

# Mechanisms of Regulation of Inflammation and Immunity by ABA

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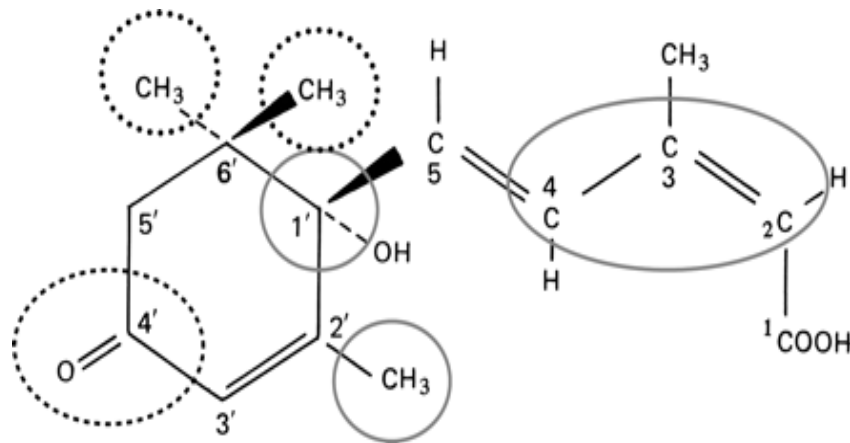
Ventura, California

# Outline

- Background and introduction
- Mouse models
  - Insulin resistance and adipose tissue inflammation
  - Intestinal inflammation
  - Influenza virus-driven pulmonary inflammation
- Molecular mechanisms of action
  - Peroxisome proliferator activated receptor  $\gamma$
  - Lanthionine synthetase C-like 2
- Future directions

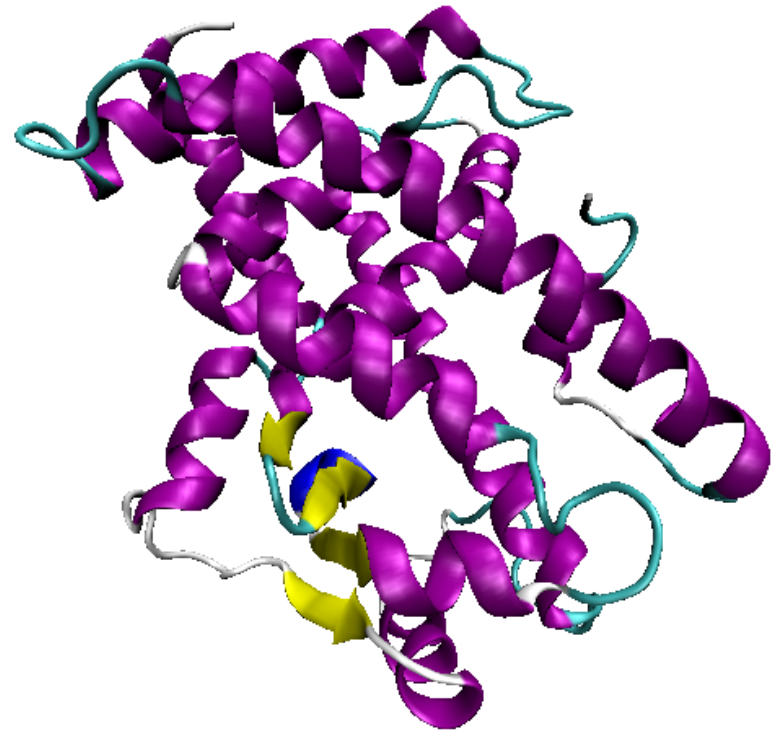
# ABA in Biomedicine

- Generated through the carotenoid pathway
- Produced in brain and immune cells
- Secreted by pancreatic beta cells in response to hyperglycemia
- Anti-inflammatory and immune modulatory

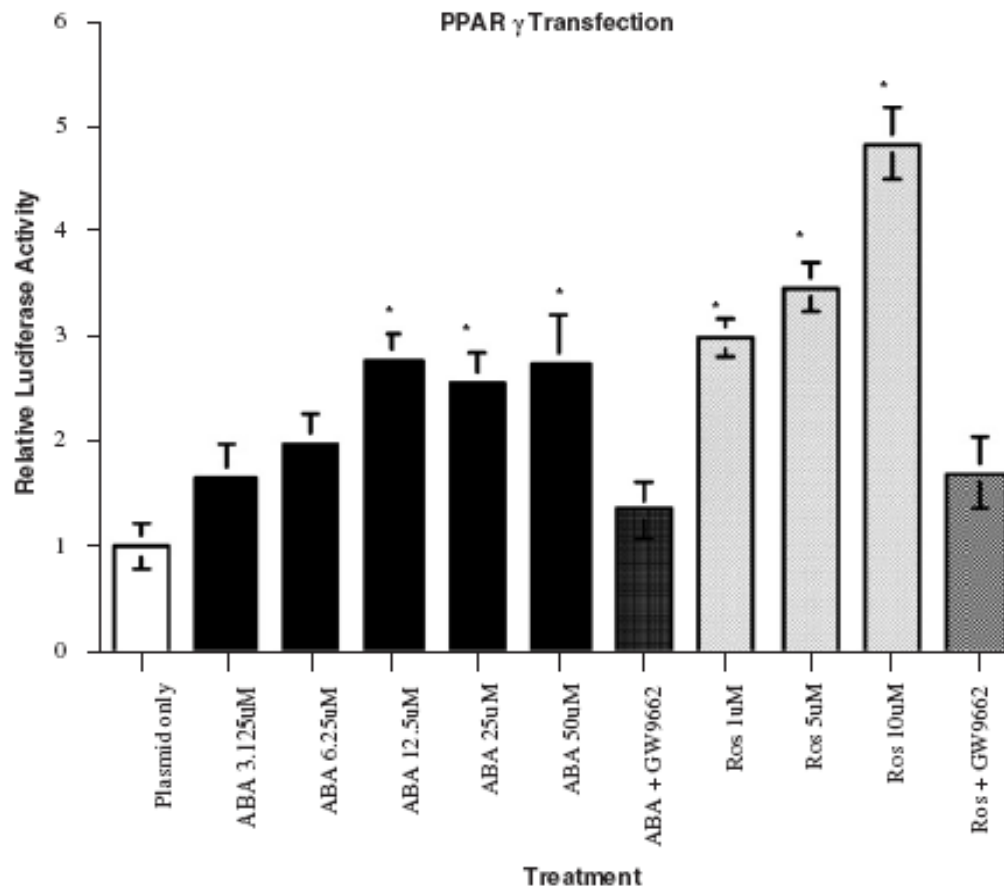


# Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor $\gamma$

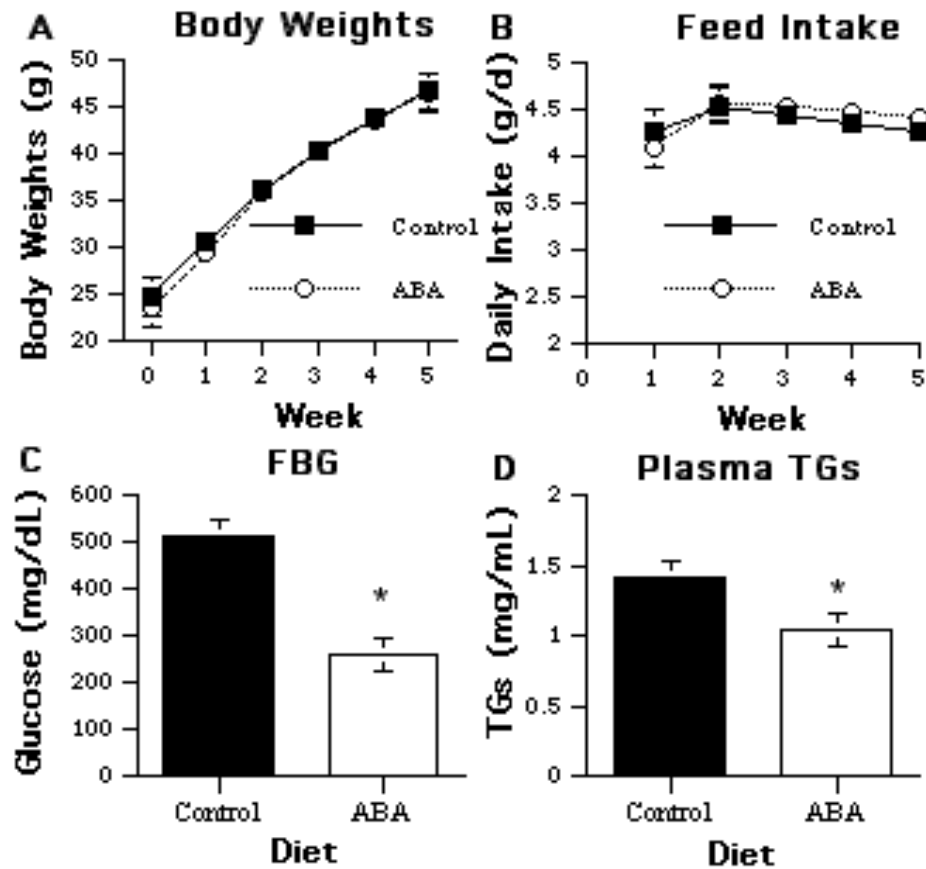
- Regulates fatty acid storage and glucose metabolism
- Suppresses the expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines
- Full agonists:  
Thiazolidinedione (TZD) class
- Side effects: hepatotoxicity (troglitazone); congestive heart failure (rosiglitazone); weight gain



# ABA Increases PPAR $\gamma$ Reporter Activity



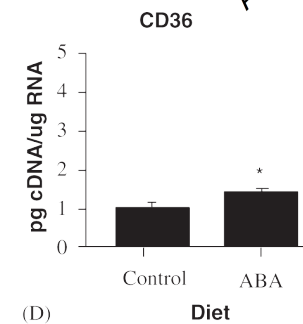
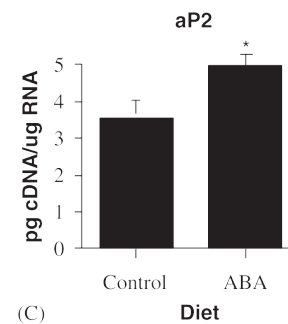
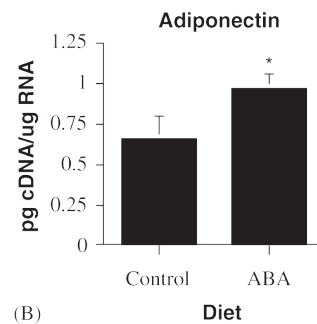
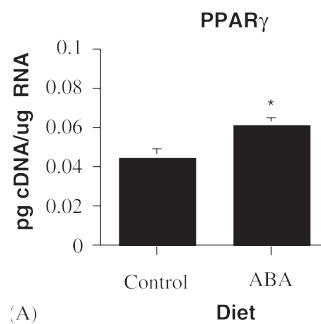
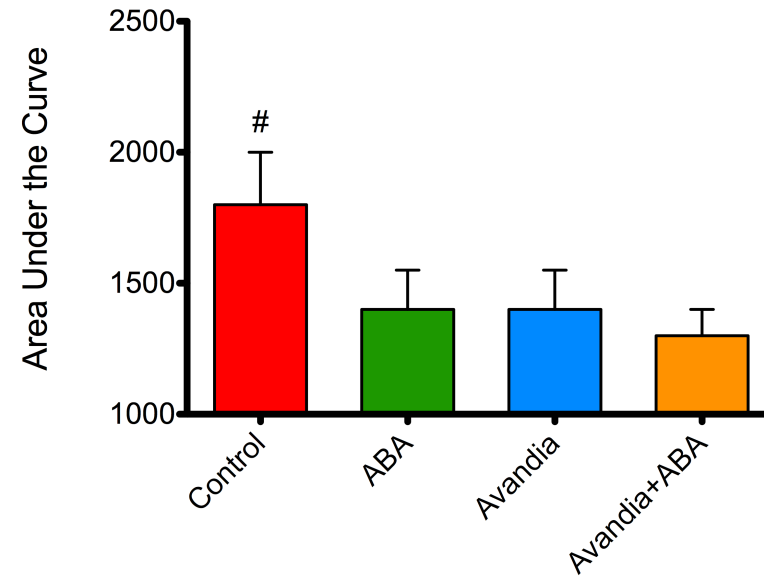
# Metabolic Parameters



# Glycemic Control and Diabetes

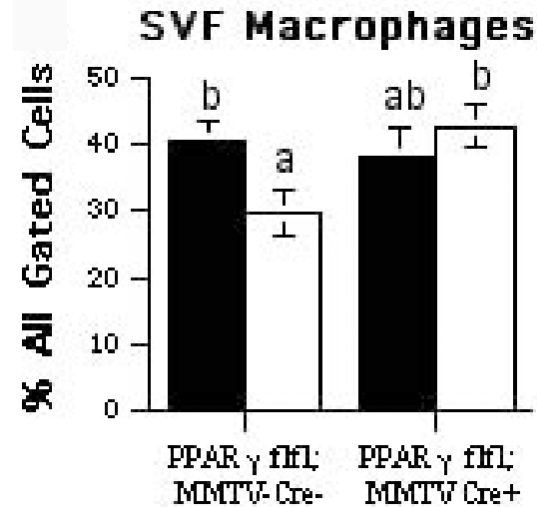
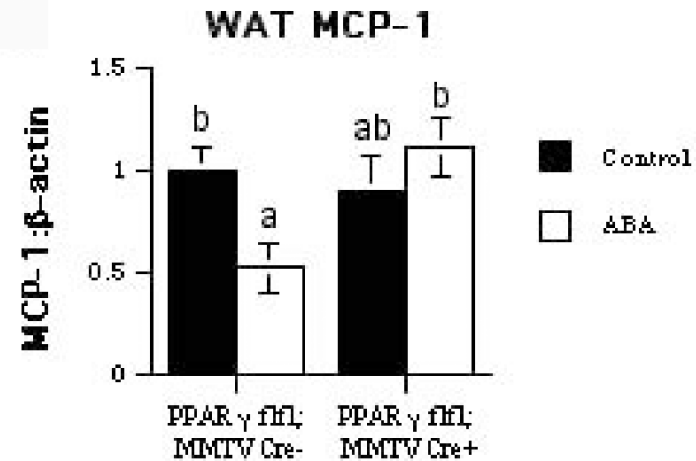
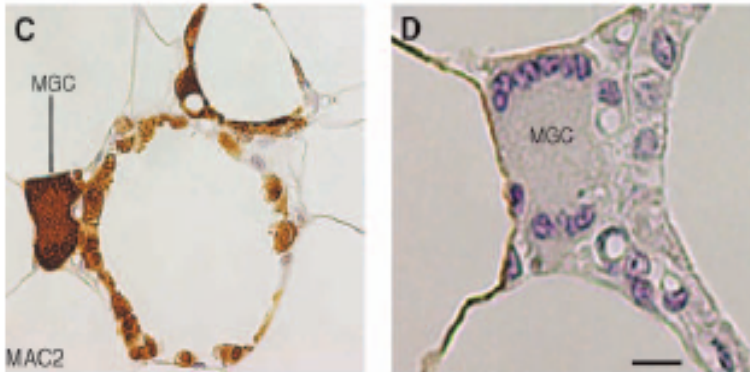
- ABA reduces glucose levels in diabetic mice equivalent to prescription Avandia without side effects
- Increased PPAR $\gamma$  and responsive genes

Glucose Tolerance Test



# Adipose Tissue Inflammation

- ABA downregulates MCP-1 expression and reduces infiltration of macrophages into adipose tissue through a PPAR  $\gamma$ -dependent mechanism





# Modulation of Diabetes by ABA

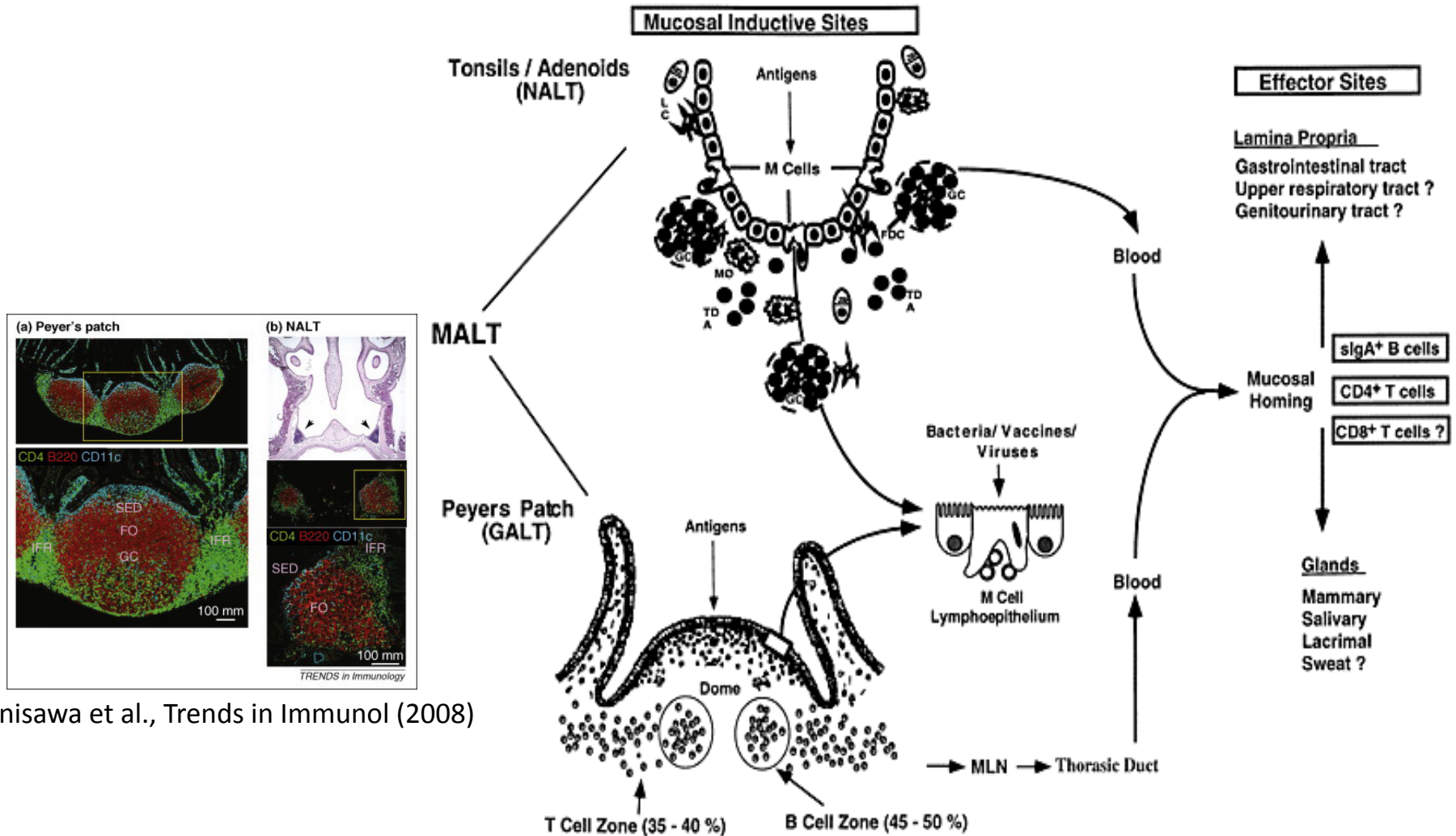
- Induced transactivation of PPAR $\gamma$  in 3T3-L1 pre-adipocytes *in vitro*
- Upregulated PPAR $\gamma$  and its responsive genes
- Decreased fasting blood glucose concentrations, ameliorated glucose tolerance
- Attenuated adipocyte hypertrophy, TNF- $\alpha$  and MCP-1 expression, and macrophage infiltration in WAT through PPAR $\gamma$



# Inflammatory Bowel Disease

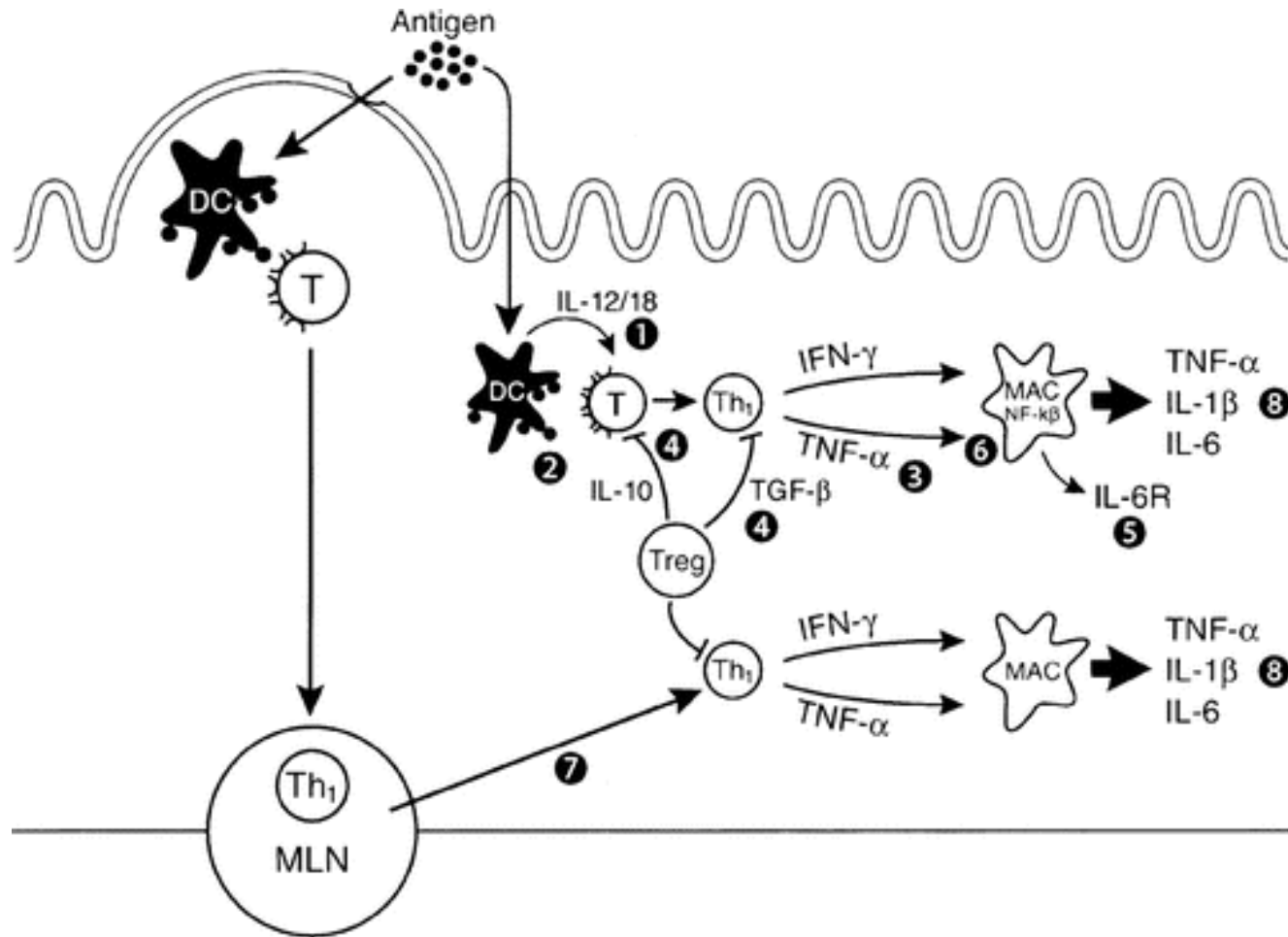
- Chronic immunoinflammatory illness
- Afflicting over 1,200,000 in North America
- Two clinical manifestations
  - Crohn's Disease
  - Ulcerative Colitis
- Current therapies are modestly successful and with significant side effects (steroids/NSAIDs)
  - Immunosuppression and delayed wound healing

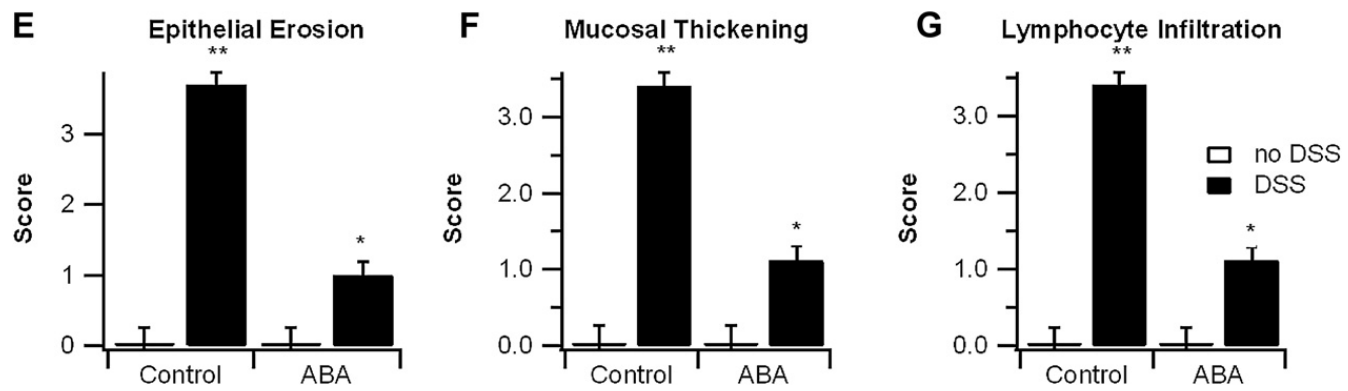
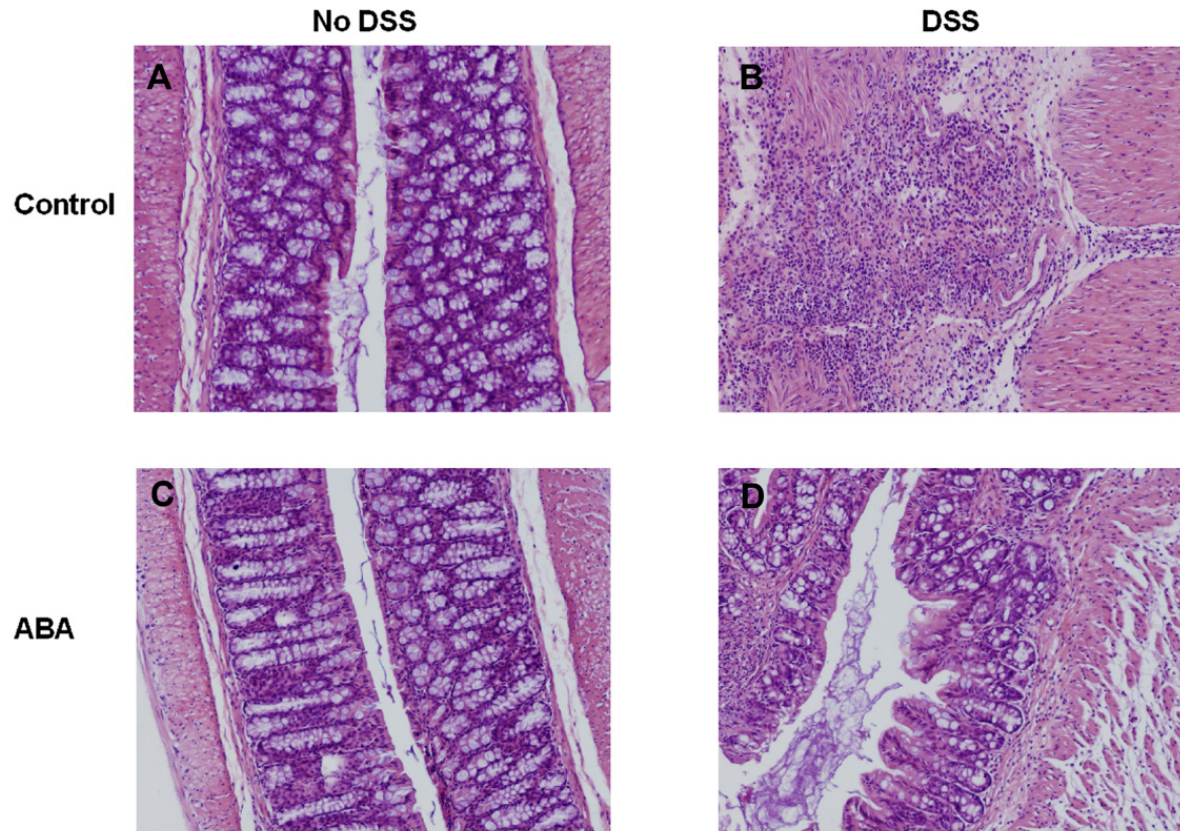
# Mucosal Immune System



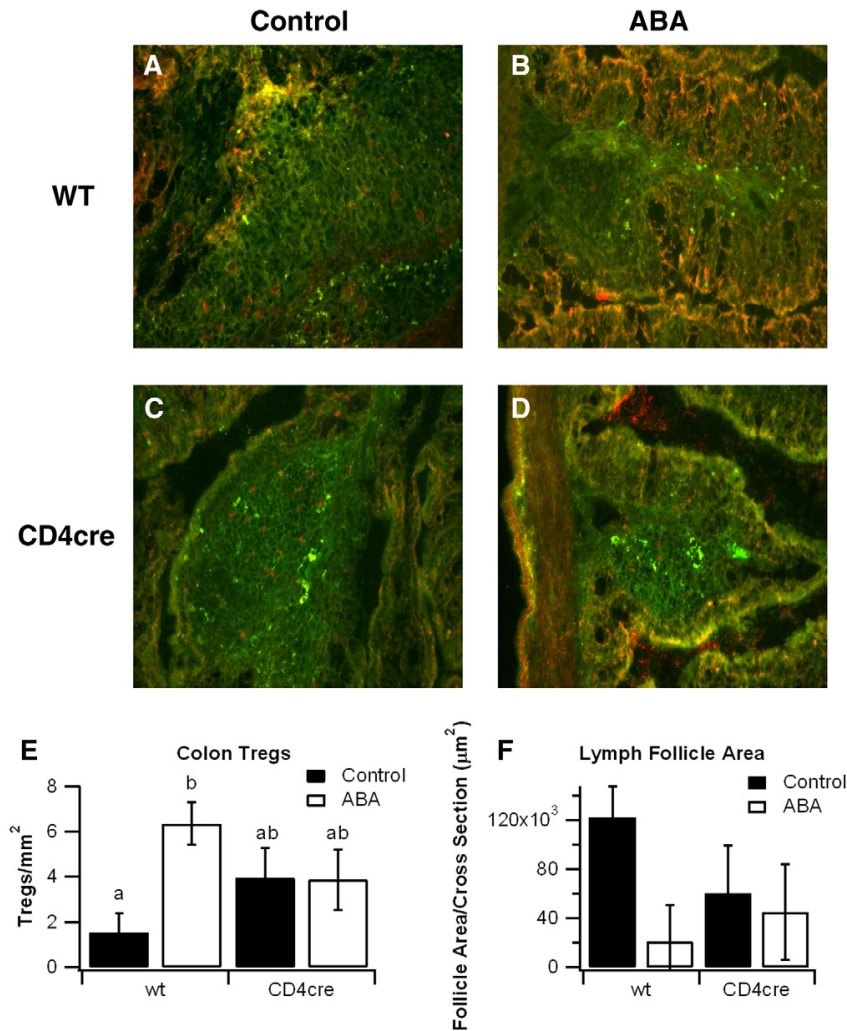
Kunisawa et al., Trends in Immunol (2008)

# Effector and Regulatory Pathways



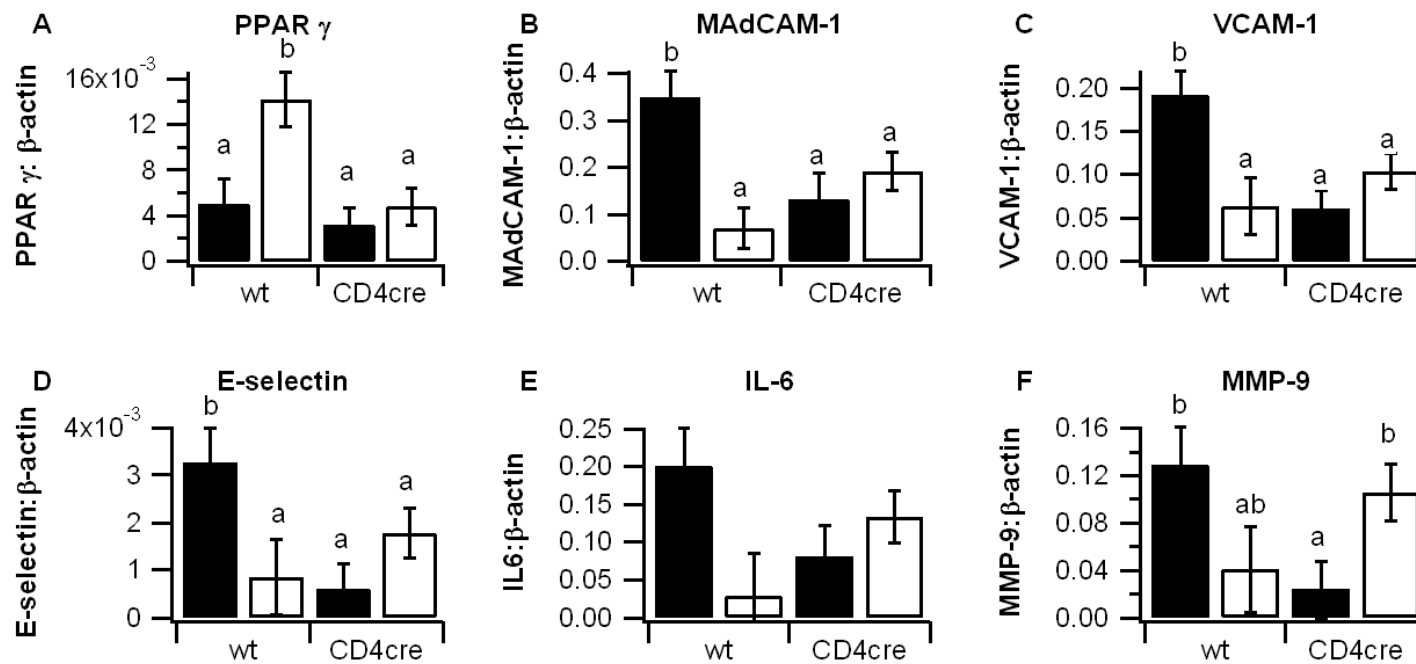


# Regulation of Mucosal Treg cells by ABA



- Ameliorated experimental IBD by enhancing regulatory T cell accumulation in the colonic lamina propria through a PPAR $\gamma$ -dependent mechanism

# Colonic Adhesion Molecule Expression

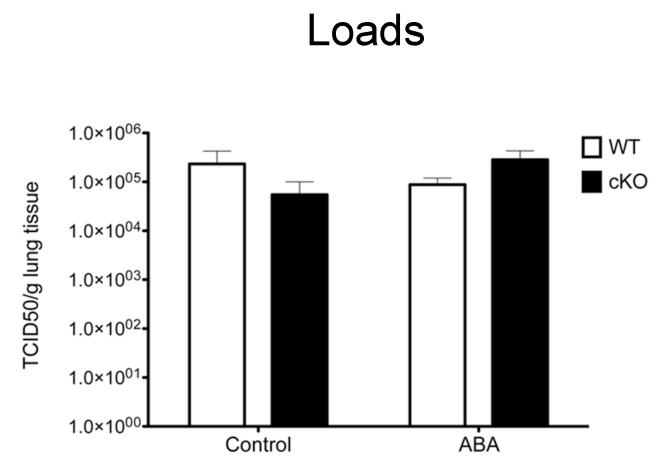
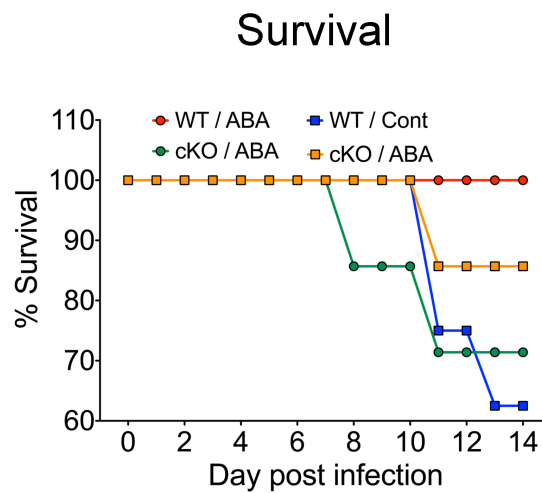
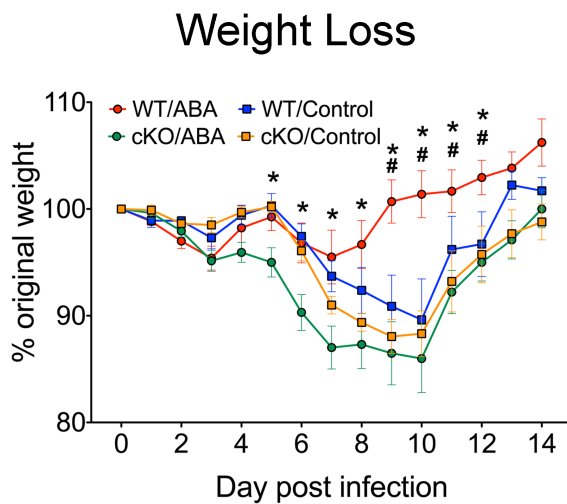
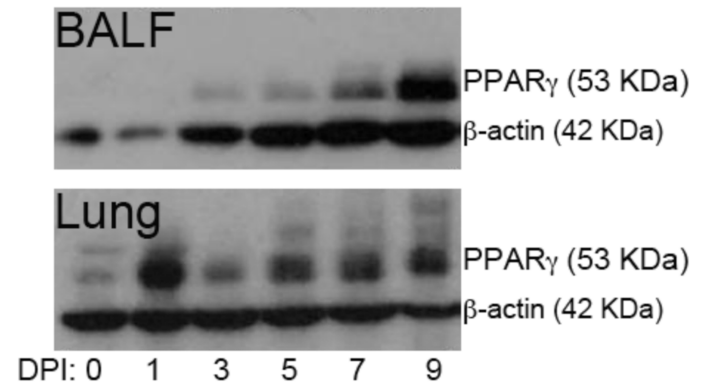
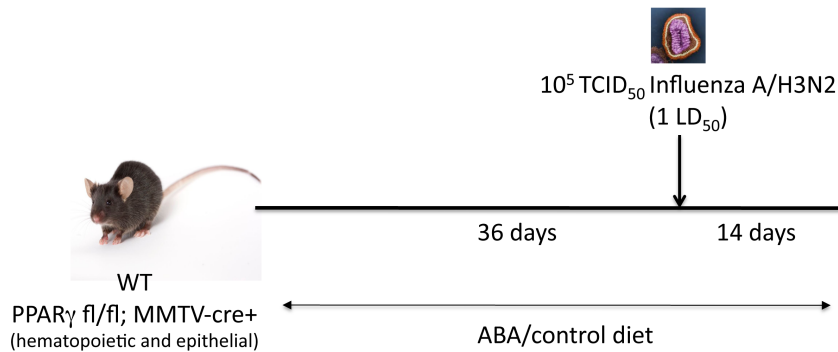




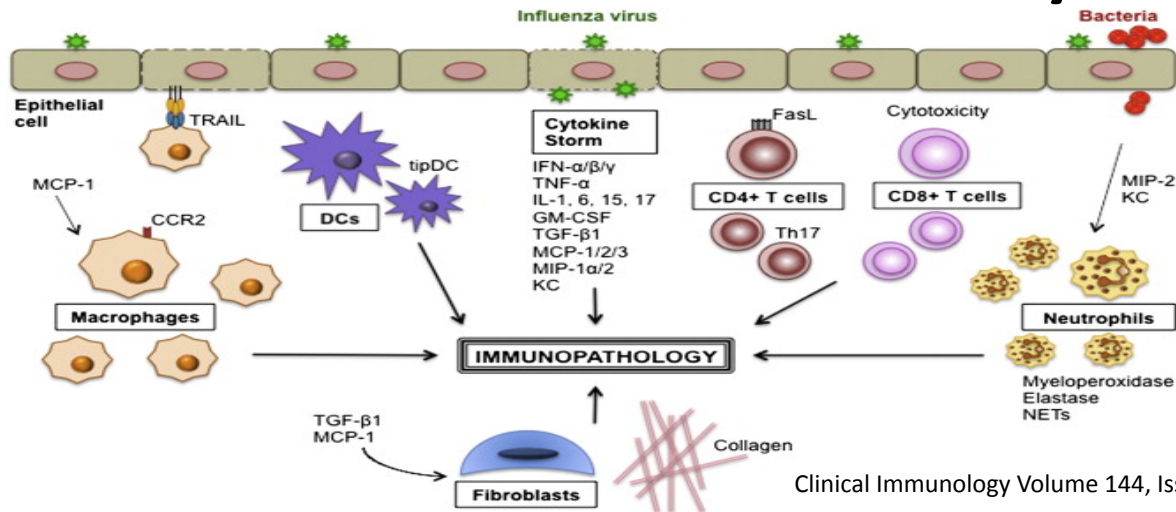
# Modulation of Colitis by ABA

- ABA ameliorated gut inflammation by modulating T cell distribution and adhesion molecule expression
  - Decreased colonic inflammatory lesions
  - Increased Treg cells at the mucosal sites
  - Downregulated adhesion molecules and inflammatory cytokine expression

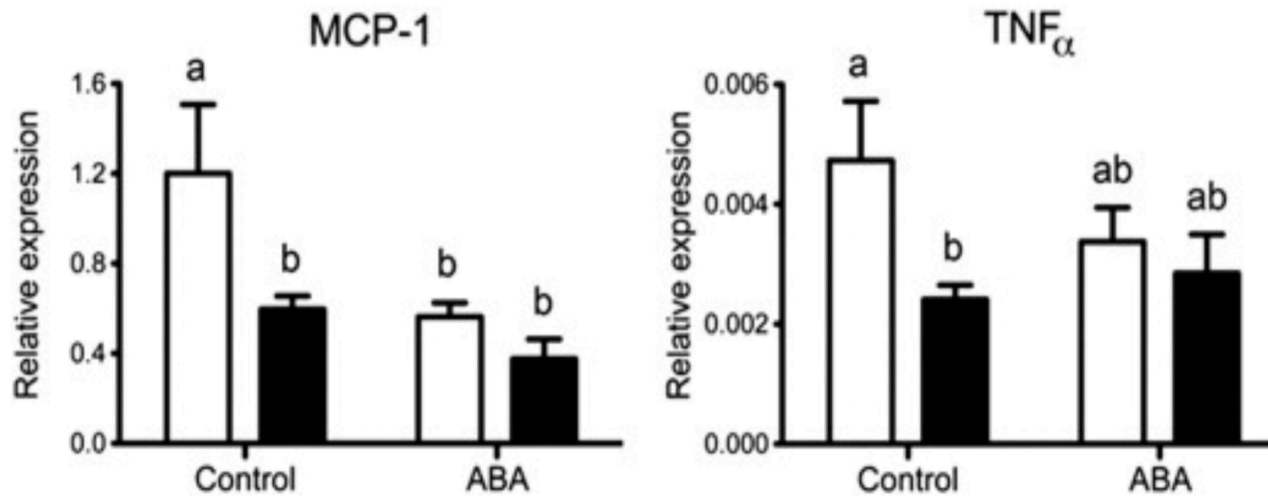
# Modulation Influenza by ABA



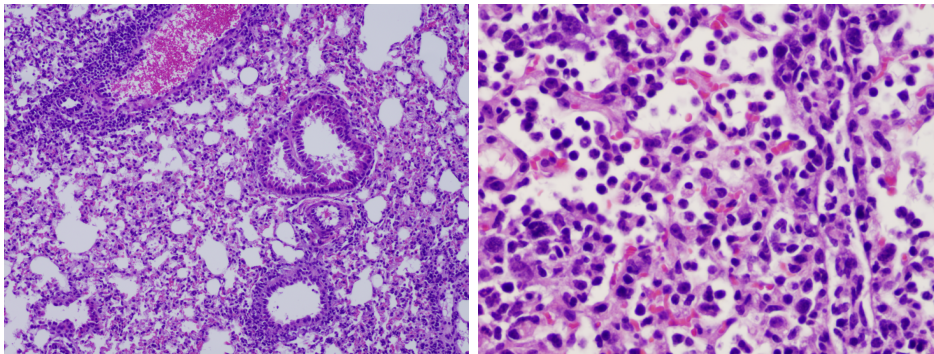
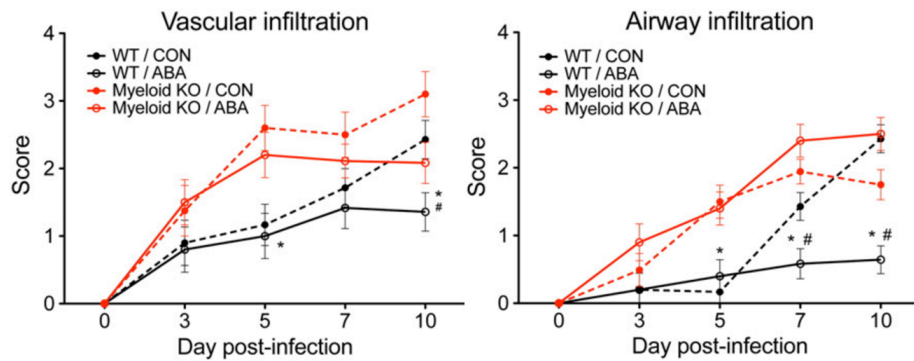
# Modulation Influenza by ABA



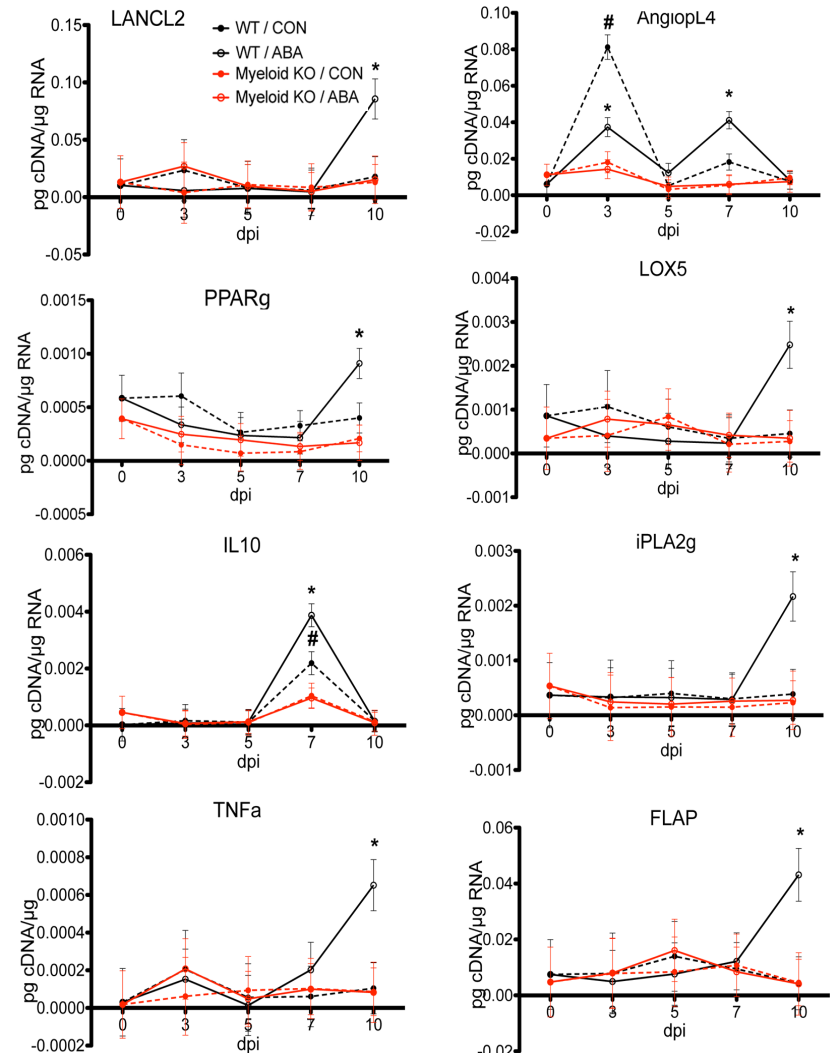
Clinical Immunology Volume 144, Issue 1 2012 57 - 69



# Modulation Influenza by ABA



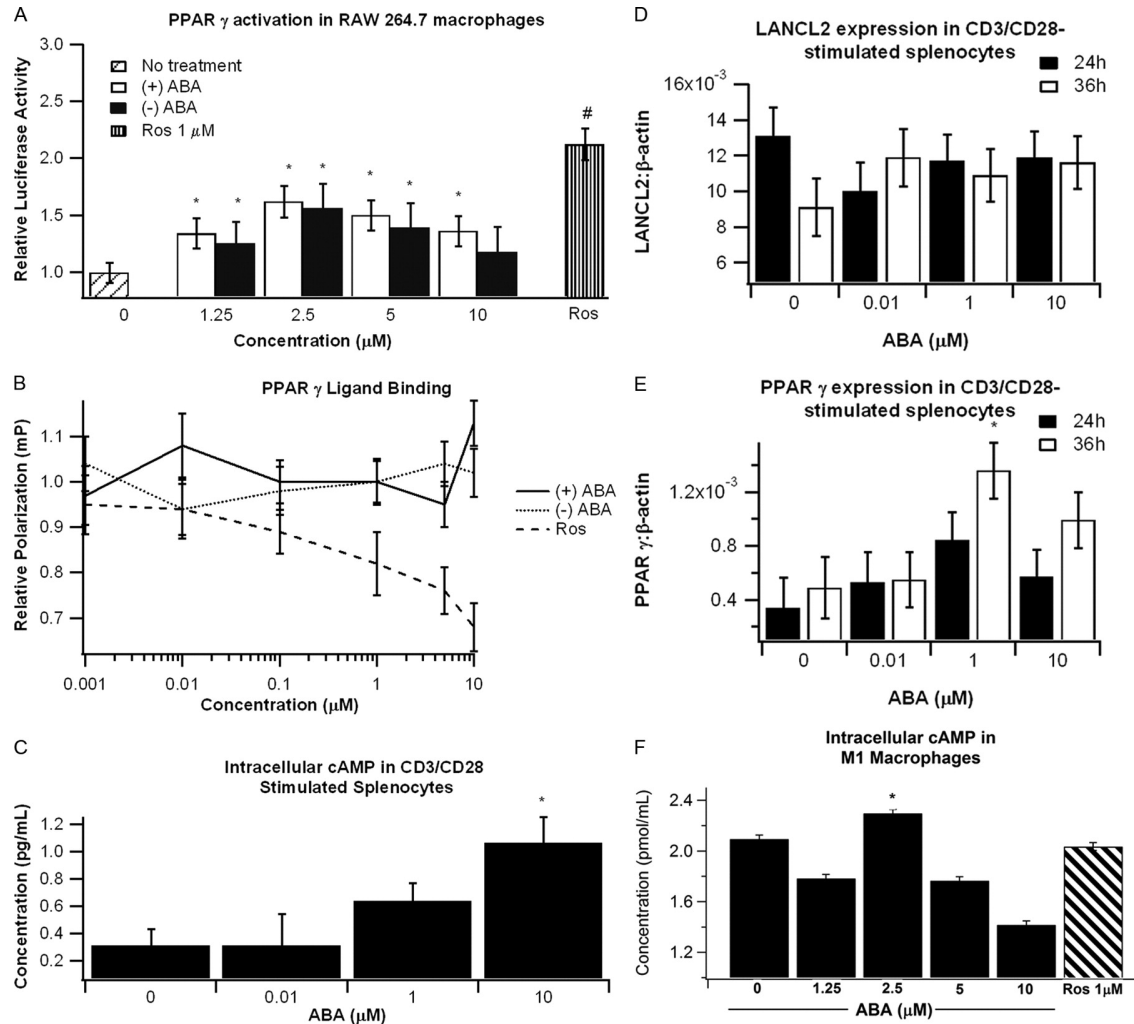
ABA ameliorated influenza-virus-induced pathology by activating PPAR $\gamma$  in pulmonary immune cells, suppressing initial proinflammatory responses and promoting resolution



# Molecular Mechanisms of Action

- ABA activates PPAR $\gamma$  in preadipocytes and macrophages
- ABA upregulates PPAR $\gamma$  in WAT, colon and lungs
- PPAR $\gamma$  mediates ABA's immune modulatory effects
- Does ABA bind to PPAR $\gamma$ ?
- Are there other molecular targets for ABA in mice and humans?

# *In vitro* effects of ABA isomers

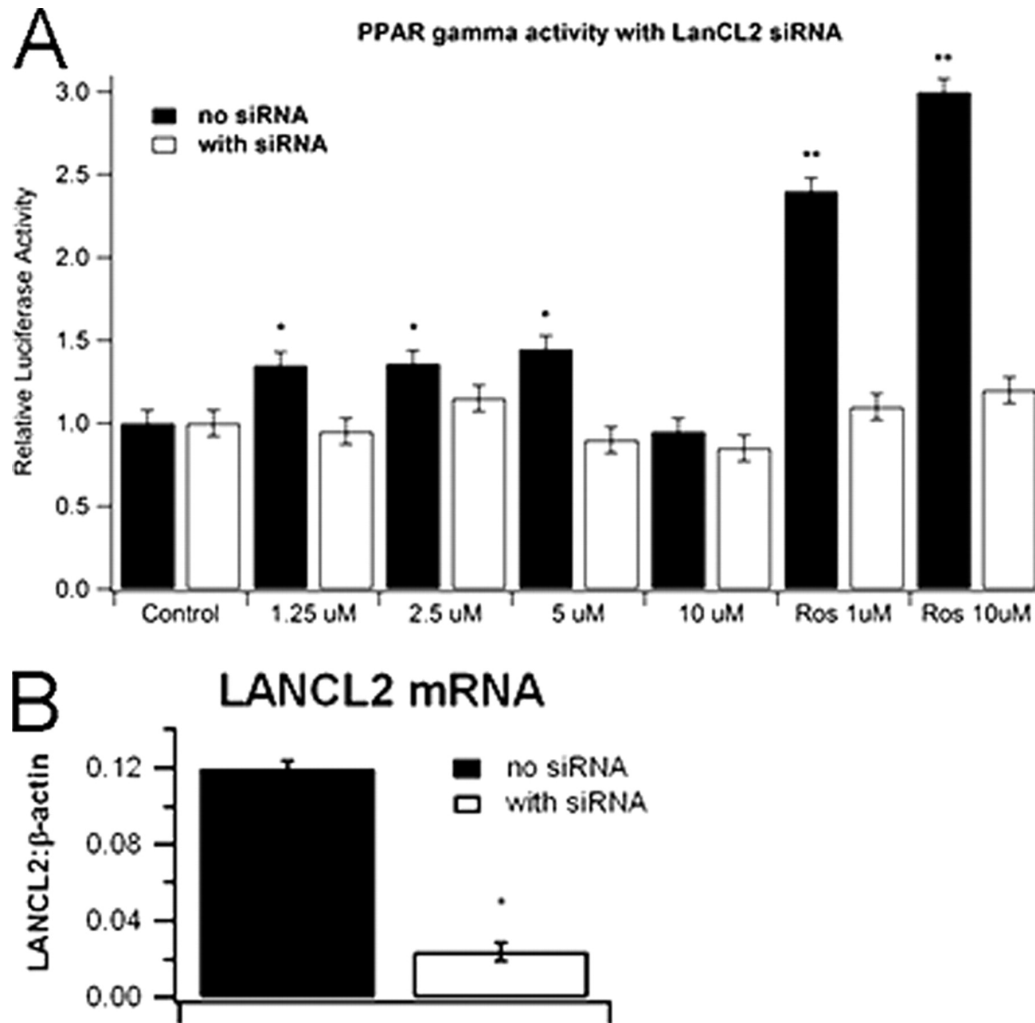


# Lanthionine synthetase component C-like protein 2

- First identified in human brain and testis
- Increased cellular sensitivity to adriamycin
- Associated with the plasma membrane
- Structure predicted by homology modeling



# LANCL2 disruption on PPAR $\gamma$ activation

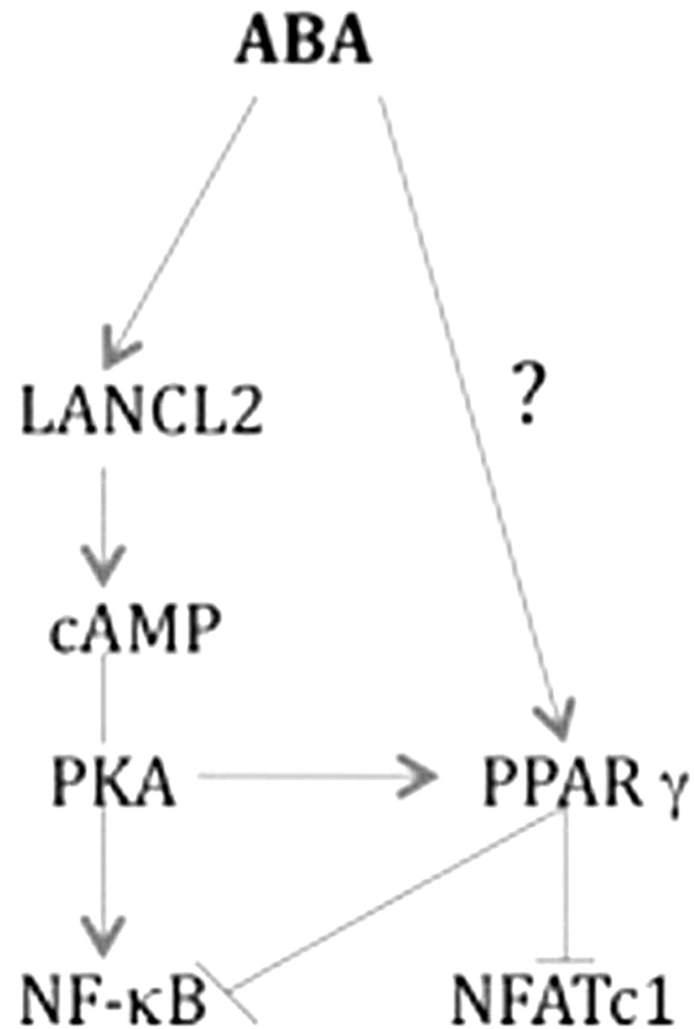




# Molecular Mechanisms of Action

- Increased PPAR $\gamma$  reporter activity in RAW 264.7 macrophages, adipocytes and mouse tissues
- ABA does not bind to PPAR $\gamma$
- Predicted binding of ABA to LANCL2 in silico
- Activation of PPAR $\gamma$  by ABA requires LANCL2 expression
- Activation of cAMP accumulation in lymphocytes

# LANCL2 Pathway



# Acknowledgements

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