

airway smooth muscle cells, suggesting that CD4⁺ T cells may modulate smooth muscle cell function through paracrine cytokine effects and direct cell-cell interaction. Subsequently, adoptive transfer of CD4⁺ T cells from sensitized donors induced increased proliferation and inhibition of apoptosis of airway myocytes in naive recipients upon repeated antigen challenge, which resulted in an increase in airway smooth muscle mass. Overall, our data show that activated CD4⁺ T cells regulate myocyte turnover and induce airway remodeling in experimental asthma. We will now analyze airway responses subsequent to transfer of transduced CD4⁺ T cells overexpressing IL-13. In addition, transduced CD4⁺ T cells producing a dominant negative IL-13 mutant will be transferred into sensitized and challenged animals to study their potential to modulate experimental asthma.

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769.23

Role of Interleukin-1 in Toluene Diisocyanate Asthma

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Diisocyanates are the leading cause of occupational asthma. Numerous human studies have implicated the immune system in the pathogenesis of diisocyanate asthma and increased interleukin-1 (IL-1) immunostaining is evident in the submucosa. We and others have demonstrated increased production of IL-1 β in the airways of mice with TDI asthma. We hypothesized that IL-1 β plays a critical role in the pathogenesis of TDI asthma. C57BL/6 mice were sensitized to TDI by vapor inhalation (20 ppb; 4hrs/day, 5 days/week, 6 weeks) and then challenged 2 weeks later by inhalation of 20 ppb TDI vapor for 1 hr. Sensitized/challenged mice showed increased airway hyperresponsiveness (AHR) to methacholine challenge and a TDI-specific late asthmatic reaction 4-5 hours following challenge. Significant airway inflammation was also evident. Pulmonary expression of IL-1 β and IL-4 mRNA was also increased following challenge. Mice deficient in IL-1 receptor type I did not show any increase in AHR, airway inflammation or cytokine expression. Systemic administration of neutralizing antibody to IL-1 β 24 hours prior to challenge only partially reduced AHR but blocked leukocyte recruitment and cytokine gene expression in the airways. These results suggest that IL-1 signaling is an important mediator of TDI asthma. IL-1 β neutralization effectively prevented inflammation but only partially reduced AHR suggesting a possible role for IL-1 α in this disease.

B-CELL DEVELOPMENT/HOMEOSTASIS

(770.1-770.15)

770.1

CLIPR-59 regulates NF-kappa B activation mediated by Death Receptor 6 (DR6)

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Death Receptor (DR) family is a group of ligand-regulated transmembrane proteins to induce apoptosis and NF- κ B activation. DR6 is a new member of this family including TNF receptor type1, Fas, DR3, DR4 and DR5. In recent studies, it was shown that targeted disruption of DR6 results in enhanced CD4 T cell expansion and Th 2 differentiation. In addition, DR6 deficient B cells exhibited unregulated hyper-proliferation. These findings indicate that DR6 has important roles for regulating peripheral lymphocyte differentiation and activation. However, the intracellular signaling pathways of DR6 are yet to be elucidated. In this study, we attempted to identify DR6-associated proteins by yeast two-hybrid screening for analyzing this signaling pathway. We identified Cytoplasmic Linker Protein-170 related protein (CLIPR-59) as a protein interacting with the cytoplasmic domain of DR6. CLIPR-59 interacted with DR6 in mammalian cells. The cytoplasmic segment, from position 380 to 411, conserved in human and other species DR6, is essential for its association with the CLIPR-59. Interestingly, over-expression of CLIPR-59 inhibits DR6-mediated NF-kappa B activation. Taken together, we demonstrate that CLIPR-59 is a negative regulator of DR6-mediated NF-kappa B activation.

770.2

Lymphoid development in HK-1 transgenic mice

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Hemokinin 1 (HK-1) is an 11 amino acid peptide of the tachykinin family. Its predominant expression in lymphoid precursors suggests a critical role in lymphopoiesis. Our previous studies have shown that HK-1 enhanced the proliferation of lymphoid precursors and promoted the survival of bone marrow B lineage cells. Tachykinin antagonists, on the other hand, blocked B cell development at specific stages. To further elucidate its role in B cell development and function, we generated an E μ -driven transgenic mouse. Bone marrow B cells from this mouse demonstrate increased survival with increased bcl-2 levels. While the total number of bone marrow B cells was not significantly altered, the proportion of mature B cells remarkably increased. This could be either due to accelerated or increased survival of maturing B cells. Preliminary data suggest that an increased number of NK1.1⁺ cells in this mouse, suggest they may be involved in the development of natural killer cells.

770.3

Activation of PI3-K by CD40 protects B cells from apoptosis

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The death receptor CD95 and the activation molecule CD40 signaling pathway are important for B lymphocyte homeostasis. CD40 signaling increases CD95, sensitizing cells to undergo apoptosis, yet counterintuitively, CD40 protects B cells from CD95 killing in murine B cells and in transformed B cell lines. Here we examine the molecular mechanisms mediating CD40 rescue from CD95-induced apoptosis. We found that a CD40 rescue signal given without CD95 stimulation through CD95 can decrease the amount of CD95-induced apoptosis by 50%. CD40 rescue is independent of the classic NF- κ B pathway and de novo protein synthesis and requires the formation of the death-inducing signaling complex (DISC) and the recruitment of caspase 8. However, CD40 signaling does decrease caspase 8 activity. In order to elucidate which CD40 signal is required for rescue, we examined the role of the factors (TRAFs) in protection from apoptosis. Rescue from CD95-induced apoptosis is independent of binding to TRAFs 1, 2, 3, or 6, in combination tested thus far. Interestingly, phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) activation reduces CD95 apoptosis, suggesting a role for the pro-survival pathway. Supported by NIH grants AI28847, AI49993, AI07478, and a VA Career Award to GAB.

770.4

In Utero Exposure to Alcohol Adversely Affects Regulation of B Cell Progenitors in Neonatal Bone Marrow

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Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is a spectrum of disorders caused by excessive consumption of alcohol during pregnancy. Previous studies have confirmed the immuno-suppressive effects of *in utero* alcohol exposure. The present study examined the role of *in utero* alcohol exposure on the regulation of transcription factors (TF) important for B cell development in HSA^bCD43^{lo}Lin⁻ B cell progenitors. When grown in the presence of HSA^bCD43^{lo}Lin⁻ cells up-regulate both Pax5 (B cell-specific transcription factor) and IL-7R transcription, and initiate B cell development. B220 and CD19. EBF (early B cell factor) and PEBP2 message RNA were detected by single cell RT-PCR in HSA^bCD43^{lo}Lin⁻ cells, isolated from 14 days old mice. In contrast, control animals, express EBF at less than 20% the level of HSA^bCD43^{lo}Lin⁻ cells, and show a reduced capacity to expand into B lineage cells. When grown in liquid culture the

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ABSTRACTS

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