

# **Adaptive Immunity**

## Cellular Mechanisms and Signaling

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# Defense reactions

- **Recognition of a threat**
  - Signaling molecules and signal receptors on innate immune cells
  - Antigen receptors and signaling molecules on adaptive immune cells
- **Processing**
  - Analysis of the received signal
  - Threshold
- **Response (effector phase)**
  - Propagation of the danger message
  - Elimination of the threat

# Two types of immunity

- **Innate immunity**

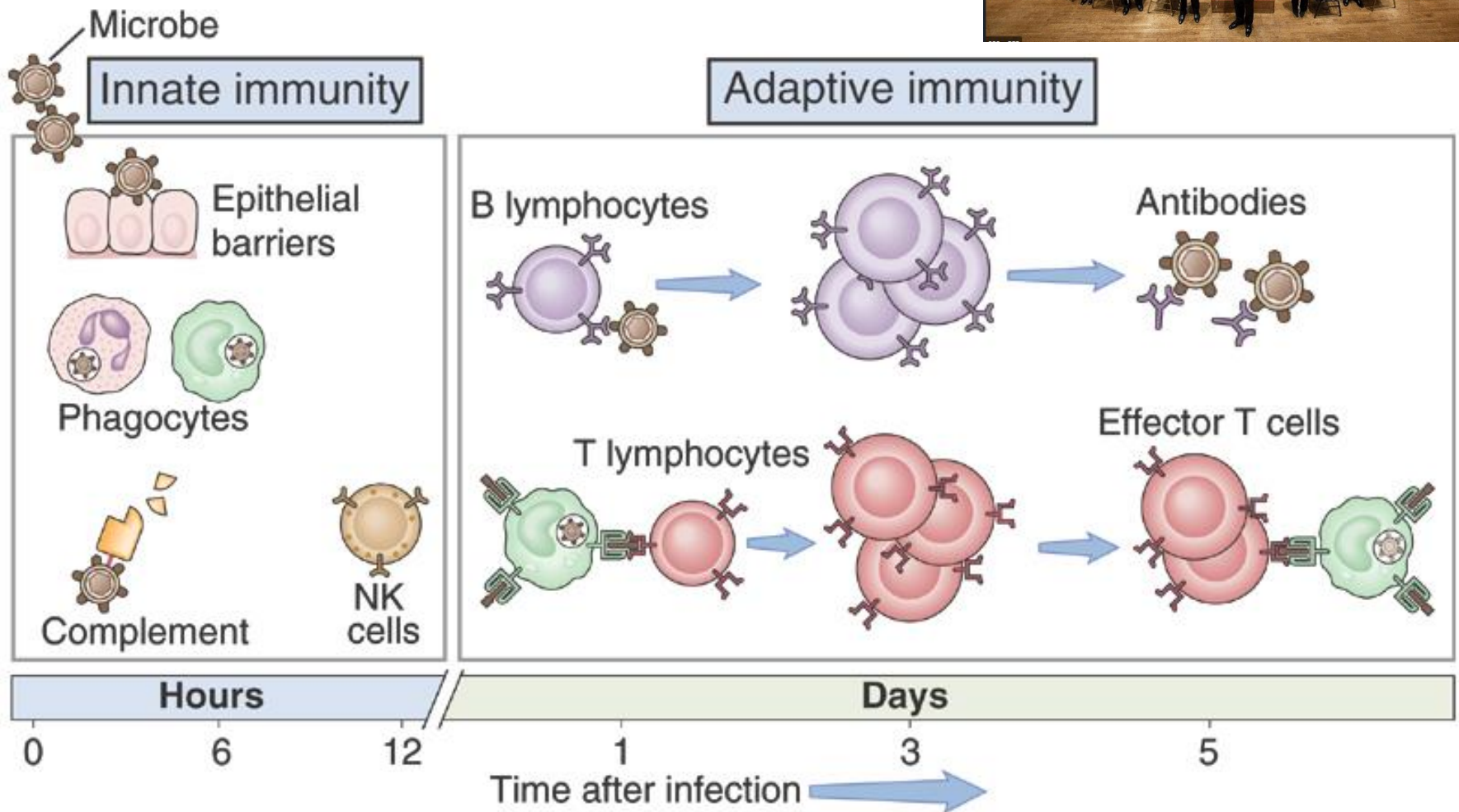
- Stimulated by pathogens, signal to adaptive immunity
- *Immediate response*
- *Broad reactivity*
- Players:
  - Epithelial barriers (skin, mucosa)
  - Complement system
  - NK cells
  - Phagocytes (DC and MØ)

- **Adaptive Immunity**

- Stimulated by pathogen-derived antigens, and by innate immunity
- *Delayed response*
- *Narrow specificity*
- *Two types: humoral and cellular*
- Players:
  - B cells (antibodies)
  - T cells (CTL and Th)
  - NKT cells

A perfectly orchestrated and timed system

## Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra



# Discovery of Humoral Immunity (Antibodies)

- Alexandre Yersin and *Corynebacterium diphtheria* toxin (1888).
  - Observed that bacteria localized only in the throat but lesions seen throughout the body
  - Cell free filtrates made mice sick (*toxins*)
- Emil von Behring Serum from mice that recovered could transfer resistance to previously uninfected mice.
  - Mice that recovered were resistant to disease
  - Serum from mice that recovered could transfer resistance to previously uninfected mice (*antitoxins*).

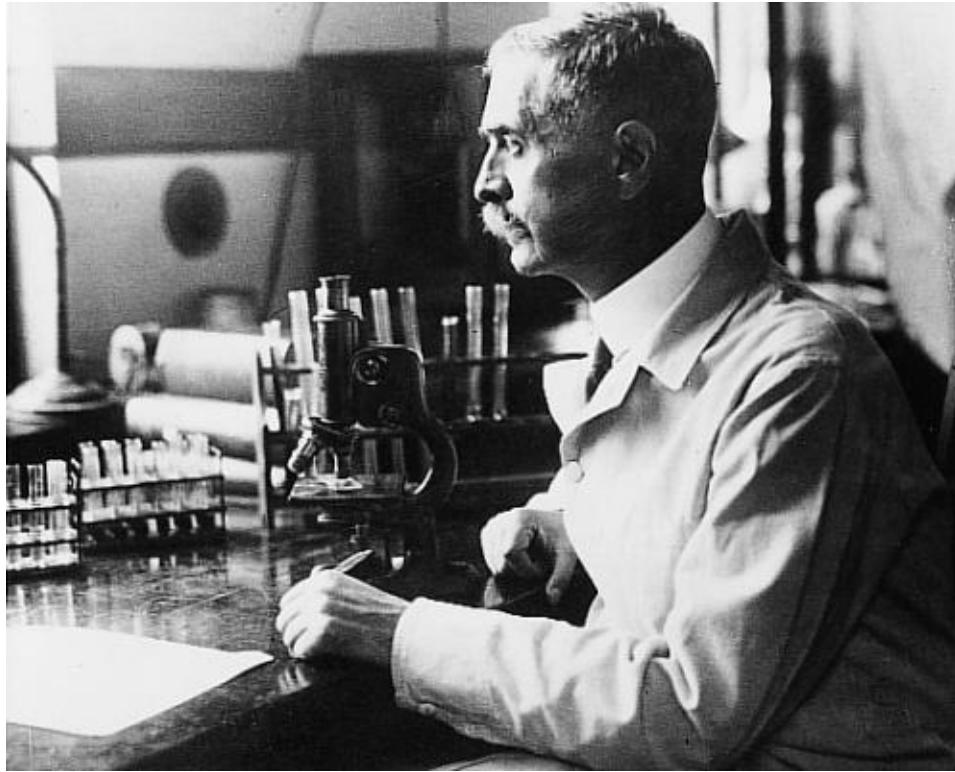


The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 1901 was awarded to Emil von Behring "for his work on serum therapy, especially its application against diphtheria, by which he has opened a new road in the domain of medical science and thereby placed in the hands of the physician a victorious weapon against illness and deaths".

# Humoral Immunity

- In 1897 Rudolph Kraus discovered that immune serum precipitated the toxins (*precipitins*) and *lysed* the bacteria (*bacteriolysins*).
- Immune serum also glued bacteria together (*agglutinins*)
- 1923, Heidelberger and Avery discover that immune serum can recognize proteins or carbohydrates.
- In 1930, Karl Landsteiner ascribed all these different functions to the same family of molecules, *antibodies*.

# 1930 Nobel Prize in medicine



**Karl Landsteiner (1868-1943)**

# Antibodies

- Can be generated not only against bacteria but also against non-bacterial and totally innocuous substances (milk, eggwhite)
- Substances stimulating the appearance of antibodies were designated *antigens*



## **Gerald Edelman and Rodney Porter (1972)**

The two scientists independently deciphered the structure of antibodies, which revealed how seemingly identical-looking molecules can target specifically any one of a countless number of invaders for destruction.

# Secreted form of IgG, 2 heavy chains and 2 light chains, held together by S-S bonds

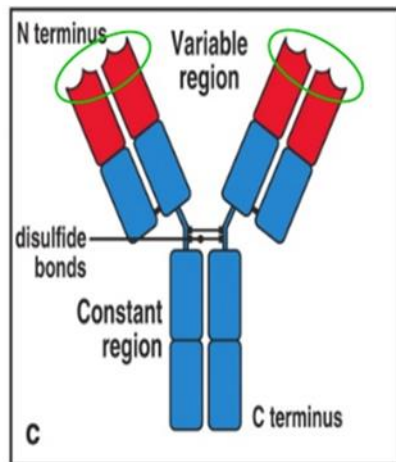
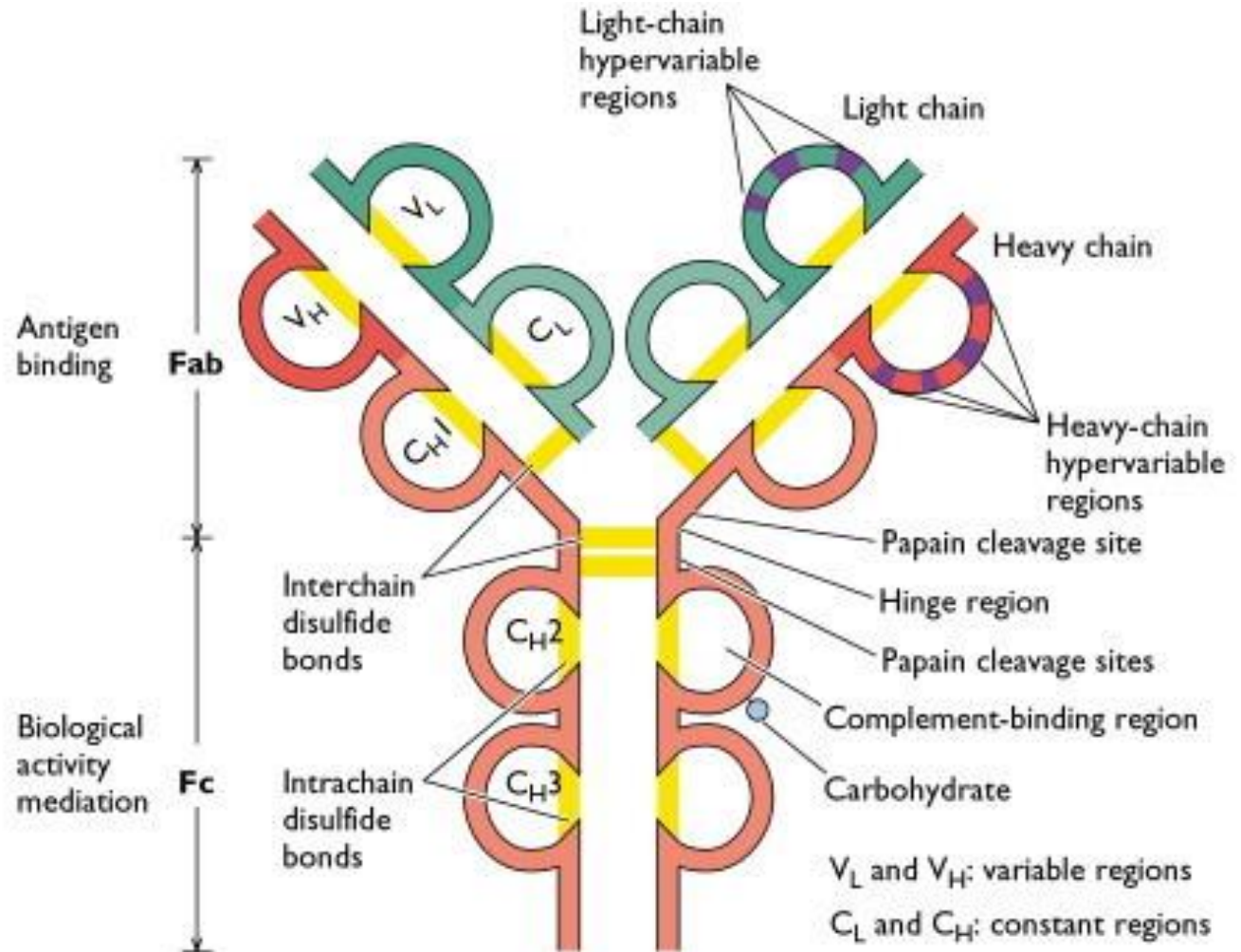


Figure 3-1 part 1 of 3 Immunobiology 6/e (© Garland Science 2005)



# The Fab vs Fc

- Fab
  - Fragment that antigen binds, V regions
  - Composed of Light chain + NH<sub>2</sub> portion of H chain
- Fc
  - Heavy chain Constant regions, no light chain
  - COOH end of H chain
  - Complement binding region
  - Interacts with Fc receptors



**1984 Nobel  
Prize:  
Niels Jerne  
George  
Kohler  
Cesar  
Milstein**

# Antibodies

- Can be generated not only against bacteria but also against non-bacterial and totally innocuous substances (milk, eggwhite)
- Substances stimulating the appearance of antibodies were designated *antigens*
- **Diversity** and **Specificity** are observed but mechanisms remain a mystery until the late 1970s

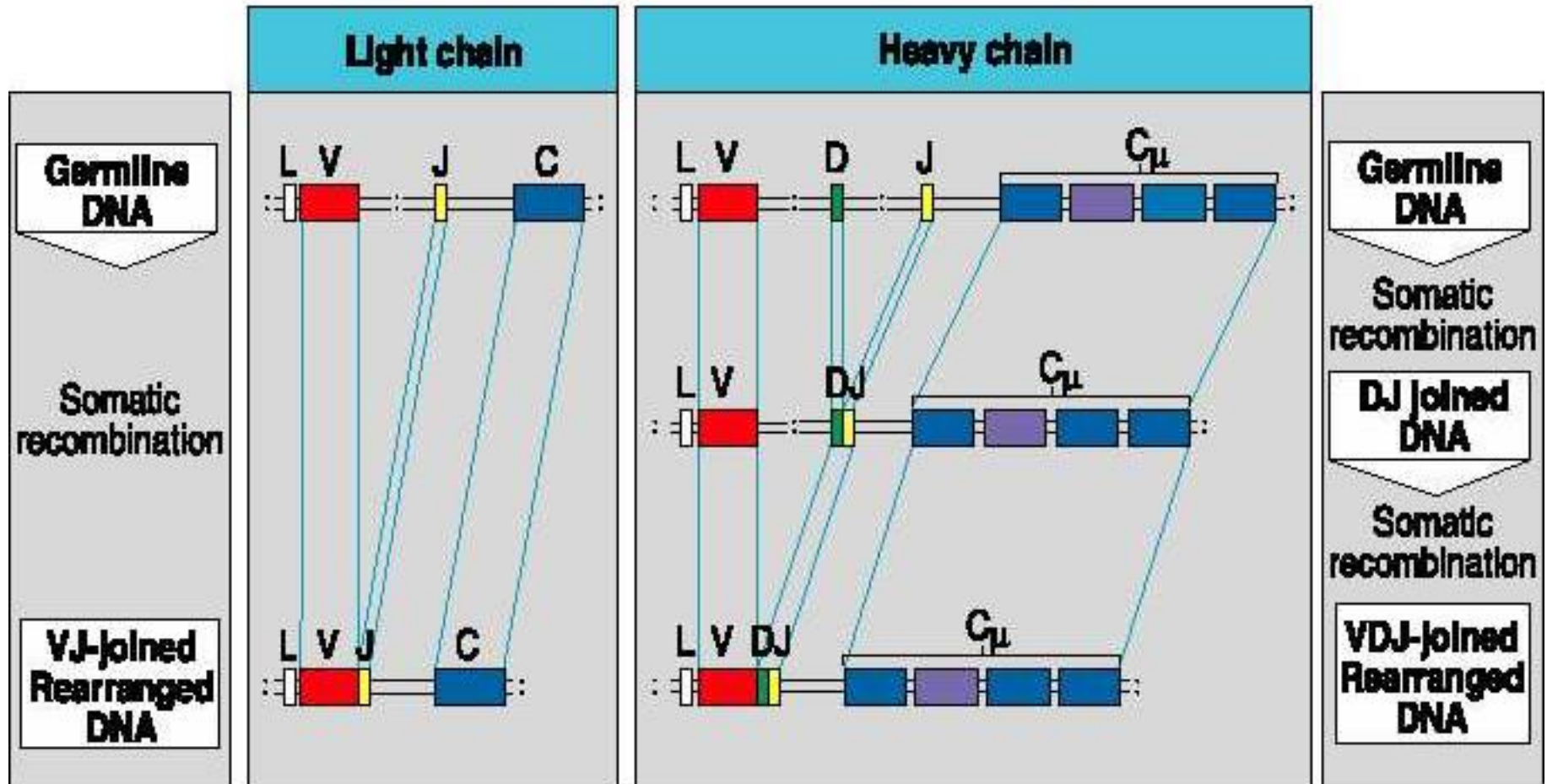
# 100-year old puzzle solved

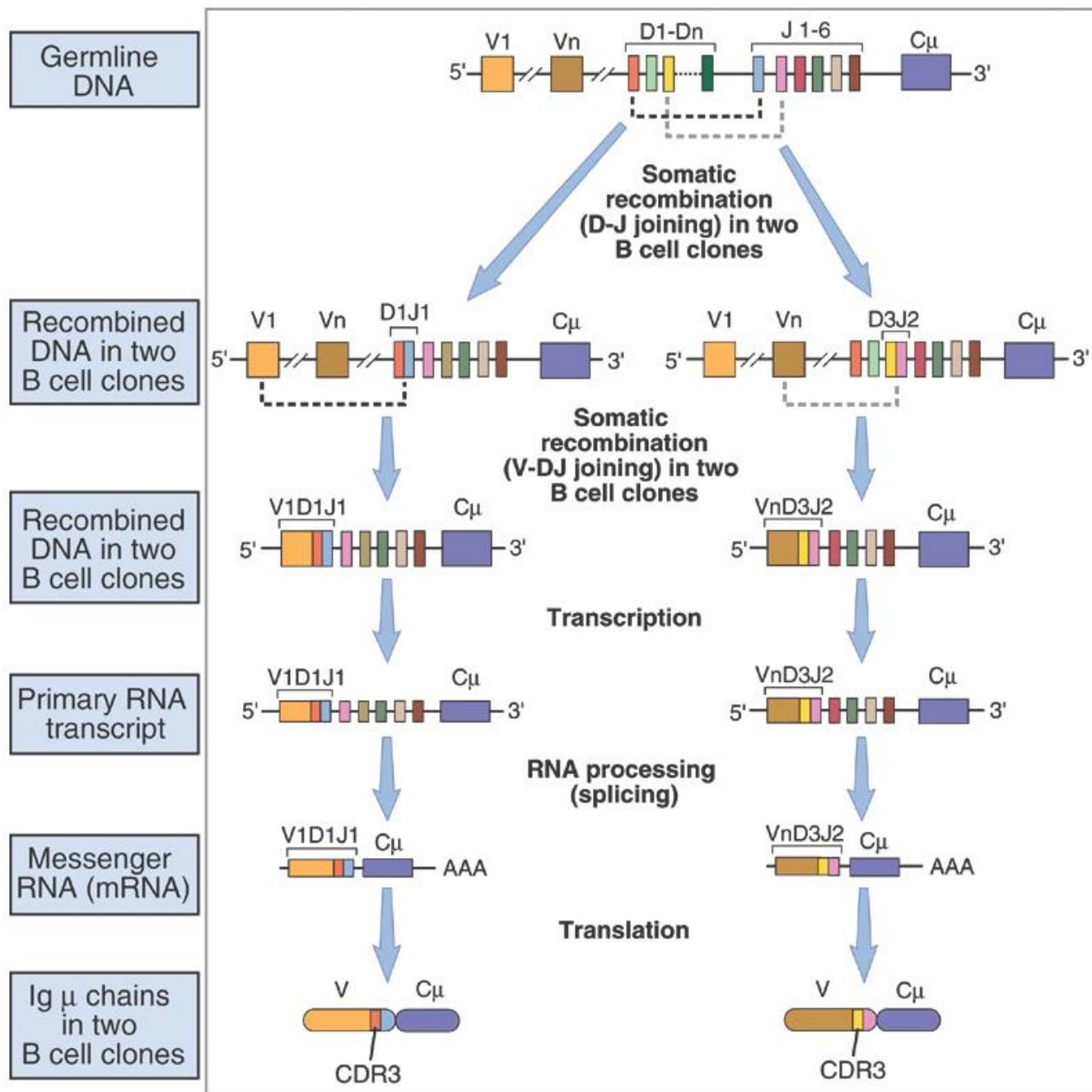


**Susumu Tonegawa**

1987 Nobel Prize for  
discovering Ig gene  
rearrangement

# V(D)J region Sequences arise from DNA recombination

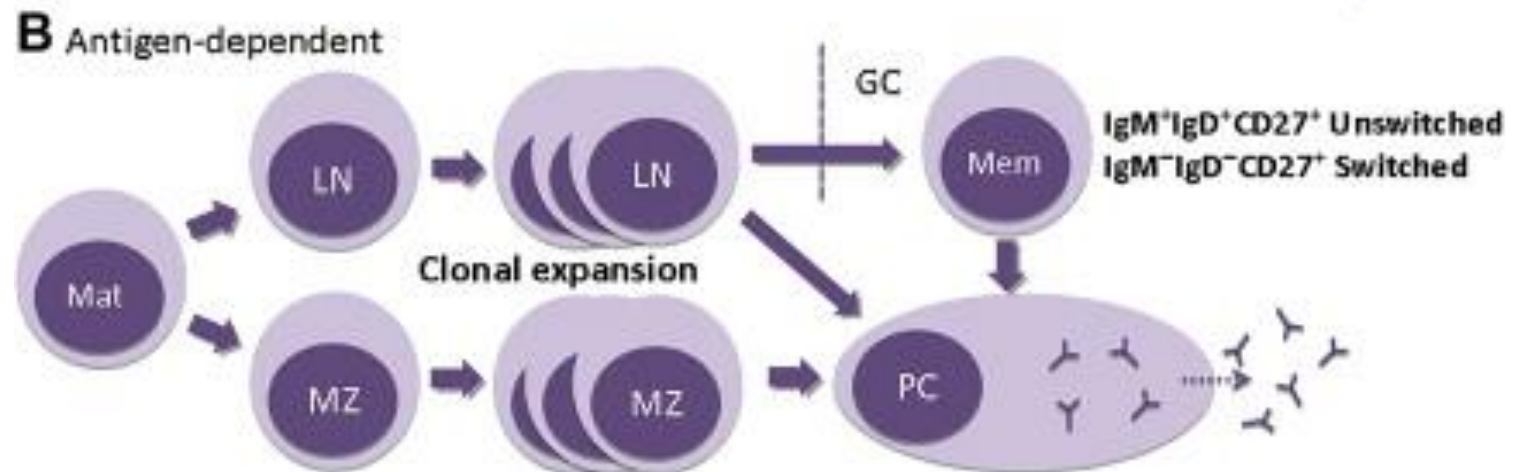
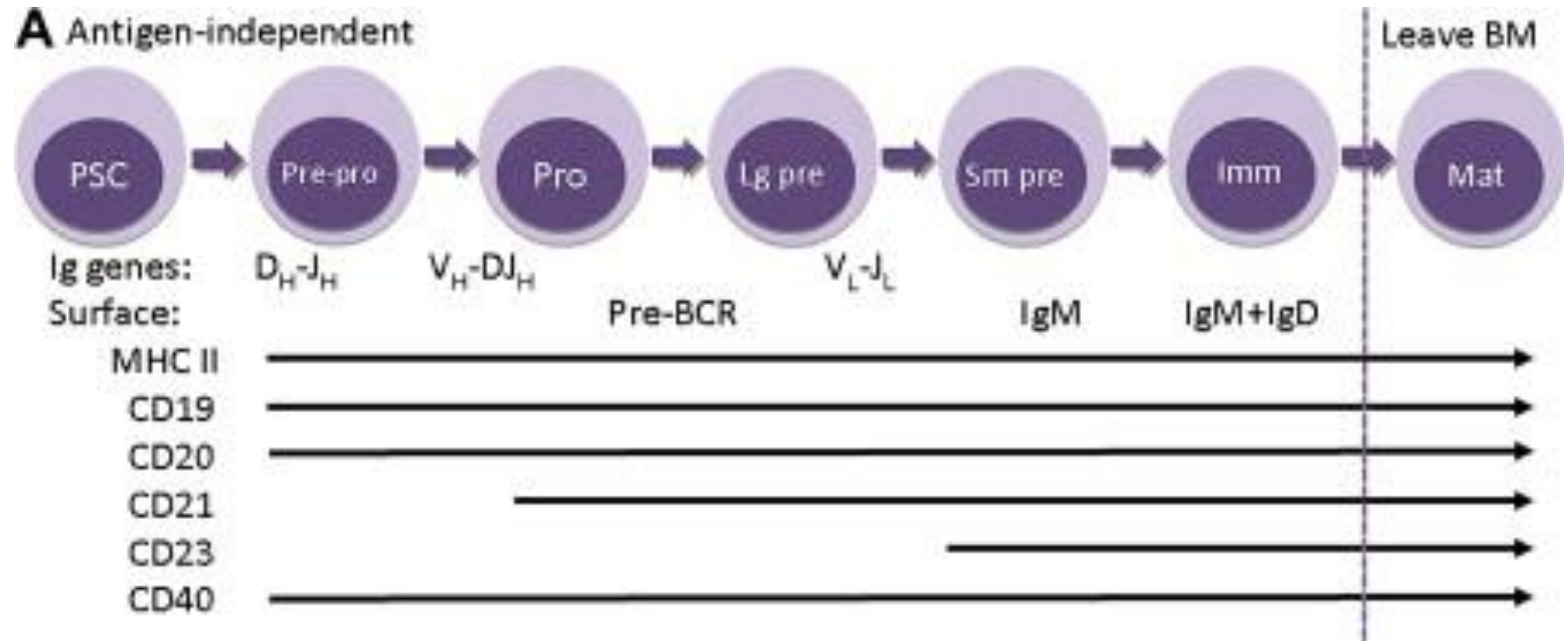




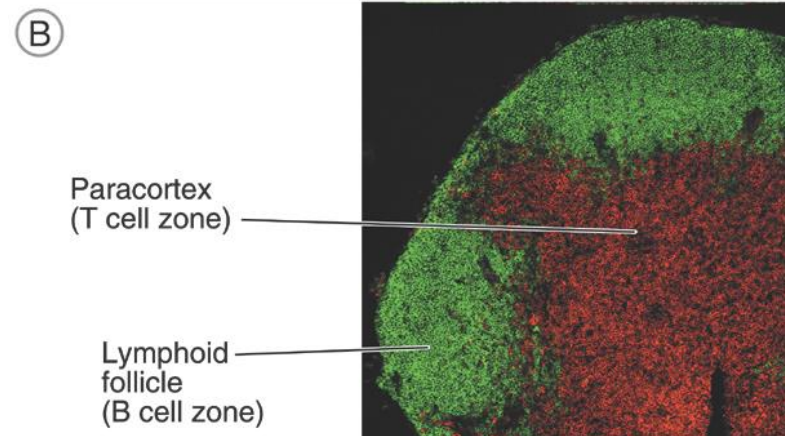
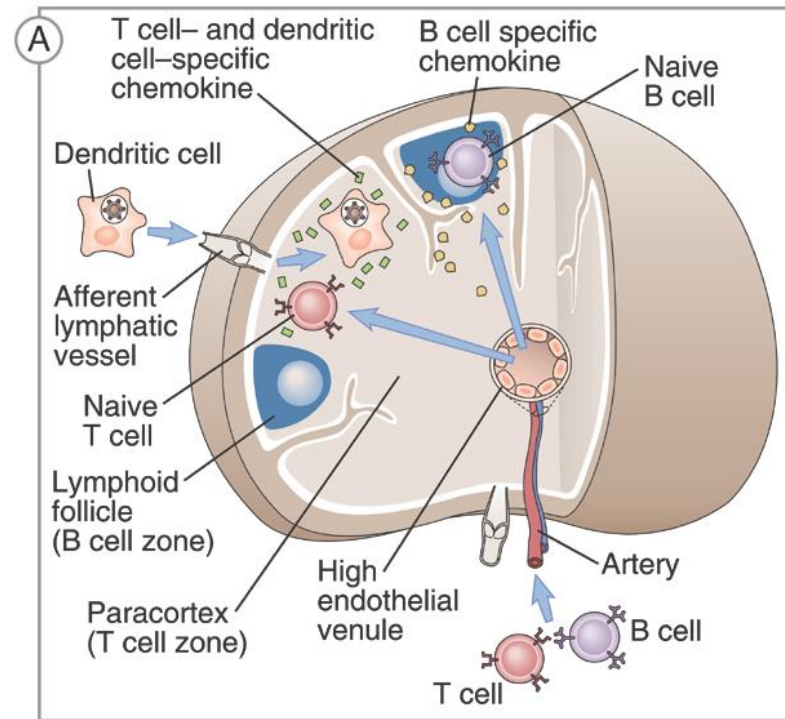
# Key concepts

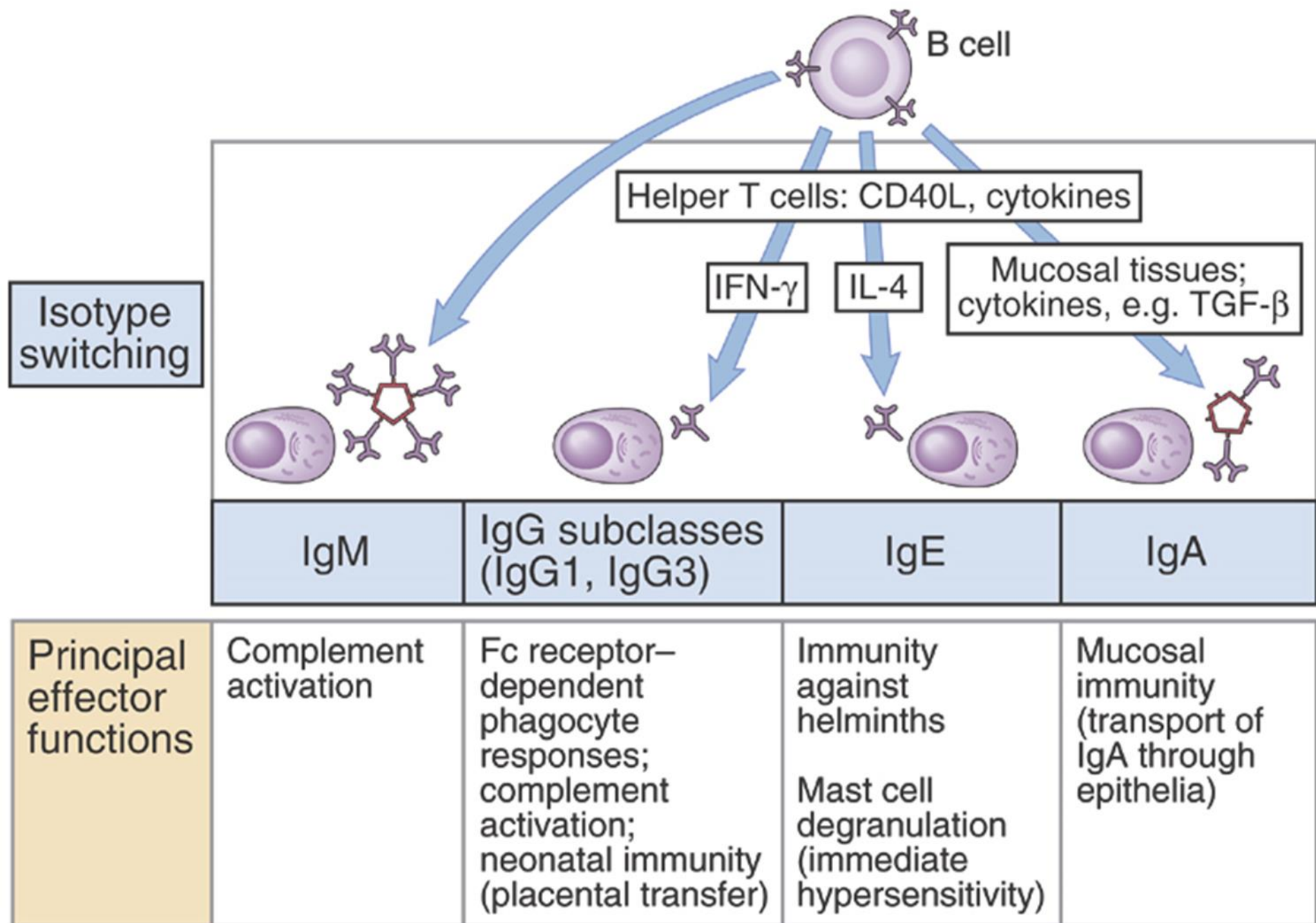
- Different choices of which V, D or J (heavy) or V:J (light) segments are recombined and made in individual B-cells.
- Productive rearrangements occur only on one chromosome (allelic exclusion).
- Each of these rearrangements and combinations has a different primary amino acid sequence.
- Each B cell thus would thus carries a different BCR with different antigen binding capabilities (idiotypes).

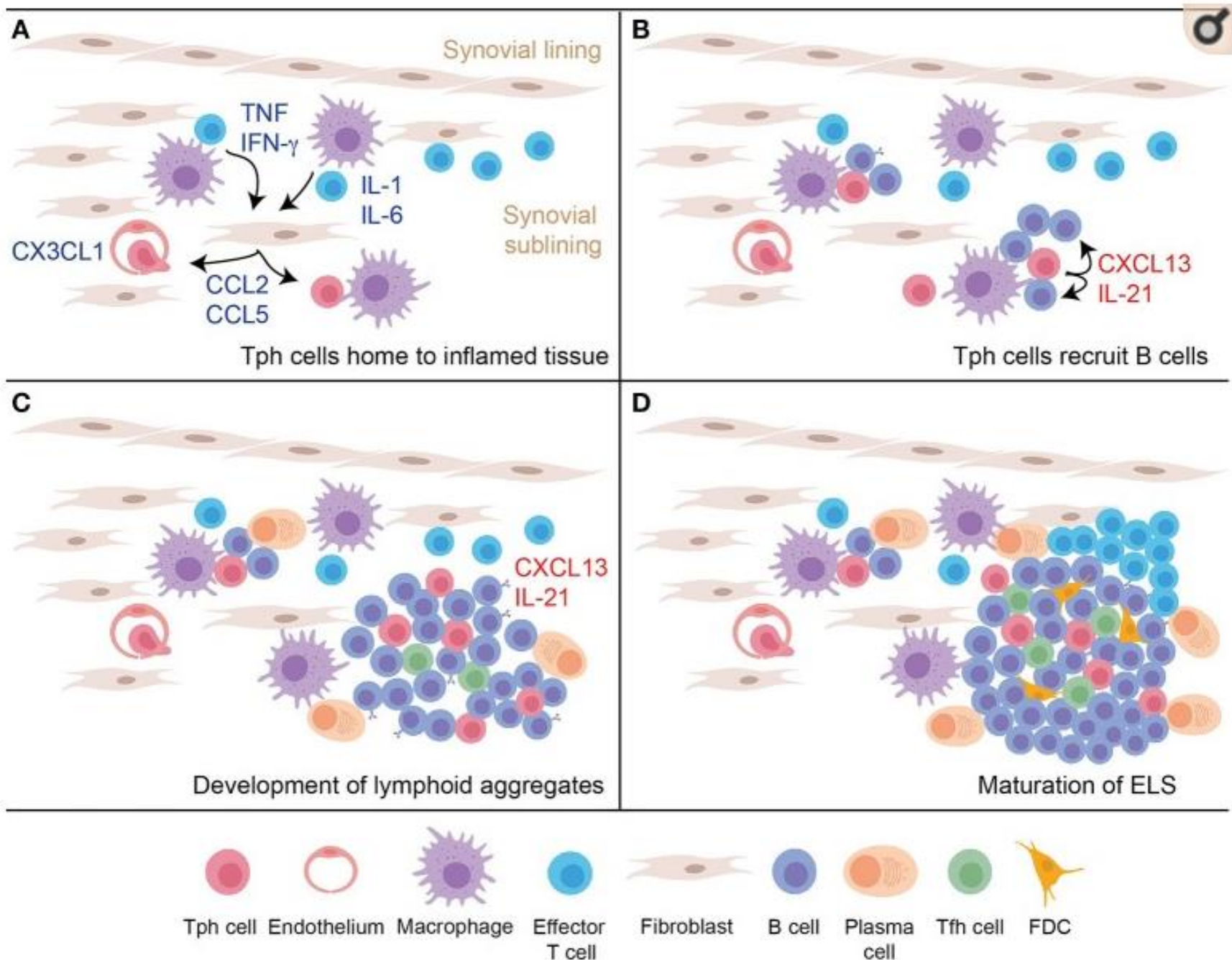
# Where this all happens

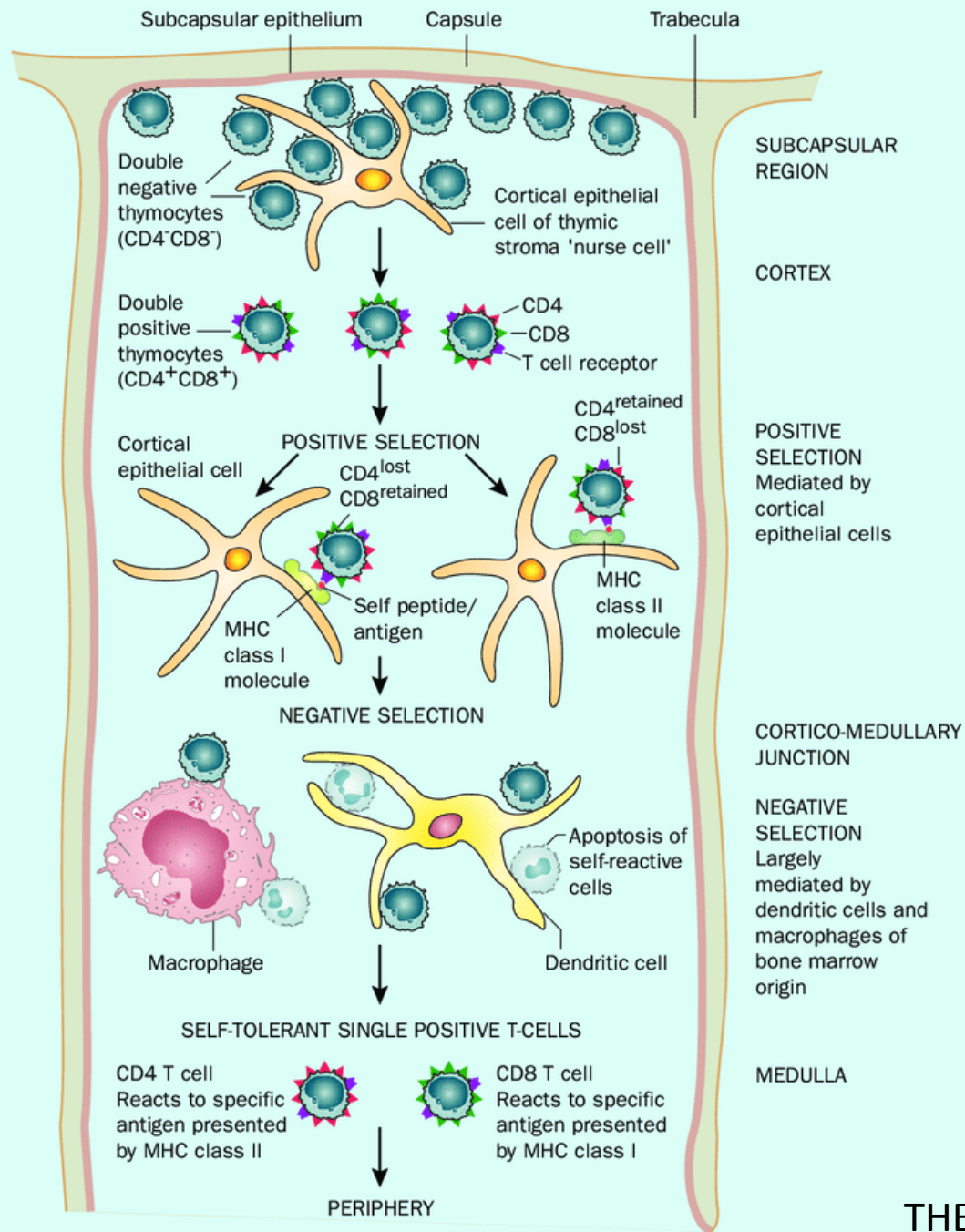


# B cells need T cells (and everyone needs DC)









# TCR loci alpha and beta chain rearrangements

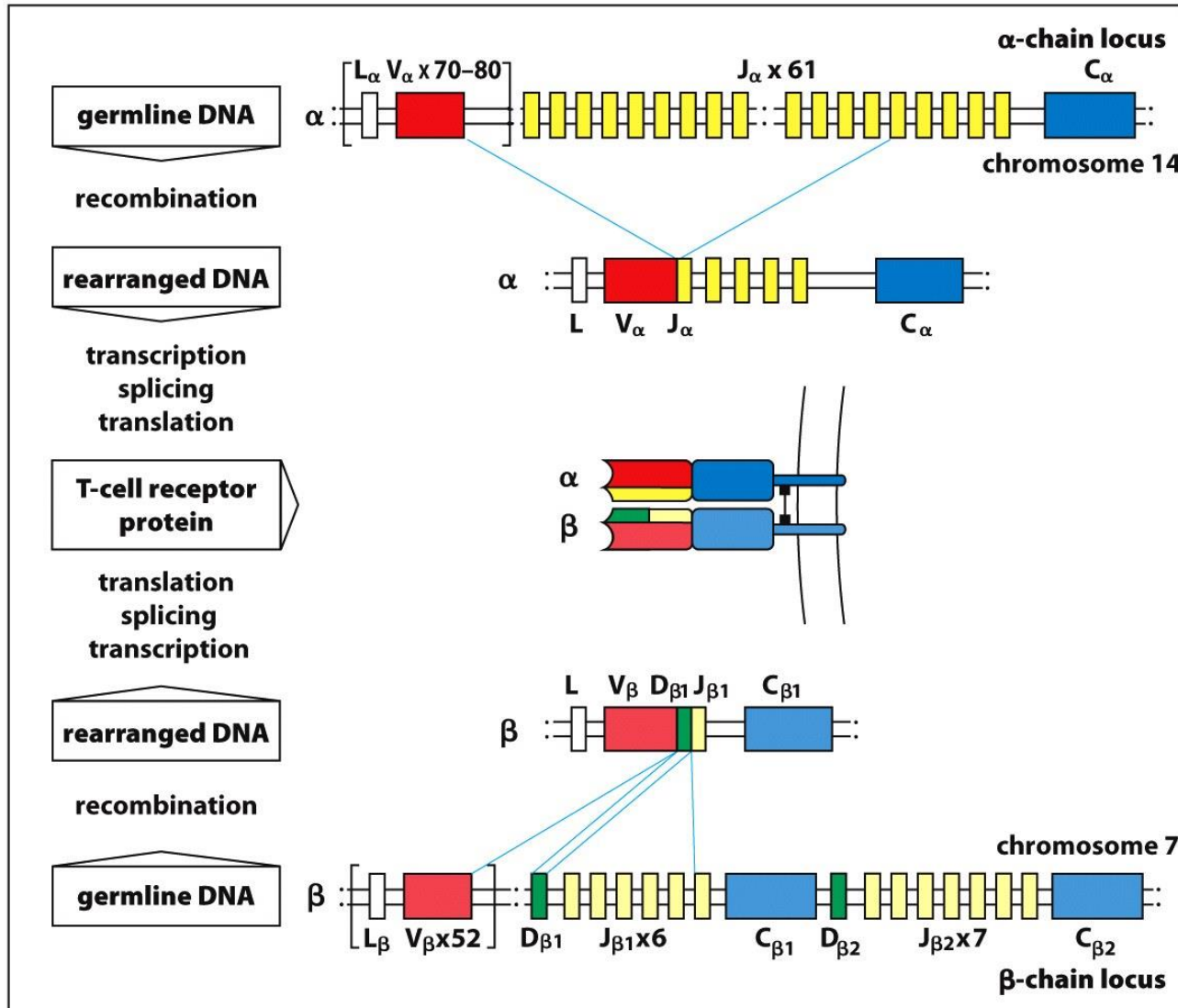


Figure 5.3 The Immune System, 3ed. (© Garland Science 2009)

# BCR vs TCR

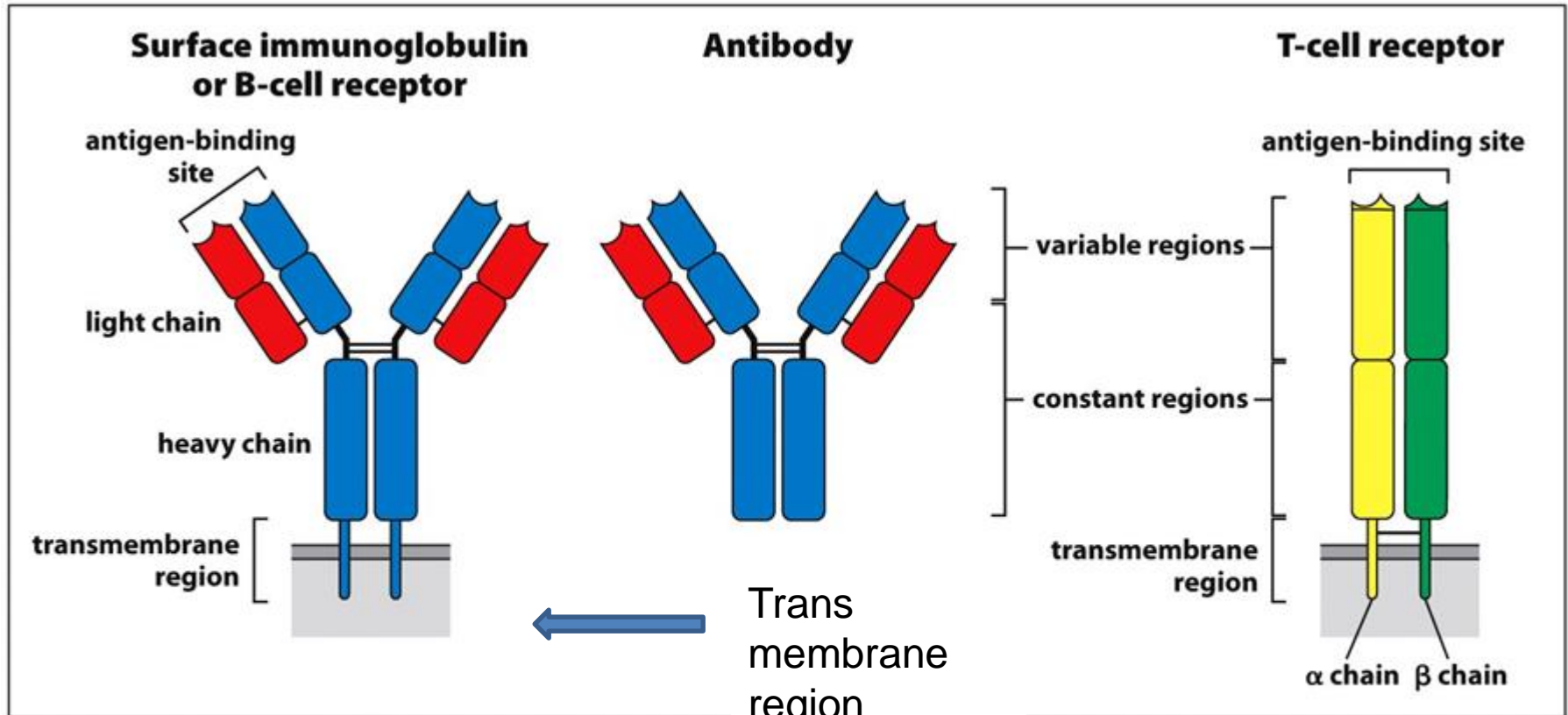
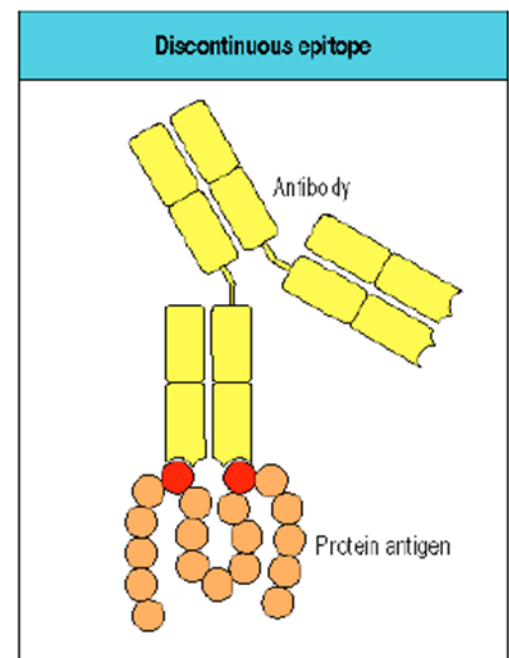
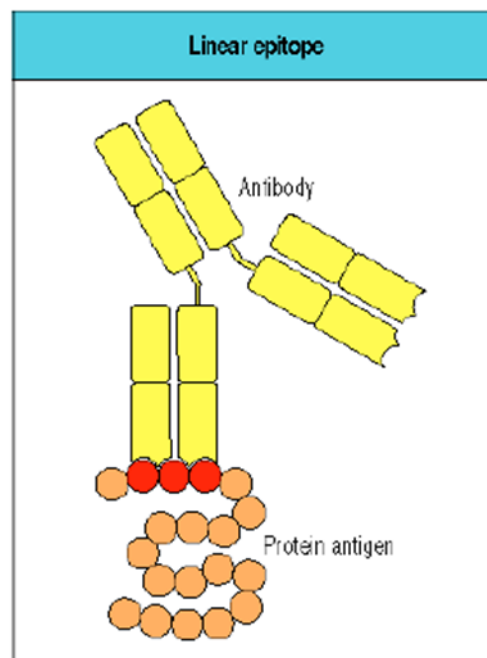
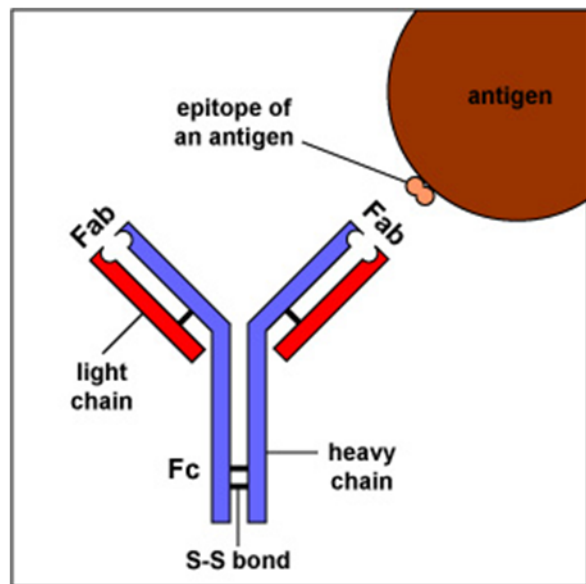


Figure 3.1 The Immune System, 3ed. (© Garland Science 2009)

# Antibody molecules only recognize a part of a large antigen, the epitope

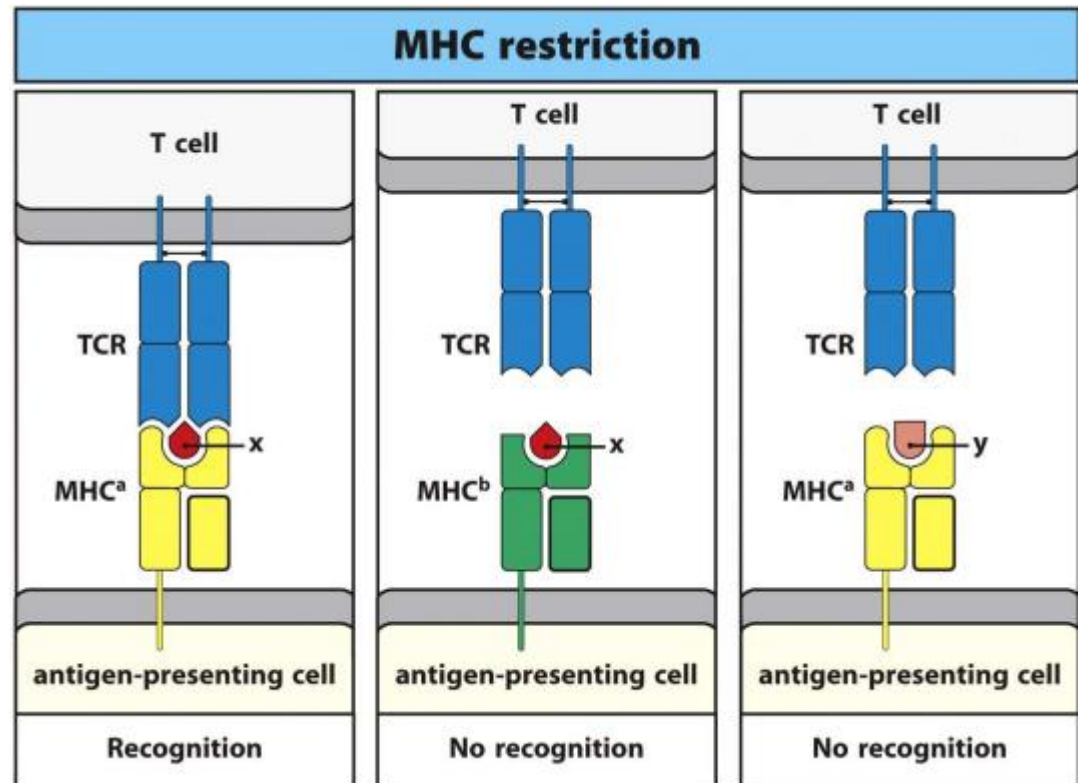


## Contrast between B cell antigen recognition and T cell's need for MHC



The interaction between the TCR (yellow and salmon) the pMHC (green and cyan)

Each (TCR/ MHC + antigenic peptide) is attached to a cell membrane  
TCR shows MHC restriction



# 1980 Nobel Prize



**Jean Dausset**



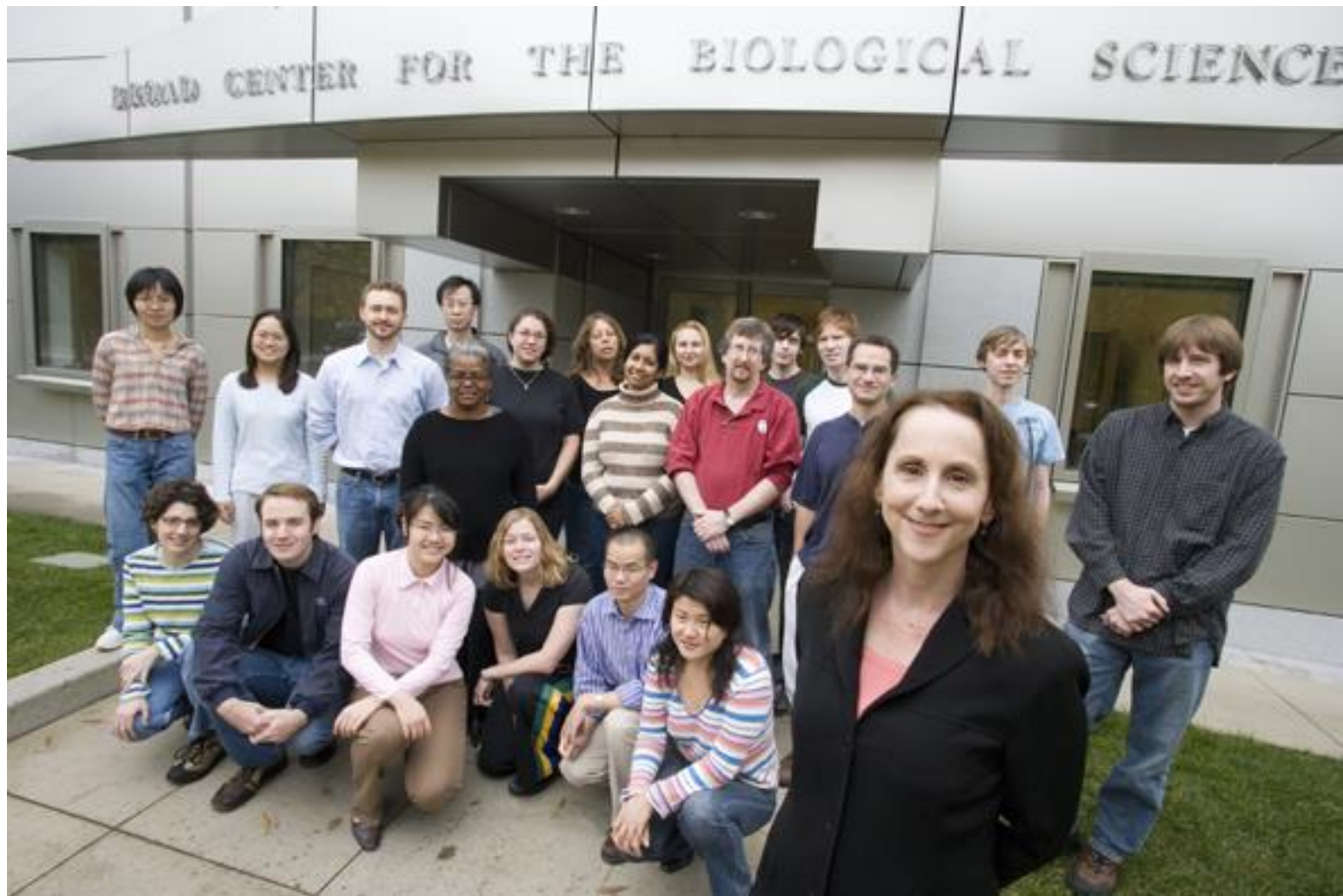
**Baruj Benaceraff**



**George Snell**

**Nobel Prize in 1996 for  
“discovering the nature of the cellular immune  
defense”**





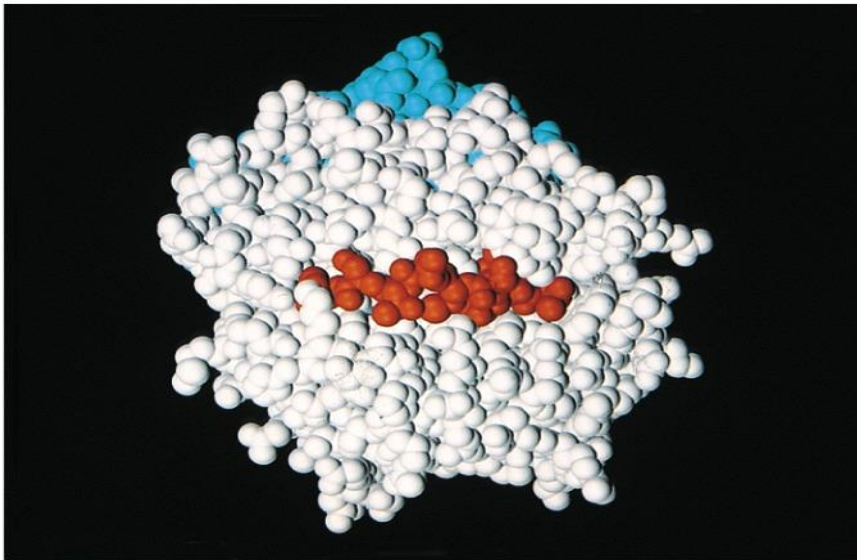
**Dr. Pamela Bjorkman**



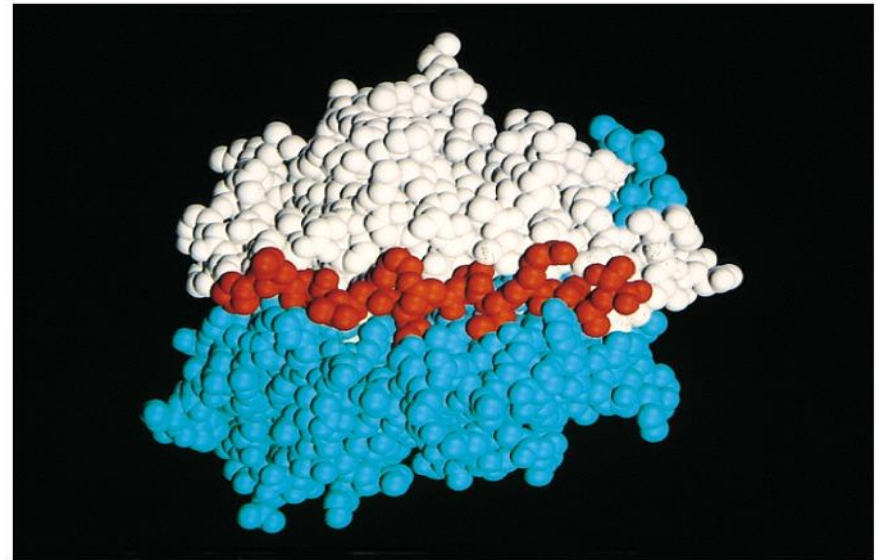
**Don Wiley, 1944-2002**

# A picture is worth a thousand experiments

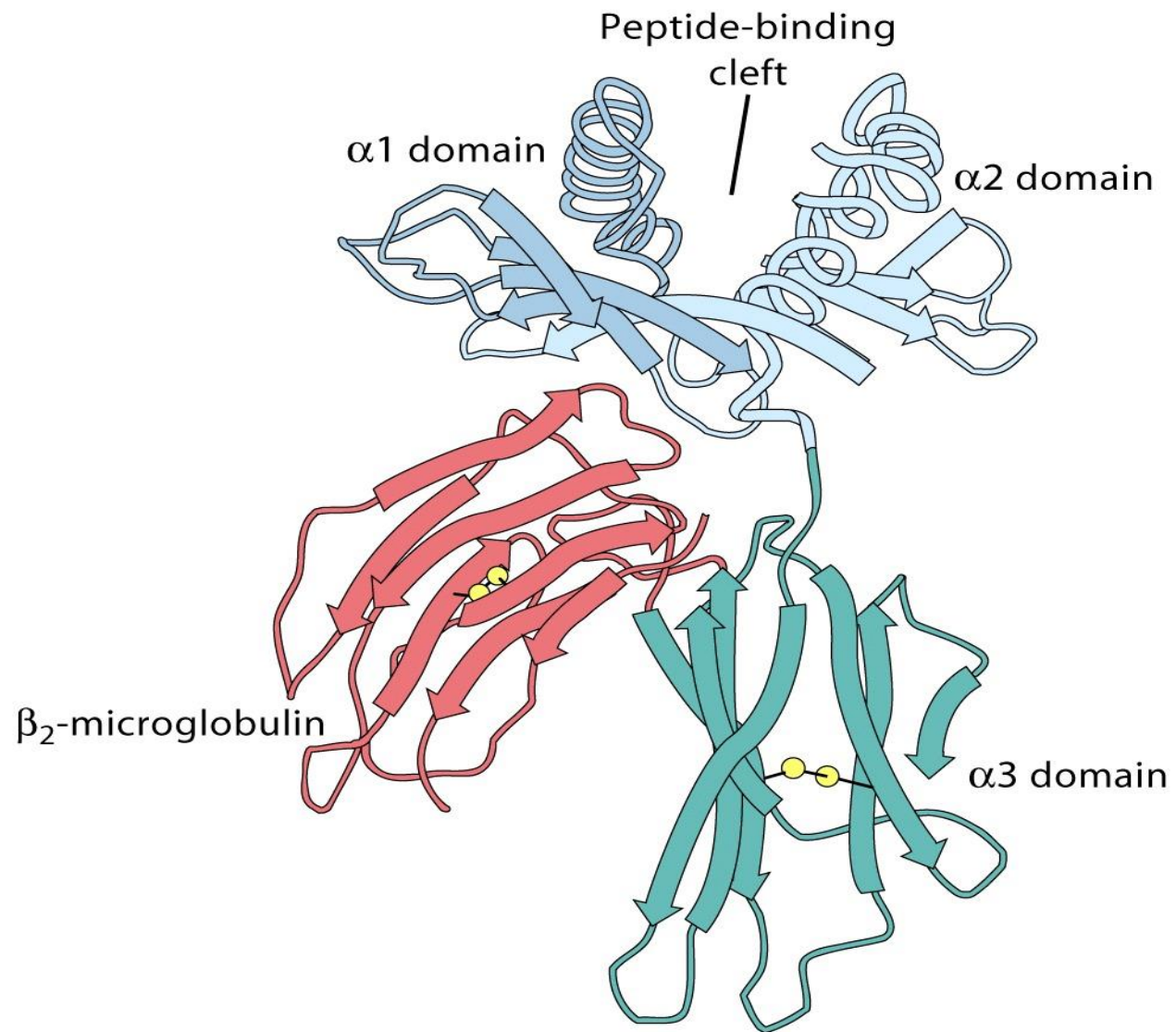
(a) **Class I MHC**

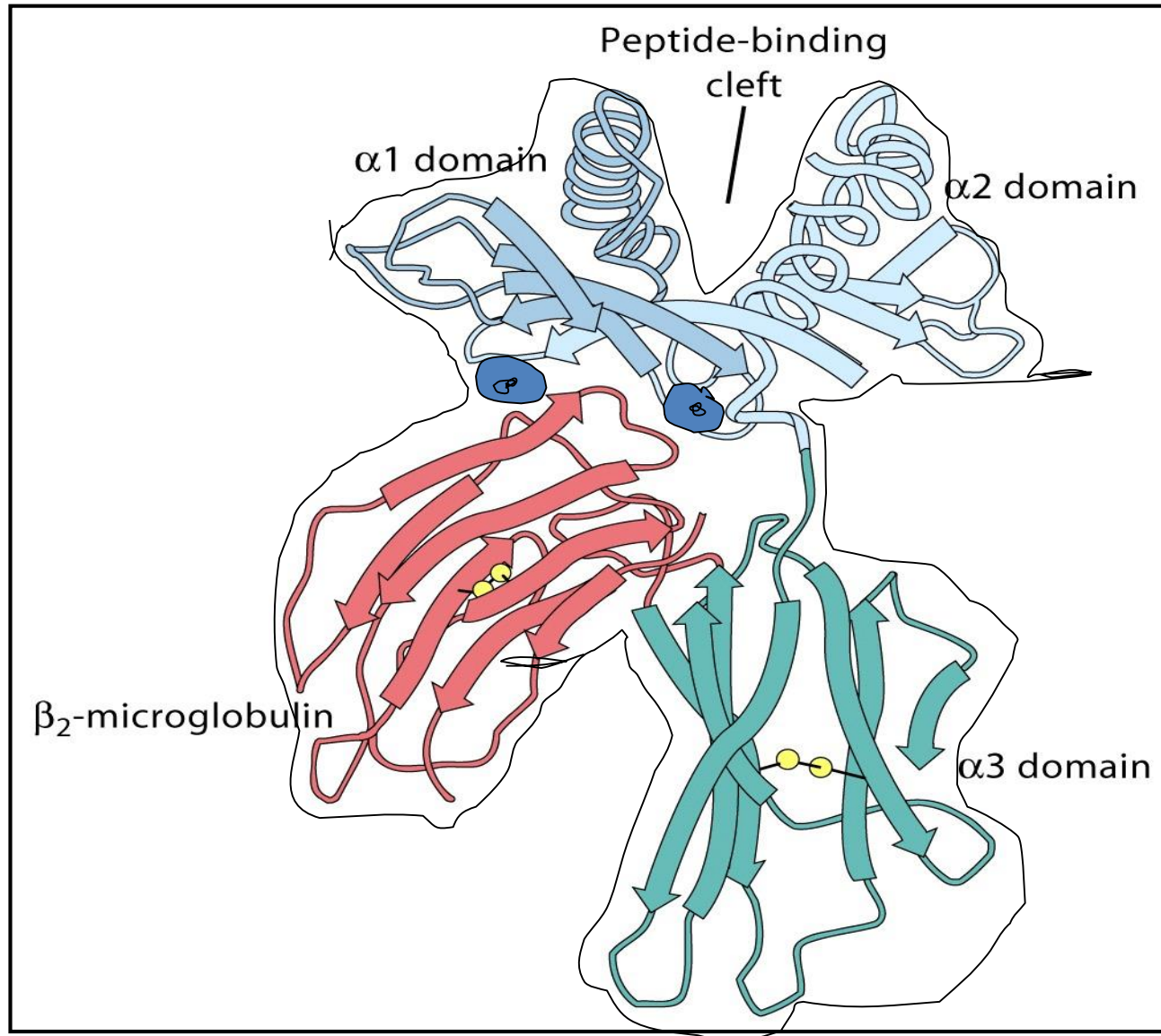


(b) **Class II MHC**

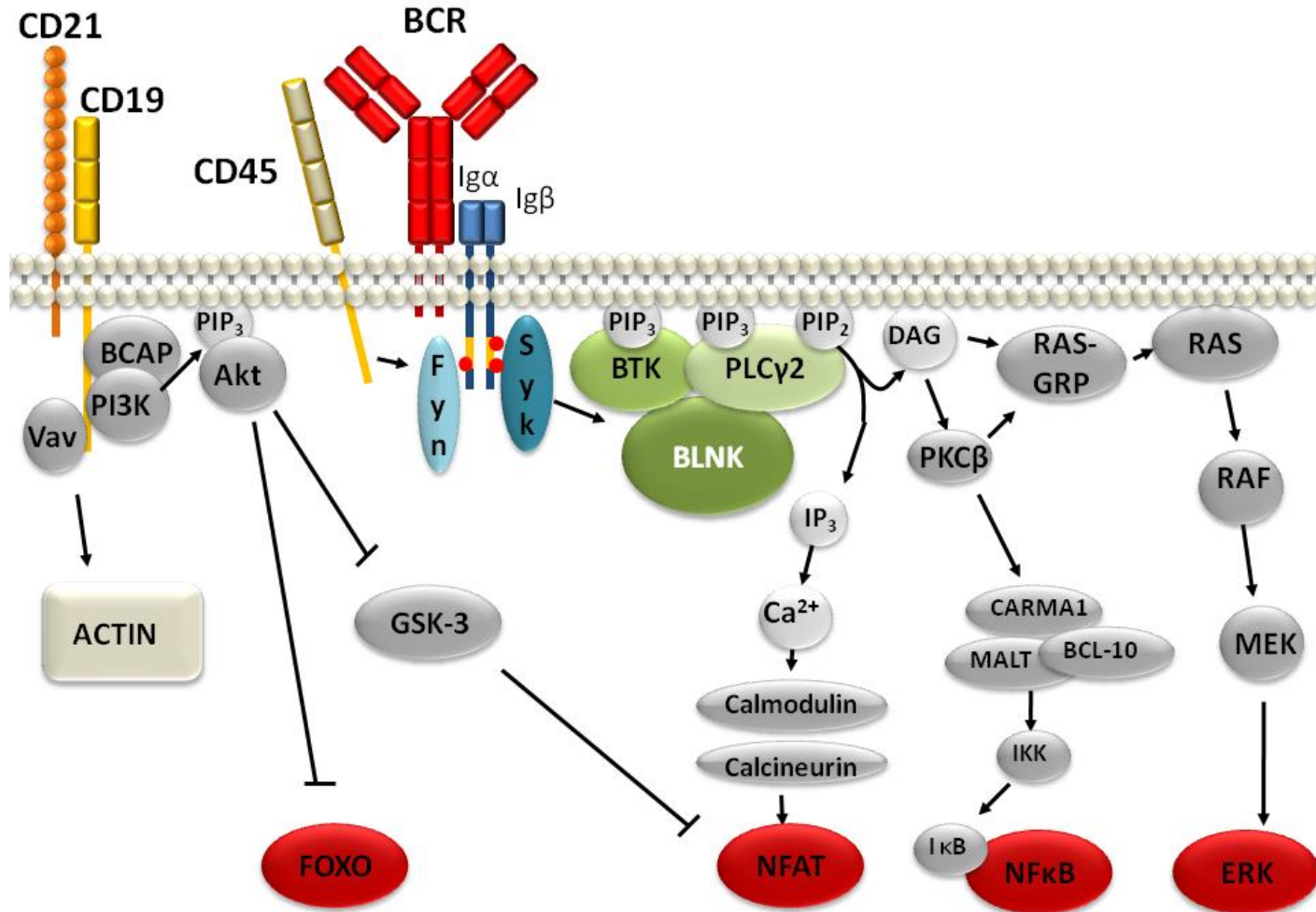
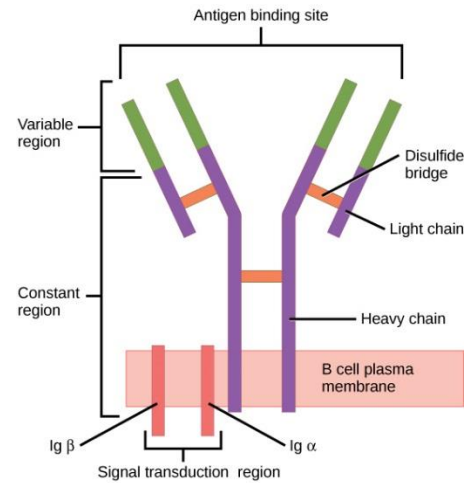


Between 1985-1995

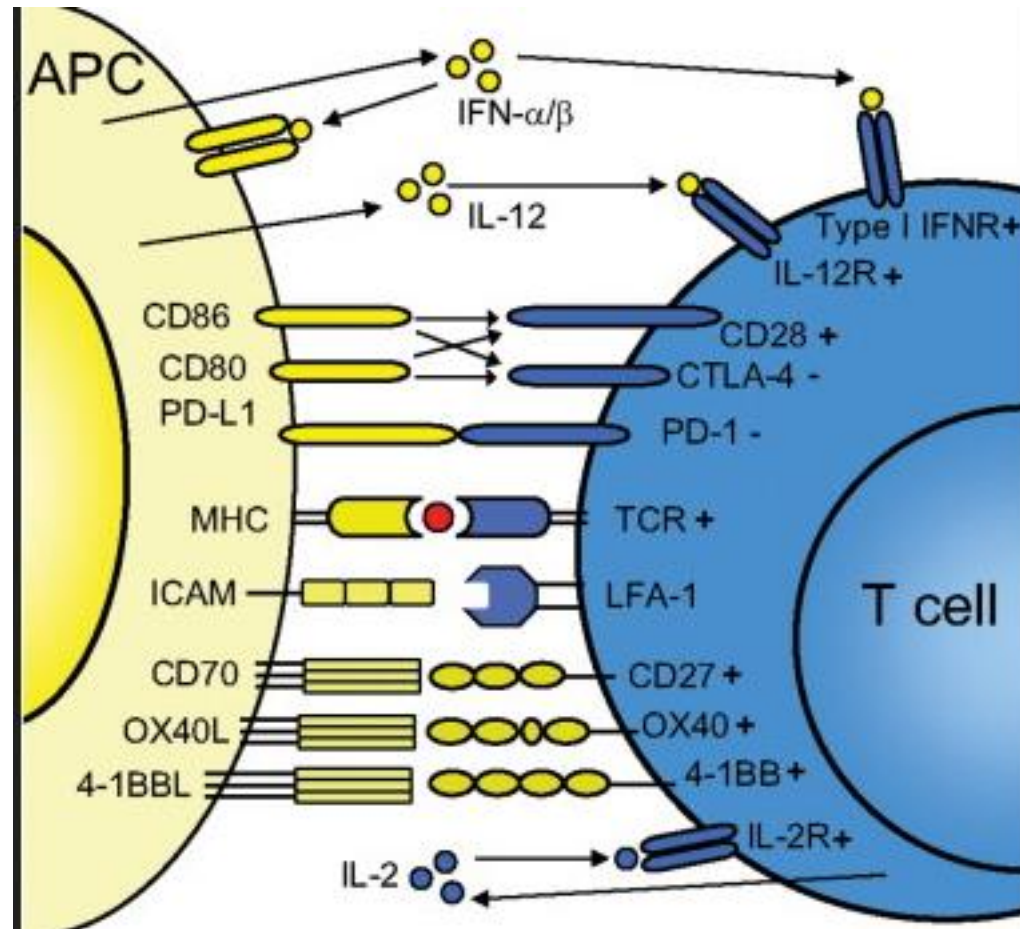


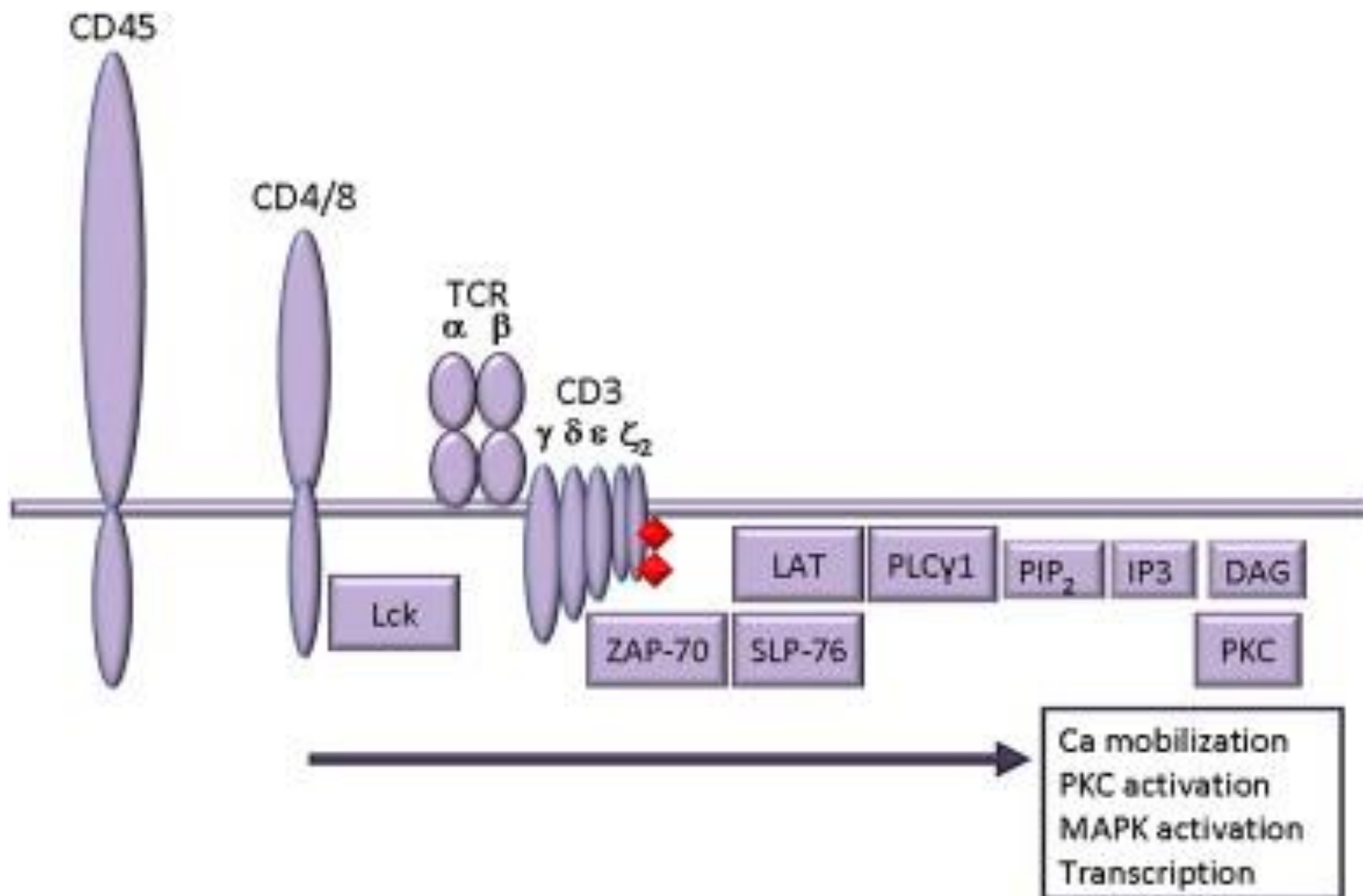


# Signaling through BCR

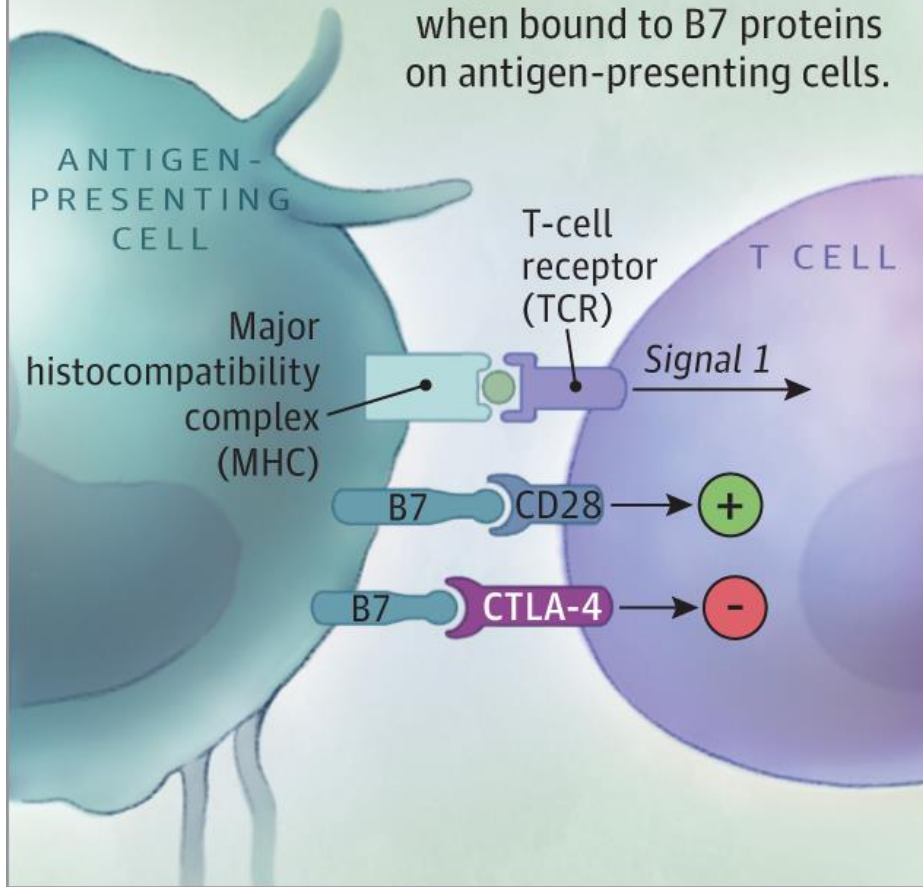


# T cell recognition of antigen

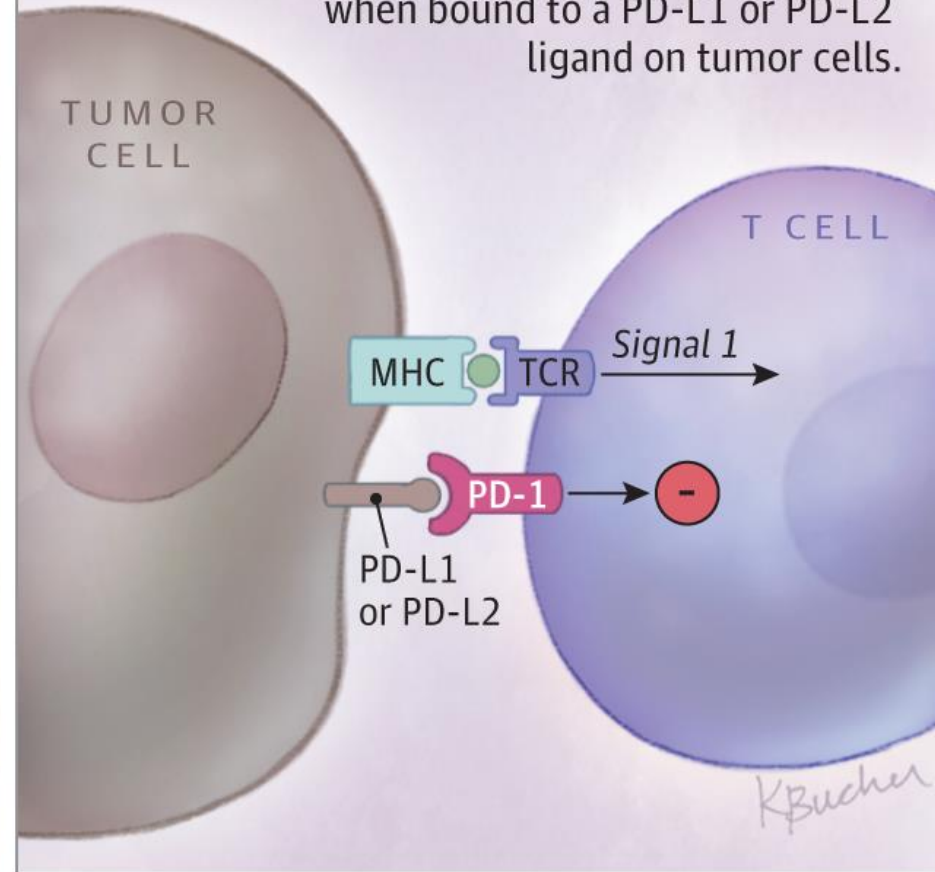




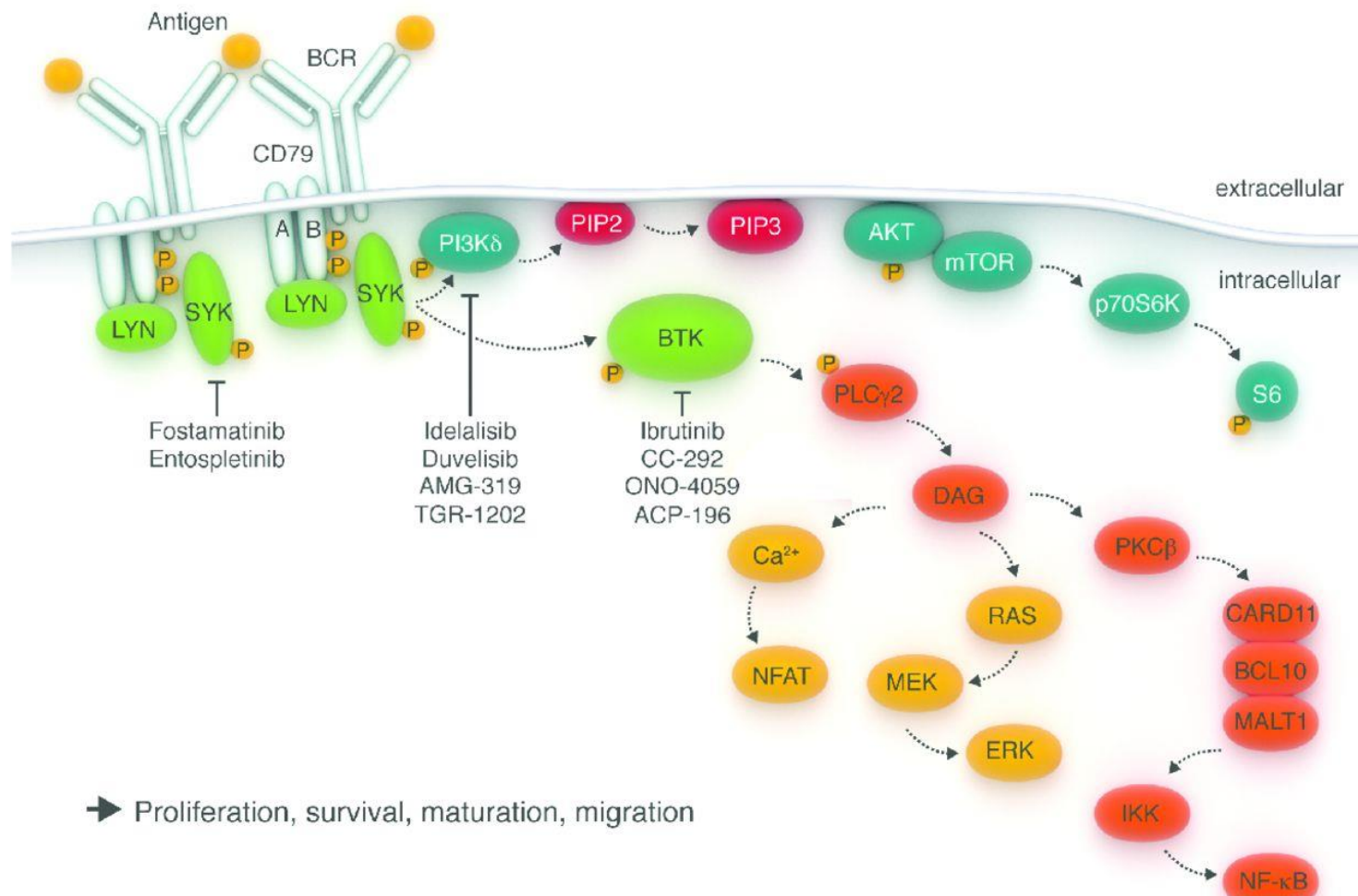
CTLA-4 is an inhibitory receptor that down-regulates T-cell activation when bound to B7 proteins on antigen-presenting cells.

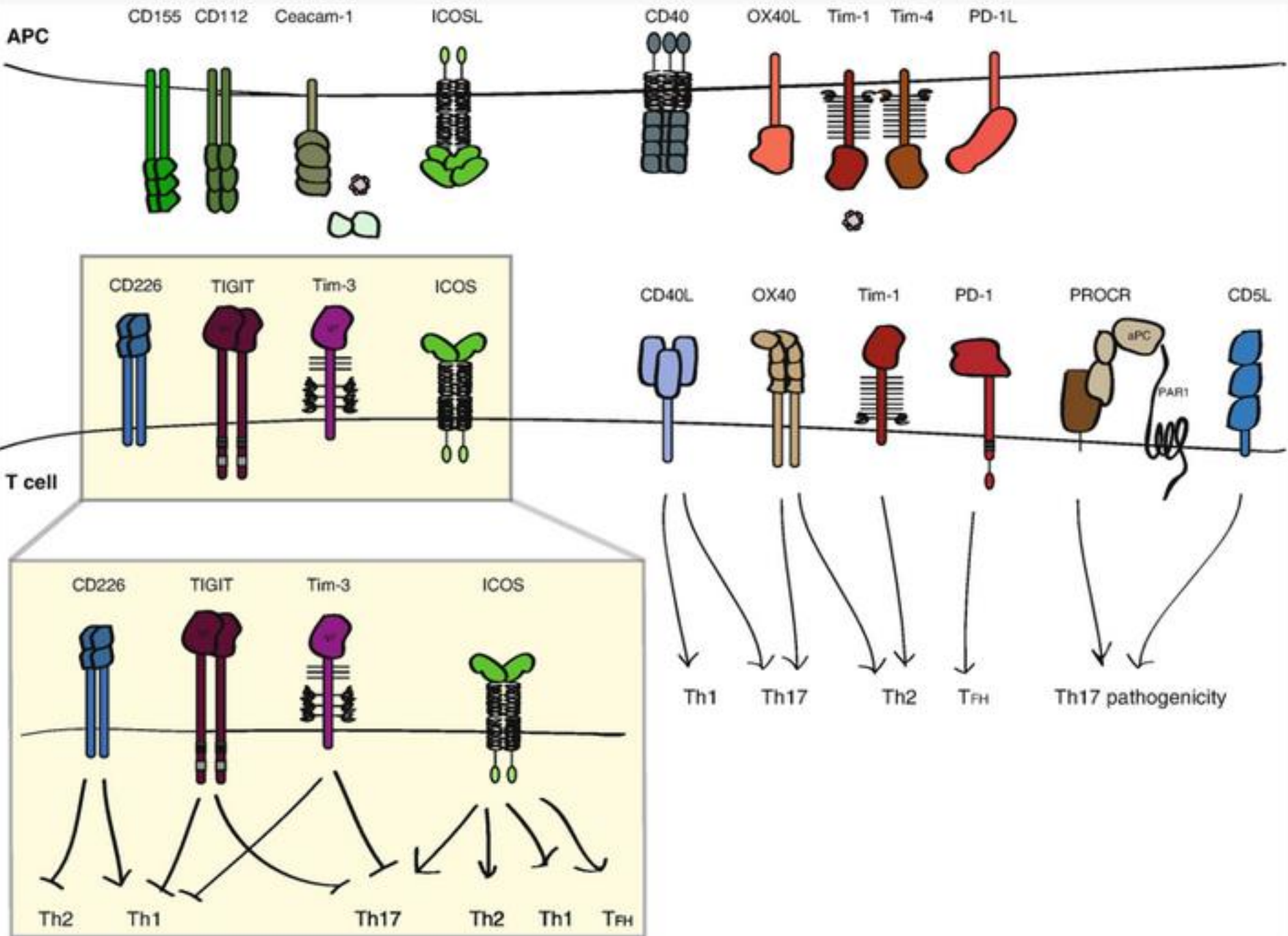


PD-1 is an inhibitory receptor that down-regulates T-cell activation when bound to a PD-L1 or PD-L2 ligand on tumor cells.

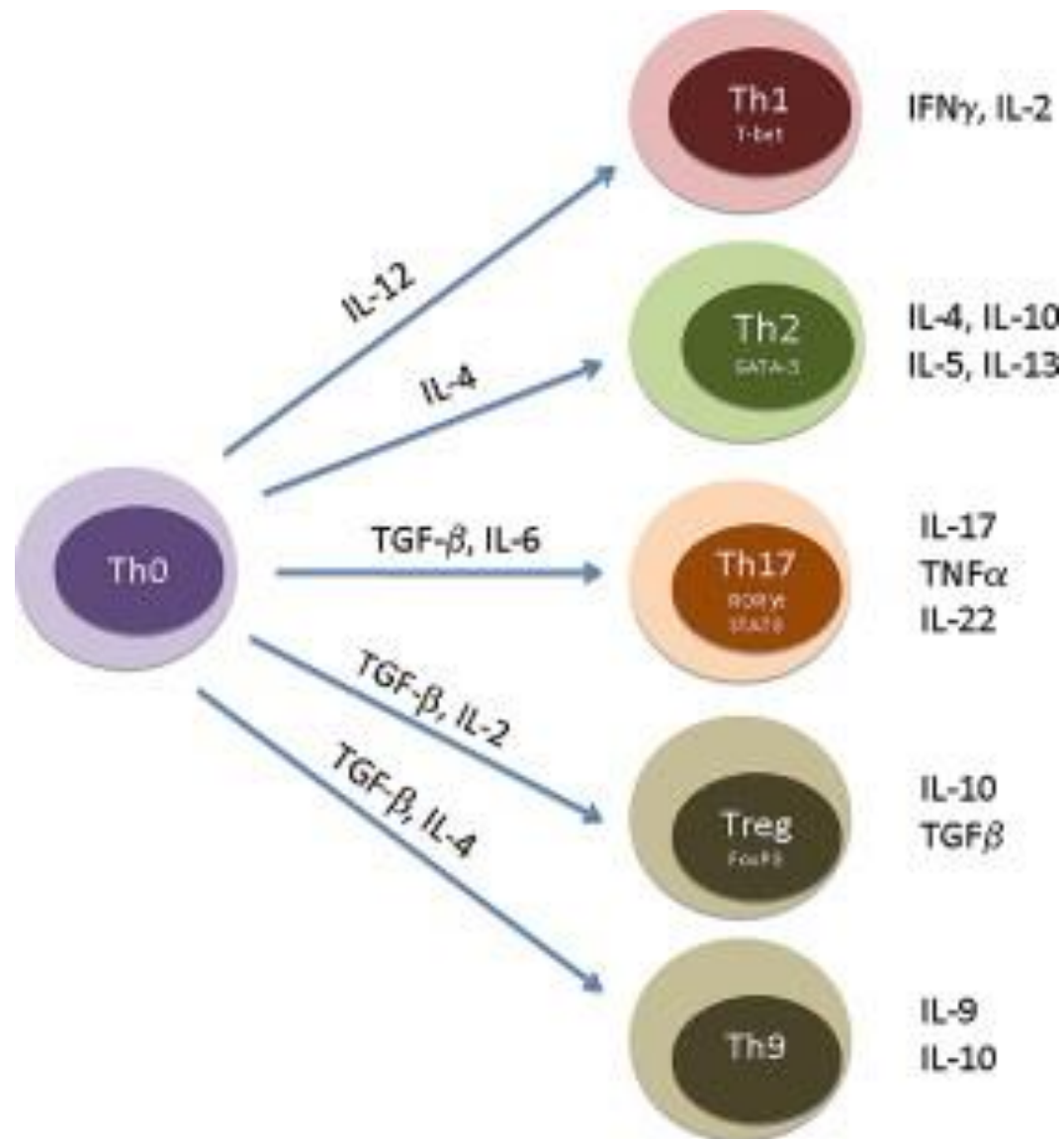


# BCR signaling and downstream pathways.

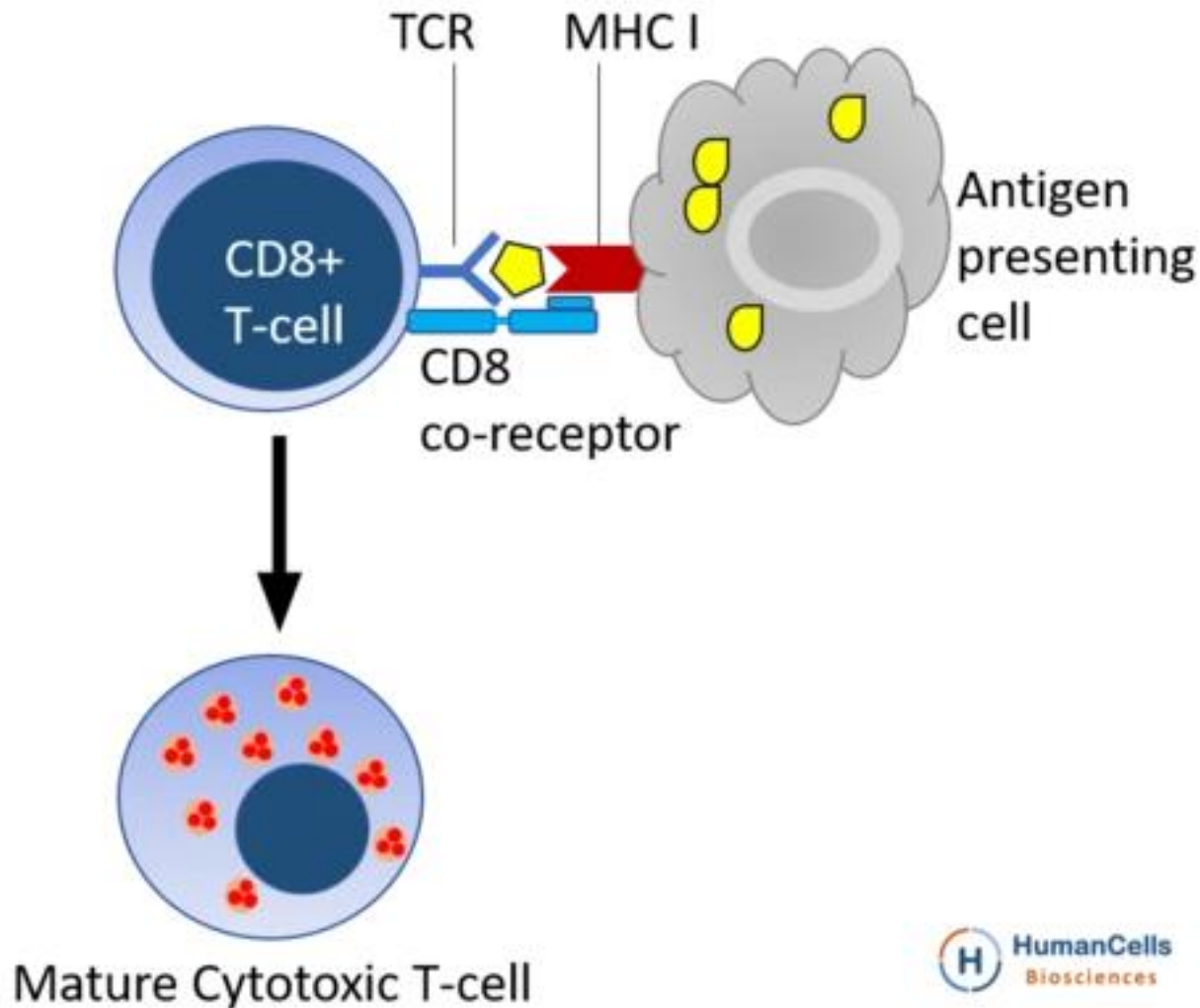




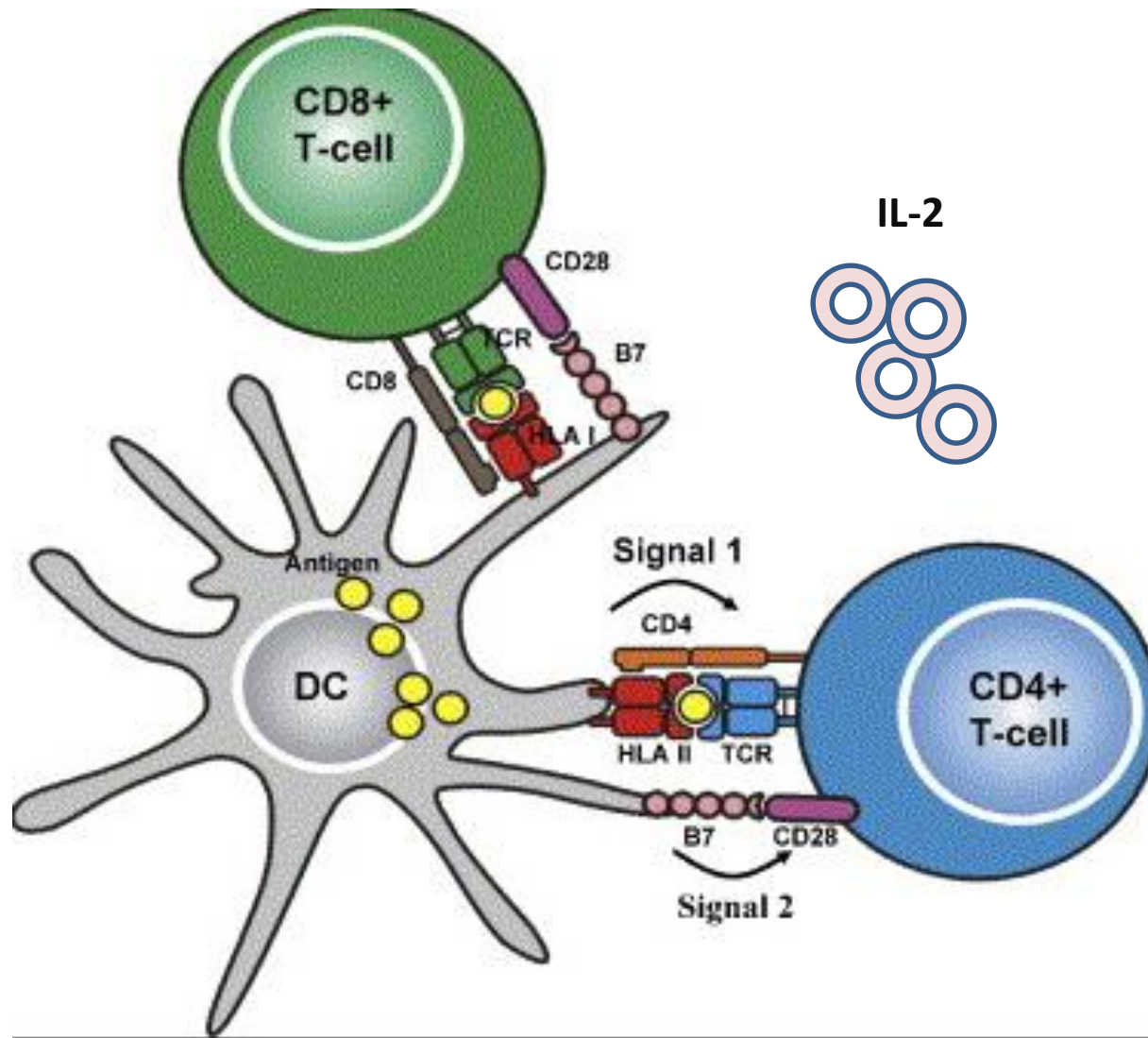
# MHC Class II restricted CD4 T helper cell subsets

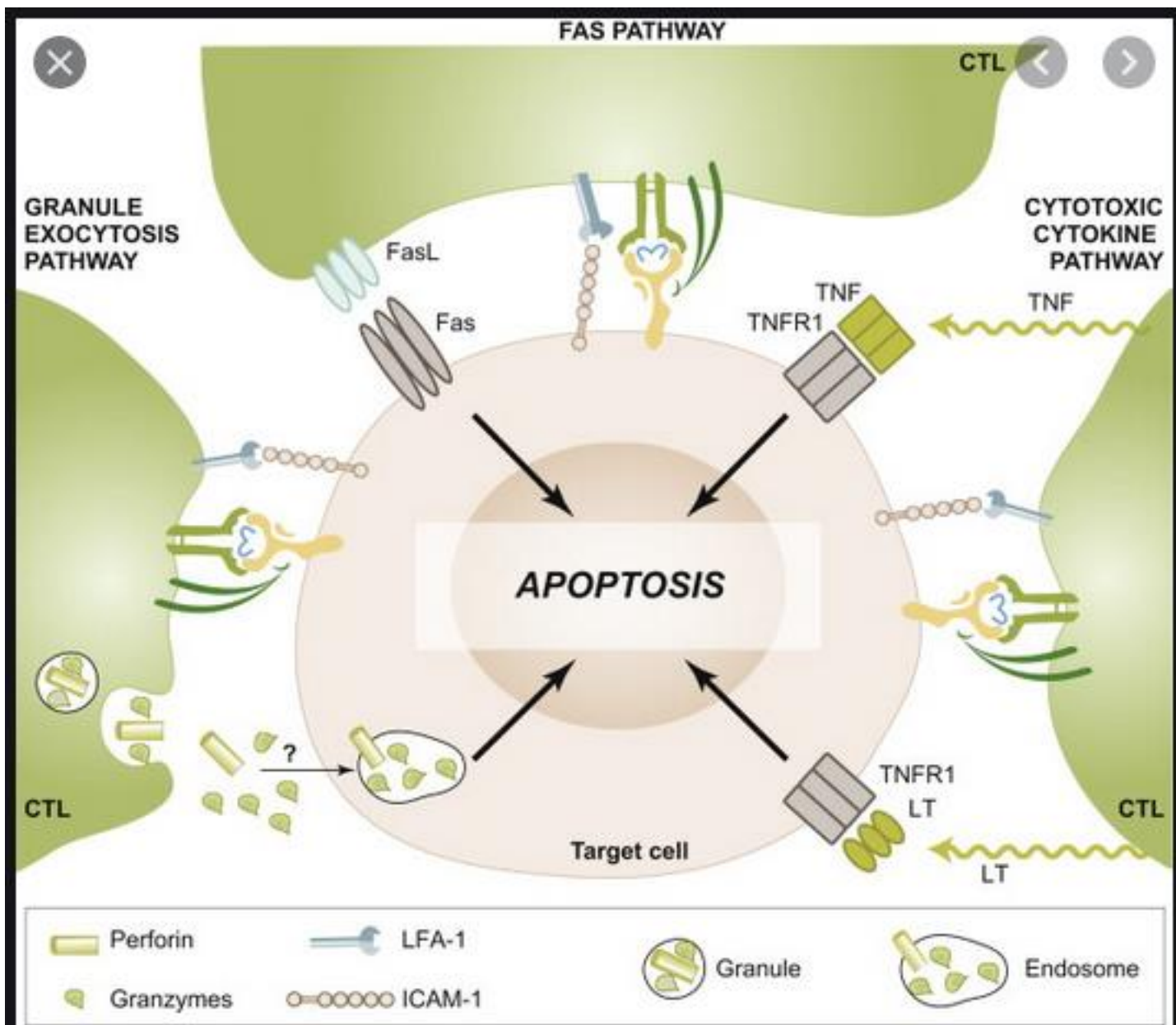


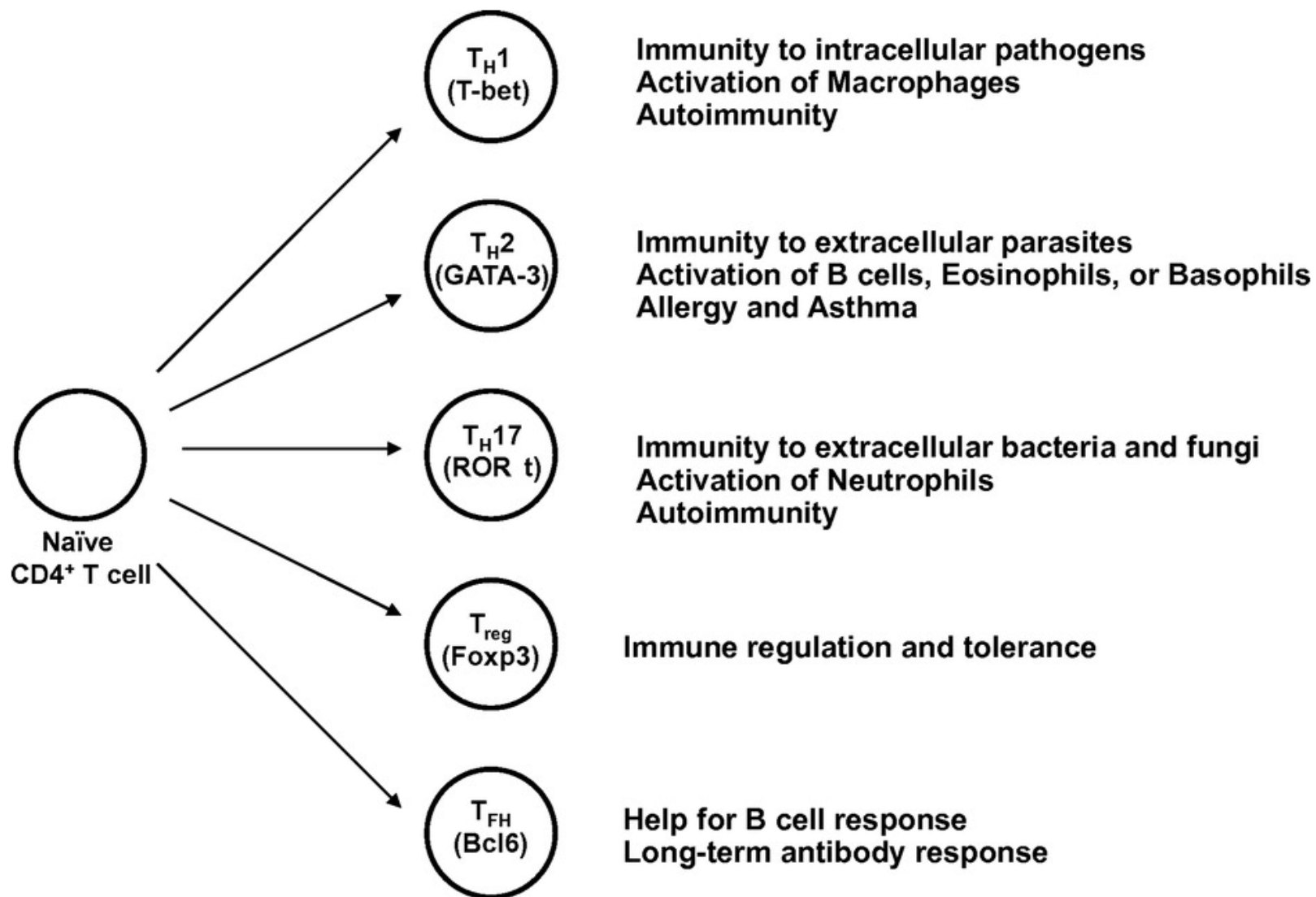
# MHC Class I restricted CD8 T cells



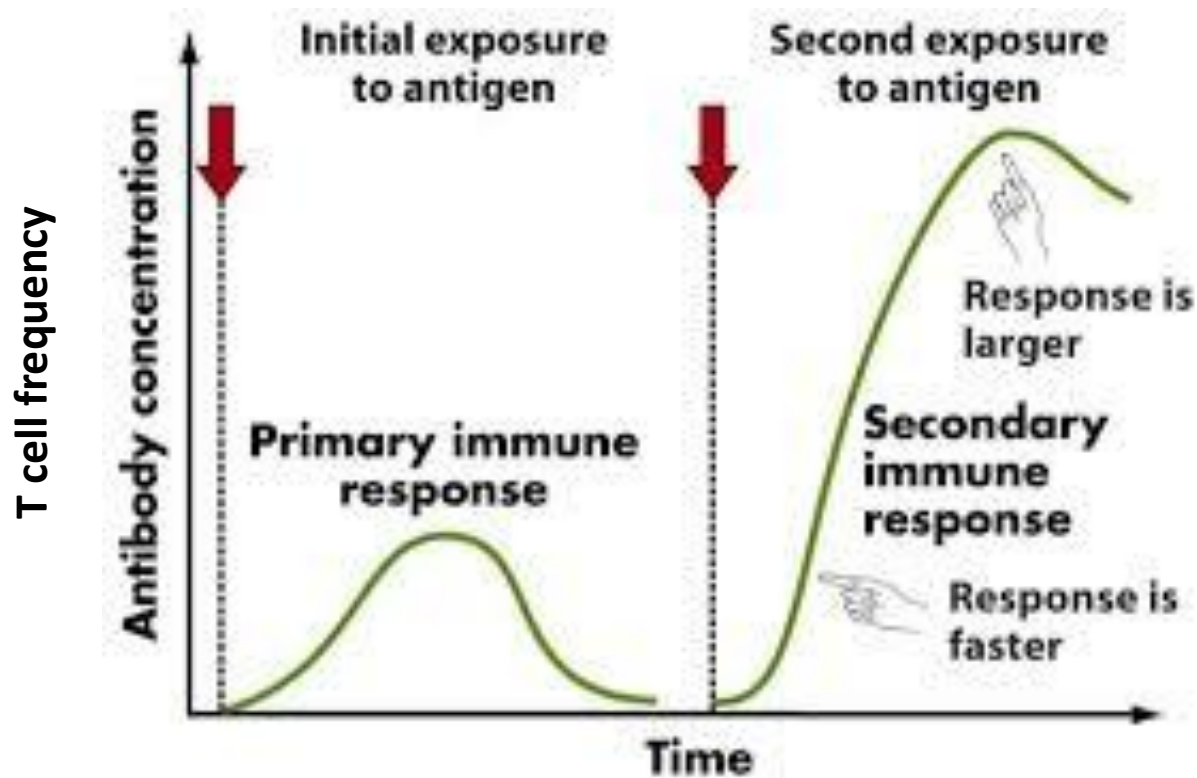
# CD8 T cells need CD4 T cell help







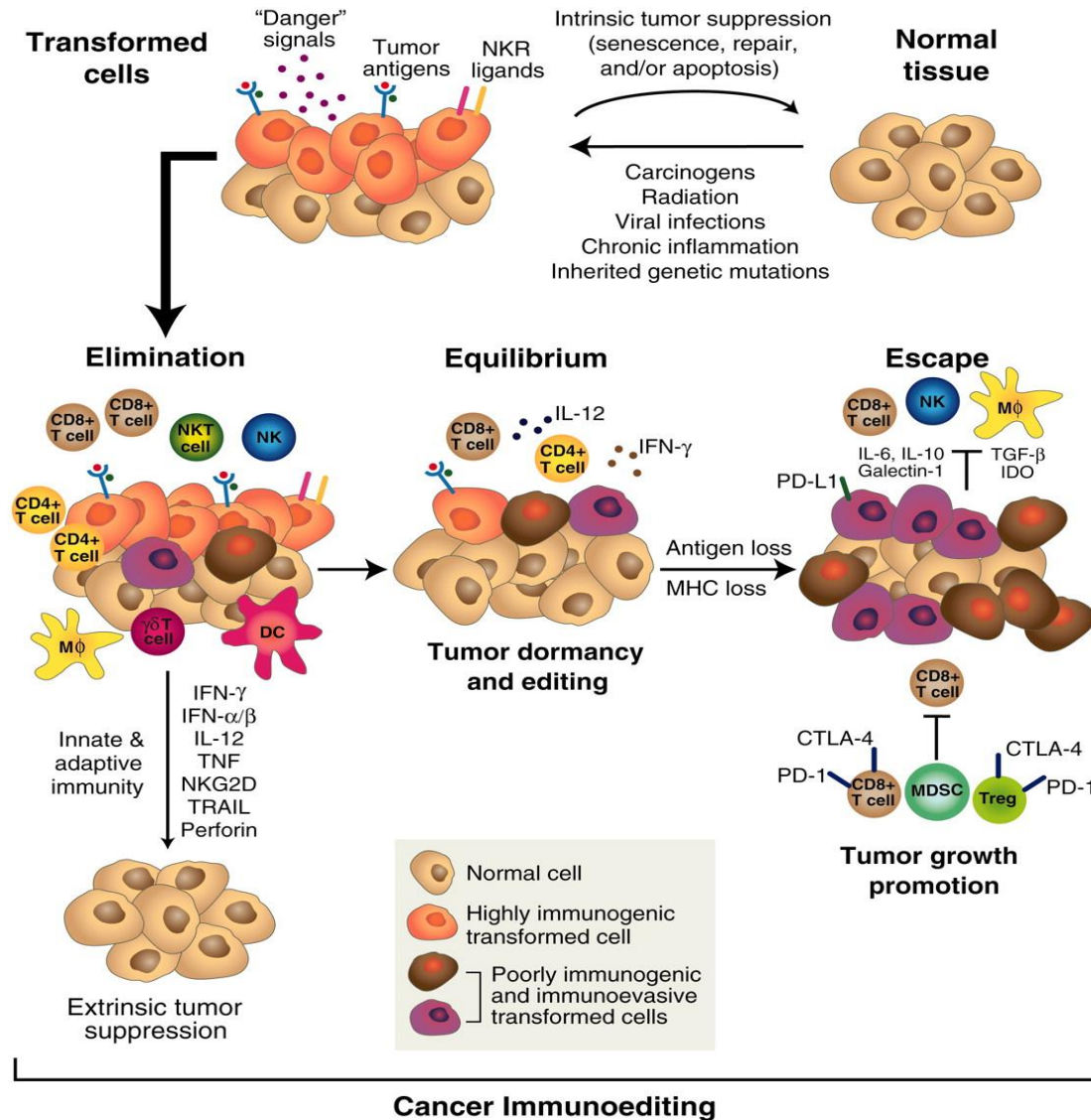
# Primary vs secondary (memory) response



# Summary: Adaptive Immunity

- Antigen specific and antigen driven
- Dependent on and jump-started by innate immunity
- Cellular effectors (T cells and B cells) and their soluble effectors responsible for disease elimination
- Cellular effectors directed to long term memory responsible for prevention of disease recurrence

# Innate and adaptive immune symphony in tumor immunosurveillance



# Recommended reading

- Malissen B and Bongrand P. Early T cell activation: integrating biochemical, structural and biophysical cues. *Annu. Rev. Immunol.* 2015. 33:539-61
- Huang W and August A. The signaling symphony: T cell receptor tunes cytokine-mediated T cell differentiation
- Muller SN and Mackay LK. Tissue resident memory T cells: specialist in immune defence. *Nature Rev Immunol.* 2015. 15:731-44
- Amsen D, van Gisbergen KPJM, Hombrink P, van Lier RAW. Tissue resident memory T cells at the center of immunity to solid tumors. *Nature Immunol* 2018. 19:538-546
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