



Agent-based
Modeling of
Immunological
Synapse
Dynamics

Anastasios Siokis, PhD

9th June 2021

Rosa Webinar

Under attack

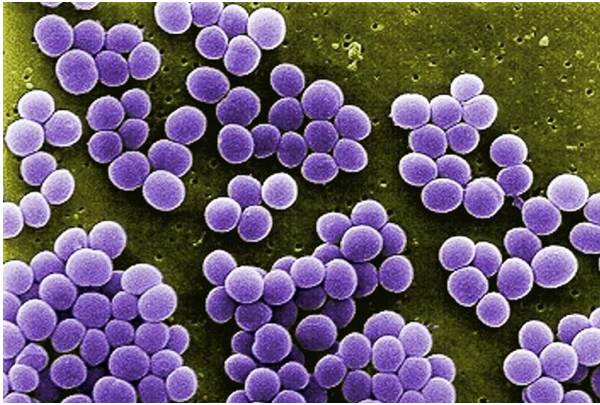
Bacteria

Frontiers Science news |
<https://tinyurl.com/y57szcbx>



Pseudomonas aeruginosa

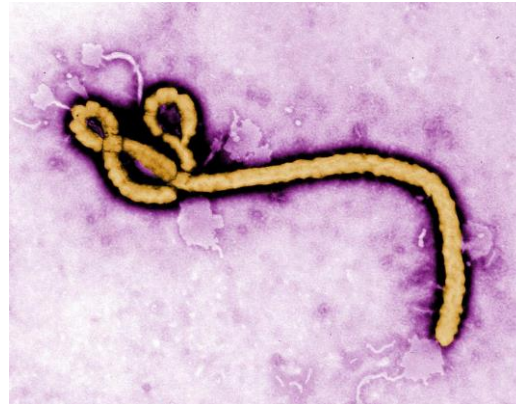
Janice Haney Carr | CDC |
<https://tinyurl.com/j2wvqb2>



Staphylococcus aureus

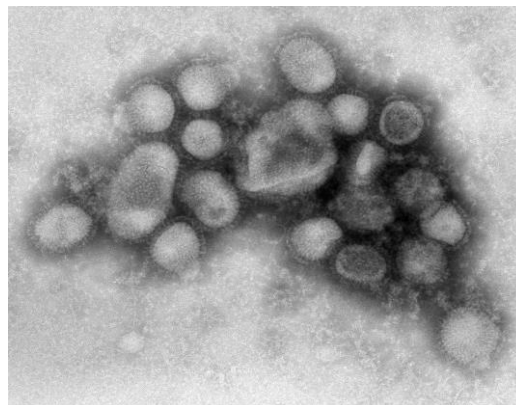
Health and Human Services |
NIH |
<https://tinyurl.com/yxon6s9f>

Viruses



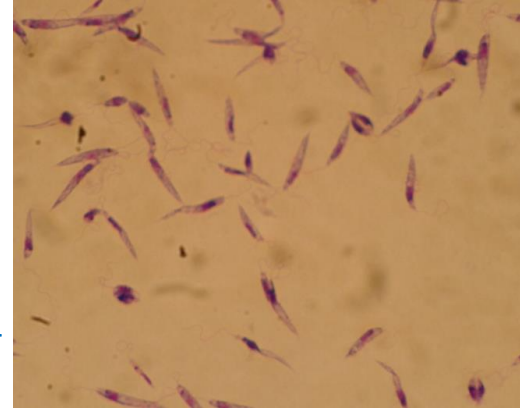
Ebola virus

Centers for disease control and
prevention | CDC |
<https://tinyurl.com/yxd8euw8>



H1N1 Influenza virus

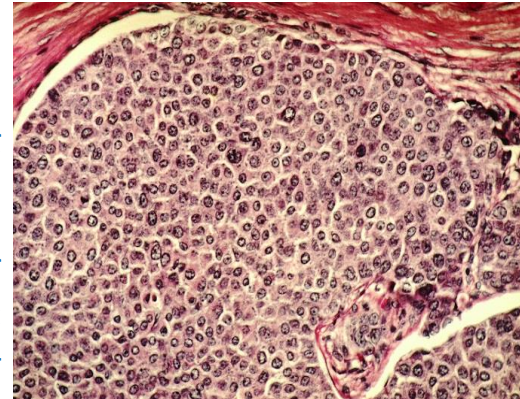
Parasites



Wikipedia

Leishmania major

Cancer



Visuals online | NIH |
<https://tinyurl.com/y6ctnsiz>

Breast cancer

Under attack

Bacteria

Viruses

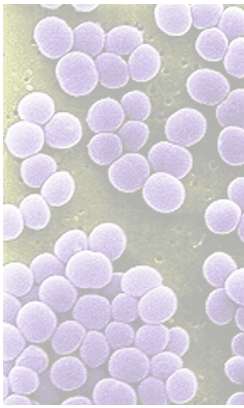
Parasites

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Pseudomonas

Janice Haney Carr | CDC |
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Staphylococcus aureus

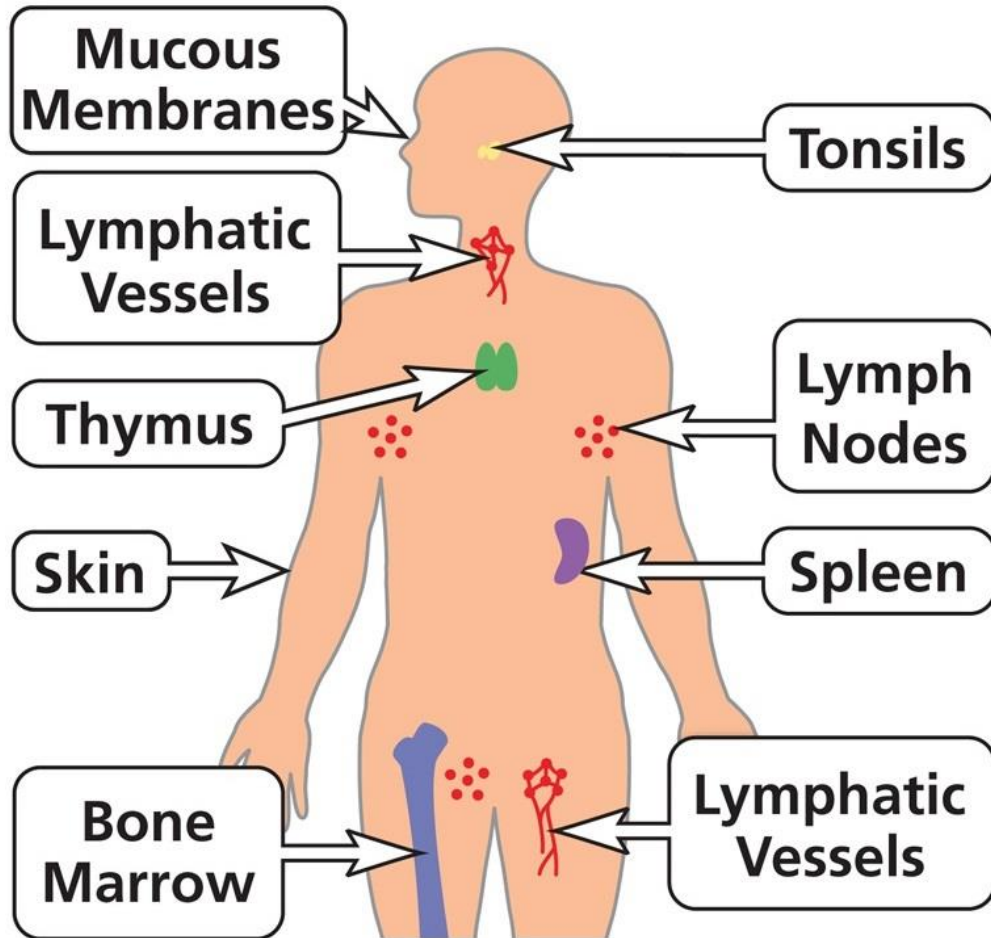


H1N1 Influenza virus

Breast cancer

Defense and counterattack

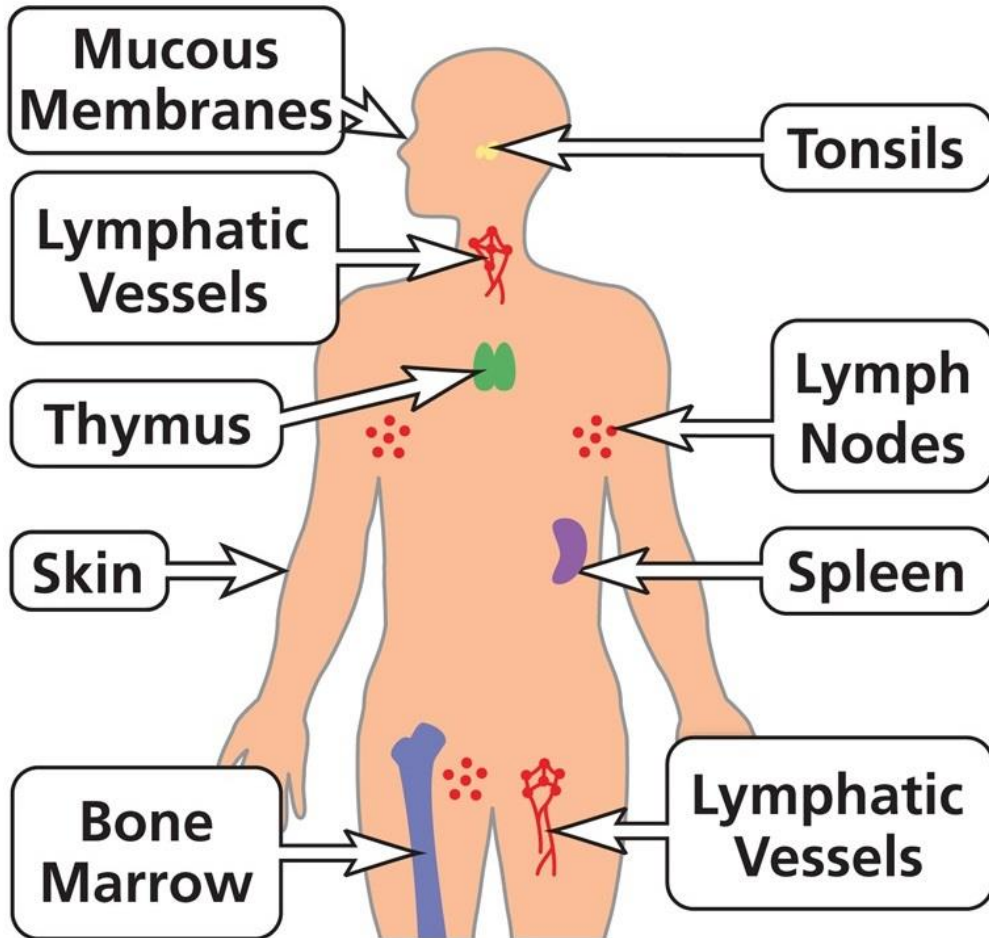
Organs of the Immune System



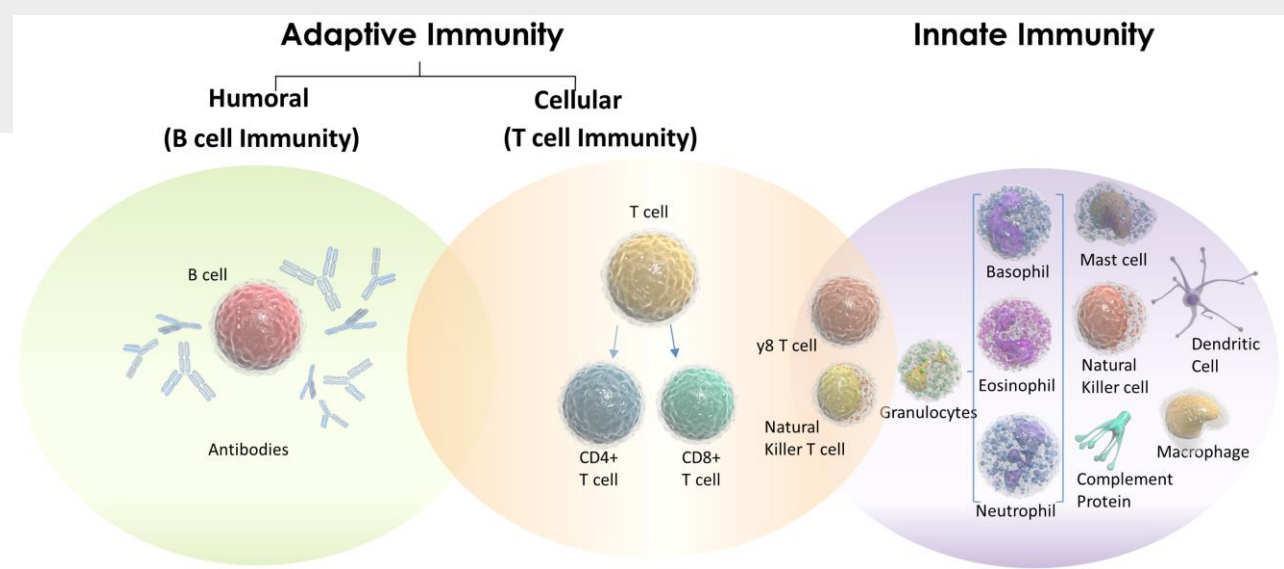
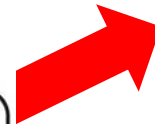
Health and Human Services | NIH |
<https://tinyurl.com/y78ejau3>

Defense and counterattack

Organs of the Immune System



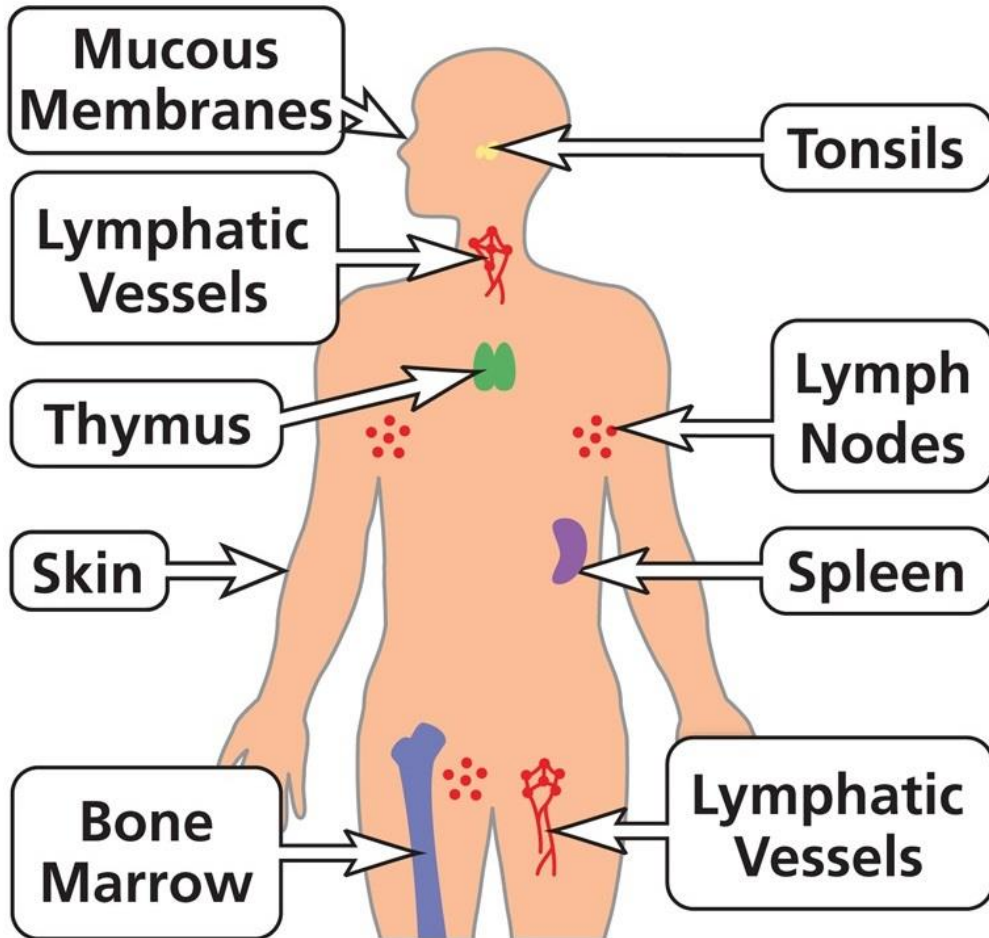
Health and Human Services | NIH | <https://tinyurl.com/y78ejau3>



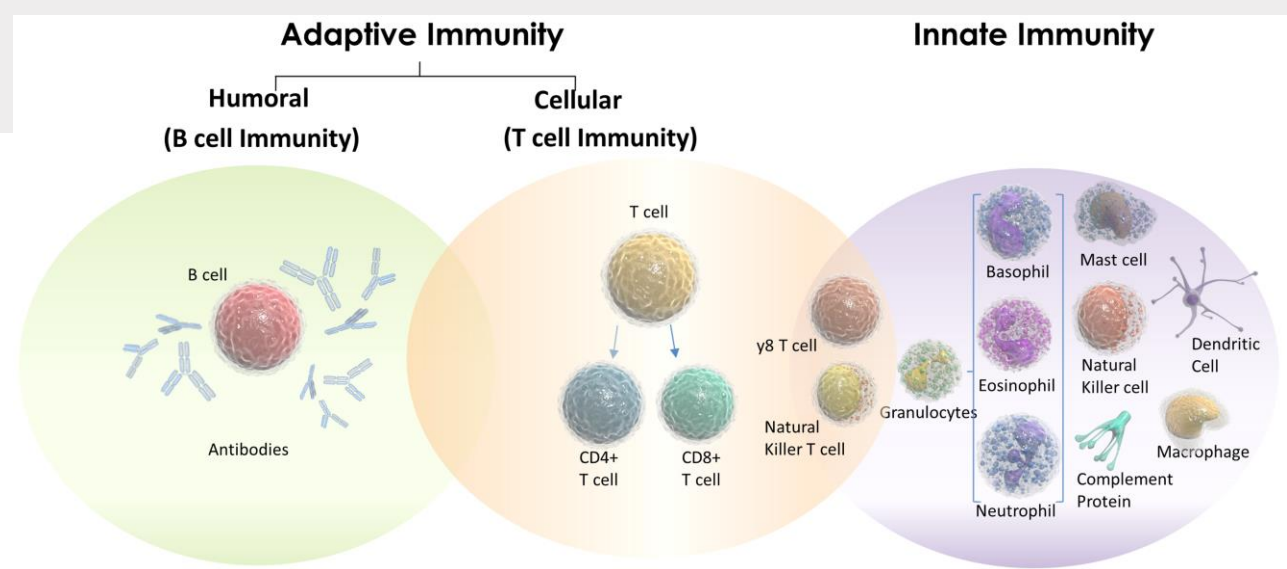
Oxford Immunotec | <https://tinyurl.com/y382unta>

Defense and counterattack

Organs of the Immune System



Health and Human Services | NIH | <https://tinyurl.com/y78ejau3>



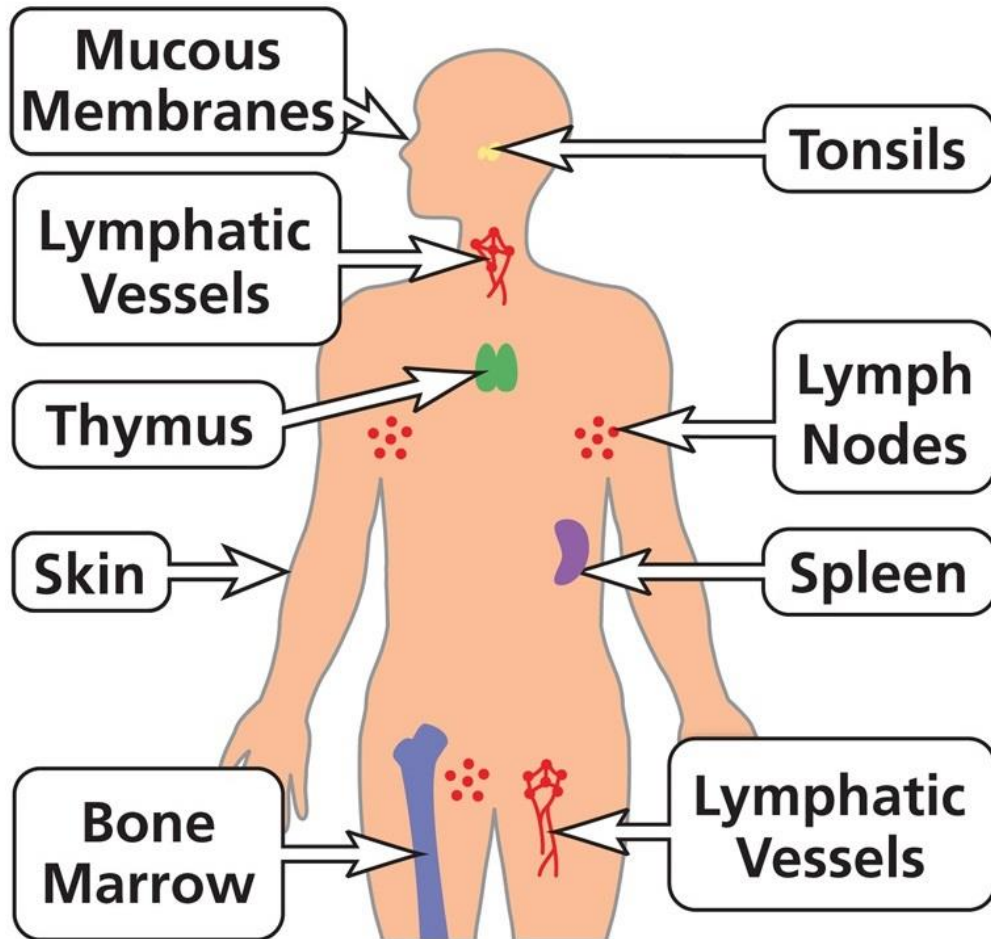
Oxford Immunotec | <https://tinyurl.com/y382unta>

Innate immunity:

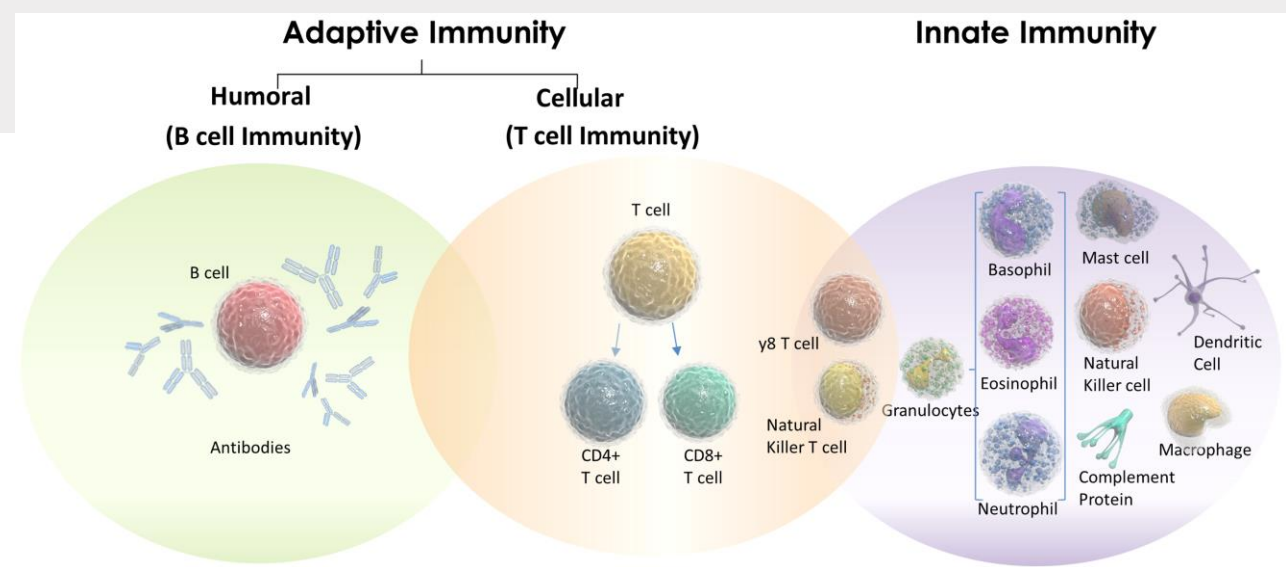
- immediate non-specific defense
- phagocytes kill or inactivate foreign objects
- information transfer to adaptive immunity

Defense and counterattack

Organs of the Immune System



Health and Human Services | NIH | <https://tinyurl.com/y78ejau3>



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Innate immunity:

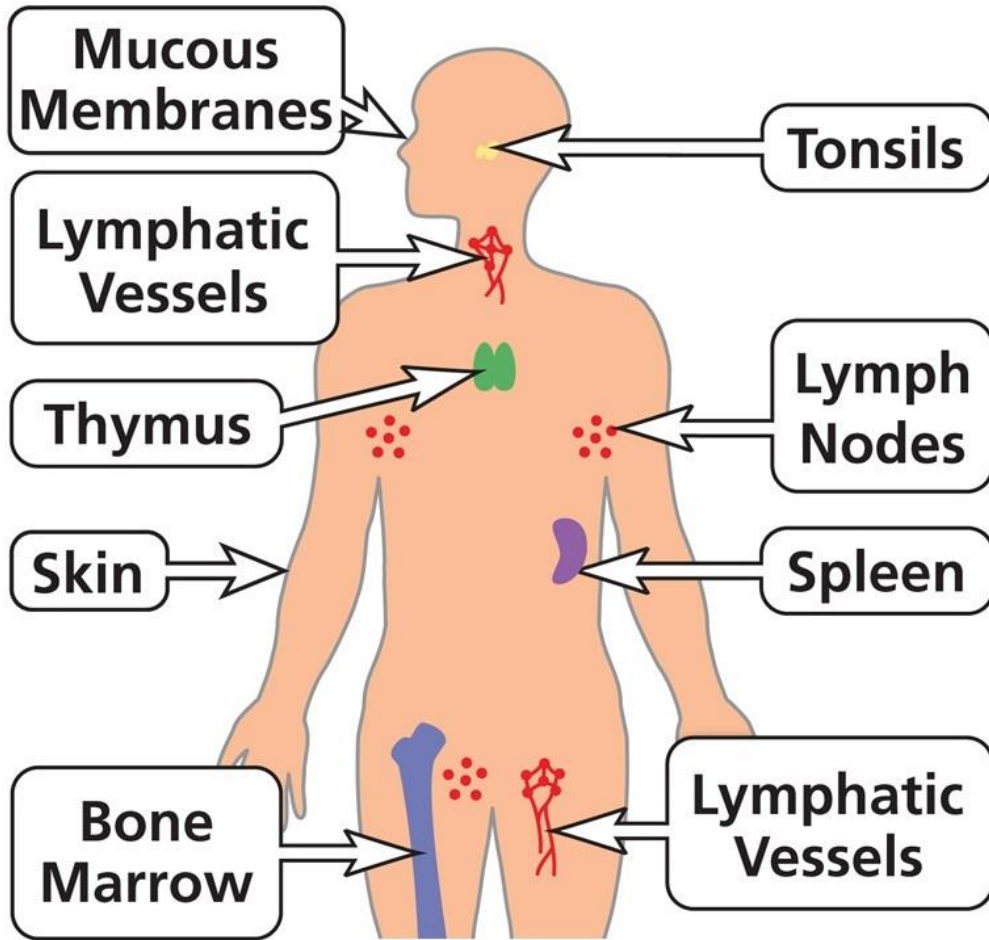
- immediate non-specific defense
- phagocytes kill or inactivate foreign objects
- information transfer to adaptive immunity

Adaptive immunity:

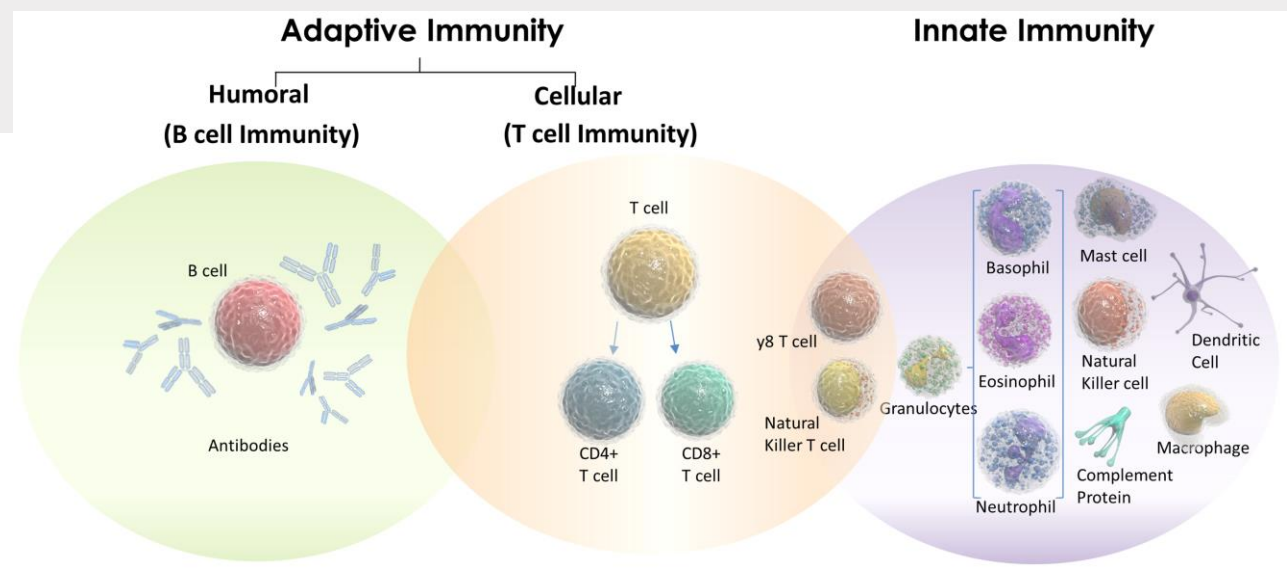
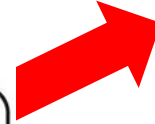
- **Humoral:** B cell mediated, antibody production
- **Cellular:** T cell mediated, interaction of T and antigen presenting cells (APCs)

Defense and counterattack

Organs of the Immune System



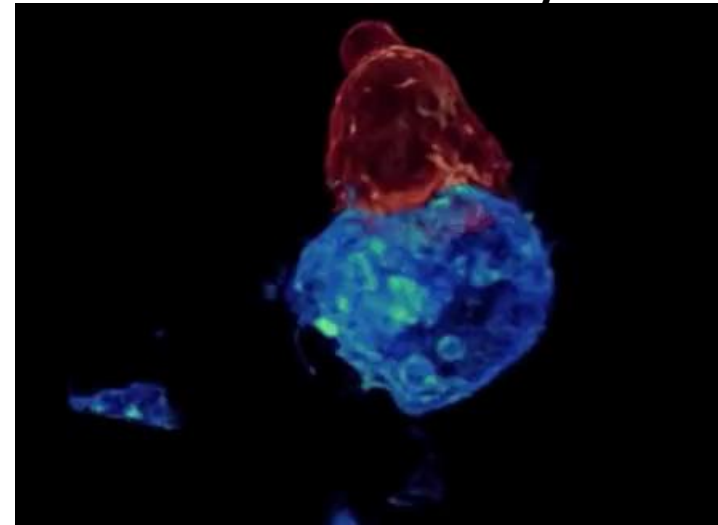
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Cellular immunity



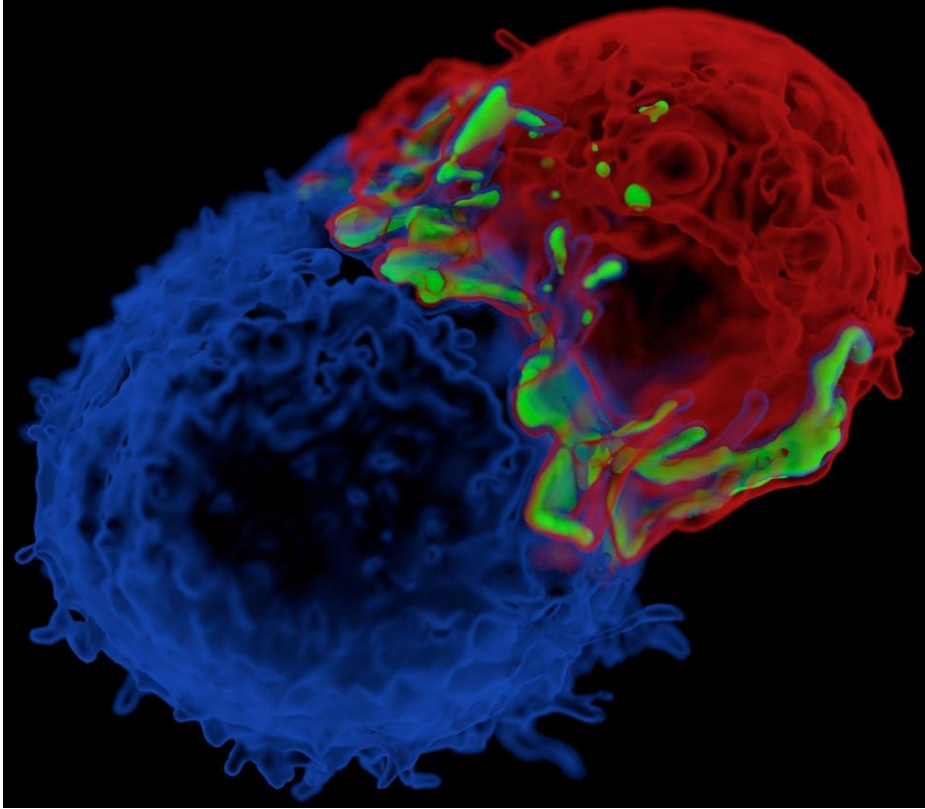
T cell

Dendritic cell
Macrophage
B cell

James and Vale | Nature 487 | 2012 | <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature11220>

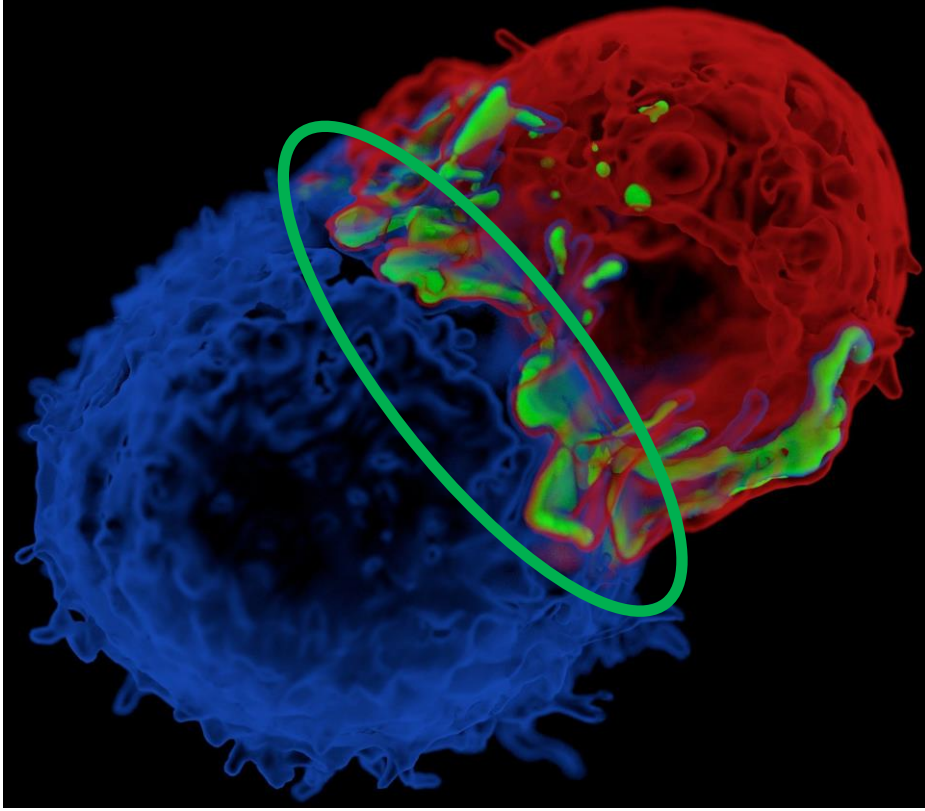
Characteristic pattern formation

James and Vale | Nature 487 | 2012 |
<https://doi.org/10.1038/nature11220>



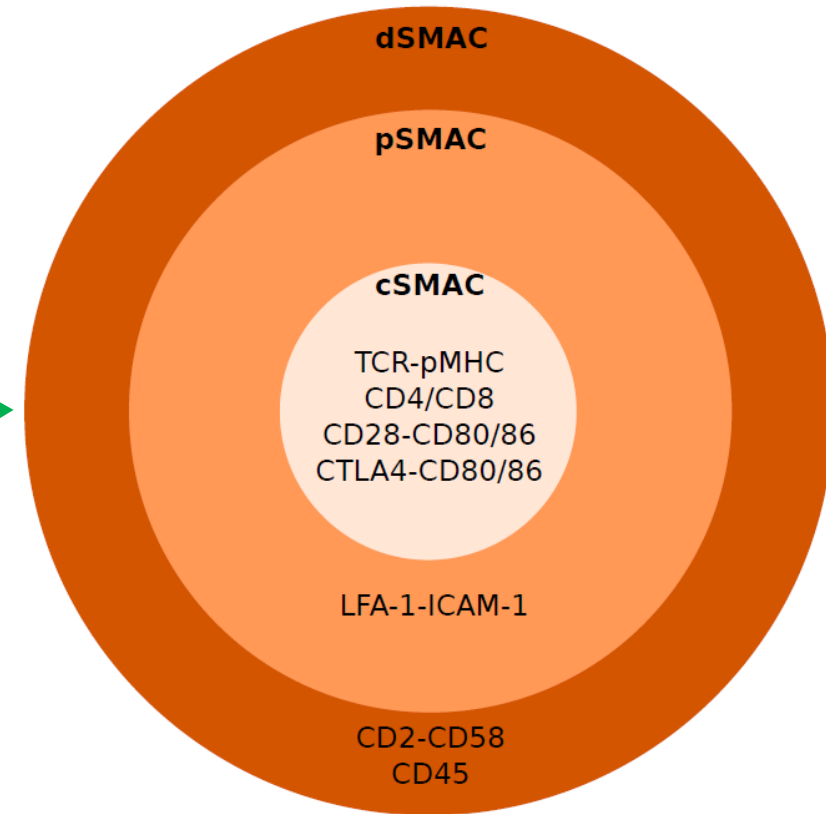
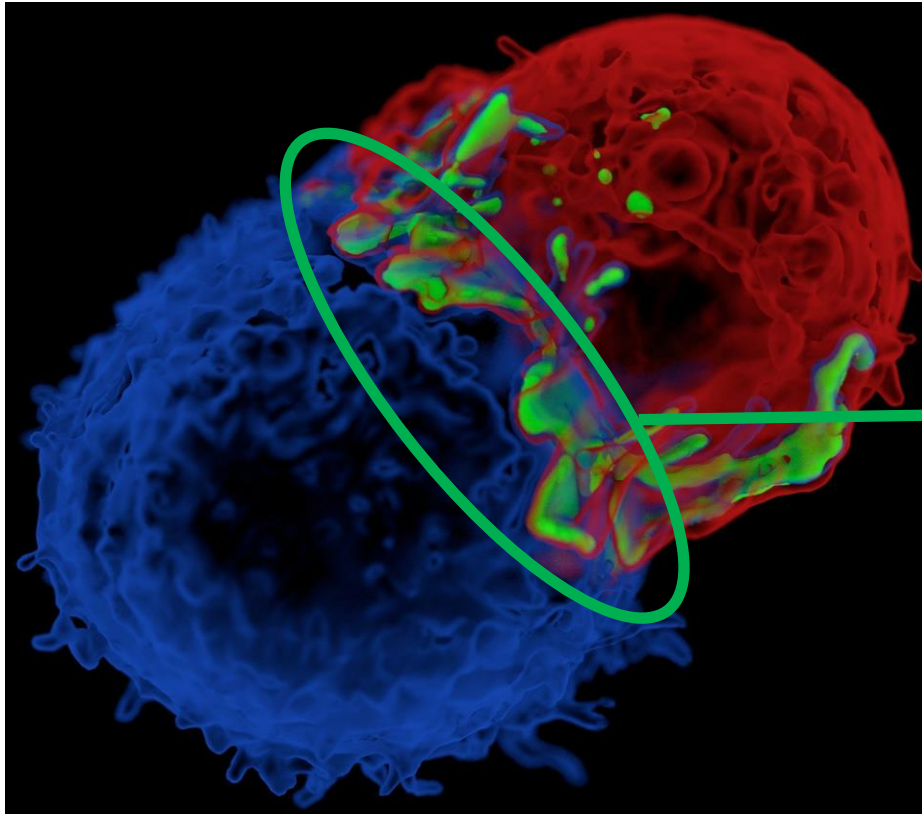
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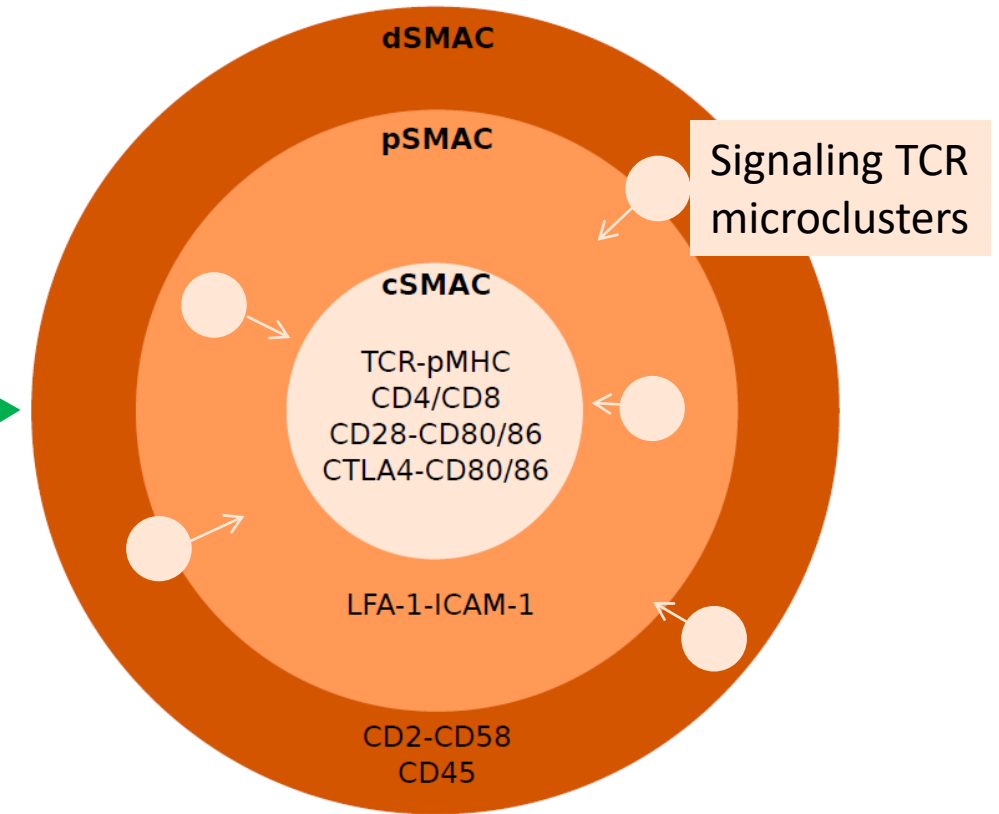
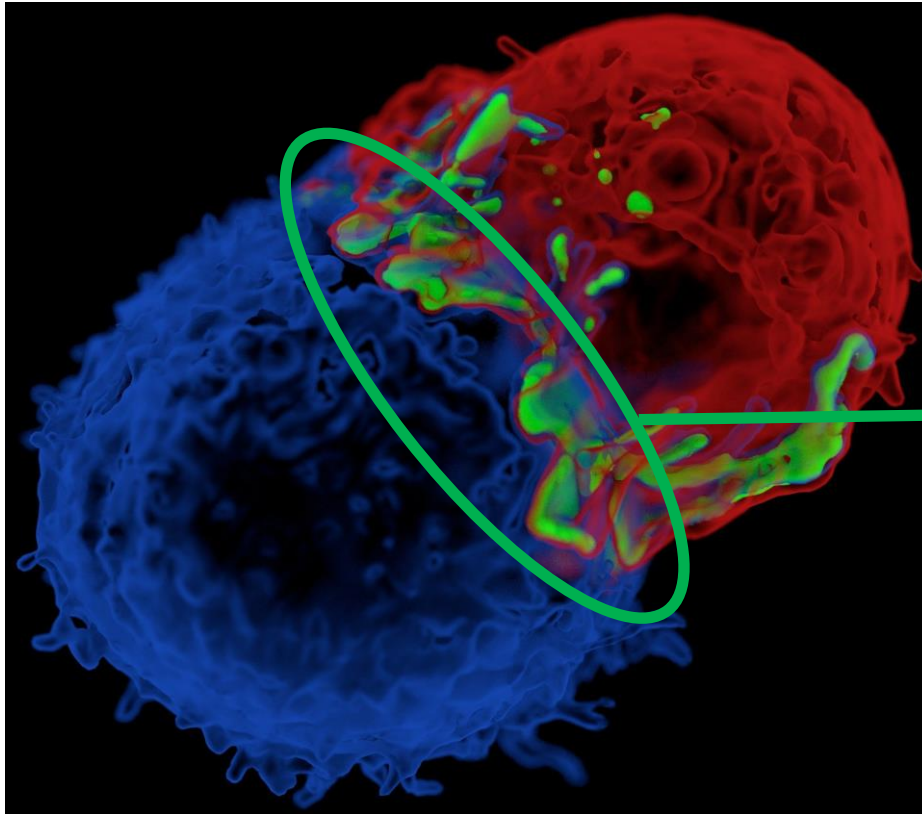
James and Vale | Nature 487 | 2012 |
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SMAC - supramolecular activation cluster
TCR - T cell receptor
pMHC - Antigen peptide bound to major histocompatibility complex
LFA-1 - Lymphocyte function-associated antigen 1
ICAM-1 - Intercellular Adhesion Molecule 1
CD - Cluster of differentiation XX

Characteristic pattern formation

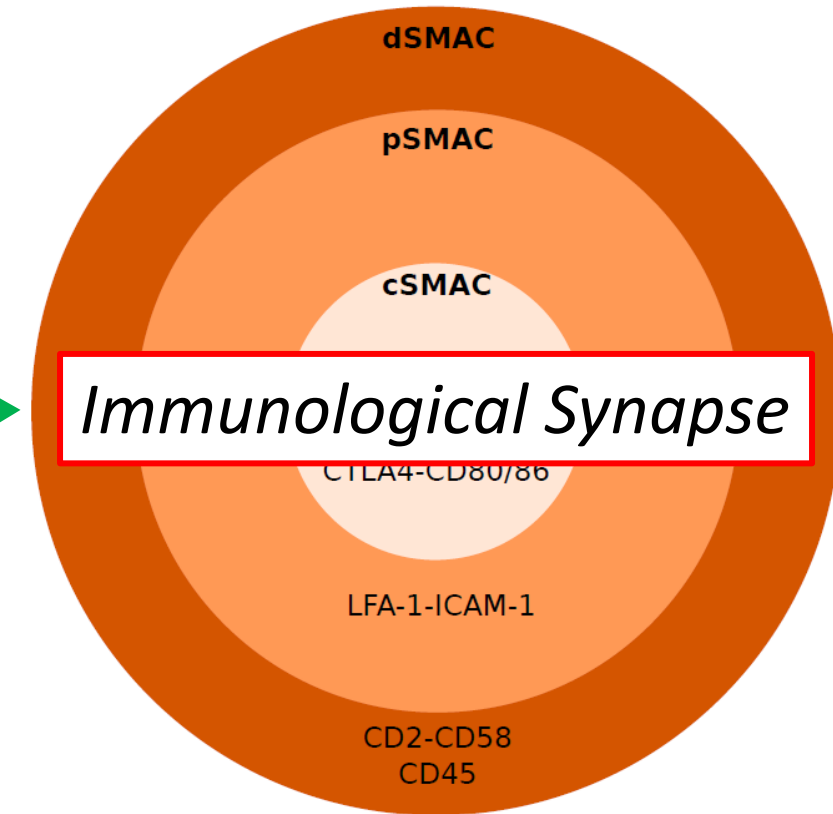
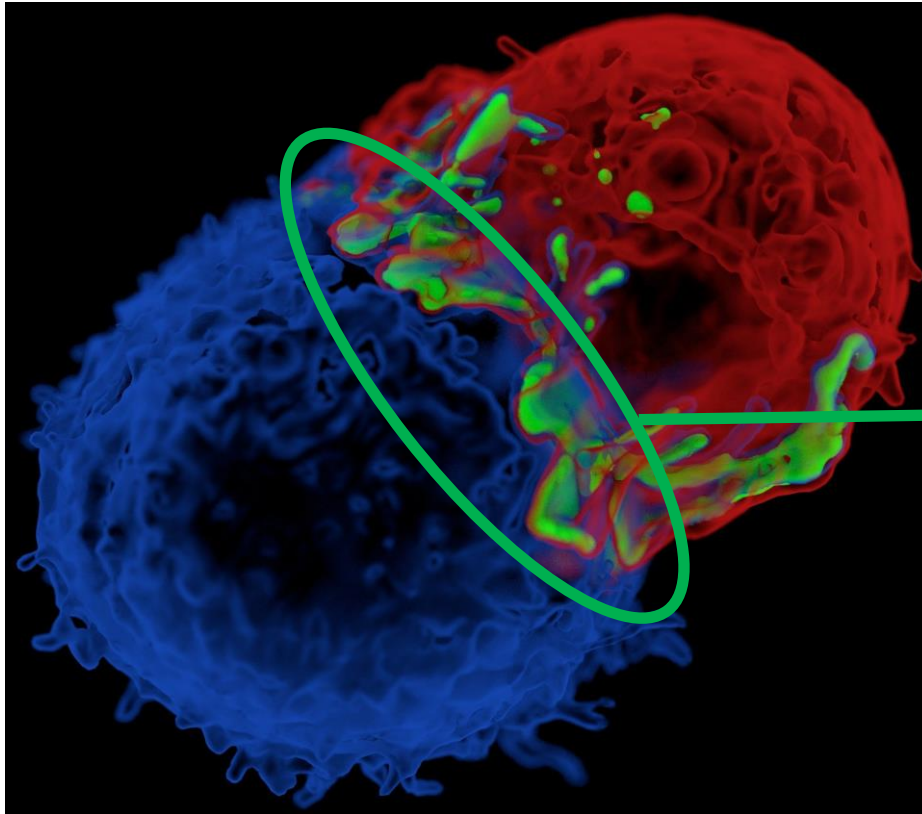
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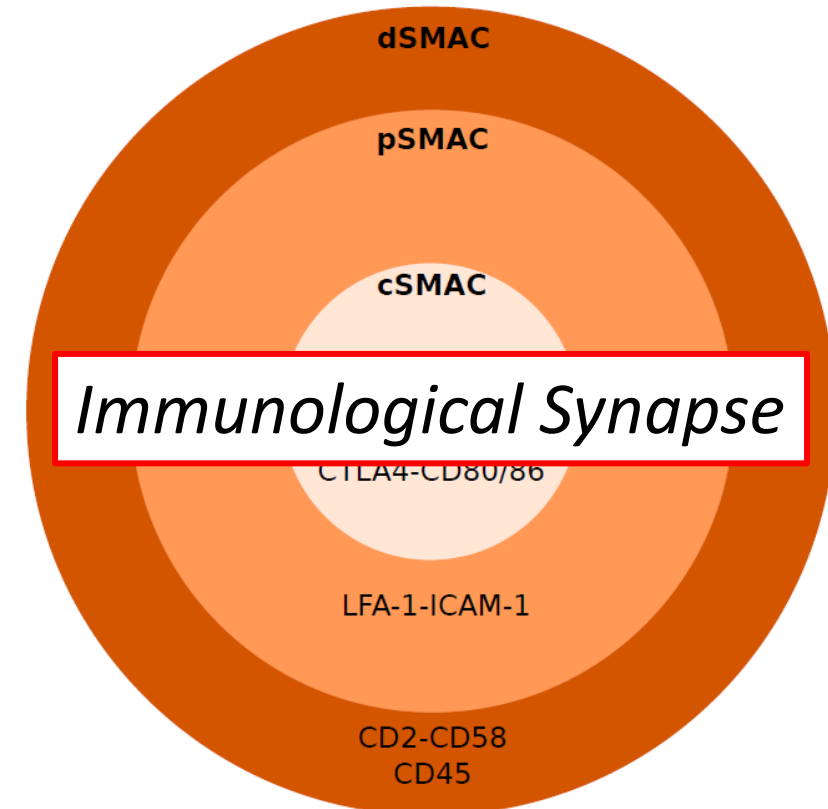
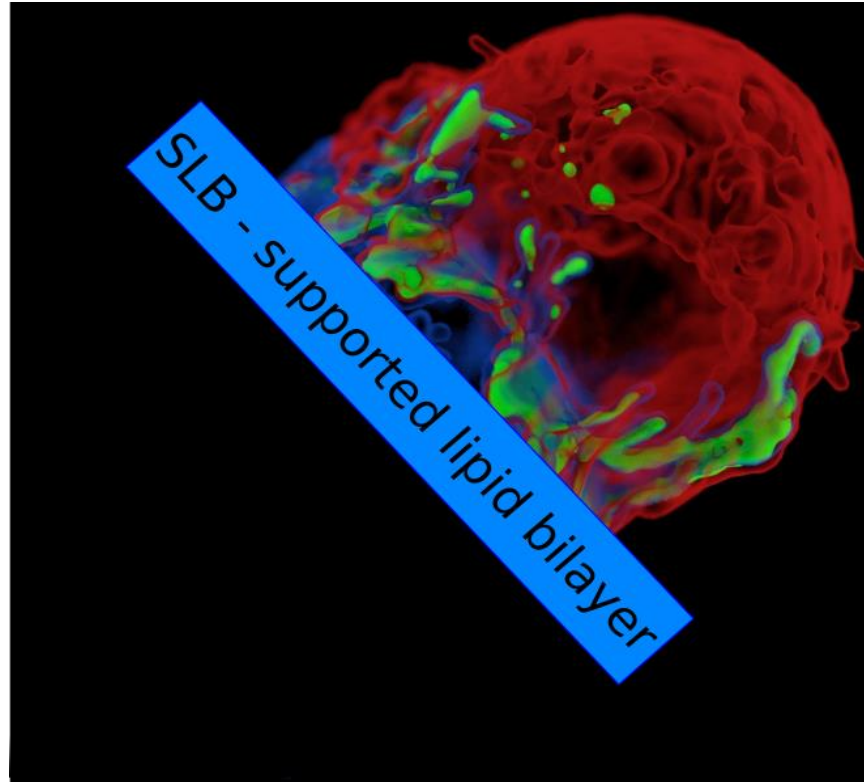
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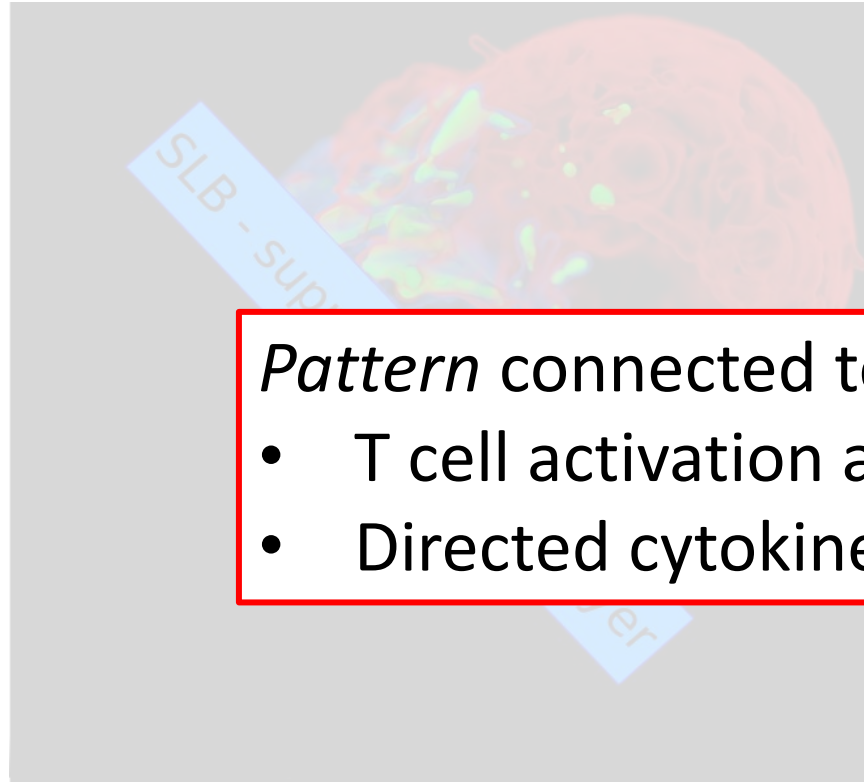


Most experiments
performed on SLBs

SMAC - supramolecular activation cluster
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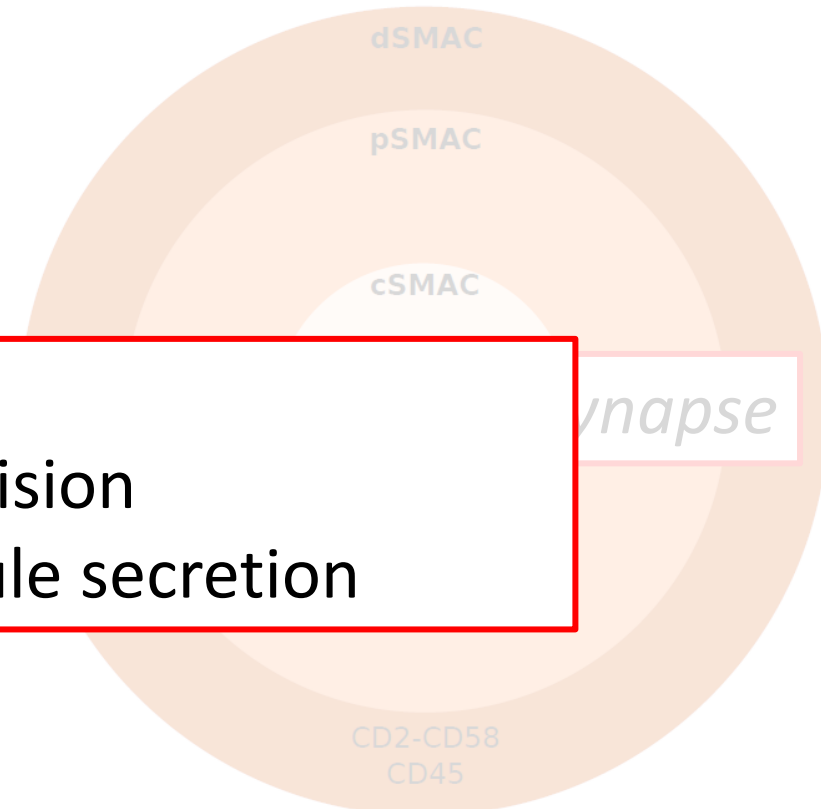
Characteristic pattern formation

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Pattern connected to Function:

- T cell activation and fate decision
- Directed cytokine/lytic granule secretion



Most experiments
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SMAC - supramolecular activation cluster
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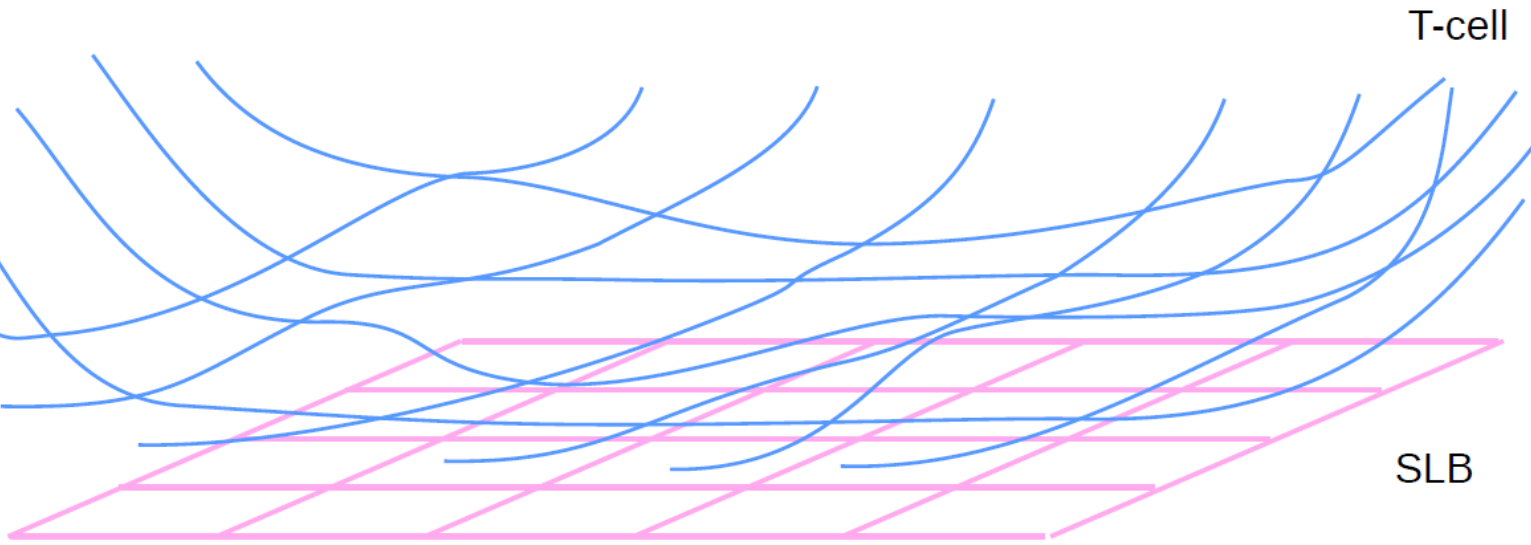
Understand the mechanisms
leading to immune synapse
formation

Coming up next

1. What are the mechanisms leading to Immune Synapse formation?
2. What is the effect of LFA-1 gradient?
3. What are the mechanisms of CD28 costimulatory molecule localization?
4. Is CD28 localization affected by the presence of other costimulatory molecules?
5. How does the CD2 corolla pattern form?
6. Is there active modulation of TCR-pMHC association rate, k_{on} ?

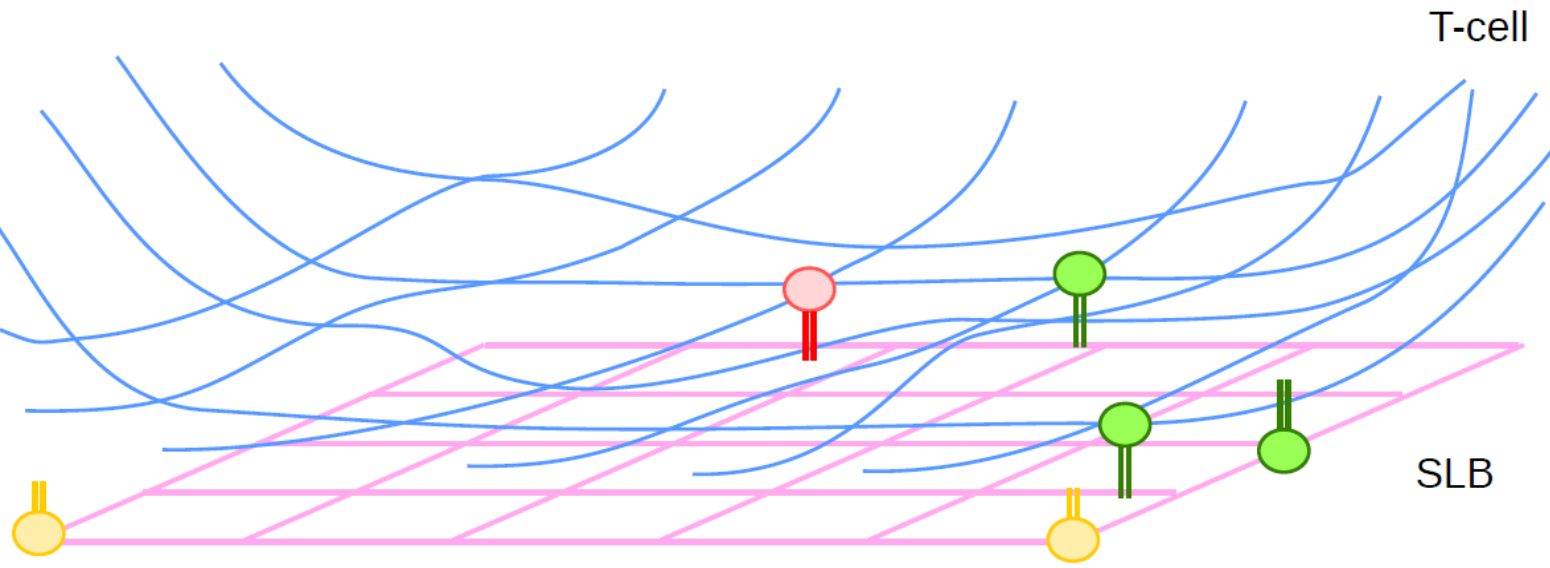
Agent-based model

Siokis | Cell Reports 24 | 2018 |
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2018.06.114>



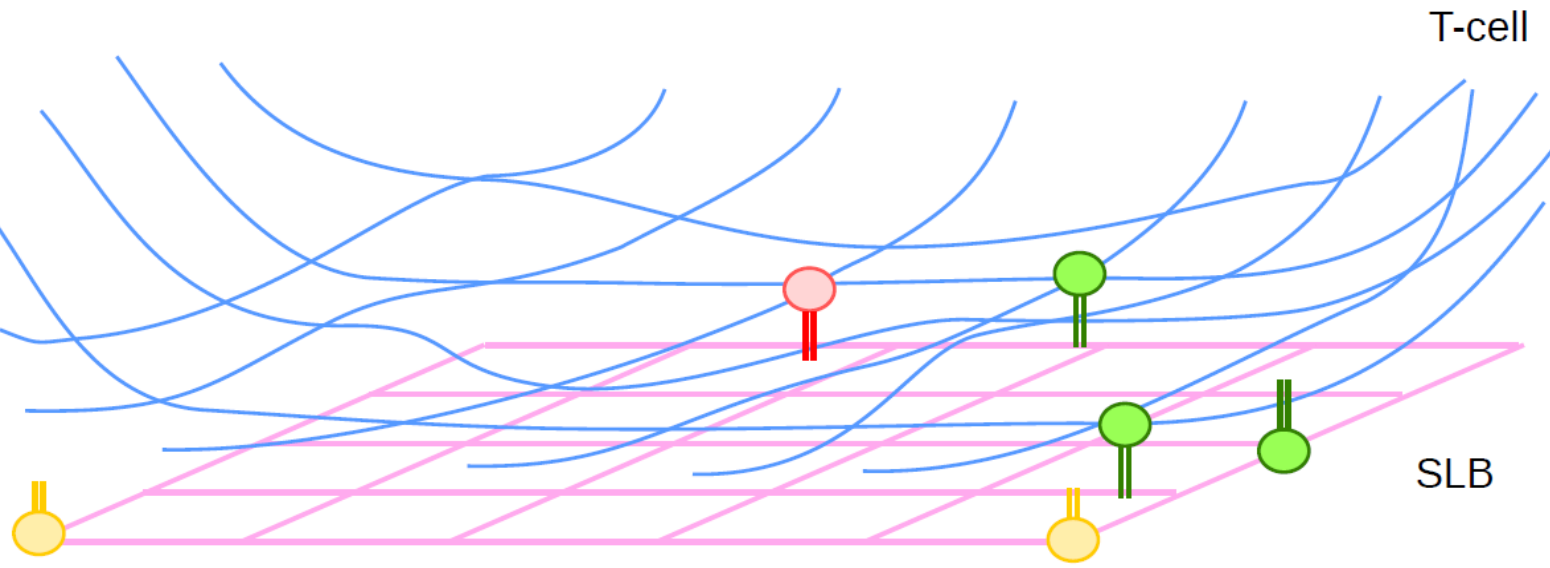
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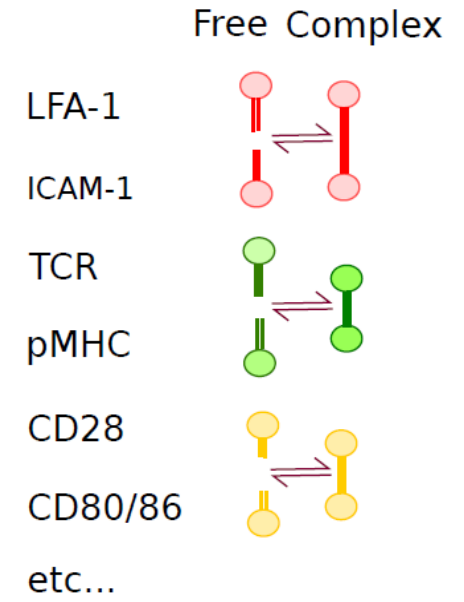


Agent-based model

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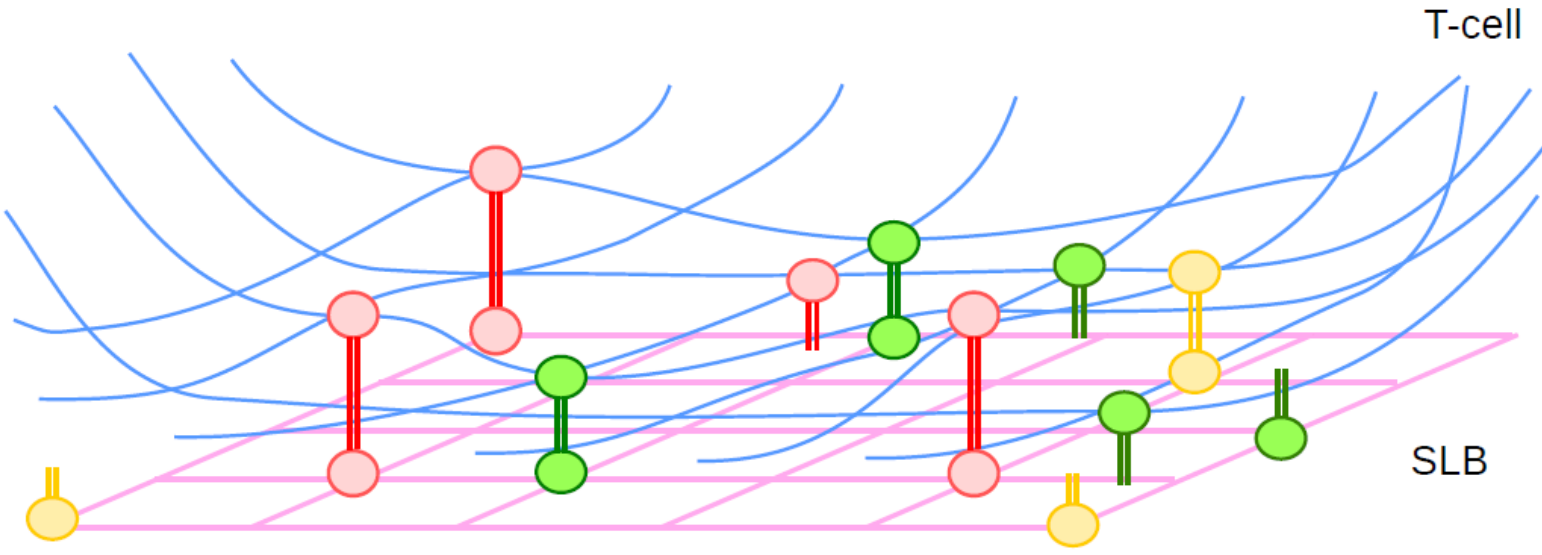


Chemical kinetics

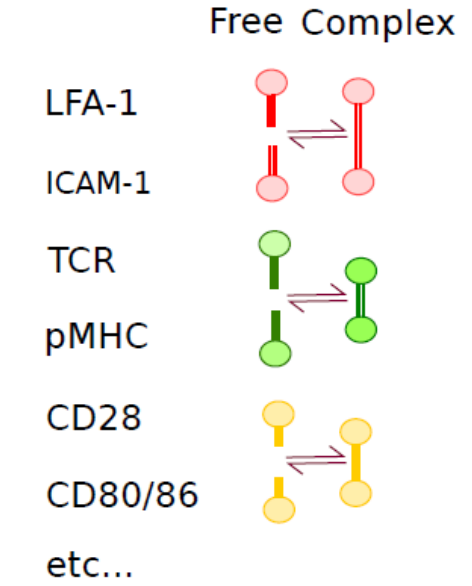


Agent-based model

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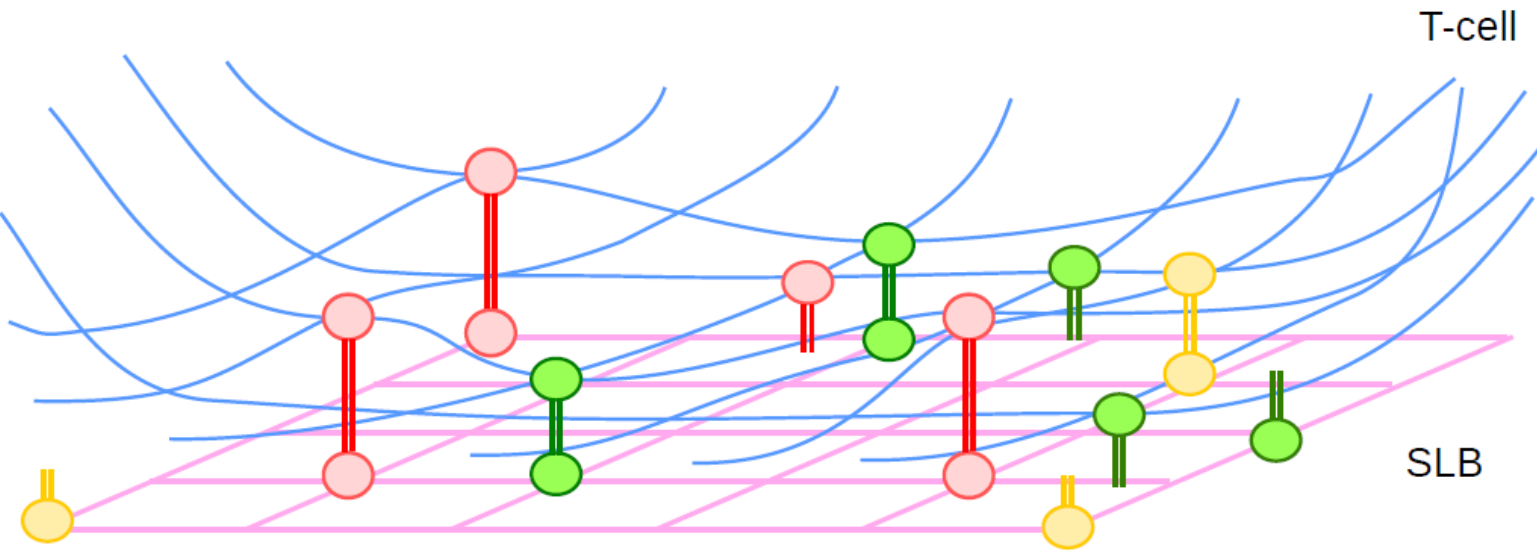


Chemical kinetics



Agent-based model

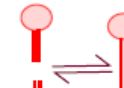
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Chemical kinetics

Free Complex

LFA-1



ICAM-1



TCR



pMHC



CD28

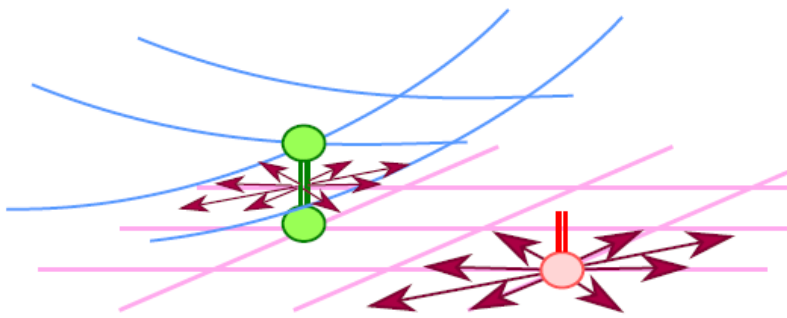


CD80/86



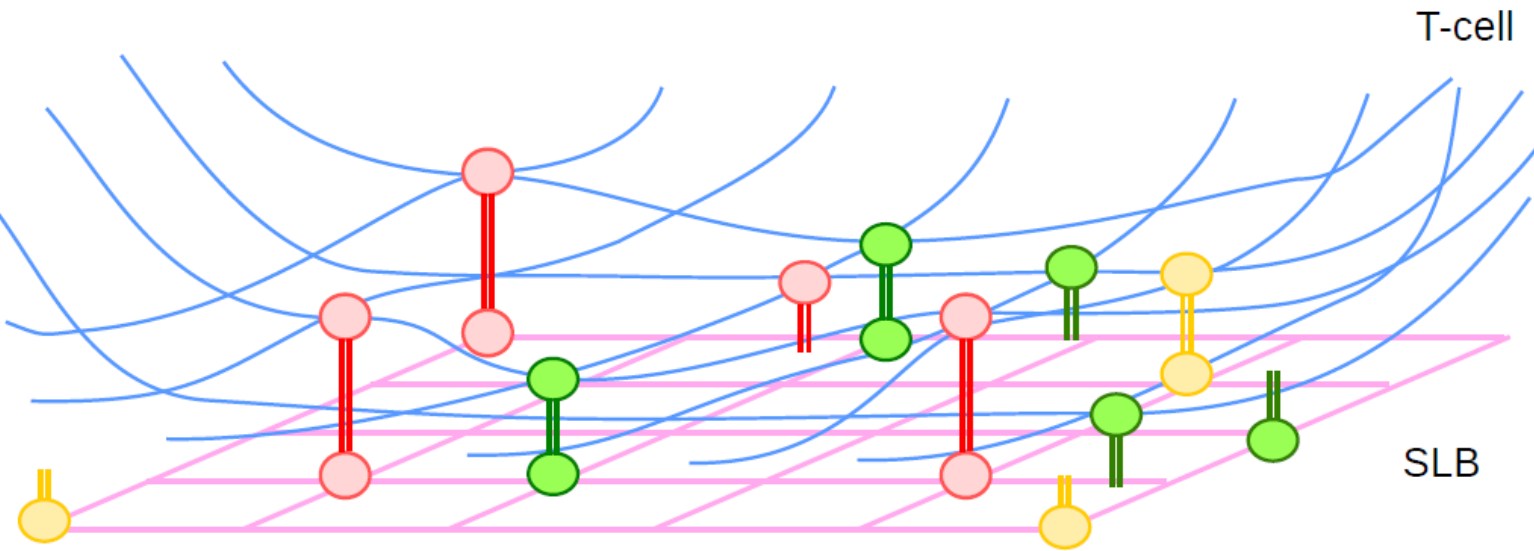
etc...

Diffusion



Agent-based model

Siokis | Cell Reports 24 | 2018 |
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2018.06.114>

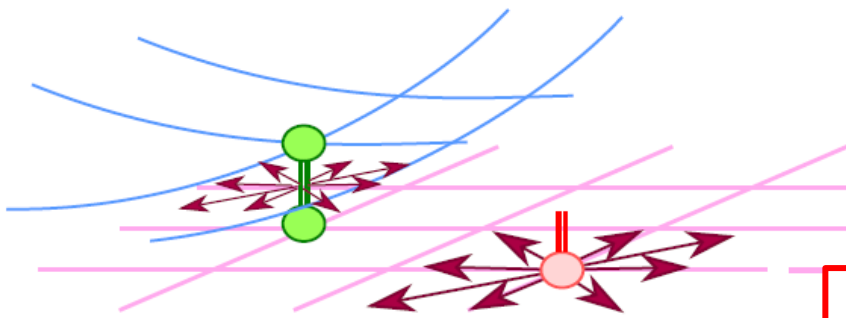


Chemical kinetics

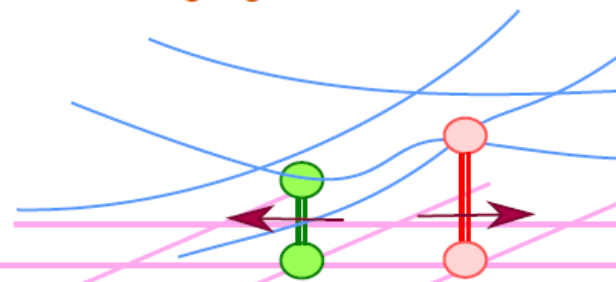
Free Complex

LFA-1		≈45 nm
ICAM-1		
TCR		≈13 nm
pMHC		
CD28		≈13 nm
CD80/86		
etc...		

Diffusion



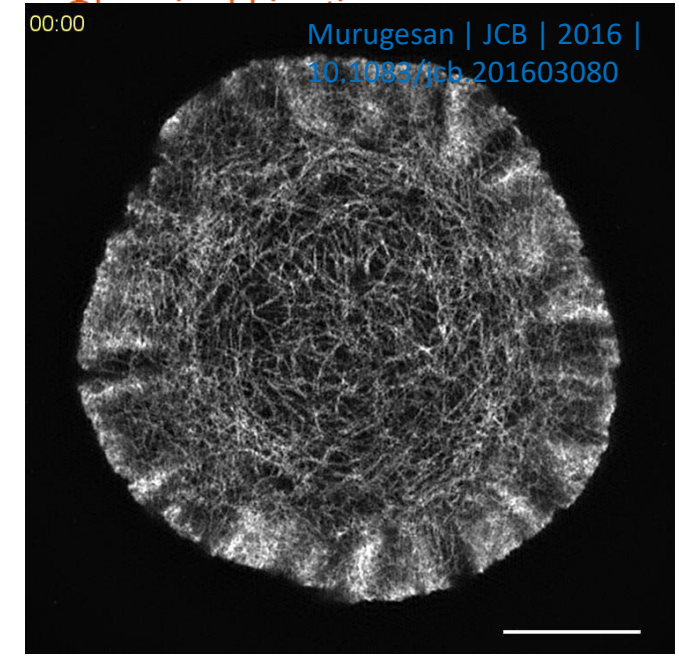
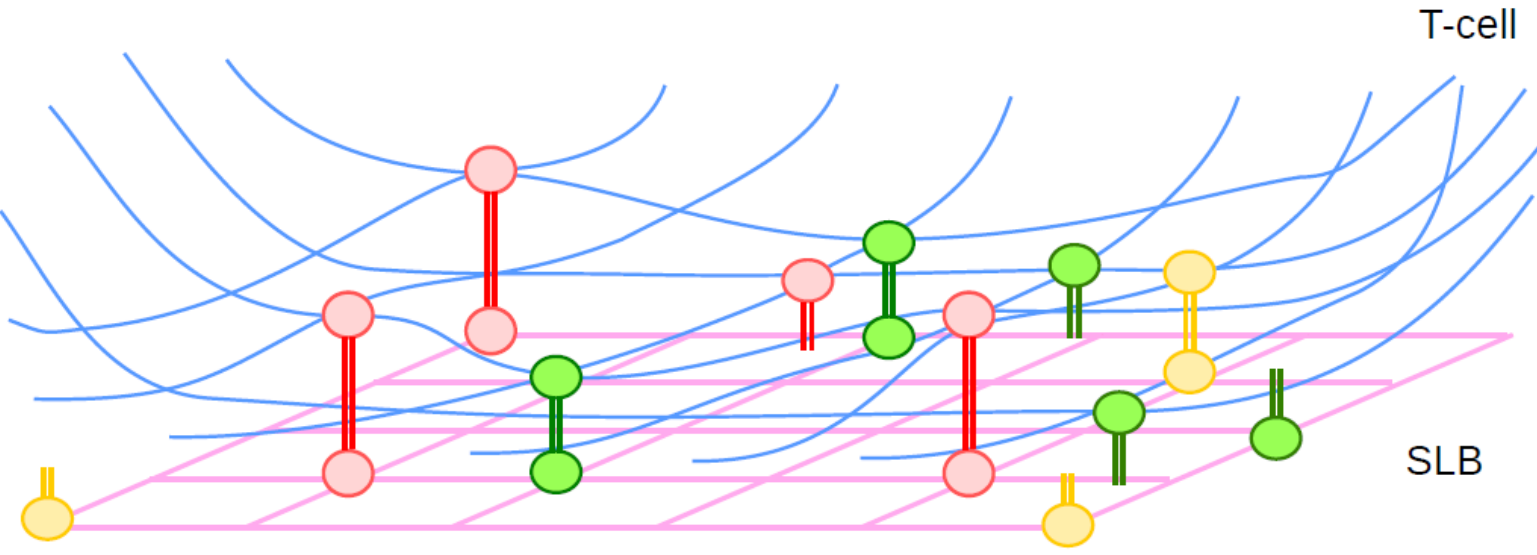
Size-Based Segregation



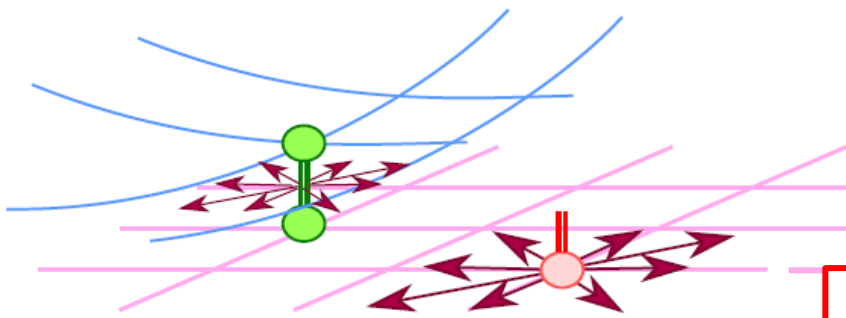
Summation of weighted vectors
Resulting vector points to new position

Agent-based model

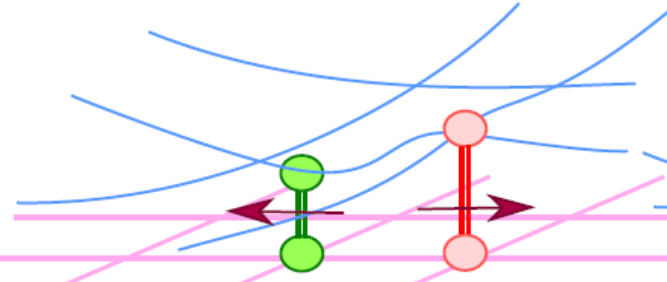
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Diffusion

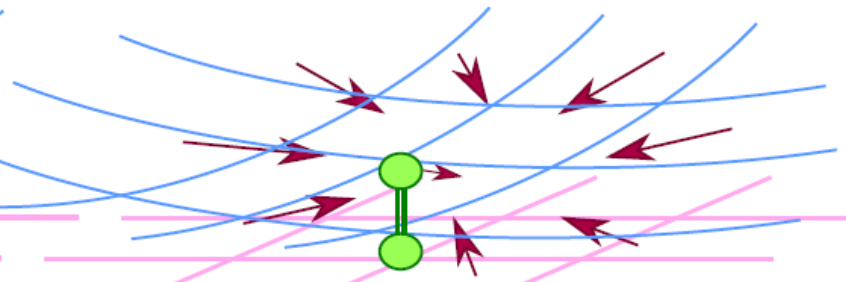


Size-Based Segregation



Summation of weighted vectors
Resulting vector points to new position

Actin coupling



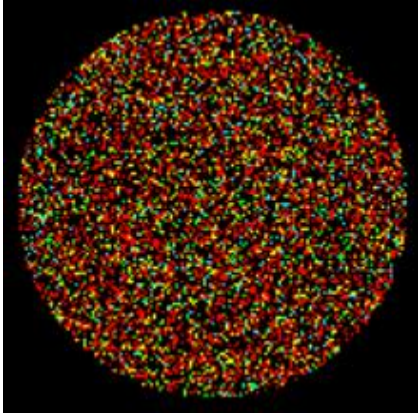
+ Vector added to the forces vector

Answer-seeking questions

1. What are the mechanisms leading to Immune Synapse formation?

Immunological Synapse Formation

Chemical kinetics
Diffusion



Siokis | Cell Reports 24 | 2018 |
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TCR

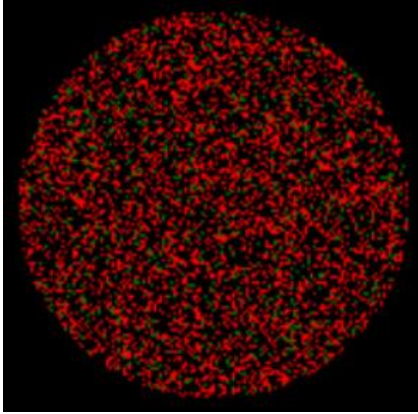
LFA-1

TCR-pMHC

LFA-1-ICAM-1

Immunological Synapse Formation

Chemical kinetics
Diffusion



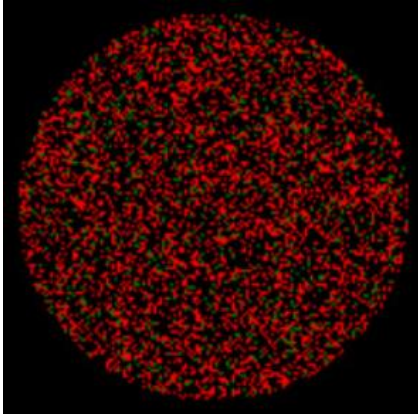
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TCR-pMHC

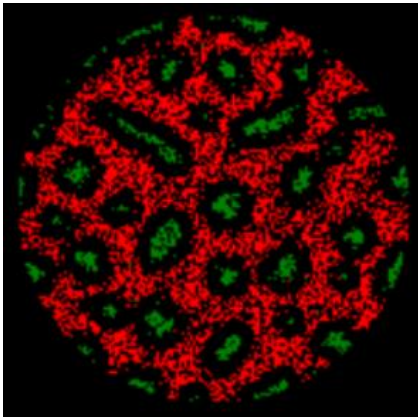
LFA-1-ICAM-1

Immunological Synapse Formation

Chemical kinetics
Diffusion



plus TCR-LFA-1 SBS



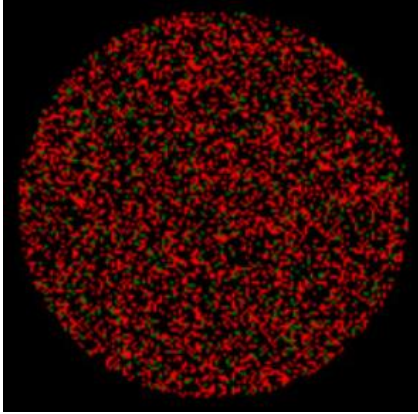
TCR-pMHC

LFA-1-ICAM-1

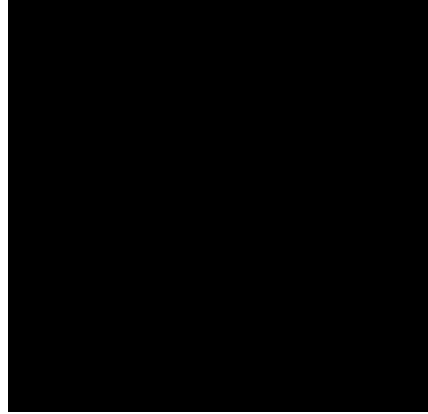
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Immunological Synapse Formation

Chemical kinetics
Diffusion

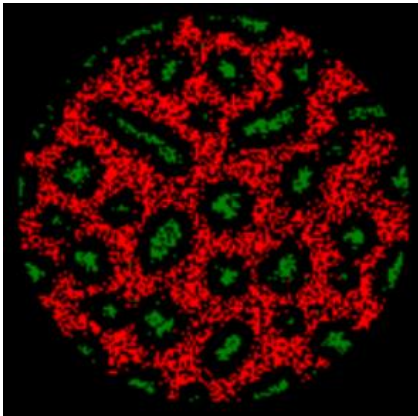


plus TCR centripetal
transport



0-20 minutes

plus TCR-LFA-1 SBS



TCR-pMHC

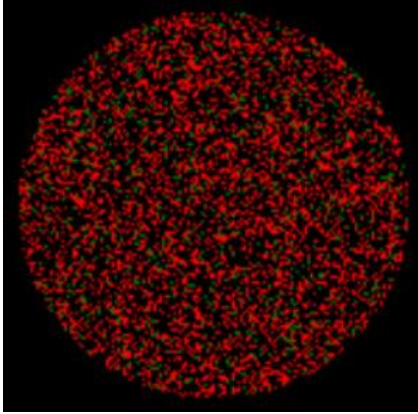
LFA-1-ICAM-1

Answer-seeking questions

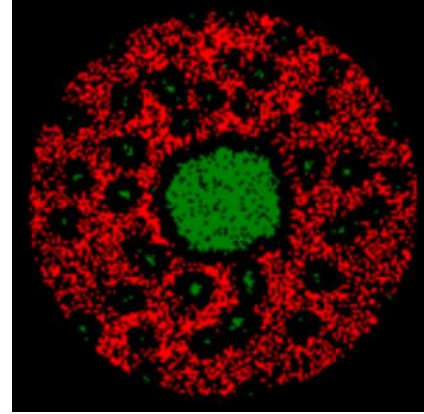
1. What are the mechanisms leading to Immune Synapse formation?
 - ✓ Chemical kinetics, diffusion, size-based segregation & centripetal transport

Immunological Synapse Formation

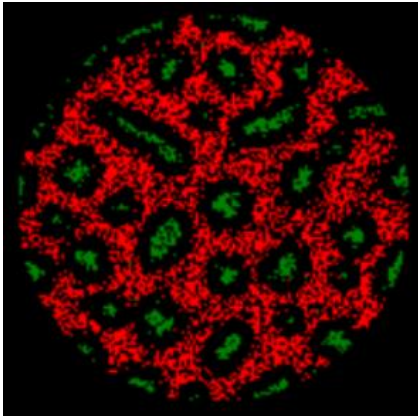
Chemical kinetics
Diffusion



plus TCR centripetal
transport



plus TCR-LFA-1 SBS



plus LFA-1 centripetal
transport



TCR-pMHC

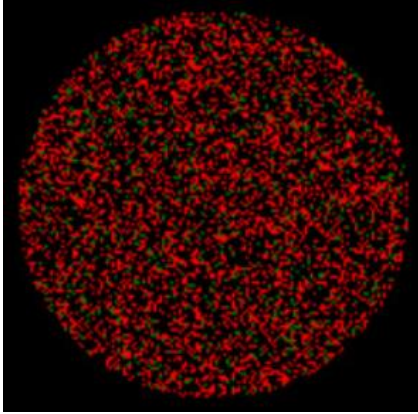
LFA-1-ICAM-1

0-20 minutes

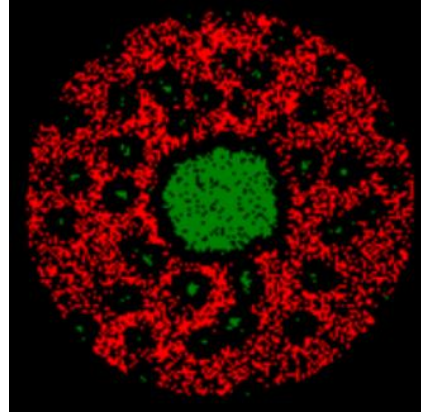
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Immunological Synapse Formation

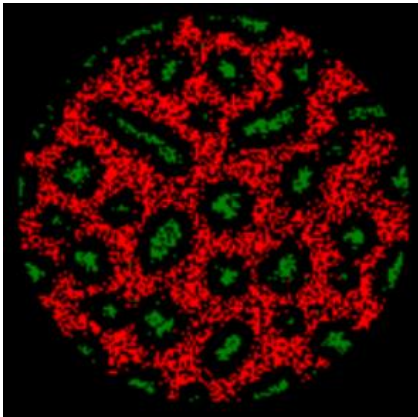
Chemical kinetics
Diffusion



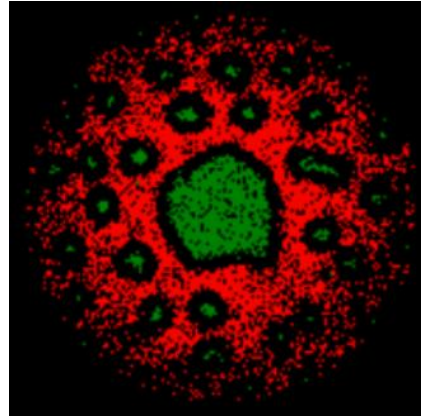
plus TCR centripetal
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plus TCR-LFA-1 SBS



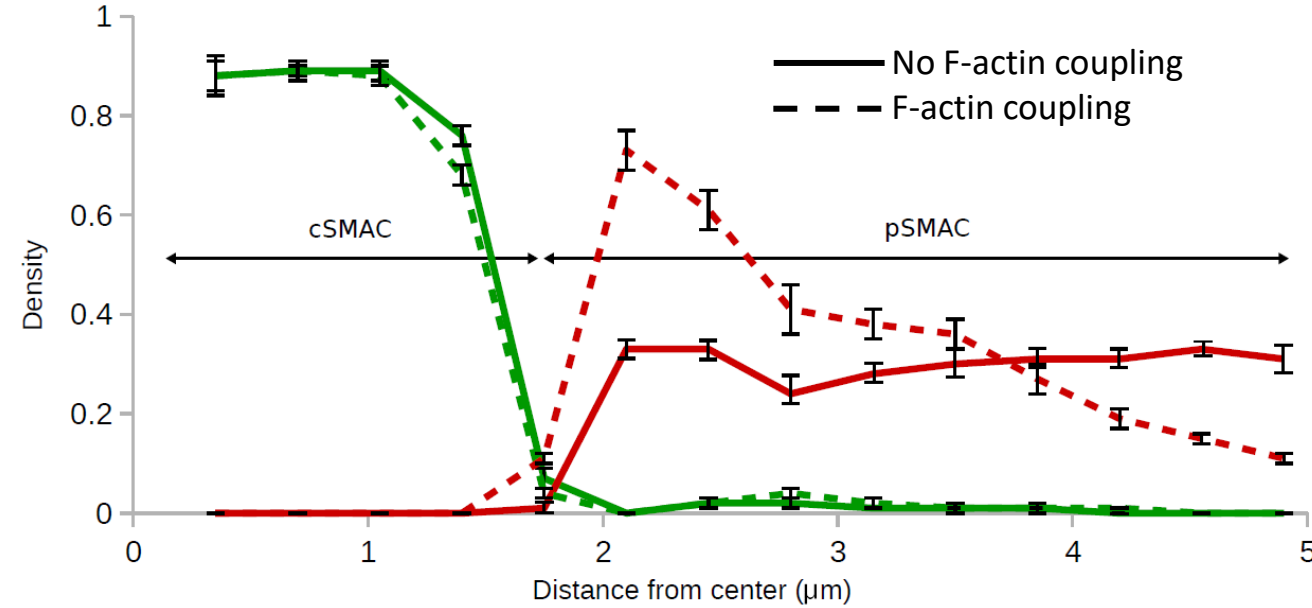
plus LFA-1 centripetal
transport



TCR-pMHC

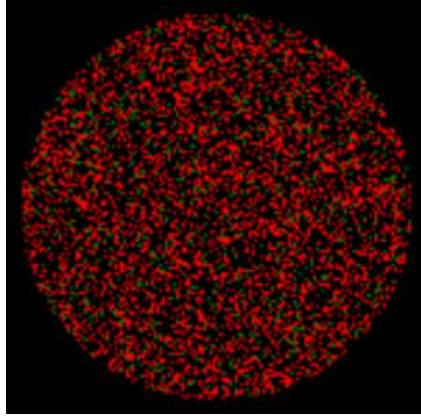
LFA-1-ICAM-1

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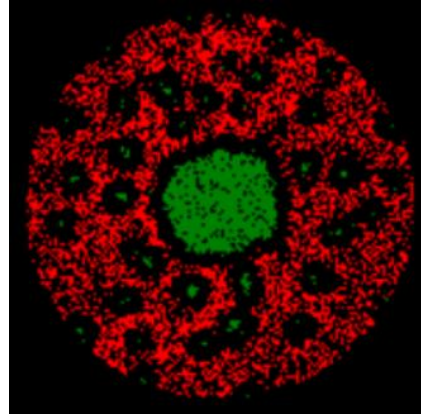


Immunological Synapse Formation

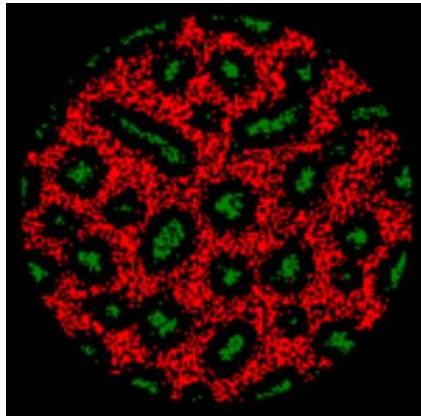
Chemical kinetics
Diffusion



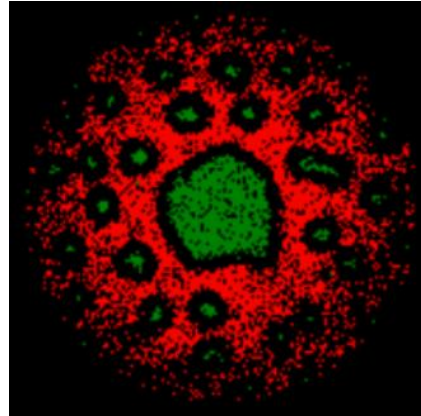
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transport



plus TCR-LFA-1 SBS



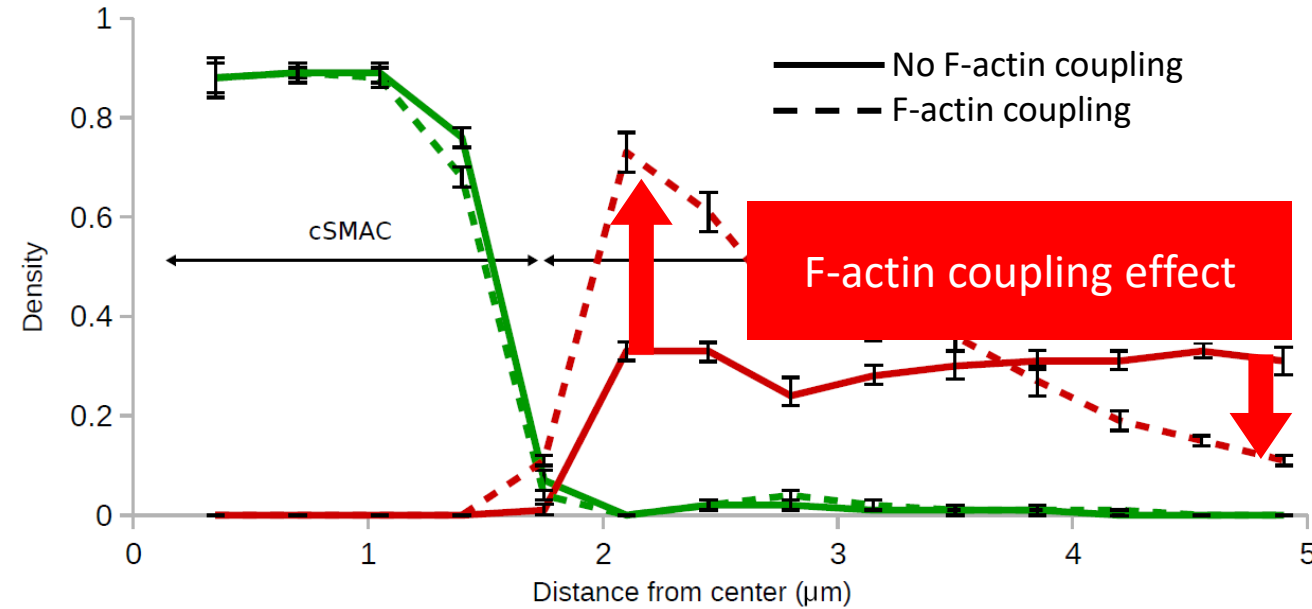
plus LFA-1 centripetal
transport



TCR-pMHC

LFA-1-ICAM-1

Siokis | Cell Reports 24 | 2018 |
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2018.06.114>



LFA-1 gradient reported (not further examined):
Yokosuka | Immunity | 2008
Comrie | J Cell Biology | 2015
Demetriou | Nature Immunology | 2020

Answer-seeking questions

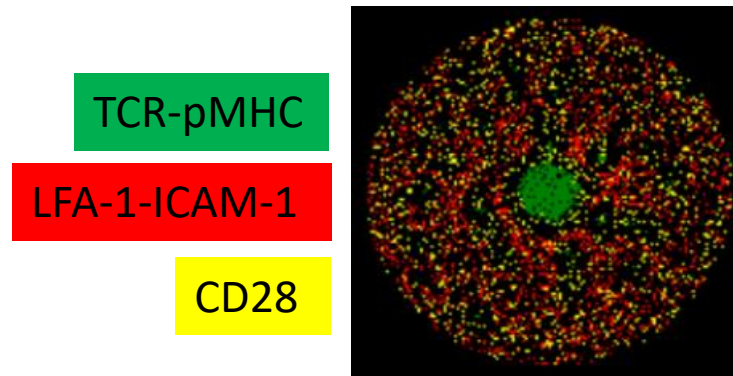
1. What are the mechanisms leading to Immune Synapse formation?
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LFA-1-ICAM-1 gradient affects the localization of free molecules

CD28 not interacting
with neighbors

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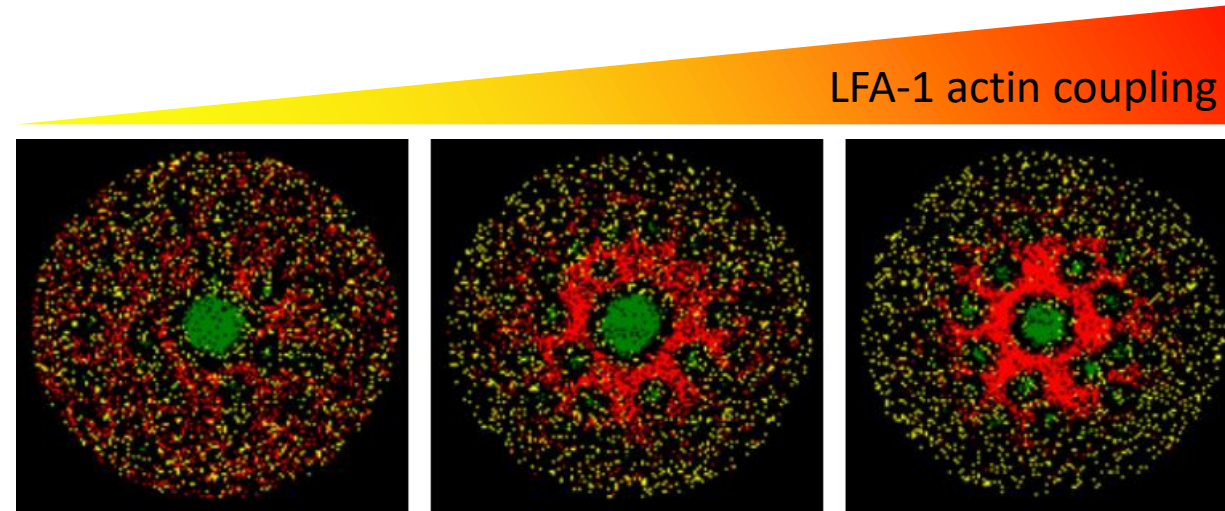
No LFA-1-actin
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TCR-pMHC
LFA-1-ICAM-1
CD28



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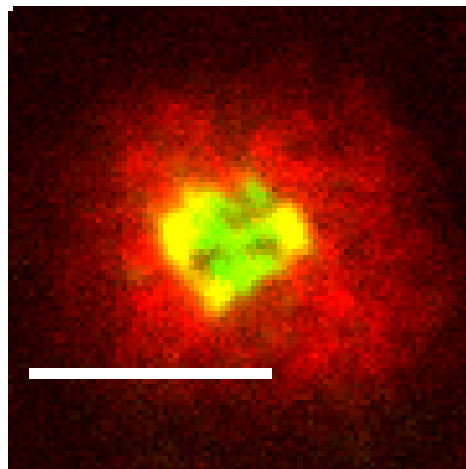
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CD28 costimulation

- Expressed on naive and effector T cells
- Binds to CD80 & CD86
- Promotes actin polymerization
- Recruits Filamin-A (FLNa) - actin binding protein
- Recruits PKC- θ
- Size similar to TCR-pMHC (≈ 13 nm)
- **Ring structure around cSMAC**

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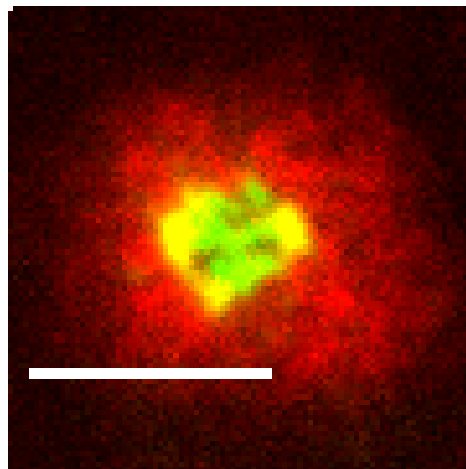
LFA-1-ICAM-1

CD28-CD80

Demetriou | Dustin lab |
2018 | Oxford | UK

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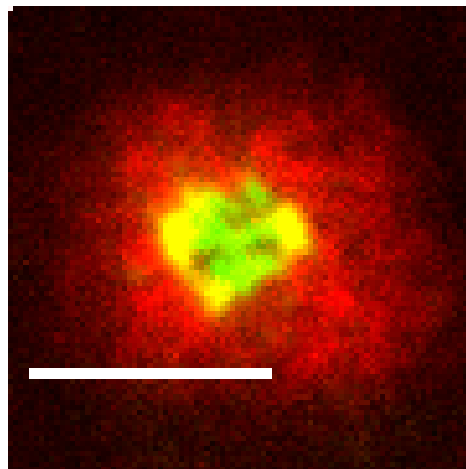
Demetriou | Dustin lab |
2018 | Oxford | UK

CD2 costimulation & adhesion

- Expressed on T & NK cells
- Binds to CD58 (humans) & CD48 (rodents)
- Augment & sustain antigen induced Ca²⁺ increase
- Synergize with TCR to activate PLC γ 1
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TCR-pMHC

LFA-1-ICAM-1

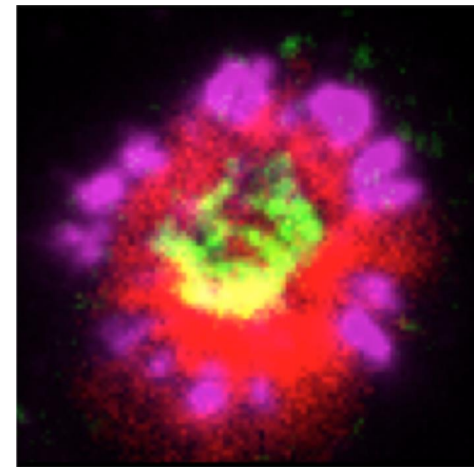
CD28-CD80

CD2-CD58

Demetriou | Dustin lab |
2018 | Oxford | UK

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Demetriou | Nat Immunol | 2020 |
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41590-020-0770-x>

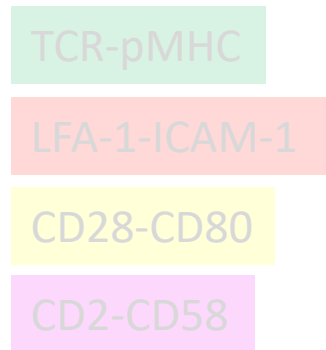
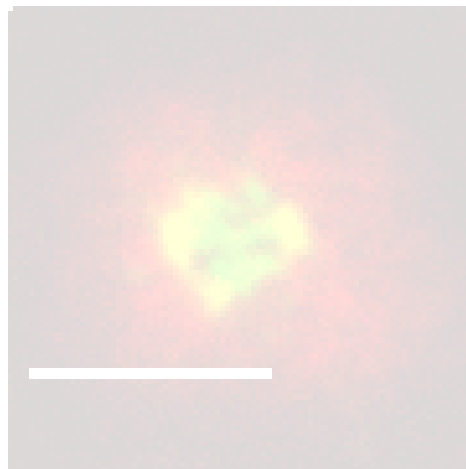
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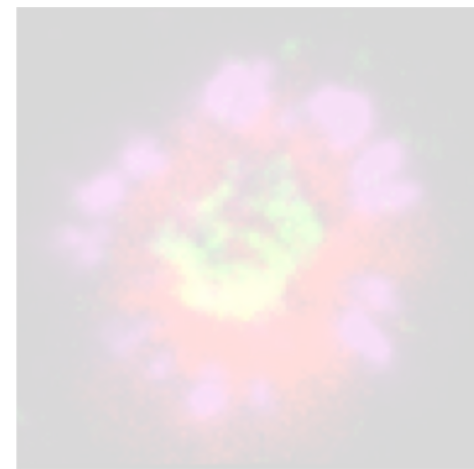
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- Flower petal-like corolla pattern in dSMAC

**Absence of costimulation
leads to T cell anergy**



Demetriou | Dustin lab |
2018 | Oxford | UK



Demetriou | Nat Immunol | 2020 |
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41590-020-0770-x>

Answer-seeking questions

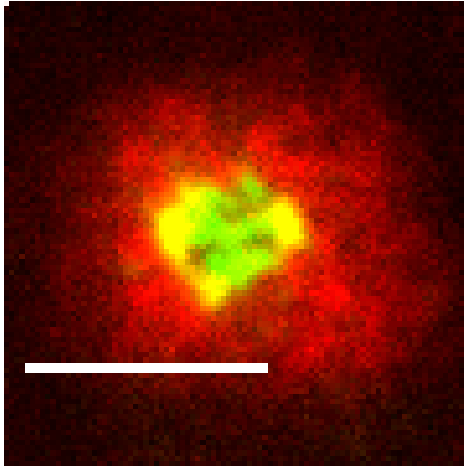
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F-actin driven CD28-CD80 localization

TCR-pMHC

LFA-1-ICAM-1

CD28-CD80



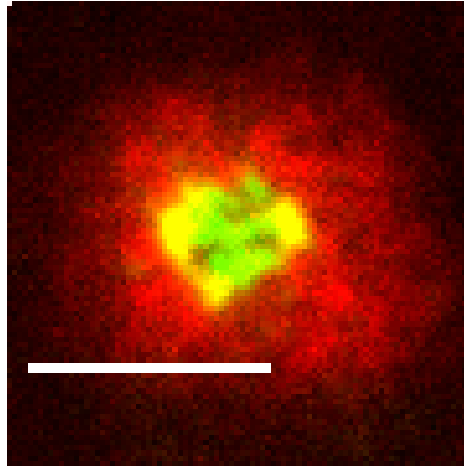
Demetriou | Dustin lab |
2018 | Oxford | UK

F-actin driven CD28-CD80 localization

TCR-pMHC

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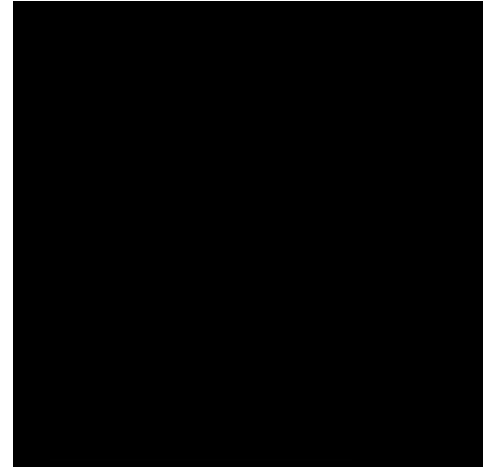
CD28-CD80



Demetriou | Dustin lab |
2018 | Oxford | UK

Siokis | Cell Reports 24 | 2018 |
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CD28-LFA-1 SBS



0-20 minutes

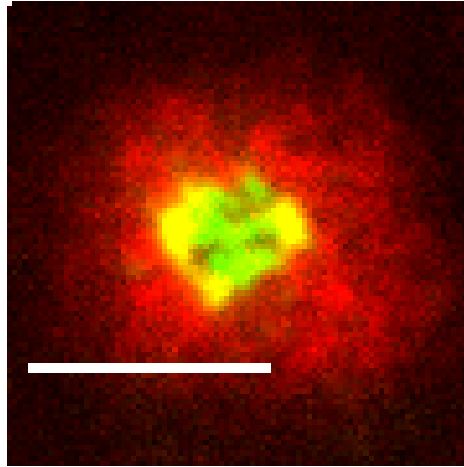
CD28 passive followers

F-actin driven CD28-CD80 localization

TCR-pMHC

LFA-1-ICAM-1

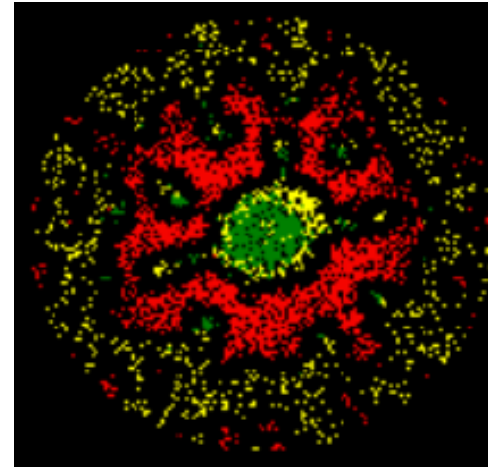
CD28-CD80



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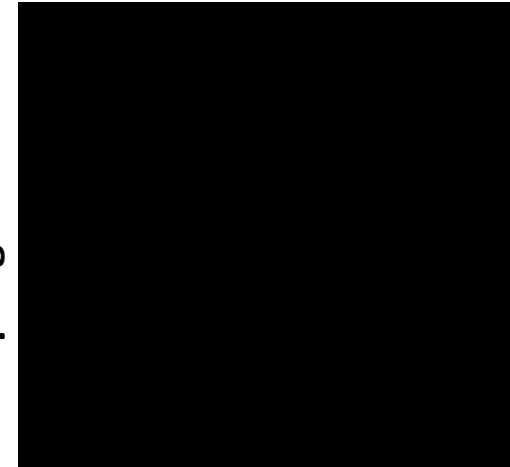
CD28-LFA-1 SBS



CD28 passive followers

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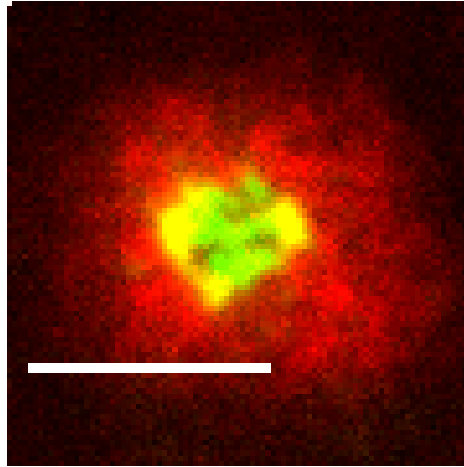
**CD28-CD80
coupling to actin**



0-20 minutes

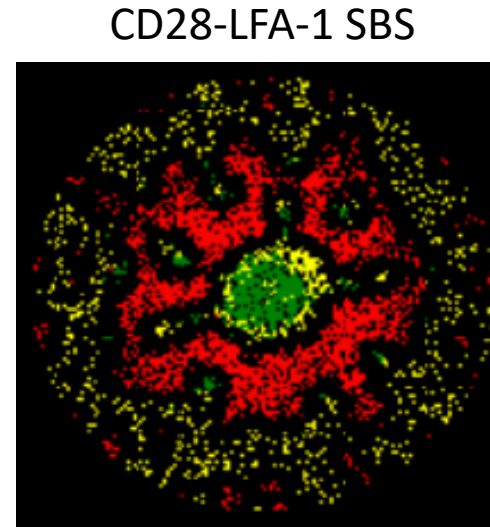
F-actin driven CD28-CD80 localization

- TCR-pMHC
- LFA-1-ICAM-1
- CD28-CD80

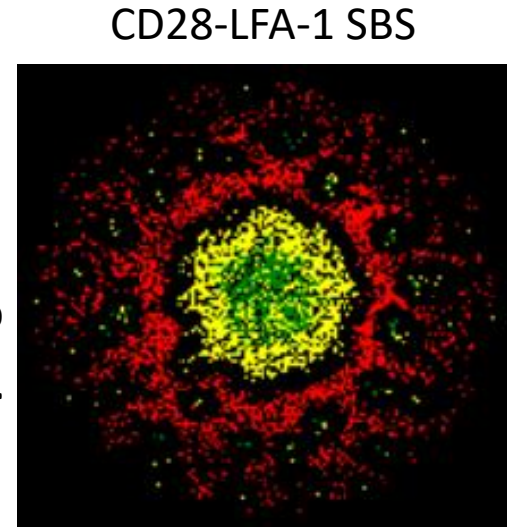


Demetriou | Dustin lab | 2018 | Oxford | UK

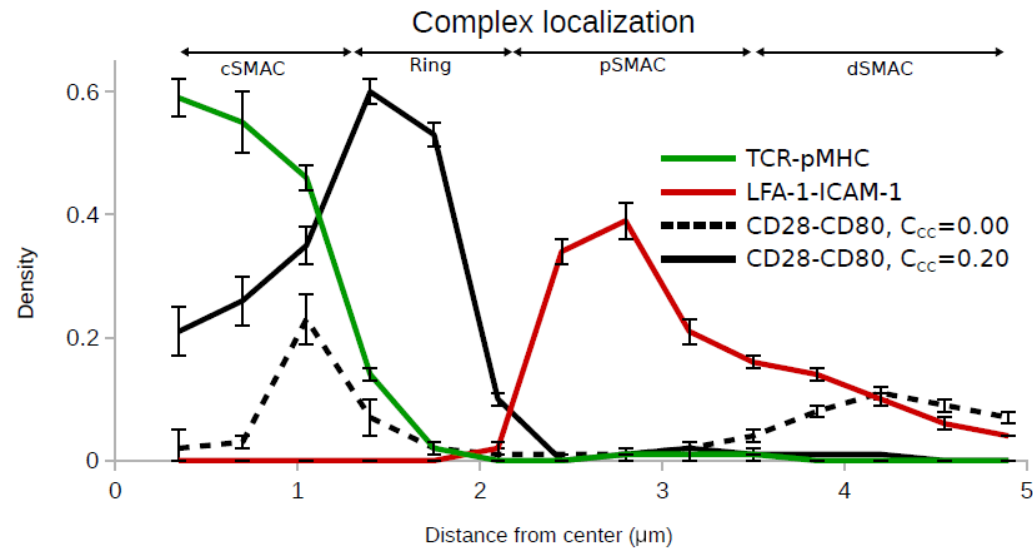
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CD28 passive followers



CD28-CD80 coupling to actin

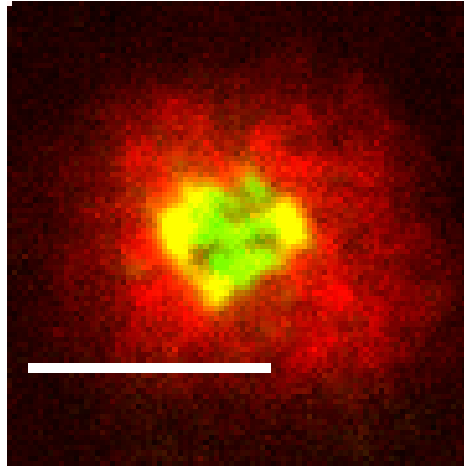


F-actin driven CD28-CD80 localization

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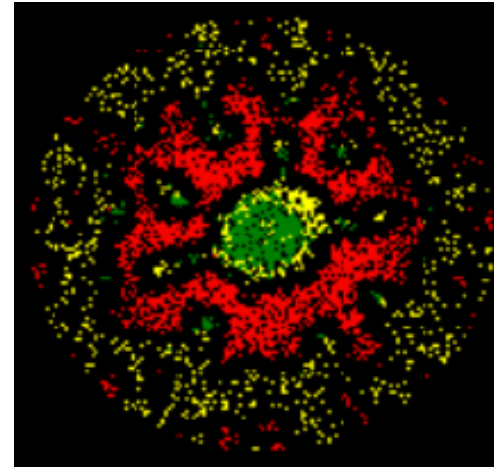
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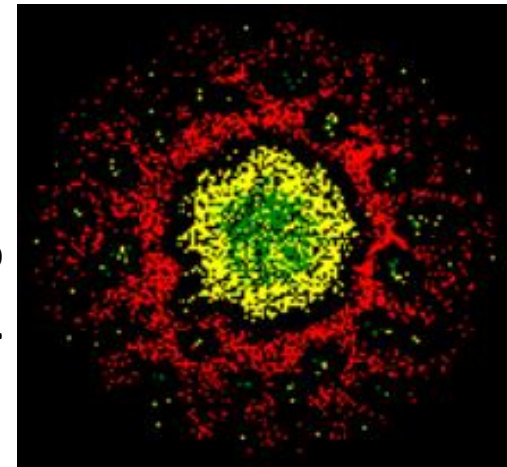
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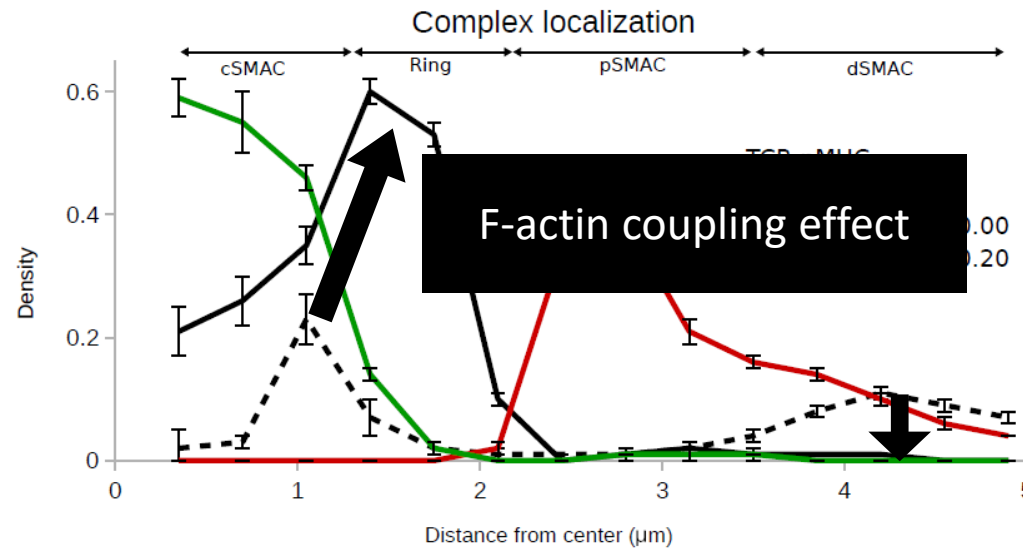


CD28 passive followers

CD28-LFA-1 SBS



CD28-CD80
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Answer-seeking questions

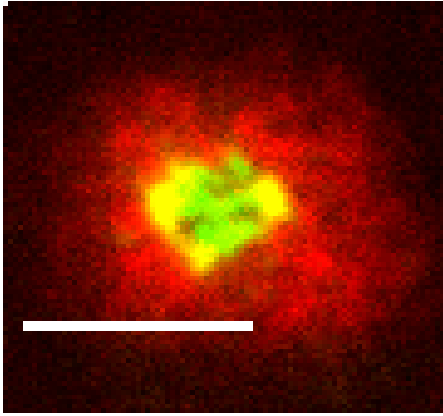
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CD2 presence alters CD28 localization

Demetriou | Nat Immunol | 2020 |
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41590-020-0770-x>



TCR-pMHC

LFA-1-ICAM-1

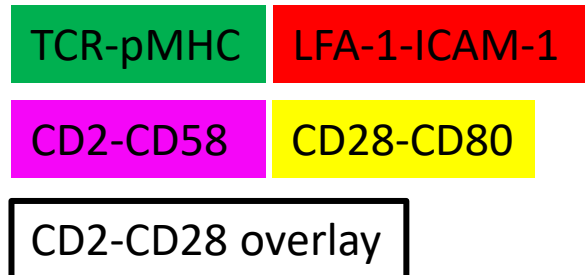
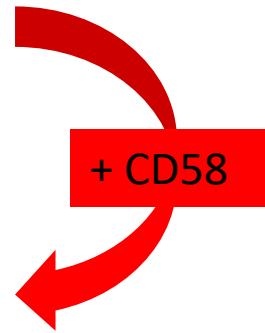
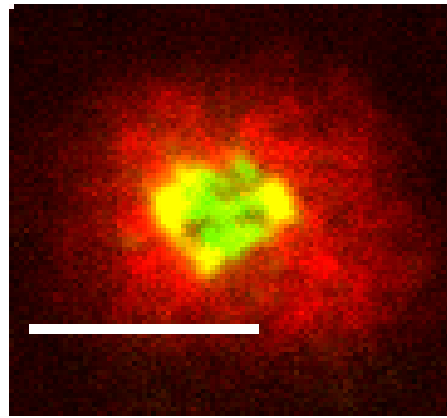
CD2-CD58

CD28-CD80

CD2-CD28 overlay

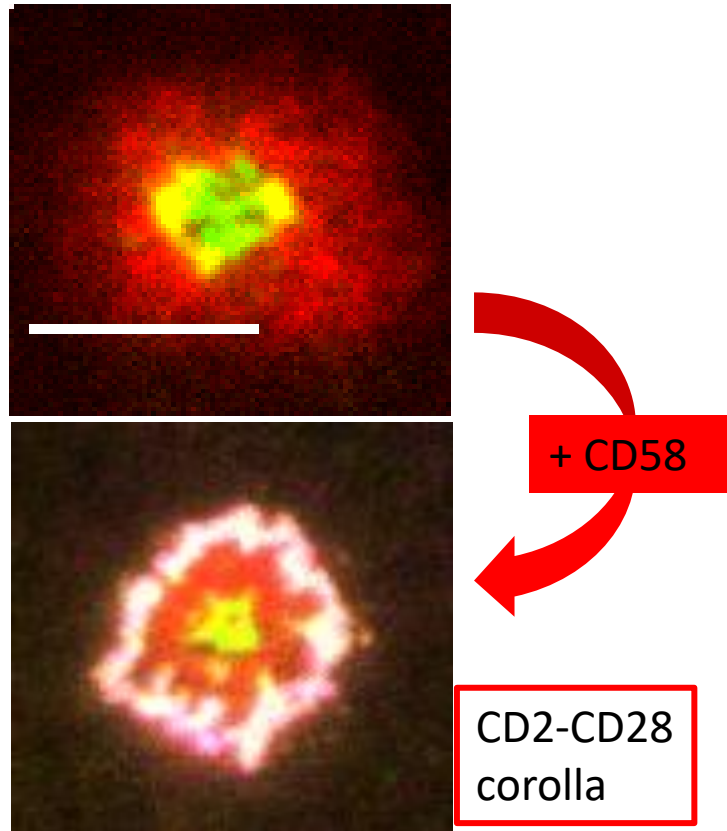
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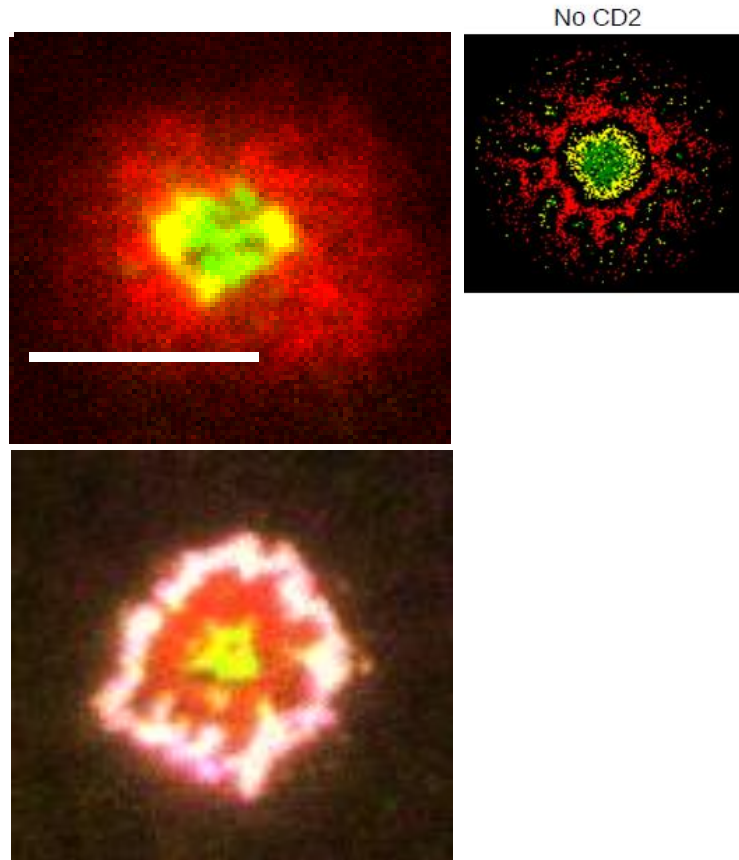
TCR-pMHC LFA-1-ICAM-1

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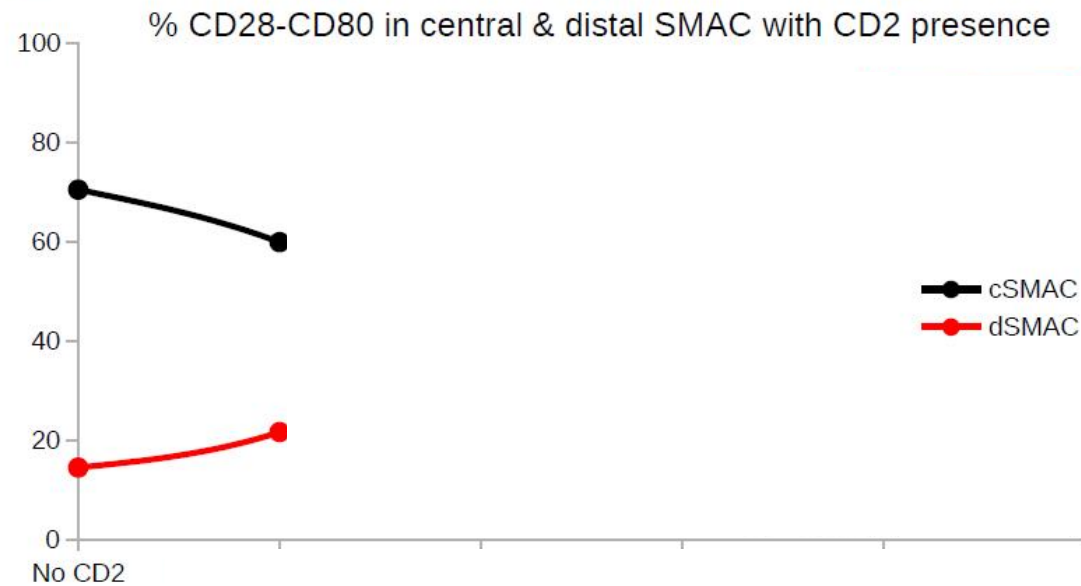
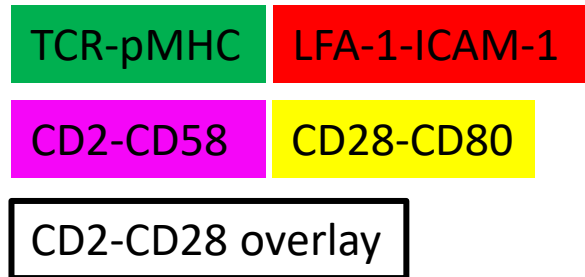
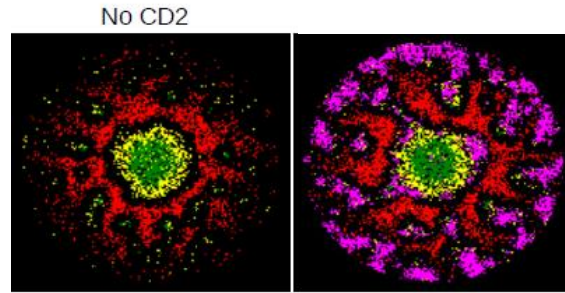
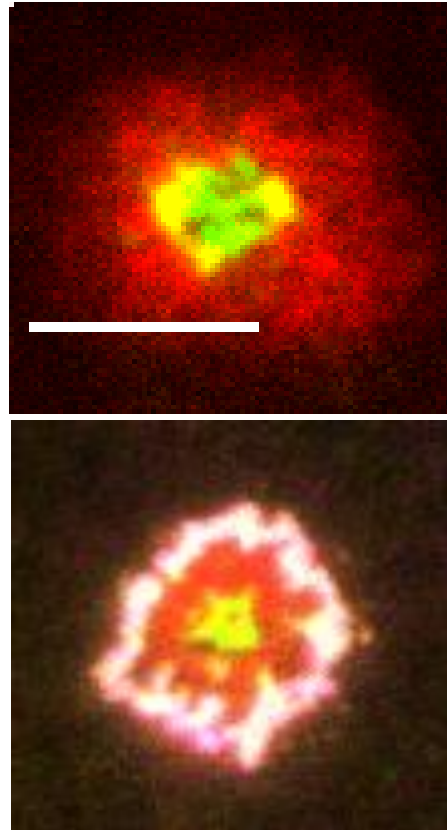
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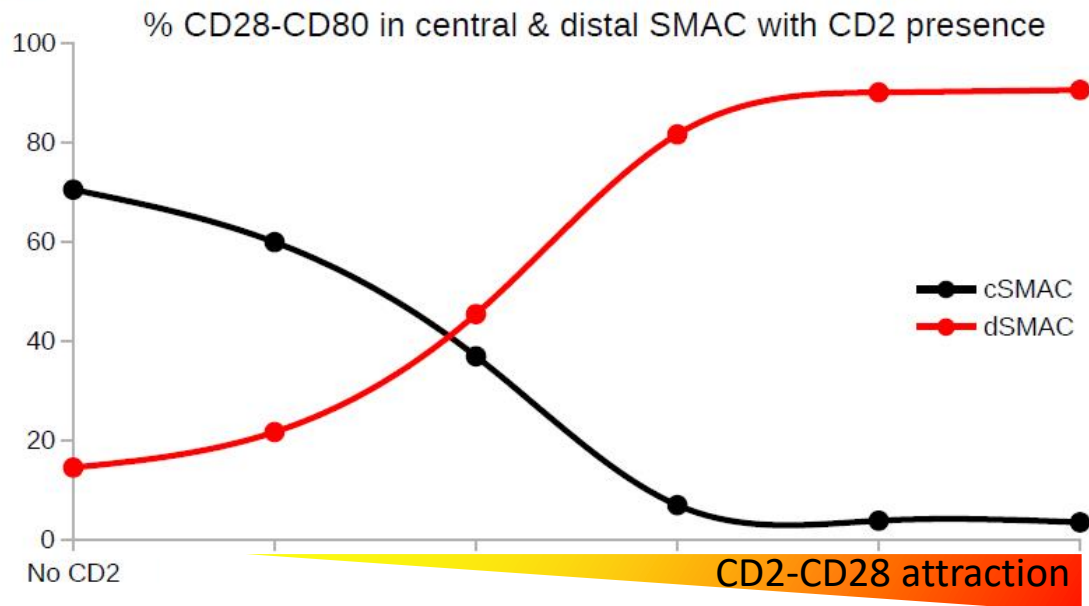
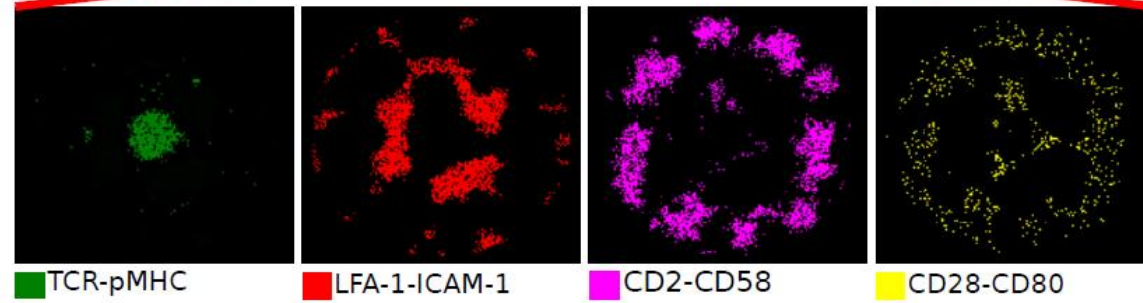
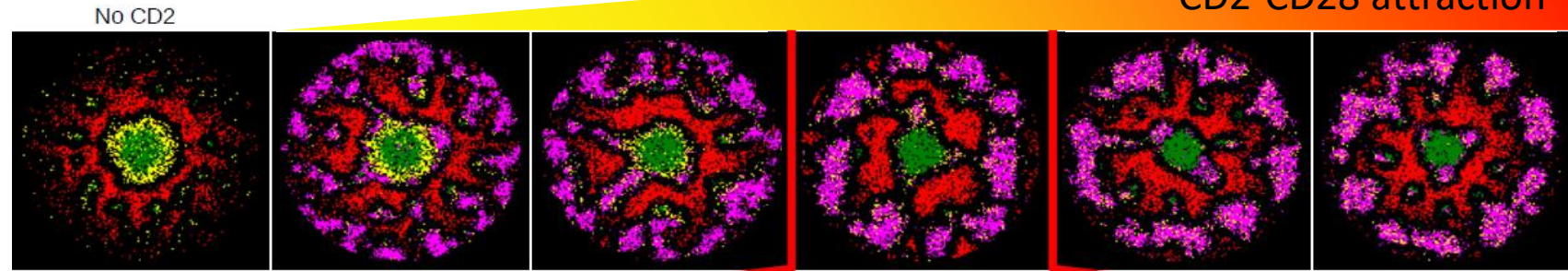
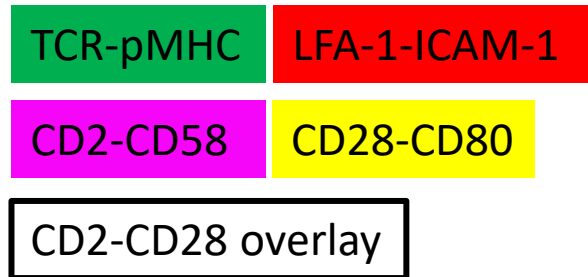
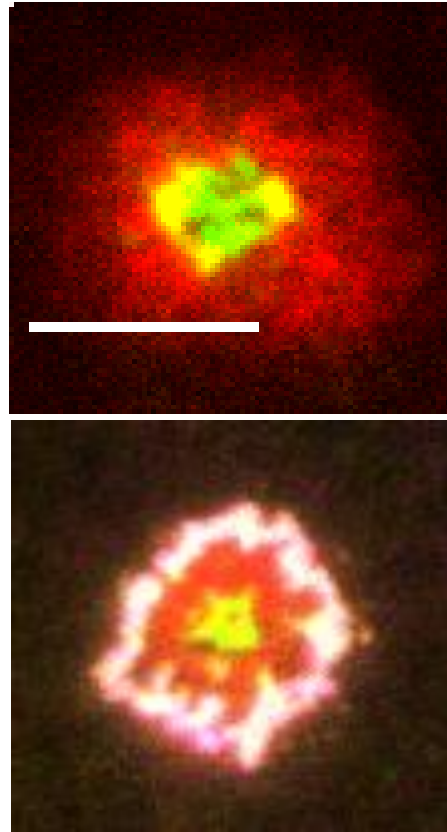
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Siokis | bioRxiv | 2020 |
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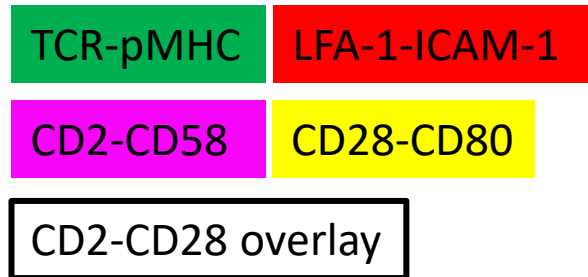
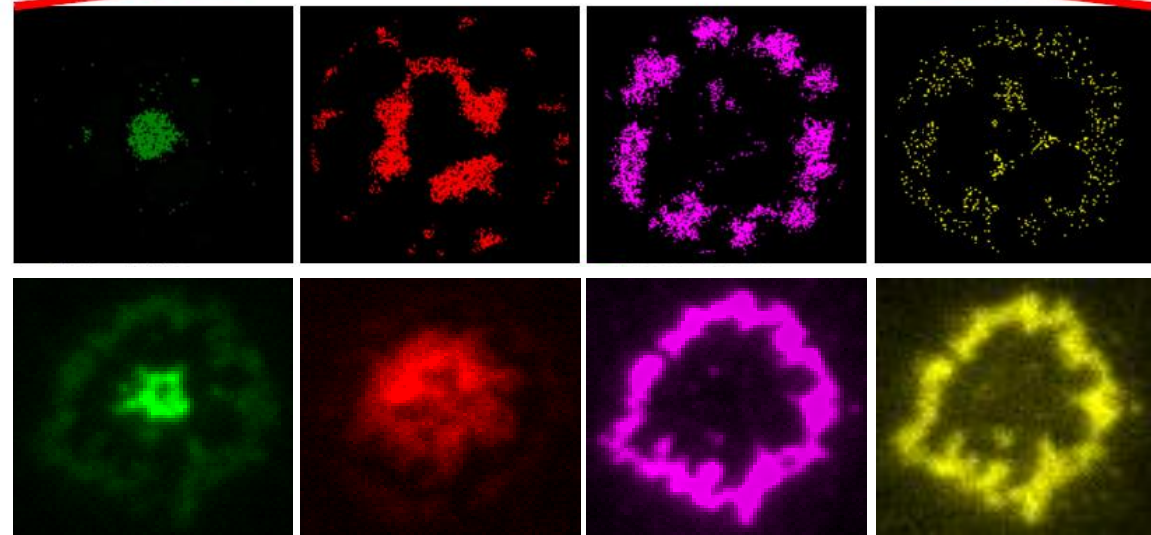
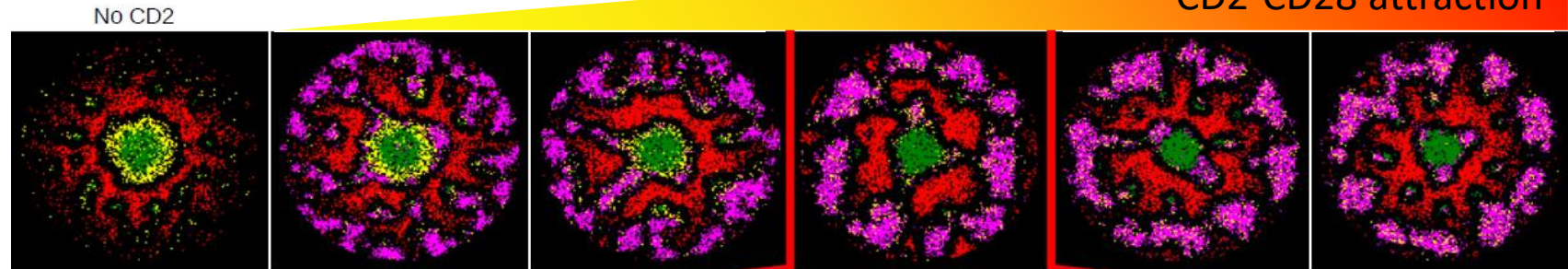
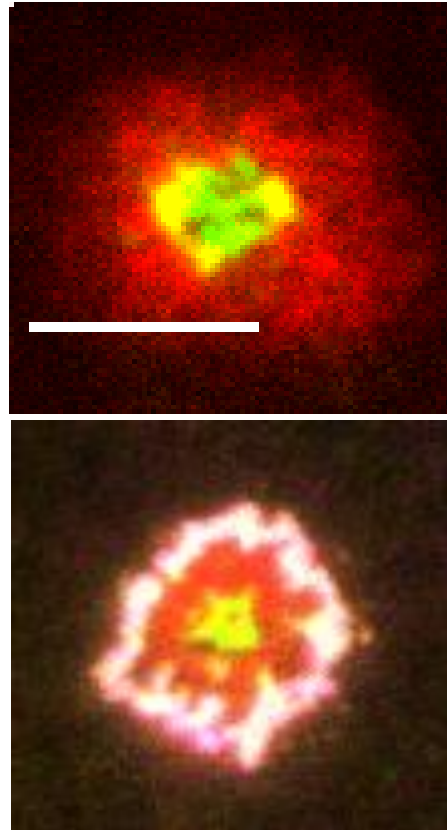
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Answer-seeking questions

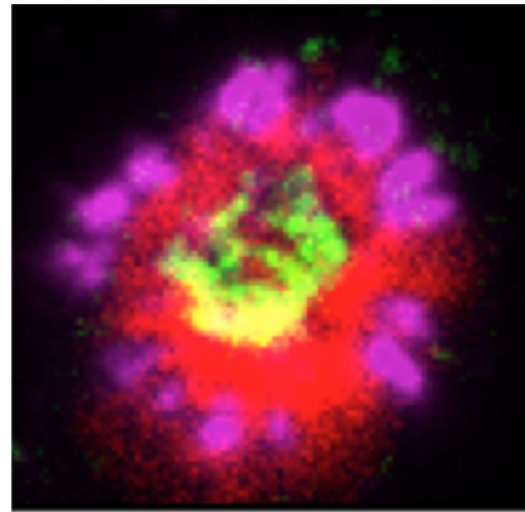
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5. How does the CD2 corolla pattern form?

CD2-CD58 localization in the synapse

TCR-pMHC

LFA-1-ICAM-1

CD2-CD58



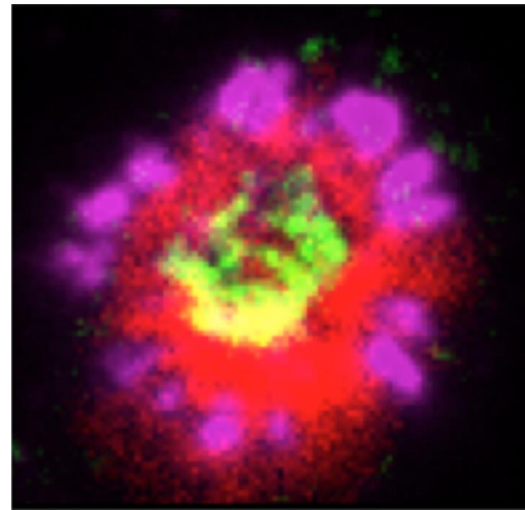
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CD2-CD58 localization in the synapse

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Demetriou | Nat Immunol | 2020 |
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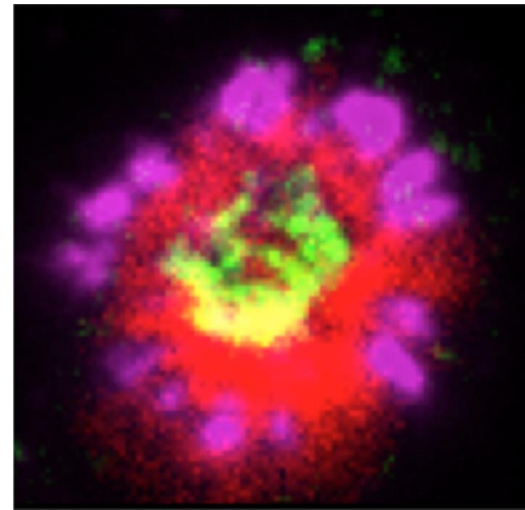
CD2-LFA-1 SBS

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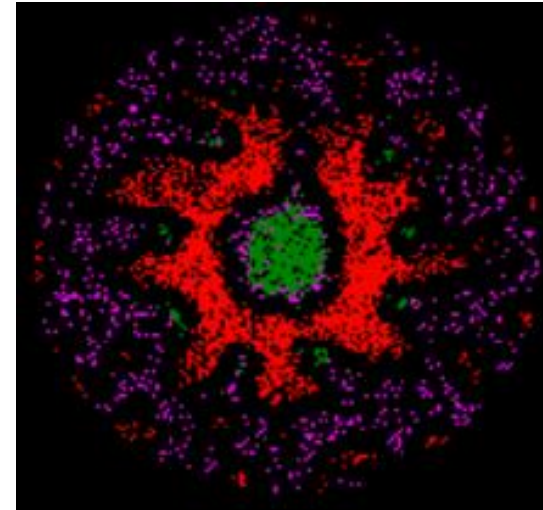
LFA-1-ICAM-1

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CD2-LFA-1 SBS



CD2 Passive followers

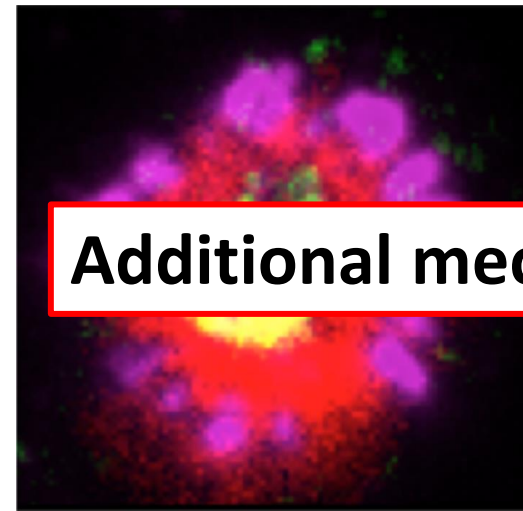
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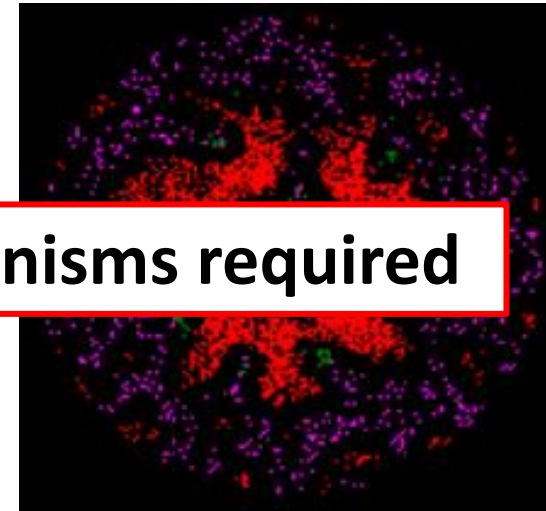
TCR-pMHC

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CD2-LFA-1 SBS



Additional mechanisms required

Demetriou | Nat Immunol | 2020 |

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41590-020-0770-x>

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Presence of CD45 can induce CD2 corolla pattern formation

- most abundant on T cells
- no known ligands on APCs
- important for TCR signaling
- size similar to LFA-1-ICAM-1

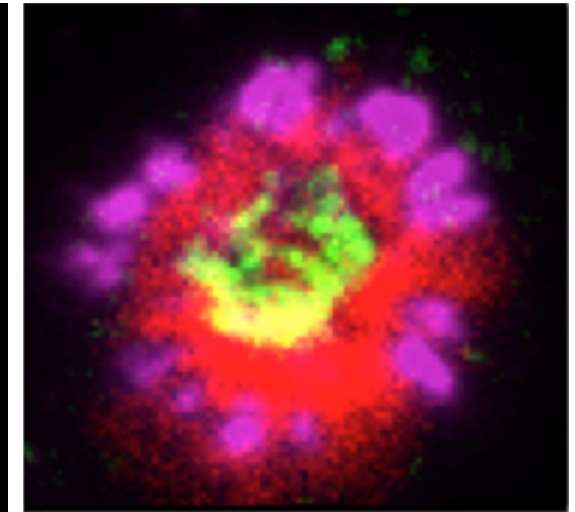
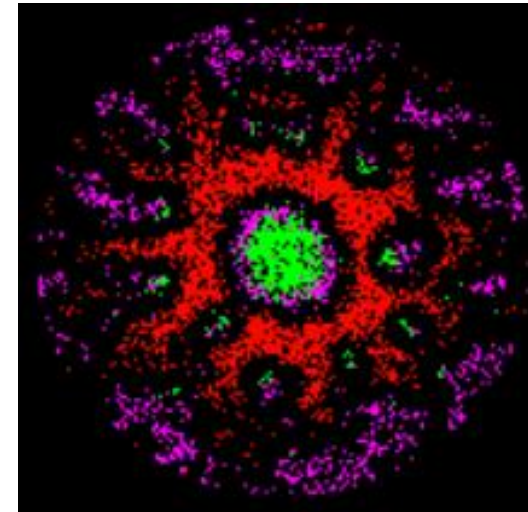
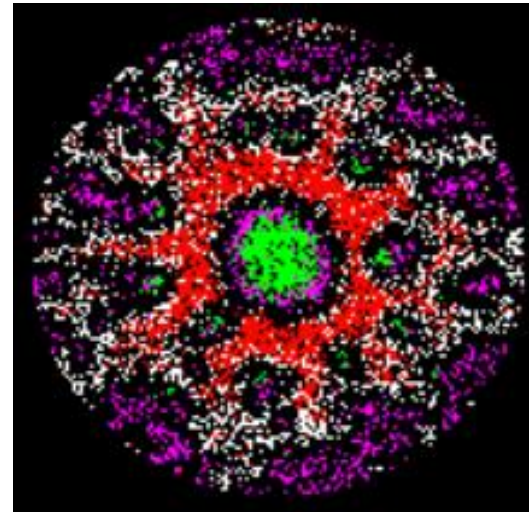
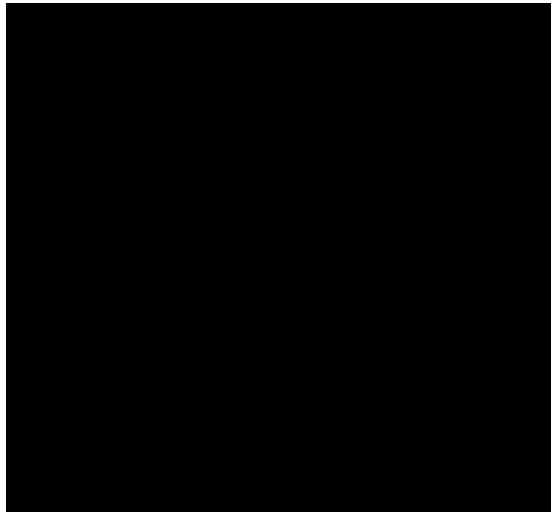
CD45-CD2 repulsion
CD45-TCR repulsion

Presence of CD45 can induce CD2 corolla pattern formation

- most abundant on T cells
- no known ligands on APCs
- important for TCR signaling
- size similar to LFA-1-ICAM-1

CD45-CD2 repulsion
CD45-TCR repulsion

0-30 minutes



Siokis | bioRxiv | 2020 |
<https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.01.16.908723>

CD45 not shown

Presence of CD45 or any other molecule that interacts with CD2 in the dSMAC can induce corolla formation

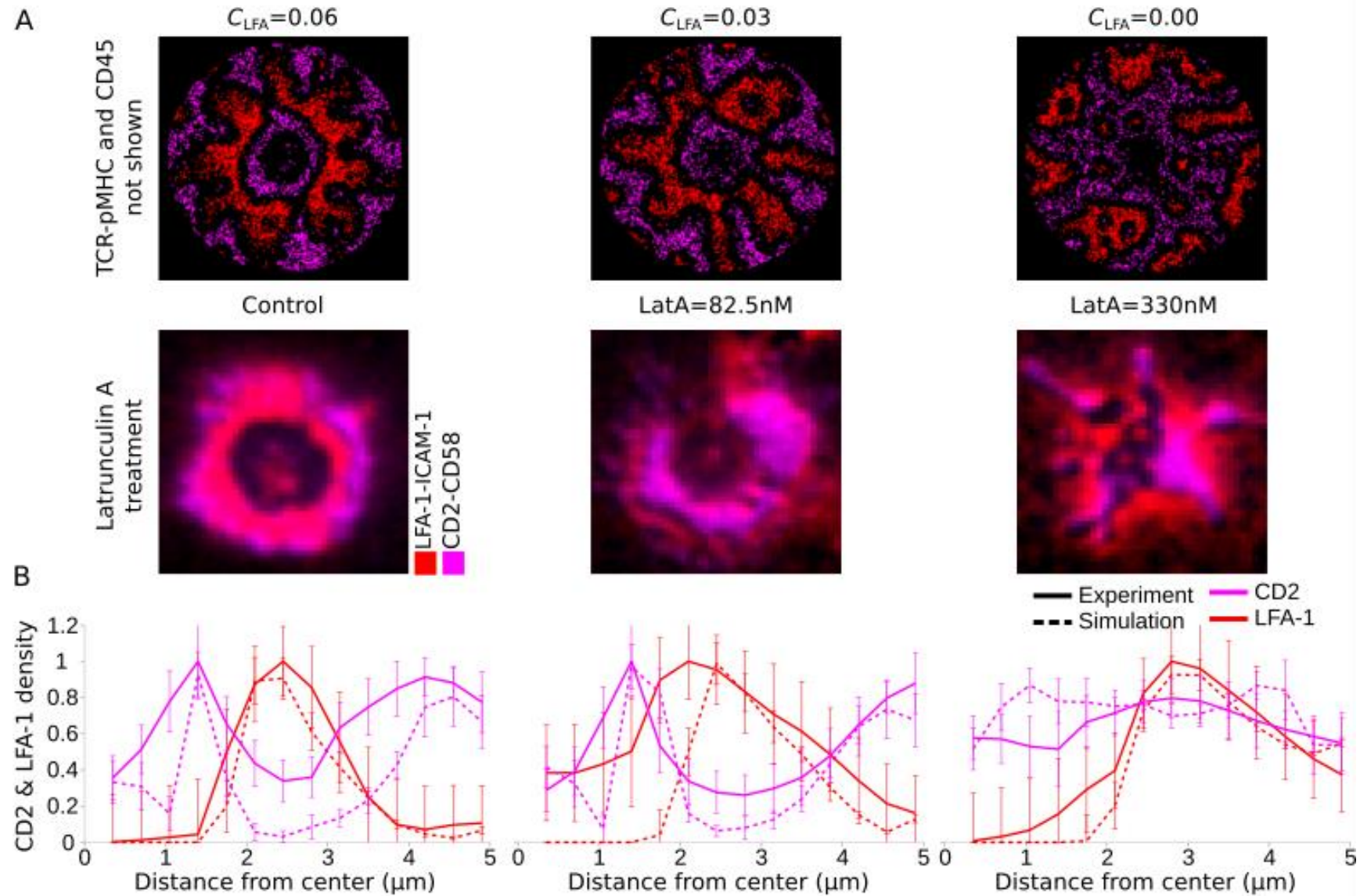
TCR-pMHC

LFA-1-ICAM-1

CD2-CD58

CD45

Lantraculin A treatment disrupts the corolla pattern



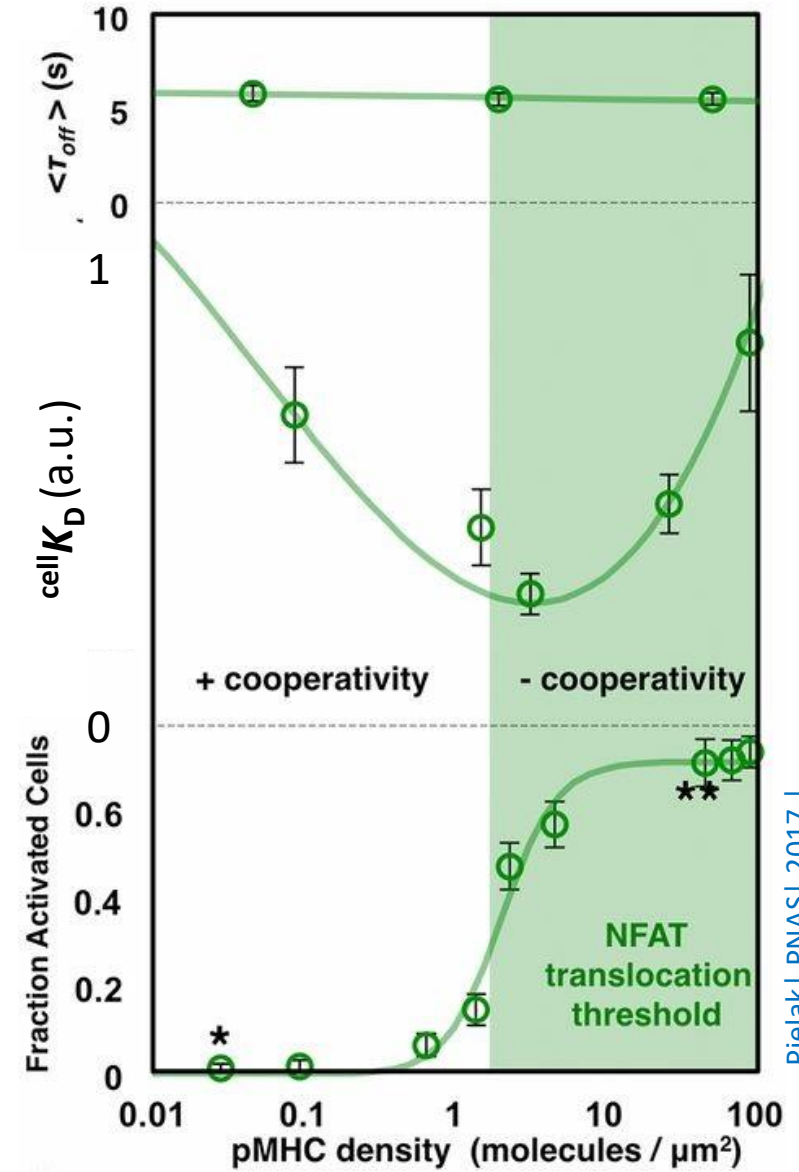
Answer-seeking questions

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T cell receptor cooperativity

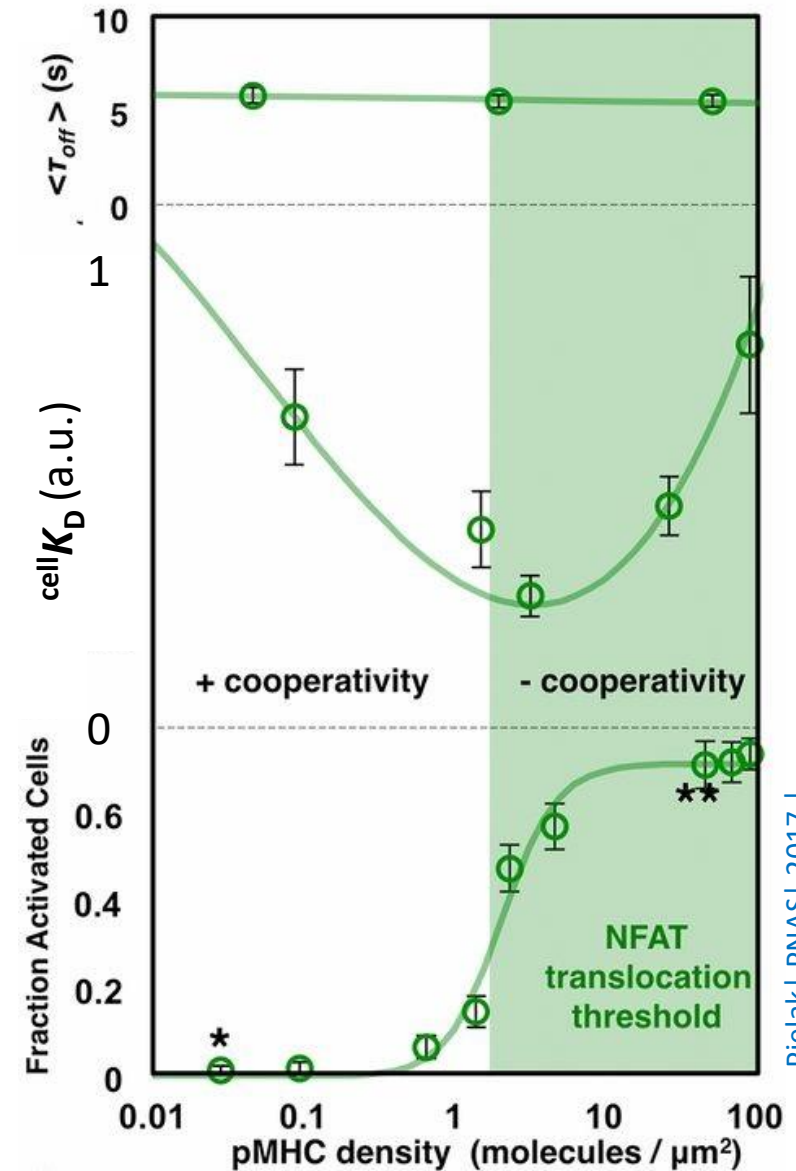


Pielak | PNAS | 2017 |
10.1073/pnas.1613140114

T cell receptor cooperativity

$${}^{\text{cell}}K_D = \frac{[\text{TCR}][\text{pMHC}]}{[\text{TCR} - \text{pMHC}]} = \frac{1}{K_a}$$

In-situ dissociation constant



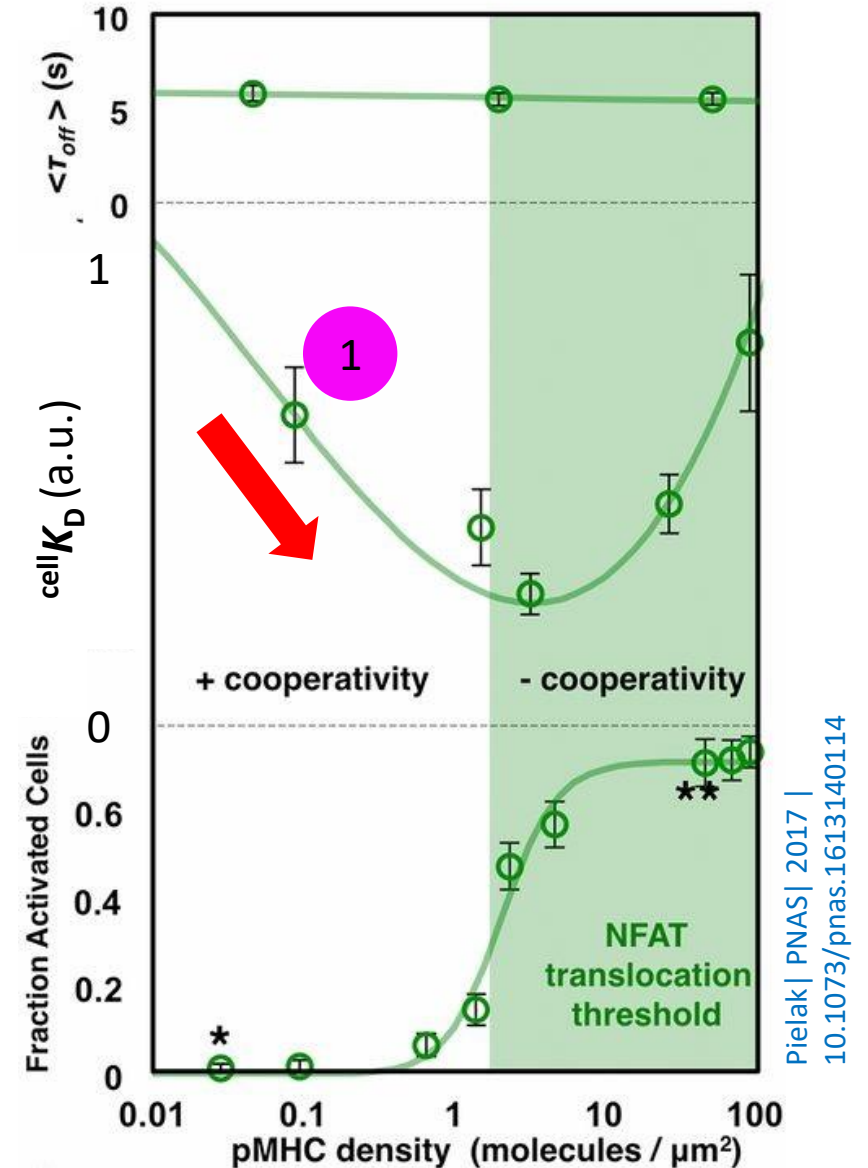
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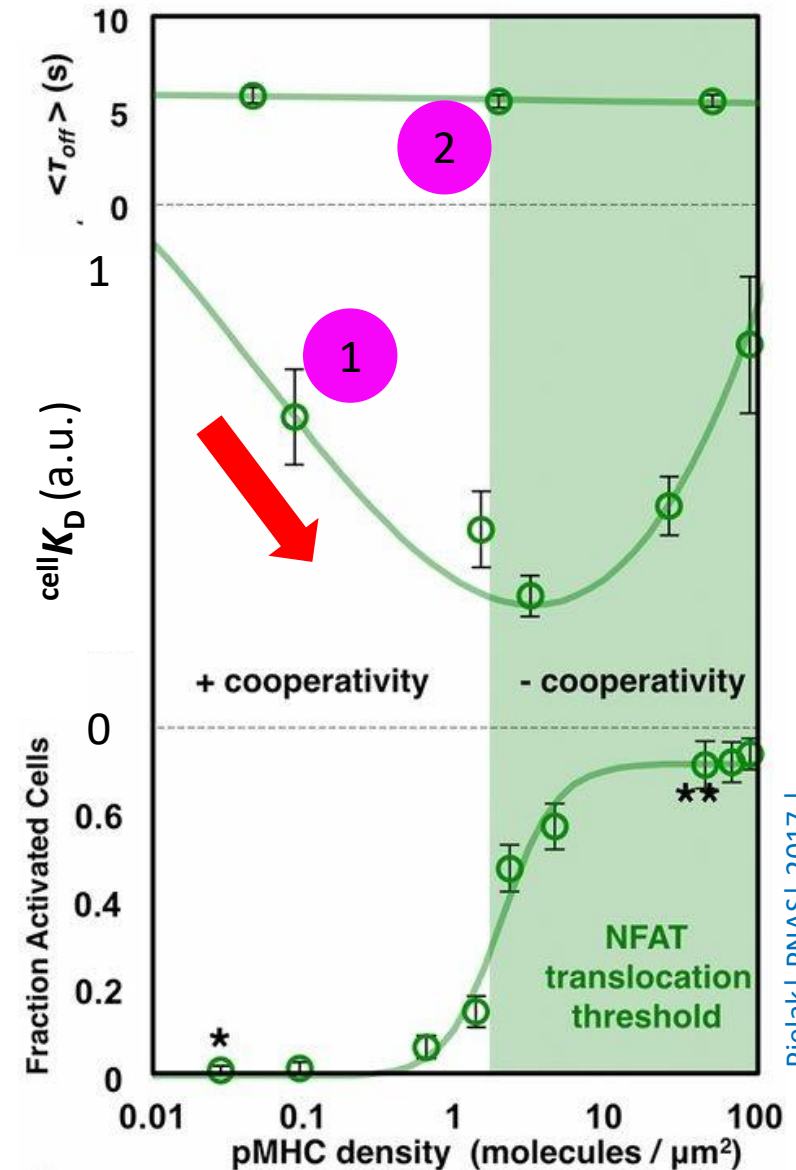


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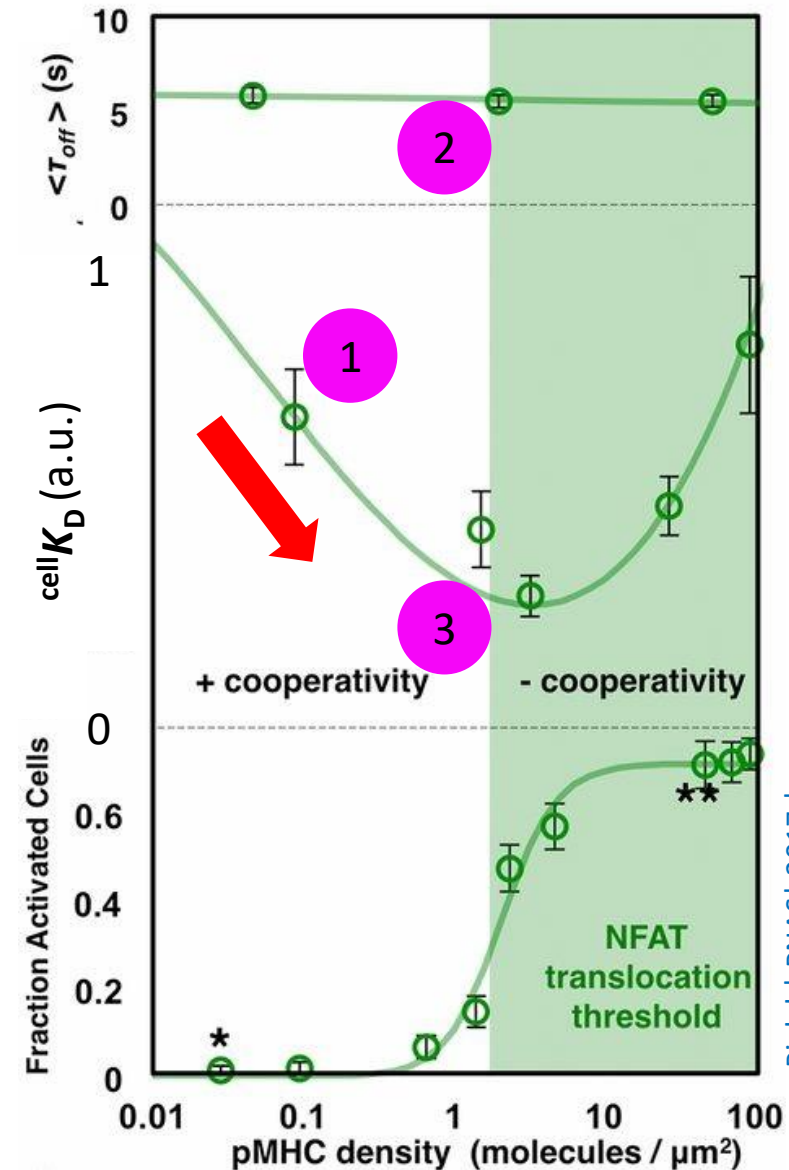
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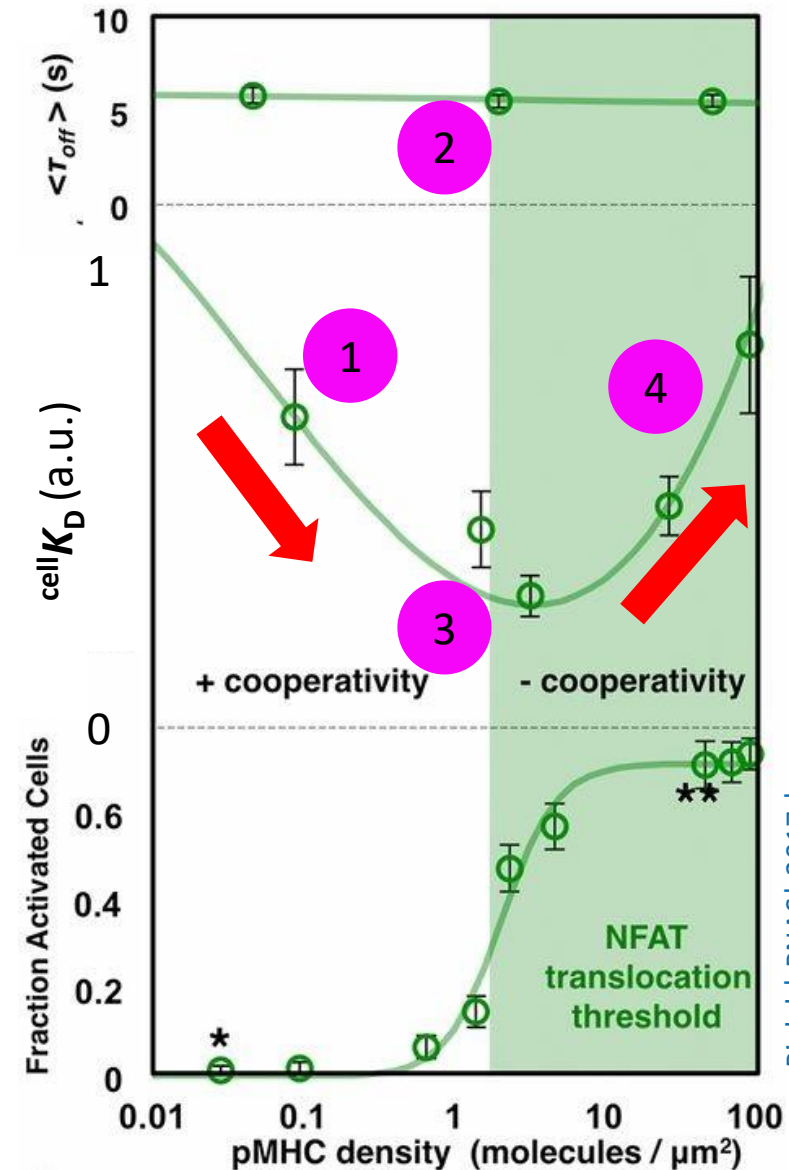
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4. higher pMHC density - negative cooperativity

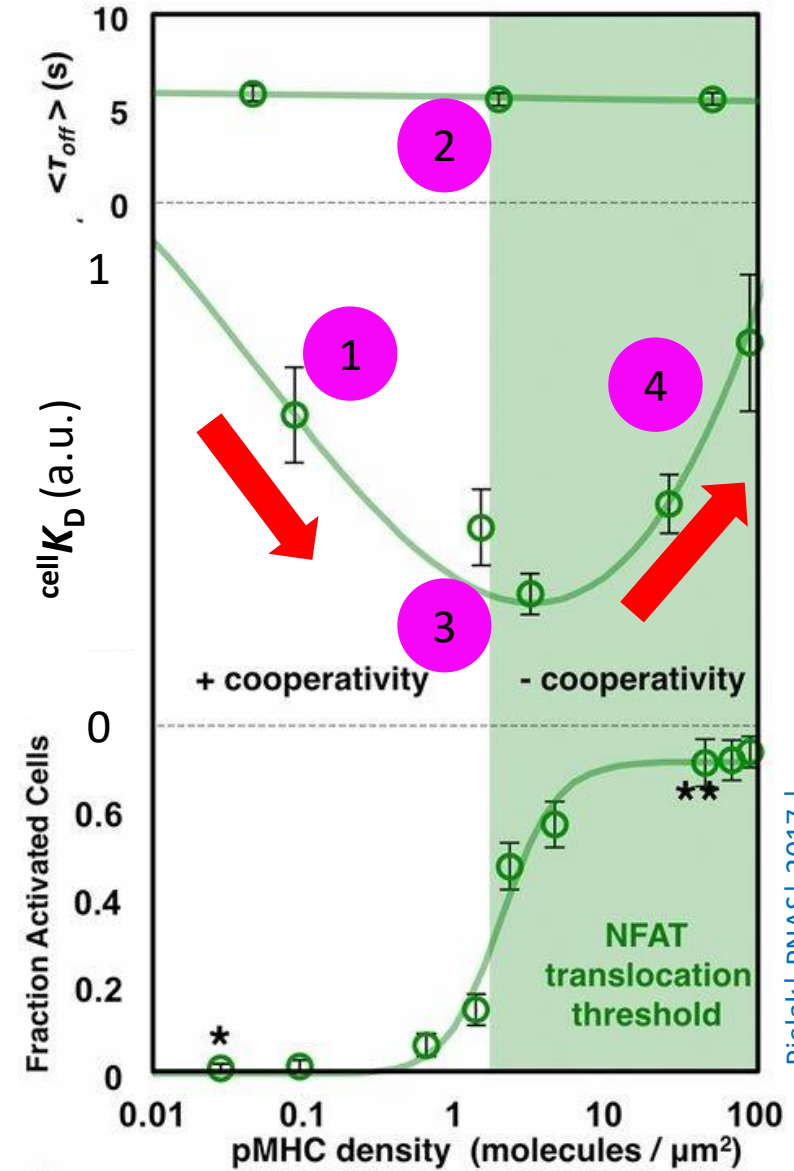
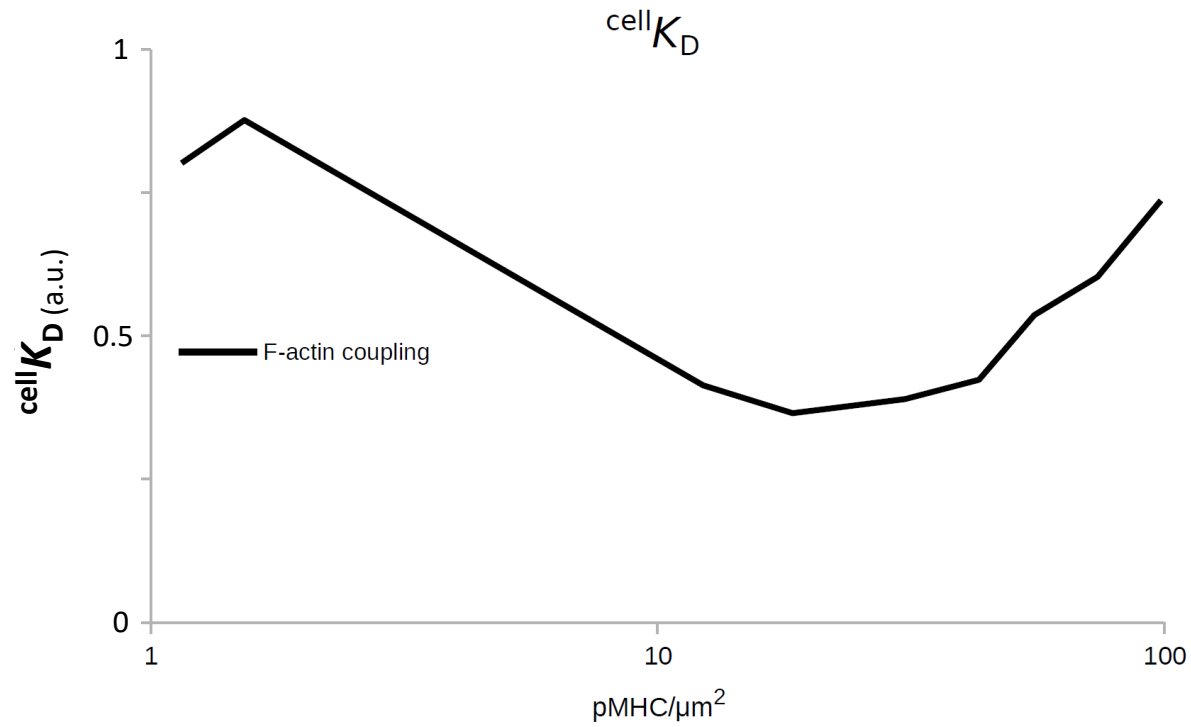


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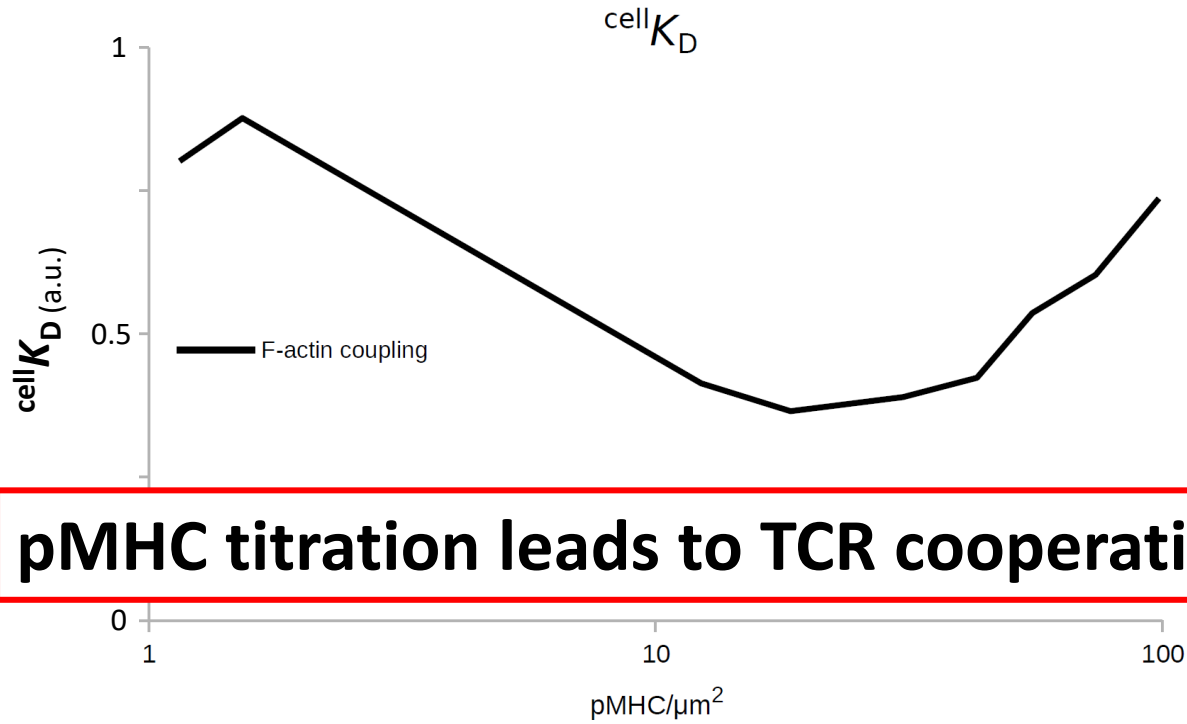
Pielak | PNAS | 2017 | 10.1073/pnas.1613140114

Siokis | JMS | 2020 | https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms21186473

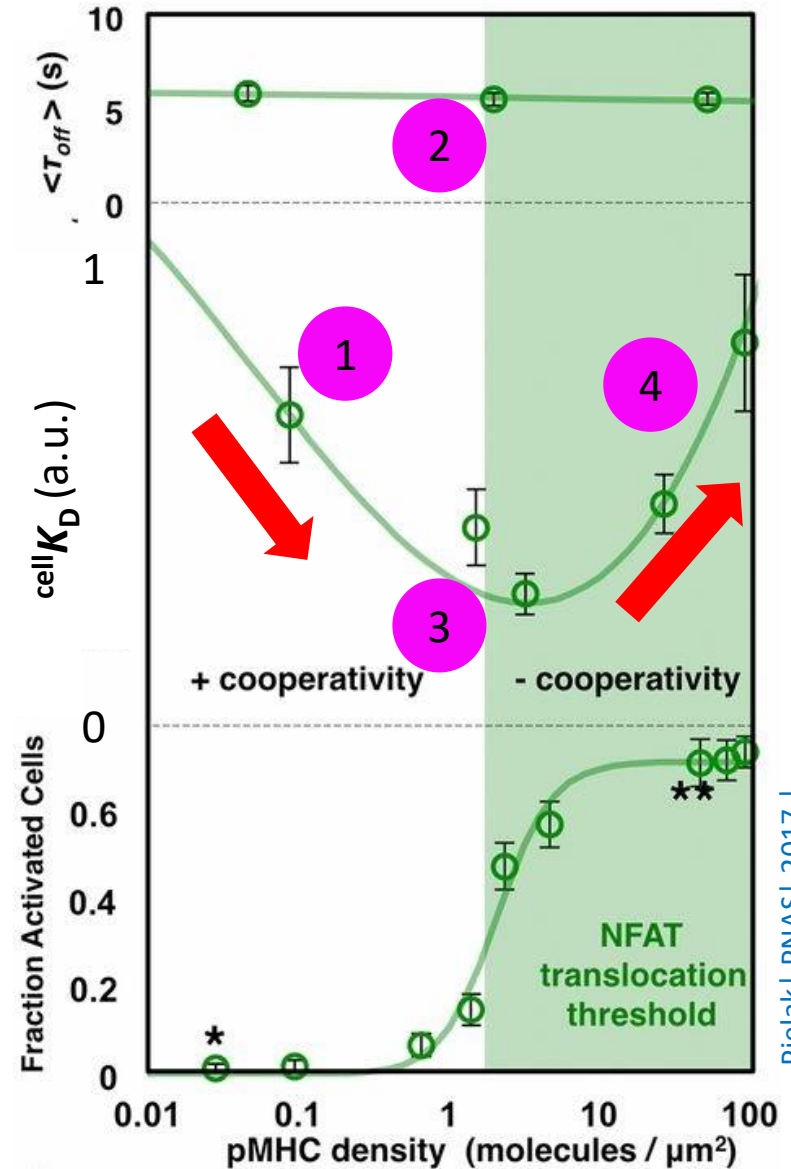
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pMHC titration leads to TCR cooperativity

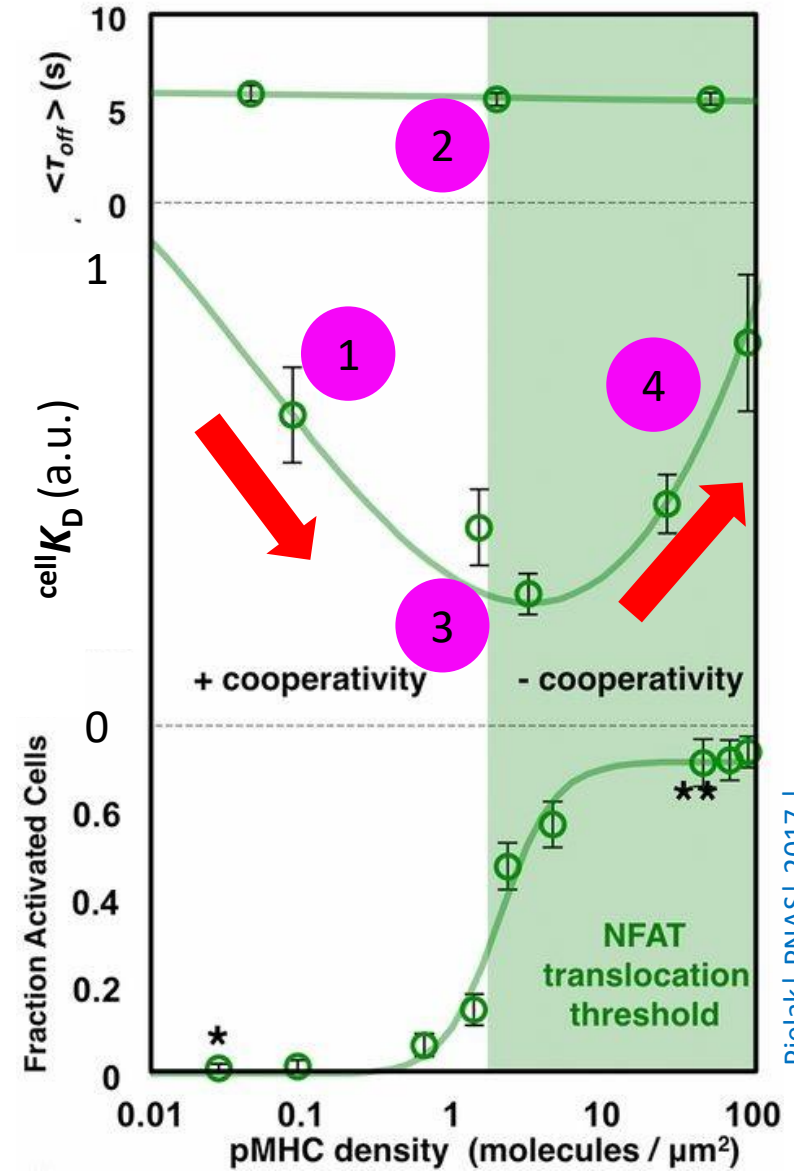
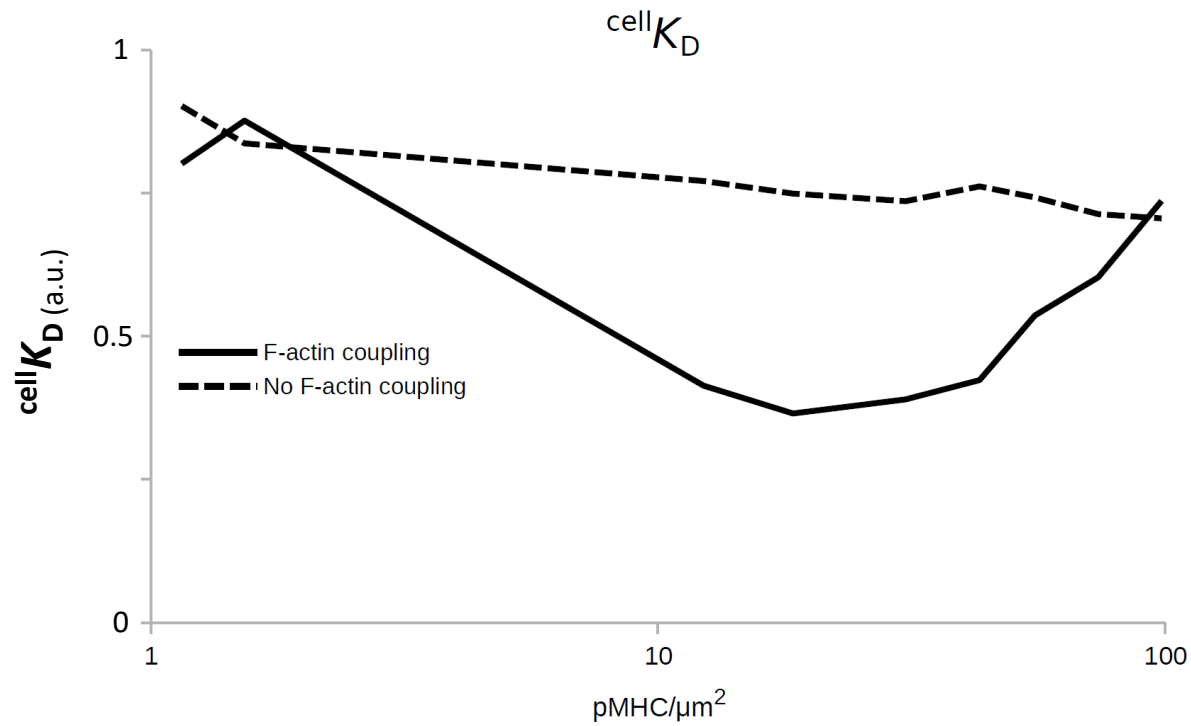


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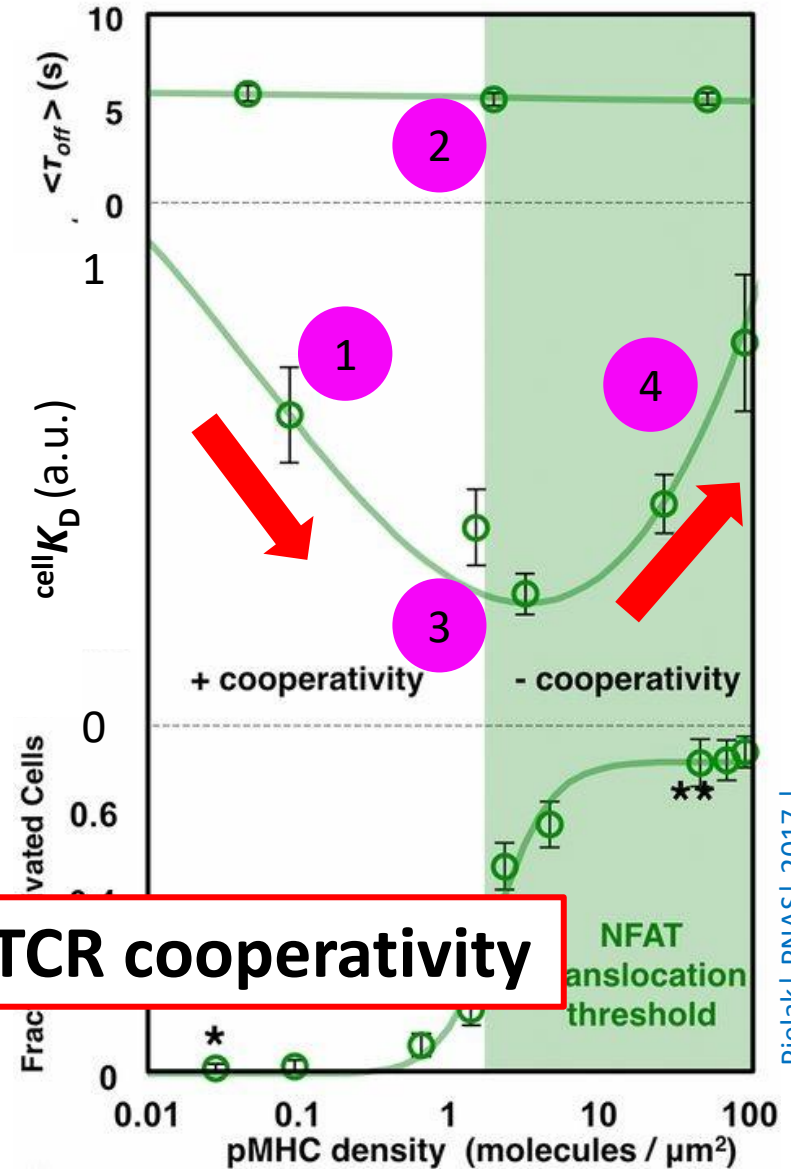
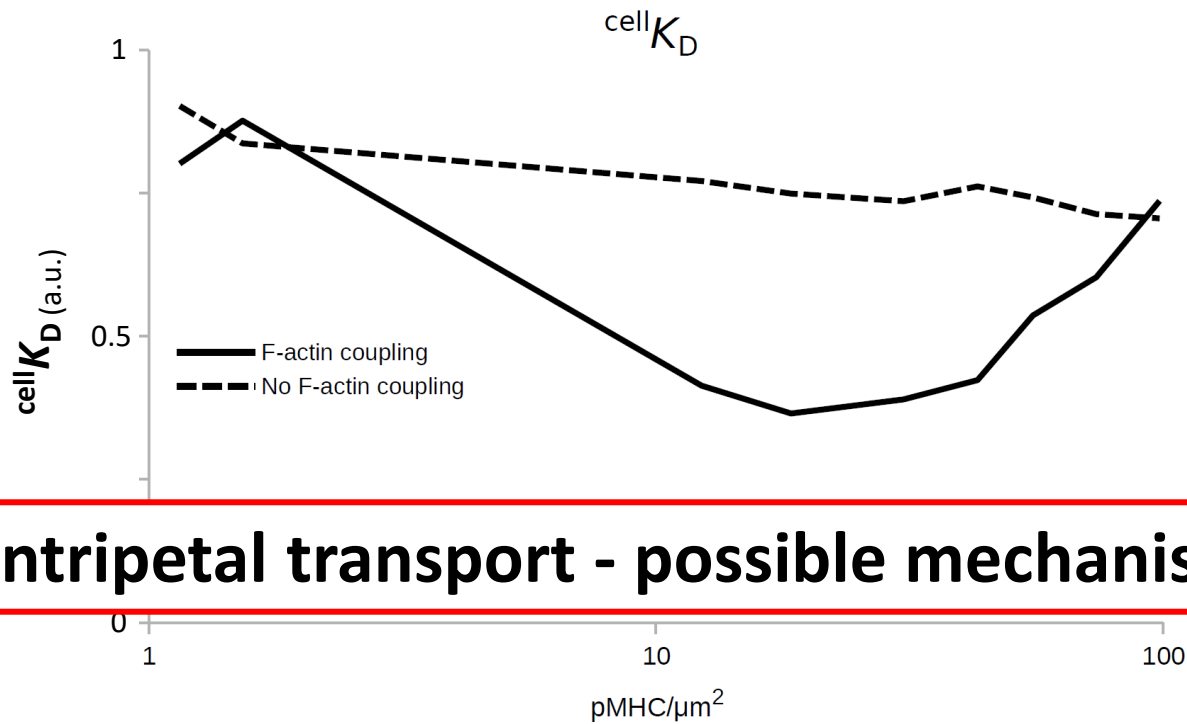


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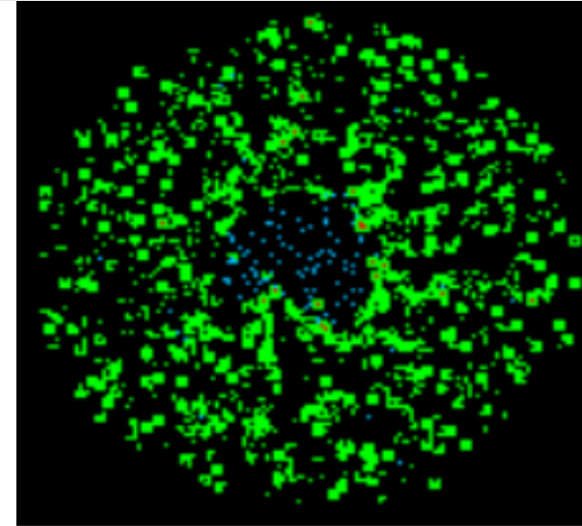
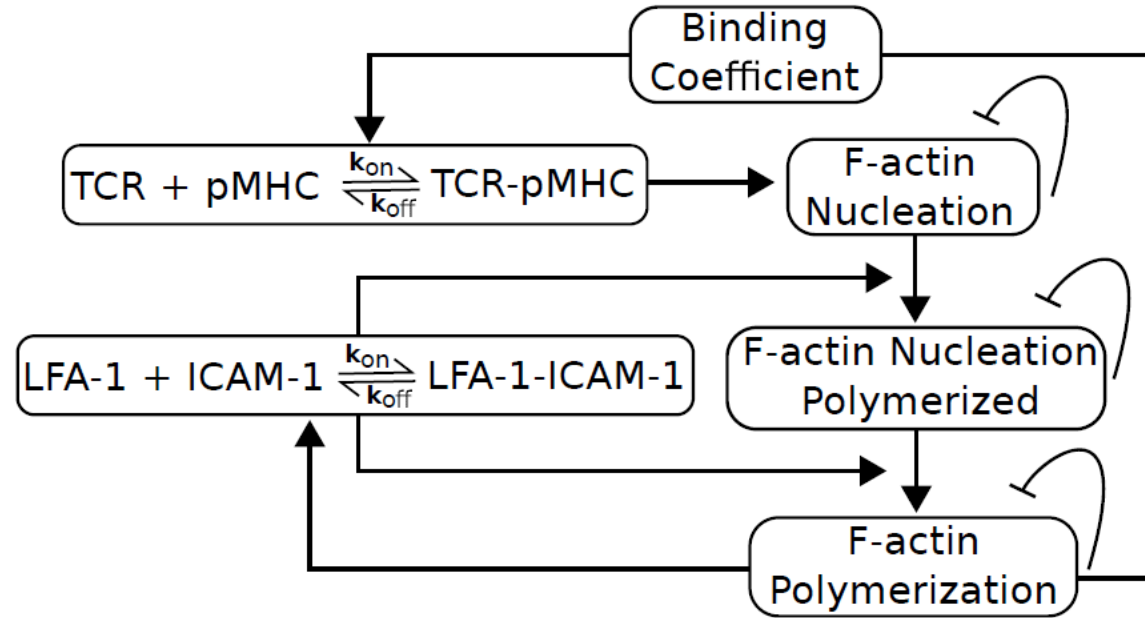
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Centripetal transport - possible mechanism of TCR cooperativity

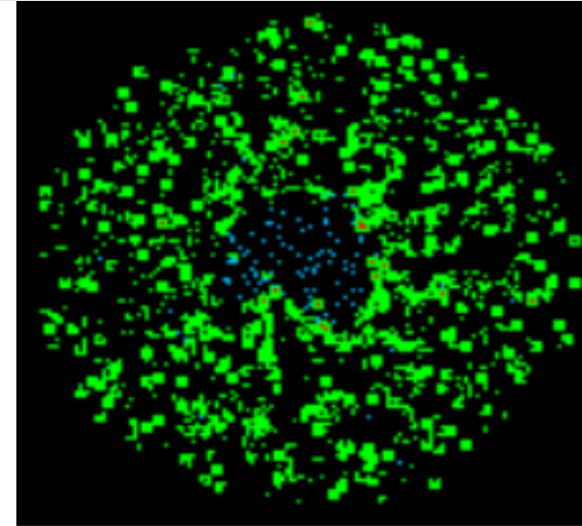
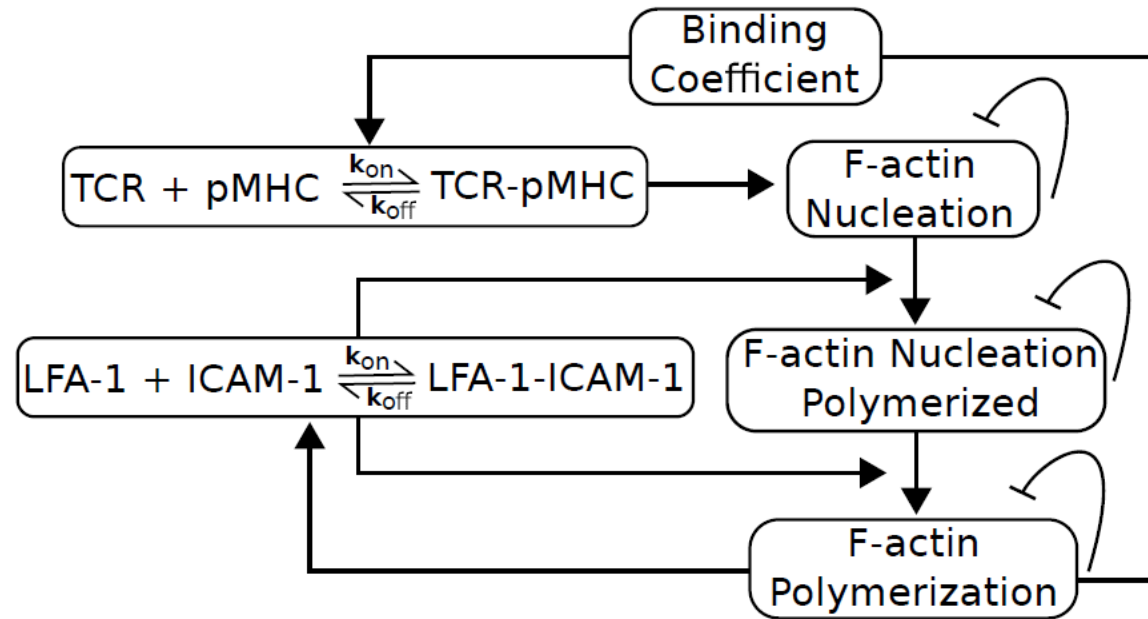
F-actin foci - active modulation of k_{on}



- Nucleation points
- Nucleation polymerized points
- Polymerization points

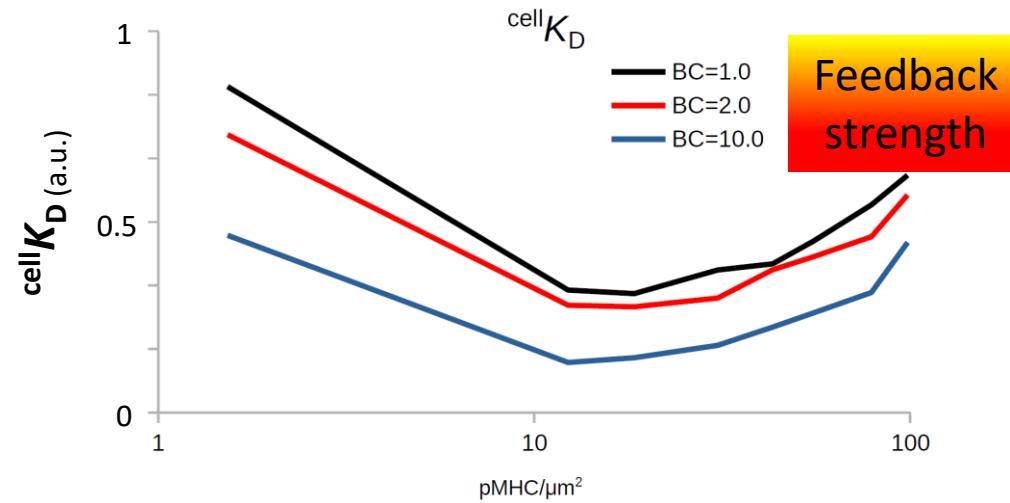
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4. **synapse formation is the cornerstone of adaptive immunity
and therefore, understanding the mechanisms leading to
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References

- (1) Siokis et al | The Immune Synapse. Methods in Molecular Biology | 2017 | https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4939-6881-7_12
- (2) Siokis et al | Cell Reports | 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2018.06.114>
- (3) Siokis et al | International Journal of Molecular Sciences | 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms21186473>
- (4) Siokis et al | bioRxiv | 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.01.16.908723>
- (5) Demetriou et al | Nature Immunology | 2020 | <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41590-020-0770-x>



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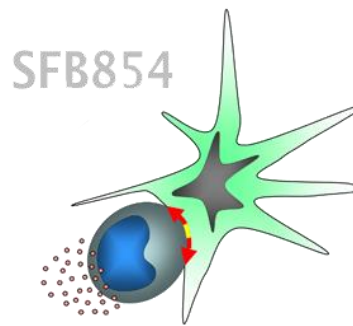
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