



Nijmegen Institute for  
Infection, Inflammation  
& Immunity

# A short history of immunology: from phagocytosis to the human genome

**Mihai G. Netea**



Nijmegen Institute for  
Infection, Inflammation  
& Immunity

# The Toll of infectious diseases

## MEDIEVAL MAGAZINE

Monday, August 5, 1352

# Black Death kills 3000 in one week

**T**his week more than 3,000 people in Britain have died from the Black Death.

This brings the total dying across Europe to 15 million dying from the bubonic plague and 10 million dying from the terrible pneumonic plague. Will this ever stop? Will anyone survive?

Already 17 of our best writers have died and 20 are at home sick.

Whose fault is it? In Strasbourg, it is said that the Jews are to blame, in Italy, God has supposedly brought this upon them. However the real reason is that our roads are simply not clean enough.

The Lord Mayor of London has ordered the streets to be cleaned and others are following this ingenious order.

With doctors still not being able to find a cure we can only hope that this disease simply goes away.

The Black Death is usu-



ally associated with Europe but it neither began nor ended then. The earliest records of this pestilence are in China.

In 46 AD an epidemic in Mongolia killed two-thirds of the population.

In 312 northern and central China became a wasteland and in the province of Shensi, only one or two out of 100 taxpayers survived. In 468, 140,000 people died in the Chinese cities of Honan, Hopei, Shantung and others.

### Estimated population of Europe from 1000 to 1352.

- 1000 38 million
- 1100 48 million
- 1200 59 million
- 1300 70 million
- 1347 75 million
- 1352 50 million

**25 million people died in just under five years between 1347 and 1352.**



*St. Mary's 2004*





# Miasmae vs germs



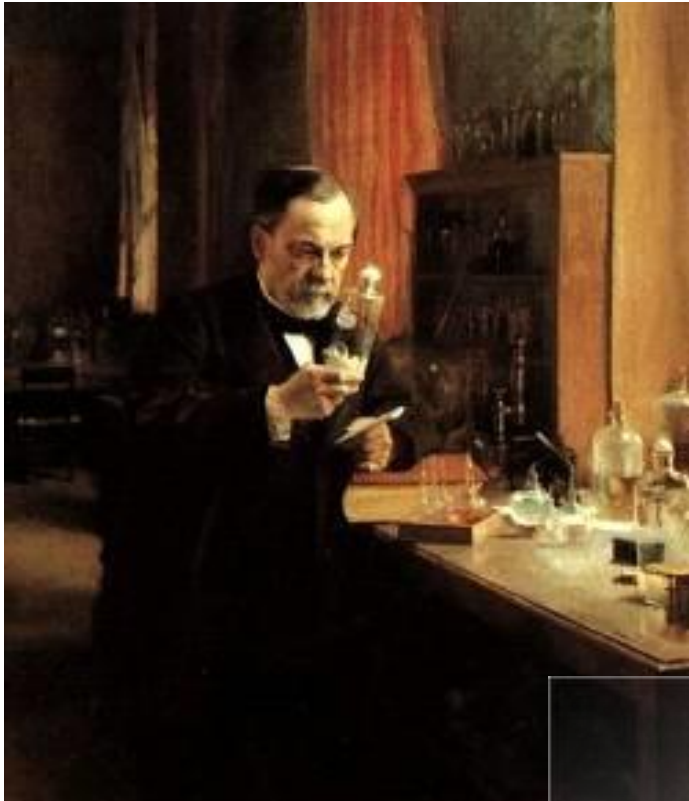
A representation of the cholera epidemic of the 19th century depicts the spread of the disease in the form of poisonous air

- The theory of miasma disease made sense to the English sanitary reformers of the mid-19th century.
- Miasma explained why cholera and other diseases were epidemic in places where water was undrained and foul-smelling.
- The theory led to improvements in water drainage and sanitation, which decreased cholera outbreaks, leading to increased support for the theory.
- Florence Nightingale was a strong supporter of the theory



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# The golden age of microbiology



Louis Pasteur



Robert Koch







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# How do we kill microorganisms ?

By eating them:  
the phagocytosis





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# Ilya Metchnikov

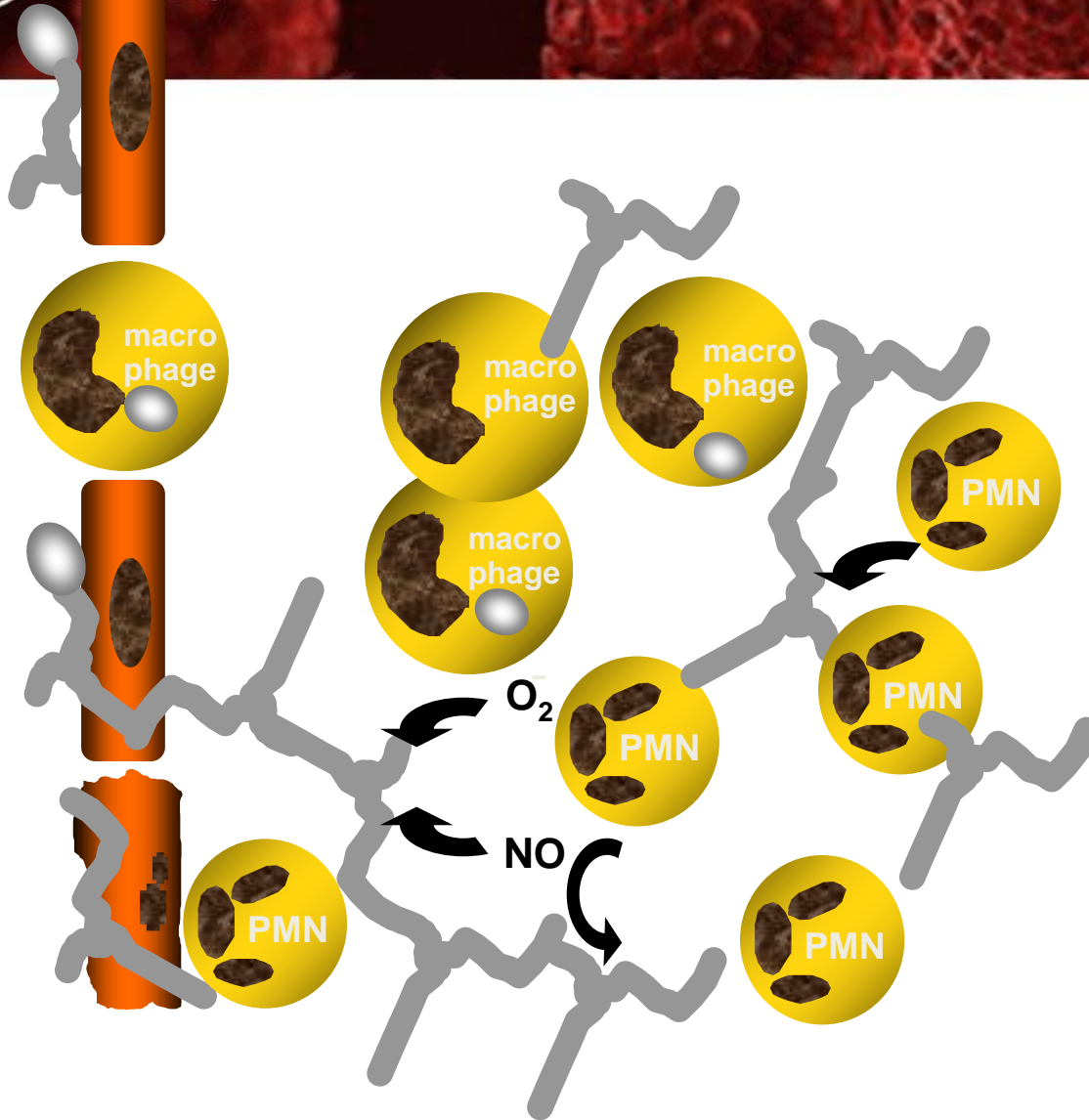
1905 Nobel speech:

“eventually molecules  
will be identified on the  
surface of leukocytes  
which could identify  
microorganisms”





# Innate immunity







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# Humoral immunity



Emile von Behring



Paul Ehrlich

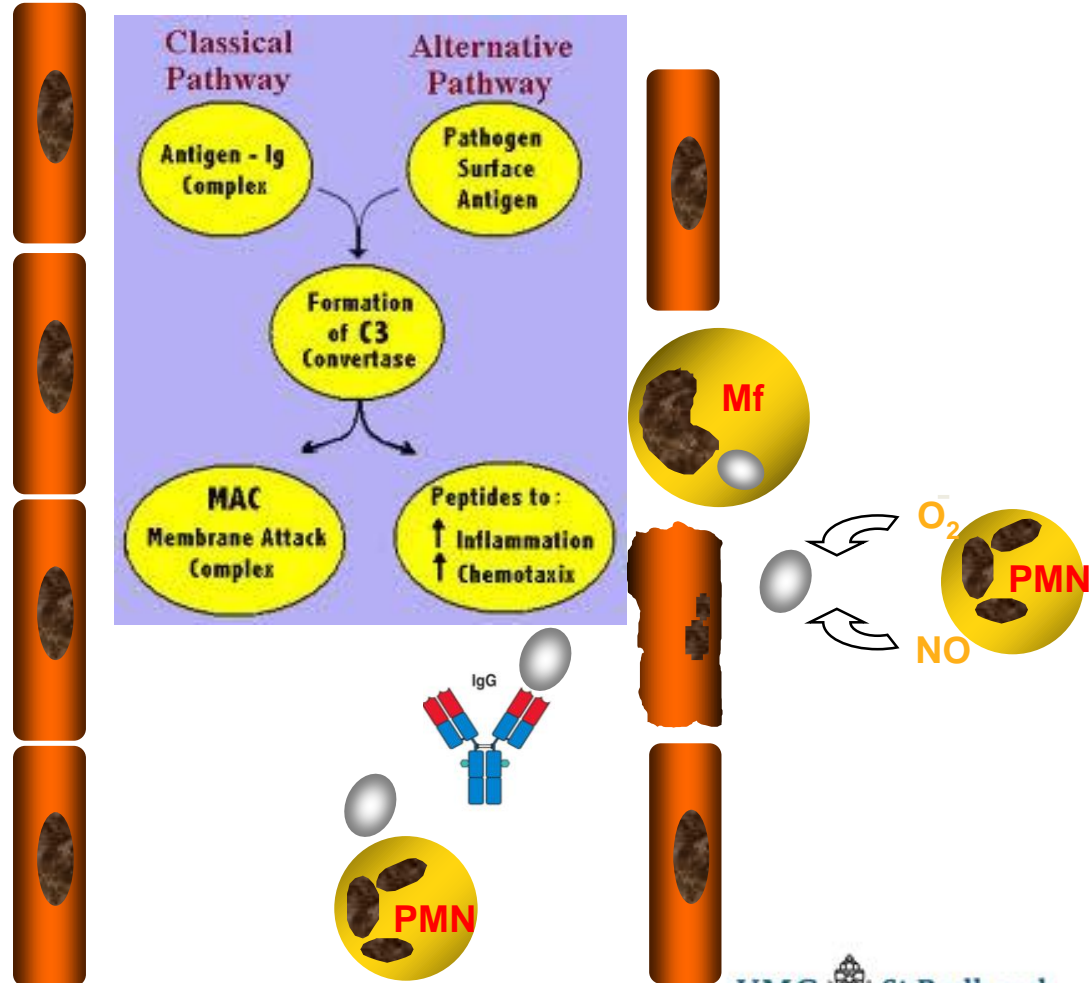




# Complement



Jules Bordet



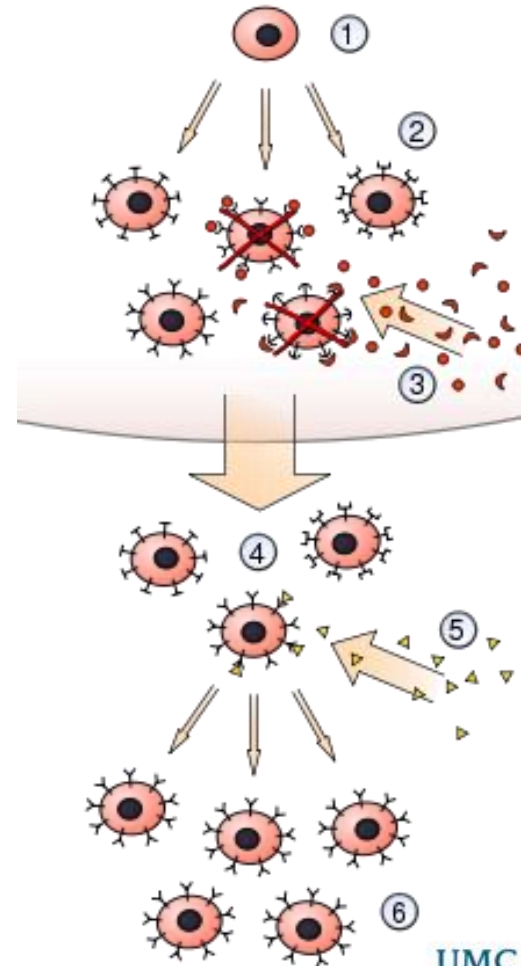


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# Clonal selection

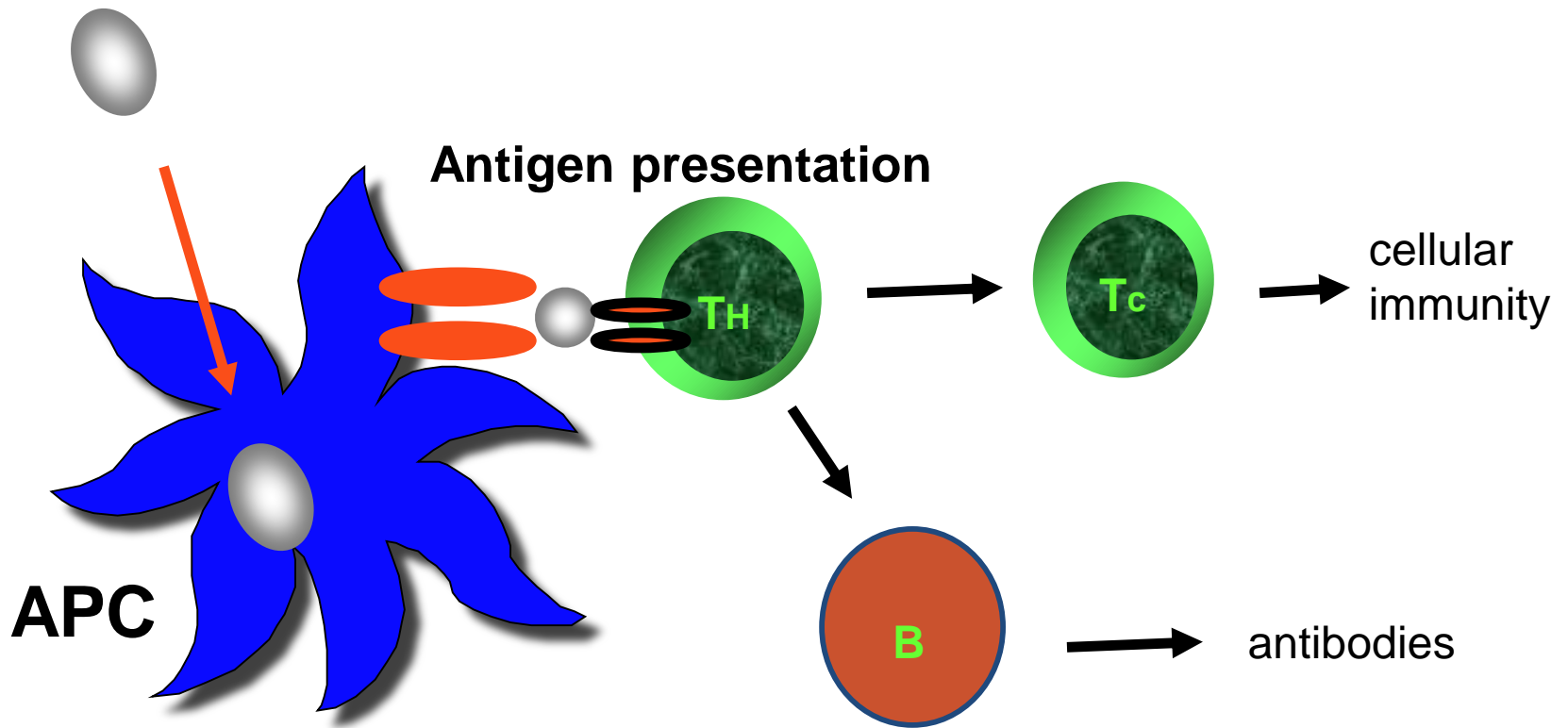


Frank Macfarlane Burnet





# Adaptive immunity









# Innate versus adaptive immunity

- **Innate immunity:**

- STRONG but STUPID

- - rapid

- effective

- - not-specific, indiscriminate

- **Specific immunity:**

- LAZY but SMART

- - needs 10-14 days

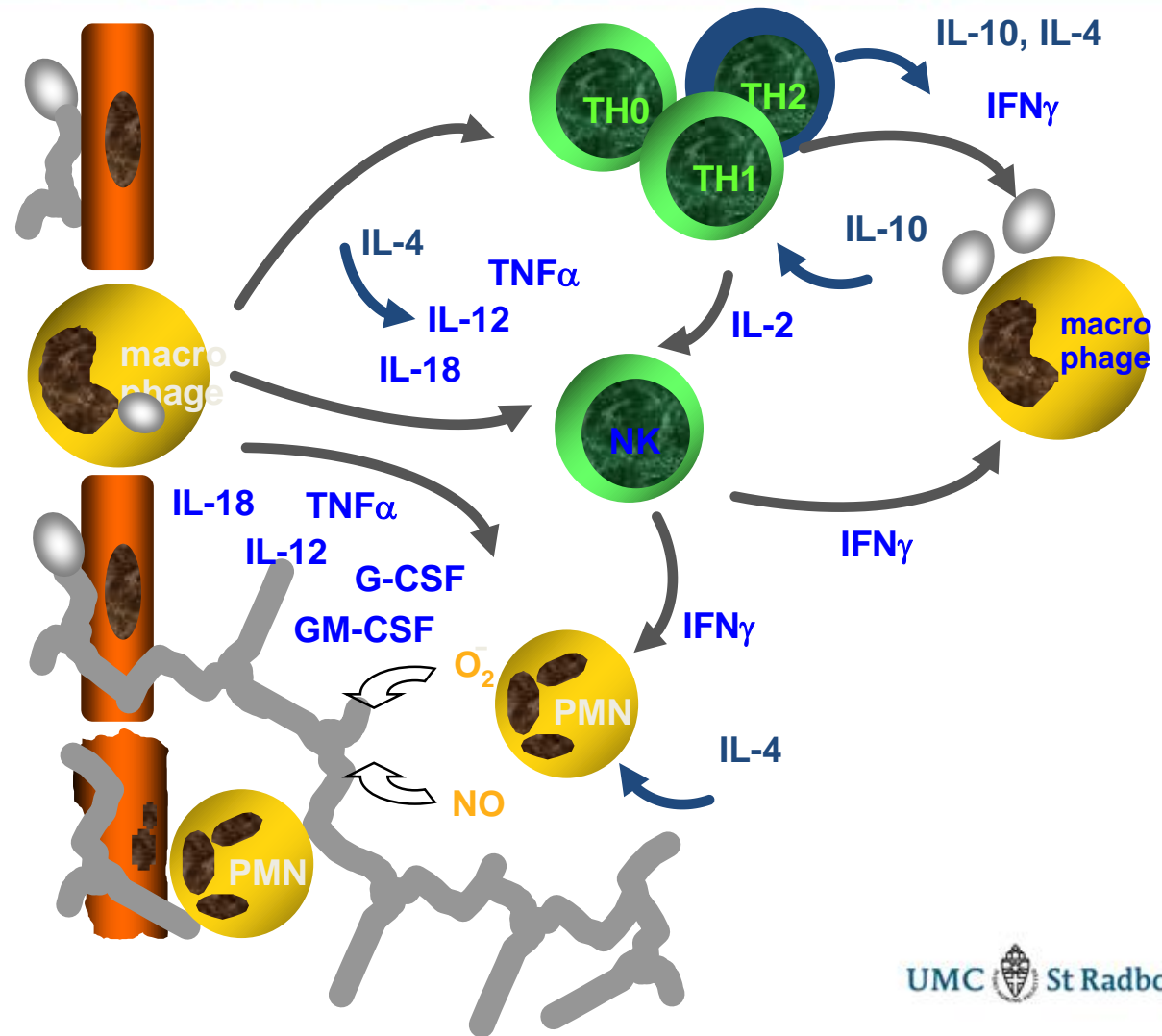
- - a specific activation against a particular microorganism, enhancing the effectivity of the response



# Cytokines: the information network of innate immunity



Charles Dinarello



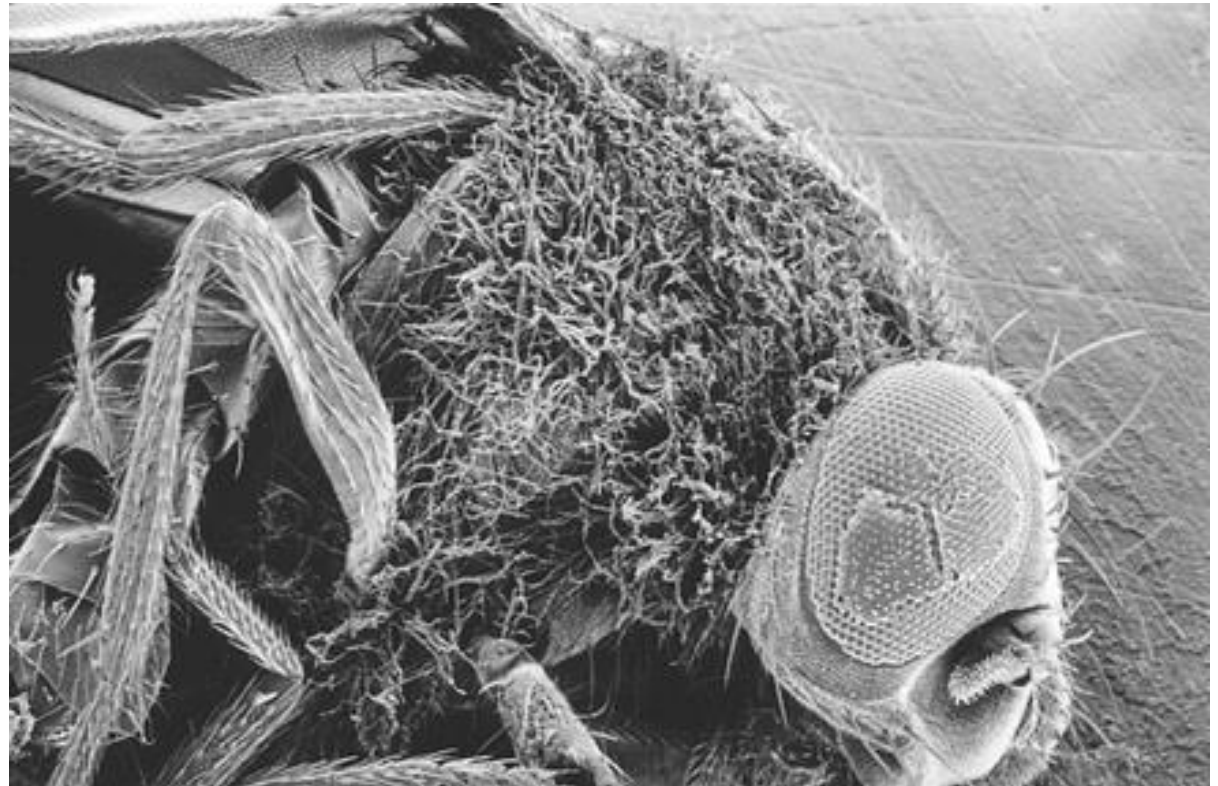




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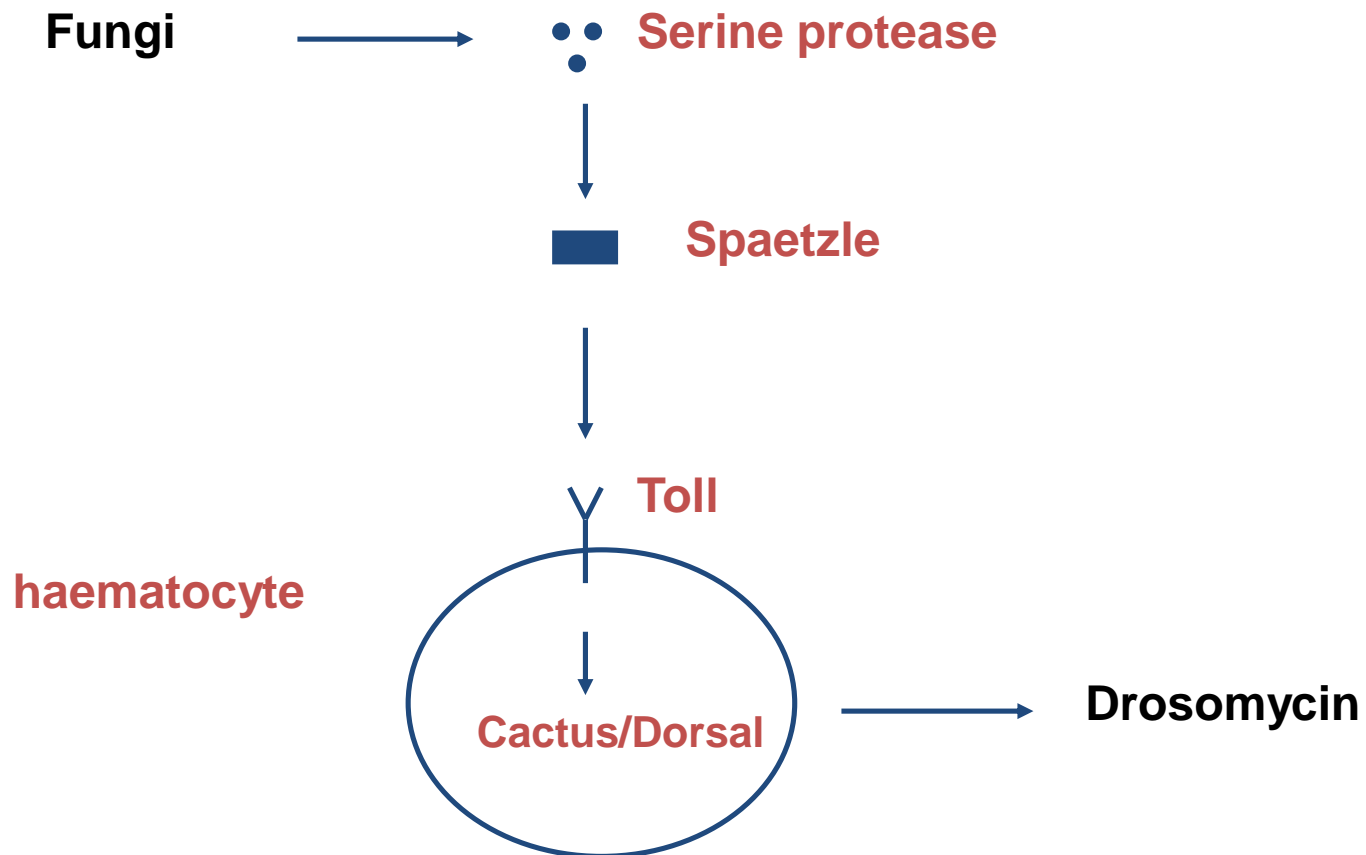
**Cell. 1996 Sep 20;86(6):973-83.**

**The dorsoventral regulatory gene cassette spatzle/Toll/cactus controls the potent antifungal response in Drosophila adults.  
Lemaitre B, Nicolas E, Michaut L, Reichhart JM, Hoffmann JA.**





# Drosophila Toll receptor





# The Toll-like receptor signal pathway

## Drosophila

## Human

Ligands

Spaetzle

IL-1

Receptors

Toll

IL-1R

Signaling  
proteins

Tube

MyD88

Pelle

IRAK, Traf6

Cactus

ikB

Dorsal, Dif

NFkB

Target proteins

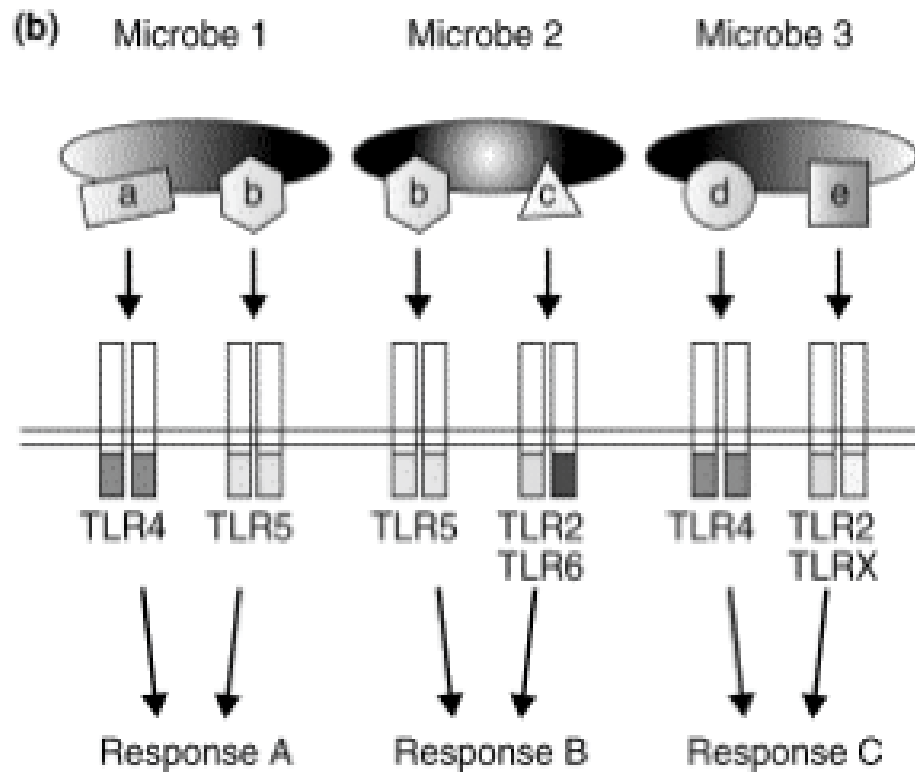
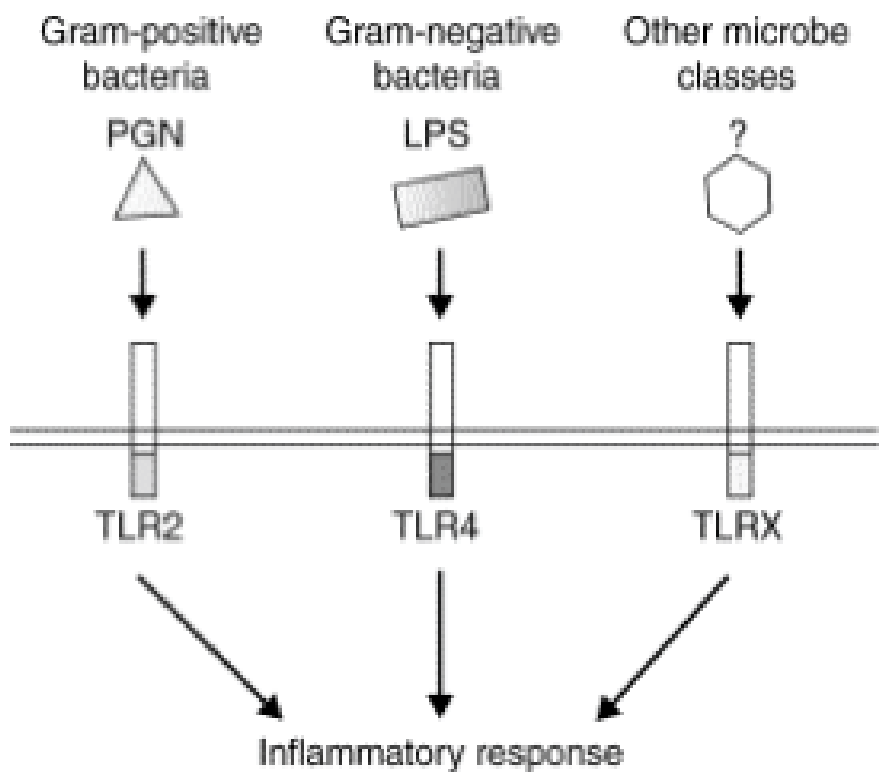
Drosomycin

IL-6, TNF





# Pattern recognition receptors

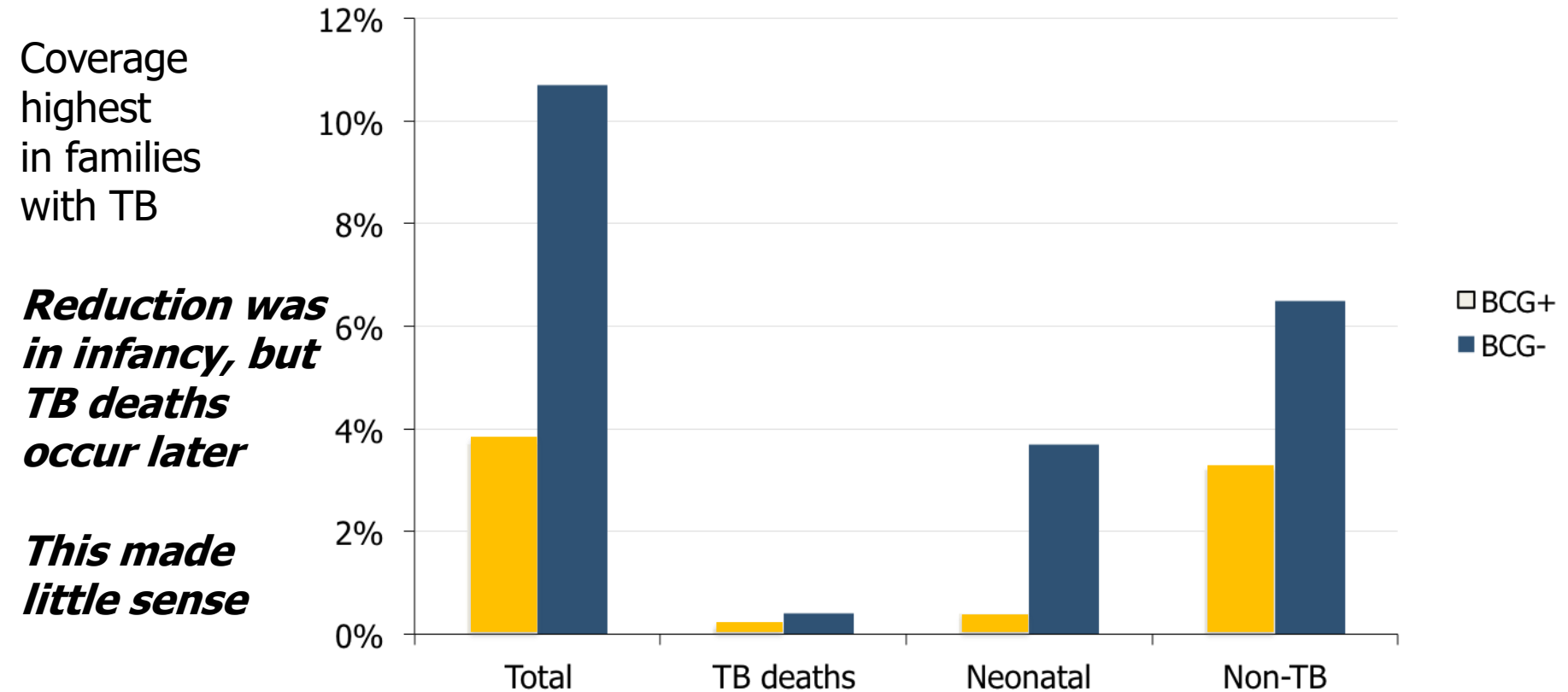




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# Trained Immunity: a memory for innate host defense

# Introducing BCG in Norrbotten, Sweden, 1927-31: Mortality at 0-4 years - 20,000 children

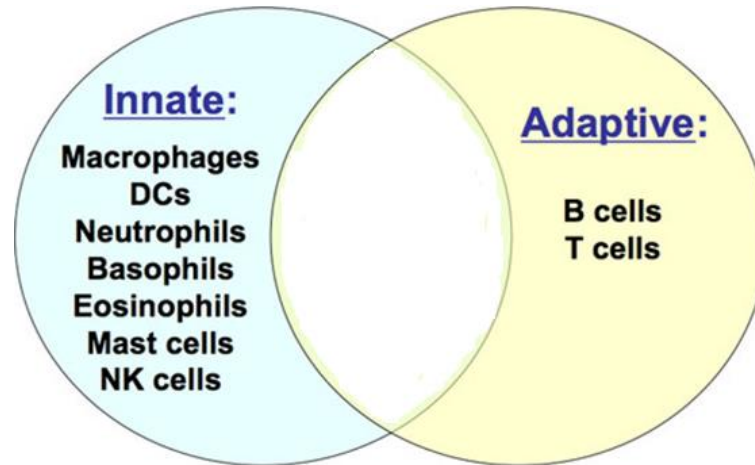


“One could evidently be tempted to find an explanation for this much lower mortality among vaccinated children in the idea that BCG provokes *a non-specific immunity...*”  
Carl Naeslund 1932





# Innate versus specific immunity



## Innate immunity:

- rapid
- effective
- not-specific, indiscriminate
- lacks immunological memory

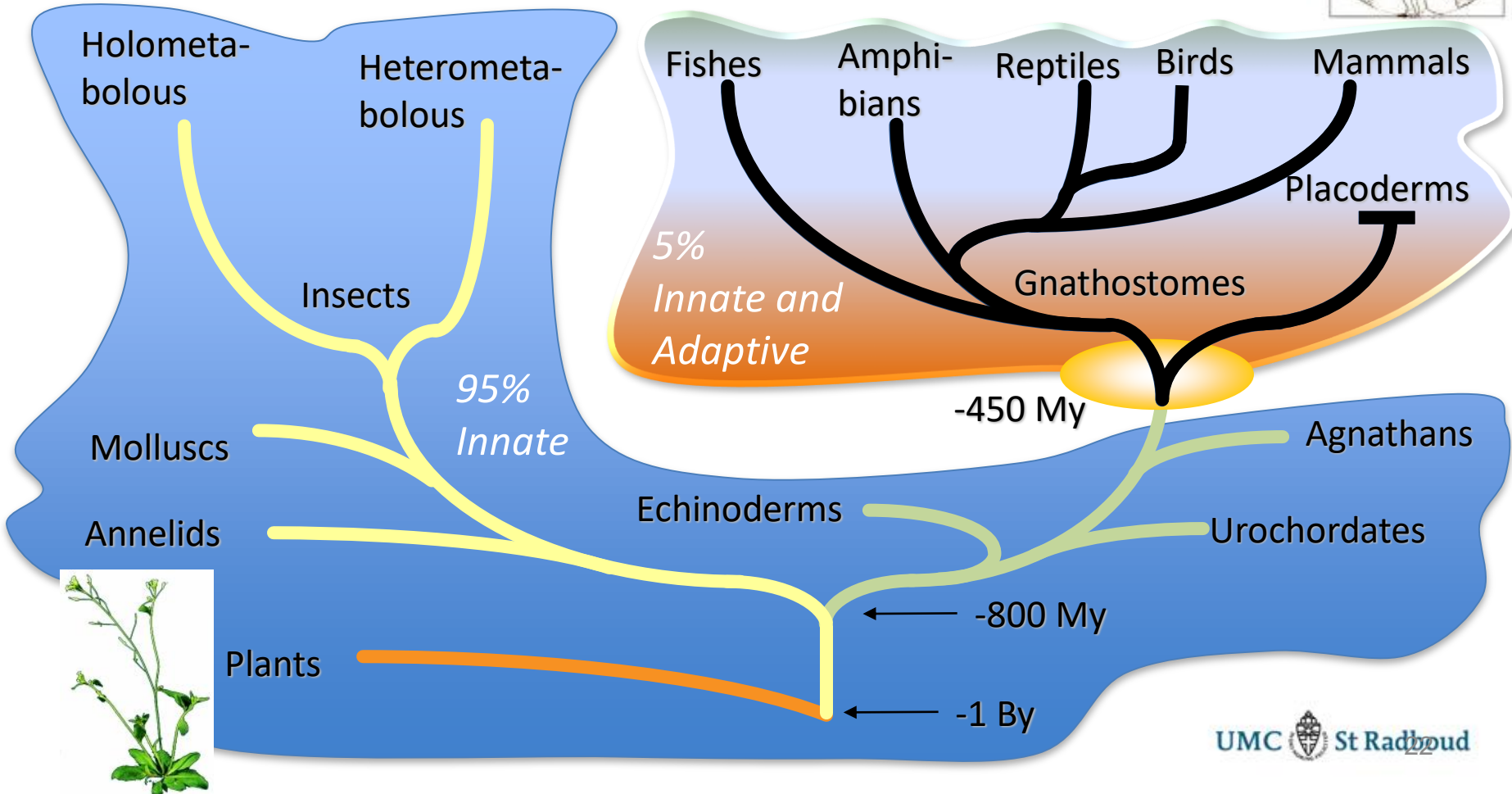
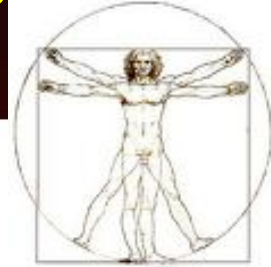
## Adaptive immunity:

- needs 10-14 days
- a specific activation against a particular microorganism, enhancing the effectivity of the response
- builds immunological memory

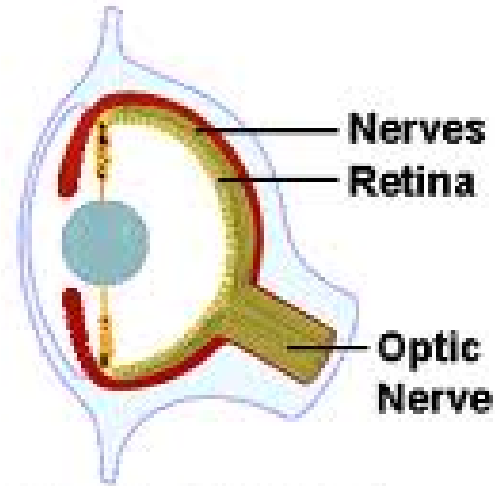


**Memory: the ability of a system to store and recall information on previously encountered characteristics**

66

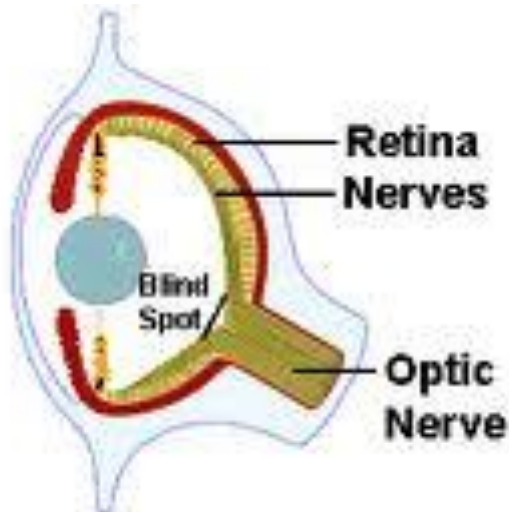


- **Convergent evolution:** development of the same property in independent group of organisms

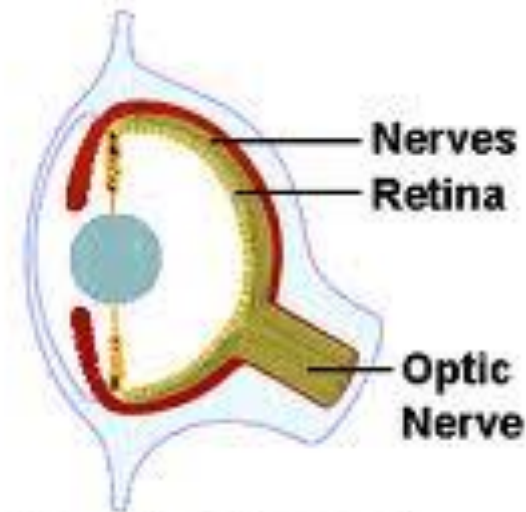




- **Convergent evolution:** development of the same property in independent group of organisms

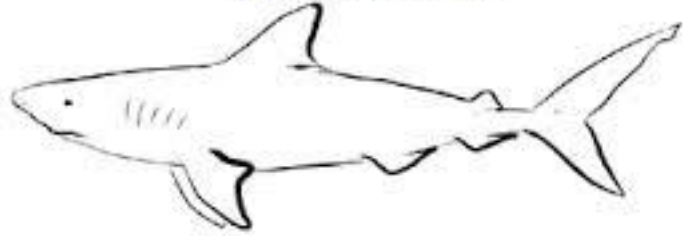


**Vertebrate**



**Cephalopod**

SHARK (fish)



DOLPHIN (Mammal)



Falcon



Ancestral bird



Bat



Ancestral mammal



Pterodactyl



Ancestral reptile





# Increased response to secondary infection

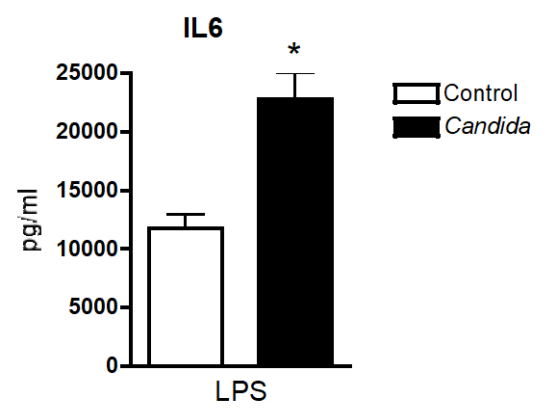
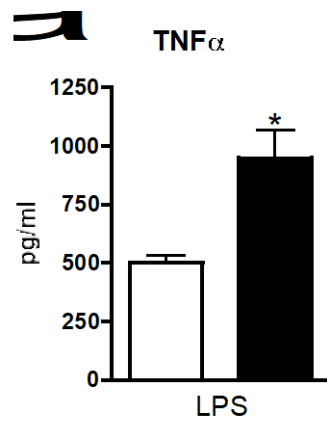
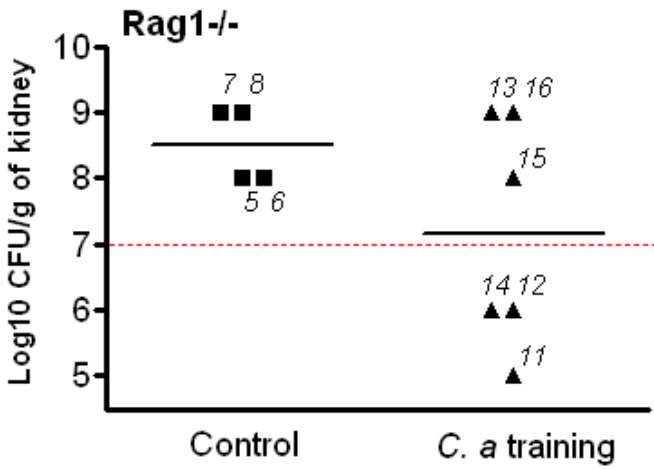
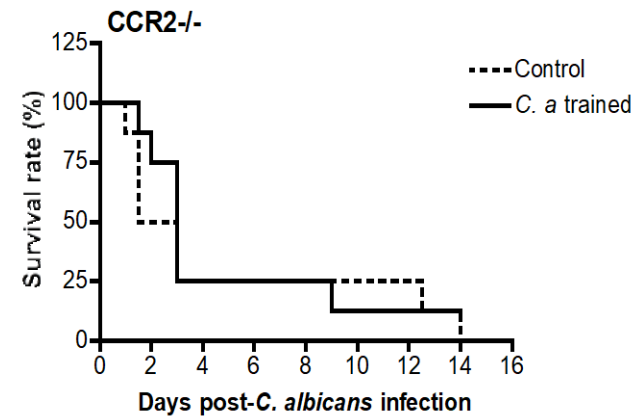
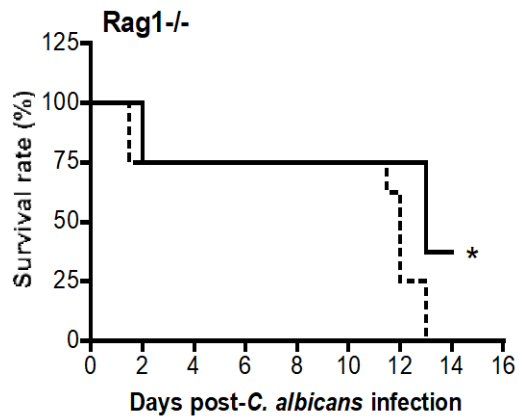
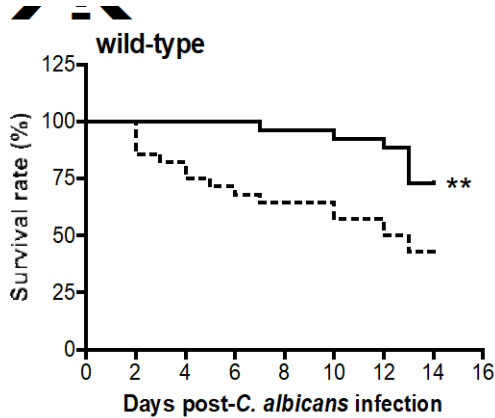
**Table 1. Selected Experimental Models in which Biological Activity Compatible with the Concept of Trained Innate Immunity Has Been Reported**

Organism	Experimental Model	Biological Effect	Specificity	References
<b>Plants—Systemic Acquired Resistance</b>				
Large variety of plants	Viruses, bacteria, fungi	Protection against reinfection	Variable	Durrant and Dong, 2004; Sticher et al., 1997
<b>Nonvertebrates</b>				
Mealworm beetle	LPS, or bacterial prechallenge	Protection against secondary infection	No	Moret and Siva-Jothy, 2003
<i>Drosophila</i>	<i>S. pneumoniae</i> prechallenge	Protection against <i>S. pneumoniae</i>	Uncertain	Pham et al., 2007
<i>Anopheles gambiae</i>	<i>Plasmodium</i> prechallenge	Protection against <i>Plasmodium</i>	No	Rodrigues et al., 2010
Sponges	Transplantation	Rejection	Yes	Hildemann et al., 1979
Corals	Transplantation	Rejection	Yes	Hildemann et al., 1977
<b>Vertebrates</b>				
Mice	BCG	Protection against candidiasis	No	Van 't Wout et al., 1992
Mice	<i>Candida</i> vaccination	T/B cell-independent protection	No	Bistoni et al., 1986, 1988
Mice	Murine CMV infection	NK-dependent protection	No	Sun et al., 2009
Humans	BCG	Nonspecific protection to secondary infections	No	Garly et al., 2003



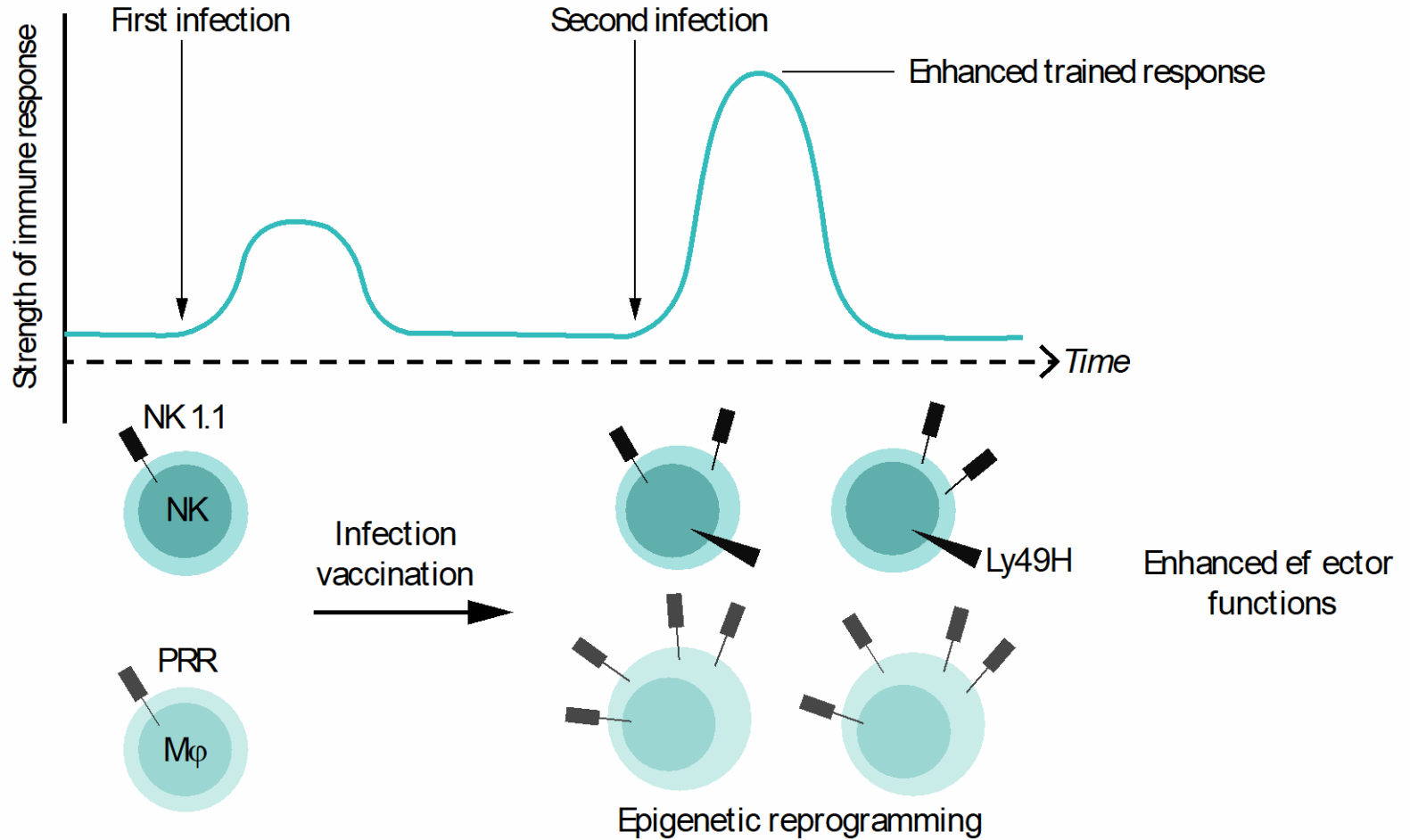


# Innate immunity-dependent protection in mice



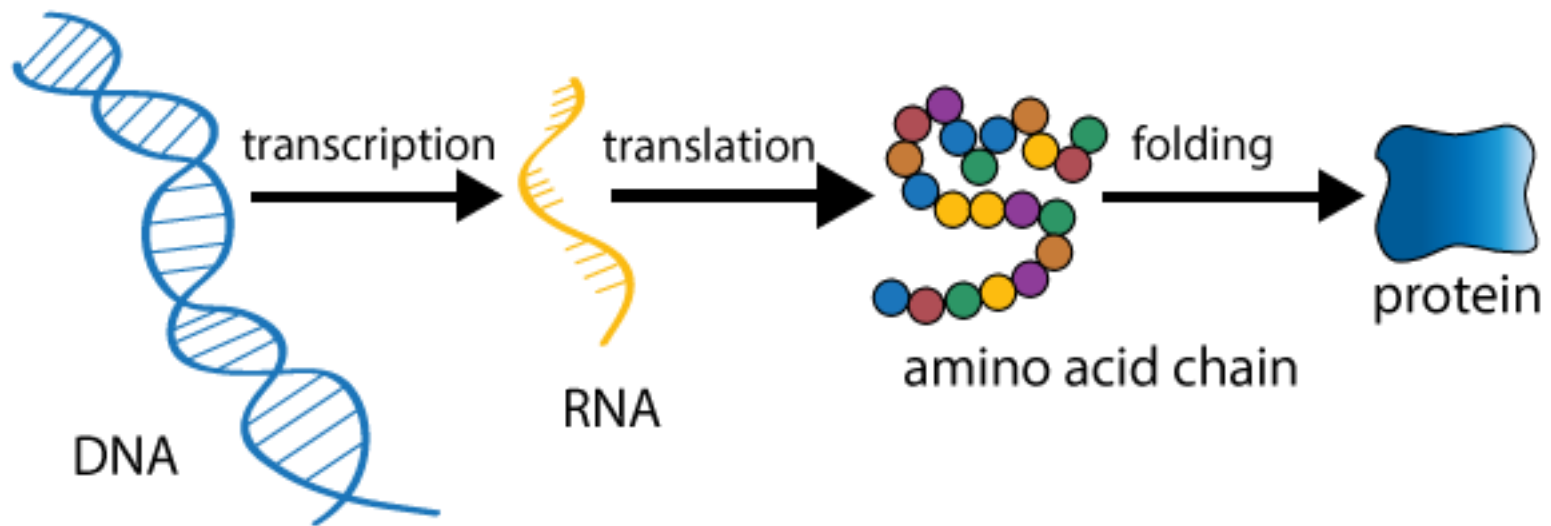


# Trained immunity





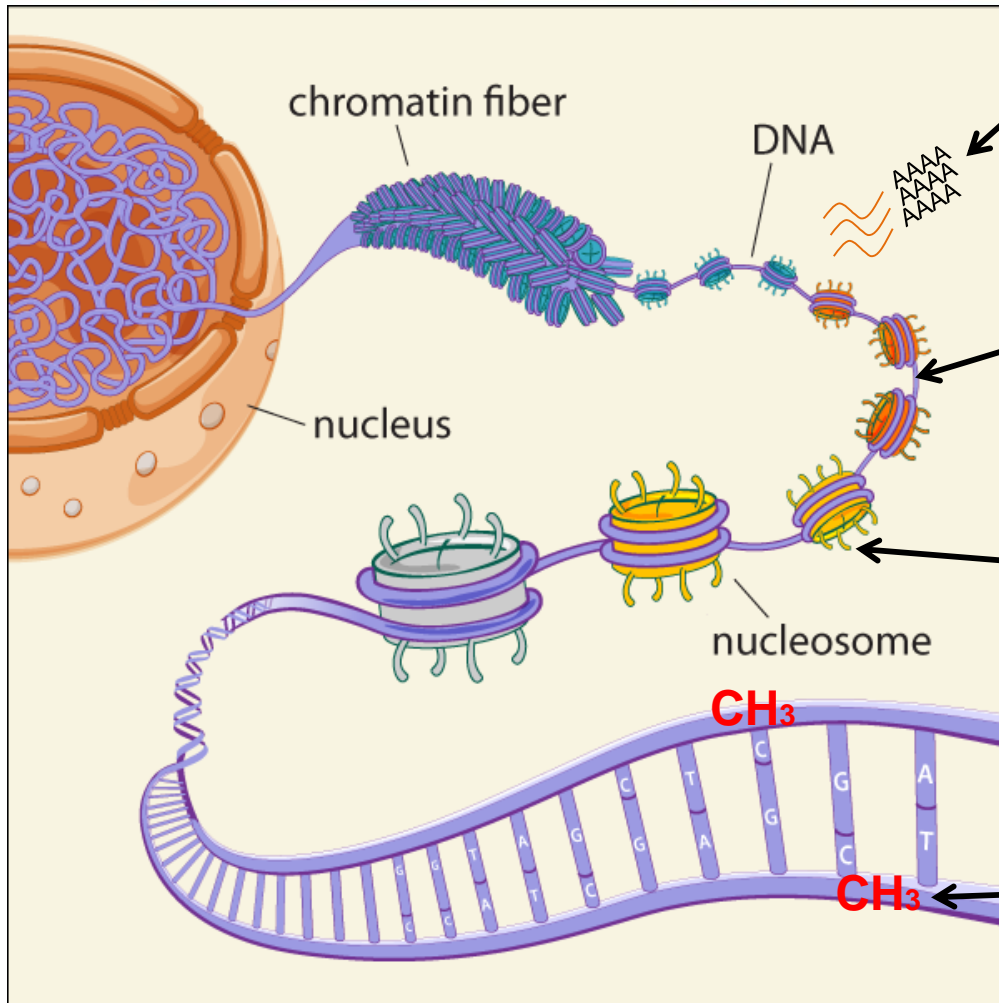
# From DNA to protein







# Long-term epigenetic reprogramming in myeloid cells



**RNA-seq**  
Gene expression  
Non-coding regulatory RNAs

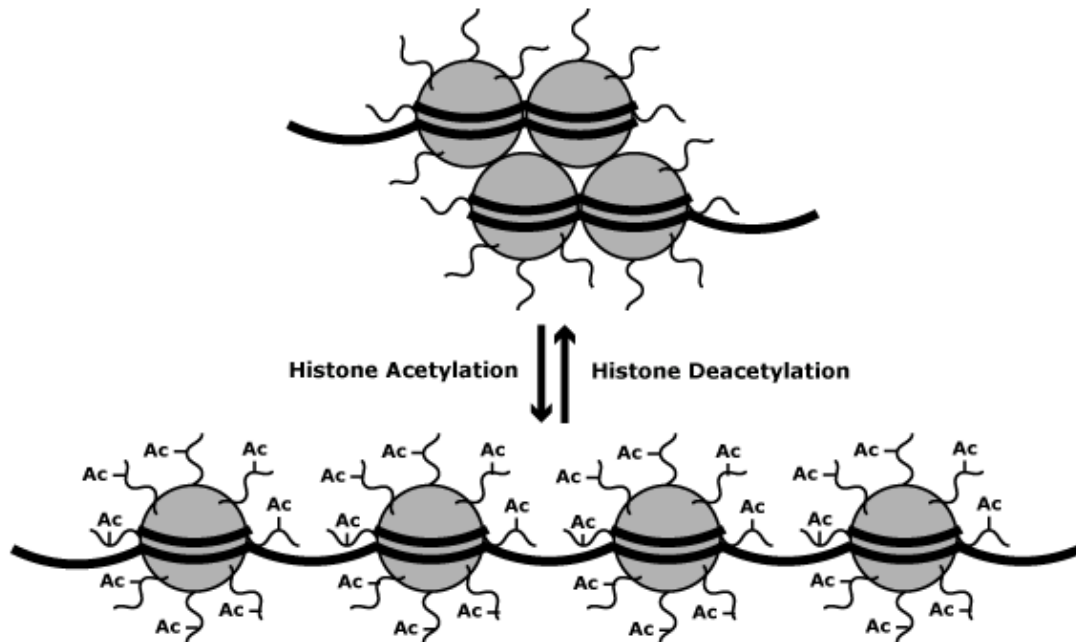
**ATAC-seq**  
Open chromatin (i.e. nucleosome-free regions) can be bound by TFs, which can be identified by motif sequence

**ChIP-seq**  
Histone tail modifications determine 'activity' by attracting TFs (we use 5 histone modifications)

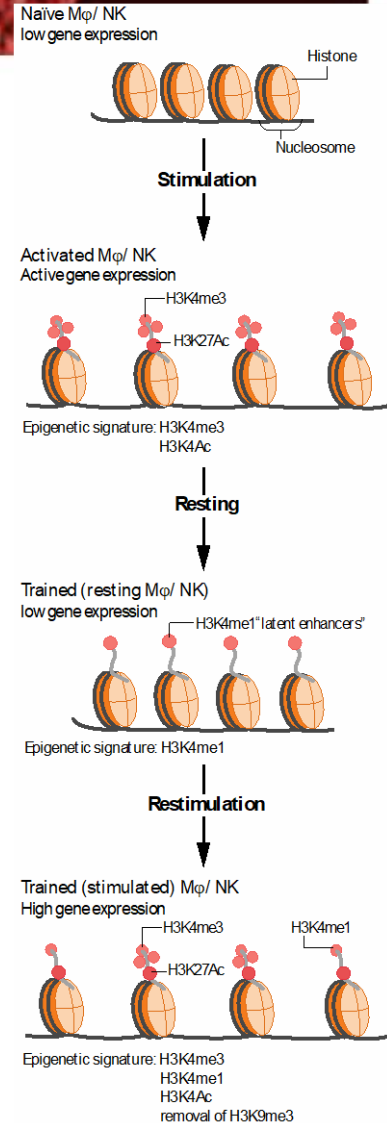
**WGBS – whole genome bisulfite sequencing**  
DNA methylation maintains DNA in a closed state



# Chromatin architecture

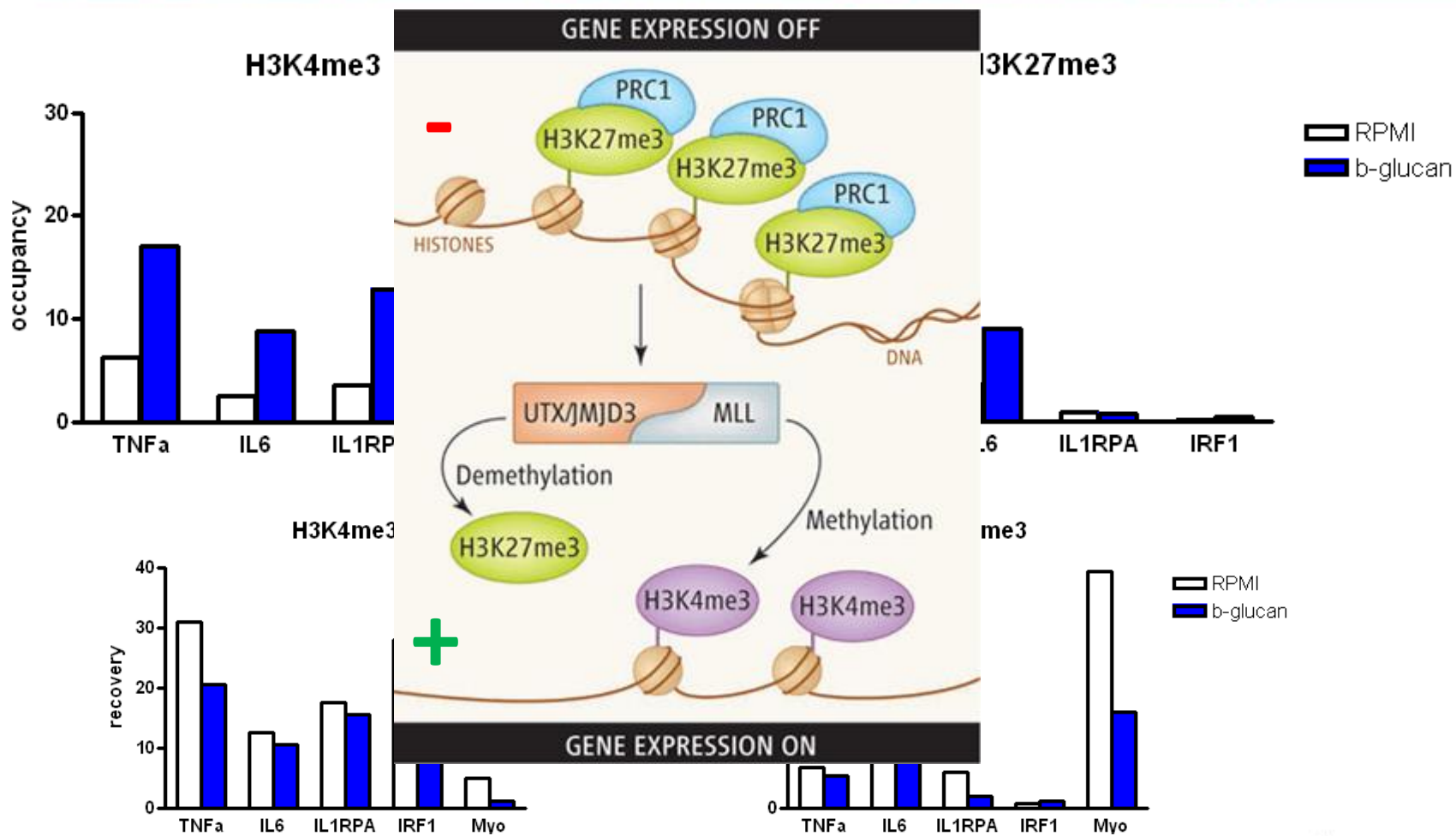


## DNA in the nucleus





# Methylation status of H3

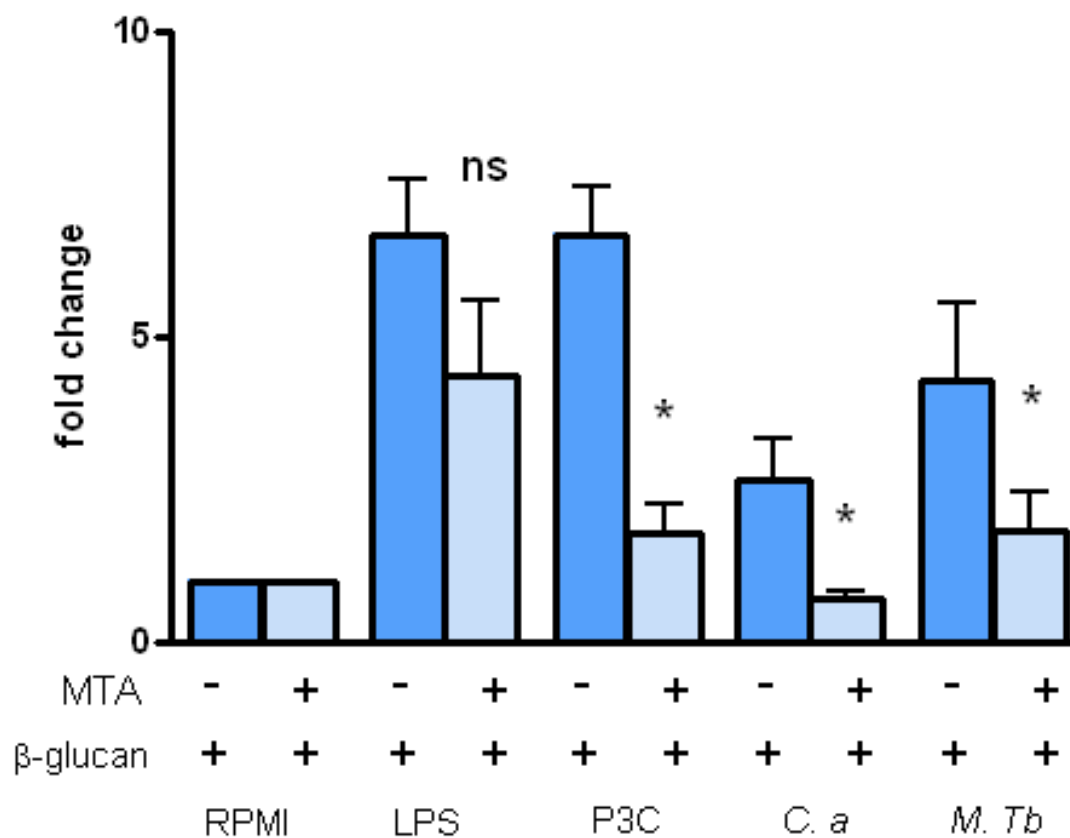




# MTA: Histone methyltransferase inhibitor

## Less Methylation

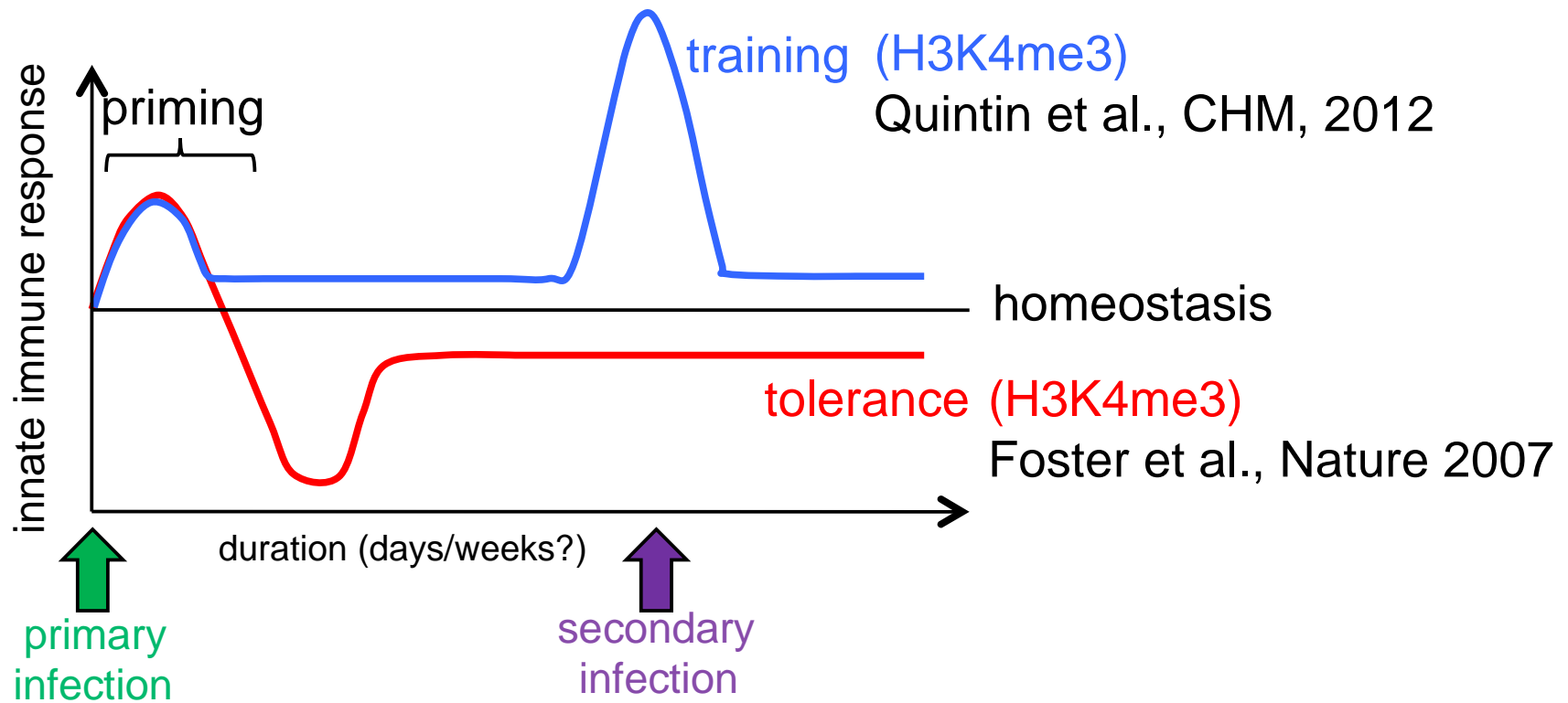
### TNF $\alpha$





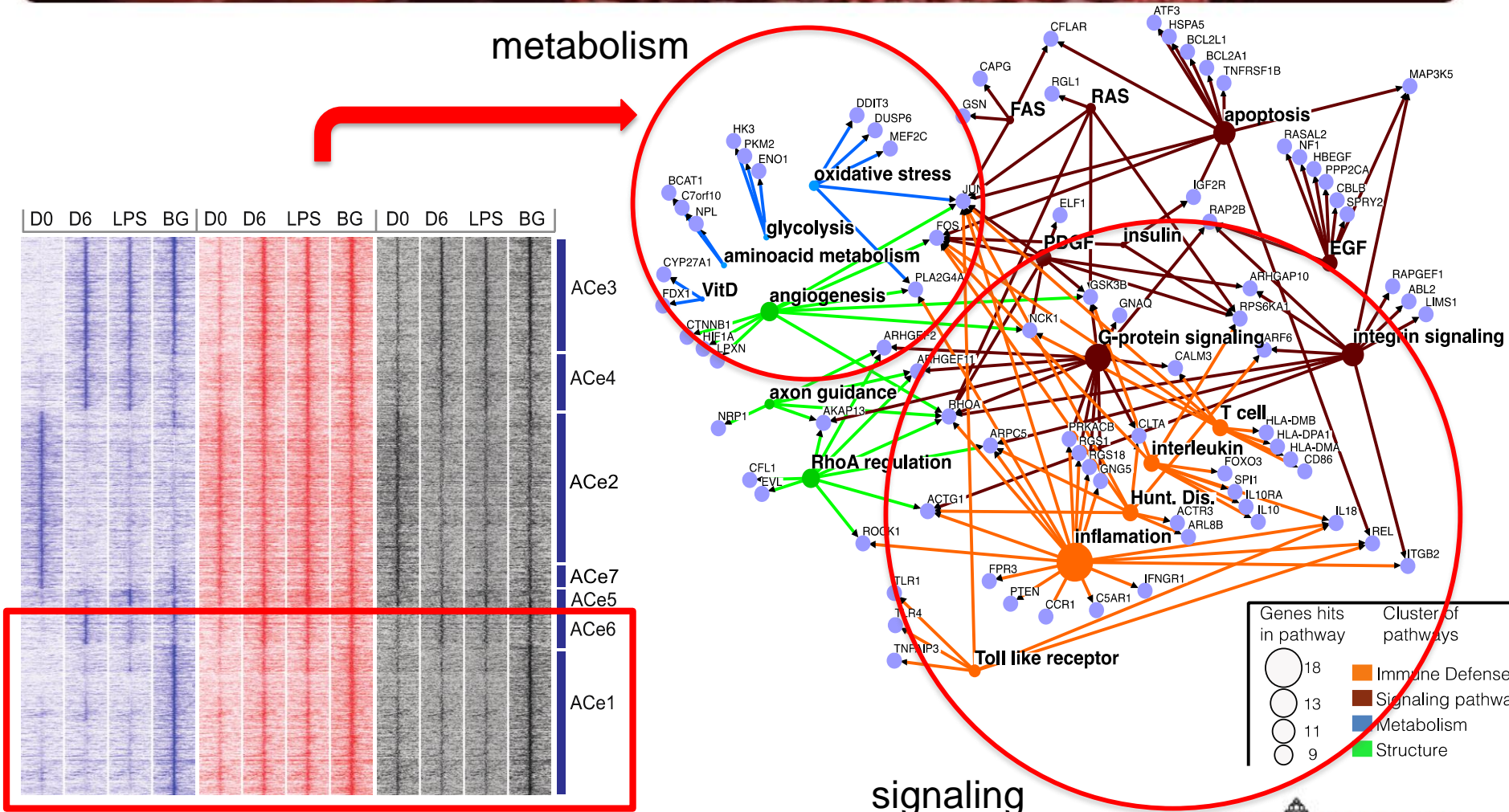


# Trained immunity versus tolerance

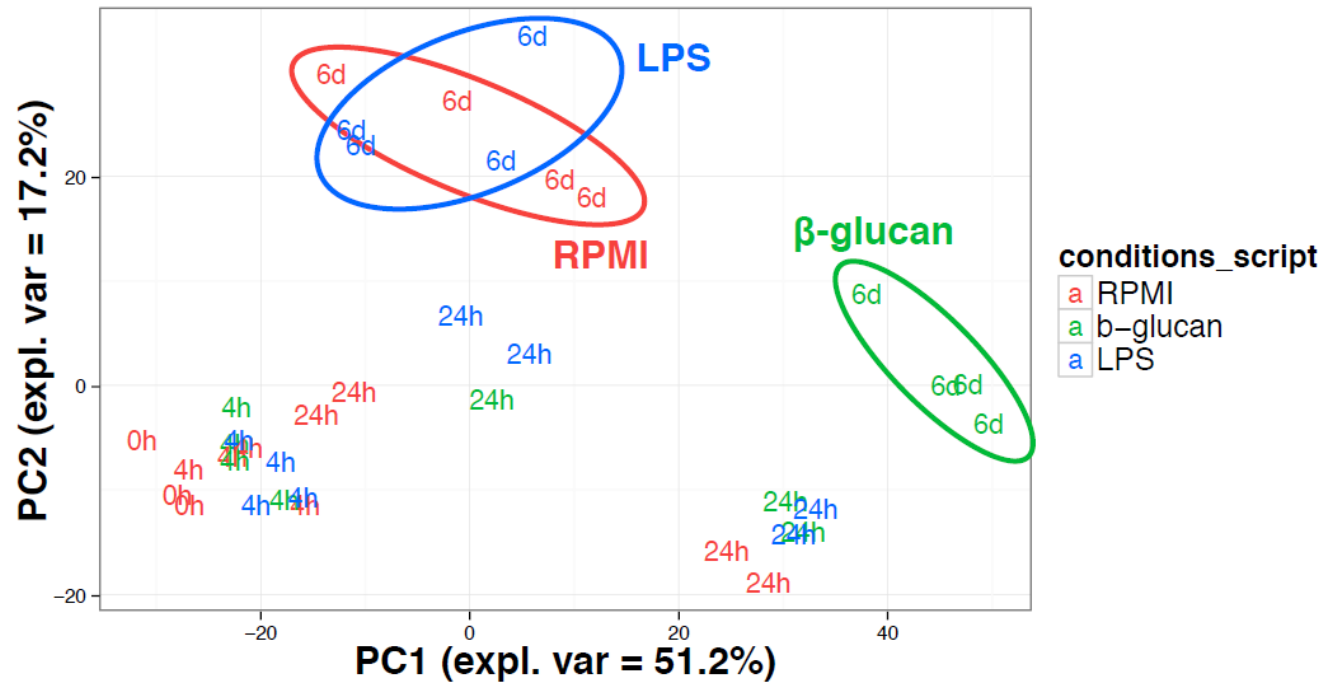
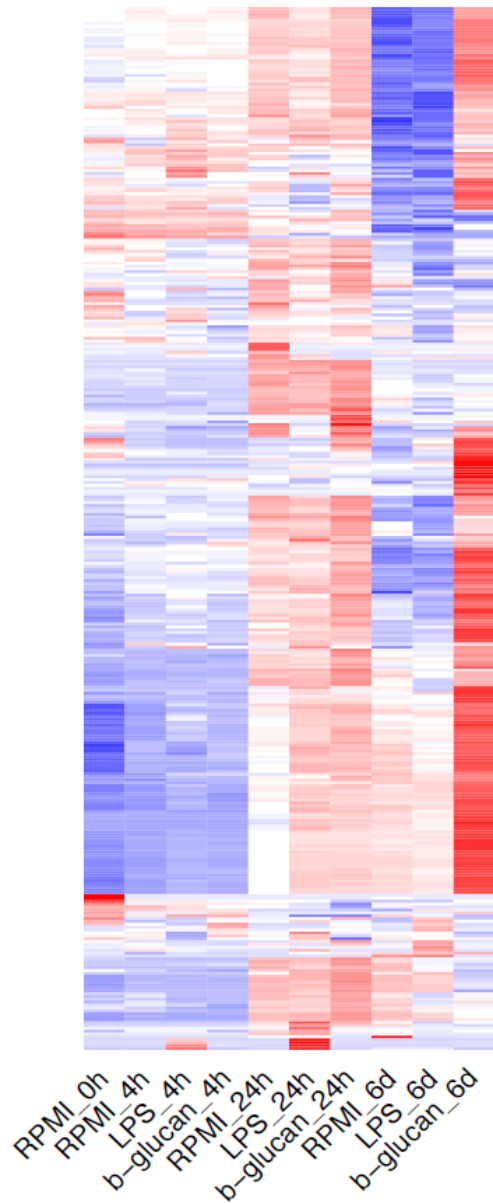




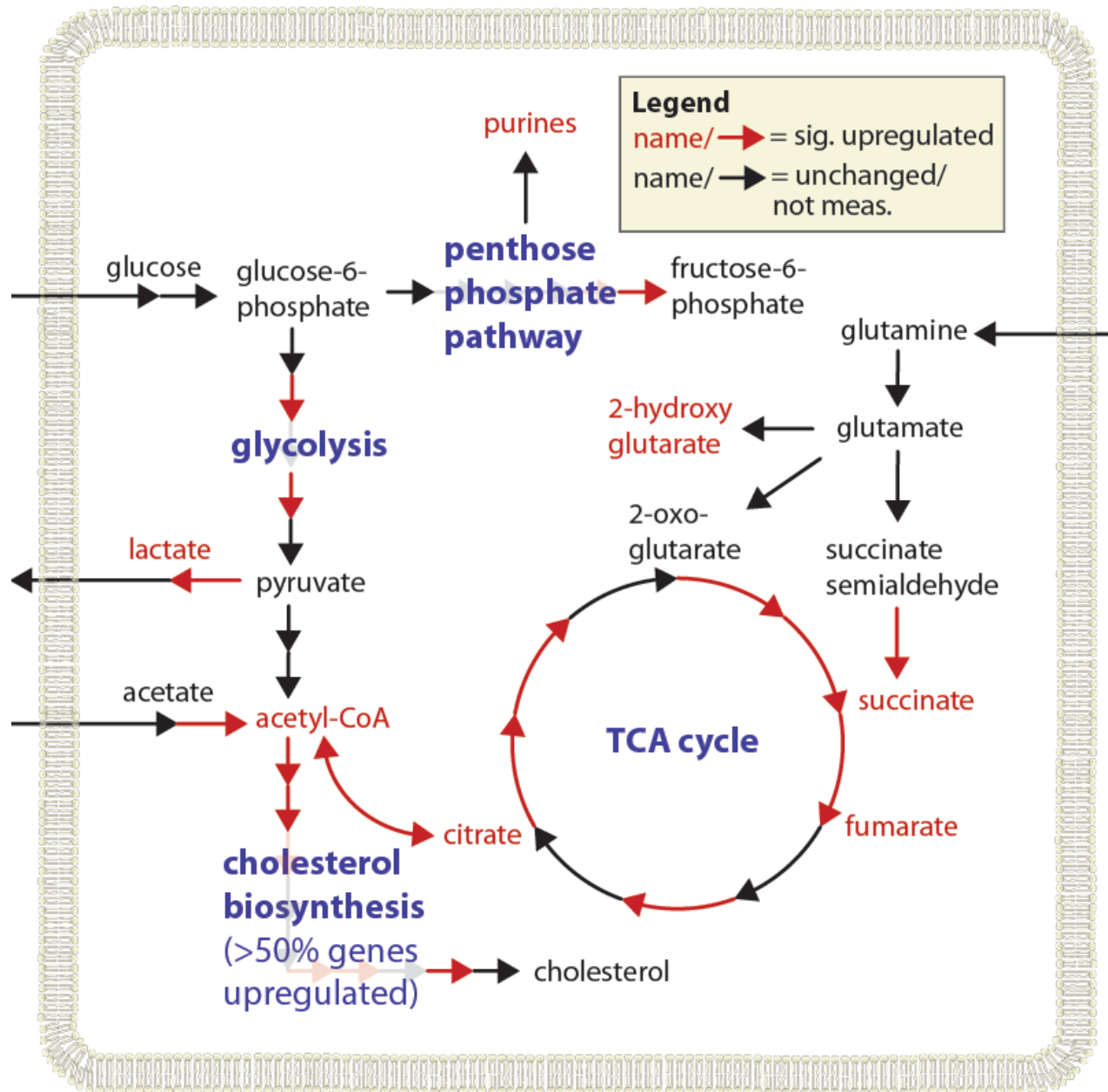
# What are the pathways distinguishing Training vs Tolerance?



# Metabolic status in trained monocytes

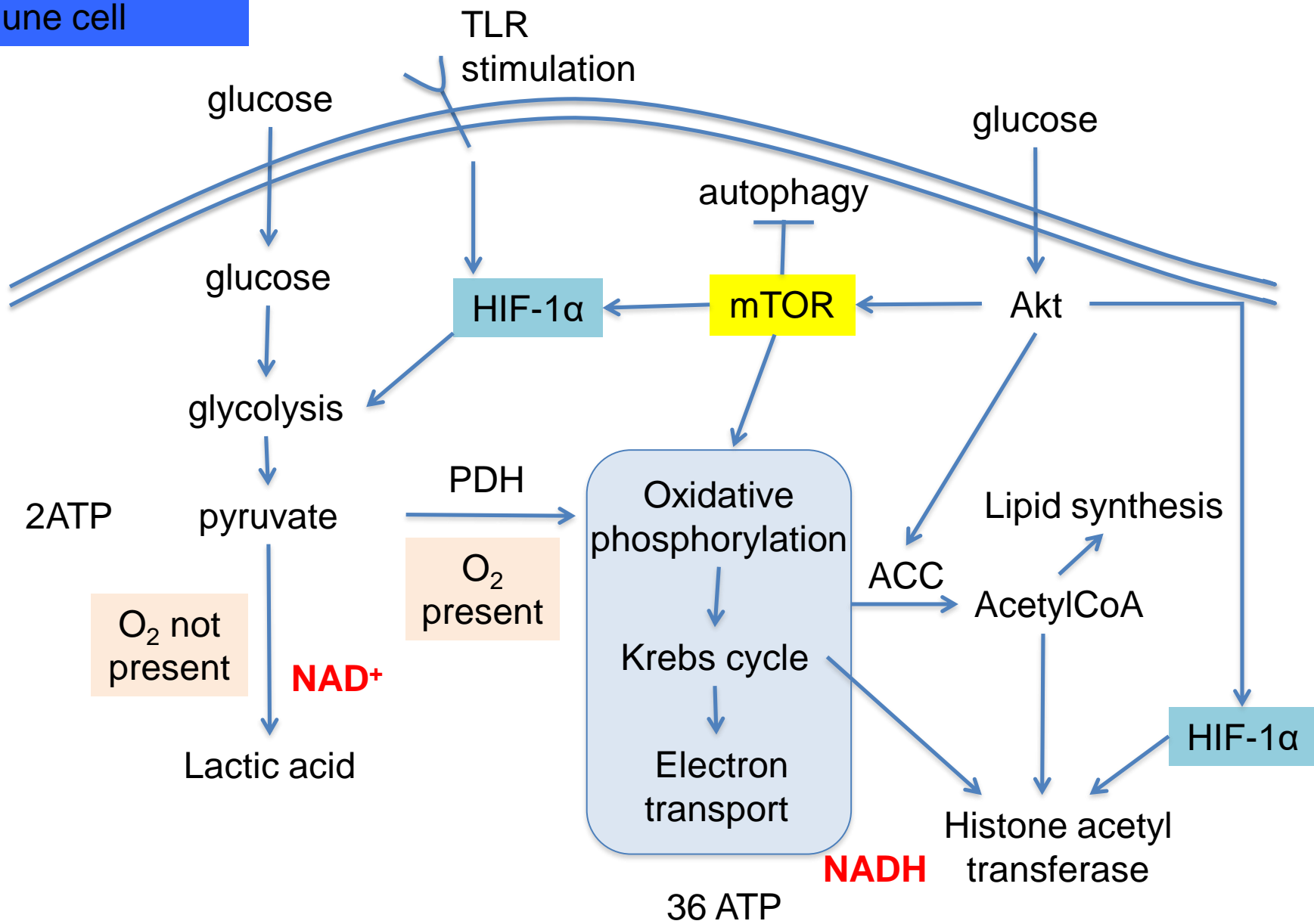


# Metabolic status in trained monocytes





Immune cell

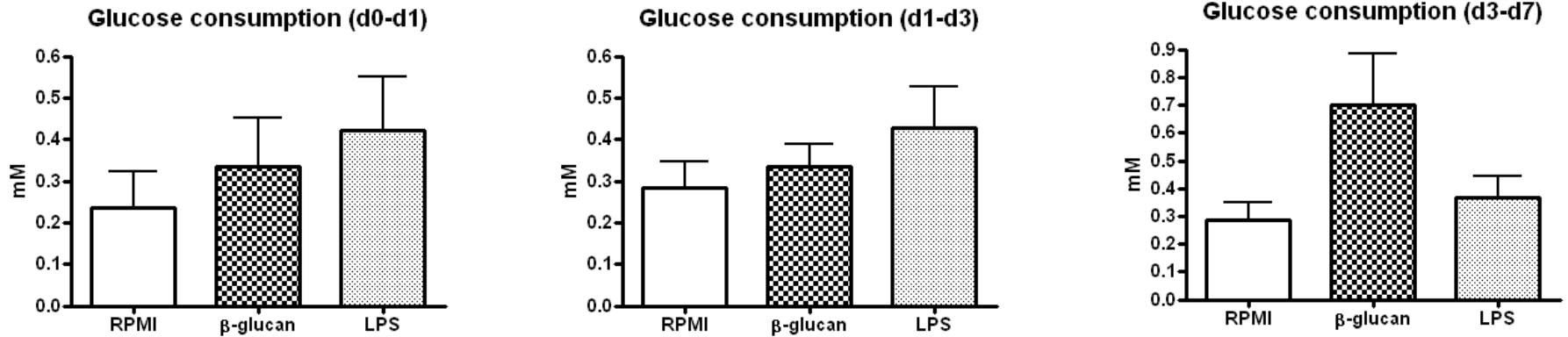


Active cells

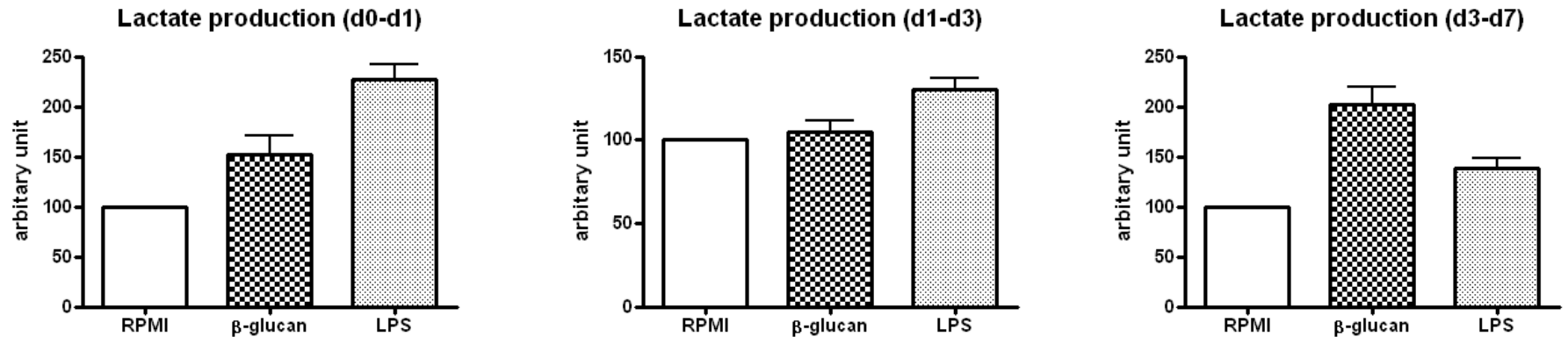
Naïve cells

# Glucose consumption & lactate secretion

## Glucose consumption



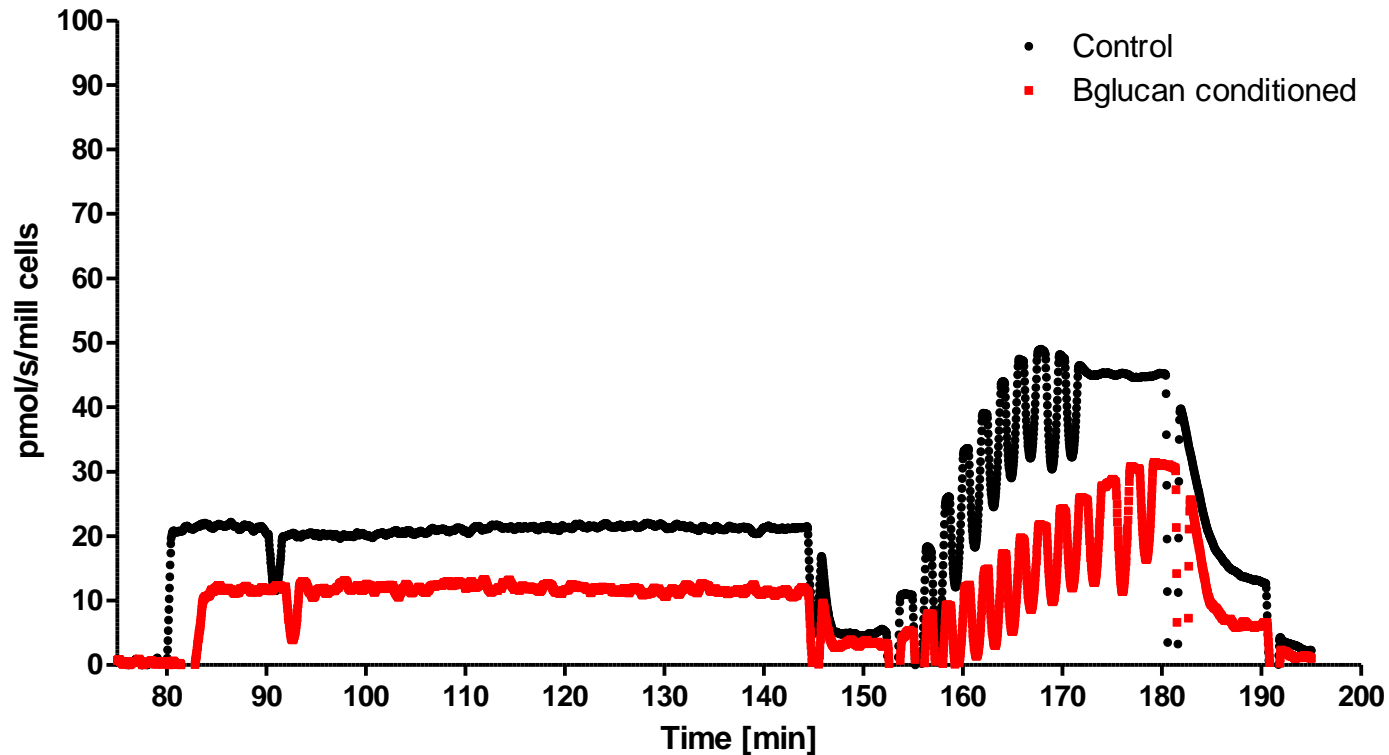
## Lactate secretion





# Reduced ATP-induced respiration

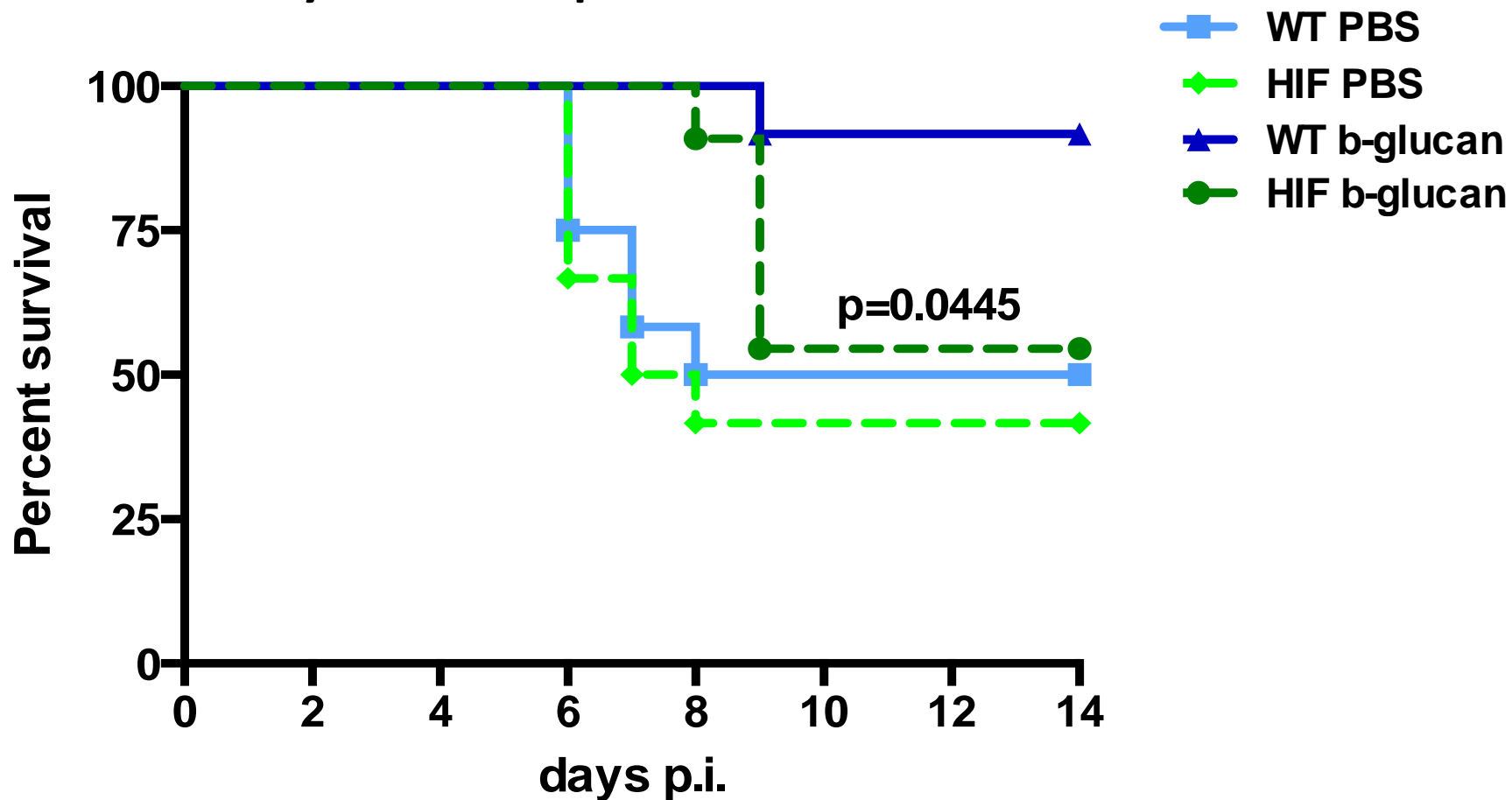
Control vs Bglucan conditioned



Cells	Basal	LPS 50 ng/ml	Oligomycin sensitive	Oli + FCCP	Rot + AA
Control	21.58	21.27	3.7	48.7	2.36
Bglucan conditioned	11.77	11.54	3.7	31.06	2.36

# Blocking glucose consumption in-vivo inhibits trained immunity

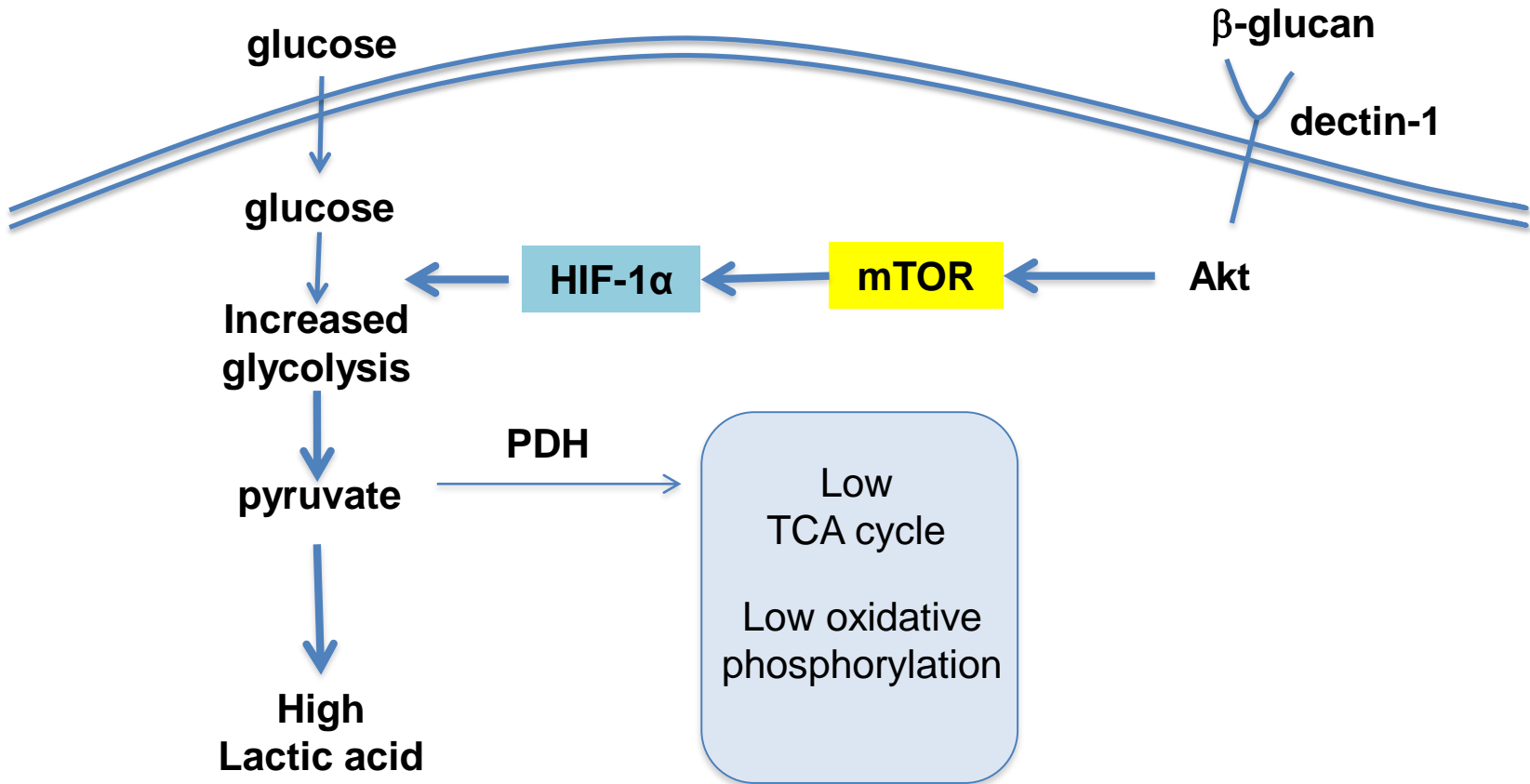
## Myeloid cell-specific HIF1a KO





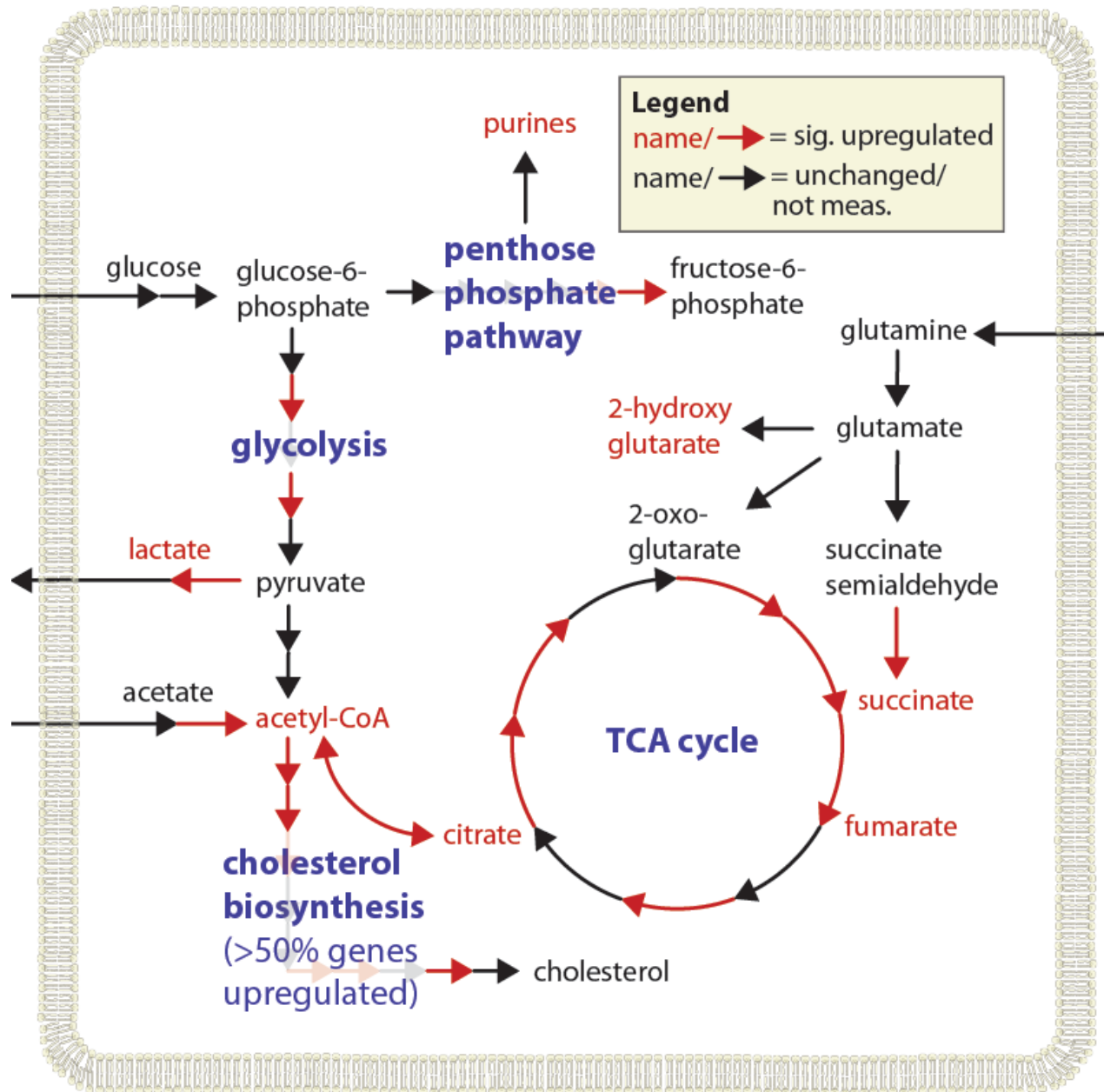


# Model of metabolic activation of trained monocytes

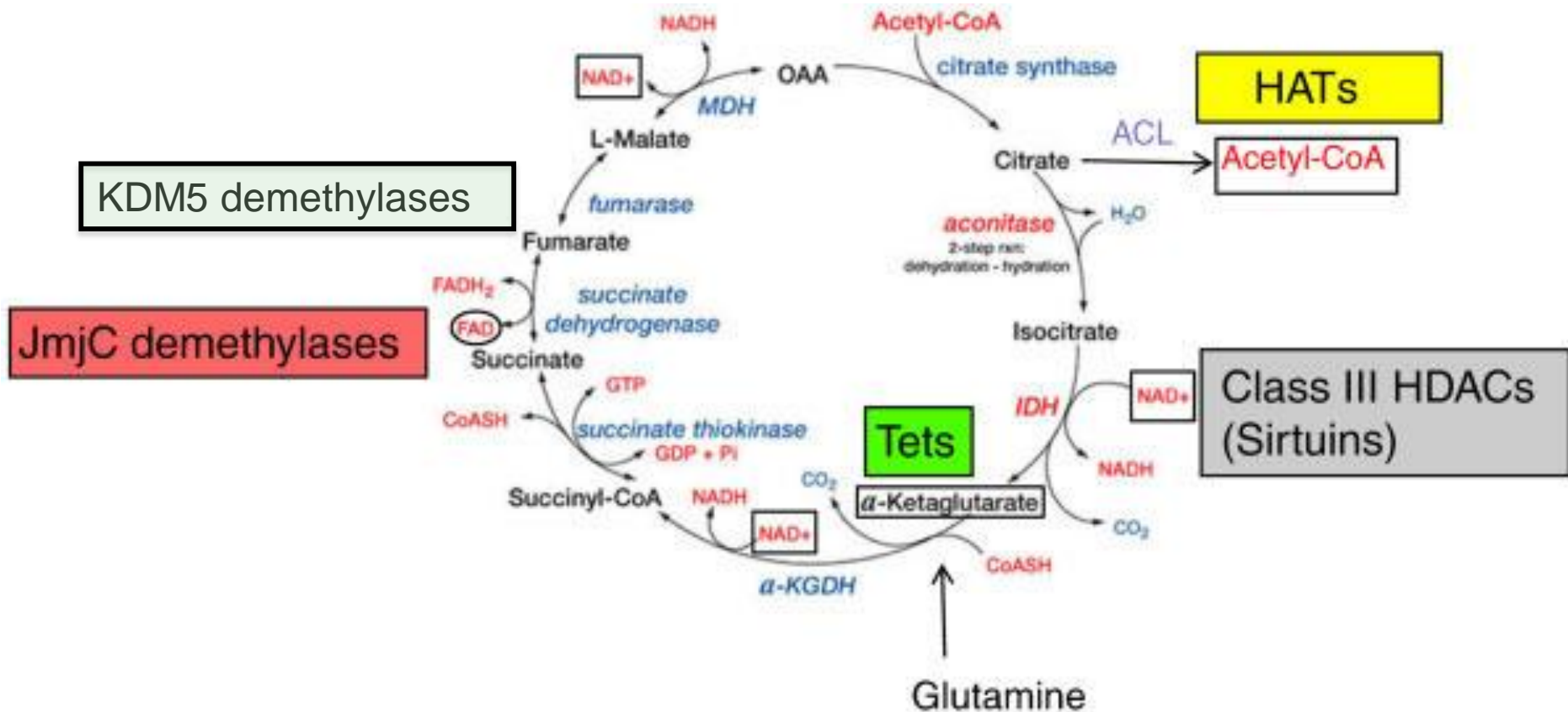


Metabolic activation of trained  
monocyte

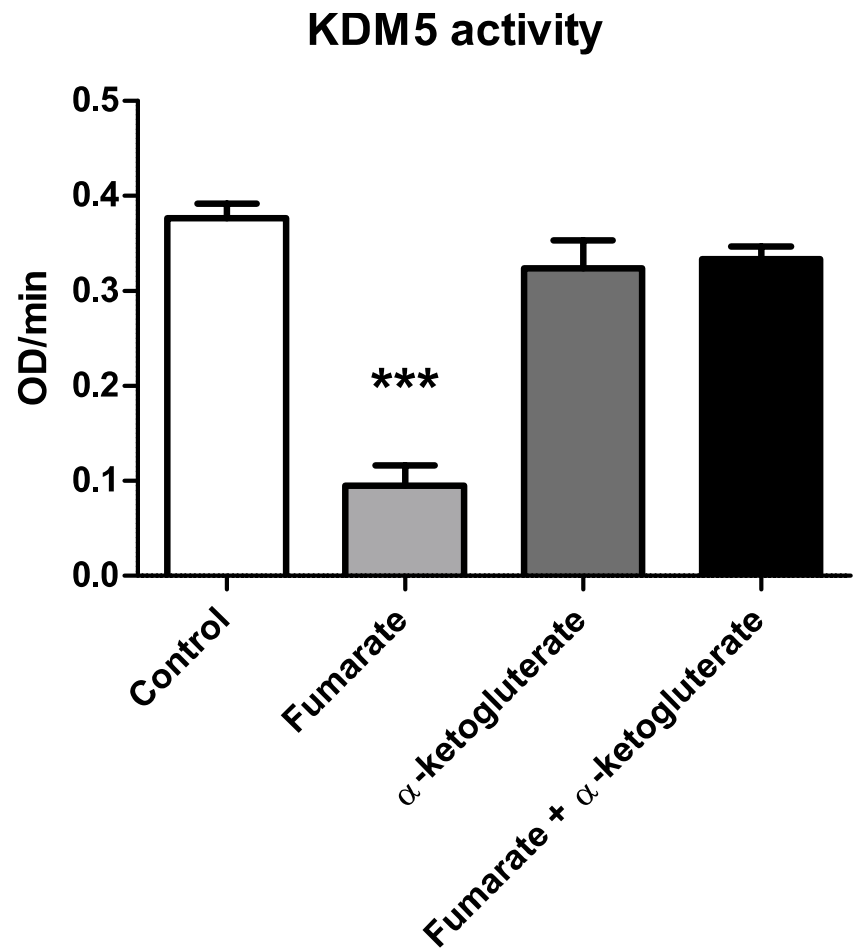
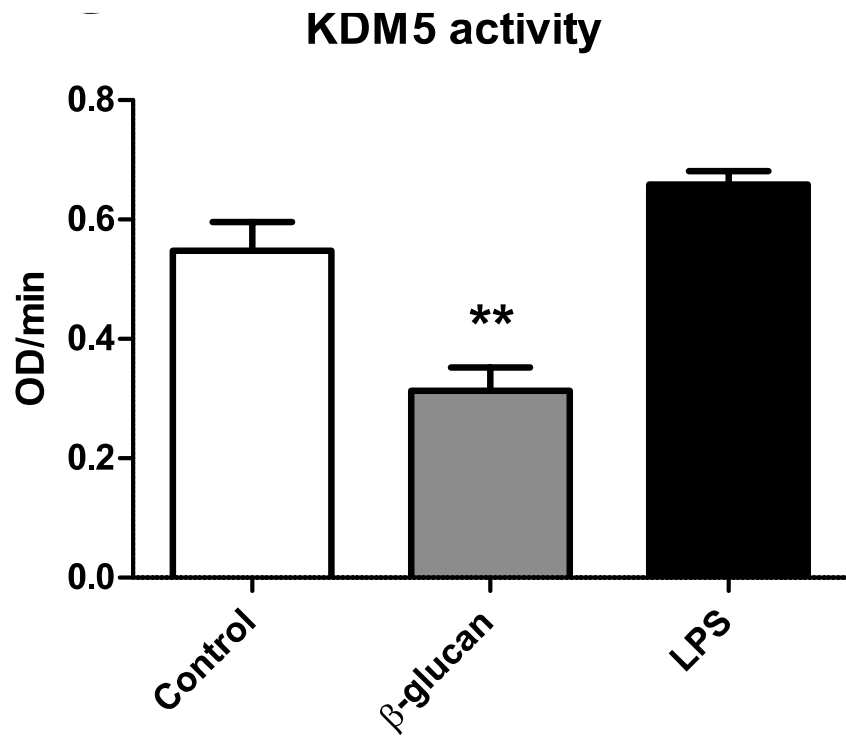
# Metabolic status in trained monocytes



# Metabolites are co-factors for epigenetic enzymes



# Fumarate induces trained immunity

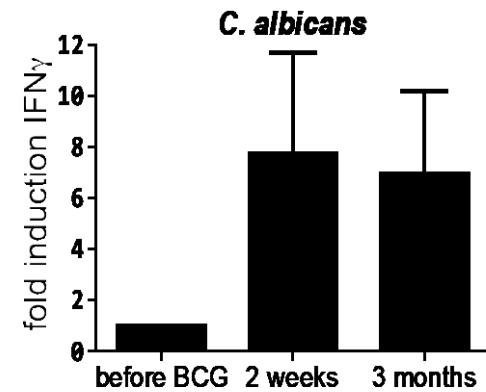
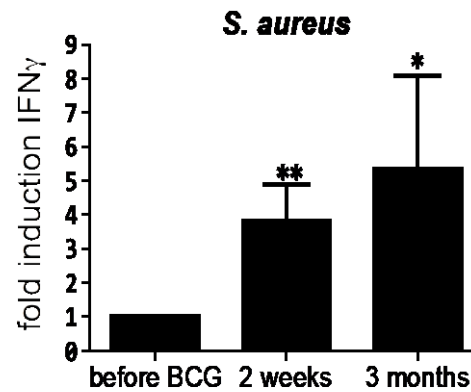
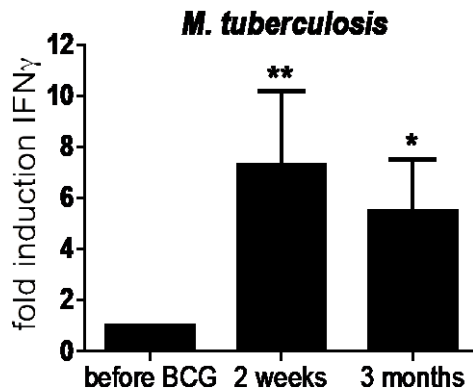
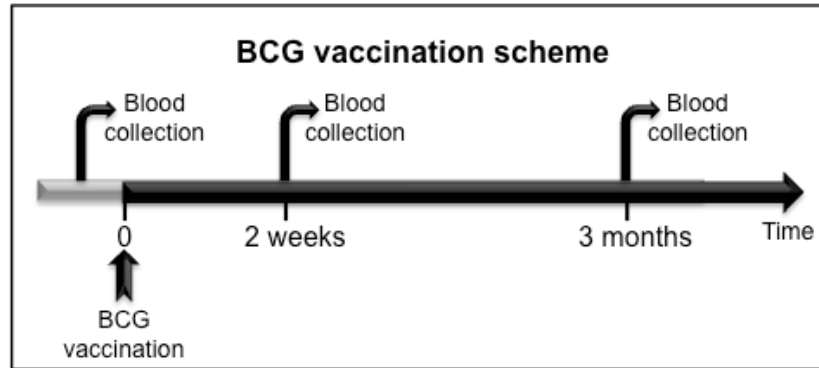






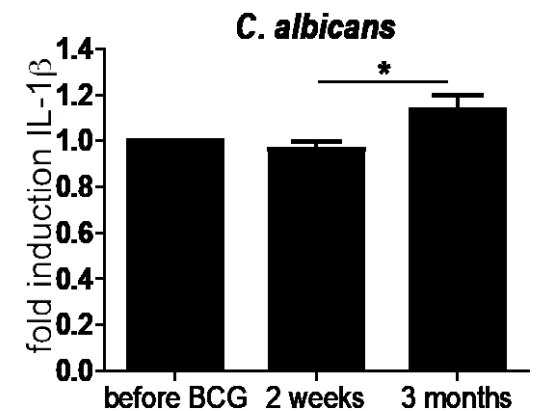
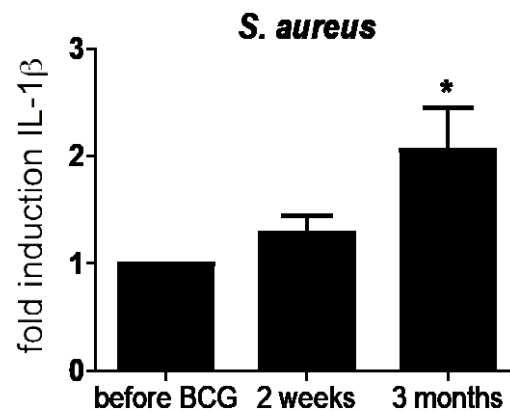
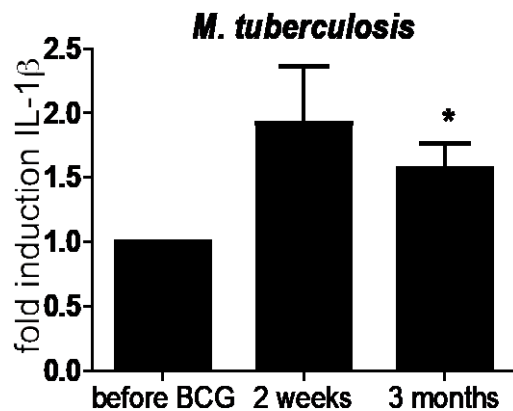
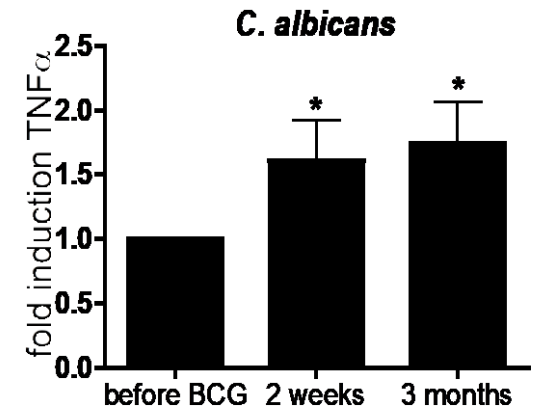
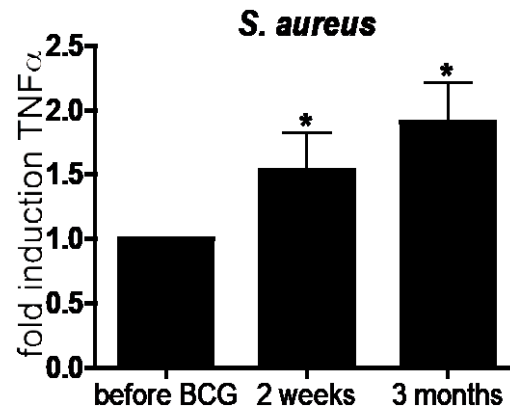
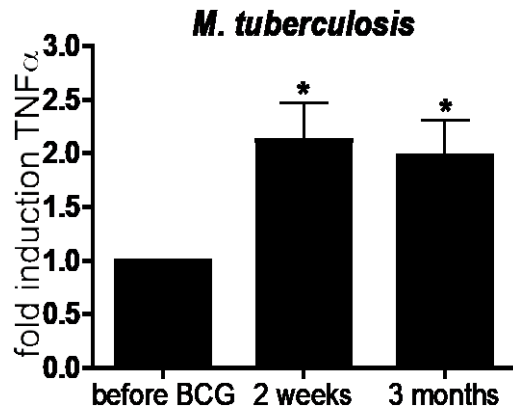


# Does this happen in vivo in humans?

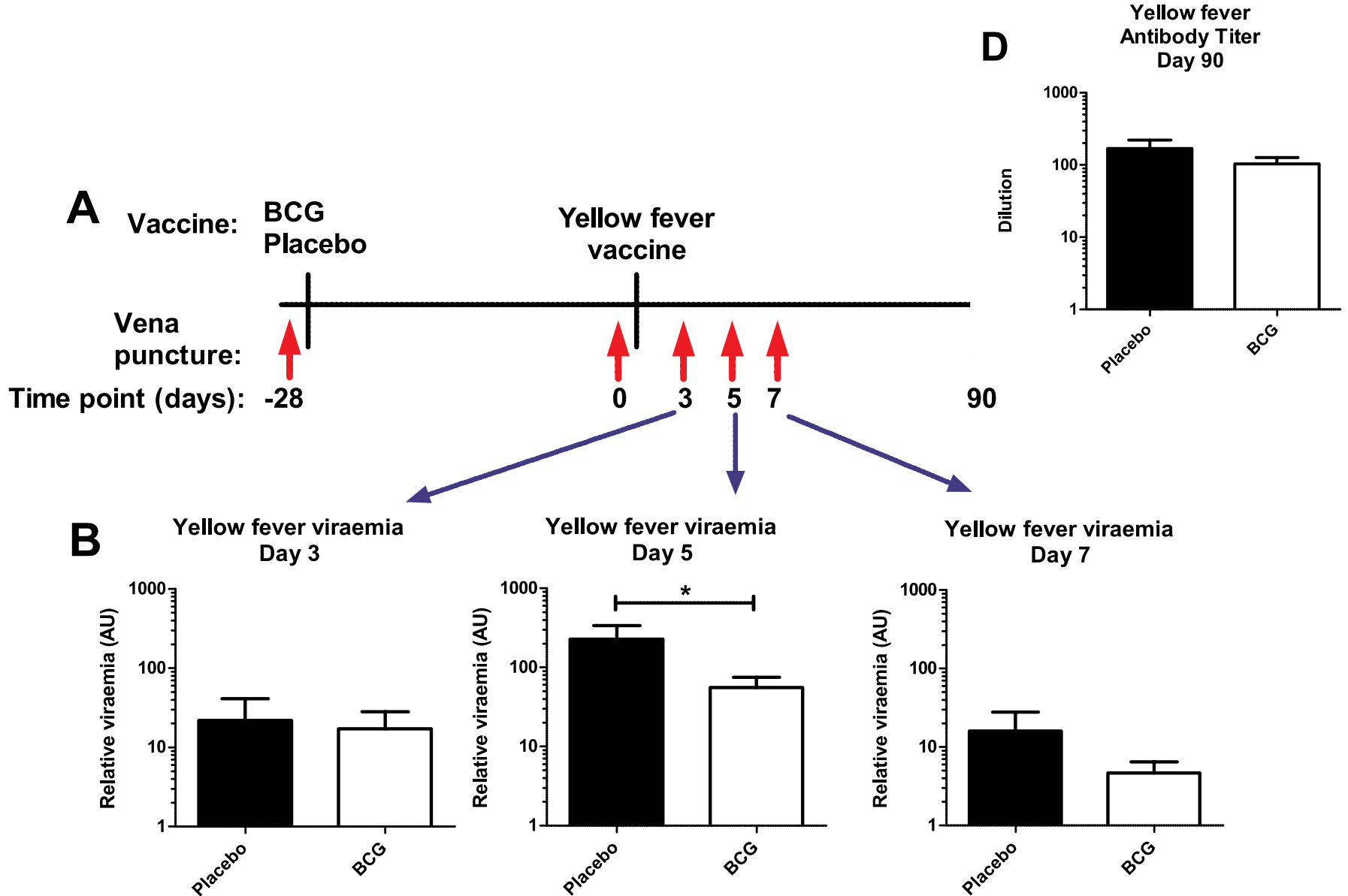




# BCG enhances monocyte-derived cytokines



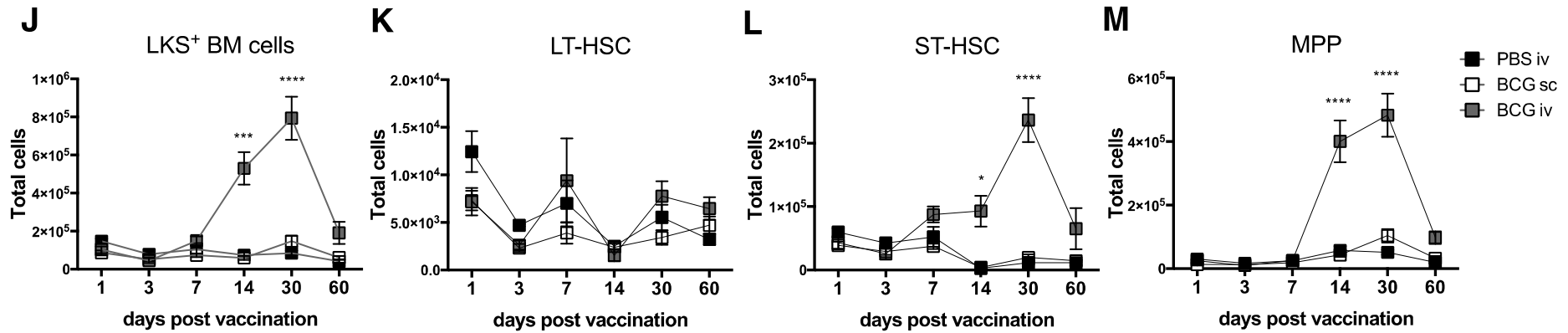
# BCG vaccination in vivo yellow fever vaccine



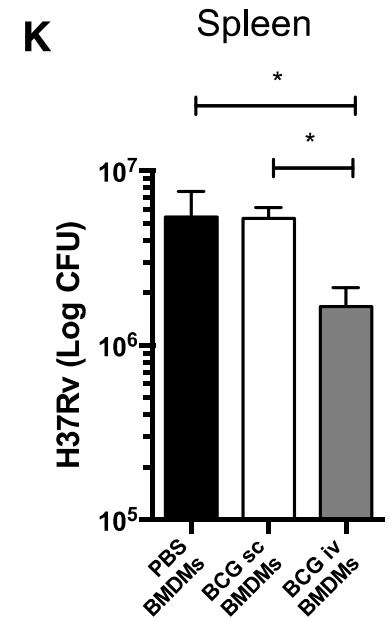
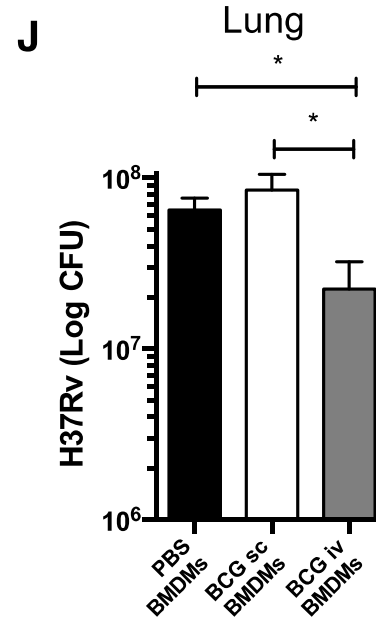
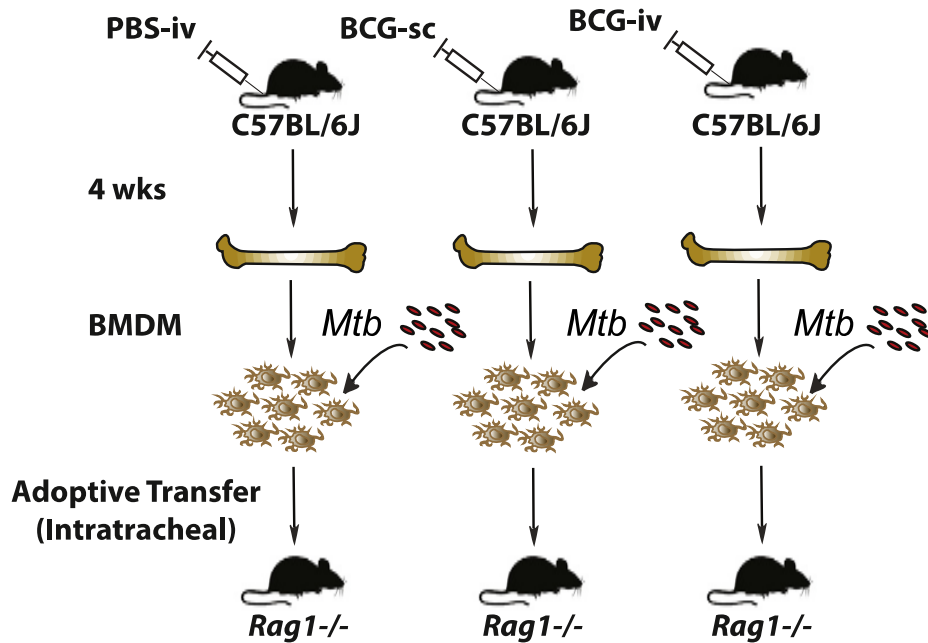




# BCG acts on myeloid cell progenitors



# BCG trained effects are sustainable in vivo

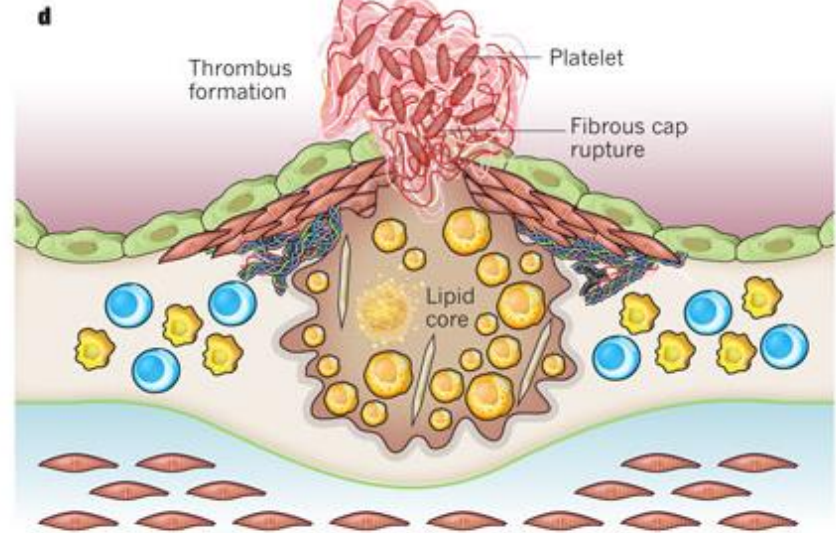
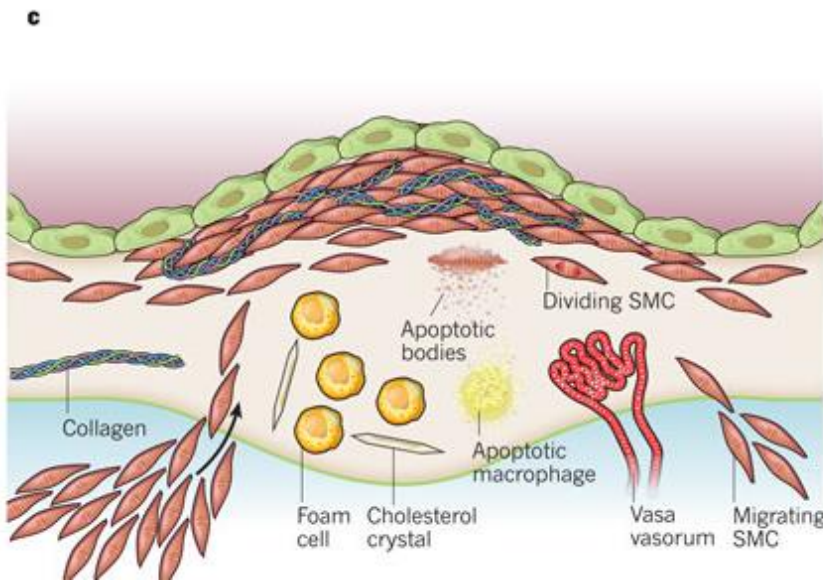
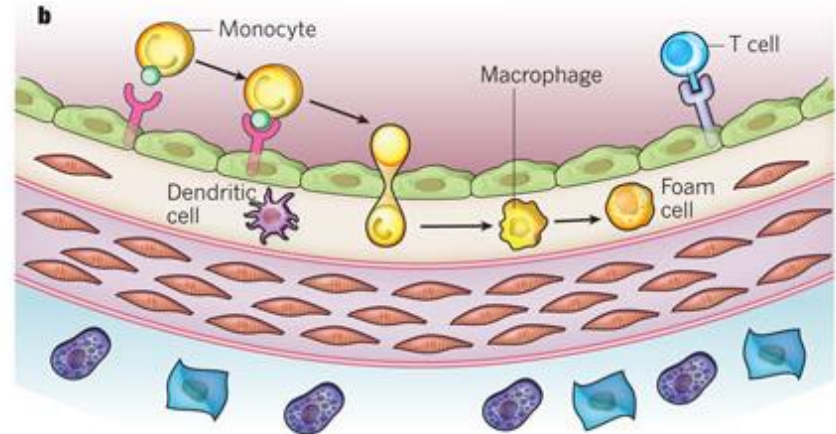
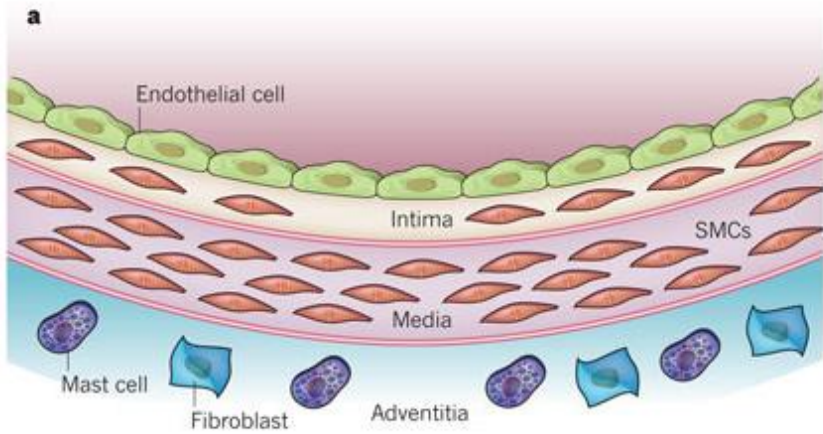


# Conclusions BCG vaccination

- BCG vaccination induces trained immunity in circulating monocytes
- BCG induces long-term reprogramming at the level of myeloid cell progenitors in the bone marrow
- BCG vaccination leads to non-specific protection against unrelated infections: e.g. yellow fever vaccine viremia, malaria
- Responses to other vaccines are influenced as well



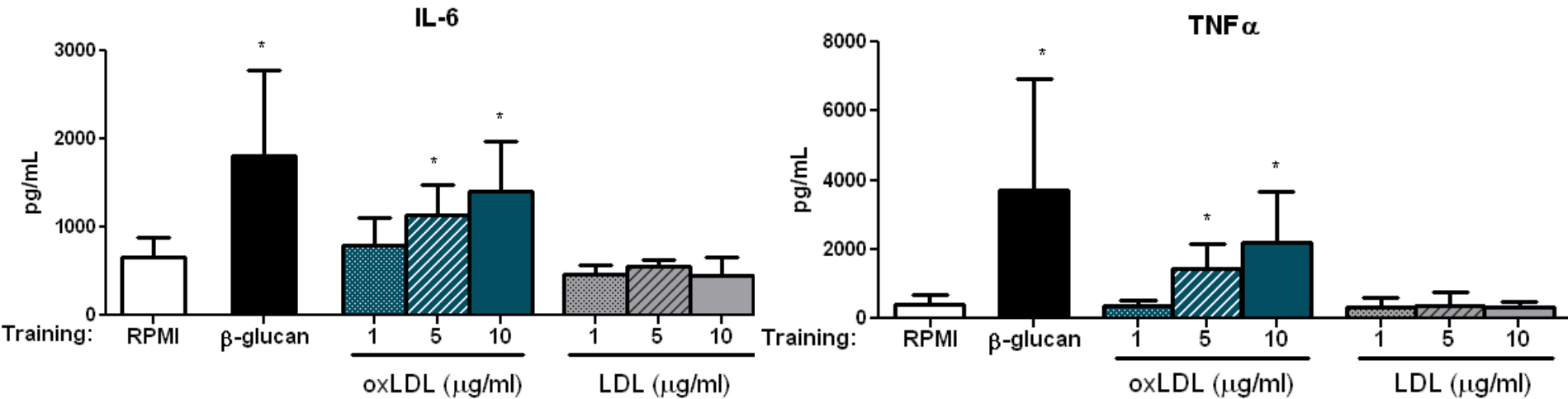
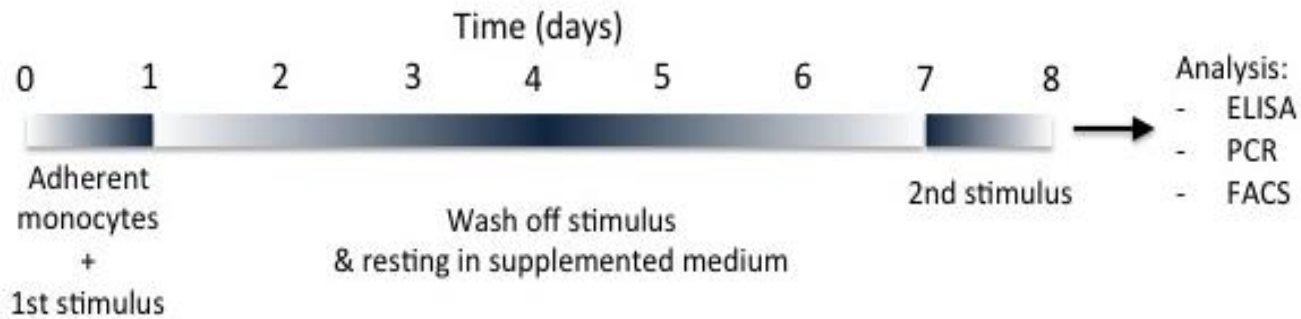
# Atherosclerosis: non-resolving inflammation





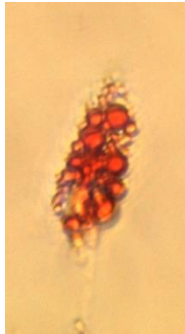
# oxLDL but not LDL can train monocytes *in vitro*

## Methods:

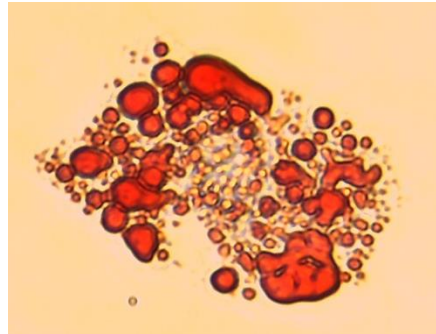




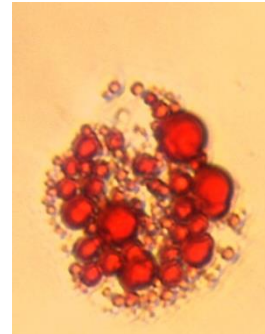
# Trained monocytes show increased foam cell formation



RPMI

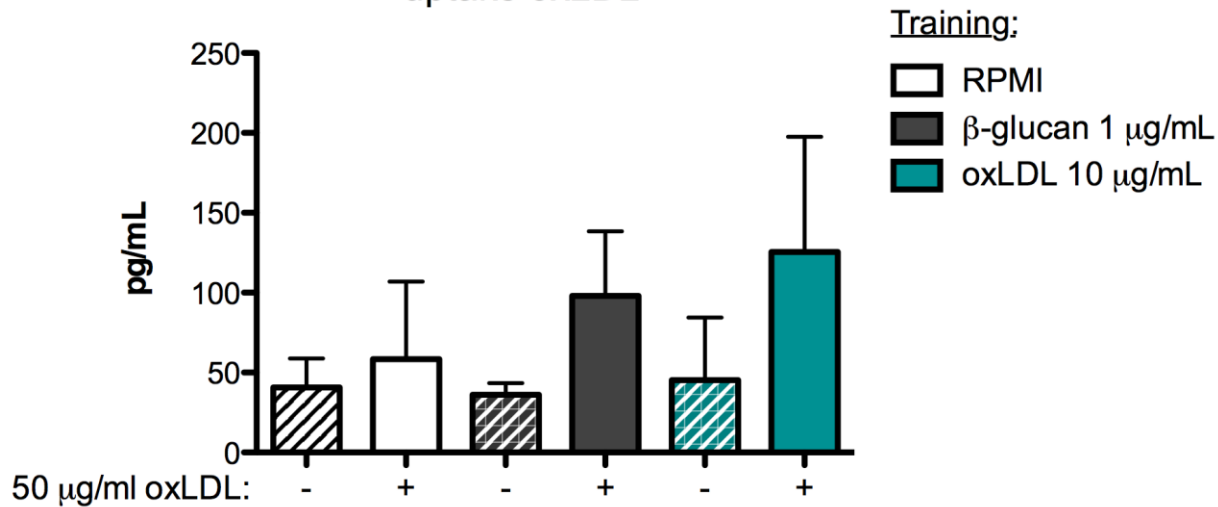


$\beta$ -glucan



oxLDL

uptake oxLDL

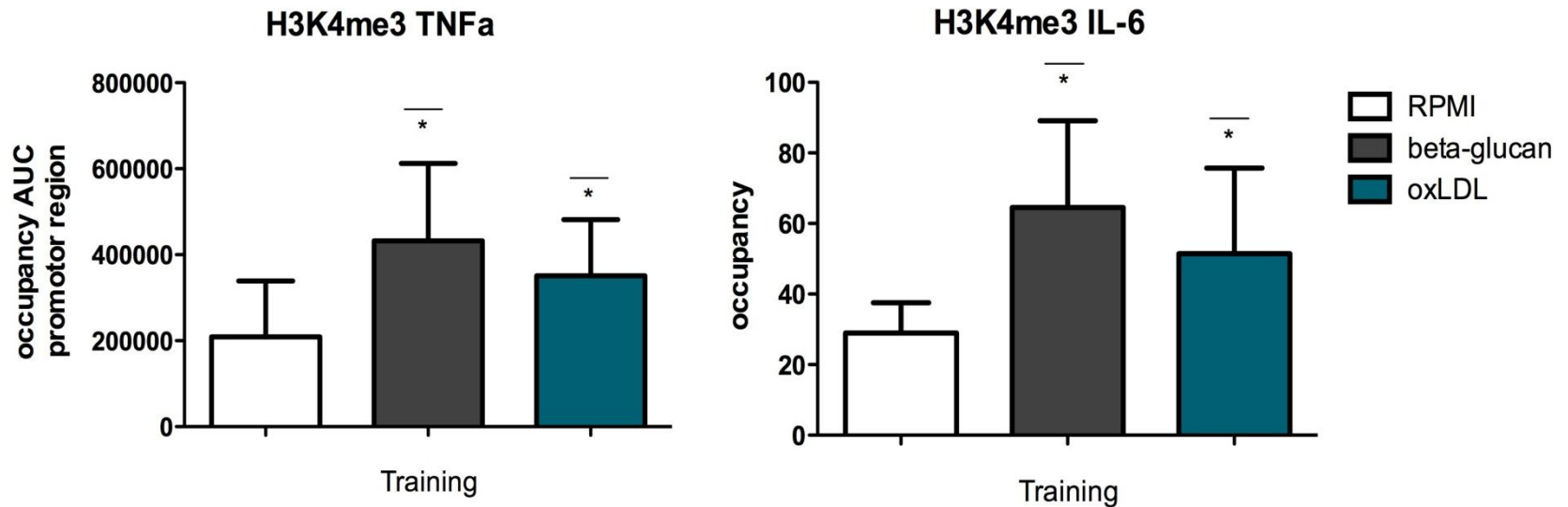
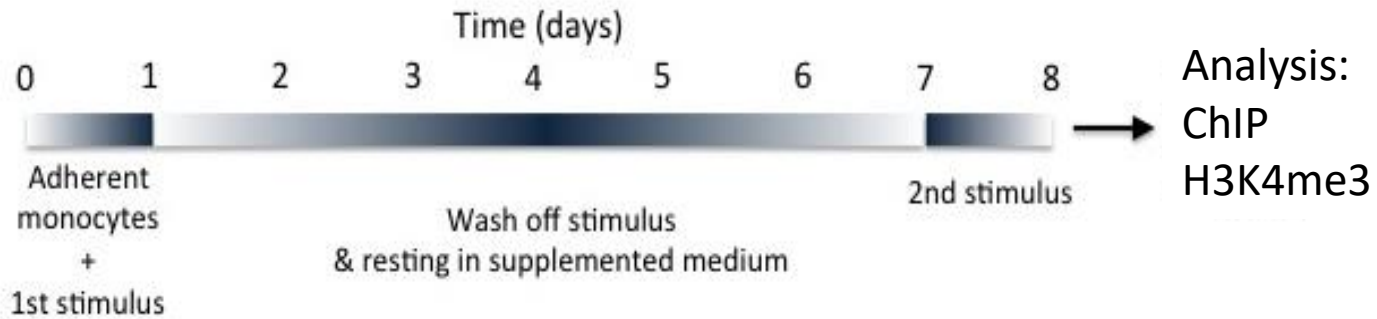






Nijmegen Institute for  
Infection, Inflammation  
& Immunity

# oxLDL training induces upregulated H3K4me3 on the promotor of TNF $\alpha$

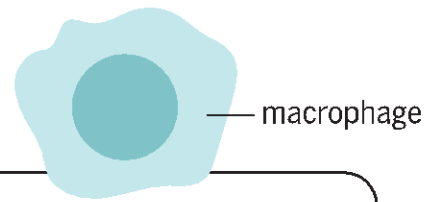




# Infection or vaccination



## Epigenetic reprogramming in innate immune cells

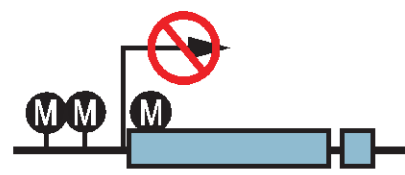
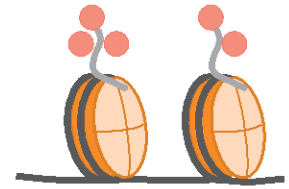


• Histone modification

• DNA methylation

• Modulation of miRNA

• Long-noncoding RNA expression



## Trained immunity transcriptional & functional programs

### Adaptive states

### Maladaptive states

#### Tolerance programs

#### Training programs

- Mucosal tolerance
- Limitation of tissue damage in infection

- Innate immunity maturation
- Nonspecific protection by vaccines

- Immune paralysis in sepsis

- Hyperinflammation in tissues
- Atherosclerosis