A Primer on Cytokines: Sources, Receptors, Effects, and Inducers

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INTRODUCTION

Most mammals are continuously challenged by microorganisms, as a result of which defense mechanisms must be maintained throughout their life span. The first line of defense is provided by the skin or the mucosa of the gastrointestinal tract, which forms an impermeable barrier for the vast majority of microorganisms. However, when this barrier becomes damaged, an easy path of entry is provided. Furthermore, some microorganisms are capable of penetrating these barriers and can thereby gain access to the underlying tissues. There they are encountered by immunological defense mechanisms and may elicit an inflammatory reaction. These defense mechanisms can be nonspecifically directed against a broad range of microorganisms (e.g., neutrophils that phagocytose and kill bacteria) but may also be specifically directed against a single organism (e.g., antibody-mediated inactivation of the organism). The generation and maintenance of these immunological responses is controlled by a network of small, nonstructural, intercellular regulatory proteins that mediate a multiplicity of immunologic as well as nonimmunologic biological functions (4, 121, 177). These so-called cytokines and chemokines (referred to here as cytokines) are induced by specific stimuli, such as several types of bacterial products, and are responsible

for the generation, stimulation, and differentiation of multiple cell types as well as for the control of production of other cytokines that may enhance or inhibit the synthesis of protein products and/or biological effects of other cell types and proteins. This results in a complex, fine-tuned regulatory network that may ultimately succeed in the eradication of the invading microorganism(s). The ability or inability to generate certain cytokines or cytokine patterns in response to infection often determines the clinical course of infection (126, 196) and may greatly affect the outcome. In certain circumstances, mistuning or massive overproduction of cytokines may even lead to shock, multiorgan failure, or death (74).

The availability of recombinant cytokines, cytokine-neutralizing antibodies, antagonists, cytokine-inhibitory drugs, and cytokine knockout laboratory animals (61, 91, 110, 166, 206) enables researchers to study and modulate immune responses. The knowledge thus obtained may eventually lead to the development of new strategies for therapy of infectious diseases (123, 126), which would be particularly valuable in light of the increasing ineffectiveness of antibiotic treatment due to development of resistance of microorganisms to antibiotics.

Due to the ever-increasing number of cytokines that are being discovered and new insights into cytokine functions, it is almost impossible to remember all cytokines and their effects. It would therefore be helpful to have a quick reference guide in which the major cytokines as well as their sources, receptors, biological actions, and inducers are listed. As a result of the vast amount of research on cytokines currently being con-

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ducted and the continuous flow of publications concerning cytokines, it is not possible to provide a completely updated overview. Therefore, the aim of this review is to provide a list of the most common cytokines involved in inflammatory and immune responses which may be expanded on a regular basis.

The list of references predominantly contains review articles on specific cytokines or groups of cytokines that may be useful as a source of more background information and as a starting point for a search for more specific articles on a specific cyto $kine(s)$.

Although cytokines have sometimes been divided into groups according to their source (lymphokines or monokines), it has become difficult to maintain this categorization since most of the cytokines can be produced by a variety of cell types depending on the stimulating agent and interaction with other cells. Therefore, the cytokines are described in the following order: interleukins (IL), tumor necrosis factors (TNF) and lymphotoxins (LT), interferons (IFN), colony-stimulating factors (CSF), chemokines, and miscellaneous cytokines. The tables present contemporary and historical names and abbreviations, information on receptors and receptor-related proteins, cytokine sources and gene locations, biochemical properties of the protein, information on cytokine-specific bioassays, molecular properties such as amino acid homologies and species specificities, and information on various biological effects and inducers.

IL

It has now been more than 12 years since the first two members of the IL family, IL-1 α and IL-1 β , were cloned. Furthermore, several other molecules that have been known and studied for some time have been named as IL, such as IL-2, formerly known as T-cell growth factor. Since the introduction of the term IL, at least 17 cytokines have been described and given that designation, the last one being IL-17 (204).

IL-1

Since the cloning of IL-1 it has become clear that IL-1 can evoke a wide variety of biological effects (Tables 1 and 2) at very low concentrations, sometimes even in the femtomolar range (54, 55). It is a remarkably potent molecule that is able to induce its effects by triggering as few as one or two receptors per cell. The first effects ascribed to IL-1 were the induction of fever, augmentation of lymphocyte responses, and stimulation of the acute-phase response, hence the older names such as endogenous pyrogen and lymphocyte-activating factor. Two different molecules with agonistic effects are known, IL-1 α and IL-1 β . While IL-1 α is predominantly membrane bound, IL-1 β is secreted. A clear distinction should be made between local and systemic effects of IL-1 (52). The induction of an inflammatory reaction in response to infection is to a large extent attributed to the effects of IL-1. Apart from the induction of other proinflammatory cytokines and chemotactic cytokines at the site of infection, IL-1 also up-regulates cell adhesion molecules, which ultimately leads to the production of an effective defense mechanism. Indeed, in several models of bacterial, fungal, and parasitic infection, IL-1 is associated with protection (188, 189). Furthermore, the radiation-protective effect of IL-1 (possibly because of its stimulatory effect on hematopoiesis) may hold promise for treatment during cancer therapy. In contrast, however, overproduction of IL-1 may sometimes be associated with disease (51, 114).

A molecule named IL-1 receptor antagonist (IL-1ra) is also

part of the IL-1 family. This cytokine, which strongly resembles IL-1, completely lacks an agonistic effect in vitro and in vivo (53, 55, 144). Therefore, IL-1ra may act by dampening IL-1 responses. Furthermore, the IL-1 receptor type II (IL-1-RII) presumably may act as a decoy receptor, thereby attenuating the potential effects of IL-1 (173, 174). In addition, it has become clear from models of infection that treatment with IL-1ra may have protective effects (189); e.g., treatment of *Plasmodium berghei*-infected mice with IL-1ra protects against the development of cerebral malaria (39). Therefore, treatment with soluble IL-1-Rs (sIL-1-Rs) or IL-1ra may be beneficial in some disease states, such as chronic inflammation. It has become evident that the time and location of IL-1 production together with production of IL-1ra and IL-1-R expression is crucial in determining the final biological effect.

IL-2

The T-cell-derived cytokine IL-2 targets a variety of cells to induce their growth, differentiation, and functional activation (Table 3). Previous names for IL-2, such as lymphocyte mitogenic factor and T-cell growth factor, indicate that one of the major functions of this cytokine is in the activation, growth, and differentiation of T cells. Indeed, within minutes after interaction of the T-cell receptor (TCR) with the major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class II antigen complex on antigen-presenting cells, T cells transcribe three categories of genes that are expressed early during T-cell activation: cellular proto-oncogenes, cytokine genes, and cytokine receptor genes. Transcription of the gene for IL-2 as well as of that for IL-2-R begins within 1 h of TCR-mediated stimulation of human lymphocytes. In this way secreted IL-2, produced by an activated T cell in an autocrine fashion, stimulates growth and proliferation of antigen-specific T lymphocytes as well as B cells. The major T-cell subclass that produces IL-2 is the $CD4^+$ T cell, although $CD8⁺$ cells may also produce small quantities of IL-2. Apart from the autocrine effect, IL-2 also induces the production of other T-cell-derived cytokines such as $IFN-\gamma$ and TNF- β , which results in activation of monocytes, neutrophils, and natural killer cells (NK cells). It is evident that in that way IL-2 contributes to the generation and propagation of antigenspecific immune responses. A strong induction of IL-2 (and IFN- γ and TNF- β) is also found after stimulation of the TCR β chain by superantigens; this induction leads to extensive proliferation of T-cell subsets.

The functional human IL-2-R is composed of subunit complexes of α , β , and γ chains or β and γ chains. Together with the β chain, the γ chain participates in increasing the IL-2 binding affinity and is responsible for signal transduction. Remarkably, signaling through the γ chain is shared by receptors for at least IL-4, IL-7, IL-9, and IL-15 (56, 84). The importance of signaling through the γ chain can be demonstrated by the fact that mutations of the γ -chain gene are the cause of the human X-linked severe combined immunodeficiency syndrome (178).

IL-2 has been used for several therapeutic applications, such as infusions of IL-2-activated lymphokine-activated killer (LAK) cells and tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes for antitumor therapy, the augmentation of IL-2 levels in immunodeficiency disorders, and the increase of NK cell activity following bone marrow transplants (88). Studies to determine beneficial effects of IL-2 during human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection are currently being conducted. Increases in the numbers of circulating B and T cells have been observed at relatively high doses of IL-2, although toxicity due to activation of NK cells and the resulting production of proinflammatory cyTABLE 1. $\Pi\text{-}1^a$

a Abbreviations: aa, amino acids; prec, precursor; 3D, three dimensional; VCAM-1, vascular cell adhesion molecule 1; ACTH, adenocorticotropic hormone; CRH, corticoid-releasing hormone; BCG, bacillus Calmette-Guérin; AG, an *a* Abbreviations: aa, amino acids; prec, precursor; 3D, three dimensional; VCAM-1, vascular cell adhesion molecule 1; ACTH, adenocorticotropic hormone; CRH, corticoid-releasing hormone; BCG, bacillus Calmette-Gue´rin; AG, antigen; PGE2, prostaglandin E2; CNS, central nervous system; BSA, bovine serum albumin; PMN, polymorphonuclear leukocyte; RFLP, restriction fragment length polymorphism.

TABLE 2. ${\rm IL}\text{-}{\rm Ira}^a$

TABLE 3. IL-2*a*

a Abbreviations: Tac-ag, T-cell accessory antigen; PGE2, prostaglandin E2; aa, amino acid; incl., including.

" Abbreviations: Tac-ag, T-cell accessory antigen; PGE₂, prostaglandin E₂; aa, amino acid; incl., including.

tokines is one of the side effects. However, B and T cells express high-affinity IL-2Rs while NK cells express low-affinity IL-2Rs; therefore, low doses of IL-2 may be beneficial in increasing the numbers of B and T cells without induction of proinflammatory cytokine production by NK cells.

IL-3

Murine IL-3 (Table 4) was first described in 1974 as a factor released from T cells after stimulation with the mitogen phytohemagglutinin (PHA) and was named CFU-stimulating activity. Later this factor was renamed IL-3 because treatment of splenic lymphocytes with this factor gave rise to mature T cells. Several years after the discovery of murine IL-3, the human equivalent was identified from a cDNA clone from concanavalin A (ConA)-activated human T-helper cells.

IL-3 exerts its ability to support multilineage-colony formation early in the development of multipotent progenitors and exhibits synergy with stem cell factor in inducing human $CD34⁺$ cells to form basophils and mast cells. IL-3 apparently supports only a few cell divisions, giving rise to neutrophils or erythroid bursts only upon addition of granulocyte-macrophage CSF (GM-CSF) or erythropoietin, respectively. These observations are in agreement with data indicating that multilineage colonies become less sensitive to IL-3 as they mature. IL-3 has indeed been used successfully in combinations with later-acting factors such as GM-CSF to stimulate hematopoiesis in primates. In addition, sequential administration of IL-3 and IL-6 in primates stimulates thrombopoiesis.

Based upon in vitro studies, IL-3 may be an effective treatment for reversing the hematopoietic toxicity associated with zidovudine. Furthermore, therapies directed at down-regulating IL-3 or its receptor may be an effective treatment in patients with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma because of the ability of IL-3 to promote the proliferation of follicular B cells from lymphomas (34). In clinical trials IL-3 has been used in combination with other CSF as a possible treatment for aplastic anemia (80).

IL-4

Formerly designated B-cell growth factor (BCGF) (Table 5), IL-4 was first described in 1982 as a factor present in the supernatants of cultures of phorbol myristate acetate-stimulated thymoma cells (EL-4) capable of supporting the growth of anti-immunoglobulin (Ig)-stimulated B cells by driving them into the S phase (92).

IL-4 is also designated as a type 2 cytokine because it is mainly produced by T_H2 cells. Indeed, when it was shown that $CD4⁺$ cells do not constitute a homogeneous class of cells, IL-4 together with IL-5, IL-10, and IL-13 proved to be produced primarily by the CD4⁺ subset (T_H2) whereas the other subset (T_H1) mainly produced IL-2, IFN- γ , and TNF- β . T_H1 cells are assumed to be well suited for induction of enhanced microbicidal activity by macrophages (enhanced cellular immunity), whereas T_H^2 cells make products that are well adapted to help B cells develop into antibody-producing cells. Apart from its involvement in the generation of the humoral immune response, a striking effect of IL-4 is its ability to suppress many monocyte proinflammatory responses such as IL-1 and TNF- α production, and it may thus act as an antiinflammatory cytokine involved in the fine-tuning of an immunological response (32, 35, 116, 154). Therefore, IL-4 may hold promise as a therapeutic agent in chronic inflammatory processes. However, during lepromatous leprosy the enormous accumulation of intracellular organisms is associated with IL-4 production. On the other hand, tuberculoid leprosy, in which

there are very few organisms and little tissue damage mediated by immunologically induced inflammation, is characterized by T_H 1 cell responses. Furthermore, IL-4 is involved in the pathogenesis of *Leishmania* infection (126). Few infections in which IL-4 production correlates with protection are known; e.g., in nematode infections in mice, IL-4 is involved in clearance of the primary infection and in immunity to rechallenge.

As a multifunctional cytokine that can augment certain Tand B-cell responses, IL-4 may have potential therapeutic value in several instances, such as reconstitution of humoral and cellular immune function following bone marrow transplantation, induction of terminal differentiation of acute lymphoblastoid leukemias, and amelioration of immunodeficiency associated with hyper-IgM syndrome (88).

IL-5

Eosinophil differentiation factor (Table 6), later designated IL-5, was first isolated and characterized in 1985 from conditioned culture supernatants of parasite-specific, antigen-stimulated T-cell clones isolated from *Mesocestoides corti*-infected mice. However, in the early 1970s the first observations that foretold the discovery of IL-5 had been made: eosinophilia was shown to be a T-cell-dependent condition, and supernatants of activated murine spleen cell cultures were shown to be capable of inducing eosinophil colony formation.

Mainly produced by activated T cells, IL-5 exhibits activity on eosinophils (chemotaxis and activation), basophils (activation), B cells (differentiation), and thymocytes (up-regulation of IL-2R). Some observations made with IL-5 in mice have not yet been confirmed in humans, i.e., induction of B-cell differentiation, synergism with IL-2 in production of cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) from thymocytes, and BCGF II activity (167).

Based on the activities of IL-5 in humans one can only speculate about possible therapeutic uses for this cytokine. During schistosomiasis, IL-5 may be beneficial through its activating effect on eosinophils (28). Conceivably, IL-5 antagonists may be of benefit in hypereosinophilic syndromes (180) or in reducing the production of asthma-related lesions of respiratory epithelium (73).

IL-6

One of the oldest names for IL-6, IFN- β_2 , came from observations that fibroblastoid cells could be induced to produce a protein with weak antiviral activity. Since then IL-6 has received a large number of designations based upon its great variety of effects (Table 7) (190). One of the best-known biological effects of IL-6 is undoubtedly the induction and control of acute-phase protein synthesis and release by hepatocytes in response to noxious stimuli such as trauma, infection, and burns (8). An additional important effect is the stimulation of growth and differentiation of and antibody production by B cells. Therefore, IL-6 is considered to play an important role in host defense mechanisms. Abnormal production of IL-6, however, has been suggested to be involved in the pathogenesis of a variety of diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, Castelman's disease, mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis, and several autoimmune diseases (103, 179). Furthermore, there are several indications that IL-6 is a possible autocrine growth factor for human myeloma cells. Although IL-6 is produced early in inflammation (shortly after IL-1 and TNF- α) and displays several proinflammatory properties (e.g., maturation and activation of neutrophils, maturation of macrophages, differentiation and maintenance of CTL and NK cells, and increased expression of IL-1 and TNF- α), it cannot be regarded as a

a Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; PMN, polymorphonuclear leukocyte; Ag, antigen; MoAb, monoclonalantibody.

Inducers	responses and thus IL-4 Cholera toxin acts as a mucosal adjuvant to Antigen / mitogen. enhance T _H 2 type In vivo anti-CD3. production. Π ₋₂
Major effects	Isotype shift in B cells (towards IgE, IgG, and IgG, production) CR3 (complement receptor 3) expression on and CR3-mediated Ig production by human B-cells stimulated with Staphylococcus VCAM-1 expression on endothelial cells (NFKB-independent), GM-CSF and PGE ₂ production by fibroblasts, IFNy production by IL-2 activated NK cells, IL-1 β , IL-6 and IL-8 production by IFNa/ß and superoxide production by macrophages, TNF and aureus and IL-2, antibody secretion by IgA-committed human B-cells, cyclooxygenase-2 (COX2)-dependent PGE ₂ synthesis in osteoclasts (\rightarrow inhibition of bone resorption), expression of mediated ingestion and decreases CD14 expression on human α_2 , α_3 , β_1 , and β_4 integrin subunits on HT-29 colon carcinoma Reduces FcgRI, RII, RIII expression on monocytes and FcyR- rheumatoid synovial cells, TNFc- or IL-1ß- or LPS-induced recruitment of early myeloid progenitors, IL-1ra production, Activation of 15-lipooxygenase (which catalyzes 15-HETE Enhances macrophage antigen processing and presentation. IL-Ira by macrophages, together with TNFa, IFNa, IL-10, IFNy production by NK cells, lipase production by T-cells, T- and B-cell growth (naive $T \rightarrow T_H 2$) and differentiation, proliferation and differentiation of B-cells, expansion and IL-1a, IL-1β, IL-6, TNF, IL-8, PGE ₂ , GM-CSF, G-CSF, serine esterase by NK cells, IFNy production by T-cells, LAK cell activity, IL-6 and TNF production by B-cells. endothelial cells, ICAM-1 and E-selectin expression on IL-6, IL-8, and MCP production by endothelial cells. expression of IL-8 on human umbilical cord vascular G-CSF, M-CSF, and IL-6 production by fibroblasts. Antigen presenting cell function, T _H 1 development. and soluble IgM production by B-cells. IgE production by B-cells. monocytes (mRNA level). ingestion by monocytes. IL-3, and GM-CSF. endothelial cells. Suppresses: production). Promotes: Induces: Inhibits: cells.
and miscellaneous Molecular biology	129 aa (h) / 120 aa (m). 153 aa (h) / 140 aa (m). hIL-4 and mIL-4 share information homology with IL-13. N -glycosylation sites: 2 (h) / 3 (m). 50% aa homology. Relatively high aa Precursor IL-4: Secreted IL-4:
Biochemistry	mIL-4 proliferation lung carcinoma cell transcripts not only in activated T-cells mIL-4: 12-20 kDa. IL-482: alternative chr. 5q23 - 31 (h) $/$ hIL-4 proliferation cells. Inhibition of IL-4R and inhibits hIL-4: 12-20 kDa. IL-4 stimulated T- mononuclear cells (higher than $IL-4$). of PHA-activated Glycosylated, 13- cell proliferation. biological action. growth of human (lower than $IL-4$) pI: 10.4 (h) / 6.5 splice variant of peripheral blood Species specific hIL-4. Binds to and thymocytes $(2$ pg/ml) [153]. of mouse HT-2 protein. mRNA Gene location: spliced mRNA line CCL-185 Glycosylated. Alternatively expressed in human PBL. 15 kDa core Bioassays: $11(m)$. $\hat{\mathbf{E}}$
Producers	CD4CD8TCRaß ⁺ T-cells Enhanced in serum during macrophages, neutrophils, (during primary immune dependent), monocytes / tion) basophils, mucosal (strong and fast produc- response), NK1.1 ⁺ cells Naive T-cells (very low levels), CD4 ⁺ Th ₂ -cells, mast cells (partly IL-3- B-cells, bone-marrow MHC class I selected Graves' disease. stromal cells.
Receptors	Associated chain identical with Present on many hematopoietic bound receptor, a form lacking $(140 \& 70 kDa; K_d = 200 pM).$ sIL-4R regulates IL-4 activity. pancreatic, and bladder tumor Human colon carcinoma cells forms (a 140 kDa membrane- the cytoplasmin region and a as well as non-hematopoietic not associate with common y- receptor superfamily (K _d 1-2 Soluble form of extracellular cells, e.g., human fibroblasts, (HT-29 & WiDr): IL-4Rs do Species specificity is due to and a variety of stromal cell mIL-4Ra chain: 3 different cell lines, as well as murine neuroblasts, epithelial cells, chain. High affinity IL-4Rs species specific interaction domain inhibits biological composed of different sub- hIL-4Rα chain: 140 kDa, glycoprotein, member of fibroblasts, muscle cells, Thus: IL-4R complex is units in different tissues. hematopoietic cytokine epithelial cells, hepatic, IL-2R y-chain [165] with IL-4Ra chain. IL-4R / CDw124. soluble form). $x10^{-10}$ M). effects. lines.
Full Name	T-cell growth factor- $\frac{1}{2}$ B-cell growth factor- B-cell stimulatory Mast cell growth Interleukin-4 factor-2 $\mbox{factor-1}$
or synonym Acronym	MCGF-2 TCGF-2 BCGF-1 BSF-1

TABLE 5. $\Pi\!\!\!\perp\!\!\!\!4^a$

" Abbreviations: K₄, dissociation constant; aa, amino acid; TCR, T-cell receptor; VCAM-1, vascular cell adhesion molecule 1; MCP, monocyte chemotactic protein; PGE₂, prostaglandin E₂; TGF8, transforming growth factor *a* Abbreviations: K_d, dissociation constant; aa, amino acid; TCR, T-cell receptor; VCAM-1, vascular cell adhesion molecule 1; MCP, monocyte chemotactic protein; PGE₂, prostaglandin E₂; TGFB, transforming growth fact b; PBL, peripheral blood leukocytes.

 a Abbreviation: aa, amino acid. *a* Abbreviation: aa, amino acid.

TABLE 7. $\Pi\text{-}6^a$ TABLE 7. IL-6*a*

" Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; ACTH, adenocorticotropic hormone; EBV, Epstein-Barr virus; sol, soluble; HUVEC, human umbilical vein endothelial cells. *a* Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; ACTH, adenocorticotropic hormone; EBV, Epstein-Barr virus; sol, soluble; HUVEC, human umbilical vein endothelial cells.

TABLE 8. IL-7*a*

al killer cells. *a* Abbreviations: K_d, dissociation constant; aa, amino acid; CTL, cytotoxic T lymphocyte; PHA, phytohemagglutinin; LAK cells, lymphokine-activated killer cells; NK, natural killer cells. natur Š cells: kaller ated Ē ≌ lympr YK cells, Ľ pnytonemaggiumin; PHA, lymphocyte; L SC cytot Ļ 5 acıd: Ξ 튾 ad. 20TS ᇹ ā alsso Abbreviations: K_d,

TABLE 9. IL-8*a*

" Abbreviations: K₄, dissociation constant; GROa, growth-related oncogene a; FMLP, formyl-Met-Leu-Phe; aa, amino acid; incl., including. *a* Abbreviations: K_d, dissociation constant; GROa, growth-related oncogene a; FMLP, formyl-Met-Leu-Phe; aa, amino acid; incl., including.

TABLE 10. IL-9*a*

typical proinflammatory cytokine. IL-6 possesses some antiinflammatory properties as well: it inhibits the synthesis of IL-1 and TNF- α in response to several stimuli, it suppresses the production of macrophages induced by macrophage CSF (M-CSF), it protects against lung damage during pulmonary inflammation, and it induces inhibitors of matrix metalloproteases. Even during allergic inflammation, IL-6 suppresses the formation of IgE-producing plasma cells (88, 103). Studies with IL-6-deficient mice revealed an impaired immune and acute-phase response in deficient animals (109). Furthermore, in several animal models of infection IL-6 appears to be involved in protection, e.g., in infections with *Helicobacter felis* (20), *Listeria monocytogenes* (42), *Escherichia coli* (43), and *Candida albicans* (162). The lack of protection in these models is linked to inefficient neutrophilia, impaired T_H1 development, or both.

IL-7

In 1988, a factor called lymphopoietin-1 was first described. This factor was capable of supporting the growth of pre-B cells in the absence of other cytokines or stromal cells. Later it became clear that this cytokine, now designated IL-7, displays stimulatory effects on many types of lymphocytes (Table 8) $(17, 17)$ 31, 146). Indeed, studies with IL-7 transgenic mice pointed out that IL-7 is important for B- and T-cell development in vivo. More specifically, IL-7 stimulates development of pro-B cells into pre-B cells, common B/T-cell progenitors into prethymic pre-T cells and intrathymic pre-T-cells into mature thymocytes, CD4 ² CD8 ¹ thymocytes into CTL or LAK cells, and NK cells into NK-LAK cells (3). IL-7 has also been reported to have T-cell growth factor activity for early T-cell progenitors; in this effect, stem cell factor synergizes with IL-7. Inhibitory regulation of IL-7-induced pre-B-cell colony formation is displayed by IL-1 α and transforming growth factor β (TGF- β) (3).

No data from clinical studies with IL-7 have been published yet, and one can expect a variety of side effects to occur, as has been shown for IL-2. However, IL-7 holds promise as a treatment for human cancers because of its effects on LAK cells and CTL. The stimulation of lymphoid regeneration in patients with lymphopenia as a result of B- and T-cell immunodeficiency disorders or chemotherapy may be another therapeutic application of IL-7 (108).

IL-8

In the late 1980s, several laboratories independently isolated a novel protein with neutrophil-activating capacity, and hence this protein was called neutrophil-activating protein-1 (NAP-1) (Table 9). Based on its chemotactic properties (141), this protein was categorized within a newly identified group of other chemotactic proteins, the chemokines (described below).

IL-8 is produced by macrophages (together with IL-1, IL-6, and TNF- α) soon after infection or tissue injury. Several investigators found that neutrophils not only respond to IL-8 but also are capable of synthesizing IL-8 and other chemokines under the appropriate conditions. Therefore, the classic view of neutrophils as being terminally differentiated cells with high phagocytic and low protein-synthesizing activities had to be adjusted. The biosynthetic activity of these cells must be considered an important source of cytokines during acute infection, since neutrophils may comprise up to 70% of the circulating pool of leukocytes. In addition, localized inflammatory responses are usually characterized by the influx of neutrophils into the affected tissue followed by the recruitment of mononuclear cells, indicating that neutrophils may play a role in mononuclear cell elicitation. Vascular endothelial cells are involved in the control of leukocyte trafficking during diapedesis,

TABLE 11. IL-10^a

parasitic infections (T_H [cellular] / T_H2 [humoral]). IL-10 is not needed for development of T_H2 cells but limits the development develop anemia but no differences can be observed in T- and Benterotoxin B (SEB)-induced shock but it is not involved in endotoxin tolerance [13]. Endogenous IL-10 protects mice from IL-10 inhibits osteoclastogenesis by inhibiting differentiation of **Phase 1 studies:** [93]
No adverse effects with up to 50 µg/kg. Peripheral blood mono-
muclear cells from IL-10-treated volunteers: lower levels of
muclear mRNA expression in activated human monocytes. Thus, IL-10 $\mbox{II.-10}$ up-regulates monocyte phagocytosis in the presence of
 $\mbox{II.-4}$ and \mbox{IFNyr} it increases
 $\mbox{Fe/Hl}$ expression (not RII and RIII) cultured in M-CSF, i.e., higher expression of FeyRI, II, III and dampening of Ag-driven cellular immune responses which may IL-10 is not essential for the generation of CD4⁺ and CD8⁺T-Production of IL-10 by monocytes is down-regulated by IL-4, up-regulated by IFNy or by IL-4 but not if up-regulated by
GM-CSF + IL-4. IL-10 does not down-regulate MHC class II IL-10. No changes in serum-Ig levels up to 96 h after injection. enhanced Fcy-mediated phagocytosis, increased O₂ and H₂O₂ IL-10 depresses splenocyte functions in murine endotoxemia: IL-10 deficient mice (IL-10T) develop chronic enterocolitis/ IL-10 down-regulates MHC class II molecules on monocytes cell subsets in thymus, spleen, bone marrow and peritoneum. augment susceptibility to repeated or continuous invasion of osteoclast progenitors into pre-osteoclast-like cells (rat bone IL-10 has no decisive function for the induction of antibody Furthermore, no differences in antibody production or class proliferation, IL-2, IL-6 and IFNy release. This implicates a IL-13 and IFNy. Furthermore, IL-10 down-regulates IL-10 inflammatory bowel disease. They are growth retarded and Surface IL-10 regulates macrophage's bactericidal activity IL-1, IL-6, and TNF x production for 48 h after injection of Controls the type of immune response that develops upon production and development of B-cell memory during the IL-10 protects mice from lethal LPS- and staphylococcal has important autoregulatory negative feedback activity. Bcl-2 expression and survival in primary human CD34⁺ of T_H1 cells during a parasite-induced T_H2 response. and FeyR-mediated cytotoxic activity of monocytes. beteween IL-10T and normal mice are found. (zymosan), and IL-6 (LPS) production. hematopoietic progenitor cells [197] cell subsets nor for B- or B-1-cells. interaction of T_H2 and B-cells. death during septic peritonitis. expression on B-cells. Miscellaneous: microorganisms. In vivo effects: (negatively). marrow). [Ref. 138] [Refs. 13, 32,
44, 60, 66, 121,
139, 168, 177]

" Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; T_e cytotoxic T cell; max, maximum; PGE₂, prostaglandin E₂; PAF, platelet-activating factor; CFU-E, erythroid colony-forming units; BFU-E, erythroid burst-forming units; Ag, antigen;
P *a* Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; Tc, cytotoxic T cell; max., maximum; PGE2, prostaglandin E2; PAF, platelet-activating factor; CFU-E, erythroid colony-forming units; BFU-E, erythroid burst-forming units; Ag, antigen; PBMNC, peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

TABLE 12. $\mathrm{IL}\text{-}11^a$ TABLE 12. IL-11*a*

> " Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; K_d , dissociation constant; CNTF, ciliary neurotrophic factor. *a* Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; K_d, dissociation constant; CNTF, ciliary neurotrophic factor.

ICE, IL-1b converting enzyme; SCID, severe combined immunodeficiency; LAK, lymphokine-activated killer cells; NK cells, natural killer cells; CTL, cytotoxic T lymphocytes.

^a Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; PGE₂, prostaglandin E₂; PMA, phorbol myristate acetate. *a* Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; PGE2, prostaglandin E2; PMA, phorbol myristate acetate.

^a Abbreviation: aa, amino acid. *a* Abbreviation: aa, amino acid.

TABLE 14. IL-13 a TABLE 14. IL-13*a*

^a Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; TGF, transforming growth factor; NK cells, natural killer cells; LAK cells, lymphokine-activated killer cells. *a* Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; TGF, transforming growth factor; NK cells, natural killer cells; LAK cells, lymphokine-activated killer cells.

TABLE 16. IL-15 a TABLE 16. IL-15*a*

and it is therefore not surprising that endothelial cells can also produce IL-8.

It is obvious that IL-8 plays an important role during infection (40, 79, 194). This can be demonstrated by the correlation between IL-8 and survival in septic patients, disease severity in patients with meningococcal infection, and endotoxin-induced pleurisy. In contrast, patients with *Pseudomonas pseudomallei* sepsis have a poor prognosis when IL-8 levels rise above 100 pg/ml, and in an animal model of parasitic infection (*Plasmodium berghei*), IL-8 appears to have a deleterious effect (194).

IL-9

Whereas murine IL-9 was isolated and identified in 1988 from culture supernatants of T-cell clones that contained an unusual autocrine growth factor, human IL-9 was obtained by expression cloning of factors produced by a human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 1-transformed T-cell line. This factor was named P40/TGFIII (Table 10) and could support the longterm growth of certain T-cell clones in the absence of IL-2, IL-4, or antigen. Two years later, a factor obtained from pokeweed mitogen-stimulated spleen cells was found to have a mast cell growth-enhancing activity and appeared to be identical to IL-9. Apart from its effect on T cells and mast cells, IL-9 has been found to enhance the production of IgG and IgE in synergism with IL-4 (159). Of special interest is its role in the differentiation of hippocampal progenitor cells, indicating links between the central nervous system and the immune system (130).

The role of IL-9 as an autocrine growth factor for T cells implies that it has therapeutic value in T-cell lymphomas. Indeed, blockade of IL-9 expression and IL-9-Rs has led to a subsequent growth arrest of Reed-Sternberg cells in Hodgkin's lymphoma, although IL-9 is probably not involved in the pathogenesis of most peripheral B- and T-cell lymphomas (131).

IL-10

In 1989, Fiorenzo et al. (65) found that a factor produced by activated T cells was able to inhibit cytokine production by $T_\mathrm{H}1$ T-cell clones. After cloning, it became apparent that this factor exerted a large number of effects on different cell types (Table 11) (139), and it was subsequently named IL-10. Some years earlier it had become clear that the reason why strong immune responses are often biased towards either cellular or humoral reactivity is the functional dichotomy of T-helper cells (138, 139). The development of an immune response often results in a shift towards either a T_H1 or T_H2 type response. T_H1 responses are predominantly cellular, whereas T_H2 responses are characterized by strong humoral reactivity. Interestingly, these T-helper cell subsets can be distinguished by their cytokine production profile. IL-10 is typically produced by $\rm T_H 2$ cells and may therefore steer a developing immune response towards the humoral side. In line with this is the potent stimulatory effect of IL-10 on B cells, especially with respect to antibody production.

Effects of IL-10 on other cell types include the inhibition of proinflammatory cytokine production by activated monocytes/ macrophages (32, 60), and IL-10 may therefore be involved in the negative regulation or control of the inflammatory response that is otherwise characterized by several autoamplifying loops. Enhanced proliferation of mast cells and inhibition of IFN-g production by NK cells are two other major effects of IL-10 (44).

Because of the suppressive effects of IL-10, there are several promising clinical applications (138, 139). Its suppressive effect *a* Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; SIV, simian immunodeficiency virus.

TABLE 18. IL-17 a TABLE 18. IL-17*a*

> a Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; r, rat; PHA, phytohemagglutinin. *a* Abbreviations: aa, amino acid; r, rat; PHA, phytohemagglutinin.

on T_H 1 cells may be of use in the prevention of transplant rejection and T-cell-mediated autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and type I diabetes. Furthermore, its antiinflammatory effect could be beneficial in sepsis, rheumatoid arthritis, and psoriasis. The observation that enhanced IL-10 production is deleterious in several intracellular parasitic infections in which macrophage- or cell-mediated immunity is involved in protection (i.e., leishmaniasis, schistosomiasis, and trypanosomiasis) implies therapeutic value for IL-10 antagonism. Furthermore, antagonism of IL-10 may be expected to have beneficial effects during the polyclonal B-cell activation and hyperglobulinemia observed in AIDS patients because IL-10 is a potential factor influencing dysregulation of B-cell growth.

IL-11

In 1989 a protein with multifunctional activity was detected in the conditioned medium of a primate bone marrow stromal cell line, and this was followed by the cloning of the human cDNA from a human fetal lung fibroblast cell line. This protein, initially called bone marrow-derived stromal growth factor, was shown in vitro to influence lymphohematopoietic stem cell and megakaryocyte progenitor cell proliferation and differentiation, erythroid progenitor cell proliferation, B-lymphocyte maturation, hepatocyte acute-phase protein synthesis, and adipogenesis (Table 12) (100, 147). This protein, now named IL-11, has a unique and slightly unusual structure but nevertheless shares some functional activities with IL-6 and even induces IL-6 mRNA synthesis in T-helper cells and monocytes. Directly or through IL-6 induction, IL-11 can enhance antibody production in primary as well as secondary antigen-specific responses and therefore can play a significant regulatory role in Ig production (147). As described for IL-9, IL-11 is involved in the differentiation of hippocampal progenitor cells, thereby linking immune and neural network development (130). The multiple activities of IL-11 in vitro prompted further investigation in nonhuman primates. Administration of IL-11 to normal primates, especially in combination with IL-3 and GM-CSF, results in increased platelet and neutrophil levels. Interestingly, in none of these studies were side effects such as fever observed. These preclinical studies imply that IL-11 may be a promising candidate for treatment of thrombocytopenia and leukopenia (i.e., as an adjunct to chemotherapy or bone marrow transplantation) $(75, 76, 147)$.

IL-12 and IGIF

A factor produced by a human Epstein-Barr virus-transformed B lymphoblastoid cell line was found to mediate several biological effects on human T and NK cells (Table 13). Unlike other cytokines, this factor appears to be composed of two different proteins (p35 and p40) encoded by separate genes. The production of this cytokine is particularly complex because the expression of both genes is required to produce biologically active IL-12. Produced predominantly by macrophages and B lymphocytes in response to a variety of stimuli, its main effect appears to be the regulation of T-cell and NK cell functions (cytotoxicity) (187). In contrast to IL-4 and IL-10, IL-12 has been implicated in polarizing the maturation of T cells to the T_H1 phenotype (186), which through production of IL-2, lymphotoxin, and IFN- γ orchestrates the cellular immune response (26, 176). It is therefore not surprising that IL-12 produced early during infection is critically involved in protection against an array of intracellular pathogens (*Leishmania major*, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Schistosoma mansoni*, *Listeria monocytogenes* , *Yersinia enterocolitica* , *Cryptococcus neofor-*

TABLE 20. Interferon^a

mans) (15, 87, 125). Most, if not all, of these protective effects are mediated by IFN- γ . The present evidence suggests that IL-12 represents a bridge between innate resistance and adaptive immune responses and that the bias of the immune system to either a T_H1 or T_H2 response is regulated by the balance of IL-12 and IL-4 early during the immune response (15, 126).

Preclinical studies have shown that in vitro treatment of depressed NK cells from HIV-seropositive patients with IL-12 results in up-regulation of cytotoxicity within a few hours. In addition, the cytotoxicity of IL-12-treated peripheral blood leukocytes (PBL) from HIV-infected patients was also efficiently enhanced with respect to tumor-derived target cells as well as to cytomegalovirus-infected cells, and this cytotoxicity was at least as high as in PBL from healthy donors. In conclusion, the central role of IL-12 in the biology of immune responses suggests possibilities for therapeutic use in infectious diseases, allergic diseases, tumors, and immunodeficiencies and as an adjuvant in vaccinations (126). IL-12 antagonism may be beneficial in autoimmune diseases (15, 87).

A protein with effects broadly similar to those of IL-12 has recently been isolated from Kupffer cells of the liver of mice injected with *Propionibacterium acnes* followed by a challenge with lipopolysaccharide (LPS) which leads to toxic shock. This protein, named IL- γ , or IFN- γ -inducing factor (IGIF), proved to protect these mice against liver damage. Indeed, its IL-12 like activities appeared to be stronger than those of IL-12 itself, especially with respect to induction of $IFN-\gamma$ production by T_H1 and NK cells (150). Its actions are independent of IL-12, but synergism with IL-12 has been observed. Its effects on T_H1 cells indicate a regulatory function in the development of immune reactions. Based on structural and functional differences from any known cytokines, it was recently proposed that this cytokine be designated IL-18 (133).

IL-13

Discovered in 1993, human IL-13 (the homolog of murine P-600) was first reported as a cytokine with IL-4-like activities and the potential to regulate inflammatory and immune responses (Table 14) (137). Like IL-4 and IL-10, human IL-13 is predominantly produced by $CD4^+$ T cells with T_H2 characteristics. Its stimulatory effect on B cells together with its effects on monocytes led to its inclusion in the IL family of cytokines (47). IL-13 inhibits the production of a large array of cytokines by monocytes in response to LPS $(II-1\alpha, IL-1\beta, IL-6, IL-8,$ IL-10, IL-12 p35 and p40, macrophage inflammatory protein 1α [MIP-1 α], GM-CSF, granulocyte CSF [G-CSF], IFN- α , and TNF- α) and increases the production of IL-1ra; therefore, IL-13 can be regarded as an anti-inflammatory cytokine (50). Apart from inhibition of cytokine production, it also induces significant changes in the phenotypes of monocytes (50, 192). The effects of IL-13 on B cells are in part also found with IL-4 (e.g., the switch to IgG4 and IgE). The fact that IL-4 and IL-13 share a large number of biological effects without noticeable synergism implies that these cytokines may have common receptor components (but not the IL-4-R-binding protein) (149). However, IL-13 acts independently of IL-4, because the activities of IL-13 cannot be blocked by anti-IL-4 neutralizing antibodies. Differences between IL-4 and IL-13 include the inability of IL-13 to support the proliferation of mitogen-induced blasts or T-cell clones and the lack of induction of $CD8\alpha$ expression on $CD4^+$ T-cell clones. *F* and $\frac{1}{2}$ and \frac

IL-14 and LMW BCGF

Enhancement of B-cell proliferation has been ascribed to many lymphokines, including IL-1, IL-2, IFN, and several BCGFs or B-cell-stimulatory factors. One of the human

TABLE 21. CSF^a TABLE 21. CSF*a*

" Abbreviations: FMLP, formyl-Met-Leu-Phe; aa, amino acid; PMN, polymorphonuclear leukocytes; K_a, dissociation constant. *a* Abbreviations: FMLP, formyl-Met-Leu-Phe; aa, amino acid; PMN, polymorphonuclear leukocytes; K_d, dissociation constant.

769

TABLE 24. CC chemokines^a

BCGFs that is capable of stimulating the growth and differentiation of activated B cells only (by antigen or cross-linking of surface membrane Ig) was purified and characterized in 1985 (2). With a molecular weight of 60,000 and homology to the murine low-molecular-weight (LMW) BCGF (12 kDa), it was initially named high-molecular-weight (HMW) BCGF and was later designated IL-14 (Table 15) (1). HMW-BCGF activity was first identified in culture supernatant of mitogen-stimulated acute lymphocytic leukemia T cells and Namalva (human B-cell lymphoma) cell lines (2). Its BCGF activity was reported to be completely independent of the presence of other BCGFs. Apart from being secreted, HMW BCGF may also be a putative intracellular precursor for another mature BCGF (1).

Human LMW BCGF was isolated in 1987 and represents the predominant molecular species released by normal lectinactivated human T cells. LMW BCGF has been defined by its comitogenic effect on activated T-cells. Studies performed by Sharma et al. (172) indicate the possibility that the BCGF gene either belongs to a multigene family or represents a differentially spliced single gene.

IL-15

Being purified from the culture supernatant of a simian kidney epithelial cell line, IL-15 represents a cytokine with biological actions similar to those of IL-2 (Table 16) (72). In fact, IL-15 activity was first determined with the assay for murine IL-2 (IL-2-dependent T-cell line CTLL). Human IL-15 was obtained by using the simian gene sequence to probe a cDNA library from the human stromal cell line IMTLH (77); murine IL-15 was obtained by similar techniques. Although human IL-2 and IL-15 share several biological effects, no significant sequence homologies were found. In contrast to IL-2, the most abundant sources of IL-15 appear to be nonlymphoid cells (i.e., muscle and placenta). No expression of IL-15 can be detected in (activated) peripheral T cells, but abundant mRNA levels were found in monocytes (29, 47), epithelial cells, muscle cell lines, and stromal cell lines derived from bone marrow and thymus. The IL-15-R is composed of three subunits, and the β and γ chains are shared with the IL-2-R and are necessary for signal transduction (6, 48, 72). The IL-15-R α chain is unique for IL-15, and the differences in distribution compared with IL-2 imply that IL-15 may have unique roles in the development and activation of some lymphocyte subpopulations as well as additional activities outside the immune system (72, 128).

In animal models, IL-15 appears to contribute to the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis by recruitment of IL-15-responsive T cells into the synovial membrane (128), whereas in humans IL-15 may be involved in modulation of immune reactivity during intracellular infection (e.g., leprosy) (97).

IL-16

Originally called lymphocyte chemoattractant factor (30), IL-16 appeared to be biologically active only in its tetrameric form, which is composed of 14- to 17-kDa chains. Although expression of the IL-16 precursor mRNA is found in $CD4^+$ as well as CDS^{+} T cells, fully assembled bioactive tetrameric protein is present only in $\text{CD}8^+$ T cells. Structurally, IL-16 bears no resemblance to other cytokines or chemokines. The sequence and structure of the secreted form appear to be strongly conserved across species, and the predicted amino acid homology of murine IL-16 (mIL-16) with human IL-16 (hIL-16) is $>85\%$ (secreted peptide). Furthermore, mIL-16 has chemoattractant bioactivity for human $CD4^+$ T cells (153), and this activity is inhibited by antibody to human recombinant IL-16 (hrecIL-16). Well as CDs^+ T
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and this activity is il
L-16 (hrecIL-16).

Although IL-16 is predominantly secreted by $CD8⁺$ T cells it is not clear yet whether these cells are classic cytotoxic lymphocytes or other $CD8⁺$ subsets (115). IL-16 displays a variety of effects on $CD4^+$ T cells, monocytes, and eosinophils (Table 17). The chemotactic effect of IL-16 leading to tissue infiltration by $CD4^+$ T cells has been investigated in several disease states (30). In asthmatics, IL-16 secretion by airway epithelial cells is augmented by histamine, which suggests that IL-16 is involved in the full development of inflammatory responses. Moreover, IL-16 appears to be the only lymphocyte chemoattractant factor in the airways of persons with atopic asthma. IL-16 also appears to be involved in granulomatous inflammatory responses such as delayed-type hypersensitivity granuloma formation, sarcoidosis, and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*-induced granuloma formation. This effect implies a possible role for IL-16 inhibitors in suppressing diseases in which IL-16 plays a prominent part. In addition, its ability to inhibit HIV replication together with the priming effect of $CD4^+$ T cells (for IL-2-induced proliferation) suggests possibilities for IL-16 in treatment of HIV infection (153).

IL-17

A protein named CTLA8 was first cloned (rodent cDNA sequence) and described in 1993, and its predicted amino acid sequence showed 57% homology with that of HVS13 of *Herpesvirus saimiri*. Recombinant HVS13 and mCTLA8 exhibit similar activities on a variety of cell types (Table 18), which was the basis for terming them viral IL-17 and mIL-17, respectively. In 1995 human IL-17 was cloned and described by Yao et al. (204). IL-17 is produced almost exclusively by activated $CD4^+$ T cells and is able to induce production of IL-6 and IL-8 by and expression of intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1) on human foreskin fibroblasts. The biologic activities of IL-17, its role in immune regulation, and its mechanism of action remain to be determined.

TNF AND LT

More than 20 years ago it was found that an endotoxininduced serum factor was able to cause hemorrhagic necrosis of tumors. Isolation and characterization of two factors capable of tumor necrosis, TNF- α and LT- α (also called TNF- β), occurred 10 years later. It then became evident that TNF- α was identical to the macrophage-secreted factor cachectin, a factor first described as a lipoprotein lipase-suppressing hormone secreted by endotoxin-induced RAW 264.7 cells. Both TNF- α and LT- α are biologically active as homotrimers. LT- β is a cytokine with actions similar to those of $LT-\alpha$; in fact, $LT-\beta$ is bioactive as a heterotrimeric protein composed of one $LT-\alpha$ and two LT- β molecules or as a complex of two LT- α and one LT- β subunits. Whereas TNF- α and LT- α are mostly secreted, LT- β is strictly a transmembrane protein that acts chiefly through cell-to-cell contact. The two LT are produced mainly by T cells, whereas TNF- α is secreted predominantly by monocytes in response to inflammatory stimuli (Table 19). TNF- α and LT - α have the same receptors, TNF-RI and TNF-RII (9, 10, 22), whereas LT - β binds to its own unique receptor, LT b-R, also named TNF-R-related protein (38, 145). The receptors initiate signals for cell proliferation and apoptosis, and these signals are required for the normal development and function of the immune system. Excessive signaling can cause severe inflammatory reactions and tissue injury and may even lead to shock. In contrast, mutations in the receptor or ligand genes can cause characteristic disturbances of lymphocytes, derangement of the immune response, or autoimmune disease (81, 83). The role of TNF- α during infection has been described in numerous studies (185) . TNF- α -dependent resistance to infections has been demonstrated (e.g., *Listeria monocytogenes* infection) but, on the other hand, $TNF-\alpha$ has also been implicated in the pathogenesis of diseases such as endotoxic shock. Due to its high toxicity for animals as well as humans, TNF- α did not fulfill initial expectations for therapeutic application in the treatment of cancer, for example. Extensive clinical trials have been conducted to test $TNF-\alpha$ neutralizing antibodies in the treatment of septic shock, but no substantial benefit was observed (185). In patients with rheumatoid arthritis, anti-TNF- α treatment has proved to lessen pain, joint swelling, anemia, and erythrocyte sedimentation rates. Potential problems for this antibody-based therapy are the lack of neutralization of $LT-\alpha$, the antigenicity of murine monoclonal antibodies that prevents long-term therapy, the formation of TNF- α –anti-TNF- α immune complexes that may be harmful, and the requirement for high doses of anti-TNF- α antibodies for neutralization of TNF- α (81). A different, more promising approach for inhibition of $TNF-\alpha$ -mediated effects in vivo is the development of chimeric inhibitor molecules in which the extracellular domain of the TNF-R is spliced to an Ig heavy-chain fragment. Such molecules are as stable as Igs and are minimally antigenic because they are composed of two nonantigenic elements. In addition, they block the effects not only of TNF- α but also of LT- α , since their binding domain is the receptor, which has the added advantage of a higher affinity for the ligand than monoclonal antibodies.

IFN

Type I, or viral, IFN (IFN- α , or leukocyte-derived IFN, and IFN- β or fibroblast-derived IFN) were originally described as factors capable of inducing RNA and protein in target cells. They are produced during viral or bacterial infection and have significant structural and functional homologies. Type II, or immune, IFN (IFN- γ) is primarily produced by T lymphocytes in response to antigen or mitogen and has a higher molecular weight than type I IFN (Table 20) (7, 63).

Although initial clinical studies with IFN- α suggested therapeutic activity against malignant melanoma, osteosarcoma, and various lymphomas, subsequent trials demonstrated significant activity only against less common tumor histiotypes such as hairy cell leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia, and a few types of lymphoma. Despite IFN- α 's activity against some specific leukemias and lymphomas, it has limited activity against solid tumors.

 $IFN-\gamma$ plays a critical role in the immune response and is the earliest detectable cytokine at the site of immunization with protein antigens. It plays a major role in the generation and regulation of the immune response and is one of the T_H 1specific cytokines that promote T_H1 responses and inhibit T_H2 responses. Enhancement of MHC class II expression on antigen-presenting cells leading to more efficient antigen presention is also ascribed to IFN- γ . Apart from these effects, IFN- γ priming and activation of macrophages lead to enhanced production of proinflammatory cytokines in response to several stimuli. Furthermore, IFN- γ displays some adjuvant properties and plays a significant role in the control of several infections (e.g., *M. tuberculosis* and *L. major*). Apart from its value in cancer chemotherapy (157), IFN- γ has also proved effective for treatment of a variety of other diseases, such as rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis (117), chronic granulomatous disease (170), and hepatitis B. One difficulty of the use of IFN- γ in therapy is the side effects produced (117, 170).

TABLE 25. C chemokine*^a*

Acronym or synonym	Producers	Biochemistry	Molecular biology and miscellaneous information	Major effects
Lymphotactin [Refs. 33, 101]	T-cells.	10 kDa (h).	92 aa (h).	Chemotactic factor for T-cells.

^a Abbreviation: aa, amino acid.

CSF

The major CSF comprise GM-CSF (119), M-CSF (80), G-CSF (119), and multi-CSF. The last, better known as IL-3, is described above.

In general, GM-CSF acts on bipotential stem cells to produce granulocytes and mononuclear phagocytes (119), G-CSF acts on the bone marrow to induce granulocyte colony formation (41), and M-CSF induces mononuclear phagocyte colony formation (80) (Table 21).

GM-CSF and G-CSF have proven to be of therapeutic value in the treatment of neutropenia arising from various causes (e.g. cancer chemotherapy, bone marrow transplantation, or infectious diseases), and generally, the duration as well as degree of neutropenia is reduced (120). In patients with myelodysplastic syndrome, recombinant GM-CSF has proven to increase not only numbers of monocytes and eosinophils but also numbers of killer T cells and nonactivated T-helper cells (phase I/II clinical trial) (68). On the other hand, the therapeutic benefit of M-CSF seems to be more modest. It had only slight effects on circulating-leukocyte levels when given to leukopenic patients. Beneficial effects of M-CSF, such as activation of host defenses against viral, bacterial, parasitic, and fungal infections, can be expected because of its enhancement of monocyte function. In addition, M-CSF induced the terminal differentiation of peripheral blood blast cells from some patients with acute myeloid leukemia in vitro and may therefore hold promise for treatment of leukemia (140).

CHEMOKINES

Basically, chemokines can be considered proinflammatory cytokines with chemotactic properties. They are involved in the initiation and propagation of inflammatory responses that are characterized by sequestration of neutrophils at the site of infection or tissue injury (113, 135). The chemokines have been divided into two groups of related polypeptides (supergene families) based on structural similarities in their primary amino acid sequences: CXC, or α , chemokines and CC, or β , chemokines. The CXC and CC chemokine genes cluster on chromosomes 4 and 7, respectively, except the gene for CXC chemokine stromal-cell-derived factor-1, which is located on chromosome 10 (16).

Over 12 different CXC chemokines, most of which have strong neutrophil chemotactic and activating properties, have been described. This property appears to be based on a specific amino acid sequence immediately preceding the first cysteine, the so called ELR motif (Glu-Leu-Arg) (33, 164). Indeed, chemokines lacking this motif (MIG, PF4, and IP-10 [see Table 22]) have relatively weak neutrophil-activating capacities. Table 22 lists the CXC and CC chemokines, and Tables 23 and 24 describe the properties of some representatives of CXC and CC chemokines, respectively. The members of the CC supergene family (Table 24) have relative specificity for the elicitation of mononuclear cells (macrophages and T cells), and some members appear to be potent chemotactic factors for eosinophils and basophils.

Lymphotactin is a structurally unique chemokine that bears only minor similarities to some CC chemokines. In contrast to the other chemokines it is mainly produced by T lymphocytes and is a strong chemotactic factor for T cells (Table 25). Due to its effects and structure it may represent a third supergene family of chemokines (C chemokines) (101).

MISCELLANEOUS CYTOKINES

Cytokines involved in the development and regulation of immune responses that cannot easily be categorized in other groups are summarized in Table 26.

CYTOKINE RECEPTORS

Characteristic features of cytokines are their functional pleiotropy and redundancy. This can in part be explained by the molecular biology of the cytokine receptor systems (45, 62, 85, 122). Most cytokine receptors consist of two or more membrane proteins, and generally only one of these subunits displays specific binding properties (private ligand-specific receptor). The others have no ability to bind the ligand but are associated with signal generation and transduction (public class-specific signal transducer). Binding of the ligand to the ligand-specific subunit leads to oligomerization of the subunits, which juxtaposes their cytoplasmic domains and allows the receptor to engage the intracellular signaling machinery. Several cytokine receptor systems use a common signal transducer; e.g., gp130 is used by IL-6, leukemia-inhibitory factor (LIF), oncostatin M (OSM), and IL-11. Therefore, different cytokines can mediate similar functions on various tissues, or a tissue-specific effect can be realized by different cytokines. With few exceptions (e.g., IL-8-R, M-CSF-R, and TGF- β -R), cytokine receptors do not contain classical signaling domains and hence do not use signaling pathways such as cyclic AMP (cAMP)-protein kinase A, inositol lipid hydrolysis with $Ca²$ mobilization followed by protein kinase C activation, cGMPprotein kinase G, or receptor tyrosine kinase activation. Instead, dimerization of the cytokine receptor components results in the activation of receptor-associated cytoplasmic protein tyrosine kinases, the so-called JAKs (Janus family of tyrosine kinases [95]), that in turn activate members of the STAT family (signal transducers and activators of transcription) or induce the Ras–mitogen-activated protein kinase cascade (95). Several review articles on cytokine receptors (5, 10, 45, 62, 105, 111, 118, 122, 136, 143, 200, 201) and cytokine signal transduction (21, 89, 95, 98, 106, 107, 142, 145, 151, 155, 169, 171) have been published recently.

Based on structural similarities, cytokine receptors can be divided into several superfamilies: the Ig receptor superfamily (e.g., IL-1-R), the hematopoietin receptor superfamily (e.g., IL-2-R, -4-R, -5-R, -6-R, and -9-R, GM-CSF-R, LIF-R, and OSM-R), the TNF receptor superfamily (e.g., TNF-R, LT- α -R, and LT- β -R), the G-protein-coupled receptor superfamily (e.g., IL-8-R and many other chemokine receptors), the

" Abbreviations: aa, amino acids; EGF, epidermal growth factor; FGF, fibroblast growth factor; CNTF, ciliary neurotrophic factor; CT-1, cardiotrophin-1; EBV, Epstein-Barr virus; PBMNC, peripheral blood *a* Abbreviations: aa, amino acids; EGF, epidermal growth factor; FGF, fibroblast growth factor; CNTF, ciliary neurotrophic factor; CT-1, cardiotrophin-1; EBV, Epstein-Barr virus; PBMNC, peripheral blood mononuclear cells; ER, endoplasmic reticulum. mononuclear cells; ER, endoplasmic reticulum TGF-β-R superfamily (e.g., TGFβ-R), and the IFN receptor superfamily (IFN- α -R, IFN- β -R, and IFN- γ -R).

Not only are the biological actions of cytokines regulated by cytokine or receptor expression, but also the presence of soluble receptors (23, 85, 198) can influence the effects of a specific cytokine; e.g., sIL-6-R a (the extracellular portion of IL-6-R α) enhances IL-6 activity by transporting IL-6 to the IL-6-R b (198). Furthermore, not all receptors are capable of signal transduction; e.g., IL-1-RII is devoid of signaling and may act as a decoy receptor, thereby attenuating the effects of IL-1β (55). In addition, naturally occurring autoantibodies to cytokines may affect cytokine actions (12, 82).

Remarkable discoveries that linked cytokine receptors to HIV infection were made in 1996 and have been extensively reviewed by Fauci (64). Apart from the induction or suppression of HIV expression by numerous individual cytokines, it appears that several receptors for CC and CXC chemokines can act as coreceptors for HIV; i.e., T-tropic (T-cell-tropic) HIV strains use CXC-CKR4 (also known as LESTR or fusin), M-tropic (monocyte- or macrophage-tropic) HIV-1 strains use CC-CKR5, and M-tropic and dually tropic HIV-1 strains use CC-CKR2b and CC-CKR3 as coreceptors (57, 64). As a consequence, the chemokines RANTES (regulated on activation, normal T expressed, and secreted), MIP-1 α , and MIP-1 β suppress M-tropic viral replication while stromal-cell-derived factor-1 suppresses T-tropic viral replication (16). Furthermore, people with a defect in the gene encoding CC-CKR5, leading to a truncated version of the receptor that is not expressed on the cell surface, have been shown to be partially protected against certain strains of HIV.

CONCLUSIONS

Over the last 2 decades our understanding of the biology and biological significance of cytokines has dramatically increased and some cytokines have been introduced into clinical practice (e.g., IFN-g and G-CSF). Apart from cytokines, one may expect that treatment with cytokine inhibitors, anticytokine antibodies, receptor antagonists, or substances that inhibit cytokine signaling (171) may be of therapeutic value. Treatment with such biological response modifiers generally means modulating an array or cascade of events. Therefore, in-depth investigation of possible effects and accurate determination of the optimal immunomodulatory doses of these modifiers are absolutely necessary. However, many questions on cytokine biology remain unanswered. Until the mechanisms responsible for the control of cytokine biological activities are further elucidated, clinical trials should be designed carefully and the results obtained should be interpreted and evaluated with caution. Basic and animal research on cytokines must be continued in addition to investigations of therapeutic applications in clinical trials.

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