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Soluble TNF Mediates the Transition from Pulmonary Inflammation to Fibrosis.

Oikonomou N, Harokopos V, Zalevsky J, Valavanis C, Kotanidou A, Szymkowski DE, Kollias G, Aidinis V

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CHEMICAL BIOLOGY



Hypothesis



New Finding

Comments

This interesting article reports the finding that soluble tumour necrosis factor (TNF), but not membrane-bound TNF, plays a primary role in the pathogenesis of bleomycin-induced pulmonary fibrosis, a model of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. The authors provide evidence that apoptosing epithelial cells are the source of the soluble TNF, which then causes recruitment of lymphocytes, which are a prerequisite for TGF-b1 expression and the development of fibrosis.

Competing interests: None declared

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