

Centrum für Integrierte Onkologie – CIO Aachen



Inflammation in MPNs

Prof. Dr. med. Steffen Koschmieder Department of Hematology, Oncology, Hemostaseology, and SCT RWTH Aachen University, Germany



14th Joyce NiblackMemorial Conference on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

Disclosures



1. Employment

None

2. Advisory Board Activity

Pfizer, Incyte / Ariad, Novartis, AOP Pharma, BMS, Celgene, Geron, Janssen, CTI, Roche, Baxalta, Sanofi, MPN Hub, Sierra Oncology, Glaxo-Smith Kline, AbbVie, PharmaEssentia, MSD

3. Stock etc

None

4. Patents, Licences

RWTH Aachen University (Patent filed on own BET inhibitors)

5. Honoraria

Novartis, BMS, Pfizer, Incyte, Ariad, Shire, Roche, AOP Pharma, Janssen, Geron, Celgene, Karthos, Abbvie, iOMEDICO, MSD

6. Research Funding

Novartis Foundation, BMS, Novartis, AOP Pharma, Janssen/Geron

7. Other financial disclosures (e.g. travel support)

Alexion, Novartis, BMS, Incyte / Ariad, AOP Pharma, Baxalta, CTI, Pfizer, Sanofi, Celgene, Shire, Janssen, Geron, Karthos, Sierra Oncology, Glaxo-Smith Kline, Imago Biosciences, AbbVie, iOMEDICO, MSD

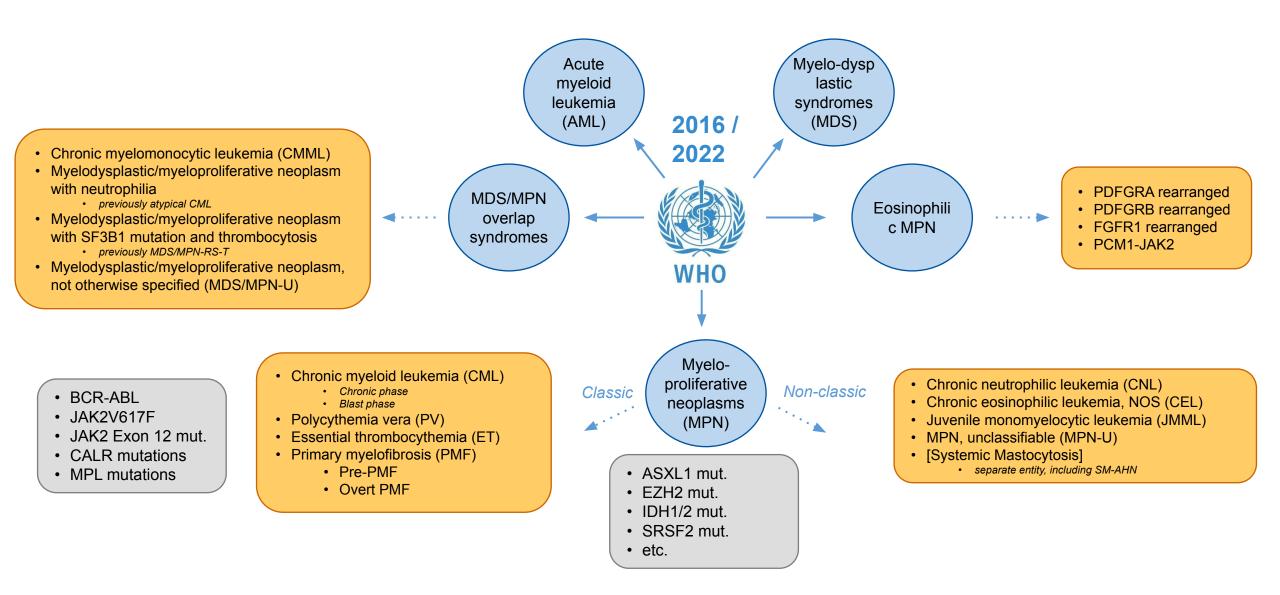
8. Immaterial disclosures

None

This presentation contains information on off-label therapies

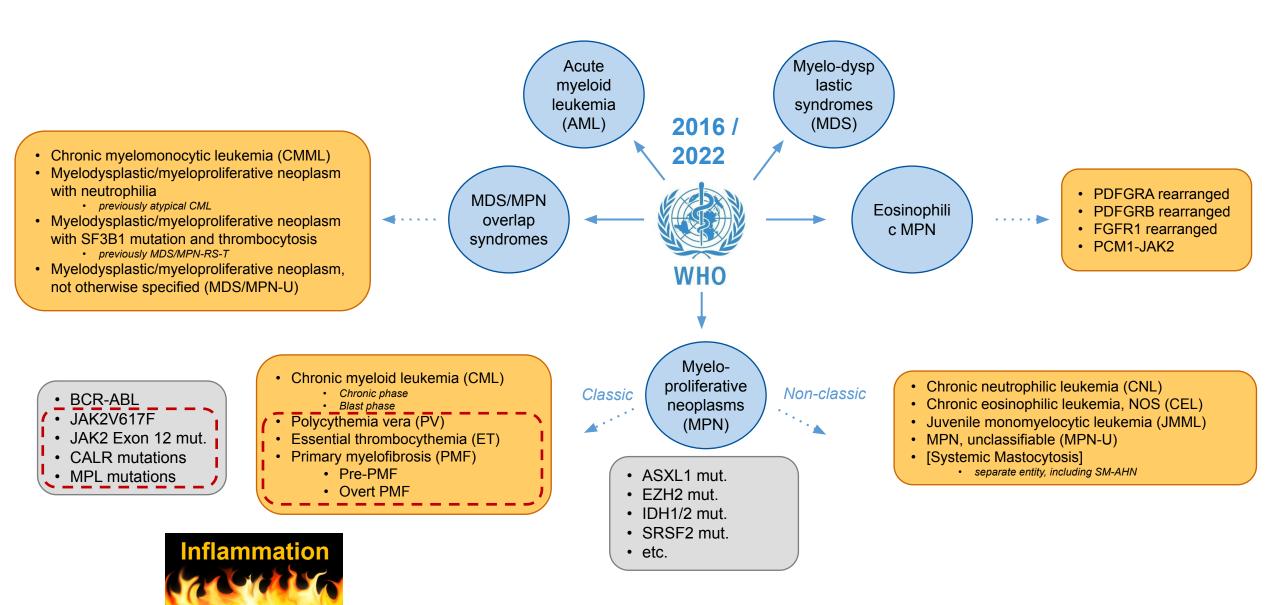
Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN)





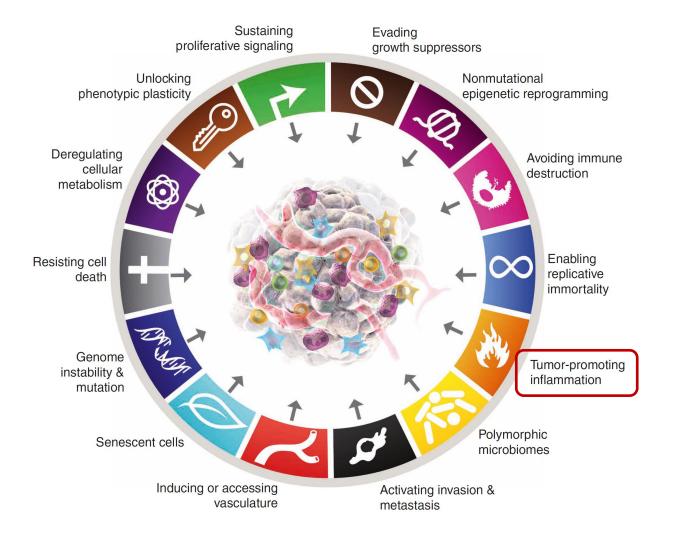
Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN)





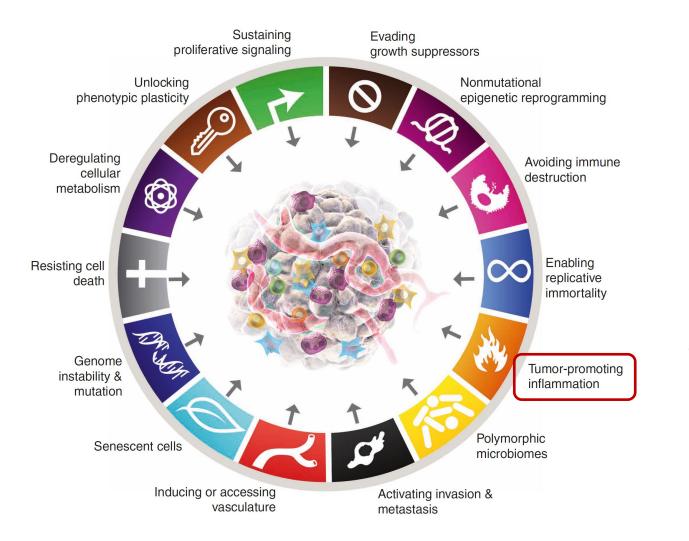
Inflammation and cancer: One of the hallmarks of cancer





Inflammation and cancer: One of the hallmarks of cancer

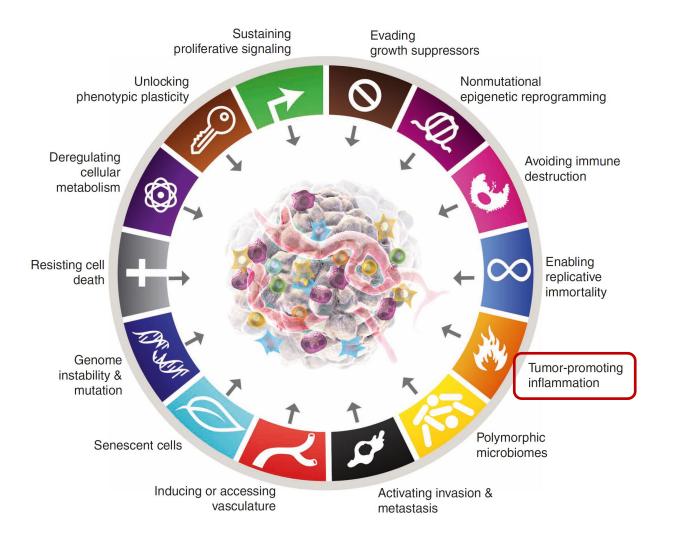




Myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN) are particular cancers...

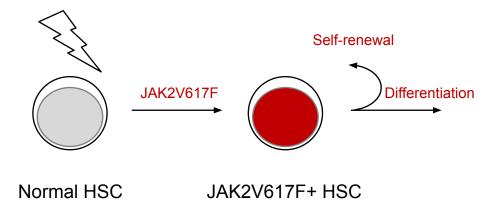
Inflammation and cancer: One of the hallmarks of cancer

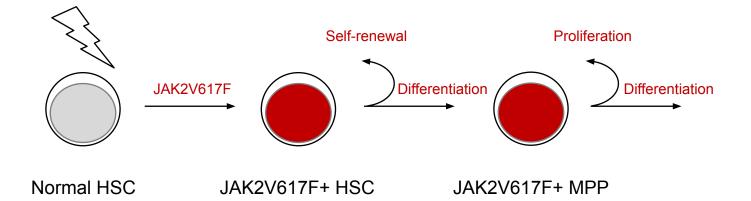


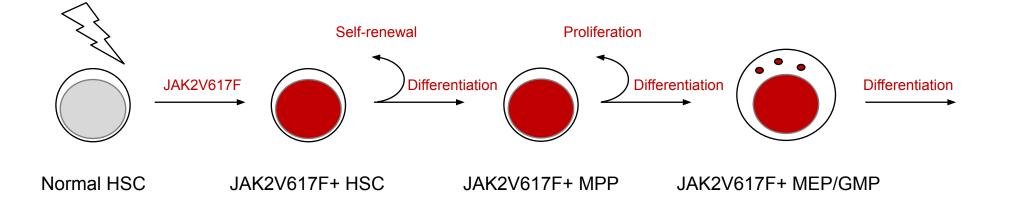


Myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN) are particular cancers...

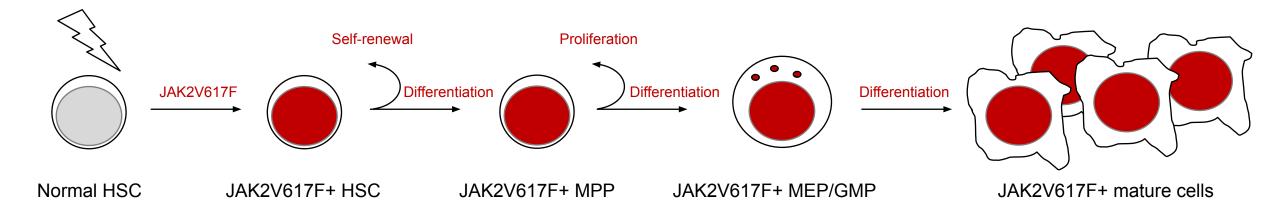
...since the clonal cancer cells themselves are inflammatory cells...

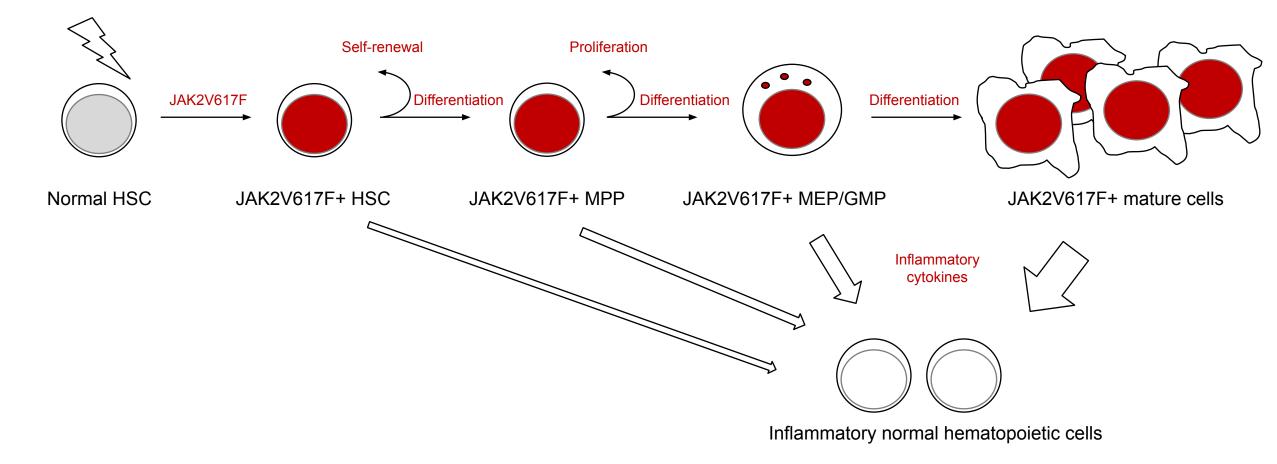


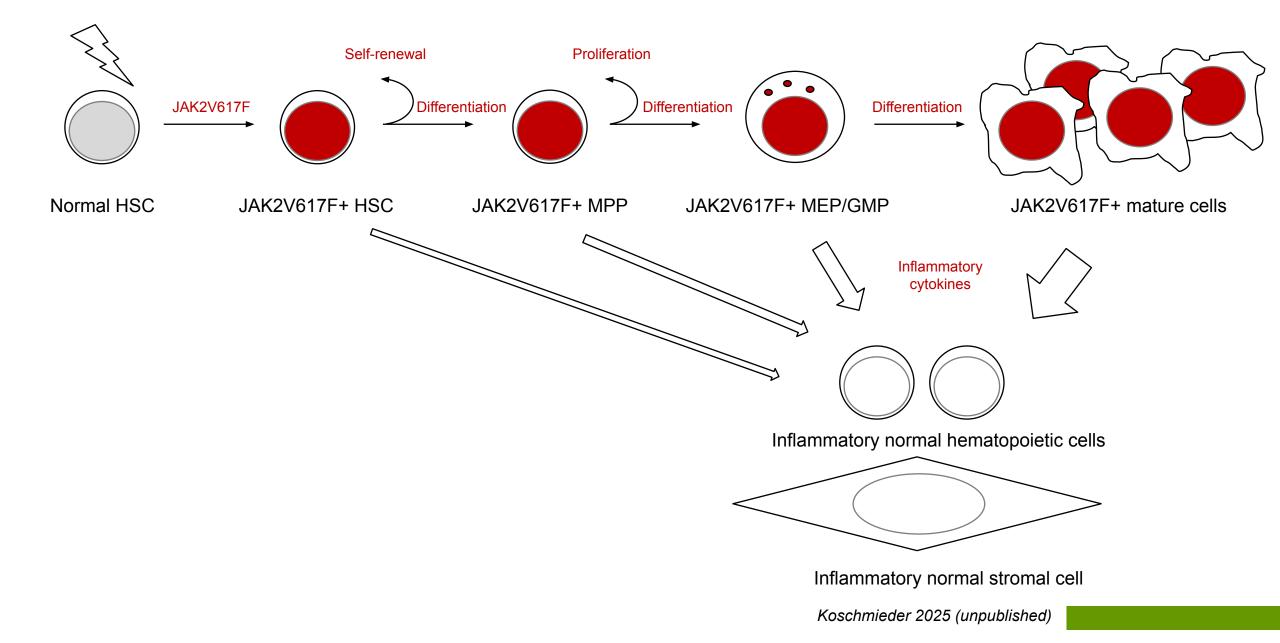


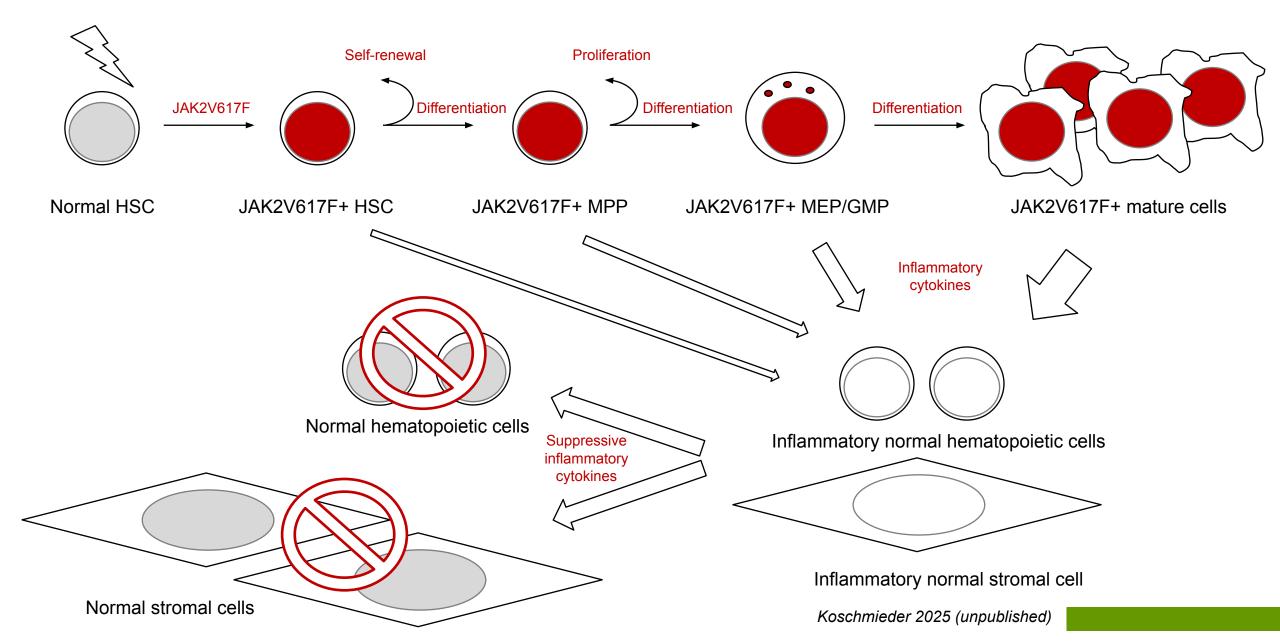


Koschmieder 2025 (unpublished)



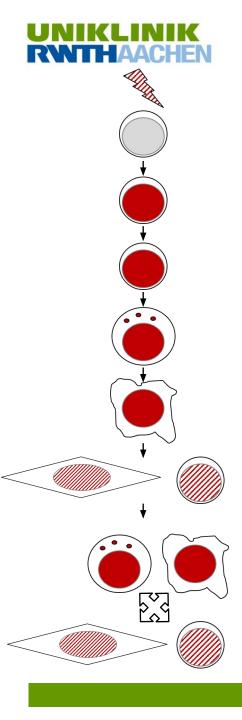






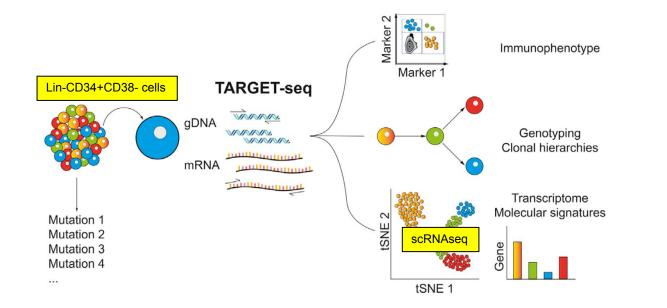
What is the evidence?

- HSC in the bone marrow (BM) acquires a somatic JAK2V617F (or CALR or MPL) driver mutation
 - This has been described to occur very early in life (e.g. in utero or early childhood)
 - JAK2V617F has been shown to induce cycling of HSCs



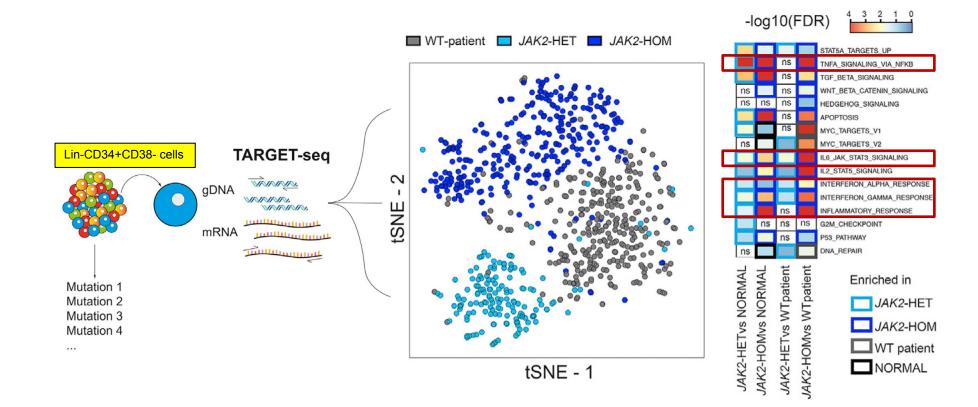
CD34+ cells from MPN patients express inflammatory genes



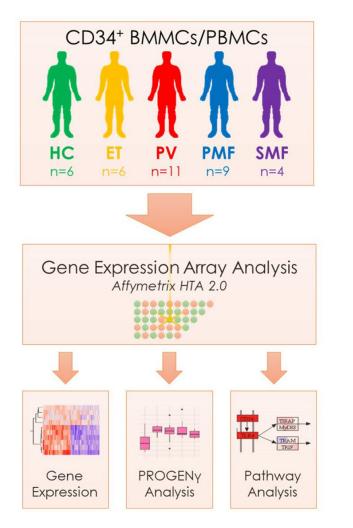


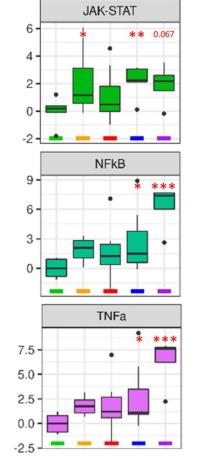
CD34+ cells from MPN patients express inflammatory genes

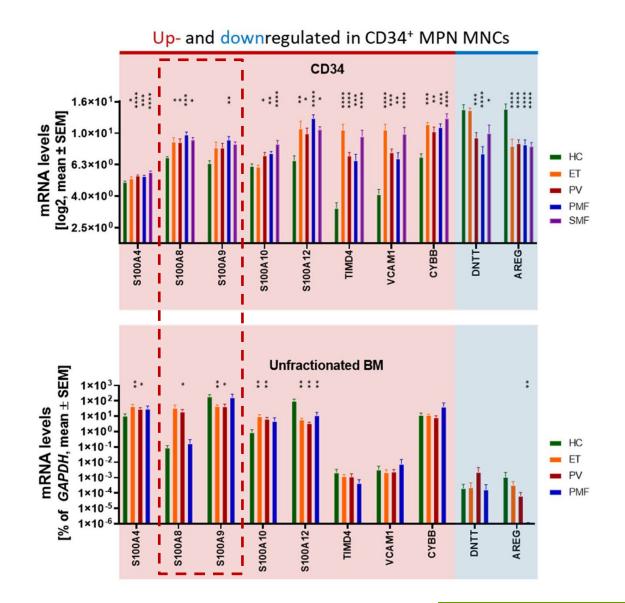






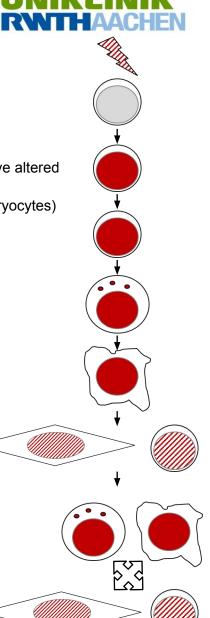






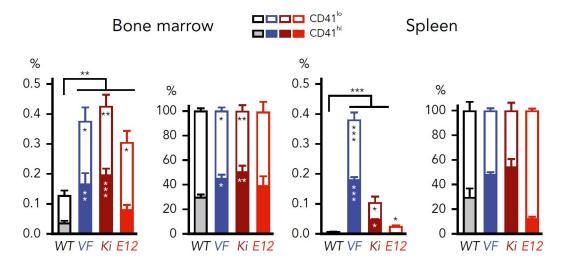
What is the evidence?

- HSC in the bone marrow (BM) acquires a somatic JAK2V617F (or CALR or MPL) driver mutation
 - This has been described to occur very early in life (e.g. in utero or early childhood)
 - JAK2V617F has been shown to induce cycling of HSCs
- JAK2V617F-mutant HSC divide symmetrically or asymmetrically (distribution and influential factors are still unclear)
 - Symmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC generates another JAK2V617F pos HSC (unclear whether these 2° HSCs are biologically identical or have altered function)
 - Asymmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC differentiates into MPPs/CMPs/MEPs/GMPs (HSC differentiation may be skewed, e.g. towards megakaryocytes)



MPN-derived HSCs are skewed towards MKs

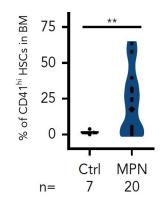
Frequencies and percentages of CD41^{hi} and CD41^{lo} HSCs



MYELOID NEOPLASIA

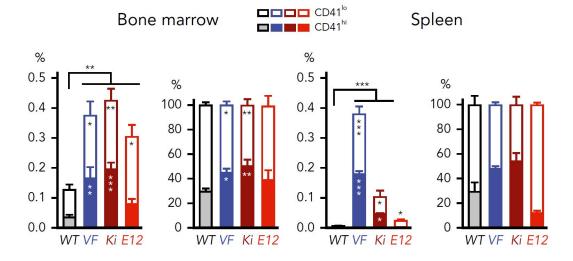
JAK2-V617F and interferon- α induce megakaryocyte-biased stem cells characterized by decreased long-term functionality

Tata Nageswara Rao,¹ Nils Hansen,¹ Jan Stetka,^{1,2} Damien Luque Paz,¹ Milena Kalmer,³ Julian Hilfiker,¹ Max Endele,⁴ Nouraiz Ahmed,⁴ Lucia Kubovcakova,¹ Margareta Rybarikova,¹ Hui Hao-Shen,¹ Florian Geier,^{1,5} Christian Beisel,⁴ Stefan Dimhofer,⁶ Timm Schroeder,⁴ Tim H. Brümmendorf,³ Dominik Wolf,⁷ Steffen Koschmieder,³ and Radek C. Skoda¹



MPN-derived HSCs are skewed towards MKs

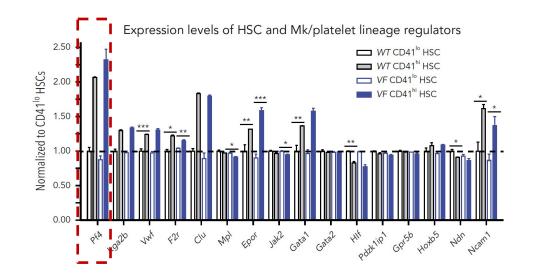
Frequencies and percentages of CD41^{hi} and CD41^{lo} HSCs

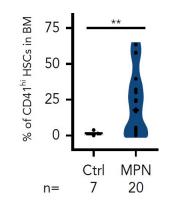


MYELOID NEOPLASIA

JAK2-V617F and interferon- α induce megakaryocyte-biased stem cells characterized by decreased long-term functionality

Tata Nageswara Rao,¹ Nils Hansen,¹ Jan Stetka,^{1,2} Damien Luque Paz,¹ Milena Kalmer,³ Julian Hilfiker,¹ Max Endele,⁴ Nouraiz Ahmed,⁴ Lucia Kubovcakova,¹ Margareta Rybarikova,¹ Hui Hao-Shen,¹ Florian Geier,^{1,5} Christian Beisel,⁴ Stefan Dirnhofer,⁶ Timm Schroeder,⁴ Tim H. Brümmendorf,³ Dominik Wolf,⁷ Steffen Koschmieder,³ and Radek C. Skoda¹

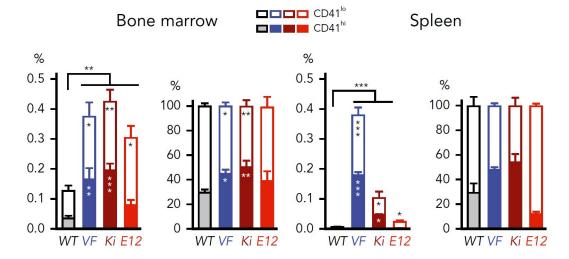




Modif. From Rao et al Blood 2021, Gleitz et al Blood 2020

MPN-derived HSCs are skewed towards MKs

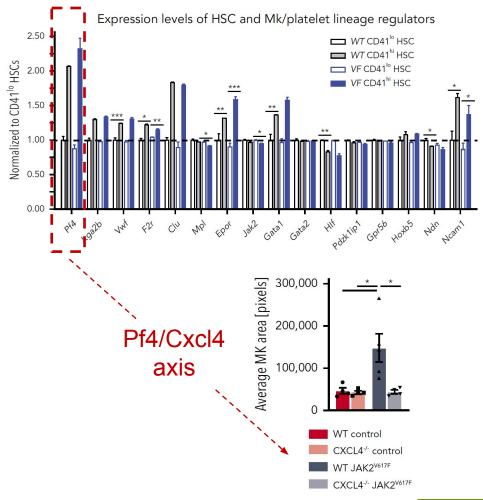
Frequencies and percentages of CD41^{hi} and CD41^{lo} HSCs

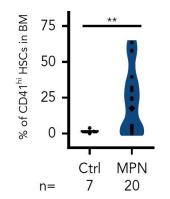




JAK2-V617F and interferon- α induce megakaryocyte-biased stem cells characterized by decreased long-term functionality

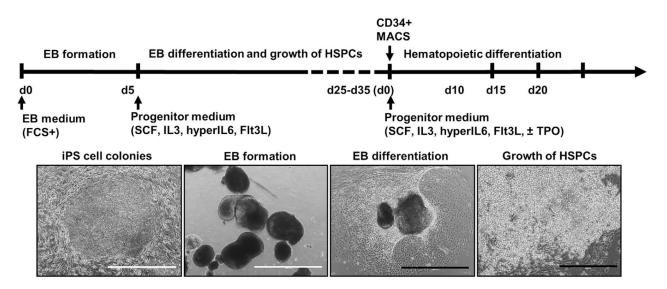
Tata Nageswara Rao,¹ Nils Hansen,¹ Jan Stetka,^{1,2} Damien Luque Paz,¹ Milena Kalmer,³ Julian Hilfiker,¹ Max Endele,⁴ Nouraiz Ahmed,⁴ Lucia Kubovcakova,¹ Margareta Rybarikova,¹ Hui Hao-Shen,¹ Florian Geier,^{1,5} Christian Beisel,⁴ Stefan Dirnhofer,⁶ Timm Schroeder,⁴ Tim H. Brümmendorf,³ Dominik Wolf,⁷ Steffen Koschmieder,³ and Radek C. Skoda¹





Modif. From Rao et al Blood 2021, Gleitz et al Blood 2020

MPN-derived iPSCs are skewed towards MKs



Stem Cell Reports

ISSCR

-OPEN ACCESS

CALR frameshift mutations in MPN patient-derived iPSCs accelerate maturation of megakaryocytes

Kathrin Olschok, ^{1,2,10} Lijuan Han, ^{1,2,3,10} Marcelo A.S. de Toledo, ^{1,2} Janik Böhnke, ^{4,5} Martin Graßhoff, ⁶ Ivan G. Costa, ⁶ Alexandre Theocharides, ⁷ Angela Maurer, ^{1,2} Herdit M. Schüler, ⁸ Eva Miriam Buhl, ⁹ Kristina Pannen, ^{1,2} Julian Baumeister, ^{1,2} Milena Kalmer, ^{1,2} Siddharth Gupta, ^{1,2} Peter Boor, ⁹ Deniz Gezer, ^{1,2} Tim H. Brümmendorf, ^{1,2} Martin Zenke, ^{4,5} Nicolas Chatain, ^{1,2,11} and Steffen Koschmieder^{1,2,11,*}

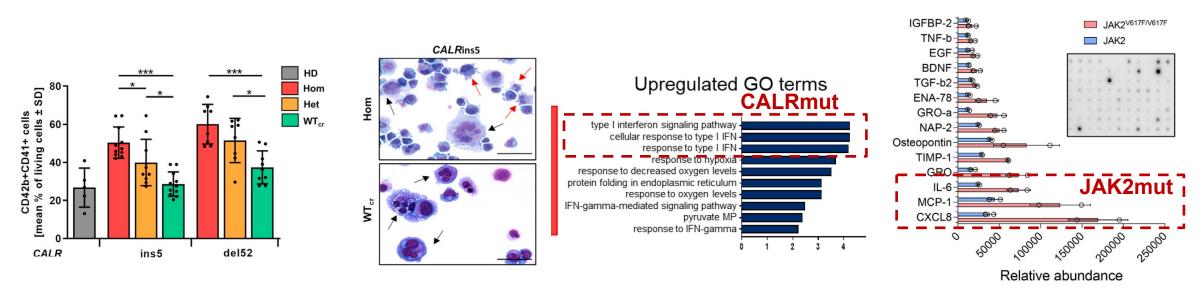
Stem Cell Reports



-OPEN ACCESS

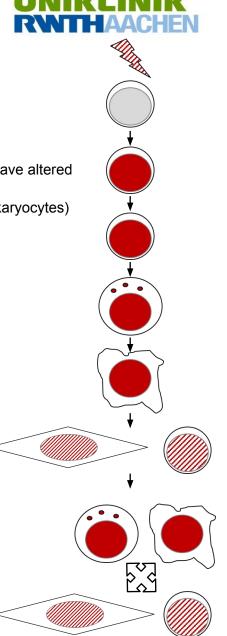
Proinflammatory phenotype of iPS cell-derived JAK2 V617F megakaryocytes induces fibrosis in 3D *in vitro* bone marrow niche

Niclas Flosdorf, ^{1,2,3,4} Janik Böhnke, ^{1,2,4} Marcelo A.S. de Toledo, ^{4,5} Niklas Lutterbach, ³ Vanesa Gómez Lerma, ^{1,2} Martin Graßhoff, ⁶ Kathrin Olschok, ^{4,5} Siddharth Gupta, ^{4,5} Vithurithra Tharmapalan, ^{2,4,7} Susanne Schmitz, ³ Katrin Götz, ³ Herdit M. Schüler, ^{8,9} Angela Maurer, ^{4,5} Stephanie Sontag, ^{1,2} Caroline Küstermann, ^{1,2} Kristin Seré, ^{1,2,3} Wolfgang Wagner, ^{2,4,7} Ivan G. Costa, ⁶ Tim H. Brümmendorf, ^{4,5} Steffen Koschmieder, ^{4,5} Nicolas Chatain, ^{4,5} Miguel Castilho, ¹⁰ Rebekka K. Schneider, ³ and Martin Zenke^{1,2,4,5,*}



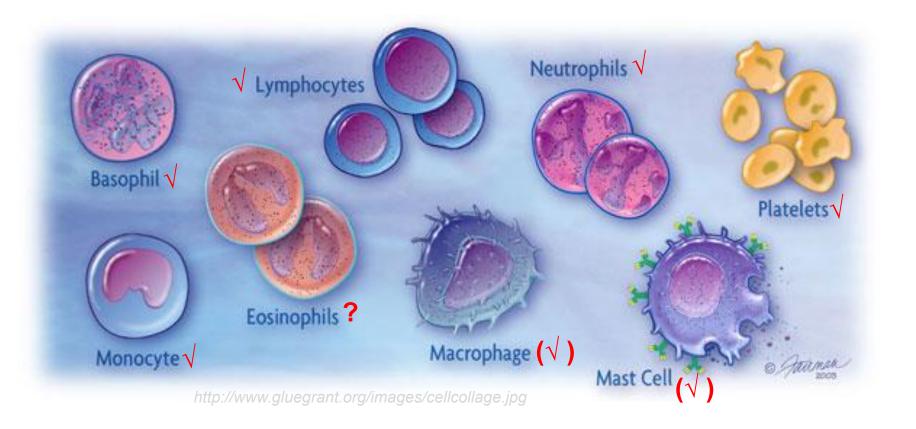
What is the evidence?

- HSC in the bone marrow (BM) acquires a somatic JAK2V617F (or CALR or MPL) driver mutation
 - This has been described to occur very early in life (e.g. in utero or early childhood)
 - JAK2V617F has been shown to induce cycling of HSCs
- JAK2V617F-mutant HSC divide symmetrically or asymmetrically (distribution and influential factors are still unclear)
 - Symmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC generates another JAK2V617F pos HSC (unclear whether these 2° HSCs are biologically identical or have altered function)
 - Asymmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC differentiates into MPPs/CMPs/MEPs/GMPs (HSC differentiation may be skewed, e.g. towards megakaryocytes)
- JAK2V617F-mutant progenitors proliferate and further differentiate
 - Progenitor differentiation may be skewed (towards myeloid, away from lymphoid differentiation)



Inflammatory cells in MF: are they part of the JAK2V617F clone?





V

Endothelial cells (Blood vessel)

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/621e9 5f9ac30687a56e4297e/64401622763e1 e837b0490b9_vessel-cross-section-arter iole-endothelium.png

- ✓ = JAK2 V617F mutation shown at DNA level
 □ But JAK2V617F protein expression unclear (=> single-cell proteomics)
 - □ Biologic contribution of each cell subtype unclear

BM stromal cells are <u>negative</u> for JAK2V617F

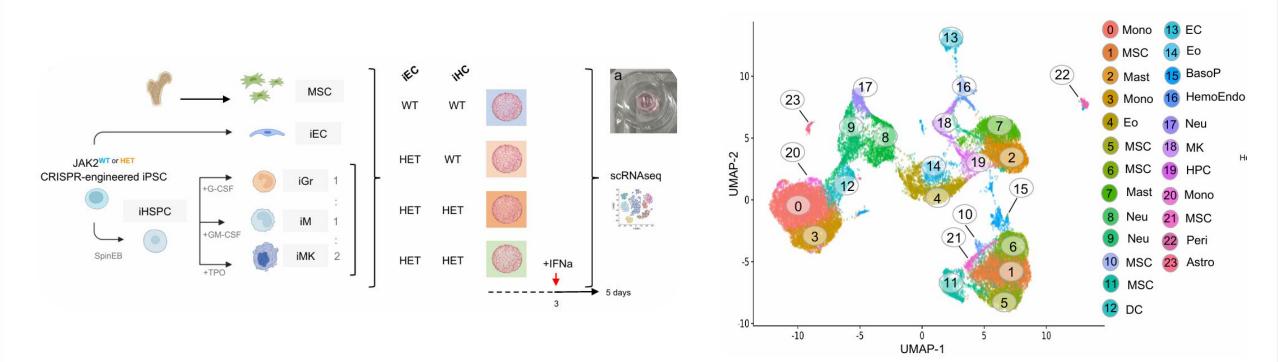


Patient no.	Diagnosis	JAK2 ^{V617F} allele burden (%)	
		Granulocytes	MSCs
1	PMF	31	b.d. (below detection limit)
2	PMF	15	b.d.
3	PMF	23	b.d.
4	Post-PV MF	61	b.d.
5	Post-PV MF	98	b.d.
6	PV	100	b.d.
7	PV	66	b.d.

The JAK2 V617F vascular niche in MPN and its response to IFNa

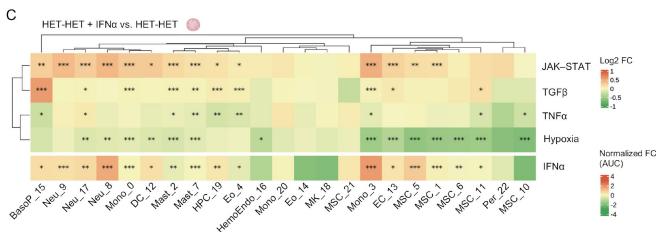


Recapitulating the MPN BM niche with iPSC-derived 3D cocultures (JAK2V617F in iHC +/- iEC)



The JAK2 V617F vascular niche in MPN and its response to IFNa

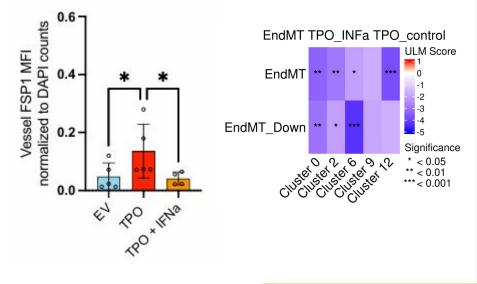
- Core MPN signatures such as hypoxia, JAK-STAT, and fibrosis (TGFß) recap. in 3D BM niches
 - Α HET-HET vs. WT-WT Pathway Log2 FC Hypoxia 0.5 *** JAK-STAT 0 -0.5 -1 TGFβ TNFα Normalized FC IFNα (AUC) 10 10 19 . 100 Neu SC 21 1 EC New SC 10 40 1eu 1
- IFNa reverts the hypoxic and profibrotic phenotype in vitro and in vivo



TPO mouse model

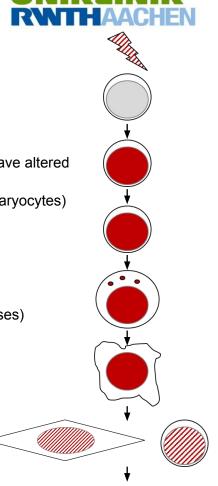
M. Caduc

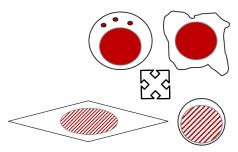
M. de Toledo



What is the evidence?

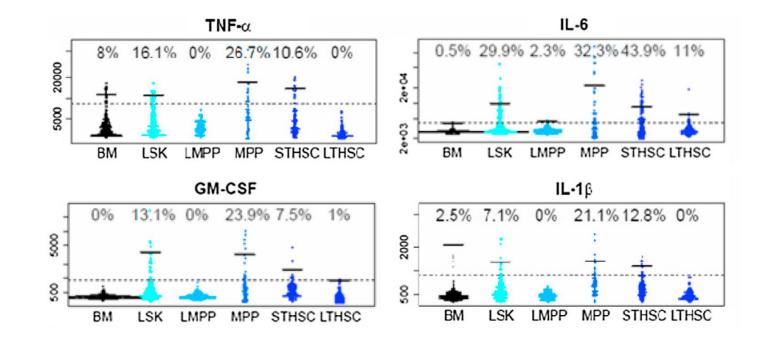
- HSC in the bone marrow (BM) acquires a somatic JAK2V617F (or CALR or MPL) driver mutation
 - This has been described to occur very early in life (e.g. in utero or early childhood)
 - JAK2V617F has been shown to induce cycling of HSCs
- JAK2V617F-mutant HSC divide symmetrically or asymmetrically (distribution and influential factors are still unclear)
 - Symmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC generates another JAK2V617F pos HSC (unclear whether these 2° HSCs are biologically identical or have altered function)
 - Asymmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC differentiates into MPPs/CMPs/MEPs/GMPs (HSC differentiation may be skewed, e.g. towards megakaryocytes)
- JAK2V617F-mutant progenitors proliferate and further differentiate
 - Progenitor differentiation may be skewed (towards myeloid, away from lymphoid differentiation)
- JAK2V617F-mutant progeny produces local myeloid cytokines (e.g. IL-1beta, IL-6, TNF)
 - JAK2V617F-mutant HSC and progenitors may enhance their cell division activity (e.g. proliferation, differentiation)
 - Clonal hematopoiesis (CHIP) for JAK2V617F may be detectable by PCR/NGS diagnostics (
 Patient is at risk for MPN & cardiovascular diseases)





Single HSCs and MPPs produce inflammatory cytokines

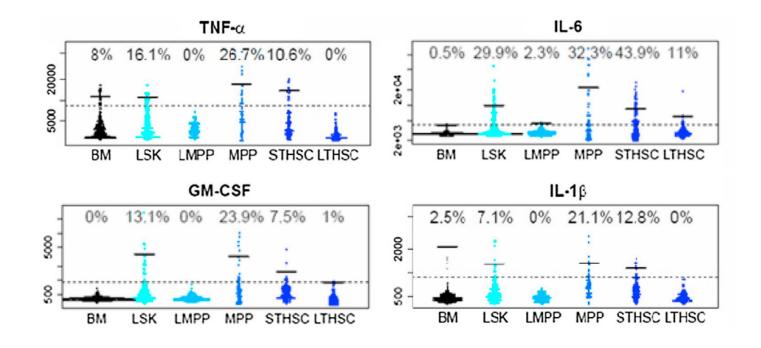


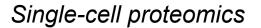


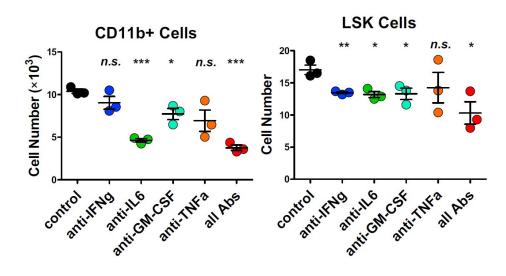
Single-cell proteomics

Single HSCs and MPPs produce inflammatory cytokines









High risk of MPN in persons with clonal hematopoiesis (CHIP)

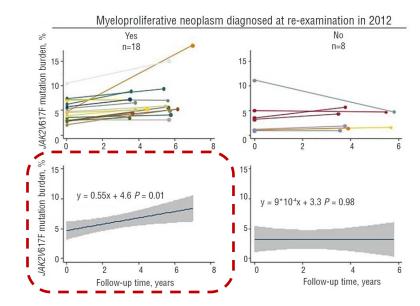


	CALR (0.16%)		LR (0.16%)
	JAK2 V617F (3.1%)	Type 1	Type 2
Number	613	24	8
Allele burden, %			
Mean (SE), range	2.1 (0.34), 0.010-96	6.2 (2.3), 0.020-44	11 (5.9), 0.013-38
<0.1, n (%)	255 (42)	5 (21)	1 (13)
0.1-0.99, n (%)	253 (41)	9 (38)	4 (50)
1-10, n (%)	75 (12)	4 (17)	0
>10, n (%)	30 (5)	6 (25)	3 (38)

Table III. Prevalent morbidity in the general population according to JAK2 V617F somatic mutation status.

	JAK2 V617F somatic mutation status		
Endpoints	Negatives $(n = 49 \ 420)$ cases/controls	Positives $(n = 68)$ cases/controls	Odds ratio (95% CI)
Any cancer	6969/42 451	23/45	2.7 (1.6-4.6)
Haematological cancer	139/49 281	10/58	44 (22-90)
Myeloproliferative cancer	32/49 388	10/58	221 (100-487)
Ischaemic heart disease	2689/46 731	11/57	2.2 (1.1-4.4)
Myocardial infarction	1091/48 329	6/62	2.6 (1.1-6.3)
Venous thromboembolism	989/48 431	5/63	3.1 (1.3-7.9)
Pulmonary embolism	344/49 076	0/68	=
Deep venous thrombosis	729/48 691	5/63	4.6 (1.7-10.9)

Odds ratios were adjusted for sex, age, tobacco consumption, alcohol consumption, and body mass index at the time of blood sampling. CI = confidence interval.



High risk of MPN in persons with clonal hematopoiesis (CHIP)

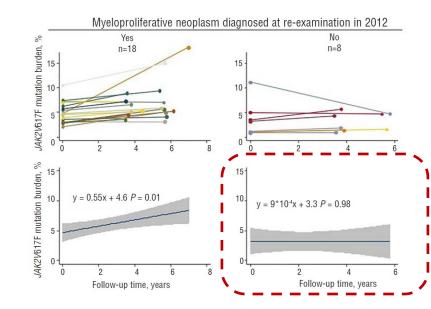


		CALR (0.16%)	
	JAK2 V617F (3.1%)	Type 1	Type 2
Number	613	24	8
Allele burden, %			
Mean (SE), range	2.1 (0.34), 0.010-96	6.2 (2.3), 0.020-44	11 (5.9), 0.013-38
<0.1, n (%)	255 (42)	5 (21)	1 (13)
0.1-0.99, n (%)	253 (41)	9 (38)	4 (50)
1-10, n (%)	75 (12)	4 (17)	0
>10, n (%)	30 (5)	6 (25)	3 (38)

Table III. Prevalent morbidity in the general population according to JAK2 V617F somatic mutation status.

	JAK2 V617F somatic mutation status		
Endpoints	Negatives $(n = 49 \ 420)$ cases/controls	Positives $(n = 68)$ cases/controls	Odds ratio (95% CI)
Any cancer	6969/42 451	23/45	2.7 (1.6-4.6)
Haematological cancer	139/49 281	10/58	44 (22-90)
Myeloproliferative cancer	32/49 388	10/58	221 (100-487)
Ischaemic heart disease	2689/46 731	11/57	2.2 (1.1-4.4)
Myocardial infarction	1091/48 329	6/62	2.6 (1.1-6.3)
Venous thromboembolism	989/48 431	5/63	3.1 (1.3–7.9)
Pulmonary embolism	344/49 076	0/68	=
Deep venous thrombosis	729/48 691	5/63	4.6 (1.7-10.9)

Odds ratios were adjusted for sex, age, tobacco consumption, alcohol consumption, and body mass index at the time of blood sampling. CI = confidence interval.

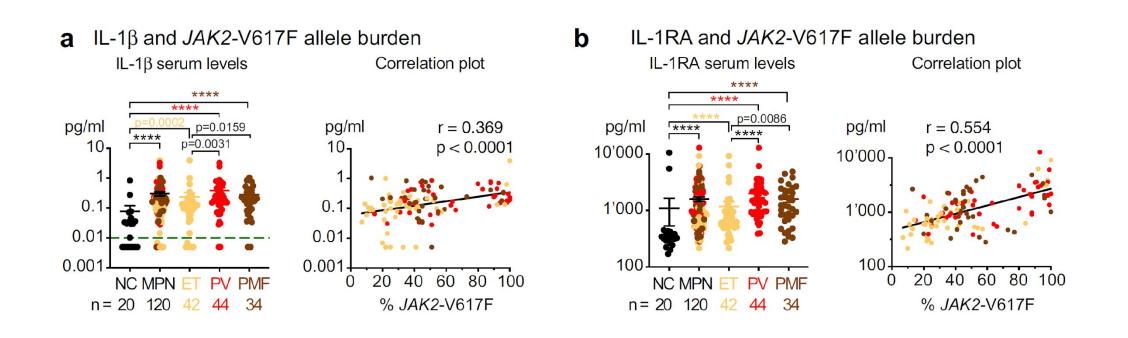


What is the evidence?

- HSC in the bone marrow (BM) acquires a somatic JAK2V617F (or CALR or MPL) driver mutation
 - This has been described to occur very early in life (e.g. in utero or early childhood)
 - JAK2V617F has been shown to induce cycling of HSCs
- JAK2V617F-mutant HSC divide symmetrically or asymmetrically (distribution and influential factors are still unclear)
 - Symmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC generates another JAK2V617F pos HSC (unclear whether these 2° HSCs are biologically identical or have altered function)
 - Asymmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC differentiates into MPPs/CMPs/MEPs/GMPs (HSC differentiation may be skewed, e.g. towards megakaryocytes)
- JAK2V617F-mutant progenitors proliferate and further differentiate
 - Progenitor differentiation may be skewed (towards myeloid, away from lymphoid differentiation)
- JAK2V617F-mutant progeny produces local myeloid cytokines (e.g. IL-1beta, IL-6, TNF)
 - JAK2V617F-mutant HSC and progenitors may enhance their cell division activity (e.g. proliferation, differentiation)
 - Clonal hematopoiesis (CHIP) for JAK2V617F may be detectable by PCR/NGS diagnostics (
 Patient is at risk for MPN & cardiovascular diseases)
- JAK2V617F-mutant differentiated cells accumulate in the peripheral blood and cause full-blown MPN
 - Systemic cytokines may cause chronic inflammatory symptoms (fever, night sweats, weight loss, fatigue, pruritus, ...)
 - Thrombocytosis, erythrocytosis, leukocytosis (mostly neutrophilia, monocytosis), splenomegaly
 - Highly increased risk of cardiovascular complications (e.g. thrombosis, bleeding, organ damage)

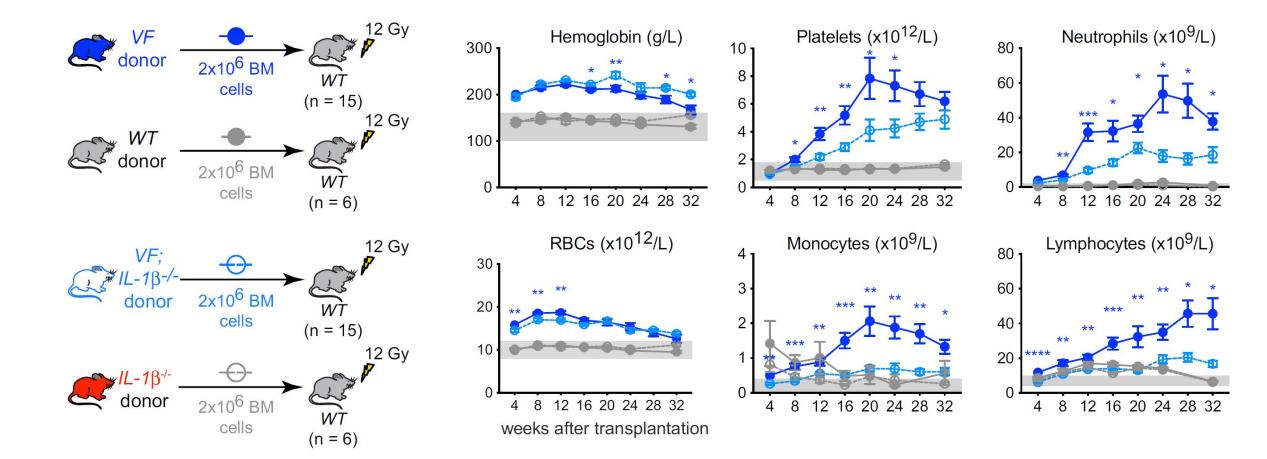
IL-1beta is required for JAK2V617F-mediated MPN in mice





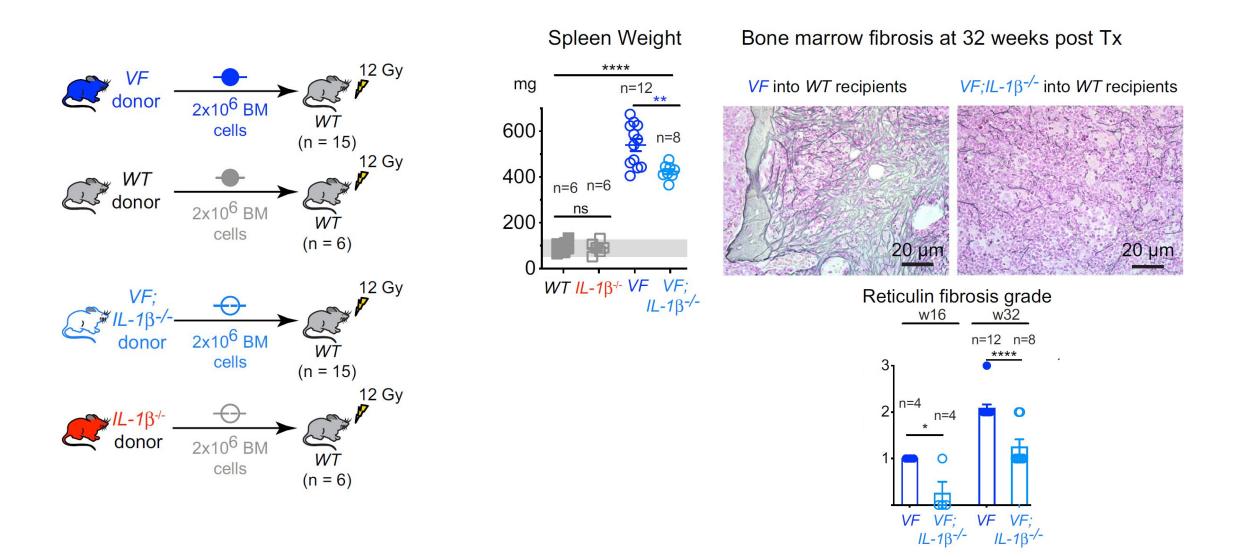
IL-1beta is required for JAK2V617F-mediated MPN in mice





IL-1beta is required for JAK2V617F-mediated MPN in mice



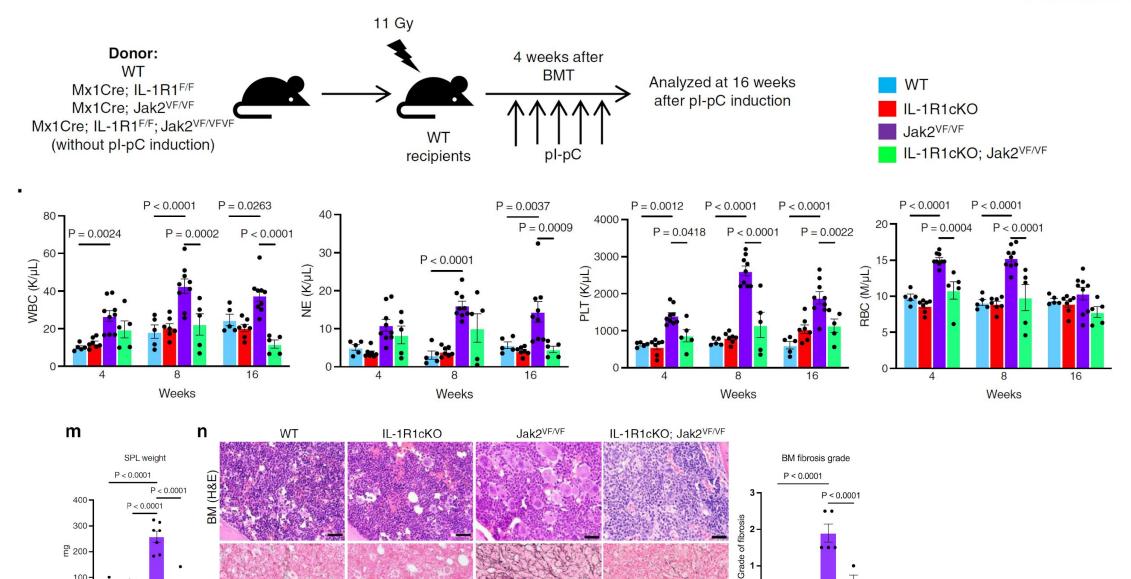


IL-1R1 is essential for JAK2V617F-mediated MPN in mice

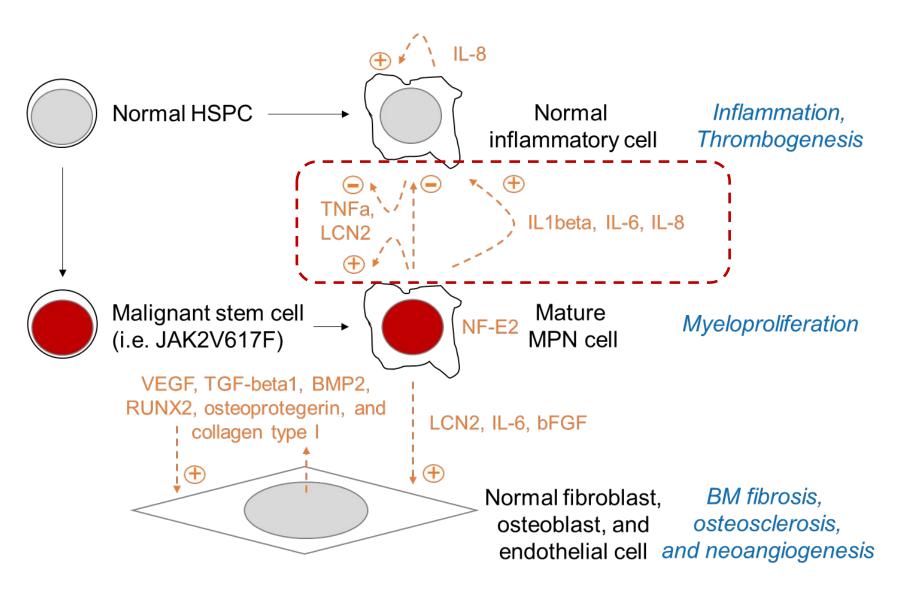
100-

Retic)





Inflammation confers selective advantage to the malignant clone





	Controls		All Patients With PMF											
Cytokines (pg/mL)		= 35) Range		= 127) Range	P	Constitutional Symptoms	RBC Transfusion Dependency	Spleen > 10 cm	WBC > 10 × 10 ⁹ /L	Platelets $> 450 imes 10^9$ /L	Platelets $< 100 \times 10^9$ /L	<i>JAK2</i> V617F Positivity	Age	Sex
ΙL-1β	4	0-49	10.8	0-3,576	.02	.81	.68	.21	.87	.64	.3	.35	.12	.05
IL-1RA	203	2-419	552	37-9,991	< .001	.84	.62	.07	.68	.27	.47	< .001	.14	.26
IL-2R	217	0-507	556	91-3,956	< .001	.24	.001	.17	.006	.76	.68	.008	.06	.01†
IL-6	0.6	0-9	6.3	0-186	< .001	.03	.05	.09	.34	.13	.35	.007	.05	.12
L-8	3.3	0-18	14.3	0-1,156	< .001	.004	.03	.35	.07	.58	.26	.63	.1	.04†
IL-10	4.8	2. <mark>3-</mark> 51	12.5	2-2,009	< .001	.48	.02	.34	.73	.23	.31	.61	.55	.22
IL-12	100	35-182	192	18-1,883	<.001	.55	.14	.28	.80	.99	.04*	.02	.34	.43
IL- <mark>1</mark> 3	0	0-0	0	0-4,909	.001	.9	.06	.46	.46	.87	.97	.48	.09	.11
L- 1 5	0	0-38	0	0-2,671	.03	.8	.61	.46	.86	.95	.90	.85	.16	.02†
TNF-α	0	0-15	0	0-400	.02	.97	.13	.09	.60	.48	.95	.58	.97	.08
G-CSF	33	0-373	45	0-888	.007	.1	.91	.99	.72	.23	.08	.66	.34	.38
$ FN-\alpha $	27.6	0-96	42	0-1,021	.02	.4	.11	.96	.33	.59	.95	.83	.99	.06
FN-γ	5.5	0-23	0	0-683	.02*	.55	.8	.55	.5	.21	.53	.12	.91	.52
MIP-1α	0	0-112	25.4	0-1,305	< .001	.55	.03	.05	.21	.87	.74	.98	.14	. <mark>001</mark> †
ΜΙΡ-1 β	21.8	4.4-91	65.7	0-1,935	< .001	.67	.3	.16	.69	.12	.03	.05	.07	.74
HGF	129	0-433	391	0-11,572	< .001	.14	.9	.02	.02	.27	.39	.003	.54	.76
P-10	22	4-97	72	5.3-755	< .001	.08	.2	.19	.02	.11	.006	< .001	< .001	.73
MIG	19.4	0-86	49	0-971	< .001	.48	.3	.08	.76	.44	.28	.01	.12	.04†
MCP-1	173	61-342	222	62-1,705	.001	.19	.009	.77	.87	.20	.07	.27	.68	.24
VEGF	1	0-2.7	2.3	0-47	< .001	.42	.42	.23	.72	.87	.27	.89	.31	.32

Table 2 Cytokines Whose Plasma Levels Are Abnormally Increased (or decreased) in PME and Their Relationship With Age, Sex, and Clinically Relevant Disease



							ne of First Refe			P				
Cytokines	Controls $(n = 35)$		All Patients With PMF $(N = 127)$			Constitutional	RBC Transfusion	Spleen	WBC	Platelets	Platelets	<i>JAK2</i> V617F		
(pg/mL)	Median	Range	Median	Range	Р	Symptoms	Dependency	> 10 cm	$>$ 10 \times 10 ⁹ /L	$>450 \times 10^{9}$ /L	$< 100 \times 10^{9}$ /L	Positivity	Age	Sex
IL-1β	4	0-49	10.8	0-3,576	.02	.81	.68	.21	.87	.64	.3	.35	.12	.05
IL-1RA	203	2-419	552	37-9,991	< .001	.84	.62	.07	.68	.27	.47	< .001	.14	.26
IL-2R	217	0-507	556	91-3,956	< .001	.24	.001	.17	.006	.76	.68	.008	.06	.01†
1L-6	0.6	0-9	6.3	0-186	< .001	.03	.05	.09	.34	.13	.35	.007	.05	.12
1L-8	3.3	0-18	14.3	0-1,156	< .001	.004	.03	.35	.07	.58	.26	.63	.1	.04†
IL-10	4.8	2.3-51	12.5	2-2,009	< .001	.48	.02	.34	.73	.23	.31	.61	.55	.22
IL-12	100	35-182	192	18-1,883	<.001	.55	.14	.28	.80	.99	.04*	.02	.34	.43
IL- <mark>1</mark> 3	0	0-0	0	0-4,909	.001	.9	.06	.46	.46	.87	.97	.48	.09	.11
L- <mark>1</mark> 5	0	0-38	0	0-2,671	.03	.8	.61	.46	.86	.95	.90	.85	.16	.02†
TNF - α	0	0-15	0	0-400	.02	.97	.13	.09	.60	.48	.95	.58	.97	.08
G-CSF	33	0-373	45	0-888	.007	.1	.91	.99	.72	.23	.08	.66	.34	.38
$ FN-\alpha $	27.6	0-96	42	0-1,021	.02	.4	.11	.96	.33	.59	.95	.83	.99	.06
IFN-γ	5.5	0-23	0	0-683	.02*	.55	.8	.55	.5	.21	.53	.12	.91	.52
MIP-1α	0	0-112	25.4	0-1,305	< .001	.55	.03	.05	.21	.87	.74	.98	.14	.001†
ΜΙΡ-1 β	21.8	4.4-91	65.7	0-1,935	< .001	.67	.3	.16	.69	.12	.03	.05	.07	.74
HGF	129	0-433	391	0-11,572	< .001	.14	.9	.02	.02	.27	.39	.003	.54	.76
P-10	22	4-97	72	5.3-755	< .001	.08	.2	.19	.02	.11	.006	< .001	< .001	.73
MIG	19.4	0-86	49	0-971	< .001	.48	.3	.08	.76	.44	.28	.01	.12	.04†
MCP-1	173	61-342	222	62-1,705	.001	.19	.009	.77	.87	.20	.07	.27	.68	.24
VEGF	1	0-2.7	2.3	0-47	< .001	.42	.42	.23	.72	.87	.27	.89	.31	.32

Table 2. Cytokines Whose Plasma Levels Are Abnormally Increased (or decreased) in PMF and Their Relationship With Age, Sex, and Clinically Relevant DiseaseFeatures at Time of First Referral at the Mayo Clinic



Table 2. Cytokines Whose Plasma Levels Are Abnormally Increased (or decreased) in PMF and Their Relationship With Age, Sex, and Clinically Relevant DiseaseFeatures at Time of First Referral at the Mayo Clinic

	Con	trols	All Patier	nts With PMF				B							
Cytokines	(n =	= 35)	(N	= 127)		Constitutional	RBC Transfusion		1.0 -			lasma IL-8 and IL-		mal range (I	n = 60)
(pg/mL)	Median	Range	Median	Range	Р	Symptoms	Dependency	į				ledian survival, ~8 ne or both cytoki		(n = 30)	
L-1 <mark>β</mark>	4	0-49	10.8	0-3,576	.02	.81	.68	я Г	0.8 -	- <mark></mark>		ledian survival, ~			
IL-1RA	203	2-419	552	37-9,991	< .001	.84	.62	(proportion)		1					
IL-2R	217	0-507	556	91-3,956	< .001	.24	.001	ГО		1					
IL-6	0.6	0-9	6.3	0-186	< .001	.03	.05	do	0.6 -	<u> </u>					
L-8	3.3	0-18	14.3	0-1,156	< .001	.004	.03	DLC							
IL-10	4.8	2.3-51	12.5	2-2,009	< .001	.48	.02			- -					
IL-12	100	35-182	192	18-1,883	<.001	.55	.14	Survival	0.4 -	•					
IL-13	0	0-0	0	0-4,909	.001	.9	.06				- -				
L-15	0	0-38	0	0-2,671	.03	.8	.61	n	0.2 -						
TNF-α	0	0-15	0	0-400	.02	.97	.13	S	0.27						
G-CSF	33	0-373	45	0-888	.007	.1	.91			<i>P</i> < .001					
FN-α	27.6	0-96	42	0-1,021	.02	.4	.11			7 < .001					
IFN-γ	5.5	0-23	0	0-683	.02*	.55	.8		0	20	40	60	80	100	120
MIP-1α	0	0-112	25.4	0-1,305	< .001	.55	.03				-	- /			
MIP-1 β	21.8	4.4-91	65.7	0-1,935	< .001	.67	.3				I	ime (month	S)		
HGF	129	0-433	391	0-11,572	< .001	.14	.9	.02		.02	.27	.39	.003	.54	./6
P-10	22	4-97	72	5.3-755	< .001	.08	.2	.19		.02	.11	.006	< .001	< .001	.73
MIG	19.4	0-86	49	0-971	< .001	.48	.3	.08		.76	.44	.28	.01	.12	.04†
MCP-1	173	61-342	222	62-1,705	.001	.19	.009	.77		.87	.20	.07	.27	.68	.24
VEGF	1	0-2.7	2.3	0-47	< .001	.42	.42	.23		.72	.87	.27	.89	.31	.32

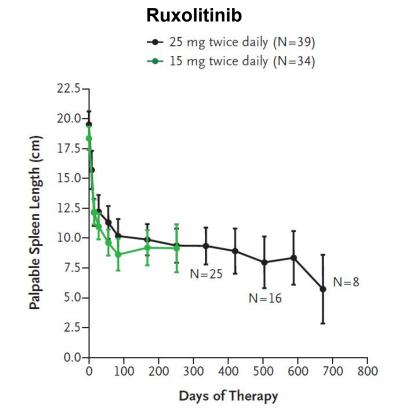


Table 2. Cytokines Whose Plasma Levels Are Abnormally Increased (or decreased) in PMF and Their Relationship With Age, Sex, and Clinically Relevant DiseaseFeatures at Time of First Referral at the Mayo Clinic

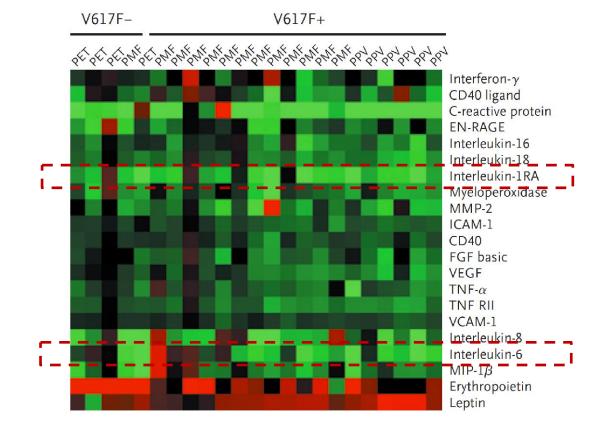
	Controls		All Patients With PMF			P										
Cytokines (pg/mL)	(n = Median	= 35) Range	(N Median	= 127) Range	P	Constitutional Symptoms	RBC Transfusion Dependency	Spleen > 10 cm	WBC > 10 × 10 ⁹ /L	Platelets > 450 × 10 ⁹ /L	Platelets < 100 × 10 ⁹ /L	<i>JAK2</i> V617F Positivity	Age	Sex		
IL-1β	4	0-49	10.8	0-3,576	.02	.81	.68	.21	.87	.64	.3	.35	.12	.05		
L-1RA	203	2-419	552	37-9,991	< .001	.84	.62	.07	.68	.27	.47	< .001	.14	.26		
<u> L</u> -2R	217	0-507	556	91-3,956	< .001	.24	.001	.17	.006	.76	.68	.008	.06	.01†		
L-6	0.6	0-9	6.3	0-186	< .001	.03	.05	.09	.34	.13	.35	.007	.05	.12		
L-8	3.3	0-18	14.3	0-1,156	< .001	.004	.03	.35	.07	.58	.26	.63	.1	.04†		
L-10	4.8	2.3-51	12.5	2-2,009	< .001	.48	.02	.34	.73	.23	.31	.61	.55	.22		
IL-12	100	35-182	192	18-1,883	<.001	.55	.14	.28	.80	.99	.04*	.02	.34	.43		
L- <mark>1</mark> 3	0	0-0	0	0-4,909	.001	.9	.06	.46	.46	.87	.97	.48	.09	.11		
L-15	0	0-38	0	0-2,671	.03	.8	.61	.46	.86	.95	.90	.85	.16	.02†		
TNF - α	0	0-15	0	0-400	.02	.97	.13	.09	.60	.48	.95	.58	.97	.08		
G-CSF	33	0-373	45	0-888	.007	.1	.91	.99	.72	.23	.08	.66	.34	.38		
$ FN-\alpha $	27.6	0-96	42	0-1,021	.02	.4	.11	.96	.33	.59	.95	.83	.99	.06		
FN-γ	5.5	0-23	0	0-683	.02*	.55	.8	.55	.5	.21	.53	.12	.91	.52		
$MIP-1\alpha$	0	0-112	25.4	0-1,305	< .001	.55	.03	.05	.21	.87	.74	.98	.14	.001		
MIP-1β	21.8	4.4-91	65.7	0-1,935	< .001	.67	.3	.16	.69	.12	.03	.05	.07	.74		
HGF	129	0-433	391	0-11,572	< .001	.14	.9	.02	.02	.27	.39	.003	.54	.76		
P-10	22	4-97	72	5.3-755	< .001	.08	.2	.19	.02	.11	.006	< .001	< .001	.73		
MIG	19.4	0-86	49	0-971	< .001	.48	.3	.08	.76	.44	.28	.01	.12	.04†		
MCP-1	173	61-342	222	62-1,705	.001	.19	.009	.77	.87	.20	.07	.27	.68	.24		
VEGF	1	0-2.7	2.3	0-47	< .001	.42	.42	.23	.72	.87	.27	.89	.31	.32		

JAK inhibitors may ameliorate MPN (in part via IL-6 decrease?)





Patients with Myelofibrosis, Day 28 vs. Baseline

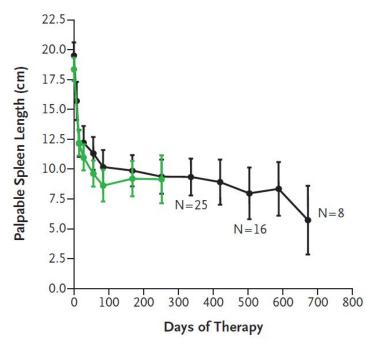


JAK inhibitors may ameliorate MPN (in part via IL-6 decrease?)

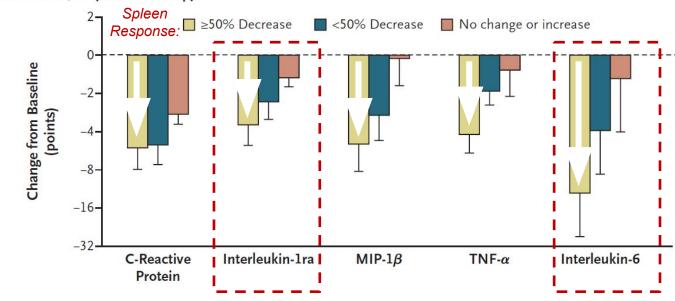


Ruxolitinib

- 25 mg twice daily (N=39)
- 15 mg twice daily (N=34)

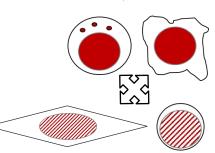


Change in Cytokine Level, 6 Cycles of Therapy



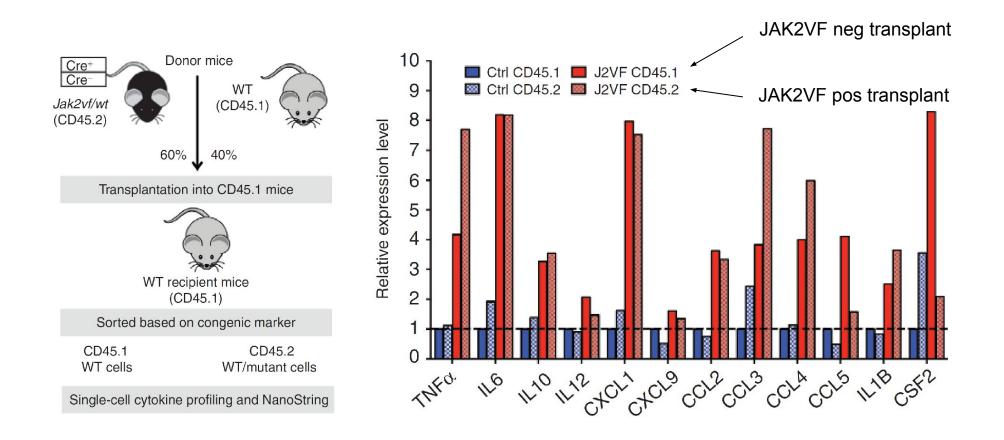
What is the evidence?

- HSC in the bone marrow (BM) acquires a somatic JAK2V617F (or CALR or MPL) driver mutation
 - This has been described to occur very early in life (e.g. in utero or early childhood)
 - JAK2V617F has been shown to induce cycling of HSCs
- JAK2V617F-mutant HSC divide symmetrically or asymmetrically (distribution and influential factors are still unclear)
 - Symmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC generates another JAK2V617F pos HSC (unclear whether these 2° HSCs are biologically identical or have altered function)
 - Asymmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC differentiates into MPPs/CMPs/MEPs/GMPs (HSC differentiation may be skewed, e.g. towards megakaryocytes)
- JAK2V617F-mutant progenitors proliferate and further differentiate
 - Progenitor differentiation may be skewed (towards myeloid, away from lymphoid differentiation)
- JAK2V617F-mutant progeny produces local myeloid cytokines (e.g. IL-1beta, IL-6, TNF)
 - JAK2V617F-mutant HSC and progenitors may enhance their cell division activity (e.g. proliferation, differentiation)
 - Clonal hematopoiesis (CHIP) for JAK2V617F may be detectable by PCR/NGS diagnostics (
 Patient is at risk for MPN & cardiovascular diseases)
- JAK2V617F-mutant differentiated cells accumulate in the peripheral blood and cause full-blown MPN
 - Systemic cytokines may cause chronic inflammatory symptoms (fever, night sweats, weight loss, fatigue, pruritus, ...)
 - Thrombocytosis, erythrocytosis, leukocytosis (mostly neutrophilia, monocytosis), splenomegaly
 - Highly increased risk of cardiovascular complications (e.g. thrombosis, bleeding, organ damage)
- JAK2V617F-mutant cells induce inflammatory stimulation of non-clonal cells
 - Hematopoietic bystander cells (e.g. T cells, NK cells, other JAK2WT cells)
 - Non-hematopoietic microenvironment (e.g. endothelial cells, myofibroblasts) (
 In addition, certain endothelial cells may harbor the JAK2V617F mutation)



JAK2V617F clone alters normal hematopoiesis





What is the evidence?

- HSC in the bone marrow (BM) acquires a somatic JAK2V617F (or CALR or MPL) driver mutation
 - This has been described to occur very early in life (e.g. in utero or early childhood)
 - JAK2V617F has been shown to induce cycling of HSCs
- JAK2V617F-mutant HSC divide symmetrically or asymmetrically (distribution and influential factors are still unclear)
 - Symmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC generates another JAK2V617F pos HSC (unclear whether these 2° HSCs are biologically identical or have altered function)
 - Asymmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC differentiates into MPPs/CMPs/MEPs/GMPs (HSC differentiation may be skewed, e.g. towards megakaryocytes)
- JAK2V617F-mutant progenitors proliferate and further differentiate
 - Progenitor differentiation may be skewed (towards myeloid, away from lymphoid differentiation)
- JAK2V617F-mutant progeny produces local myeloid cytokines (e.g. IL-1beta, IL-6, TNF)
 - JAK2V617F-mutant HSC and progenitors may enhance their cell division activity (e.g. proliferation, differentiation)
 - Clonal hematopoiesis (CHIP) for JAK2V617F may be detectable by PCR/NGS diagnostics (
 Patient is at risk for MPN & cardiovascular diseases)
- JAK2V617F-mutant differentiated cells accumulate in the peripheral blood and cause full-blown MPN
 - Systemic cytokines may cause chronic inflammatory symptoms (fever, night sweats, weight loss, fatigue, pruritus, ...)
 - Thrombocytosis, erythrocytosis, leukocytosis (mostly neutrophilia, monocytosis), splenomegaly
 - Highly increased risk of cardiovascular complications (e.g. thrombosis, bleeding, organ damage)
- JAK2V617F-mutant cells induce inflammatory stimulation of non-clonal cells
 - Hematopoietic bystander cells (e.g. T cells, NK cells, other JAK2WT cells)
 - Non-hematopoietic microenvironment (e.g. endothelial cells, myofibroblasts) (
 In addition, certain endothelial cells may harbor the JAK2V617F mutation)
- Non-clonal cells (T cells, mesenchymal stromal cells) maintain chronic inflammation and BM fibrosis
 - Production of inflammatory cytokines, which favor the malignant clone and suppress normal hematopoiesis (e.g. TNF, lipocalin-2, IL-1beta, IL-6)
 - Production of profibrotic cytokines (e.g. profibrotic cytokines such as TGFbeta1)
 - These processes induce selection against TP53 WT in the hematopoietic compartment, favoring emergence of TP53 mutations (mutagenesis through ROS)

 $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$

Eventually, disease progression occurs

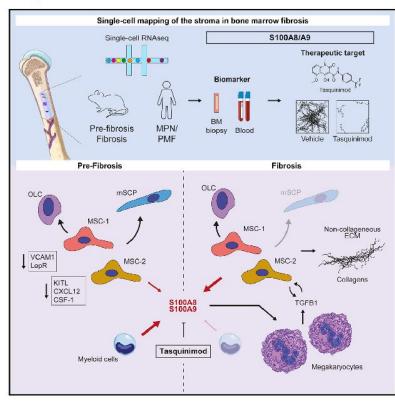
scRNAseq defines separate subgroups of BM stromal cells in MPN

Article

Cell Stem Cell

Heterogeneous bone-marrow stromal progenitors drive myelofibrosis via a druggable alarmin axis

Graphical Abstract



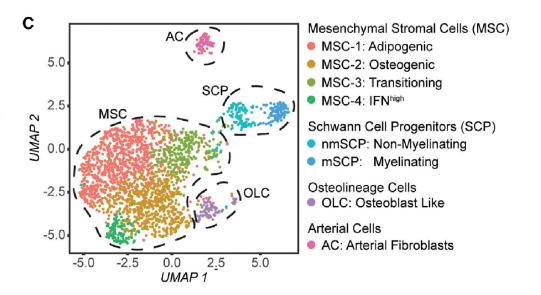
Nils B. Leimkühler,^{1,14} Hélène F.E. Gleitz,^{1,14} Li Ronghui,^{2,14} Inge A.M. Snoeren,¹ Stijn N.R. Fuchs,¹ James S. Nagai,² Bella Banjanin,¹ King H. Lam,³ Thomas Vogl,⁴ Christoph Kuppe,⁵ Ursula S.A. Stalmann,¹ Guntram Büsche,⁶ Hans Kreipe,⁶ Ines Gütgemann,⁷ Philippe Krebs,⁸ Yara Banz,⁸ Peter Boor,⁹ Evelyn Wing-Ying Tai,⁹ Tim H. Brümmendorf,¹⁰ Steffen Koschmieder,¹⁰ Martina Crysandt,¹⁰ Eric Bindels,¹ Rafael Kramann,^{5,13,15} Ivan G. Costa,^{2,15} and Rebekka K. Schneider^{1,11,12,15,16,*}

Correspondence

reschneider@ukaachen.de

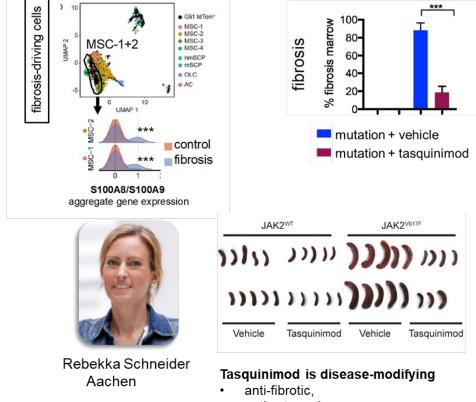
In Brief

Leimkühler and colleagues demonstrate that mesenchymal stromal progenitor cells are fibrosis-driving cells in mice and patients, that inflammation in the bonemarrow stroma precedes TGF- β signaling-driven fibrosis, and that the alarmin heterocomplex S100A8/S100A9 holds promise as MPN progression marker and therapeutic target.



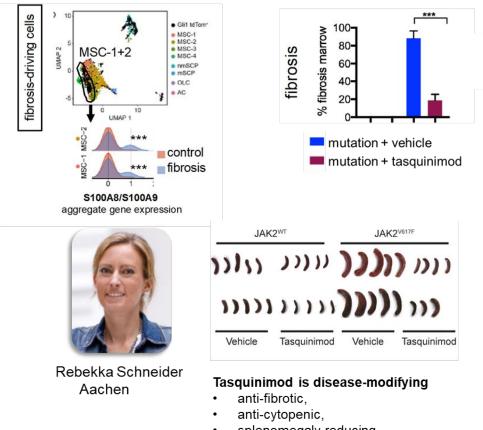
Early interventions: Role of alarmins S100A8/A9 in MPN initiation

Target Identification (S100A8/A9) and Target Validation (Tasquinimod)¹



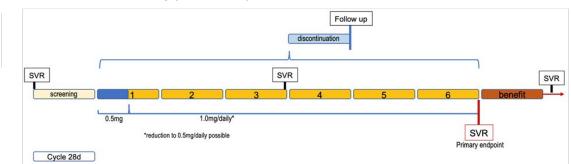
- anti-cytopenic,
- splenomegaly-reducing

Early interventions: Role of alarmins S100A8/A9 in MPN initiation



Target Identification (S100A8/A9) and Target Validation (Tasquinimod)¹

Proof-of-concept Phase II Clinical Trial – TasquForce MPN

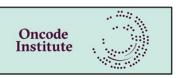


Patient cohort: heavily pretreated patients with MPN and bone marrow fibrosis



Funding:

Sponsor:

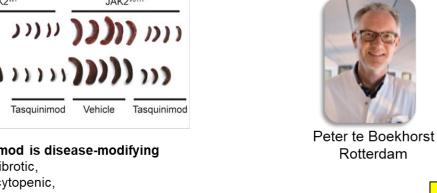


Erasmus MC University Medical Center Rotterdam

Clinical has recently started...

Martina Crysandt

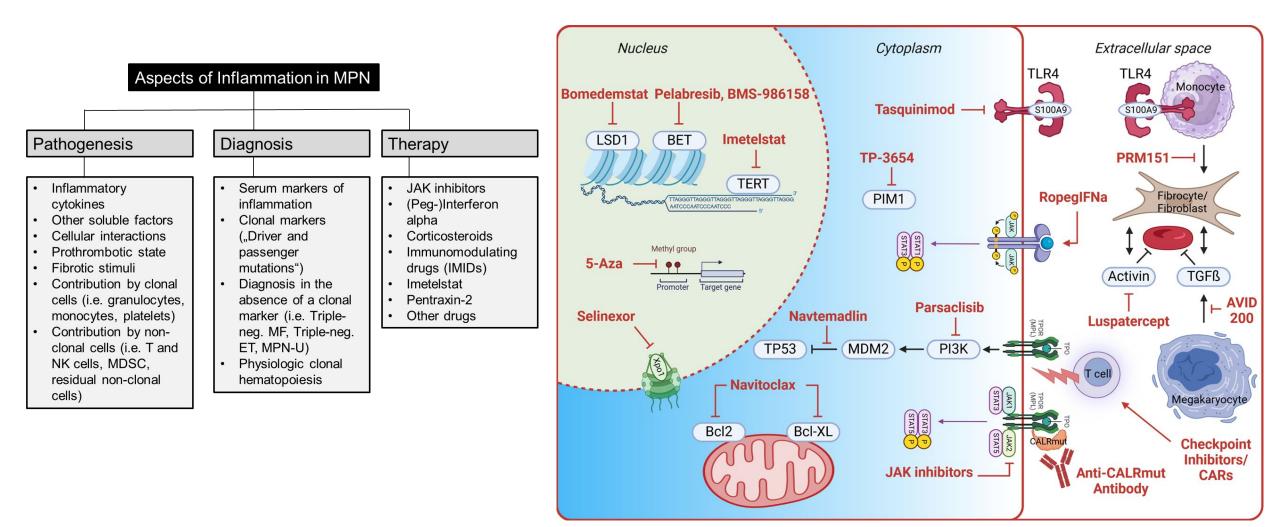
Aachen



splenomegaly-reducing

Summary and Outlook





Acknowledgments

Our Department, Aachen University:

Dept. of Hematology, Oncology, Hemostaseology, and SCT:

Nicolas Chatain, Marcelo Szymanski de Toledo, Julian Baumeister, Jimena Rodriguez, Milena Kalmer, Kathrin Olschok, Stefan Tillmann, Mithuoshni Arullmoli, Kim Kricheldorf, Joelle Schifflers, Manuela Klever, Mirle Schemionek, Deniz Gezer, Julia Stomper, Madeline Caduc, Rosa Cho, Rebecca Lemanzyk, Chiara Wirths, Martina Crysandt, Gerda Silling, Tim Brümmendorf (and more)

Our collaborators:

RWTH Aachen University: Rafael Kramann, Sikander Hayat, Mirle Schemionek, Gerhard Müller-Newen, Rebekka Schneider, Martina Crysandt, Martin Zenke, Nicolas Chatain, Alexandros Sofias, Wolfgang Wagner, Hélène Gleitz, Natalia Torow, Mathias Hornef, Tim Brümmendorf, Ivan Costa, all other CRU344 members

GSG-MPN Germany: Konstanze Döhner, Martin Griesshammer, Tim Brümmendorf, Florian Heidel, Susanne Isfort, Frank Stegelmann, Haifa K. Al-Ali, Heiko Becker, Nikolas v. Bubnoff, Thomas Ernst, Thomas Fischer, Norbert Gattermann, Joachim Göthert, Madlen Jentzsch, Philipp Jost, Nicolaus Kröger, Eva Lengfelder, Heike Pahl, Markus Radsak, Andreas Reiter, Christoph Scheid, Lino Teichmann, Dominik Wolf, and other GSG-MPN members

MPN Patient Advocacy Groups: mpn-netzwerk e.V. (Germany), MPN Research Foundation (USA), MPN Advocates Network (Switzerland)

International: Alexandre Theocharides, Radek Skoda, Claire Harrison, Ruben Mesa, Jean-Jacques Kiladjian, John Mascarenhas, Naveen Pemmaraju, Raajit Rampal, Jyoti Nangalia, Tiziano Barbui, Alberto Alvarez-Larran, Simon Mendez-Ferrer, Hans Hasselbalch, Tomasz Skorski, Shannon Elf, and many others



Funding Agencies:





Thank you for your attention!







E-Mail: skoschmieder@ukaachen.de



Personal view on MPN pathogenesis and the role of inflammation **WNIKLINIK**

- HSC in the bone marrow (BM) acquires a somatic JAK2V617F (or CALR or MPL) driver mutation
 - This has been described to occur very early in life (e.g. in utero or early childhood) (unclear how frequent and what the triggers are)
 - JAK2V617F has been shown to induce cycling of HSCs
- JAK2VF-mutant HSC divide symmetrically or asymmetrically (distribution and influential factors are still unclear)
 - Symmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC generates another JAK2V617F pos HSC (unclear whether these 2° HSCs are biologically identical or have altered function)
 - Asymmetrical: JAK2V617F-mutant HSC differentiates into MPPs/CMPs/MEPs/GMPs (HSC differentiation may be skewed, e.g. towards megakaryocytes)
- JAK2V617F-mutant progenitors proliferate and further differentiate
 - Progenitor differentiation may be skewed (towards myeloid, away from lymphoid differentiation)
- JAK2V617F-mutant progeny produces local myeloid cytokines (e.g. IL-1beta, IL-6, TNF)
 - JAK2V617F-mutant HSC and progenitors may enhance their cell division activity (e.g. proliferation, differentiation)
 - Clonal hematopoiesis (CHIP) for JAK2V617F may be detectable by PCR/NGS diagnostics (
 Patient is at risk for MPN & cardiovascular diseases)
- JAK2V617F-mutant differentiated cells accumulate in the peripheral blood and cause full-blown MPN
 - Systemic cytokines may cause chronic inflammatory symptoms (fever, night sweats, weight loss, fatigue, pruritus, ...)
 - · Thrombocytosis, erythrocytosis, leukocytosis (mostly neutrophilia, monocytosis), splenomegaly
 - Highly increased risk of cardiovascular complications (e.g. thrombosis, bleeding, organ damage)
- JAK2V617F-mutant cells induce inflammatory stimulation of non-clonal cells
 - Hematopoietic bystander cells (e.g. T cells, NK cells, other JAK2WT cells)
 - Non-hematopoietic microenvironment (e.g. endothelial cells, myofibroblasts) (
 In addition, certain endothelial cells may harbor the JAK2V617F mutation)
- Non-clonal cells (T cells, mesenchymal stromal cells) maintain chronic inflammation and BM fibrosis
 - Production of inflammatory cytokines, which favor the malignant clone and suppress normal hematopoiesis (e.g. TNF, lipocalin-2, IL-1beta, IL-6)
 - Production of profibrotic cytokines (e.g. profibrotic cytokines such as TGFbeta1)
 - These processes induce selection against TP53 WT in the hematopoietic compartment, favoring emergence of TP53 mutations (mutagenesis through ROS)
- Eventually, disease progression occurs

 $\sum_{i=1}^{n}$