

Macrophage Targets in Cancer

- Most cancer immunotherapy drugs focus on enhancing T cell ability to eliminate tumor cells
- However, other immune compartments in tumor lesions can also significantly contribute to tumor cell killing
- Macrophages are quite unique in that they express a wide array of functions that affect antitumor immunity
 - Dominant cellular compartment of tumor lesions that can exceed tumor cells
 - Phagocytose and eliminate cancer cells
 - Sensor cells that sense and respond to tumor cues by releasing inflammatory molecules and metabolites that shape the composition and molecular programs of the tumor and its microenvironment
 - Antigen presenting cells that modulate tumor specific T cell-killing properties program
- Understanding how macrophages respond to tumor cues and how they shape the tumor microenvironment and T cell function can significantly enhance tumor immunotherapy strategies