



Targeting Inflammation and Cardiovascular Disease in People with HIV: 2024 and onward

CROI March 2024

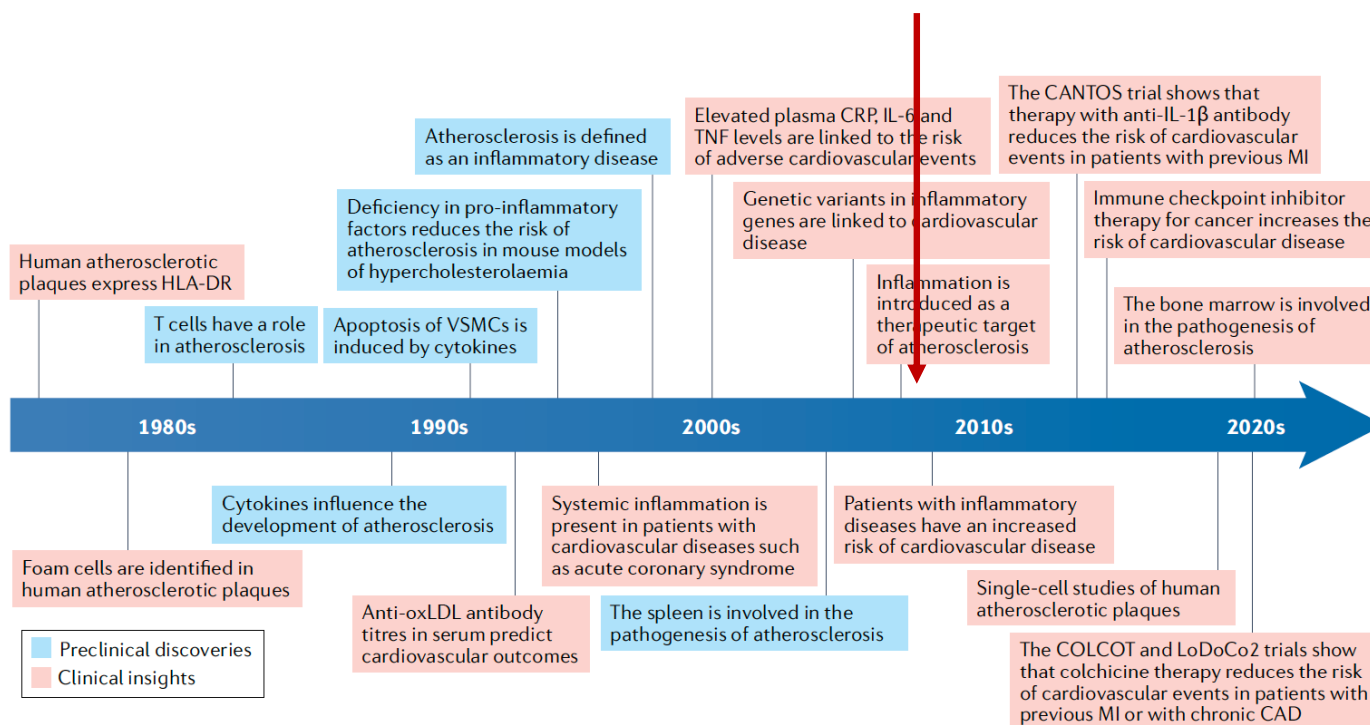
**Priscilla Hsue, MD FACC FAHA
Professor of Medicine**

University of California, San Francisco

**Maurice Eliaser, Jr., MD, Distinguished Professorship in CVD
Chief of Cardiology, UCSF at Zuckerberg San Francisco General**

Role of inflammation in CVD: 40 years of work, role in PWH emerging

Role of inflammation in HIV



2024: No clinical endpoint studies using immunotherapy in HIV



Rosuvastatin to Prevent Vascular Events in Men and Women with Elevated C-Reactive Protein

Paul M. Ridker, M.D., Eleanor Danielson, M.I.A., Francisco A.H. Fonseca, M.D., Jacques Genest, M.D., Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., John J.P. Kastelein, M.D., Wolfgang Koenig, M.D., Peter Libby, M.D., Alberto J. Lorenzatti, M.D., Jean G. MacFadyen, B.A., Borge G. Nordestgaard, M.D., James Shepherd, M.D., James T. Willerson, M.D., and Robert J. Glynn, Sc.D., for the JUPITER Study Group*

JUPITER: LDL reduced by 50%, hsCRP by 37%; 44% reduction in primary endpoint



Pitavastatin to Prevent Cardiovascular Disease in HIV Infection

Steven K. Grinspoon, M.D., Kathleen V. Fitch, M.S.N., Markella V. Zanni, M.D., Carl J. Fichtenbaum, M.D.,

While some believed that HIV should be considered a risk equivalent with respect to statin use like DM, we lacked evidence to change guidelines, hence the need for a clinical trial.

REPRIEVE: LDL reduced by 29%, MACE reduced by 35%
Statins now indicated for nearly all PWH > 40 years

HIV inflammation hypothesis was not fully tested by REPRIEVE

- N=804, treated for 2 years
- Pitavastatin had a significant reduction in LDL-C while having nonsignificant reductions in hsCRP
- Pitavastatin did not significantly lower IL-6, sCD163, sCD14

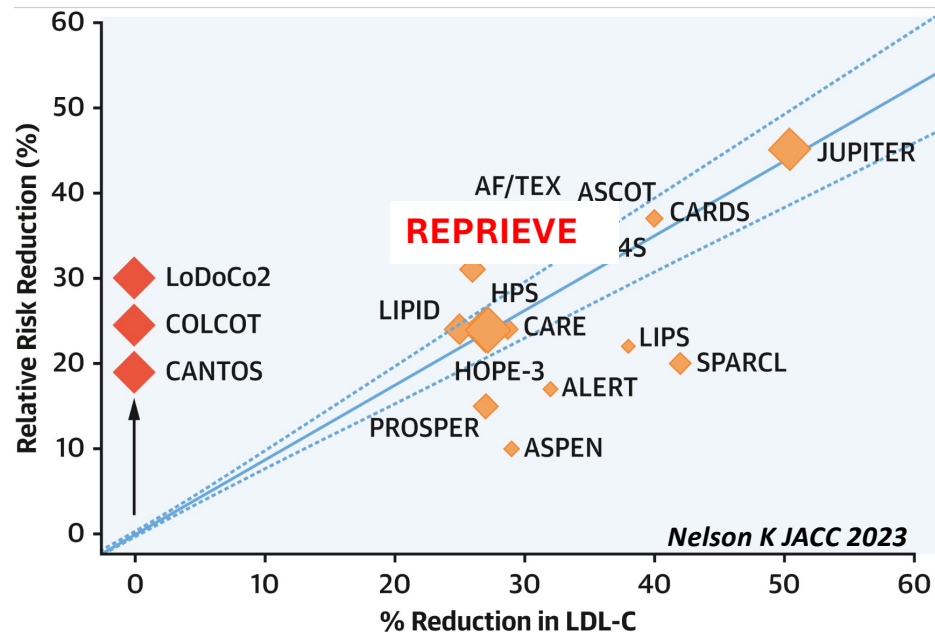
Lu M et al JAMA Cardiology Feb 2024

Abs 151 Kollossvary – Pitavastatin does not impact inflammatory pathways using a proteomics approach

**Are direct anti-inflammatory strategies
needed to prevent CVD in the general
population?**

**Will people with HIV have unique needs for
anti-inflammatory strategies?**

Residual inflammatory risk in the general population

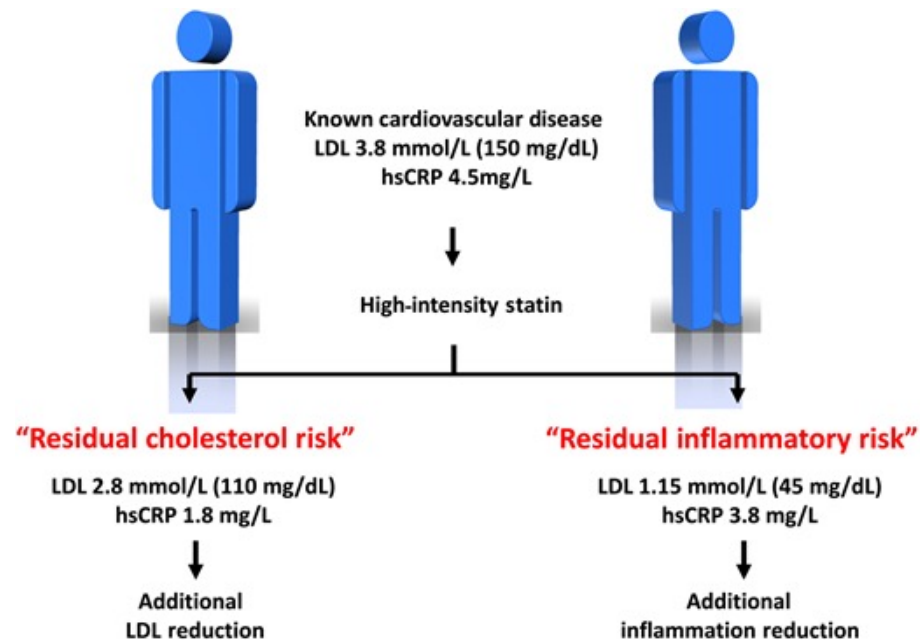


Colchicine and canakinumab reduce CV risk without reducing LDL-C, while statins reduce both

“We believe that combined use of aggressive lipid-lowering and anti-inflammatory therapies might become standard of care for atherosclerotic disease in the future” (Ridker PM Lancet 2023).

Residual inflammatory risk in the general population

Best outcomes achieved when both LDL and CRP are low



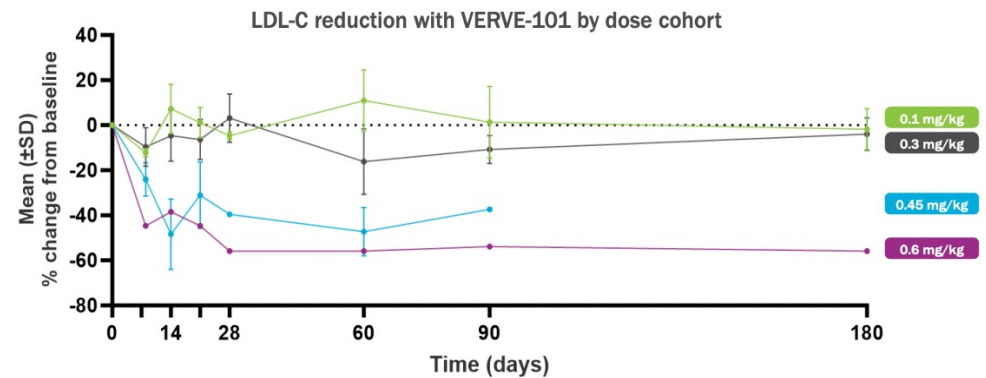
Optimizing CVD prevention in PWH: Future directions (very low, earlier lowering and new agents)

PCSK9 inhibitors: Very low LDL-C on top of statin, lowering earlier
Lowers LDL safely in PWH (Boccarda F JACC 2020)
EPIC-HIV trial at UCSF (NCT03207945)

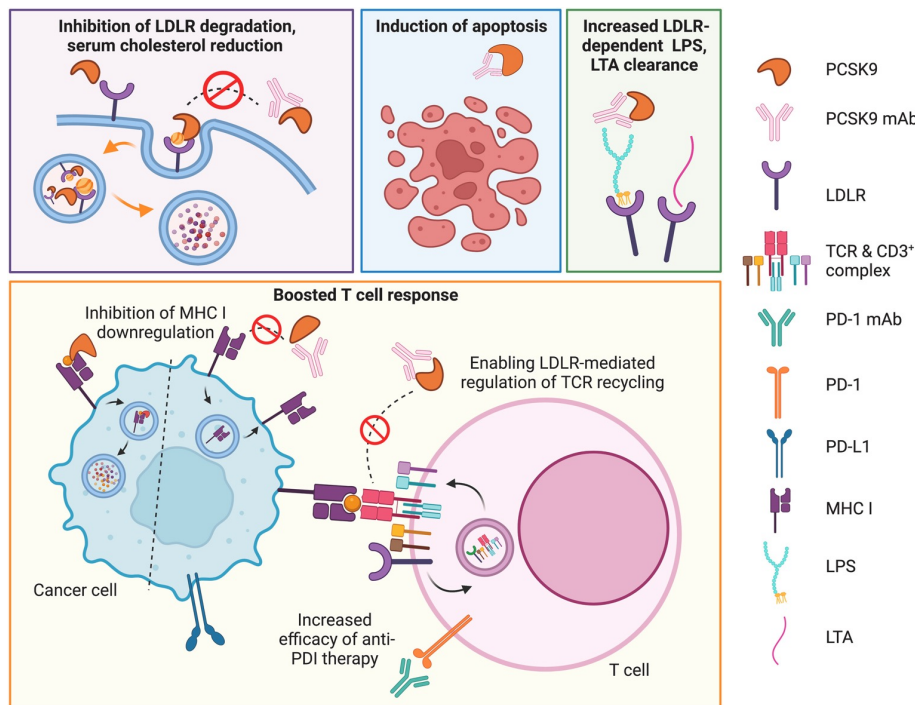
CRISPR-gene editing
Single infusion (non HIV)

Bempedoic acid
CLEAR HIV trial at UCSF and UCLA (NCT 05488431)

Lp(a) – clinical event trials ongoing



PCSK9 – not just lipids, implicated in cancer



- Cancer cells rely on cholesterol for growth
- PCSK9 inhibition potentiates immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy for cancer

Inflammation agenda in PWH extends beyond CVD:

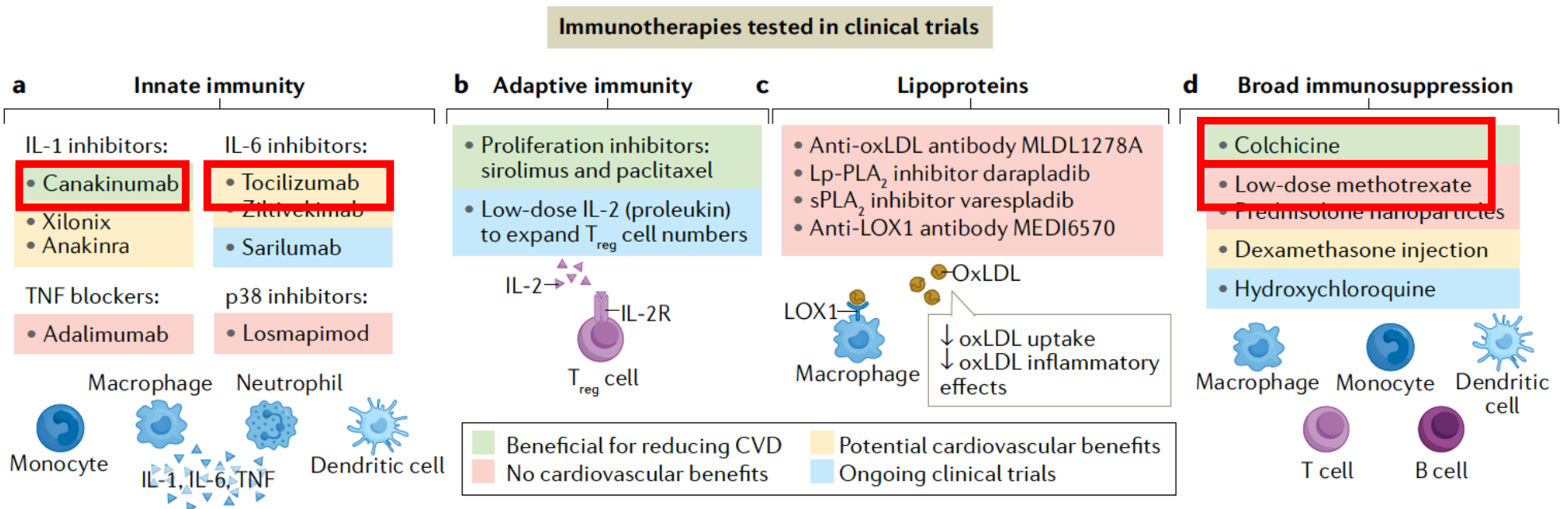
- **Mortality** (Kuller, PLoS Med, 2008; Tien, JAIDS, 2010; Tenorio, JID, 2014; Hunt, JID, 2014)
- **Cancer** (Breen, Cancer Epi Bio Prev, 2010; Borges, AIDS, 2013)
- **Venous Thromboembolism** (Musselwhite, AIDS, 2011)
- **COPD** (Attia, Chest, 2014; Kirkegaard-Klitbo, AIDS, 2017)
- **Renal Disease** (Gupta, HIV Med, 2015; Kirkegaard-Klitbo, AIDS, 2017)
- **Bacterial Pneumonia** (Bjerk, PLoS One, 2014)
- **Cognitive Dysfunction** (Burdo, AIDS, 2013; Sattler, JAIDS 2015)
- **Depression** (Martinez, JAIDS, 2014)
- **Frailty** (Erlandson, JID, 2013)
- **Type 2 DM / insulin resistance** (Brown, Diabetes Care, 2010; Reid, AIDS, 2017)
- **Cure**

Will we ever be able to reduce inflammation safely?

Will reduction in inflammation prevent cardiovascular disease in HIV? Will it prevent other co-morbidities?

Will we ever be able to conduct another clinical endpoint study in the post-REPRIEVE era?

Multiple anti-inflammatory drugs/strategies have advanced to clinical testing in the cardiology space



Low dose methotrexate did not lower inflammation or prevent CVD events in the general population

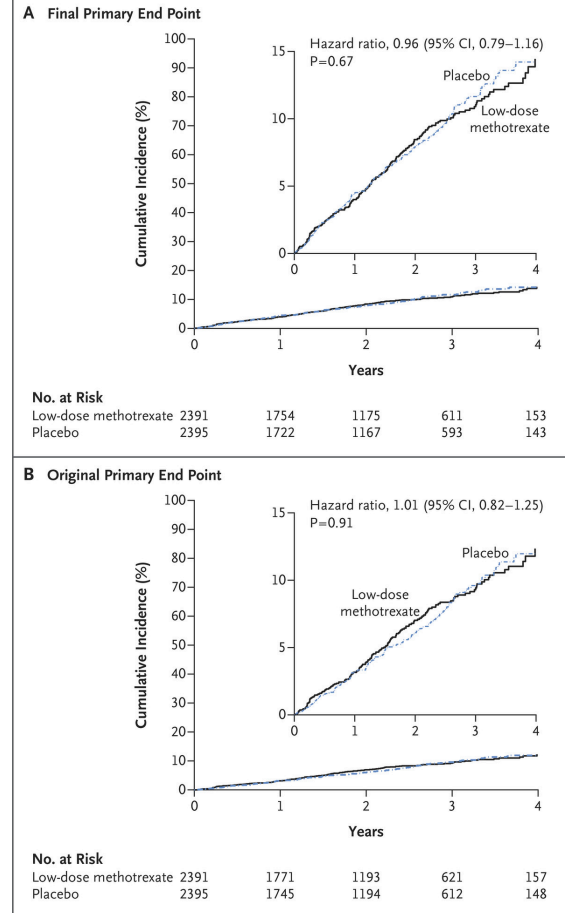
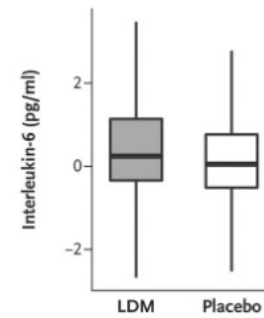
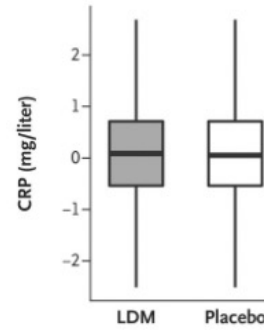
Nov. 2018

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Low-Dose Methotrexate for the Prevention of Atherosclerotic Events

Paul M Ridker, M.D., Brendan M. Everett, M.D., Aruna Pradhan, M.D., Jean G. MacFadyen, B.A., Daniel H. Solomon, M.D., Elaine Zaharris, B.A., Virak Mam, B.S., Ahmed Hasan, M.D., Yves Rosenberg, M.D., Erin Iturriaga, M.S.N., Milan Gupta, M.D., Michelle Tsigoulis, Subodh Verma, M.D., Michael Clearfield, D.O., Peter Libby, M.D., Samuel Z. Goldhaber, M.D., Roger Seagle, M.D., Cyril Ofori, M.D., Mohammad Saklayen, M.D., Samuel Butman, M.D., Narendra Singh, M.D., Michel Le May, M.D., Olivier Bertrand, M.D., James Johnston, M.D., Nina P. Paynter, Ph.D., and Robert J. Glynn, Sc.D., for the CIRT Investigators*



Low dose methotrexate did not lower inflammation in PWH, reduced CD8 T-cell activation and T cell proliferation

Clinical Infectious Diseases

MAJOR ARTICLE



Safety and Impact of Low-dose Methotrexate on Endothelial Function and Inflammation in Individuals With Treated Human Immunodeficiency Virus: AIDS Clinical Trials Group Study A5314

Priscilla Y. Hsue,¹ Heather J. Ribaldo,² Steven G. Deeks,¹ Tanvir Bell,³ Paul M. Ridker,⁴ Carl Fichtenbaum,⁵ Eric S. Daar,⁶ Diane Havlir,¹ Eunice Yeh,² Ahmed Tawakol,⁷ Michael Lederman,⁸ Judith S. Currier,⁹ and James H. Stein⁹

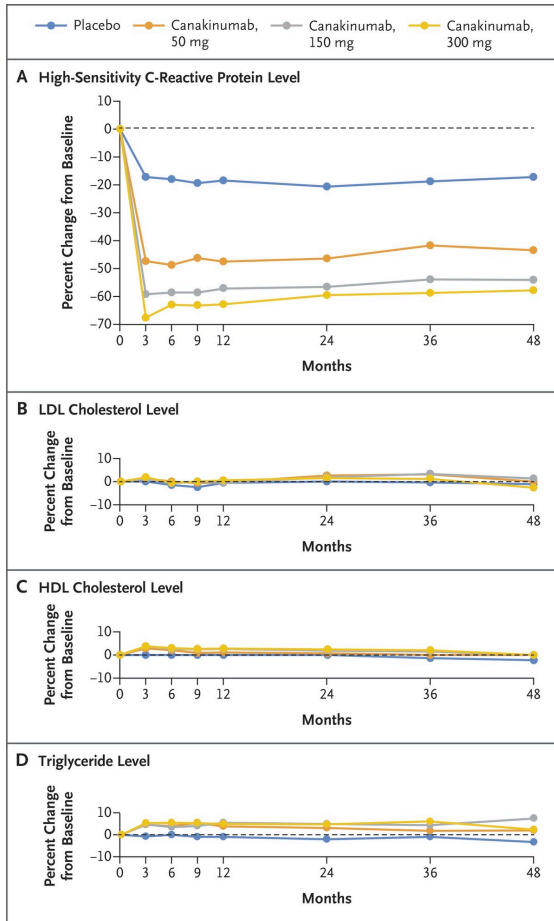
¹Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine; ²Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts; ³McGovern Medical School, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; ⁴Cardiology Division, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts; ⁵University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Ohio; ⁶David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles; ⁷Cardiology Division, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston; ⁸Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio; and ⁹University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison

Methotrexate Inhibits T Cell Proliferation but Not Inflammatory Cytokine Expression to Modulate Immunity in People Living With HIV

Michael L. Freeman^{1*}, Brian M. Clagett¹, Daniela Moisi¹, Eunice Yeh², Charles D. Morris¹, Angela Ryu¹, Benigno Rodriguez^{1†}, James H. Stein³, Steven G. Deeks⁴, Judith S. Currier⁵, Priscilla Y. Hsue⁶, Donald D. Anthony^{1,7,8}, Leonard H. Calabrese⁹, Heather J. Ribaldo² and Michael M. Lederman^{1*}

Frontiers in Immunology 2022

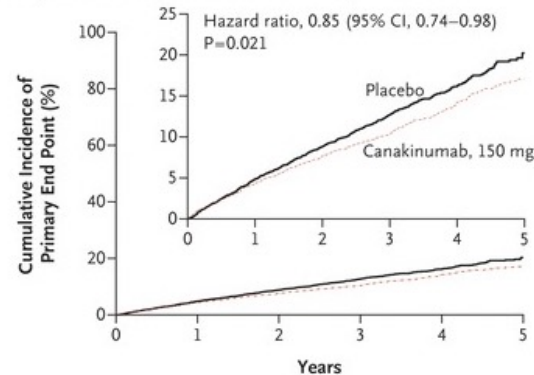
Targeting IL-1 β using canakinumab lower inflammation, reduces CV events, but failed to achieve regulatory approval



Antiinflammatory Therapy with Canakinumab for Atherosclerotic Disease

Ridker PM et al

B Primary End Point with Canakinumab, 150 mg, vs. Placebo



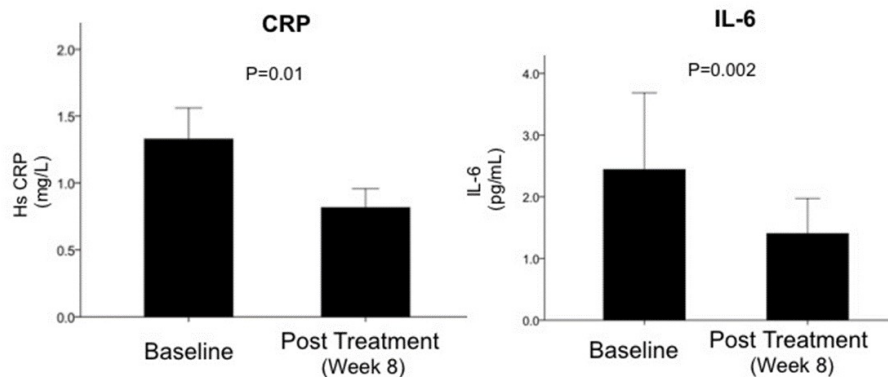
No. at Risk	0	1	2	3	4	5
Placebo	3344	3141	2973	2632	1266	210
Canakinumab	2284	2151	2057	1849	907	207

Hopes Fade for a CV Indication for Canakinumab: What's Next for the Inflammatory Hypothesis?

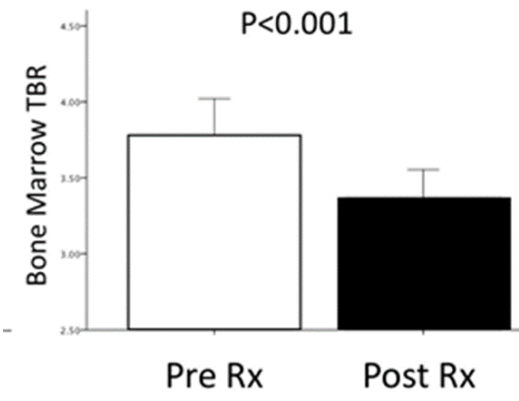
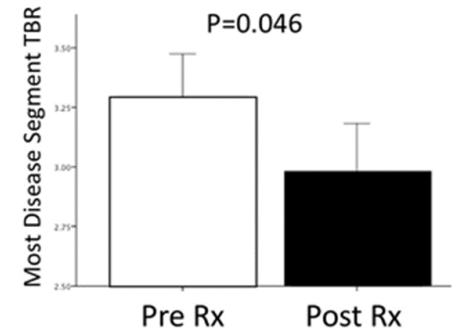
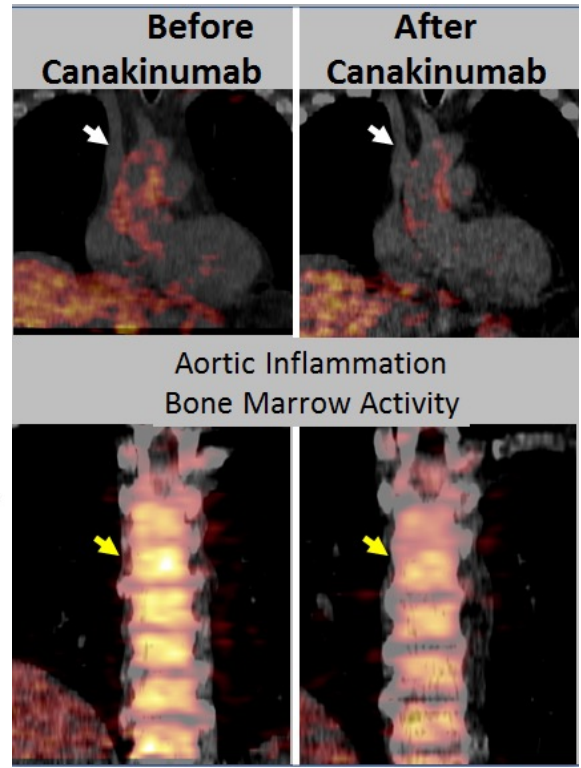
The CANTOS sponsor has given up on a CV indication for its monoclonal antibody, leaving some to ask if marketing trumped medicine.

by Michael O'Riordan | FEBRUARY 01, 2019

IL-1 β inhibition with canakinumab reduces inflammatory markers and tissue inflammation in PWH



hsCRP reduced by 41%
IL-6 reduced by 30%



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812 DECEMBER 26, 2019 VOL. 381 NO. 26

Efficacy and Safety of Low-Dose Colchicine after Myocardial Infarction

Jean-Claude Tardif, M.D., Simon Kouz, M.D., David D. Waters, M.D., Olivier F. Bertrand, M.D., Ph.D., Rafael Diaz, M.D., Aldo P. Maggioni, M.D., Fausto J. Pinto, M.D., Ph.D., Reda Ibrahim, M.D., Habib Gamra, M.D., Ghassan S. Kiwan, M.D., Colin Berry, M.D., Ph.D., José López-Sendón, M.D., Petr Ostadal, M.D., Ph.D., Wolfgang Koenig, M.D., Denis Angoulvant, M.D., Jean C. Grégoire, M.D., Marc-André Lavoie, M.D., Marie-Pierre Dubé, Ph.D., David Rhoads, Ph.D., Mylène Provencher, Ph.D., Lucie Blondeau, M.Sc., Andreas Orfanos, M.B., B.Ch., Philippe L. L'Allier, M.D., Marie-Claude Guertin, Ph.D., and François Roubille, M.D., Ph.D.

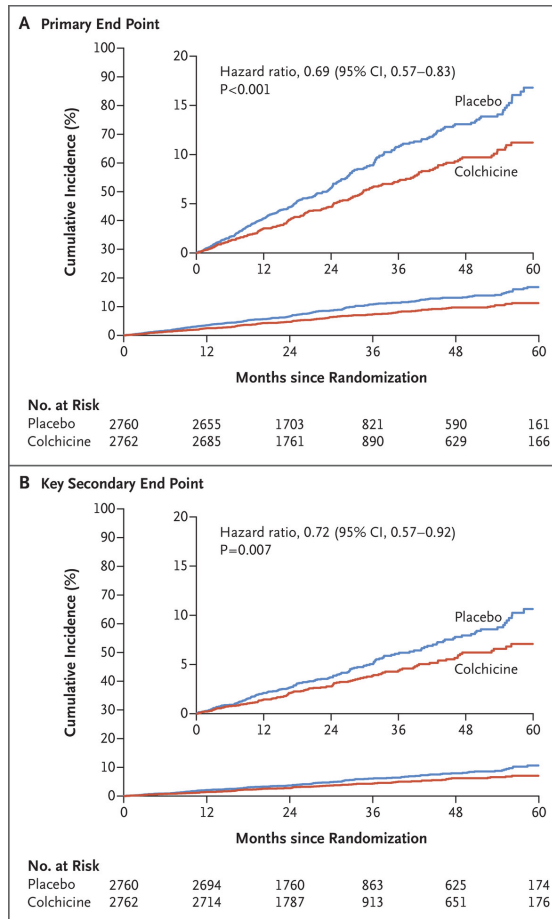
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

2020

Colchicine in Patients with Chronic Coronary Disease

S.M. Nidorf, A.T.L. Fiolet, A. Mosterd, J.W. Eikelboom, A. Schut, T.S.J. Opstal, S.H.K. The, X.-F. Xu, M.A. Ireland, T. Lenderink, D. Latchem, P. Hoogslag, A. Jerzewski, P. Nierop, A. Whelan, R. Hendriks, H. Swart, J. Schaap, A.F.M. Kuijper, M.W.J. van Hesse, P. Saklani, I. Tan, A.G. Thompson, A. Morton, C. Judkins, W.A. Bax, M. Dirksen, M. Alings, G.J. Hankey, C.A. Budgeon, J.G.P. Tijssen, J.H. Cornel, and P.L. Thompson, for the LoDoCo2 Trial Investigators*

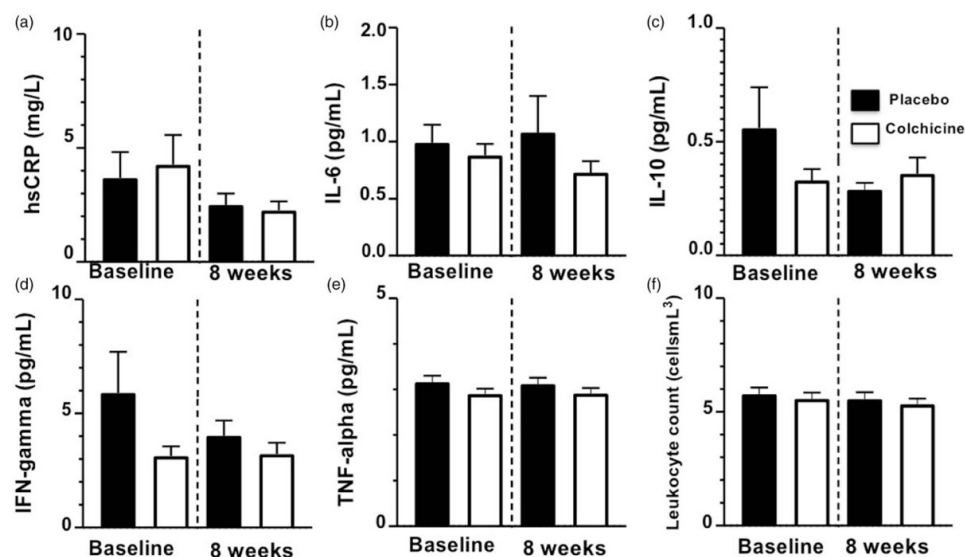


COLCOT: 30 days after MI, colchicine reduced risk of ischemic CV events 23% vs. placebo

LoDoCo2: 31% reduction in MACE when colchicine added to standard prevention

June 20, 2023: FDA approves colchicine as first anti-inflammatory drug to reduce risk for MI, CVA, revascularization and CV death in people with established ASCVD or risk factors for CVD

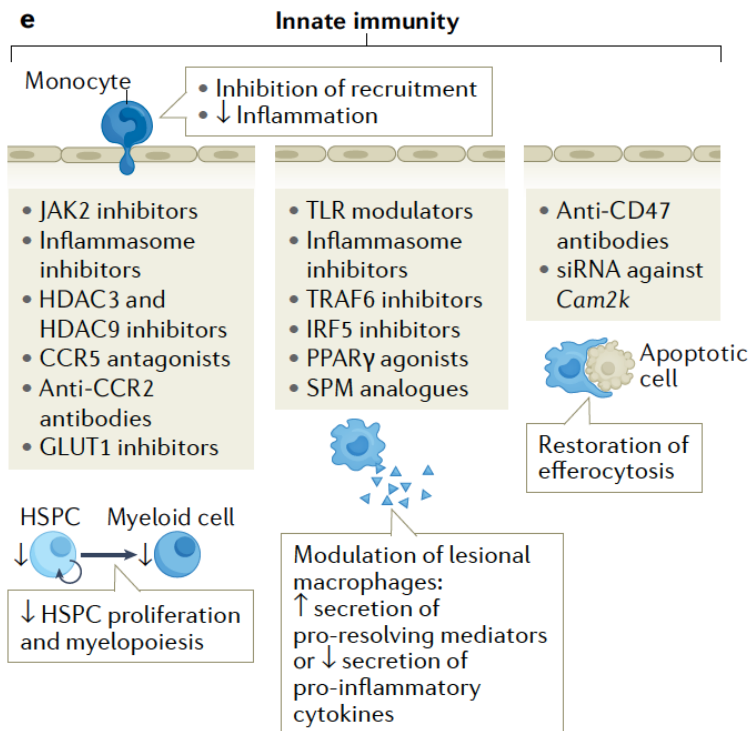
Low dose colchicine is safe in PWH, although a small RCT (n=81) failed to show an impact on inflammation



- RCT of colchicine (0.6 mg/day) in 81 PWH
- No impact on inflammatory markers or coronary or systemic endothelial function
- Larger studies in PWH will be needed to define the potential role of this safe, scalable approach

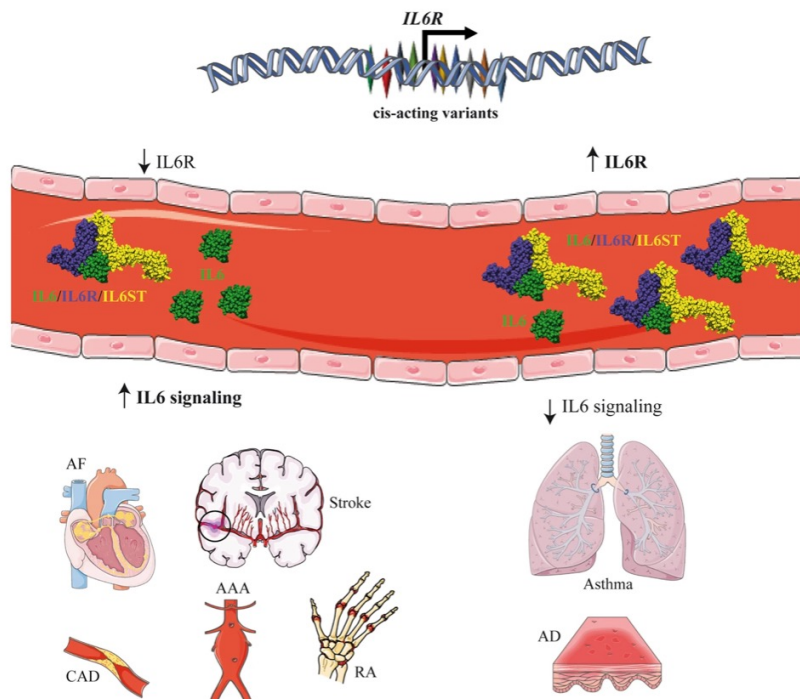
Immunotherapies in development for atherosclerosis in general population

Immunotherapies at preclinical stages



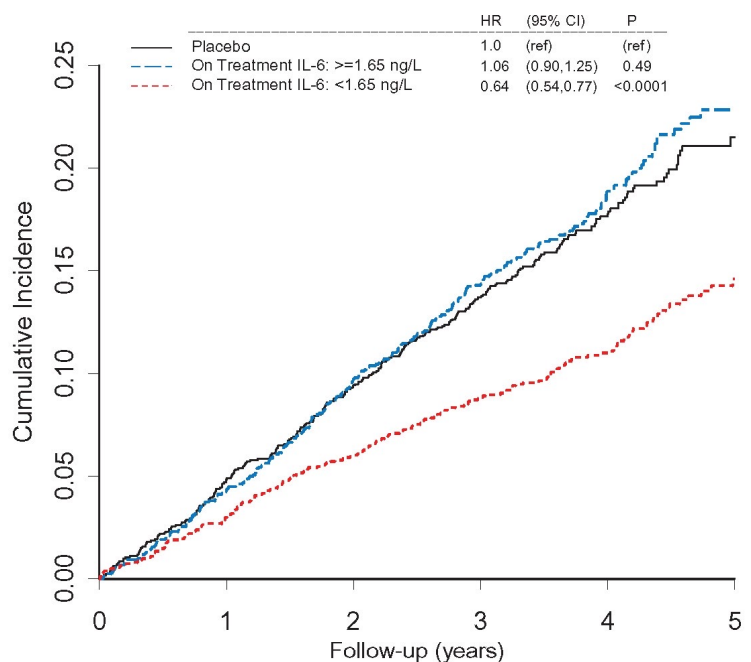
IL-6 signaling as a cause rather than correlate of disease

Mendelian randomization improves causal inference



- Genetic determinants of protein level predict both:
 - Measured protein levels *AND*
 - Clinical endpoints
- Provides strong causal inference
 - Host genetic determinants cannot be “caused” by confounding risk factors (e.g., smoking, diet, etc).
- In CVD field, MR established that:
 - IL-6 signaling causes disease
 - CRP does not

IL-6 is predictive of CVD and the magnitude of IL-6 reduction with immunomodulation associates with clinical benefit in CANTOS

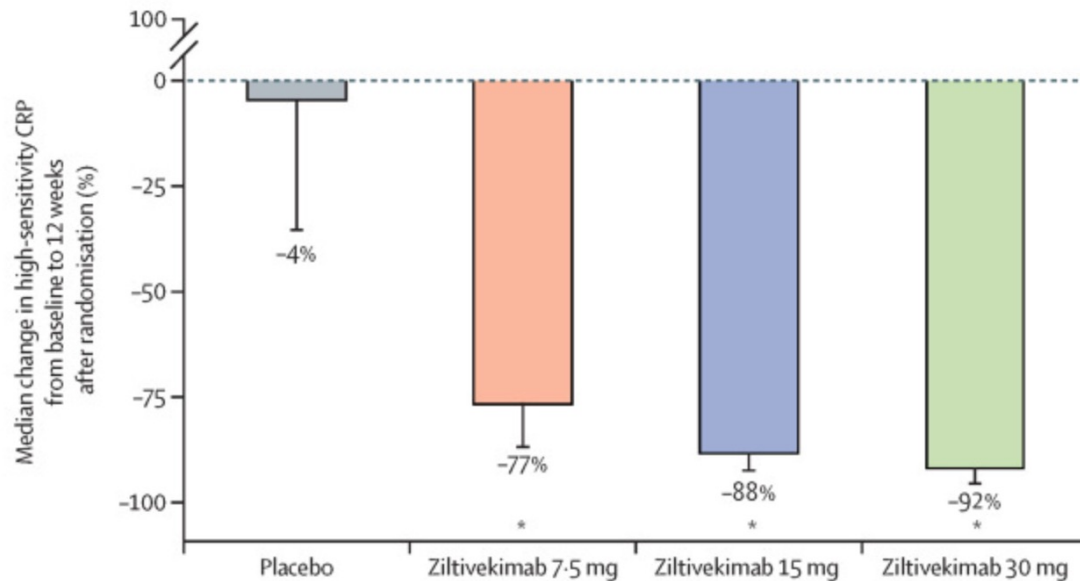


- After a single dose, pts achieving IL-6 < 1.65 ng/L had 32% reduction in MACE, 52% reduction in CV mortality, 48% reduction in all cause mortality, independent of lipid lowering

No. at risk:	0	1	2	3	4	5
Placebo	1597	1501	1411	1254	635	153
Canakinumab:						
IL-6 ≥ 1.65 ng/L	1619	1524	1411	1211	562	123
IL-6 < 1.65 ng/L	1617	1559	1501	1371	772	211

IL-6 inhibition with ziltivekimab in patients at high atherosclerotic risk (RESCUE): a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled, phase 2 trial

Ridker PM Lancet 2021 et al



- Ziltivekimab targets IL-6 ligand (as opposed to receptor)
- Dosed every 4 weeks x 24 weeks
- 77% to 92% reduction in hsCRP
- Limited effect on lipids
- ZEUS: Phase 3 RCT (n=6200, NCT 05021835), estimated completion 10/2025

IL-6 inhibition in PWH is safe and reduces inflammation

Interleukin 6 Blockade With Tocilizumab Diminishes Indices of Inflammation That Are Linked to Mortality in Treated Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection

Nicholas T. Funderburg,^{1,a} Carey L. Shive,^{2,3,a} Zhengyi Chen,⁴ Curtis Tatsuoka,⁵ Emily R. Bowman,¹ Chris T. Longenecker,⁶ Grace A. McComsey,^{2,7} Brian M. Clagett,² Dominic Dorazio,² Michael L. Freeman,² Scott F. Sieg,² Daniela Moisi,² Donald D. Anthony,^{2,3,8} Jeffrey M. Jacobson,² Sharon L. Stein,⁹ Leonard H. Calabrese,¹⁰ Alan Landay,¹¹ Charles Flexner,^{12,13,14} Keith W. Crawford,¹⁵ Edmund V. Capparelli,¹⁶ Benigno Rodriguez,^{2,b} and Michael M. Lederman^a

- N=30, cross over trial, 10 week treatment, 12 week washout
- Tocilizumab associated with significant reduction in hsCRP, sCD14, D-Dimer, increase in IL-6
- Tocilizumab associated with decreased T cell cycling in naïve CD4+ T-cells
- Tocilizumab also associated with lipid abnormalities: Increased TC, HDL-C, LDL-C, oxidized LDL, and LpPLA₂

Other anti-inflammatory strategies have been studied in PWH

JAK1/2 inhibition in PWH is safe, did not reduce IL-6 but did lower T cell activation, cellular lifespan and translocation markers

- Ruxolitinib: JAK ½ Inhibitor
- ACTG 5336, N=60 treated/suppressed PWH randomized 2:1 x 5 weeks
- No significant impact on IL-6
- Ruxolitinib was associated with significant decreased markers of immune activation and cell survival

Clinical Infectious Diseases

MAJOR ARTICLE



Randomized Trial of Ruxolitinib in Antiretroviral-Treated Adults With Human Immunodeficiency Virus

Vincent C. Marconi,^{1,2,3,4} Carlee Moser,⁵ Christina Gavegnano,¹ Steven G. Deeks,⁶ Michael M. Lederman,⁷ Edgar T. Overton,⁸ Athe Tsibris,⁹ Peter W. Hunt,⁶ Amy Kantor,⁵ Raïck-Pierre Sekaly,⁷ Randall Tressler,¹⁰ Charles Flexner,¹¹ Selwyn J. Hurwitz,¹ Daniela Moisi,⁷ Brian Clagett,⁷ William R. Hardin,¹² Carlos del Rio,^{1,2} Raymond F. Schinazi,¹ and Jeffrey J. Lennox¹

A5337 mTOR inhibition in PWH

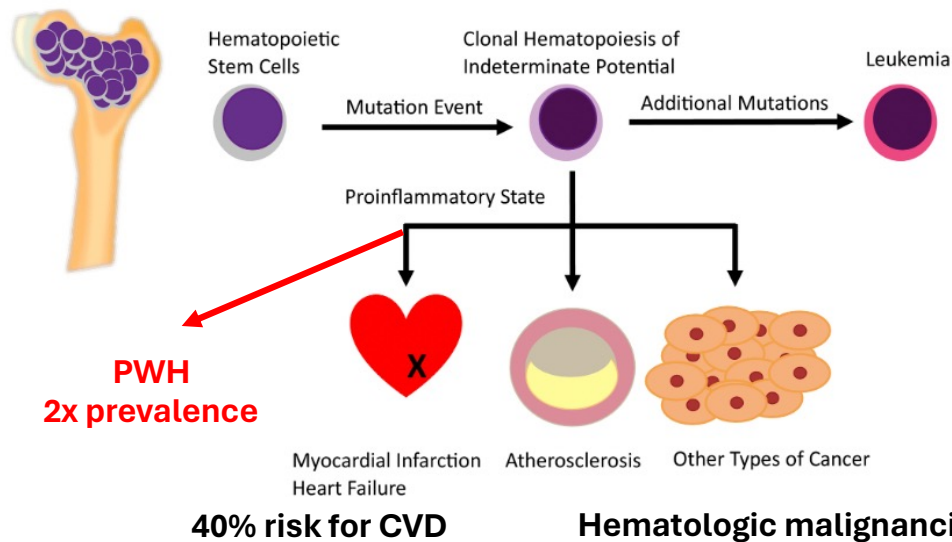
Summary

- Sirolimus was associated with a relatively high rate of treatment discontinuation
 - strict protocol-defined stopping criteria
- 20 weeks of sirolimus use associated with a **significant decrease in peripheral CD4+ T cell-associated HIV-1 DNA**
- Sirolimus use associated with significant reductions in the percentages of T cells expressing cell cycling markers (CD4 & CD8), immune exhaustion and CCR5 (CD8)
- Complex impact on markers of immune activation and inflammation



**Can we target the cause of
inflammation to reduce cardiovascular
disease?**

Emerging role of mutations in hematopoietic stem cells as an important cause of inflammation and cardiovascular disease



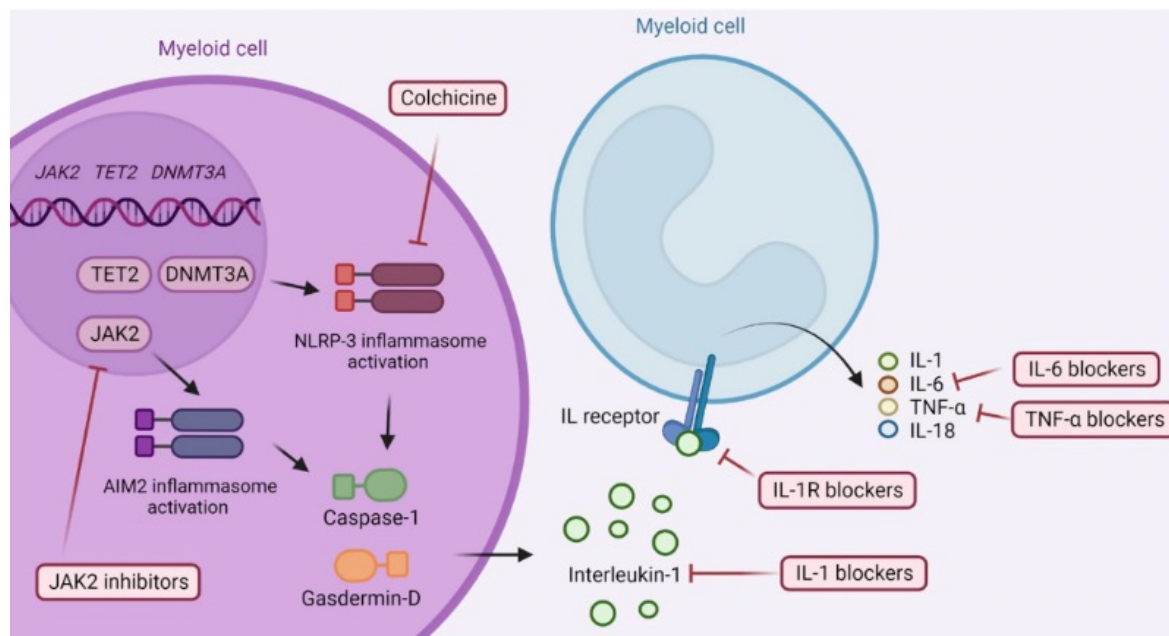
- Clonal hematopoiesis of indeterminate potential (CHIP) is a new risk factor for CVD and cancer
- Associated with proinflammatory state
- 2x prevalence CHIP in PWH
 - Associated with markers of HIV reservoir
 - Bone marrow activity and CHIP: Durstenfeld M Poster 769

Libby P Circulation 2018

Libby P JACC 2020; Aboumsallem JP JAHA 2020;

Bick A Sci Reports 2022, Van der Heijden JID 2022

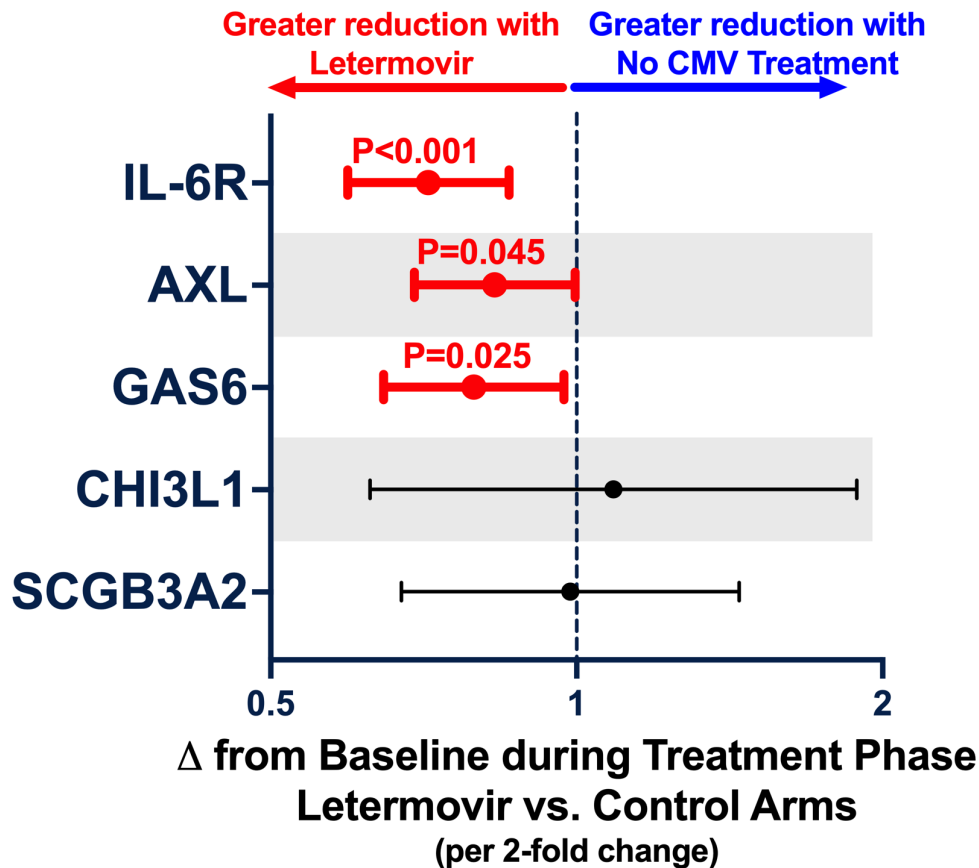
Potential therapies for clonal hematopoiesis of indeterminate potential (CHIP)-related inflammation



Upstream targets of inflammatory cytokines (JAK inhibitors, colchicine)

Downstream targets (IL-6, TNF-alpha, IL-1R, IL-1 blocker)

Emerging role of CMV as a cause of inflammation and cardiovascular disease in PWH



- ACTG 5383: RCT of letermovir vs placebo in PWH (n=40)
- Letermovir decreased 3/5 of the plasma proteins causally linked to CVD events in treated HIV (IL-6R, AXL, GAS6). (Reilly et al, JID, 2023)
- AXL and GAS6 are unique causal predictors of CVD in HIV

Inflammation as a cause of immunosuppression and disease

Cancer and co-morbidities

HIV cure

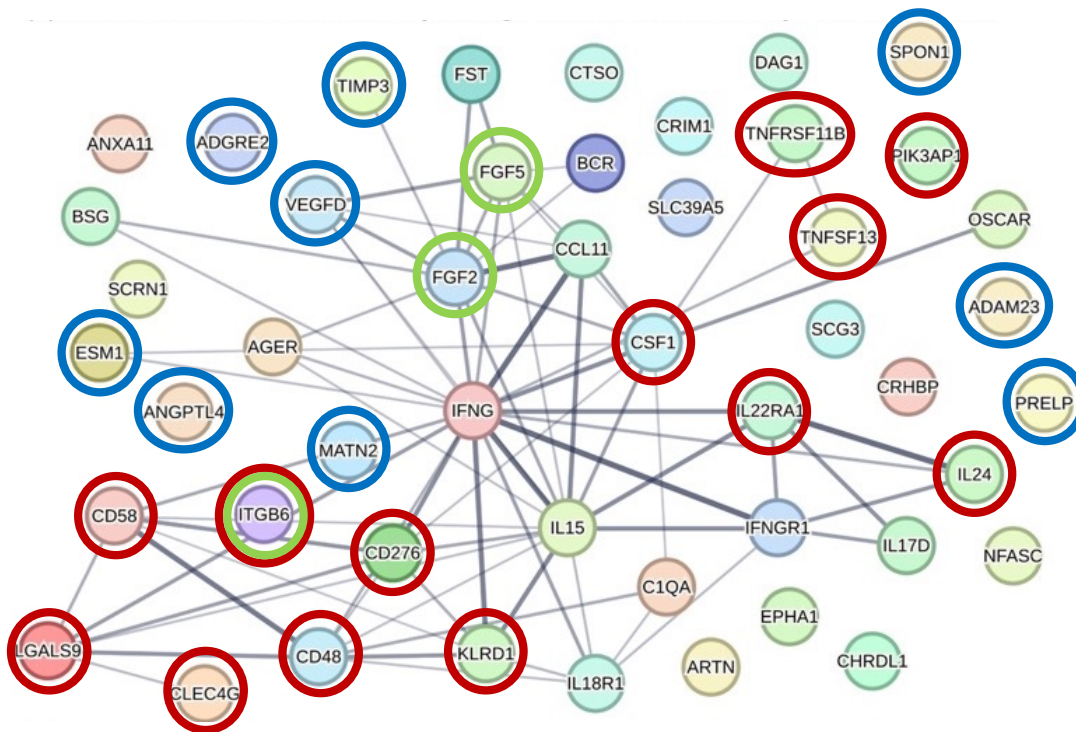
Immunology 101: Most of the host inflammatory response is immunoregulatory in nature



Schnittman et al, Tuesday, Oral #143, CROI 2024

- Inflammation is harmful
- Inflammation stimulates a potent and sustained immunosuppressive response
 - T regulatory cells (TGF- β , IL-10)
 - Immune checkpoint receptors
 - Myeloid-derived suppressor cells
- These immunosuppressive responses can blunt immune responses to infection (HIV) and cancer

Immunoregulatory pathways preferentially predict mortality in people with treated HIV (CNICS vs. UK Biobank)



The largest clusters comprised immunoregulatory proteins linked to suppressing T, NK, and myeloid cell activation or pro-fibrotic and endothelial cell/ECM regulatory processes

These markers predicted mortality either uniquely in PWH or to at least a 50% greater degree than in the general population

Schnittman et al, Tuesday, Oral #143, CROI 2024

IL-1 β inhibition: Canakinumab as a case study of how confusing immunology can be, particularly to a cardiologist

Effect of interleukin-1 β inhibition with canakinumab on incident lung cancer in patients with atherosclerosis: exploratory results from a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial

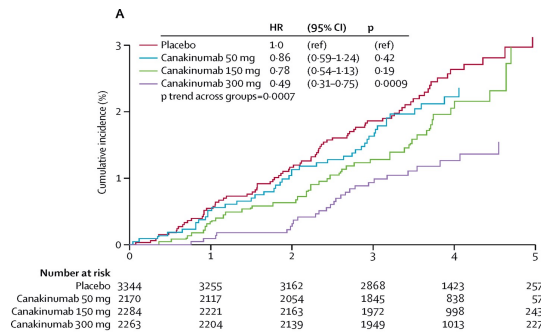
Paul M Ridker, Jean G MacFadyen, Tom Thuren, Brendan M Everett, Peter Libby*, Robert J Glynn*, on behalf of the CANTOS Trial Group†

Lancet 2017

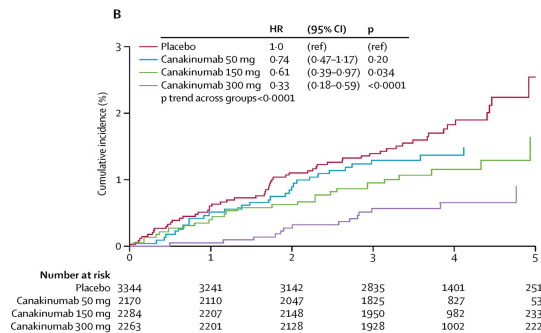
IL-1 β inhibition using canakinumab reduced incident lung cancer and lung cancer mortality

Why? Could reducing inflammation reduce counter-regulatory immunosuppression, leading to control of cancer?

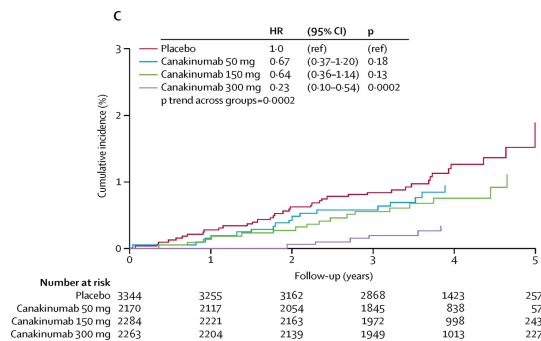
All fatal cancer



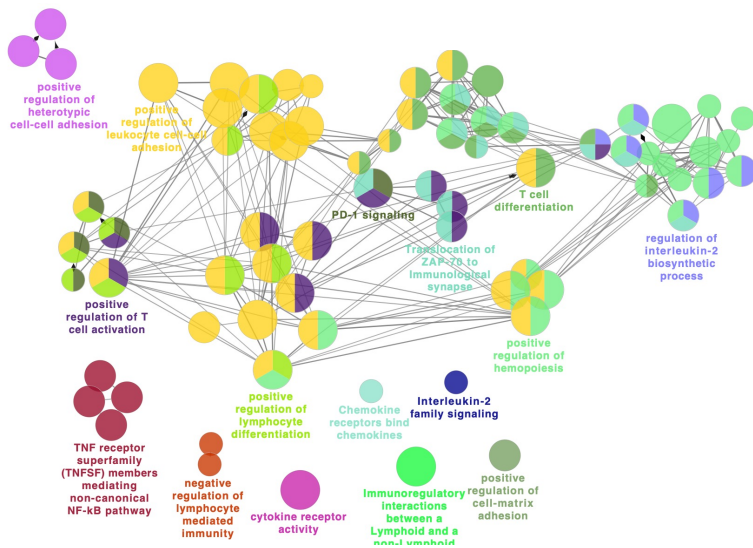
Lung cancer



Fatal lung cancer



Inhibition of IL-1 β : Good for the heart, prevents cancer, predictive of CAD in HIV, and might even address important barriers to an HIV cure



- Lee (Abs 768) IL-1 β predicts incident CAD in treated HIV
- Canakinumab (UCSF): RCT of canakinumab in PWH
- Hypothesis: Chronic inflammation leads to poor T cell function
- Tomalka (Emory): Inhibiting IL-1 β enhances T cell function which in turn was associated with lower reservoir

Immunoregulation and the evolving HIV cure agenda

JCI The Journal of Clinical Investigation

Interleukin-10 contributes to reservoir establishment and persistence in SIV-infected macaques treated with antiretroviral therapy

Justin Harper, ... , Rafick-Pierre Sekaly, Mirko Paiardini



Article

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-40000-x>

TGF- β blockade drives a transitional effector phenotype in T cells reversing SIV latency and decreasing SIV reservoirs in vivo

Jinhee Kim¹, Deepanwita Bose^{2,3,4}, Mariluz Aralinga^{2,3,4}, Muhammad R. Haque⁵,
Christine M. Fennessey⁶, Rachel A. Caddell⁵, Yanique Thomas⁷,
Douglas E. Ferrell⁸, Syed Ali⁹, Emanuelle Grody¹⁰, Yogesh Goyal^{11,12},
Claudia Ciccia¹³, James Arthos¹⁴, Brandon F. Keele¹⁵, Monica Vaccari¹⁶,
Ramon Lorenzo-Redondo¹⁷, Thomas J. Hope¹⁸, Francois Villinger¹⁹ &
Elena Martinelli¹ ✉

- Immunoregulatory environment contributes to SIV/HIV persistence
 - Reduced T cell turnover
 - Failure to clear
 - Failure to control
- Targeting IL-10 and TGF- β being explored in NHP model

Will emerging strategies aimed at the immunoregulatory response be good for CVD?

What is good for HIV or cancer might be bad for the heart

- **IL-10**

- Implicated in plaque stabilization
- Lower levels associated with unstable angina
- Inversely related to atherosclerosis in PWH

- **TGF- β**

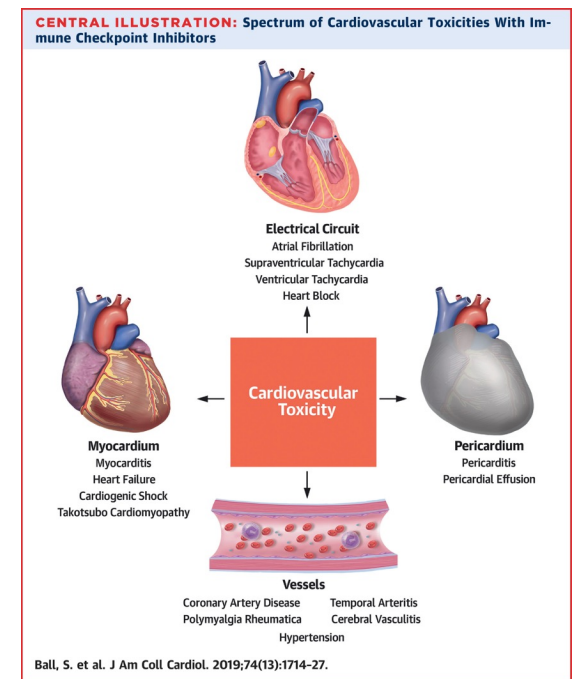
- Atheroprotective

- **JAK STAT inhibitors**

- Decrease inflammation
- Increase thrombotic complications

Pinderski Oslund LJ ATVB 1999; Smith D Circulation 2001; Fourman L JID 2020; Grainger D ATVB 2004; Baldini C EHJ 2021

Checkpoint inhibitors



What is needed to move the field forward?

- Clinical impact of therapies to lower inflammation among PWH
 - Extends beyond CVD (other comorbidities, cancer, cure)
- Which agents to study and how to study them?
 - General anti-inflammatory approaches
 - Focus on immune pathways specific to HIV
 - Cost, safety
- Which individuals will be most likely to benefit from anti-inflammatory interventions?
 - Consider risk stratification at baseline?
 - Can we ascertain who is most likely to benefit based on specific pathway being intervened upon (ie CANTOS)?
- Need to break down silos isolating those working on CVD, cancer, HIV cure
- Everything we do should be focused on developing a safe, scalable anti-inflammatory approach that can be tested in REPRIEVE 2.0

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Acknowledgements

ZSFG HIV, ID, Global

SCOPE/LIINC: Steve Deeks, Michael Peluso, Sulggi Lee

Becky Hoh, Meghann Williams

Laurence Huang

Diane Havlir

Annie Luetkemeyer

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Grant Support:

R01AI152932-01A1 (PI: Henrich, Hsue, VanBrocklin)

1R01HL152957-01A1 (PI: Hunt, Hsue, Tawakol)

1R01HL158315-01A1 (PI: Chi, Hsue)

1R01HL170600 (PI: Hsue, Natarajan, Freiberg, M, Chi N)

K12HL143961-01 (PI: Huang, Hsue)

K24AI112393 (PI: Hsue)

R01AG085873 (PI: Ely, Marconi, Hsue)

R01HL164337 (PI: Hsue, Tawakol)

DEM

Tim Henrich

Peter Hunt

UCLA-Judith Currier, Rushi Parikh

MGH- Ahmed Tawakol, Michael Lu, Pradeep Natarajan

BWH – Paul Ridker, Peter Libby

UCSD- Neil Chi, Sara Gianella

University of Wisconsin – James Stein

Vanderbilt University – Matt Freiberg, Alex Bick, Wes Ely

Northwestern University–Matt Feinstein

Emory University – Rafick Sekaly, Vince Marconi, Jeff

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