



*Franco Laghi Pasini*

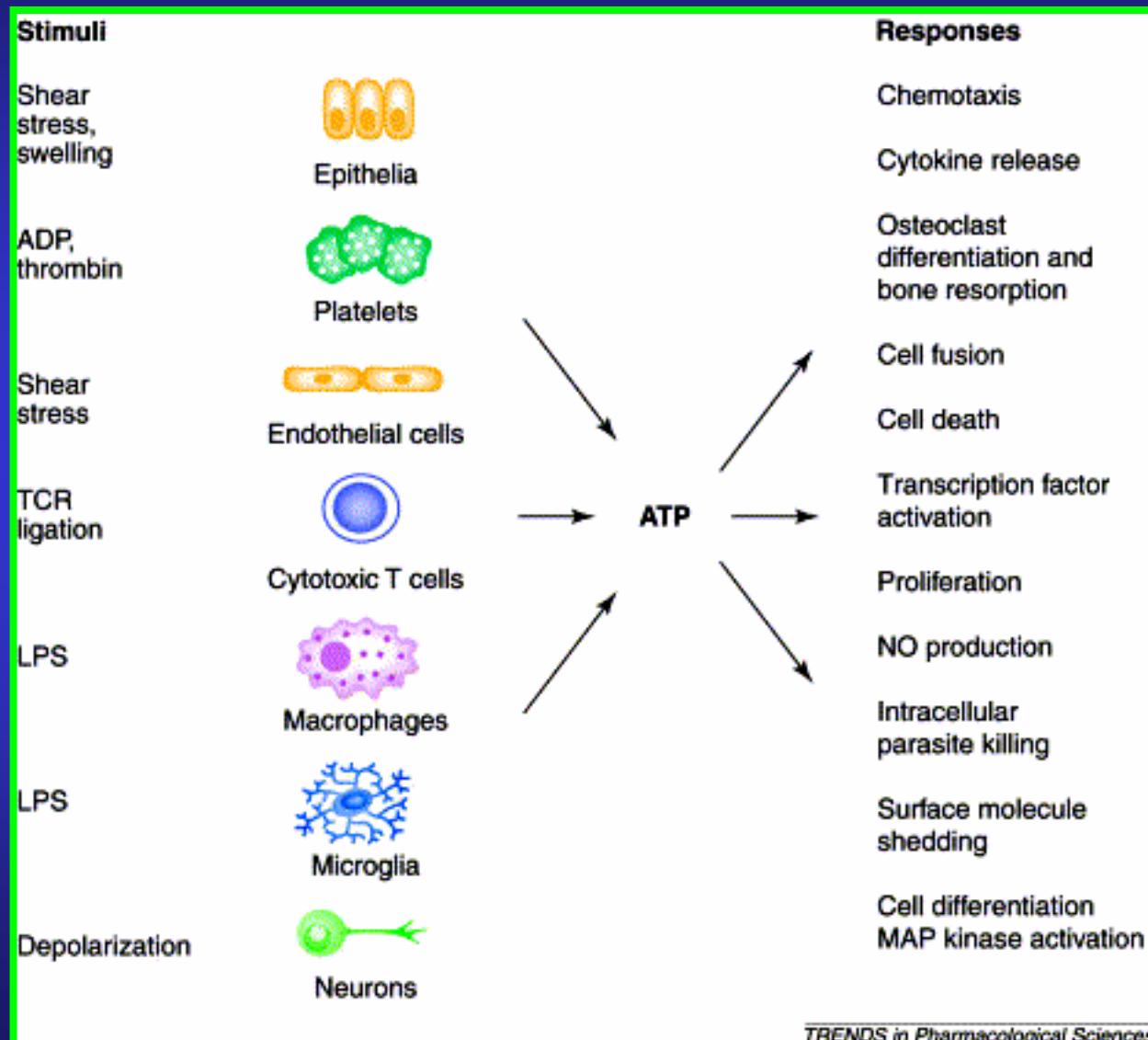
University of Siena  
1240

*Purinergic system and the inflammatory response*

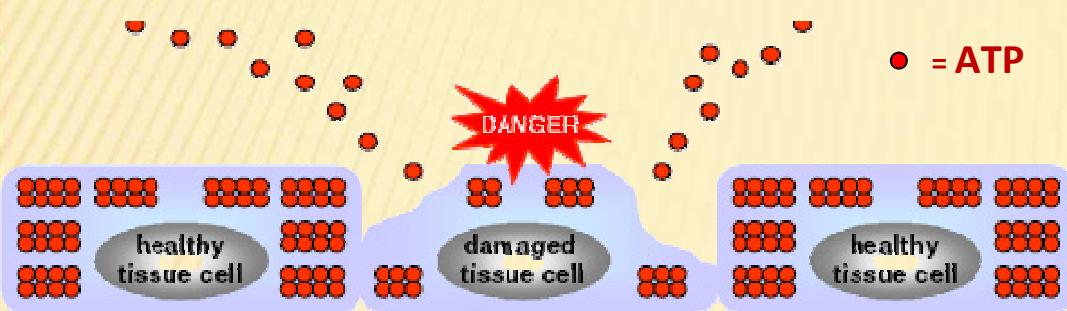
# AGENDA

- General overview
- P2X7R
- A2AR
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- “The odd couple”

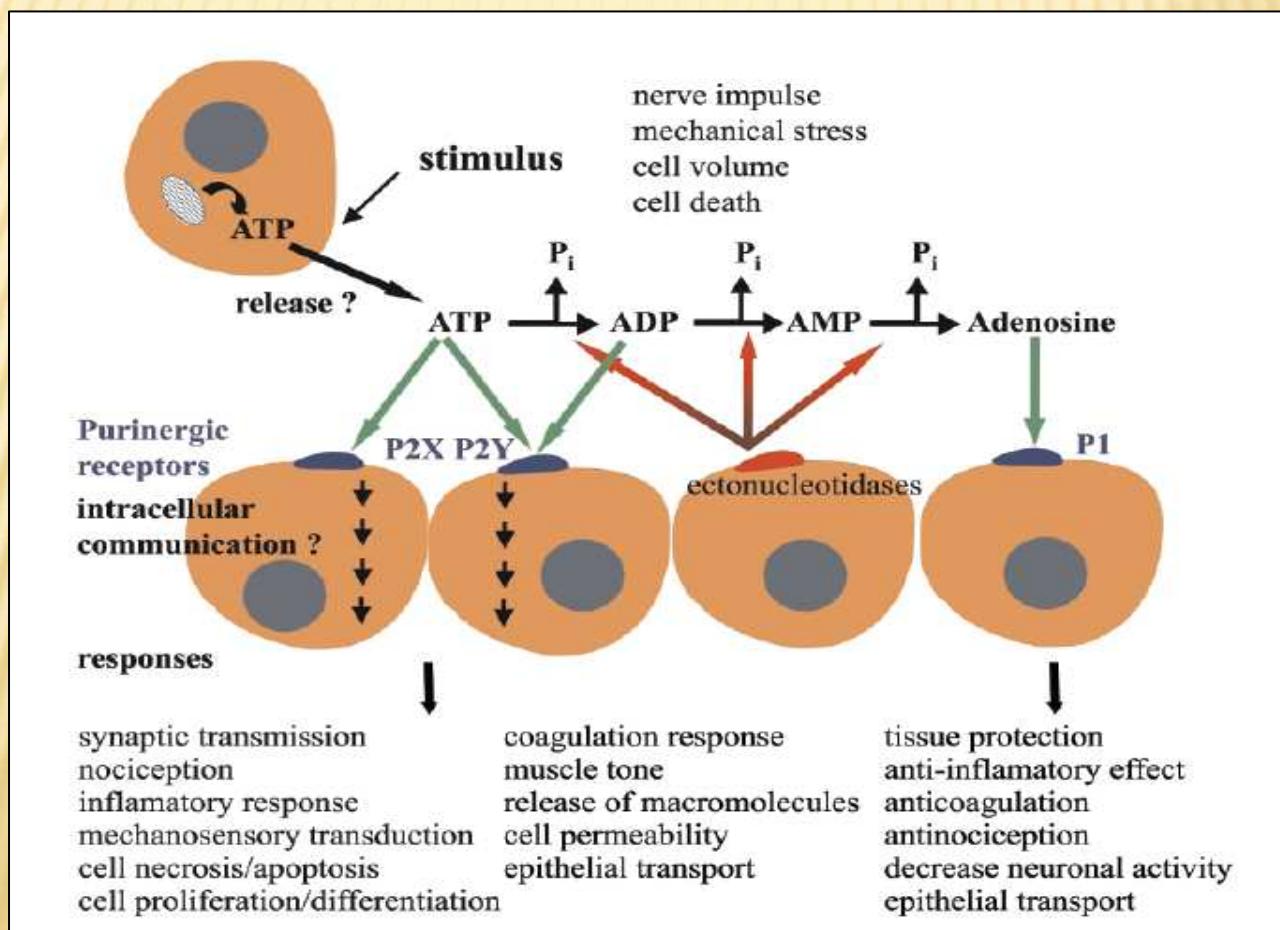
# *ATP: production stimuli and cellular responses*



# COMMUNICATING VIA ATP

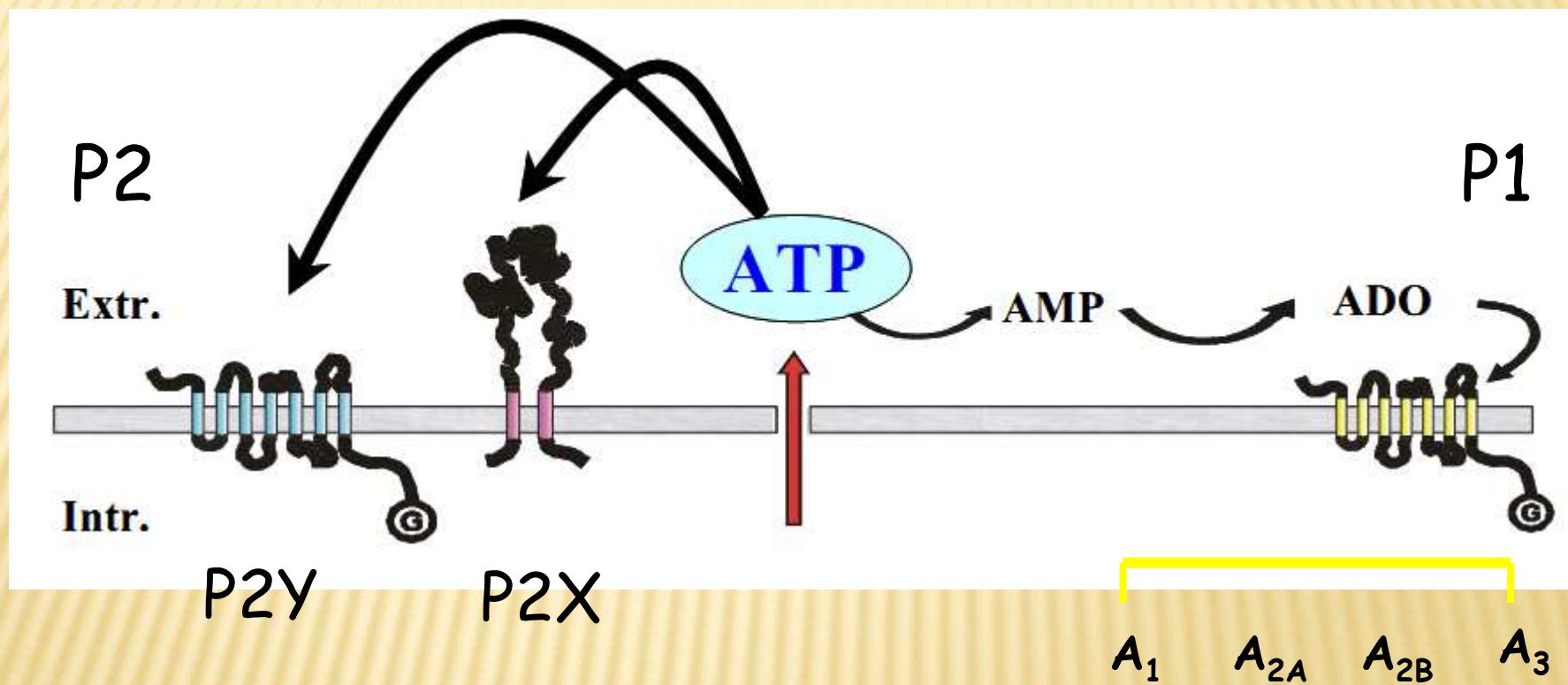


## PURINE AND PYRIMIDINE NUCLEOTIDE RELEASE



Novak, 2003

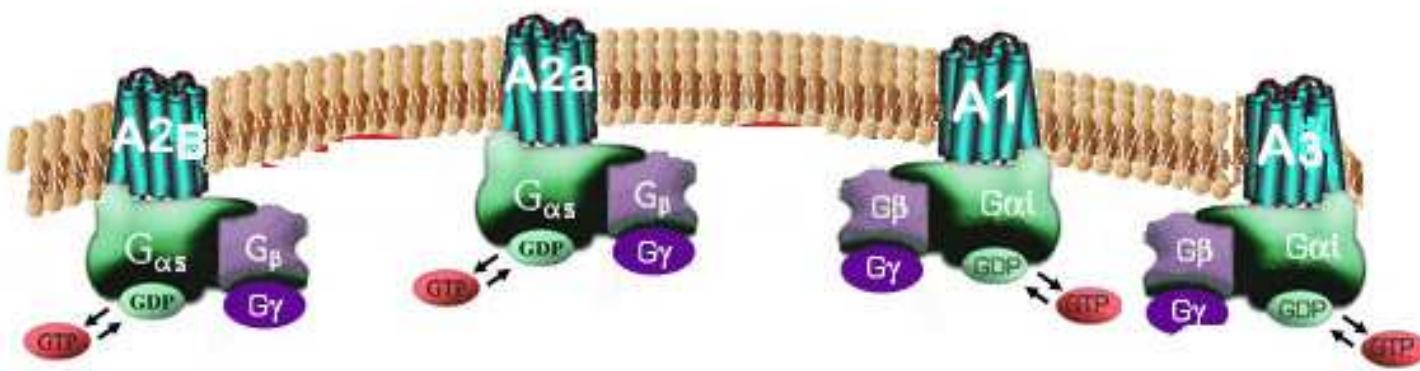
## **PURINERGIC RECEPTORS**



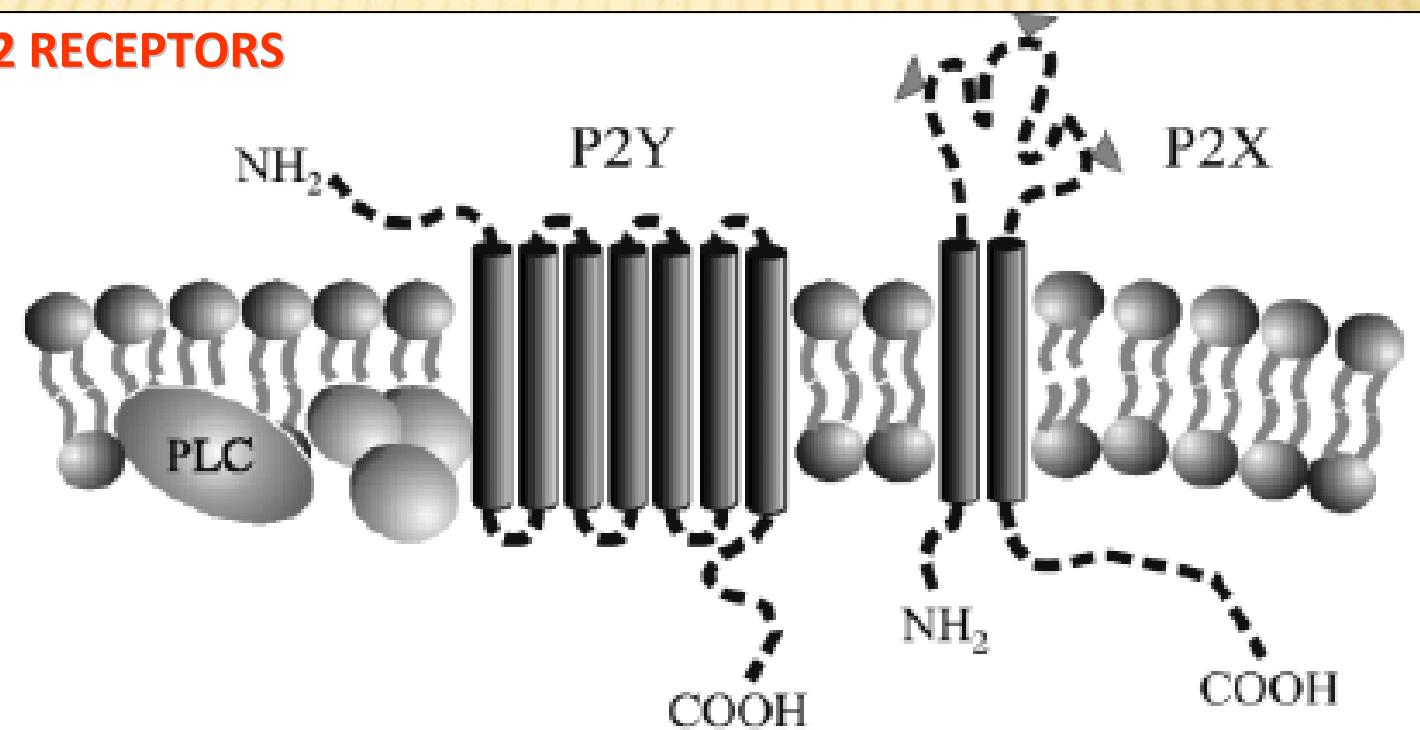
# **PURINERGIC RECEPTORS**

## **P1 RECEPTORS**

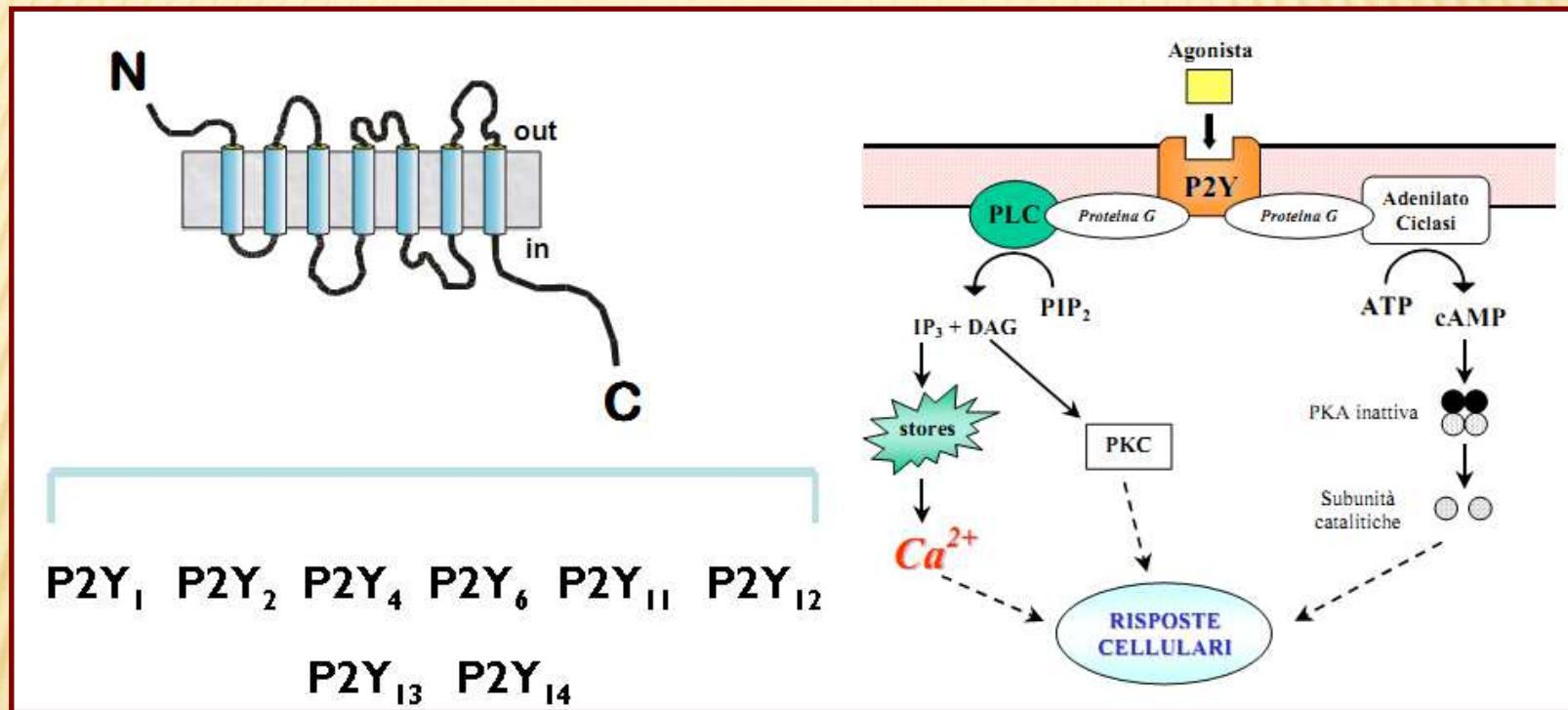
**Adenosine**



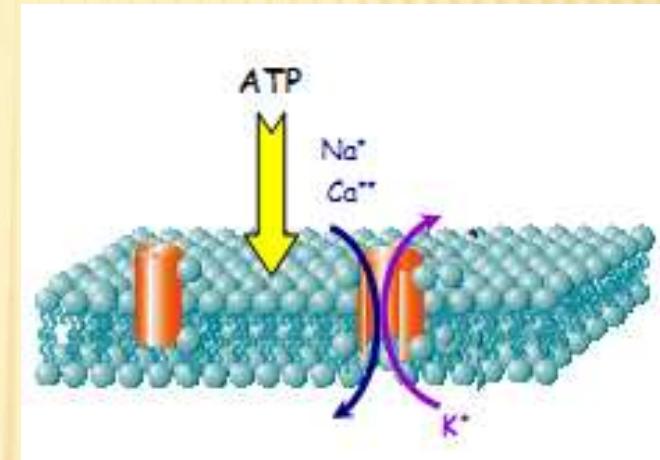
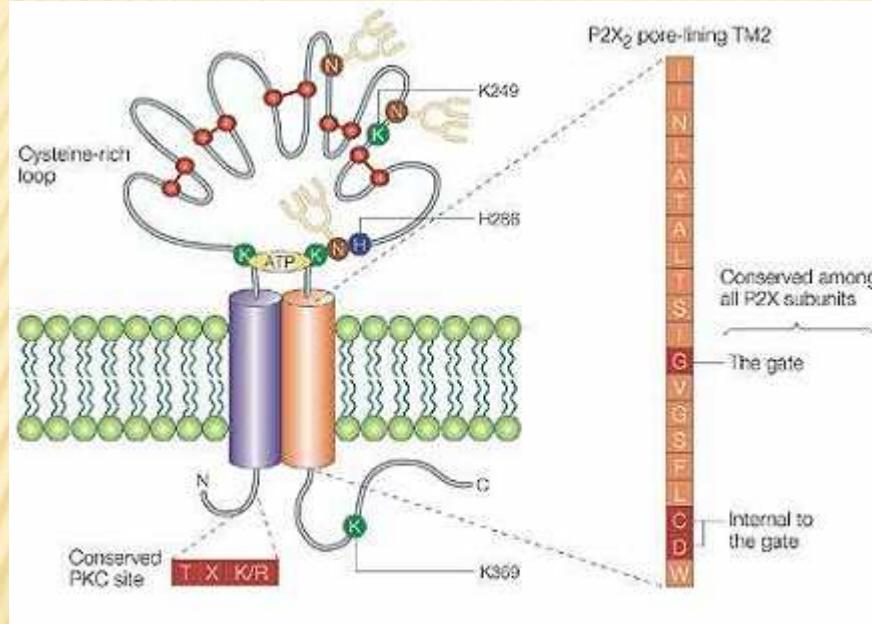
## **P2 RECEPTORS**



# P2Y Receptors



# *P2X Receptors*

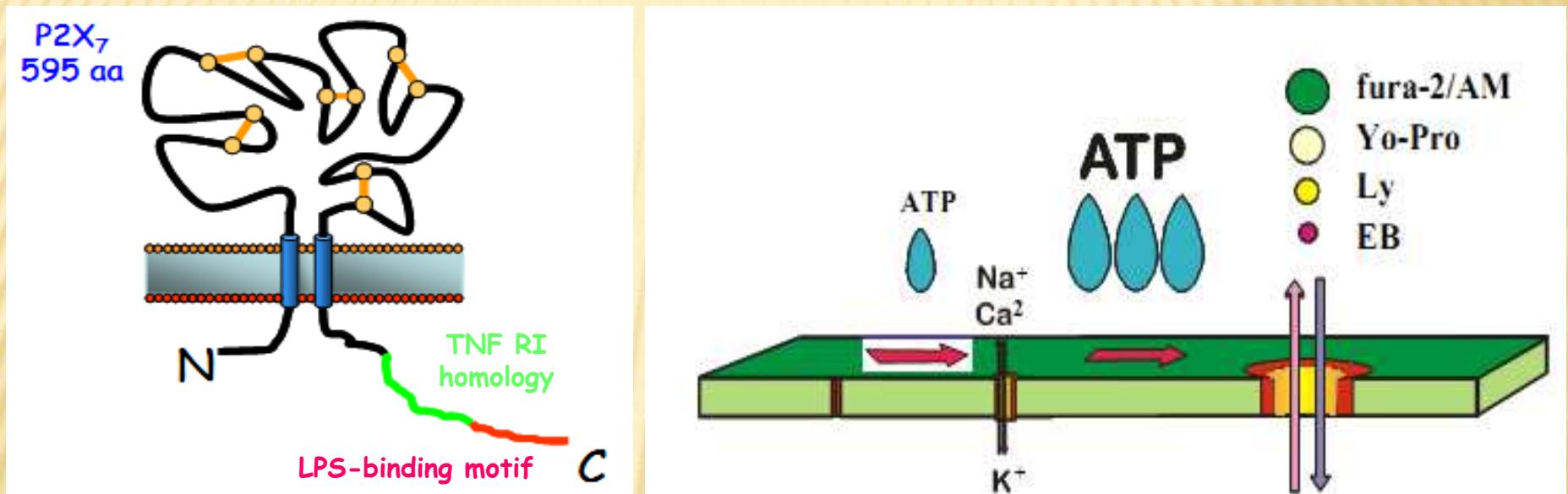
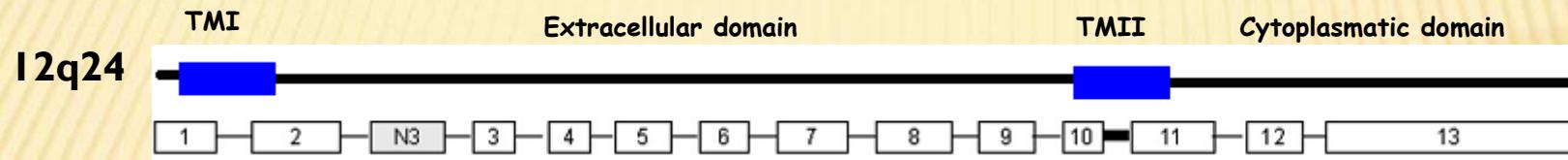


**P2X<sub>1</sub>**   **P2X<sub>2</sub>**   **P2X<sub>3</sub>**   **P2X<sub>4</sub>**   **P2X<sub>5</sub>**   **P2X<sub>6</sub>**   **P2X<sub>7</sub>**

# AGENDA

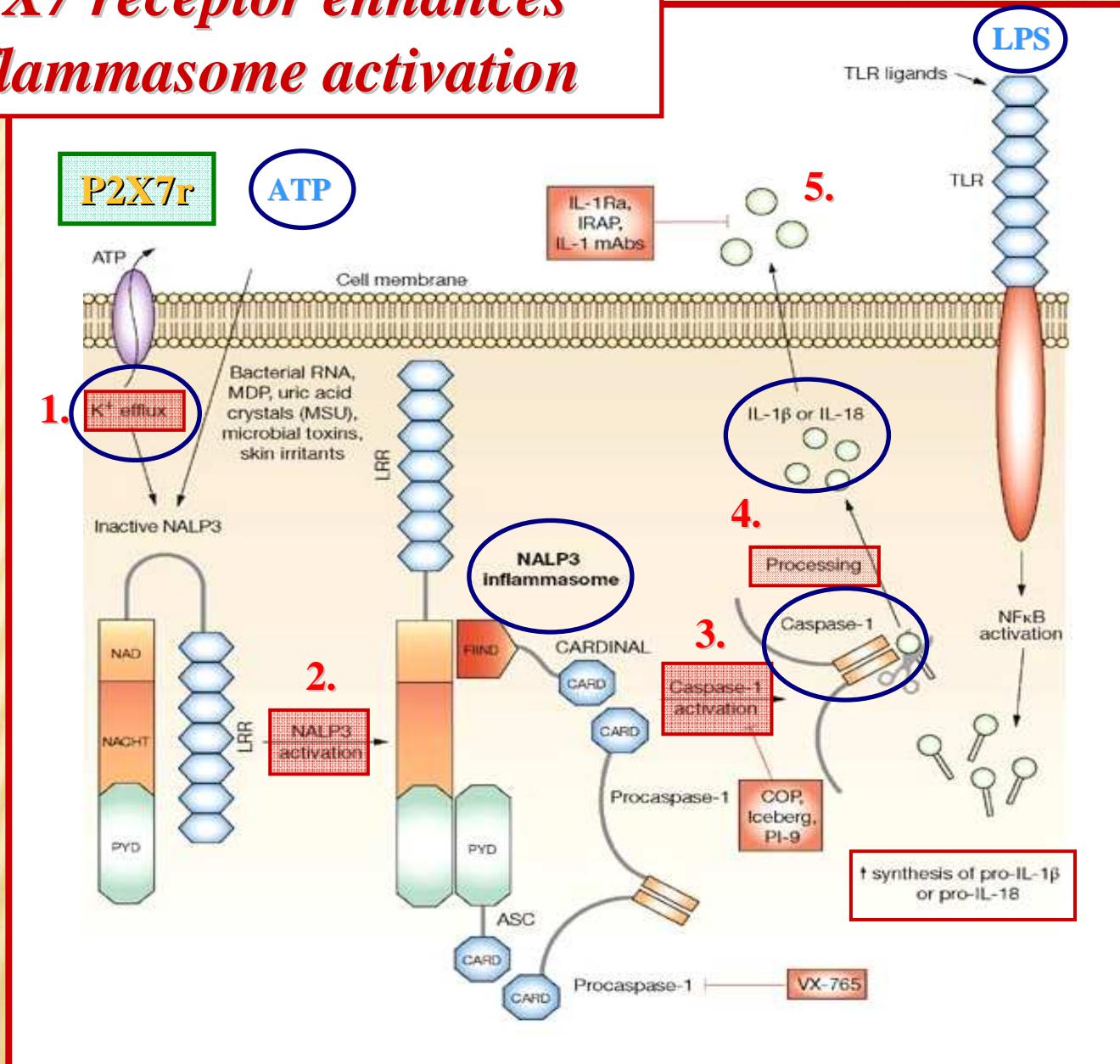
- General overview
- P2X7R
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- Rheumatoid Arthritis
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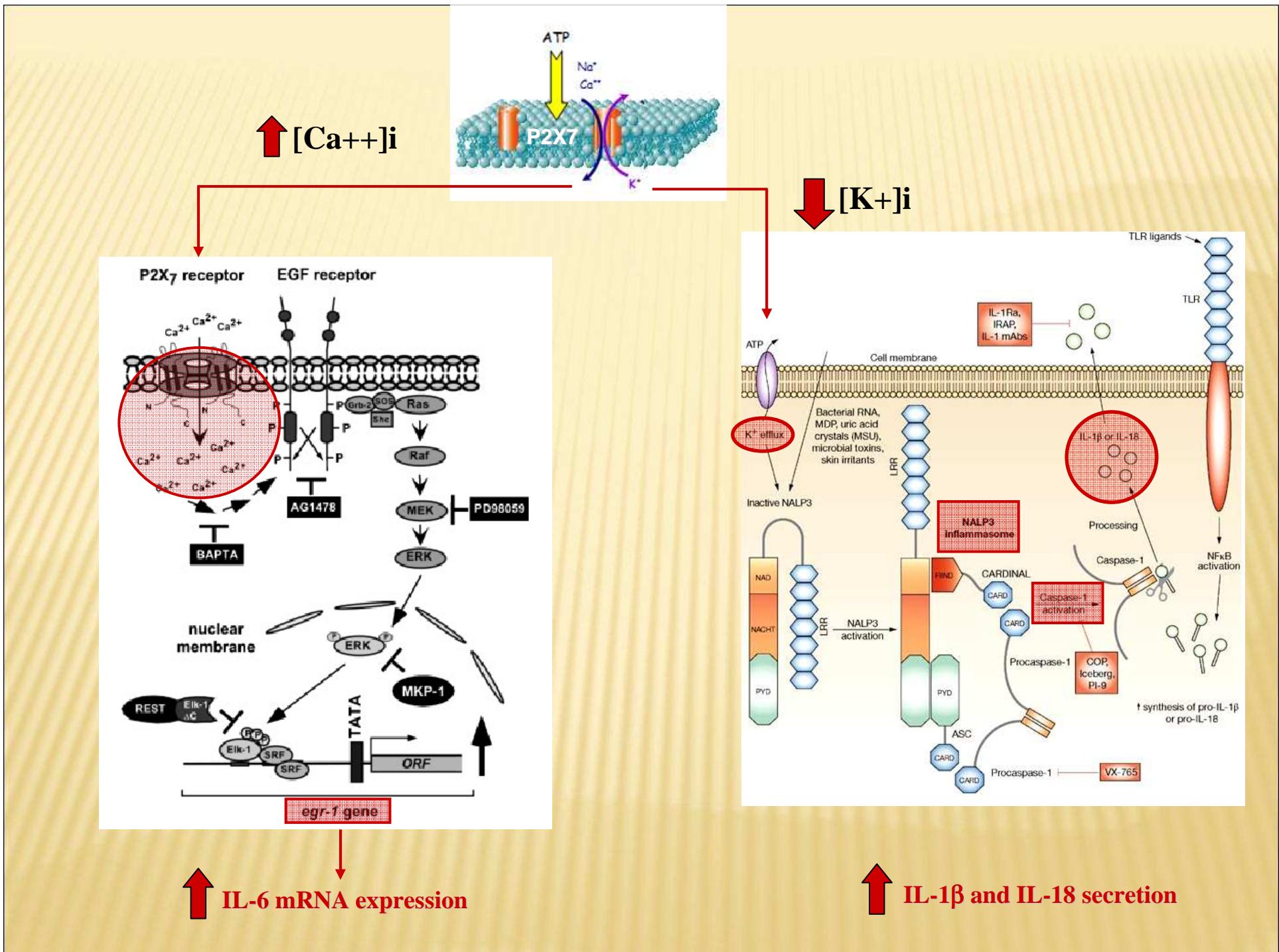
# P2X<sub>7</sub> Receptor



Receptor	Main Distribution	Agonists	Antagonists
P2X <sub>7</sub>	Macrophages, mast cells, microglia, pancreas, skin, endocrine organs	BzATP	KN 62

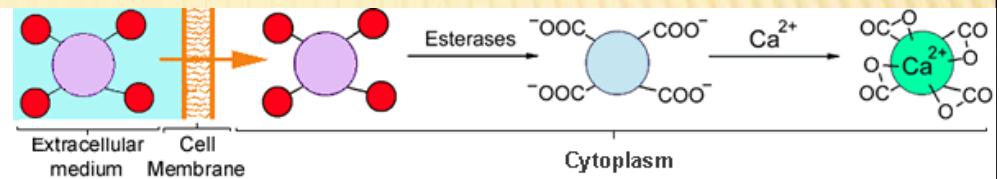
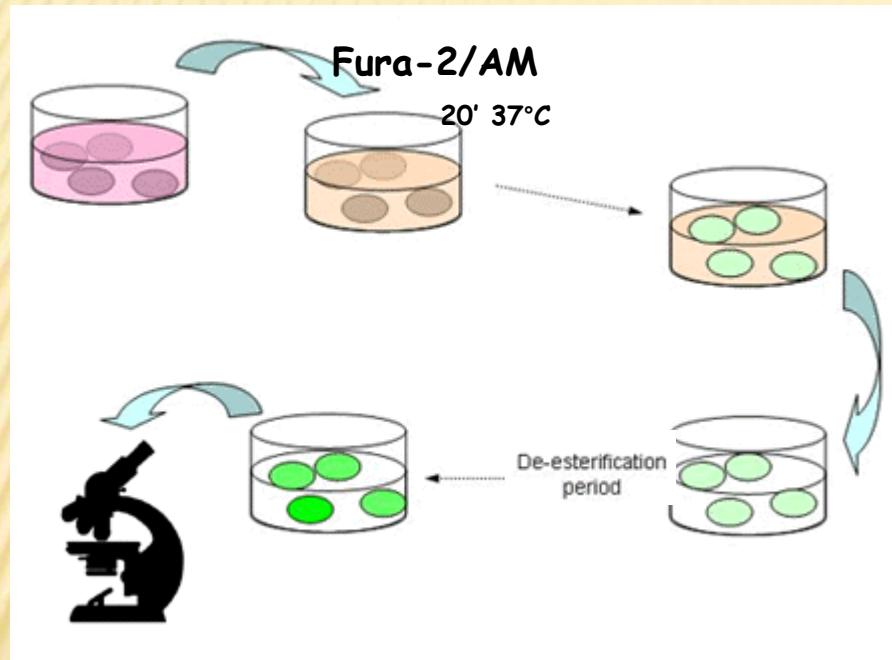
# *P2X7 receptor enhances inflammasome activation*





# *P2X7 receptor function analysis*

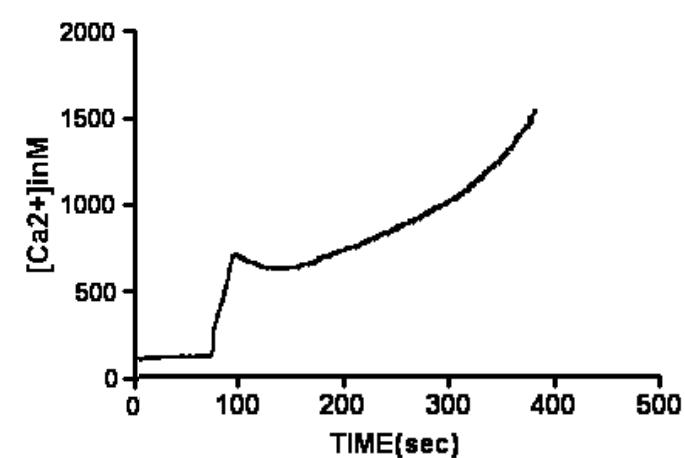
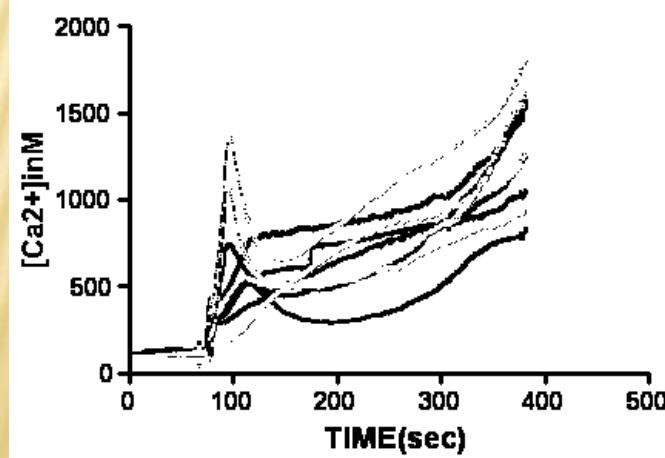
[Ca<sup>2+</sup>]i fluxes measurement in monocytes using a single-cell fluorescent microscopy method



ATP 1mM

BzATP 0,5mM/0,1mM - KN 62 1μM

(30'37°C pre-incubation)



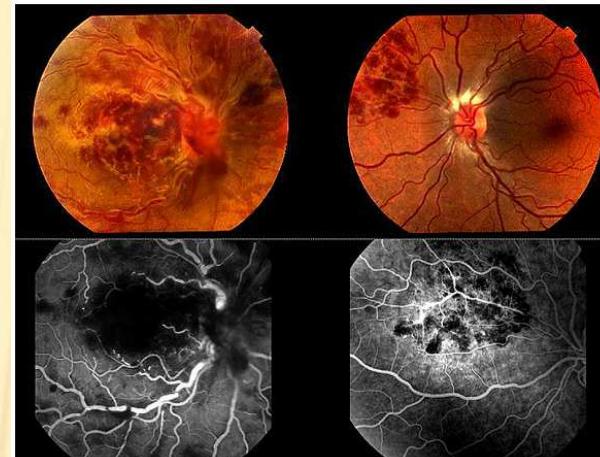
# Behçet's disease

## Clinical features

Oral and genitals  
ulcers



Ocular disease  
(uveitis)



Cutaneous  
lesions



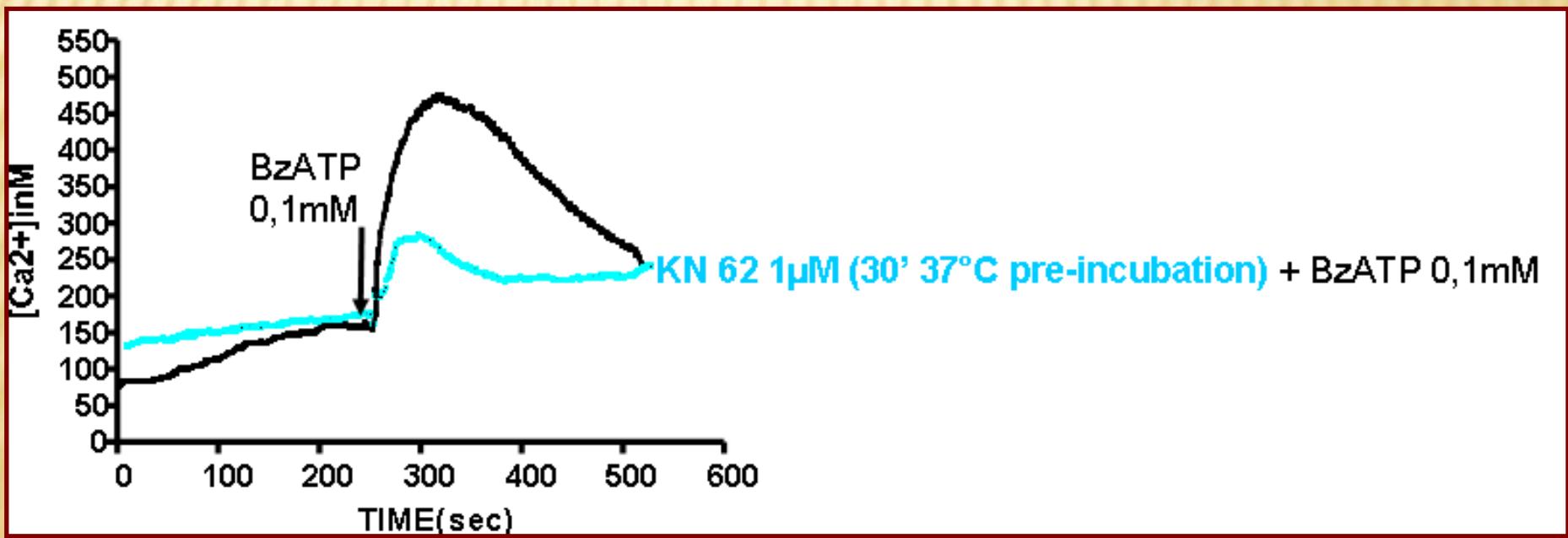
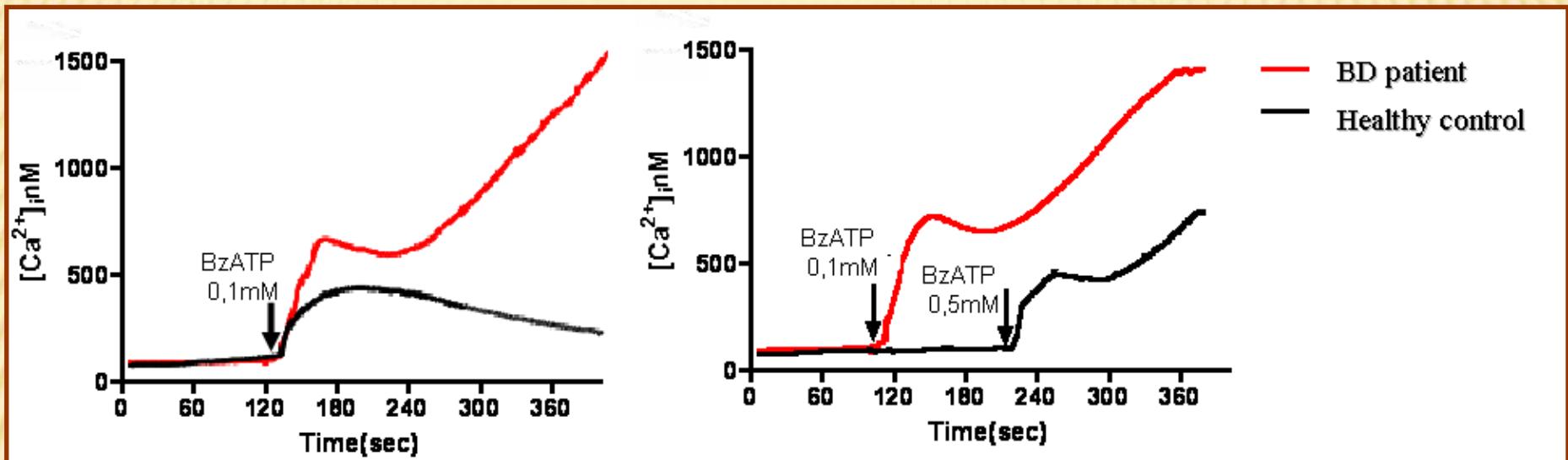
Gastrointestinal  
disease



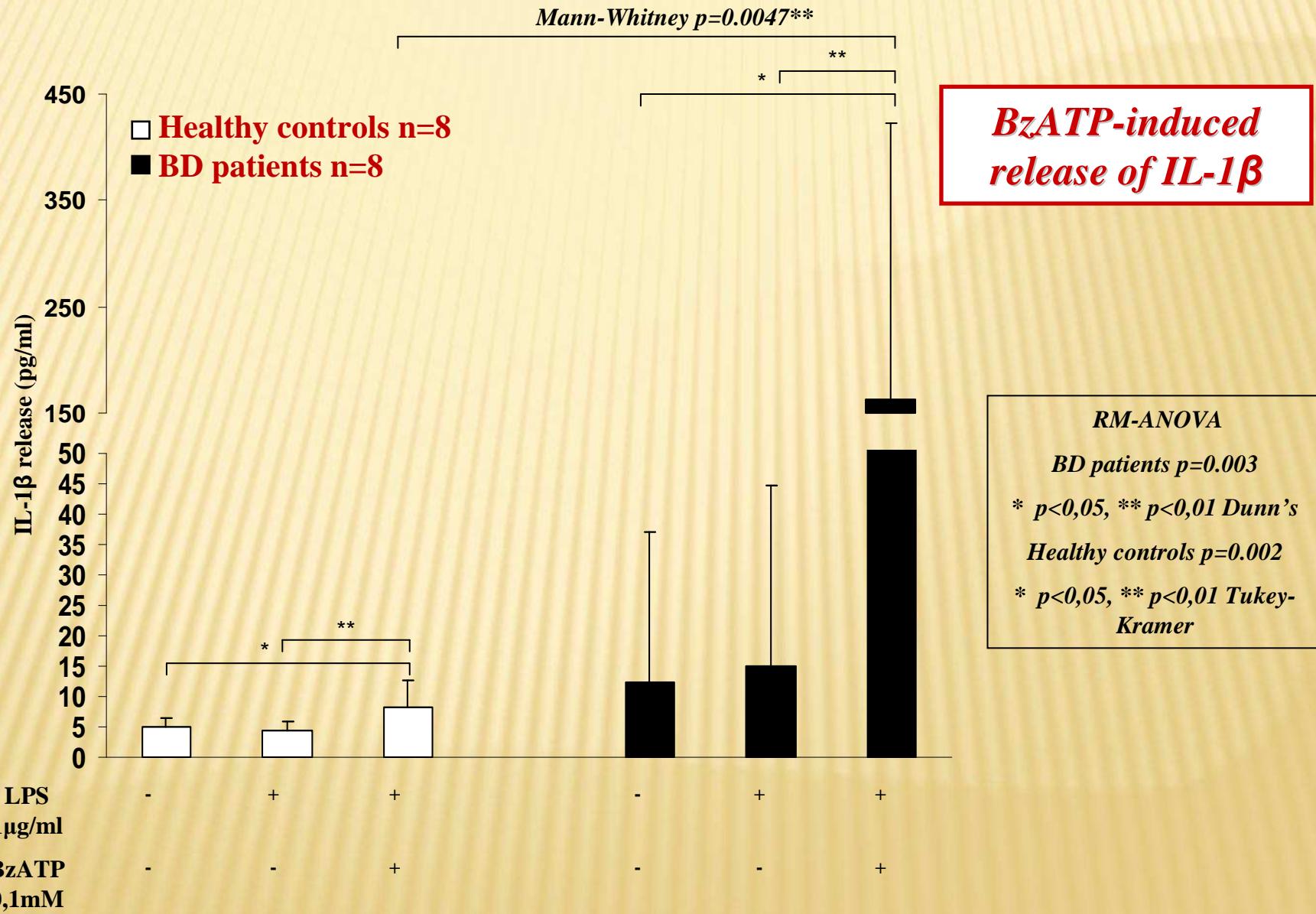
sudden recurrent inflammatory attacks intercalated with  
periods of remission

# *P2X<sub>7</sub> receptor function analysis*

[Ca<sup>2+</sup>]i fluxes measurement in monocytes using a single-cell fluorescent microscopy method



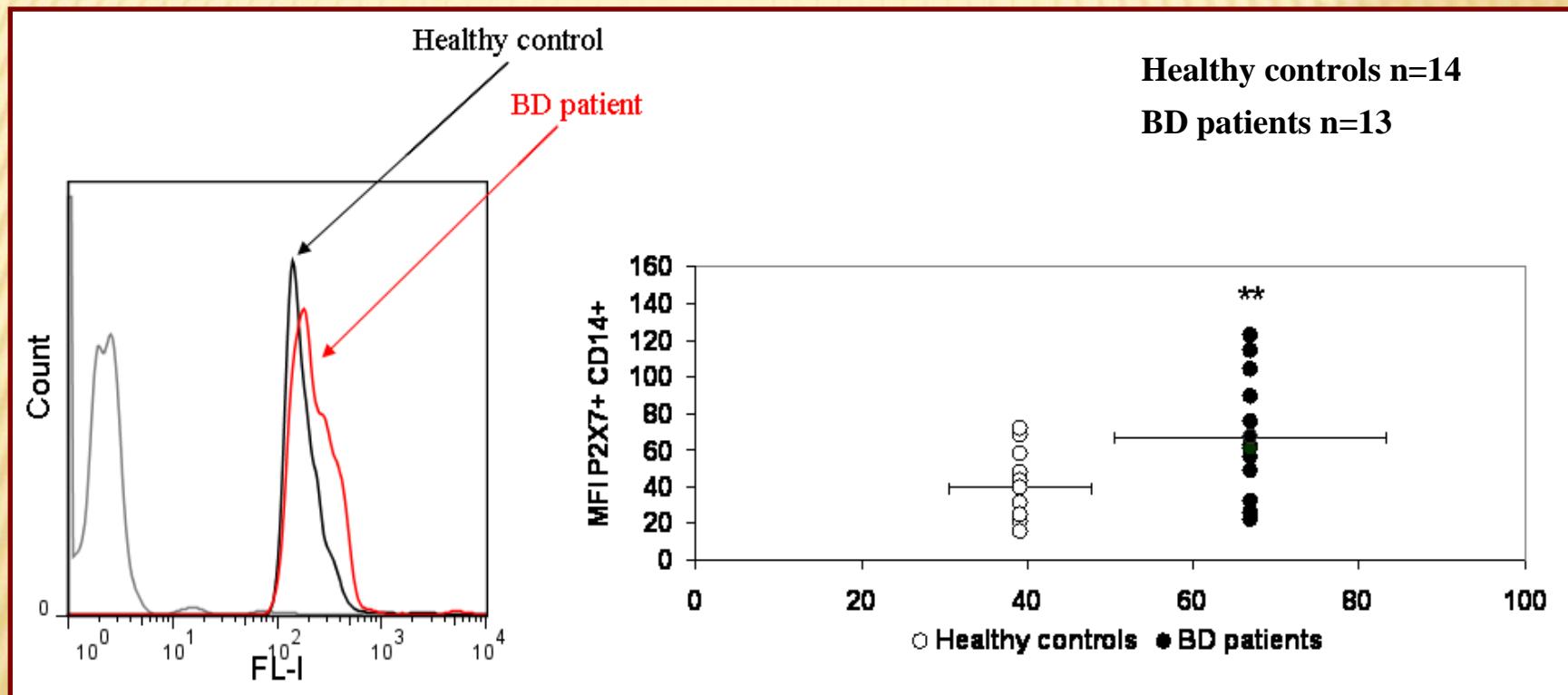
## *P2X<sub>7</sub> receptor function analysis*



# *P2X<sub>7</sub> receptor expression analysis*

Flow cytometry assay (P2X7-FITC and CD14-PE)

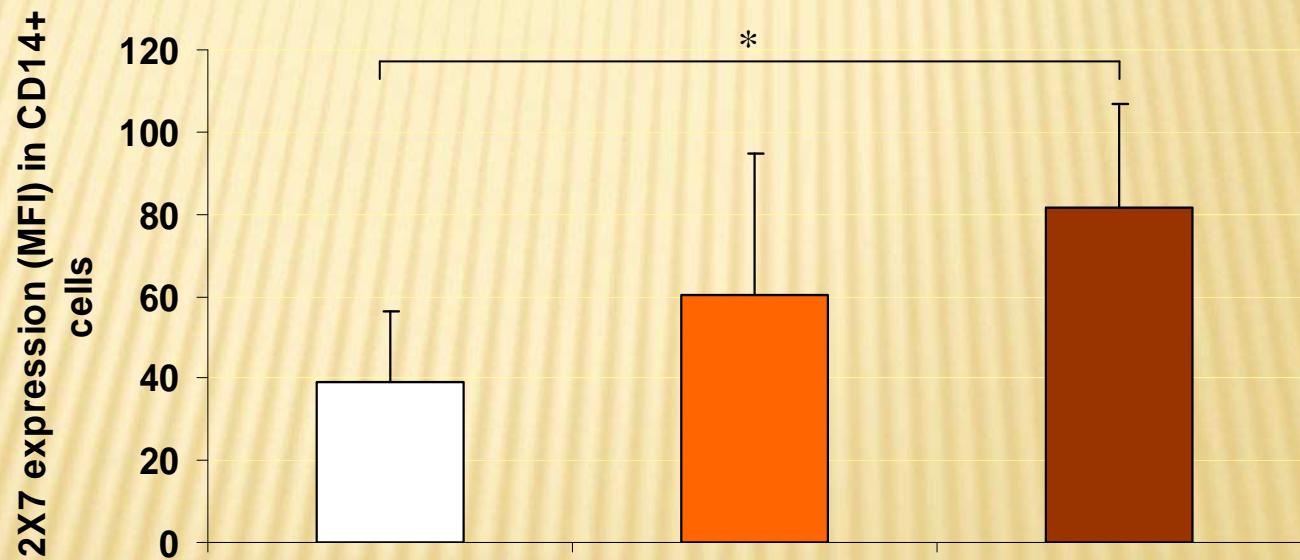
Mean Fluorescence Intensity of CD14+cells (monocytes)



## *P2X<sub>7</sub> receptor in BD patients: effect of anti-TNFα treatment*

- Healthy controls n=14
- BD treated n=11
- BD untreated n=4

**Mean Fluorescence  
Intensity of CD14+  
cells (monocytes)**

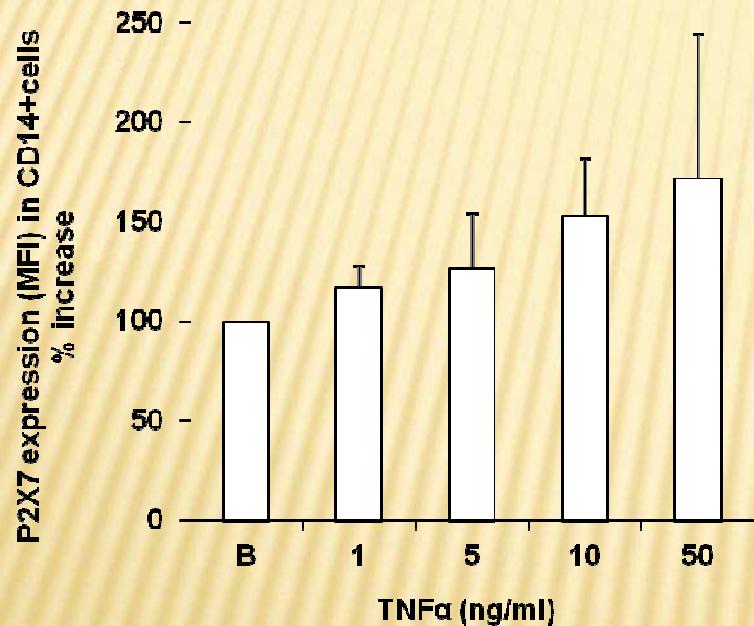


*RM ANOVA: p<0.05*

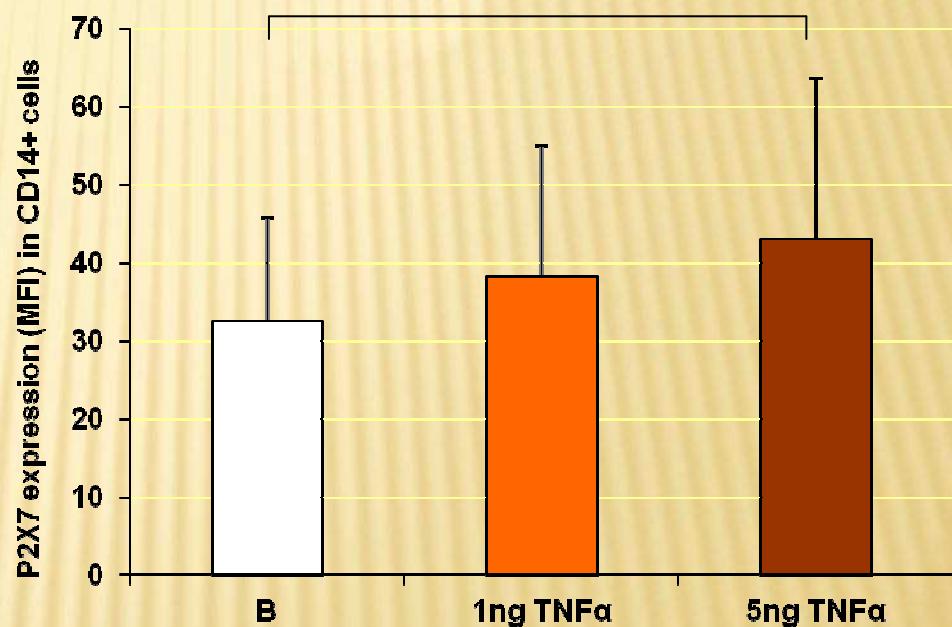
*Dunn's testPost-hoc test: \*p<0.05*

# *P2X<sub>7</sub> receptor: *in vitro* modulating effect of TNFα*

*TNFα induced  
P2X<sub>7</sub> receptor  
expression*



**Healthy controls n=3**



**Healthy controls n=5**

*RM ANOVA: p<0.05*

*Dunn's testPost-hoc test: \*p<0.05*

## P2X7 upregulation in Multiple Sclerosis

P2X7R is probably involved in the pathological mechanisms of MS, being upregulated in:

**astrocytes** (human cerebral cortex), Narcisse et al. Glia, 2005

**oligodendrocytes** (human and rat optic nerve), Matute et al. J Neurosci., 2007

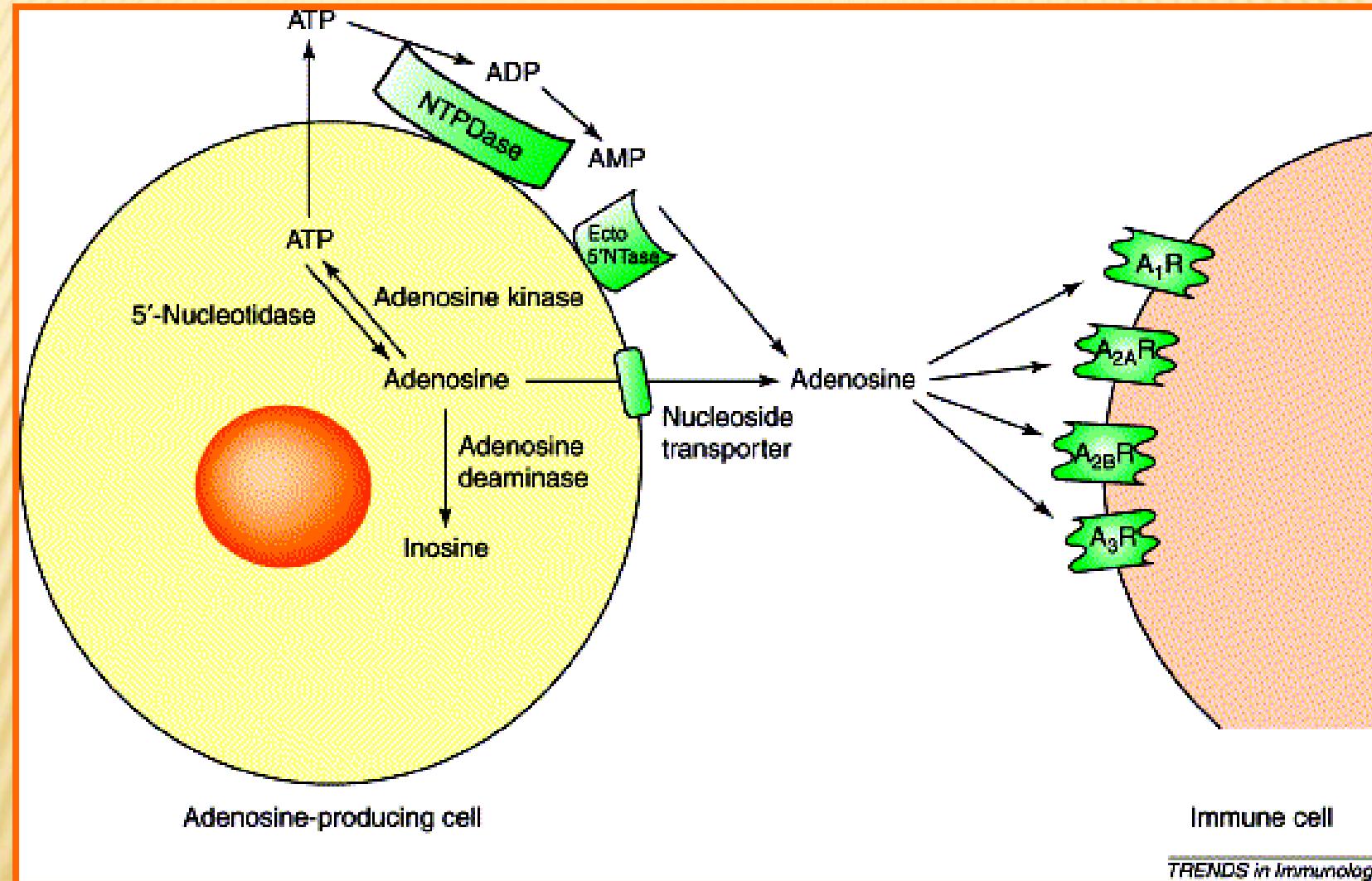
**microglia** (human spinal cord), Yiangou et al. BMC Neurol., 2006

**monocytes** (human PBMC), Caragnano et al., J Neuroimmunol., 2012

# AGENDA

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- P2X7R
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- “The odd couple”

# *P<sub>1</sub>* receptors and Immune Cells



TRENDS in Immunology

Hasko G, Cronstein BN. Trends Immunol 2004; 25: 33-9

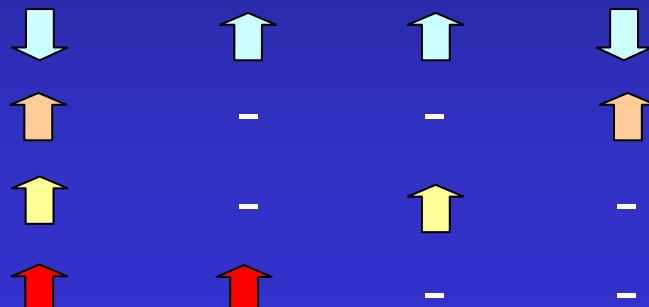
# ADENOSINE RECEPTORS

Hasko G, Cronstein BN. *Trends Immunol* 2004; 25: 33-9

## Intracellular 2nd messenger pathways

{ cAMP  
Ca<sup>++</sup>  
p38  
p42/44

*A1*      *A2a*      *A2b*      *A3*



## Selective agonists

CPA      GCS-21680      -      IB-MECA  
CCPA

## Selective antagonists

DPCPX      ZM241385      Alloxazine      MRS-1220  
PACPX      CSC

## Affinity to adenosine

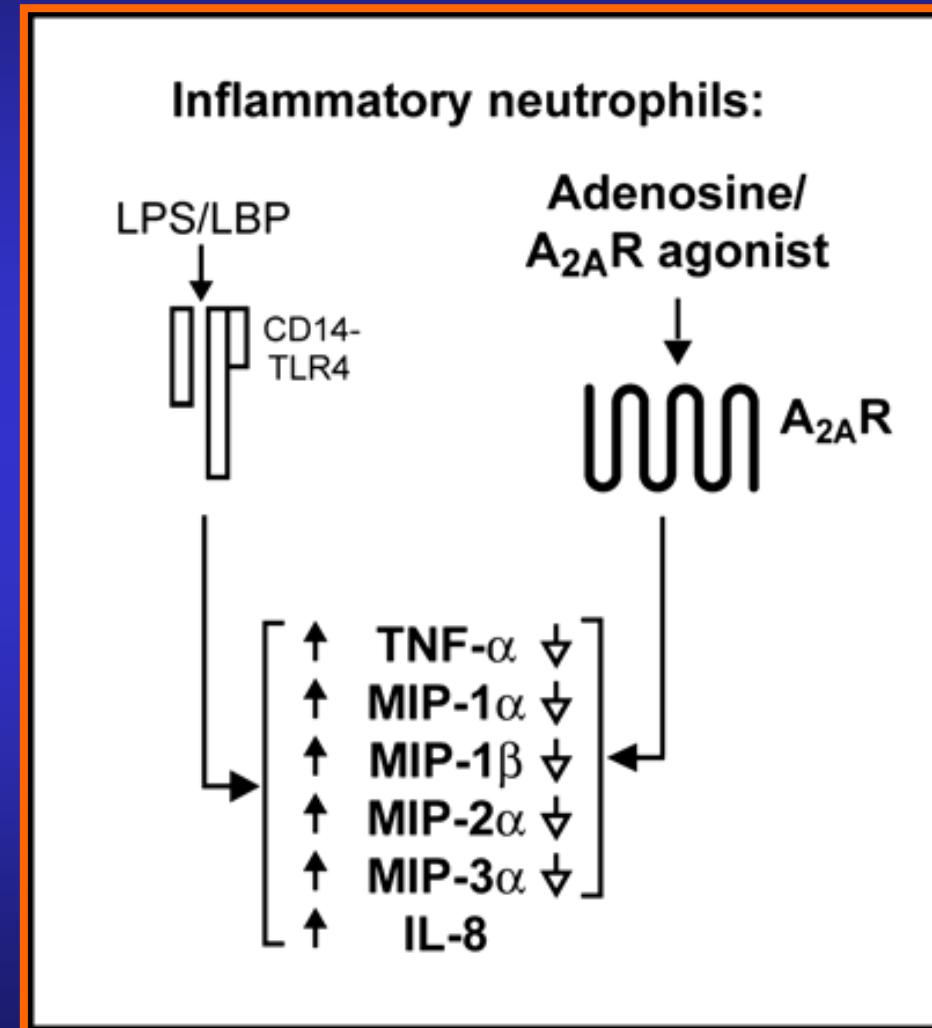
H      H      L      L

## G-protein-coupling

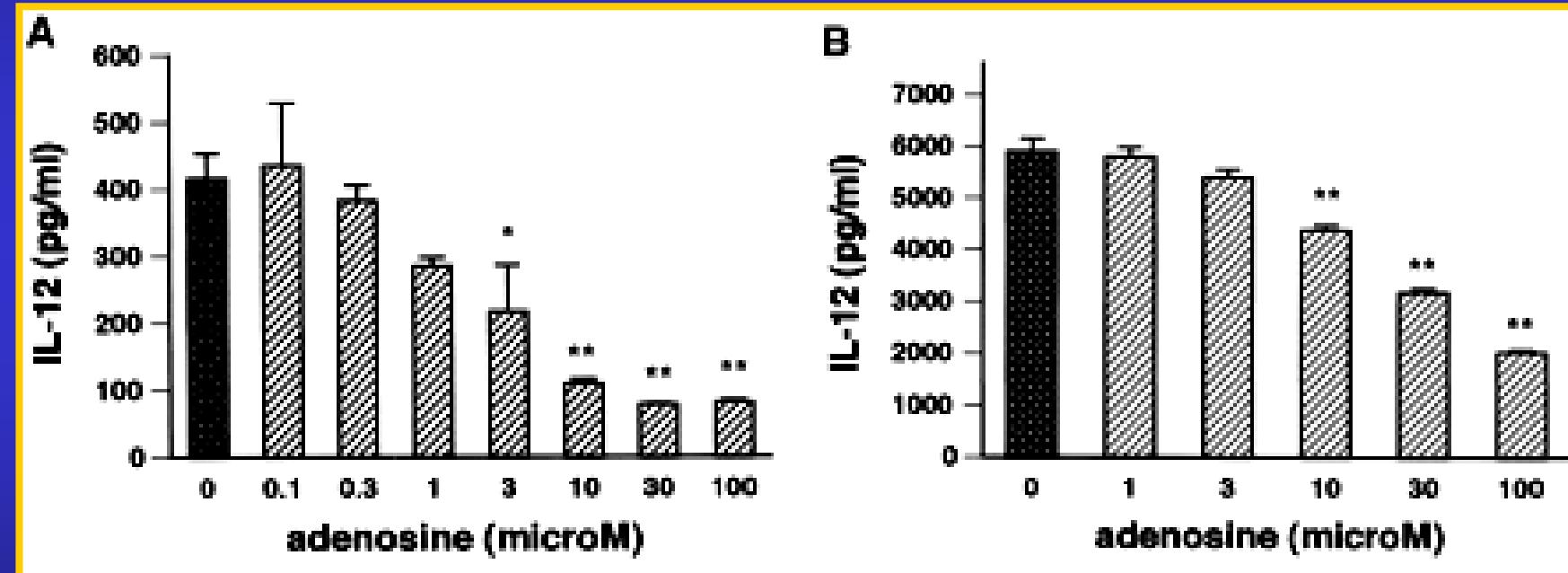
Gi/o      Gs      Gs,Gq      Gi,Gq

*Modulation of the profile of cytokines/chemokines generated in inflammatory neutrophils by activation of the adenosine A<sub>2A</sub> receptor.*

A<sub>2A</sub>R, adenosine A<sub>2A</sub> receptor;  
LPS/LBP,  
lipopolysaccharide/lipopolysaccharide  
binding protein;  
TLR4, Toll-like receptor-4.



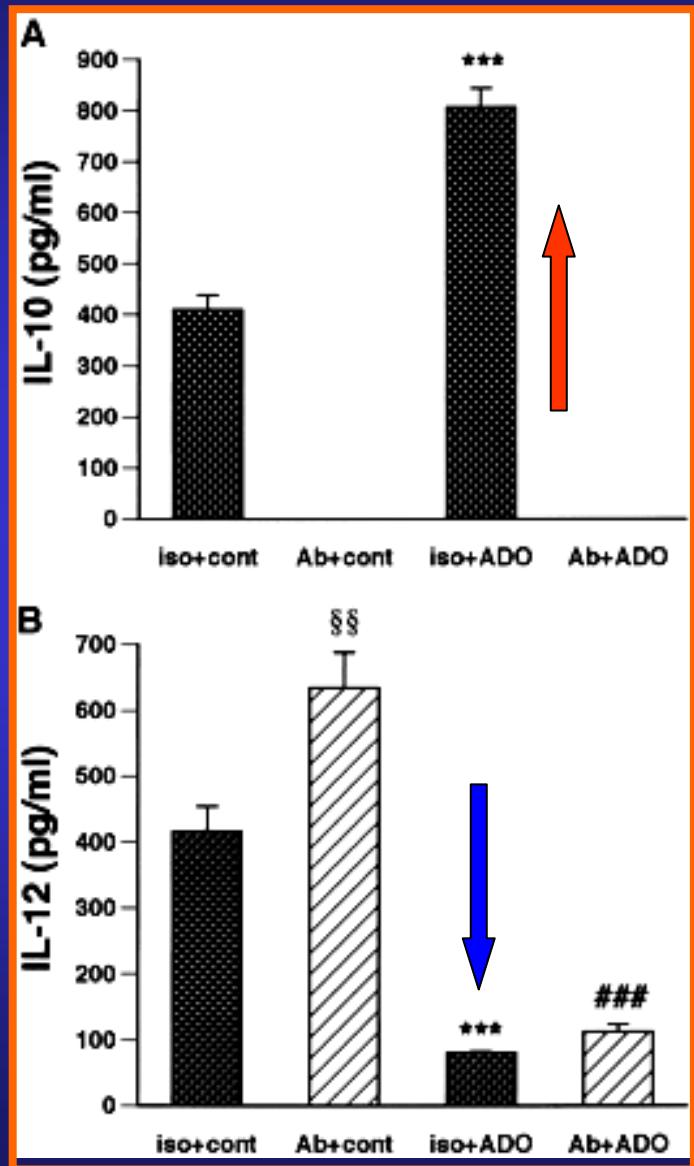
# *Adenosine inhibits IL-12 production in mouse peritoneal macrophages*



LPS

LPS + IFN- $\gamma$

# Selective effect of adenosine on inflammation

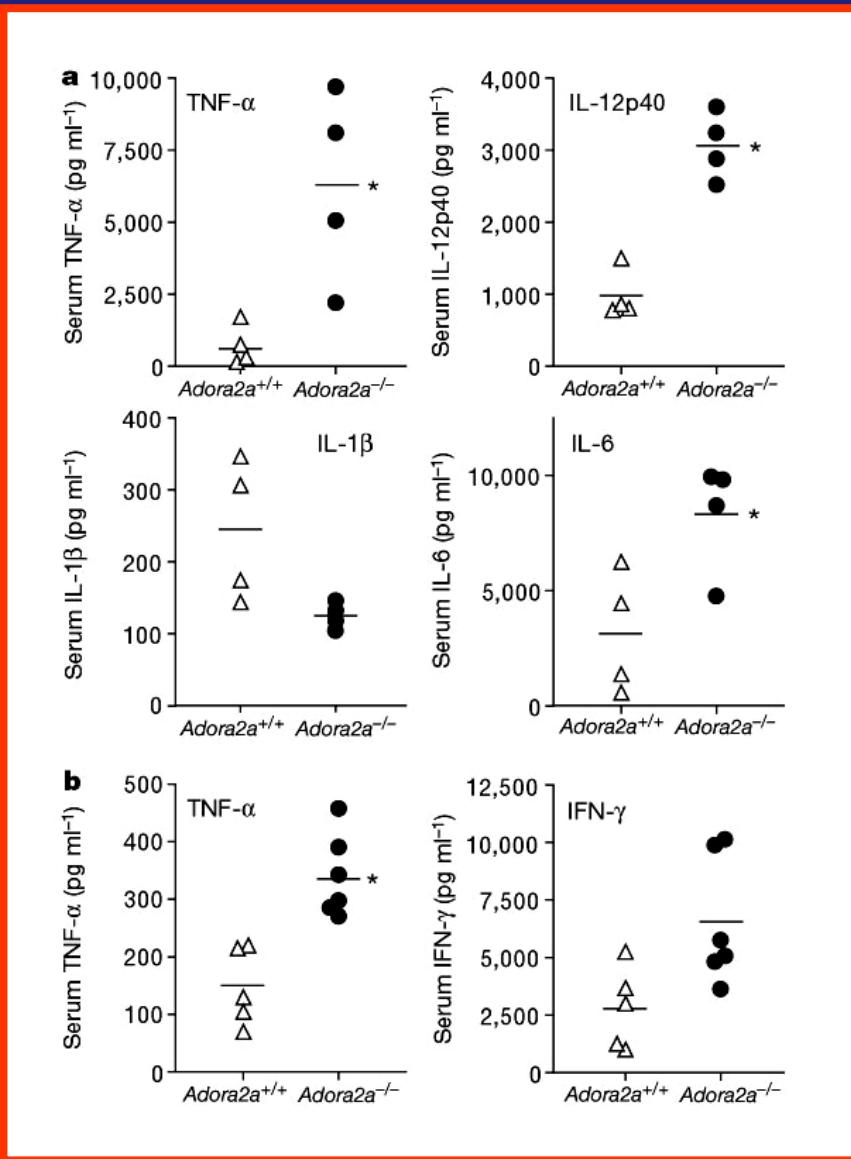


*inhibition of  
pro-inflammatory  
and enhancement  
of anti-inflammatory  
cytokines*

The FASEB Journal

Hasko GDG, et al. FASEB J 2000;14:2065-2074

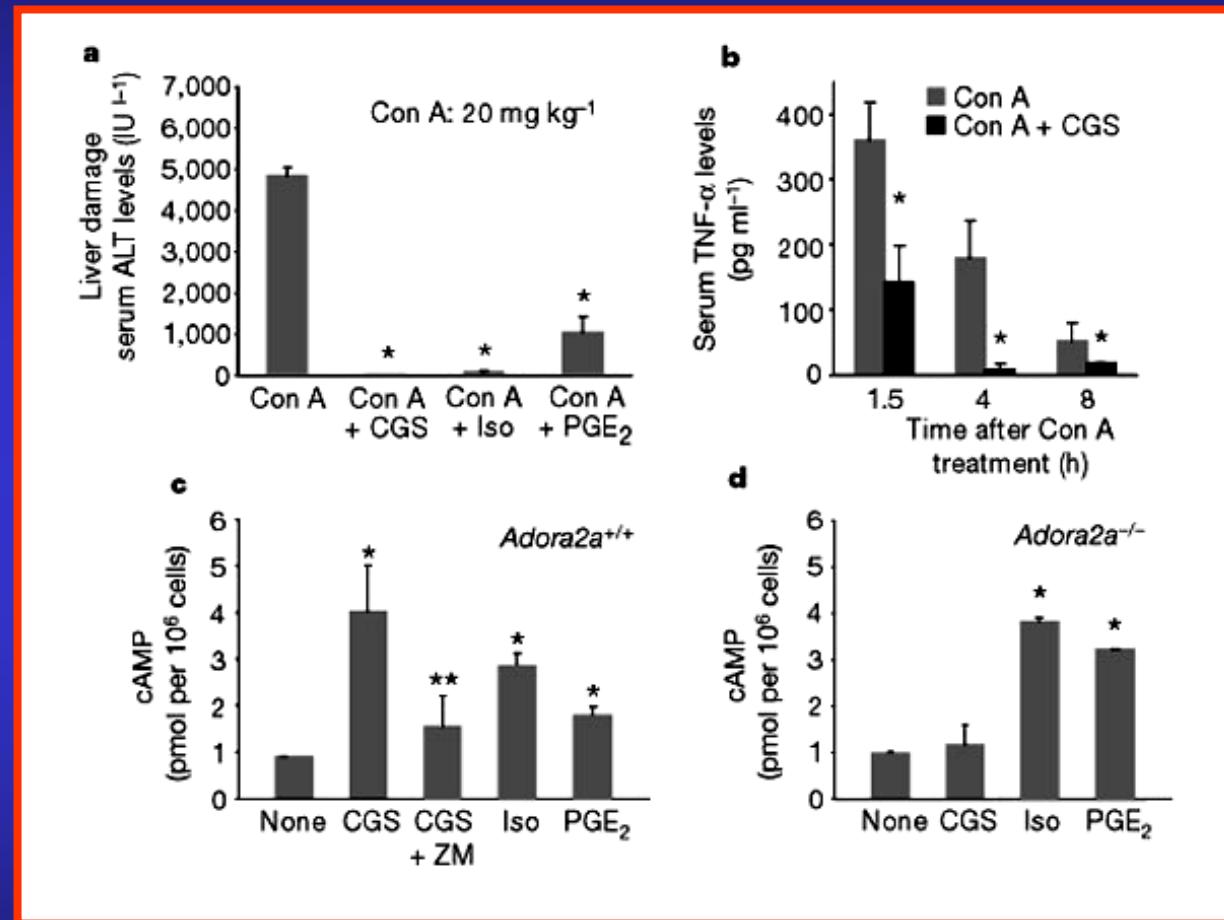
## *Enhanced accumulation of pro-inflammatory cytokines and tissue damage in A2a-receptor-deficient mice treated with endotoxin*



nature

Ohta A and Sitkovsky M. *Nature* 2001; 414, 916-920

## *Pharmacological activation of A<sub>2a</sub> or other G<sub>s</sub>-protein-coupled receptors in vivo prevents Con A-induced liver damage and TNF- $\alpha$ accumulation*

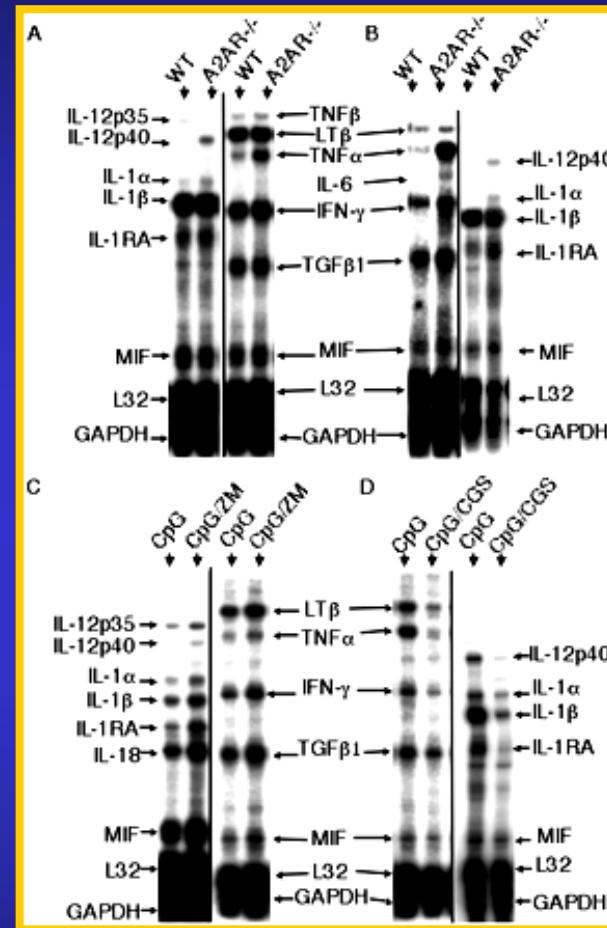


nature

Ohta A and Sitkovsky M. *Nature* 2001; 414, 916-920

**increased expression of proinflammatory cytokines mRNA  
in A2AR-deficient mice (total spleen mRNA)**

**increased expression  
of proinflammatory cytokines' mRNA  
in macrophages from A2AR-deficient mice**



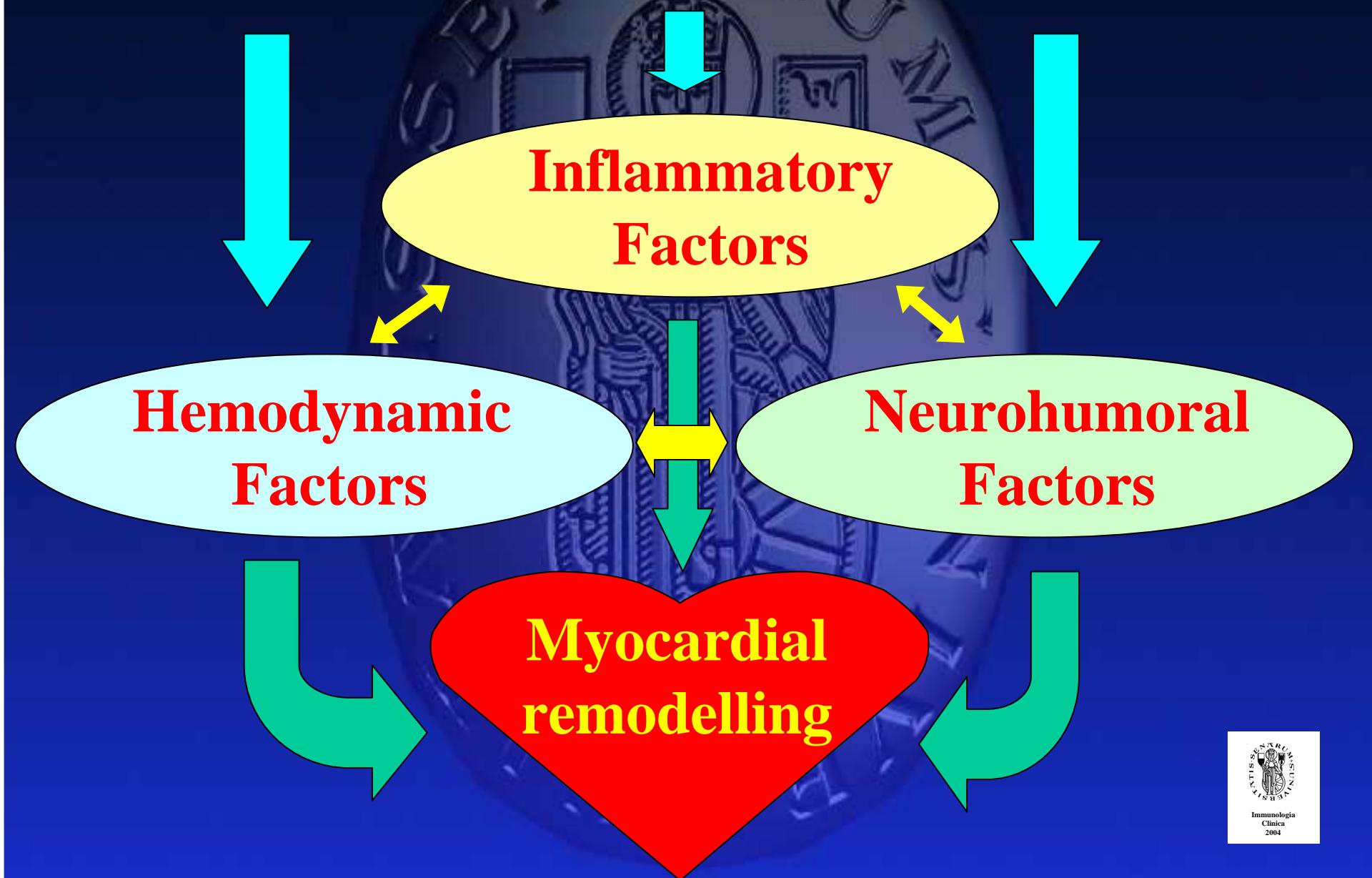
**increased expression  
of proinflammatory cytokines mRNA  
in splenocytes with  
pharmacologically inactivated  
in vivo A2AR  
(ZM241385, ZM)**

**decreased expression  
of proinflammatory cytokine mRNA  
in splenocytes of mice with  
pharmacologically activated in vivo  
A2AR  
(CGS21680, CGS)**

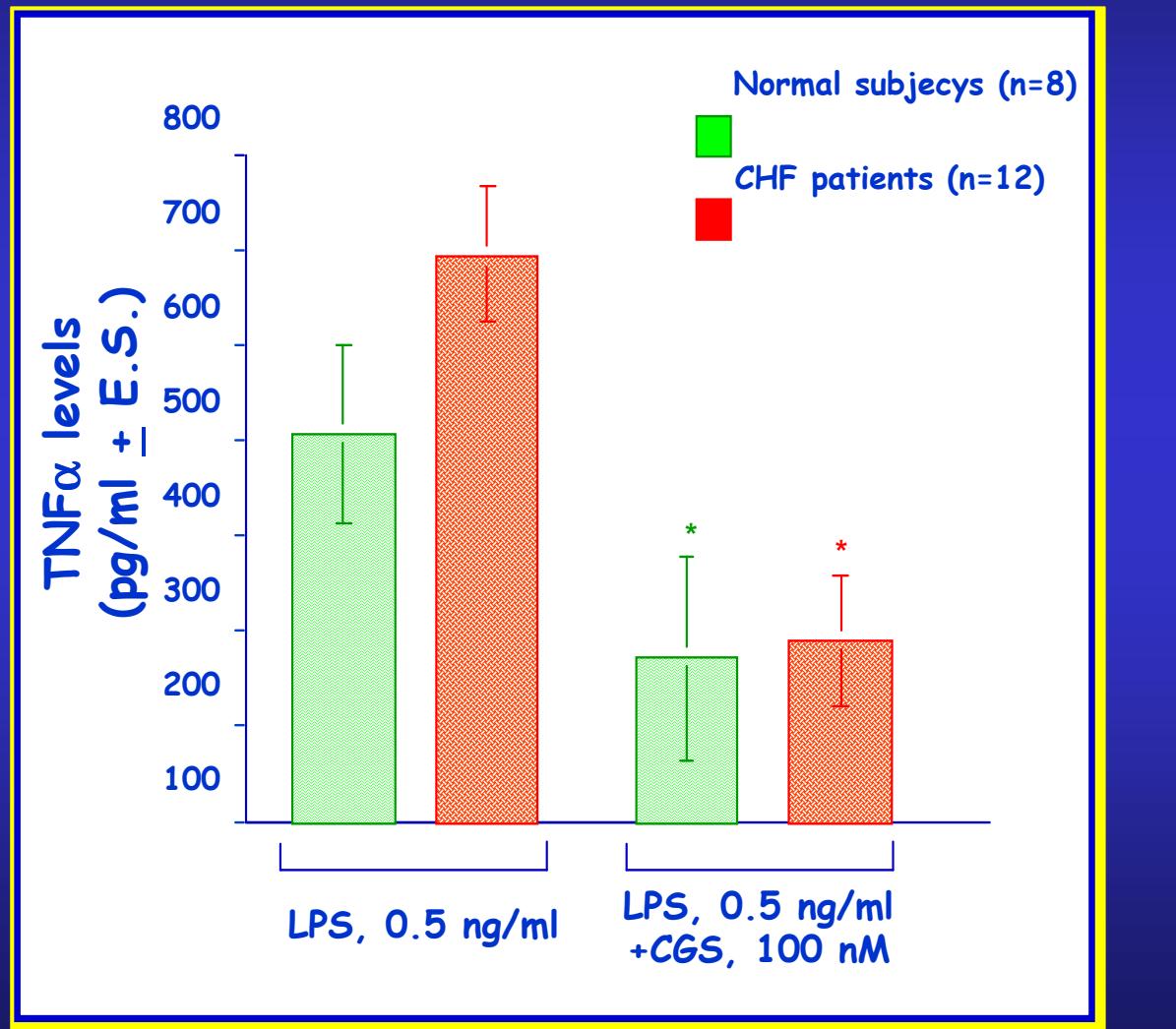
**The Journal of Immunology**

Lukashev D, et al J Immunol. 2004 Jul 1;173(1):21-4.

# CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE



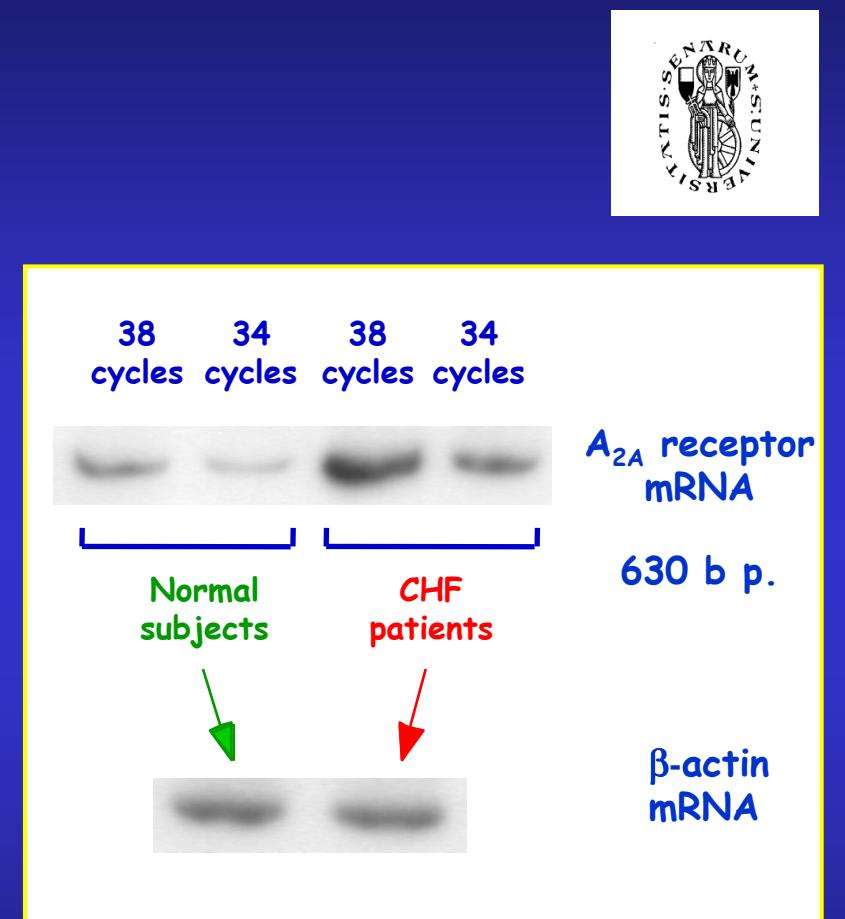
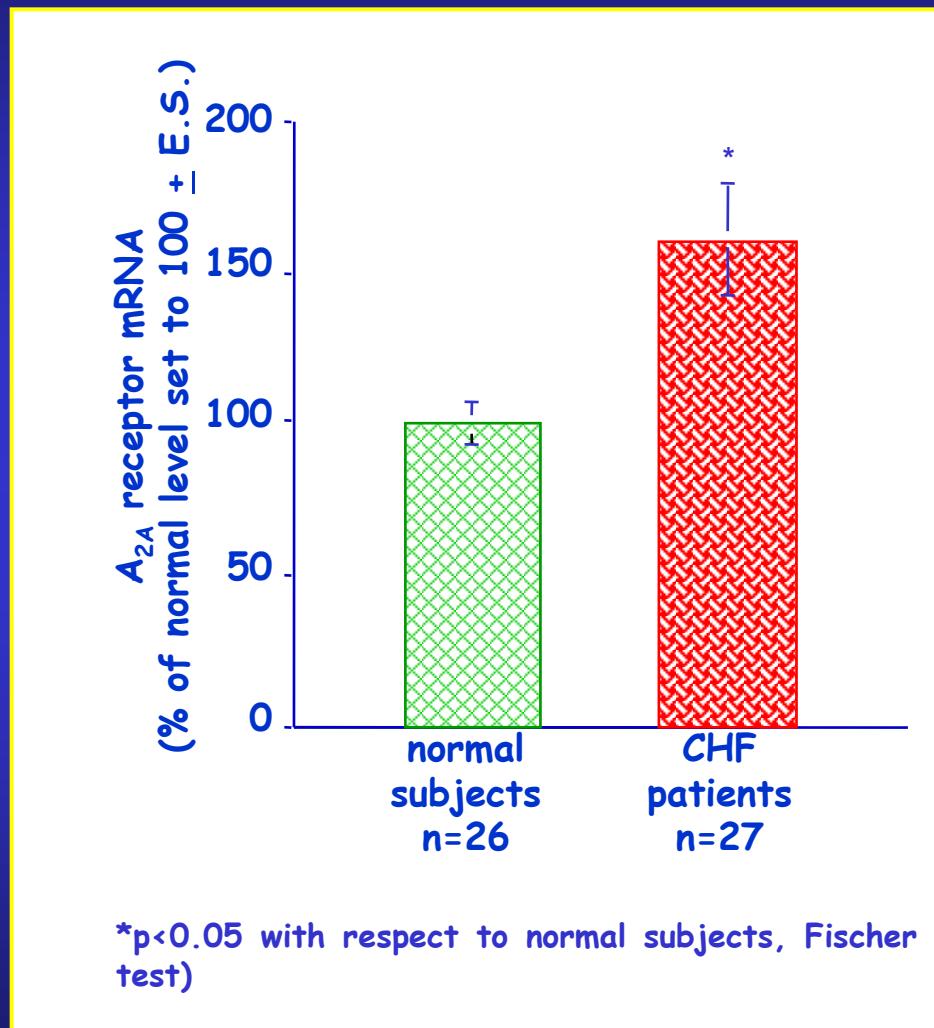
# Ability of the $A_{2A}$ receptor agonist CGS21680 to decrease the production of $TNF\alpha$ from cultured PBMC



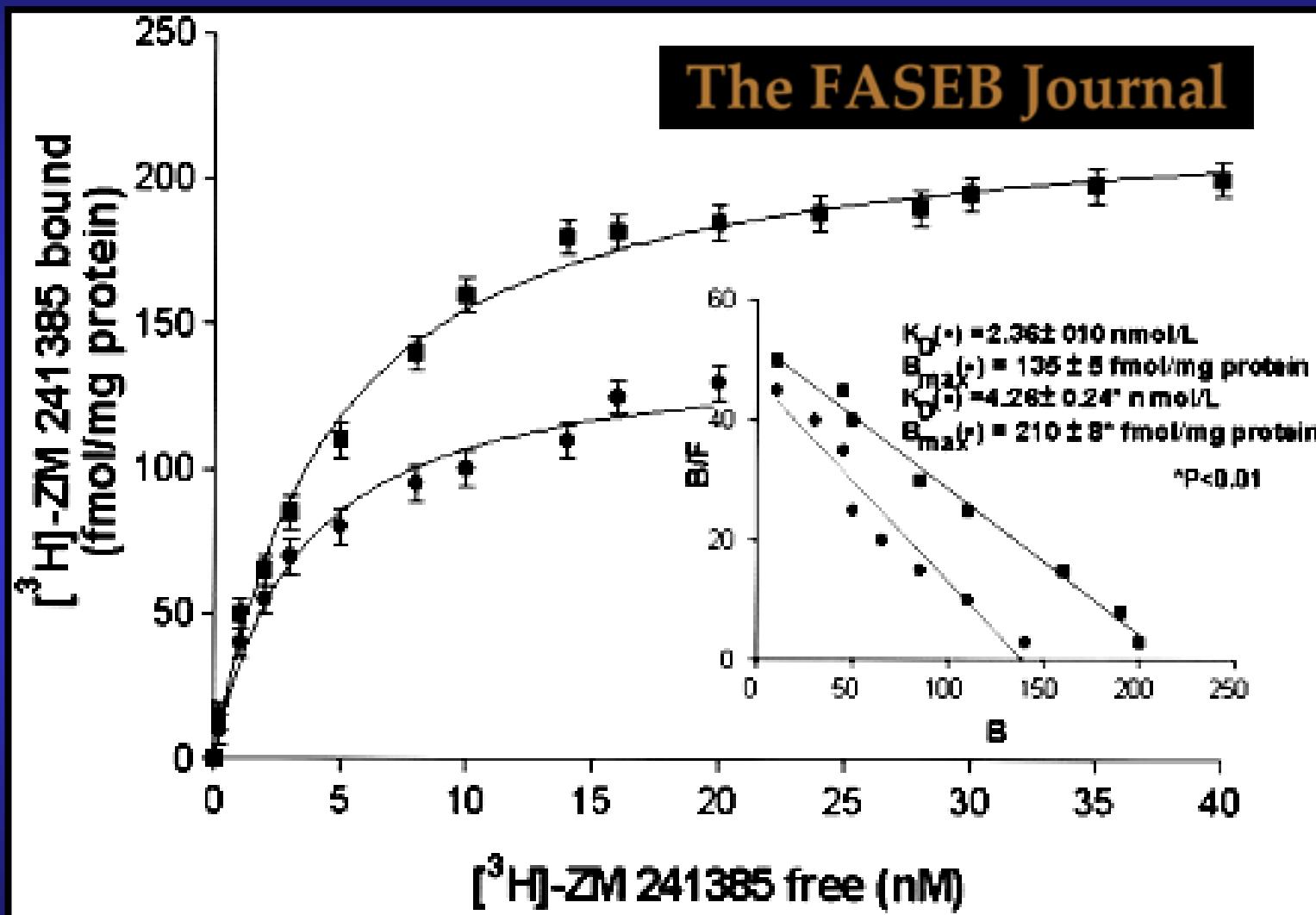
\*p<0.05 with respect LPS alone, Scheffé test



# Altered expression of $A_{2A}$ receptors in CHF PBMC

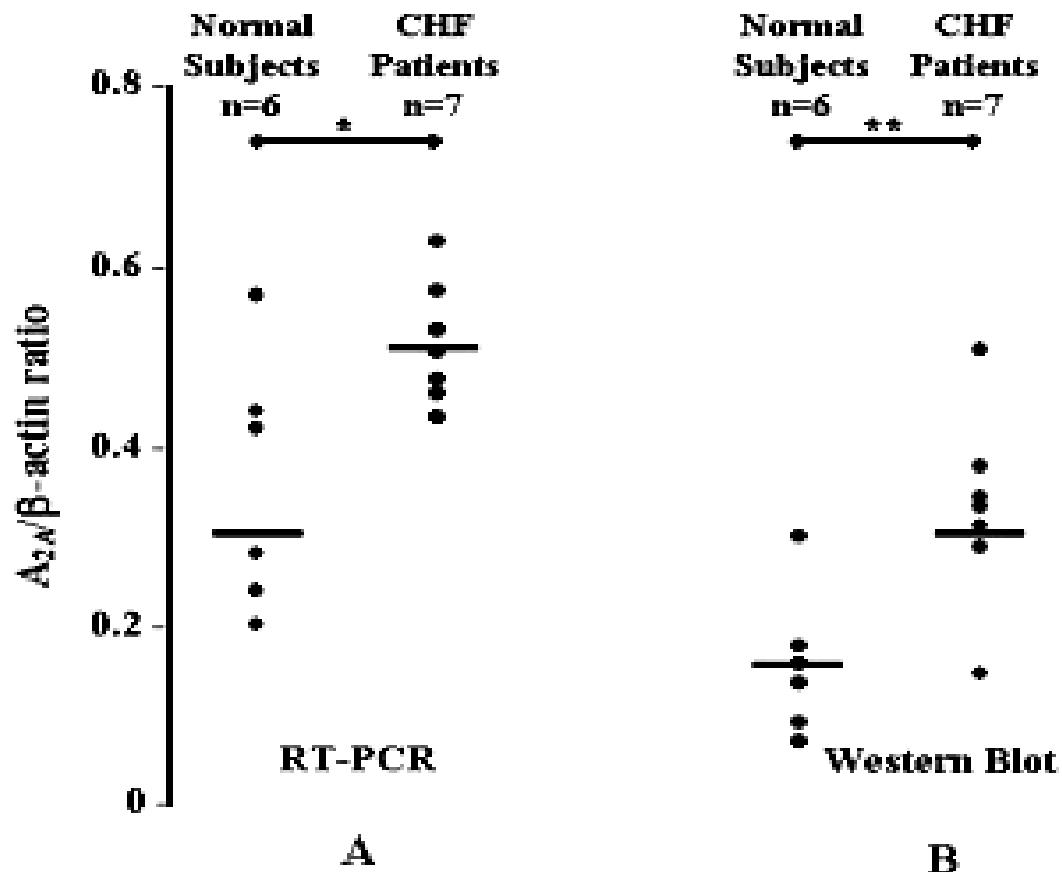


*La up-regulation dei recettori A<sub>2A</sub> nei PBMC rispecchia le modificazioni recettoriali del cuore scompensato*

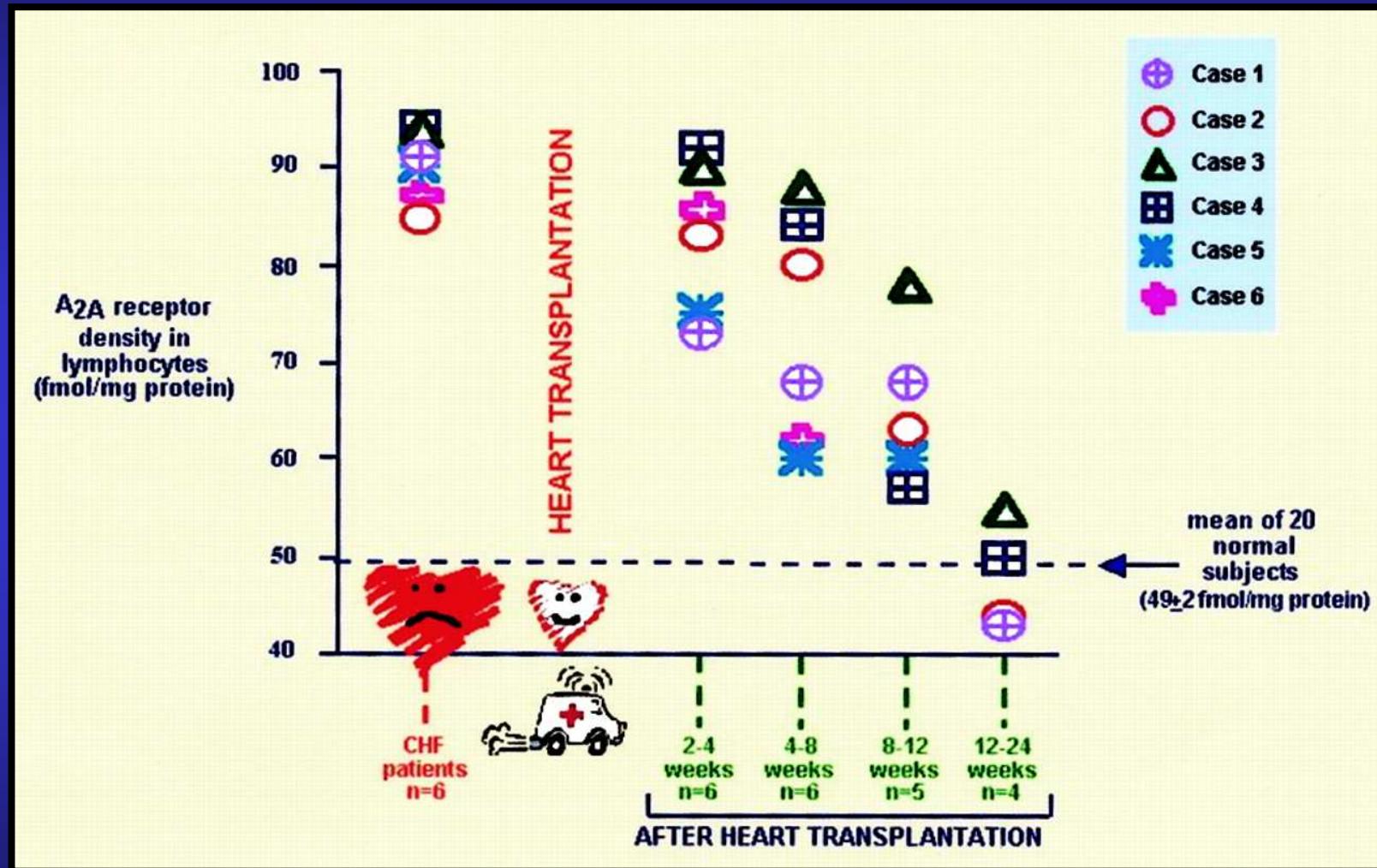


Varani K, Laghi Pasini F. et al. *FASEB J* 2003; 17: 280-282

## *Espressione del recettore A2A in PBMC (RT-PCR ed Western blot)*

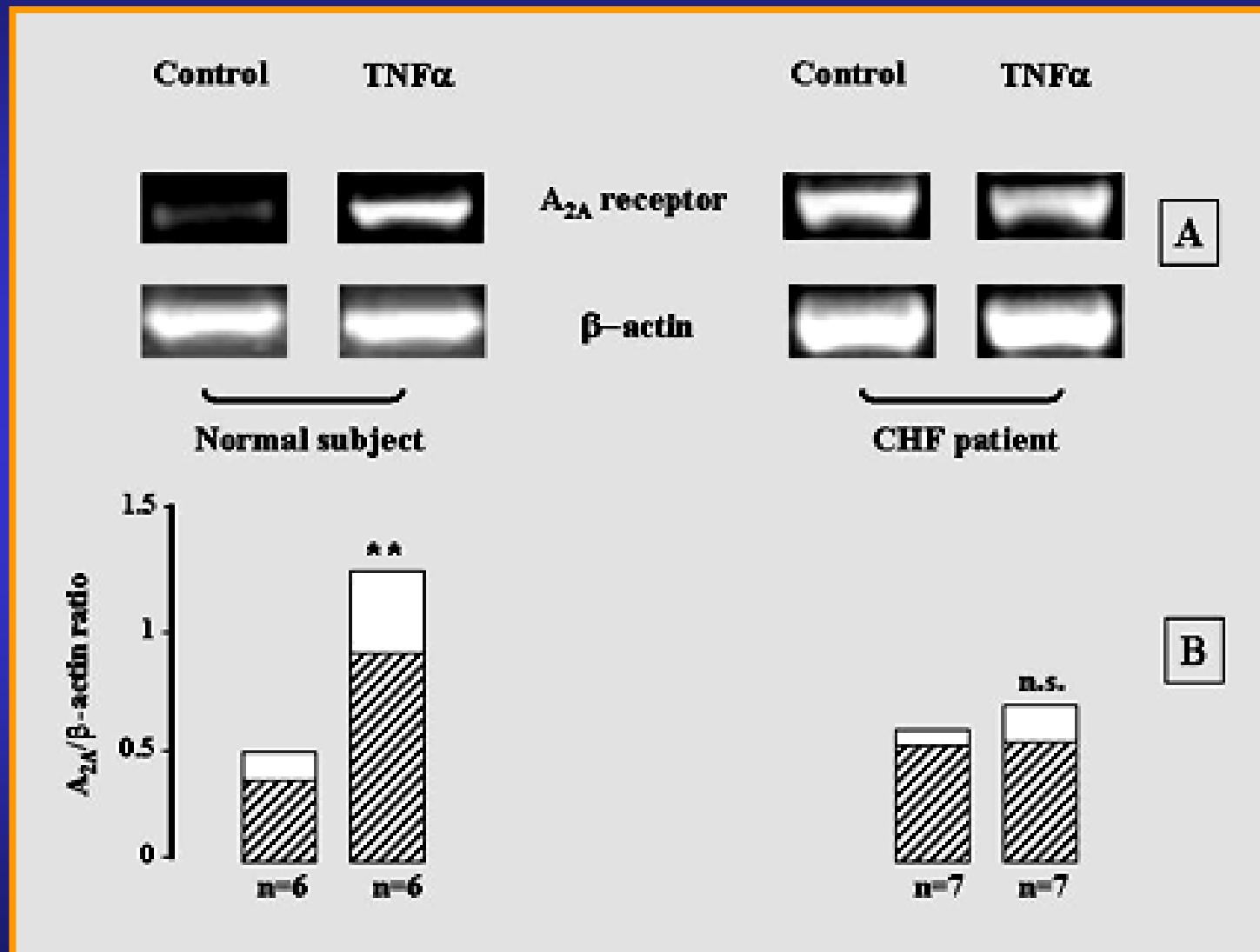


# Normalizzazione dei recettori A<sub>2A</sub> (PBMC) dopo il trapianto cardiaco



## *Effetto del TNF- $\alpha$ sulla espressione del recettore A2A in PBMC (RT-PCR)*

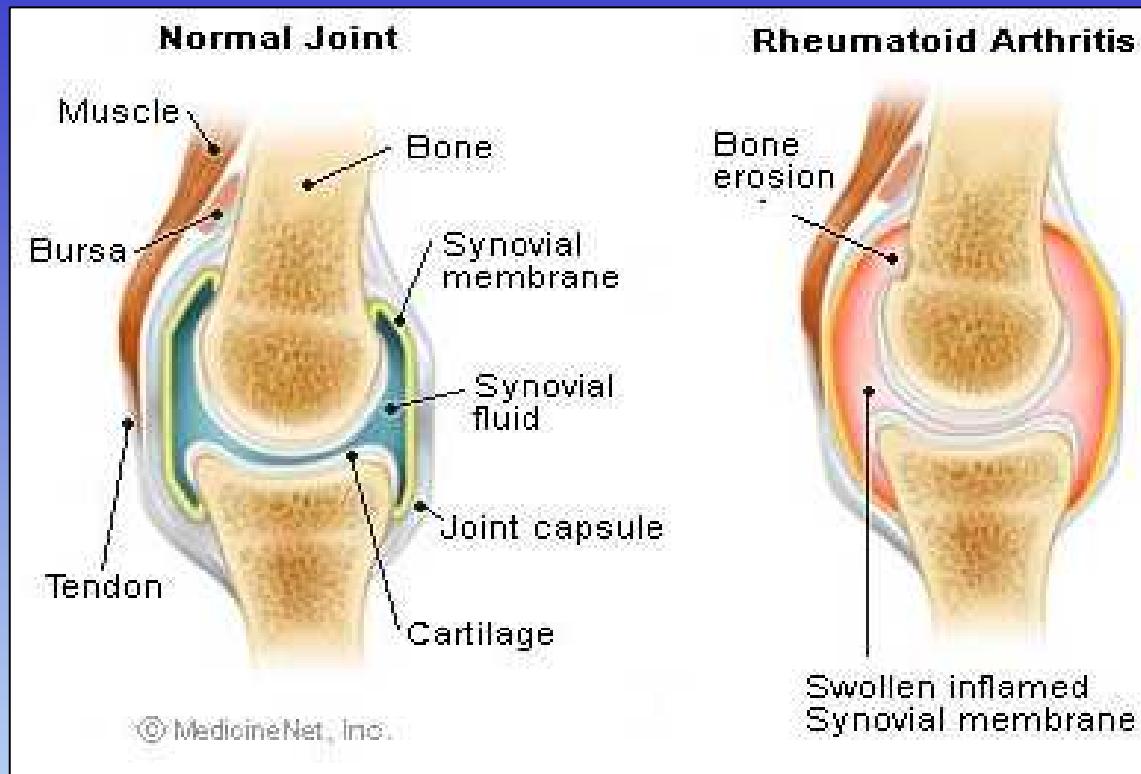
JOURNAL OF  
**CARDIAC  
FAILURE**



# AGENDA

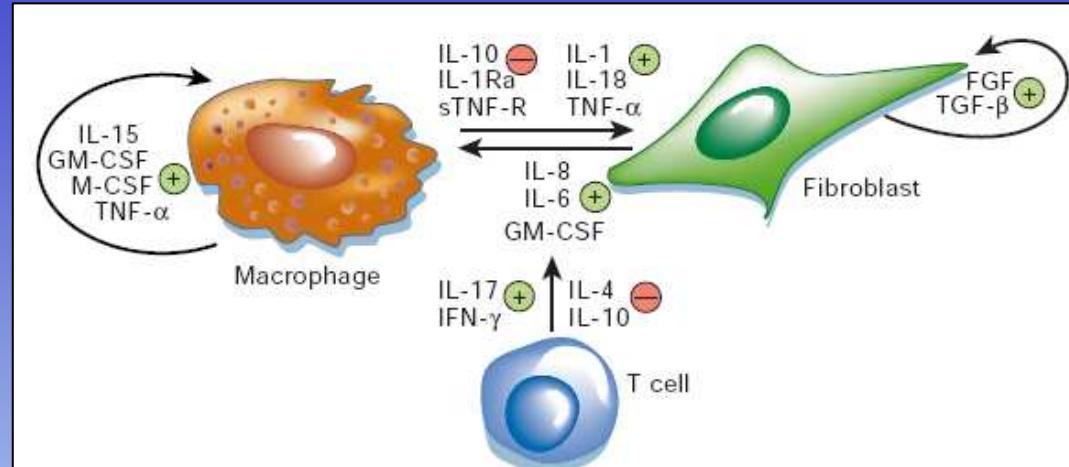
- General overview
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# RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS



Autoimmune disease characterized by chronic inflammation of the joints. The synovial membrane is hyperplastic and infiltrated with mononuclear cells. It is transformed into a proliferating invasive cell mass or 'PANNUS' that erodes the surrounding tissue and bone leading to painful joint deformities.

# CYTOKINES NETWORKS IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS



**TNF- $\alpha$**

- synovial fluids
- induces collagenase and MMPs release
- stimulates IL-8 synthesis

**IL-1**

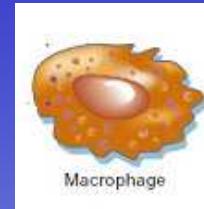
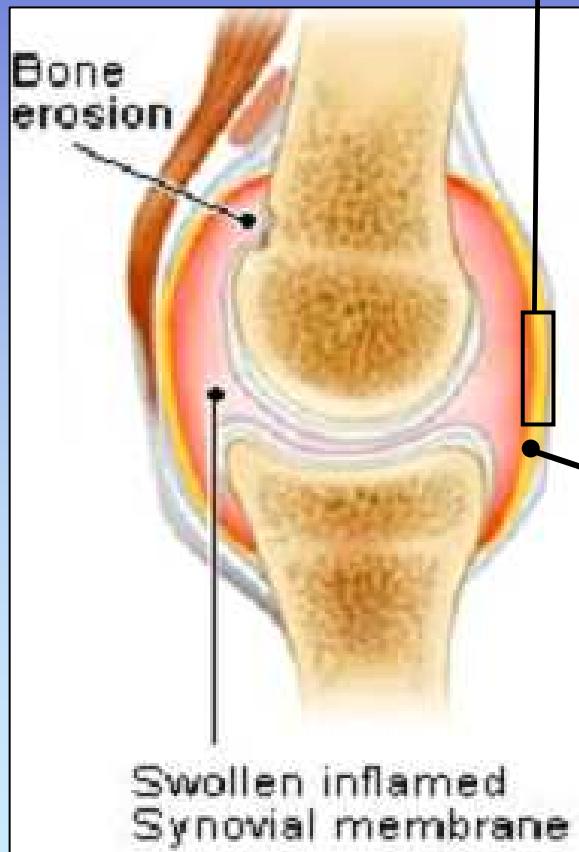
- key mediator of synovial inflammation and pannus formation
- activates T- and B-lymphocytes
- pain, swelling and tenderness

**IL-6**

- inflammation sites in the articular joints
- activates T- and B-lymphocytes
- synthesis of C-reactive protein

# SYNOVIAL CELL TYPES

## SYNOVIOCYTES



TYPE A  
(macrophagic cells)

- ✓ Resident macrophages
- ✓ Possess an antigen presenting ability
- ✓ Secrete inflammatory cytokines

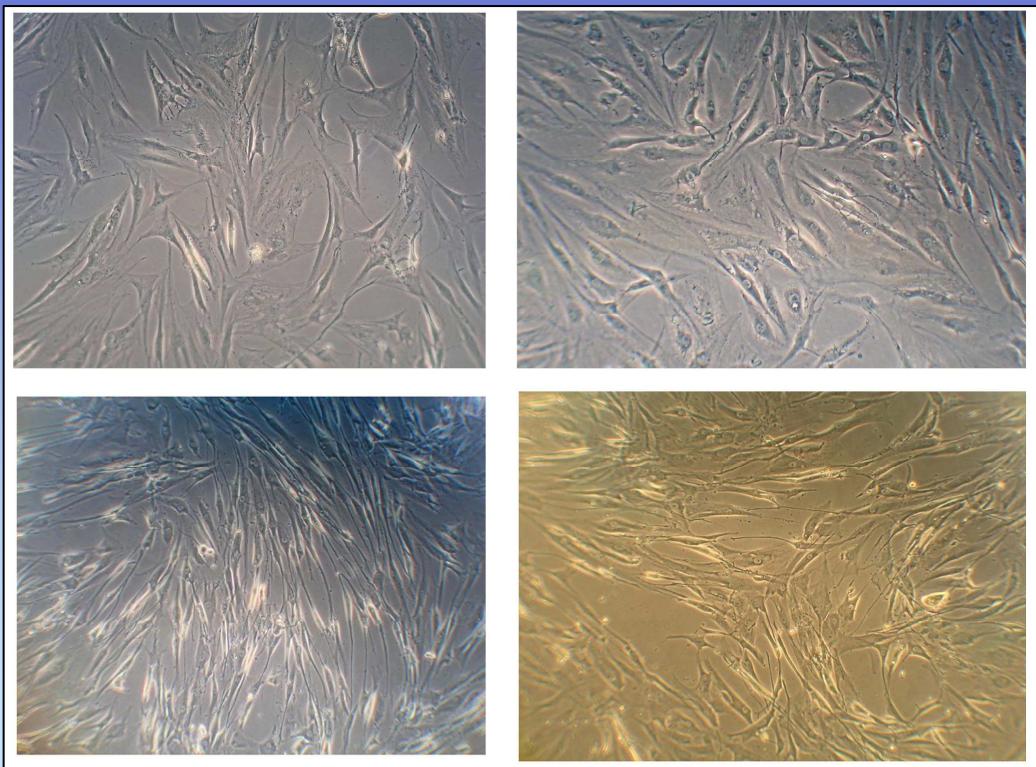


TYPE B  
(fibroblast-like cells)

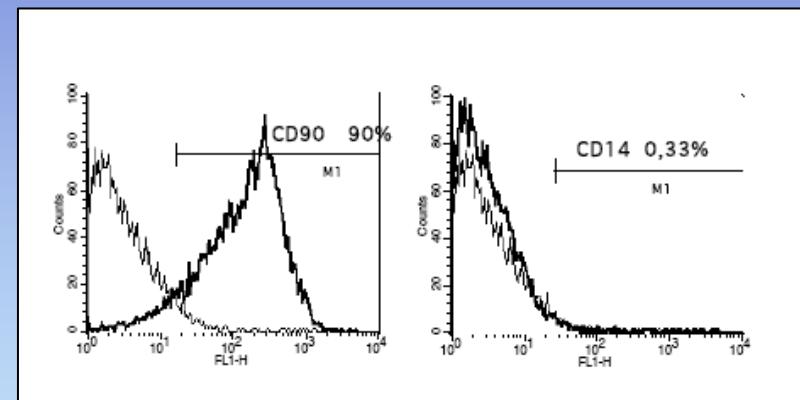
- ✓ Aggressive and invasive behaviour
- ✓ Partecipate in inflammation, hyperplasia of the synovial membrane
- ✓ Secrete MMPs and PGs leading to the destruction of the articular cartilage and bone
- ✓ Perpetuation of chronic inflammation by producing cytokines (IL-6)

# MORPHOLOGY AND CHARACTERIZATION OF SYNOVIAL CELLS BY FLOW CYTOMETRY

## Morphology



## Flow Cytometry

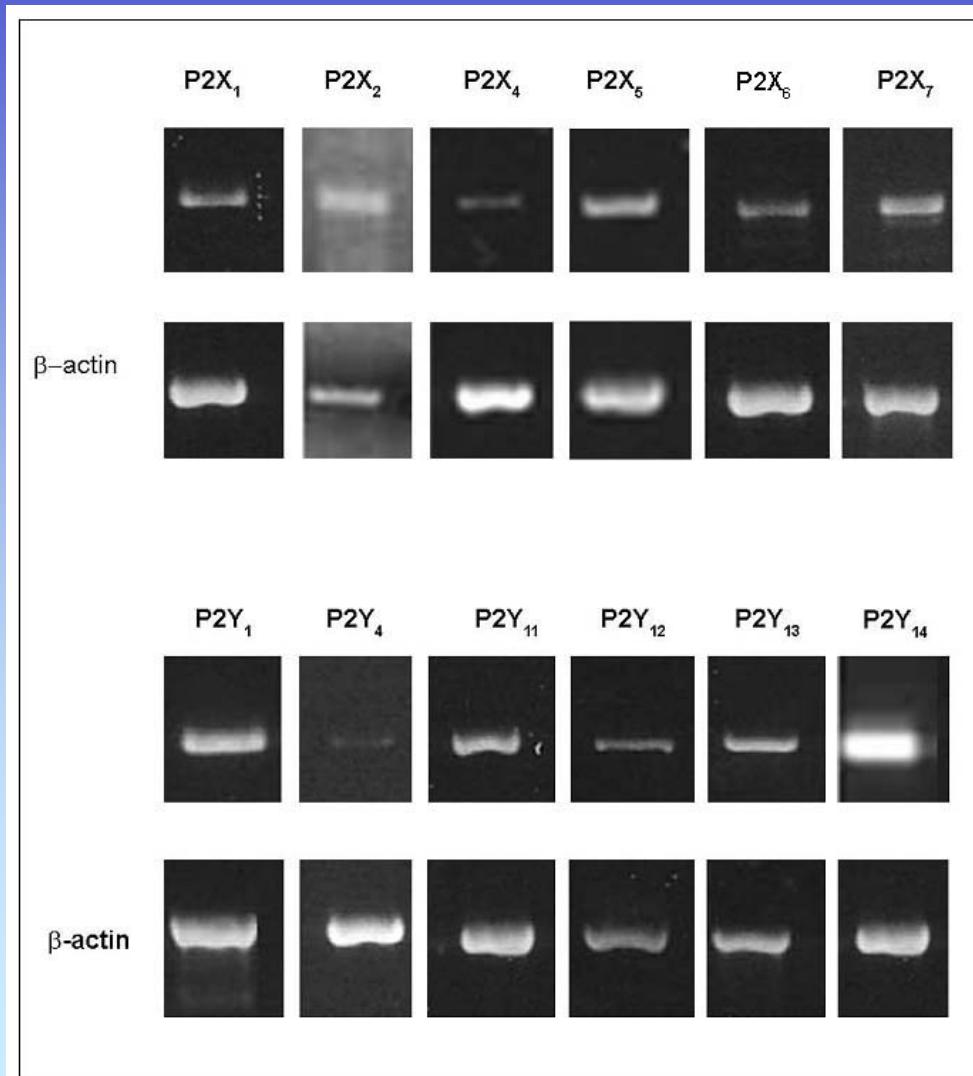


CD90/Thy-1 = fibroblasts

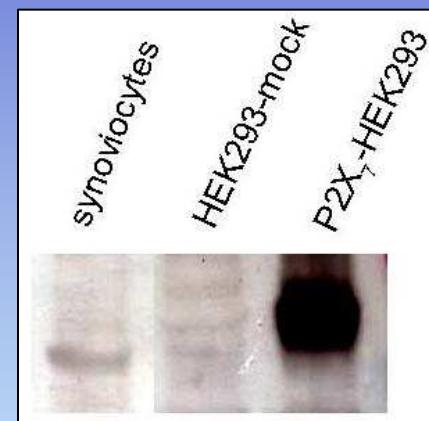
CD14 = macrophages

# TYPE-B SYNOVIOCYTES EXPRESS P2X AND P2Y RECEPTORS SUBTYPES

## RT-PCR



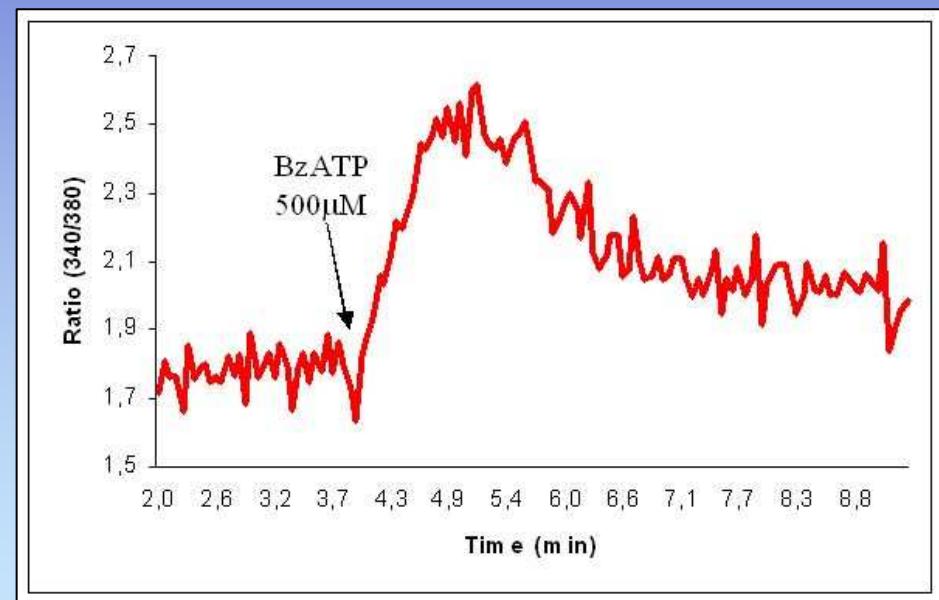
## Western Blot



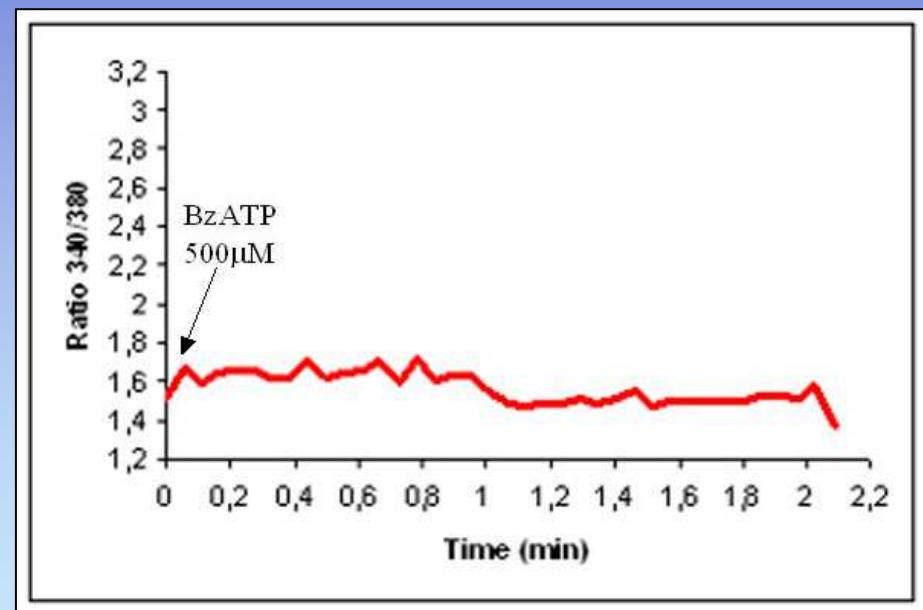
P2X	P2X <sub>1</sub>	P2X <sub>2</sub>	P2X <sub>4</sub>	P2X <sub>5</sub>	P2X <sub>6</sub>	P2X <sub>7</sub>
P2Y	P2Y <sub>1</sub>	P2Y <sub>4</sub>	P2Y <sub>11</sub>	P2Y <sub>12</sub>	P2Y <sub>13</sub>	P2Y <sub>14</sub>

# ROLE OF BzATP IN MODULATION OF [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>i</sub> IN TYPE-B SYNOVIOCYTES

+ Ca<sup>2+</sup>

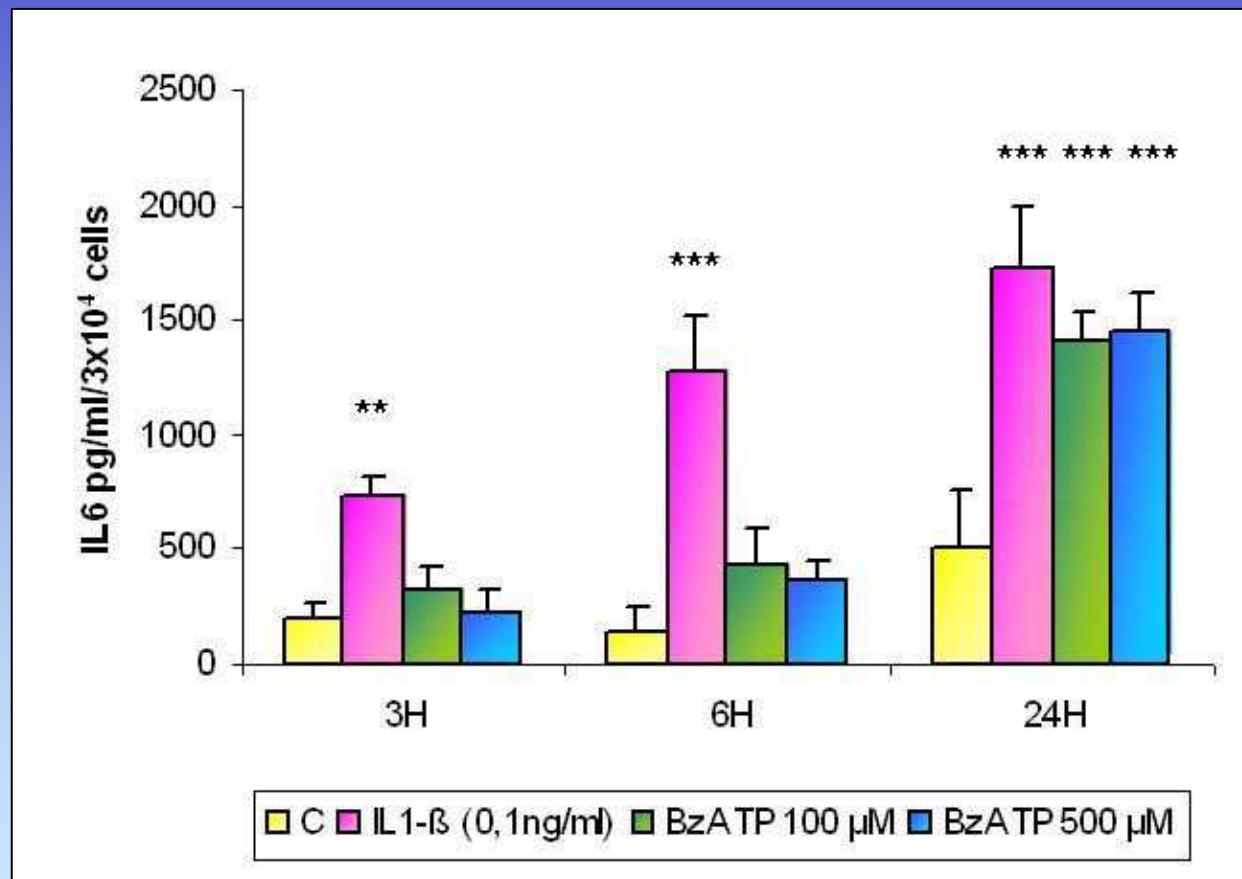


- Ca<sup>2+</sup>



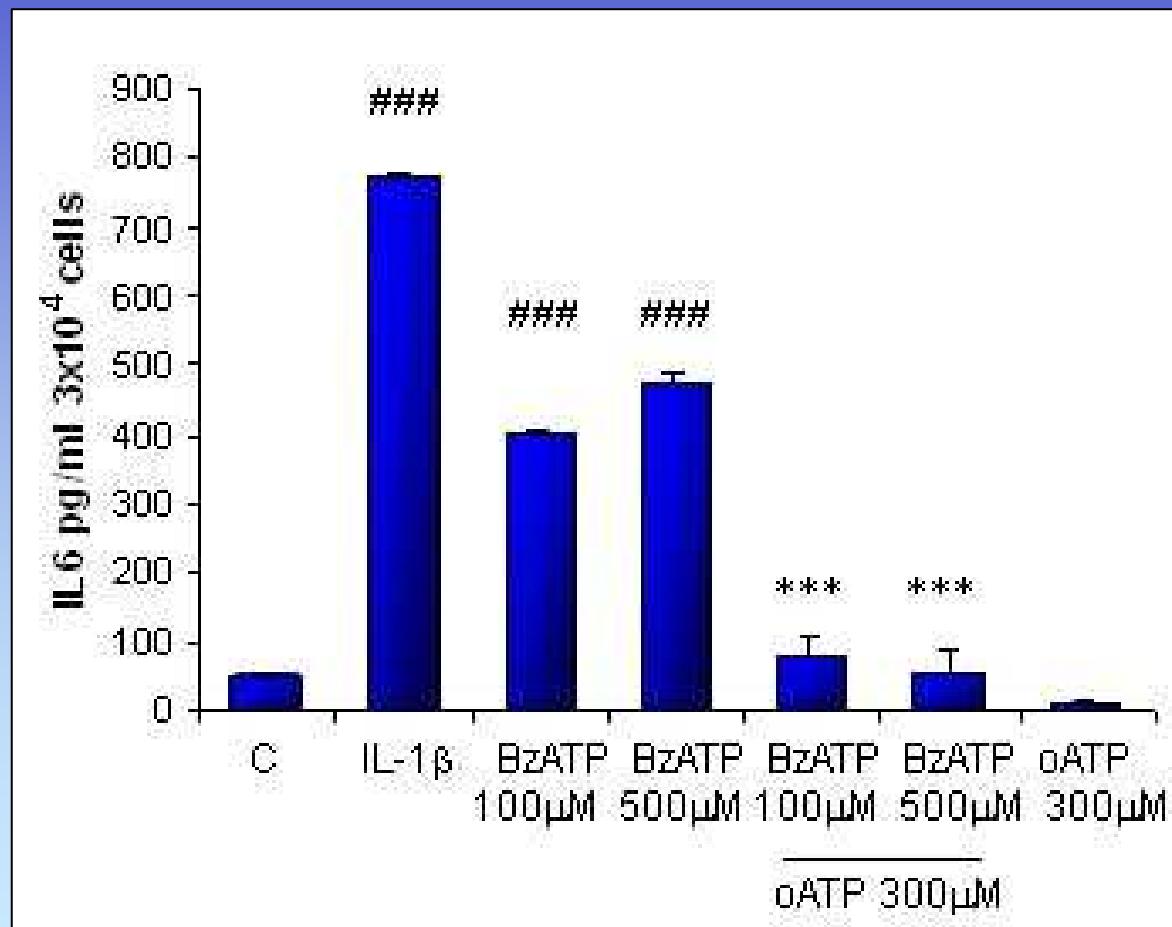
Caporali F., Laghi Pasini F et al J Mol Med 2008

## P2X<sub>7</sub> INVOLVEMENT IN IL-6 RELEASE

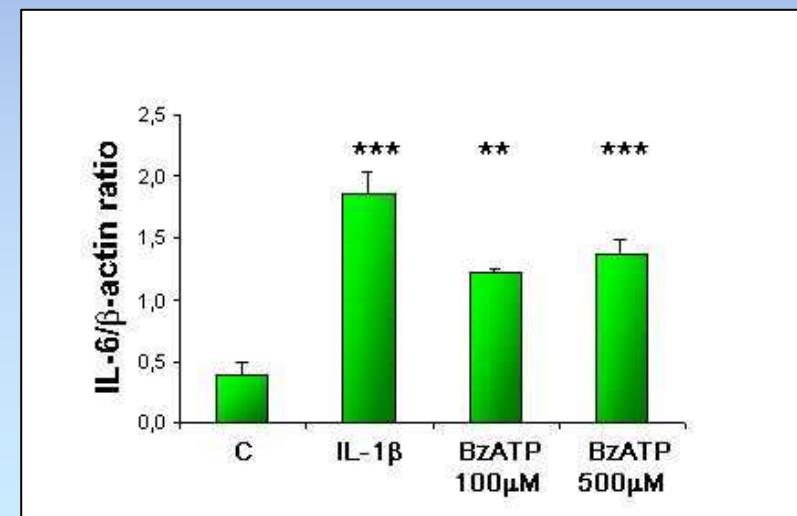
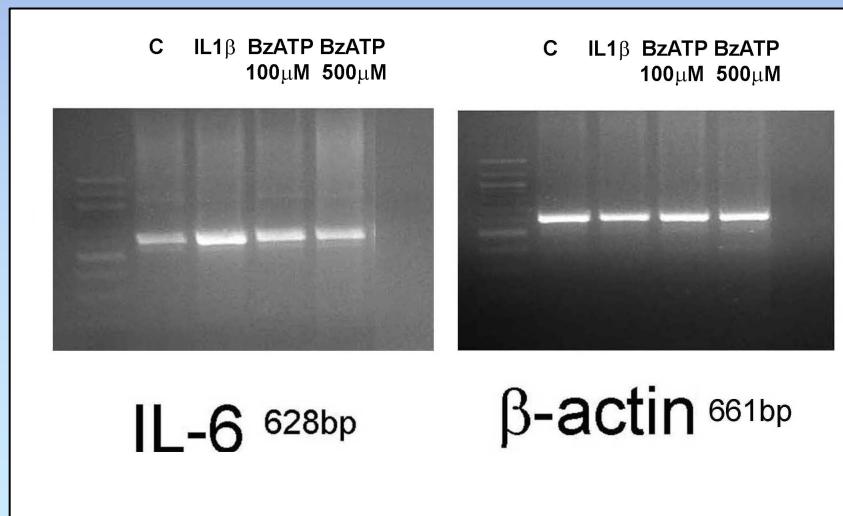
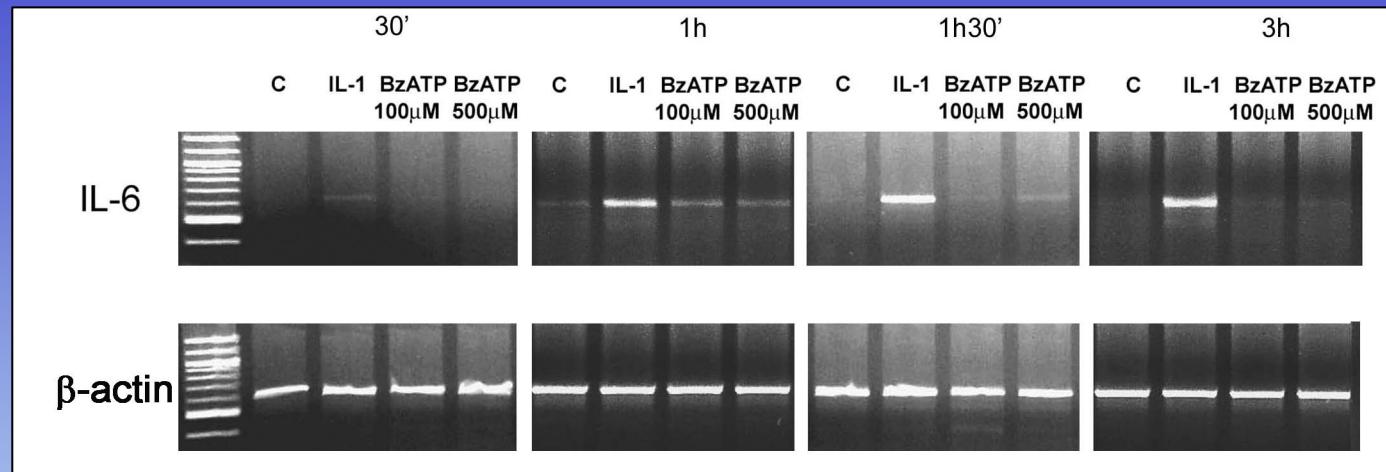


Caporali F., Laghi Pasini F et al J Mol Med 2008

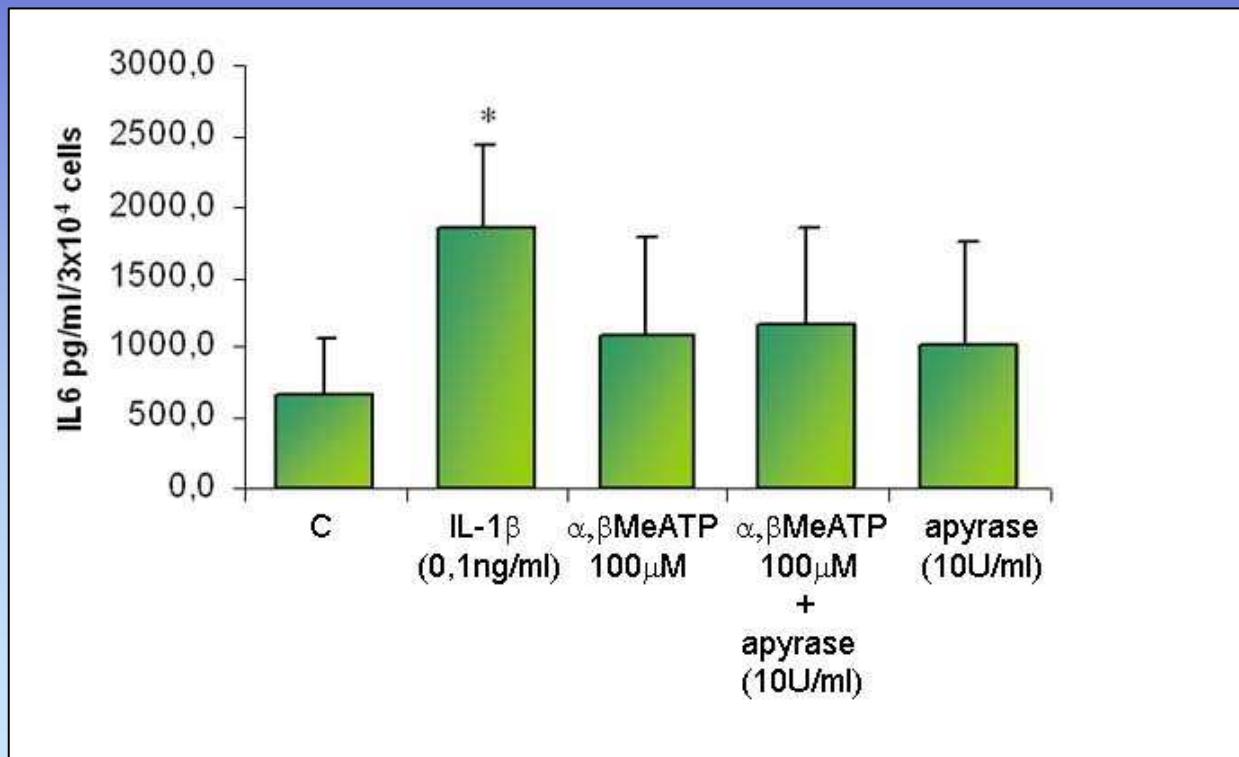
## **oATP INHIBITS IL-6 RELEASE IN TYPE-B SYNOVIOCYTES**



# BzATP UPREGULATES EXPRESSION OF IL-6 mRNA IN HUMAN SYNOVIOCYTES

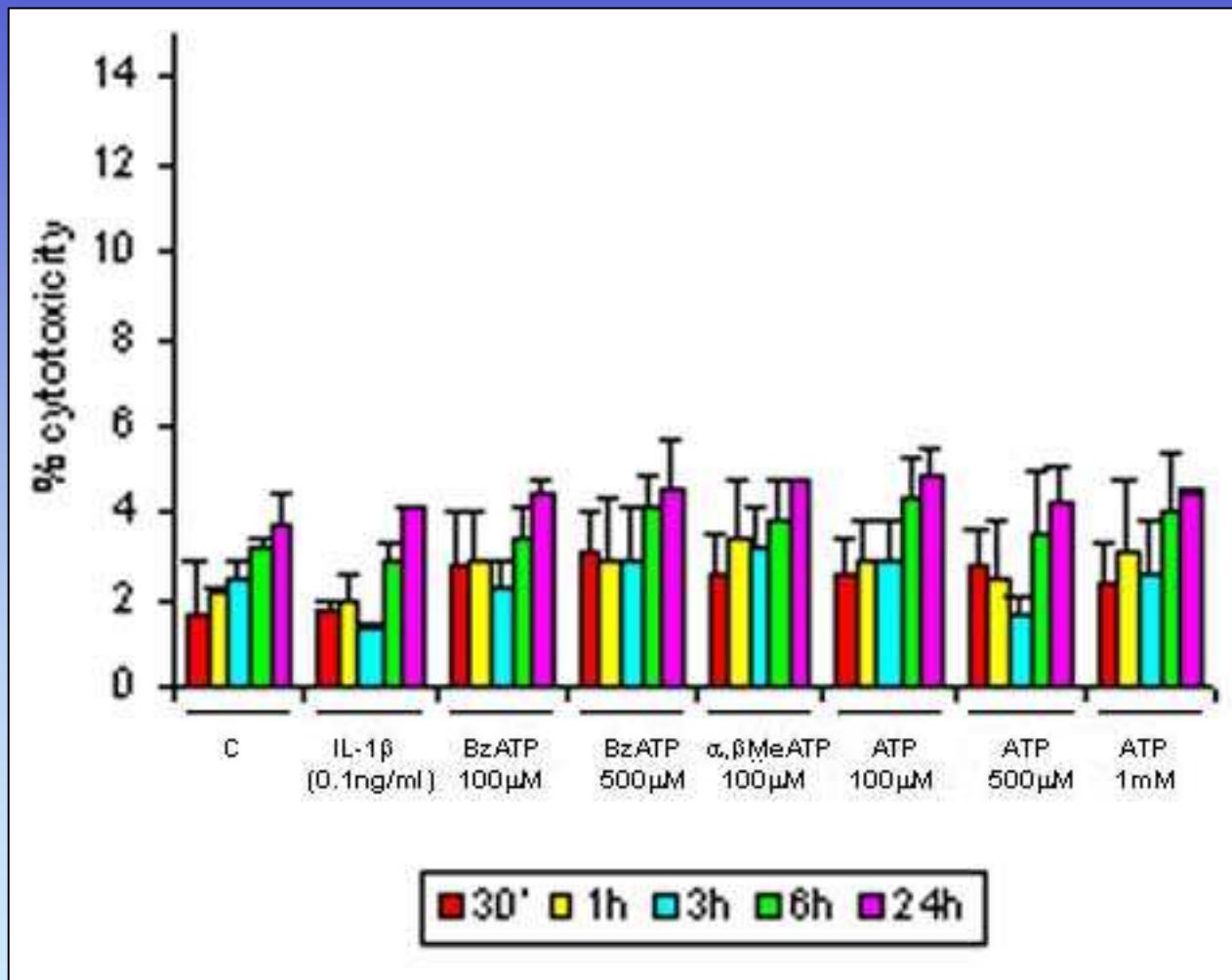


## EFFECT OF $\alpha,\beta$ MeATP ON IL-6 RELEASE IN TYPE-B SYNOVIOCYTES

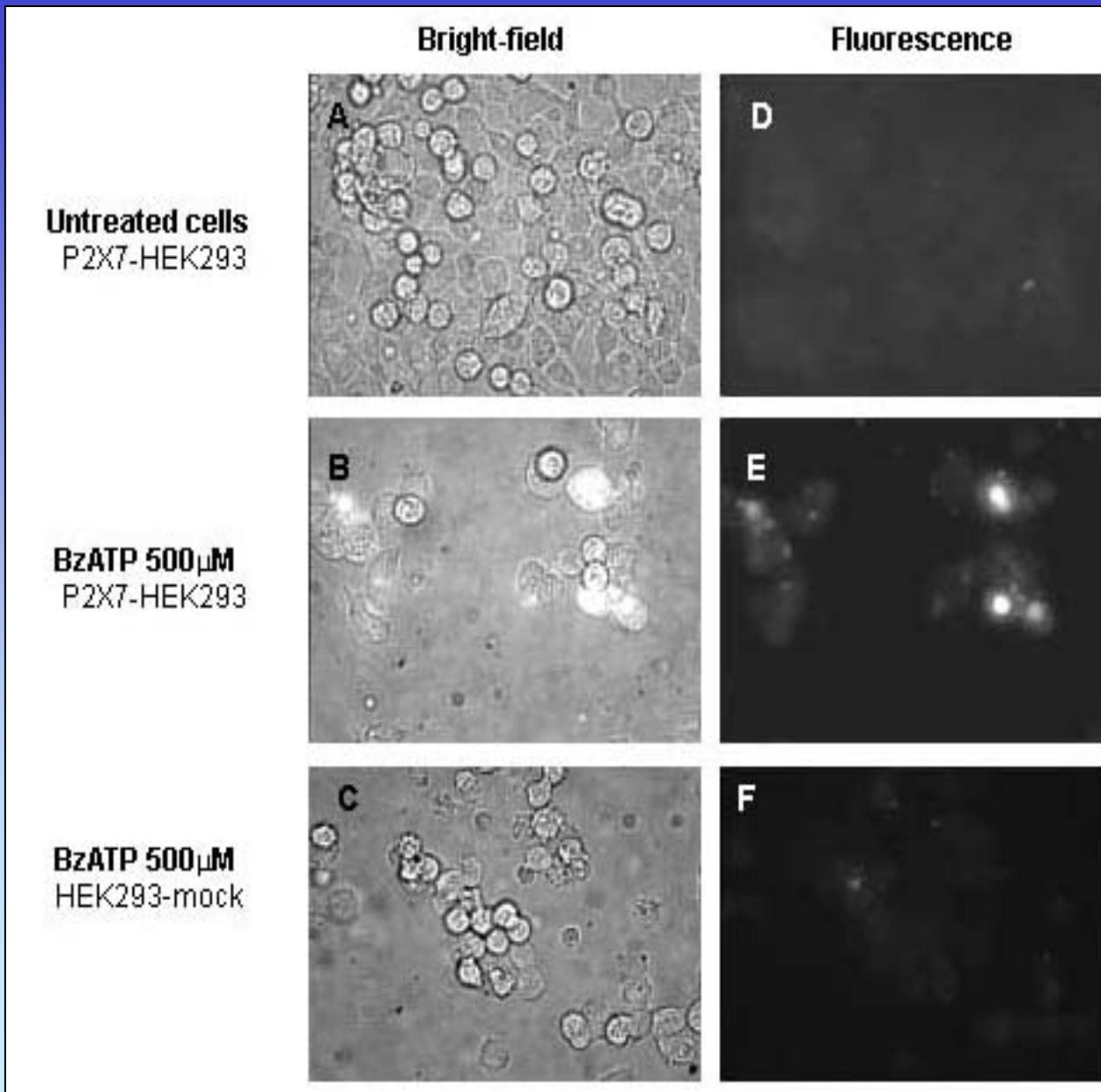


Caporali F., Laghi Pasini F et al J Mol Med 2008

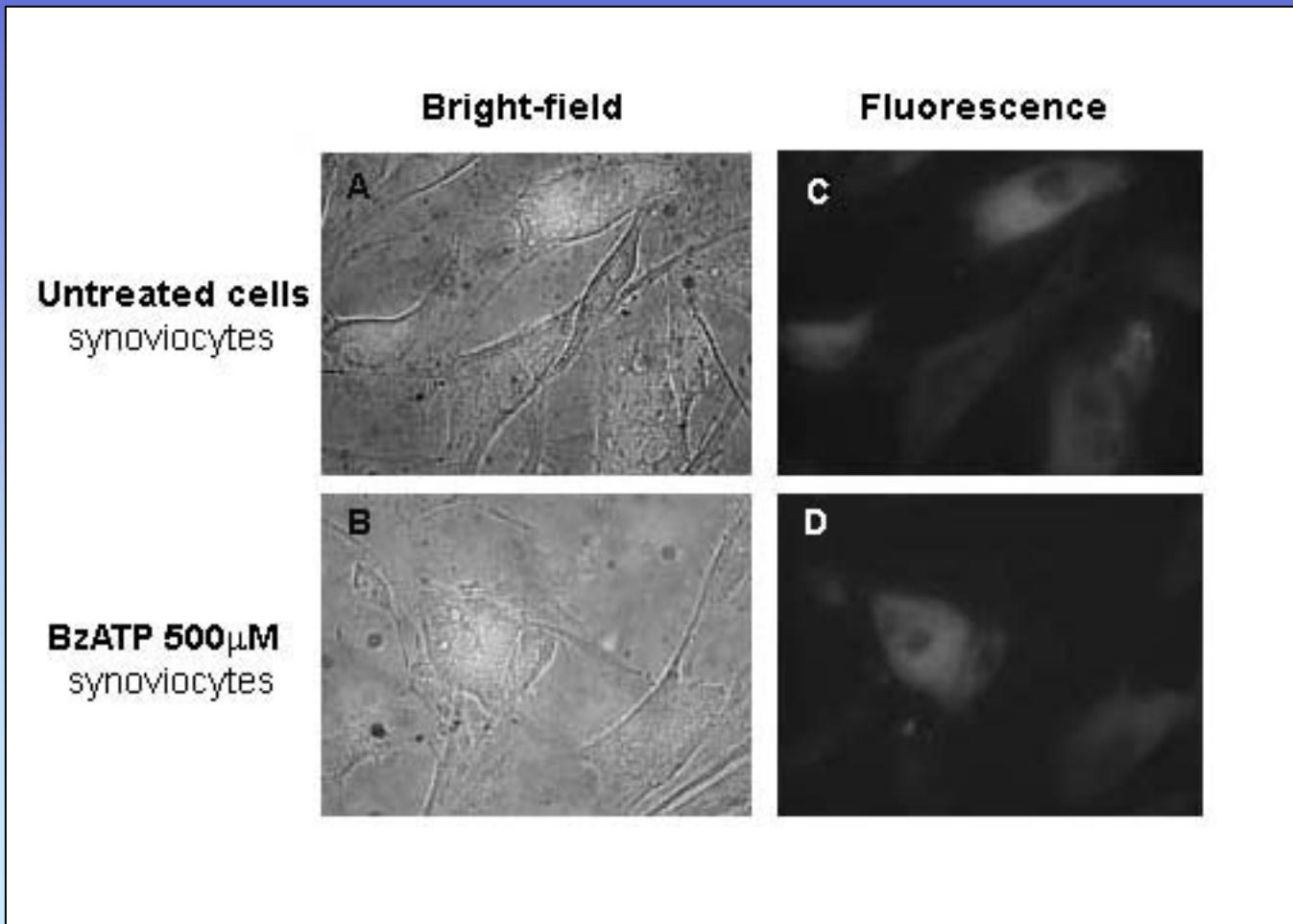
# AGONIST TREATMENT DOES NOT CAUSE CELL DEATH



# YO PRO UPTAKE IN HEK293

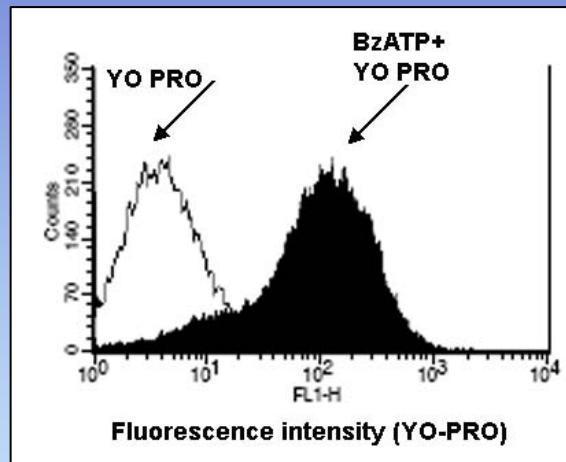


# YO PRO UPTAKE IN SYNOVIOCYTES

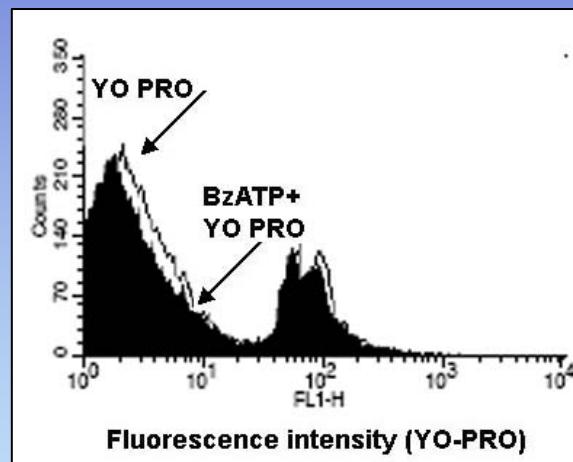


# YO PRO UPTAKE IN HEK293 AND SYNOVIOCYTES

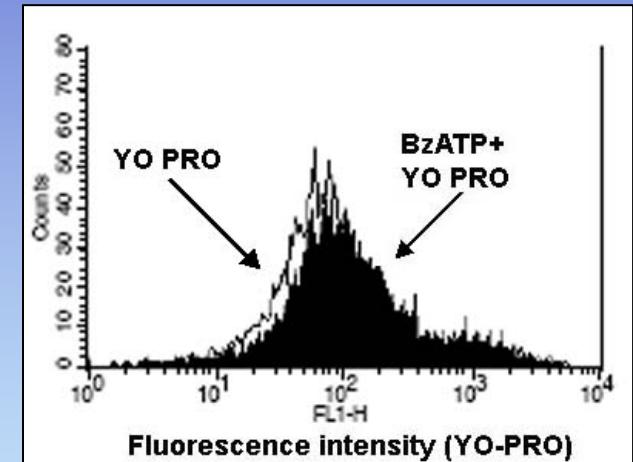
P2X<sub>7</sub>-HEK 293



HEK 293 mock



synoviocytes



Caporali F., Laghi Pasini F et al J Mol Med 2008

# CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Human type-B synoviocytes from Rheumatoid Arthritis patients express multiple purinergic P2 receptors (P2X and P2Y receptors)
- ✓ P2 receptor subtypes are coupled to  $[Ca^{2+}]_i$  mobilization
- ✓ Stimulation with agonist BzATP induces IL-6 mRNA transcription and the release of the protein
- ✓ IL-6 release is not the consequence of cell death
- ✓ P2X<sub>7</sub> stimulation does not cause pore formation
- ✓ Purinergic receptor(s) may represent a possible target for the pharmacological manipulation of the proinflammatory activity of synoviocytes

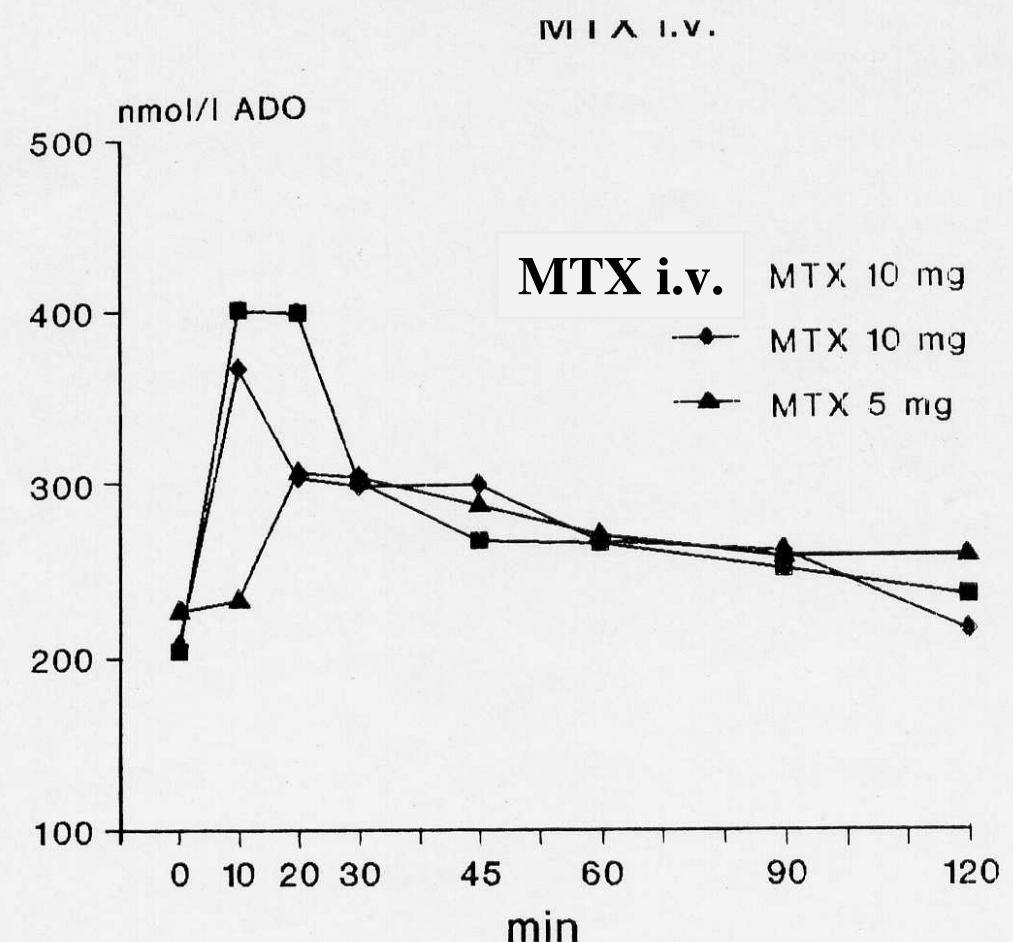
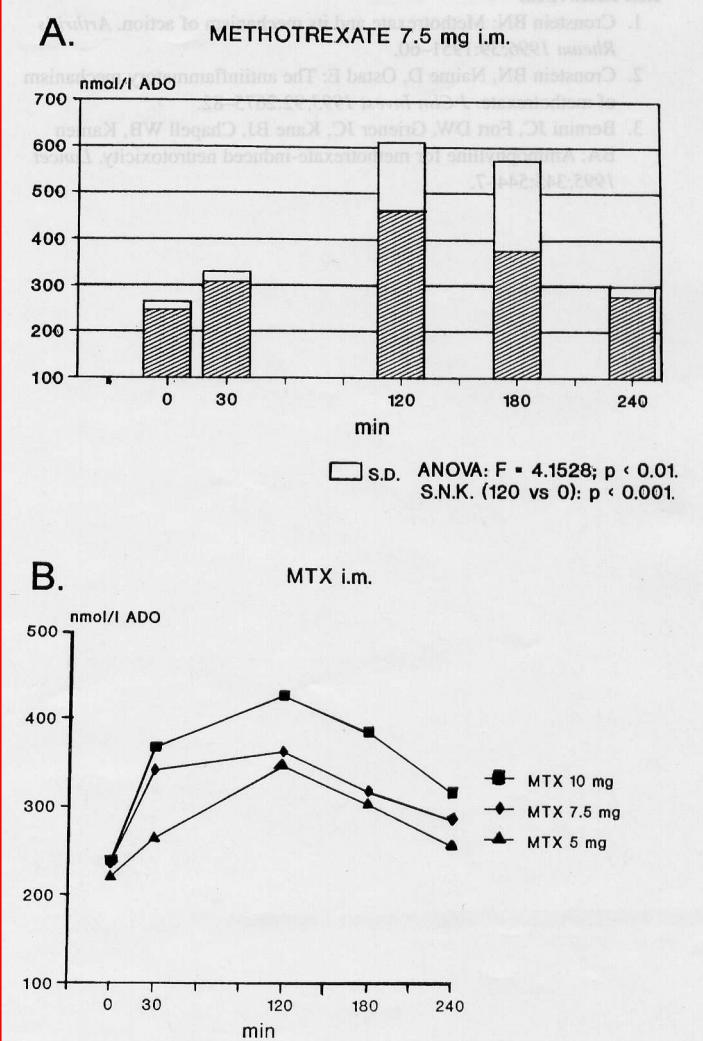
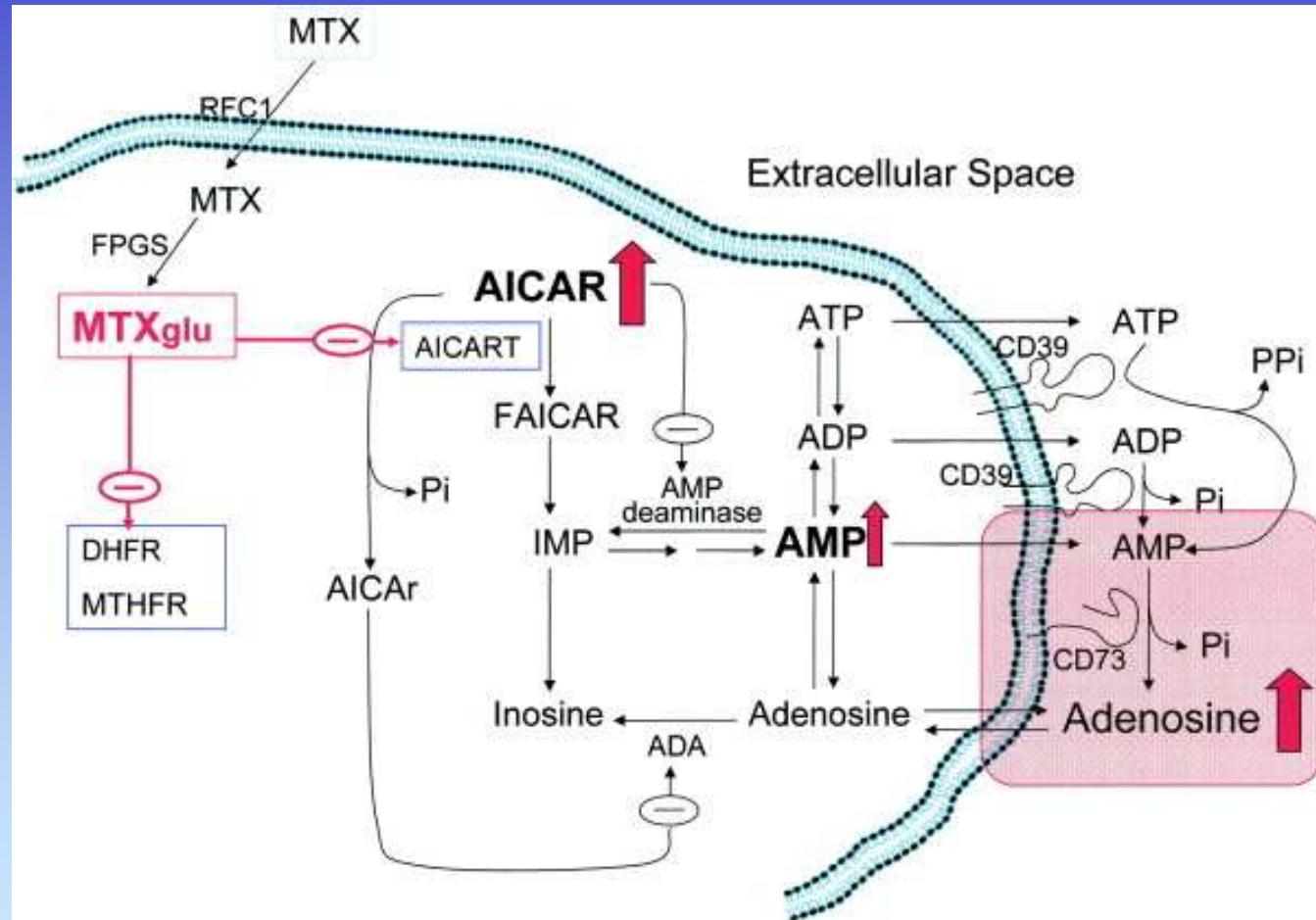
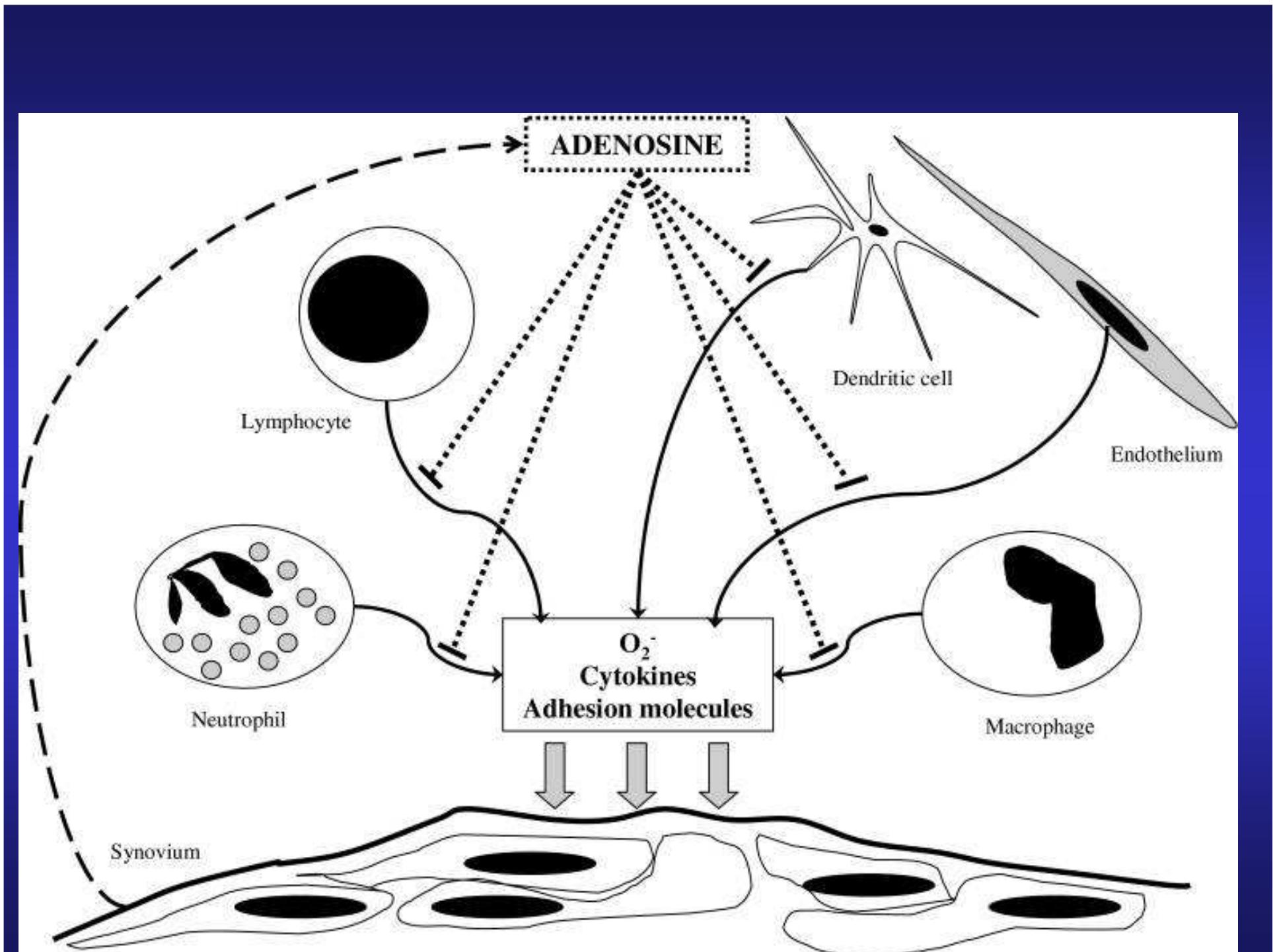


Figure 1. Plasma levels of adenosine (ADO) after iv administration of MTX.



# *Effetto anti-infiammatorio del metotrexato ed adenosina*

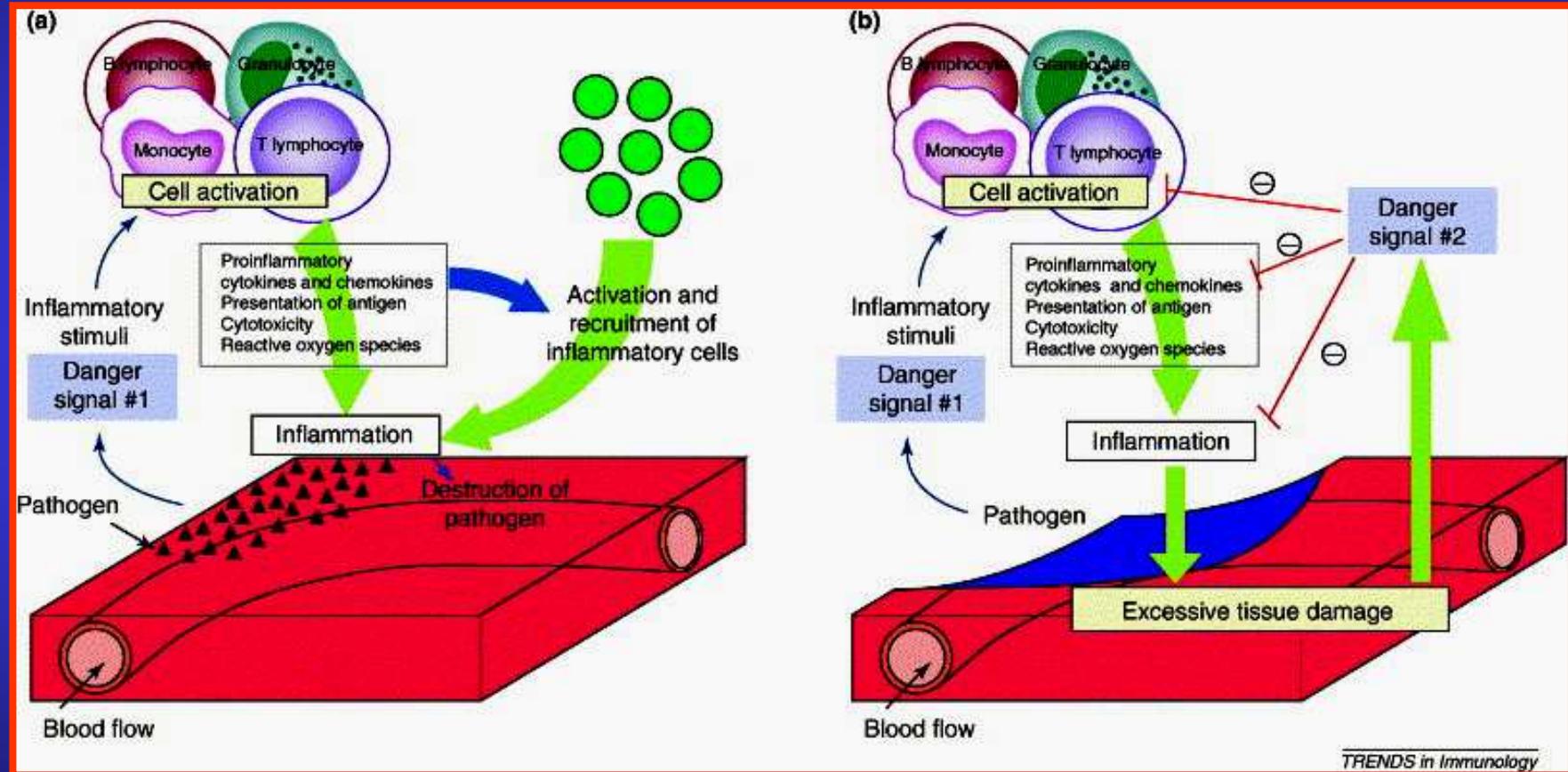




# AGENDA

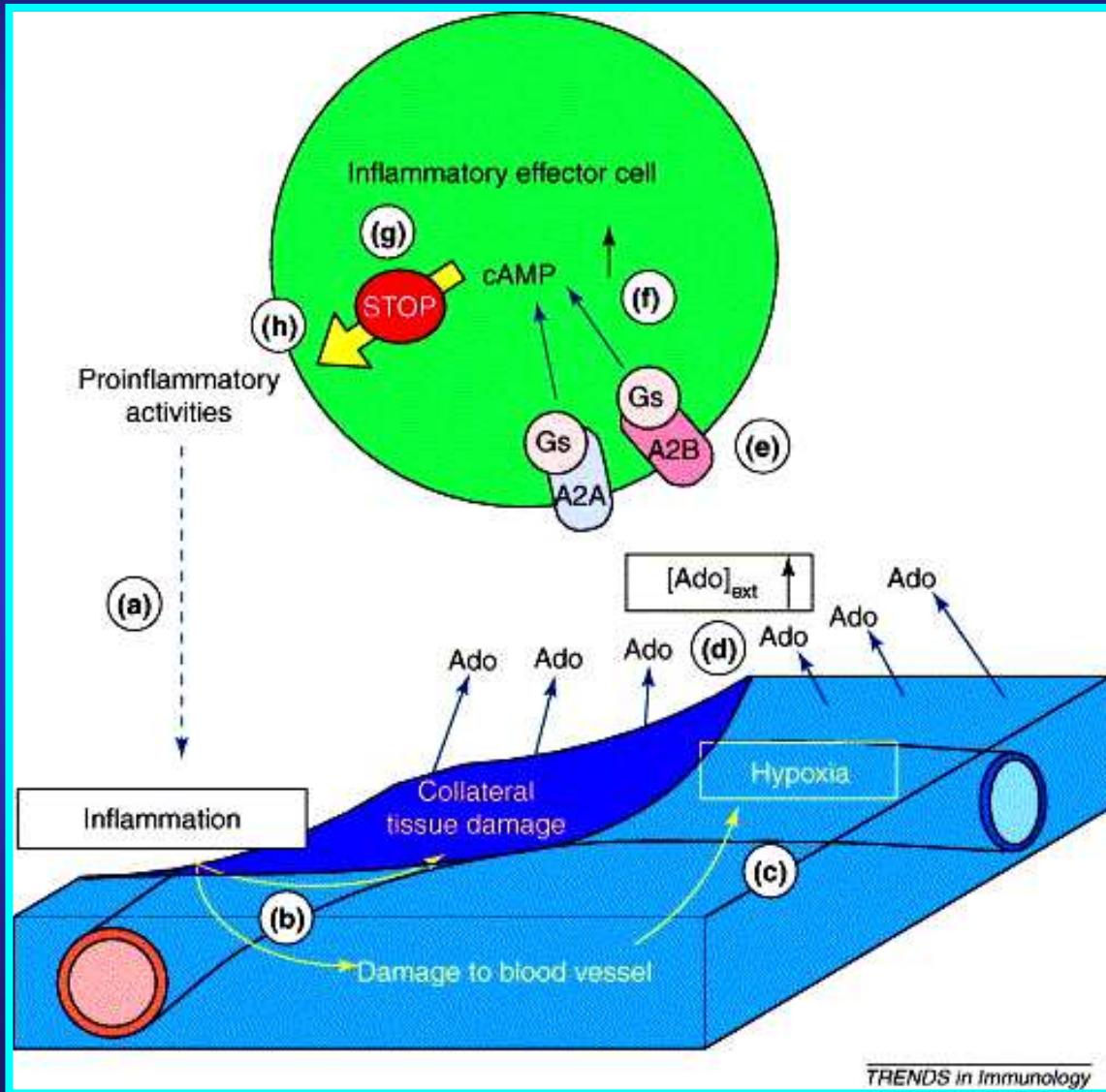
- General overview
- P2X7R
- A2AR
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- “The odd couple”

## *Two danger-signal model of an immune response*



Sitkovsky MV, Ohta A. *Trends Immunol* 2005; 26: 299-304

*Danger signal triggers the delayed negative feedback inhibition of activated immune cells in inflamed tissue microenvironment*



Sitkovsky MV, Ohta A.  
*Trends Immunol* 2005; 26: 299-304