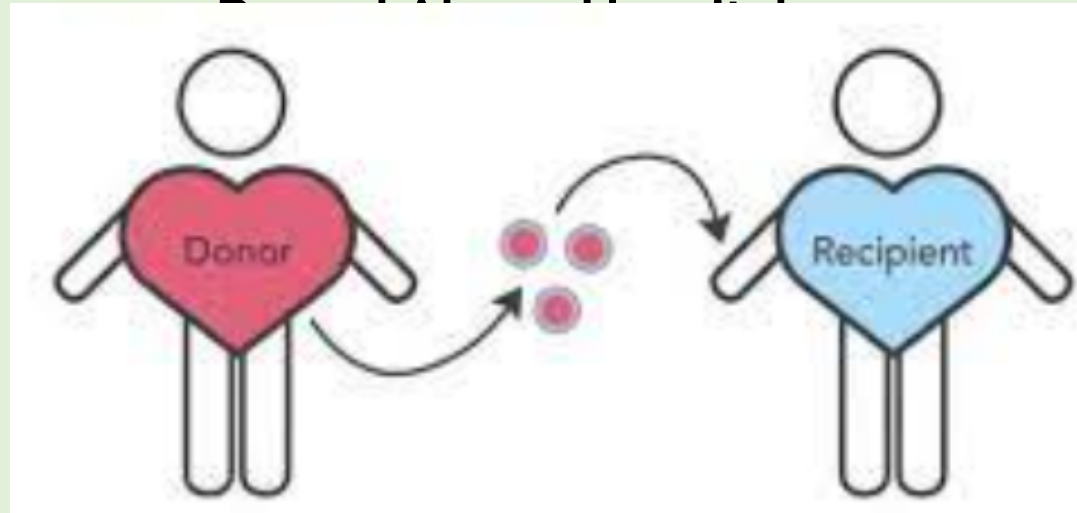


# HSCT in Primary Immune Regulatory Disorders

Dr. Sima Shokri  
Allergist and Clinical Immunologist  
IUMS



## Towards Precision Medicine and a Personalized Approach to Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy for Inborn Errors of Immunity

### Early diagnosis



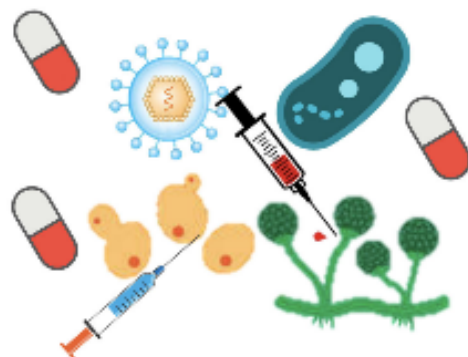
Precise molecular  
diagnosis

### Optimizing of disease control

Targeted therapy  
Monoclonal antibody



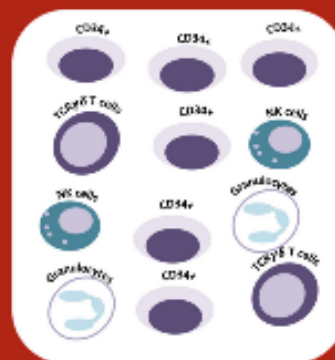
Surveillance, prophylaxis and  
treatment of infection prior to  
and during HSCT



Reduced toxicity  
conditioning

+

Individualized dosage  
optimization of conditioning  
(Pharmacokinetic study)



Precise graft prescription  
Graft engineering

### Post transplant care

Cellular therapy to boost  
immune recovery

New therapy to treat transplant-  
related complications

Vaccination

### Survivorship program

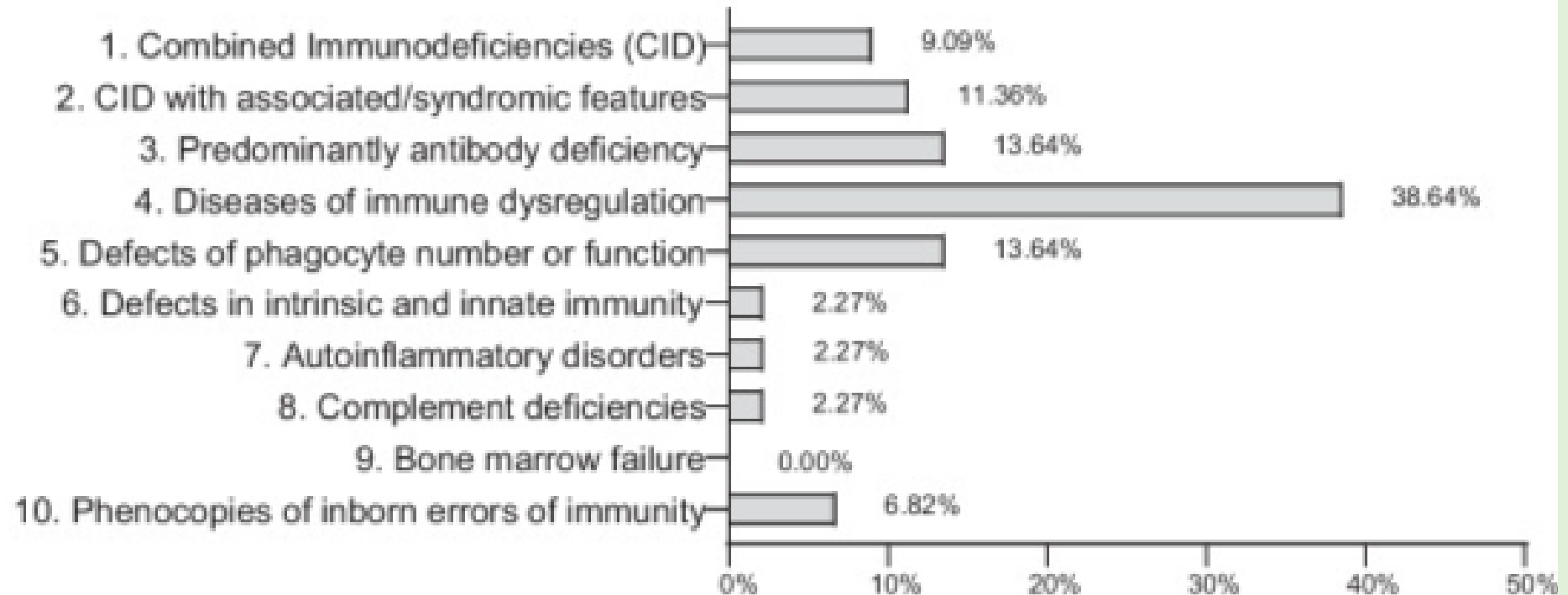
Screening for late effects



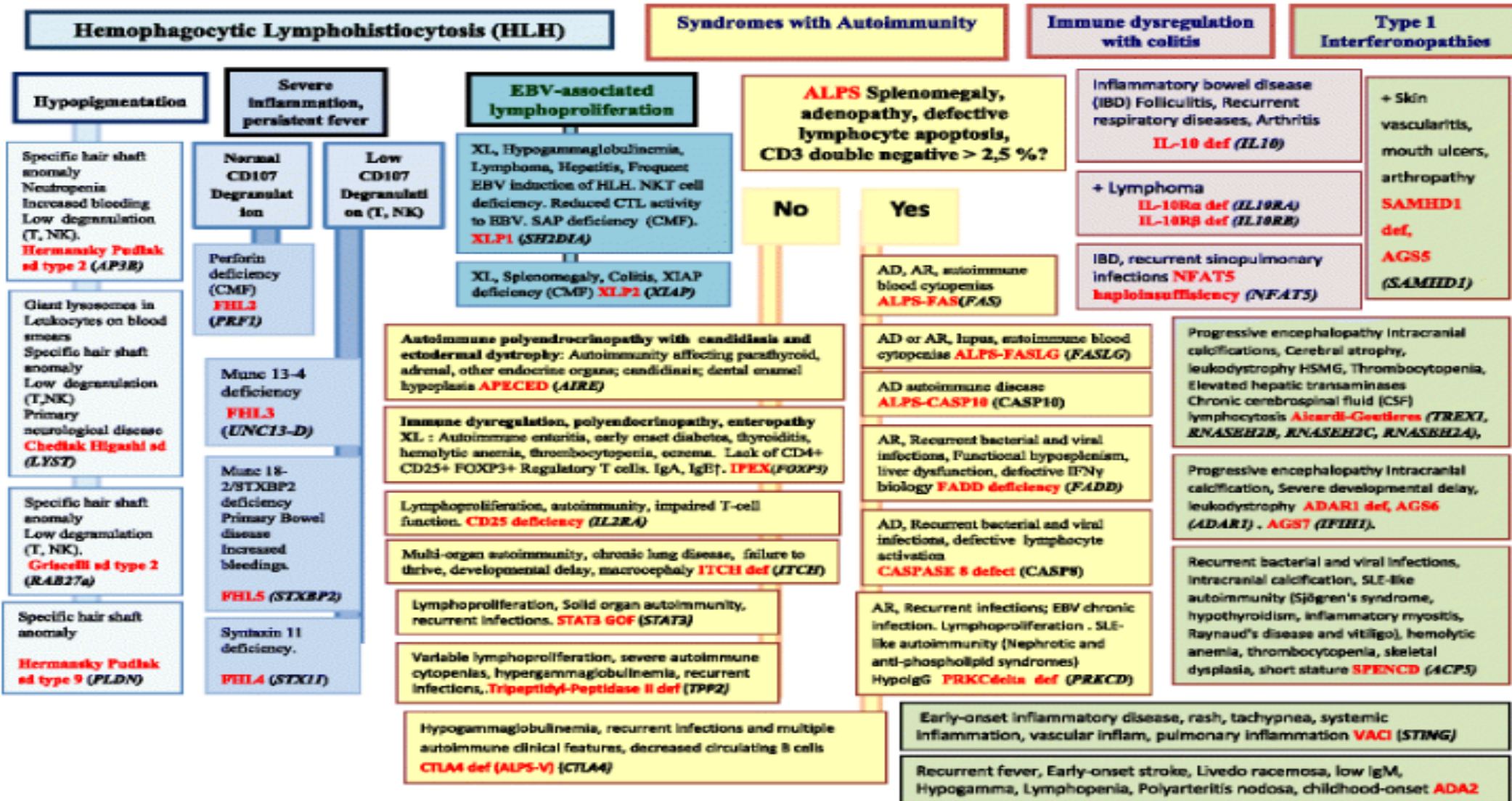
# Primary immune dysregulation disorders (PIRDs)

- As our understanding and definition of immune deficiency broaden, so too do the indications for HSCT
- An **increasing number of diseases** of immune dysregulation are emerging which may be amenable to treatment with HSCT
- T regulatory defects such as:
  - IPEX syndrome
  - CTLA4 deficiency
  - immune dysregulation with colitis

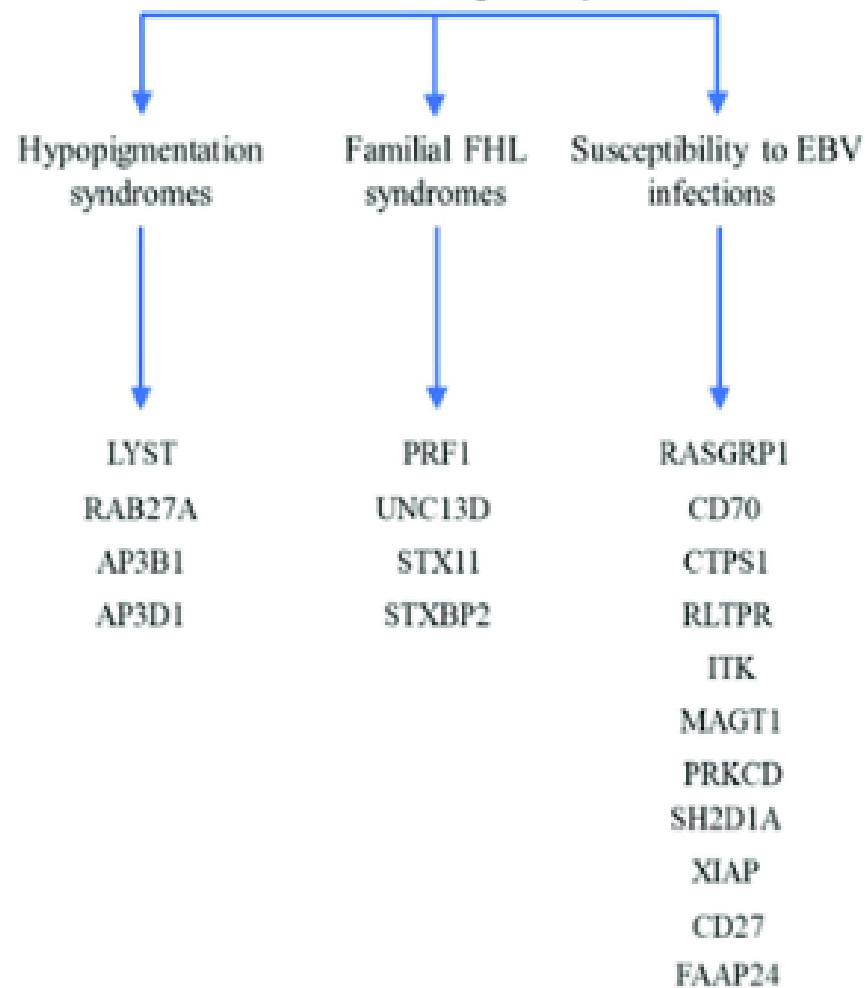
## IUIS Inborn Error of Immunity Category



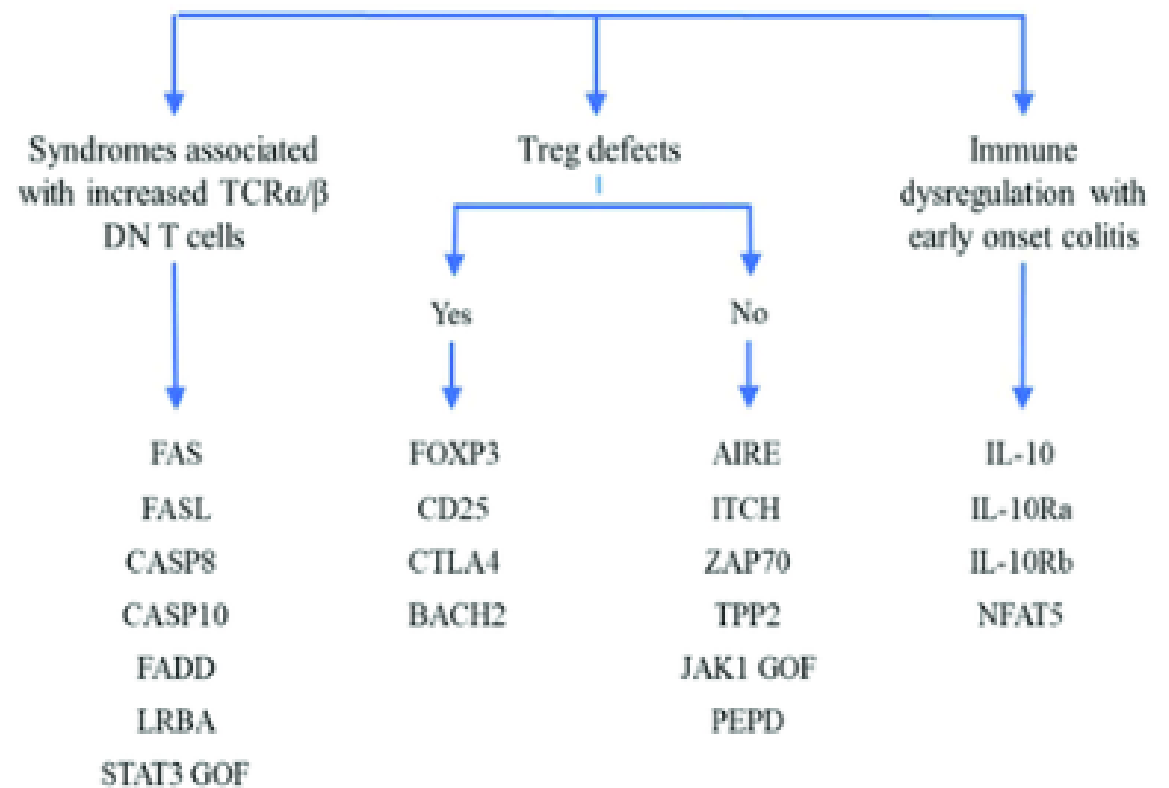
## IV. Diseases of immune dysregulation



## Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis & EBV susceptibility



## Syndromes with Autoimmunity





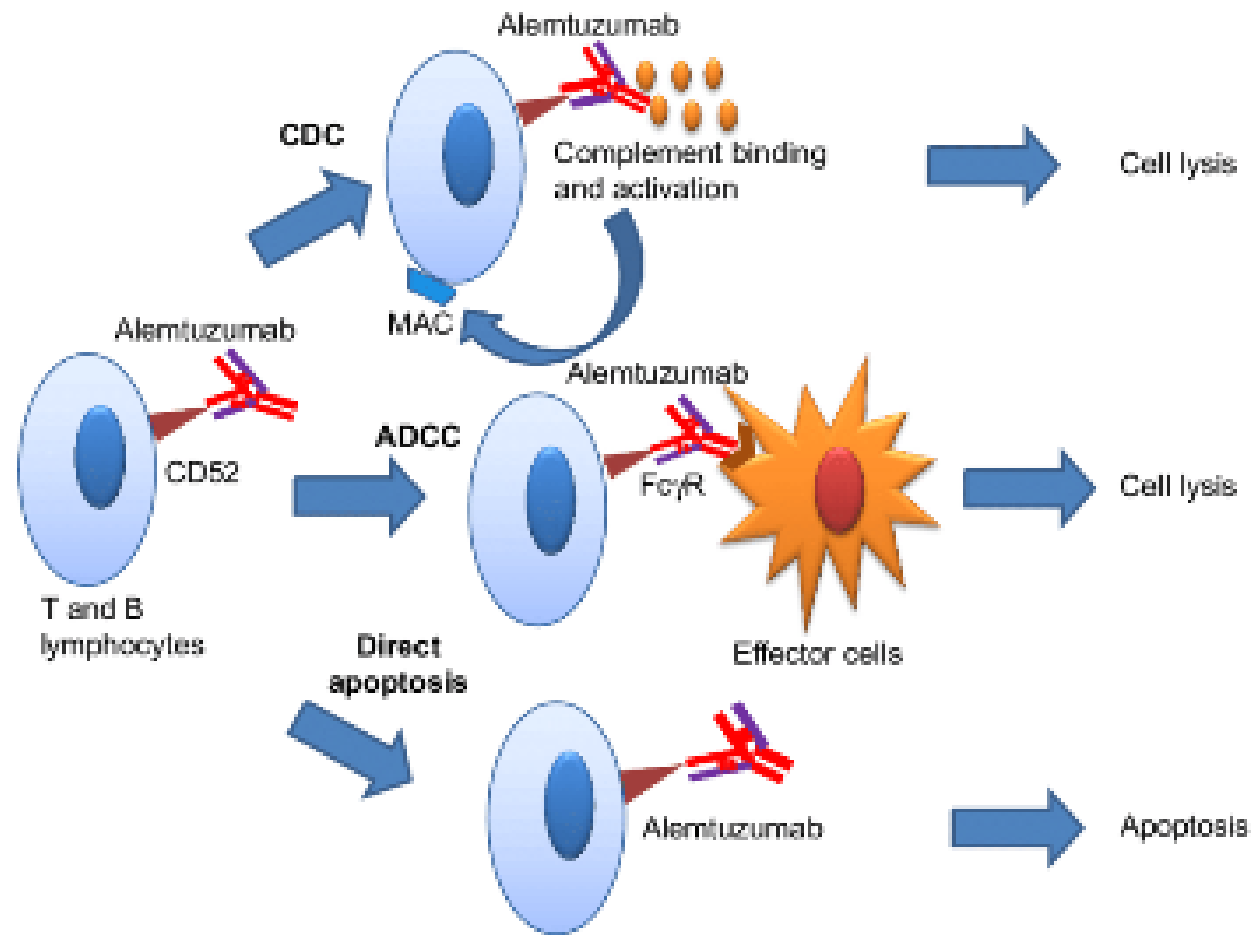
# Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)

- Regardless of the underlying genetic cause of primary HLH
- **disease remission** at the time of HSCT remains a **key factor** in overall survival
- The **challenge** is often to balance achieving disease control and reaching HSCT in a timely manner
- Highly **immuno- and myelosuppressive drugs** are used to control HLH prior to HSCT
- associated with **multi-organ toxicity** and infective complications

# HLH

- More targeted novel therapies including **Alemtuzumab** (a humanized monoclonal anti-CD52 antibody) may reduce this toxicity and improve the patients' condition prior to HSCT
- The efficacy of **anti IFN gamma** antibodies and **JAK-Inhibitors** need yet to be evaluated
- **VOD** is common in this group (treatment related toxicity and disease): prophylactic **defibrotide** in infants under 18 months of age or those over 18 months with clear hepatic involvement





Alemtuzumab-induced cell lysis and apoptosis of T and B lymphocytes. Abbreviations: ADCC, antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity; CDC, complement-dependent cytotoxicity; MAC, membrane attack complex; FcγR, Fc gamma receptor.

# HLH

- outcomes post HSCT were poor using a fully myeloablative regimen
- improved with **reduced toxicity conditioning** protocols and **better HLH control** prior to conditioning
- Stable **high-level donor chimerism is desired** and mixed chimerism is seen more commonly after treosulfan and melphalan based regimens
- It is likely that **>20–30% T-cell chimerism is sufficient** to protect against disease relapse

- Several monogenic defects that primarily manifest with HLH
  - **primary HLH:**
    - *PRF1*, *UNC13D*, *STX11*, *STXBP2*, *RAB27A*, *LYST*, and *AP3B1*:
    - need HSCT for complete disease cure
  - Other genetic causes of HLH:
    - **susceptibility to EBV** infection and EBV-related HLH:
    - XIAP and SAP deficiencies or *MAGT1* and *ITK* mutations
- **Secondary HLH** might be caused by infections, malignancy, metabolic diseases, or other primary immunodeficiencies

# HLH

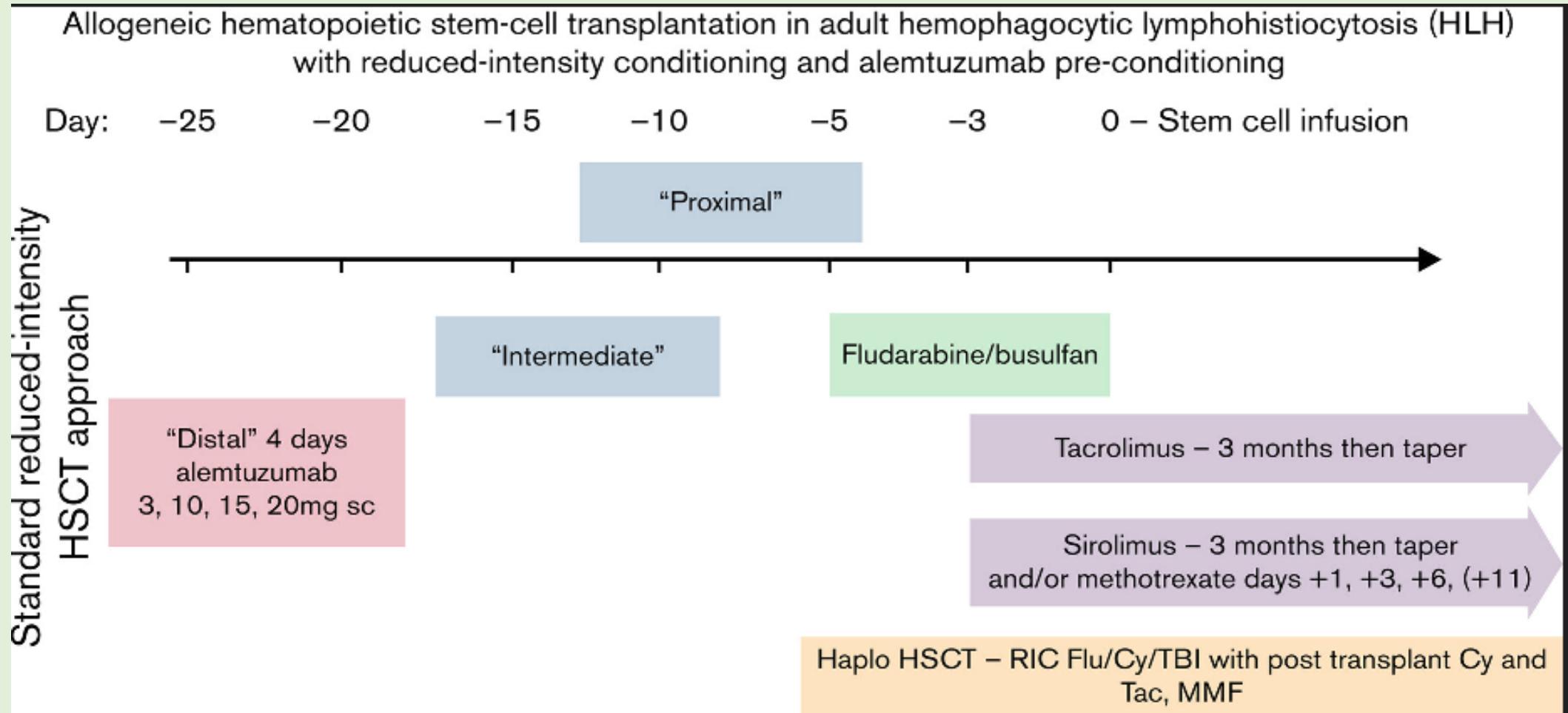
- XIAP deficient patients
- outcome is significantly worse than for other forms of primary HLH
- even in the context of RIC regimes
- particularly sensitive to alkylating agents
- more severe GvHD which leads to higher mortality

- if HLH is in **remission** and a **reduced regimen** is used (best results):

**survival** after HSCT is reported to be between **86 and 100%**

- The associated colitis can take a long period post-HSCT
- HLH reactivation has been reported in up to 50% of patients
- Antibody-based conditioning regimens may improve the

- **Serotherapy** may be adapted
- Distal serotherapy: decreased mixed chimerism, increased GVHD



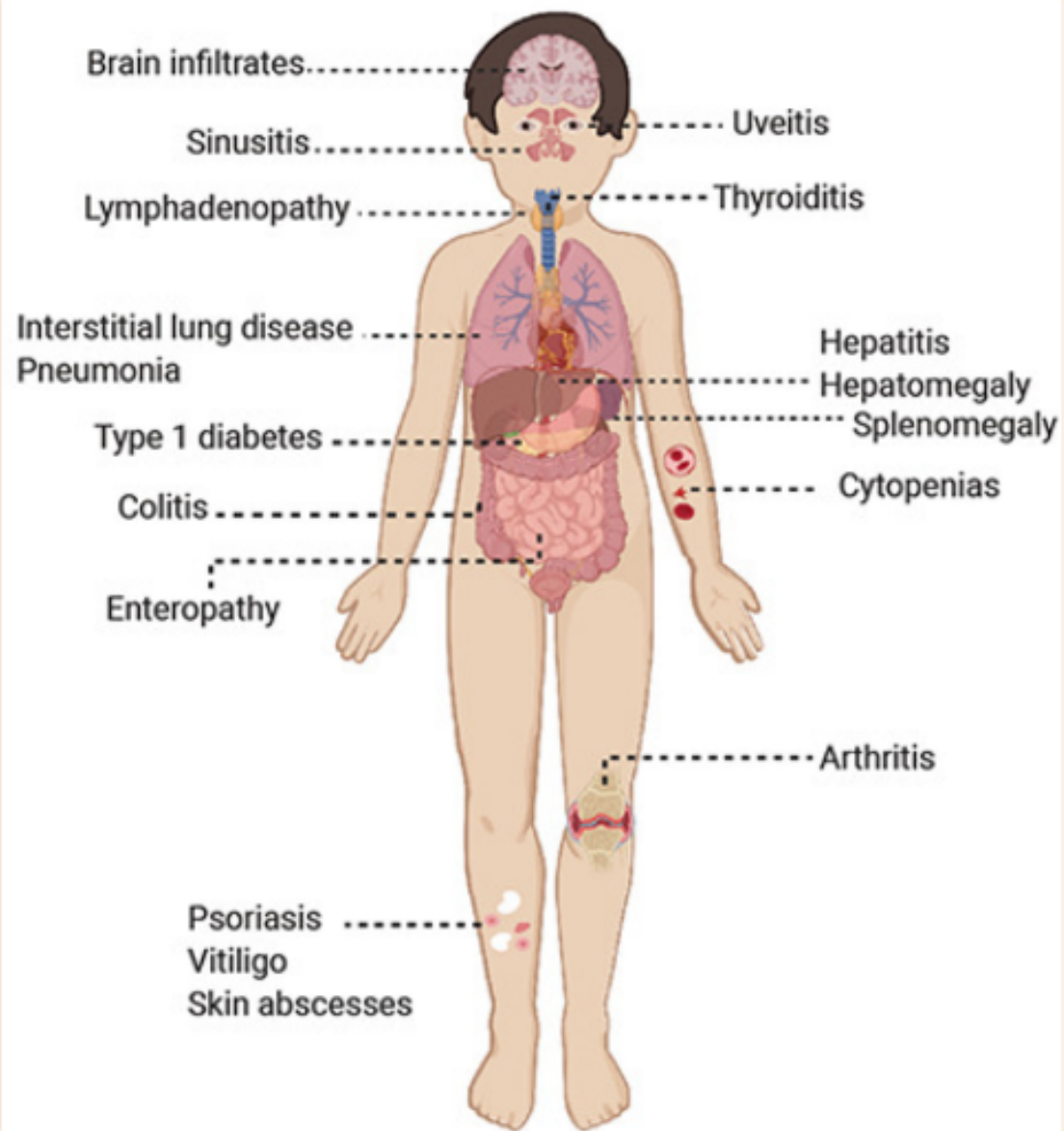
- rituximab:
- usually used to control EBV-related HLH
- A human IgG1 monoclonal antibody against IFN- $\gamma$ ,  
emapalumab:
- received approval for primary HLH in both pediatric and adult patients in 2018



- Patients receiving transplants for HLH secondary to Griscelli syndrome type 2 or Chediak-Higashi syndrome:
- can be success-fully cured of the immunological disorder
- neurological disease may develop or progress, even when full donor chimerism is present

# Primary immune dysregulation disorders (PIRDs)

- An increasing number of diseases of immune dysregulation are emerging which may be amenable to treatment with HSCT
- These include T regulatory cell defects such as IPEX syndrome and CTLA4 deficiency and immune dysregulation with colitis



**TABLE 2 |** Indications for HSCT in PID.

<b>HSCT curative</b>	<b>HSCT partially curative</b>	<b>HSCT controversial</b>
SCID	Cartilage Hair Hypoplasia	CVID
CID <sup>^</sup>	PGM3 deficiency	Agammaglobulinemia
CGD	STAT1-GOF	Complement deficiencies (other than C1q deficiency)
DOCK8 deficiency	STAT3- GOF	DGS
DOCK2 deficiency	Severe congenital neutropenia	IKBA deficiency
IPEX	ADA2 deficiency	NEMO deficiency
WAS	CIQ deficiency	
WIP deficiency	CD25 deficiency	
ARPC1B deficiency	IL-10 deficiency	
CD40 ligand deficiency	IL-10 Receptor deficiency	
CD40 deficiency	DNA double-strand break repair disorders	
XLP1, XLP2		
APDS		
MHC Class II deficiency		
AD Hyper IgE syndrome		
CTLA4 haploinsufficiency		
LRBA deficiency		
Familial HLH types 1–5		
GATA2 deficiency		
RAB27A deficiency		
LAD I		
Reticular Dysgenesis		

# PIRDs

- A large multicenter study of **IPEX** syndrome:
- a **clear advantage** in overall survival and quality of life in **transplanted** patients compared to those treated with immunosuppression
- **all** patients with this disease **should be considered for transplant**
- Mixed chimerism is sufficient for cure
- donor **chimerism in T regulatory** cells has been shown to be **higher** than in other cell lines

- Patients with autoimmune enteropathy
- IPEX and enteropathy due to defects in IL-10 signaling pathways
- have successfully received transplants and been cured

# PIRDs

- fully myeloablative conditioning may not be required in all PIRDs possibly with the exception of gain-of-function diseases
- An increasing number of reports are published for other disorders including but not restricted to

CTLA4

LRBA

ZAP70

APDS

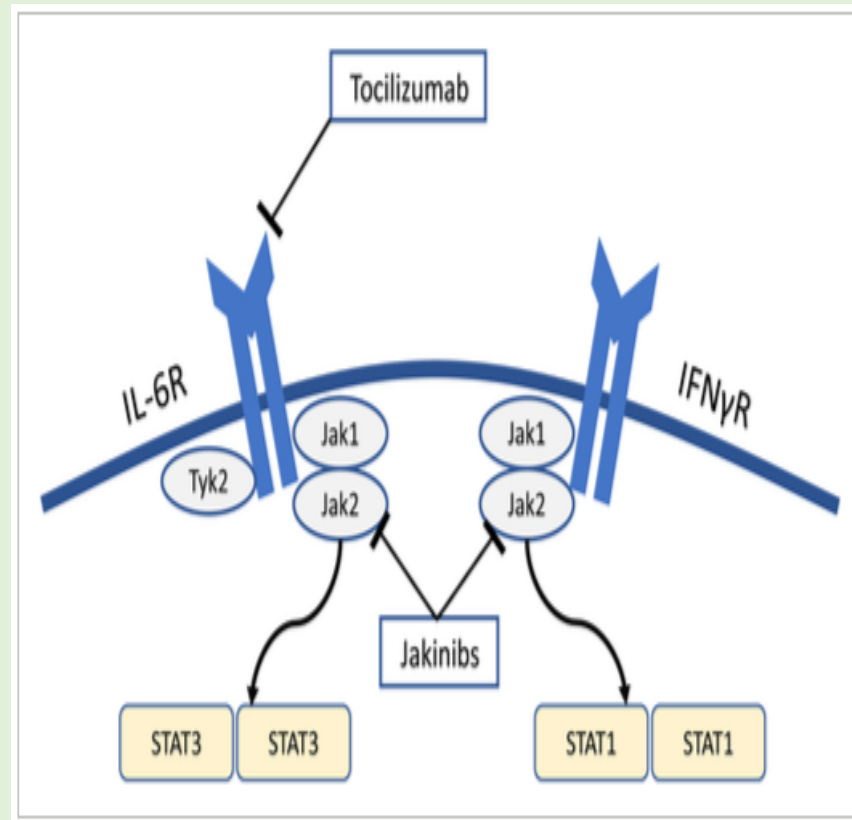
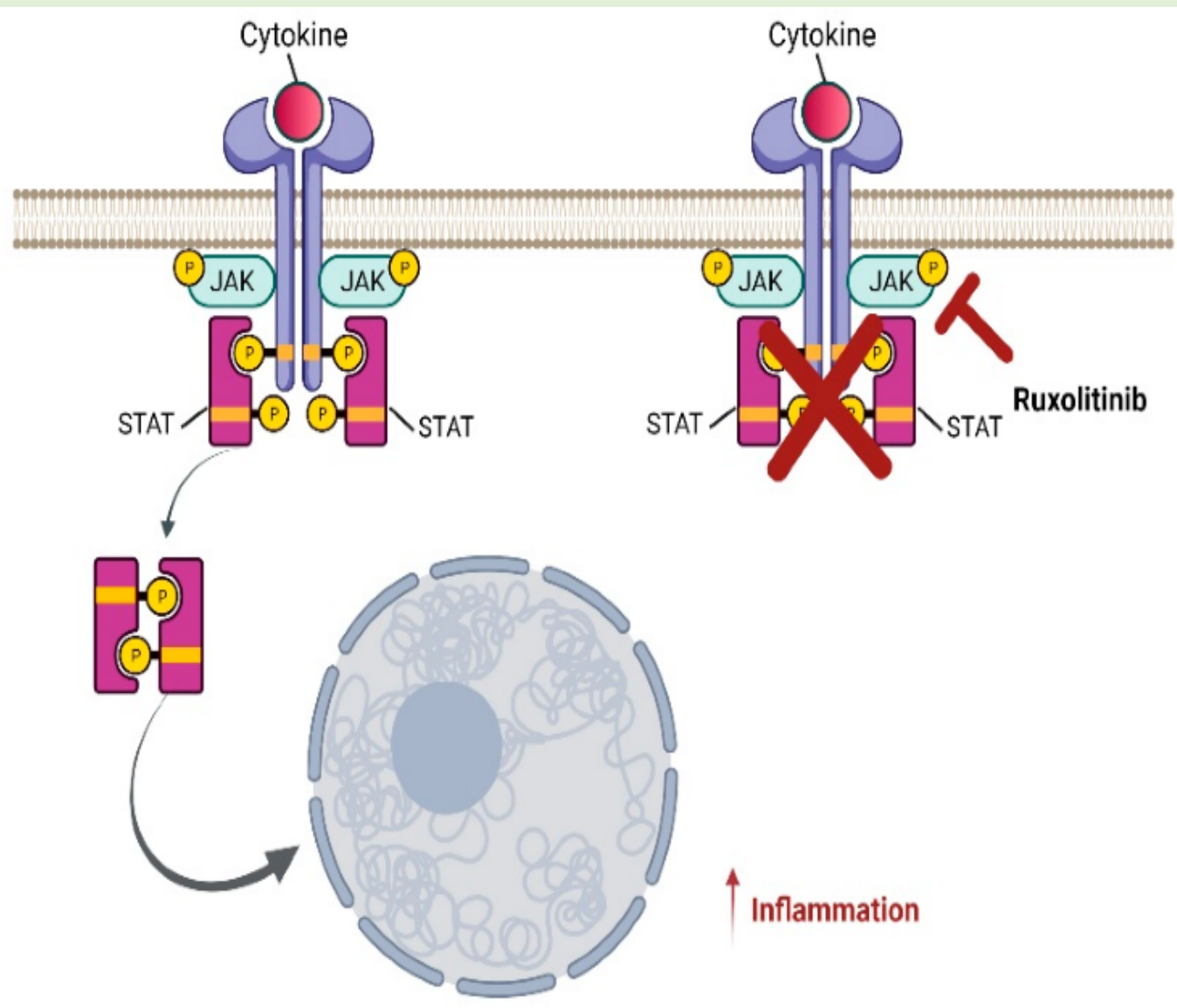
STAT1 AND 3 GOF

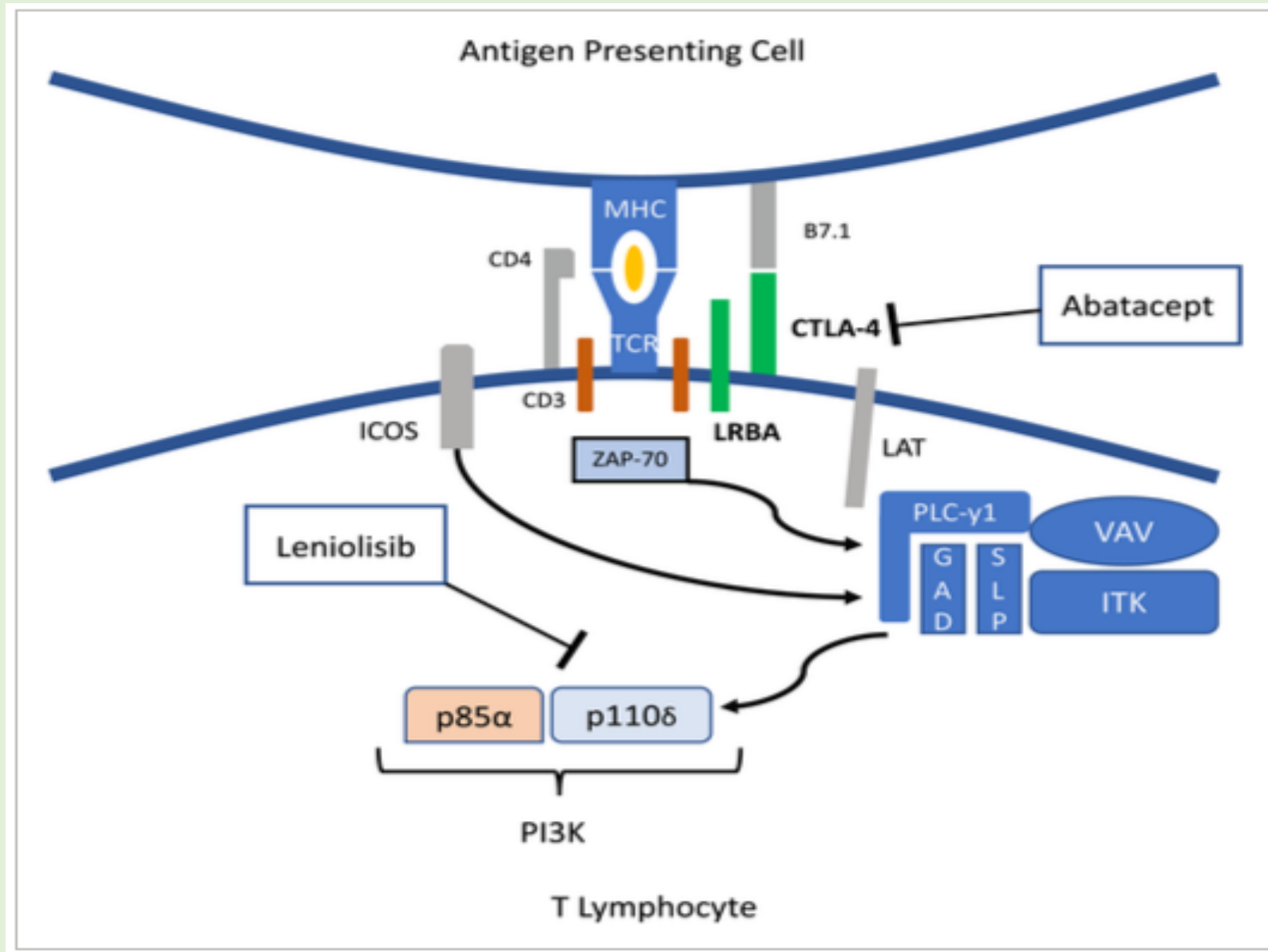


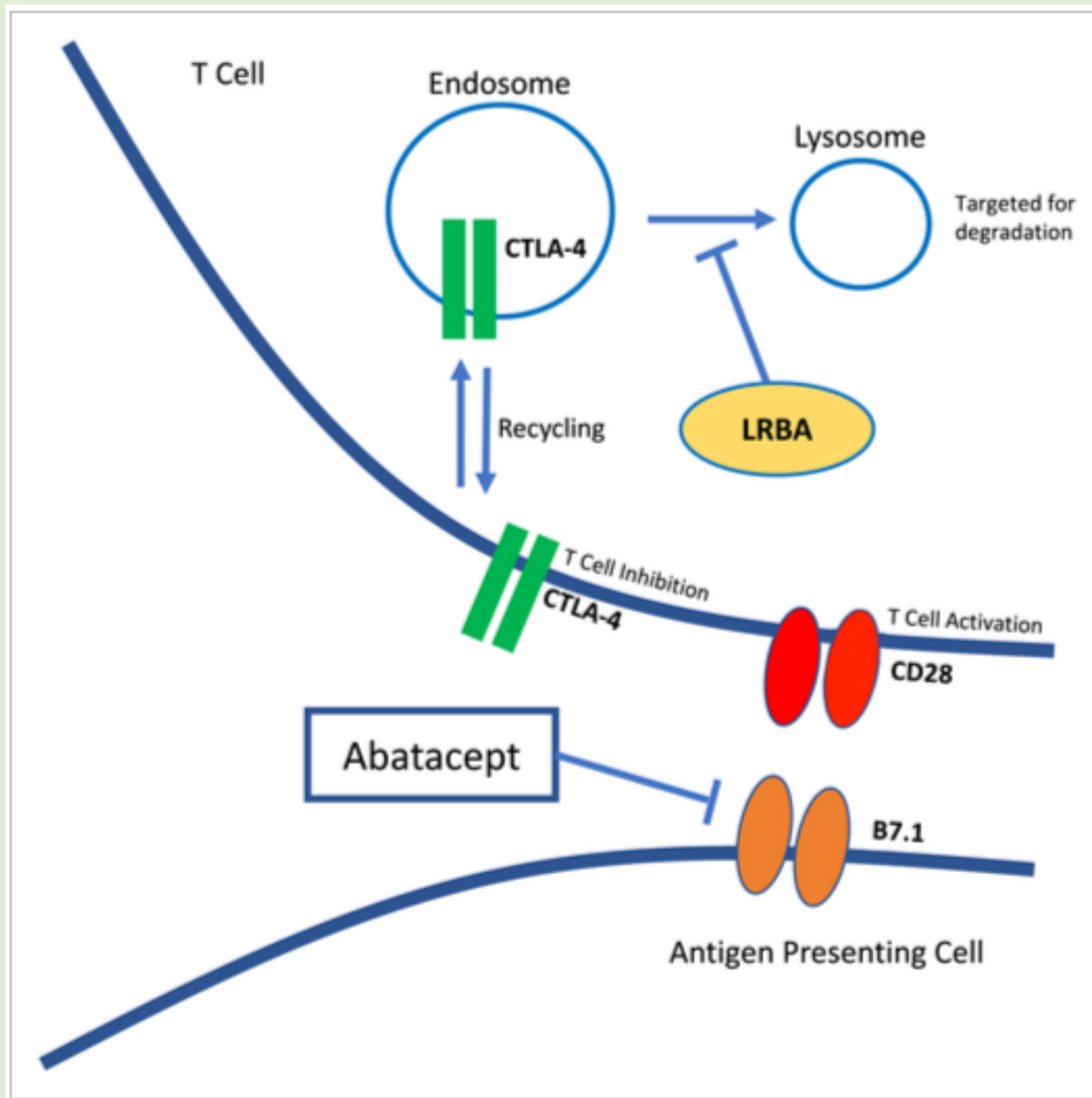
- Primary genetic defects in immune function may lead to immune dysregulation and autoimmunity:
- which are also are treatable by HSCT
- Autoimmunity is a feature of **Wiskott-Aldrich** syndrome
- **Omenn** syndrome and other “conventional” immunodeficiencies
- Symptoms can be ameliorated by immunosuppression
- **transplantation offers cure** and can prevent progression of autoimmunity

- Data on the relevance of donor **chimerism** for cure are still **limited**
- in case of gain-of-function diseases and when aiming for complete donor chimerism, protocol A or B is probably preferred
- **Severity of disease at transplant:**  
the **most important** predictor of success
- **immunosuppression prior to transplant** to control the inflammatory features is of paramount importance
- It can be especially **challenging** to decide if and when to transplant in these patients

- Transplant outcome is better **before organ damage** and in the absence of ongoing severe inflammation
- **Targeted biological** agents such as abatacept or ruxolitinib
- significant reduction in disease activity
- complications of long-term use of these agents could be significant
- a **bridging therapy** to optimize condition of the patient prior to transplant







- **Alemtuzumab**, a humanized monoclonal anti-CD52 antibody:
- first-line therapy with 91% survival
- The **interferon-gamma targeted monoclonal antibody** Emapulumab showed promising results in achieving remission
- targeting key cytokines such as **IL1, IL6** and inhibition of the **JAK1/2-STAT1** pathway are also being increasingly used



- Molecular diagnosis is important particularly in Very-early-onset Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- as HSCT is not indicated for an enteropathy due to an epithelial defect
- Given the highly variable genotype–phenotype correlation in most of these diseases
- family donors should be screened to avoid using an affected donor who may have a mild phenotype or late onset disease

- Alternative options:
- Gene therapy trials for a number of these disorders are in preclinical status

- PIRDs are newly emerging indications for HSCT:
- alternative medical or biological treatments are available
- For younger patients, these emerging therapies may best be used as a bridge to HSCT,
- to reduce inflammation and autoimmunity pre-transplant
- The issue of degree of donor chimerism required to achieve control of disease is unknown

- Adolescent and adult patients (>15 years) with IEI are increasingly being referred for consideration of HSCT
- For many IEI patients, complications accumulate with age,
  - end organ damage, reduced quality of life and early death
- identifying which patients and when may benefit from HSCT:  
remains challenging  
due to phenotypic heterogeneity

- advances in genetic diagnostics
- improved survival into adulthood with conservative treatment

good outcomes following HSCT in these older patients have led to this change in clinical practice

- worse outcome :
- a degree of preexisting organ damage
- infectious burden
- malignancy at the time of HSCT

# Adolescents and adults

- In older patients  
reduced intensity conditioning regimens are preferred to limit excess toxicity (C, D, or E)
- higher risk of GVHD compared to children
- As with other IEI, the best possible control of autoimmunity and autoinflammation (i.e., colitis, lung disease) is recommended pre HSCT,
- even though complete remissions may not be achievable

# Adolescents and adults

- Alternative options:
- For some specific forms of IEI, **targeted therapies** may offer a bridge to HSCT or be offered as an alternative therapy
- Autologous stem cell **gene therapy** in older patients is currently being evaluated in clinical trials



- in most IELs and in particular in PIRDs
- the **indication for HSCT** can be influenced by many factors:
- specific **genotype–phenotype**
- **comorbidities** (previous infections, organ damage, donor availability, alternative immunomodulation strategies)

- Overall, the most important factor for improved survival rate:
- introduction of the haploidentical TCRab/CD19-depleted platform

- A precise **genetic** diagnosis:
- **targeted therapy**
- patients transplanted with a genetic diagnosis rather than having a retrospective genetic finding, will have **better outcomes**
- These data show the importance of gene sequencing as standard of care

- Features in STAT3 GOF :
  - lymphoproliferation, autoimmune cytopenias, enteropathy, ILD, growth failure
  - shared by many PIRDs FOXP3, CTLA-4, LRBA, PIK3CD
  - demonstrating the importance of genetic testing
- 
- targeted therapy led to improved patient outcomes

- fundamental challenges:
- whether to plan an early HSCT with a better outcome before organ impairment, recurrent infection and malignancy occur
- treat with targeted therapy for which the longterm effects are unknown
- wait for HSCT when further disease manifestations occur
- requires careful patient counselling with rigorous collection of long-term outcome data for the different therapeutic options

- improved outcome of HSCT:
  - Knowledge of an underlying genetic diagnosis
  - HSCT at a younger age before organ impairment improves outcomes
- 
- Determining which patients to offer HSCT to is challenging
- 
- Long-term outcome studies are required to compare conservative management, targeted therapy and HSCT outcomes

- CTLA-4:
- binds to the CD80 and CD86 ligands on APCs outcompeting CD28 mediated activating signals
- downregulates the immune response by inhibiting T cell activation
- Absence of LRBA leads to decreased CTLA-4 expression:
- impaired Treg cell function
- **Sirolimus:**
- **inhibits the CD28 signalling** pathway which decreases T cell hyperactivity
- **enhances T regulatory** cells
- The CTLA-4 fusion proteins **Abatacept** and **Belatacept** show promising results

- Gain of Function mutations in PIK3CD or loss of function mutations in PIK3RI lead to Activated PI3K delta Syndrome (APDS):
- Sirolimus:
  - inhibits downstream enhanced mTORC1 activity
- Leniolisib:
  - oral small molecule inhibitor of the p100 delta subunit of PI3K
  - inhibit PI3K activation directly



- GOF mutations in STAT1 and STAT3 cause hyperactivation in STAT1 and STAT3 respectively
- Jakinibs are direct inhibitors of the JAK/STAT pathway
- Ruxolitinib or tofacitinib :
- used successfully to target the STAT hyperresponsiveness in patients with STAT1 and STAT3 GOF

- Key concepts in bridging therapies:
- Biologic modifiers are **available** to treat specific diseases
- **Outcome** of long-term therapy needs to be **studied**
- **Optimising patient status prior to HSCT** with such agents is useful to improve outcome

