



**morbo celiaco**



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AIC IN ITALIA



RICERCA



La celiachia colpisce 1 italiano su 100. La Fondazione Celiachia ONLUS favorisce le attività di ricerca, studio e promozione nel campo della ricerca.

Ciao, se sei un **neo diagnosticato** segui il percorso che abbiamo pensato apposta per te.



**5x1000 = 125.387**  
ristorante e pizzerie in cui la celiachia non deve aspettare fuori

L'Associazione Italiana Celiachia pubblica da 10 anni la guida dei locali italiani che fanno cucina senza glutine.

**5X1000** Associazione Italiana Celiachia AIC  
Codice Fiscale 11359620157

*Morbo celiaco*

*celiac disease, celiac sprue, gluten-sensitive enteropathy  
nontropical sprue*



Lesione mucosale caratteristica dell'intestino tenue con malassorbimento che migliora eliminando le gliadine (glutine) del frumento dalla dieta.

Il morbo celiaco colpisce prevalentemente i soggetti di razza caucasica ed è rara negli africani, giapponesi e cinesi.

In Europa la prevalenza è di 1:100-1:200, negli Usa 1:130-300

**C**ELIAC DISEASE IS A UNIQUE AUTOIMMUNE DISORDER, UNIQUE BECAUSE the environmental precipitant is known. The disorder was previously called celiac sprue, based on the Dutch word *sprue*, which was used to describe a disease similar to tropical sprue that is characterized by diarrhea, emaciation, aphthous stomatitis, and malabsorption.<sup>1,2</sup> Celiac disease is precipitated, in genetically predisposed persons, by the ingestion of gluten, the major storage protein of wheat and similar grains.<sup>3</sup> Originally considered a rare malabsorption syndrome of childhood, celiac disease is now recognized as a common condition that may be diagnosed at any age and that affects many organ systems. The therapy for the disease is a gluten-free diet; however, the response to therapy is poor in up to 30% of patients, and dietary nonadherence is the chief cause of persistent or recurrent symptoms. Small intestinal adenocarcinoma, refractory sprue, and enteropathy-associated T-cell lymphoma are complications of celiac disease that must be ruled out when alarming symptoms such as abdominal pain, diarrhea, and weight loss develop despite a strict gluten-free diet.

## THE ROLE OF GLUTEN

Celiac disease is induced by the ingestion of gluten, which is derived from wheat, barley, and rye. The gluten protein is enriched in glutamine and proline and is poorly digested in the human upper gastrointestinal tract. The term “gluten” refers to the entire protein component of wheat; gliadin is the alcohol-soluble fraction of gluten that contains the bulk of the toxic components. Undigested molecules of gliadin, such as a peptide from an  $\alpha$ -gliadin fraction made up of 33 amino acids, are resistant to degradation by gastric, pancreatic, and intestinal brush-border membrane proteases in the human intestine and thus remain in the intestinal lumen after gluten ingestion.<sup>4</sup> These peptides pass through the epithelial barrier of the intestine, possibly during intestinal infections or when there is an increase in intestinal permeability, and interact with antigen-presenting cells in the lamina propria.

## Patogenesi

Ipersensibilità al glutine, che è la proteina (gliadina) alcool-solubile, insolubile in acqua componente il frumento e del grano di avena, orzo e segale.

Reazione infiammatoria cronica, da parte dei linfociti T, con una componente autoimmune, che si sviluppa probabilmente come conseguenza della perdita di tolleranza nei confronti del glutine.

La mucosa dell'intestino tenue, quando esposta al glutine, accumula linfociti CD8+ a livello intraepiteliale e numerosi CD4+ nella lamina propria, sensibilizzati nei confronti della gliadina.

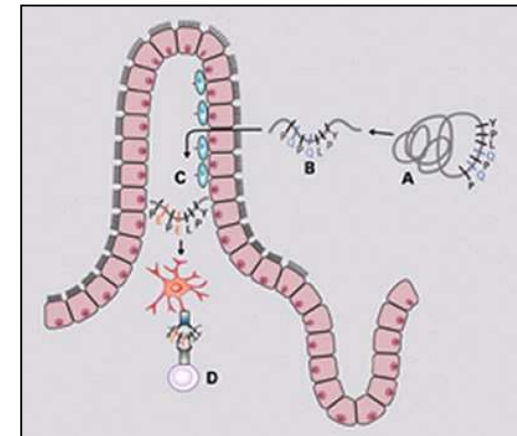
Nella patogenesi della malattia sono compresi fattori genetici predisponenti, il tipo di risposta del sistema immunitario e fattori ambientali.

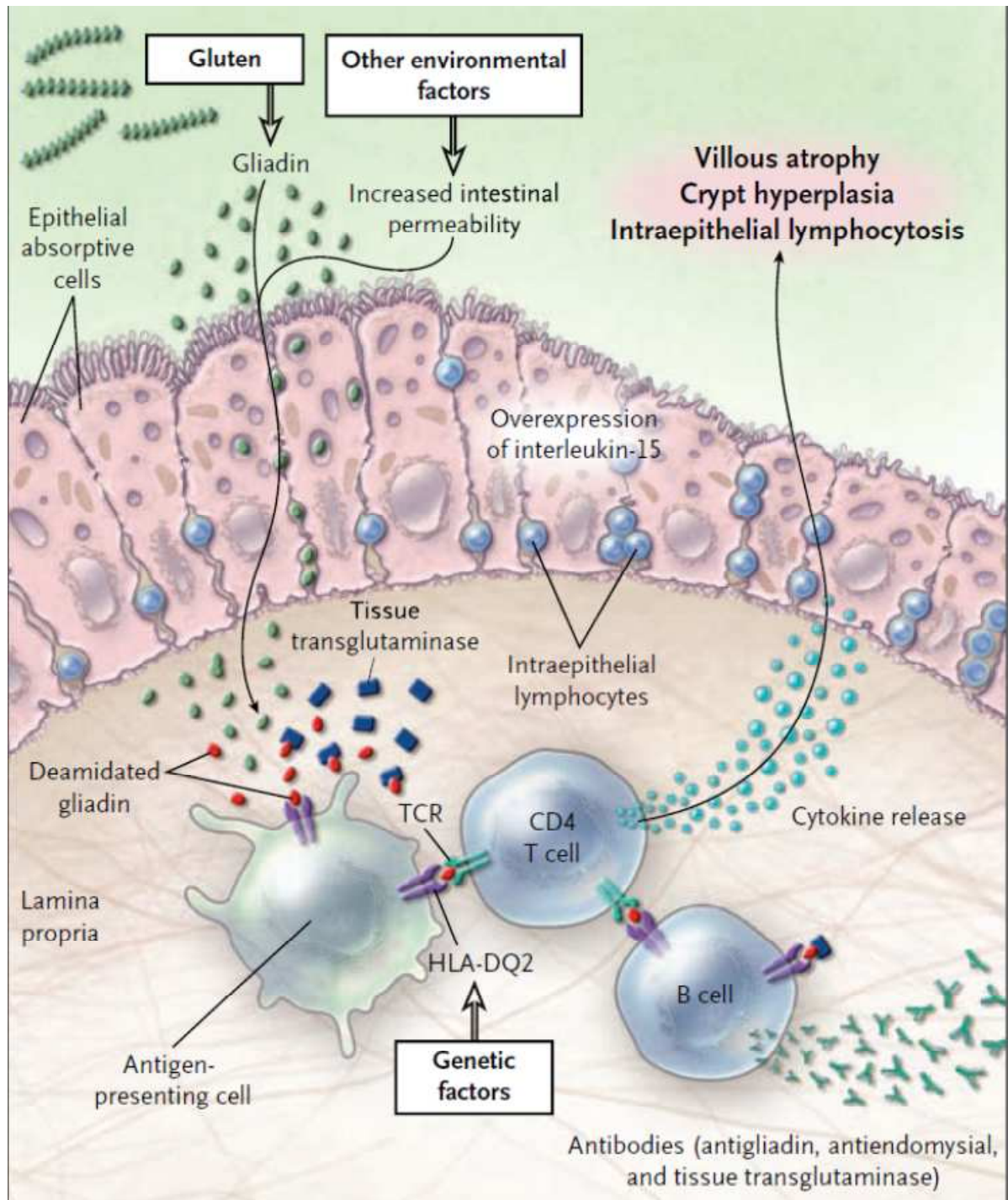
Quasi tutti gli individui con morbo celiaco, condividono gli aplotipi per il complesso maggiore di istocompatibilità II HLA-DQ2 o HLA-DQ8: sembra che la gliadina venga deaminata dalla transglutaminasi e che i peptidi deaminati si leghino a DQ2 e DQ8. Il riconoscimento di questi peptidi da parte dei linfociti CD4+ porta alla secrezione di interferone  $\gamma$  che danneggia la mucosa intestinale.

E' un'ipotesi che deve essere ancora dimostrata così come il perché i CD8+ si accumulano nell'epitelio. Infatti i linfociti CD8+ non riconoscono la gliadina, ma sembrano rispondere alle molecole indotte dallo stress (IL-15) sulle cellule epiteliali.

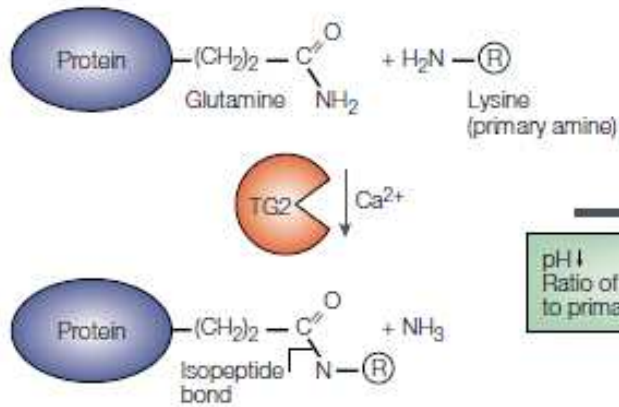
Le cellule epiteliali secernono grandi quantità di IL-15 che attivano le cellule T CD8+ e aumentano il rischio di sviluppo di linfoma intestinale.

Esiste una forte evidenza che genitori e fratelli di celiaci hanno un aumentato rischio di sviluppare la malattia, con una prevalenza che va dal 6 al 12%.

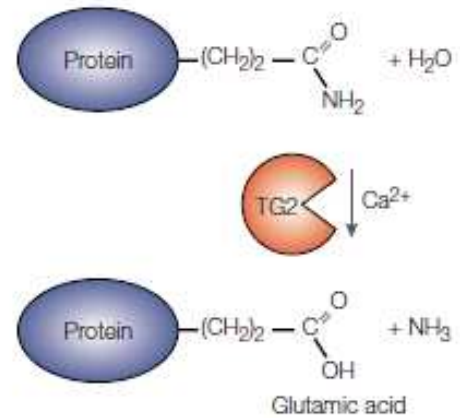




**Protein crosslinking**



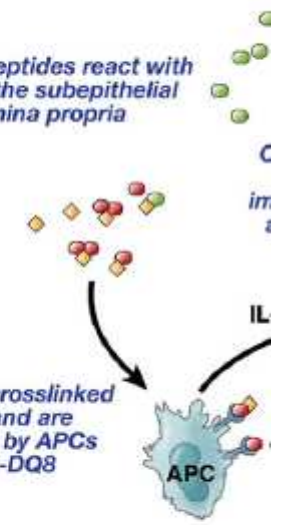
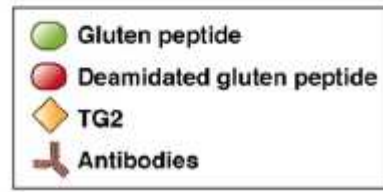
**Deamidation**



pH ↓  
Ratio of glutamine substrate to primary amines ↑

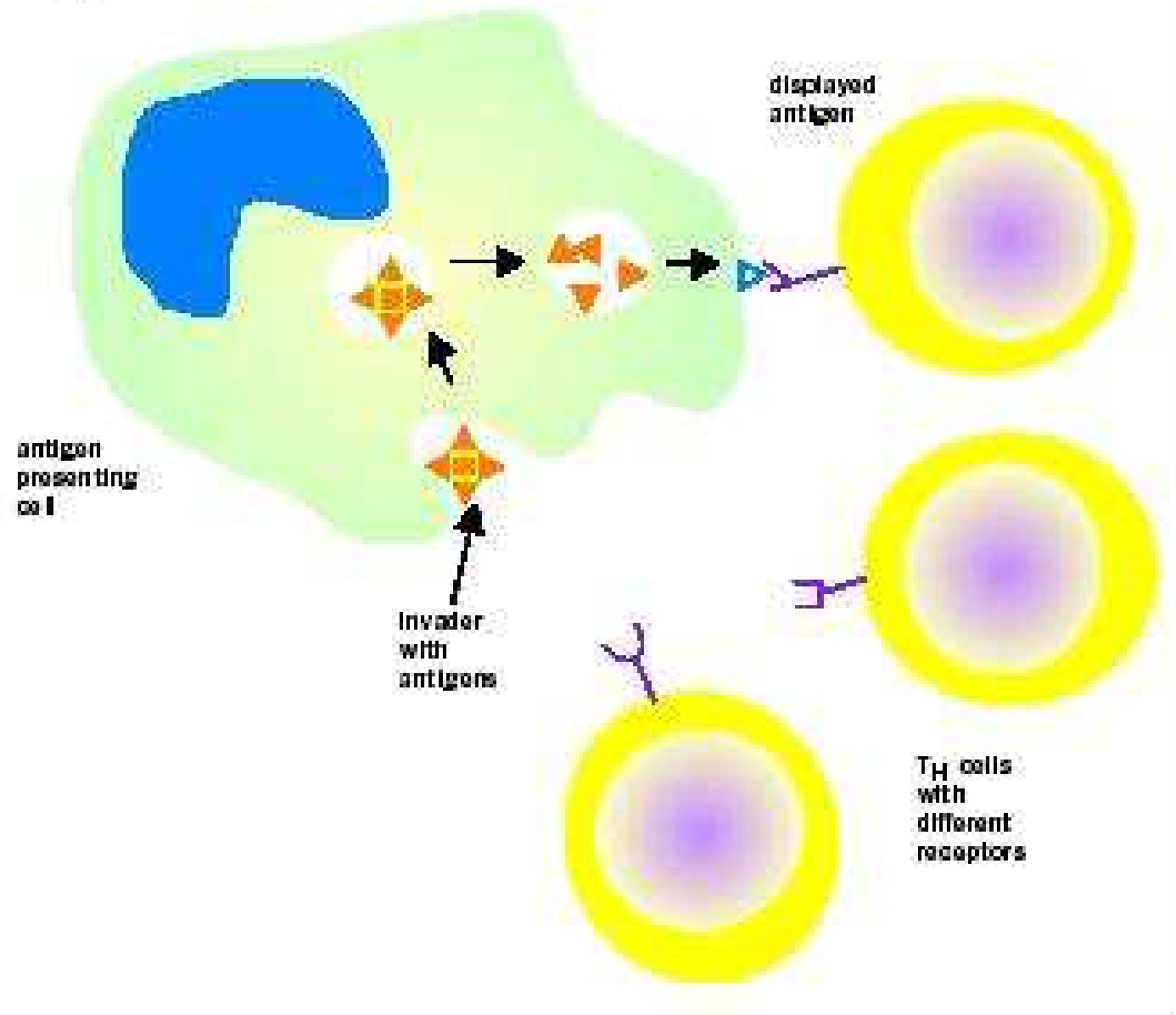
Gluten peptides react with TG2 in the subepithelial lamina propria

Gluten peptides get crosslinked and deamidated and are presented to T cells by APCs via HLA-DQ2 or -DQ8





## Antigen Presentation

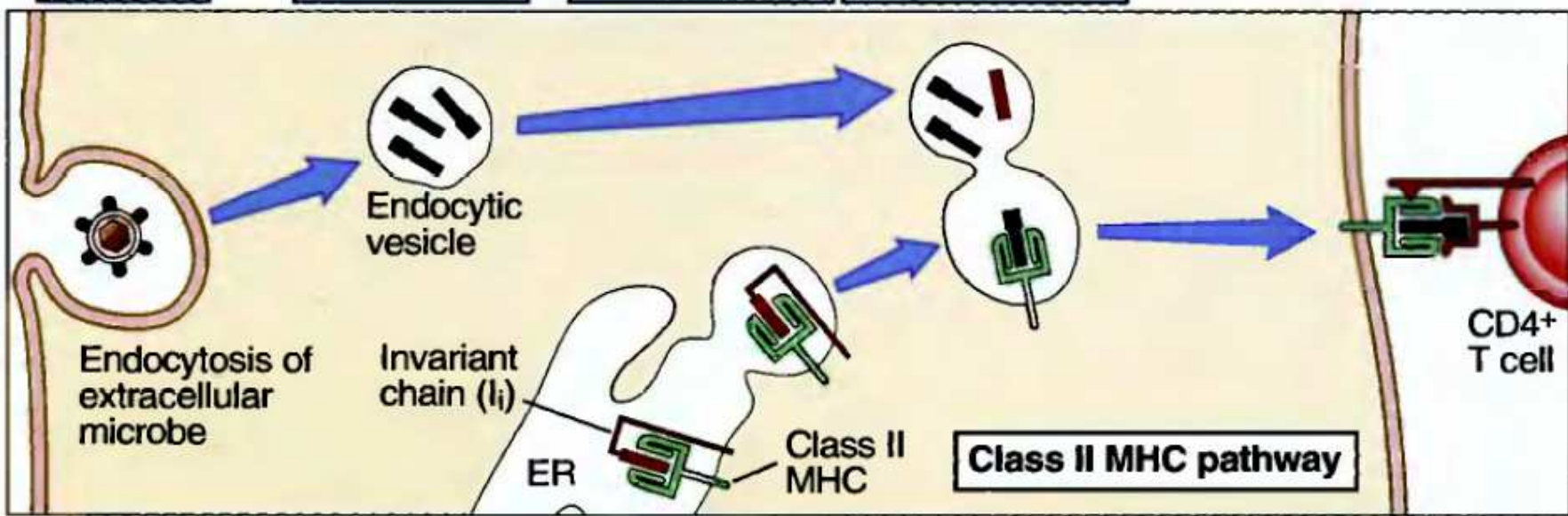


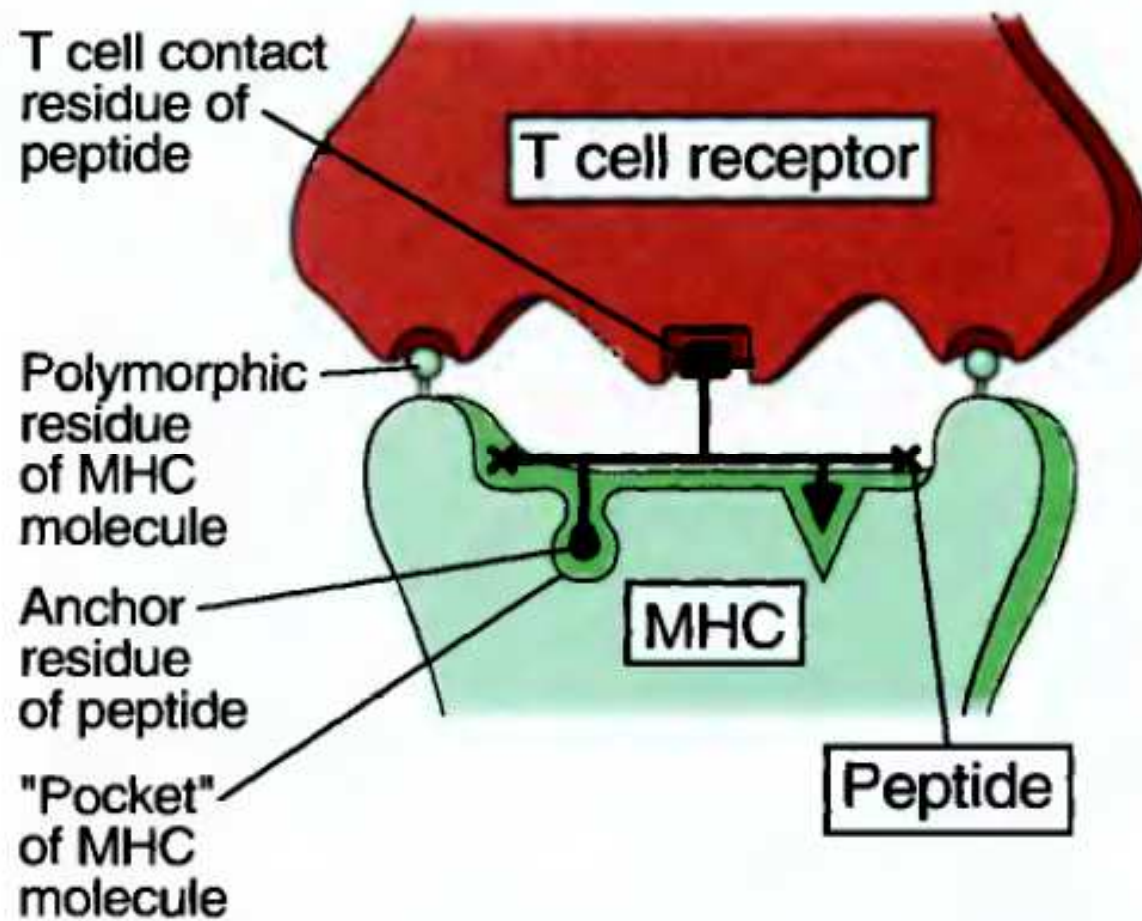
Antigen uptake

Antigen processing

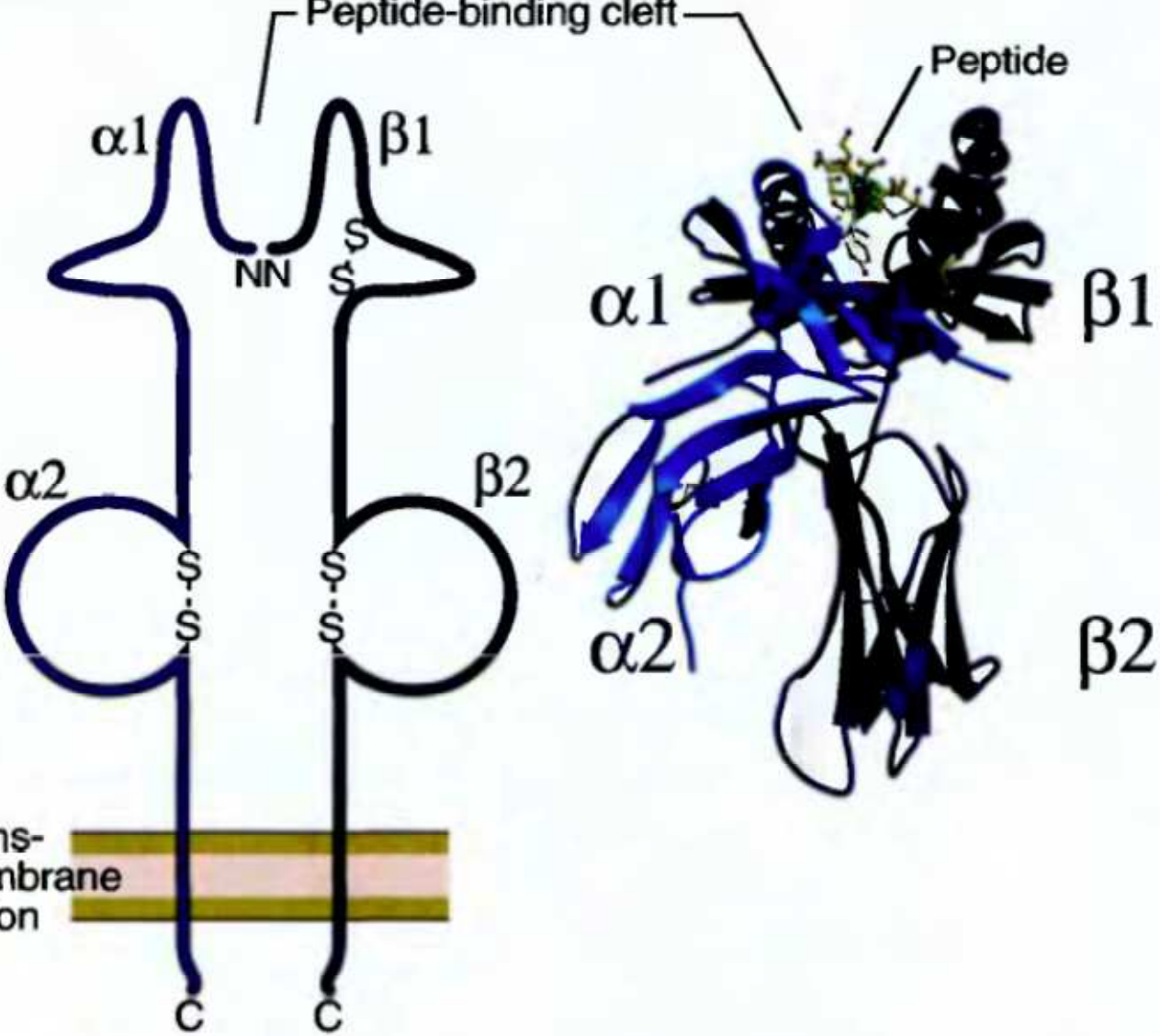
MHC biosynthesis

Peptide-MHC association





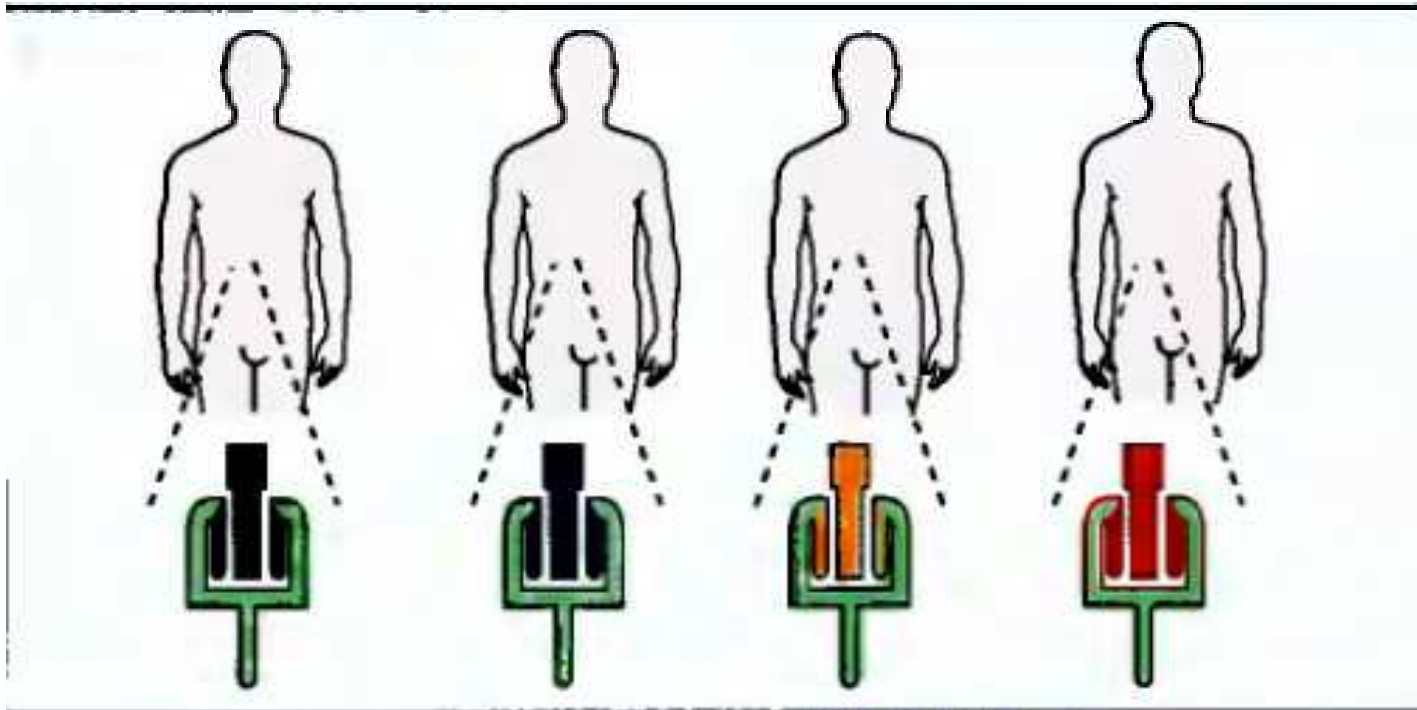
# Class II MHC

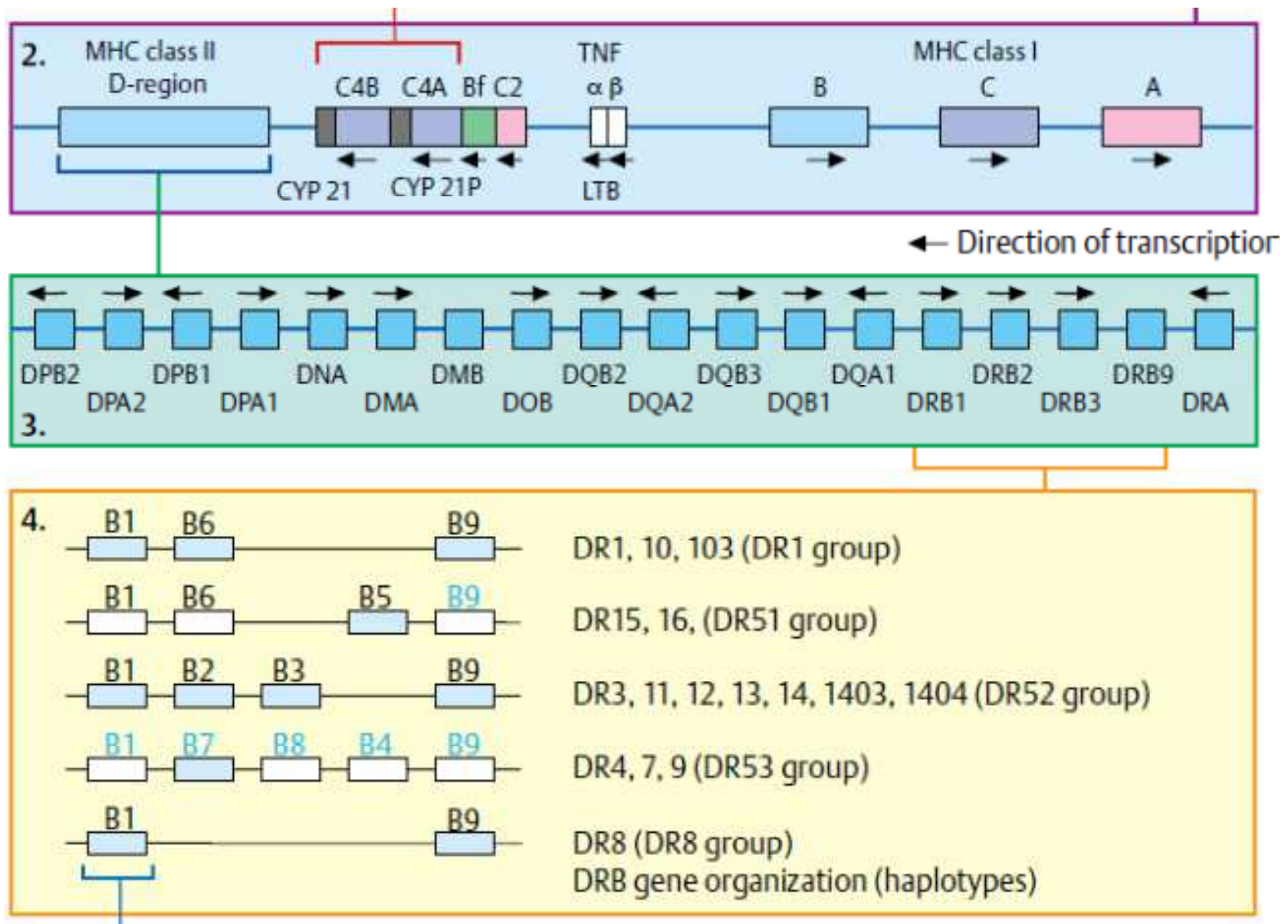


**Polymorphic genes:**

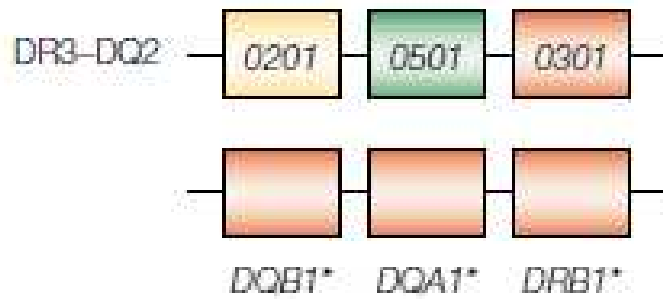
Many different alleles are present in the population

Ensures that different individuals are able to present and respond to different microbial peptides

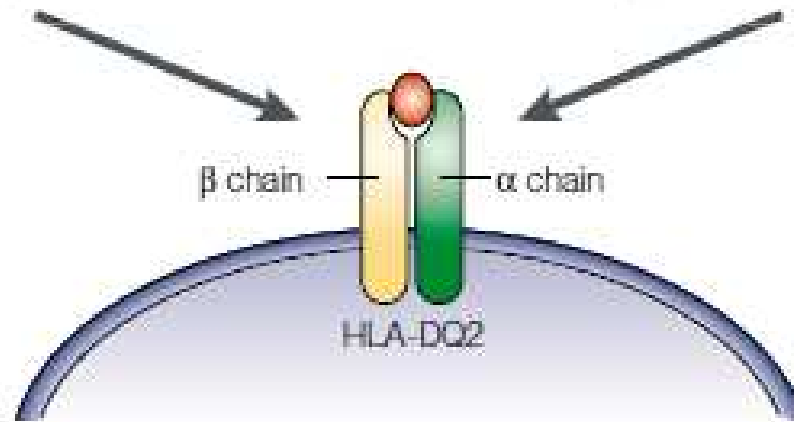
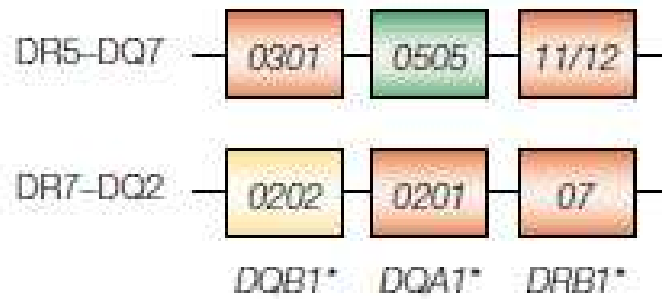


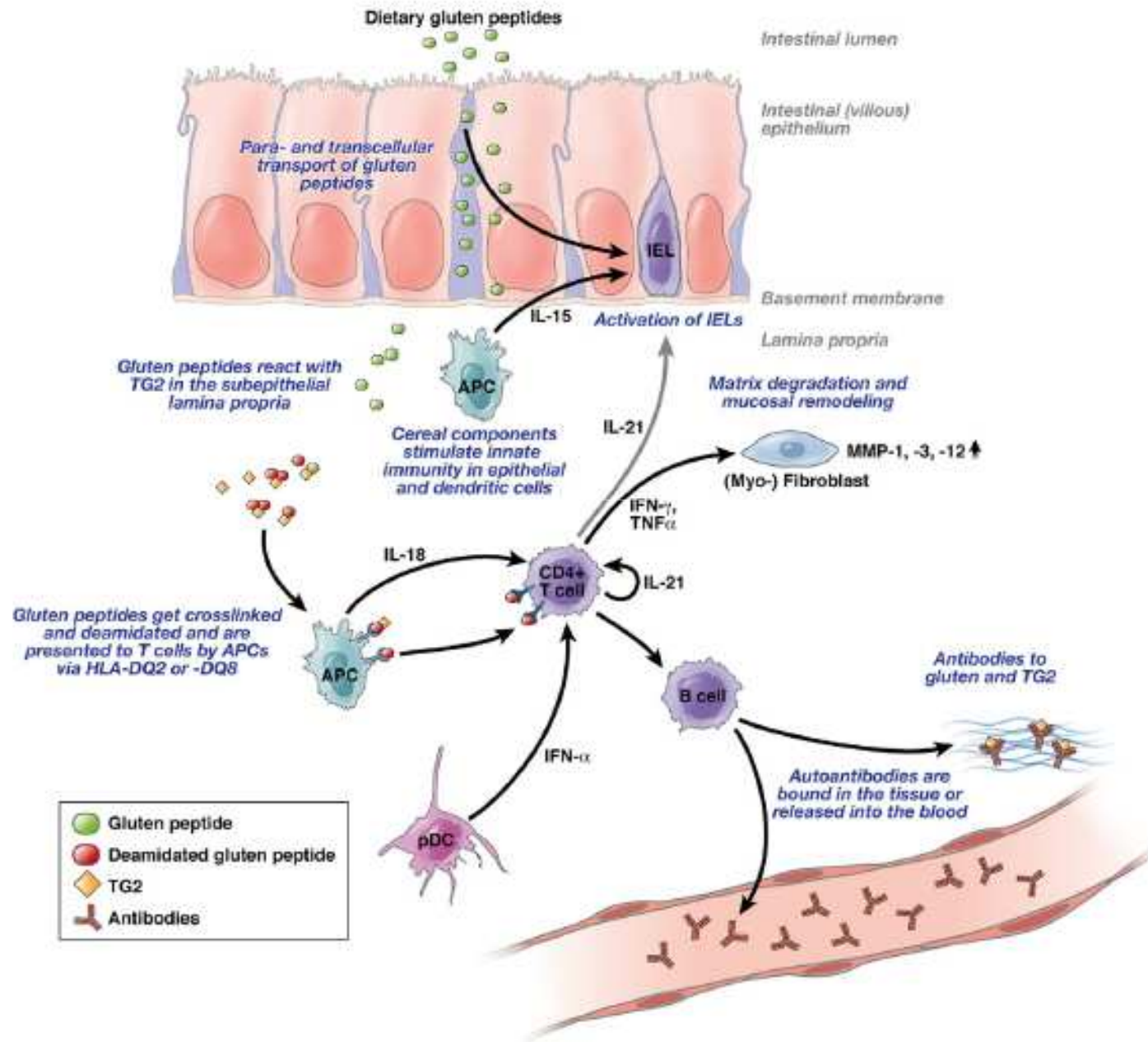


HLA-DQ2 heterodimer encoded *in cis*

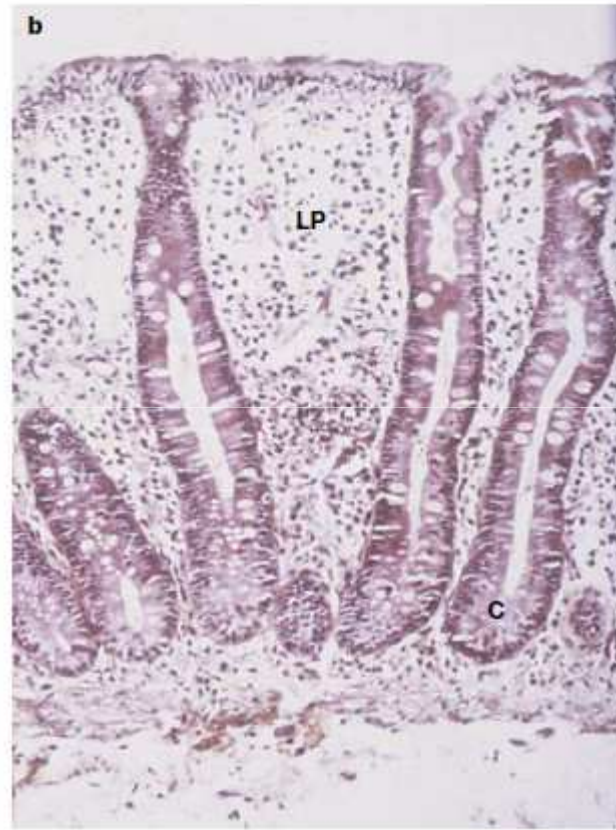
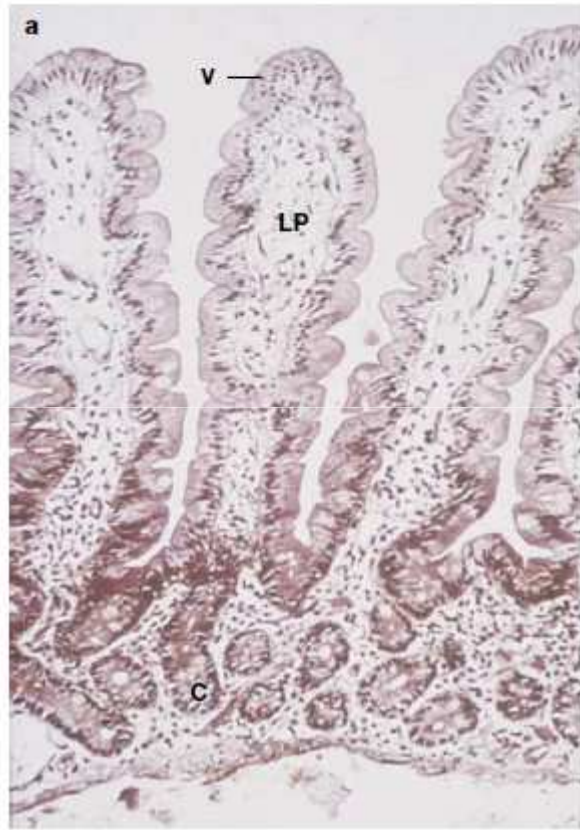


HLA-DQ2 heterodimer encoded *in trans*







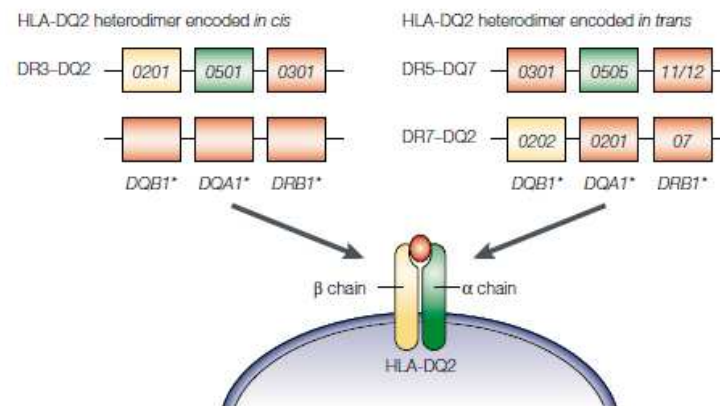
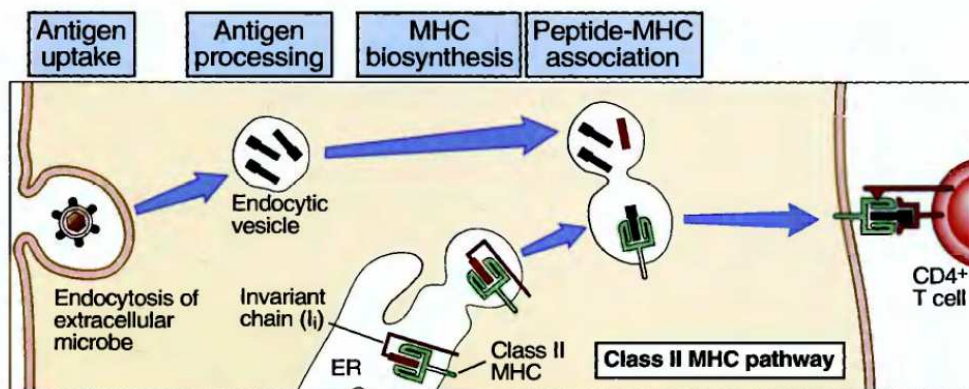


C ELIAC DISEASE IS A UNIQUE **AUTOIMMUNE DISORDER**, UNIQUE BECAUSE the environmental precipitant is known. The disorder was previously called celiac sprue, based on the Dutch word *sprue*, which was used to describe a disease similar to tropical sprue that is characterized by **diarrhea, emaciation, aphthous stomatitis, and malabsorption**<sup>1,2</sup> Celiac disease is precipitated, in **genetically pre-disposed** persons, by the **ingestion of gluten** the major storage protein of wheat and similar grains.<sup>3</sup> Originally considered a rare malabsorption syndrome of childhood, celiac disease is now recognized as a common condition that may be diagnosed at any age and that affects many organ systems. The therapy for the disease is a gluten-free diet; however, the response to therapy is poor in up to 30% of patients, and dietary nonadherence is the chief cause of persistent or recurrent symptoms. **Small intestinal adenocarcinoma, refractory sprue, and enteropathy-associated T-cell lymphoma** are complications of celiac disease that must be ruled out when alarming symptoms such as abdominal pain, diarrhea, and weight loss develop despite a strict gluten-free diet.

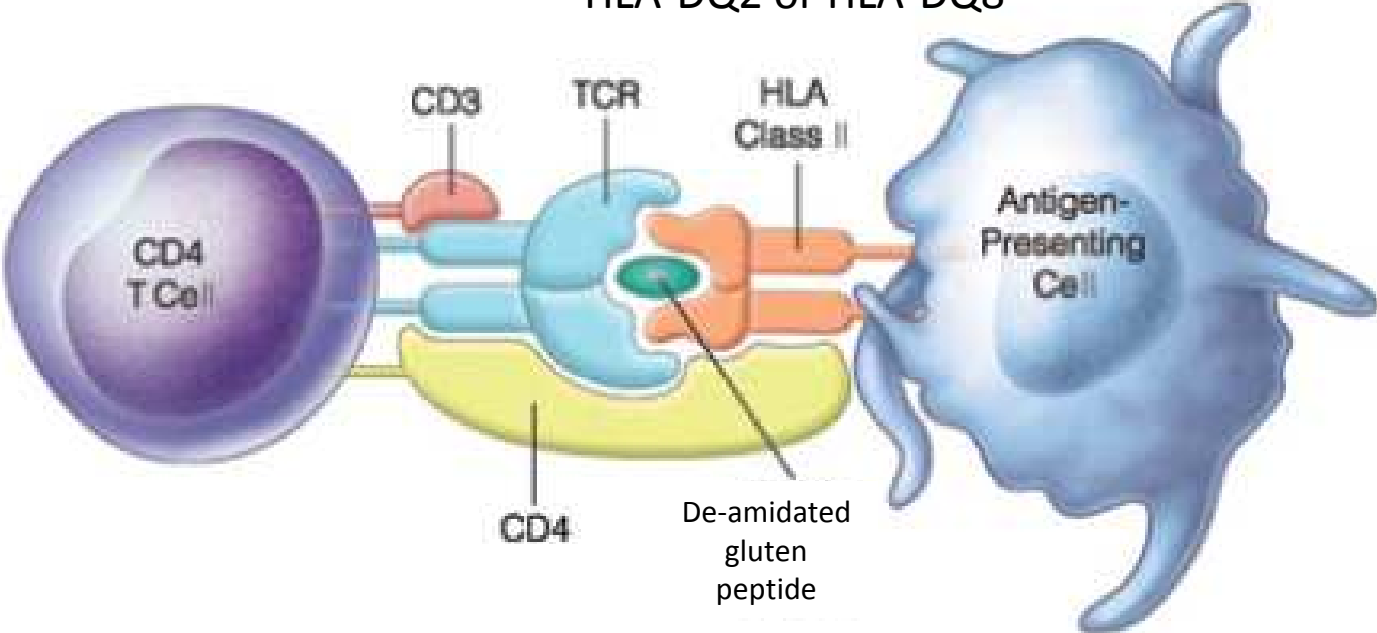


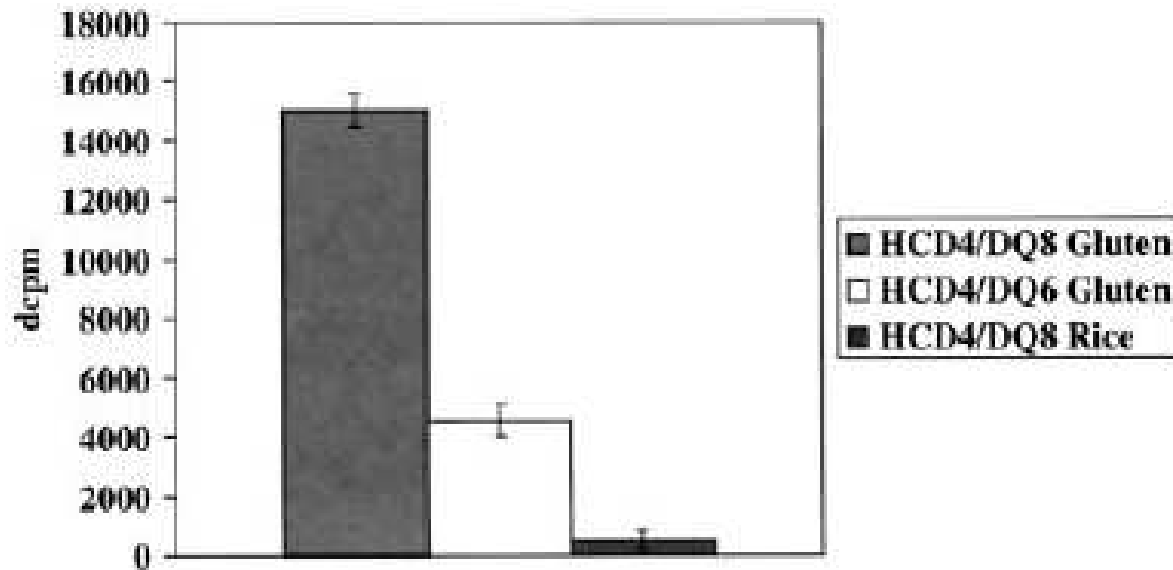
The Irish setter can develop mucosal atrophy in response to wheat ingestion,<sup>139</sup> but the pathogenesis is unlike celiac disease; because disease does not develop when the first gluten exposure occurs after an age of 8–9 months,<sup>140</sup> villous atrophy is not linked to major histocompatibility complex class genes and no serum antibodies to gluten can be detected.<sup>141</sup>

Because all patients with celiac disease bear HLA-DQ2 or HLA-DQ8, HLA-DQ2 or HLA-DQ8 transgenic mice should render suitable models that replicate the pathogenesis of celiac disease. Several transgenic mice have been developed that express human CD4 and DQ8 in the absence of their murine counterparts that would interfere with human immunology.



HLA-DQ2 or HLA-DQ8

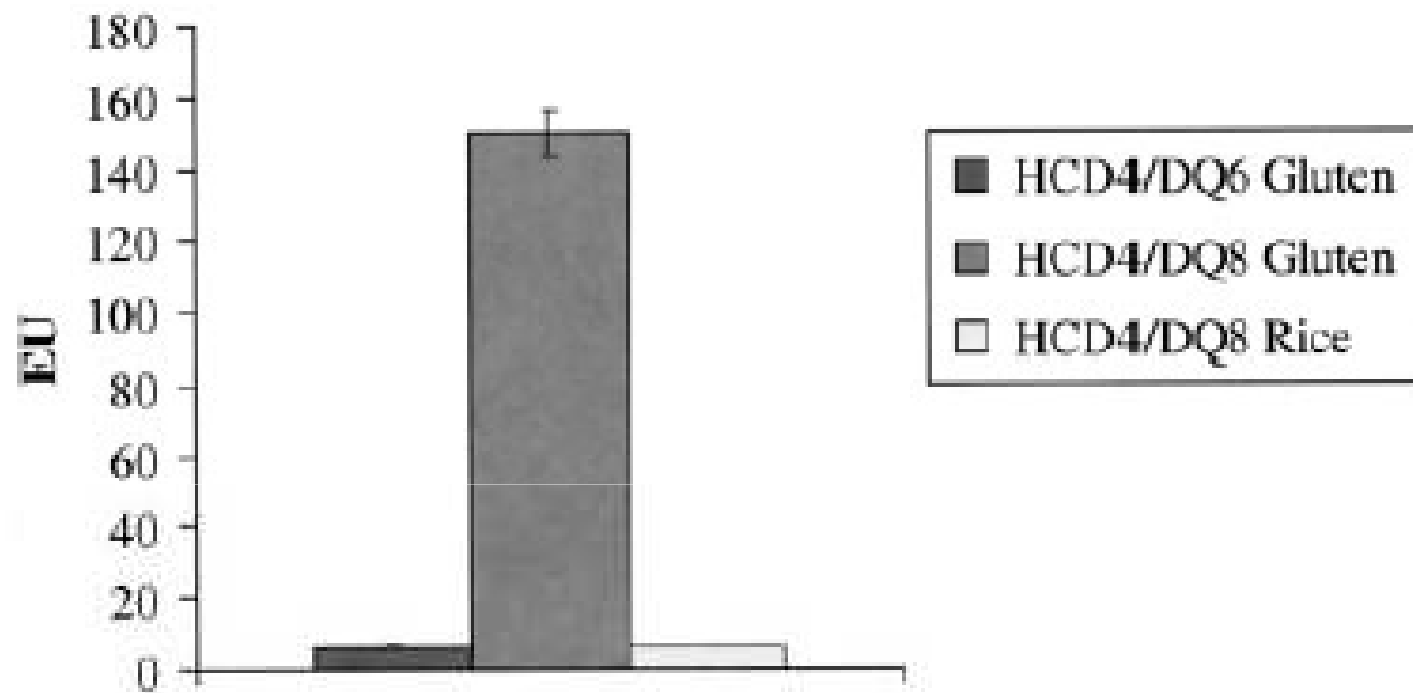




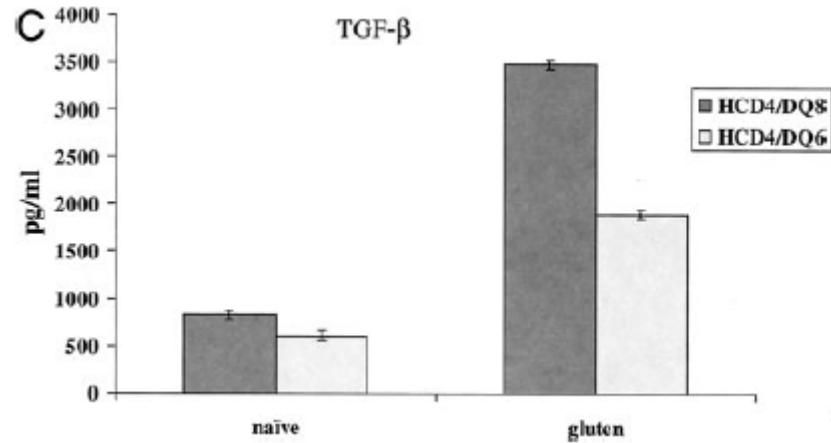
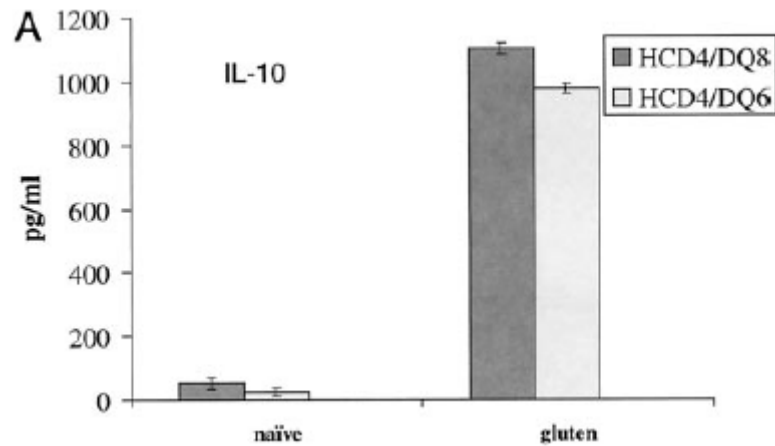
**FIGURE 1.** HCD4/DQ8 and HCD4/DQ6 lymph node cell response to in vitro challenge of gluten and rice protein. Data represent the  $\Delta$ cpm from the mean [ $^3$ H]thymidine incorporation for triplicate cultures ( $p < 0.001$ ).

After being immunized with gliadin, the T cells of these mice showed in vitro responses to gluten in a HLA-DQ8– and CD4-restricted manner, whereas T cells from HLA-DQ6 CD4 control mice did not develop a gliadin-specific immune response.

Black et al. 2002



**FIGURE 6.** HCD4/DQ8 mice immunized with gluten produce anti-gliadin IgG Abs. Results are expressed as EU using the following equation:  $EU = \text{Absorbance mouse sera} - \text{Absorbance blank (405nm)} \times 100$ .  $n = 6$  mice per group;  $p < 0.002$ .



However, apart from high levels of anti-gliadin IgG antibodies, the mice did **not show any celiac pathology**. The cytokine profile in these mice resembled that of a **regulatory phenotype**, characterized by CD4CD25 T cells and production of IL-10 and TGF-1, likely leading to tolerance to gliadin, whereas celiac disease is driven by a Th1 response dominated by IFN- $\gamma$ . Furthermore, mice did not have circulating anti-TG2 or IgA anti-gliadin antibodies.



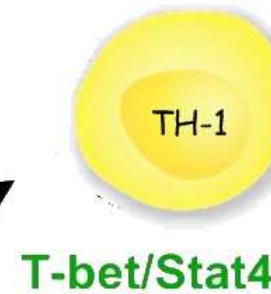
Extracellular bacteria  
Fungi  
Autoimmunity

IL-21  
IL-17a  
IL-17f  
IL-22  
(IL-10)



Intracellular pathogens  
Autoimmunity

IFN $\gamma$   
IL-2  
LT $\alpha$   
(IL-10)



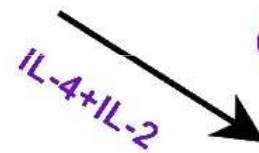
Foxp3/Stat5

TGF $\beta$   
IL-35  
IL-10



GATA-3/Stat5

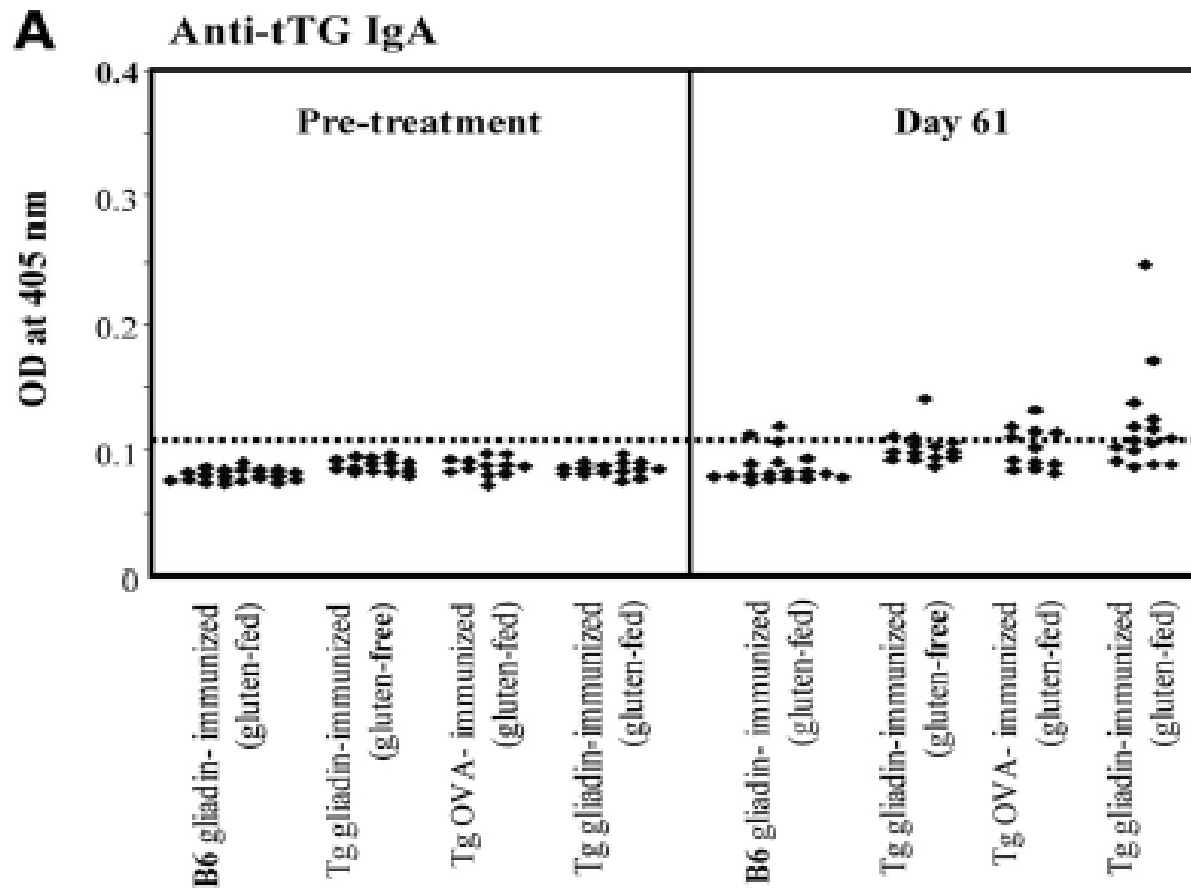
IL-4  
IL-5  
IL-13  
IL-25  
Amphiregulin  
IL-10



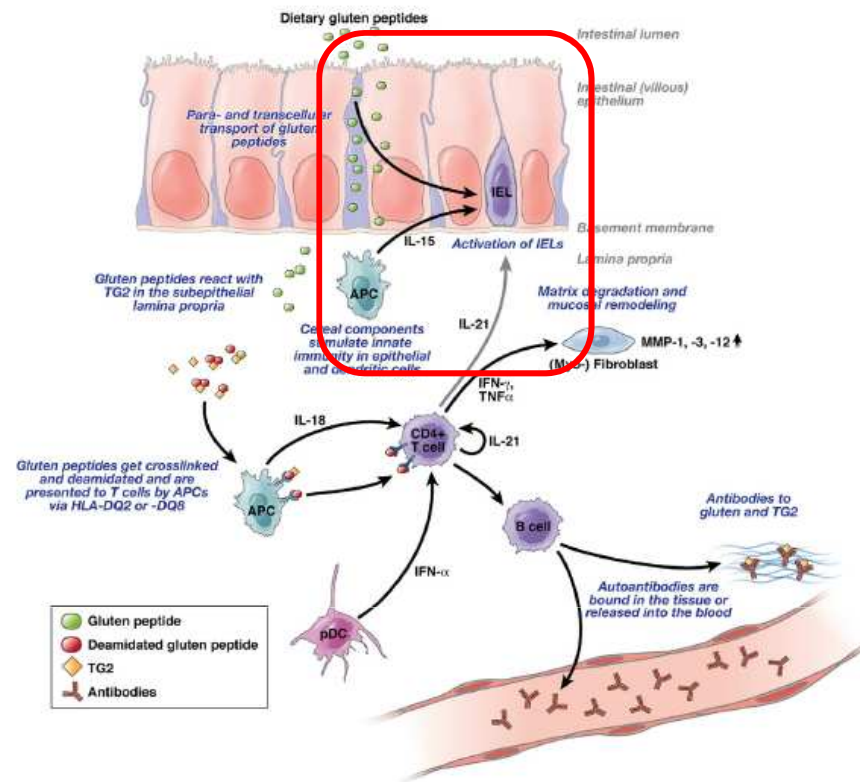
Extracellular parasites  
Allergy and asthma

Immune tolerance

Lymphocyte homeostasis  
Regulation of immune responses



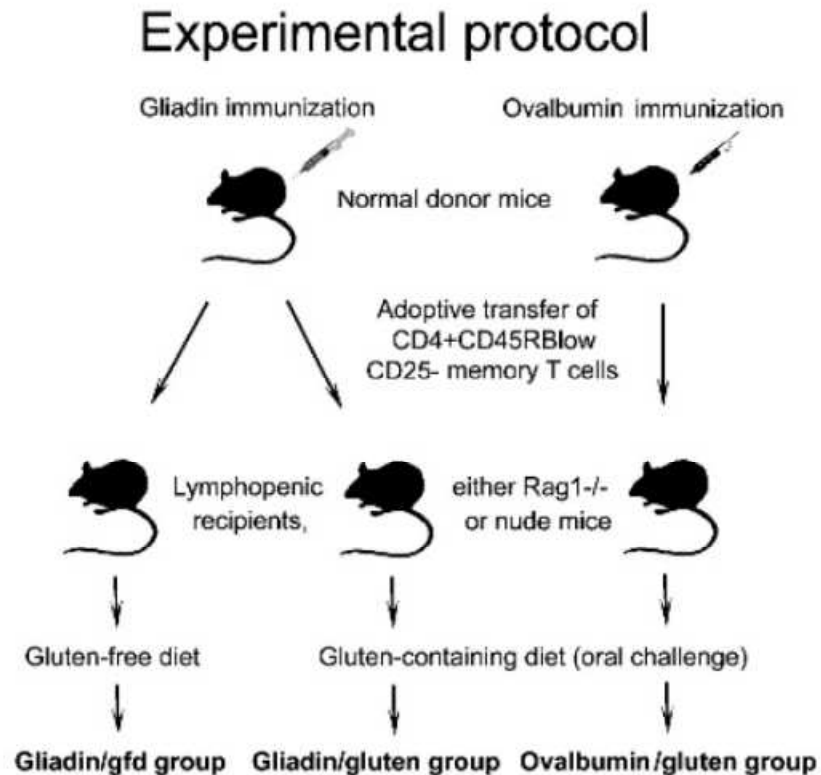
**2 out of 14 gluten-fed HLA-DR3-DQ2 transgenic mice developed IgA autoantibodies to TG2** and only 2 animals developed an increase in IELs. These humanized mouse models indicate that gluten ingestion can be tolerated without intestinal pathology even when HLA-DQ2-restricted CD4 T cell immunity to gluten is established, thereby implicating additional factors in controlling the penetrance of celiac disease. deKauwe et al. 2009



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 deKauwe et al. 2009

## Gliadin-primed CD4<sup>+</sup>CD45RBlowCD25<sup>–</sup> T cells drive gluten-dependent small intestinal damage after adoptive transfer into lymphopenic mice

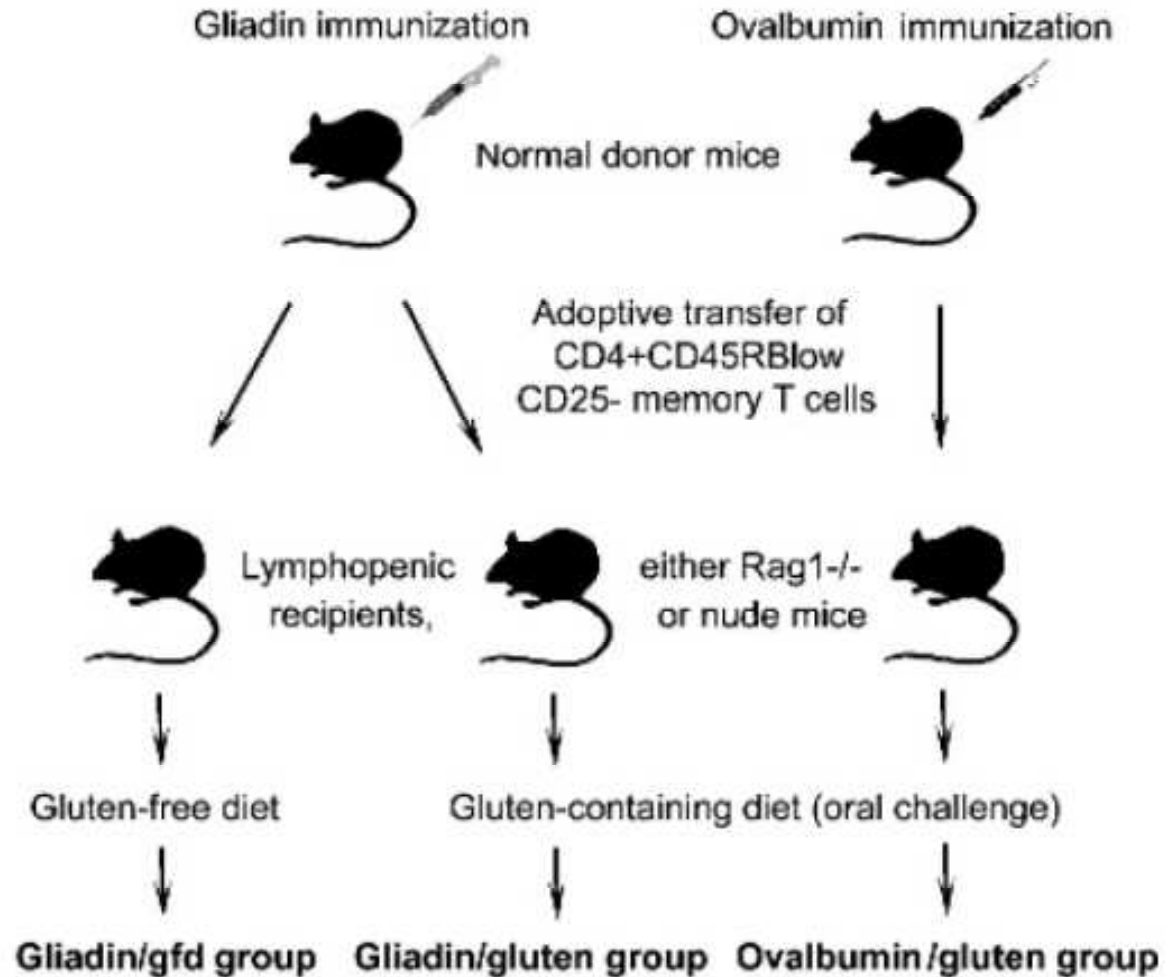
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Gliadin-primed CD4+CD45RBlowCD  
gluten-dependent small intestinal di  
adoptive transfer into lymphopenic

T L Freitag,<sup>1,2</sup> S Rietdijk,<sup>3</sup> Y Junker,<sup>1</sup> Y Popov,<sup>1</sup> A K Bhan  
D Schuppan<sup>1</sup>

# Experimental protocol

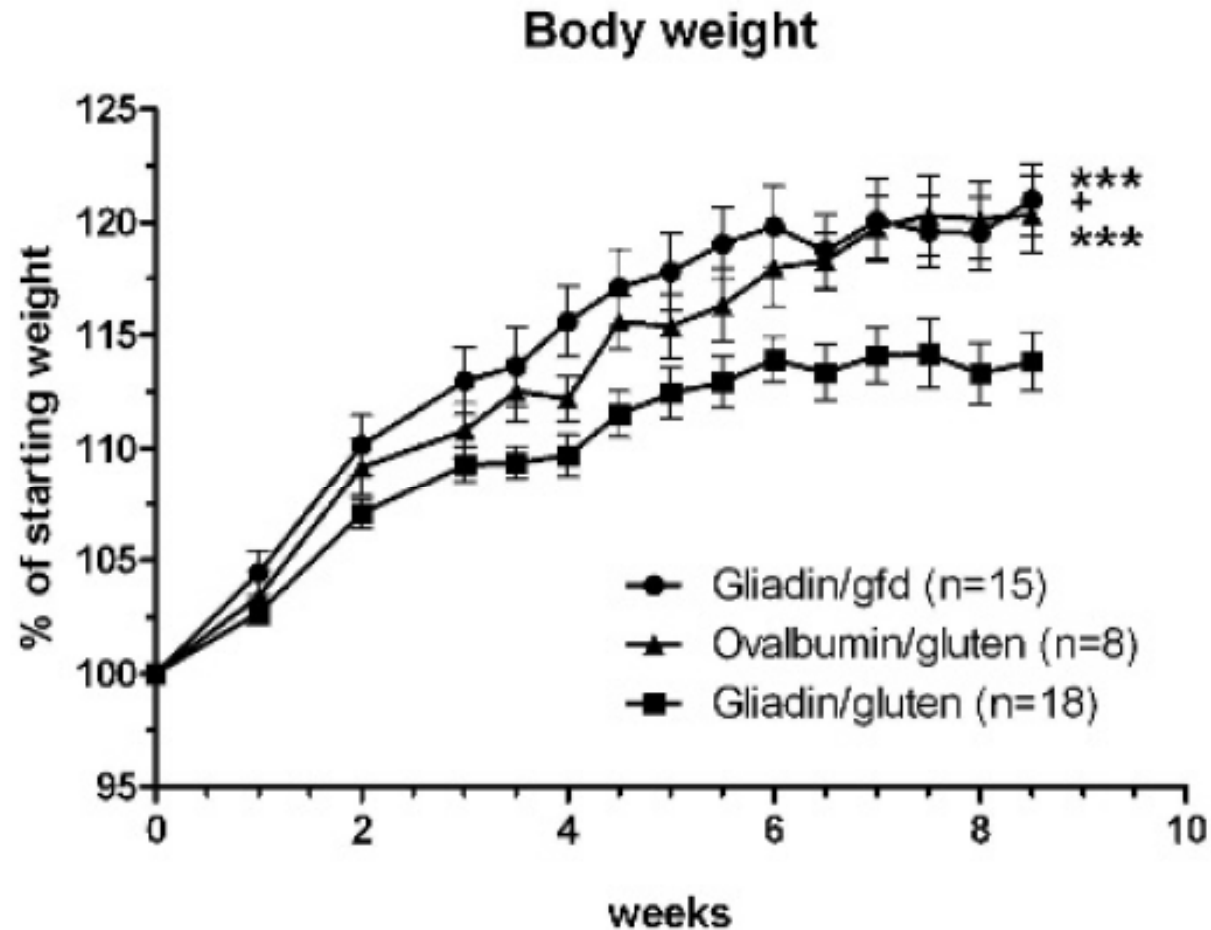


**Figure 1** Generation of a mouse model of gluten-sensitive enteropathy.

(a) Splenic CD3+ T cell fractions from immunised donor mice were stained with fluorescent antibodies. Rag1<sup>-/-</sup> or nude mice were injected i.p. with  $4.5 \times 10^5$  CD4+CD45RBlow CD25- T cells (FACS) from gliadin-immunised donors, or from ovalbumin (control)-immunised donors. After T cell transfer, recipients were either maintained on GFD (gliadin/GFD), or challenged with gluten (gliadin/gluten, ovalbumin/

Gliadin-primed CD4+CD45R<sup>low</sup>CD25<sup>-</sup> T cells drive gluten-dependent small intestinal damage after adoptive transfer into lymphopenic mice

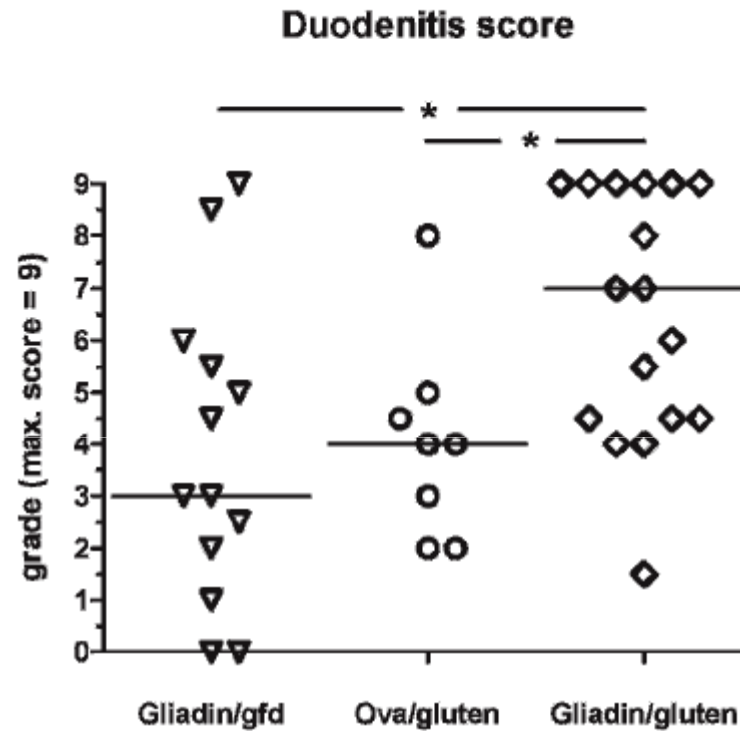
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gluten). (b) Changes in body weight in relation to individual starting weights of Rag1<sup>-/-</sup> mice (n = 8–18 per group) during 8.5 weeks after transfer. Significantly lower weights in the gliadin/gluten vs gliadin/GFD group (\*\*\*) p = 0.001) or vs ovalbumin/GFD (\*\*\*) p = 0.001); while differences between gliadin/GFD vs ovalbumin/gluten, although significant (+p < 0.05), were small and transient.

Gliadin-primed CD4+CD45RBlowCD25<sup>-</sup> T cells drive gluten-dependent small intestinal damage after adoptive transfer into lymphopenic mice

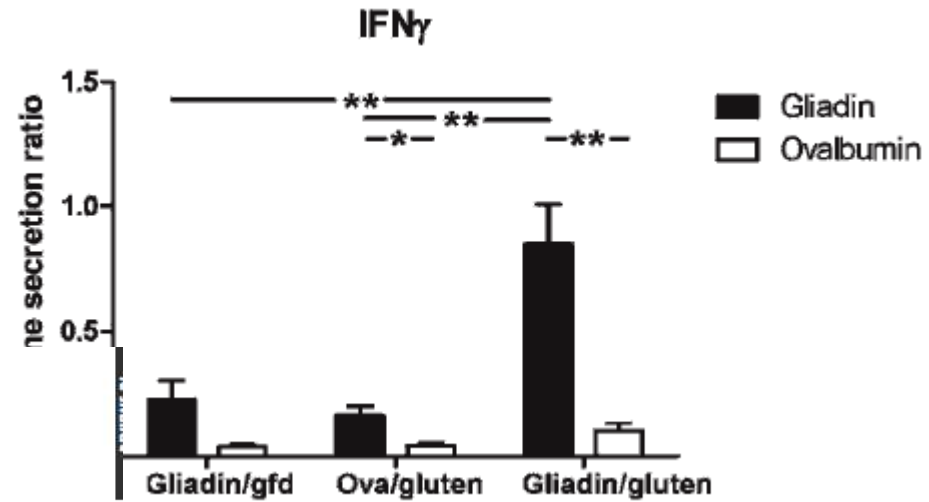
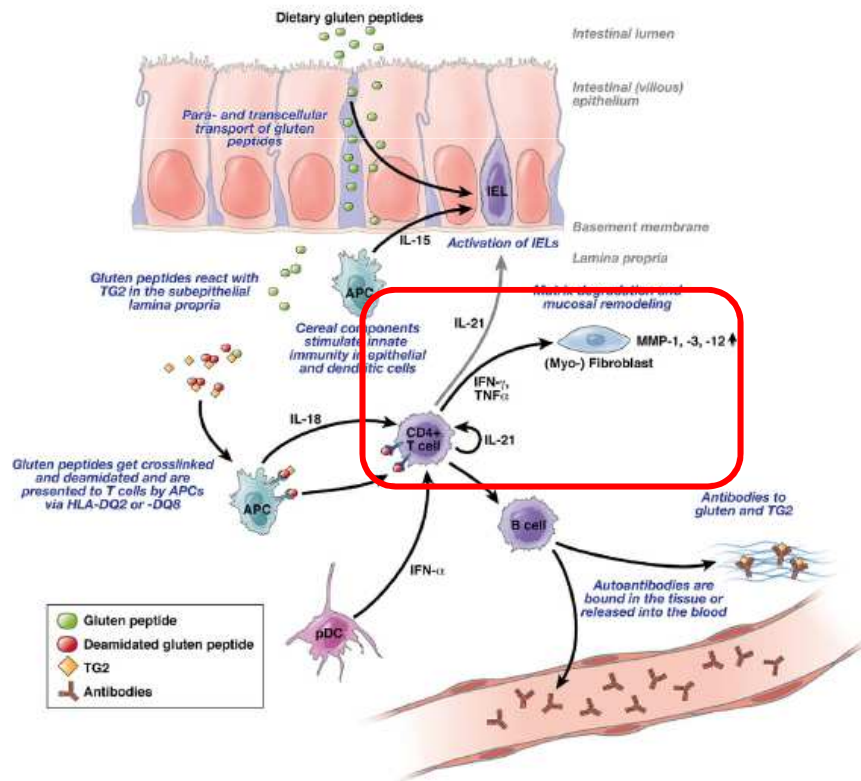
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**Figure 4** Exacerbation of histological duodenitis in gluten challenged Rag1<sup>-/-</sup> recipients of gliadin-presentsensitised CD4+CD45RBlowCD25<sup>-</sup> T cells. Composite duodenitis scores integrating crypt/villus (C/V) ratio, mononuclear cell and neutrophil infiltration scores (maximum score 3+3+3 = 9). Significant differences between the gliadin/gluten vs the gliadin/GFD group (\* $p = 0.02$ ), and the ovalbumin/gluten group (\* $p = 0.02$ ;  $n = 8-17$ ). GFD, gluten-free diet.

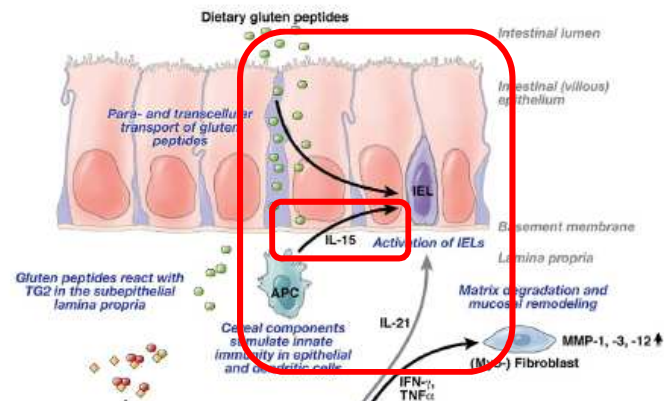
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**a**

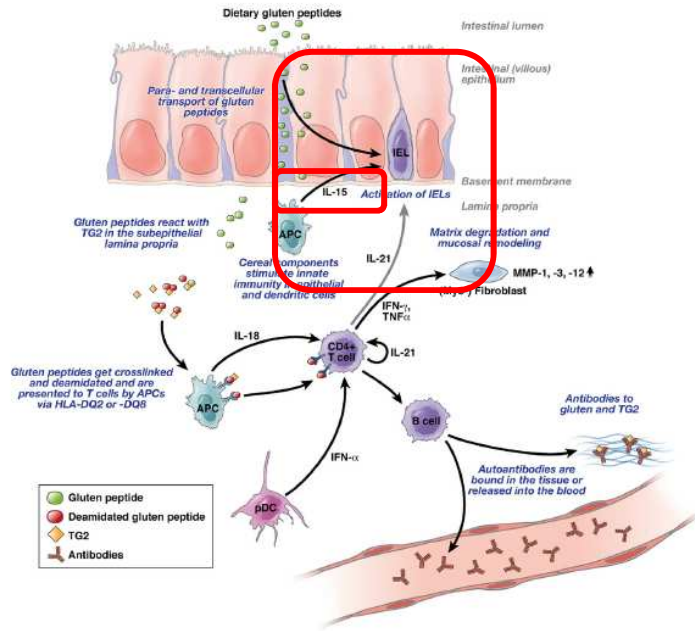




J Clin Immunol (2011) 31:1038–1044  
 DOI 10.1007/s10875-011-9586-7

## Transgenic Mice that Overexpress Human IL-15 in Enterocytes Recapitulate Both B and T Cell-Mediated Pathologic Manifestations of Celiac Disease

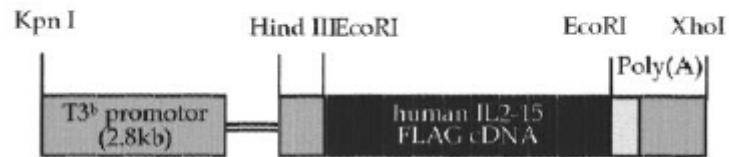
Seiji Yokoyama • Kazuko Takada •  
 Masatomo Hirasawa • Liyanage P. Perera •  
 Takachika Hiroi



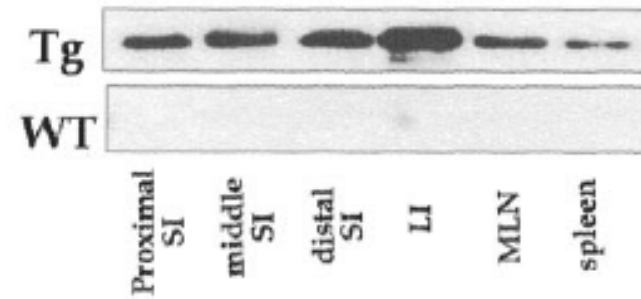
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### (A) DNA Construct

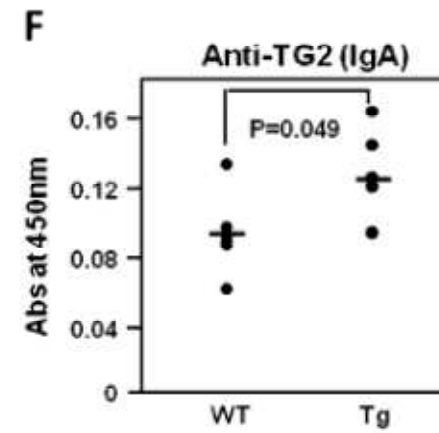
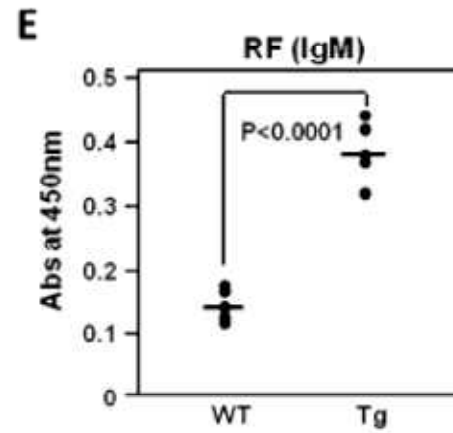
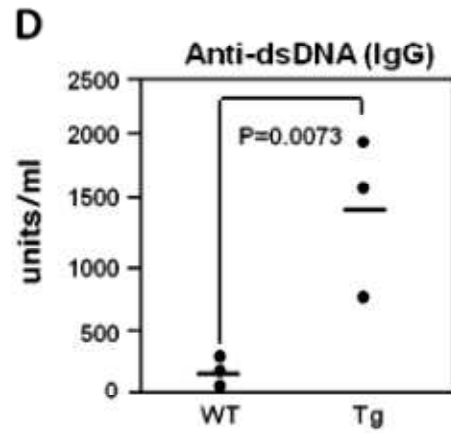


### (C) Anti-IL-15 mAb



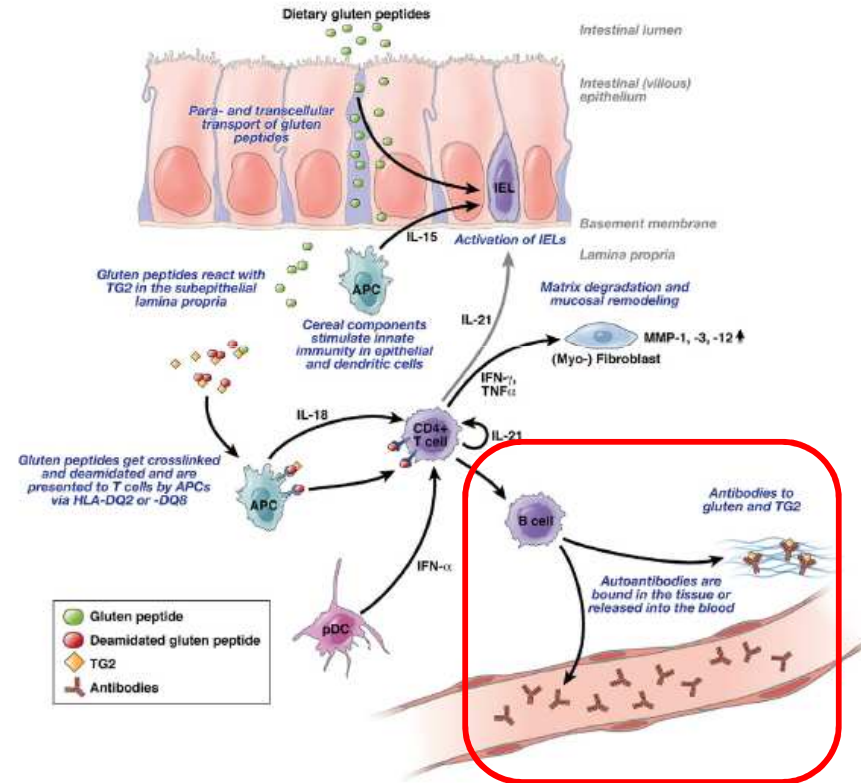
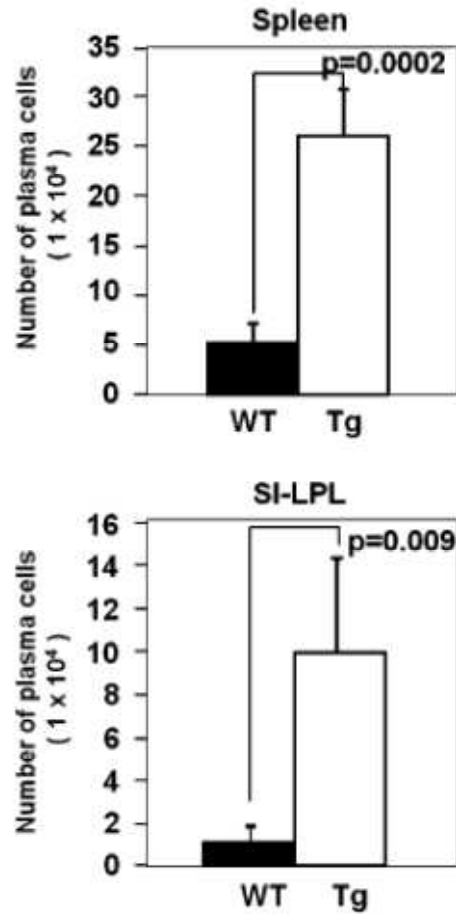
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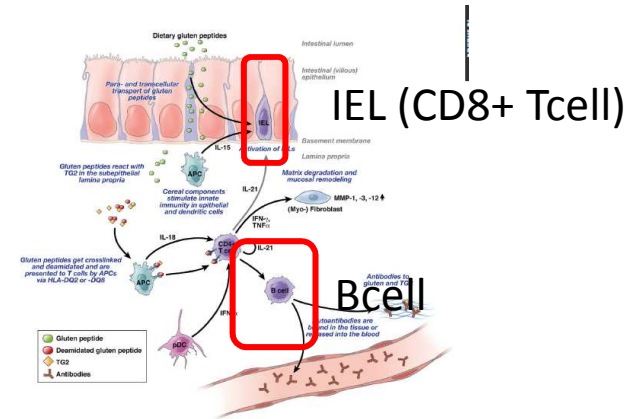
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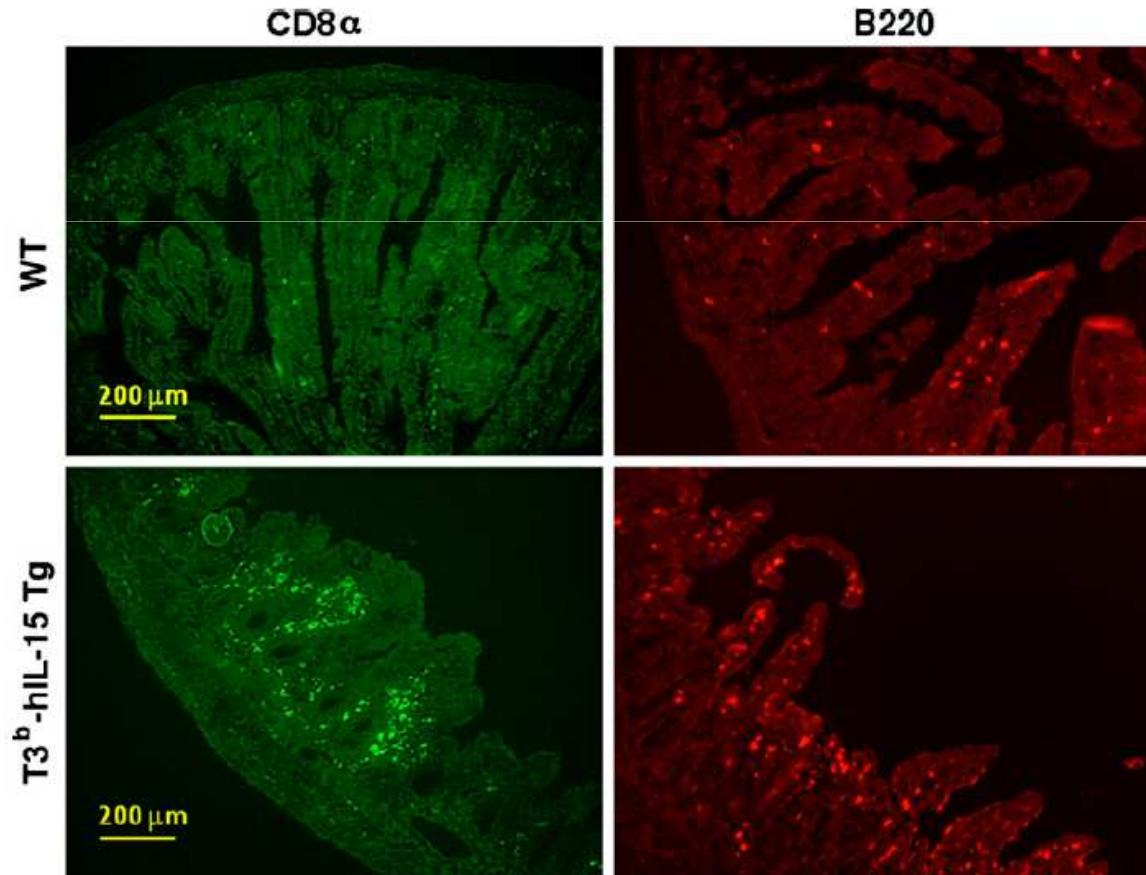


## Transgenic Mice that Overexpress Human IL-15 in Enterocytes Recapitulate Both B and T Cell-Mediated Pathologic Manifestations of Celiac Disease

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**Fig. 3** Enhanced accumulation of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells and B cells in the proximal small intestines of T3<sup>b</sup>-hIL-15 Tg mice as detected by immunohistochemistry. Immunostaining was performed on sections from the duodenojejunal region of the small intestines with FITC-conjugated CD8 $\alpha$  antibody and biotinylated B220 antibody. PE-conjugated streptavidin was used to detect bound biotin. The data shown are representative of three independent experiments



# A Non-Human Primate Model for Gluten Sensitivity

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**Methods:** Using ELISA-based antibody assays, we screened a population of captive rhesus macaques with chronic diarrhea of non-infectious origin to estimate the incidence of gluten sensitivity. A selected animal with elevated anti-gliadin antibodies and a matched control were extensively studied through alternating periods of gluten-free diet and gluten challenge. Blinded clinical and histological evaluations were conducted to seek evidence for gluten sensitivity.

**Results:** When fed with a gluten-containing diet, gluten-sensitive macaques showed signs and symptoms of celiac disease including chronic diarrhea, malabsorptive steatorrhea, intestinal lesions and anti-gliadin antibodies. A gluten-free diet reversed these clinical, histological and serological features, while reintroduction of dietary gluten caused rapid relapse.

**Conclusions:** Gluten-sensitive rhesus macaques may be an attractive resource for investigating both the pathogenesis and the treatment of celiac disease.

**Table 2.** Anti-gliadin antibodies (AGA) in TNPRC rhesus macaques with histories of clinical diarrhea

Age Category	Total	History of diarrhea	IgG AGA		IgA AGA	
			+	-	+	-
Healthy juveniles ( $\leq 4$ years)	11	No	3	8	1	10
Symptomatic juveniles ( $\leq 4$ years)	66	Yes	46	20	63	3
Symptomatic adults ( $> 4$ years)	17	Yes	6	11	17	0
Total (Symptomatic)	83		52	31	80	3

A subset of 15 AGA+ animals (including those with the highest AGA levels) and all healthy controls were further tested for the presence of anti-TG2 antibodies, which are known to be more specific and sensitive indicators of celiac disease than AGA. Although three of these AGA+ individuals exhibited elevated anti-TG2 antibodies relative to the controls, the increase was small (2-fold), and did not correlate with AGA levels.



Spontaneously occurring gluten sensitivity was detected in 3% of a rhesus macaque strain. Upon oral gluten ingestion, the affected monkeys developed small intestinal pathology reminiscent of celiac disease, combined with malabsorption and weight loss. Affected monkeys recovered after reinstatement of a gluten-free diet. Gluten-sensitive animals had circulating IgA and IgG antibodies to gliadin, and 3 of 15 displayed mildly elevated IgG anti-TG2 levels. A problem is the rare spontaneous occurrence of the complete celiac disease phenotype (0.6%) and the animal species (primates), which currently precludes large-scale exploration of novel nondietary therapies in this model.



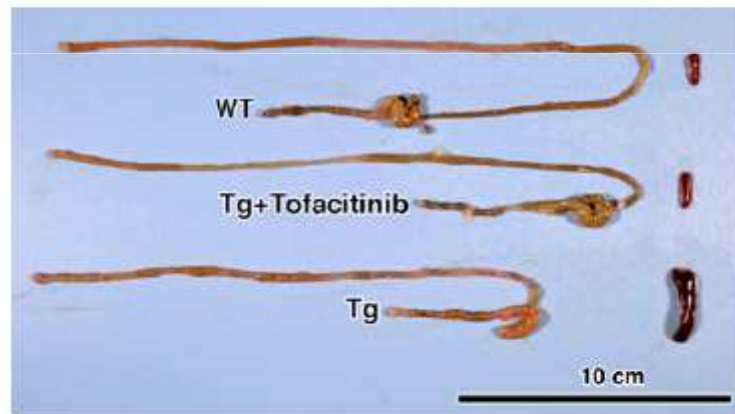
**Table 2.** Novel Therapies for Celiac Disease

Target	Drug/modification
<b>Intraluminal therapies</b>	
Wheat varieties	(Ancient) wheat variants with low immunogenicity Genetically modified wheat variants or deletion lines of common wheat with lower immunogenicity
Flour/dough	Pretreatment with lactobacilli Transamidation of gliadin
Ingested gliadin peptides	Prolyl endopeptidases from <i>Aspergillus niger</i> <i>Sphingomonas capsulate</i> in combination with (EP)-B2 from germinating barley Intraluminal gliadin binding by polymers Gluten neutralizing cow's milk antibodies

<b>Transepithelial uptake</b>	
Epithelial tight junctions	ZOT receptor antagonist AT1001
<b>Dampening of the adaptive immune response</b>	
TG2	Transglutaminase inhibitors
	"Inhibitory" innate gluten peptides
HLA-DQ2	Blocking DQ2 analogues
<b>Immune modulators</b>	
	Hookworm infection
	Gluten "vaccination" (Nexvax2)
<b>Biologicals (systemic T-cell or cytokine blockers)</b>	
Small intestine homing T cells	CCR9 antagonists (Ccx282-B, CCX025)
Gut homing T cells	Anti-integrin $\alpha 4\beta 7$ (LDP-02)
Clonal IELs	Anti-IL-15 (AMG 714), Anti-Jak3 (CP-690-550)
Clonal intestinal T cells	Autologous bone marrow transplantation Mesenchymal stem cell transplantation (prochymal)
Mucosal destruction in refractory celiac disease	Anti-tumor necrosis factor $\alpha$ , anti-IFN- $\gamma$ (HuZAF) Anti-CD52 (Alemtuzumab)

## Tofacitinib, a Janus Kinase Inhibitor Demonstrates Efficacy in an IL-15 Transgenic Mouse Model that Recapitulates Pathologic Manifestations of Celiac Disease

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**Fig. 3** A 42-day course of tofacitinib therapy reverses the macroscopic inflammatory pathologic manifestations in  $T3^b$ -hIL-15 Tg mice. Following tofacitinib therapy, the intestines and spleens were harvested from  $T3^b$ -hIL-15 Tg mice and a gross examination of organs for length and size, swelling/distention with serosal surface hyperemia with distended blood vessels was performed. For comparison, wild type litter-mates (WT) and sham-treated  $T3^b$ -hIL-15 Tg mice were also included in the assessment. Affected organs from one representative mouse from each group of 6 mice are shown and the other mice displayed similar profiles

