



ΛΑΪΚΟ
ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ

Παθογένεση Ψωριασικής Αρθρίτιδας

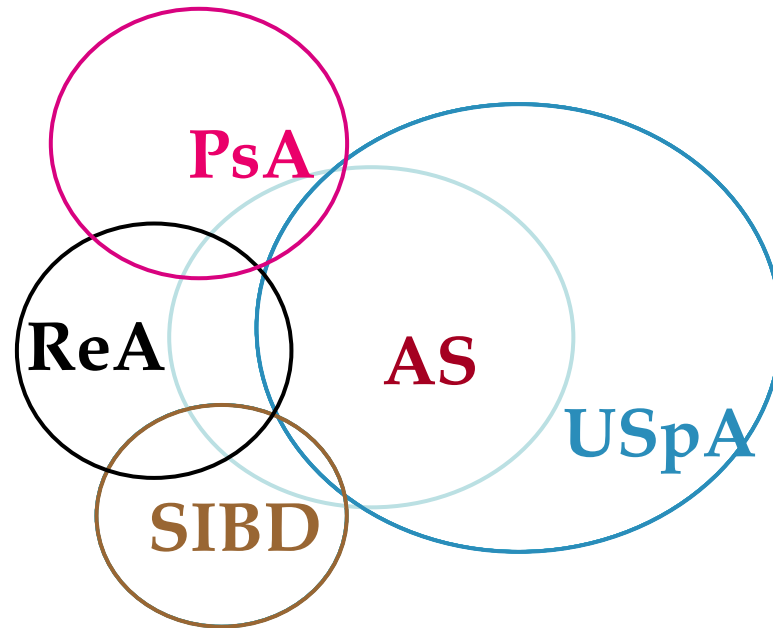
Γ.Ε Φραγκούλης

Ρευματολόγος, ΑΠΠΚ, Νοσοκομείο «Λαικό»

Spondyloarthritis

Psoriatic Arthritis

SpA: Overlapping entities



AS Ankylosing spondylitis

PsA Psoriatic arthritis

USpA Undifferentiated SpA

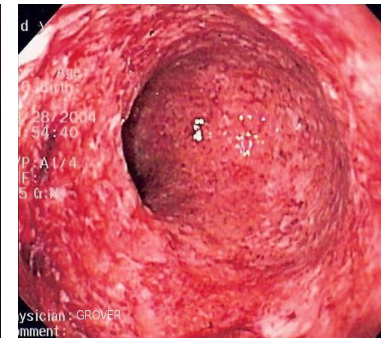
ReA Reactive arthritis

SIBD SpA μ ε IBD

Psoriatic arthritis

Epidemiology

- ◆ Inflammatory arthritis
 - ✿ Affects
 - ✓ ~ 1-3% white Caucasian
 - ✓ 0.1-0.3% American/ African-American
 - ✓ ~ 30% of patients with psoriasis
 - ✿ Psoriasis usually (~70%) precedes of arthritis
 - ✿ 30-50 years old
 - ✿ ♀ = ♂



Psoriatic Arthritis

Patterns of disease

- Heterogeneous disease
 - ◆ Asymmetric oligoarthritis
 - ◆ Predominantly distal interphalangeal disease
 - ◆ Peripheral polyarthritis (rheumatoid-like)
 - ◆ Dominant axial disease (sacroiliitis/spondylitis)
 - ◆ “Arthritis mutilans” (a mutilating type of disease - digits)

Psoriatic Arthritis

Common Findings

- Other common findings
 - ◆ Enthesitis (entheses: tendon/ligament attaches to the bone)
 - ◆ Dactylitis - sausage-shaped swelling of digits
 - ◆ Nail involvement
 - ◆ Radiologically
 - ✳ juxta-articular new bone formation and erosions



Psoriatic arthritis

...or psoriatic disease

➤ Metabolic component

- ◆ Diabetes (11-20%)
- ◆ Obesity (16-60%)
 - ✱ Associates with PsA development and worse prognosis
- ◆ Hypertension/CVD (28-47% / 21-62%)
 - ✱ ↑ CVD risk
 - ✓ Does not fully explained by classic CVD risk factors
- ◆ Mental disorders
 - ✱ Depression (9-27%)
 - ✱ Anxiety (6-37%)

➤ Inflammatory Bowel Disease

➤ Crohn (not for UC)

◆ Risk Ratio

- ✱ Vs Healthy: 2.96 (1.40 - 6.00)
- ✱ Vs Psoriasis 3.60 (1.83 - 7.10)

➤ Ocular manifestations

◆ Risk Ratio

- ✱ Vs Healthy: 3.35 (2.21 - 5.70)
- ✱ Vs Psoriasis 2.13 (1.40 - 3.24)

Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)

Pathogenesis

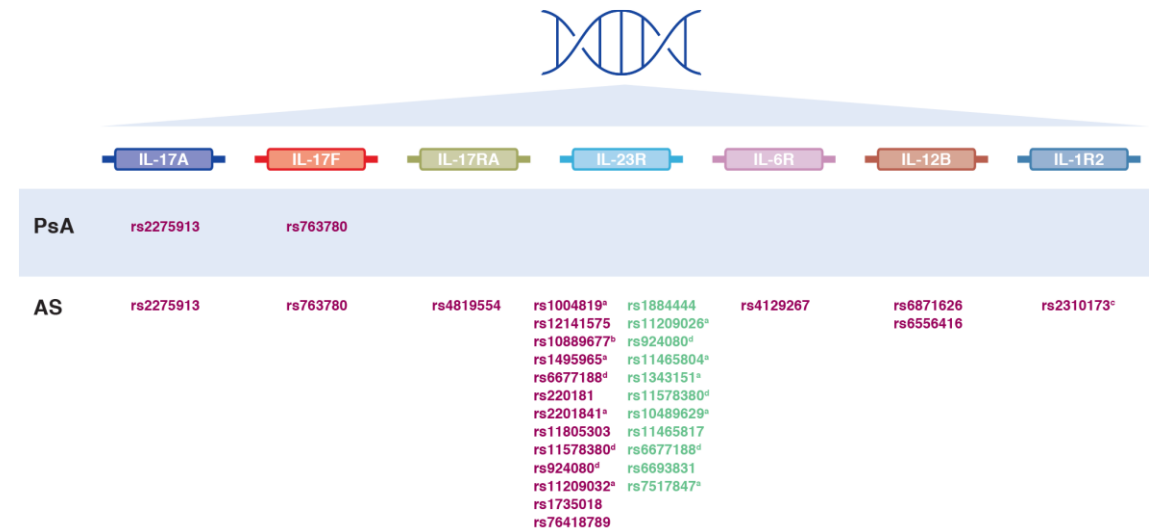
- Genetic factors
- Environmental factors
 - ◆ Microbiome
- Mechanical stress

PsA pathogenesis

Genetics HLA

➤ HLA-B27

- ◆ In about 20% of PsA
- ◆ Associated with
 - ✿ Axial disease
 - ✿ Dactylitis
 - ✿ Uveitis
 - ✿ Poor prognosis



PsA pathogenesis

Genetics....and non-HLA

➤ Genetic factors

◆ Outside HLA – mainly in pathways

- ✿ IFN
- ✿ TNF
- ✿ IL-23/-17

Gene	PSO	PsA
HLA		
PSORS1	X	X
HLA-C*0704	X	
HLA-C*1203	X	
HLA-B27	X	X
HLA-B57	X	X
HLADQA1	X	
HLA-B13		X
HLA-B08		X
HLA-B37	X	
HLA-B38		X
HLA-B39		X
HLA-DRB1*04		X
IFN signalling		
ELMO1	X	
SOCS1	X	
RNF114	X	
IFIH1	X	
MDA5	X	
DDX58	X	
TYK2	X	X
IL-23/17 signalling		
IL-23A (p19)	X	X
IL-12B (p40)	X	X
IL-23R	X	X
TYK2	X	X
JAK2	X	
STAT3	X	X
TRAF3IP2	X	X
SOCS1	X	
ETS1	X	

PsA pathogenesis

Environmental factors

- Environmental factors
 - ◆ Microbiome
- HLA-B27 Tg mice or SKG mice
 - ◆ IBD-like, psoriasis-like rash, arthritis, sacroiliitis
 - ✱ Less pronounced in germ free conditions
- Psoriatic arthritis Vs Healthy individuals
 - ◆ ↓ Akkermansia/Ruminococcus/Coprococcus

PsA Pathogenesis

Mechanical stress

➤ In normal tendons

◆ Tenocytes

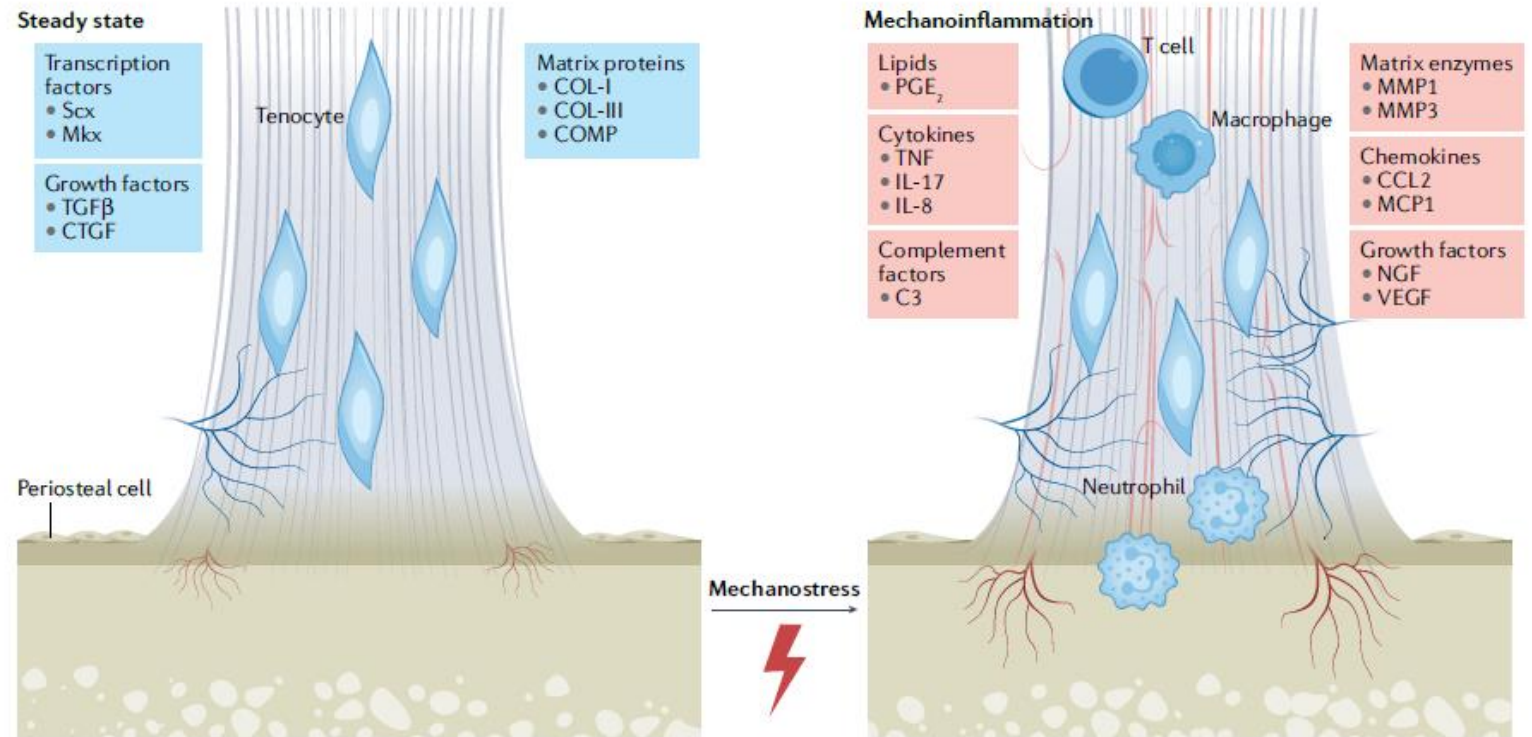
- control extracellular matrix by **producing** collagen or **degrading** it via proteases

◆ are notoriously mechanosensitive

- transcription factors
 - ✓ scleraxis and mohawk
 - ✓ drive expression of mechanical stress-activated genes

➤ In vitro

- ◆ stretching of tendon and ligament stromal cells induces the production of an array of pro-inflammatory mediators,
 - Chemokines, cytokines and complement factors



PsA Pathogenesis

Mechanical stress

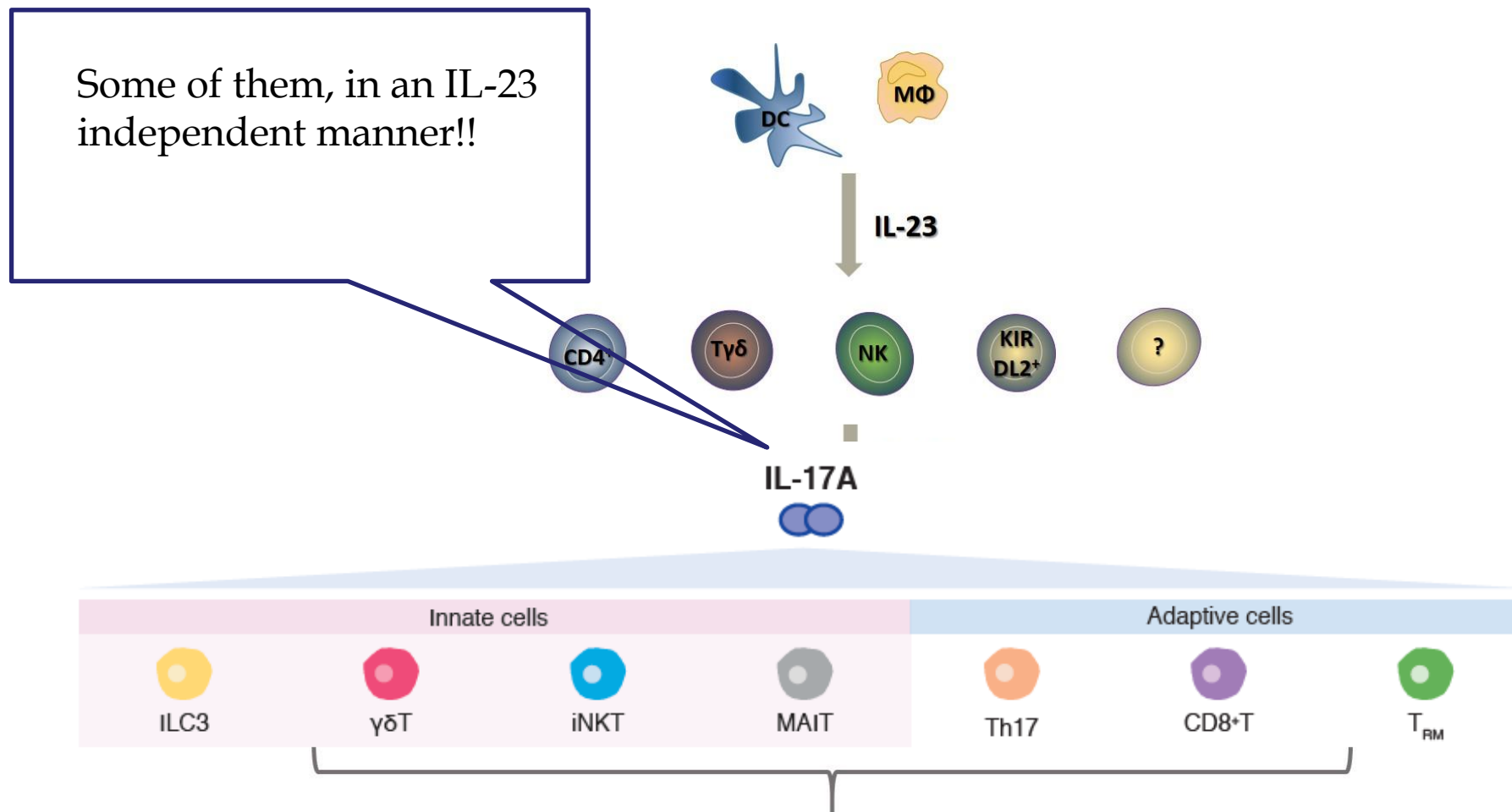
- ➔ Mechanical stress
 - ◆ “unloaded mice”: less enthesitis
 - ◆ PsA studies
 - ✿ 9-25% injury preceded
 - ✿ Koebner-phenomenon analogy
 - ◆ Psoriasis patients
 - ✿ Joint/bone injury

Table 2 HR of incident psoriatic arthritis (PsA) by trauma exposure among patients with psoriasis

	Trauma exposure		Joint	Bone	Nerve	Skin
	Unexposed	All				
Cases of PsA, N	745	265	122	56	15	63
IR/10 000 person-years	22.0 (21.0 to 24.0)	30.0 (26.0 to 34.0)	35.0 (29.0 to 41.0)	28.0 (21.0 to 37.0)	30.0 (17.0 to 49.0)	23.0 (17.0 to 29.0)
HR (95% CI)	1.00 (reference)	1.34 (1.15 to 1.56)	1.53 (1.22 to 1.92)	1.45 (1.05 to 2.01)	1.71 (0.89 to 3.28)	0.93 (0.69 to 1.26)
Multivariate HR (95% CI)*	1.00 (reference)	1.32 (1.13 to 1.54)	1.50 (1.19 to 1.90)	1.46 (1.04 to 2.04)	1.66 (0.84 to 3.29)	0.91 (0.67 to 1.23)

PsA Pathogenesis

The IL-23/IL-17 axis



McGonagle D et al *Ann Rheum Dis* 2019

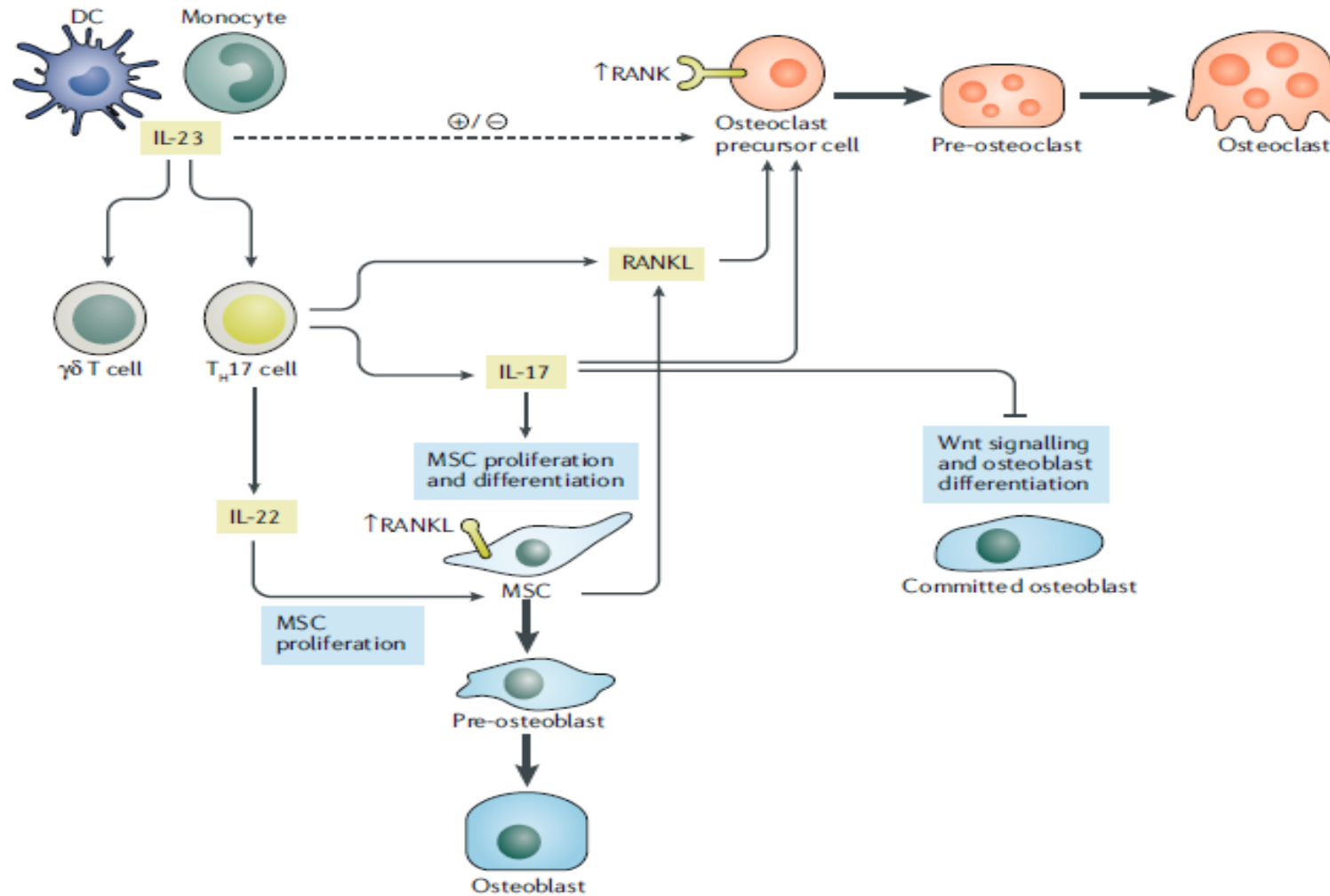
Sieper J et al *Nat Rev Rheum* 2019

Siebert S, Fragoulis GE, McInnes IB *EULAR online course* 2016

Inflammatory cytokines, chemokines, RANKL, cell activation

PsA Pathogenesis

Bone formation



IL-23

Evidence for PsA

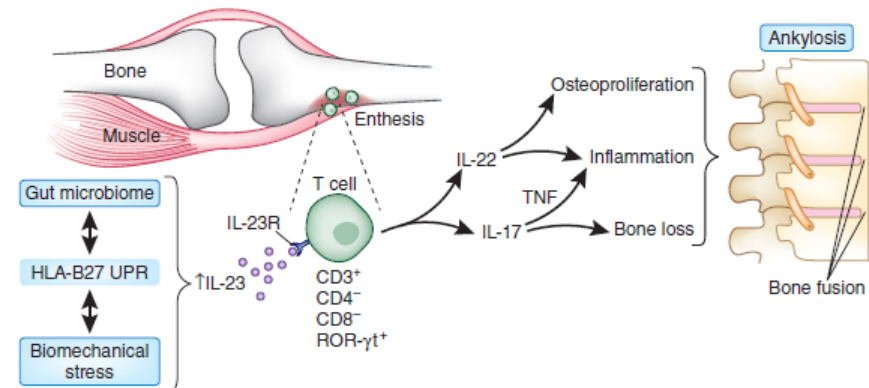
→ In

- ◆ Entheses
- ◆ Spine
- ◆ Bowel
- ◆ Joints
- ◆ Skin

Psoriatic arthritis

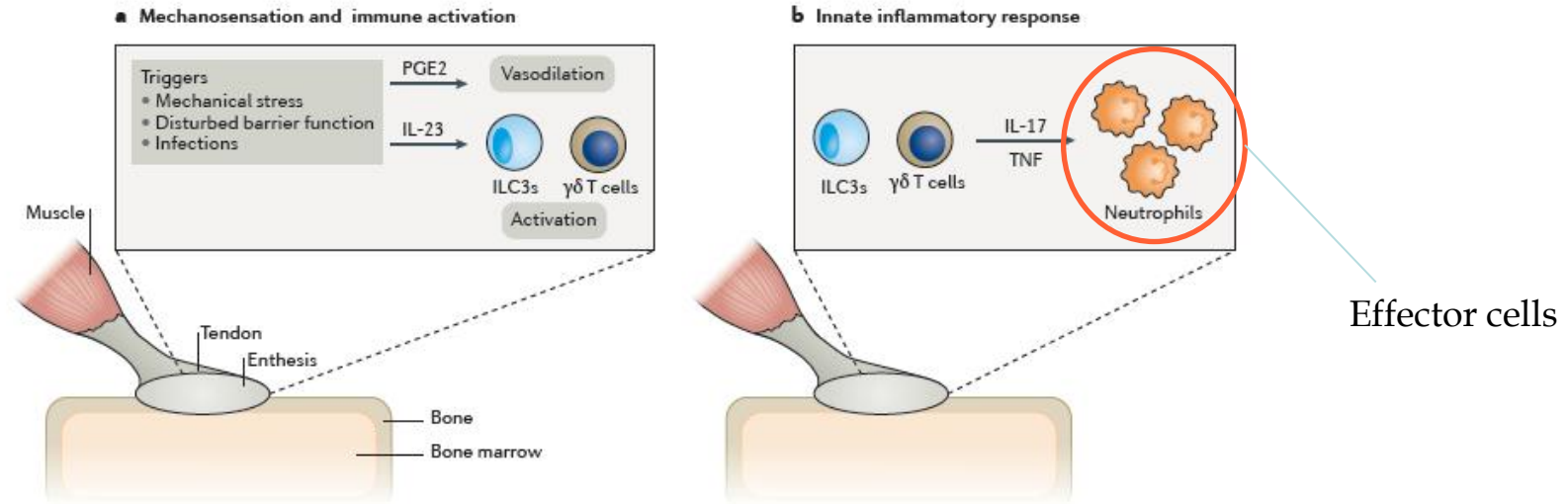
Enthesitis

- Enthesis organ “synovio-entheseal concept”
- Could enthesitis be the start of everything??
- T-cells at the sites of tendon insertion into bone (entheses)
 - ◆ express IL-23 receptor
 - ◆ respond to systemically-administered IL-23 to produce IL-17, IL-22 and IL-6



Psoriatic arthritis

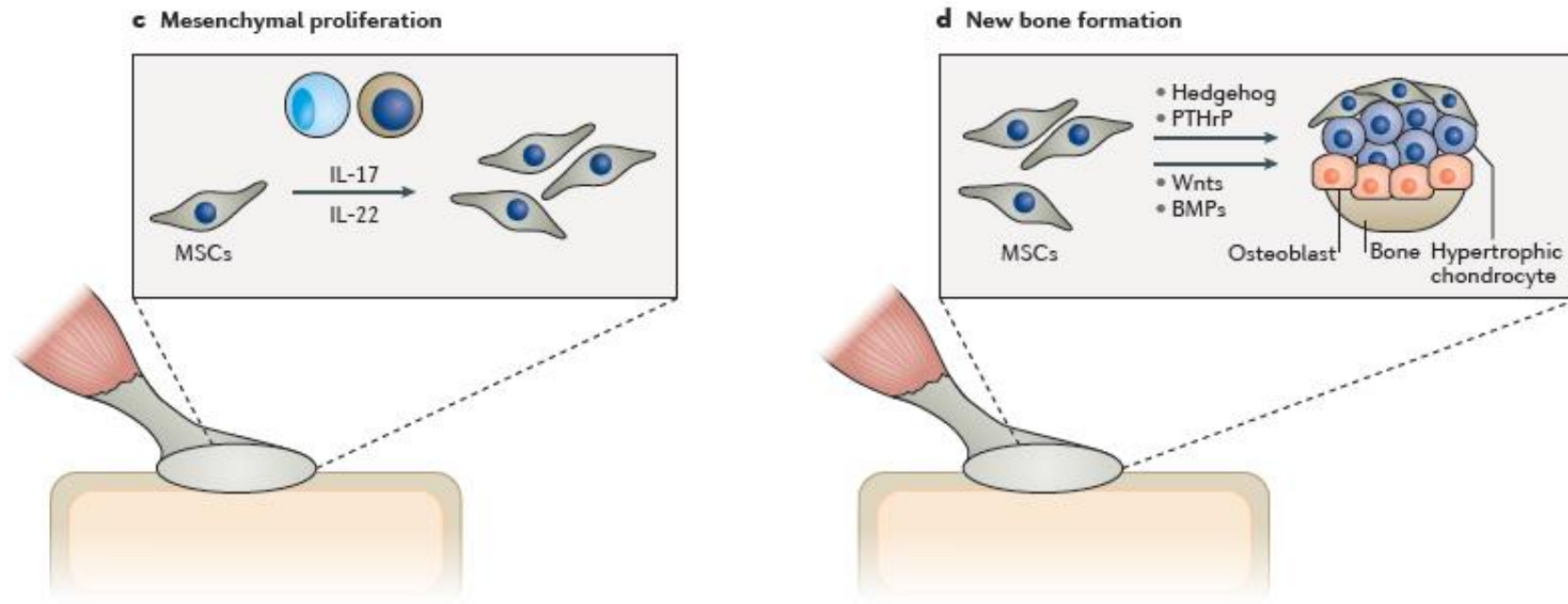
Enthesitis



- PGE2
 - ◆ Response to mechanical stress
 - ◆ Mesenchymal cells - COX2 expression
 - ◆ Induces IL-17 expression

Psoriatic arthritis

Enthesitis

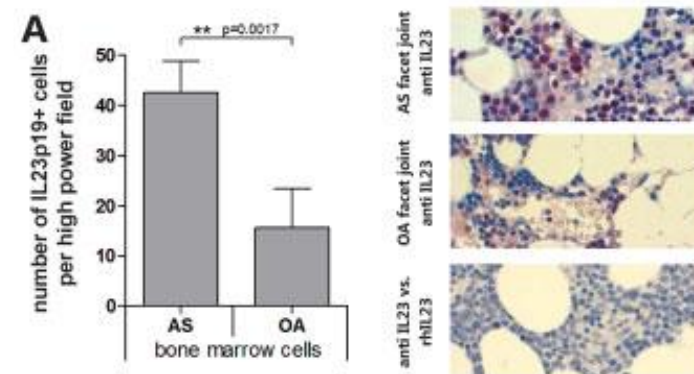


SpA

IL-23 in the spine/bowel

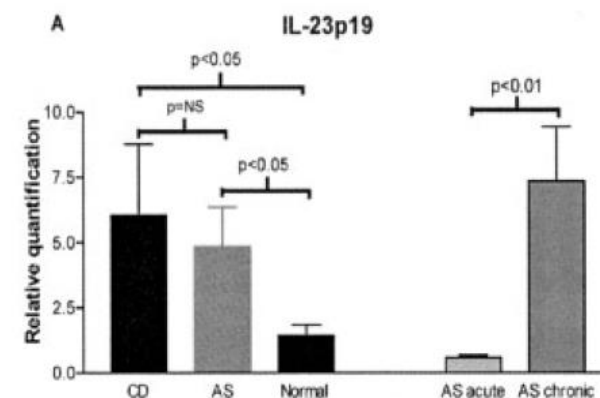
➤ Spine

- ◆ \uparrow IL-23 facet SpA > OA
- ◆ myeloid CD14+ cells expressing IL-23 in spinal entheses obtained from healthy individuals



➤ Bowel

- ◆ By infiltrating monocytes
- ◆ Paneth cells

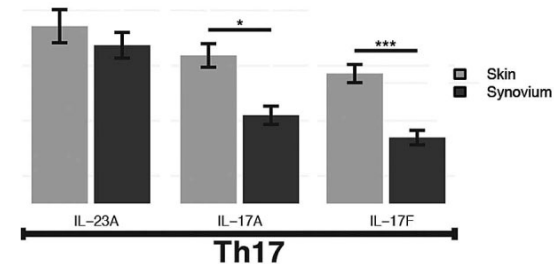
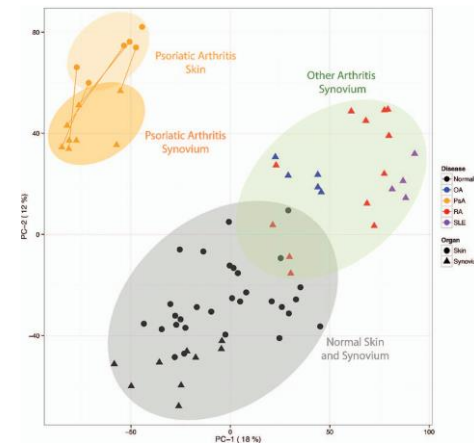


Psoriatic arthritis

IL-23 in Synovium and Skin

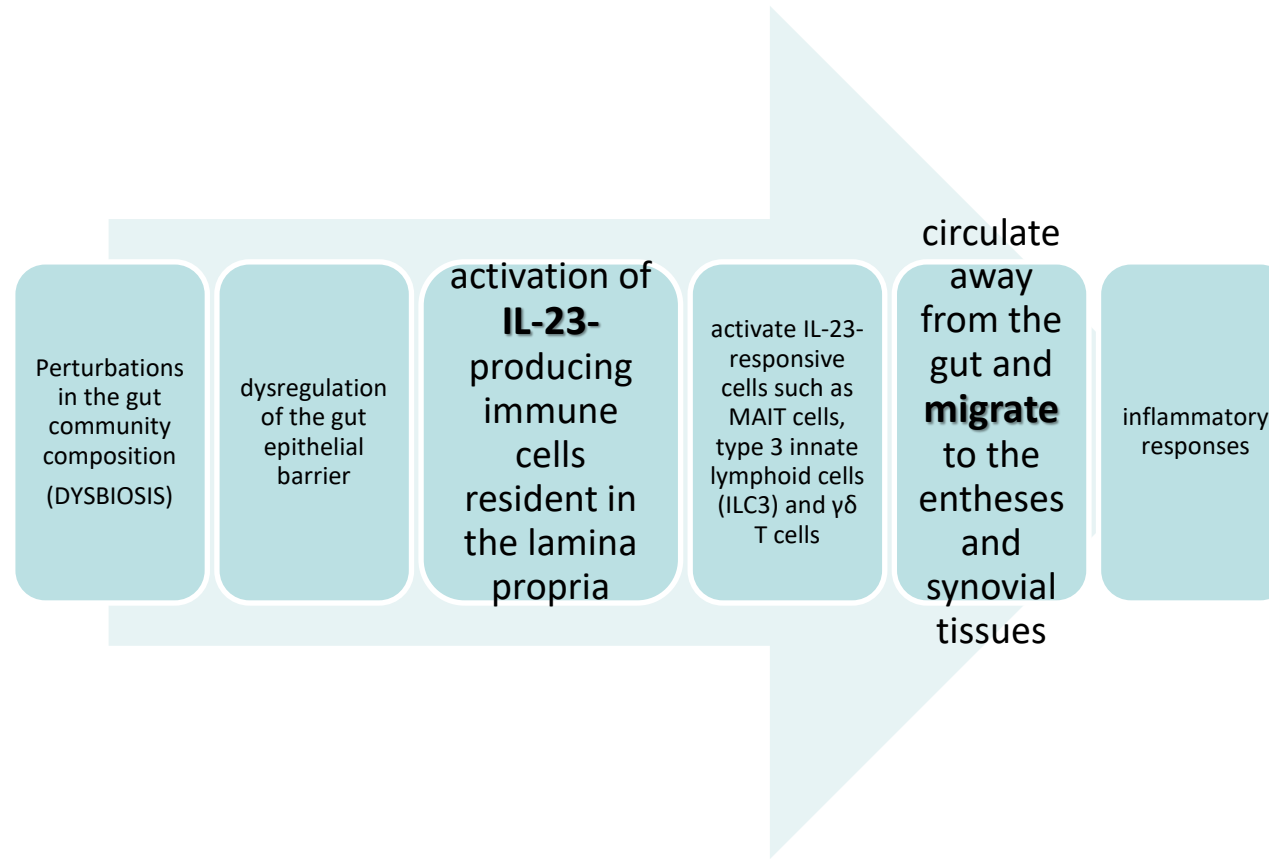
Similarities & differences

- ◆ TNF pathway, VEGF, TGF- β 1 and IL-6
 - ✿ More activated in synovium
- ◆ IL-23/-17 axis
 - ✿ More active in the skin



PsA pathogenesis

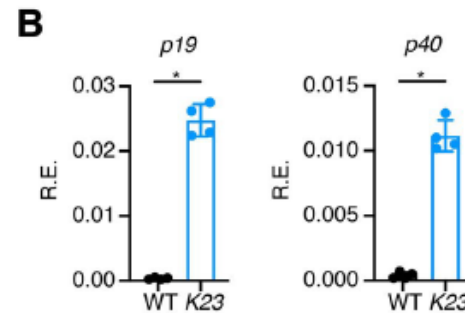
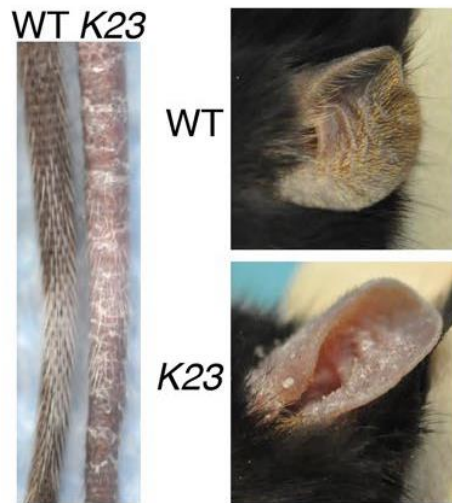
The microbiome (gut-joint axis)



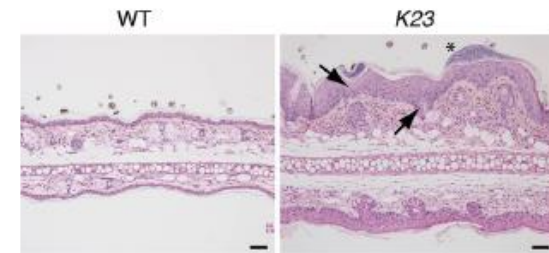
PsA Pathogenesis

Could all start from IL-23?

- Transgenic expression of IL-23 in mice

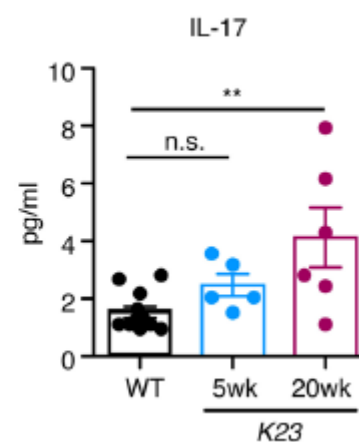
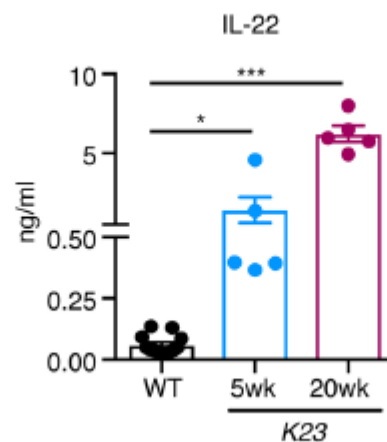
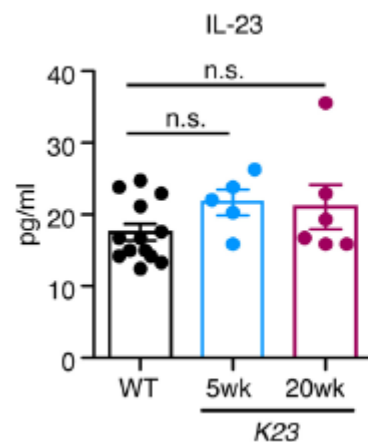
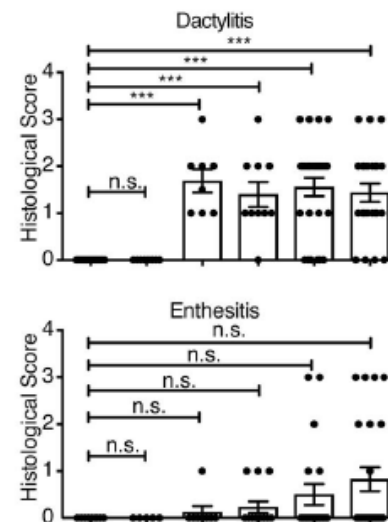
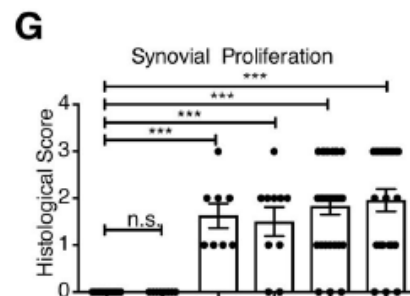
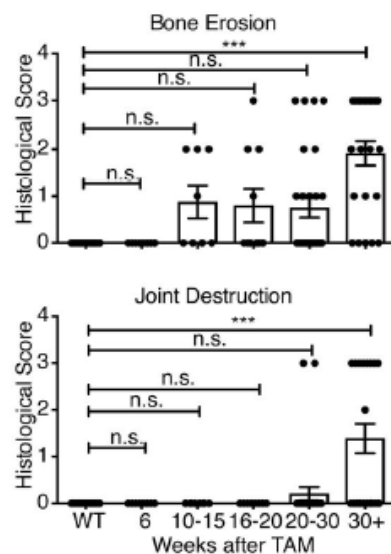


p19/p40
expression
in the ears



IL-23 mice model

PsA features & cytokines expression

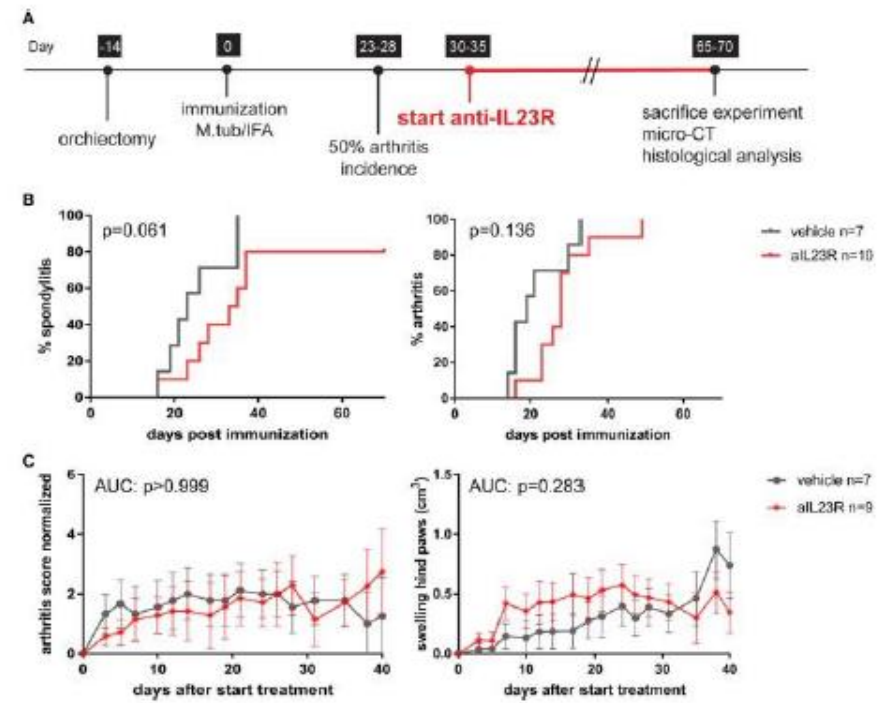
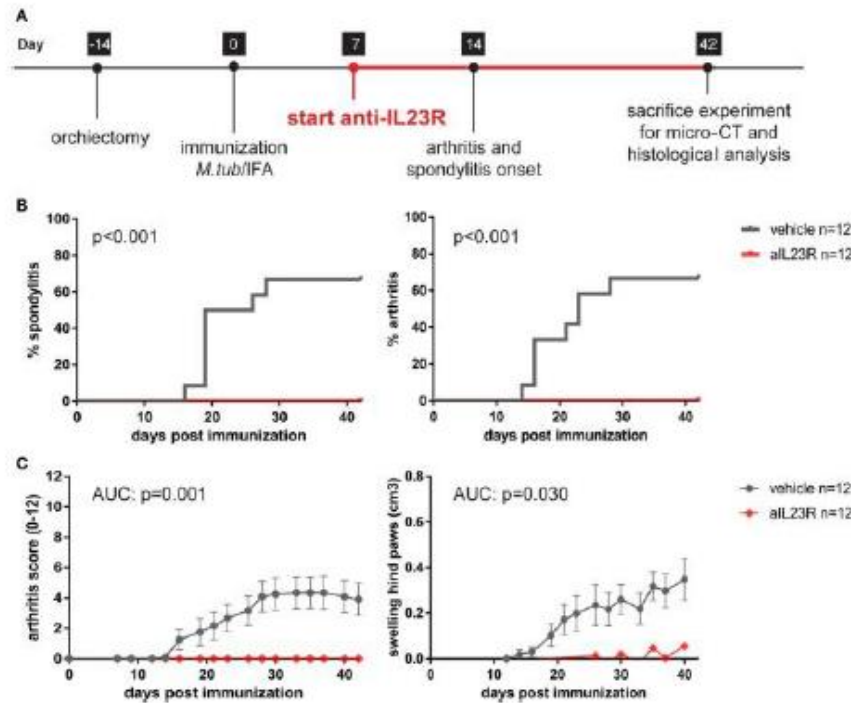


IL-23

Initiation but not perpetuation of disease

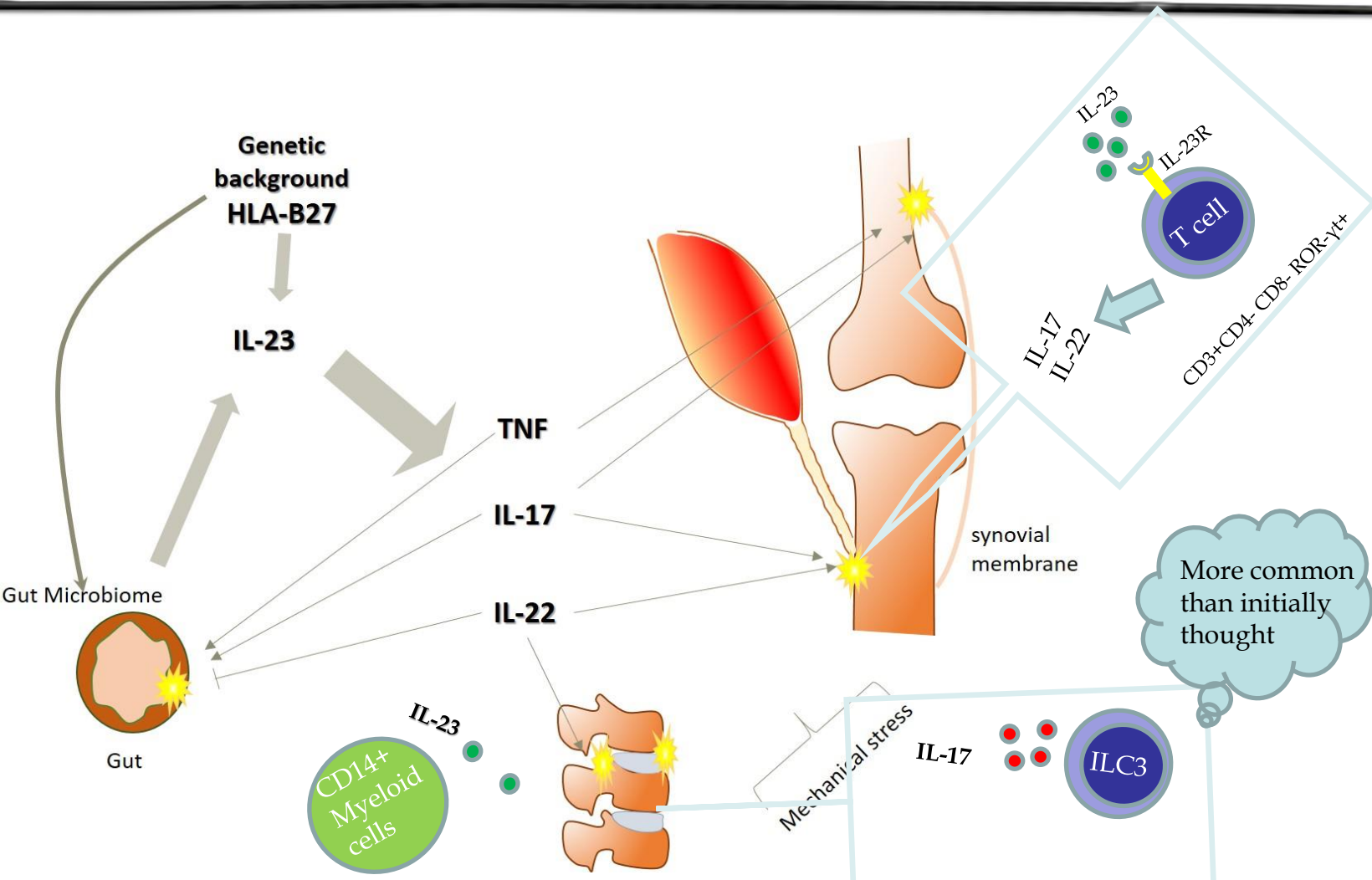
Anti-IL-23R prevented initiation of spondylitis and arthritis development in HLA-B27tg rats

Anti-IL23R failed to suppress spondylitis and arthritis in HLA-B27tg rats



PsA

Pathogenesis overview



McGonagle D et al ARD 2019
Bridgewood et al ARD 2019

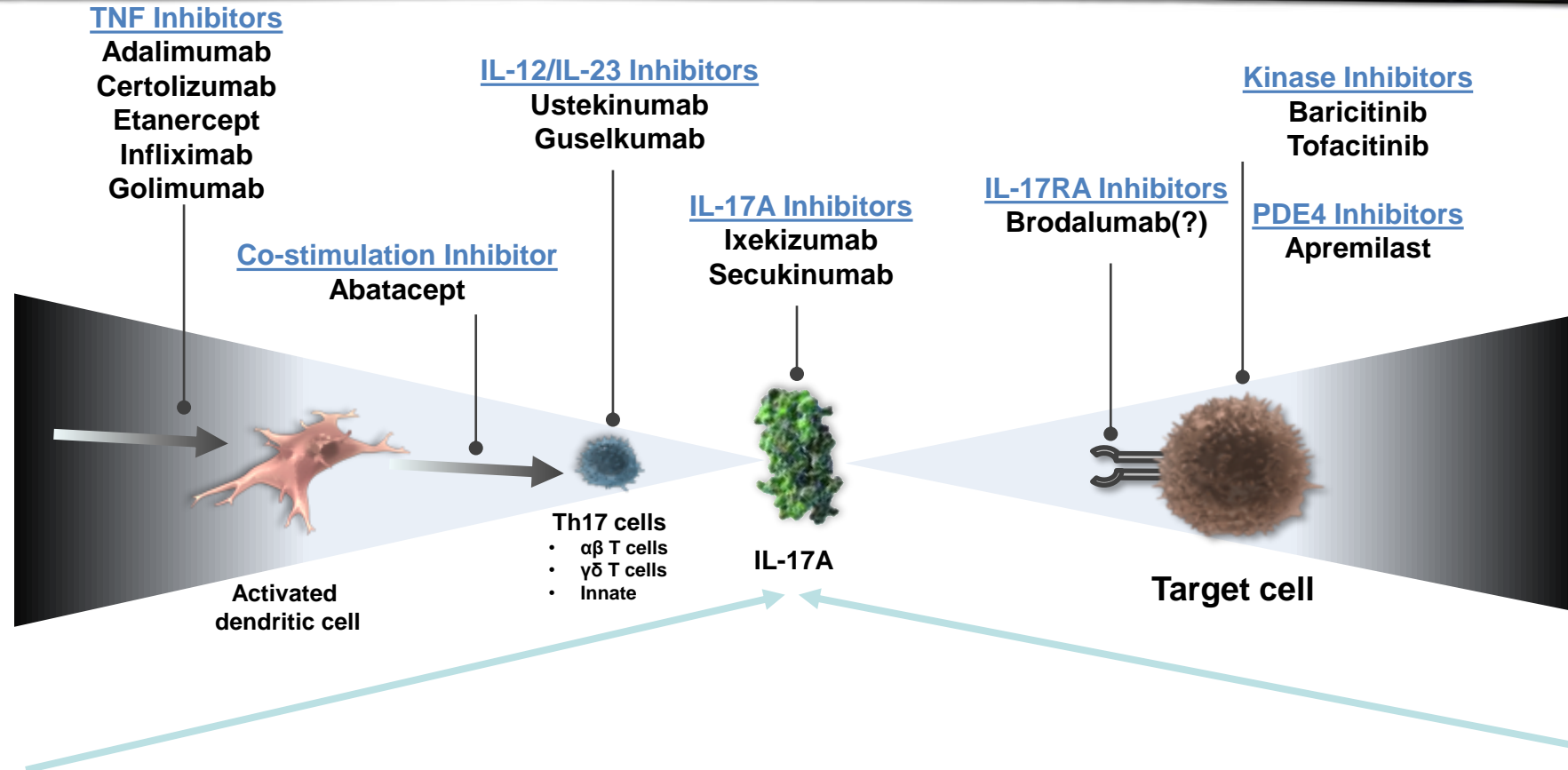
(modified from) Siebert S, Fragoulis GE, McInnes IB EULAR online course 2016
Gravallese and Schett Nat Rev Rheum 2018

Psoriatic arthritis

Treatment options

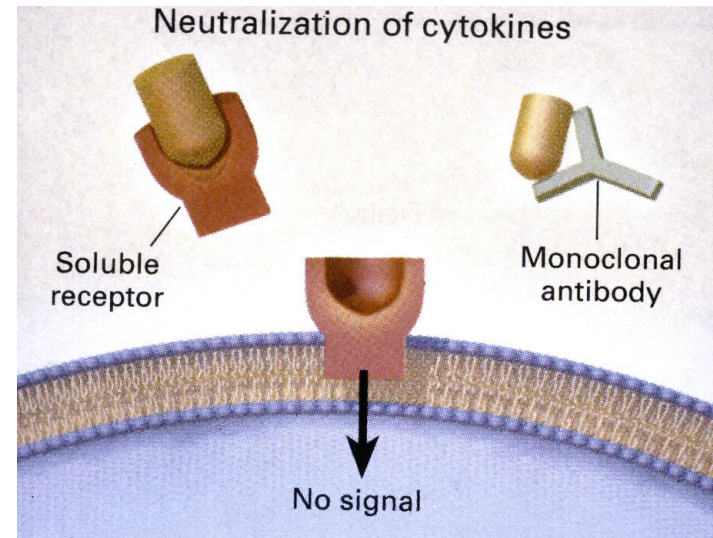
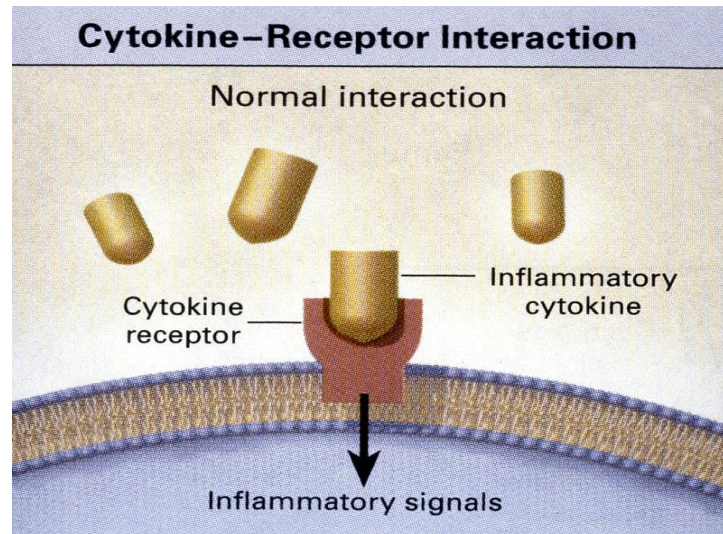
- NSAIDs
- Glucocorticoids
- Conventional synthetic DMARDs
 - ◆ Methotrexate, Leflunomide, Sulfasalazine, Cyclosporin
- **Targeted synthetic DMARD**
 - ◆ Apremilast (PDE4 inhibitor) and JAK-inhibitors
- **Biologic DMARDs (“Biologics”)**

Current and novel treatment options for PsA



anti-TNF

Mode of action

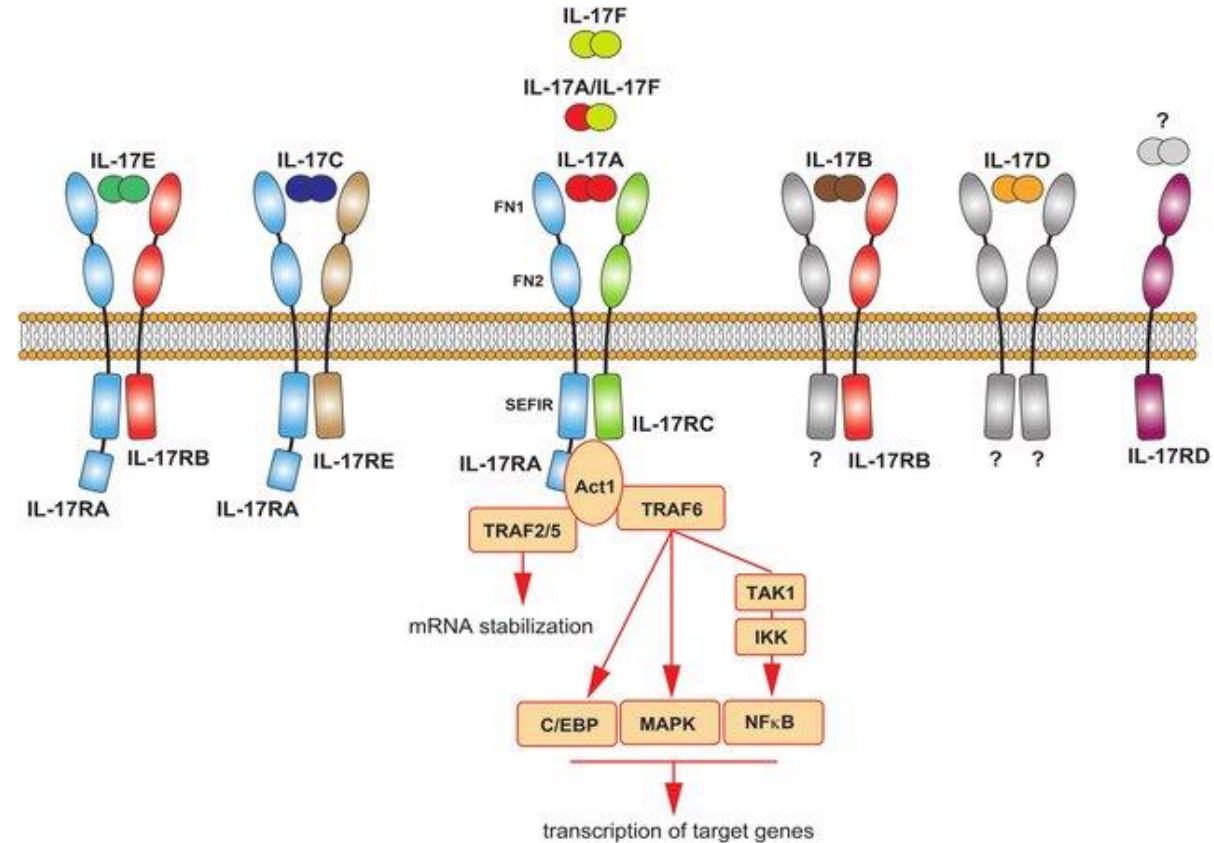


Anti-IL-17

Mode of action

➔ IL-17 family

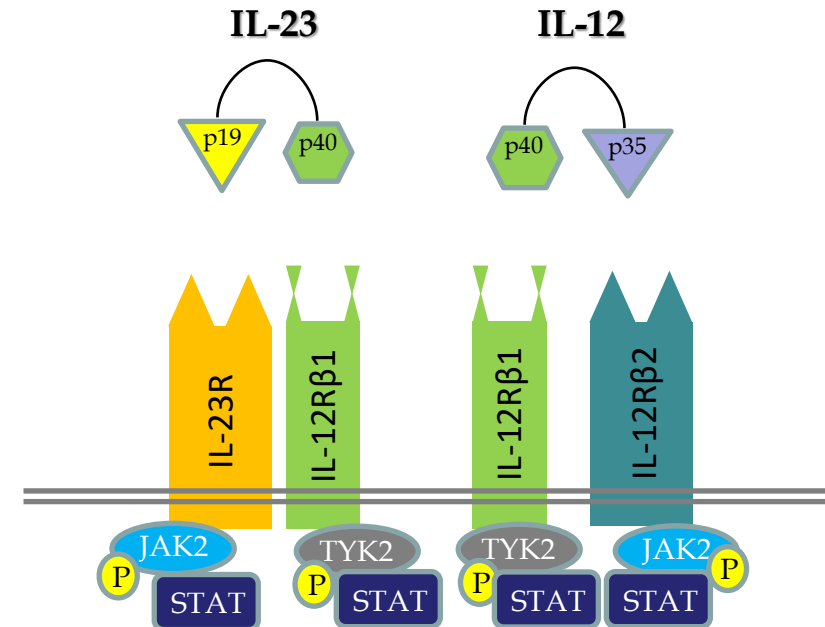
- ◆ 6 members which share similar structure
 - ◆ IL-17A and IL-17F: the most well characterized
- ◆ and five receptors (IL-17RA to IL-17RE)
 - ◆ Can form heterodimers
- ◆ Under normal conditions protects from fungal infections



Anti-IL-23

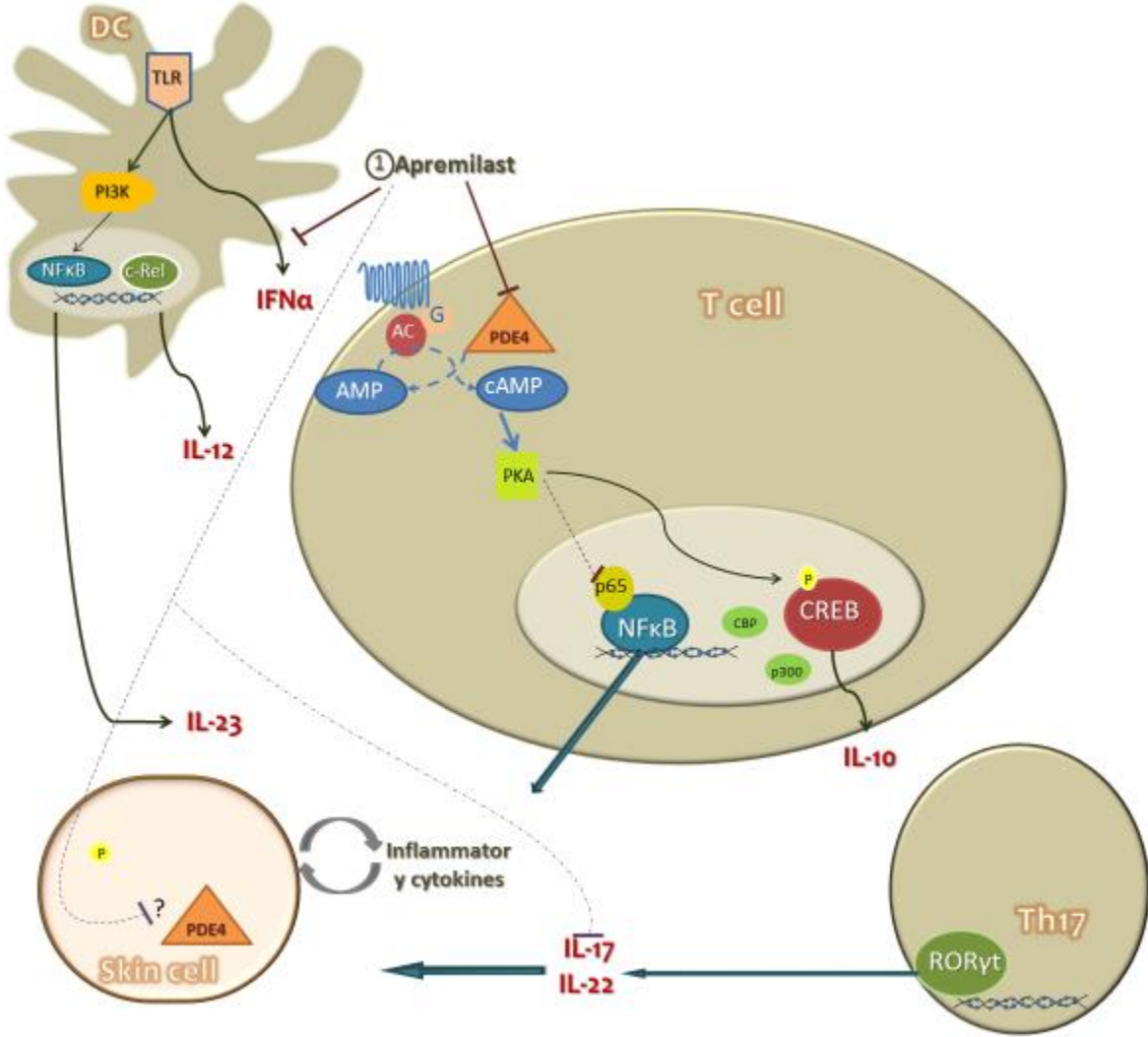
Mode of action

- ➔ Engagement of IL-23 with the IL-23R
 - ◆ Signalling, mainly through JAK2 and TYK2
 - Phosphorylation of STAT3
 - Subsequent expression of the transcription factor ROR γ t and production of IL-17



Apremilast

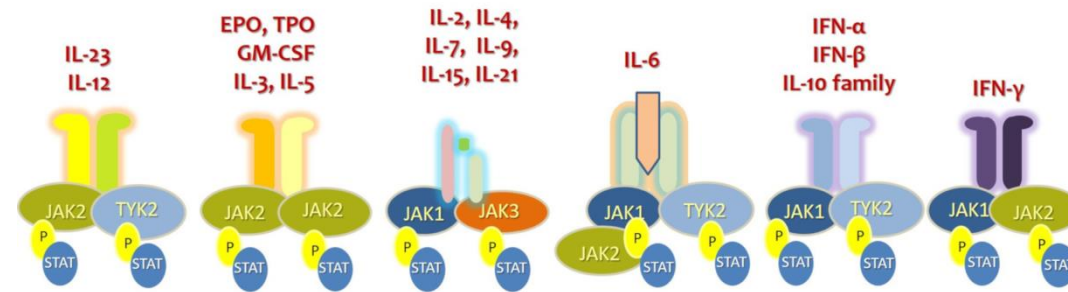
Mode of action



Fragoulis GE, McInnes IB
(Oxford Textbook of Psoriatic
Arthritis, 2018)

JAKi

Mode of action



JAK inhibitors

Tofacitinib (JAK3/1>2)

Baricitinib (JAK1/2)

Filgotinib (JAK1)

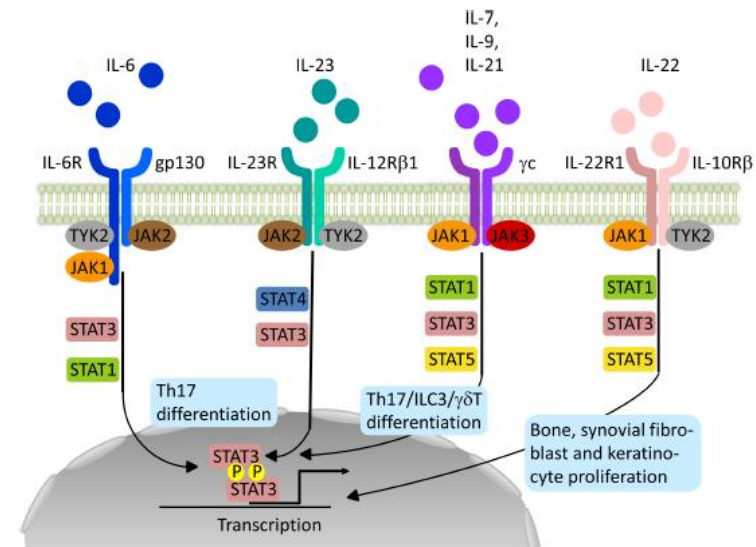
Upadacitinib (JAK1)

Others

JAK-inhibitors in PsA/SpA

Why?

- ➔ Cytokines involved in this IL-23/IL-17 axis exert their function through the JAK/STAT pathway
- ➔ Polymorphisms in JAK2 and TYK2 have been reported in association with axSpA
- ➔ Animal studies
- ➔ Ex-vivo data



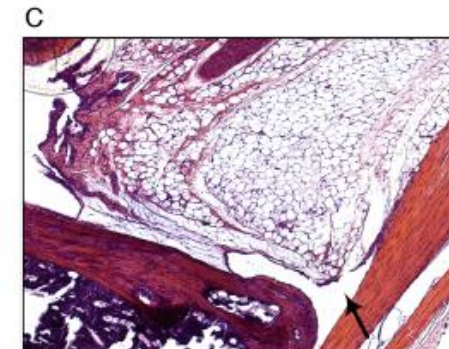
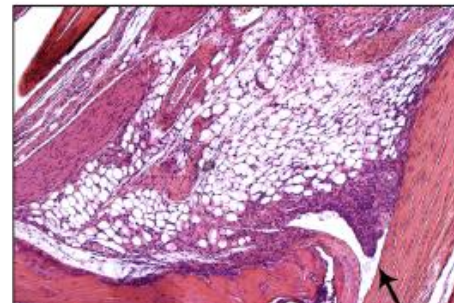
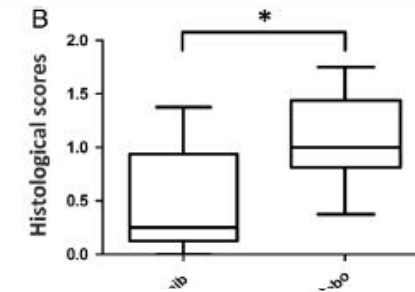
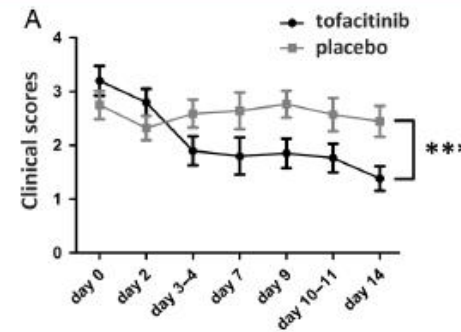
Dendrou et al Sci Transl Med. (2016)
Fragoulis et al JACI 2021
Hammitzsch et al Front Imm 2020

Animal models

The A-20 knock-out example

➤ A-20 Knock-out mice

- ◆ A-20 negative regulate NFκB
- ◆ SpA like enthesitis/arthritis
- ◆ Treatment with Tofacitinib
 - ↓ disease activity,
 - ↓ inflammation of the synovial-enthesal complex

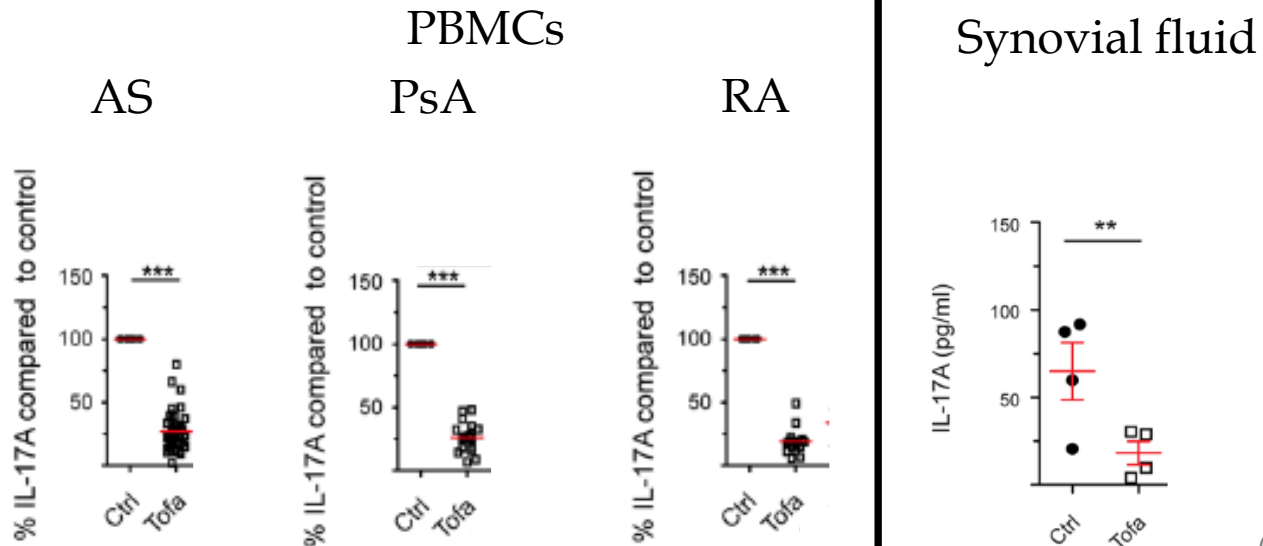


Ex-vivo data

➤ CD4 T cells

◆ AS, PsA, RA

- JAKinibs ↓ responses IL-17A, IL-17F, IL-22
- in cultured CD4 T cells under Th17-promoting conditions (PBMC or synovial fluid)



(modified from) Hammitzsch et al Sci Rep 2018

Safety & Co-morbidities

Should be also considered...

- Inflammatory bowel disease, Uveitis
 - ◆ Contra-indication
 - ✿ Anti-IL-17
 - ✿ Etanercept
- Cardiovascular disease
- Mental-health disorders

Inflammatory bowel disease

The IL-17 story

➤ Anti-IL-17 & Inflammatory bowel disease

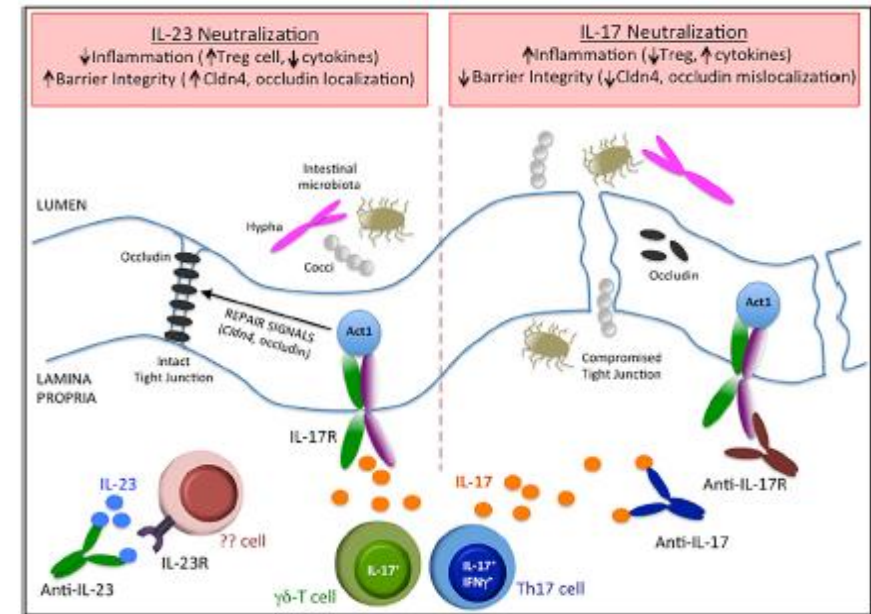
◆ RCTs in Crohn disease: negative

◆ Pathogenetic mechanisms

✱ Candida growth (IL-17 fungal protection)

✱ Occludin traslocation (tight junction protein)

✓ Production of IL-17 from T γ δ upon intestinal injury



Doedhar et al Arthritis Rheumatol. 2016; 68 (suppl 10)
Fobelo Lozano MI J Crohns Colitis 2018
Heuber W et al Gut 2012
Gaffen SL et al Nat Rev Immun 2012
Colombeel JF et al 2013
Whibley N et al Immunity 2015

SpA/PsA and CVD risk

- ➔ Less evidence compared to RA
 - ◆ However.....PsA: worse metabolic profile compared RA
 - ✿ Many data derived from psoriasis studies
 - ◆ Lack of evidence for newer drugs

PsA

Increased CVD risk

- ➔ SLR
- ➔ ↑ CVD morbidity and mortality risk
- ➔ ↑ rates of risk factors for CVD (e.g hypertension, overweight)

Table 5 Cardiovascular risk factors in PsA

Cardiovascular risk factor	No of studies	Findings
Dyslipidaemia*	6	Dyslipidaemia was more prevalent in PsA patients than in controls ^{18 24 26 28-30} <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced total cholesterol and HDL-cholesterol levels^{26 28 30}• Reduced LDL-cholesterol levels^{28 30}• Increased LDL and triglycerides levels²⁶
Hypertension	6	Hypertension was more prevalent in PsA patients than in controls ^{17 18 24 26 28 29}
Obesity or BMI	3	Patients with PsA had higher BMI than controls ^{24 26 28}
Diabetes mellitus	4	Diabetes mellitus was more prevalent in PsA patients than in controls ^{18 24 28 29}
Smoking	3	There was no statistical differences between patients and controls. ^{24 28 29}

*Dyslipidaemia is defined as abnormalities in lipid profile predisposing to cardiovascular diseases.

BMI, body mass index; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; LDL, low-density lipoprotein; PsA, psoriatic arthritis.

PsA

Comparable CVD-burden with DM?

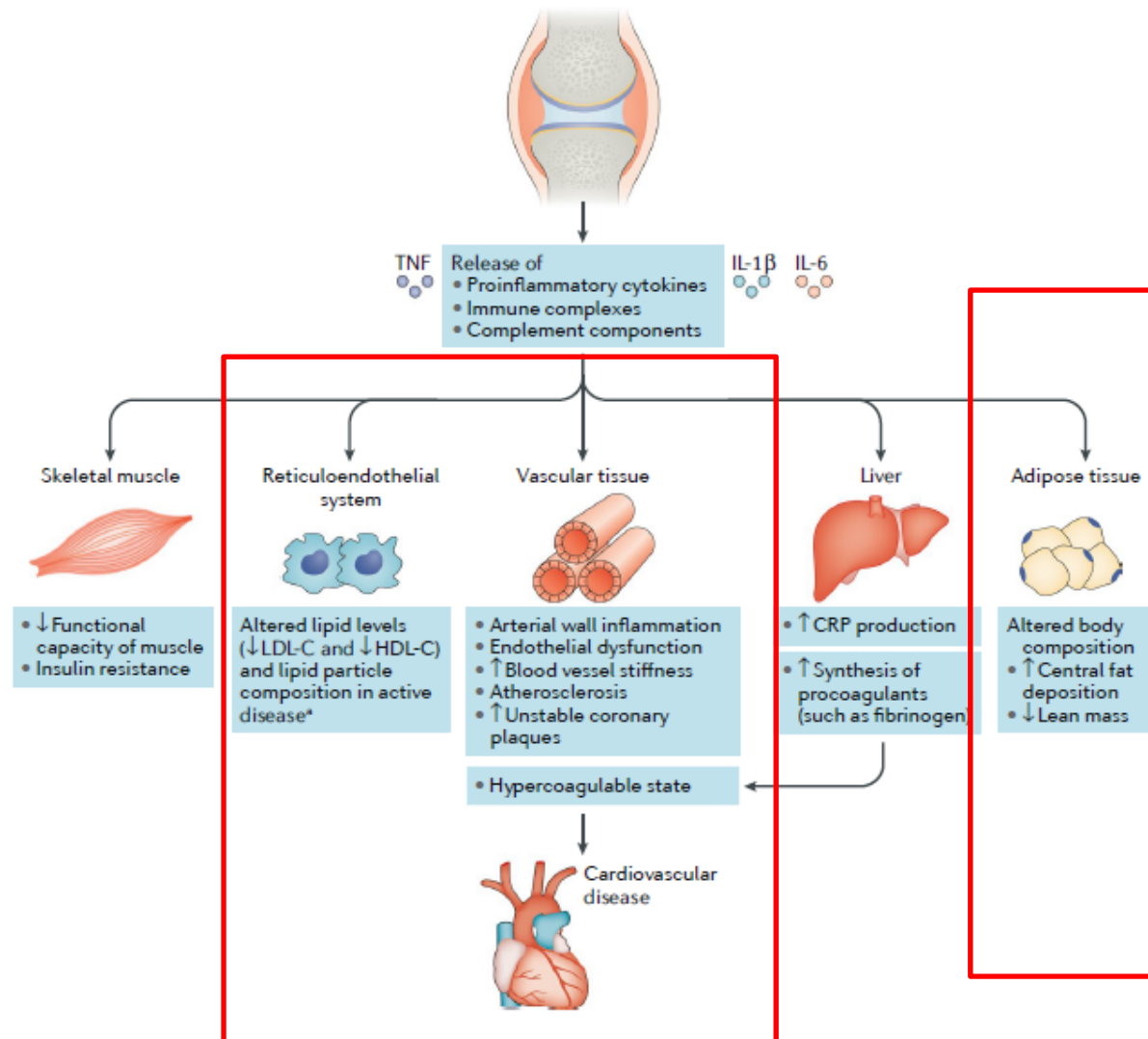
➤ Study comparing PsA vs RA Vs DM

Table 3. Comparison of comorbidities between psoriatic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes mellitus patients.

Comorbidity	PsA n= 215	RA n= 215	DM n= 215	PsA versus RA		PsA versus DM	
				Crude OR (95% CI)	Adjusted OR (95% CI)	Crude OR (95% CI)	Adjusted OR (95% CI)
Smoking	76 (35.4)	62 (28.8)	85 (39.5)	1.35 (0.90–2.03)		0.84 (0.57–1.24)	
Hyperlipidaemia	101 (47.0)	67 (31.2)	101 (47.0)	1.96 (1.32–2.90)	–	1	–
Hypertension	62 (28.8)	51 (23.8)	97 (45.1)	1.30 (0.84–1.99)	–	0.49 (0.33–0.74)	–
Obesity	50 (29.4)	24 (12.8)	79 (36.7)	2.83 (1.65–4.86)		0.72 (0.47–1.10)	
Coronary disease	10 (4.7)	10 (4.7)	16 (7.4)	1 (0.41–2.45)	1.05 (0.31–3.57) ^a	0.61 (0.27–1.37)	0.66 (0.23–1.91) ^a
Stroke	8 (3.7)	2 (0.9)	7 (3.3)	4.12 (0.86–19.6)	5.06 (0.80–32.1) ^a	1.15 (0.41–3.22)	1.20 (0.35–4.12) ^a
MACEs	12 (5.6)	12 (5.6)	22 (10.2)	1 (0.44–2.28)	1.20 (0.40–3.63) ^a	0.52 (0.25–1.08)	0.42 (0.16–1.10) ^a
Osteoporosis	12 (5.6)	24 (11.2)	2 (0.9)	0.46 (0.21–1.03)	0.67 (0.28–1.64) ^b	6.22 (1.33–29.2) ^b	–
Depression ^c	42 (19.5)	15 (7.0)	12 (5.6)	3.24 (1.74–6.04)	3.02 (1.57–5.81) ^d	4.11 (2.10–8.05)	4.85 (2.37–9.93) ^d
Malignancy	12 (5.6)	7 (3.3)	–	1.76 (0.68–4.55)	1.60 (0.60–4.26) ^e	–	–

Cytokines and Comorbidities

Cardiovascular risk – the big picture



PsA

Adipose tissue - comparable with diabetes

➤ PsA (n=26) Vs Healthy (n=130) Vs Diabetes (n=454)

◆ MRI body fat composition

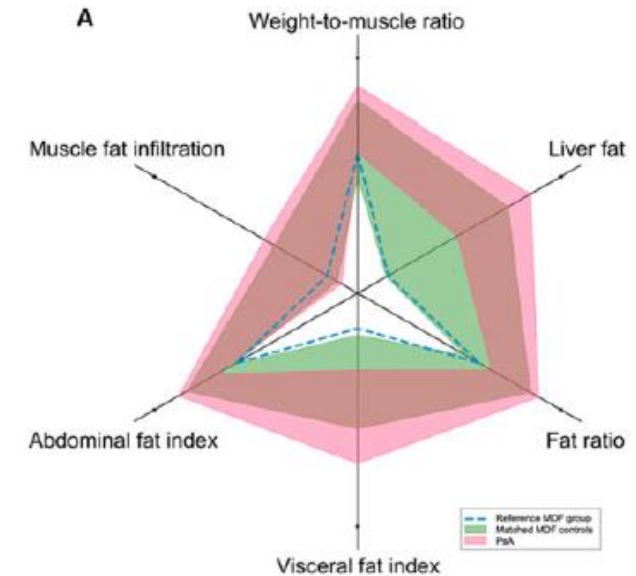
- 26 PsA / 130 age, sex and BMI-matched controls / 454 DM type2

◆ Vs 130 age/sex matched **healthy**

- ↑ visceral adipose tissue (VAT) volume [mean 5.89 l (S.D. 2.10 l)] compared Vs matched-controls [mean 4.34 l (S.D. 1.83 l)] (P <0.001)
- ↑ liver fat percentage [median 8.88% (interquartile range 4.42–13.18%)] Vs matched-controls [3.29% (1.98–7.25%)] (P <0.001).

◆ Vs 454 **DM2**

- No statistically significant differences in VAT, liver fat or muscle fat infiltration (MFI) between PsA and type 2 diabetes.



PsA (PsO) – TNFi

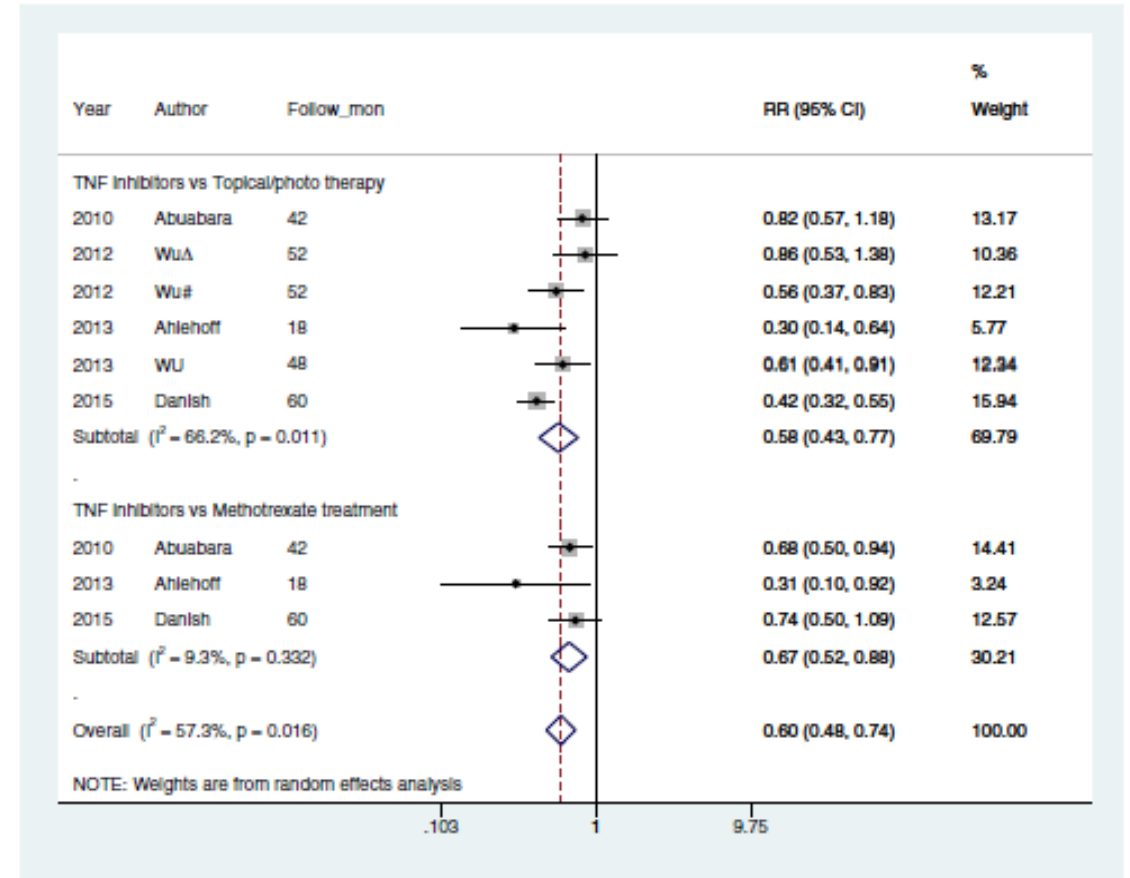
clinical outcomes

➤ Meta-analysis TNFi Vs topical therapy (psoriasis)

- ◆ ↓ risk for all CVD
(RR, 0.58; 95 % CI, 0.43 to 0.77; P < 0.001)
- ◆ ↓ risk for MI
(RR, 0.73; 95 % CI, 0.59 to 0.90; P = 0.003)

➤ Meta-analysis TNFi Vs MTX

- ◆ ↓ risk risk for CVD
(RR, 0.67; 95 % CI, 0.52 to 0.88; P = 0.003)
- ◆ ↓ risk for MI
(RR, 0.65; 95 % CI, 0.48 to 0.89; P = 0.007)



Effects of IL-17A mAb treatment on atherosclerotic plaques in apoE^{-/-} mice.

▶ Apo-e^{-/-} mice treated with anti-IL-17

◆ Inhibition of IL-17A

- ↓ atherosclerotic lesion area ($p < 0.001$), maximal stenosis ($p < 0.001$)
- ↓ cellular infiltration
- ↓ activation markers on endothelium and immune cells (e.g., VCAM-1)
- ↓ cytokine/chemokine secretion (e.g., IL6, TNF α , CCL5)

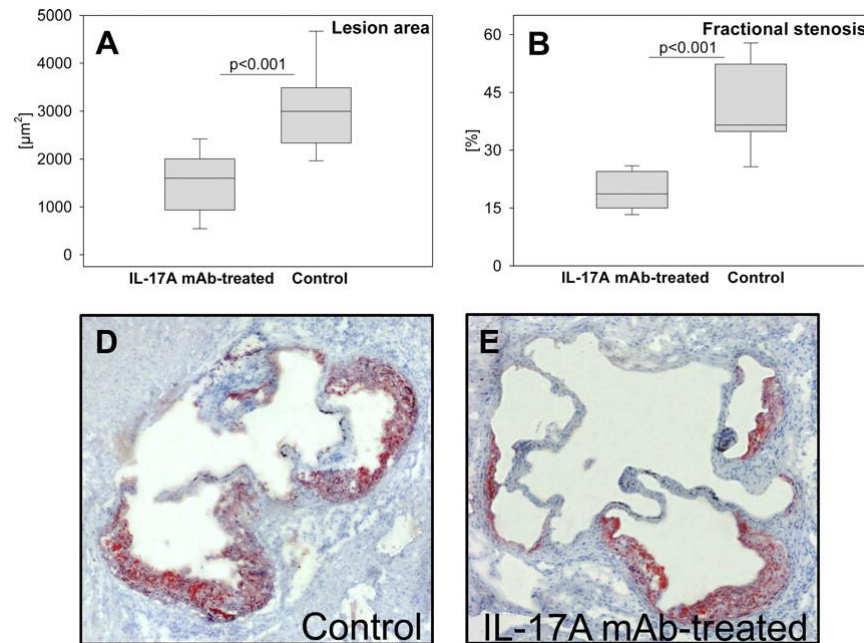


Table V. Quantitative tissue PCR results for different cytokines, chemokines, adhesion molecules and transcription factors from the thoracic aorta^a

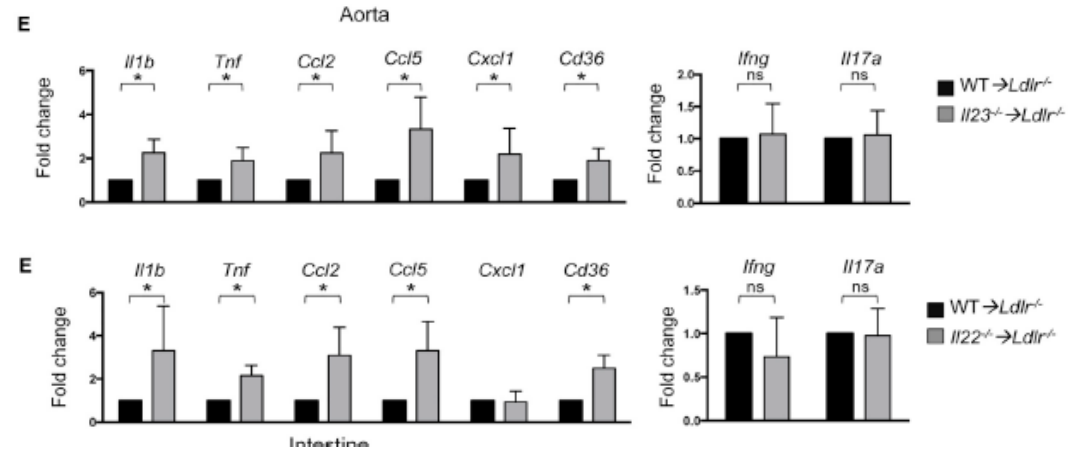
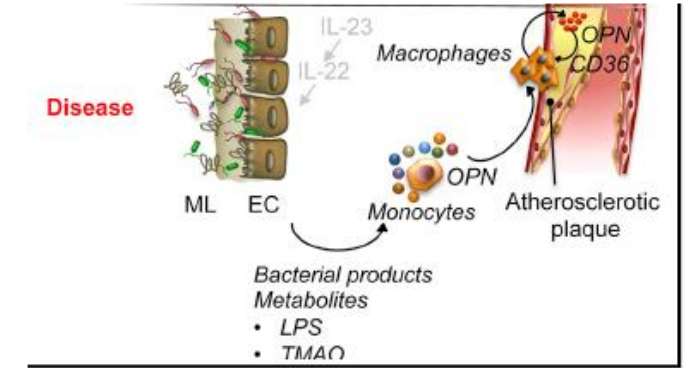
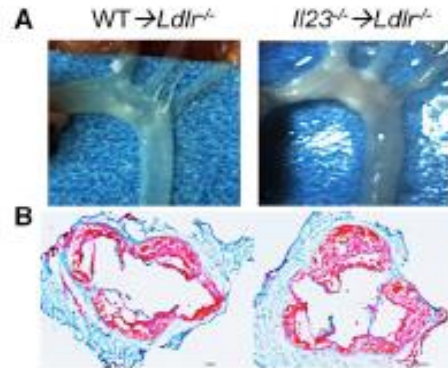
Variable	IL-17 mAb-treated (n = 15) $\Delta C_T \pm$ SD	Control (n = 10) $\Delta C_T \pm$ SD	p value
<i>CD3ϵ</i>	3.11 \pm 2.02	8.58 \pm 2.47	<0.001
Endothelial NO synthase	0.35 \pm 0.18	0.24 \pm 0.10	n.s.
<i>LCK</i>	3.26 \pm 2.10	6.75 \pm 4.09	0.01
<i>IL4</i>	0.33 \pm 0.19	0.18 \pm 0.09	0.01
<i>FOXP3</i>	1.06 \pm 0.43	0.67 \pm 0.41	0.006
<i>IL1β</i>	2.76 \pm 1.93	1.37 \pm 1.27	0.01
<i>TNFα</i>	3.24 \pm 2.18	4.28 \pm 4.43	0.04
<i>IL6</i>	78.46 \pm 51.39	157.27 \pm 193.99	0.04
<i>MCP-1 (CCL2)</i>	63.44 \pm 24.65	64.36 \pm 28.74	n.s.
<i>MIP-1a (CCL3)</i>	2.62 \pm 0.94	2.54 \pm 0.86	n.s.
<i>TR2 (TNFRSF14)</i>	0.02 \pm 0.02	0.35 \pm 0.85	0.03
<i>VCAM1</i>	22.19 \pm 0.87	64.30 \pm 28.02	<0.001
<i>Caspase3</i>	5.28 \pm 2.76	11.59 \pm 3.80	0.005
<i>IFNγ</i>	2.01 \pm 1.35	1.41 \pm 0.85	n.s.
<i>CCL5</i>	30.08 \pm 18.24	52.57 \pm 24.96	0.007
<i>CCR5</i>	18.95 \pm 16.79	57.53 \pm 45.67	0.1

^a Values are normalized to β -actin and expressed as cDNA copies/1000 β -actin copies. All values are shown as mean \pm SD. n.s., Not significant.

IL-23

Atherogenesis

- IL-23 and its downstream target IL-22
 - ↓ atherosclerosis by **repressing** pro-atherogenic microbiota.
 - Inactivation of IL-23-IL-22:
 - deterioration of the intestinal barrier
 - expansion of pathogenic bacteria causing systemic increase in pro-atherogenic metabolites (e.g LPS, TMAO)
 - Microbiota transfer from IL-23-deficient mice accelerated atherosclerosis**
 - Microbial depletion or IL-22 supplementation reduced inflammation and ameliorated disease.



Psoriatic arthritis

EULAR recommendations

