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## IDO: a double-edged sword for T<sub>H</sub>1/T<sub>H</sub>2 regulation

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### Summary

Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase (IDO) has been well defined as one of the important immunosuppressive properties for T<sub>H</sub>1 cell mediated immune responses, but its function in T<sub>H</sub>2 dominant system is poorly understood. Recently, an appreciable number of publications suggest that the role of IDO in T<sub>H</sub>2 cell regulation may be different from that of T<sub>H</sub>1 immune responses. Here we review the evidence on the regulatory function of IDO and tryptophan metabolites in T<sub>H</sub>1/T<sub>H</sub>2 differentiation. We propose that IDO-kynurenine pathway can serve as a negative feed-back loop for T<sub>H</sub>1 cells but it may play a distinct role in up-regulating T<sub>H</sub>2 dominant immune responses.

### Keywords

T cells; immune regulation; dendritic cells; tryptophan; and immune diseases

### Introduction

Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase (IDO) is a rate-limiting enzyme for tryptophan metabolism [1]. IDO protein is widely expressed in most of tumor cells, dendritic cells, macrophages, microglia, eosinophils, fibroblasts and endothelial cells [2–6]. In immune cells, IDO expression is regulated and mainly induced by cytokines (e.g IFN- $\gamma$ , IFN- $\alpha$ , IFN- $\beta$  and IL-10), by signaling through TLRs (e.g. LPS, CpG/ODN and other bacterial antigens) and by CTLA4-B7 interaction [7–9]. Since the revolutionary findings by Munn and Mellor that IDO expression in the placenta plays an important role in preventing rejection of the fetus during pregnancy in mice, an increasing body of experimental data in the last decade has shown that IDO is an important immunosuppressive property for tumor immune resistance, pathogen-induced immune surveillance, induction of immune suppression to antigens and prevention of autoimmune responses [8,10,11]. The immunosuppressive roles of the IDO-kynurenine pathway have been well reviewed by others previously [12–15]. Two main models have been suggested to interpret mechanisms underlying the immune inhibitory function of the IDO-kynurenine pathway: one is IDO-mediated tryptophan depletion in the microenvironment that results in starvation and stress of immune cells, and subsequently reduces cell function; the other is IDO-mediated accumulation of cytotoxic catabolites from down-stream of kynurenine-metabolism pathway [1,13,16,17]. Notably, the immunosuppressive effects of IDO are mostly described in models with T<sub>H</sub>1 dominant responses. In contrast, the roles of IDO in T<sub>H</sub>2 dominant system are poorly understood. Recently, a sizable number of publications suggest that the role of IDO in T<sub>H</sub>2 cell regulation may be different from that in T<sub>H</sub>1 immune responses. In this paper, we focus on the

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recent data related to the function of IDO and tryptophan metabolites in T<sub>H</sub>2 cell-mediated immune responses and propose that IDO may play a role in up-regulating T<sub>H</sub>2 dominant immune responses.

## Evidence for the different roles of IDO in the regulation of type 1 and type 2 T helper cells

IDO has been well confirmed as a critical suppressive property in induction of immune tolerance and in inhibition of T<sub>H</sub>1 cell mediated diseases including EAE, EAU and colitis [18–20]. Upregulation of IDO activity in DCs by IDO inducing signals or lack of negative regulator, e.g. DAP12, reduces Th1 cell responses [21,22]. In contrast, inhibition of IDO function by IDO inhibitors, e.g. 1-methyl-tryptophan (1-MT), will enhance the severity of T<sub>H</sub>1 cell-mediated diseases [23]. In non-obese diabetic (NOD) mice, impaired tryptophan catabolism in DCs was correlated with enhanced autoimmune responses [24] and expression of IDO in DCs down-regulated type 1 diabetes, in which both CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells as well as B cells are involved [25,26]. It has also been documented that induction of IDO by IFN- $\gamma$  or treatment with tryptophan metabolites inhibit IL-17 production from  $\gamma\delta$ T cells and reduce T<sub>H</sub>17 responses in mouse chronic granulomatous disease [27]. However data on the function of IDO and tryptophan metabolism in T<sub>H</sub>2 cell mediated immune responses are controversial. The first evidence for the differential regulation of T<sub>H</sub>1/T<sub>H</sub>2 responses by IDO and kynurenine pathway-derived metabolites is from the observation that 3-hydroxyanthranilic and quinolinic acids induce apoptosis of T<sub>H</sub>1 cells but not T<sub>H</sub>2 cells in vitro [28]. Such treatment causes the rapid death of effector T cells, which subsequently lead to selective survival of T<sub>H</sub>2 cells. The impact of IDO on the T<sub>H</sub>1/T<sub>H</sub>2 balance was also observed by Clark et al. in humans and stress-treated or pre-immunized mice with pregnancy failure [29]. They found that the reduced expression of IDO in uteri correlated with an increased T<sub>H</sub>1/T<sub>H</sub>2 ratio although it was not necessary associated with pregnancy failure. Interestingly, the increase of the T<sub>H</sub>1/T<sub>H</sub>2 ratio in the stressed mice is due to a significant increase in the percentage of T<sub>H</sub>1 cells; when mice were subjected to both stress and immunization, IDO levels dropped further and led to a striking drop in the levels of T<sub>H</sub>2 cytokine-positive cells, which resulted in a further increase in the ratio of T<sub>H</sub>1/T<sub>H</sub>2. These data imply that high levels of IDO may be needed for limiting T<sub>H</sub>1 cell proliferation but a relatively low concentration of IDO may be required for the maintenance of the T<sub>H</sub>2 population. In a study on the role of human eosinophils in the maintenance of asthmatic T<sub>H</sub>2 cell responses, Odemuyiwa et al. showed that eosinophils constitutively expressed functional IDO. The IDO expression by eosinophils was further enhanced by ligation of CD28 or treatment with IFN- $\gamma$ . When kynurenine-producing eosinophils were co-cultured with either a T<sub>H</sub>1 cell line or T<sub>H</sub>2 clone, they selectively inhibited anti-CD3 induced proliferation of T<sub>H</sub>1 but not T<sub>H</sub>2 cells, suggesting that IDO-expressing eosinophils may create a tryptophan-depleted microenvironment in vivo and produce cytotoxic metabolites that inhibit the function of bystander T<sub>H</sub>1 cells and maintain the imbalance between T<sub>H</sub>1 and T<sub>H</sub>2 populations [4]. A similar phenomenon was also observed in mouse spleen cell culture, that IDO expression or addition of tryptophan metabolites in culture down-regulates T<sub>H</sub>1 but up-regulates T<sub>H</sub>2 cytokine production [30]. The potential roles of IDO in promoting T<sub>H</sub>2 type cellular immune responses is also supported by Platten et al's data from EAE model, in which MBP Ac1-11[4Y] (a peptide promoting T<sub>H</sub>2 response and displaying therapeutic effects in EAE mice)-activated T cells express 70 fold higher IDO mRNA in comparison with MBP Ac1-11(an encephalitogenic peptide)-activated T cells. When they used natural tryptophan metabolites and a synthetic derivative N-(3, 4-dimeththoxycinnamoyl) anthranilic acid (3,4-DAA) to treat EAE mice, the treatment reduced T<sub>H</sub>1 cytokines and increased T<sub>H</sub>2 cytokine production [20]. The data described above strongly suggest that IDO-expressing cells play a different role in the regulation of T<sub>H</sub>1/T<sub>H</sub>2 immune responses: suppressing T<sub>H</sub>1 cells but promoting T<sub>H</sub>2 immune responses. Indeed, our data from an OVA-induced chronic asthma

model also showed that IDO-deficient mice displayed a weaker  $T_H2$  response and lower levels of serum antigen-specific IgE in comparison with WT control mice when they were immunized with OVA and challenged by respiratory inhalation of the antigen [31]. The reduced  $T_H2$  responses in IDO-deficient mice are possibly related to the lower expression of MHC class II and co-stimulatory molecules on the lung resident dendritic cells, which subsequently lead to a reduced co-stimulation between DCs and T cells (data not shown). Interestingly, Chen et al. showed that in the mouse anterior chamber associated immune deviation (ACAID) model, a  $T_H2$  cell-mediated ocular immune disease, the inhibition of IDO by 1-MT treatment reduced IL-4 levels, partially revived IFN- $\gamma$  production and prevented the development of ACAID [32].

In contrast, Hayashi et al. found that ISS-ODN, a TLR 9 ligand, induced IDO expression in lungs and inhibited both  $T_H2$ - and  $T_H1$ -mediated lung inflammation in experimental asthma; administration of 1-MT reversed the inhibition of  $T_H2$  cell responses by ISS-ODN treatment [33]. Since ISS-ODN itself is a strong inducer of IFN- $\gamma$  production and IFN- $\gamma$  may also directly affect the development of  $T_H2$ -mediated pulmonary inflammation by impacting  $T_H1/T_H2$  balance in the IDO-independent pathway [34,35], the contribution of IDO and tryptophan catabolism pathway in this system may thus need to be evaluated carefully. Further, the authors find that ISS-ODN administration enhanced cell death of the  $T_H2$  cell line in the lungs and this enhancement was reversed by 1-MT treatment.  $T_H2$  cells presumably underwent apoptosis in this study and 1-MT treatment implies the role of IDO in the programmed cell death. This seems at variance with the observation by others that  $T_H1$  cells but not  $T_H2$  cells are sensitive to tryptophan catabolism pathway-induced apoptosis [28]. Further experiments are therefore necessary to determine the reasons for the different results from  $T_H2$  models. Another observation by Gordon et al. showed that spleen  $CD8^+$  dendritic cells, which are documented to be IDO<sup>+</sup> and tolerogenic, decreased  $T_H2$  cytokine responses of asthmatic T cells *in vitro* and reduced airway hyperresponsiveness *in vivo* [36]. As the authors pointed out, these  $CD8^+$  dendritic cells secrete high levels of IL-10 and TGF- $\beta$ , which are considered to be major factors leading to immune suppression. Addition of IDO inhibitor 1-MT to the co-culture of  $CD8^+$  DCs and asthmatic T cells only somewhat less efficiently reduced dendritic cell-driven tolerance. Indeed, 1-MT has been shown to induce the production of IFN- $\gamma$  through TLR, which is independent of its inhibitory effect on the enzymatic activity of IDO [7] and may directly lead to a  $T_H1$  shift. IDO independent effects of 1-MT must therefore be taken into account when evaluating the contribution of IDO in  $CD8^+$  DC driven-tolerance.

Table 1 shows the experimental data supporting the possibility that IDO may exert different effects on  $T_H2$  vs.  $T_H1$  cells. Although an appreciable amount of evidence show that IDO-expressing cells are in favor of  $T_H2$  type immune responses, further investigation is required to elucidate the mechanism underlying the enhancement of  $T_H2$  responses and to explain why contradictory results were observed in different *in vitro* and *in vivo*  $T_H2$  models.

## **IDO-mediated modulation: a negative feedback regulatory loop for peripheral $T_H1$ responses?**

It has been suggested by MacKenzie et al that IDO from antigen presenting cells functions as a critical negative feedback regulator in T cell responses [17]. To date, two types of DCs have been found to be closely associated with IDO-mediated immune suppression: plasmacytoid DCs (pDCs) expressing TLR 7 and TLR9, and myeloid DCs (mDCs) expressing TLR 2 and TLR 4 [37]. In response to stimulation of bacterial or viral DNA, or synthetic CpG-ODN through TLR9, pDCs produce type I IFN in an autocrine manner, that will positively feedback to activate IDO expression in DCs [38]. On the other hand, most antigens and pathogens are presented by mDCs for T cell activation. Upon stimulation through TLR 2 or TLR 4, mDCs secrete IL-12, which not only skews  $T_H0$  cells into  $T_H1$  pathway but also strongly enhances

IFN- $\gamma$  production from T cells and NK cells. IFN- $\gamma$  is a key inducer for IDO expression and activation since its efficiency in up-regulation of IDO activity is far higher than that of type I IFN [39,40]. In the periphery, DCs does not express functional IDO until its expression is triggered by stimulation of IFN- $\gamma$ , IFN- $\alpha$ , IFN- $\beta$  or through TLR-ligand signaling [2,14]. It has been documented that murine DCs are capable of releasing IFN- $\gamma$  triggered by infection with intracellular pathogens, e.g. *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Toxoplasma gondii*, or a stimulating signal through CTLA 4-B7-1 ligation [41,42]. Human dendritic cells also produce IFN- $\gamma$  in response to bacterial stimuli through TLR 2 [43]. IFN- $\gamma$  production from DCs can be further enhanced by autocrine or exogenous IL-12 [42,44,45]. In addition to DC-released IFN- $\gamma$ , DC-produced IL-12 can stimulate bystander NK cells to produce IFN- $\gamma$  [46]. NK cells are thus also an important source of IFN- $\gamma$  at the antigen priming stage, which contribute to creating T<sub>H</sub>1 skewing conditions. As naïve T cells differentiate into T<sub>H</sub>1 cells, they will produce IFN- $\gamma$  [2, 47]. The increased levels of IFN- $\gamma$  can have two consequences: establishing a T<sub>H</sub>1 dominant microenvironment, which subsequently inhibits T<sub>H</sub>2 development, and stimulating DCs to express functional IDO, which will deplete tryptophan in the microenvironment and limit T cell activation (most likely T<sub>H</sub>1 cells at this stage). Since tryptophan catabolites selectively induce apoptosis in T<sub>H</sub>1 but not T<sub>H</sub>2 cells, IDO-mediated inhibition of T<sub>H</sub>1 cells will limit T<sub>H</sub>1 cell responses and lead to a selective survival of T<sub>H</sub>2 cells. Therefore, the T<sub>H</sub>1  $\uparrow$   $\rightarrow$  IFN- $\gamma$   $\rightarrow$  IDO  $\rightarrow$  T<sub>H</sub>1  $\downarrow$  axis consists of a negative feedback regulatory loop to self-limit T<sub>H</sub>1 responses.

Another mechanism for the inhibition of T cell activation through regulatory T cells has been suggested by Mellor and Munn [2]. Findings from Fallarino's study showed that Treg cells are capable of inducing IDO expression in DCs by CTLA4-B7 interaction [41]. The possibility that IDO expression in DCs induces the generation of regulatory T cells was initially suggested in a previous study, in which CD4<sup>+</sup> naïve T cells converted to FoxP3<sup>+</sup> functional regulatory T cells upon exposure to LT/kynurenine or IDO<sup>+</sup> DCs [16]. In humans, naïve T cells will convert to FoxP3<sup>+</sup> Treg cells when they are co-cultured with IDO<sup>+</sup> AML (acute myeloid leukemia) cells and this conversion is completely abrogated by IDO inhibitor 1-MT treatment [48]. IDO may upregulate the function of Treg cells directly or indirectly. In humans, it has been found that IDO expression in DC contributes to DC maturation, which subsequently leads to expansion of Treg cells [49]. The direct role of IDO in activation of Treg cells has been confirmed by a recent study from Munn's laboratory, that IDO activates Treg cells via GCN2 pathway and the IDO-activated Treg cells exert suppression on target cells through PD-/PD-L interaction [50,51]. Thus, IDO-activated Treg cells will subsequently suppress antigen-induced T<sub>H</sub> cell responses in a "time delayed manner". IDO-induced Treg cells may therefore contribute to the negative-feedback suppression of T cell responses. But the difference from IDO-directly suppressive role on T cells is that Treg cells inhibit both T<sub>H</sub>1 and T<sub>H</sub>2 type immune responses. In addition to inhibition of specific T<sub>H</sub>1 and T<sub>H</sub>2 responses, IDO-induced Treg may also mediate bystander suppression of cellular immune responses to "the third party antigens" [52].

In Fig. 1, we propose a model which interprets the regulatory roles of IDO in T<sub>H</sub>1/ T<sub>H</sub>2 differentiation. Fig. 1a summarizes the cross-regulatory network mainly consist of the dual effects of IDO from DCs and interaction between T<sub>H</sub>1 and T<sub>H</sub>2 responses as well as Treg cells. Fig. 1b displays kinetics of IDO activity and T cell responses, which may explain the relationship between temporally controlled IDO levels and dynamics of T cell responses: antigen-induced DC activation and T<sub>H</sub>1 differentiation trigger increasing IDO expression; the increased IDO activity will reduce T<sub>H</sub>1 responses but lead to upregulation of T<sub>H</sub>2 responses and induction of Treg cells. Emergence of Treg cells will counteract hyperactive immune responses and bring the immune system close to physiological balance.

## IDO favors T<sub>H</sub>2 type immune responses: beyond a negative feedback effect

DCs are critical to antigen presentation and T cell activation. Immature DCs express TLRs and other surface molecules that facilitate recognizing and uptaking antigens. Once DCs are stimulated by antigens they undergo maturation and up-regulate expression of co-stimulatory molecules, which interact with T cells and cause T cell activation [53]. Although it is unclear whether IDO expression in DCs may directly be involved in up-regulation and maintenance of T<sub>H</sub>2 type immune responses, it has been shown that appropriate tryptophan metabolism through the kynurenine pathway is important for phenotypic maturation of DCs; inhibition of IDO function by 1-MT treatment can reduce the expression of co-stimulatory molecules in DCs and cause an inefficient co-stimulation for T cells [54]. Our recent data from a murine asthma model show that although IDO is not constitutively expressed in spleen DCs, which is consistent with other observations [55,56], it does constitutively express in lung resident DCs [31]. Moreover, IDO deficient mice are fully susceptible to the induction of immune tolerance by OVA inhalation, suggesting that IDO is not absolutely required for induction of immune tolerance. Whether the deficiency of IDO in the knockout mice is compensated by other alternatives, e.g. kynurenine pathway enzymes downstream of IDO [57], remains to be determined. Phenotype analysis of *in vitro*-stimulated lung DCs showed that the OVA-induced expression of co-stimulatory molecules (CD86, OX40L and MHC class II) in lung DCs from IDO deficient mice was reduced in comparison with that from WT control mice. When CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells from DO11.10 TCR transgenic mice were co-cultured with lung DCs from either IDO deficient or WT control mice, OVA-induced T<sub>H</sub>2 cytokine production from IDO<sup>-/-</sup> lung DC-stimulated T cells was significantly lower than that from WT lung DC-stimulated T cells (data not shown). Similarly when DO11.10 CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells were adoptively transferred into IDO<sup>-/-</sup> mice, expansion of the transferred T cells declined in comparison with that of WT control mice [31]. These data suggest that deficiency of IDO function in lung DCs impairs the expression of co-stimulatory molecules in these cells and result in reduced T<sub>H</sub>2 cell expansion and decreased T<sub>H</sub>2 cytokine production in response to antigen stimulation. One of the potential explanations for the reduced T<sub>H</sub>2 responses observed in our study is that deficiency of IDO function in IDO<sup>-/-</sup> mice may genetically create “T<sub>H</sub>1 dominant status”, which may overwhelm T<sub>H</sub>2 cell responses. However, our data from an OVA-induced asthma model showed that IFN- $\gamma$  production in IDO deficient mice was only slightly increased with very low concentration [31]. It seems that such a low amount of IFN- $\gamma$  may not completely account for the reduction of T<sub>H</sub>2 cell-mediated airway inflammation in our study. Although more extensive studies from multiple angles may be needed to further confirm the direct role of IDO in DCs in T<sub>H</sub>2 cell activation, available information suggests that IDO function in DCs, at least in lung tissue, may play a role in mounting T<sub>H</sub>2 cell responses independent of negative-feedback mechanism from T<sub>H</sub>1 cells. Our data raise the possibility that IDO in DCs may have dual roles: physiological levels of IDO may be needed for maintenance of DC function, which is necessary for antigen presentation, but increased levels of IDO and accumulation of IDO-mediated cytotoxic metabolites from the kynurenine pathway will hamper cell function by cell starvation or apoptosis, including activated T cells and DCs themselves.

Our data from the asthma model with IDO deficient mice are not consistent with the observations by Hayashi et al, in which 1-MT treatment reduced T<sub>H</sub>2 cell apoptosis and enhanced T<sub>H</sub>2 type inflammation in an experimental asthma model adoptively transferred with an *in vitro* differentiated OVA-specific T<sub>H</sub>2 cell line [33]. Their further study showed that treatment of asthmatic mice with HAA, a kynurenine metabolite, after intratracheal challenge by OVA, suppressed T<sub>H</sub>2 type lung inflammation [58]. Similar treatment also induced T<sub>H</sub>2 cell apoptosis in this model although induction of T<sub>H</sub>2 cell apoptosis by this compound was modest [58]. Notably, in Hayashi's experiments IDO inhibition and HAA treatment are performed either with polarized T<sub>H</sub>2 cells or in a “relatively pure T<sub>H</sub>2 cell environment” while in our studies IDO deficiency impacts antigen priming and early stage of T cell differentiation

in lung lymph node or spleen, where both T<sub>H</sub>2 and T<sub>H</sub>1 cells are likely involved. Given that T<sub>H</sub>1 cells are more sensitive than T<sub>H</sub>2 cells to induction of apoptosis by IDO and tryptophan metabolites [28], these differences suggest that tryptophan depletion and cellular toxic catabolites from downstream of the kynurenine metabolism pathway may similarly influence function of all cells in general. However, such a mechanism will impact the ratio of T<sub>H</sub>1/T<sub>H</sub>2 when both T<sub>H</sub>1 and T<sub>H</sub>2 responses are involved (this is likely the case in most natural immune responses regardless of whether it is T<sub>H</sub>1 or T<sub>H</sub>2 dominant), which will skew T cells into the T<sub>H</sub>2 pathway. In Table 2, we summarize the effects of IDO on polarized T<sub>H</sub>1 and T<sub>H</sub>2 cells and show potential outcomes under three different situations, which may explain the various observations by different investigators.

## Concluding remarks

IDO in DCs likely plays different roles in the regulation of T<sub>H</sub>1 and T<sub>H</sub>2 immune responses especially under natural conditions. Expression of functional IDO is suppressive for the development of T<sub>H</sub>1 type responses, which constitute a key step in “self-limiting loops” to avoid “over-reaction” of cellular responses to antigen exposure. In contrast, IDO in DCs may be immune-stimulatory for T<sub>H</sub>2 type responses, at least under some circumstances, e.g., IDO-expressing immature DCs in tissue, which may represent a new regulatory mechanism of IDO for T<sub>H</sub>2 cell differentiation. Obviously, extensive investigations in different settings are required for further confirmation of this concept. If proven true, it will impact the design of therapeutic strategies targeting kynurenine pathway of tryptophan metabolism, e.g., 1-MT treatment. Treatment with IDO inhibitors can enhance anti-tumor immunity, which is currently undergoing clinical trials or is in active preclinical development. On the other hand, such a therapeutic strategy may also be of benefit in the treatment of T<sub>H</sub>2 type cell-mediated inflammation. Thus, targeting the role of IDO in T<sub>H</sub>2 cell-mediated immune responses may open a new avenue for the potential development of drugs for the inhibition of T<sub>H</sub>2 type cell-mediated inflammation.

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## Abbreviations used

<b>IDO</b>	Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase
<b>DC</b>	dendritic cell
<b>T<sub>H</sub></b>	T helper cell
<b>Treg</b>	regulatory T cell

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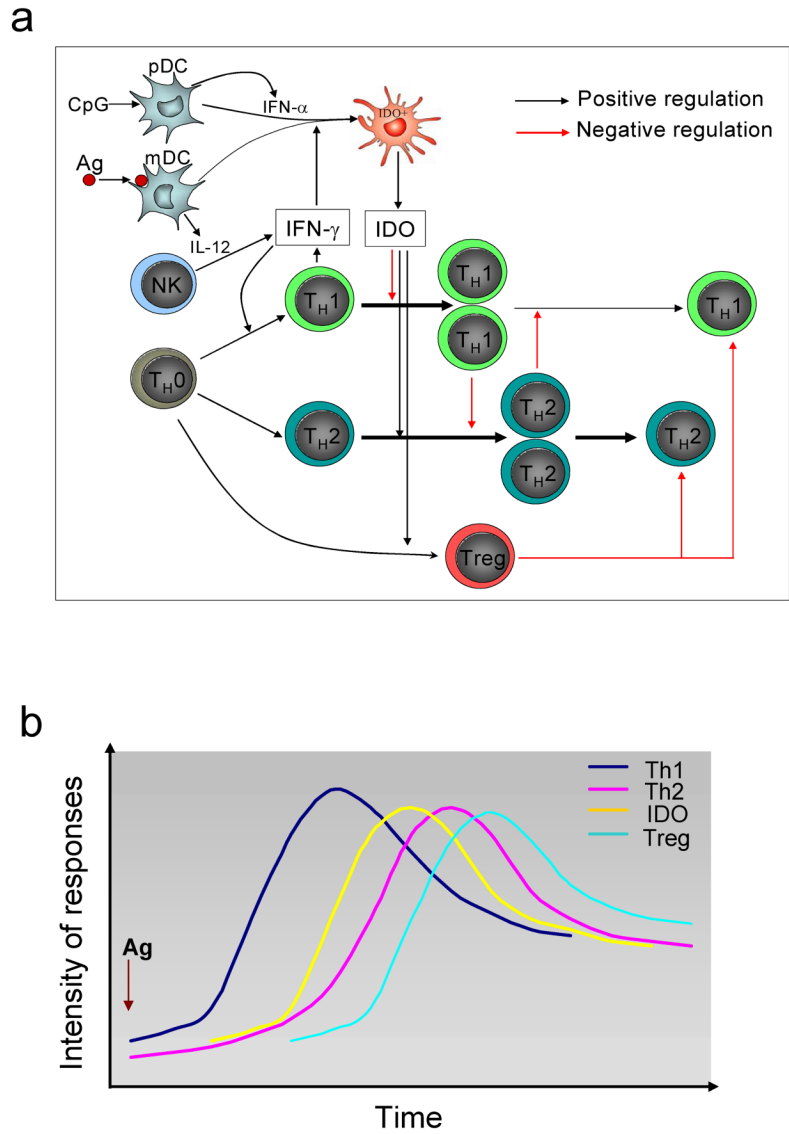
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**Figure 1.** Dynamics of antigen-induced cell immune responses: a. IDO expression and its influence on T helper cell differentiation. DCs uptake antigen and activate naïve T cells to initiate T helper cell differentiation. IFN- $\gamma$  production from DCs and bystander NK cells will skew T<sub>H0</sub> cells into the T<sub>H1</sub> pathway. Polarized T<sub>H1</sub> cells produce IFN- $\gamma$ , which subsequently suppresses T<sub>H2</sub> differentiation and induces DCs to express functional IDO. The increase in IDO expression will inhibit proliferation of T<sub>H1</sub> cells and release T<sub>H2</sub> cells from suppression by T<sub>H1</sub>. In the meantime, IDO will directly induce the development of T<sub>H2</sub> cells, which leads to an enhanced T<sub>H2</sub> response. In addition, IDO also induces the generation of regulatory T cells, which further limit both T<sub>H1</sub> and T<sub>H2</sub> responses. b. Kinetics of T cell responses and IDO expression. Antigen stimulation initiates T<sub>H1</sub> response followed by an increasing IDO expression. As IDO climbs to high levels, T<sub>H1</sub> response will decline, which is accompanied by enhanced T<sub>H2</sub> response. As IDO-induced Treg cell responses occur, Treg cells will inhibit both T<sub>H1</sub> and T<sub>H2</sub> cells and bring the immune system close to physiological balance.

Table 1

Model	Influence of tryptophan metabolism on T cell responses	Effects on immune cells				Comments	References
		Altered metabolism	T <sub>H</sub> 1	T <sub>H</sub> 2	CD8 <sup>+</sup> NK		
EAE	IDO expression ↑ or administration of tryptophan catabolites	↓	↑			1-MT treatment exacerbated EAE; absence of DAPI2 caused enhanced IDO function and reduced EAE	[20,23,59] [22]
MLR and islet transplantation	IDO ↑ in DCs IDO ↑ in islets	↓?		↓?		IDO expression in DCs reduced MLR in vitro and the IDO expression in islets prolong graft survival	[60-62]
EAU	IDO ↑ in DCs	↓				Anti-4-1 BB induced IDO expression and reduced EAU	[18]
OVA induced ACAID model	IDO ↓ by 1-MT	↑	↓			IDO expression is associated with ACAID and 1-MT mediated inhibition of IDO prevents ACAID	[32]
Mouse colitis model (T <sub>H</sub> 1 dominant)	IDO ↓ by 1-MT	↑				IDO ↓ increased inflammation and mortality	[19]
Tumor and co-culture of T cells with IDO-transfected tumor cells	IDO ↑ in Tumor		↓			IDO expressing tumor cells block CD8 <sup>+</sup> T cell expansion	[6,63,64]
T cell activation in vitro	Addition of IDO or tryptophan catabolites	↓?		↓		Priming T cells with purified IDO or tryptophan catabolites in vitro	[65]
Nasal tolerance model	IDO ↓ by 1-MT	↑				Blockade of IDO inhibits nasal tolerance induction	[66]
GVHD model	IDO <sup>-/-</sup>	↑		↑		IDO <sup>-/-</sup> mice display increased GVHD; histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitor reduced GVHD through IDO	[67,68]
Stress-induced pregnancy failure	IDO ↓	↑	↓			Reduced IDO in uterus is associated with an increased ratio of T <sub>H</sub> 1/T <sub>H</sub> 2	[29]
Asthma model	IDO ↓ by 1-MT or intratracheal treatment with 3-HAA after OVA challenge through airways		↑			1-MT treatment caused severe asthma in adoptive transfer model; 3- HAA inhibited polarized T <sub>H</sub> 2 cells	[33,58]
DC and T cell co-culture	IDO ↓ in CD8 <sup>+</sup> DCs by 1-MT		↑			These DCs secrete high levels of IL-10 and TGF-β beside expression of IDO	[36]
Aspergillus- induced allergic airway inflammation	IDO ↑ in DCs		↓			IDO ↑ is associated with Treg induction and inhibits T <sub>H</sub> 2 through IL-10 and TGF-β production	[69]
Eosinophils and T cell coculture	IDO ↑ in eosinophils	↓	↑			IDO in eosinophils selectively inhibited T <sub>H</sub> 1 proliferation but promotes T <sub>H</sub> 2 responses	[4]
Allergic airway inflammation	IDO ↓ by 1-MT in vivo		?			No change on T <sub>H</sub> 2 response when mice treated by 1- MT alone	[70]
Mouse spleen cell culture	IDO ↓ Addition of tryptophan catabolites	↑	↓	↑		IDO and tryptophan catabolites down-regulated T <sub>H</sub> 1 but up-regulated T <sub>H</sub> 2	[30]

**Table 2**

Effects of IDO on polarized T<sub>H</sub>1 and T<sub>H</sub>2 cells

Type of immune response	Effect of IDO- kynurenine pathway
T <sub>H</sub> 1	T <sub>H</sub> 1 ↓
T <sub>H</sub> 1/T <sub>H</sub> 2	T <sub>H</sub> 1 ↓ T <sub>H</sub> 2 ↑
T <sub>H</sub> 2	T <sub>H</sub> 2 ↓