



Nutritional modulation of the immune response in dairy livestock

Fabrizio Cecilianì DVM, PhD



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO



An overview of innate immune defenses involved in inflammation

Time of crisis:
peripartum and related troubles

Can we modulate with specific diets
immune defenses?


What should a good immune system do?

- Recognize a wide array of enemies
- Kill them ALL once recognized
- Spare the host tissues (as much as possible)

The sensing arm




senses the presence of pathogens

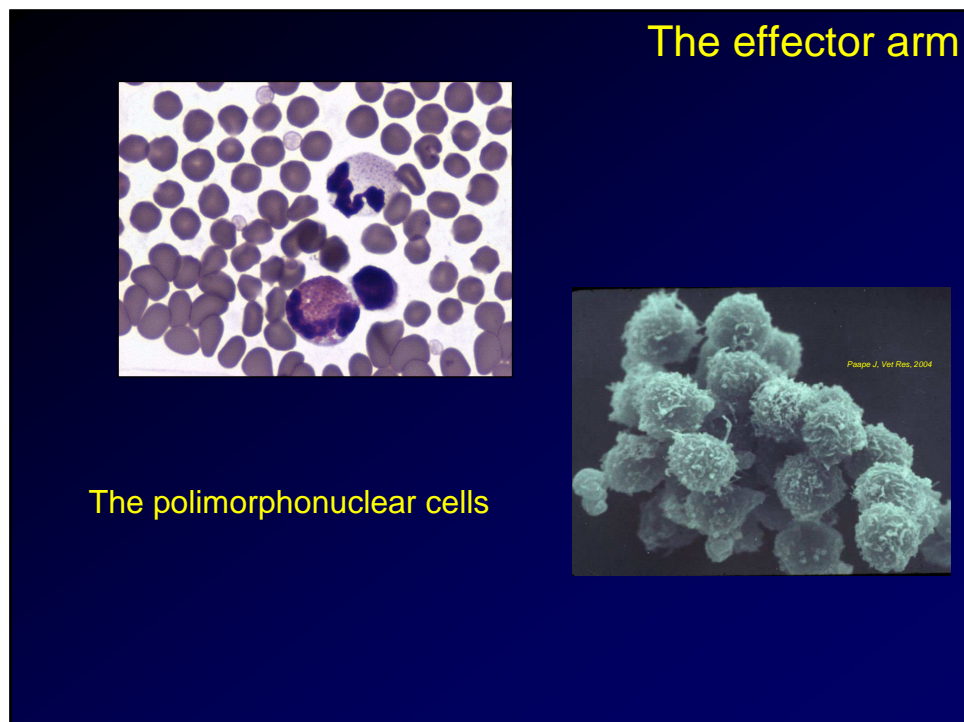
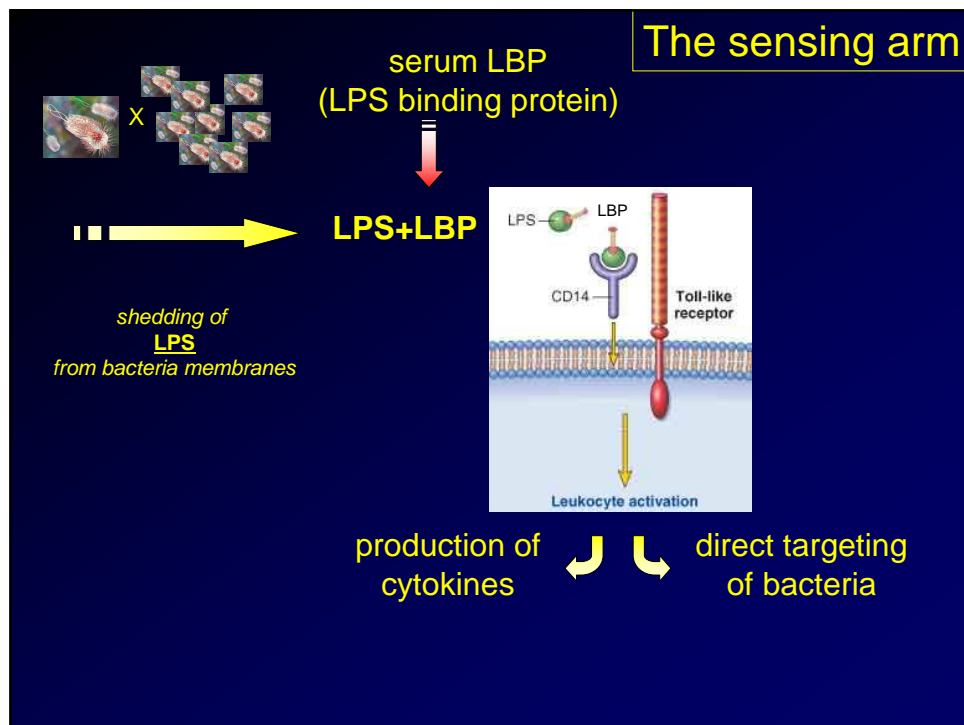


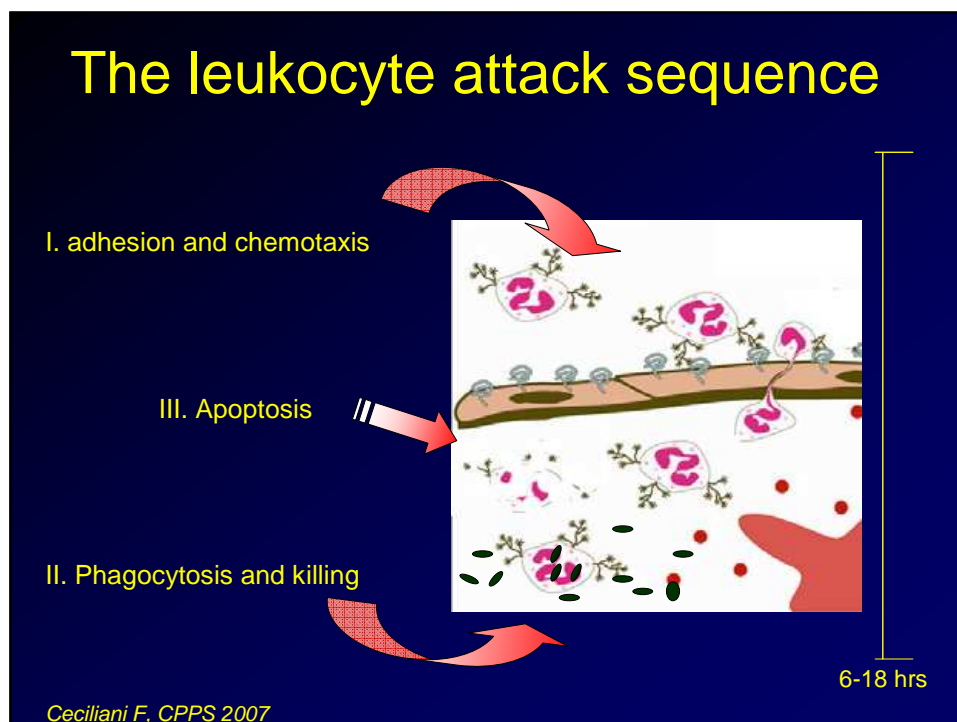
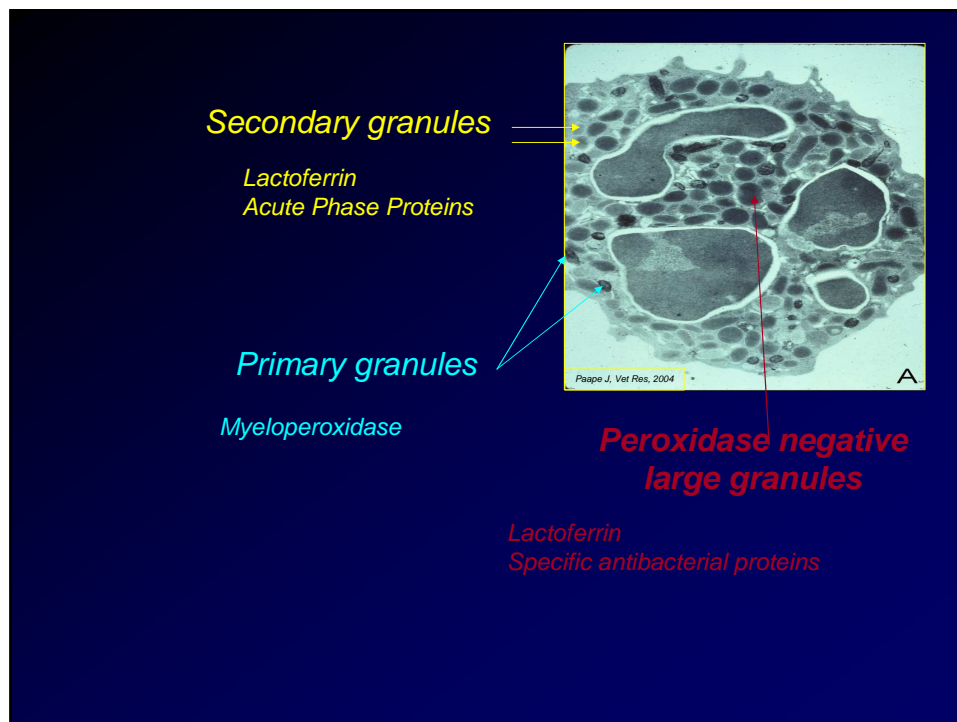
modulates the response

The effector arm

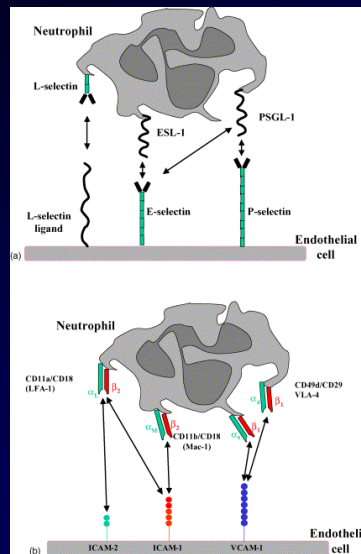
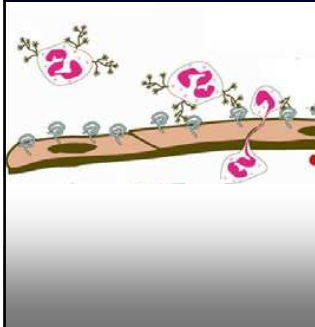


strikes back and fights





I. adhesion



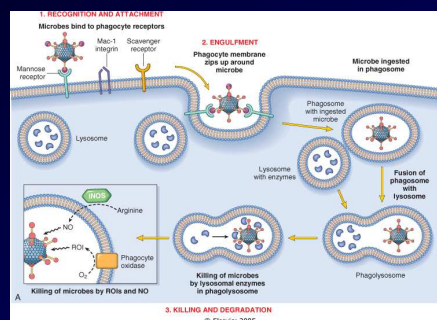
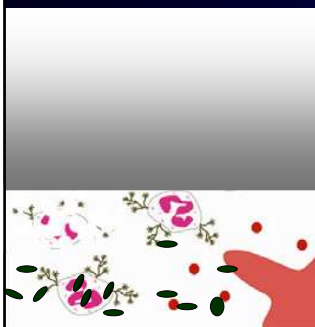
weak adhesion

firm adhesion

Beutler, 2004

II Phagocytosis and killing

Engulfment and destruction (ROS – enzymes)



Degranulation
outside the cell
(ROS – enzymes)

Robbins, Pathologic basis of diseases, 2004

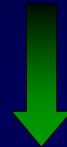
The Flow Chart of inflammation

Local invasion

can the local defences cope with it?



NO

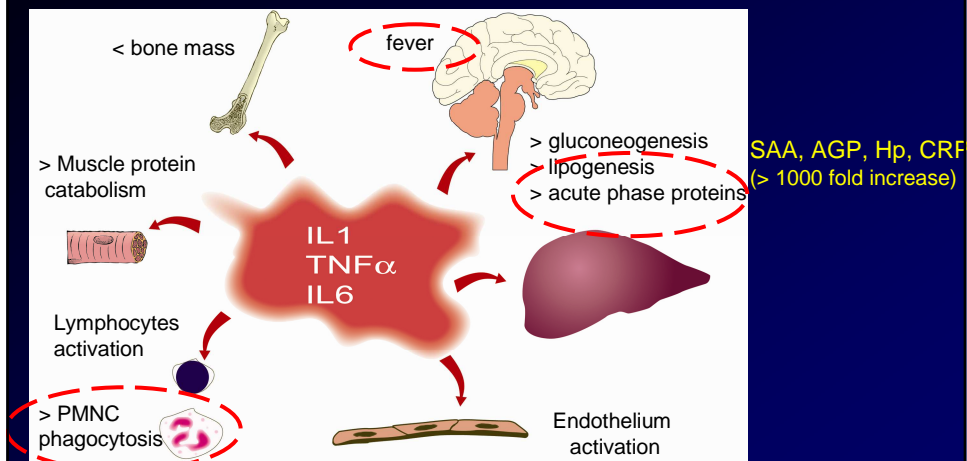


YES

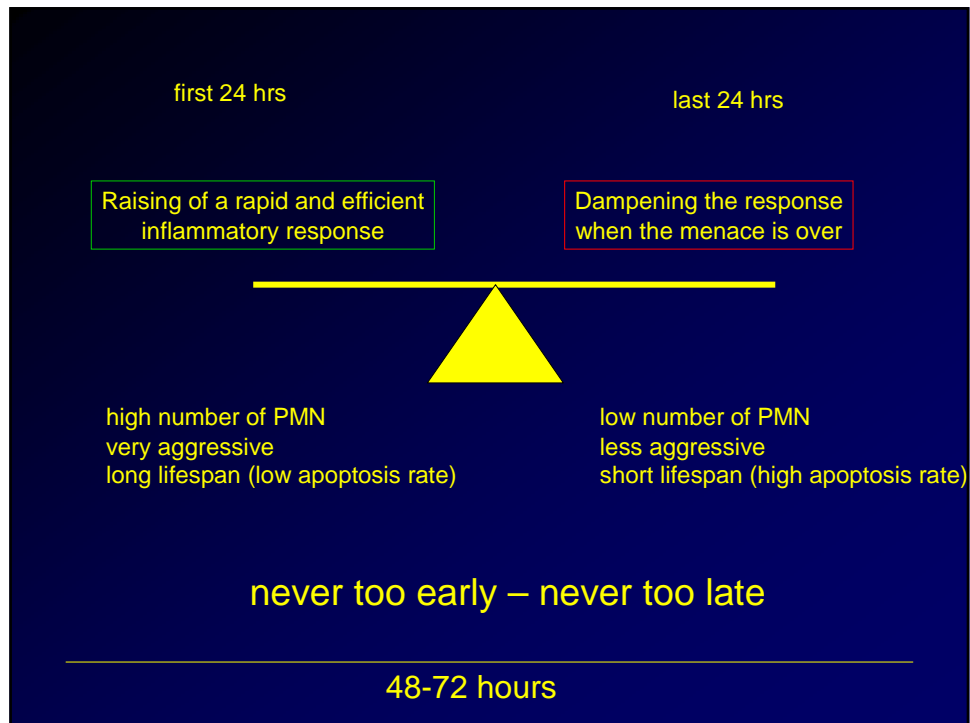
ACUTE PHASE REACTION
(Systemic reaction)



The sistemic response to inflammation: The acute phase



Cecilian F, The Acute Phase Protein α_1 -Acid Glycoprotein: A Model for Altered Glycosylation During Diseases, CPPS, 2007



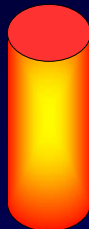
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The inflammatory reaction is finely tuned by modulating

- the adherence and chemotaxis
(the number of cells in inflamed tissues)
- the destroying capability of the cell
(their activity)
- the apoptosis rate
(the lifespan)

Can we manipulate the timetable and the intensity of inflammation?



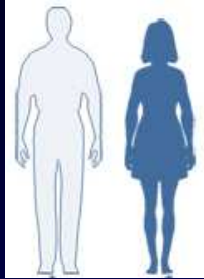
pro-inflammatory
effects



anti-inflammatory
effects

IN HUMANS

many diseases are caused by
unbalanced inflammatory responses



and we can manage
the primary cause of disease

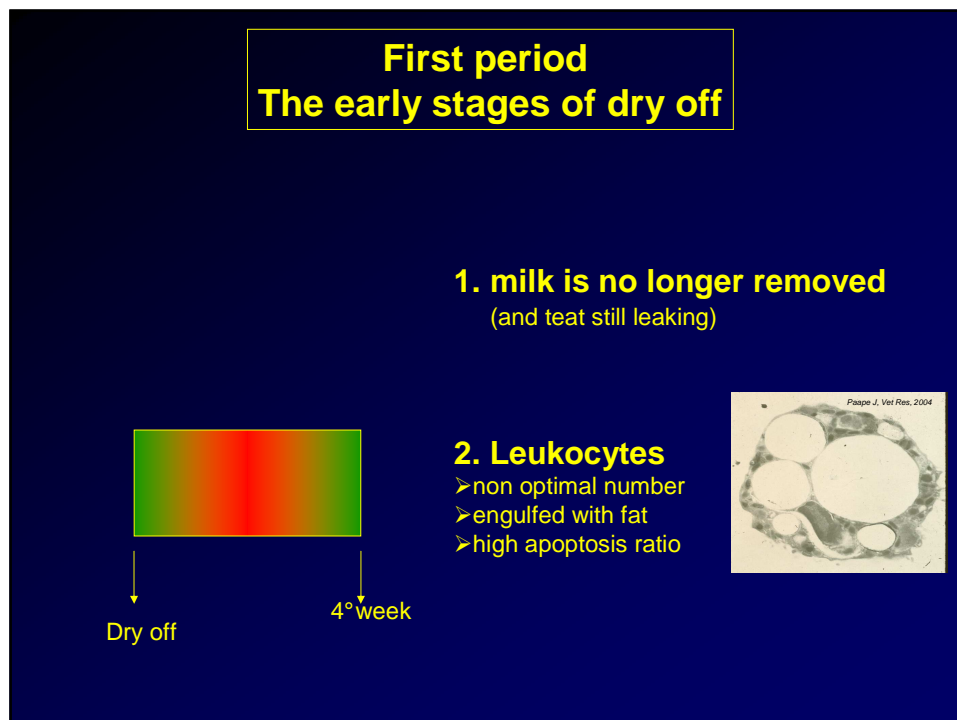
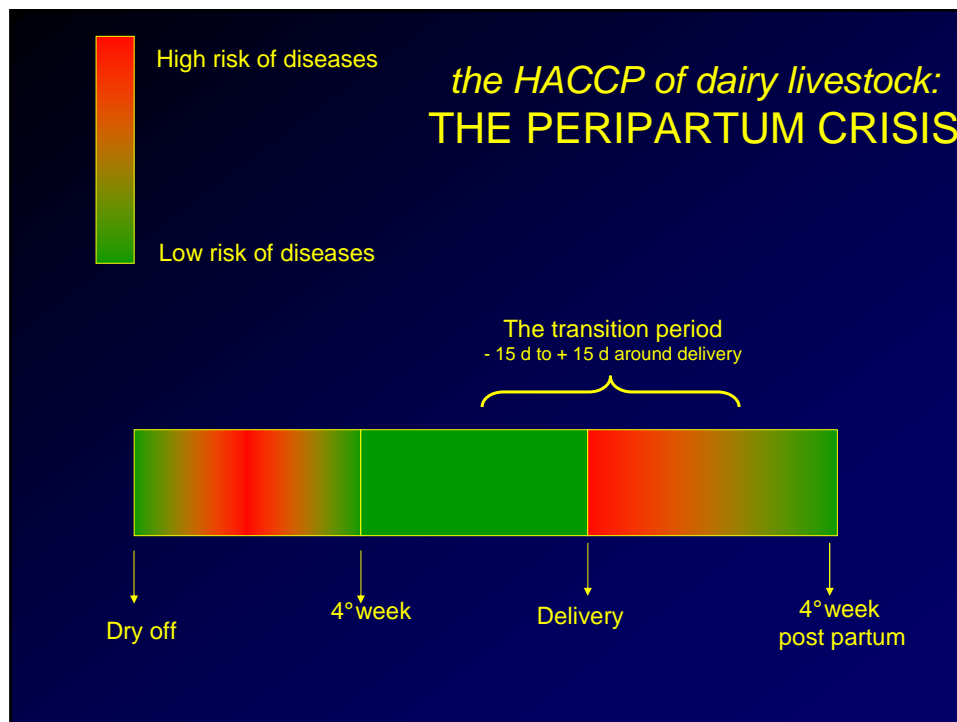


The issues in dairy livestock



- ✓inflammation is basically a protective reaction
- ✓we can not so easily manage the primary cause of disease
- ✓yet, we have to avoid an excessive response (mastitis!)
*(but we also to take great care to balance the inflammation
not toward the antinflammatory side)*
- ✓livestock is basically an unbalanced machine





The second period: the mammary steady-state involution

1. the teat is sealed

2. optimal concentration of leukocytes
(and few milk available)



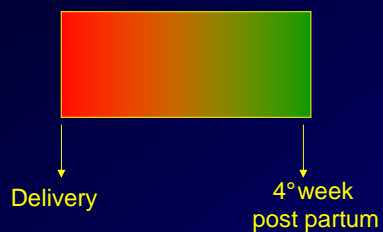
The third period: the second half of the transition period

highest percentage of diseases:

- ❖ metabolic disorders
- ❖ abomasal displacement
- ❖ subacute ruminal acidosis

1. Presence of milk

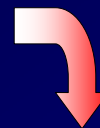
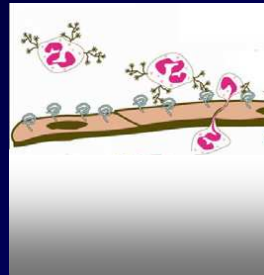
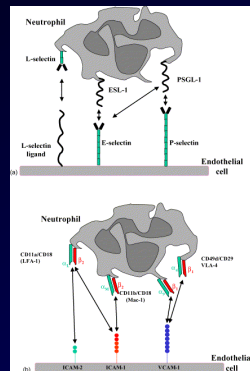
2. Leukocyte functions are
heavily compromised



Reduced mobility

> β -estradiol
< progesteron
> Acute Phase Proteins

< expression adhesion molecules



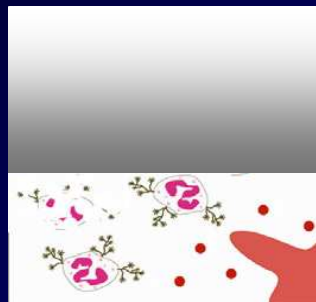
Delay in PMN recruitment

Reduced PMN activity

> β -estradiol
< progesteron
> Acute Phase Proteins



- ↓ phagocytosis
- ↓ degranulation
- ↓ ROS production



Reduced PMN lifespan



> β -estradiol
< progesteron
> Acute Phase Proteins

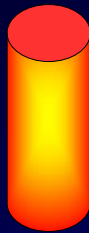
↑ PMN apoptosis
↓ monocyte apoptosis



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During peripartum the inflammatory process
is already strongly unbalanced



pro-inflammatory
effects



anti-inflammatory
effects

Can we manage peripartum immunodeficiencies
with nutrition?

HOW?

What can we work with?

- proteins
- minerals
- lipids

ω -3 polyunsaturated fatty acids are believed to reduce the unwanted inflammatory effects (Atherosclerosis, inflammatory diseases)

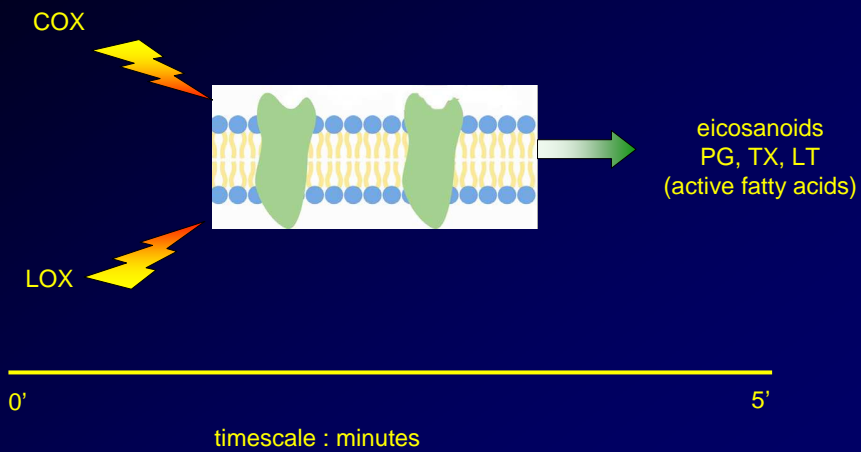
animal diets are often integrated with ω -3 as energy source to

- enhance their content in milk
- because they improve the fertility

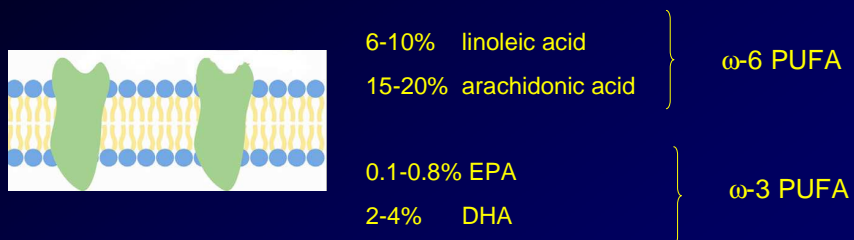
The theory

Immune activity of ω -3 in humans and rodents

The first wave of inflammatory mediators comes from the cell membranes



The composition of inflammatory cell membrane phospholipids



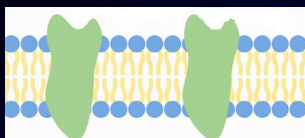
Pro-inflammatory mediators come from ω -6 fatty acids

HOW CAN ω -3 PUFA MODULATE INFLAMMATION?

a) by modifying the composition of cell membranes
(30-40 days)

b) by directly interacting with specific receptors
(hours)

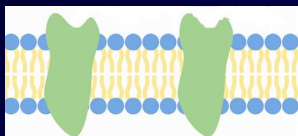
The effects of ω -3 PUFA-rich membranes on immune cell activity



arachidonic acid rich
membranes

pro-inflammatory eicosanoids (LTB_4 , PGE_2)

→ reduced availability of pro-inflammatory eicosanoids



ω -3 rich
membranes

→ ω -3 PUFA may act as substrate for COX/LOX BUT
give rise to lower activity eicosanoids
(PGE_3 and LTB_5)

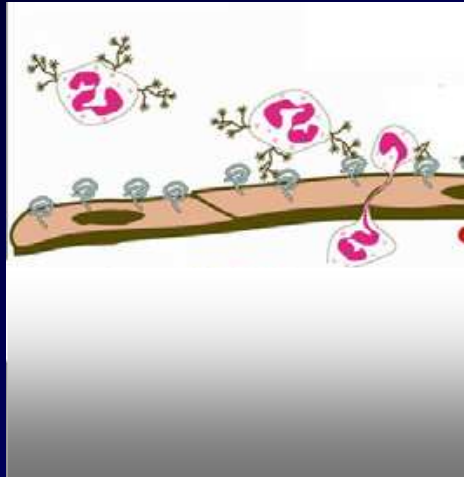
→ ω -3 PUFA generate "anti-inflammatory" eicosanoids
(resolvins, lipoxins etc. etc.)

The direct effects of ω -3 PUFA on leukocyte attack sequence:

I. adherence



adhesion protein
expression
(chemotaxis)



The direct effects of ω -3 PUFA on leukocyte attack sequence:

II. phagocytosis and killing



- phagocytosis
- ROS production

but these effects are debated



The practice

Immune activity of ω -3 PUFA in farm animals



EX VIVO

ω -6 ↓ lymphocyte proliferation (but not ω -3)
no effect on cytokines

ω -6 ↓ LPS-stimulated cytokine production

IN VIVO

↓ of Acute Reaction (Fever)

IN VITRO

ω -6 ↓ lymphocyte proliferation (but not ω -3)
↓ PgE₂ production



EX VIVO

ω -6 ↓ adhesion molecules expression
no effect on proliferation

Do EPA and DHA modulate leukocyte (monocytes, PMN) functions?



Experimental design

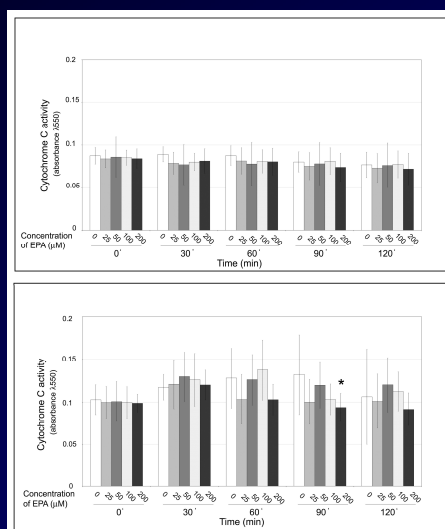
➡ Isolation of cells (**PMN**) from goat blood

➡ co-incubation with different concentrations of EPA and DHA

➡ determination of
 ✓ phagocytosis
 ✓ extracellular ROS production

Does EPA modulate extracellular ROS production in PMN?

No it does not



resting PMN



activated PMN

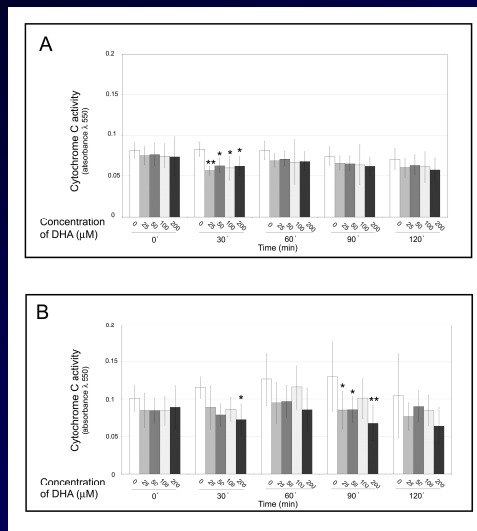
Pisani et al. 2009

Does DHA modulate extracellular ROS production in PMN?

YES it does

but the results are not evident

Pisani et al. 2009



resting PMN

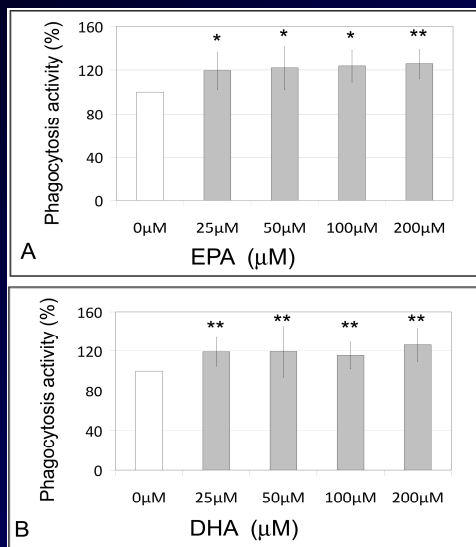


activated PMN

Do EPA and DHA modulate PMN phagocytosis

YES, they do

Pisani et al. 2009



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EPA and DHA differentially increase phagocytosis

AND

reduce extracellular ROS production

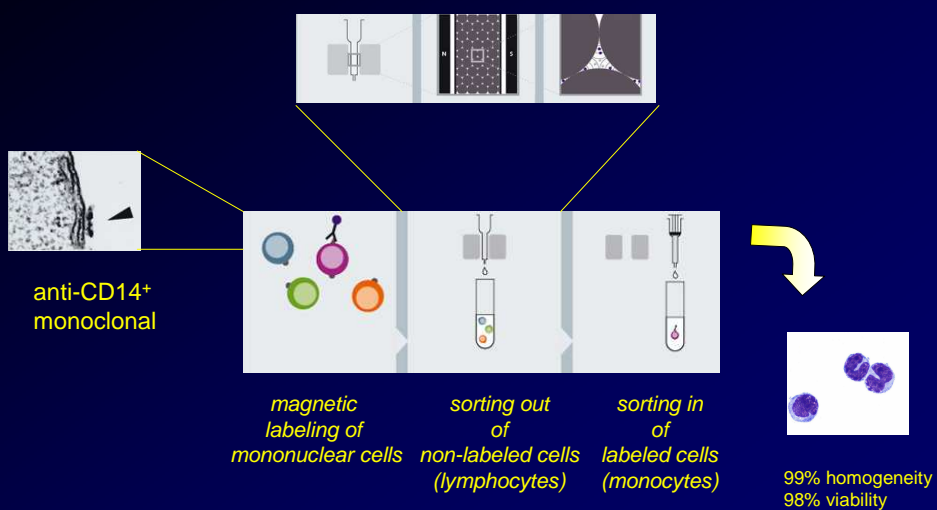
in goat PMN cells

(possibly reducing cell damages)

Experimental design

- ➡ Isolation from goat blood of cells (monocytes)
- ➡ co-incubation with different concentrations of EPA and DHA
- ➡ determination of
 - ✓phagocytosis
 - ✓ROS production
 - ✓apoptosis level
 - ✓cytokine production
 - ✓formation of lipid droplets

Sorting of the cells: the magnetic activated cell sorting technique

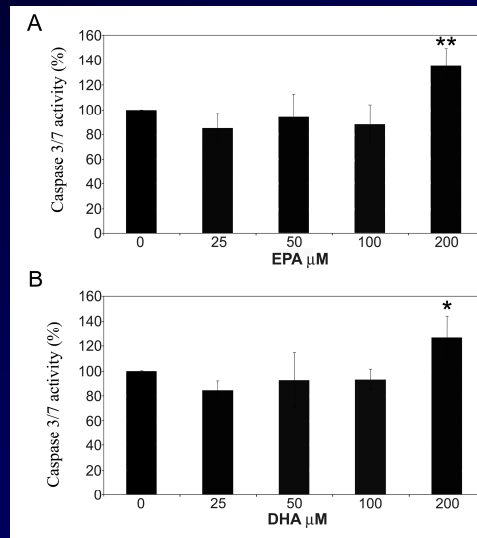


Do EPA and DHA cause apoptosis in monocytes?

YES they do

(but only at very high concentration)

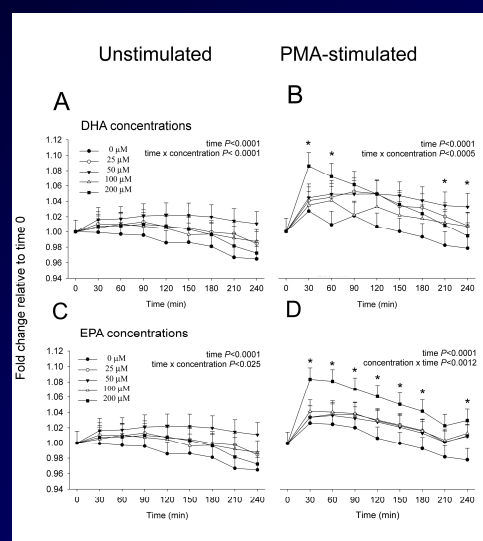
in humans the same effect is obtained
at 50 μM



Do EPA and DHA modulate ROS production?

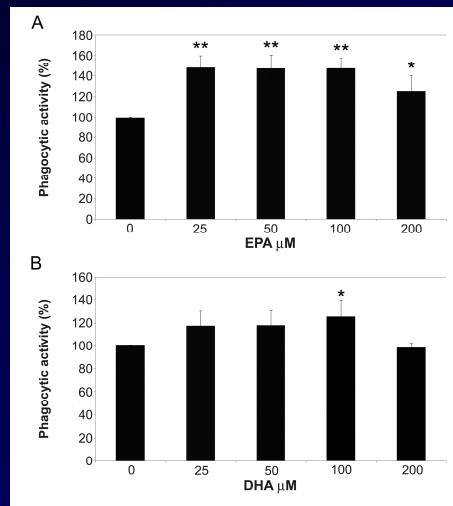
No they don't
(except when used at 200 μM)

and probably due to apoptosis!!



Do EPA and DHA modulate phagocytosis?

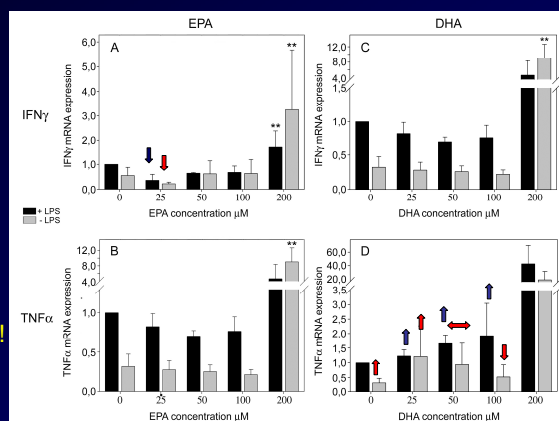
Only EPA does



Do EPA and DHA modulate cytokine gene expression?

No they don't
(except when used at 200 μ M)

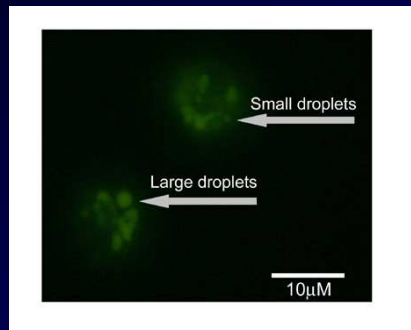
and probably due to apoptosis!!



But we have to carry out more experiments

The lipid droplet formation

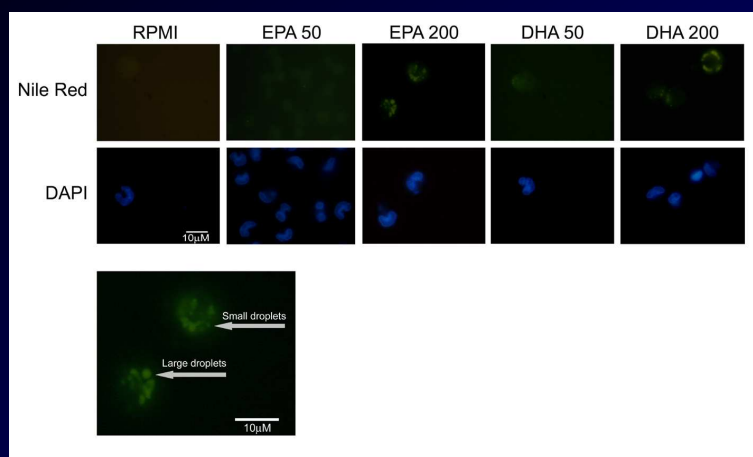
- lipid-rich organelles
- common feature of innate immunity reactions and inflammatory conditions



regulators of leukocyte activation rate during inflammatory reaction

number increased during inflammatory response

Do EPA and DHA modulate lipid droplet formation?



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EPA and DHA differentially affect goat leukocytes



1. by increasing phagocytosis rate
2. by modulating some cytokines ?
3. by modulating ROS production (PMN)
4. by modulating lipid droplet metabolism

(but we have to collect some more data)

Can we modulate immune system with PUFA
in dairy livestock?

YES
probably we can

Should we?

??????????

other frontiers and new worlds to explore

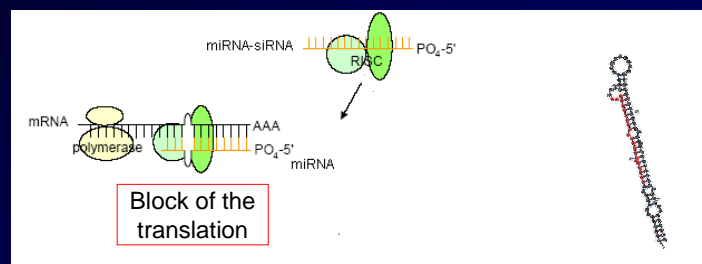


explore EPA and DHA
(but also other PUFA and saturated, and combination of them)
activities on other species

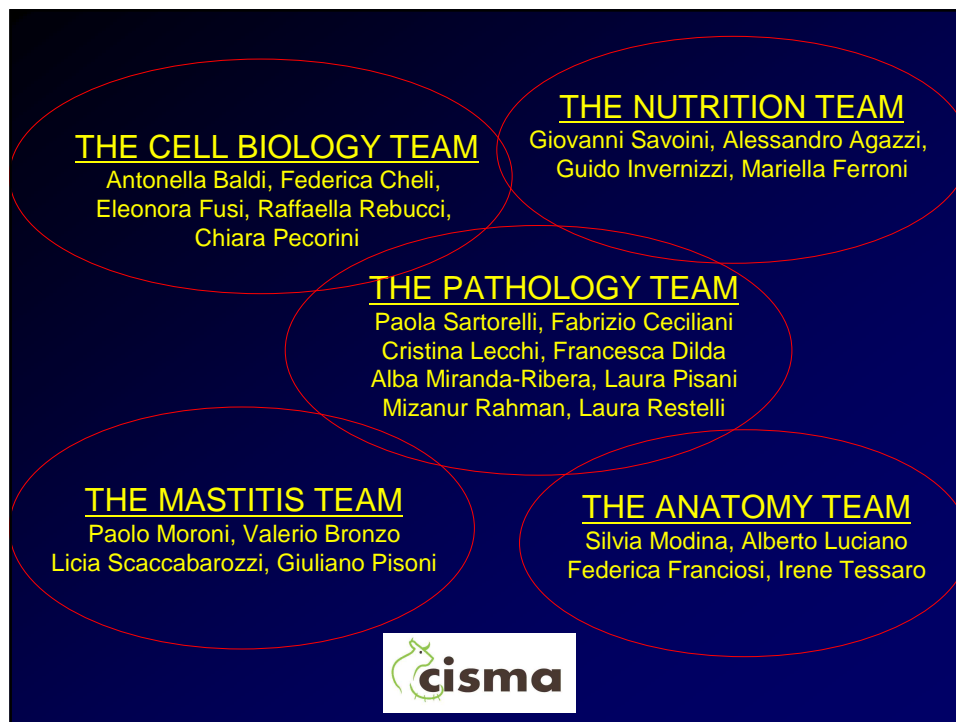


the new world of miRNA interference

- Non coding endogens RNA (21-23 nucleotides)
- Modulation of post-transcriptional DNA synthesis



Leung and Whittaker, *Pharmacology and Therapeutics* 107; (2005). (modified)



Thank you all for your attention

