

# The Interleukin-23 axis and innate immunity in the airways

The Interleukin-23 (IL-23) axis is a communication system that integrates innate and adaptive immunity. When triggered by microbial stimuli, antigen presenting cells can secrete the cytokine IL-23, leading to the production of IL-17 and IL-22. These cytokines facilitate the recruitment of neutrophils that can eliminate microbes, but also cause epithelial damage through extensive inflammation. At the same time, the IL-23 axis protects the epithelium through promoting the production of antimicrobial peptides. This dissertation addresses cellular sources, expression and effects of the cytokines associated with the IL-23 axis in pulmonary host defence.



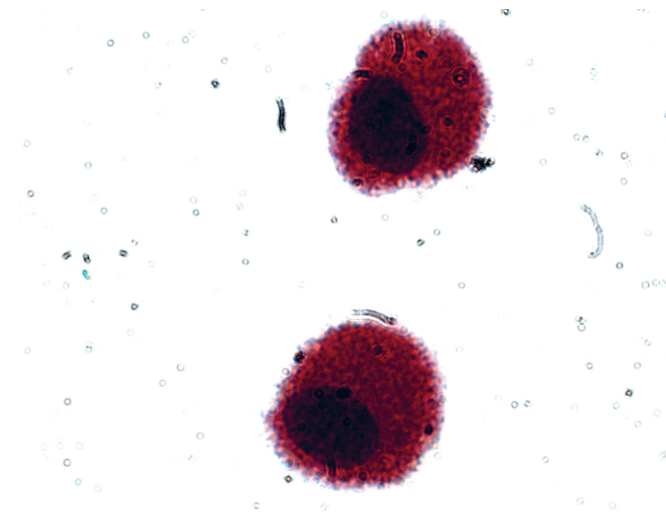
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