



Modeling Immunity to Enteric Pathogens



Josep Bassaganya-Riera

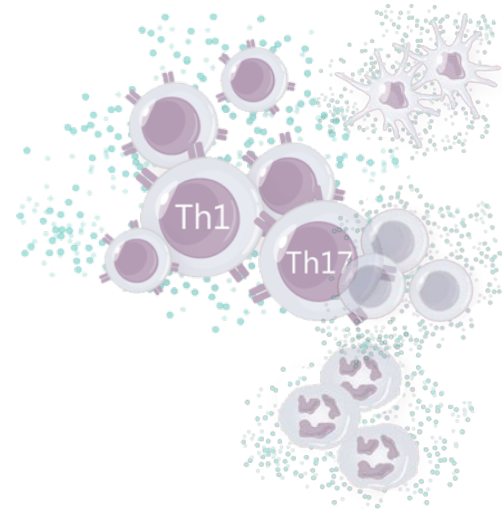
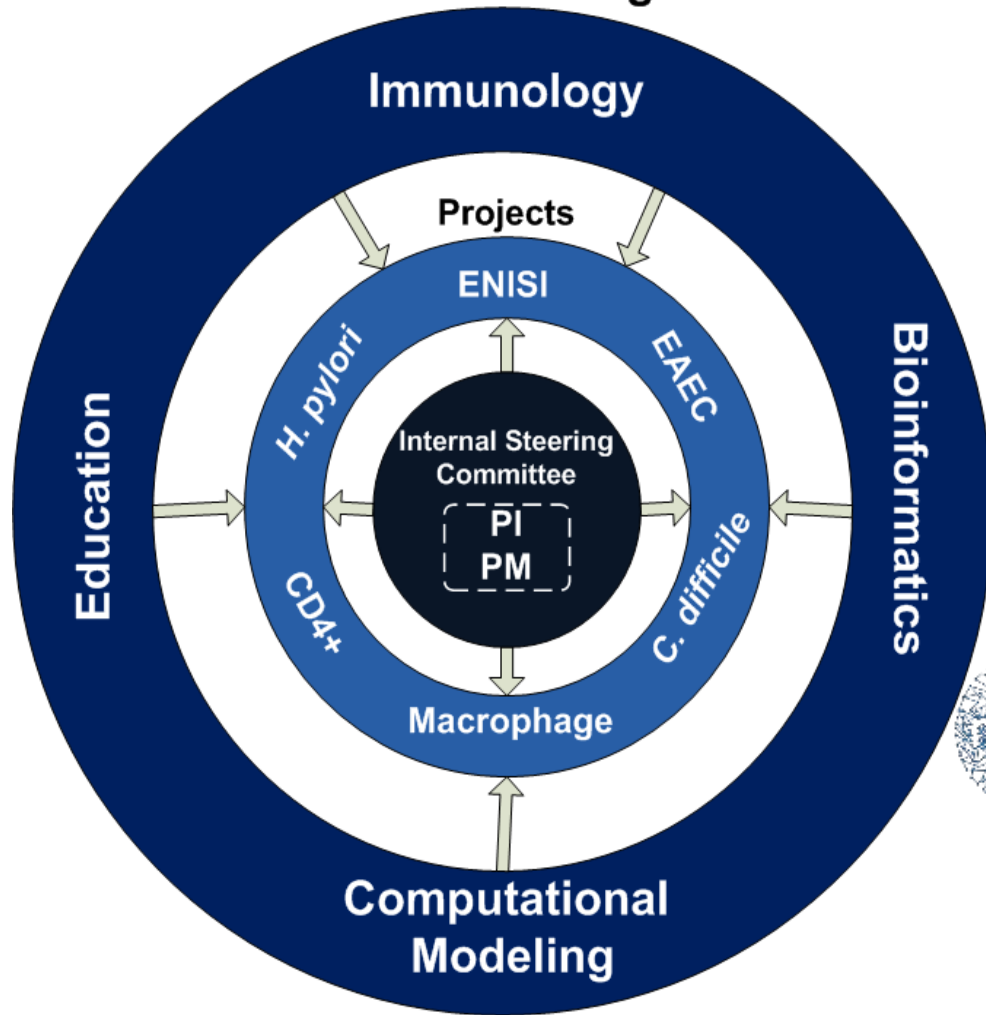
[Nutritional Immunology & Molecular Medicine Lab](#)
[Center for Modeling Immunity to Enteric Pathogens](#)

MMI Symposium in Computational Immunology

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

www.modelingimmunity.org

Center for Modeling Immunity to Enteric Pathogens



www.nimml.org



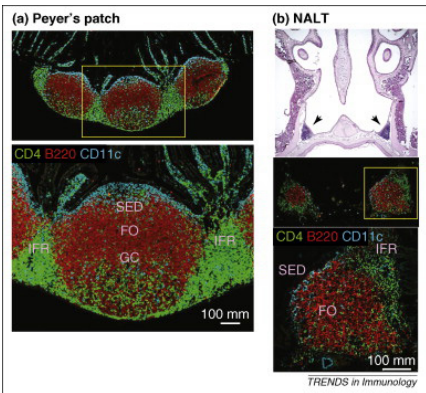
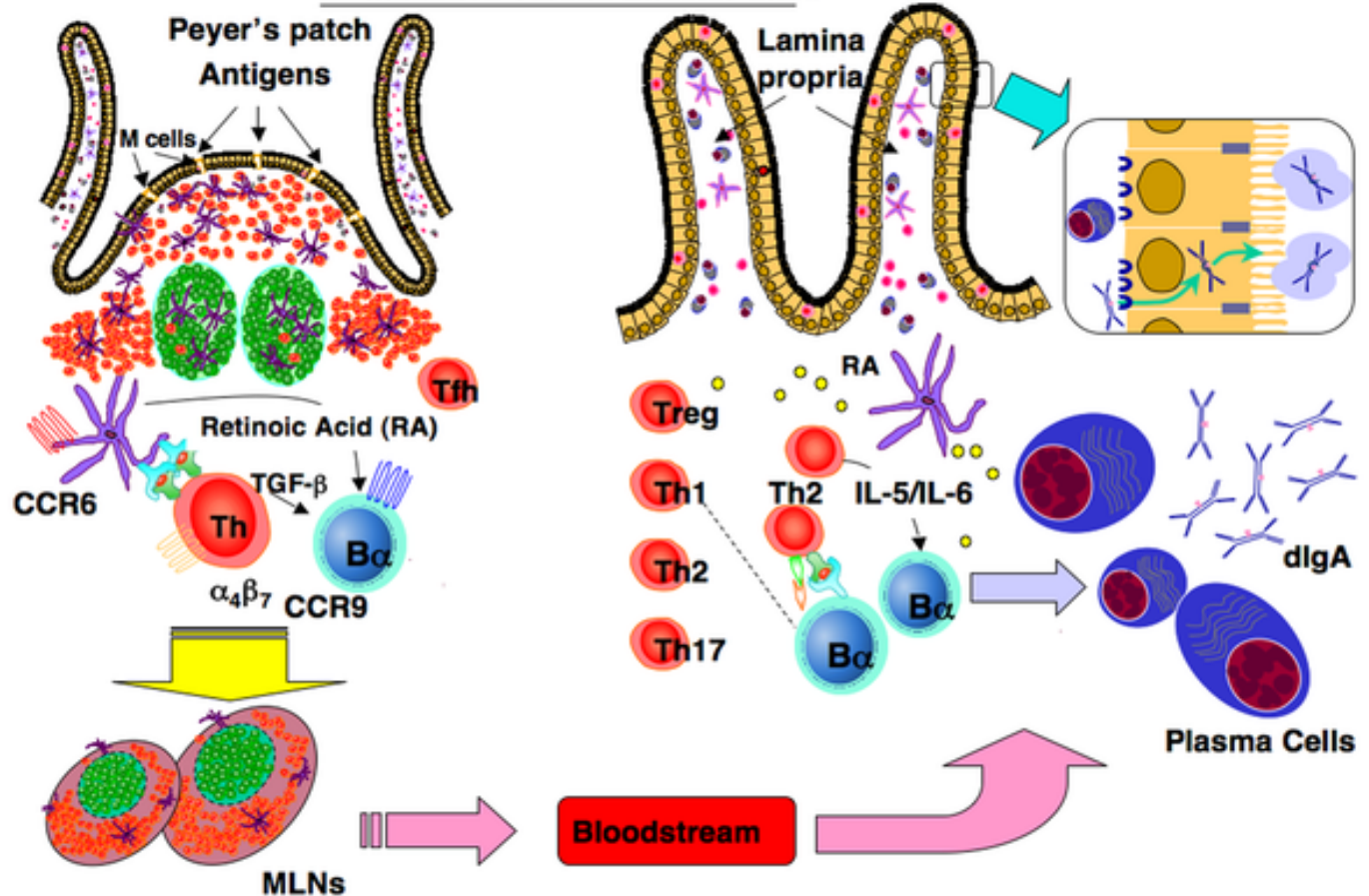
Network Dynamics & Simulation Science Laboratory

www.ndssl.vbi.vt.edu

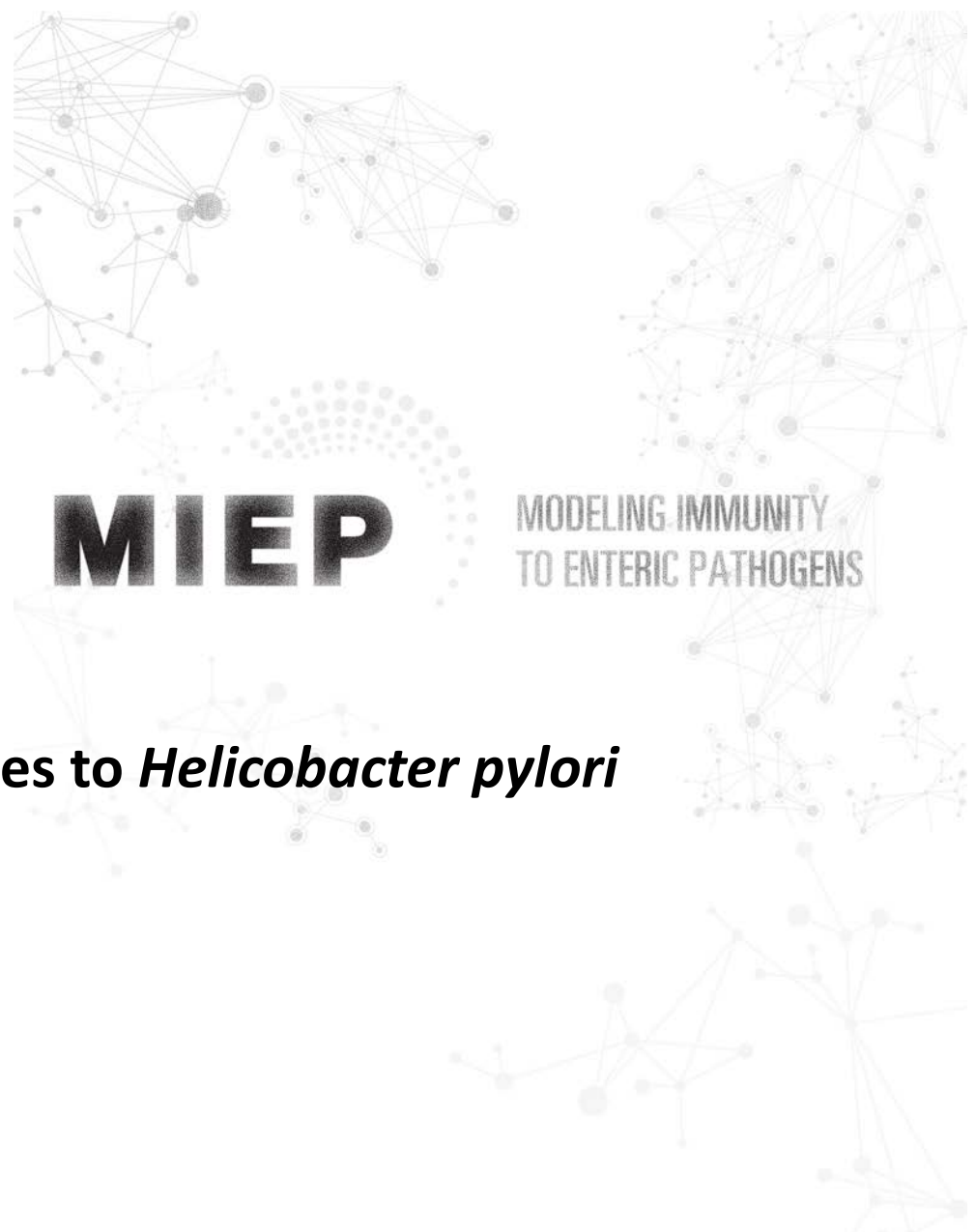
Mucosal Immune System

A Mucosal Communication System

Inductive Versus Effector Sites



McGhee JR, Fujihashi K (2012) Inside the Mucosal Immune System. PLoS Biol 10(9): e1001397. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1001397



MIEP

MODELING IMMUNITY
TO ENTERIC PATHOGENS

Modeling immune responses to *Helicobacter pylori*

H. pylori

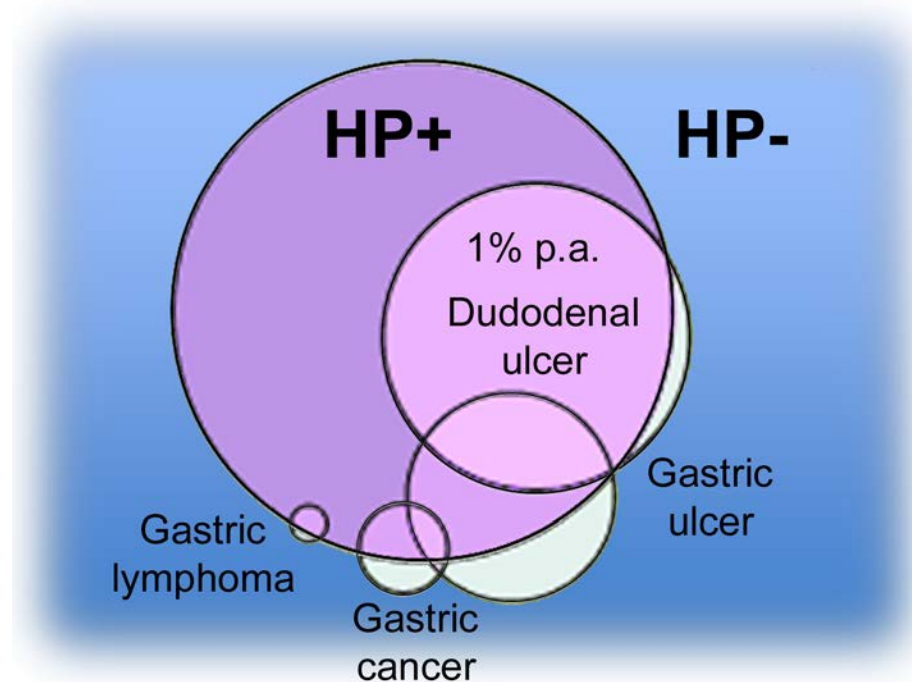
Background

- High prevalence (> 50 % world's population)
- Extreme differences in geographic distribution (socioeconomic factors)



Background

Most common cause of gastritis, with associated complications: peptic, duodenal ulcer, gastric adenocarcinoma, MALT lymphoma.



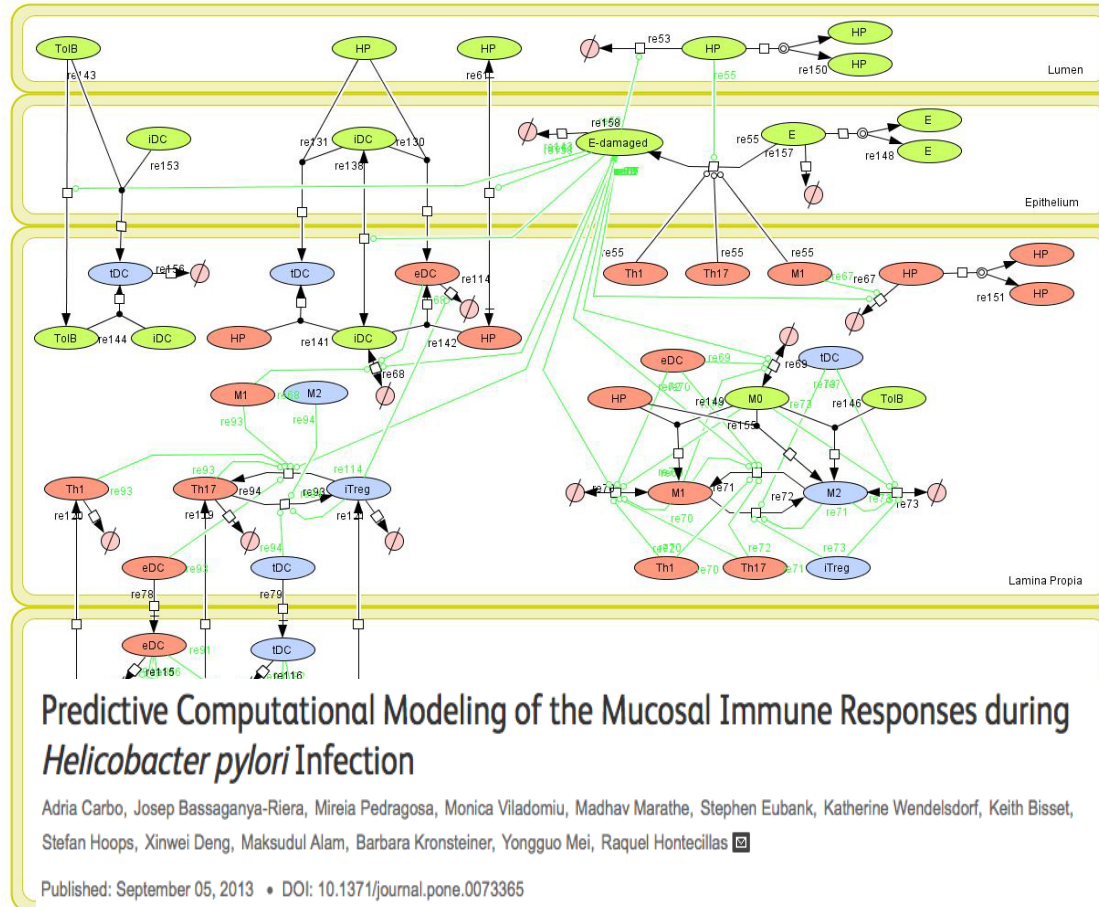
Helicobacter pylori

- *H. pylori* was classified as a type I carcinogen by the WHO... Should it be eradicated?
- *H. pylori* should be included in the list of most endangered species (M. Blaser)...and preserved as a beneficial commensal
- Inverse correlation between *H. pylori* prevalence and rate of overweight/obesity (Lender, 2014)

***Helicobacter pylori* Colonization Ameliorates Glucose Homeostasis in Mice through a PPAR γ -Dependent Mechanism**

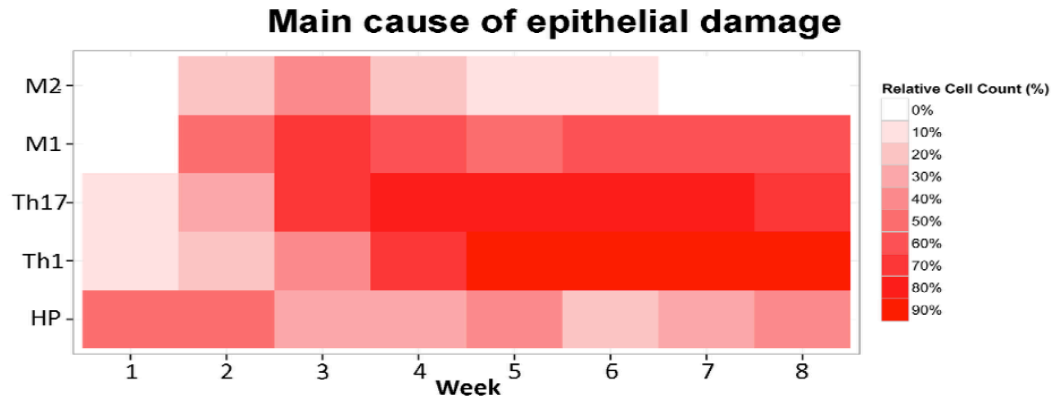
Josep Bassaganya-Riera^{1,4*}, Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello², Barbara Kronsteiner¹, Adria Carbo¹, Pinyi Lu¹, Monica Viladomiu¹, Mireia Pedragosa¹, Xiaoying Zhang¹, Bruno W. Sobral^{1 α} , Shrinivasrao P. Mane¹, Saroj K. Mohapatra¹, William T. Horne¹, Amir J. Guri¹, Michael Groeschl³, Gabriela Lopez-Velasco¹, Raquel Hontecillas¹

Model of *H. pylori* infection

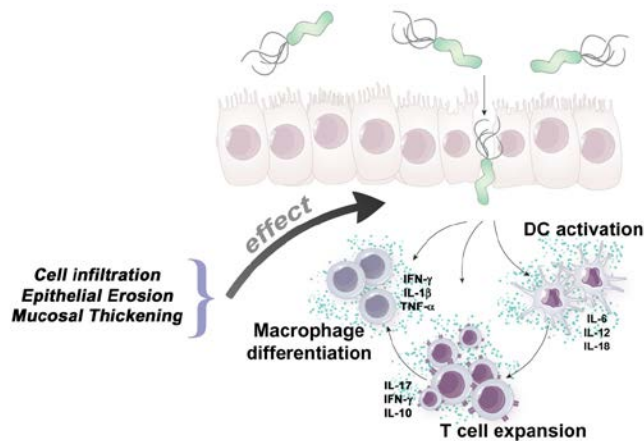


<http://www.modelingimmunity.org/models/copasi-helicobacter-pylori-computational-model-archive/>

Model predictions

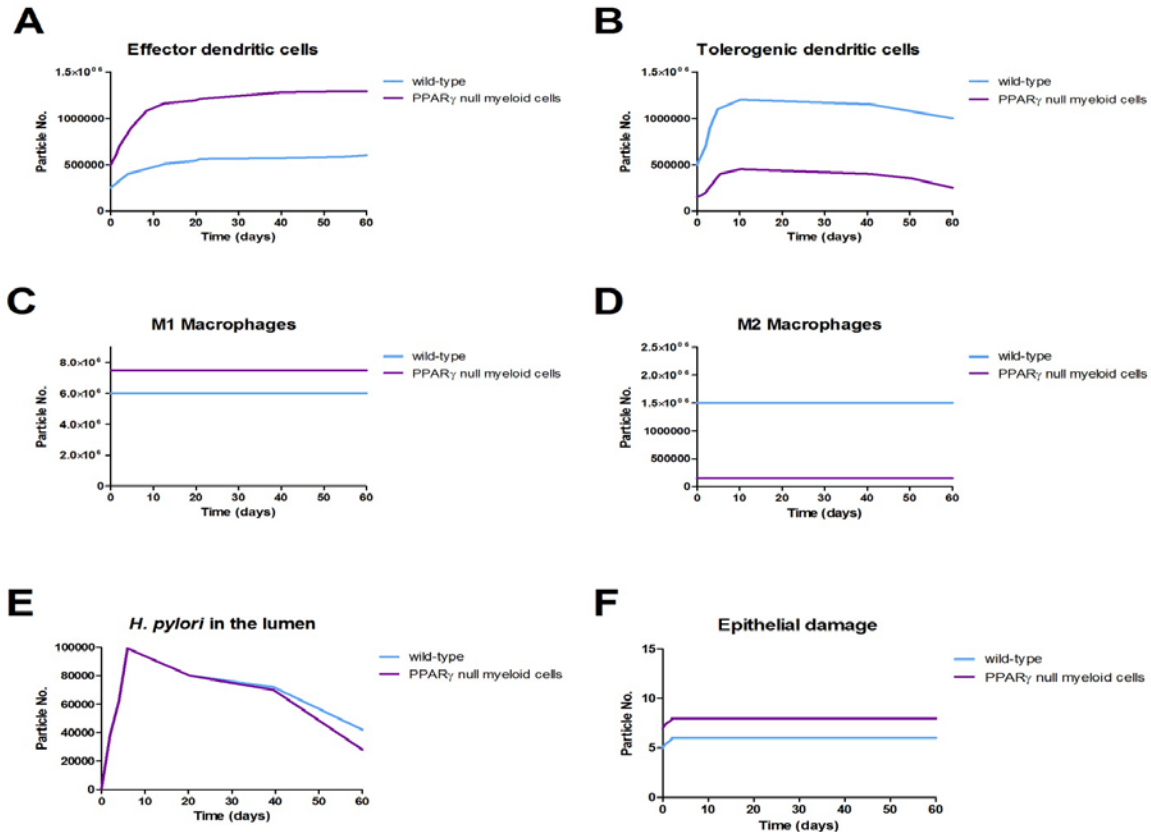


Th1 and Th17 effector responses contribute to gastritis in the chronic phase of infection.



Target	Correlation
M0	-5.80E+04
E	-1.73E+02
HP{Lumen}	0.253797
HP{LP}	0.570211
nT	29802.3
eDC{GLN}	5.38E+05
tDC{GLN}	5.38E+05
tDC{LP}	7.35E+05
Th17{GLN}	1.46E+06
Th1{GLN}	3.37E+06
iTreg{GLN}	4.80E+06
M2	8.11E+06
M1	3.22E+07
Th17{LP}	4.92E+07
iTreg{LP}	7.12E+07
Th1{LP}	8.71E+07

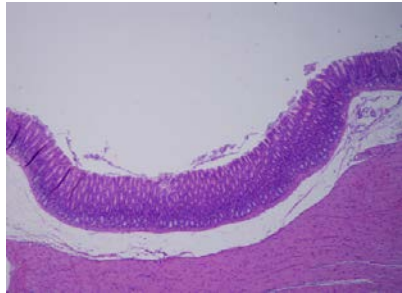
Simulation of PPAR γ deletion



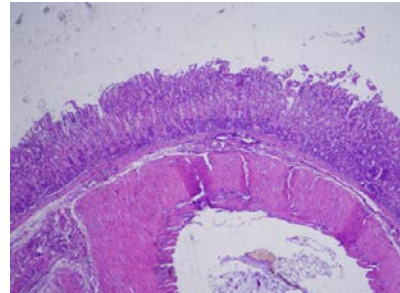
H. pylori Loads and Lesions

STOMACH
WPI 16

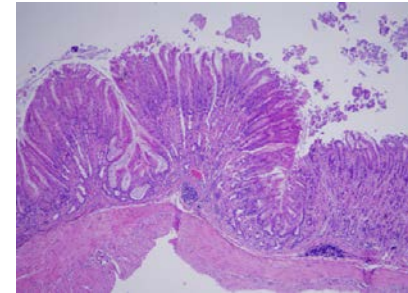
Uninfected



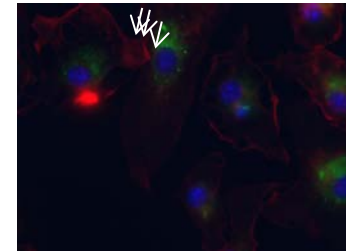
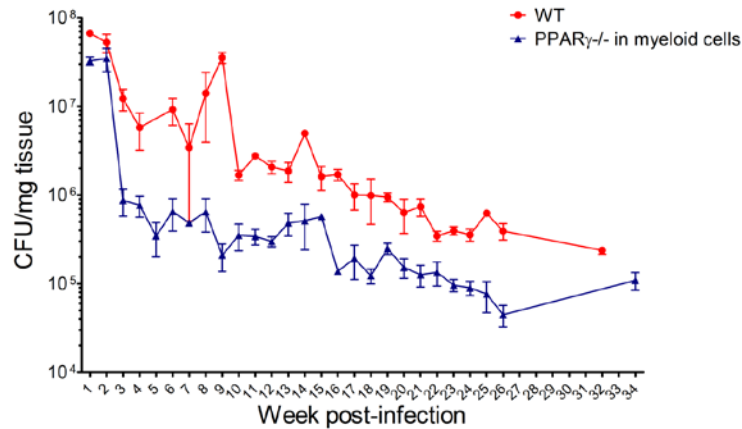
Wild Type



Myeloid cell
PPAR γ -deficient



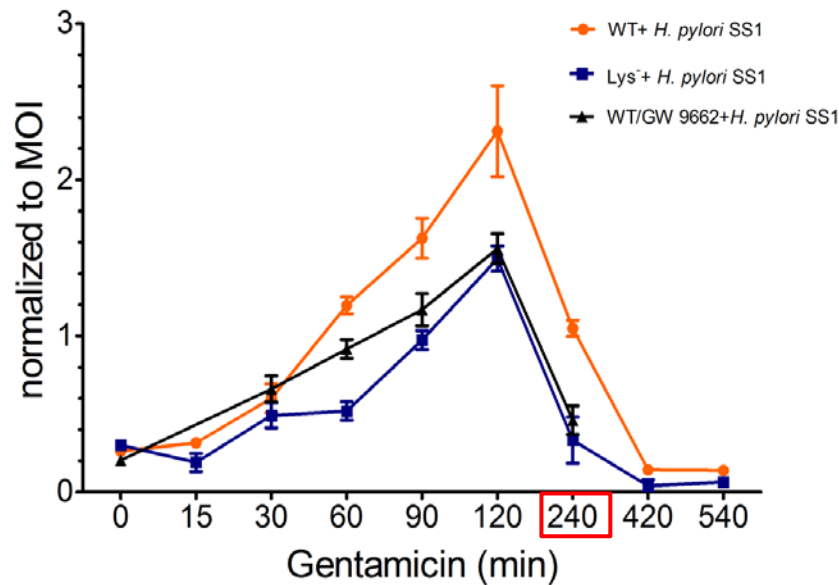
Bacterial re-isolation



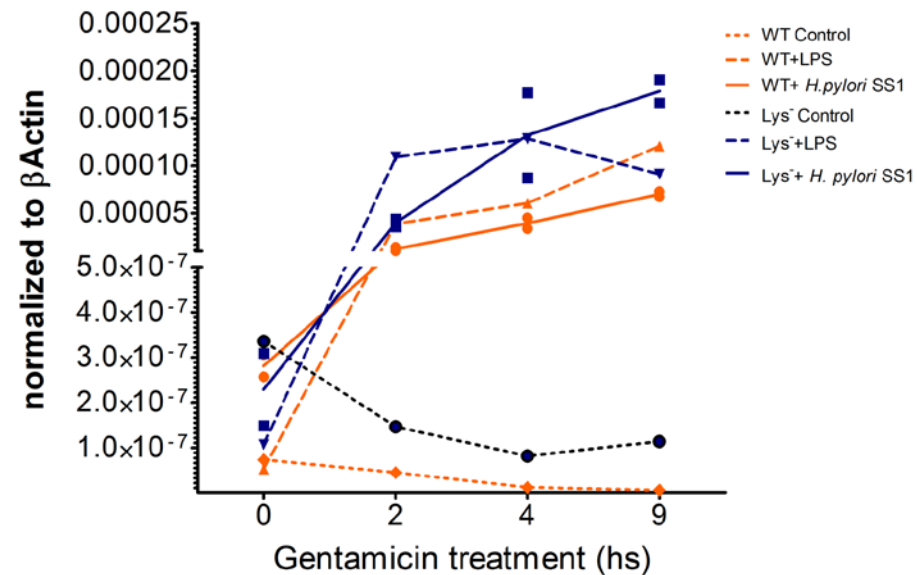
Macrophage-Hp co-cultures

15min *H. pylori* co-culture

Bacterial re-isolation



iNos gene expression



HUMAN & ANIMAL STUDIES

Publicly available data (GEO) In-house generated NGS data

ANALYSIS with GALAXY pipeline

Sequencing RESULTS (gene reads)



Read Averages, Read Trimming, and Calculations of FCs and Log2

Data TREATMENT

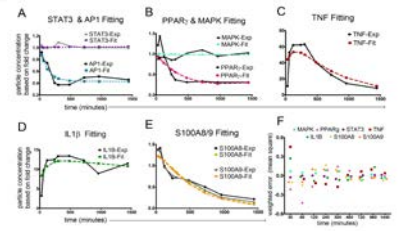
 **IPA**® Integration of data into Ingenuity Pathway Analysis

Core analysis
Identification of Canonical Pathways
Differences in expression
Network inference

Extraction of data and construction of SBML-compliant network

 **COPASI**  **ENISI tools**

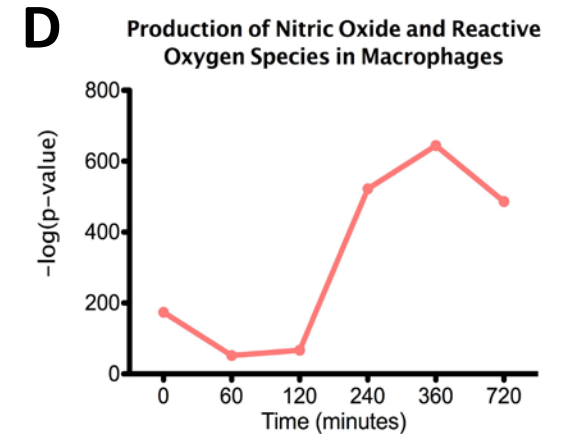
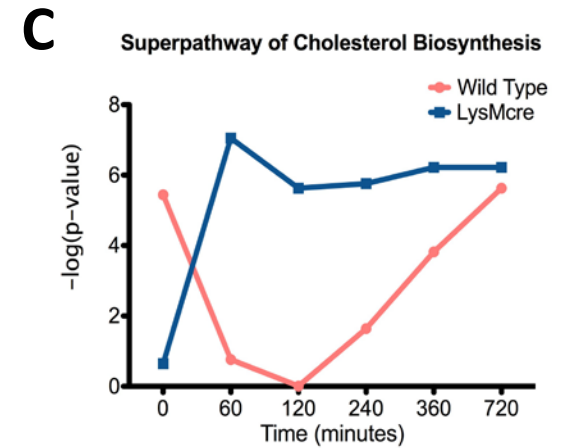
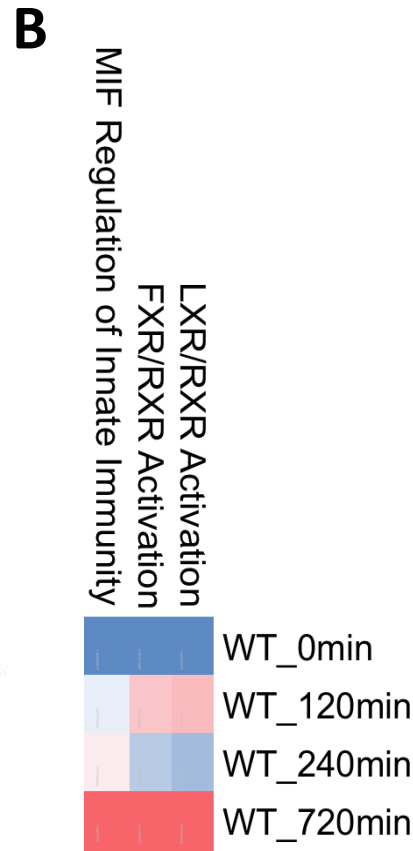
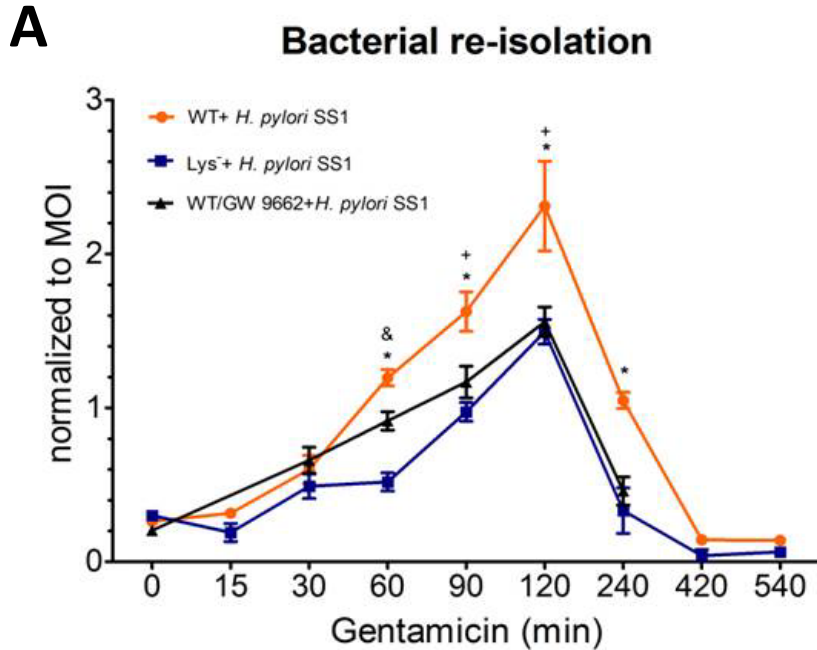
Importation into COPASI and ENISI for Model Calibration, Simulation, and Analysis



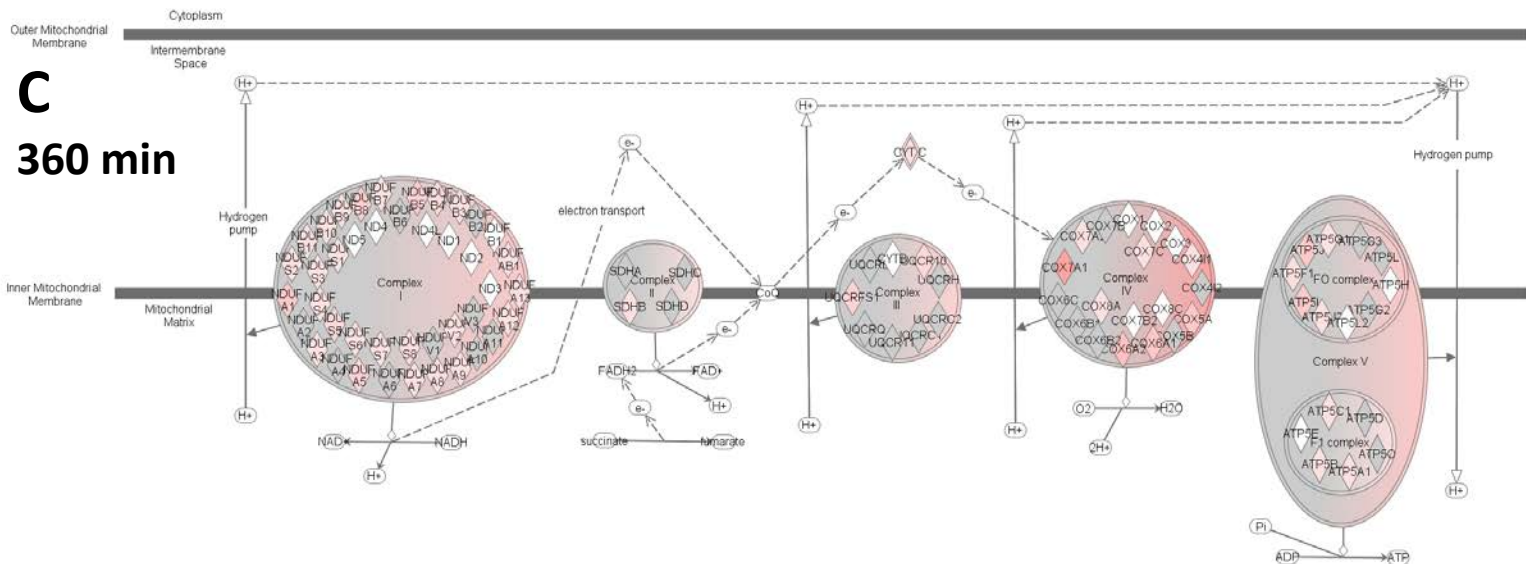
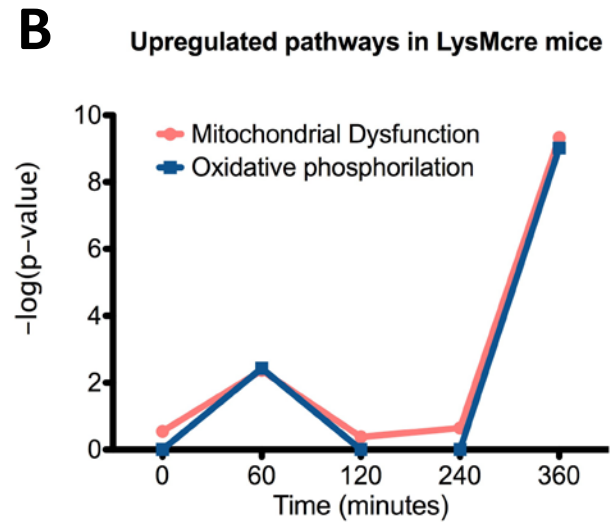
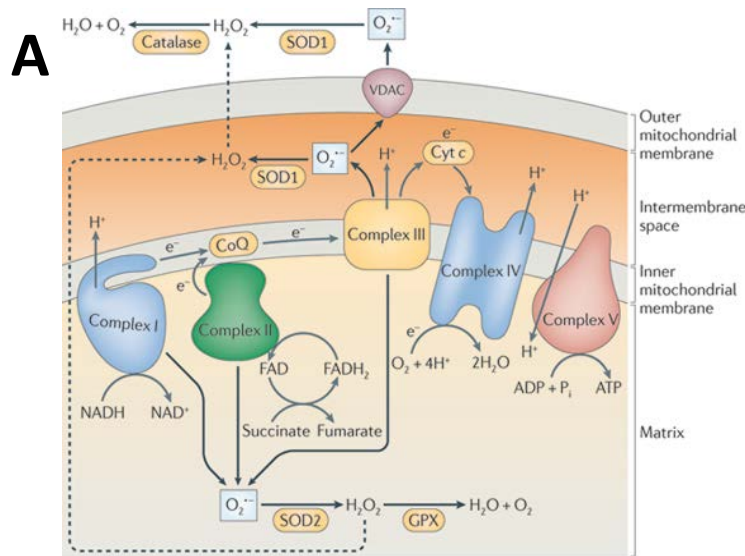
GENERATION of NEW HYPOTHESES



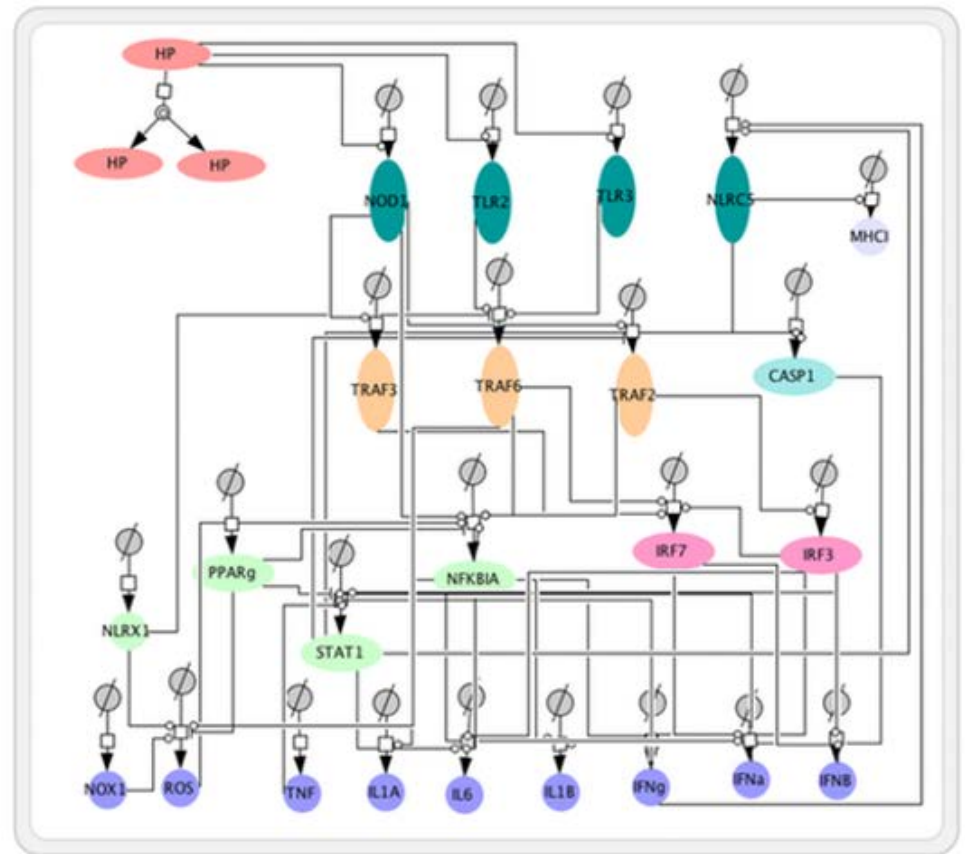
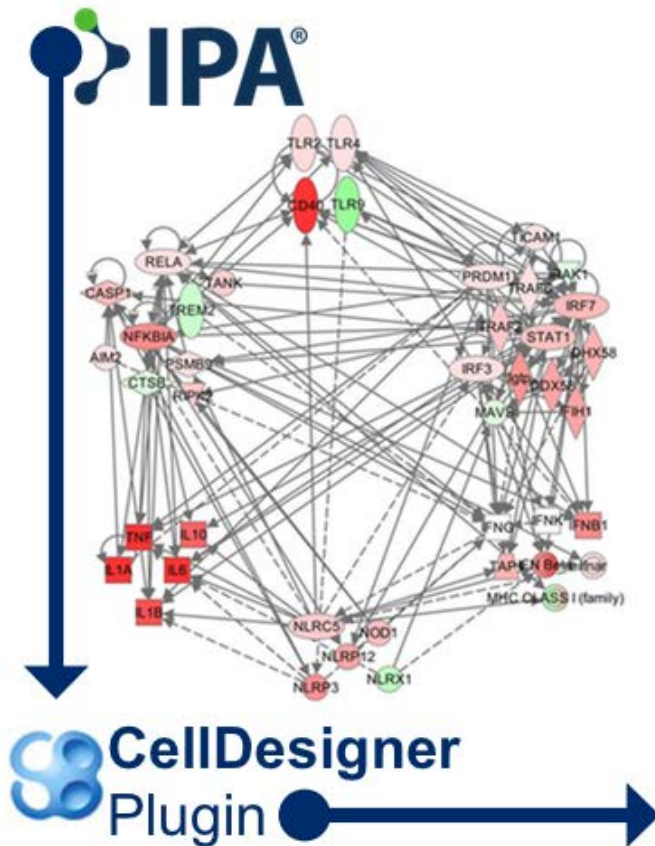
Cholesterol Biosynthesis



Metabolic Response

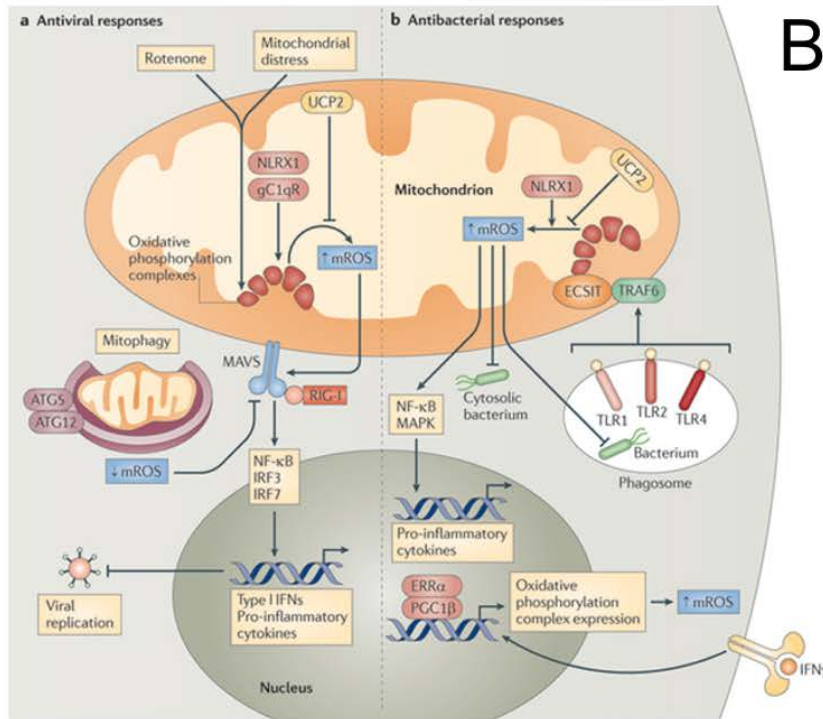


Modeling Innate Responses to *H. pylori*



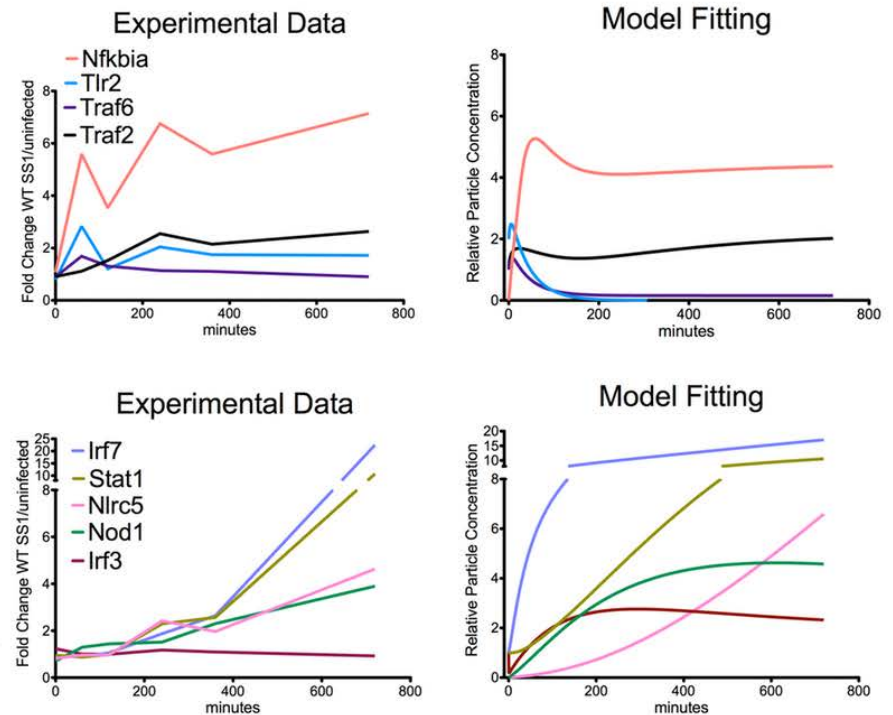
Modeling Innate Responses to *H. pylori*

A



Nature Reviews | Immunology

B

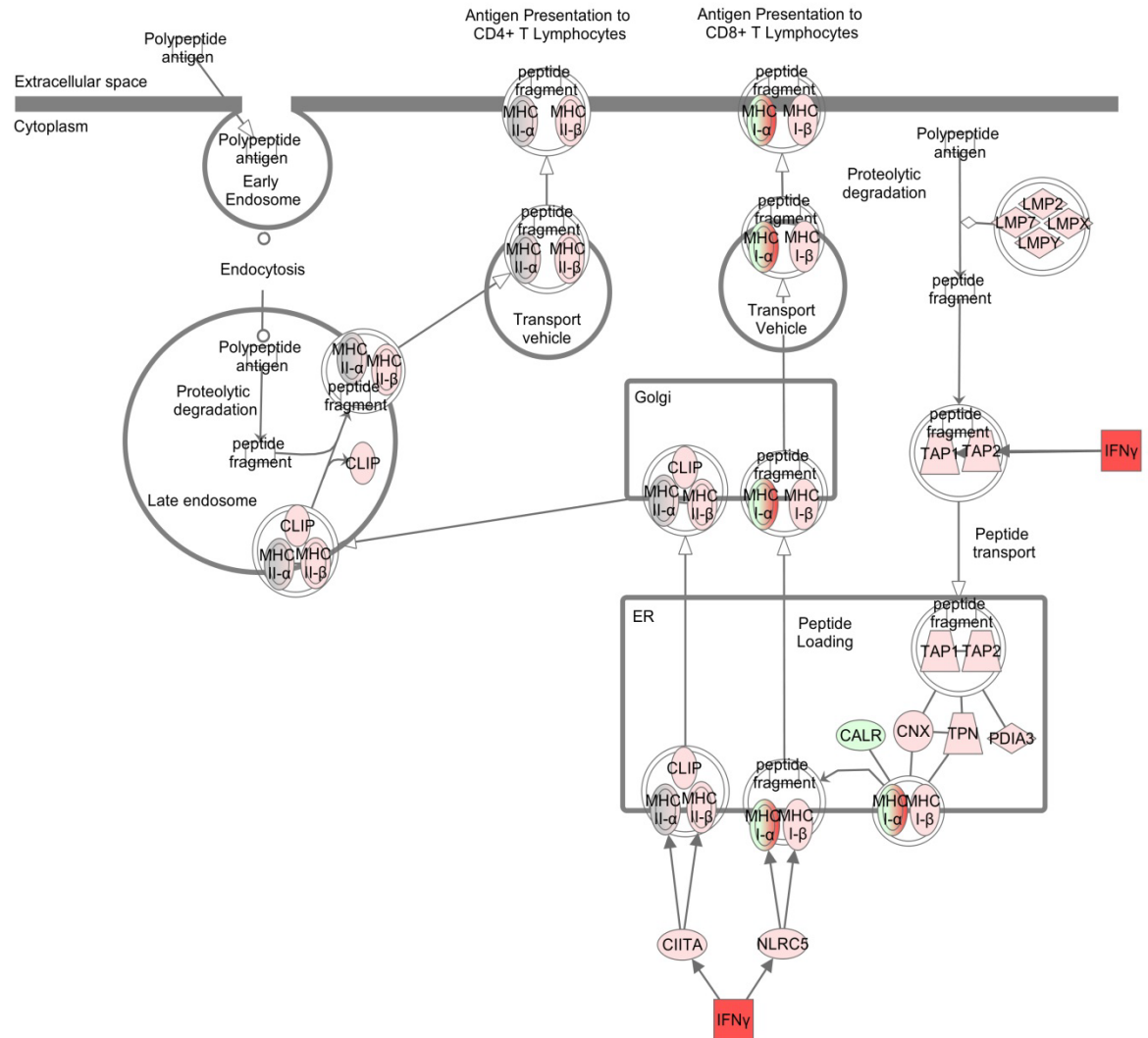


NLRX1 Sensitivity Analysis

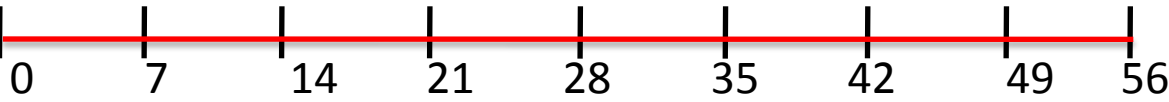
TRAF6	3.96E+16
IRF7	5.84E+16
PPARg	8.55E+16
HP	1.11E+17
NOD1	1.16E+17
TLR2	1.44E+17
IRF7	2.02E+17
STAT1	2.02E+17
TNF	3.20E+17
IRF3	3.51E+17
TRAF2	4.29E+17
MHCI	7.14E+18
IFNb	3.52E+21

- Local sensitivity analysis portrays relationship between NLRX1 and viral signaling cascades during intracellular *H. pylori* infection
- Intimate link between NLRX1 and IFN signaling
- Sensitivities suggest there may be a role for NLRX1 in MHC class I signaling as well

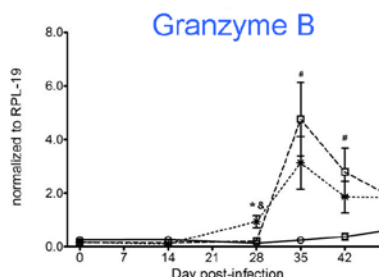
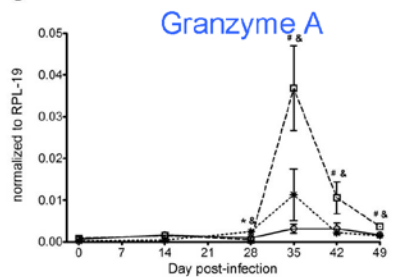
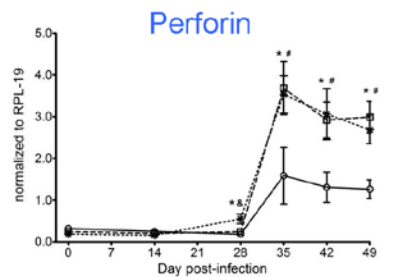
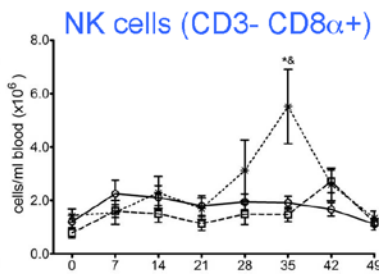
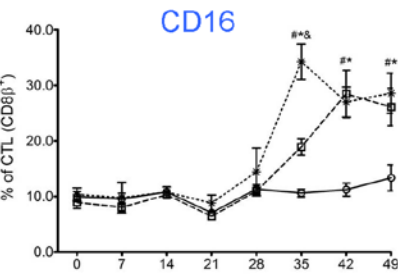
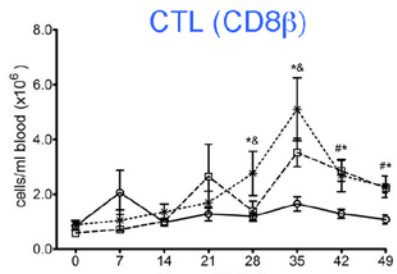
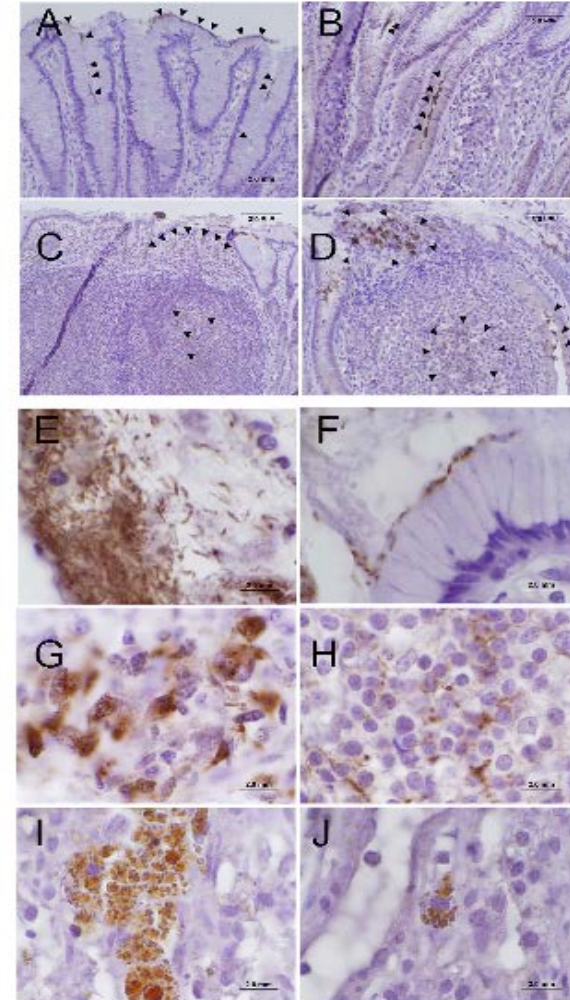
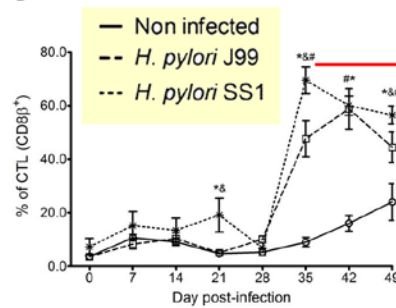
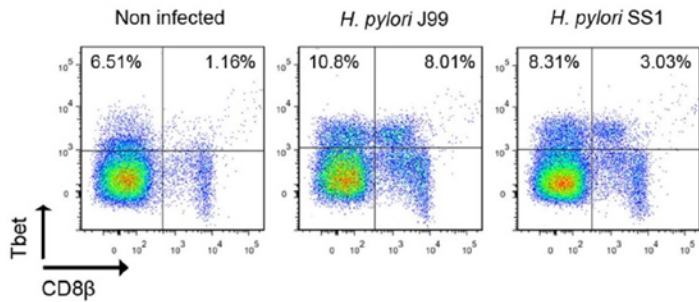
MHC Class I Presentation



CD8+ T cell responses

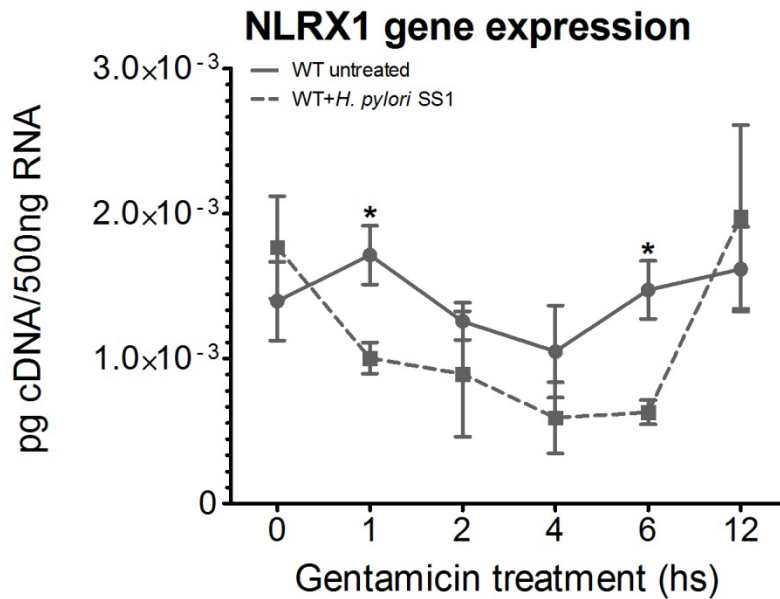


Control/ *H. pylori* J99/SS1

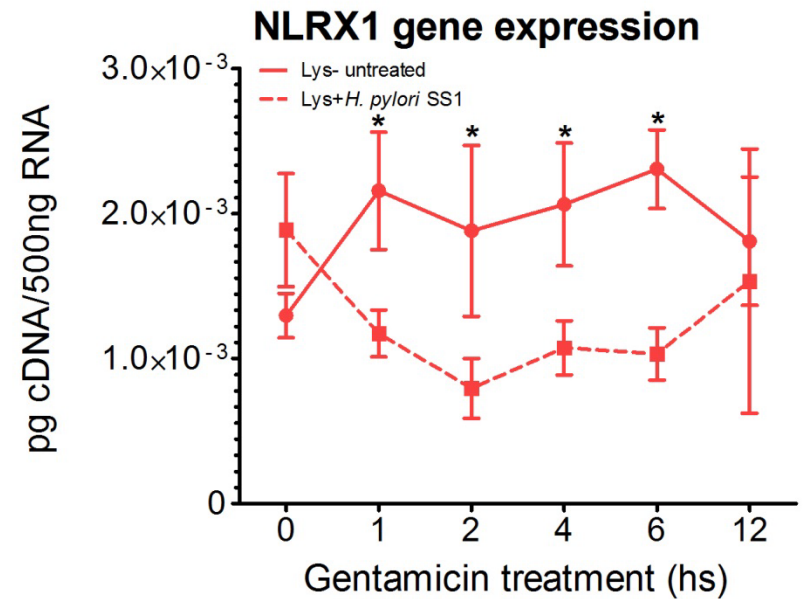


NLRX1 Expression Validation in Macrophages

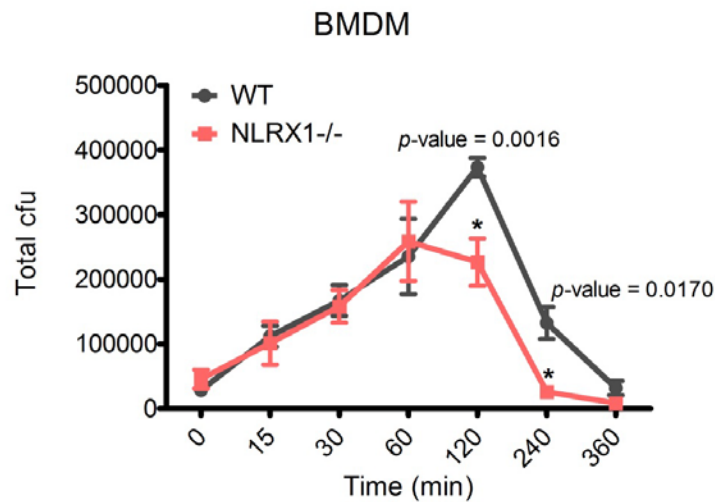
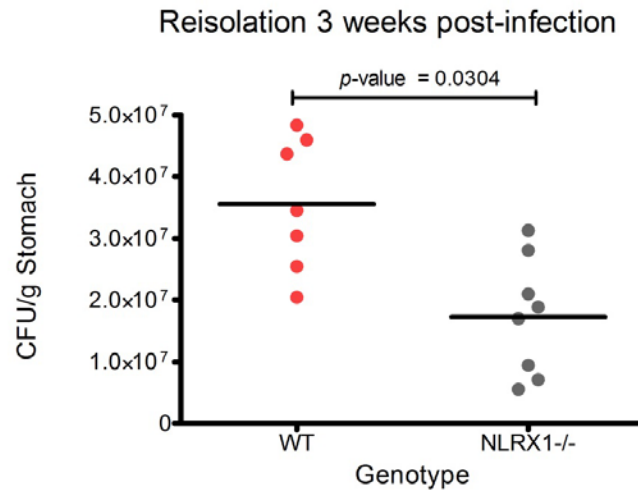
Wild type



PPAR γ -deficient



Validation in NLRX1 ko



Summary

- *H. pylori* infection modulates two phases of innate immune pathways that intersect with metabolism
- NLRX1 regulates host responses to *H. pylori* infection in macrophages
- We identified an inverse relationship between expression of PPAR γ and NLRX1 in macrophages
- Modeling was used to assess the sensitivities of our network to NLRs and their immunoregulatory mechanisms during *H. pylori* infection

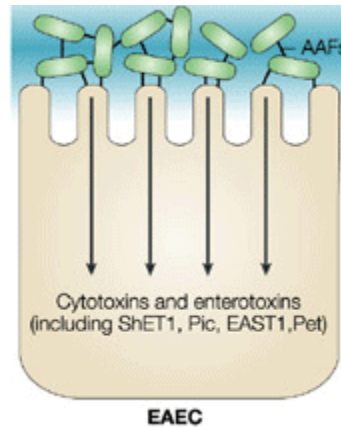
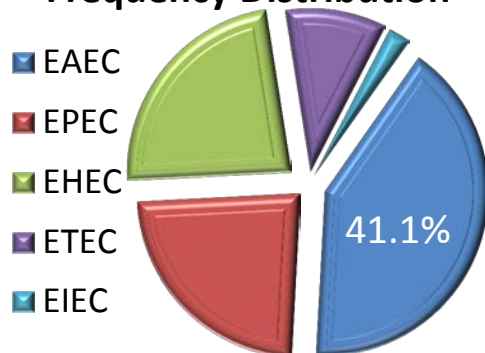
EAEC

a leading cause of enteritis & persistent diarrhea worldwide

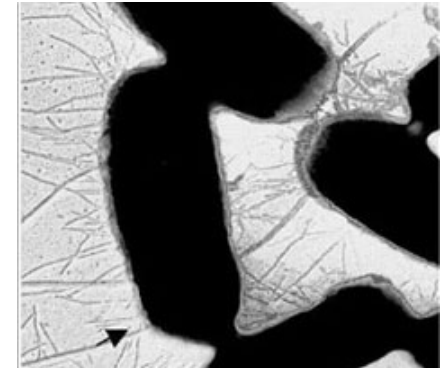
High risk populations:

- Travelers
- HIV infected
- Malnourished children

Diarrheagenic Isolate Frequency Distribution



AAF fimbria:
primary virulence factor attributed to mucosal adherence



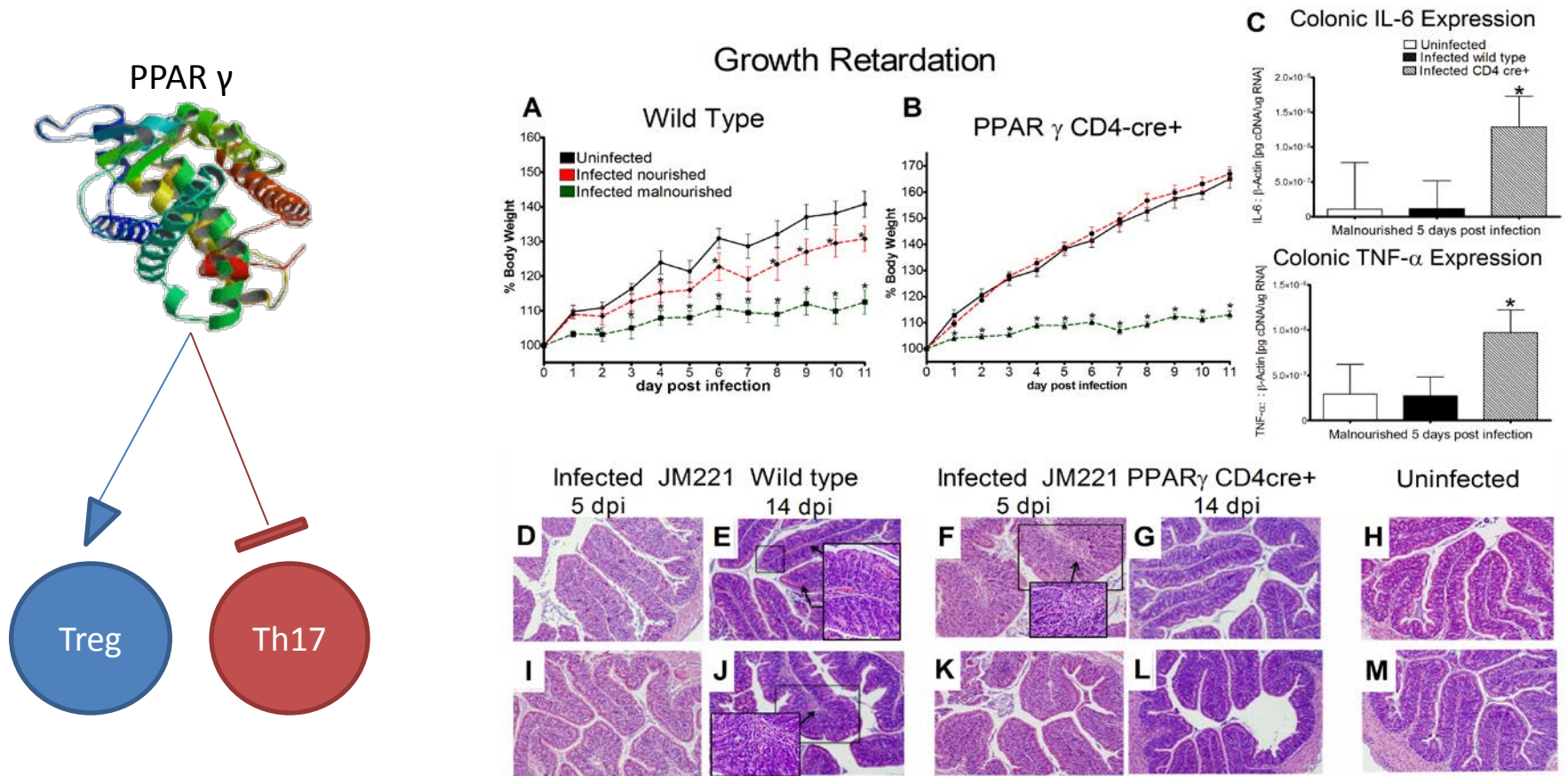
Fli-C flagellin:
responsible for IL-8 secretion

Dispersin:
Allows dissociation from biofilm and spread of colonization

EAEC

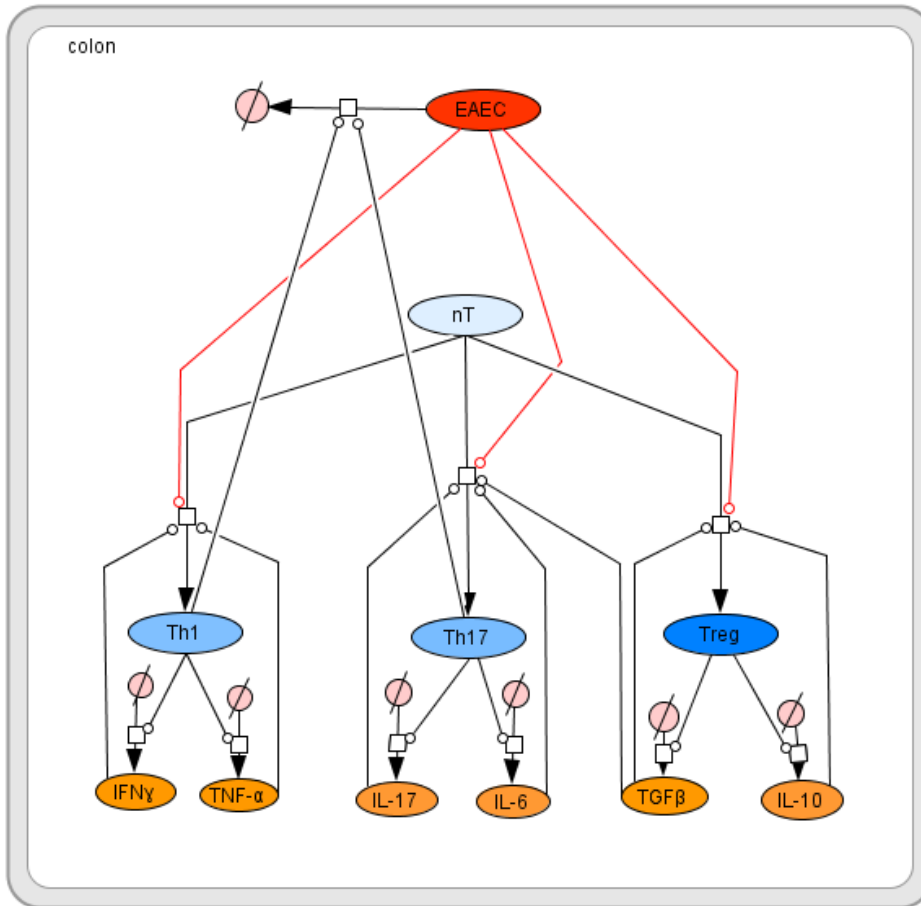
- Our *in vivo* murine model data suggested a beneficial role for Th17 cells and IL17A
- We used computational modeling to predict the effects of enhancing effector T cell populations during EAEC infection

Targeting PPAR γ as an inflammatory mediator



- Gene expression: Upregulation of proinflammatory markers in CD4Cre+
- Histopathology: High leukocytic infiltration early during infection in CD4Cre+ followed by amelioration of colonic inflammation by day 14

EAEC T cell Model



Ordinary differential equations from EAEC T cell differentiation model

$$\frac{d([Treg])}{dt} = -V_{colon} \cdot (K1_{(re17)} \cdot [Treg]) + ([emT] \cdot (K1_{(re21)} \cdot [TGF\beta] + K2_{(re21)} \cdot [IL10])) + V_{colon} \cdot ([nt] \cdot (K1_{(re7)})) \cdot [EAEC]$$

$$\frac{d([Th17])}{dt} = -V_{colon} \cdot (K1_{(re16)} \cdot [Th17]) + ([emT] \cdot (K1_{(re9)} \cdot [IL6] + K2_{(re9)} \cdot [TGF\beta] + K3_{(re9)} \cdot [IL17])) + V_{colon} \cdot ([nt] \cdot K1_{(re7)}) \cdot [EAEC]$$

$$\frac{d([Th1])}{dt} = -V_{colon} \cdot (K1_{(re16)} \cdot [Th1]) + ([emT] \cdot (K1_{(re20)} \cdot [IFN\gamma] + K2_{(re20)} \cdot [TNF\alpha])) + V_{colon} \cdot ([nt] \cdot K1_{(re8)}) \cdot [EAEC]$$

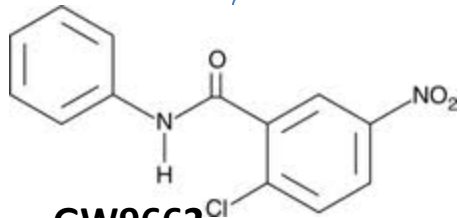
$$\frac{d([EAEC])}{dt} = -V_{colon} \cdot ([EAEC] \cdot K1_{(re22)} \cdot [Th1] + K2_{(re22)} \cdot [Th17])$$

Parameter estimation → Calibration

Bacterial Load in Feces		T cell populations using Flow Cytometry			
time	EAEC quantification	time	IL17 producing Th17	IFNg producing Th1	Regulatory T cells
3	7123.13	14	90888.75	145422	327199.5
3	8110.87	14	92340	295488	203148
3	7029.98	14	65667.6	98816.64	86464.56
3	9648.13	14	38165.85	45002.25	64881.945
3	6342.8	14	103774.65	42936.39	45900
3	7262.77	14	65667.6	34765.2	38628
3	5831.49	14	56359.8	61065.36	31311
3	8028.2	14	73266.32143	103356.5486	113933.2864



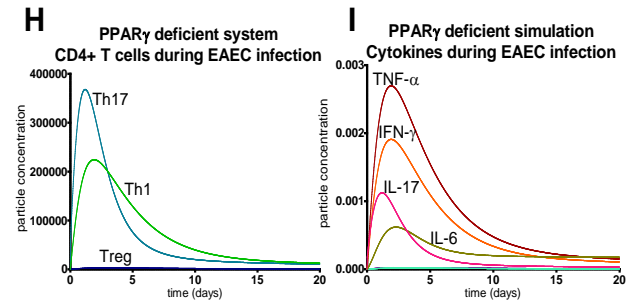
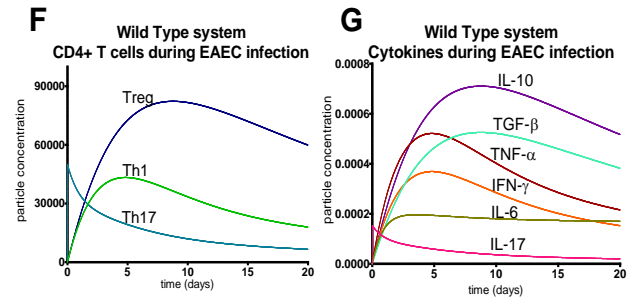
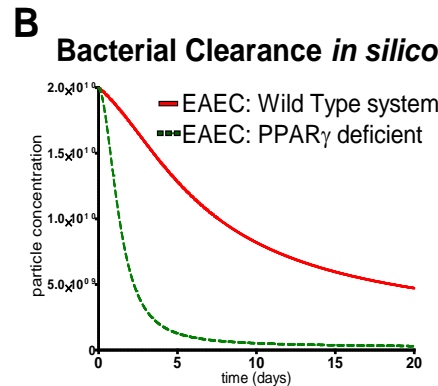
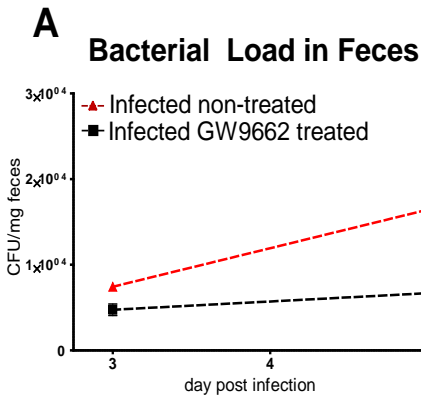
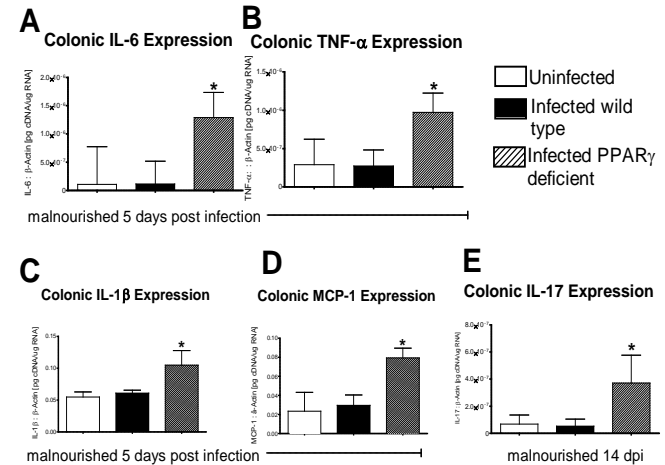
Pharmacological blockade



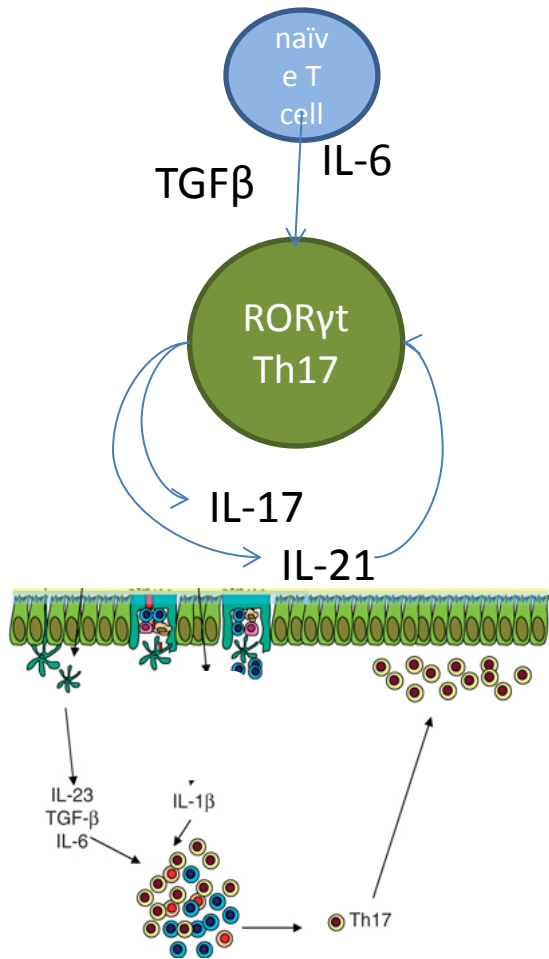
GW9662
a potent PPAR γ
antagonist



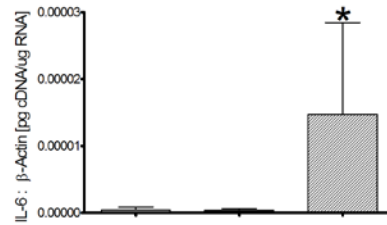
Administration of **GW9662** promoted the upregulation of proinflammatory cytokines that correlated to significantly *lower levels of EAEC in feces* early during infection



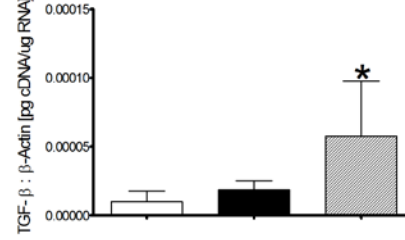
Antimicrobial Peptides



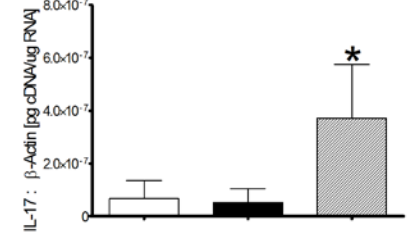
Colonic IL-6 Expression



Colonic TGF-β Expression

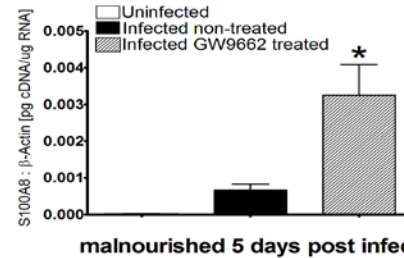


Colonic IL-17 Expression



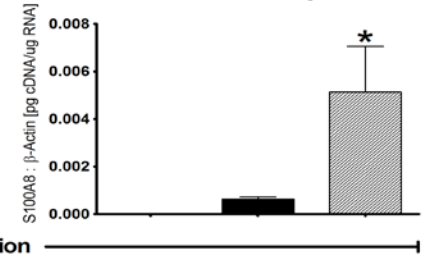
A

Colonic S100A8 Expression



B

Colonic S100A9 Expression

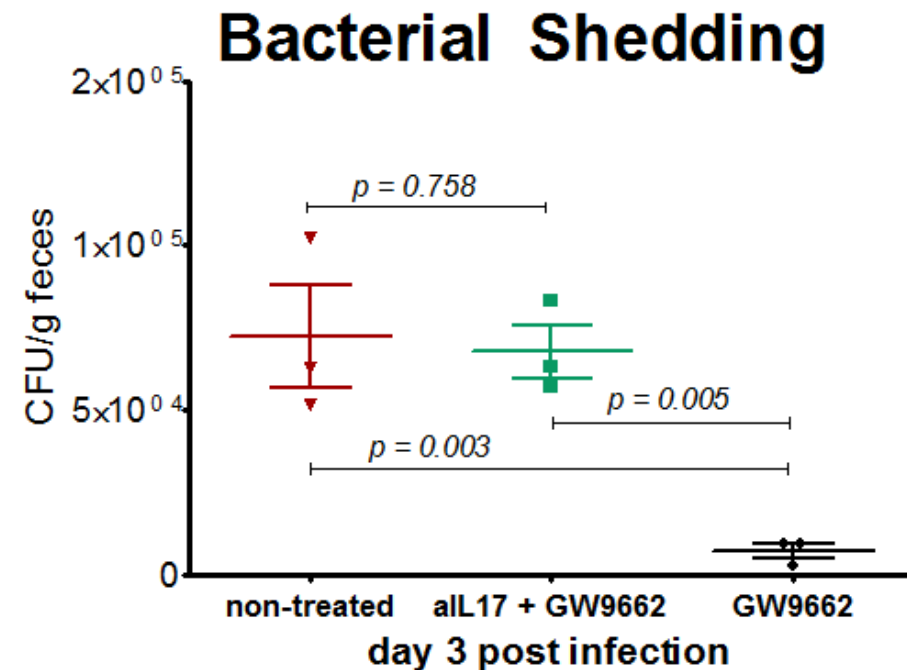
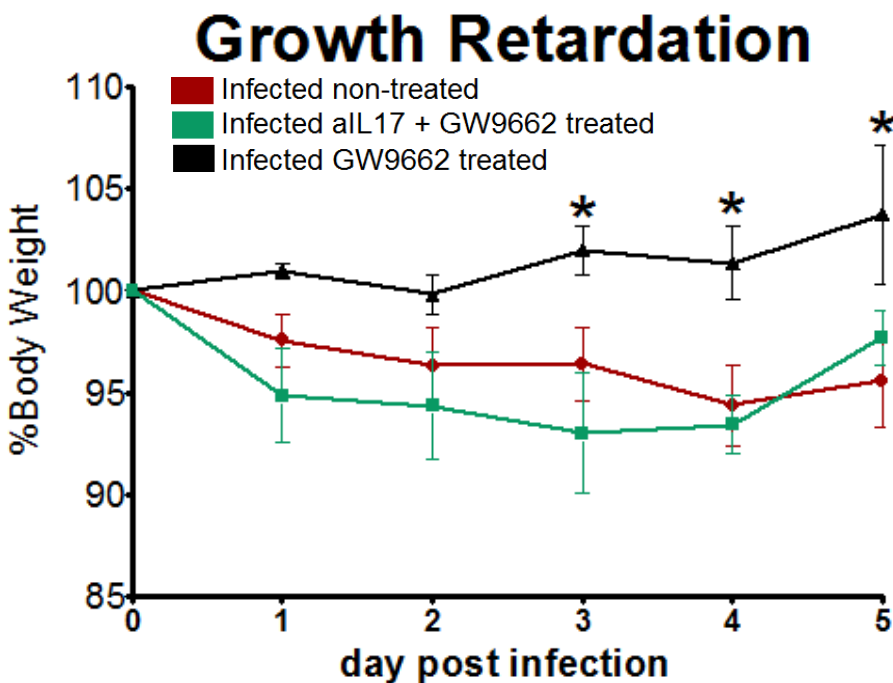


malnourished 5 days post infection

Pharmacological blockade of PPARγ beneficial

Late during infection GW9662 treated mice expressed cytokines responsible for potentiating Th17 differentiation in addition to significantly higher levels of anti-microbial peptides.

IL-17A Neutralization abrogates benefits of PPAR γ Blockade



Anti-IL-17A neutralizing antibody abrogates the beneficial effects of GW9662 in ameliorating disease based on weight loss and bacterial shedding



MIEP

MODELING IMMUNITY
TO ENTERIC PATHOGENS

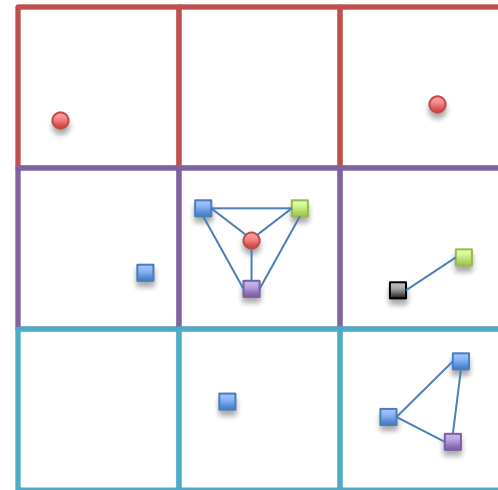
COPASI & ENISI Tools and Models

Computational Modeling



ENISI Modeling Environment

- Host cells and bacteria are agents (10^8 agents)
- Agents move around gut mucosa and lymph nodes
- Agents in a same location are considered to be in contact
- Co-evolving Graphical Discrete Dynamical System (CGDDS): Linking mathematical theory and HPC
- Contacting agents can interact:
 - Agent-Agent interaction
 - Group-Agent interaction
 - Timed interaction
- Each agent represented as an automaton





modeling approach

biological scale

experimental approach

ODE models

cellular automata

potts models

agent-based (single cell) models

spatial PDE

ODE models

agent-based (single molecule)

molecular dynamics

10^0 m



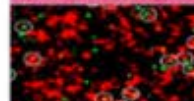
organism

10^{-2} m



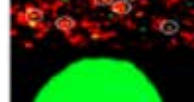
organ systems
single organ

10^{-4} m



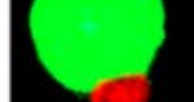
cell populations

10^{-5} m



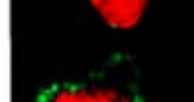
cell-cell communication

10^{-6} m



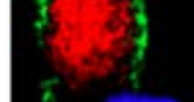
single cells

10^{-7} m



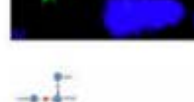
sub-cellular compartmentalization
intracellular distribution of molecules

10^{-8} m



signaling / metabolic networks

10^{-9} m



protein interactions

10^{-10} m



single molecules

physiology, anatomy ↔ histology ↔ cell biology ↔ biochemistry ↔ molecular biology ↔ biophysics

radiological imaging

clinical chemistry

microscopy:

immunohistochemistry

flow cytometry

2-photon in vivo imaging

3-D confocal

proteomics

quantitative single-cell microscopy

protein biochemistry

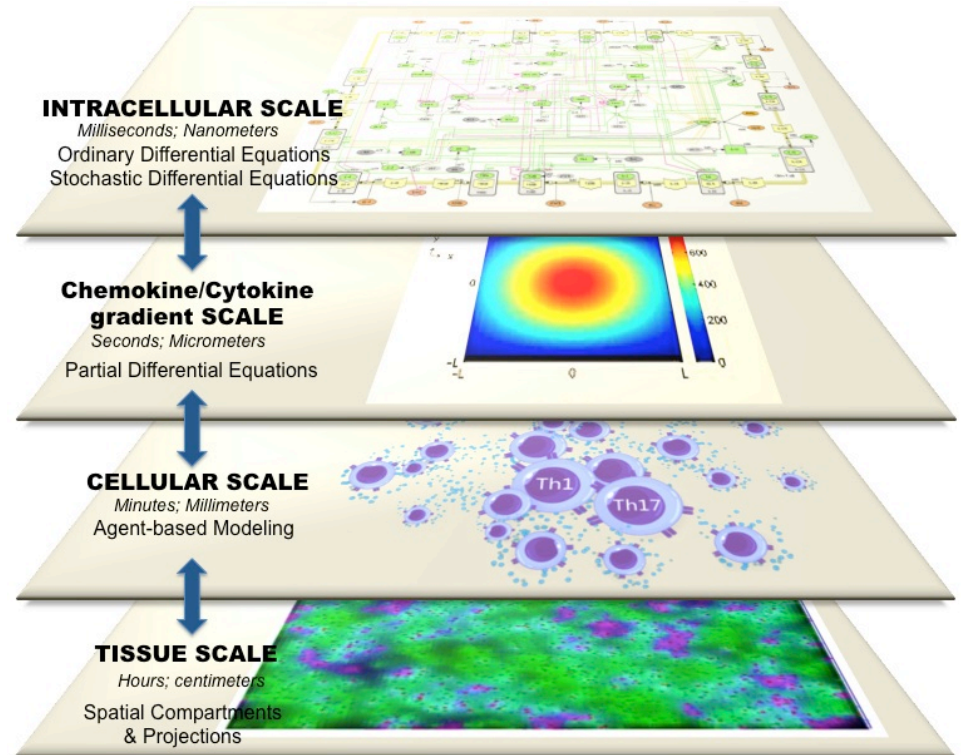
IP, SPR, Y2H

structural molecular biology



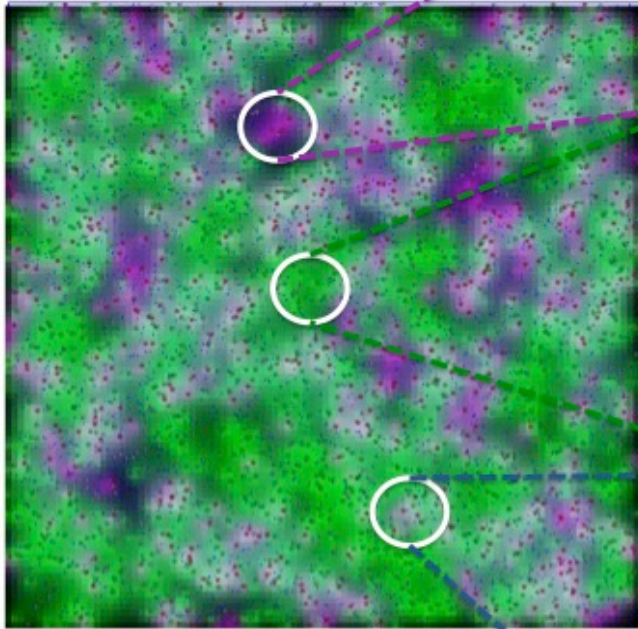
ENISI MSM

- Tissue Scale
- Cellular Scale
- Chemokine Scale
- Intracellular Scale

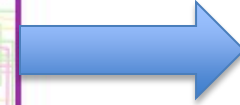
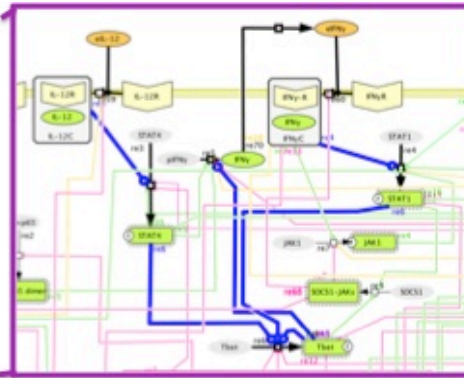


Scales	Time	Space	Mathematical Model	Software Environment
Tissue	Hours-Weeks	Centimeters	Spatial compartments	ENISI
Cellular	Minutes-Days	Millimeters	ABM	ENISI ABM
Cytokines	Seconds	Millimeters	PDE	ENISI
Intracellular	Millisecond	Nanometers	ODE/SDE	COPASI/ENISI SDE

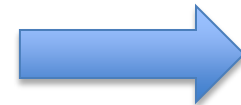
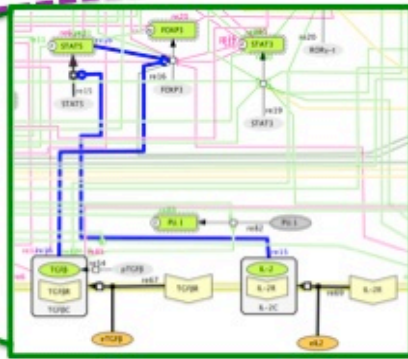
ENISI MSM



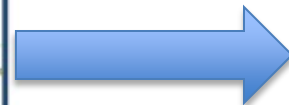
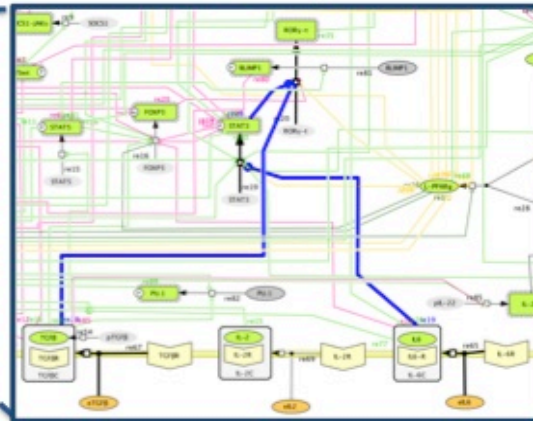
Th1 activation
(IL-12 and IFN γ
induction)



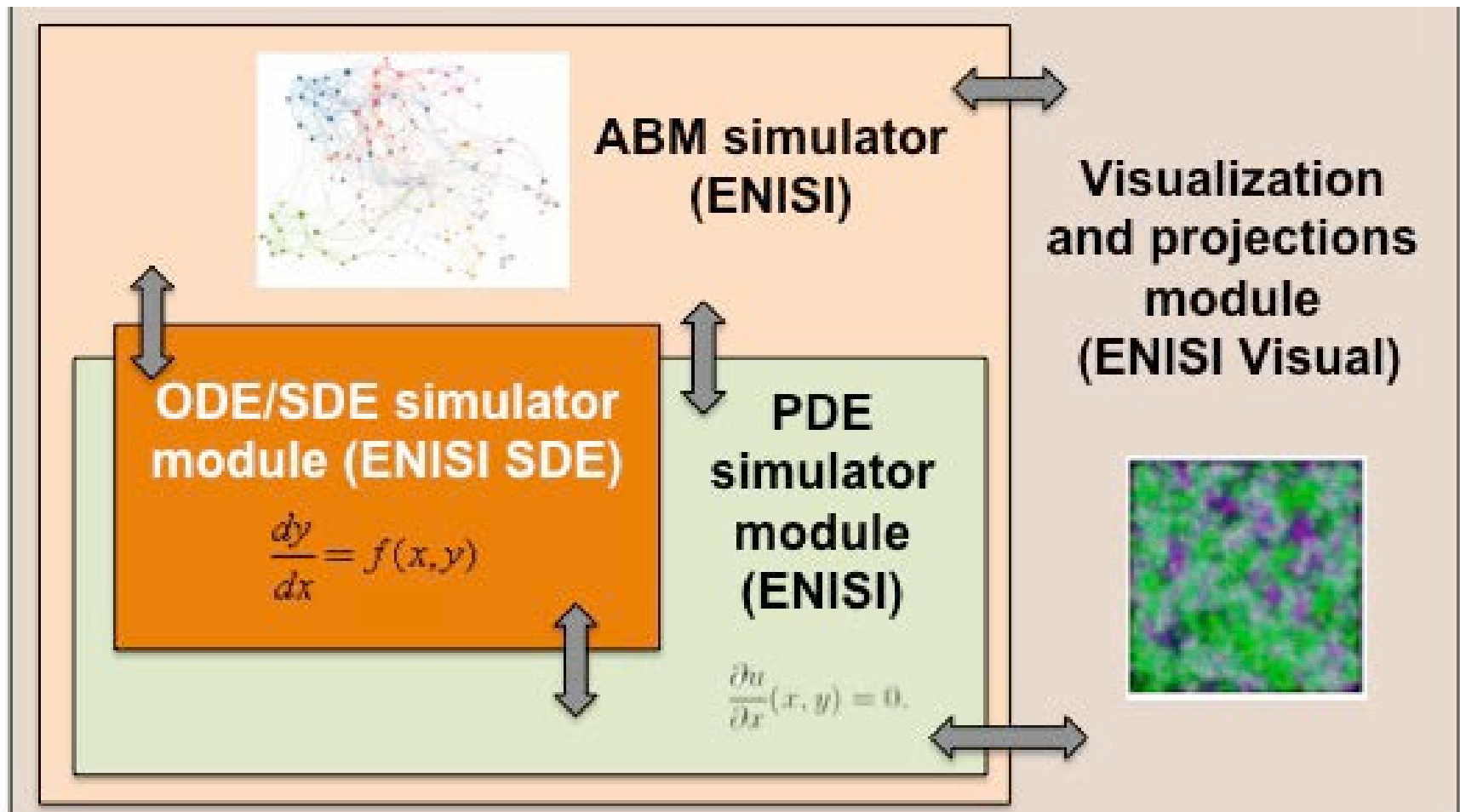
Treg activation
(IL-2 and TGF β
induction)



Th17 activation
(IL-6 and TGF β
induction)

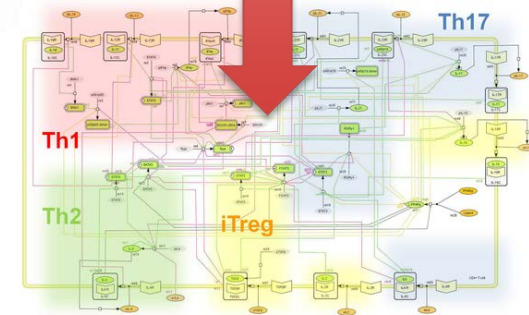
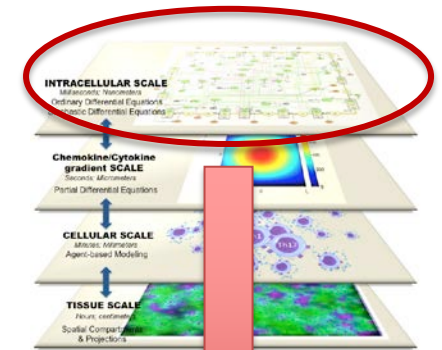


ENISI MSM System Architecture



Intracellular Model: CD4+ T cells

- Comprehensive T cell differentiation model
 - 94 species
 - 46 reactions
 - 60 ODEs
- A deterministic model for *in silico* experiments with T cell differentiation: Th1, Th2, Th17, and Treg
- However, this model cannot represent the stochastic nature of T cell differentiation
 - Transcription
 - Translation rate



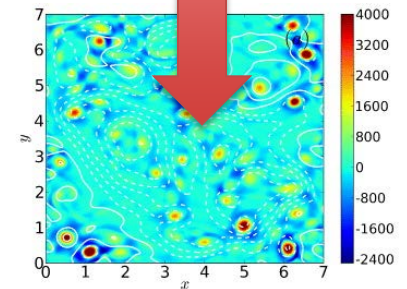
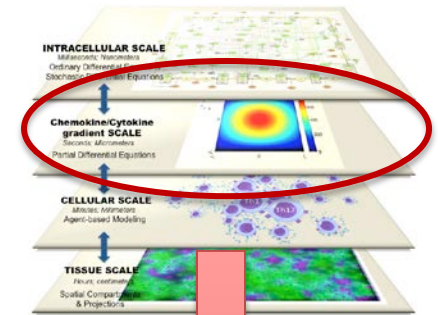
ODE intracellular model

Chemokine/Cytokine Fluid Scale

- Consists of **concentration** of cytokines and chemokines
- Each cytokine or chemokine has **diffusion** process of the form:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial t} = D \left(\frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial z^2} \right) - \gamma L + \sigma$$

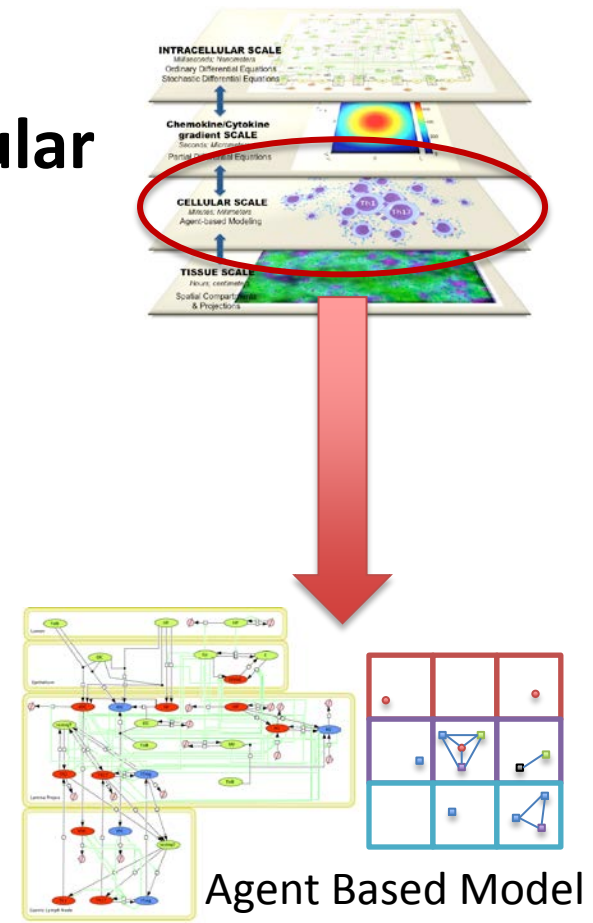
- $L(x,y,z)$ =concentration of cytokine/chemokine
- D =diffusion rate
- γ =degradation rate
- Realized with partial differential equations (PDE)



Cytokine/Chemokine Diffusion

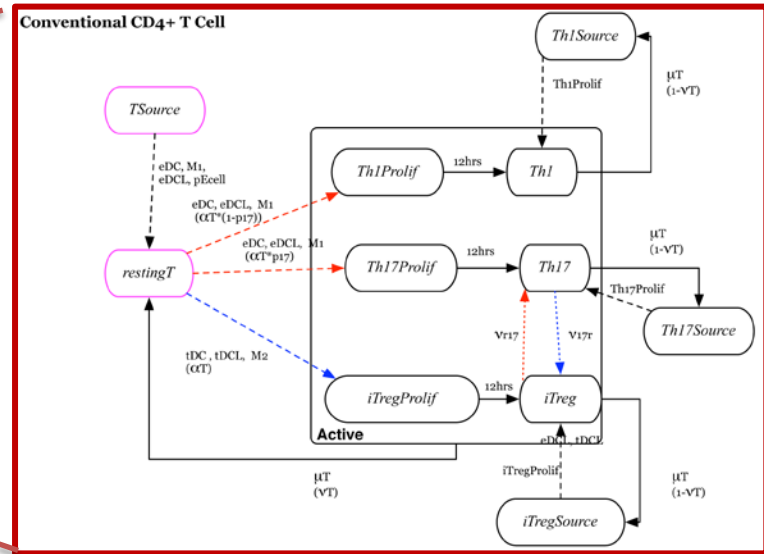
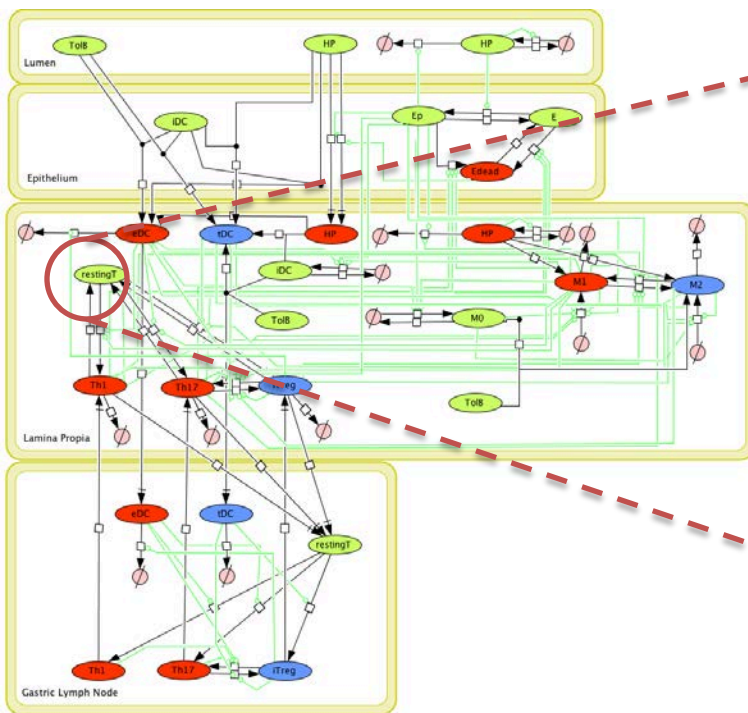
Cellular Scale: Agent Based Model

- Host cells and bacteria are agents
- Each agent has an associated **intracellular model**
- Agents move around gut mucosa and lymph nodes
- Nearby agents are “in contact”
- Agents in contact can interact:
 - Agent-Agent interaction
 - Group-Agent interaction
 - Timed interaction



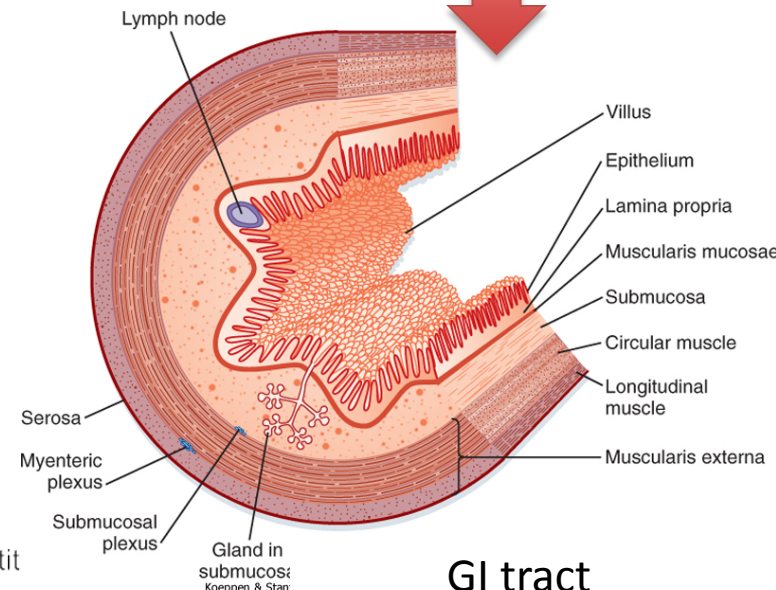
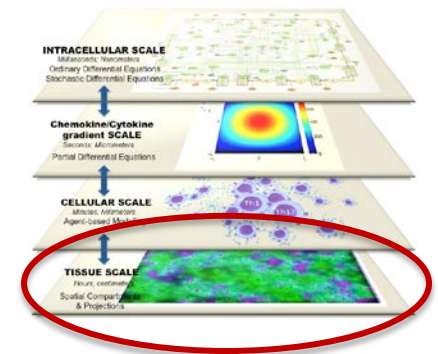
ENISI V1

- In an early version of ENISI states of an agent were represented by rule-based automaton



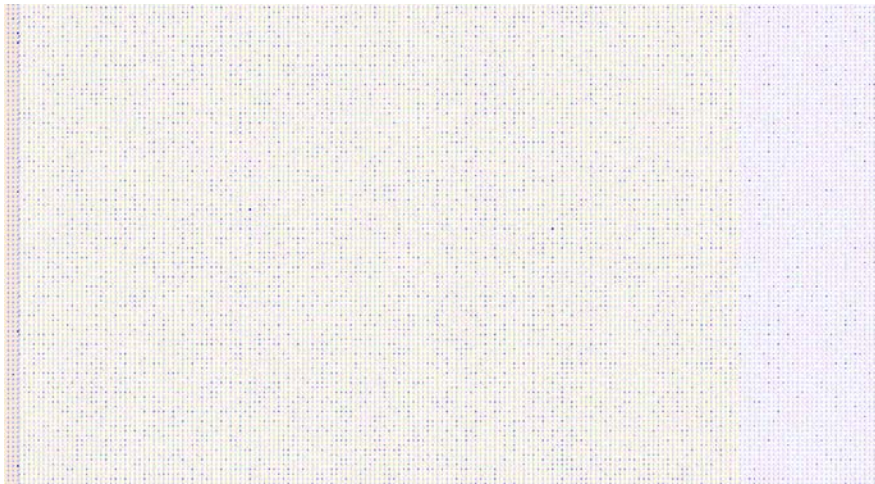
Tissue Scale: ABM

- Participating cells are located in the GI tract.
- Cells move in the tissue sites.
- Tissue Sites:
 - Lumen
 - Epithelial Cells
 - Lamina Propria
 - Gastric Lymph Node

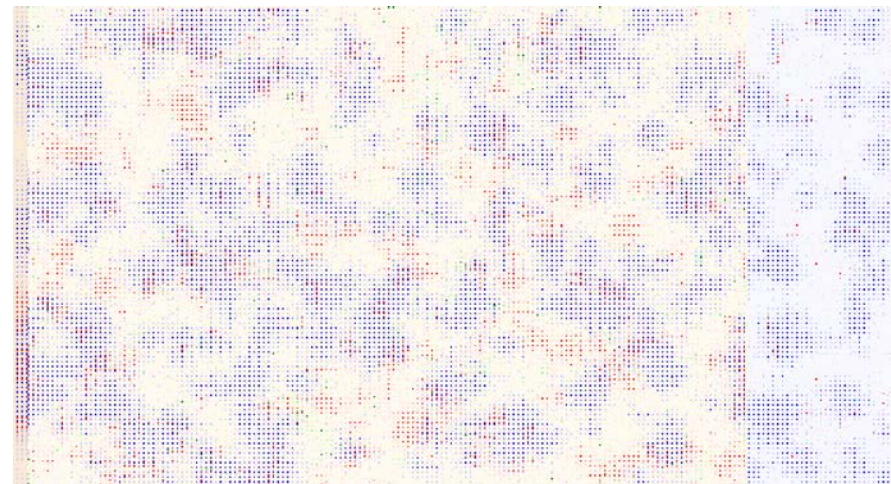


In silico Gut Lesion Formation

- Developing visualizations of cellular movements
- Lesion formation is observed in chemotaxis-based movement models

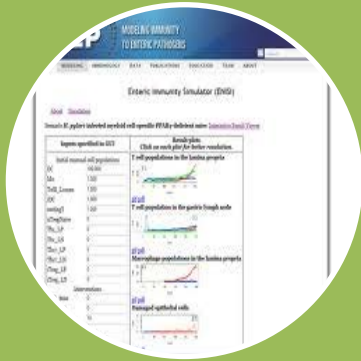


Without Chemotaxis
(Uniform Mix)



With Chemotaxis
(Formation of Lesion)

VisIt Workflow



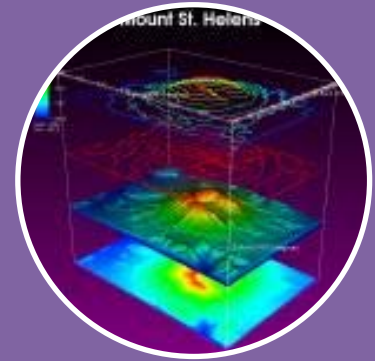
Simulation Engine (ENISI)

- Generates output files



Post-Processing and *.silo creation

- Generates silo files from ENISI output

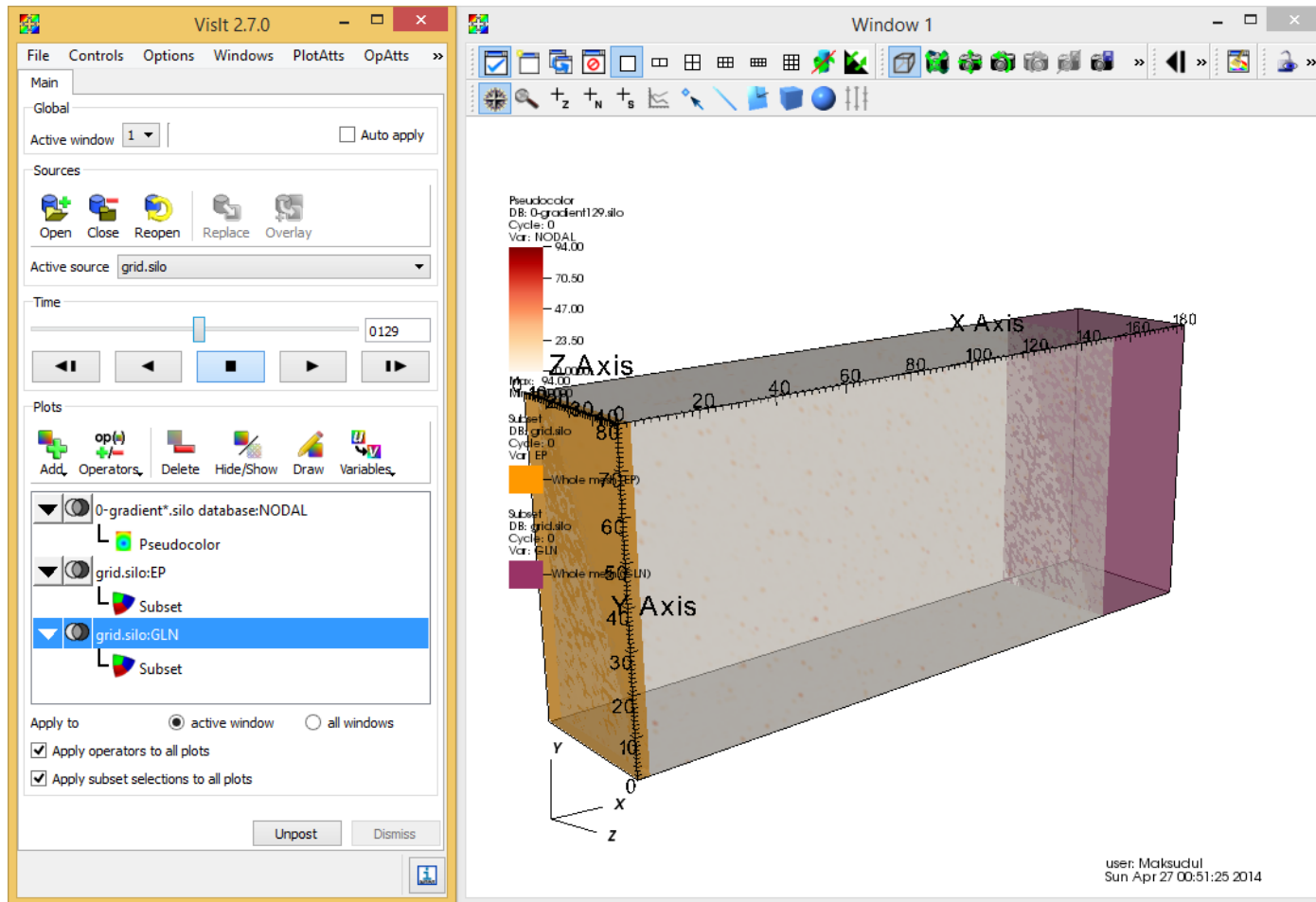


Visualize with VisIt GUI

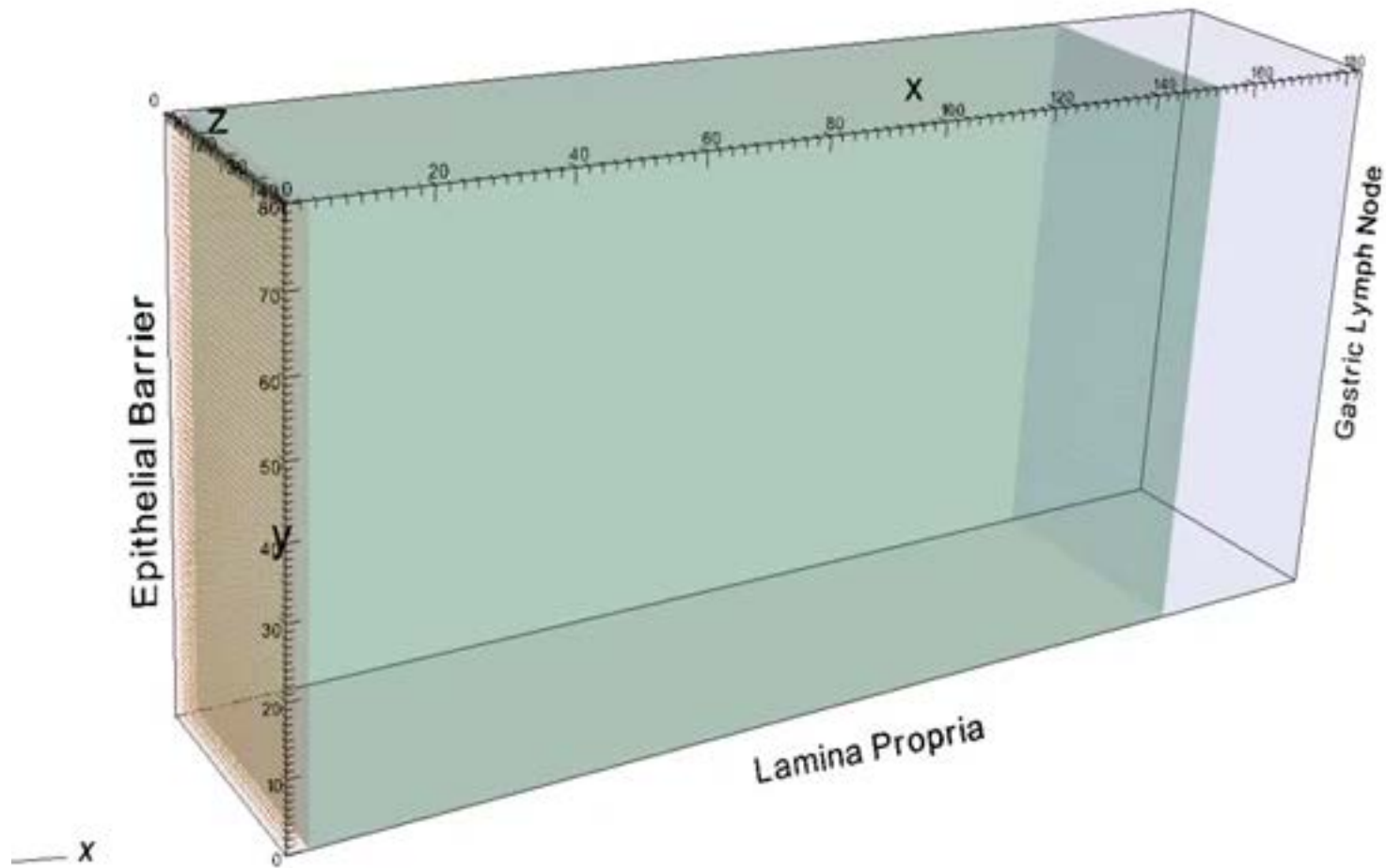
- Make plots with various options



ENISI 3-D Visualizations



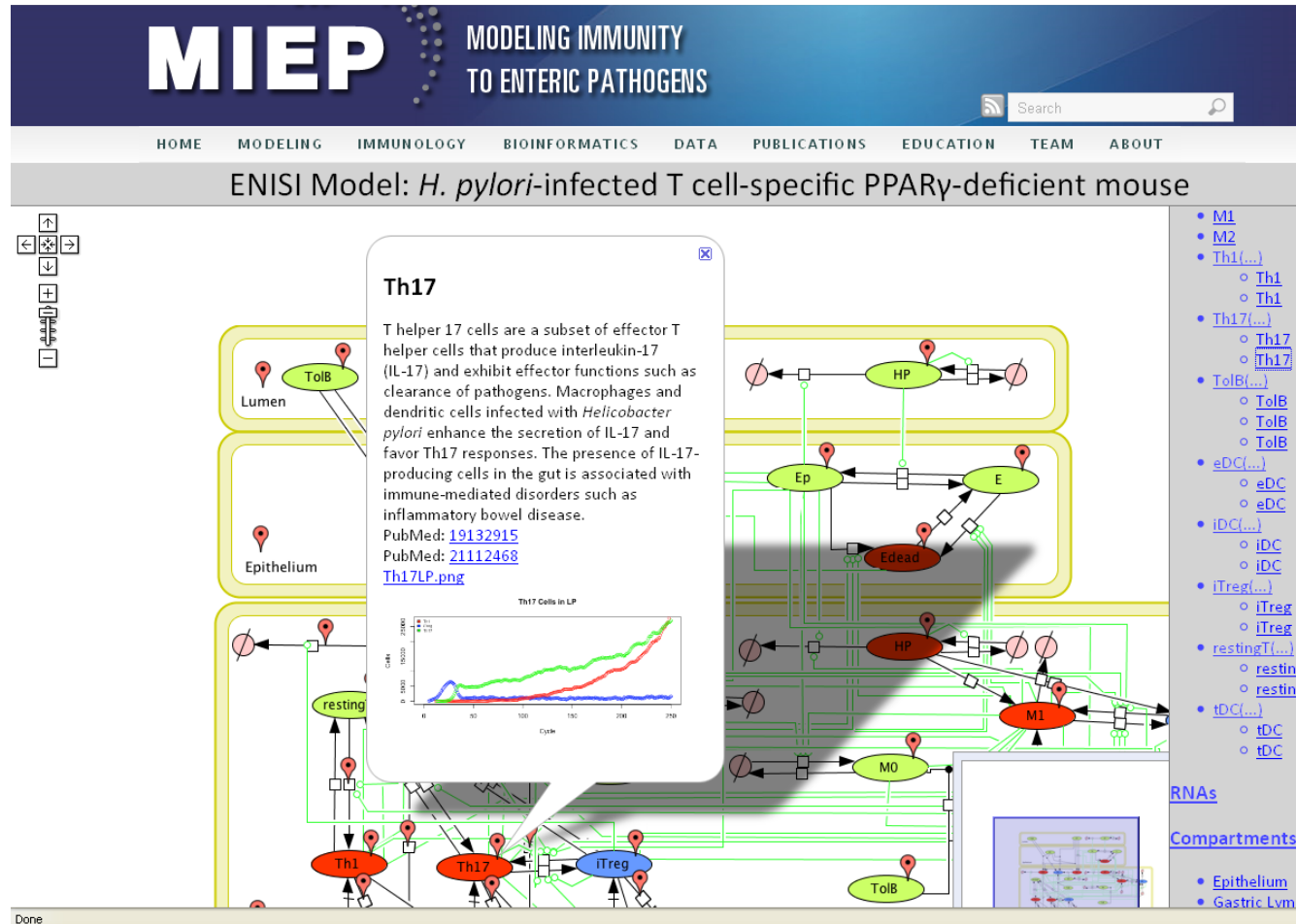
ENISI 3-D Visualizations



Sharing: ENISI Pathway Navigator

- Network available at the MIEP web portal
- Interactive Modeling Tool
 - The user has the ability to modify parameters and experimental setup for the *H. pylori* model and simulate it on MIEP high performance cluster
- Statistical Results
 - We provide statistical results based on replicates of ENISI simulations displaying mean and standard deviation

Results in ENISI Pathway Navigator



ENISI ISE Web Interface

← → ↻ <https://nimml-labkey.vbi.vt.edu/models/tcell/> ☆ 🔄 ☰

CD4+ T cell Computational Model

This is a web-based modeling tool for the CD4+ T Computational model. After clicking on the parameters button, You can change the default parameters and initial values. Clicking the submit button, and you will receive the results as figures back. You can repeat the process multiple times to test your parameter sets.

For more details on the model and data, please see the [CD4+ model page](#).

Model Network

Parameters

This is for species initial values

External IFN- γ

mol range: [0, 2]

External IL-12

mol range: [0, 2]

External IL-18

mol range: [0, 2]

External TGF- β

mol range: [0, 2]

External IL-6

mol range: [0, 2]

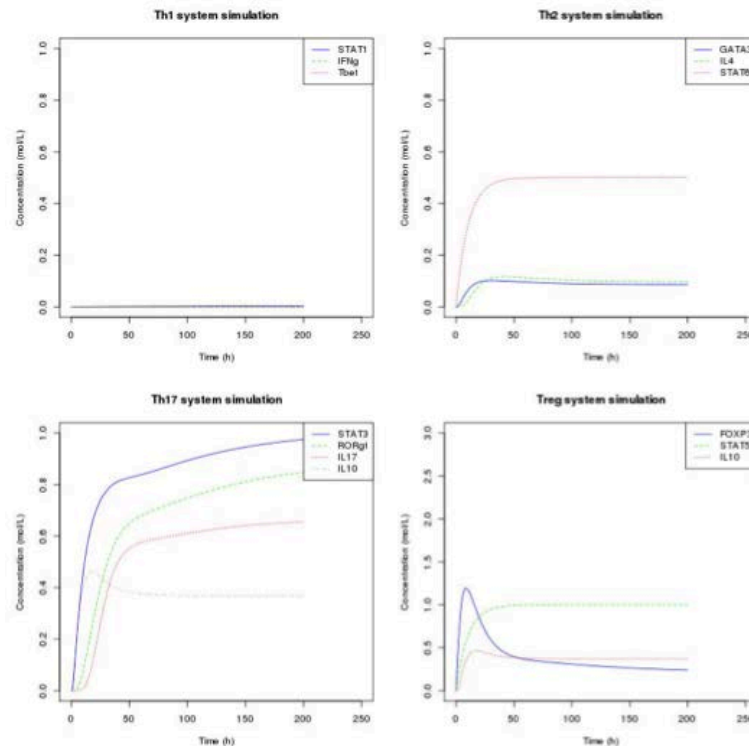
External IL-2

mol range: [0, 2]

External IL-4

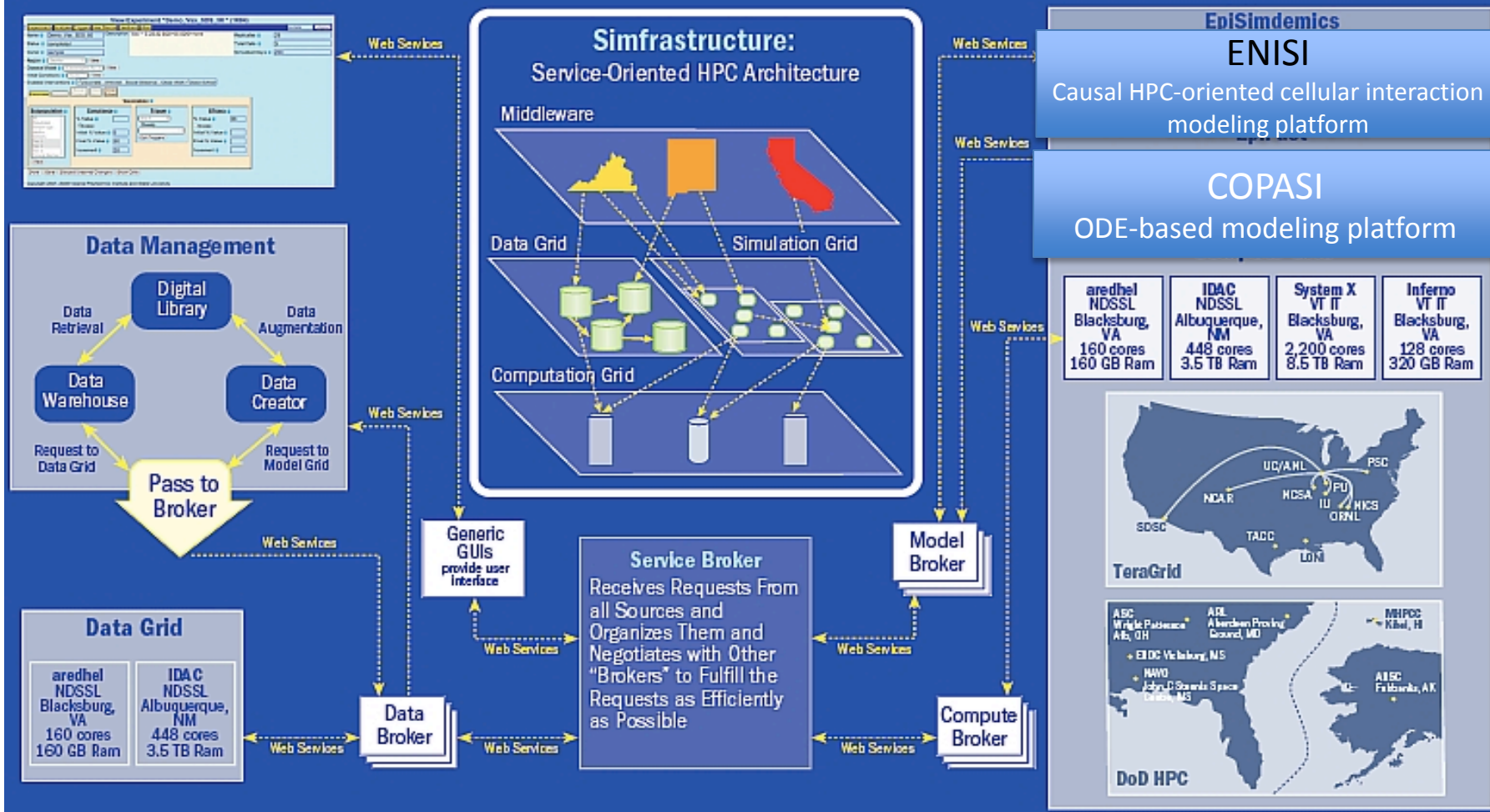
mol range: [0, 2]

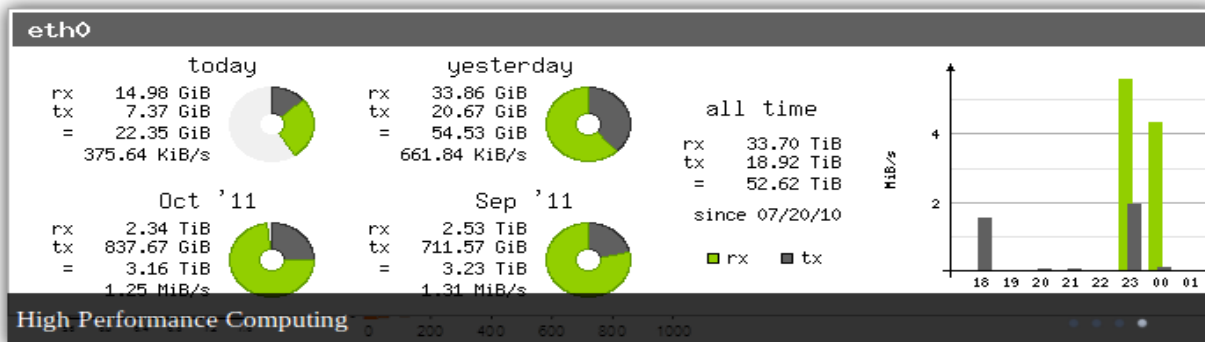
Submit



Modeling Environment

Cyber-Infrastructure Supporting Complex Systems Research





MIEP MISSION

The Center for Modeling Immunity to Enteric Pathogens (MIEP) is a NIAID funded program with the mission of understanding the mechanisms of action underlying immune responses to enteric pathogens.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIEP team to present ENteric Immunity Simulator (ENISI) at [IEEE International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biomedicine](#).

MIEP team to attend Annual Meeting of the Modeling Immunity for Biodefense Program, Bethesda, MD Nov 1-2.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

PPAR γ Modulates the Plasticity between Th17 and iTreg

The MIEP team has created a network model of CD4+ T cell differentiation that reveals how the transcription factor peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ (PPAR γ) modulates differentiation from Th17 to iTreg. [\[more ...\]](#)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Center for Modeling Immunity to Enteric Pathogens Releases a Revolutionary Modeling and Simulation Software: ENteric Immunity Simulator

BLACKSBURG, Va., Oct. 5th, 2011 – Researchers from the Center for Modeling Immunity to Enteric Pathogens (MIEP) at the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute have released an upgrade to the revolutionary ENteric Immunity Simulator (ENISI) software. The ENISI models immune responses to beneficial and harmful bacteria that enter the gastrointestinal tract (GI) of mice, pigs and humans. ENISI allows users to create enteric systems such as the gut-associated mucosal immune system *in silico*, providing a better glimpse of how the immune system responds to pathogens that invade the bacteria-rich environment of the gut. [\[More ...\]](#)

Healthy Volunteers Needed to Study Immune Responses to Intestinal Pathogens

BLACKSBURG, Va., September 28, 2011 – You may be interested in a clinical study the Center for Modeling Immunity to Enteric Pathogens (MIEP) is conducting. We Are Looking for Healthy Volunteers to Study Immune Responses to Intestinal Pathogens. Compensation is available if you qualify and are enrolled in the study. Please Contact (434) 924-9922 if you live near Charlottesville or (540) 231-7276 if you live near Blacksburg for more information. [\[More ...\]](#)

PRESS RELEASES

- Center for Modeling Immunity to Enteric Pathogens Releases a Revolutionary Modeling and Simulation Software: ENteric Immunity Simulator
- Center for Modeling Immunity to Enteric Pathogens Contributes Code to The Open Source Community
- Center for Modeling Immunity to Enteric Pathogens to Release New

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- ENteric Immunity Simulator: A tool for *in silico* study of gut immunopathologies
- Modeling the Mechanisms of Action Underlying the Plasticity of the CD4+ T cell Differentiation Process
- Abscisic acid Regulates Inflammation via Ligand-Binding Domain-Independent Activation of PPAR γ

MIEP Team

Virginia Bioinformatics Institute

Josep Bassaganya-Riera - Principal Investigator and Center Director

Jim Walke – Project Manager

Raquel Hontecillas - Immunology Lead

Barbara Kronsteiner-Dobramysl – Immunology Researcher

Xiaoying Zhang – Immunology

Pinyi Lu - Bioinformatics and Modeling

Adria Carbo - Immunology and Modeling

Kristin Eden- Immunology and Modeling

Monica Viladomiu – Immunology

Irving C. Allen - Immunology

Ken Oestreich - Immunology

Casandra Philipson – Immunology and Modeling

Eric Schiff, Patrick Heizer, Nathan Palmer, Mark Langowski, Chase Hetzel, Emily Fung – Interns

David Bevan- Education Lead



Funding: Supported by NIAID Contract No. HHSN272201000056C



Virginia Bioinformatics Institute (continued)

Madhav Marathe - Modeling Lead

Keith Bisset - Modeling Expert

Stephen Eubank - Modeling Expert

Tricity Andrew- Modeling GRA

Maksudul Alam - Modeling GRA

Stefan Hoops/Yongguo Mei - Bioinformatics Leads

Pinyi Lu – Bioinformatics GRA

Pawel Michalak – Genomics Tools

Nathan Liles - Bioinformatician

Xinwei Deng – Statistical Analysis

University of Virginia

Richard Guerrant - Infectious Disease Expert

Circle A. Warren - Infectious Disease Expert

David Bolick - Sr. Laboratory and Research Specialist

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- **David Bevan**
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- **Kathy O'hara**
- **Noah Philipson**
- **Rachel Robinson**
- **Traci Roberts**
- **Tiffany Trent**
- **Kristopher Monger**
- **Ivan Morozov**
- **Josh Dunbar**



MIEP

MODELING IMMUNITY TO ENTERIC PATHOGENS

Modeling Mucosal Immunity
Summer School & Symposium

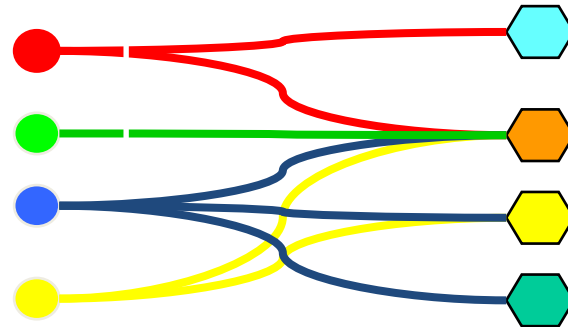
We thank our sponsors:



Mathematical Model

- Each individual occupies a state (cell-type, immunological-state, location)
- Location changes based on cell-type/immunological state creating a contact network
- State changes upon contact according to specific rules
- Uses ENISI environment

Location dependent interaction rules



Cells Cell types and Their behaviors

Tissue Sites wherein interaction occurs

Can incorporate:

- Spatial heterogeneity
- Stochasticity
- Phenotype emergence through individual evolution
- Moving from 10^4 to 10^8 agents within the model

