

# Multiparametric analysis of rare events

Sara De Biasi, PhD

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy)

[sara.debiasi@unimore.it](mailto:sara.debiasi@unimore.it)

# OUTLINE OF THE TALK

- Rare cell analysis: background and keypoints

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- Possible solutions: from hardware to software
- Rare cells in the immune system: the case of iNKT cells
- Rare cells in the immune system: the case of CEC

# BACKGROUND

- >30 years ago: enumeration of fetal red blood cells in the maternal circulation at a frequency of 1/10,000 to 1/100,000 by Cupp.

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- Now: detection and quantitation of several rare cell populations in blood or bone marrow.
- Essential tool in the diagnosis and monitoring of hematological cancers and immunological disorders, as well as in the identification of Ag-specific cells.



# WARNING

- Rare-event analysis **is the art of finding a needle in a haystack**



# WARNING

- Rare-event analysis is the art of finding a needle in a haystack
- The **frequency** of the event of interest, and the **signal-to-noise ratio** of the method used to detect the event are the two most important factors.

# KEY POINTS

- “**Rare-event analysis**”: detection of events that occur at a frequency of 1 in 1,000 (**0.1%**) or less, although the record claimed in the literature has long stood at 1 cell in 10,000,000 (**0.00001%**) for tumor cells spiked into peripheral blood.

# KEY POINTS

- “rare-event analysis,”: detection of events that occur at a frequency of 1 in 1,000 (**0.1%**) or less, although the record claimed in the literature has long stood at 1 cell in 10,000,000 (**0.00001%**) for tumor cells spiked into peripheral blood.
- Detecting an event at low frequency requires a **high signal-to-noise ratio** and the **acquisition of a large number of events**.

# IMMUNOLOGIST'S INTERESTS

- Ag-specific T cells
- NKT and iNKT cells
- Circulating endothelial cells and precursors
- Stem cells (CD34+)
- Particular lymphocytes subpopulations
- Circulating tumor cells
- Polyfunctional assays
- .....

# Open pre-analytical questions

- How much blood from patients?

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- Lack of available standardized method

# Open pre-analytical questions

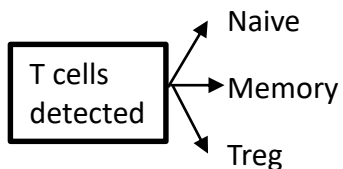
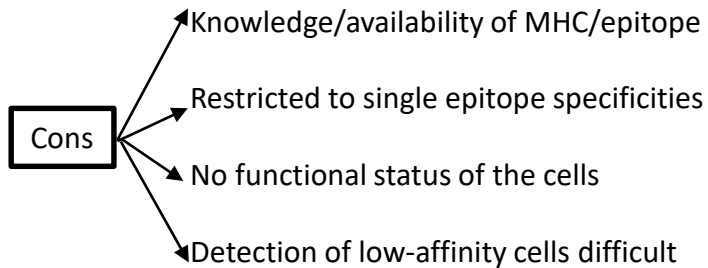
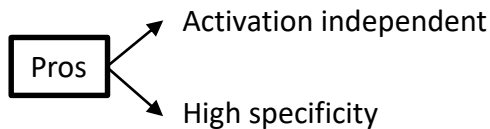
- How much blood from patients
- Lack of available standardized method
- Enriched or non enriched populations



# Enrichment methods for the detection of rare antigen-specific T cells

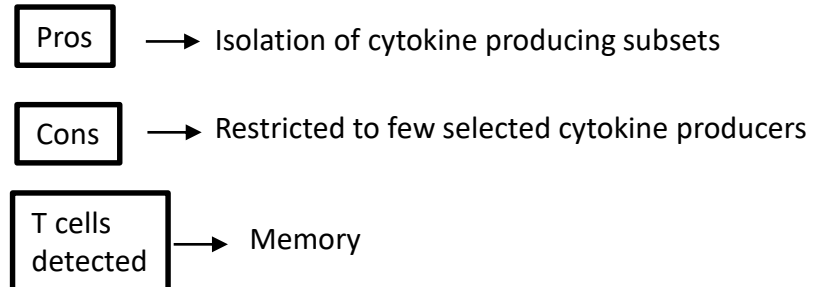
## Direct

### MHC-multimers

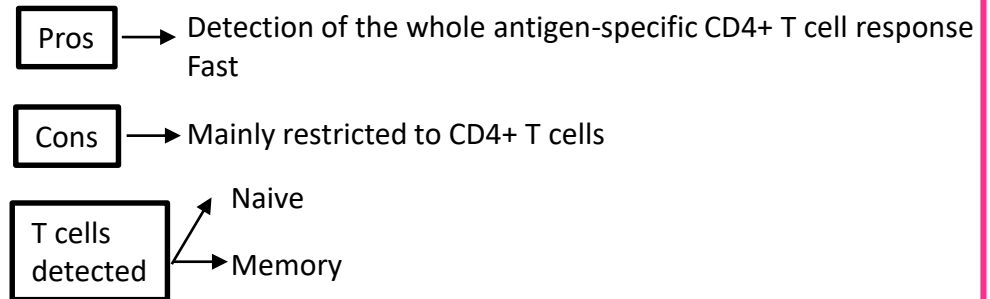


## Indirect

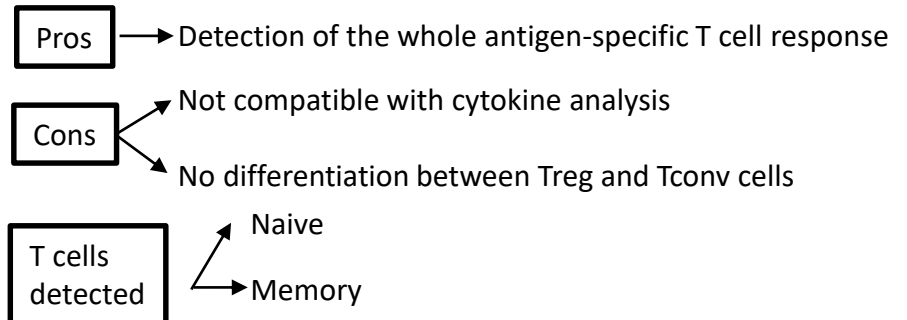
### Cytokine secretion assay



### CD154 enrichment (6h)



### CD137 enrichment (16h)



# Open pre-analytical questions

- How much blood from patients
- Lack of available standardized method
- Enriched or non enriched populations
- How many markers/colors

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- **How many cells**

# Open pre-analytical questions

- How much blood from patients
- Lack of available standardized method
- Enriched or non enriched populations
- How many markers/colours
- How many cells
- Exclusion of doublets, dead cells and debris:  
use of a DUMP CHANNEL

# Number of events to acquire

The Poisson statistic is a discrete probability distribution that:

- Expresses the **probability of a given number of events occurring in a fixed interval of time and/or space** if these events occur with a known average rate and independently of the time since the last event.
- **Can be used for the number of events** in other specified intervals such as distance, area or **volume**.

Counting randomly  
distributed cells in  
a certain volume



Poisson  
statistics  
applied

# Number of events to acquire

A few notes concerning **Poisson statistics**. Consider the general case of enumerating a total of **N events**, of which **R** meet a certain criterion (positives). The proportion of positives,  **$P=R/N$** , will also be the probability of any particular event being observed as positive  $0 \leq P \leq 1$ , which is clearly related to the random manner in which cells are selected for analysis.

As with all statistical distributions, the **variance, Var**, is a fundamental parameter and, for the binomial, is defined as follows:  **$\text{Var}(R) = NP(1-P)$**

The standard deviation, **SD**, is the **square root of the variance**

The **coefficient of variation** (CV) is the **SD expressed as a percentage of the population**:  **$\text{CV} = (\text{SD} * 100) / R$**

These simple equations can now be used to examine some practical situations.

# Number of events to acquire

**EXAMPLE:** Consider a preparation of human peripheral blood mononuclear cells labeled with an antibody to **detect B cells**.

Flow cytometry then indicates that **10%** of the cells present are positive for this marker, so that:  **$P=0.1$**  and  **$P(1-P)=0.09$**

If three data sets were collected for	<b>1,000</b> , <b>5,000</b> and <b>10,000</b> events,
we would expect to observe	<b>100</b> , <b>500</b> and <b>1,000</b> positive cells
with variances of	<b>90</b> , <b>450</b> and <b>900</b> , respectively.
Expressed as SD, these would be	<b>9.5</b> , <b>21.2</b> and <b>30</b>
and as CVs	<b>9.5</b> , <b>4.2</b> and <b>3</b> .

**Good experimental practice** within the biological field usually results in **CVs on the order of 5%**.

# Number of events to acquire

Frequency	10%		
Events N	1,000	5,000	10,000
Positive R	100	500	1,000
Proportion P	0.1	0.1	0.1
Variance	90	450	900
$\text{Var}(R) = NP(1-P)$			
SD	9.49	21.21	30.00
CV	9.49	4.24	3.00
$\text{CV} = (\text{SD} * 100) / R$			



# Number of events to acquire

Frequency	1%			
events N	1,000	5,000	10,000	100,000
Positive R	10	50	100	1,000
Proportion P	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Variance	9.9	49.5	99.0	990.0
SD	3.15	7.04	9.95	31.46
CV	31.46	14.07	9.95	3.15

# Number of events to acquire

Frequency	0.1%		
events N	100,000	1,000,000	401,000
Positive R	100	1,000	401
Proportion P	0.001	0.001	0.001
Variance	99.9	999,0	400.6
SD	9.99	31.61	20.01
CV	9.99	3.16	4.99

# Number of events to acquire

Frequency	0.01%		
events N	100,000	1,000,000	10,000,000
Positive R	10	100	1,000
Proportion P	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Variance	10.0	100.0	999.9
SD	3.16	10.00	31.62
CV	31.62	10.00	3.16

# Numbers of events to acquire

## COMMUNICATION TO THE EDITOR

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## How Many Events Is Enough? Are You Positive?

Roederer M., Cyt Part A, 73A: 384-385, 2008

- **No reason to fix a threshold** for the number of events below which any frequency must be considered “negative”.
- if **adequate negative controls** are set, “positivity” can be determined after comparison of the measurements (*i.e.*, positive minus negative, namely positive minus the background), using standard statistical tools to compare the frequencies.
- If T cells from "n" **unvaccinated controls show no activation**, while T cells from "n" vaccinated individuals do, **even low frequencies can be taken as positive**.

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- **Spill over and carry over**

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- Which instrument, and which performances
- Flow cytometer rates of acquisition
- Maximize the signal-to-noise ratio of the cells of interest from the background
- Data acquisition: instrument clean and the background level of noise is below the threshold
- Spill over and carry over
- **Adequate software**

# Gating strategy: useful guidelines

- **Debris** exclusion
- Single/doublets discrimination-> **FSC-A vs FSC-H**
- **Dead cells** exclusion-> FSC/SSC vs. Viability dye
- **DUMP** channel (cell type of interest vs. irrelevant)
- Exclude events during fluidic issues -> **TIME gates**
- Remove **fluorochrome aggregates** -> “Keeper gate”

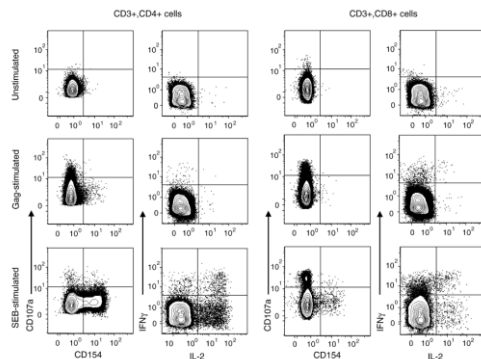
# Our previous experience

## Polyfunctional analysis of Ag-specific cells

*AIDS* 2010, 24:947–957

### Cytotoxic granule release dominates gag-specific CD4<sup>+</sup> T-cell response in different phases of HIV infection

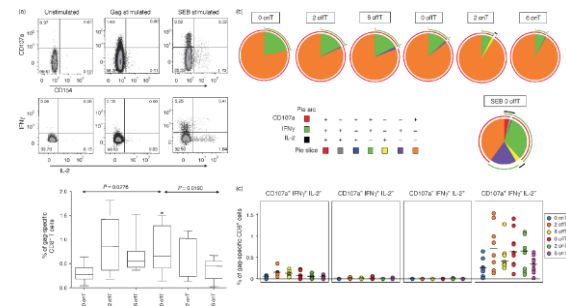
Elisa Nemes<sup>a</sup>, Linda Bertoncelli<sup>a</sup>, Enrico Lugli<sup>a,b</sup>, Marcello Pinti<sup>a</sup>, Milena Nasi<sup>a</sup>, Lisa Manzini<sup>c</sup>, Serena Manzini<sup>a</sup>, Francesca Prati<sup>c</sup>, Vanni Borghi<sup>c</sup>, Andrea Cossarizza<sup>a</sup> and Cristina Mussini<sup>c</sup>



*AIDS* 2011, 25:1443–1453

### CD4<sup>+</sup> T-cell differentiation, regulatory T cells and gag-specific T lymphocytes are unaffected by CD4-guided treatment interruption and therapy resumption

Elisa Nemes<sup>a,\*</sup>, Enrico Lugli<sup>a,d,\*</sup>, Linda Bertoncelli<sup>a,\*</sup>, Milena Nasi<sup>a</sup>, Marcello Pinti<sup>a</sup>, Serena Manzini<sup>a</sup>, Francesca Prati<sup>b</sup>, Lisa Manzini<sup>b</sup>, Cinzia Del Giovane<sup>c</sup>, Roberto D'Amico<sup>c</sup>, Andrea Cossarizza<sup>a</sup> and Cristina Mussini<sup>b</sup>

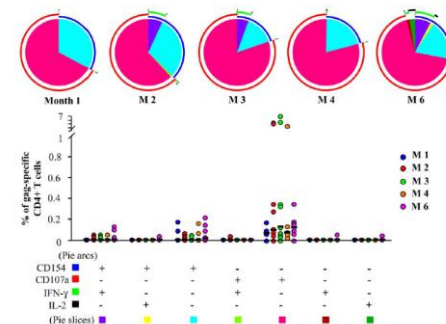


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### T Cell Activation but Not Polyfunctionality after Primary HIV Infection Predicts Control of Viral Load and Length of the Time without Therapy

Andrea Cossarizza<sup>1,\*</sup>, Linda Bertoncelli<sup>1</sup>, Elisa Nemes<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Enrico Lugli<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Marcello Pinti<sup>2</sup>, Milena Nasi<sup>1</sup>, Sara De Biasi<sup>1</sup>, Lara Gibellini<sup>1</sup>, Jonas P. Montagna<sup>1</sup>, Marco Vecchia<sup>1</sup>, Lisa Manzini<sup>1</sup>, Marianna Meschiari<sup>1</sup>, Vanni Borghi<sup>3</sup>, Giovanni Guaraldi<sup>3,4</sup>, Cristina Mussini<sup>1,3</sup>



# invariant Natural Killer T (iNKT) cells

- Type I NKT cells; 0.001-3% of human PBMC.
- Expression of **semi-invariant V $\alpha$ 24J $\alpha$ 18 TCR** and a variety of other receptors associated with NK cells.
- Recognition of **glycolipid antigens** presented by the non-classical MHC class I molecule CD1d.
- Divided into **functionally distinct CD4+, CD8+, and CD4-CD8- subsets.**
- Rapid production of large amounts of cytokines upon activation in response to iNKT cell antigen ( $\alpha$ -galcer).



regulatory immune functions

# MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS (MS)

- Chronic progressive inflammatory demyelinating disease affecting the CNS

Activated inflammatory cells

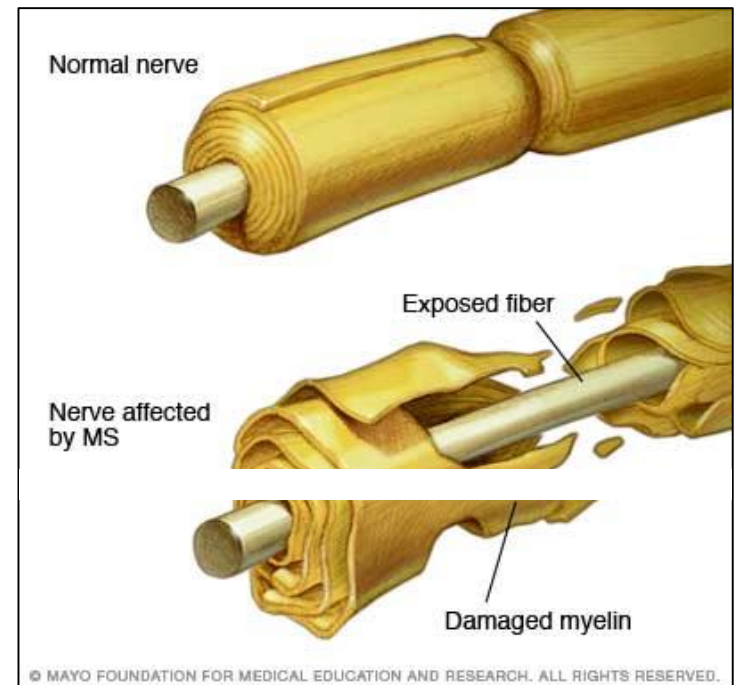


**Damage to the myelin sheath**

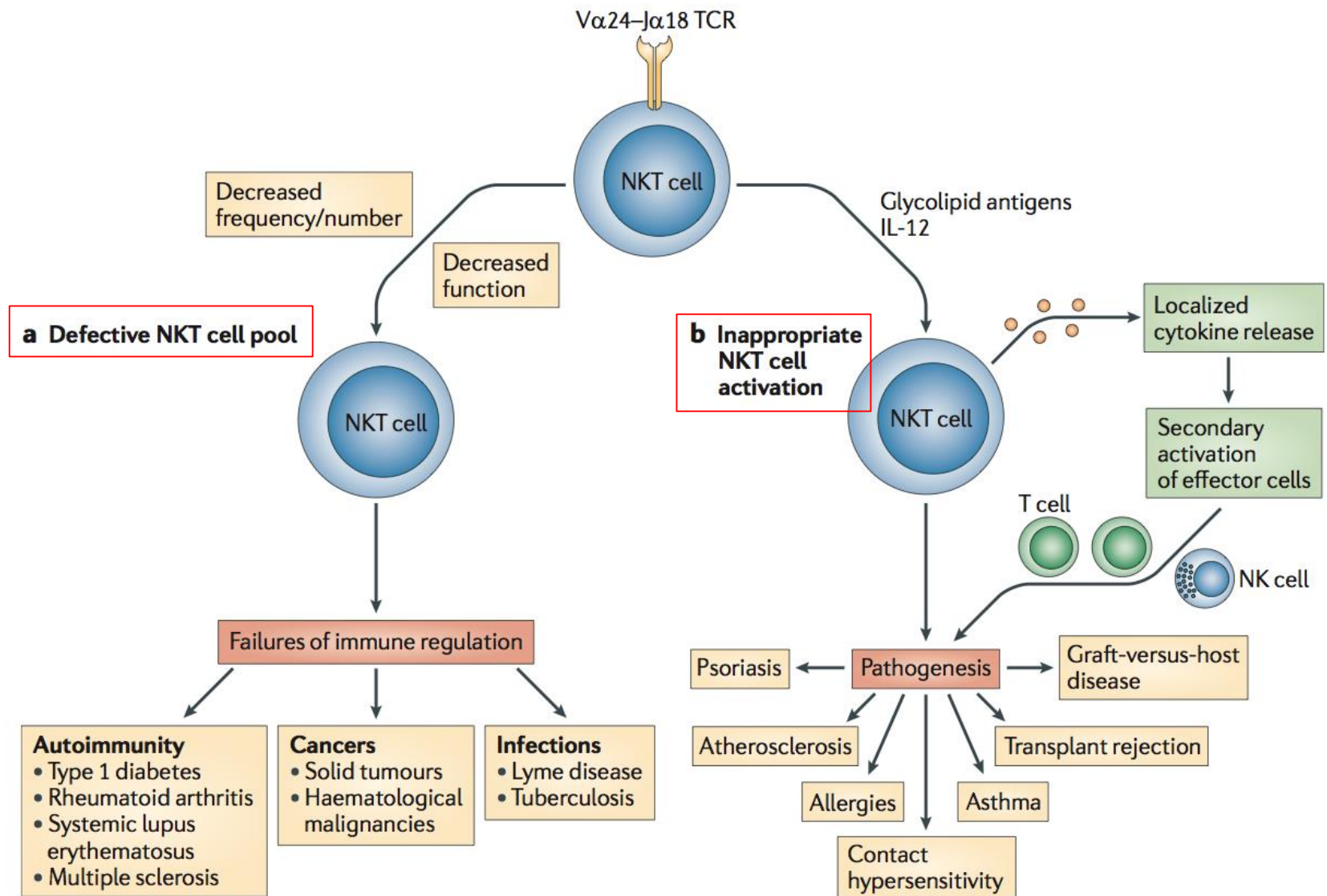


impaired conduction of electrical signals to  
and from the CNS

- About 2.5-3 million people affected worldwide



# NKT cells and MS



# iNKT Cells in Secondary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Patients Display Pro-inflammatory Profiles

ORIGINAL RESEARCH  
published: 30 November 2016  
doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2016.00555



Sara De Biasi<sup>1†</sup>, Anna Maria Simone<sup>2†</sup>, Milena Nasi<sup>1</sup>, Elena Bianchini<sup>3</sup>, Diana Ferraro<sup>2</sup>, Francesca Vitetta<sup>2</sup>, Lara Gibellini<sup>1</sup>, Marcello Pinti<sup>3</sup>, Cinzia Del Giovane<sup>4</sup>, Patrizia Sola<sup>2‡</sup> and Andrea Cossarizza<sup>5\*‡</sup>

**TABLE 1 | Clinical characteristics of multiple sclerosis patients.**

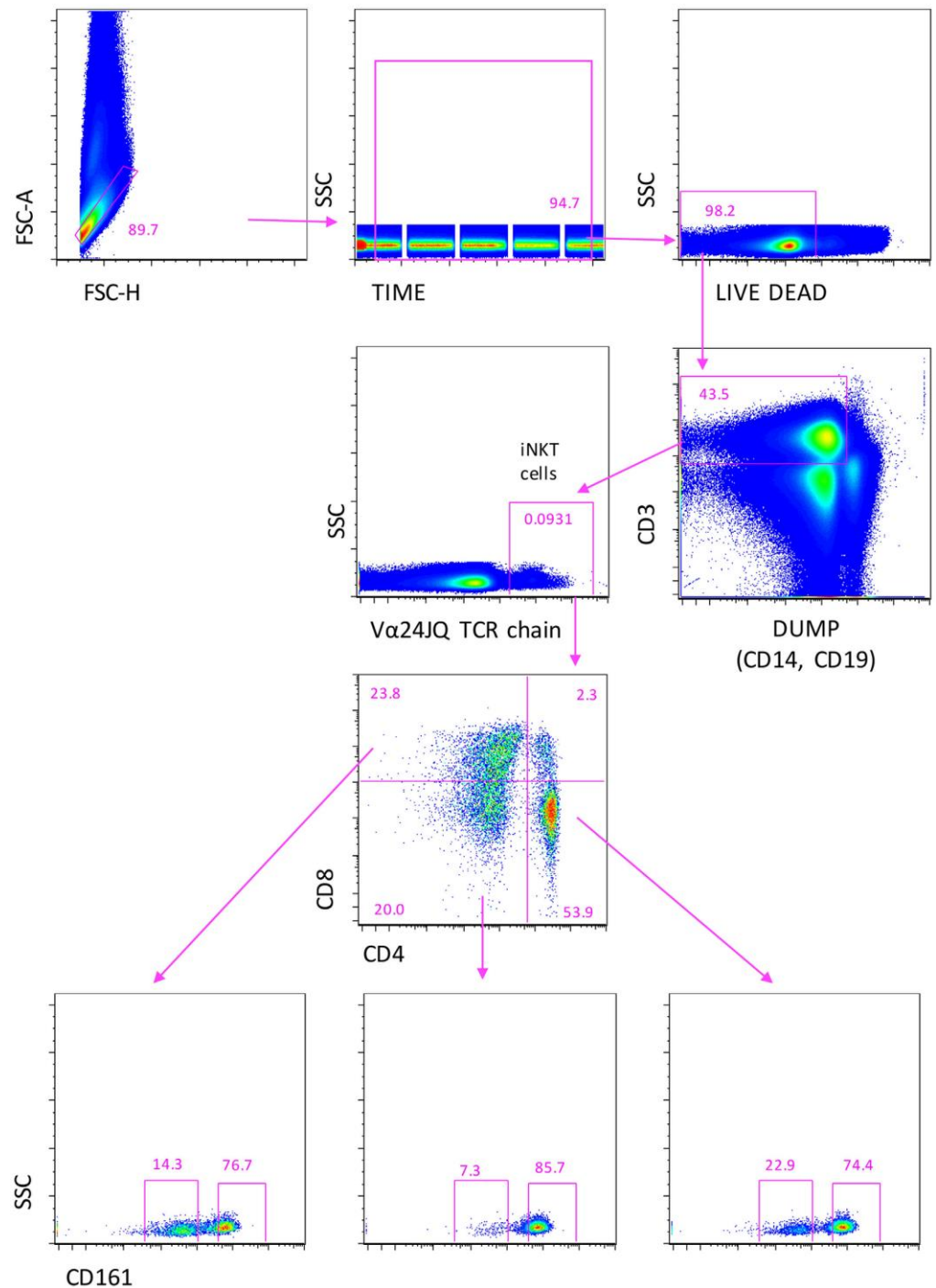
	Total	Newly diagnosed RR (ARR)	Not-active RR (NARR)	RR treated with IFN	RR treated with GA	RR treated with NAT	SP	PP
No. of patients	165	17	19	31	29	25	24	20
Males, <i>n</i> (%)	43 (26)	6 (35)	4 (21)	8 (25)	6 (21)	4 (16)	6 (25)	9 (45)
Females, <i>n</i> (%)	122 (74)	11 (65)	15 (79)	23 (75)	23 (79)	21 (84)	18 (75)	11 (55)
Age, years <sup>a</sup> range (min; max)	45.1 ± 11.6 (19; 66)	35.5 ± 8.7 (21; 52)	51.1 ± 7.7 (40; 64)	42.9 ± 8.4 (24; 58)	40.7 ± 8.2 (29; 56)	35.5 ± 9.7 (19; 51)	55.7 ± 7.9 (38; 66)	57.2 ± 7.4 (47; 65)
Age at onset, years <sup>a</sup>	33.8 ± 10.1	33.7 ± 9	31.4 ± 9.5	34 ± 8.4	34 ± 9.3	27.9 ± 7.9	34 ± 10.2	43.1 ± 11.7
Disease duration (months) <sup>b</sup>	135.7 ± 107.7	24.5 ± 23.5	237.4 ± 98.5	105.8 ± 78.1	79.4 ± 58.2	90.3 ± 52.7	259.1 ± 104.4	166.7 ± 94.1
Number relapses preceding year <sup>a</sup>	0.2 ± 0.6	0.9 ± 0.6	0.1 ± 0.2	0.1 ± 0.3	0.1 ± 0.4	0.6 ± 1.2	0	0
Severity score <sup>a</sup>	3.2 ± 2.9	2.8 ± 2.7	0.6 ± 0.5	1.6 ± 1.6	2 ± 2.1	3.4 ± 2.5	6.4 ± 2.2	6.2 ± 2.6
EDSS <sup>a</sup>	2.6 ± 2.4	1.3 ± 1.1	1.1 ± 0.7	1.3 ± 1.4	1.1 ± 0.9	2.1 ± 1.3	6.4 ± 1.2	5.2 ± 2
Delta – EDSS (preceding 12 months) <sup>a</sup>	0.1 ± 0.4	2.1 ± 1.3	0 ± 0.3	0 ± 0.4	0 ± 0.1	0 ± 0.4	0.2 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.4

<sup>a</sup>Values expressed as mean ± SD.

<sup>b</sup>Values expressed as median ± SD.



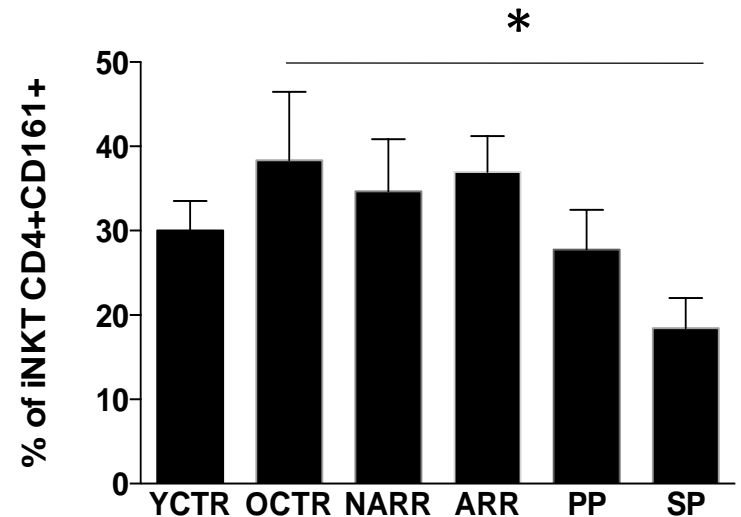
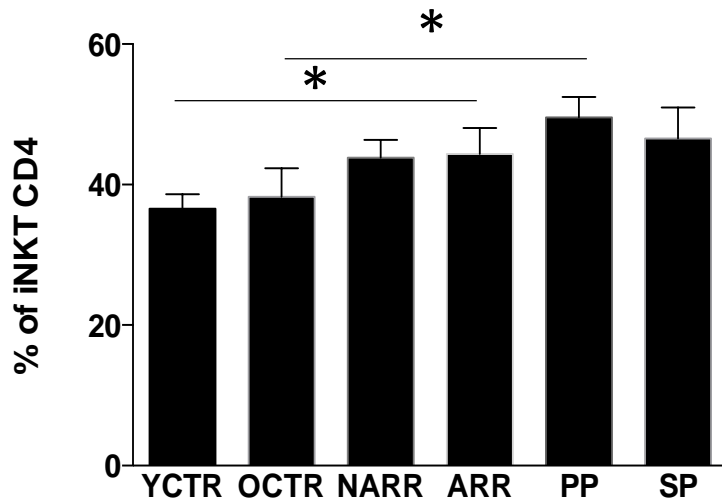
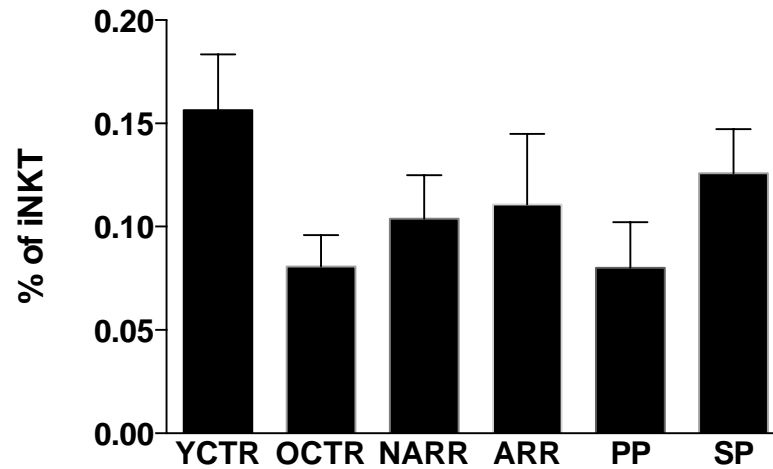
# Gating strategy



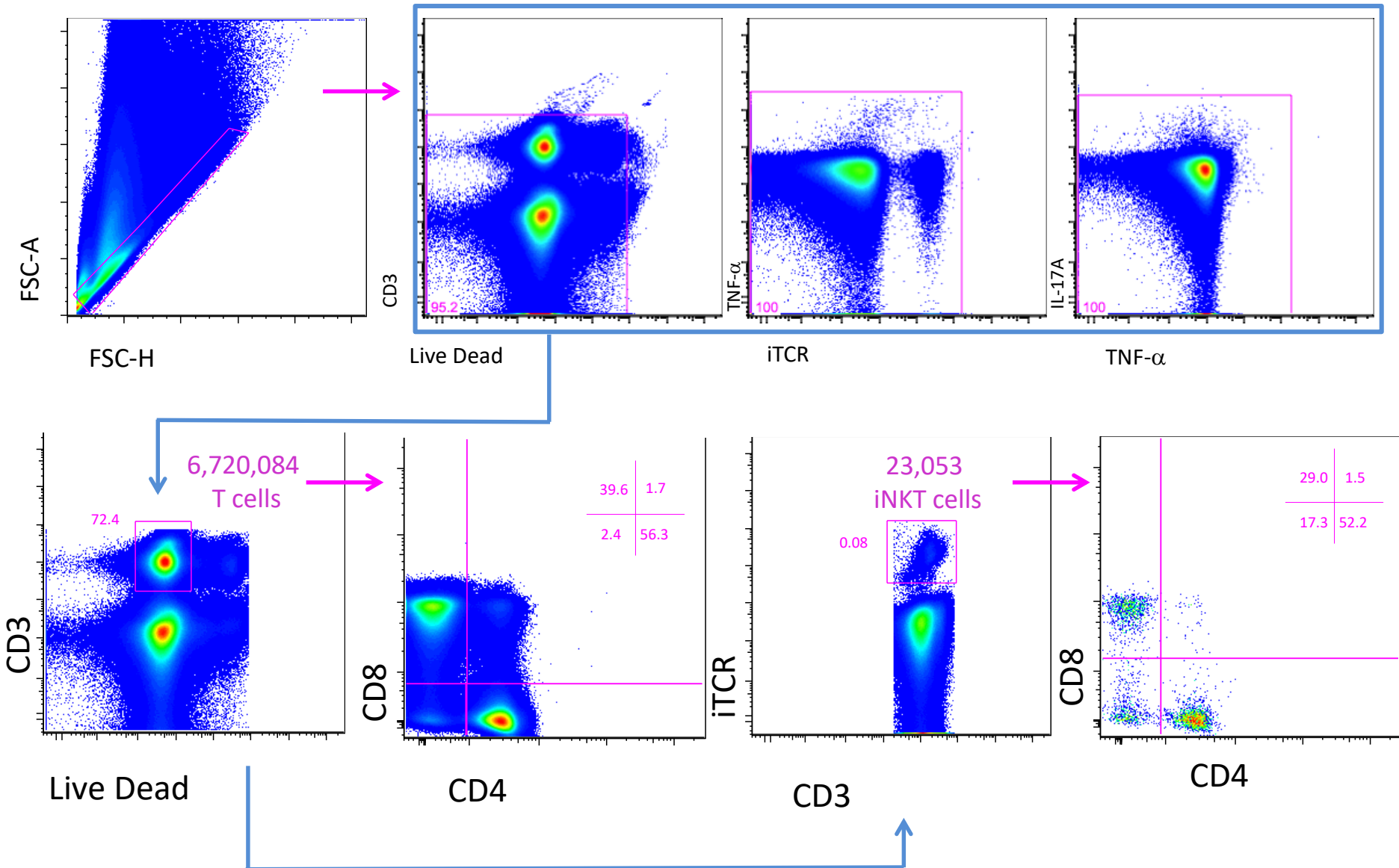
**iNKT Cells in Secondary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Patients Display Pro-inflammatory Profiles**

Sara De Biasi<sup>1\*</sup>, Anna Maria Simone<sup>2†</sup>, Milena Nasi<sup>1</sup>, Elena Bianchini<sup>2</sup>, Diana Ferraro<sup>2</sup>, Francesca Vitetta<sup>2</sup>, Lara Gibellini<sup>1</sup>, Marcello Pinti<sup>2</sup>, Cinzia Del Giovane<sup>2</sup>, Patrizia Sola<sup>2‡</sup> and Andrea Cossarizza<sup>1,3\*</sup>

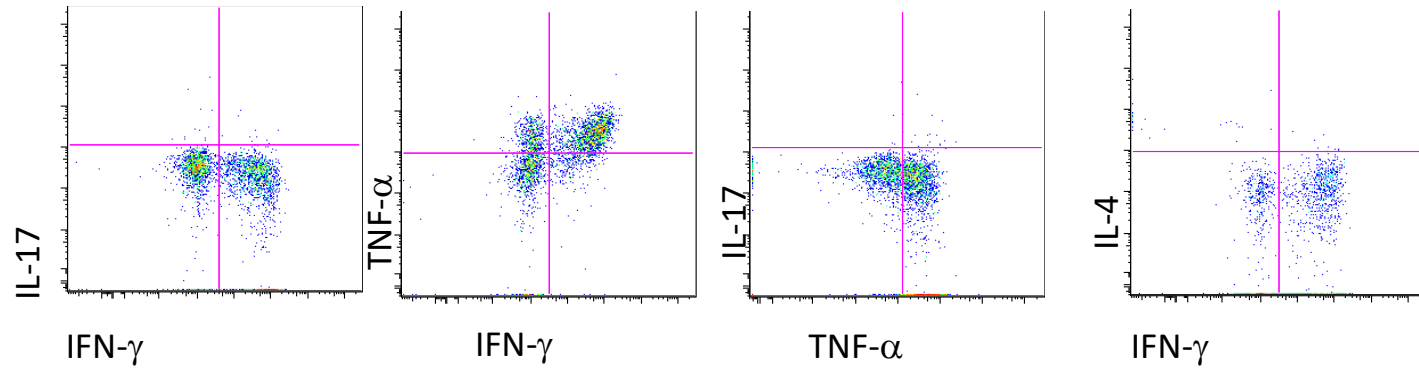
% of iNKT cells does not change among MS patients, but the phenotype changes



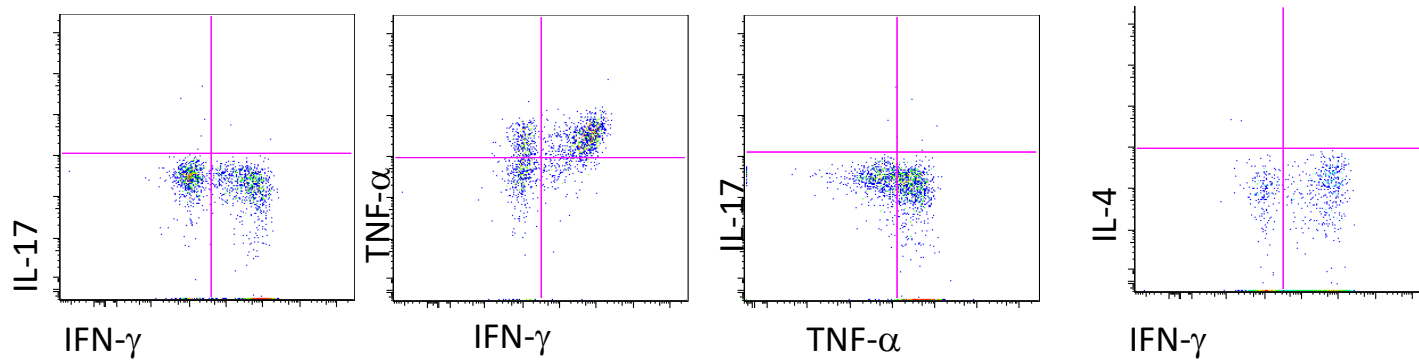
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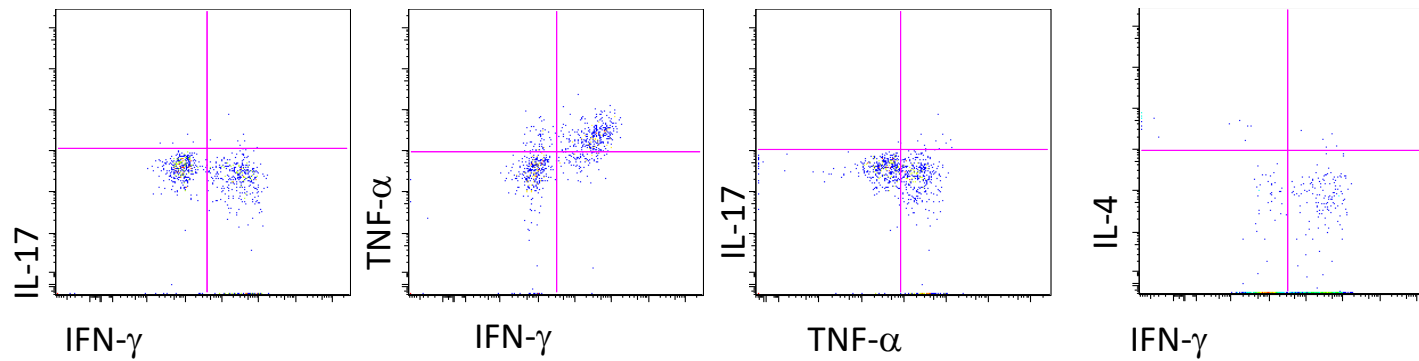
### GATED ON CD4+ iNKT CELLS



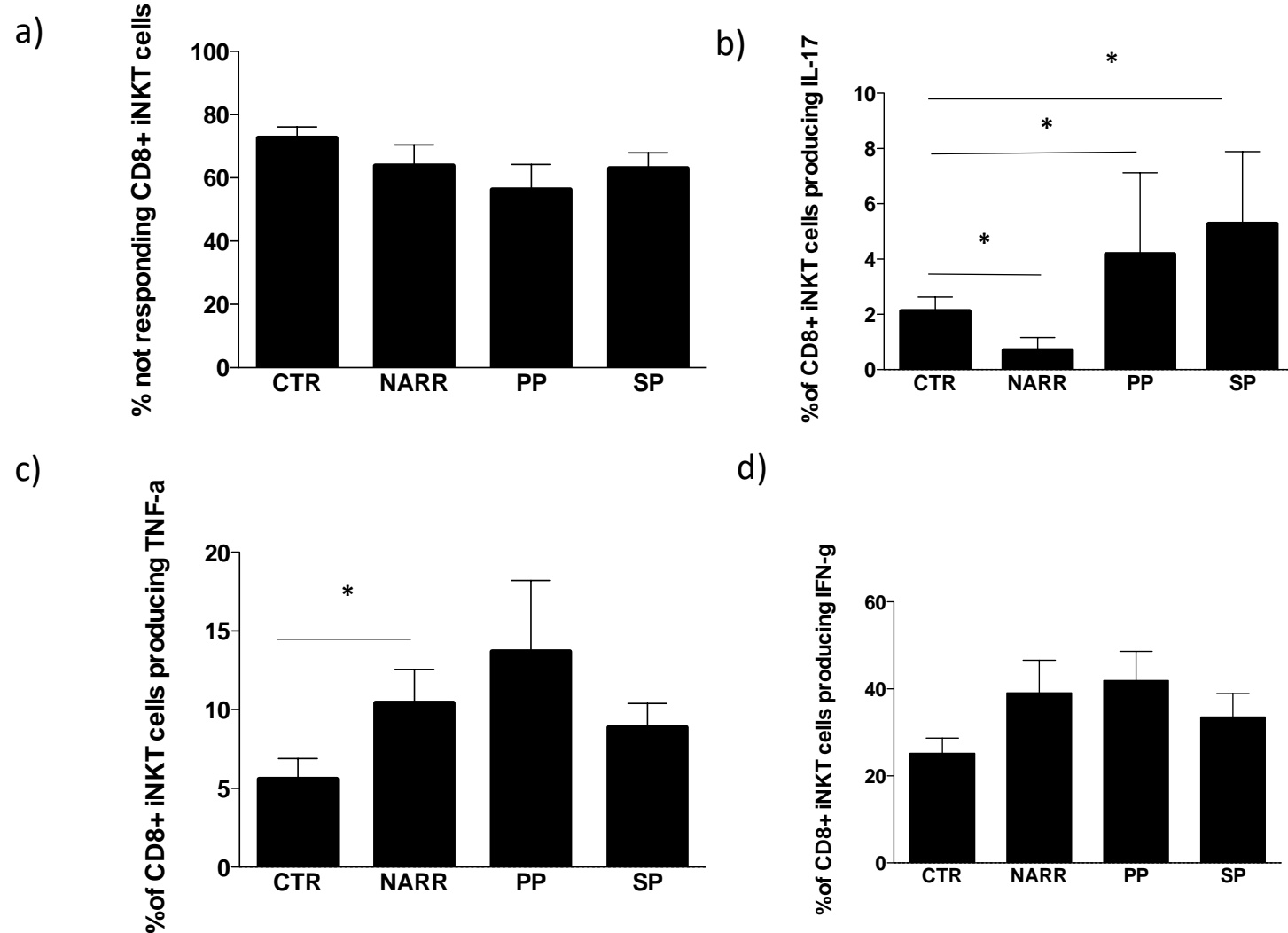
### GATED ON CD8+ iNKT CELLS



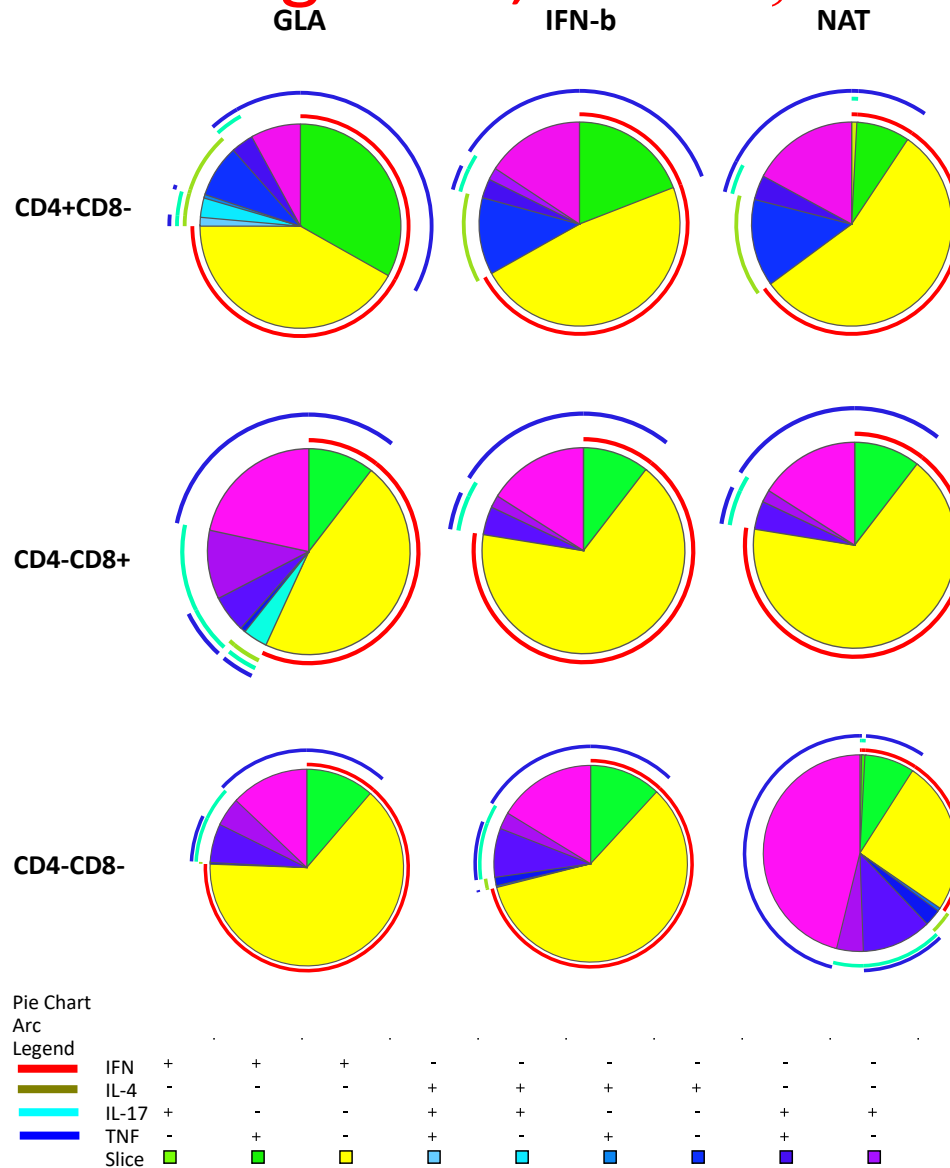
### GATED ON CD4-CD8- iNKT CELLS



# Cytokine production by CD8+ iNKT cells is skewed toward IL-17 production in MS patients



# Natalizumab induces a decrease in DN iNKT cells producing IL-17, TNF- $\alpha$ , and IFN- $\gamma$



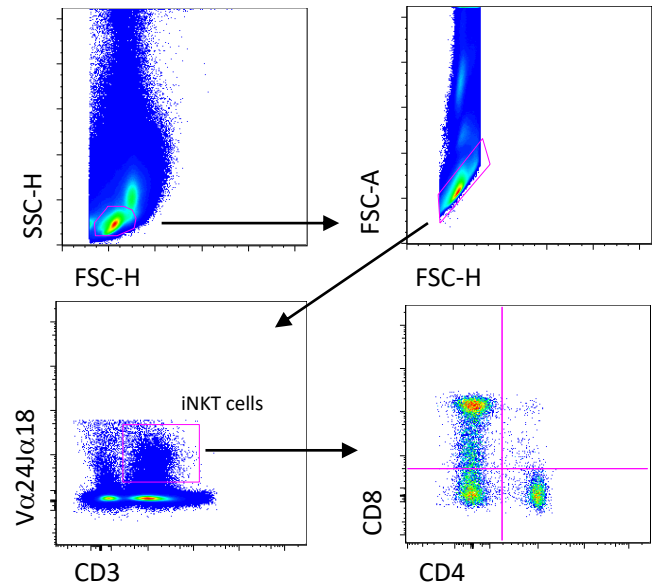
# Th1 and Th17 proinflammatory profile characterizes invariant natural killer T cells in virologically suppressed HIV+ patients with low CD4<sup>+</sup>/CD8<sup>+</sup> ratio

Sara De Biasi<sup>a,\*</sup>, Elena Bianchini<sup>b,\*</sup>, Milena Nasi<sup>a</sup>, Margherita Digaetano<sup>c</sup>, Lara Gibellini<sup>a</sup>, Gianluca Carnevale<sup>a</sup>, Vanni Borghi<sup>c</sup>, Giovanni Guaraldi<sup>c,d</sup>, Marcello Pinti<sup>b</sup>, Cristina Mussini<sup>a,c</sup> and Andrea Cossarizza<sup>d</sup>

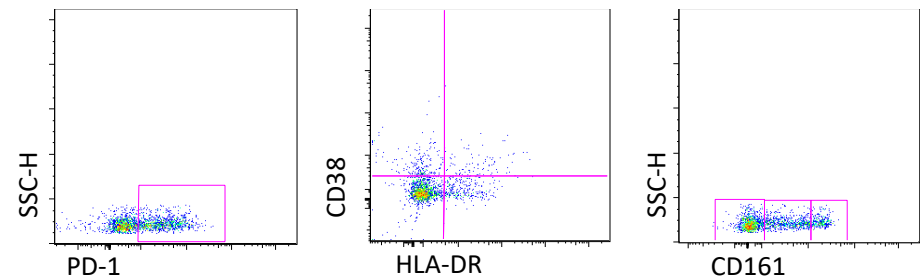
*AIDS* 2016, **30**:2599–2610

Phenotype of iNKT cells in healthy donors and HIV+ patients with ratio <0.4 (group A) and >1.1 (group B).

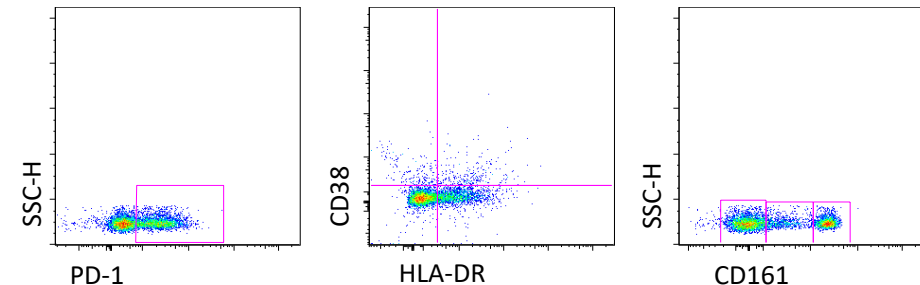
Activation and exhaustion run in parallel in cells of the innate and adaptive immunity



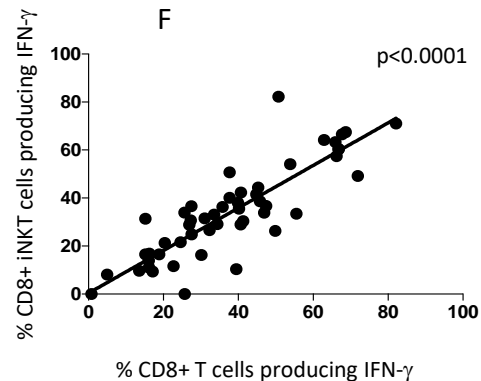
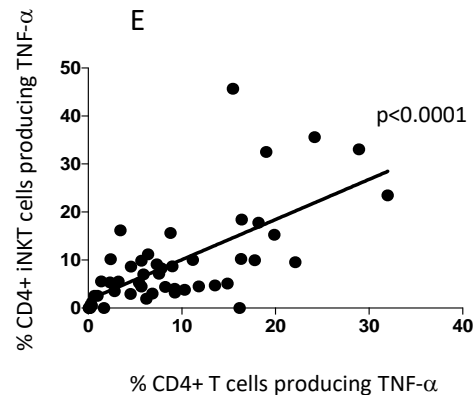
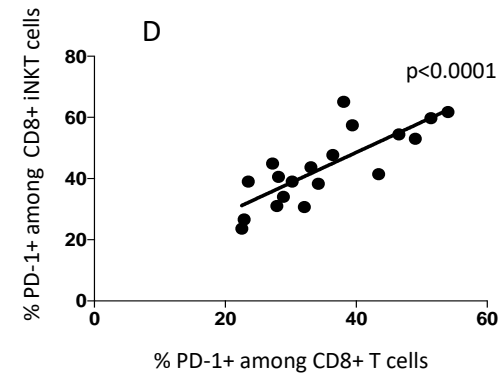
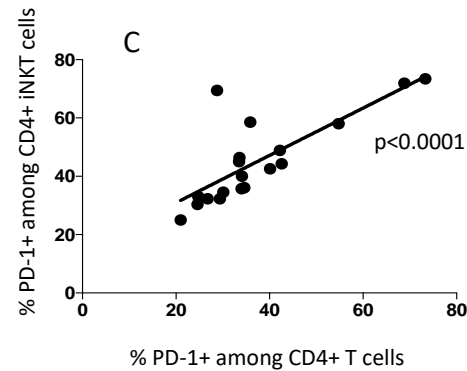
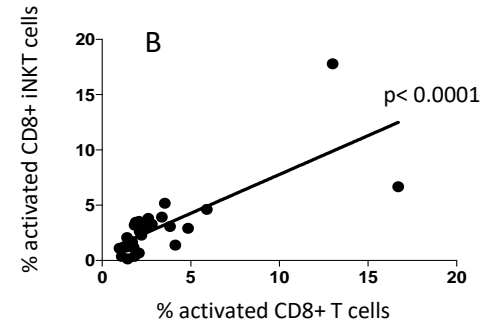
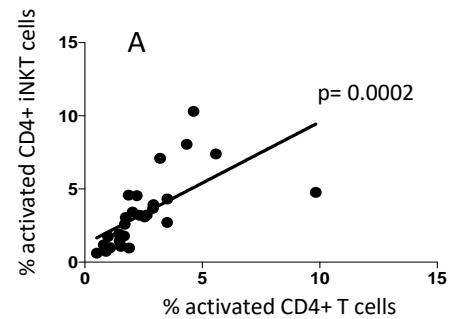
Gated on CD4+ iNKT cells



Gated on CD8+ iNKT cells



# Activation and exhaustion run in parallel in cells of the innate and adaptive immunity





# **Circulating Endothelial Cells (CEC)**

## **Circulating Endothelial Cell Precursors (EPC)**

- **CECs and EPCs are extremely rare events (0.1 – 0.0001% in buffy coat)**
- **Absence of standardized protocol**
- **Lack of unique markers**
- **The needle and the damage done (by the venipuncture)...**

# Circulating Endothelial Cells (EPC) and matured Endothelial Cells (CEC)

Diagnostical and prognostical potential  
Microvascular disorders  
Cancer load

Microvascular Research 79 (2010) 224–228



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Microvascular Research

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ymvre](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ymvre)



Circulating endothelial cells as biomarkers in clinical oncology

Patrizia Mancuso, Francesco Bertolini \*

# Pitfalls of FACS analysis

1. EPCs and CECs are extremely rare events (0,1 - 0,0001%)
2. Standardized protocol?
3. Lack of relevant markers

## Clinical Cancer Research



### **Validation of a Standardized Method for Enumerating Circulating Endothelial Cells and Progenitors: Flow Cytometry and Molecular and Ultrastructural Analyses**

Patrizia Mancuso, Pierluigi Antonlotti, Jessica Quarna, et al.

*Clin Cancer Res* 2009;15:267-273.

## **A protocol for phenotypic detection and enumeration of circulating endothelial cells and circulating progenitor cells in human blood**

**Dan G Duda<sup>1,3</sup>, Kenneth S Cohen<sup>2,3</sup>, David T Scadden<sup>2</sup>, and Rakesh K Jain<sup>1</sup>**

ELSEVIER

Journal of Immunological Methods 332 (2008) 31–40

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Research paper

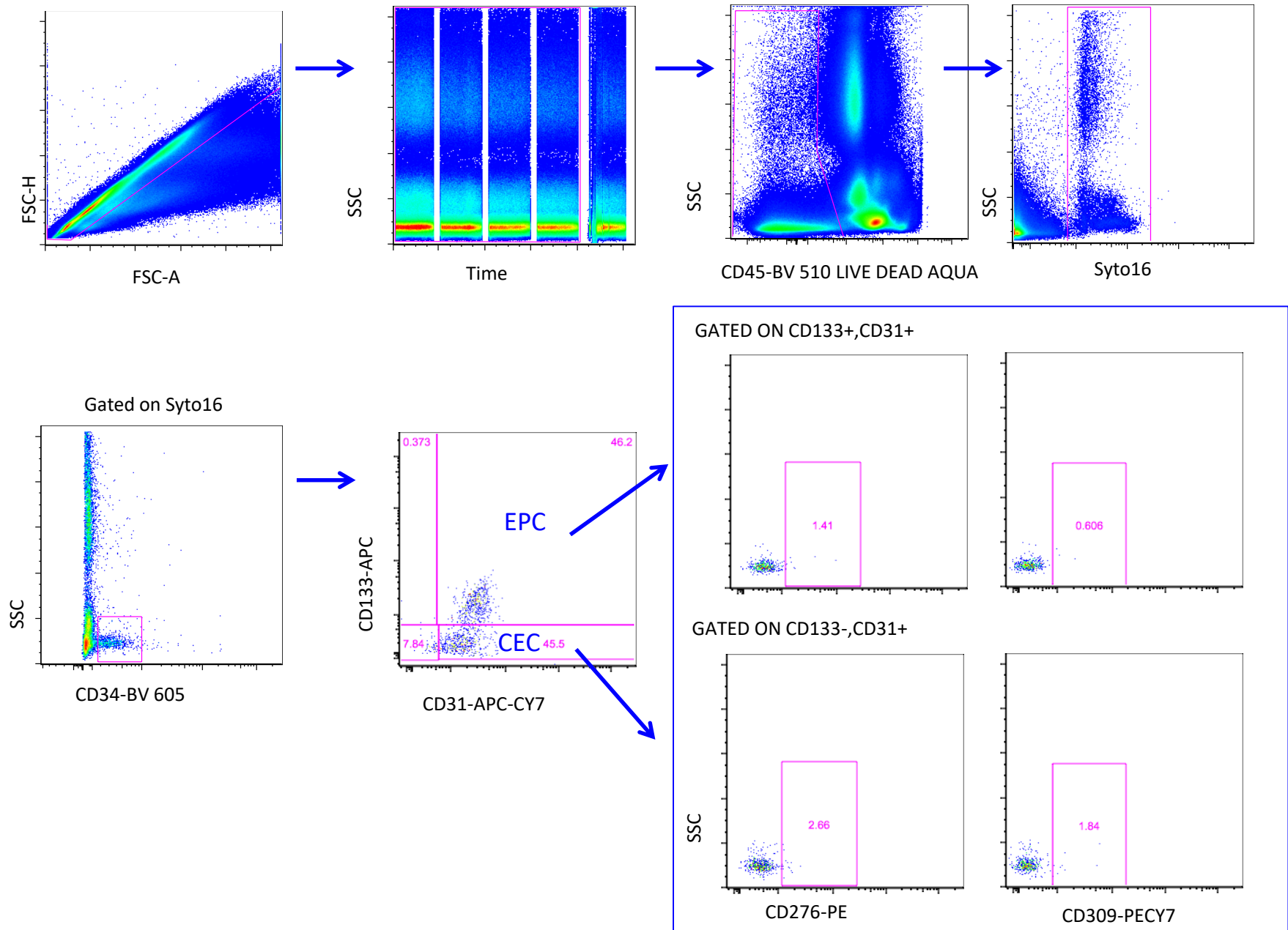
### **Quantification of circulating endothelial progenitor cells: A methodological comparison of six flow cytometric approaches**

Emeline M.F. Van Craenenbroeck <sup>a,\*</sup>, Viviane M.A. Conraads <sup>a</sup>, Dirk R. Van Bockstaele <sup>b</sup>,  
Steven E. Haine <sup>a</sup>, Katrien Vermeulen <sup>b</sup>, Viggo F. Van Tendeloo <sup>b</sup>,  
Christiaan J. Vrints <sup>a</sup>, Vicky Y. Hoymans <sup>a</sup>

## **Identification of Endothelial Cells and Progenitor Cell Subsets in Human Peripheral Blood**

**Myka L. Estes,<sup>1,2</sup> Julie A. Mund,<sup>1,2</sup> David A. Ingram,<sup>1,2,3</sup> and Jamie Case<sup>1,2</sup>**

# Gating strategy for their identification





RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access



# Levels of circulating endothelial cells are low in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and are further reduced by anti-fibrotic treatments

Sara De Biasi<sup>1†</sup>, Stefania Cerri<sup>2†</sup>, Elena Bianchini<sup>3</sup>, Lara Gibellini<sup>1</sup>, Elisa Persiani<sup>2</sup>, Gloria Montanari<sup>2</sup>, Fabrizio Luppi<sup>2</sup>, Cristiano Matteo Carbonelli<sup>4</sup>, Luigi Zucchi<sup>4</sup>, Marialuisa Bocchino<sup>5</sup>, Alessandro Sanduzzi Zamparelli<sup>5</sup>, Carlo Vancheri<sup>6</sup>, Giacomo Sgalla<sup>7</sup>, Luca Richeldi<sup>7</sup> and Andrea Cossarizza<sup>1,8\*</sup>

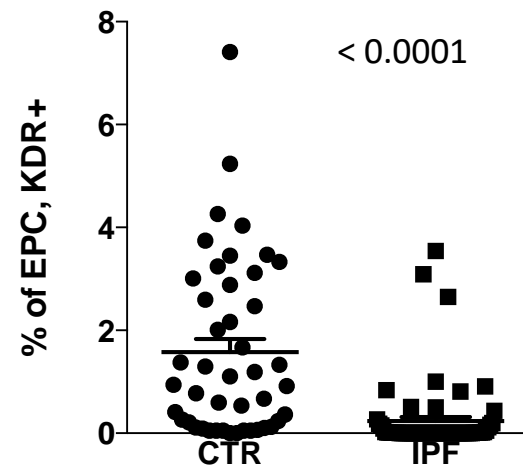
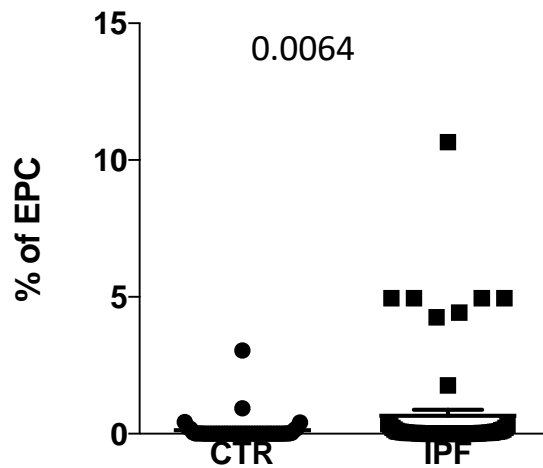
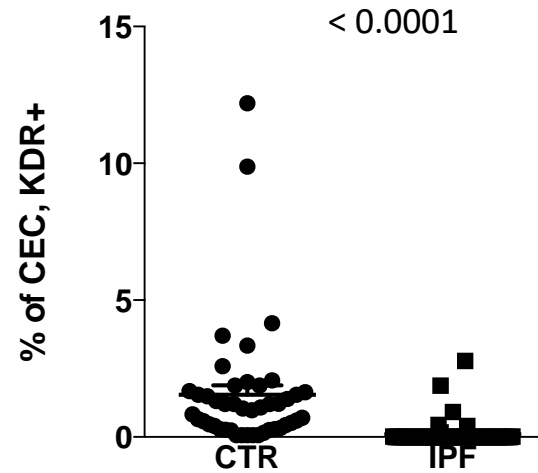
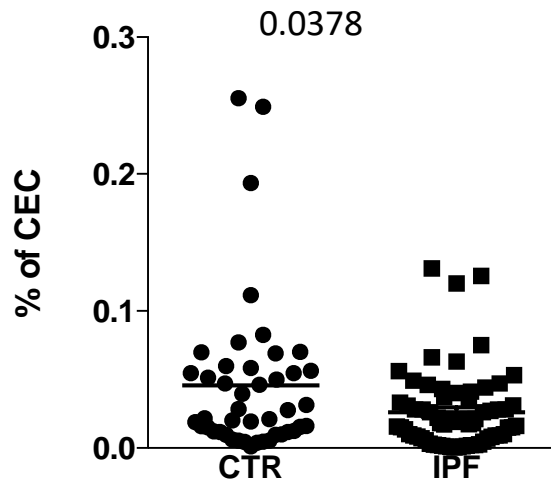
## WHICH IS THE ROLE OF CIRCULATING FIBROCYTES, ENDOTHELIAL CELLS AND THEIR PRECURSORS IN THE PATHOGENESIS OF IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS?

**Table 1** Patients' characteristics

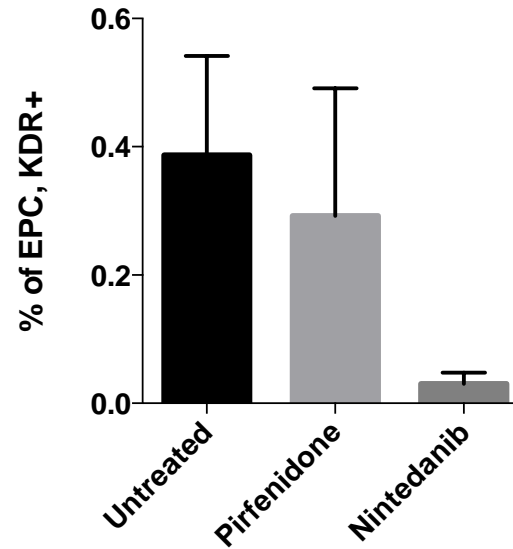
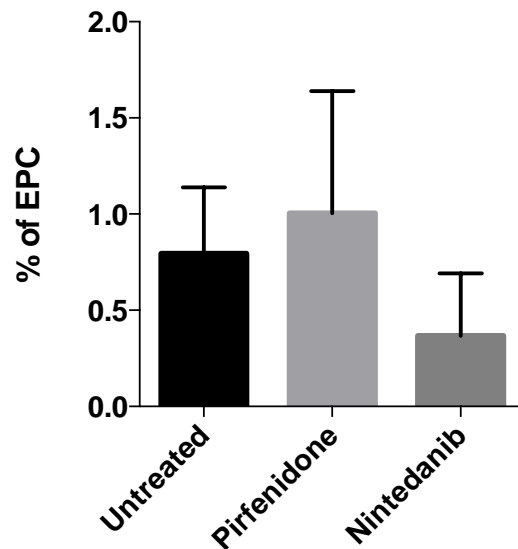
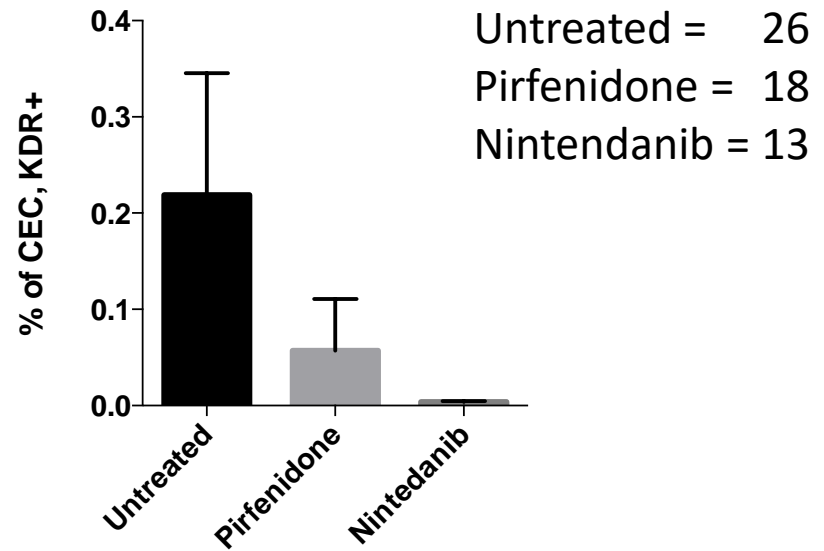
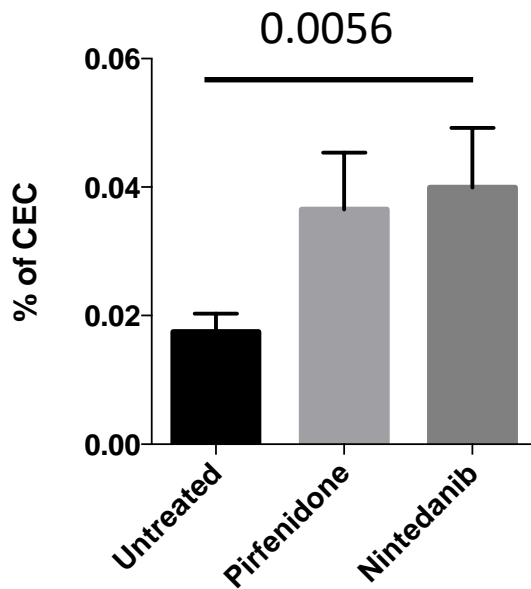
	Number	Percentage	Median	IQR
Gender				
Male	53			
Female	14			
Age (years)			74	68.5–77.0
Time from diagnosis (years)			3	2.0–4.5
Smoking history				
Non smoker	19			
Smoker or former smoker	41			
Forced vital capacity (% predicted)		75.0		56.75–93.0
DLCO (% predicted)		41.0		34.0–60.0
GAP stage (%)				
I		32.70		
II		53.10		
III		14.30		
Treatment				
Pirfenidone	18			
Nintedanib	13			
Untreated	26			

DLCO Diffusing capacity of the lungs for CO<sub>2</sub>, GAP Gender, Age and Physiology Index, IQR interquartile range

# Patients with IPF (67) vs. CTR (45)

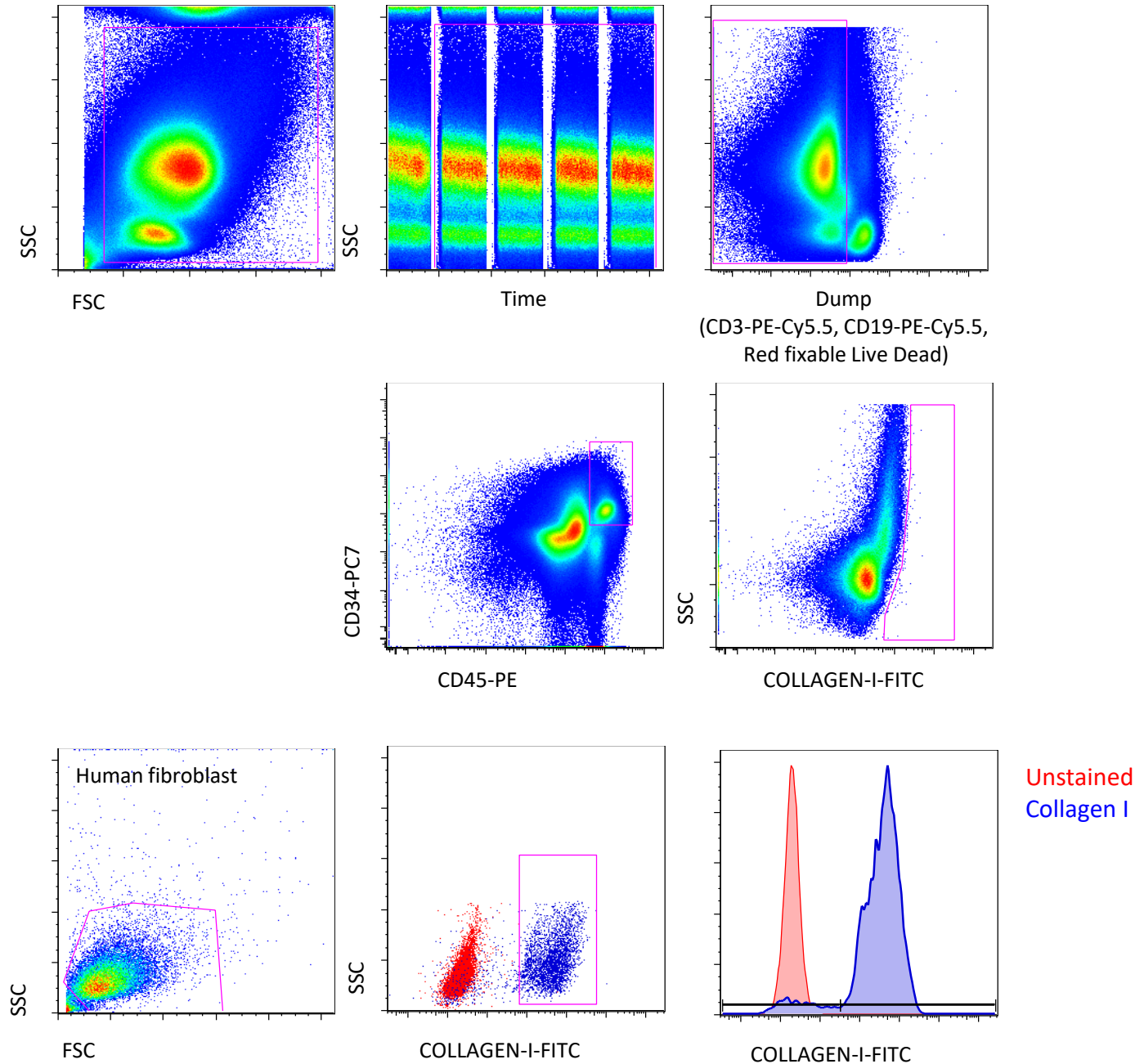


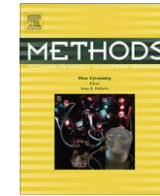
# Effects of therapies in Patients with IPF





# Circulating fibroblasts





## High speed flow cytometry allows the detection of circulating endothelial cells in hemangioblastoma patients



Sara De Biasi<sup>a,1</sup>, Lara Gibellini<sup>b,1</sup>, Alberto Feletti<sup>c,1</sup>, Giacomo Pavesi<sup>c,1</sup>, Elena Bianchini<sup>d</sup>, Domenico Lo Tartaro<sup>a</sup>, Simone Pecorini<sup>d</sup>, Anna De Gaetano<sup>d</sup>, Rosalberta Pullano<sup>b</sup>, Federica Boraldi<sup>a</sup>, Milena Nasi<sup>d</sup>, Marcello Pinti<sup>a,\*,1</sup>, Andrea Cossarizza<sup>b,1</sup>

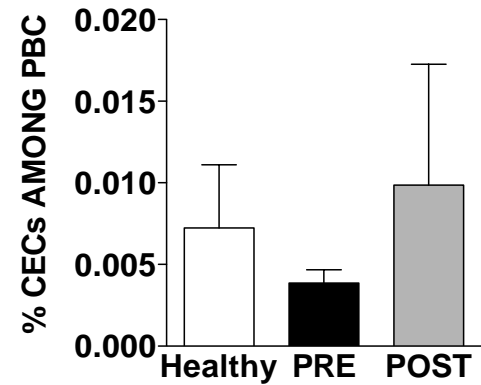
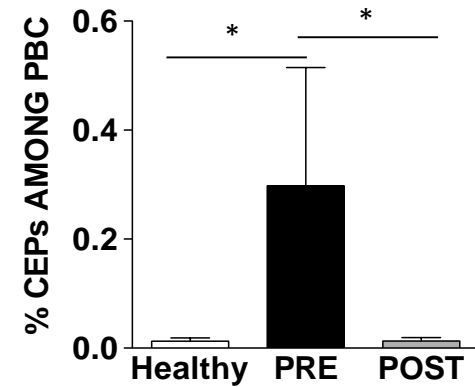
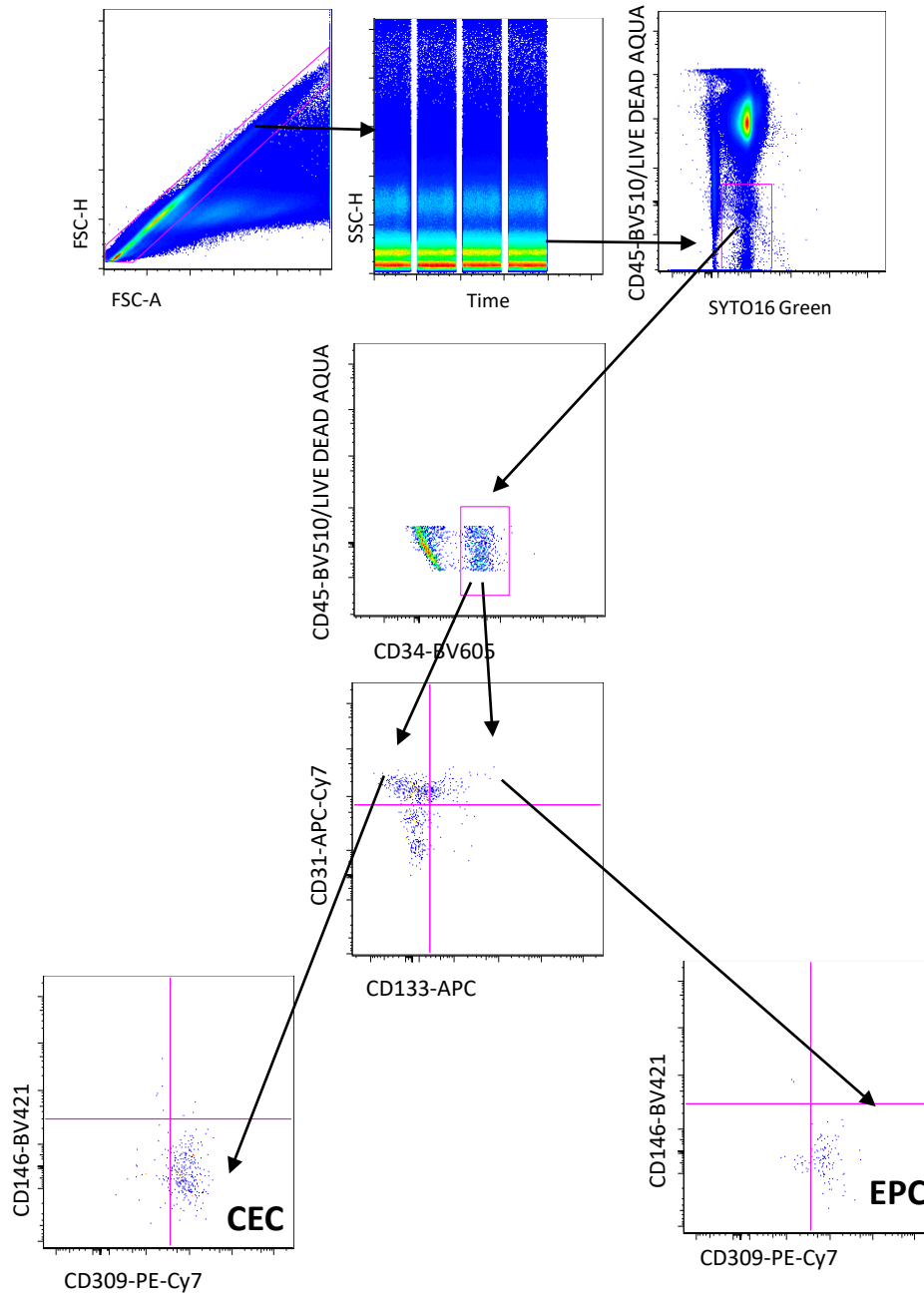
**Table 1**

Example to calculate the number of acquired events for a rare cell population representing 0.01%.

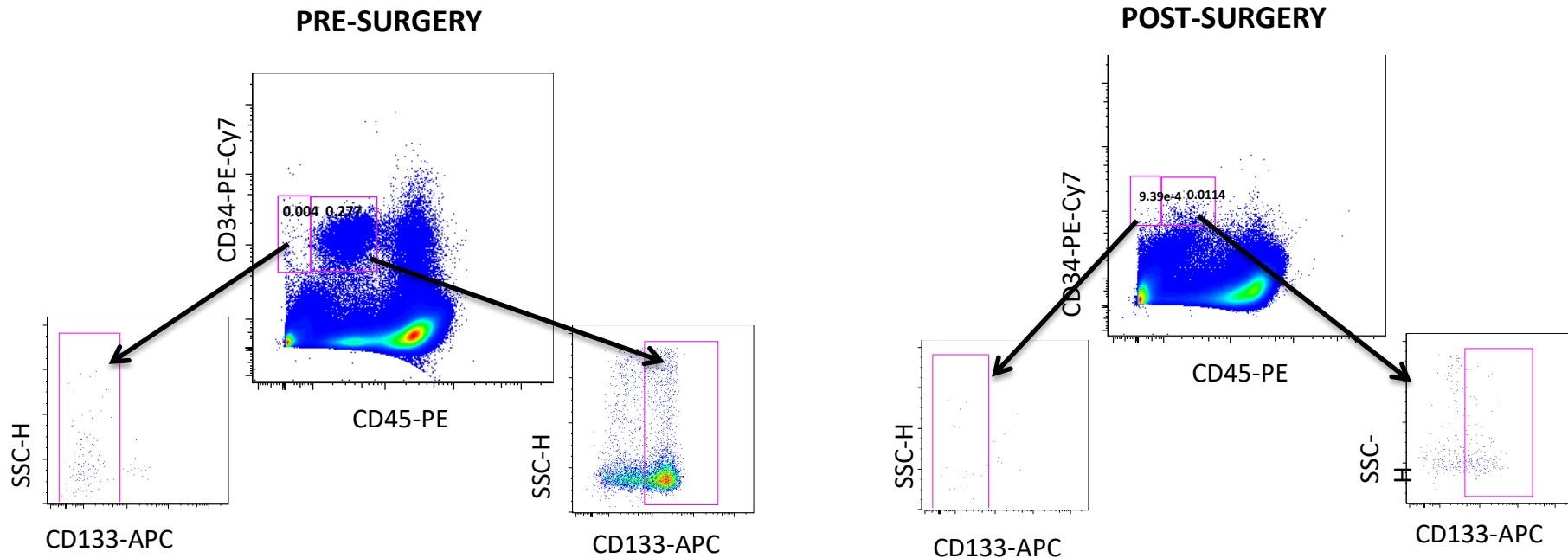
Acquired events ( <b>N</b> )	100,000	1,000,000	4,010,000	10,000,000
Positive ( <b>R</b> )	10	100	401	1000
Proportion ( <b>P</b> )	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001
Variance ( <b>Var</b> )	10.0	100.0	400.6	999.9
Standard deviation ( <b>SD</b> )	3.16	10.0	20.1	31.62
Coefficient of Variation ( <b>CV</b> )	31.62	10.00	<b>4.99</b>	<b>3.16</b>

Experimental conditions with CV below 5%, which is considered satisfactory in rare events analysis by flow cytometry.

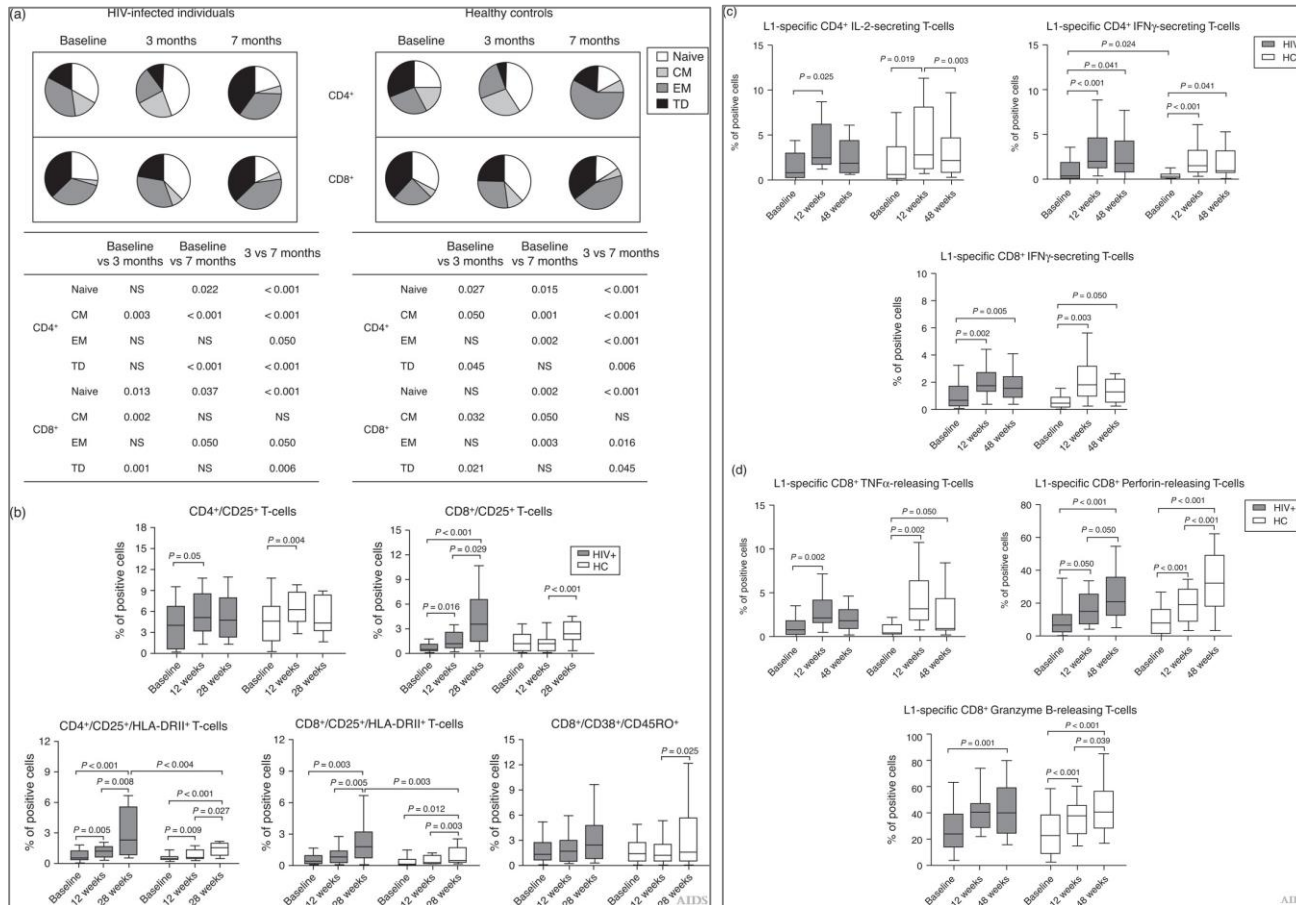
Increased percentage of circulating  
endothelial cells in  
hemangioblastoma patients



# Representative example of CECs and CEPs flow cytometry quantification in blood samples before and one month after surgery.



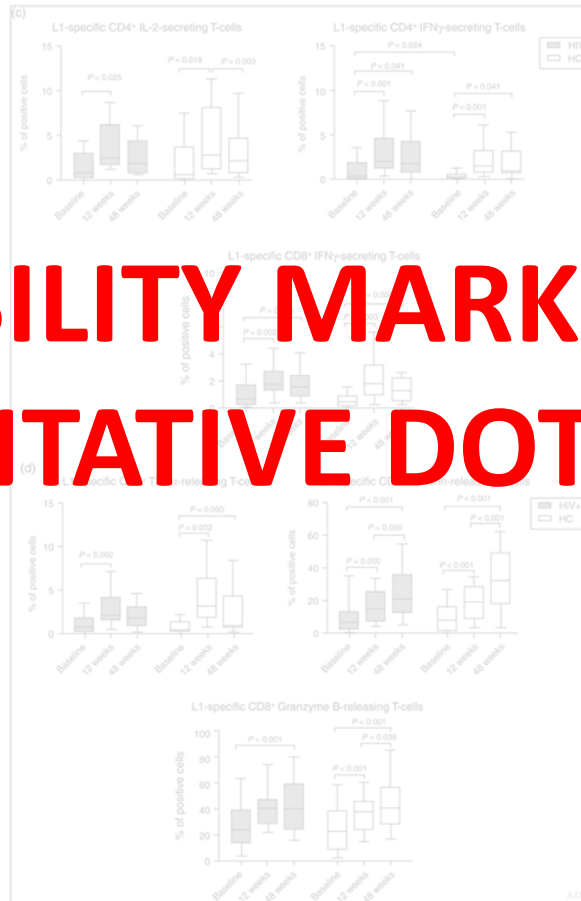
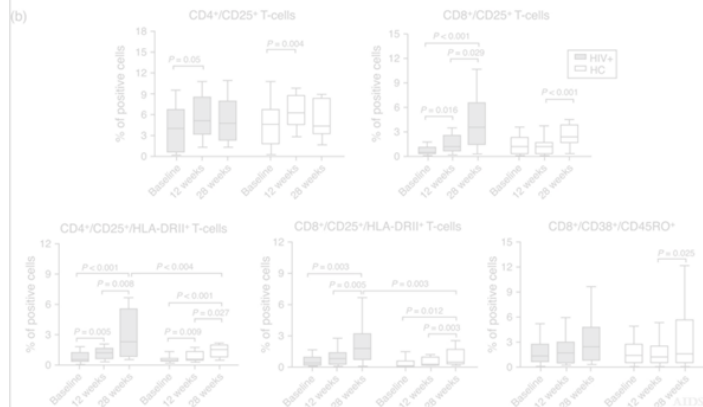
# HPV T cell specific response



# HPV T cell specific response



		Baseline vs 3 months	Baseline vs 7 months	3 vs 7 months
CD4 <sup>+</sup>	Naive	NS	0.022	< 0.001
	CM	0.003	< 0.001	< 0.001
	EM	NS	NS	0.050
	TD	NS	< 0.001	< 0.001
CD8 <sup>+</sup>	Naive	0.013	0.037	< 0.001
	CM	0.002	NS	NS
	EM	NS	0.050	NS
	TD	0.001	NS	NS



ART-treated HIV-infected young adults

**VIABILITY MARKER?**  
**REPRESENTATIVE DOT PLOTS?**

[Human papilloma virus vaccination induces strong human papilloma virus specific cell-mediated immune responses in HIV-infected adolescents and young adults](#)

Rainone, Veronica; Giacometti, Vania; Penagini, Francesca; Fabiano, Valentina; Calascibetta, Francesca; Mameli, Chiara; Pisanelli, Stefania; Zuccotti, Gian Vincenzo; Clerici, Mario; Trabattoni, Daria

AIDS29(6):739-743, March 27th, 2015.

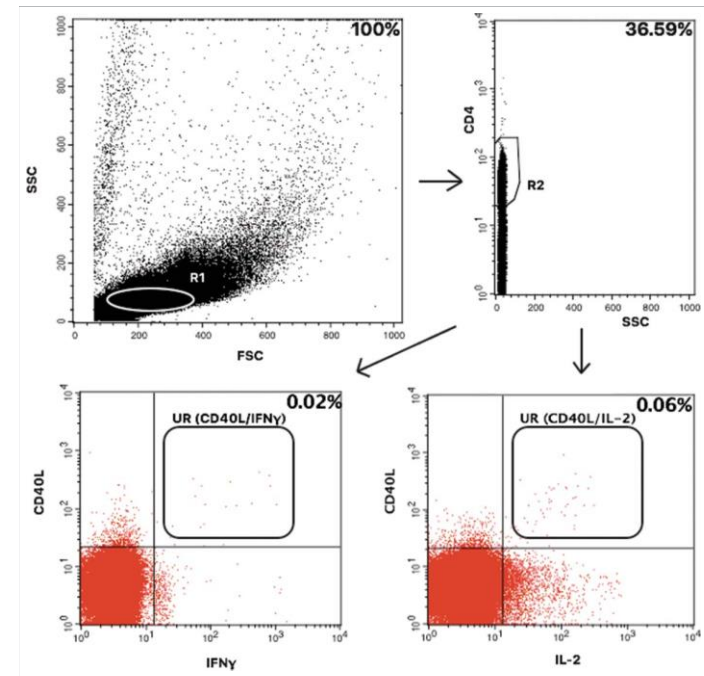
doi: 10.1097/QAD.0000000000000597

# Cellular immunogenicity of human papillomavirus vaccines Cervarix and Gardasil in adults with HIV infection

Maria Zurek Munk-Madsen, Lars Toft, Tina Kube, Rolf Richter, Lars Ostergaard, Ole S. Søgaard, Martin Tolstrup & Andreas M. Kaufmann

## ABSTRACT

Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is a frequent cause of malignant and non-malignant disease, in particular among persons with HIV. HPV serotype-specific anti L1 antibodies protect against HPV infection but little is known about prophylactic HPV vaccine-induced cell-mediated immunity against HPV in high-risk individuals. We recently showed that both HPV vaccines (Gardasil® and Cervarix®) induce solid, serological immune responses in HIV-infected persons. This study aimed to characterize HPV-specific CD4 T cells in HIV-infected HPV-vaccine recipients, T cell responses being critical for B cell activation and antibody-isotype switching. Thirty HIV-infected patients on long-term antiretroviral treatment (ART) received 3 doses of either Cervarix (n = 15) or Gardasil (n = 15) vaccine at month 0, 1.5 and 6. Cryopreserved peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) from baseline, 7 and 12 months were subjected to 24-hour stimulation with specific pools of HPV L1-peptides (HPV6, 11, 16, 18, 31 and 45) and HPV E6/E7-peptide pools (HPV6/11 and HPV16/18). Fluorescence-activated cell sorting with intracellular staining (IC-FACS) against CD4, CD154, IL-2, and IFN $\gamma$  was performed. Frequencies (%) of HPV-antigen specific CD4+ T cells (CD154<sup>+</sup>/IL-2<sup>+</sup> or CD154<sup>+</sup>/IFN $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup>) were determined. Both HPV-vaccines significantly and comparably enhanced cell-mediated vaccine L1 antigen-specific immunity in HIV-positive adults receiving ART therapy at month 7 and 12 after first vaccine dose. This suggests that the vaccines induce CD4 T cellular memory despite HIV-induced immune compromise.



100,000-160,000 CD4+ acquired

# Cellular immunogenicity of human papillomavirus vaccines Cervarix and Gardasil in adults with HIV infection

Maria Zurek Munk-Madsen, Lars Toft, Tina Kube, Rolf Richter, Lars Ostergaard, Ole S. Søgaard, Martin Tolstrup & Andreas M. Kaufmann

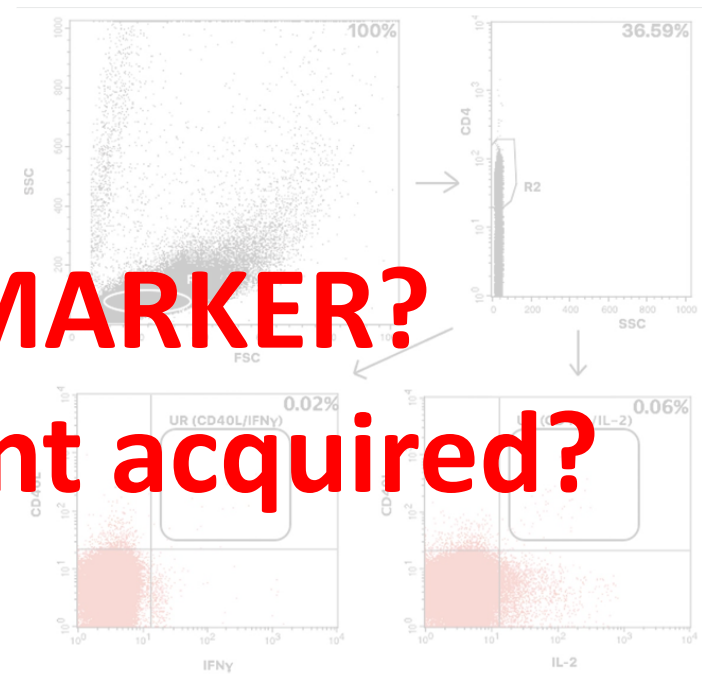
## ABSTRACT

Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is a frequent cause of malignant and non-malignant disease, in particular among persons with HIV. HPV serotype-specific anti L1 antibodies protect against HPV infection but little is known about prophylactic HPV vaccine-induced cell-mediated immunity against HPV in high-risk individuals. We investigated whether HPV vaccine induced cell-mediated immunity against HPV in HIV-infected individuals. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) were isolated from HIV-infected individuals and serological immunogenicity against HPV antigens was compared to cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) HPV-positive T cells in HIV-infected individuals. HIV-infected patients were included in the study if they had a confirmed HIV infection, were on long-term antiretroviral treatment (ART), and had a confirmed HPV infection. Thirty HIV-infected patients on long-term antiretroviral treatment (ART) received 3 doses of either Cervarix (n D 15) or Gardasil (n D 15) vaccine at month 0, 1.5 and 6. Cryopreserved peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) from baseline, 7 and 12 months were subjected to 24-hour stimulation with specific pools of HPV L1-peptides (HPV6, 11, 16, 18, 31 and 45) and HPV E6/E7-peptide pools (HPV6/11 and HPV16/18). Fluorescence-activated cell sorting with intracellular staining (IC-FACS) against CD4, CD154, IL-2, and IFN $\gamma$  was performed. Frequencies (%) of HPV-antigen specific CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells (CD154<sup>+</sup>/IL-2<sup>+</sup> or CD154<sup>+</sup>/IFN $\gamma$ <sup>+</sup>) were determined. Both HPV-vaccines significantly and comparably enhanced cell-mediated vaccine L1 antigen-specific immunity in HIV-positive adults receiving ART therapy at month 7 and 12 after first vaccine dose. This suggests that the vaccines induce CD4 T cellular memory despite HIV-induced immune compromise.

HUMAN VACCINES & IMMUNOTHERAPEUTICS  
2018, VOL. 14, NO 4, 909–916

# VIABILITY MARKER?

# Number of event acquired?



100,000-160,000 CD4+ acquired

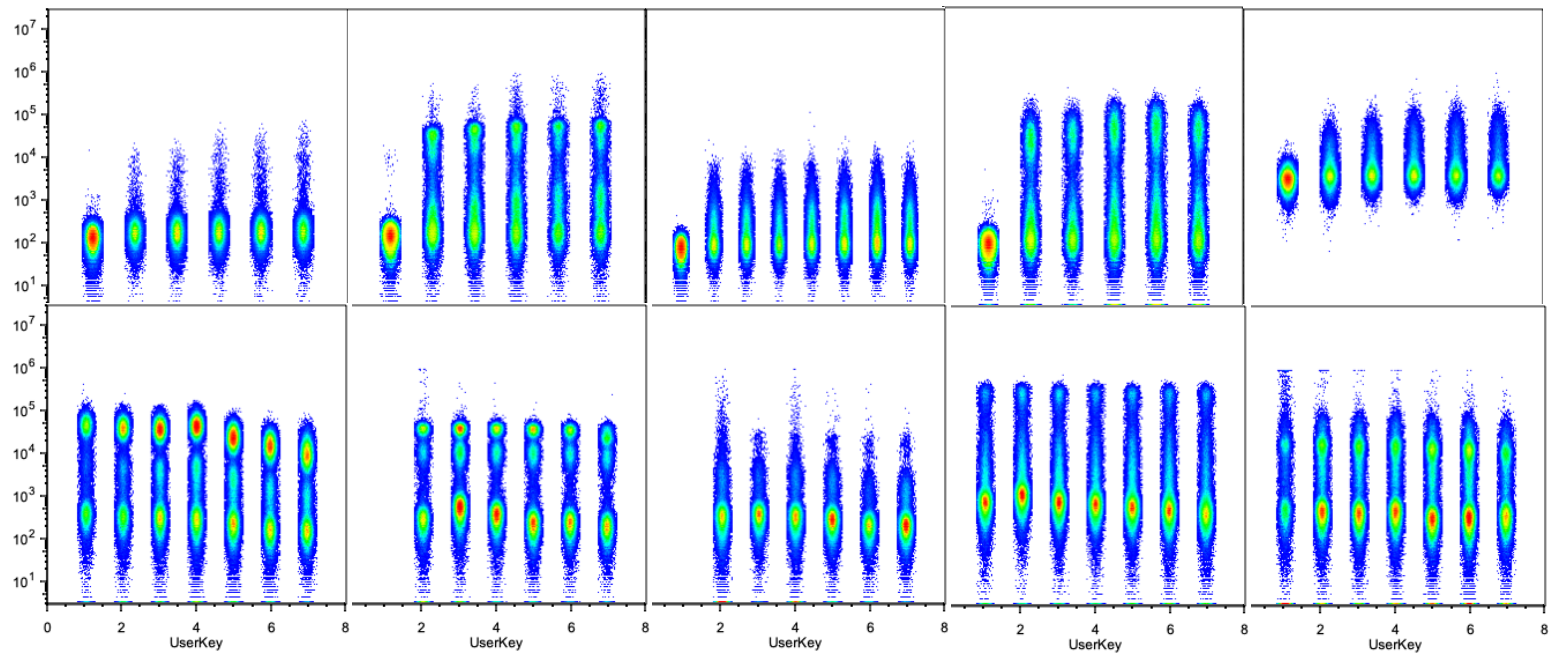


# Methods

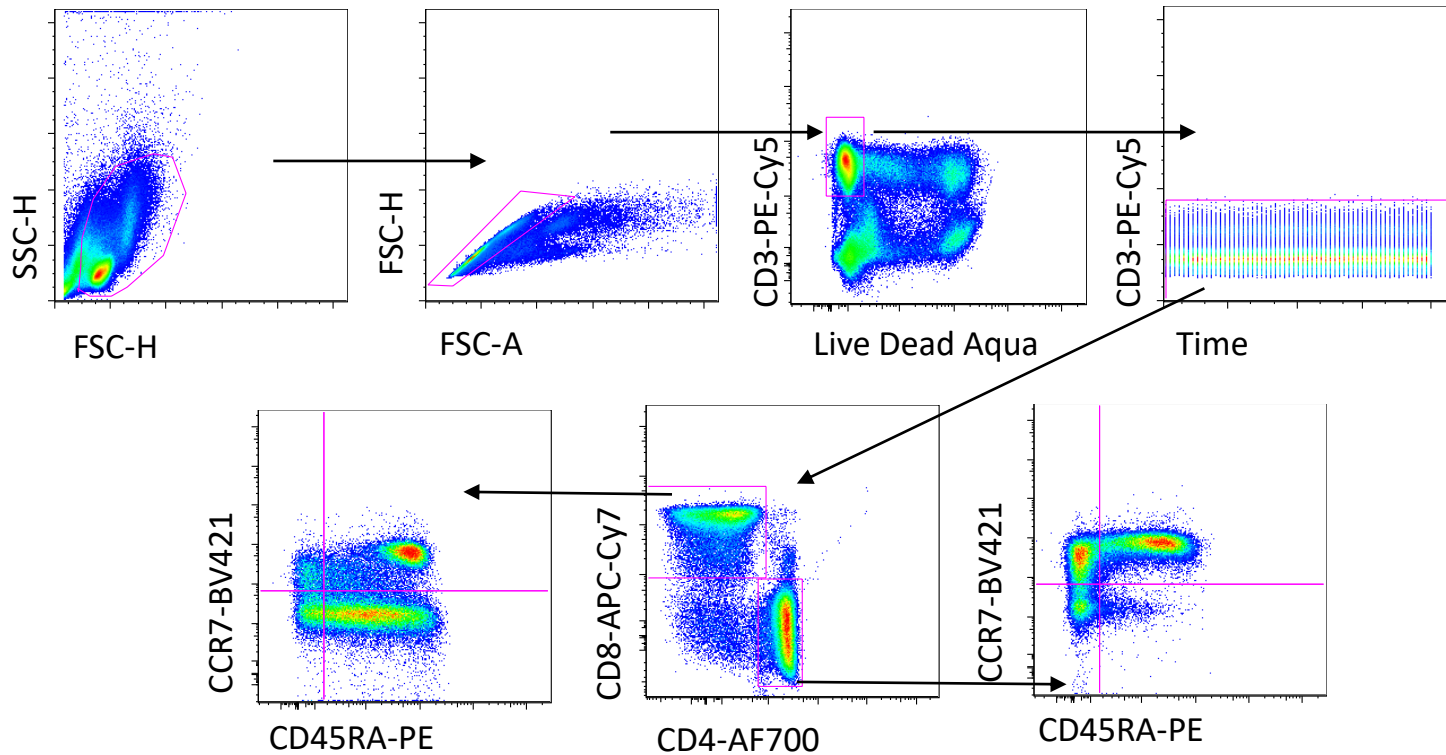
- 30 mL of blood from patients and healthy subjects before the vaccine administration and after 1 year;
- PBMCs isolation and storage in liquid nitrogen;
- Thawed PBMCs; rested for 16hrs and then stimulated for 16hrs with 1µg/ml of HPV16 L1 and HPV18 L1 (JPT) and 1µg/ml of anti-CD28; Brefeldin A added in the culture media. Stimulation with anti-CD3/CD28 (1µg/ml) used as positive control;

TARGET	LABEL	
LIVE DEAD	AQUA	RT
CCR7	BV421	37°C
CD4	AF700	RT
CD8	APC-CY7	RT
CD45RA	PE	RT
CD3	PE-CY5	INTRA
IFN-G	FITC	INTRA
TNF-A	BV605	INTRA
IL-2	APC	INTRA
IL-17	PE-CY7	INTRA

# Antibody titration

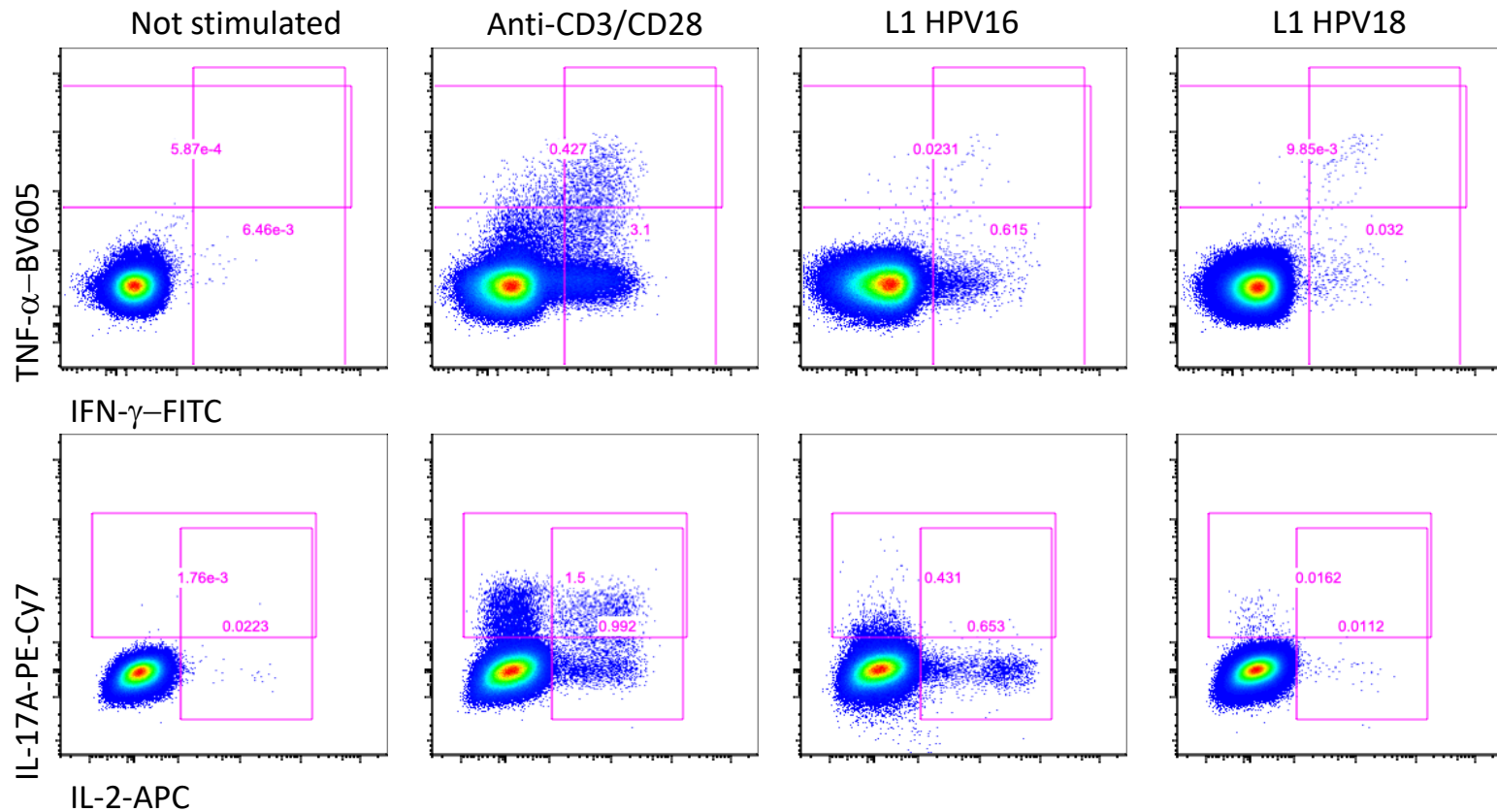


# Gating strategy



Unpublished

## Gating strategy



Unpublished

# CONCLUSIONS

- Studying rare cells requires careful attention, optimal methodologies in all phases, including collection of biological samples, adequate software and hardware.

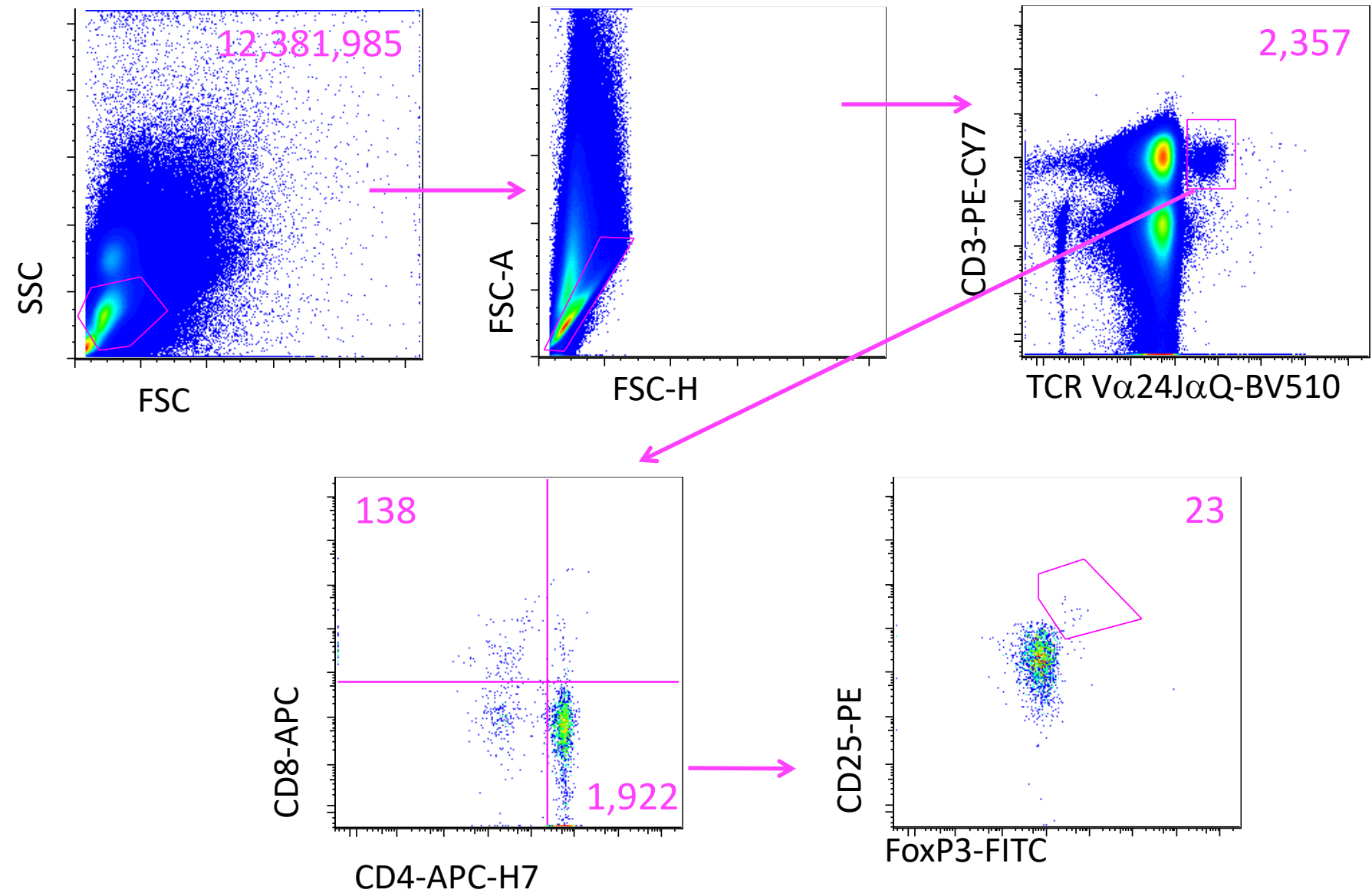
# CONCLUSIONS

- Studying rare cells requires careful attention, optimal methodologies in all phases, including collection of biological samples, adequate software and hardware.
- I have shown you some examples (besides Ag-specific cells) that could be of interest for immunologists.

# CONCLUSIONS

- Studying rare cells requires careful attention, optimal methodologies in all phases, including collection of biological samples, adequate software and hardware.
- I have shown you some examples (besides Ag-specific cells) that could be of interest for immunologists.
- "Next generation" instruments that work at a very high speed and sensitivity are now allowing an easy detection and analysis of such cells.

# Near to the limit...





# Acknowledgments



# If you want to know more...

Eur. J. Immunol. 2017. 00: 1–212

■ DOI: 10.1002/eji.201646632 ■

European Journal of  
**Immunology**

## Guidelines for the use of flow cytometry and cell sorting in immunological studies

Cossarizza et al. J immunol 2018

