

BARCELONA
2024

ESMO

congress

SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM:

**TARGETING INNATE IMMUNE
SIGNALLING PATHWAYS**

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DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Sara Pai:

Consultant:

Abbvie, AstraZeneca, Cue Biopharma, G1 Therapeutics, Incendia, Inovio Pharmaceuticals, Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, Oncolys, Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis Foundation, Replimmune, Sensei Bio, Scopus Biopharma

Grant/Research:

Abbvie, AstraZeneca, Cue Biopharma, Sensei, Tesaro

Educational Talks:

Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC

Investigator-Initiated Clinical Trials: ASTX Pharmaceuticals, AstraZeneca, Cue Biopharma, Eisai, Immune Design, Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC

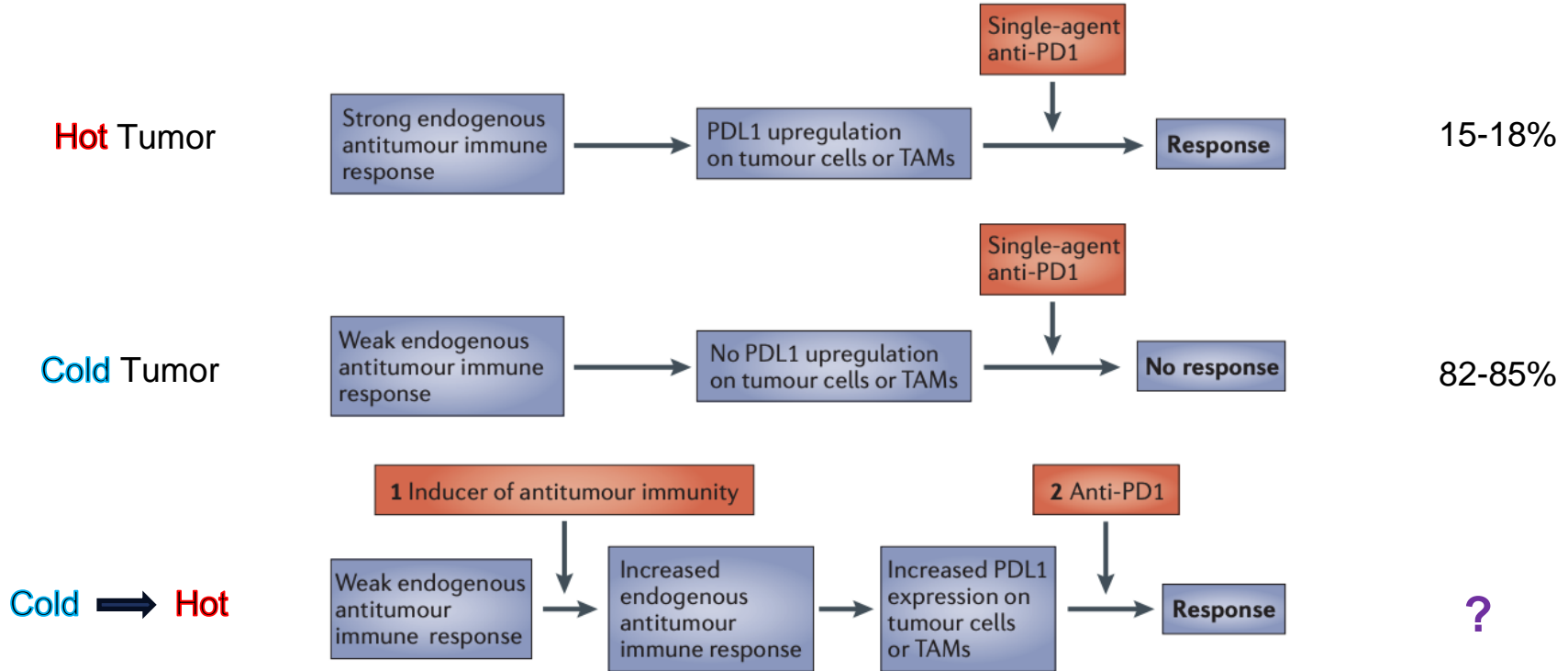
Editorial Roles:

Senior Editor, *Cancer Research*

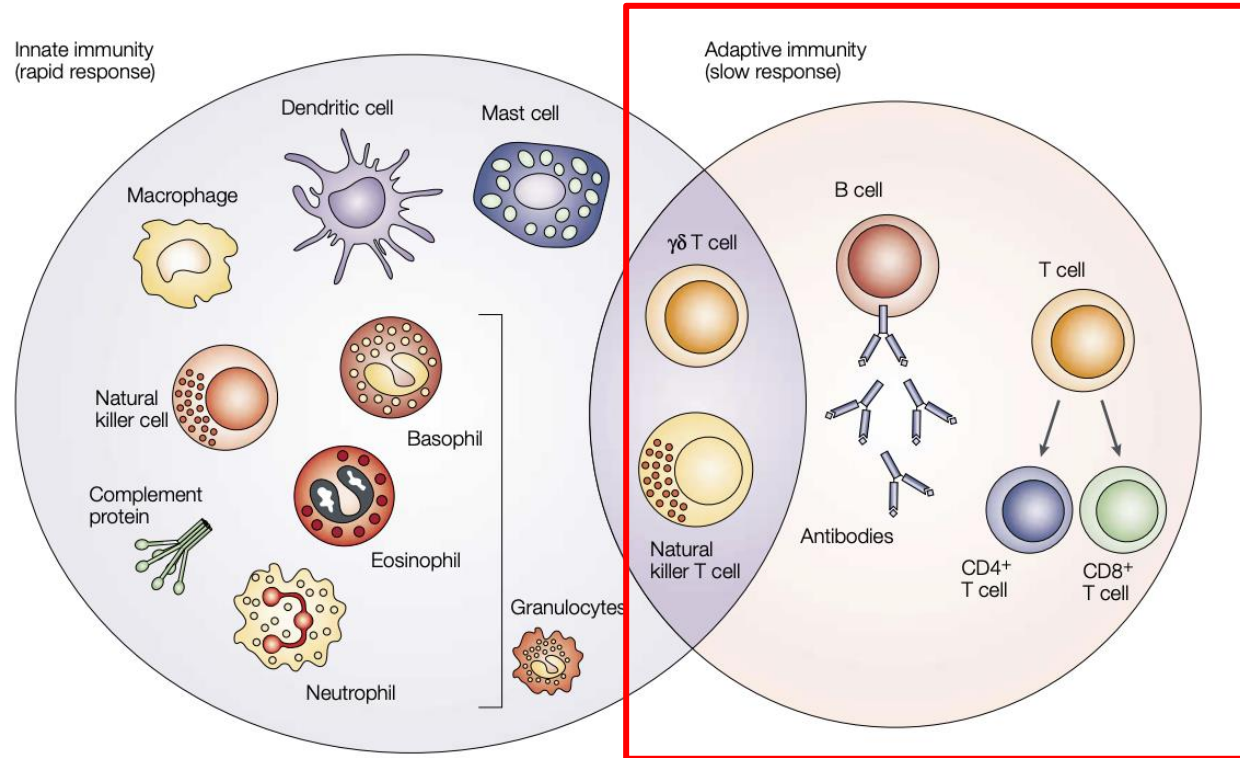
Travel Support:

Chan-Zuckerberg Institute, Merck Serono, Recurrent Respiratory Papillomatosis Foundation

Concept of Combinatorial Immunotherapy with ICB

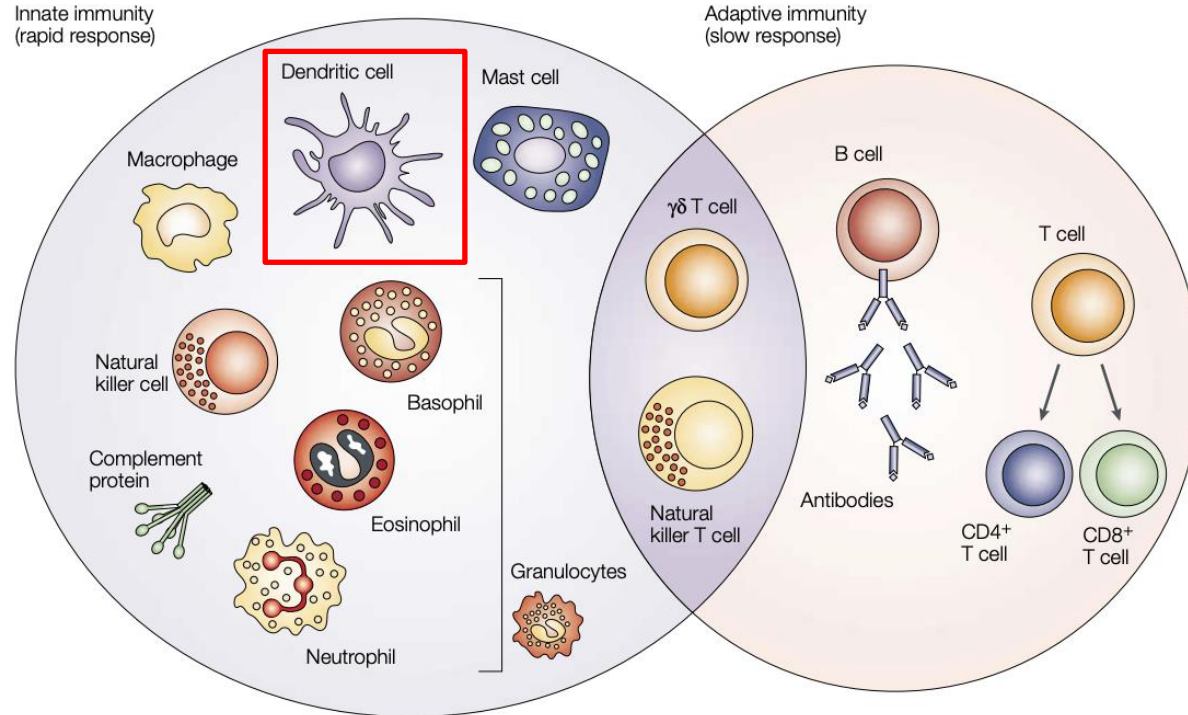


Innate and Adaptive Immune Response



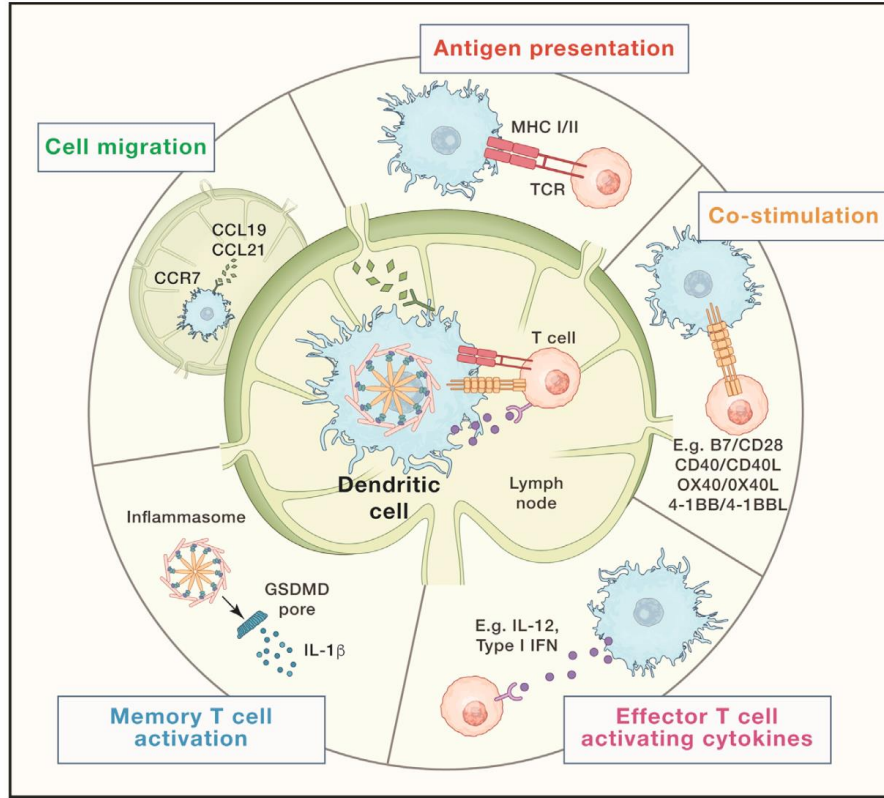
Dranoff G. *Nature Reviews* Jan 2004

Innate and Adaptive Immune Response

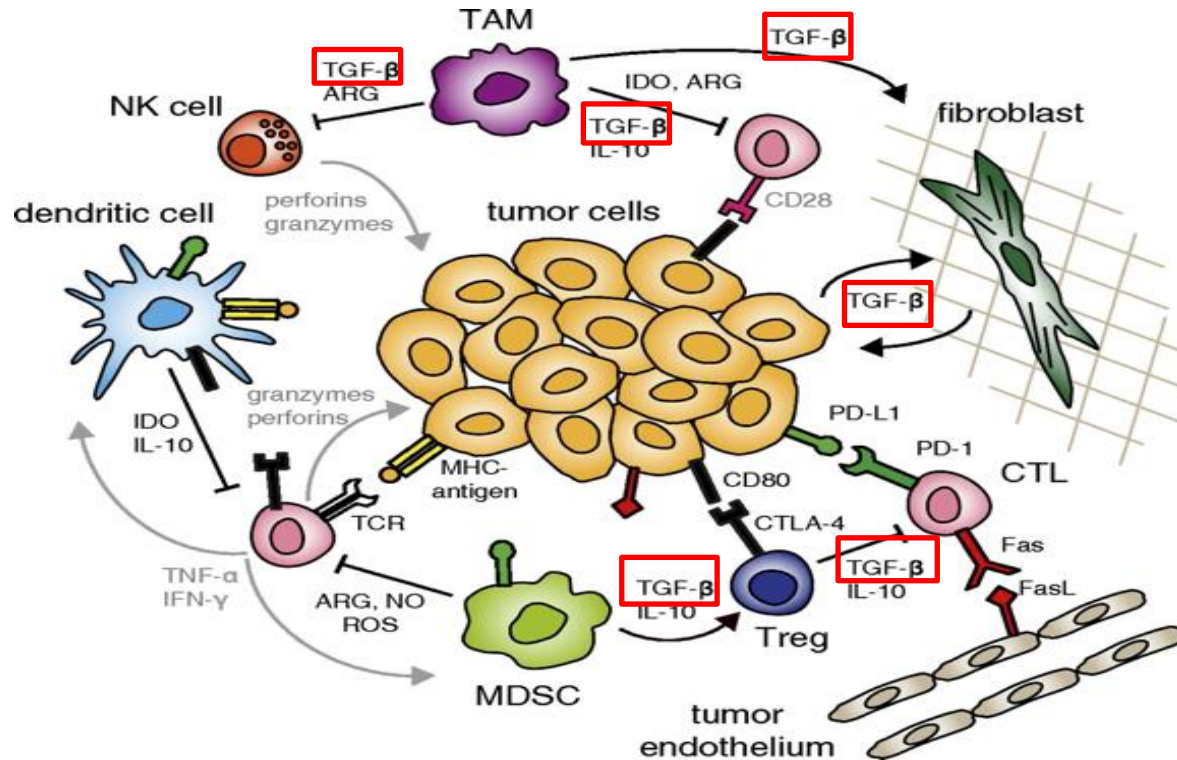


Dranoff G. *Nature Reviews* Jan 2004

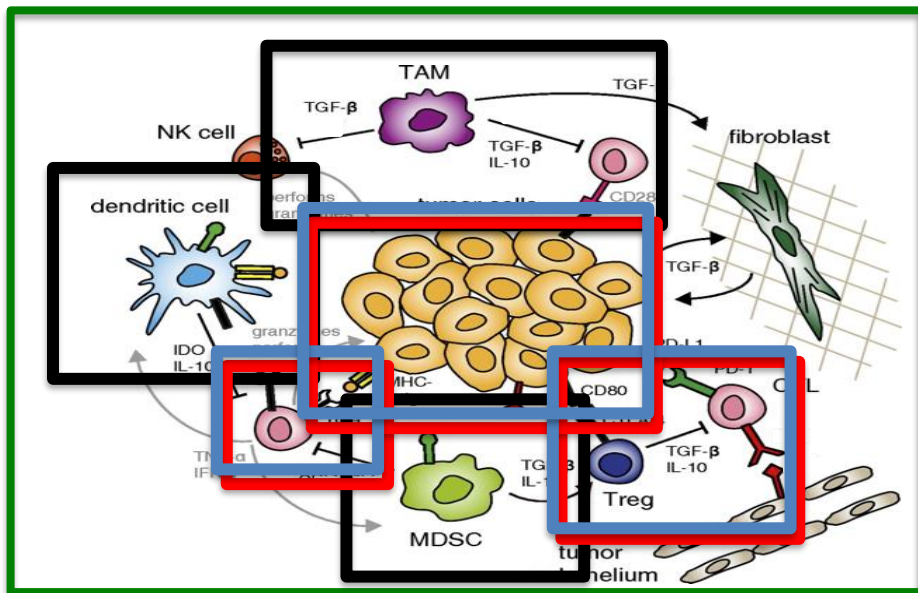
Five key activities in DCs needed to stimulate T cells



Complex Tumor Microenvironment



Developing Combinatorial Strategies to Overcome Immune Resistance in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (NIH P01CA240239)



Specific Aim 1: Uncover both intrinsic and extrinsic mechanisms of immune resistance in HNSCC patients

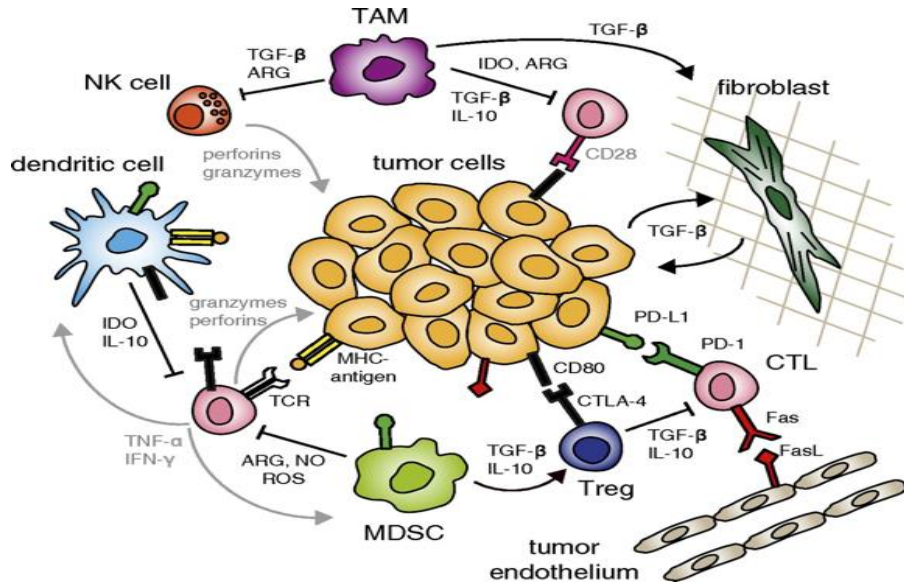
Specific Aim 2: Develop rationale, novel combinatorial strategies that translate into clinically meaningful responses

Project 1: Improving antigenicity through epigenetic reprogramming (Pai)

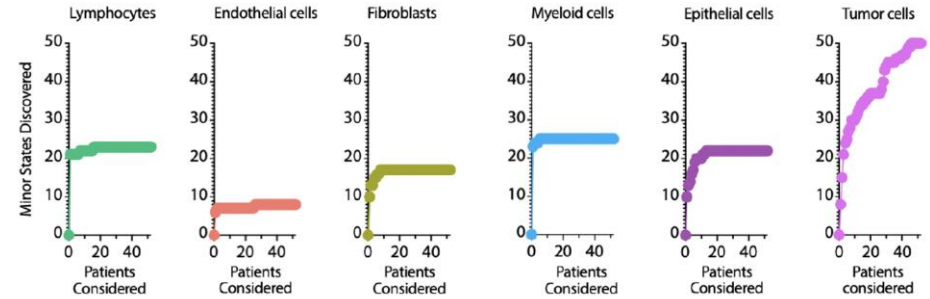
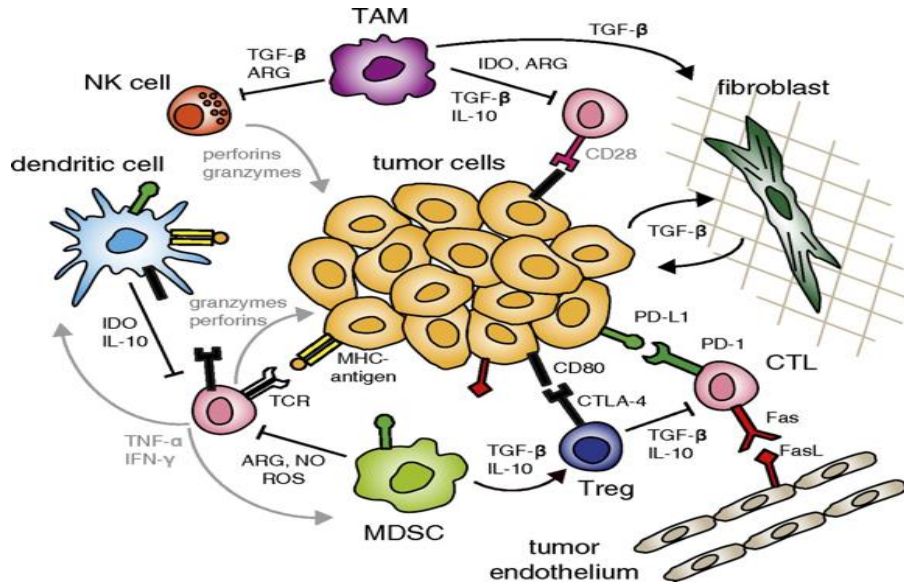
Project 2: Redirecting pre-existing anti-viral immunity to HNSCCs with APECs (Mempel)

Project 3: Myeloid-lymphoid cell crosstalk in HNSCC therapy (Pittet)

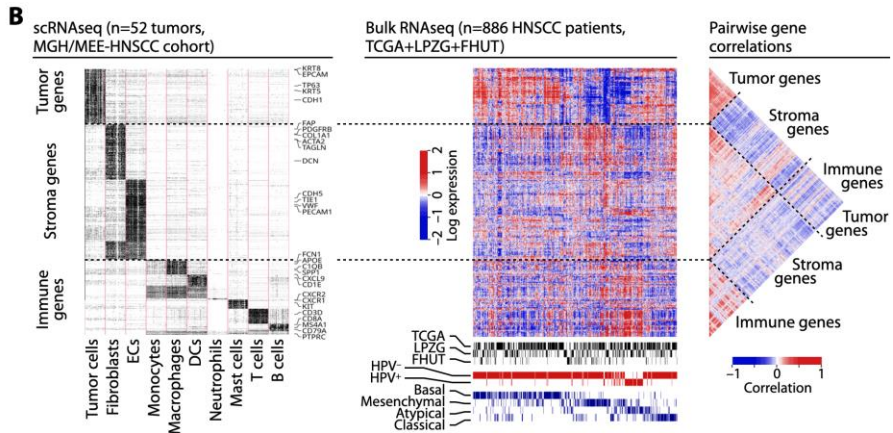
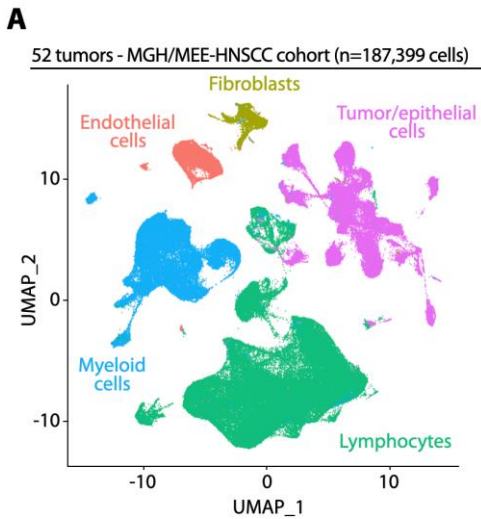
Despite a Complex Tumor Microenvironment...



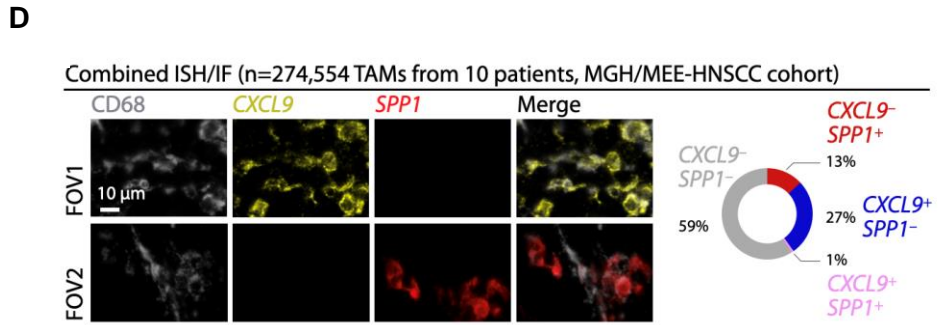
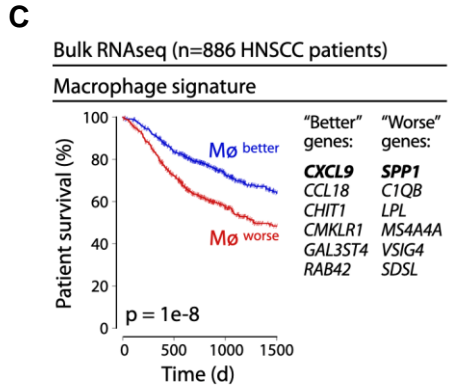
Our Immune System is Uniform Across Individuals



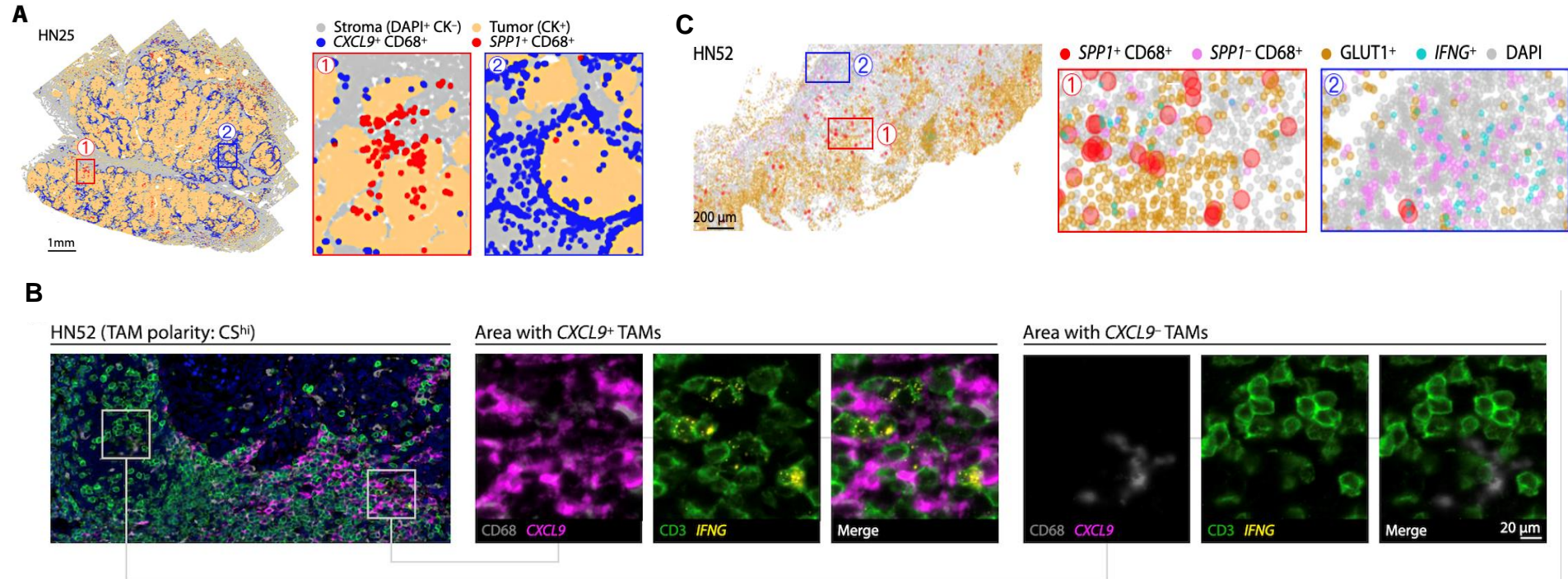
CXCL9:SPP1 polarity of TAMs is a major contributor to the clinical outcome of HNSCCs



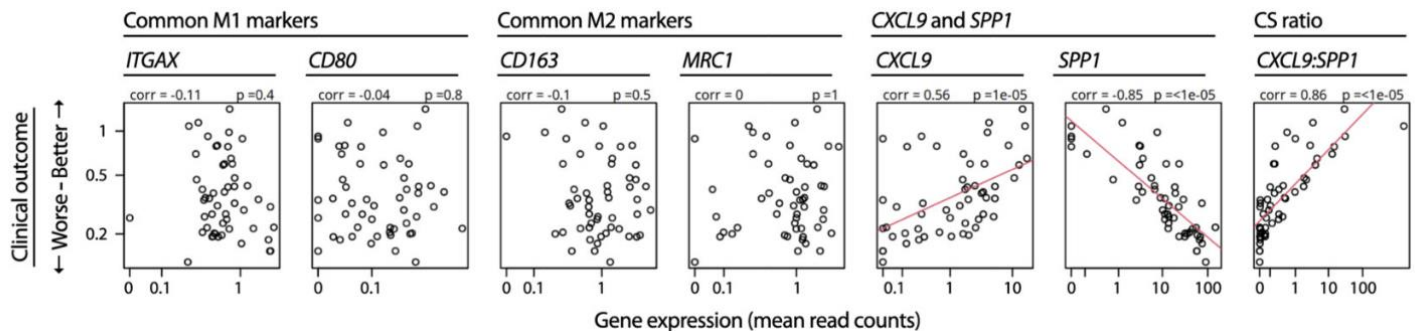
Genes with a fold-change > 3 relative to the next cell type identified for each major cell type.



IFN-g Increases CXCL9+ TAM whereas Hypoxia Increases SPP1+ TAM Polarity



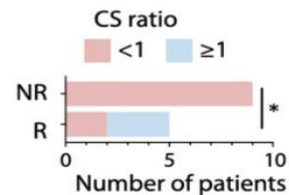
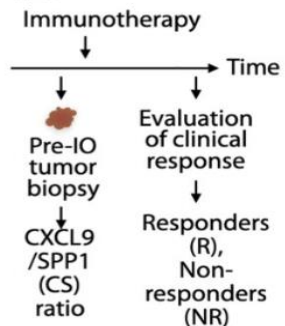
CXCL9/SPP1 (C/S) Ratio is a Better Biomarker of Clinical Outcome than M1/M2 Markers



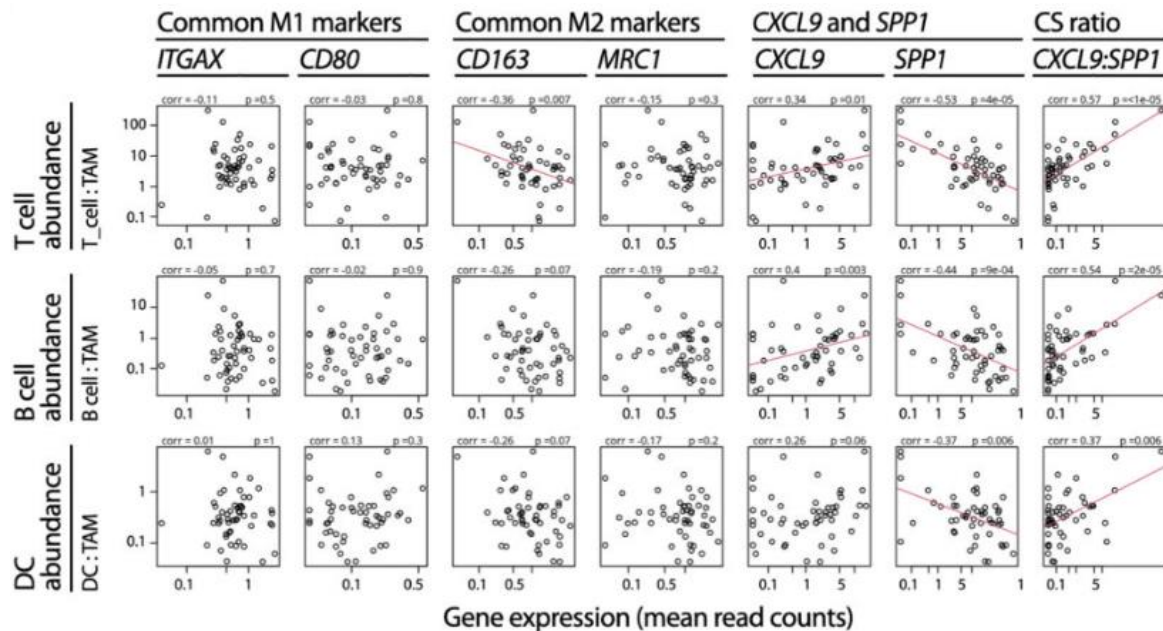
Scatter plots show lack of correlations between the common M1/M2 markers

MGH/MEE-HNSCC cohort

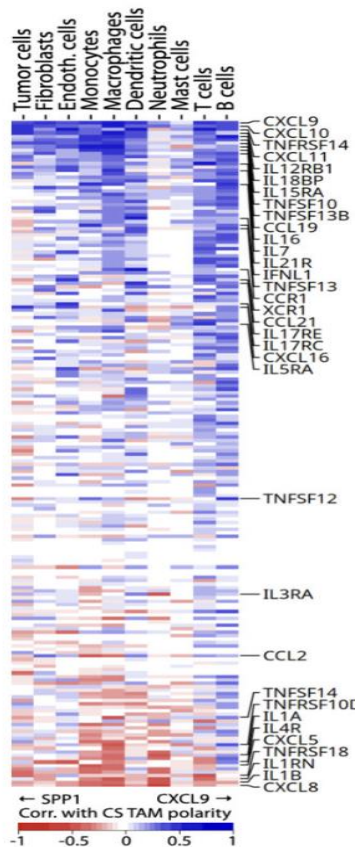
14 HNSCC patients



CXCL9:SPP1 Tumor-associated Macrophage Polarity Determines the Broader TME



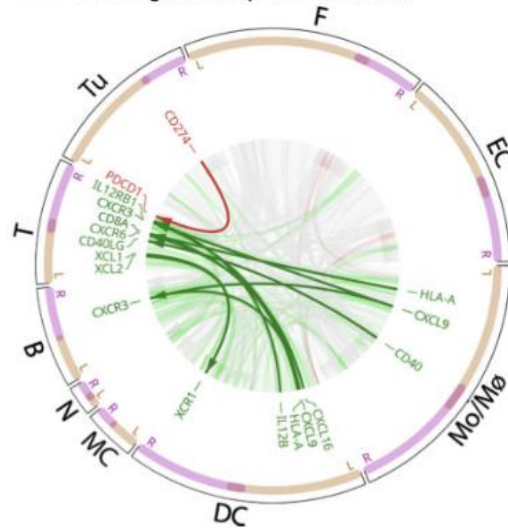
Cytokines and Ligand:Receptor Pairs associated with CXCL9:SPP1 Tumor-associated Macrophage Polarity



Circos Plots

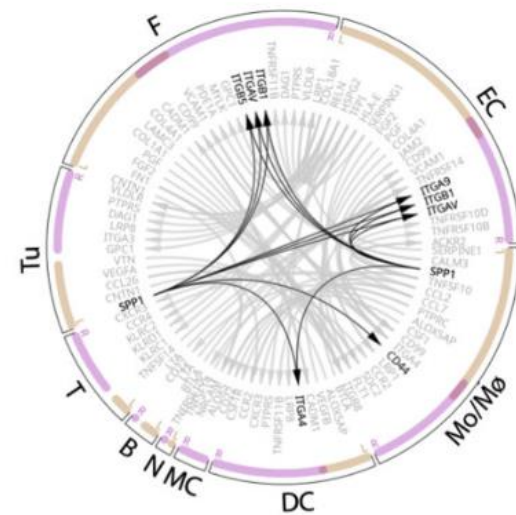
CXCL9-associated ligand:receptor interactions

- Putative immune-activating interactions
- Putative immune-inhibitory interactions
- Other ligand:receptor interactions



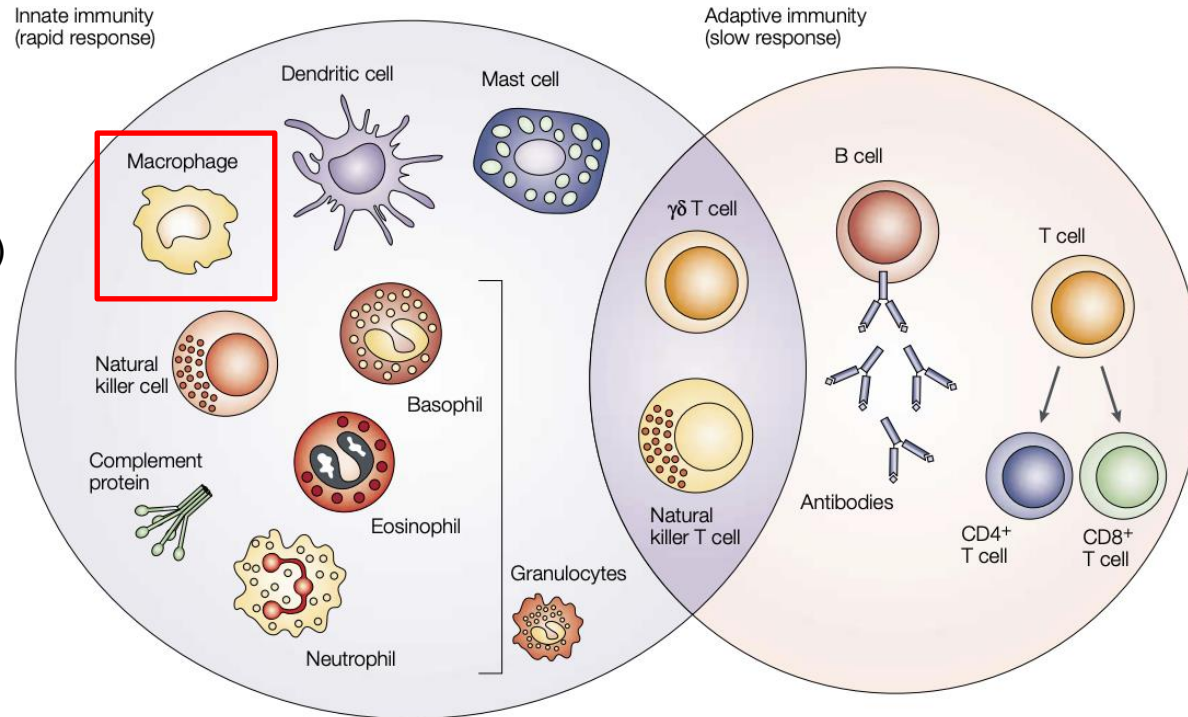
SPP1-associated ligand:receptor interactions

- Interactions involving SPP1
- Other ligand:receptor interactions

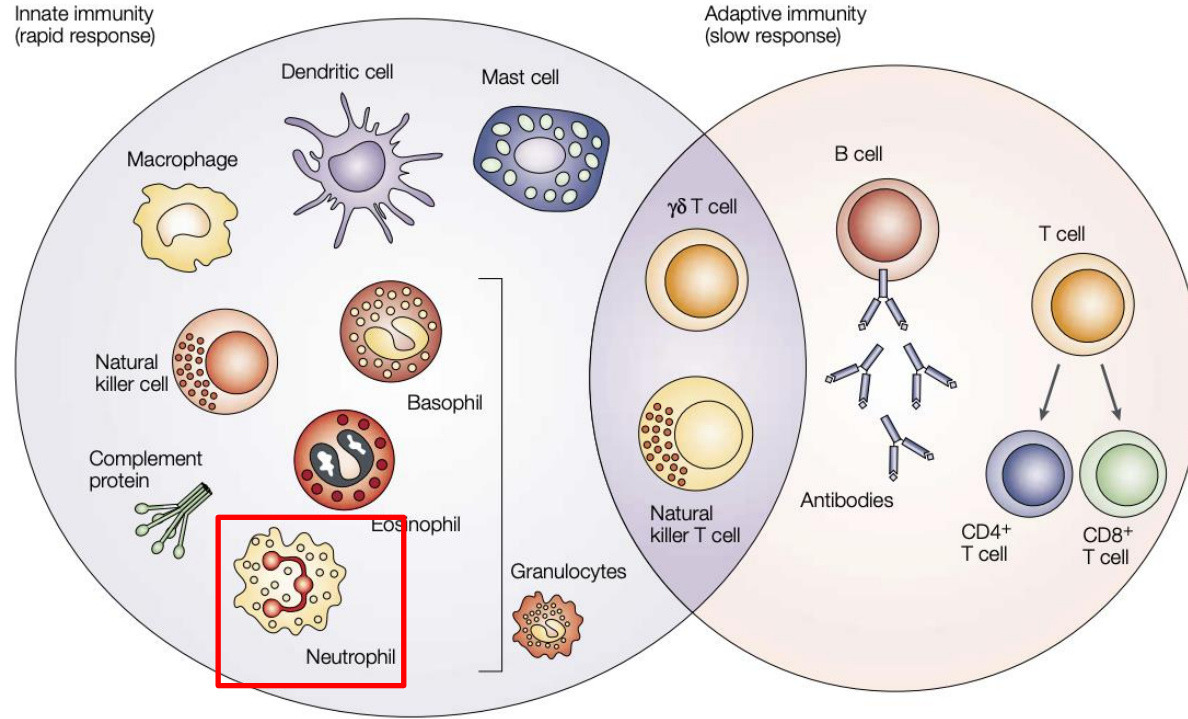


Innate and Adaptive Immune Response Programs

CXCL9/SPP1 (C/S)
Tumor-associated
Macrophages

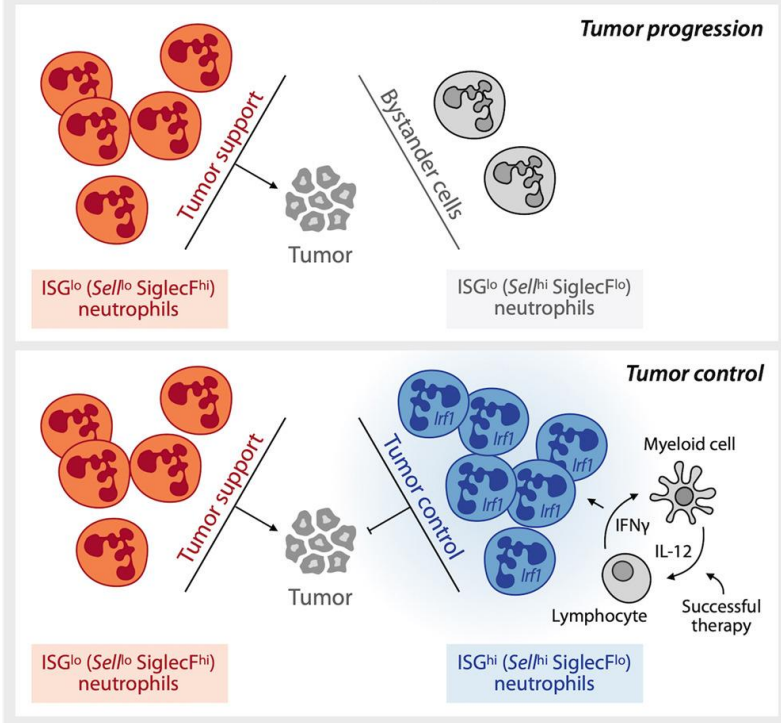


Innate and Adaptive Immune Response



Distinct Neutrophil States Exist

A distinct neutrophil state expressing interferon-stimulated genes (ISG) is linked to tumor control in immunotherapy



- Neutrophils can accumulate in tumors during successful immunotherapy
- Immunotherapy expands a distinct neutrophil state with an IFN-stimulated gene signature
- The neutrophil response requires IFN-g and IL-12 from BATF3-dependent DCs
- ISG^{hi} (Sel^{hi} Siglec^F^{lo}) neutrophil response is associated with better outcomes

Gungabeesoon et al, *Cell* March 2023 186:1448-1464

Conclusions

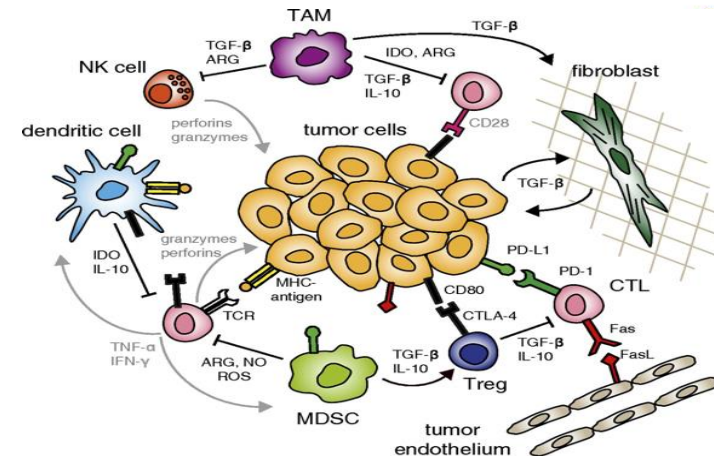
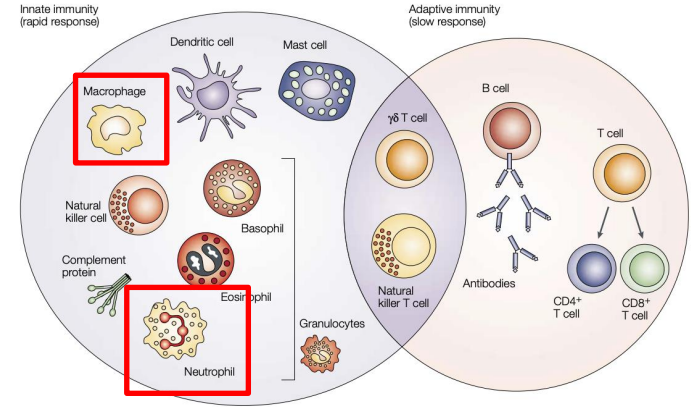
Innate immunity is the first line of defense against infection and/or cancer and can be harnessed to support adaptive immune responses.

Cells of the innate immune system are abundant yet complex with multiple molecular identities.

Targeting single molecule(s) within the innate signaling pathway(s) may be met with limited success based on the intricate soluble and cellular interactions within the tumor microenvironment.

Unveiling relevant innate immune programs may yield successful future targets.

CXCL9/SPP1 TAM polarity is associated with improved clinical outcomes and response to immunotherapy



National Institute of Health/National Cancer Institute Head and Neck Cancer Program Project Grant (P01 CA240239)



William Faquin, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, Head and Neck Pathology, Massachusetts Eye and Ear



Thorsten Mempel, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Director, Center for Immunology and Inflammatory Dis
Cellular immunology; T cell repertoire; Tregs; chemokines



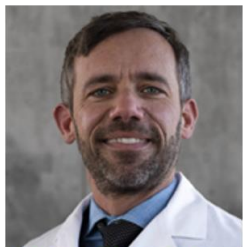
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