



# CONTROLLING INFLAMMATION

## **Role of C5a in COVID-19 Pathogenesis**

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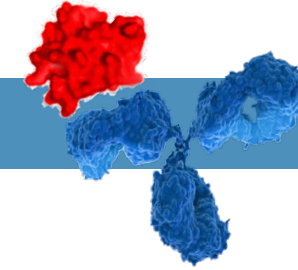
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# Company Program Updates



## LEADING PROPRIETARY ANTI-C5A TECHNOLOGY

- Complete and selective blockade of the biological activity of C5a in vitro and in vivo
- Strong patent coverage on anti-C5a technology until end of 2030 / 2035 with extension



## ESTABLISHED CLINICAL EFFICACY FOR LEAD DRUG IFX-1 (INN NAME: VILOBELIMAB)

- Proven anti-inflammatory effect in multiple Phase II studies; favorable safety profile & excellent tolerability in >300 patients
- Statistically significant reduction of inflammatory lesions in Phase IIb Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS) study; impressive long-term efficacy
- HS full data analysis warrants continued development towards Phase III despite missing the primary endpoint (HiSCR) in Phase IIb study
- Encouraging data in Phase II part of Phase II/III study in patients with severe COVID-19 induced pneumonia



## MULTIPLE ONGOING STUDIES AND INDICATION + PIPELINE EXTENSION

- **COVID-19 pneumonia:** Phase III part of study has initiated in EU; Additional sites to be added in the US, EU and other regions
- **HS:** End-of-Phase II meeting held with FDA; positive scientific advice from European Medicines Agency (EMA)
- **ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV):** Clinical studies ongoing with data readouts expected in 2021
- **Pyoderma Gangraenosum (PG):** Clinical study ongoing with data readouts expected in 2021
- **Oncology:** Clinical proof of concept study in preparation
- Potential for **Pipeline Extension** in other inflammatory diseases





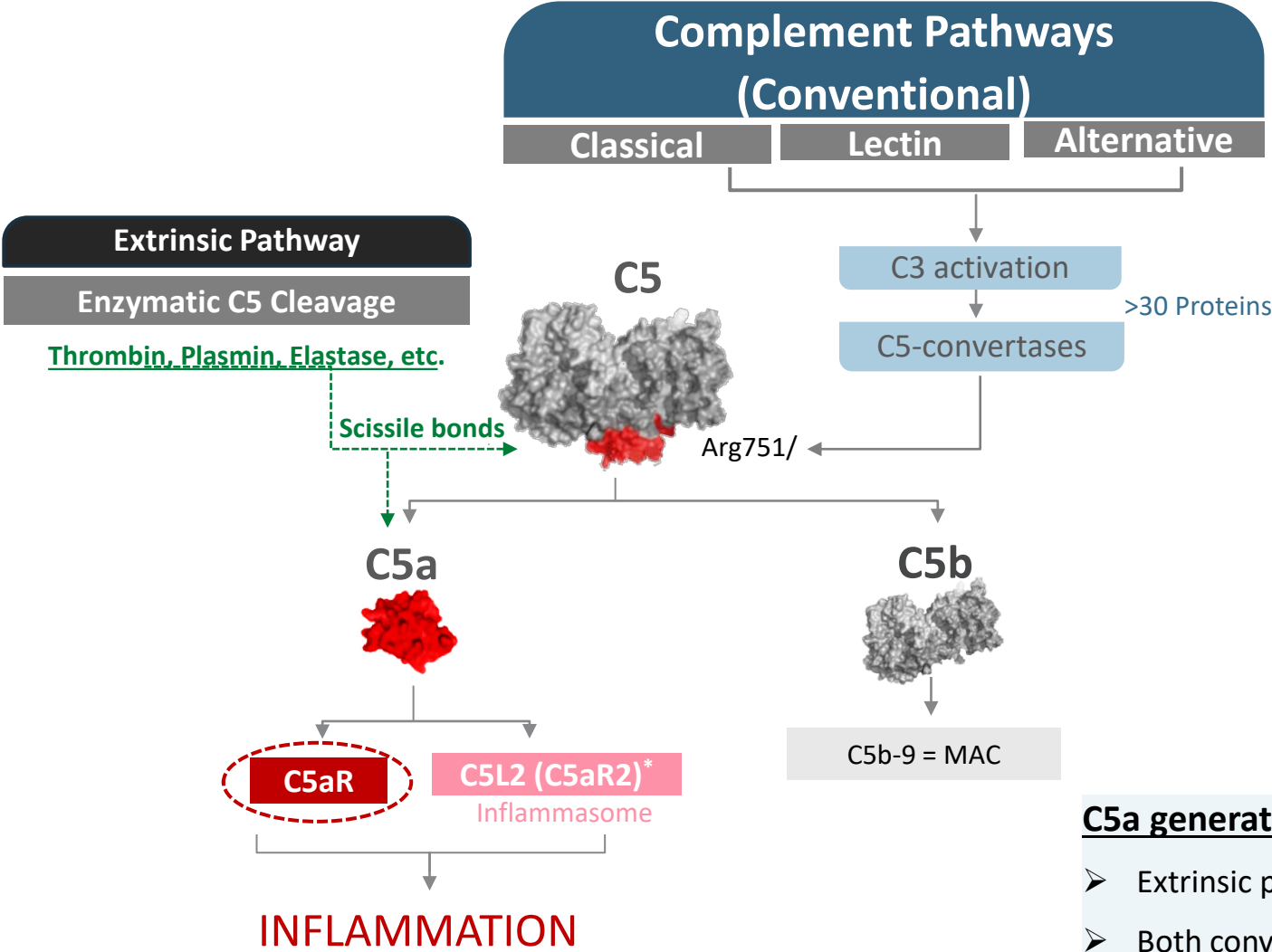
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## TOPICS COVERED IN THIS PRESENTATION:

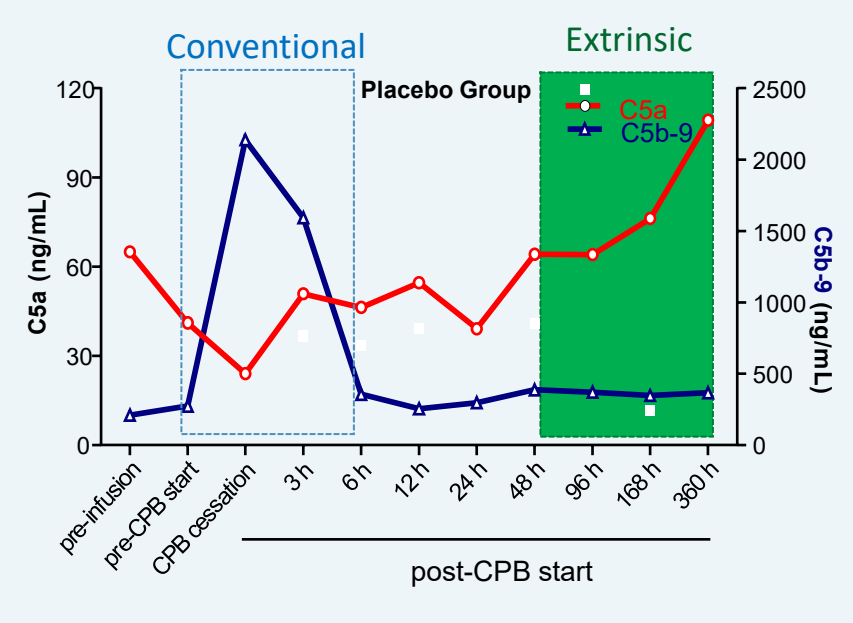
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# Complement Activation Pathways: Extrinsic Pathway as a Source of C5a



## Cardiac Surgery under Cardiopulmonary Bypass

Com. Activation Profile in Placebo Patients (n=25)\*\*



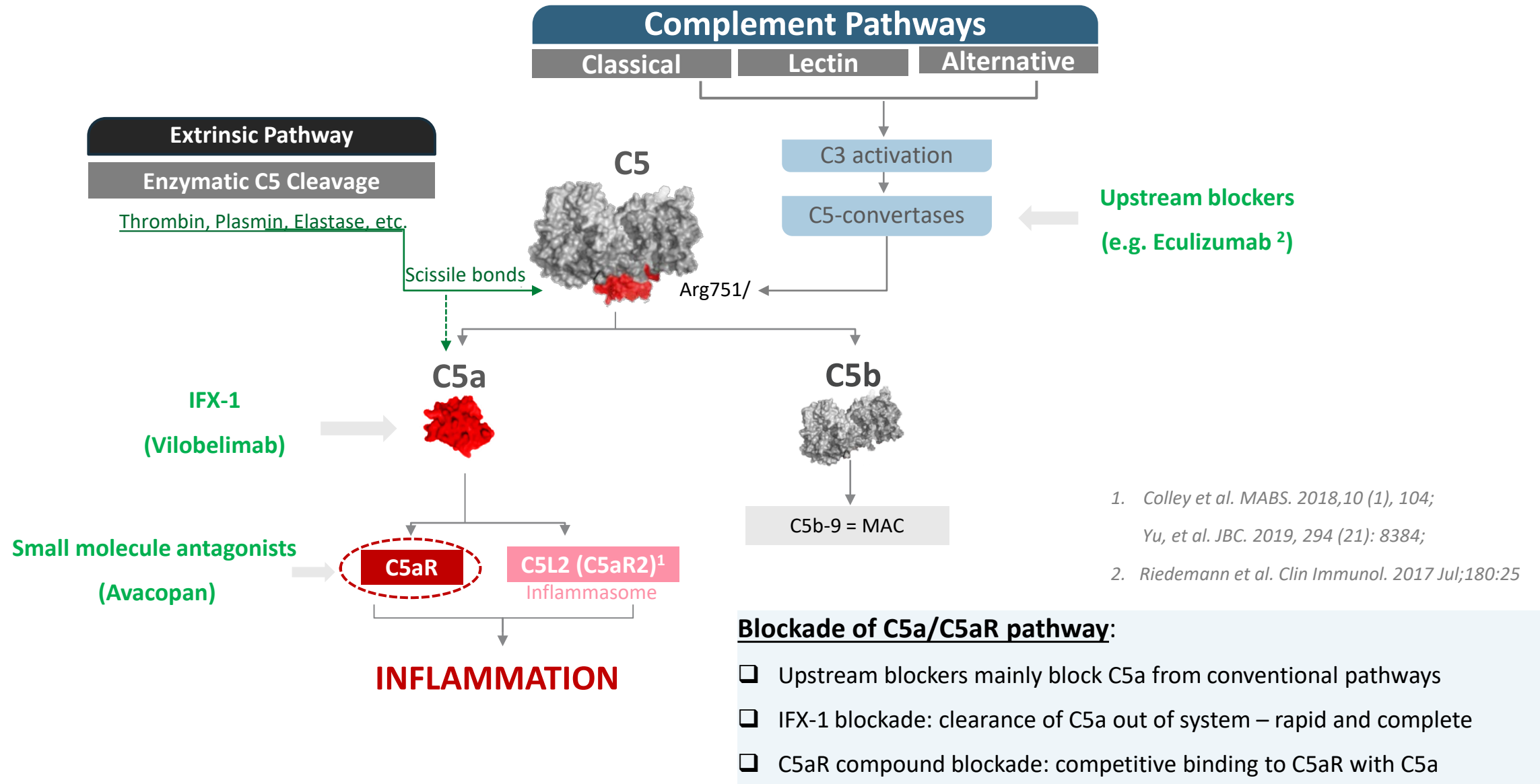
### C5a generation:

- Extrinsic pathway occurs in disease condition
- Both conventional and extrinsic pathways could be the source of C5a

\*Colley et al. MABS. 2018,10 (1), 104; Yu, et al. JBC. 2019, 294 (21): 8384

\*\* Guo R et al. Poster; 27<sup>th</sup> ICS International Complement Society 2018 Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

# Complement Activation Pathways: Approaches to Block C5a Biological Effect







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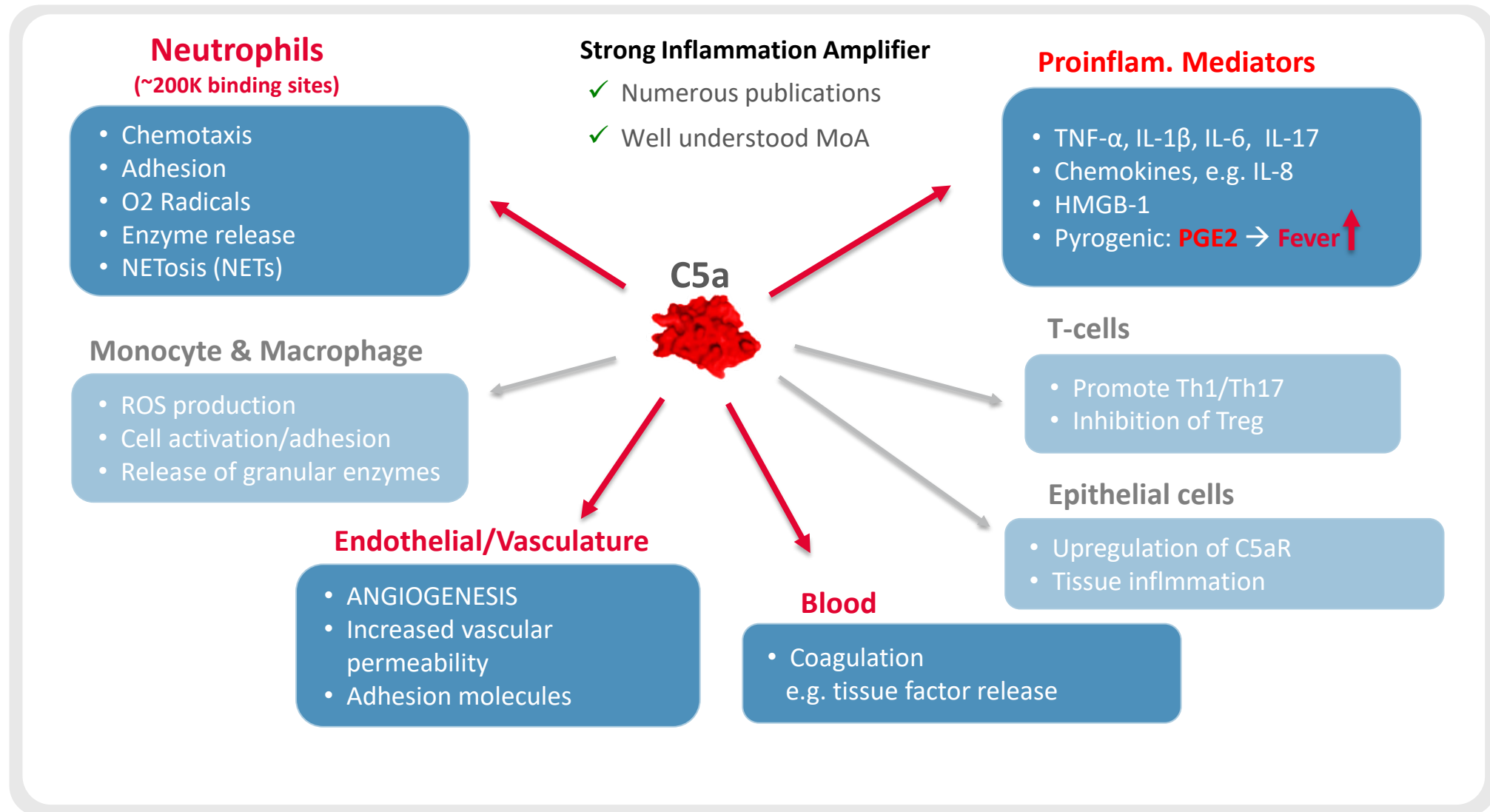
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# Biological Activity of C5a: Booster of Inflammation

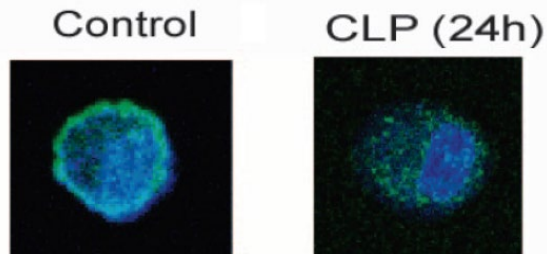
> 5000 publications since the 1960<sup>th</sup>





# Partial Preclinical Research Summary (1999-2019): C5a/C5aR Axis in Bacterial and Viral Sepsis

## Bacterial Sepsis: Role of C5a/C5aR interaction (*Rodent Sepsis Models, 1999-2007 at U of Michigan Ward Lab*):



Guo RF et al, J Immunol. 2006; 177

- ❑ C5aR internalizes in neutrophil – contribute to disease severity (*Guo et al, J Immunol. 2006; 177*)
- ❑ **Neutrophil dysfunction:** start with a hyperactive phase then to an immunosuppressive state (*Riedemann et al, Immunity, 2003; 19; Huber-lang et al, J Immunol, 2002; 169*)
- ❑ Prolonged lifespan of neutrophil due to delayed apoptosis (*Guo et al, JLB, 2006; 80*)
- ❑ Increased  $\beta 2$  and  $\beta 1$  integrins on neutrophil, increasing **pathogenicity** (*Guo et al, J Immunol. 2002; 169*)

- ❑ Contributes to thymocyte apoptosis via an indirect mechanism, leading to **lymphopenia** (*Guo et al, J Clin Invest. 2000; 106*)
- ❑ Excessive C5a Enhances **Coagulopathy** through tissue factor releases (*Laudes et al, A.J. Pathol, 2002; 160*)
- ❑ Blockade of C5a/C5aR signaling improves sepsis survival (*Riedemann et al, J Clin Invest. 2002; 110*)

## C5a/C5aR pathway is critical in viral sepsis development (*Monkey and Mouse Models, 2013-2018; Res. Collaboration*):

- ❑ In a monkey model of **H7N9-induced viral pneumonia**, IFX-1 markedly improved lung injury and reduced viral load (*Sun et al, CID, 2015*)
- ❑ In a mouse model of **MERS-CoV-induced viral pneumonia**, anti-C5aR mAb remarkably improved lung pathology and reduced viral titer. (*Jiang et al., Emerging Microbes & Infections, 2018*)

C5a/C5aR blockade attenuates lung injury by reducing inflammatory cell infiltration & promotes virus CL by **preserving innate immunity**

## Conclusion: C5a-induced neutrophil activation is a major pathogenic event in both bacterial and viral Sepsis



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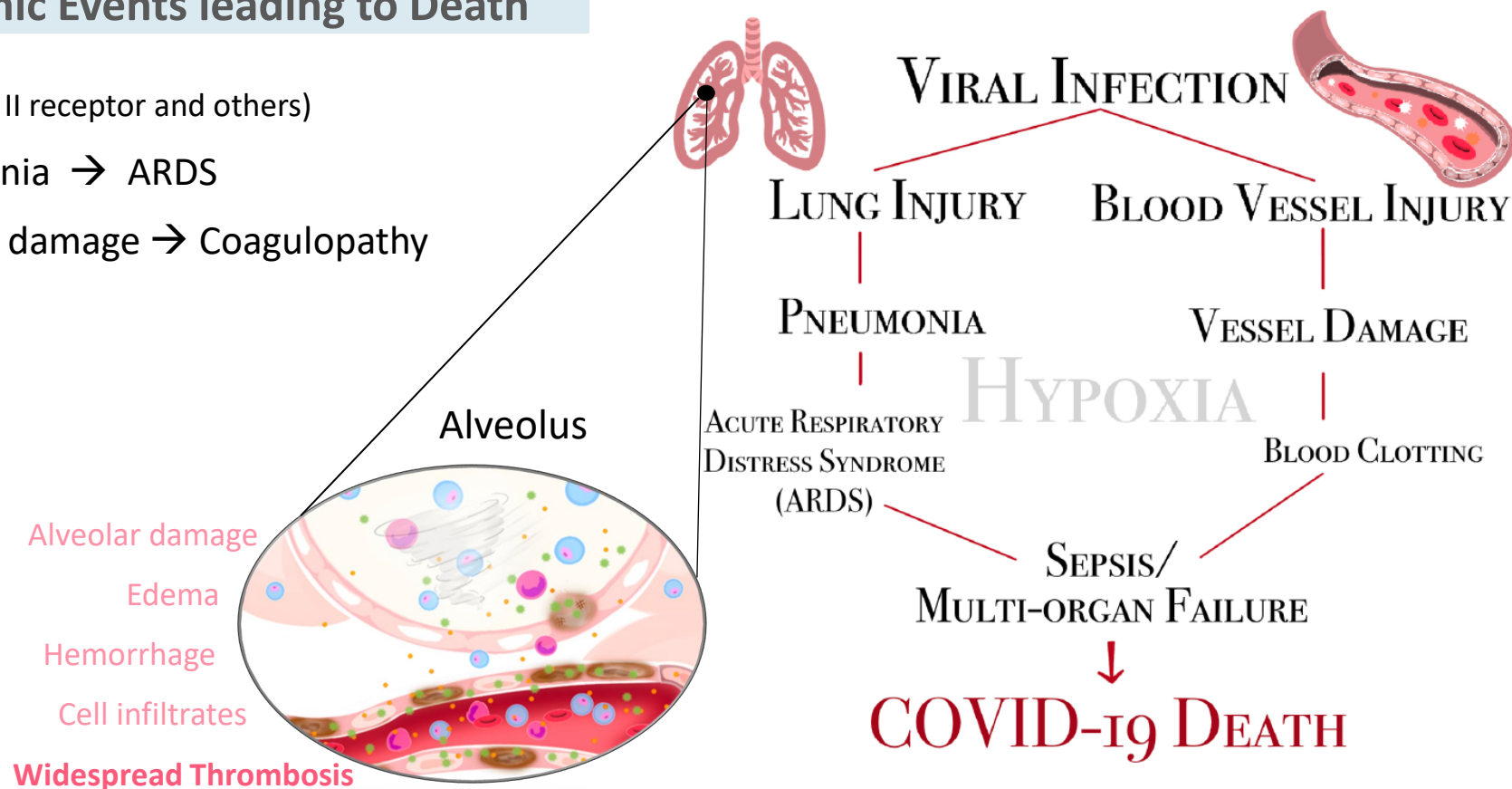
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# COVID-19 Pathogenesis: Overview

## COVID-19: Critical Pathogenic Events leading to Death

- SARS-COV2 infection (via. ACE II receptor and others)
- Epithelial injury → Pneumonia → ARDS
- Endothelial injury → Vessel damage → Coagulopathy
- Hypoxia
- Viral Sepsis
- Multiorgan Failure
- Death



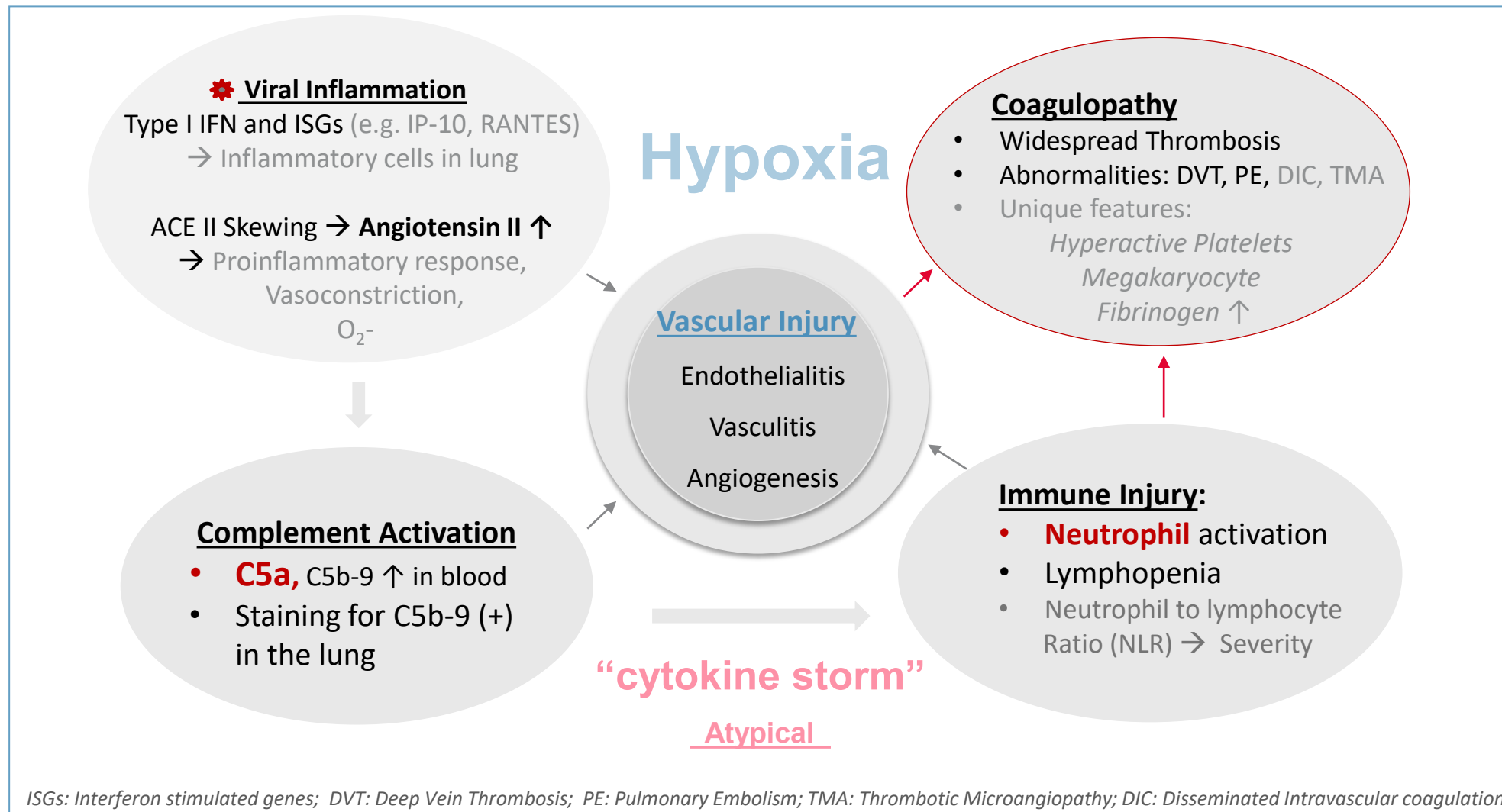
Almost all the COVID-19 deaths present with sepsis (100%), respiratory failure (98%) & ARDS (93%). Zou et al., Lancet 2020 28; 395

*Sepsis is a life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by a **dysregulated host response** to infection (WHO definition)*



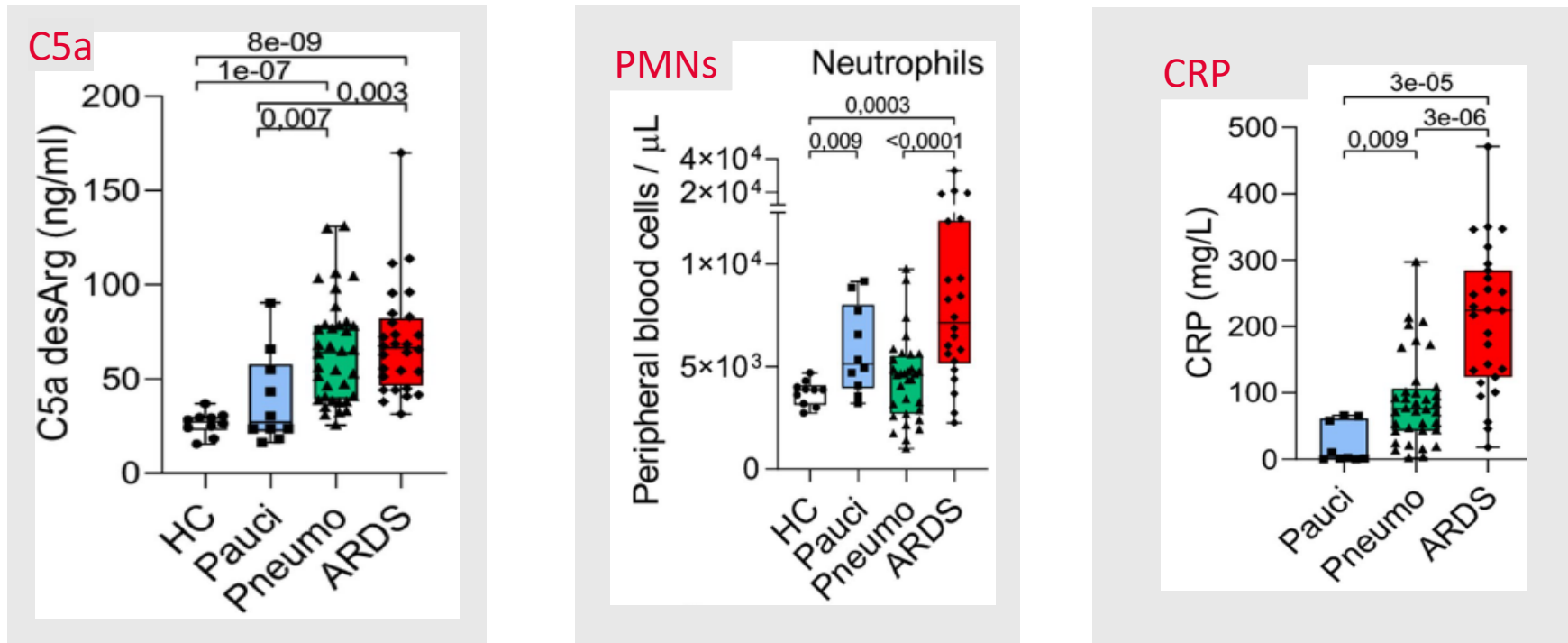
# COVID-19 Pathogenesis : Interplay of Viral Inflammation and Host Response

## Host Responses: Complement and Coagulation are highly dysregulated in COVID-19



# COVID-19 Pathogenesis: Potential Role of C5a

## Complement Activation in COVID-19: C5a Level Predicts Disease Severity

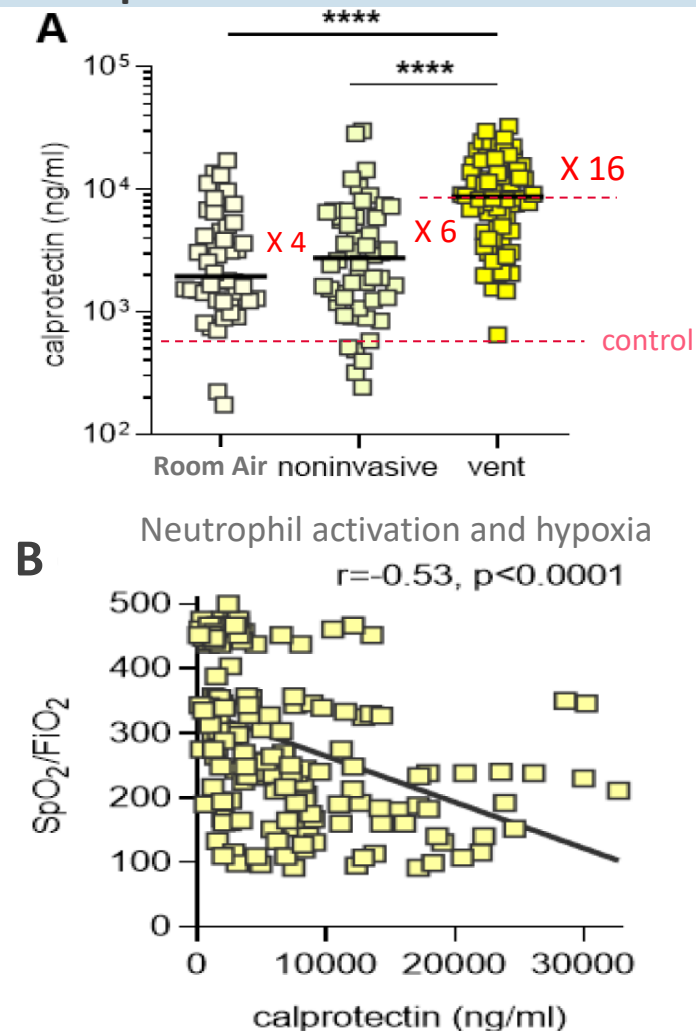


Carvelli et al, Nature, July 2020: doi: 10.1038/s41586-020-2600-6

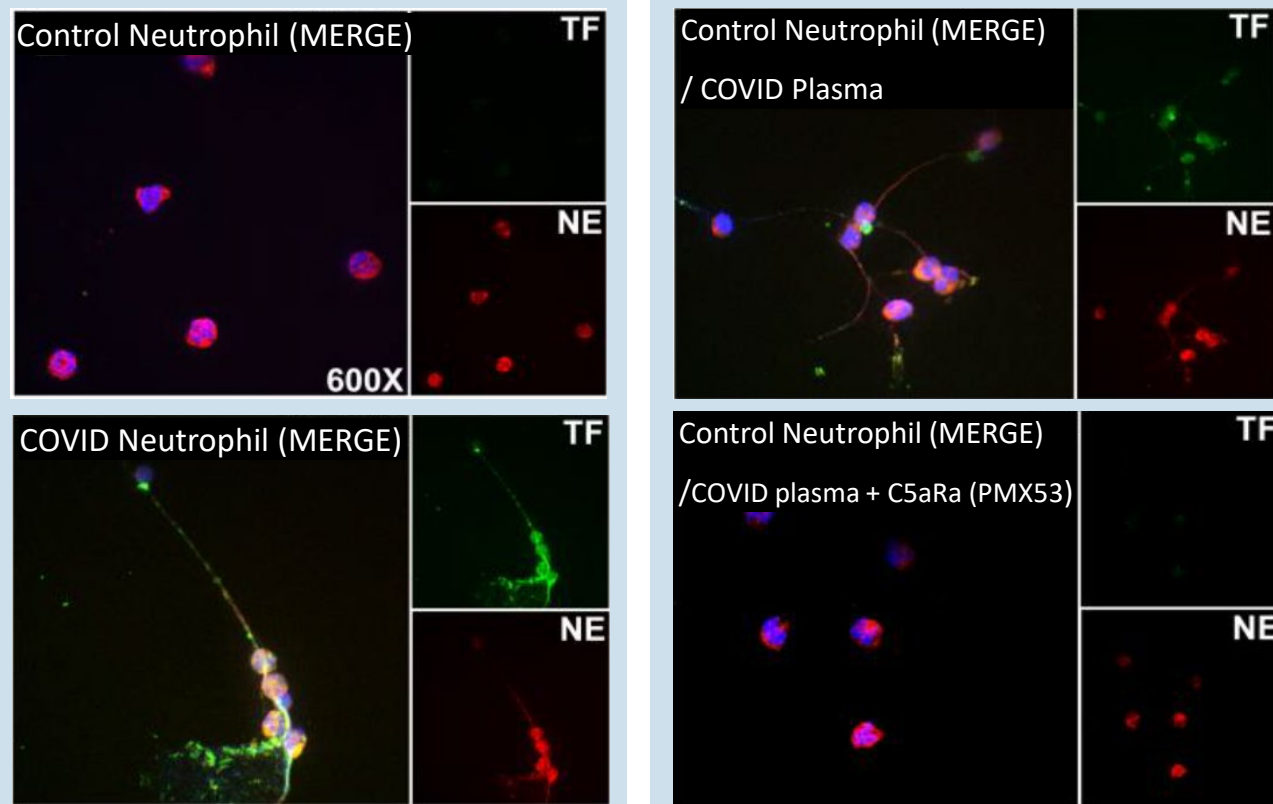
- C5a levels were positively correlated with disease severity (*C5a was measured by BD ELISA*)
- Positive correlations among C5a, neutrophils, and CRP (inflammation) – Causal Role of C5a/Neutrophils in COVID-19

# COVID-19 Pathogenesis: Potential Role of C5a and Neutrophil

## Neutrophil Activation In COVID-19



## Neutrophil tissue factor (TF) generation and NETosis in COVID-19 are C5a-dependent processes



- In COVID-19, Neutrophil is highly activated, and its activation correlates with hypoxia
- Excessive C5a in COVID-19 patients leads to **tissue factor generation** and **Netosis**.

**Conclusion: C5a-activated neutrophil is a major pathogenic cell in COVID-19**





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# IFX-1 Phase II/III Study in COVID-19 Pneumonia – Phase II Part



## PHASE II PART DESIGN (EXPLORATORY)

- Adaptive, **open-label**, **randomized**, multicenter trial in EU
- IFX-1 + Best Supportive Care (BSC) vs. BSC alone
- 30 patients (15 IFX-1 vs. 15 BSC alone)
- **Primary endpoint:** Relative change (%) from baseline in Oxygenation Index (PaO<sub>2</sub> / FiO<sub>2</sub>) to day 5
- **Key secondary endpoints:**
  - 28-day all-cause mortality rate
  - Frequency, severity, and relatedness to study drug of treatment-emergent adverse events (AEs) and serious adverse events (SAEs)



## STUDY RESULTS

- **Baseline characteristics:** Comparable
  - Comorbidities ( $\geq 2$ ): 4 in IFX-1 group, and 1 in BSC;
  - 10/15 on mechanical ventilator for each group at day 1
  - Deaths occurred only to the patients on mechanical ventilator

### All-cause 28-day mortality analysis

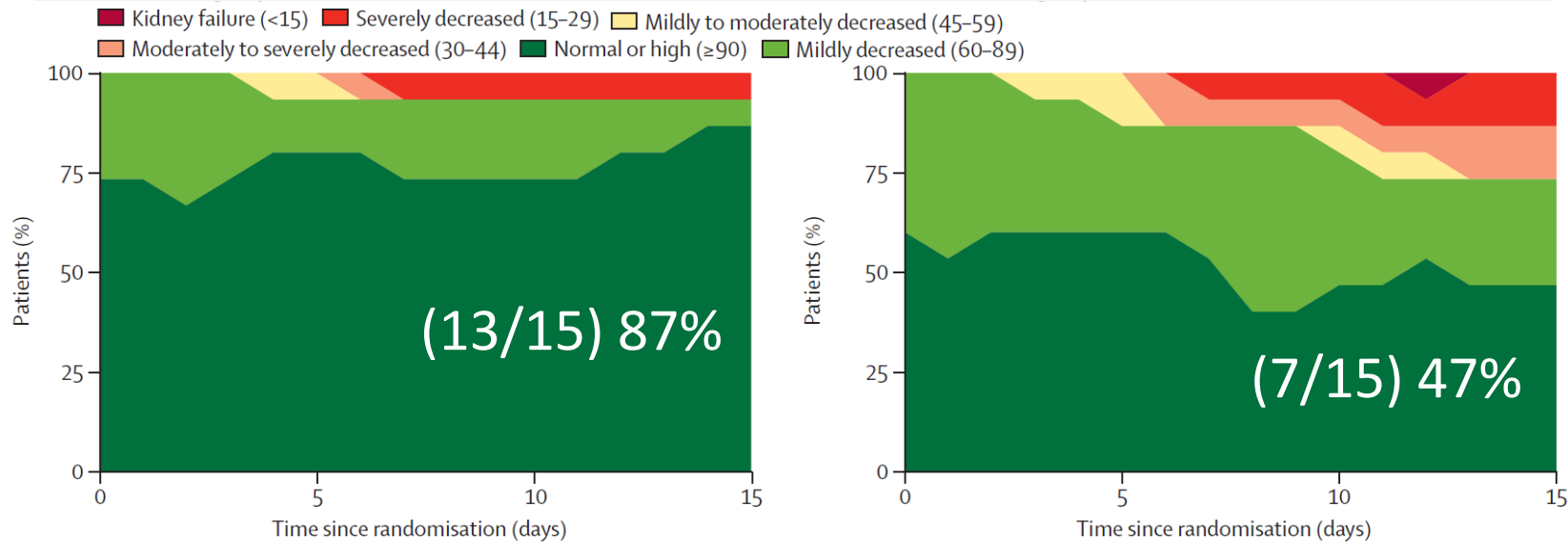
| IFX-1 Treated                  | BSC Control                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>n= 15 (10 vent @day1)</u>   | <u>n=15 (10 vent @day1)</u>  |
| <b>2 deaths (20% Vent.)</b>    | <b>4 deaths (40% Vent.)</b>  |
| No severe PE                   | 3 severe PEs                 |
| 1 severe COPD (Excl. Criteria) | All COVID-19 death           |
| 1 ventilator tube issue        | with respiratory failure     |
| <b>2 PEs reported as SAE</b>   | <b>6 PEs reported as SAE</b> |

PE: Pulmonary Embolism; COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Vlaar, A et al. *Lancet Rheumatol* 2020. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2665-9913\(20\)30341-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2665-9913(20)30341-6)

# IFX-1 Phase II Study Results in COVID-19 – Tissue Injury & Organ Damage

## Kidney Function (eGFR): IFX-1 $P=0.05$ @Day 15 Control Group (BSC)



### Summary:

#### ☐ Kidney Function (15-D Shift Plots):

BSC Control: At day 15, there were 4 patients with renal impairment; 7 of 15 patients showed normal eGFR values.

IFX-1 group: only 1 patient with renal impairment; 13 of 15 patients showed normal eGFR values;  $P=0.05$ .

#### ☐ Tissue injury Marker LDH:

LDH/change curve showed a steady decline in IFX-1 group. ( $P=0.07$  @d15)

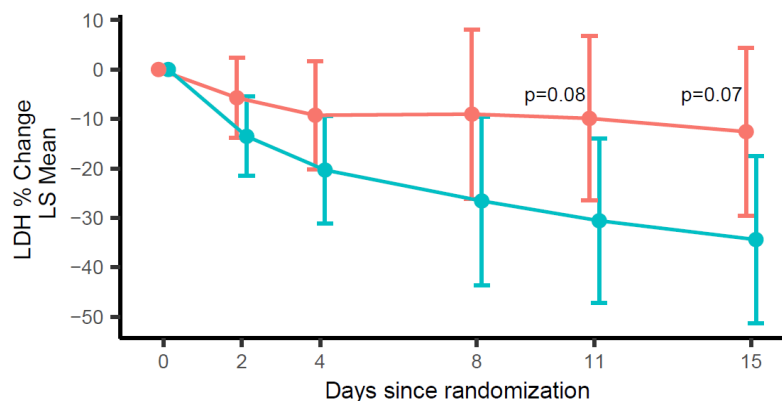
#### ☐ Oxygenation Index (OI):

No statistically significant differences in chosen primary endpoint of  $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$  ratio, likely due to the facts that:

*OI measurements were dependent on patient positioning, in supine or in prone, leading to high variability*

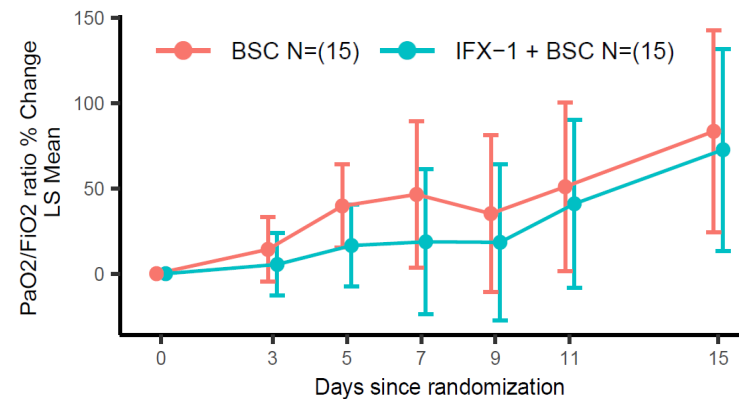
## Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH)

LS Mean Plot LDH



## Oxygenation Index

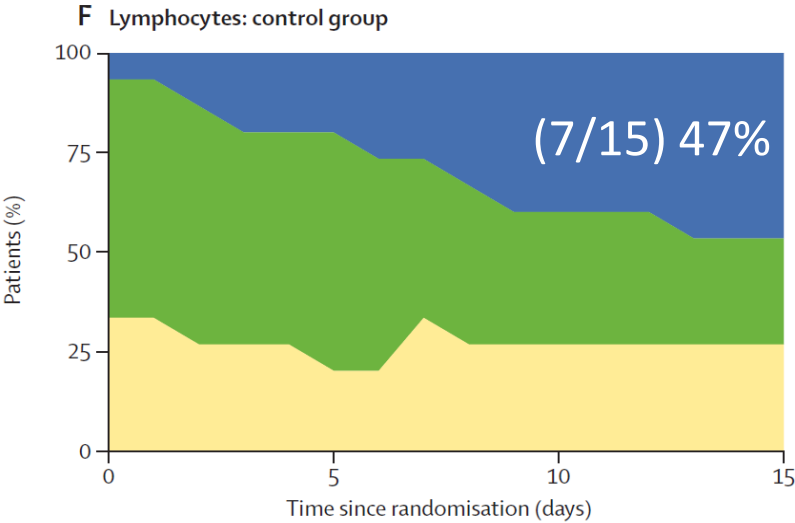
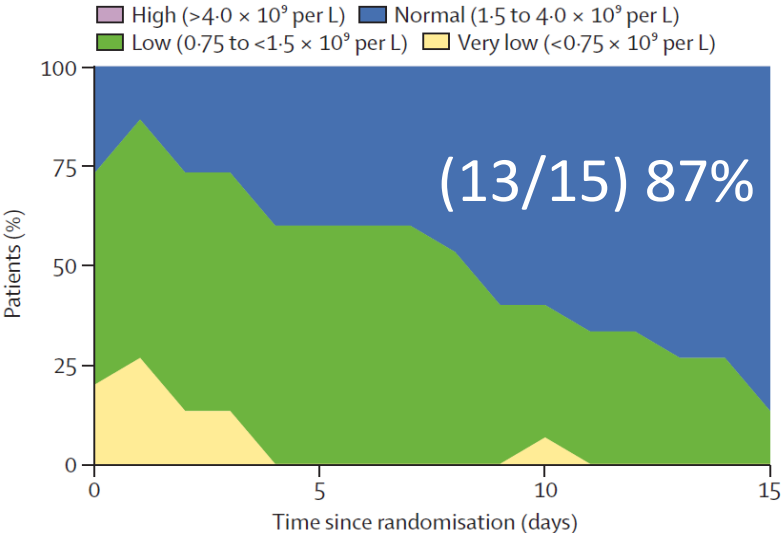
Plot  $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$  ratio





# IFX-1 Phase II Study in COVID-19 : Lymphopenia and Fibrinolysis

## Lymphocyte Counts: IFX-1 P=0.05 @Day 15 Control Group (BSC)



## Data Summary

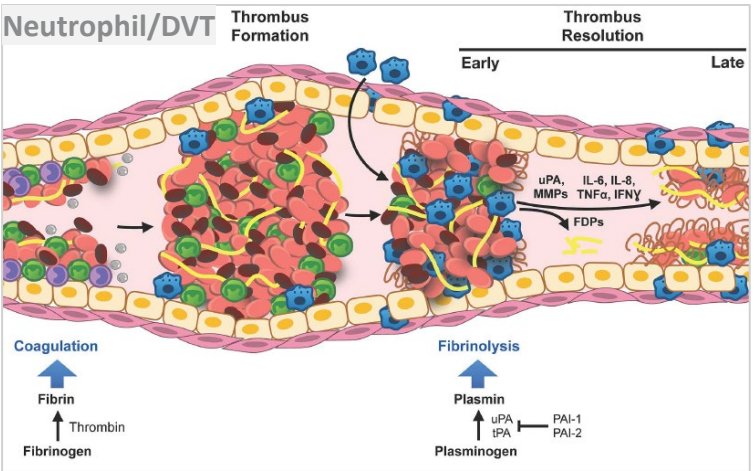
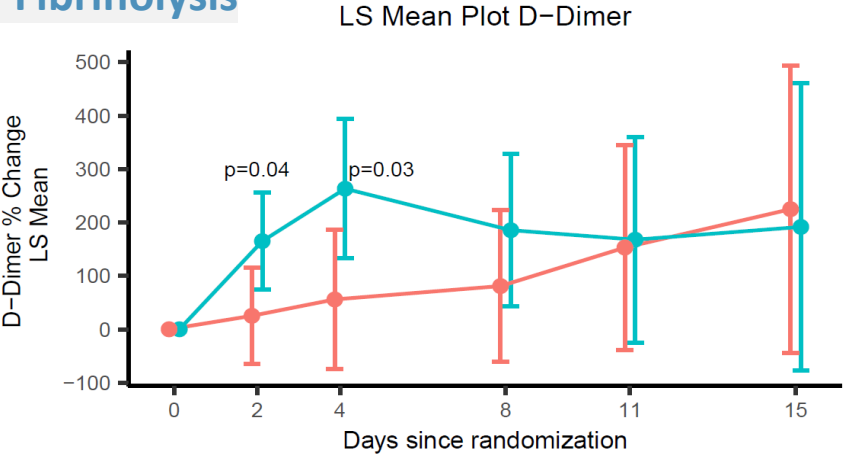
### Lymphopenia (15-D Shift Plots):

At day 15, in treatment group, 13 out of 15 showed the normal lymphocyte counts; in the control group, only 7 out of 15 showed the normal counts;  $P=0.05$

### Fibrinolysis (D-Dimer):

D-dimer, as a fibrin lysis product, reflects hyper-coagulable state **AND** hyper-fibrinolytic state. After IFX-1 treatment, D-dimer showed transient increases at day 2 and 4 ( $P<0.05$ ) vs. control – suggesting high levels of clot lysis

## Fibrinolysis



\*Mukhopadhyay et al. *Frontiers in Immunol*, 2019 June

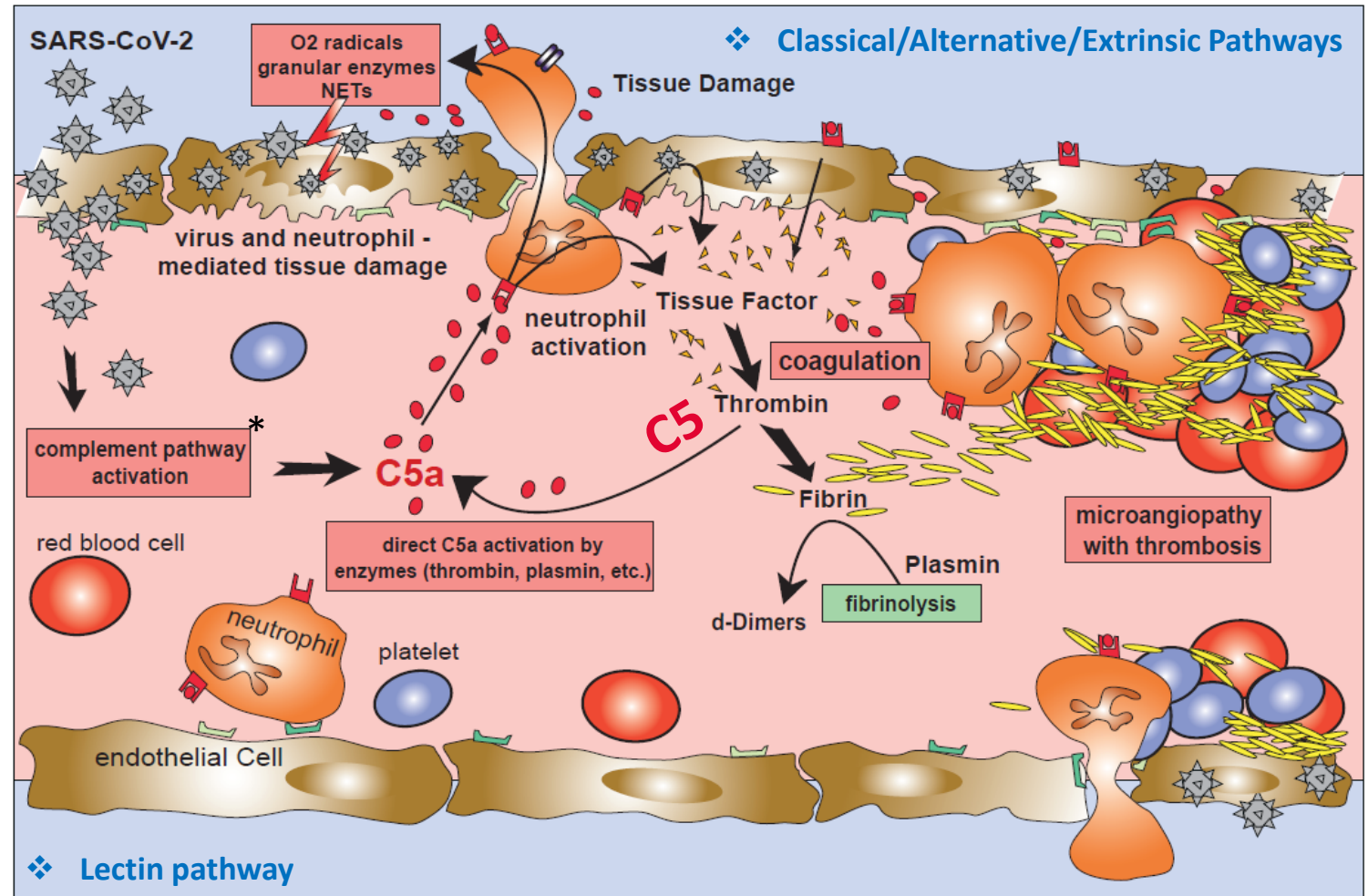
### Innate Immune Cells in DVT\*:

Thrombus infiltrating neutrophils and macrophages mobilize plasmin and matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs), promoting **fibrinolysis**

# Potential Role of C5a in COVID-19 – *Proposed MOA of IFX-1*

## Potential Role of C5a in COVID-19:

- SARS-CoV-2 infection activates the complement system leading to C5a generation via lectin pathway; Other pathways follow.
- C5a activates neutrophils leading to endothelial injury through generation of O<sub>2</sub> radicals, granular enzyme releases and NETs.
- C5a induces tissue factor release from neutrophils and endothelial cells, promoting coagulation.
- Thrombin, plasmin and other enzymes can further generate C5a through direct cleavage of C5, establishing a viscous cycle of “C5a-neutrophil-endothelial injury-thrombosis-C5a”.



## IFX-1 MOA - Immune Correction:

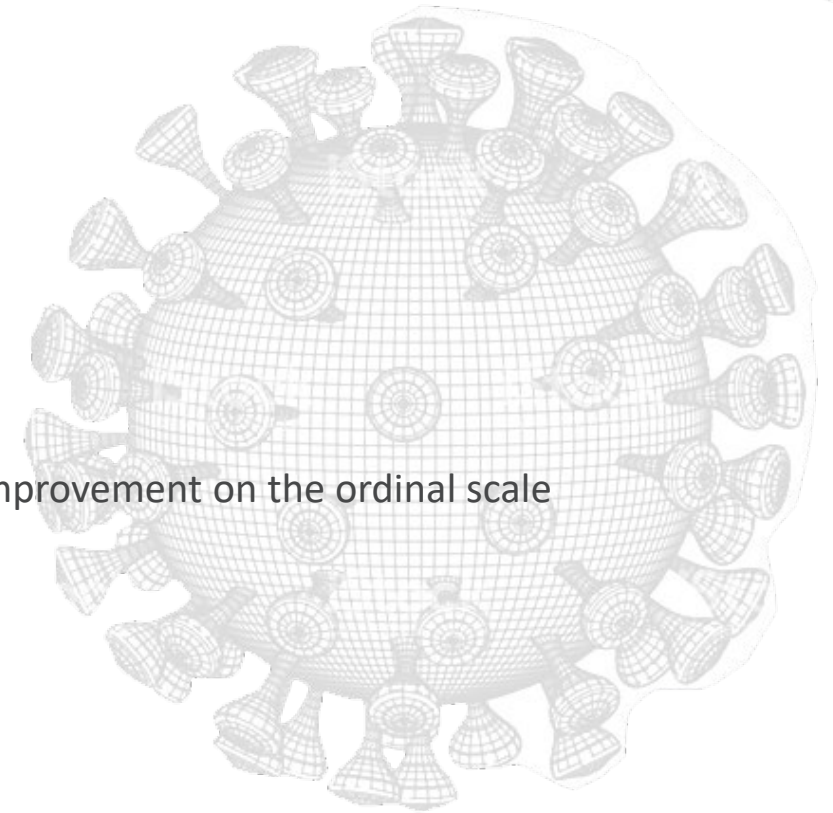
- ✓ Attenuate SARS-COV2 induced tissue damage (e.g. LDH, Kidney function)
- ✓ Mitigate the risk of coagulopathy, and facilitates fibrinolysis (e.g. D-dimer)
- ✓ Expediate the restoration of innate and adaptive immunity (e.g. D-dimer, lymphocyte counts)

# Phase III Part Initiated in COVID-19 Pneumonia

## MOVING INTO PHASE III FOLLOWING ENCOURAGING TOPLINE RESULTS FROM PHASE II

### STUDY DESIGN

- Double-blinded, randomized, placebo-controlled trial
  - Adequately powered for statistical analyses
- ~360 early intubated, critically ill patients with COVID-19 induced pneumonia
- Interim analysis currently planned after enrollment of 180 patients
  - Potential for an early stop for efficacy or futility
- Primary endpoint: 28-day all-cause mortality
- Other key endpoints include assessments of organ support, assessment of disease improvement on the ordinal scale
- First site initiated for enrollment in the Netherlands
  - Regulatory approval has been granted to start the trial in Germany
  - Additional sites to be added in the US, Europe and other regions







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