



**sitc**  
Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer



# Sexual dimorphism in myeloid-derived suppressor cells promote GBM progression in females via IL-1 $\beta$

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# Disclosure

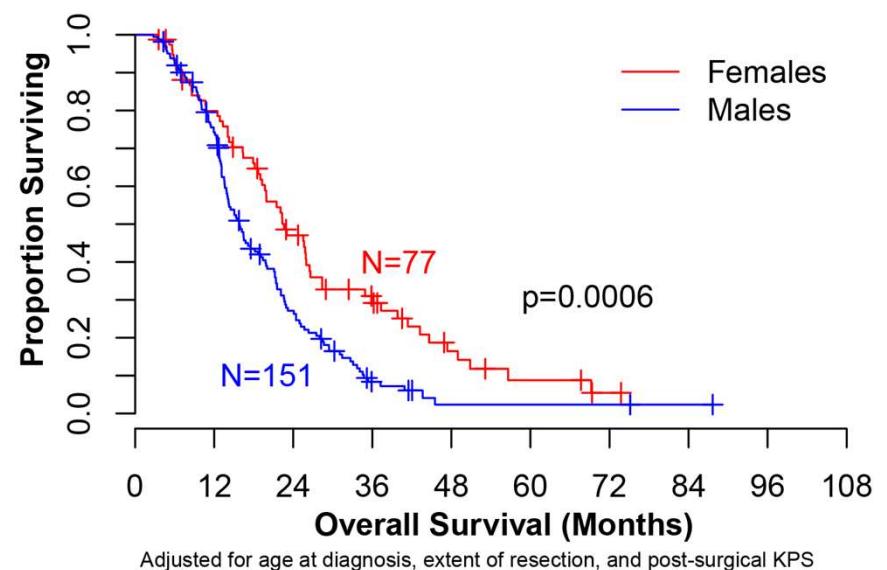
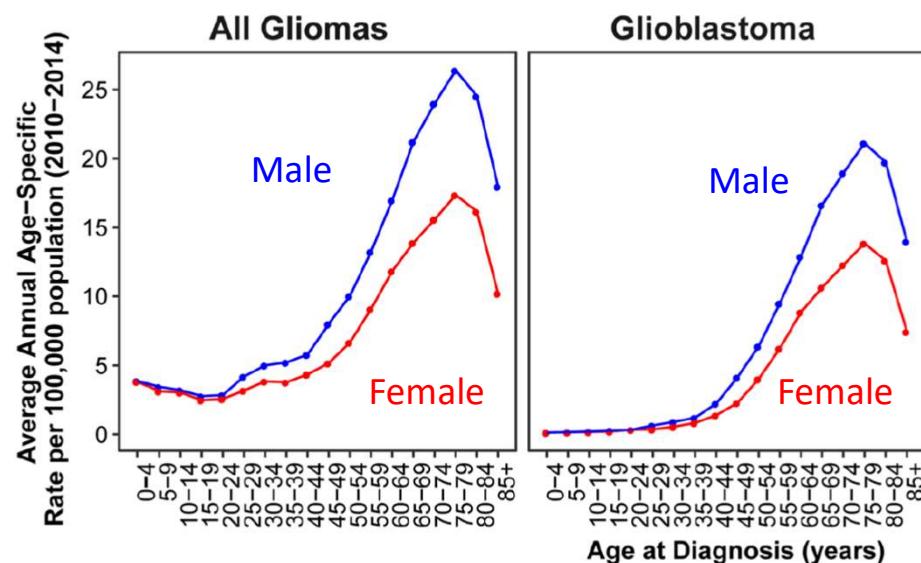
I have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this program/presentation.



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# Males have higher glioblastoma (GBM) incidence rates and worse outcome



(Ostrom et al., *Scientific Reports*, 2018)

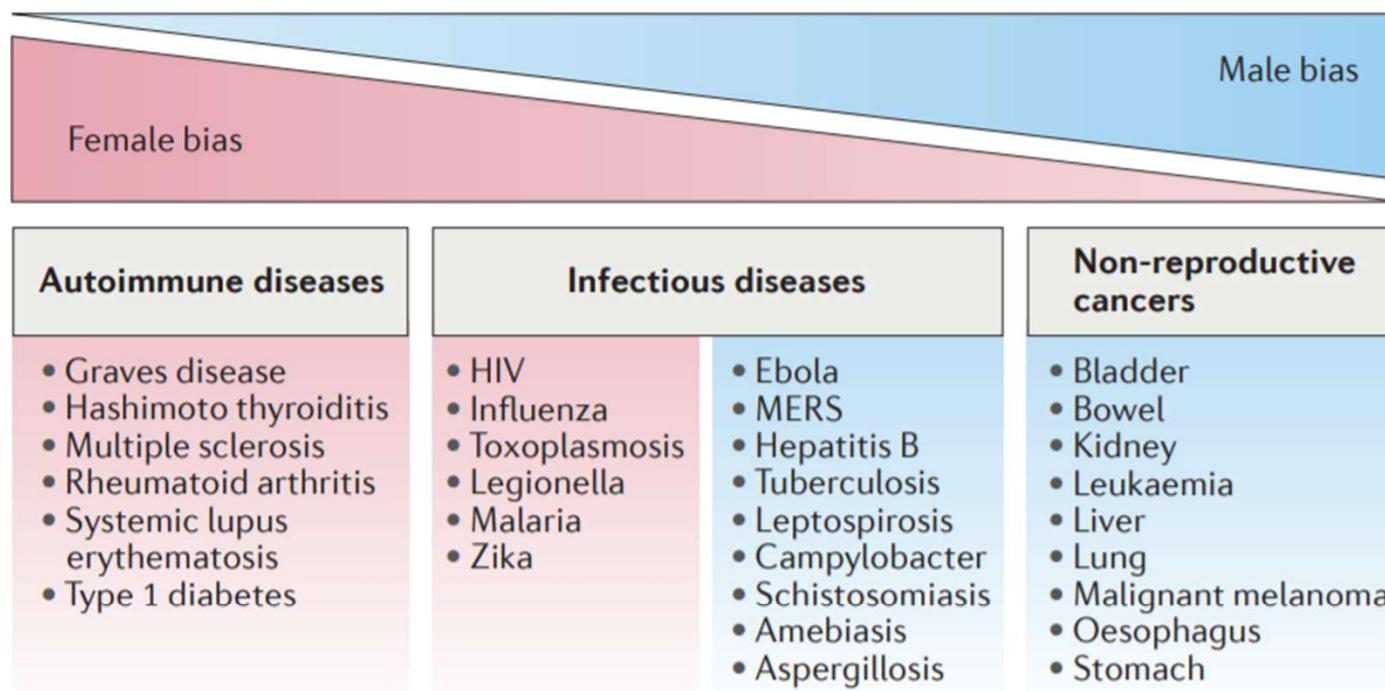
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# Sex differences in immune response associate with disease prevalence



(Klein and Flanagan, *Nat Rev Immunol*, 2016)

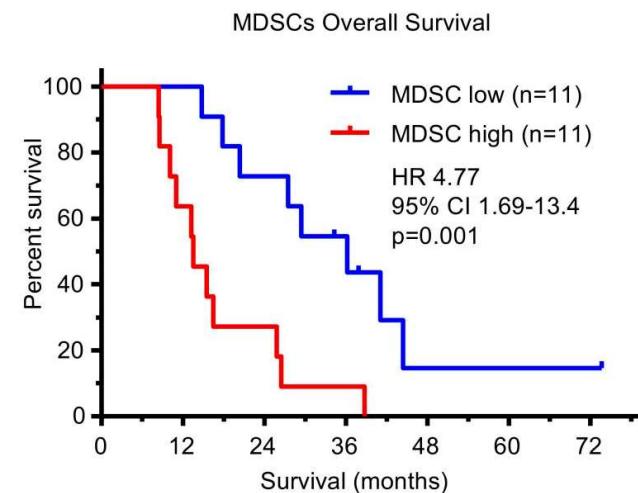
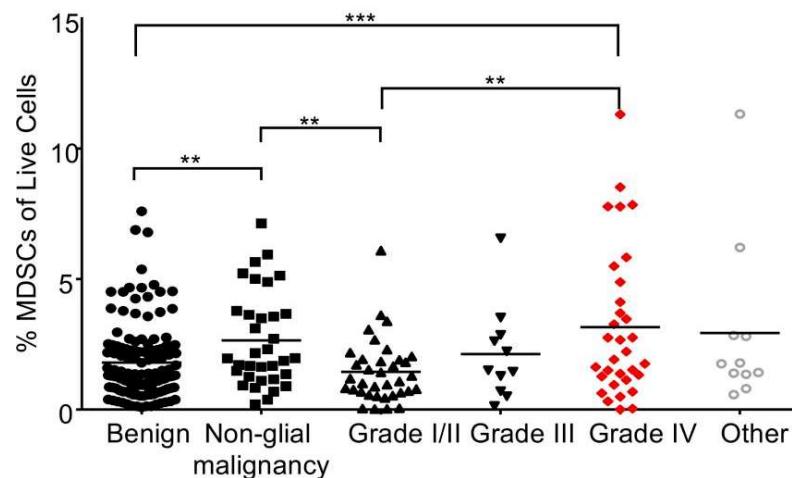
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# Myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs) correlate with poor GBM outcome



(Alban et al., *JCI Insight*, 2018)

**Outstanding Question: What is the impact of biological sex on MDSC-driven GBM immunosuppression?**

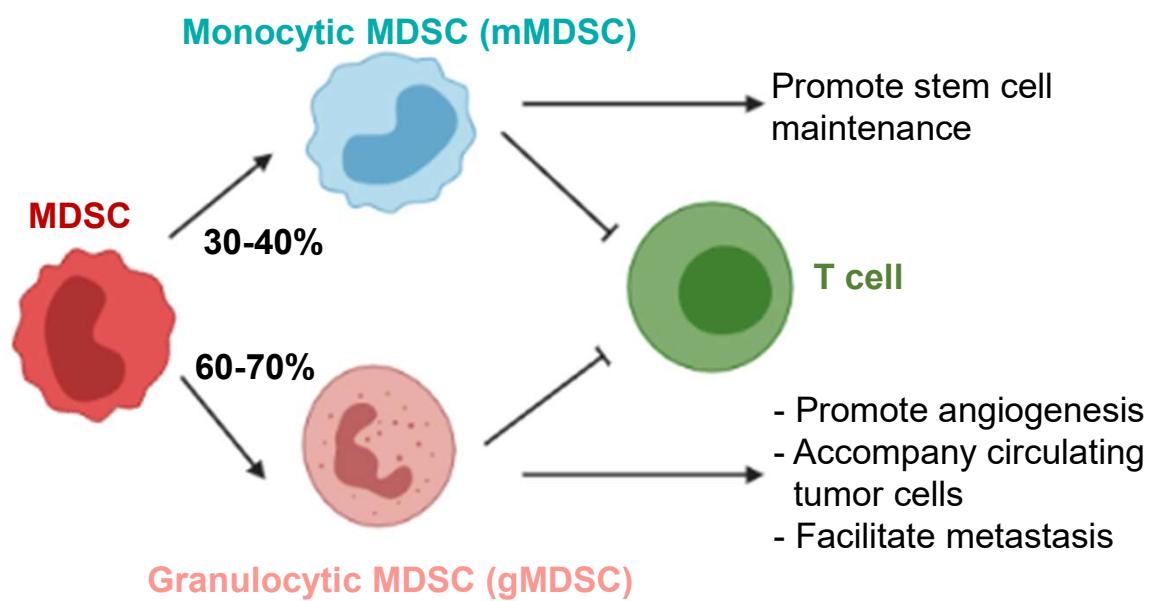
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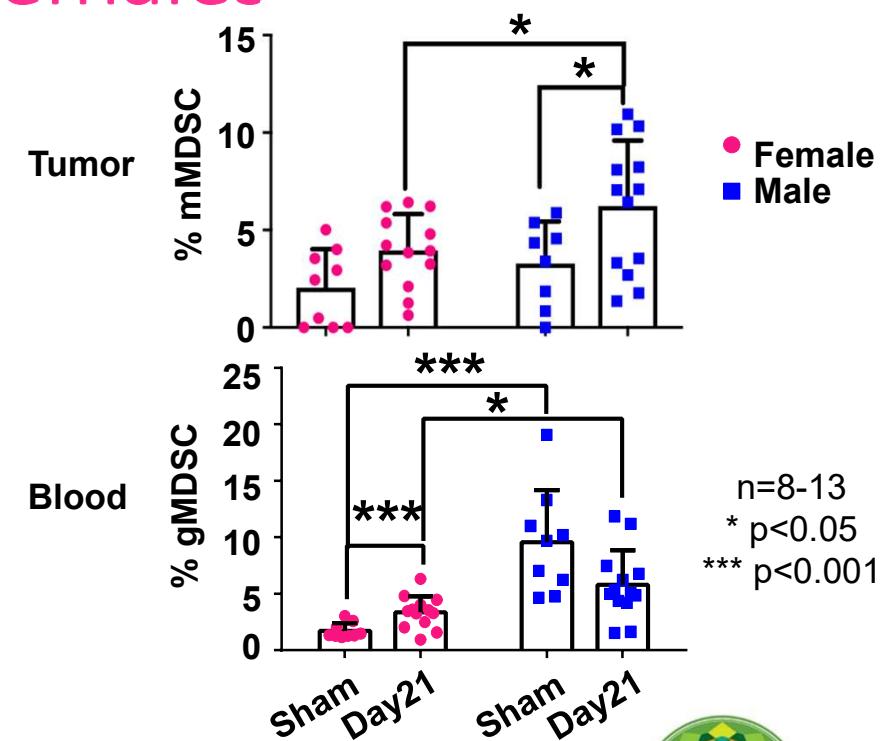
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# MDSC subsets differentially accumulate in males versus females



(adapted from Gabrilovich et al., *Nature Rev Immunol.*, 2009)

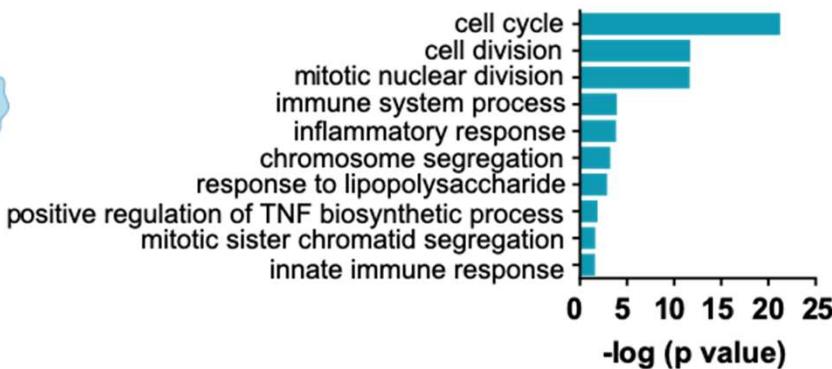


(Bayik et al., *Cancer Discovery*, 2020)

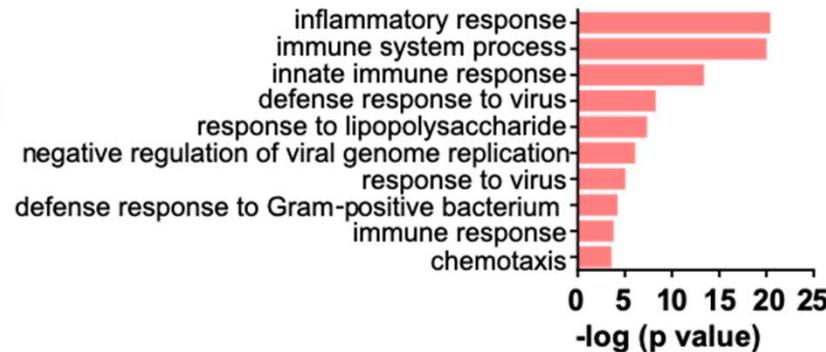
# Differential expression profile of MDSCs identify therapeutic vulnerabilities



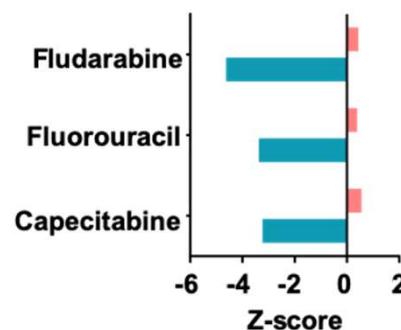
mMDSC



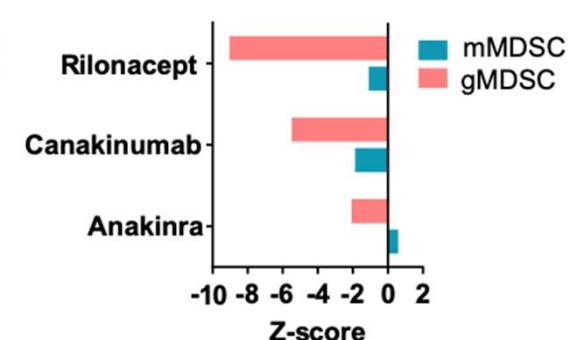
gMDSC



Chemotherapies



IL-1 inhibitors



(Bayik et al., *Cancer Discovery*, 2020)

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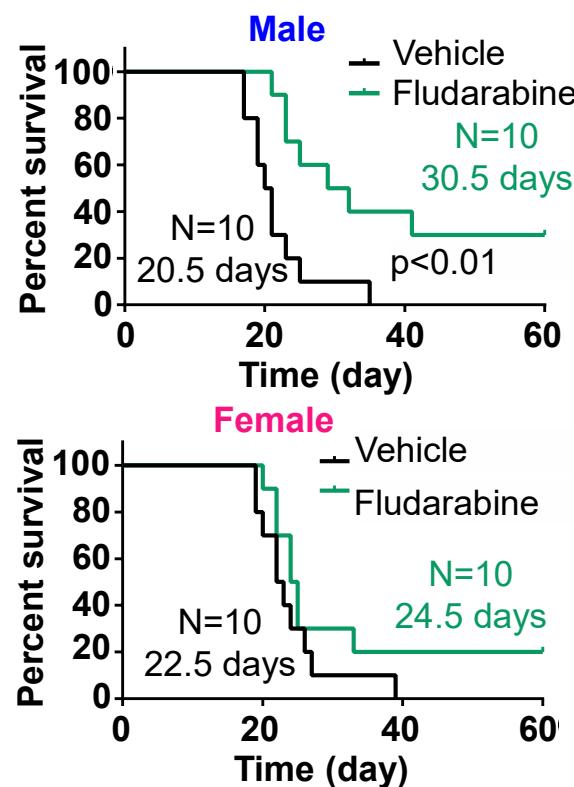
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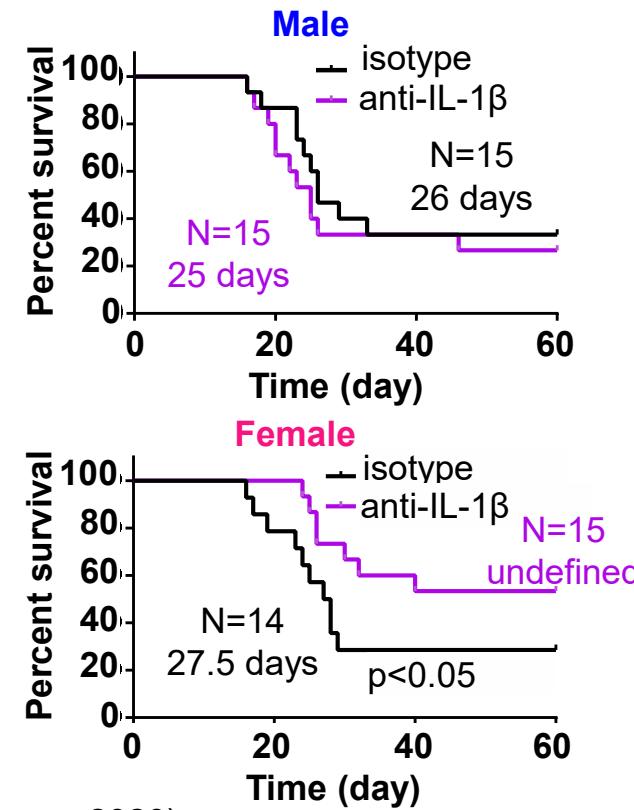
# MDSC subsets are susceptible to different drugs



mMDSC

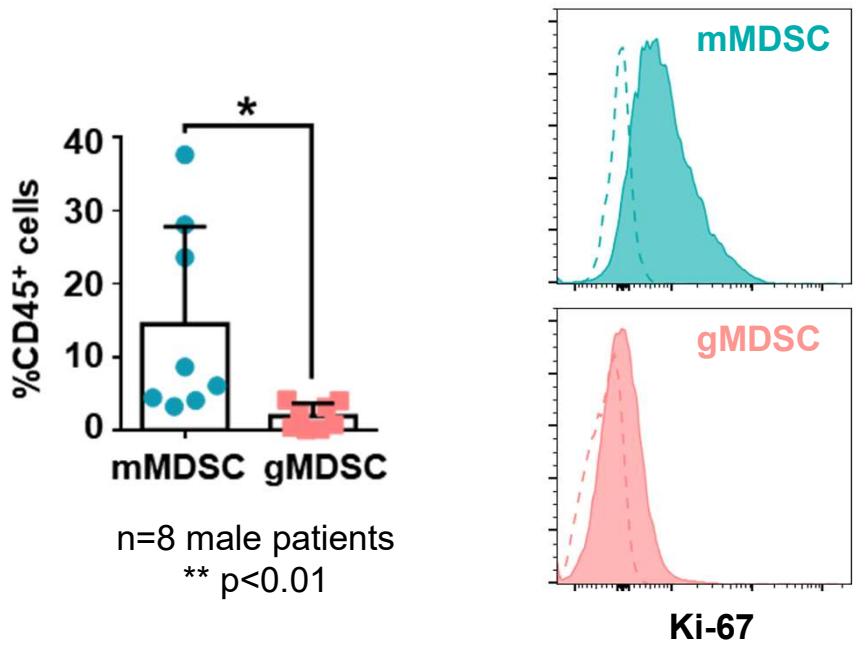
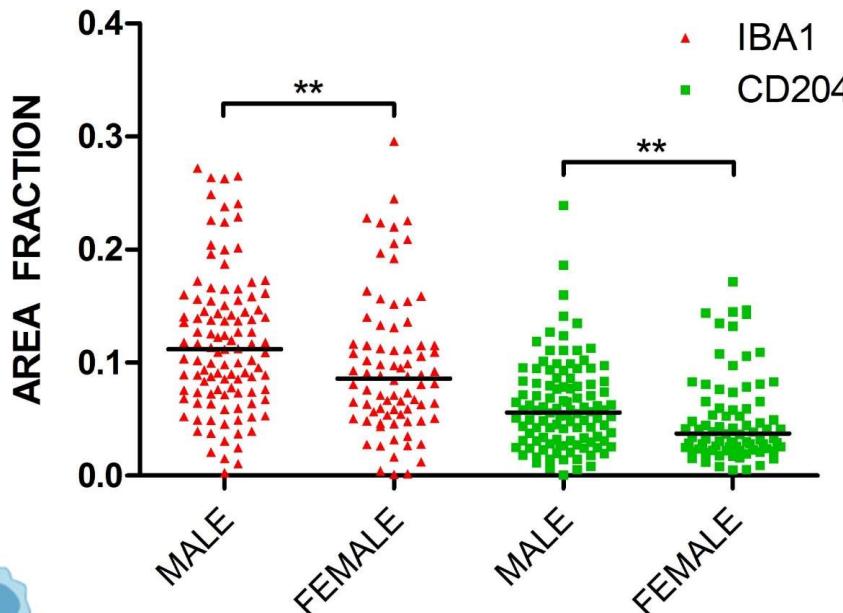


gMDSC



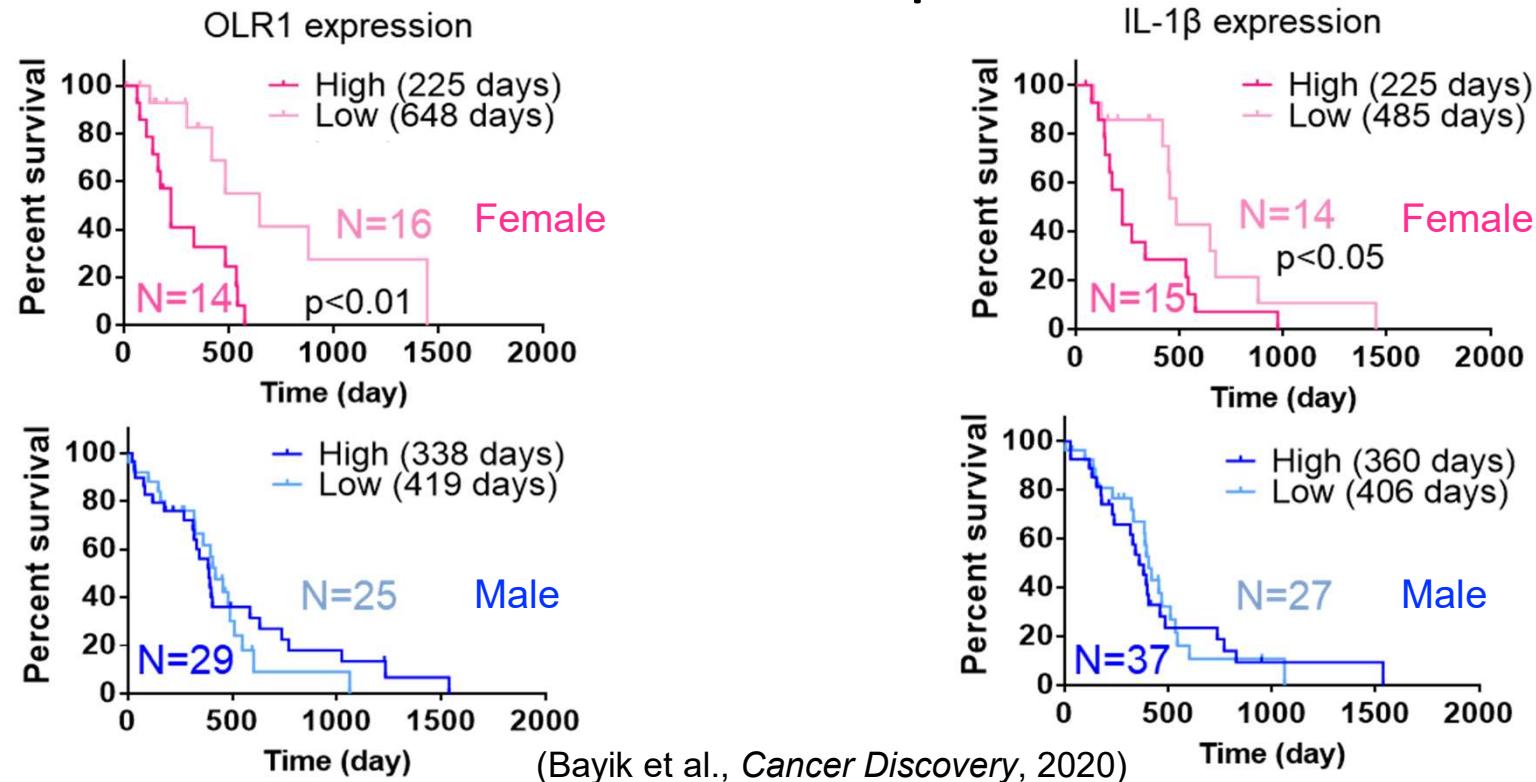
(Bayik et al., *Cancer Discovery*, 2020)

# Male patients have more tumor-infiltrating immunosuppressive myeloid cells



(Bayik et al., *Cancer Discovery*, 2020)

# gMDSC signature correlate with prognosis of female GBM patients



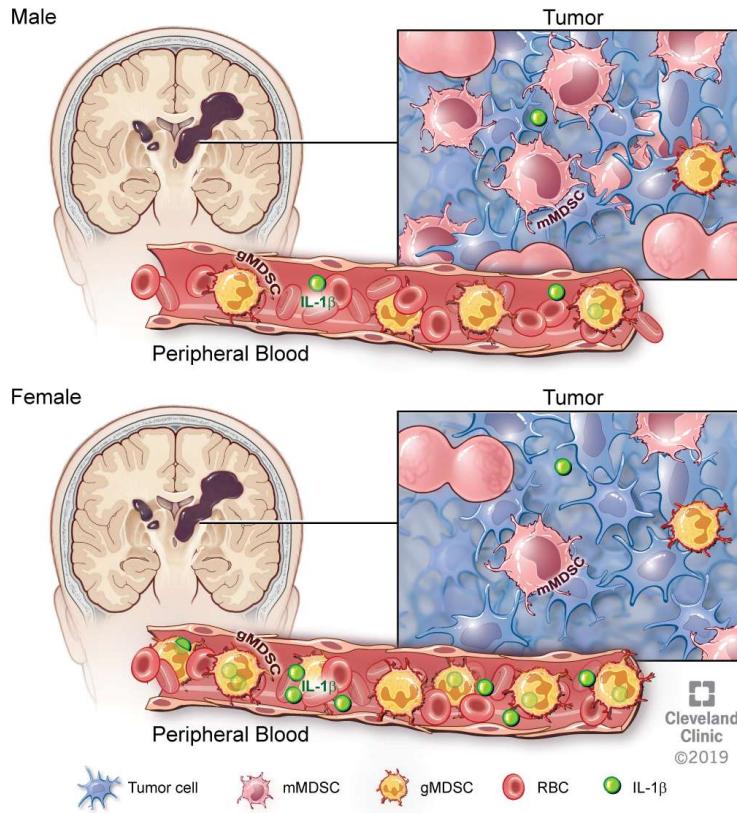
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# Interim Conclusions



- mMDSCs infiltrate the tumor microenvironment, where they actively proliferate.
- IL-1 $\beta$  secretion by gMDSCs comprise a therapeutic target for females (*clinical trial pending in 2021*).

(Bayik et al., *Cancer Discovery*, 2020)

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**Outstanding Question: How does systemic gMDSC accumulation drive GBM and what biological pathways regulate gMDSC activity?**

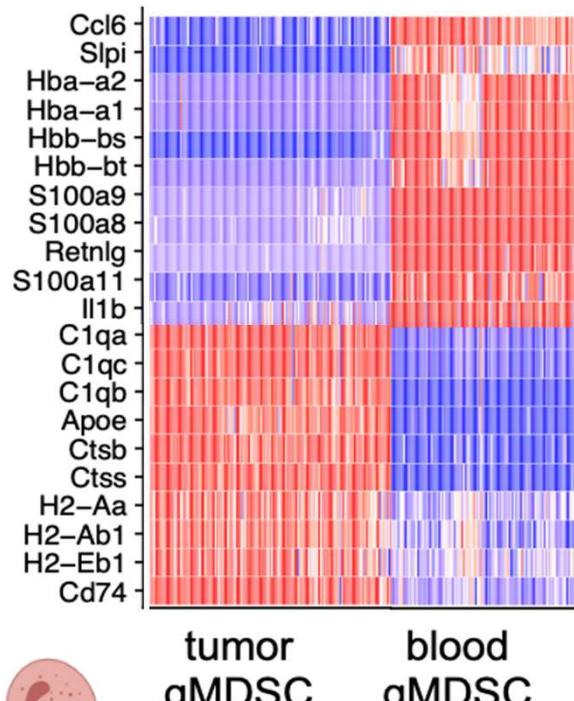
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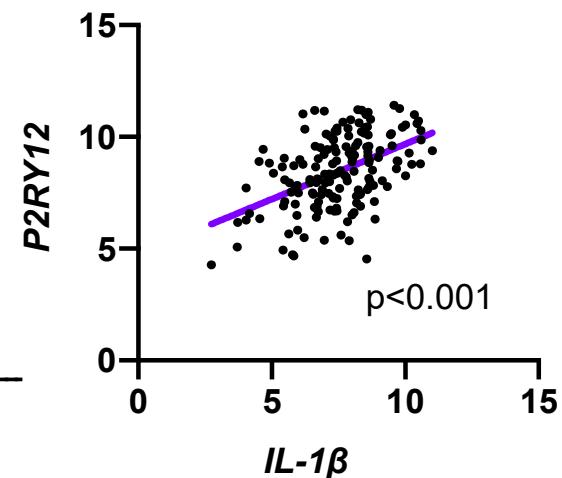
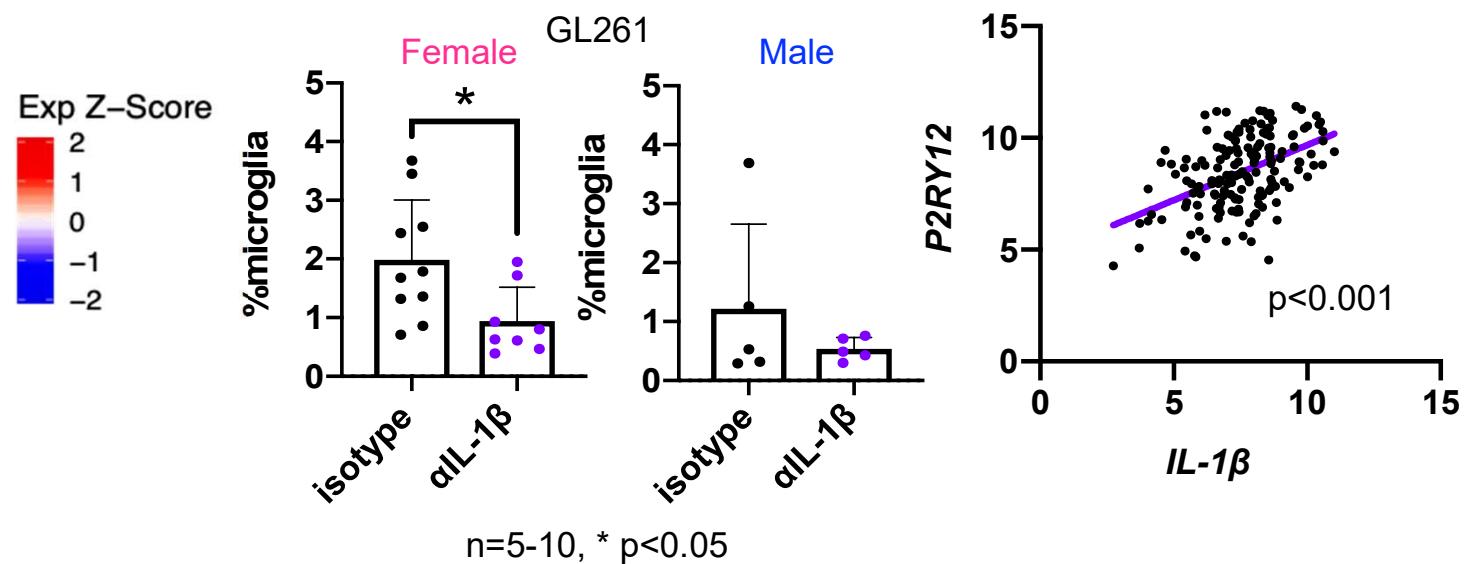
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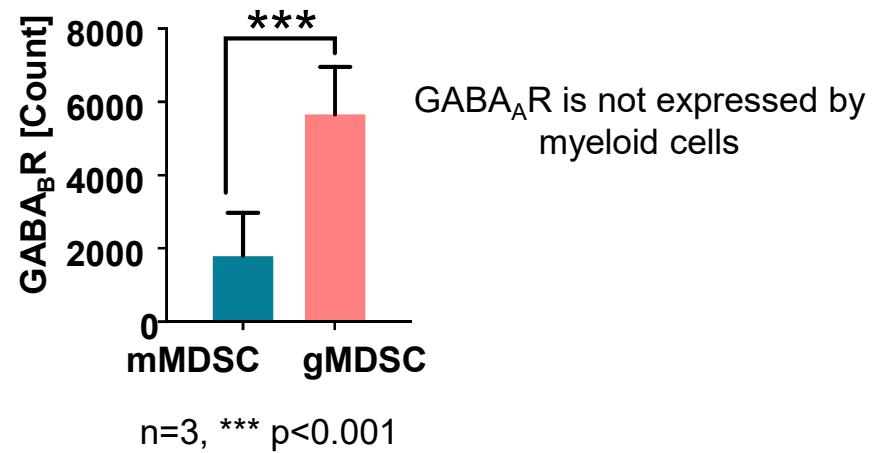
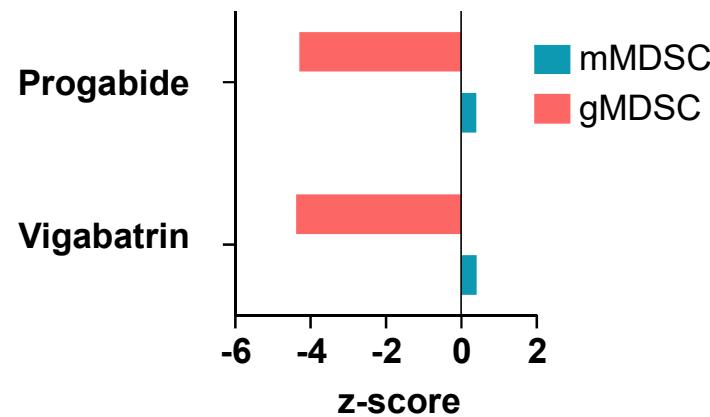
# Potential for systemic-local immunity communication



gMDSC (unpublished)



# gamma-Aminobutyric acid (GABA) signaling as a potential regulator of gMDSCs



gMDSC

(unpublished)

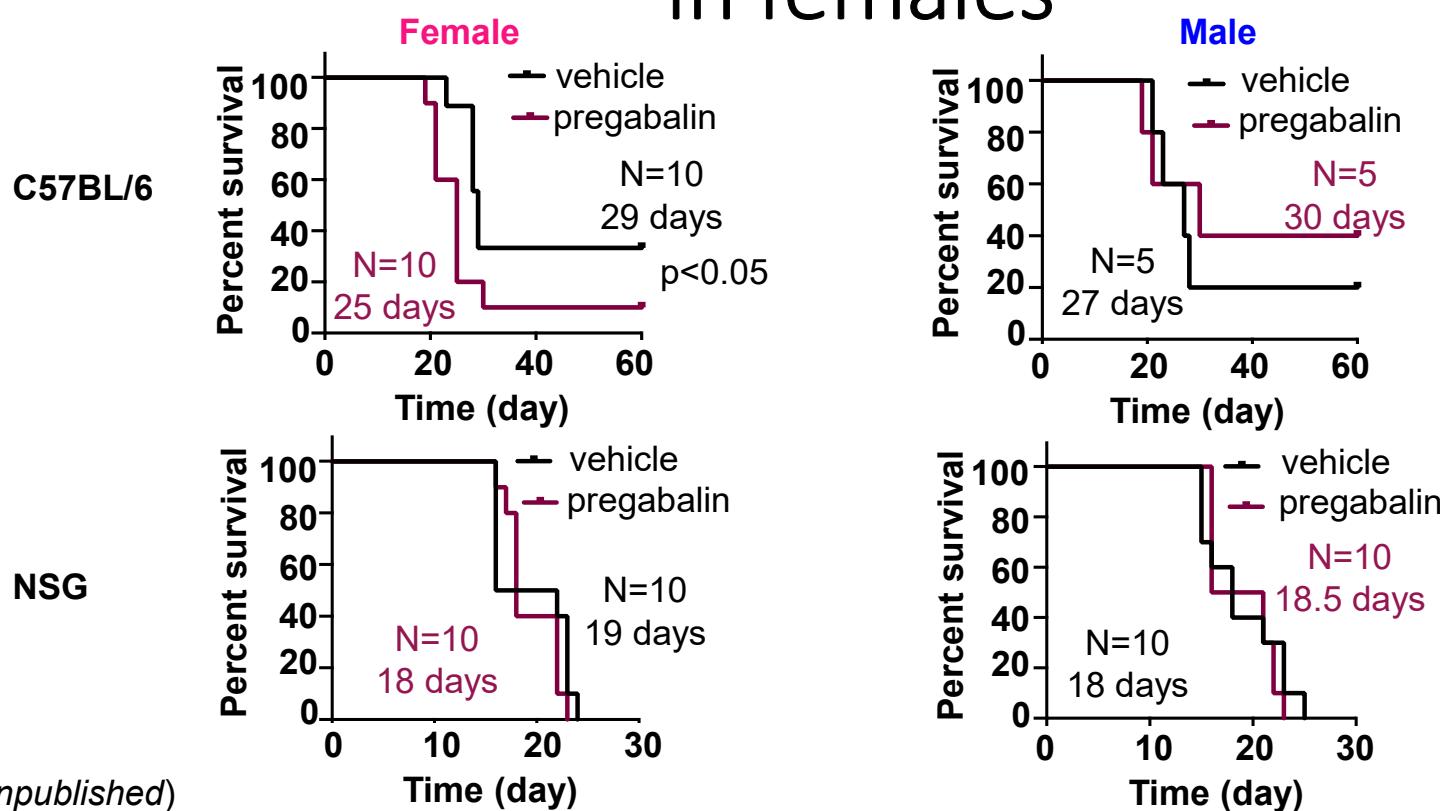
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# GABA analogue accelerates GBM progression in females



gMDSC

(unpublished)

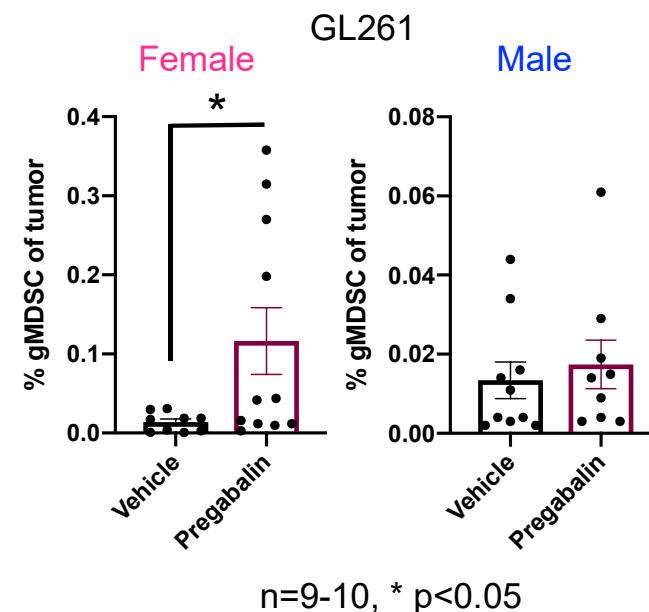
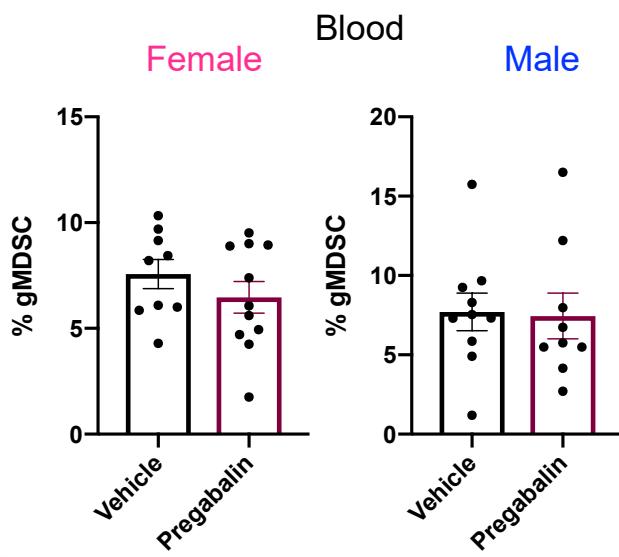
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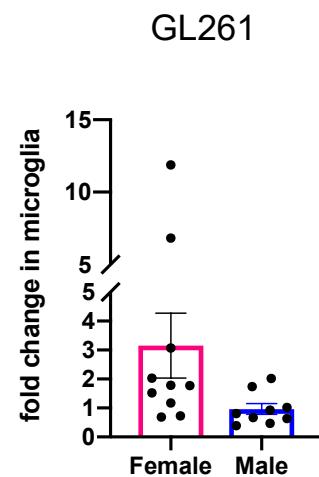
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# GABA analogue increases tumor infiltration of gMDSCs in females

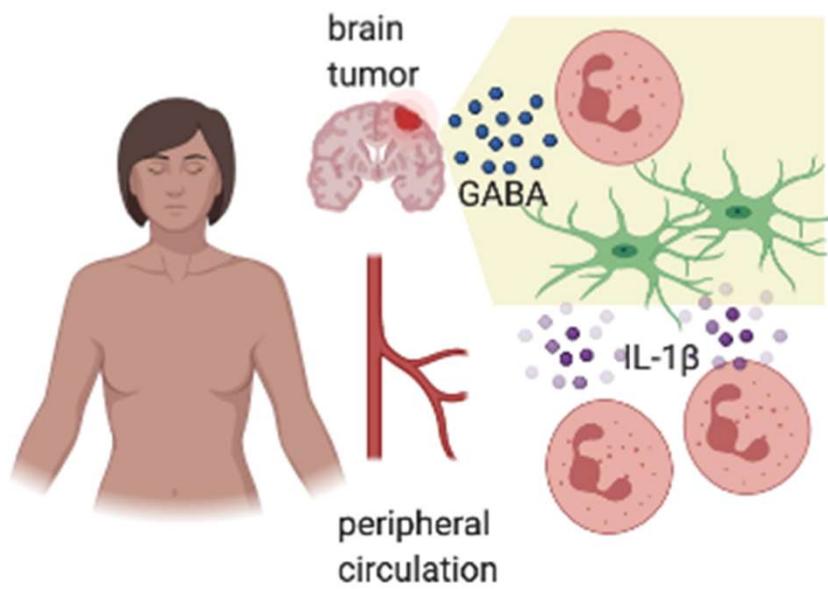


n=9-10, \* p<0.05



gMDSC (unpublished)

# Conclusions & Future Perspective



- Systemic **gMDSC** accumulation drives microglia infiltration of GBM via IL-1 $\beta$  signaling
- Altered GABA signaling serves as a potential regulator of local **gMDSC** activity.
- Investigation of the effect of IL-1 $\beta$  on microglia polarization
- Analysis of the effect of GABA on **gMDSC** behavior



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