

4th ADVANCES AGAINST
ASPERGILLOSIS

February 4-6, 2010

Rome, Italy
Sheraton Roma

Genetic susceptibility to Aspergillosis in allogeneic stem cell transplantation

Agostinho Carvalho, PhD

Dep. Experimental Medicine and Biochemical Sciences

Microbiology Section

University of Perugia, Italy



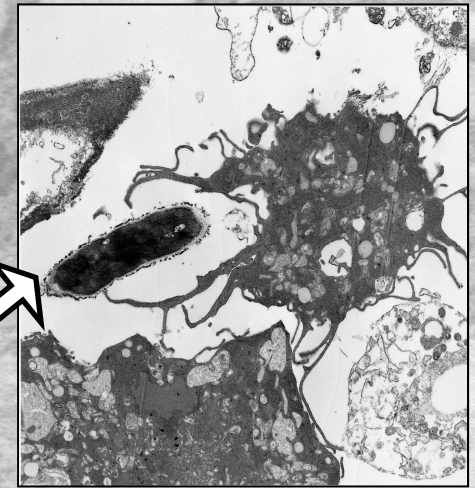
A saprophitic lifestyle

The surface

The resistance
to oxidative
stress

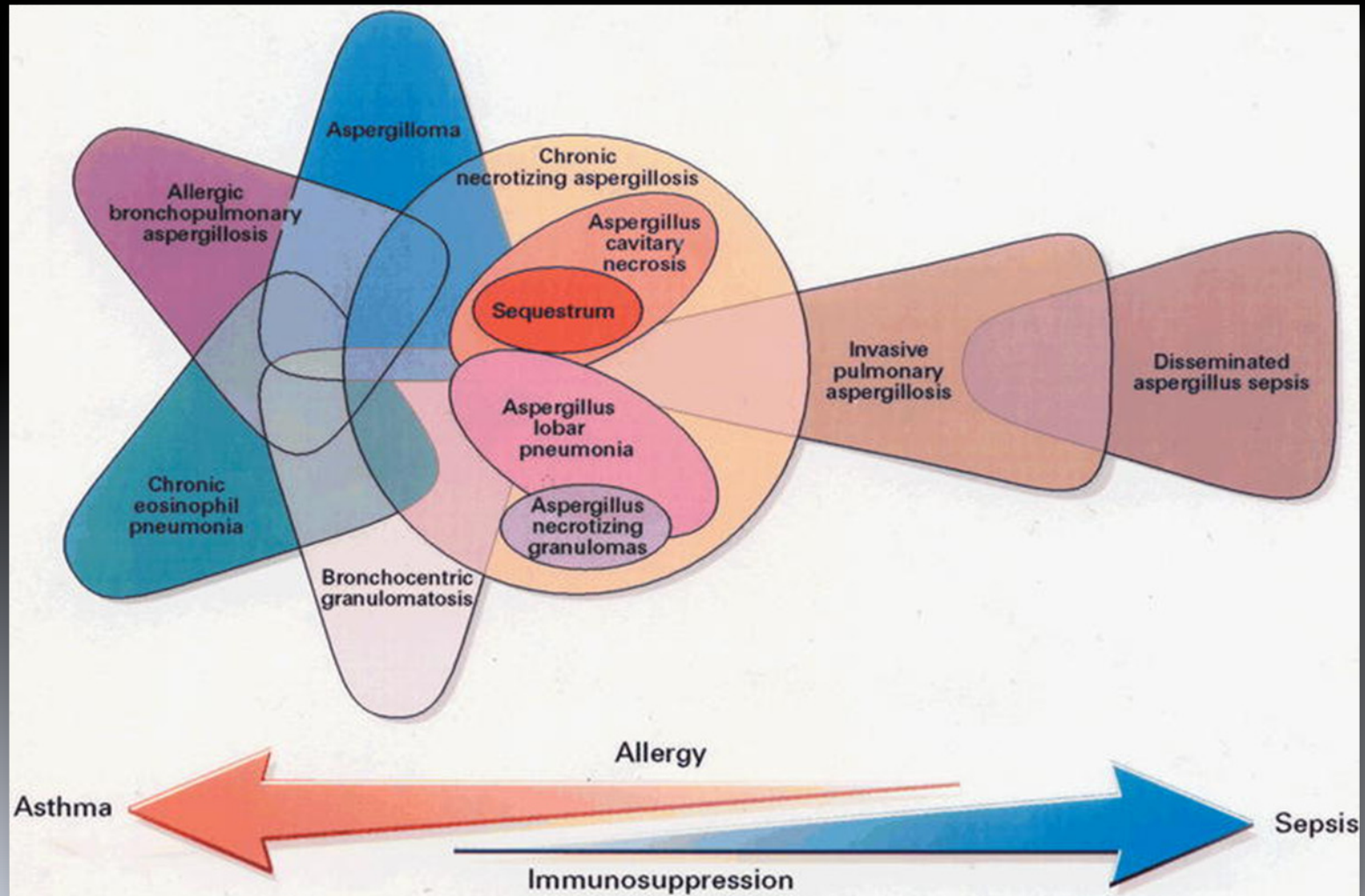
The cell wall

The fungal
growth

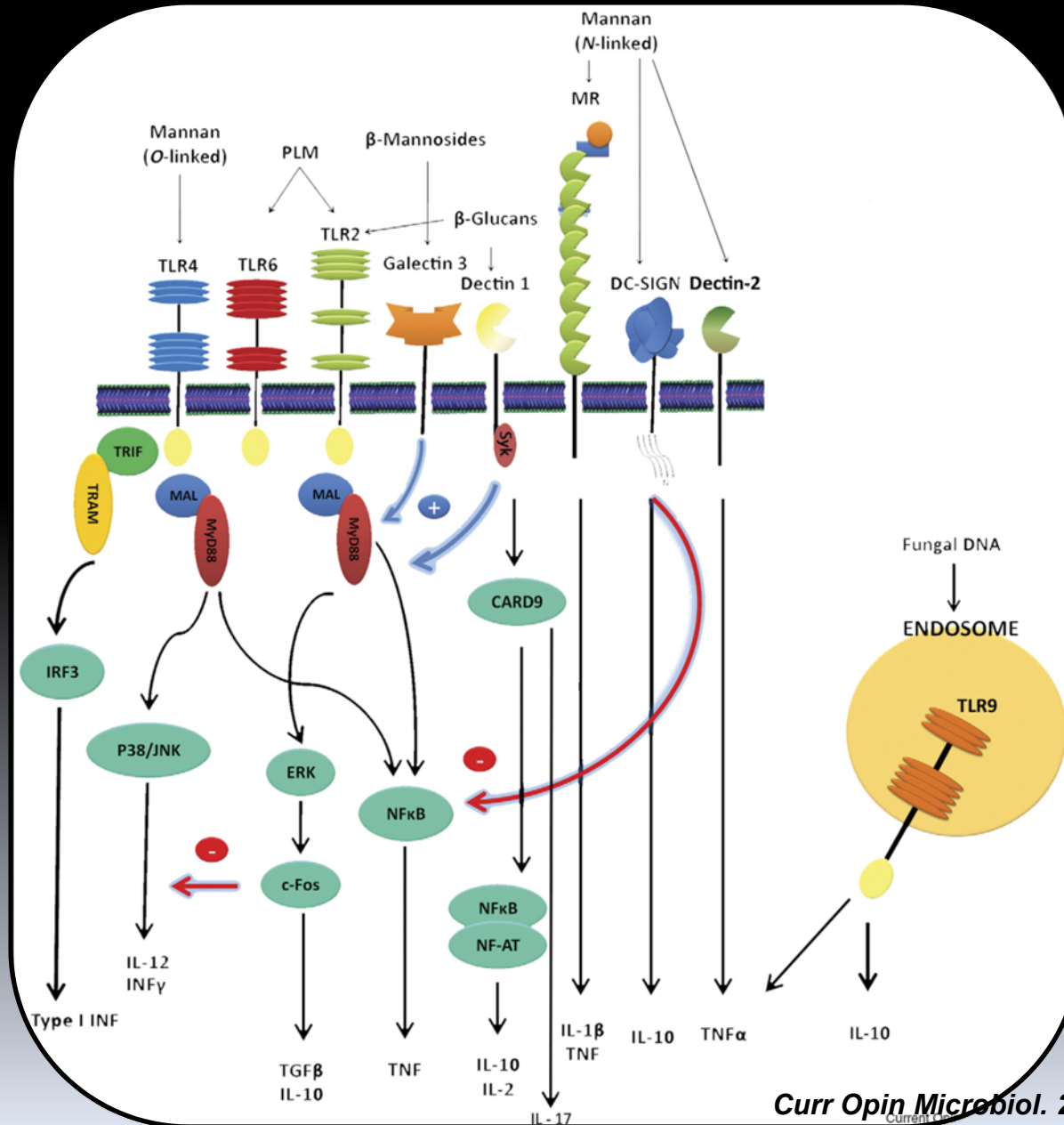


...However, virulence is
secondary to the immune
status of the host

Diagram of a spectrum of disorders of lung caused by *Aspergillus* spp



PRRs in the innate and adaptive immunity

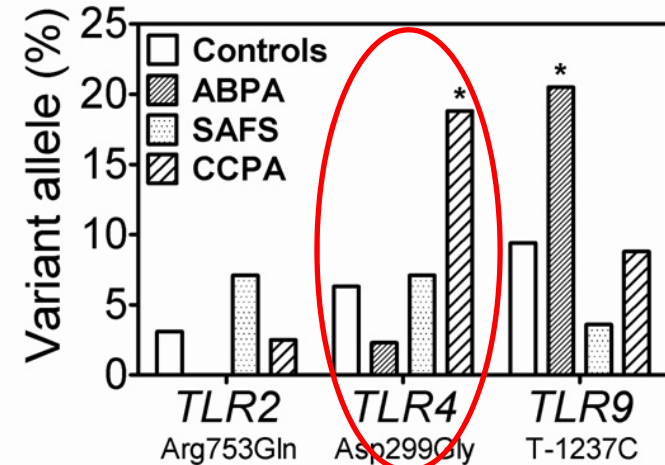


Genetic susceptibility to pulmonary Aspergillosis

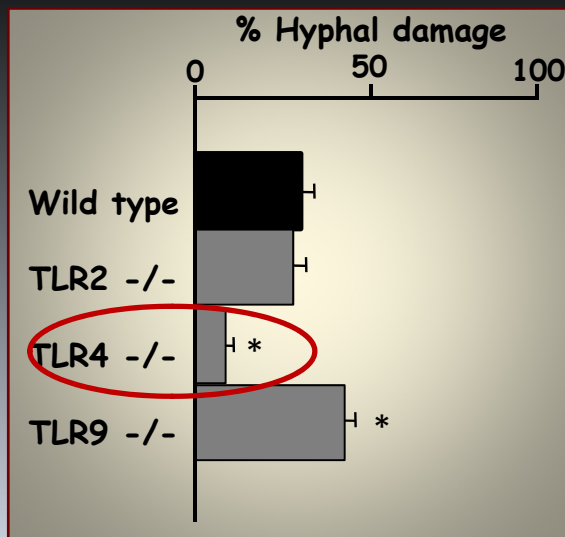
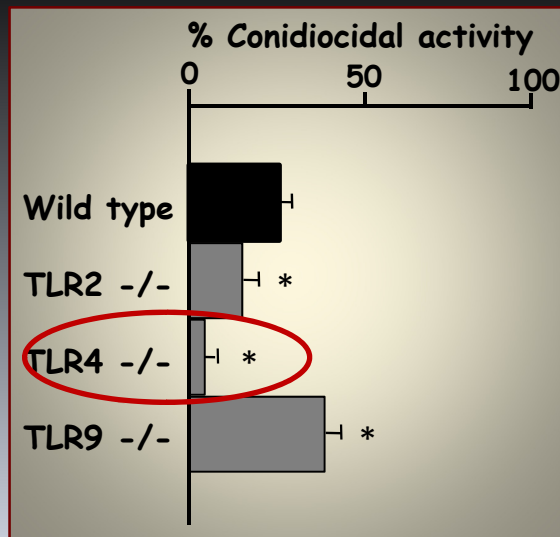
Polymorphisms in Toll-Like Receptor Genes and Susceptibility to Pulmonary Aspergillosis

A. Carvalho,¹ A. C. Pasqualotto,² L. Pitzurra,³ L. Romani,³ D. W. Denning,² and F. Rodrigues¹

¹Life and Health Sciences Research Institute (ICVS), School of Health Sciences, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal; ²School of Medicine, University of Manchester and Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester, United Kingdom; and ³Department of Experimental Medicine and Biochemical Sciences, University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy



J Infect Dis. 2008; 197(4):618-21



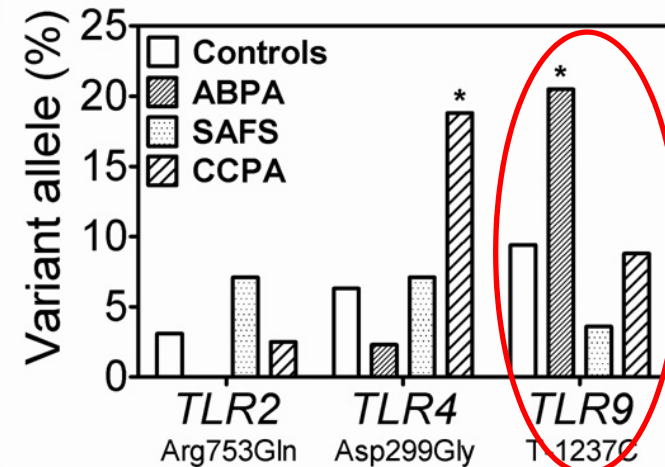
J Immunol. 2004; 173(12):7406-15

Genetic susceptibility to pulmonary Aspergillosis

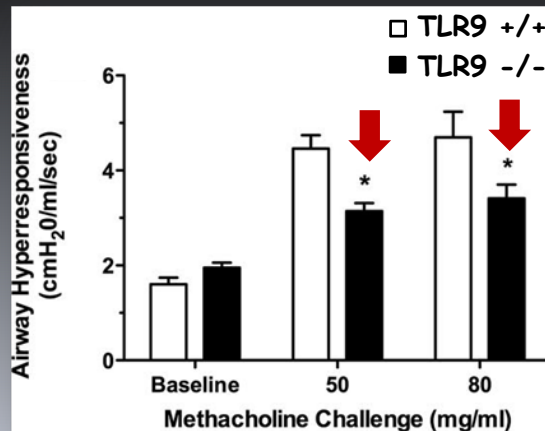
Polymorphisms in Toll-Like Receptor Genes and Susceptibility to Pulmonary Aspergillosis

A. Carvalho,¹ A. C. Pasqualotto,² L. Pitzurra,³ L. Romani,³ D. W. Denning,² and F. Rodrigues¹

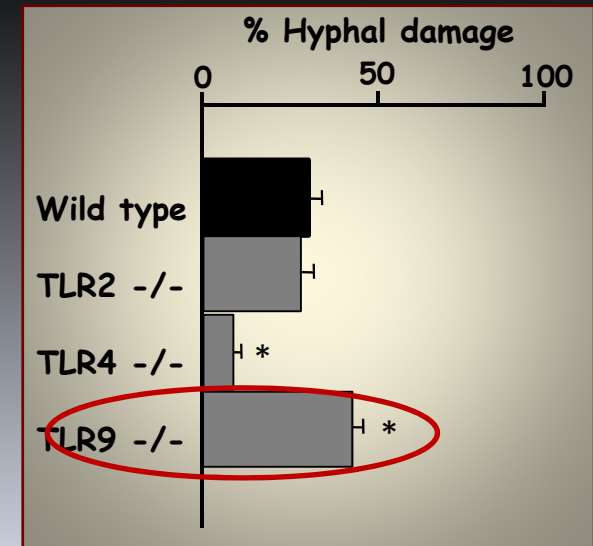
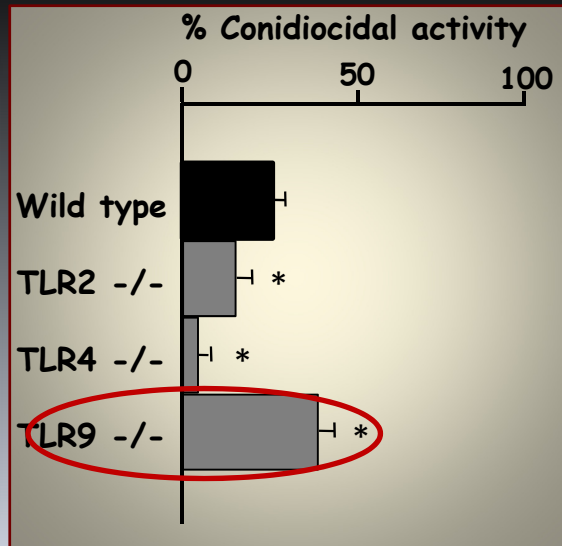
¹Life and Health Sciences Research Institute (ICVS), School of Health Sciences, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal; ²School of Medicine, University of Manchester and Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester, United Kingdom; and ³Department of Experimental Medicine and Biochemical Sciences, University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy



J Infect Dis. 2008; 197(4):618-21

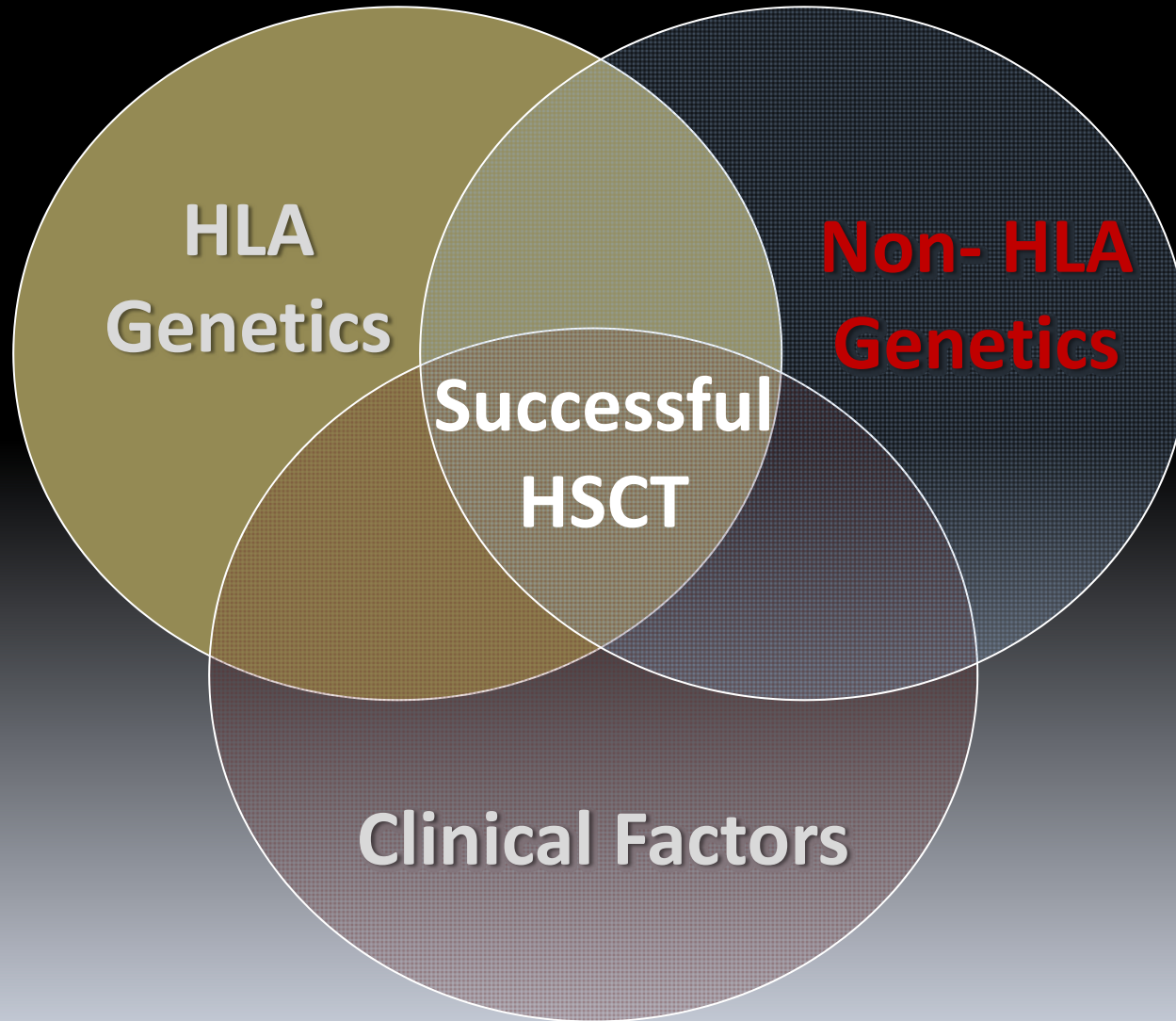


Infect Immun. 2009; 77(1):108-19



J Immunol. 2004; 173(12):7406-15

Factors affecting clinical outcome post-HSCT

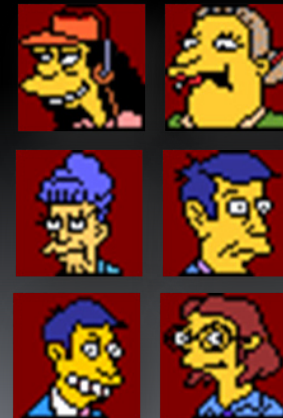


Genetic susceptibility to Aspergillosis in the HSCT setting

Why does only a fraction of patients with similar degrees of immunosuppression develop infection ?

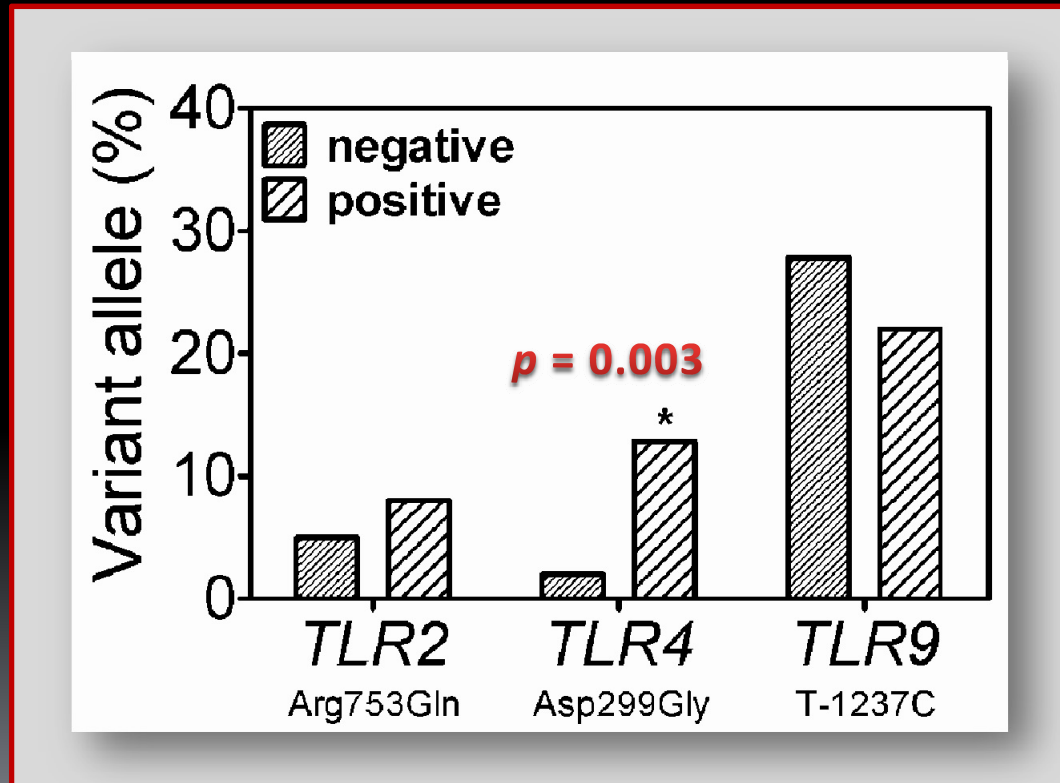


**Aspergillus spp.-resistant
HSCT population**



**Aspergillus spp.-susceptible
HSCT population**

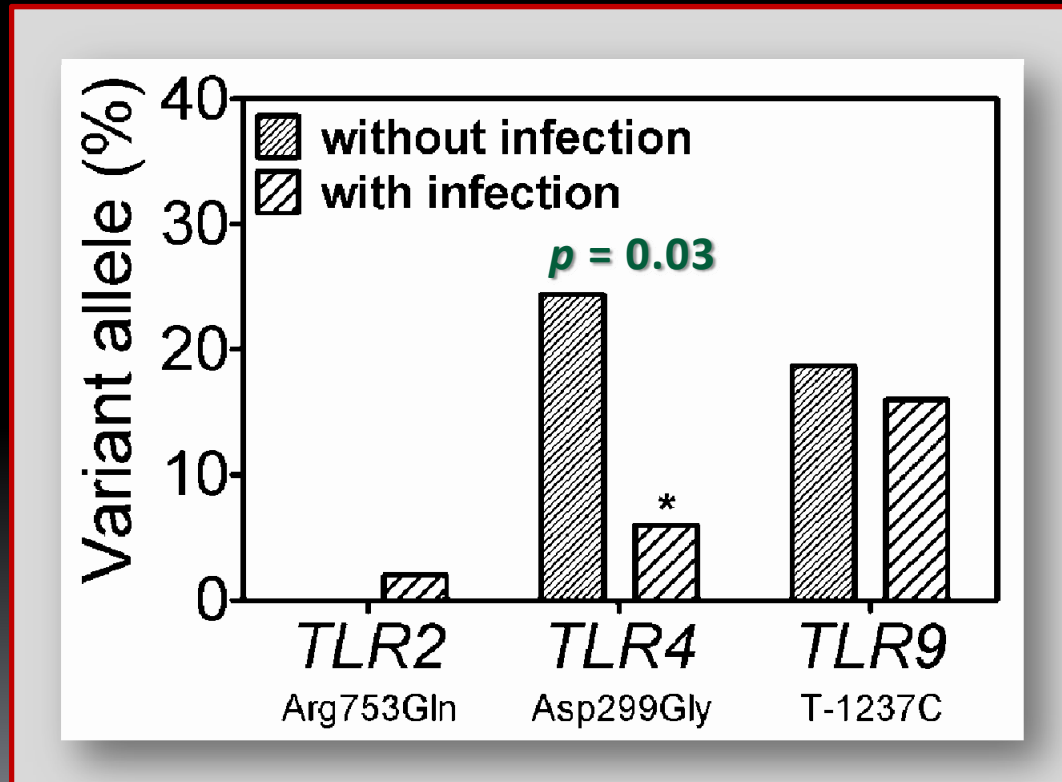
Genetic susceptibility to Aspergillosis in the HSCT setting



Exp Hematol. 2009; 37(9):1022-9

Increased risk of *Aspergillus* spp. colonization

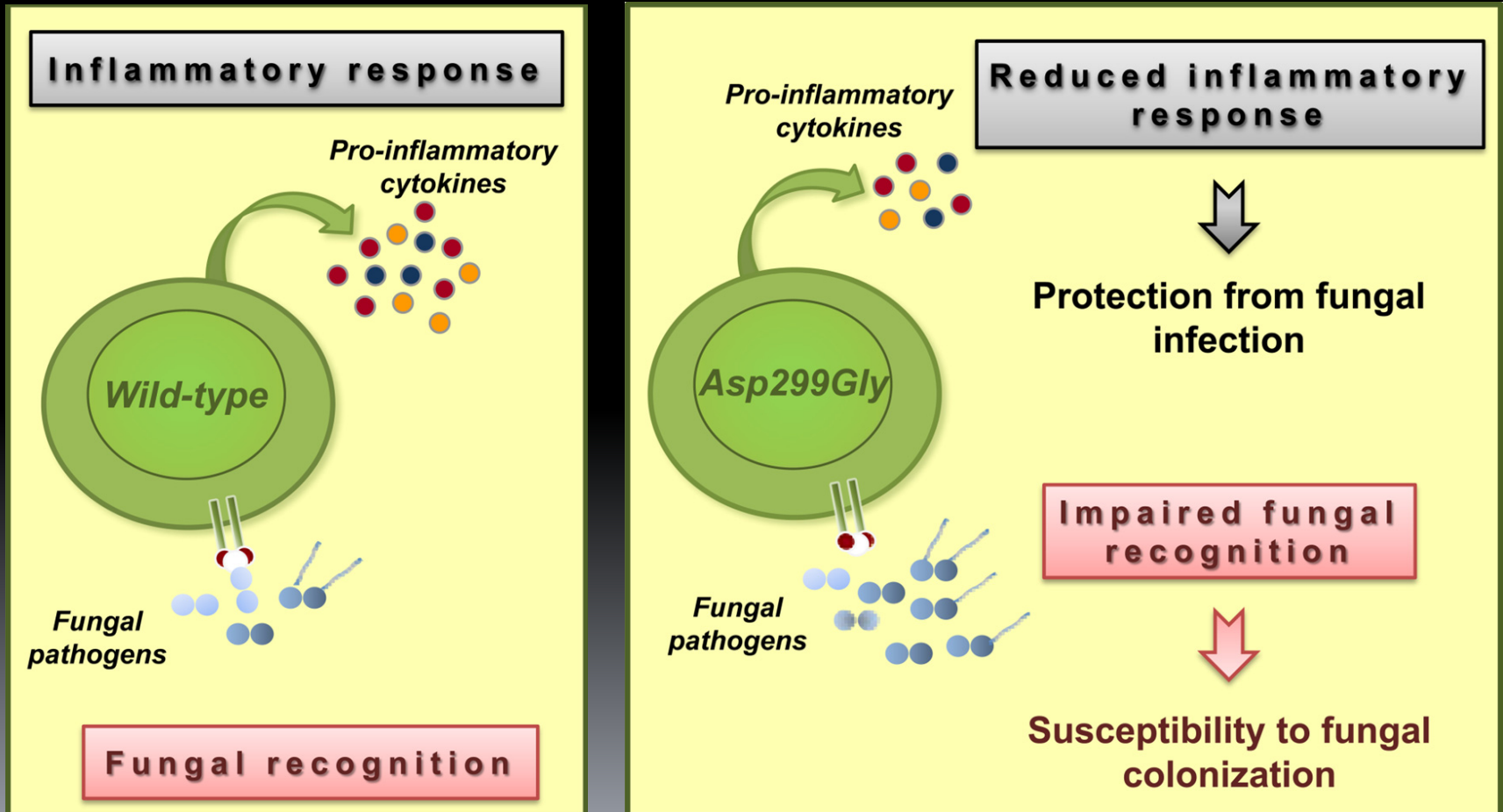
Genetic susceptibility to Aspergillosis in the HSCT setting



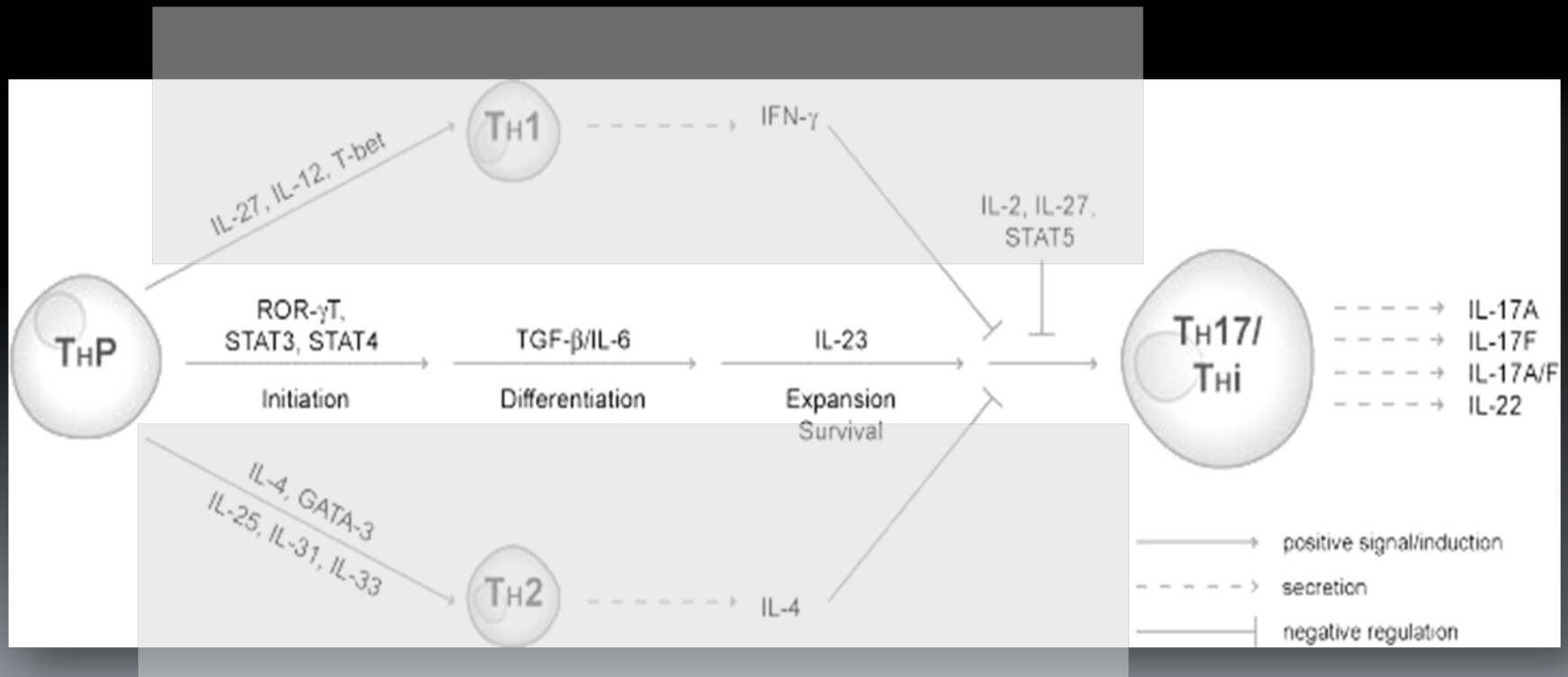
Exp Hematol. 2009; 37(9):1022-9

Protection from Aspergillosis

Genetic susceptibility to Aspergillosis



The Th17 pathway: *An emerging subset*



Th17 in action

```
graph TD; A[Th17 in action] --> B[Promoting innate inflammation]; A --> C[Impairing fungal clearance]; A --> D[Preventing immuno regulation]; B --> E[IDO inhibition]; C --> F[Th1 inhibition]; D --> G[Treg antagonism];
```

Promoting
innate
inflammation

Impairing
fungal
clearance

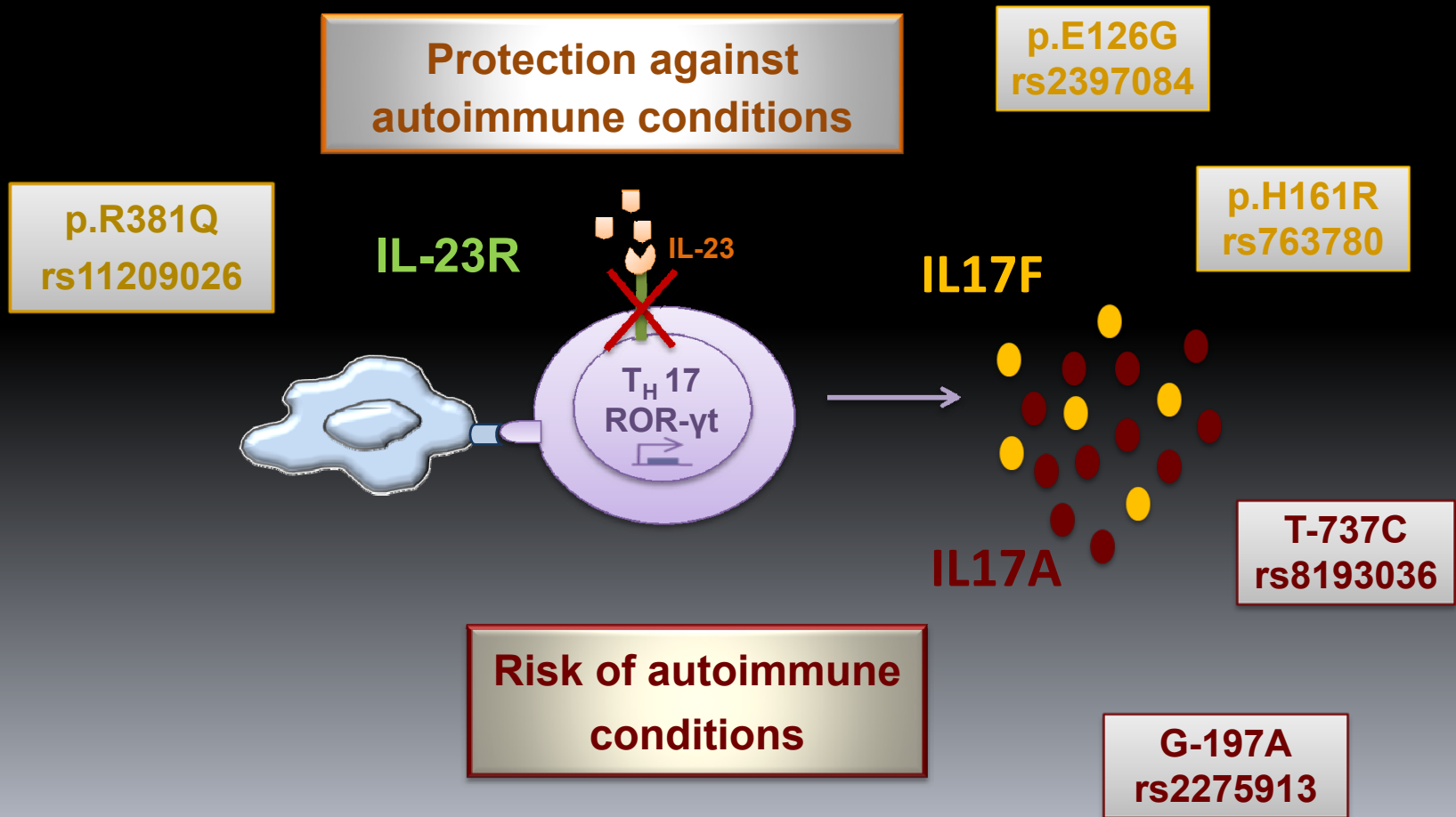
Preventing
immuno
regulation

IDO
inhibition

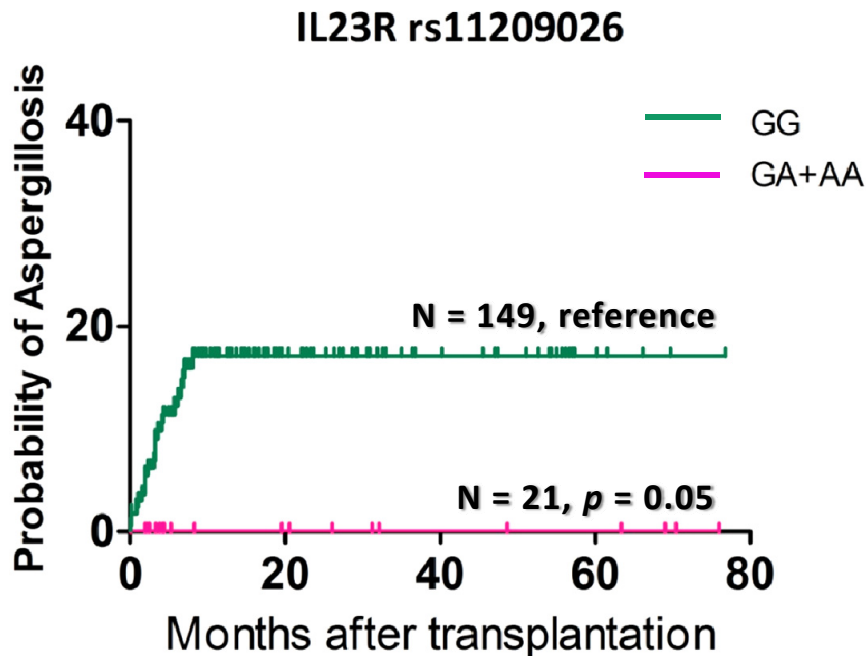
Th1
inhibition

Treg
antagonism

The impact of genetic variants in the IL23/Th17 pathway on disease susceptibility



Genetic susceptibility to Aspergillosis in the HSCT setting



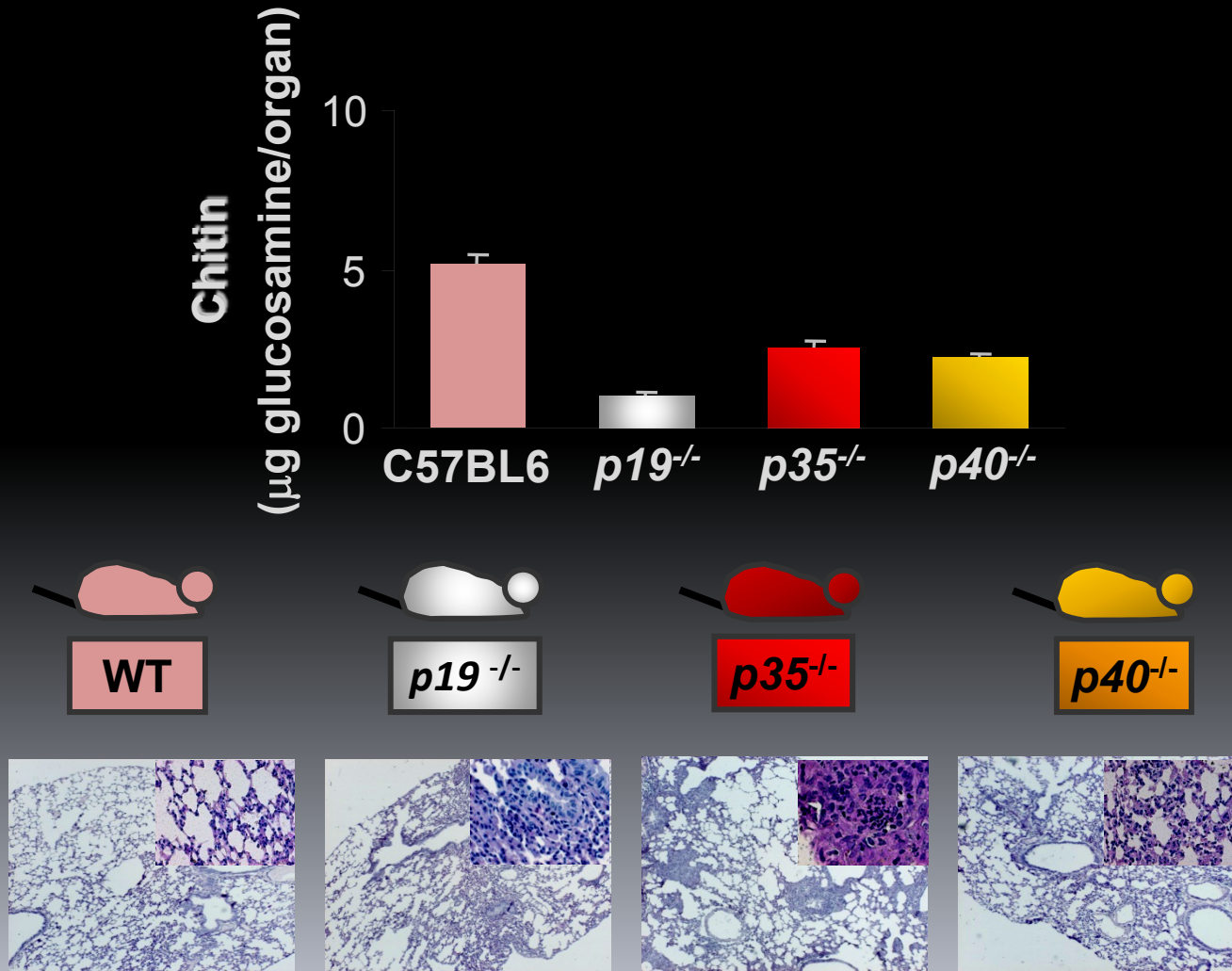
**R381Q decreased
the risk of
Aspergillosis**

Bone Marrow Transplant. 2010; (in press)

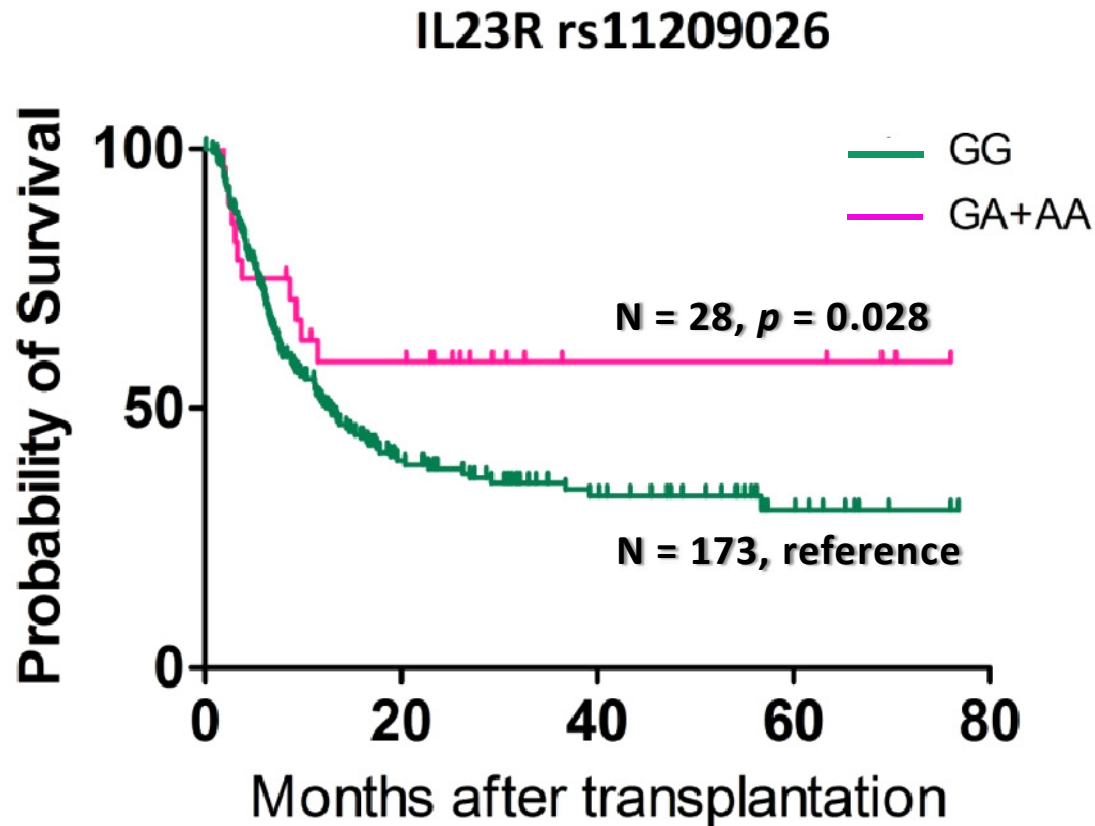
**Consistent with the protective effects of IL-23 signaling
attenuation in experimental aspergillosis**

Eur J Immunol. 2007; 37(10): 2695-706

Th17 pathway correlates with susceptibility to aspergillosis



Overall Survival



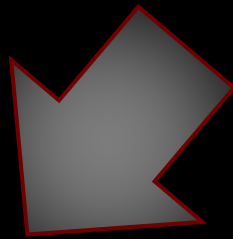
GG – 38% long-term survivors

GA+AA – 63% long-term survivors

Bone Marrow Transplant. 2010; (in press)

From Bench to Bedside: A translational approach

**Genetic
studies**



**Functional
Studies**

Donor selection
Patient evaluation
Identification of therapeutic targets
Design of prophylactic strategies



Luigina Romani

Teresa Zelante

Silvia Bozza

Cristina Cunha

Pierluigi Bonifazi

Antonella De Luca

Gloria Giovannini

Carmen D'Angelo

Silvia Zagarella

Silvia Moretti

Rossana Iannitti