



# Targeting T<sub>regs</sub> in Tumors

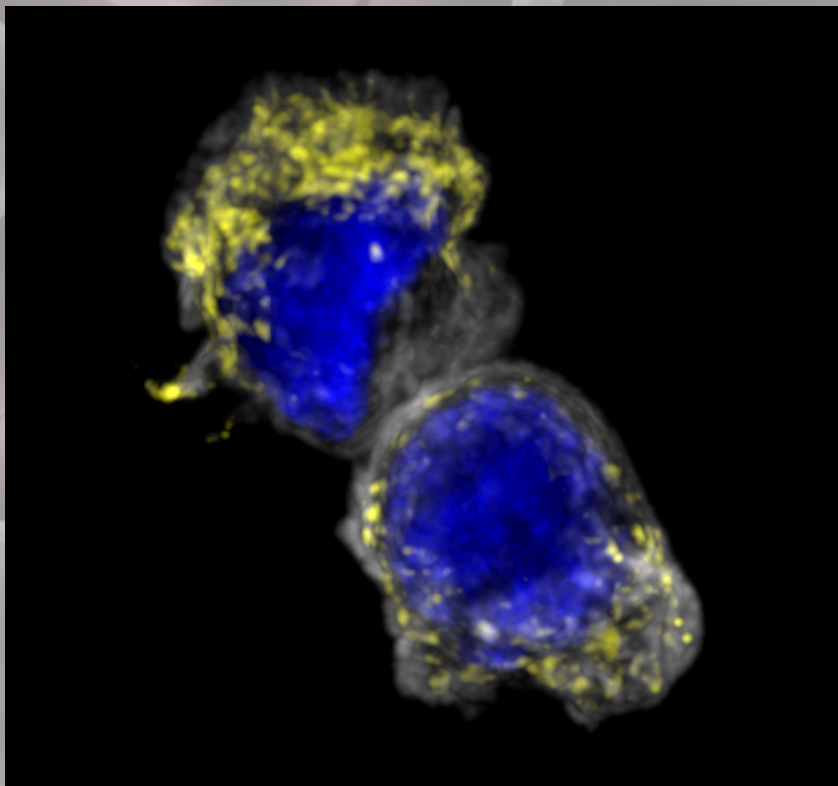
*Dario Vignali, PhD*

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Department of Immunology,  
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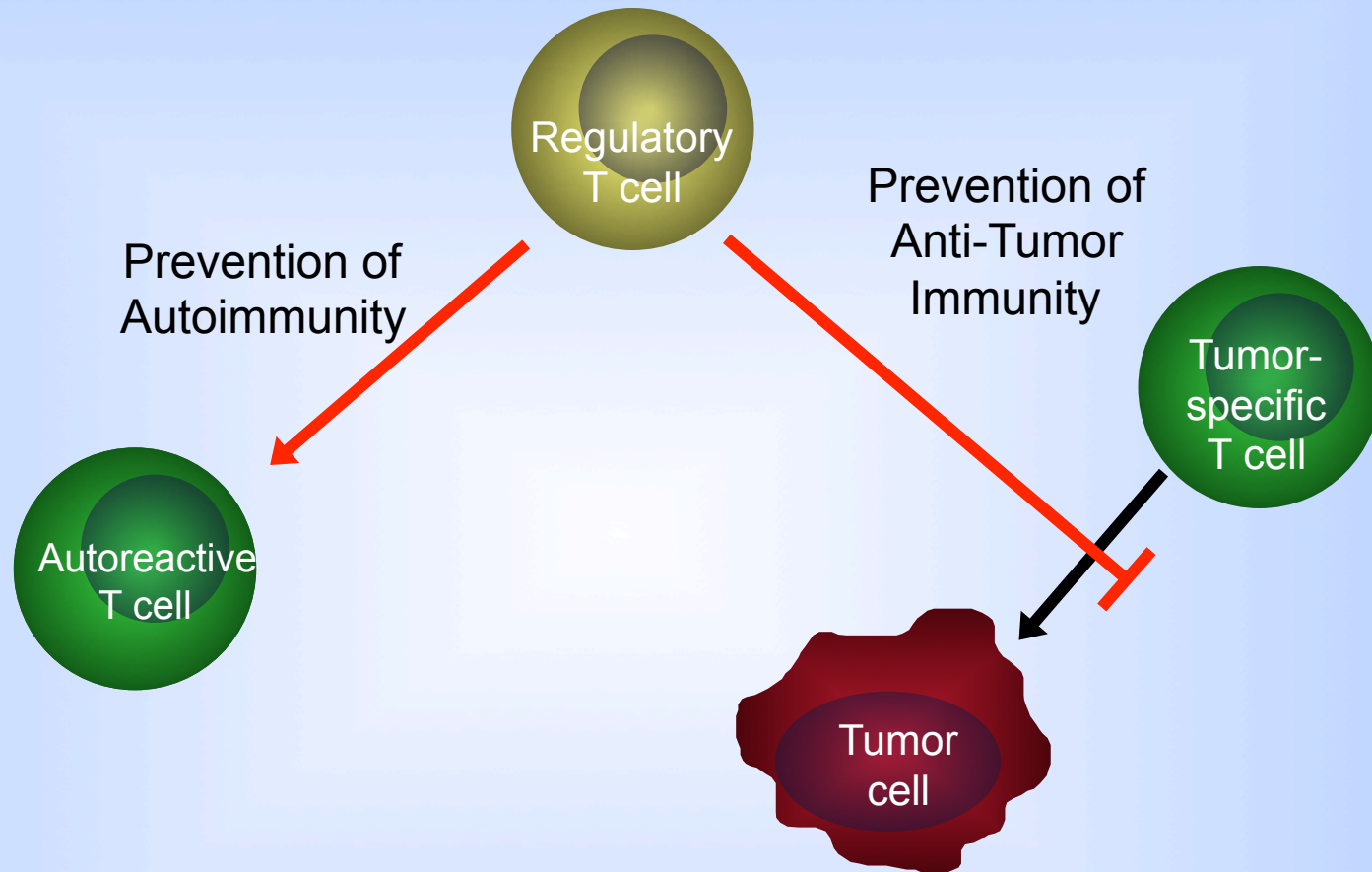
*Co-Leader of the Cancer Immunology Program,  
Co-Director of the Tumor Microenvironment  
Center,  
University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.*

**Conflict Disclosure Statement:** D.A.A.V. has submitted patents on LAG-3, IL-35 and Nrp1/Sema4a that are granted or pending and is entitled to a share in net income generated from the licensing of these patent rights for commercial development.

D.A.A.V. is a co-founding scientist and SAB member of Potenza Therapeutics Inc., serves on the SABs of F-Star and Tempero/GSK, and has consultation agreements with several companies.

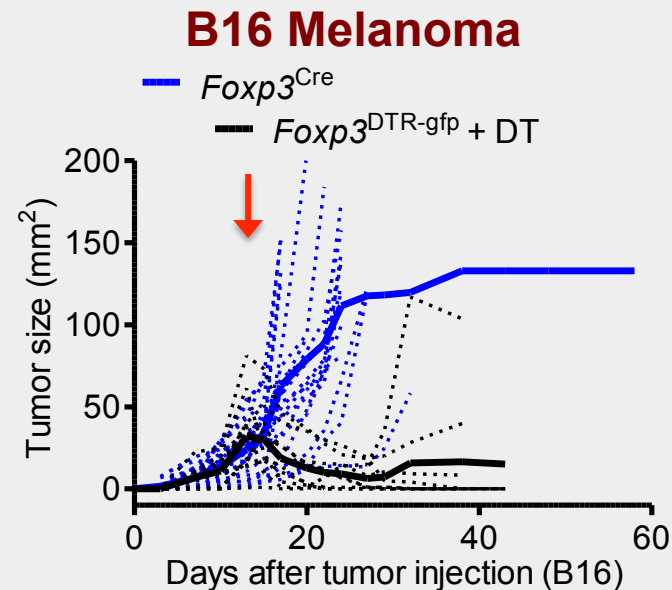
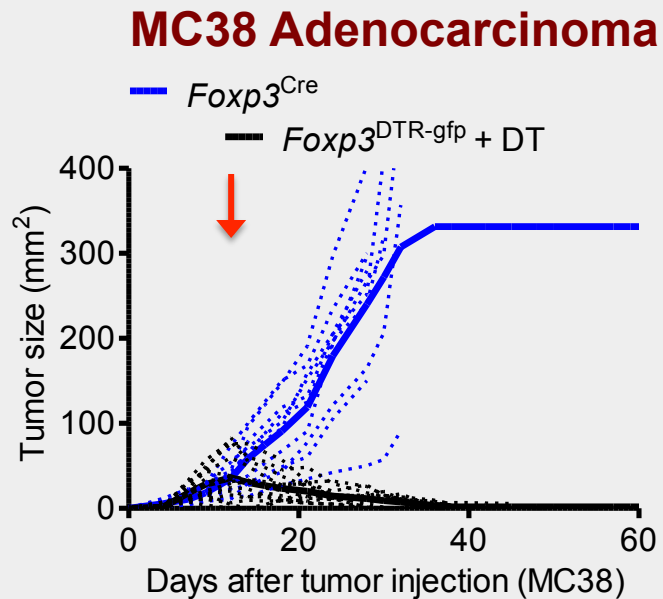


# Regulatory T cells - The Master Controller



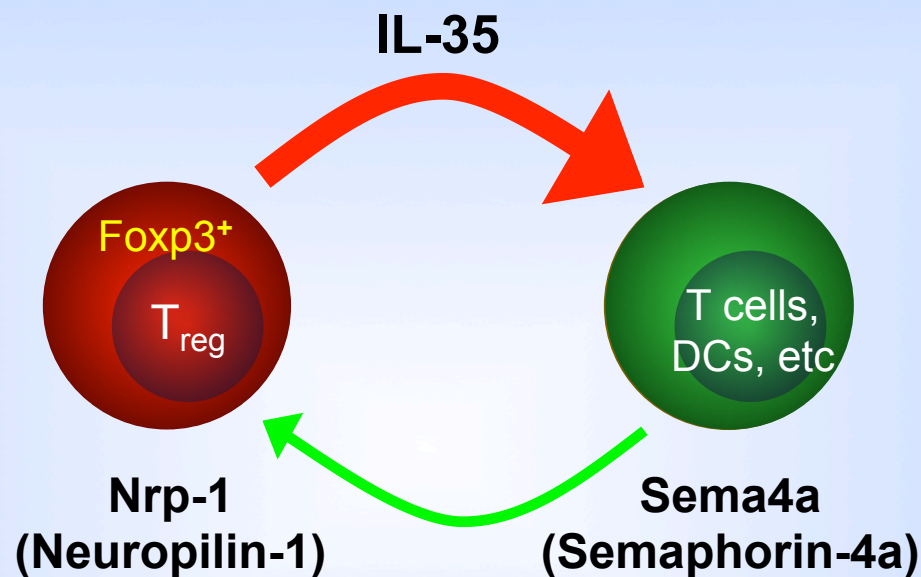
**Is it possible to limit the activity of T<sub>regs</sub> in tumors without inducing autoimmune or inflammatory reactions?**

# What is the impact of $T_{regs}$ on tumor growth?



**Is it possible to limit the activity of  $T_{regs}$  in tumors without inducing autoimmune or inflammatory reactions?**

# Potentiating $T_{reg}$ function and survival



1. *What is the impact of IL-35 on the tumor microenvironment?*
2. *What are the consequences of Treg instability in the tumor microenvironment?*

*Nature* 450:566 (2007),  
*Jl* 182:6121 (2009), *Jl* 187:4987 (2011),  
*Nature Immunology* 11:1093 (2010),  
*Nature Immunology* 13:290 (2012),  
*Nature* 501:252 (2013).

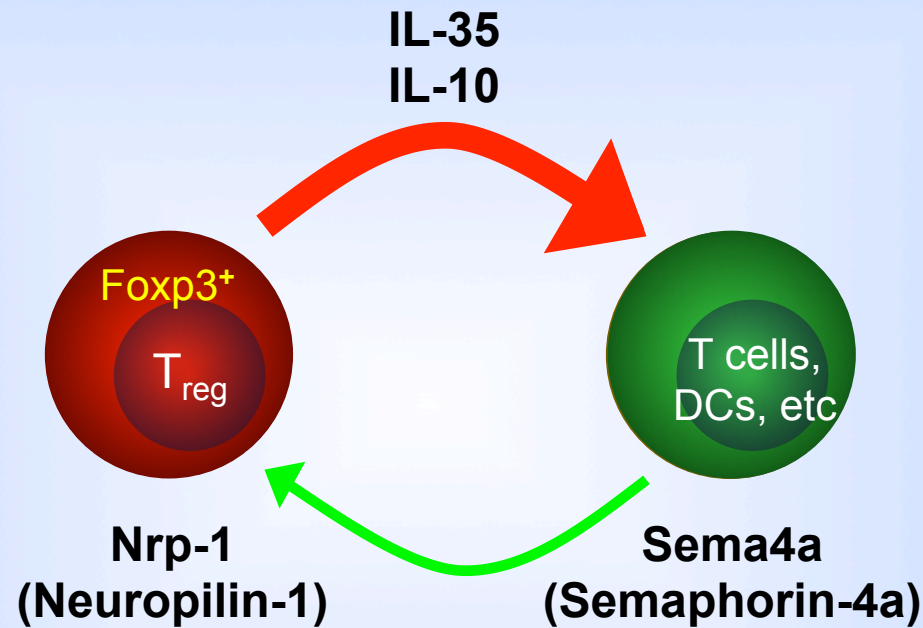
Lauren Collison, Greg Delgoffe,  
Seng-Ryong Woo, Creg Workman

*What are the consequences of  
 $T_{reg}$  instability in the tumor  
microenvironment?*

**Greg  
Delgoffe**

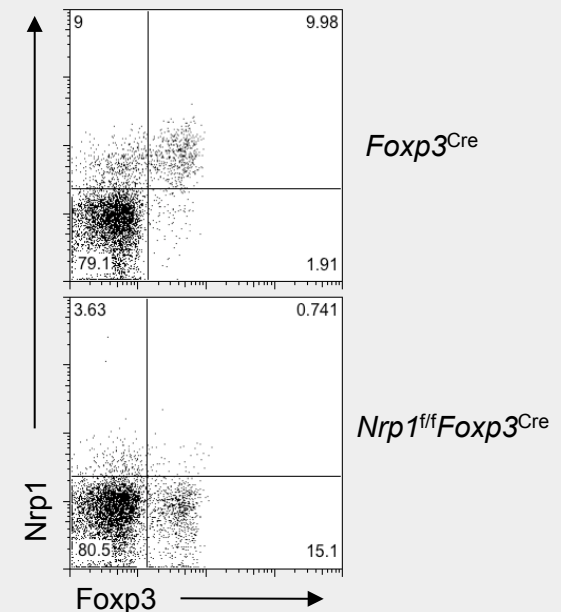
**Seng-  
Ryong  
Woo**

# Potentiating $T_{reg}$ function and survival



# Is Nrp1 required for T<sub>reg</sub>-mediated immune homeostasis?

- Generated *Nrp1*<sup>fl/fl</sup>.*Foxp3*<sup>Cre</sup> mice
- *Nrp1*<sup>fl/fl</sup>.*Foxp3*<sup>Cre</sup> mice don't get sick (> 1 year).
- *Nrp1*<sup>fl/fl</sup>.*Foxp3*<sup>Cre</sup> mice have no inflammatory lesions (11 months).

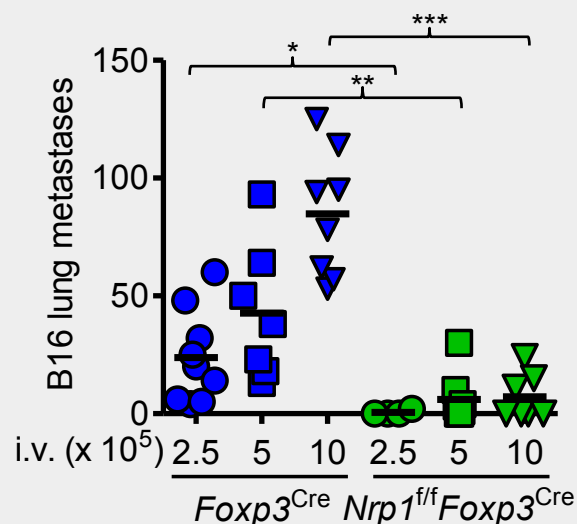
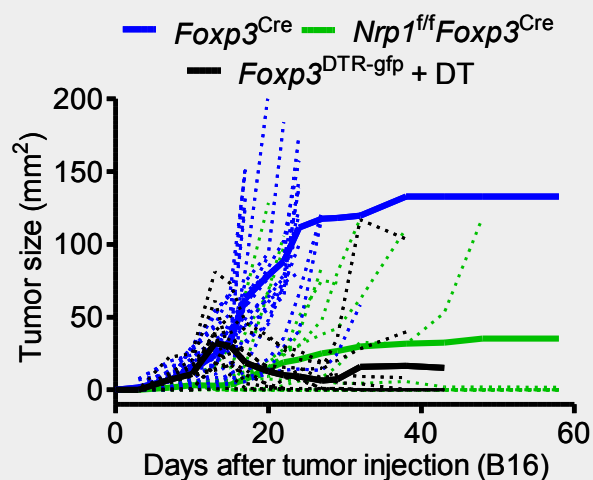


**The Nrp1 pathway is not required for normal immune homeostasis**

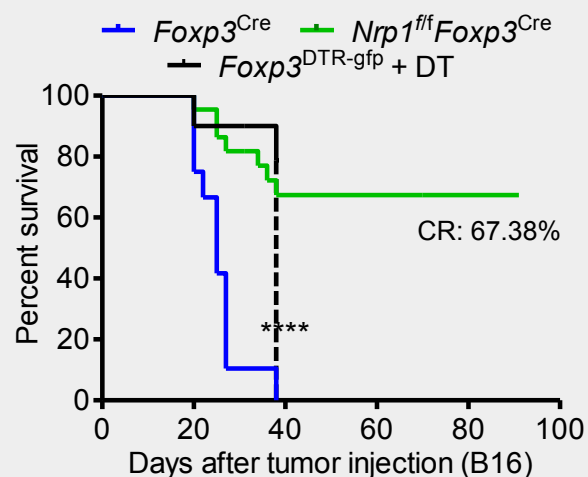


# Nrp1-deficient $T_{\text{regs}}$ cannot mediate tumor-induced tolerance

## B16 Melanoma

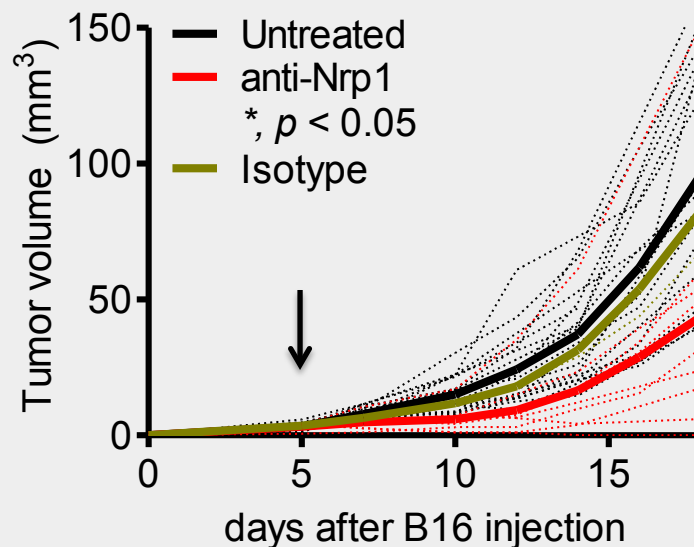
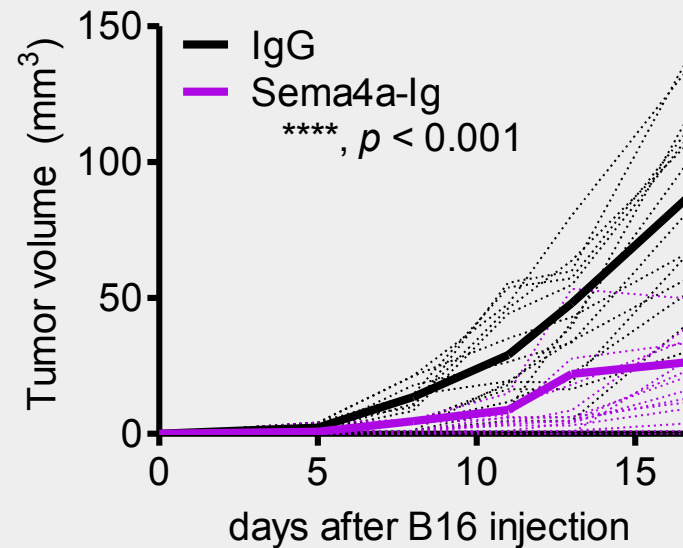
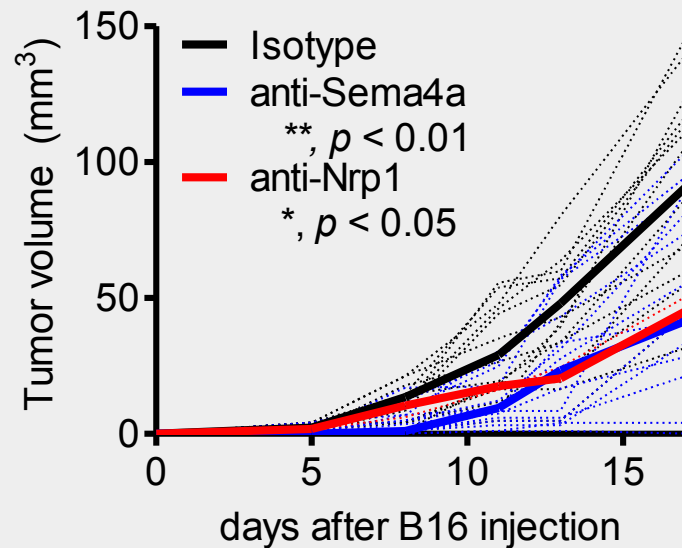


**Nrp1 is required by  $T_{\text{regs}}$  to limit anti-tumor immunity**



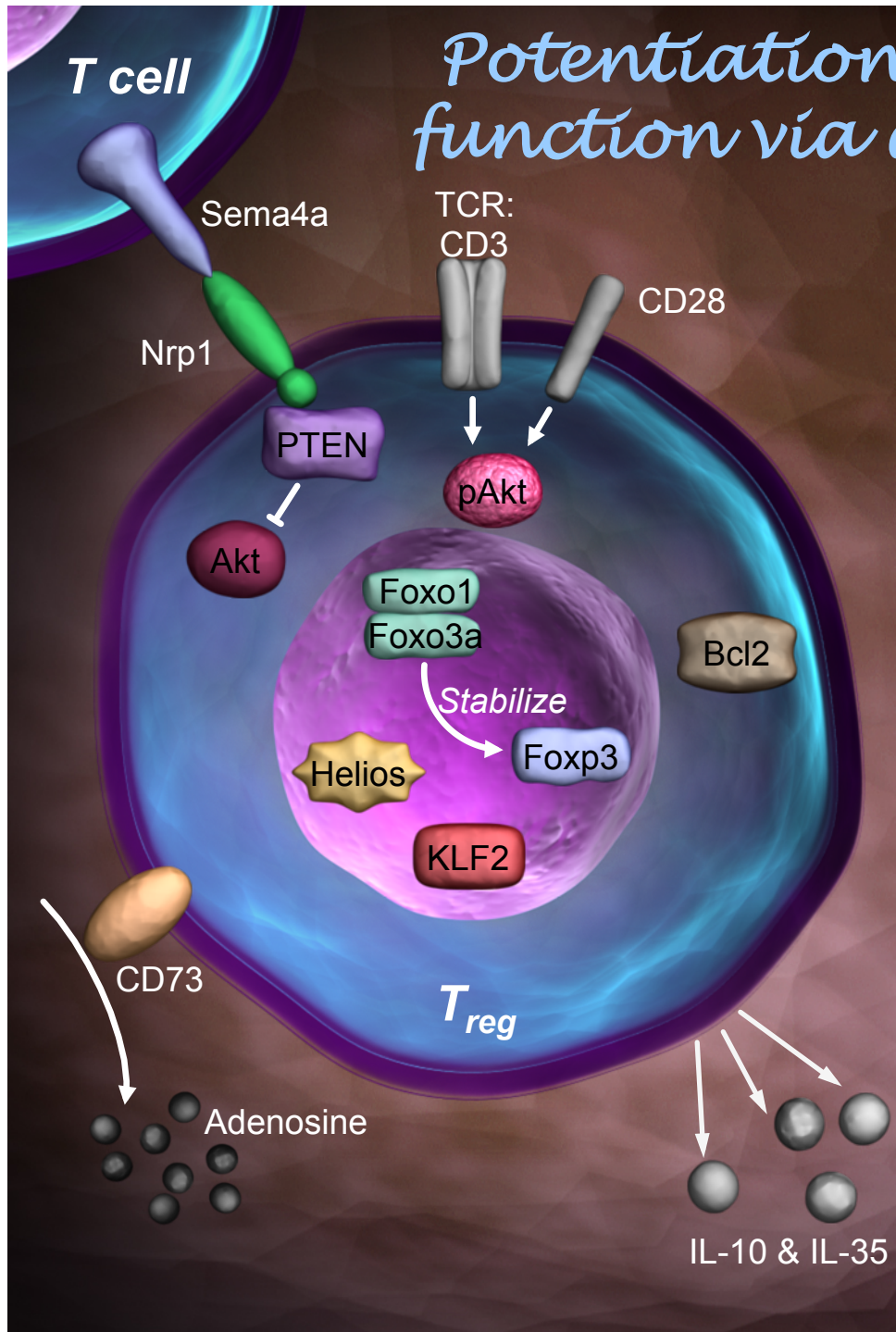


# Does the Sema4a:Nrp1 axis mediate tumor-induced tolerance?



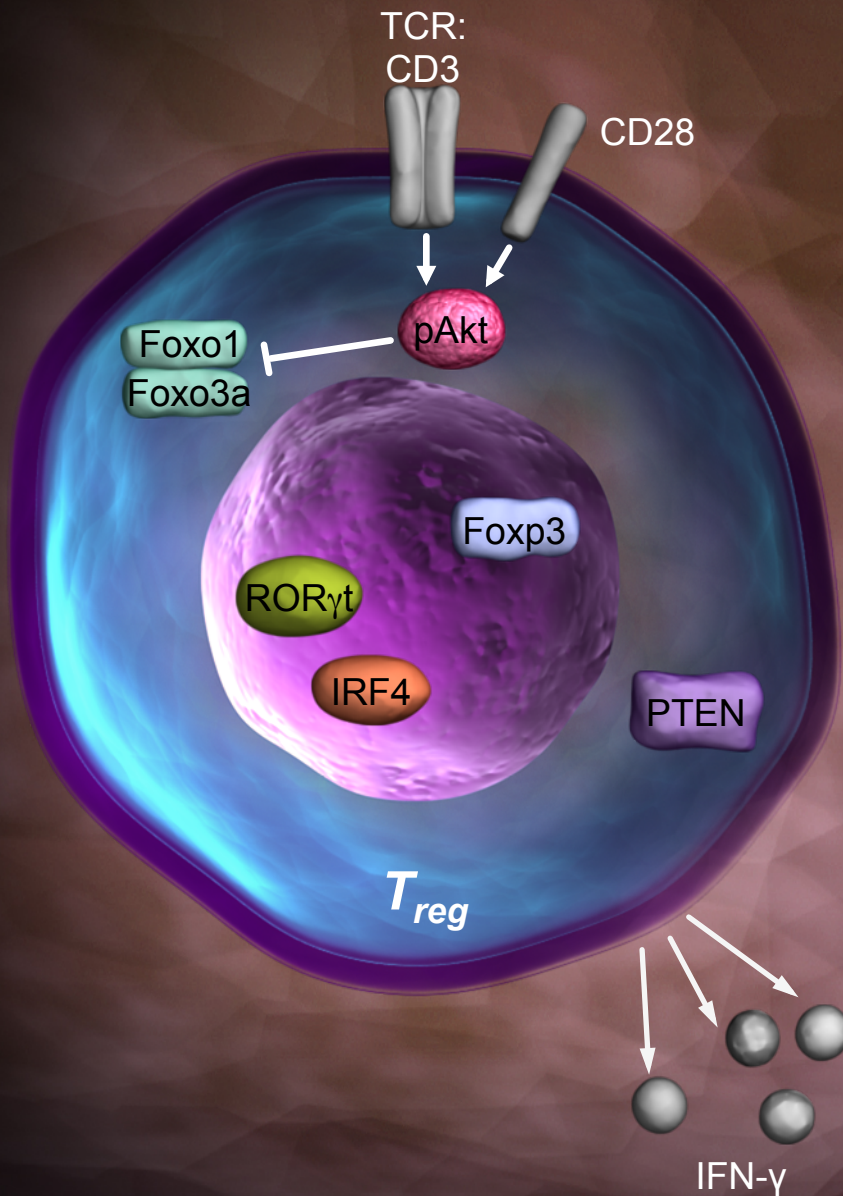
- Prophylactic reduction in tumor growth with anti-Nrp1 and anti-Sema4a.
- Prophylactic reduction in tumor growth with Sema4a-Ig.
- Therapeutic reduction in tumor growth with anti-Nrp1.

# Potential of $T_{reg}$ stability and function via an Nrp1:Sema4a axis





# Potentialiation of $T_{reg}$ stability and function via an Nrp1:Sema4a axis



❖ Nrp1 ligation by Sema 4a enforces  $T_{reg}$  stability and function in inflammatory sites, but is dispensable for the maintenance of immune homeostasis.

❖ Nrp1 may be a viable therapeutic target to limit  $T_{reg}$  function.