



Bacteria and pain

--- The Direct Regulatory Effect of Bacteria on Nociception

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Core Paper

• Chiu IM, Heesters BA, Gr

ARTICLE

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Bacteria activate sensory neurons that modulate pain and inflammation

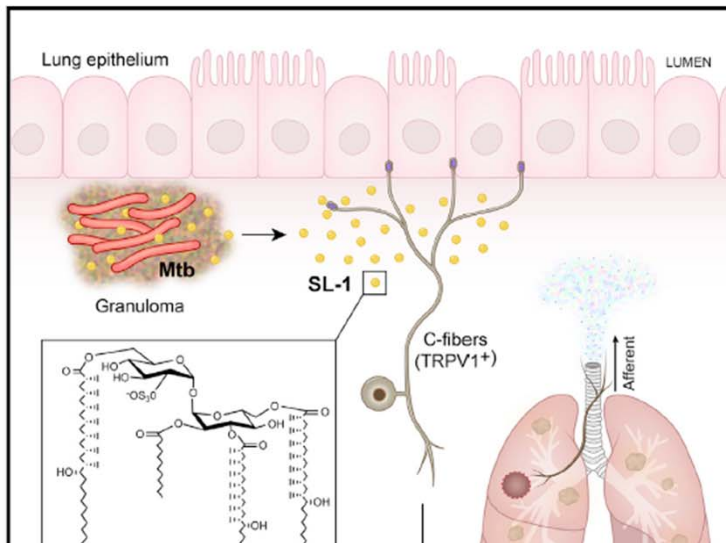
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Article

Cell

Mycobacterium tuberculosis Sulfolipid-1 Activates Nociceptive Neurons and Induces Cough

Graphical Abstract



Author

Cody F
Haaris
Theodor

Correction
Michael

In Brief
Mycobacterial
glycolipid
triggers
neuron

Mycobacterial Toxin Induces Analgesia in Buruli Ulcer by Targeting the Angiotensin Pathways

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zed to detect potentially damaging stimuli, protecting the organism by initiating fensive behaviours. Bacterial infections produce pain by unknown molecular ned to be secondary to immune activation. Here we demonstrate that bacteria the immune response mediated through TLR2, MyD88, T cells, B cells, and scary for *Staphylococcus aureus*-induced pain in mice. Mechanical and thermal

Cell

Presentation Outline

01 ● Pain in bacterial infection

03 ● Clinical significance

02 ● Bacteria directly modulate pain

04 ● Conclusion

- *Staphylococcus aureus*
- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- *Mycobacterium ulcerans*



Part 01

Pain in bacterial infection

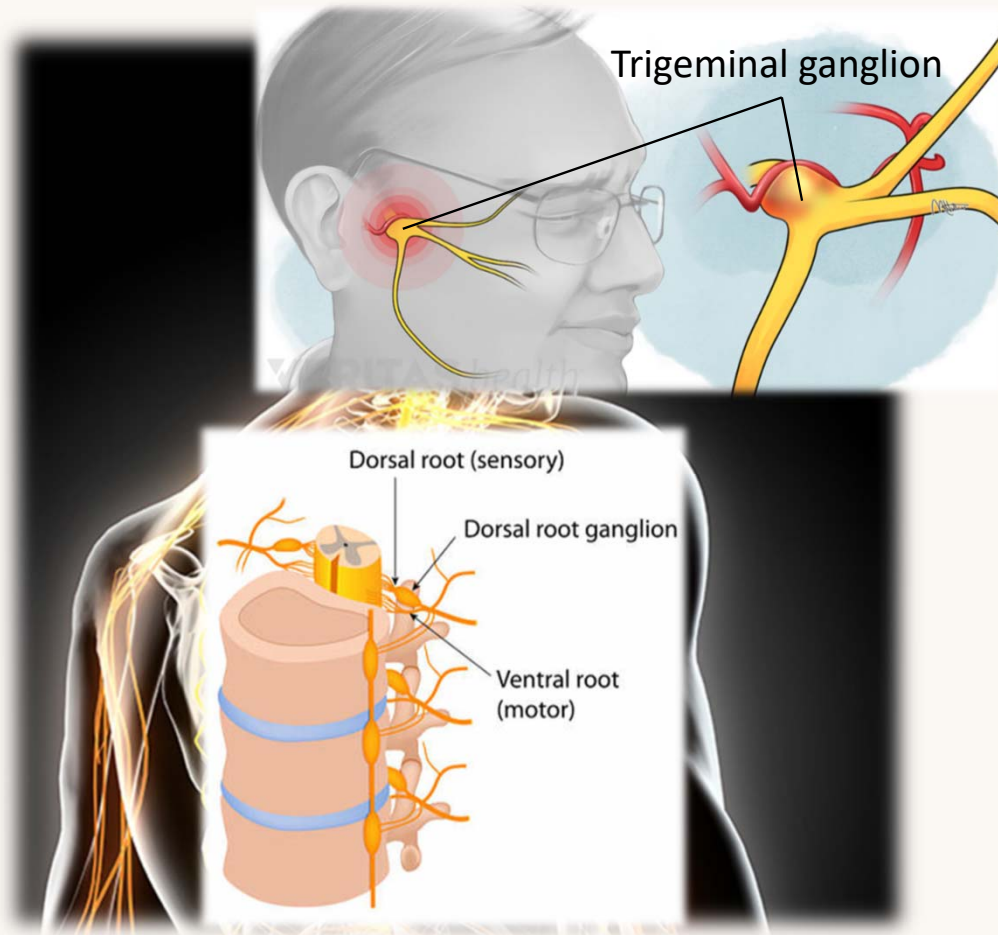
Nociception: The occurrence of pain

- Bacterial infection is often painful.
- Pain is a defense mechanism against threats.
- Intense temperature, mechanical & chemical stimuli activate **nociceptor**



(Deng and Chiu. *PLoS Pathog.* 2021., Basbaum and Jessell. *Principles of Neural Science.* 2000)

Nociceptor

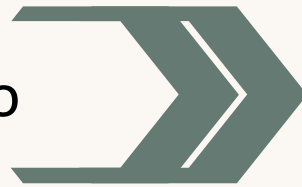


- Subpopulation of peripheral nerve fibers
- Location of the cell body:
 - Dorsal root ganglia for the body (DRG)
 - Trigeminal ganglion for the face
- Nociceptors are excited only when stimulus intensities reach the noxious range

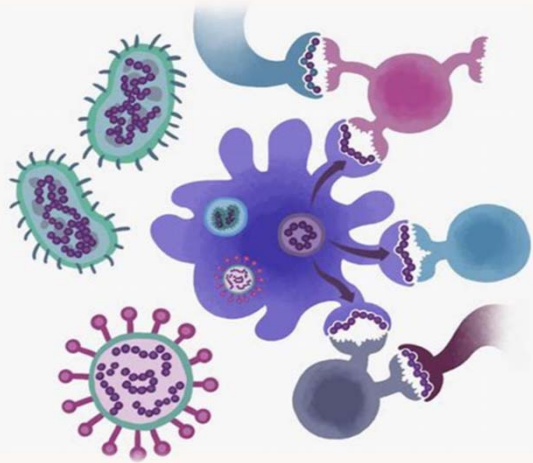
(Basbaum and Jessell. *Principles of Neural Science*. 2000., Chiu et al. *Nature*. 2013)

Bacteria modulate pain

Bacterial infections produce pain secondary to immune activation



Bacteria modulate pain through directly activating nociceptors



Staphylococcus aureus

Mycobacterium tuberculosis

Mycobacterium ulcerans

(Deng and Chiu. *PLoS Pathog.* 2021., Chiu et al. *Nature.* 2013)



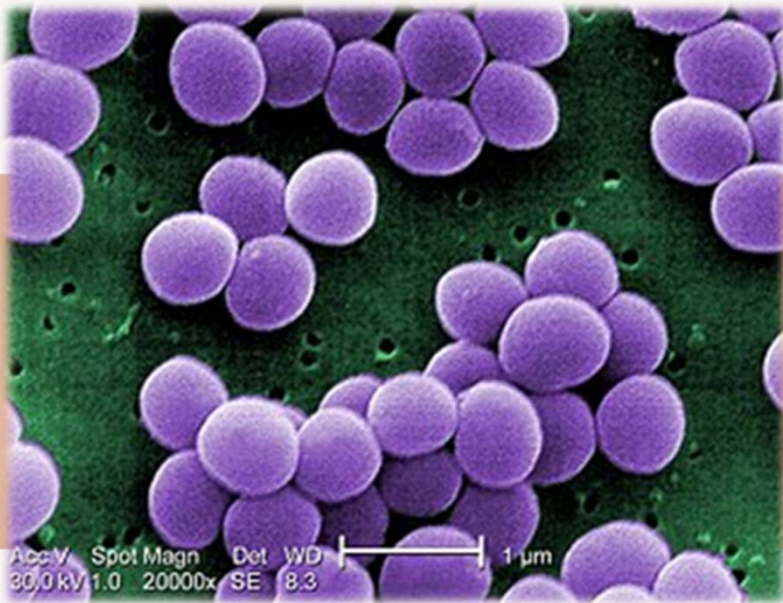
Part 02

Bacteria directly modulate pain

- *Staphylococcus aureus*
- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- *Mycobacterium ulcerans*

01

Staphylococcus aureus

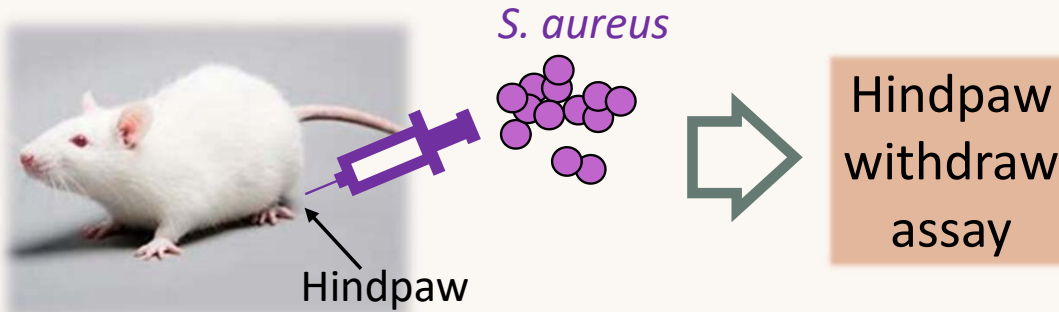


A major cause of wound and surgical infections

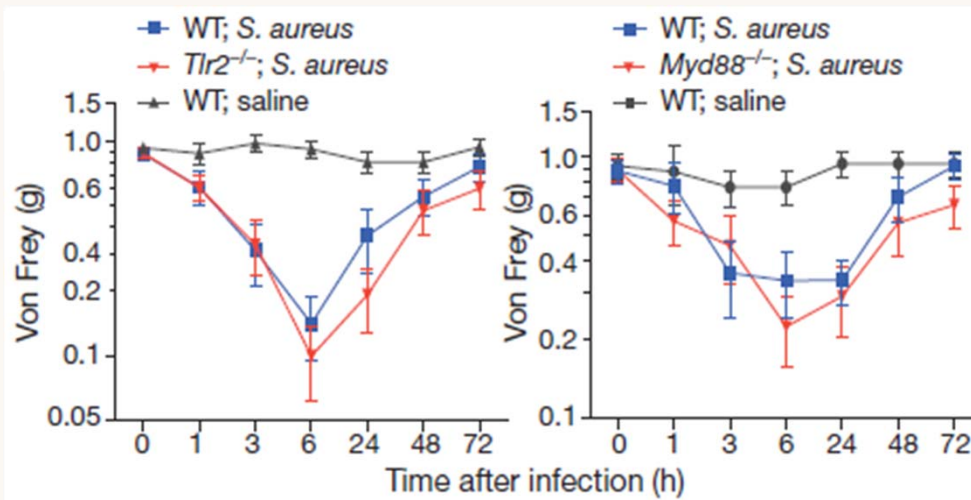
- Painful abscesses, cellulitis and necrotizing fasciitis.
- Releases toxins to cause bacterial dissemination and tissue damage

S. aureus produce pain independently from host defense

WT or *Tlr2*^{-/-} or *Myd88*^{-/-} mice



➤ Reduced mechanical stimuli threshold for both WT and immune deficiency mice

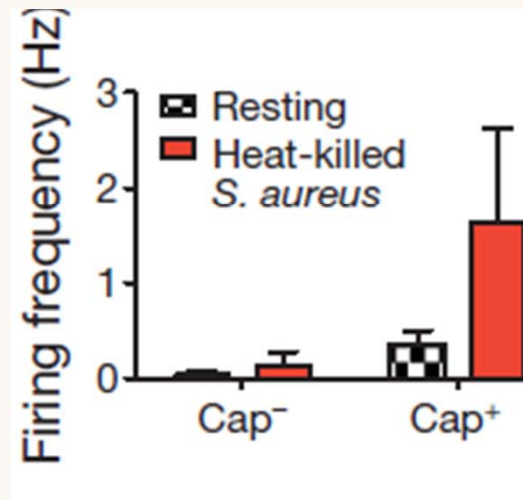
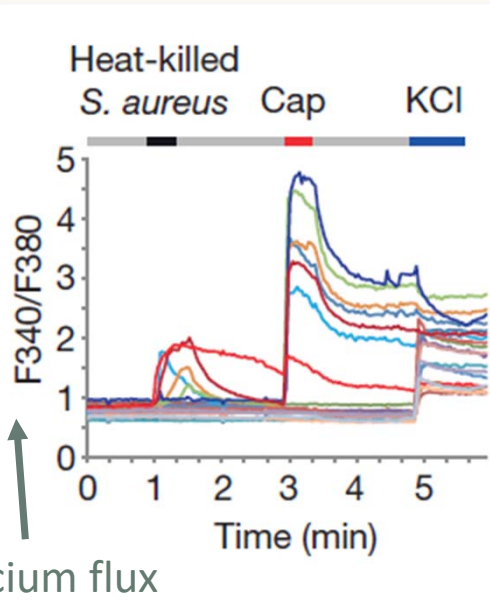


S. aureus produce pain directly through activating sensory neurons, distinct from immune response mechanisms

(Chiu et al. *Nature*. 2013)

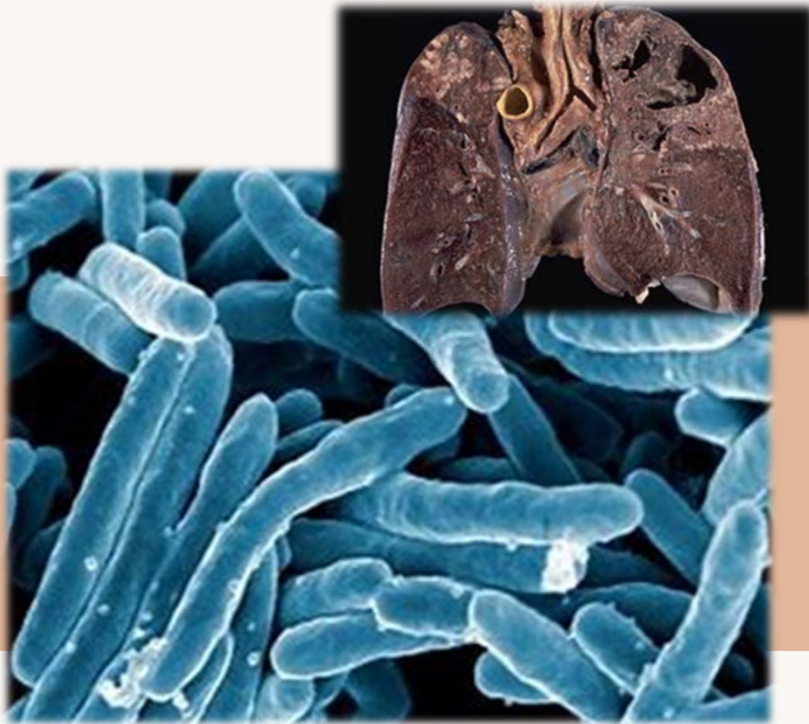
S. aureus components activate nociceptors

- Heat-killed *S. aureus* induced a calcium flux response and action potential firing in capsaicin-responsive DRG neurons



Heat-stable molecular elements from *S. aureus* activates nociceptors and leads to pain

Mycobacterium. tuberculosis (Mtb)



Pulmonary tuberculosis

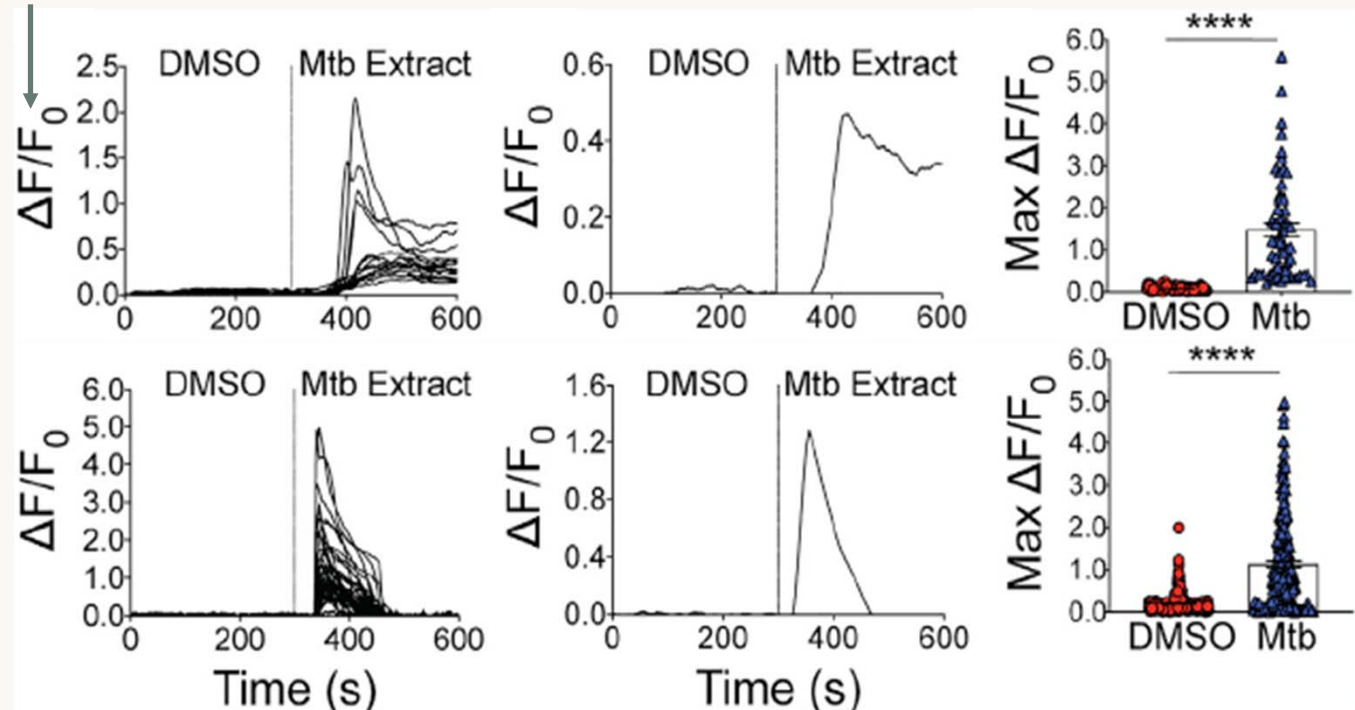
- Persistent cough and have high transmission ability
- The cough reflex can be triggered by nociceptive neurons innervating the lungs

Mtb Extract activates Nociceptive Neurons

Intracellular
[Ca²⁺]

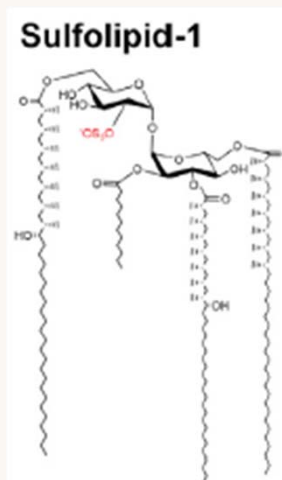
Primary mice
DRG neurons

Primary human
DRG neurons



Virulent *Mtb* component activates nociceptive neurons

Compound	Triggers I increased [Ca ²⁺]
DMSO	-
Capsaicin	+
<i>M. canettii</i> total lipids	+
H37Rv total lipids (normoxic)	+
H37Rv total lipids (hypoxic)	+
CDC1551 cell membrane extract	-
HN878 cell membrane extract	-
H37Rv cell membrane extract	-
CDC1551 cytosol fraction	-
H37Rv cytosol fraction	-
H37Rv soluble cell wall proteins	-
H37Rv TX-114 soluble proteins	-
H37Rv purified lipoarabinomannan (LAM)	-
CDC1551 culture filtrate proteins	-
HN878 culture filtrate proteins	-
Sulfolipid-1	+
Trehalose monomycolate	-
Trehalose dimycolate	-
C24:1 mono-sulfo-galactosyl(β) ceramide (d18:1/24:1)	-
Galactocerebroside	-
H37Rv phosphatidylinositol mannosides 1 & 2 (PIM _{1,2})	-
H37Rv phthiocerol dimycocerosate (PDIM)	-

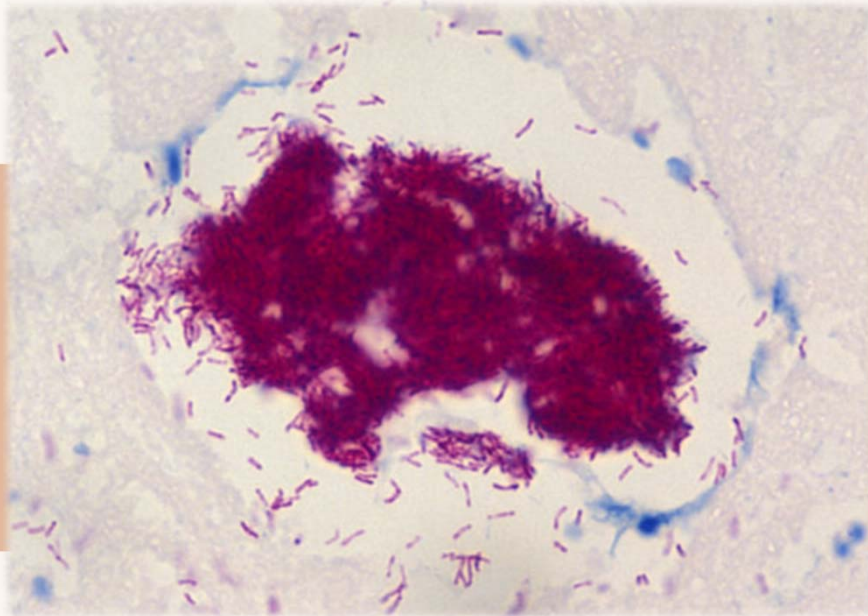


Molecular structure of SL-1

- SL-1 is the most abundant sulfated glycolipid located in the outer membrane and cell wall of mycobacteria
- Unique to pathogenic mycobacteria

Unique component in *Mtb* extraction directly leads to nociception

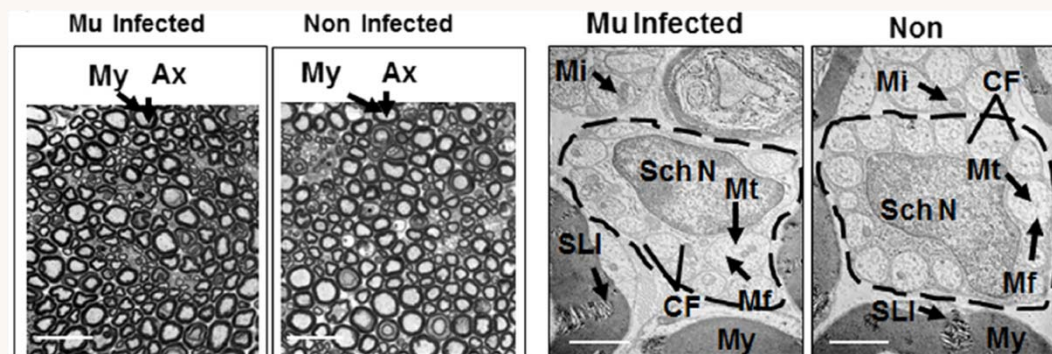
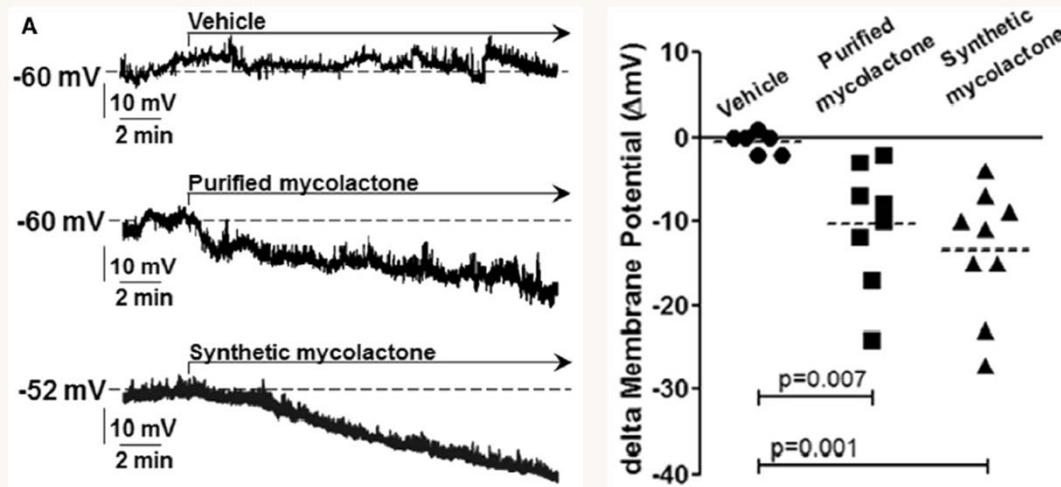
Mycobacterium ulcerans (*M. ulcerans*)



The pathogenic agent of
Buruli ulcer

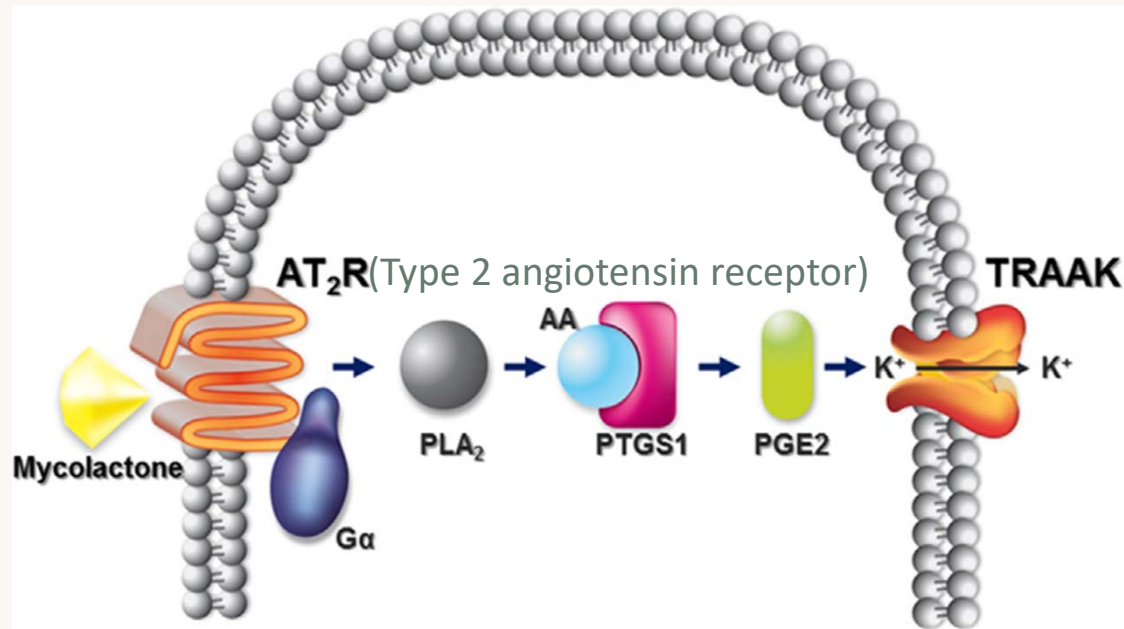
- Cause extensive skin lesions **NOT** accompanied by pain
- Previously thought:
Direct nerve cell destruction

Mycobacterial toxin directly induces analgesia



- Mycolactone induce hyperpolarization
- No signs of nerve degeneration after infection

Mycolactone elicits signaling through AT2Rs



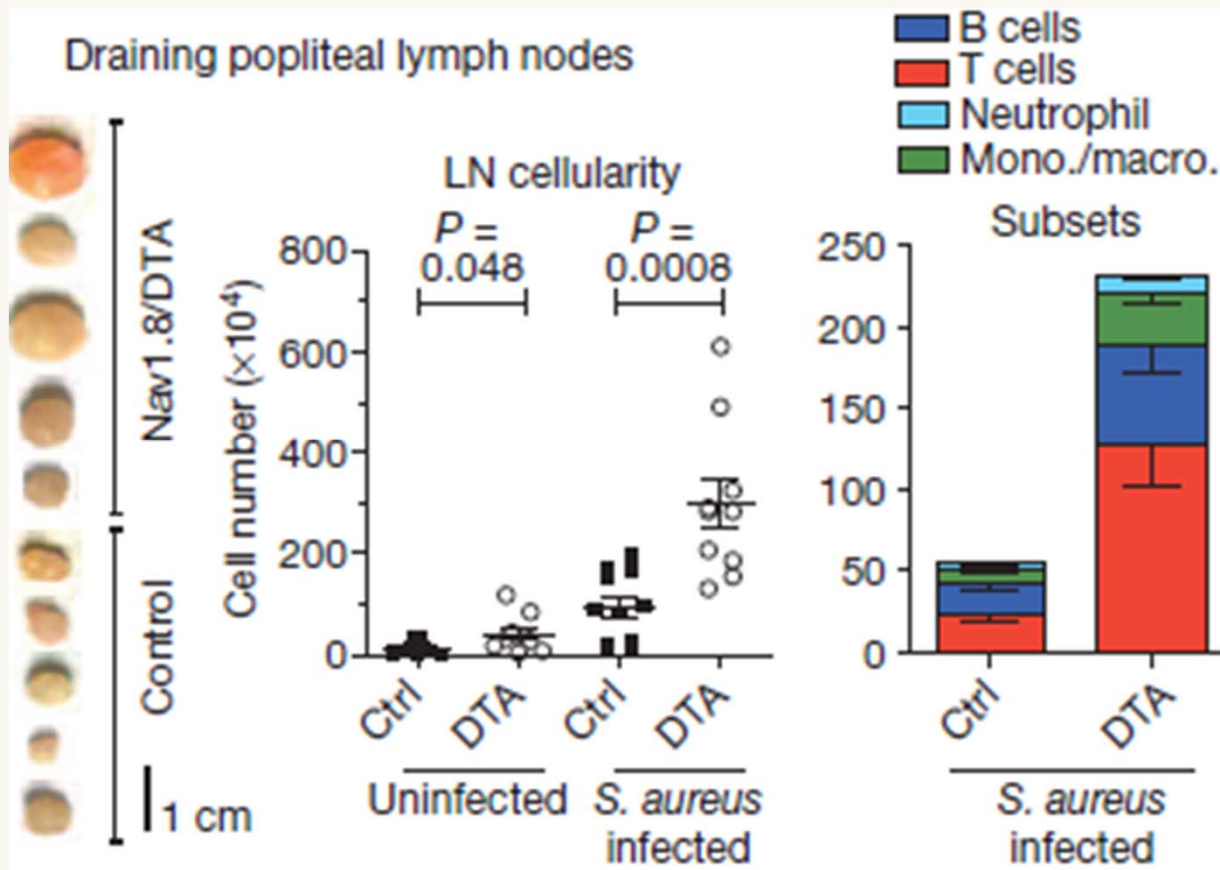
M. ulcerans secreted mycolactone induces pain loss directly by targeting the angiotensin pathways



Part 03

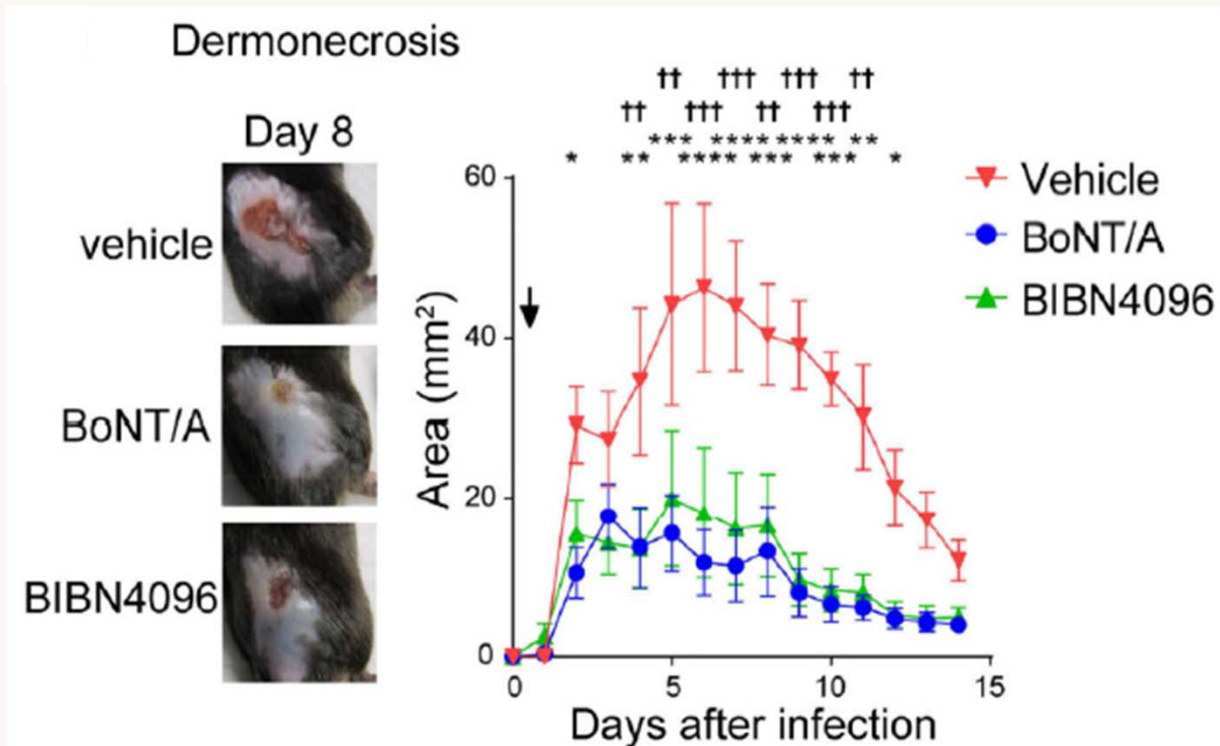
Clinical significance

Nociceptor interact with immune system



- Nav1.8-Cre/diphtheria toxin A (DTA) mice: nociceptor deficient
- Larger lymph nodes and increased immune cells

Possible target for treating bacterial invasion



Dermonecrosis size of mice treated with *Streptococcus. pyogenes* injection with vehicle or DRG neuron signaling inhibitors

- Blocking neuro-immune interaction is a promising strategy to treat highly invasive bacterial infections

Conclusion



Bacteria can directly modulate nociception distinct from immune defense



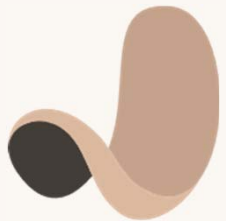
Molecular elements from Bacteria can interact with nociceptors through different pathways



Nociceptor targeting therapies could be used to treat bacteria infections

Reference

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Thank you for listening !

