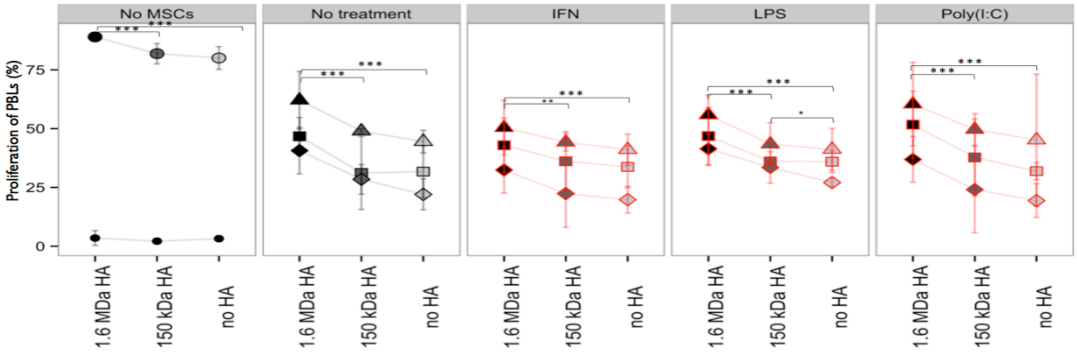


**Figure 5:** Effect of different MWs of HA on the MSC-mediated inhibition of PBL proliferation. Proliferation of PBLs from the whole PBMC population in normal conditions using non-pre-stimulated and IFN(γ), LPS and Poly(I:C) pre-stimulated MSCs. • **or** • indicate resting PBMCs; ○ Activated PBLs (PBMCs alone); □MSC donor1, ◇ donor 2, ▽ donor 3 and △ donor 4. Shapes filled with black stand for 1.6 MDa HA; dark gray, 150 kDa HA; light gray, 7.5 kDa HA and white, no HA. Each dot indicates the mean of three (in PBMCs alone groups) experimental replicates with error bars representing 95% CI. Statistical differences in the presence of MSCs account for 3-4 MSC donors. * $p<0.05$, ** $p<0.01$ and ***$<0.001$. MSCs were pre-stimulated, before adding PBMCs (MSC:PBMC ratio 1:10), with 500 U/ml IFNγ (24 hours), 100 ng/ml LPS (1 hour) or 1 μg/ml Poly(I:C) (24 hours), similar to Waterman et al[1].

1. Waterman RS, Tomchuck SL, Henkle SL, Betancourt AM. A new mesenchymal stem cell (MSC) paradigm: polarization into a pro-inflammatory MSC1 or an Immunosuppressive MSC2 phenotype. *PloS One*. 2010;5(4):e10088. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0010088.