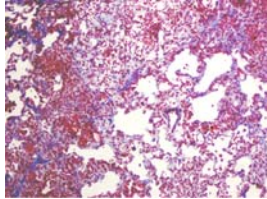


PRESS RELEASE



Soluble TNF Mediates the Transition from Pulmonary Inflammation to Fibrosis

Fibroproliferative diseases are among the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide. Fibrosis, the replacement of functional tissue with excessive fibrous tissue, can occur in all the main tissues and organ systems resulting in various pathological disorders. Researchers from the Institute of Immunology at BSRC Alexander Fleming have now revealed that soluble TNF driven pulmonary inflammation is among the primary pathogenetic mechanisms leading to the development of pulmonary fibrosis. The study, published in PLoS One (2006, 1(1):e108), indicates a primary detrimental role of soluble TNF in the pathological cascade, separating it from the beneficial role of transmembrane TNF. Most importantly, it suggests the importance of assessing the efficacy of soluble TNF antagonists in the treatment of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, a lethal, incurable pulmonary disease.