

# The Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD)

Transforming Discovery into Opportunity

Allergen NCE: Planning for Research  
Success Series

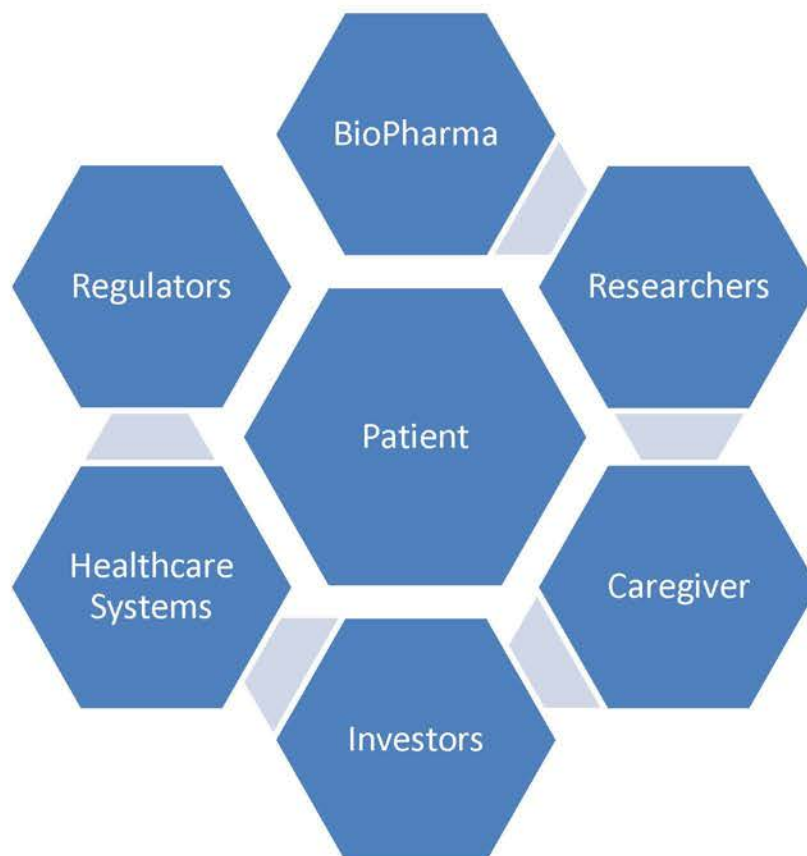
*Knowing Your Customer*

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

Jonathon Jafari



# Who Are Your Customers?



# Product Market Assessment

- Market assessment of a new technology
  - What is the mechanism?
  - What diseases does this pathway effect?
  - If you inhibit or stimulate this pathway how would it change the disease?
  - The number of patients who may benefit
  - Unmet need
  - Competitive landscape
  - Pricing
  - Regulatory Pathway
  - Health Economics
  - Payor Assessment



# Asthma Unmet Needs

- The majority of patients respond to steroids and  $\beta$ -agonists, but ~10% of patients with severe asthma could use improved treatments
- Asthma is a heterogeneous disease but researchers have identified potential targets for patients with severe asthma based on the drivers of the immune response
  - Xolair: anti IgE antibody (Genentech/Roche 2003)
  - Nucala: anti IL-5 antibody (GSK 2015)
  - Benralizumab: anti IL-5 (PHIII positive results 2016)
  -

# Asthma Market

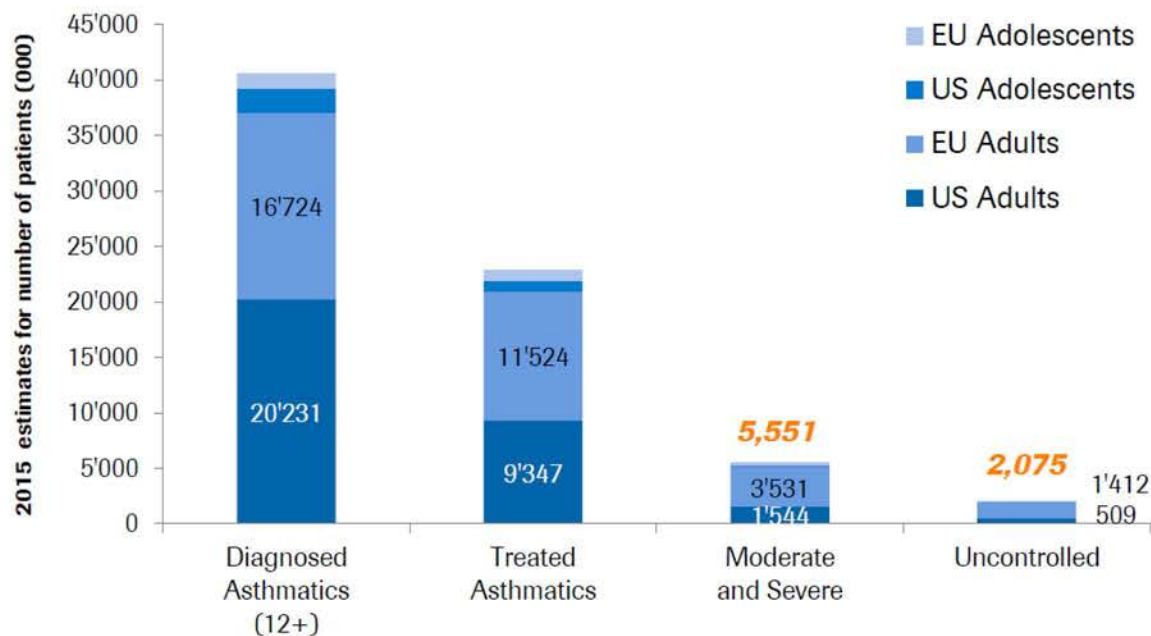
- Asthma market estimated to be in the range of \$18 to \$20 Billion per year
- Largely generic but branded products available for severe asthma
  - Xolair sales over \$2B (~\$600M in Asthma) per year through Novartis and Roche
- New products to treat severe eosinophilic asthma from AZ, Teva, and GSK

<http://www.fiercebiotech.com/biotech/astrazeneca-s-first-asthma-biologic-hits-phiii-target-but-still-behind-rivals>

[http://www.pmlive.com/pharma\\_news/teva\\_set\\_for\\_fda\\_verdict\\_on\\_reslizumab\\_early\\_next\\_year\\_758467](http://www.pmlive.com/pharma_news/teva_set_for_fda_verdict_on_reslizumab_early_next_year_758467)

# Patient Populations

## Xolair, Lebrikizumab: Moderate to Severe Asthma






# Reimbursement: Ontario Exceptional Access Program Asthma

ASTHMA				
DRUG NAME	BRANDS REIMBURSED	DOSAGE FORM/ STRENGTH	REIMBURSEMENT CRITERIA (Refer to pages 2 to 4 for general disclaimers regarding the EAP funding criteria.)	STANDARD APPROVAL DURATION
<b>Leukotriene Receptor Antagonists</b>				
Zafirlukast	Accolate	20 mg tablet	<p><b>For the treatment of asthma patients who cannot manage the use of an inhalation device despite assistance with a spacer (e.g. physically or mentally disabled patients or pediatric patients).</b></p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>For the treatment of asthma in children and adolescents whose asthma cannot be controlled on ICS alone</b> and where the condition remains uncontrolled despite using full doses of ICS with addition of LABA, and with assurance of good adherence and inhaler technique</p>	Initial: 5 years Renewal: 5 years
Montelukast	Singulair	5 mg, 10 mg tablet	<p><b>Renewal</b> of requests that meet the above criteria will be provided where the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current medications and dosages must be clearly specified; AND</li> <li>• Objective evidence of positive response from treatment (spirometry OR decrease in health care utilization) must be provided</li> </ul>	Initial: 5 years (up until age of 18) Renewal: 5 years (up until age of 18)
Omalizumab	Xolair	150 mg/ vial	<p><b>For the treatment of severe uncontrolled asthma</b> in patients who meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has required hospitalization for asthma within the past 12 months; OR</li> <li>• Has required two or more urgent visits for asthma to a physician or an emergency department within the past 12 months; OR</li> </ul>	Initial: 1 Year

# Pricing/Reimbursement

What \$250 of Advair looks like:

 Replay

United States  
**1 inhaler**



France  
**7 inhalers**



Source: IHS. The comparisons are based on the manufacturer's suggested retail price. Insurance companies may negotiate lower prices.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/13/us/the-soaring-cost-of-a-simple-breath.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/13/us/the-soaring-cost-of-a-simple-breath.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)



# Asthma Effector Cells Overview

## Potential Targeted Treatments

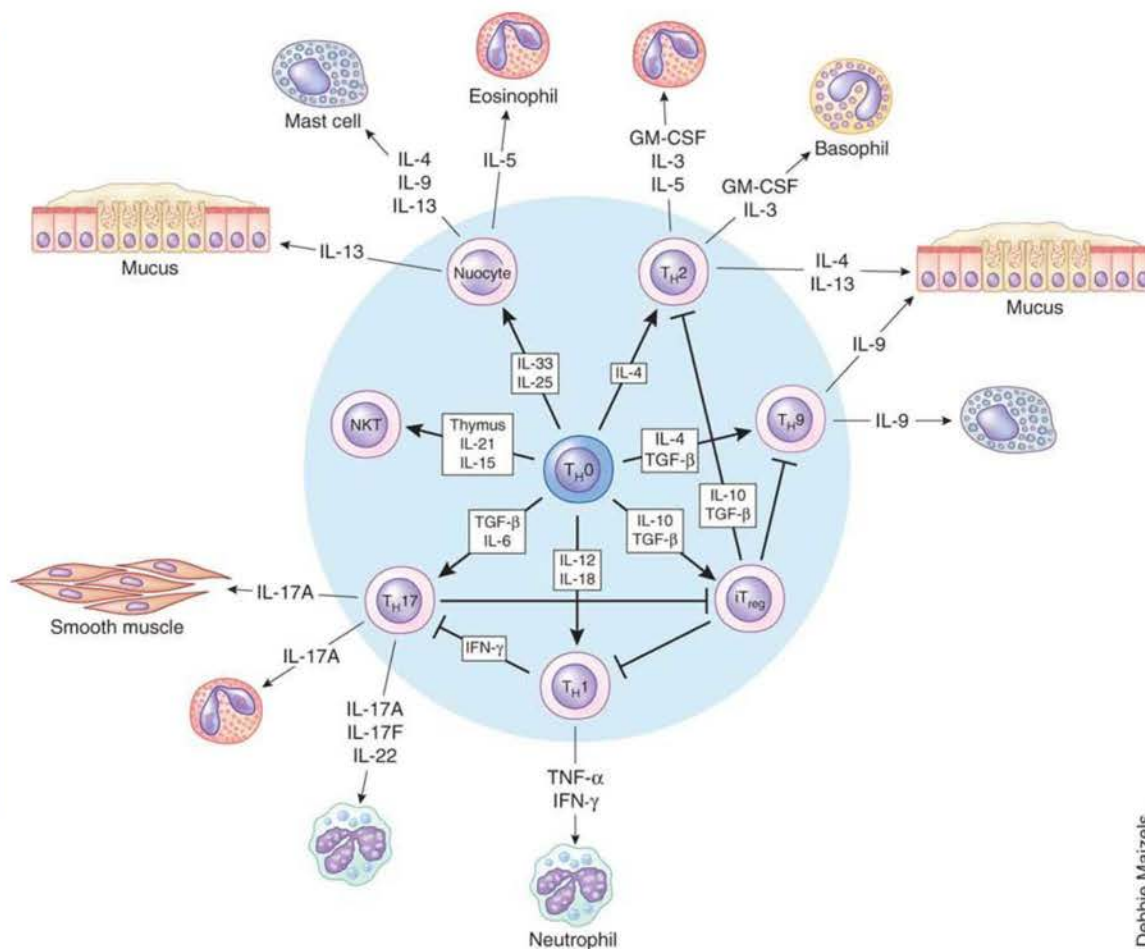
IL-17 Ab from Medimmune  
Anti-TNF- $\alpha$  trial in asthmatics  
had modest results

IL-18 Ab in Dev for IBD &  
T2DM (GSK)

IL-13 Ab for TH2 Asthma from  
Roche & Medimmune

IL-5 Ab (multiple) for  
eosinophilic asthma

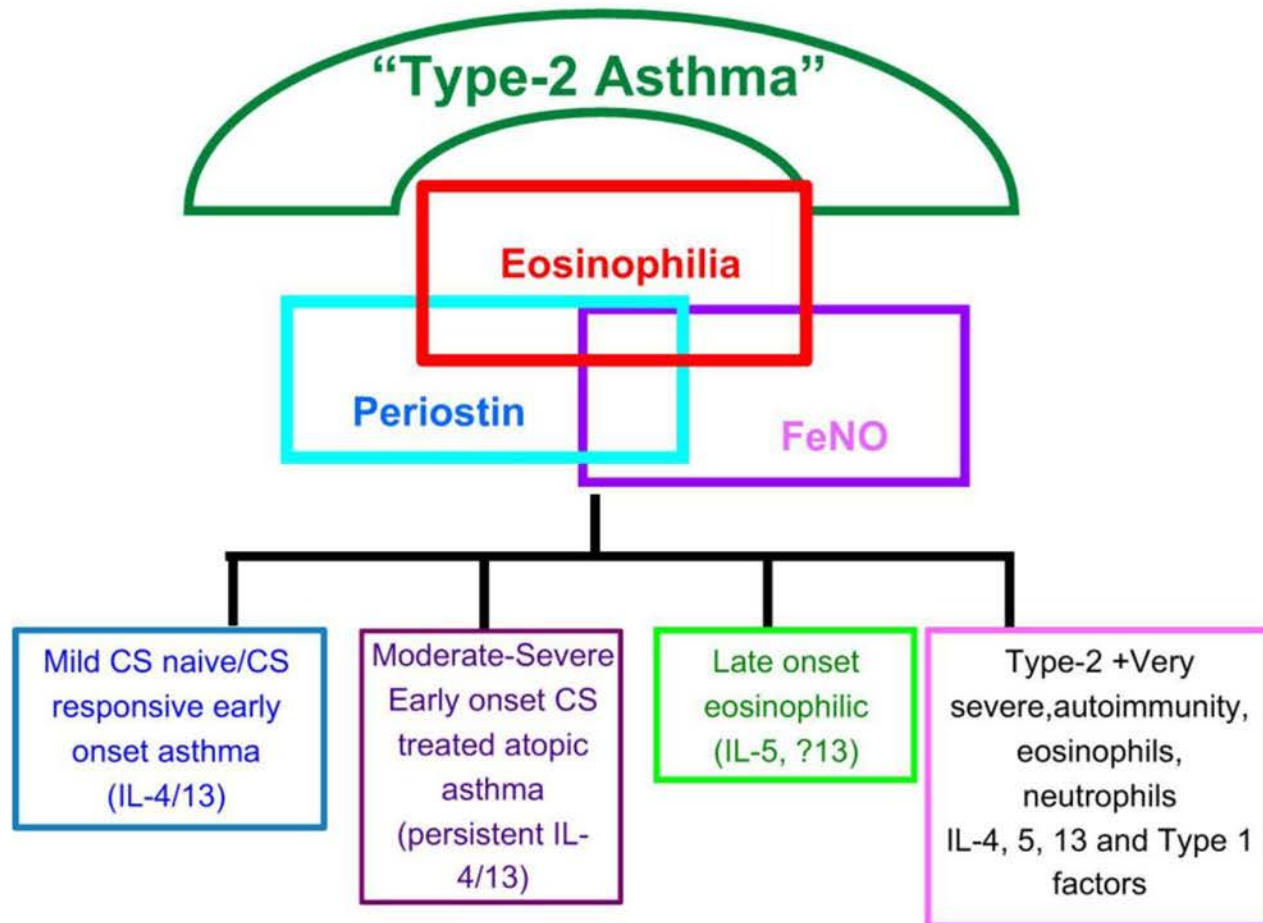
IL-9 Ab from Medimmune



Debbie Maizels

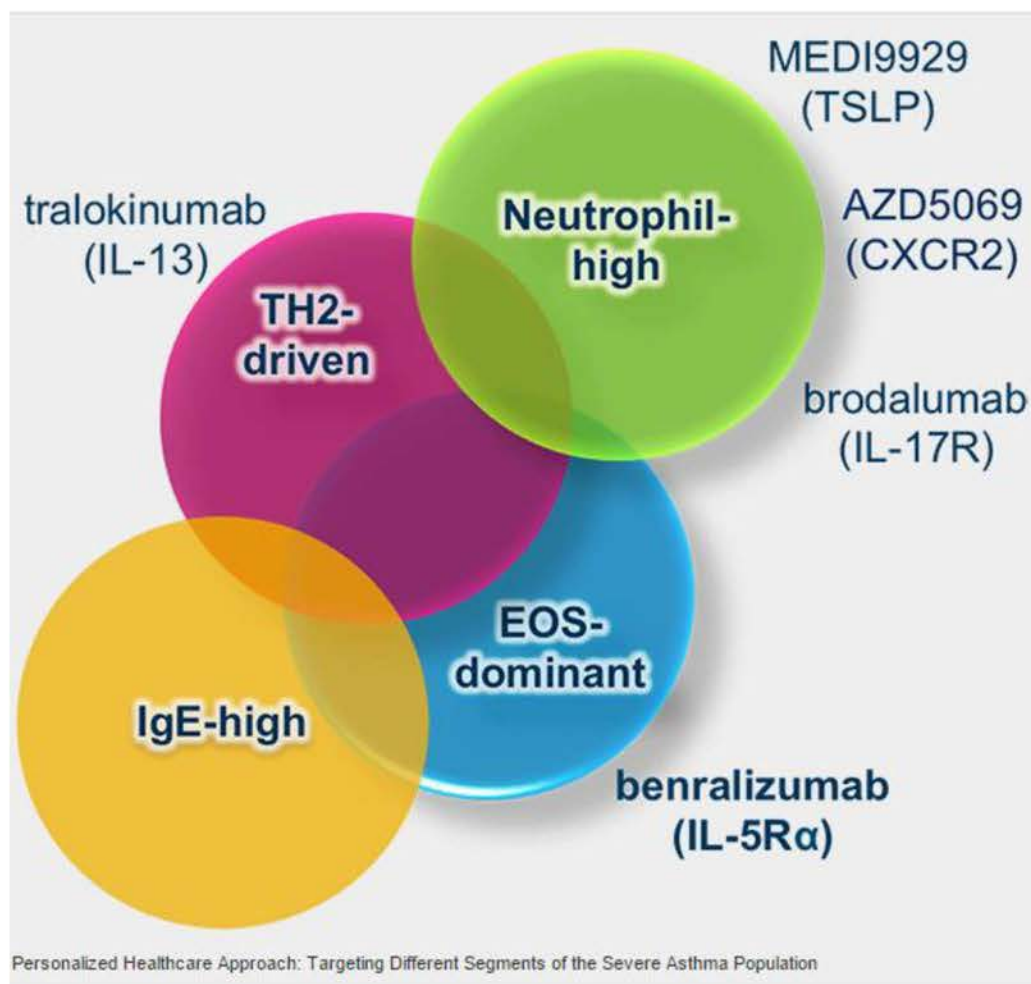
The increasingly granular umbrella for Type 2 cytokine-associated asthma molecular phenotypes, all of which encompass some Type 2 inflammatory biomarkers.

## Type 2-Molecular Phenotypes



Anuradha Ray et al. Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol  
2015;308:L130-L140

# Medimmune/AZ Targeting Severe Asthma

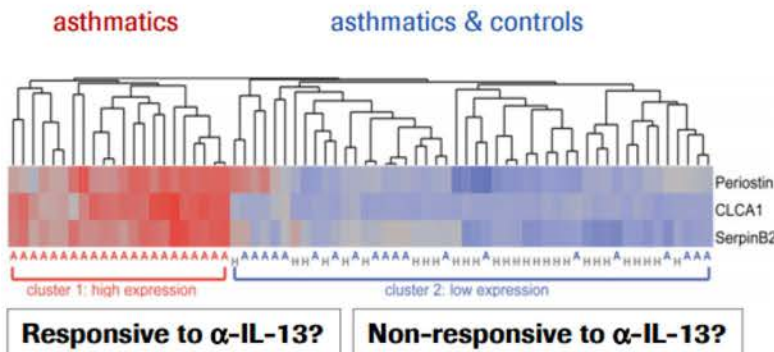


# Rationale for Targeting IL-13

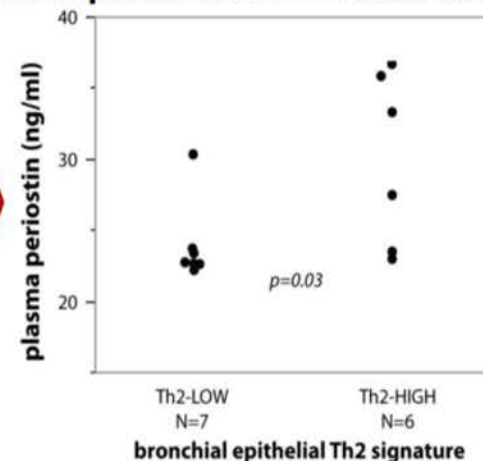
## Asthma: Identification of asthma patients likely to benefit from anti-IL-13 (Lebrikizumab) therapy



### IL13 induced genes in lung epithelial brushings



### Blood periostin levels in asthmatics

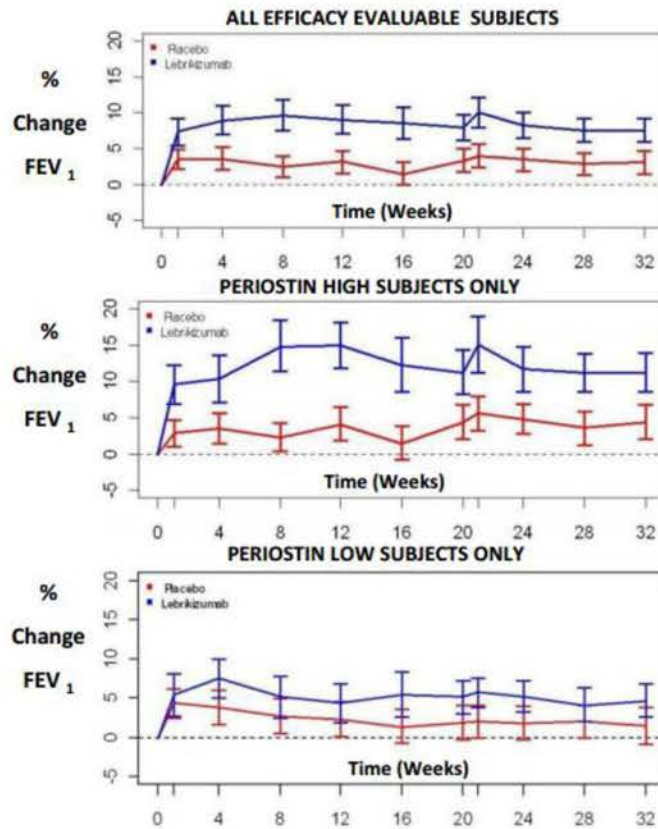


- Peripheral blood periostin may serve as a *non-invasive* surrogate for IL-13 related asthma
- A predictive diagnostic marker (periostin) may predict improved clinical responses to Lebrikizumab



# Rationale for Targeting IL-13

## Asthma: Relative change in FEV<sub>1</sub> from baseline in asthma patients treated with Lebrikizumab



	Relative Mean FEV <sub>1</sub> change at week 12		
	Total ITT population	Periostin High	Periostin Low
Placebo	4.3%	5.8%	3.5%
Lebrikizumab	9.8%	14.0%	5.1%
Difference	5.5% (p=0.02)	8.2% (p=0.03)	1.6% (p=0.61)

cobas e 601



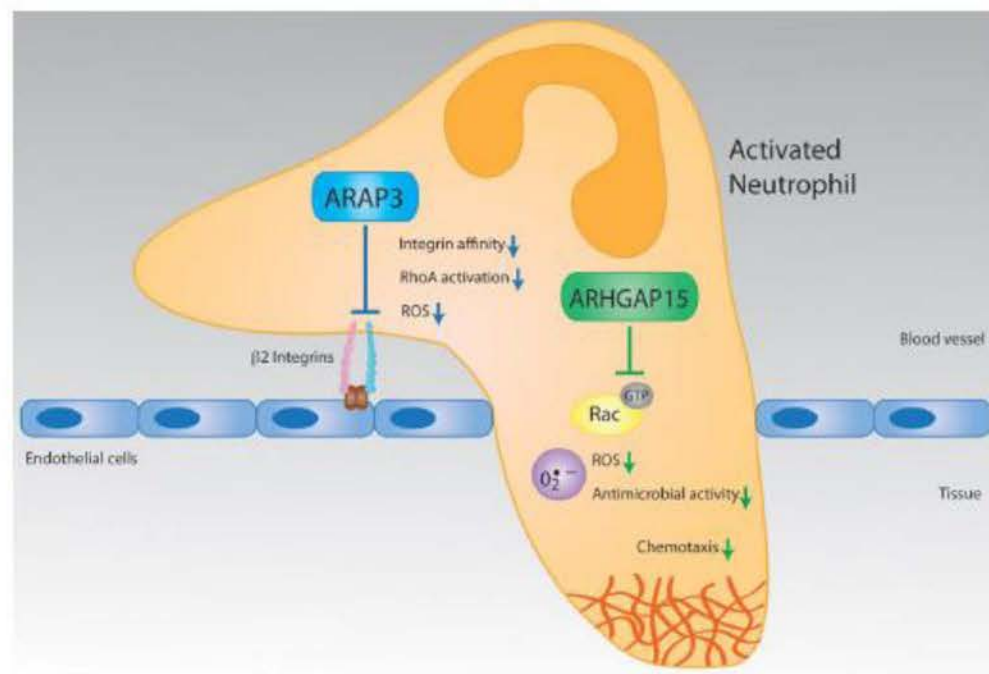
Periostin assay

Corren et al. NEJM, 2011

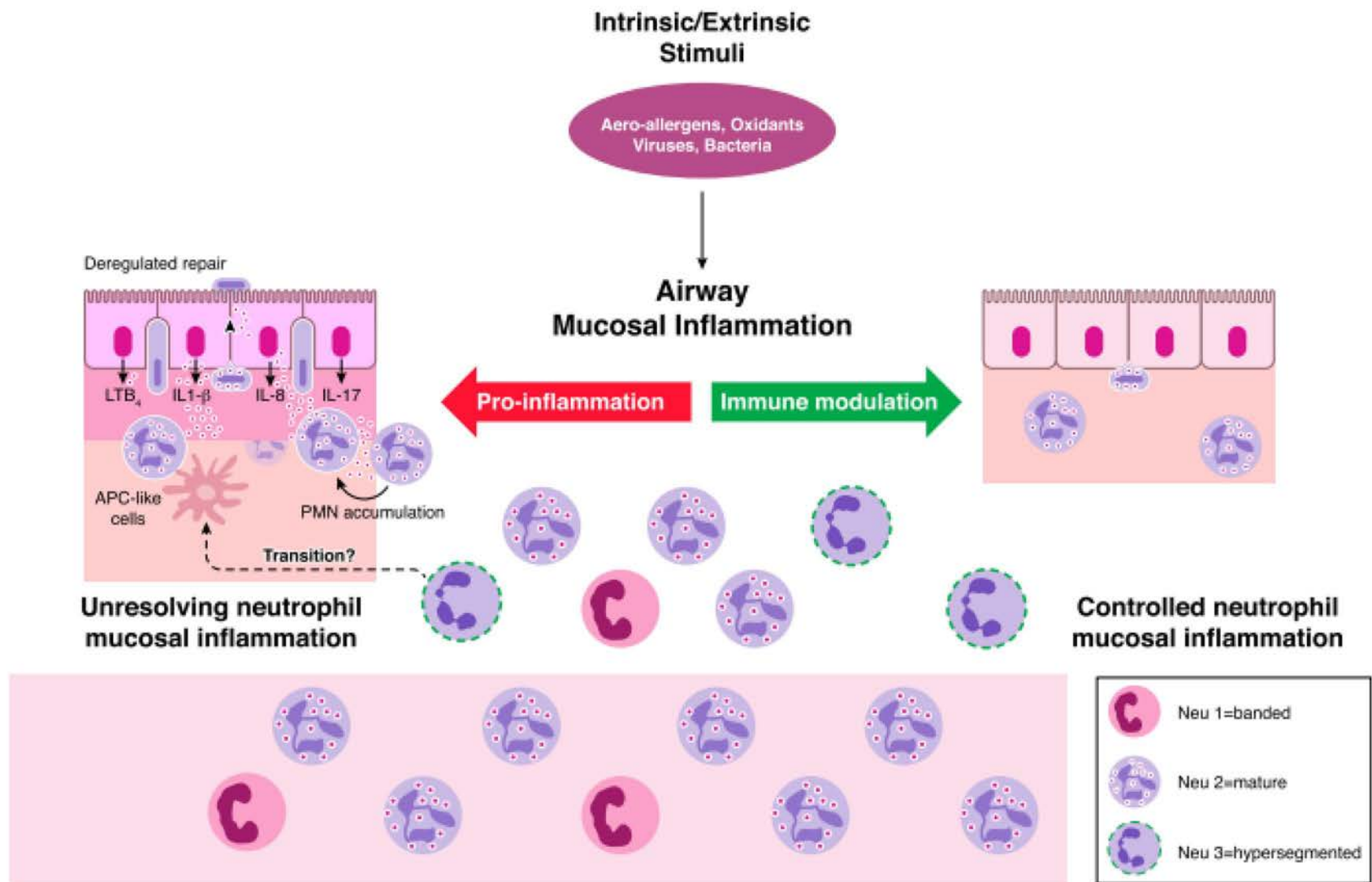
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# Project Example: GTPases in Targeting Neutrophils

- ARHGAP15 knockout affects RAC1
- Neutrophils in ARGAP15  $-/-$  show decreased circulating neutrophil and macrophages
  - Increased motility
  - Increased phagocytosis
  - Increased ROS generation
  - Increased Bacterial Killing
- Animals were protected from induced sepsis
  - Reduced secretion of cytokines



These Studies Suggest That There May Be Utility in Targeting Specific GTPases



**Figure 1. Schematic representation of potential phenotype switching of neutrophils during airway mucosal inflammation in severe asthma.** Under homeostatic conditions, neutrophils are present in the circulation predominantly in a mature (neu-2) phenotype. Upon immunologic stress, 2 additional phenotypes mobilize in large numbers: banded (neu-1) and hypersegmented cells (neu-3). In contrast, in neutrophilic asthma, particularly during an exacerbation, there may be a shift in the phenotypes resulting in differential neutrophils homing toward the airway tissue as a consequence of epithelial-derived mediators (e.g.,  $LTB_4$ ,  $IL-8$ ,  $IL-1\beta$ ,  $IL-17A$ ). These neutrophil-active factors could not only extend neutrophil life span to increase their proinflammatory potential but also affect their potential transformation into other repopulating cells, such as neutrophil-APC hybrid cells that may interact with T cells to precipitate mucosal neutrophilic inflammation.



# Neutrophils in Disease

- Strategies to inhibit RAC may have significant potential in Neutrophil mediated diseases
- Significant market potential but highly competitive markets
  - High throughput screening for small molecules
    - Cell based assays to further clarify RAC inhibition on Neutrophil activities compared to other products in development
    - High unmet need in many indications
  - Potential for inhaled formulation for COPD/Asthma
    - COPD and Asthma preclinical studies
    - Need to identify KOL's for asthma in Canada
    - Small molecule approach may allow for decreased costs compared to biological therapy



# Role of Neutrophils in Inflammatory Lung Disorders

- Neutrophils have been found to have a role in various inflammatory pulmonary disorders including Asthma, COPD, Cystic Fibrosis, and Acute Lung Injury
- Due to heterogeneous nature of these disorders, researchers have looked to identify different disease phenotypes including the role of neutrophils
- Researchers have recently applied concepts from oncology in order to target subsets of patients in order to improve effectiveness in these difficult to treat populations
  - Anti IL-5 for eosinophilic, Anti IL-13 for TH2 Asthma

# Role of Neutrophils in Asthma

- Neutrophils are commonly found in the sputum of asthmatics, especially in severe asthma
  - The number of neutrophils has been found to be correlated with the severity of the disease
  - Patients with high levels of neutrophils have been shown to be resistant to inhaled corticosteroid therapy
    - Eosinophilic (Mild/Moderate) asthma responds better to inhaled corticosteroid therapy
    - Recent data from GSK for their anti IL-5 antibody for eosinophilic subtype is a good example of the benefit of testing Asthma subtypes

# Potential Benefits of RAC Inhibition

- Various MOA's have targeted Neutrophil activity with limited success
- RAC2 Inhibition may have advantages compared to other MOA's
  - GTPase affects many functions of neutrophil function including signaling to other cells, chemotaxis, and reactive oxygen release
  - Other strategies such as IL-8 Inh may only affect chemotaxis which may not sufficient to impact disease progression



# Neutrophil Inhibitors Potential Inflammatory Lung Disease Patient Populations in Major Markets

Disease	Big 7 Market Prevalence (US, EU5, JPN)	WW Pharma Sales	Notes
Asthma*	67M	\$16B	Severe Neutrophilic Asthma is estimated to be ~5 to 10% or ~3 to 7M
COPD*	41M	\$10.5B	Unclear what % would be neutrophilic
Cystic Fibrosis	80K WW	\$1.1B	New Vertex drug will Increase Market



## Deal-making in Pulmonary Inflammation

Partners	Program	Upfront	Milestones	Notes
Funxional Therapeutics/ Boehringer Ingelheim (2012)	FX125L, Somatotaxin program	?	?	Oral QD dosing Phase II ready
Amgen/Astra Zeneca (2012)	Multiple (5) Clinical Molecules	\$50M	>\$500M	Pulmonary Inflammation & Other Disorders Anti IL-17 is late stage
Reata/Abbott Labs (2011)	Antioxidant Inflammation Modulators	?	\$400M	2 <sup>nd</sup> partnership between companies NrF2 Activation
Portola/Biogen Idec (2011)	Oral Syk Inh.	\$45M	\$553.5M	Asthma, Lupus, Cancers, RA
University of Michigan/Mediummune (2011)	Multiple	?	?	3 Yr Preclinical & Translational Med Agreement

# Conclusions

- Market assessment of new opportunities is driven by both scientific and business information
- At CDRD we look at market data from providers such as Evaluate Pharma (pipeline, market data) and Recap (deals data) along with presentations from pharmaceutical and biotech players in the space and solicit feedback from our Innovation partners
- Freedom to operate analysis is also critical
- Health economics important but difficult to assess at the early stage of a program



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