

UBC Chan-Yeung Centre
for Occupational and
Environmental Respiratory
Disease

*Understanding exposure effects – linking
research to public health*

APEL Air Pollution
Exposure Laboratory



6th Jack Pepys Workshop
TORONTO
May 2016

How does exposure to gas, dust and fumes enhance (allergic) sensitization and asthma?

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University of British Columbia

No conflicts to disclose

Why do we care about mechanisms?

- Target prevention
- Target treatment
- Inform guidelines or regulations
- Support compensation claims
- Increase basic understanding of biology
- Potential application to other settings

Sensitization *versus* asthma

Sensitization

- Specific; adaptive immunity
- Associated with a range of 'atopic' disease

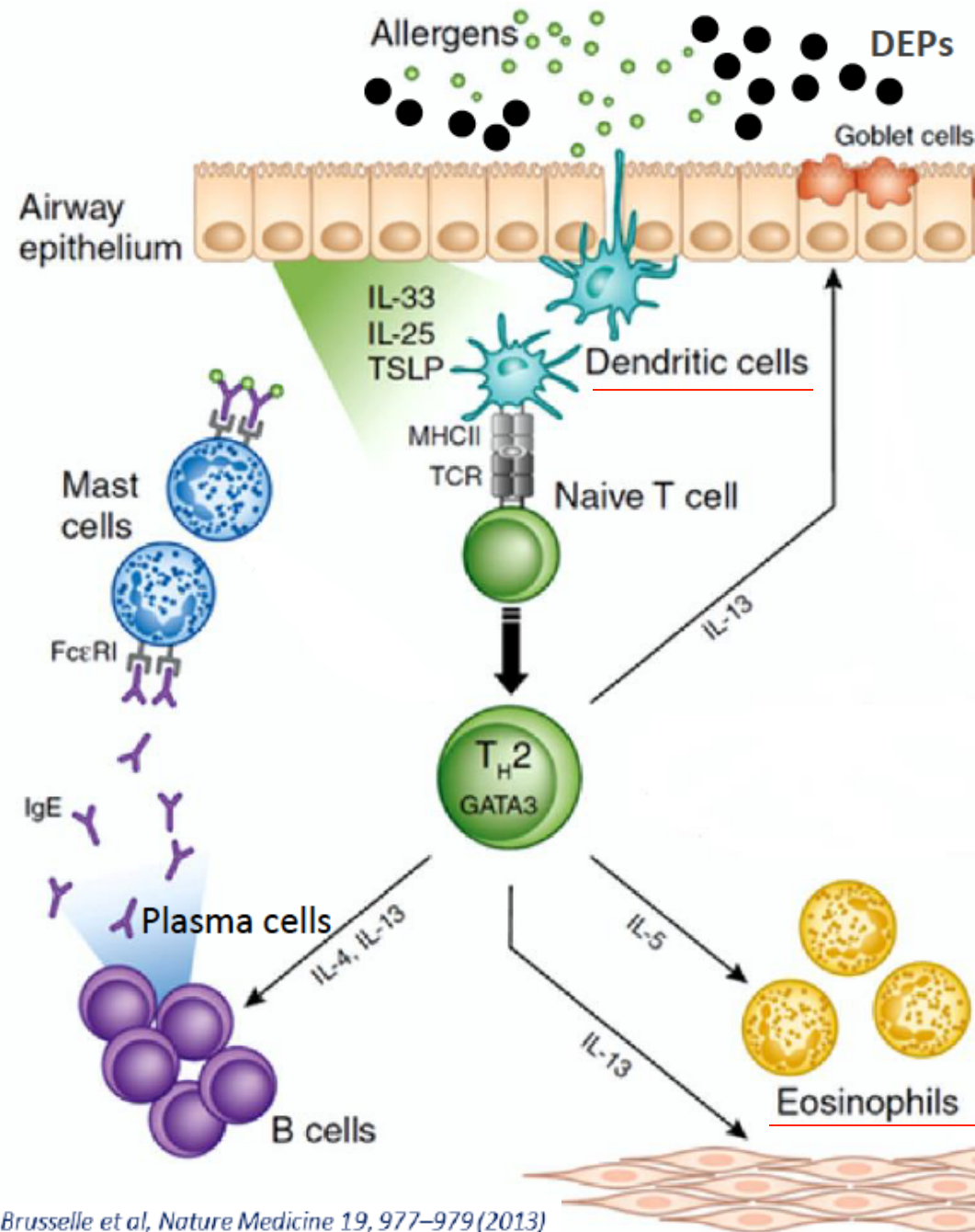
Asthma

- Clinical phenotype supported by lung function
- May be via sensitization or otherwise

"Enhance" – exacerbate or ↑ incidence

Possible mechanisms 'where?'

- Cells within airway lumen
- Epithelium (+/- damage)
- Subepithelium
- Circulation

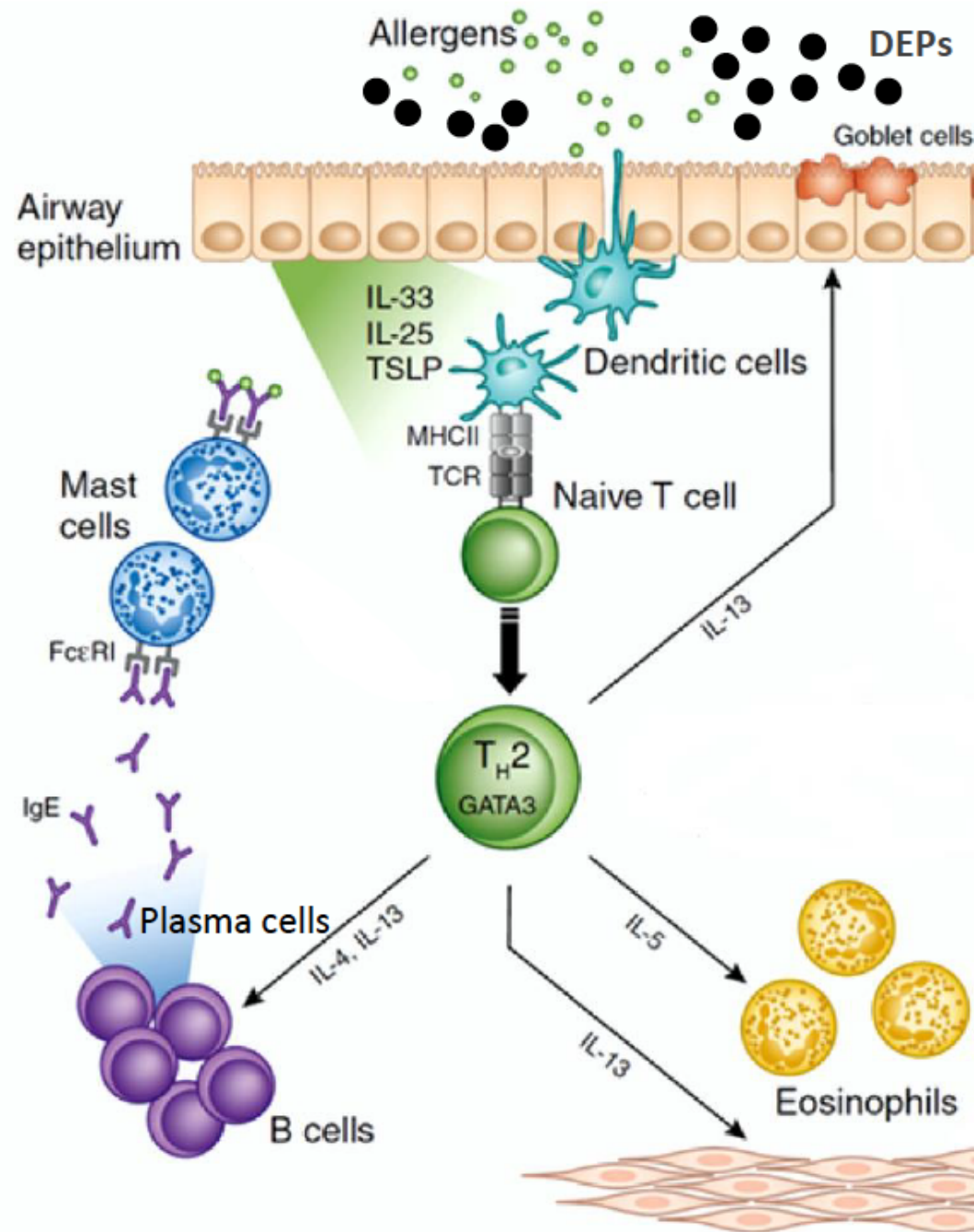


Possible mechanisms 'how?'

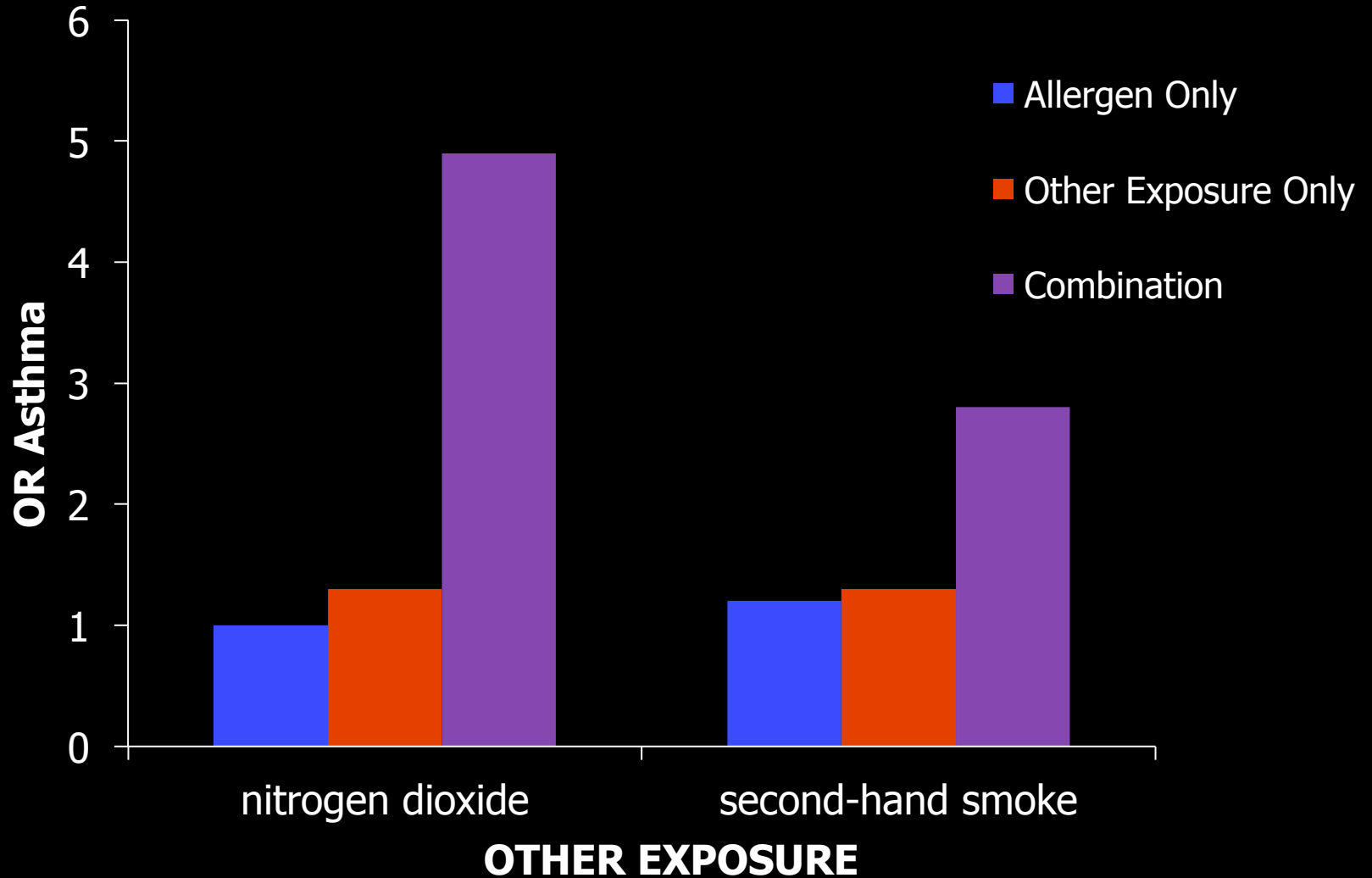
Classic cells and mediators

Novel mediators
Transcriptome
Proteome
Epigenome

Modifying factors
(gene variants)



Synergistic early life co-exposures Incident asthma (age 8)



3 pillars of plausibility

Carlsten and Georas, *AJRCCM* 2014 PMID: 24787066

Controlled Human Exposures

- Real-world conditions
- Powerful crossover design
- Safe and ethical control

- Limited sample size
- Finite sampling opportunities

Links epidemiology and basic science



Epidemiology

- Large sample sizes
- Unmanipulated observation

- Residual confounding
- Limited mechanistic insight
- Variability in estimates

Error and/or susceptible subgroups



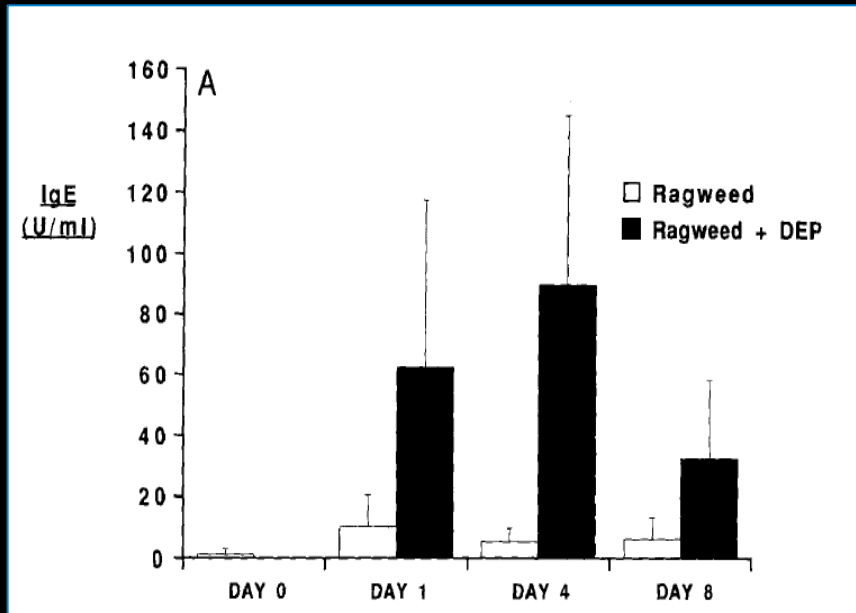
Animal/Cellular Research

- Homogenous substrate
- Extensive manipulation
- Detailed mechanistic pathways

- Isolated cells or non-human
- Unrealistic conditions (dose, etc)

Questions of relevance

PM plus allergen: ↑ specific IgE in the human nose



Diaz-Sanchez -- J Immunol 1997

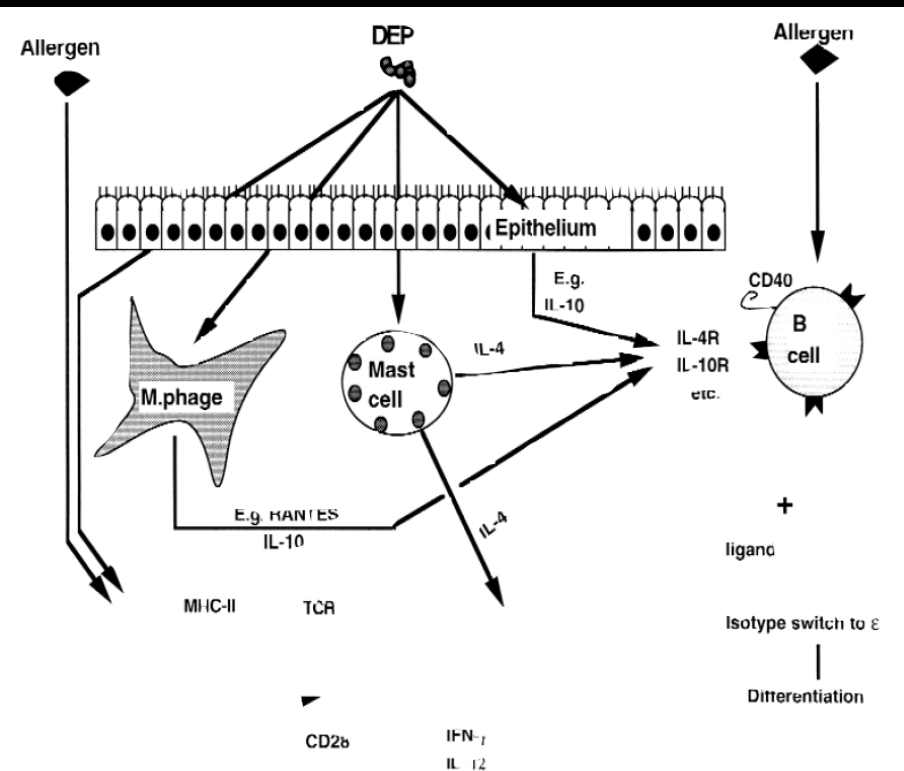
GSTP1	
I/I (n=13)	I/V (n=6)
Ag alone	7.8 (3.2-24.3) 8.4 (2.6-18.8)
DEP+Ag	123.5 (14.5-534.8) 31.5 (8.8-79.4)

Gilliland -- Lancet 2004

Repeated dosing of 300 ug DEP → IgE to NEOantigen (JACI PMID: 10588999)

Possible mechanisms

Nel, Diaz-Sanchez *JACI* 1998

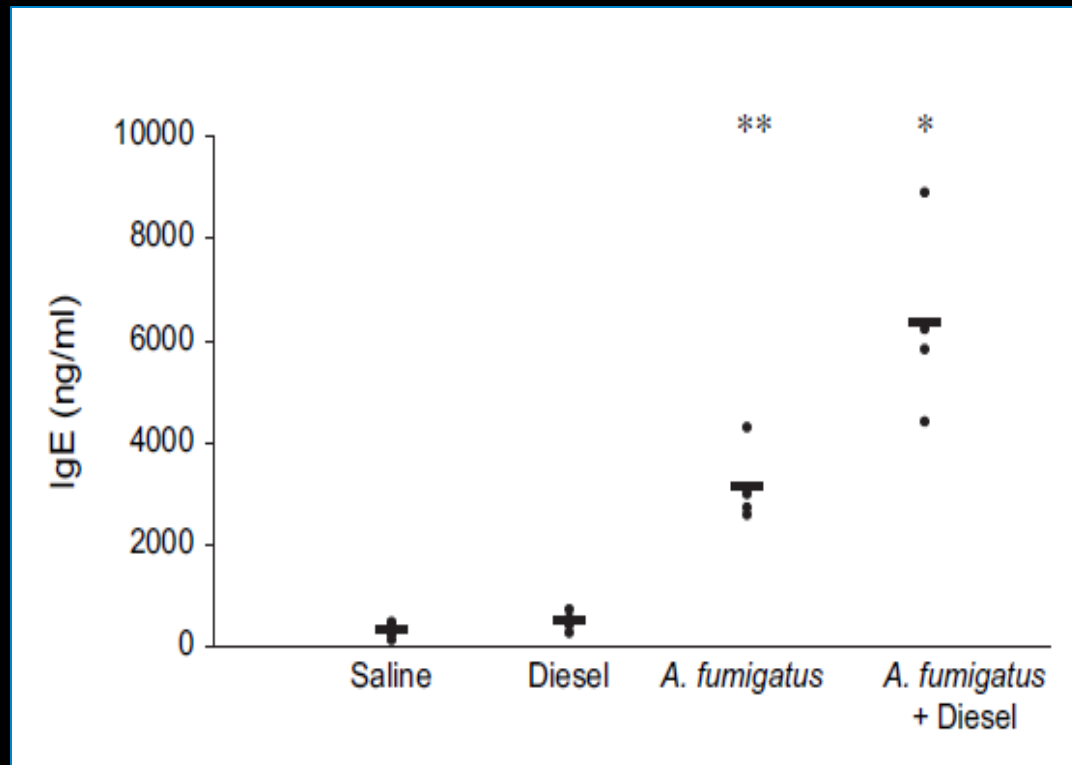


Effects of aerosolized DEPs on nasal allergic response

- Increased local production of IgE and IgE-secreting cells
- Qualitatively different IgE isoforms produced through alternative splicing of ϵ mRNA
- Augmented production of allergen-induced antigen-specific IgE
- Non-specific stimulation of a broad cytokine profile in the absence of allergen
- Induction of a Th₂-like cytokine profile when intranasally administered together with allergen in the nose
- Interact with allergen to drive isotype switching of B cells to IgE
- Induce influx of T cells, monocytes, and granulocytes **but not eosinophils**
- Augmented production of C-C chemokines (RANTES, MCP-3, and MIP-1 α but not eotaxin) on intranasal challenge



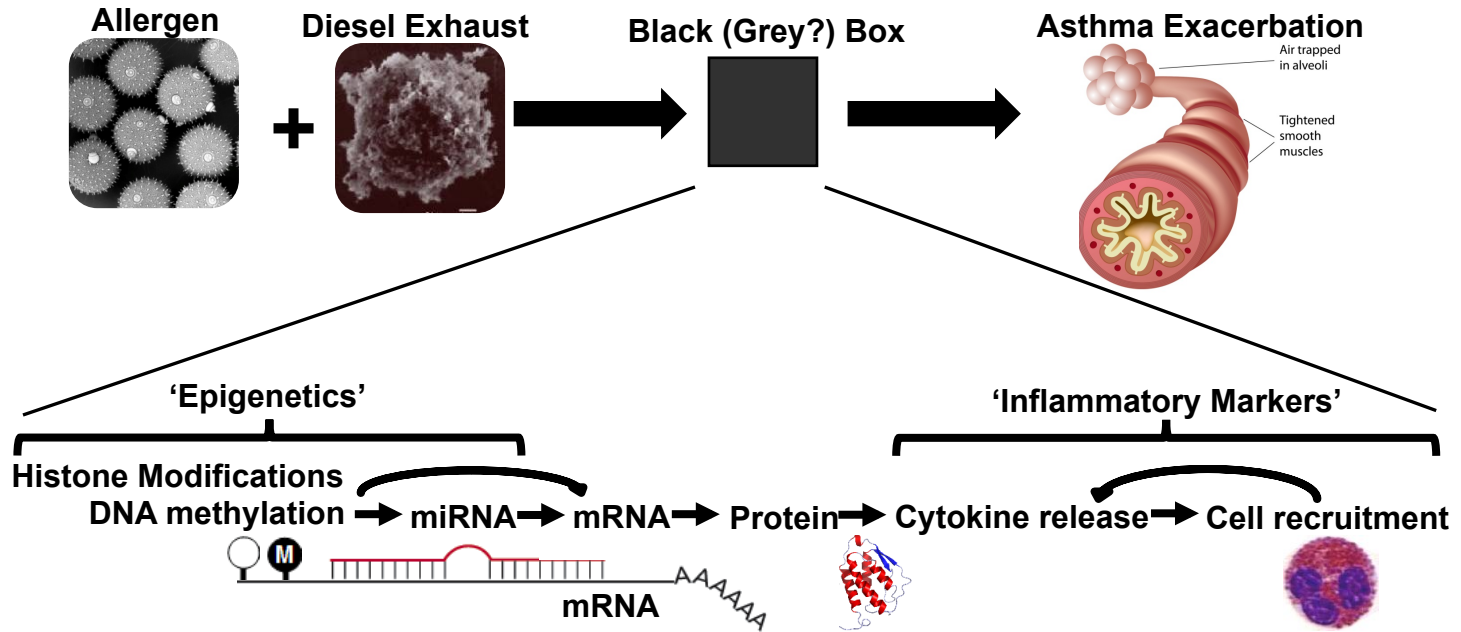
PM plus allergen: ↑ specific IgE in rat **blood** at 4d post-exposure



Liu *et al.*, Tox Sci, 2008 (rats; DE = 1.3 **mg**/m³ by Cummins engine)

DE → changes in DNA methylation in promoter of IL-4 (↓) and IFN-gamma (↑)

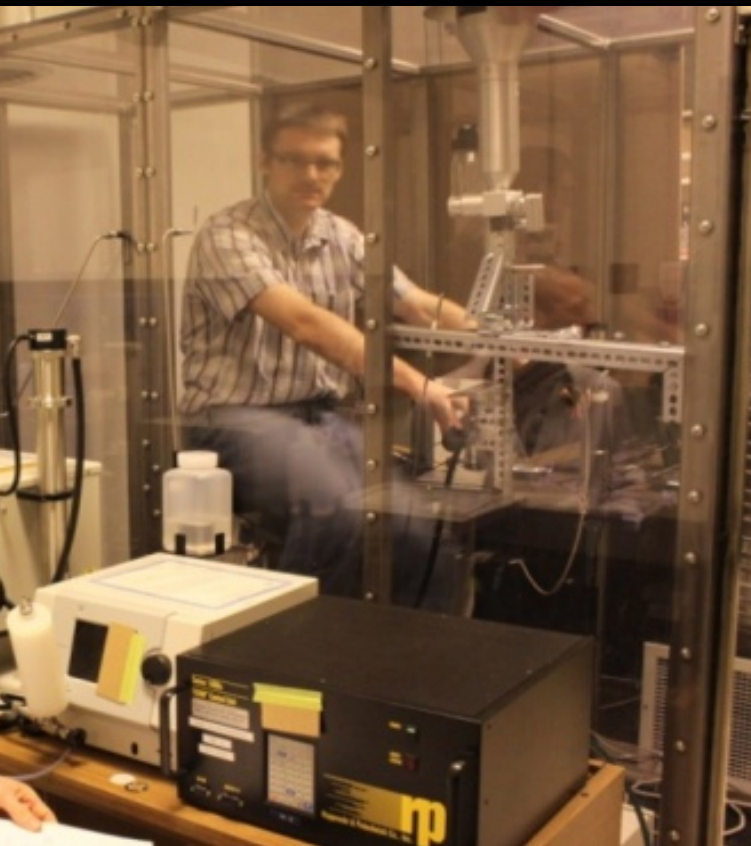
Air Pollution, Allergens and Asthma Exacerbations



The Air Pollution Exposure Laboratory (APEL) for controlled human exposure to diesel exhaust and other inhalants: characterization and comparison to existing facilities

Nicholas Birger¹, Timothy Gould², James Stewart², Mark R. Miller³, Timothy Larson², and Chris Carlsten¹

Inhalation Tox 2011 [PMID: 21438706](#)



Design allows real-time control over:

- Concentration of particles and gases
(‘smoggy day in Asia’)
- Duration of exposure
- Ventilation rate
- Temperature and humidity
- *Innumerable individual characteristics, including genetics (key advantage of crossover design)*
- *Free of endotoxin contamination*

Are diesel exhaust and allergen synergistic in the lung?

Using realistic diesel exhaust exposure

18 volunteers sensitized to Timothy grass, birch or house dust mite

Diesel exhaust (300 ug PM_{2.5}/m³) vs. air

(randomized *crossover*)

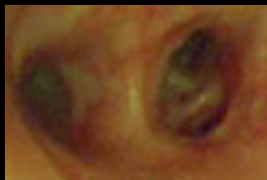
followed by segmental allergen challenge

Right
lung

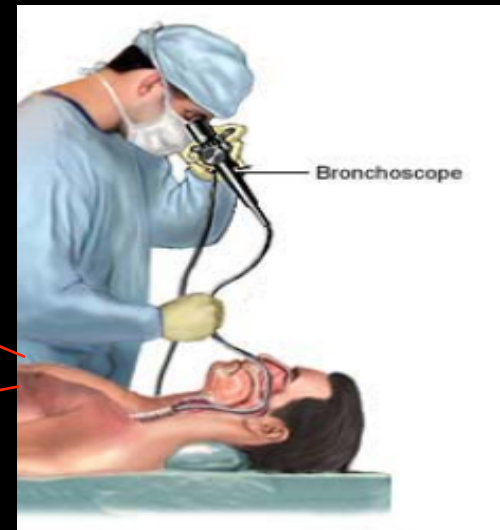


SALINE

Left
lung

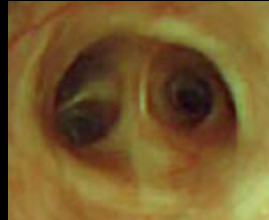


ALLERGEN

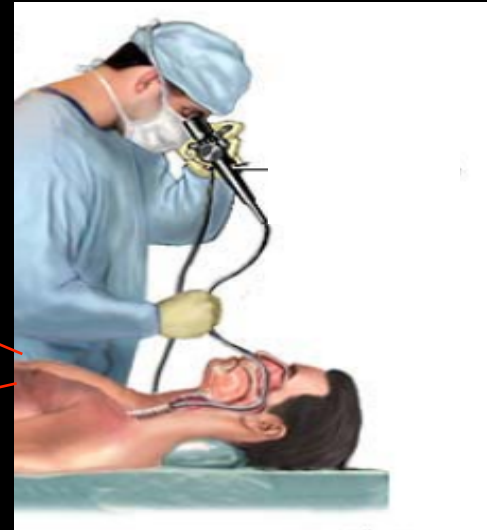
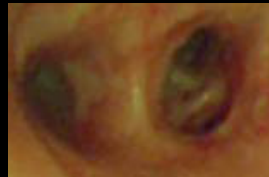


48 hours later. . .

Right lung



Left lung



Wash



biopsy, brush
>95% epithelial cells

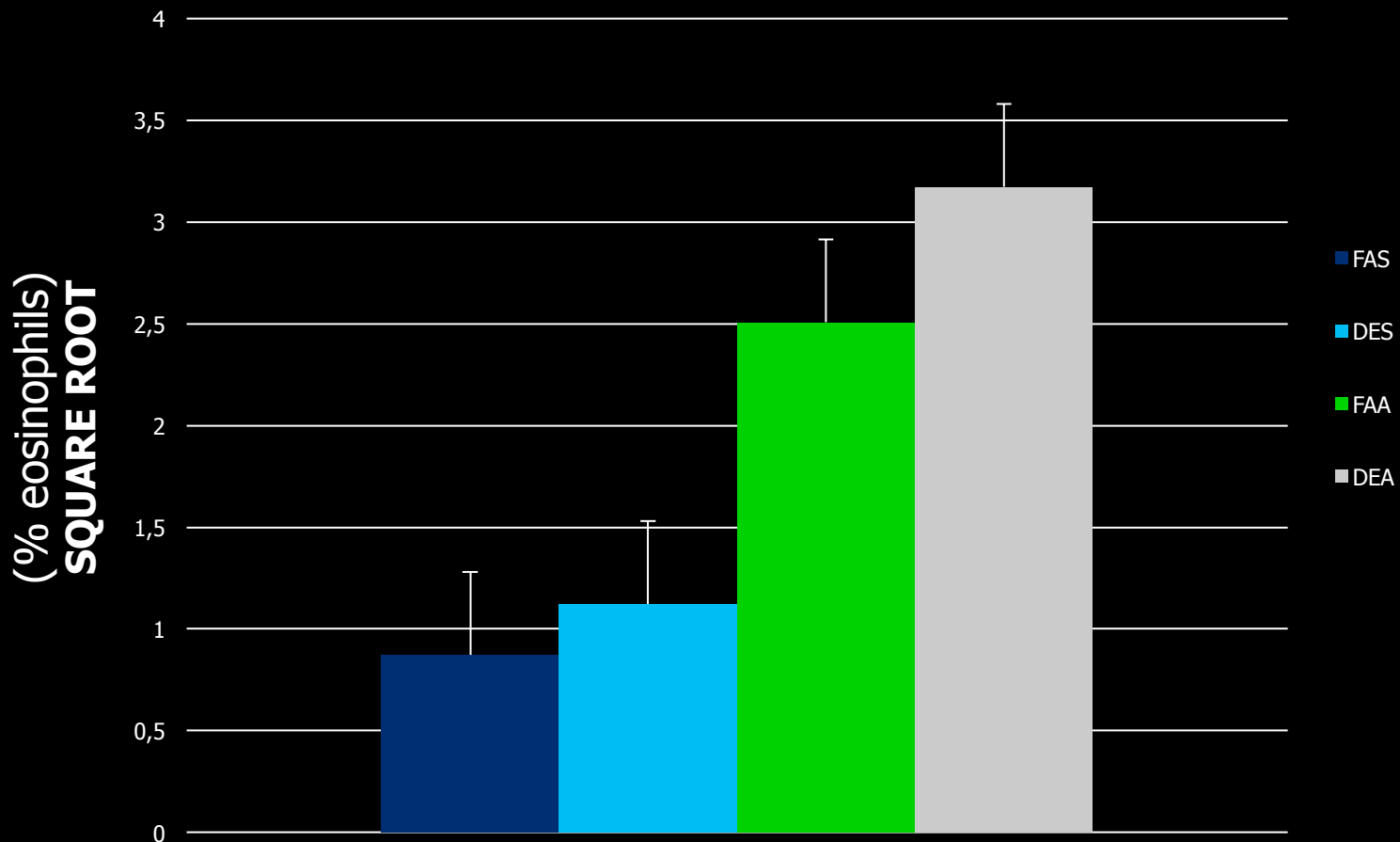


4 weeks later. . .

Repeated identically but for initial exposure (DE or filtered air)

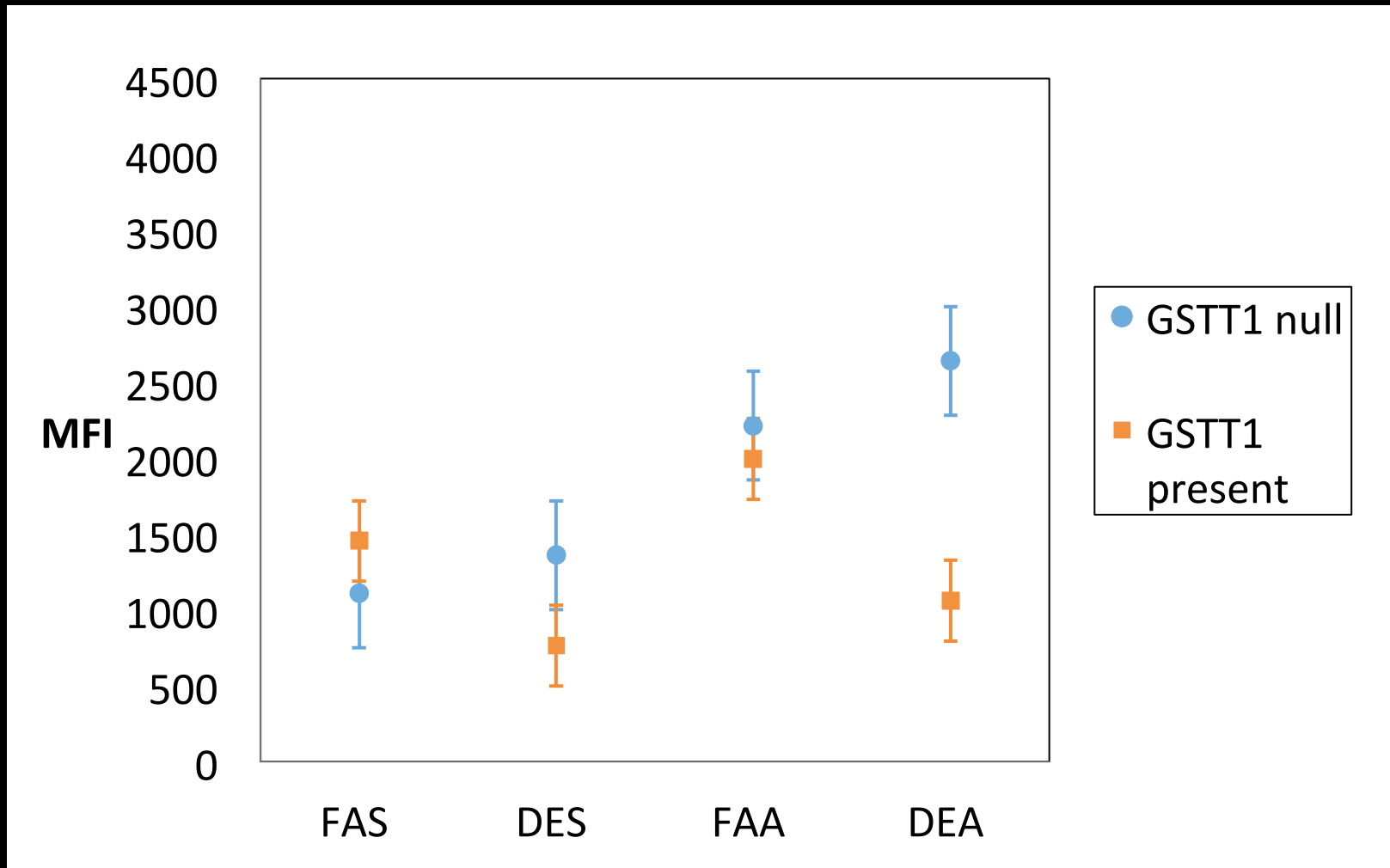
BAL 48-hr post-exposure: % eosinophils

orthogonal polynomial contrast (linear) p-value = 1^{-6}



GENE-EXPOSURE-EXPOSURE INTERACTION

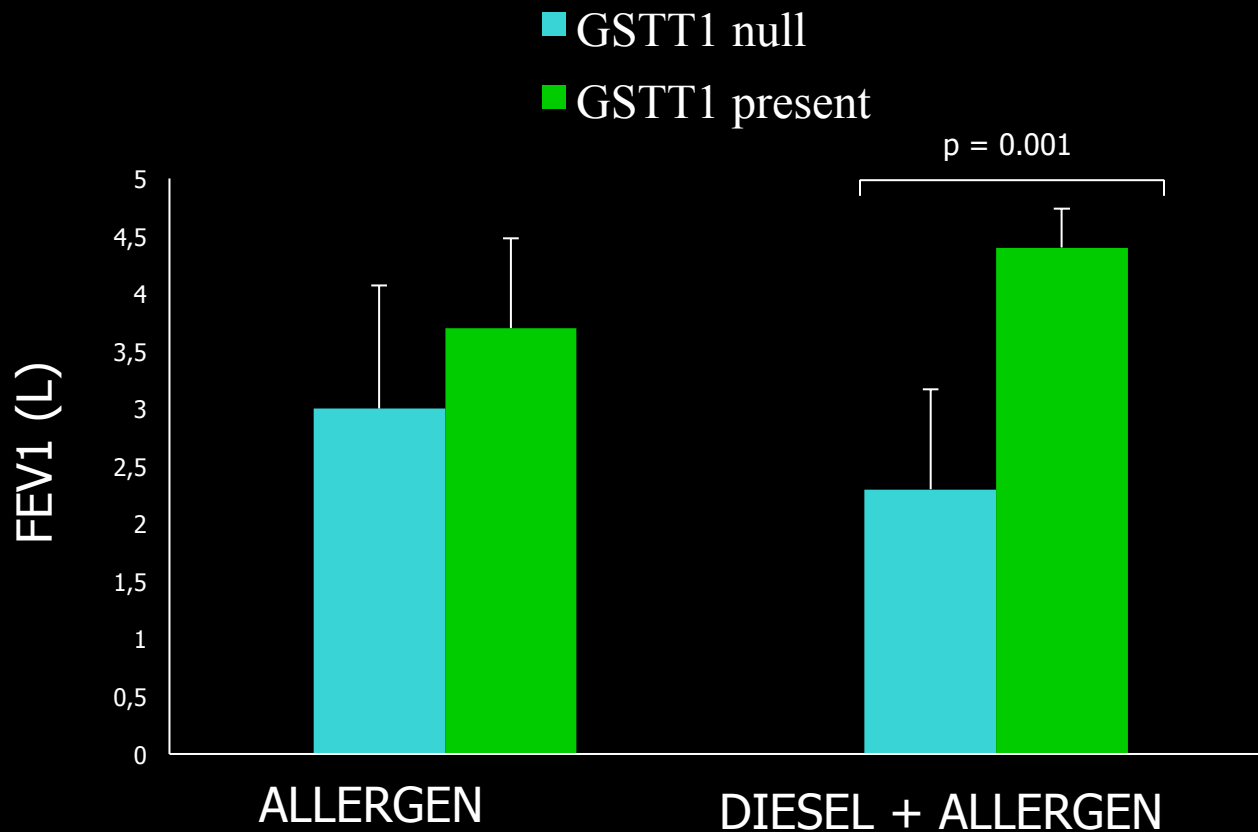
GSTT1-by-exposure interaction on activation of cytotoxic T cells* in lung lavage



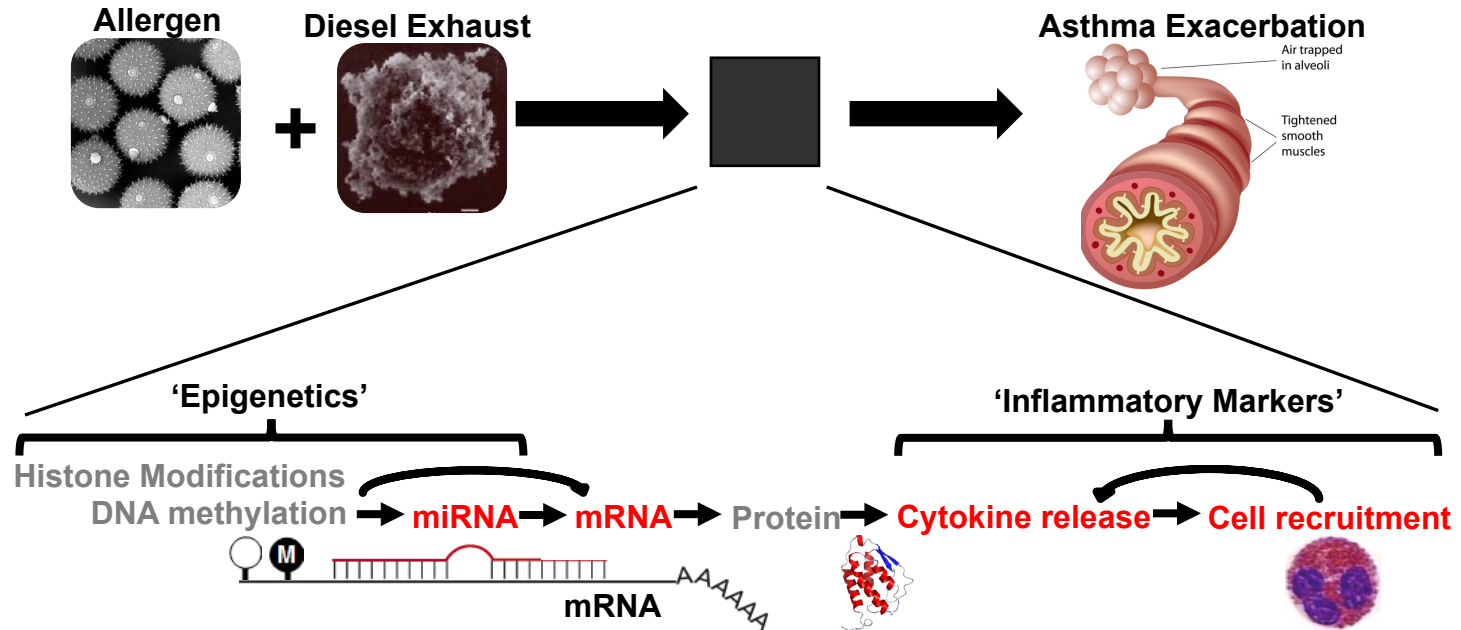
*CD3+/CD4-/CD8+/CD19-/CD45+/CD69+

Effect of combined exposures *and* genotype

*2hr after allergen exposure, airflow is reduced
in GSTT1 null, but only if also exposed to DE*



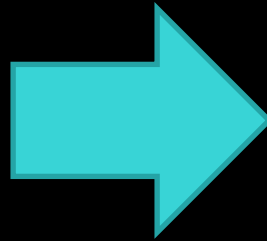
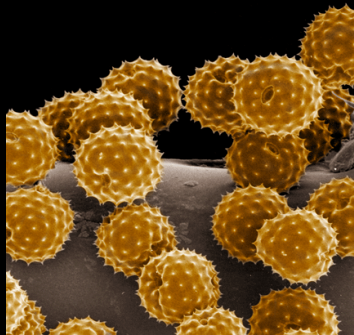
Air Pollution and Asthma Exacerbations



Hypothesis: Acute exposure to diesel exhaust and/or allergen alters expression of miRNA and genes, with effects on inflammatory markers, associated with asthma.

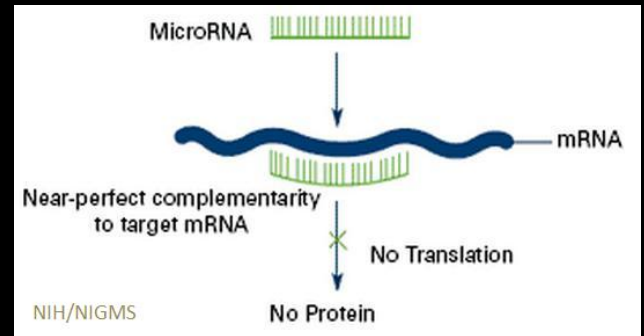
Effect of combined exposures on epithelial epigenetics

Δ miRNA, Δ DNA methylation

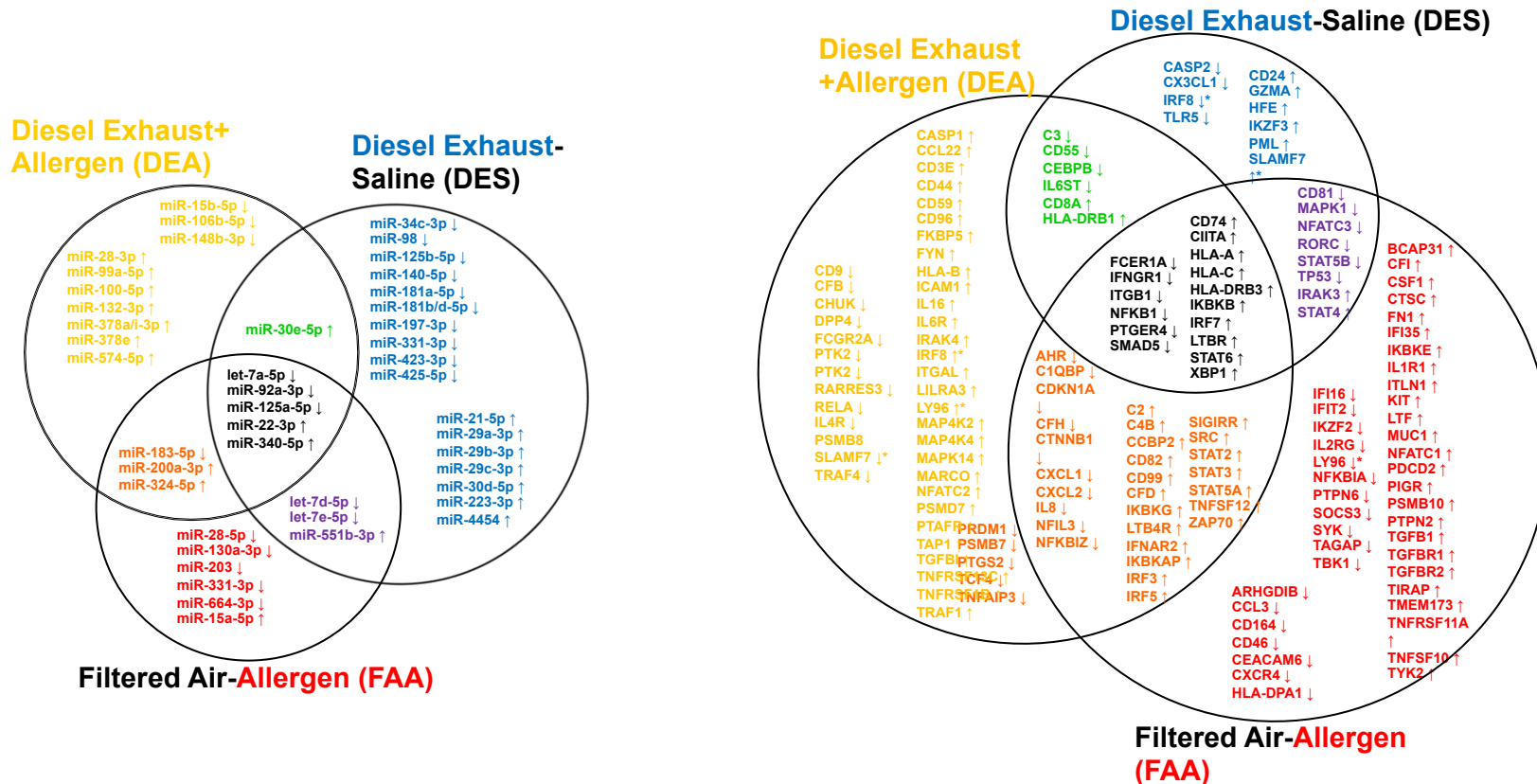


Rider *et al*
JACI 2016

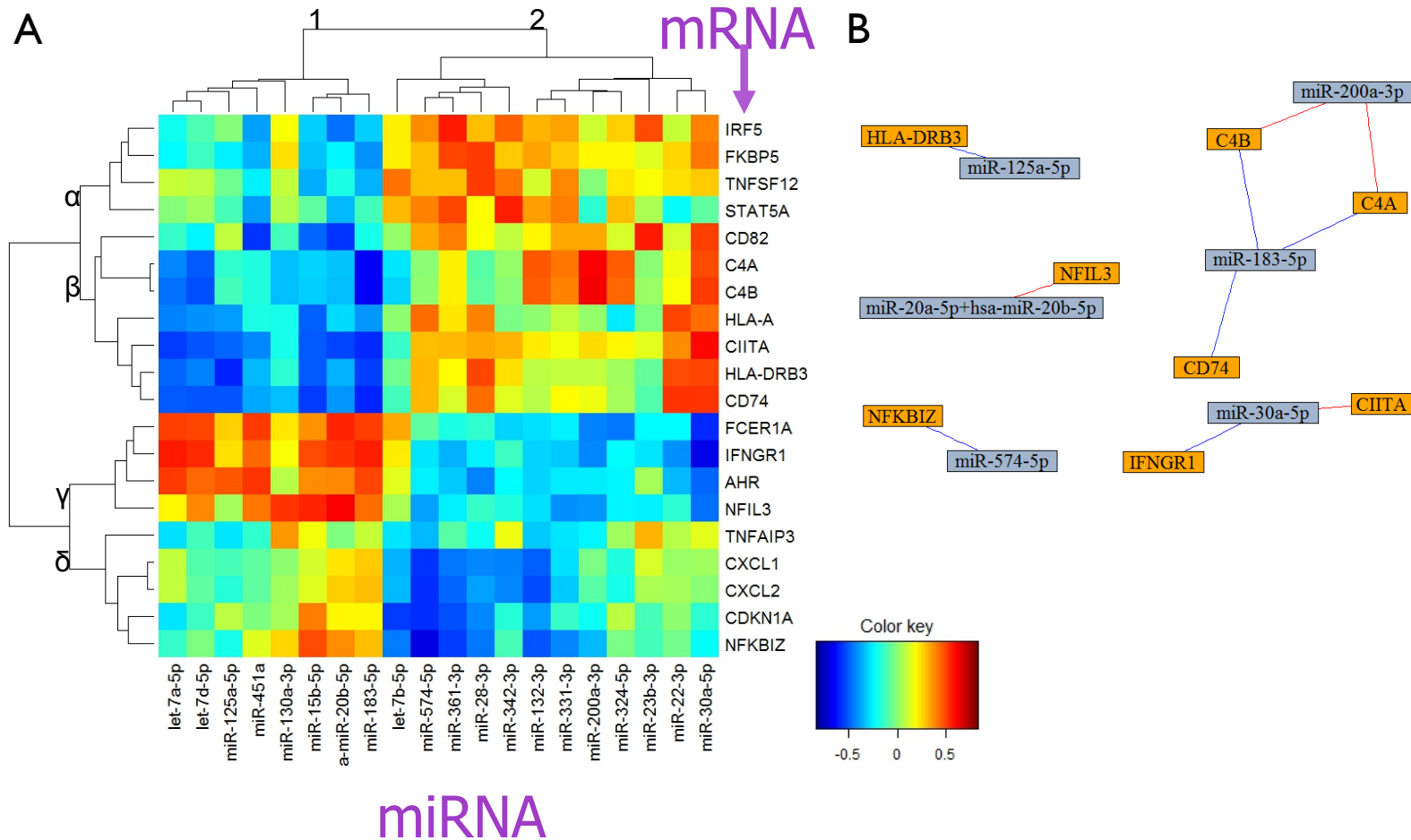
Clifford *et al*
JACI 2016



miRNA and mRNA response (to various conditions, relative to control)



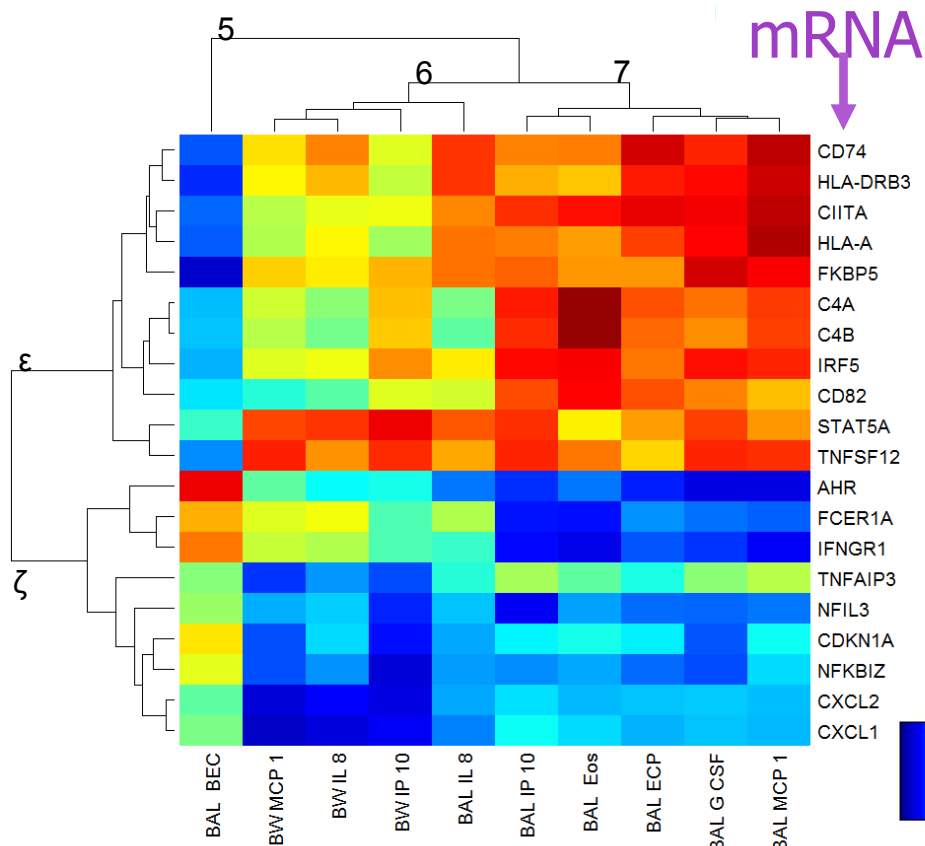
Correlations between miRNAs and gene expression



miRNA → gene expression → inflammation

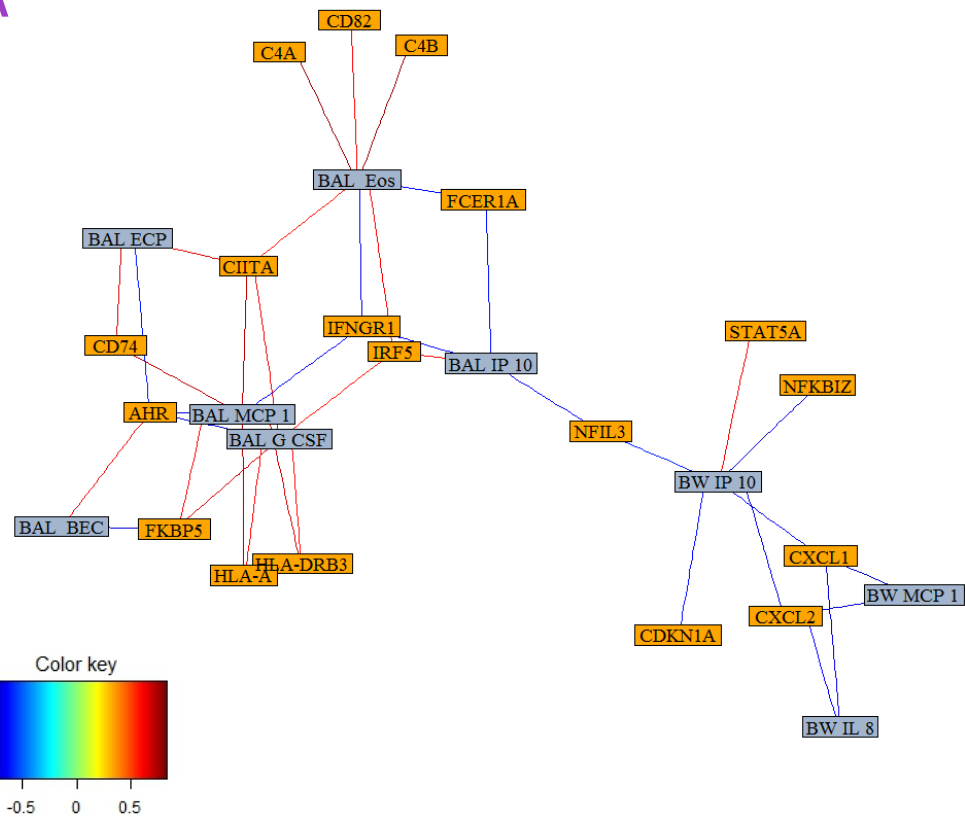
Correlations between gene expression and inflammatory markers

A



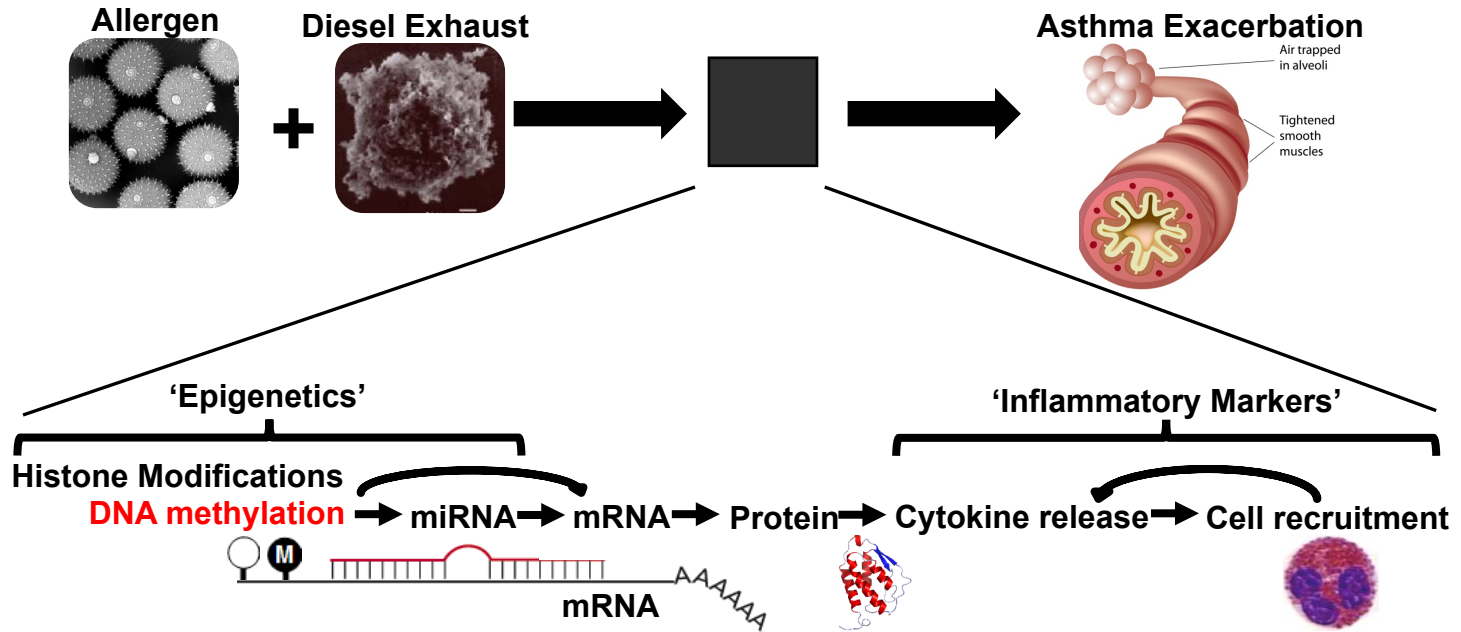
Lung lavage inflammatory markers

B



miRNA → gene expression → inflammation

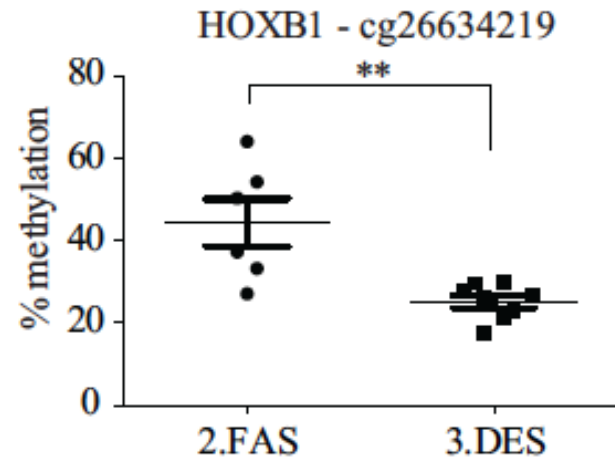
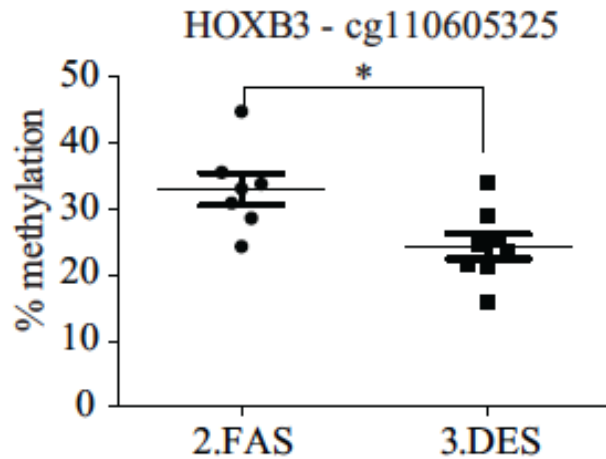
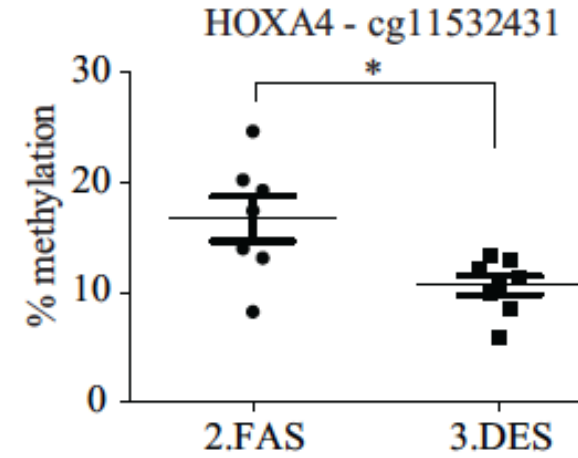
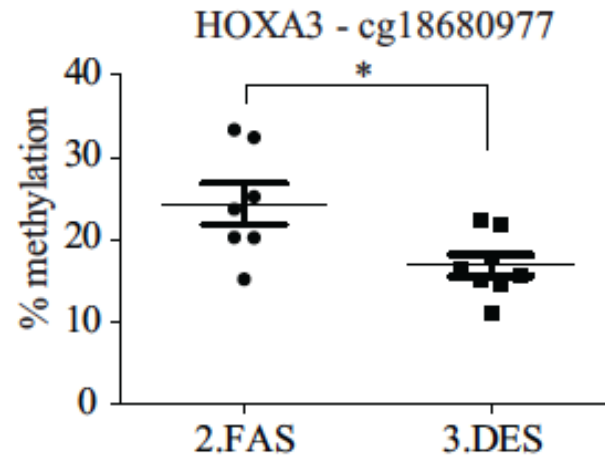
Air Pollution and Asthma Exacerbations



Top methylation changes in **airway epithelium** after acute DE exposure

Demethylation of
Homeobox genes

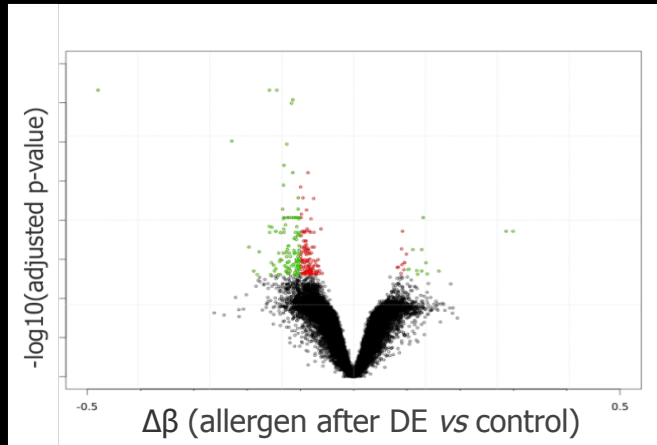
Encode highly
conserved cell
differentiation
transcription factors



EXPOSURE-EXPOSURE-EPIGENETIC INTERACTION

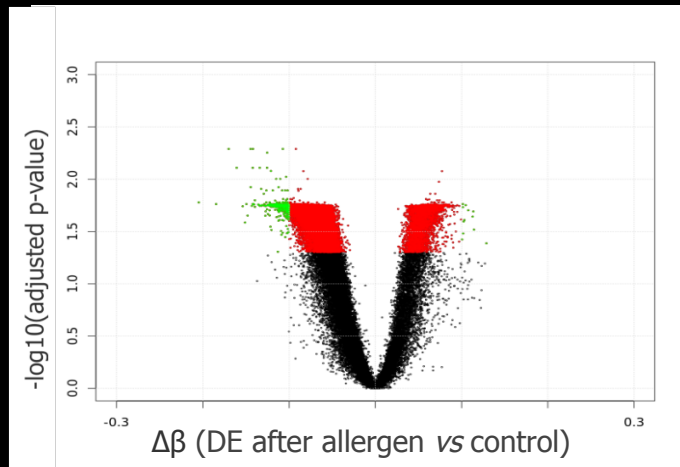
Clifford *et al*, JACI 2016

DNAme (Illumina 450K)



4 wks
DE \rightarrow allergen
(129 green hits)

DNAme dependent on order of exposures



4 wks
allergen \rightarrow DE
(535 green hits)

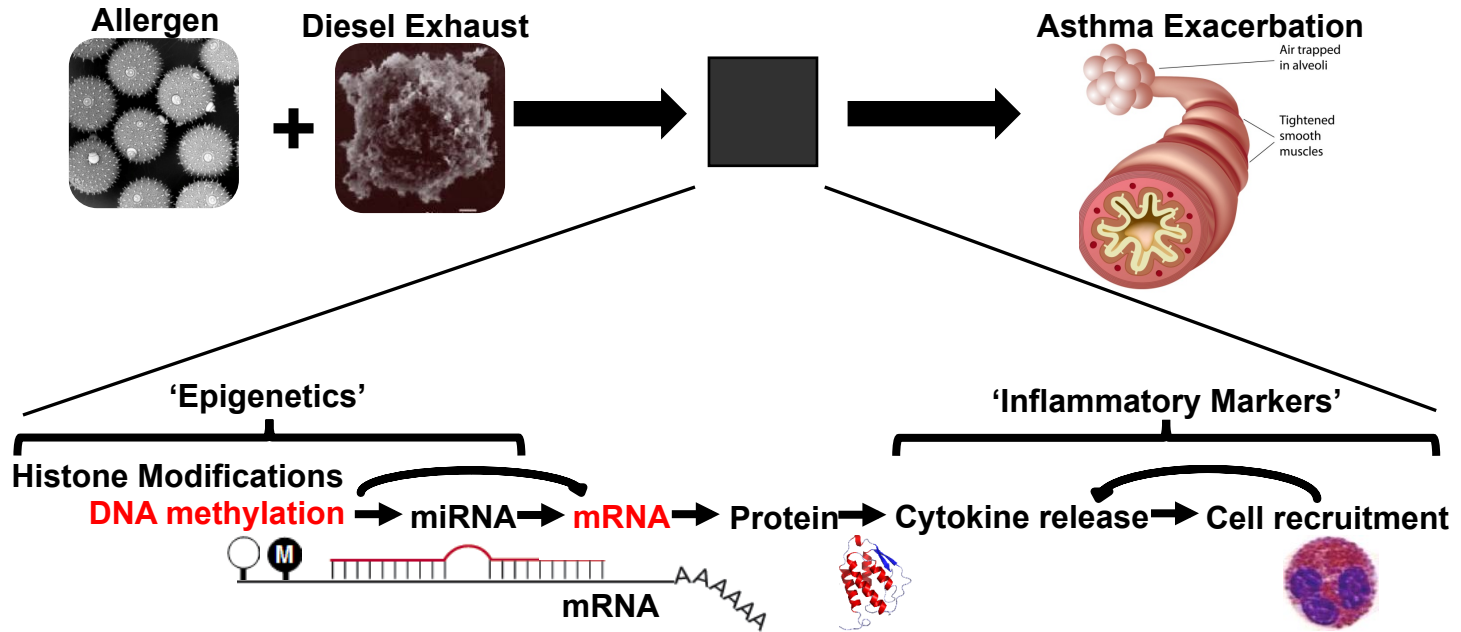


Significant probes (FDR-corrected p-values < 0.05) are **RED**

Probes **significant and with a $\Delta\beta > 0.1$** (10% methylation change) are **GREEN**

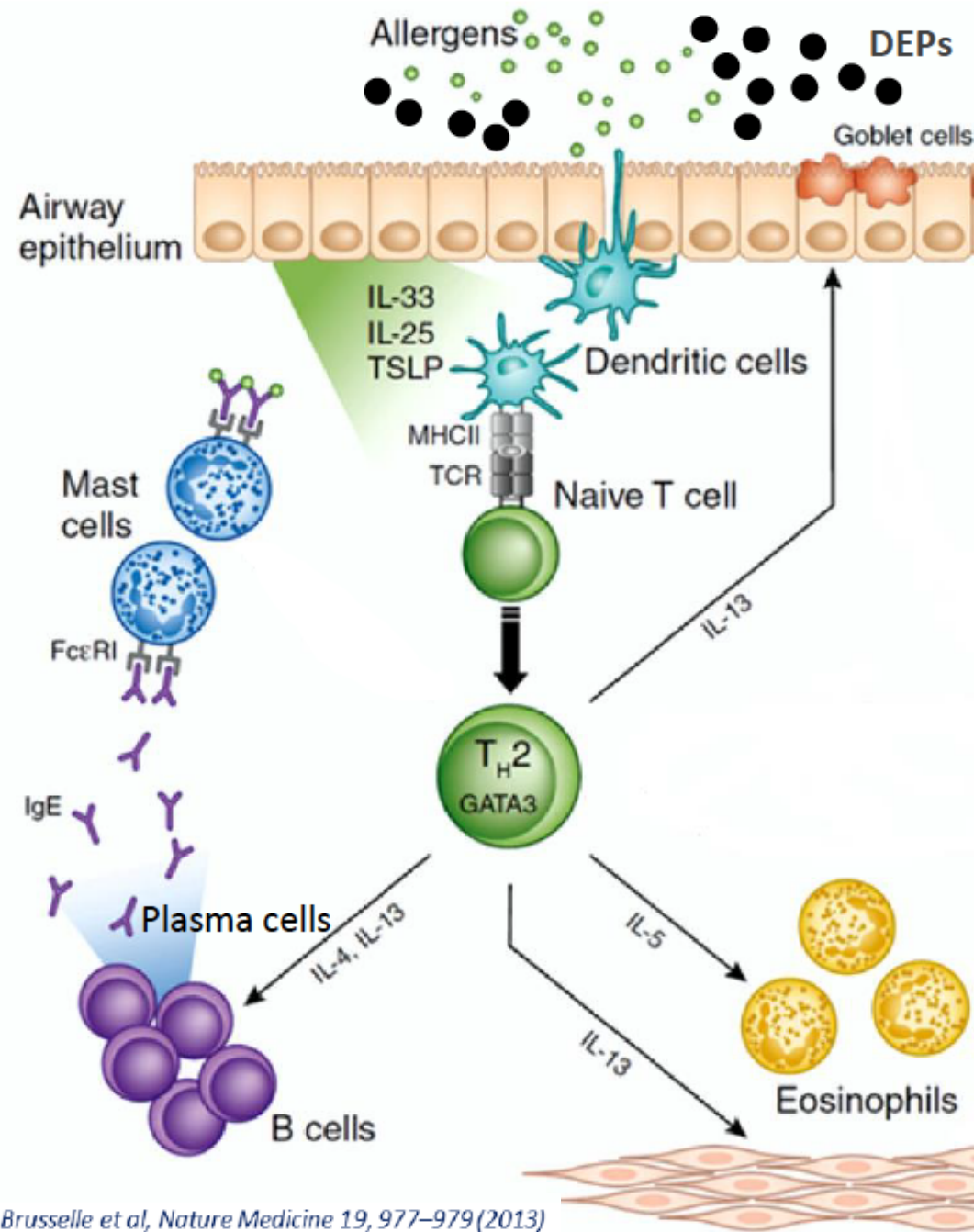
Air Pollution, Allergen and Asthma Exacerbations

Next steps – more integrative ‘omics



Possible mechanisms 'where?'

- Cells within airway lumen
- Epithelium (+/- damage)
- Subepithelium
- Circulation



How does exposure to gas, dust and fumes enhance sensitization and asthma?

Possible mechanisms

'how?'

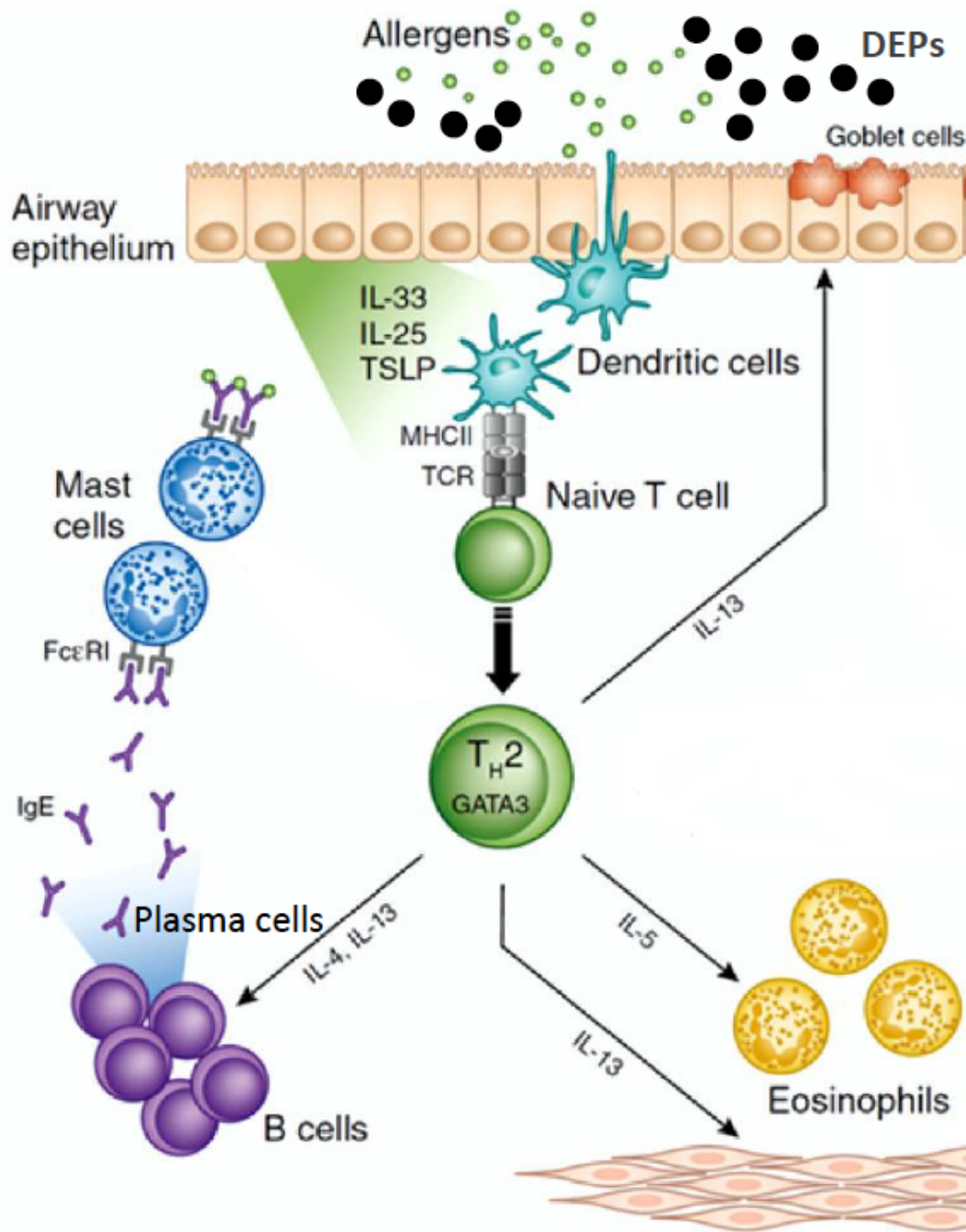
Classic cells and mediators

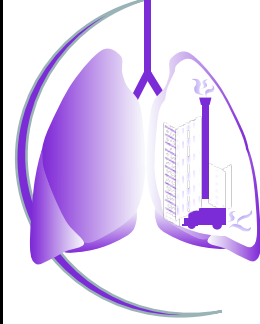
Novel mediators
Transcriptome

Proteome (A2876 Monday am)

Epigenome

Modifying factors
(gene variants)





Our Mission:

To gain new understanding of the mechanisms involved in occupational and environmental lung disease through laboratory and clinical research, and to translate this knowledge into improved diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventative tools for the benefit of public health

We welcome highly-motivated and team-oriented trainees

WORK SAFE BC

Vancouver
Coastal Health
Research Institute



Canada Foundation for Innovation

AllerGen



CIHR IRSC
Canadian Institutes of
Health Research Instituts de recherche
en santé du Canada

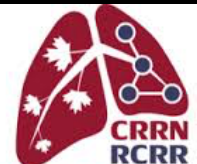


Institute for
HEART+LUNG Health
Strong beats. Clear breaths. Full lives.

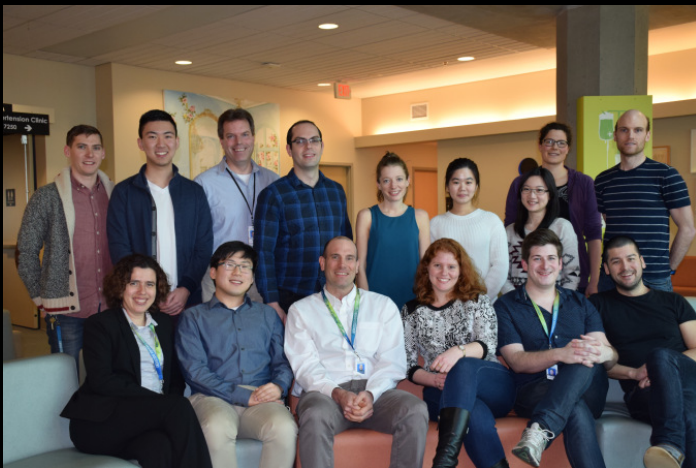
THE LUNG ASSOCIATION™
British Columbia



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FOR HEALTH RESEARCH**
Discover. Connect. Engage.



Canadian Respiratory Research Network / Réseau canadien de
recherche respiratoire



APEL data compared with DDS

Focusing on DE+Ag v. Ag only

Diaz-Sanchez et al
Mouse models (2002)

→ DE: up to 2000 ug/m³ for 1hr
daily for 10 days

→ 19-fold increase in specific
IgE

→ No sig. change in BAL eos %

APEL
Our prelim human lung data

→ DE: 300 ug/m³ for 2 hrs

→ 1.6-fold increase in
specific IgE

→ 4x increase in BAL eos%

APEL data compared with DDS

Focusing on DE+Ag v. Ag only

Diaz-Sanchez et al

Human nasal models (1997)

- 0.3mg DEP + 200U Ag
- No change in total IgE levels
- 6x increase in specific IgE @ 1d-post; 16x increase 4d post

→ 7x increase in IL-5 mRNA IL-5

→ Did not look at Eos

APEL

Our prelim human lung data

- DE: 300 ug/m³ for 2 hrs + SA
- No diff in total IgE
- 1.6x increase in specific IgE

→ 2x increase in IL-5

→ 4x increase in Eos

Possible mechanisms 'how?' (2)

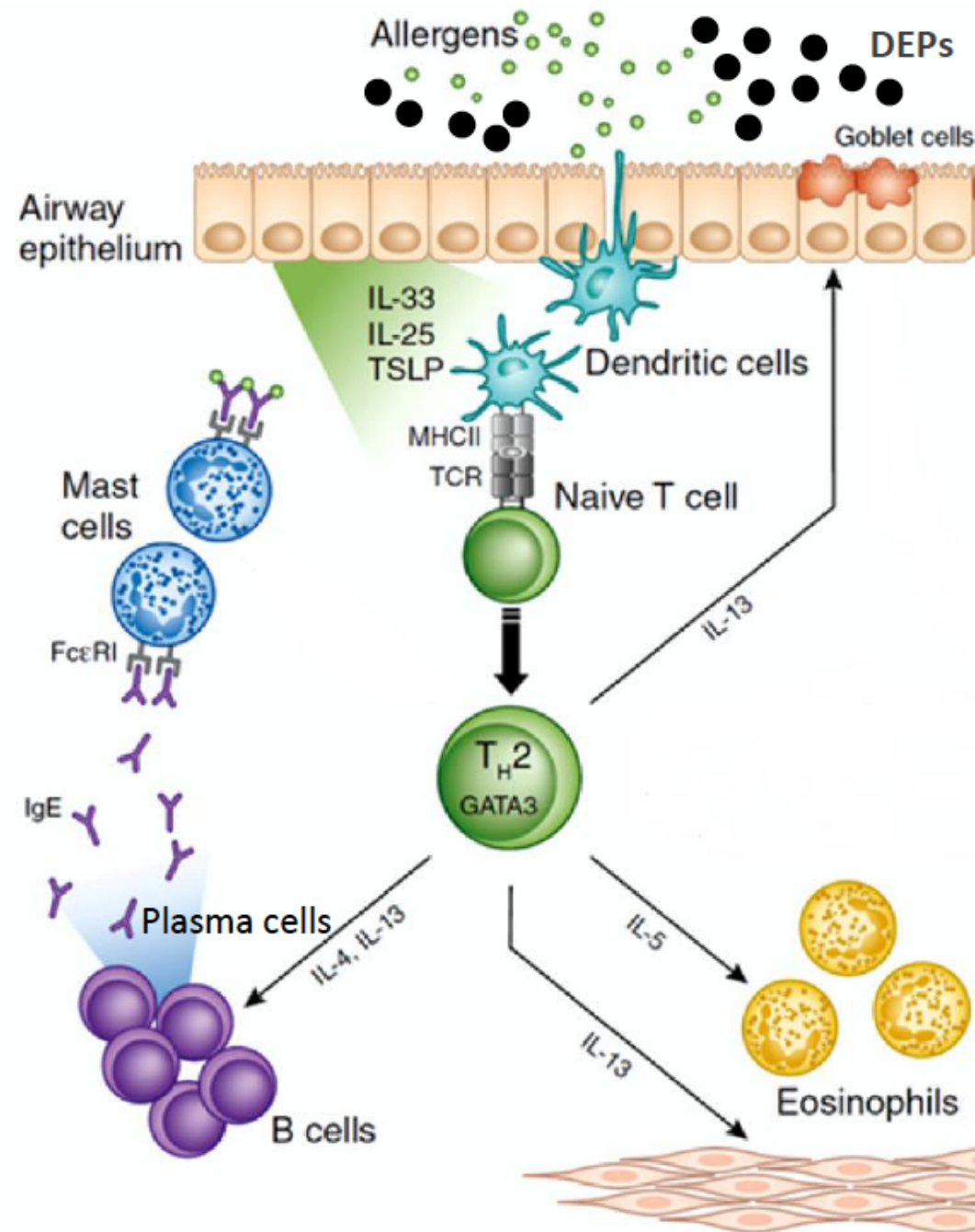
Inhalants directly pass into subepithelium

Epithelial damage (increase access to subepithelium)

Innate immunity

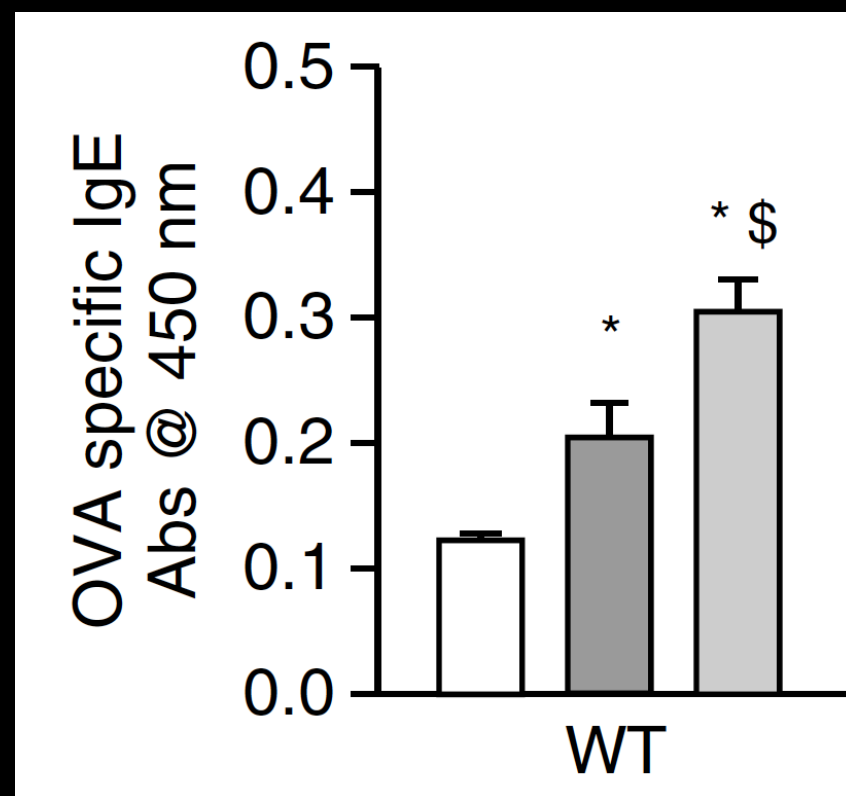
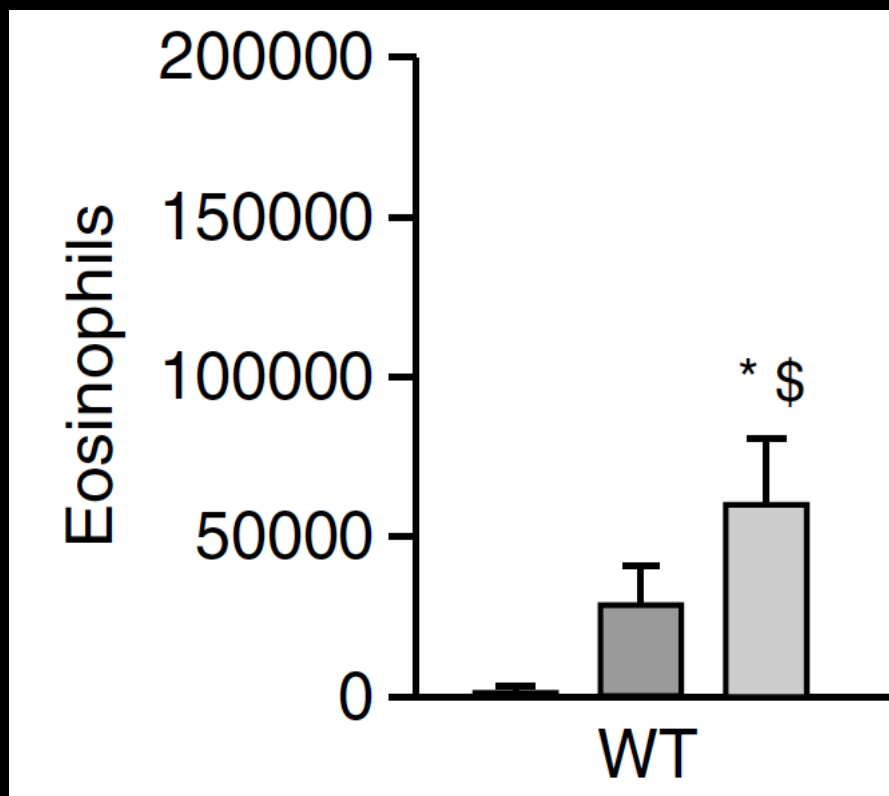
Adaptive immunity

Neuronal pathways



In mice, intranasal PM + OVA

↑ BAL Eos and specific IgE in **peripheral blood**



Hirota *et al.*, AJRCMB 2015 (WT = C57BL/6 mice)

NOTE: Whitekus (Diaz-Sanchez) 2002 found **no increase** in airway eos

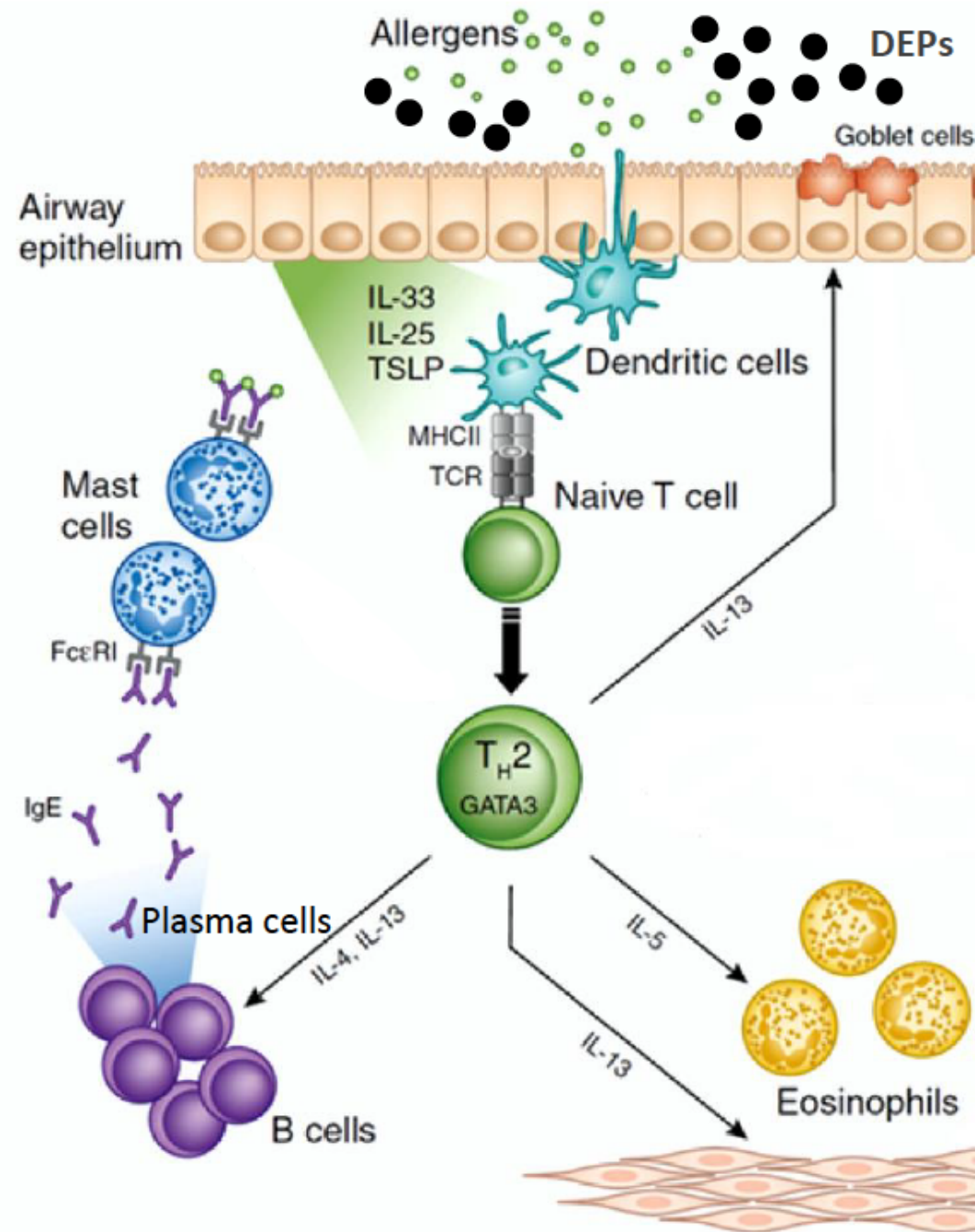
Possible mechanisms

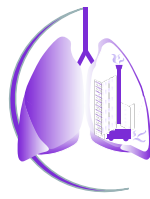
'how?' (1)

In parallel
or
Sequential

Additive
or
Synergistic

Acute
or
Chronic





UBC Chan-Yeung Centre
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Environmental Respiratory
Disease

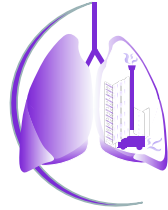
*Understanding exposure effects – linking
research to public health*

APEL Air Pollution
Exposure Laboratory

Inhalation of diesel exhaust and allergen alters human bronchial epithelium DNA methylation

JACI 2016

Rachel Clifford
Assistant Professor
University of Nottingham



UBC Chan-Yeung Centre
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Disease

*Understanding exposure effects – linking
research to public health*

APEL Air Pollution
Exposure Laboratory

MultiOmics of diesel and allergen inhalation *JACI* 2016

Chris Rider
Post-Doctoral Researcher
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