

UNDERSTANDING THE INNATE IMMUNE RESPONSE IN VIRAL HEPATITIS: INTERFERONS AND NK CELLS

1. Differences in systemic endogenous IFN- λ 1-3 levels are not responsible for the association between SNPs within the IFN- λ gene locus and resolution of HCV infection. (*This Thesis*)
2. IFN- λ is able to activate and modulate the TLR7 responses of B cells in a similar fashion to type I IFNs. (*This Thesis*)
3. IFN- λ is able to promote effector function of NK cells via macrophage-mediated IL-12 production. (*This Thesis*)
4. The elevated markers of liver damage in specific clinical phases of chronic HBV infection are not associated with a more cytolytic profile of peripheral blood NK cells. (*This Thesis*)
5. The NK cells of acute resolving HCV patients exhibit a more extensively differentiated phenotype. (*This Thesis*)
6. IFN- λ s regulate a similar set of genes as type I IFNs, but whereas type I IFNs act globally, IFN- λ s primarily target mucosal epithelial cells and protect them against the frequent viral attacks that are typical for barrier tissues. (*A. Wack et al, Nat Immunol. 2015*)
7. HBV clinical categorization lacks meaningful immunological data to support the concept of tolerance; while clinically the concept of a generic immune tolerant disease phase appears increasingly unsound. (*A. Bertolotti et al, Cell Mol Immunol. 2015*)
8. The basic concepts derived from studying NK cell memory provide new insights about innate immunity and could lead to novel strategies to improve treatments for infectious diseases and cancer. (*A. Cerwenka et al, Nat Rev Immunol. 2016*)
9. If Charles Darwin reappeared today, he might be surprised to learn that humans are descended from viruses as well as from apes. (*Robin Weiss*)
10. Science, my lad, is made up of mistakes, but they are mistakes which it is useful to make, because they lead little by little to the truth. (*Jules Verne, A Journey to the Center of the Earth*)
11. Het is goed om je eigen sterke eigenschappen te kennen, maar het is nog belangrijker om je eigen zwaktes te kennen. (*Ton Janssen*)