

# TRANSCRIPTOMIC REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF THE DENDRITIC CELL RESPONSE TO POST-LUNG TRANSPLANT INVASIVE ASPERGILLOSIS

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Amit Adlakha

Clinical Research Fellow

MRC Clinical Sciences Centre / National Heart and Lung Institute

Imperial College London

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**Imperial College**  
London

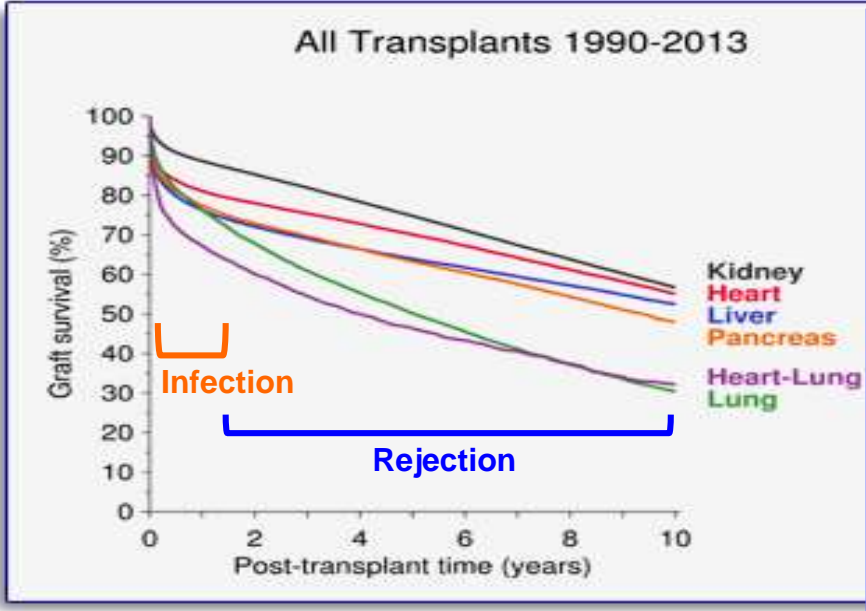
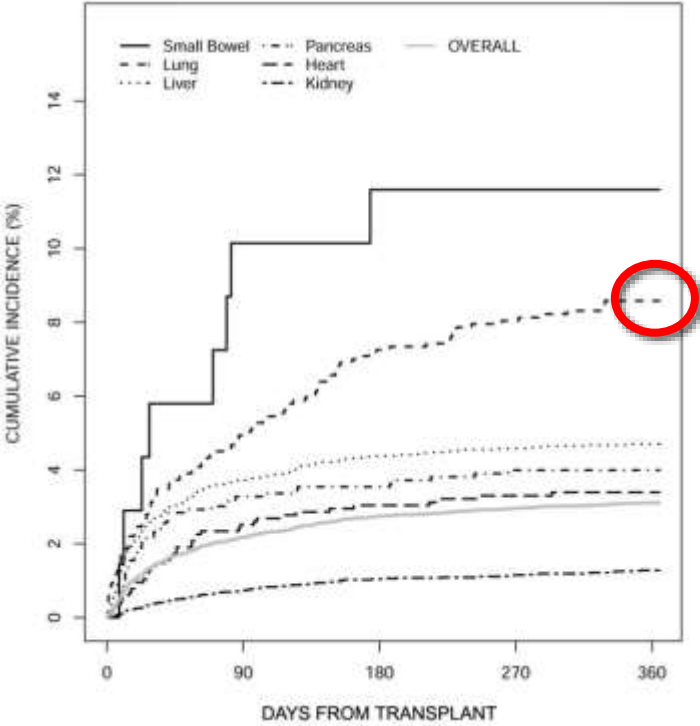


**NHS**  
*National Institute for  
Health Research*

# Disclosures

- Nil financial
- I'm not an infection doctor
- I'm a respiratory intensivist

# Lung transplantation



5-year survival = 51%

Debing et al. BMC Infectious Diseases 2014, 14:166  
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2334/14/166>



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

## Interferon-gamma as adjunctive immunotherapy for invasive fungal infections: a case series

Carline E Delsing<sup>1†</sup>, Mark S Gresnigt<sup>1†</sup>, Jenneke Leentjens<sup>1,2†</sup>, Frank Preijers<sup>4</sup>, Florence Allantaz Frager<sup>5</sup>, Matthijs Kok<sup>2,3</sup>, Guillaume Monneret<sup>4</sup>, Fabienne Venet<sup>5</sup>, Chantal P Bleeker-Rovers<sup>1</sup>, Frank L van de Veerdonk<sup>1</sup>, Peter Pickkers<sup>2</sup>, Alexandre Pachot<sup>5</sup>, Bart Jan Kullberg<sup>1</sup> and Mihai G Netea<sup>1,6†</sup>

## Exogenous Interferon-γ Immunotherapy for Invasive Fungal Infections in Kidney Transplant Patients

D. Armstrong-James<sup>a,1</sup>, I. A. Teo<sup>a,1</sup>, S. Shrivastava<sup>a,b,d</sup>, M. A. Petrou<sup>c</sup>, D. Taub A. Dorling<sup>b,d,e</sup> and S. Shaunak<sup>a,\*</sup>

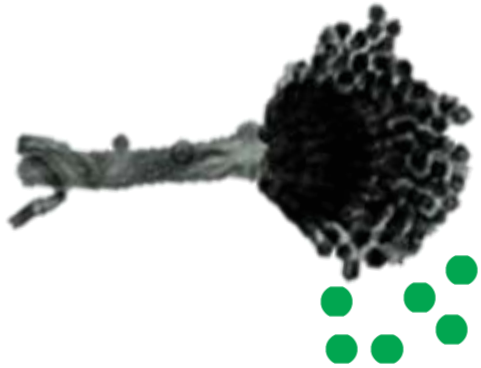
<https://www.isHLT.org>  
 Pappas P G et al. Clin Infect Dis 2010

### TRANSNET study

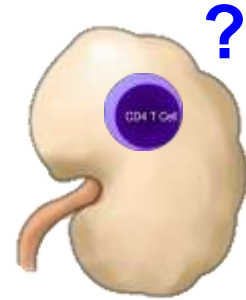
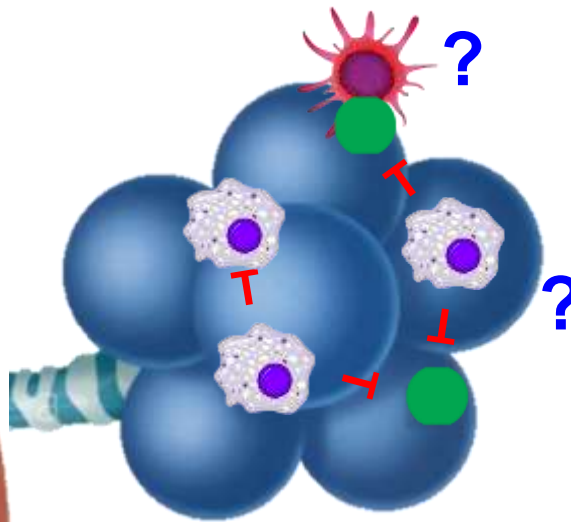
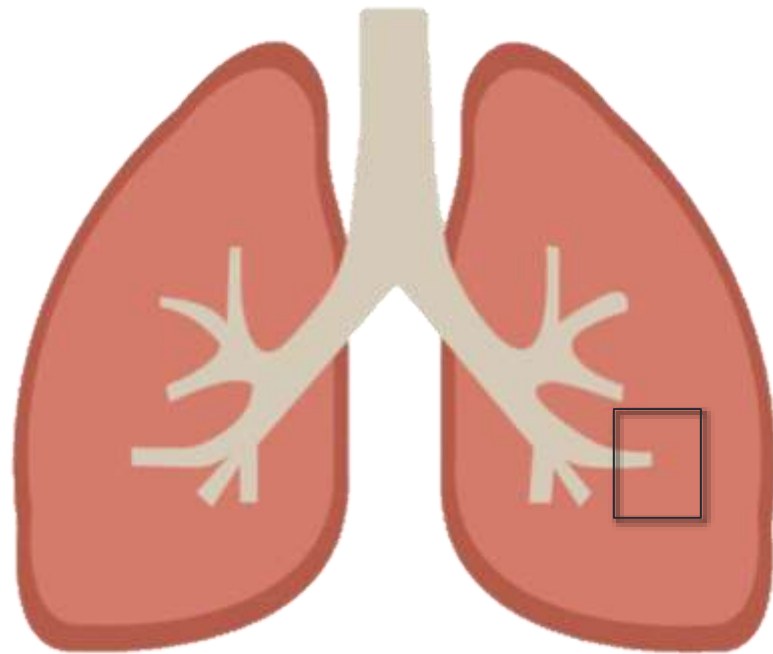
- risk of invasive fungal infection within 1yr of transplant → highest with lung
- ~50% of lung transplant IFI's were due to *Aspergillus fumigatus*

~3.8% of lung transplant recipients die within 1<sup>st</sup> year from *Aspergillus* infection, globally

# Lung transplant

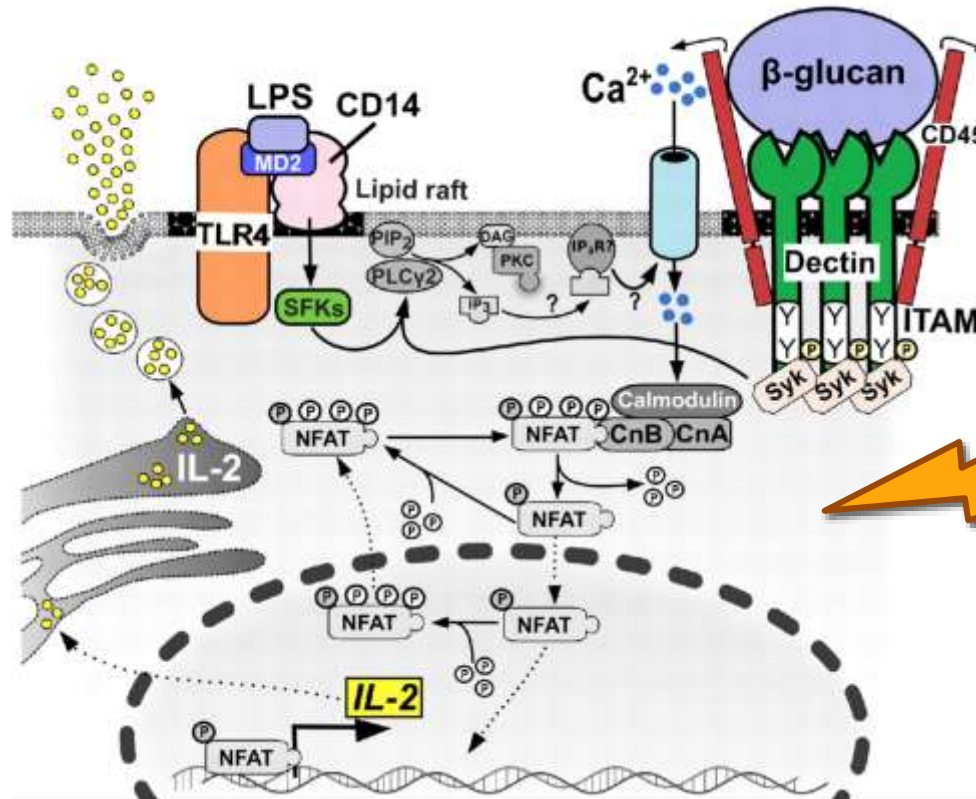


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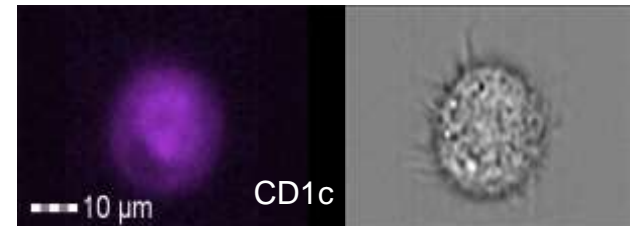
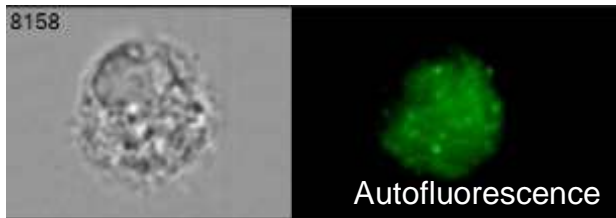
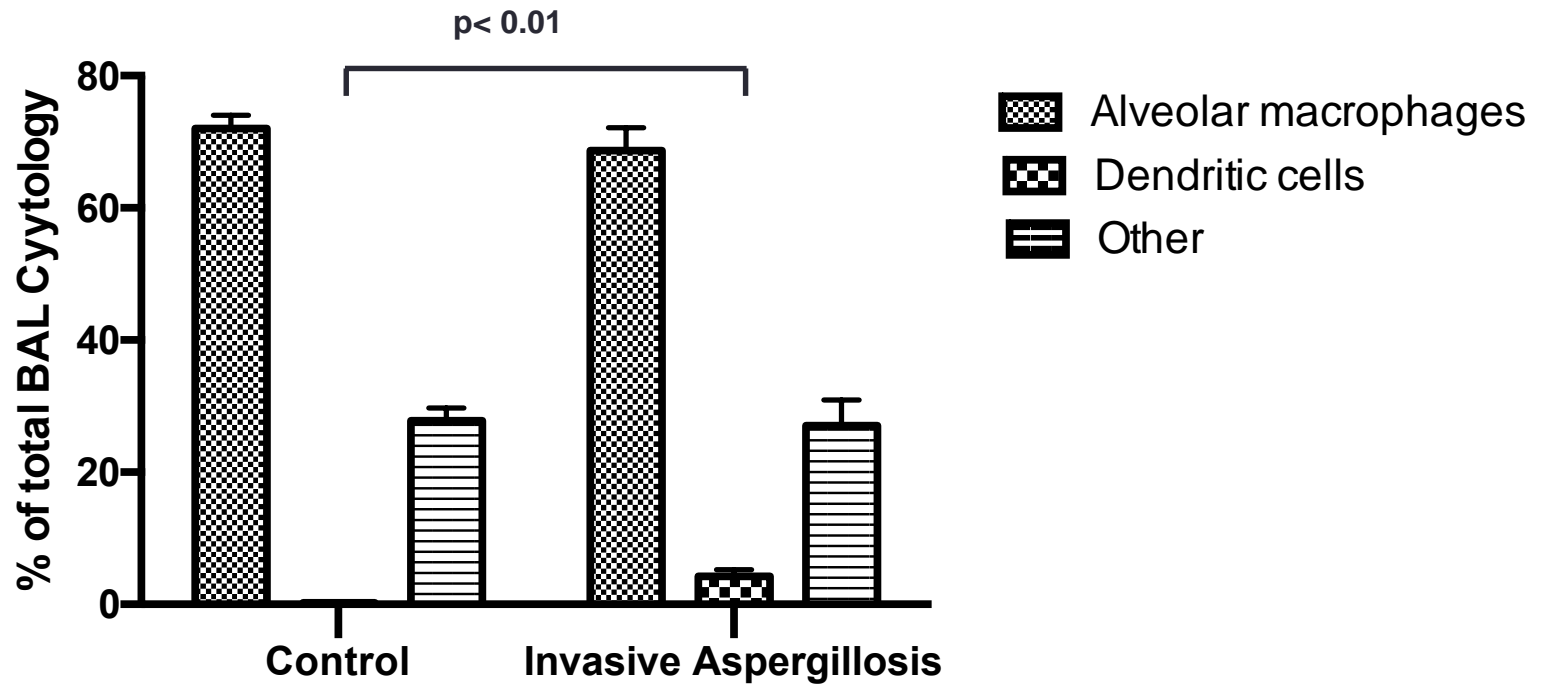


FK506

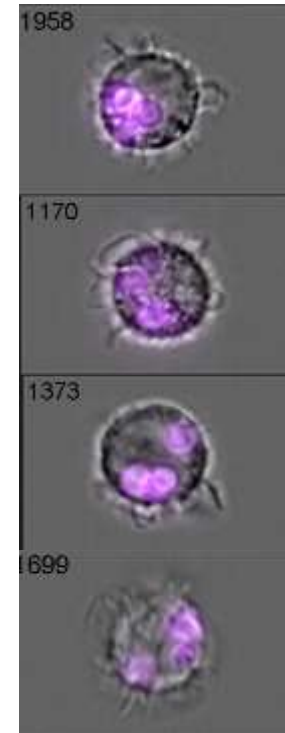
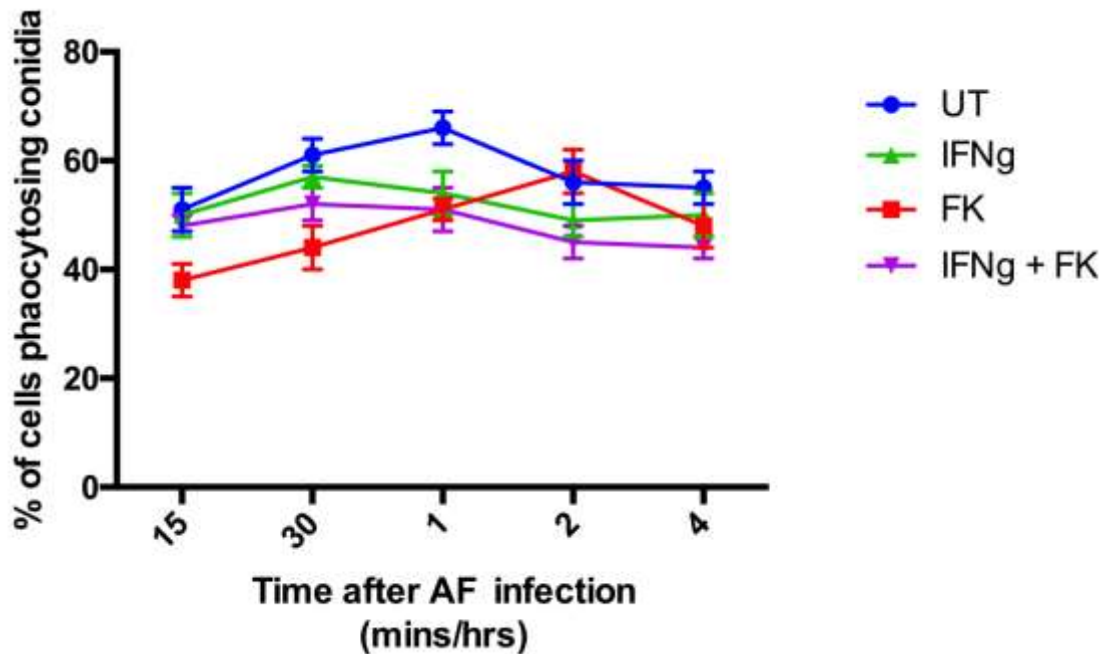
# Calcineurin-NFAT axis in myeloid cells



# Monocyte-derived dendritic cells migrate to the alveoli in lung transplant recipients with invasive aspergillosis



# FK506 and IFN- $\gamma$ alter phagocytosis of *A.fumigatus* swollen conidia by DC's

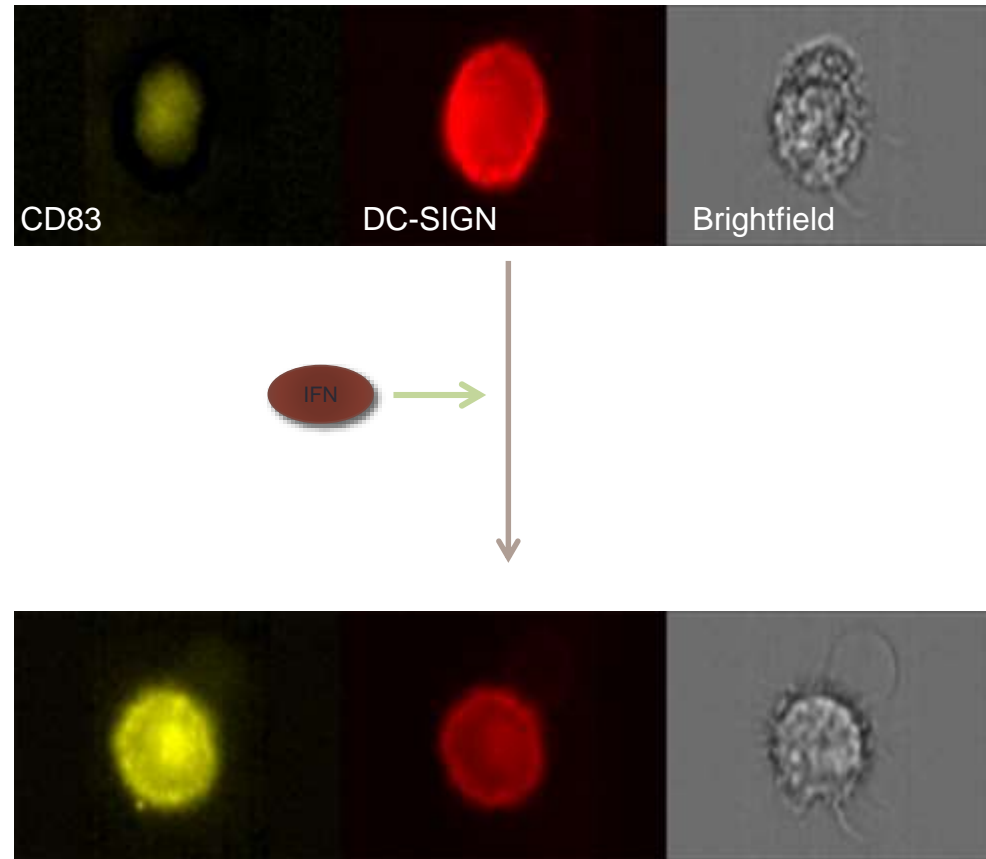
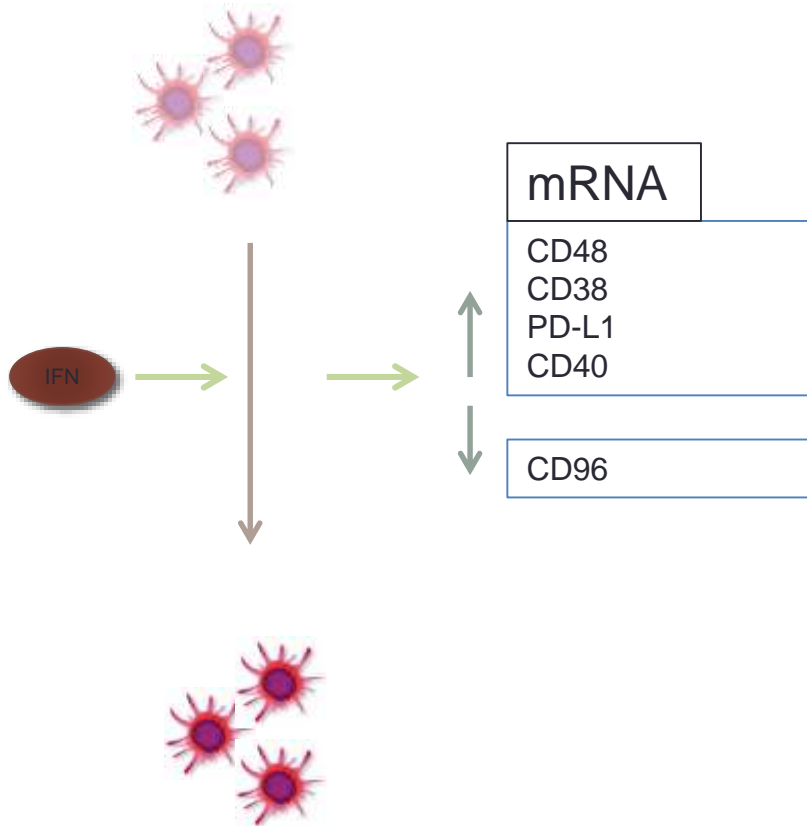


Phagocytosis is delayed by **FK506** ( $p < 0.001$ )

Peak phagocytosis is reduced by **IFN- $\gamma$**  ( $p < 0.01$ )

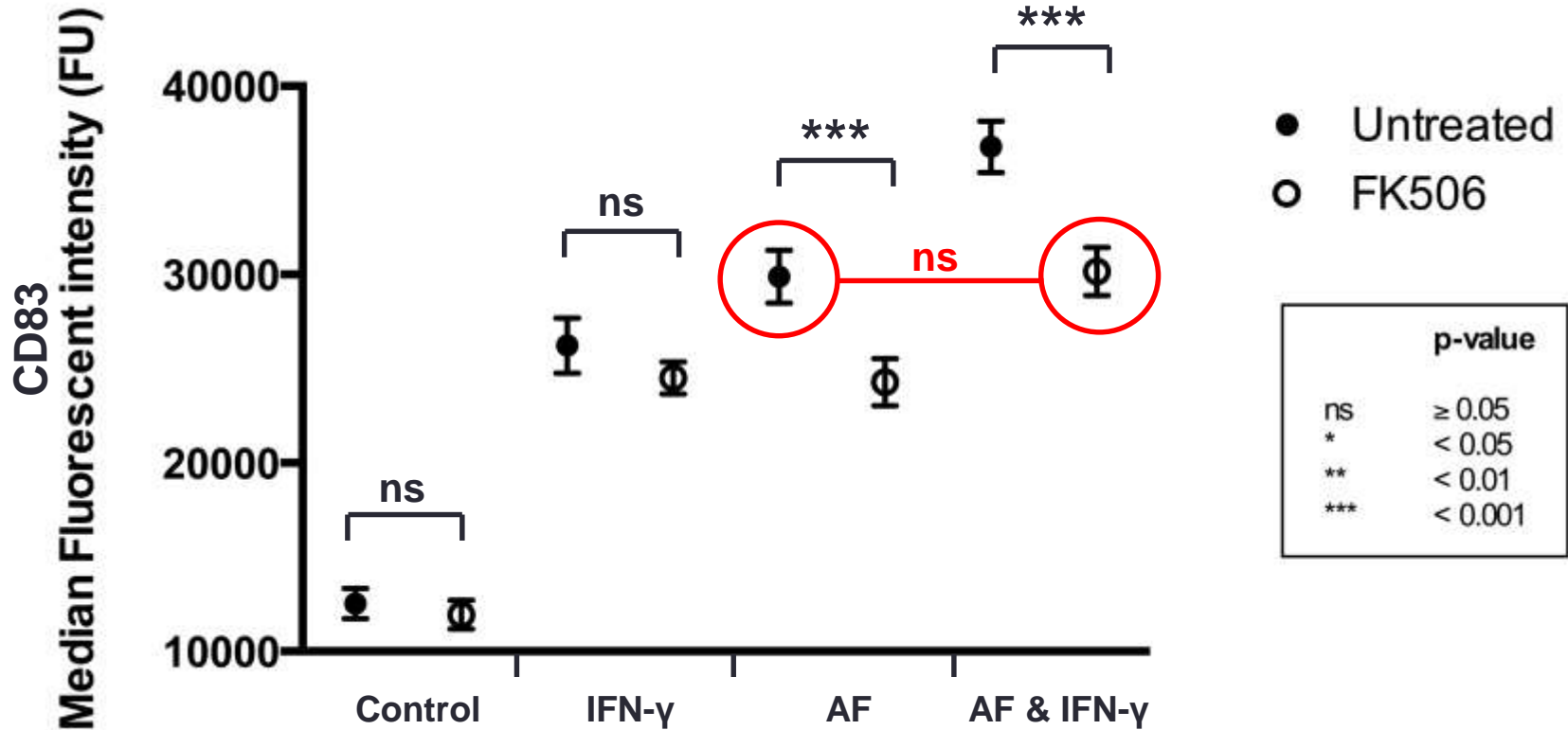
**IFN- $\gamma$  treatment of an FK506-treated DC** permits earlier phagocytosis, but reduces peak phagocytosis ( $p < 0.001$ ,  $p < 0.01$ )

# DC maturation signal with IFN $\gamma$ treatment

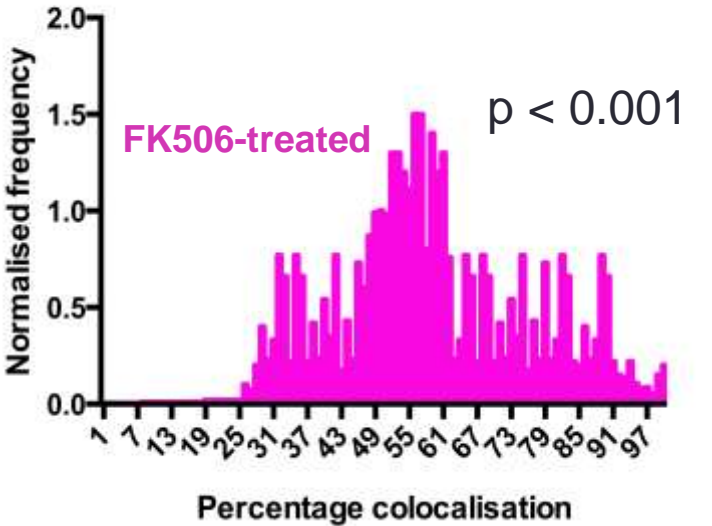
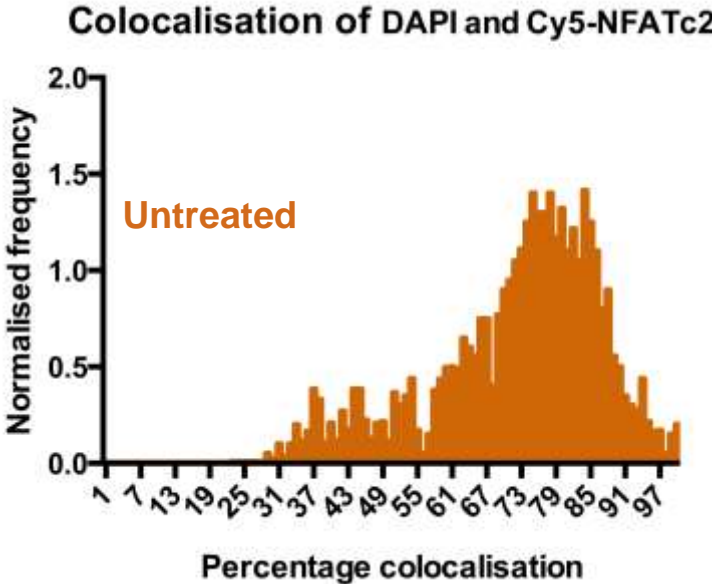
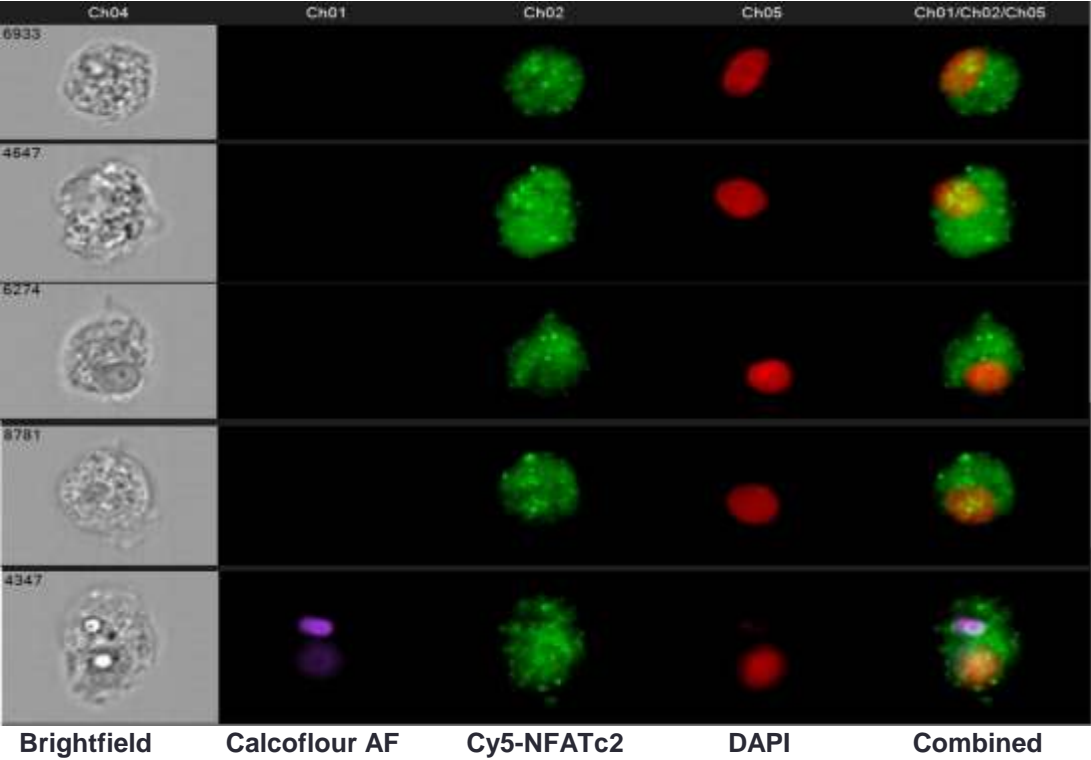




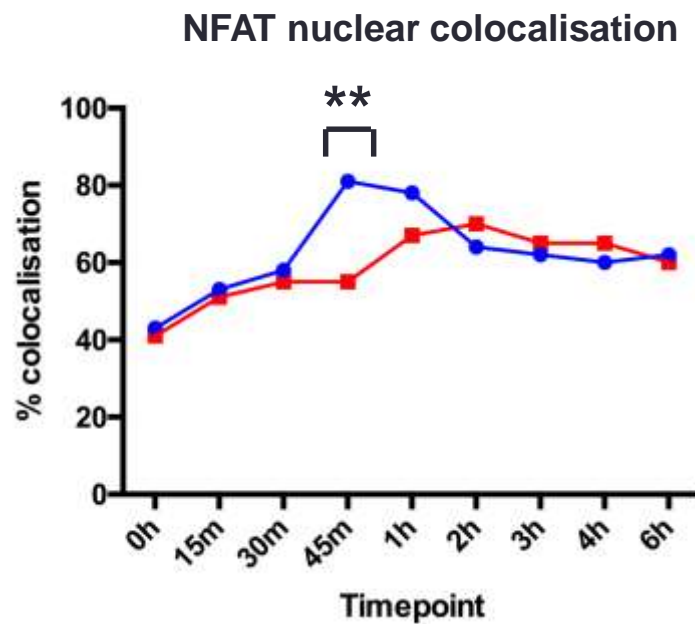
# FK506-impaired maturation of DC's is restored by IFN $\gamma$



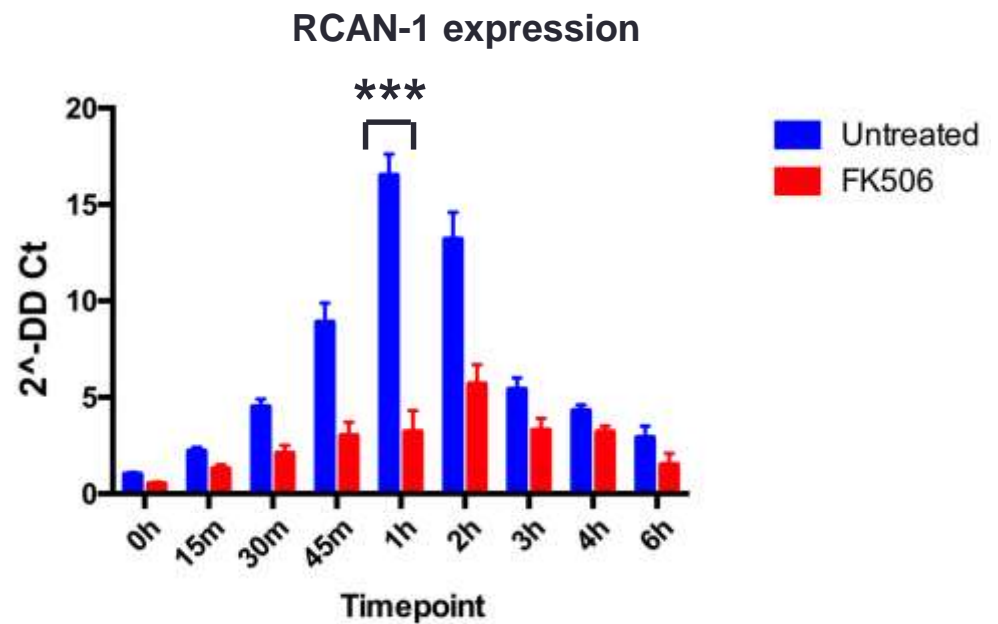
# FK506 impairs translocation of NFAT in *A. fumigatus* infected DC's



# FK506 diminishes and delays NFAT nuclear translocation and target gene expression

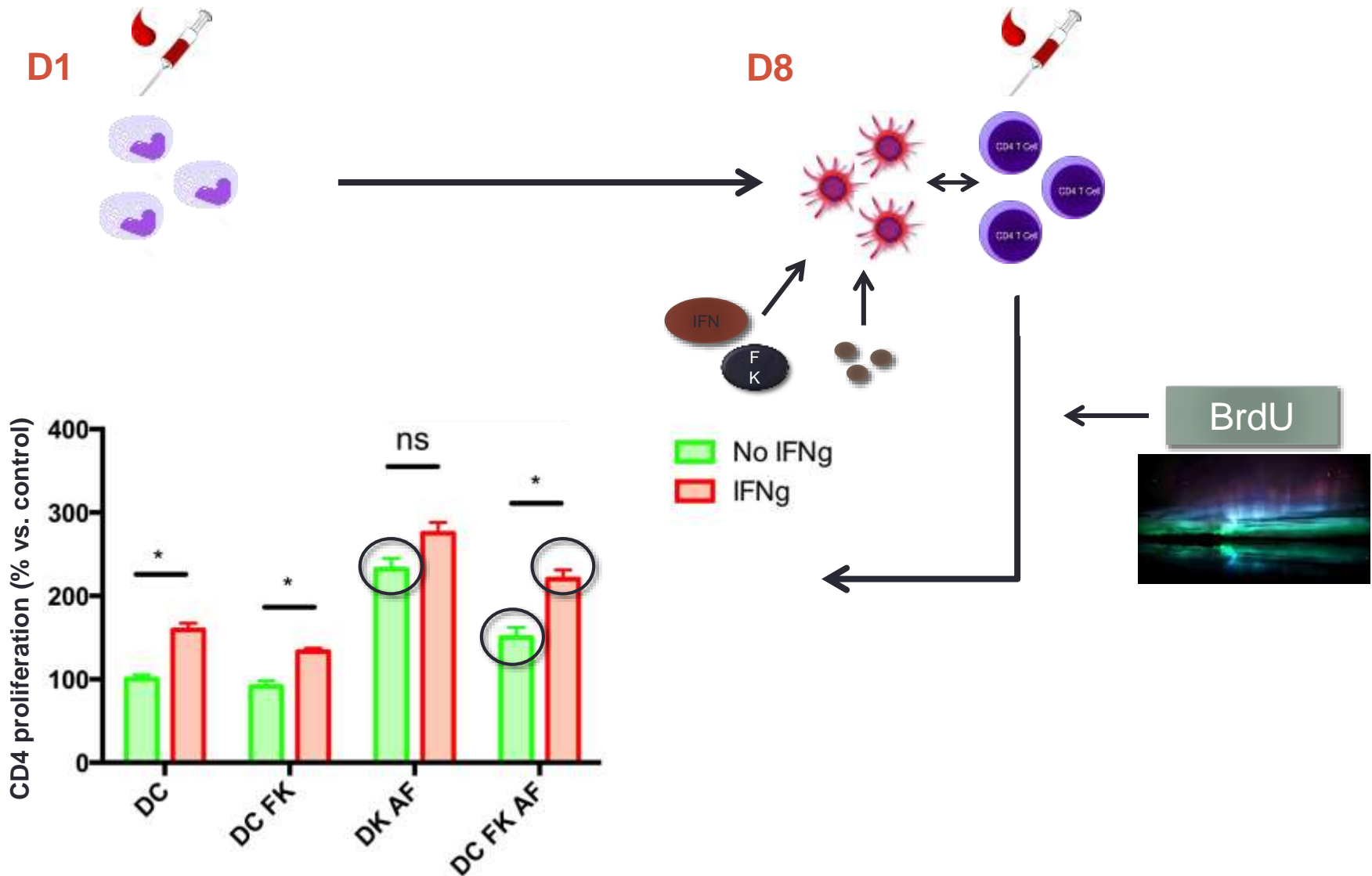


↑  
ChIP-Seq

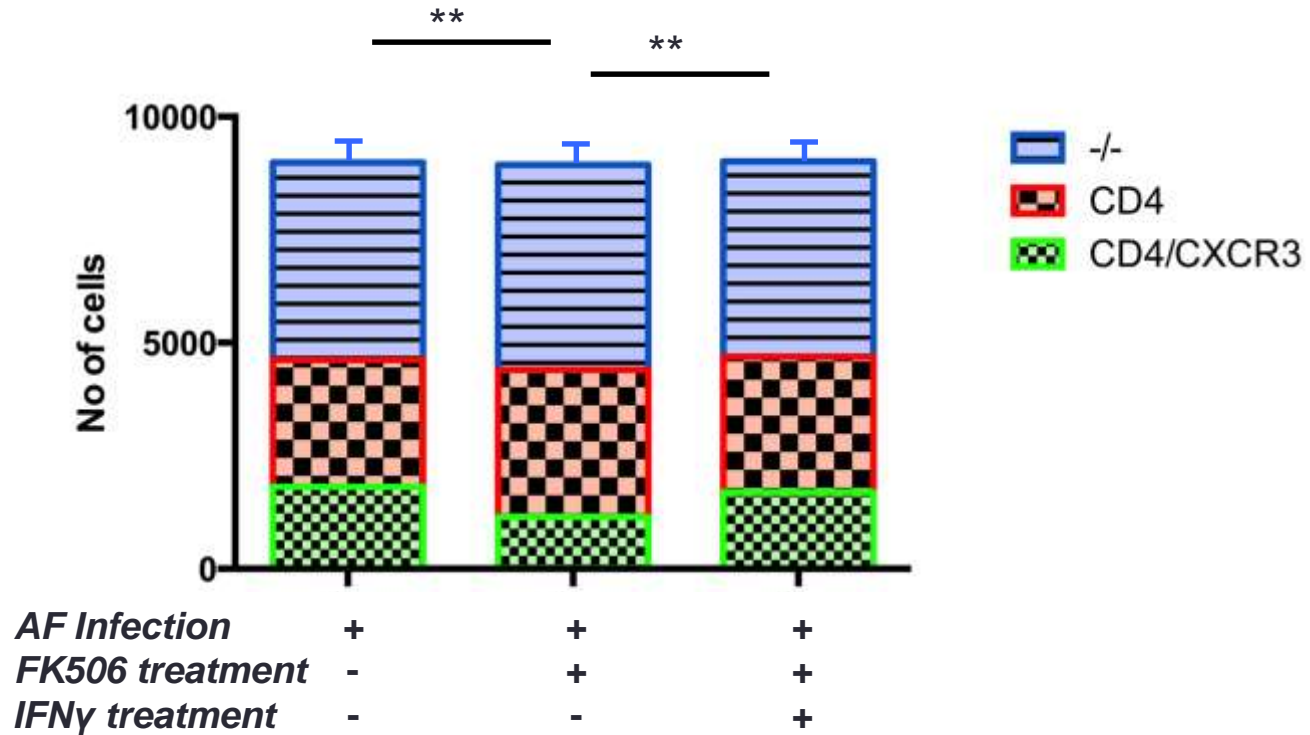


↑  
RNA-Seq

# Interferon- $\gamma$ reverses the inhibitory effect of FK506 on CD4 T cell proliferation by DC's in co-culture

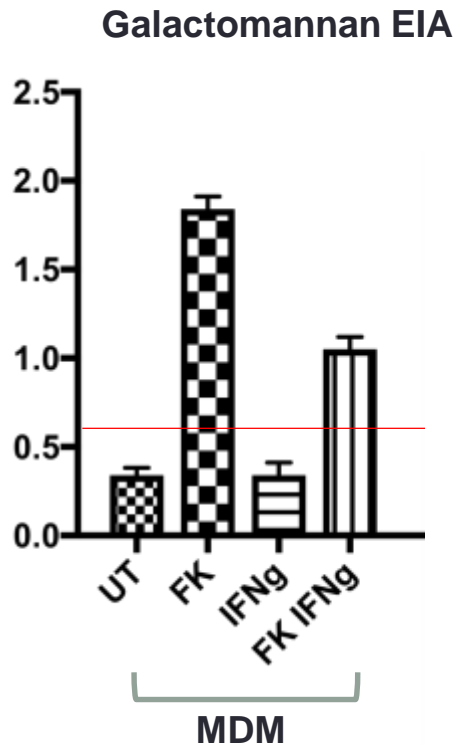


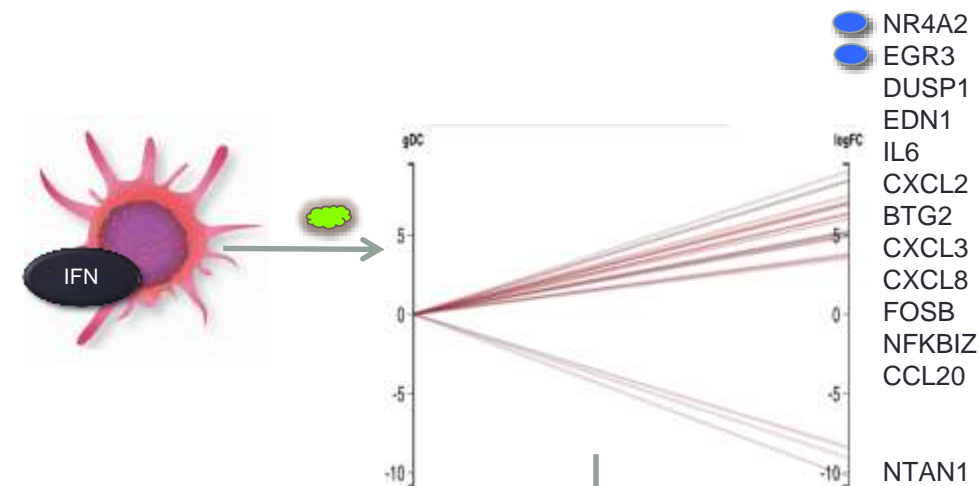
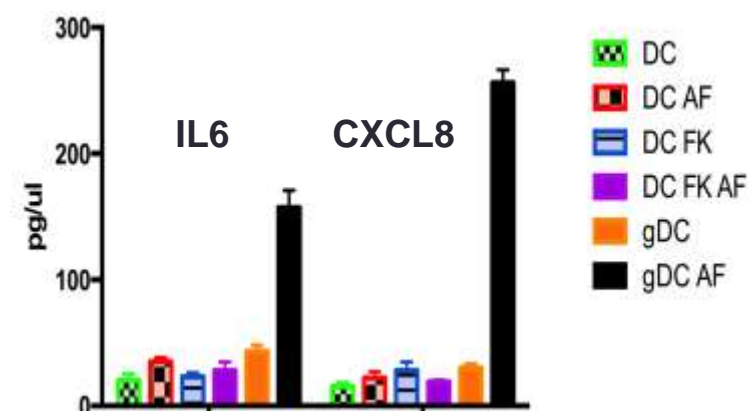
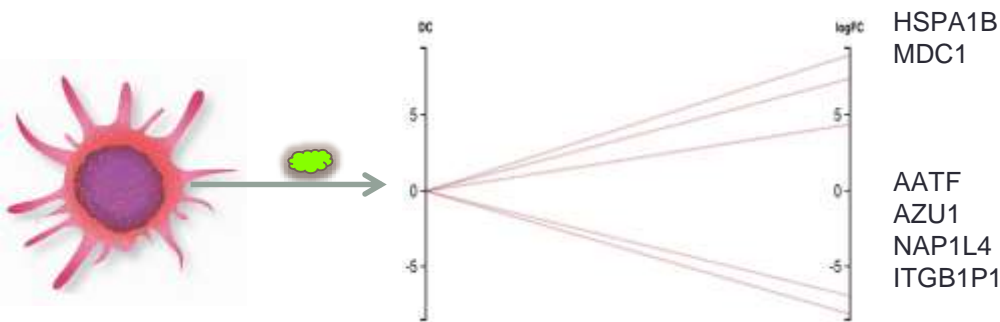
# Interferon- $\gamma$ repolarizes DC-co-cultured CD4 T-cells towards a Th1 phenotype



\*\* = P < 0.01

# IFN $\gamma$ treatment of DC's/CD4 T-cells restores fungal killing capacity of macrophages



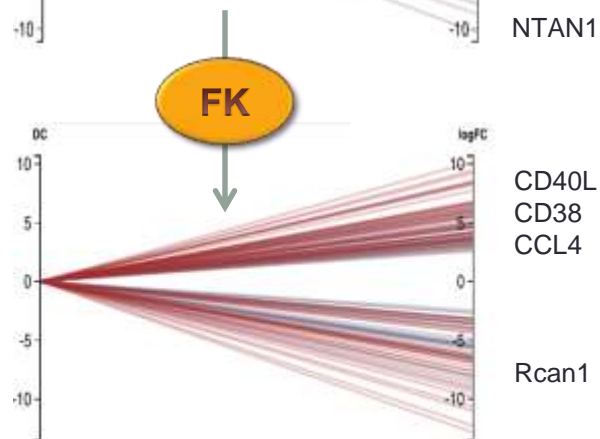


T-cell differentiation  
Acute stress response (downstream of NFAT)

required for Jak-STAT microbial killing  
neutrophil chemotaxis

controls myeloid cell migration  
neutrophil chemotaxis, phagocytosis  
part of AP-1 complex, co-transcriptor for NFkB

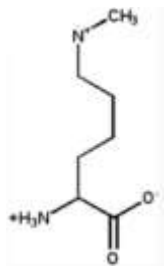
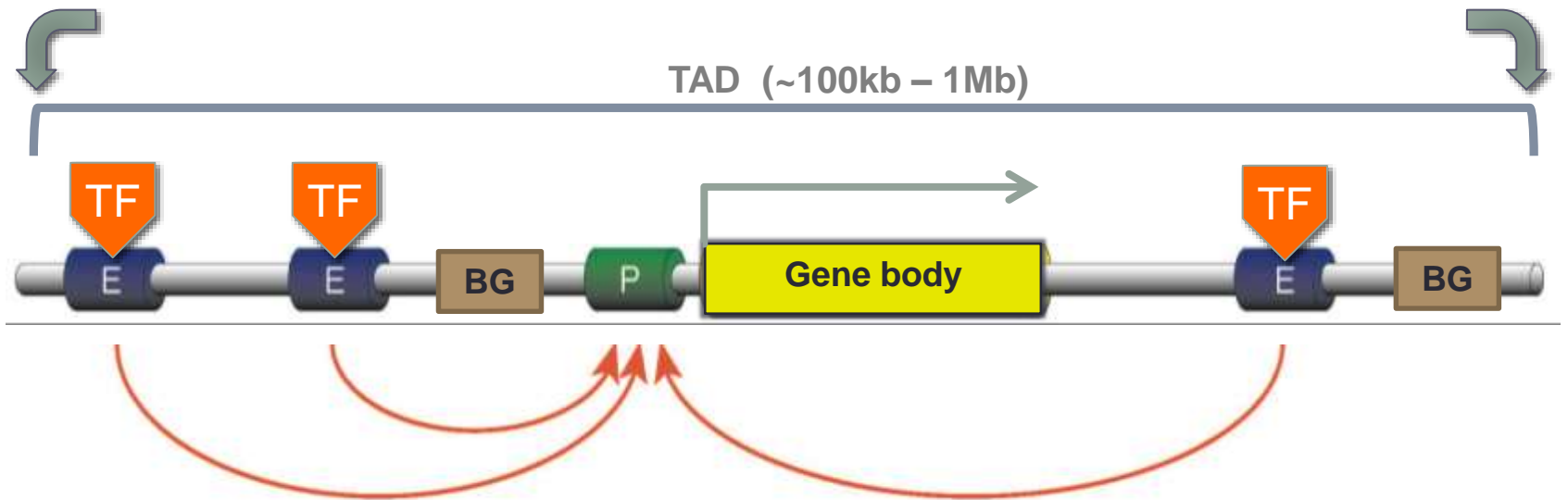
lymphocyte (CD4) chemotaxis



Required for T-cell activation  
DC maturation marker  
Chemoattracts macrophages and NK cells

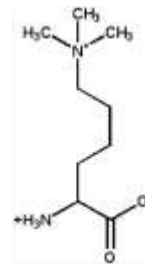
Negative regulator of NFAT

Gene expression is regulated by transcription factor binding events at distant regulatory elements within topologically associated domains (TAD's)



E

P



**Enhancer**

**Promoter**

**Background gene**

**Transcription factor**

		H3K4me1	H3K4me3
H3K27ac	+ve	Active enhancer	Active promoter
	-ve	Poised enhancer	Inactive promoter

Whalen et al, *Nature Genetics*, 2016

Pope et al. *Nature* 2014

Harmston et al, *bioRxiv* 2016

Dixon et al. *Nature* 2015

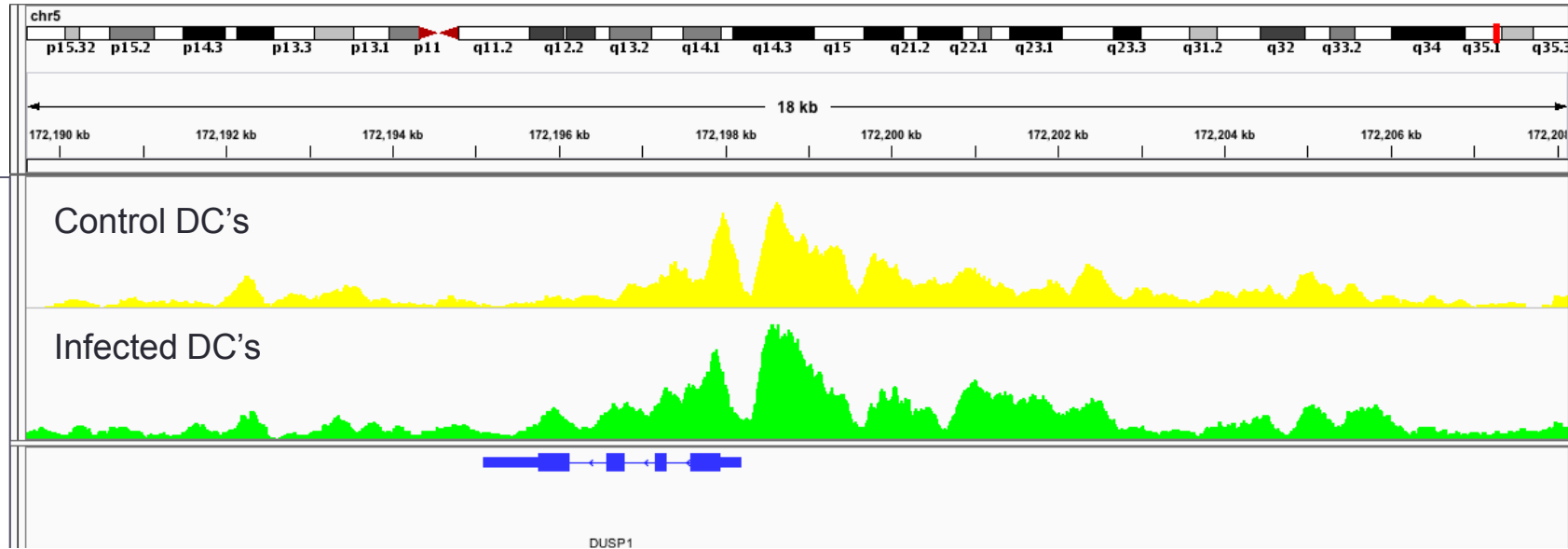
Rao et al, *Cell* 2014

Creyghton et al, *PNAS*, 2010

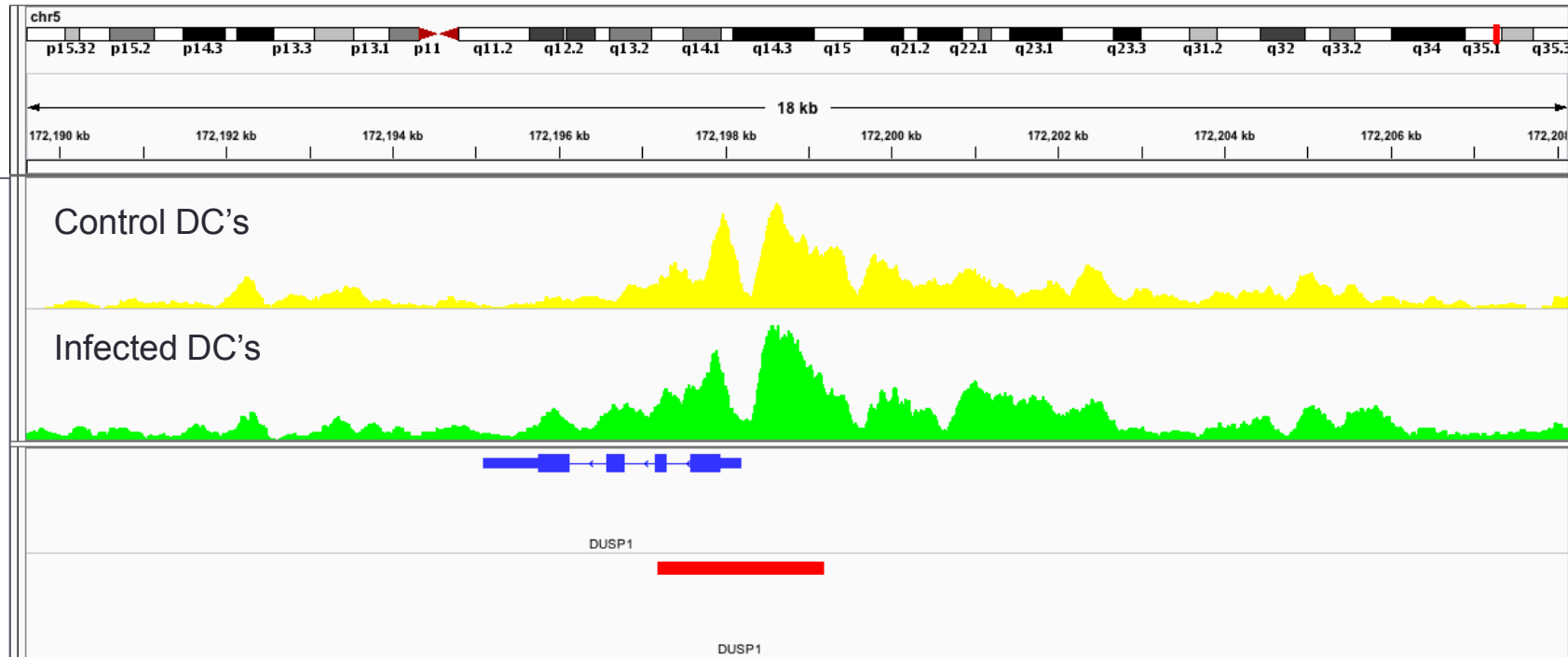
Shlyueva, *Nature Genetics*, 2014



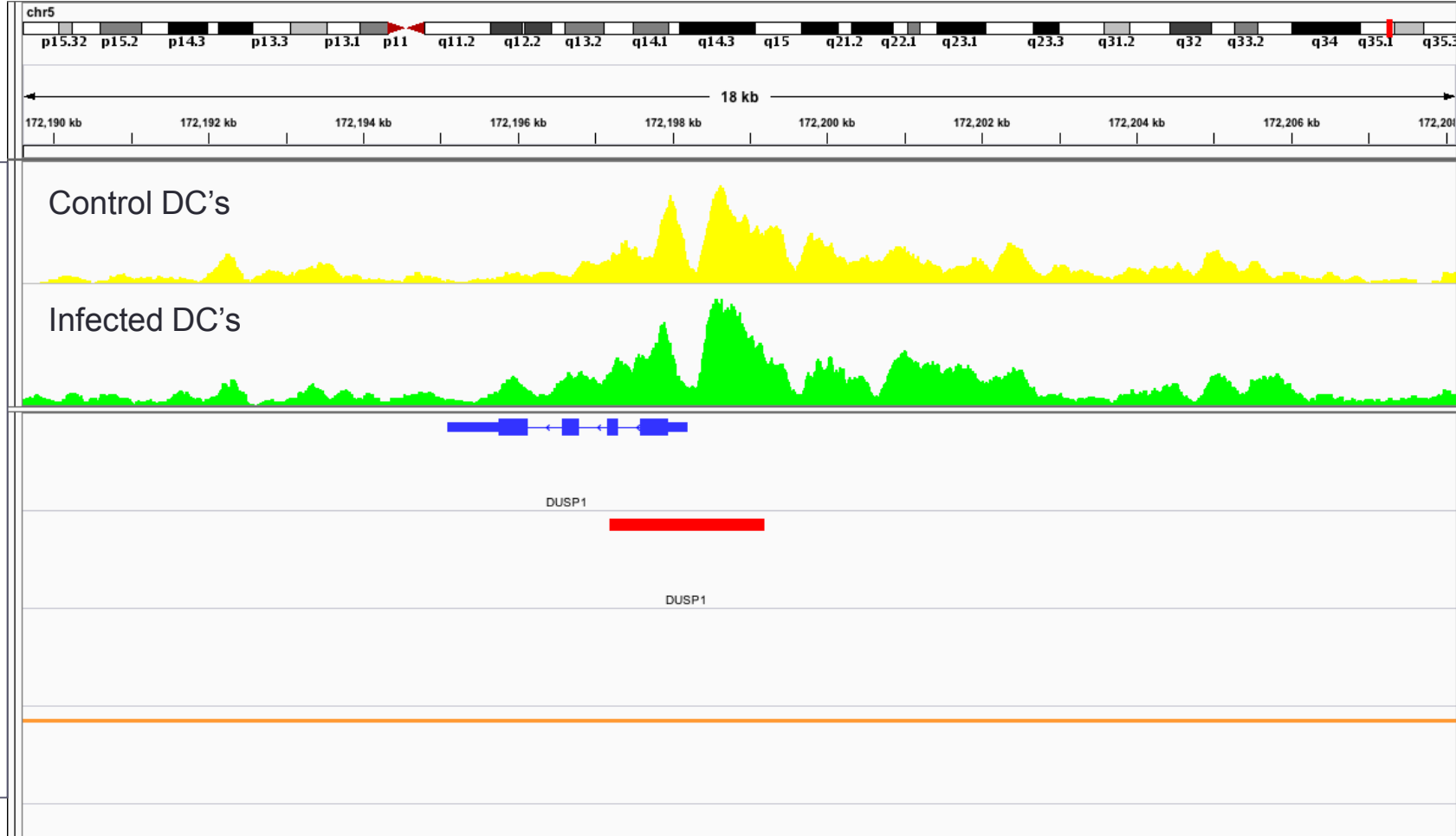
# Identification of differentially activated enhancer regions within TAD's around genes of interest



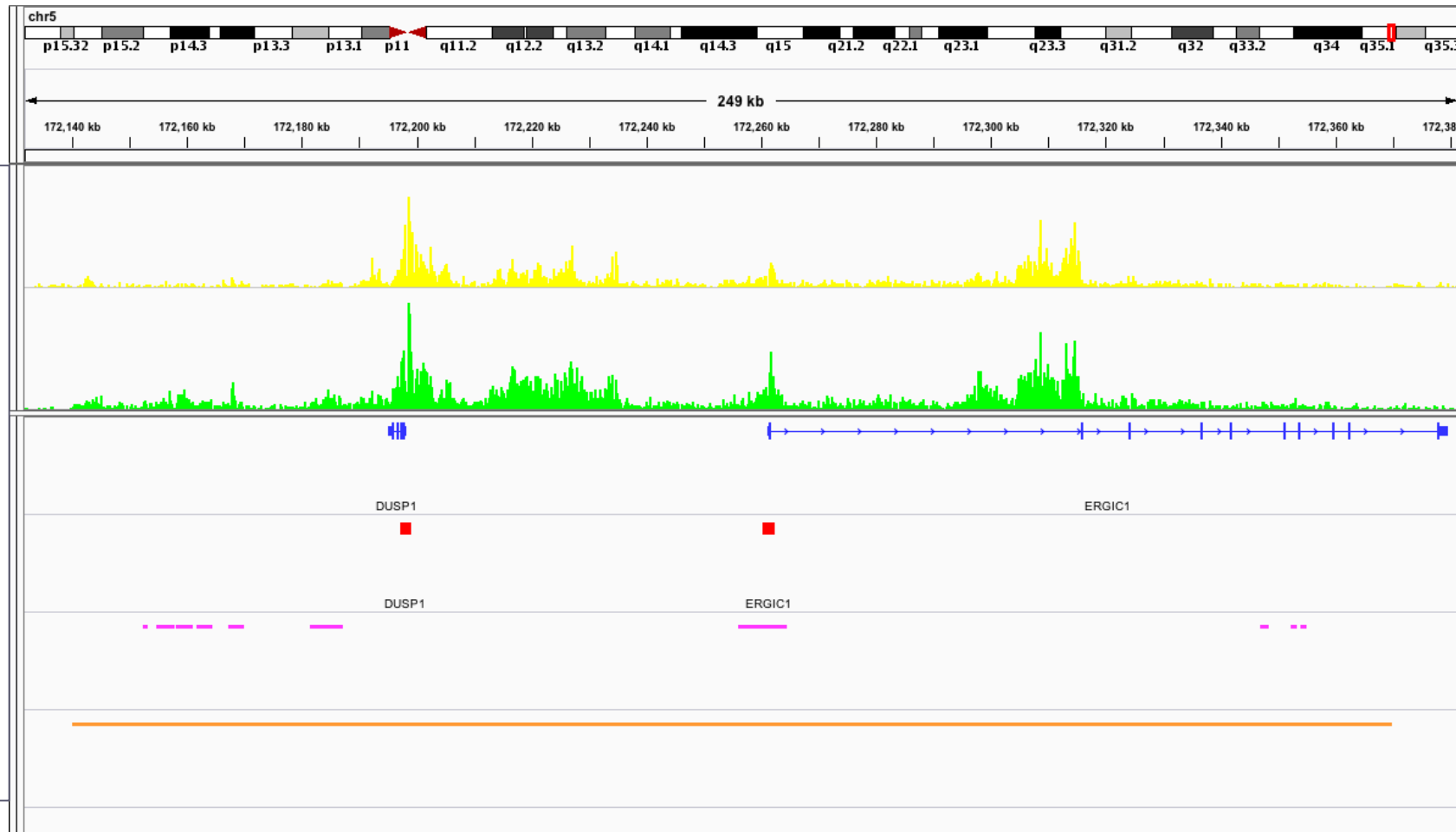
# Identification of differentially activated enhancer regions within TAD's around genes of interest



# Identification of differentially activated enhancer regions within TAD's around genes of interest



# Identification of differentially activated enhancer regions within TAD's around genes of interest





**Condition**

**Key TF**

**logFC**

**p-val (FDR)**

**Infection**

c-Fos  
NFkB  
STAT3  
(NFATc2 motif)

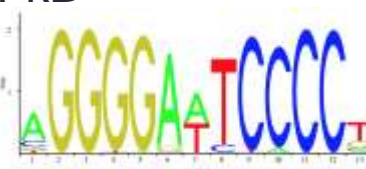
2.23  
3.05  
2.20  
1.34

2.8e-08  
6.0e-36  
3.0e-25  
2.8e-08

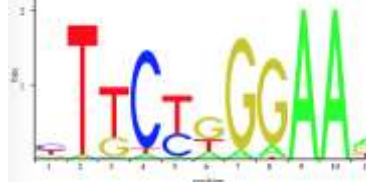
c-Fos



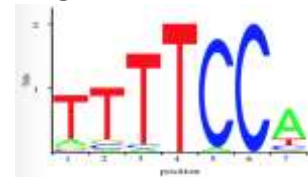
NFkB



STAT3



NFATc2



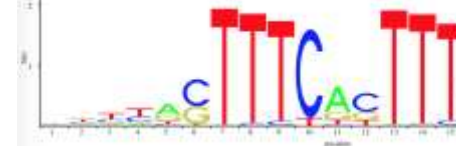
**FK506 Rx**

NFATc2 motif

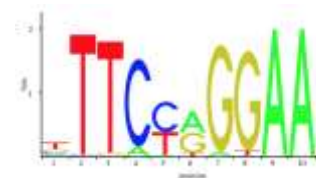
- 2.01

3.1e-03

IRF1



STAT1



**IFNg Rx**

STAT1  
IRF1  
NFATC2 motif

7.32  
7.16  
1.64

1.4e-35  
1.5e-24  
5.9e-13

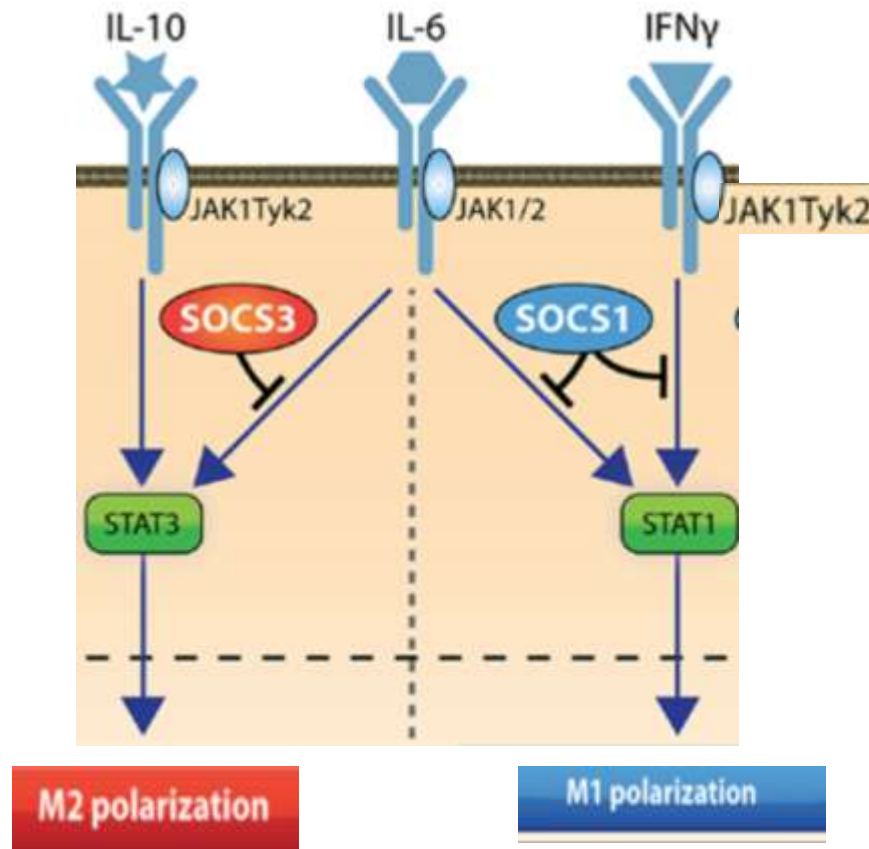


c-Fos  
STAT3

- 2.43  
- 2.30

3.3e-47  
1.9e-31

# JAK-STAT pathway in macrophages



# Summary

Interferon gamma treatment of DC's in an FK506-suppressed model of *A. fumigatus* infection -

- Promotes:-
  - Phagocytosis
  - DC maturation
  - CD4 T cell proliferation + Th1 polarisation
  - CD4-mediated fungal killing by macrophages
- Leads to a gene regulatory switch from STAT3 to STAT1

JAK-STAT signalling may have a previously-undefined regulatory role in:-

- the CNI-mediated impaired DC response to *A. fumigatus* infection
- the enhancement of the innate response by Interferon gamma in this context

# Acknowledgements

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NHS Foundation Trust

- Harefield Hospital
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- **Dr Anna Reed**
- Lung Transplant team



Computational Regulatory  
Genomics Group

- **Prof Boris Lenhard**
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- Anja Baresic
- Elizabeth Ing-Simmons
- Malcolm Perry
- Ge Tan

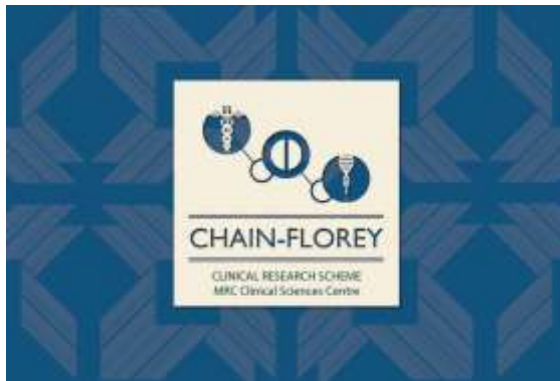
- Flow Cytometry facility, CSC
- Genomics Laboratory, CSC

  
**National Institute for  
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Fungal Immunobiology Group

- **Dr Darius Armstrong-James**
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- Amelia Bercusson
- Anand Shah



**Imperial College  
London**