

We also observed an increased expression of PDL2 on RA-B10<sup>+</sup> cells compared to HC-B10<sup>+</sup> cells that could explain this effect on Th1 differentiation.

**Conclusions** IL-10 secretion can be an interesting marker to define Breg subsets acting on regulatory T cell differentiation. Thus, increasing the number of B10<sup>+</sup> cells, seems a promising therapeutic strategy especially in patients who lack the most of Treg cells. Additional markers are needed to define which subset of Breg cells can control inflammatory response. The role of PD1/PDL2 in B10<sup>+</sup> cell function might also open new insights.

**Disclosure of interest** None declared

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### CHARACTERISING THE ROLE OF NET-DERIVED IL-33 IN SLE PATHOGENESIS

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**Introduction** Interleukin (IL)–33 is a cell necrosis-derived alarmin with immunostimulatory properties which depends on the context of immune cells and the inflammatory milieu.<sup>1,2</sup> In Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), extracellular DNA (as in extracellular chromatin traps [NETs] or immune complexes [ICs]) combined with alarmins stimulate innate immunity receptors (such as Toll-like receptors [TLRs]) and the production of IFN $\alpha$  by plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDCs).<sup>3,4</sup>

**Objectives** We hypothesised that bioactive NET-derived isoforms of IL-33 might augment the interferogenic potential of extracellular DNA in SLE.

**Methods** Peripheral blood polymorphonuclear cells (PMNs) were isolated from healthy and SLE individuals and their ability to form IL33-decorated NETs was assessed by confocal microscopy. NET-supernatants from untreated and IC-treated SLE PMNs were administered to healthy pDCs and type I IFN production was monitored by qPCR and ELISA. The contribution of IL-33 in the interferogenic capacity of NETs was addressed by pre-treating pDCs with a specific mAb against IL33-receptor (anti-ST2L). Western blotting of SLE and healthy PMNs was used to detect different isoforms of IL-33.

**Results** Spontaneous-released NETs from peripheral blood PMNs of active SLE patients were decorated with IL-33 to a larger extent as compared to healthy PMN NETs. Treatment of SLE PMNs with ICs led to the release of NETs with extended IL-33 decoration and enhanced interferogenic capacity. IL33 receptor blockade significantly decreased the type I IFN response of NET-treated control pDCs. DNase treatment of NETs to disrupt their structure resulted in reduced interferogenic capacity and abrogated the pro-inflammatory effect of IL-33. Finally, western blotting on IC-mediated SLE NETs revealed the presence of cleaved isoforms of IL-33 which closely resemble the previously characterised highly bioactive isoforms of our protein of interest. Experiments are underway to explore the possible role of NET-bound proteases in IL-33 activation.

**Conclusions** NET-derived IL-33 is a novel mediator of the nucleic acid-driven aberrant type I IFN response which

exacerbates SLE disease. NET structure may be crucial in regulating the bioactivity of IL-33.

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### NIK-IKK COMPLEX CONTROLS NF- $\kappa$ B-DEPENDENT INFLAMMATORY ACTIVATION OF THE ENDOTHELIUM IN RESPONSE TO LTBR LIGATION

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**Introduction** Sites of chronic inflammation, such as rheumatoid arthritis (RA) synovial tissue, often contain tertiary lymphoid structures with high endothelial venules (HEV). Ligation of the lymphotoxin (LT)- $\beta$  receptor (LT $\beta$ R) results in activation of canonical and NF- $\kappa$ B-Inducing Kinase (NIK)-dependent noncanonical NF- $\kappa$ B signalling in endothelial cells (EC), leading to HEV development. However, the relative contribution of the individual NF- $\kappa$ B pathways to inflammatory activation of EC is largely elusive.

**Objectives** To identify the molecular pathways by which LT $\beta$ R drives inflammatory activation of EC to promote interaction with leukocytes.

**Methods** Primary human EC were treated with LT $\beta$  or LIGHT to activate LT $\beta$ R, followed by analysis of downstream NF- $\kappa$ B signalling pathways and expression of adhesion molecules and inflammatory cytokines. To repress canonical NF- $\kappa$ B signalling pathway, a small molecule inhibitor of IKK $\beta$  was used, and noncanonical NF- $\kappa$ B signalling was repressed with siRNAs targeting NF $\kappa$ B2. The role of NIK in LT $\beta$ R signalling was investigated using small molecule inhibitors and siRNAs targeting NIK, as well as adenoviral overexpression of NIK. The role of NF- $\kappa$ B signalling in RA was measured by stimulating EC with RA synovial fluid (RASf) followed by analysis of inflammatory mediators.

**Results** LT $\beta$ R-triggering in EC resulted in activation of both canonical and noncanonical NF- $\kappa$ B signalling, and induced inflammatory cytokine expression and immune cell adhesion. IKK $\beta$  inhibition repressed LT $\beta$ R-induced inflammatory activation of EC, indicating that this process was mediated through canonical NF- $\kappa$ B signalling. Interestingly, inactivation of NIK also decreased LT $\beta$ R-induced expression of inflammatory cytokines and leukocyte-adhesion, but silencing of NF $\kappa$ B2 had no apparent effect. Further analyses, including silencing and overexpression of NIK, demonstrated a clear role for NIK in activation of the canonical NF- $\kappa$ B pathway by amplifying IKK complex activity. RASf stimulation of EC resulted in