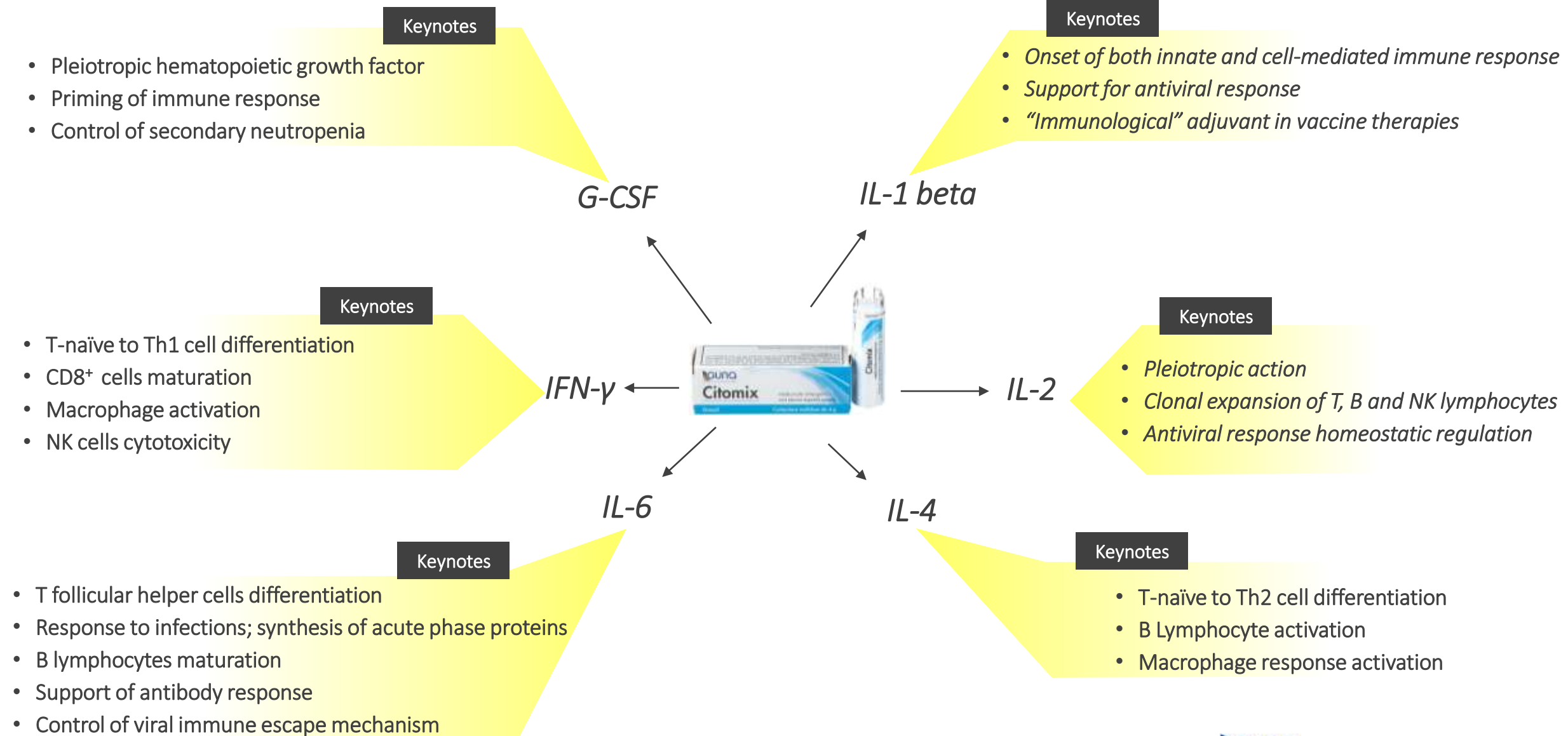


Controllo  
dell'Infiamma  
*organospec*

Controllo  
fiammazione *non*  
*ganospecifica*



# CITOMIX – KEYNOTES FOR SIGNALING MOLECULES





## IL-1 beta

**In prevention, and therapy:**  
Supports the antiviral response,  
also in case of re-infection

**As adjuvant during vaccine therapies**  
Increases the Immune System sensitivity to  
the immunizing agent

- Van Den Eeckhout B, Ballegaer M, De Clercq J, Burg E, Saelens X, Vandekerckhove L, Gerlo S. Rethinking IL-1 Antagonism in Respiratory Viral Infections: A Role for IL-1 Signaling in the Development of Antiviral T Cell Immunity. Int J Mol Sci. 2023 Oct 30;24(21):15770..
- Van Den Eeckhout B, Van Hoecke L, Burg E, Van Lint S, Peelman F, Kley N, Uzé G, Saelens X, Tavernier J, Gerlo S. Specific targeting of IL-1 $\beta$  activity to CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells allows for safe use as a vaccine adjuvant. NPJ Vaccines. 2020 Jul 23;5(1):64.

*Vaccine*, 1993,11(5):594-5.

### **Cytokines as vaccine adjuvants: interleukin 1 and its synthetic peptide 163-171.**

Tagliabue A<sup>1</sup>, Boraschi D.

#### **Author information**

#### **Abstract**

The possibility of preventing infectious diseases by employing efficacious vaccine is rapidly growing as a consequence of the new technologies in recombinant DNA and protein chemistry. However, the increasing number of synthetic and recombinant antigens further stresses the role of appropriate adjuvants to ensure maximal vaccine activity and the protection of all vaccinees. Several approaches can be applied to develop safe and effective agents capable of enhancing specific immune responses which can then protect the host from the pathogen. Among others, the direct use as adjuvant of those cytokines which are induced in animals by the classical Freund's adjuvants has recently become a matter of investigation. In particular, interleukin 1 (IL-1) has been shown to possess adjuvant activity for a variety of infectious and tumour antigens. However, the numerous side effects associated with the proinflammatory action of IL-1 represent a serious disadvantage for its use as a vaccine adjuvant. It was therefore of great interest that a nonpeptide contained in the IL-1 beta sequence (residues 163-171 corresponding to the sequence VQGEESNDK) is devoid of all proinflammatory activities but maintains the immunostimulating activity of the whole IL-1 beta. Thus, peptide 163-171 was successfully employed in animals to potentiate the specific immune response against T-helper-dependent cellular antigens, T helper-independent polysaccharidic antigens and recombinant as well as synthetic antigenic preparations derived from human pathogens. Furthermore, IL-1 and peptide 163-171 have been successfully used in tumour vaccines in experimental systems. It can therefore be concluded that peptide 163-171 is potentially a good candidate as vaccine adjuvant for human use.

PMID: 8488719

[Indexed for MEDLINE]



JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY, Dec. 2010, p. 12703-12712  
0022-538X/10/\$12.00 doi:10.1128/JVI.01182-10

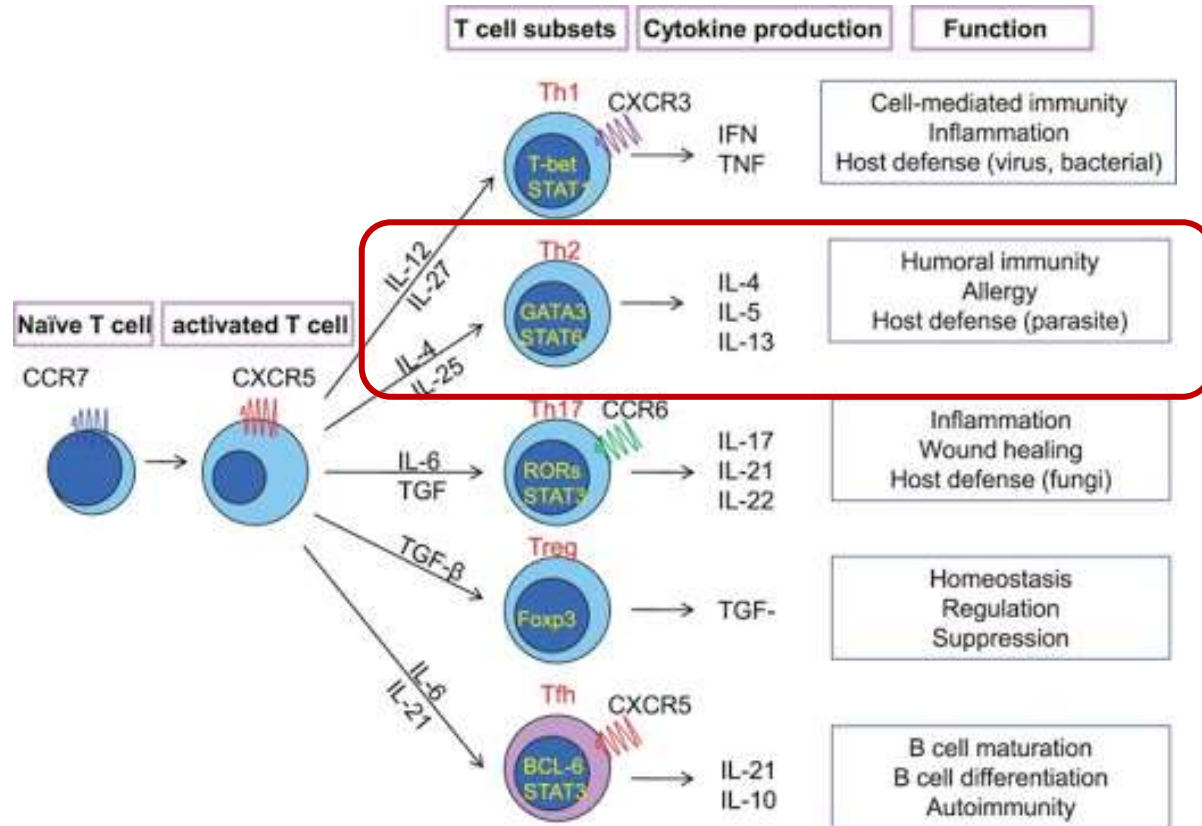
Copyright © 2010, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.

Vol. 84, No. 24

## **Interleukin-1 Family Cytokines as Mucosal Vaccine Adjuvants for Induction of Protective Immunity against Influenza Virus<sup>∇</sup>**

Hiroyuki Kayamuro,<sup>1,2†</sup> Yasuo Yoshioka,<sup>1,3†</sup> Yasuhiro Abe,<sup>1†</sup> Shuhei Arita,<sup>1,2</sup> Kazufumi Katayama,<sup>4</sup>  
Tetsuya Nomura,<sup>1</sup> Tomoaki Yoshikawa,<sup>1,2</sup> Ritsuko Kubota-Koketsu,<sup>5</sup> Kazuyoshi Ikuta,<sup>5</sup>  
Shigefumi Okamoto,<sup>6</sup> Yasuko Mori,<sup>6</sup> Jun Kunisawa,<sup>7</sup> Hiroshi Kiyono,<sup>7</sup>  
Norio Itoh,<sup>2</sup> Kazuya Nagano,<sup>1</sup> Haruhiko Kamada,<sup>1,3</sup>  
Yasuo Tsutsumi,<sup>1,2,3</sup> and Shin-Ichi Tsunoda<sup>1,3\*</sup>

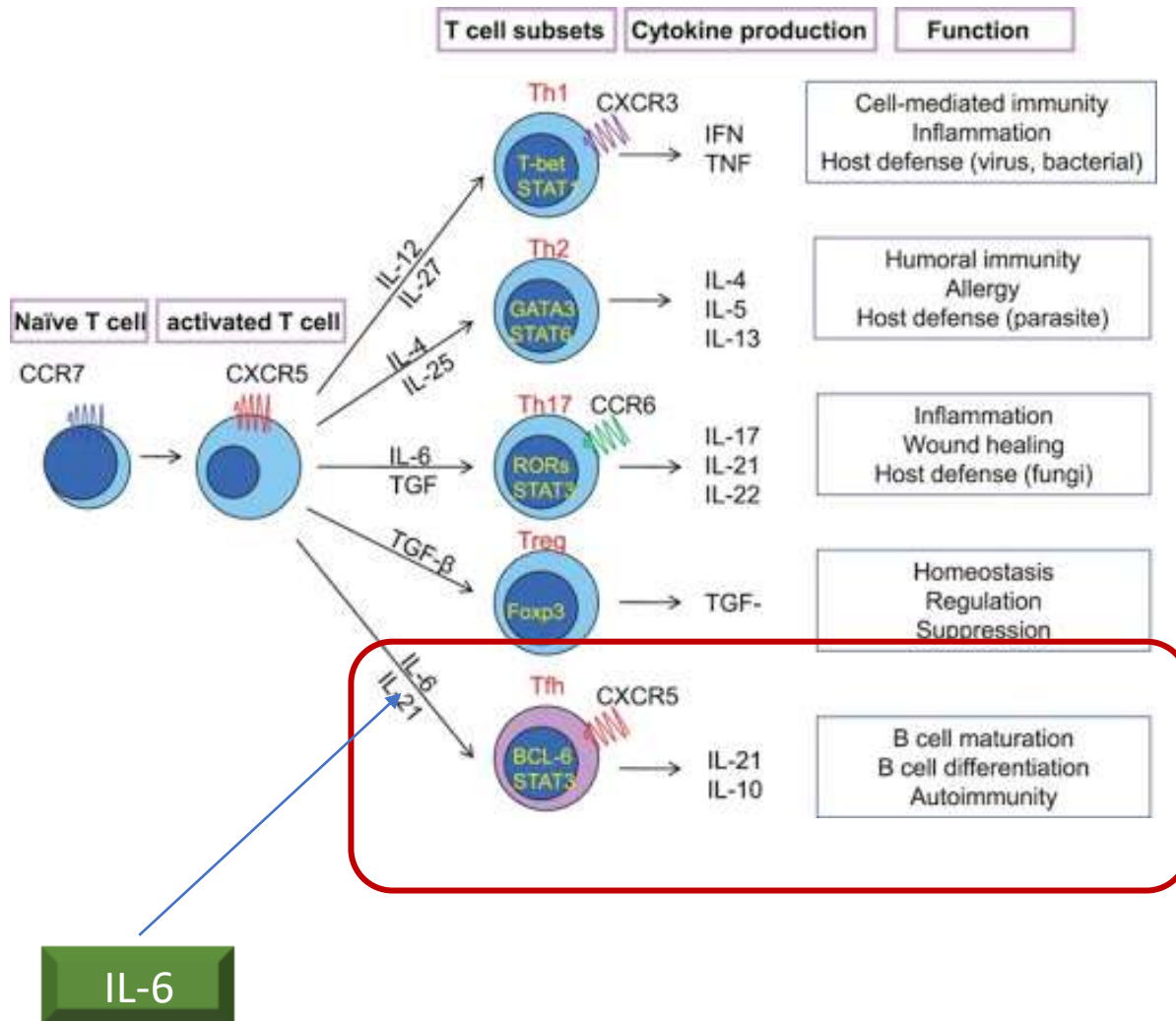
# INTERLEUKIN-4 ACTIVATES B LYMPHOCYTES



## INTERLEUKIN-4 (IL-4)

- Induces CD4+ naive T cells differentiation into Th2 cells, key players of humoral immunity.
- Activates B cells in lymph nodes.
- Helps in stimulating B cells to turn into plasma cells, and to secrete antibodies (particularly IgG).

# INTERLEUKIN-6 INDUCES THE DIFFERENTIATION OF CD4+ IN Tfh, WHICH ARE CRUCIAL FOR THE MATURATION OF B CELLS INTO PLASMA CELLS

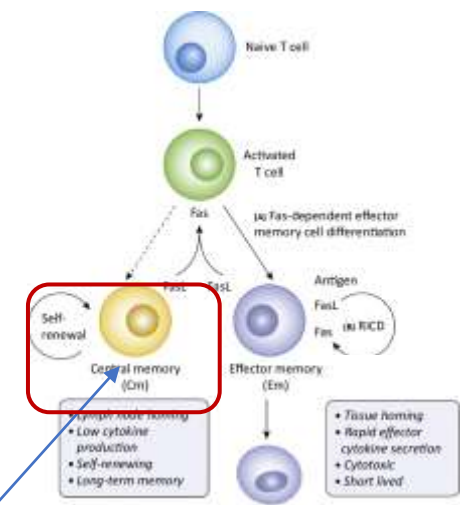
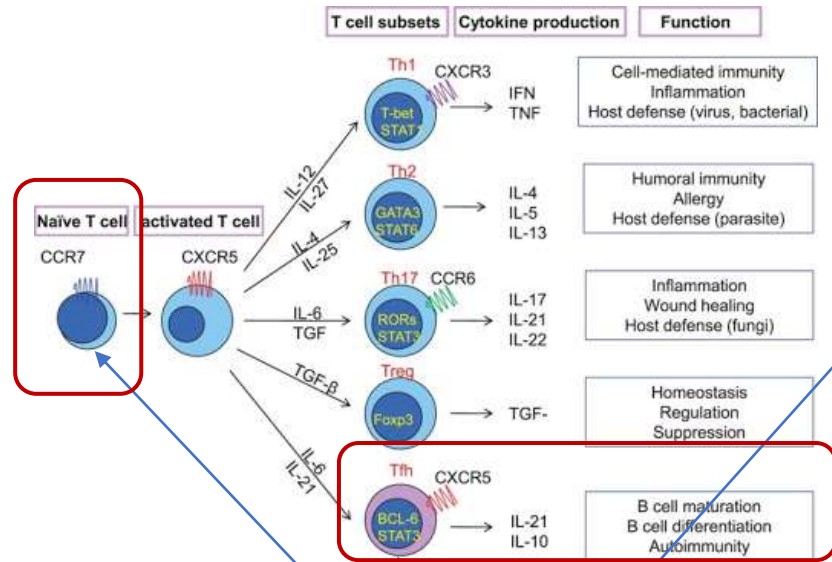


## INTRLEUKIN-6 (IL-6)

- Down-regulates IL-10, immunosuppressive cytokine used by viruses to do immune-escape and to survive.
- Induces IgA production (critical antibody for its mucosal-based localisation).
- Induces CD4+ naive T cells differentiation into Tfh (follicular) cells, main players in B cells maturation into plasma cells.

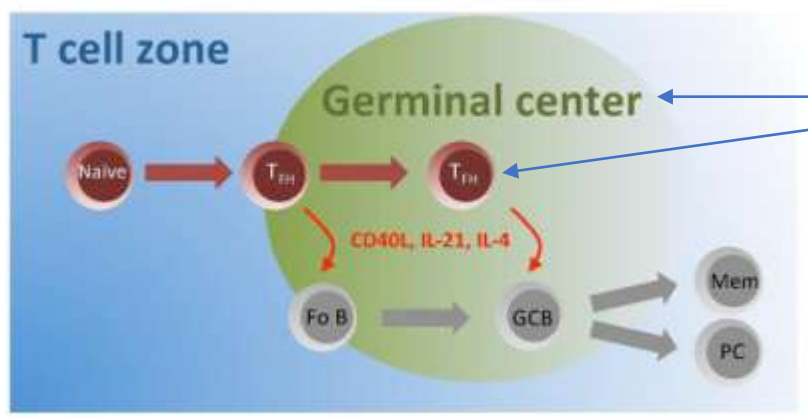


# INTERLEUKIN-7 PLAYS IN SEVERAL T CELLS LIFE STAGES



## IL-7: PLAYS IN SEVERAL T CELLS LIFE STAGES

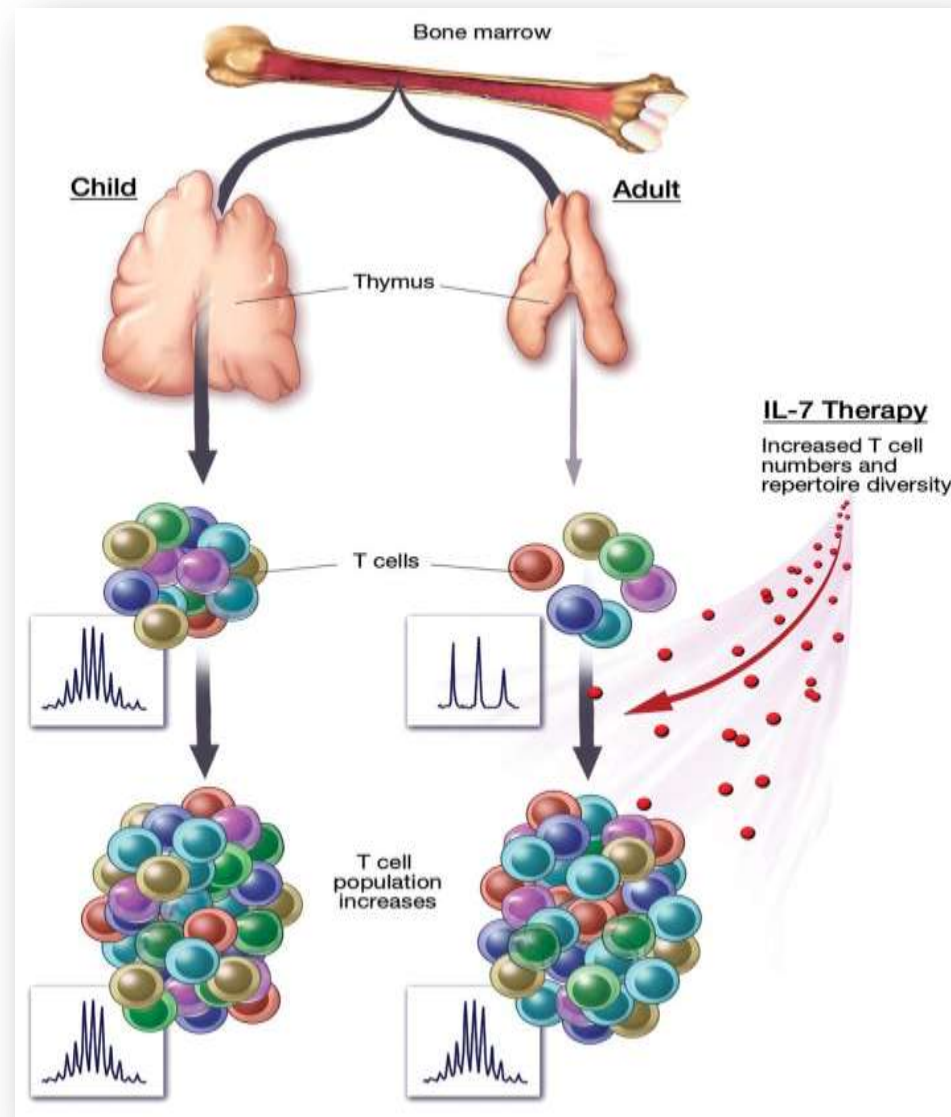
- Induces **CD4+ naive T cells proliferation** before activation (T cells ready for antigen presentation by dendritic cells).
- Induces **Thf cells proliferation**, critical for B cells activation in the lymph nodes.
- Induces **T memory cells** (main players in infections driven by antigen representation).



**IL-7**

**TO NOTICE** – In the adults, the Thymus is partially atrophic (immune-decline), thus T cells production is slower than that of babies-teenagers, because it needs different extra-thymic production systems (HPE - *Homeostatic Peripheral Expansion*).

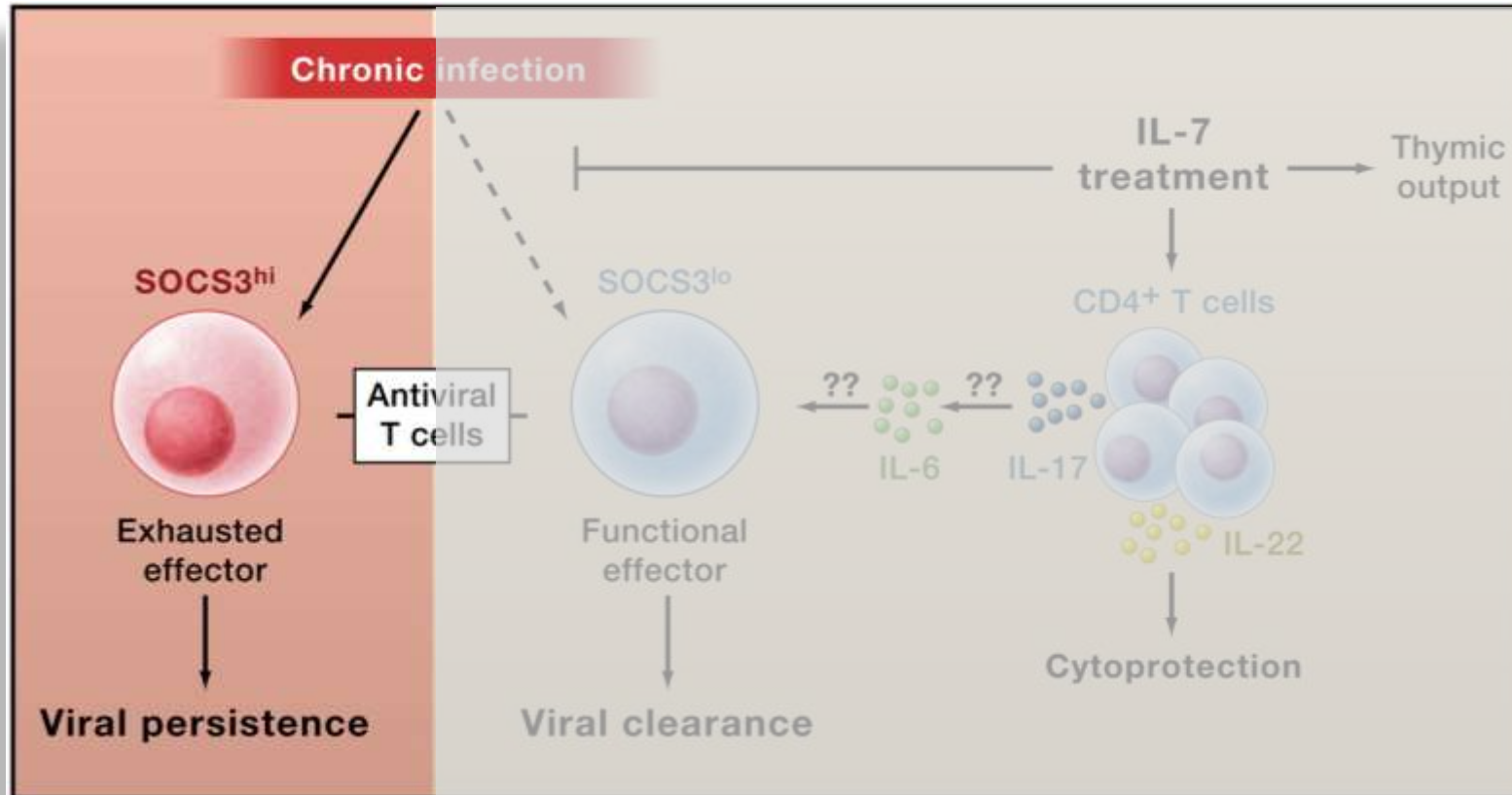
# INTERLEUKIN-7 INCREASES THE NUMBER OF T LYMPHOCYTES



**A THYMUS-INDIPENDENT MECHANISM**  
(which is active in adult and elderly subjects)

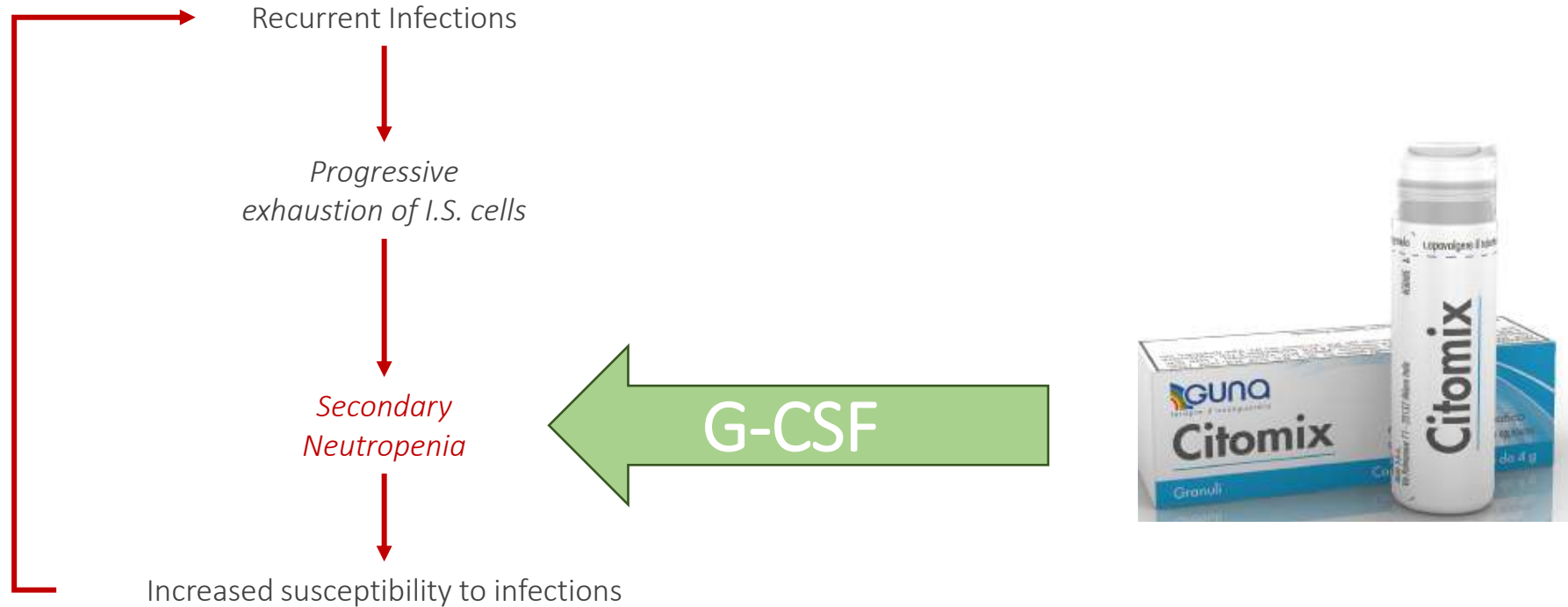
Homeostatic Peripheral Expansion

## INTERLEUKIN-7 INCREASES THE NUMBER OF T LYMPHOCYTES



- Socs3 is upregulated in T cells during chronic active viral infection in mice
- Deletion of socs3 in T cells prevents immune failure and promotes viral clearance
- In vivo IL-7 therapy represses Socs3 in T cells and clears chronic infection
- IL-7 promotes IL-22 production to mitigate immunopathology in chronic infection

## CITOMIX and NEUTROPENIA DUE TO CHRONIC-RECURRENT VIRAL INFECTIONS - THE ROLE of G-CSF -



**G-CSF:** cytokine produced by activated T lymphocytes, macrophages, and endothelial cells; it acts on bone marrow increasing productions and trafficking of neutrophils in order to replace the granulocytes during the inflammation process



## G-CSF and GM-CSF in Neutropenia

Hrishikesh M. Mehta,\* Michael Malandra,<sup>†</sup> and Seth J. Corey\*<sup>‡</sup>

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLoS one

## Granulocyte Colony-Stimulating Factor Protects Mice during Respiratory Virus Infections

Tamar Hermesh<sup>1</sup>, Thomas M. Moran<sup>1</sup>, Deepika Jain<sup>2</sup>, Carolina B. López<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Microbiology and Immunology Institute, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, New York, United States of America, <sup>2</sup> Department of Pathobiology School of Veterinary Medicine and Institute for Immunology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America

Immunity, Vol. 17, 413–423, October, 2002, Copyright ©2002 by Cell Press

## G-CSF Is an Essential Regulator of Neutrophil Trafficking from the Bone Marrow to the Blood

Craig L. Semerad, Fulu Liu, Alyssa D. Gregory, Katherine Stumpf, and Daniel C. Link<sup>1</sup>  
Division of Oncology  
Department of Internal Medicine  
Washington University School of Medicine  
St. Louis, Missouri 63110

blood barrier) that separates the hematopoietic compartment from the circulation (Petrides and Dittmann, 1990). Bone marrow venous sinuses are the sites of neutrophil egress from the hematopoietic compartment and represent the only complete barrier to the intravascular space. The sinus wall is a trilaminar structure composed of endothelial cells, a basement membrane, and



## THE IMMUNE SYSTEM IN ONE MEDICATION



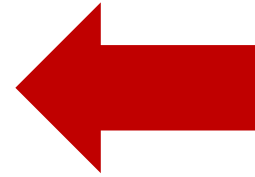
CITOMIX IS THE PACE MAKER OF THE IMMUNE RESPONSE

The co-presence of IL-2 e IFN-gamma makes CITOMIX a medication for all the lifetimes





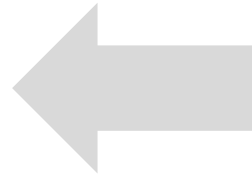
- *Vaccinium vitis*
- *Ananassa sativa*
- *Hydrocotyle asiatica 4X*



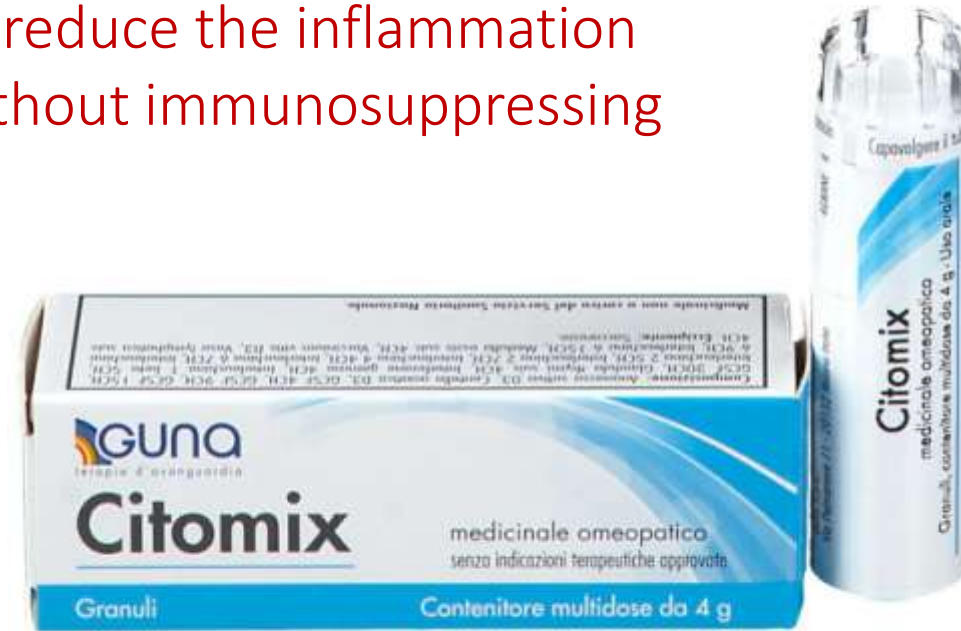
To reduce the inflammation  
without immunosuppressing

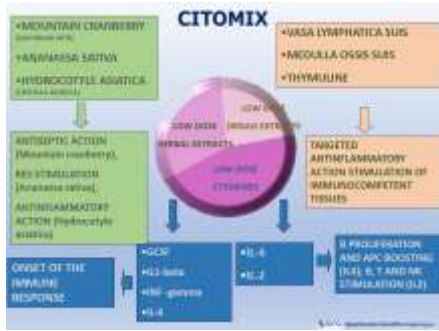
- *Vasa lymphatica suis*
- *Medulla ossis suis*
- *Thymuline*

- *IL-1 beta*
- *IL-2*
- *IL-4*
- *IL-6*
- *IFN-gamma*
- *GCSF*



To immunostimulate  
without inflamming



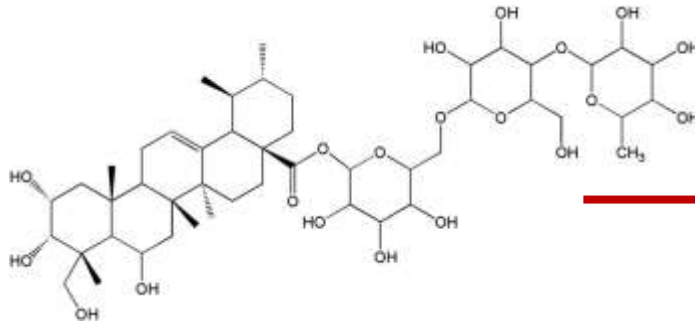


*Hydrocotyle asiatica* L. 3X  
*Centella asiatica*

### EFFECTS

- Anti-oxidant
- Anti-inflammatory

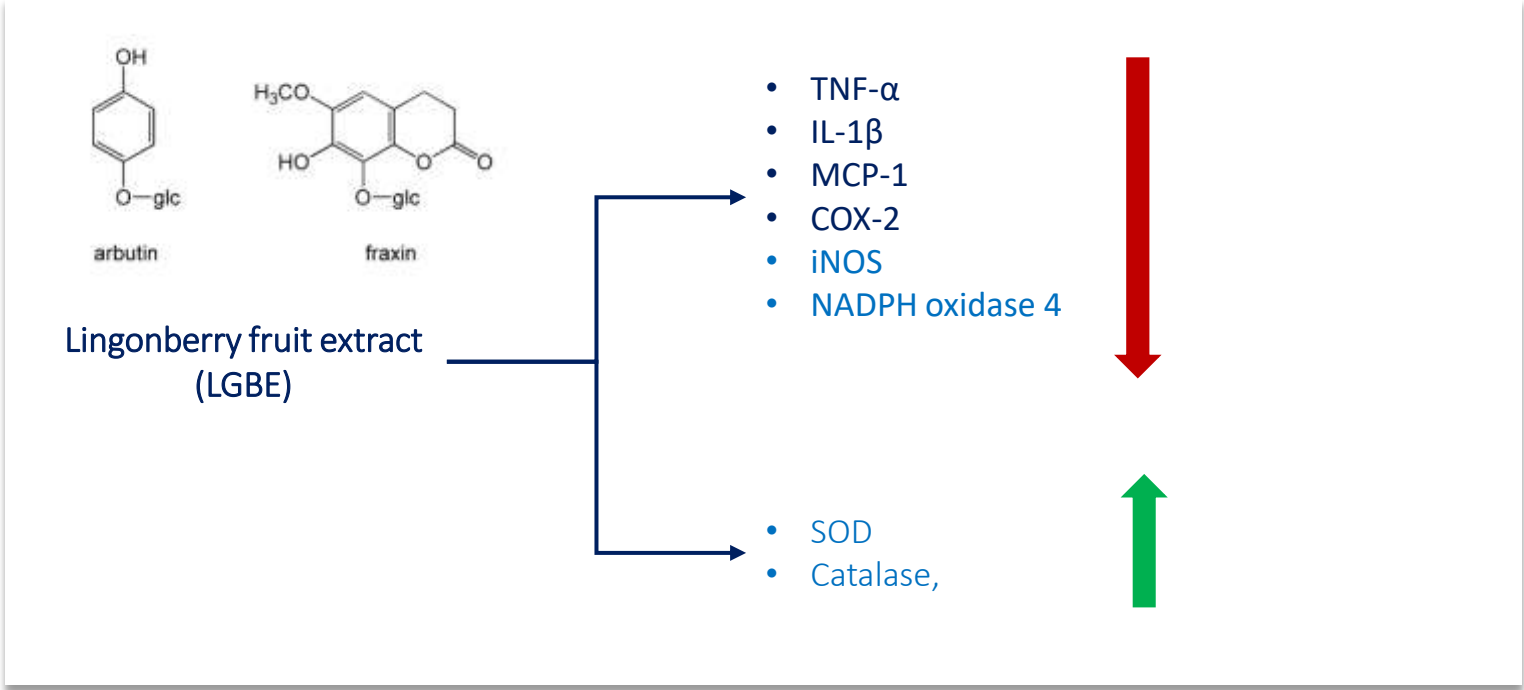
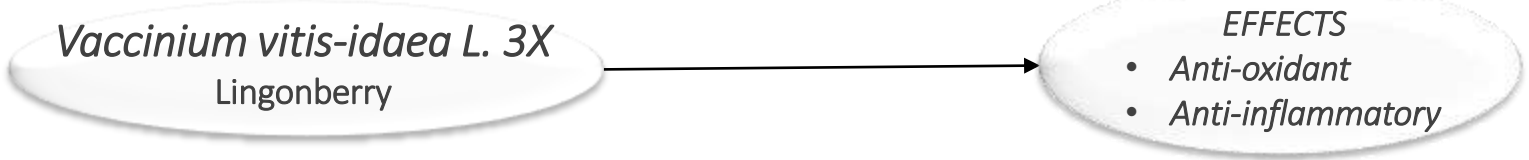
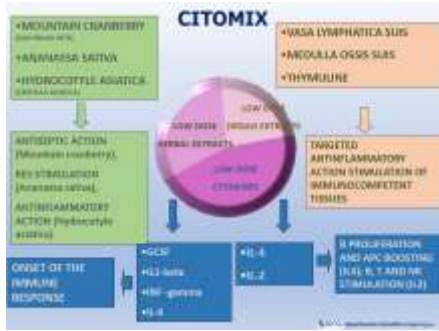
### MADECASSOSIDE



- Nitric Oxide (NO)
- Prostaglandin E2 (PGE2)
- TNF- $\alpha$
- Interleukin-1 $\beta$  (IL-1 $\beta$ )

Madecassoside (MA), major triterpenoid component of *Centella asiatica*

Cao W, Li XQ, Zhang XN, Hou Y, Zeng AG, Xie YH, Wang SW. Madecassoside suppresses LPS-induced TNF-alpha production in cardiomyocytes through inhibition of ERK, p38, and NF-kappaB activity. *Int Immunopharmacol.* 2010;10(7):723-9.

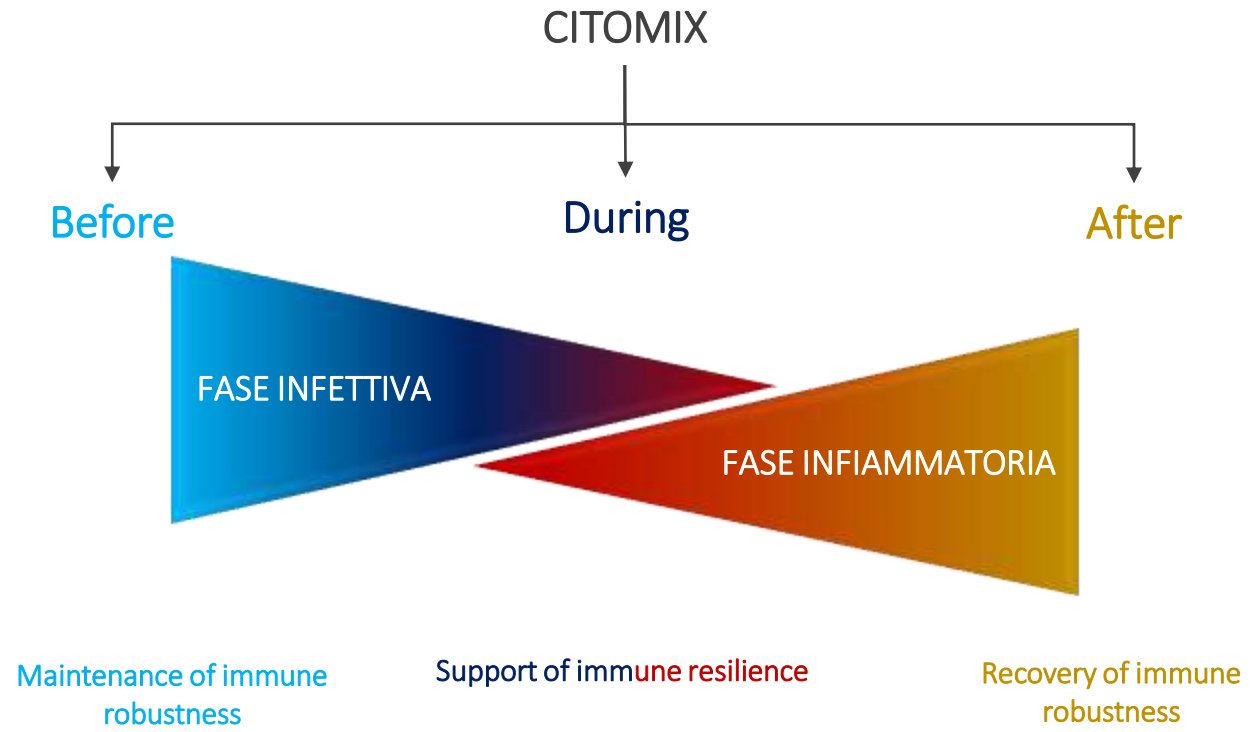


Wang SY, Feng R, Bowman L, Penhallegon R, Ding M, Lu Y. Antioxidant activity in lingonberries (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea* L.) and its inhibitory effect on activator protein-1, nuclear factor-kappaB, and mitogen-activated protein kinases activation. *J Agric Food Chem.* 2005;53(8):3156-66.

Kowalska K, Olejnik A, Zielińska-Wasielica J, Olkowicz M. Inhibitory effects of lingonberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea* L.) fruit extract on obesity-induced inflammation in 3T3-L1 adipocytes and RAW 264.7 macrophages. *Journal of Functional Foods* 54 (2019) 371–380.

Wang X, Sun H, Fan Y, Li L, Makino T, Kano Y. Analysis and bioactive evaluation of the compounds absorbed into blood after oral administration of the extracts of *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* in rat. *Biol Pharm Bull.* 2005;28(6):1106-8.





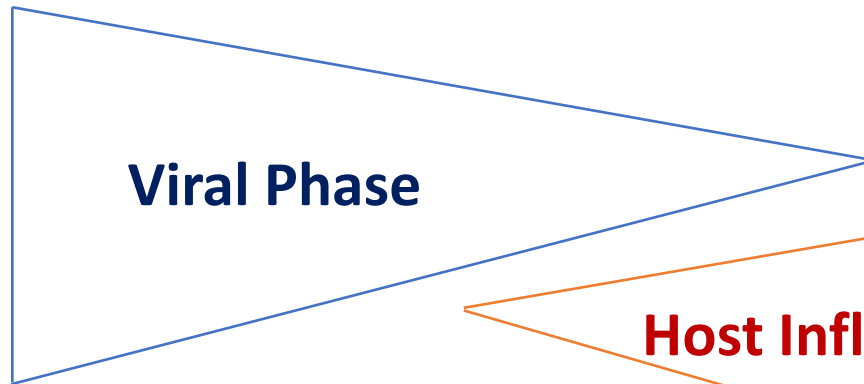
# Our goal in prevention



**Prevention:** 5 pellets a day, every day for 3 consecutive months.

**Before**

IMMUNOSTIMULATION



**During**

IMMUNOSTIMULATION  
ANTINFLAMMATORY THER.



**After**

CONVALESCENCE AND  
PREVENTION OF RELAPSES

# Our goal in immunostimulation during the early stage of the host inflammatory phase



**Prevention:** 5 pellets a day (even twice in fragile patients), every day for 3 consecutive months.



**Treatment of active viral phase and related symptomatology:** 10 pellets 2-3 times a day for 2-3 days; continue with 5 pellets twice a day per 5-7 days.

**Viral Phase**

**Host Inflammatory Phase**

**Before**

IMMUNOSTIMULATION

**During**

IMMUNOSTIMULATION  
ANTINFLAMMATORY THER.

**After**

CONVALESCENCE AND  
PREVENTION OF RELAPSE

# AFTER AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE A (MORE OR LESS PERSISTENT) SUBVERSION OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM VERY OFTEN PERSISTS

- *Increased IL-10* (insufficient to suppress the inflammation)
- *T (naïve) and B (naïve) cells depletion*

## Reduction and Functional Exhaustion of T Cells in Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Yongwen Chen<sup>1</sup>, Bo Diao<sup>2</sup>, Chenhui Wang<sup>1</sup>, Xiewan Chen<sup>2</sup>, Ying Liu<sup>3</sup>, Lifan Ning<sup>4</sup>, Li Chen<sup>5</sup>, Min Li<sup>2</sup>, Yueping Liu<sup>2</sup>, Gang Wang<sup>3</sup>, Zilin Yuan<sup>3</sup>, Zeqing Feng<sup>1</sup>, Yuzhang Wu<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Immunology, Third Military Medical University, China, <sup>2</sup>College of Basic Medical Sciences, Army Medical University, China, <sup>3</sup>General Hospital of Central Theater Command, China, <sup>4</sup>Hanyang Hospital Affiliated to Wuhan University of Science and Technology, China

- Phetsouphanh C, Darley DR, Wilson DB, Howe A, Munier CML, Patel SK, Juno JA, Burrell LM, Kent SJ, Dore GJ, Kelleher AD, Matthews GV. Immunological dysfunction persists for 8 months following initial mild-to-moderate SARS-CoV-2 infection. *Nat Immunol.* 2022 Feb;23(2):210-216.
- Ryan FJ, Hope CM, Masavuli MG, Lynn MA, Mekonnen ZA, Yeow AEL, Garcia-Valtanen P, Al-Delfi Z, Gummow J, Ferguson C, O'Connor S, Reddi BAI, Hissaria P, Shaw D, Kok-Lim C, Gleadle JM, Beard MR, Barry SC, Grubor-Bauk B, Lynn DJ. Long-term perturbation of the peripheral immune system months after SARS-CoV-2 infection. *BMC Med.* 2022 Jan 14;20(1):26.

# Our goal after the infectious disease



**Prevention:** 5 pellets a day (even twice in fragile patients), every day for 3 consecutive months.

## Before

IMMUNOSTIMULATION



**Viral Phase**



**Treatment of active viral phase and related symptomatology:** 10 pellets 2-3 times a day for 2-3 days; continue with 5 pellets twice a day per 5-7 days.

## During

IMMUNOSTIMULATION  
ANTINFLAMMATORY THER.



**Host Inflammatory Phase**



**Prevention of relapses:** 5 pellets a day, every day for 2 consecutive months.

## After

CONVALESCENCE AND  
PREVENTION OF RELAPSES





PHYSIOLOGICAL REGULATING MEDICINE 1/2009

A. Arrighi

## CITOMIX™ VS IMMUCYTAL® IN THE PREVENTION AND THERAPY OF ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN PEDIATRIC AGE.

- A CONTROLLED PROSPECTIVE CLINICAL TRIAL

LA MEDICINA UROLOGICA APRILE - GIUGNO 2009

M. Colombo



## CITOMIX NELLA PREVENZIONE DELLE COMPLICANZE PIU' FREQUENTI DELLA VARICELLA IN ETA' PEDIATRICA

*CITOMIX IN THE PREVENTION OF THE MOST WIDESPREAD VARICELLA COMPLICATIONS IN PAEDIATRIC AGE*

**RIASSUNTO**  
La varicella, malattia infettiva ospediera prevalentemente pediatrica, è considerata patologia al modesto rilievo clinico, sebbene potenzialmente complicata o grave in età neonatale. L'agente eziologico è il virus Varicella-Zoster (VZV).  
- In questo studio, sono stati inclusi 199 pazienti pediatrici (M/F), età media = 6 anni e 4 mesi, per valutare l'efficacia di CITOMIX nella prevenzione delle più frequenti complicanze nel periodo successivo all'infezione acuta. La patologia post-varicella, soprattutto ad eziologia batterica che determina l'Aspirato respiratorio del bambino immunocompetente, sono le malattie. I risultati in studio non hanno presentato



European Review for Medical and Pharmacological Sciences  
Impact Factor: 3.507  
Editor-in-chief CAMILLO RICORDI MD, FNAI  
Co-Editor-in-chief DAVID DELLA MORTE CANOSCI MD, PhD  
Verduci Publisher  
Via Gregorio VII, 106 - 00188 Roma (ITALY) - Tel. +39-06-393.75.224  
Fax +39-06-61.85.672 - E-mail: info@verduci.it  
http://www.eurpeanreview.org

## A low-dose multicomponent medication as a new approach in prevention and early add-on treatment of recurrent respiratory infections in children: a Delphi Consensus

M. AGOSTI<sup>1</sup>, A. ARRIGHI<sup>2</sup>, S. BERNASCONI<sup>3</sup>, G. BONA<sup>4</sup>, G. CIPRANDI<sup>5</sup>, S. LEONARDI<sup>6</sup>, G.L. MARSEGLIA<sup>7,8</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Pediatric Department, Hospital 'F. Del Ponte', University of Insubria, Varese, Italy  
<sup>2</sup>Pediatric Primary Care, ASL 8, Arezzo, Italy  
<sup>3</sup>Secretary of the "Complementary Medicines and Integrated Therapies" Study Group of the Italian Pediatric Society (SIP), Parma, Italy  
<sup>4</sup>Department of Health Sciences, University of Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy  
<sup>5</sup>Allergy Clinic, Casa di Cura Villa Montallegro, Genoa, Italy  
<sup>6</sup>Pediatric Respiratory Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Catania, Catania, Italy  
<sup>7</sup>Pediatric Clinic, Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, Pavia, Italy  
<sup>8</sup>Department of Clinical, Surgical, Diagnostic and Pediatric Sciences, University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy



**CITOMIX INDUCES A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF B NAÏVE, B ABLE TO SWITCH, AND B SWITCHED CELLS**

**CITOMIX INDUCES A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF IFN- $\gamma$  AFTER 3 AND 10 DAYS OF TREATMENT**

**CITOMIX INDUCES A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF IL-6 AFTER 3 AND 10 DAYS OF TREATMENT**

**CITOMIX INDUCES A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE OF IL-10 AFTER 3 AND 10 DAYS OF TREATMENT**

**CITOMIX INDUCES A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF IgA AND IgM AFTER 3 AND 10 DAYS OF TREATMENT**



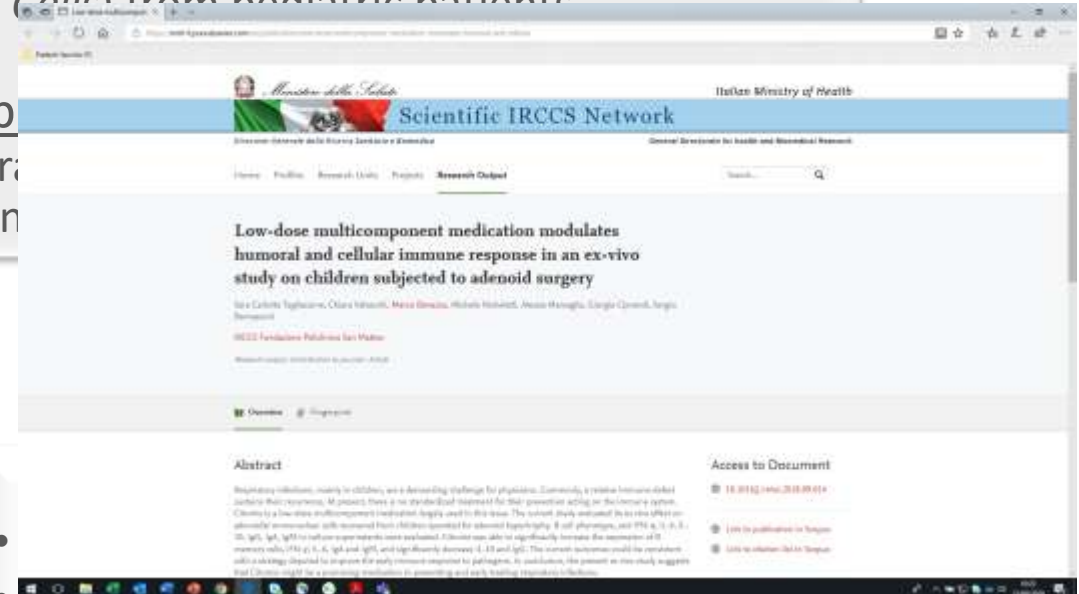
# CITOMIX – AIM OF THE STUDY

To evaluate the immunomodulation activity "in vitro" of CITOMIX



Adenoidal Mononuclear Cells) from pediatric patients

Immunological parameters: lymphocytes subsets proliferation, antibodies and Immunoglobulin



CRITERIA:  
Obesity

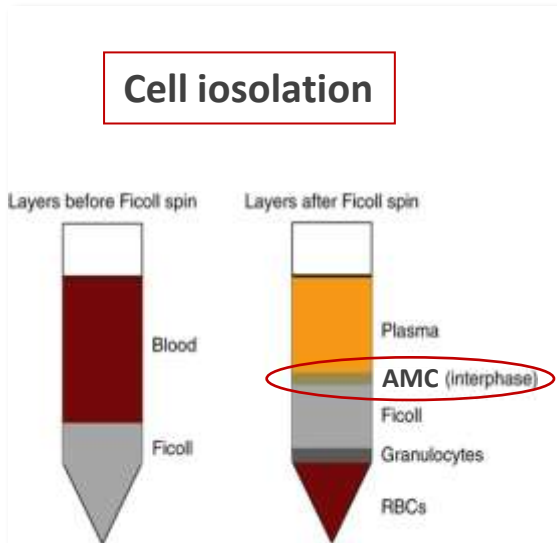
- Autoimmunity pathologies
- Obesity
- Chronic use of steroidal drugs
- Presence of disability (physical or psychic)

# IMMUNOMODULATING ACTIVITY OF CITOMIX – STUDY DESIGN

Adenoids from **50 children** (35 males, 15 female, 6 years average age) affected by RRI



Schiacciamento meccanico



AMC expansion *in vitro*

**Cytokines quantification**

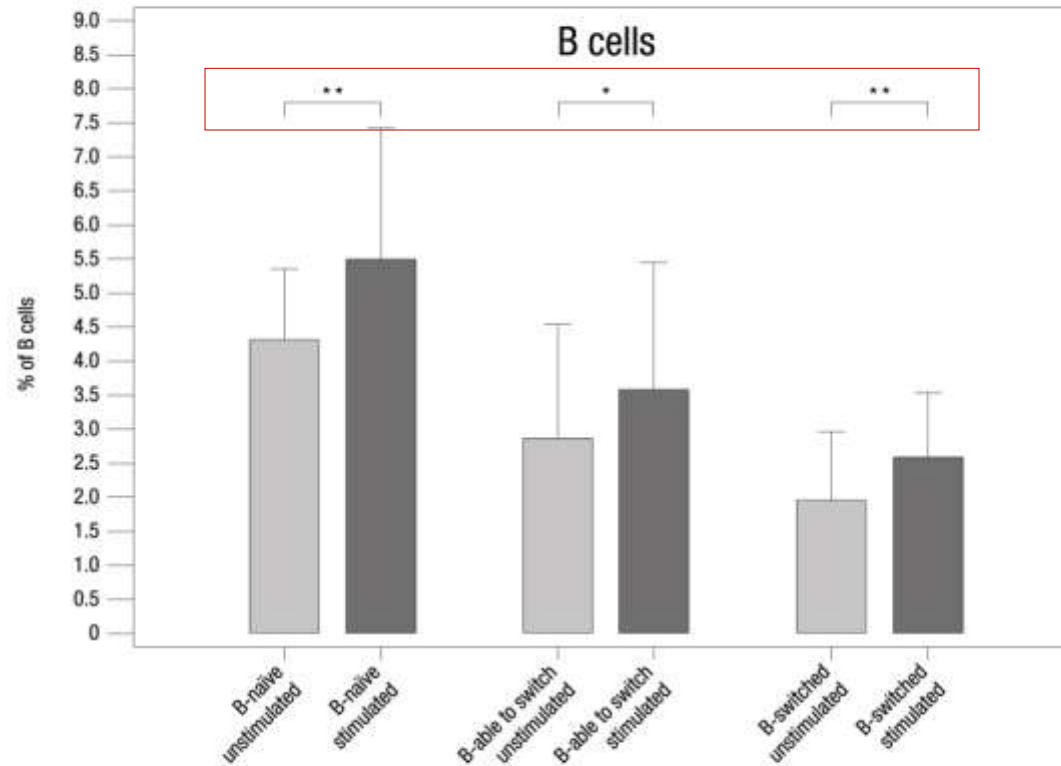
- IL-6
- IL-10
- IFN- $\gamma$

**Ig quantification**

- IgA
- IgG
- IgM

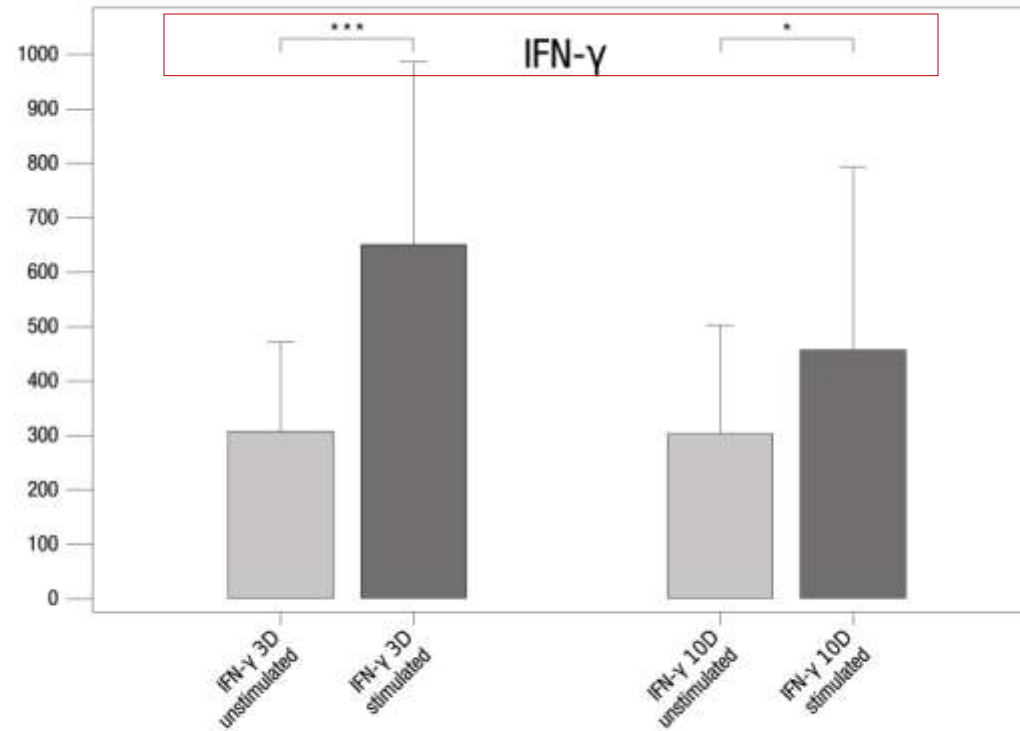
**B-cells sub-clones characterization**

# CITOMIX INDUCES A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF B NAÏVE, B ABLE TO SWITCH, AND B SWITCHED CELLS

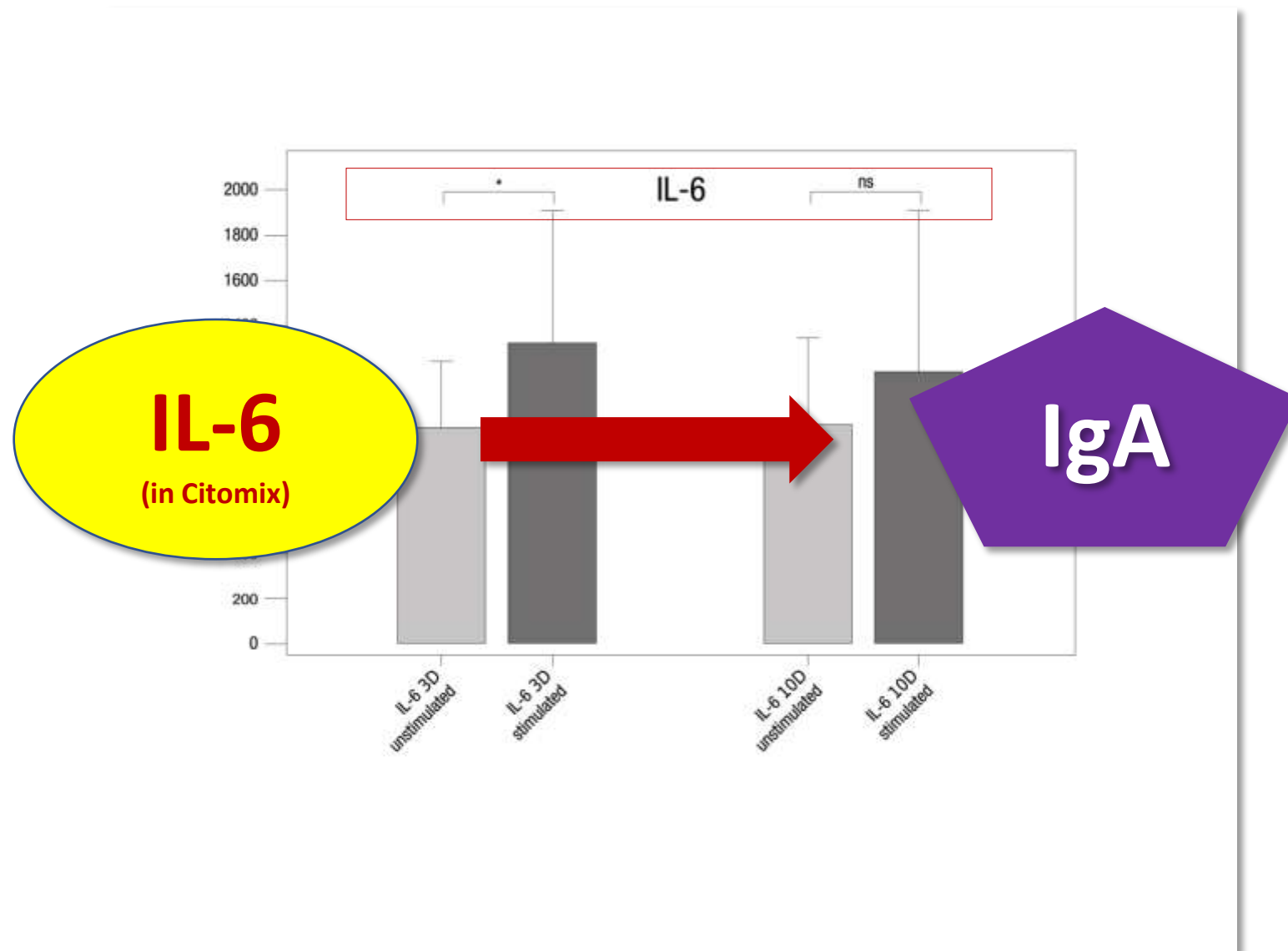




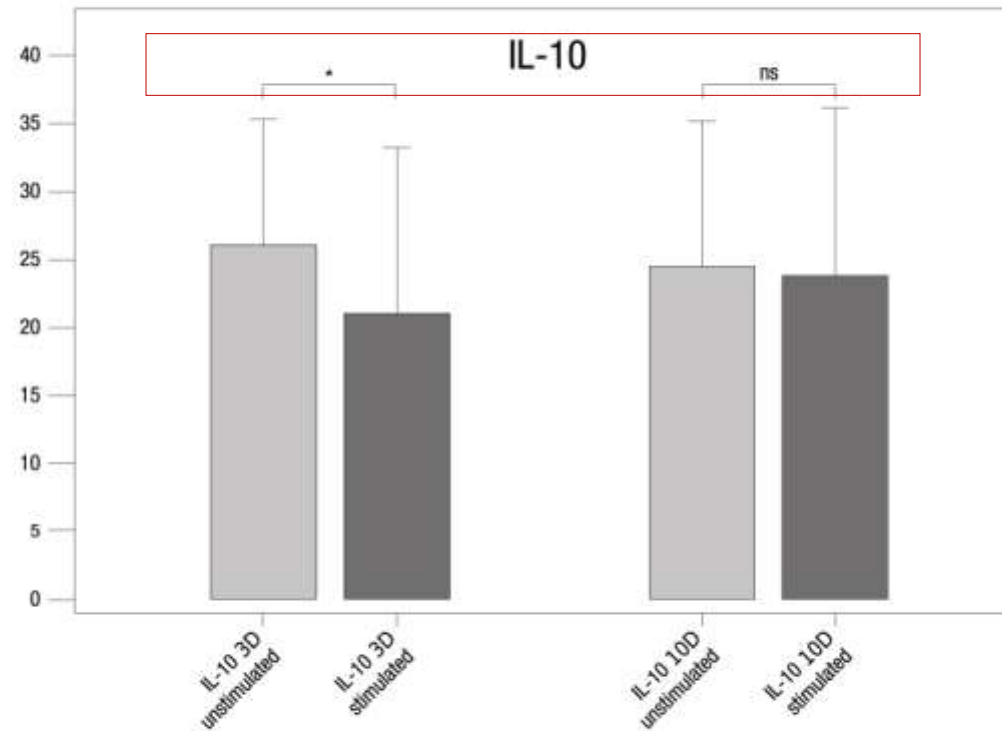
# CITOMIX INDUCES A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF IFN- $\gamma$ AFTER 3 AND 10 DAYS OF TREATMENT



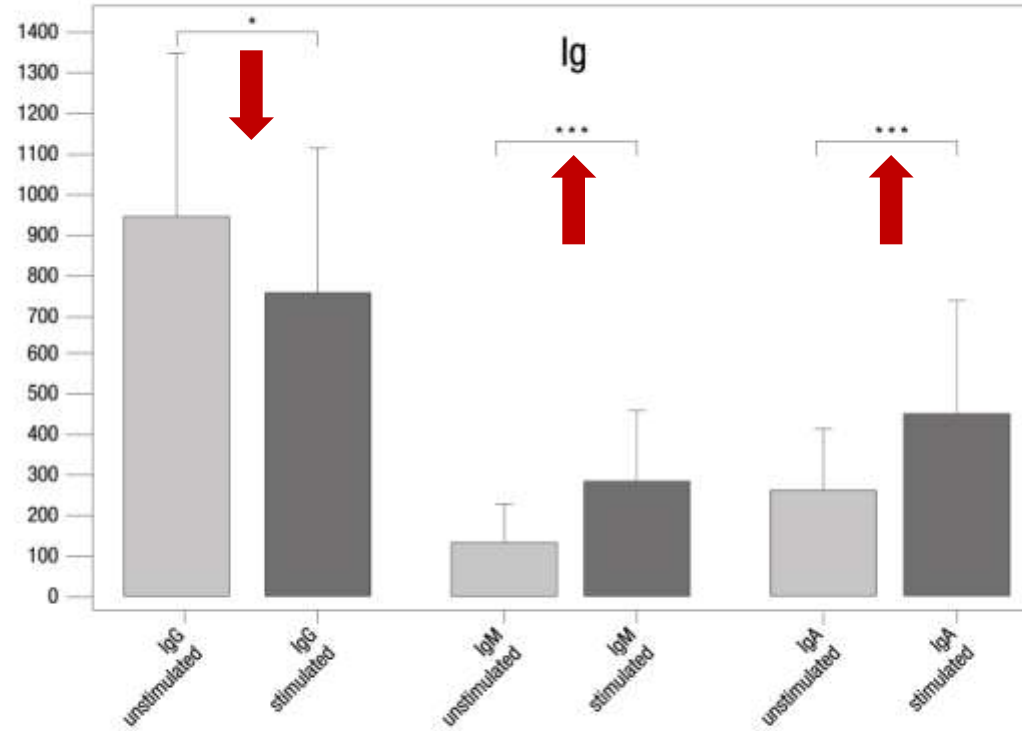
# CITOMIX INDUCES A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF IL-6 AFTER 3 AND 10 DAYS OF TREATMENT



# CITOMIX INDUCES A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE OF IL-10 AFTER 3 AND 10 DAYS OF TREATMENT

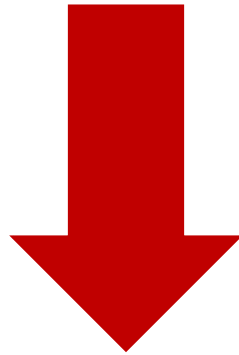


# CITOMIX INDUCES A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF IgA AND IgM AFTER 3 AND 10 DAYS OF TREATMENT





## *Pediatric Immune Disorders*



*CITOMIX*



1

Clinical Immunology 209 (2019) 108293

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Clinical Immunology**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/yclim](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/yclim)

Review Article

**Immunoglobulin A deficiency in children, an undervalued clinical issue**

M.H. (Mischa) Koenen<sup>a,\*</sup>, J.M. (Joris) van Montfrans<sup>a</sup>, E.A.M. (Elisabeth) Sanders<sup>a,b</sup>,  
D. (Debby) Bogaert<sup>a,c</sup>, L.M. (Lilly) Verhagen<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Pediatric Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Wilhelmina Children's Hospital, Lunlaan 6, 3508 AB Utrecht, the Netherlands  
<sup>b</sup> Centre for Infectious Disease Control (CIb), National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Artorik van Leeuwenhoeklaan 9, 3720 BA Bilthoven, the Netherlands  
<sup>c</sup> Centre for Inflammation Research, Queen's Medical Research Institute, University of Edinburgh, Little France Crescent 47, EH16 4TJ Edinburgh, United Kingdom



2

Hindawi Publishing Corporation  
Clinical and Developmental Immunology  
Volume 2008, Article ID 624850, 10 pages  
doi:10.1155/2008/624850

Review Article

**Pediatric Selective IgM Immunodeficiency**

Marc F. Goldstein,<sup>1</sup> Alex L. Goldstein,<sup>2</sup> Eliot H. Dunsky,<sup>1</sup> Donald J. Dvorin,<sup>1</sup>  
George A. Belecanech,<sup>1</sup> and Kfir Shamir<sup>3</sup>


4

NIH Public Access  
Author Manuscript  
*Curr Top Microbiol Immunol*. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2012 November 07.

Published in final edited form as:  
*Curr Top Microbiol Immunol*. 2011 ; 350: 39–65. doi:10.1007/82\_2010\_96.

**The role of IL-10 in regulating immunity to persistent viral infections**

Elizabeth B. Wilson and David G. Brooks  
Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics and the UCLA AIDS Institute,  
David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California  
90095



3

0031-3998/01/5001-0008  
PEDIATRIC RESEARCH  
Copyright © 2001 International Pediatric Research Foundation, Inc.

Vol. 50, No. 1, 2001  
Printed in U.S.A.

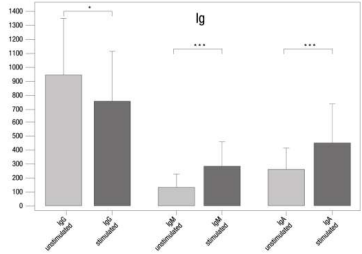
REVIEW ARTICLE

**Impaired Interferon Gamma-Mediated Immunity and Susceptibility to Mycobacterial Infection in Childhood**

NATASCHA REMUS, JANINE REICHENBACH, CAPUCINE PICARD, CHRISTOPH RIETSCHEL,  
PHILIP WOOD, DAVID LAMMAS, DINAKANTHA S. KUMARARATNE, AND  
JEAN-LAURENT CASANOVA



## CITOMIX in pediatric immune disorders



IMPROVES IgA AND IgM EXPRESSION

Non genetic transient IgA and IgM production defects

- RECURRENT ACUTE BACTERIAL INFECTIONS
- ALLERGIC MANIFESTATIONS

1

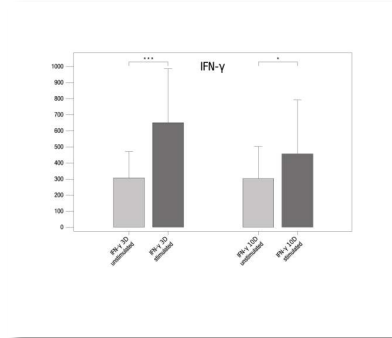
2

IMPROVES IFN- $\gamma$  EXPRESSION

IFN- $\gamma$  production defects

VIRAL INFECTIONS

3

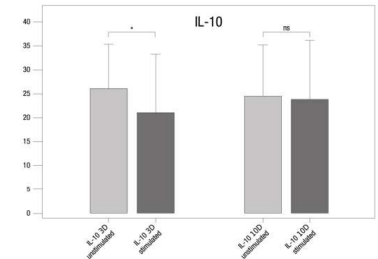


REDUCES EARLY IL-10 EXPRESSION

hIL-10 overexpression

VIRAL RE-INFECTIONS AND CHRONIC VIRAL INFECTIONS

4



*A. Arrighi*

# **CITOMIX™ VS IMMUCYTAL® IN THE PREVENTION AND THERAPY OF ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN PEDIATRIC AGE.**

**- A CONTROLLED PROSPECTIVE CLINICAL TRIAL**

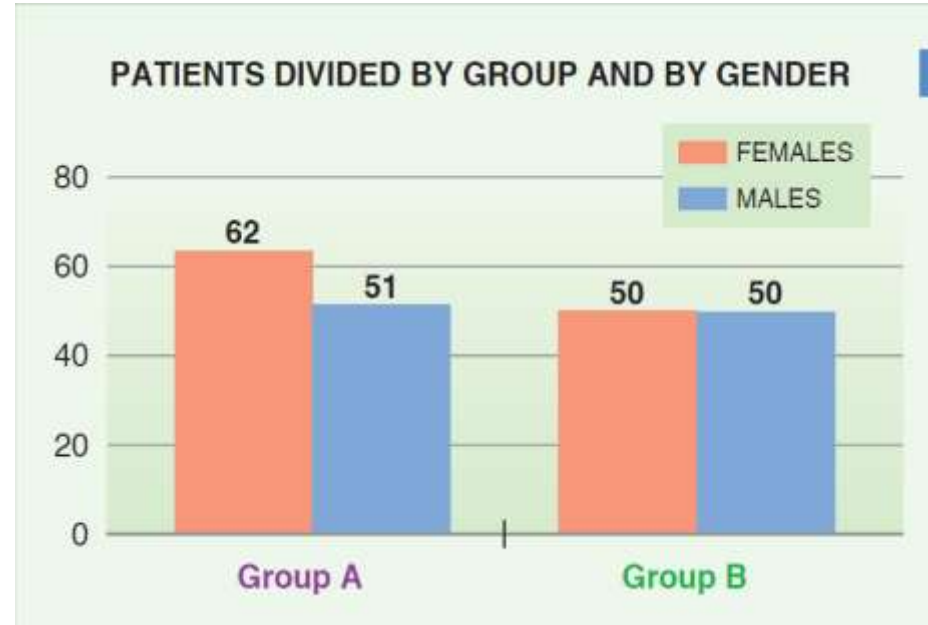
- Positive Delta on URTI episodes
- Positive Delta on days of fever
- Positive Delta on minor use of antibiotics
- Positive Delta on days of absence from school
- Positive Delta on IgA parameter

*A. Arrighi*

**CITOMIX™ VS IMMUCYTAL® IN  
THE PREVENTION AND THERAPY  
OF ACUTE RESPIRATORY  
INFECTIONS IN PEDIATRIC AGE.  
- A CONTROLLED PROSPECTIVE CLINICAL TRIAL**

## PATIENTS DIVIDED BY TYPE OF TREATMENT

Type of treatment	No. of patients
<b>Group A</b> CITOMIX	<b>113</b> (51 M, 62 F)
<b>Group B</b> BACTERIAL LYSATES	<b>100</b> (50 M, 50 F)





# RESULTS

TAB.6		Total		Group A		Group B	
		Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM
Total	N° ARTI episodes	2,79	,06	2,37	,06	3,26	,09
F	N° ARTI episodes	2,72	,09	2,37	,09	3,16	,13
M	N° ARTI episodes	2,86	,09	2,37	,09	3,36	,13

ARTI: Acute Respiratory Tract Infections



0.89

TAB.7

DAYS OF FEVER

$\Delta=3.58$

		Total		Group A		Group B	
		Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM
Total	Days of fever	6,64	,22	4,96	,16	8,54	,35
F	Days of fever	6,39	,26	4,97	,20	8,16	,42
M	Days of fever	6,92	,36	4,96	,24	8,92	,56



TAB.8

CYCLES OF ANTIBIOTICS

$\Delta=1.04$

		Total		Group A		Group B	
		Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM
Total	Cycles of antibiotics	,88	,06	,39	,05	1,43	,09
F	Cycles of antibiotics	,82	,09	,37	,07	1,38	,13
M	Cycles of antibiotics	,94	,09	,41	,08	1,48	,13

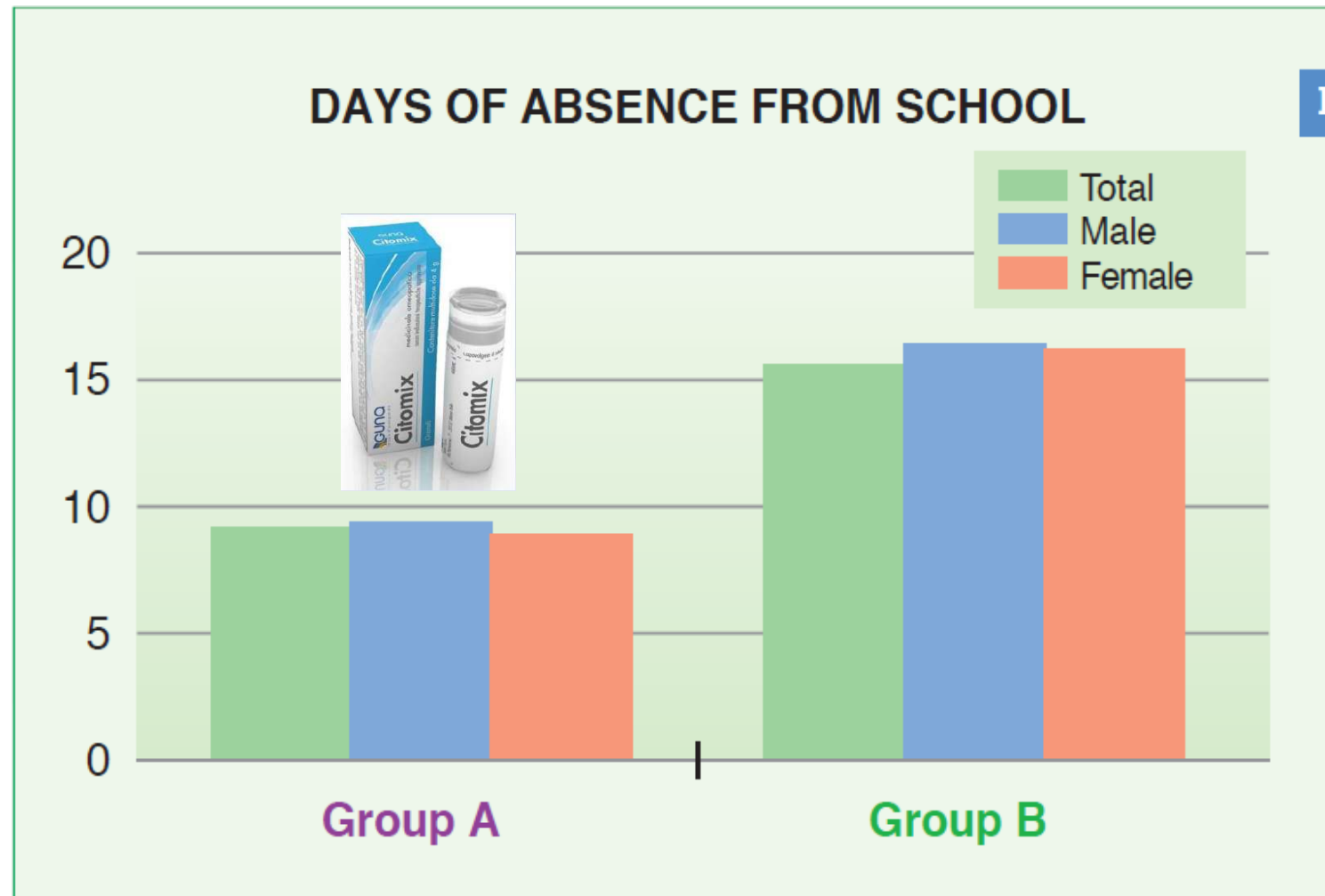


TAB.13

**IGA CHANGES AFTER 4 MONTHS OF TREATMENT:  
percentage differences**

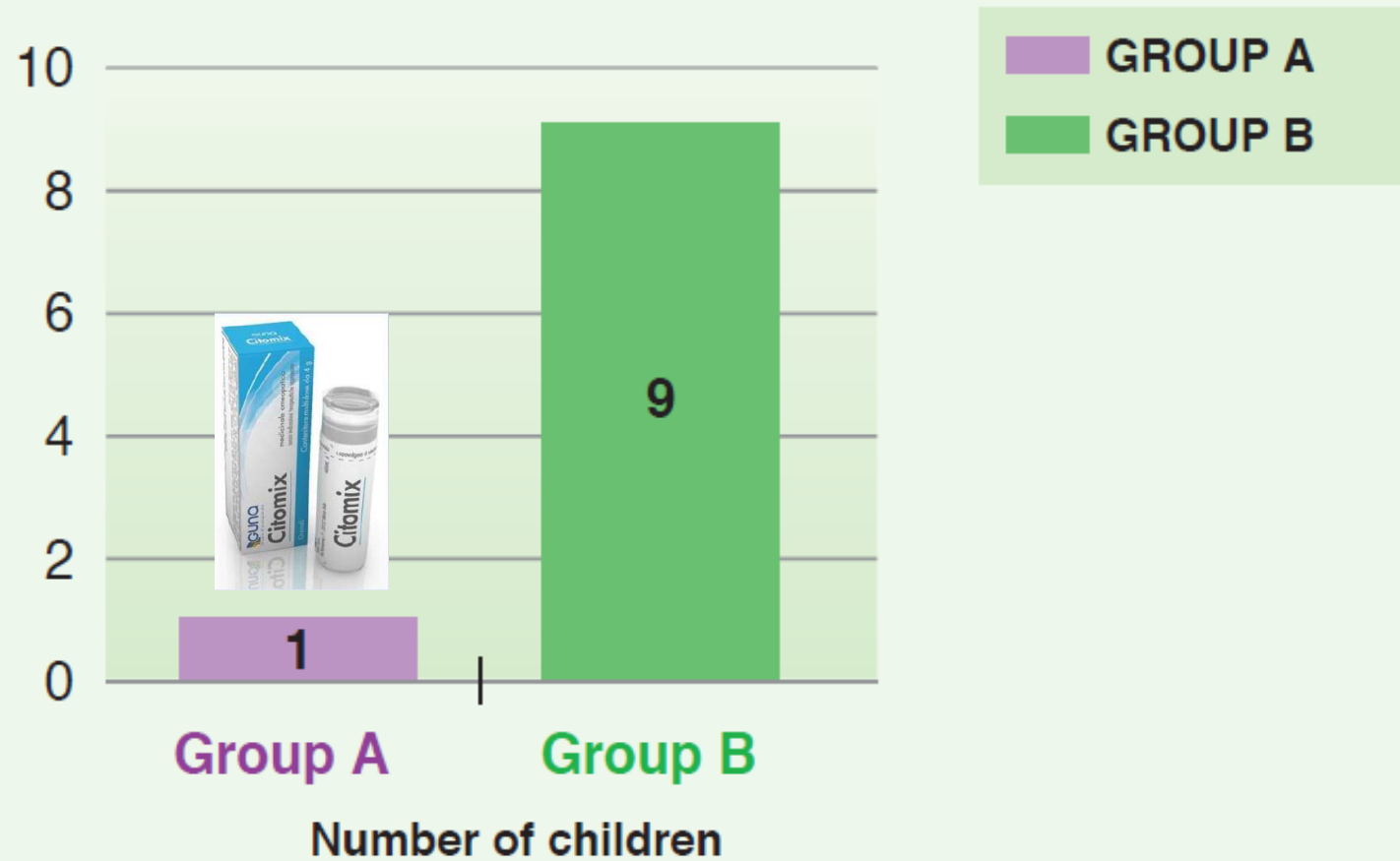
		Total		Group A		Group B	
		Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM
<b>Total</b>	<b>difference %</b>	21,24	,88	25,17	1,51	16,80	,45
<b>F</b>	<b>difference %</b>	22,88	1,56	28,40	2,56	16,03	,74
<b>M</b>	<b>difference %</b>	19,42	,61	21,25	1,04	17,56	,51





$\Delta=5.49$

## RECOURSE TO SURGERY



$$\Delta=8.00$$





## DIRECTIONS (URTI – RRI)

- **Prevention:** 5 granules a day, every day, for 3 consecutive months.
- **Treatment of acute symptomatology:** 10 granules 2-3 times a day for 2-3 days.

M. Colombo



#### RIASSUNTO

La varicella, malattia infettiva epidemica prevalentemente pediatrica, è usualmente patologia di modesto rilievo clinico, sebbene potenzialmente complicata o gravata da sequele. L'agente eziologico è il virus Varicella-Zoster (VZV).

- In questo studio, sono stati inclusi 106 pazienti pediatrici (M/F; età media = 4 anni e 4 mesi), per valutare l'efficacia di CITOMIX nella prevenzione delle più frequenti complicanze nel periodo successivo all'infezione erpetica. Le patologie post-varicella, soprattutto ad eziologia batterica che interessano l'Apparato respiratorio del bambino immunocompetente, sono in aumento. I pazienti in studio non hanno presentato complicanze post-varicella gravi, né risultavano immunodepressi.

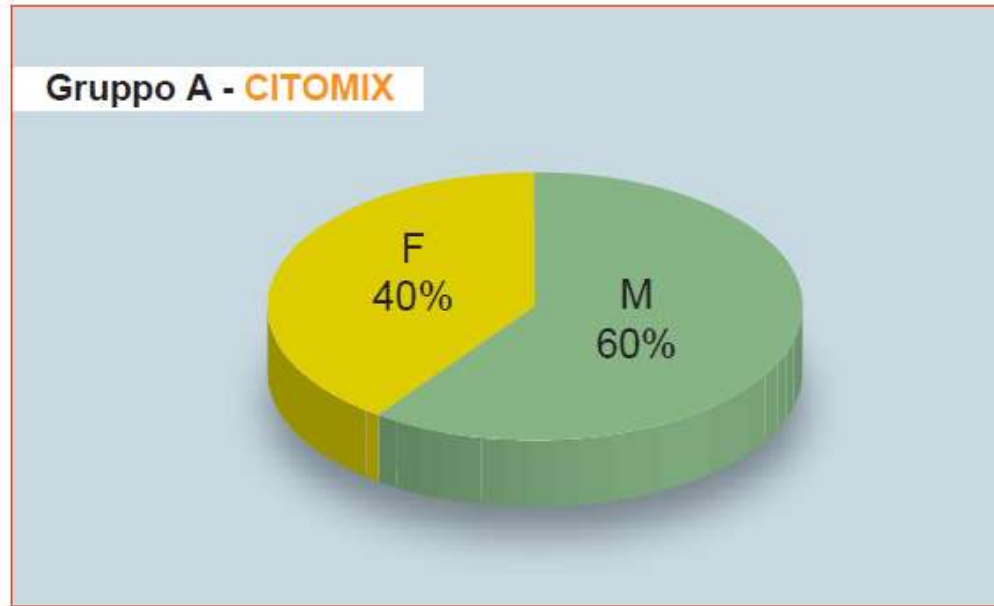
## CITOMIX NELLA PREVENZIONE DELLE COMPLICANZE PIU' FREQUENTI DELLA VARICELLA IN ETA' PEDIATRICA

*CITOMIX IN THE PREVENTION OF THE MOST WIDESPREAD VARICELLA COMPLICATIONS IN PAEDIATRIC AGE*

- Reduction of respiratory complications in the following 30 days after the blister phase
- Reduction of respiratory symptoms in the following 30 days after the blister phase

## 53 patients

- 32 boys (8 months-10 years and 7 months)
- 21 girls (2 years and 6 months- 9 years and 1 month)



**TAB. 3**

**Suddivisione percentuale secondo il sesso dei pz. inclusi nel Gruppo A.**



**TAB. 4**  
**Suddivisione percentuale secondo il sesso dei pz. inclusi nel Gruppo B.**

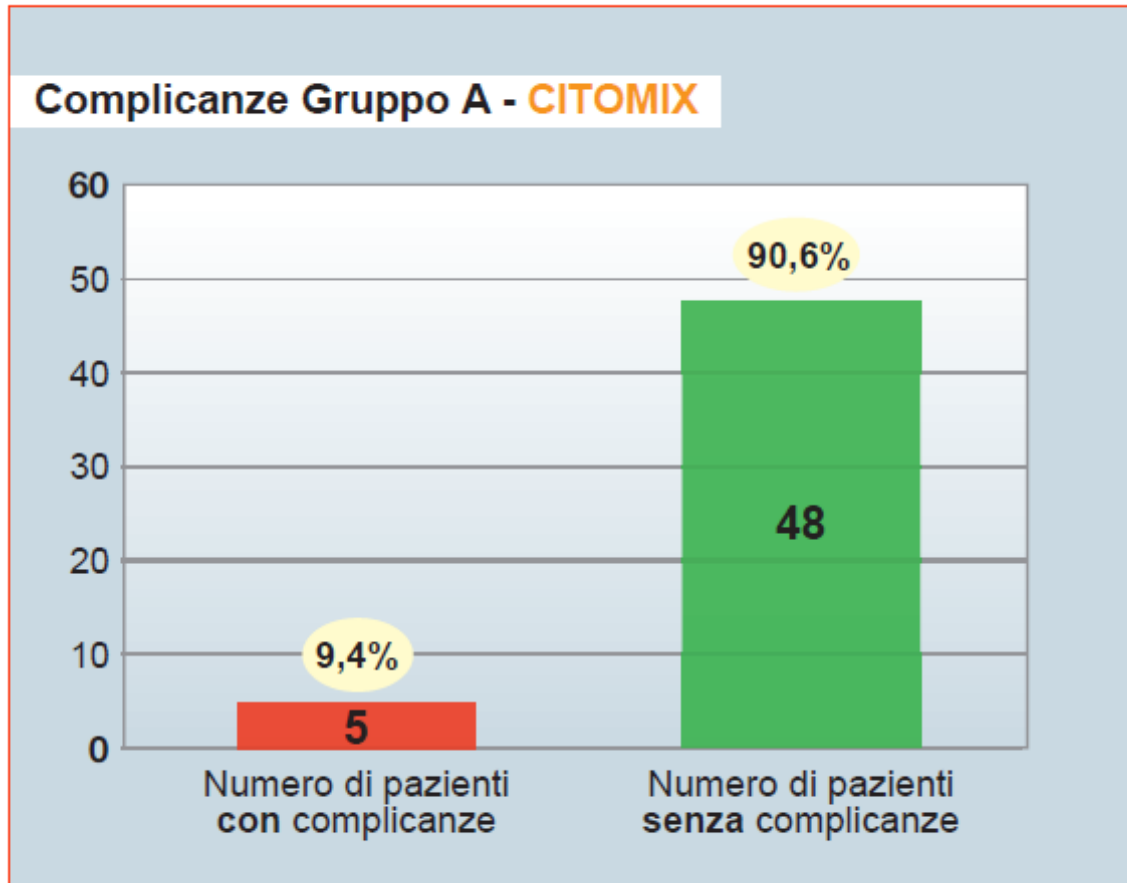


## 53 patients

- 27 boys (1 year and 2 months – 10 years and 2 months)
- 26 girls (1 year and a 9 years)

Presence of respiratory symptomatology in the 30 days after the scab phase:

**9.4%**



**Dettaglio delle complicanze nel Gruppo A - CITOMIX**

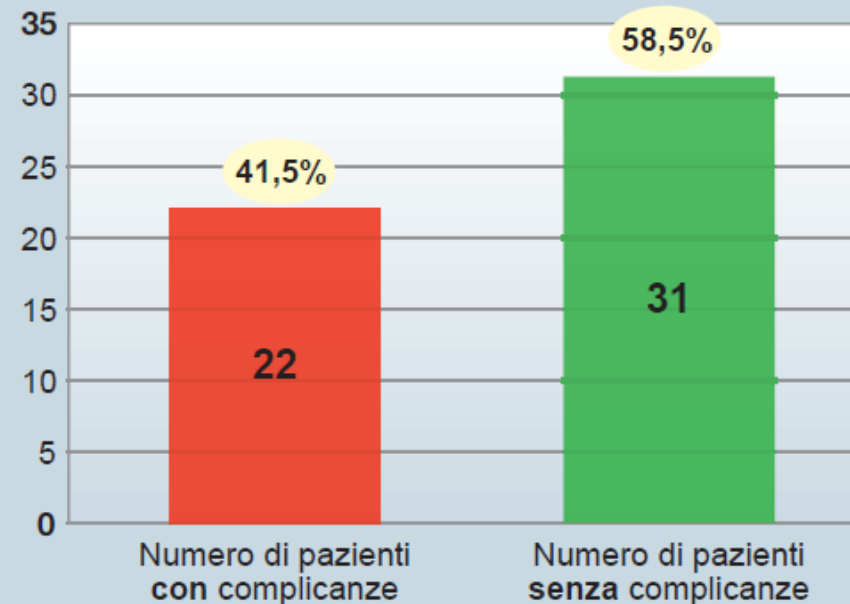
Otite media acuta	2
Infezione da Streptococco beta-emolitico di Gruppo A	1
Bronchite	2
<b>Totale</b>	<b>5</b>

Presence of respiratory  
symptomatology in the 30  
days after the scab phase:  
**41.5%**

**Dettaglio delle complicanze nel Gruppo B - CONTROLLO**

Otite media acuta	5
Infezione da Streptococco beta-emolitico di Gruppo A	1
Bronchite	7
Tracheite	2
Laringite	1
Tonsillite	1
Adenoidite	1
Bronchite asmatiche	1
Otite media acuta + Bronchite	3
<b>Totale</b>	<b>22</b>

**Complicanze Gruppo B - CONTROLLO**





## DIRECTIONS (CHICKEN POX COMPLICATIONS)

- **Under 3 years of age:** 3 granules twice a day, for 30 consecutive days from the scab phase.
- **Over 3 years of age:** 5 granules twice a day, for 30 consecutive days from the scab phase.



# Operation *OVERLAPPING*

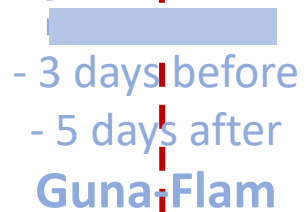


LDM Therapy as an adjuvant support to all vaccines

Vaccination Day



From 10-15 days (till a few days before) before the first inoculation, and for 60 days after



From 10-15 days (till a few days before) before the first vaccination, and for 60 consecutive days



From the day of the first vaccination dose, and for 60 days after

## Directions



**Citomix**  
5 pellets per day from  
10-15 days (till a few  
days before) before  
the first inoculation  
and for 60 days after



**Guna-Matrix**  
20 drops twice a day  
from 10-15 days (till a  
few days before)  
before the first  
vaccination and  
continuing for 60  
consecutive days

**Guna-Lympho**  
20 drops twice a day  
from the day of the  
first vaccination and  
for 60 consecutive  
days after



**Guna-Flam**  
- 3 days before the first  
and second inoculation:  
20 drops twice a day  
  
- 5 days after the first  
and second inoculation:  
20 drops 4 times a day

# CITOMIX CONSENSUS DELPHI PROJECT

## *Delphi Consensus Survey*

su **CITOMIX** nella prevenzione e nel trattamento precoce delle infezioni respiratorie ricorrenti in età pediatrica.





*L'European Review for Medical and Pharmacological Sciences* is indexed on: Current Contents, EMBASE, Index Medicus, MEDLINE, Science Citation Index e Scopus. The impact factor is **3,507**

## A low-dose multicomponent medication as a new approach in prevention and early add-on treatment of recurrent respiratory infections in children: a Delphi Consensus

M. AGOSTI<sup>1</sup>, A. ARRIGHI<sup>2</sup>, S. BERNASCONI<sup>3</sup>, G. BONA<sup>4</sup>, G. CIPRANDI<sup>5</sup>, S. LEONARDI<sup>6</sup>, G.L. MARSEGLIA<sup>7,8</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Pediatric Department, Hospital 'F. Del Ponte', University of Insubria, Varese, Italy

<sup>2</sup>Pediatric Primary Care, ASL 8, Arezzo, Italy

<sup>3</sup>Secretary of the "Complementary Medicines and Integrated Therapies" Study Group of the Italian Pediatric Society (SIP), Parma, Italy

<sup>4</sup>Department of Health Sciences, University of Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy

<sup>5</sup>Allergy Clinic, Casa di Cura Villa Montallegro, Genoa, Italy

<sup>6</sup>Pediatric Respiratory Unit, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Catania, Catania, Italy

<sup>7</sup>Pediatric Clinic, Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, Pavia, Italy

<sup>8</sup>Department of Clinical, Surgical, Diagnostic and Pediatric Sciences, University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy



**Table 1** Panel definition of RRI

The criteria for defining a child with Recurrent Respiratory Infections (RRI) in paediatric age <sup>a,b</sup> are:

▪ **1–3 years<sup>c</sup>:**

➤ 6 or more respiratory tract infections (1 of which may be pneumonia, including severe pneumonia) in a year or

➤ 2 mild cases<sup>d</sup> of pneumonia confirmed by clinical criteria and/or x-ray in a year

▪ **3–6 years<sup>c</sup>:**

➤ 5 or more respiratory tract infections (1 of which may be pneumonia, including severe pneumonia) in a year or

➤ 2 mild cases of pneumonia confirmed by clinical criteria and/or x-ray in a year

▪ **6–12 years:**

➤ 3 or more respiratory tract infections (1 of which may be pneumonia, including severe pneumonia) in a year or

➤ 2 mild cases of pneumonia confirmed by clinical criteria and/or x-ray in a year

<sup>a</sup> Children with recurrent infections in one area only (e.g., recurrent rhinosinusitis, recurrent otitis media, recurrent wheezing or recurrent pharyngotonsillitis), with known primary or secondary immunodeficiencies (including IgA deficiency), cystic fibrosis and/or CFTR-pathies, primary ciliary dyskinesia, non-cystic fibrosis-related bronchiectasis, genetic disorders, known cardio-respiratory malformations, neuromuscular disorders and other pre-existing chronic lung diseases were excluded from this definition

<sup>b</sup> This definition does not apply to children under 1 year of age

<sup>c</sup> **1–3 years** = from 1 year to 2 years and 11 months; **3–6 years** = from 3 years to 5 years and 11 months; **6–12 years** = from 6 years to 11 years and 11 months

<sup>d</sup> In accordance with the definition of the *British Thoracic Society*, partially modified

# PREVALENCE URTI

- 25% of children under 1 year
- 6% of children during firsts 6 months of life

de Martino et al. 2007; Fiore et al. 2010; Toivonen et al. 2016; De Benedictis et al. 2018).

Chiappini et al. Italian Journal of Pediatrics (2021) 47:211  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13052-021-01150-0>

Italian Journal of Pediatrics

REVIEW

Open Access

## Prevention of recurrent respiratory infections

### Inter-society Consensus

Elena Chiappini<sup>1</sup>, Francesca Santamaria<sup>2</sup>, Gian Luigi Masseglia<sup>3</sup>, Paola Marchisio<sup>4</sup>, Luisa Galli<sup>5</sup>, Renato Curtera<sup>6</sup>, Maurizio de Martino<sup>1</sup>, Sara Antonini<sup>1</sup>, Paolo Becherucci<sup>6</sup>, Paolo Biasci<sup>7</sup>, Barbara Bortone<sup>8</sup>, Sergio Bottero<sup>9</sup>, Valeria Caldarelli<sup>10</sup>, Fabio Cardinale<sup>10</sup>, Guido Castelli Gattinara<sup>11</sup>, Marina Clarici<sup>12</sup>, Daniele Ciofi, Sofia D'Elia<sup>13</sup>, Giuseppe Di Mauro<sup>14</sup>, Mattia Donia<sup>14</sup>, Luciana Indinnimeo<sup>15</sup>, Andrea Lo Vecchio<sup>16</sup>, Francesco Macchi<sup>16</sup>, Roberto Mattina<sup>17</sup>, Vito Leonardo Miniello<sup>18</sup>, Michele Miraglia del Giudice<sup>19</sup>, Guido Morlin<sup>20</sup>, Marco Antonio Morici<sup>21</sup>, Andrea Novelli<sup>21</sup>, Anna Teresa Palamara<sup>22</sup>, Maria Laura Panama<sup>23</sup>, Angela Paoletto<sup>24</sup>, Diego Peroni<sup>25</sup>, Katia Ferruccio<sup>26</sup>, Giorgio Piacentini<sup>27</sup>, Massimo Pifferi<sup>28</sup>, Lorenza Pignataro<sup>29</sup>, Emanuela Sibra<sup>30</sup>, Chiara Tensignì<sup>31</sup>, Sara Torretta<sup>32</sup>, Irene Trambusti<sup>33</sup>, Giulia Trippella<sup>34</sup>, Diletta Valentini<sup>35</sup>, Sandro Valentini<sup>36</sup>, Attilio Varricchio<sup>37</sup>, Maria Carmen Verga<sup>38</sup>, Claudio Vicini<sup>39</sup>, Marco Zecca<sup>40</sup> and Alberto Villan<sup>41</sup>

#### Abstract

Recurrent respiratory infections (RRI) are a common clinical condition in children, in fact about 25% of children under 1 year and 6% of children during the first 6 years of life have RRI. In most cases, infections occur with mild clinical manifestations and the frequency of episodes tends to decrease over time with a complete resolution by 12 years of age. However, RRI significantly reduce child and family quality of life and lead to significant medical and social costs. Despite the importance of this condition, there is currently no agreed definition of the term RRI in the literature, especially concerning the frequency and type of infectious episodes to be considered. The aim of this consensus document is to propose an updated definition and provide recommendations with the intent of guiding the physician in the complex process of diagnosis, management and prevention of RRI.

**Keywords:** Recurrent respiratory infections, Children, Immune system, Prevention

#### Introduction

Recurrent respiratory infections (RRI) are a very common clinical condition in childhood, with an important social and economic impact. It is estimated that about 25% of children under 1 year old and 6% of children during the first 6 years of life have RRI, making them one

of the most common reasons for paediatric medical visits in the early years of life [1–3].

Despite being a benign condition that is likely to gradually improve by the age of 12, it significantly interferes with the child's well-being and runs up significant medical and social costs. Within the scope of RRI, the specific definition of recurrence has not yet found consensus in literature; on the contrary, the recurrence of certain specific respiratory diseases is well defined. These include infectious rhinitis [4], which is defined as

\* Correspondence: [elena.chiappini@uniroma1.it](mailto:elena.chiappini@uniroma1.it)  
 Meyer University Hospital, Department of Health Science, University of Florence, Florence, Italy  
 Full list of author information is available at the end of the article



© The Author(s) 2021 **Open Access** This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>) applies to the data made available in this article, unless otherwise stated in a credit line to the data.



REVIEW

Open Access

# Prevention of recurrent respiratory infections

## Inter-society Consensus

Elena Chiappini<sup>1\*</sup>, Francesca Santamaria<sup>2</sup>, Gian Luigi Marseglia<sup>3</sup>, Paola Marchisio<sup>4</sup>, Luisa Galli<sup>1</sup>, Renato Cutrera<sup>5</sup>, Maurizio de Martino<sup>1</sup>, Sara Antonini<sup>1</sup>, Paolo Becherucci<sup>6</sup>, Paolo Biasci<sup>7</sup>, Barbara Bortone<sup>1</sup>, Sergio Bottero<sup>8</sup>, Valeria Caldarelli<sup>9</sup>, Fabio Cardinale<sup>10</sup>, Guido Castelli Gattinara<sup>11</sup>, Martina Ciarcia<sup>1</sup>, Daniele Ciofi<sup>1</sup>, Sofia D'Elia<sup>12</sup>, Giuseppe Di Mauro<sup>13</sup>, Mattia Doria<sup>14</sup>, Luciana Indinnimeo<sup>15</sup>, Andrea Lo Vecchio<sup>2</sup>, Francesco Macri<sup>16</sup>, Roberto Mattina<sup>17</sup>, Vito Leonardo Miniello<sup>18</sup>, Michele Miraglia del Giudice<sup>19</sup>, Guido Morbin<sup>20</sup>, Marco Antonio Motisi<sup>1</sup>, Andrea Novelli<sup>1</sup>, Anna Teresa Palamara<sup>21</sup>, Maria Laura Panatta<sup>22</sup>, Angela Pasinato<sup>23</sup>, Diego Peroni<sup>12</sup>, Katia Peruccio<sup>24</sup>, Giorgio Piacentini<sup>25</sup>, Massimo Pifferi<sup>26</sup>, Lorenzo Pignataro<sup>2</sup>, Emanuela Sitzia<sup>22</sup>, Chiara Tersigni<sup>1</sup>, Sara Torretta<sup>4</sup>, Irene Trambusti<sup>12</sup>, Giulia Trippella<sup>1</sup>, Diletta Valentini<sup>27</sup>, Sandro Valentini<sup>28</sup>, Attilio Varricchio<sup>29</sup>, Maria Carmen Verga<sup>30</sup>, Claudio Vicini<sup>31</sup>, Marco Zecca<sup>32</sup> and Alberto Villani<sup>27</sup>



### Abstract

Recurrent respiratory infections (RRIs) are a common clinical condition in children; in fact about 25% of children under 1 year and 6% of children during the first 6 years of life have RRIs. In most cases, infections occur with mild clinical manifestations and the frequency of episodes tends to decrease over time with a complete resolution by 12 years of age. However, RRIs significantly reduce child and family quality of life and lead to significant medical and social costs.

Despite the importance of this condition, there is currently no agreed definition of the term RRIs in the literature, especially concerning the frequency and type of infectious episodes to be considered. The aim of this consensus document is to propose an updated definition and provide recommendations with the intent of guiding the physician in the complex process of diagnosis, management and prevention of RRIs.

**Keywords:** Recurrent respiratory infections; Children; Immune system; Prevention

### Introduction

Recurrent respiratory infections (RRIs) are a very common clinical condition in childhood, with an important social and economic impact. It is estimated that about 25% of children under 1 year old and 6% of children during the first 6 years of life have RRIs, making them one

of the most common reasons for paediatric medical visits in the early years of life [1–3].

Despite being a benign condition that is likely to gradually improve by the age of 12, it significantly interferes with the child's well-being and runs up significant medical and social costs. Within the scope of RRIs, the specific definition of recurrence has not yet found consensus in literature; on the contrary, the recurrence of certain specific respiratory diseases is well defined. These include infectious rhinitis [4], which is defined as



**Table 2** Recommendations

<b>Synthetic Molecules</b>	The evidence available to date does not allow recommendation of the routine use of synthetic molecules for the prevention of RRIs (weak negative recommendation). Pidotimod has demonstrated a consistent likelihood of efficacy and can be recommended in selected populations of children, always considering the cost-benefit ratio (weak positive recommendation).
<b>Probiotics, Prebiotics, Symbiotics, Postbiotics</b>	In the absence of proof of efficacy, the use of oral probiotic formulations should not be recommended for the prevention of RRIs (weak negative recommendation). Given the scarcity of supporting evidence, the use of nasal spray formulations containing <i>Streptococcus salivarius</i> 245MB should not be recommended for the prevention of RRIs (weak negative recommendation). In the absence of proof of efficacy and safety, the use of prebiotics and symbiotics should not be recommended for the prevention of RRIs (weak negative recommendation). In the absence of proof of efficacy and safety, the use of postbiotics should not be recommended for the prevention of RRIs (weak negative recommendation).
<b>Lysates and bacterial extracts</b>	The evidence available to date does not allow recommendation of the routine use of bacterial lysates for the prevention of RRIs (weak negative recommendation). Among the lysates, OM-85 has demonstrated a consistent likelihood of efficacy and can be recommended in selected populations of children, always considering the cost-benefit ratio (weak positive recommendation).
<b>Vitamins and trace elements</b>	Due to the lack of studies conducted, the heterogeneity of the populations studied, the diversity of dosages, formulations and duration of treatments, zinc and other trace elements should not be used in the prophylaxis of RRIs (weak negative recommendation). There is no evidence that low levels of vitamin A and vitamin E create a predisposition to respiratory infections in children. There is more evidence that reduced levels of vitamin D are associated with an increased incidence of respiratory infections, particularly viral infections, in the first years of life. The heterogeneity of the populations studied, and the diversity of the outcomes considered mean that it is not possible to recommend the use of vitamin D in the prevention of RRIs in populations with low socioeconomic status and clearly insufficient levels of vitamin D, and in patients with recurrent acute otitis, there may be a greater likelihood of efficacy in the prevention of RRIs (weak negative recommendation). Due to the lack of studies conducted, the heterogeneity and small size of the study populations, and the diversity of dosages and duration of treatment, routine vitamin C supplementation should not be used in the prevention of RRIs (strong negative recommendation).
<b>Complementary/alternative medicines</b>	The studies currently available on the efficacy of homeopathy, natural substances and phytotherapy, do not allow recommendations on the use of these products in the prevention of RRIs at this time. This is due, in some cases, to the small number of studies, and, in others, to methodological shortcomings or the fact that they do not include patients of exclusively paediatric age.
<b>Vaccinations</b>	There is little evidence regarding the role of influenza and anti-pneumococcal vaccinations specifically for the prevention of RRIs. However, in view of the safety, efficacy and cost-benefit data on the use of these vaccinations, they are still recommended in paediatric age groups (weak positive recommendation).
<b>Nasal therapies with hyaluronic acid, thermal waters and resveratrol</b>	Based on the limited evidence on nasal therapies with hyaluronic acid, thermal waters and resveratrol for the prevention of RRIs currently available, it is not possible to make a recommendation, but their use is not discouraged.
<b>Modification of risk factors</b>	There is little literature on modifying risk factors for the prevention of RRIs, so the evidence currently available does not allow recommendation in this sense. However, limiting exposure to environmental and household pollutants is recommended and exposure to second-hand smoke is strongly discouraged.
<b>Adeno/Tonsillectomy</b>	Adeno/Tonsillectomy is not recommended for the reduction of RRIs (strong negative recommendation). Adeno/Tonsillectomy is not recommended for the reduction of the number of visits to the doctor for RRIs (strong negative recommendation). Adeno/Tonsillectomy is not recommended for the reduction of the number of days of illness (strong negative recommendation). As regards the impact of Adeno/Tonsillectomy in reducing the use of respiratory tract medications (including bronchodilators, mucolytics, antihistamines, steroids) no recommendation can be made.
<b>Antibiotic prophylaxis</b>	No studies are available on the efficacy of antibiotic prophylaxis in preventing RRIs, so no recommendations can be made. However, in view of the need to promote rational use of antibiotics in order to contain the selection of resistant bacterial strains, reduce costs and reduce adverse events, the panel suggests that antibiotic prophylaxis for the prevention of RRIs should be discouraged.

\* Correspondence: [elmachippini@unifi.it](mailto:elmachippini@unifi.it)  
 Meyer University Hospital, Department of Health Sciences, University of Florence, Florence, Italy  
 Full list of author information is available at the end of the article



© The Author(s) 2021 **Open Access** This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>) applies to the data made available in this article, unless otherwise stated in a credit line to the data.

# Scientific Board



**Prof. Massimo Agosti** - Dipartimento di Pediatria, Ospedale F. Del Ponte, Università dell'Insubria, Varese.



**Prof. Gian Luigi Marseglia** – Clinica Pediatrica, Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, Pavia. Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche, Chirurgiche, Diagnostiche e Pediatriche, Università di Pavia.



**Prof. Sergio Bernasconi** - Segretario del gruppo di studio "Medicine Complementari e Terapie Integrate" della Società Italiana di Pediatria (SIP).



**Prof. Gianni Bona** - Dipartimento di Scienze della Salute, Università del Piemonte Orientale, Novara.



**Prof. Salvatore Leonardi**- Unità di Pneumologia Pediatrica, Dipartimento di Medicina Clinica e Sperimentale, Università di Catania.



**Dr. Antonello Arrighi** – Pediatra di Base, ASL 8, Arezzo.



**Prof. Giorgio Ciprandi** - Clinica Allergologica, Casa di Cura Villa Montallegro, Genova.





**29°** Convegno  
Pediatico  
**I PINGUINI**  
15 • 16 novembre 2024  
FIRENZE Palazzo dei Congressi



**XXVIII CONGRESSO NAZIONALE SIMRI**  
Il regno: scienza e terapia per la salute del bambino  
Torino, 10-12 ottobre 2024

save the date **fimp** Federazione Italiana Medici *Pediatri*

**XVIII CONGRESSO NAZIONALE**  
Rimini, 26-29 settembre 2024  
"IL PEDIATRA DI FAMIGLIA,  
una scelta di fiducia  
per le sfide del futuro"

79° CONGRESSO ITALIANO DI PEDIATRIA  
20-23 novembre  
**20 SIP24**  
FIRENZE



**20th**  
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP  
ON NEONATOLOGY  
AND PEDIATRICS

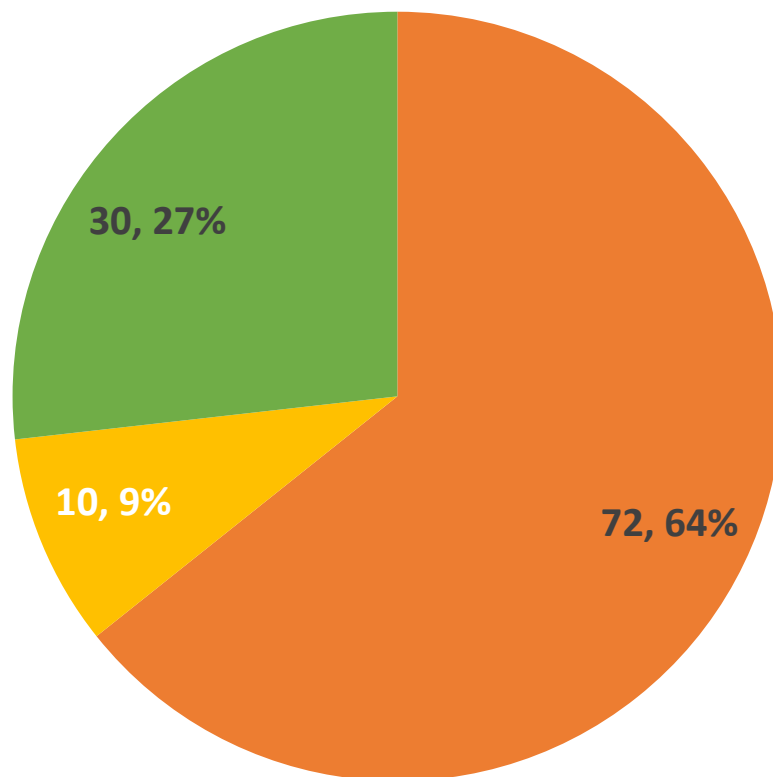


*Percorsi Pediatrici della Val Camonica*  
Darfo Boario Terme (BS), 17 -19 ottobre 2024  
*Settima Edizione*

## The Panel – 112 Pediatricians

National Health System  
Pediatric Primary Care  
Pediatricians

Hospital or University  
Pediatricians



Private Practice Pediatricians

## The Statements

18 statements in total:

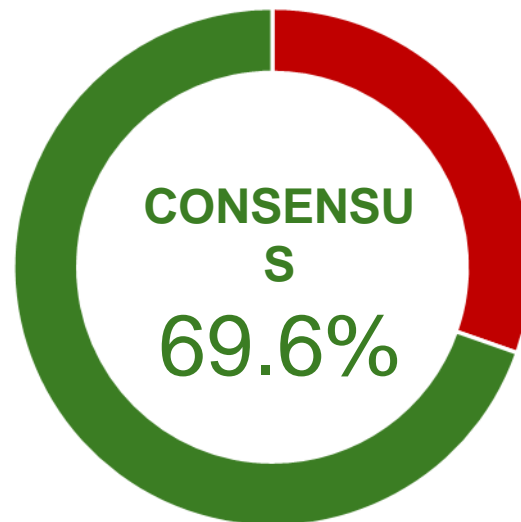
- 6 about RRI definitions
- 12 about RRI Treatment and Prophylaxis

# Citomix consensus - Rationale

- ❑ Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) are a common problem during childhood
- ❑ Social and economic impact is global
- ❑ For what it concerns the possible preventive treatment of URTI, the Inter Italian Pediatric Societies Consensus stated that practically all proposed therapeutic solutions had weak or negative recommendations. Only a bacterial lysate (Poditimod) had weak positive recommendations but in few selected cases positive.
- ❑ Many pediatricians normally use immunomodulants in their clinical practice in order to offer a possible solution to the parents who need help for their children's health problems.
- ❑ Low Dose Pharmacology can represent a new possible solution

## STATEMENT 9

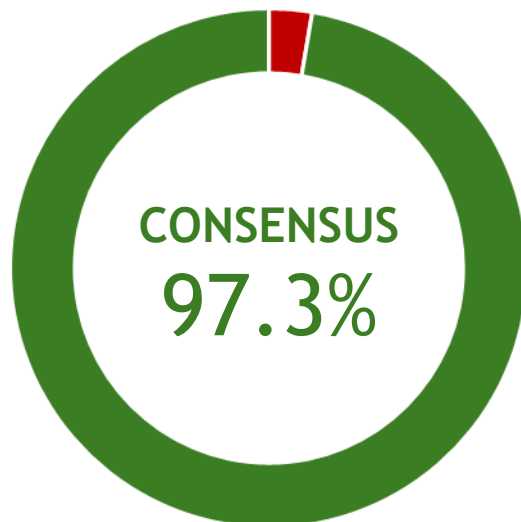
A recent Inter-Society Consensus recognized as weakly effective the RRI prophylaxis based on the use of: Biological Response Modifiers (BRMs), Probiotics, prebiotics, symbiotics, postbiotics, Lysates and bacterial extracts, Vitamins and trace elements, Vaccination against flu and pneumococcus, Nasal lavages with hyaluronic acid, thermal waters, resveratrol, Reduction of risk factors, Adeno/tonsillectomy, Antibiotic prophylaxis





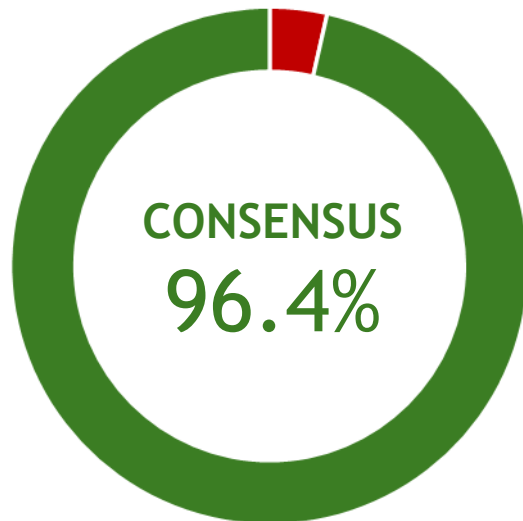
## STATEMENT 10

Complementary or alternative immunomodulation interventions for RRIs prophylaxis might be instead an option.



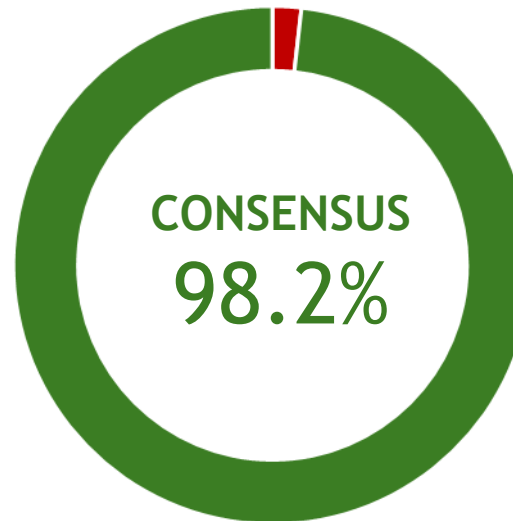
### STATEMENT 11

Oral administration of cytokines has been shown to be effective in modulating the immune response.



### STATEMENT 12

Citomix is a low-dose multicomponent product based on cytokines and components of natural origin that can modulate the immune response by acting on both innate and adaptive immunity.



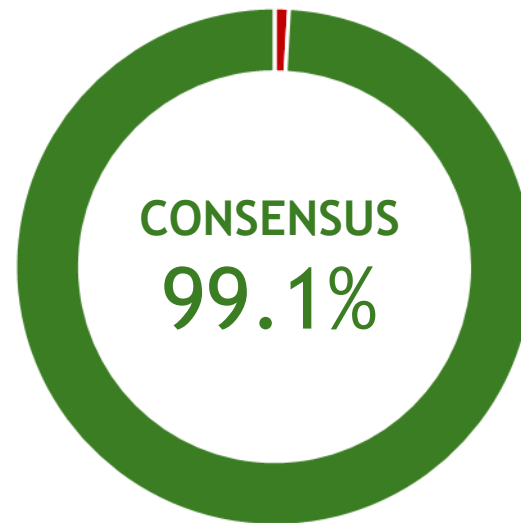
### STATEMENT 13

Citomix has a good safety and tolerability profile.



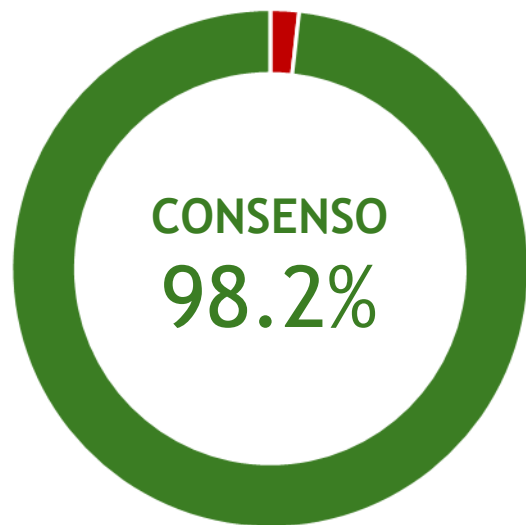
### STATEMENT 14

Citomix could improve the early response to pathogens.



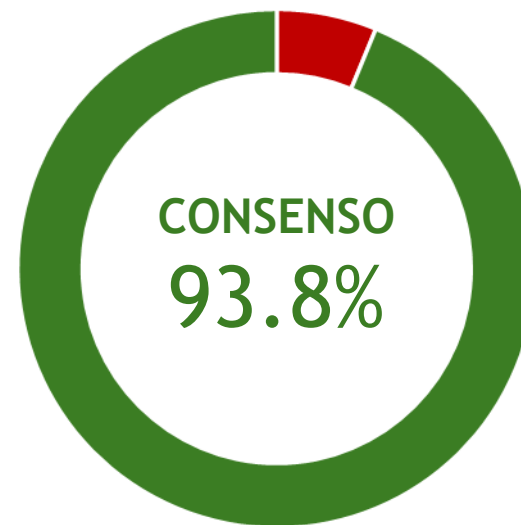
### STATEMENT #15

Citomix could be considered in RRI management.



### STATEMENT #16

In RRI prophylaxis, the recommended dosage of Citomix is 5 granules per day for 12 weeks.



COMMENT FROM PROF. G. L. MARSEGLIA

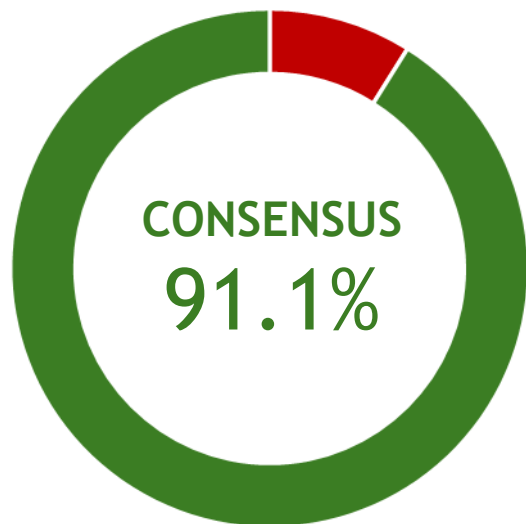
*«In immunology, the dosage is secondary; what matters is the continuity over time with which the stimulus is administered»*





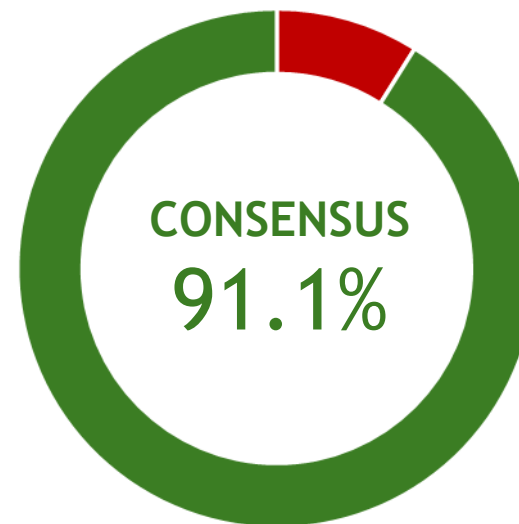
### STATEMENT #17

Citomix could be added in the early treatment of acute RRIs



### STATEMENT #18

In the early treatment of the acute episode of RRIs, the recommended dosage of Citomix is 10 granules per day 2 times per day for 2-3 days, continuing with 5 granules 2 times per day for 5-7 days.



**PROF. S. BERNASCONI - PROF. G. L. MARSEGLIA**

*«The use of Citomix in the early phase is still little known with respect to prevention but should be encouraged and is supported by studies in order to highlight the medication's activity on both innate and acquired immunity.»*



Statement 1 reported that RRI could be associated with increased respiratory function, stress and anxiety of children, and deterioration of the quality of life and care of the child by the entire family. The statement had 97.7% agreement.

**Topic 2: Early Treatment and Prevention (Statement 2-14)**

The consensus regarding the RRI's treatment and prophylaxis showed high levels of agreement with consensus ranging from 80.0% to 91.1%, as reported in Figure 2.

Statement 2 stated that RRI treatment is primarily based on respiratory drugs (e.g., inhaled corticosteroids, inhaled or systemic corticosteroids and antibiotics), also supported by the statement 3 (97.7%).

Statement 3 indicated that an effective RRI prevention strategy should be a primary objective in clinical practice. Consensus was reached when the RRI prophylaxis was reported not as daily practice for the majority. The statement obtained 84.3% agreement.

Statement 4 stated that a second-line therapy (Lamotrigine) was employed to modify the RRI's prevention based on the use of biological agents (antibiotics, vaccines, probiotics, bacteriophage, interferon, phytotherapy, homeopathy, vitamins, fish oils and trace elements, vaccination against influenza and pneumococci, nasal lavage with freshwater and seawater, avoidance of contact with direct and indirect contact, avoidance of colds, avoidance of contact with sick people, avoidance of contact with sick people, avoidance of contact with sick people).

Statement 5 established that complementary or alternative complementary interventions (the RRI prophylaxis) might be useful to improve them (91.1% agreement).

Statement 6 reported that the effectiveness of prophylaxis has been shown to be effective in reducing the disease incidence. The statement had 90.0% agreement.

Statement 7 reported that Citomix is a first-line intervention product based on evidence and components of natural origin that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

Statement 8 stated that Citomix has a good safety and tolerability profile. The statement had 98.0% agreement.

Statement 9 reported that Citomix could improve the early response to prophylaxis. The consensus obtained 99.7% agreement.

Statement 10 established that Citomix could be considered in RRI management. The agreement was 99.7%.

Statement 11 indicated the recommended dosage of Citomix for RRI prevention is five granules per day for 12 weeks. The consensus was 99.7%.

Statement 12 stated that Citomix could be added to the early treatment of acute episodes of RRI. The recommended daily treatment of Citomix is 10 granules per day for 12 weeks. The consensus was 99.7%.

Statement 13 indicated that in the early treatment of acute episodes of RRI, the recommended daily treatment of Citomix is 10 granules per day for 12 weeks. The consensus was 99.7%.

Statement 14 indicated that in the early treatment of acute episodes of RRI, the recommended daily treatment of Citomix is 10 granules per day for 12 weeks. The consensus was 99.7%.

**Discussion**

The present Delphi consensus reflected the agreement goals expressed by a large panel of primary care, private practice, and hospital/university pediatricians who developed a robust experience using Citomix as a preventive strategy with RRI. The high level of agreement for all statements supports the effectiveness of their recommendations. In particular, the consensus regarding the use of biological agents (antibiotics, vaccines, probiotics, bacteriophage, interferon, phytotherapy, homeopathy, vitamins, fish oils and trace elements, vaccination against influenza and pneumococci, nasal lavage with freshwater and seawater, avoidance of contact with direct and indirect contact, avoidance of colds, avoidance of contact with sick people, avoidance of contact with sick people, avoidance of contact with sick people) was 99.7%.

**Expertise and safety in children, an opportunity provided by Citomix**

The present Delphi consensus reflected the agreement goals expressed by a large panel of primary care, private practice, and hospital/university pediatricians who developed a robust experience using Citomix as a preventive strategy with RRI. The high level of agreement for all statements supports the effectiveness of their recommendations. In particular, the consensus regarding the use of biological agents (antibiotics, vaccines, probiotics, bacteriophage, interferon, phytotherapy, homeopathy, vitamins, fish oils and trace elements, vaccination against influenza and pneumococci, nasal lavage with freshwater and seawater, avoidance of contact with direct and indirect contact, avoidance of colds, avoidance of contact with sick people, avoidance of contact with sick people, avoidance of contact with sick people) was 99.7%.

**Expertise and safety in children, an opportunity provided by Citomix**

The present Delphi consensus reflected the agreement goals expressed by a large panel of primary care, private practice, and hospital/university pediatricians who developed a robust experience using Citomix as a preventive strategy with RRI. The high level of agreement for all statements supports the effectiveness of their recommendations. In particular, the consensus regarding the use of biological agents (antibiotics, vaccines, probiotics, bacteriophage, interferon, phytotherapy, homeopathy, vitamins, fish oils and trace elements, vaccination against influenza and pneumococci, nasal lavage with freshwater and seawater, avoidance of contact with direct and indirect contact, avoidance of colds, avoidance of contact with sick people, avoidance of contact with sick people, avoidance of contact with sick people) was 99.7%.

**Low-dose multicomponent probiotics and respiratory infections**

**Abstract**

**Background** Citomix is a low-dose multicomponent probiotic that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

**Methods** A Delphi consensus was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of Citomix in the prevention and early treatment of RRI. The statement was 98.3%.

**Results** The consensus regarding the RRI's treatment and prophylaxis showed high levels of agreement with consensus ranging from 80.0% to 91.1%, as reported in Figure 2.

**Conclusions** Citomix is a first-line intervention product based on evidence and components of natural origin that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

**Keywords** Citomix, RRI, prevention, early treatment, low-dose multicomponent probiotics, respiratory infections.

**Introduction**

Respiratory infections are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in children, with a significant impact on the quality of life and care of the child by the entire family. The most common respiratory infections in children are acute otitis media (AOM), acute rhinosinusitis (AR), acute tonsillitis (AT), acute pharyngitis (AP), acute bronchitis (AB), and acute lower respiratory tract infection (ALRTI). The most common viral respiratory infections in children are respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza A and B viruses, parainfluenza viruses 1, 2, and 3, and adenoviruses. The most common bacterial respiratory infections in children are pneumococcal pneumonia, streptococcal pneumonia, and pertussis. The most common fungal respiratory infections in children are aspergilliosis and cryptococcosis.

**Methods**

The present Delphi consensus was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of Citomix in the prevention and early treatment of RRI. The statement was 98.3%.

**Results**

The consensus regarding the RRI's treatment and prophylaxis showed high levels of agreement with consensus ranging from 80.0% to 91.1%, as reported in Figure 2.

**Conclusions**

Citomix is a first-line intervention product based on evidence and components of natural origin that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

**Background** Citomix is a low-dose multicomponent probiotic that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

**Methods** A Delphi consensus was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of Citomix in the prevention and early treatment of RRI. The statement was 98.3%.

**Results** The consensus regarding the RRI's treatment and prophylaxis showed high levels of agreement with consensus ranging from 80.0% to 91.1%, as reported in Figure 2.

**Conclusions** Citomix is a first-line intervention product based on evidence and components of natural origin that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

**Keywords** Citomix, RRI, prevention, early treatment, low-dose multicomponent probiotics, respiratory infections.

**Introduction**

Respiratory infections are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in children, with a significant impact on the quality of life and care of the child by the entire family. The most common respiratory infections in children are acute otitis media (AOM), acute rhinosinusitis (AR), acute tonsillitis (AT), acute pharyngitis (AP), acute bronchitis (AB), and acute lower respiratory tract infection (ALRTI). The most common viral respiratory infections in children are respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza A and B viruses, parainfluenza viruses 1, 2, and 3, and adenoviruses. The most common bacterial respiratory infections in children are pneumococcal pneumonia, streptococcal pneumonia, and pertussis. The most common fungal respiratory infections in children are aspergilliosis and cryptococcosis.

**Methods**

The present Delphi consensus was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of Citomix in the prevention and early treatment of RRI. The statement was 98.3%.

**Results**

The consensus regarding the RRI's treatment and prophylaxis showed high levels of agreement with consensus ranging from 80.0% to 91.1%, as reported in Figure 2.

**Conclusions**

Citomix is a first-line intervention product based on evidence and components of natural origin that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

**Background** Citomix is a low-dose multicomponent probiotic that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

**Methods** A Delphi consensus was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of Citomix in the prevention and early treatment of RRI. The statement was 98.3%.

**Results** The consensus regarding the RRI's treatment and prophylaxis showed high levels of agreement with consensus ranging from 80.0% to 91.1%, as reported in Figure 2.

**Conclusions** Citomix is a first-line intervention product based on evidence and components of natural origin that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

**Keywords** Citomix, RRI, prevention, early treatment, low-dose multicomponent probiotics, respiratory infections.

**Introduction**

Respiratory infections are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in children, with a significant impact on the quality of life and care of the child by the entire family. The most common respiratory infections in children are acute otitis media (AOM), acute rhinosinusitis (AR), acute tonsillitis (AT), acute pharyngitis (AP), acute bronchitis (AB), and acute lower respiratory tract infection (ALRTI). The most common viral respiratory infections in children are respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza A and B viruses, parainfluenza viruses 1, 2, and 3, and adenoviruses. The most common bacterial respiratory infections in children are pneumococcal pneumonia, streptococcal pneumonia, and pertussis. The most common fungal respiratory infections in children are aspergilliosis and cryptococcosis.

**Methods**

The present Delphi consensus was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of Citomix in the prevention and early treatment of RRI. The statement was 98.3%.

**Results**

The consensus regarding the RRI's treatment and prophylaxis showed high levels of agreement with consensus ranging from 80.0% to 91.1%, as reported in Figure 2.

**Conclusions**

Citomix is a first-line intervention product based on evidence and components of natural origin that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

**Background** Citomix is a low-dose multicomponent probiotic that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

**Methods** A Delphi consensus was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of Citomix in the prevention and early treatment of RRI. The statement was 98.3%.

**Results** The consensus regarding the RRI's treatment and prophylaxis showed high levels of agreement with consensus ranging from 80.0% to 91.1%, as reported in Figure 2.

**Conclusions** Citomix is a first-line intervention product based on evidence and components of natural origin that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

**Keywords** Citomix, RRI, prevention, early treatment, low-dose multicomponent probiotics, respiratory infections.

**Introduction**

Respiratory infections are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in children, with a significant impact on the quality of life and care of the child by the entire family. The most common respiratory infections in children are acute otitis media (AOM), acute rhinosinusitis (AR), acute tonsillitis (AT), acute pharyngitis (AP), acute bronchitis (AB), and acute lower respiratory tract infection (ALRTI). The most common viral respiratory infections in children are respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza A and B viruses, parainfluenza viruses 1, 2, and 3, and adenoviruses. The most common bacterial respiratory infections in children are pneumococcal pneumonia, streptococcal pneumonia, and pertussis. The most common fungal respiratory infections in children are aspergilliosis and cryptococcosis.

**Methods**

The present Delphi consensus was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of Citomix in the prevention and early treatment of RRI. The statement was 98.3%.

**Results**

The consensus regarding the RRI's treatment and prophylaxis showed high levels of agreement with consensus ranging from 80.0% to 91.1%, as reported in Figure 2.

**Conclusions**

Citomix is a first-line intervention product based on evidence and components of natural origin that can reduce the disease incidence by 50% in both in-patient and out-patient settings. The statement was 98.3%.

The present Delphi consensus collected the agreement grade expressed by a large panel of primary care, private practice, and hospital/university pediatricians who have developed robust experience using Citomix to manage children with RRI. The high level of agreement could endorse the use of Citomix in clinical practice for prevention and early add-on treatment of RRI. It is an opportunity to highlight that the opinions expressed by the panelists are derived both from their experience, acquired by daily practice and from the evidence derived from preclinical studies and an observational study. In conclusion, according to the present Delphi consensus, Citomix appears to be a valid opportunity for the prevention and early add-on treatment of RRI. Nevertheless, there is a need to endorse these opinions by conducting further studies that should be performed according to robust evidence-based methodology.

Citomix may represent a valuable option for preventive therapy, acute event add-on treatment, and relapse prevention. The absence of side effects, good compliance, and the results obtained justify the large-scale use of the product as initially demonstrated by a clinical trial<sup>48</sup>.



## CITOMIX STUDIES

### **Take home**

- 1) Modulation of the immune response
- 2) Slowing down of the virulence
- 3) Reduction of the symptomatology
- 4) Reduction in the antibiotics use