

# Adaptation of humans to new environments - from space to the patient

Translation of knowledge and technology from a clinical scientists' perspective:  
*the Stress-responses and Immune Network*

To contact, mail to [achouker@med-uni-muenchen.de](mailto:achouker@med-uni-muenchen.de)



By Alexander Choukèr  
Hospital of the University of Munich, Germany

Chairman ESA Topical Team „Stress and Immunology  
Chairman ESA Life Sciences Working Group (LSWG)

Mail

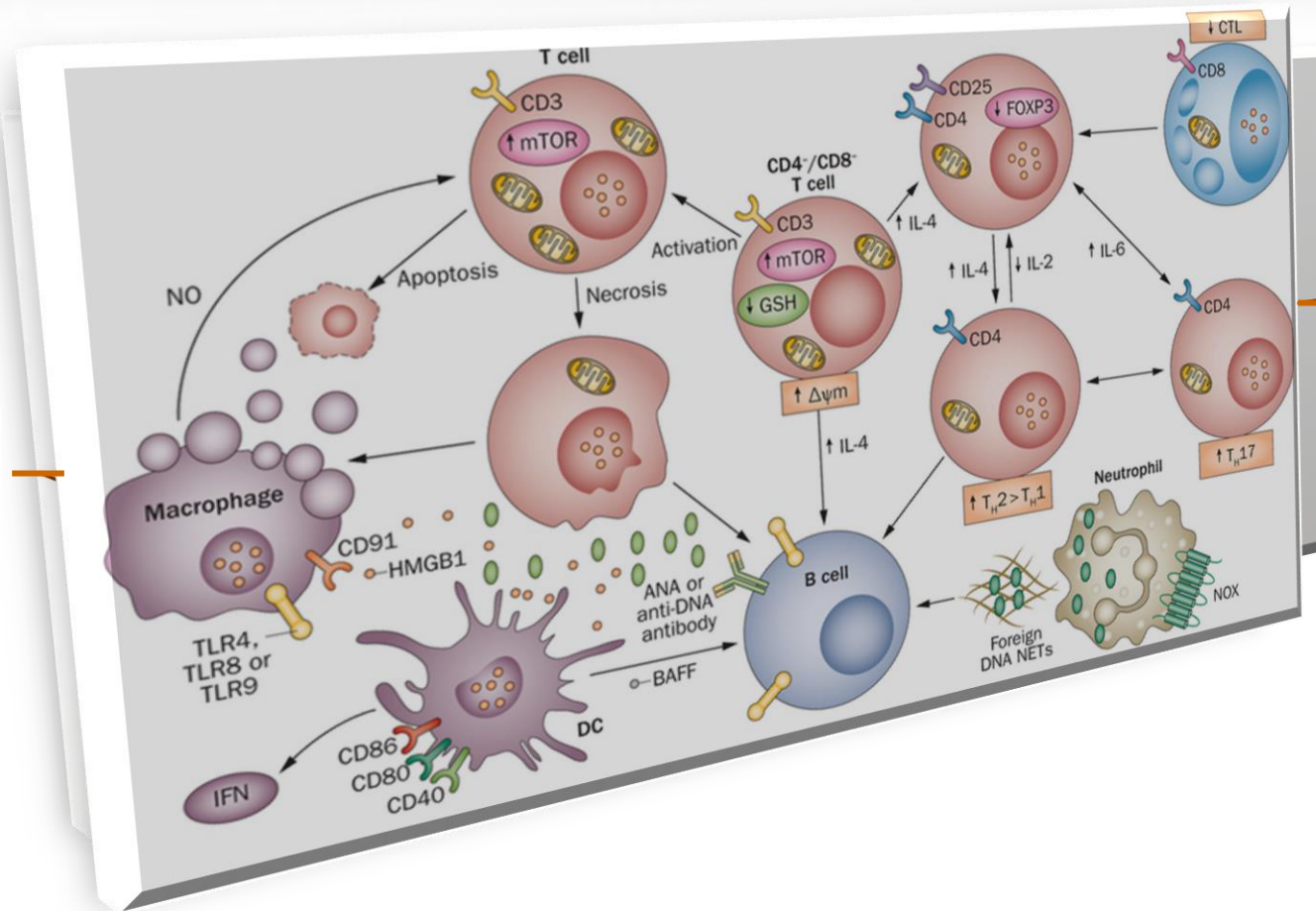


UNITED NATIONS/COSTA RICA  
WORKSHOP ON HUMAN  
SPACE TECHNOLOGY

7-11 MARCH, 2016 • SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

# Immun-Networks

Stress —



Stress  
responses



# Immunity and Health

Cause of death

Woundhealing - trauma

Host defense -infections

Malignancies

Degenerative diseases

Reproduction

Lifetime



# The Immunsystem of Tomorrow?

## On Earth

### Increase of Immune-associated disease

- > „Worldwide, the **rise** in prevalence of **allergic diseases** has continued in the industrialized world for more than 50 years (AAAAI)”
- > „**Autoimmune disease** prevalence is **rising** (NIH)”
- > “The **incidence of sepsis is increasing** in all areas of the world where epidemiology studies have been conducted” (GS Martin)



## Changes of immune competence by mobility, new environmental and social stresses?

## In Space

### Imbalance of immune functions

- > ca. 50 % of space crew (Apollo) and 40 % of long duration crew (MIR/ISS) showed significant immune changes
- > Astronauts are subjected to very new environmental stressor



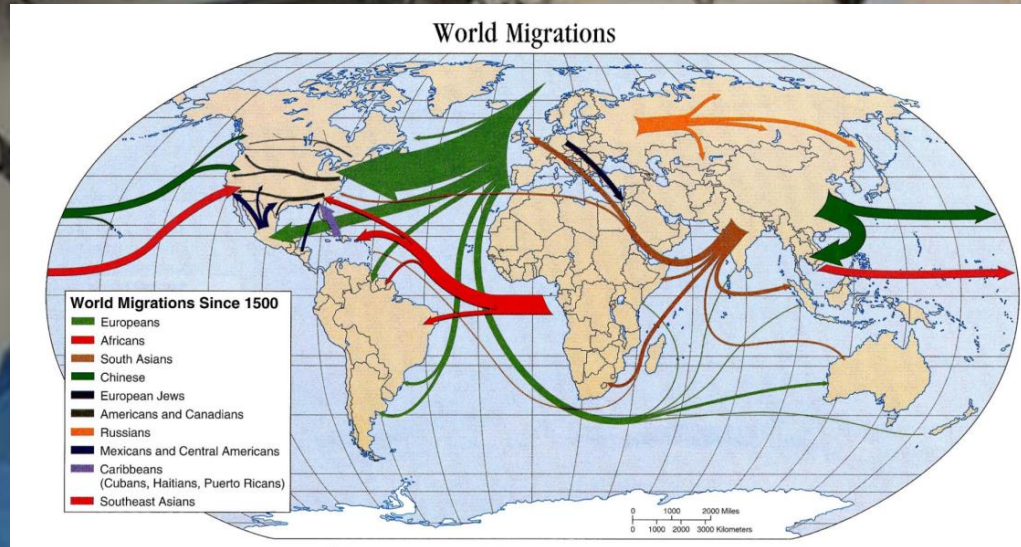
Need to understand **changes in a few** to enable safe Space Exploration  
**AND**

To understand stress associated immune **adaptation of many**





# Environmental challenges



# Monitoring disease

Translation of knowledge and technology from a clinical scientists' perspective  
- MONITORING ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY -

## HIV

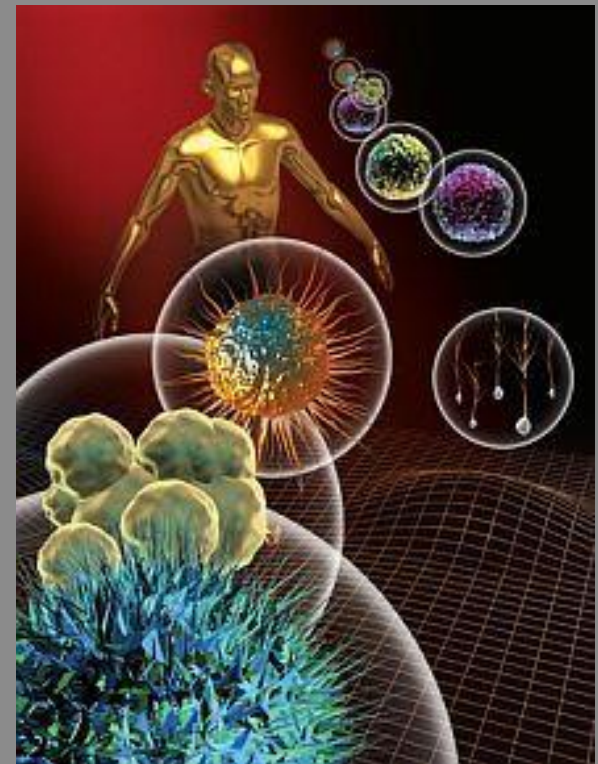
-monitoring of disease states and therapy in HIV positive patients (a pilot study)

## HoSPACE

-was part of a prospective, randomized, multicentric clinical trial in patients suffering from severe inflammation (SISPCT full trial)

-using a battery of immunology assays  
Evolved from ESA/IBMP, ESA/NASA and NASA projects to monitor immune-dys function in 76 sepsis patients

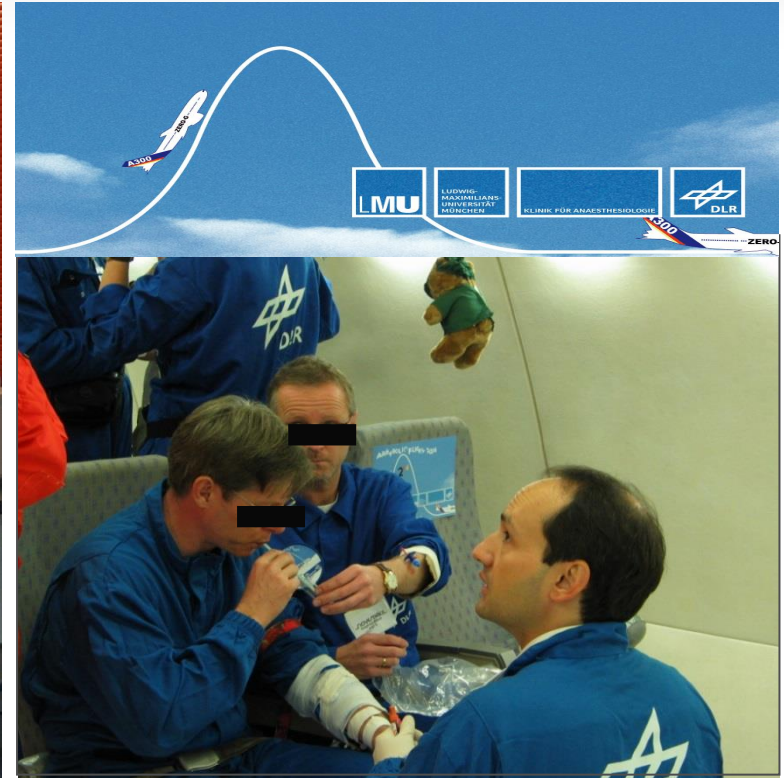
Registered with [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) (NCT00832039)





# Monitoring disease

Translation of knowledge and technology from a clinical scientists' perspective  
- NON-INVASIVE MONITORING OF INFLAMMATION -



## Propionaldehyde:

- healthy volunteer during parabolic flight (blue boxes =6)
  - healthy volunteers (dark grey boxes, n=17),
  - intensive care unit population(light grey boxes, n=12),
  - patients after lung/heart–lung transplantation(white boxes, n=7)
- Kruskal-Wallis ranksum test with post hoc Nemenyitest; #P<.001

Dolch ME, Choukèr A et al Free Radic Biol Med. **2015** Aug;85:157-64  
Dolch ME, Frey L et al J Breath Res. **2008** Sep;2(3):037010.



# Embedding research for space into research on Earth

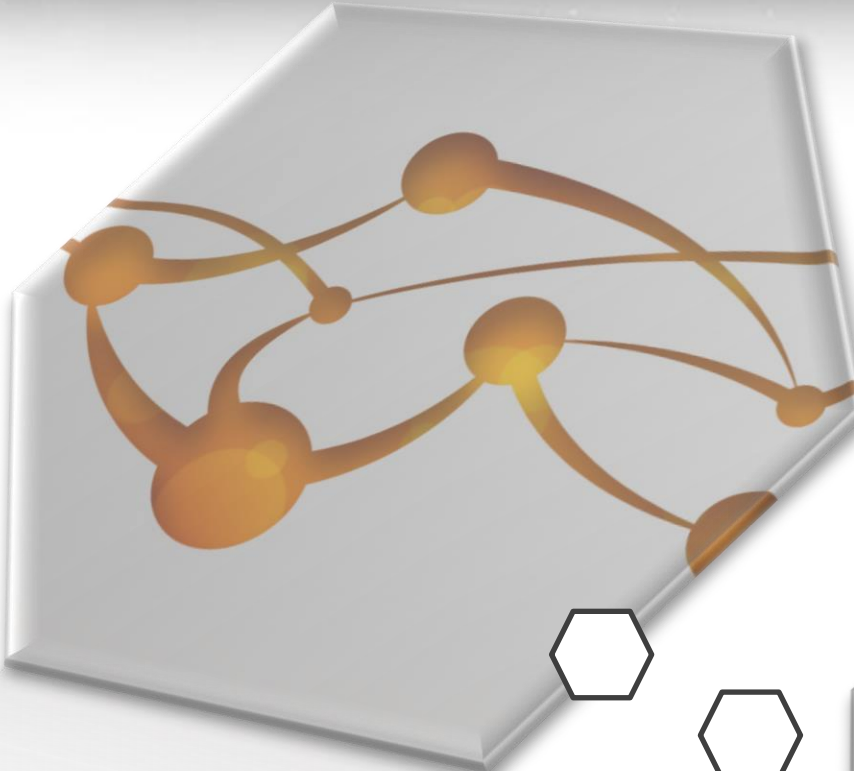




# The Immunsystem of tomorrow?

- Looking beyond the borders-

LMU



Interdisciplinary &  
International network  
for *space* and *Earth*  
*benefits and progress*  
in applied  
(bio-)technologies



中国科学院  
CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

中国科学院  
CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

