A fluorescence microscopy image showing a dense population of cells. The cells are stained with three different dyes: green, red, and blue. The green and red signals are distributed throughout the field, while the blue signal is more concentrated in certain areas, possibly representing nuclei. The overall appearance is a complex, multi-colored pattern of light spots and streaks against a dark background.

# Myeloid cells as regulators of systemic autoimmunity

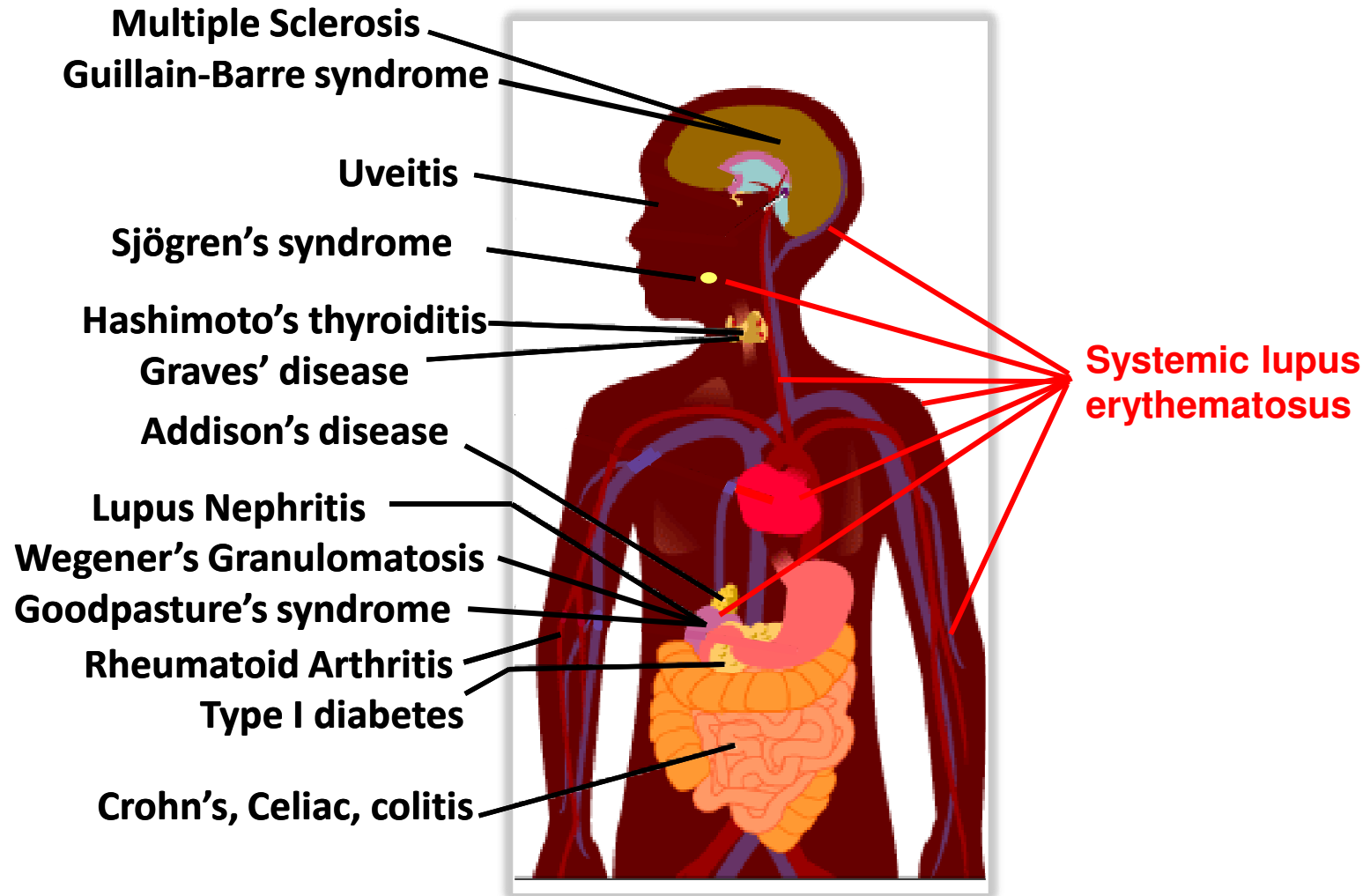
September 29, 2014

Trine N. Jørgensen, Ph.D.

Asst. Staff, Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic

Asst. Prof., Cleveland Clinic College of Medicine at Case Western  
Reserve University

# Autoimmune Disorders



# Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Estimated 1.5 million patients in USA

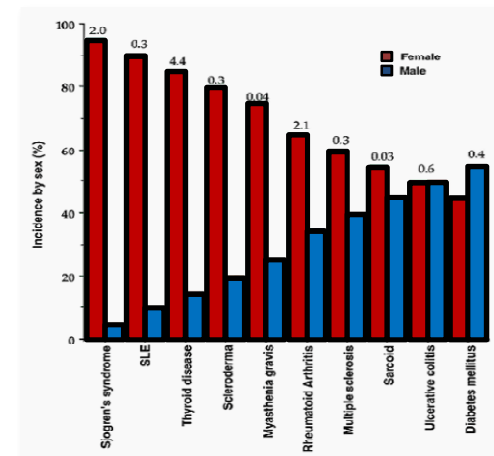
Diagnosis occur most often between the ages of 15 and 45.

Diagnosis based on multiple criteria



Much more prevalent in women than in men

Etiology unknown, but dependent on both genetic, environmental and hormonal factors



*Whitacre et al, 2001*

# Immunosuppressive neutrophil-like cells protect male lupus-prone mice from disease development

Abhishek Trigunaite



Evan Der



Ayesha Khan



Sanjay Varikuti



Elena Gonzalez



Anne Song

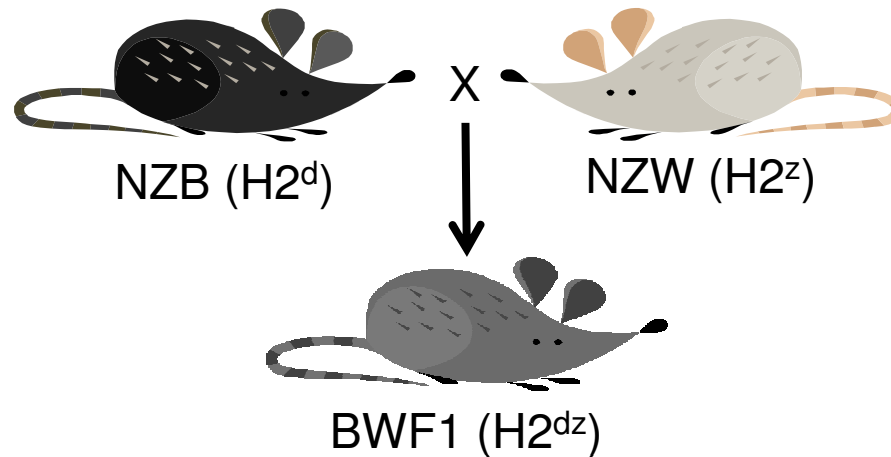


Justin Jones

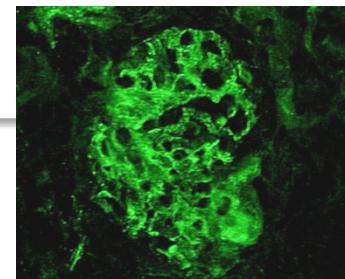


Joana Dimo

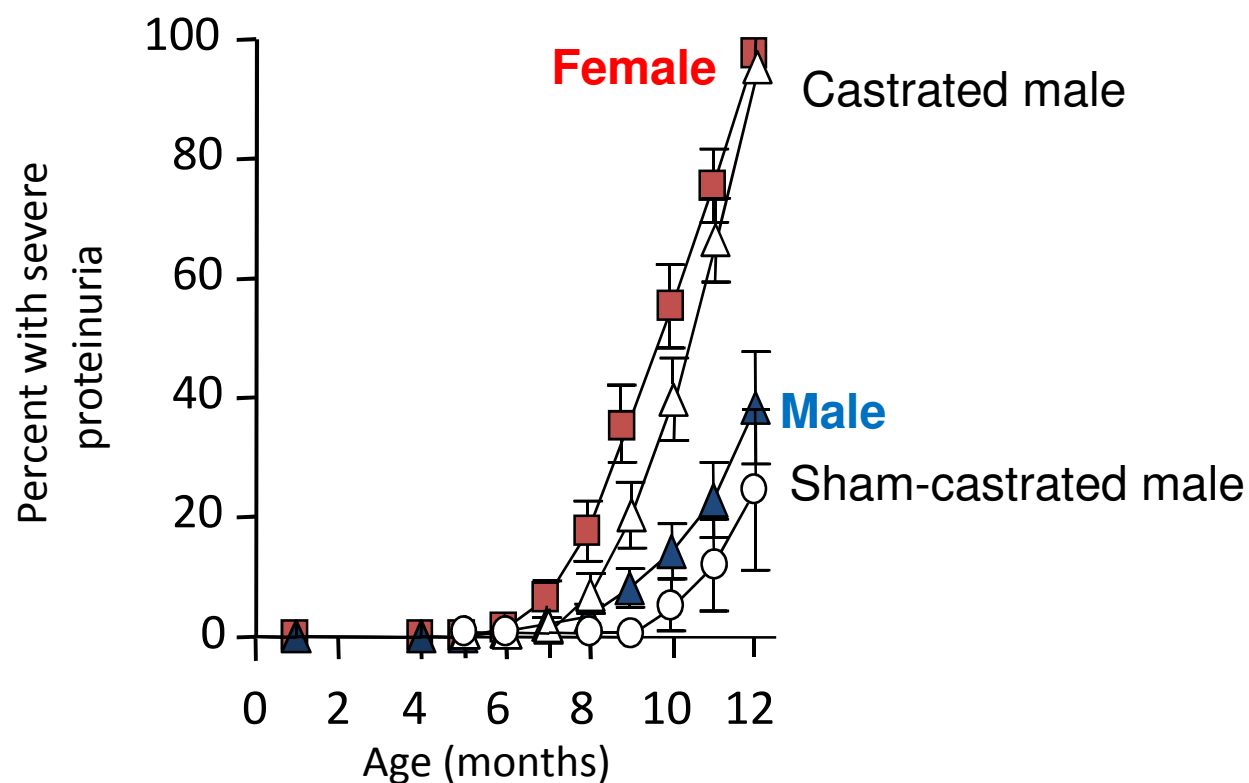
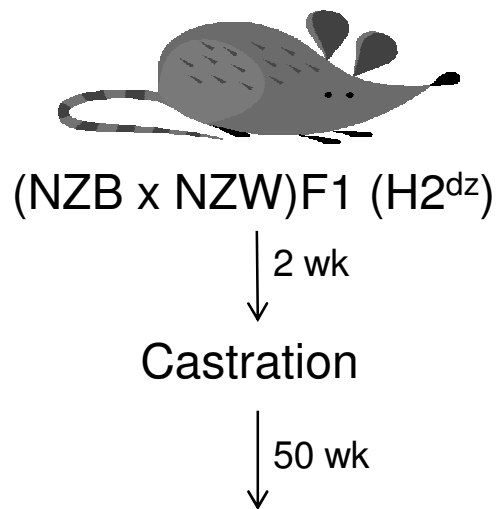
# New Zealand Hybrid Mice



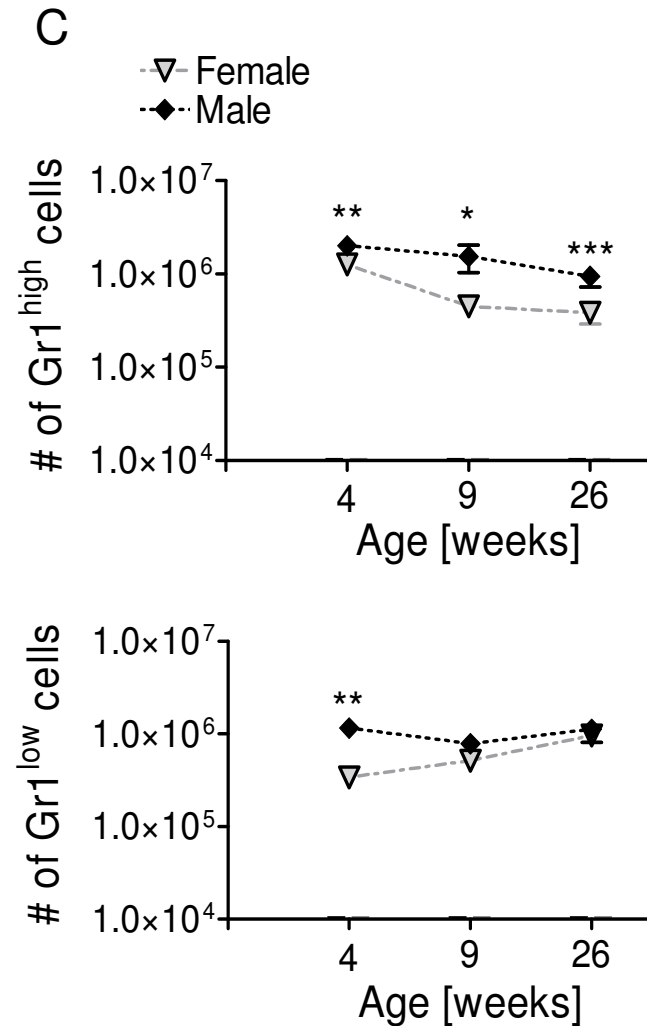
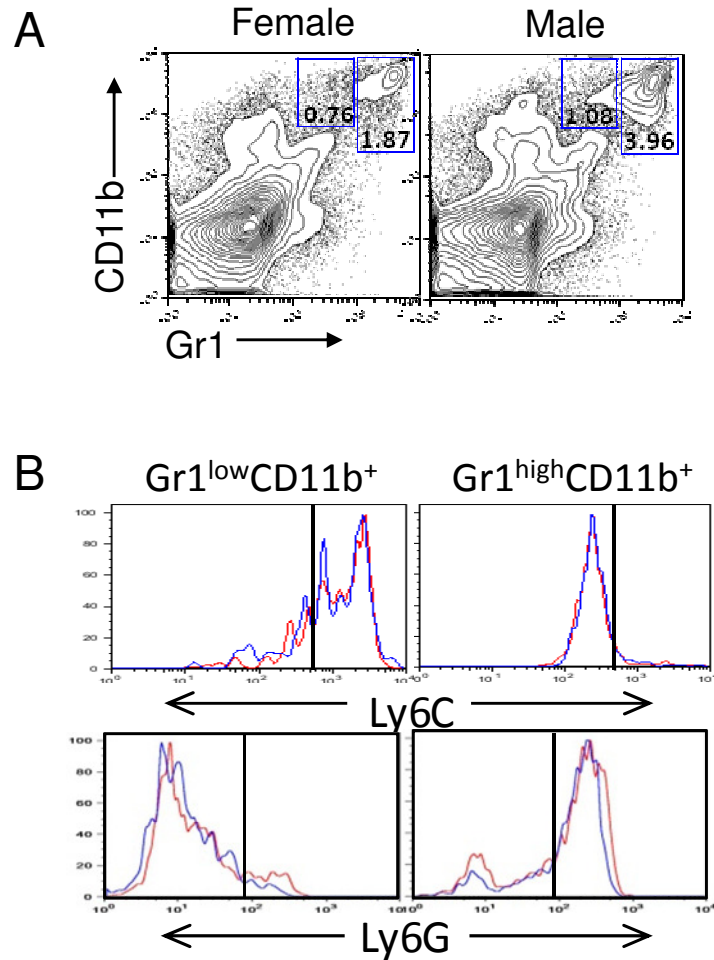
New Zealand Hybrid mice (NZB x NZW)F1 are characterized by the spontaneous development of lupus-like disease including [lymphadenopathy](#) and [splenomegaly](#), spontaneous presence of hyperactive B cells, elevated levels of anti-nuclear autoantibodies, immune complex formation, glomerulonephritis and death from kidney failure.



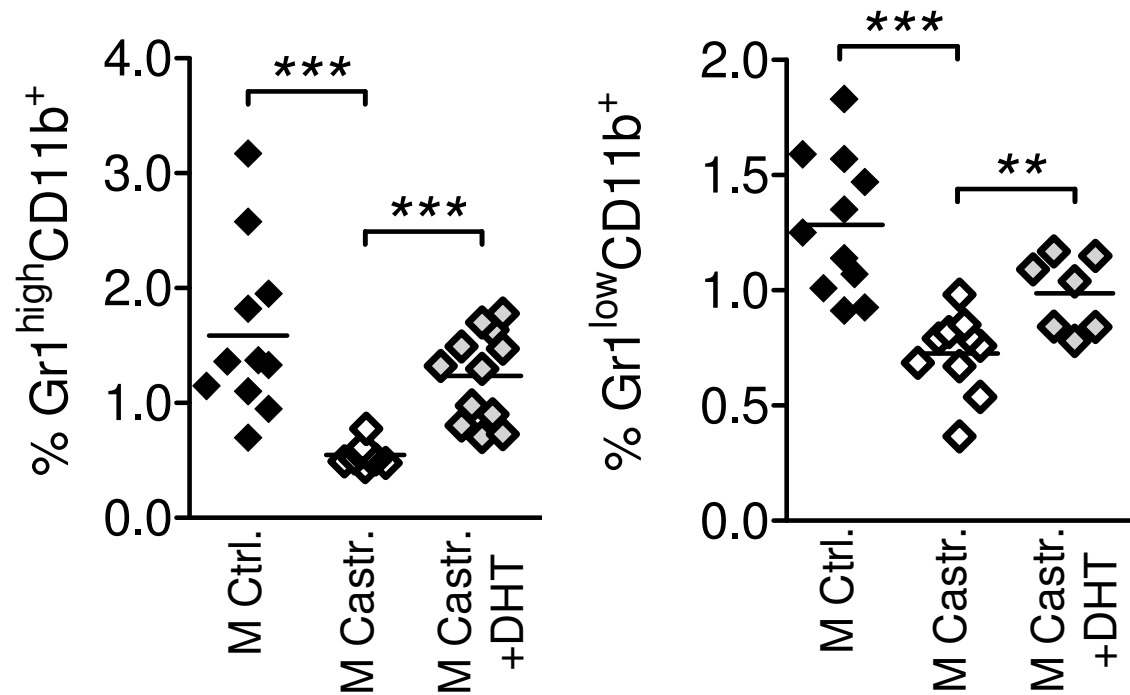
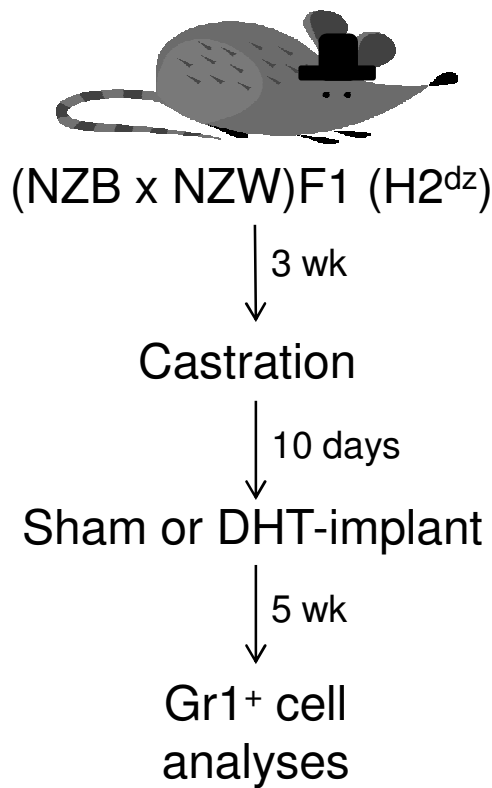
# Male BWF1 mice develop disease with a delayed onset and reduced incidence



# Neutrophil-like cells are elevated in protected lupus-prone male (NZB x NZW)F1 mice



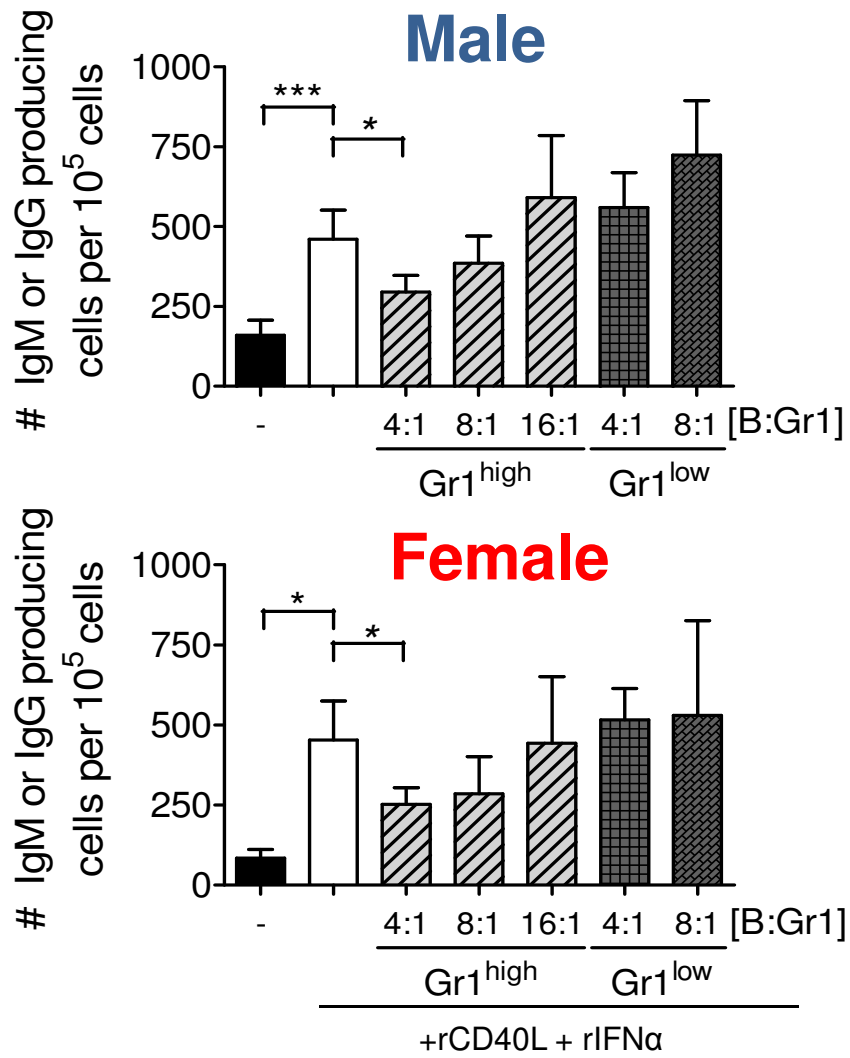
# Neutrophil-like Gr1<sup>+</sup> cells are regulated by Testosterone *in vivo*





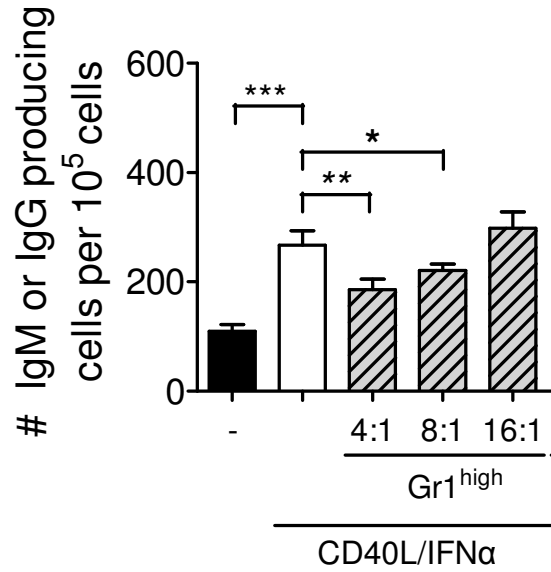
**Are neutrophil-like cells in male lupus-prone (NZB x NZW)F1 mice immunosuppressive?**

# Gr1<sup>+</sup> cell subsets suppress B and T cell activation and differentiation *in vitro*

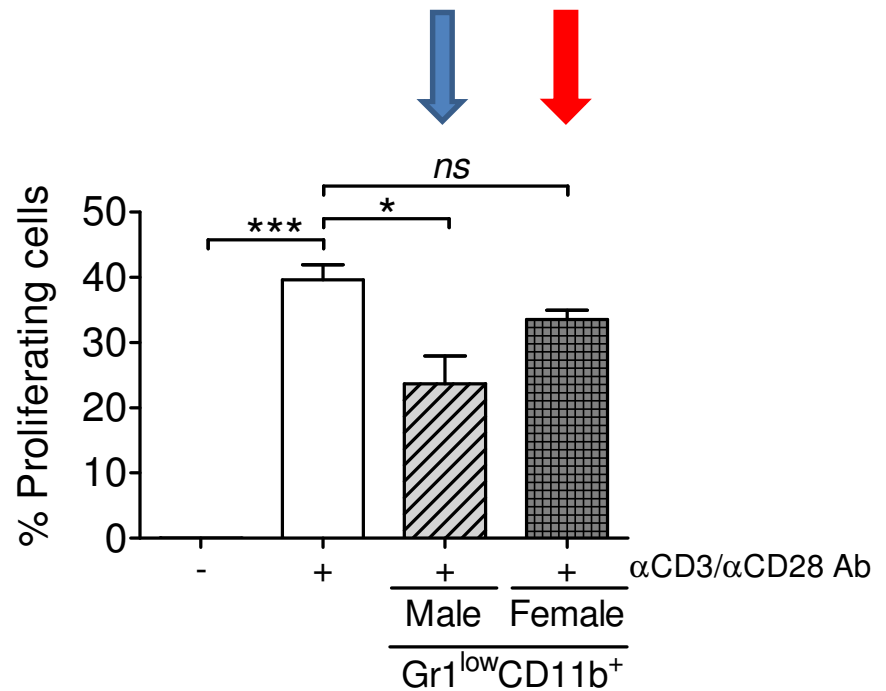
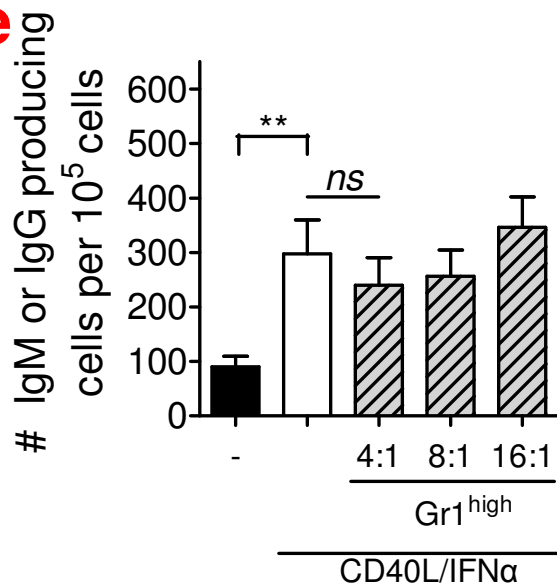


# As the mice age, female Gr1<sup>+</sup> cell subsets lose their suppressive capacity

**Male**

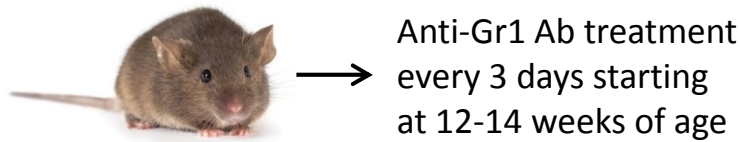


**Female**

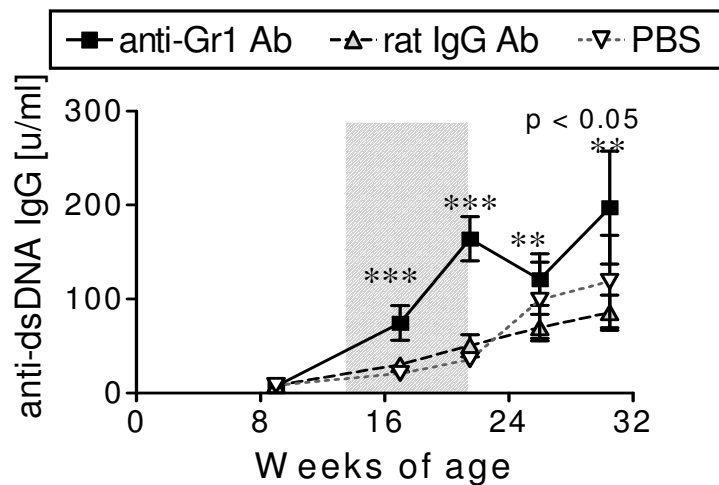


**What is the function of Gr1+ cells *in vivo* in (NZB x NZW)F1 mice?**

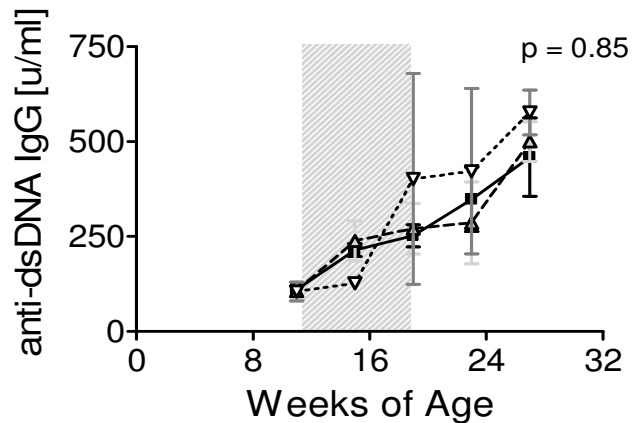
# Gr1-expressing cell subsets suppress spontaneous and induced antibody-production *in vivo*



**Male**

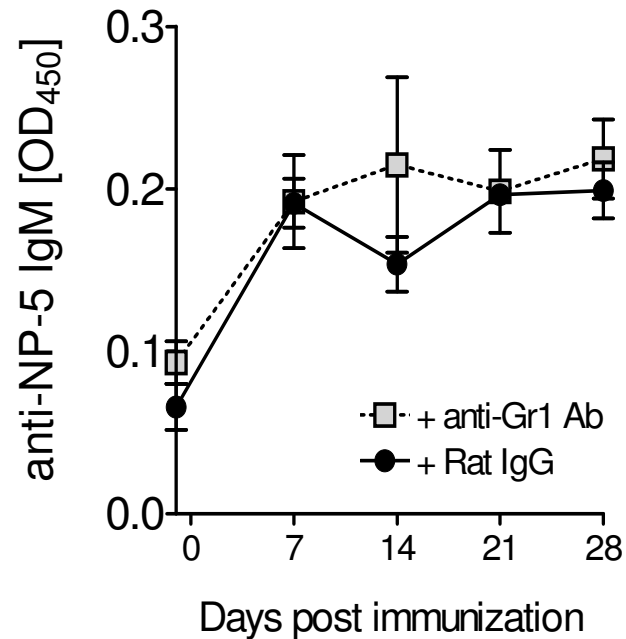


**Female**

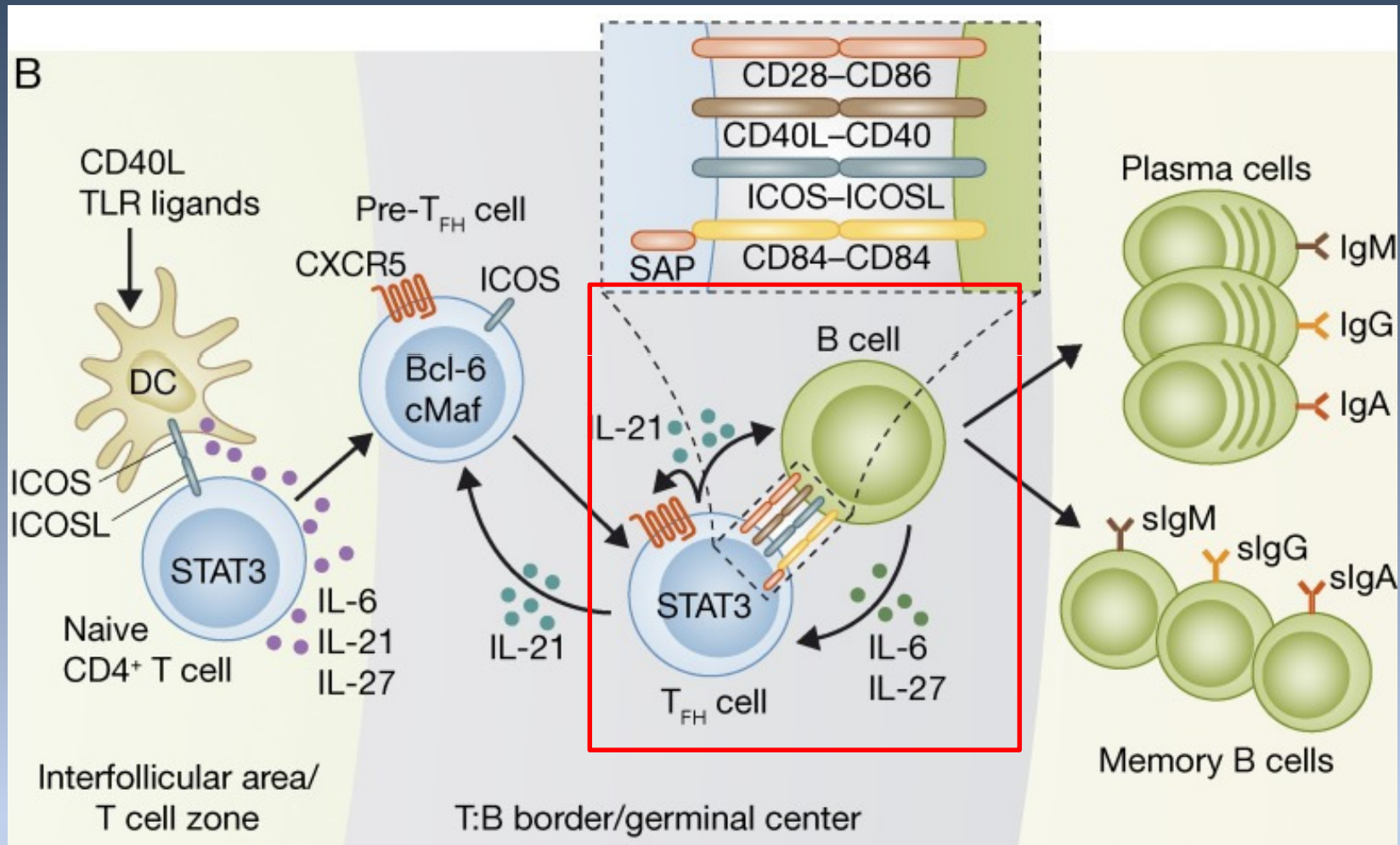


# Gr1-expressing cell subsets fail to suppress TI-antibody responses *in vivo*

Immunized with  
20  $\mu$ g of NP-  
Ficoll in CFA i.p.  $\longrightarrow$  Serum collected  
every 7 days



# Germinal center formation and the regulation of T-dependent immune responses



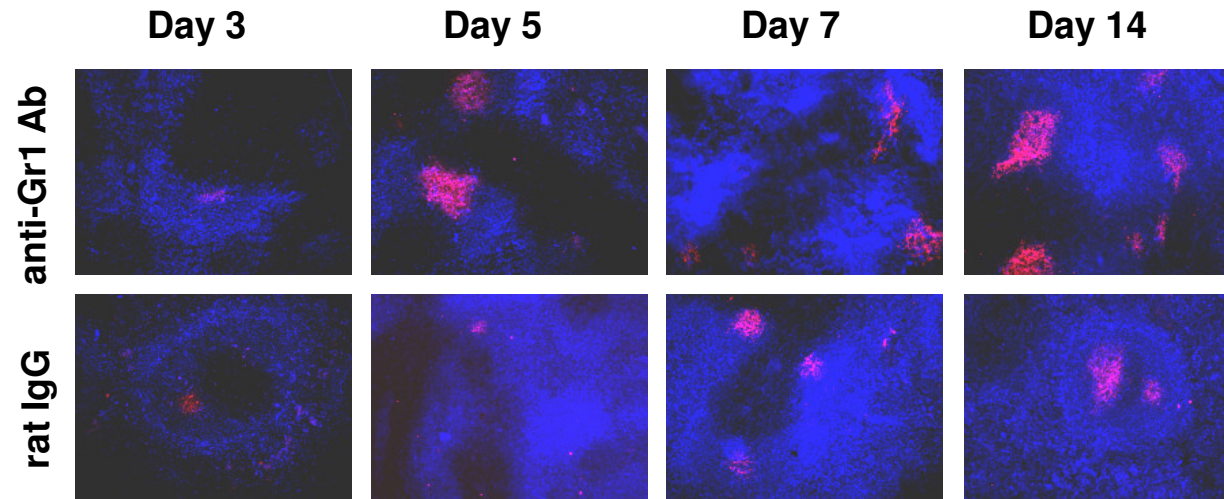
# Gr1-expressing cells suppress T<sub>FH</sub> cell differentiation and germinal center formation



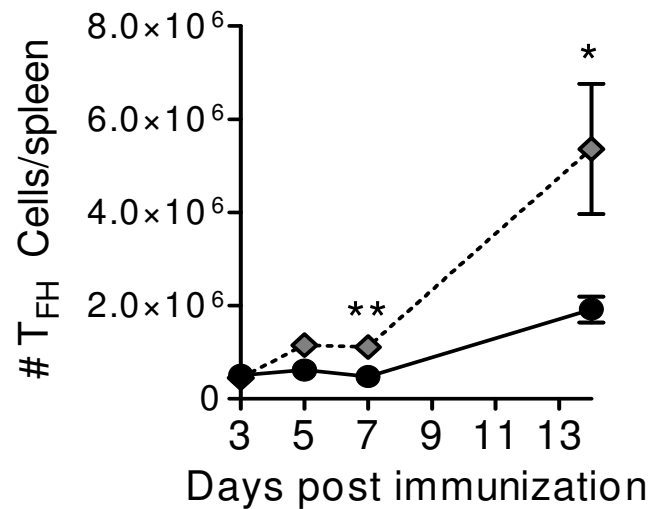
Immunized with  
20 µg of NP-  
CGG in CFA i.p.



Mice sacrificed at  
days 3, 5, 7 and 14



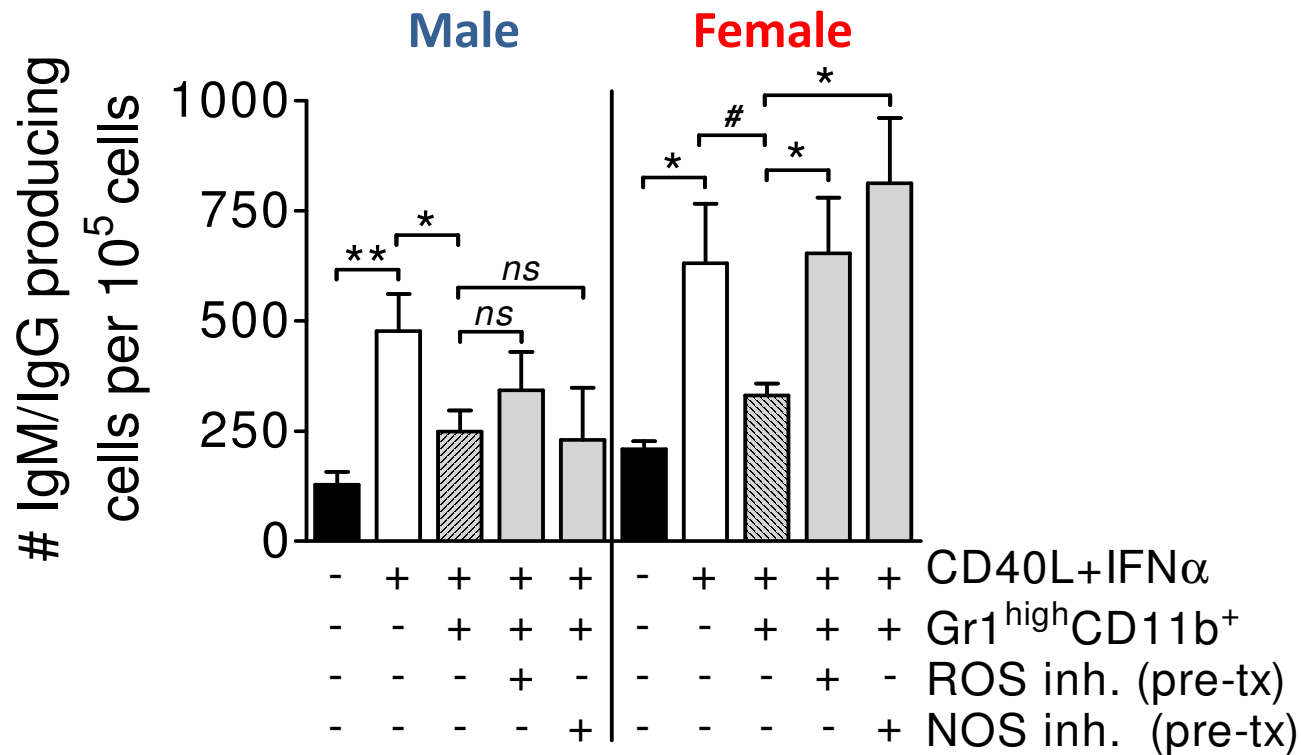
Red: GL7<sup>+</sup>; Blue: B220<sup>+</sup>



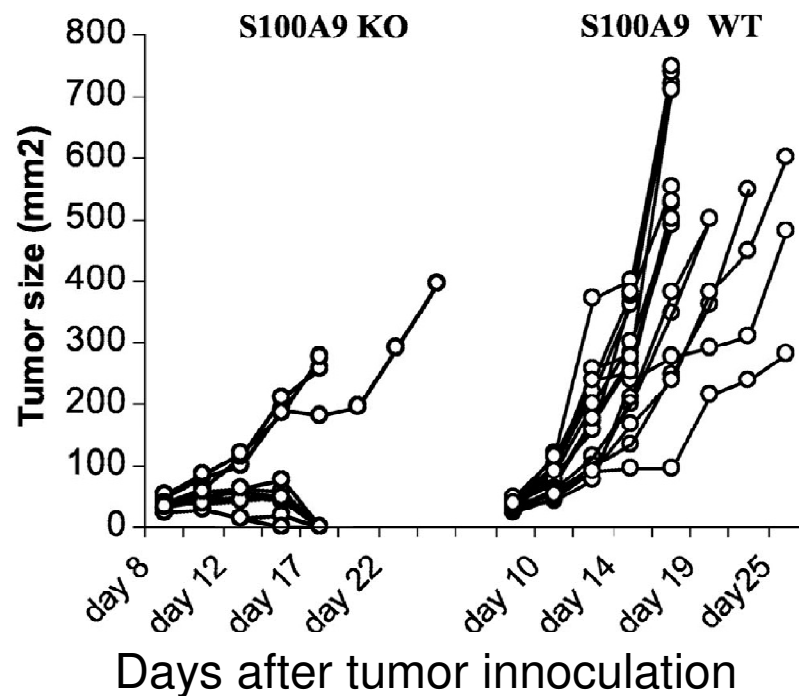


**What effector functions do neutrophil-like cells utilize to suppress antibody production in male lupus-prone (NZB x NZW)F1 mice?**

# Female Gr1<sup>hi</sup>CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells use NO/ROS to suppress B cell differentiation



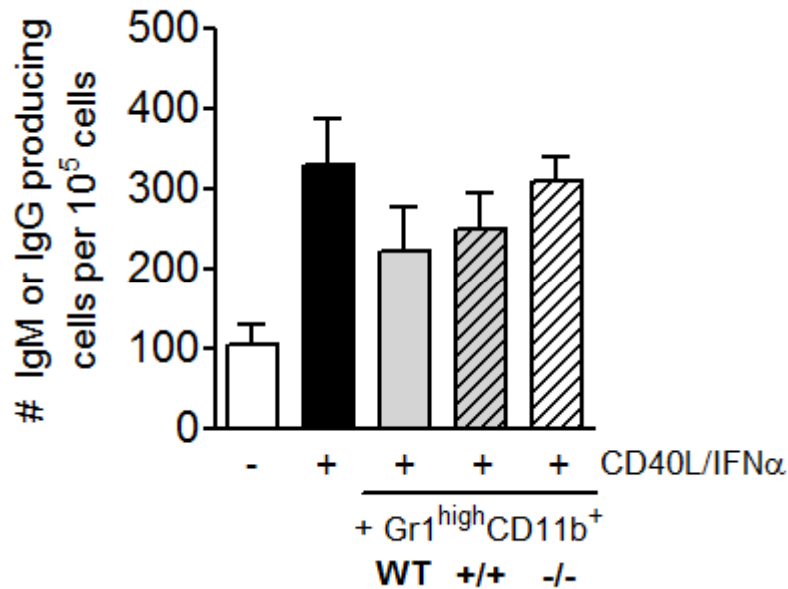
# Calgranulin B (S100a9) can act as an immunosuppressive molecule in cancer – and is overexpressed by male Gr1<sup>+</sup> cells



Cheng et al, JEM. 2008

# S100a9-deficient $Gr1^{high}CD11b^{+}$ cells cannot suppress B cell differentiation *in vitro* and *in vivo*

**Male**

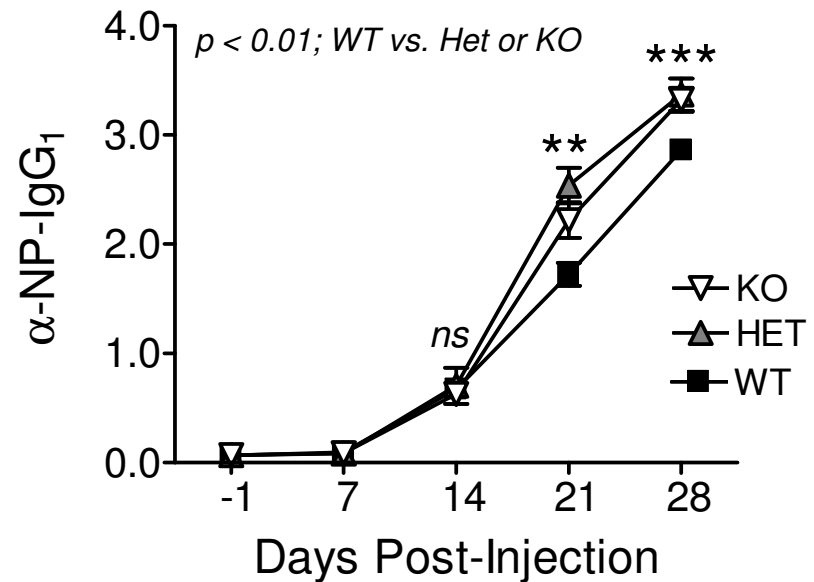


**Male**



Immunized with 20  $\mu$ g of NP-CGG in CFA i.p.

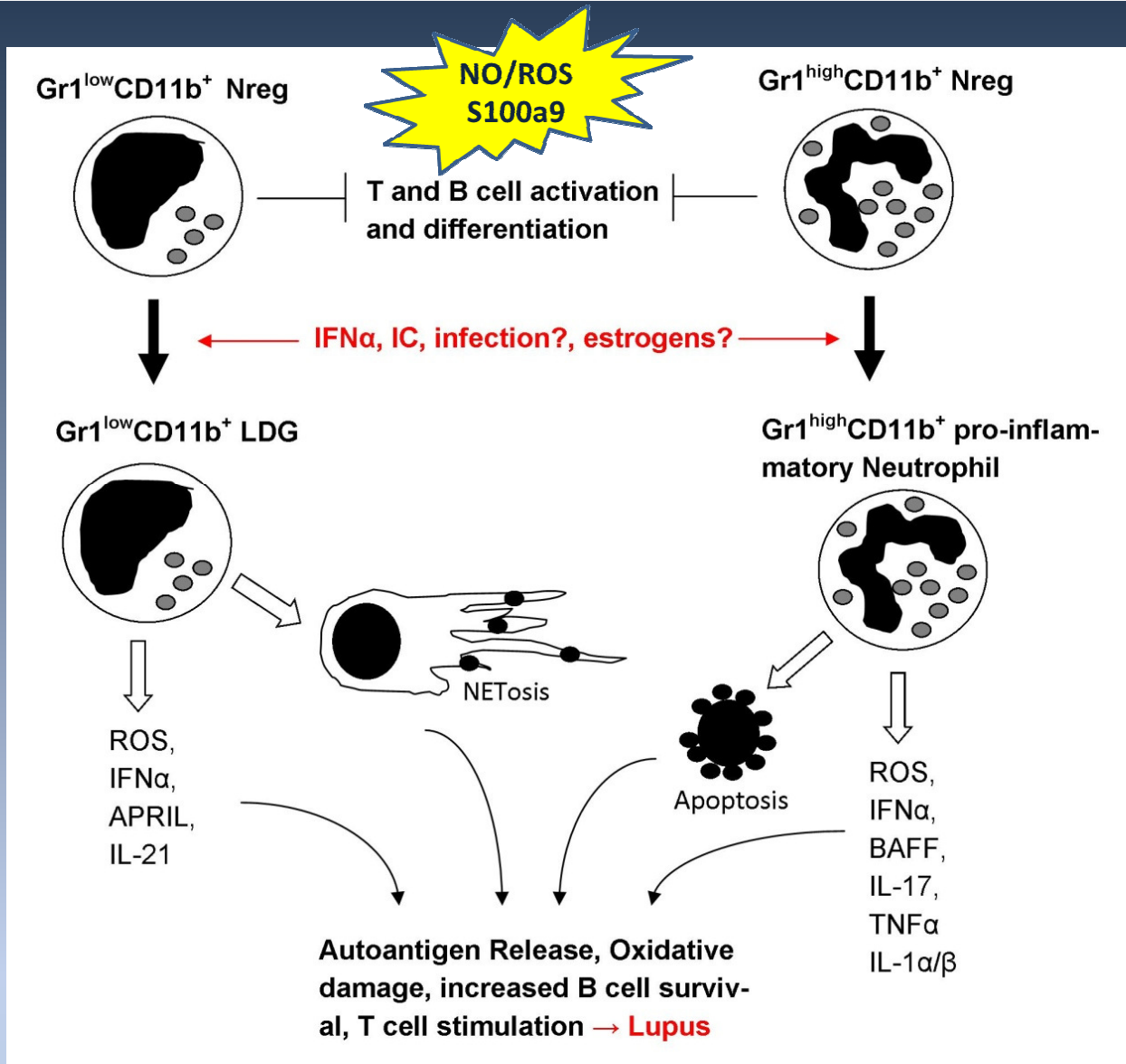
Serum collected every 7 days



## Summary 1

1. Gr1<sup>+</sup> cells are elevated in male mice
2. Gr1<sup>+</sup> cells are regulated by testosterone
3. Gr1<sup>high</sup>CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells suppress B cell differentiation
4. Gr1<sup>low</sup>CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells suppress T cell proliferation/differentiation
5. Depletion of Gr1<sup>+</sup> cells results in elevated AAb production in male, but not female, lupus-prone mice
6. Female Gr1<sup>high</sup>CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells use ROS/NO to suppress B cell differentiation *in vitro*
7. Male Gr1<sup>high</sup>CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells appear to use S100a9 as their mechanism of suppression *in vitro*
8. S100a9<sup>-/-</sup> lupus-prone male mice produce increased levels of Ab *in vivo*

# Working Model



## **Jorgensen lab**

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**Joana Dimo**

**Lauren Liegl**

**Andres Alberto**

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**Natalia Gilitay, Ph.D.**

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**Evan Der, B.S.**

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**Divya Khosla, M.Sc.**

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**Serena MacDonald, B.S.**

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**Ami Saraiya, M.D.**

**Thomas Carroll**



The Official Lab T-shirt



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**Megan MacLeod, Ph.D.**

**Dr. Loren Erickson, UVA**

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**Department of Defense**

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