



Elderly Immunisation and Immunosenescence

Strategies for developing new influenza vaccines with enhanced protection in older adults

Janet E. McElhaney, MD, FRCPC, FACP
HSN Volunteer Association Chair in Healthy Aging
VP Research and Scientific Director
Health Sciences North Research Institute
Professor, Northern Ontario School of Medicine
Sudbury, Ontario, Canada

Presenter Disclosure

- I have relationships with commercial interests
 - Advisory Boards – GSK, Pfizer, Sanofi
 - Clinical Trials – GSK, Sanofi
 - Speaker Honoraria – Pfizer, Merck

Acknowledgements

Health Sciences North
Research Institute

Janet McElhaney
Amanda Axler

Beth Gentleman

Kamran Haq

Shahzma Merani

Arun Kumar

Haydeh Behzad (UBC)



UConn Center on Aging,
U Conn School of Medicine

George Kuchel

Laura Haynes

Xin Zhou

Nancy Dean

Lisa Kenyon-Pesce

Sandy Jastrzebski



National Institutes
of Health

Funding:

NIH R01 AG048023

NIH P01 AG021600

NIH R01 AI068265

NIH U01 AI074449

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation

UMass Medical Center

Susan Swain

University of Tuebingen

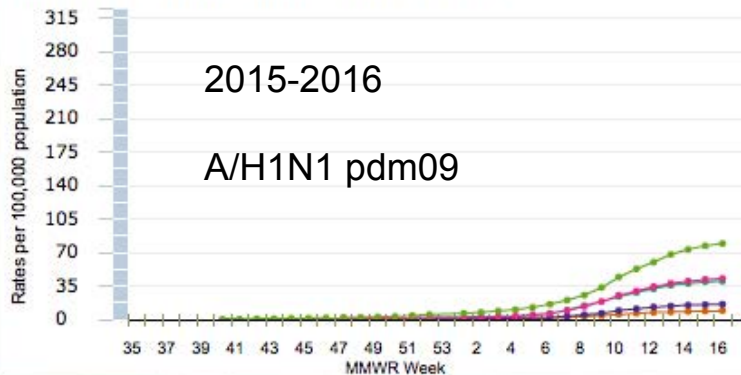
Graham Pawelec

Evelyna Derhovanessian

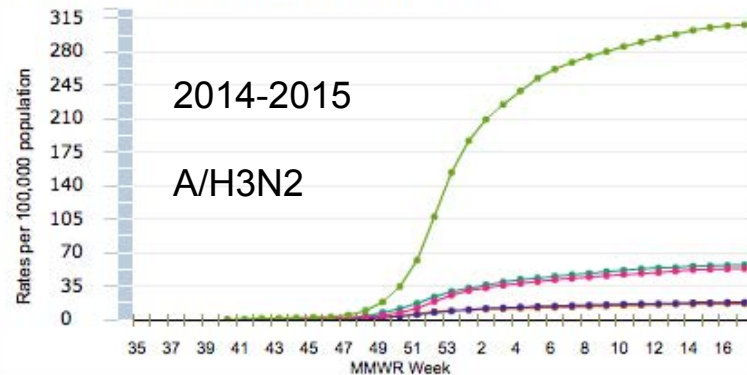
Overview:

- 1) Influenza as a barometer of health in older people is the single most vaccine preventable disease and vaccination programs are cost-saving.
Why is influenza still a serious illness?
- 2) Strain-specific antibody titres become poor predictors of vaccine failure with aging. *How do we account for the effects of frailty on humoral and cell mediated immune response to influenza vaccination?*
- 3) CD8 T cell responses show that greatest functional decline with aging. *How can we recapitulate through vaccination, the ability of aged memory CD8 T cells to respond to natural influenza infection?*

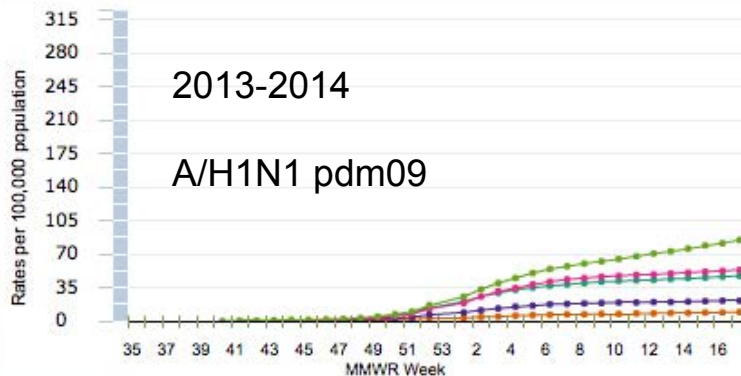
FluSurv-NET :: Entire Network :: 2015-16 Season



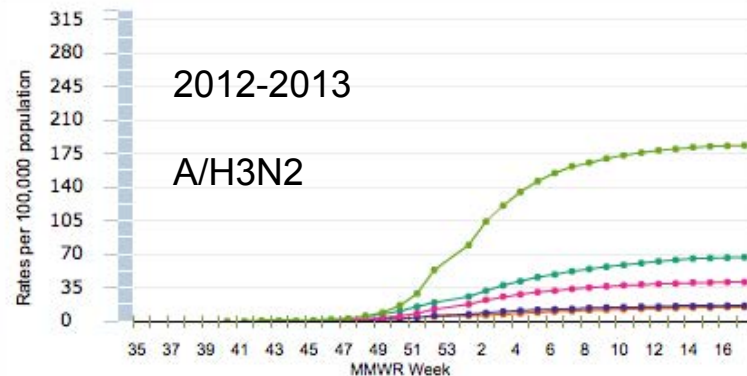
FluSurv-NET :: Entire Network :: 2014-15 Season



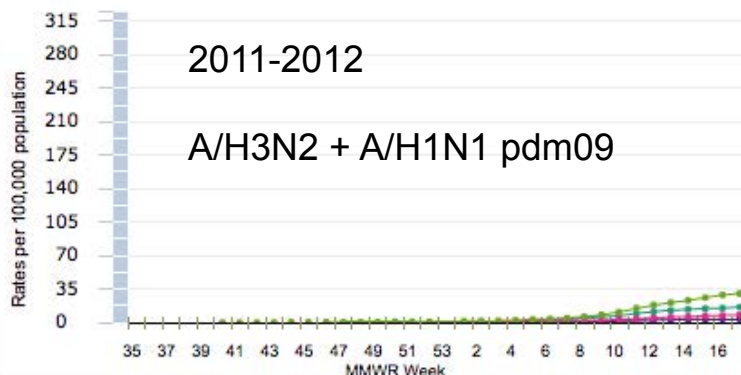
FluSurv-NET :: Entire Network :: 2013-14 Season



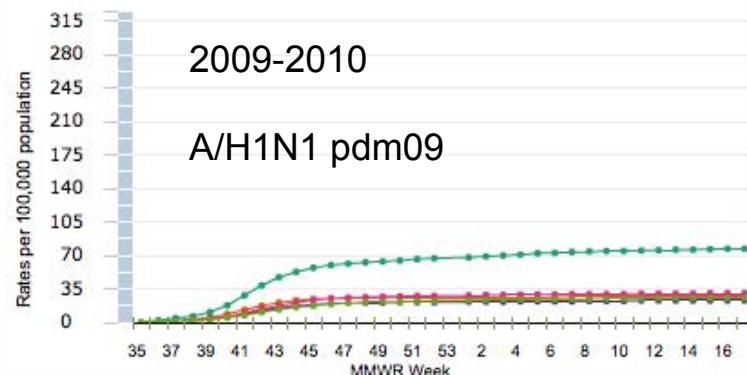
FluSurv-NET :: Entire Network :: 2012-13 Season



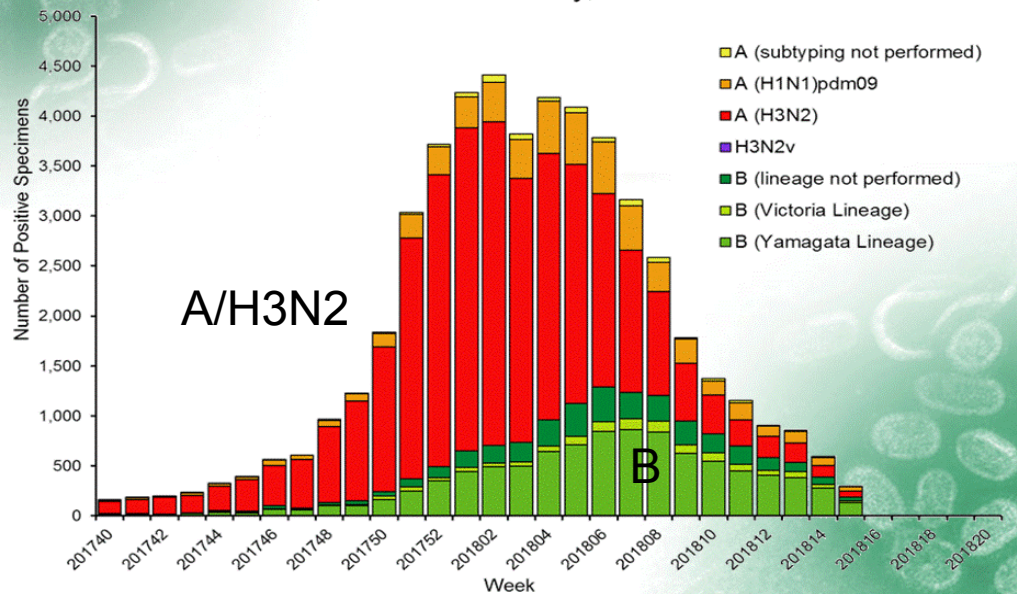
FluSurv-NET :: Entire Network :: 2011-12 Season



FluSurv-NET :: Entire Network :: 2009-10 Season



Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Public Health Laboratories, National Summary, 2017-2018 Season



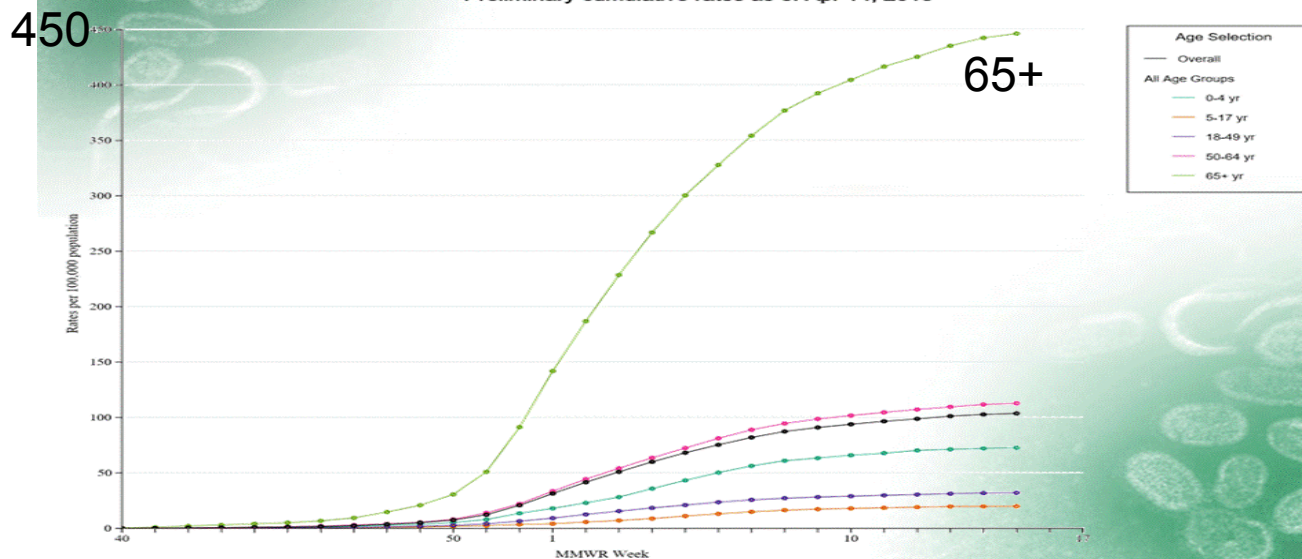
2017-18 Influenza Season



A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division

Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Hospitalizations

Preliminary cumulative rates as of Apr 14, 2018



Influenza A/H3N2 remains the greatest challenge to developing more effective vaccines in older adults

Incidence of serious outcomes of influenza ↑

90% of influenza deaths occur in older people

For every influenza death, there are 3–4 influenza hospitalization

greatest impact when A/H3N2 strains circulate

Response to vaccination ↓

CURRENT INFLUENZA VACCINE

Efficacy is 70–90% in preventing respiratory illness in healthy adults and only 30–40% in older people **particularly for H3N2 strains**

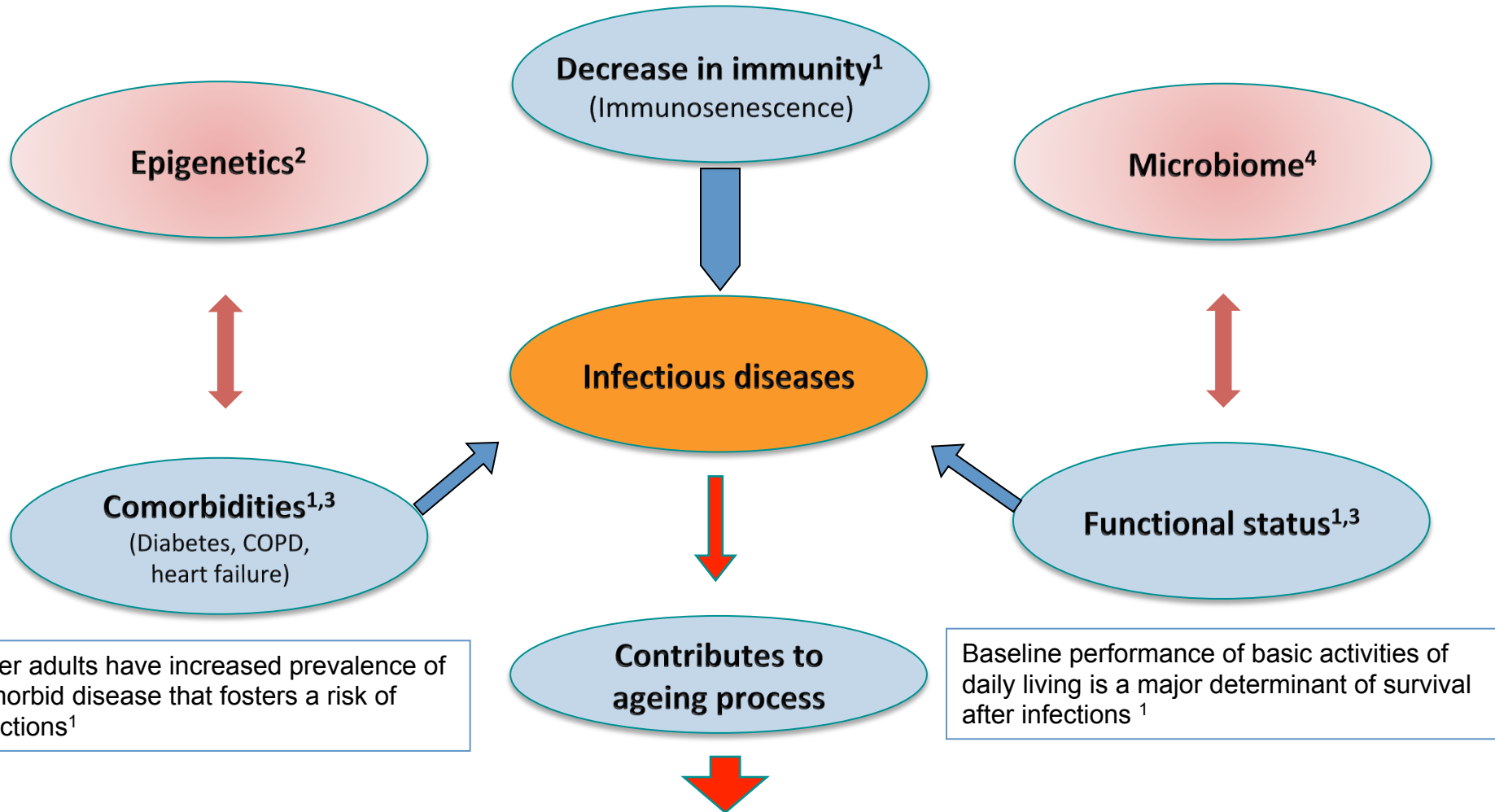
BUT are cost-saving –

mainly due to the prevention of A/H3N2 hospitalization

indicates a clear margin for improvement

in protection against A/H3N2

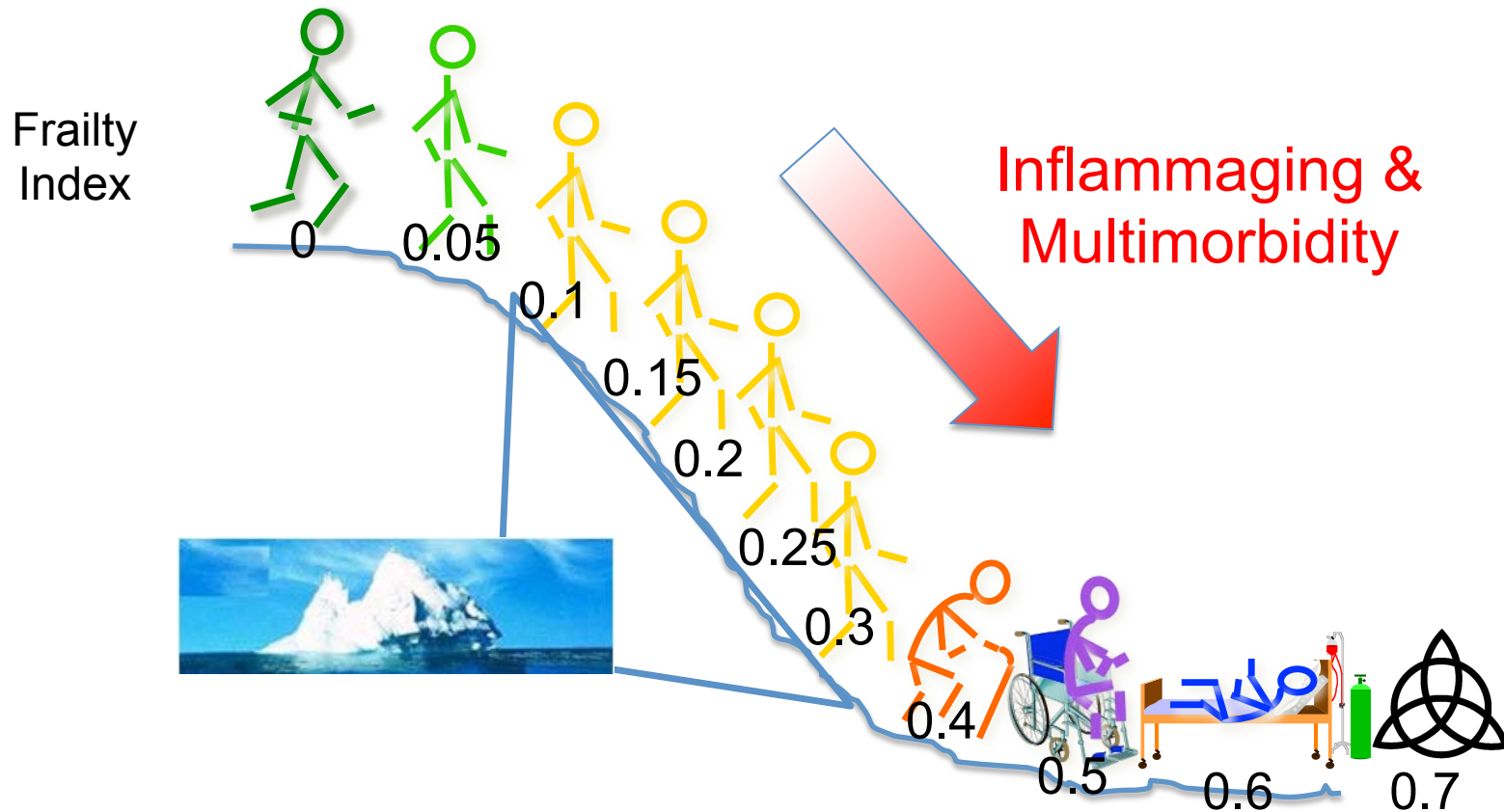
Older adults have increasing susceptibility to pneumonia and influenza



Frailty Index > dynamic accumulation of biopsychosocial deficits²

1. High KP, Bradley S, Loeb M, et al. Clin Infect Dis. 2005; 40:114–22.
2. CMAJ August14;189:E1043-5, 2017 (Indian Residential School diets and current patterns of diabetes)
3. Rockwood et al., J Am Geriatr Soc. 2010 Feb;58(2):318-23
4. Meehan et al., Interdiscip Top Gerontol Geriatr. 2015;41:54-65..

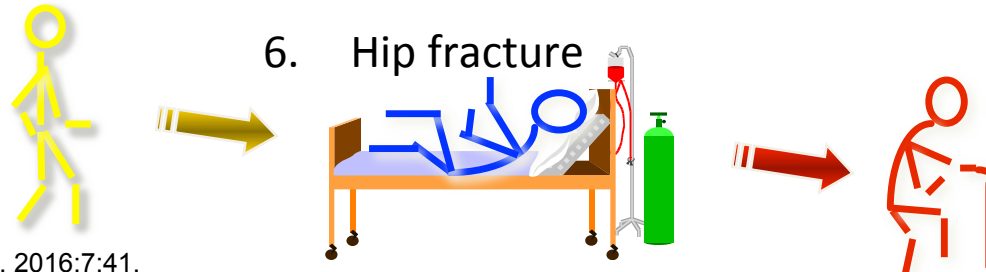
Vaccine-mediated resilience to influenza with aging



Vaccine Preventable Disability¹

Catastrophic disability

- Defined as a loss of independence in **≥ 3 basic** Activities of Daily Living²
- **15%** of older adults hospitalized with influenza **experience catastrophic disability**³
- Dysregulated immune responses are the ‘geriatric giant’ of chronic diseases: influenza wakes the giant **increasing the risk of catastrophic disability**² with:
 1. Strokes
 2. CHF
 3. Pneumonia and influenza^{4,5}
 4. Ischemic heart disease
 5. Cancer
 6. Hip fracture



¹ McElhaney JE et al. Front Immunol. 2016;7:41.

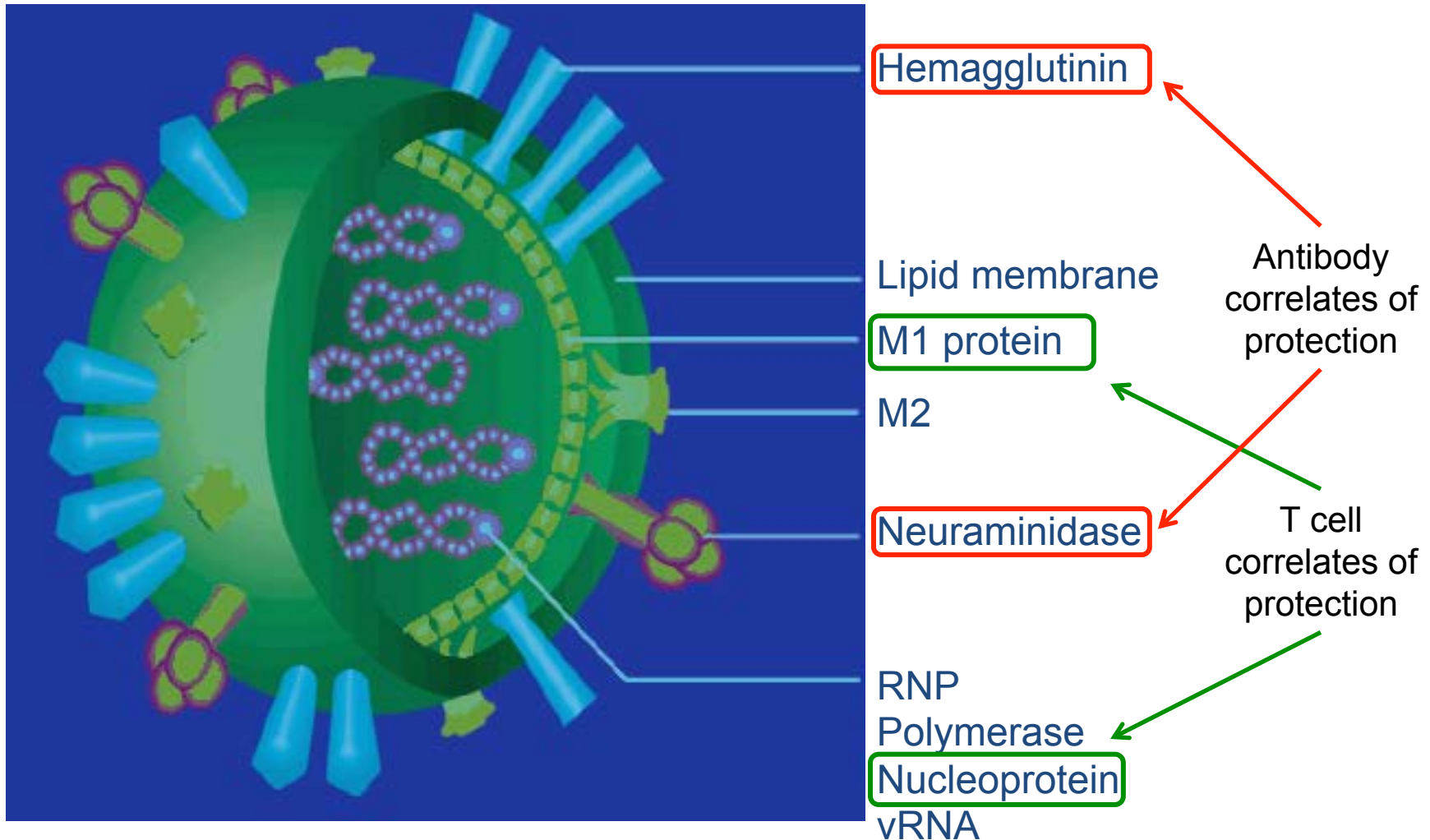
² Ferrucci et al. JAMA 1997;277:728.

³ Andrews MK et al. Canadian Immunization Conference. 12/7/2016.

⁴ Barker et al. Arch Int Med 1998;158:645.

⁵ Falsey et al. N Engl J Med. 2005;352:1749.

Why do A/H3N2 strains have greatest impact in older adults?

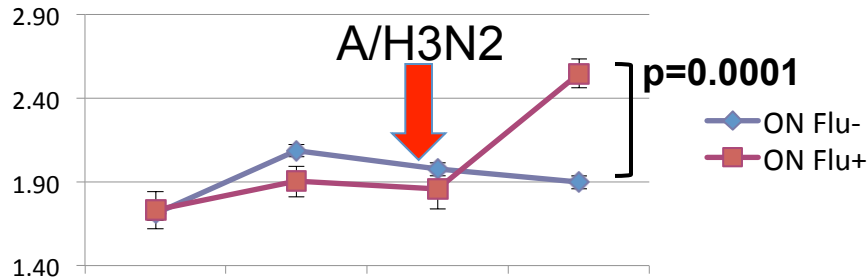


Opportunities for developing new Influenza vaccines for older adults

- Antibody titers against influenza (hemagglutination inhibition assay) measures protection through sterilizing immunity
- Childhood exposure to different subtypes of influenza alters the antibody response to influenza vaccination later in life
- Age-related decline in the antibody response to influenza vaccination is an effect of repeat vaccination (not age)
- Frailty increases with age as we accumulate social, physical and cognitive deficits and contributes to “inflammaging”
- Frailty indices predict survival better than age and can be used as a single variable to measure of overall health status

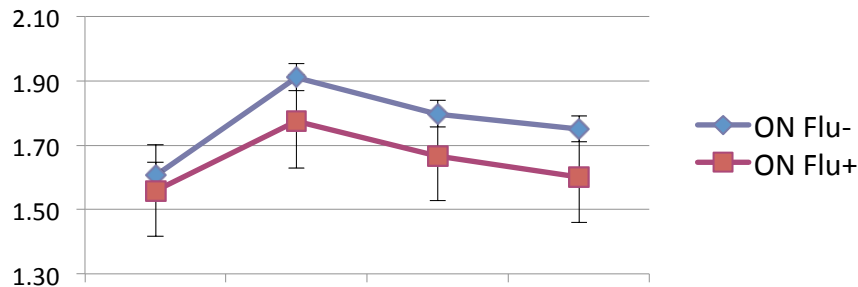
Antibody responses as correlates of protection

Log Titer for H3N2 Strain



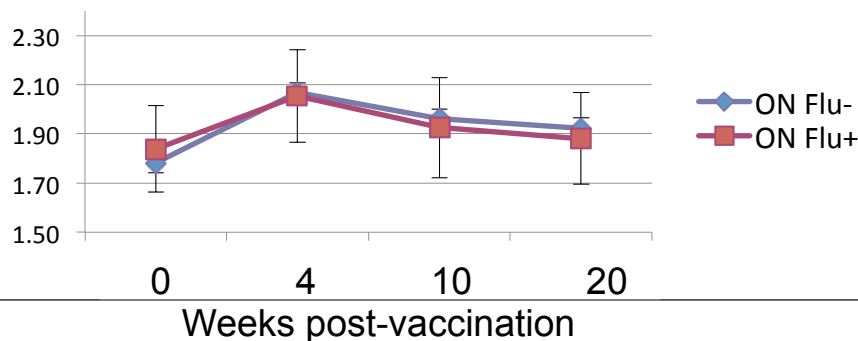
H3N2-specific antibody responses as correlates of protection in older adults *may not predict vaccine failure*

Log Titer for H1N1 Strain



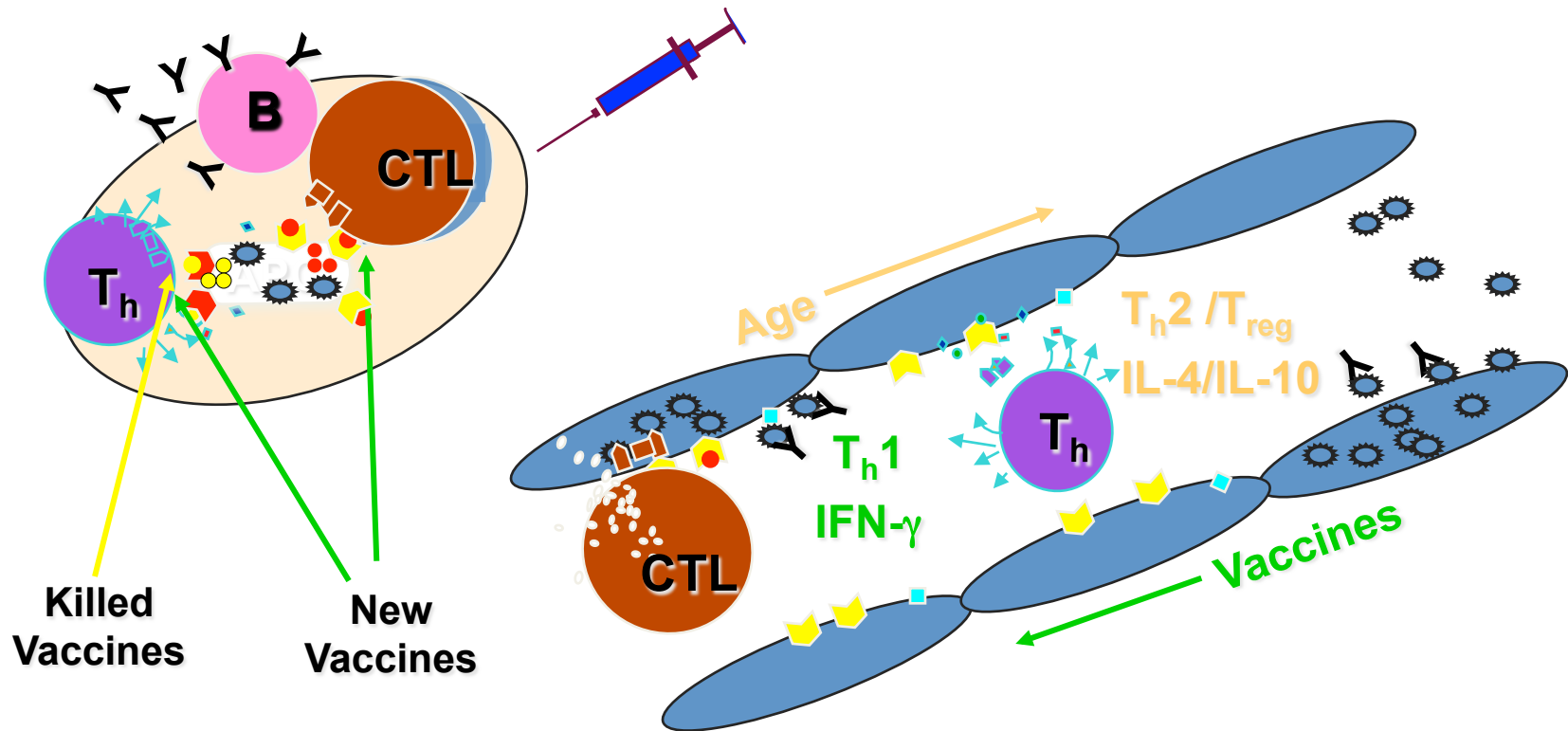
H1N1-specific antibody responses as correlates of protection in older adults may be the ability to recall antibody responses from *childhood priming*

Log Titer for B Strain



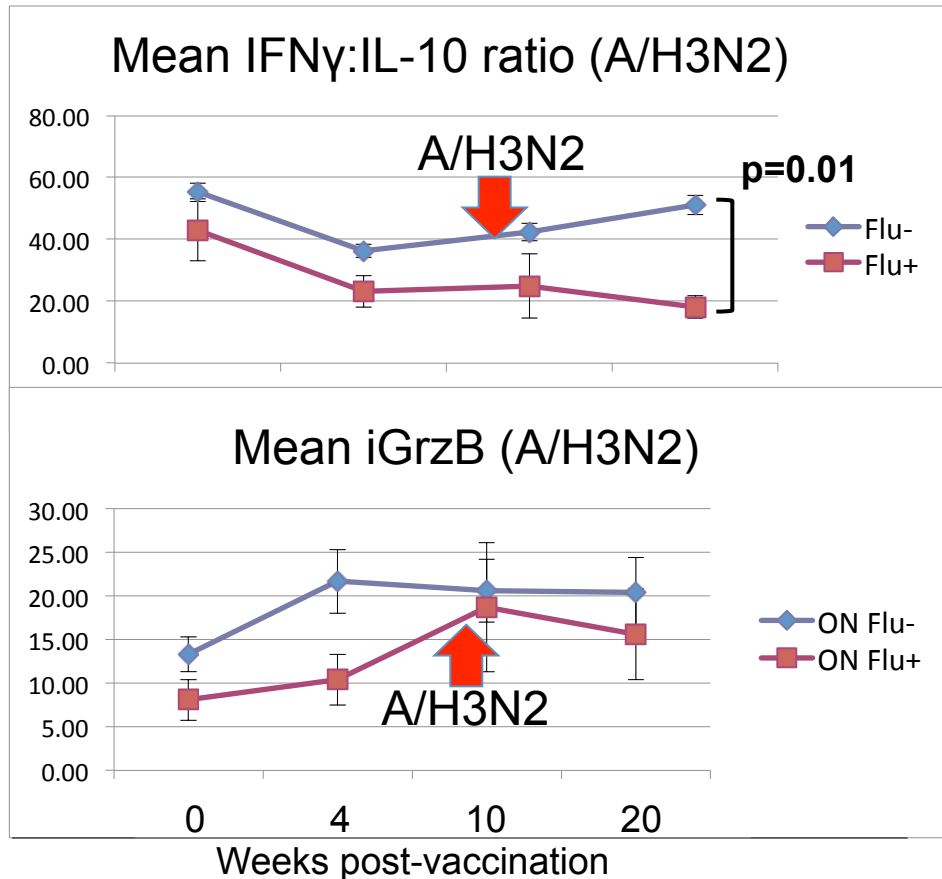
Flu B-specific immune responses as correlates of protection have *no shared epitopes* with Flu A

Targeting Immune Responses: Developing more effective influenza vaccines for older adults



T cell correlates of protection: IFN γ :IL-10 ratio and iGrzB

Ex vivo challenge with A/H3N2



IFN γ :IL-10 ratio response to influenza predicts protection
NOT IFN γ alone in older adults
(McElhaney et al. J Immunol 2006, McElhaney et al. Vaccine 2009)

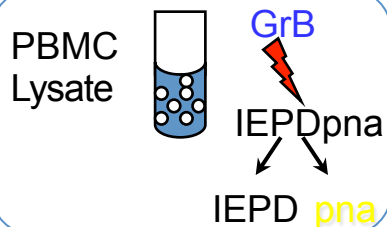
Poor GrB responders to influenza vaccination predicts \uparrow risk of influenza infection
(McElhaney et al. J Immunol 2006, McElhaney et al. Vaccine 2009)

AND

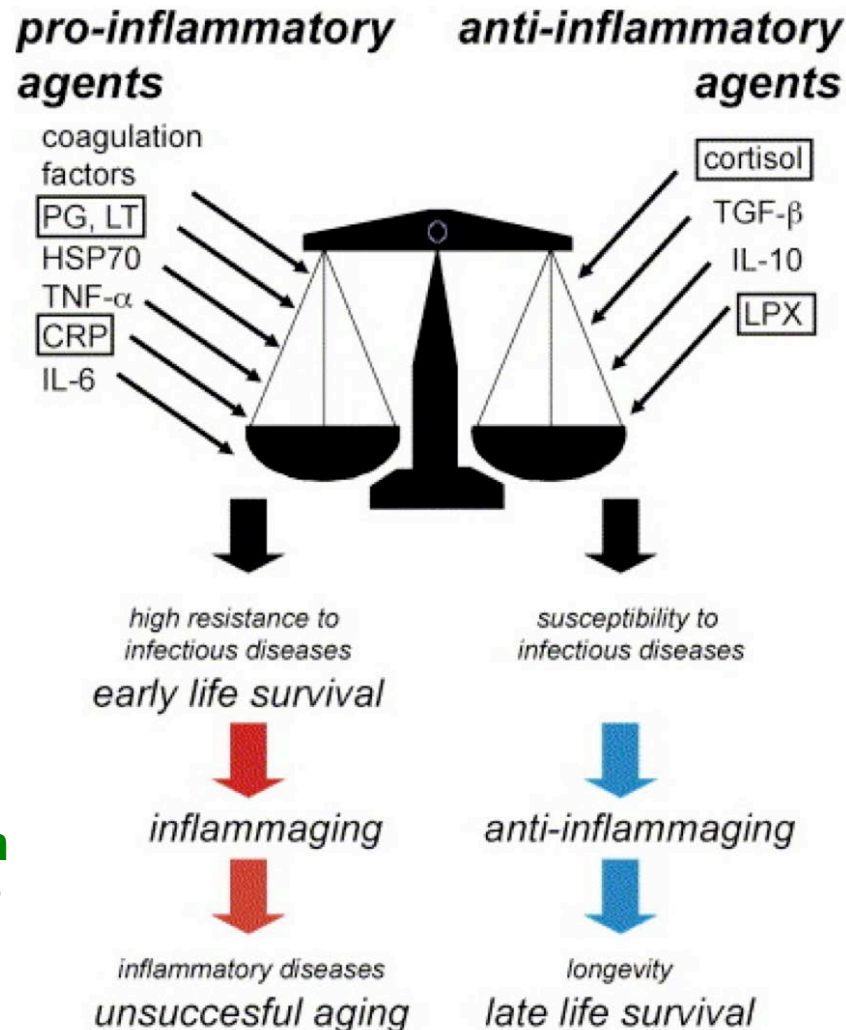
illness severity correlates with IFN γ :IL-10 ratio & GrB ($r = -.99$)
(Shahid et al. Vaccine 28:6145-51, 2010)

BUT

can respond to influenza infection



Healthy Aging: The Balance



**Stimulates
T cell responses**

but

**Do we press down
on the gas pedal?**

**Suppresses
T cell responses**

or

**Take our foot off
the brake?**

Figure 4 : Inverse correlation of crossreactive T cells and symptom score. Sridhar et al. Nat Med 19:1305-12, 2013.

IFN γ ⁺IL-2⁻ CD8 T cells (NP/M1) inversely correlate with pH1N1 illness symptoms in young adults

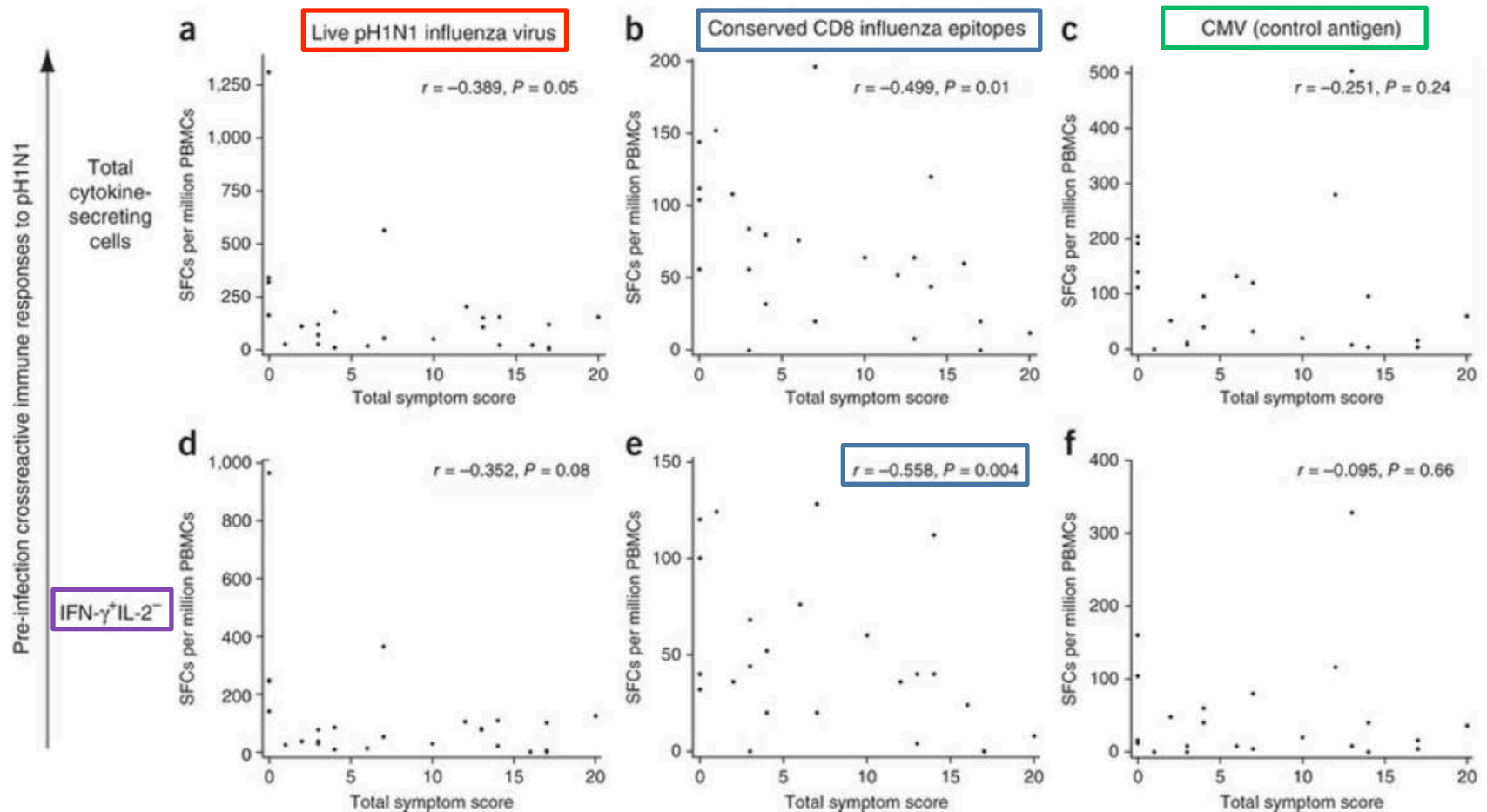
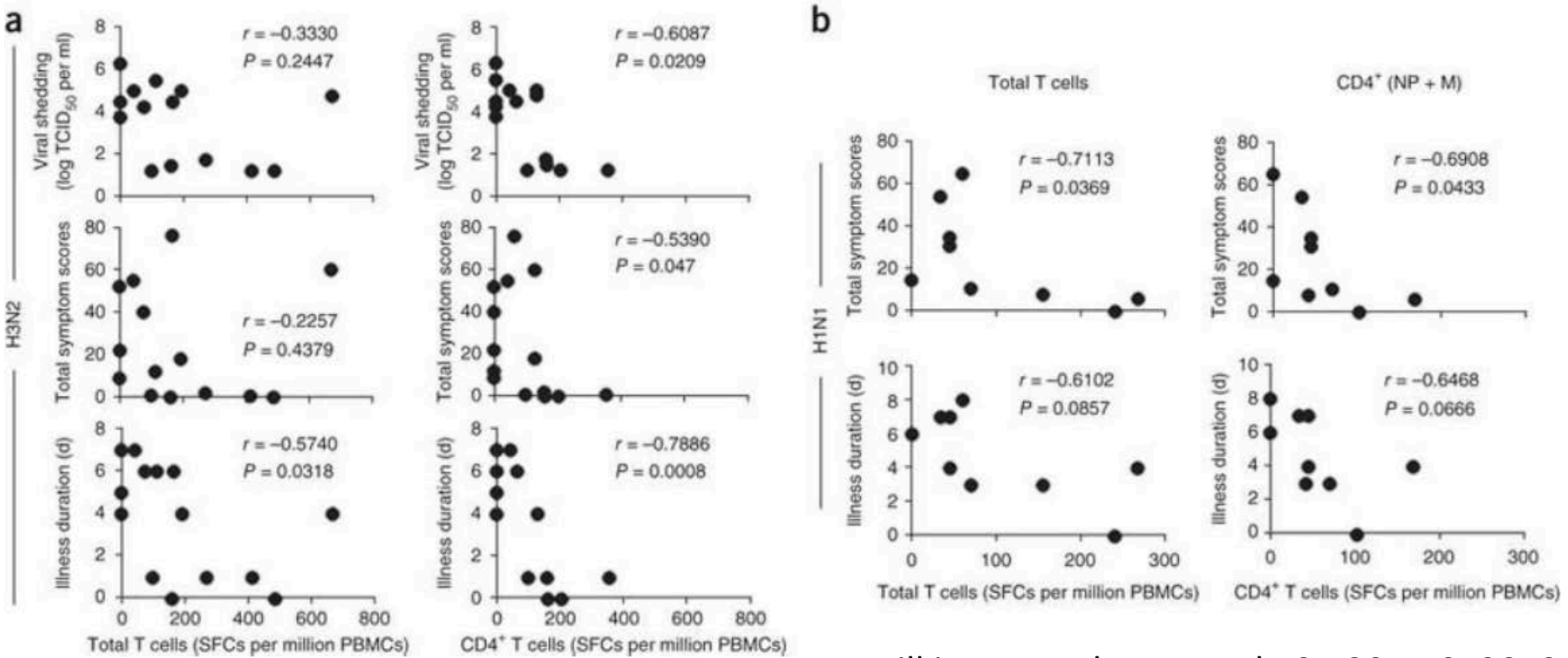
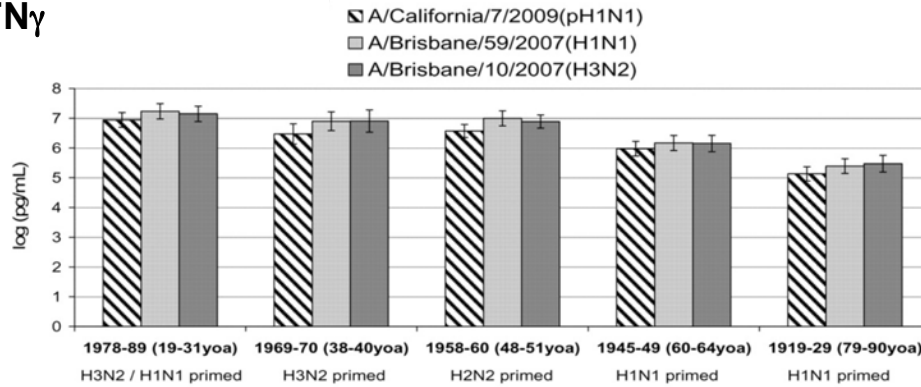


Figure 3 : T cell responses and illness severity.

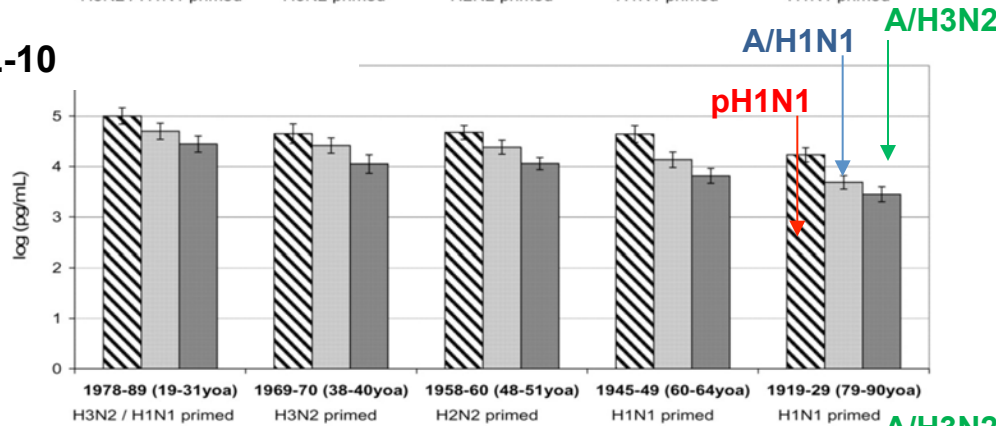
IFN γ ⁺ CD4 T cells (NP/M1) inversely correlate with A/H1N1 & A/H3N2 illness symptoms in young adults



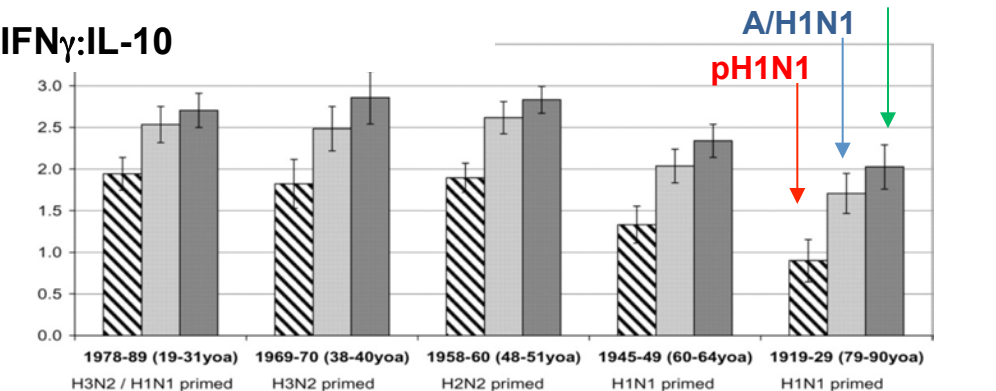
IFN γ



IL-10



IFN γ :IL-10



NOTE. yoa = years of age.

19-31

38-40

48-51

60-64

79-90

Age Cohort (years old)

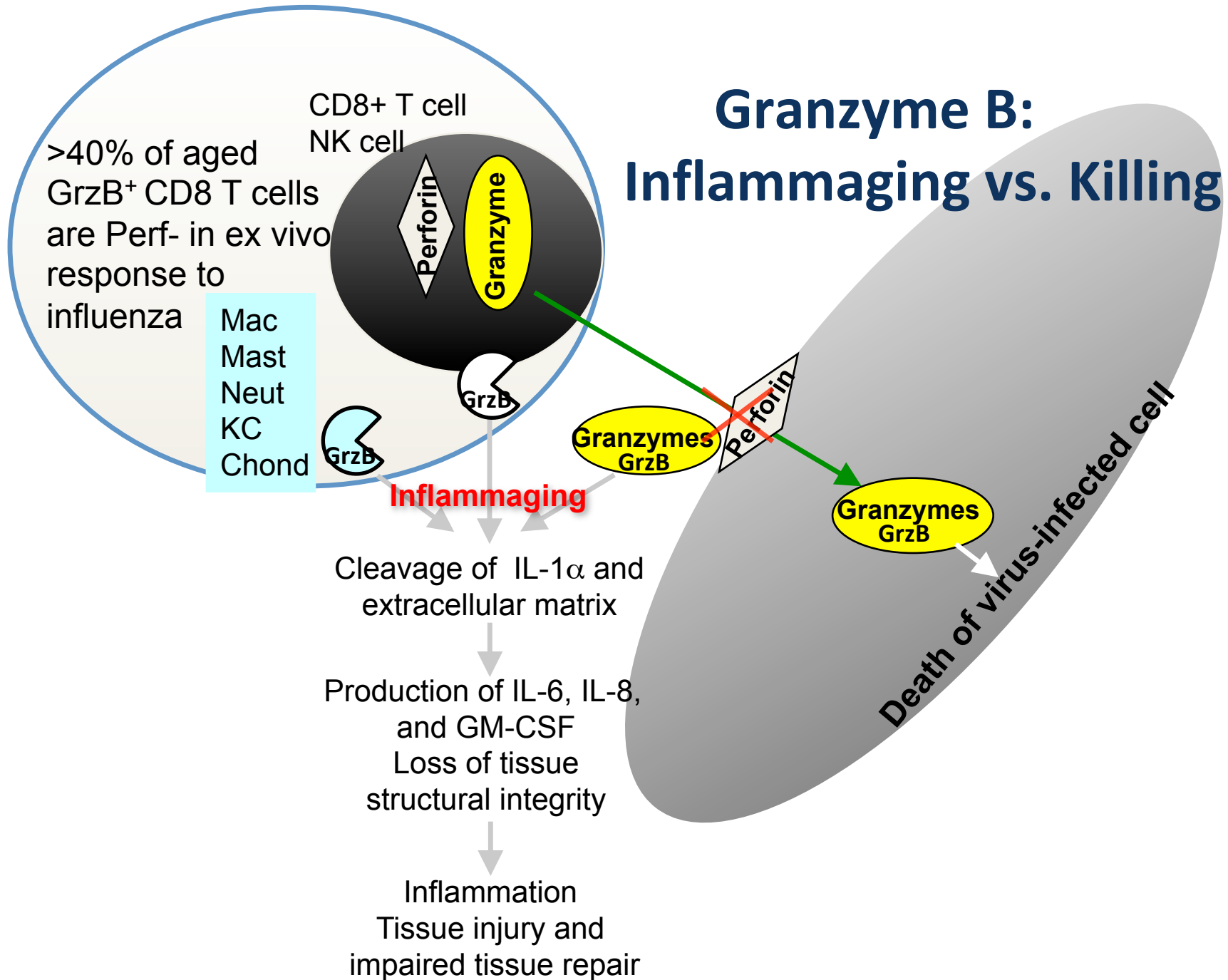
Childhood priming does **not** affect IFN γ or IL-10 responses to H1N1 or H3N2 challenge

Aging effect is associated with a decline in IFN γ *independent* of H1N1 or H3N2 challenge

Aging effect on childhood priming is associated with an increase in IL-10 response to H1N1 vs. H3N2 challenge

IFN γ :IL-10 ratio is a correlate of protection when antibodies fail to provide sterilizing immunity

Granzyme B: Inflammaging vs. Killing

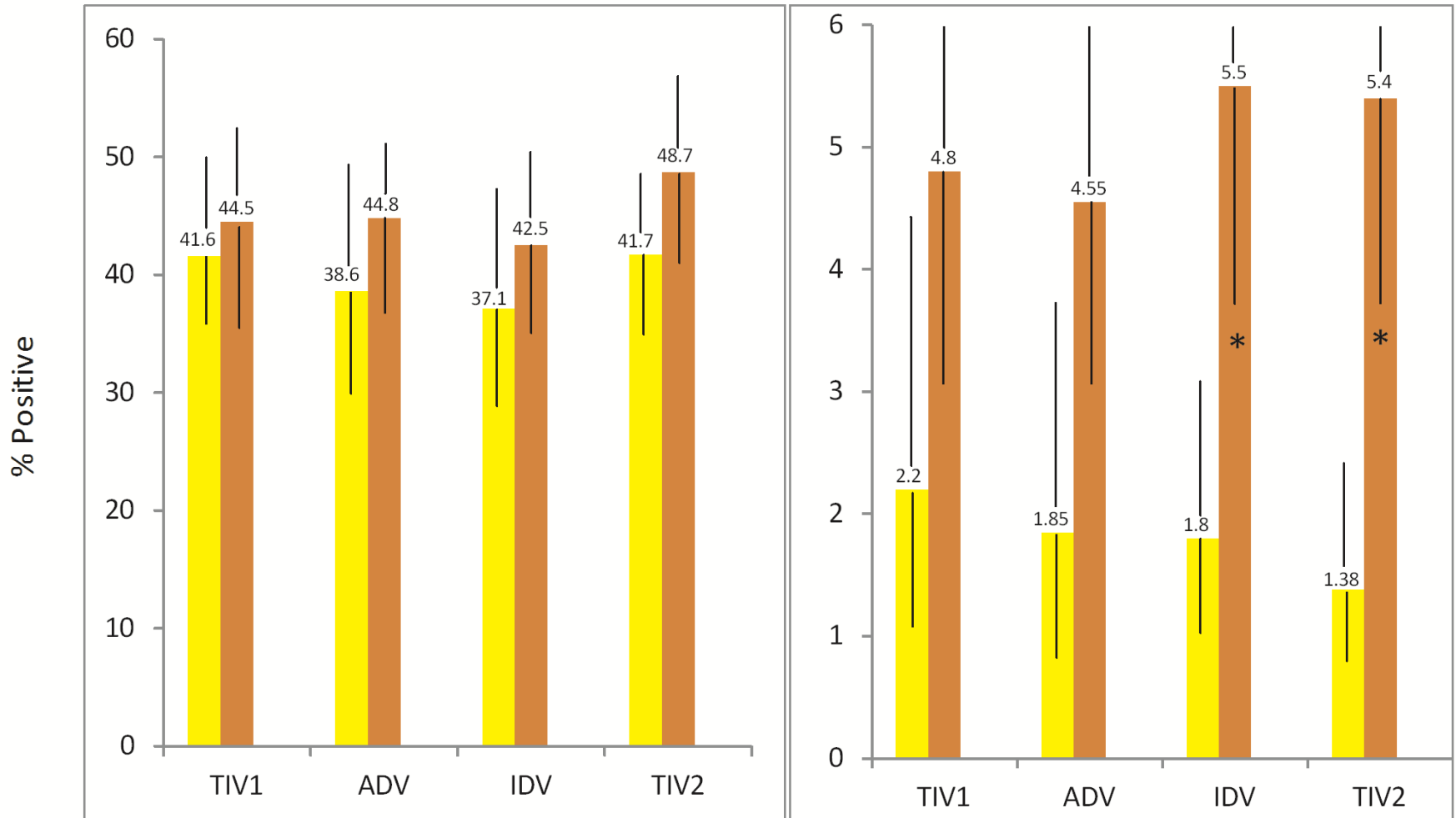


Randomized trial of 4 Subunit Influenza Vaccines

Panel A: Granzyme B⁺ CD8⁺ cells

Panel B: Granzyme B⁺ CD4⁺ cells

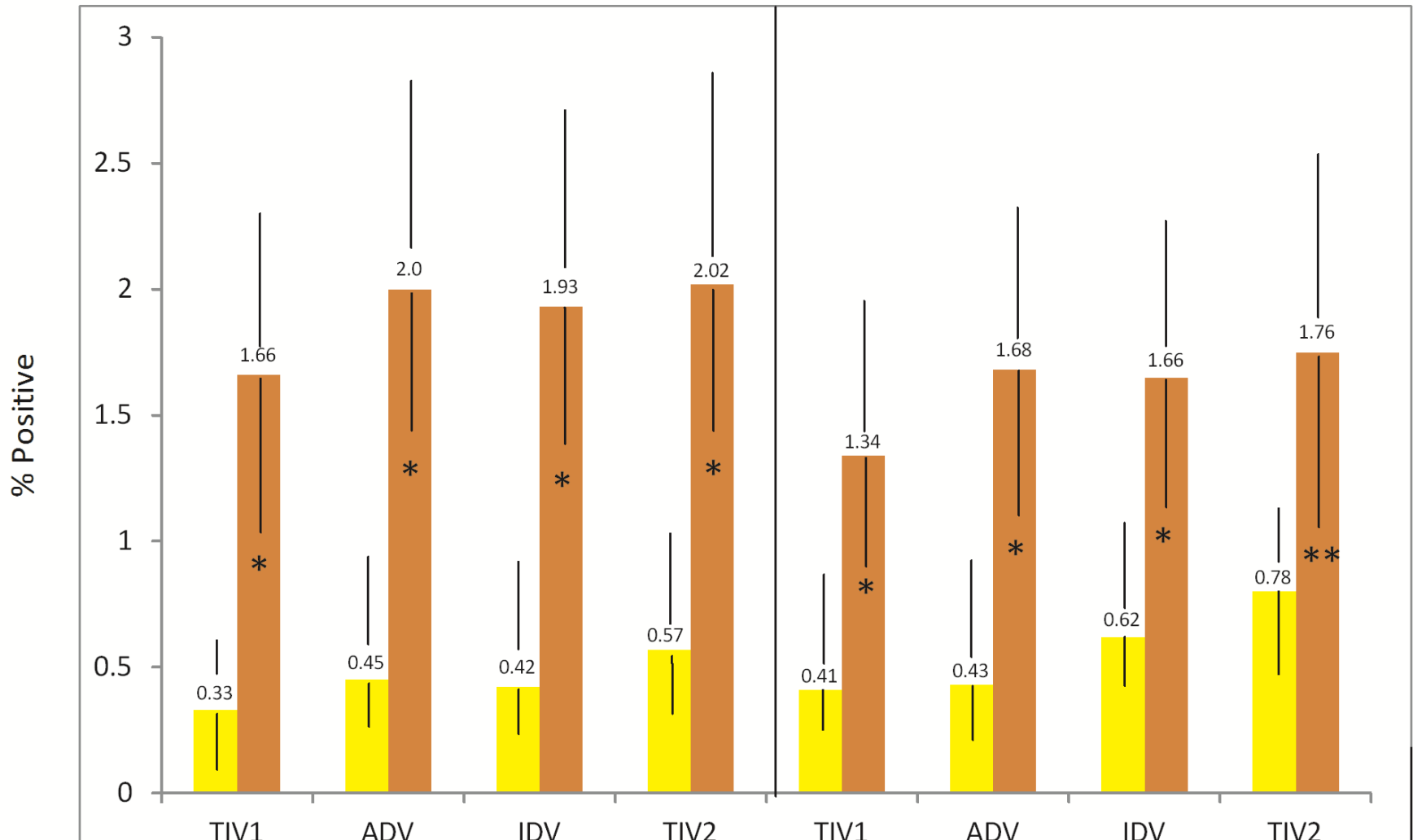
%Granzyme B⁺ CD8⁺ >>> %Granzyme B⁺ CD4⁺



Randomized trial of 4 Subunit Influenza Vaccines: %Perforin⁺ CD8⁺ = %Perforin⁺ Granzyme B⁺ CD8⁺

PANEL A: Perforin⁺ CD8⁺ cells

PANEL B: Perforin⁺ Granzyme B⁺ CD8⁺



bGrB activity correlates with frequency of late differentiated CD8⁺ T cell subsets

CD8 ⁺ T cell subset	CD8 ⁺ T cell phenotype	Pearson Correlation (r)	p value
Total CD8 ⁺ T cells	CD3 ⁺ CD8 ⁺	0.601	.001
Late or terminally differentiated CD8 ⁺ T cells	CD8 ⁺ CD57 ⁺	0.586	.001
	CD8 ⁺ KLRG1 ⁺	0.555	.002
	CD8 ⁺ /CD45RA ⁺ CCR7 ⁻ CD27 ⁻ CD28 ⁻	0.553	.002
Memory T cells	CD8 ⁺ /CD28 ⁺	-0.579	.001
	CD8 ⁺ /CD45RA ⁻ CCR7 ⁺ CD27 ⁺ CD28 ⁺	-0.476	.010
	CD8 ⁺ /CD45RA ⁻ CCR7 ⁻ CD27 ⁺ CD28 ⁺	-0.627	.0001

Granzymes – Beneficial, Pathogenic, or Both?



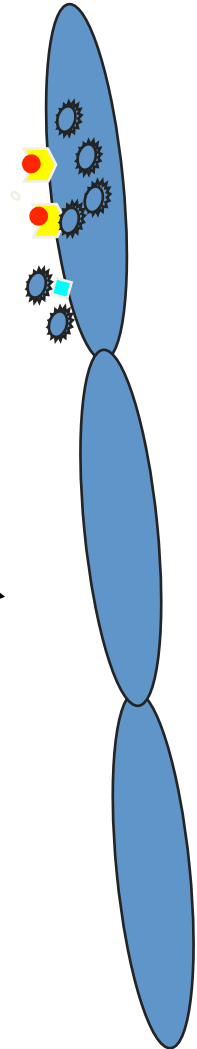
Good
(apoptosis)

Adjuvanted NP+M1
Influenza Vaccines

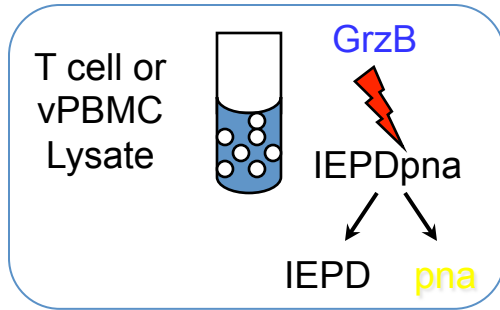
Cytomegalovirus
Age
Chronic Conditions



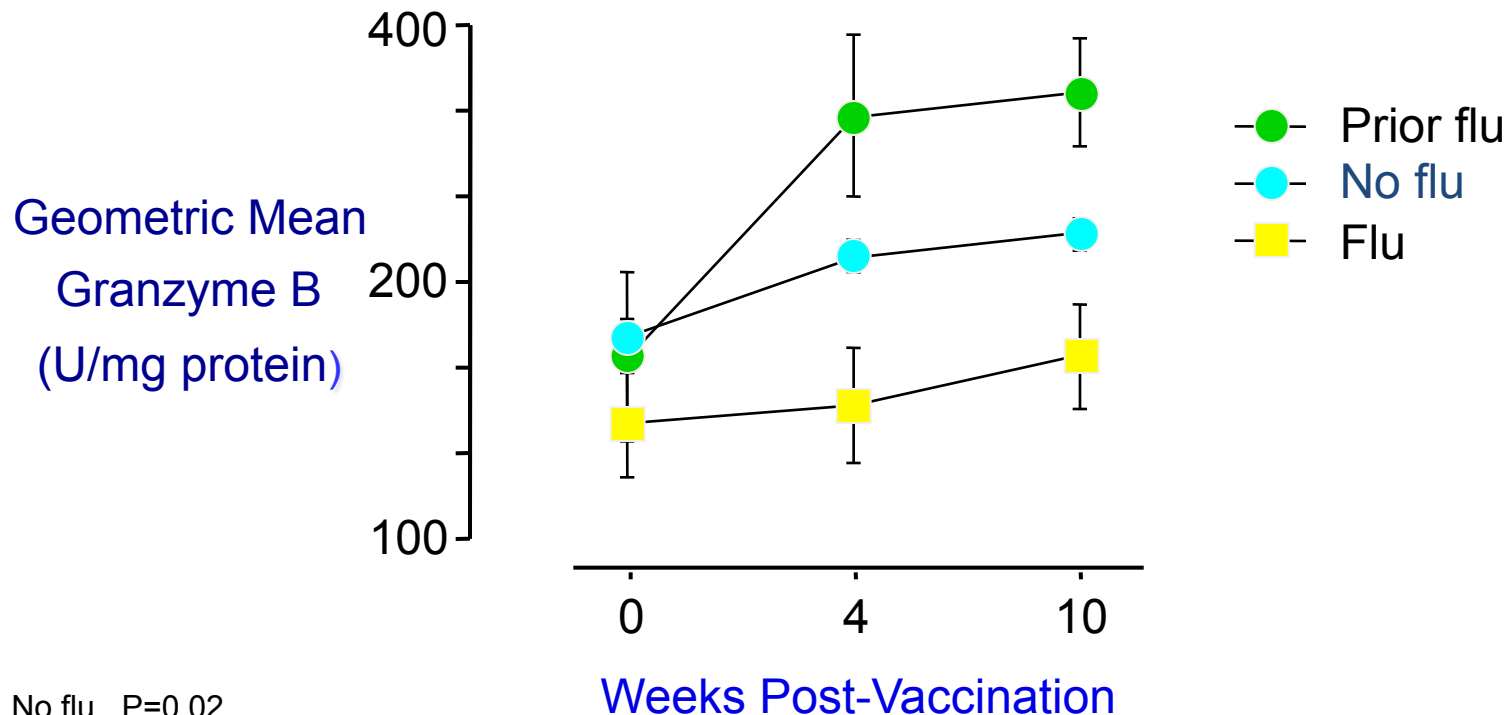
Bad
(extracellular, inflammation,
autoantigens, anoikis)



Correlate of protection: Granzyme B



Combined '03-'04 and '04-'05 Seasons
Influenza A/H3N2



Prior vs. No flu $P=0.02$

No flu vs. Flu $P=0.004$

SMWT, statins - significant at pre-vacc only

Error bar: std error

Relative Vaccine Efficacy of FLUZONE® High-Dose¹⁻³

Benefit demonstrated across age groups, influenza types, comorbidities, and frailty-associated conditions

PRIMARY ENDPOINT¹

24.2%
more efficacious*

HD (N=228) vs. SD (N=301)
(95% CI: 9.7; 36.5)

**Demonstrated SUPERIOR
EFFICACY against primary
endpoint compared to
FLUZONE® Standard Dose
Vaccine¹**

Similar to Vaccine Strains¹

35.4%
(95% CI: 12.5; 52.5)

65-74 Years of Age²

19.7%
(95% CI: 0.4; 35.4)

≥1 High-Risk Comorbidity²

22.1%
(95% CI: 3.9; 37.0)

Year 1³

45.3%
(95% CI: 6.9; 68.6)

Year 2³

20.7%
(95% CI: 4.4; 34.3)

75+ Years of Age²

32.4%
(95% CI: 8.1; 50.6)

1 Frailty-Associated Condition²

27.5%
(95% CI: 0.4; 47.4)

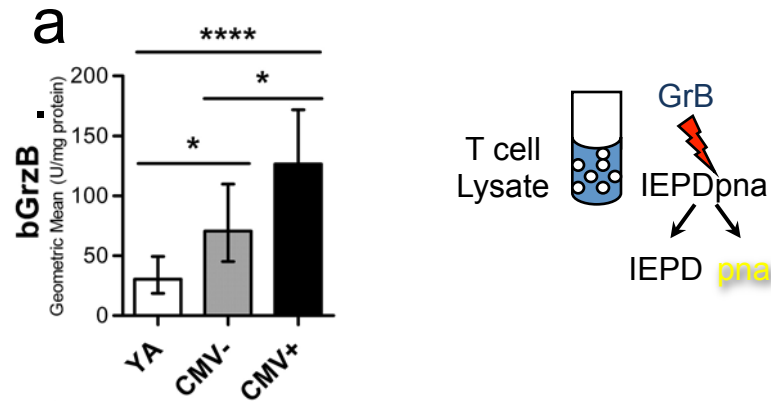
**against laboratory-confirmed influenza illness caused by any virus type or subtype in adults 65 years of age and older*

References:

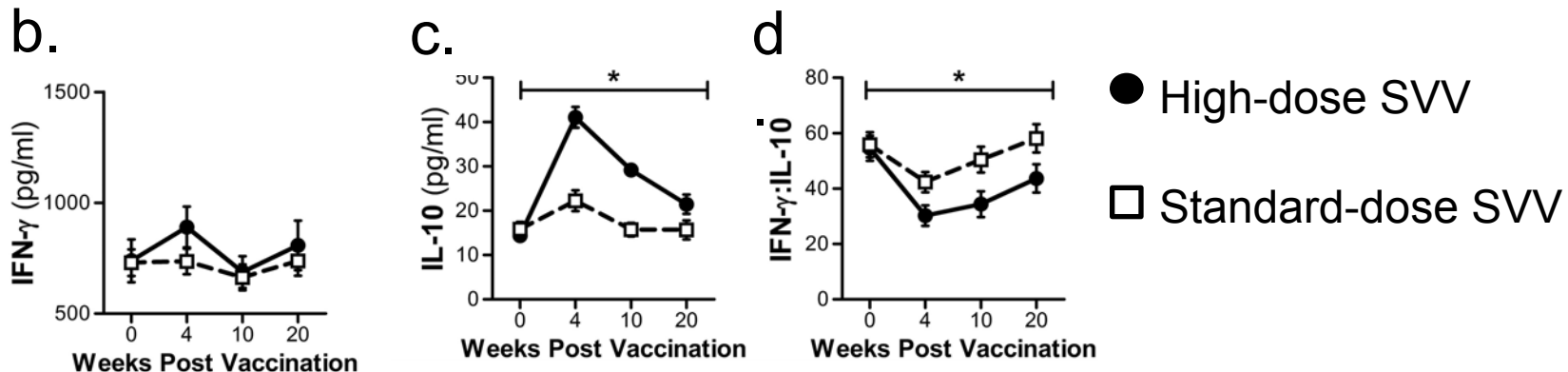
1. DiazGranados CA, et al. (2014). N Engl J Med, 371, 635-645.
2. DiazGranados CA, et al. (2015). Vaccine, 33, 4565-4571.
3. DiazGranados CA, et al. (2014). N Engl J Med, 371, supplementary appendix

T-cell responses to H3N2 challenge following HD vs. SD influenza vaccination in older adults

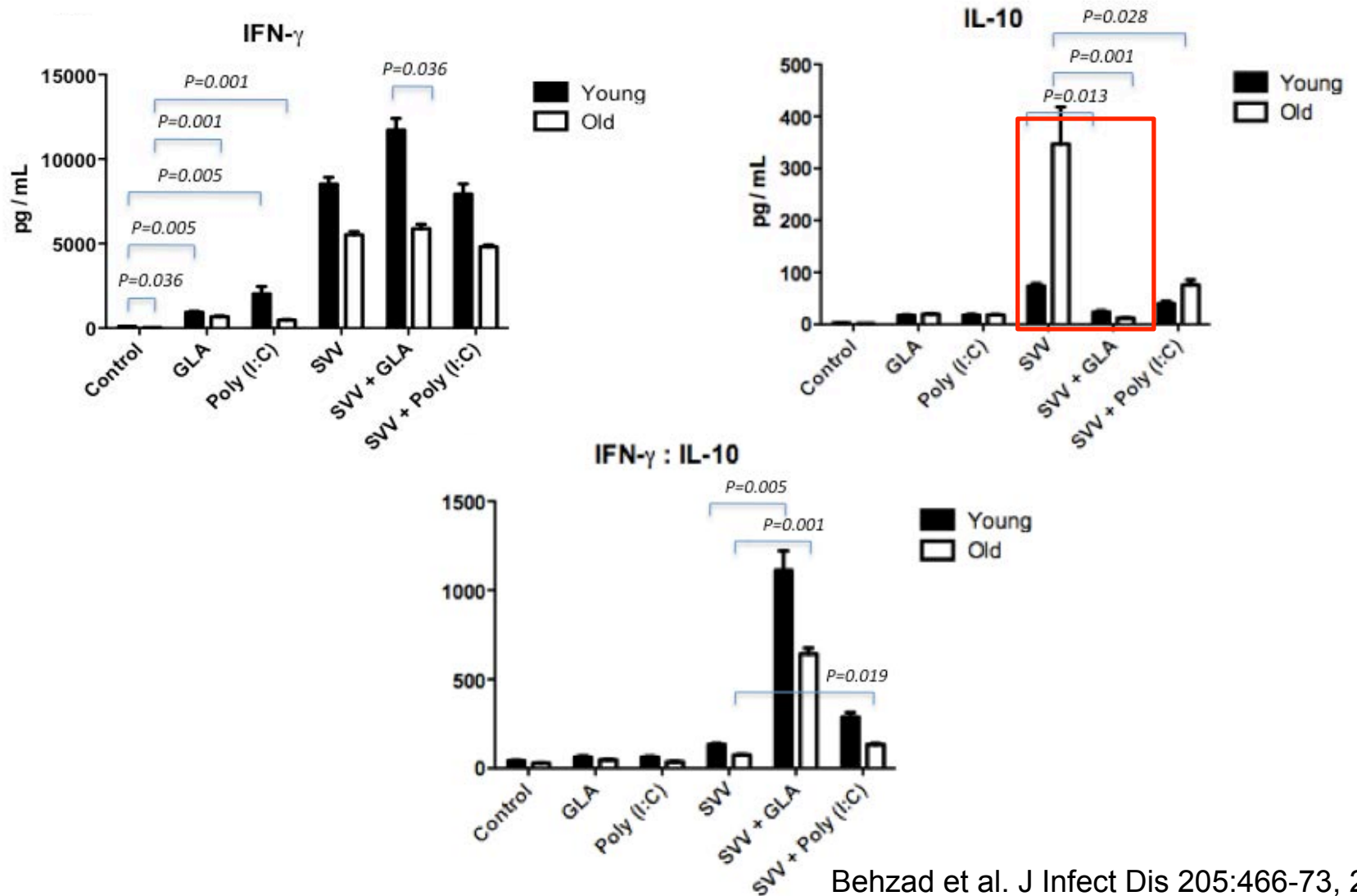
bGrB activity in resting T cells



Dysregulated $IFN\gamma$ and $IL-10$ responses are vaccine dose dependent

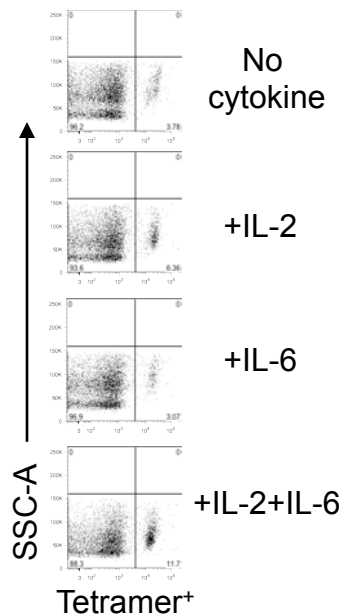


GLA-SE: Regulating Th1:Th2 response

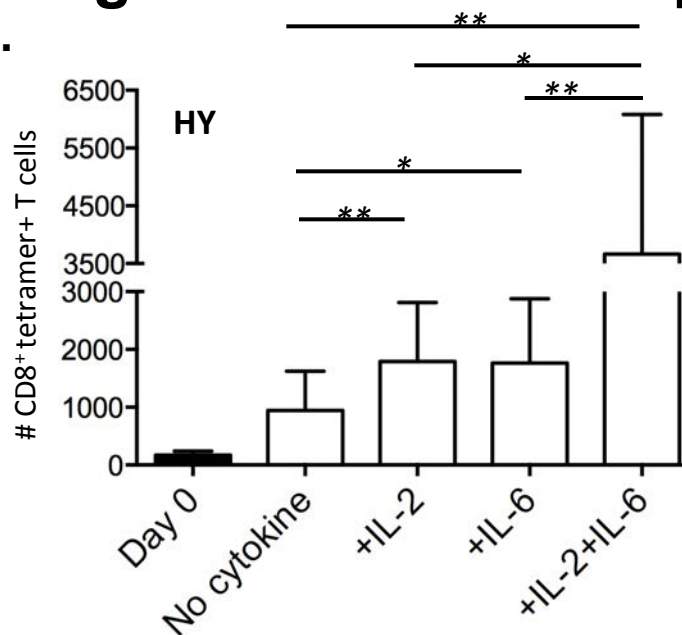


IL-2/IL-6 restores the aged CD8⁺ T cell response to influenza

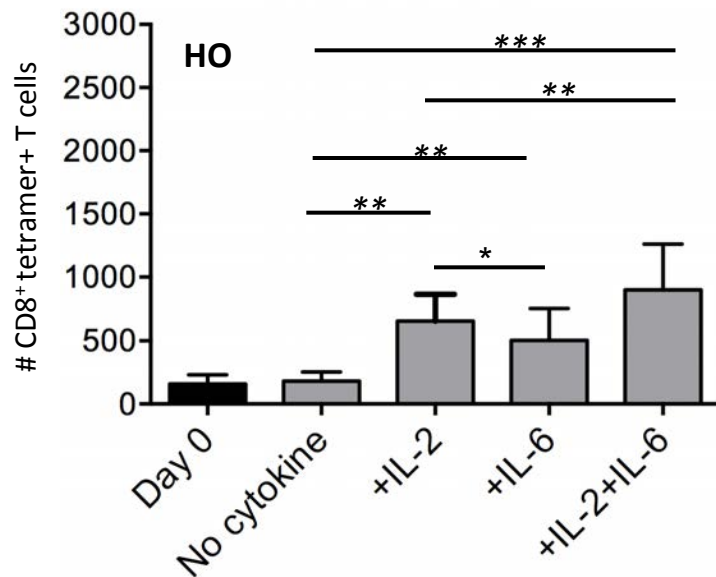
A.



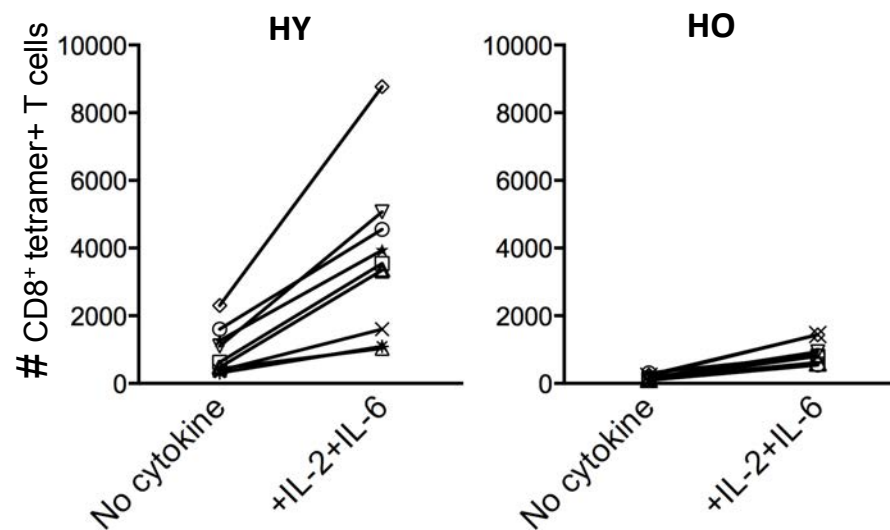
B.



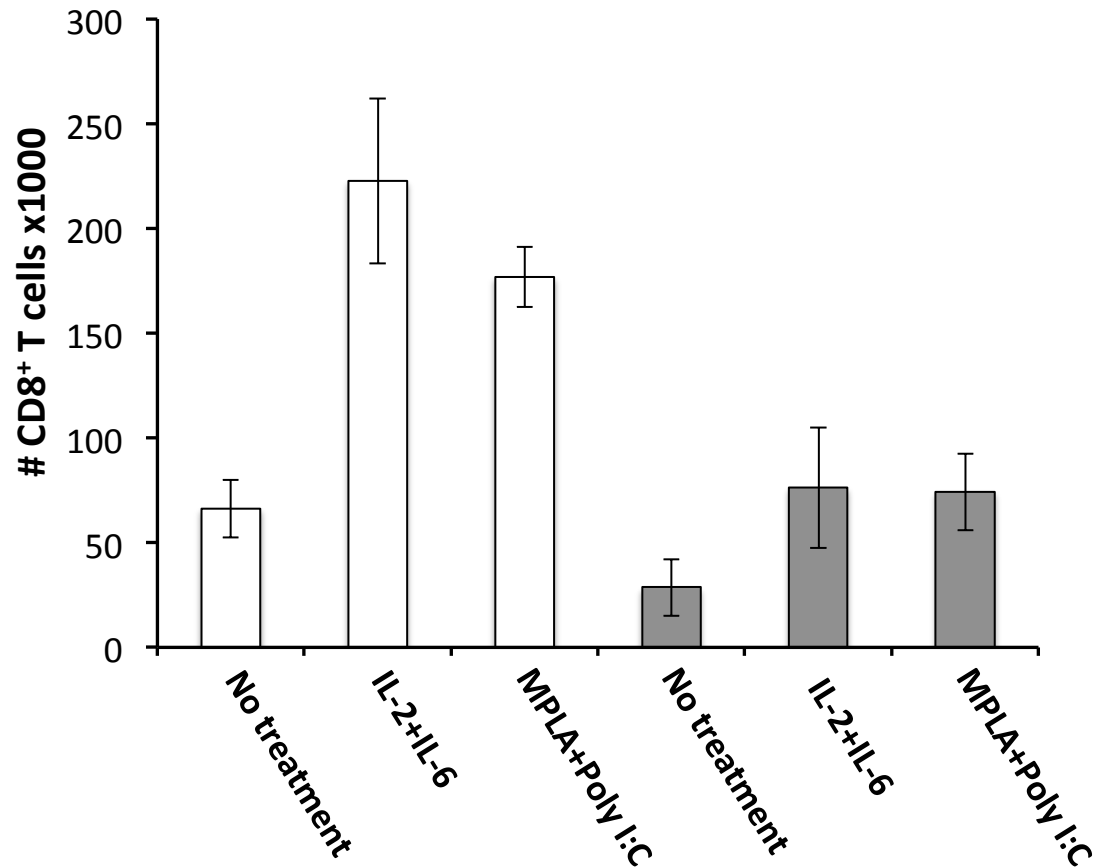
C.



D.



IL-2/IL-6 effect can be replicated with TLR3/4 ligand: CD8⁺ T cell response to influenza virus*



HY
HO

*unpublished

Summary

Resilience of aging immune system:
“Keeping your glass half full”

Why is influenza still a serious illness?

CD8+ CTL decline with aging. Dysregulated immune response to influenza challenge (but appears to be reversible).

How can we develop more effective influenza vaccines?

- *Vaccines that include M1 and NP*
- *TLR agonists stimulate mDC to produce IL-6, TNF- α , IL-1*
- *Suppress IL-10 production (?Treg) upon influenza challenge*

