

[PS1.30]

Pseudomonas LPS enhances neutrophil influx and inflammation in the lungs of TREM-2 deficient mice and promotes bacterial clearance

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Triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cell 2 (TREM-2) is a cell surface receptor that negatively regulates Toll like receptor 4 (TLR4) mediated inflammation in bone marrow derived macrophages in a poorly defined manner. Resident alveolar macrophages play an important role in respiratory tract infections, such as Pseudomonas infection, but the role of TREM-2 herein is unknown. Here, we show that TREM-2 is expressed on resident alveolar macrophages and that remarkably TREM-2 deficient mice display enhanced inflammation and consequently decreased bacterial burden in their lungs following intranasal infection with Pseudomonas aeruginosa. Pseudomonas LPS mediates these in-vivo effects as intranasal inoculation of mice with Pseudomonas LPS recapitulates the enhanced inflammation and neutrophil influx observed following infection with live bacteria in TREM-2^{-/-} mice. Mechanistically, we demonstrate that TREM-2 is able to negatively regulate inflammation in response to both Pseudomonas and its LPS through its effects on the nuclear factor kappaB (NF-κB) pathway. These data show that TREM-2 modulates innate immune responses to Pseudomonas in vivo via recognition of its LPS in a TLR4 and NF-κB dependent manner.

Keywords: TREM-2, Pseudomonas, LPS, TLR4