

# *Complement is part of innate immunity 2014*

*jürg schifferli*

*internal medicine  
university hospital basel*

*and*

*department of biomedicine  
DBM*

*basel*



**Immune system**

**=**

**Fitness**

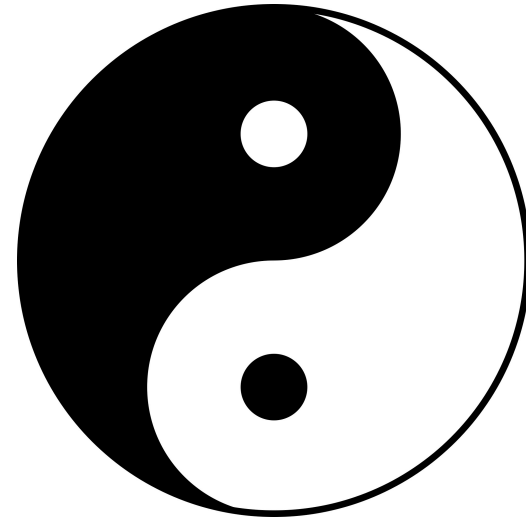
**Immune system**

=

**Fitness**

=

**Inflammation tailored to the needs**



# **Immune system**

**=**

**Control system to remove unnecessary / danger elements in the organism**

**-> internal factors, waste: debris, necrosis, apoptosis ( $10^{11}$  neutrophils/day)**

**-> external factors: foreign body, infectious organisms (not all: e.g. gut microbiome),**



# **Immune system**

**=**

**Best inflammatory level :**

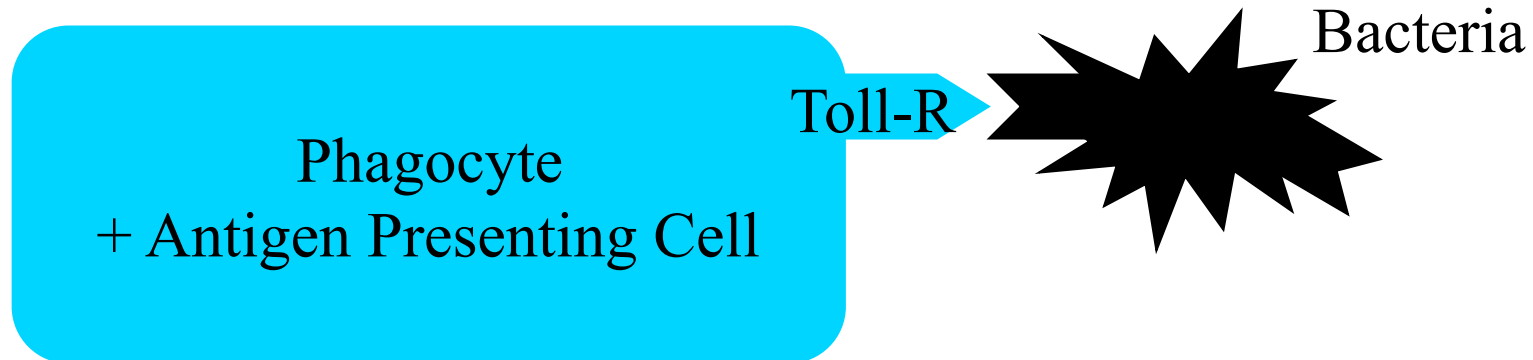
**In a non sterile environment ->  
be ready to react rapidly (must remain awake)**

**Signals?**

- internal (low grade autoreactivity  
against specific patterns (waste)?)**
- external**

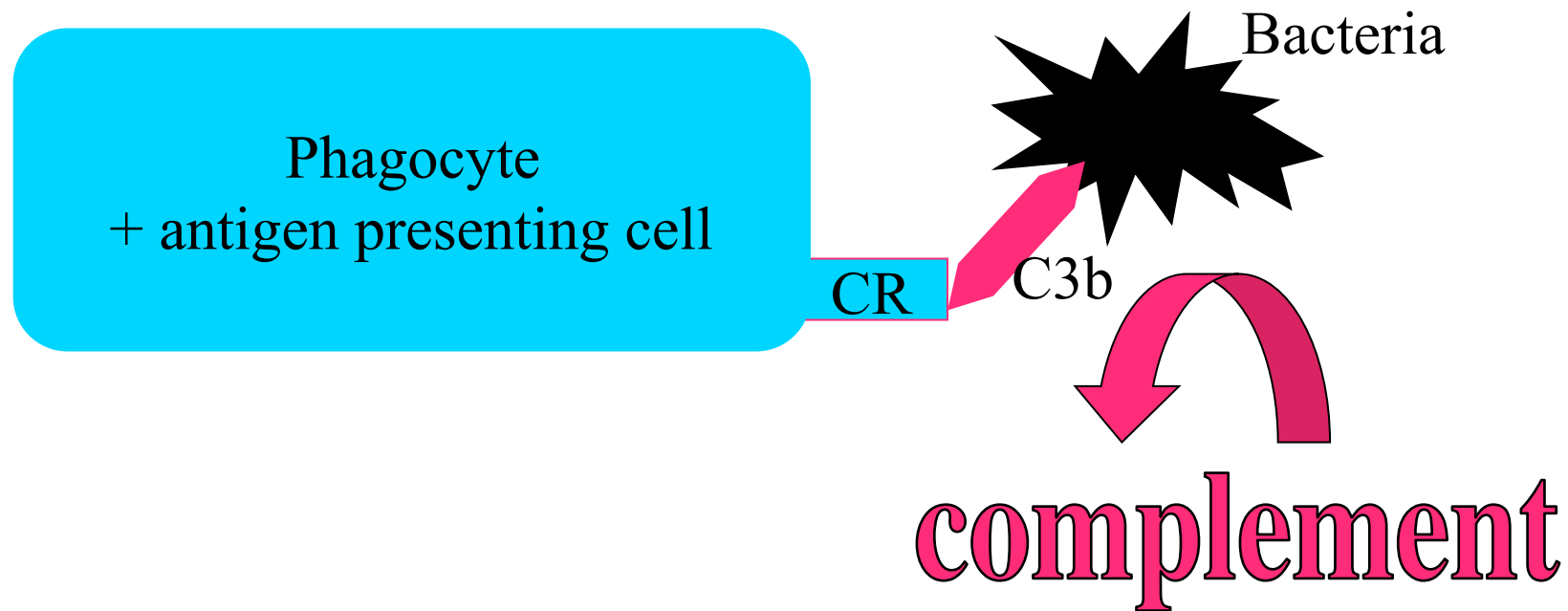
# Innate immun system

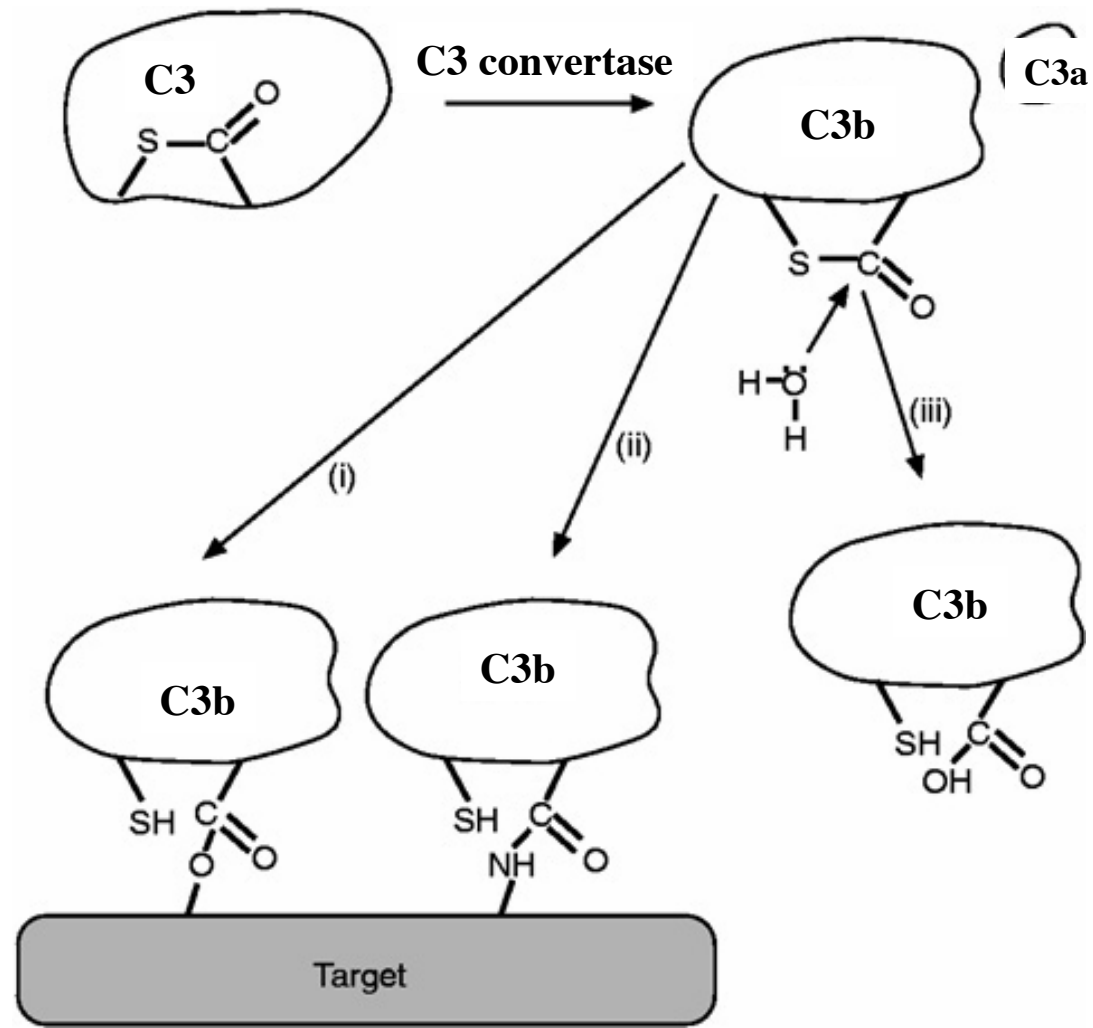
**Pattern** recognition : Toll-like receptors on cells



# Innate immun system

**Pattern** recognition in the fluid phase:  
Complement and complement receptors (CR)





The activation of C4, and covalent binding of C3b. C3 contains an internal thiolester which becomes exposed on cleavage of C3 by activated C4bC2a or C3bBb. The exposed thiolester may react with OH or NH<sub>2</sub> groups on the surface of the complement activator ((i) and (ii)) or may simply react with water (iii).

# Innate immun system

**Pattern** recognition : Natural IgM Ab + Complement and complement receptors (CR)

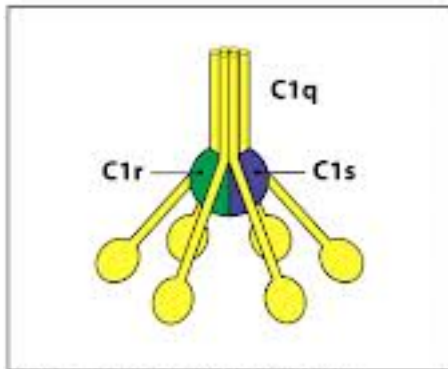
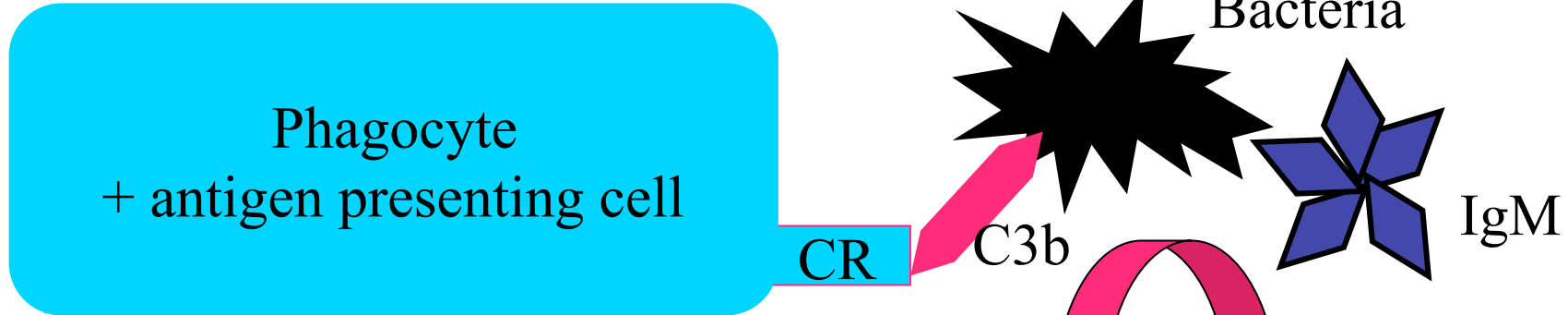
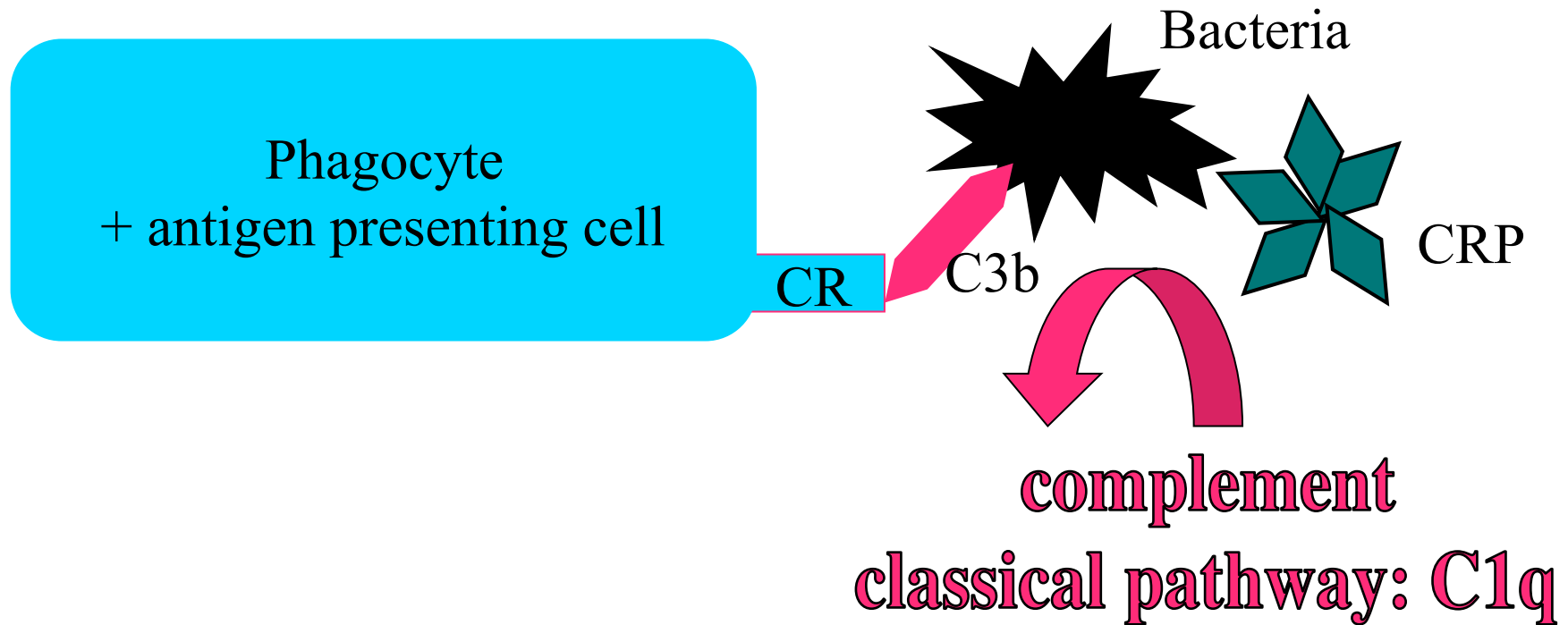


Figure 3.42 The Immune System, 2nd Ed. © Garland Science 2008

complement  
classical pathway: C1q

# Innate immun system

**Pattern** recognition : pentraxine C-reactive protein (CRP) + Complement and complement receptors (CR)



# Innate immun system

**Pattern** recognition : Mannan binding lectin (MBL) + Complement

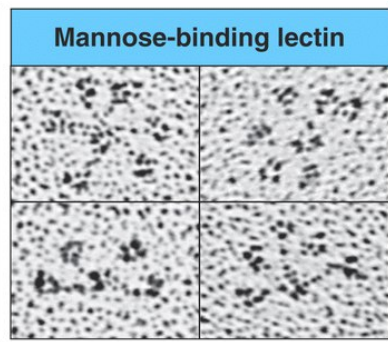
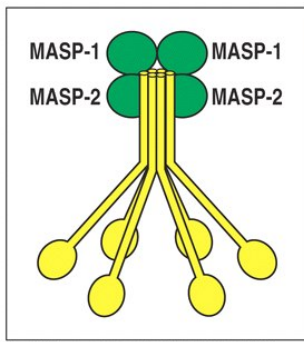
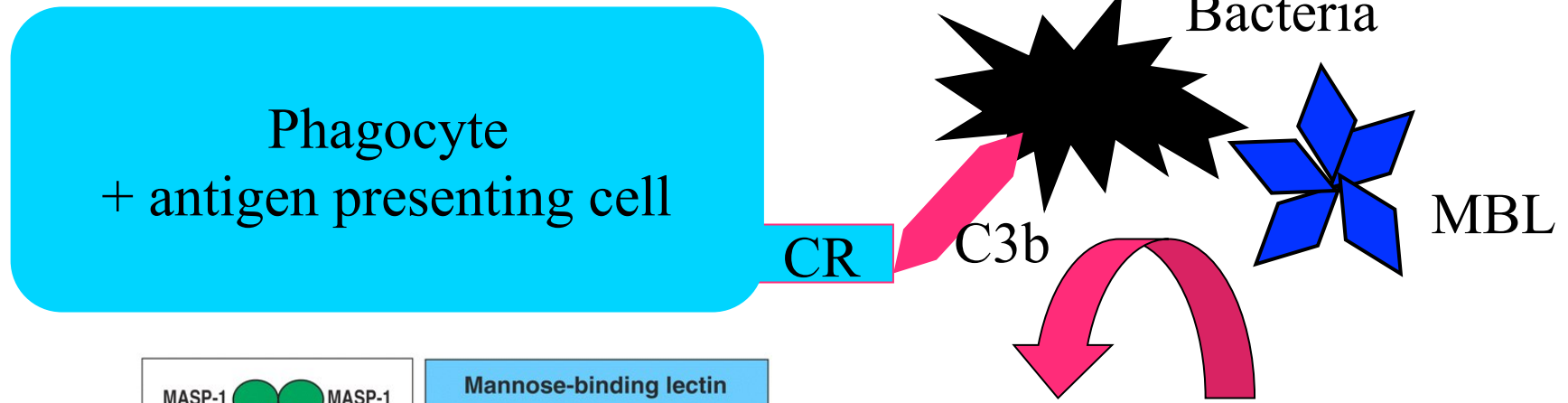
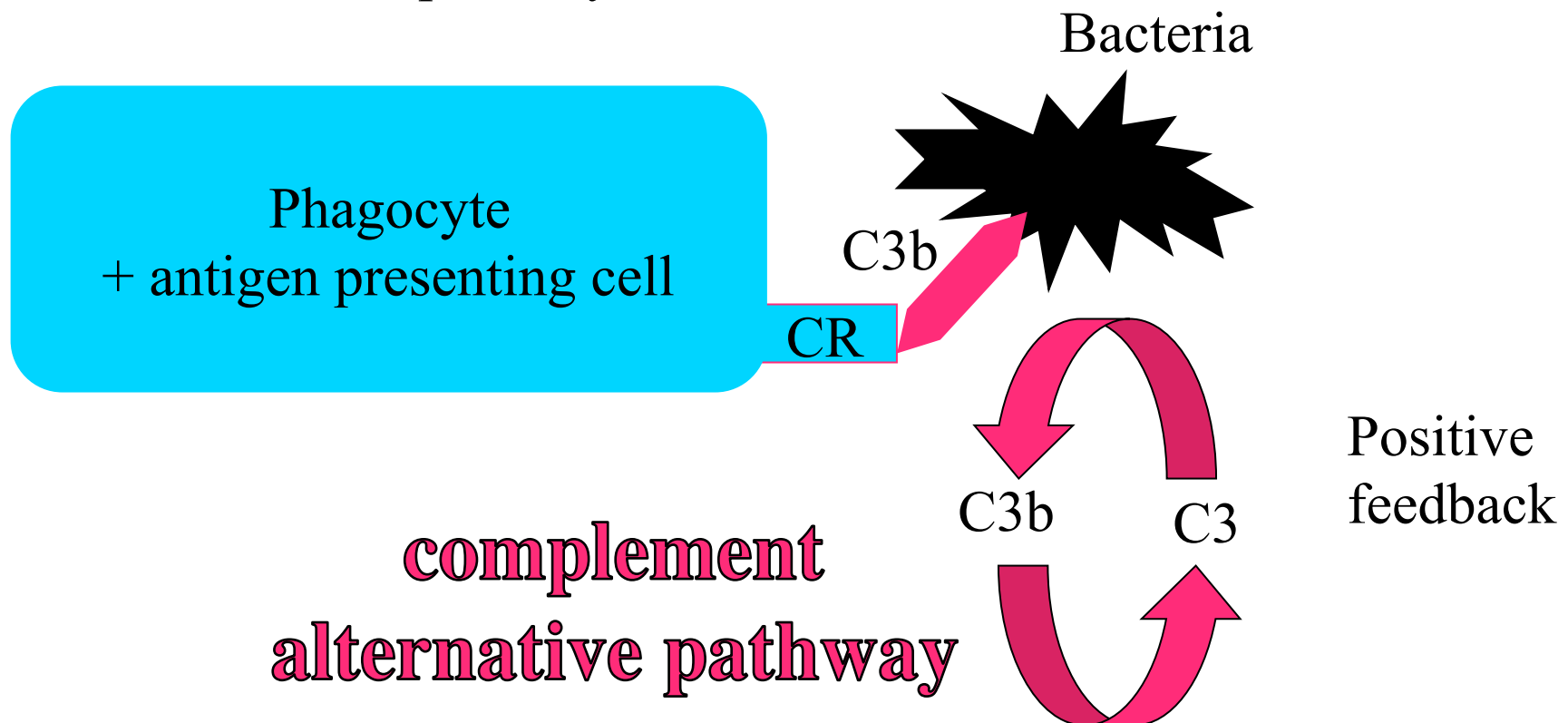


Figure 2-24 Immunobiology, 6/e, © Garland Science 2005

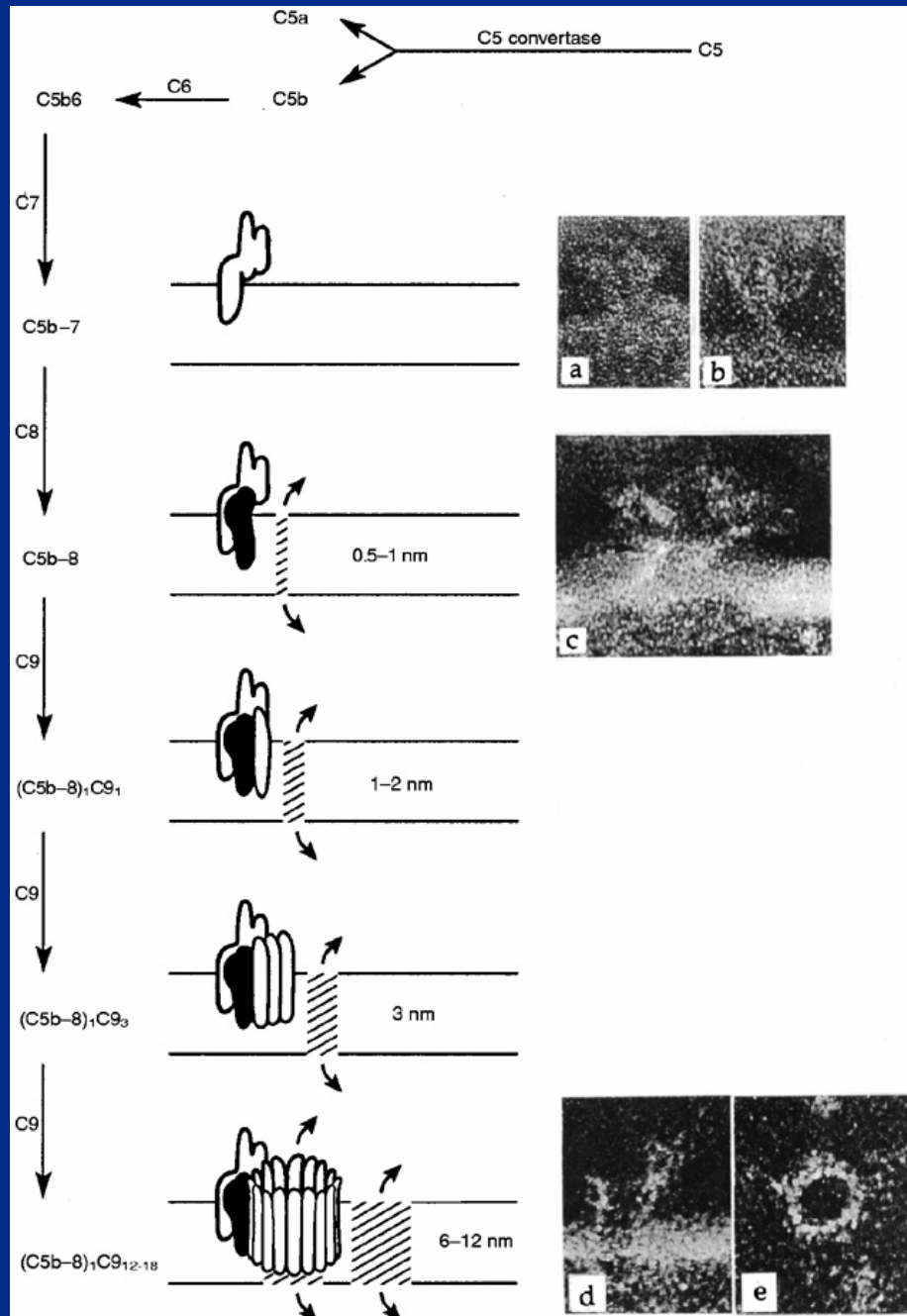
**complement  
MBL pathway**

# Innate immun system

Activation of complement by lack of inhibition of the alternative pathway

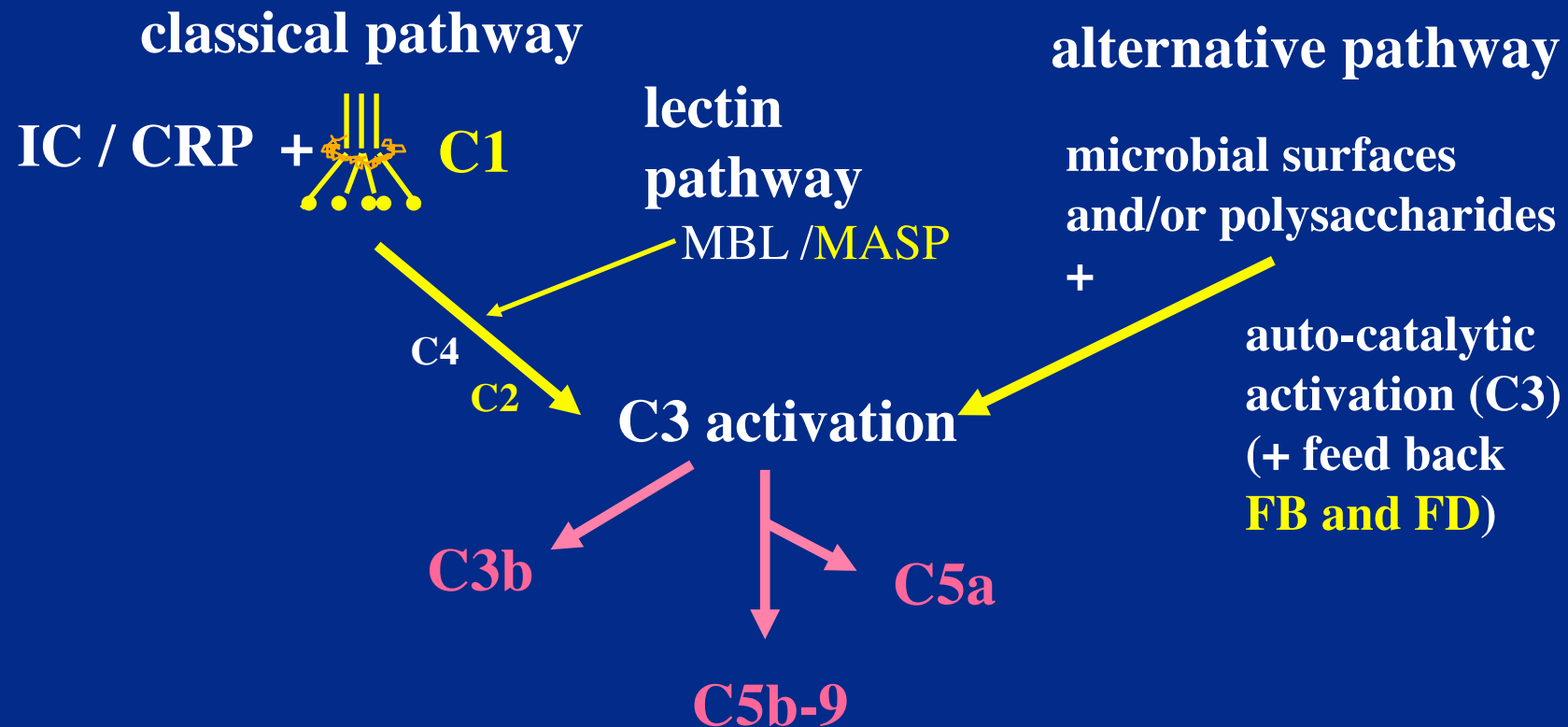






C5a release  
 formation of the  
 membrane attack  
 complex C5b-C9

# Complement activation cascade



# Complement deficiencies

**Classical Pathway**  
antigen-antibody  
complex

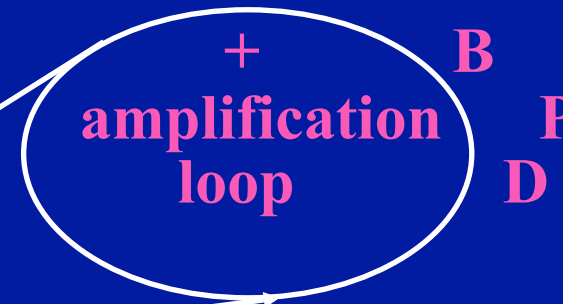
**Lectin Pathway**  
mannan-binding-lect

**Alternative Pathway**  
activating surface

C1  
C4  
C2

**Bact infections**

**Immun-complex  
diseases / Autoimmunity**  
**Sepsis**  
**(encapsulated cocci)**



C3

**Meningococci**

assembly of the terminal complement complex  
C5b-C6-C7-C8-C9

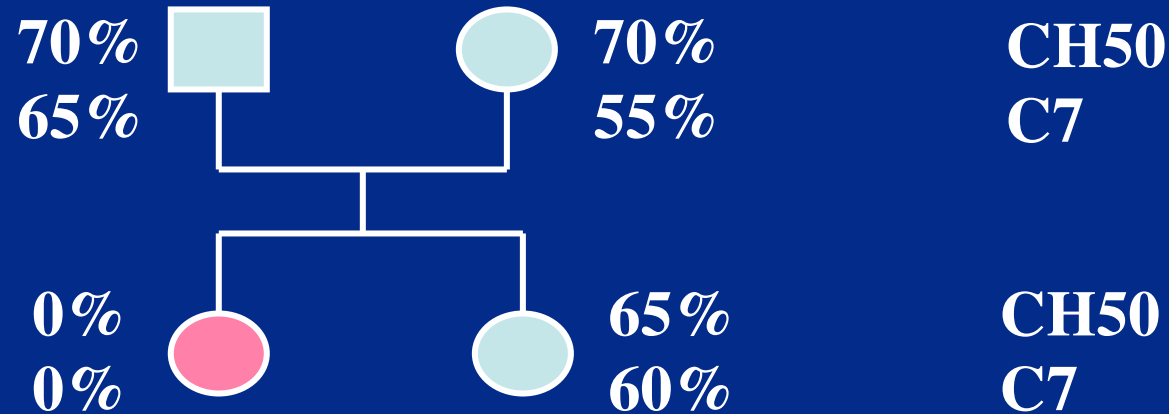
## Family Z.

1953

Viral meningitis?

1956

Good health

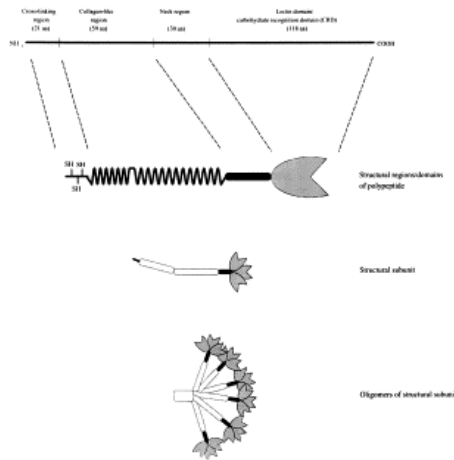


1980

2 meningococcal  
meningitis (99, 02)

1978

Good health



**MBL (L-Ficolin, H-Ficolin) –  
 associates with MASP2 -->  
 Cleavage of C4 and C2  
 (enzymatic activity of MASP2 =C1s)**

MBL deficiency (partial: 5% of the population!)

- bacterial (pneumococcal) infections in  
 infants + children

- and even in adults:

meningococcal infections (1/3 of the cases)

more infections after chemotherapy



Inherited deficiency of MASP 2 -> pneumococcal infection

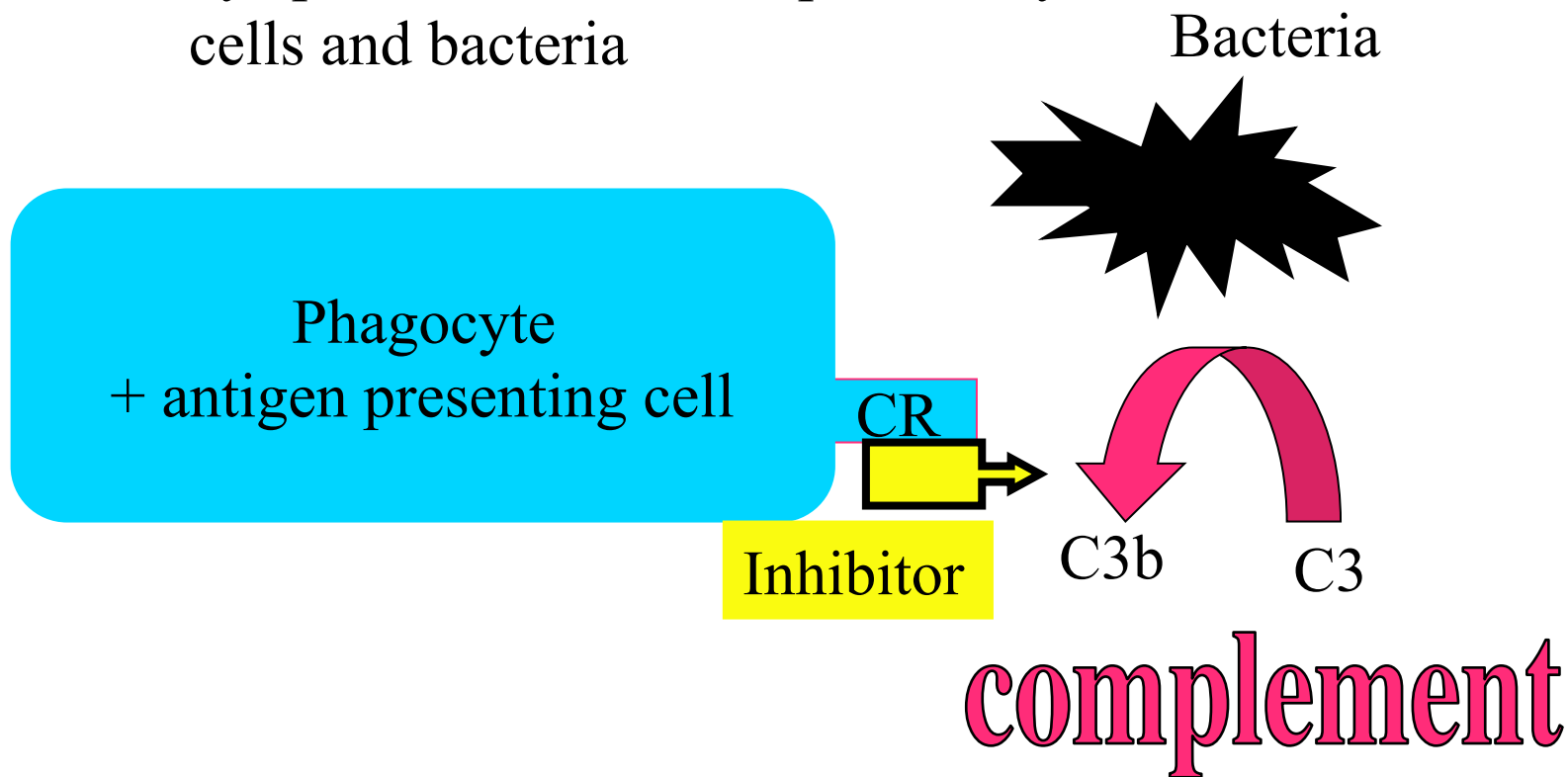
*NEJM* 2003, 349:554

Inherited deficiency of Ficolin-3 -> bacterial infections *NEJM*

2009, 360:2637

# Innate immun system

Blockade of complement  
by specific inhibitors expressed by  
cells and bacteria



# Membrane and fluid phase control proteins in humans

**MCP/CD46**  
**CR1/CD35**  
**DAF/CD55**  
**(Factor H?)**  
**CD59**

**Clinh: *Angioedema***

**C4bp**  
**Factor H and FH/rel/prot**  
**(*Factor I*)**  
**Clusterin**

***CD55 and CD59 deficiency:***  
***paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria (PNH)***

***Factor H mutation with loss of binding activity: HUS***  
***MCP mutations: HUS***

# Paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria (PNH) CD59 / DAF deficiency

Complement  
alternative  
pathway

C3

DAF

CD59

E

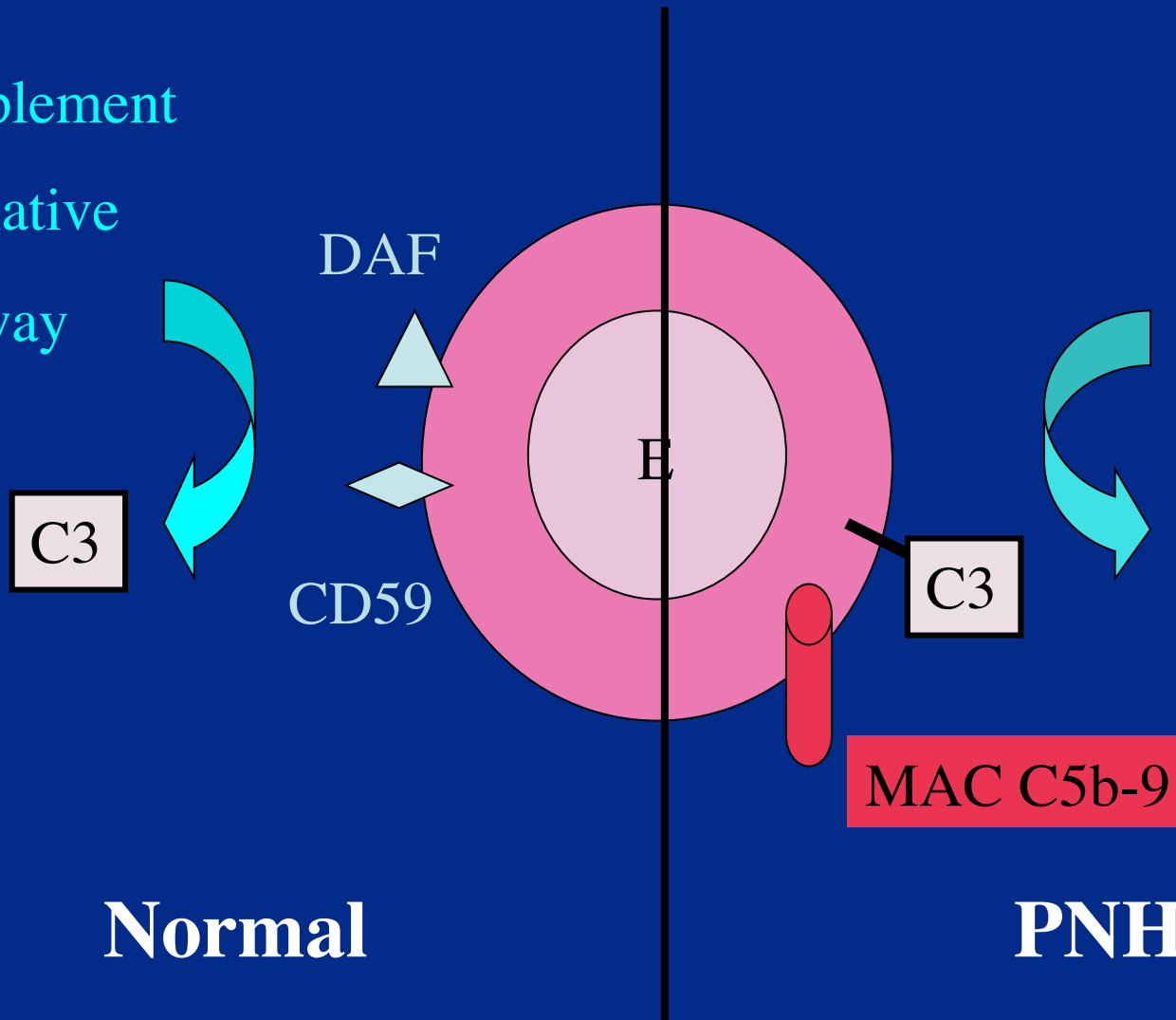
Complement  
alternative  
pathway

C3

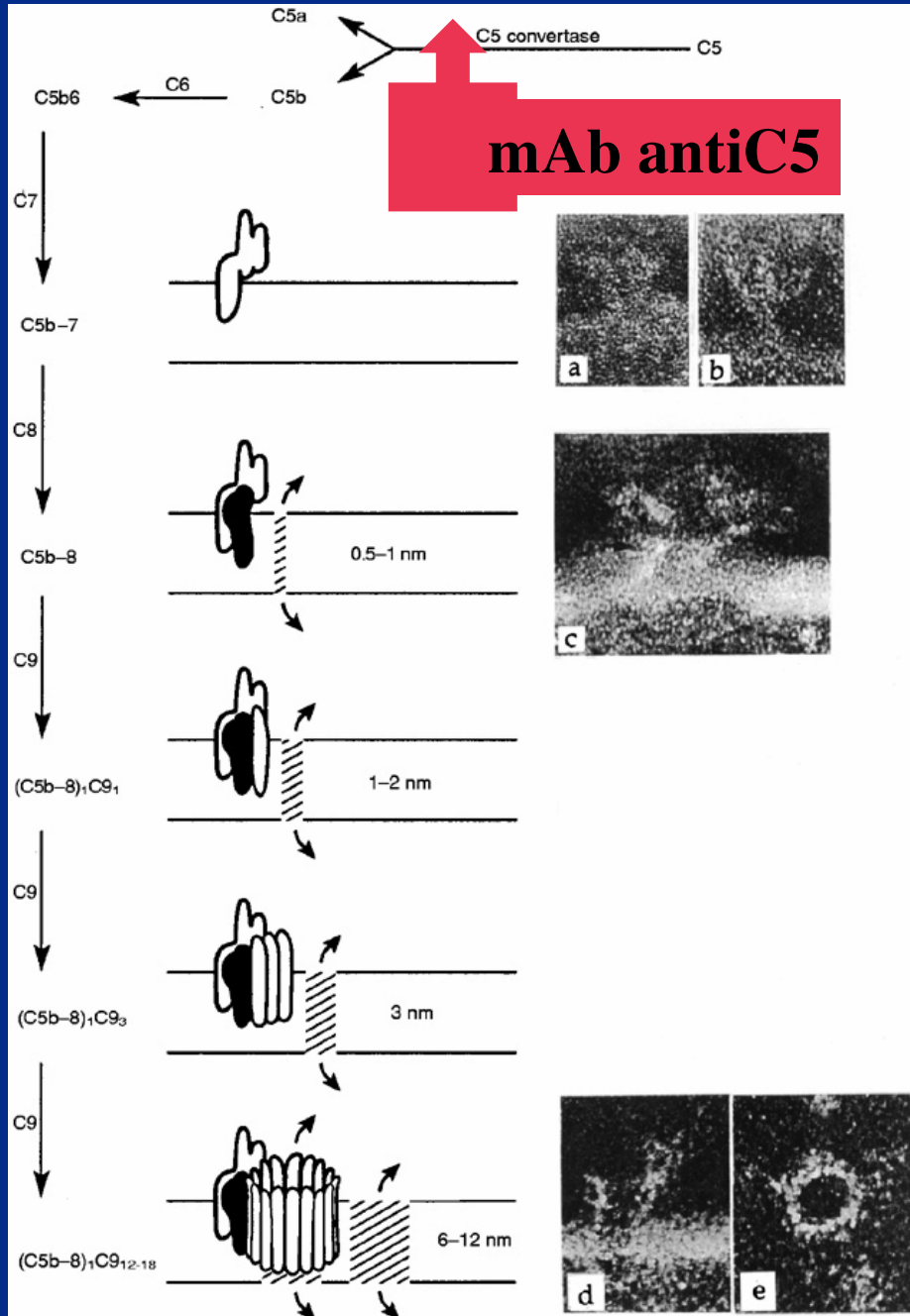
MAC C5b-9

Normal

PNH

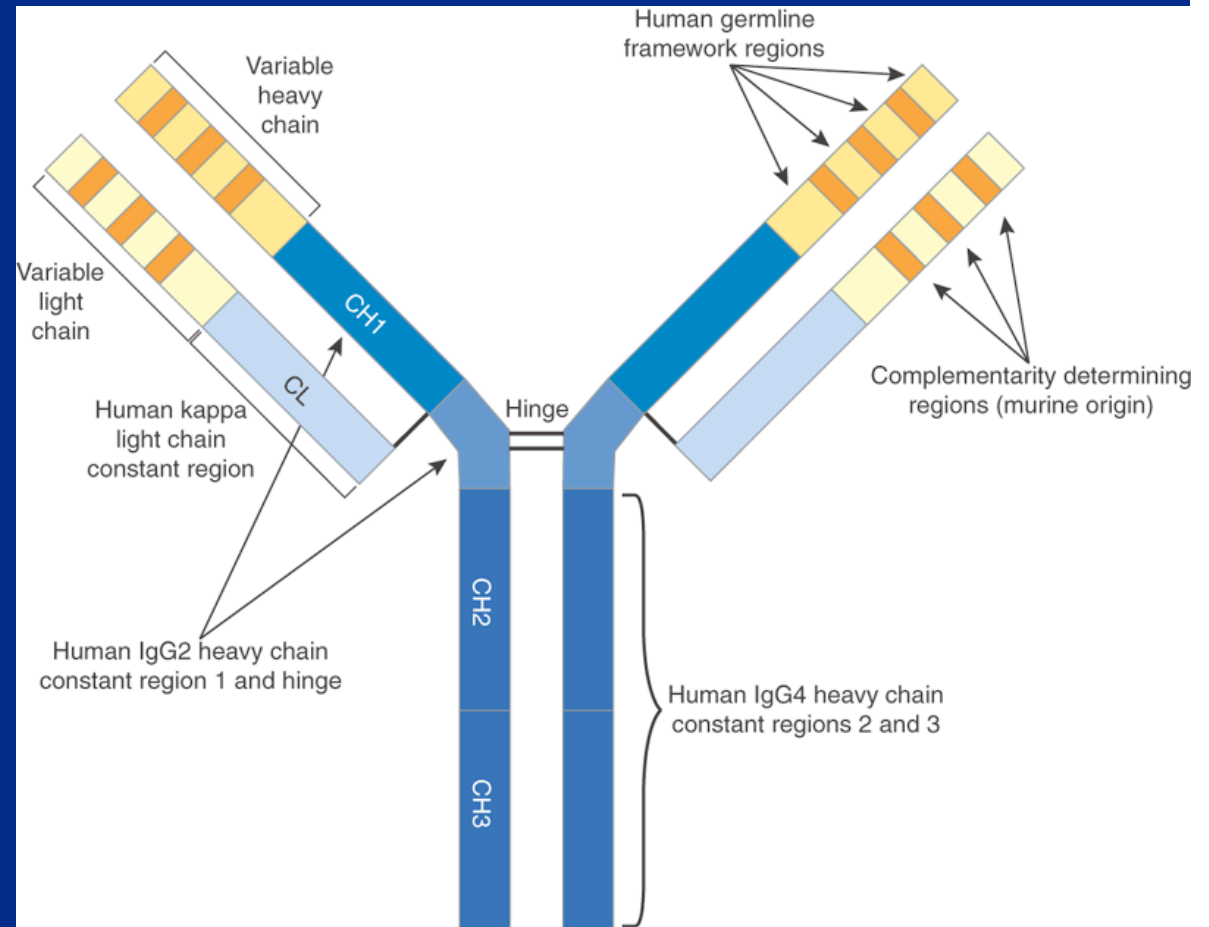






Formation of the  
Membrane attack  
complex  
C5b-C9

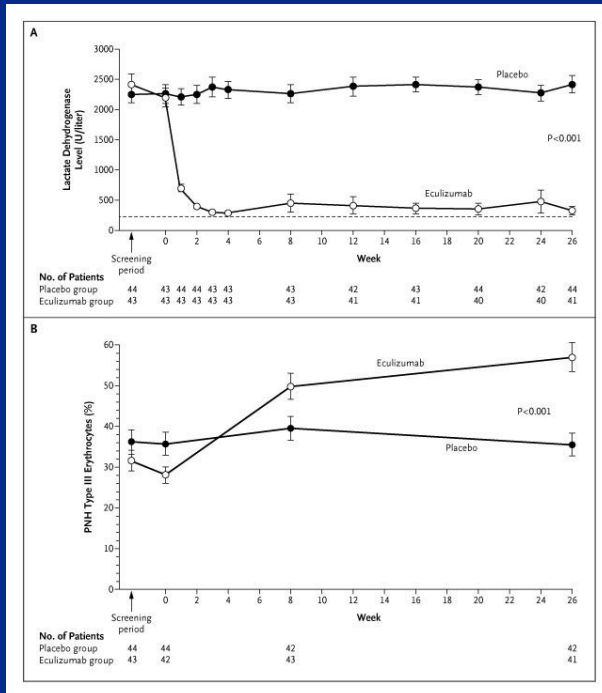
Eculizumab = C5 inhibitor. Russell P et al. Nature Biotechnology 25, 1256 - 1264 (2007)



To minimize immunogenicity, murine complementarity-determining regions was grafted into human heavy and light chain germline antibody framework sequences. Additionally, human IgG2 and IgG4 heavy chain sequences were combined to form a hybrid constant region that is unable to bind Fc receptors or to activate the complement cascade. Eculizumab exhibits high affinity for human C5, effectively blocking its cleavage and downstream proinflammatory and cell lytic properties.

**New Engl J Med 370:90-2, 2014: Eculizumab for inherited CD59 deficiency**

# Levels of Lactate Dehydrogenase and PNH Type III Erythrocytes during Treatment with Eculizumab



Hillmen P et al. N Engl J Med 2006;  
355:1233-1243

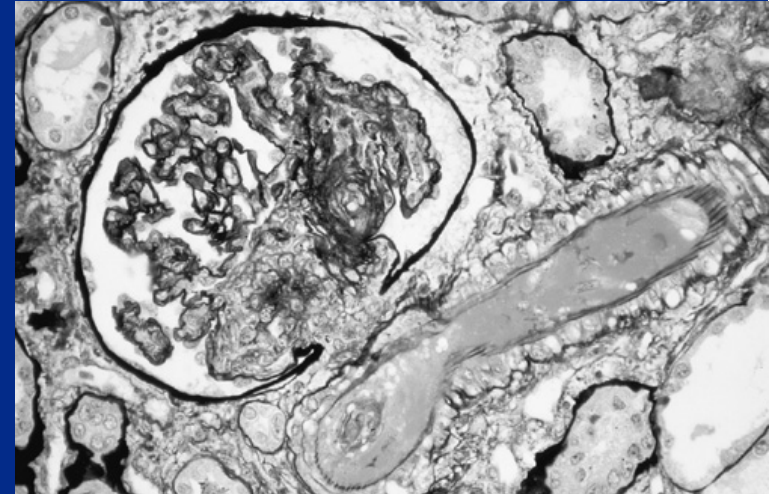
**And:**  
**New Engl J Med 370:90-2, 2014:**  
**Eculizumab for inherited CD59 deficiency**



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# Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)

thrombopaenia,  
haemolysis,  
fragmentocytes,  
renal failure (Gasser)



1. Typical (Shiga toxine)
2. Atypical : familial,  
relapsing,  
improved by plasma

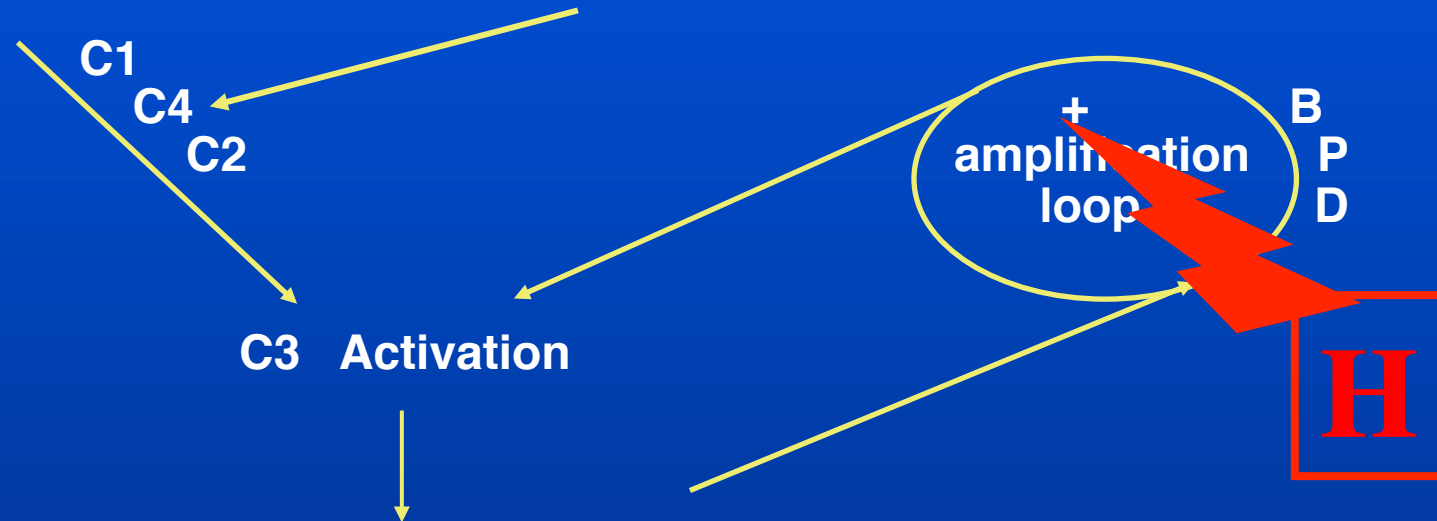
==> Mutations of complement proteins Facteur H or MCP

# Complement activation

**Classical Pathway**  
Antigen / Antibody complex

**Lectin Pathway**  
mannan-binding-prot

**Alternative Pathway**  
Activating surface



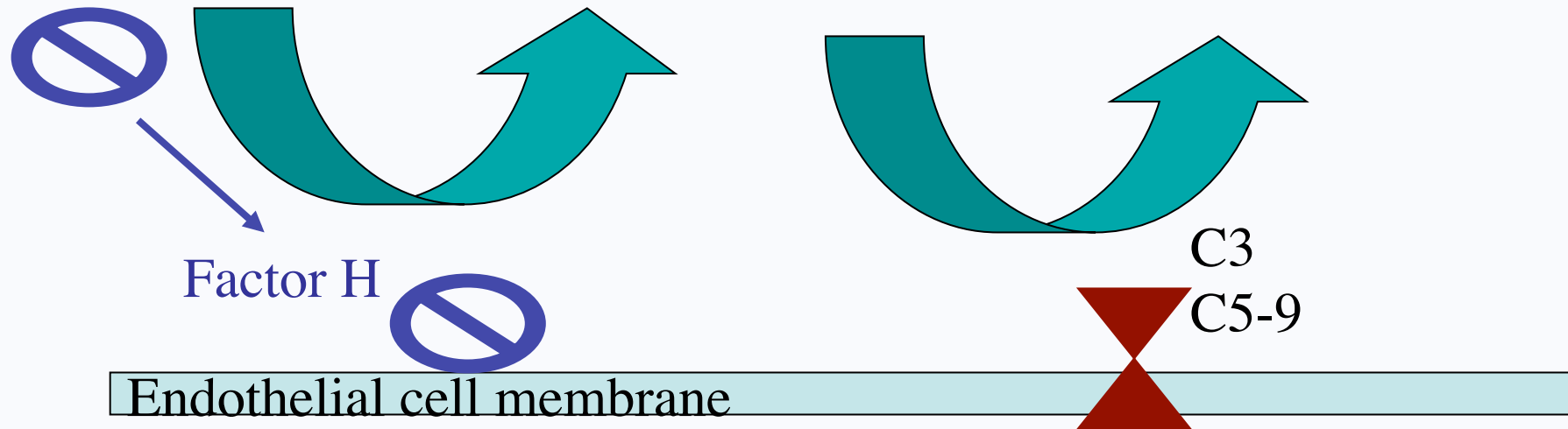
**C3 Activation**

**Covalent Binding of C3b <--> Receptors**

**C5a**

assembly of the terminal complement complex C5b-C6-C7-C8-C9  
**cell activation / lysis (TCC)**

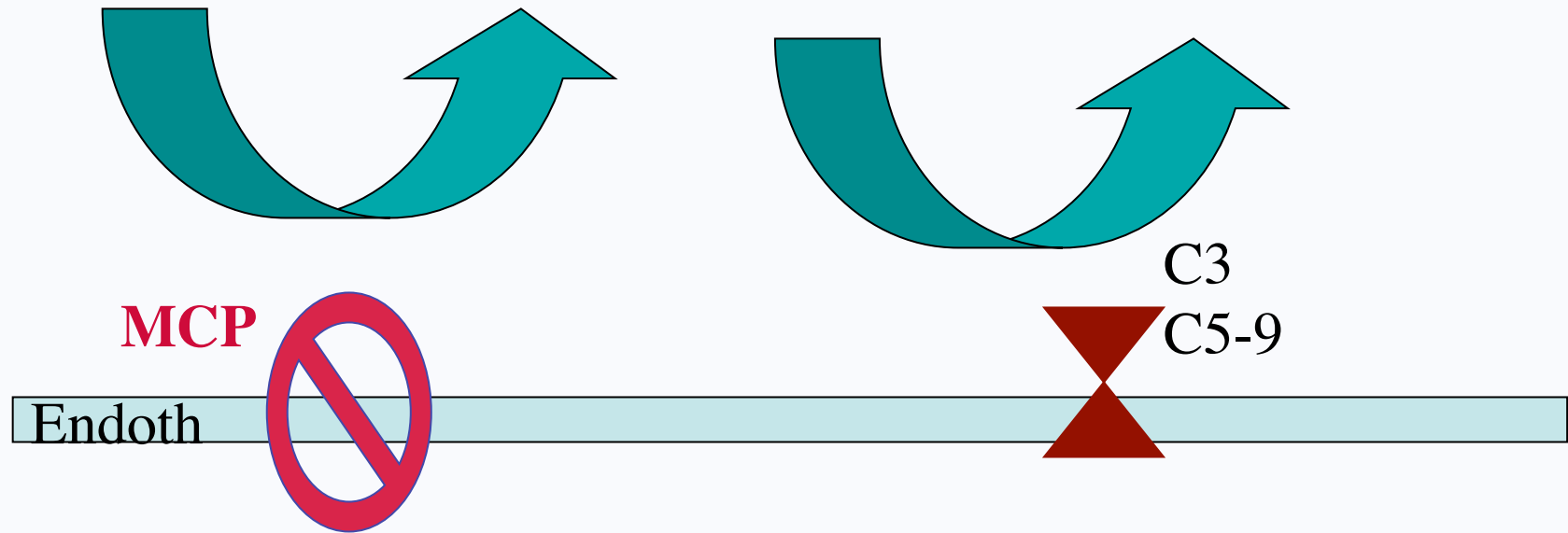
## Complement activation



The cell is  
protected

The cell is activated  
or damaged

# Complement activation



The cell is protected

The cell is activated or damaged

## ***HUS and complement mutations***

50% mutations in atypical HUS (*Frémeaux Bacchi*)

Loss of inhibition:

Factor H, *AutoAb against FH*

MCP (Membrane Cofactor Protein), Factor I

*Others (thrombomodulin: increases activation of prot C)*

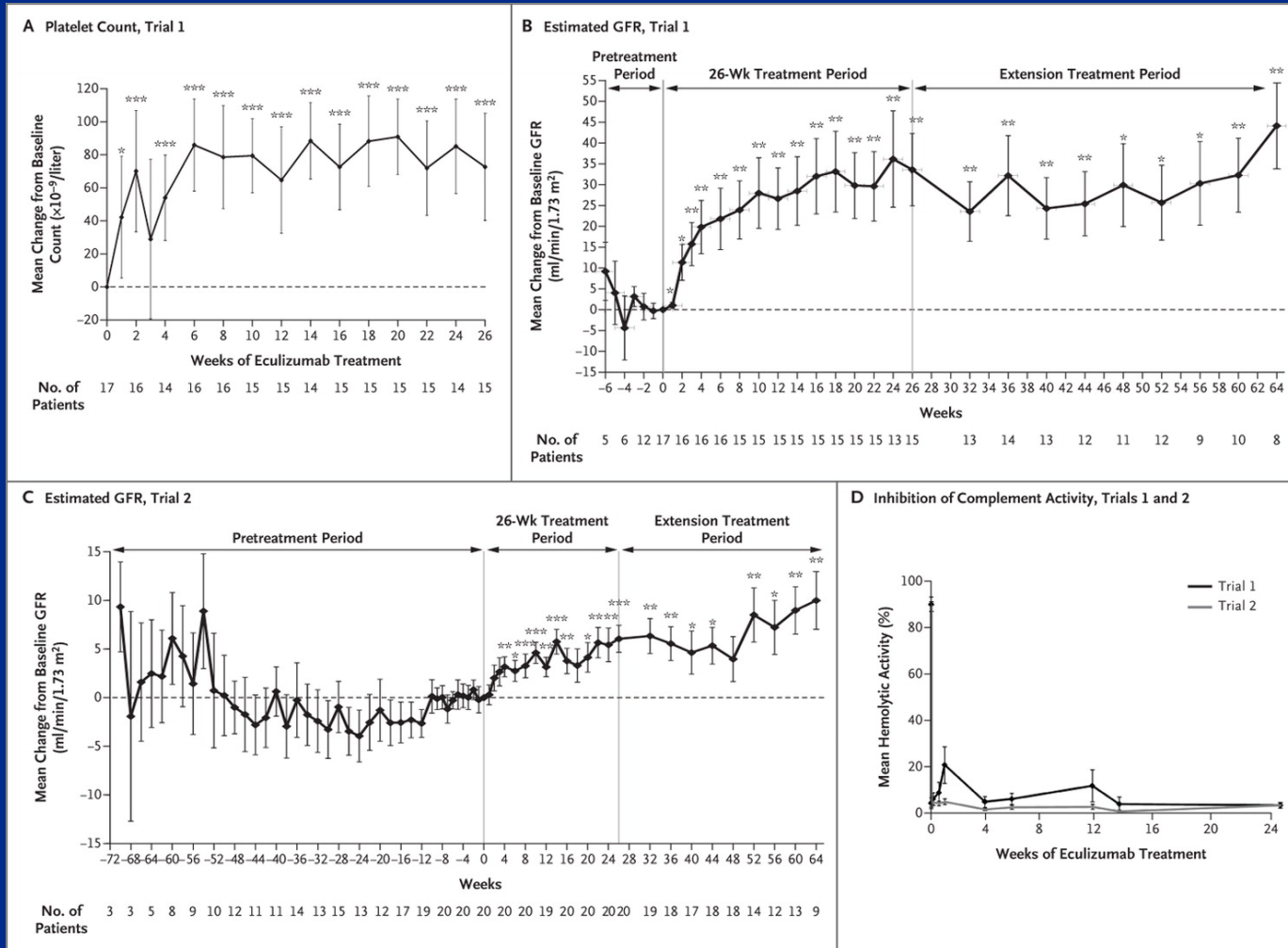
Gain of function:

Factor B and C3

Relevant for therapy ?



# Terminal Complement Inhibitor Eculizumab in Atypical Hemolytic–Uremic Syndrome



Legendre C et al. N Engl J Med 2013;368:2169-2181.



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## ***Age-related Macular Degeneration (eye - retina - drusen- blindness)***

*(drusen = deposits between the retinal-pigmented epithelium and Bruch's membrane)*



### Risk factor:

alleles of Factor H (*Science* 308:385, 2005)

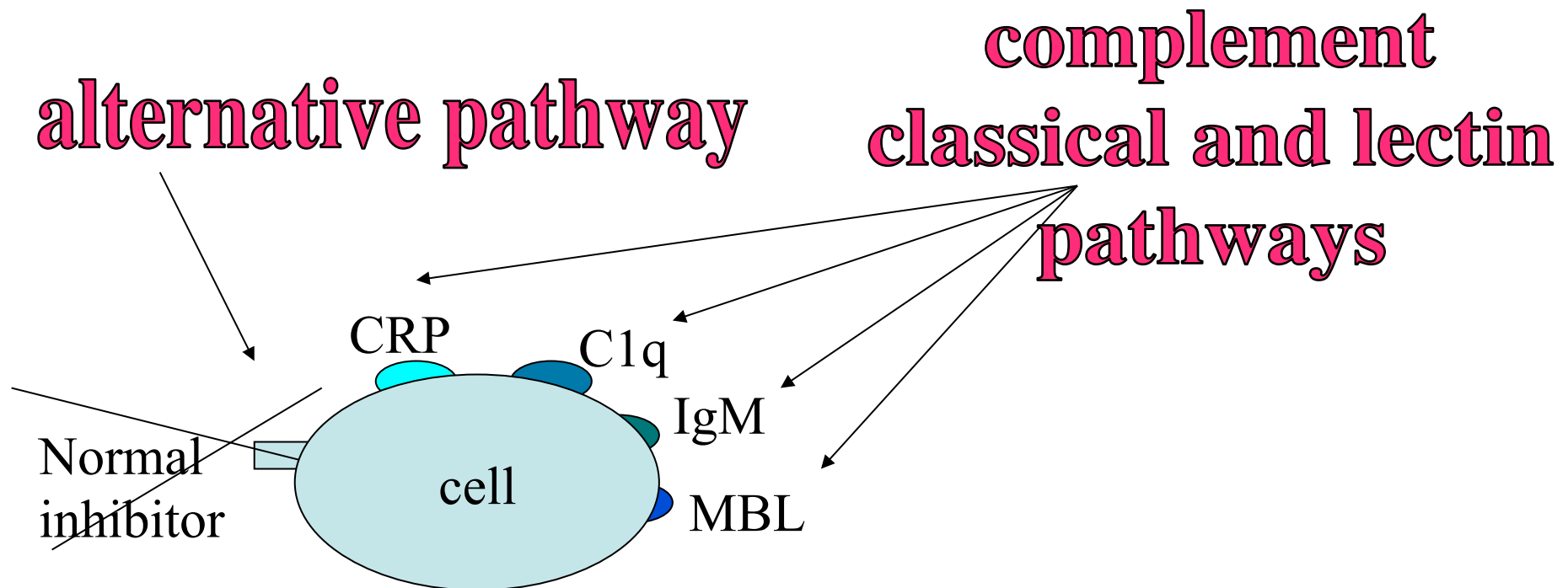
and of related proteins (factor B, variant C3)

### Associated with:

atypical HUS, Membranoproliferative GN/Nef

# Necrosis - Ischemia-reperfusion injury

(gastrointestinal tract, muscles, myocardium, endothelial cells)

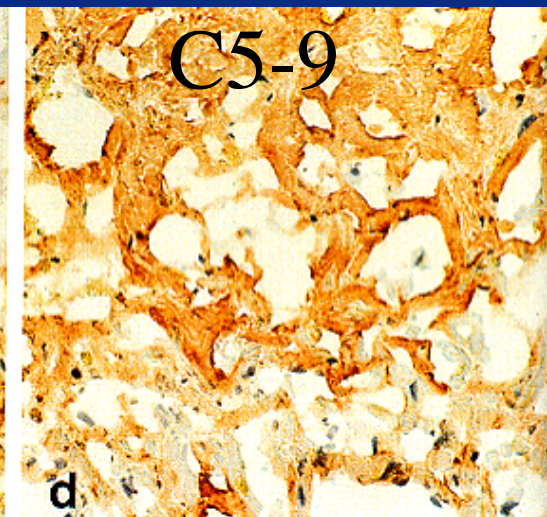
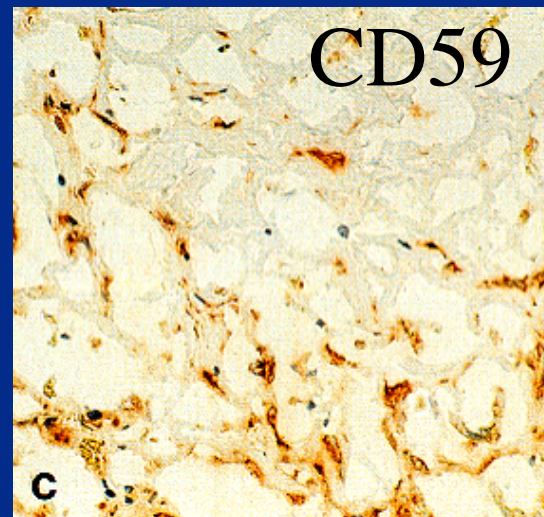
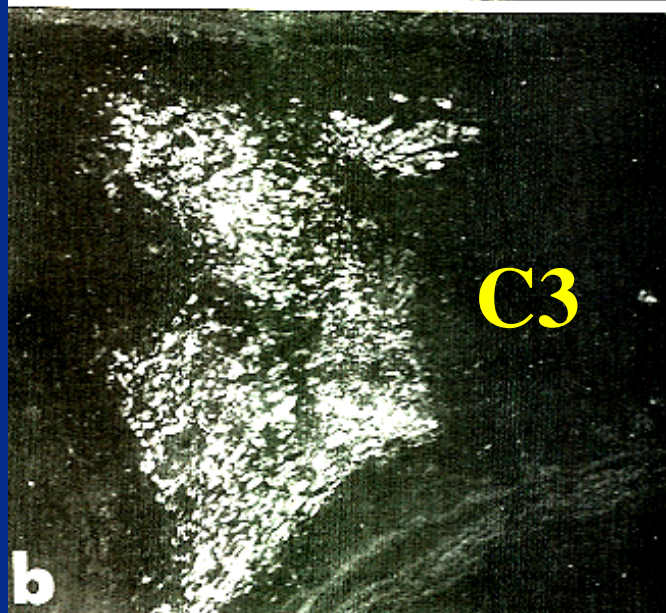
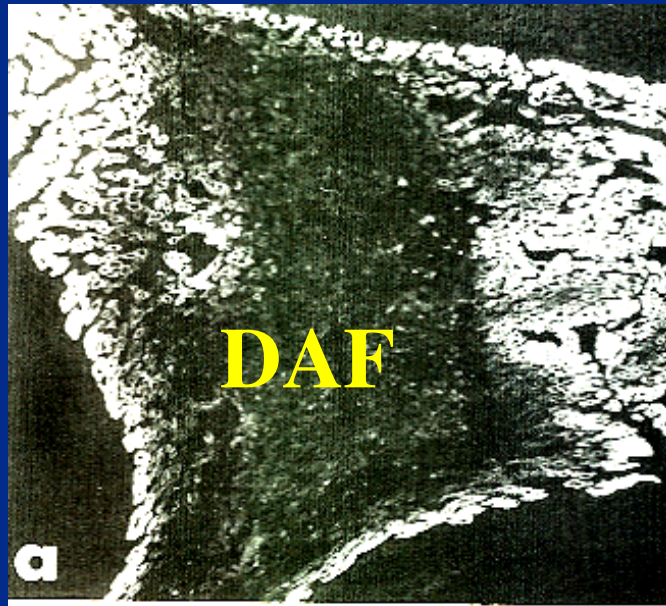


Ischemia => Oxydative damage, necrosis,

# Myocardial infarction

*Vakeva et al Am J Pathol 94, 144:1357*

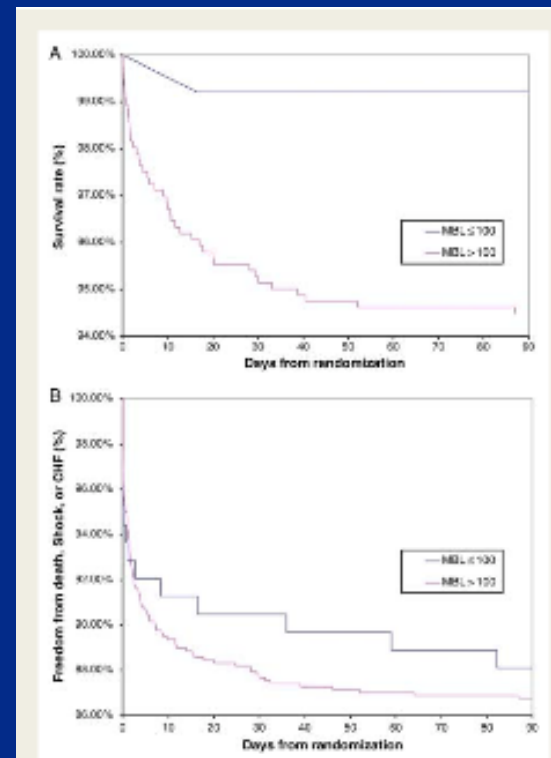
Complement deposition and  
loss of complement inhibitors  
in the infarcted area





# Influence of functional deficiency of complement mannose-binding lectin on outcome of patients with acute ST-elevation myocardial infarction undergoing primary percutaneous coronary intervention

**MBL > / < 100  $\mu\text{g/L}$**



**Figure 1** Relationship between serum mannose-binding lectin (MBL) levels and survival rate (A) or the combined endpoint of death, shock, and congestive heart failure (CHF) (B) in patients with acute ST-elevation myocardial infarction having undergone primary percutaneous coronary intervention. *P*-values were 0.023 and 0.676, respectively.





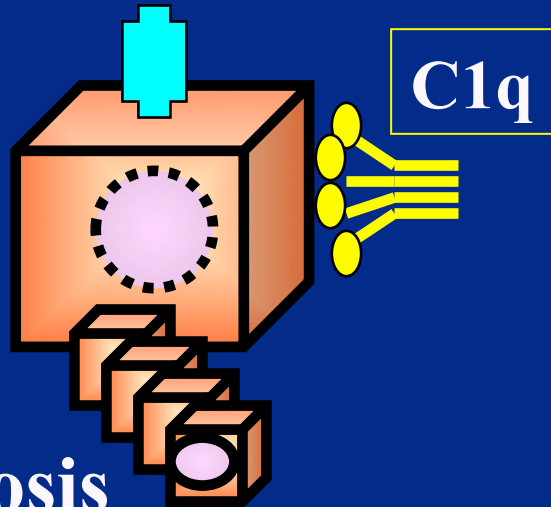
# C1q deficiency SLE



# Clearance of Apoptotic bodies

Nucleoproteins  
(oxy)phospholipides

phosphatidyl-  
serin etc.



apoptosis  
apoptotic bodies

**C1q** -> C4, C3

CRP -> **C1q**, C4, C3

Other pentraxins

(PTX3, SAP)-> **C1q...**

nIgM -> **C1q....**

MBL -> C4, C3

Beta2GP1

Thrombospondin

SP-A

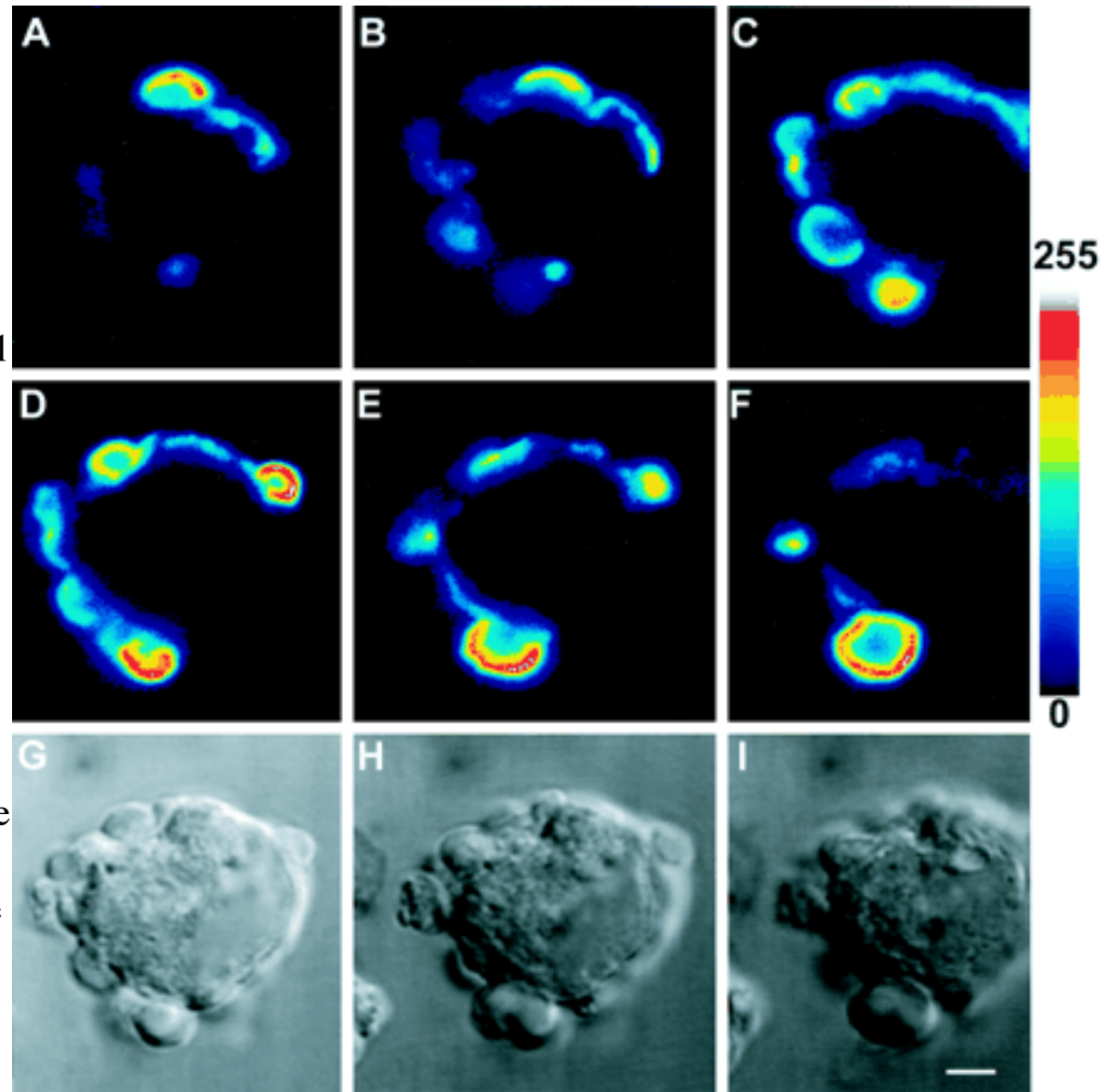
Others...



**The globular heads of C1q specifically recognize surface blebs of apoptotic vascular endothelial cells.**

Navratil JS, Watkins SC, Wisnieski JJ, Ahearn JM.

Confocal analysis of bound C1q on one apoptotic HUVEC. Shown are six consecutive cross-sections through one apoptotic HUVEC stained for the presence of C1q (A–F). Bound C1q was detected by indirect immunofluorescence. The fluorescence intensity in this figure is represented by a color scale, with white being the highest intensity and black the lowest. Differential interference contrast images (G–I) of the three panels directly above (D–F) are shown to visualize morphology of the entire cell



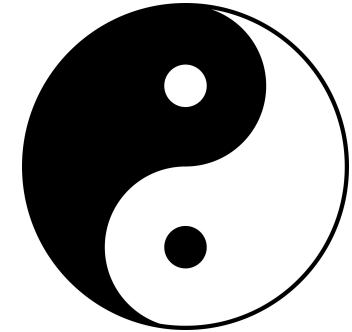
**Complement = fitness**



**Control system to remove unnecessary / danger elements in the organism**

**-> internal factors, waste: debris, necrosis, apoptosis ( $10^{11}$  neutrophils/day)**

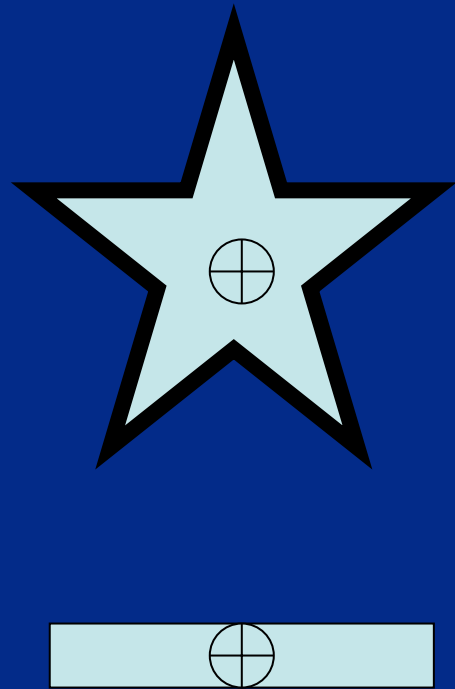
**-> external factors: foreign body, infectious organisms (not all: e.g. gut microbiome),**



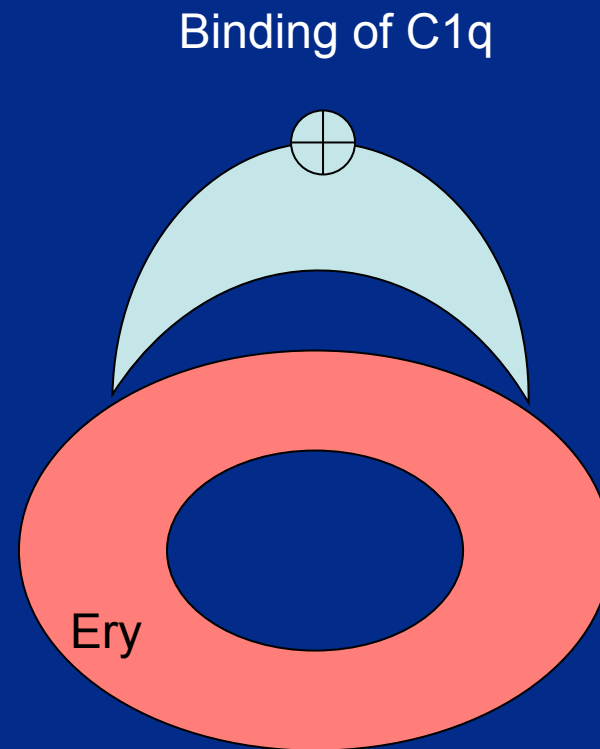
# IgM activates Complement on a target

*e.g. Blood group transfusion error*

In plasma : “seestar”



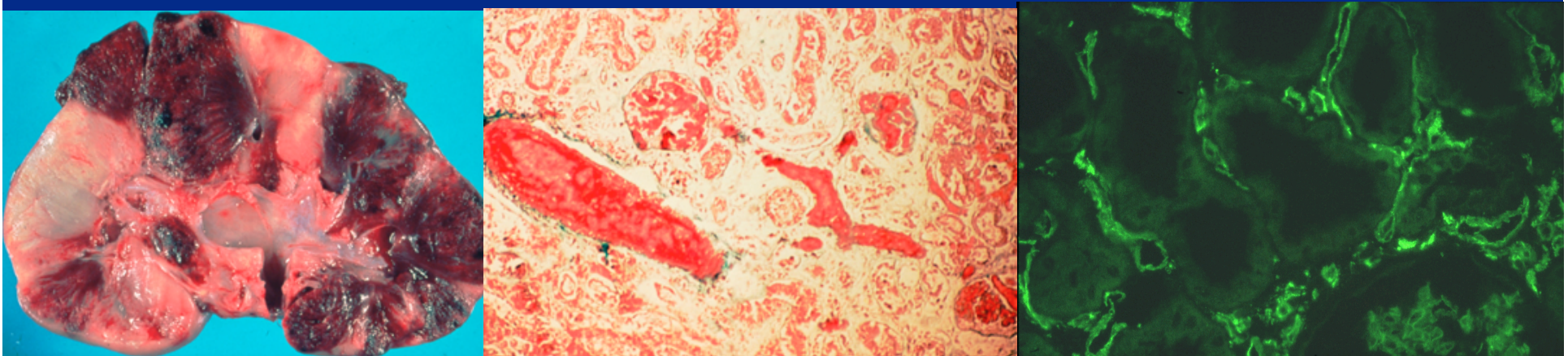
on a target: “spider”



# ABO incompatible renal transplantation (+antiC5?)

Endothelial cell +++ for AB Antigen  
Immediate hyperacute Rejection

A/B Ag ----> Ac ---> Complement ---> Thrombosis/Bleeding



# Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

« Immunisation against apoptotic cells  
(including C1q)



Immune complexes (IC: DNA-antiDNA)

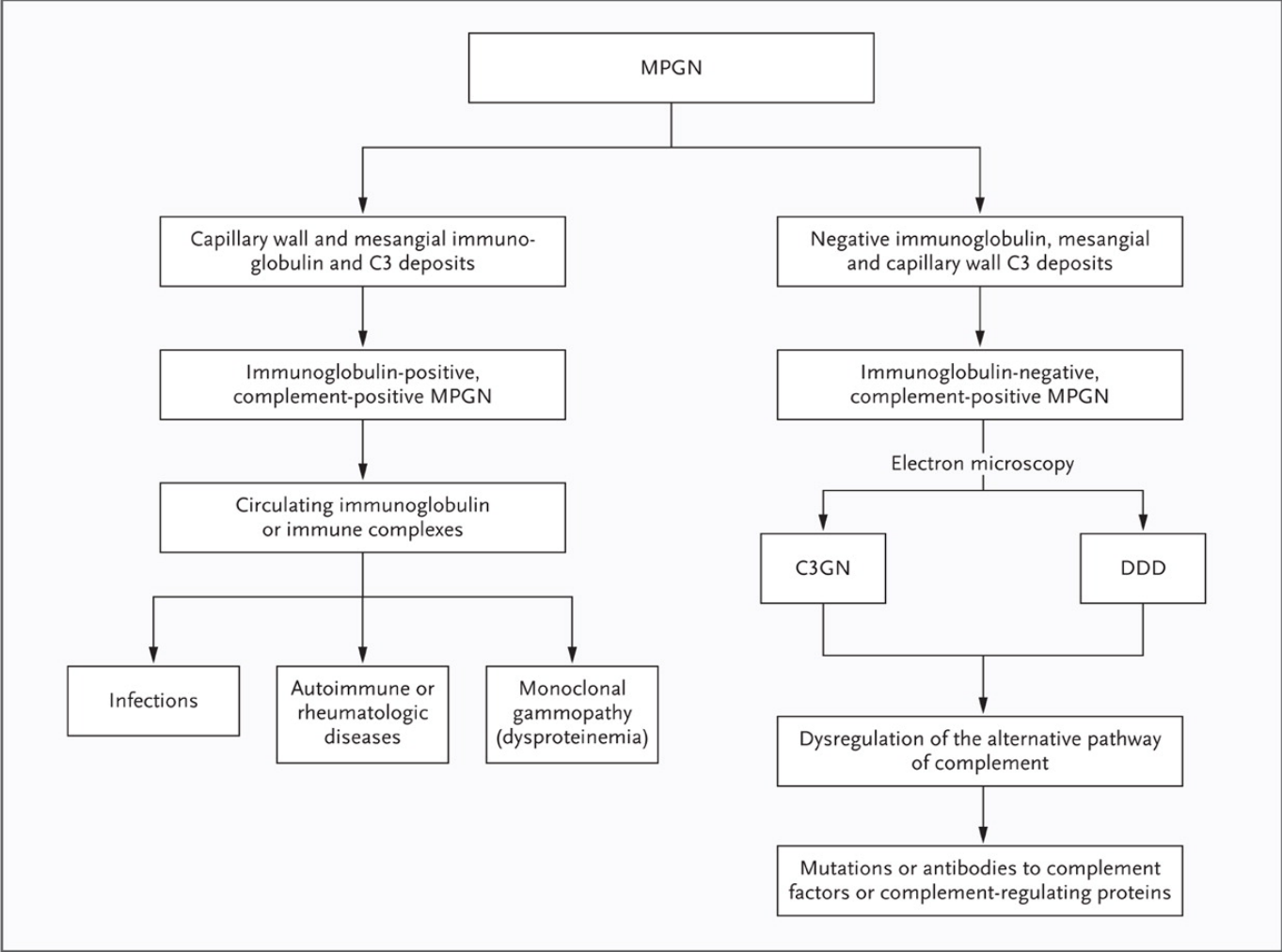


complement activation



low C1q, low C4, low C3 + tissue inflammation  
(nephritis)

**Pathophysiology of MPGN.**



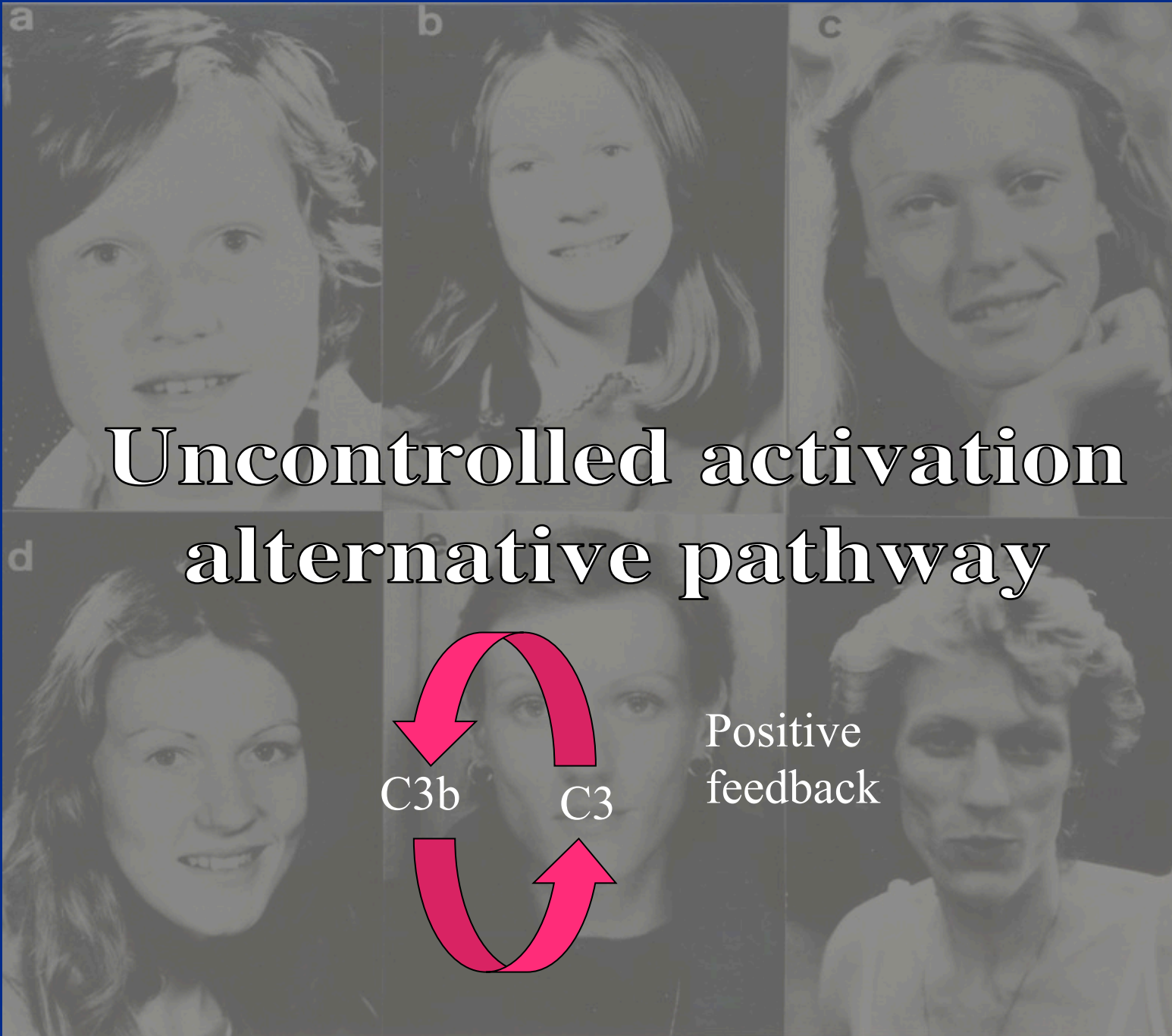
**C4 and C3 low  
e.g. SLE**

**Only C3 low  
e.g. Nef**





C  
3  
N  
e  
f

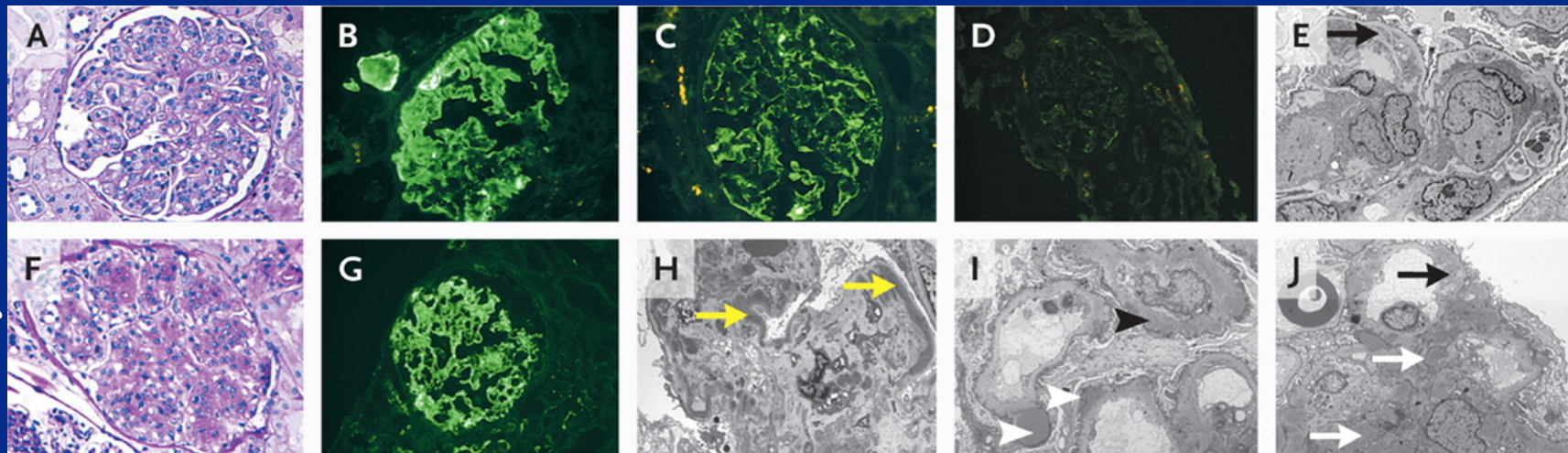




# C3 nephropathies

## Representative Findings on Light, Immunofluorescence, and Electron Microscopy in MPGN.

Nef



C3

Sethi S, Fervenza FC. *N Engl J Med* 2012;366:1119-1131.



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## Complement measurements:

CP

AP

MBLP -> ELISA C5-9

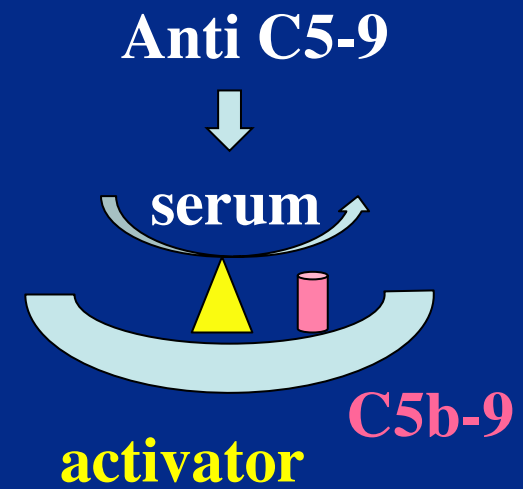
Ag:

(C1q)

C4

C3

C1 inh



## Typical Complement measurements:

- 1) CP and AP = n and MBLP = 0
- 2) CP low, AP very low, C4 norm, C3 low
- 3) CP very low, AP norm, C4 very low, C3 norm
- 4) CP = 0, AP = 0, C3 and C4 norm

## Typical Complement measurements:

- 1) CP and AP = n and LP = 0
  - 2) CP low, AP very low, C4 norm, C3 low
  - 3) CP very low, AP norm, C4 very low, C3 norm
  - 4) CP = 0, AP = 0, C3 and C4 norm
- 
- 1) MBL def (MASP def)
  - 2) C3nef, PSGN, def FH or FI
  - 3) C1inh def, Cryoglob,
  - 4) C5,6,7,8 or 9 def

**Jürg Schifferli**  
j.schifferli@unibas.ch



**bye bye**

# Prevalence of antiC1q Ab in SLE nephritis

*Multicentric study (Basel, Geneva, Lausanne Madrid, Prag)*

*M Trendelenburg et al. NDT 2006,21:3115.*

**38 patients fulfilling at least 4/11 ACR criteria for the diagnosis of SLE were included.**

**36 patients had proliferative (class II, III or IV) and 2 class V lupus nephritis.**

**All but one patients with proliferative lupus nephritis were positive for anti-C1q (97.2%).**

**All patients were positive for glomerular C1q (36/36) and 37/38 patients had glomerular IgG deposits.**

**Anti-C1q strongly decreased during successful treatment.**

### **CASE 1**

**A 23-year old woman with a nephrotic range proteinuria has following complement measurements:**

**C4: 70% of normal**

**C3: 30% of normal**

**CH50: 70% of normal**

**The solid phase C1q binding assay for IC is negative**

**Please discuss and suggest the diagnosis.**

### **CASE 2**

**A 60-year old man has 3 attacks of angioedema (tongue and face) in the last year. No familial history of angioedema. He takes no drugs. An MGUS is found (IgGk approx. 3g/L).**

**what do you expect for**

**C4**

**C3**

**CH50 ?**

**Additional tests?**

### **CASE 3**

**A 17 year-old man presents a meningococcal meningitis, which improves after i.v. antibiotic therapy. His personal history reveals that he had already such an infection 12 years previously.**

**What do you expect for**

**C4**

**C3**

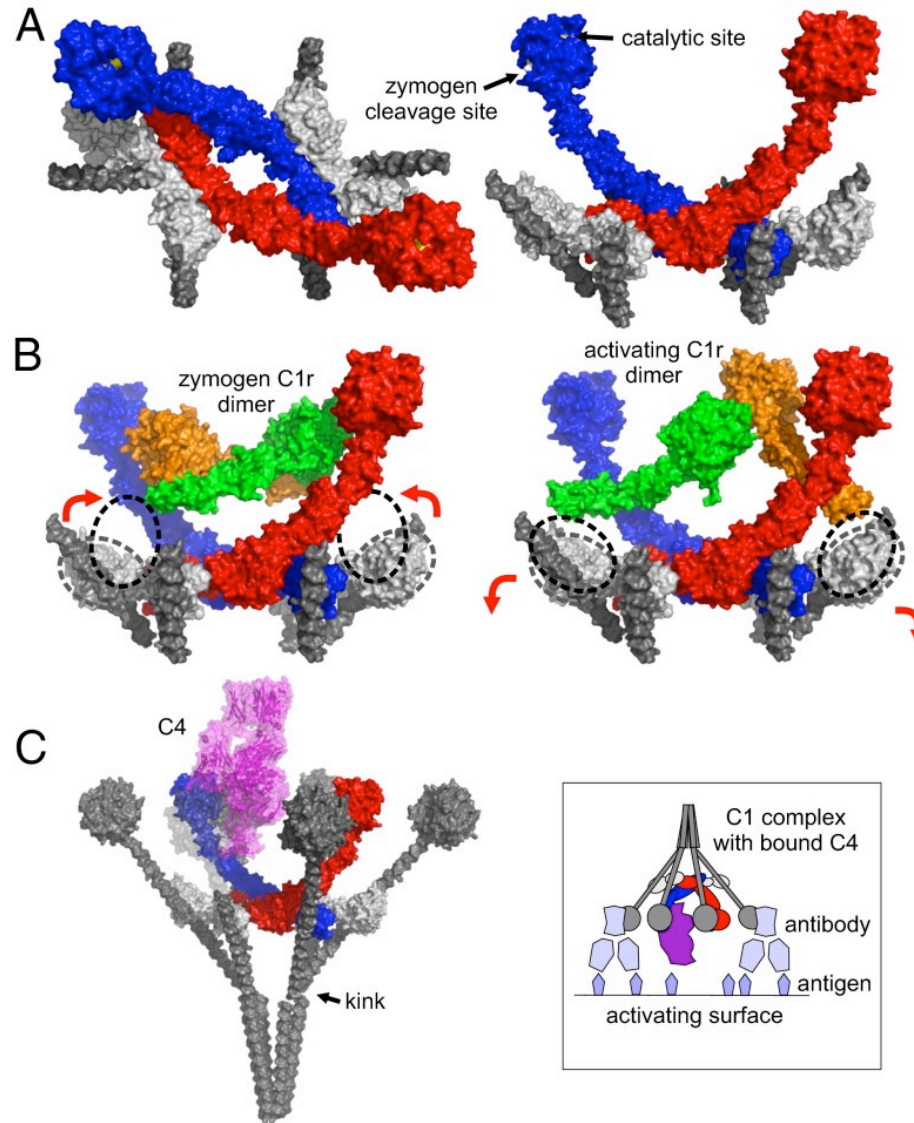
**CH50?**

**Additional tests?**

# Structural basis of the C1q/C1s interaction and its central role in assembly of the C1 complex of complement activation

Umakhanth Venkatraman Giriya et al.

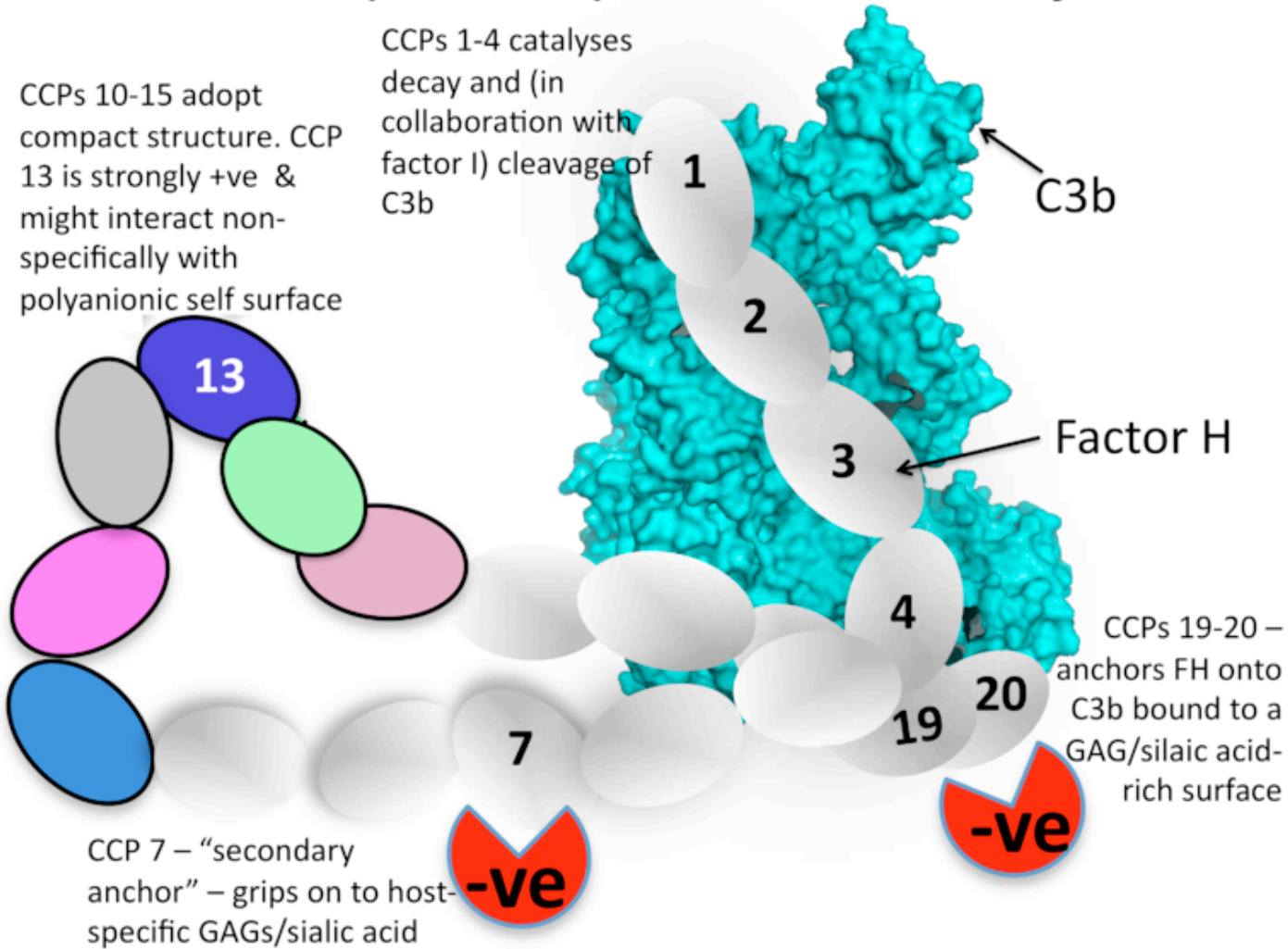
Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2013 August 20; 110(34): 13916–13920.





# The 2 functions of FH: inactivation of C3 (with FI) and binding to surfaces

## A model of FH (CCPs 1-20) bound to C3b on *self* surface



# **The immune system in plants <-> human**

## **Principles:**

**Inducer (waste, bact.)** e.g. ACAMPs (=altered self:

Apoptotic cell associated molecular patterns)

PAMPs (=pathogens associated mol patterns)

->

**Sensor** e.g. PRR= pattern recognition receptors,

->

**Mediator** e.g. cytokines, chemokines, etc.

->

**Effector** e.g. neutrophil, enzymes,  
membrane attack complex of complement

# Innate Immunity

=

**A fixed package of sensors that an individual has at birth, which can be modulated in *quantity*:  
e.g CRP: 1 -> 1000 mg/L**

***Qualitative* changes over generations of  
Individuals : novel package of sensors  
by rearrangement + mutation of genes (chance),  
selecting by keeping those producing a survival  
advantage at a given time and place.**

# Innate Immunity

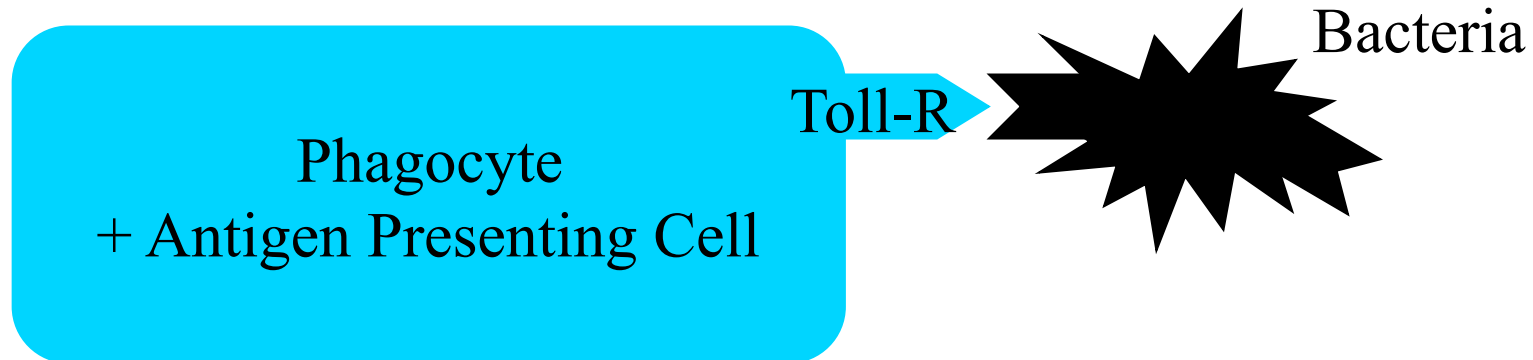
=

**Great inter-individual variability (alleles, mutations):  
-> CCR5 mutation/HIV**

*Long-Term Control of HIV by CCR5 Delta32/Delta32 Stem-Cell Transplantation  
Gero Hütter, M.D., ...Eckhard Thiel, M.D.  
N Engl J Med 2009; 360:692-698*

# Innate immun system

**Pattern** recognition : Toll-like receptors on cells



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C4

C3

CH50 ?

Additional tests?

### CASE 3

A 17 year-old man presents a meningococcal meningitis, which improves after i.v. antibiotic therapy. His personal history reveals that he had already such an infection 12 years previously.

What do you expect for

C4

C3

CH50?

Additional tests?

## Complement measurements:

CP

AP

MBLP -> ELISA C5-9

Ag:

(C1q)

C4

C3

C1 inh



**activator**

## Complement measurements:

CP

AP

MBLP -> ELISA C5-9

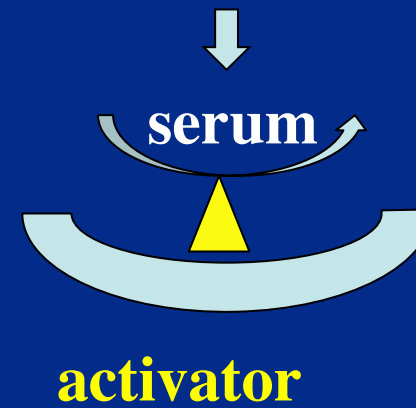
Ag:

(C1q)

C4

C3

C1 inh





## Complement measurements:

CP

AP

MBLP -> ELISA C5-9

Ag:

(C1q)

C4

C3

C1 inh

