

# Defense Against Viruses/AIDS

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Micro 204, 11/30/18

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# Recommended Reading:

## Textbook:

- Janeway chapter 13.22-13.38.

## Prof. V. Racaniello online material (Columbia University virology course)

- <http://www.virology.ws/course/>

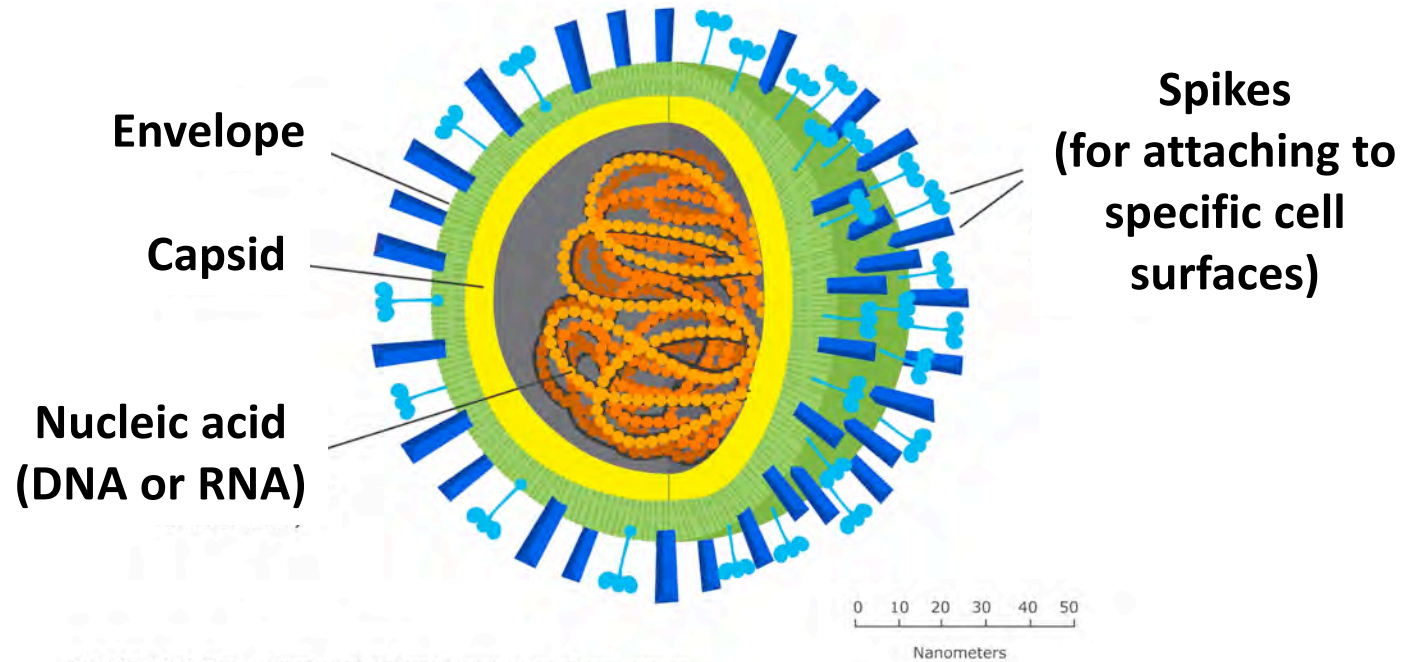
## Reviews:

- Paludan SR. Innate antiviral defenses independent of inducible IFN $\alpha/\beta$  production. (2016) *Trends in Immunology* 37: 588
- Deeks et al. International AIDS Society global scientific strategy: towards an HIV cure. (2016) *Nature Medicine* 22: 839.
- Sengupta and Siliciano. Targeting the Latent Reservoir for HIV-1. (2018) *Immunity* 48: 872.
- Elong Ngoni and Shresta. Immune Response to Dengue and Zika. (2018) *Annual Review of Immunology* 36: 279.

## Primary literature:

- Yuan et al. A single mutation in the prM protein of Zika virus contributes to fetal microcephaly. (2017) *Science* 358: 933.
- Estes et al. Defining total-body AIDS-virus burden with implications for curative strategies. (2017) *Nature Medicine* 23: 1271.
- Buggert et al. Identification and characterization of HIV-specific resident memory CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells in human lymphoid tissue. (2018) *Science Immunology* 3, eaar4526

# What is a virus?



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- An infectious, obligate intracellular parasite comprising genetic material surrounded by a protein coat and/or an envelope derived from a host cell membrane.
- They are classified based on:
  - Nature and sequence of nucleic acid in virion (**RNA/DNA**)
  - Symmetry of protein shell (**capsid**)
  - Presence or absence of lipid membrane (**+/- envelope**)
  - Dimensions of virion and capsid

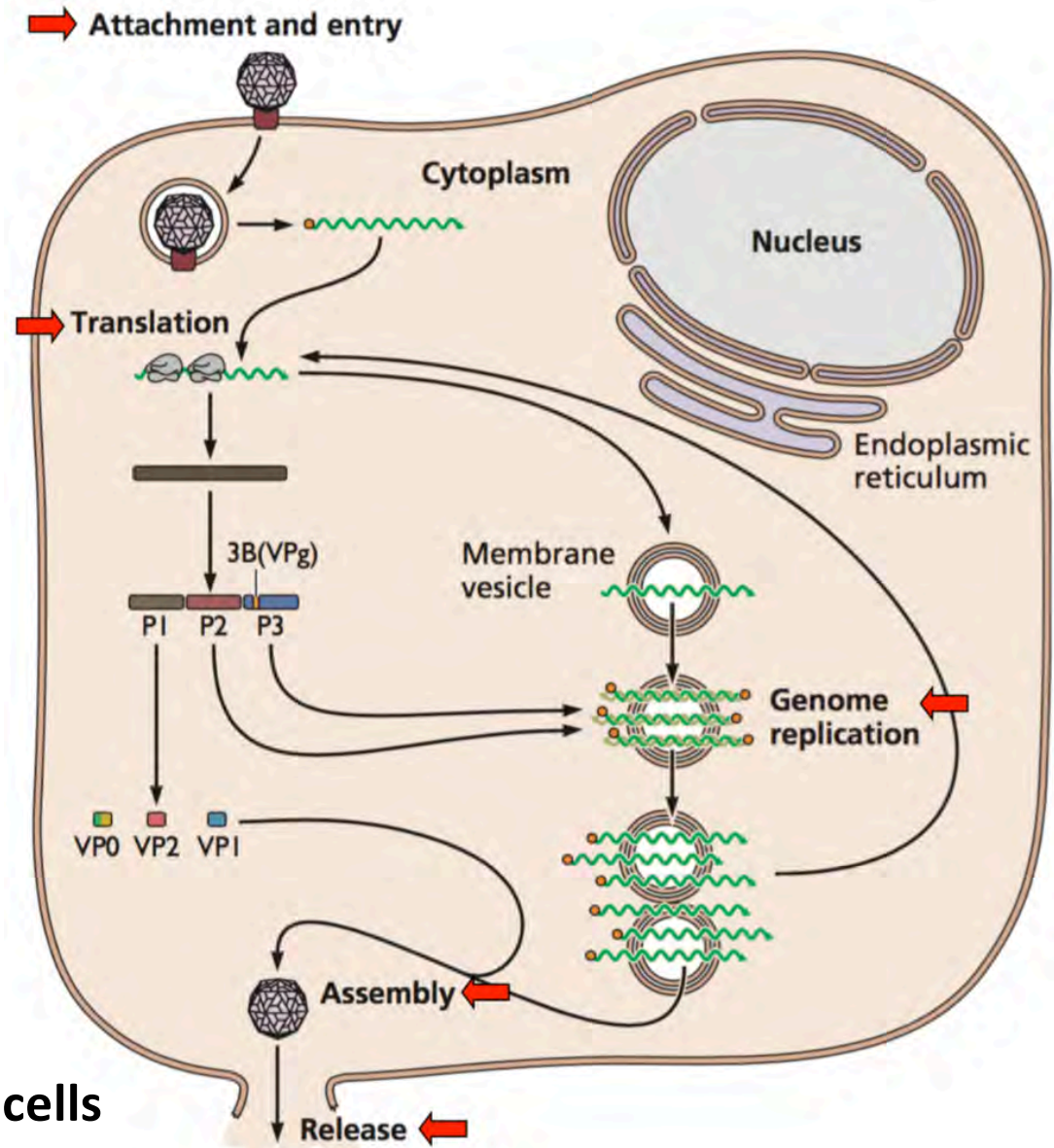
# Generic Viral Life Cycle

1. Attachment and entry (cellular receptors)
2. Convert genome to mRNA
3. Translate mRNA to protein
4. Replicate genome
5. Assemble proteins around genome
6. Viral release from infected cell



**Cytopathic effect (CPE):**

**Morphological alterations in infected cells caused by viral invasion.**



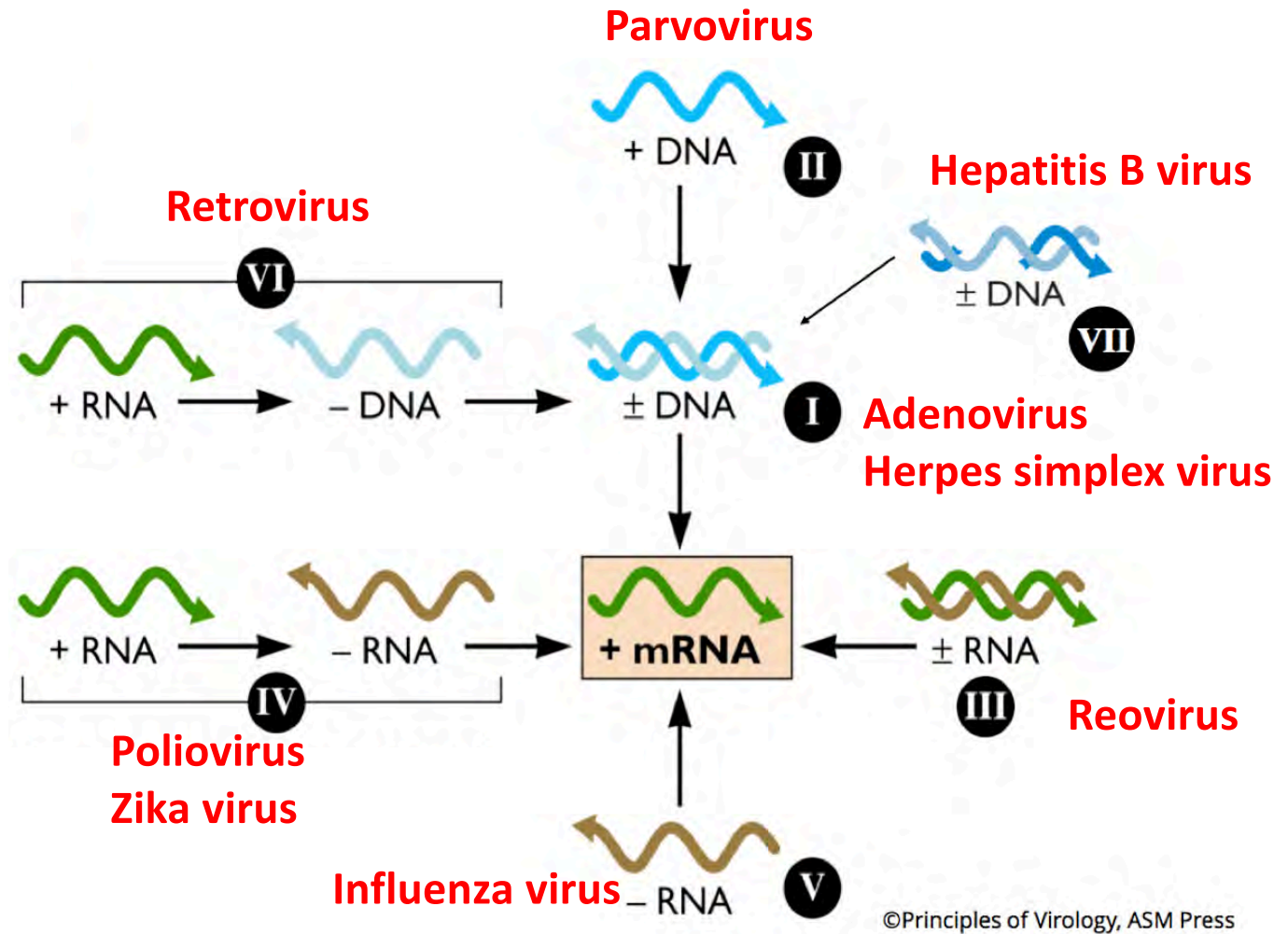
# Baltimore System to Describe Viral Genomes

- I. dsDNA
- II. ssDNA
- III. dsRNA
- IV. ss (+) RNA
- V. ss (-) RNA
- VI. ss (+) RNA with DNA intermediate
- VII. Gapped dsDNA



They all have to:

- 1. Make mRNA
- 2. Use host ribosomes to translate mRNA → protein



- **Replicating viruses produce large numbers of mutant genomes!**
- Most DNA viruses evolve slower than RNA viruses as their genome replication is not as error prone as RNA viruses.

# Fundamental Questions of Viral Pathogenesis

- How does a virus particle enter the host? (**transmission**)
- What is the initial host response? (**innate sensing**)
- Where does primary replication occur? (**tropism**)
- How does the infection spread in the host? (**viral dissemination**)
- What organs and tissues are infected? (**local vs. systemic infection**)
- Is the infection cleared from the host or is a persistent infection established? (**acute vs. chronic**)
- How is the virus transmitted to other hosts? (**viral shedding**)



# Viral Tropism is Determined by Susceptibility, Permissivity, Accessibility and Defense

- A **susceptible** cell has a functional receptor for a given virus - *the cell may or may not be able to support viral replication*
- A **resistant** cell has no receptor - *it may or may not be competent to support viral replication*
- A **permissive** cell has the capacity to replicate virus - *it may or may not be susceptible*
- A **susceptible AND permissive** cell is the only cell that can take up a virus particle and replicate it

# Two Components to Viral Pathogenesis

## 1. Effects of viral replication on the host

→ Cytopathic vs. non-cytopathic effect

## 2. Effects of host response on virus and host

→ Immune protection vs. Immunopathology

### Viral virulence is influenced by:

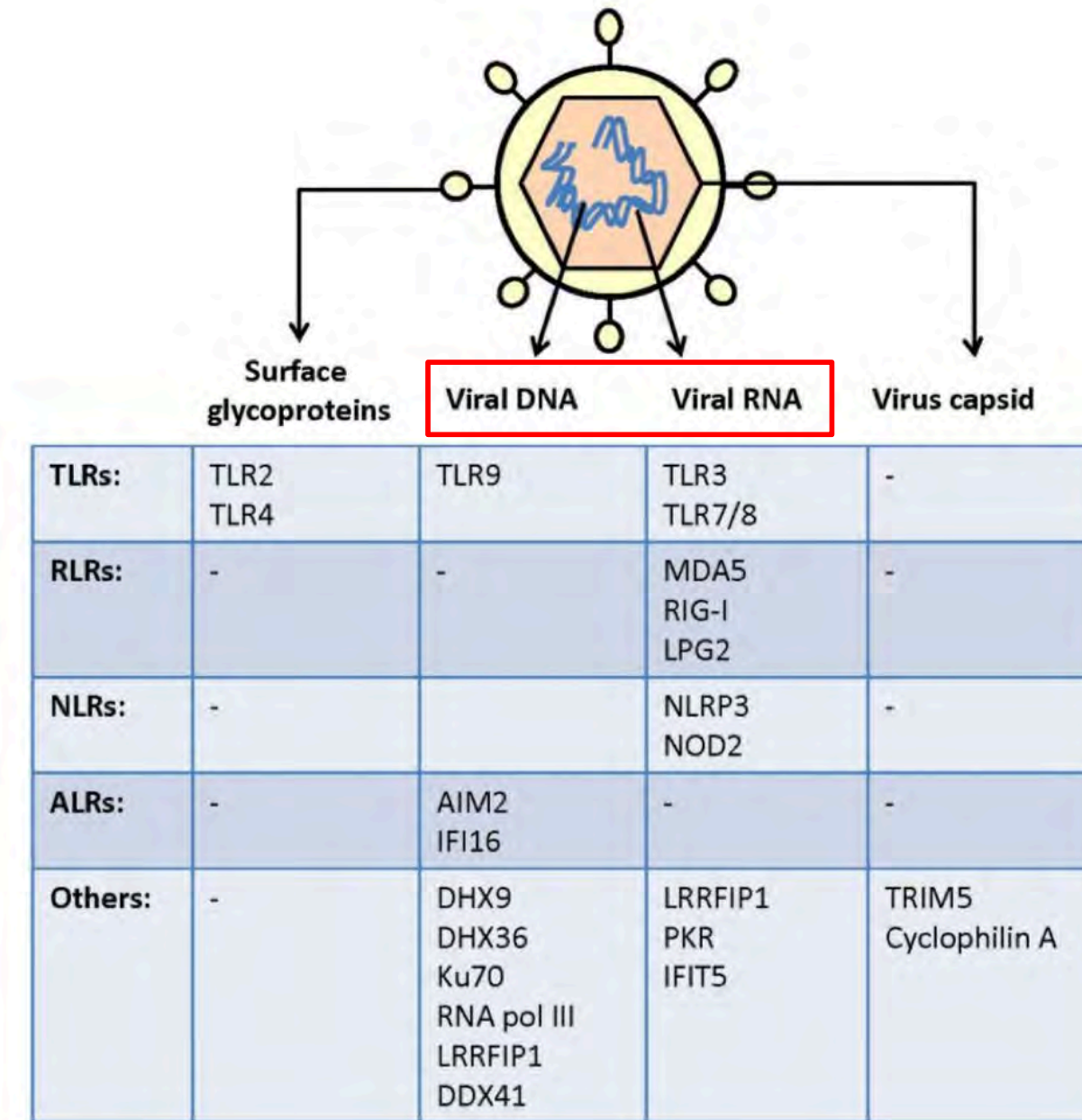
- Viral dose
- Route of infection
- Species
- Age
- Gender
- Susceptibility of host

### 3 Requirements for successful infection:

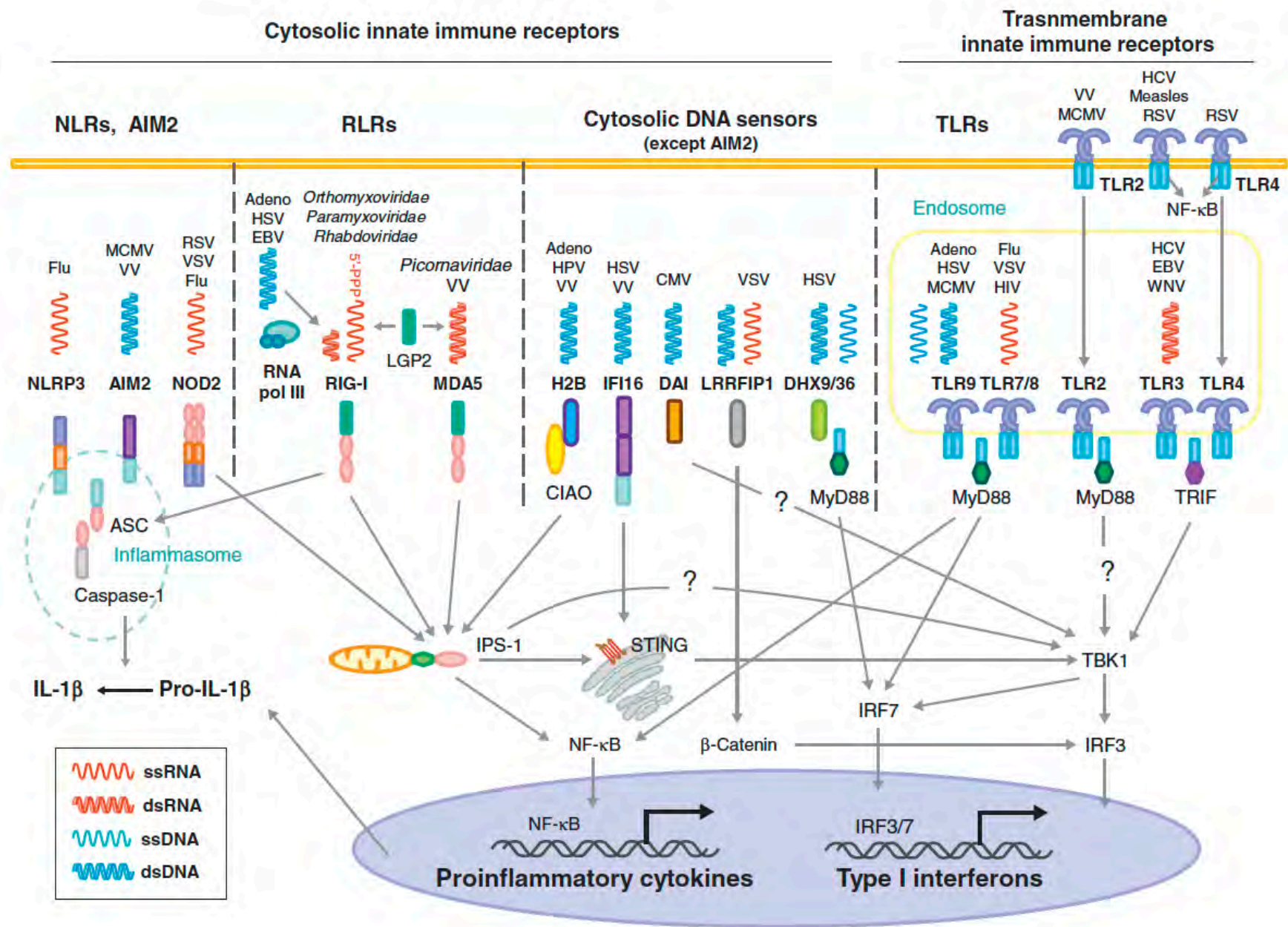
- Enough virus
- Cells accessible, susceptible, and permissive
- Local antiviral defense is absent or overcome



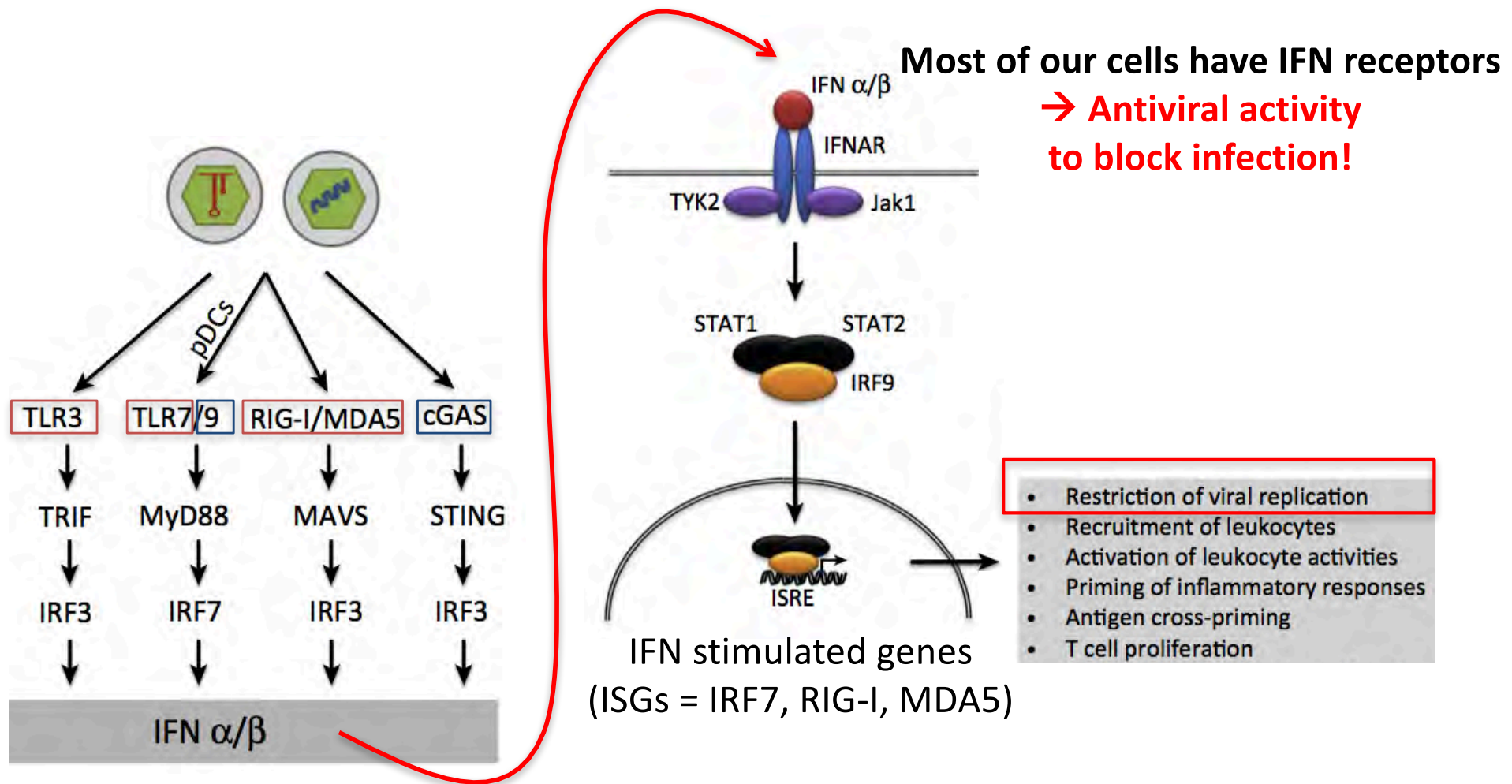
# Immune Defense Begins by Viral Sensing



# Specificity of Innate Immune Receptors for Viral Nucleic Acid



# Viral Sensing Initiates Type I IFN Response



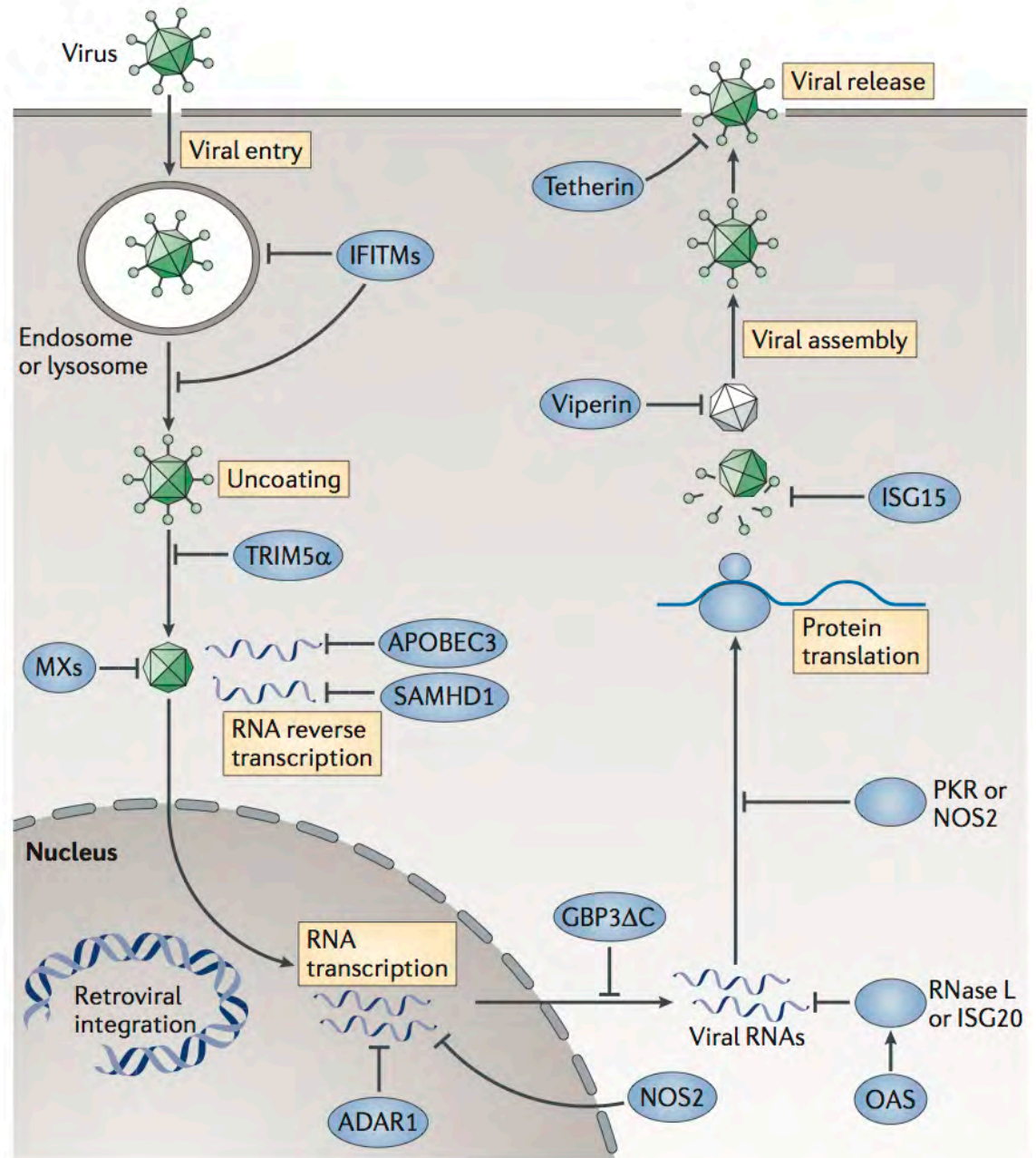
Large quantities of IFN have dramatic physiological consequences: fever, chills, nausea, malaise

→ **'flu-like' symptoms**



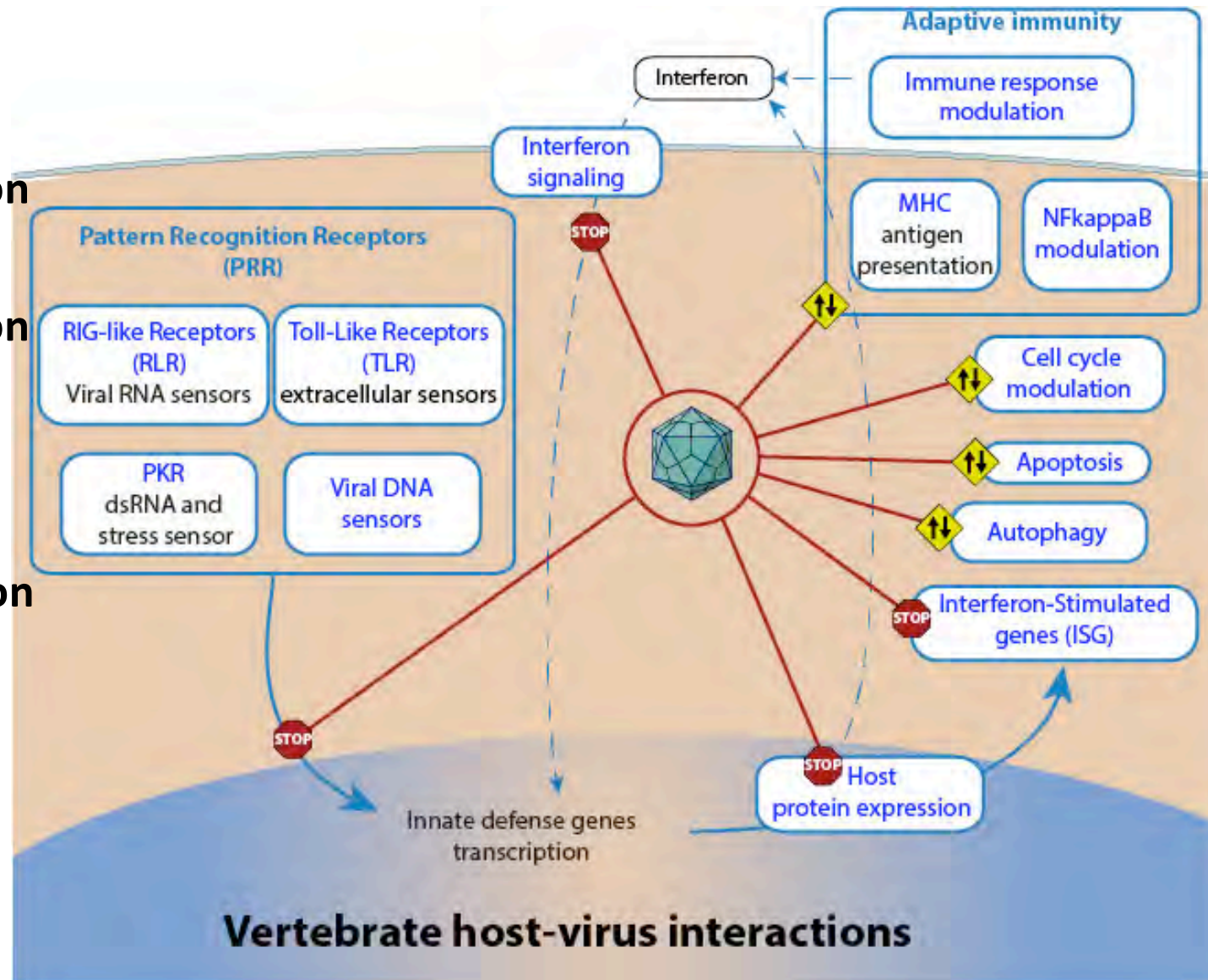
# Cell-autonomous Mechanisms Used by IFN-Induced Proteins Against Viruses

- **Viral entry and uncoating:**  
IFITMs, TRIM5 $\alpha$
- **Nucleocapsid transport:**  
MXs
- **Inhibition of RNA reverse transcription, protein translation and stability**  
APOBEC3, SAMHD1, ADAR1, NOS2, OAS, RNase L, ISG20, PKR, and ISG15
- **Prevent viral assembly and release**  
Viperin and Tetherin



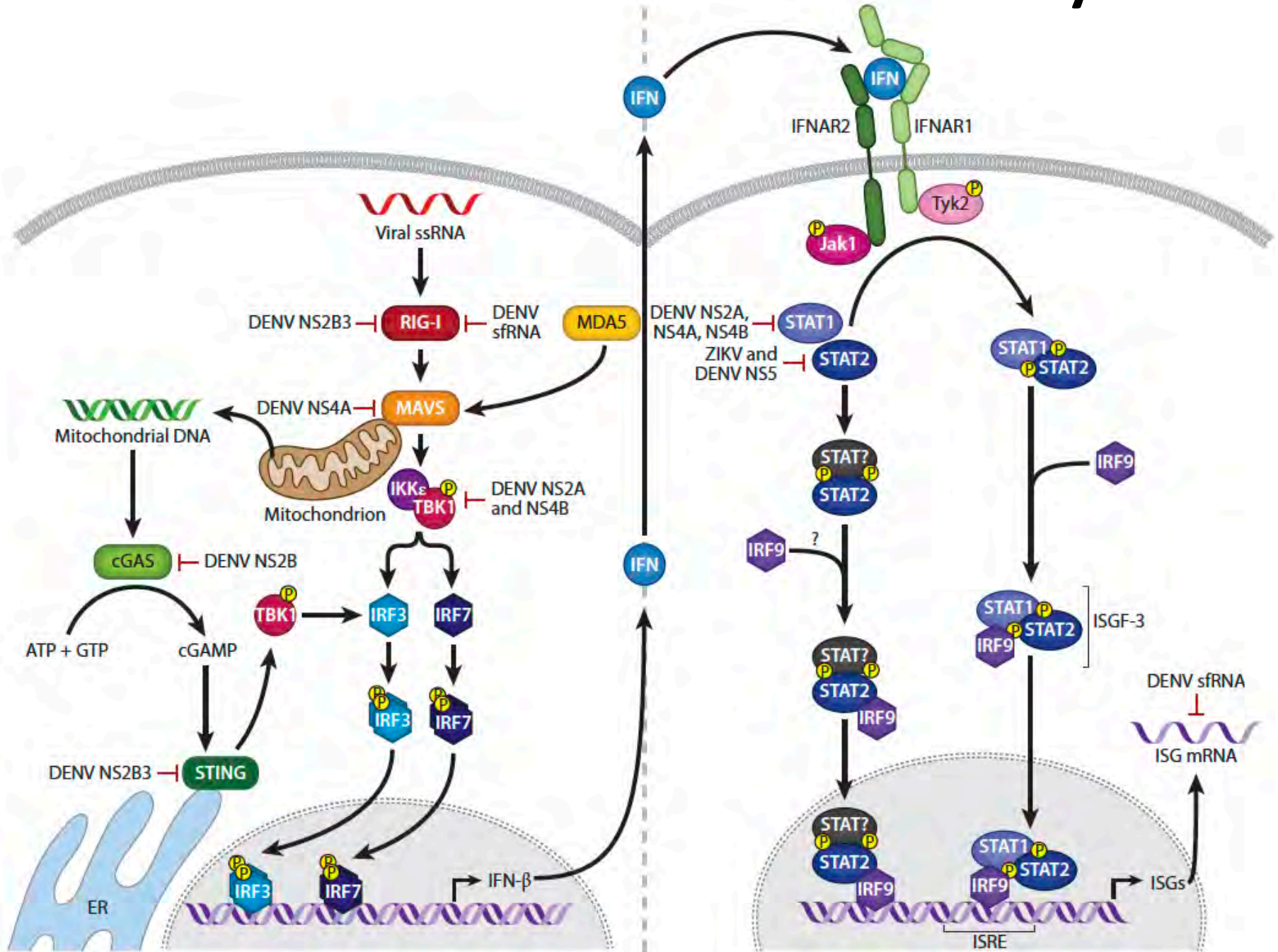
# Viral Countermeasures Against Innate and Adaptive Immunity

- Sensing
- IFN production
- IFN signal transduction
- Cytokine production
- Chemokine production
- NK cell activation
- DC antigen presentation
- Complement inhibition





# Flaviviral Inhibition of the Interferon System

Elong Ngono and Shresta 2018 *Annu Rev Immunol*

# Many Viruses Interfere with Antigen Presentation (Reason cross-presentation is important!)

Virus	Protein	Category	Mechanism
Herpes simplex virus 1	ICP47	Blocks peptide entry to endoplasmic reticulum	Blocks peptide binding to TAP
Human cytomegalovirus (HCMV)	US6		Inhibits TAP ATPase activity and blocks peptide release into endoplasmic reticulum
Bovine herpes virus	UL49.5		Inhibits TAP peptide transport
Adenovirus	E19	Retention of MHC class I in endoplasmic reticulum	Competitive inhibitor of tapasin
HCMV	US3		Blocks tapasin function
Murine cytomegalovirus (CMV)	m152		Downregulation of host MHC class I
HCMV	US2	Degradation of MHC class I (dislocation)	Transports some newly synthesized MHC class I molecules into cytosol
Murine gamma herpes virus 68	mK3		E3-ubiquitin ligase activity
Murine CMV	m4	Binds MHC class I at cell surface	Interferes with recognition by cytotoxic lymphocytes by an unknown mechanism

Figure 13.24 Janeway's Immunobiology, 9th ed. (© Garland Science 2017)



# Mechanisms to Subvert the Host Immune System (Reason we study viral virulence factors!)

Viral strategy	Specific mechanism	Result	Virus examples
Inhibition of humoral immunity	Virally encoded Fc receptor	Blocks effector functions of antibodies bound to infected cells	Herpes simplex Cytomegalovirus
	Virally encoded complement receptor	Blocks complement-mediated effector pathways	Herpes simplex
	Virally encoded complement control protein	Inhibits complement activation by infected cell	Vaccinia
Inhibition of inflammatory response	Virally encoded chemokine receptor homolog, e.g., $\beta$ -chemokine receptor	Sensitizes infected cells to effects of $\beta$ -chemokine; advantage to virus unknown	Cytomegalovirus
	Virally encoded soluble cytokine receptor, e.g., IL-1 receptor homolog, TNF receptor homolog, interferon- $\gamma$ receptor homolog	Blocks effects of cytokines by inhibiting their interaction with host receptors	Vaccinia Rabbit myxoma virus
	Viral inhibition of adhesion molecule expression, e.g., LFA-3 ICAM-1	Blocks adhesion of lymphocytes to infected cells	Epstein-Barr virus
	Protection from NF $\kappa$ B activation by short sequences that mimic TLRs	Blocks inflammatory responses elicited by IL-1 or bacterial pathogens	Vaccinia
Blocking of antigen processing and presentation	Inhibition of MHC class I expression	Impairs recognition of infected cells by cytotoxic T cells	Herpes simplex Cytomegalovirus
	Inhibition of peptide transport by TAP	Blocks peptide association with MHC class I	Herpes simplex
Immunosuppression of host	Virally encoded cytokine homolog of IL-10	Inhibits T <sub>H</sub> 1 lymphocytes Reduces interferon- $\gamma$ production	Epstein-Barr virus

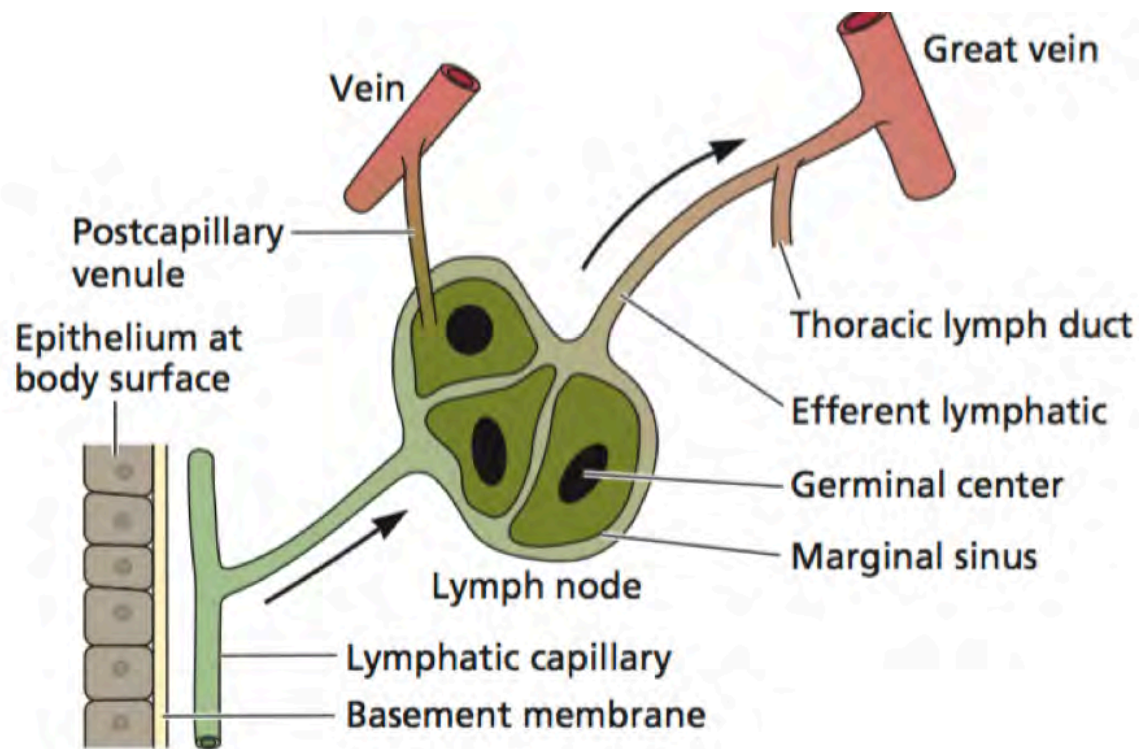
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## **Take Home Messages I:**

- **Virus transmits through accessible (route matters), susceptible (cellular receptors) and permissive (cell has the right machinery) cells.**
- **Virus encounters host innate sensors.**
- **Type I IFN is produced.**
- **ISGs have antiviral and inflammatory activity.**
- **Virus counteracts innate and adaptive immunity.**

# Localized Control versus Systemic Dissemination of Viruses

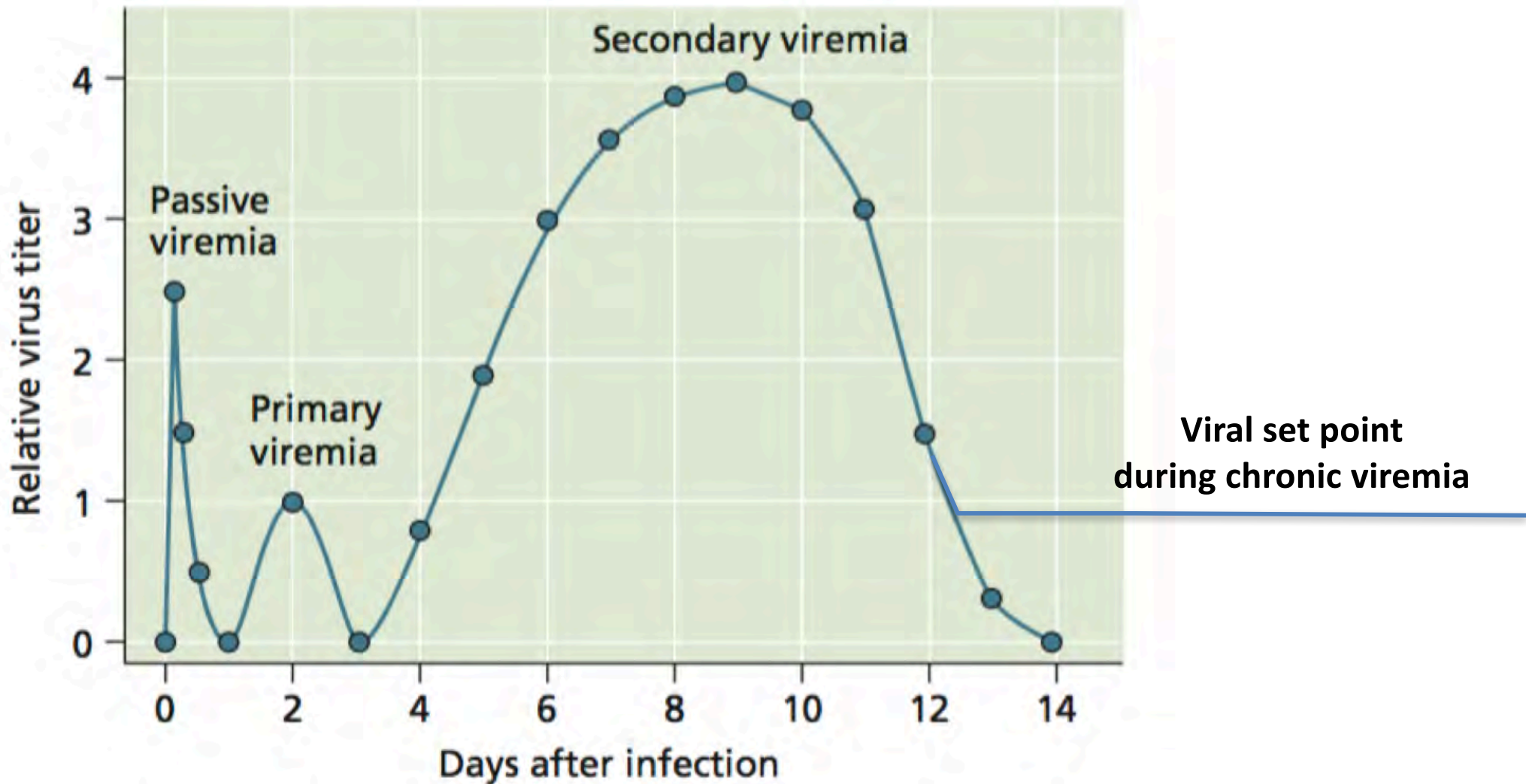
- If immune system prevails, viruses will remain **localized**.
- If physical and immune barriers are breached, virus will **disseminate** by spreading beyond the primary site of infection.
- If many organs are infected, virus has gone **systemic**.
- If virus enters blood system, it will **hematogenously spread** to other organs.



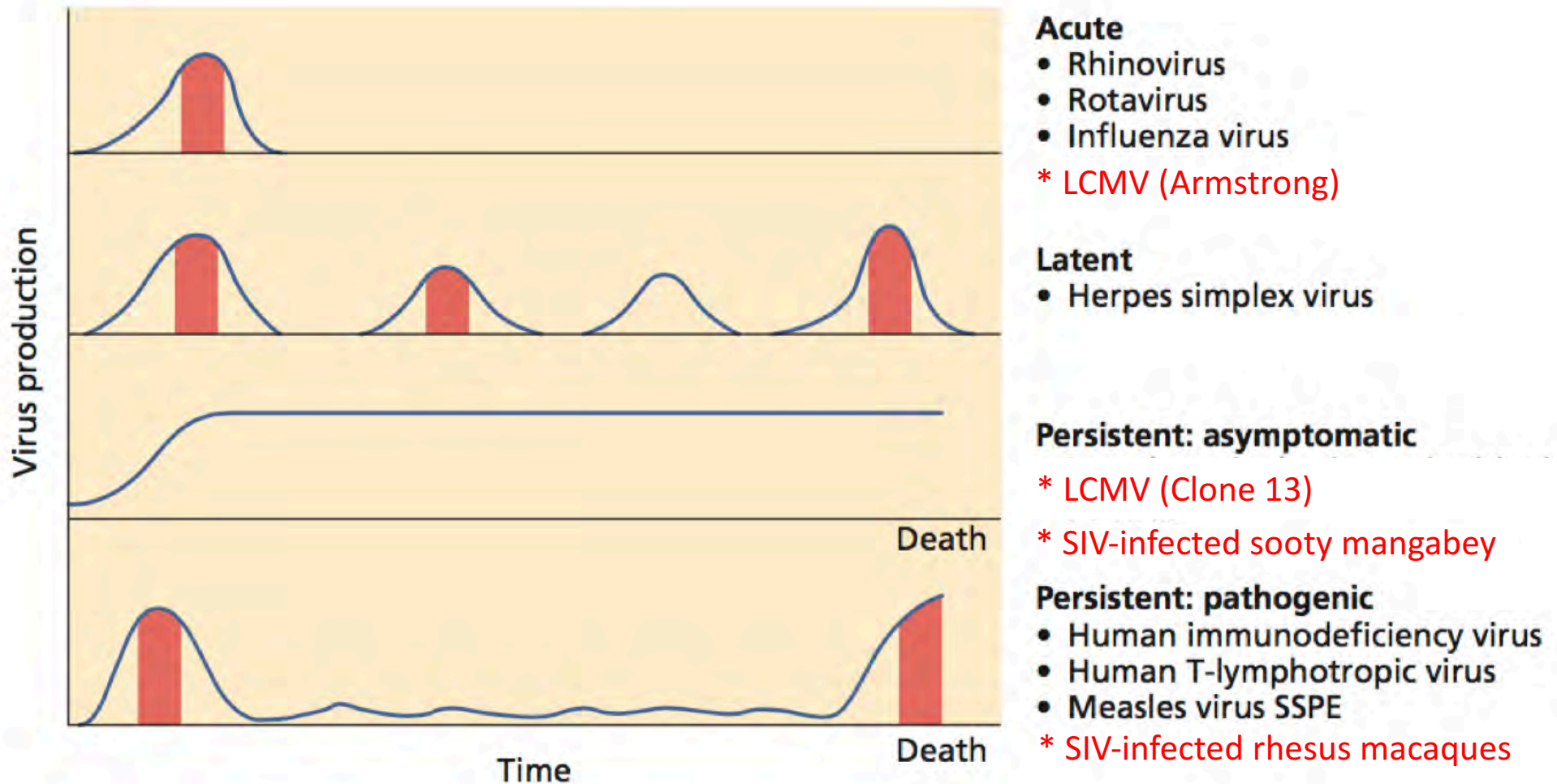
©Principles of Virology, ASM Press

- **Important to study viral pathogenesis via natural routes of transmission!**

# Acute vs Chronic Viremia



# General Patterns of Viral Infection



**What are some of the reasons for these various patterns of viral infection?**

# **Cytopathic and Non-cytopathic Viruses Elicit Different Immune Responses**

## ***Cytopathic viruses***

- **Cause high inflammation due to cell and tissue damage**
  - **Activate the innate response**

## ***Non-cytopathic viruses***

- **Typically cause low inflammation due to lack of cellular damage, apoptosis/necrosis**
  - **Low or ineffective innate immune response**
  - **Do not effectively activate adaptive immune response**
- **Dramatically different interactions with the host immune system**
  - **Persistent infections: rarely or inefficiently cleared**
- **Disease is usually a consequence of the immune response**
  - **Immunopathology**



# Persistent (Chronic) Infections

- Occur when primary infection is not cleared by immune response
- Virions, protein, genomes continue to be produced
- Viral genomes may remain after proteins are not detected
- No single mechanism:
  - When **cytopathic effects are absent** and host defenses are reduced, persistent infection is likely
  - **Reduced immune surveillance** in immune privileged sites (CNS, eye...)
  - Viral **immune modulation** → immunosuppression
  - **Latent infections** → poor recognition by immune system



# Immunopathology Caused by Antiviral Immunity

Mechanism	Virus
CD8 <sup>+</sup> T cell mediated	Coxsackievirus B HIV-1 Hepatitis B virus
CD4 <sup>+</sup> T cell mediated - Th1	Measles virus Herpes simplex virus
CD4 <sup>+</sup> T cell mediated - Th2	Respiratory syncytial virus
B cell mediated (antibody)	Dengue virus

# Viral Infection can be Blocked by Neutralizing Abs

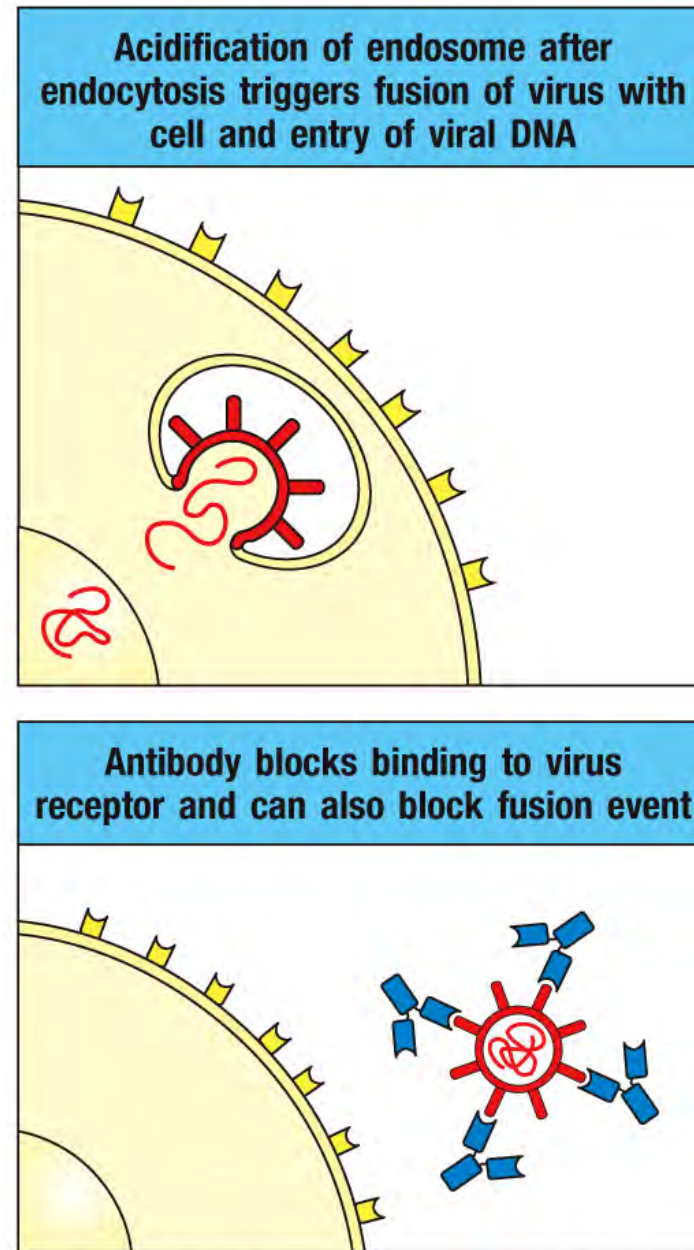
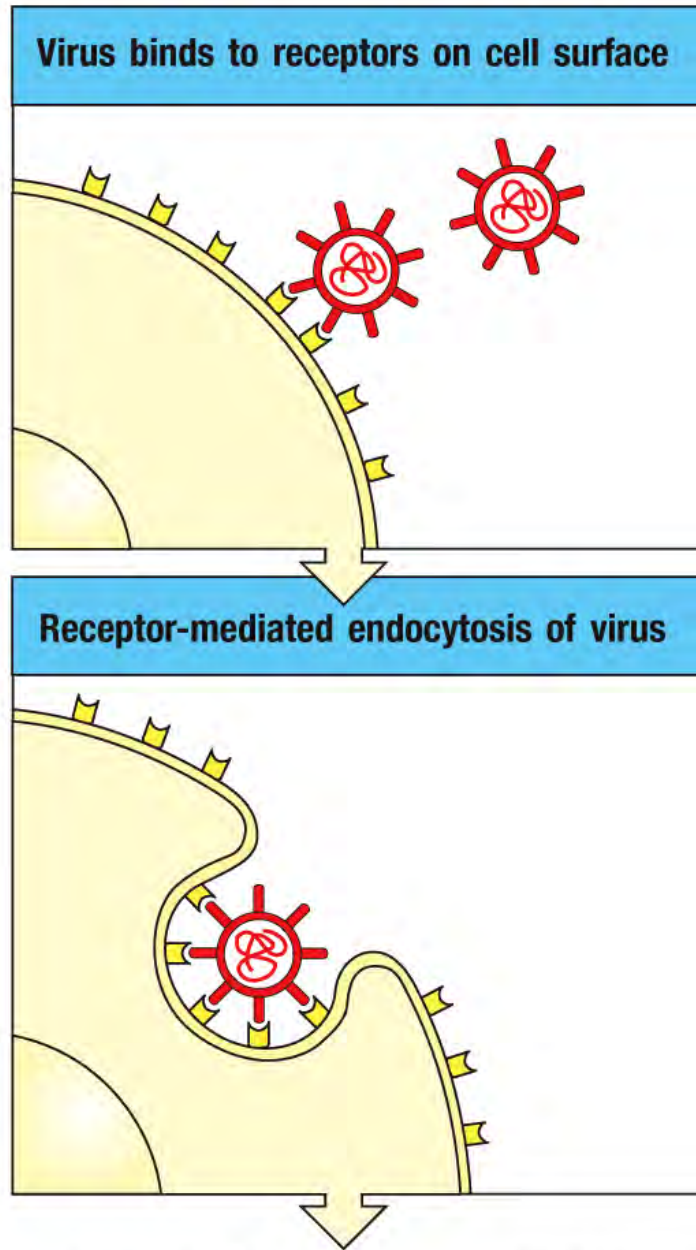
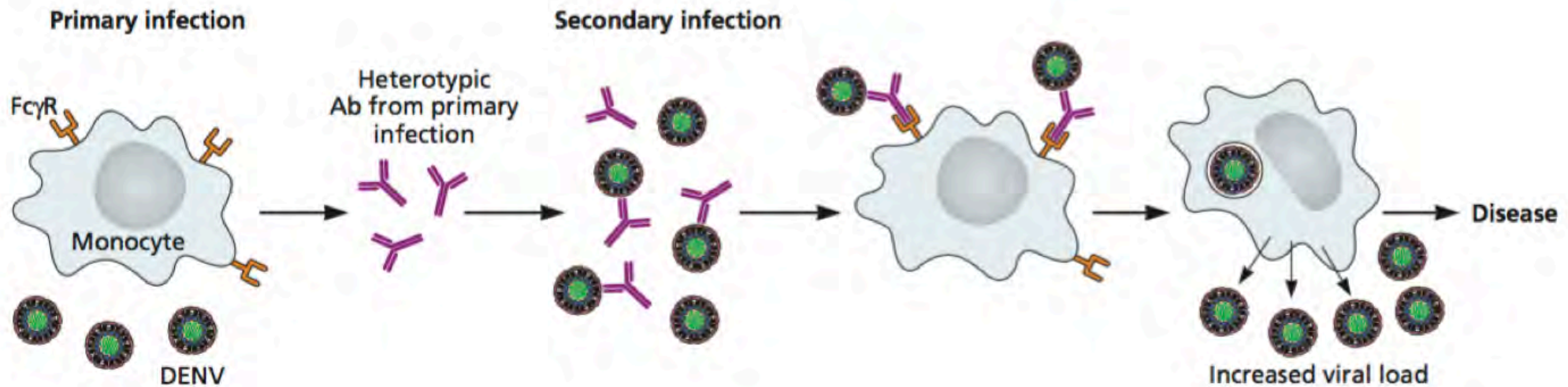


Figure 10.33 (part 1 of 3) Janeway's Immunobiology, 9th ed. (© Garland Science 2017) Figure 10.33 (part 3 of 3) Janeway's Immunobiology, 9th ed. (© Garland Science 2017)

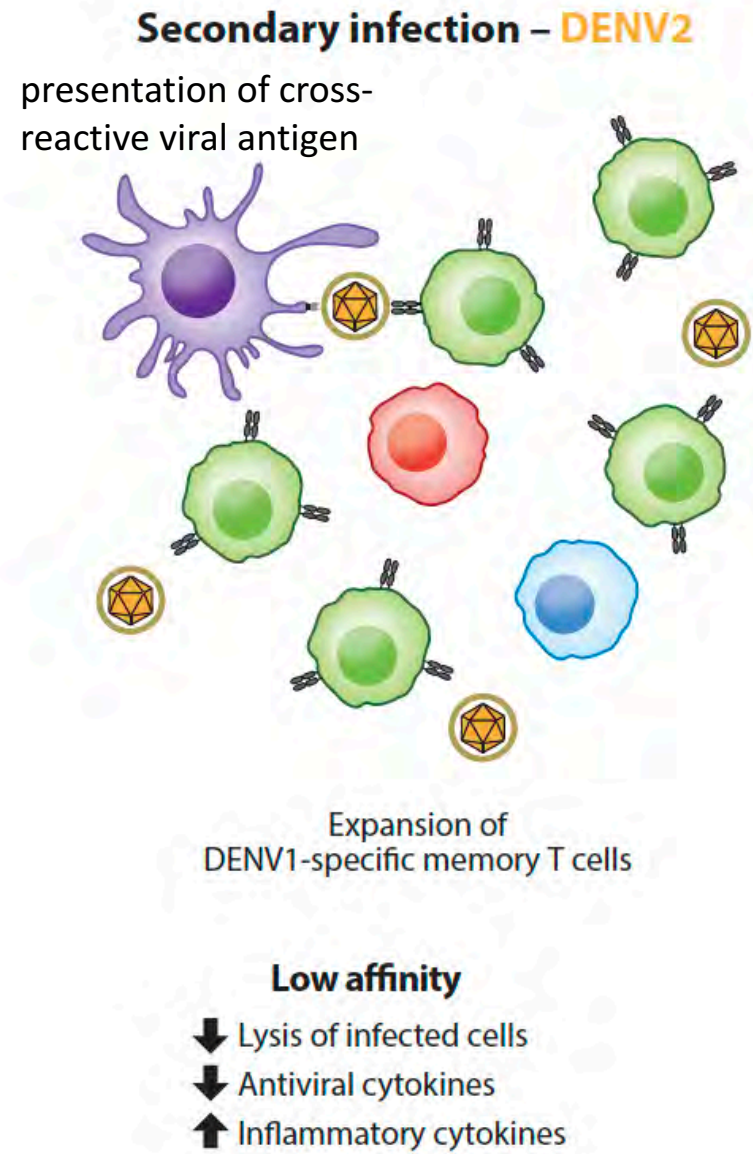
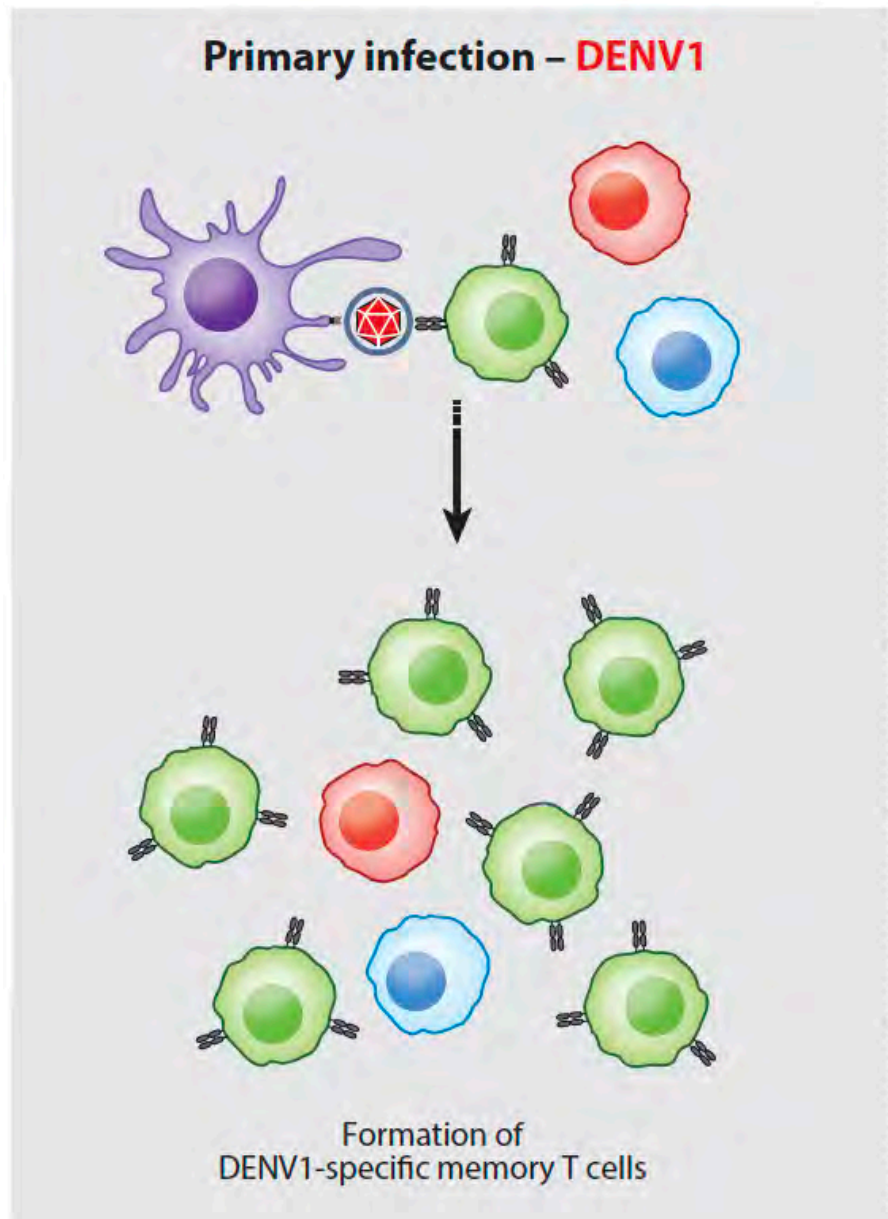
# Antibody-dependent Enhancement (ADE) of Dengue Infection



- Primary dengue virus (DENV) infection generates Abs.
- Subsequent infection with a different serotype will bind these non-neutralizing Abs.
- Instead, the Ab–virus complex attaches to receptors called Fcγ receptors (FcγR) on circulating monocytes.
- The antibodies help the virus infect monocytes more efficiently.
- The outcome is an increase in the overall replication of the virus, more inflammation, and a higher risk of severe dengue fever.



# T Cell Original Antigenic Sin

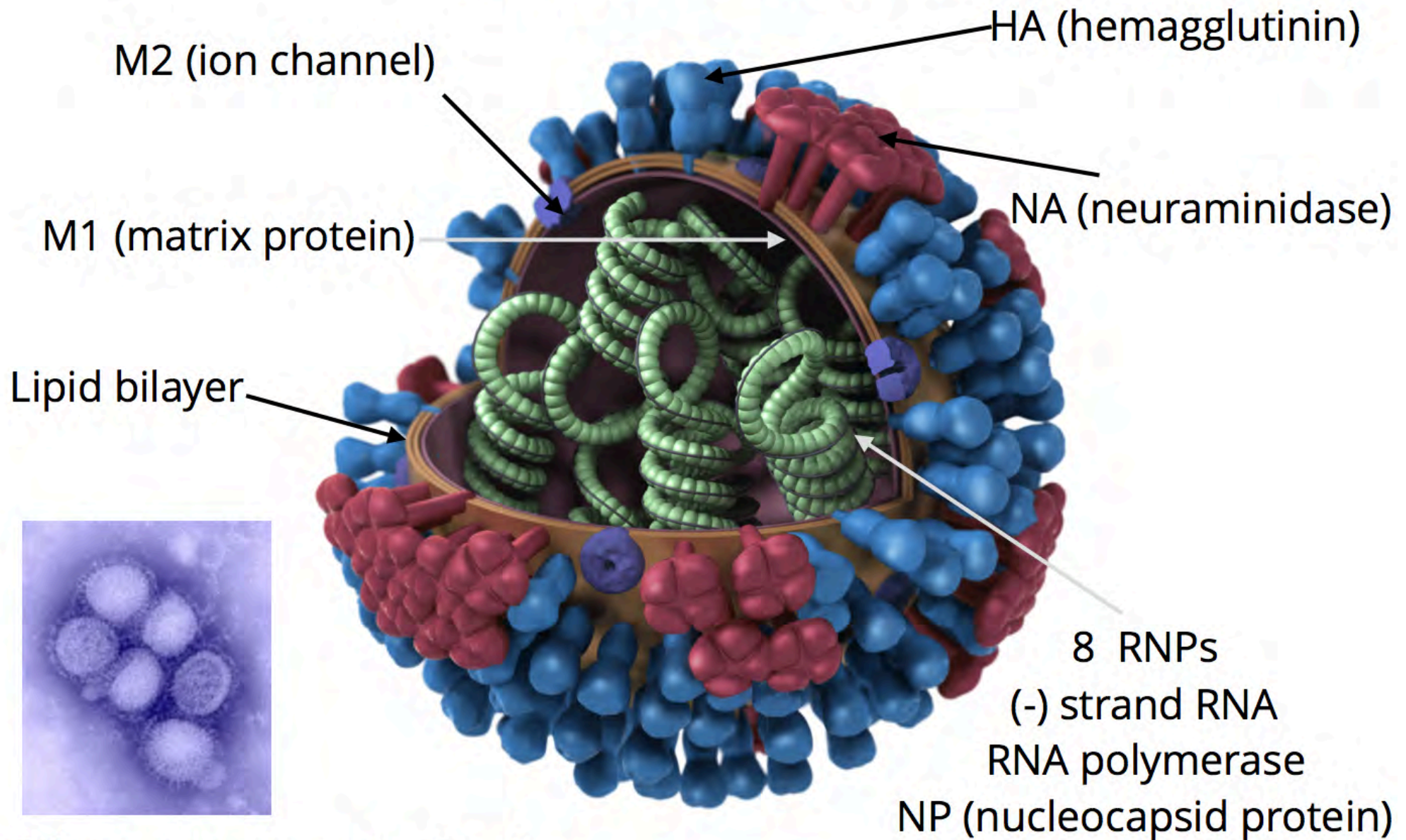


# **Viral Evolution: The Constant Change of a Viral Population in the Face of Selection Pressures**

- **As host populations grow and adapt, virus populations are selected that can infect them**
  - *New viral populations emerge every day*
- **It also works the other way**
  - *Viral populations can be significant selective forces in the evolution of host populations*
- **If a host population cannot adapt to a lethal virus infection, the population may be exterminated**
- **Examples of viral evolution: Influenza, Zika virus, and HIV**

**Note that these are all RNA viruses!**

# Influenza virus



Three types: A, B, C



# Antigenic Drift versus Antigenic Shift

- **Drift** - diversity arising from copying errors and immune selection.
  - May occur each time a genome replicates
  - Cause of epidemics
- **Shift** - diversity arising after recombination or reassortment of segmented genomes.
  - Is relatively rare
  - Cause of pandemics

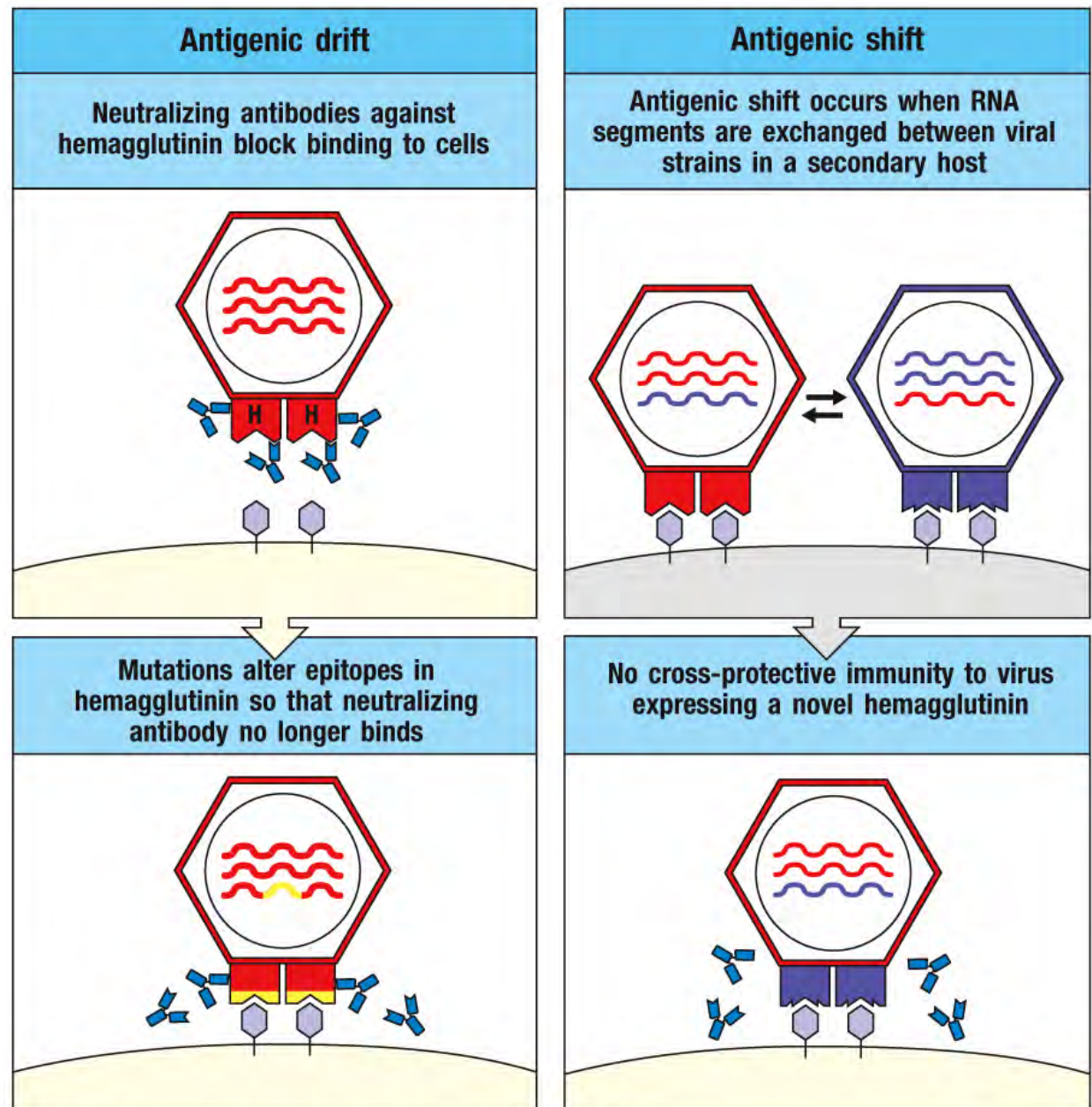
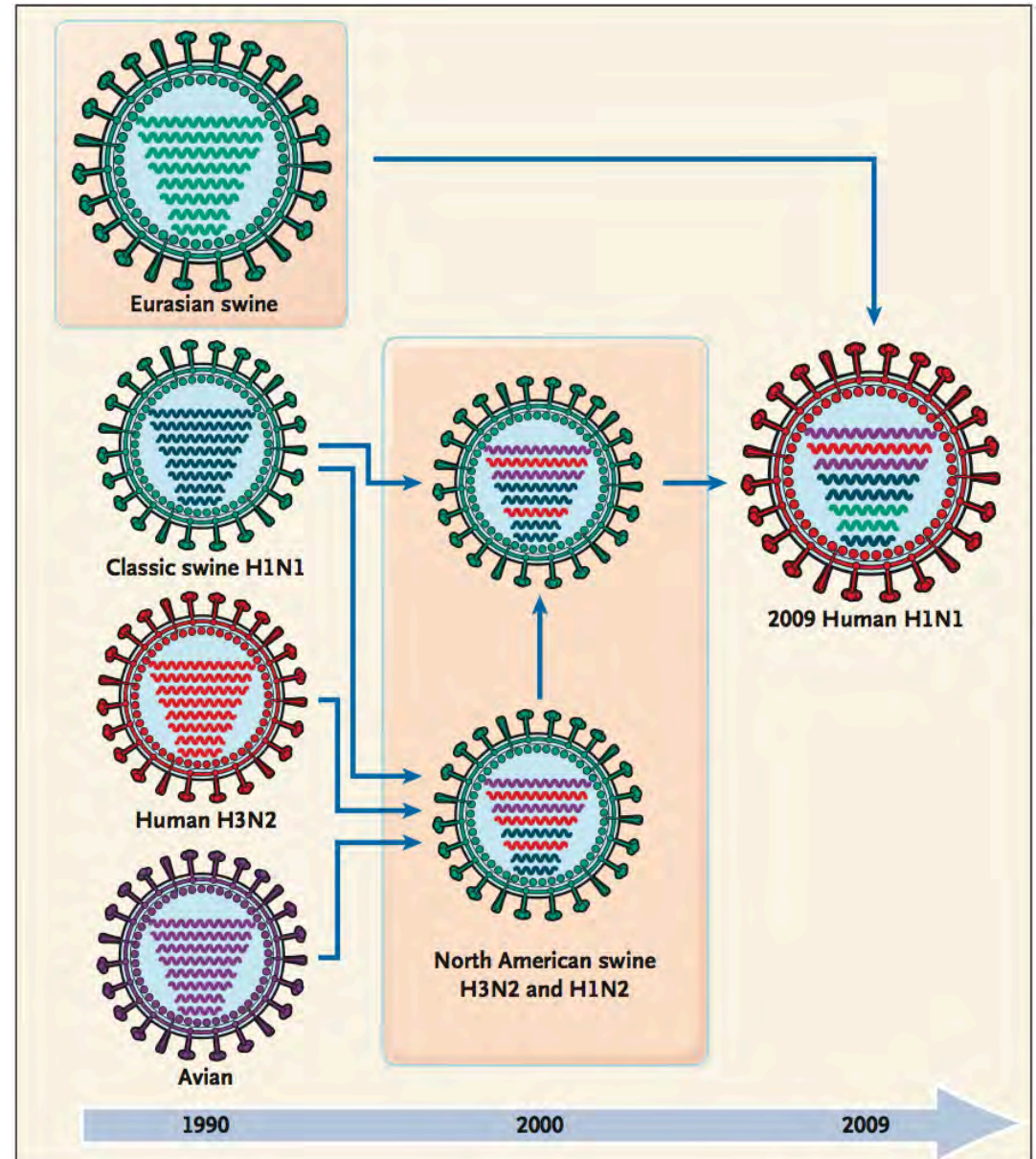


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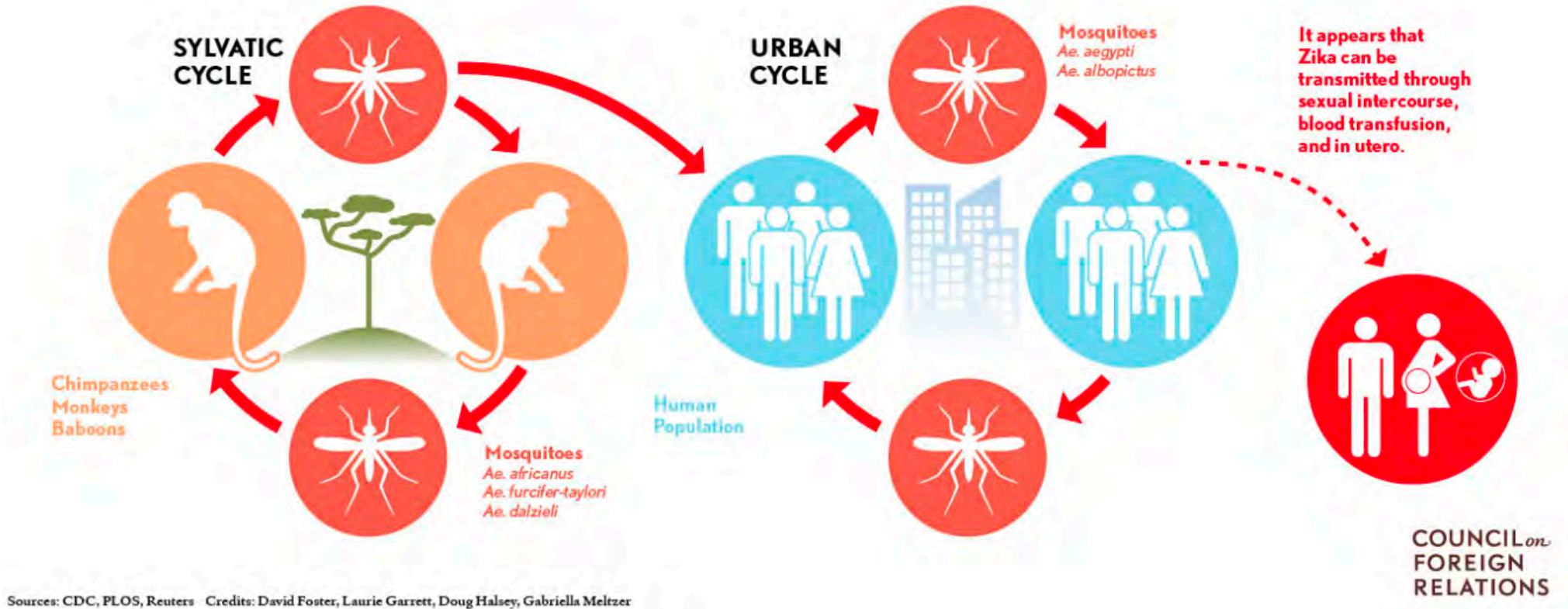
# Reassortment Events Give Rise to Pandemic Influenza: The Evolution of the 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

- Influenza A viruses are classified by antigenic composition, by serologic testing of HA and NA.
- H1-17 can infect birds; H1-3 can infect and transmit between humans.
- The 2009 H1N1 pandemic strain is a reassortment of avian, human, and swine influenza viruses!



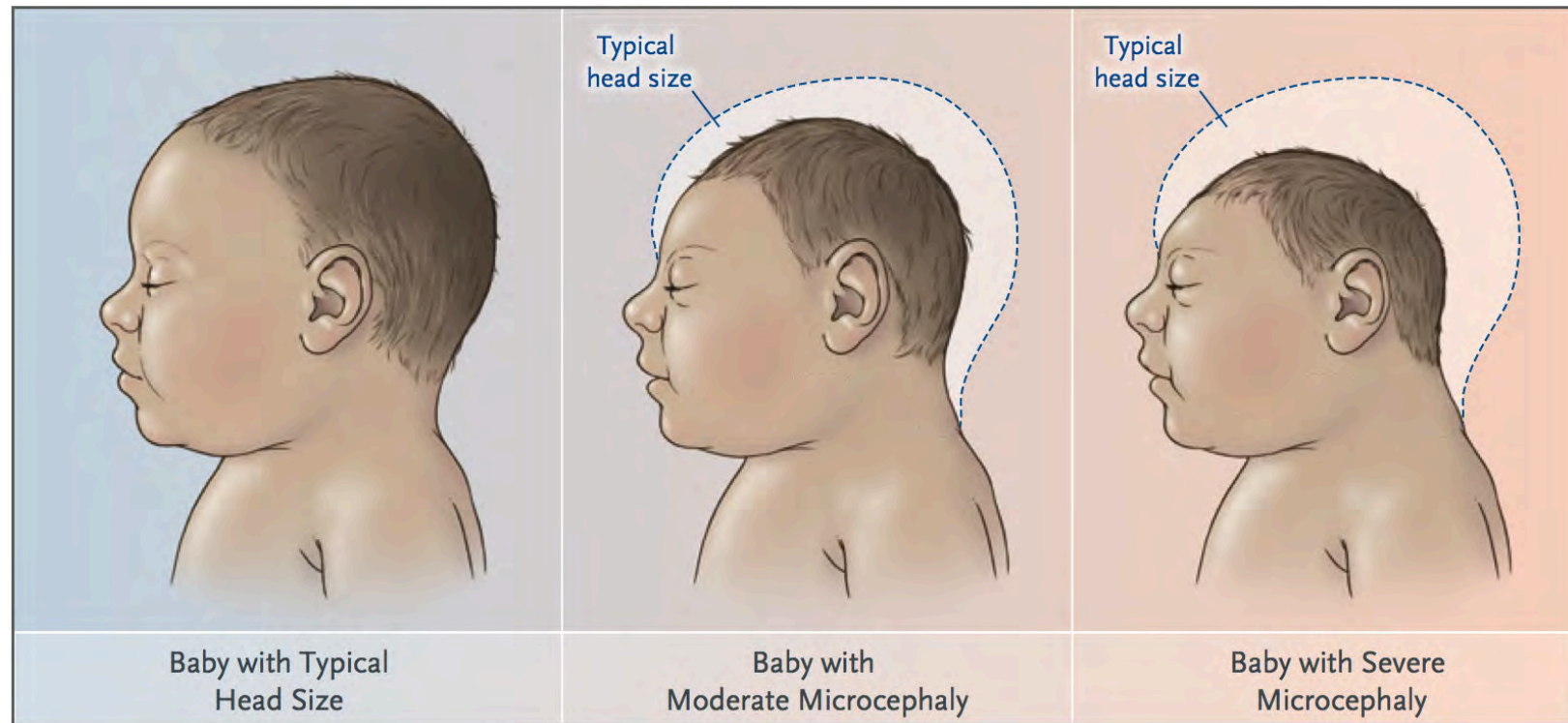
Trifonov et al. 2009 *NEJM*

# Zika Virus: The Evolving Epidemic



- Zika virus was discovered in 1947 in Zika Forest in Uganda.
- It was isolated from Rhesus Macaques.
- Arbovirus of the genus Flavivirus (Yellow Fever, Dengue, West Nile, Japanese encephalitis)
- First human case was detected in 1952.
- Sporadic infections reported in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands prior to 2014.

# Zika Can Cause Microcephaly and Other Severe Brain Defects in Unborn Babies



Petersen 2016 *NEJM*

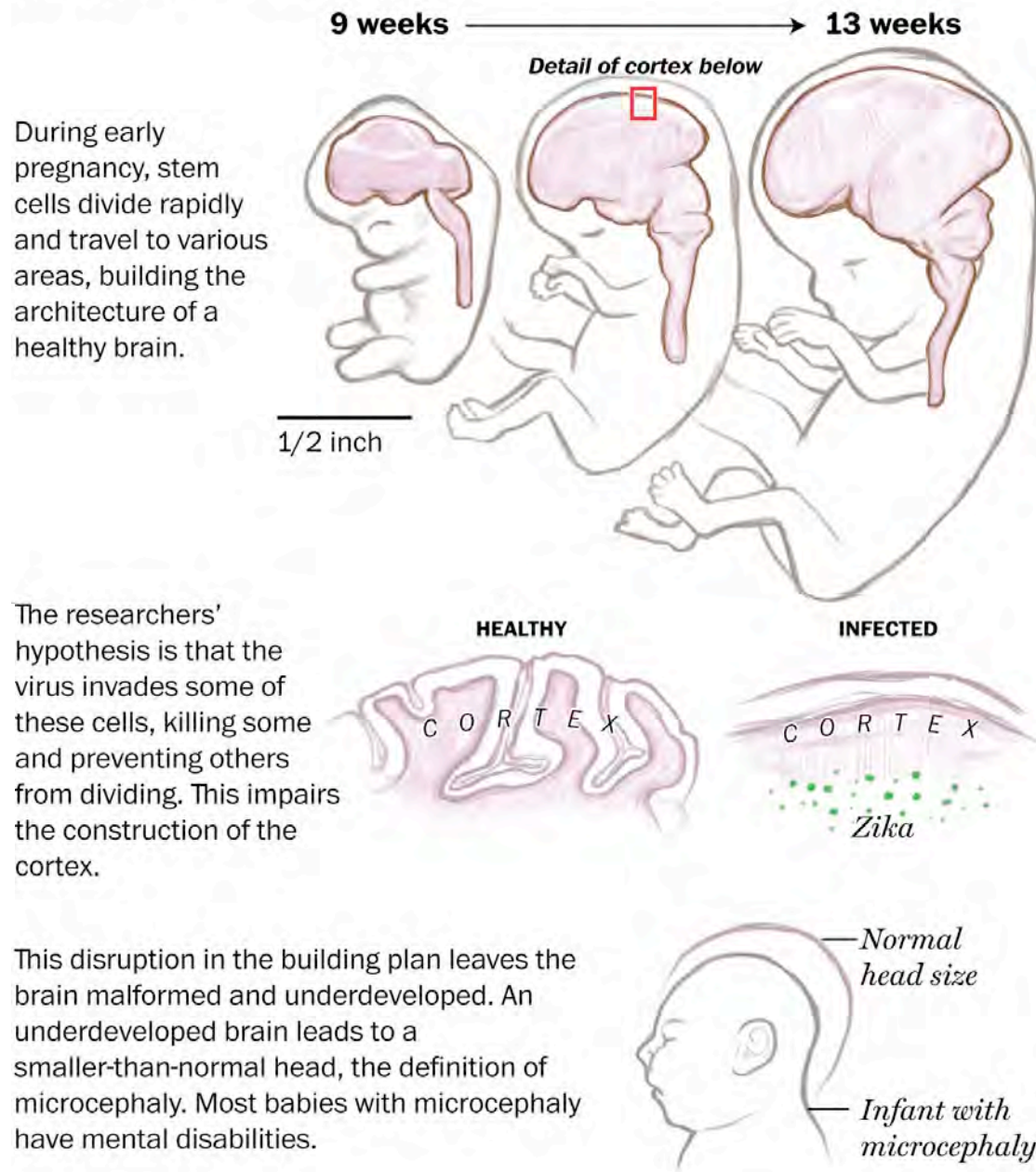
## Historic number of cases of Microcephaly in Brasil 2010 - 2015

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Brasil</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>3,530</b>

Source: Brasil Health Ministry



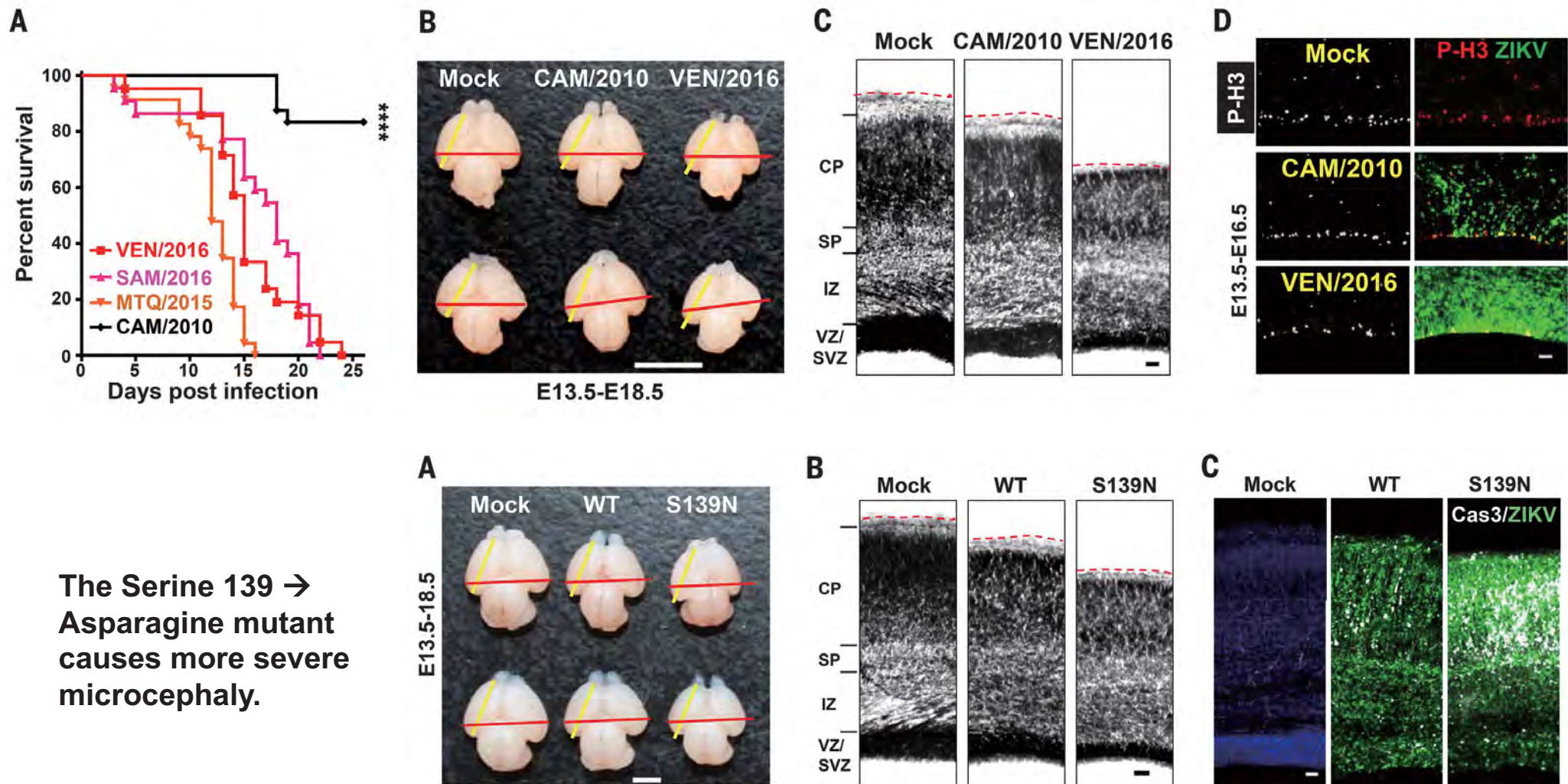
# Link Between Zika and Microcephaly



Sources: Zhexiong Wen, researcher at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institute; the Dana Foundation; BrainFacts.org, American Journal of Neuroradiology

BONNIE BERKOWITZ AND LAZARO GAMIO/THE WASHINGTON POST

# Neurovirulence Phenotypes of the Contemporary ZIKV Strains and Their Ancestral Asian Strain



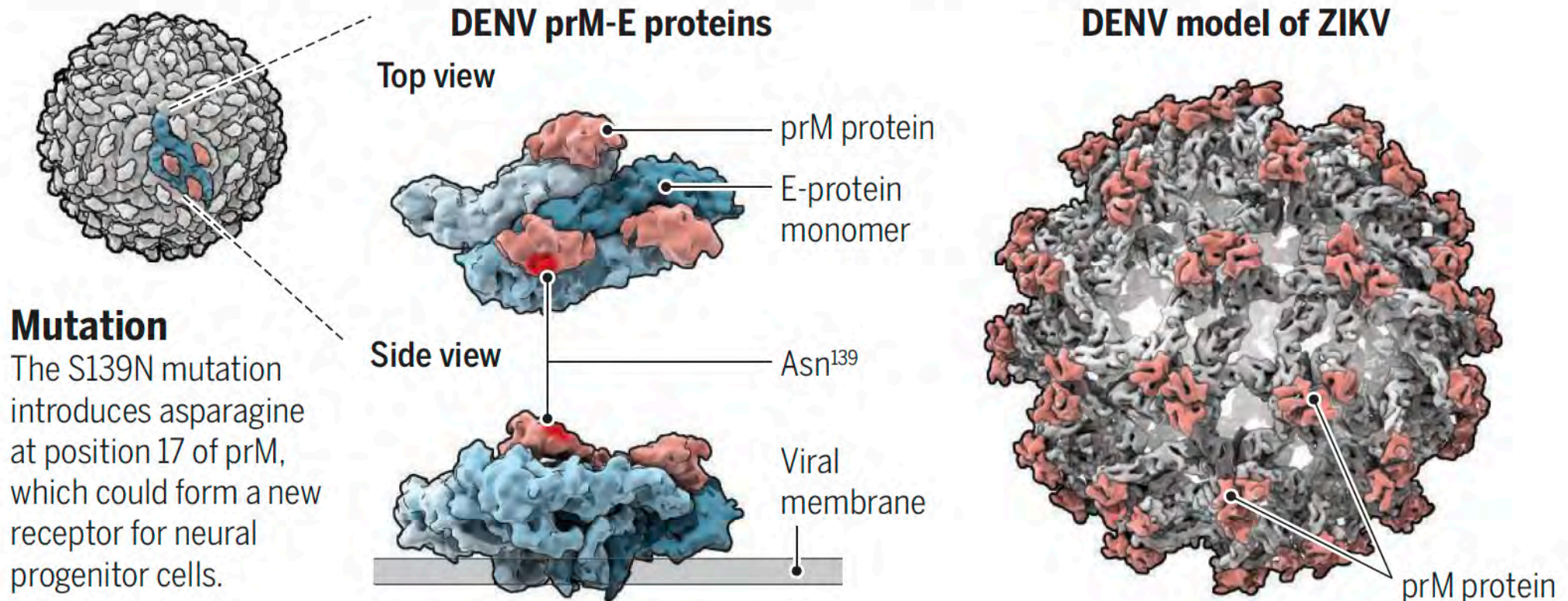
The Serine 139 → Asparagine mutant causes more severe microcephaly.



# Mutation That Showed up around 2014 in ZIKV Forms a Receptor for Neural Progenitor Cells?

## Gaining neurovirulence

Structures of the immature DENV particle show heterohexameric spikes containing a trimer of prM protein above a trimer of E protein. prM is modeled onto the structure of mature ZIKV, also a flavivirus, to indicate how prM could fit over E-protein dimers when the virus passes through the Golgi apparatus.



# Phylogenetic Origins of HIV-1 and HIV-2



SIV

~1921: Patient zero



HIV

78,000,000 infections  
39,000,000 deaths

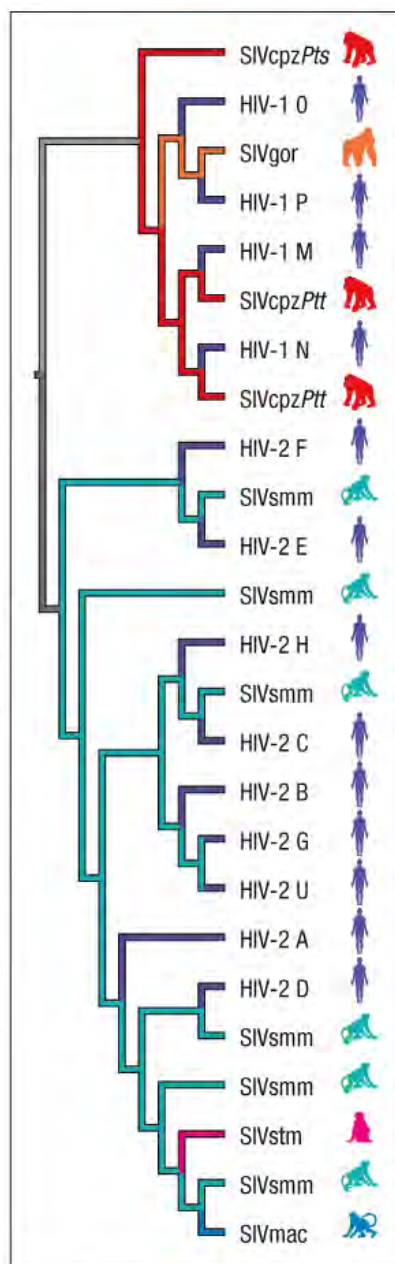
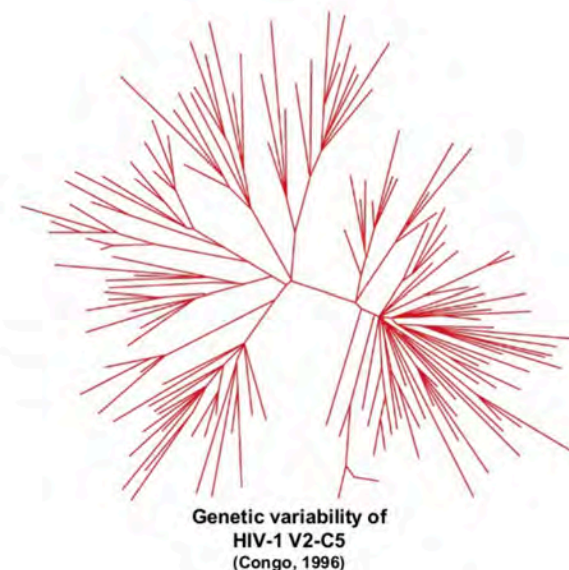


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- HIV-1 shows marked genetic variability.
- Classified on the basis of genomic sequence into four major groups:
  - M (main),
  - O (outlier),
  - N (non-M, non-O),
  - P (non-M, non-N, non-O),
- These are further diversified into subtypes, or clades, that are designated by the letters A to K.
- In different parts of the world, different subtypes predominate.

Genetic variability of  
global influenza A virus  
(1996)



Genetic variability of  
HIV-1 V2-C5  
(Congo, 1996)



# HIV is a Member of the Lentivirus Family of Retroviruses

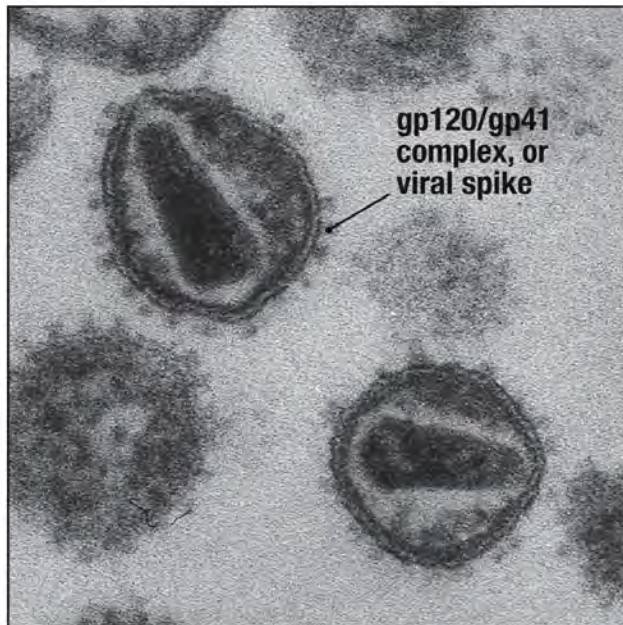


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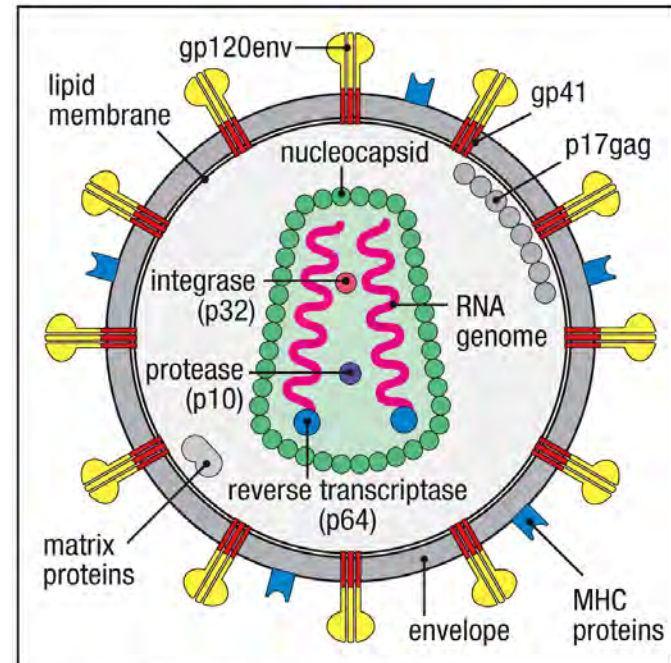
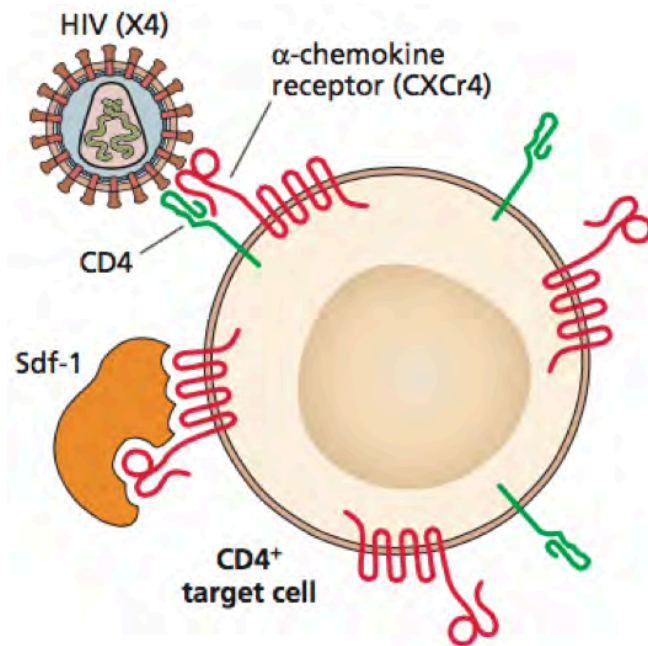


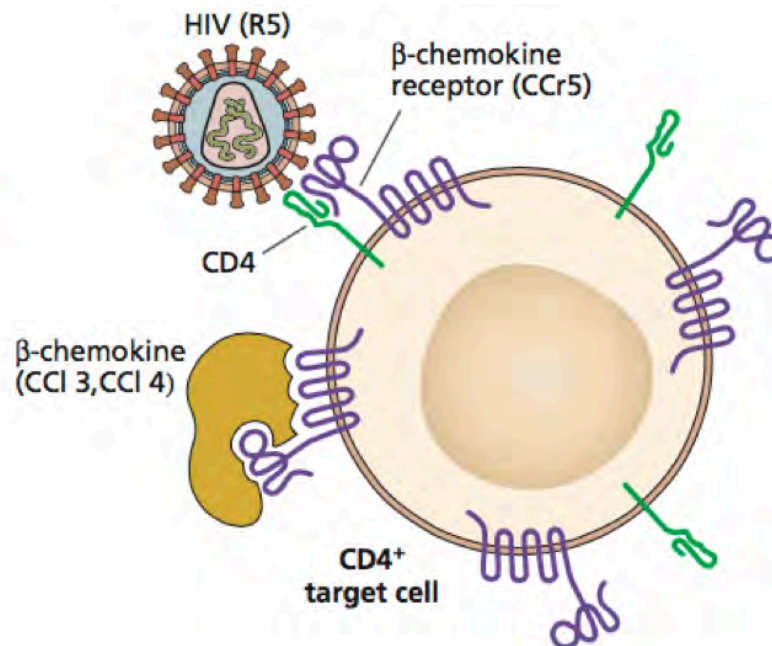
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- **Lentiviruses can infect nondividing cells**
- **Replication driven from long terminal repeats**
- **RT makes a lot of mistakes!**

# HIV Tropism Determined by Receptor/Co-receptor



**CXCR4 is expressed primarily by naive and central memory CD4 T cells.**



**CCR5 is predominantly expressed on subsets of effector memory CD4 T cells (specially in the mucosa!), dendritic cells, and macrophages.**

# Dendritic Cells Transport HIV from Mucosal Surfaces to CD4 T Cells in Lymphoid Tissue

Transmission:  
R5 Tropic virus  
(CCR5)

↓ Mutates

Chronic phase:  
X4 Tropic virus  
(CXCR4)

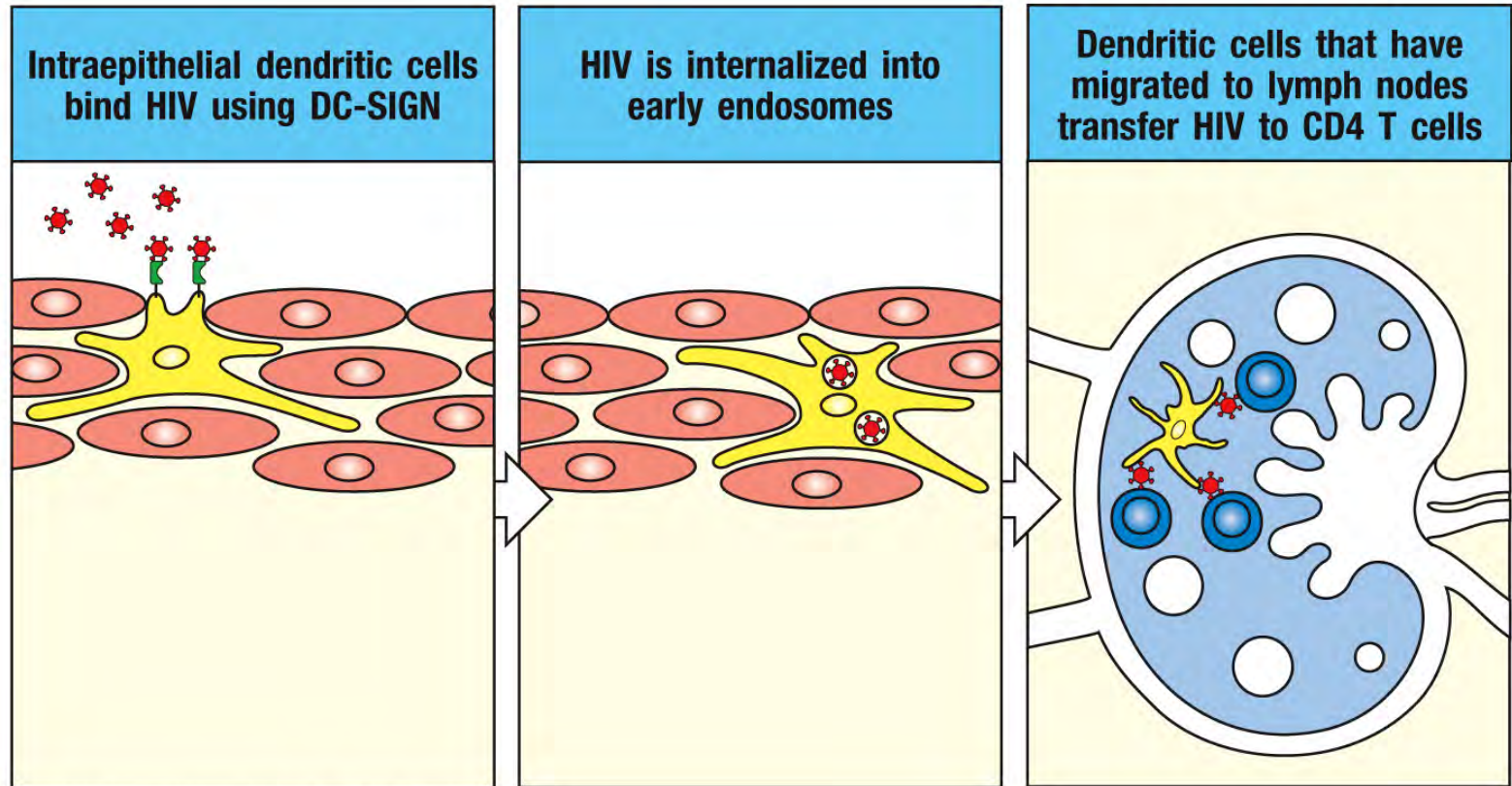


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- HIV is a sexually transmitted pathogen that must cross mucosal barriers.
- Abrasion caused by sexual contact can promote transmission.
- Directly picked up by DCs that have protruded between epithelial cells to sample the external world.
- HIV virions are translocated back to the cell surface and transferred to T cells in secondary lymphoid tissue.



# The genomic organization of HIV

- Genome is read in three frames, allowing the virus to encode many proteins in a small genome.
- Gene products of *gag*, *pol*, and *env* together with viral RNA are present in the mature viral particle.
- The mRNAs for Tat, Rev, and Nef proteins are produced by splicing of viral transcripts, so their genes are split in the viral genome.  
(Basis of using multiply spliced HIV RNA (msRNA) for tat/rev genomic region in PCR assays to detect viral replication.)
- Structural genes - *gag*, *pol*, *env*
- Regulatory genes - *tat*, *rev*
- Accessory genes - *vif*, *vpr*, *vpu*, *nef*

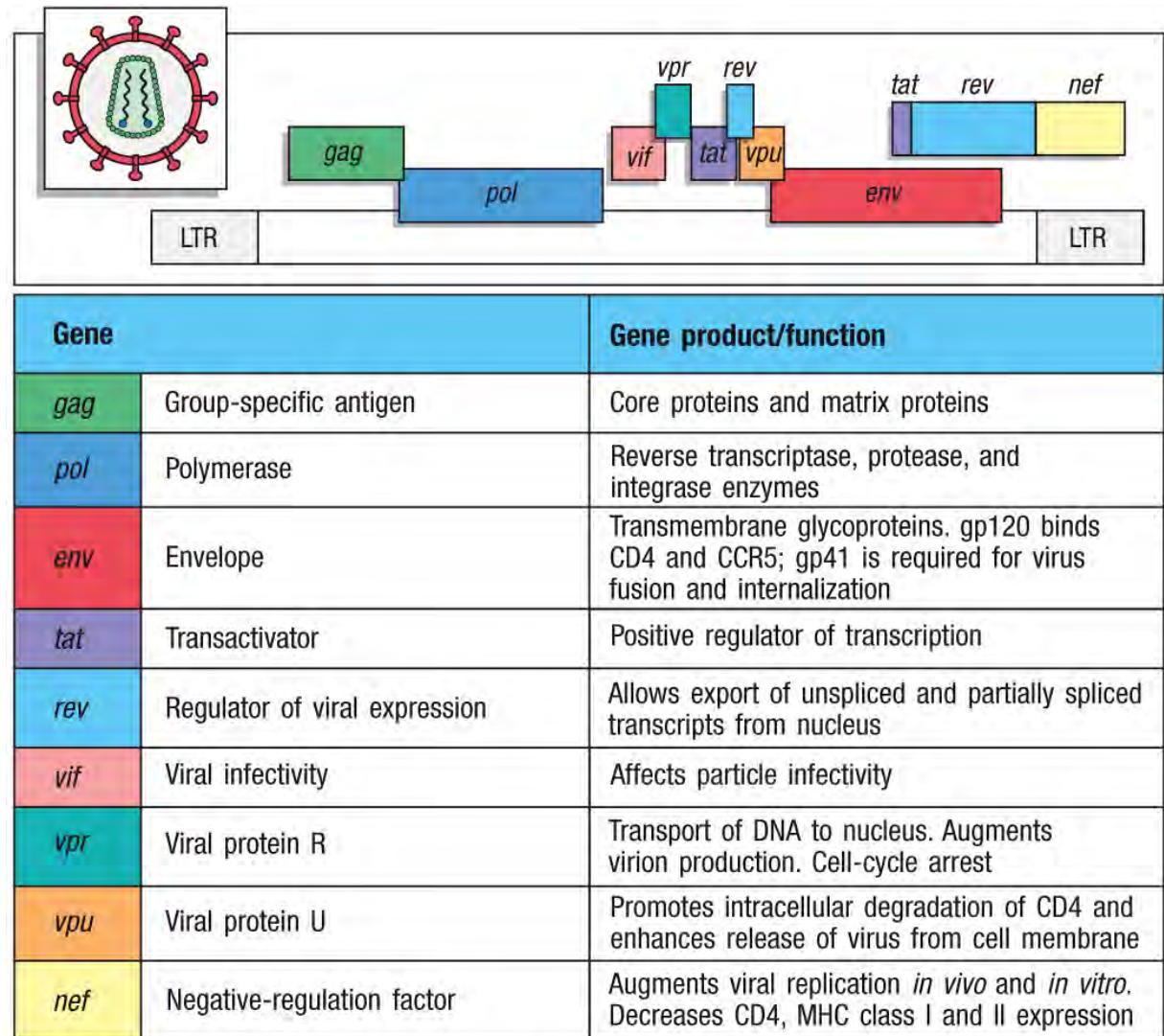


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# HIV Life Cycle

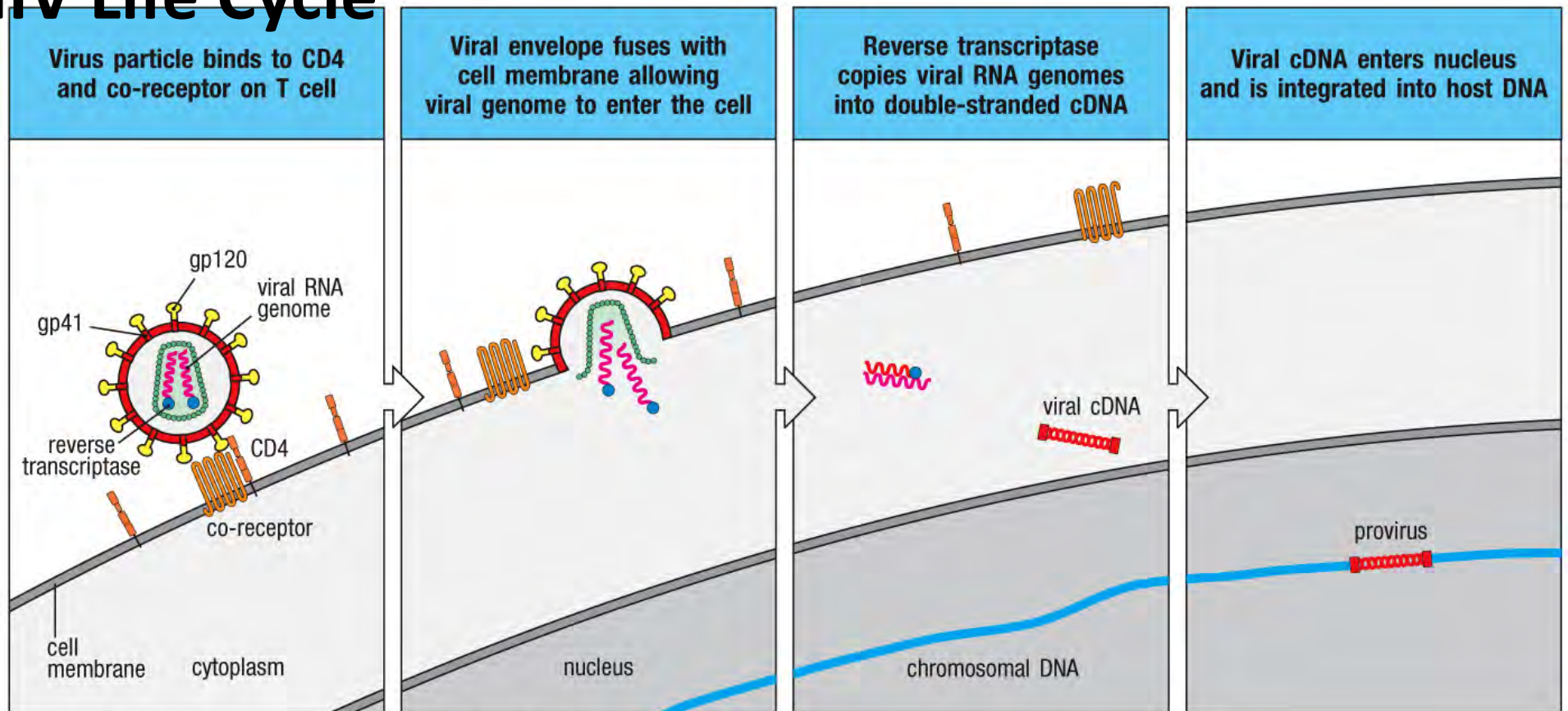


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- **Gp120 binds CD4 and undergoes a conformational change, exposing a high-affinity site that is bound by the co-receptor (CCR5/CXCR4).**
- **gp41 unfolds and inserts a portion of its structure into the plasma membrane.**
- **Fusion of viral envelope with the cell's plasma membrane occurs.**
- **Viral nucleocapsid, composed of the viral genome and associated viral proteins, enter the host-cell cytoplasm.**
- **RT transcribes the viral RNA into cDNA, encoding 9 genes.**
- **Viral integrase then integrates viral cDNA into host genome, creating provirus.**

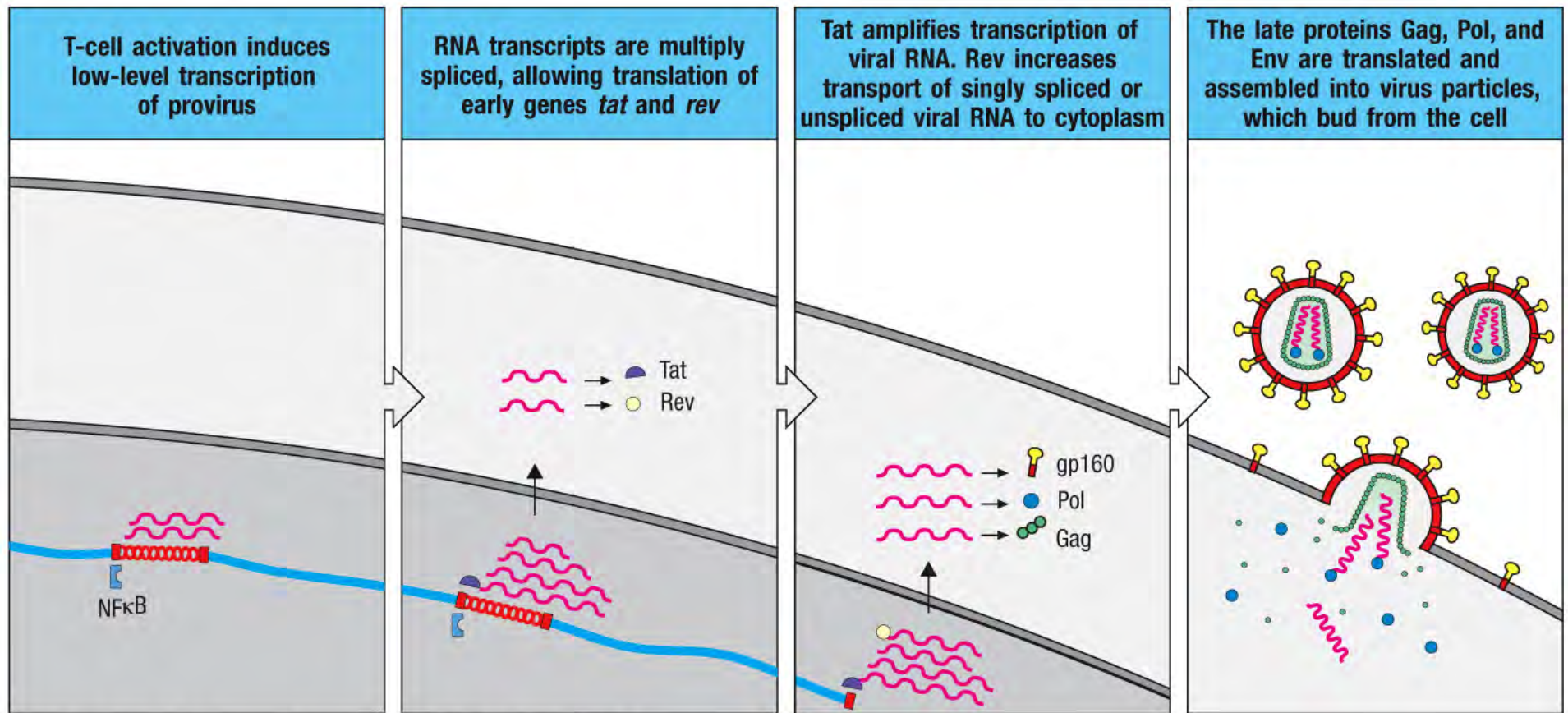
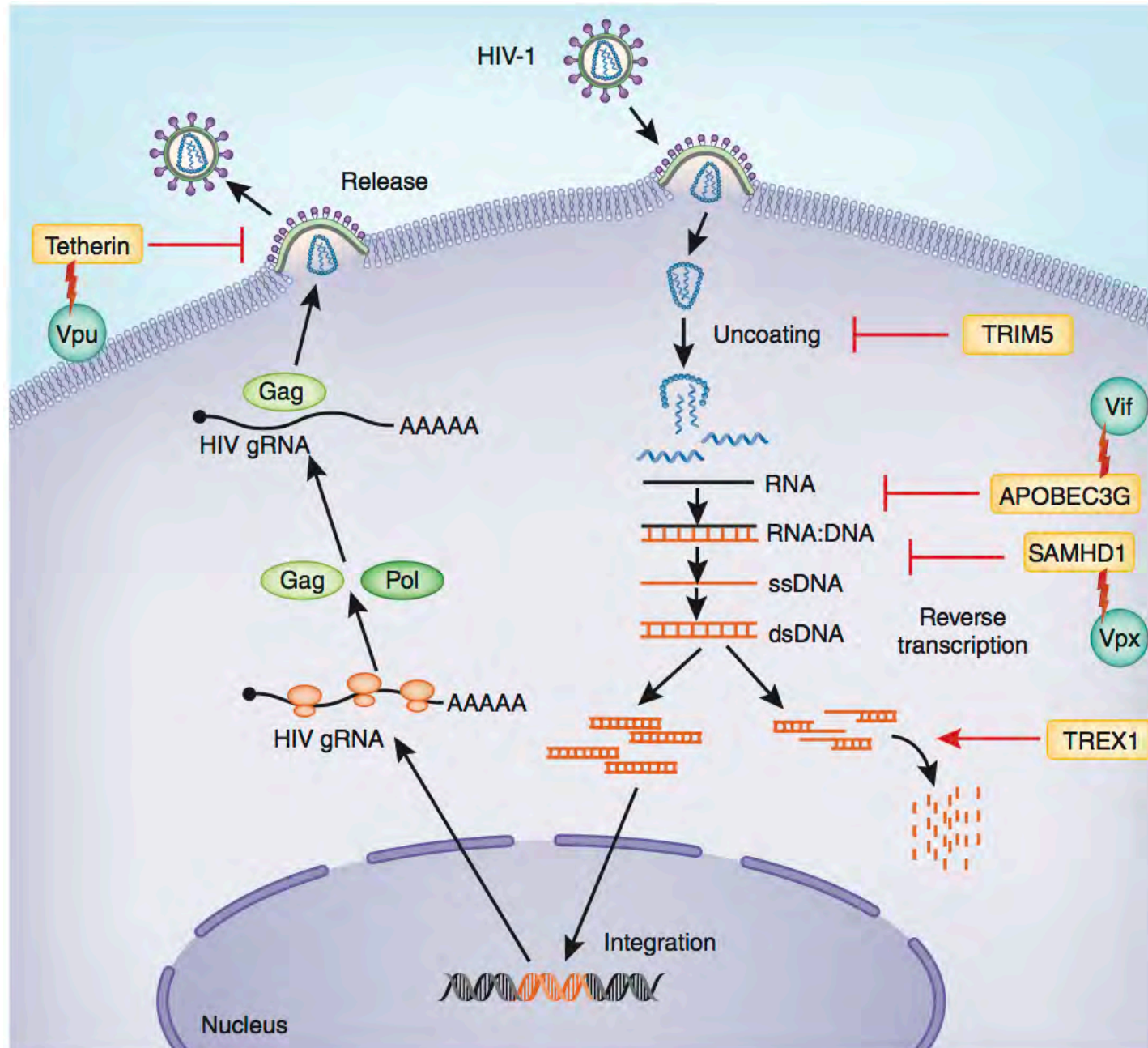


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- In activated CD4 T cells, NF-κB and NFAT bind to LTR and initiate transcription of the HIV genome.
- Regulatory proteins, Tat and Rev, are produced upon extensive processing.
- Tat both enhances transcription from the provirus and binds to the RNA transcripts, stabilizing them in a form that can be translated.
- Rev binds the RNA transcripts and transports them to the cytosol.
- The singly spliced and unspliced transcripts encode the structural proteins of the virus.
- Unspliced transcripts, which are also the new viral genomes, are packaged with these proteins to form many new virus particles.



# HIV Counteracts Intrinsic Antiviral Factors



# Typical Course of Untreated Infection with HIV

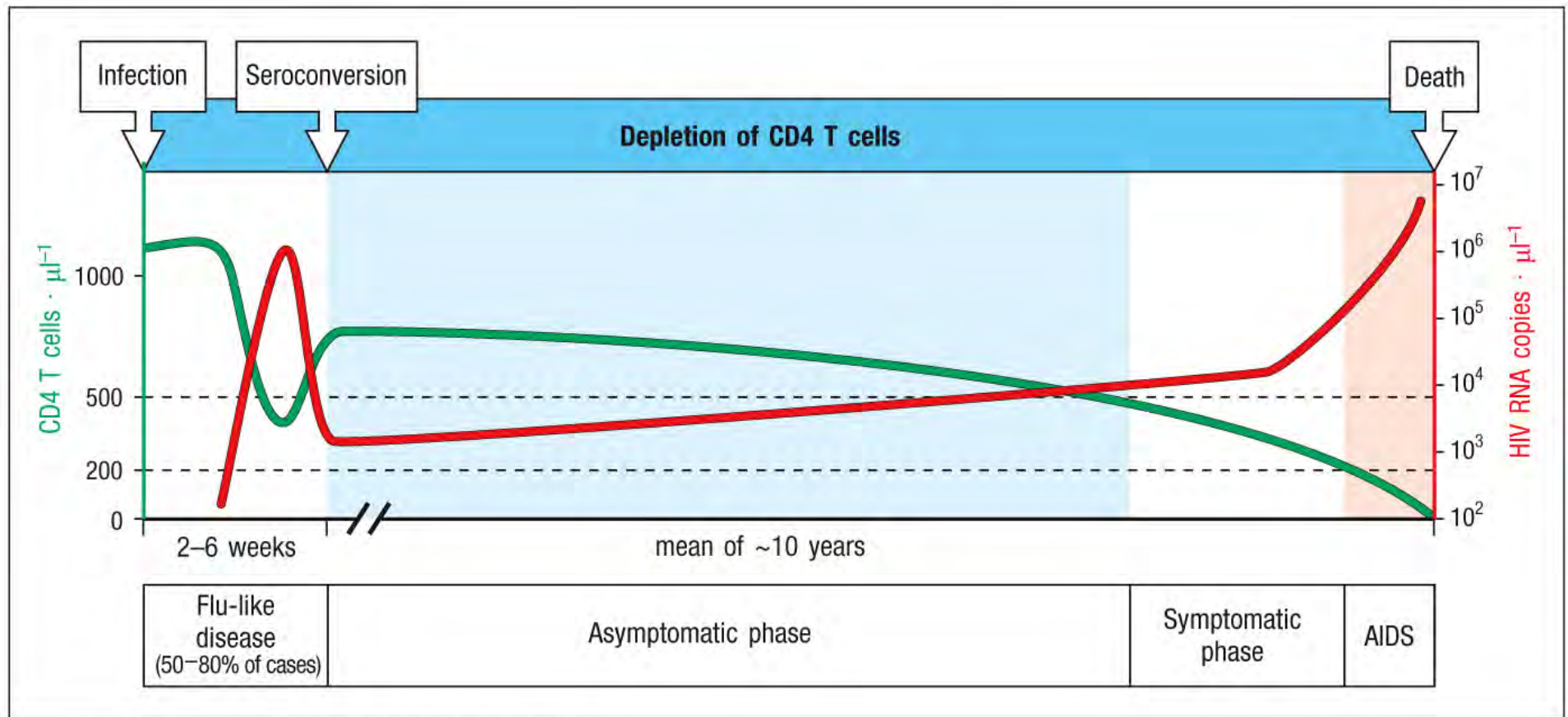


Figure 13.33 Janeway's Immunobiology, 9th ed. (© Garland Science 2017)

- Acute flu-like disease, seroconversion disease, with high titers of virus in the blood.
- Adaptive immunity → controls acute illness, largely restores CD4 T cells, but does not eradicate the virus → asymptomatic phase (5–10 years)
- CD4 T cell numbers fall → opportunistic infections occur → symptomatic phase
- CD4 T-cell counts below 200 cells/ $\mu\text{l}$  , the patient is considered to have AIDS.



# The Immune Response to HIV

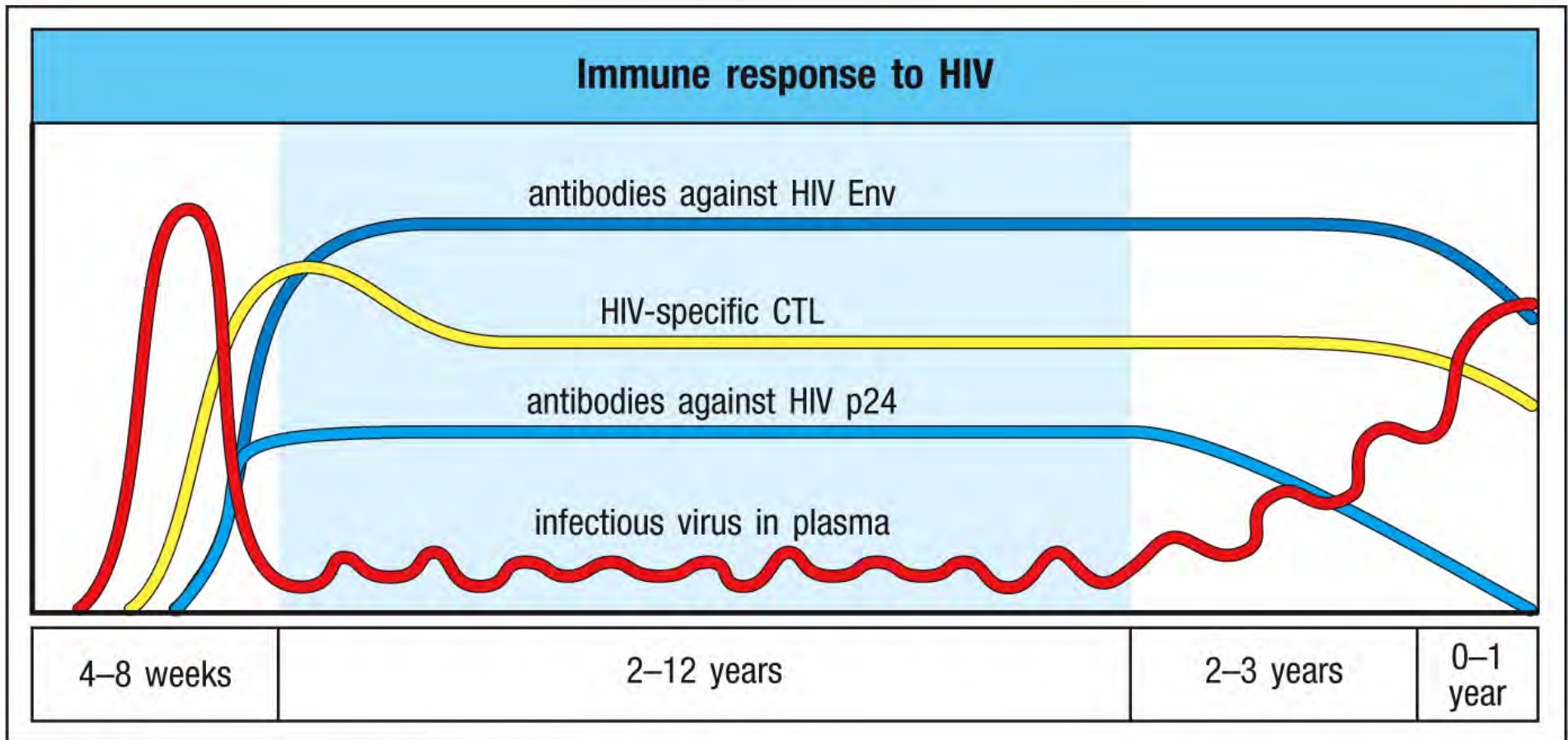
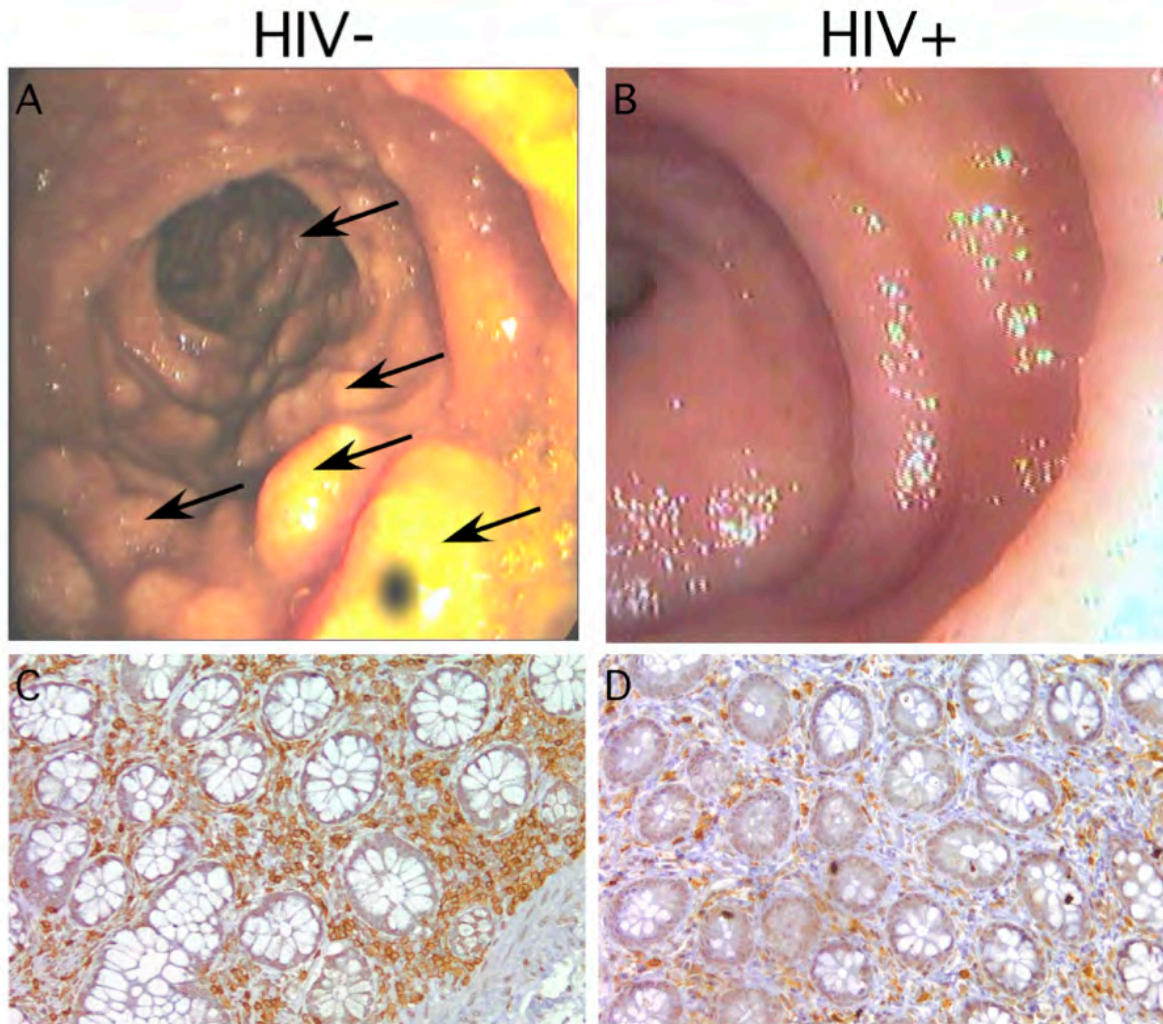


Figure 13.34 Janeway's Immunobiology, 9th ed. (© Garland Science 2017)

- **Asymptomatic phase → low level of virus in blood, but virus continues to replicate in lymphoid tissues.**
- **CD4 T-cell counts gradually decline, although antibodies and CD8 CTLs remain high.**
- **Once Ab and CTLs decline, infectious virus increases in blood.**

# Massive Damage to the GI Associated Lymphoid Tissue Following Acute Infection



**Absence of  
lymphoid cell  
aggregates in  
terminal ileum**

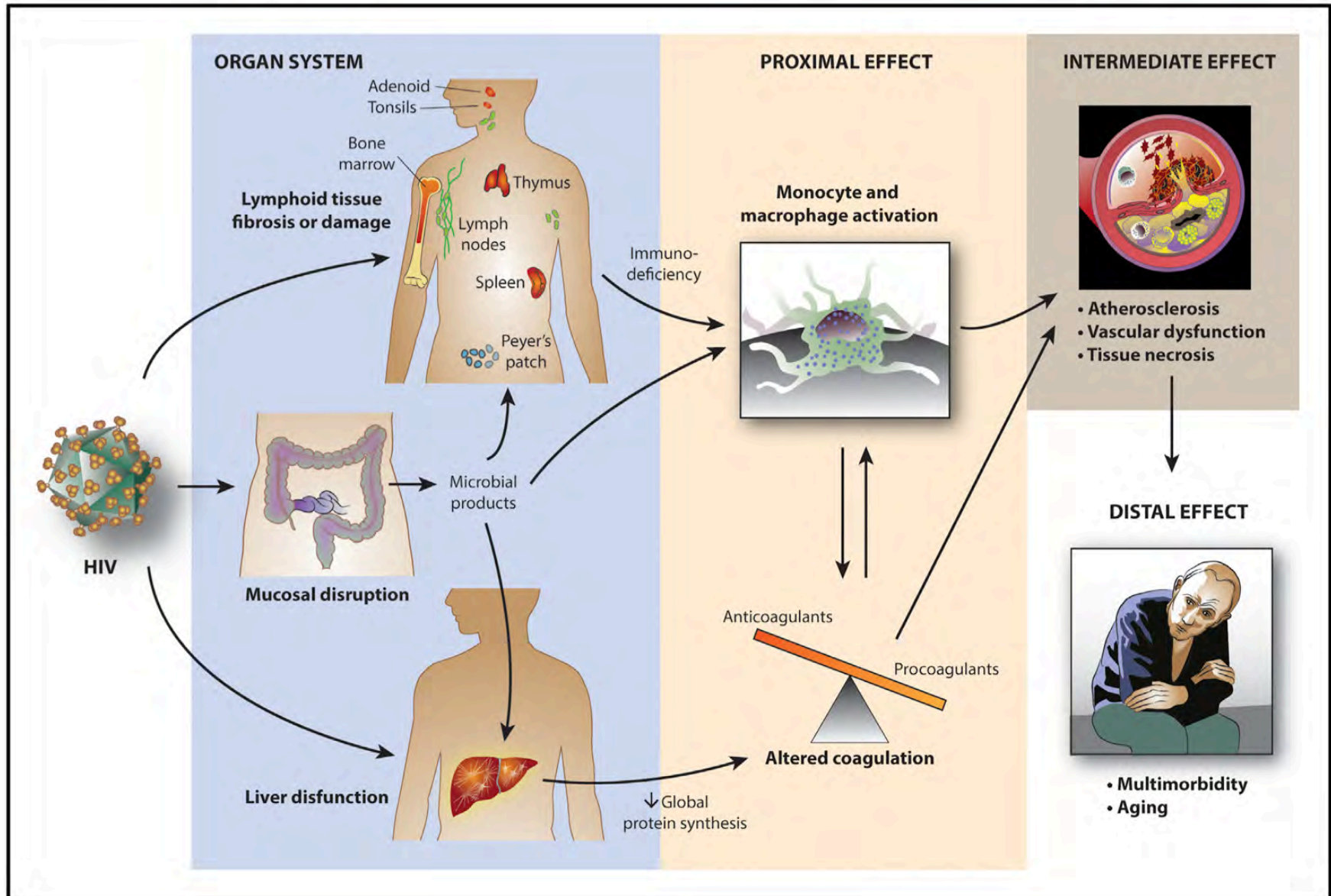


**Microbial translocation**



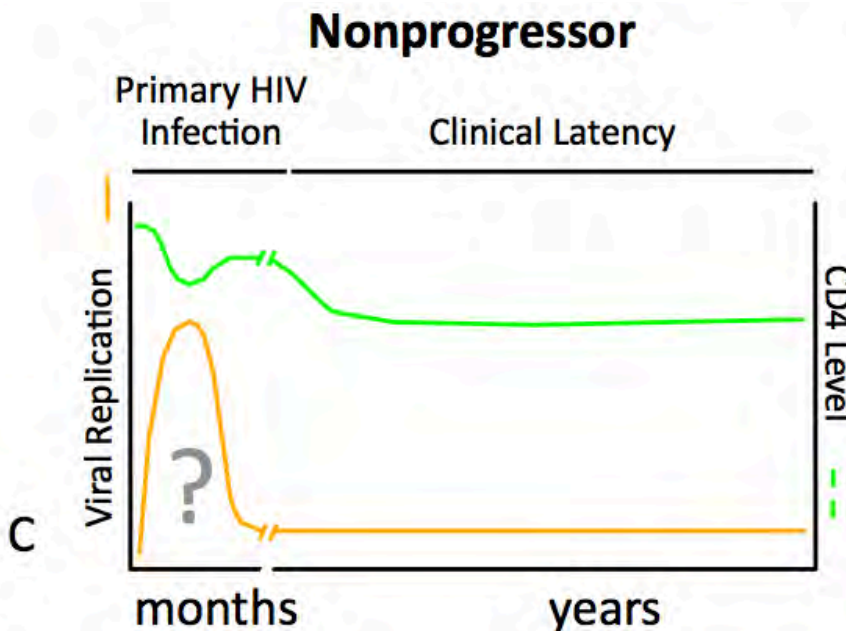
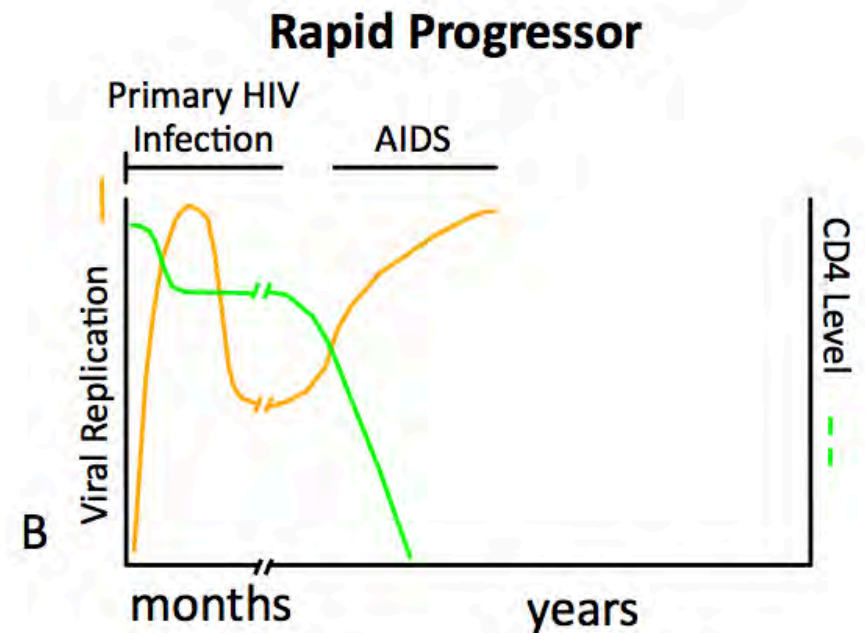
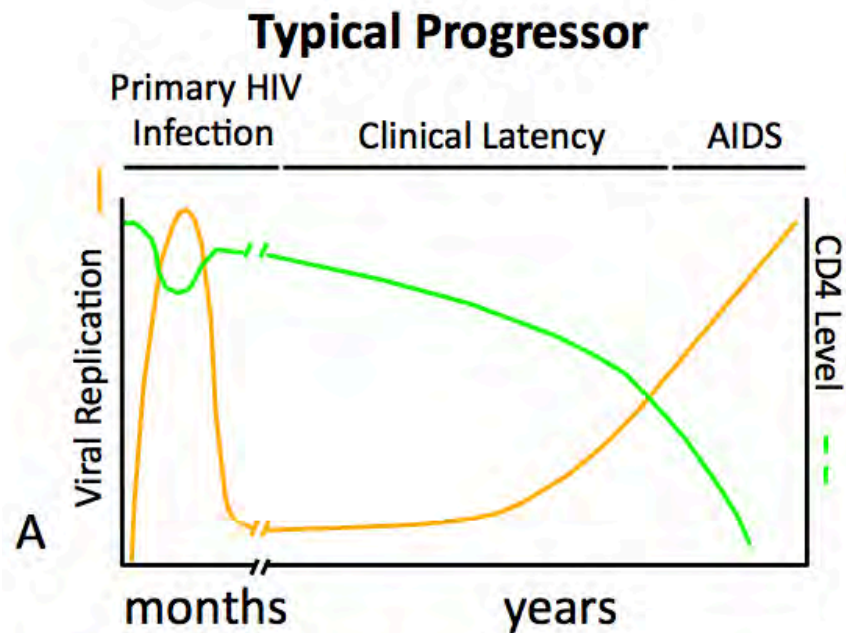
**Systemic inflammation**

# Pathogenesis of Inflammation-Associated Disease in HIV-Infected Adults





# The Variable Course of HIV-1 Infection



## ***Elite controllers:***

Individuals who maintain normal CD4 counts and undetectable viral loads (<50 copies HIV RNA/ml of plasma) for >10 years in the absence of antiretroviral therapy. Virus not defective.

## ***Mechanism?***



# Host Genes that can Alter HIV-1 Progression

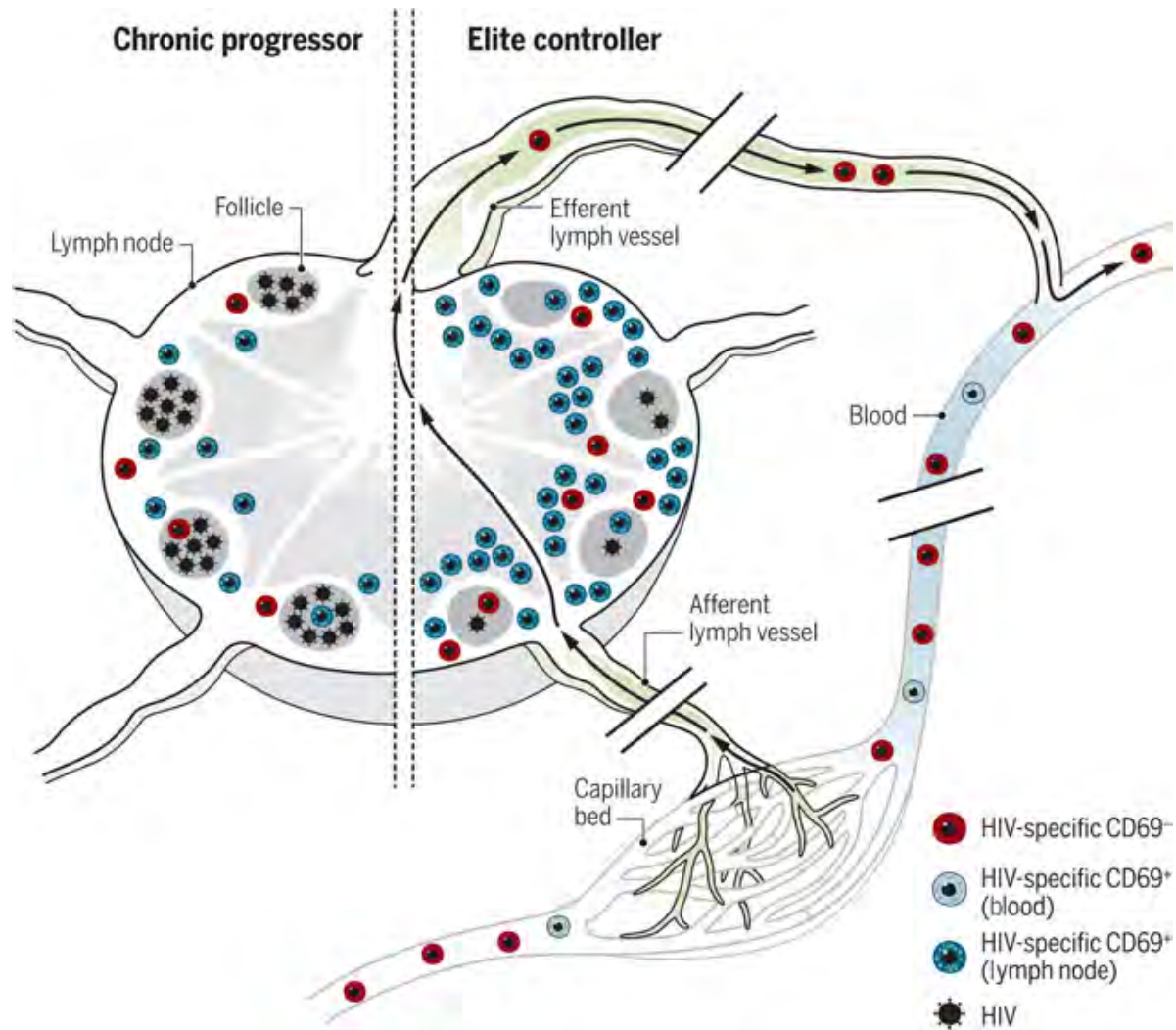
## Genes that influence progression to AIDS

Gene	Allele	Mode	Effect	Mechanism of action
<b>Cytokine anti-HIV</b>				
<i>IL10</i>	5'A	Dominant	Limits infection	Decreases IL-10 expression
			Accelerates AIDS	
<i>IFNG</i>	-179T	Dominant	Accelerates AIDS (E)	
<b>Acquired immunity, cell-mediated</b>				
	A, B, C	Homozygous	Accelerates AIDS	Decreases breadth of HLA class I epitope recognition
HLA	B*27	Codominant	Delays AIDS	Delays HIV-1 escape
	B*57			
	B*35-Px		Accelerates AIDS	Deflects CD8-mediated T-cell clearance of HIV-1
<b>Acquired immunity, innate</b>				
<i>KIR3DS1</i>	3DS1	Epistatic with HLA-Bw4	Delays AIDS	Clears HIV <sup>+</sup> , HLA <sup>-</sup> cells (?)

Figure 13.35 (part 2 of 2) Janeway's Immunobiology, 9th ed. (© Garland Science 2017)

**\* These HLAs are also associated with autoimmunity!**

# Resident Memory CD8+ T Cells in Lymphoid Tissues Provide Continuous Protection Against HIV in ECs



Roan, *Sci. Immunol.* (2018)

Buggert et al., *Sci. Immunol.* 3, eaar4526 (2018)

# Host Genes that can Alter HIV-1 Progression

Genes that influence progression to AIDS				
Gene	Allele	Mode	Effect	Mechanism of action
HIV entry				
<i>CCR5</i>	$\Delta 32$	Recessive	Prevents infection	Knockout of CCR5 expression
		Dominant	Prevents lymphoma (L)	Decreases available CCR5
			Delays AIDS	
	P1	Recessive	Accelerates AIDS (E)	Increases CCR5 expression
<i>CCR2</i>	I64	Dominant	Delays AIDS	Interacts with and reduces CXCR4
<i>CCL5</i>	ln1.1c	Dominant	Accelerates AIDS	Decreases CCL5 expression
<i>CXCL12</i>	3'A	Recessive	Delays AIDS (L)	Impedes CCR5–CXCR4 transition (?)
<i>CXCR6</i>	E3K	Dominant	Accelerates <i>P. jirovecii</i> pneumonia (L)	Alters T-cell activations (?)
<i>CCL2-CCL7-CCL11</i>	H7	Dominant	Enhances infection	Stimulates immune response (?)

Figure 13.35 (part 1 of 2) Janeway's Immunobiology, 9th ed. (© Garland Science 2017)

- **CCR5-delta32 mutation is present in 4-16% of European descent.**
- **Stem cell therapy cured German AIDS patient – only person cured so far!**
- **Possible to disrupt *ccr5* with nucleases, CRISPR/Cas9 technology?**



# Basic Research Led to Development of Drug Targets that Interfere with HIV Life Cycle

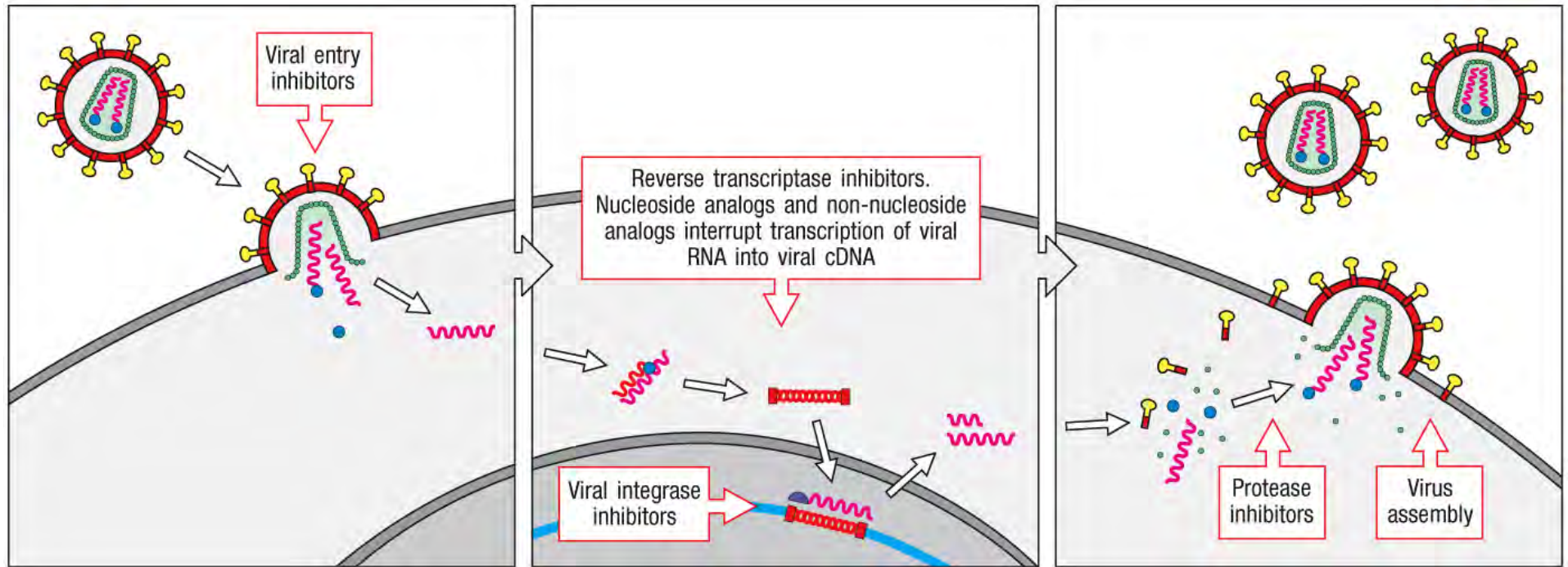


Figure 13.39 Janeway's Immunobiology, 9th ed. (© Garland Science 2017)

- Due to high rate of viral mutations, combination therapy (HAART) is much more effective than using a single drug.

# Advent of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART)

Infections	
Parasites	<i>Toxoplasma</i> spp. <i>Cryptosporidium</i> spp. <i>Leishmania</i> spp. <i>Microsporidium</i> spp.
Intracellular bacteria	<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> <i>intracellulare</i> <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
Fungi	<i>Pneumocystis jirovecii</i> <i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i> <i>Candida</i> spp. <i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i> <i>Coccidioides immitis</i>
Viruses	Herpes simplex Cytomegalovirus Herpes zoster
Malignancies	
Kaposi sarcoma – (HHV8) Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, including EBV-positive Burkitt's lymphoma Primary lymphoma of the brain	

Figure 13.36 Janeway's Immunobiology, 9th ed. (© Garland Science 2017)

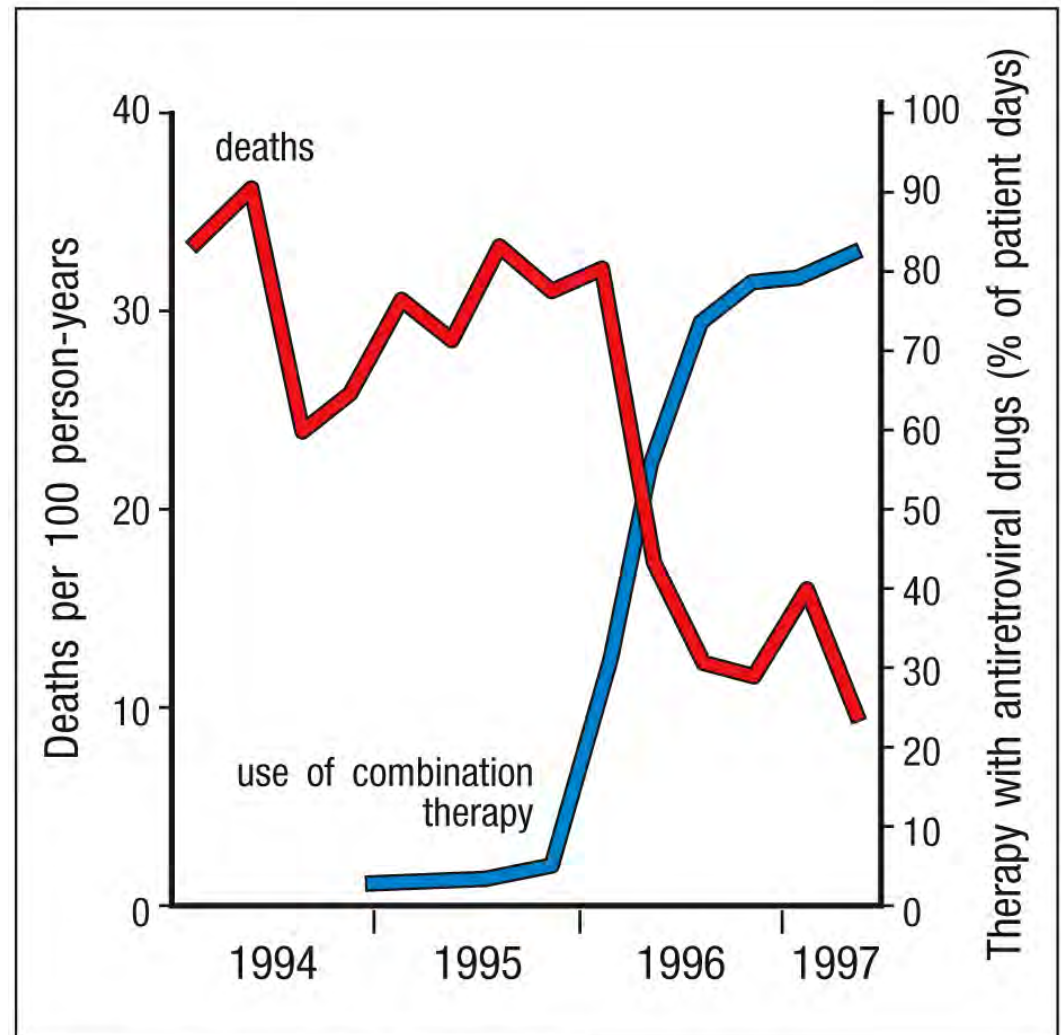
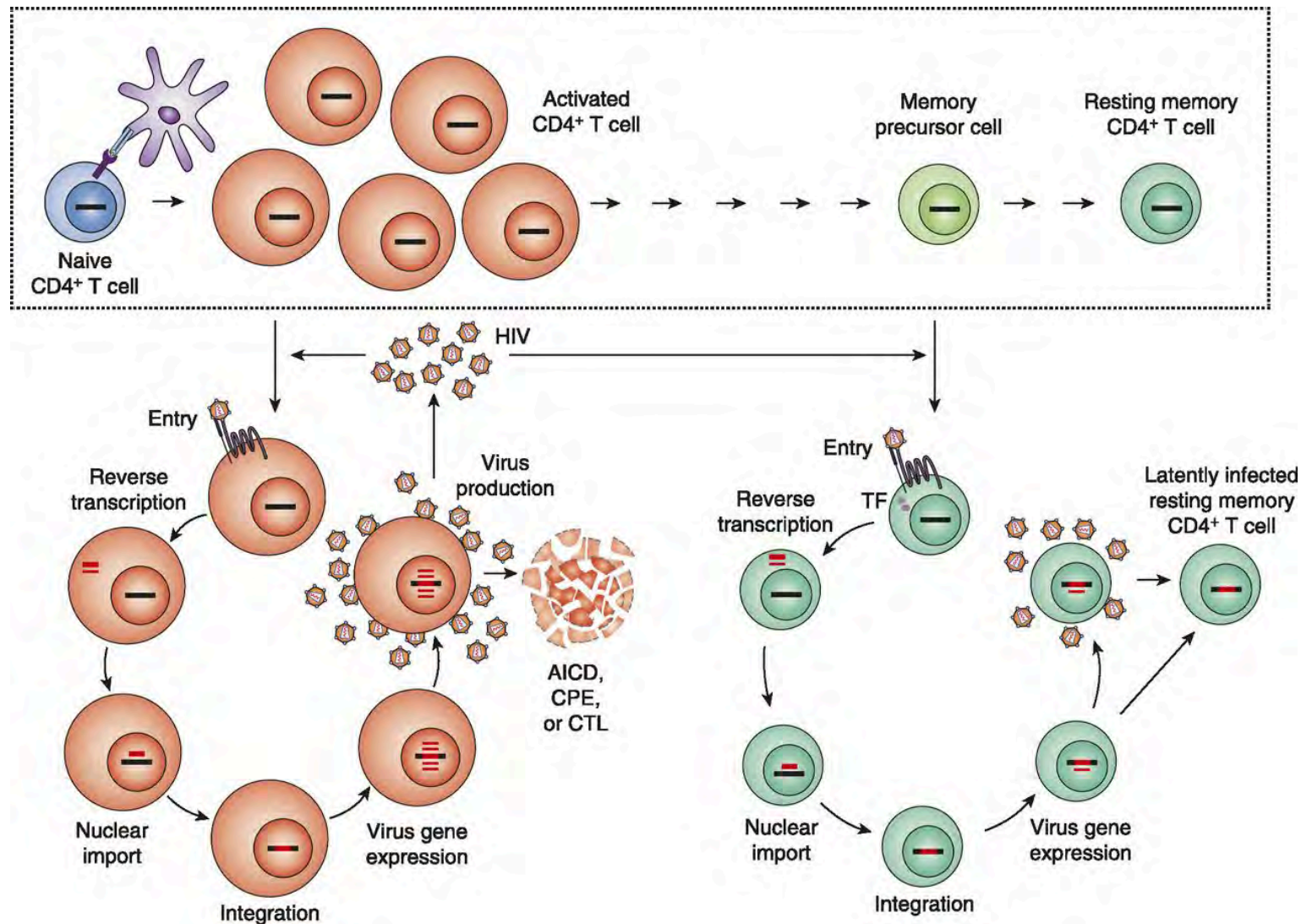


Figure 13.37 Janeway's Immunobiology, 9th ed. (© Garland Science 2017)

# HIV Establishes Latency in Resting Memory CD4+ T Cells





# HAART Does Not Cure the Patients!

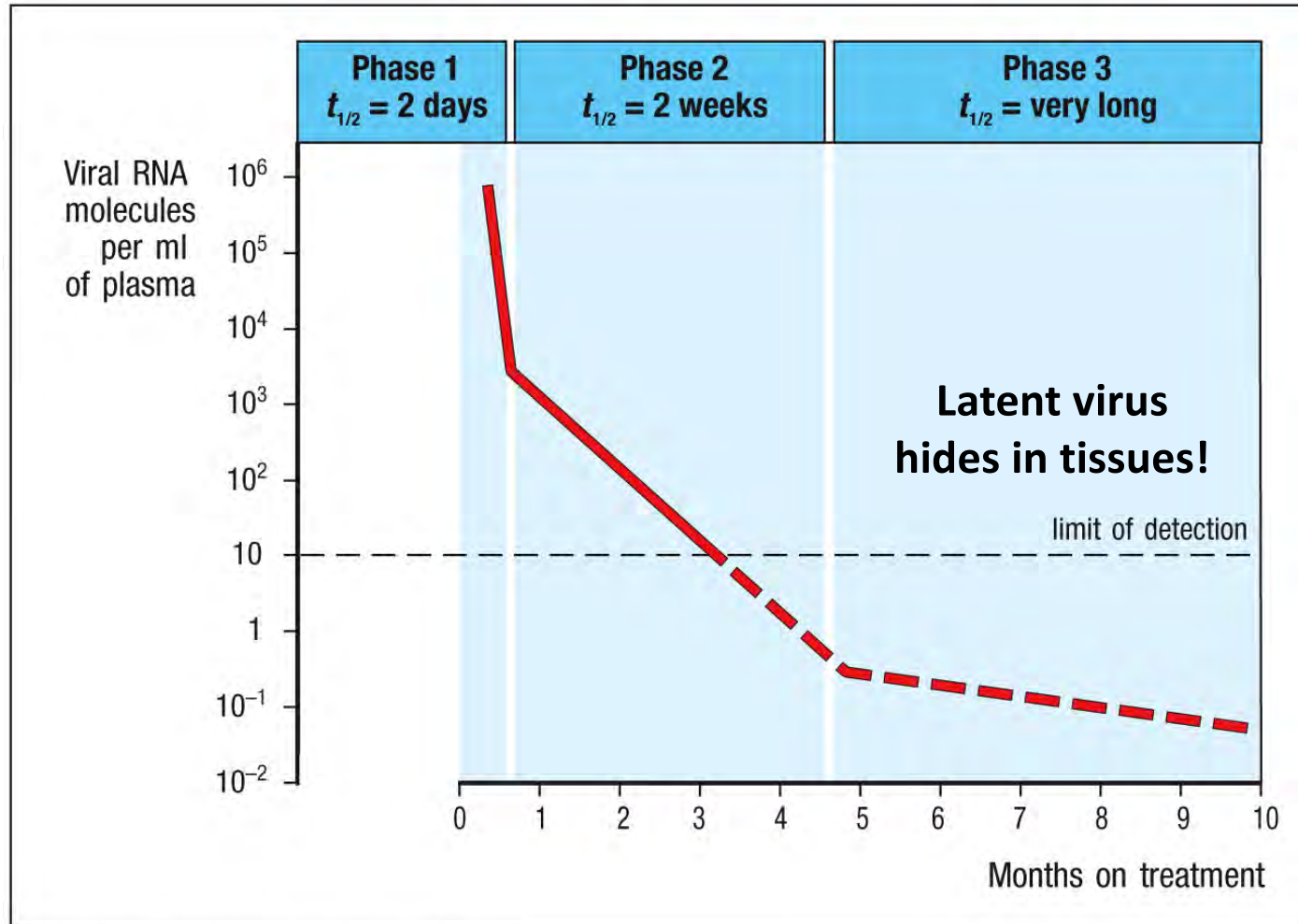
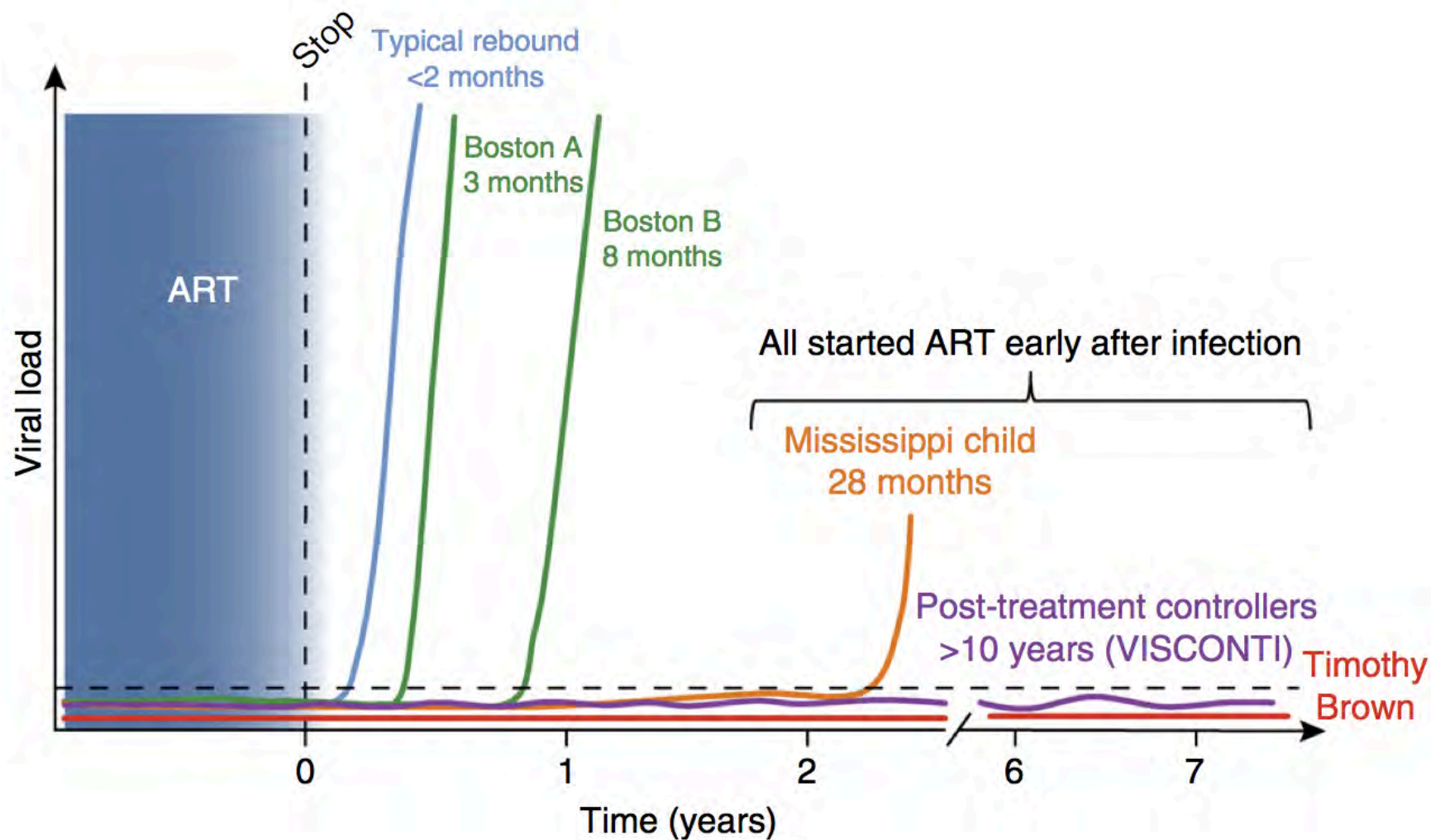


Figure 13.38 Janeway's Immunobiology, 9th ed. (© Garland Science 2017)

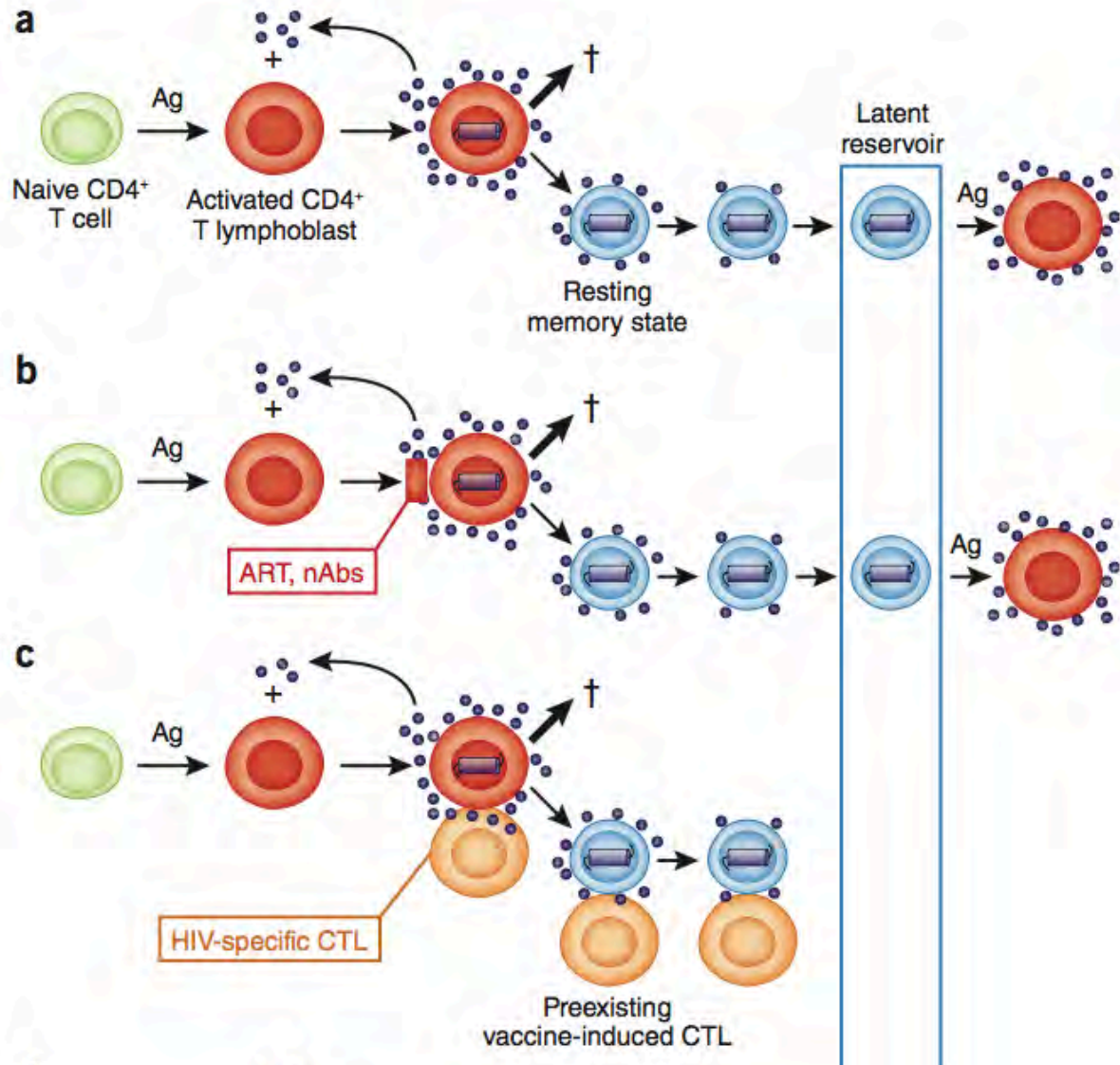
- Latently infected CD4 memory T cells have a half-life of ~44 months.
- HAART needs to be administered for over 70 years to completely clear the virus.

# Only One Person so far Has Been Cured



**How can we prevent or eliminate HIV?**

# Preventing or Eliminating Reservoirs to Cure HIV-1



- ART and neutralizing antibodies can stop new cells from becoming infected, but latent cells remain.
- Preexisting vaccine-induced CTLs can lyse infected cells before they can transition to a state of latent infection.

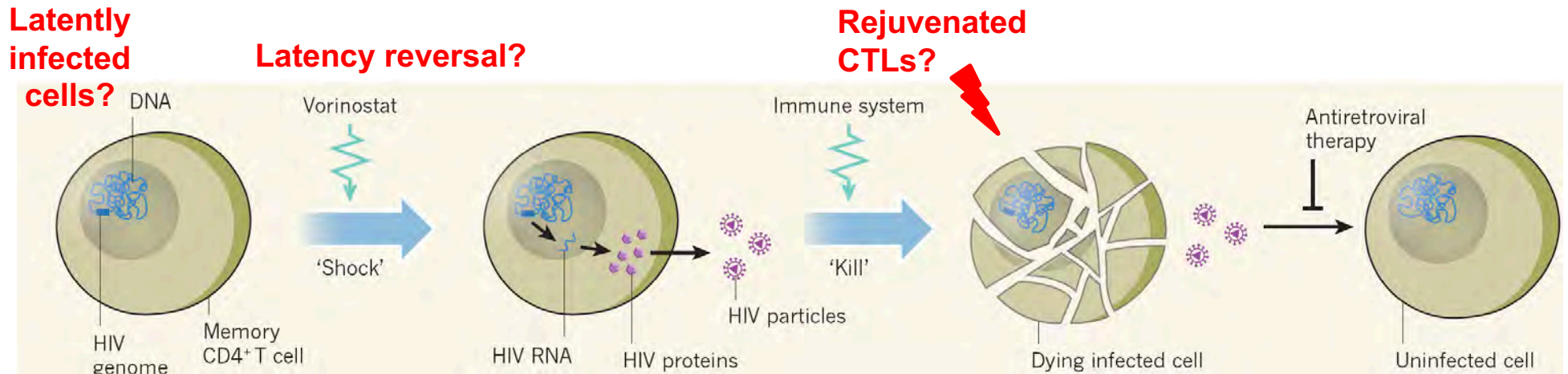
Siliciano 2014 *Nature Medicine*

**How do we make latent cells visible to the immune system?**



# Latency is the Major Barrier to HIV Cure

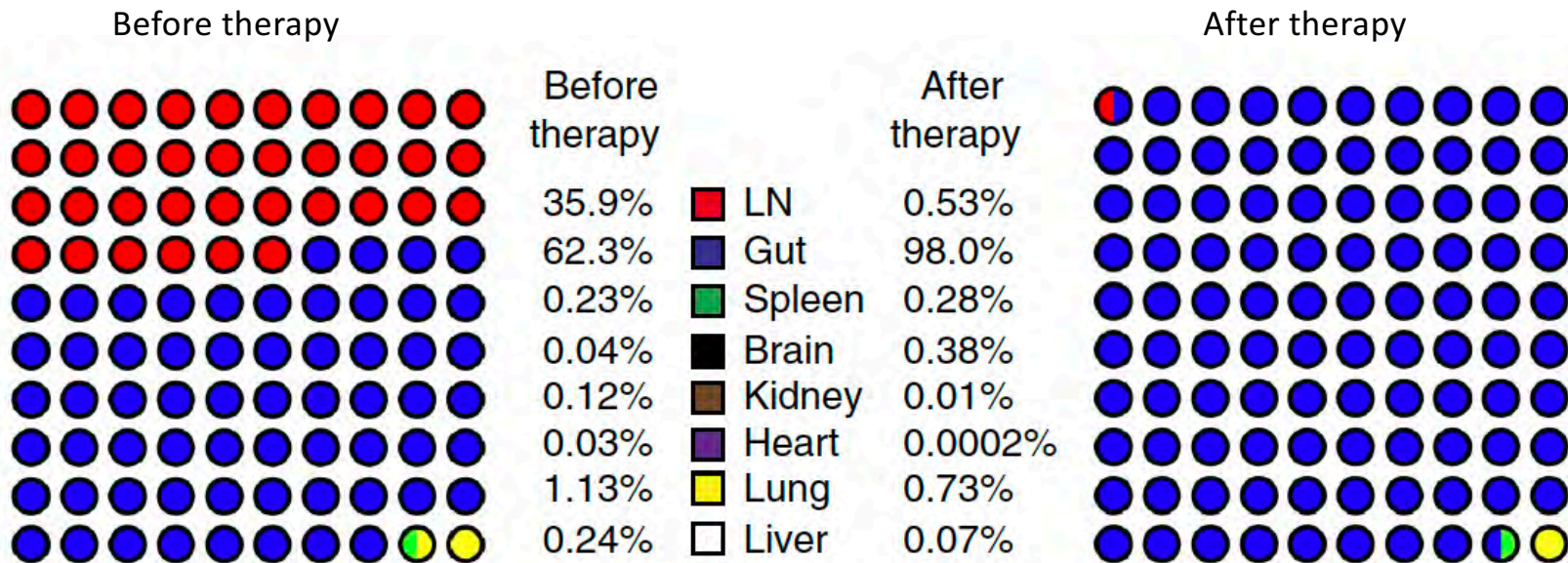
- “Shock and Kill”- Reactivate virus via immune activation and use of latency reversing agents, followed by CTL killing of virus-producing cells.



Deeks *Nature* 2012; Archin *et al. Nature* 2012

**Where are the latent cells located?**

# HIV Remains in the Gut Even After Antiretroviral Therapy

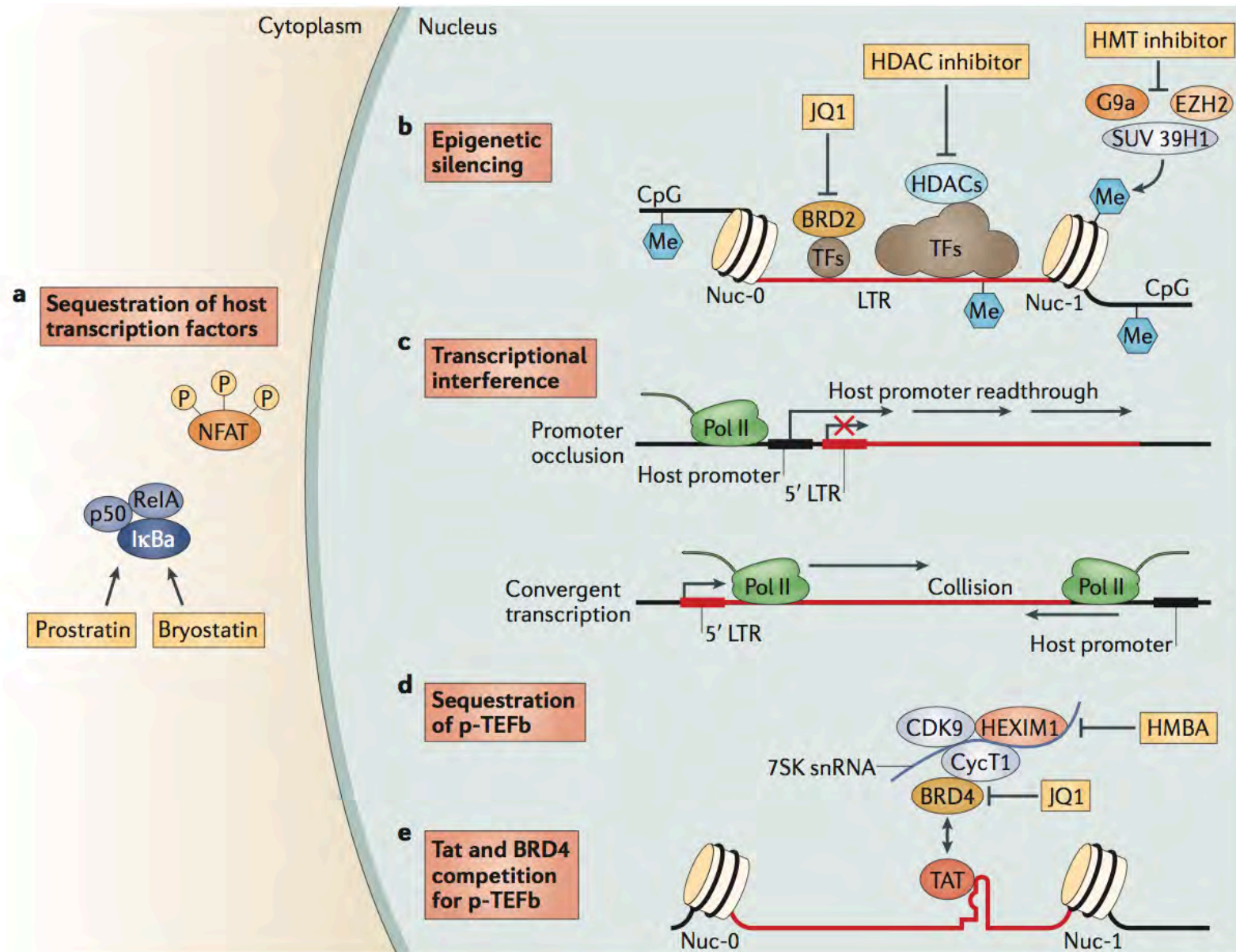


Estes et al., 2017, *Nature Medicine*

Despite high levels of proviral DNA, low levels of HIV transcriptional activity is observed in the large bowel, suggesting a large fraction of latent HIV resides in the gut. (Yukl et al. 2010 & 2013 *J Infect Dis*)

**How can we activate the latent reservoir?**

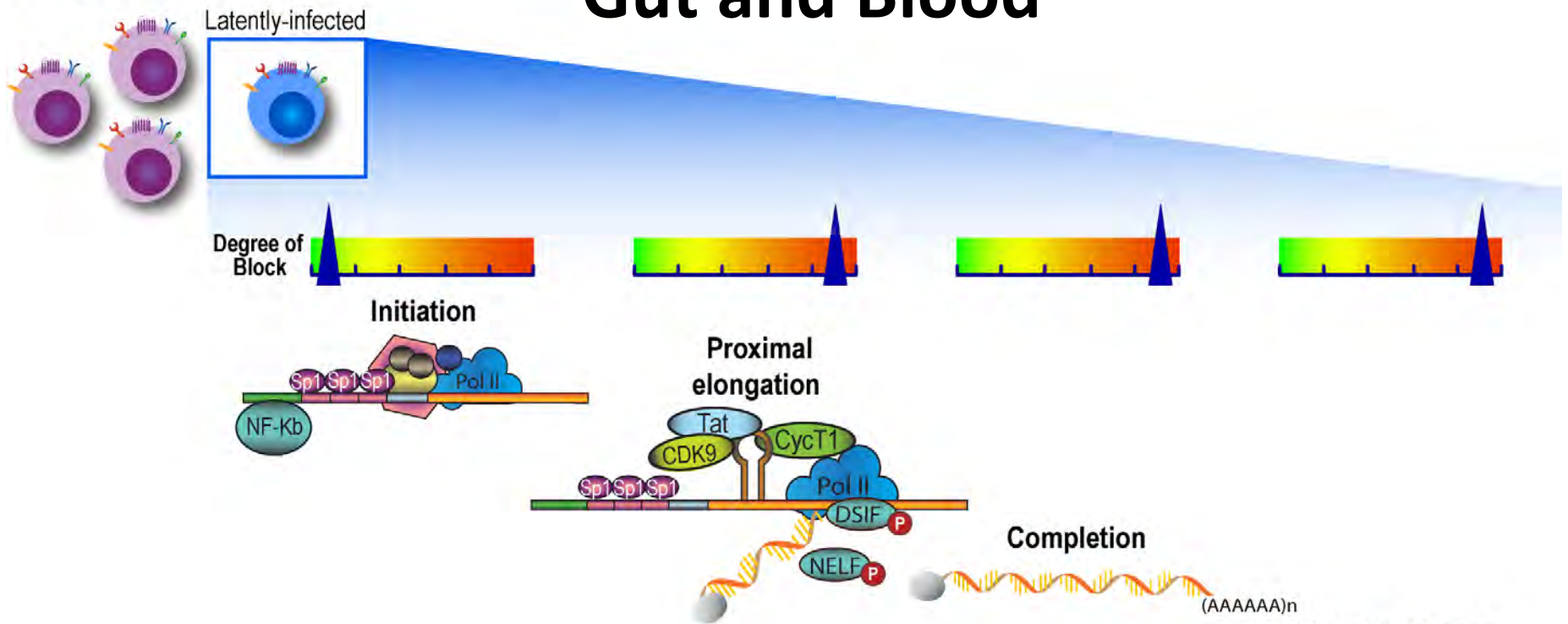
# Strategies to Disrupt HIV Latency by Using Latency-Reversing Agents (LRAs)



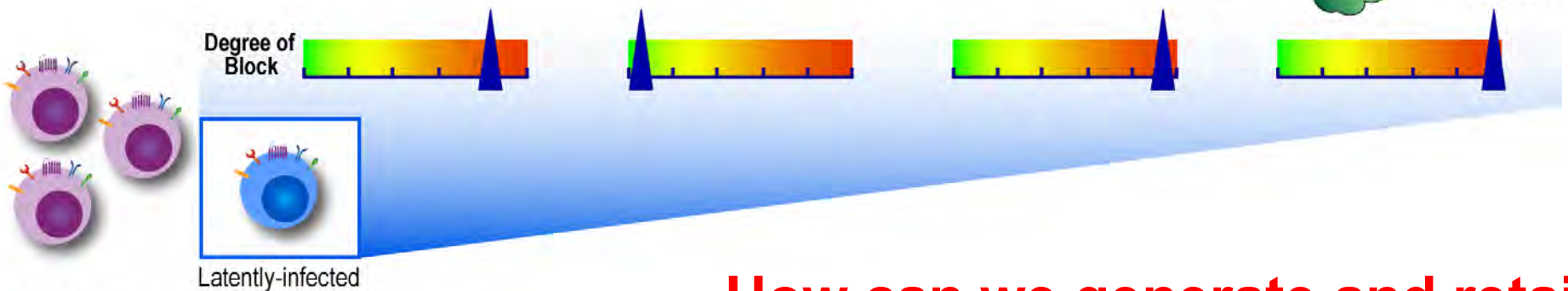


# Blocks to HIV Transcription Differ in the Gut and Blood

Peripheral CD4+ T cells



Different LRAs for the gut?



How can we generate and retain HIV-specific CTLs in the gut?

# **Why Don't We Have an HIV Vaccine?**

- 1. Escape variants/altered peptide ligands - virus operates near mutational threshold**
- 2. Neutralizing antibodies low-affinity, arise late**
- 3. Loss of CD4 help required for CD8, antibody responses**
- 4. Immune exhaustion with PD-1 expression on CD4 and CD8 anti-HIV T cells**
- 5. Prolonged time required to develop broadly neutralizing protective antibodies (bnAbs)**
- 6. Need to learn how to generate protective TRMs through vaccination.**

**If we cure people of their HIV, will they be protected against re-infection?**

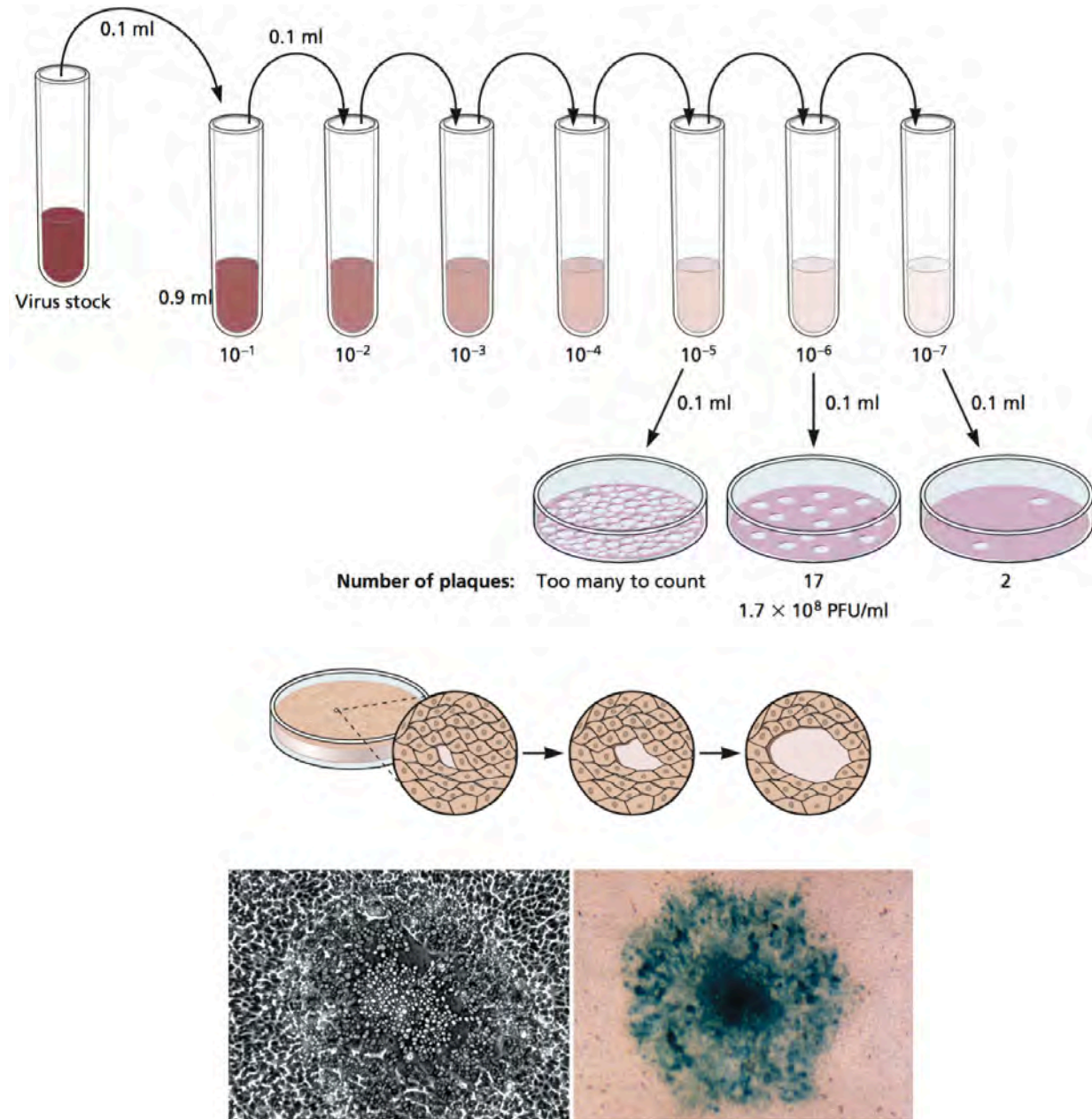
# Methods to Measure Viral Titers

- **Plaque assay**
- **Focus Forming Assay (FFA)**
- **Endpoint dilution assay**
- **Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)**
- **Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR)/ddPCR**
- **Viral Outgrowth Assay (VOA)**



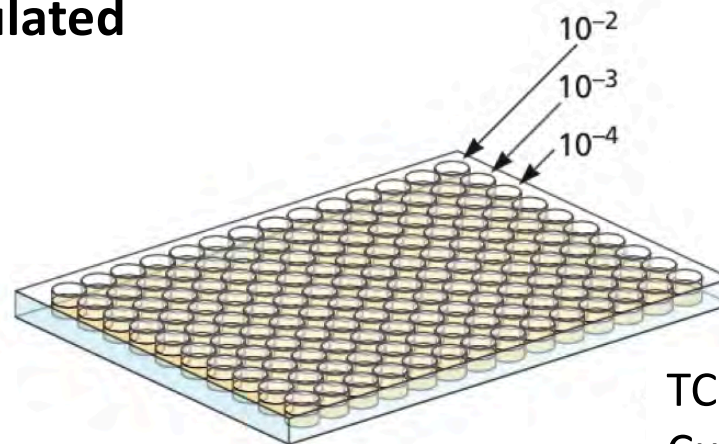
# Plaque Assay/Focus Forming Assay

1. Serial dilution of virus is made.
2. A confluent monolayer of host (susceptible and permissive) cells is infected with varying dilution of the virus.
3. Cells are covered with a semi-solid medium, such as agar.
4. A Plaque is formed when a virus infects a cell within the fixed cell monolayer, lyses that cell and infects neighboring cells. Infection-to-lysis cycle is repeated.
5. The plaques are seen visually (with help of dead cell staining) or with an optical microscope.
6. For FFA, plaques are visualized using immunostaining of viral antigens.



# Endpoint Dilution Assay

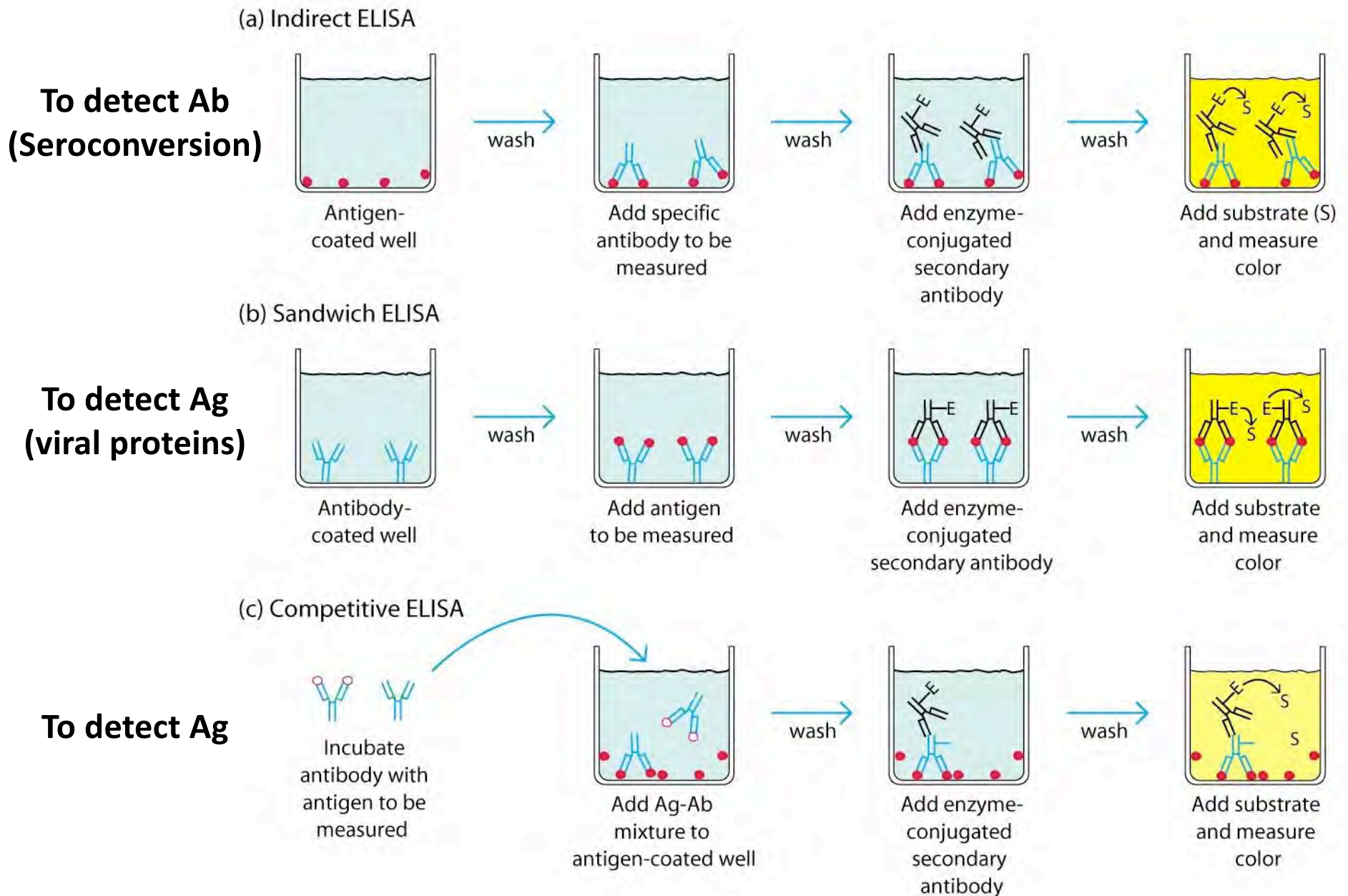
Quantifies the amount of virus required to kill 50% of infected hosts or to produce a cytopathic effect in 50% of inoculated tissue culture cells.



TCID<sub>50</sub> = 50% Tissue Culture Infective Dose

Virus dilution		Cytopathic effect									
10 <sup>-2</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
10 <sup>-3</sup>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
10 <sup>-4</sup>	+	+	—	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
10 <sup>-5</sup>	—	+	+	—	+	—	—	+	—	—	+
10 <sup>-6</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	+	—	—	—	—
10 <sup>-7</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

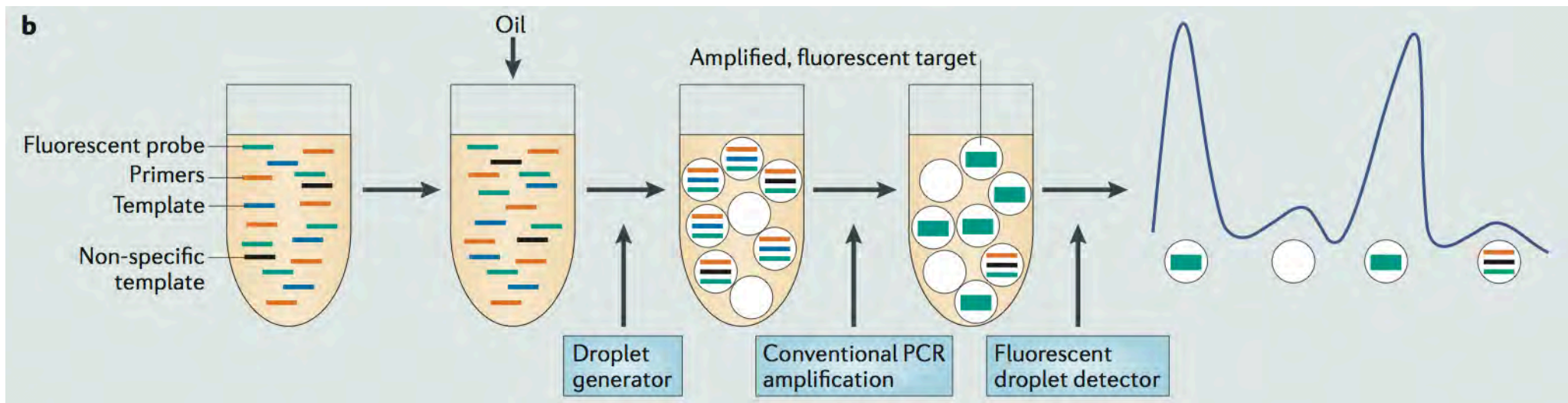
# Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)





# Quantitative/Droplet Digital PCR

PCR reaction mixture is partitioned into thousands of individual droplets such that each contains a single copy of the target, which facilitates precise endpoint quantification.



**PCR-based assays cannot distinguish defective virus from intact replication-competent ones!**

# Viral Outgrowth versus PCR-based Assays to Measure Latent HIV

- Culture-based assays detect induced replication-competent proviruses only, while PCR-based assays detect all types of proviruses.
- Only induced replication-competent proviruses and intact, noninduced proviruses (INPs) pose a barrier to an HIV-1 cure.

