

Will the treatment always be just a gluten free diet?  
What's on the horizon?

Ludvig M. Sollid



*Wheat Field Under Threatening Skies*

van Gogh 1890

Coeliac UK Annual Research Conference

**Coeliac disease; Potential to refractory and everything in between**

March 20, 2020

# Conflicts of interest

Privately or via employer been consultant during the two last years for:

ImmusanT Therapeutics

Interaxon Actobiotics

Bioniz Therapeutics

UCB Biopharma

Chugai Pharmaceutical

Merck

GSK



# Experimental non-dietary therapies for celiac disease (March/2020)

**Universities:** Modified Gluten

**Natren:** *B. infantis* – Ph2

**ActoBio:** *AG017* – Ph1/2

**9 Meters:** – *INN-202* – Ph3  
(larazotide acetate)

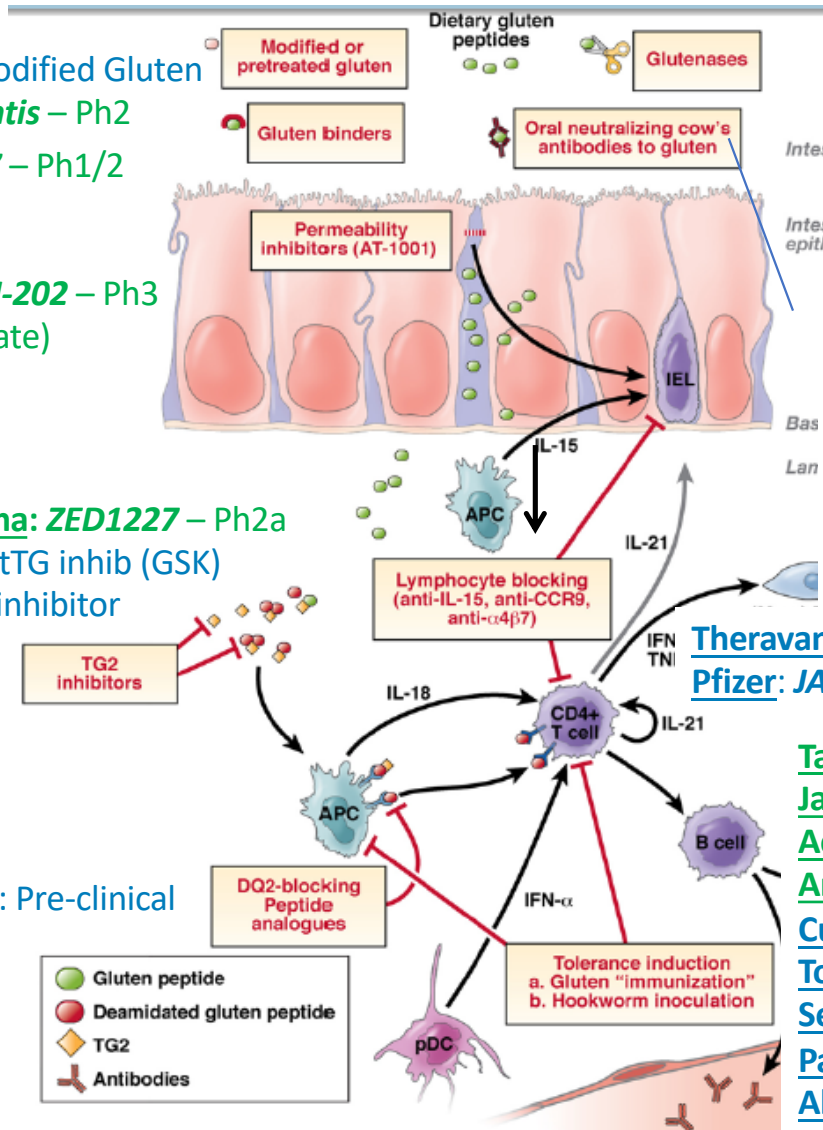
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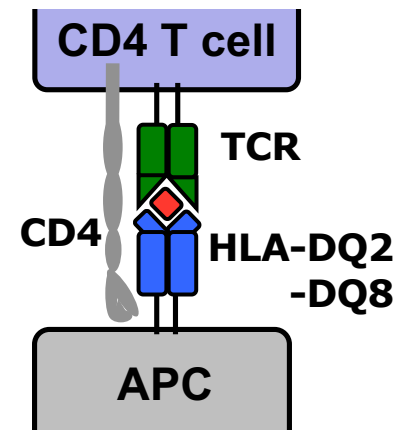
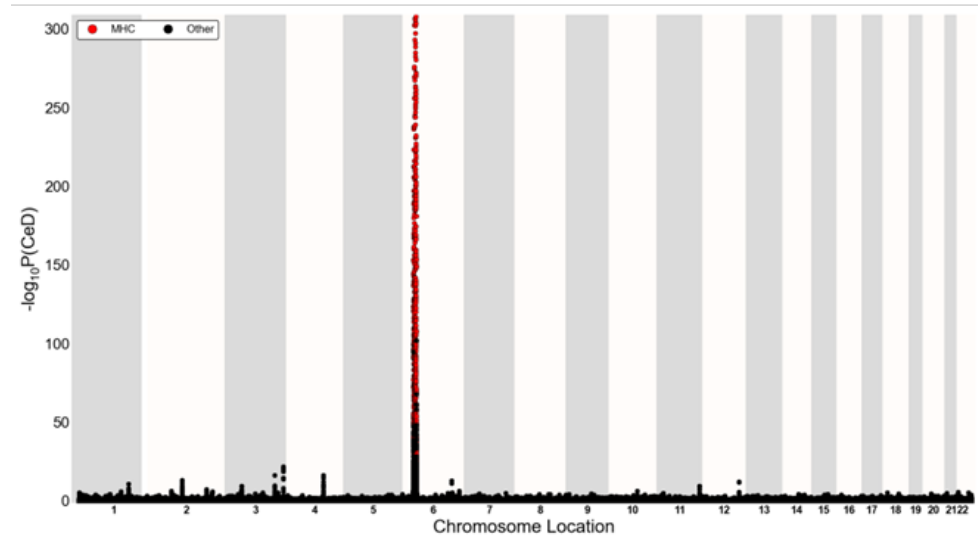
**Selecta:** Pre-clinical

**Parvus:** Pre-clinical (Roche/Genentech)

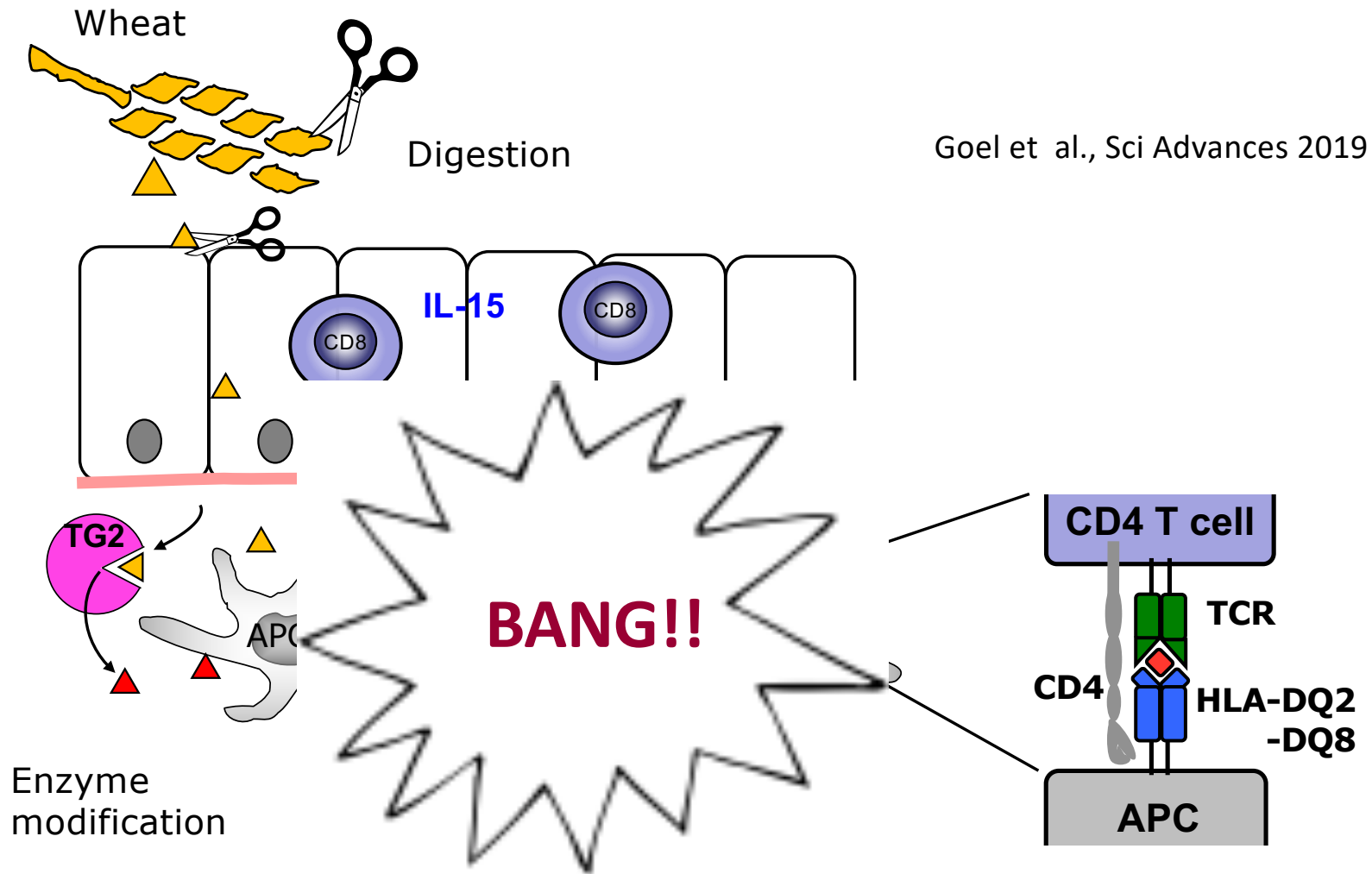
**Allero:** Pre-clinical

Francisco Leon

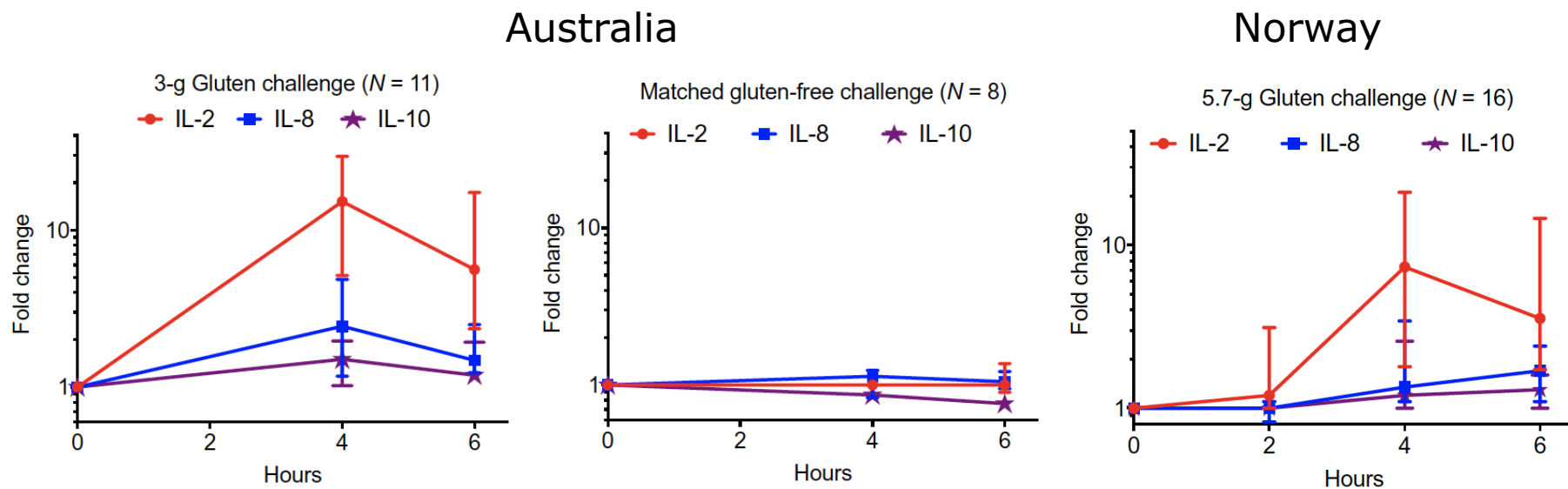
## GWAS Celiac disease – HLA!!



# The coeliac lesion

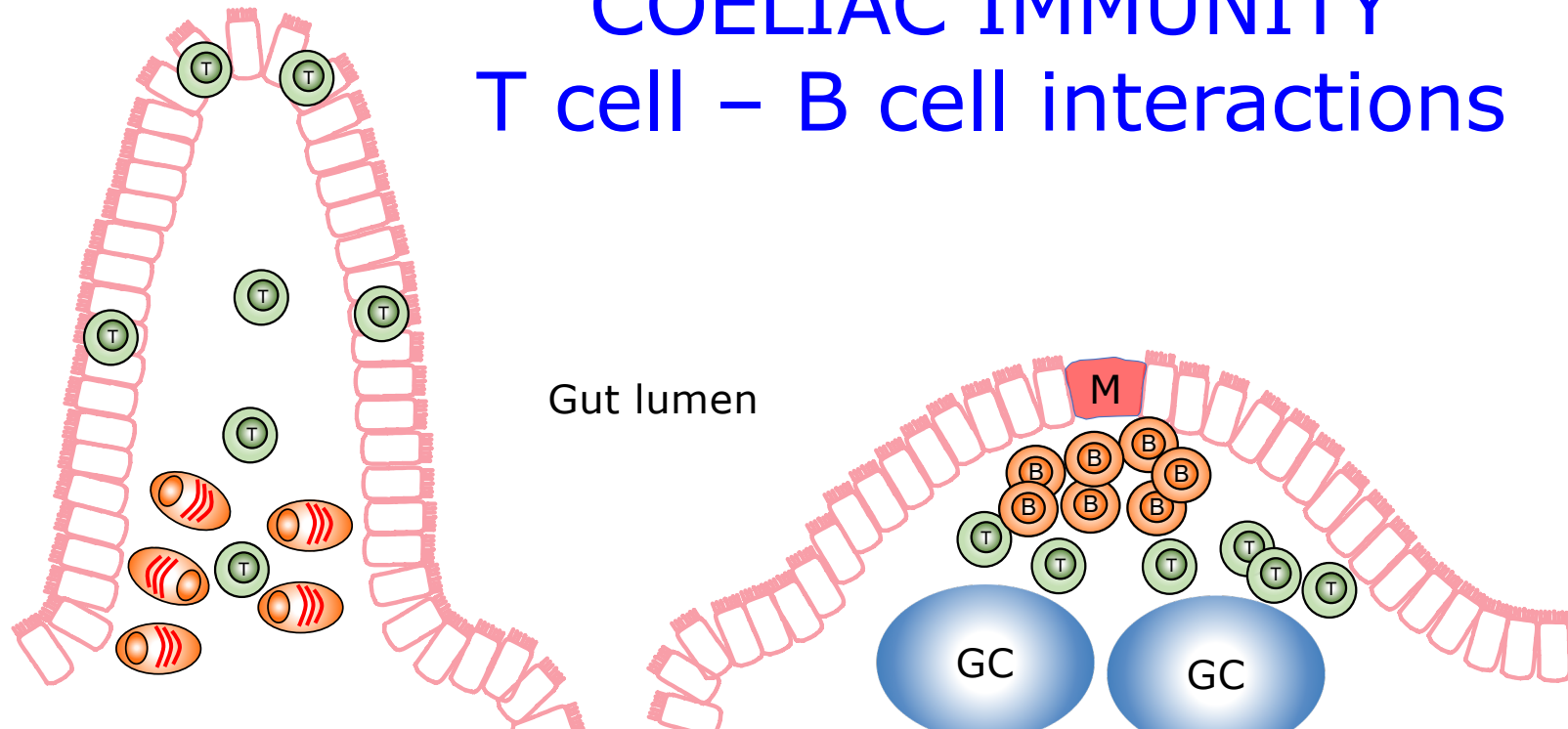


# Serum/plasma cytokines increase shortly after oral gluten challenge



# COELIAC IMMUNITY

## T cell – B cell interactions



Gut lumen

M

GC

GC

Effector sites

Lamina propria

T

B

Blood

Inductive sites

Peyer's patch  
(Mesenteric lymph node)



FDA

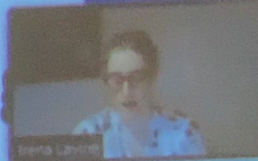
Irena Levine

March 7, 2020  
Columbia Celiac  
Confernece

## Clinical Benefit

- A key goal of any clinical development program is to demonstrate the **clinical benefit** of the therapy
- Clinical benefit is a favorable effect on a meaningful aspect of how a **patient feels, functions, or survives** as a result of treatment
- Clinical benefit must be clinically meaningful, measurable, and interpretable

FDA



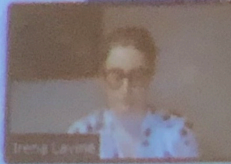
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# Measuring Clinical Benefit in Celiac Disease

FDA



- Assess the effect on both signs and symptoms and underlying histologic inflammation
  - Evaluate whether the underlying disease (e.g., histology) has improved (or not worsened) despite symptom improvement
- Determine appropriate instruments/tools to measure the relevant signs/symptoms that represent a clinical benefit in the target population
- Submit data to support what degree of improvement in signs/symptoms provides convincing evidence that patients have benefited from treatment

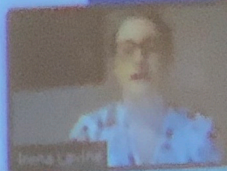
FDA

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# Patient-Reported Outcome (PRO) Assessment

FDA



- An assessment based on a report that comes directly from the patient without interpretation
- Can be self-completed or interviewer-administered
- PRO assessments can measure patient's symptoms, signs, or an aspect of functioning related to a disease
- Only PRO assessments can measure symptoms a patient experiences with a condition
  - Example: Self-report of pain intensity on a 0 to 10 numeric rating scale (NRS)
- FDA Guidance for Industry Patient-Reported Outcome Measures: Use in Medical Product Development to Support Labeling Claims
  - <https://www.fda.gov/media/77832/download>

## FDA 'validated' PROs (CeDPRO & CDSD)

	CeDPRO	CDSD
Abdominal cramping	X	
Abdominal pain	X	X
Bloating	X	
Constipation	X	X
Diarrhea	X	X
Flatulence	X	
Loose stool	X	
Nausea	X	X
Vomiting	X	
Headache	X	X
Tiredness	X	

Do not necessarily measure symptoms related to gluten induced immune activation in CeD patients

# Symptoms

## Masked (one off) food challenge w/vital gluten vs sham

**TABLE 1** Symptoms on the day of sham and gluten challenges

	CeD PRO scores (0-10) Median (interquartile range)				Symptom occurrence Number (%) of patients out of 36 with item score ≥1			
	Sham	Gluten	Difference <sup>a</sup>	P-value <sup>b</sup>	Sham	Gluten	Difference <sup>a</sup>	P-value <sup>c</sup>
Nausea	0 (0-0)	5.5 (0-9)	4.5 (0-8)	<.001	4 (11)	25 (69)	21 (58)	<.001
Tiredness	1 (0-3)	4 (1-7)	1.5 (0-4)	.005	20 (56)	29 (81)	9 (25)	.063
Headache	0 (0-1)	2 (0-5)	1 (0-4)	.002	10 (28)	21 (58)	11 (31)	.075
Pain	0 (0-1)	1 (0-3)	0 (0-2)	.015	10 (28)	20 (56)	10 (28)	.055
Cramping	0 (0-1)	1 (0-4)	0 (0-2)	.017	9 (25)	19 (53)	10 (28)	.065
Diarrhoea	0 (0-0)	0 (0-5)	0 (0-2)	.021	7 (19)	17 (47)	10 (28)	.070
Loose Stool	0 (0-1)	0.5 (0-5)	0 (0-1)	.032	9 (25)	18 (50)	9 (25)	.065
Bloating	0 (0-2)	0.5 (0-3)	0 (0-2)	.292	15 (42)	18 (50)	3 (8)	.716
Gas	1 (0-1)	1 (0-3)	0 (-1 to 1)	.857	24 (67)	23 (64)	-1 (-3)	1

# Gluten challenge: Meaningful PROs

Short term (hours & days)

|| ?

Long term (weeks and months)

## Imminent question

In coeliac disease with detailed mechanistic insight (in contrast to many other immune mediated disease like T1D, IBD), should drug development be guided first and foremost by PROs?

What about biological surrogate markers?

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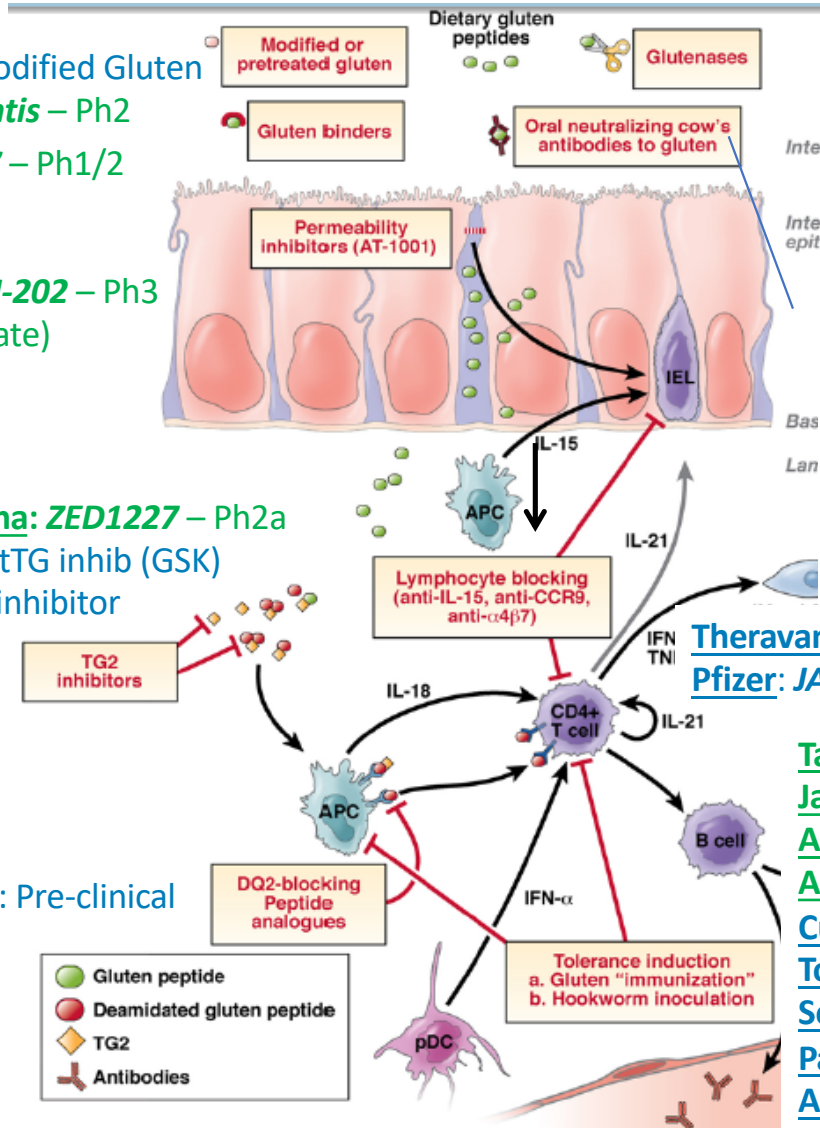
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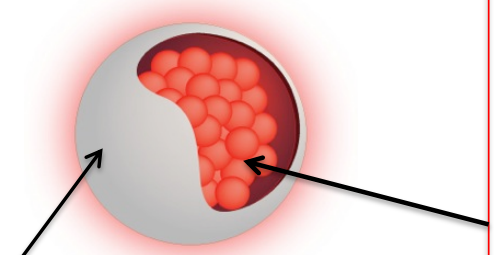
Francisco Leon



# GLUTEN TOLERANCE ACHIEVED WITH IMMUNE MODIFYING PARTICLES

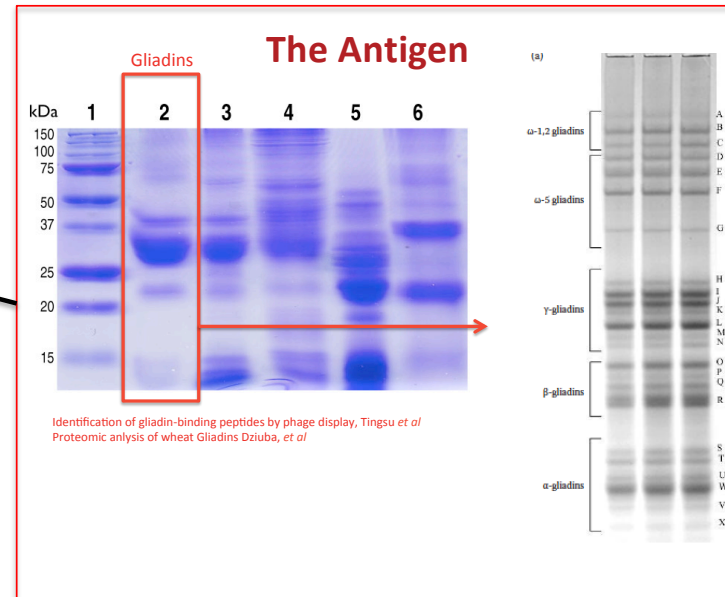
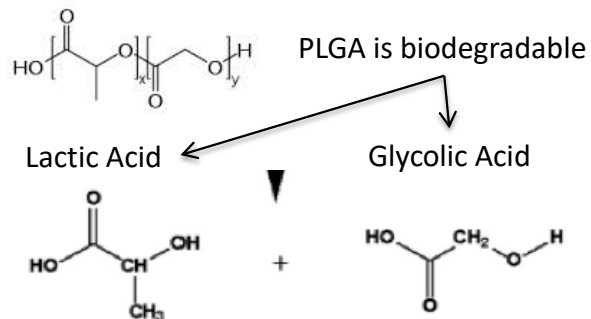
## Tolerogenic Immune-Modifying Particles for Celiac (COUR-NP-GLI)

- Novel surface properties for targeted antigen delivery/immune modulation
- Antigen load ~ 2.9ug protein/mg polymer
- Antigen fully encapsulated for safety



### The Particle

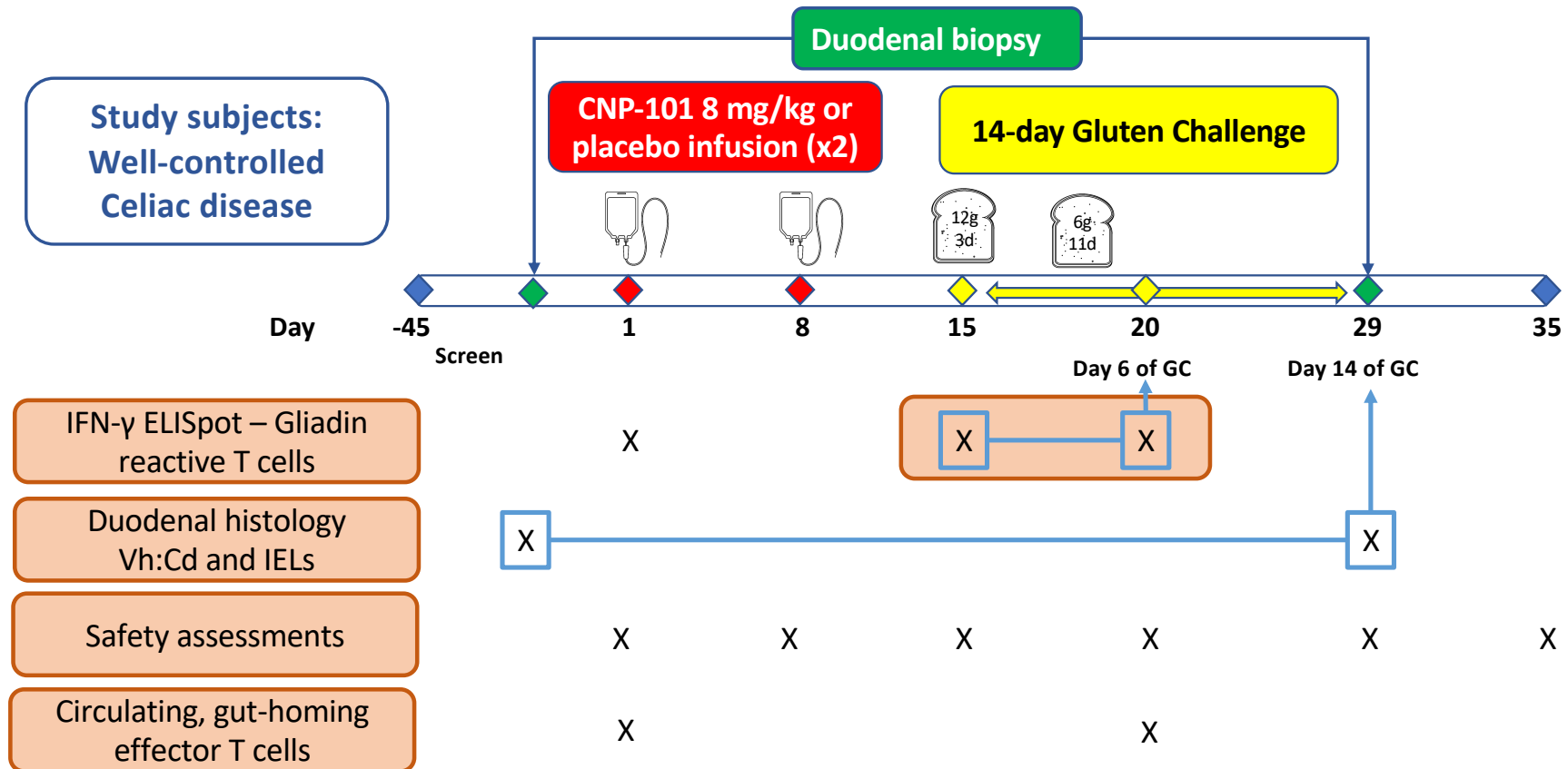
PLGA with proprietary surface modifications



Particle (administered IV) is taken up via apoptotic pathway and trafficked to the spleen and processed by APCs.

Slide from  
C. Kelly

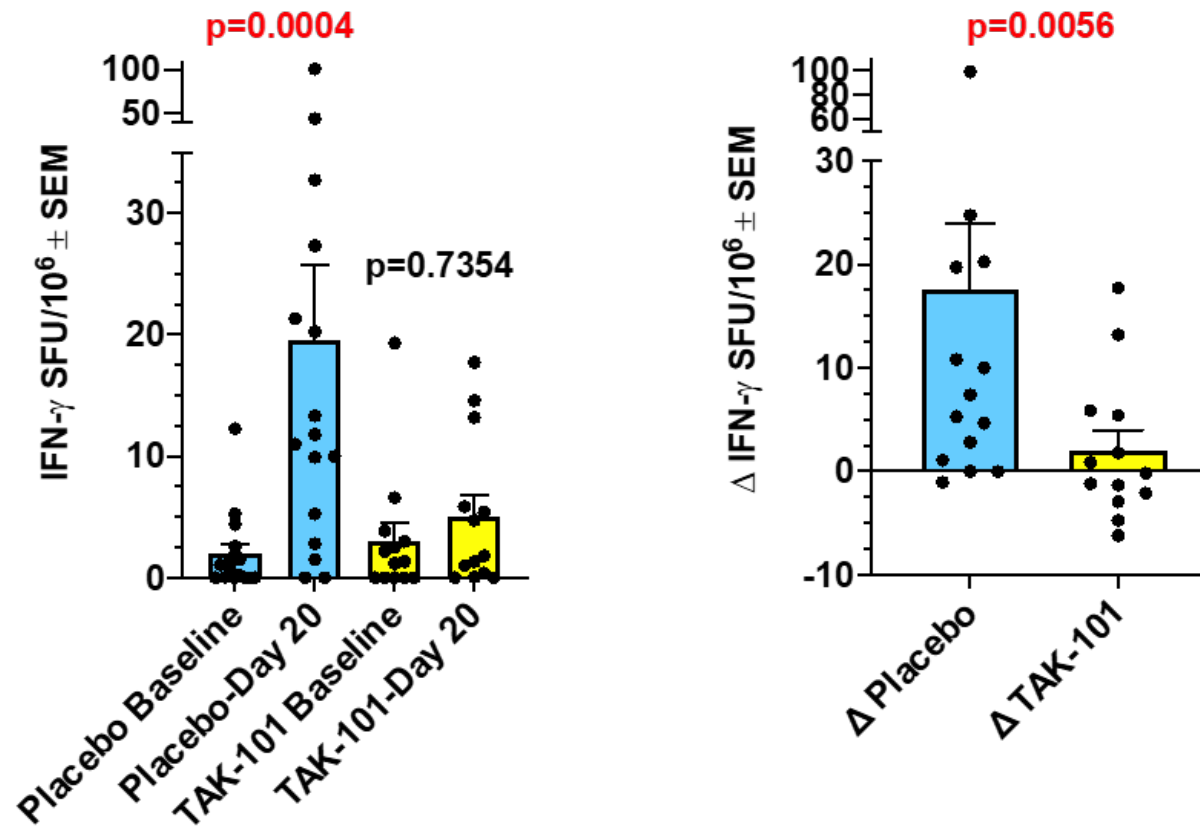
# Phase 2a TAK-101 Proof-of-Concept study schematic



Slide from C. Kelly

CeD, celiac disease; ELISpot, enzyme-linked immunospot; GC, Gluten Challenge; IEL, intraepithelial lymphocytes; IFN, interferon; PBMC, peripheral blood mononuclear cell; Vh:Cd, villus height to crypt depth ratio

# TAK-101 met primary efficacy objective: reduced IFN- $\gamma$ spot forming units response to gluten challenge

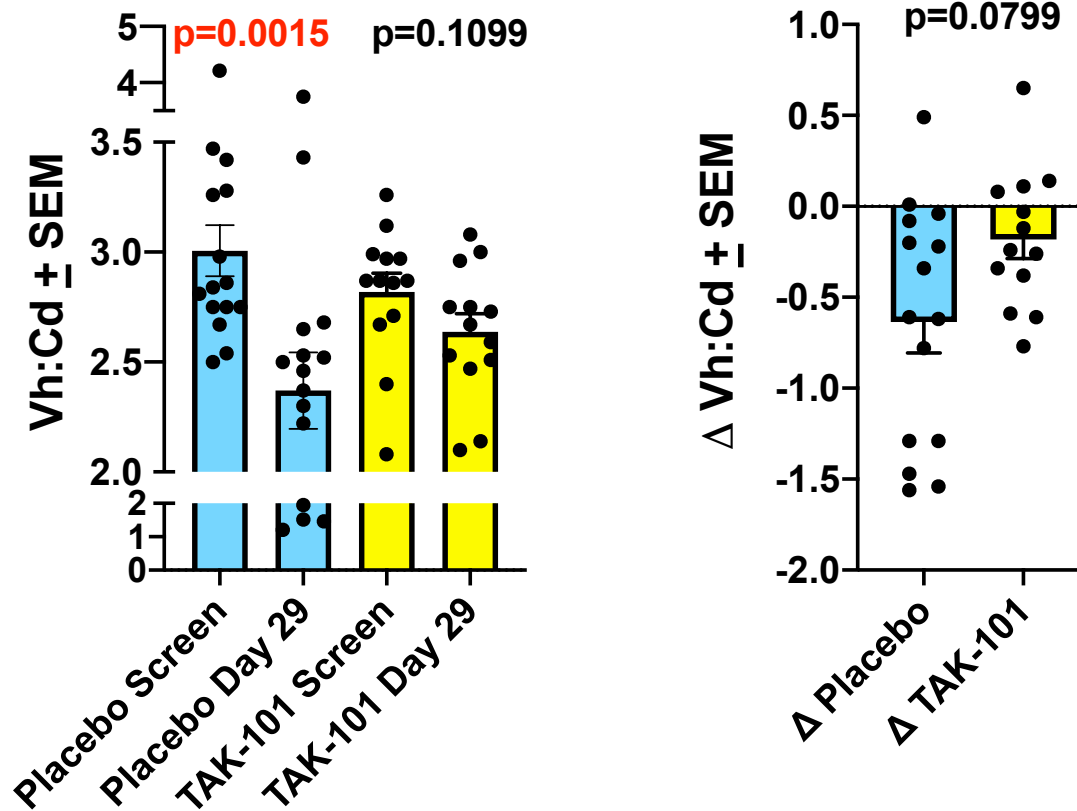


Day 20 = 6 days after initiating Gluten Challenge

Baseline denotes Day 15 (or Day 1, if Day 15 sample inadequate)  
ELISpot, enzyme-linked immunospot;  
GC, gluten challenge; IFN, interferon; SFU, spot forming units

Slide from C. Kelly

# TMP-101 pre-treatment protects against histologic damage during gluten challenge



Slide from C. Kelly

GC, gluten challenge; Vh:Cd, villus height to crypt depth ratio

Day 29 = 15 days after initiating Gluten Challenge

# CNP-101 was safe and well tolerated: AE results of Phase 2a study

- No serious adverse events (SAEs)
- No clinically significant changes in:
  - vital signs,
  - routine clinical laboratory results
  - liver function tests (LFTs)
  - serum cytokines/chemokines
  - T cell proliferation
- Complement levels transiently raised in all patients, not associated with adverse events (AEs)
- Most AEs were mild and transient

Phase 2a		
	CNP-101	Placebo
AE		
Nausea	81%	72%
Abdomen distention	56%	61%
Diarrhea	50%	50%
Headache	44%	17%
Abdominal pain	38%	28%
Vomiting	31%	33%
Fatigue	33%	50%
Back pain	31%	0%

Slide from C. Kelly

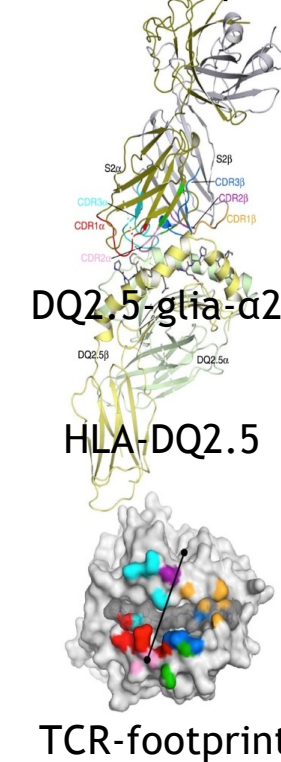
AE, adverse event; CNP, Cour Nanoparticle Platform; LFT, liver function test; SAE, serious adverse event

# Nexvax2<sup>®</sup>

## Short deamidated peptides for injection

Peptide	Length/Amino-acids	1 <sup>st</sup> T cell epitope (seq)	2 <sup>nd</sup> T cell epitope (seq)	Avidity for HLA-DQ2.5	Avidity for HLA-DQ8	Avidity for HLA-DQ2.2
NPL001	16	DQ2.5-glia- $\alpha$ 1a PFPQPELPY	DQ2.5-glia- $\alpha$ 2 PQPELPYPQ	Intermediate	Low	Negligible
NPL002	15	DQ2.5-glia- $\omega$ 1 PFPQPEQPF	DQ2.5-glia- $\omega$ 2 PQPEQPFPW	Intermediate	Negligible	Negligible
NPL003	16	DQ2.5-hor-3 PIPEQPQPY	DQ2.5-glia- $\gamma$ 5 EQPIPEQPQ	Intermediate	Low	Negligible

T-cell receptor

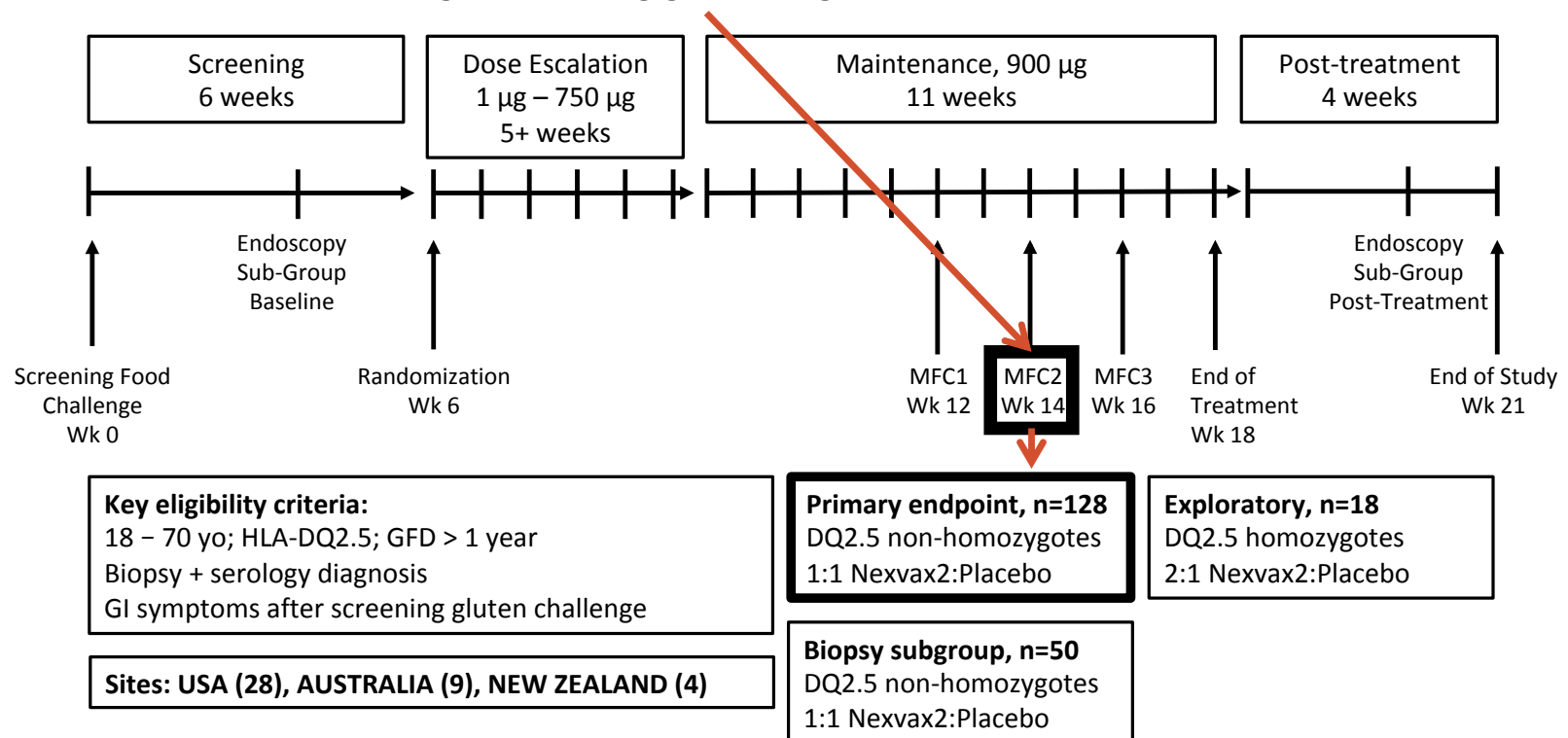


Slide from  
L. Williams/  
R. Anderson

Goel G et al., *Lancet Gast Hepatol* 2017; Petersen J N et al., *Nat Struct Mol Biol* 2014

# Study Design

**Primary Objective:** To evaluate the efficacy of Nexvax2 compared with placebo in reducing CeD-associated overall GI symptoms in CeD patients on GFD after the first masked food challenge containing gluten (6 grams).



Slide from  
L. Williams/  
R. Anderson

## Primary endpoint not met

Change from Baseline	Non-Homozygote (n=65)		Combined (n=88)	
	Total GI Score	Nausea	Total GI Score	Nausea
Placebo: Mean (SEM) <sup>a</sup>	2.10 (0.44)	4.29 (0.71)	2.08 (0.40)	4.15 (0.66)
Nexvax2: Mean (SEM) <sup>a</sup>	2.74 (0.45)	4.81 (0.72)	2.51 (0.35)	4.38 (0.59)
Difference <sup>a</sup> (90% CI)	0.63 (-0.42, 1.68)	0.52 (-1.18, 2.21)	0.43 (-0.46, 1.31)	0.23 (-1.23, 1.70)
p-value (1-sided) <sup>b</sup>	0.8404	0.6933	0.7876	0.6040

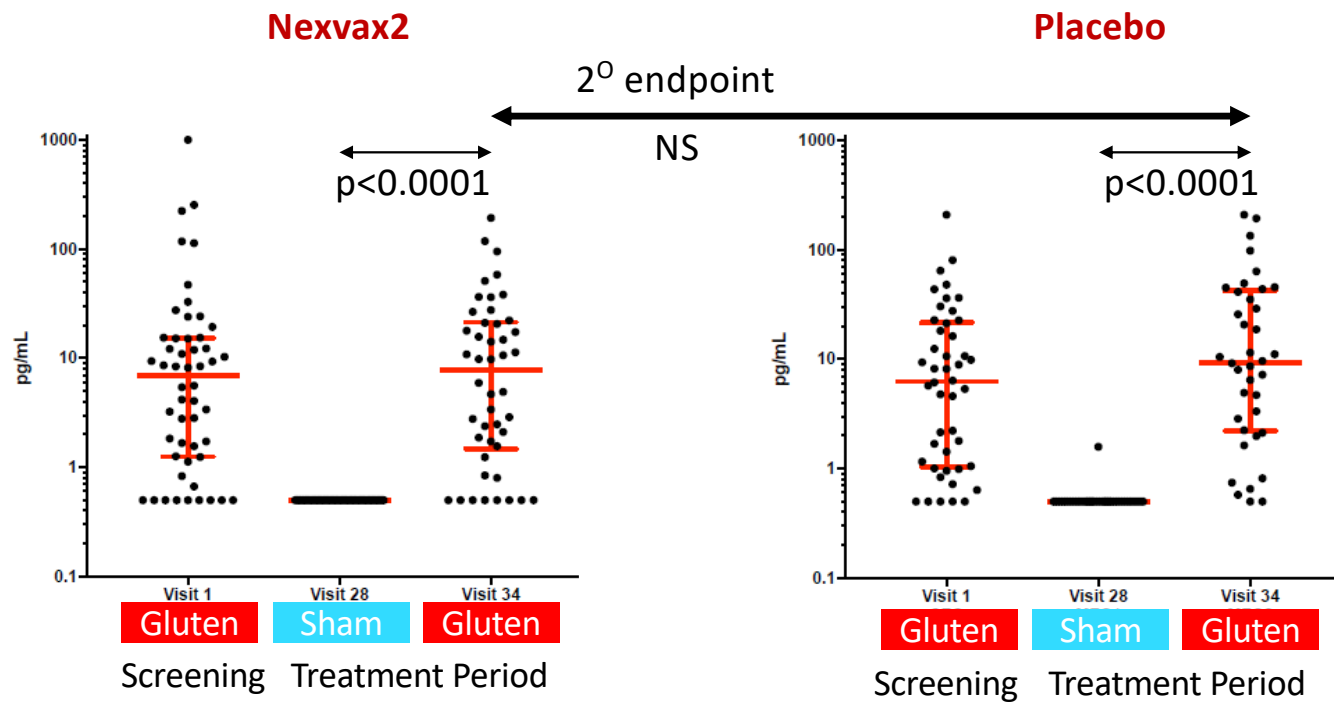
a: Least-squares means from ANCOVA model with the baseline score as a covariate.

b: 1-sided p-value for change from baseline via an ANCOVA model with the baseline score as a covariate.

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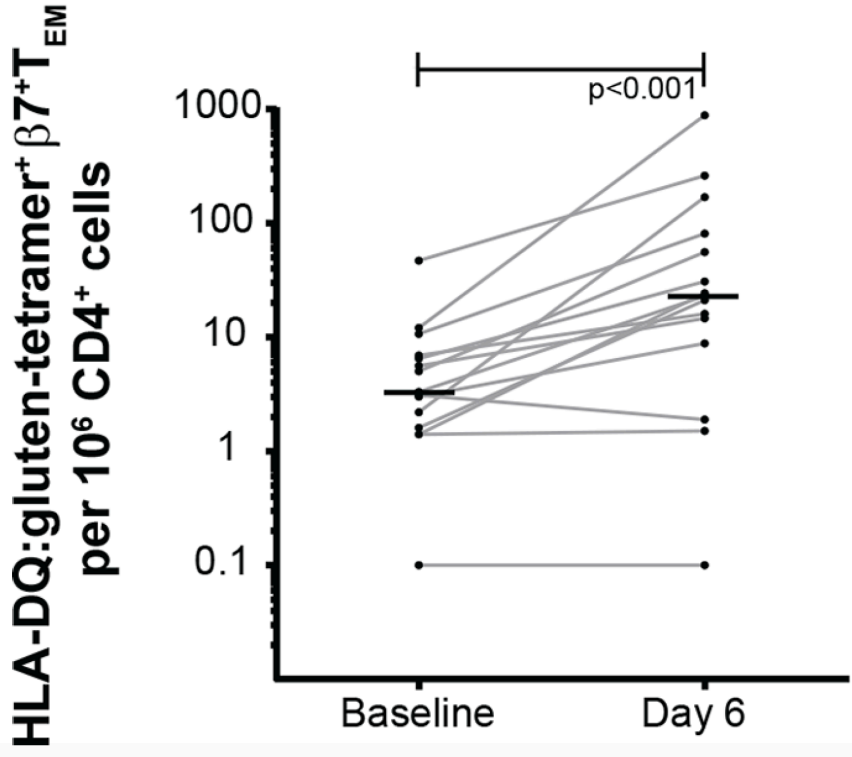


# Secondary endpoint: Serum IL-2 4 h after gluten exposure

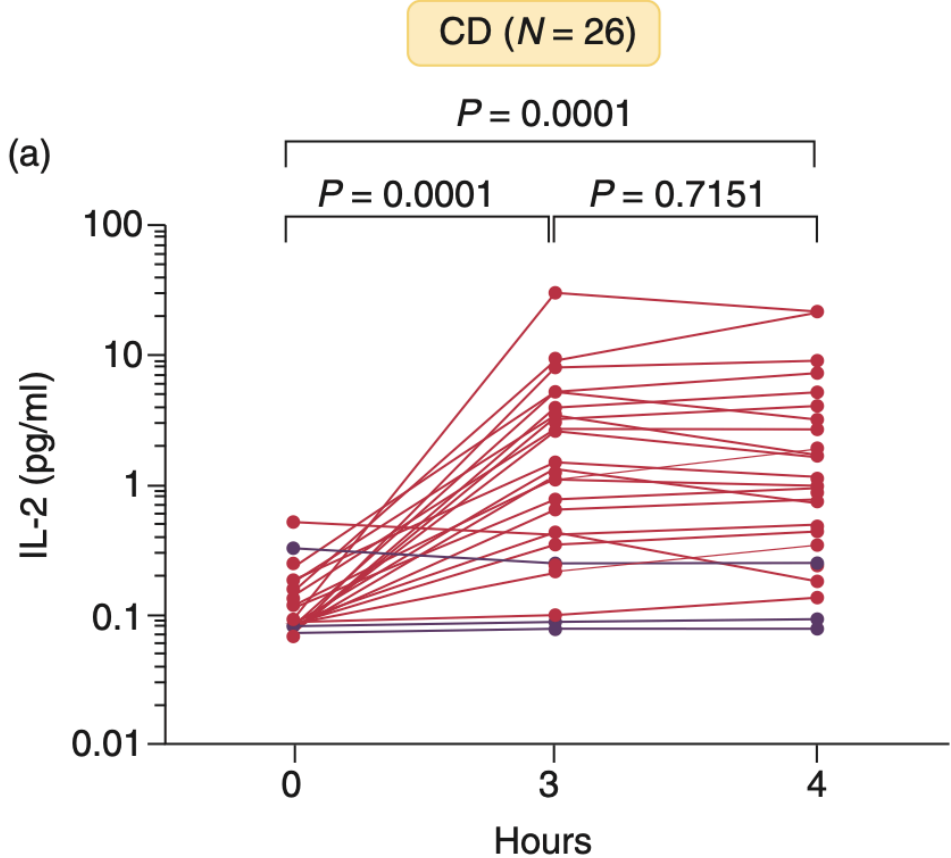


Slide from  
L. Williams/  
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# Gluten challenge: Large inter-individual variation in response for HLA-DQ:gluten tetramer and serum IL2

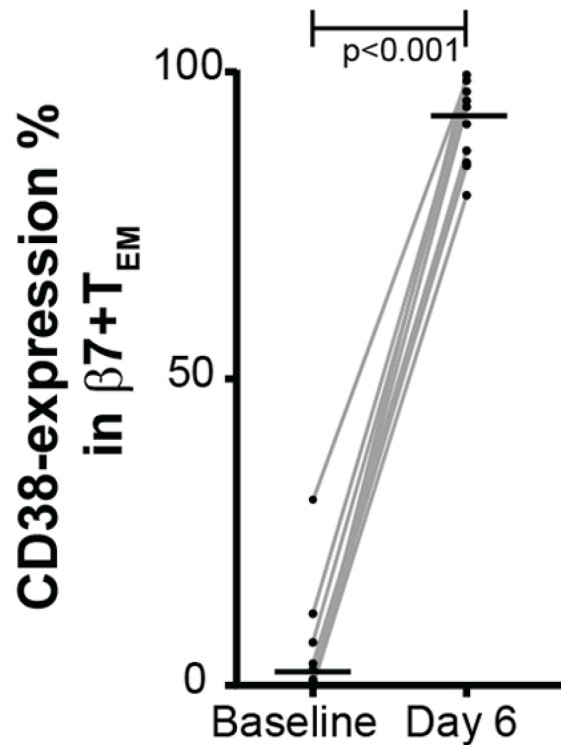


Sarna et al., Gut 2017

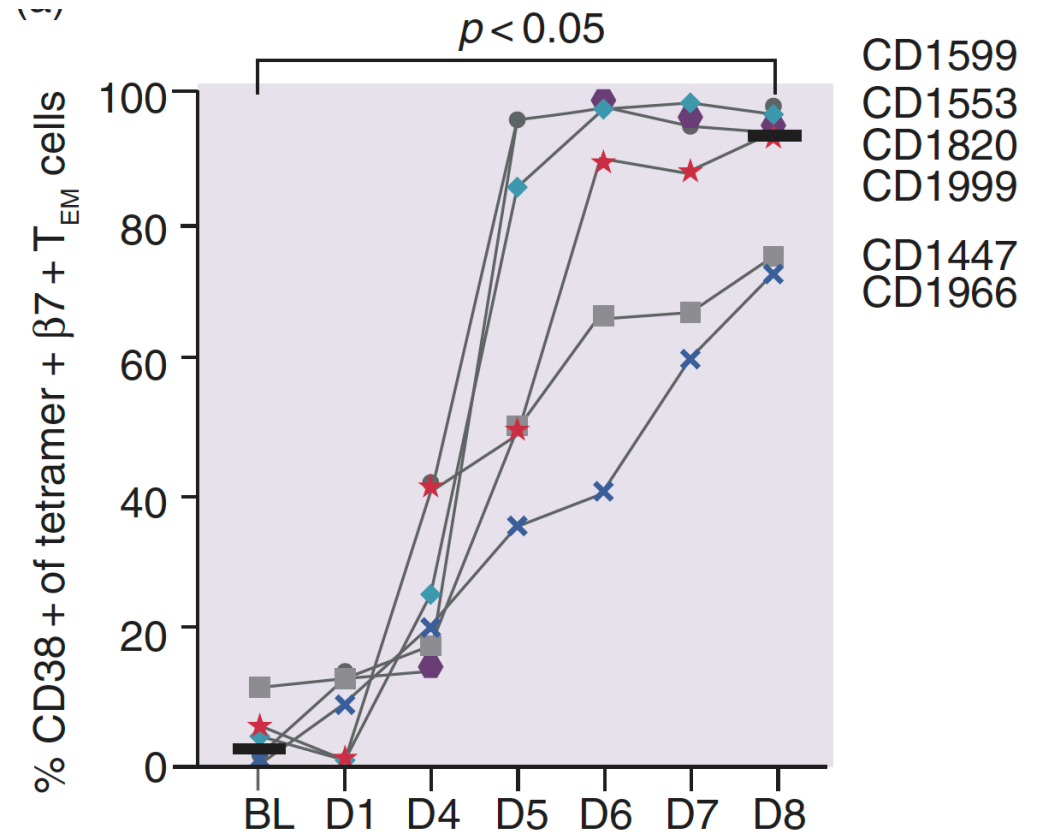


Tye-Din et al., UEG J 2020

# Gluten challenge: Uniform increase in CD38 expression in blood on HLA-DQ:gluten tetramer cells



Sarna et al., Gut 2017



Zuehlke et al, UEG J 2019

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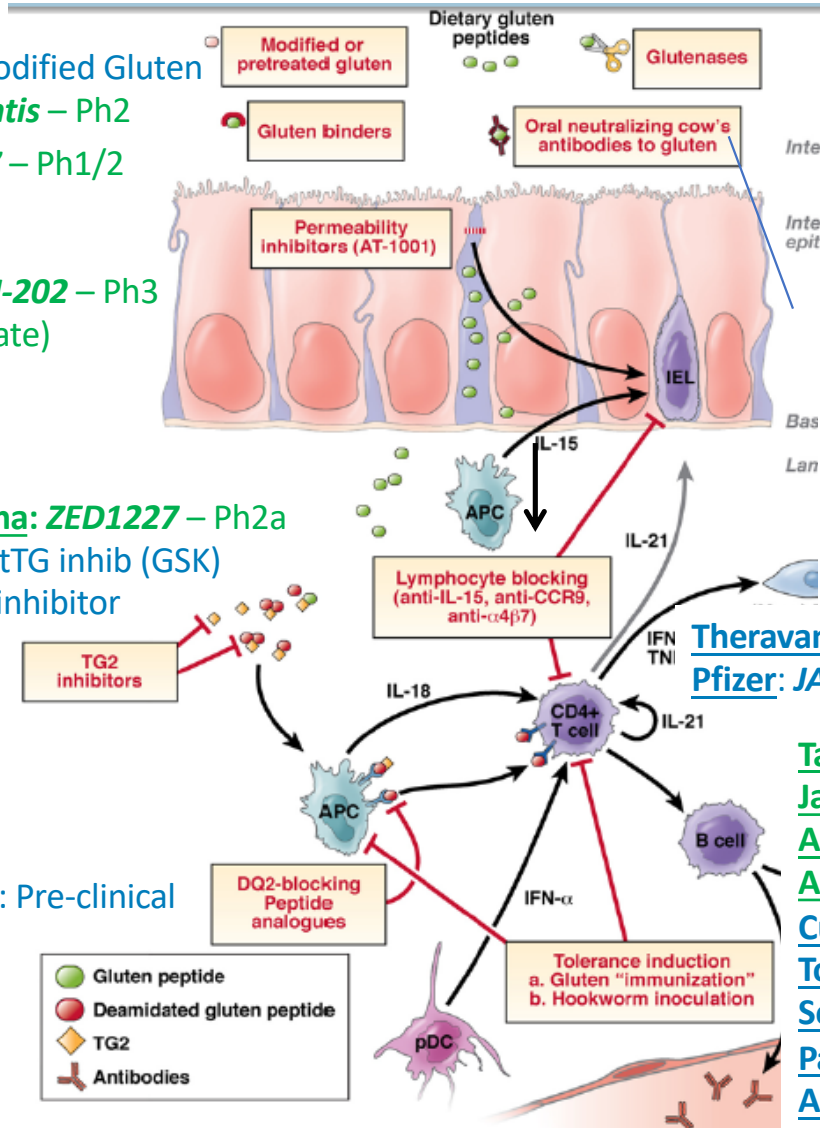
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