**013** Impaired function of ECM1 underlies the pathogenic disorganization of vascular and basement membrane molecules in lichen sclerosus

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Lichen sclerosus (LS) is an acquired inflammatory condition that mainly affects anogenital skin. ECM1 and other ECM proteoglycans, especially versican, are found in vascular and basement membrane. The basement membrane to ECM1 staining pattern was abnormal in LS skin compared to normal skin, indicating ECM1 breakdown. Decreased expression of ECM1 and increased expression of VEGF were found in LS skin compared to normal skin. The results suggest that ECM1 is involved in the pathogenesis of LS.

**014** Recognition of Fc(epsilon)RI crosslinking, as compared to FcRn, on immune cells in systemic lupus erythematosus

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Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic autoimmune disease characterized by the production of autoantibodies to nuclear antigens. In this study, we investigated the expression of Fc(epsilon)RI on immune cells in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) patients. The results suggest that Fc(epsilon)RI is upregulated on immune cells in SLE patients, which may contribute to the pathogenesis of SLE.

**015** Inhibitory effect of kaempferol on skin fibrosis in systemic sclerosis by the suppression of oxidative stress

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Kaempferol, a natural flavonoid widely found in various vegetables and fruits, has been reported to have excellent antioxidant activity. In this study, we investigated the effect of kaempferol on skin fibrosis in systemic sclerosis (SSc). Kaempferol administration also significantly suppressed the bleomycin-induced dermal fibrosis in mice. The effect of kaempferol on oxidative stress in bleomycin-treated mice and skin fibroblasts was increased by kaempferol. These results suggest that kaempferol is a potential therapeutic agent for skin fibrosis in systemic sclerosis.

**016** Phenotypic Changes of a Monocyte Cell Line depend on the Culture Temperature

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Monocyte cell lines are used as model systems to study immune responses. In this study, we investigated the effect of culture temperature on the phenotypic changes of a monocyte cell line. The results suggest that culture temperature affects the expression of monocyte markers and the function of monocytes.

**017** Tc2 induction of IL-10-producing plasmablasts during contact hypersensitivity

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Contact hypersensitivity is a type of delayed-type hypersensitivity reaction that occurs in response to repeated exposure to an allergen. In this study, we investigated the induction of IL-10-producing plasmablasts during contact hypersensitivity. The results suggest that IL-10-producing plasmablasts are induced during contact hypersensitivity, which may contribute to the resolution of inflammation.

**018** Evolution of autoactive B and T cells in pemphigus patients with Rituximab or corticosteroid regimen treatment

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Pemphigus is an autoimmune blistering disease mediated by autoantibodies (Abs) directed against desmogleins (Dsg). In this study, we investigated the evolution of autoactive B and T cells in pemphigus patients treated with Rituximab or corticosteroids. The results suggest that Rituximab is more effective than corticosteroids in the treatment of pemphigus.

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