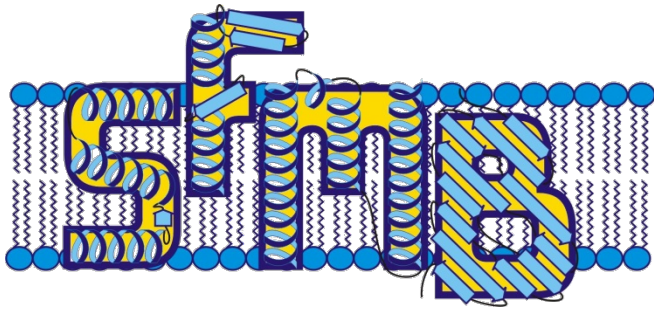


# A NOVEL CROSS TALK BETWEEN MEMBRANE LIPIDS AND THE INNATE SYSTEM IS MEDIATED BY TOLL-LIKE RECEPTORS



Laboratory for Structure and  
Function of Biological  
Membranes

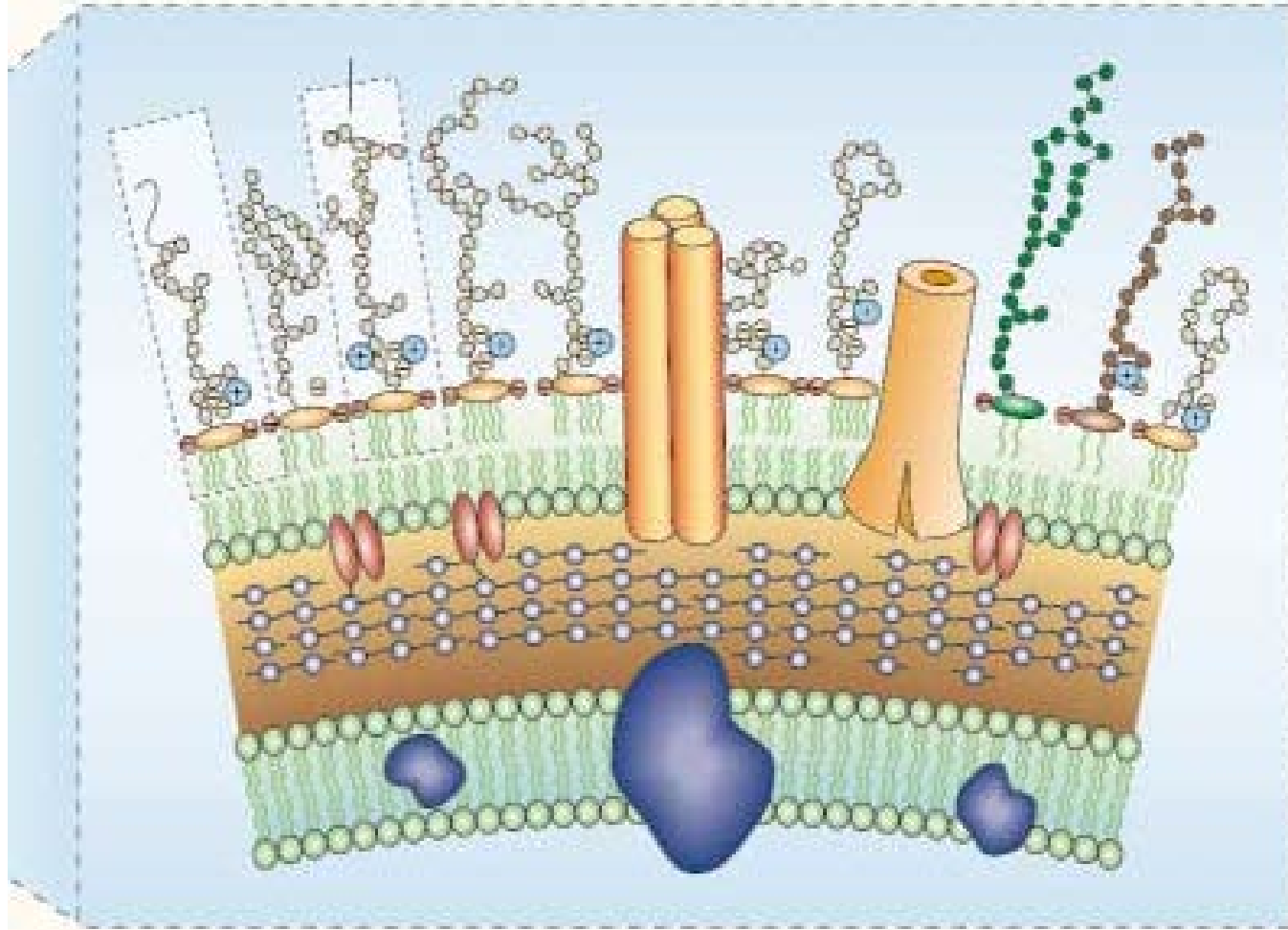
Universite Libre de Bruxelles  
(Belgium)

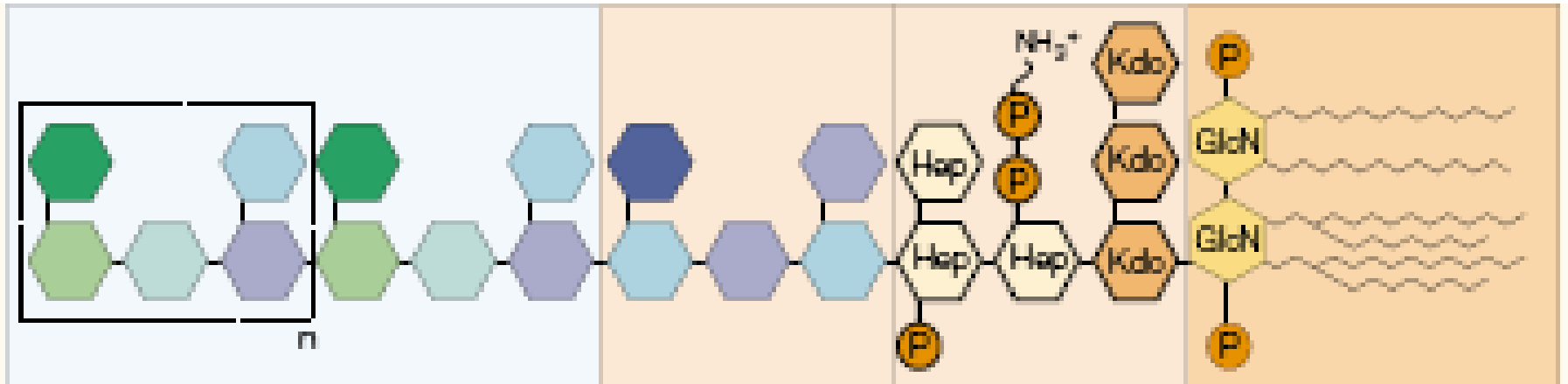
[jmruyss@ulb.ac.be](mailto:jmruyss@ulb.ac.be)



Thanks Walt

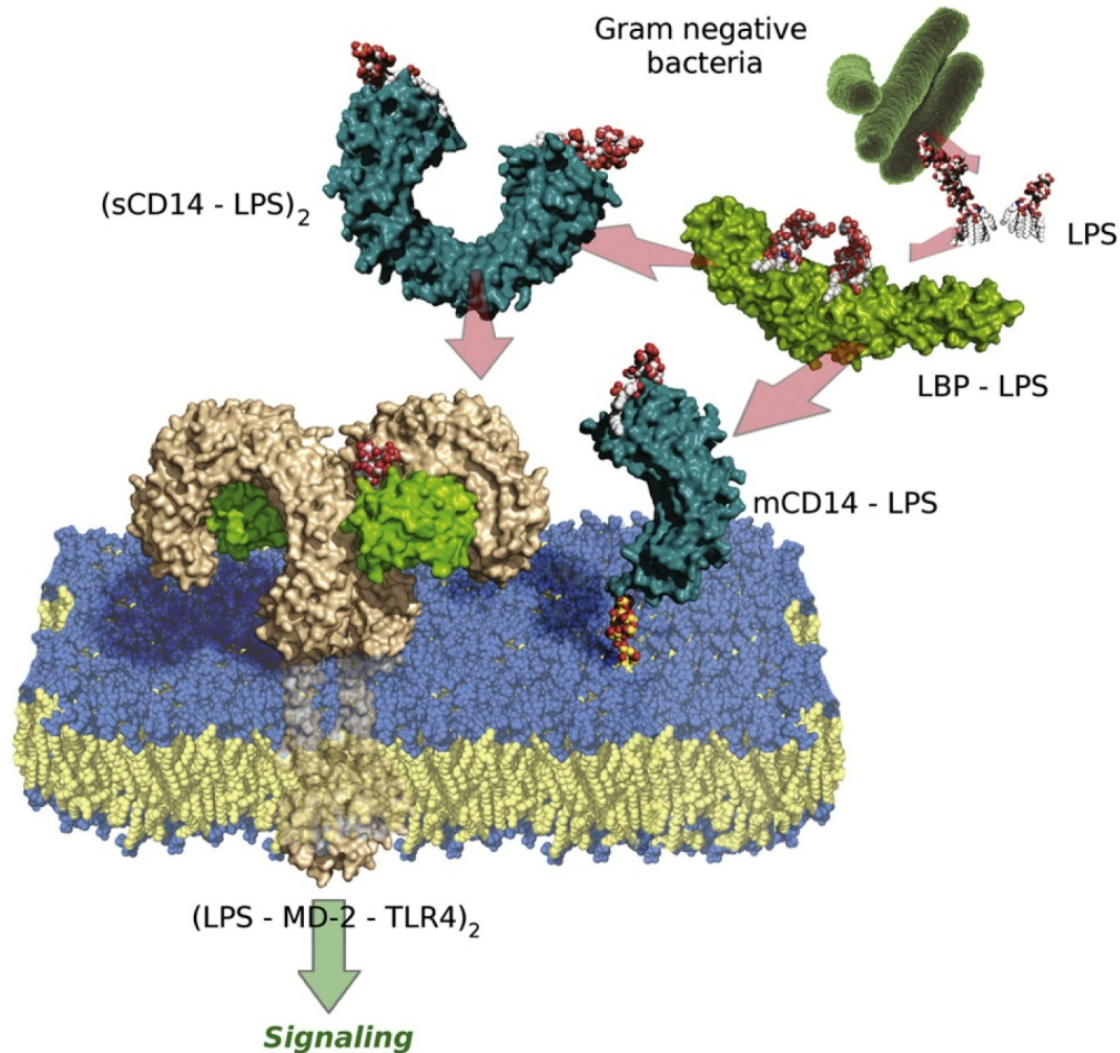






LPS(lipopolysaccharide)

# The innate system as a first defense against bacterial and viral infection



LPS: Activator of the innate system

Toll-like receptors (*TLRs*) are proteins of the innate system that contribute to the first defense against bacterial and viral infection

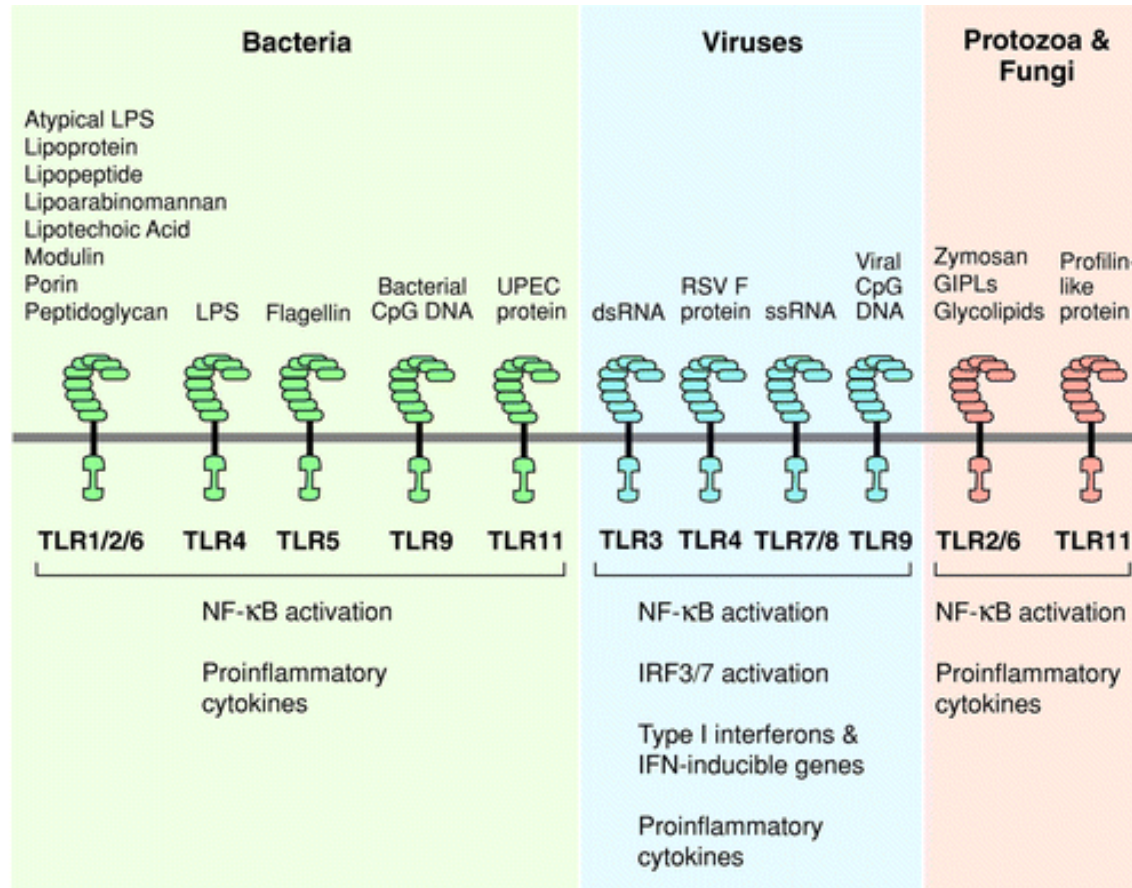
Messages are then sent to specialised cells that will block the bacterial or viral attack


Toll-like receptors (TLRs) play an important role in the immune response by helping the body to recognise **foreign** molecules

# Toll-like receptors(TLRs)

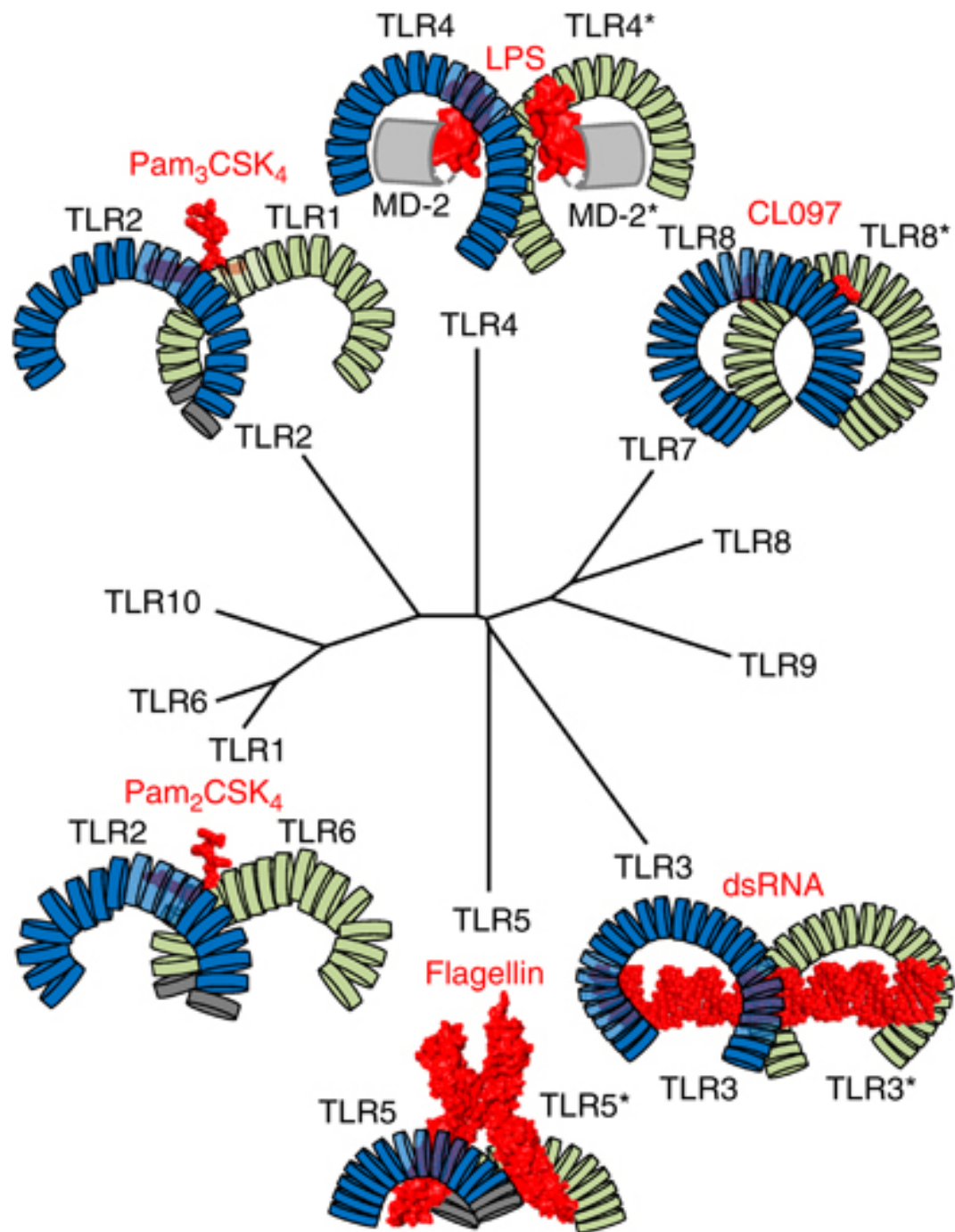
The Nobel Prize in **Physiology** or Medicine 2011

Bruce A. Beutler, Jules A. Hoffmann, Ralph M. Steinman

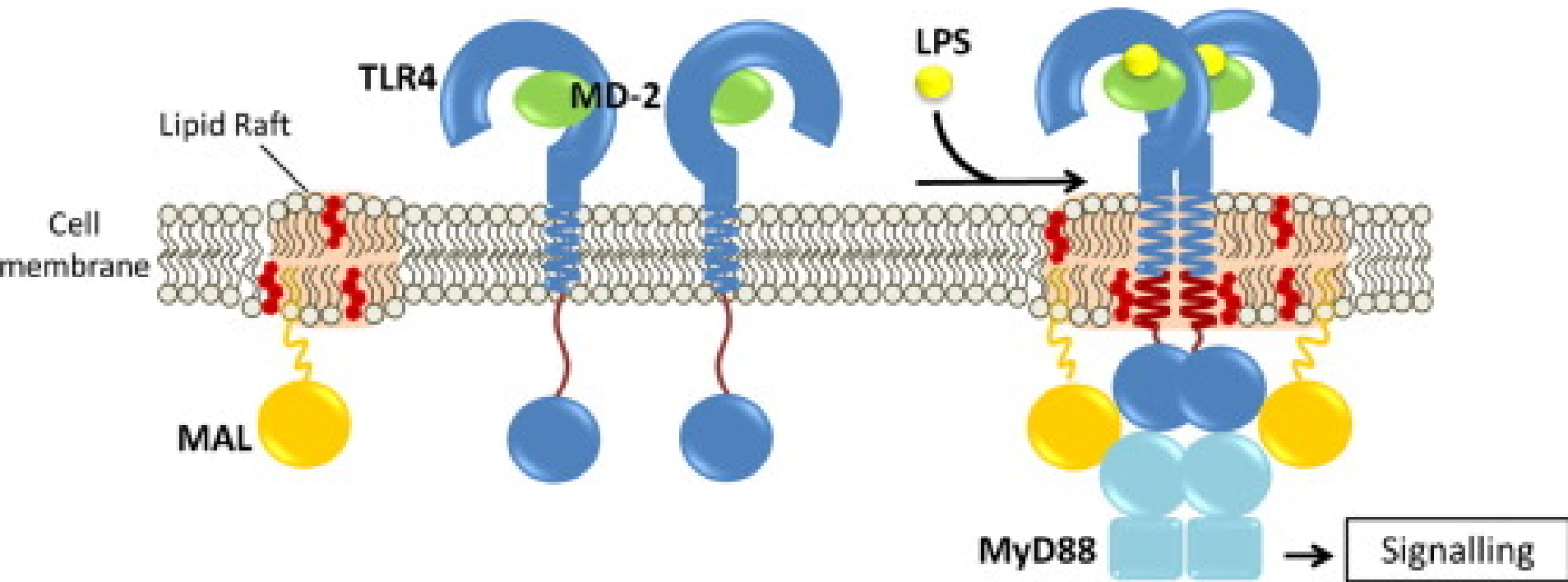


 West AP, et al. 2006.  
Annu. Rev. Cell Dev. Biol. 22:409–37

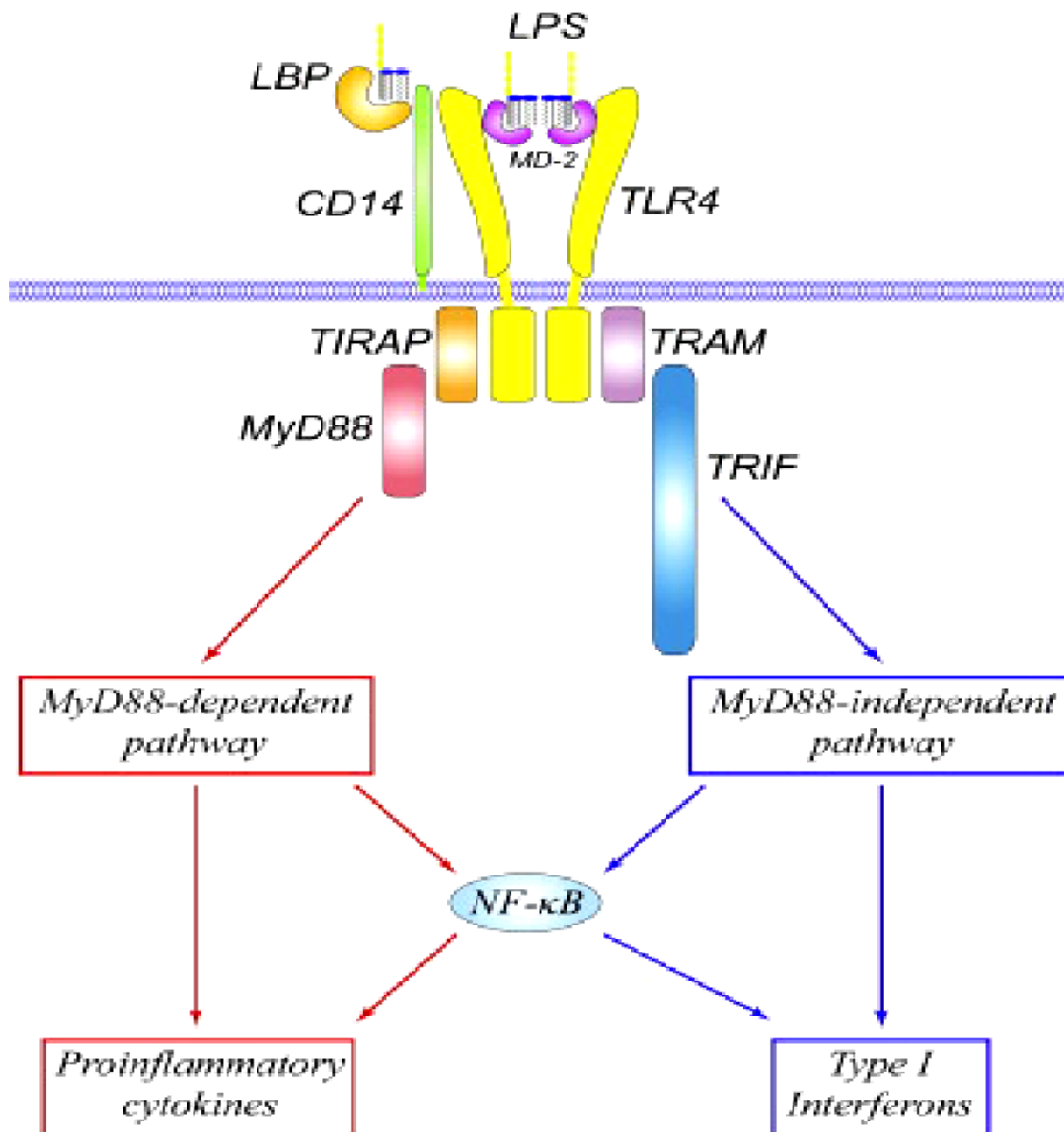
The extracellular domains consists of leucine rich repeats with horseshoe-like shapes

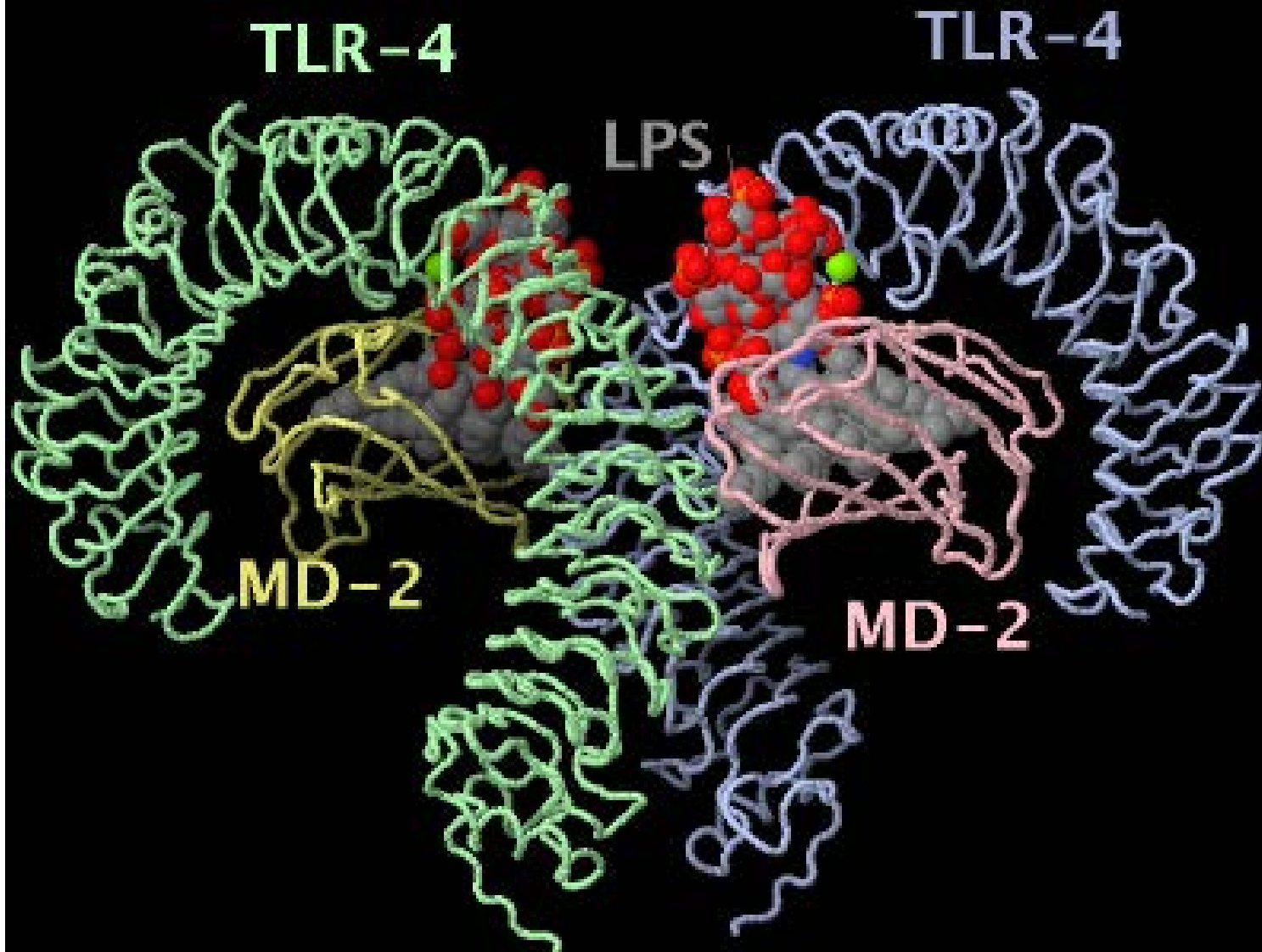






***Activation of TLR4 before and after stimulation by bacterial lipopolysaccharides (LPS).***





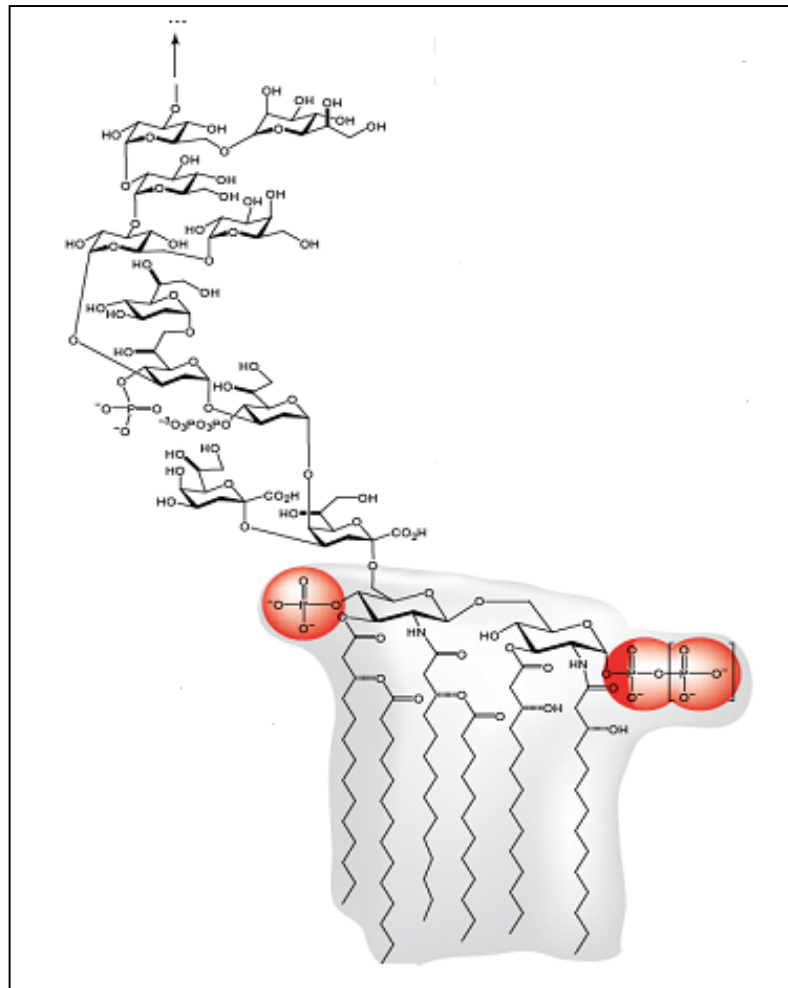
**Park BS. et al. Nature. 2009. 458(7242):1191-5.**

Numerous ligands of bacterial, viral origin are implicated as TLRs activator. This promiscuity raises questions concerning the manner in which molecules unrelated to microbial ligands might productively engage a signaling receptor

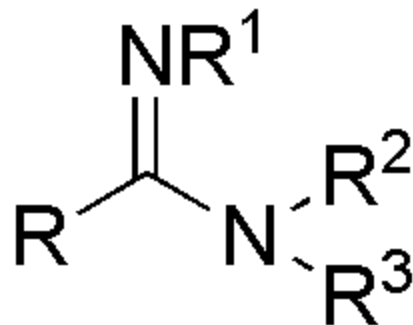
Bruce A. Beutler

Do TLRs recognize non bacterial ligands?

# LPS:natural ligand

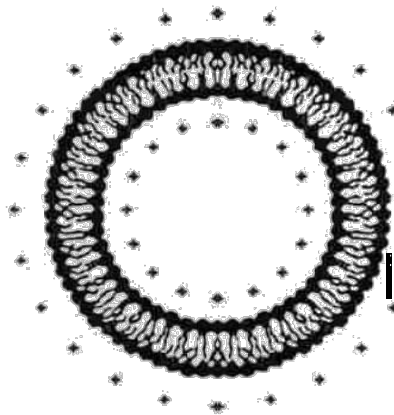
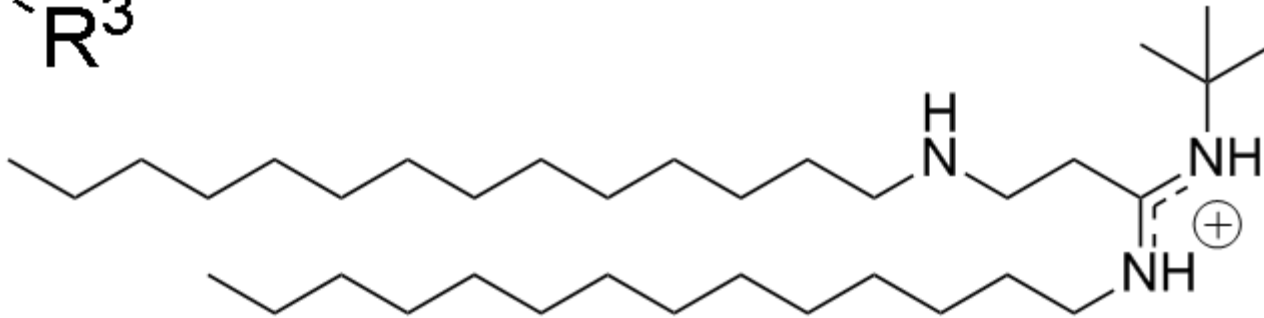
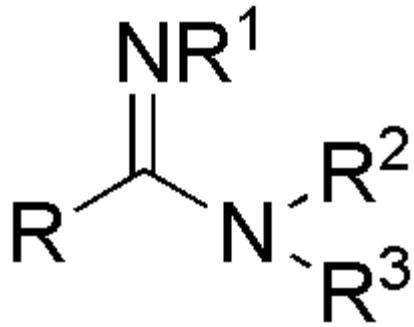


Robert Fuks



Amidine

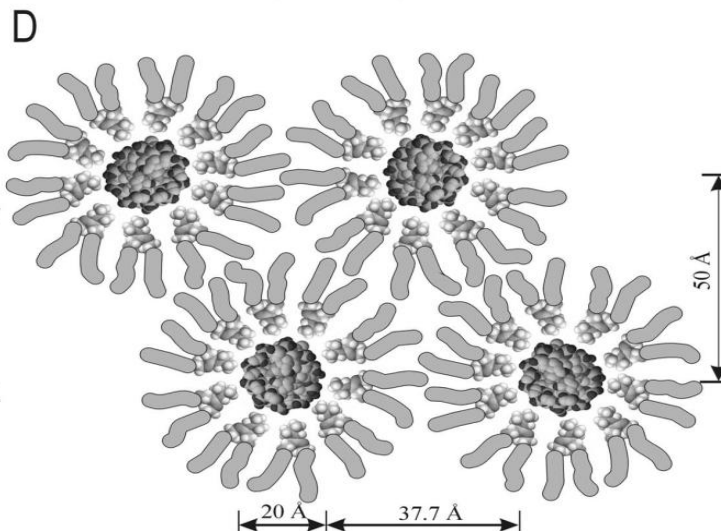
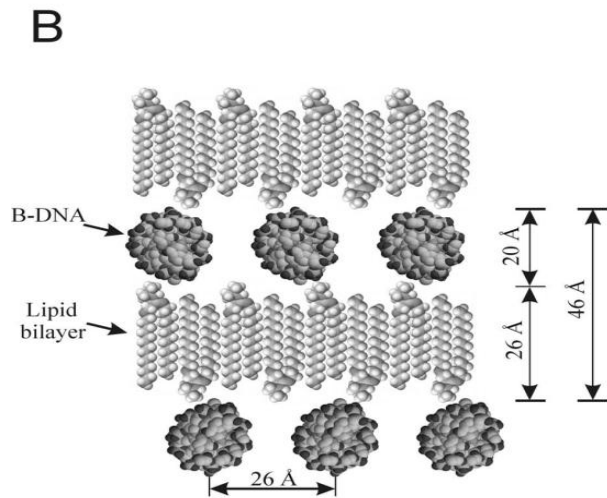
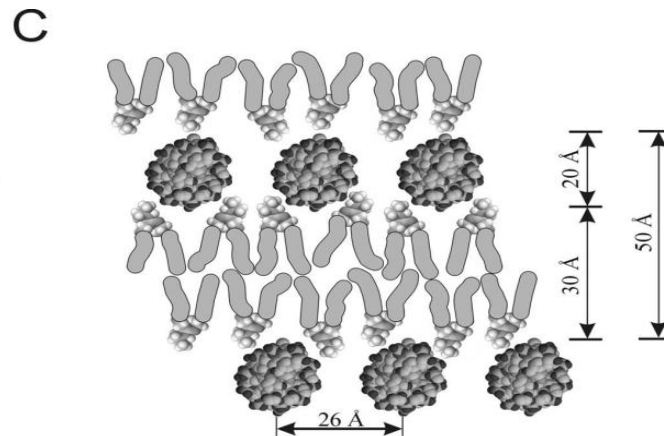
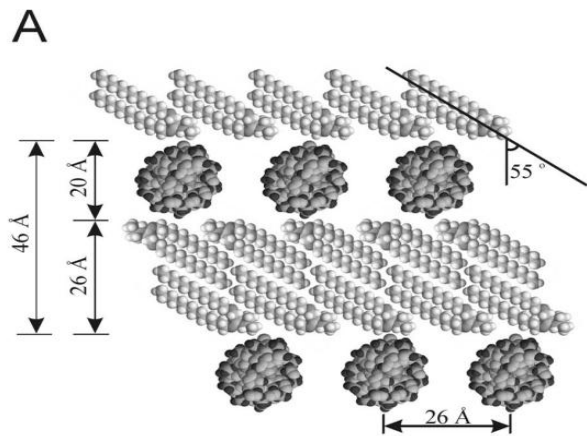
# N-t-butyl-N-tetradecyl-3-tetradecylamino-propionamide (diC14-amidinium)



liposomes

diC14-amidinium-Size 200nm-transition temperature:23C

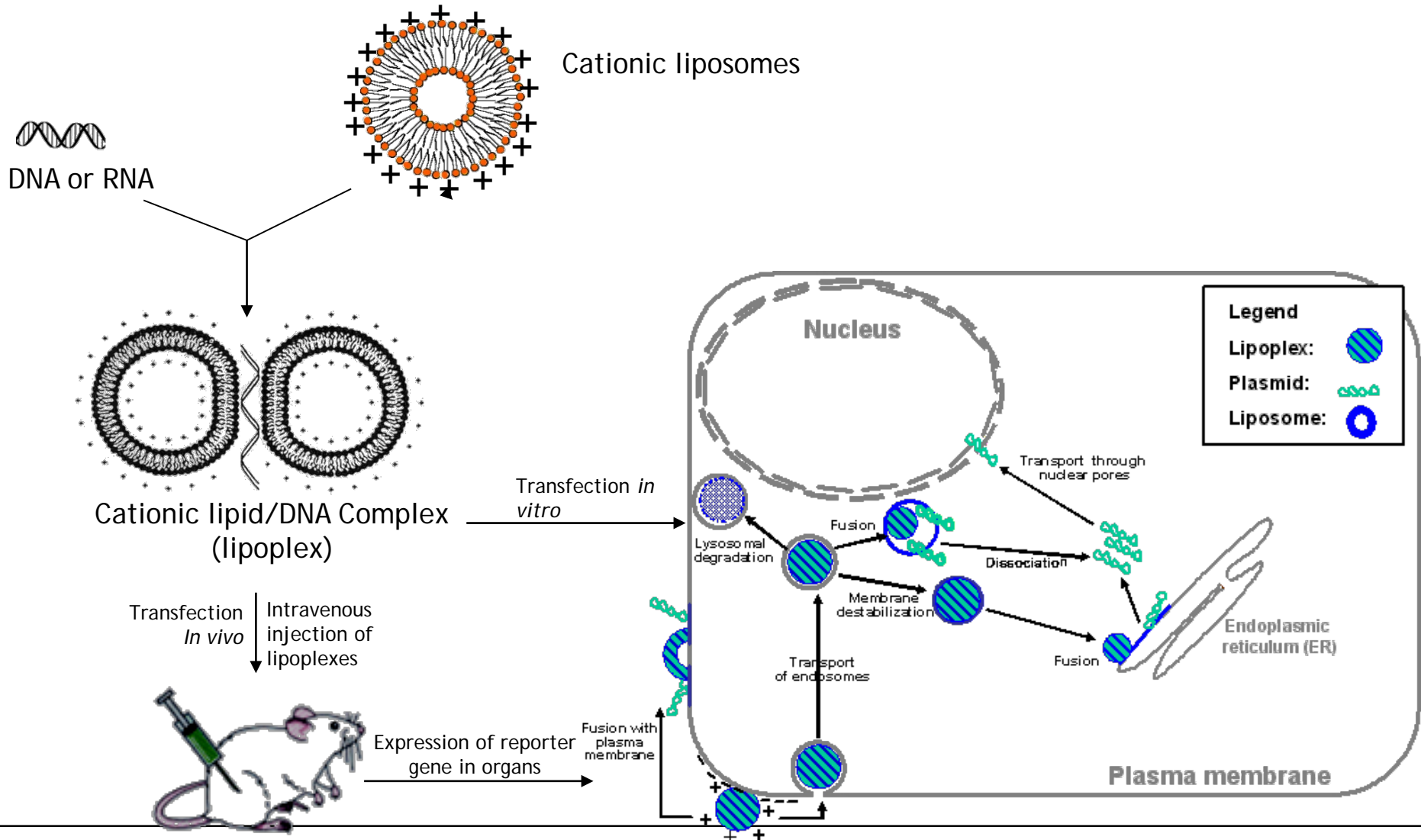




Pector V, Cherezov V, Qiu H, Pector V, Vandenbranden M, Ruyschaert JM, Caffrey M. *et al.* 2000. *J Biol Chem.* 275:29533-8.

**Molecular models of the diC14-amidine lipid/DNA complex.**  
 Two possible arrangements below the lipid chain melting transition temperature, 23°C, are shown in **A** and **B**.

# Cationic lipids as gene carriers



# **1996:BioTech Tools**

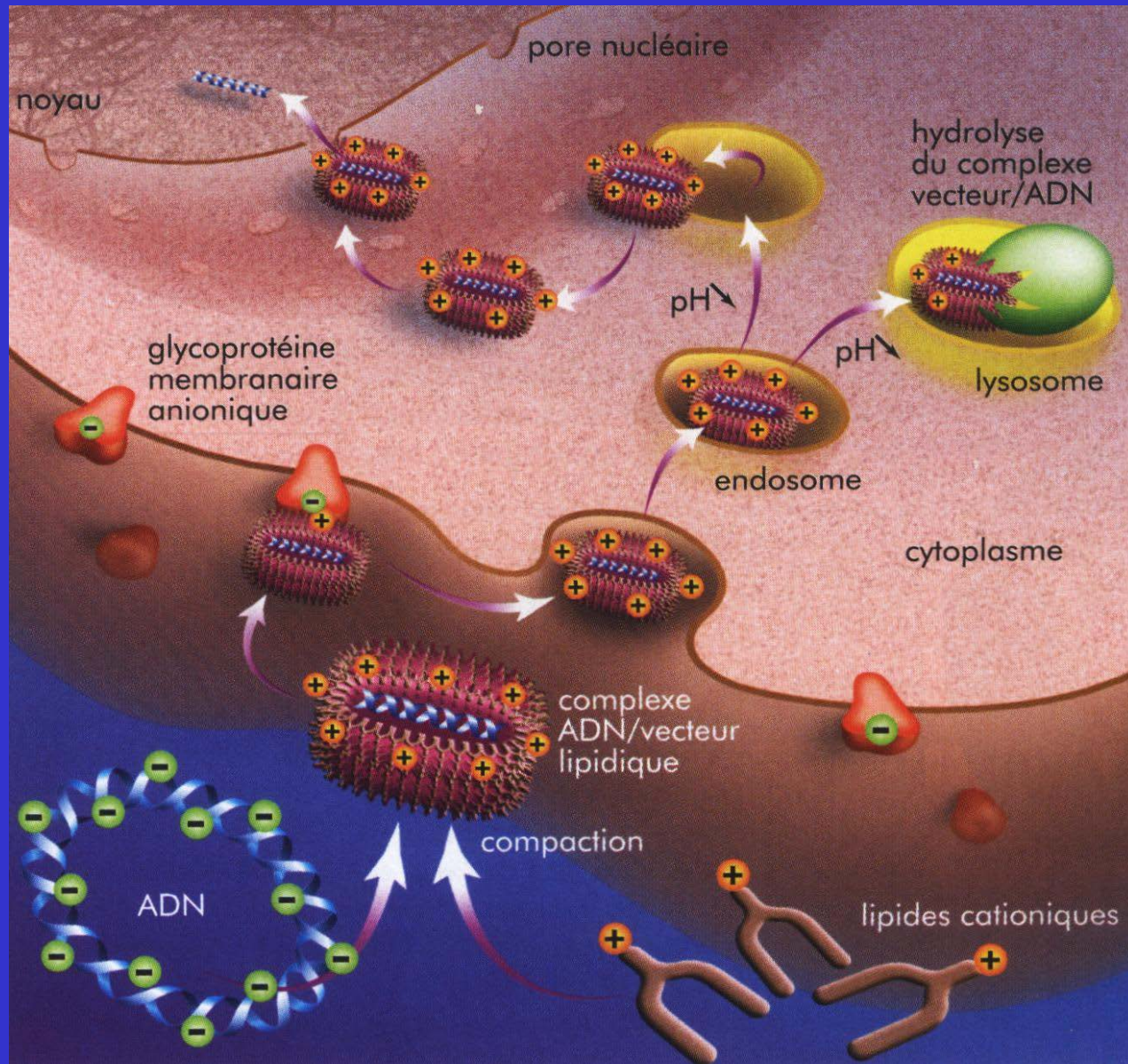


First steps of ASIT biotech on European stock exchange-EURONEXT-2016

Do TLRs recognize non bacterial ligands?

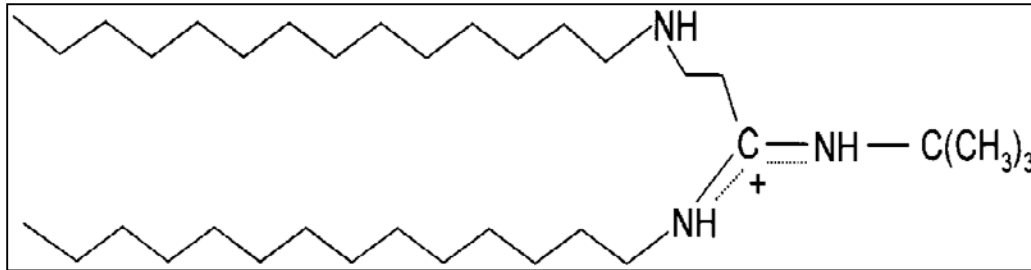
PhD student did not inject in mice  
the lipid –DNA complex  
but just the lipid



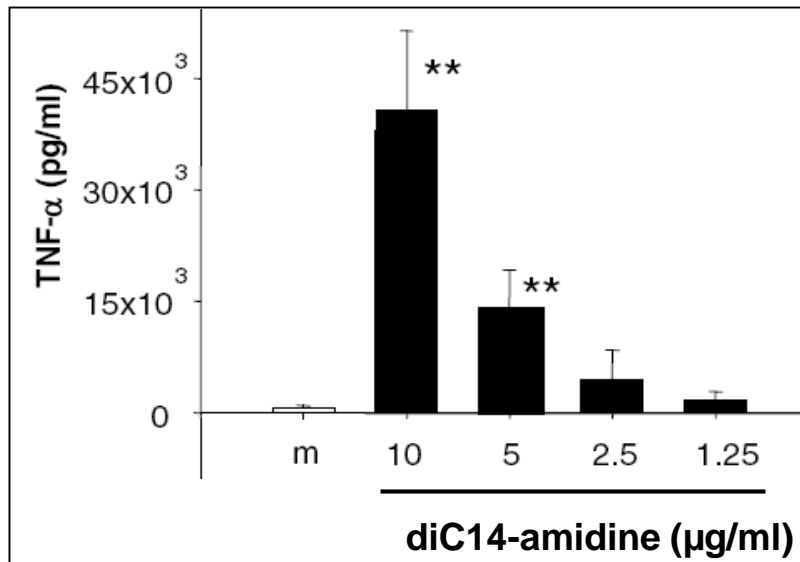


Elhouahabi, Ruyschaert-Molecular Therapy(2005) Review

# When a gene carrier turns into a TLR4 agonist!



diC14-amidine



Jacquet A. *et al.* 2005. *Mol Ther.* 11(6):960-8.

→ Th1 response  
(characteristic of TLR signaling)

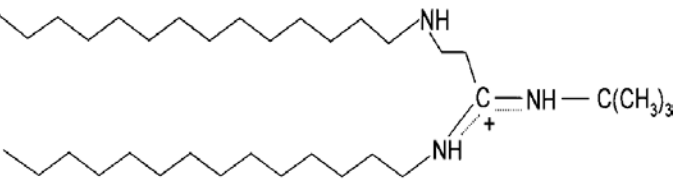
Tanaka T. *et al.* 2008. *Eur J Immunol.* 38(5):1351-7.



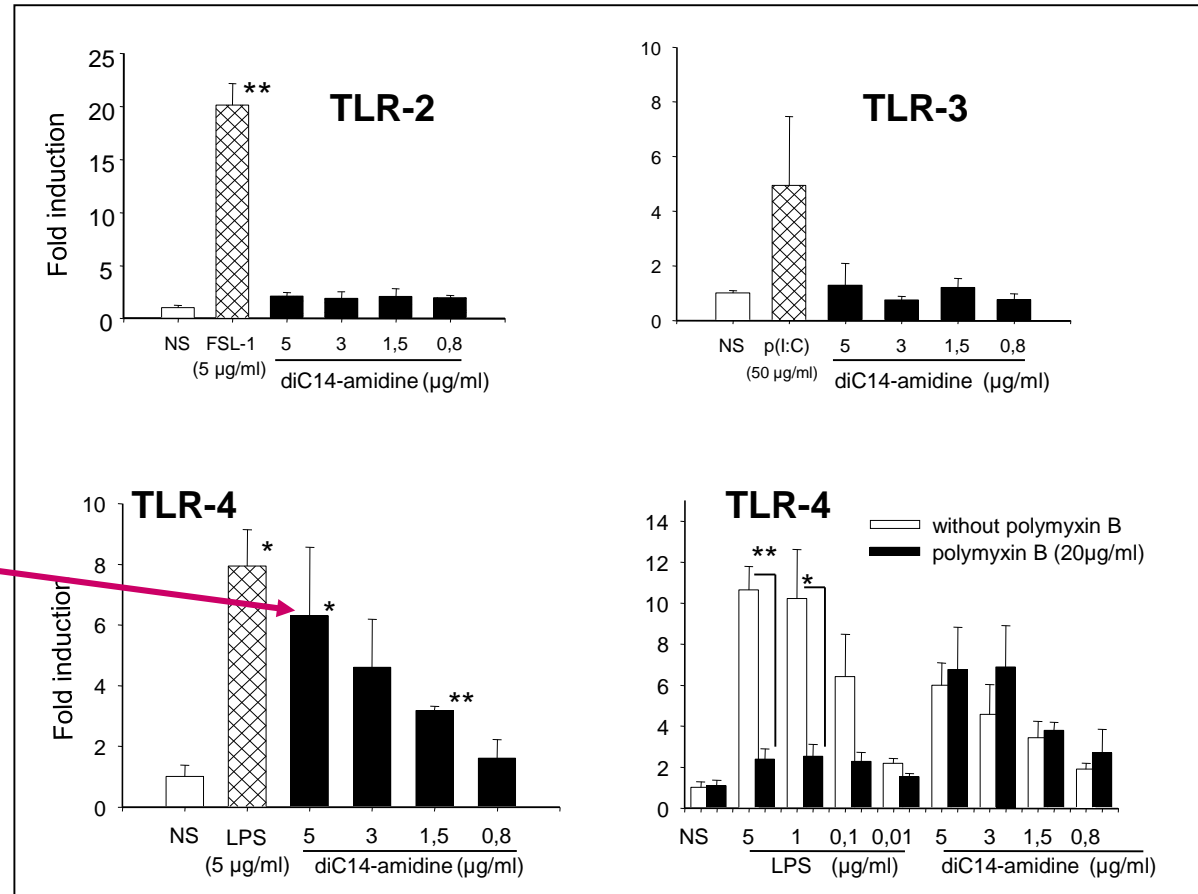
**DiC14-amidine liposomes activate cytokine secretion.**

**Is Activation Toll-like receptor-dependent?**

# When a gene carrier turns into a TLR4 agonist!

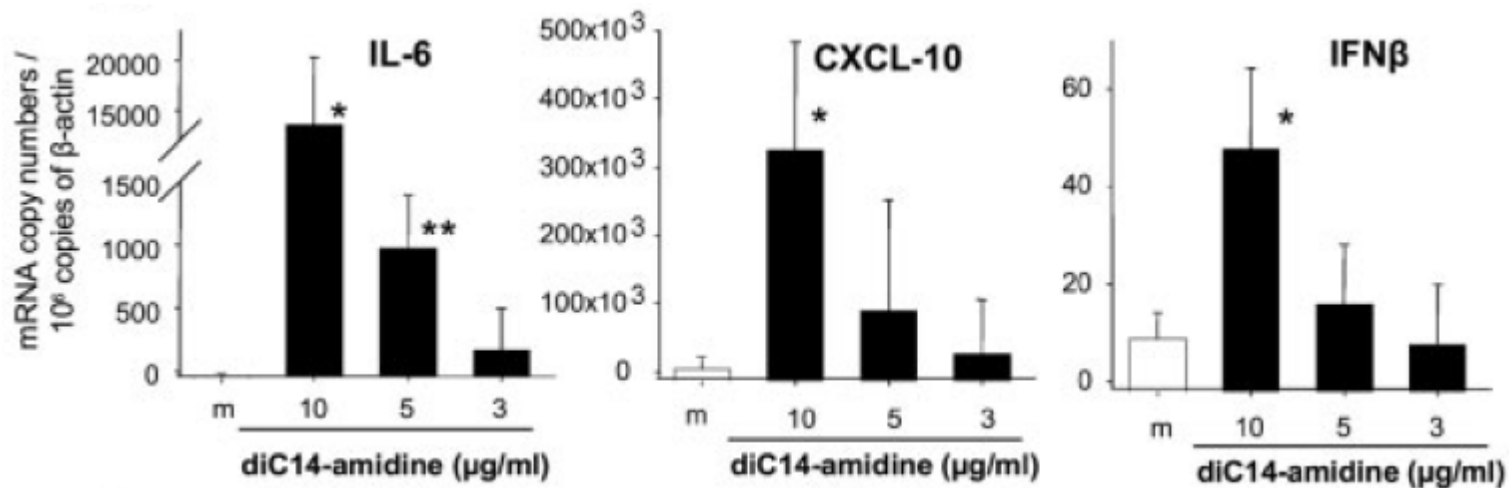


diC14-amidine liposomes activate NF- $\kappa$ B through **TLR-4**

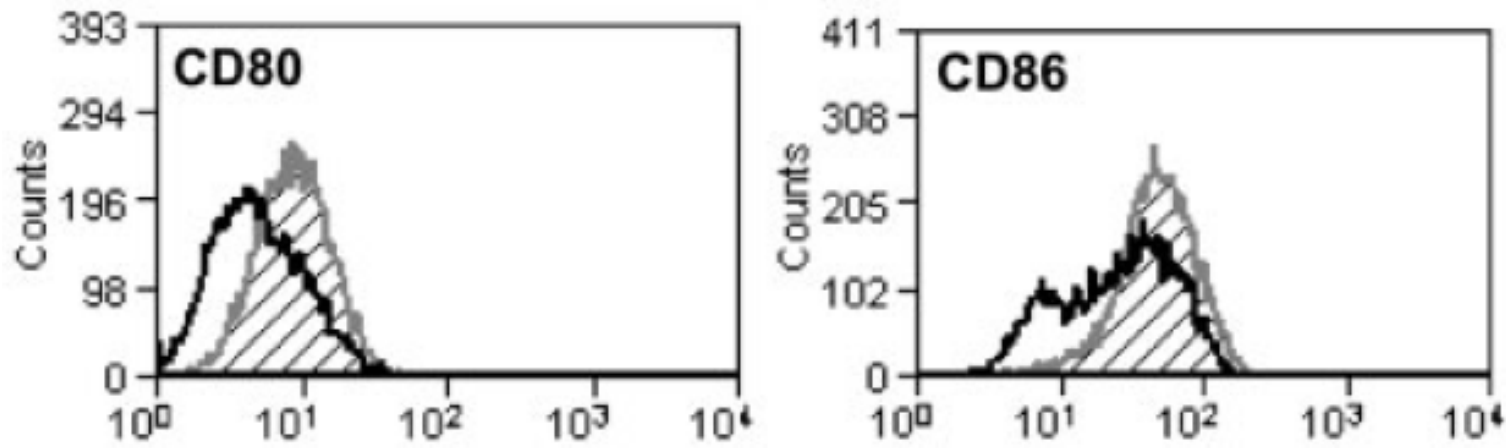


Tanaka T. *et al.* 2008. *Eur J Immunol.* 38(5):1351-7.

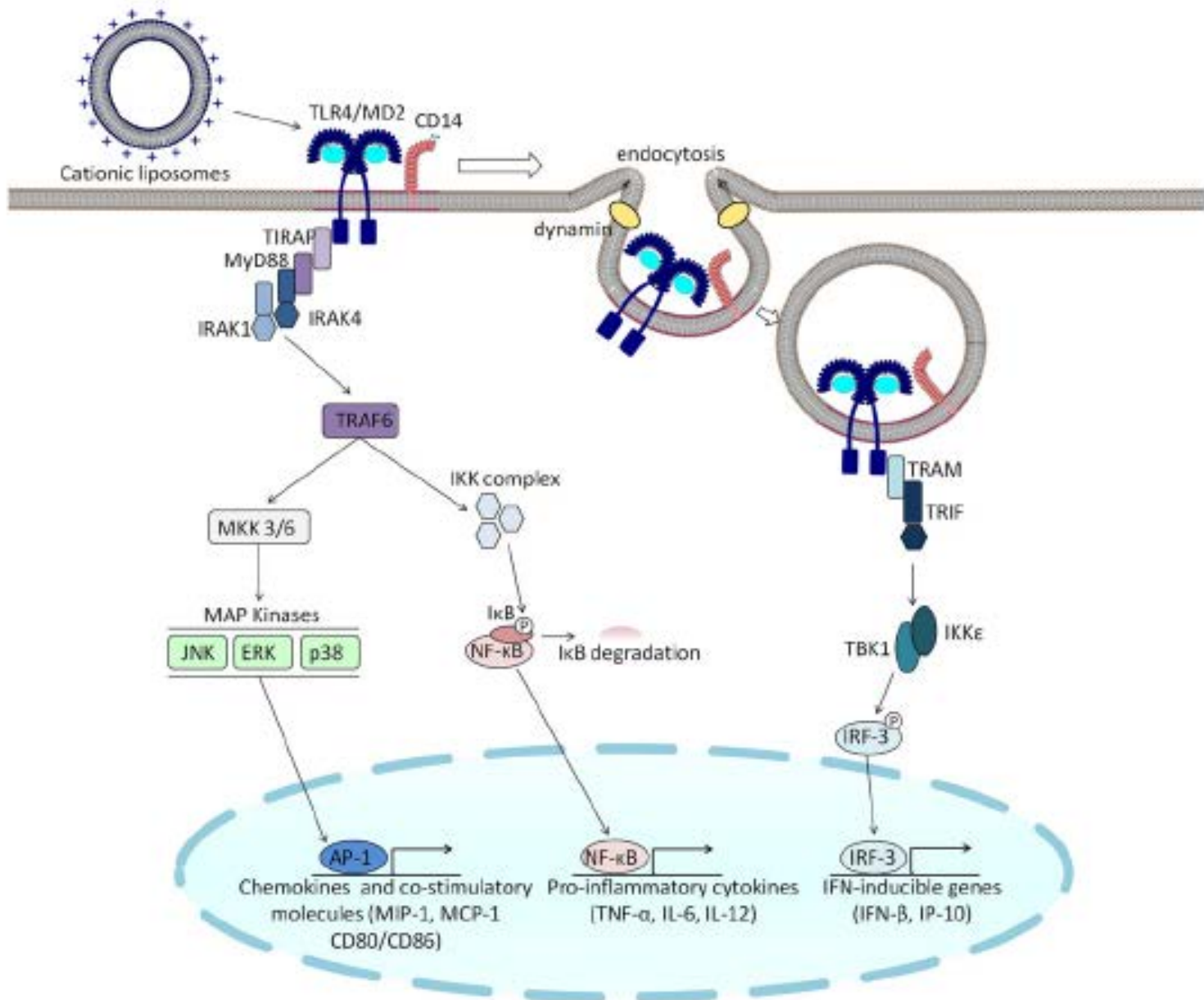
# Cytokine secretion revealing activation of the innate system induced by a lipidic gene carrier



# A gene carrier activates protein expression at the cell surface

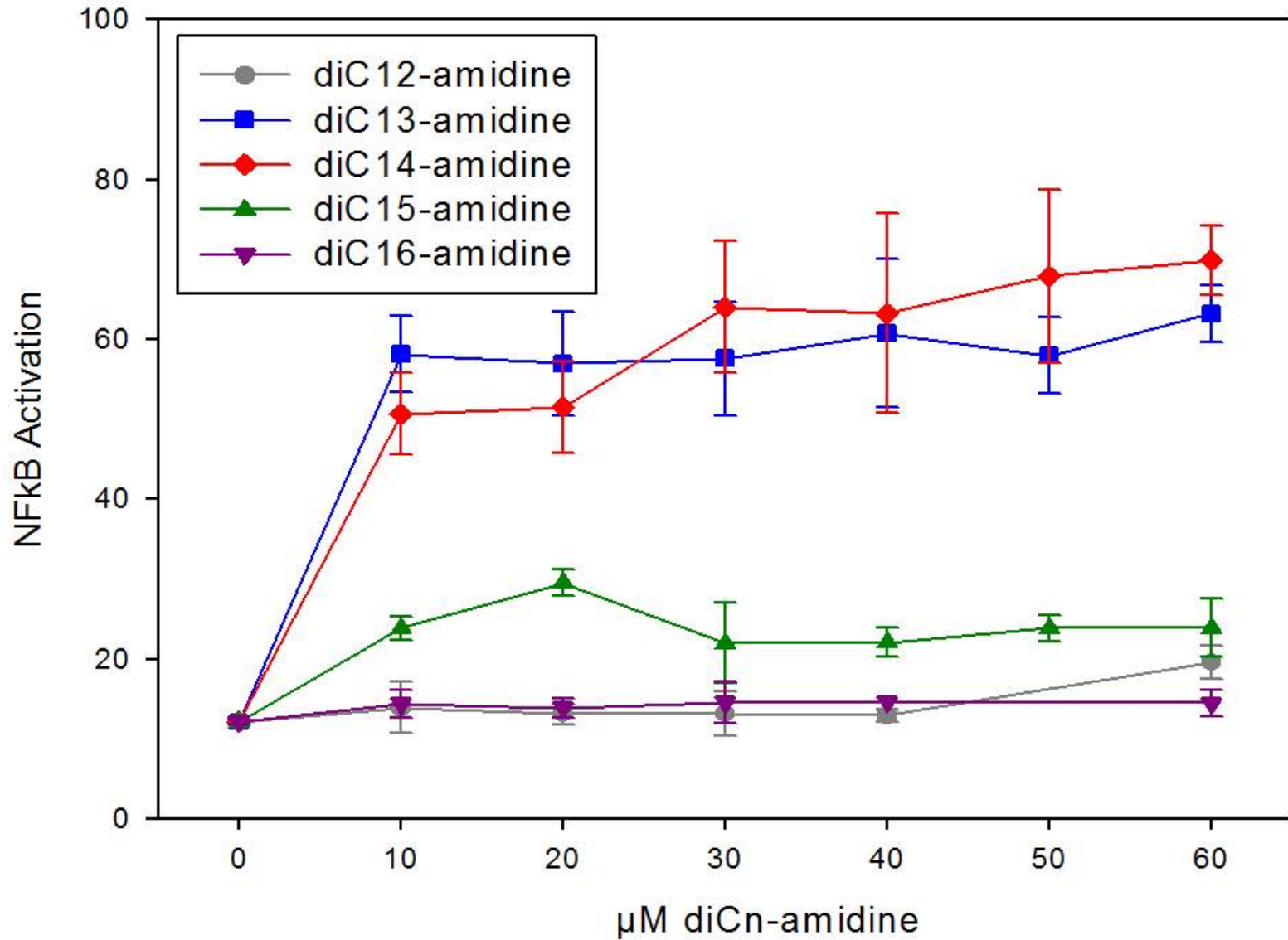


**Cell surface expression of CD80 and CD86 as determined by flow cytometry in human dendritic cells in medium alone (black) and after incubation with amidine liposomes (grey) ( $5\mu\text{gr/ml}$ )**

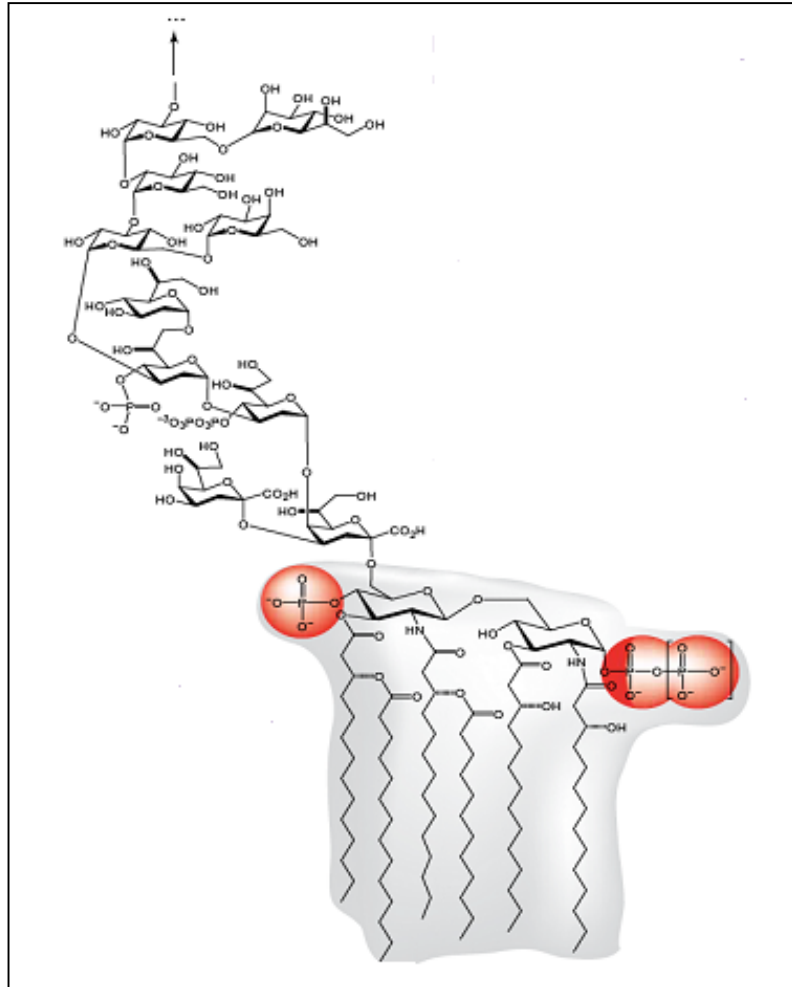


Lonez, C. Vandenbranden, M. Ruyschaert, J.M. Prog. Lipid Res.-2008, 47, 340-347  
 Lonez,C Vandenbranden, M. Ruyschaert, J.M Adv.Drug.Release- 2012,64,1749

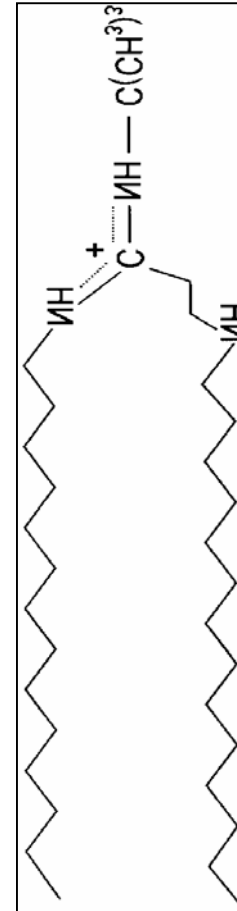
# Specificity of diCn-amidine recognition by TLR4!



## LPS:natural ligand



## Cationic lipid:synthetic



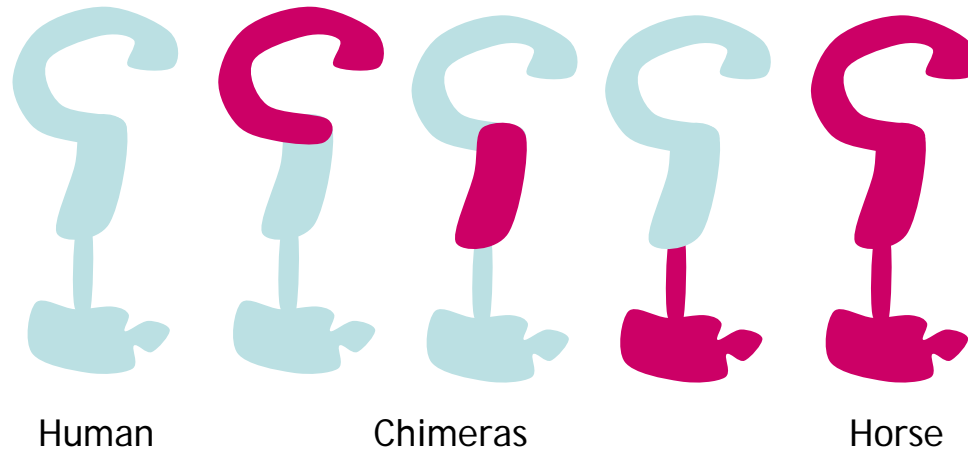
**Non structurally-related ligands activate the same receptor !**

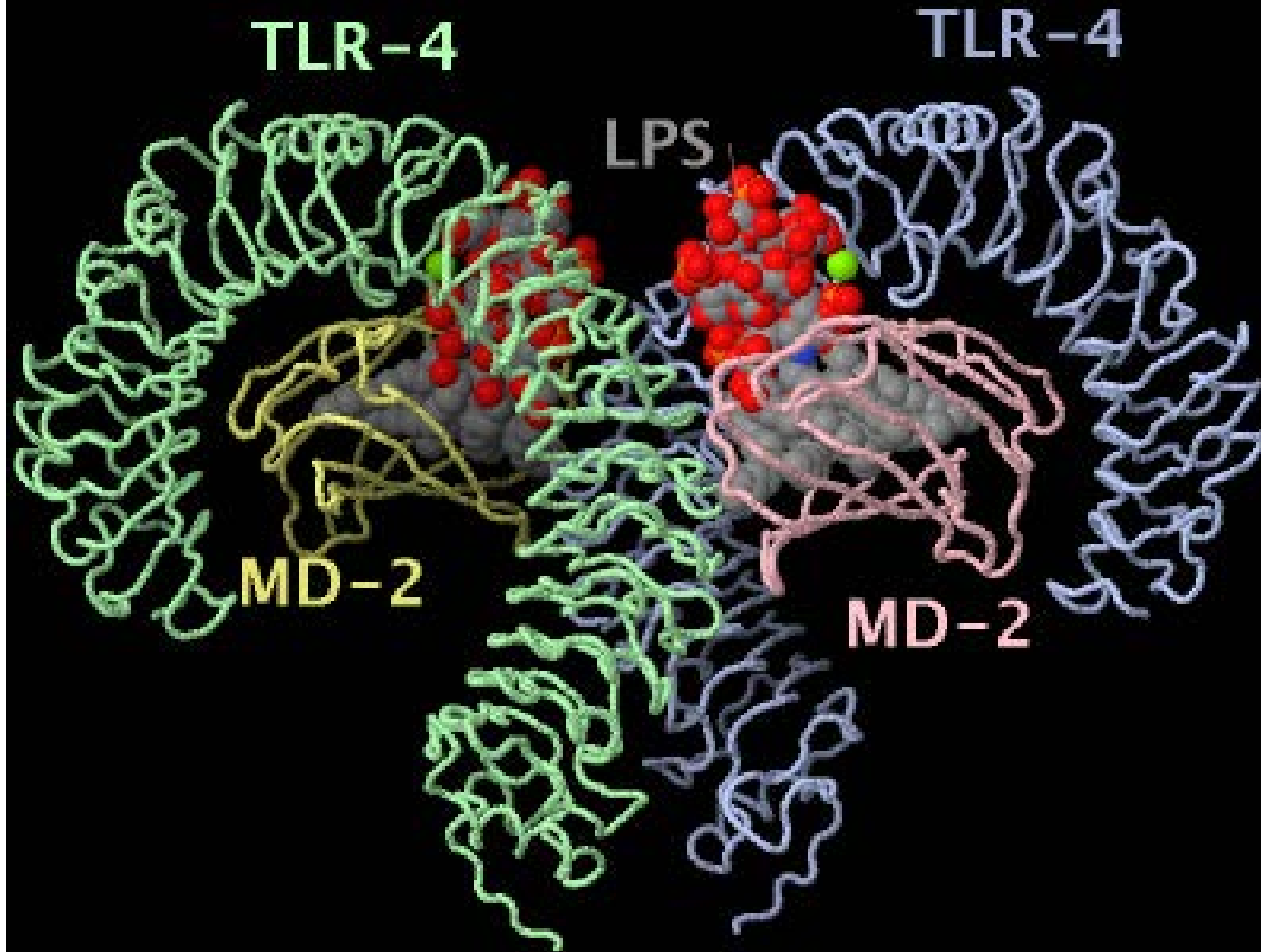
LPS is recognized by human and horse TLR4 but amidine is recognized by human TLR4 **not** horse TLR4

Using chimeric constructs made from human and horse proteins, we identified the region in the human TLR4 that modulate the agonist activity of diC14-amidine. Interestingly, this region resides outside the previously identified LPS(natural ligand) binding domain.



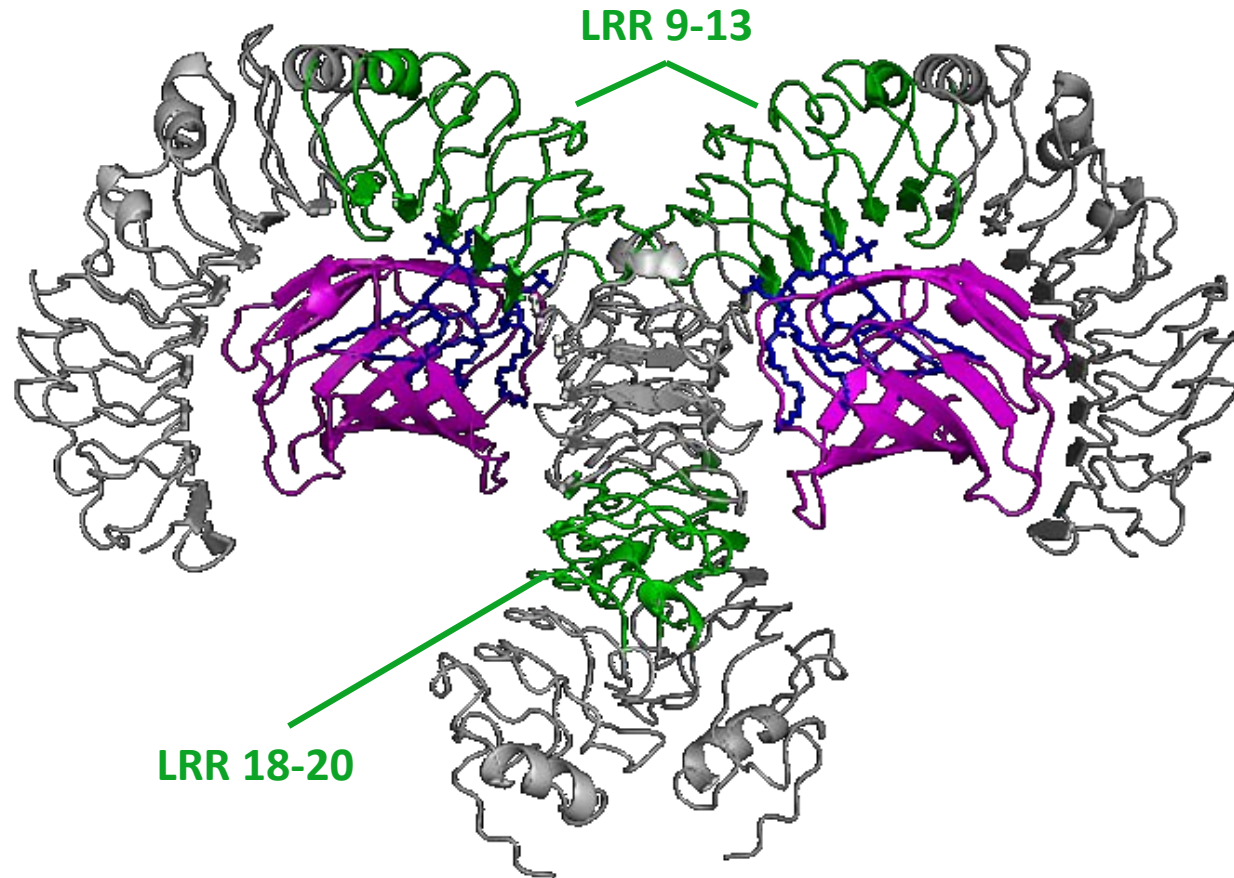
# TLR4 chimeras & mutants





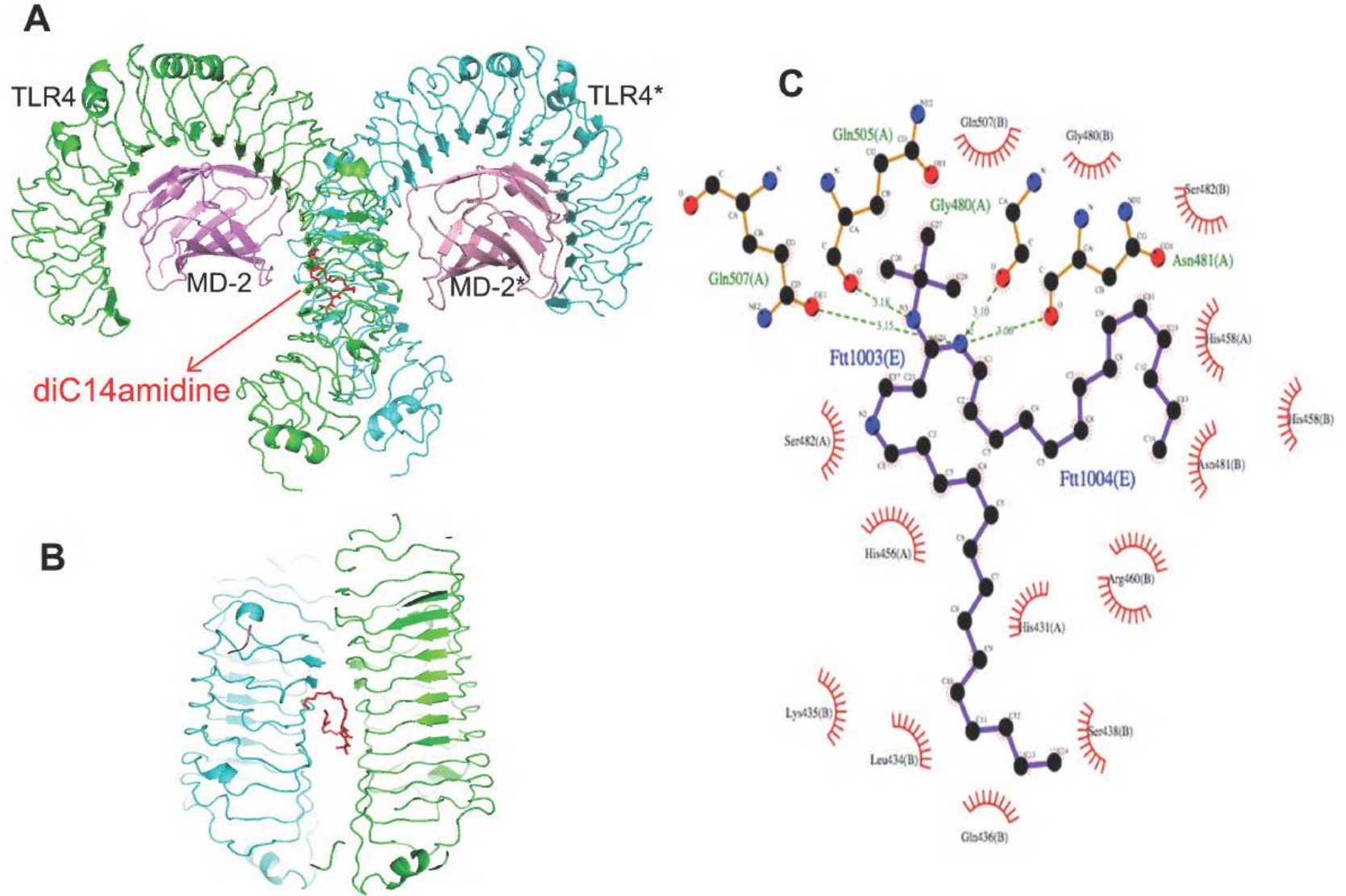
Park BS. et al. Nature. 2009.  
458(7242):1191-5.

# *Interaction of diC14-amidine with TLR4*



→ Chimeras/mutant experiments suggest diC14-amidine interacts with a new binding site

Figure 5



Ruyschaert et al Immunity(2015)

## Two different binding sites!

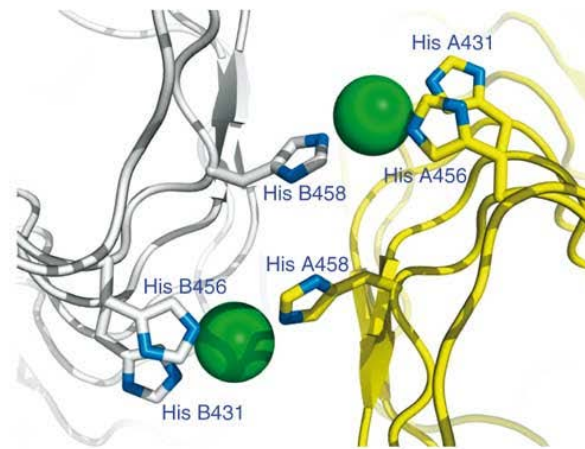
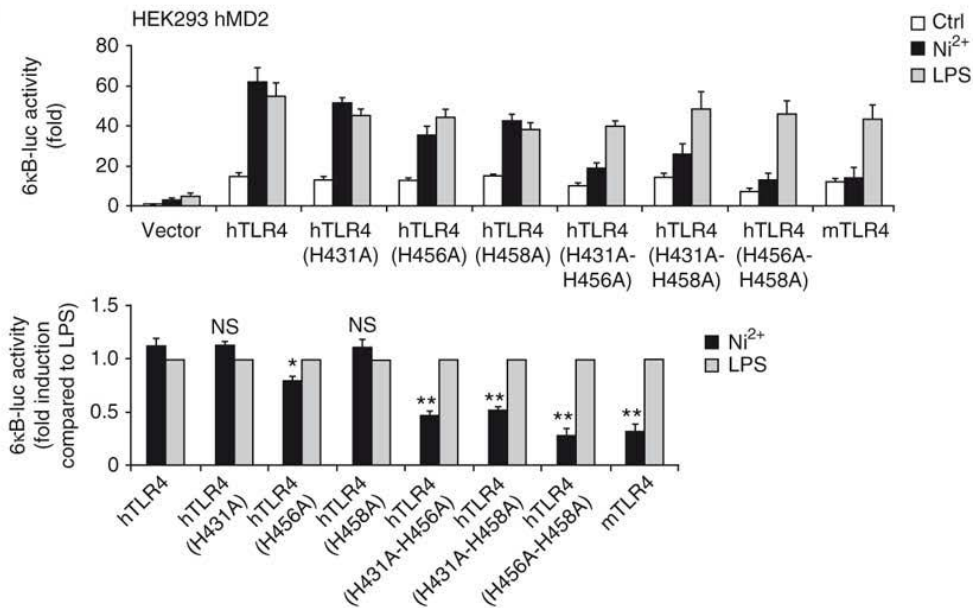
### Consequences:

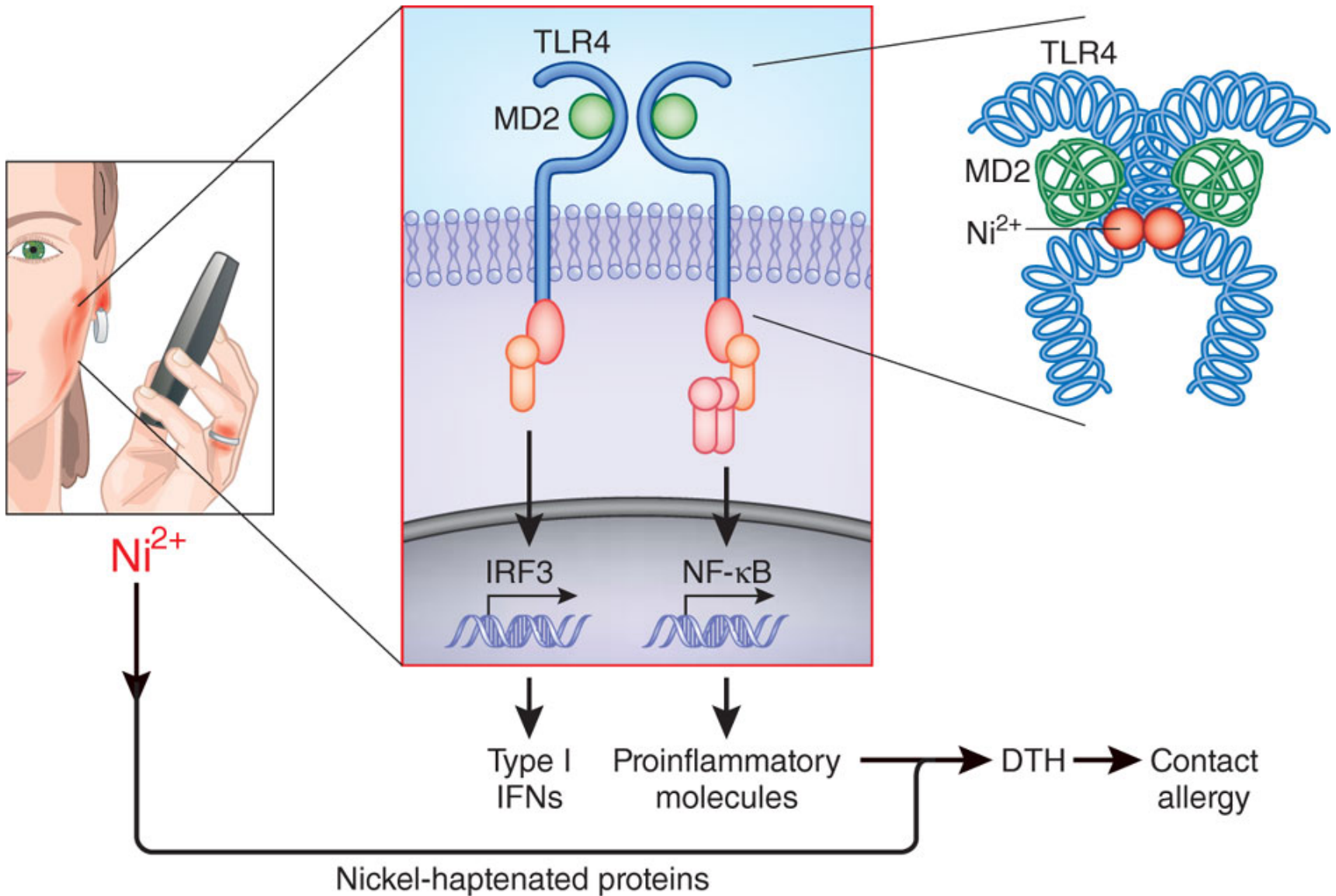
- Activation of new cascades in the innate system
- one can inhibit the innate activation **without suppressing the normal innate immunity function** which may be lethal on a long term basis

Nickel ions? Another activator of the innate cascades

**a**

hTLR4	LRR14	DLPSEFLDLSRNLGSLFKGCCSQSDF	396
mTLR4	LRR14	ALPSLSYLDLSRNALSFSGCCSYSDL	394
hTLR4	LRR15	GTTSLKYLDLSFNGVITMSSNFL	419
mTLR4	LRR15	GTNSLRHLDLSFNGAIIMSANFM	417
hTLR4	LRR16	GLEQLE <sup>431</sup> HLDFO <sup>431</sup> SNLQKMSSEFSVFL	444
mTLR4	LRR16	GLEELQ <sup>431</sup> HLDFO <sup>431</sup> STLKRVTESAFSL	442
hTLR4	LRR17	SLRNLIIYLDIS <sup>456</sup> HT <sup>458</sup> IRVAFNGIFN	468
mTLR4	LRR17	SLEKLLYLDIS <sup>456</sup> YTN <sup>458</sup> IKIDFDGIFL	466
hTLR4	LRR18	GLSSLEVLKMGANSFQENFLPDIFT	493
mTLR4	LRR18	GLTSLNTLKMAGNSFKDNTLSNVFA	491
hTLR4	LRR19	ELRNLTFLDLSQCQLEQLSPTAFN	517
mTLR4	LRR19	NTTNLTFLDLSKQCQLEQISWGVFD	515
hTLR4	LRR20	SLSSLQVLNMS <sup>539</sup> HNNFFSLDTFPYK	541
mTLR4	LRR20	TLHRLQLLNMS <sup>539</sup> HNNLLFLDSSHYN	539
hTLR4	LRR21	CLNSLQVLDYSLN <sup>566</sup> GMTSKKQEL <sup>566</sup> OH	566
mTLR4	LRR21	QLYSLSTLDCSFM <sup>566</sup> MTSKGI <sup>566</sup> -L <sup>566</sup> OH	563
hTLR4	LRR22	FPSSLAFNLNTQNDFA	582
mTLR4	LRR22	FPKSLAFFNLTNNSVA	579
hTLR4	LRRCT	CTCE <sup>607</sup> HOSFLQWIKDQRQLLVEVERM	607
mTLR4	LRRCT	CICE <sup>607</sup> HOKFLQWVKEQKQFLVNVEQM	604

**b****c**



Cationic lipid and nickel binding sites are identical



One can inhibit allergy without  
**suppressing the normal  
innate immunity function**  
which may be lethal on a long  
term basis

**These inflammatory reactions can be desired** (for vaccine development),  
**unwanted** (for delivery applications)

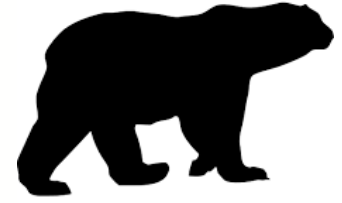
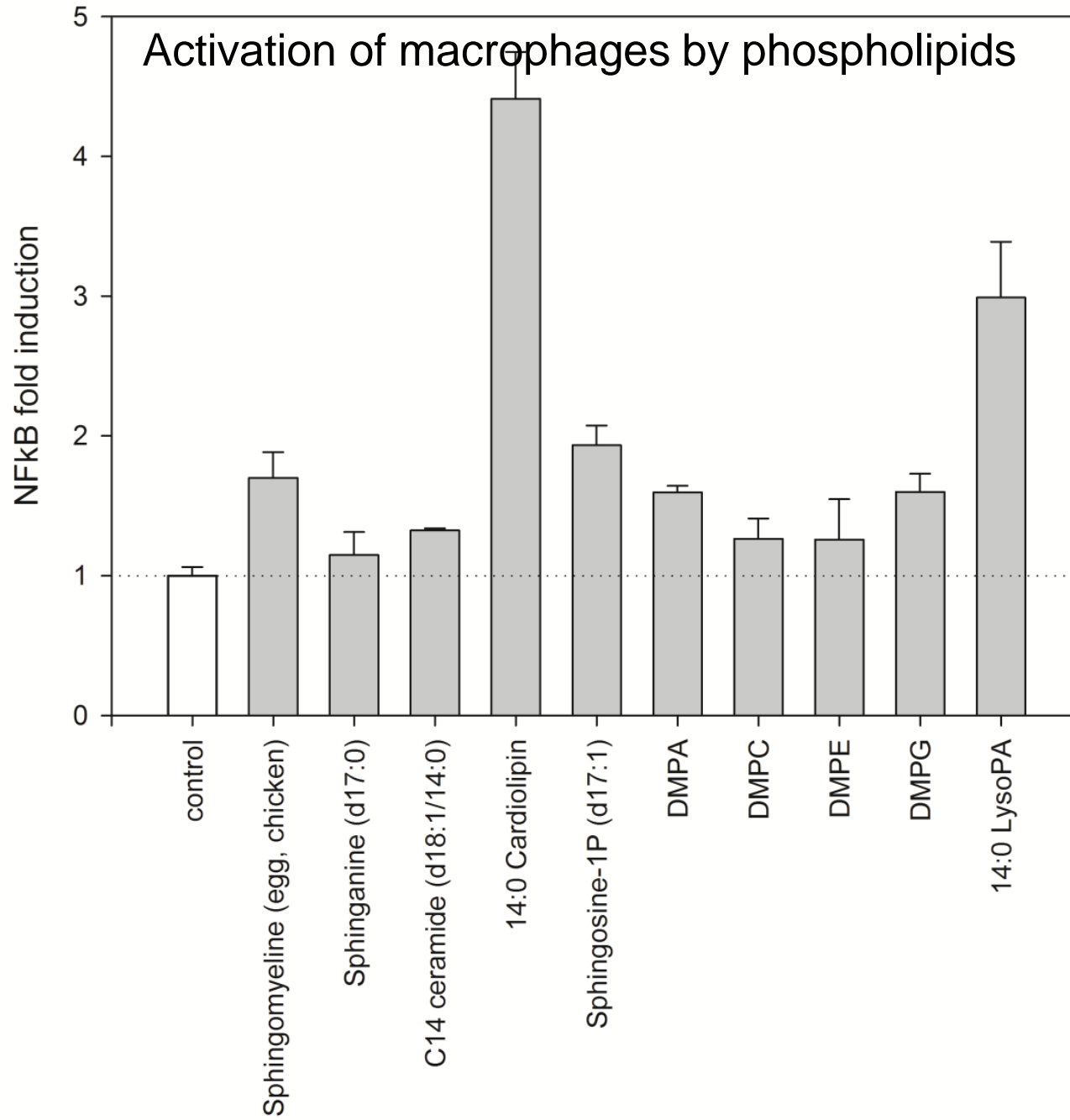
**DiC14 amidine liposomes** activate multiple recognition pathways of innate immune cells and is **a novel adjuvant**.

Physical–chemical study demonstrate that this molecular assembly is stable and easy-to-produce, which meet critical industrial and commercial purposes-ASIT-Biotech

Vaccine 30-, 414-424-2012

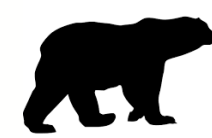
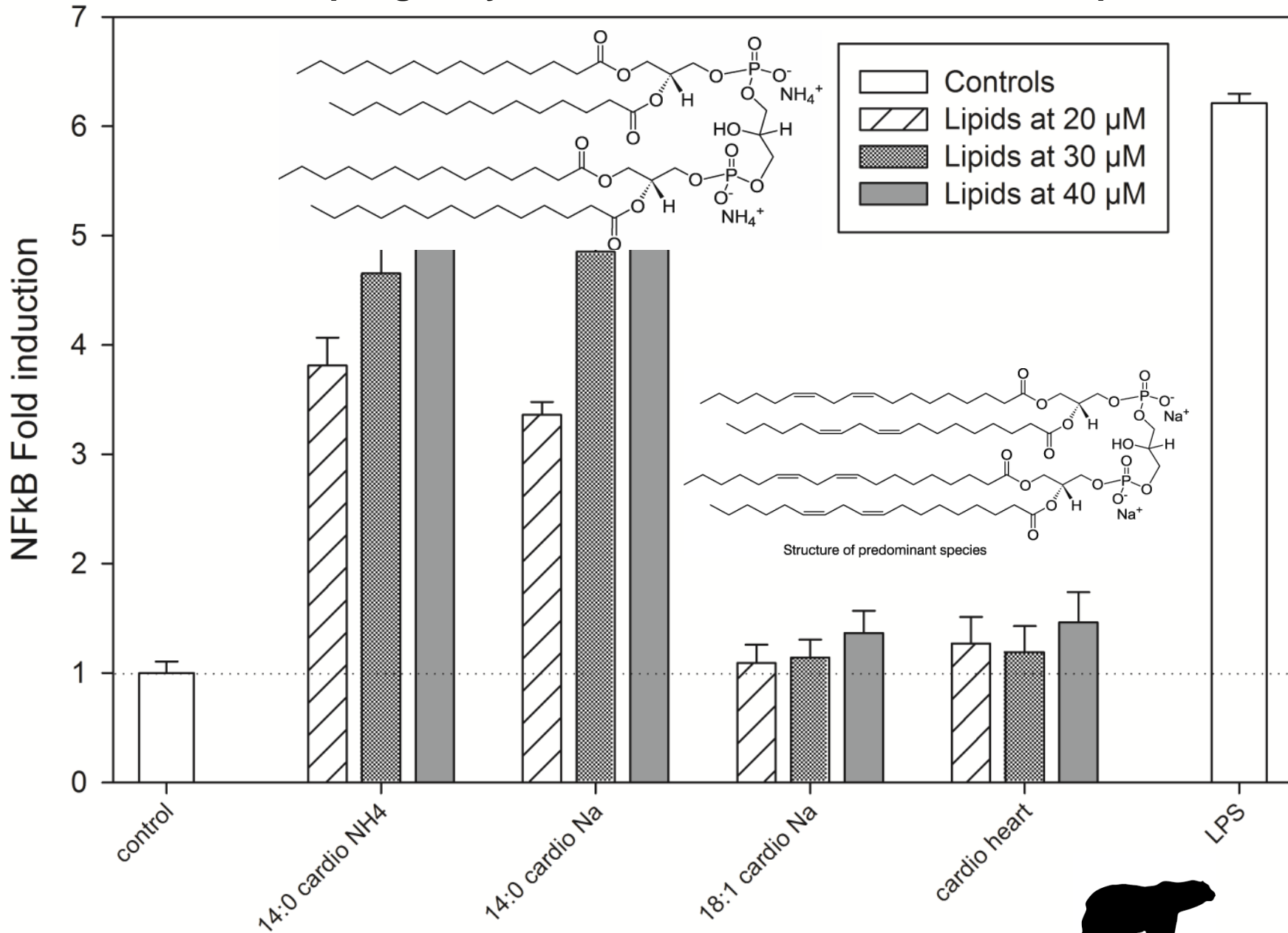
Endogenous lipids?

# Activation of macrophages by phospholipids

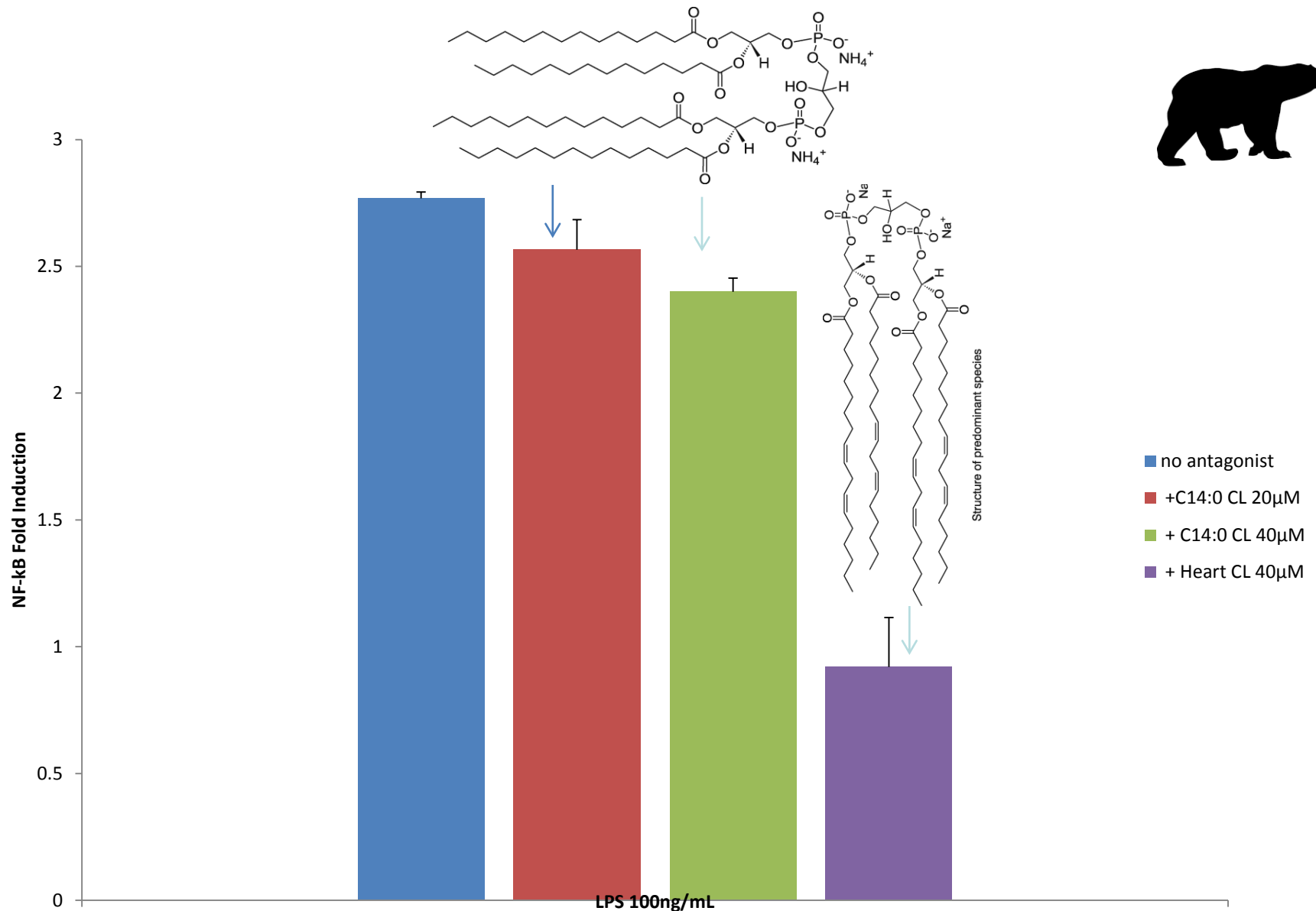




# Activation of macrophages by saturated and unsaturated cardiolipin

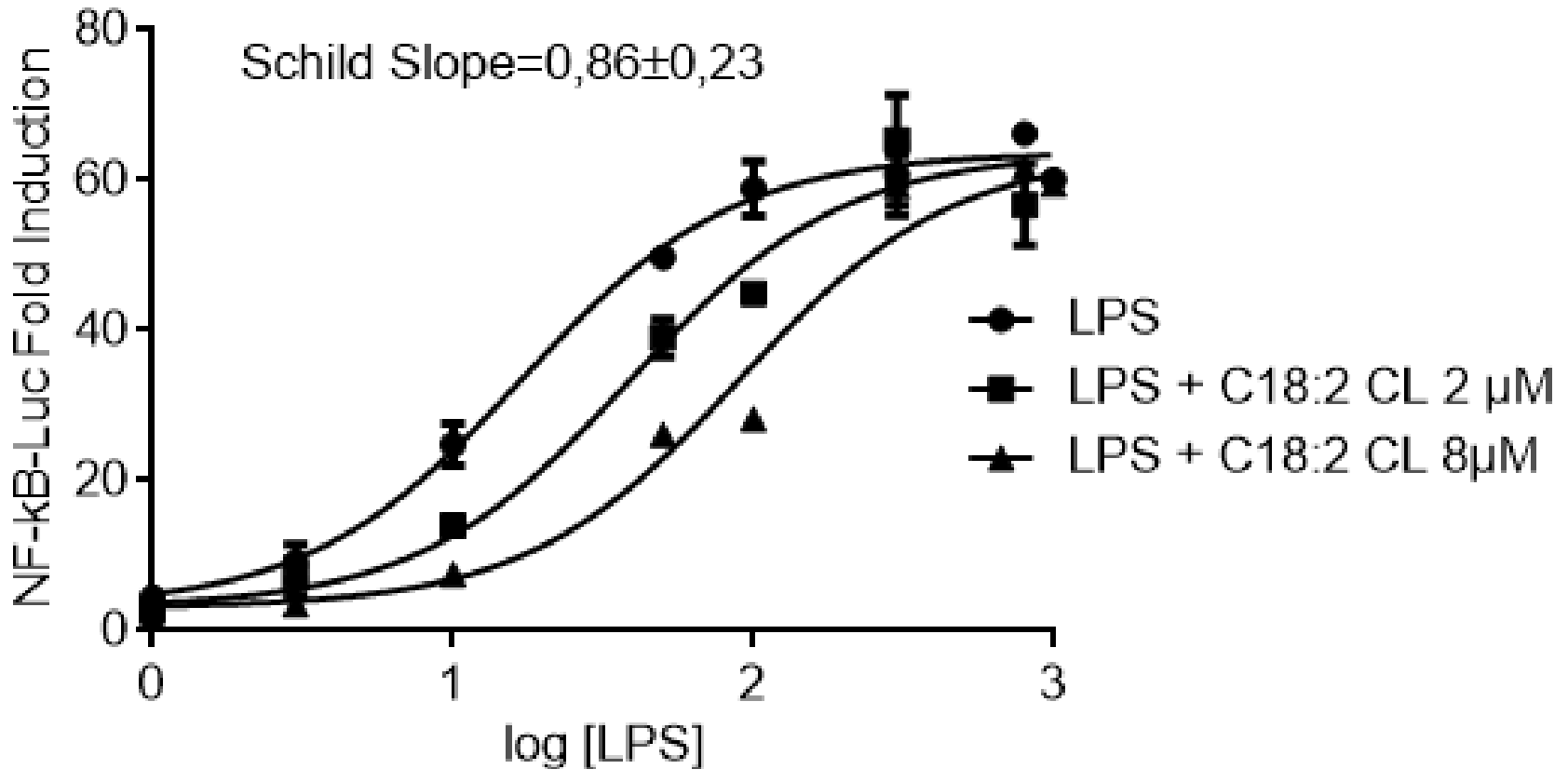


# Heart cardiolipin is a LPS antagonist



Murine macrophages Raw-Blue cells were stimulated for 16 hrs with LPS 100ng/mL alone (no antagonist) or co-incubated with C14:0 or heart cardiolipin .

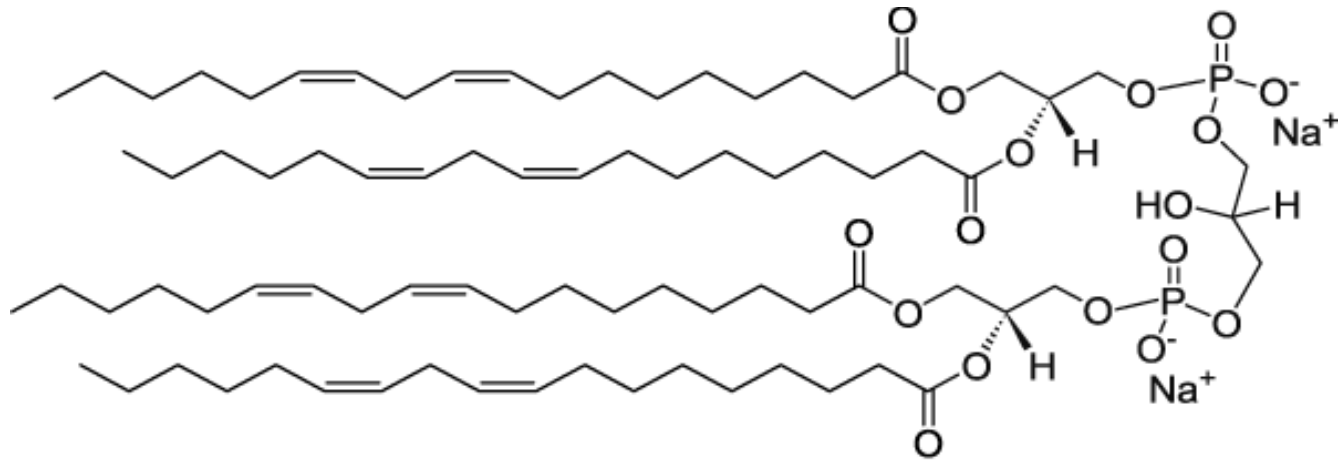
## Heart cardiolipin is an LPS competitive inhibitor



**Unsaturated cardiolipins are able to inhibit the secretion of 2435pg/mL of TNF-alpha induced by 100ng/mL of LPS in THP-1 cells**



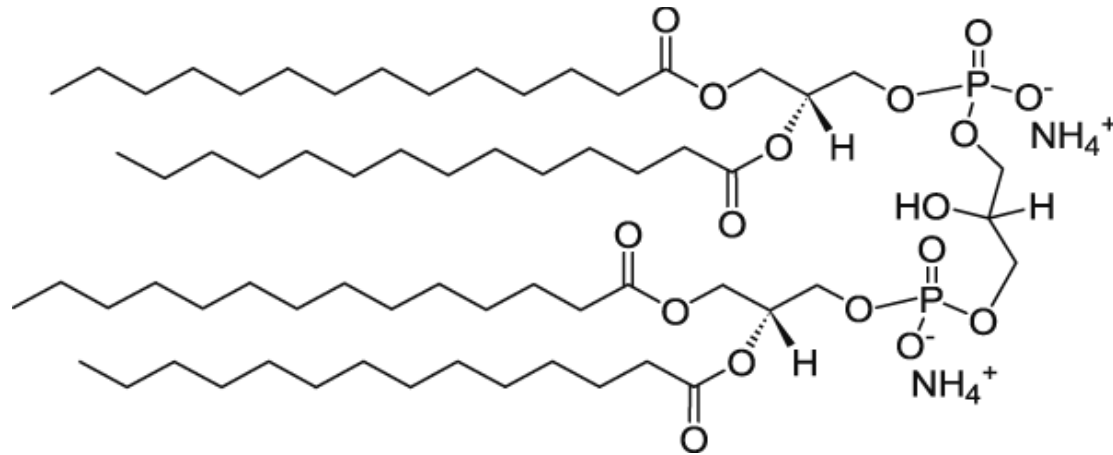
Unsaturated cardiolipin (heart) acts as a suppressor of TLR4-dependent immune response.



Structure of predominant species

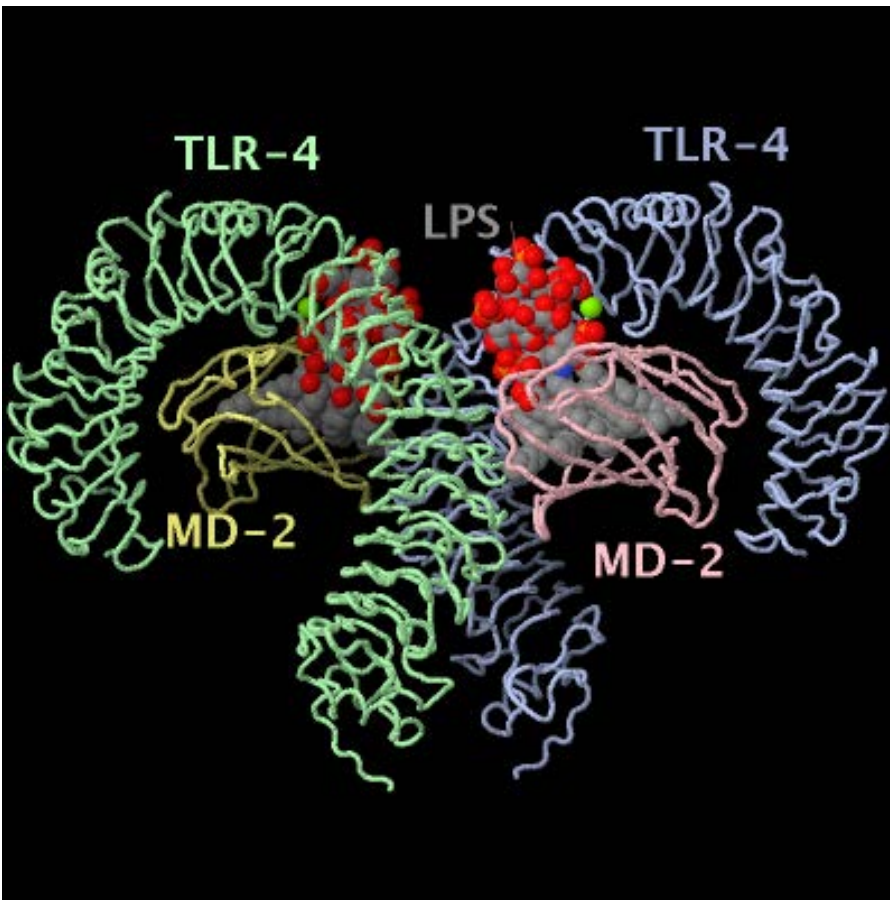
Our study extends the library of TLR4 ligands to molecules of easier synthesis, lower price and higher biocompatibility compared to the LPS-based structures.

-Saturated cardiolipin as an **activator of the innate system** like LPS

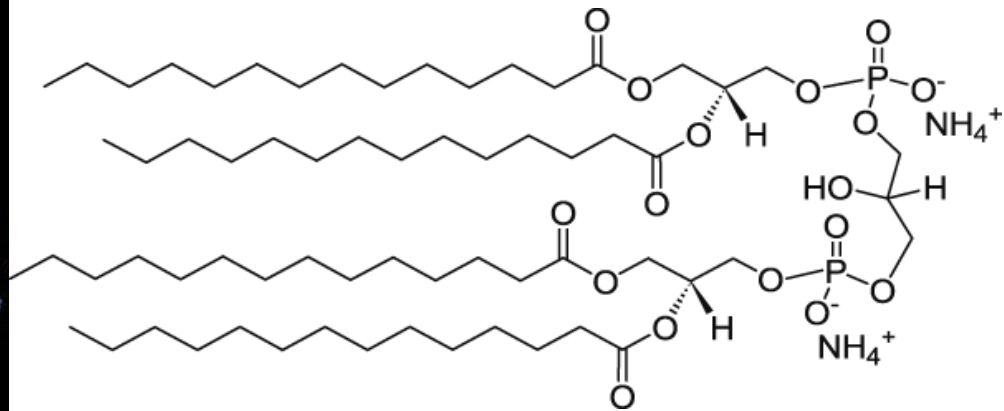


The cause of several diseases is a mutation in the enzyme that selects the fatty acids for the **synthesis of cardiolipin**. It results in a decrease of unsaturated CL synthesis and an increase of saturated one. These diseases are characterised by a severe inflammation state. Our results suggest that such cardiolipins act as inflammatory molecules in patients affected by this syndrome, giving more insights into the pathology of the disease

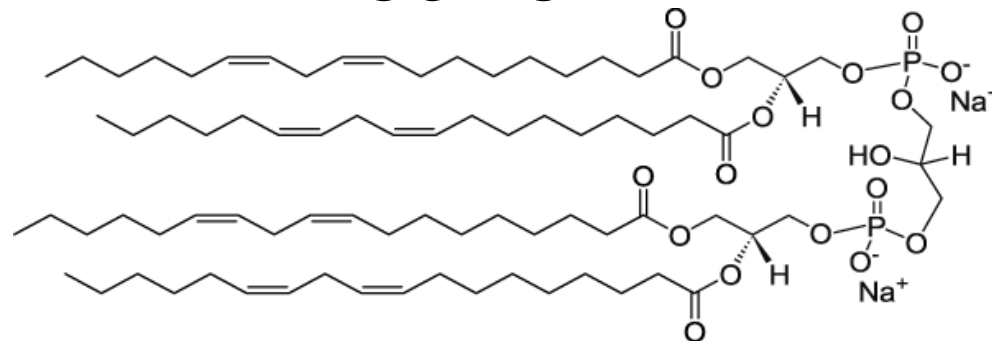
# Cardiolipin from TLR4-antagonist to agonist, an unsaturation tale



## AGONIST



## ANTAGONIST



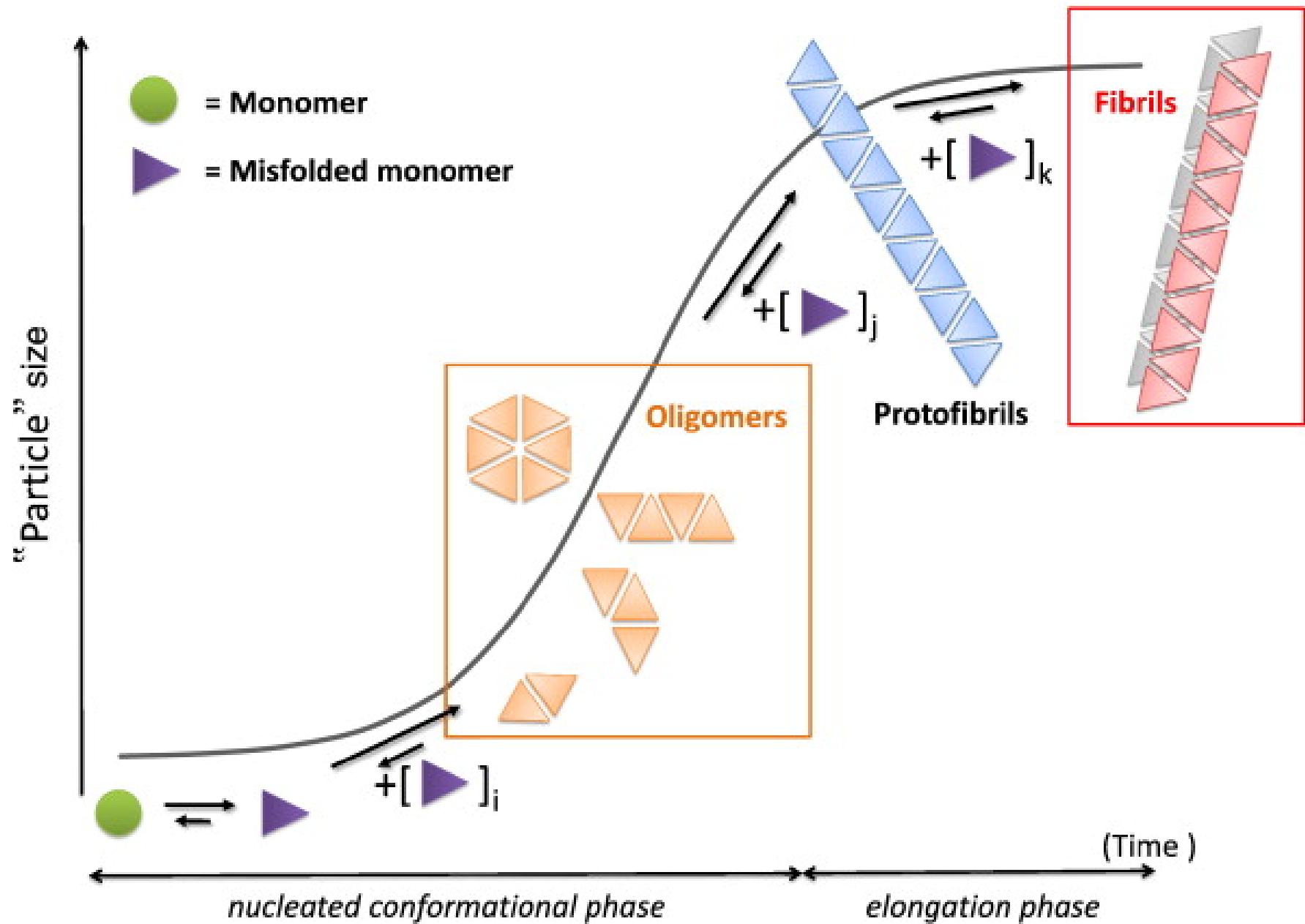
Structure of predominant species

Next?

X-Ray diffraction(in progress)

What about proteins aggregates?

Do amyloid structures activate  
the innate system....???

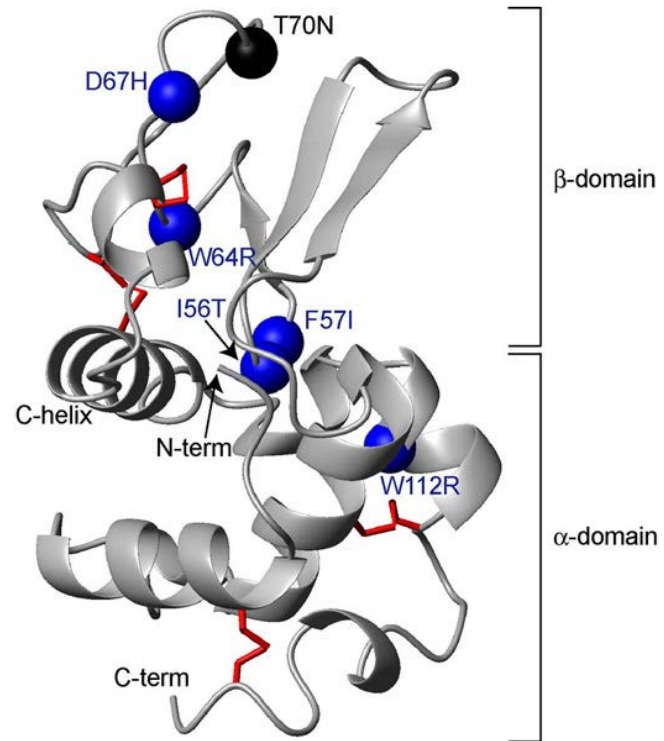


Lysozyme systemic amyloidosis is a non-neuropathic hereditary disorder caused by the deposition of amyloid fibrils

Dumoulin M, Kumita JR, Dobson CM (2006) Normal and aberrant biological self-assembly: insights from studies of human lysozyme and its amyloidogenic variants. *Acc Chem Res* 39:603–610



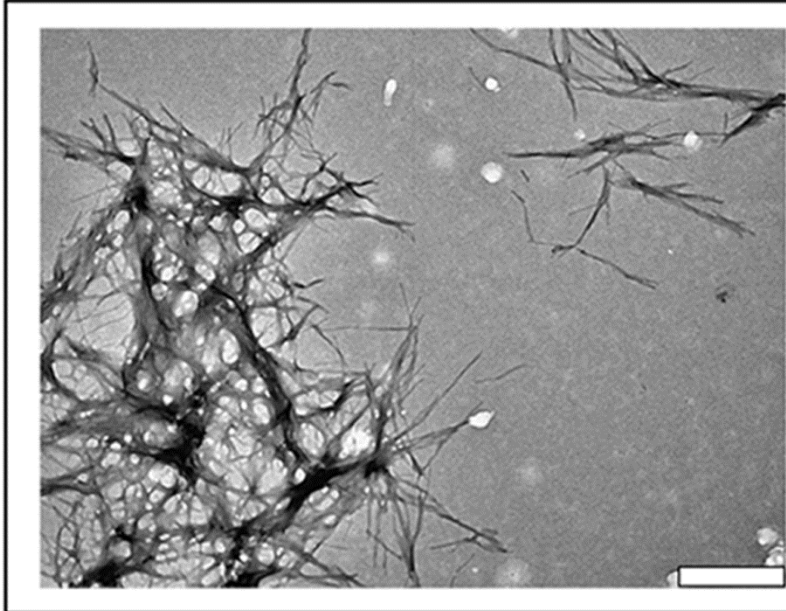
# Human lysozyme



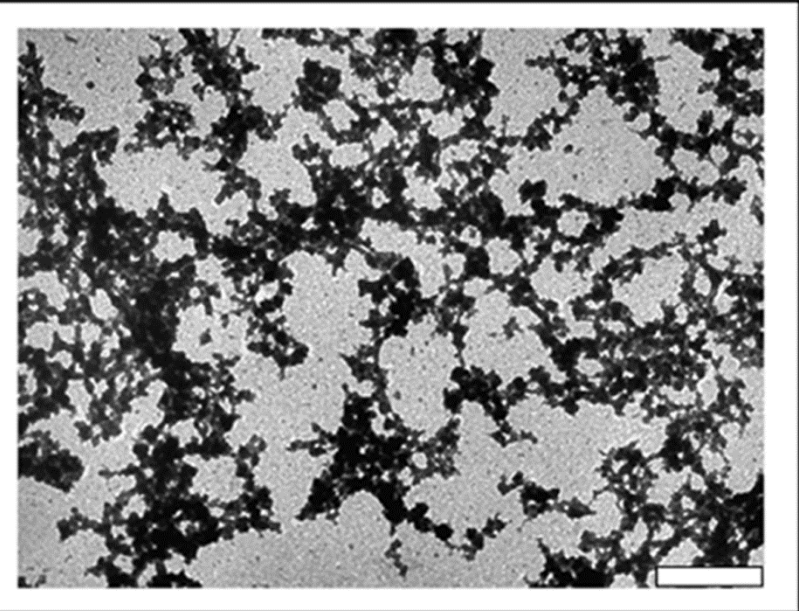
Structure of lysosyme in the different states(monomers,fibrils,aggregates)

# Characterization of lysozyme species

**Fibrils**

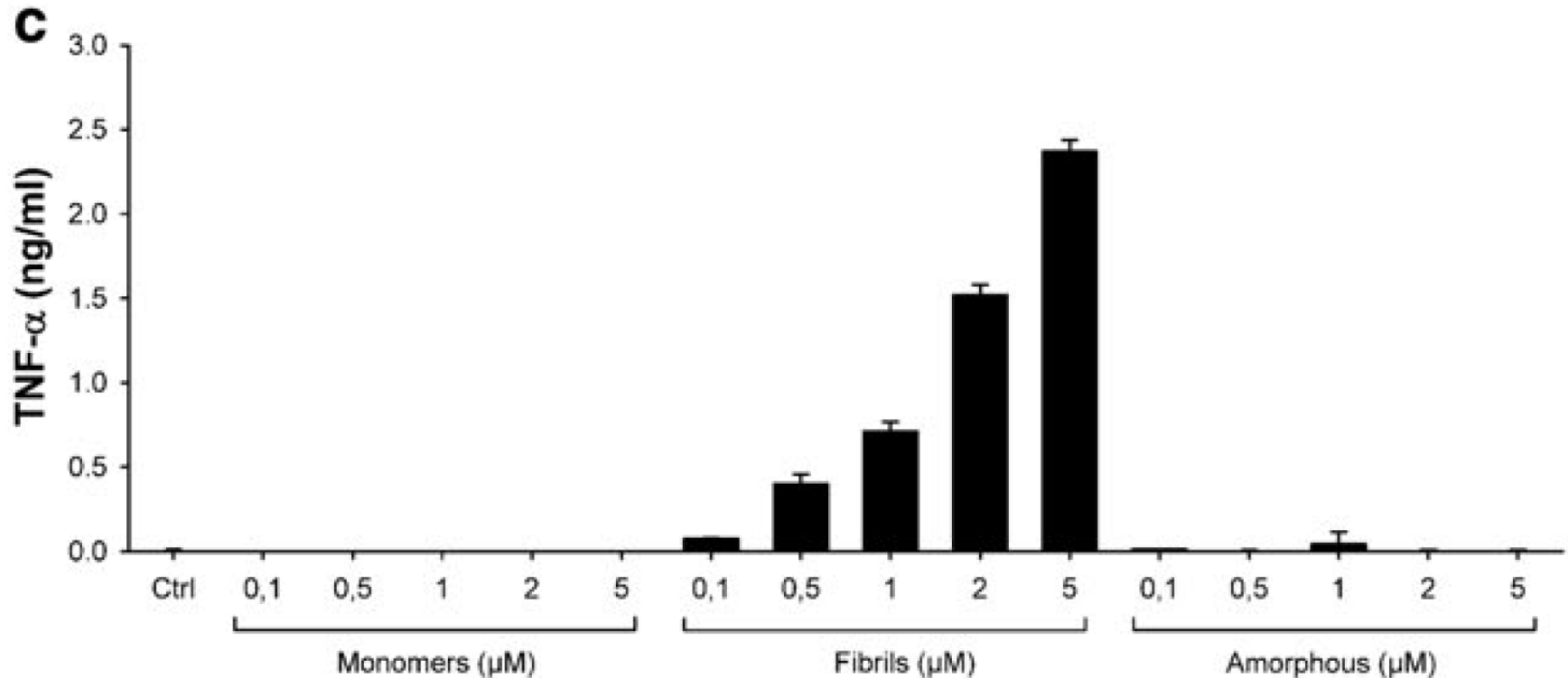


**Amorphous aggregates**



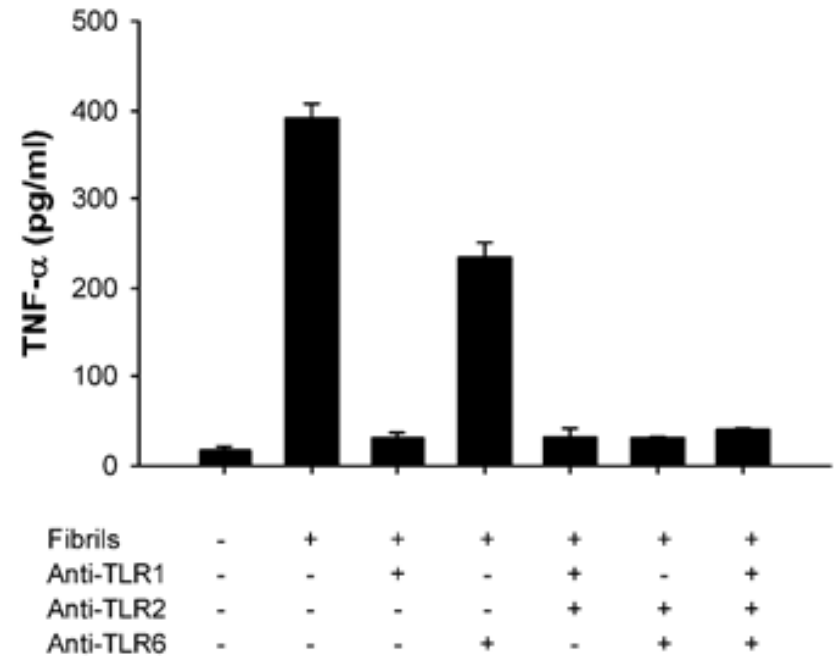
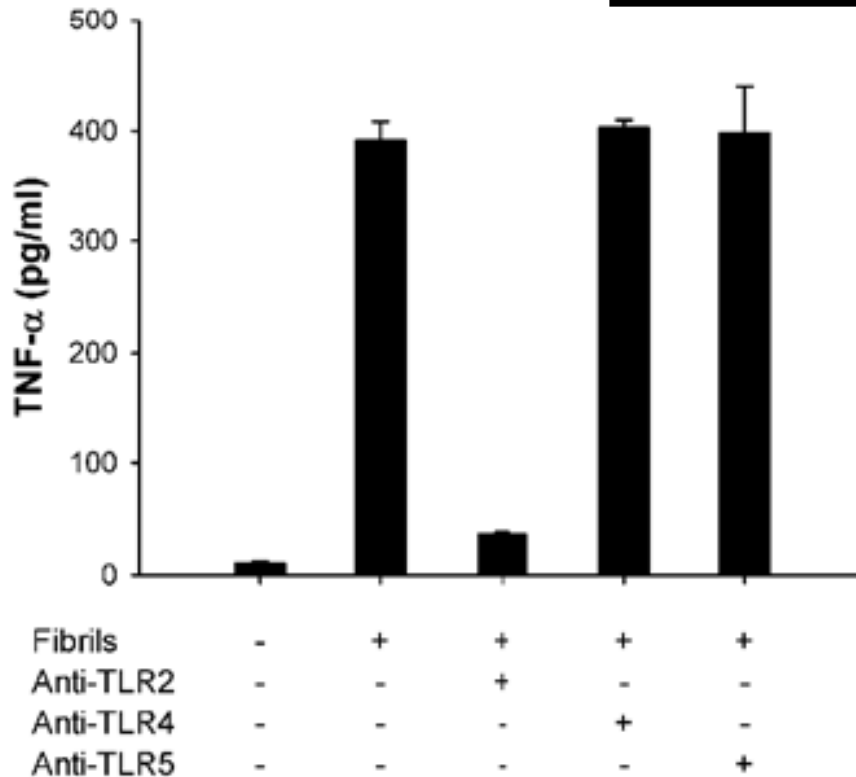
Negative stained TEM images of **lysozyme fibrils** (left) and **amorphous aggregates** (right). The scale bar represents 500 nm

# Lysozyme fibrils, but not amorphous aggregates, induce TNF secretion



THP1 cells were incubated for 6 hours with the indicated amounts of fibrils

# Lysozyme fibrils activate TLR2/TLR1 heterodimer



THP1 cells were incubated for 6 h with 5  $\mu$ M lysozyme fibrils in the presence or absence of 20  $\mu$ g/ml anti-TLR2, anti-TLR4 or anti-TLR5 antibodies or 20  $\mu$ g/ml anti-TLR2, anti-TLR1 or anti-TLR6 antibodies. TNF-a was quantified in the cell supernatant by ELISA.

Is it a relationship between the **activation** of the innate system and the **structure** of the amyloid?

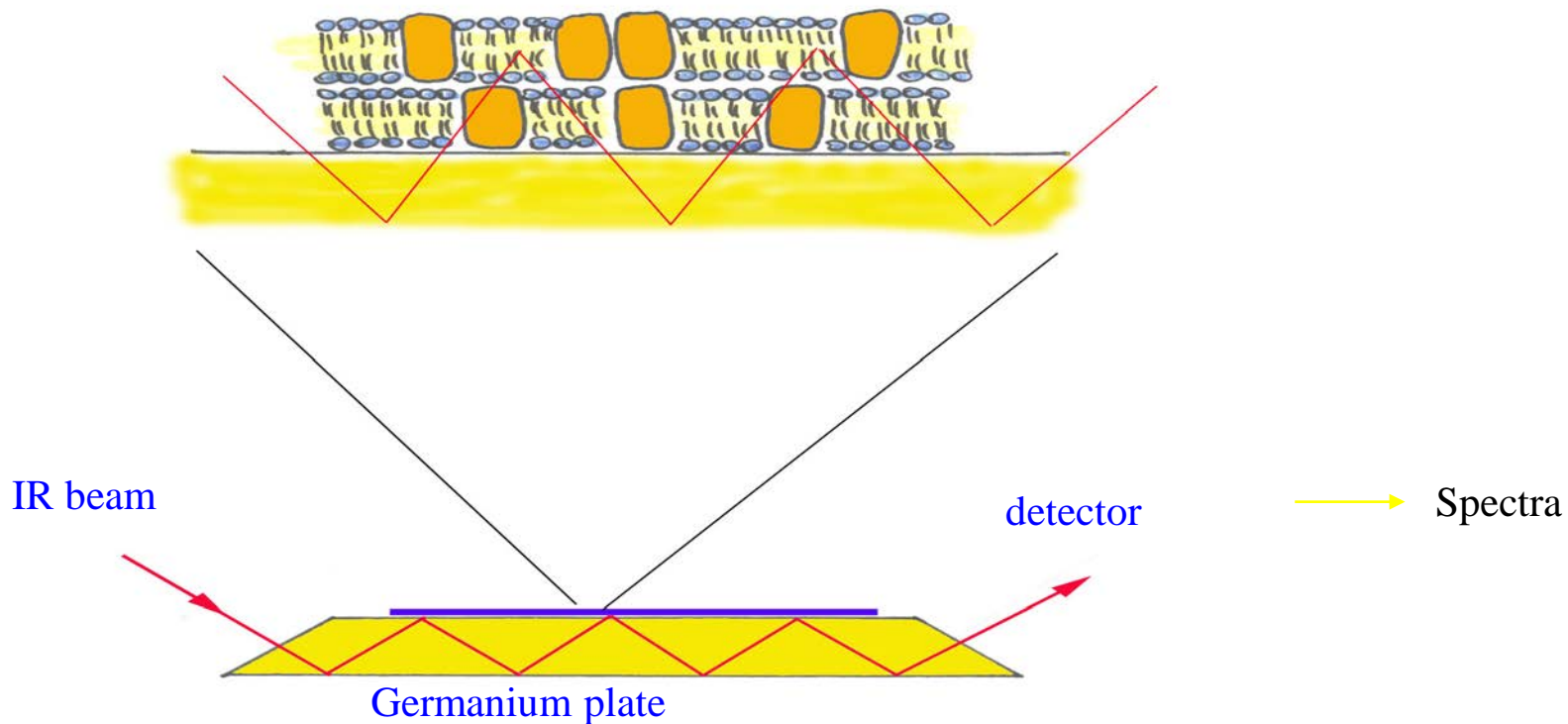
# Attenuated Total Reflection IR Spectroscopy (ATR-IR) of proteins and lipids in biological membranes

- **Determination of secondary structures in a lipid environment (0.1  $\mu\text{g}$  protein) and of protein aggregates**
  - Fourier self-deconvolution
  - Curve fitting
- **Tertiary conformational changes in membrane proteins. Hydrogen/deuterium exchange measurements.**
- **Orientation of the protein domains with respect to the lipid membrane. Polarised ATR-IR spectroscopy**
- **Reading of 2D-gels in terms of secondary structures.**

-Vigano C., Manciu L. and Ruyschaert J.-M., Acc. Chem. Res., 38(2): 117-126 Review (2005)

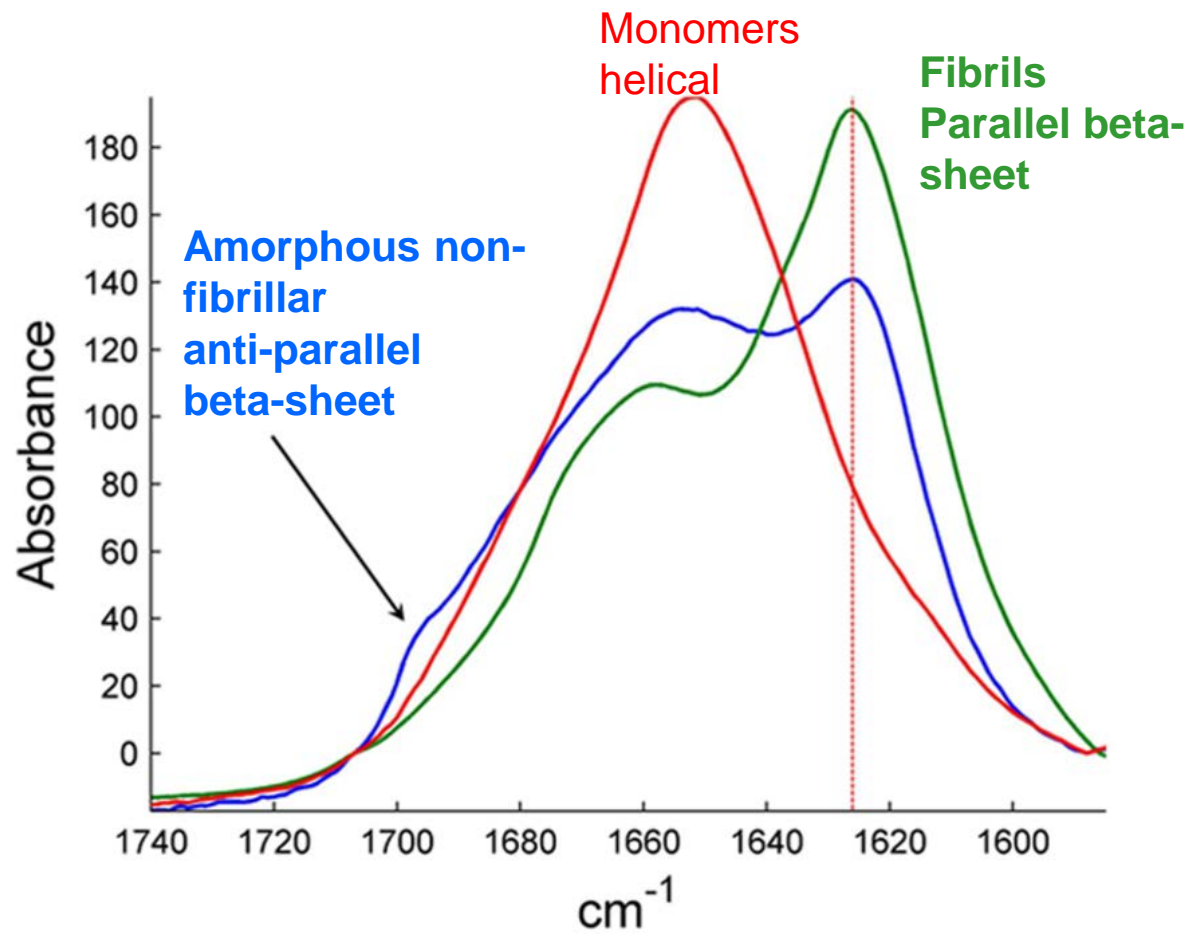
-Inda ME, Vandenbranden M, Fernández A, de Mendoza D, Ruyschaert JM, Cybulski L .Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2014-111-3579-8

-Masureel M, Martens C, Stein RA, Mishra S,, Mchaourab HS, Govaerts C, Ruyschaert JM .Nat Chem Biol. 2014-149-55.

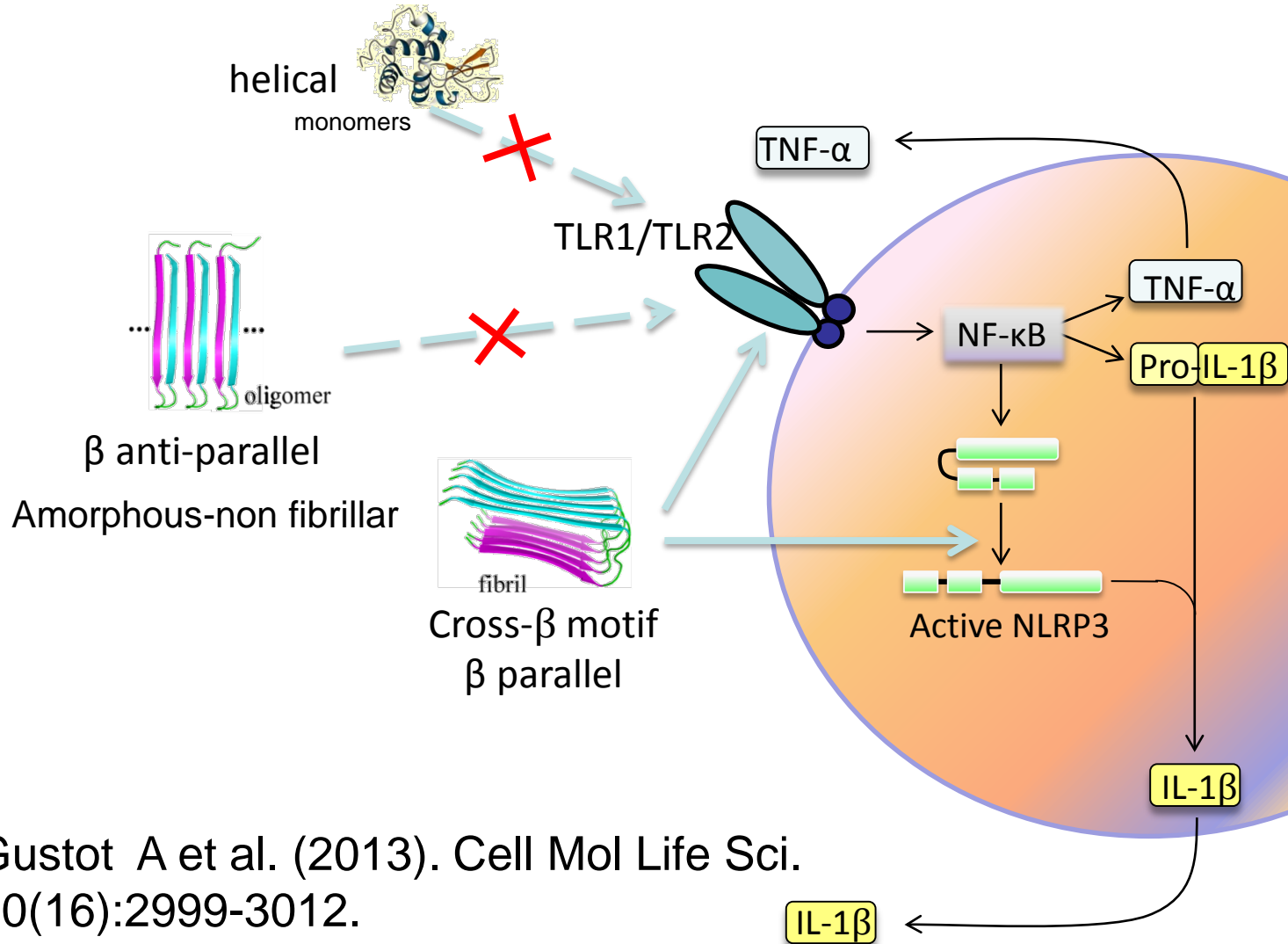


-Vigano C., Manciu .and Ruyschaert J.-M.  
Acc. Chem. Res 38-117-126 Review (2005)





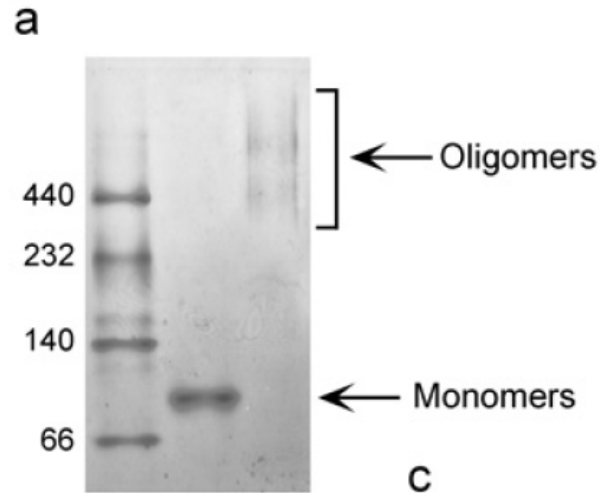
# Recognition of cross-beta motifs by innate immune receptors



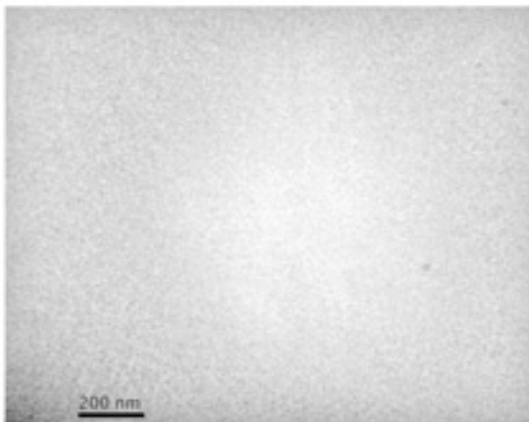
Gustot A et al. (2013). Cell Mol Life Sci. 70(16):2999-3012.

# Parkinson disease

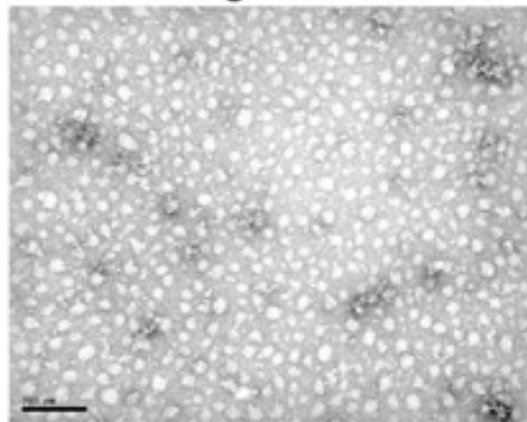
## Synuclein: Parkinson disease



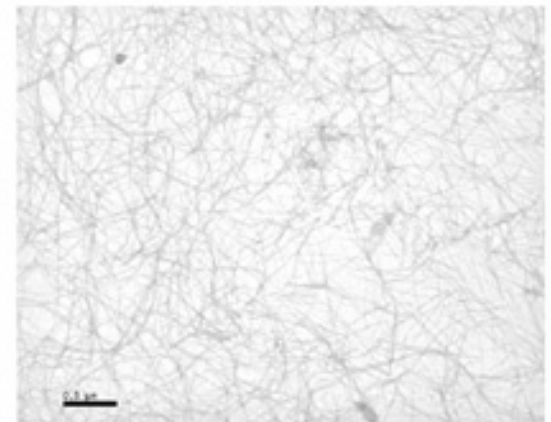
Monomers



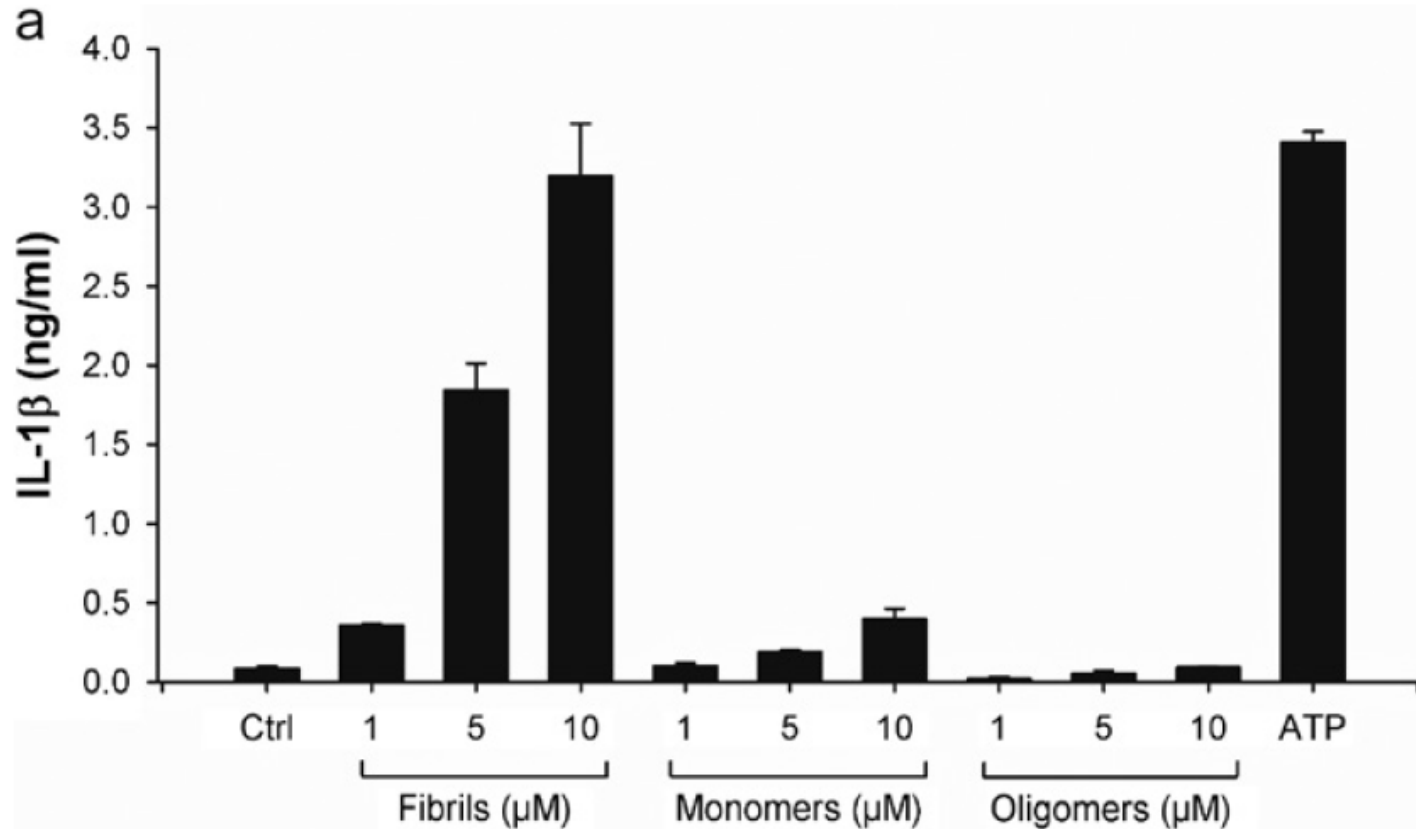
Oligomers



Fibrils

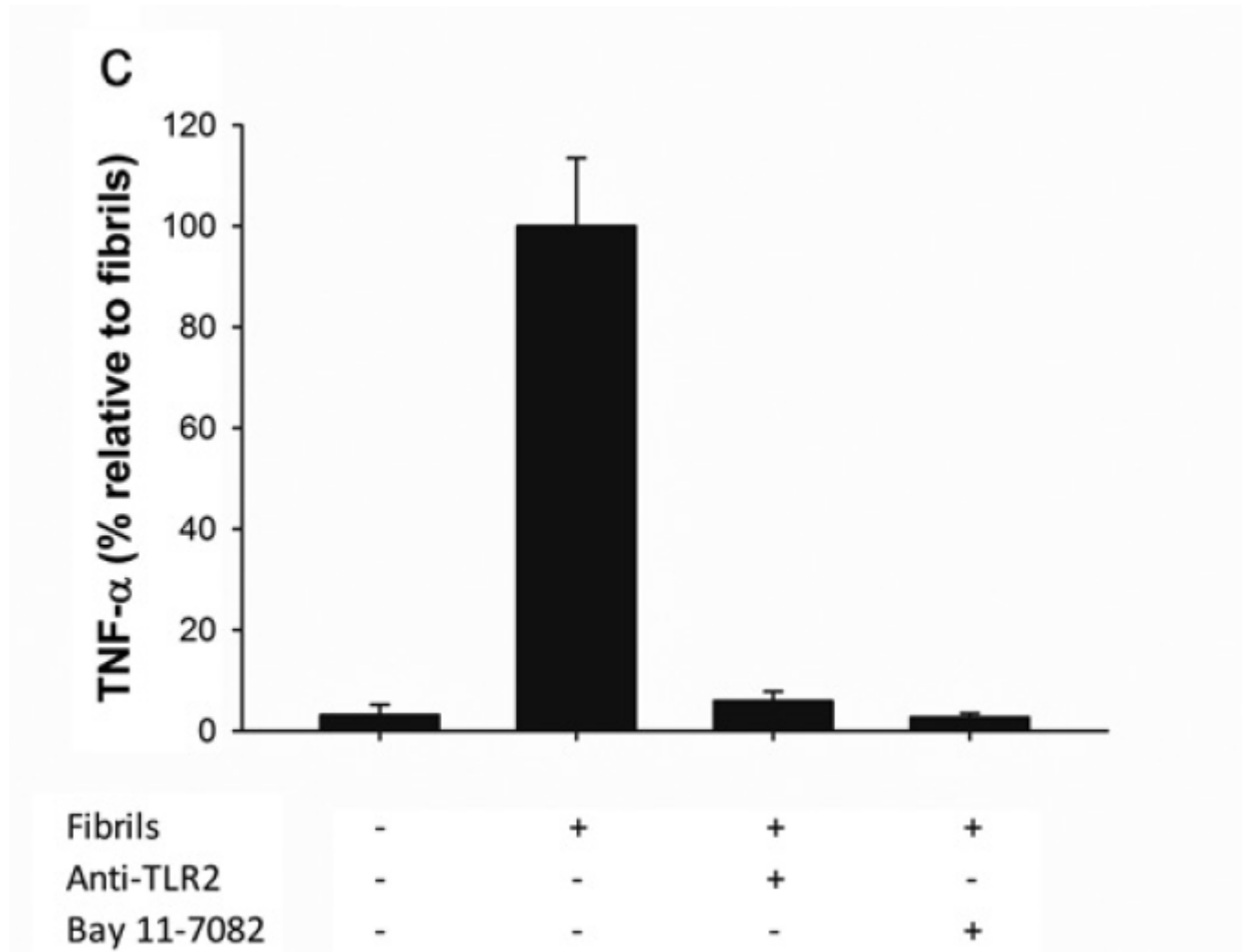


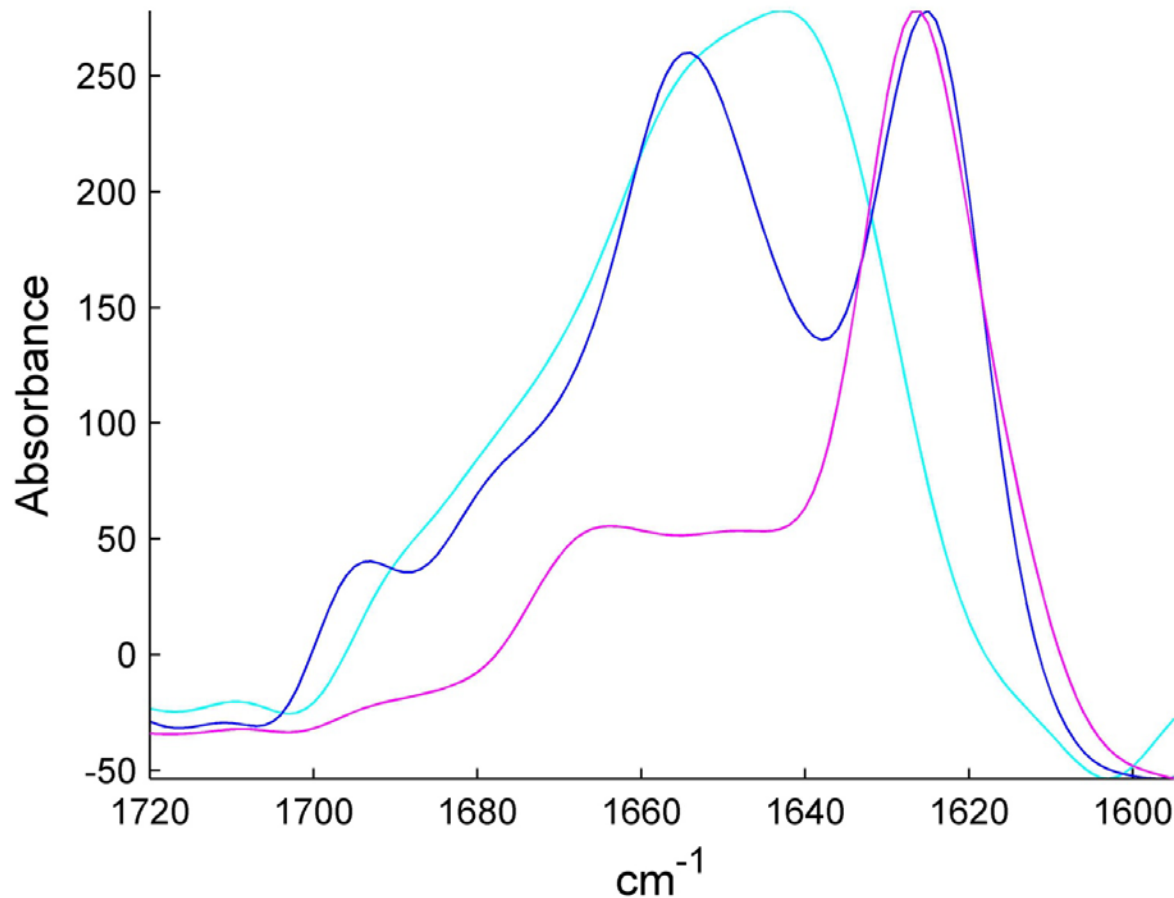
# Induction of IL-1 $\beta$ secretion by $\alpha$ -syn requires the fibrillar state



PMA-primed THP1 cells were incubated for 3 h with ATP (3 mM) or with the indicated amounts of  $\alpha$ -syn fibrils, oligomers or monomers.

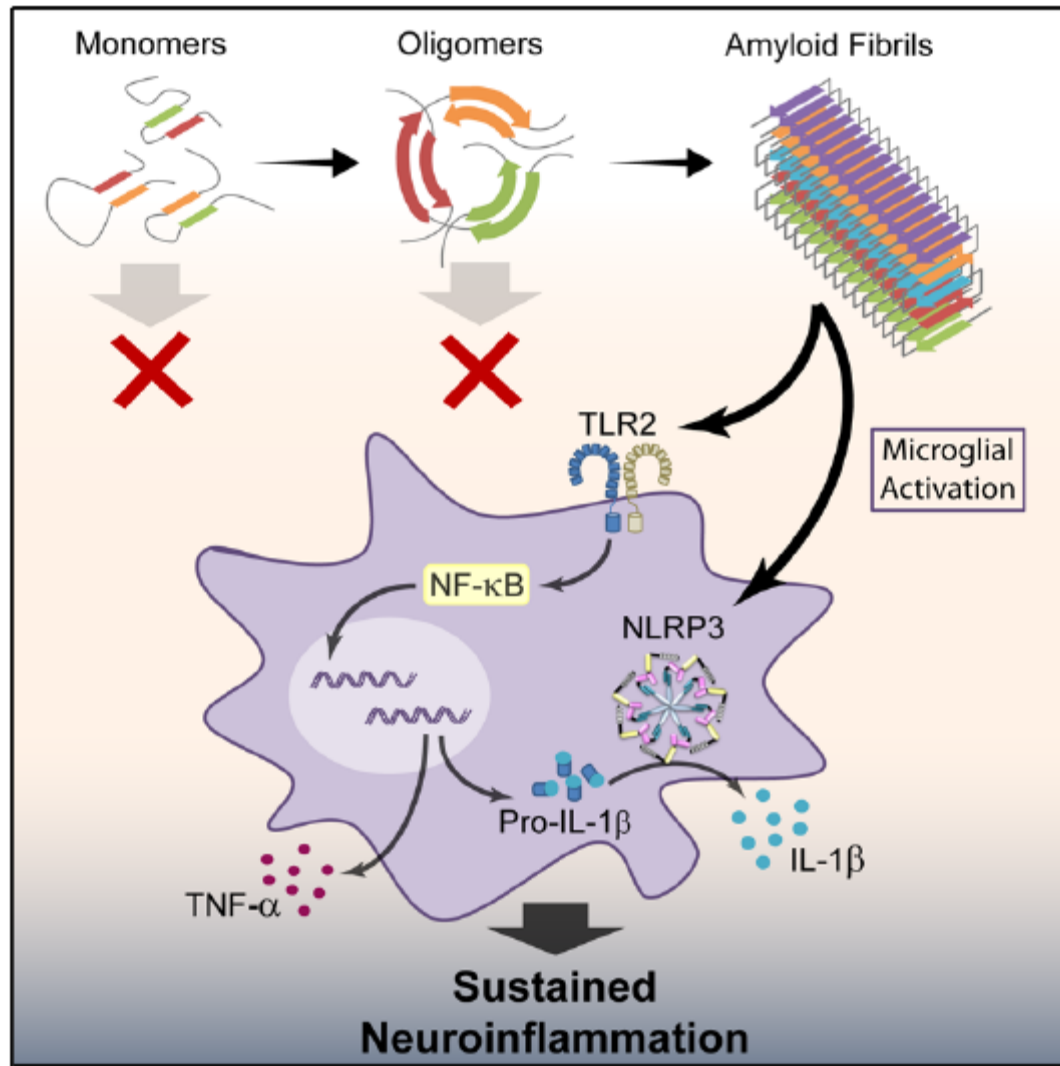
# Induction of the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway by $\alpha$ -syn occurs through TLR2





IR spectra of  $\alpha$ -syn monomers (light blue), oligomers (dark blue) and fibrils (red). Spectra were deconvoluted with a resolution enhancement factor  $K = 1.5$  and scaled for identical amide I area (1711–1590  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). The 1625  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  peak is characteristic of  $\beta$ -sheets and the presence of an additional peak at 1695  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (arrow) is the spectral signature of antiparallel  $\beta$ -sheets

# Synuclein aggregates-Parkinson disease



Gustot et al Biochem.J.2015



We show that induction of inflammatory responses by these amyloids is linked to **their intrinsic structure** not to **a sequence**

It is tempting to speculate that amyloid fibrils represent a new class of danger signals detected by the innate immune system, **through sensing of their common cross- $\beta$  structure that does not exist in any other proteins so far except in fibrils** (neurodegenerative diseases, Parkinson, Alzheimer,...)

Importantly, **persistent neuroinflammation**, which is a well-defined feature of neurodegenerative diseases, actively contributes to disease progression.

Golenbock et al demonstrate **strongly enhanced inflammatory activity in human brains** of Alzheimer patients suggesting a role for the innate system in this neurodegenerative disease (Alzheimer, Parkinson..)

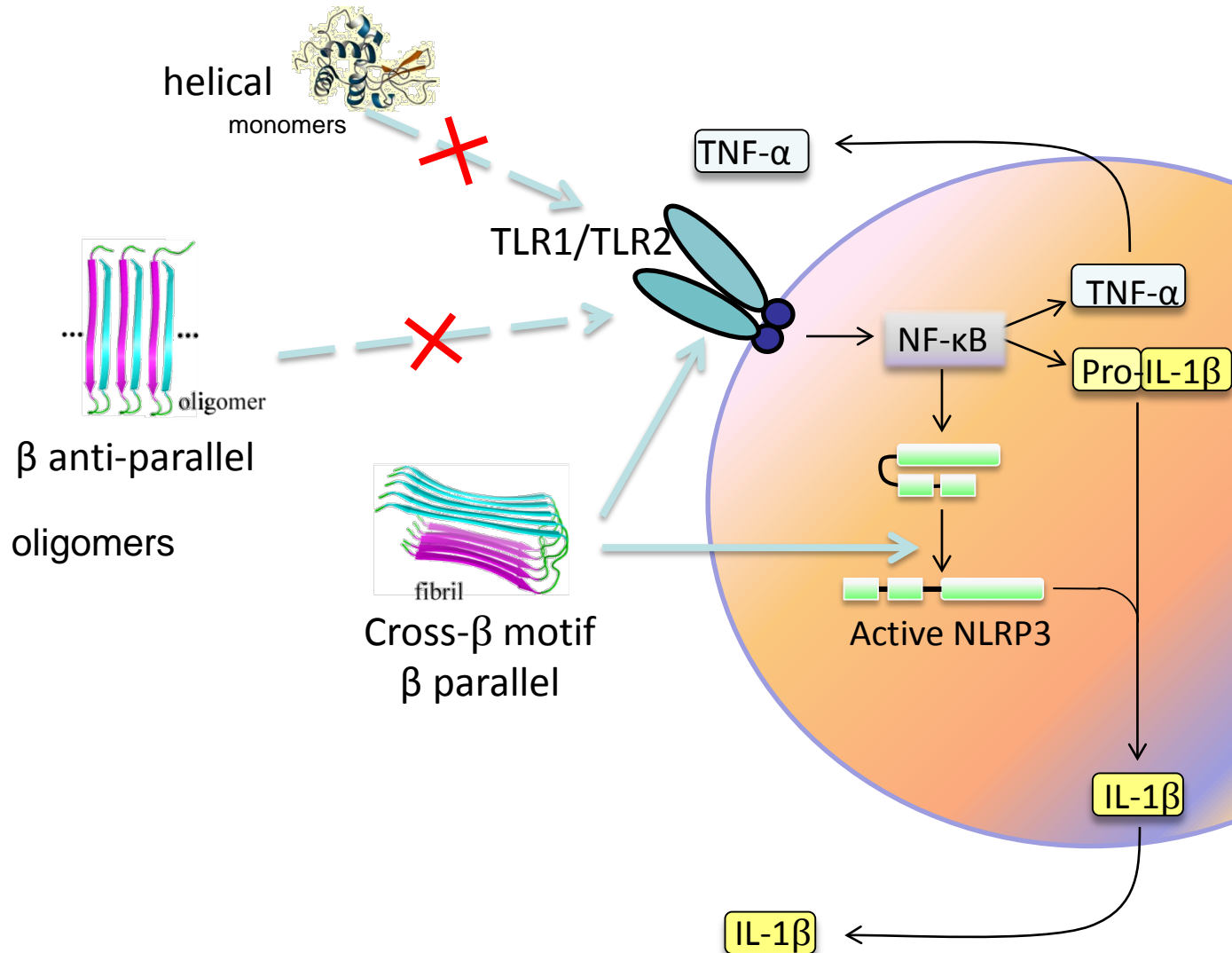
Understanding the molecular mechanisms by which amyloid deposits **trigger inflammation** might provide new clues to develop therapeutic strategies to combat these important diseases

Interestingly mice **carrying mutations in inflammatory activation cascades** components were largely protected from loss of spatial memory and other Alzheimer disease-associated symptoms.

## **NLRP3 is activated in Alzheimer's disease and contributes to pathology in APP/PS1 mice**

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# Recognition of cross-beta motifs by innate immune receptors



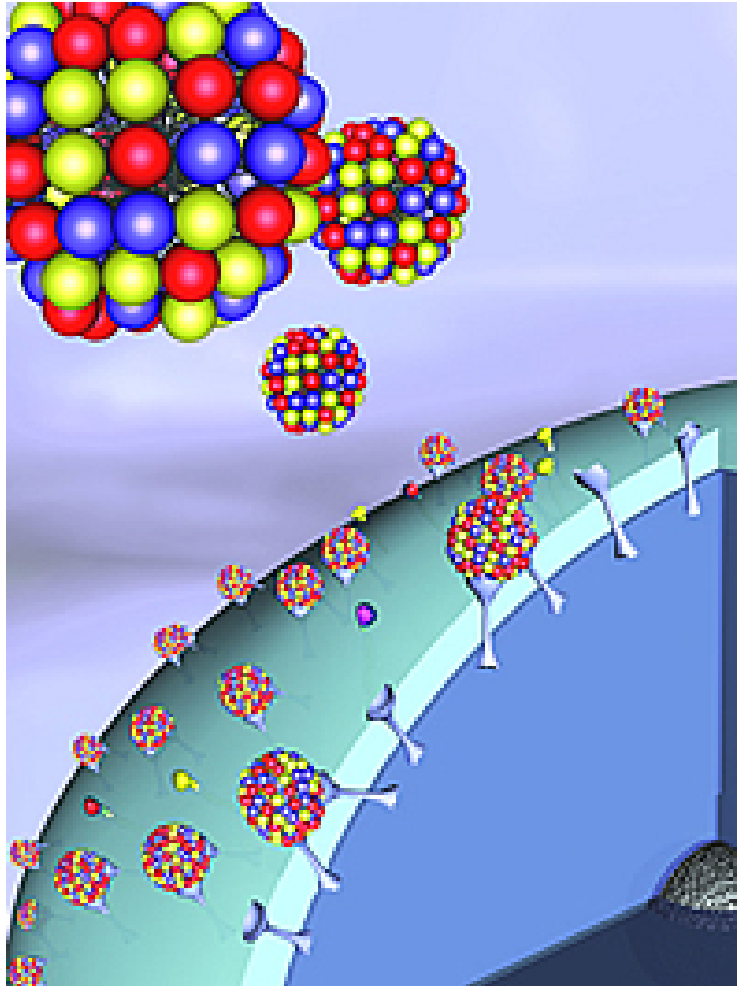
## Message

A therapeutic that blocks the activity of the inflammatory process might effectively interfere with the progression of Alzheimer disease

Non bacterial ligand can activate the innate immunity

**These inflammatory reactions can be desired** (for vaccine development), **unwanted** (for delivery applications) **or involved in the induction of non-infectious diseases** (cardiovascular, autoimmune, allergic diseases, cancer, diabetes, amyloidoses, prion-related diseases, or pneumoconioses). For that reason, **development of new molecules targeting or inhibiting these inflammatory responses may lead to therapeutic perspectives largely unintended until now.**

Is activation induced by molecules from bacterial, viral, fungal origine only?



**natural nanoparticles**  
(silica particles, asbestosis, cholesterol crystals, amyloid aggregates)

**engineered nanoparticles**  
(fullerenes, gold nanoparticles, polymers, **cationic liposomes**)



TLR: the Swiss army knife of immunity



# Acknowledgements



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