

CD137 Pathway: Immunology and Diseases

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Edited by

LIEPING CHEN

John Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD, USA

 Springer

Editor:

Lieping Chen
Department of Dermatology and Oncology
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
600 N. Wolf Street, Jefferson 1-121
Baltimore, MD 21205
lchen42@jhmi.edu

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Preface

It is still hard to believe that manipulation of a single protein on the cell surface or an interaction of two or more proteins, which at times is collectively referred to as a “pathway,” could have such a profound effect on our immune system. At present, a number of such proteins or pathways have been identified. These observations could only be interpreted in a way that, although tens of thousand of proteins are required for a perfectly healthy immune system, many of these pathways may work in either interconnected or linear fashion. Therefore, the combined understanding of each pathway, their interactions with other pathways, and the functional consequence, is a cornerstone for our interpretation of pathological basis of diseases and future treatments. It is important to stay abreast on the pace of progress, which I refer to as periodic summary of incremental and breakthrough discoveries in each pathway by the experts and the leader in the field. The *CD137 Pathway: Immunology and Diseases* represents such an effort and this is the first attempt to summarize our understanding of the CD137 pathway. The following chapters cover the majority of active areas of research in this pathway and also provide an essential resource to both the nonexperts and experts in the field.

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Lieping Chen

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Contributors

Ainhoa Arina

Centro de Investigación Médica
Aplicada y Clínica Universitaria
Universidad de Navarra
Pamplona, Spain

Becker Hewes

Department of Pediatric Hematology
and Oncology
Emory University School of Medicine
954 Gatewood Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Byoung S. Kwon

Department of Ophthalmology
LSU Eye Center, Louisiana State University
Health Sciences Center
New Orleans, LA
USA

Dass S. Vinay

Department of Ophthalmology
LSU Eye Center, Louisiana State University
Health Sciences Center
New Orleans, LA
USA

Eduardo Huarte

Centro de Investigación Médica
Aplicada y Clínica Universitaria
Universidad de Navarra
Pamplona, Spain

Herbert Schwarz

Department of Physiology,
National University of Singapore
2 Medical Drive, MD 9
Singapore 117597

Hyeon-Woo Lee

Department of Pharmacology
School of Dentistry
Kyung Hee University
Seoul 130-701, Korea

Ignacio Melero

Centro de Investigación Médica
Aplicada y Clínica Universitaria
Universidad de Navarra
Pamplona, Spain

Iñigo Tirapu

Centro de Investigación Médica
Aplicada y Clínica Universitaria
Universidad de Navarra
Pamplona, Spain

Juan José Lasarte

Centro de Investigación Médica
Aplicada y Clínica Universitaria
Universidad de Navarra
Pamplona, Spain

Juergen Foell

Division of Pediatrics, Hematology,
Oncology, and Immunology
Martin Luther University
Halle-Wittenberg, 06097
Halle, Germany

Laura Arribillaga

Centro de Investigación Médica
Aplicada y Clínica Universitaria
Universidad de Navarra
Pamplona, Spain

Lieping Chen

Department of Dermatology and Oncology
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
600 N. Wolf Street, Jefferson 1-121
Baltimore, MD 21205

Liguo Niu

Emory Vaccine Center, Emory University
School of Medicine
954 Gatewood Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Oihana Murillo

Centro de Investigación Médica
Aplicada y Clínica Universitaria
Universidad de Navarra
Pamplona, Spain

Robert S. Mittler

Department of Surgery, Emory Vaccine
Center
Emory University School of Medicine
954 Gatewood Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Yang-Xin Fu

The Department of Pathology and Committee in
Immunology
The University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois, USA

Yonglian Sun

The Department of Pathology and Committee in
Immunology
The University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois, USA

Yuwen Zhu

Department of Dermatology and Oncology
Johns Hopkins University School of
Medicine
Baltimore, MD
USA