

- 1. The invariant TCR expressed by iNKT cells recognizes a limited repertoire of glycolipids in the context of CD1d molecules expressed by DC and B cells
- 2. iNKT cells are CD40L positive and the cross talk between iNKT cells with DC and B cells results in CD40 dependent DC maturation and B cell activation
- 3. TLR signaling events up-regulate endogenous CD1d ligand(s), which in combination with IL-12 activate iNKT cells.

#### Melanoma



# Reduced expansion of Melan-A<sub>26-35</sub> specific T cells in total leukocytes



Melan A/A2 tetramer

Ficoll purified PBMC Total leukocytes

# Arginase 1 expression by neutrophils from patients with melanoma



# Intracellular staining with anti IL-10 Ab of neutrophils from patients with melanoma



# IL-10 secretion by neutrophils from patients with melanoma



# IL-10 production by neutrophils from patients with melanoma inhibits Melan-A <sub>26-35</sub> specific T cell response

- CD11b<sup>+</sup>CD15<sup>+</sup> cells + CI

+ CD11b<sup>+</sup>CD15<sup>+</sup> cells



### Frequency of neutrophils in patients with melanoma correlates with staging of disease and their suppressive activity



### Cytokine concentration in the plasma of patients with melanoma



Plasma levels of **Serum Amyloid A (SAA)** in patients with melanoma correlates with disease staging



De Santo et al., Nature Immunology (in press)

# Correlation between frequency of CD11b+CD15+ cells and SAA plasma levels



## SAA production by TAM and melanoma cells









## Serum Amyloid A

- SAA: 12Kd glycoprotein mainly secreted by hepatocytes during acute and chronic inflammation. It has also been shown to be secreted by pneumocytes ad macrophages

- SAA secretion is induced by IL-6, IL-1 $\beta$ , TNF  $\alpha$ , LPS

- Described activities: 1) chemoattractant, 2) induces G-CSF secretion and neutrophilia, 3) enhances ROS production, 4) opsonization of bacteria by binding to OmpA family members on G- bacteria

Does incubation of neutrophils with SAA induce IL-10 secretion?

### SAA binding receptors



### **Neutrophils express both FPR2 and TLR2**



### Incubation of neutrophils from healthy donors with SAA induces IL-10 secretion



### SAA binding to FPR-2 controls IL-10 secretion



# **Conclusions (I)**

A large proportion of primary melanoma and TAM secrete SAA

SAA controls the differentiation of immunosuppressive IL-10 secreting neutrophils

**IL-10 secretion from SAA treated neutrophils is FPR-2 dependent** 

SAA levels in plasma of patients with melanoma correlates with staging of disease and frequency of IL-10 secreting neutrophils

Melanomas exploit of a physiological role of SAA

High SAA levels in melanoma patients should be considered a novel tumor evasion mechanism to differentiate IL-10 producing neutrophils

Future vaccine clinical trials in patients with melanoma should combine strategies to reduce IL-10 immunosuppressive activity

### **Neutrophils are CD1d and CD40 positive**



## **Cross-talk between neutrophils and iNKT cells**



# Adaptive Immune Response

# Neutrophils from healthy donors pre-treated with SAA activate iNKT cells



#### Neutrophils purified from melanoma patients directly activate iNKT cells



## **Cross-talk between innate and adaptive immune** system to optimize vaccination strategies



# Adaptive Immune Response

## **Reduction of IL-10 secretion after incubating neutrophils from melanoma patients with iNKT cells**



CD11b<sup>+</sup>CD15<sup>+</sup> cells

#### Reduction of IL-10 secretion from SAA treated neutrophils is dependent on the numbers of iNKT cells



#### Harnessing iNKT cells abolishes neutrophils' suppressive activity and restores Melan-A<sub>26-35</sub> specific CD8+ T cell response

#### $\alpha$ -GalCer pulsed CD11b<sup>+</sup>CD15<sup>+</sup> cells





### Reduction of IL-10 secretion from SAA treated neutrophils is CD40 dependent

# SAA treated neutrophils can interact with iNKT cells



### CD1d<sup>+/+</sup>/CD1d<sup>-/-</sup> mixed bone marrow chimera mice



Analysis to 0, 5, 8 day

### Injection of SAA-1 into CD1d mixed bone marrow chimeras results in the expansion of IL-10 neutrophils only from CD1d - neutrophils



### **CD1d- IL-10 secreting neutrophils** from CD1d <sup>+/+</sup>/CD1<sup>-/-</sup> chimera inhibit OT-I proliferation



# **Conclusions (II)**

- Incubation of neutrophils with SAA facilitates their cross-talk with iNKT cells, which results in iNKT cell activation and reduced secretion of IL-10

- SAA dependent interaction between neutrophils and iNKT cells is CD1d and CD40 dependent

- Injection of SAA in CD1d<sup>+/+</sup> /CD1d<sup>-/-</sup> mixed bone marrow chimeras induces IL-10 secretion mainly from CD1d- neutrophils

Harnessing iNKT cells should be considered in melanoma patients to reduce the activity of immunosuppressive neutrophils

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