

Mechanisms of recognition of pathogens and of damaged self by receptors of innate immunity

Prof. Giovanni Bernardini October 8th 2025

Il materiale contenuto in questo documento è distribuito a uso interno e a puro scopo didattico

What are we going to talk about today?

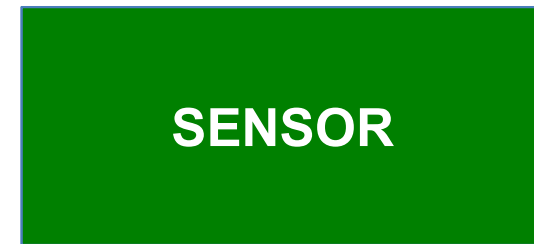
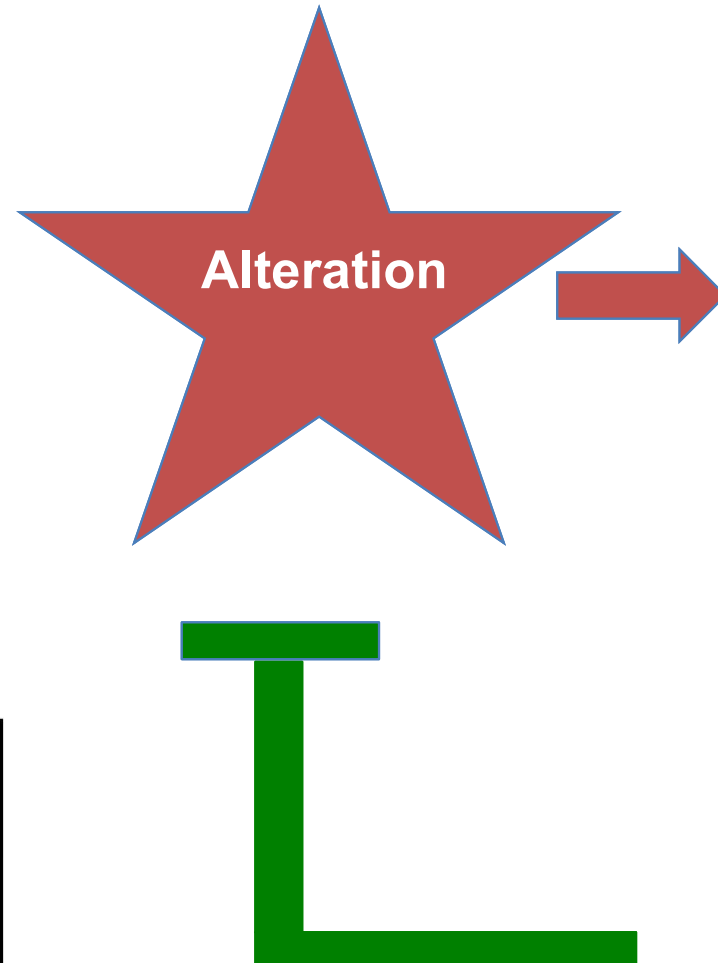
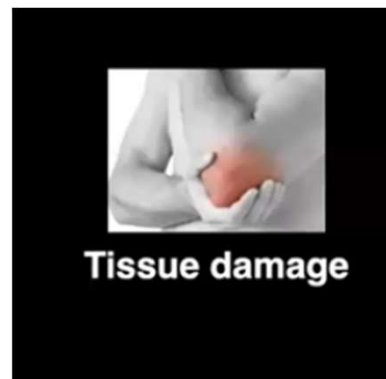
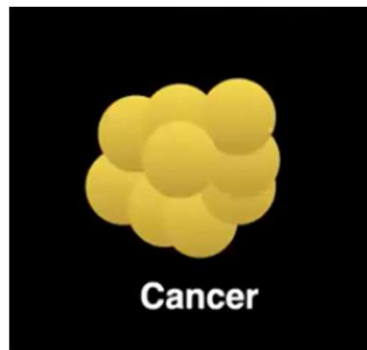
What is the role of the innate immune system and how does it work?

How do innate immune system cells recognize pathogens?

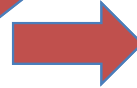
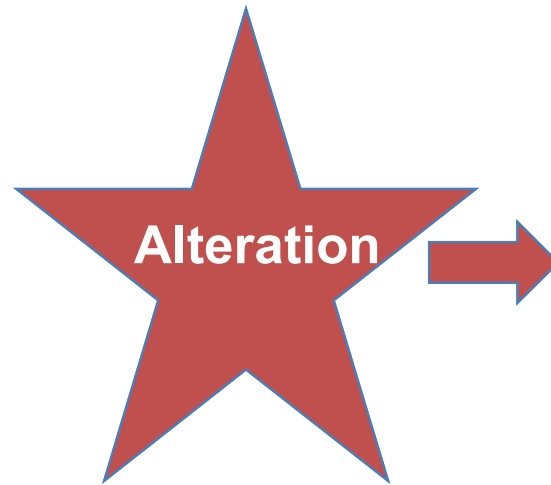
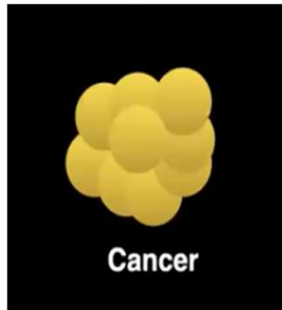
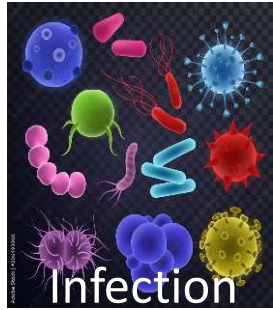
Diversity of recognition molecules and of signaling pathways associated

What are the functional outcomes of recognition?

Immune system responds against TISSUE ALTERATION



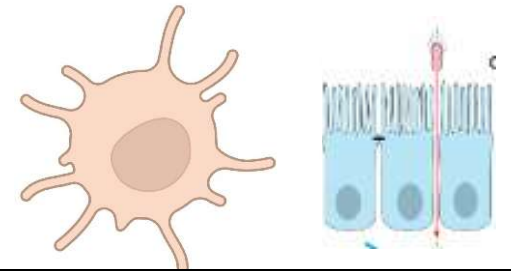
Immune responses against TISSUE ALTERATION



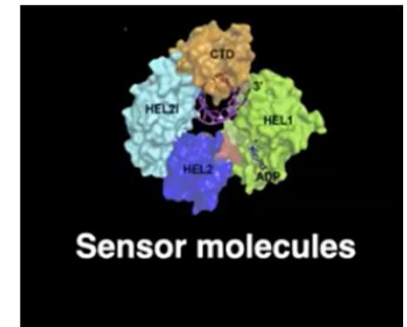
SENSOR



RESPONSE



Sensor cells (immune, i.e. DCs, or other non immune cells)



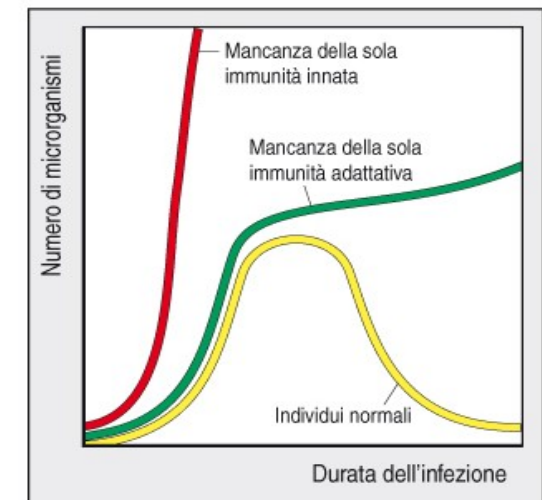
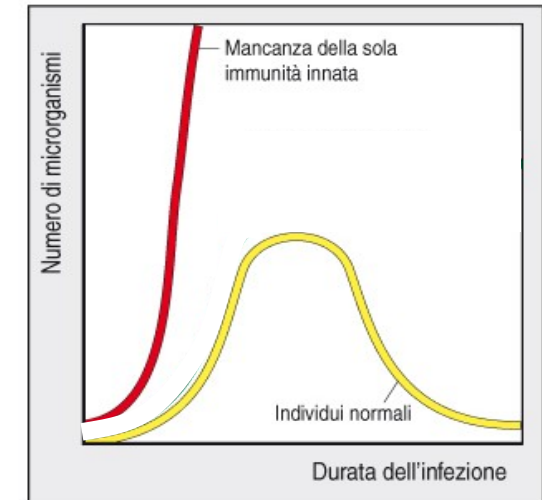
The immune system includes:

Innate or Natural immunity, Innate immunity provides the early line of defence against microbes and exploits common mechanisms of defence regardless of the pathogen. Its main function are

Function 1: **to limit infection**

Function 2: **to provide signals for activation of adaptive responses**

Acquired or adaptive immunity, provides a later response activated by **recognition** of the antigen and by **signals provided by innate responses**. It uses different mechanisms according to the pathogen type. Its role is **to eradicate infection and to provide protection**.



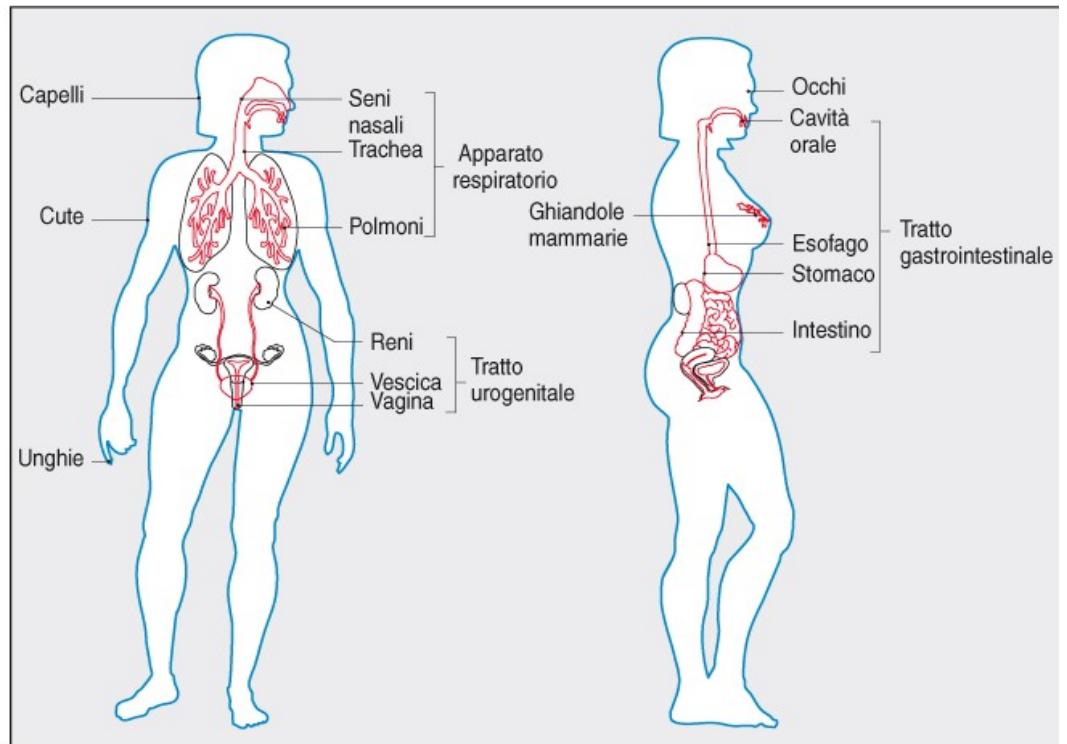
The main differences between innate and acquired immunity are in the level of **specificity**, **diversification of recognition** and of **memory** (the ability to remember the pathogen and to react more rapidly and powerfully to a second challenge).

What are the access route for a pathogen?

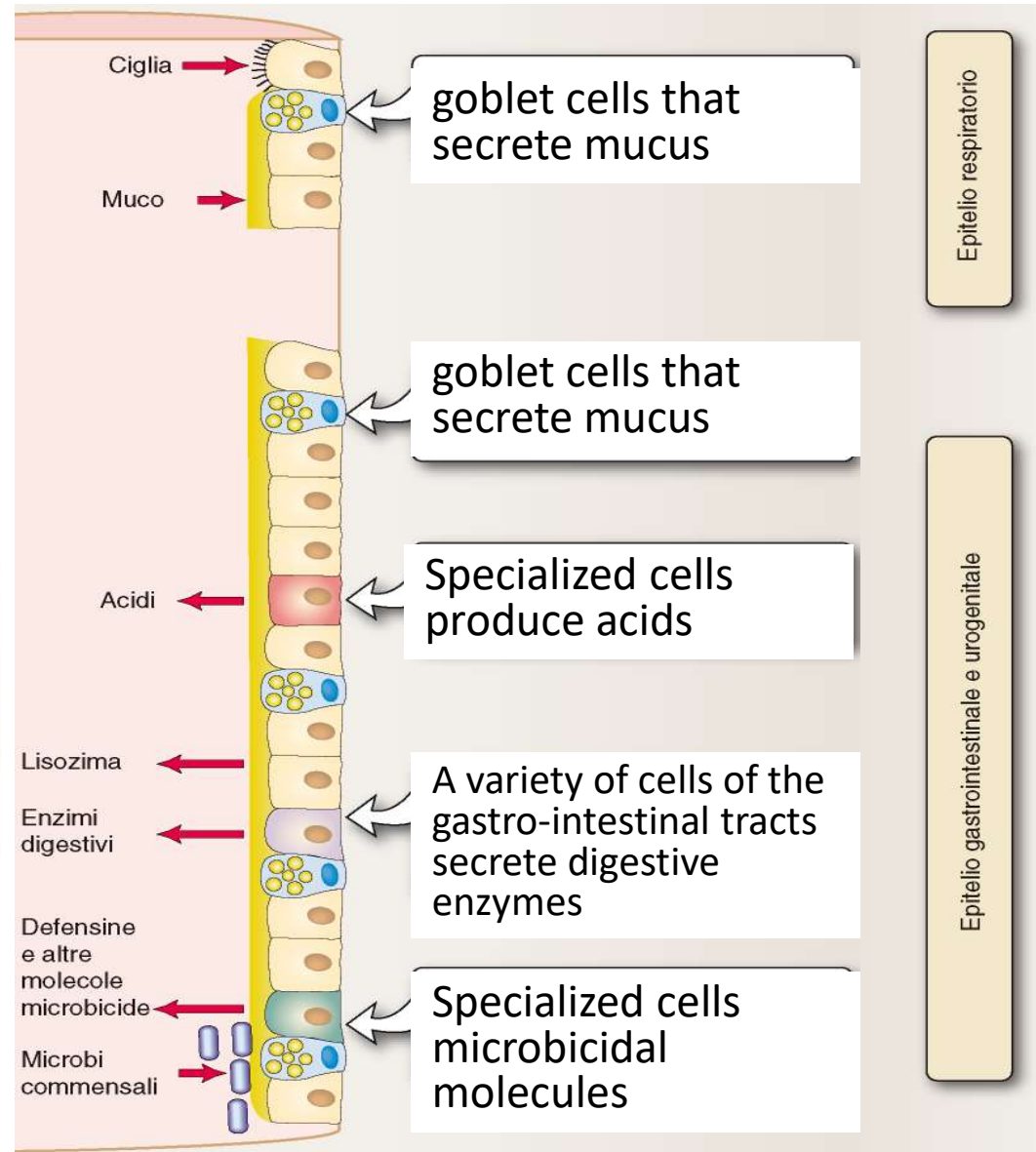
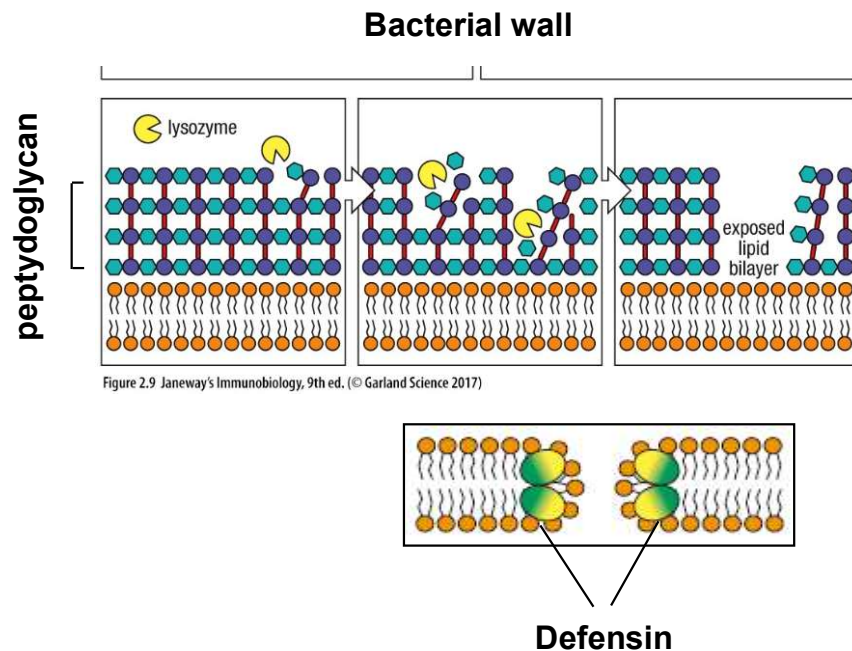
Epithelial surfaces-external and internal:

- The **skin**

- The **mucosa**: Respiratory
Urogenital
Gastrointestinal tract



Remember that epithelial barriers are at the edge of immune defence!!!!



Function 1: to directly limit infection

The two main type of anti-microbial innate immune responses are **inflammation** and **anti-viral defence**

During **inflammation**, leukocytes and plasma proteins accumulate in infected tissues where they are activated to **kill and clear pathogens**.

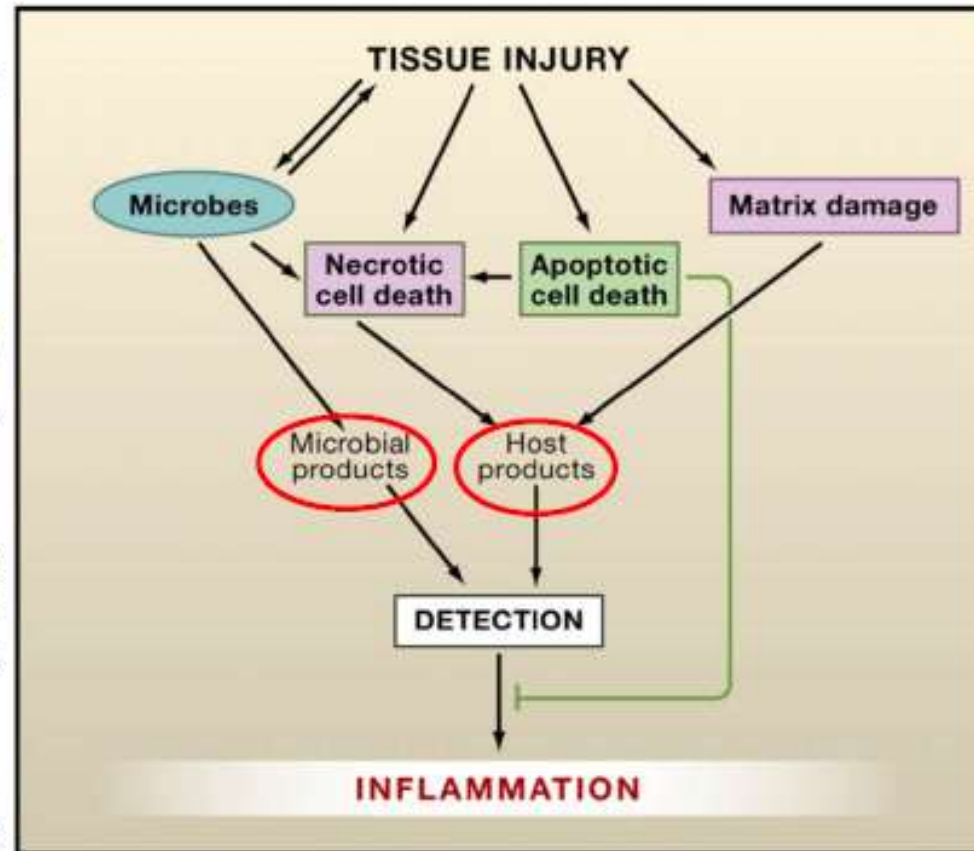
This type of response is active also in the absence of microbes, in **conditions of death/damaged cell accumulation** that may derive from infection or wounds.

During **anti-viral responses**, cells are driven into an «**antiviral state**» that either inhibits viral replication or increases suseptibility of infected cells to **killing by lymphocytes**.

Detection of microbial product or host damaged materials activate inflammation

Inflammation

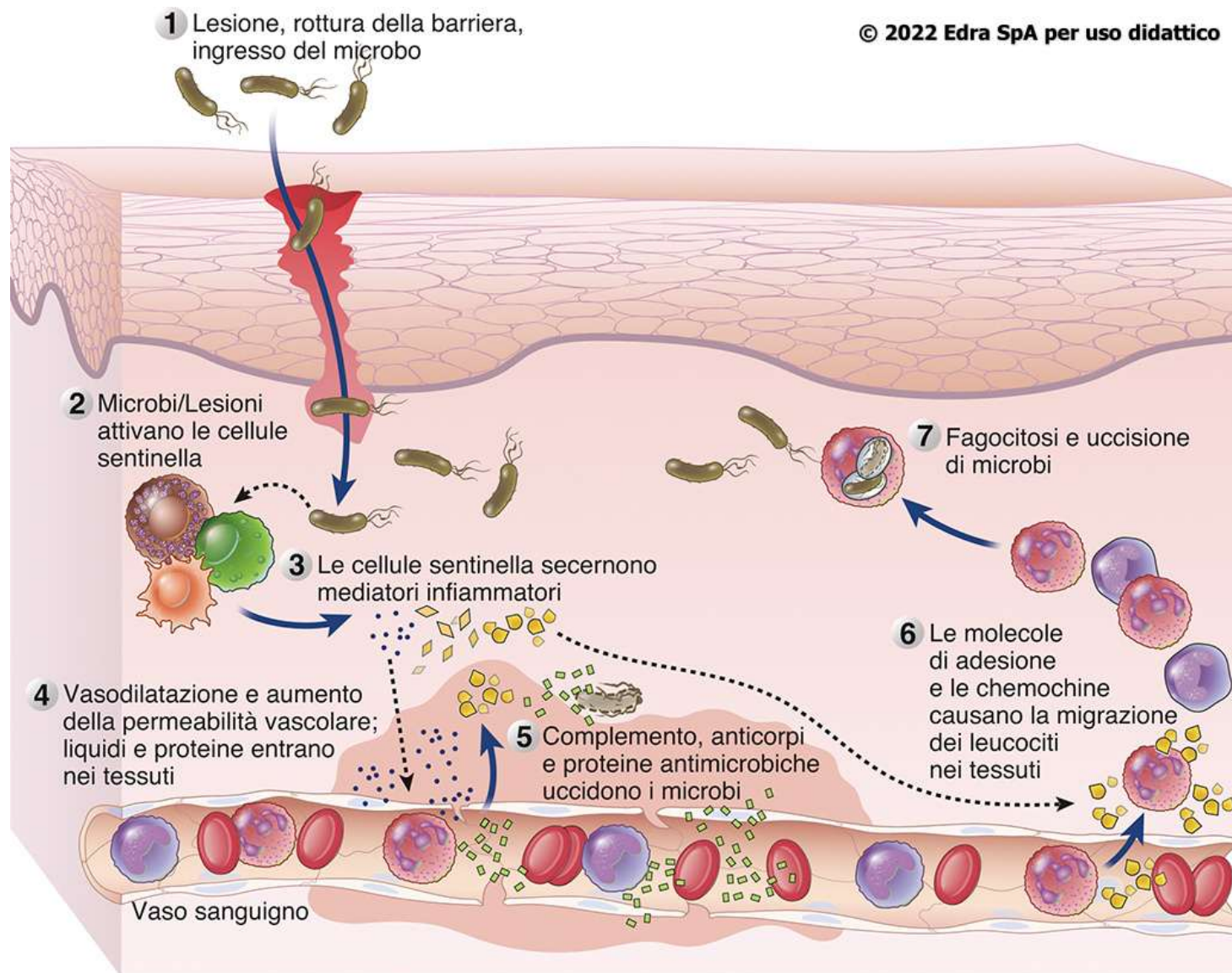
- A host immune response against noxious agents aimed at:
 - ✓ **protecting** all living organisms from exogenous pathogens
 - ✓ **repairing** tissue damage caused by a variety of noxious stimuli, including infection and injury.
- Inflammatory responses are highly heterogeneous in terms of the cell types and molecular mediators involved.
- Inflammation also comes in different modalities that can be classified as:
 - ✓ acute versus chronic
 - ✓ local versus systemic



Inflammation is marked by capillary dilatation, leukocyte infiltration, redness, heat, and pain

Leukocytes, fluids and proteins come from the blood

Detection of microbial products or host damaged materials activate inflammation



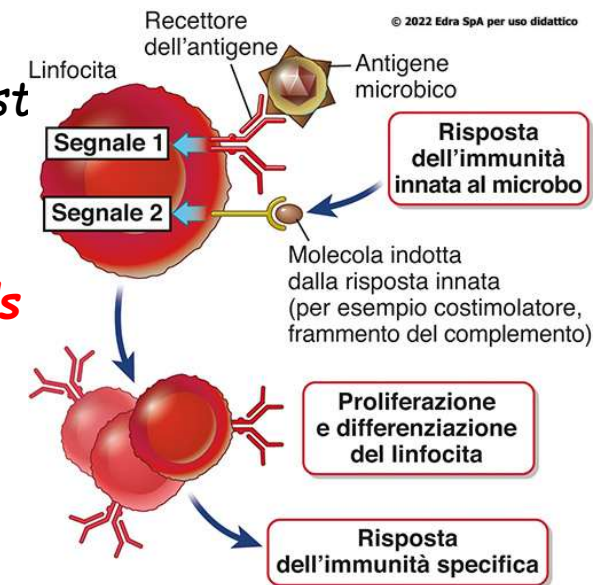
Le risposte infiammatorie acute iniziano quando i microbi invadono i tessuti o in seguito ad un danno

Function 2: Innate immune recognition at the cross-roads between adaptive and innate immune responses

-Activation of the adaptive immune response is controlled by the more ancient innate immune system.

*"The requirement for **two signals** to initiate the adaptive immune response may reflect the evolutionary history of host defences.*

Early phases of host defence involve receptors and ligands that may have controlled immune responses prior to the development of clonally-distributed receptors encoded in rearranging genes.



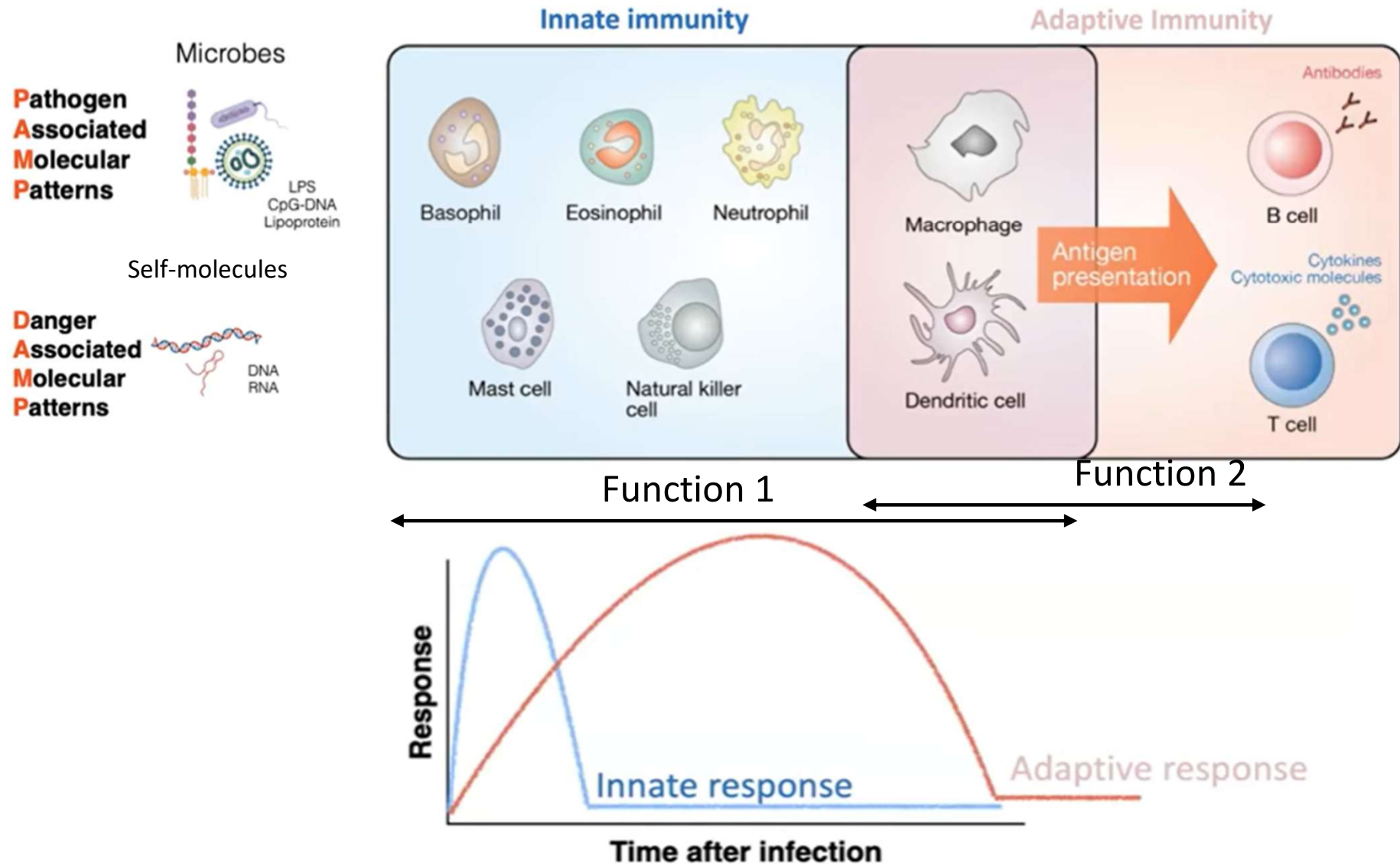
Double role of innate recognition:

"The former receptors persist in contemporary vertebrates both to trigger innate or nonclonal responses and to signal to lymphocytes that a particular antigen is associated with a microorganism"



Charles Janeway Immunology Today 1992

Dinamics of the immune response



First of all, recognition!!

The ability to sense microbes is used by the immune system to maintain host-microbial homeostasis and/or to induce antimicrobial defence mechanisms

Pathogen-associated molecular patterns PAMPS

The pattern recognition theory

In 1989 C. Janeway proposed that innate immune recognition is based on nonclonal, germline-encoded receptors, which he termed pattern recognition receptors (PRRs) (the pattern recognition theory)

Our organism perceives the presence of pathogens-associated molecules uniquely expressed by microorganisms and not associated with host cells.

These molecules are called **pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) or MAMPS** (microbial associated molecular patterns)

pathogen-associated molecular patterns: *profili molecolari associati a patogeni*

Immune response to infection develops in three phases

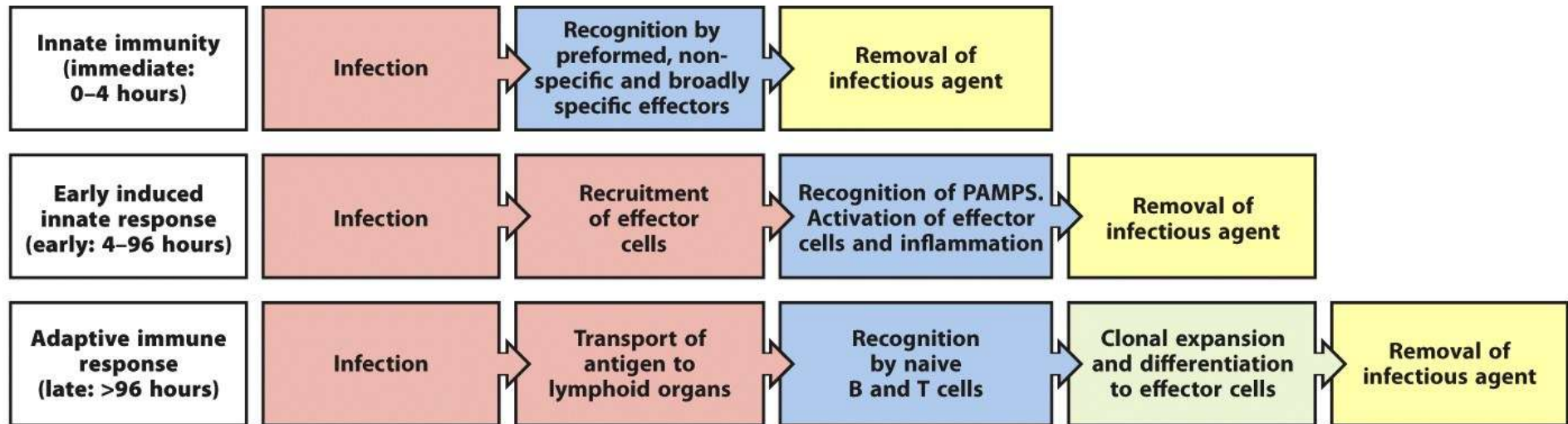
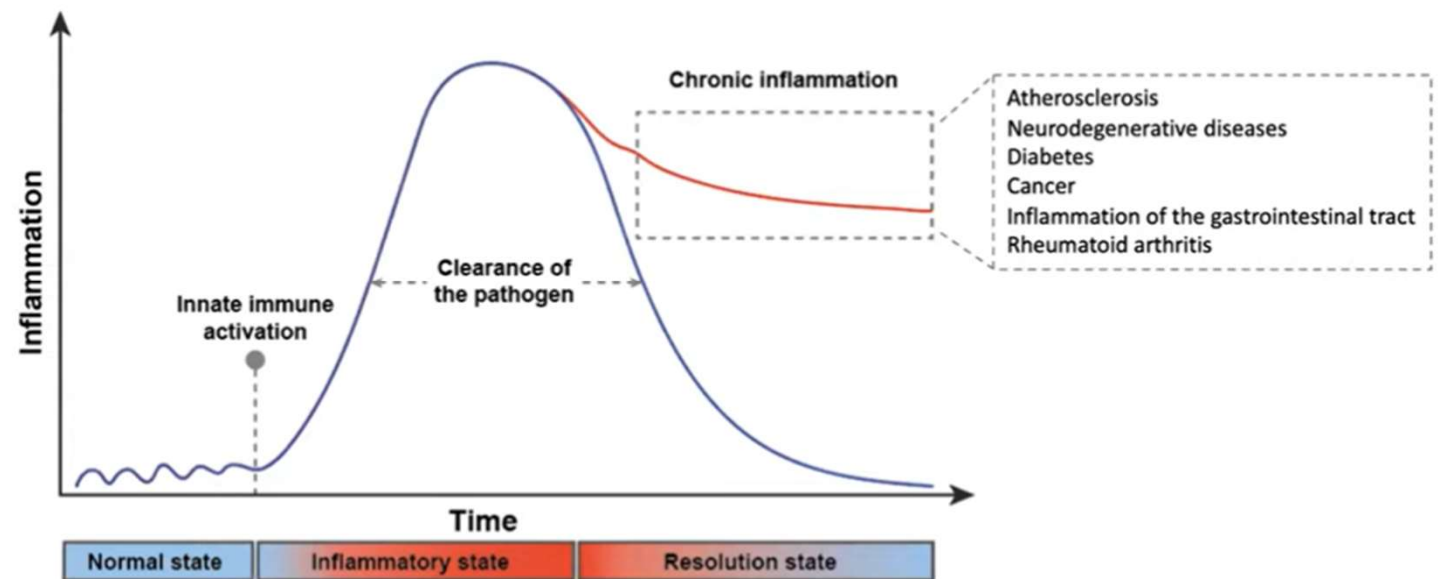


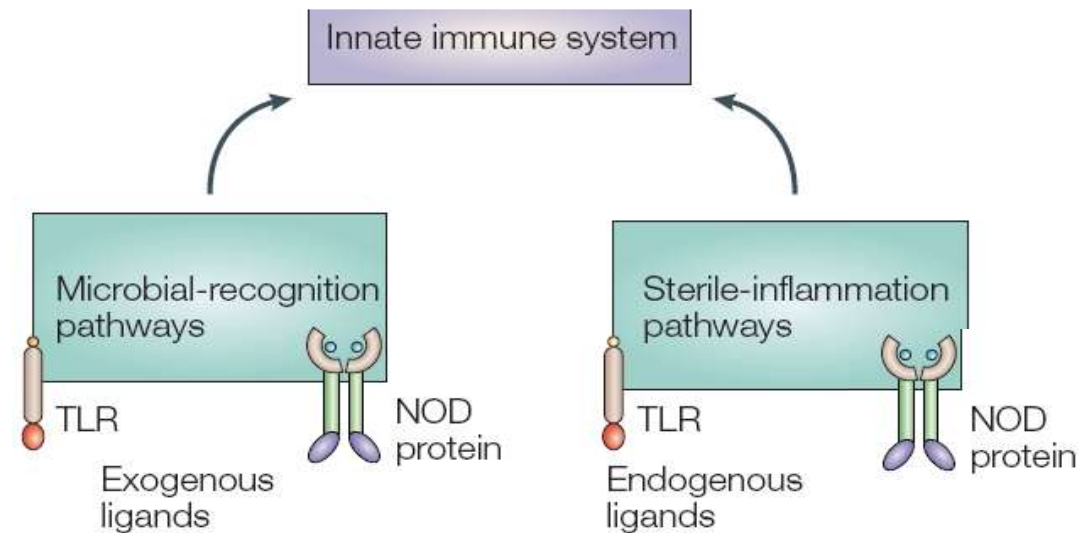
Figure 2.1 Janeway's Immunobiology, 8ed. (© Garland Science 2012)



PAMPS: Pathogen-associated molecular Pattern

Innate immunity at the crossroads between health and disease

Both **pathogen-associated** molecules and endogenous molecules produced by **damaged or death cells** are recognized



NOD, nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain
TLR, Toll-like receptor

Microbial invasion:

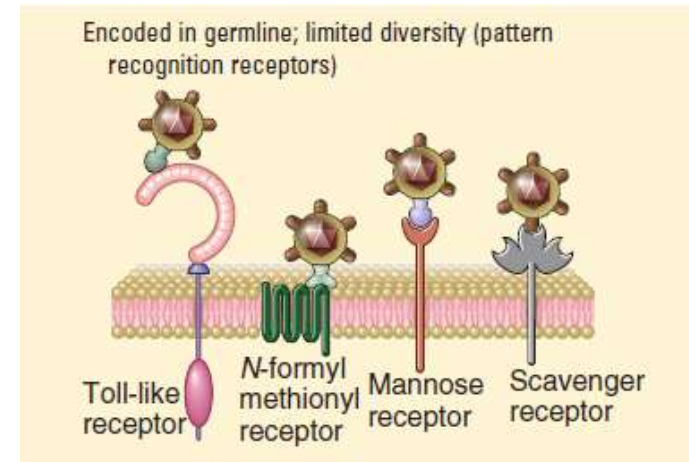
How do innate immune system cells recognize pathogens?

What is different from adaptive cells?

Microbial invasion:

The **innate immune system** is genetically programmed to detect invariant molecular features of invading microbes that **differ** from those of host cells

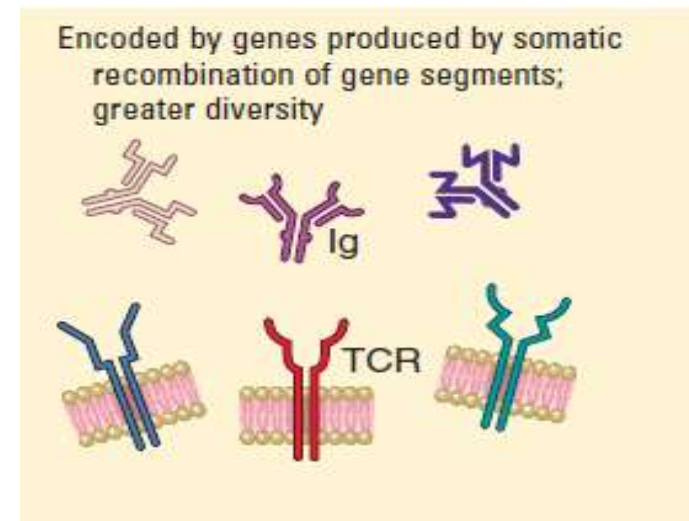
All cells of the same lineage express identical receptors called pathogen recognition receptors



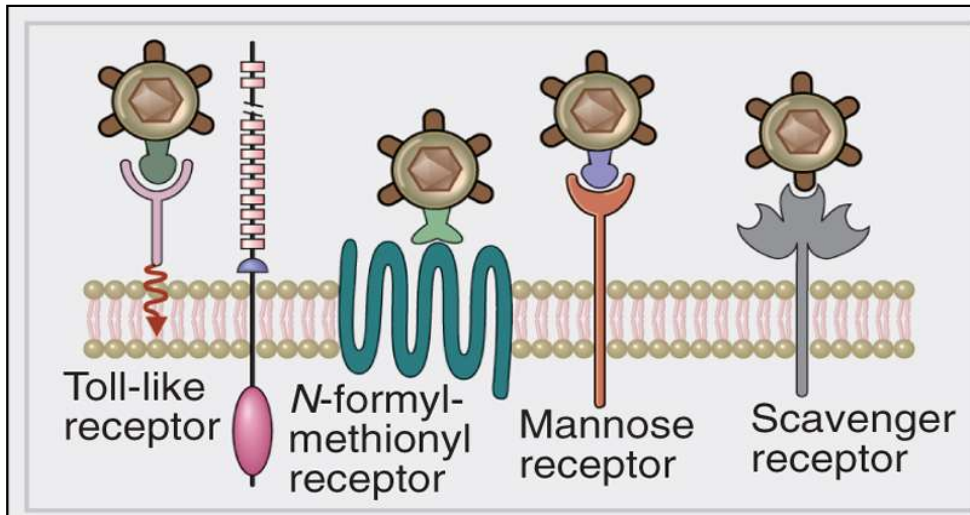
In contrast, **adaptive immune cells** employ antigen receptors that

- Discriminate a number of structural components of microbial molecules (**antigenes**)
- are not encoded in the germline
- are generated de novo in each organism in a random gene recombination process occurring during cell differentiation.

Thus, each B or T cell (clone) express a different antigen receptor.



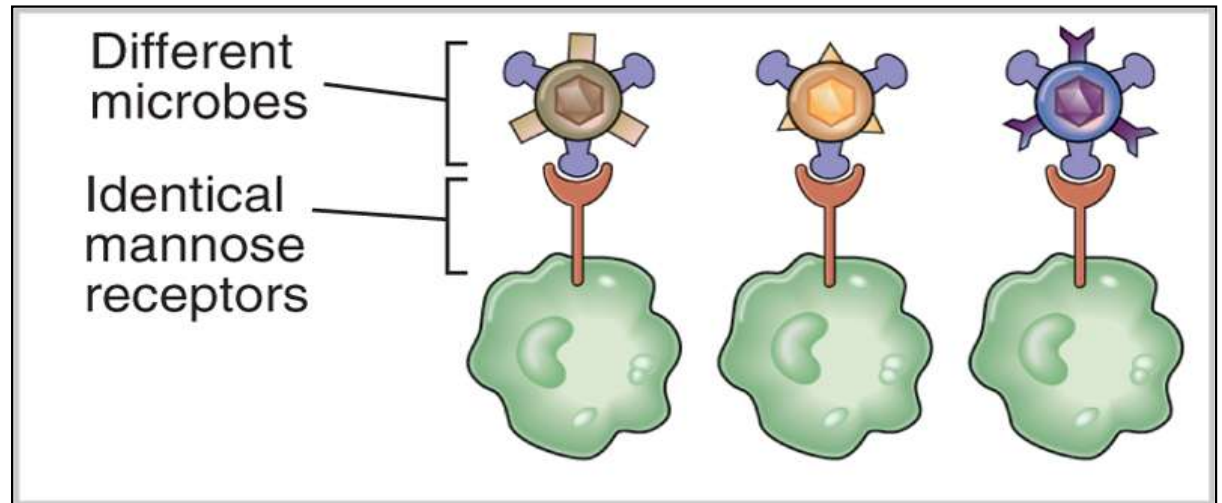
Pathogen recognition receptors (PRR)



Recognition is mediated by specific invariant receptors for pathogen molecular structures which are not expressed by mammal cells ("molecular patterns").

Each cell type expresses several receptor types and is thus able to recognize different molecular patterns.

In addition different microorganisms share same molecular patterns and can thus be recognized by the same receptor type.



Membrane glycoproteins on fungal cell wall

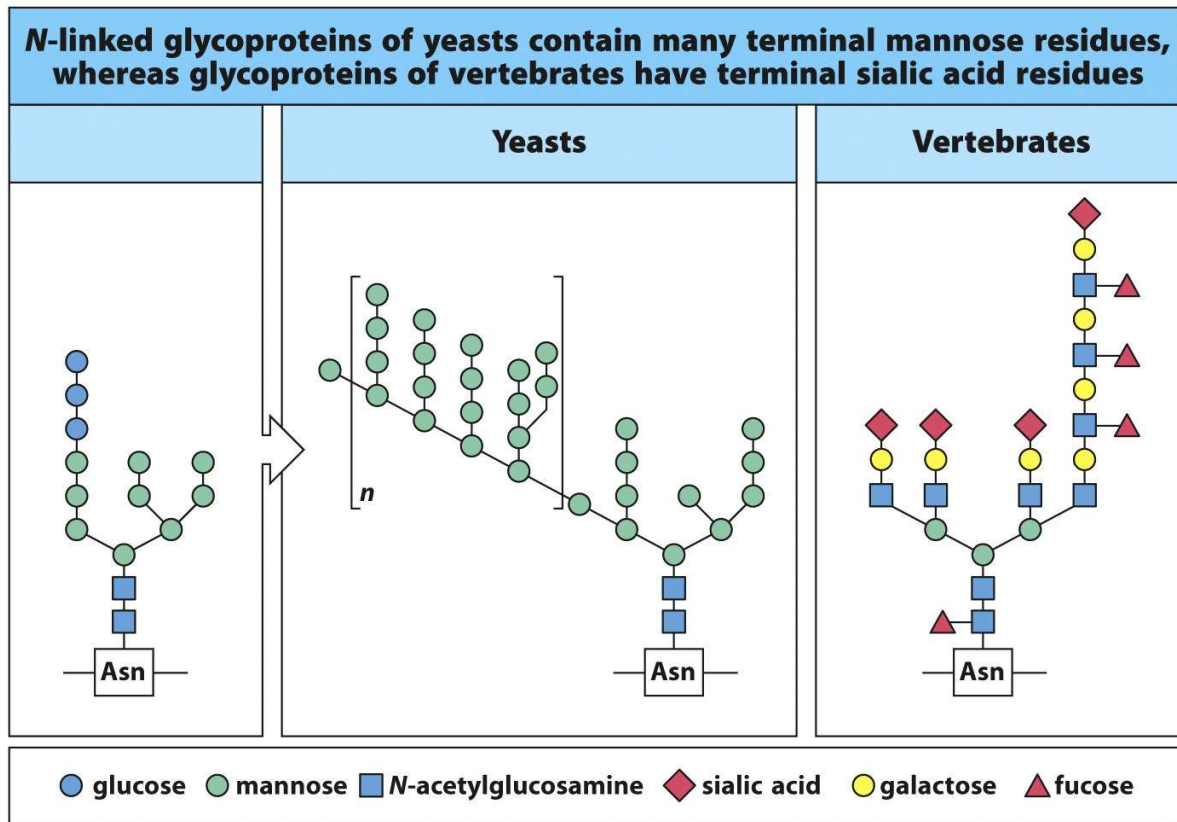
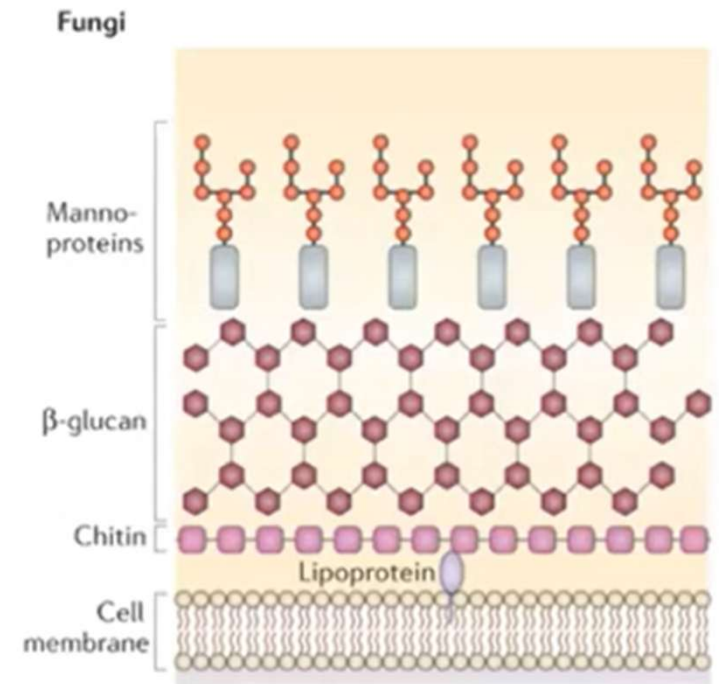


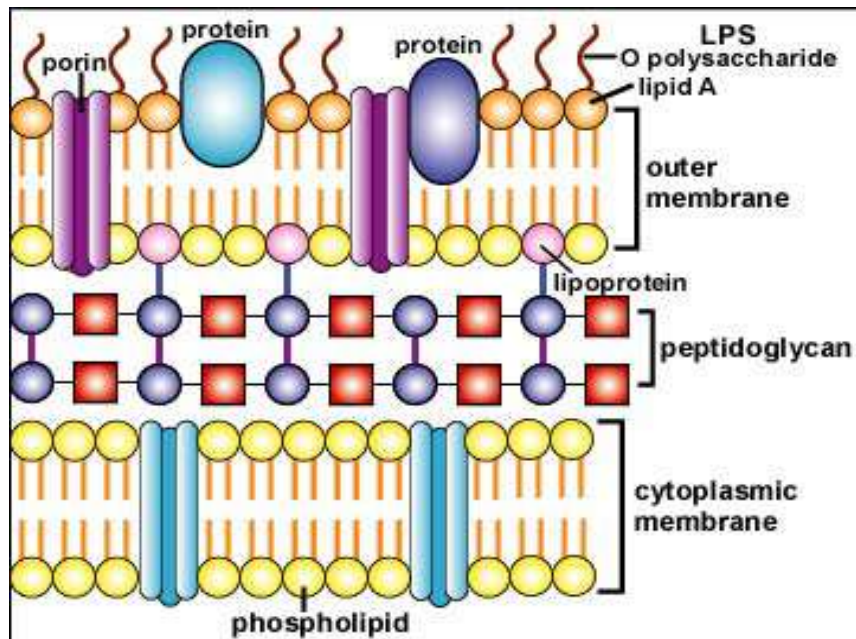
Figure 2.14 Janeway's Immunobiology, 8ed. (© Garland Science 2012)



Mannose can be recognized by membrane or soluble receptors

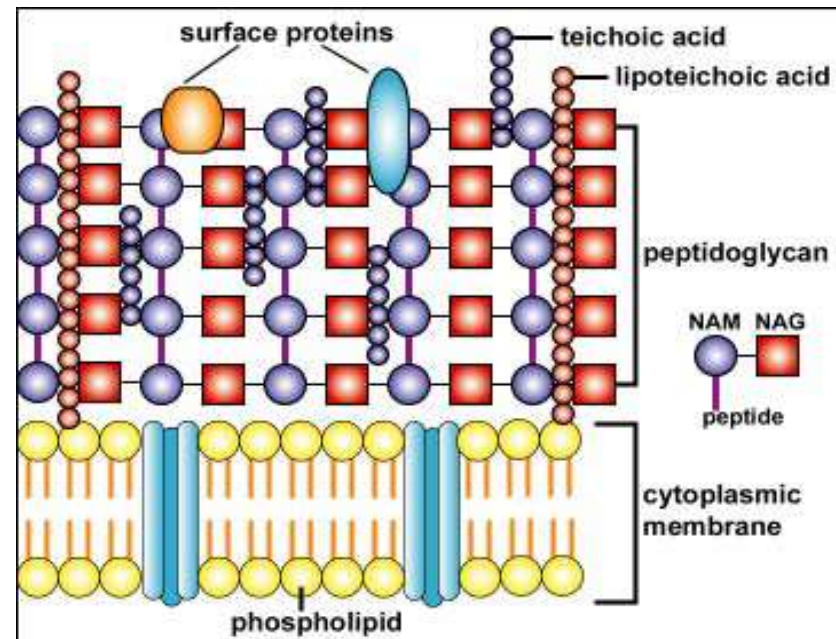
Structural components of the bacteria cell wall

Gram-Negative



The cell wall of the Gram-negative bacterium consists of a thin inner layer of peptidoglycans and an outer membrane containing phospholipids, lipoproteins and lipopolysaccharide (LPS)

Gram-Positive



The cell wall of the Gram-positive bacterium is thick and composed of various layers of peptidoglycans and other components

Pathogen-associated molecular patterns PAMPS

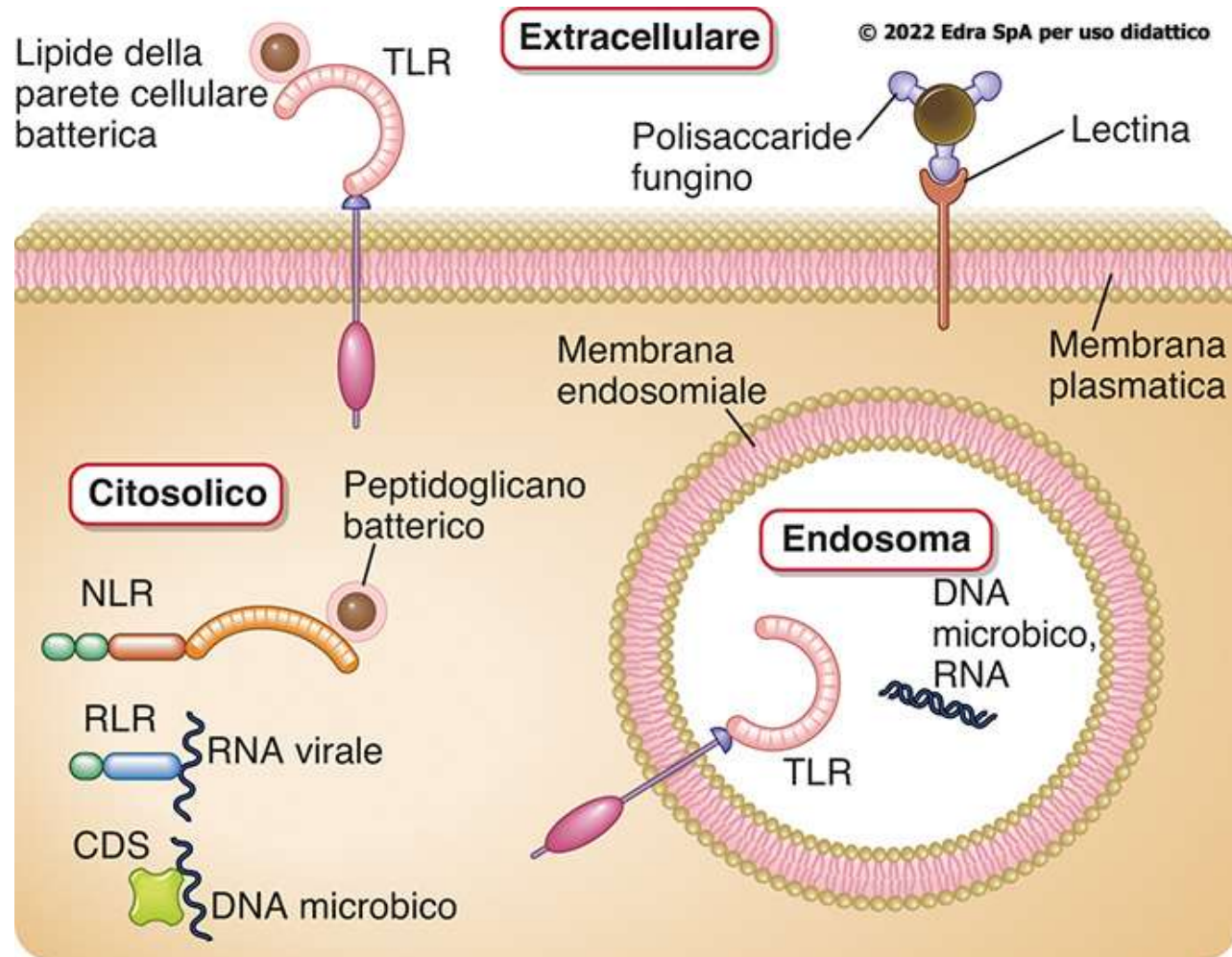
Our organism perceives the presence of pathogens by recognizing molecules unique to microorganisms that are not associated with host cells.

Some examples are:

1. **lipopolysaccharide (LPS)** from the wall of gram-negative bacteria;
2. **peptidoglycans** mainly in gram positive bacteria; to a lesser extent in the gram negative
3. Gram positive **lipoteichoic acids**;
4. **Mannose** (a carbohydrate common in micro-organisms poorly detectable in humans);
5. **Flagellin**: bacterial flagella;
6. **Pilin**: bacterial pili ;
7. **Nucleic acids. (CpG)** (presence of non-methylated cytosine-guanine in bacteria and viruses. In mammals the frequency of CG is much lower and they are methylated);
8. **Single-stranded or double-stranded RNA** unique to many viruses;
9. **Lipoteichoic acids, glycoproteins (i.e. beta-glucan) and zymosan** from the yeast wall.

**Where are pathogen recognition
receptors located in the cell?**

Cell localization of pathogen recognition receptors (PRR)



NLR, NOD-LIKE receptors
TLR, Toll-like receptor
CDS cytosolic DNA sensors
RLR: RIG-LIKE receptors

Microbial Pathogens are recognized through multiple PRRs that have different cellular location:

- **TRANSMEMBRANE**: include receptors either expressed on the **plasma membrane** or in **endosomal/lysosomal** compartment with specificities for cell-surface associated and intracellular (mainly nucleic acids) PAMPs, respectively.
- **CYTOSOLIC**: Include Nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain-Like Receptors (NLRs) that can detect **pathogen or stress signals** and Retinoic acid-Inducible **Gene-1** (RIG-1) that **recognize viral RNA**.
- **SECRETED**: include several families of soluble molecules (collectins, ficolins, pentraxins, etc.) that bind to microbial cell surface **and activate the classical or lectin pathway of the complement systems** and/or **opsonize** pathogens for phagocytosis by neutrophils and macrophages

Innate immunity can also recognize endogenous molecules produced or released from damaged cells (altered self)

TABLE 4.2 Examples of Pathogen-Associated Molecular Patterns and Damage-Associated Molecular Patterns

Microbe Type		
Pathogen-Associated Molecular Patterns		
Nucleic acids	ssRNA dsRNA CpG	Virus Virus Virus, bacteria
Proteins	Pilin Flagellin	Bacteria Bacteria
Cell wall lipids	LPS Lipoteichoic acid	Gram-negative bacteria Gram-positive bacteria
Carbohydrates	Mannan Glucans	Fungi, bacteria Fungi
Damage-Associated Molecular Patterns		
Stress-induced proteins	HSPs	—
Crystals	Monosodium urate	—
Proteolytically cleaved extracellular matrix	Proteoglycan peptides	—
Mitochondria and mitochondrial components	Formylated peptides and ATP	—
Nuclear proteins	HMGB1, histones	—

Microbial-derived:
PAMPS or **MAMPS** (microbial associated molecular patterns)

Host-derived:
Damage-Associated
Molecular Pattern; **DAMP**

Two main functions of PRRs

Although some PRRs may be involved primarily in **phagocytic clearance of invading organisms**, others engage a plethora of signaling pathways that lead to the expression of genes that encode **chemokines, cytokines, and other mediators** of innate immune responses to infection. (**function 1: promotion of inflammation and anti-viral state**)

Among other mediators, PRR signaling in DCs renders them competent to prime T cells, thereby initiating adaptive immunity (**function 2**)

Functional classes of microbial recognition receptors capable of binding conserved portions of these molecules

1. **Endocytic pattern-recognition receptors**
Engulfment of pathogens; can induce cytokine expression
2. **Chemotactic pattern-recognition receptors**
Migration to infection site
3. **Signaling pattern-recognition receptors**
Production of effector molecules that participate to the immune response and affect the nature of adaptive response

1-Endocytic pattern-recognition receptors

Expressed on the membrane of cells that can do phagocytosis (phagocytes), they promote the incorporation of the microorganism and its subsequent destruction

a. C-type lectin receptors

This includes the mannose receptor and the beta-glucan receptor (dectin-1)

b. Scavenger receptors

In addition to the modified LDL, the scavenger receptors of macrophages bind innumerable microbes by LPS, peptidoglycans etc, as well as apoptotic cells of the host

C-type Lectin receptor (CLR) family

Molecules containing domains that bind carbohydrates in a calcium-dependent fashion

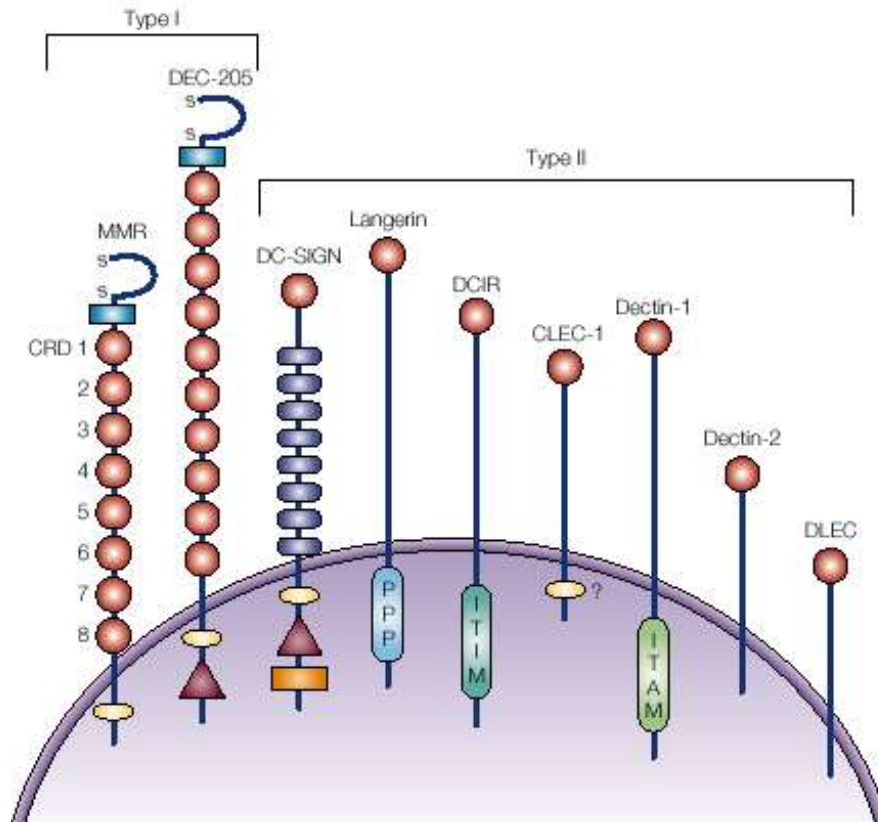


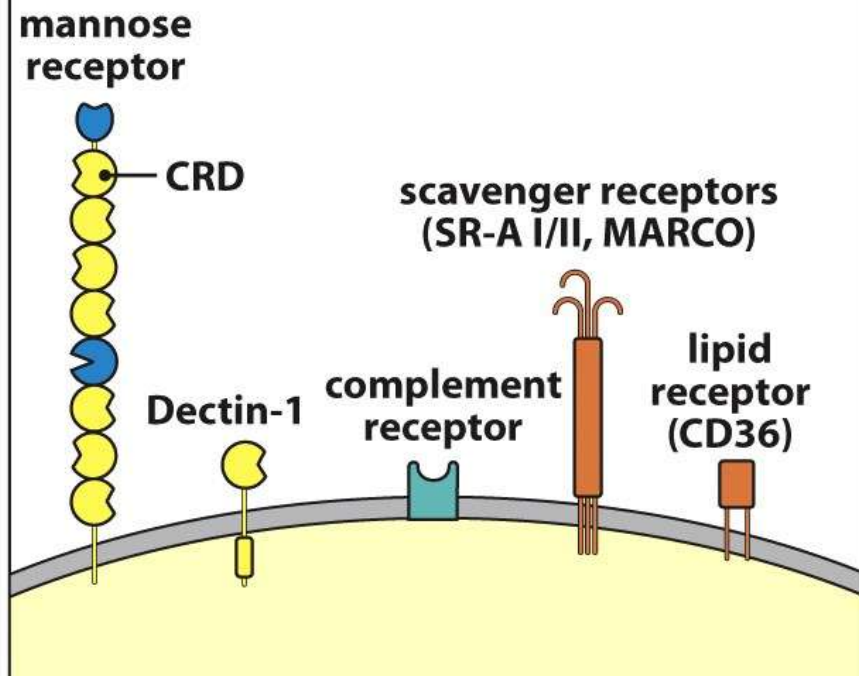
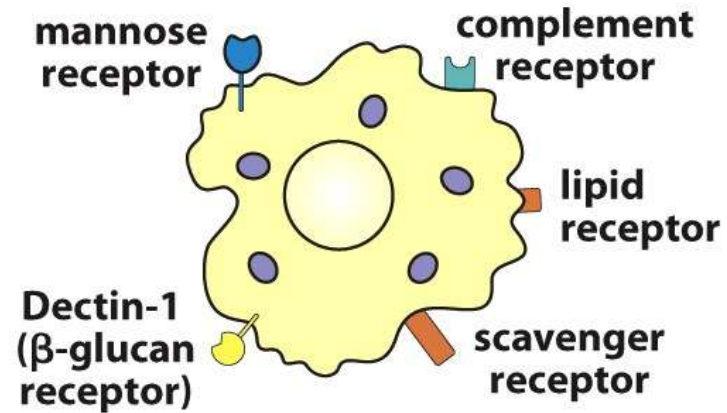
Table 2 Ligands for myeloid CLRs

CLR	Carbohydrate specificity	Pathogen binding	Recognition of self and altered self
MR (CD206)	Mannose, fucose, sLe ^x	HIV, <i>P. carinii</i> , <i>M. tuberculosis</i> , <i>C. albicans</i>	Lysosomal hydrolases, thyroglobulin, L-selectin, MUC-1
DC-SIGN (h) (CD209)	Mannan, high-mannose, ManLAM, fucose, Le ^x , Le ^a , Le ^y , Le ^b , 6SLe ^a	HIV, HCV, CMV, filoviruses, dengue, <i>H. pylori</i> , <i>M. tuberculosis</i> , <i>S. mansoni</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> , <i>A. fumigatus</i> , <i>Leishmania</i> spp.	ICAM-2, ICAM-3, CEACAM-1–Mac-1 (PMN), GEA
Dectin-1 (CLEC7A, β -glucan receptor)	β 1,3-glucans	<i>P. carinii</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> , <i>A. fumigatus</i>	Ligand on T cells

Type I C-type lectins (MMR, macrophage mannose receptor and DEC-205) they contain 8-10 **carbohydrate recognition domains (CRDs)** in the extracellular portion (N-terminal), which bind sugars in a calcium dependent manner.

Type II C-type lectins contain only one CRD in their extracellular portion (carboxy-terminal)

Macrophages have phagocytic receptors that bind microbes and their components



CRD:
Carbohydrate recognition
domain

Figure 3.2 part 1 of 2 Janeway's Immunobiology, 8ed. (© Garland Science 2012)

Thanks to endocytic PRR, phagocytes are cells able to engulf microbes through a process called phagocytosis

Phagocytosis (from Ancient Greek «*phagein*» , meaning 'to eat', and «*kytos*» , meaning 'cell') Greek -*ōsis* meaning a process

In summary phagocytosis is the cell uptake of particulate material



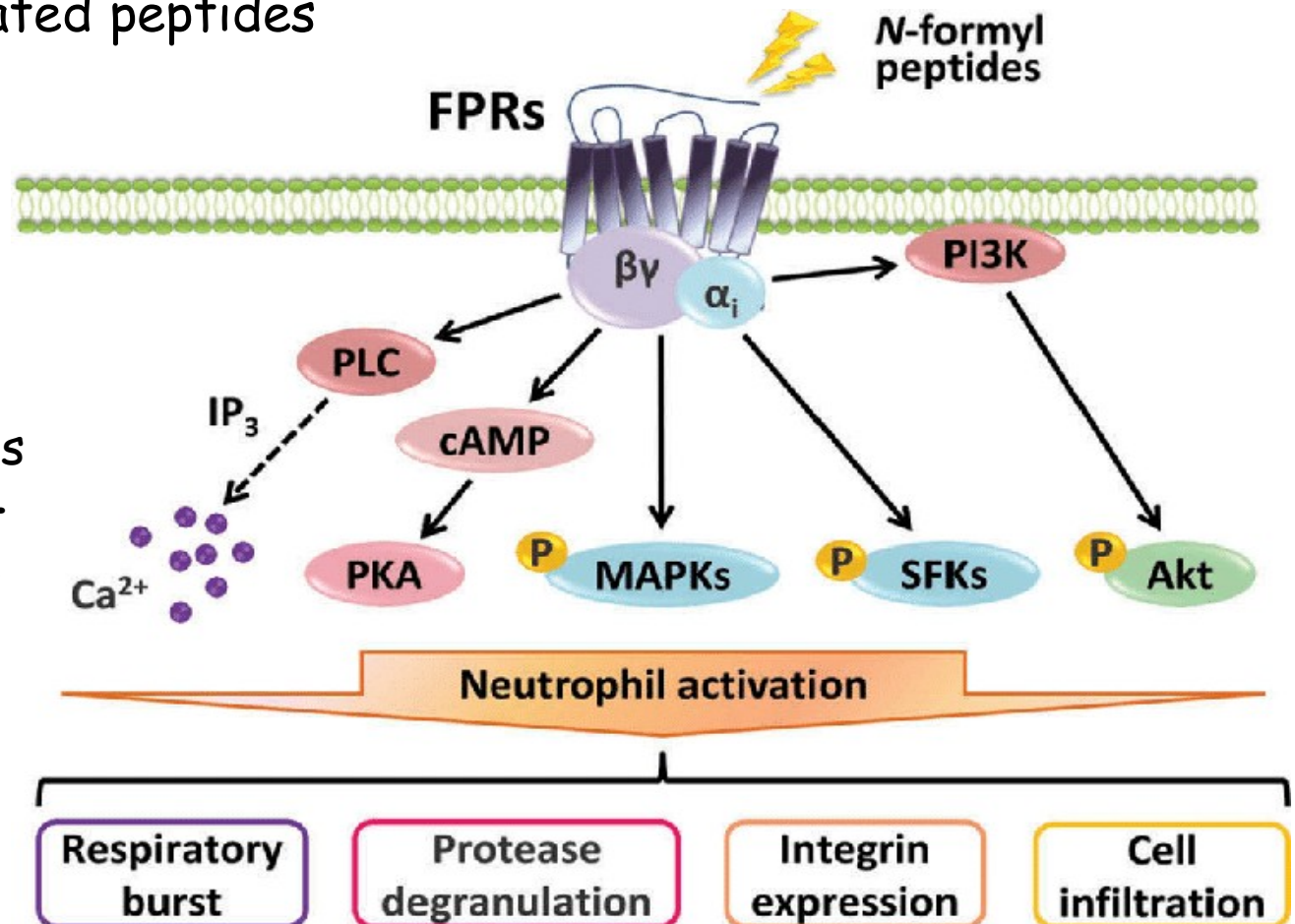
2-Formyl-peptide receptors (FPRs)

FPRs are G protein-coupled receptors that bind bacterial and mitochondrial formylated peptides

Main function:

Promotion of chemotaxis

During infection, pathogens target and destroy host tissue with the simultaneous release of **both bacteria-derived** (when the pathogen is of bacterial origin) and **host-derived formylated peptides** (from host mitochondria), thereby linking FPRs in both infective and sterile inflammatory processes



The main responders are neutrophils:

50% to 70% of circulating human leukocytes, neutrophils patrol the vasculature and rapidly migrate into tissues in response to chemotactic signals

3. Signaling pattern-recognition receptors

- a. Toll-like receptors (TLRs)
- b. CD14
- c. NOD-like receptors; RIG-like, CDS.... (cytoplasmic)

Christiane Nüsslein – Volhard, Nobel Prize 1995



TOLL RECEPTOR in DROSPHILA DEVELOPMENT



The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2011

Bruce A. Beutler, Jules A. Hoffmann, Ralph M. Steinman



Photo: Mosimann for Balzan

Bruce A. Beutler



Photo: Mosimann for Balzan

Jules A. Hoffmann

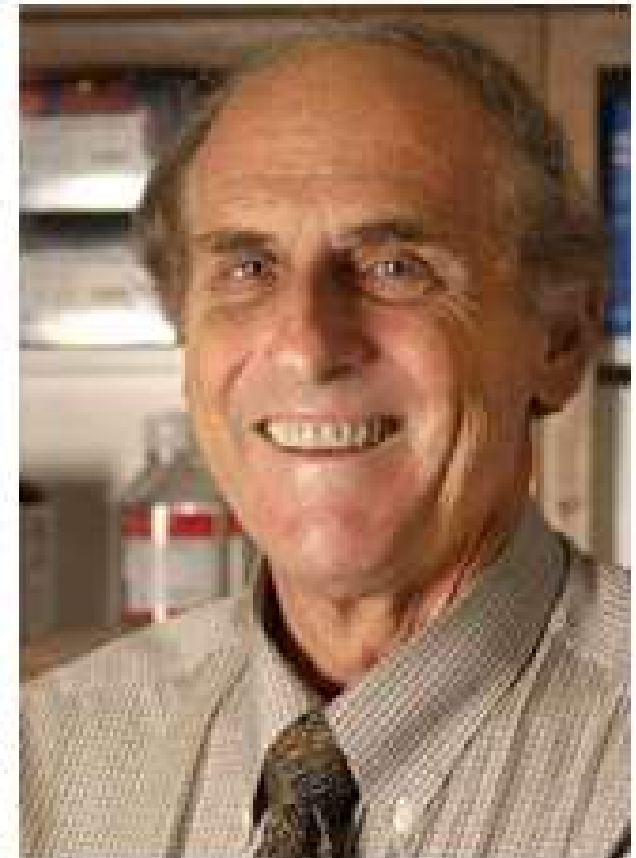


Photo: Rockefeller University Press

Ralph M. Steinman

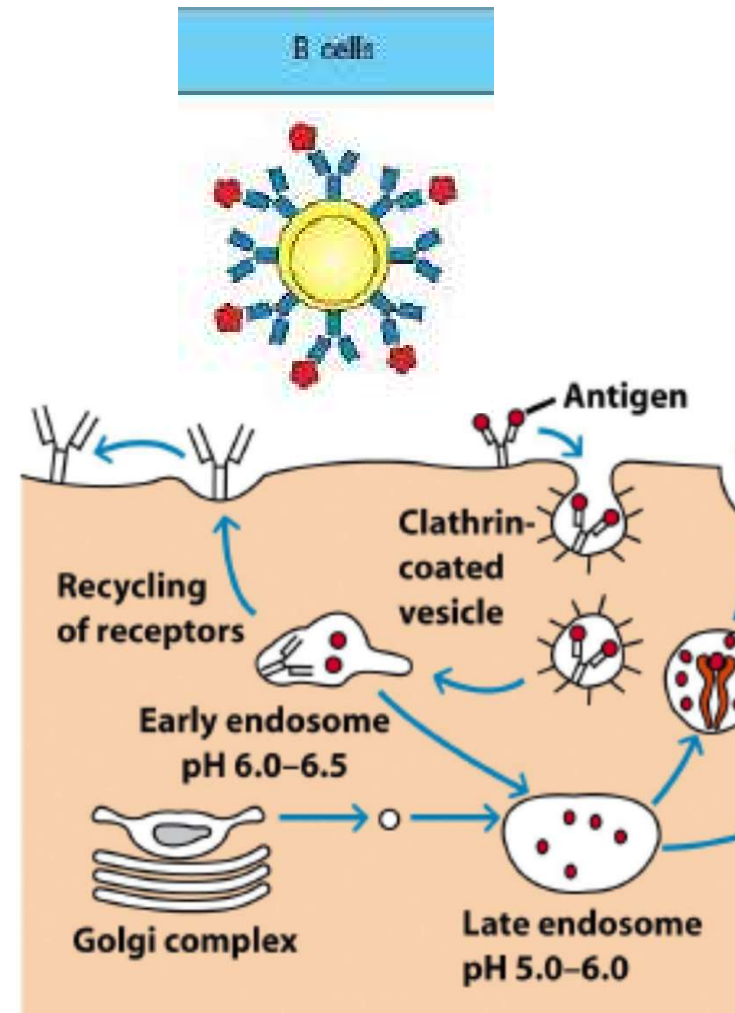
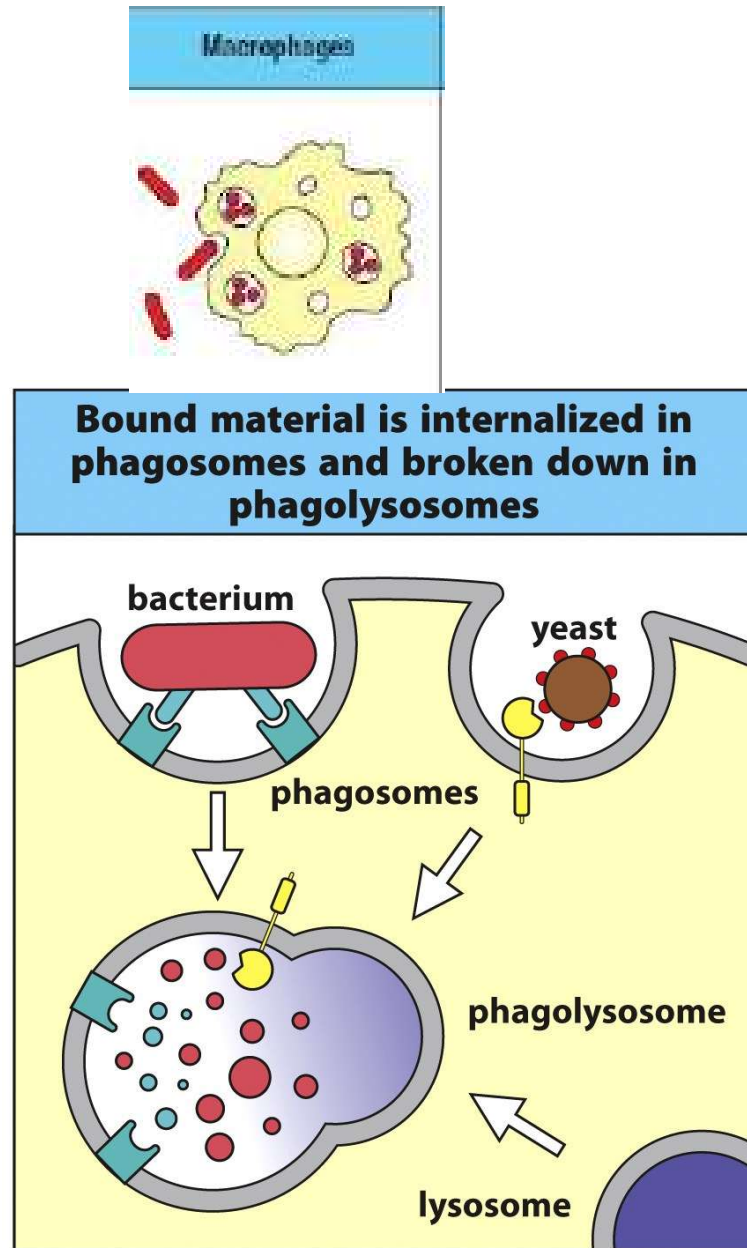
The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2011 was divided, one half jointly to Bruce A. Beutler and Jules A. Hoffmann "for their discoveries concerning the activation of innate immunity" and the other half to Ralph M. Steinman "for his discovery of the dendritic cell and its role in adaptive immunity".

Negli eucarioti i recettori Toll-like sono responsabili della risposta ad un gran numero di molecole espresse da diversi microbi ma non da cellule dell'organismo

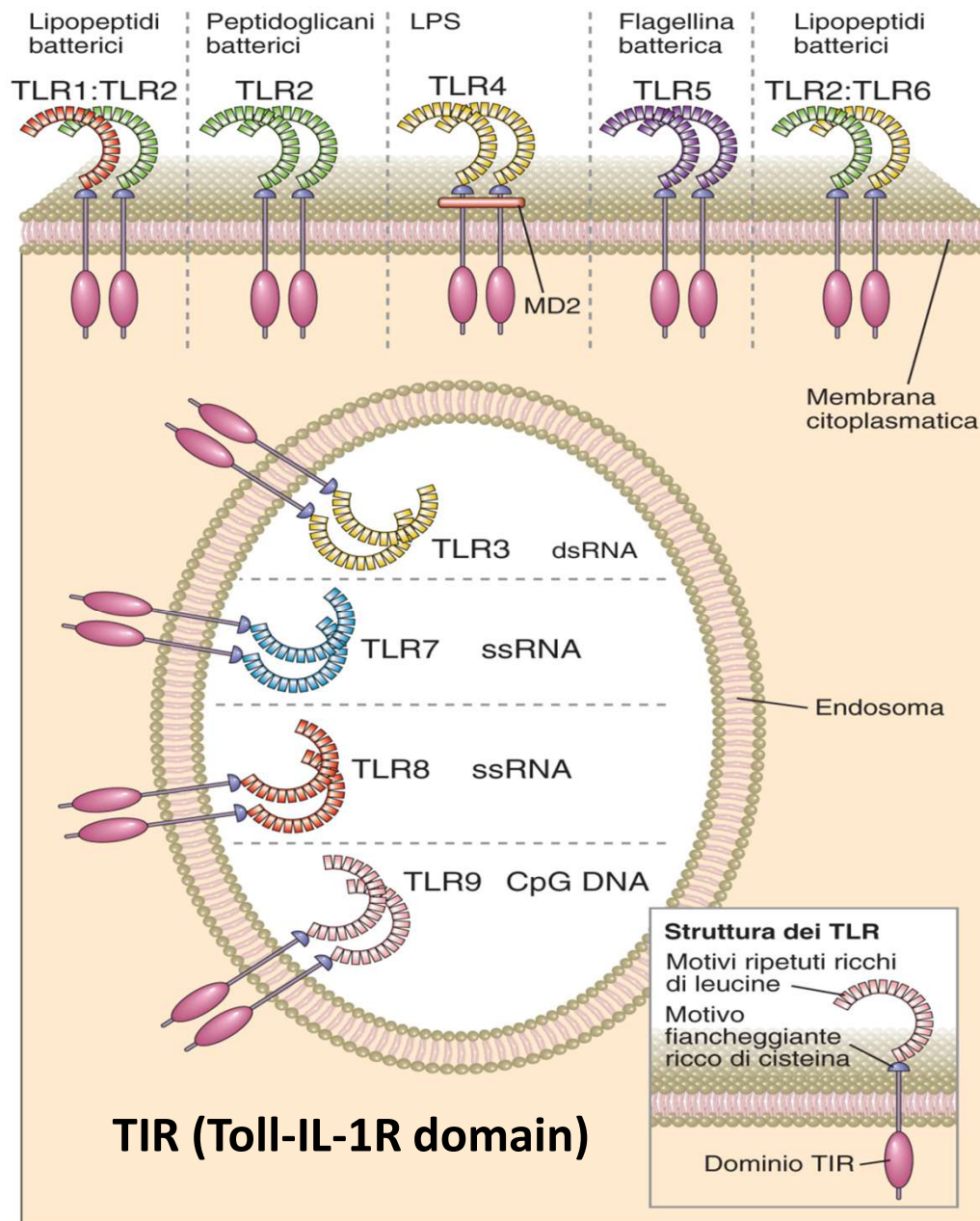
Riconoscono anche «induced self» o «damaged self» molecules

**HOW DOES THE INNATE IMMUNE SYSTEM
RECOGNIZE PAMPS PRESENT ON THE MICROBIAL
SURFACE OR INSIDE THE MICROBE?**

Phagocytosis and endocytosis generate material that can be detected by PRRs in vesicles



Toll-like receptors (TLRs) are expressed both on cell surface and intracellularly



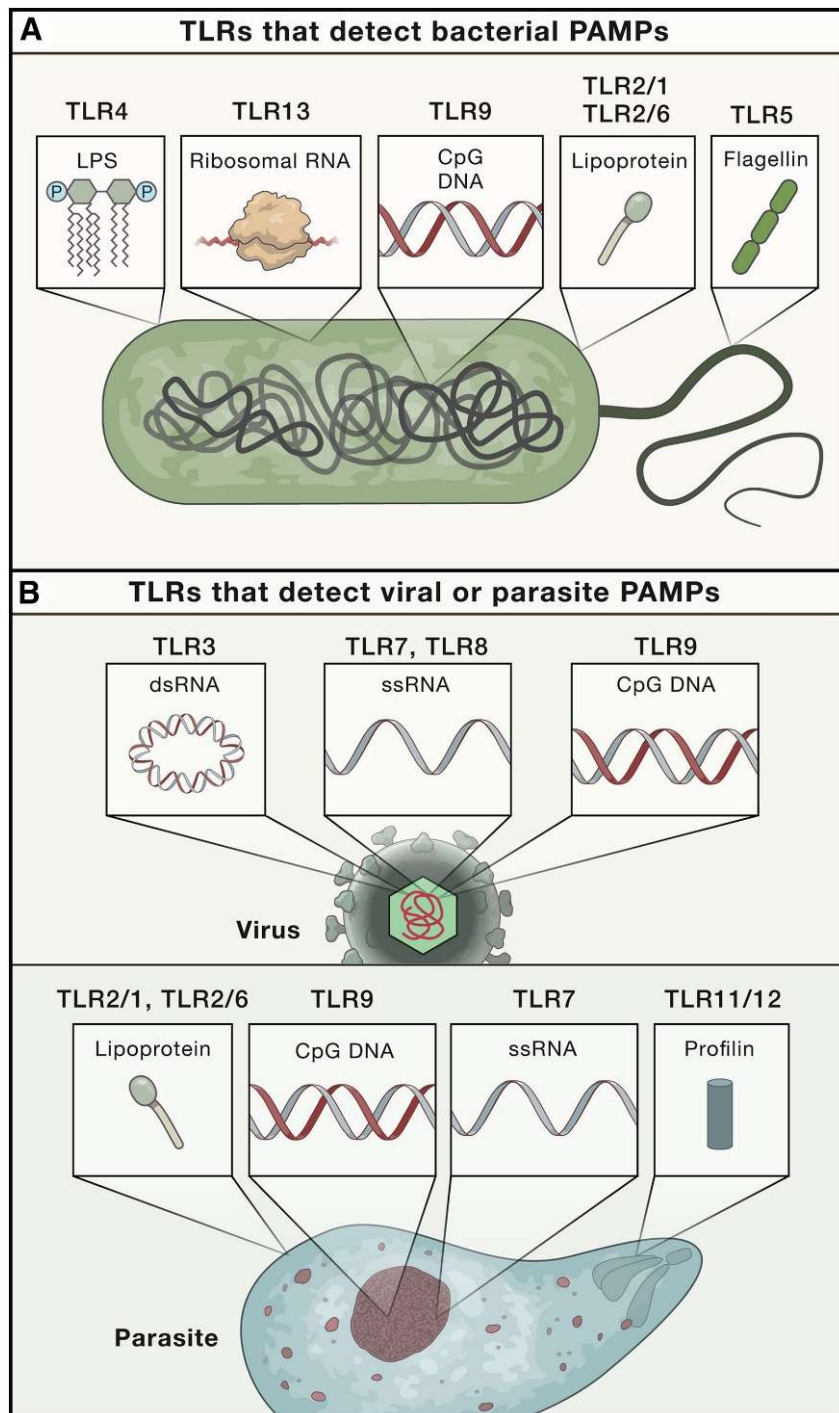
Glycoproteins known as TLRs (Toll-like Receptors) are expressed both on the surface and in the phagosomes of the phagocytes.

The receptors expressed on the membrane recognize molecules expressed on the surface of microbes such as components of the bacterial wall.

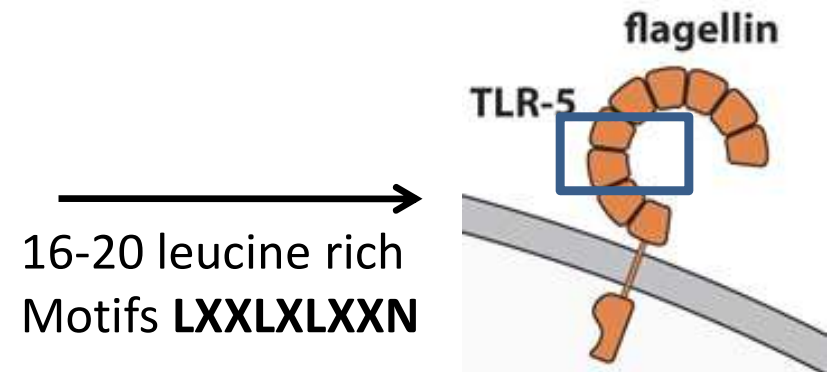
Receptors expressed in the vesicles recognize microbial molecules released following phagocytosis / endocytosis of the microbe.

However, they can also recognize proteins involved in the response to cellular stress such as:

- High-Mobility group Box-1 (HMGB-1)
- Heat shock proteins



Toll-like receptors recognize different molecules derived from pathogens by forming homo- or hetero-dimers



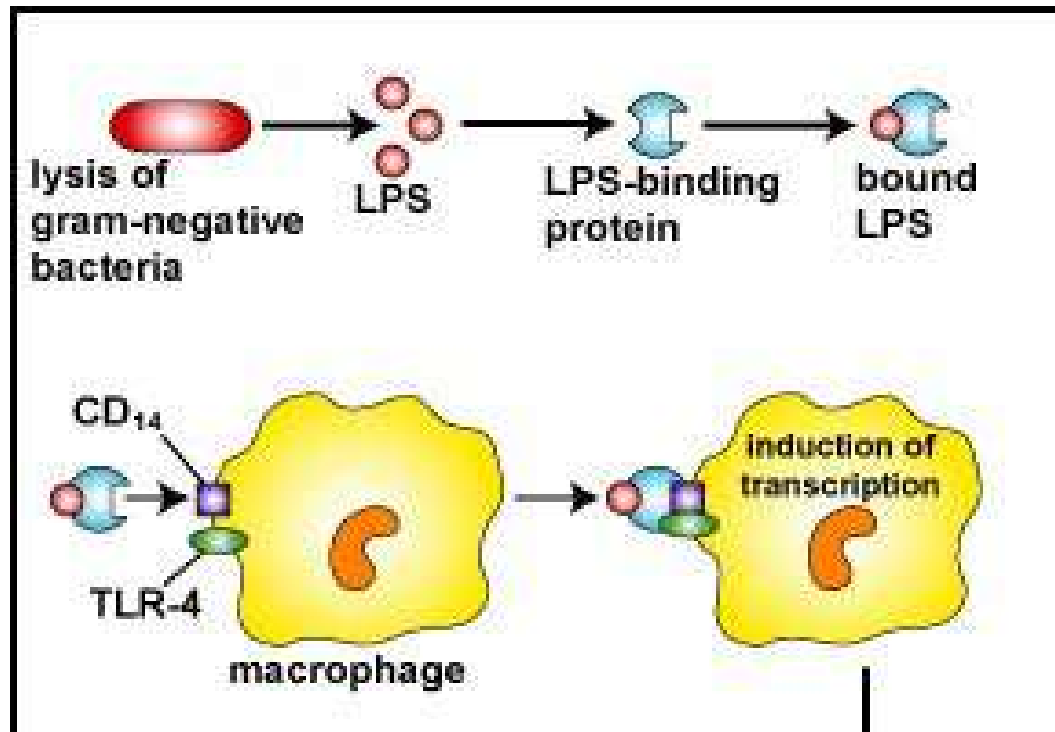
Microbe binding to leucine rich domains in the convex portion promote homo or heterodimerization of TLR

L'espressione cellulare dei recettori Toll-like è direttamente collegata alla funzione delle cellule.....

Innate immune recognition by mammalian Toll-like receptors		
Toll-like receptor	Ligand	Cellular distribution
TLR-1:TLR-2 heterodimer	Lipomannans (mycobacteria) Lipoproteins (diacyl lipopeptides; triacyl lipopeptides) Lipoteichoic acids (Gram-positive bacteria) Cell-wall β -glucans (bacteria and fungi) Zymosan (fungi)	Monocytes, dendritic cells, mast cells, eosinophils, basophils
TLR-2:TLR-6 heterodimer		
TLR-3	Double-stranded RNA (viruses)	NK cells Plasmacytoid dendritic cells
TLR-4 (plus MD-2 and CD14)	LPS (Gram-negative bacteria) Lipoteichoic acids (Gram-positive bacteria)	Macrophages, dendritic cells, mast cells, eosinophils
TLR-5	Flagellin (bacteria)	Intestinal epithelium
TLR-7	Single-stranded RNA (viruses)	Plasmacytoid dendritic cells, NK cells, eosinophils, B cells
TLR-8	Single-stranded RNA (viruses)	NK cells
TLR-9	DNA with unmethylated CpG (bacteria and herpesviruses)	Plasmacytoid dendritic cells, eosinophils, B cells, basophils
TLR-10	Unknown	Plasmacytoid dendritic cells, eosinophils, B cells, basophils
TLR-11 (mouse only)	Profilin and profilin-like proteins (<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> , uropathogenic bacteria)	Macrophages, dendritic cells, liver, kidney, and bladder epithelial cells

Figure 3.9 Janeway's Immunobiology, 8ed. (© Garland Science 2012)

Lypopolysaccharid (LPS) recognition and cell activation

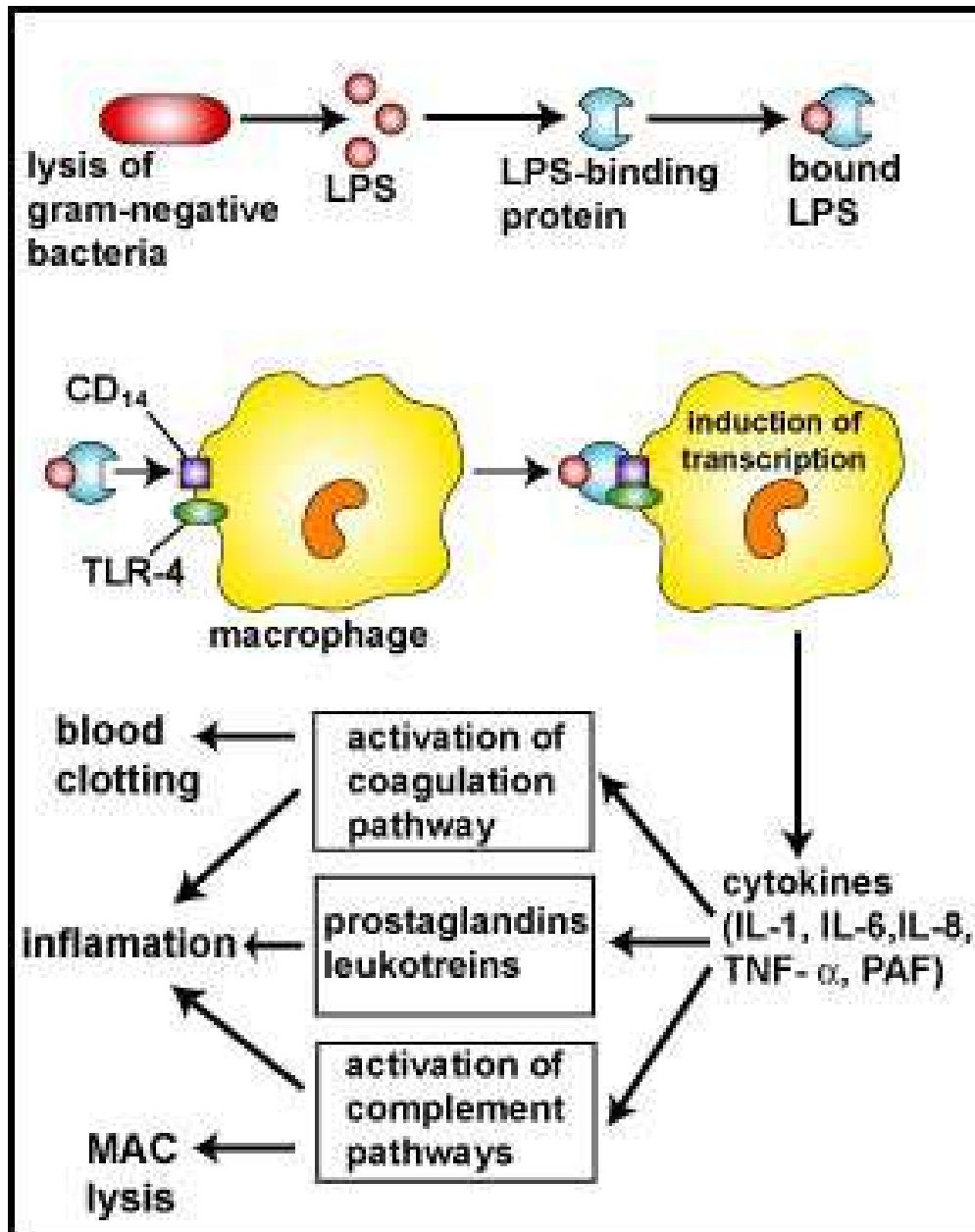


The lysis of negative GRAM bacteria allows to release LPS from their external membrane.

LPS binds to an LPS binding protein in the bloodstream and this complex is able to bind CD14 (a receptor located on the macrophage membrane).

The forming complex promotes the toll-like receptor TLR-4 binding to the LPS

Lypopolysaccharid (LPS) recognition and cell activation



The activation of the resulting macrophage leads to the release of chemicals involved in the defensive response called cytokines, including IL-1, IL-6, IL-8, TNF-alpha and PAF.

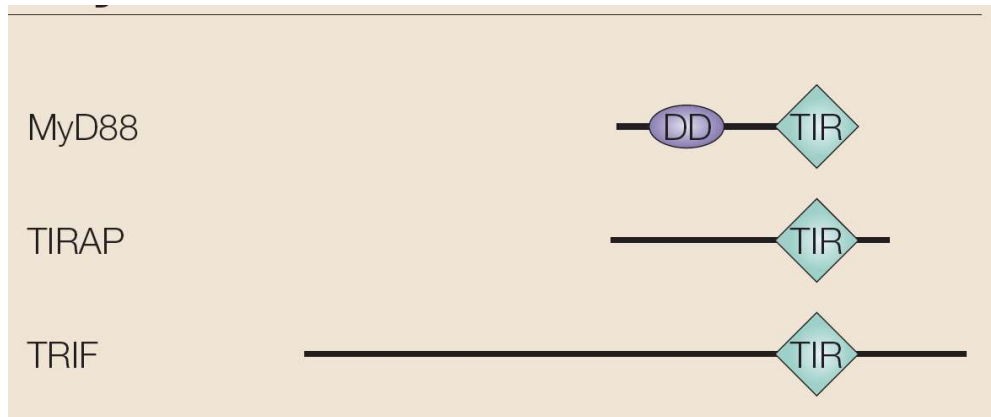
The cytokines then bind to cytokine receptors on target cells and begin the inflammatory process

How do TLRs activate gene transcription?

TLR triggering starts a signaling cascade that lead to production of:

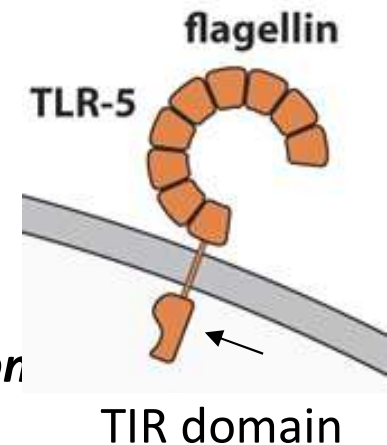
- Inflammatory cytokines
- Chemotactic factors
- Anti-microbial peptides
- Co.stimulatory molecules
- Antiviral cytokines
-

Adaptors of MyD88 family



TIR domain:
Toll/interleukin-1
receptor-domain

MyD88:
myeloid differentiation
primary-response
protein 88



Signal transduction of TLR7, TLR8 and TLR9 involves a signaling pathway that requires **only MyD88**.

TLR4 and TLR2, after formation of heterodimers with TLR1 or 6 require a complex with **MyD88** and a second adapter, **TIRAP** (TIR-domain containing adaptor protein)

The activation of interferon-regulatory factor 3 (IRF3) and the consequent induction of type I (α and β) interferons, which are triggered by the activation of TLR3 or TLR4, are **independent of MyD88** and involve the **TRIF** adapter (TIR-domain containing adaptor protein inducing interferon- β)

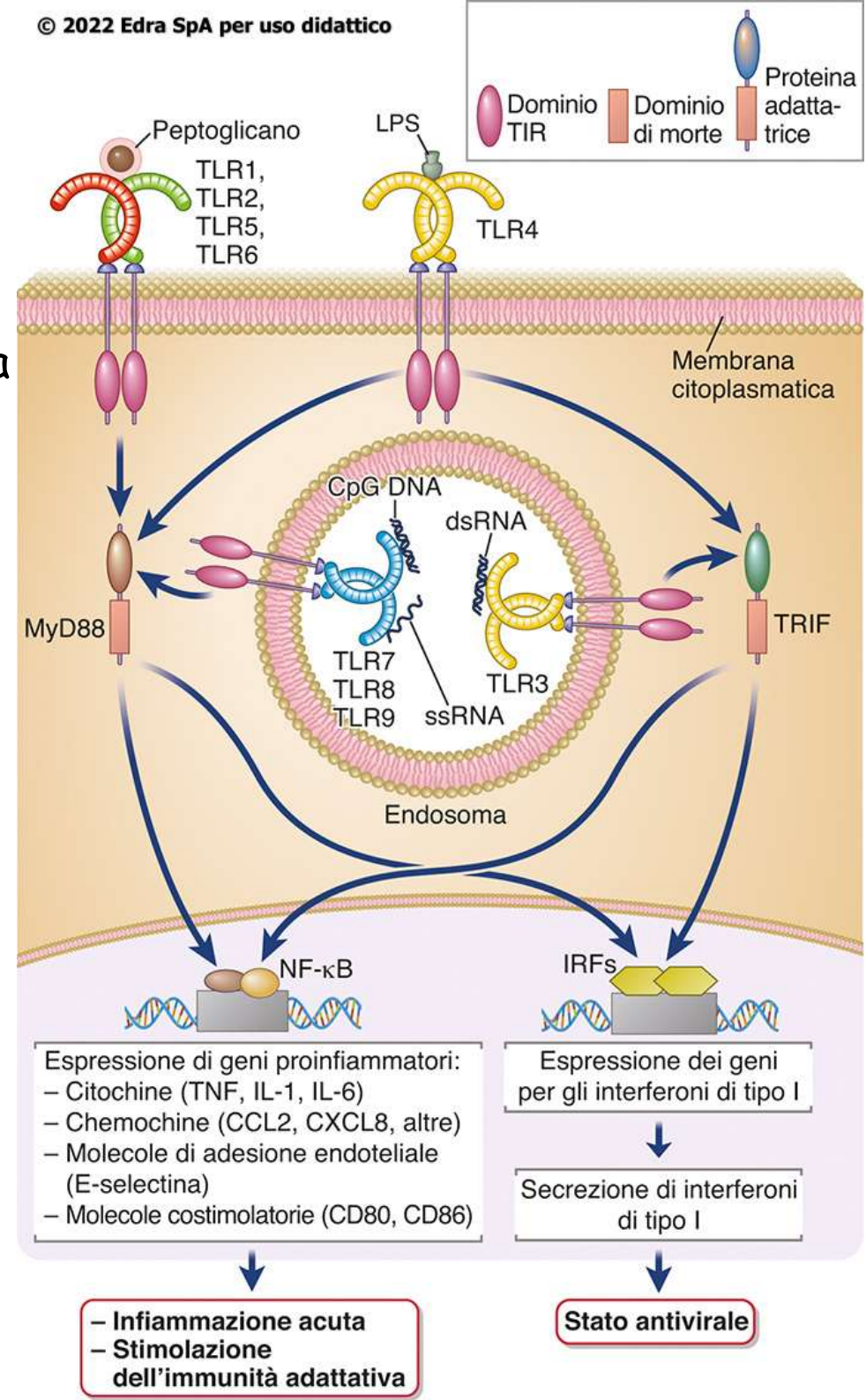
TLR	Adaptor
TLR-2/1	MyD88/ TIRAP
TLR-3	TRIF
TLR-4	MyD88/ TIRAP OR TRIF
TLR-5	MyD88
TLR-2/6	MyD88/ TIRAP
TLR-7	MyD88
TLR-8	MyD88
TLR-9	MyD88
TLR11/12	MyD88

Signal transduction of TLR

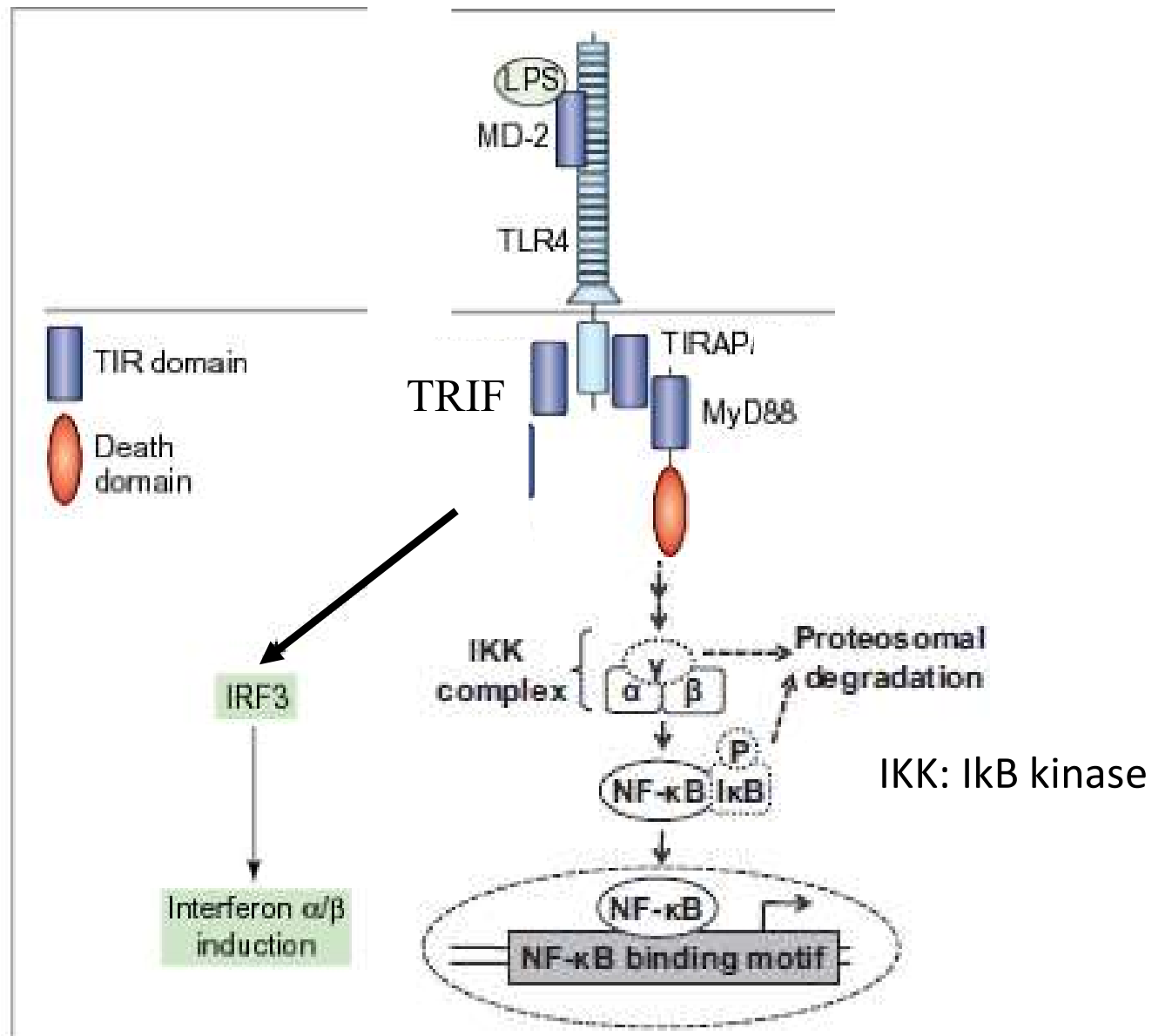
La dimerizzazione dei domini TIR intracellulari dei rec TOLL-like porta ad interazione con adattatori molecolari e la conseguente attivazione di **Fattori di Trascrizione**

MyD88:
myeloid differentiation
primary-response
protein 88

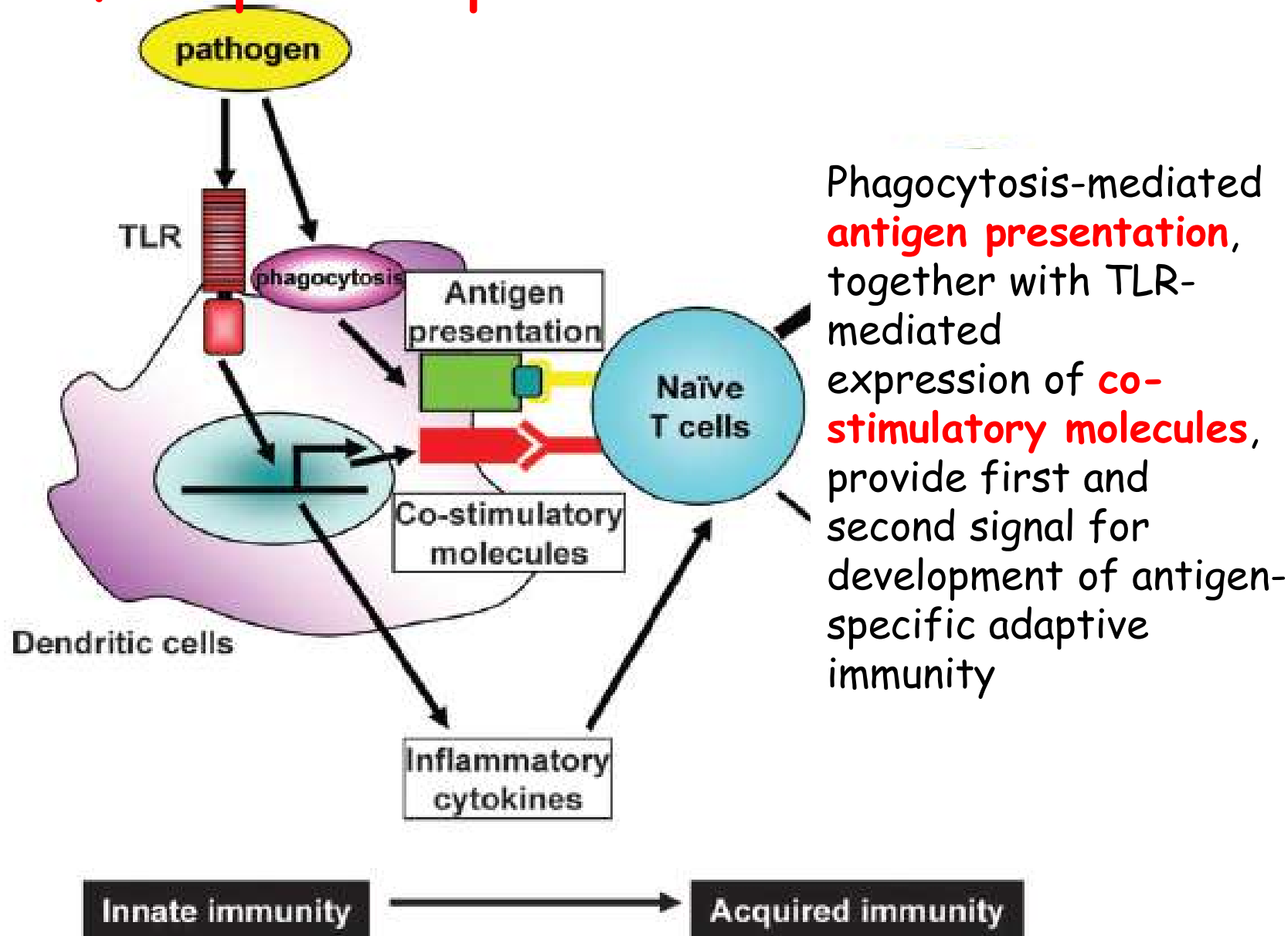
TRIF:
TIR-domain-containing
adaptor inducing
interferon-beta



TLR-4 signal transduction



Function 2: innate immune cells such as dendritic cells and macrophages provide signals **for activation of adaptive responses**

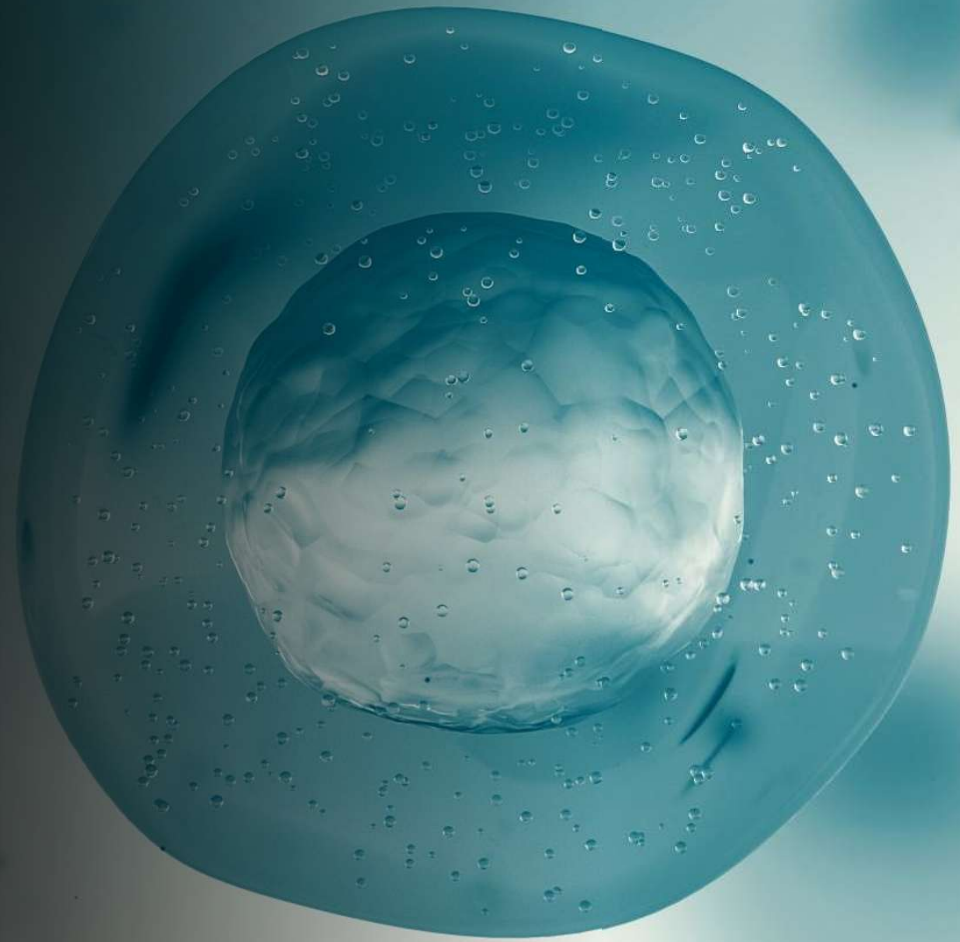


In conclusion, TLRs work as sensors for extracellular pathogens that activate innate immune cells for several functions

What happen if a pathogen reaches the cytoplasm or uses the cytoplasm during its life cycle?



**Cells need
intra-cellular
pathogen
recognition
In the
cytoplasm**



Intra-cellular pathogen recognition

In the cytoplasm

NOD-like receptors (NLR) constitute a family of more than 20 cytosolic proteins able to recognize PAMP and DAMP and assemble signal transduction complexes. containing a **nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain (NOD)**

At least three domains:

1- domain containing repeated leucine residues (LRR) for recognition

2- NOD domain responsible for oligomerization

3. Effector domain that recruits proteins involved in signal transduction and **can be of three subfamilies**: CARD, Pyrin and BIR



NOD1 e NOD2 (**CARD family**)

Recognize peptidoglycans on bacterial cell wall

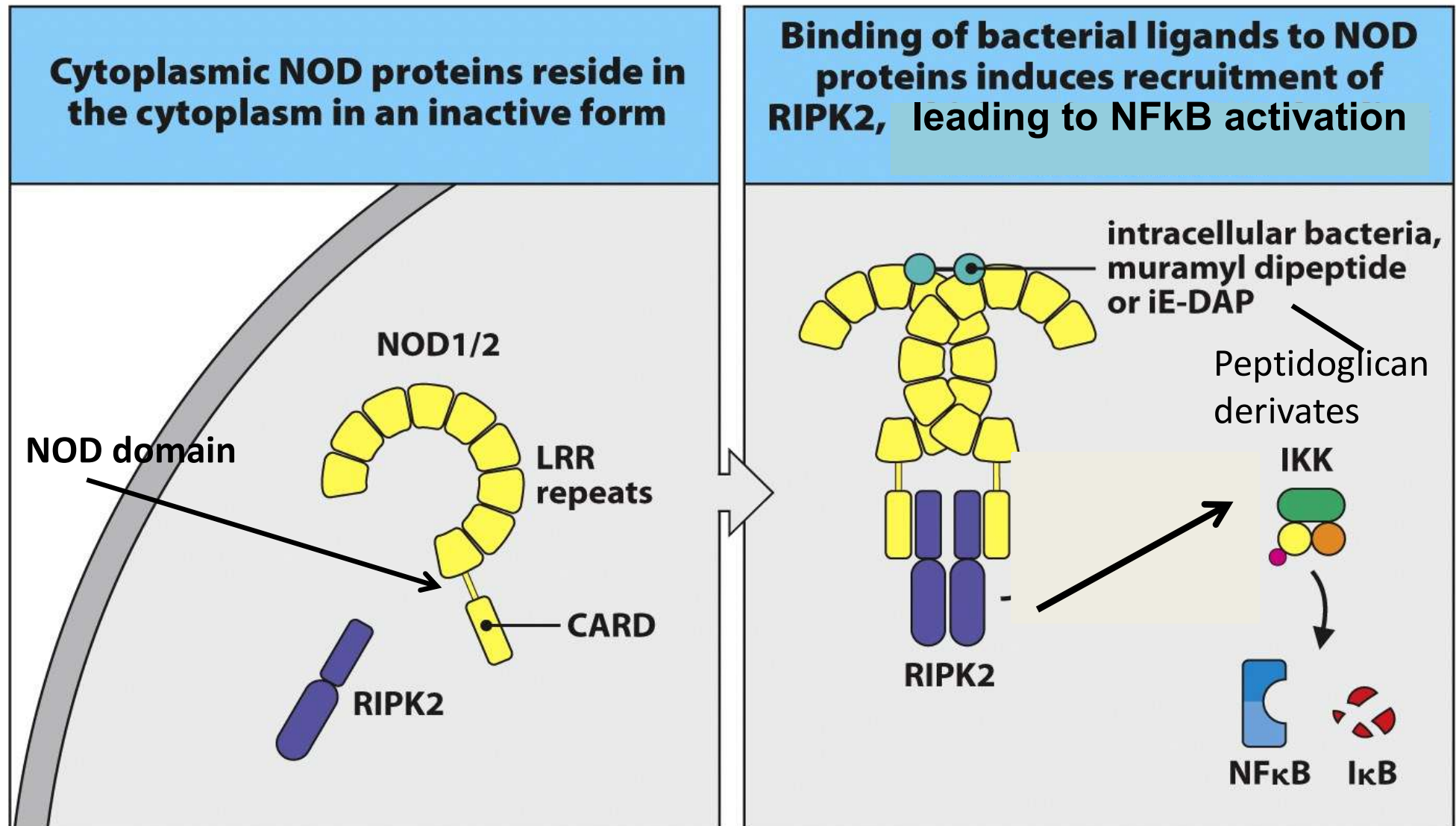


Figure 3.15 Janeway's Immunobiology, 8ed. (© Garland Science 2012)

CARD: Caspase Activation and Recruitment Domain

RIPK2: Receptor-Interacting Protein (RIP) family of serine/threonine protein kinases type 2

Epithelial and phagocytic mucosal cells express NOD1/2

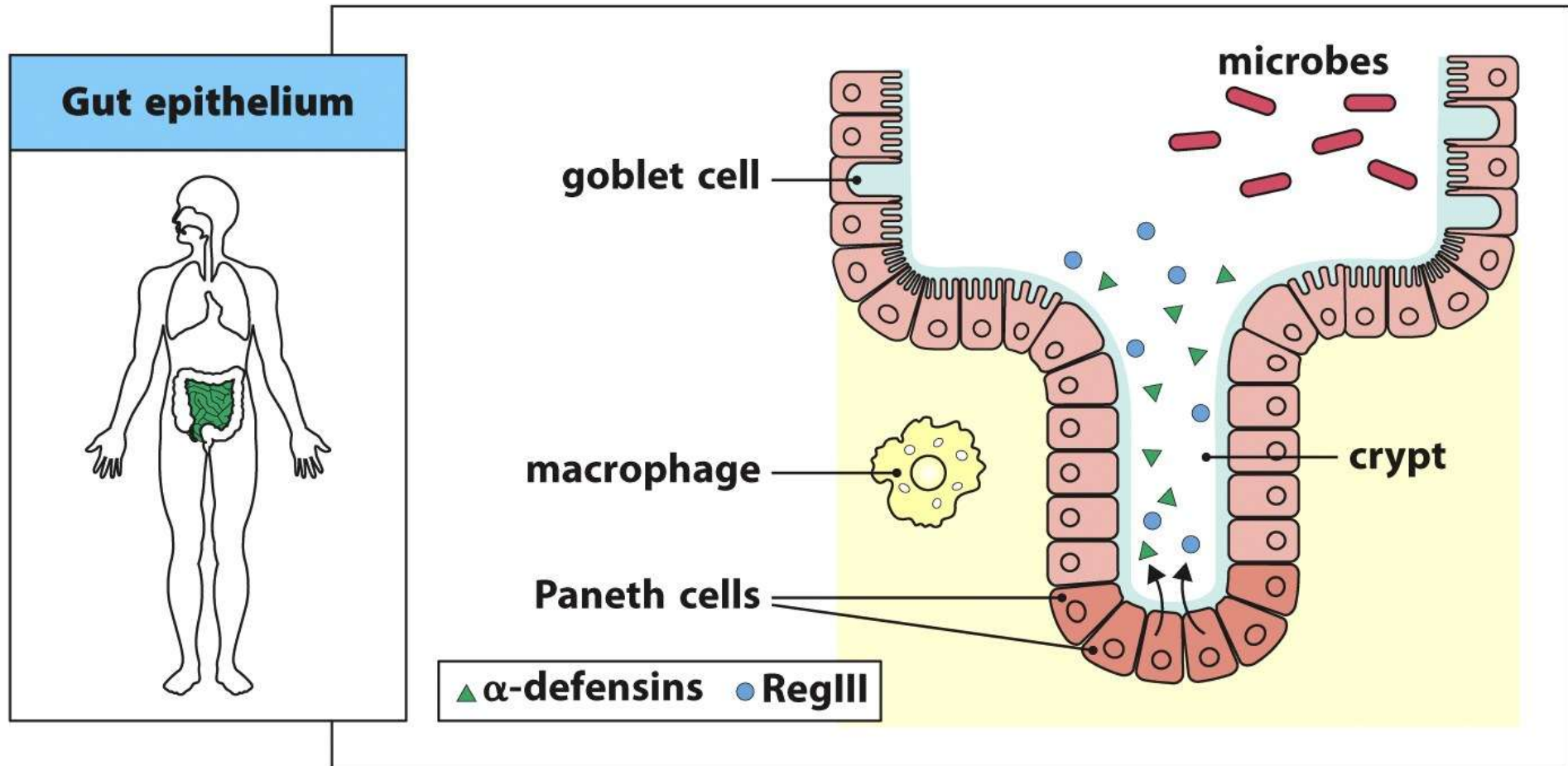


Figure 2.10 part 3 of 3 Janeway's Immunobiology, 8ed. (© Garland Science 2012)

NOD1 / 2 mediate the response to pathogenic bacteria of the gastrointestinal tract including *Helicobacter pylori* and *Listeria Monocytogens*

Defensins are **amphipathic** peptides that disrupt the cell membranes of microbes. Three disulphide bonds stabilize the molecules.

Cathelicidins are made constitutively by neutrophils and macrophages, and are made in response to infection by keratinocytes in the skin and epithelial cells in the lungs and intestine. They disrupt cell membrane and are toxic to a wide range of microorganisms

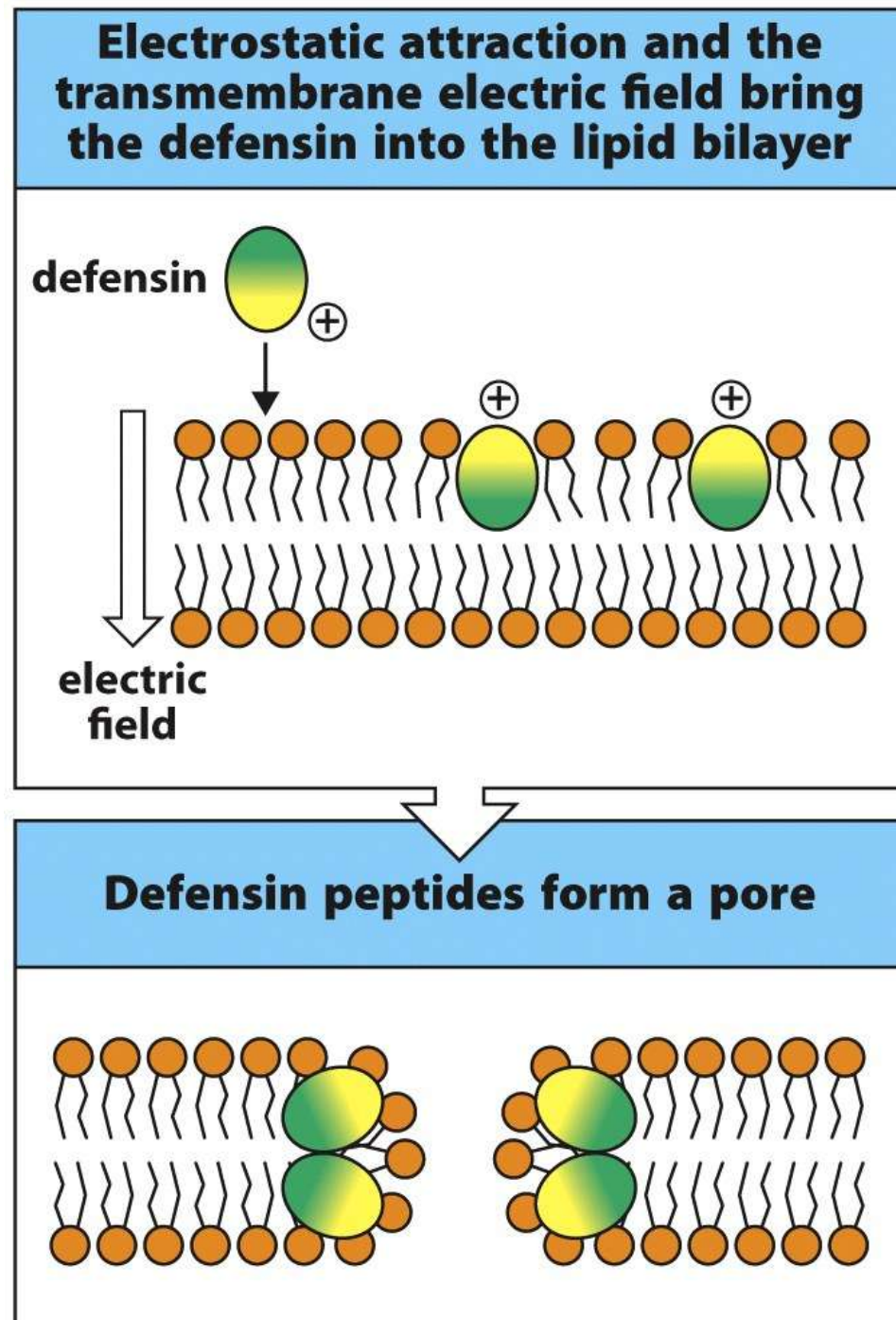


Figure 2.8 part 2 of 2 Janeway's Immunobiology, 8ed. (© Garland Science 2012)

While NOD1 is expressed by many cell types, NOD2 seems to have a specialized and non redundant role, being strongly expressed in the gut (prevalently by Paneth cells and by goblet cells) where it regulates the expression of potent antimicrobial peptides such as the defensins and of mucus.

Consistent with this, loss-of-function mutations in NOD2 in humans are associated with the inflammatory bowel condition known as **Crohn's disease**

RIASSUMENDO...

L'antigene è una molecola microbica riconosciuta da recettori dell'immunità innata?

Quali di questi componenti cellulari appartengono all'immunità innata:

Monociti

Linfociti T

Cellule Natural Killer

linfociti B

Which of the following statements about TLR is correct?

are expressed exclusively on the cell membrane

are expressed exclusively in the cytoplasm

are expressed both on the cell membrane and in the cytoplasm

are expressed at the nuclear level

What is a DAMP?

A microbial molecule recognized by PRR

A host biomolecule that exert microbicidal activity

A host biomolecule released during tissue damage and is recognized by PRR

A host biomolecule that can be recognized by TCR

In che modo i componenti dell'immunità innata riconoscono gli agenti patogeni?

L'inflammasoma

Famiglia NLRP

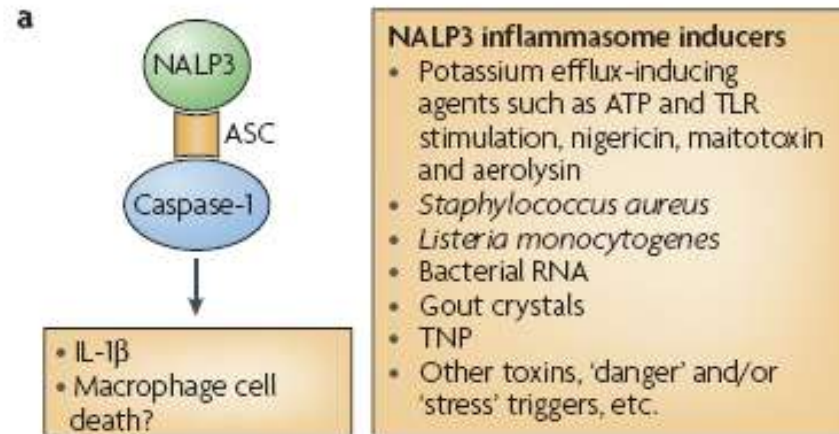
Gli inflammasomi sono complessi multiproteici che si formano in seguito a presenza di DAMPS e PAMPS nel citosol.

Hanno la funzione di generare la forma matura di citochine pro-infiammatorie molto importanti chiamate IL-1beta e IL-18

In aggiunta possono indurre la morte delle cellule che producono queste citochine (**piroptosi**) per promuoverne il rilascio

L'inflammasoma e i suoi corecettori

Famiglia **NLRP**
NOD-like receptor
contenente
dominio **Pyrin**



Organizzazione generale:

- 1- sensore dell'inflammasoma (contenente i tre domini dei **NLR**)
- 2- un adattatore *ASC* codificato dal gene *PYCARD* comune a tutti gli inflammasomi
- 3- la caspasi-1 connessa al recettore tramite *ASC*

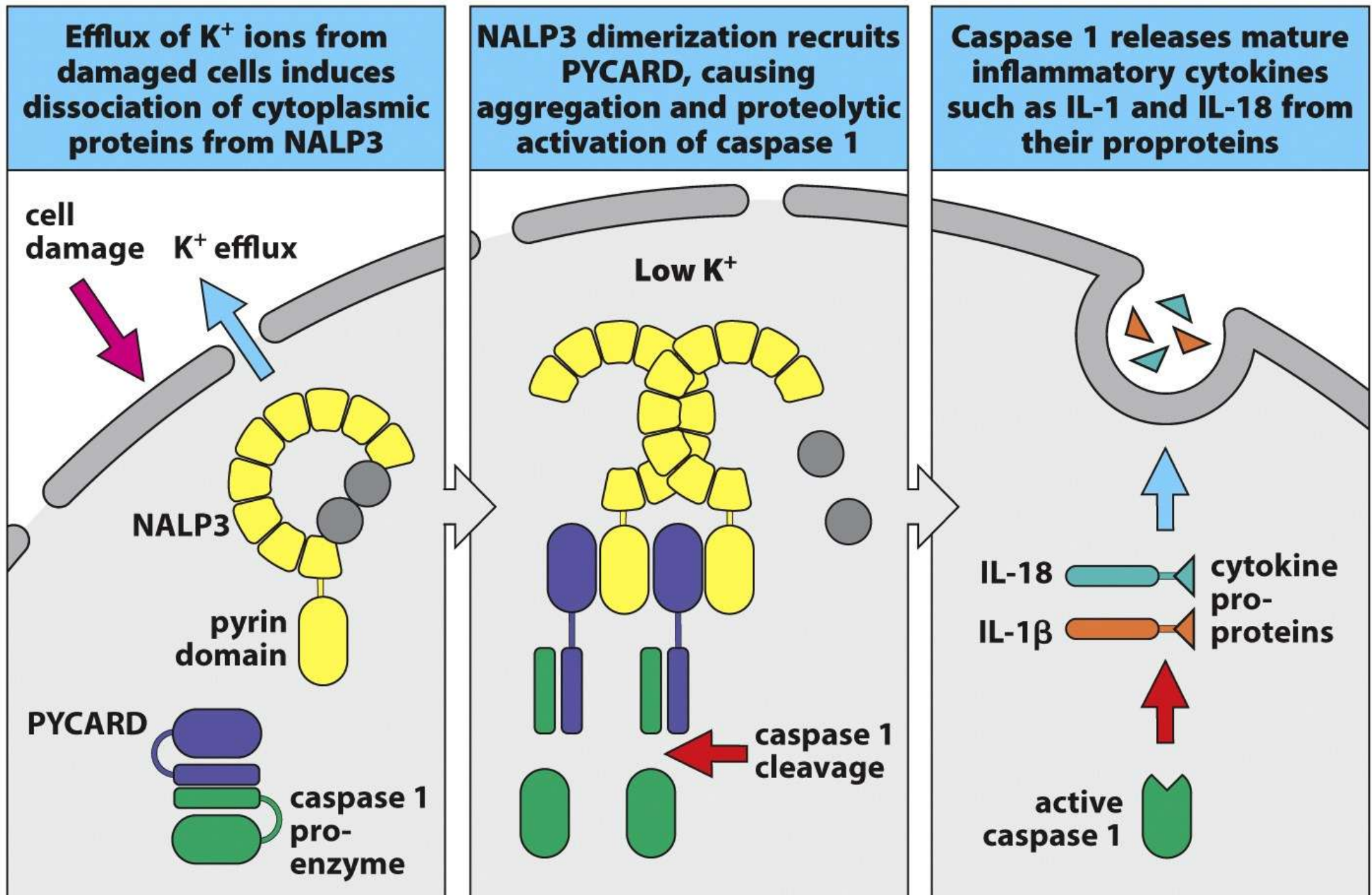


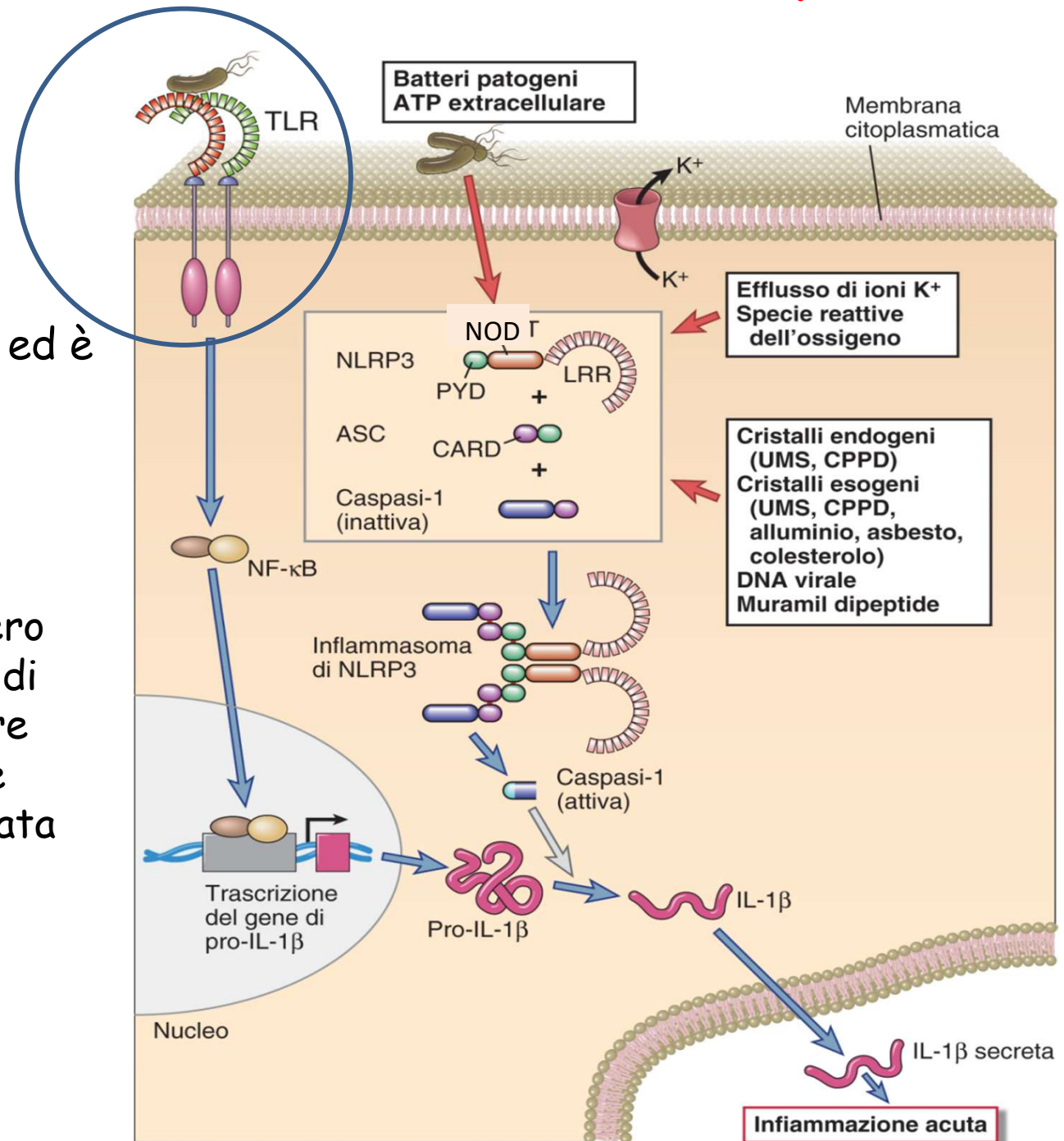
Figure 3.16 Janeway's Immunobiology, 8ed. (© Garland Science 2012)

PYCARD è ASC

L'inflammasoma e i suoi corecettori (**Pyrin family**)

ASC serve da adattatore ed è composta da un dominio Pyrin e un dominio CARD

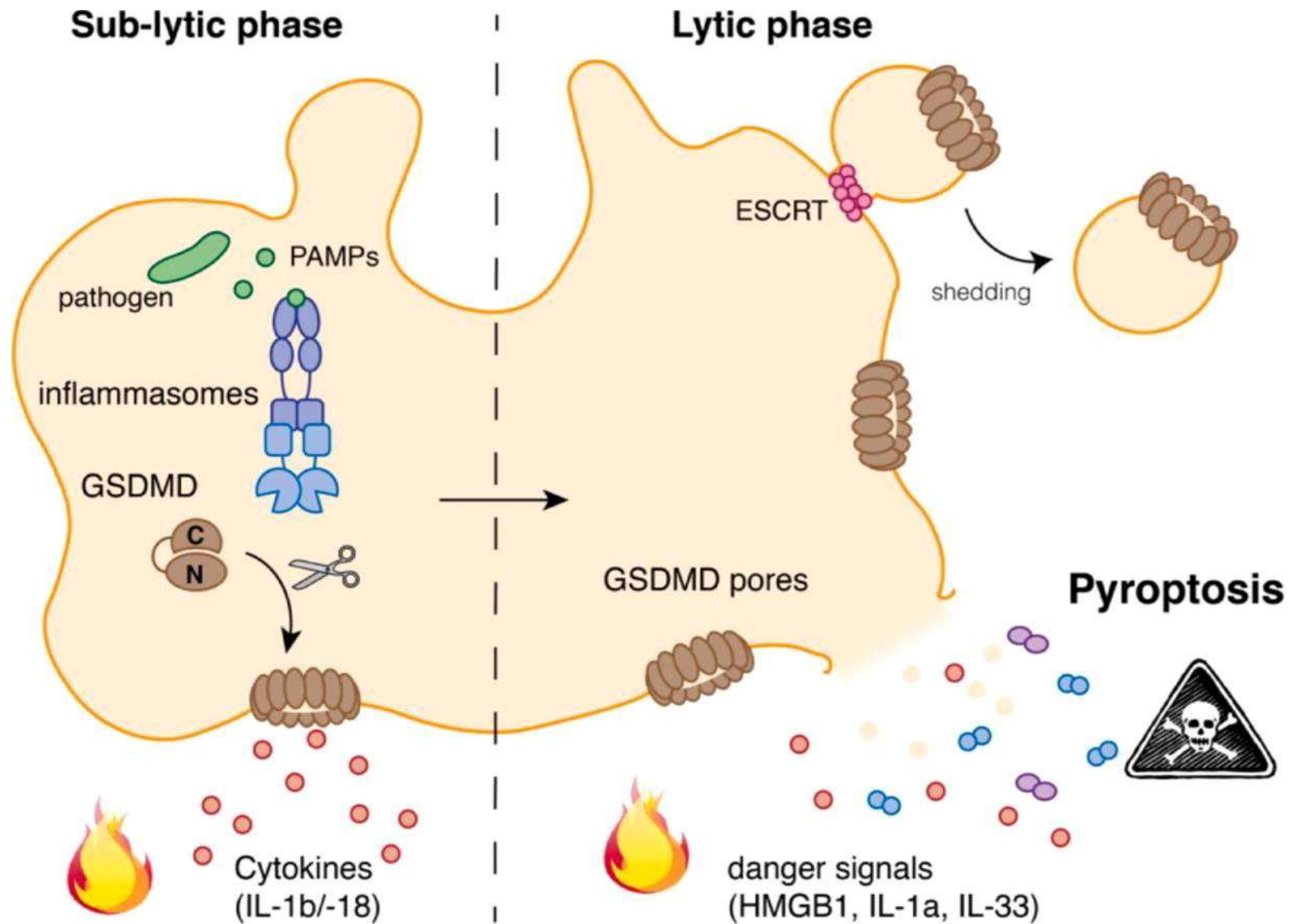
Queste citochine potrebbero essere rilasciate a seguito di una forma di morte cellulare programmata associata alle infezioni microbiche chiamata **Piroptosi**



Introducing GASDERMIN D..

the identity of the pyroptosis-inducing membrane pore remained unknown until 2015, when gasdermin D (GSDMD) was discovered as a pore-forming caspase-1 (-11/-4/-5) substrate and the single executor of inflammasome-associated pyroptosis

Lytic and sub-lytic functions of gasdermin D pores



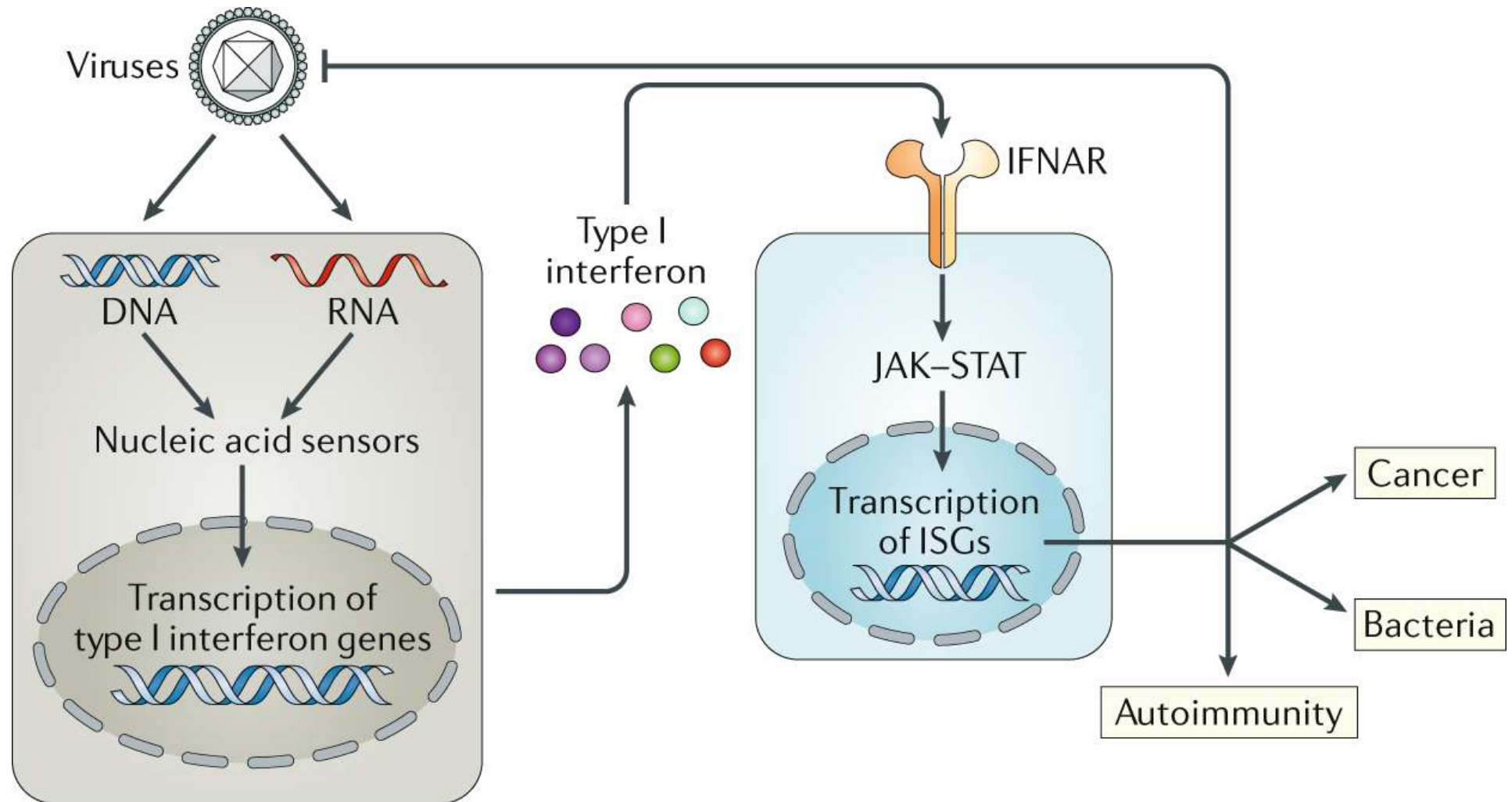
What happens when inappropriate activation of inflammasome occurs?

Gout has been known for many years to cause inflammation in the cartilaginous tissues by the deposition of monosodium urate crystals, Urate crystals are known to activate the NLRP3 inflammasome, which induces the inflammatory cytokines associated with the symptoms of gout.

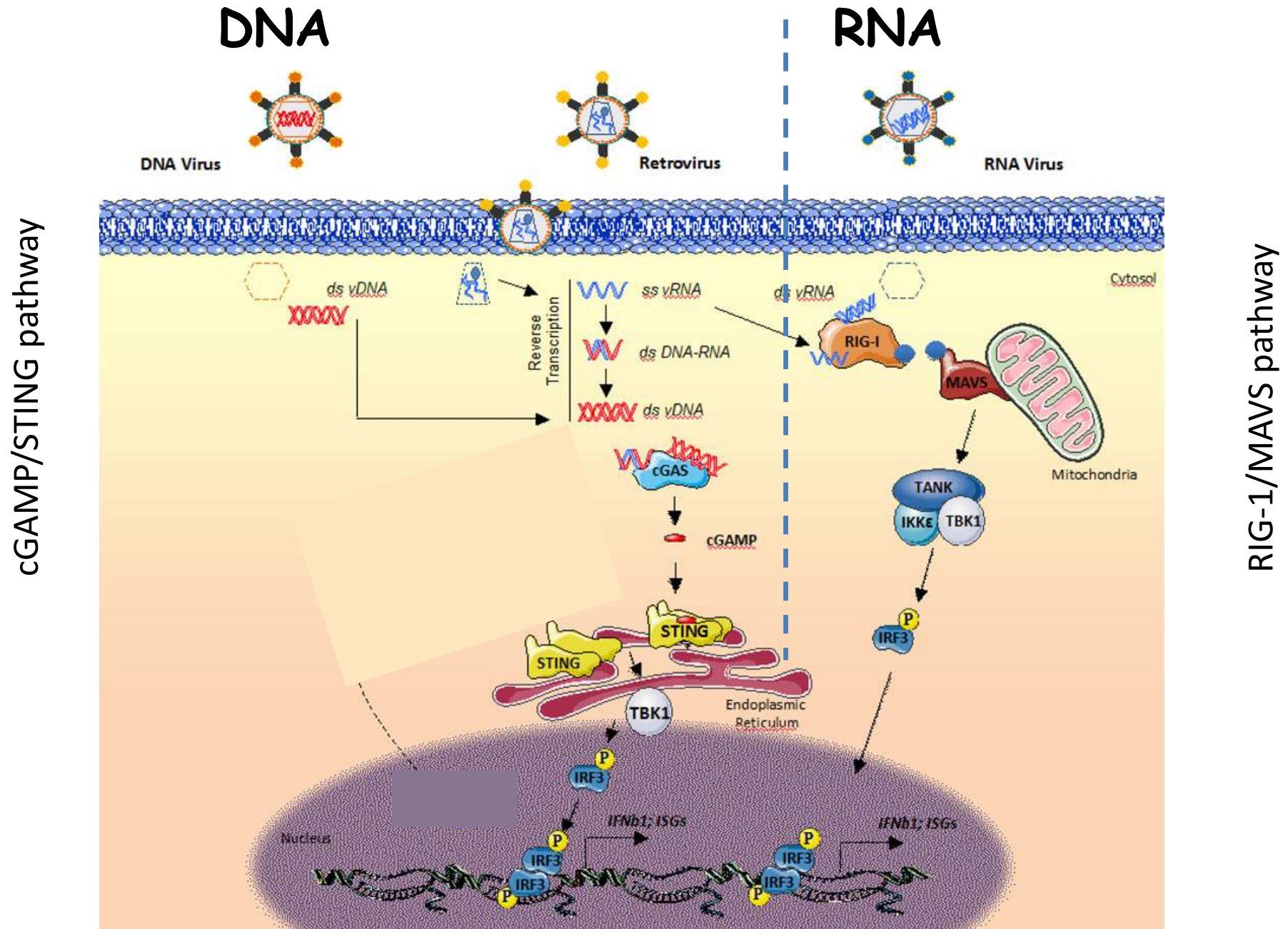
Mutations in the NOD domain of NLRP2 and NLRP3 can activate inflammasomes inappropriately, and they are the cause of some inherited **autoinflammatory diseases**, in which inflammation occurs in the absence of infection.

Mutations in NLRP3 in humans are associated with hereditary periodic fever syndromes due to spontaneous production of IL1-beta by macrophages.

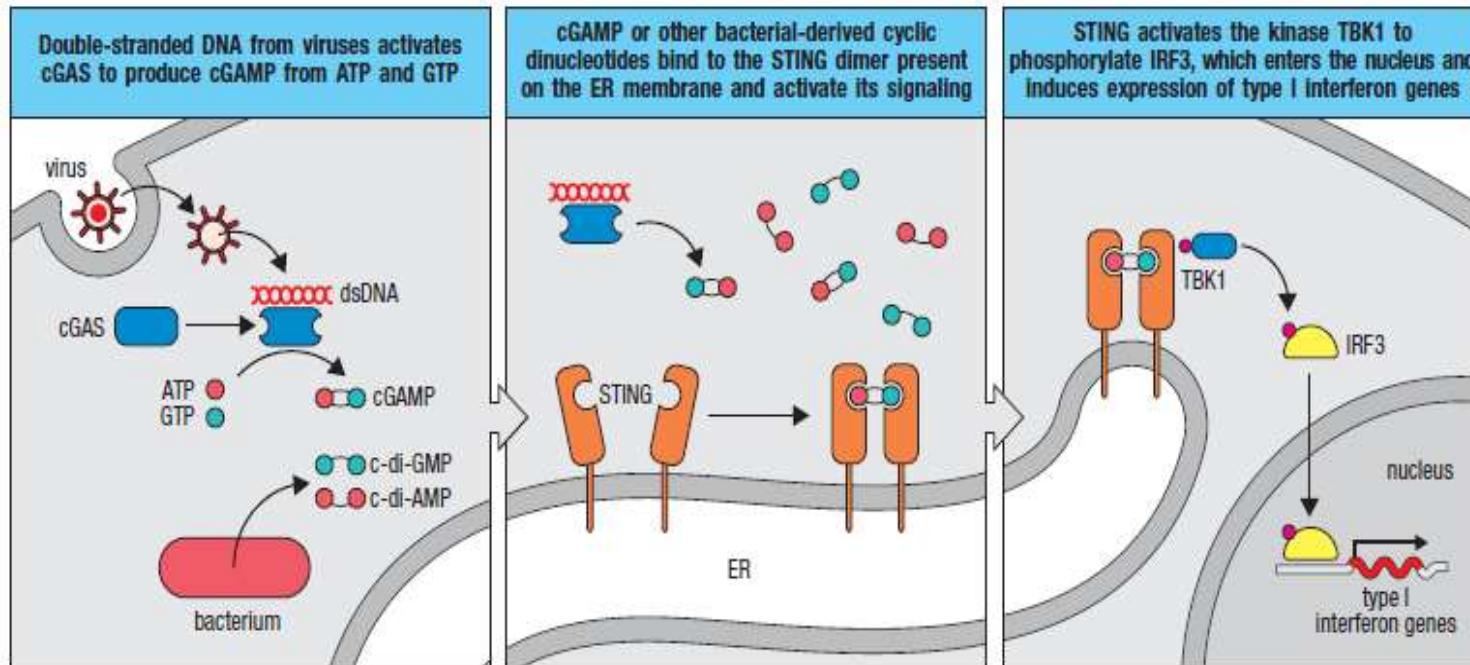
Intracellular Viral Sensing Pathways promote type I interferon expression



Intracellular Viral Sensing Pathways activate IRF3 and promote type I interferon expression



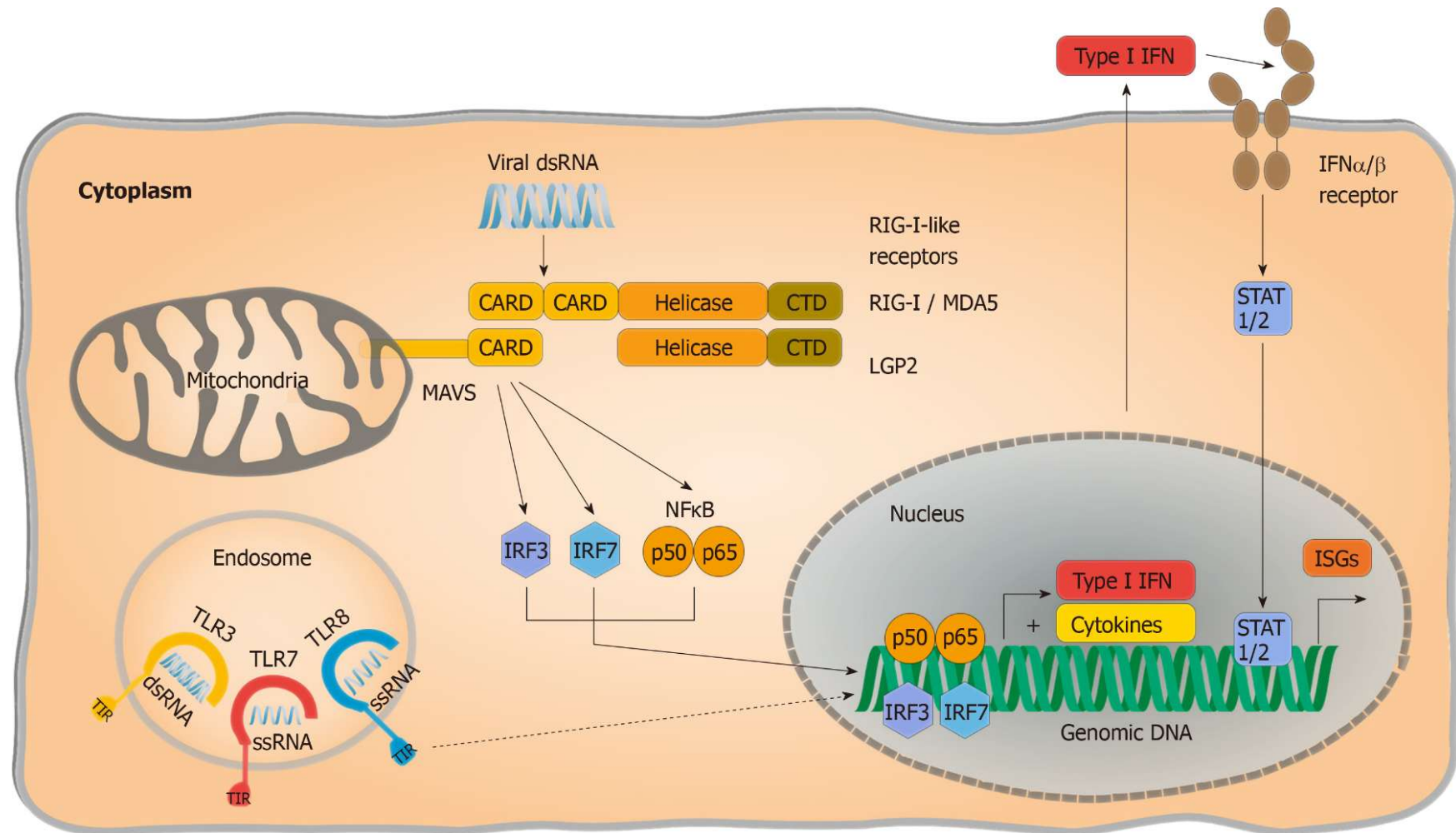
cGAS is a cytosolic sensor of DNA that signals through STING to activate type I interferon production

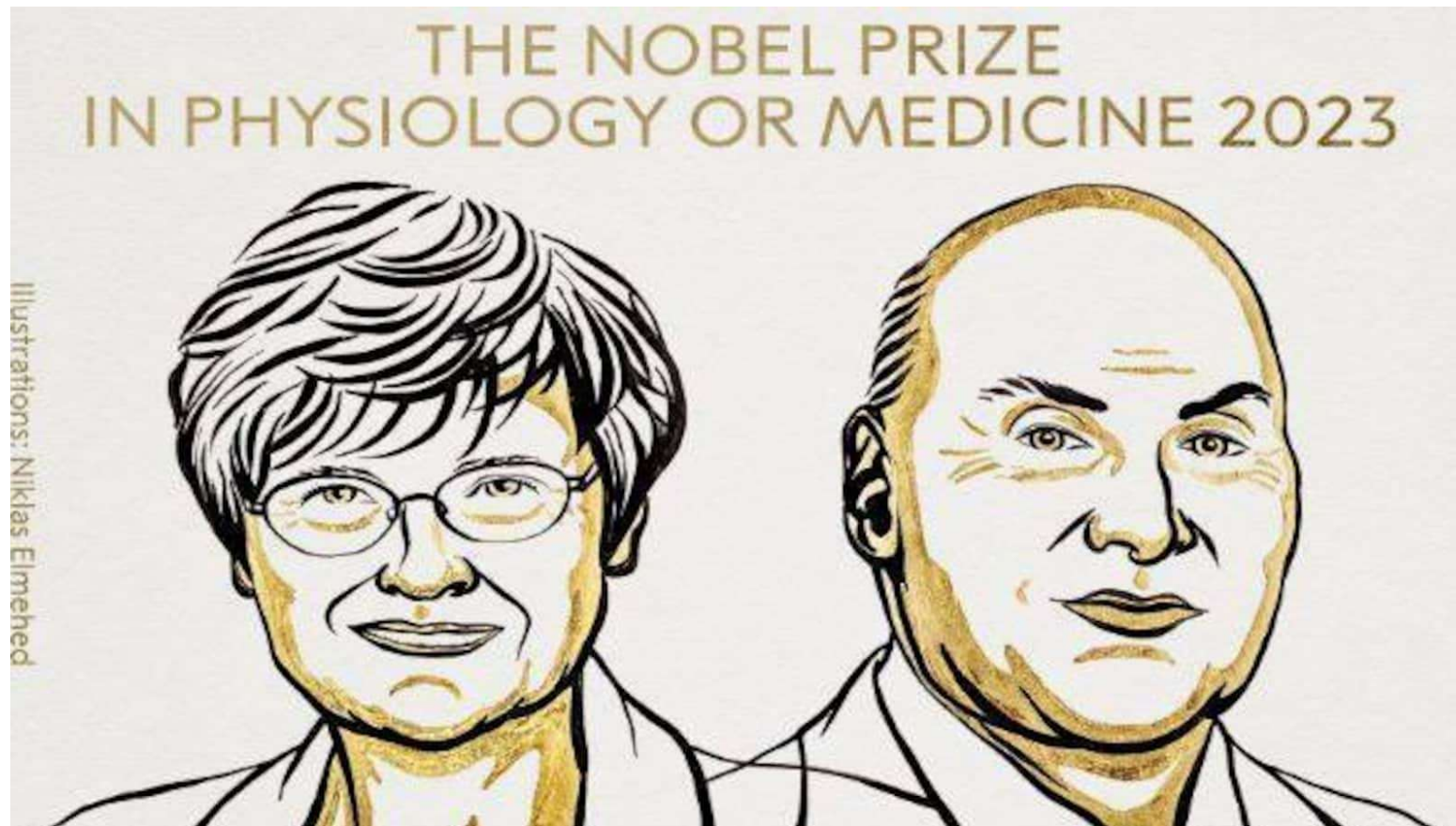


cGAS, cyclic GMP-AMP synthase;
cGAMP, 2'3' guanosine-adenosine monophosphate;
STING, stimulator of interferon genes

Double-stranded DNA from viruses activates cGAS to produce cGAMP from ATP and GTP cGAMP binds to the STING dimer present on the ER membrane and activate its signaling
STING activates the kinase TBK1 to phosphorylate IRF3, which enters the nucleus and induces expression of type I interferon genes

Innate recognition of viral infection (RNA sensing)





Katalin Karikó

Drew Weissman

Development of mRNA vaccines

Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman developed immunizations amid an unprecedented pandemic at record-breaking speed