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Dendritic cells in gut Mucosal Homeostasis

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Dysfunction of the mucosal immune system leading to inappropriate recognition of commensal bacteria plays a central role in development of inflammatory bowel disease. Dendritic cells (DCs) are emerging as critical mediators of immune homeostasis through selective induction of immune responses. DCs form an extensive network in the intestinal lamina propria, project transepithelial dendrites to sample the luminal environment, and deliver antigens to mesenteric lymph nodes to induce either tolerance or immune response. While DCs are recognized as critical in maintaining mucosal homeostasis, the mechanisms by which they fulfill this role have not been fully elucidated. The role of CD83 homotypic interactions in DC regulation and other emerging mechanisms will be reviewed.

Biography

Diehl is a senior pathologist and group leader at Genentech. She has more than 10 years of drug development experience in the area of immunologically mediated disease, especially inflammatory bowel disease. Her research interest is the role of the innate immune system in maintenance of intestinal mucosal homeostasis.

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