

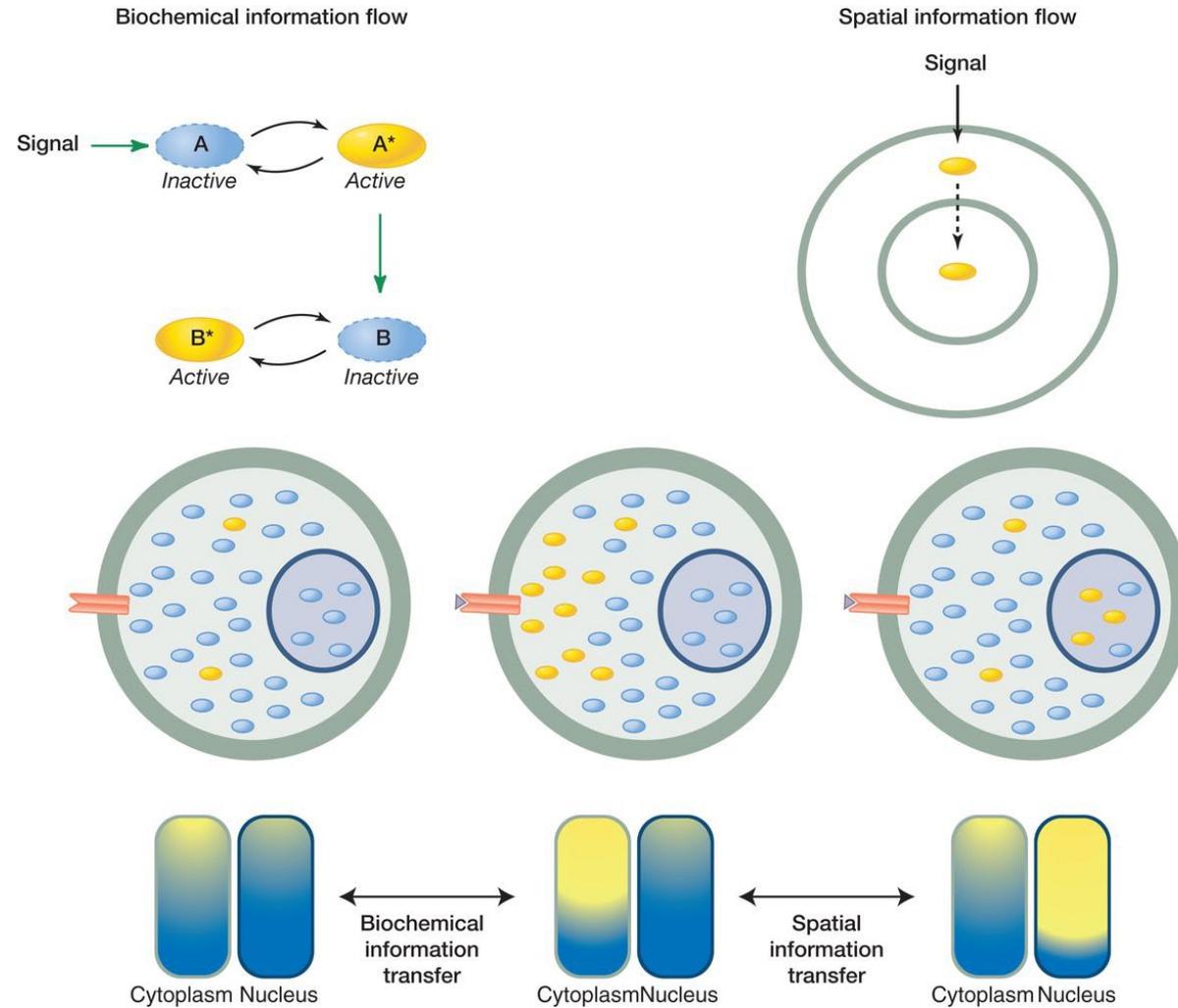
# Lecture 5 – Engineering cell signaling responses

Sudarshan Rajagopal

Departments of Medicine and Biochemistry

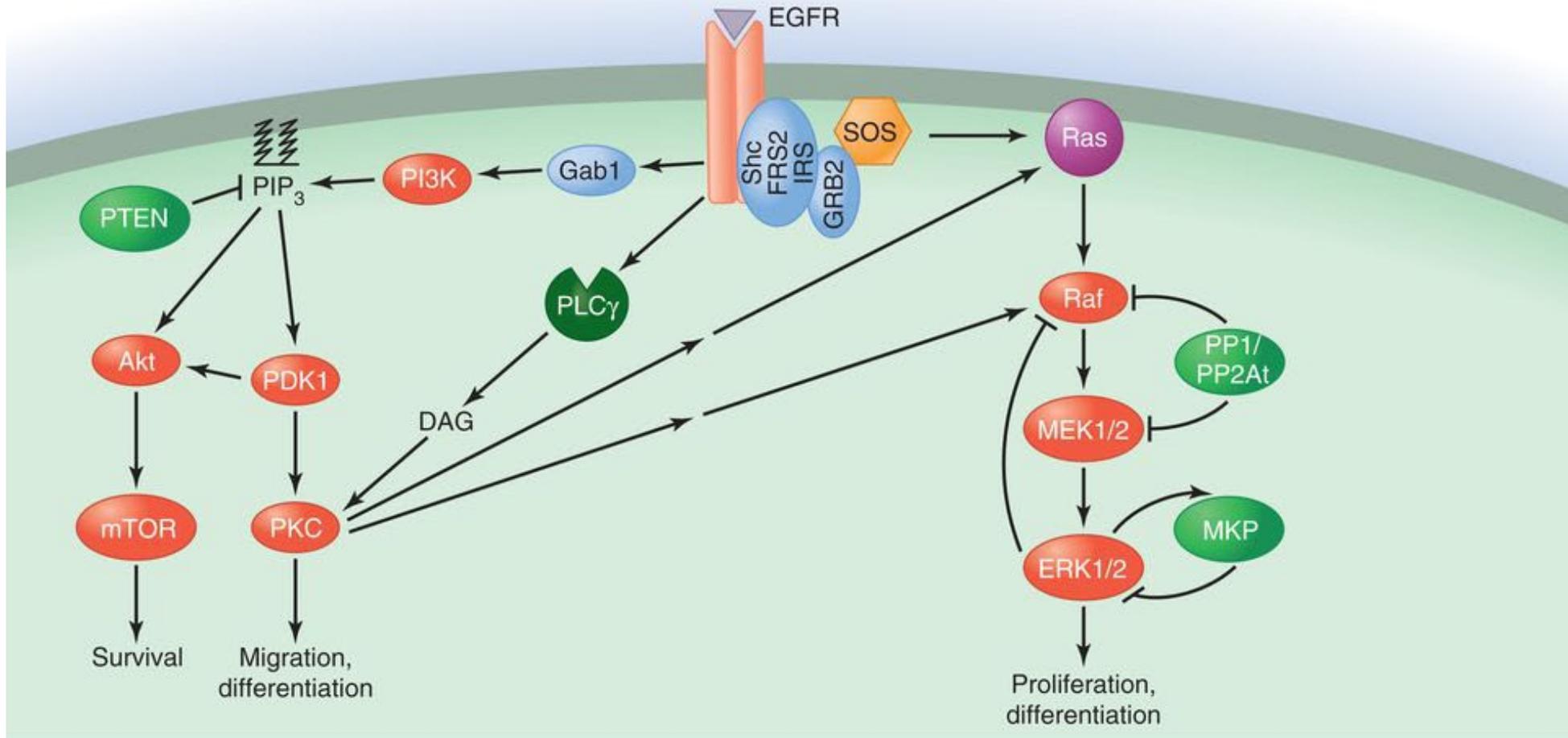
[sudarshan.rajagopal@duke.edu](mailto:sudarshan.rajagopal@duke.edu)

# Information flow in cell signaling pathways

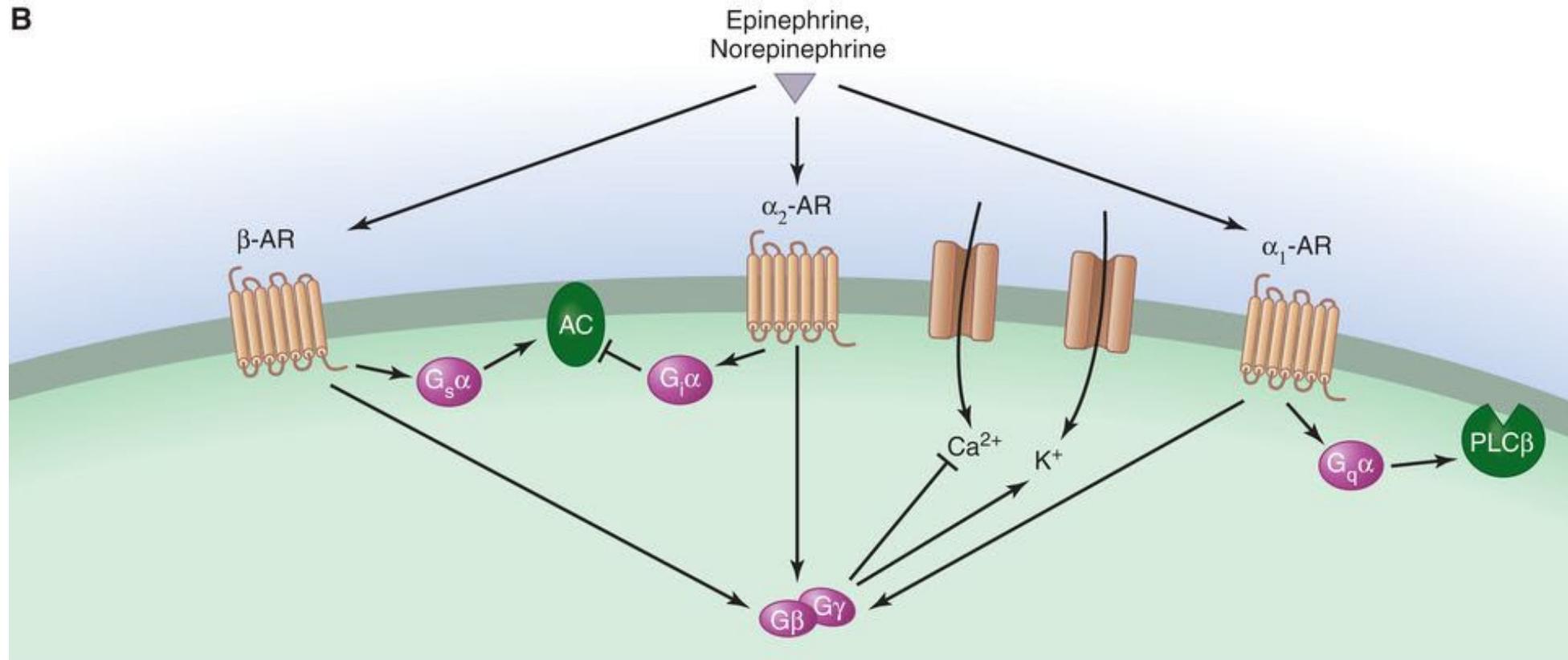


Interaction of multiple components with receptors leads to signal flow within multiple signaling pathways.

A

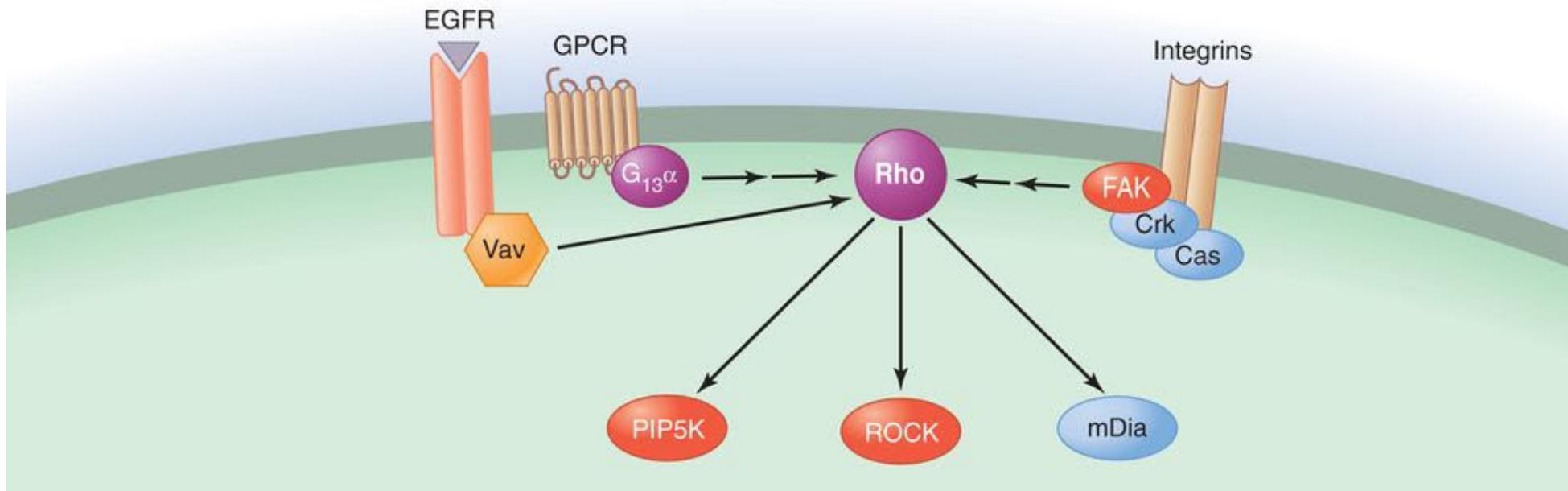


Interaction of multiple components with receptors leads to signal flow within multiple signaling pathways.

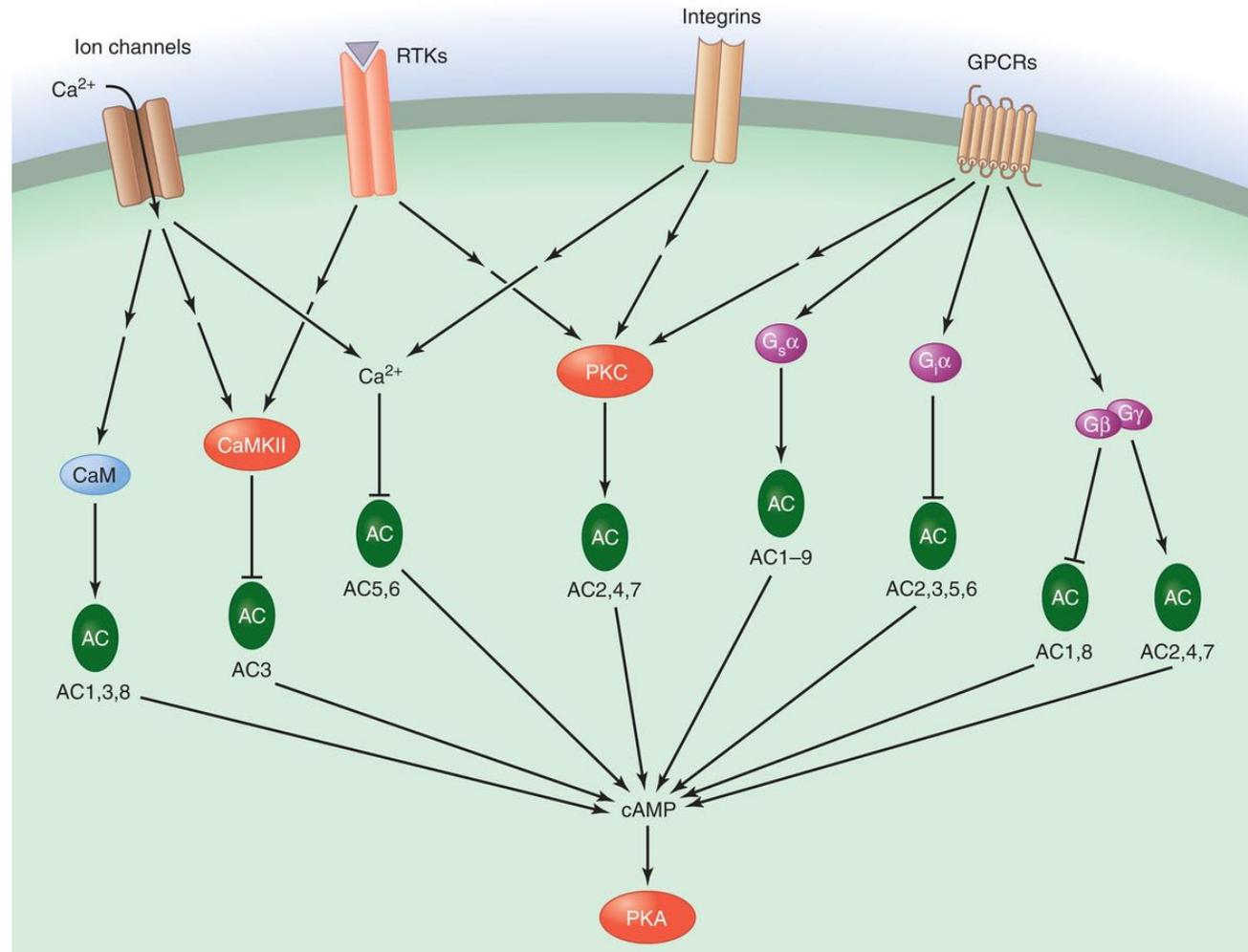


Interaction of multiple components with receptors leads to signal flow within multiple signaling pathways.

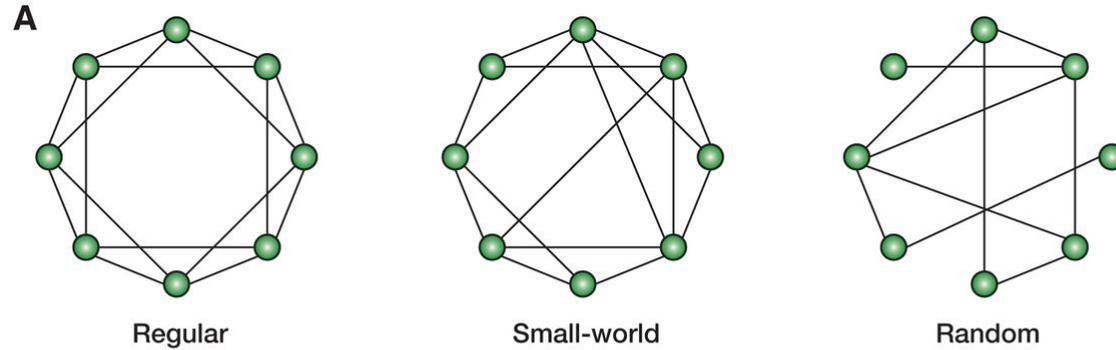
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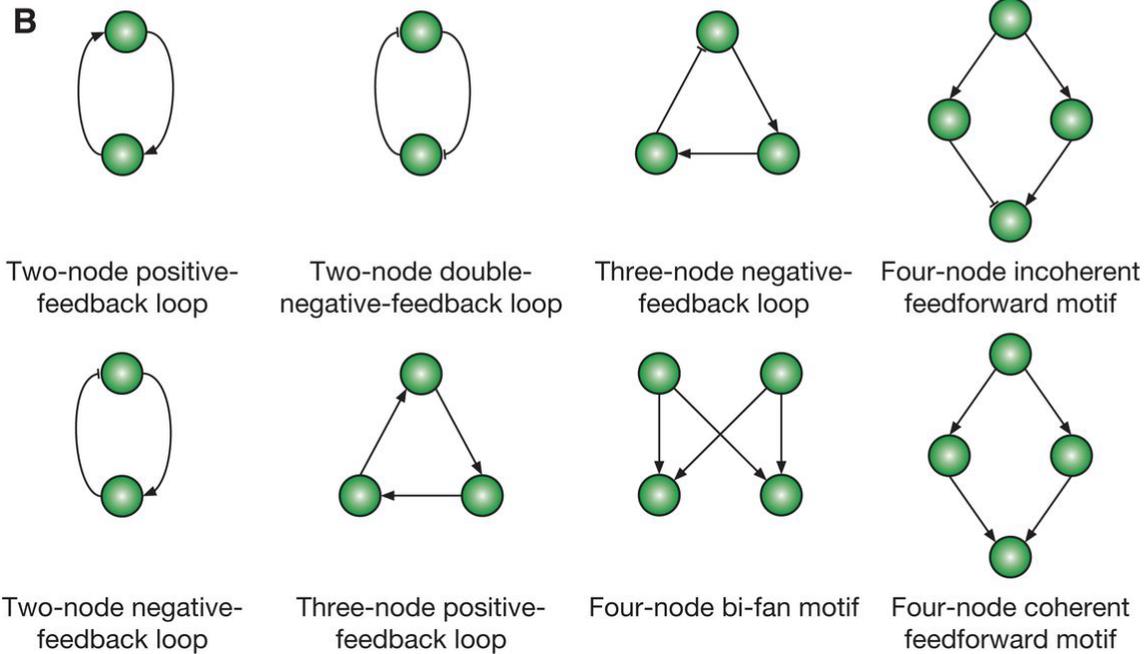
# Different adenylyl cyclase (AC) isoforms are activated by multiple different upstream signals.



# Network Models



## Network Motifs

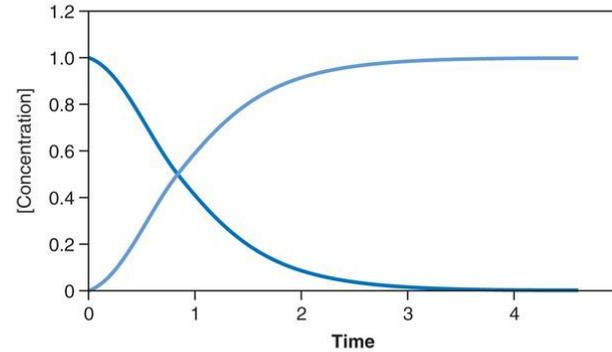
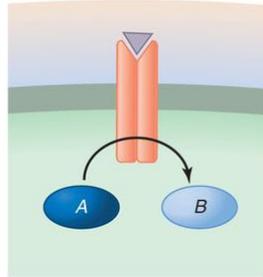


# Dynamical Models

Ordinary differential equations (ODEs)

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = k_{\text{off}} [B] - k_{\text{on}} [A]$$

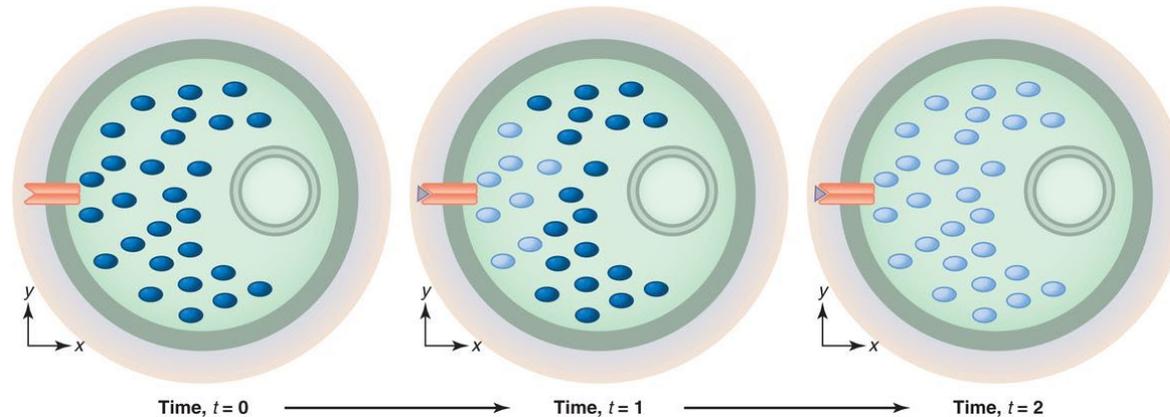
$$\frac{dB}{dt} = k_{\text{on}} [A] - k_{\text{off}} [B]$$



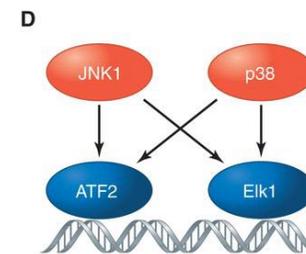
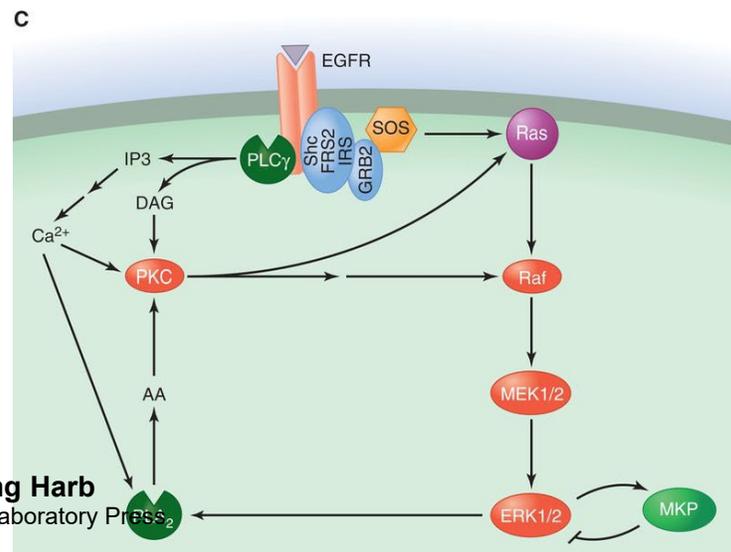
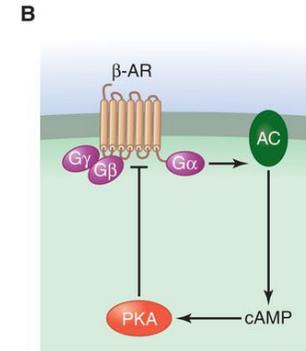
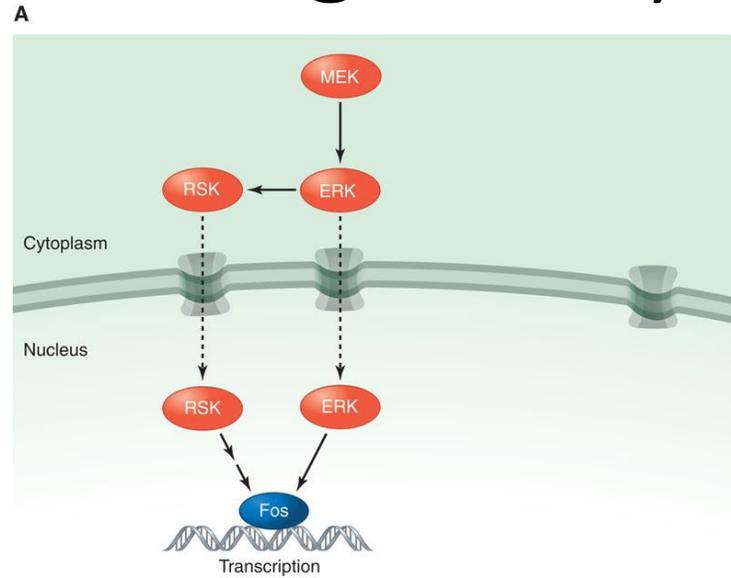
Partial differential equations (PDEs)

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial t} = D_A \left( \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial y^2} \right) - k_{\text{on}} [A] + k_{\text{off}} [B]$$

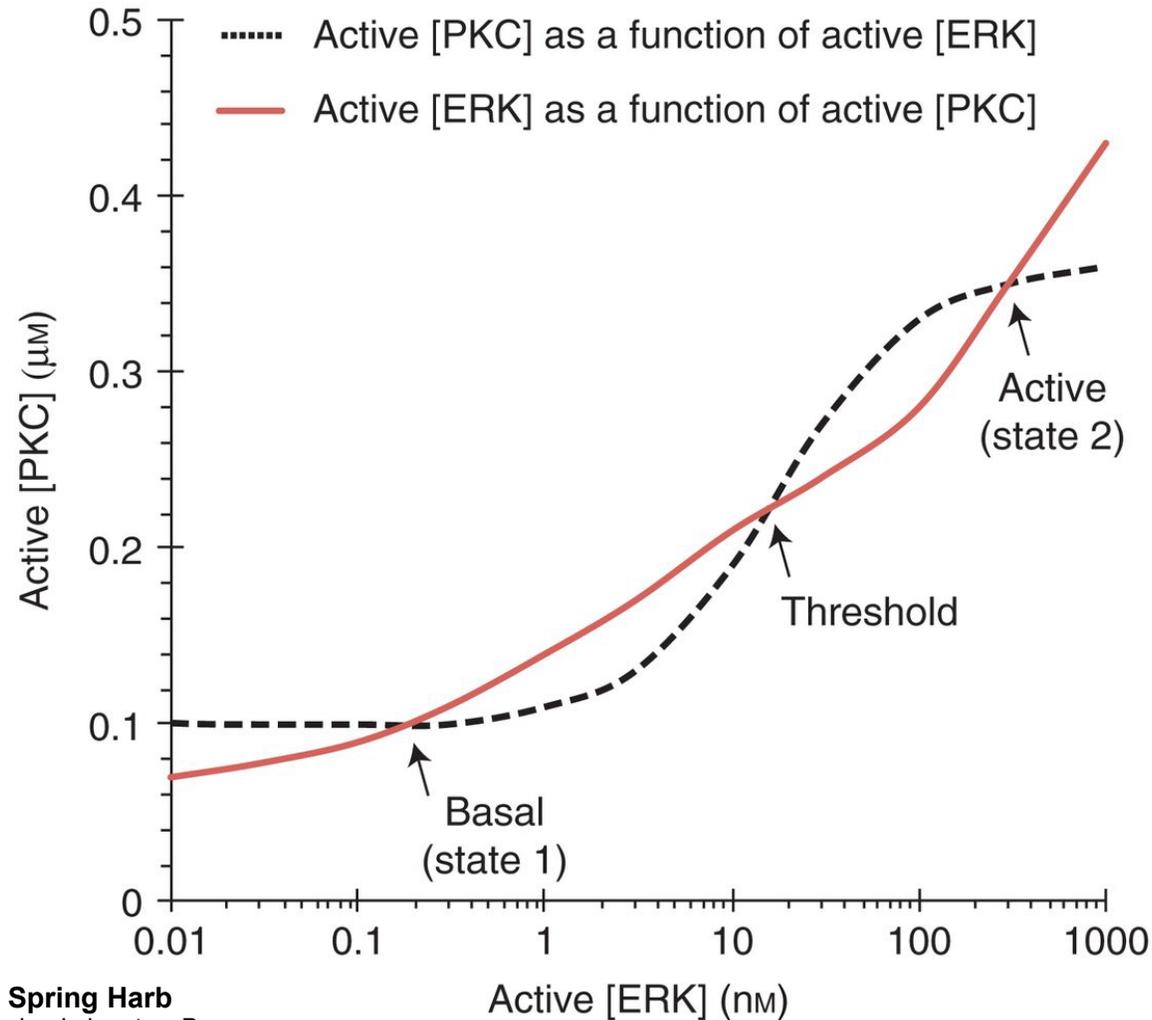
$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial t} = D_B \left( \frac{\partial^2 B}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 B}{\partial y^2} \right) - k_{\text{off}} [B] + k_{\text{on}} [A]$$



# Regulatory motifs



# Activity states of components in a positive-feedback loop in a bistable system



# Emergent properties of signaling networks

- Bistability
- Ultrasensitivity
  - Small changes in ligand/receptor can cause a large change in activity of a downstream effector.
  - Can be produced by cooperativity, multistep regulation, activator/inhibitor levels
- Redundancy and robustness
  - Multiple inputs into ERK pathway, Coherent feedforward motifs
- Oscillatory Behavior
  - Couple positive- and negative-feedback loops can lead to sustained oscillation

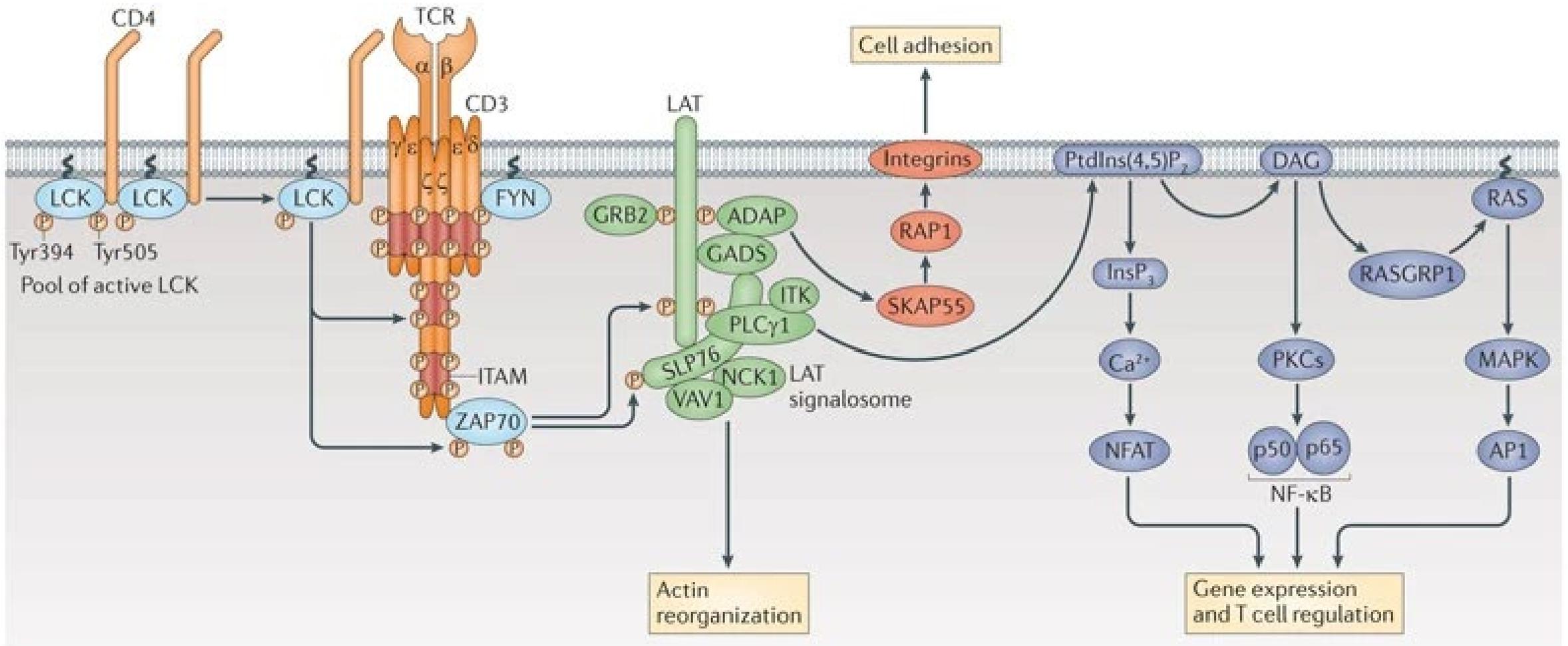
# Belousov-Zhabotinsky Reaction

- Reactions that remain far from equilibrium with oscillating behavior
- Due to a system that has a reaction inhibitor and reaction promoter which diffuse across the medium at different rates.

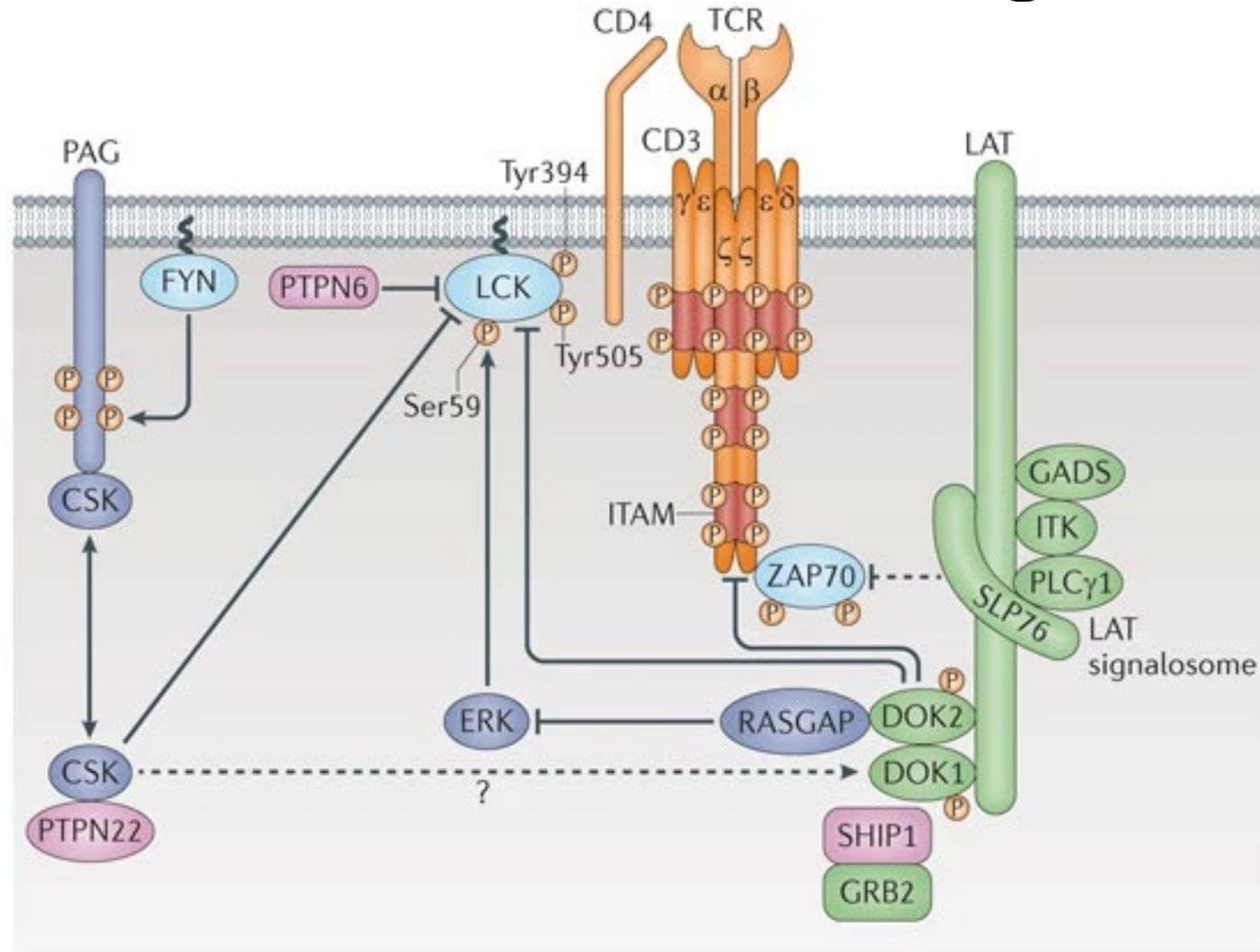


# T cell receptor signaling

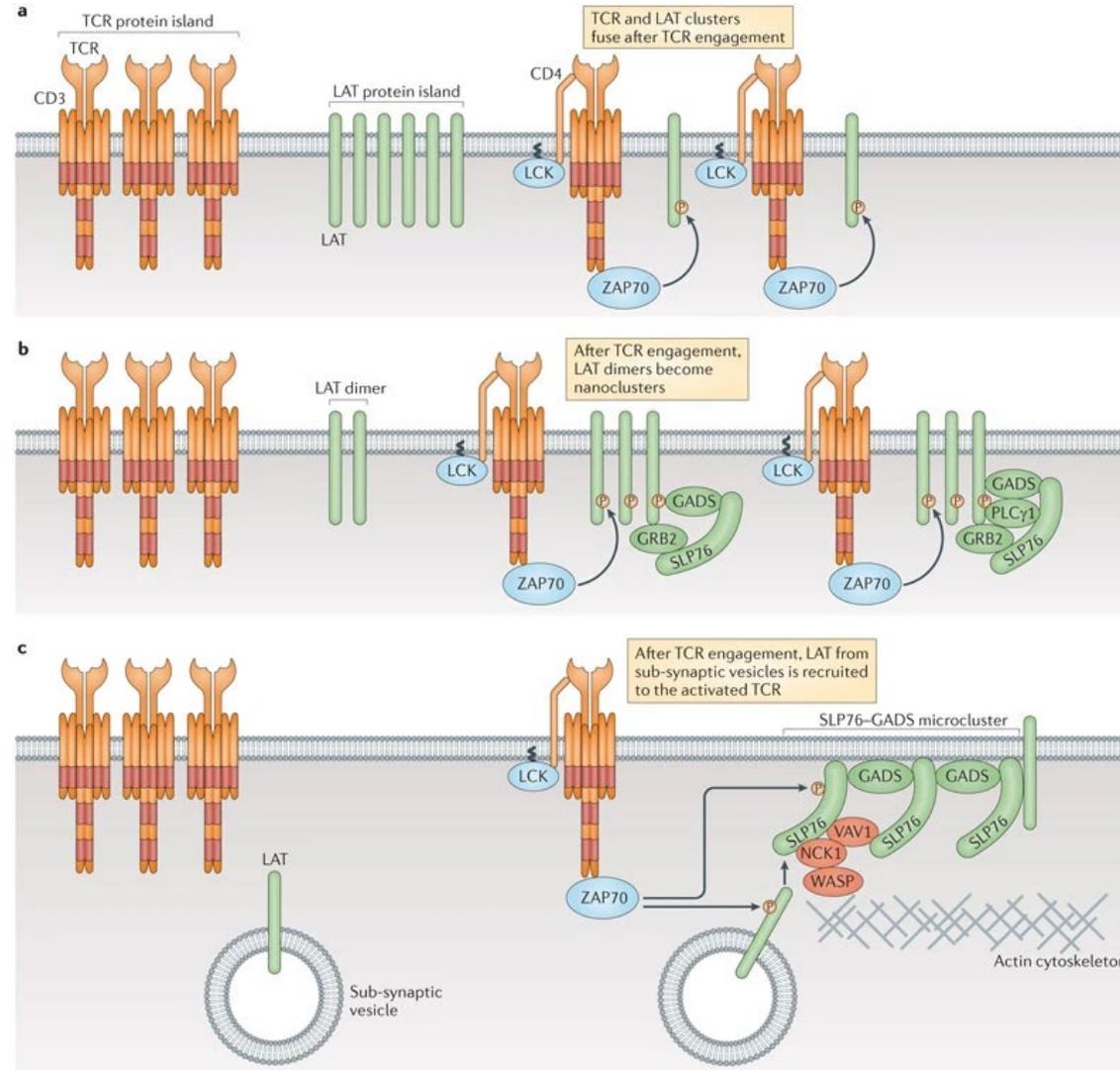
# Overview of TCR signaling



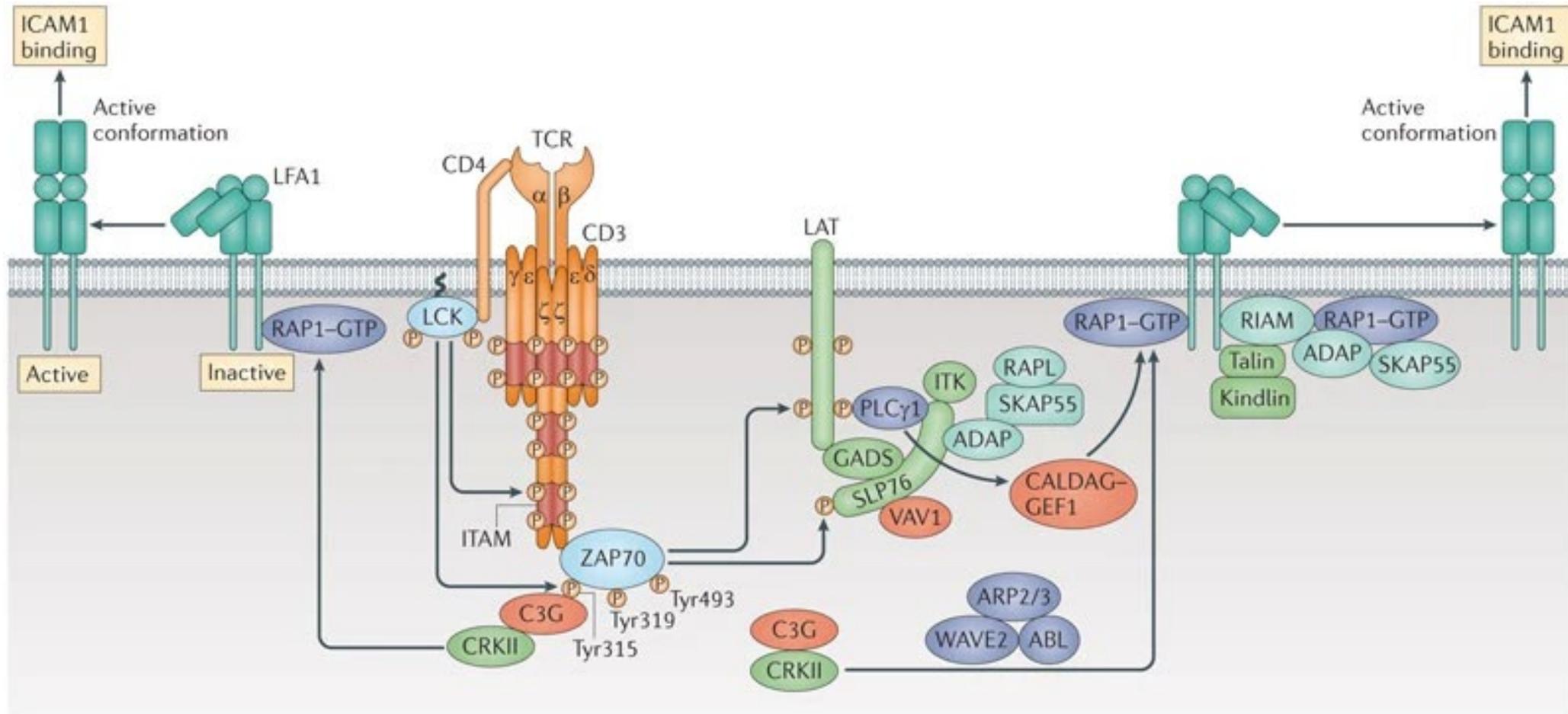
# Negative feedback of TCR signaling



# Spatiotemporal control of LAT



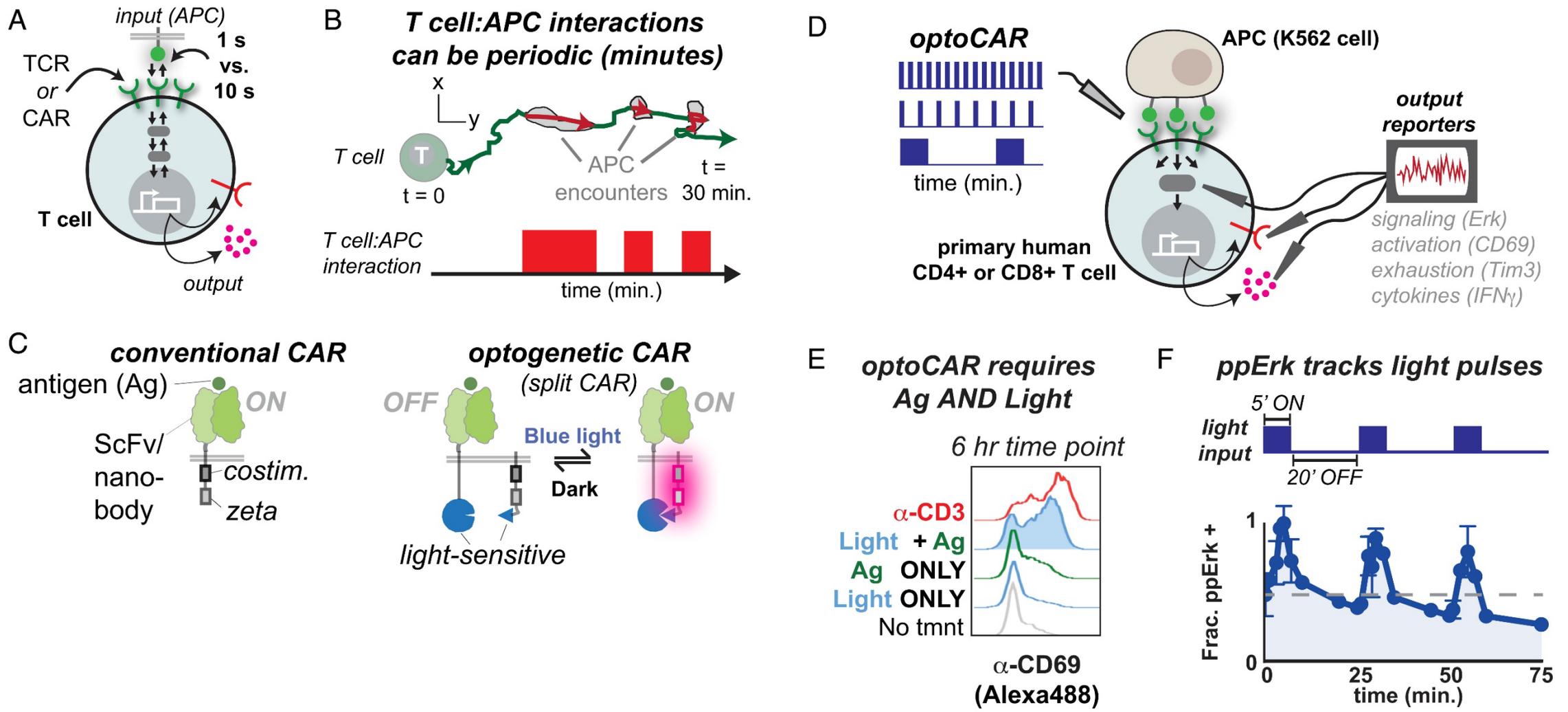
# Mechanisms of TCR mediated inside-out signaling to integrins



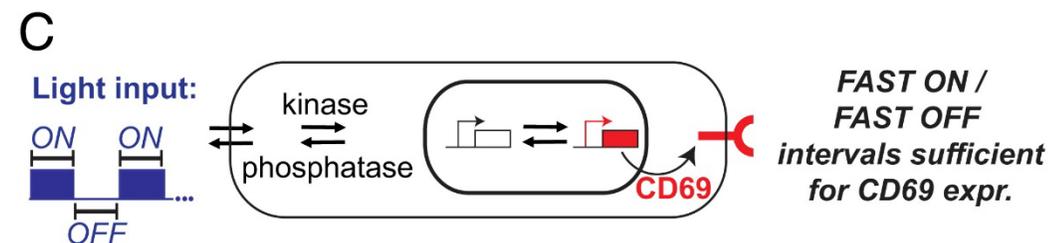
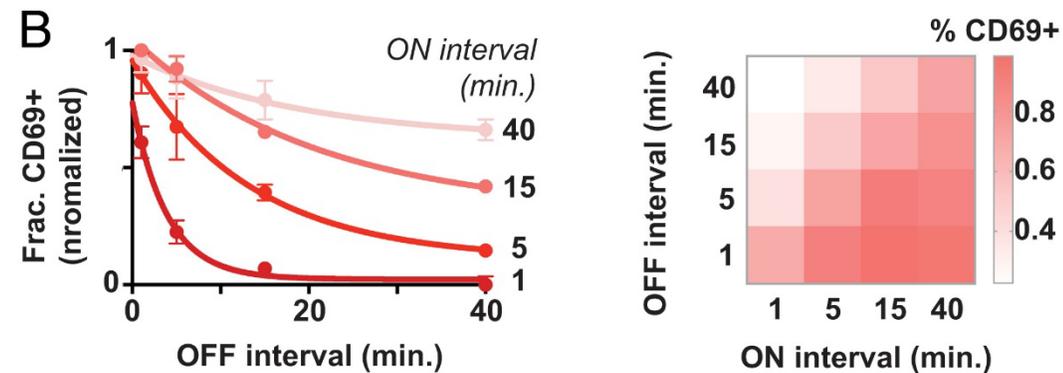
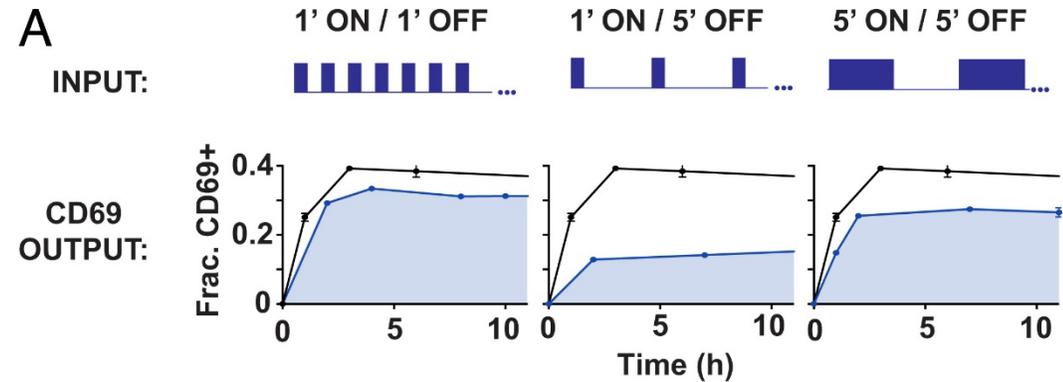
# T cells selectively filter oscillatory signals on the minutes timescale

PNAS 2021 Vol. 118 No. 9 e2019285118

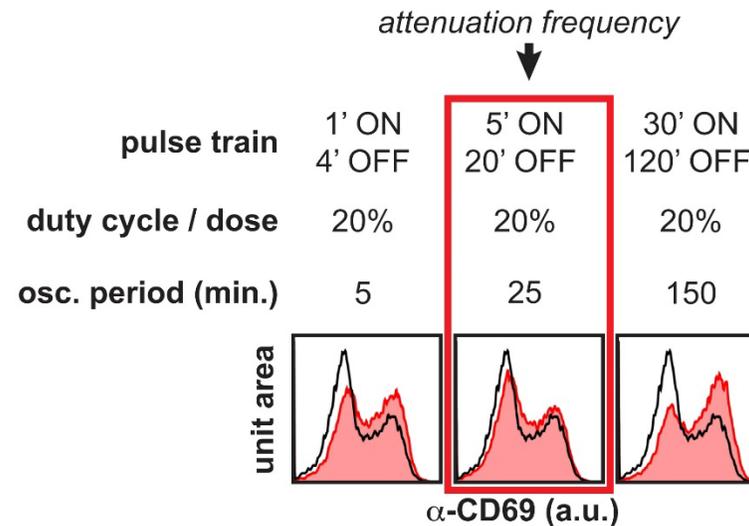
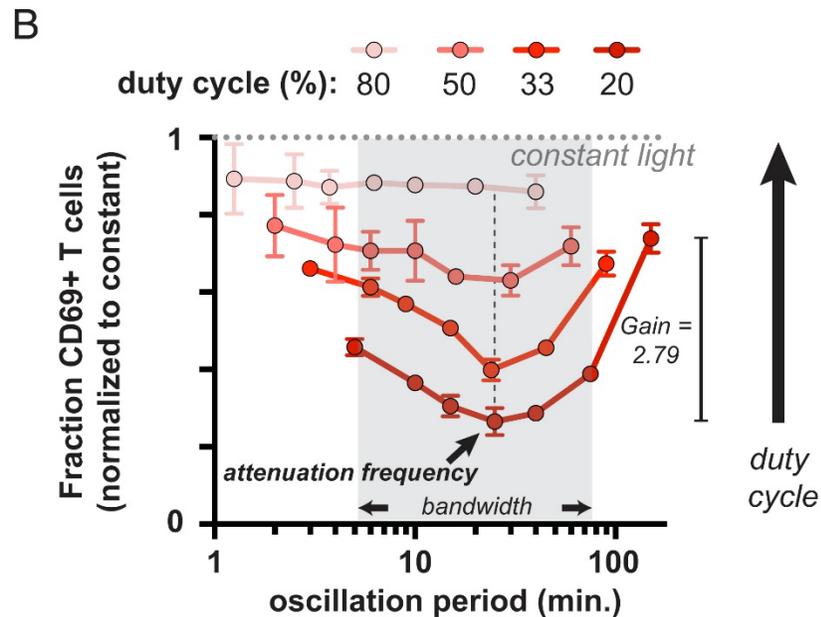
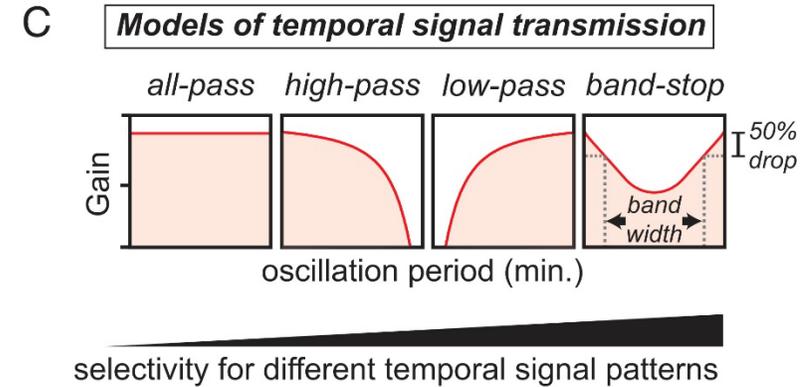
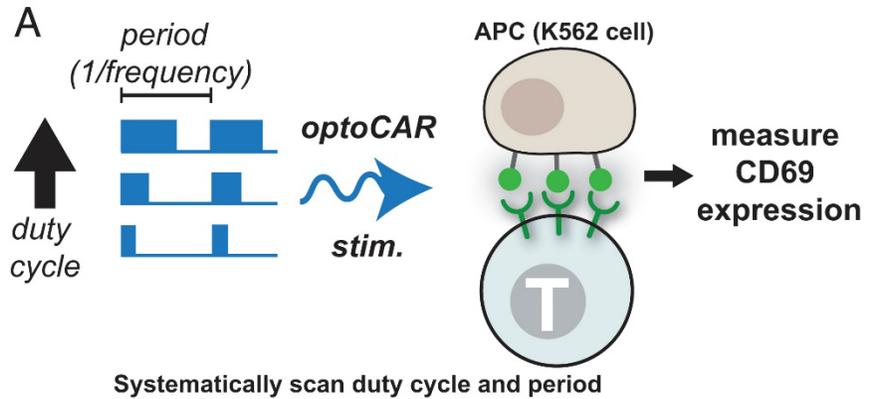
# Systematically probing the transmission of periodic signals in T cells using optogenetics



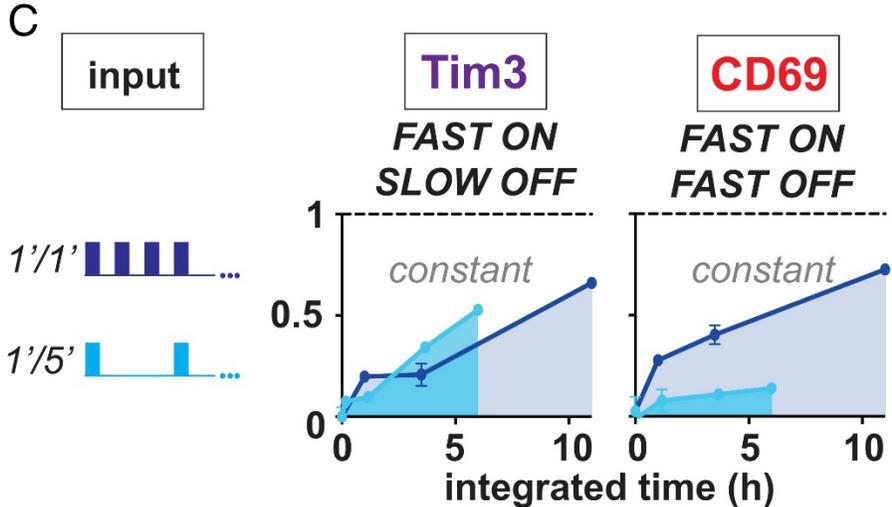
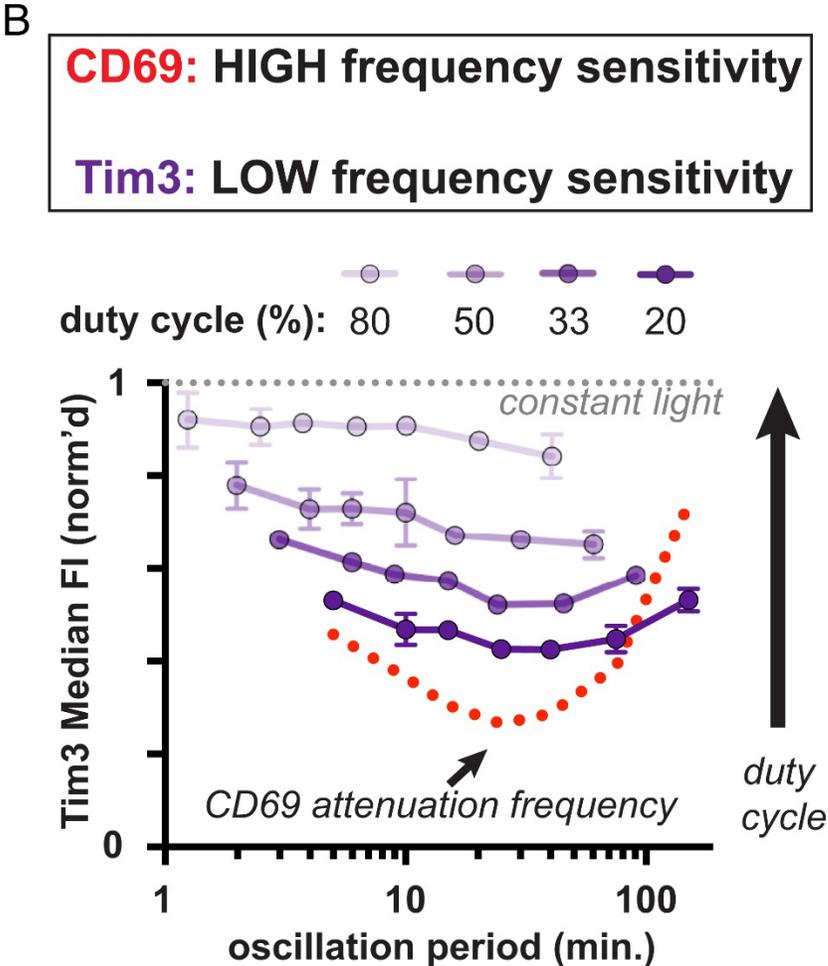
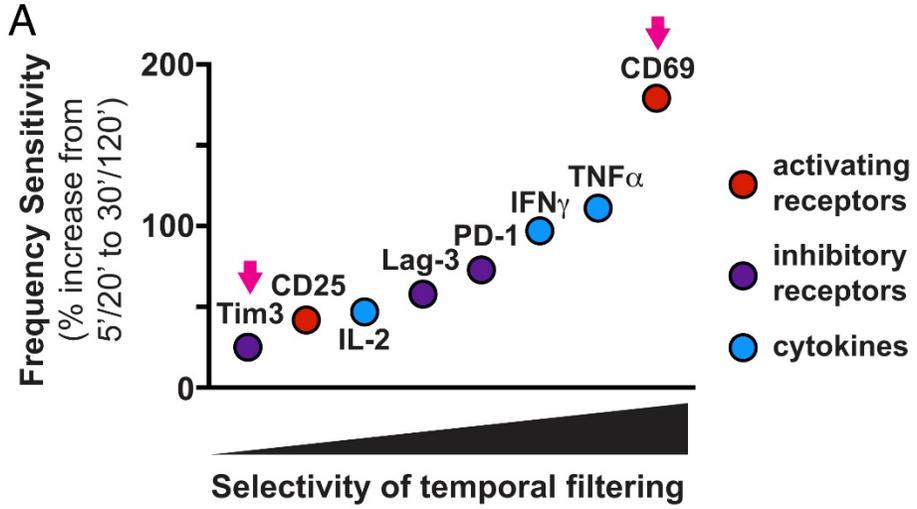
# CD69 expression is sensitive to fast, minute-scale oscillations in T cell stimulus



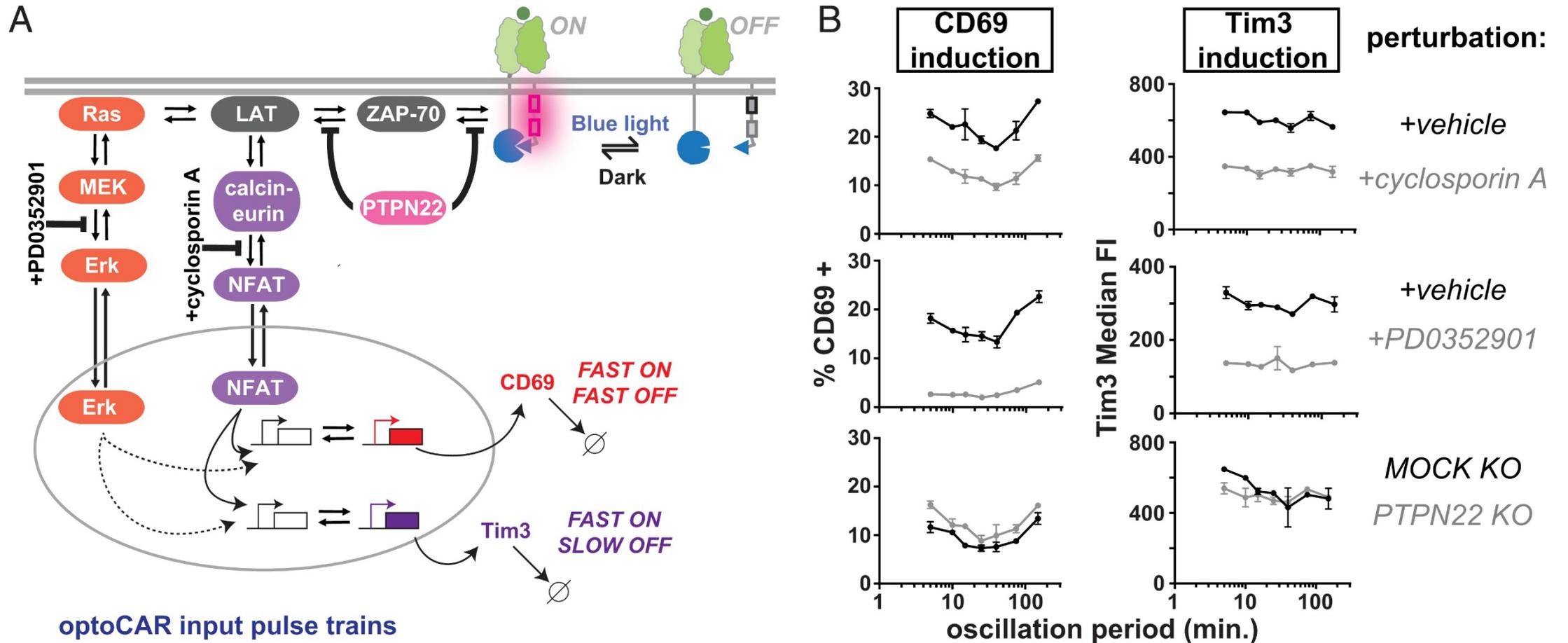
# CD69 expression is a band-stop filter that is selectively attenuated at an oscillation period of ~25 min



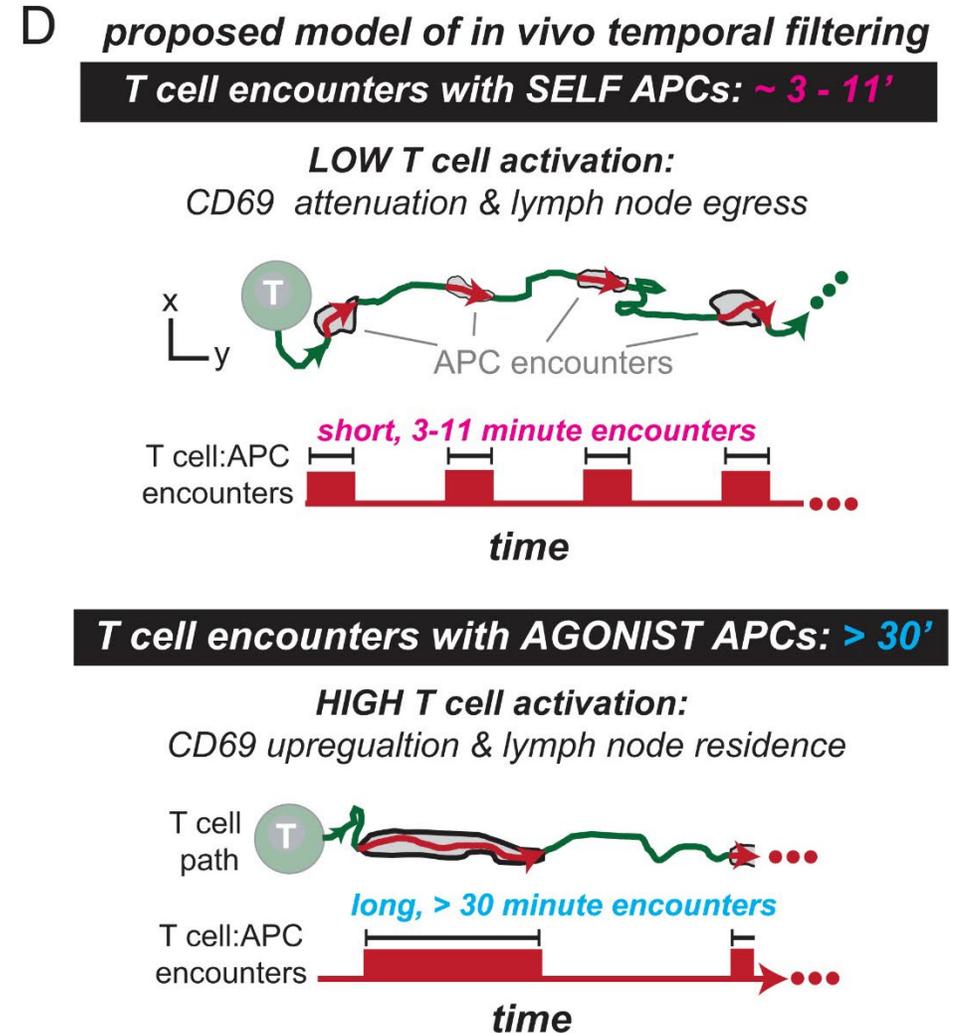
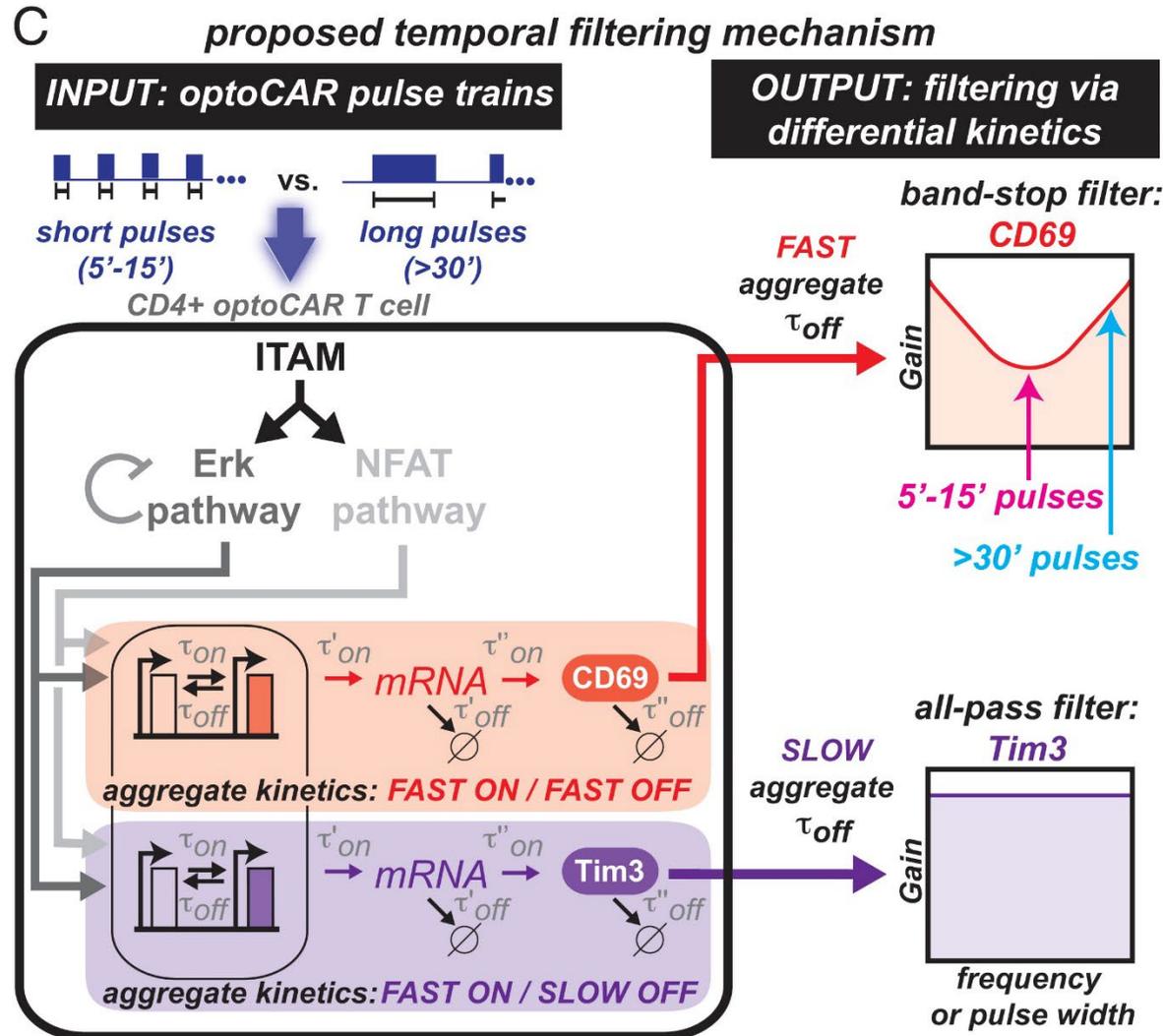
# CD69 expression is a more selective temporal filter than other early T cell activation responses



# Potential signaling mechanisms that sculpt selectively attenuated CD69 activation in response to specific oscillatory signals



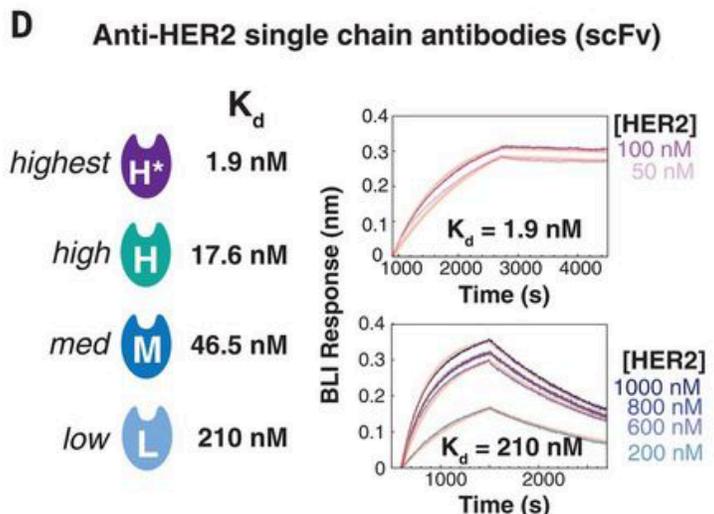
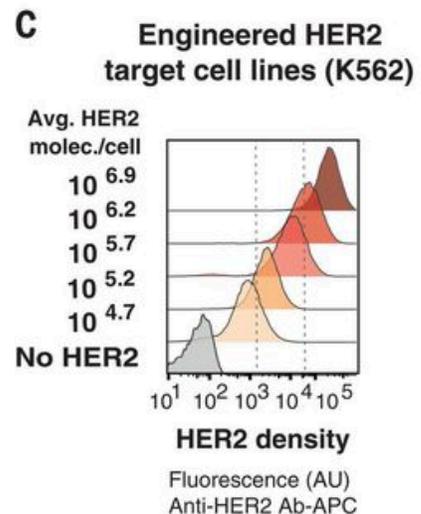
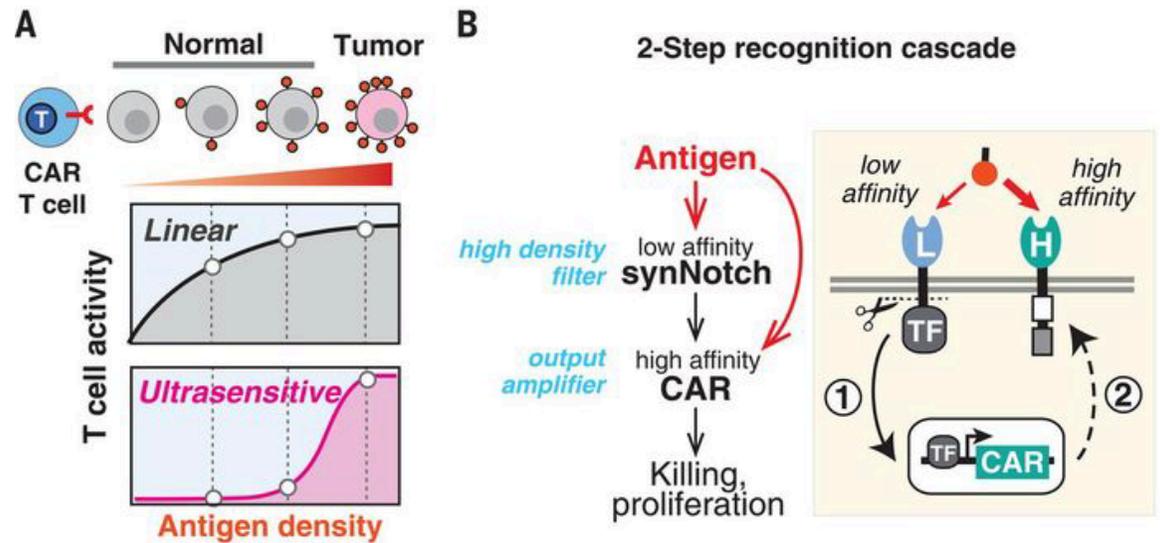
# Potential signaling mechanisms that sculpt selectively attenuated CD69 activation in response to specific oscillatory signals



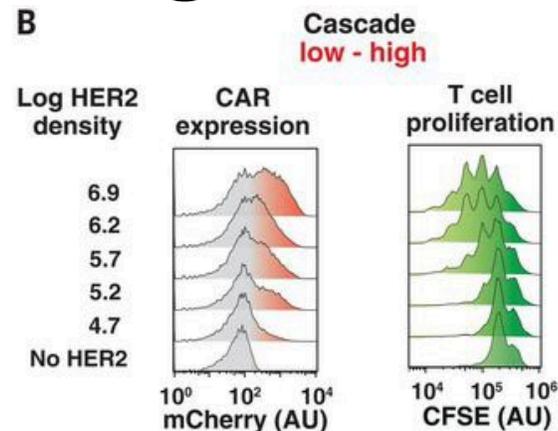
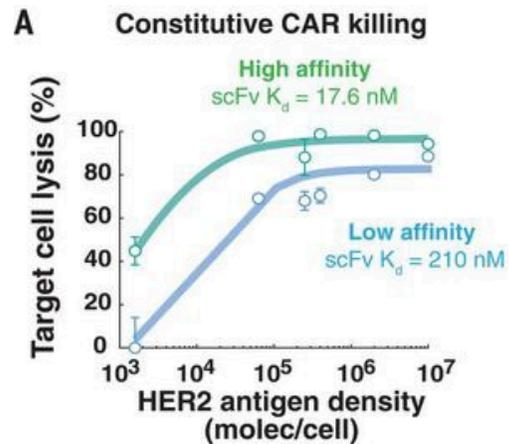
# T cell circuits that sense antigen density with an ultrasensitive threshold

Hernandez-Lopez et al., Science 371, 1166–1171 (2021) 12 March 2021

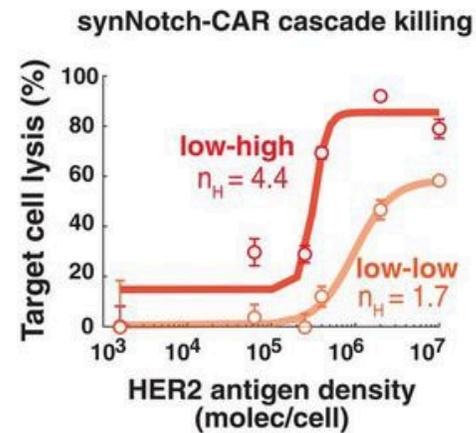
# Design of T cells with ultrasensitive antigen density sensing



# A two-step low- to high-affinity recognition circuit yields ultrasensitive antigen-density sensing

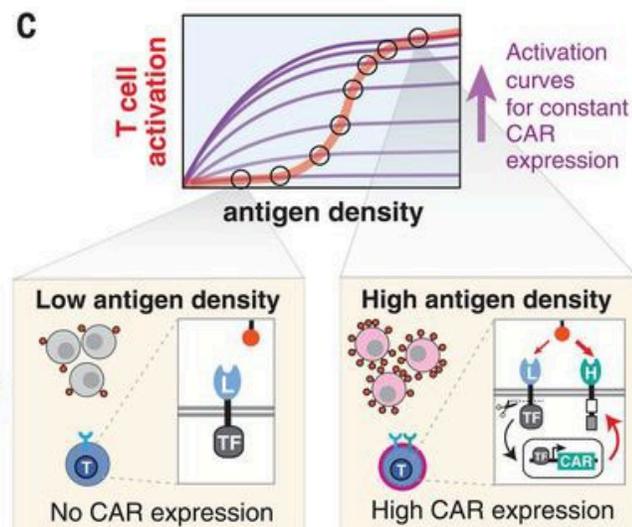


Circuit: Low affinity synNotch to high affinity CAR  
Targets (HER2+ K562): 20,000; T cells: 10,000  
Assay timepoint: 3 days



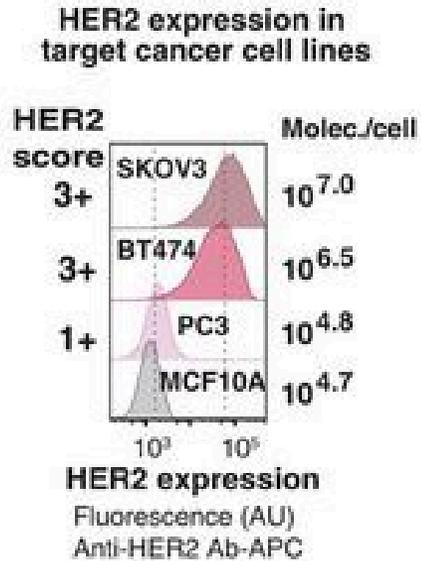
low-high scFv  $K_d$  (210 nM synNotch, 17.6 nM CAR)  
low-low scFv  $K_d$  (210 nM synNotch, 210 nM CAR)

Targets (HER2+ K562): 20,000  
T cells (human primary CD8+): 10,000  
Assay timepoint: 3 days

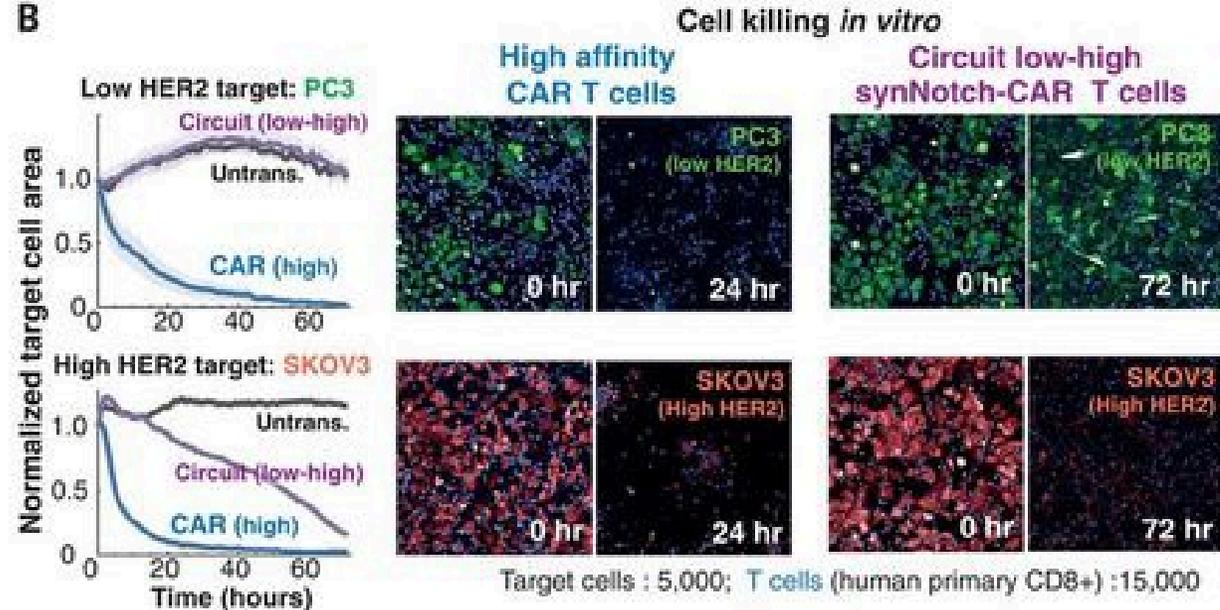


# Low-to-high synNotch-to-CAR circuit: Discrimination between high- and low-density tumor cancer cell lines and 3D spheroids

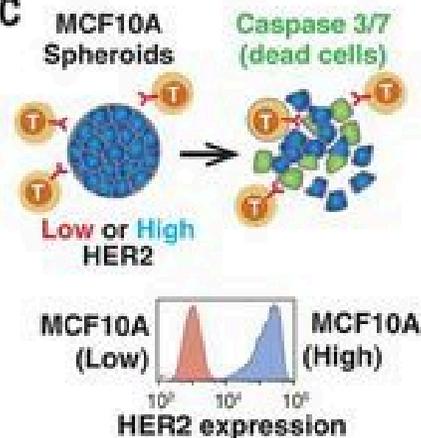
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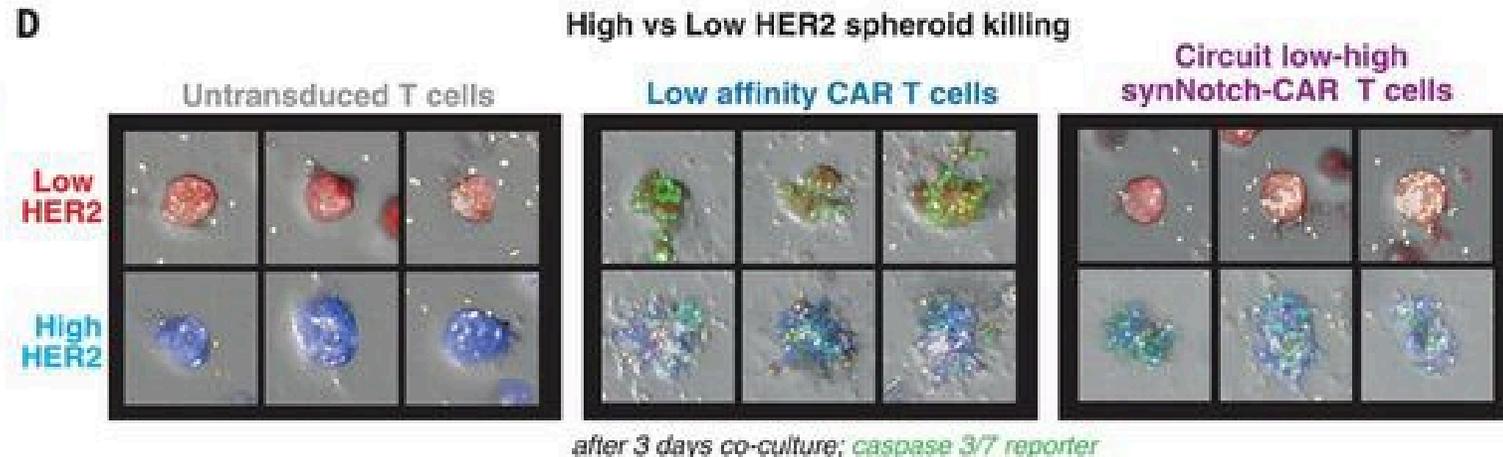
B



C

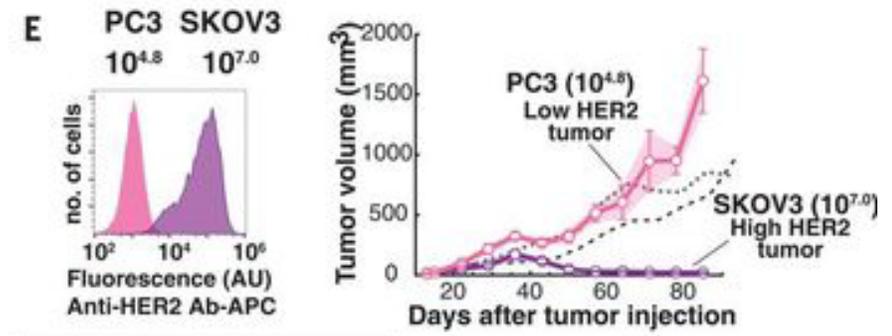
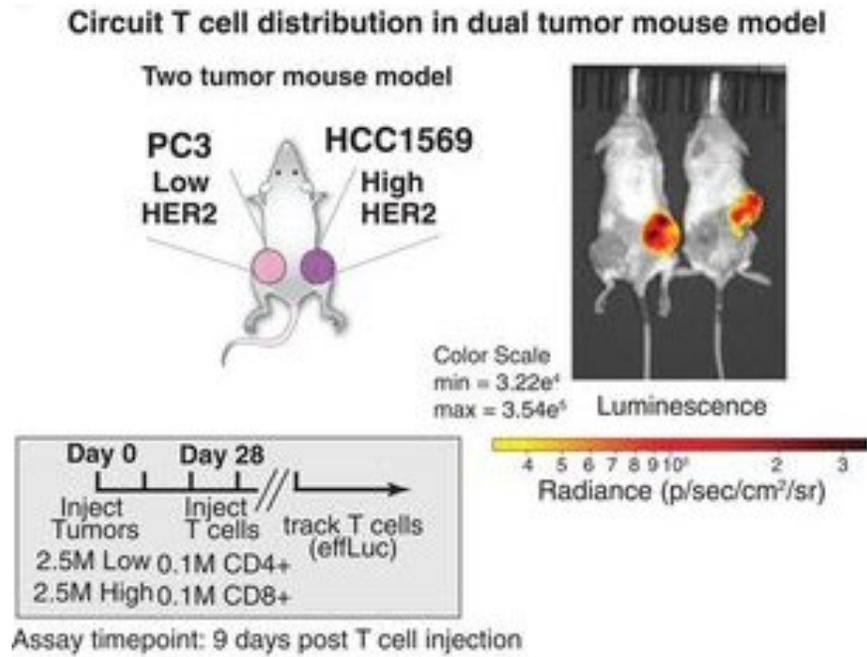
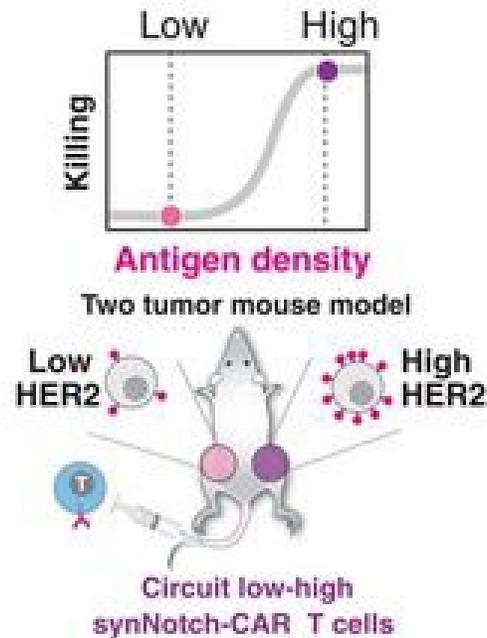


D

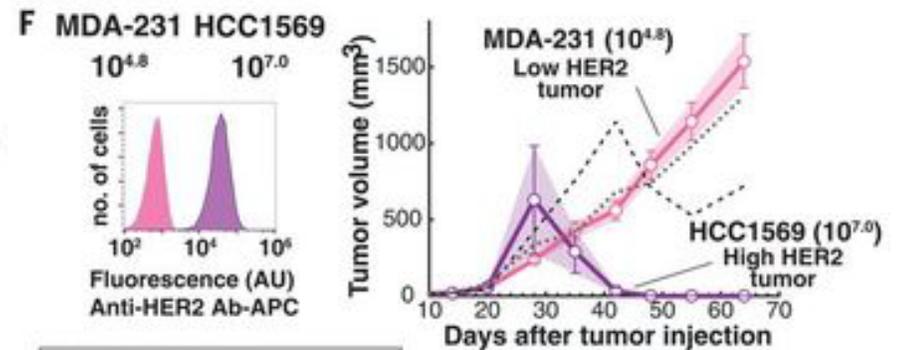


# Low-to-high synNotch-to-CAR circuit: Antigen density discrimination in mouse models

A



Day 0	Day 28	Longitudinal Comparison	p-value (adjusted)
Inject Tumors	Inject T cells // Tumor measurement via caliper	Low: Circuit vs UnT	ns, 0.856 (1.0)
1.0M Low	1M CD4+	High: Circuit vs UnT	<0.0001 (<0.0001)
1.5M High	1M CD8+		

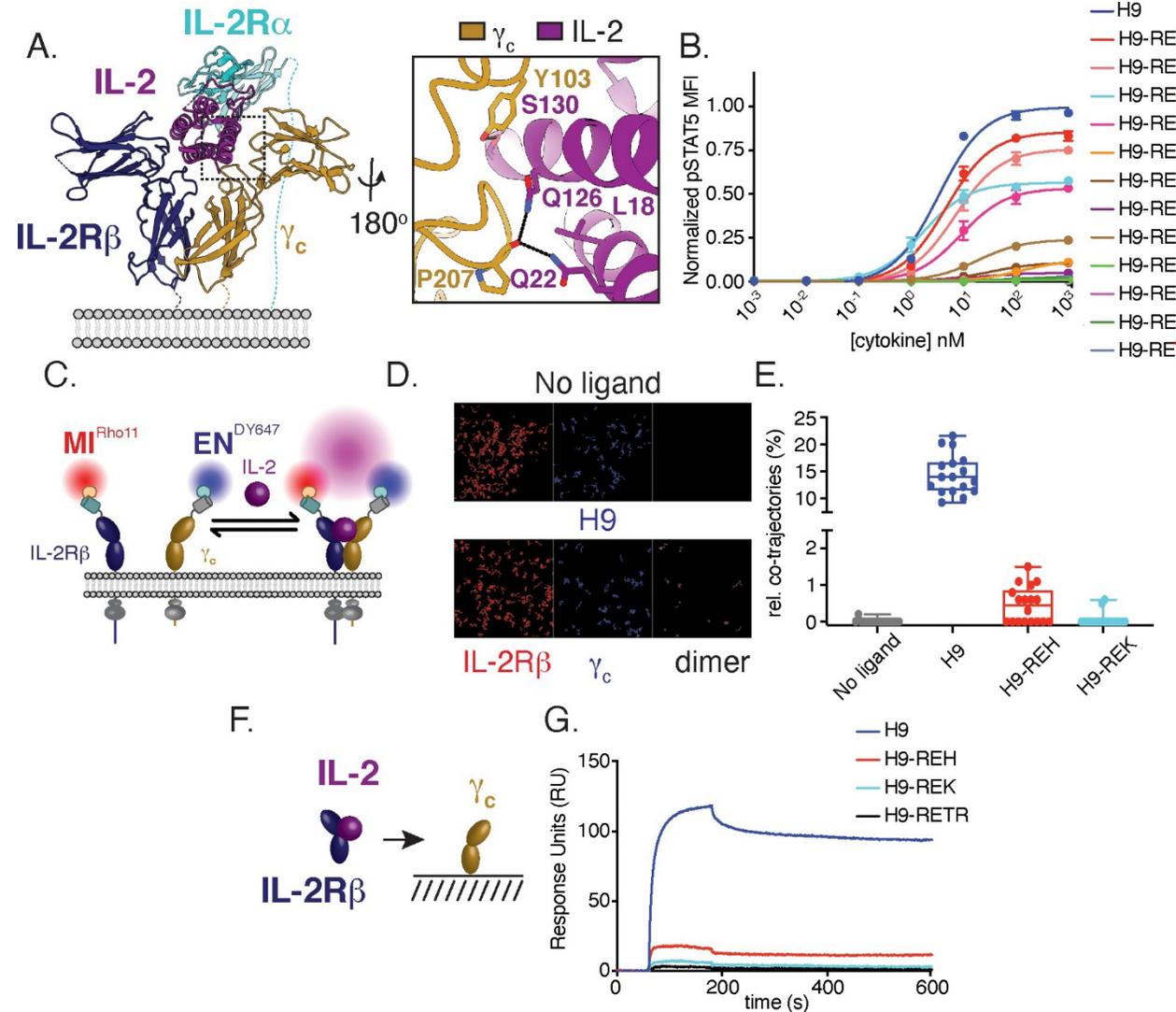


Day 0	Day 28	Longitudinal Comparison	p-value (adjusted)
Inject Tumors	Inject T cells // Tumor measurement via caliper	Low: Circuit vs UnT	ns, 0.232 (0.485)
2.5M Low	1M CD4+	High: Circuit vs UnT	0.0018 (0.0106)
1.5M High	1M CD8+		

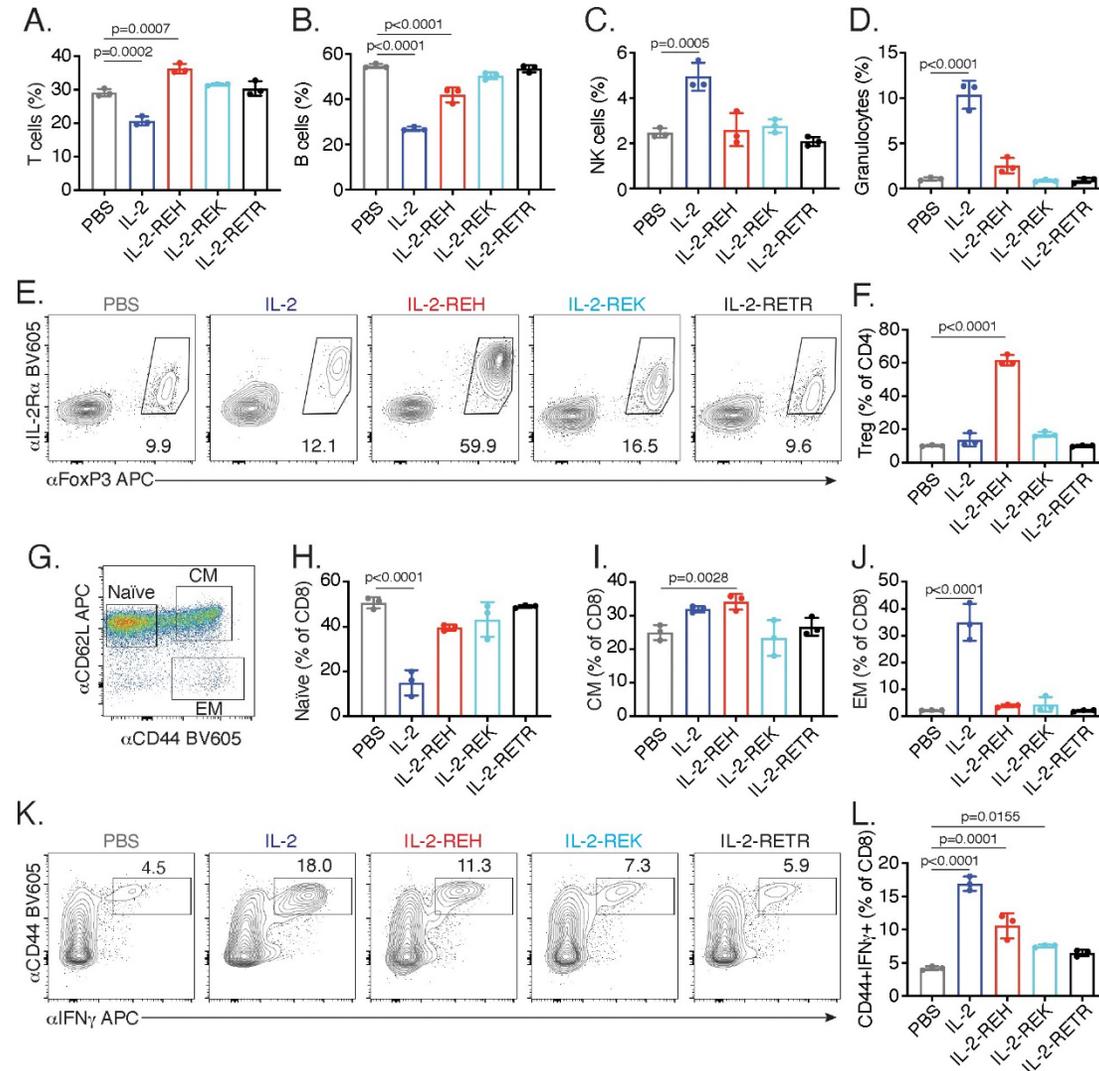
Calibration of cell-intrinsic  
interleukin-2 response thresholds  
guides design of a regulatory T cell  
biased agonist

<https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.65777>

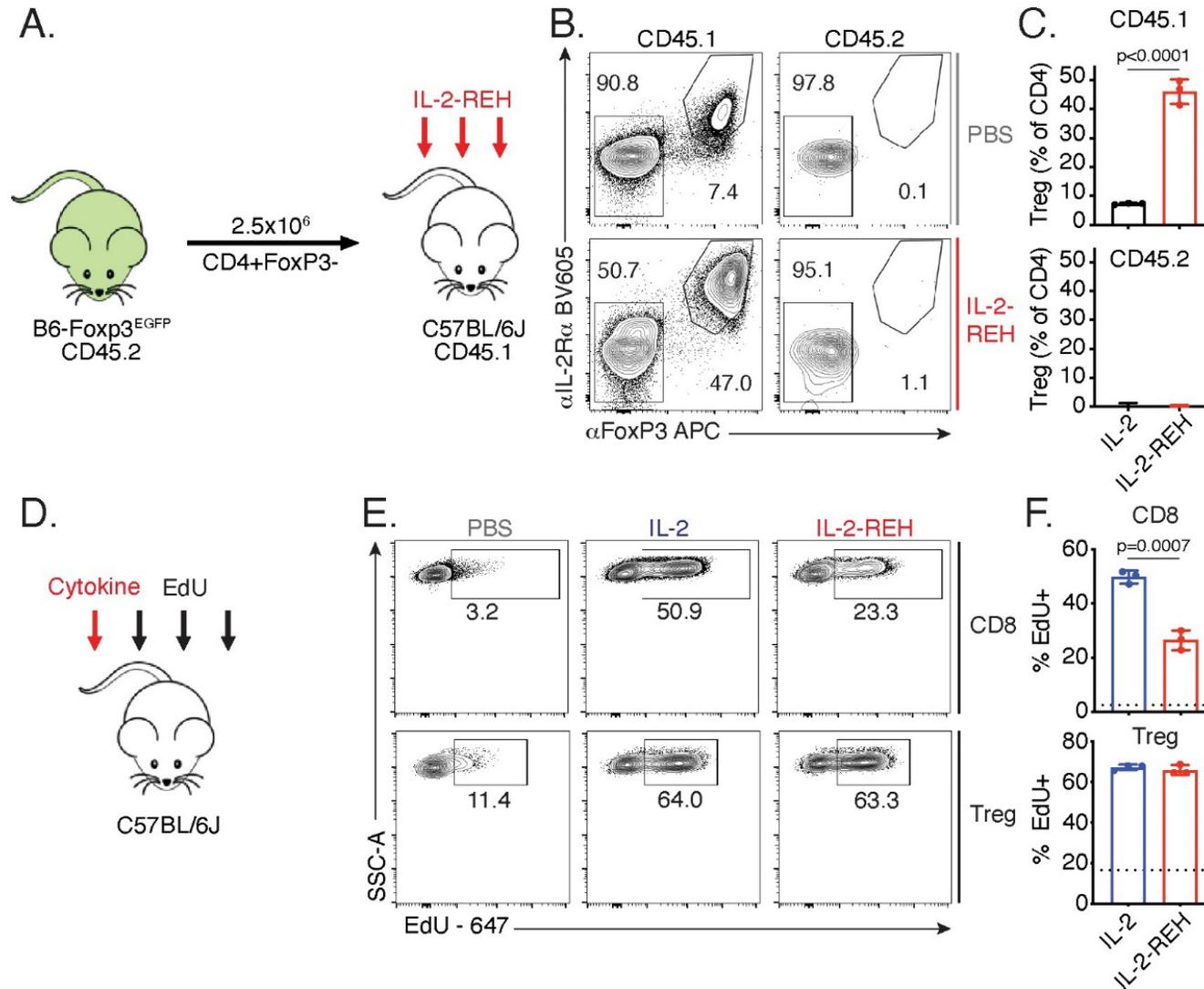
# Structure-based design and biophysical characterization of IL-2 receptor partial agonists



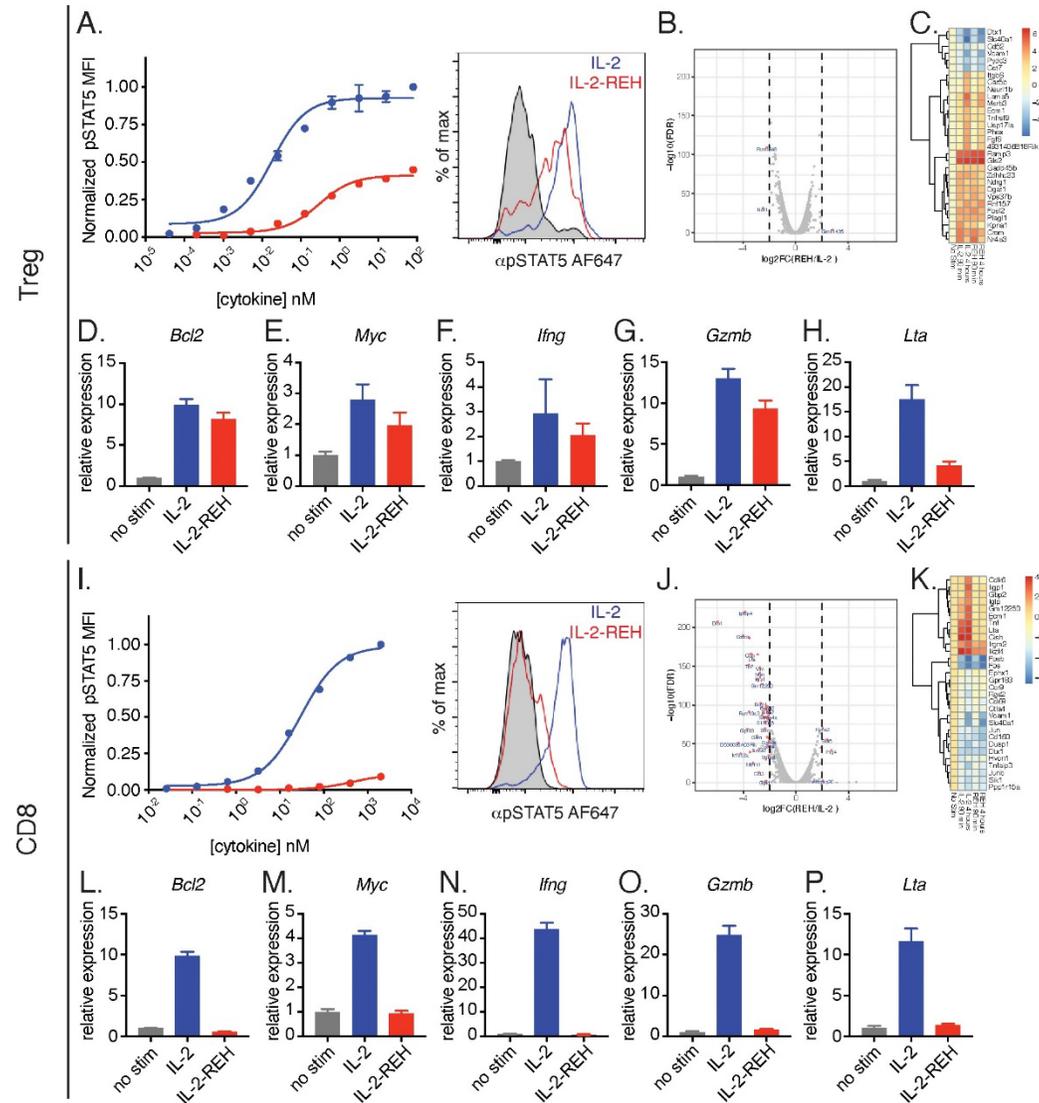
# IL-2 receptor partial agonists elicit cell type-specific responses in vivo



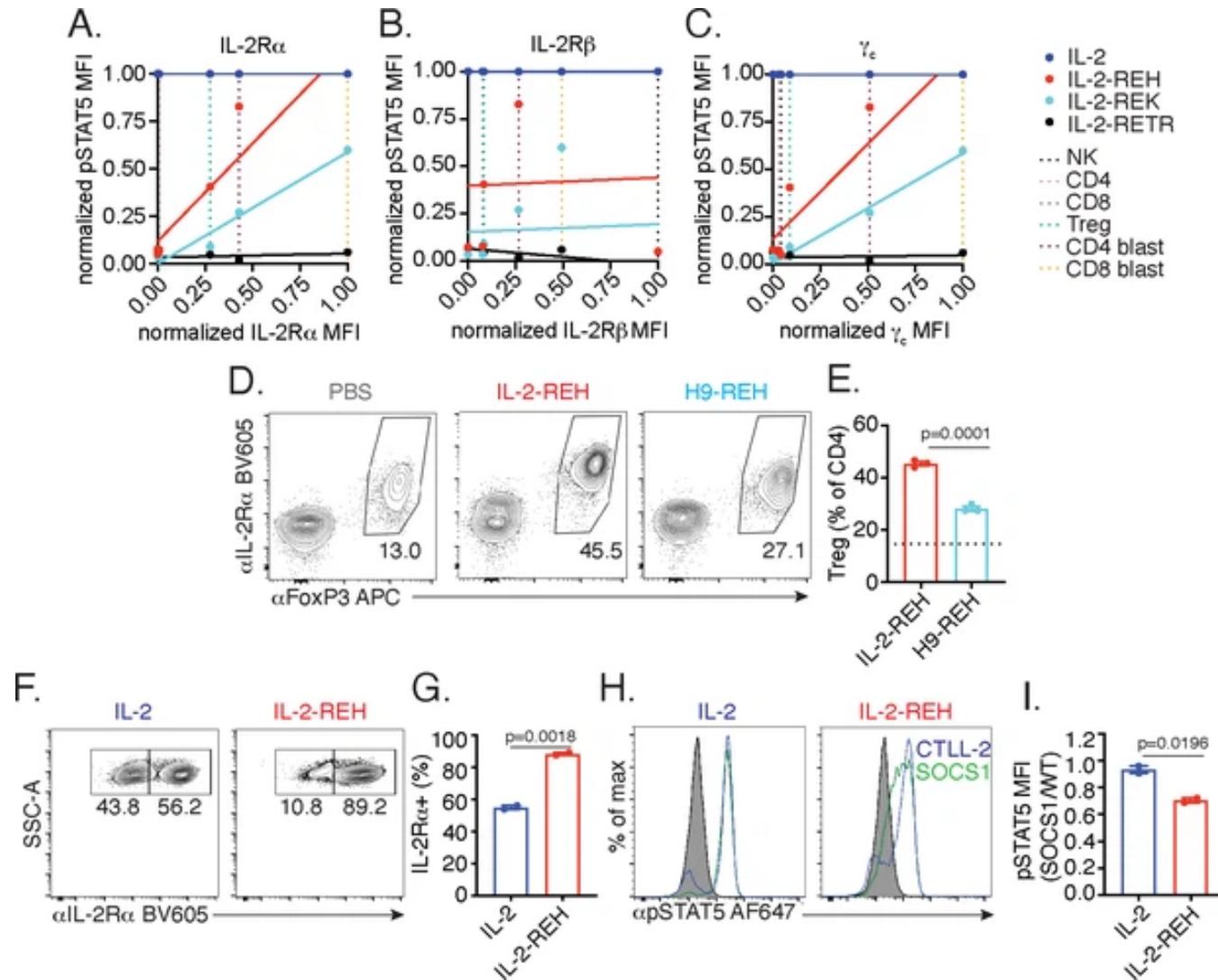
# IL-2-REH increases Treg frequency via selective proliferation of Foxp3+ cells



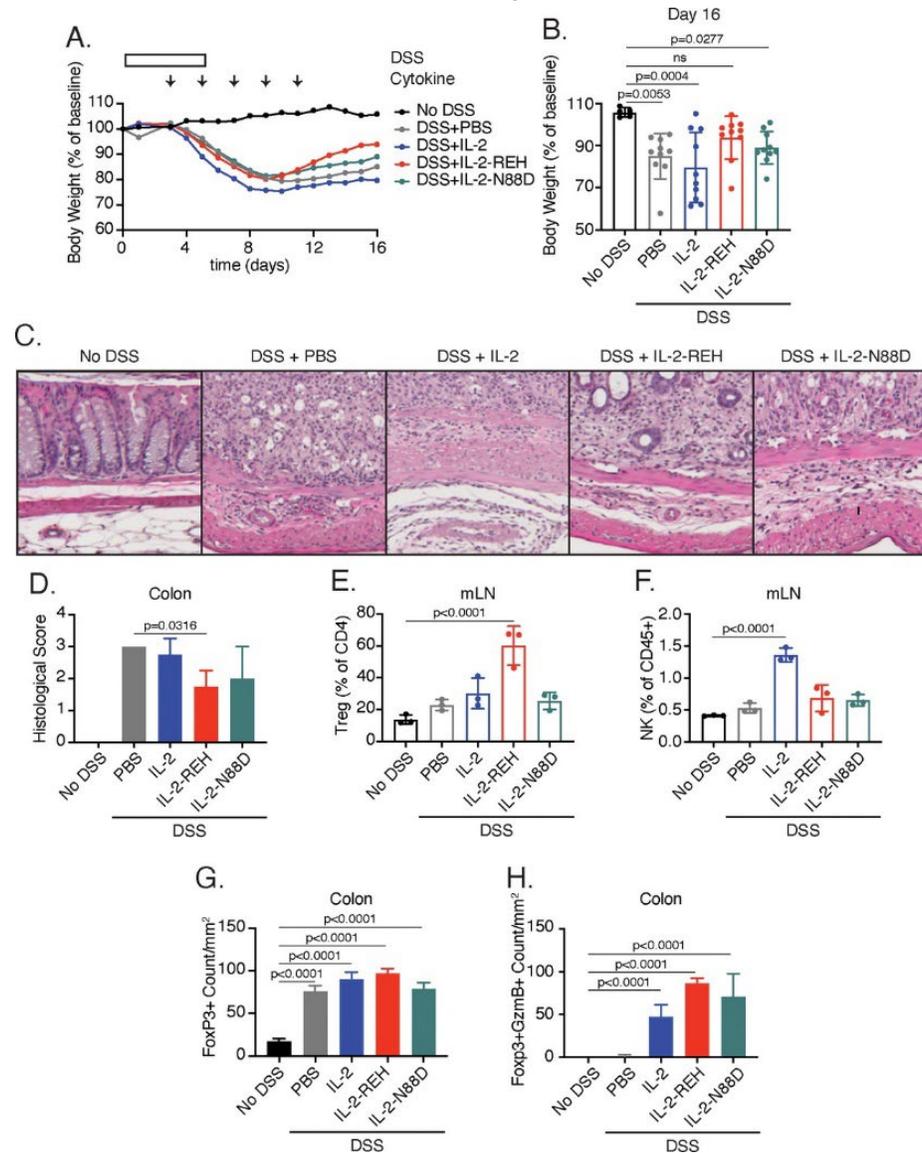
# IL-2-REH selectively promotes signaling in Tregs with reduced activity on CD8+ T cells relative to IL-2



# IL-2-REH exploits intrinsic differences in IL-2 signaling to elicit cell type-specific activity



# IL-2-REH enhances recovery from DSS-induced colitis



# Topological control of cytokine receptor signaling induces differential effects in hematopoiesis

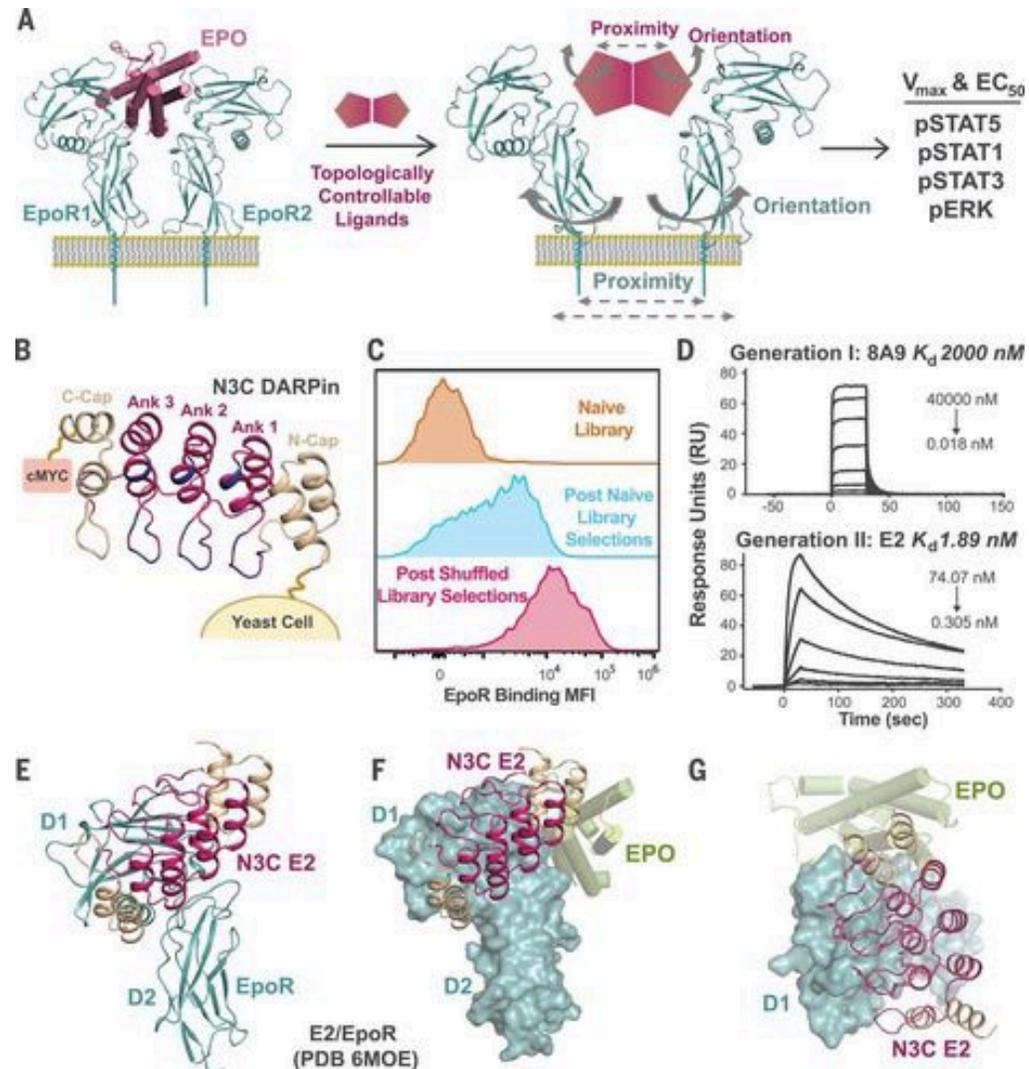
SCIENCE

24 May 2019

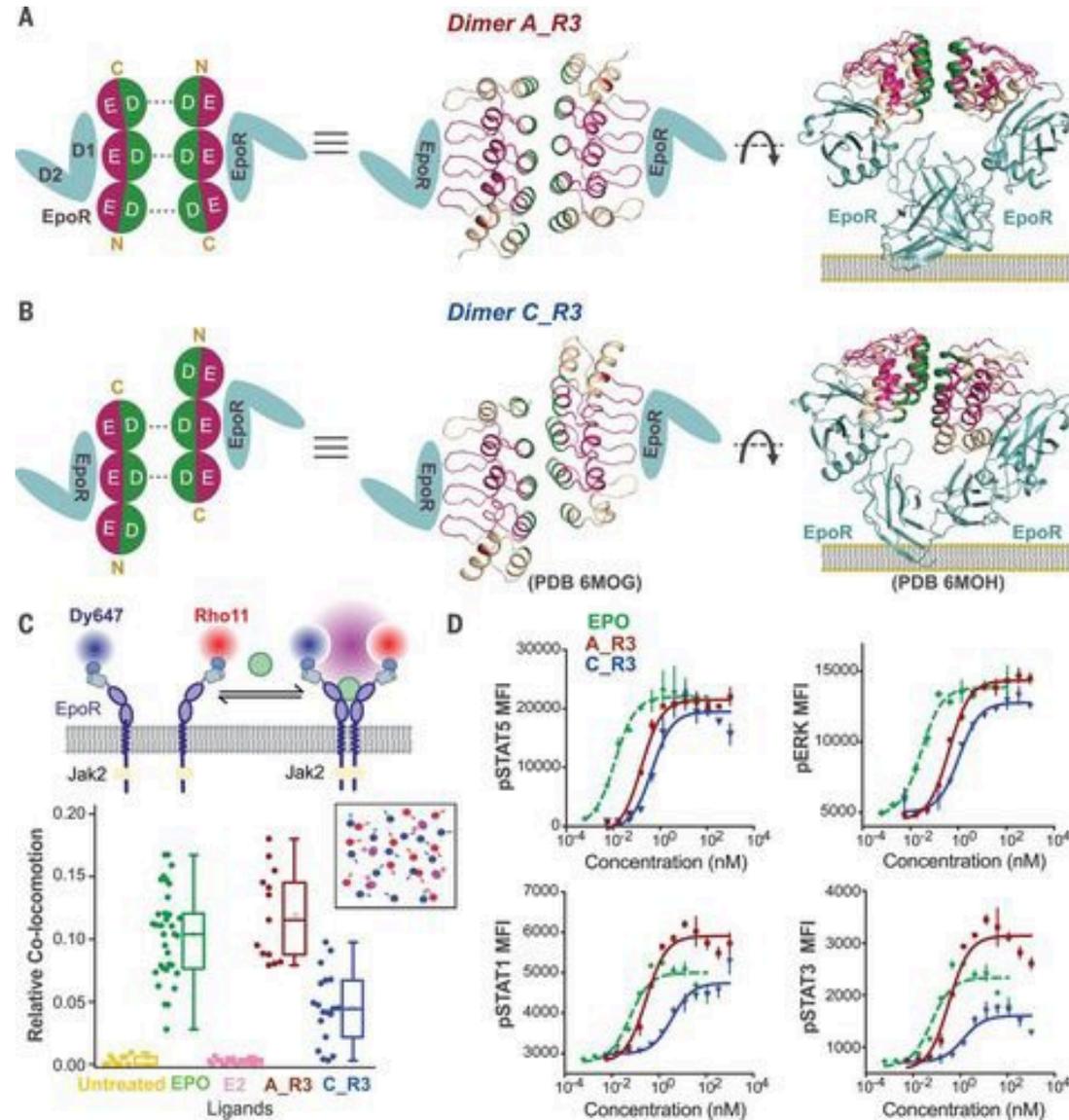
Vol 364, Issue 6442

DOI: [10.1126/science.aav7532](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aav7532)

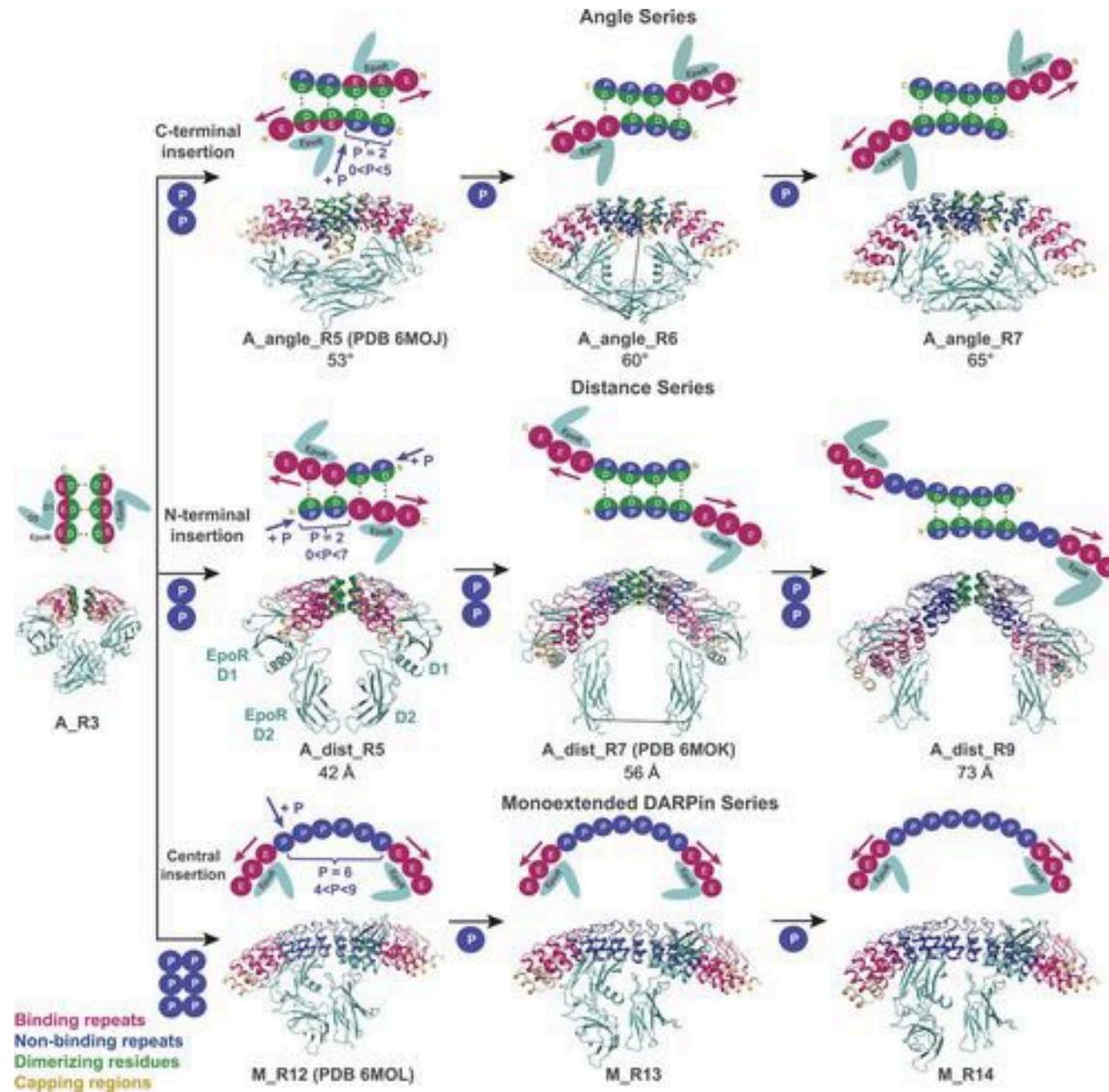
# Engineering and characterization of high-affinity DARPin binding to EpoR



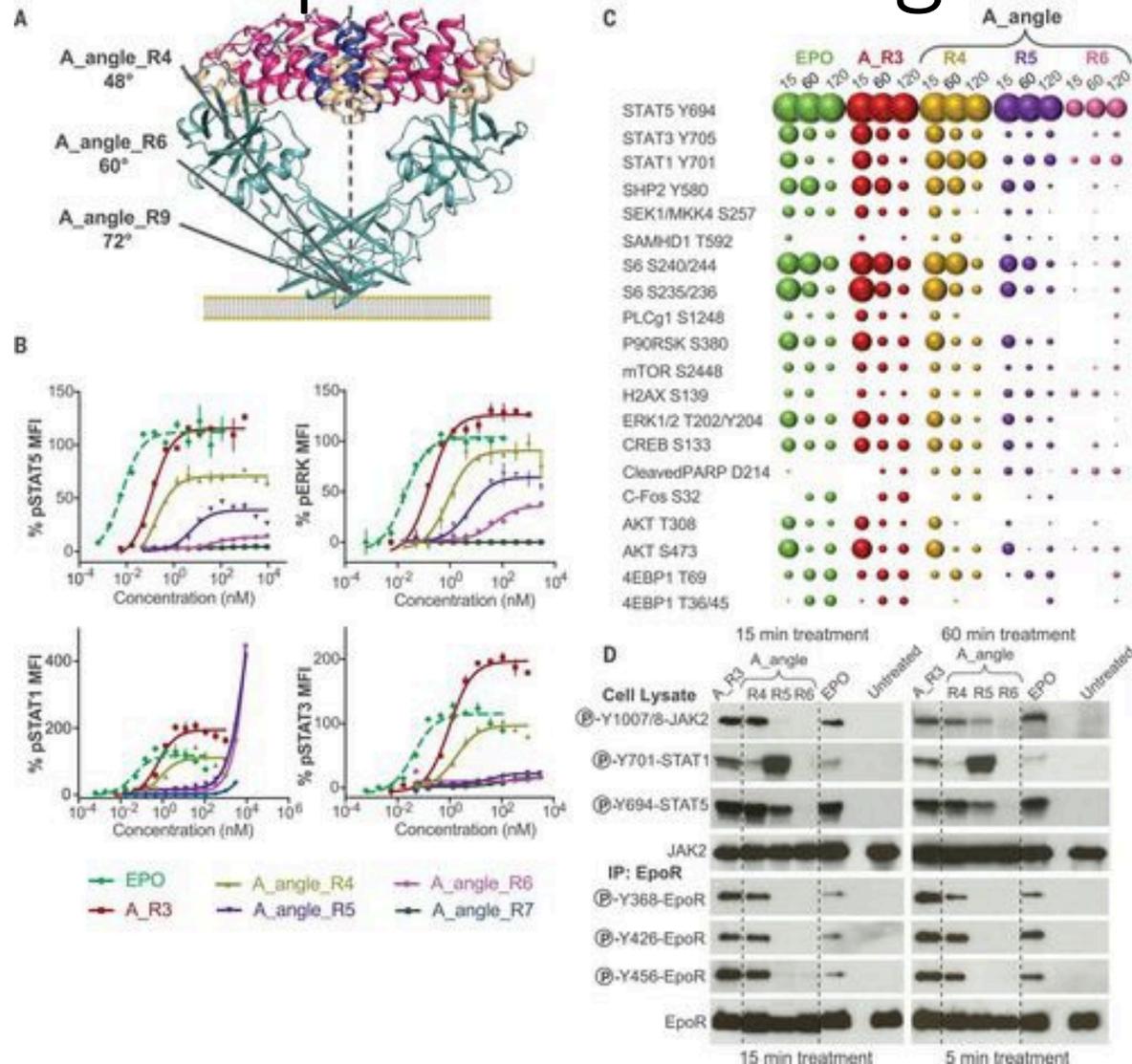
# Dimerization scaffolds for E2 resulting in agonism



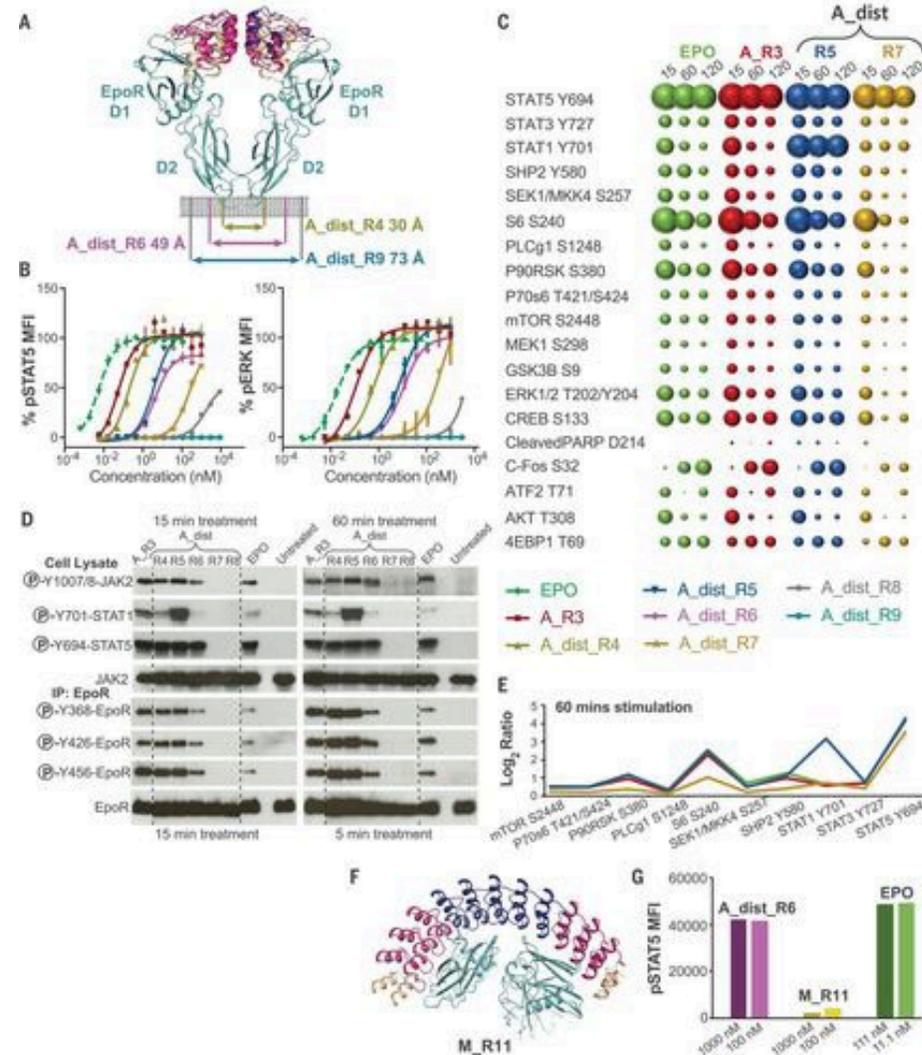
# Topological control of EpoR geometry



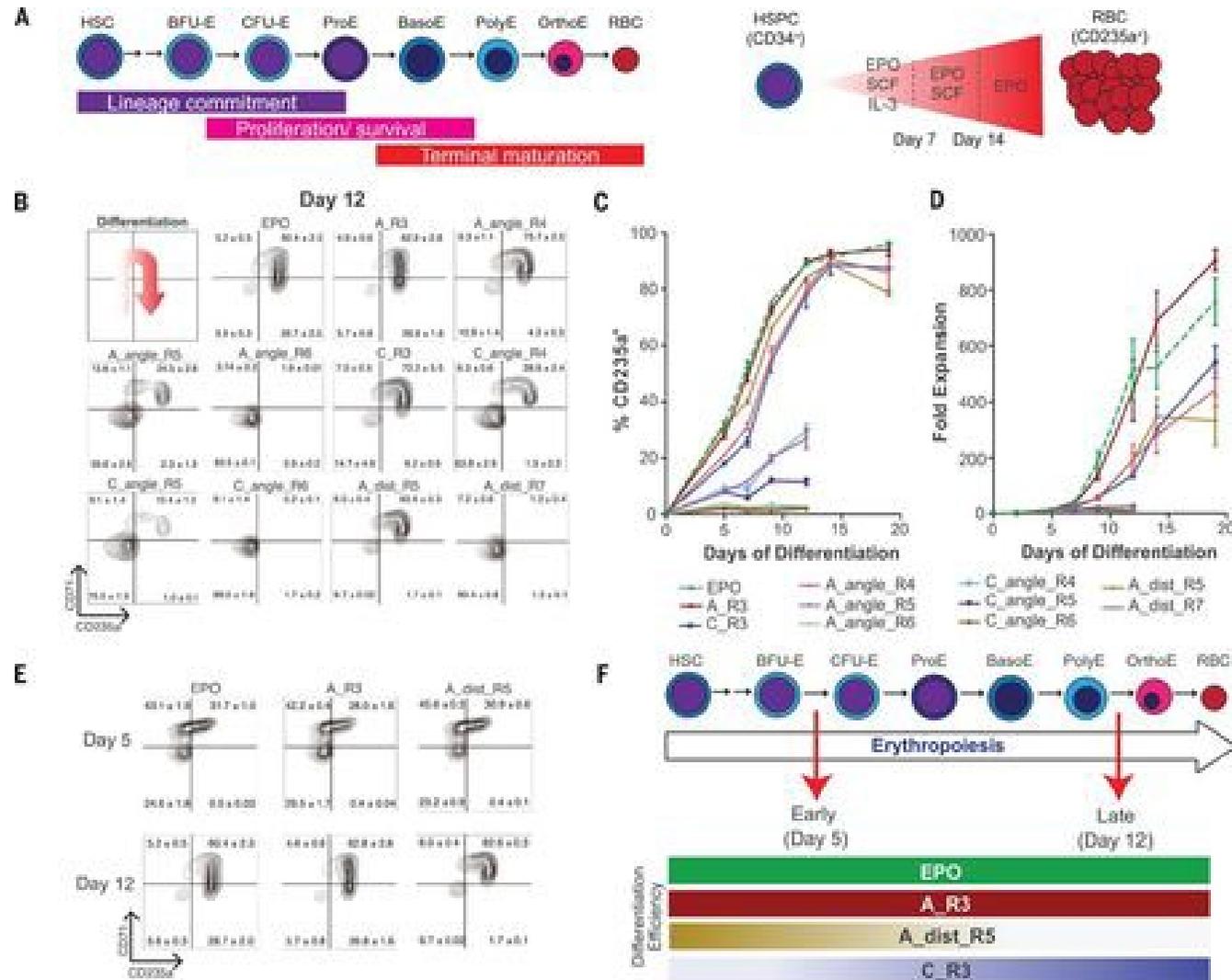
# Signaling responses induced through variation in EpoR dimer angle



# Signaling responses induced by variation in EpoR ECD proximity



# Effects on hematopoiesis of topologically controllable EpoR ligands



# Effects on hematopoiesis of topologically controllable EpoR ligands

G

