

**Defence against Pathogens and  
Tolerance of Commensal Microbiota  
as well as of Dietary Antigens in the  
Early Stage:  
Challenging Steps to avoid Immune  
Deviances Later on.**

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Rocourt-Liège  
Belgium



# **The Bacterial Colonisation and the Feeding in the Early Stage: Why it matters ?**

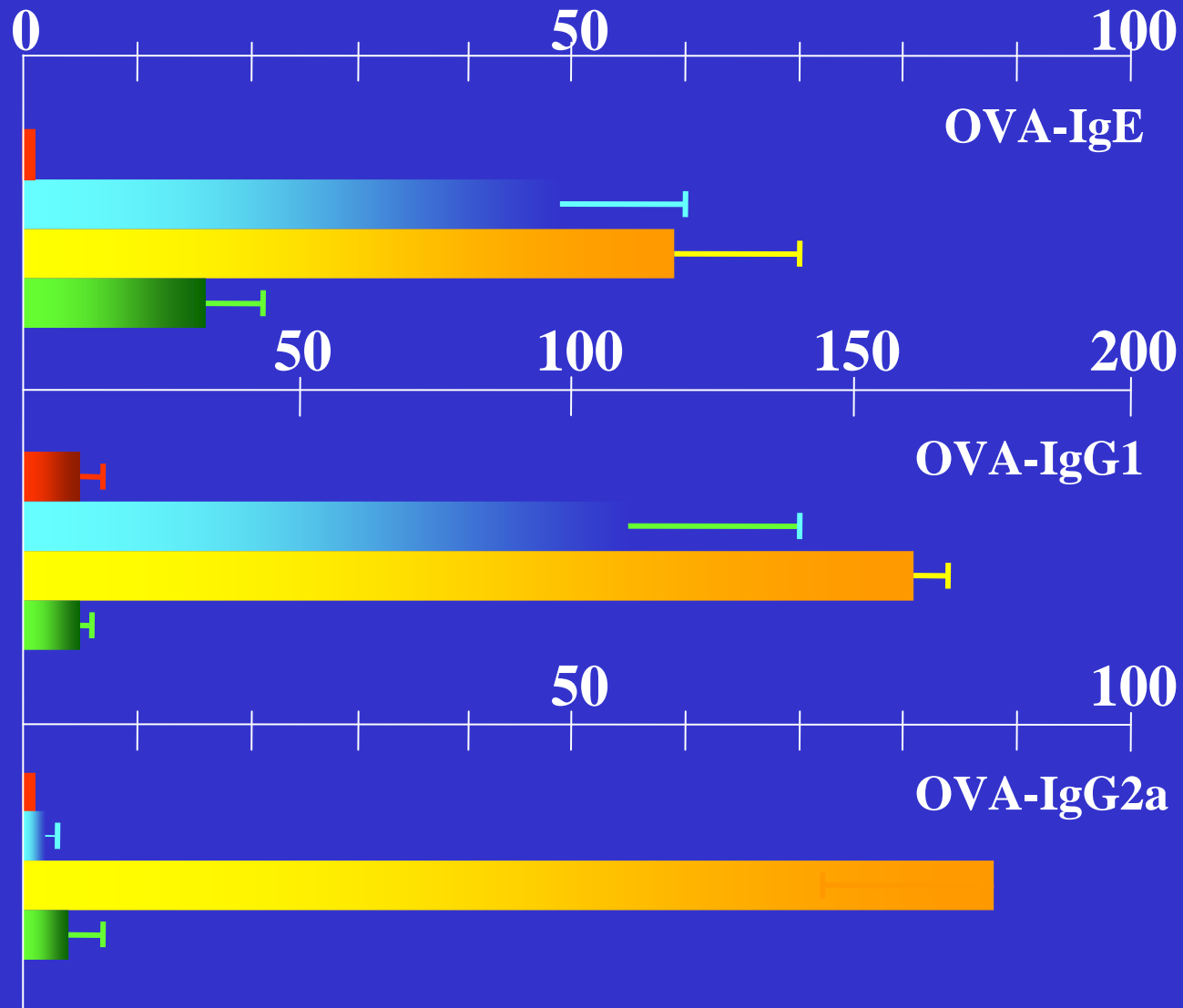
# The Bacterial Colonisation and the Feeding in the Early Stage: Why it matters ?

- It initiates the mucosal immune system rendering it able to favour the HOST DEFENCE but in the same time the DIETARY ANTIGEN TOLERANCE

# The Bacterial Colonisation and the Feeding in the Early Stage: Why it matters ?

- It initiates the mucosal immune system rendering it able to favour the HOST DEFENCE but in the same time the DIETARY ANTIGEN TOLERANCE
- An adequate presentation of the dietary antigen to the mucosa in the early stage is likely to be a CRUCIAL STEP in optimising this tolerance to the DIETARY ANTIGEN.

**The Bacterial Colonisation of  
the Neonatal Intestine  
is mandatory  
to get Diet Antigen Tolerance**



*From Sudo et al J Immunol 1997;159:1739.*

# **The Fetus and its Immunological protection....**



Maternal TH-1↓, TH-2↑  
No fetal rejection

IL-4, 13

IL-10, TGF-β

Warner JO  
*Arch Dis Child*  
2004;89:97



Warner JO  
*Arch Dis Child*  
2004;89:97

Circulating allergens and  
maternal Ig-E to amniotic fluid

Fetal TH-2 biased  
allergen sensitisation

IL-4, 13

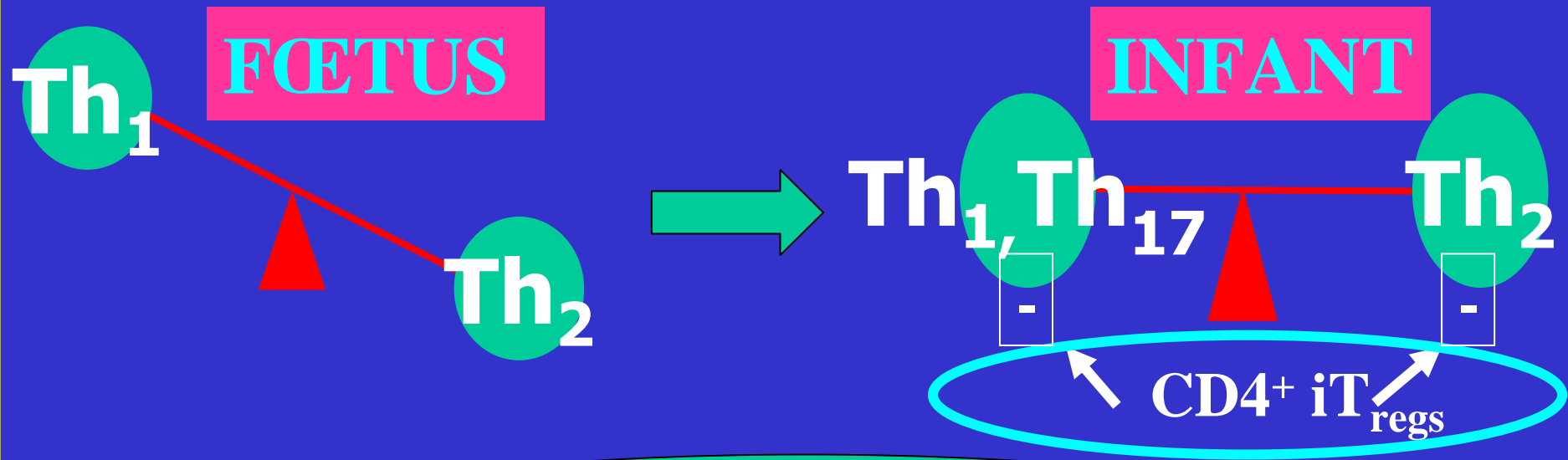
IL-10, TGF- $\beta$

Fetal swallowing

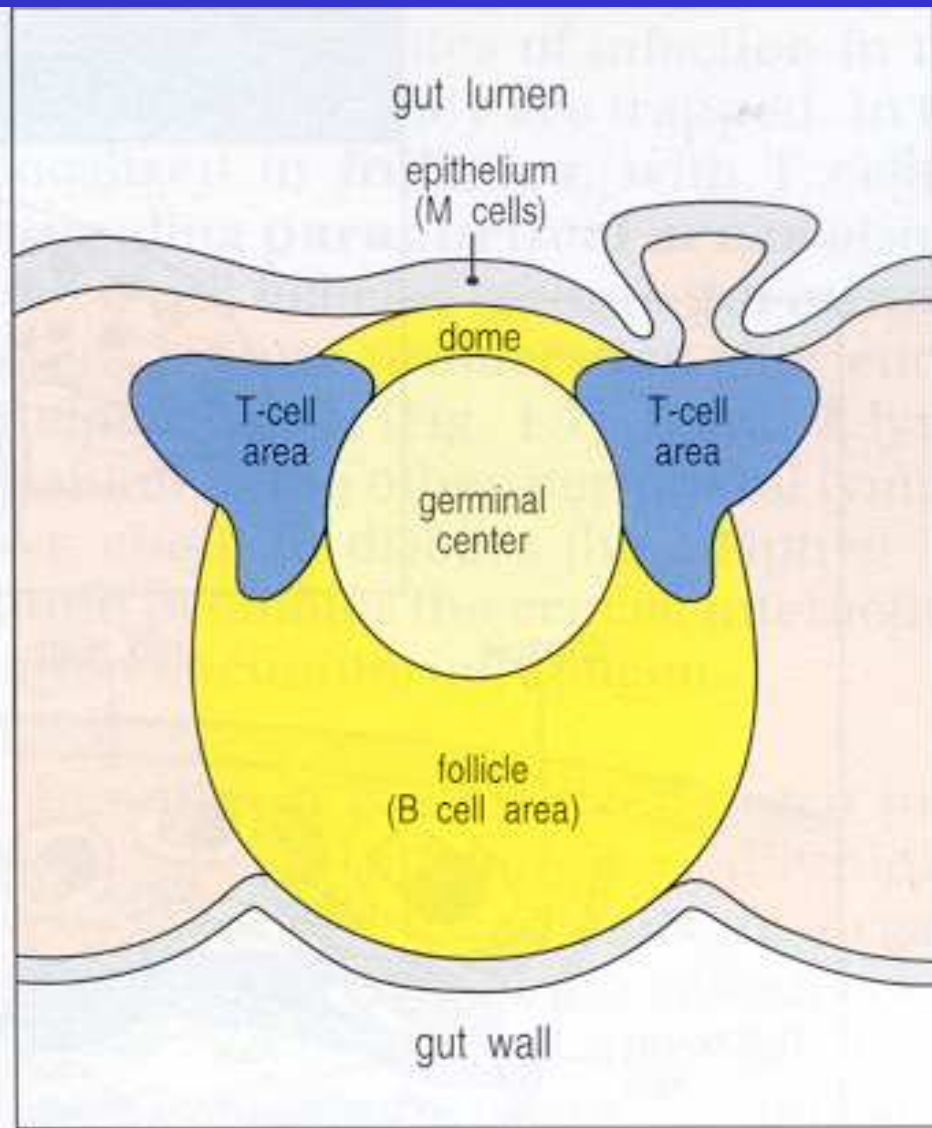
**The Process of Birth triggers a dramatic Immune Induction at the Sterile Intestine Mucosal level...**

**....a challenging step initiated by the Invasive Microbiota....**

# Physiological Fetal Immune Imbalance to be corrected by invasive bacteria in the Early Stage



**Th<sub>1</sub>, Th<sub>17</sub> impulse and up-regulation  
of CD4<sup>+</sup> iT<sub>reg</sub> cells (Bystander Suppression)  
in a progressively increased TGF- $\beta$  immune  
climate.**



Crucial role of bacteria to induce **HOST DEFENCE** but also in the same time to get **DIET ANTIGEN TOLERANCE**.....

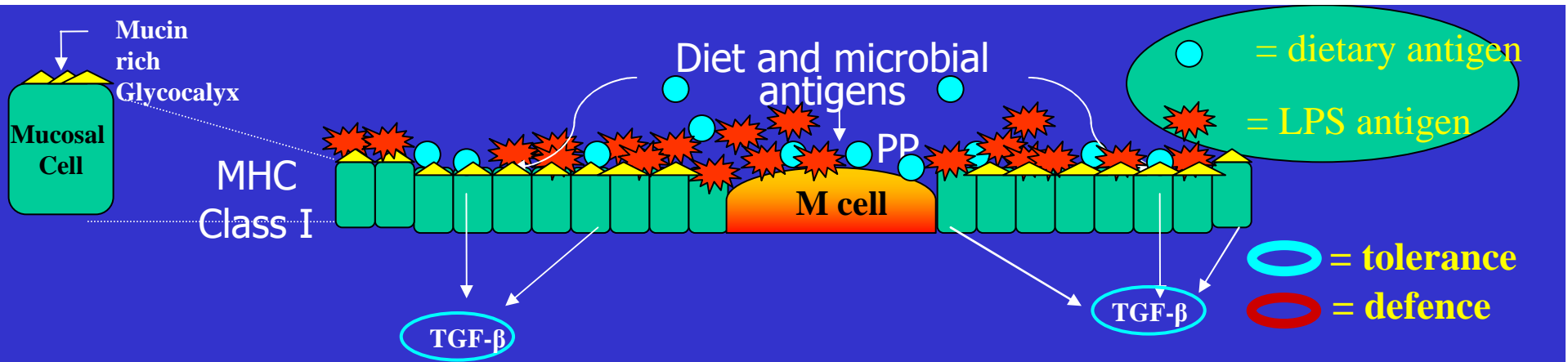
.....but, how can it be possible to get this opposite effect at the mucosal level ....

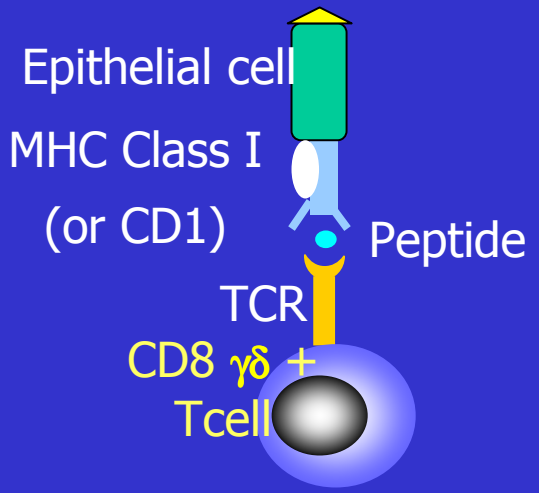
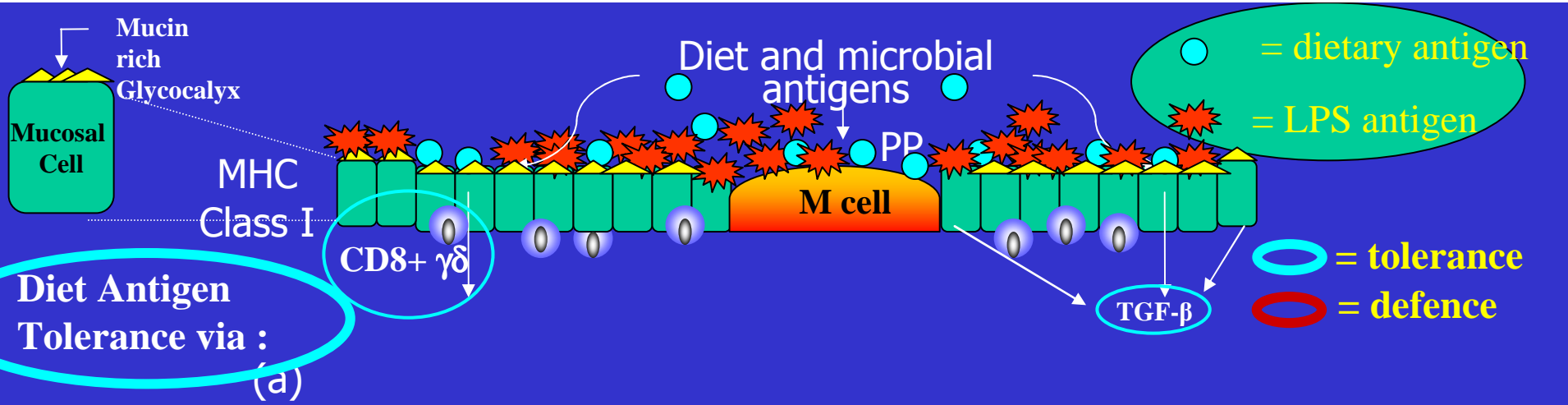
....how does it work ?

which Actors are involved in the process of the dietary antigen tolerance ?

**From experimental studies but which  
tend to be recently confirmed in  
HUMANS .....**

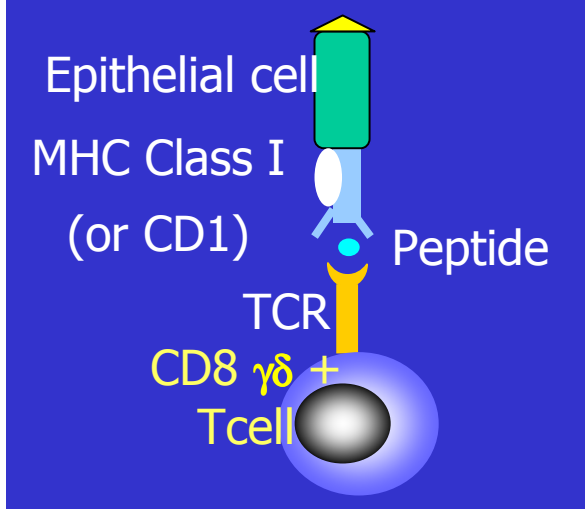
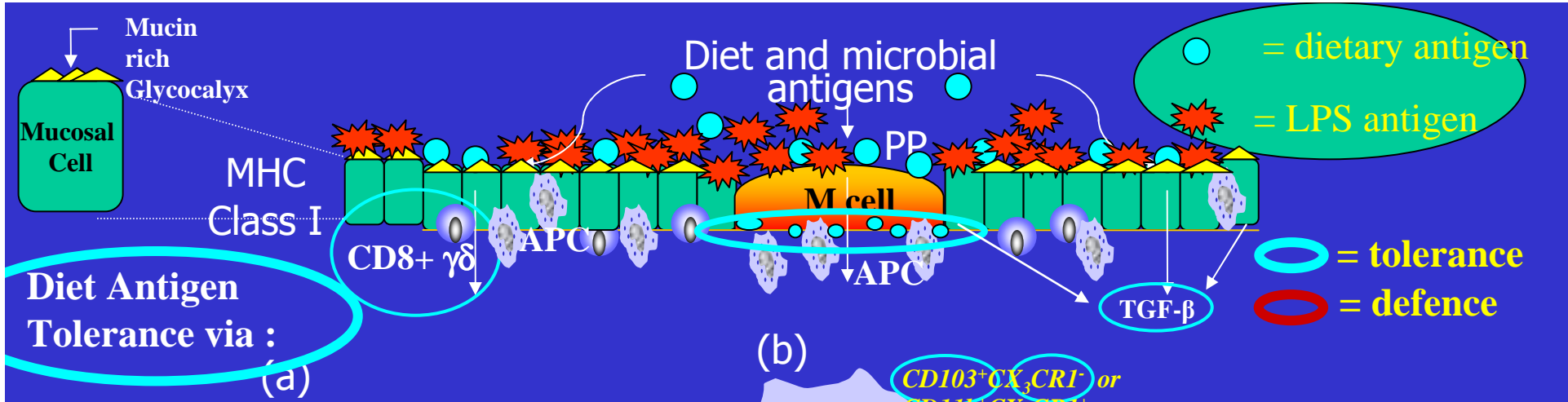
**..... 3 Challenging Steps (a, b, c) to  
Get the Dietary Antigen  
Tolerance.....**



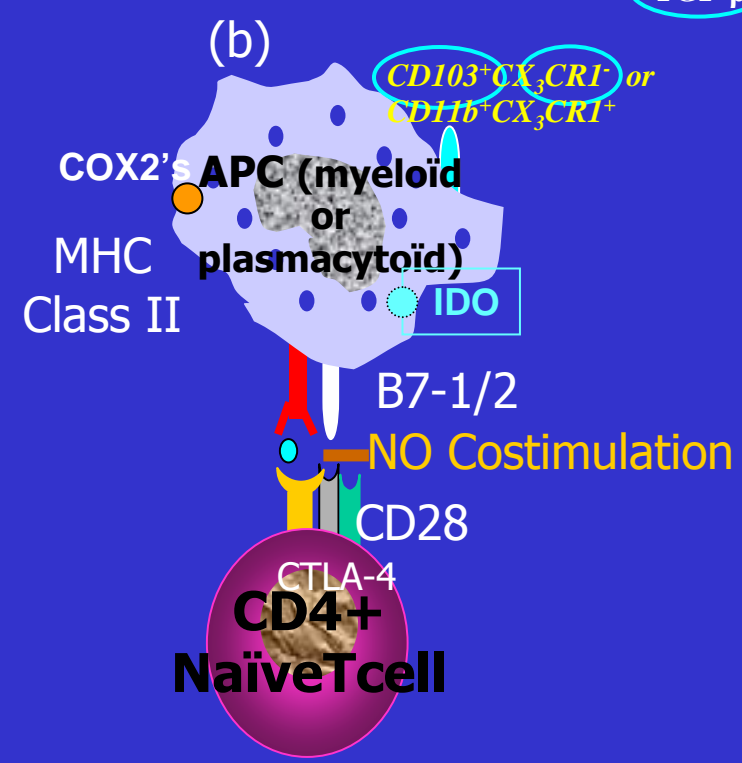


Dose-dependent induction of T-cell-mediated suppression

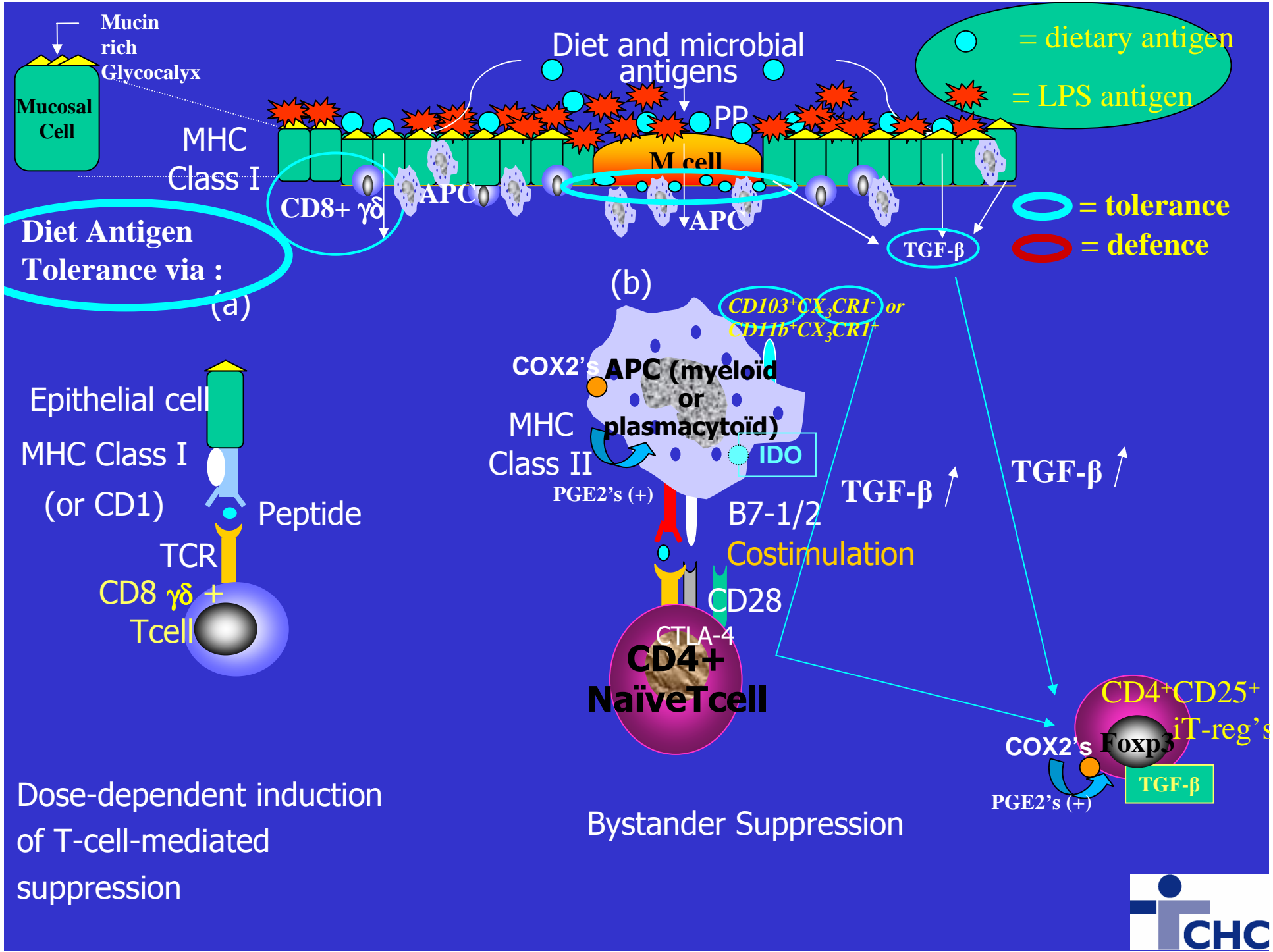


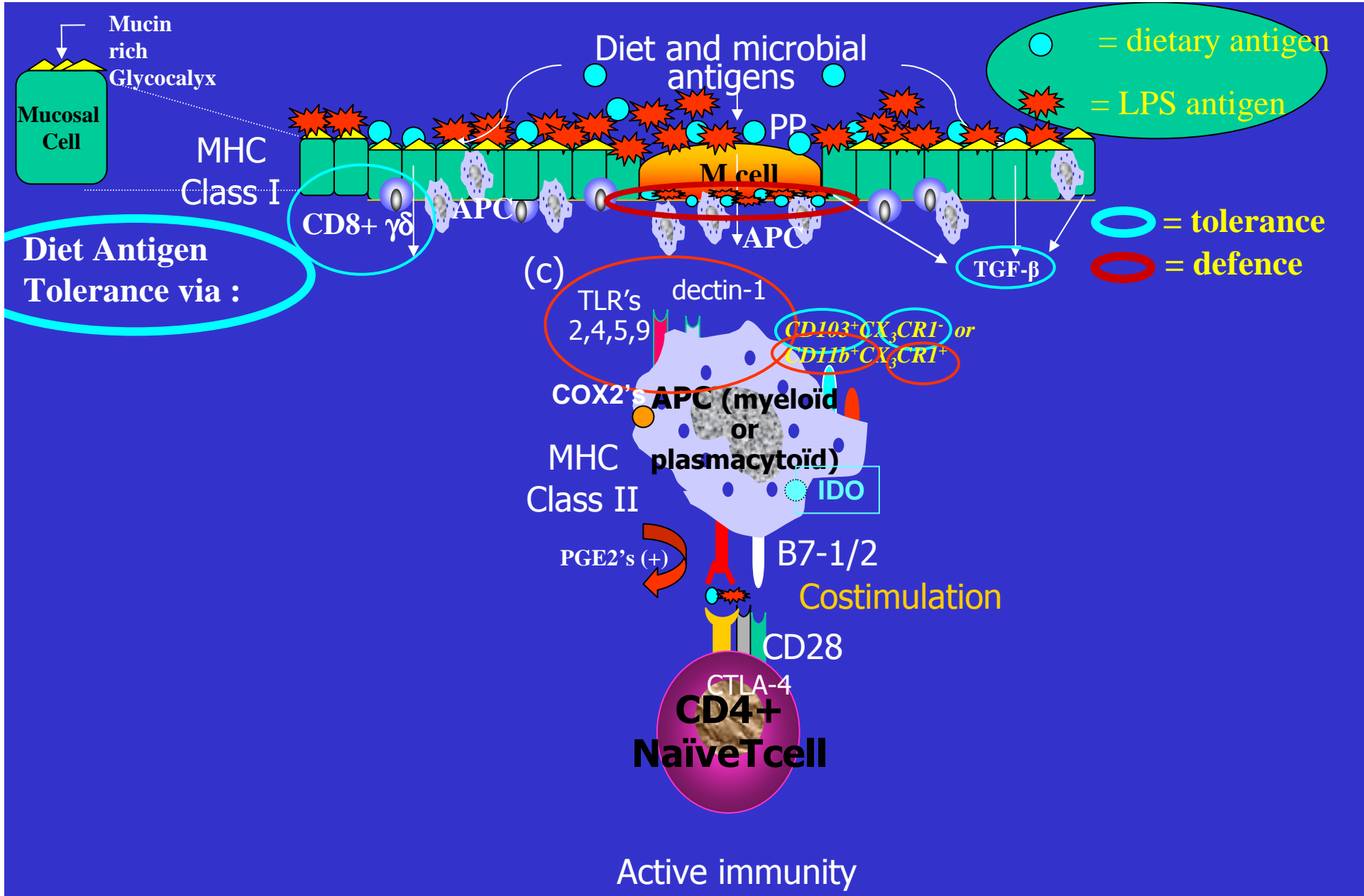


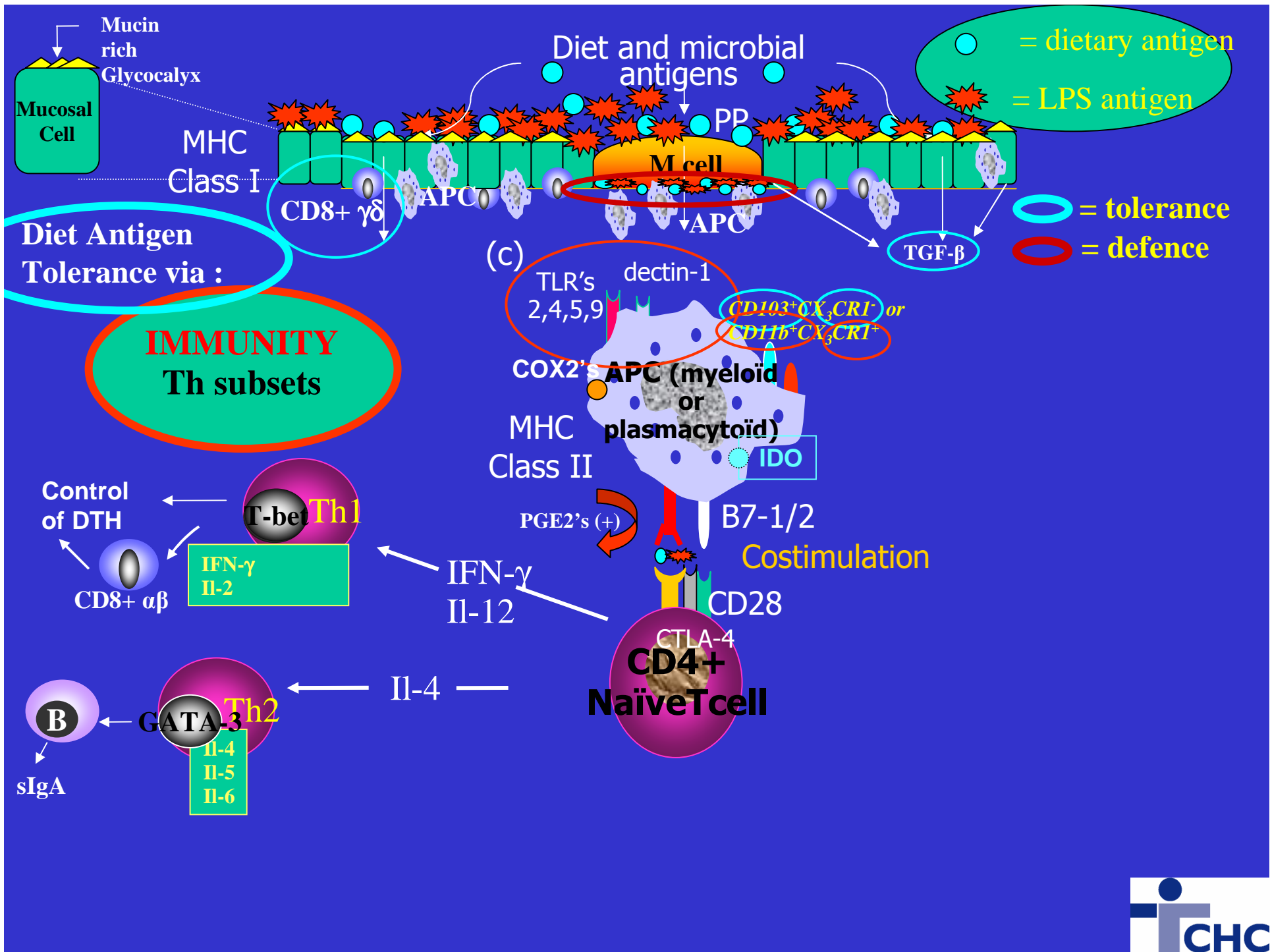
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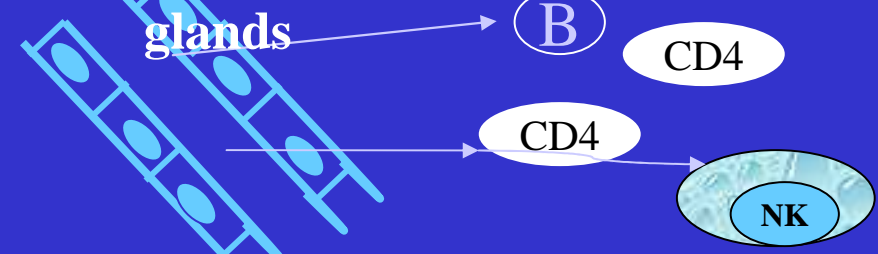
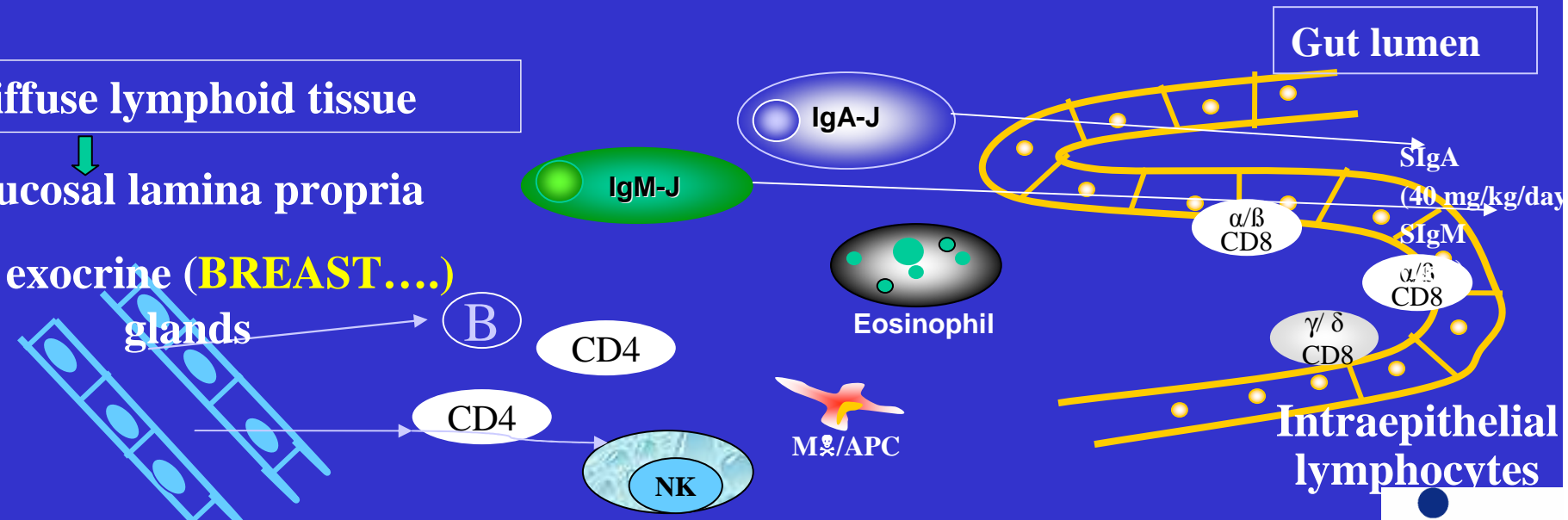
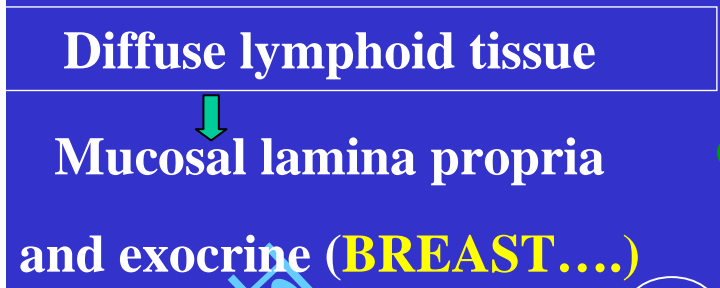
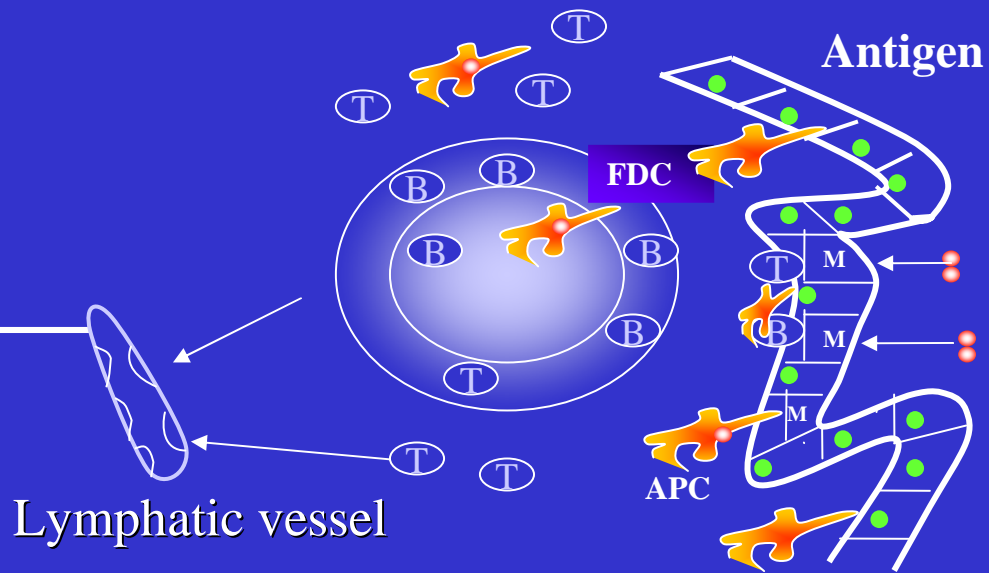
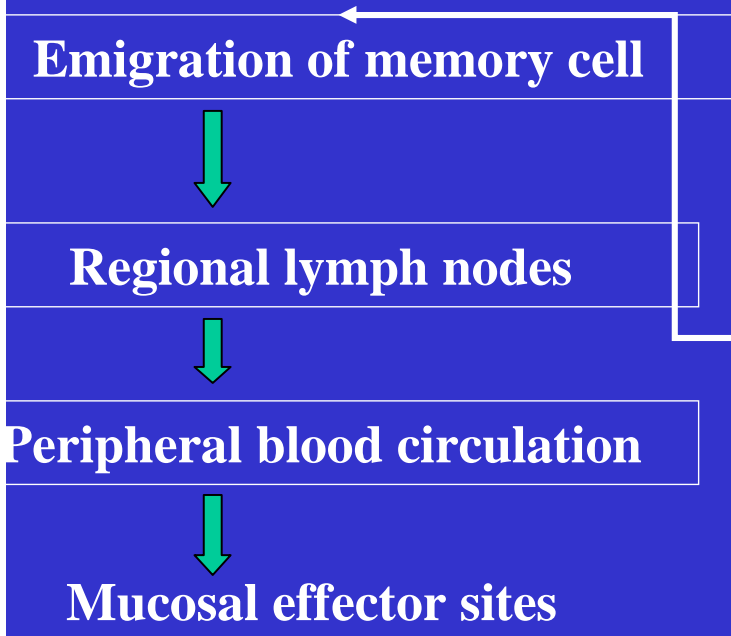


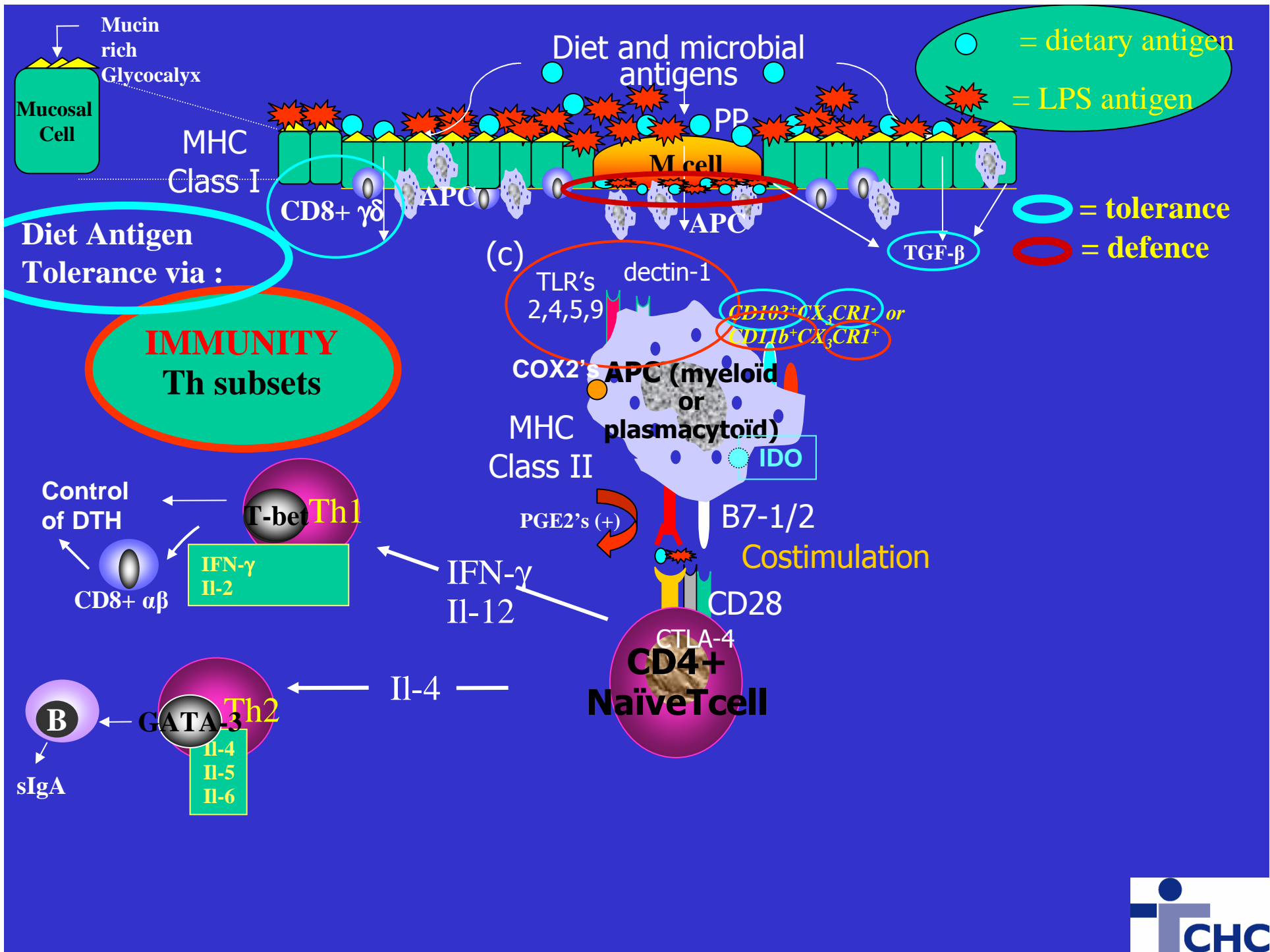
T-cell deletion  
T-cell anergy  
Apoptosis

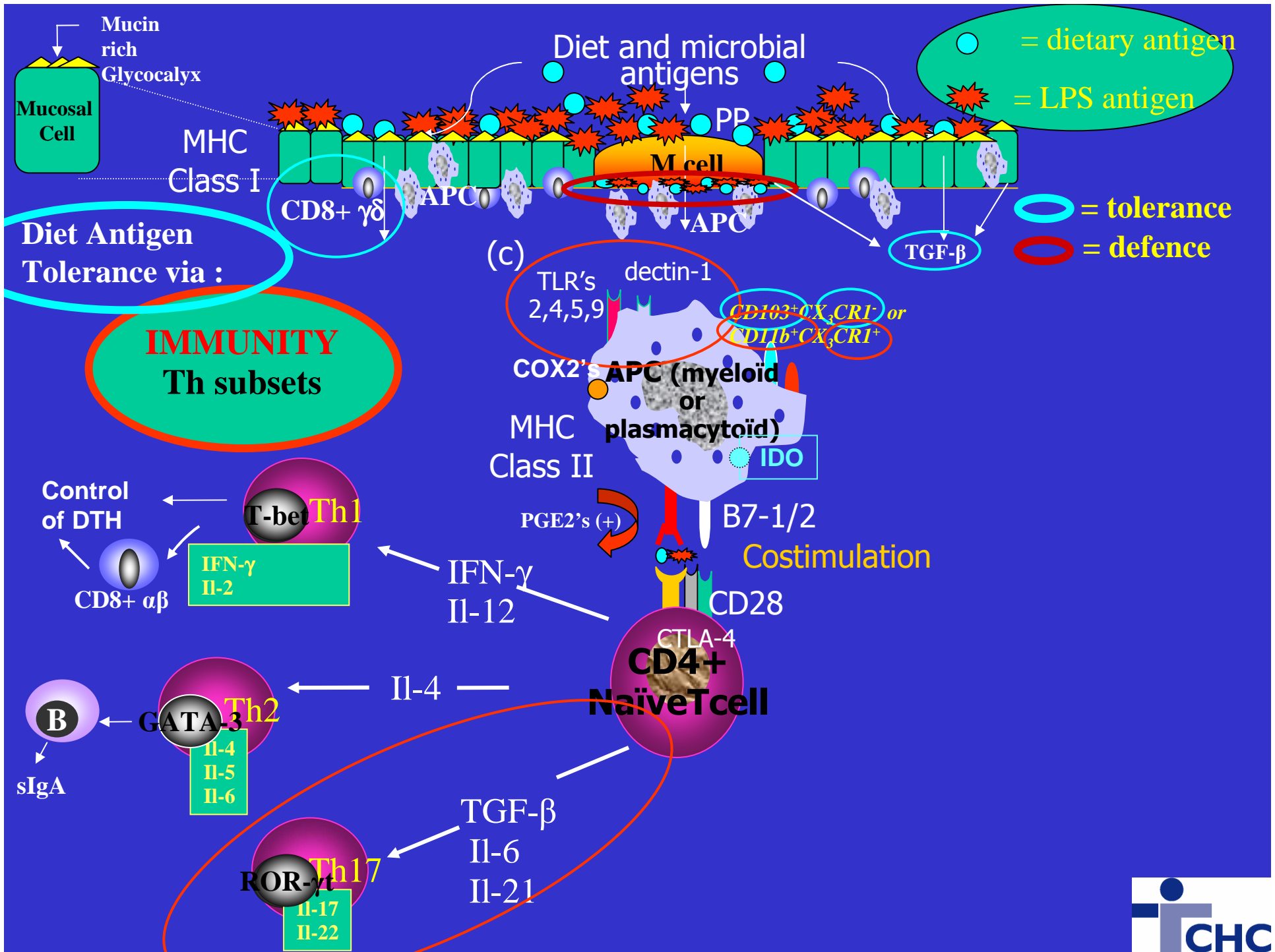


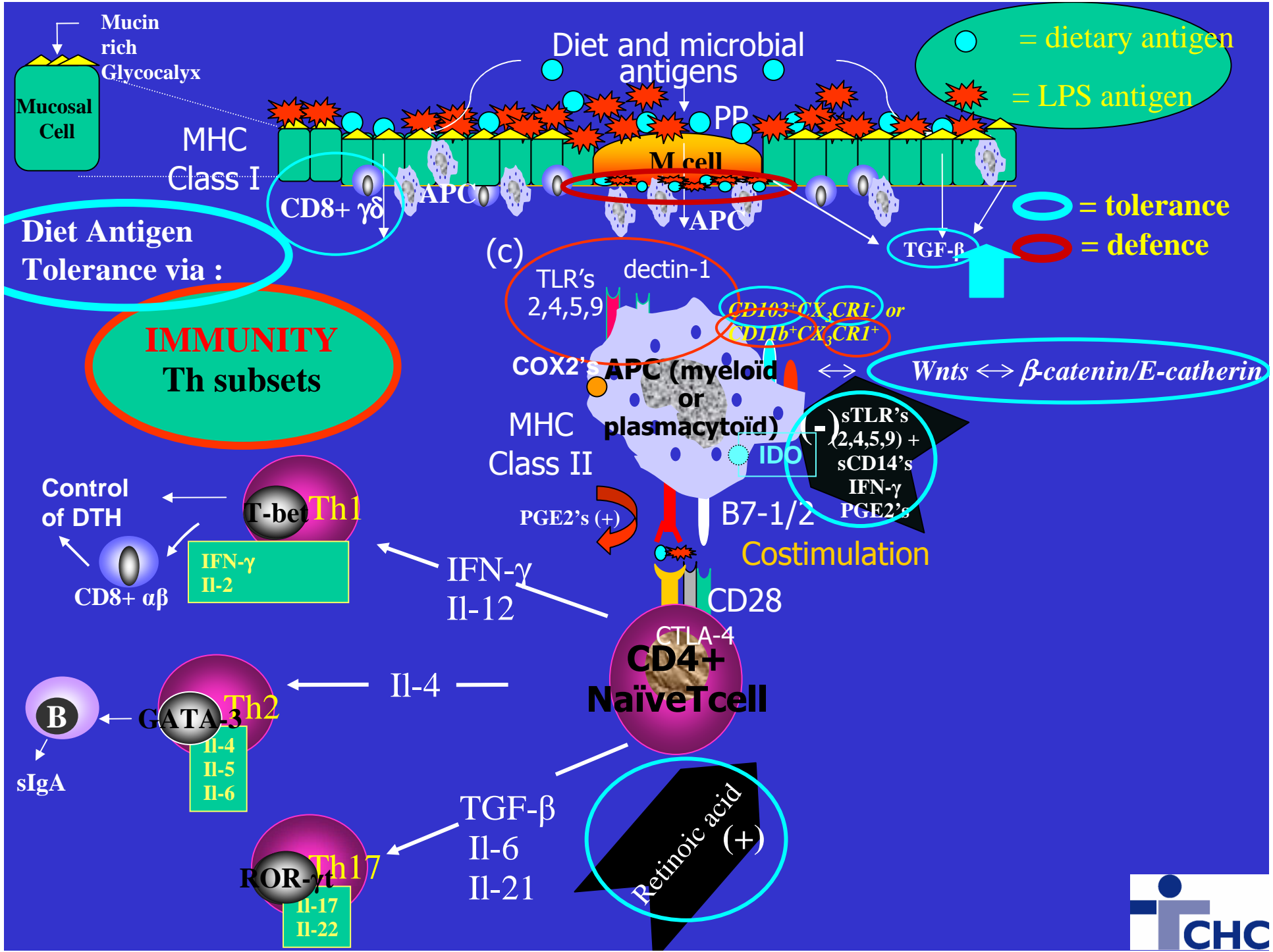




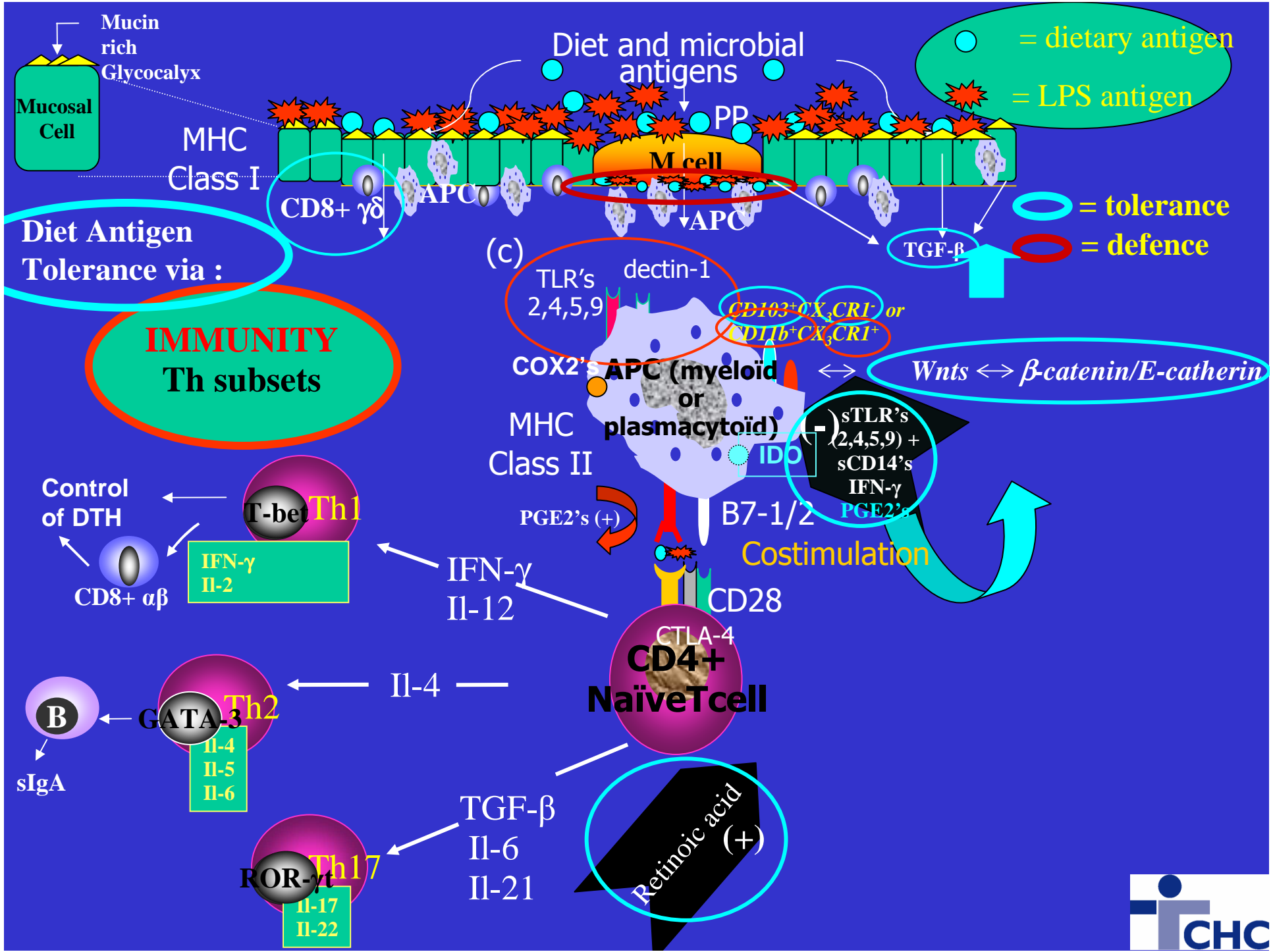




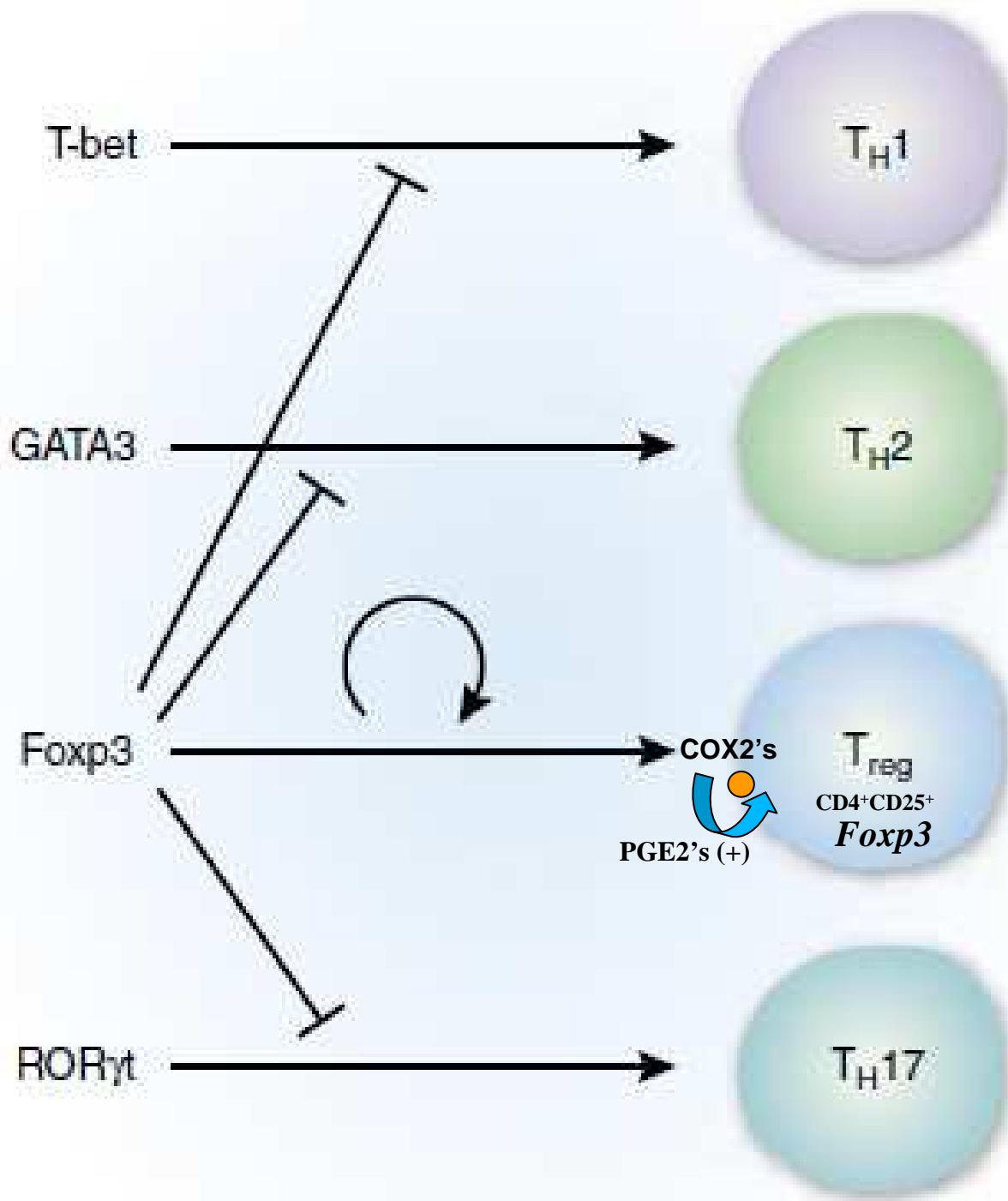






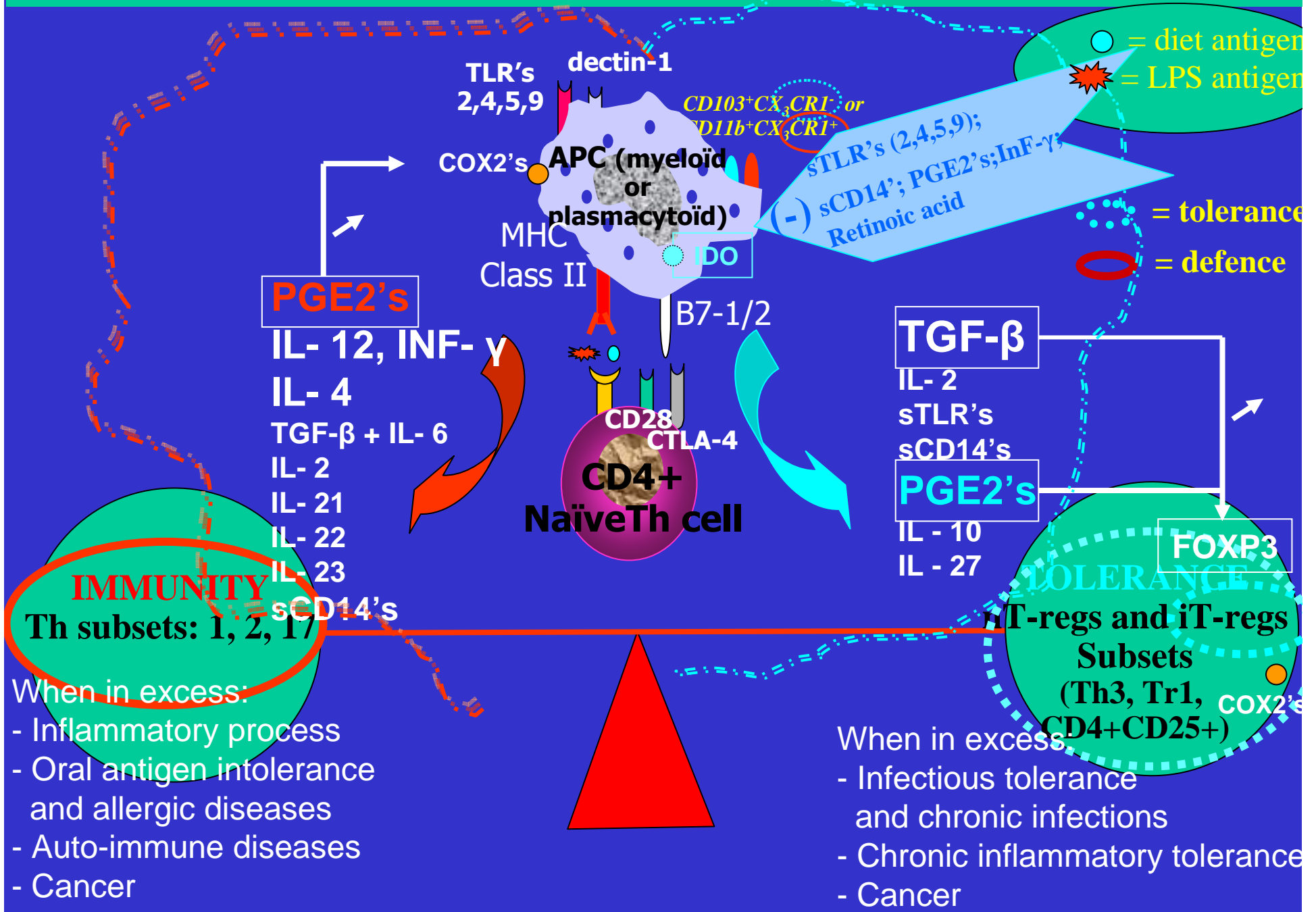






adapted from  
 Zheng Y and Rudensky AY.  
*Nature Immunol* 2007;8:457.

# Immune Equilibrium : to be got at the sub-Mucosa Level



# Cyclooxygenase-2-dependent arachidonic acid metabolites are essential modulators of the intestinal immune response to dietary antigen

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*Department of Internal Medicine<sup>1</sup>, Division of Gastroenterology<sup>2</sup>, Center for Immunology,  
Department of Pathology<sup>3</sup>, Washington University School of Medicine, 660 South Euclid Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri 63110, USA*

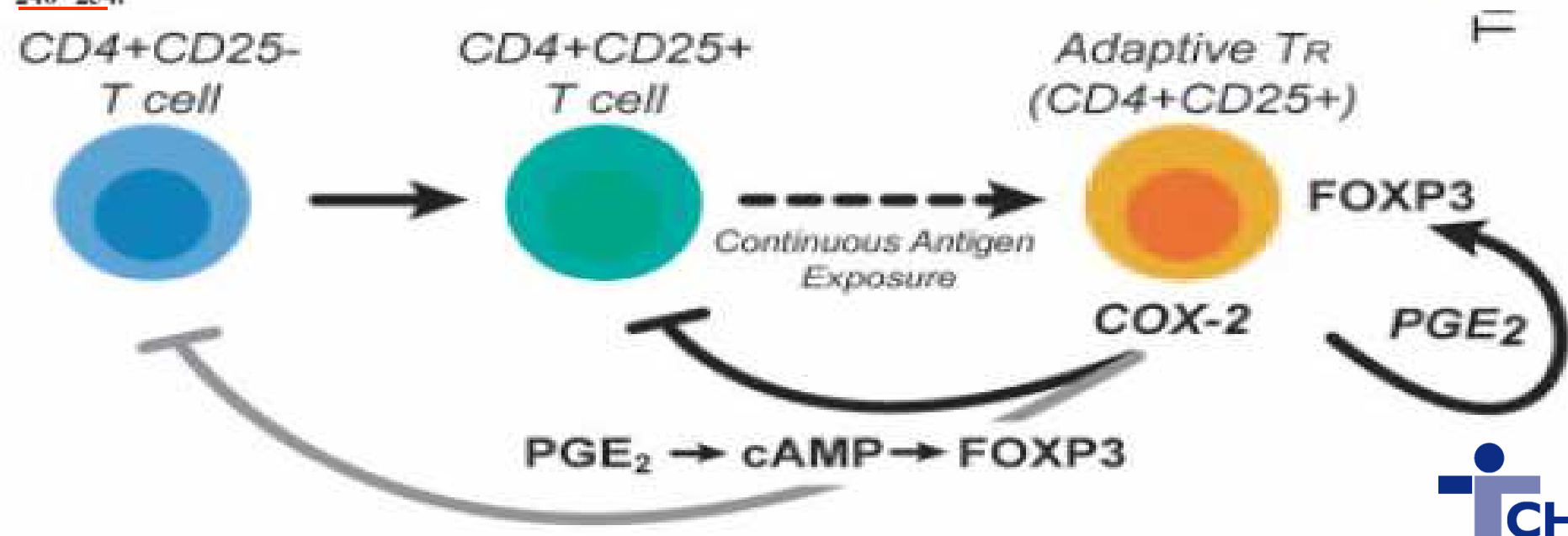
*Correspondence should be addressed to R.G.L.; email: lorenz@pathbox.wustl.edu*

Intestinal inflammatory diseases are mediated by dysregulated immune responses to undefined luminal antigens. Feeding hen egg-white lysozyme to mice expressing a transgenic T-cell receptor that recognizes hen egg-white lysozyme peptide 46–61 resulted in no intestinal pathology; however, simultaneous administration of cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors and dietary hen egg-white lysozyme resulted in increased proliferation of lamina propria mononuclear cells and crypt epithelial cells, crypt expansion and villus blunting. Lamina propria mononuclear cells produce high levels of cyclooxygenase-2-dependent arachidonic acid metabolites, which act as immunomodulators in the immune response to dietary antigen. These findings establish that cyclooxygenase-2-dependent arachidonic acid metabolites are essential in the development and maintenance of intestinal immune homeostasis.

# FOXP3<sup>+</sup>CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> Adaptive Regulatory T Cells Express Cyclooxygenase-2 and Suppress Effector T Cells by a Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub>-Dependent Mechanism<sup>1</sup>

Milada Mahic,\* Sheraz Yaqub,\* C. Christian Johansson,<sup>2\*</sup> Kjetil Taskén,<sup>3\*</sup> and Einar M. Aandahl<sup>\*†</sup>

CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> regulatory T (T<sub>R</sub>) cells suppress effector T cells by partly unknown mechanisms. In this study, we describe a population of human suppressive CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>+</sup> adaptive T<sub>R</sub> (T<sub>R</sub><sup>adapt</sup>) cells induced in vitro that express cyclooxygenase 2 (COX-2) and the transcription factor FOXP3. T<sub>R</sub><sup>adapt</sup> cells produce PGE<sub>2</sub> and suppress effector T cell responses in a manner that is reversed by COX inhibitors and PGE<sub>2</sub> receptor-specific antagonists. In resting CD4<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>-</sup> T cells, treatment with PGE<sub>2</sub> induced FOXP3 expression. Thus, autocrine and paracrine effects of PGE<sub>2</sub> produced by COX-2-positive T<sub>R</sub><sup>adapt</sup> cells may be responsible for both the FOXP3<sup>+</sup> phenotype and the mechanism used by these cells to suppress effector T cells. *The Journal of Immunology*, 2006, 177: 246–254.

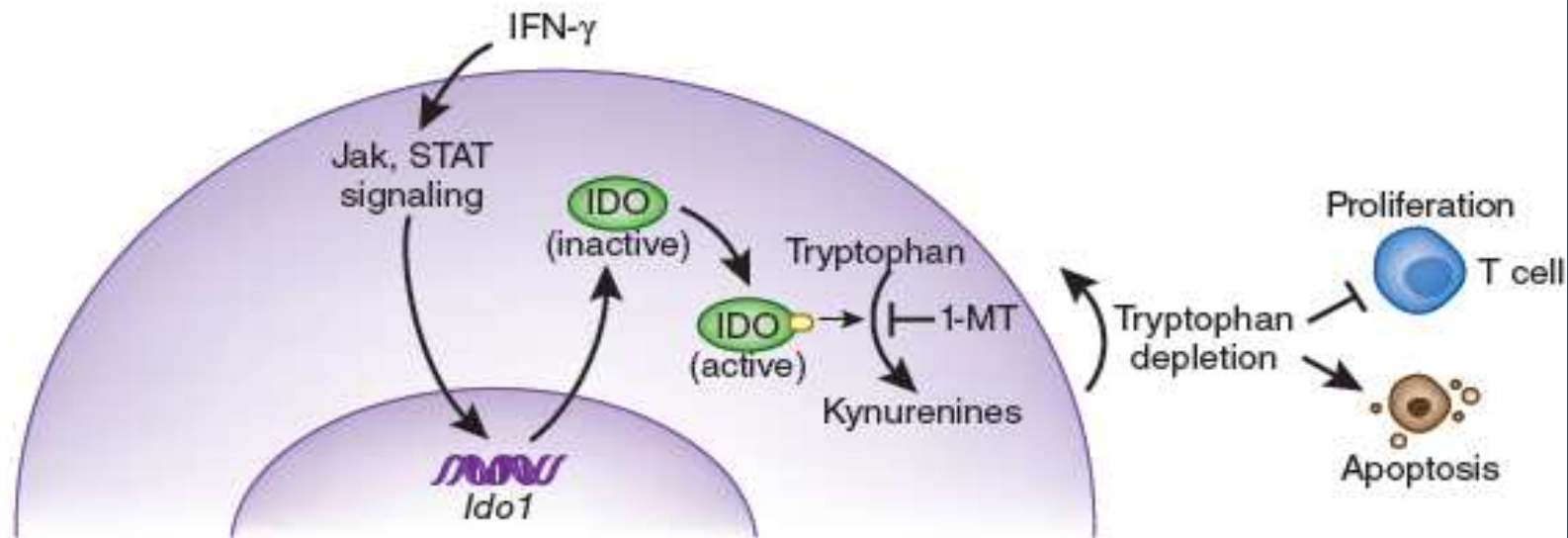


# Cyclooxygenase-2 in mucosal DC mediates induction of regulatory T cells in the intestine through suppression of IL-4

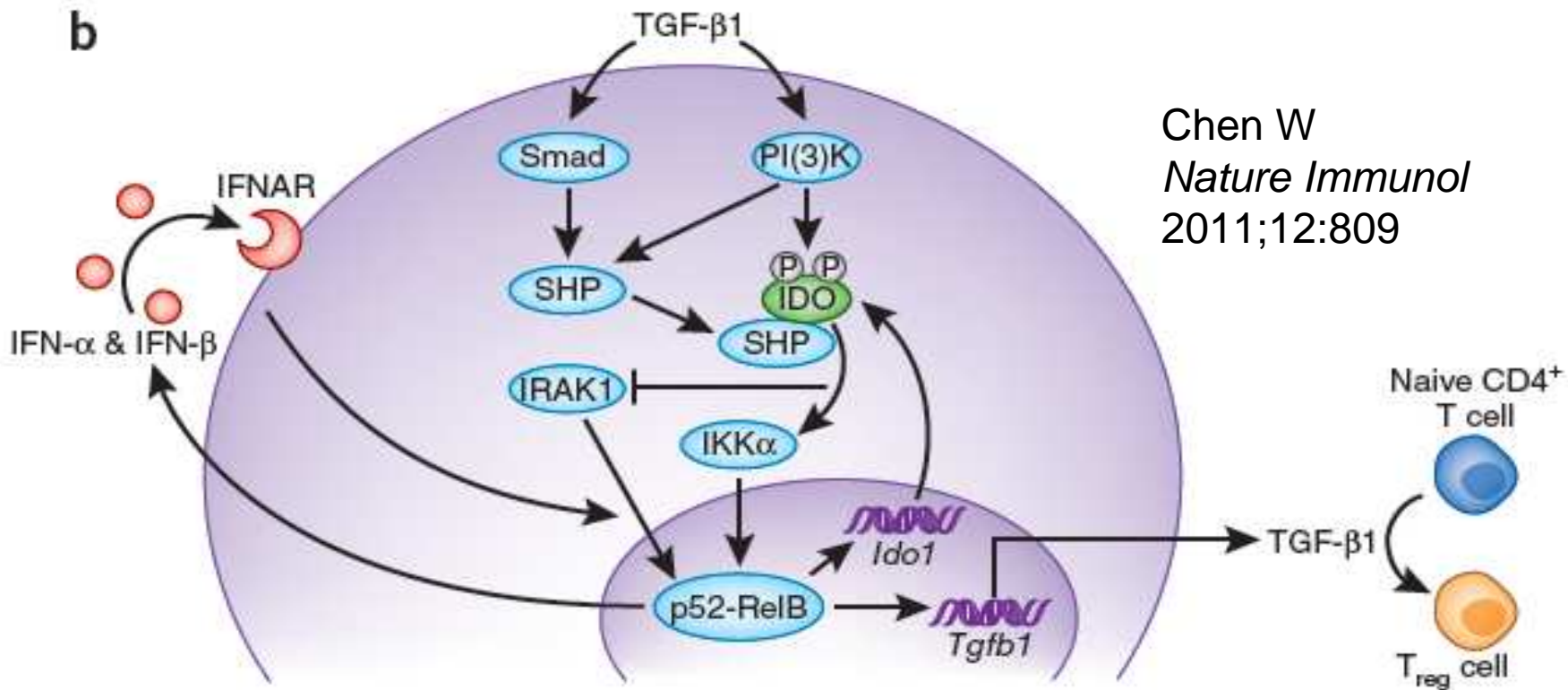
F Broere<sup>1,7</sup>, MF du Pré<sup>2,7</sup>, LA van Berkel<sup>2</sup>, J Garssen<sup>3,4</sup>, CB Schmidt-Weber<sup>5</sup>, BN Lambrecht<sup>6</sup>, RW Hendriks<sup>6</sup>, EES Nieuwenhuis<sup>2</sup>, G Kraal<sup>1</sup> and JN Samsom<sup>2</sup>

Oral intake of protein leads to tolerance through the induction of regulatory T cells (Tr cells) in mesenteric lymph nodes (MLNs). Here we show that the inhibition of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) *in vivo* suppressed oral tolerance and was associated with enhanced differentiation of interleukin (IL)-4-producing T cells and reduced Foxp3<sup>+</sup> Tr-cell differentiation in MLN. As a result, the functional suppressive capacity of these differentiated mucosal T cells was lost. IL-4 was causally related to loss of tolerance as treatment of mice with anti-IL-4 antibodies during COX-2 inhibition restored tolerance. Dendritic cells (DCs) in the MLN differentially expressed COX-2 and reductionist experiments revealed that selective inhibition of the enzyme in these cells inhibited Foxp3<sup>+</sup> Tr-cell differentiation *in vitro*. Importantly, the inhibition of COX-2 in MLN-DC caused increased GATA-3 expression and enhanced IL-4 release by T cells, which was directly related to impaired Tr-cell differentiation. These data provide crucial insights into the mechanisms driving *de novo* Tr-cell induction and tolerance in the intestine.

a

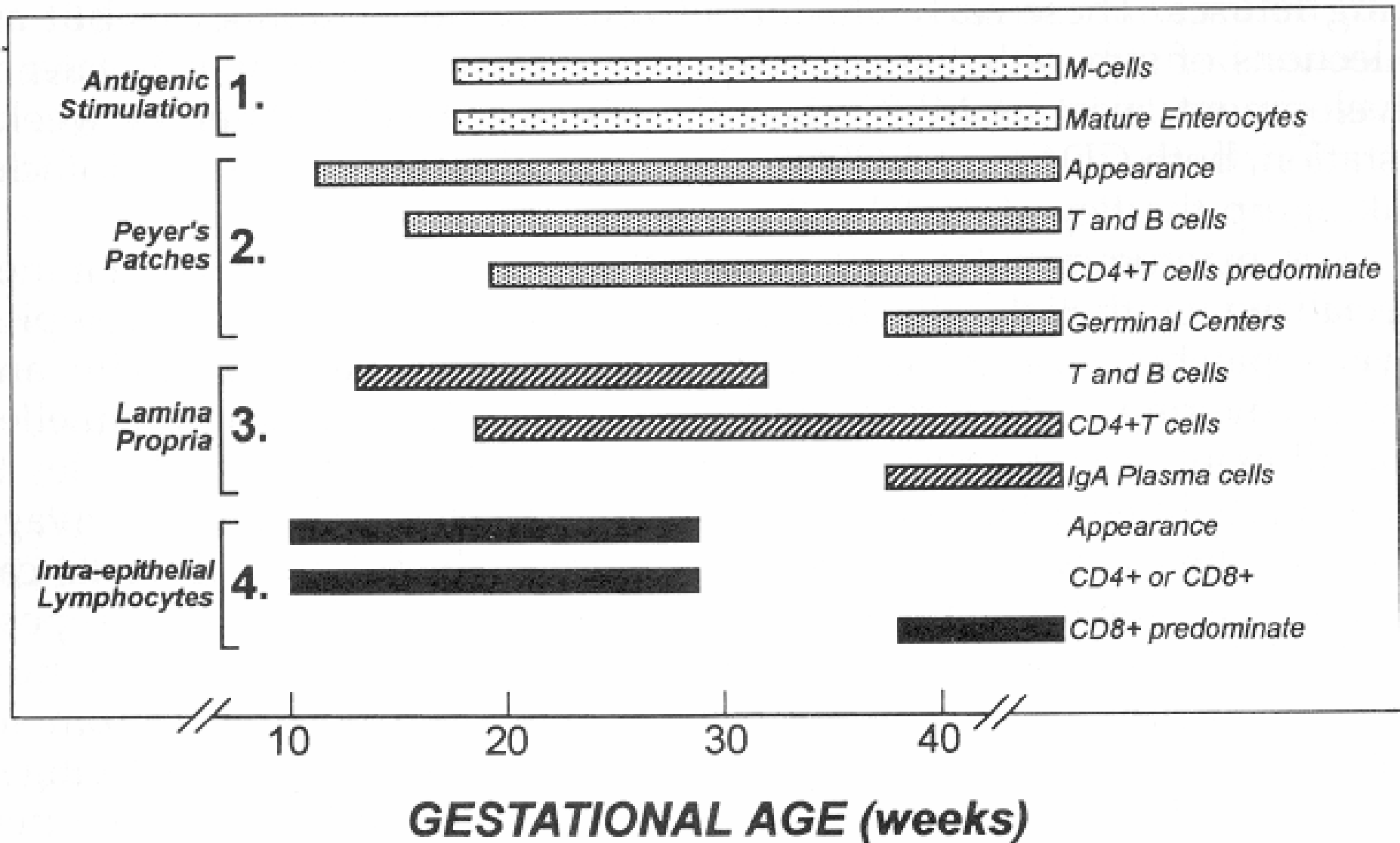


b



Chen W  
*Nature Immunol*  
2011;12:809





Insoft RM, Sanderson IR & Walker A  
*Pediatr Clin N Am* 1996;43:551



# Immunological Immaturity in Early Life

- **Limitations of the Innate immune response**

- ➔ - Immature APC function ( $CD103^+CX_3CR1^-$  or  $CD11b^+CX_3CR1^+$ )
  - Adenosine antagonises TLR-mediated cytokines production

- **Limitations of early life antibody responses**

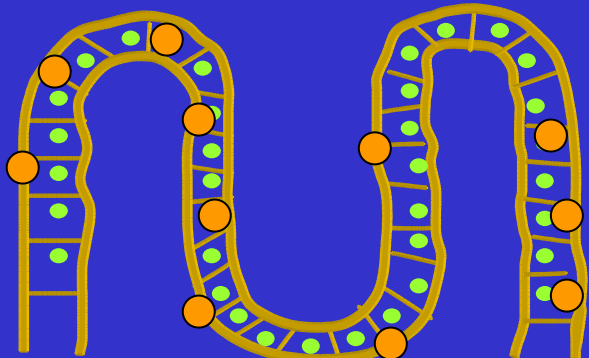
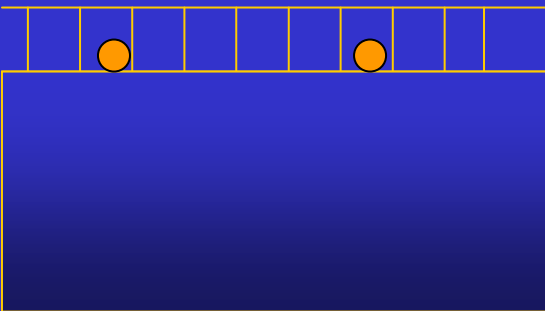
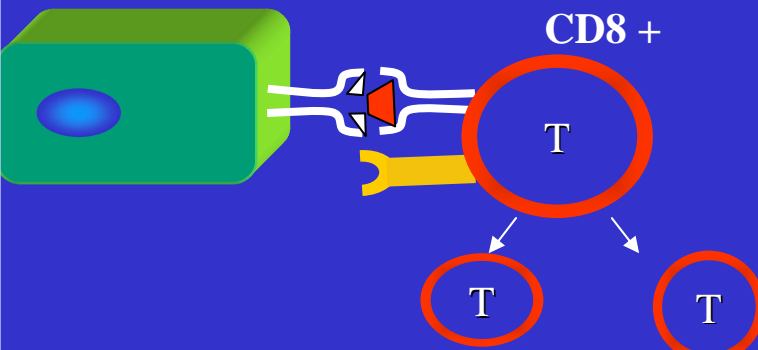
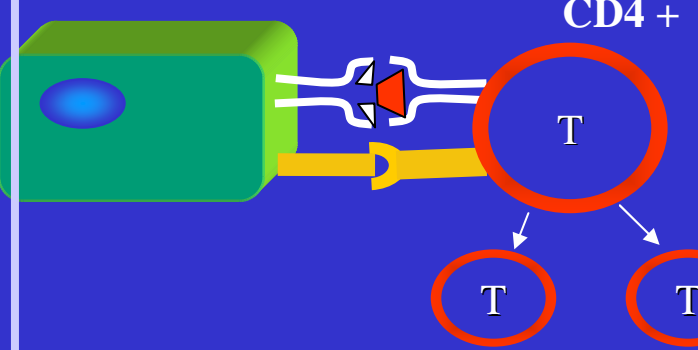
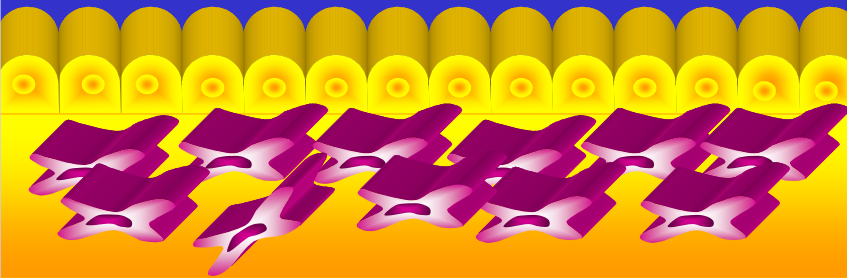
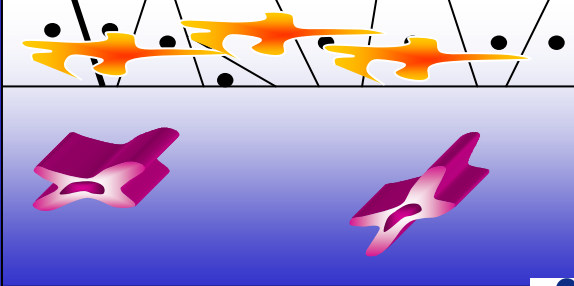
- Limited responses to protein antg's, to PS and LPS antg's
- Influence of maternal antibodies

- **Limitations of T cell responses**

- Reduced expression of MHC class II
- ➔ - Defective IFN-gamma secretion and low Th-17 activation
- ➔ -  $CD4^+/CD25^+$  T reg's fully functional and abundant

- **Limitations in mucosal immunity**

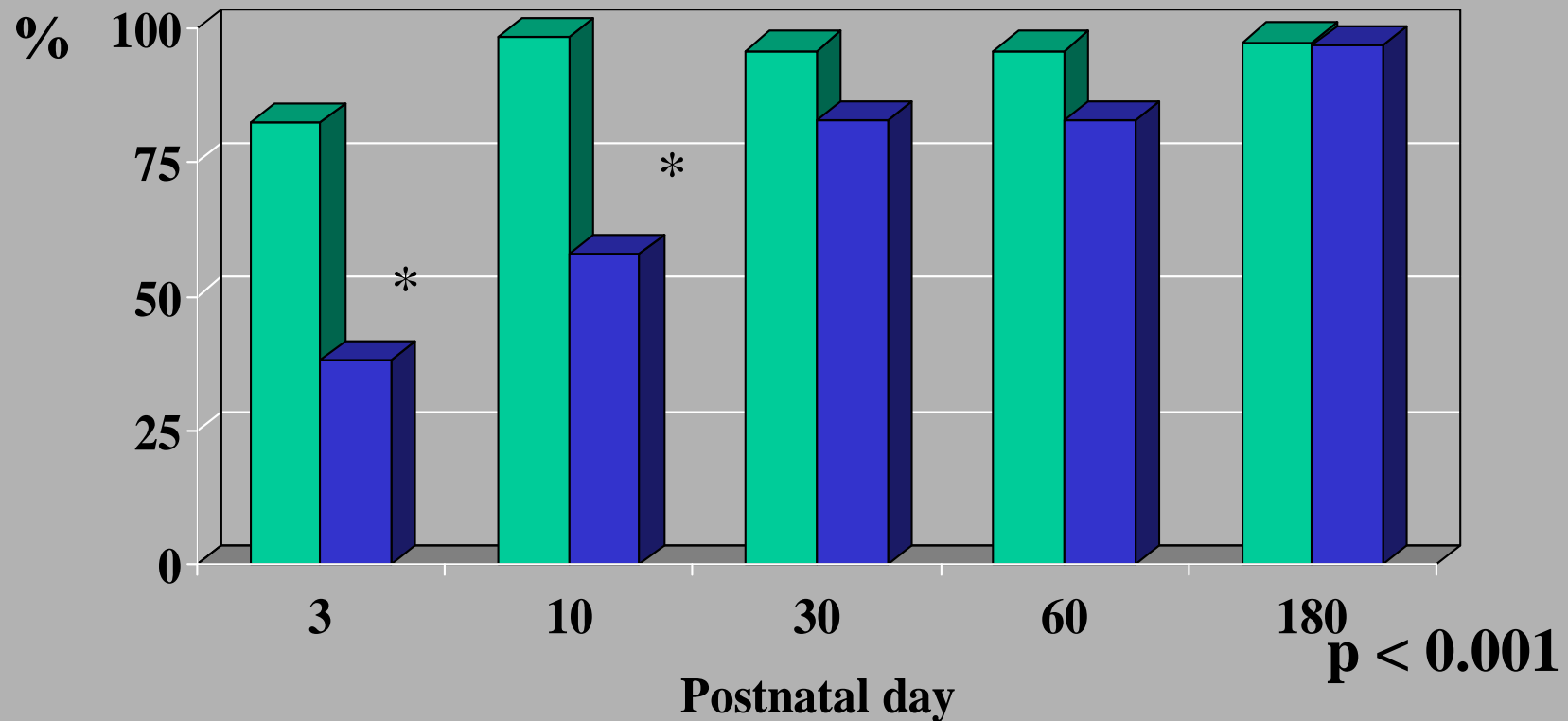
- Deficiency in BPI (bactericidal/permeability-increasing protein)
- ➔ - Limited sIgA's synthesis in the first months (IgM's)

Variable	Gut	Airway
IEL	 <p>many CD8 + &gt;&gt; CD4 +</p>	 <p>few CD8 + &gt;&lt; CD4 +</p>
Epithelial cell	<p>MHC I/II +</p>  <p>CD8 + T T T</p> <p>suppression</p>	<p>MHC I/II +</p>  <p>CD4 + T T T</p> <p>help</p>
Professional MHC class I/II Positive APC		
JPL, NICU, Rocourt	From P.BRANDTZAEG, 1996	

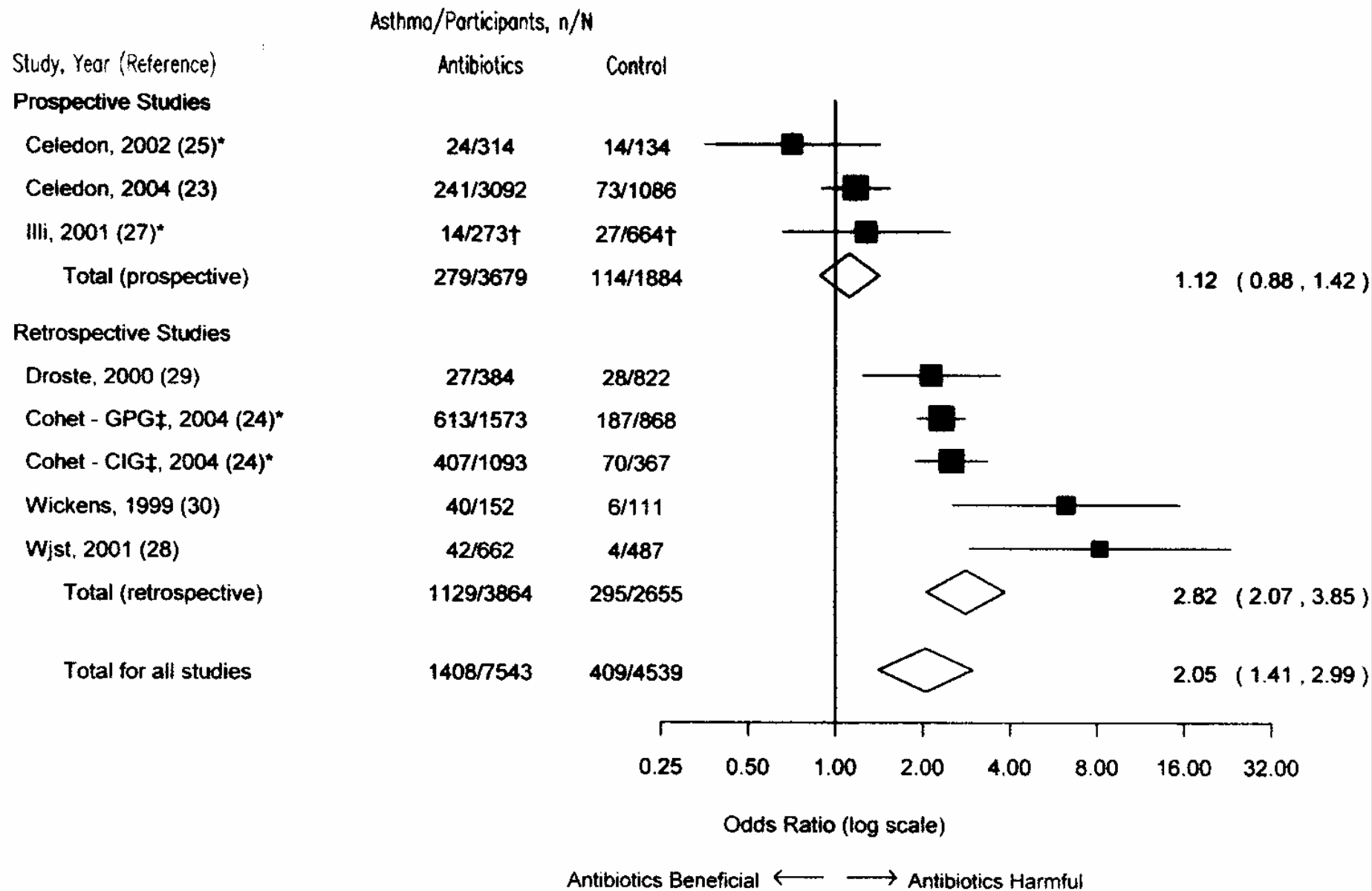
**Our modern perinatal ways of care  
badly interfere with the bacterial  
colonisation at birth..... and could  
favour immune deviances....**

# Percentage of *Bifidobacterium*-like bacteria (BLB) colonization in infants

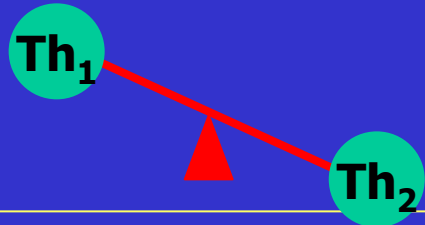
■ Vaginal delivery ■ Cesarean delivery



Gronlund et al J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr 1999; 28:19-25



Birth Physiological Immune Imbalance



Factors interfering with microbial exposure in the early stage (mode of delivery, Low Breast-feeding rate, AB's,....)

Suboptimal Bystander Suppression  
Persistent Immune Imbalance

++

**Incidence of allergic and auto-immune diseases**

Genetics

Modes of nutrition

Air Pollution

Pharmacological Factors (?)  
(anti-COX's-2)

Dietary Antigen load

Langhendries JP

adapted from E.Isolauri

# Exclusive Breast-Feeding : Optimising Bacterial/Mucosal Interface

## Bifidogenic Factors

- Glycoproteins {κ Casein (N-Acetyl-Glucosamine)}
- Mono-oligosaccharides, GOS, ....
- Low protein level
- High lactose concentration
- Low phosphate concentration

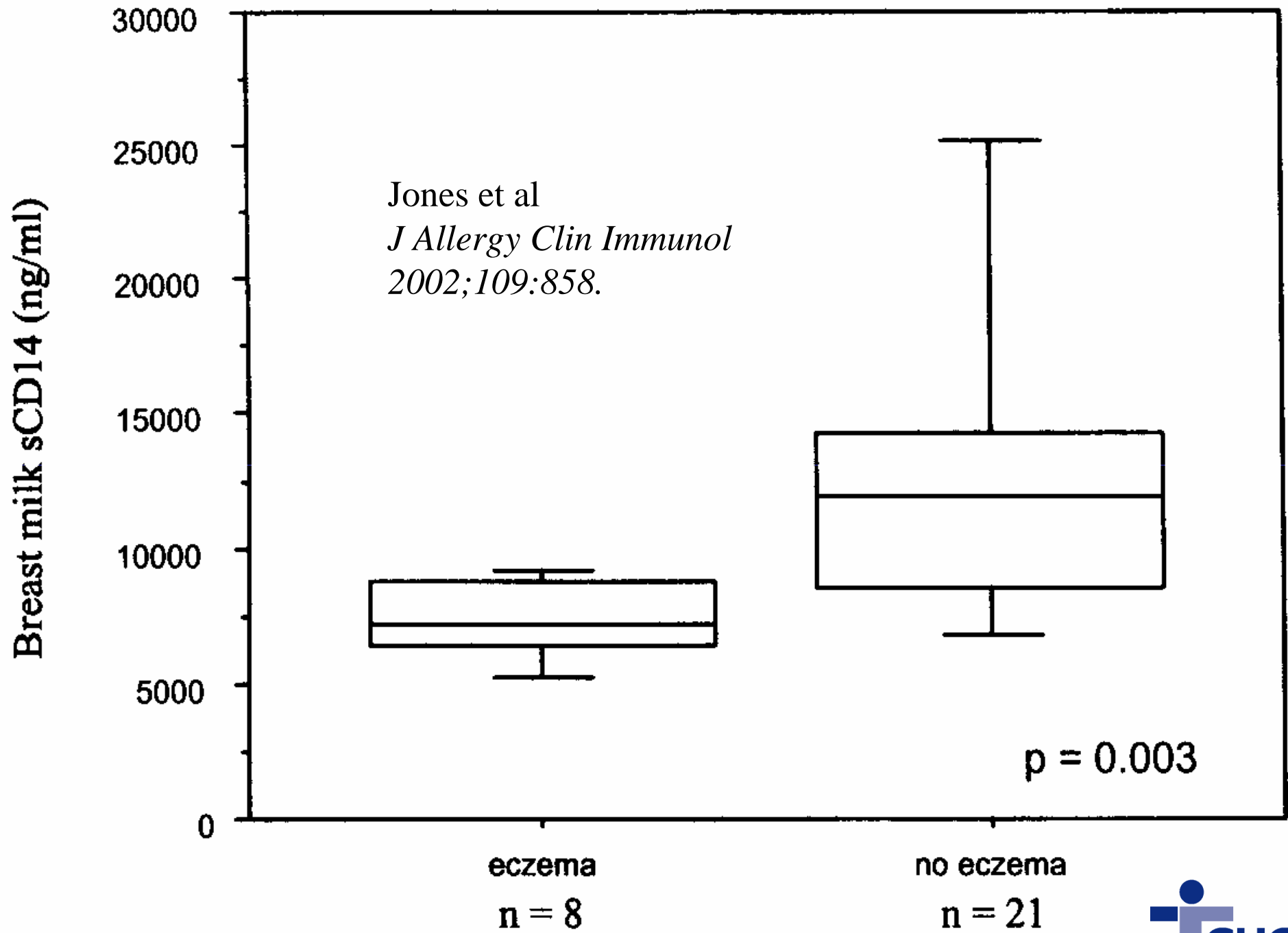
## Immunomodulating Components

- Virtually all known immune components/nutriments found in HM are relevant for specific protective action on the epithelial cell
- Of outstanding interest: sCD14, Il-10, TGF-β, (S)IgA.

## Biologically active Components

- Whey proteins (Lactoferrin, Lysozyme, Defensins, EGF, PAF-AH..)
- Osteoprotegerin, adiponectin,
- PUFA's





**THE BEST WAY TO PROGRESS WITH THE INFANT FEEDING  
IN ORDER TO FAVOUR THE DIETARY ANTIGEN TOLERANCE:  
NEW DATA FROM EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES**

# Breast milk–mediated transfer of an antigen induces tolerance and protection from allergic asthma

Valérie Verhasselt<sup>1</sup>, Valérie Milcent<sup>1</sup>, Julie Cazareth<sup>2</sup>, Akira Kanda<sup>3</sup>, Sébastien Fleury<sup>3</sup>, David Dombrowicz<sup>3</sup>, Nicolas Glaichenhaus<sup>1</sup> & Valérie Julia<sup>1</sup> *Nature Immunol* 2008; 14: 170.

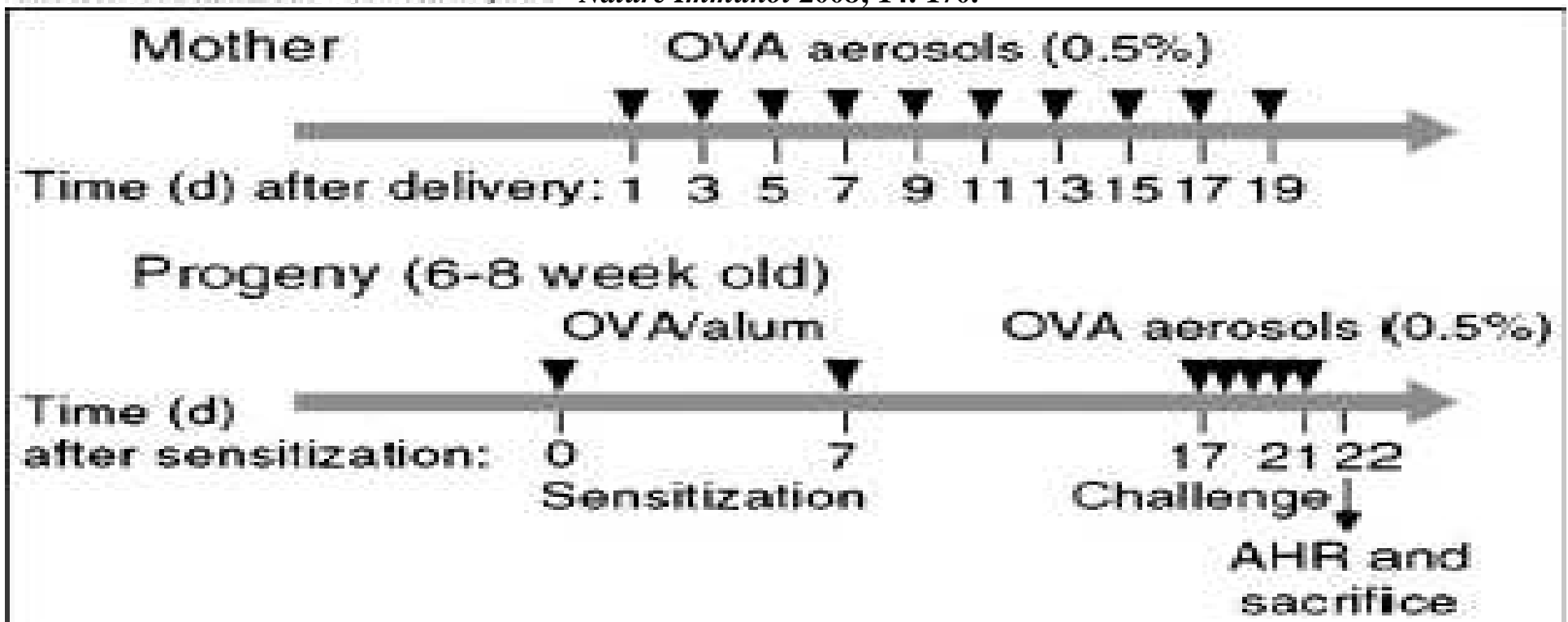
- **Exclusive Breast-feeding is the best way by which the Antigen Epitopes are presented to the infant intestinal mucosa** (Verhasselt et al, *Nature Immunol* 2008;14:170)

- **Whatever the postnatal age (preferably not before 4 months), the dietary diversification should progress ahead according to the 4 points rule: 1) antigen in very slow amount; 2) daily repeated; 3) increased; 4) very progressively** (Friedman A. *Ann NY Acad* 1996;778:103; Williamson et al *J*

*Immunol* 2002;169:3606; Mahic et al *Eur J Immunol* 2008;38:640)

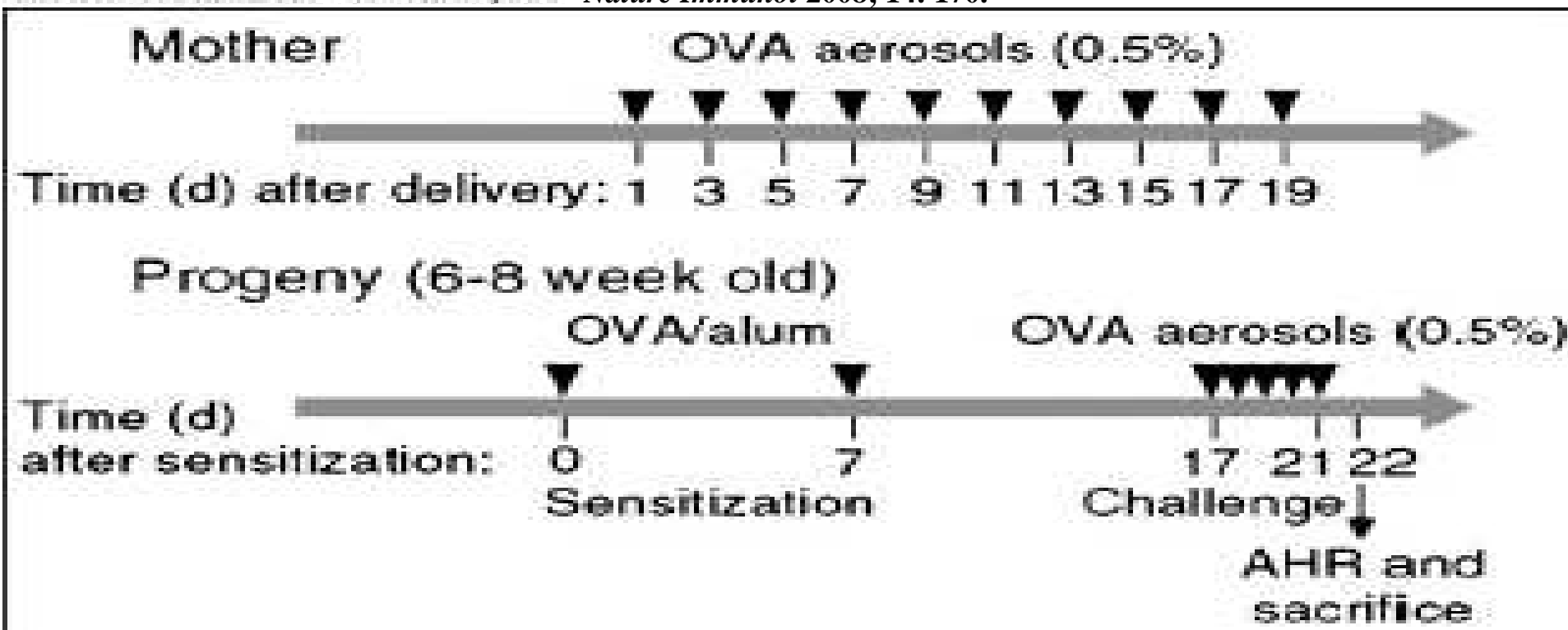
# Breast milk-mediated transfer of an antigen induces tolerance and protection from allergic asthma

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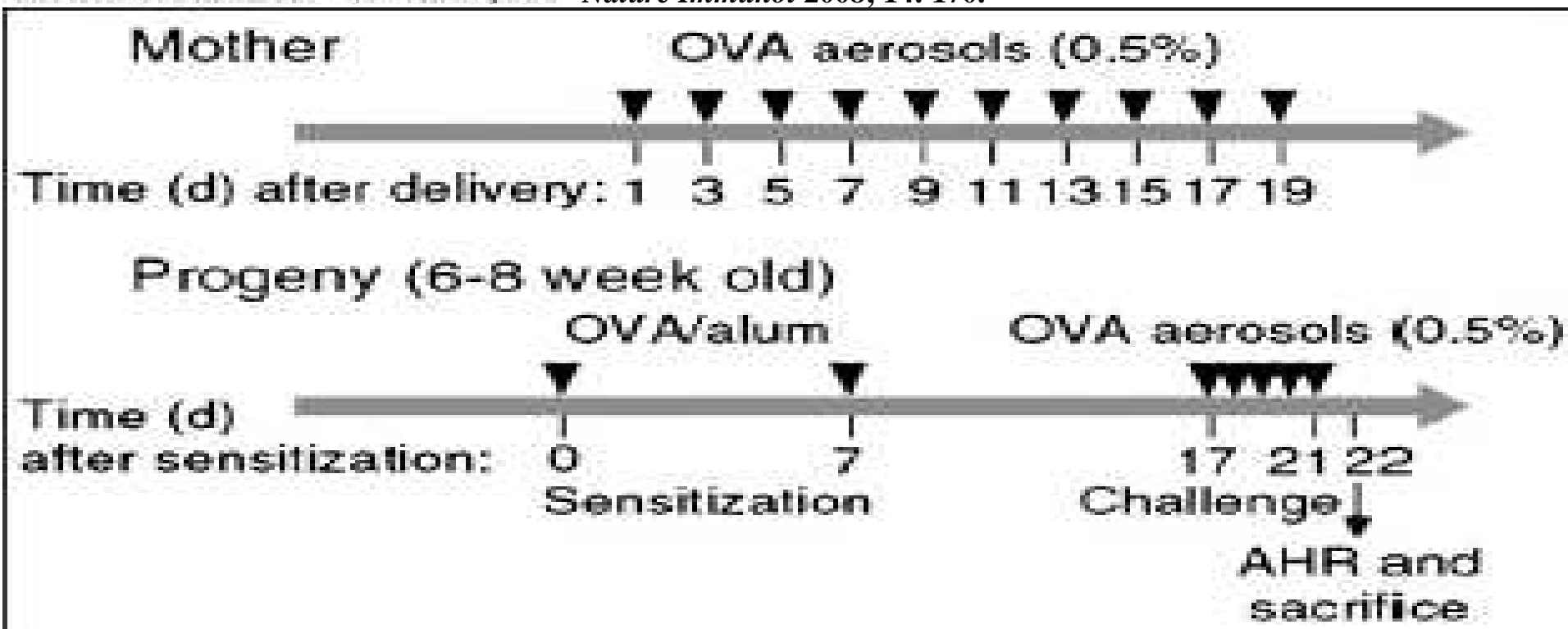
Valérie Verhasselt<sup>1</sup>, Valérie Mikent<sup>1</sup>, Julie Cazareth<sup>2</sup>, Akira Kanda<sup>3</sup>, Sébastien Fleury<sup>3</sup>, David Dombrowicz<sup>3</sup>, Nicolas Gläichenhaus<sup>1</sup> & Valérie Julia<sup>1</sup> *Nature Immunol* 2008; 14: 170.



Breast milk-mediated transfer of an antigen to the neonate results in oral tolerance induction leading to antigen-specific protection from allergic airway disease.

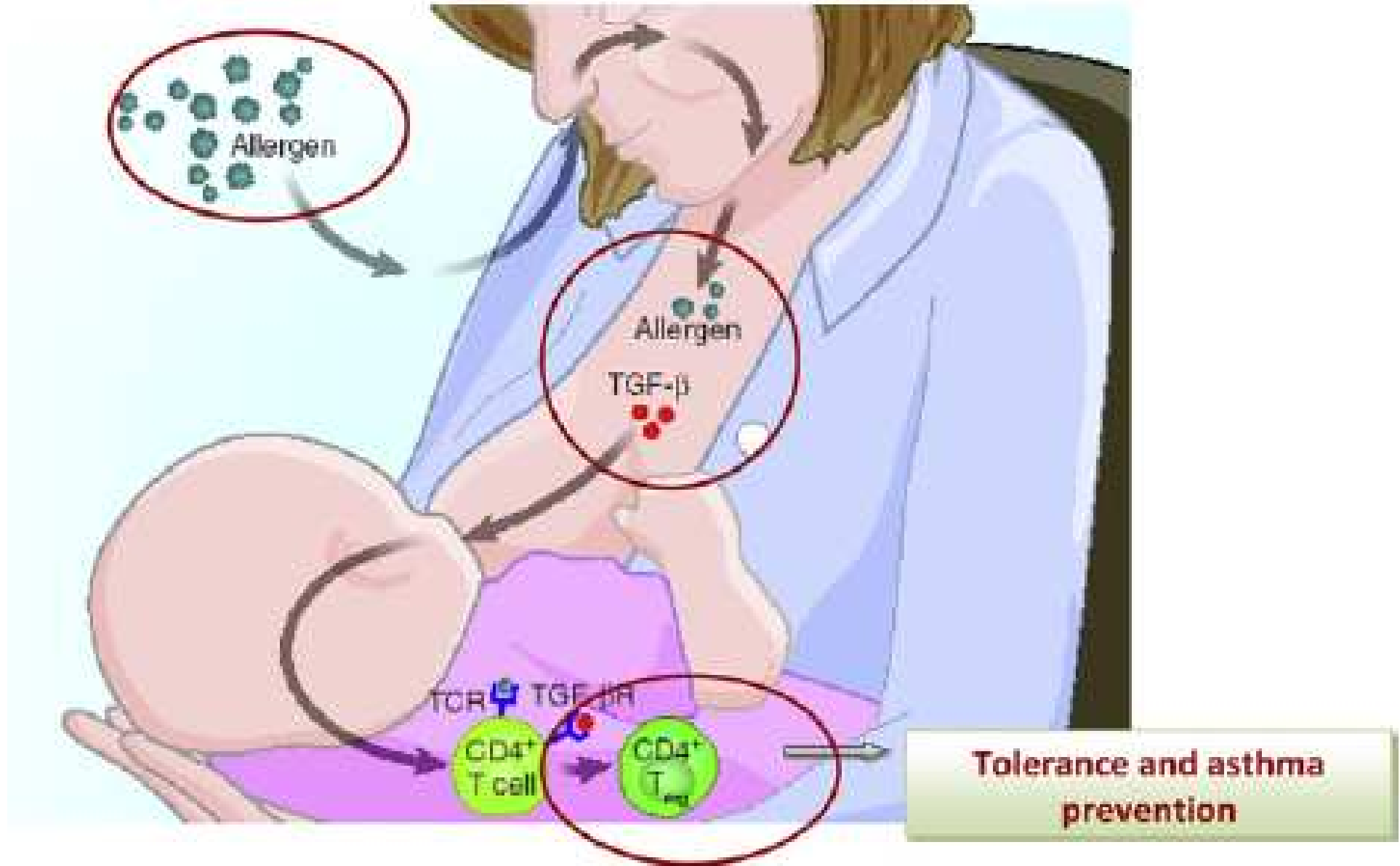
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Breast milk-mediated transfer of an antigen to the neonate results in oral tolerance induction leading to antigen-specific protection from allergic airway disease. The presence of TGF- $\beta$  in breast milk together with the antigen was needed and mandatory to get this tolerance .

# Hypothesis emerging from Verhasselt's studies: to be confirmed in humans



Verhasselt et al *J Pediatr* 2010; 156: S16.

## Author's sentence :

*« This study may pave the way  
for the design  
of new strategies to prevent  
the development of allergic diseases..... such as  
deliberate exposure of mothers to allergens  
during breastfeeding .... {to try enhancing their  
tolerance to the progeny}. »*



**THE BEST WAY TO PROGRESS WITH THE INFANT FEEDING  
IN ORDER TO FAVOUR THE DIETARY ANTIGEN TOLERANCE:  
NEW DATA FROM EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES**

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**Mother**

Protection of upper respiratory tract mucosa and gastrointestinal mucosa, oral dietary antigen tolerance

**Child**

**Microbes**  
**Food antigens**

\* sIGA, sIgM

\* Natural defense factors

(lactoferrin,..)

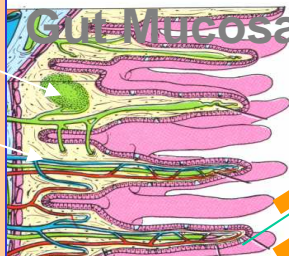
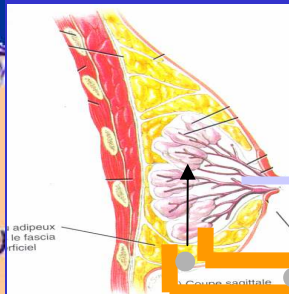
\* Controlled

Bacterial translocation

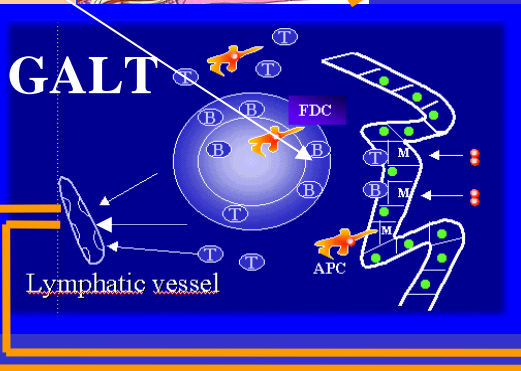
\* Maternal Dietary Atg Epitopes

\* Immuno regulatory factors (TGF- $\beta$ ,..)

**Breast milk**



**Peripheral blood**



**Mesenteric lymph node**

**Thoracic duct**

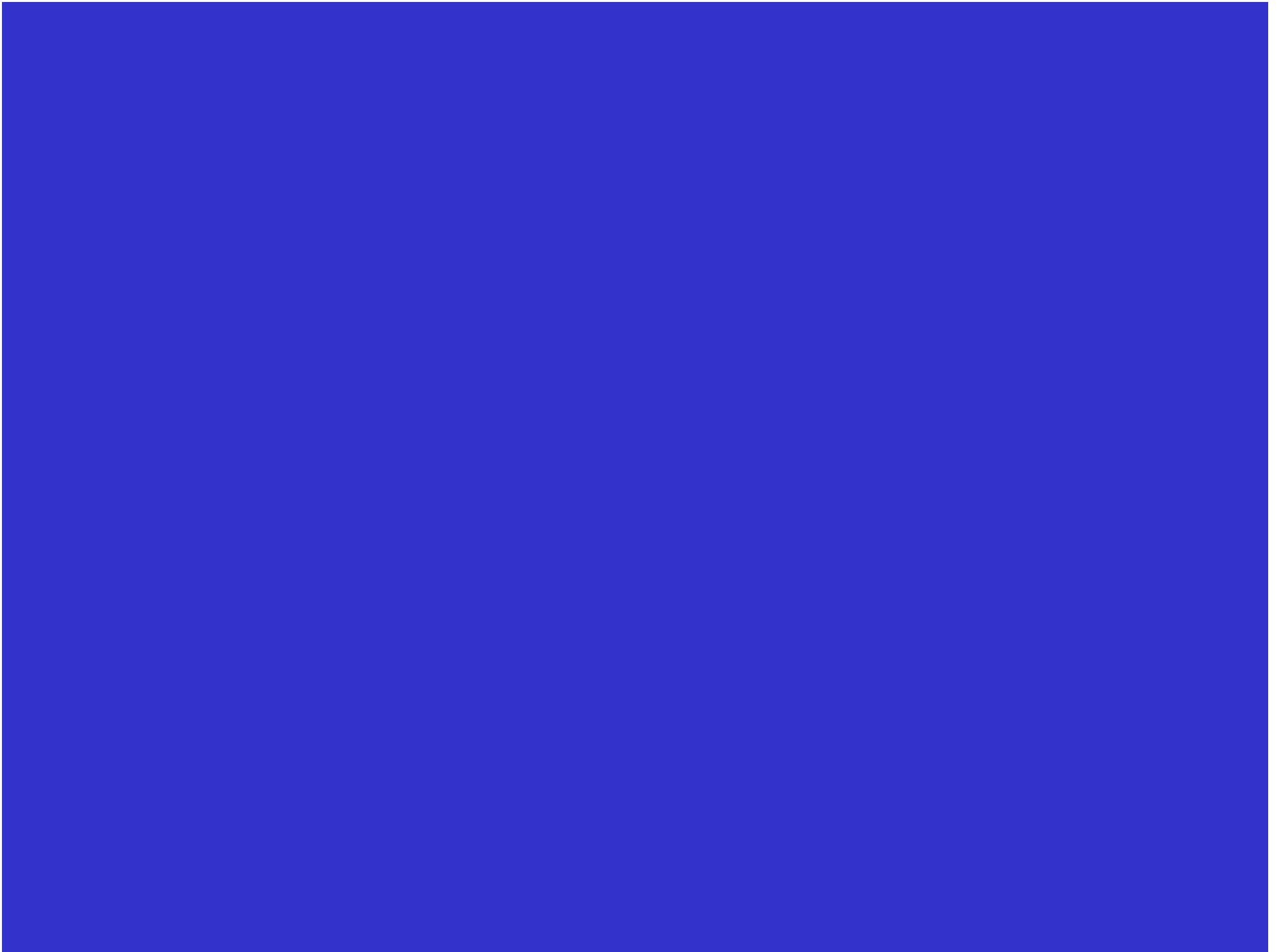


adapted from P.BRANDTZAEG, 1996



**Recommendations are needed to ameliorate Infant Bacterial Colonisation of the Intestine as well as the Mode of Presentation of the Dietary Antigen to the Intestine Mucosa = PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT IN ALLERGY PREVENTION**

- **Prefer vaginal delivery when possible**
- **Exclusive breast feeding as long as possible**
  - ⇒ optimal immune response after optimal mucosal microbial stimulation
  - ⇒ allows low early diet antigen stimulation on immature mucosa
- **Progressive introduction of complementary foods**
  - = not before four or six months = according to the 4 points rule
- **Rationale use of antibiotics and anti-COX's:**
  - ⇒ restriction in the early stage when possible
  - ⇒ avoid excessive use of broad spectrum AB (esp. in prophylaxis)



**Factors interfering with microbial exposure in the early stage (mode of delivery, mode of feeding, AB's,....)**

→ **Suboptimal Tregs Suppression Function in the Early Stage**

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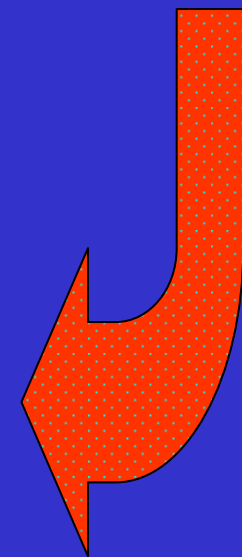
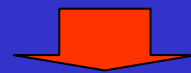
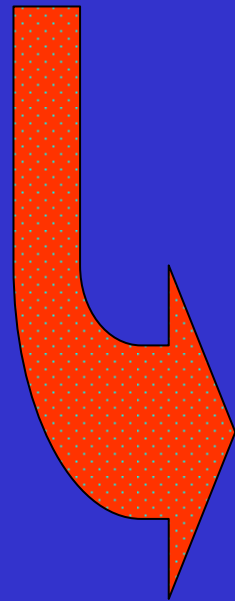
- **Genetics**
- **Air pollution**
- **Allergic load**
- **AB's overuse and modification of microbial pressure on the submucosa area**
- **Pharmacological factors (anti-COX 's overuse) (??)**

Factors interfering with microbial exposure in the early stage (mode of delivery, mode of feeding, AB's,....)

→ Suboptimal Tregs Suppression Function in the Early Stage

Dietary Factors (low Breast-feeding habits, inadequate diversification,...) in the Early Stage

- Genetics
- Air pollution
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**EPIGENETIC  
MODIFICATIONS  
(GENE EXPRESSION)  
in the EARLY STAGE**



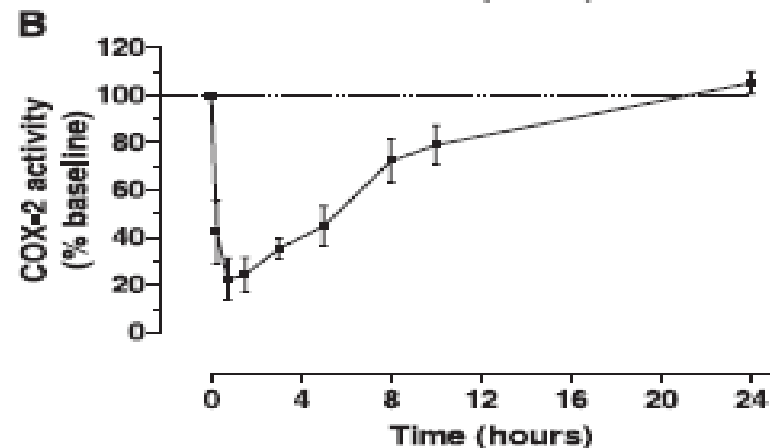
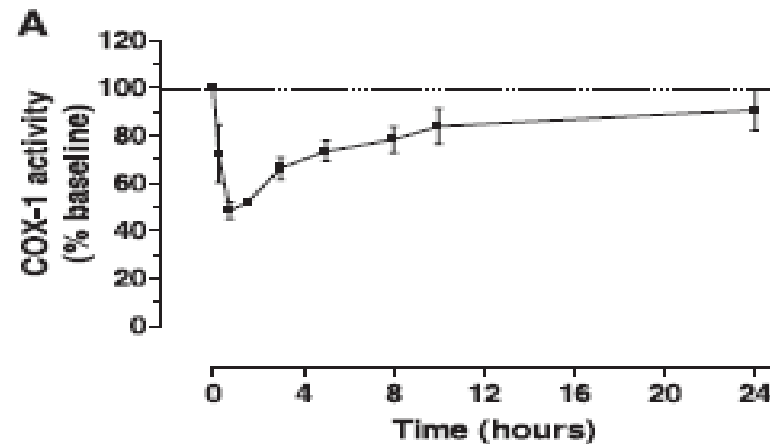
**EPIGENETIC  
MODIFICATIONS  
(GENE EXPRESSION)**

**INCREASE INCIDENCE  
OF IMMUNE DEVIANCES  
LATER ON**

# Acetaminophen (paracetamol) is a selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor in man

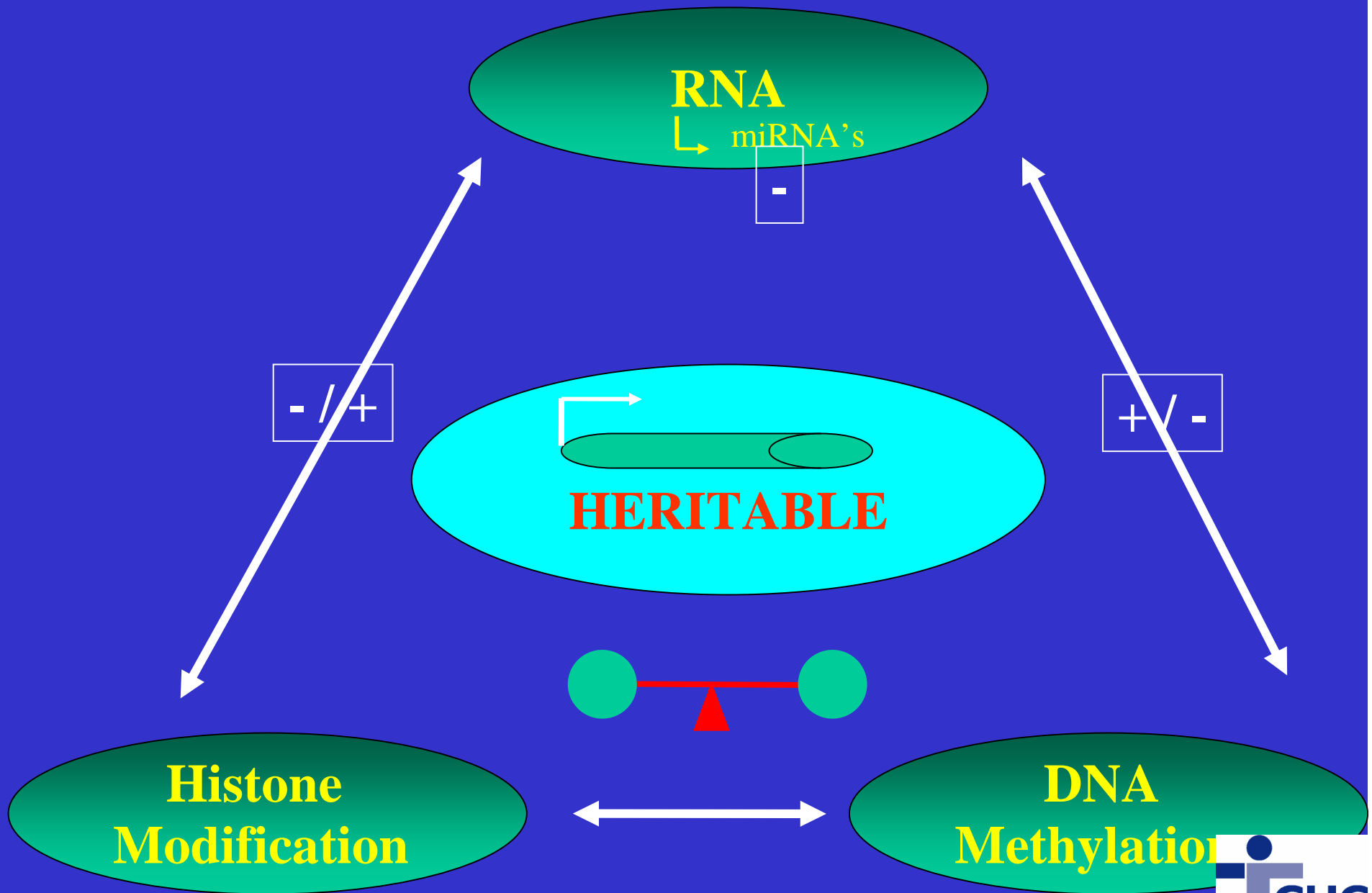
Burkhard Hinz,<sup>\*1</sup> Olga Cheremina,<sup>†</sup> and Kay Brune<sup>†</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Institute of Toxicology and Pharmacology, University of Rostock, Rostock, Germany; and <sup>†</sup>Institute of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Erlangen, Germany



Epigenetics can be defined as mitotically and meiotically heritable changes in gene expression that do not involve a change in the DNA sequence.

# The control of 3 epigenetic stable process (environmental factors)





**Early life environment**



**“Stress” response signaling**



**Epigenetic changes**



**Inter-individual epigenetic**



**Gene expression programming variation**



**Phenotypic variation**

**Health disease and behavioral pathologies**

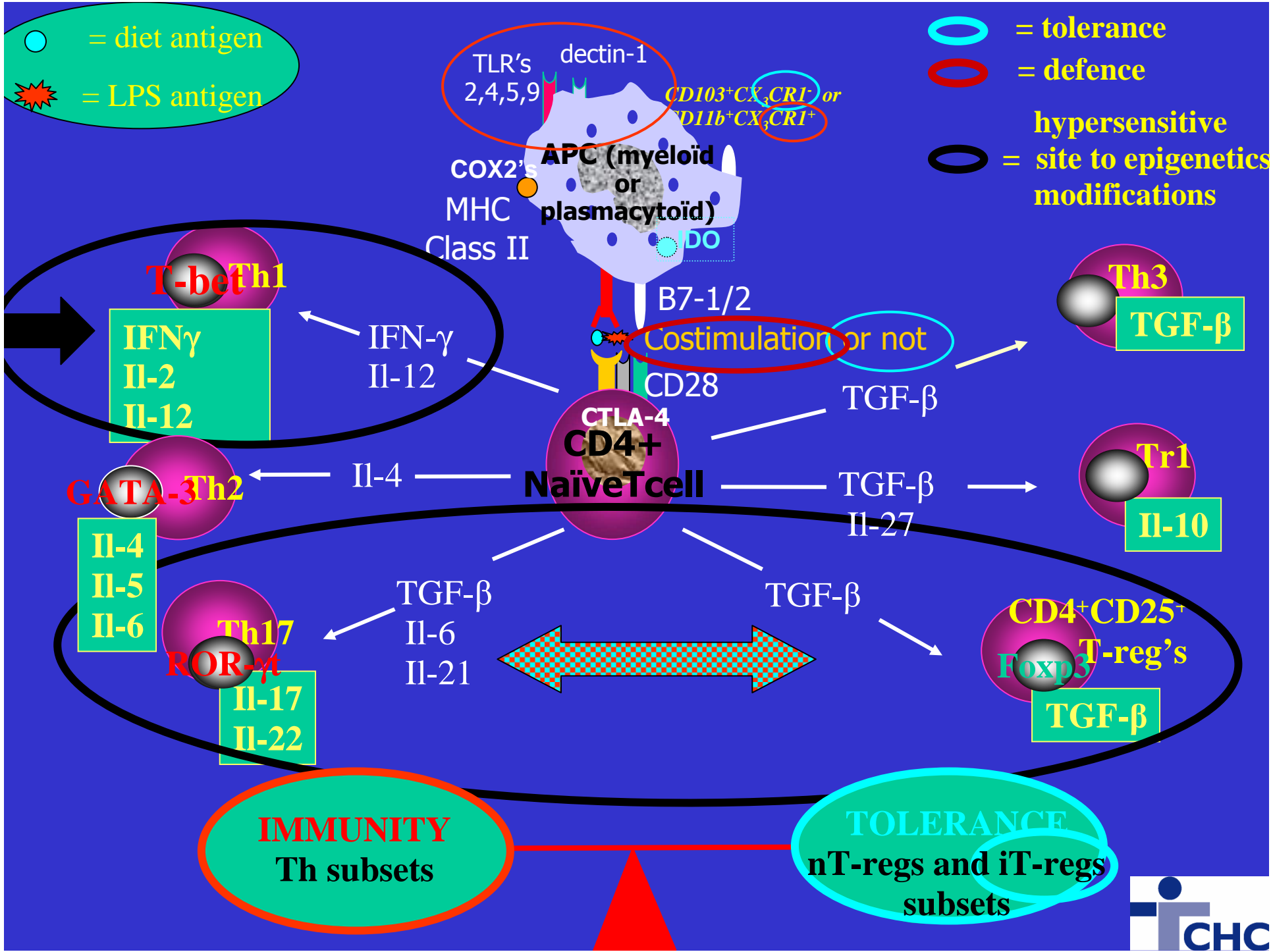
# EPIGENETIC MODIFICATIONS

could be issued from

an inadequate bacterial  
interface and/or diversity at  
the intestinal sub-mucosal  
level in the early stage .....

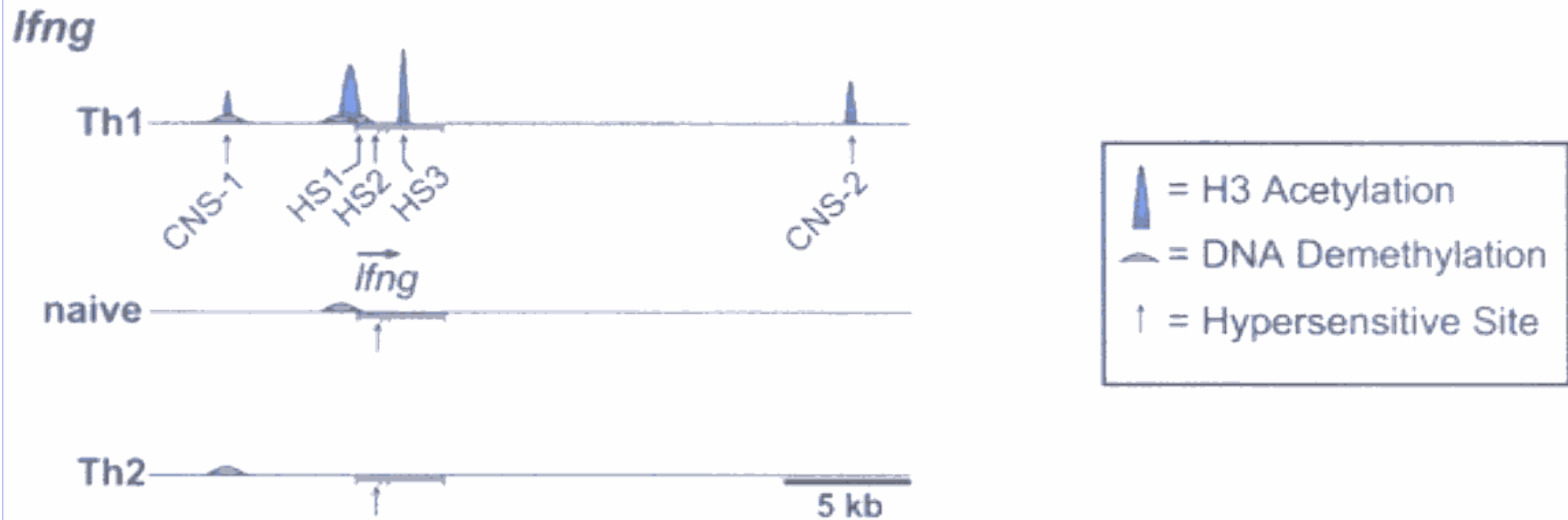
.....leading to

IMMUNE DEVIANCES later on.

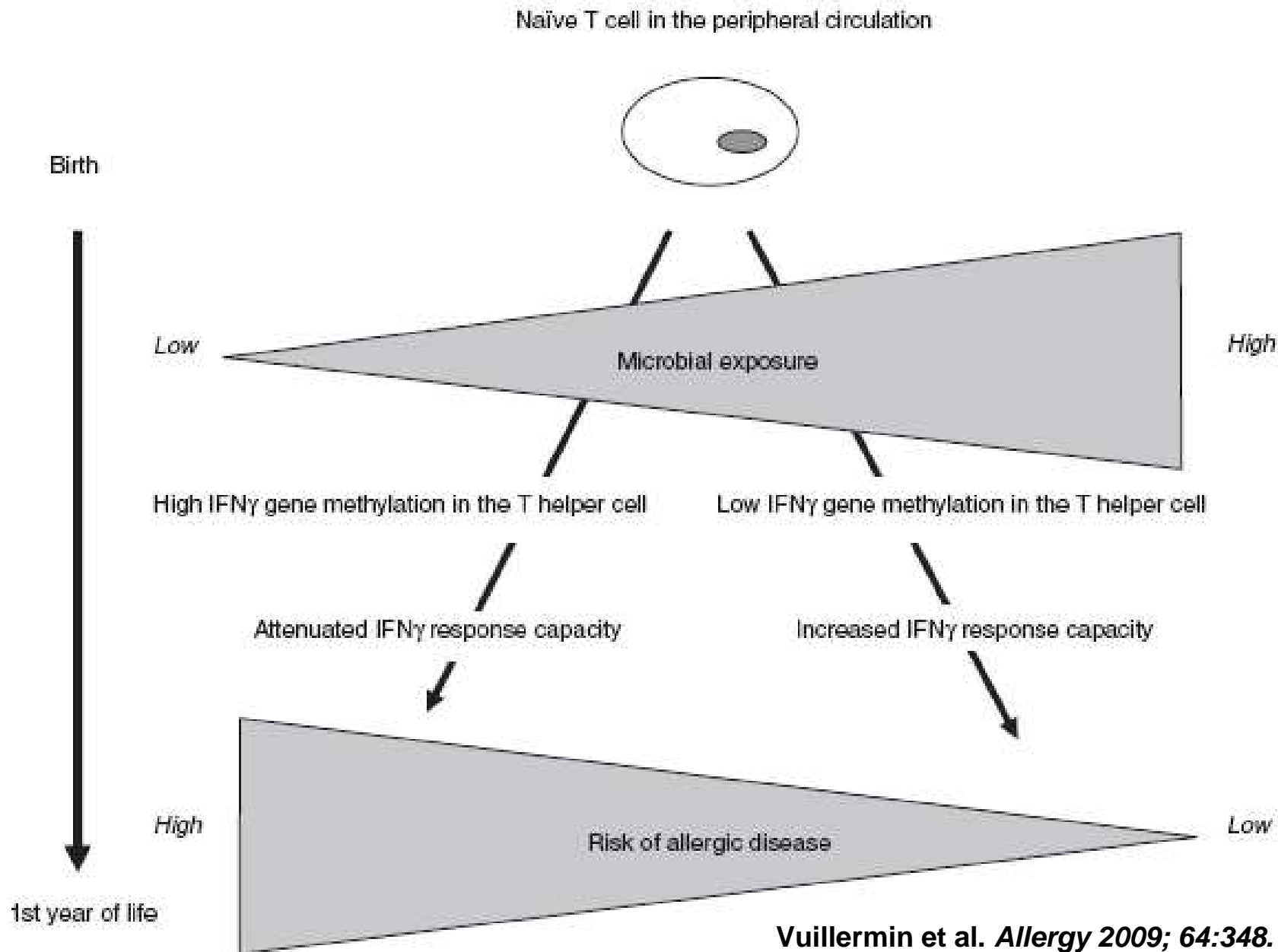




## Hypersensitive sites to Epigenetic modifications in the Interferon *gamma* gene

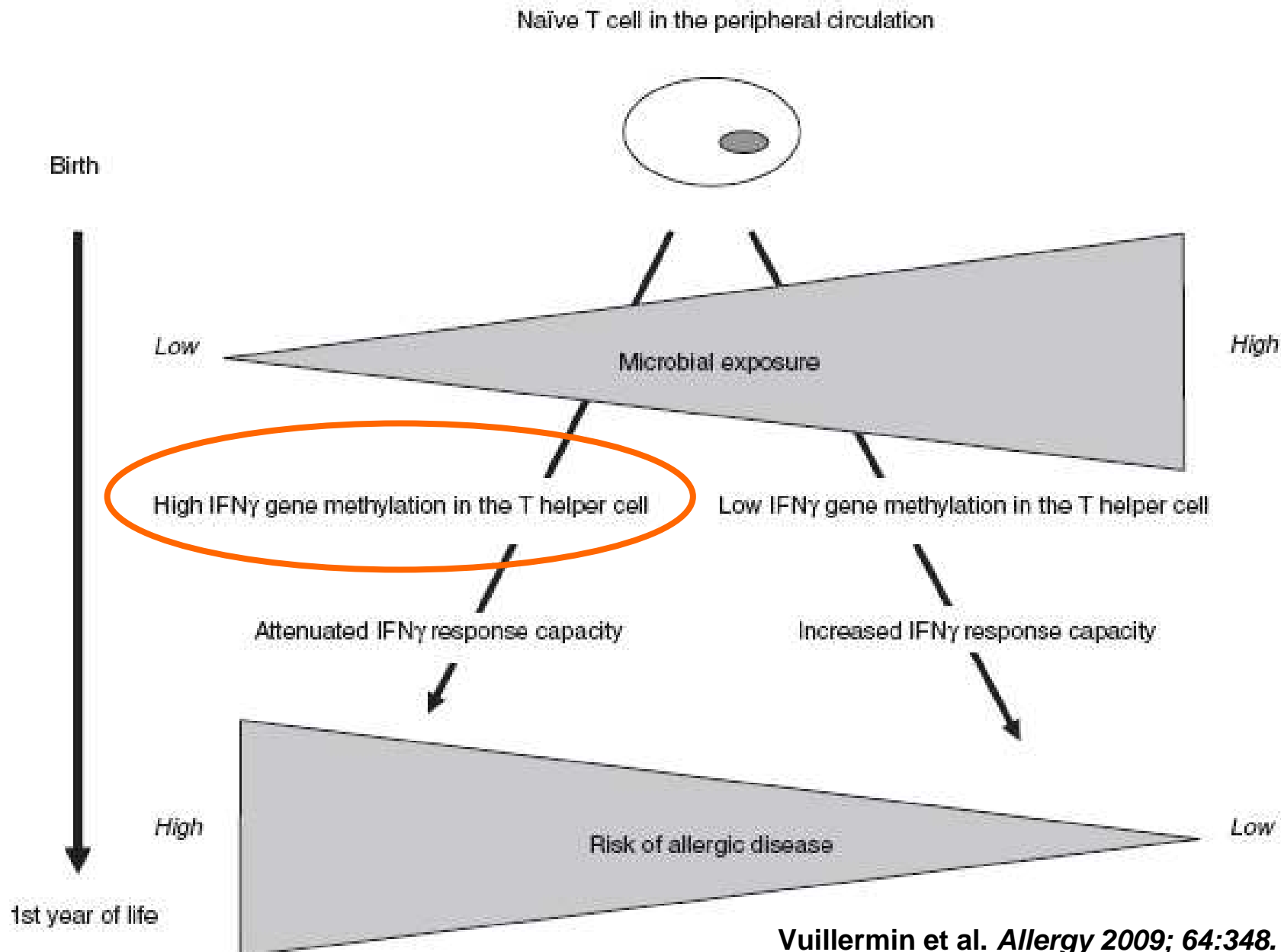


# Naïve T-cell IFN $\gamma$ gene demethylation and allergic disease

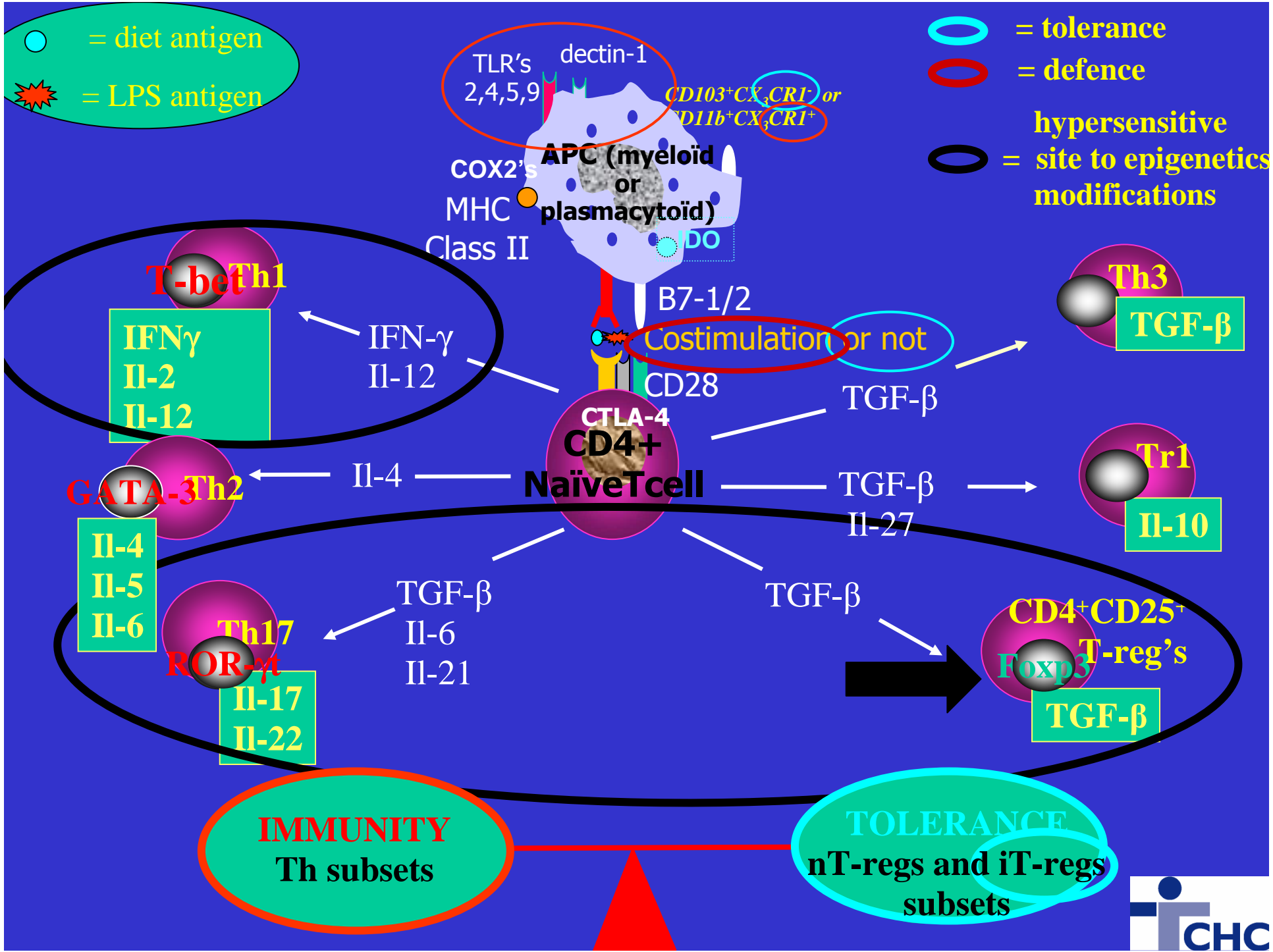


Vuillermin et al. *Allergy* 2009; 64:348.

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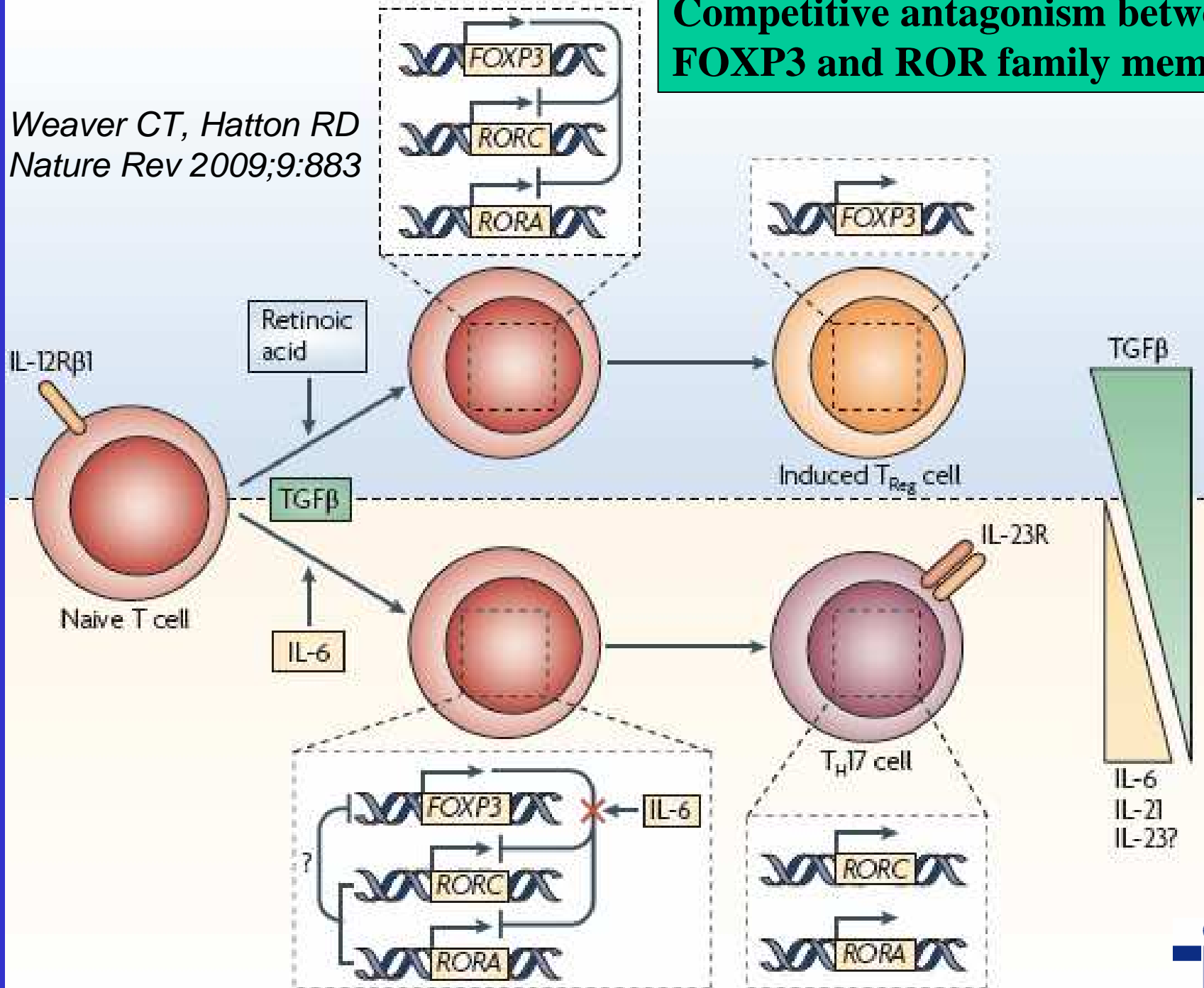


Vuillermin et al. *Allergy* 2009; 64:348.



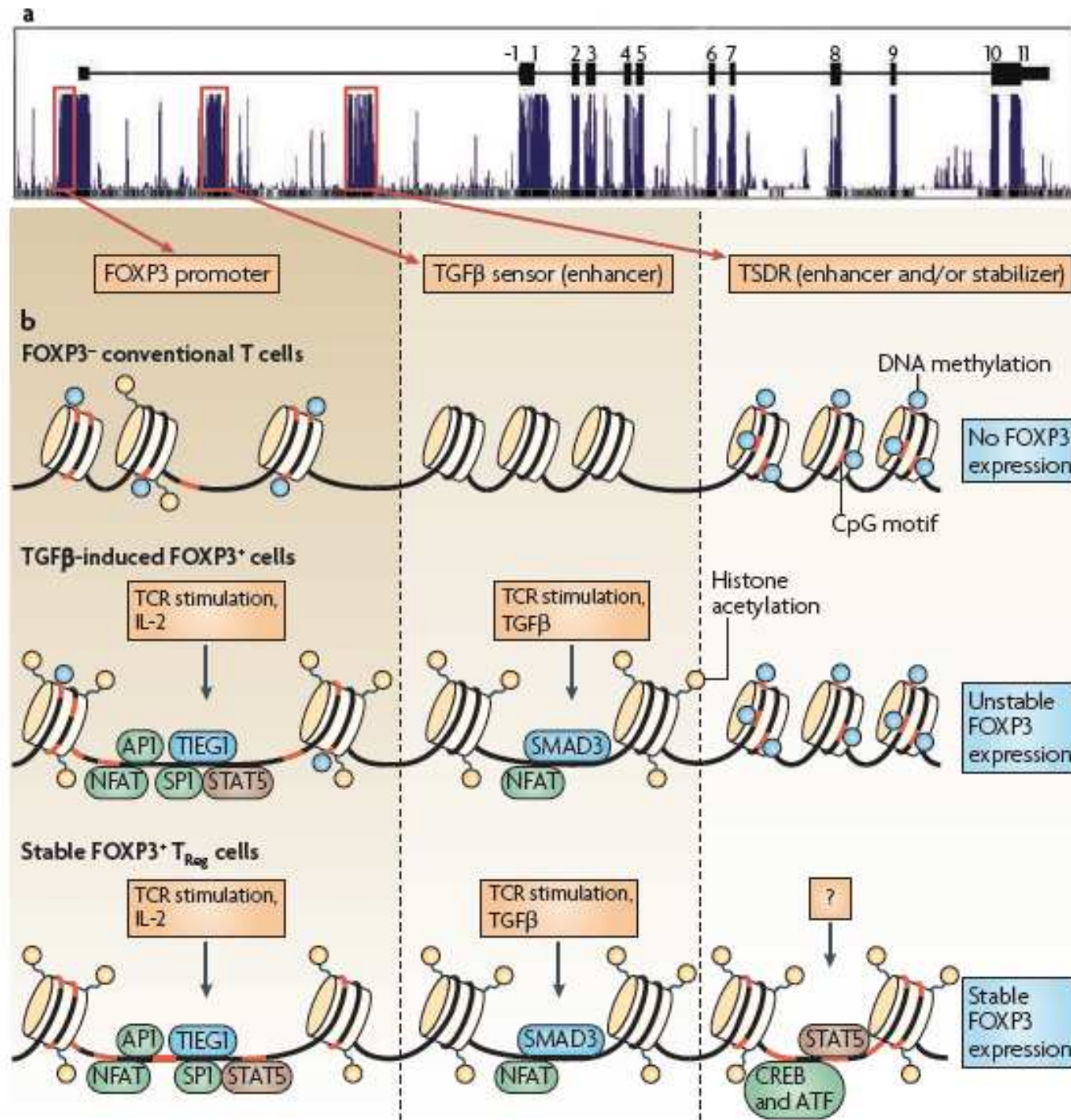
# Competitive antagonism between FOXP3 and ROR family members

Weaver CT, Hatton RD  
Nature Rev 2009;9:883



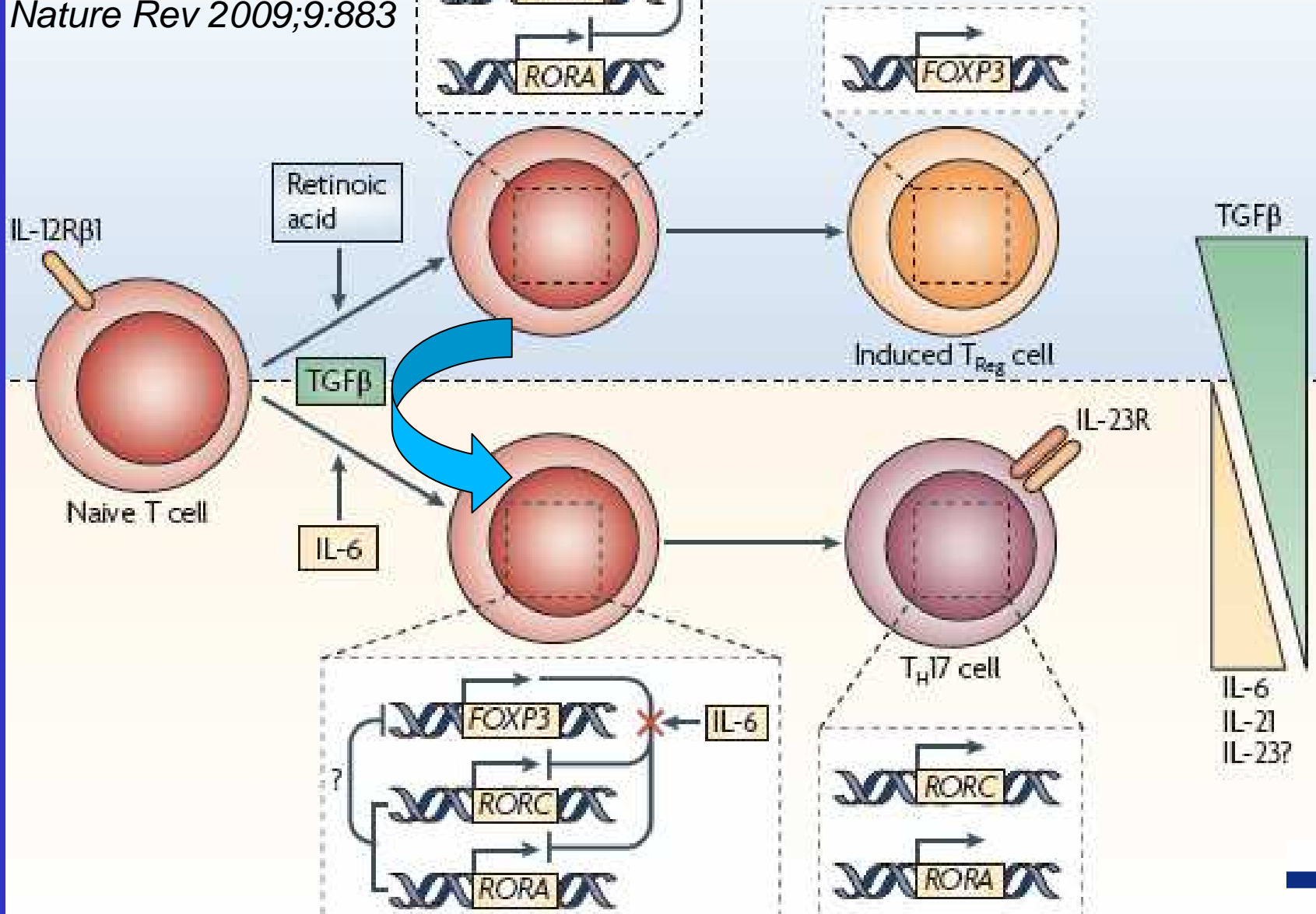
**The FOXP3 locus subjected to epigenetic control**

Huehn et al  
*Nat Rev Immunol*  
2008.

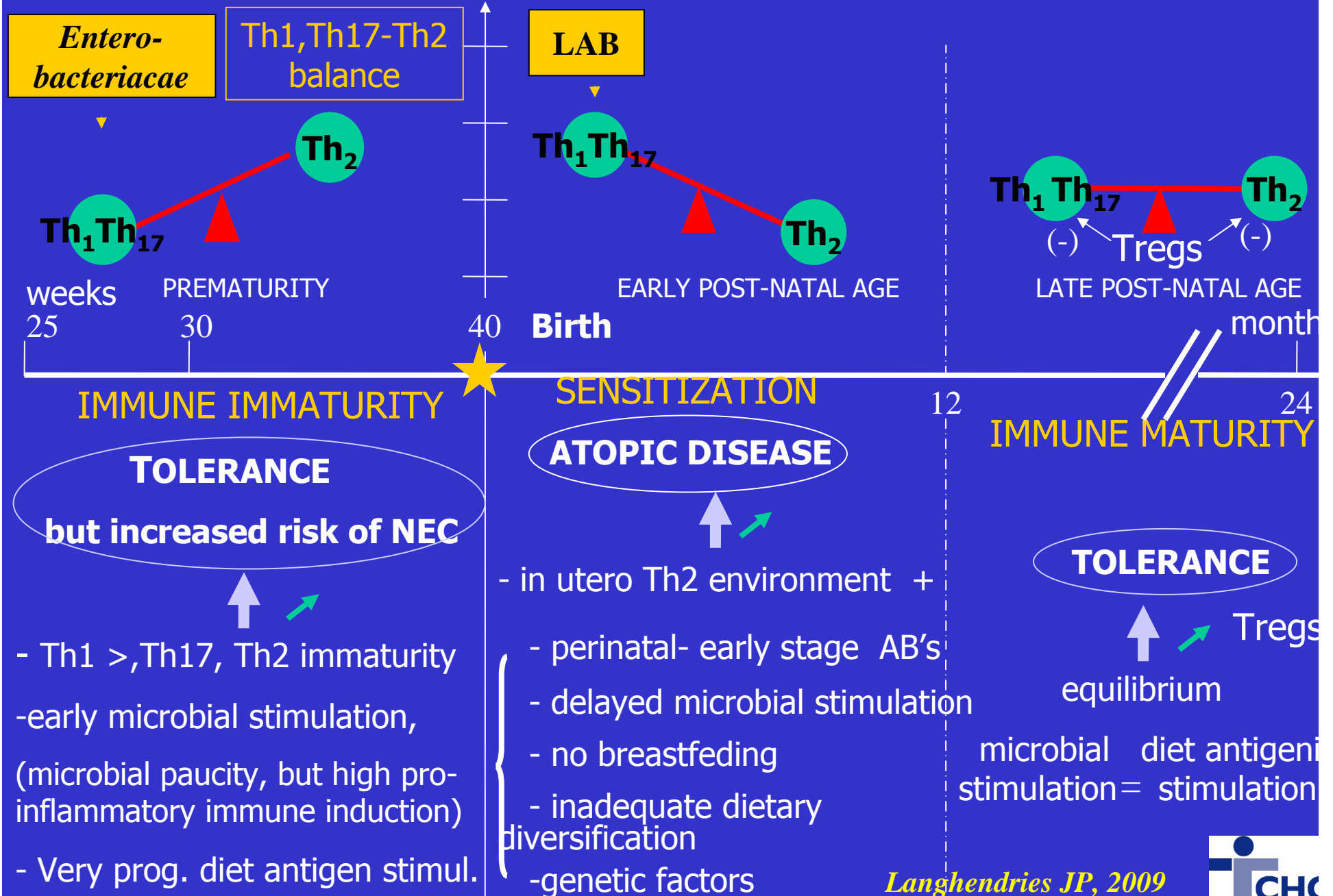


# Competitive antagonism between FOXP3 and ROR family members

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# Th<sub>1</sub> - Th<sub>17</sub> - Th<sub>2</sub> balance according to the age





# The oral administration of bacterial extracts prevents asthma via the recruitment of regulatory T cells to the airways

S Navarro<sup>1,2</sup>, G Cossalter<sup>1,2</sup>, C Chiavaroli<sup>3</sup>, A Kanda<sup>4,5,6</sup>, S Fleury<sup>4,5,6</sup>, A Lazzari<sup>1,2</sup>, J Cazareth<sup>1,7</sup>, T Sparwasser<sup>8</sup>, D Dombrowicz<sup>4,5,6</sup>, N Glaichenhaus<sup>1,2</sup> and V Julia<sup>1,2</sup>

The prevalence of asthma has steadily increased during the last decade, probably as the result of changes in the environment, including reduced microbial exposure during infancy. Accordingly, experimental studies have shown that deliberate infections with live pathogens prevent the development of allergic airway diseases in mice. Bacterial extracts are currently used in children suffering from repeated upper respiratory tract infections. In the present study, we have investigated whether bacterial extracts, commercially available as Broncho-Vaxom (BV), could prevent allergic airway disease in mice. Oral treatment with BV suppressed airway inflammation through interleukin-10 (IL-10)-dependent and MyD88 (myeloid differentiation primary response gene (88))-dependent mechanisms and induced the conversion of FoxP3 (forkhead box P3)<sup>-</sup> T cells into FoxP3<sup>+</sup> regulatory T cells. Furthermore, CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells purified from the trachea of BV-treated mice conferred protection against airway inflammation when adoptively transferred into sensitized mice. Therefore, treatment with BV could possibly be a safe and efficient strategy to prevent the development of allergic diseases in children.