

# Senescence and Cancer

**Pier Giuseppe Pelicci**

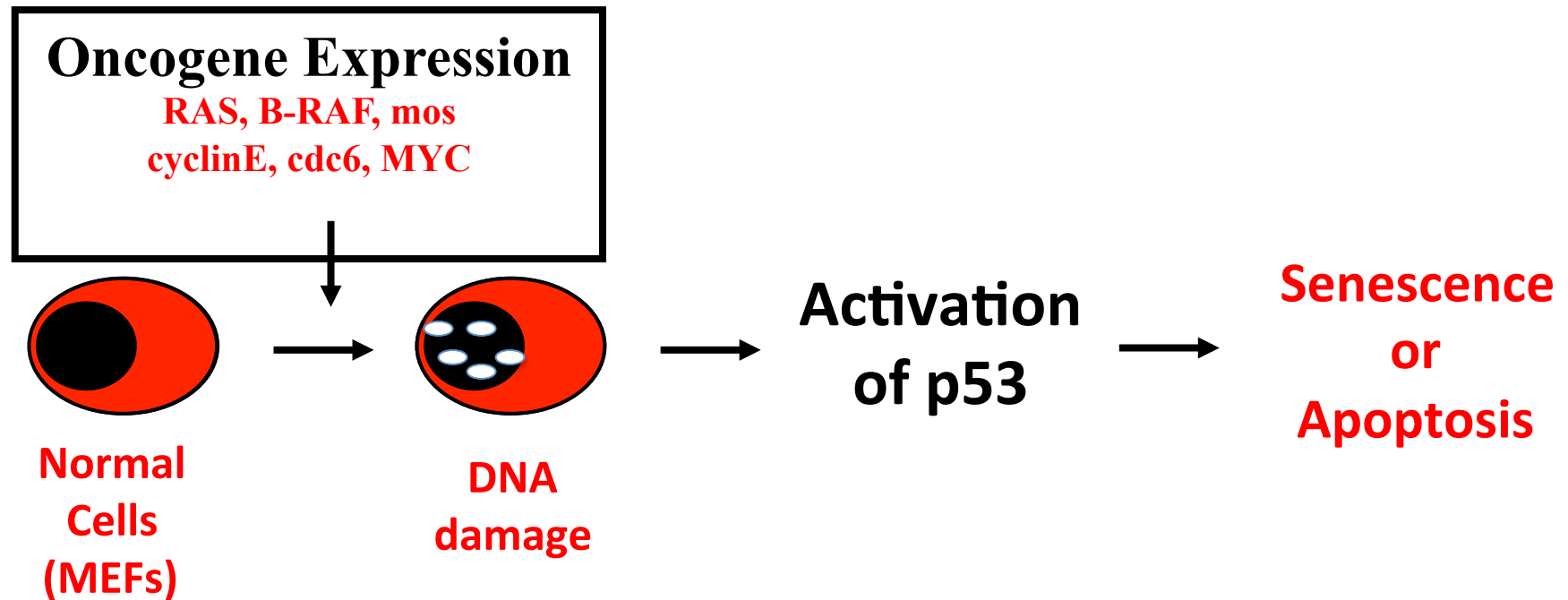
**Milan, Italy**



**5° International Symposium on Secondary Leukemias and Leukemogenesis**

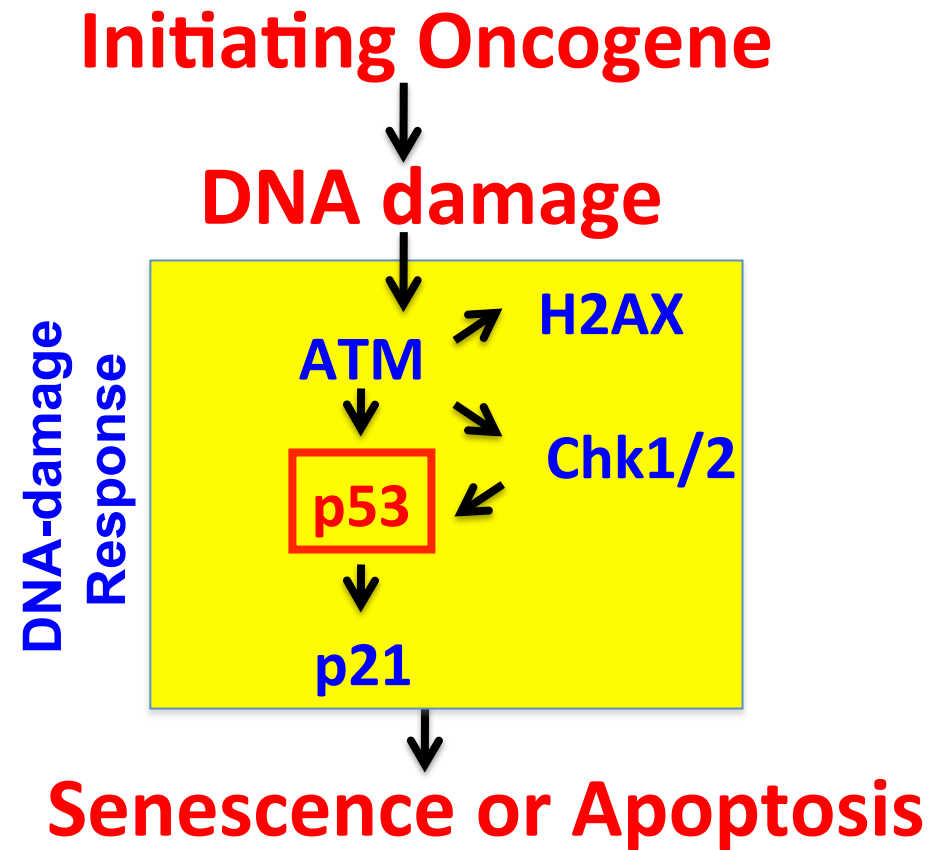
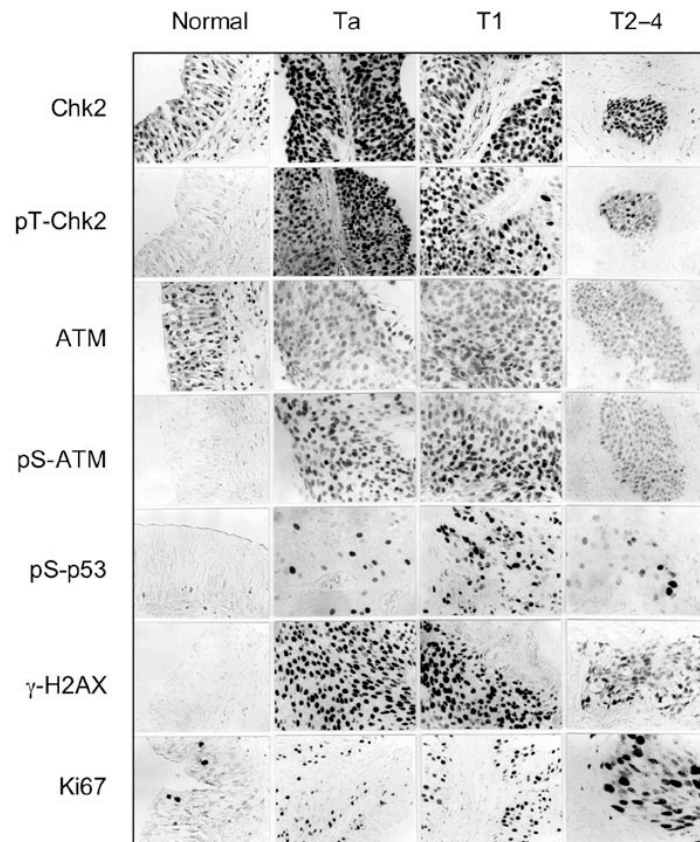
**Rome - September 22-24, 2016**

**Expression of activated oncogenes in normal cells induces DNA damage and activates a p53-dependent Checkpoint-response leading to Senescence or Apoptosis**



**In the absence of p53, oncogene expression induces transformation**

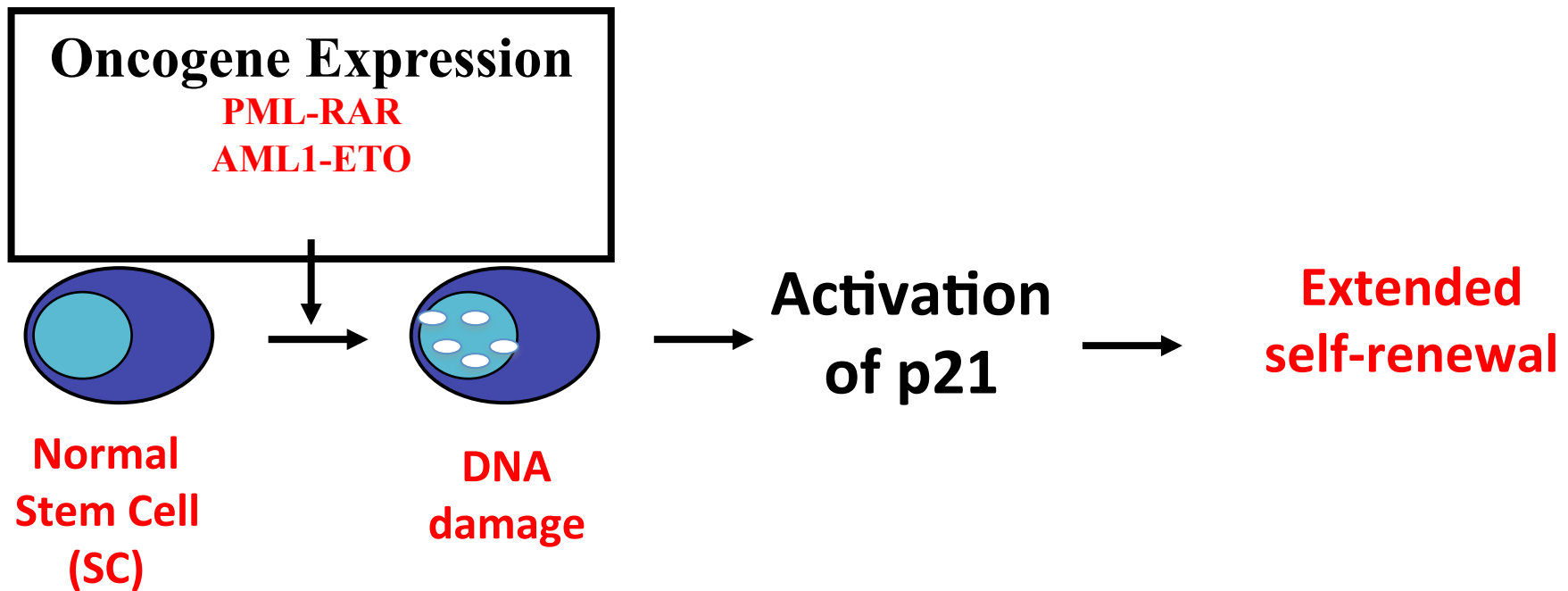
**In pre-tumoral lesions (*lung, colon, prostate, bladder; melanomas, lymphomas*) :**  
**Oncogene expression correlates with accumulation**  
**of DNA damage and activation of the p53-checkpoint response**



**In model systems:**

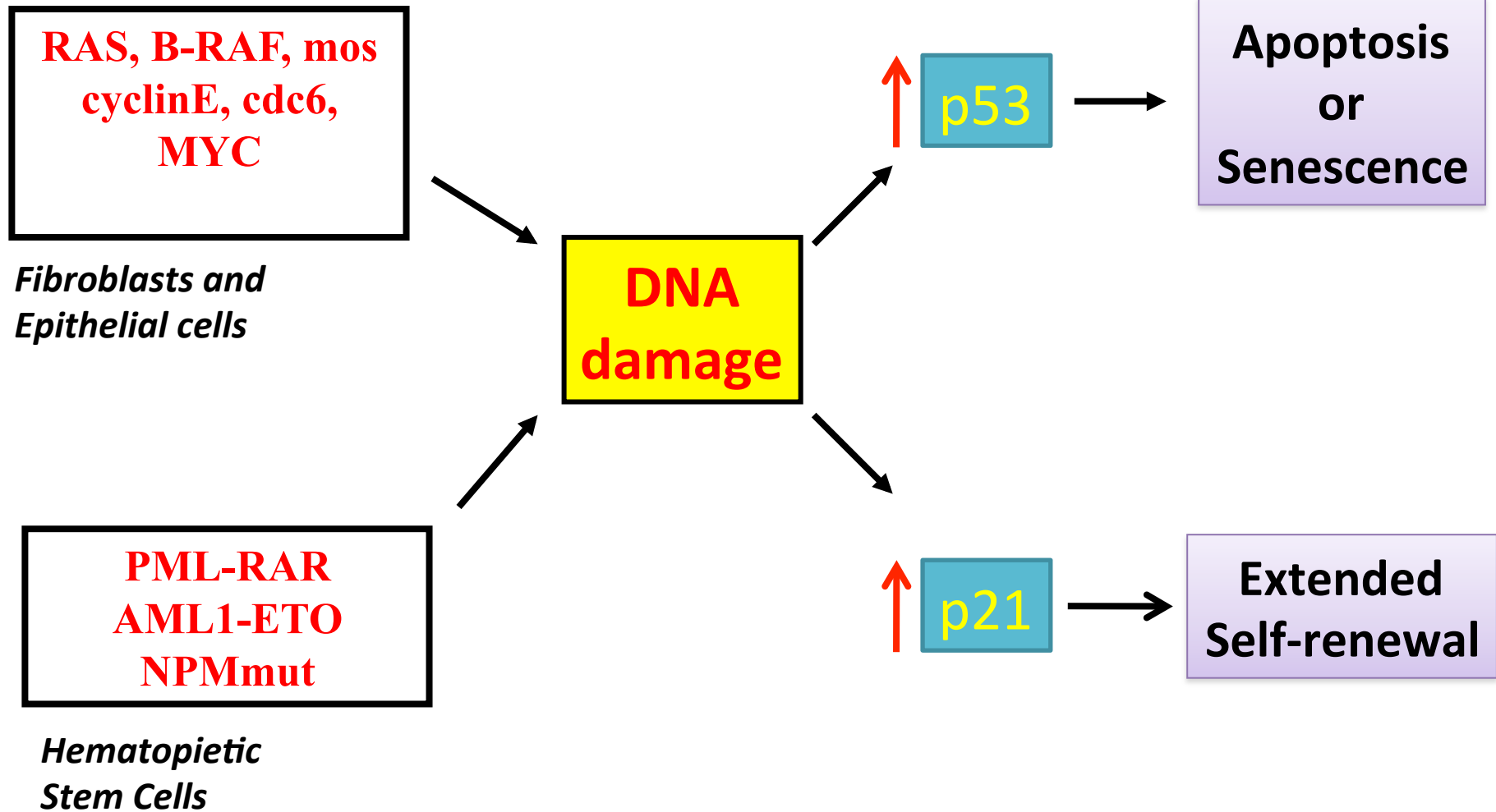
**Activation of the p53 checkpoint-response limits tumor progression**

**Oncogene expression in normal Hematopoietic Stem Cells  
Induces DNA damage and a p21-dependent response  
that extends their replicative potential**



*Viale et al., Nature 2010*

# Why different oncogene-responses in different cells?



# Hematopoietic progenitors: X-Rays induce p53-dependent apoptosis

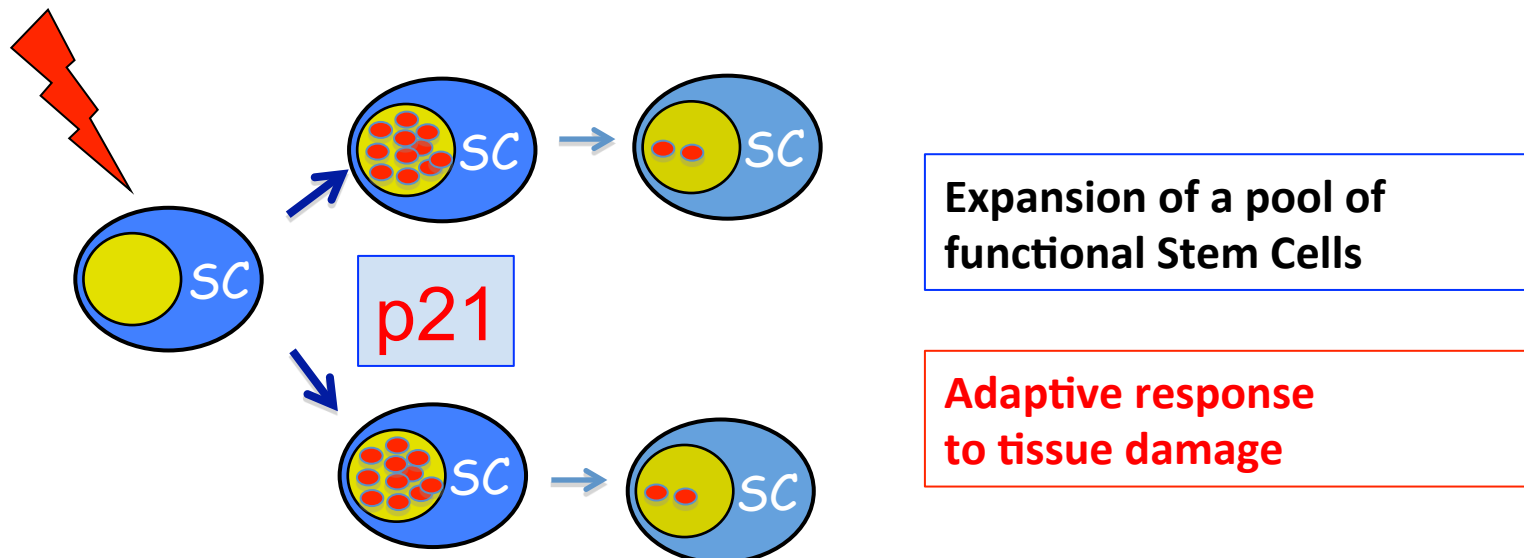


# Normal Hematopoietic Stem Cells

## Effects of X-ray treatment:

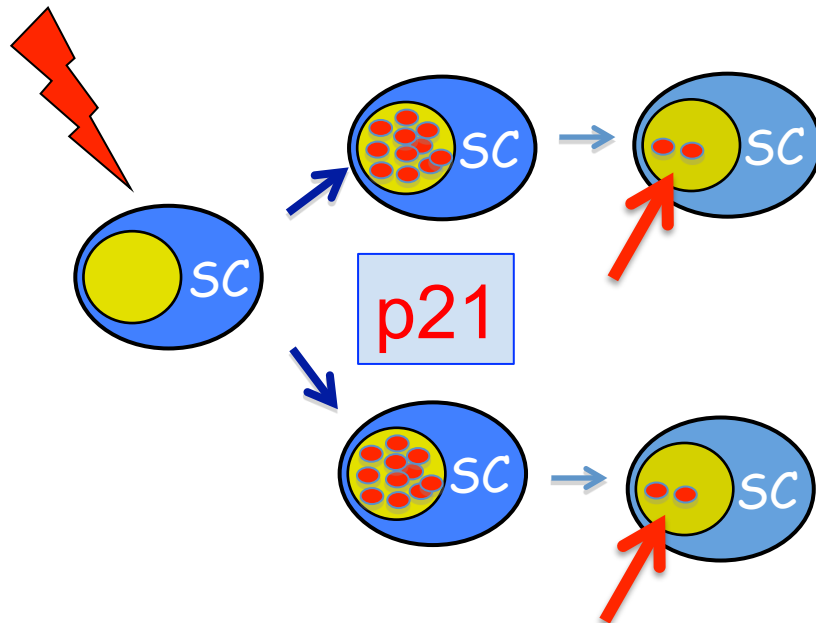
- Does not induce p53-dep apoptosis/senesc.
- Induces one round of symmetric division
- Activates DNA repair
- Dependent on p21 expression

### Transient DNA-damage



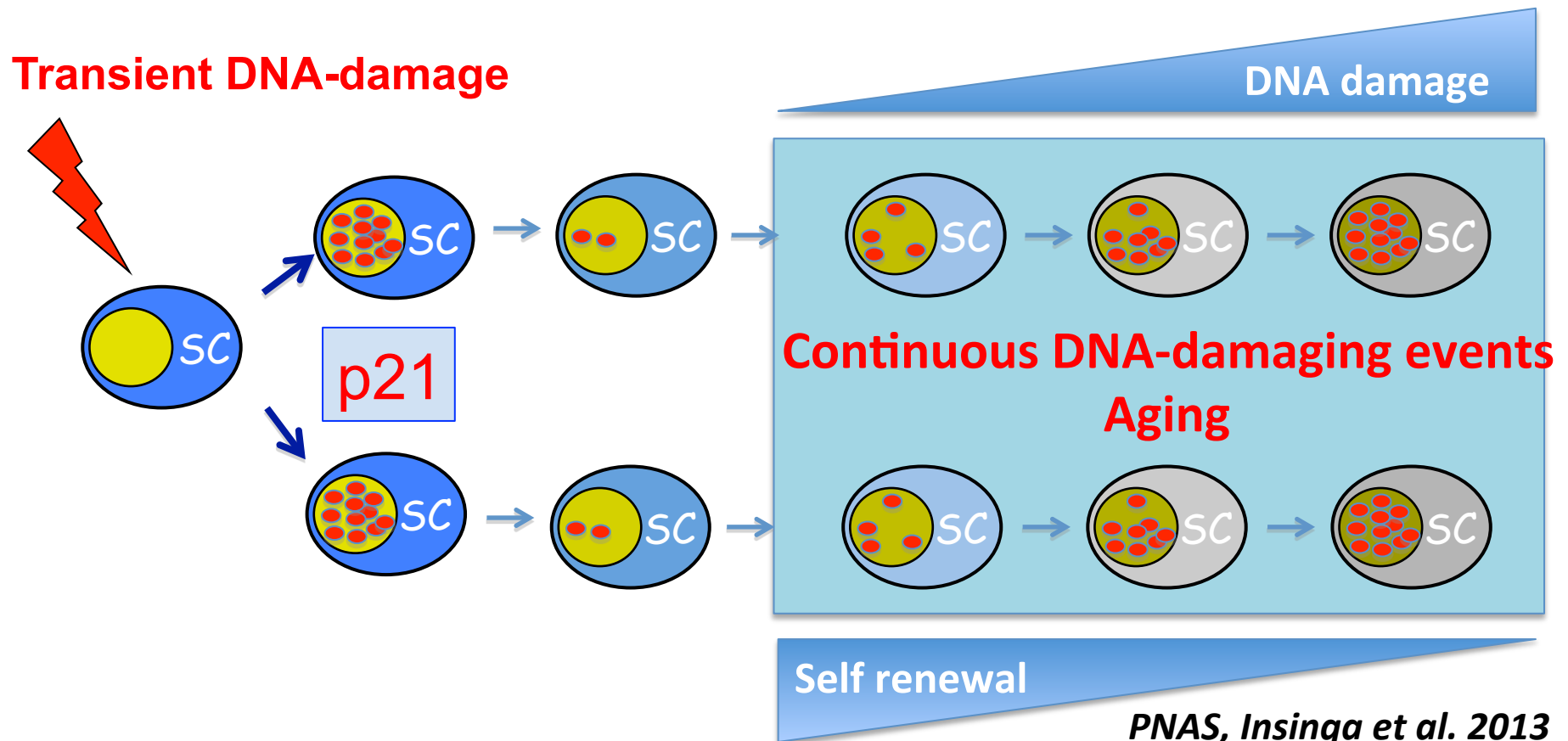
- DNA repair is never complete

**Transient DNA-damage**



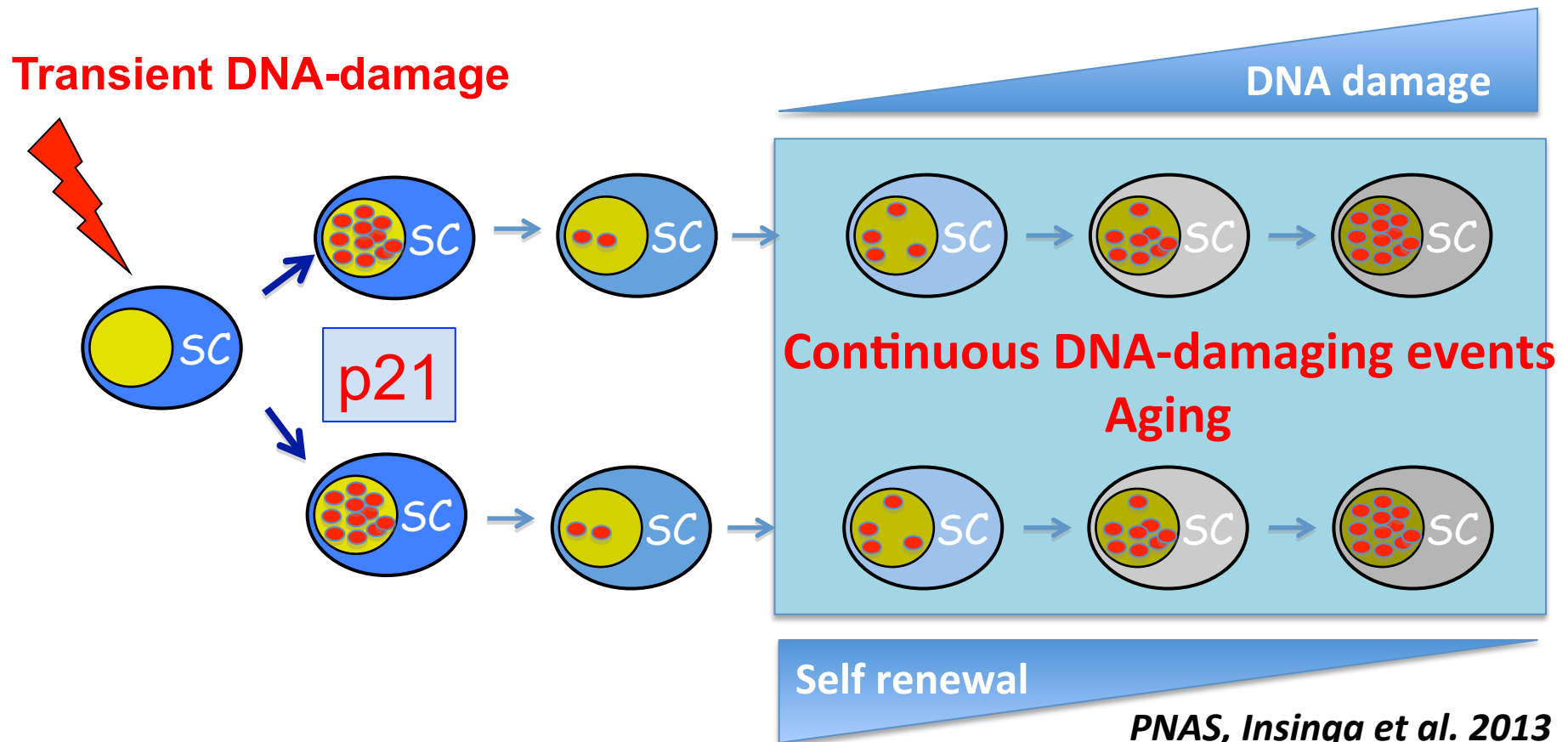


- DNA repair is never complete
- After multiple DNA-damaging events or during aging: progressive accumulation of persistent DNA damage and loss of self-renewal (tumor suppression)



# Normal Hematopoietic Stem Cells

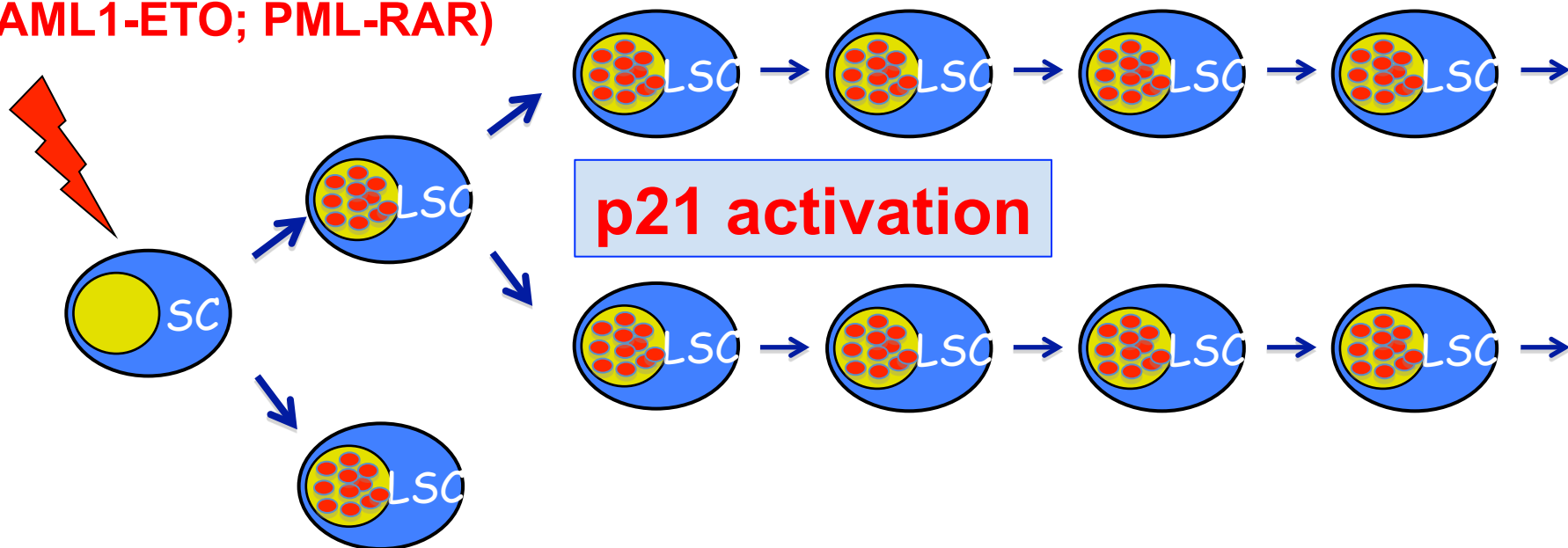
have evolved a p21-dependent response to DNA damage that leads to their immediate expansion and limits their long-term survival (tumor suppression mechanism?)



## Leukemia SCs: Effects of oncogene expression

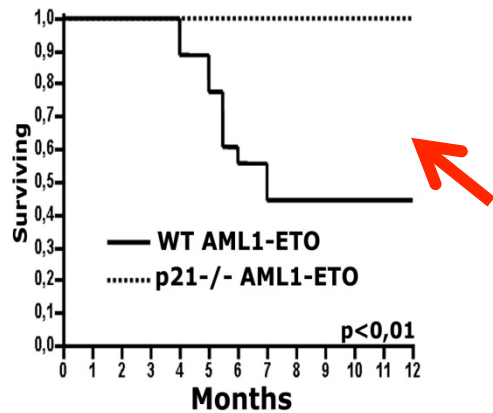
- DNA-damage
- p21 constitutive activation
- Active DNA repair
- Extended self-renewal

Initiating Oncogenes  
(AML1-ETO; PML-RAR)



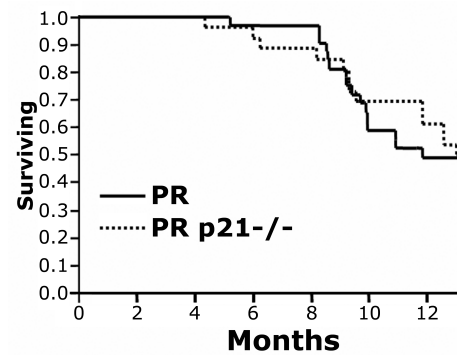
# In the absence of p21, leukemogenesis does not proceed

## AML1-ETO in p21<sup>-/-</sup> mice

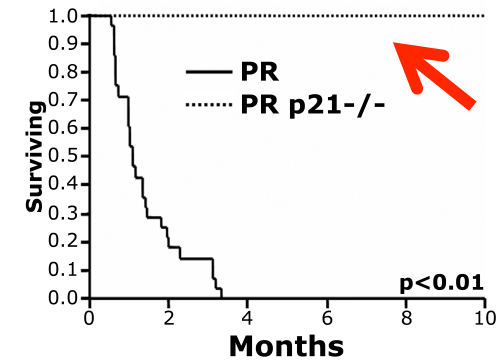


No leukemia

## PML-RAR in p21<sup>-/-</sup> mice

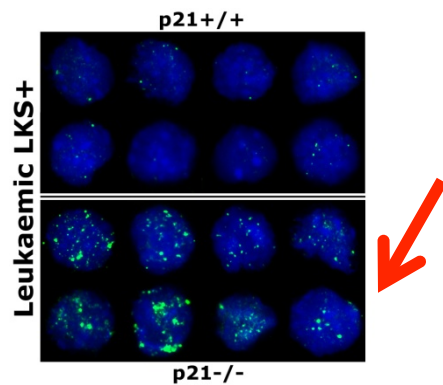


Leukemia

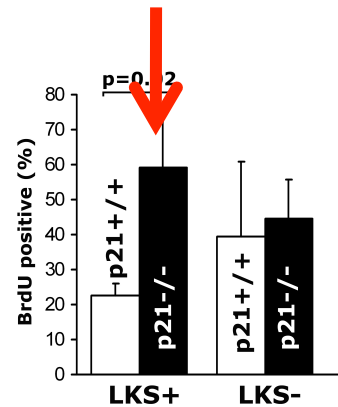


Not  
transplantable

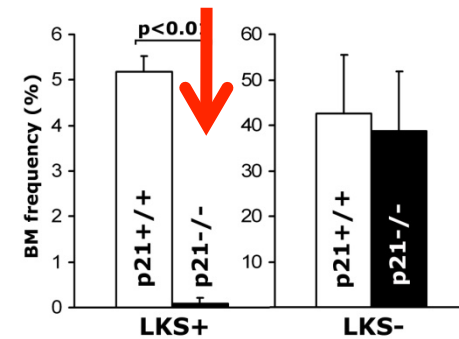
In the  $p21^{-/-}$  APLs,  
LSCs accumulate massive DNA-damage,  
hyperproliferate and are reduced in numbers



Accumulate massive  
DNA damage

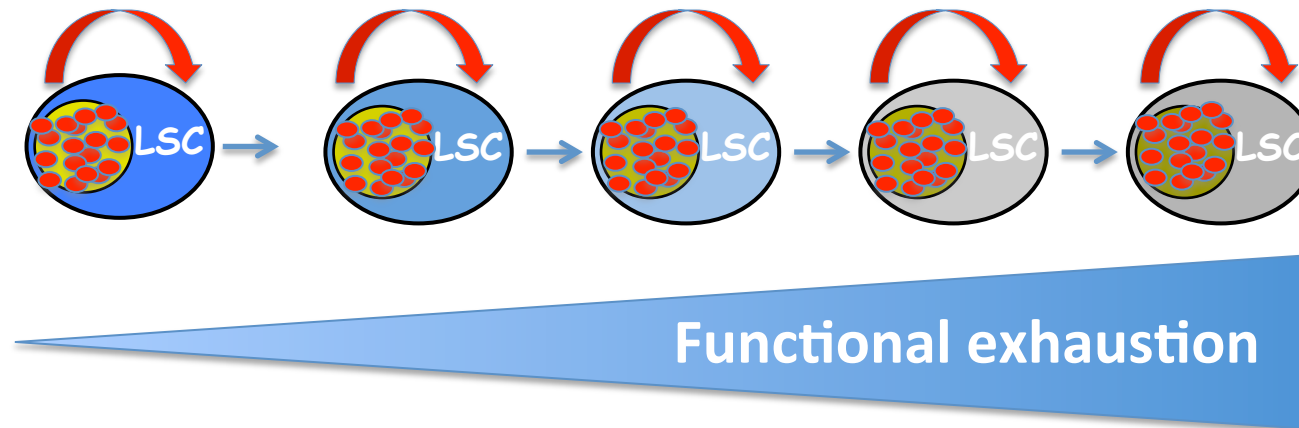


Hyper-proliferate

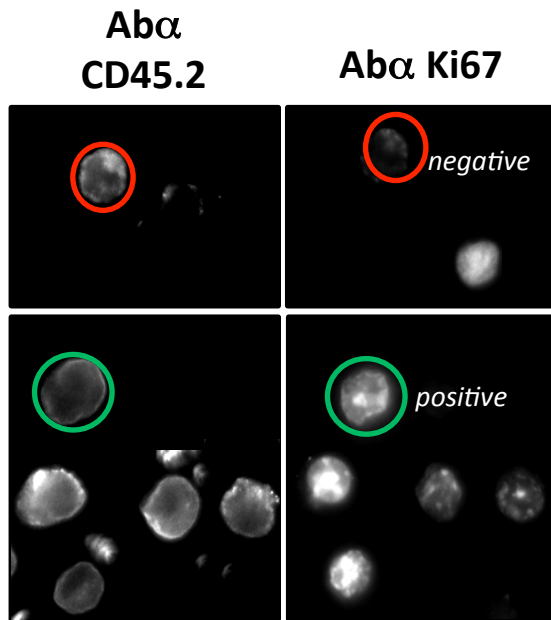


Are markedly reduced  
in numbers

## In the absence of p21, LSCs hyperproliferate and progressively lose self-renewal



In the healthy mice transplanted with p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs, rare blasts are found in the PB, BM and spleen, which hyper-proliferate and do not show increased apoptosis



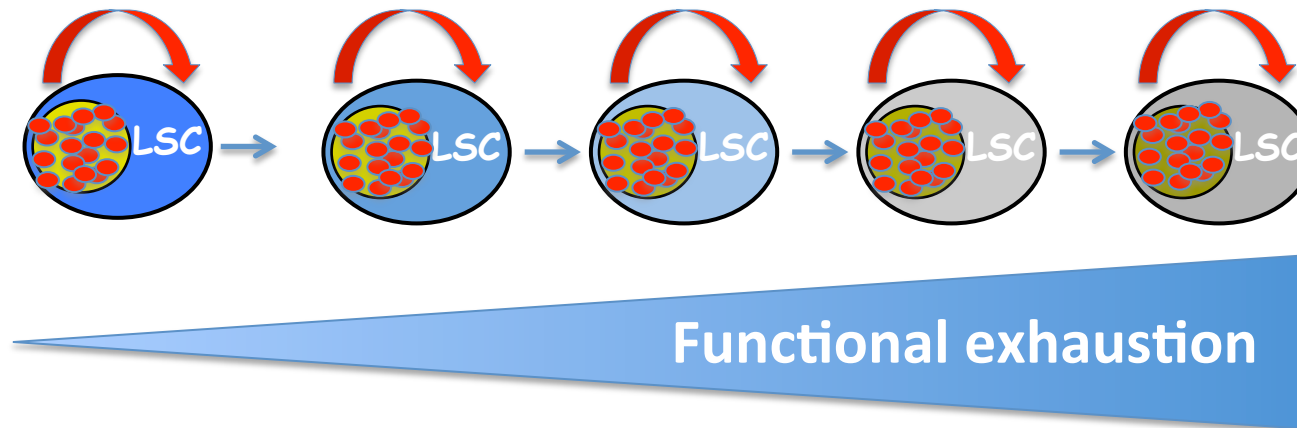
	% 5.2+ Ki67 <u>G1</u>	% 5.2+ Ki67 <u>G2/M</u>	% 5.2+ Casp3+
p21 <sup>-/-</sup> PR ki	64.5	<b>27.3</b>	2.7
PR ki	18.3	<b>10.8</b>	1.6



**No leukemia after transplantation  
(0/5)**

*unpublished*

## In the absence of p21, LSCs hyperproliferate and progressively lose self-renewal



- Why the  $p21^{-/-}$  LSCs do not expand in vivo?
- Do they senesce?
- How are cleared in vivo?

**Are cell-extrinsic mechanisms involved?**





**M. Vittoria  
Verga-Falzacappa**

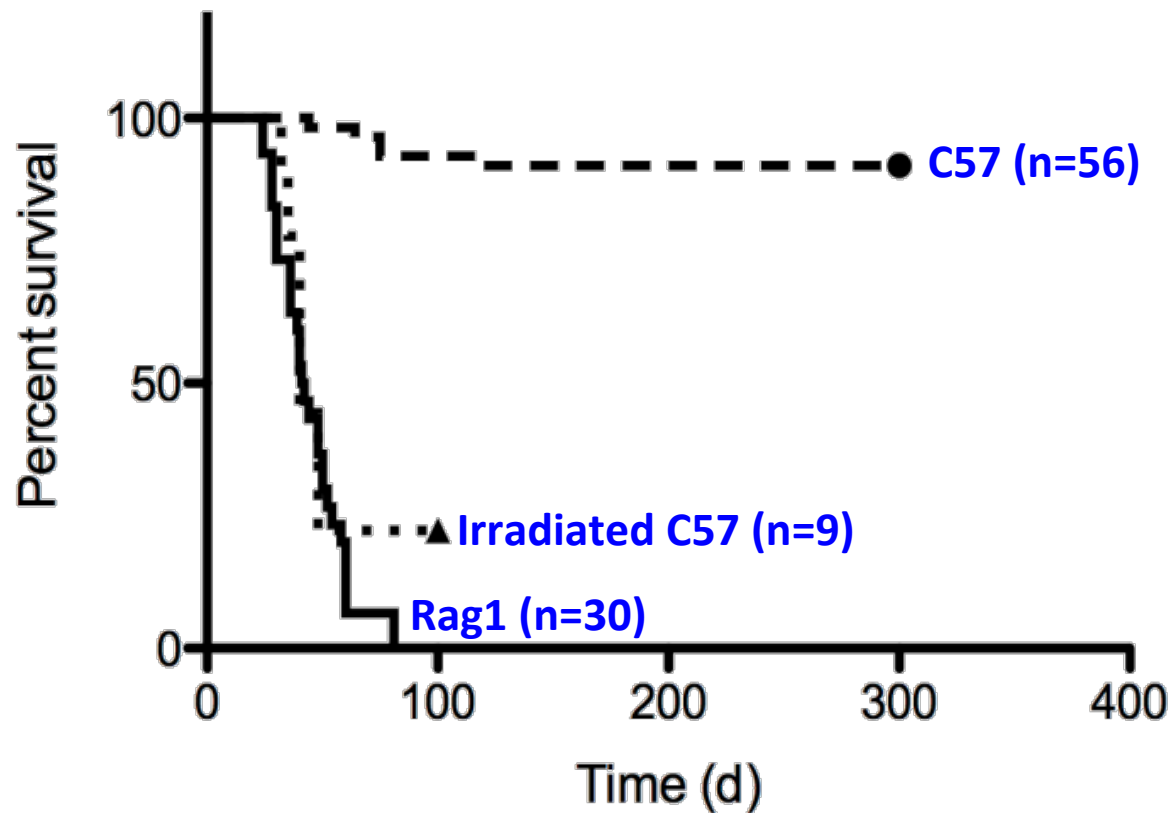
**Alessandra  
Insinga**

**Olga  
Tanaskovic**

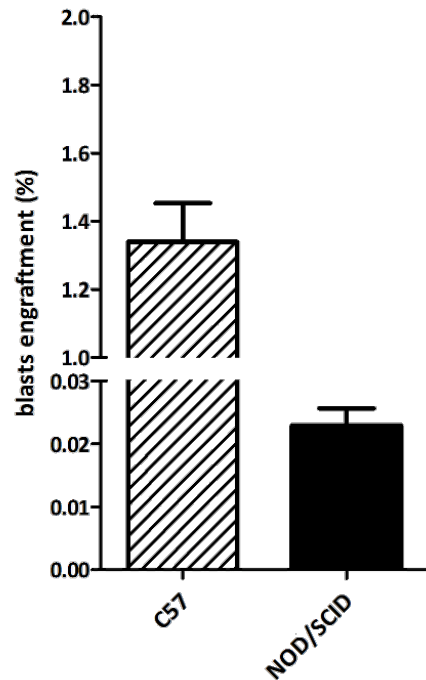
**Barbara  
Gallo**

*Manuscript in preparation*

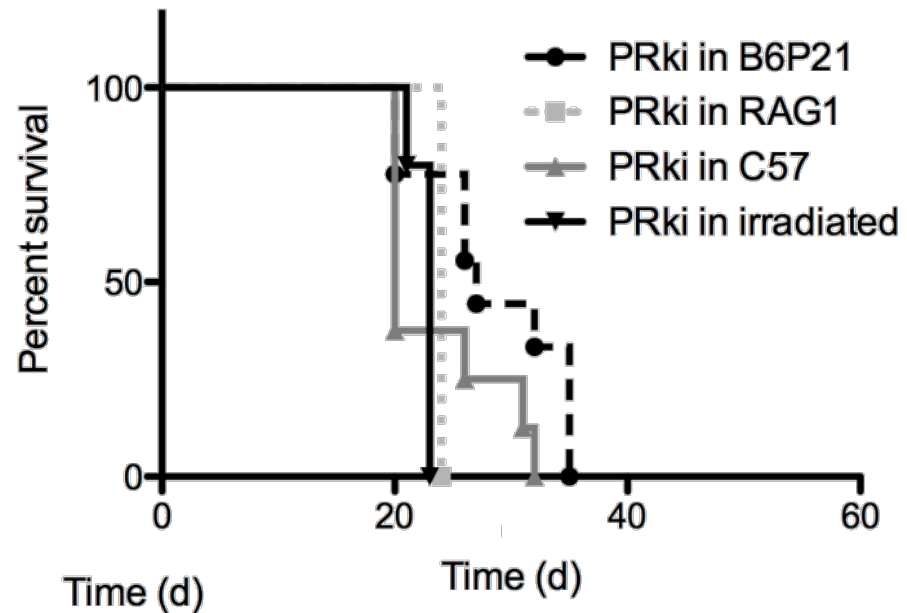
**p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs “re-acquire” the ability to initiate leukemogenesis  
when transplanted  
into immunodeficient mice  
or into syngenic mice after  $\gamma$ -irradiation**



**Transplantation of p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs in immunodeficient mice  
is NOT due to facilitated homing or  
different growth potential in immunodeficient vs syngenic mice**



**Homing of p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs in syngenic and immunodeficient mice**

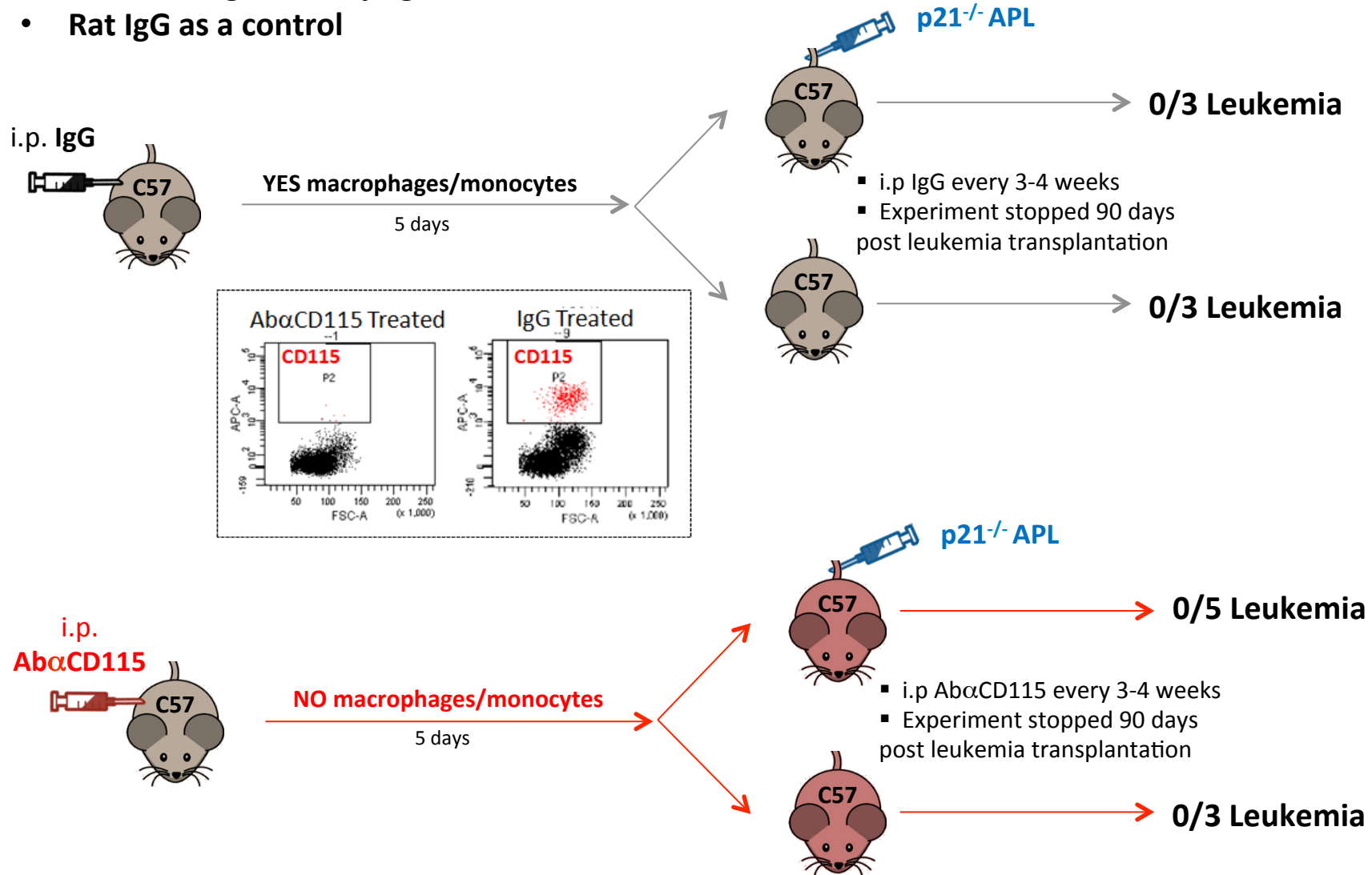


**Growth of APL in RAG1, C57, irradiated (6Gy) C57 and C57 p21<sup>-/-</sup>**

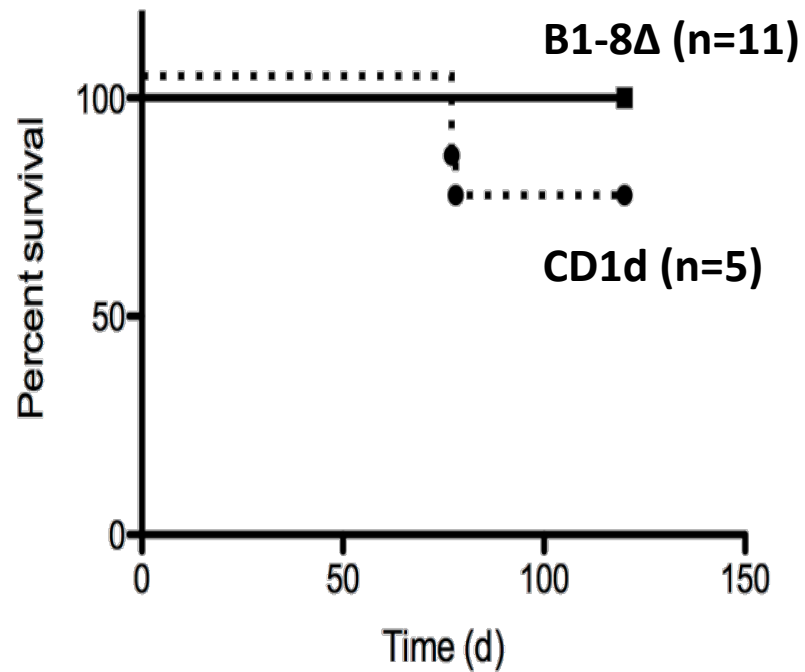
**p21<sup>-/-</sup> APL growth depends on the immunological status of the recipient**

# Macrophages and Monocytes of recipient mice are not involved in the immune-mediated clearance of p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs

- Neutralizing antibody against CD115
- Rat IgG as a control

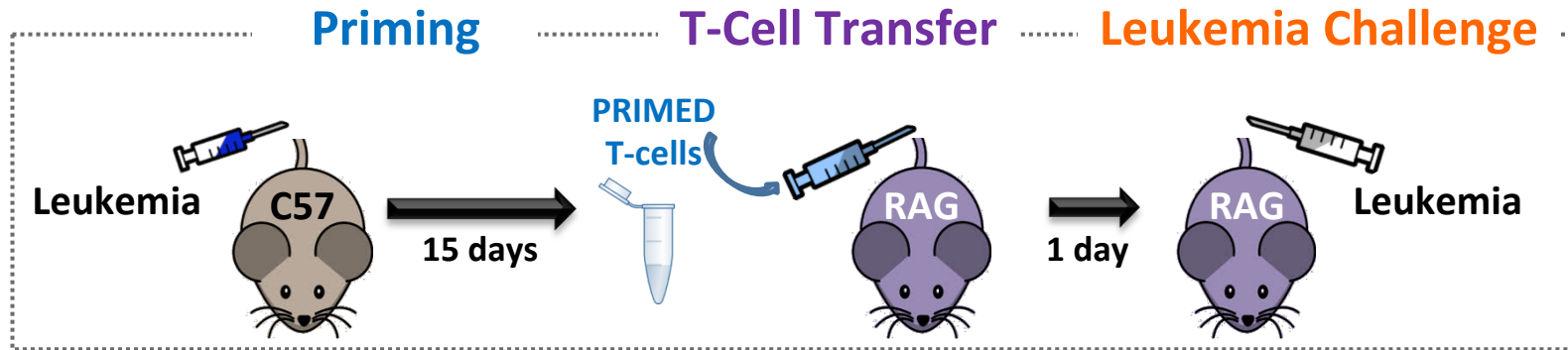


## B and T-NK cells of recipient mice are not involved in the immune-mediated clearance of p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs



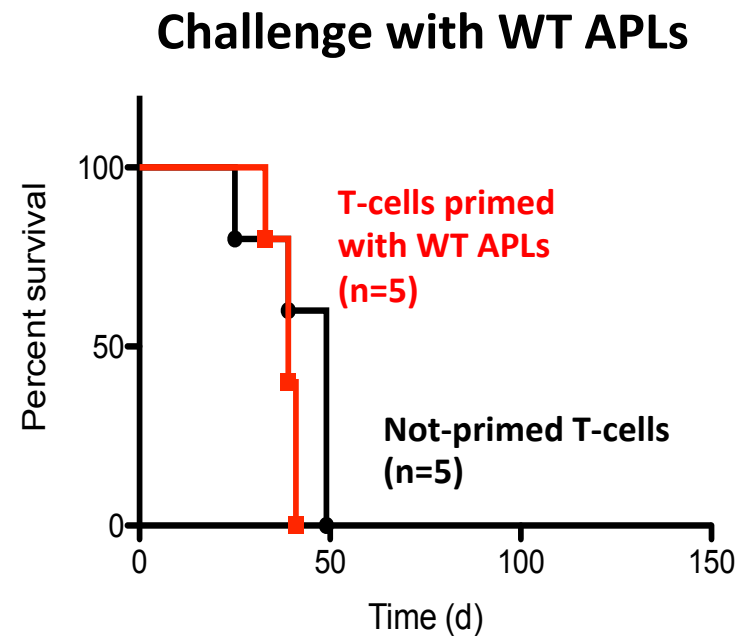
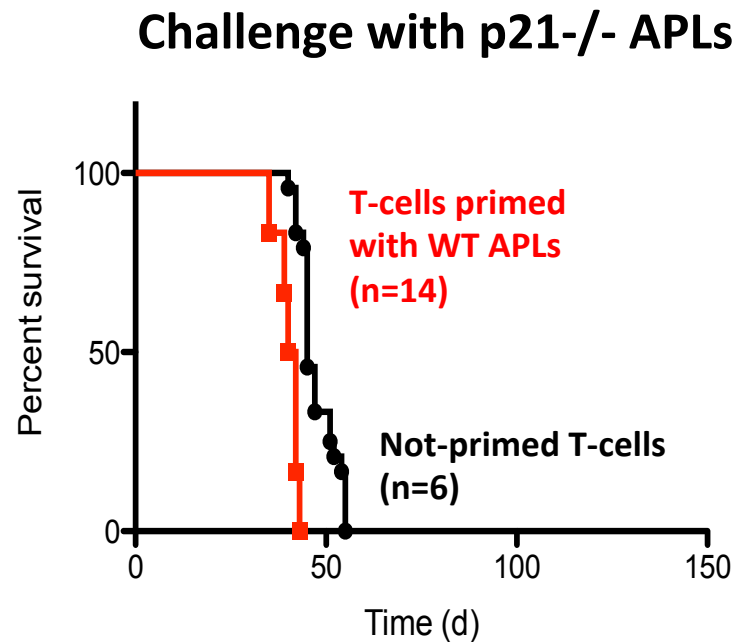
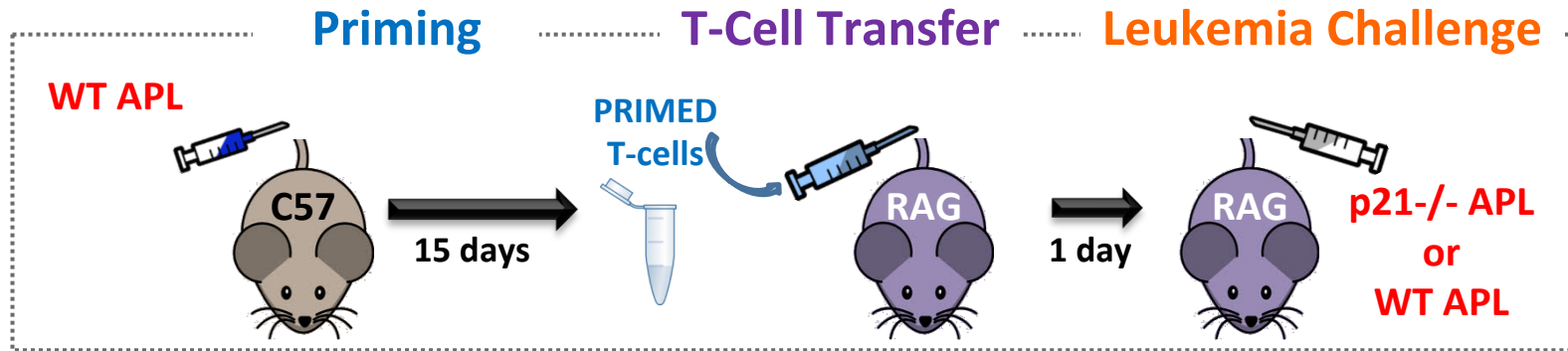
**B1-8Δ (B-deficient) and CD1d (T-NK deficient)  
recipients injected with p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs**

# Are T-cells Involved in the clearance of p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs *in vivo*?

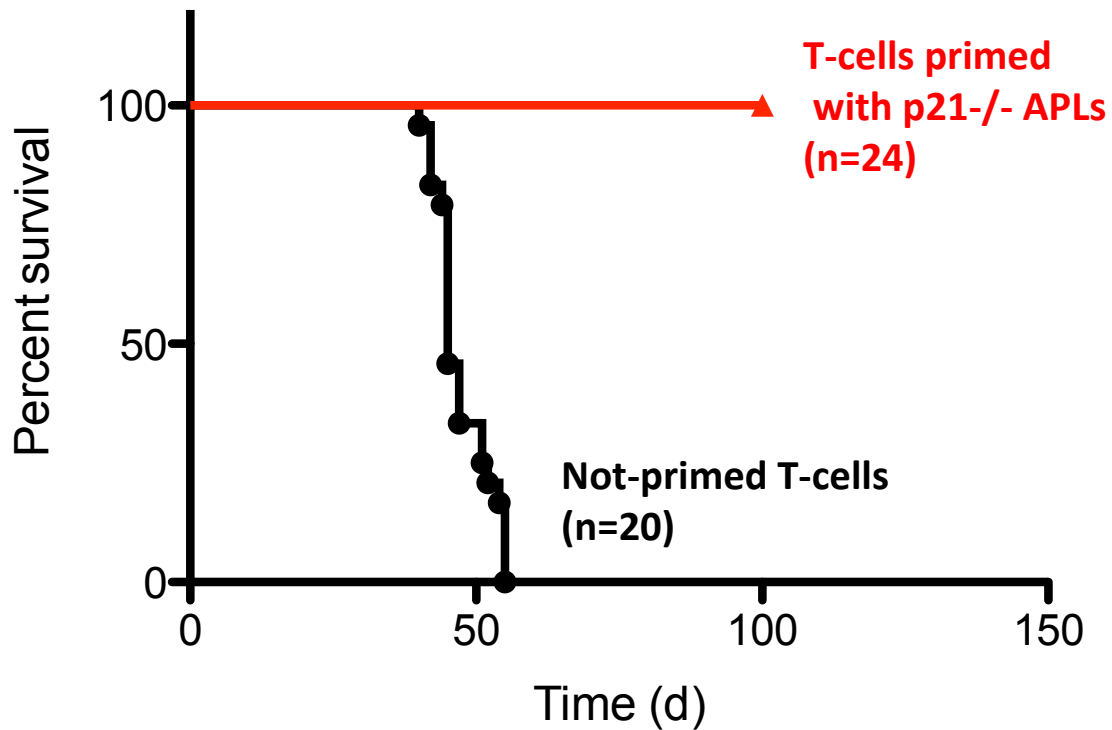
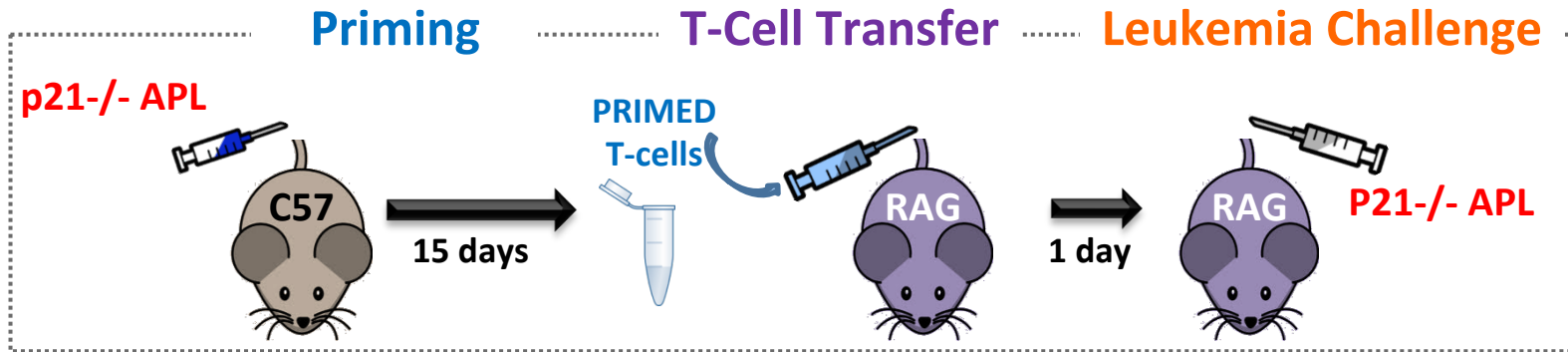


- **Priming:** Immunocompetent C57 mice were exposed to leukemic blasts for 15 days
- **T-Cell Transfer:** T-cells were purified from spleens of primed mice and transferred into immunodeficient mice
- **Challenge:** T-cell transferred immunodeficient mice were injected with leukemia cells

# T-cells primed with “WT APL” do not protect against p21<sup>-/-</sup> or “WT APLs”

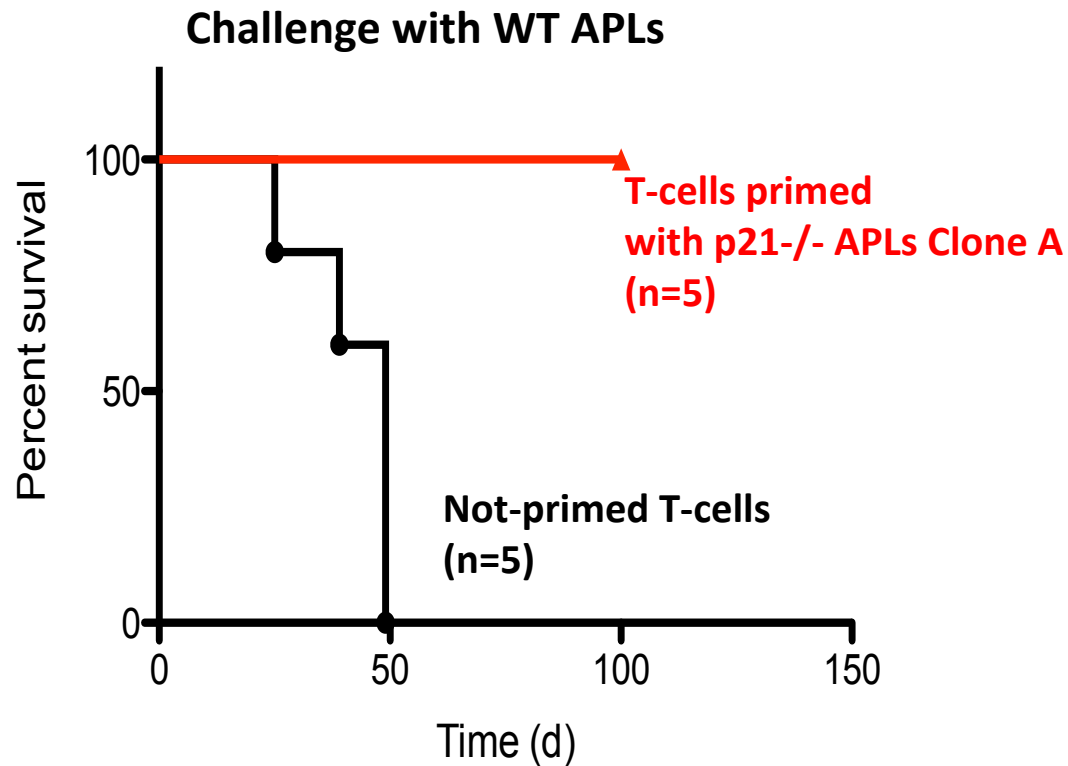
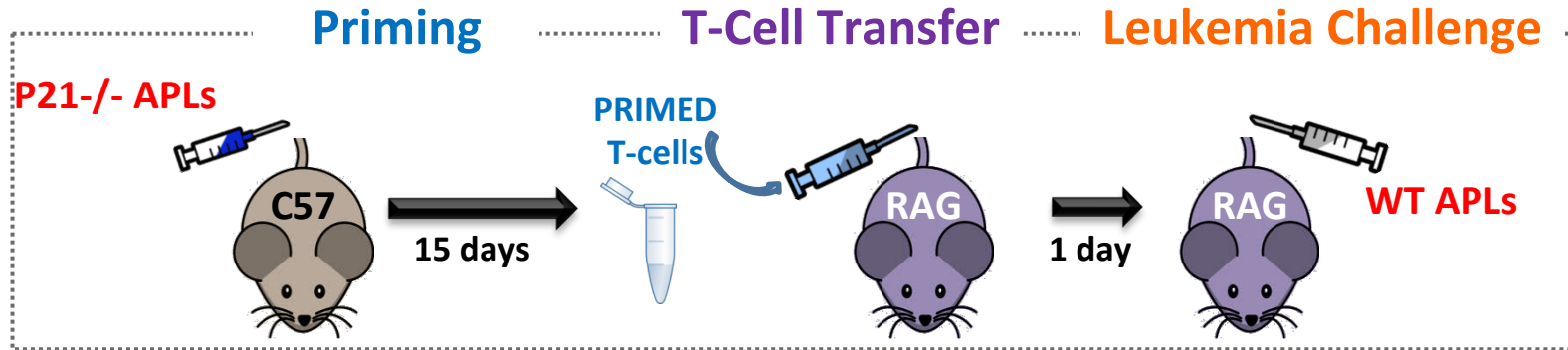


# T-cells primed with p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs protect against p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs

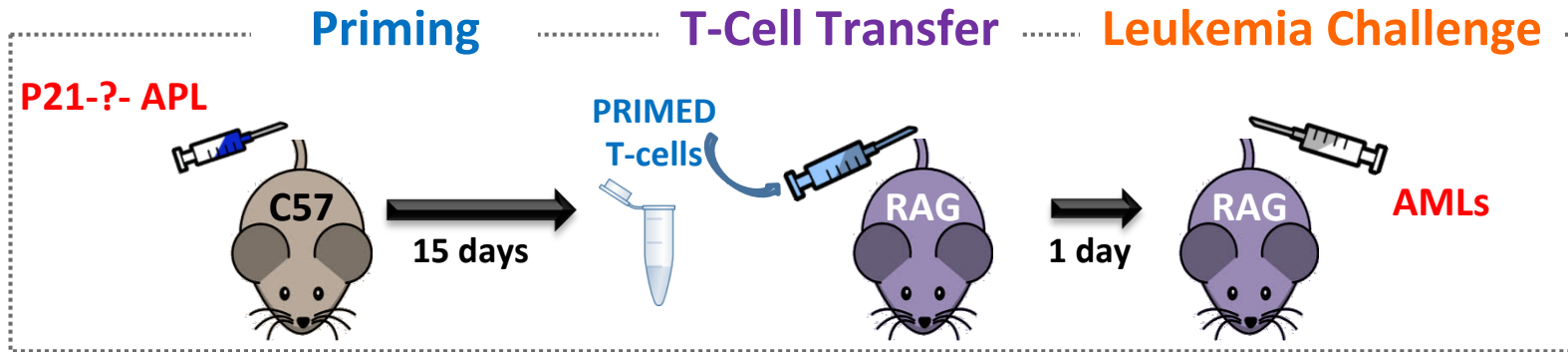




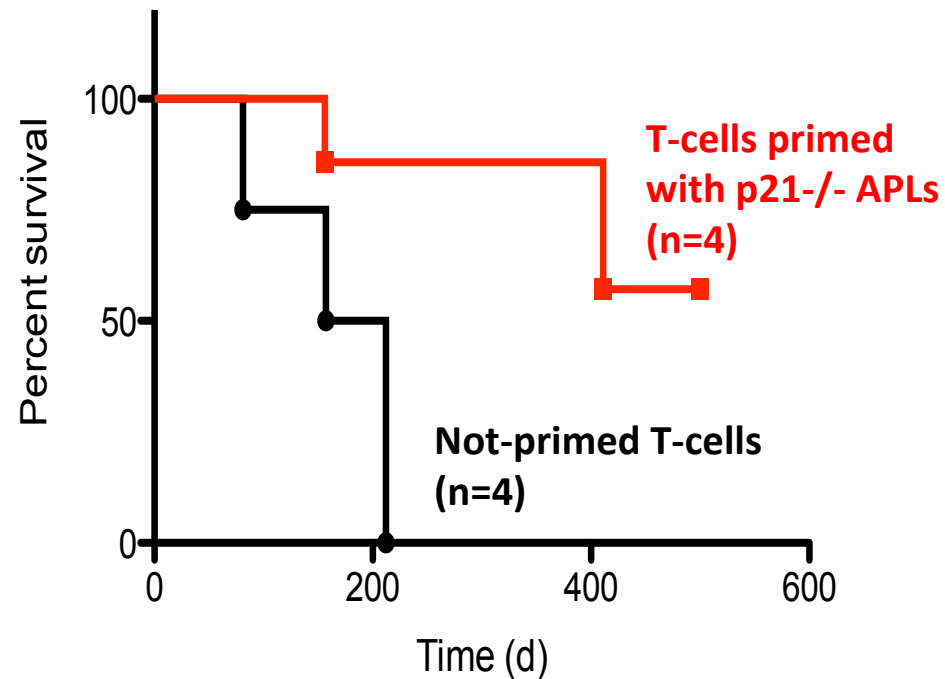
# T cells primed with p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs protect against WT APLs



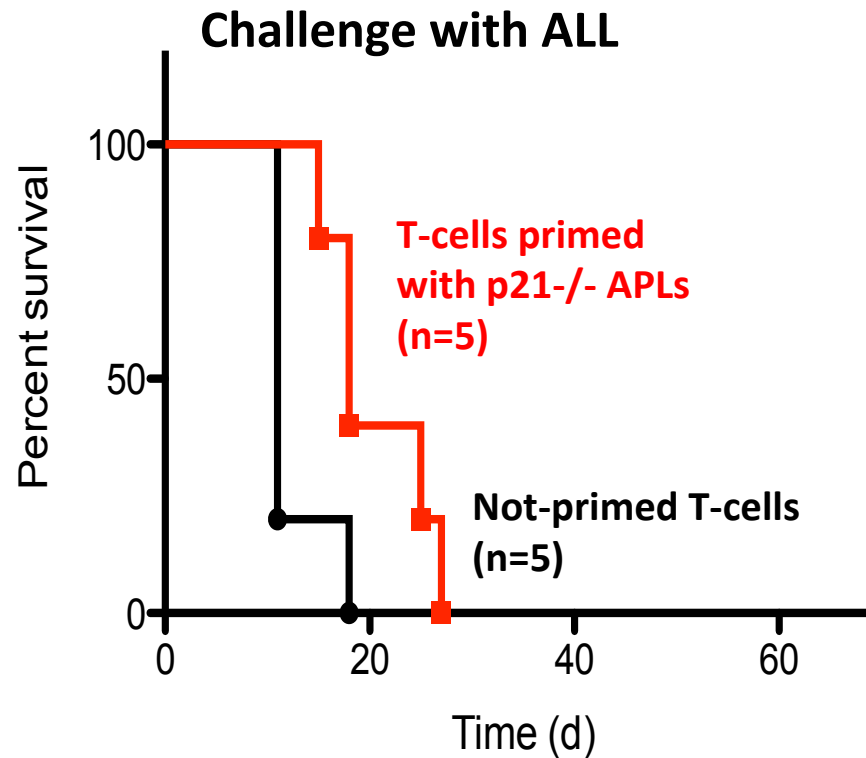
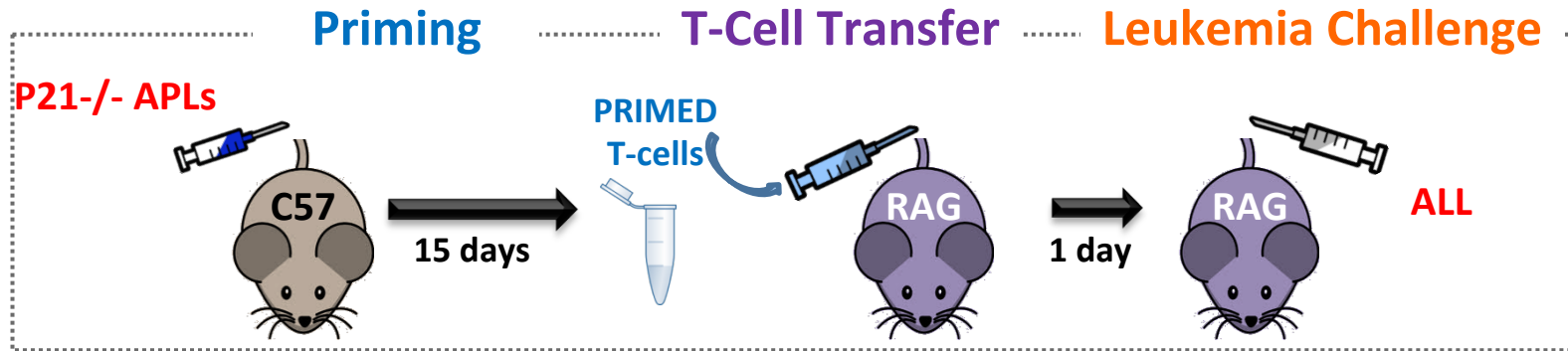
# T cells primed with p21<sup>-/-</sup> leukemia Protect against other AMLs (NPMc; FLT3ITD)



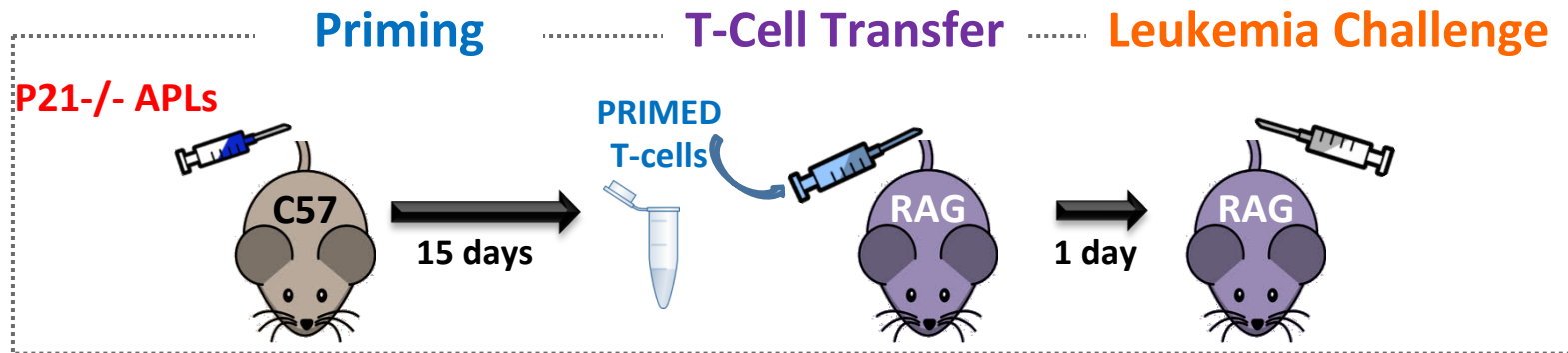
Challenge with NPM-AMLs (n=2) or FLT3-AMLs (n=2)



# T cells primed with p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs do not protect against ALLs

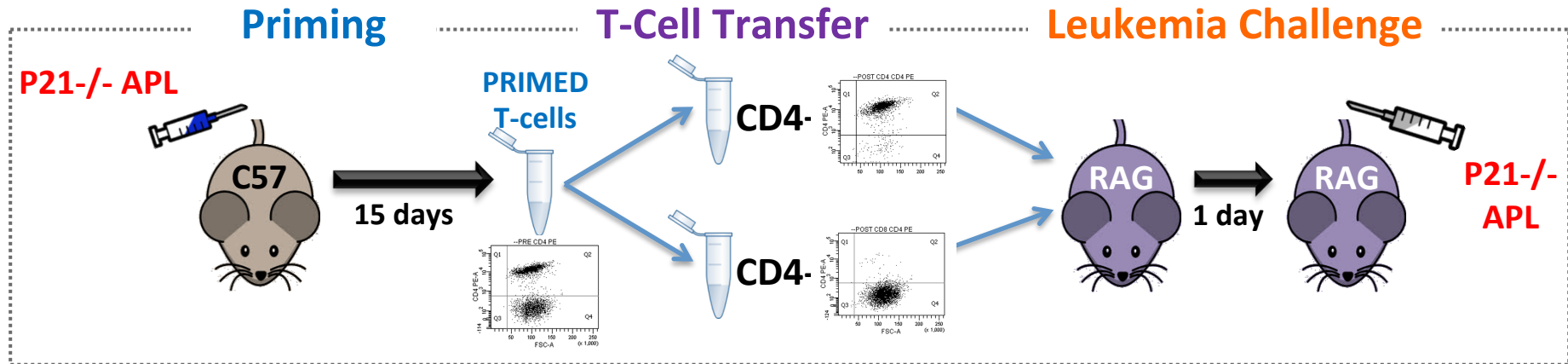


# Summary

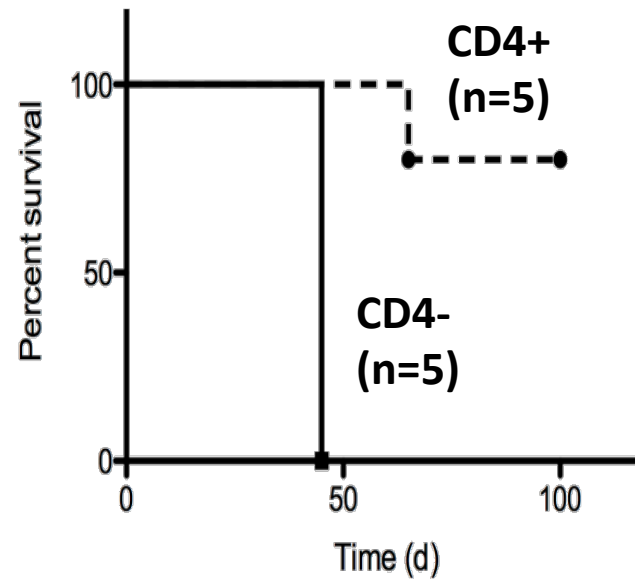


**Priming with p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs generates T-cells that protect against wtAPLs and other AMLs (do not against ALLs)**

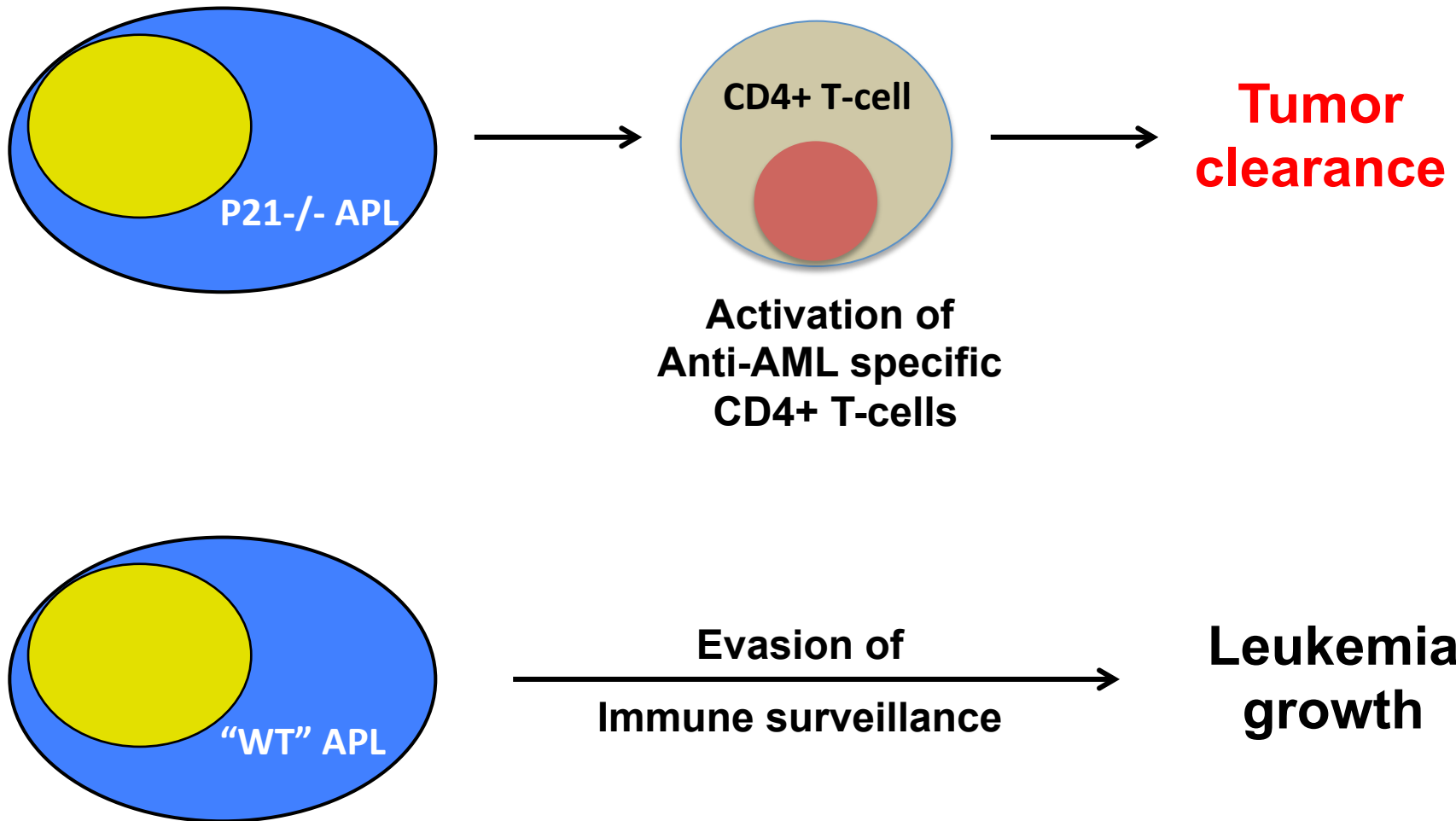
# The effector T-cells are CD4<sup>+</sup>



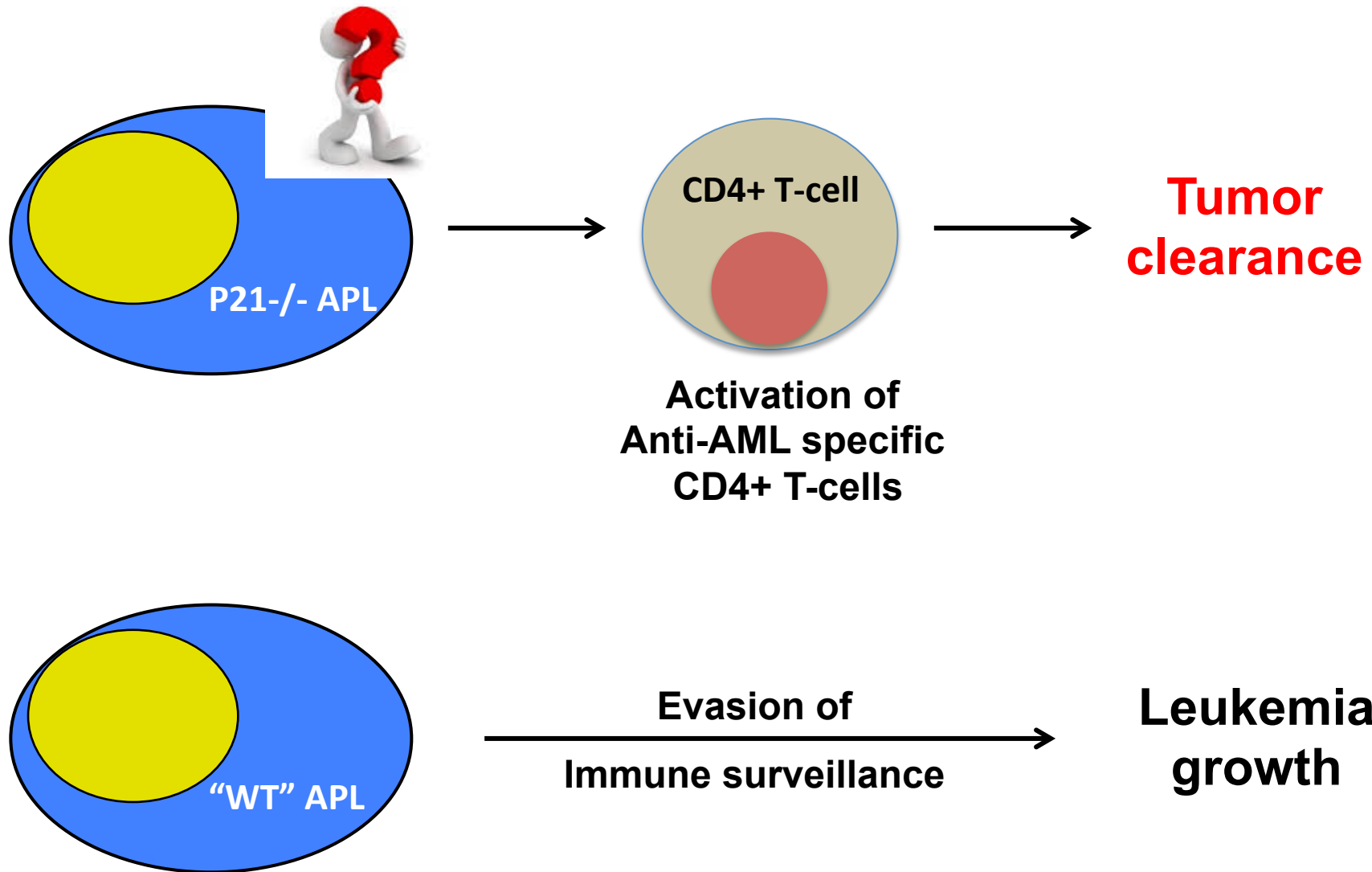
## Challenge with p21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs



# P21<sup>-/-</sup> APLs activate a population of anti-leukemia CD4<sup>+</sup> lymphocytes

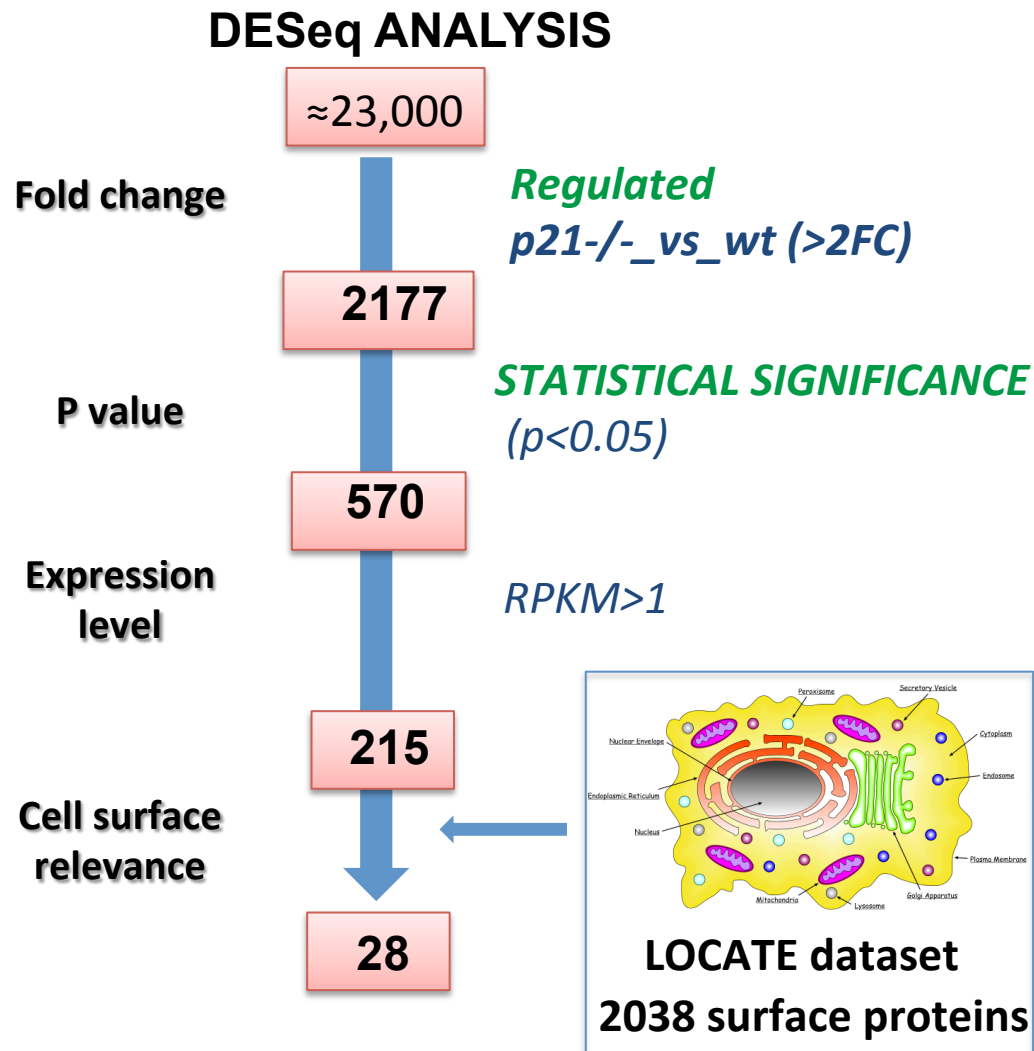


# Do p21<sup>-/-</sup> blasts express surface proteins that activates a CD4<sup>+</sup> specific anti myeloid-leukemia response?



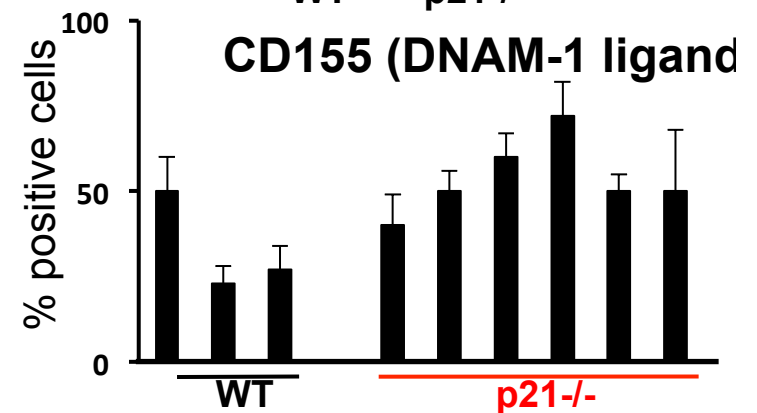
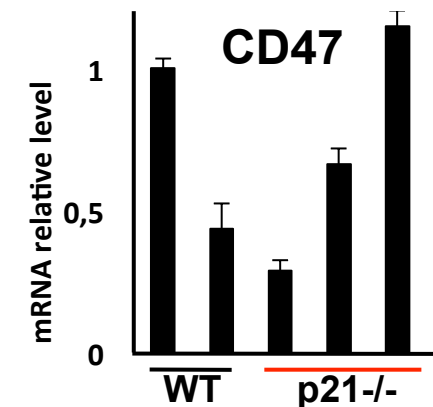
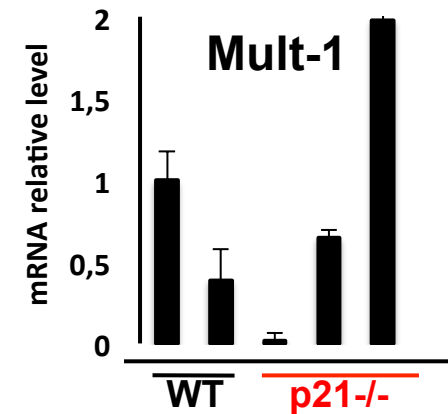
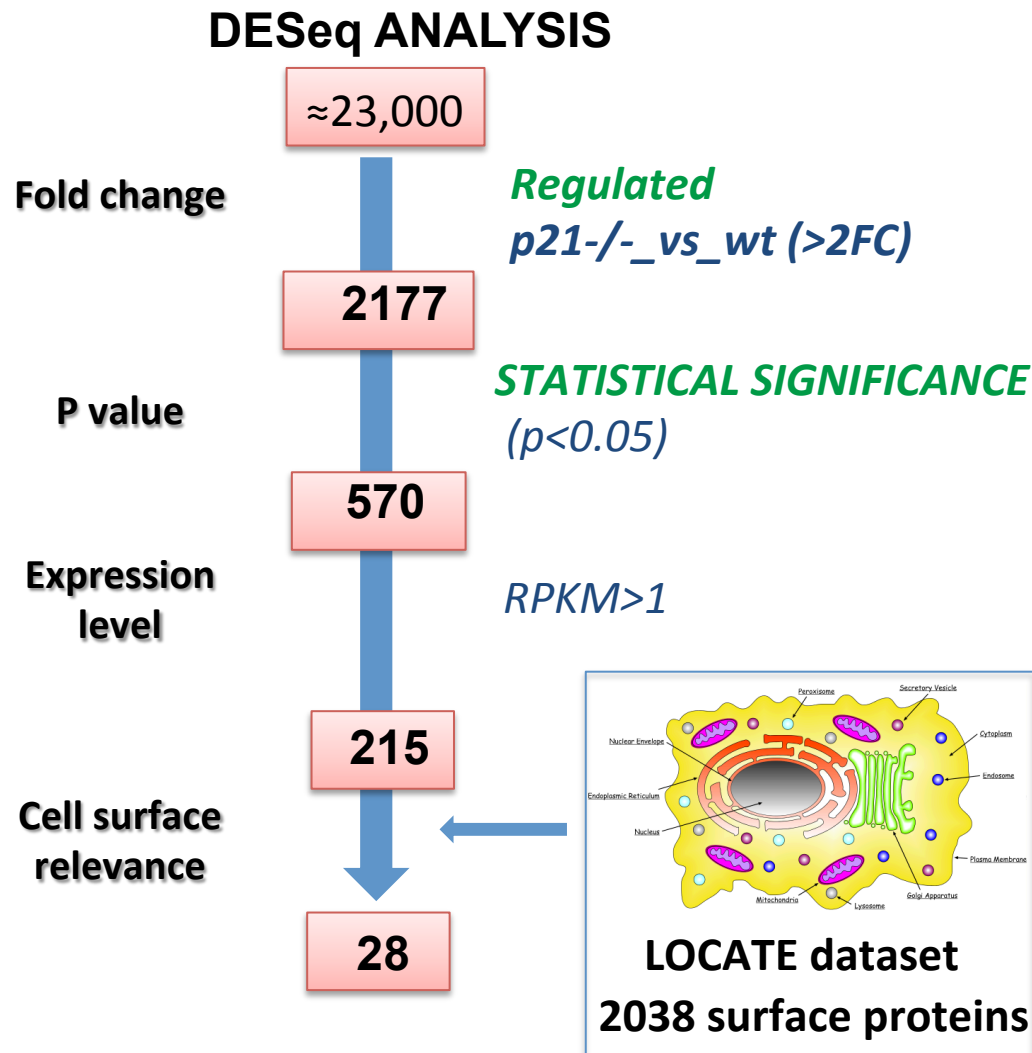
# Experimental approach:

## RNAseq of primary p21<sup>-/-</sup> vs WT APL blasts (n=12)

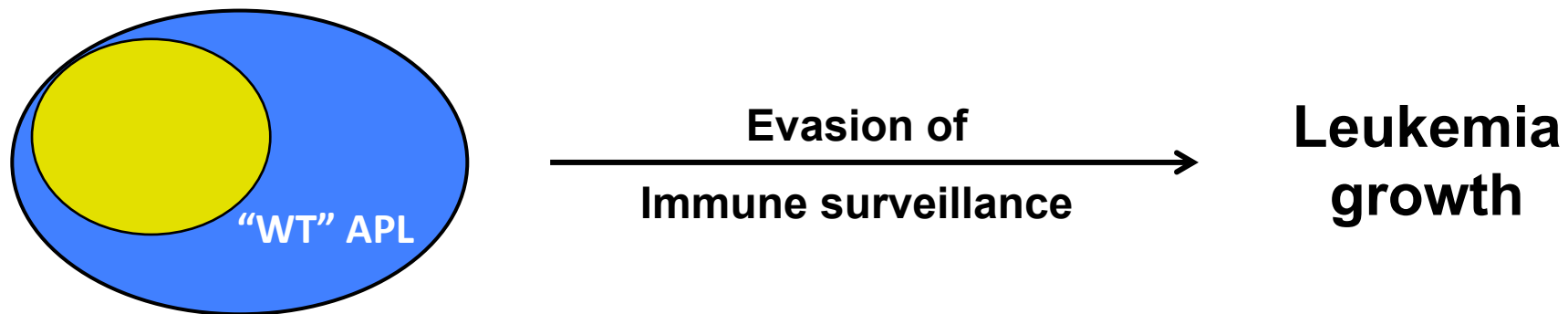
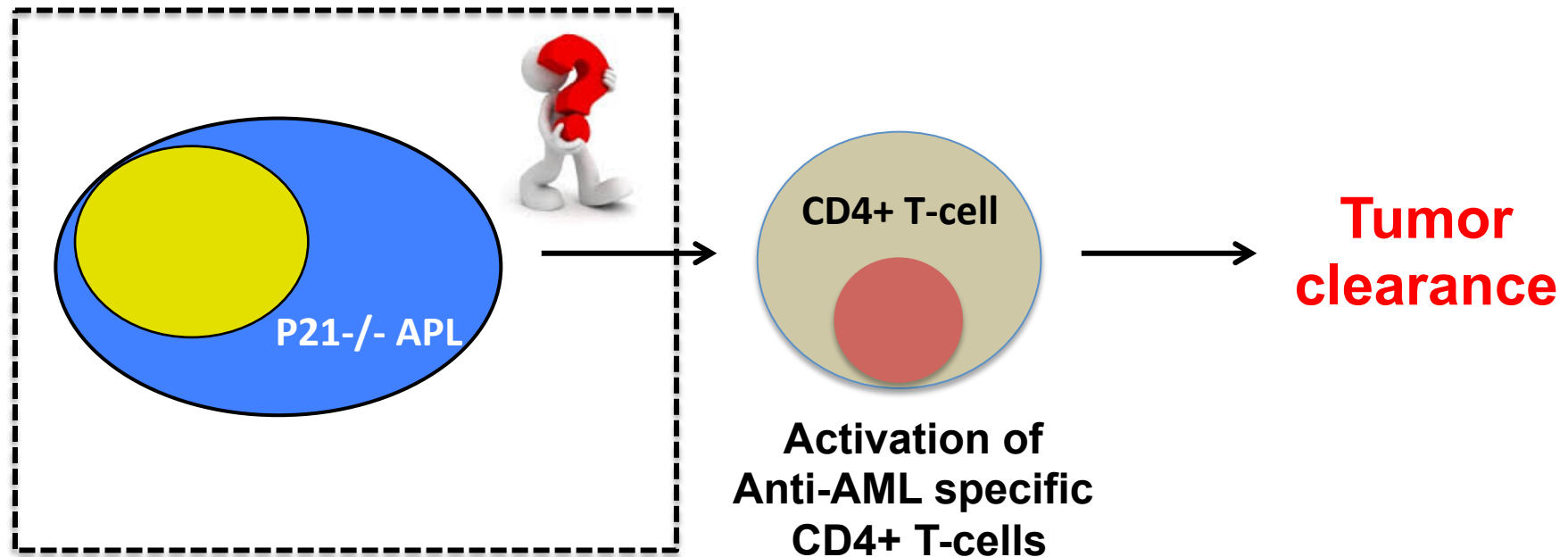




# High expression-variability among APL samples of several gene-candidates

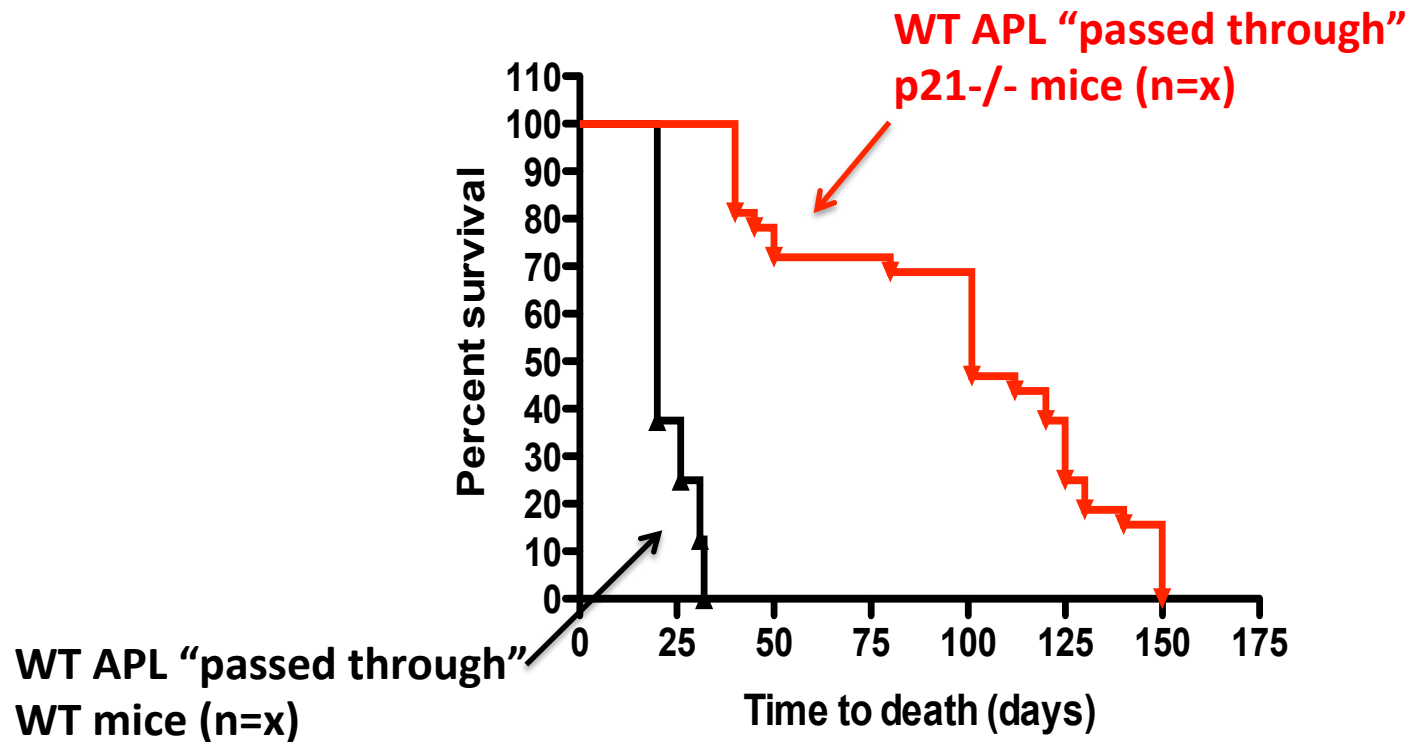
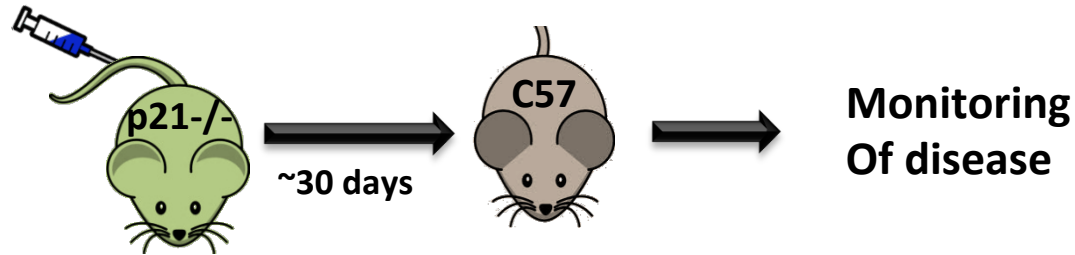


# Does the p21-/- “micro-environment” activate a CD4+ specific anti myeloid-leukemia response?



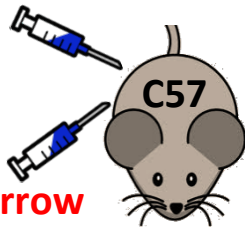
# Exposure of **wt APLs** to the **p21<sup>-/-</sup>** “micro-environment” protects from leukemia development

**WT APLs**



**A cellular component of the p21<sup>-/-</sup> micro-environment  
(spleen or bone marrow)  
is sufficient to protect mice from leukemia development**

WT APLs

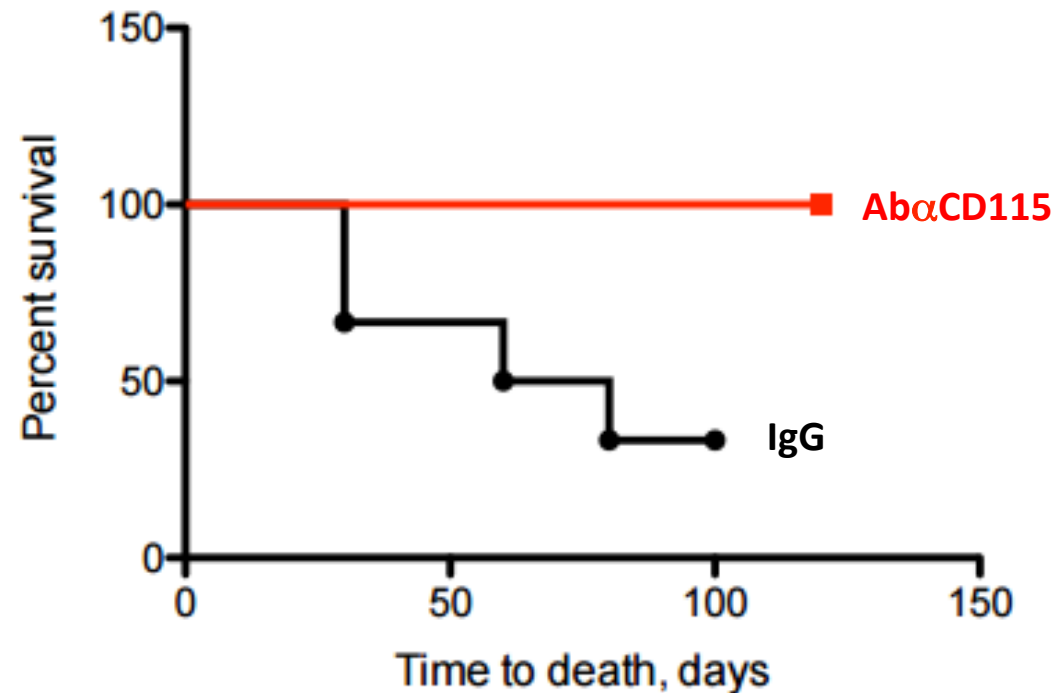
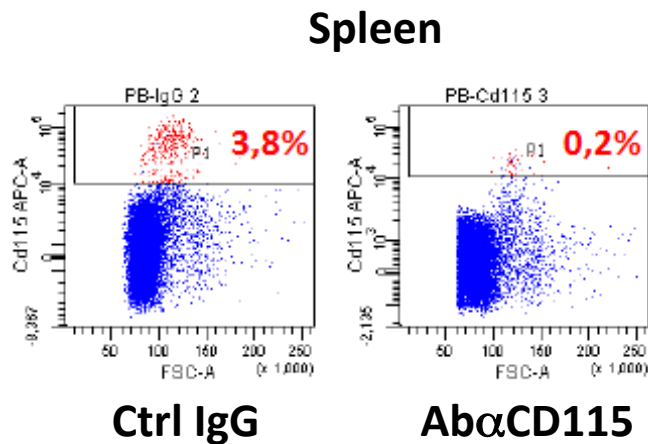
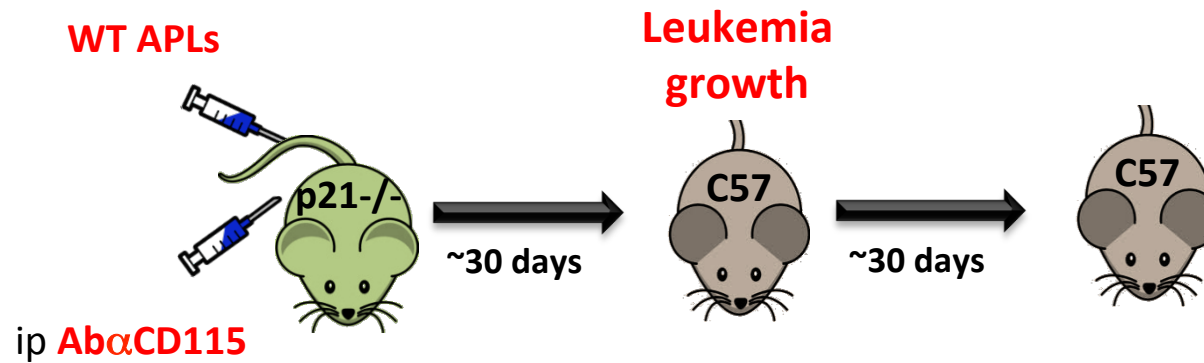


Monitoring of leukemia growth and survival

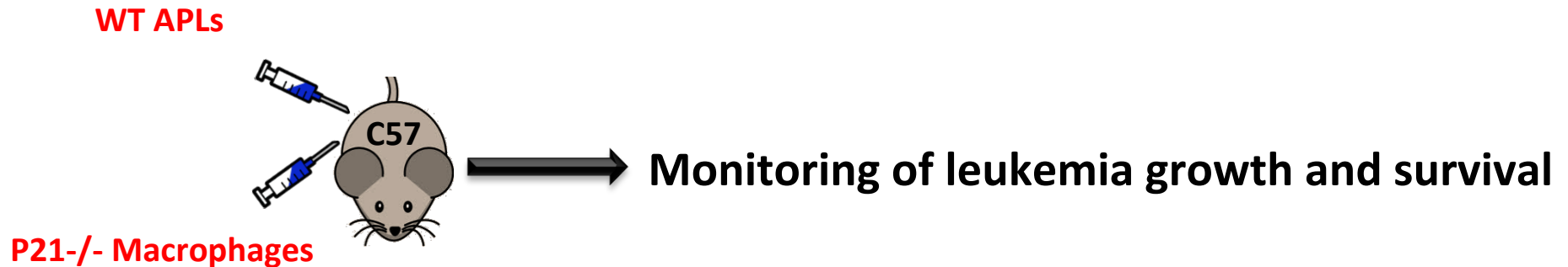
P21<sup>-/-</sup> Bone Marrow  
Or p21<sup>-/-</sup> Spleen

	Leukemia
P21 <sup>-/-</sup> APL	8/8
<b>P21<sup>-/-</sup> APL + <u>5x10<sup>6</sup></u> p21<sup>-/-</sup> Splenocytes</b>	<b>0/7</b>
<b>P21<sup>-/-</sup> APL + <u>5x10<sup>6</sup></u> p21<sup>-/-</sup> BM cells</b>	<b>0/7</b>
P21 <sup>-/-</sup> APL + <u>5x10<sup>6</sup></u> p21 <sup>-/-</sup> Splenocytes	2/2
P21 <sup>-/-</sup> APL + <u>5x10<sup>6</sup></u> p21 <sup>-/-</sup> BM cells	2/2

# Depletion of macrophages from the p21<sup>-/-</sup> micro-environment rescues the growth potential of WT APLs



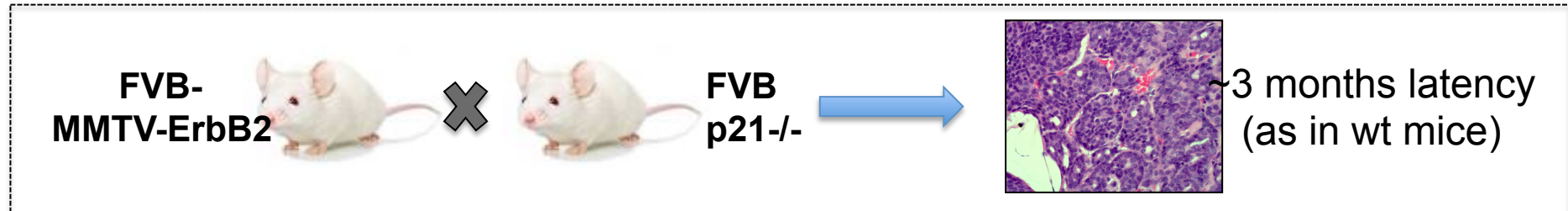
**Addition of purified p21<sup>-/-</sup> macrophages  
(from the bone marrow)  
protect from leukemia development**



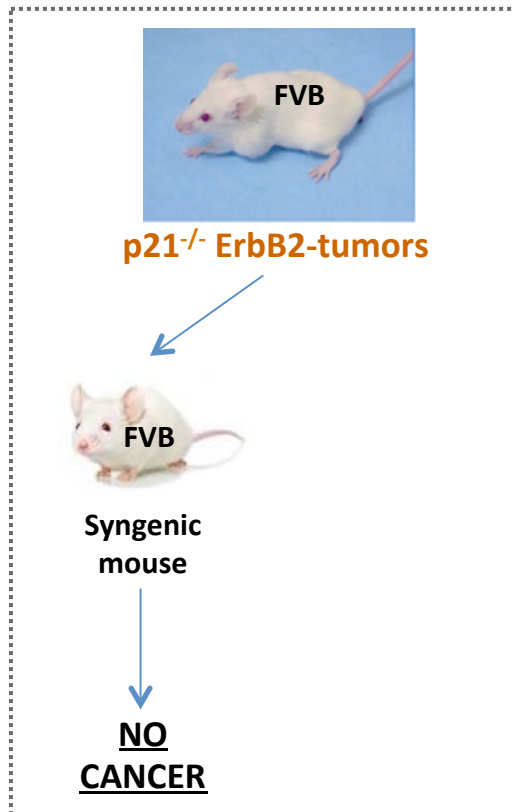
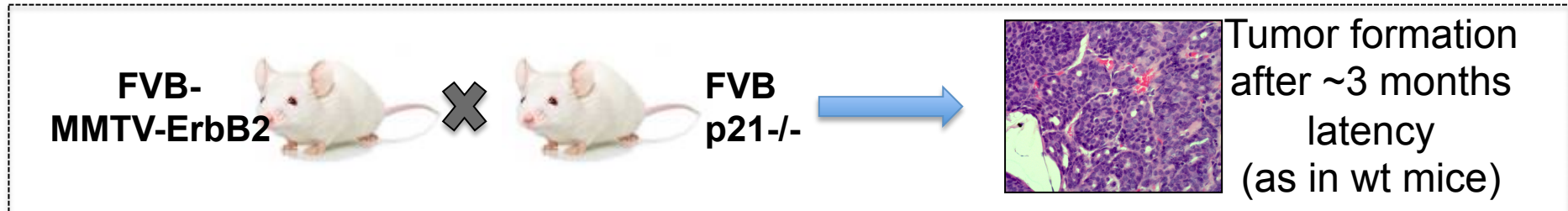
	Leukemia
WT APL	2/2
WT APL + WT Mac	4/5
WT APL + p21 <sup>-/-</sup> Mac	0/5

Preparation of Macrophages from the Bone marrow: 6 days culture in adherent conditions of Ly6g<sup>neg</sup> and CD11b<sup>pos</sup> BM cells

# BREAST CANCER: A role for p21 in the immune-mediated clearance of breast cancer?



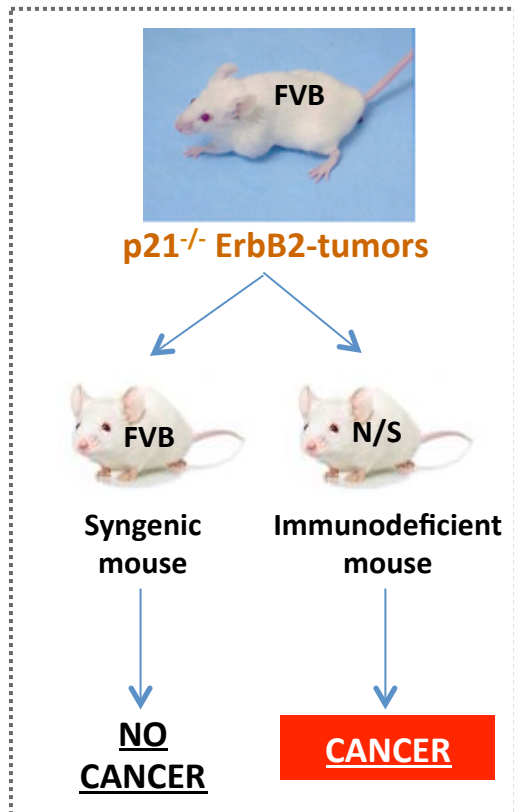
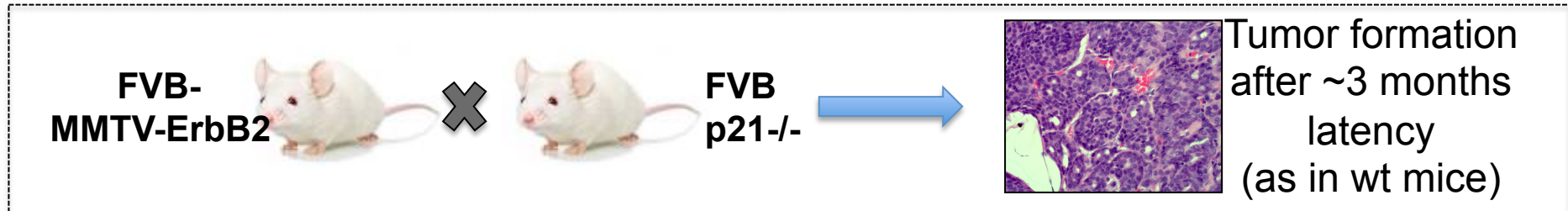
# p21<sup>-/-</sup> breast cancer cells do not transplant in syngeneic mice



RECIPIENT	BREAST CANCER	ENGRAFTMENT
FVB <i>Syngenic</i>	NO	0/20



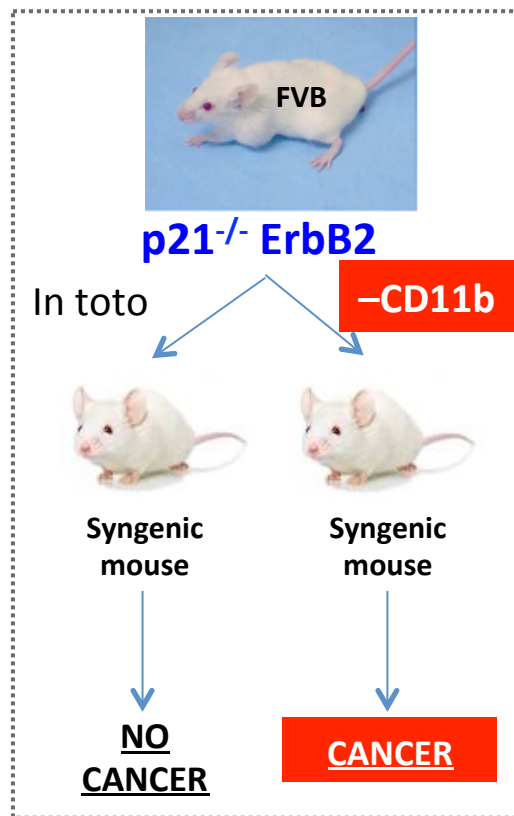
# p21<sup>-/-</sup> breast cancer cells re-acquire the ability to initiate tumorigenesis when transplanted in the mammary gland of immunodeficient mice



RECIPIENT	BREAST CANCER	ENGRAFTMENT
FVB <i>Syngenic</i>	NO	0/20
NOD/SCID	<b>YES</b>	<b>12/12</b>

# In vivo role of macrophages in mammary tumor growth

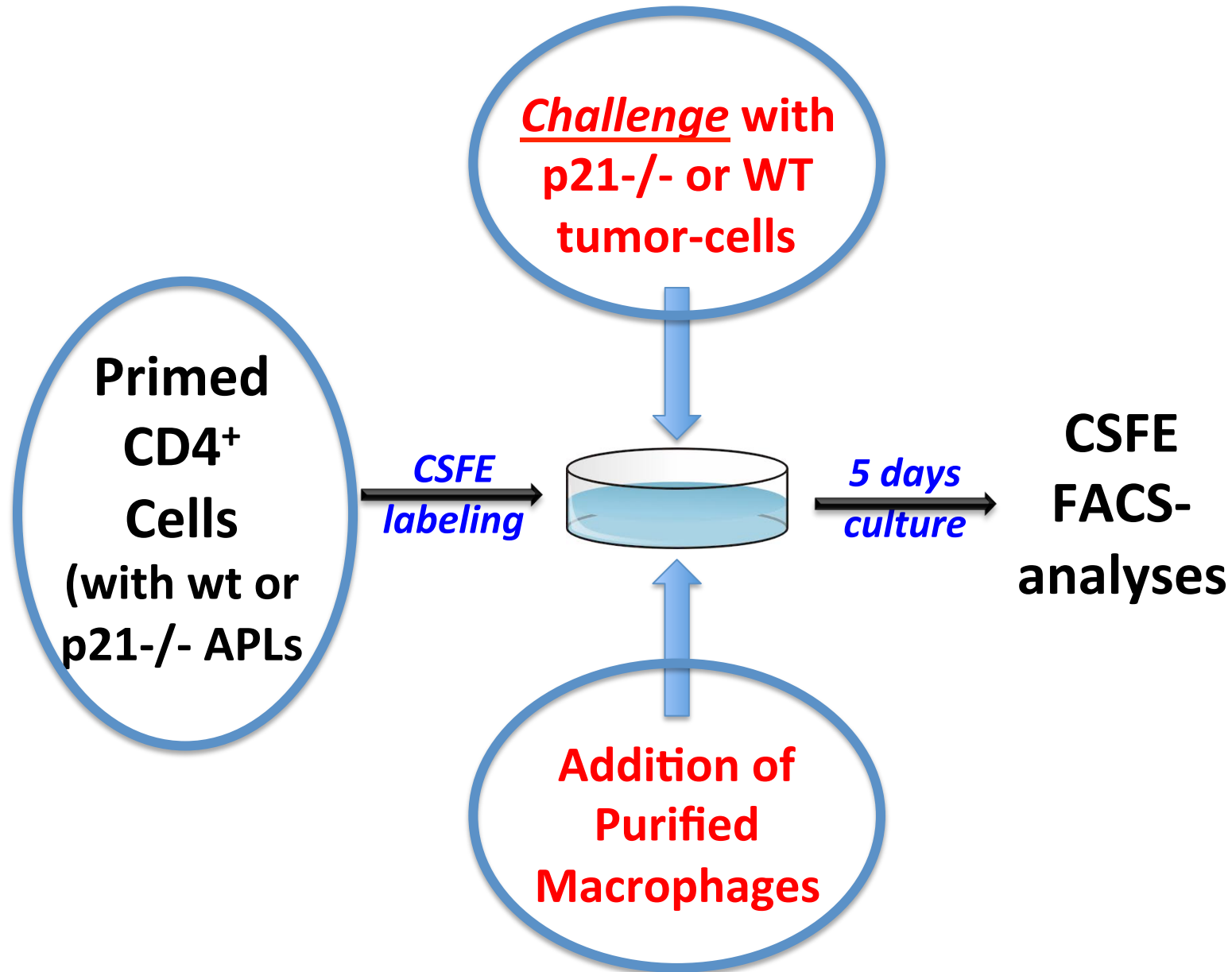
## 1. Depletion of macrophages restores p21<sup>-/-</sup> breast cancer transplantability



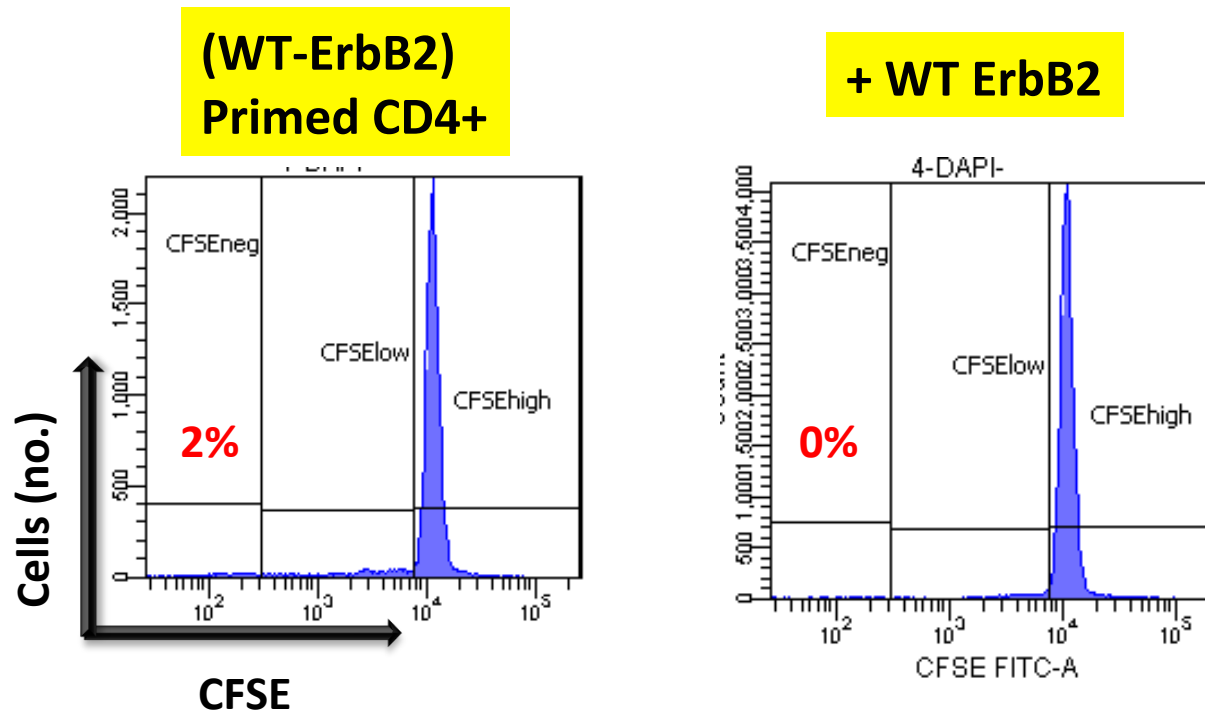
**P21<sup>-/-</sup>**

RECIPIENT	BREAST CANCER CELLS	ENGRAFTMENT
FVB <i>Syngenic</i>	IN TOTO	0/5
FVB <i>Syngenic</i>	<b>-CD11b</b>	4/5

# *In vitro* reconstitution of the anti-cancer effect of p21<sup>-/-</sup> Macrophages

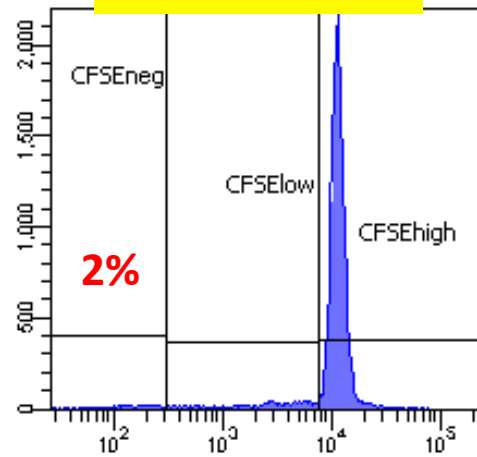


**CD4+ T-Cells primed with WT tumor-cells**  
**do not proliferate**  
**after in vitro challenging with WT tumor-cells**

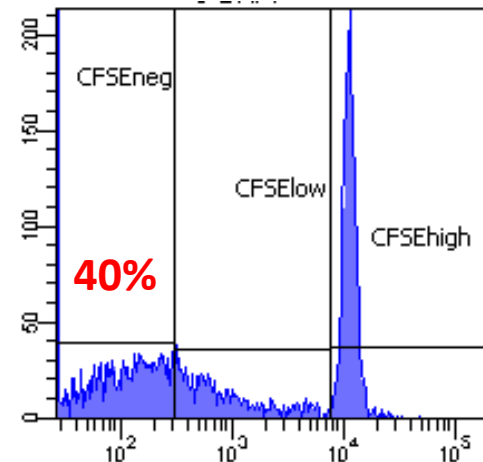


# The presence of p21<sup>-/-</sup> tumors-cells (either as priming or challenging cells) induces CD4<sup>+</sup> proliferation

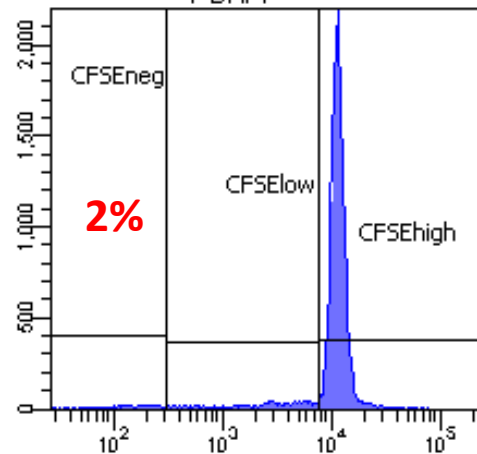
(WT-ErbB2)  
Primed CD4<sup>+</sup>



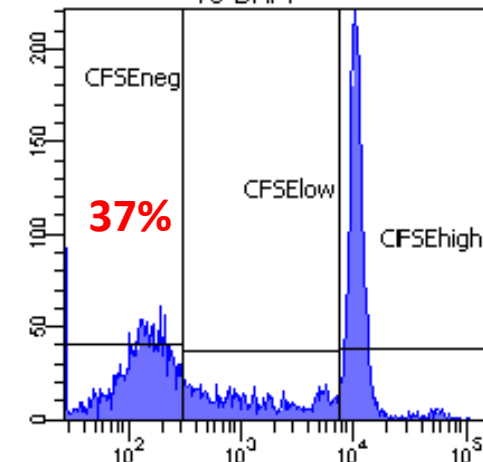
+ p21<sup>-/-</sup> ErbB2



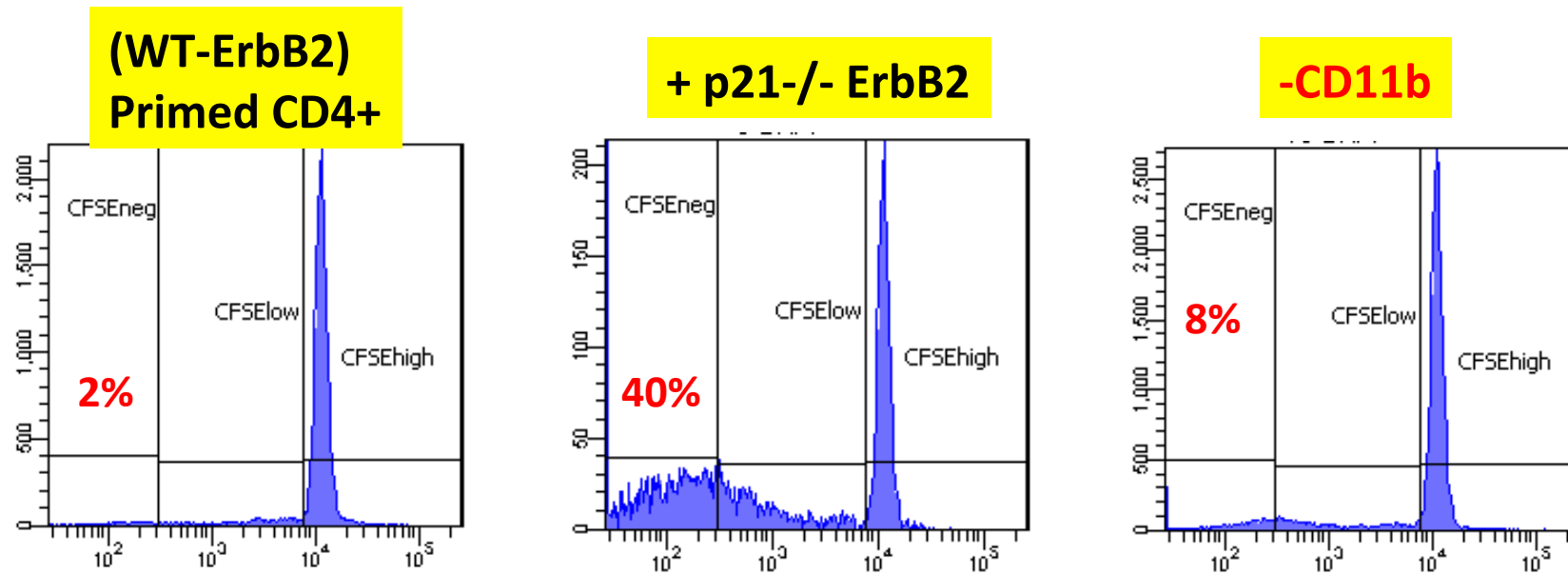
(p21<sup>-/-</sup> ErbB2)  
Primed CD4<sup>+</sup>



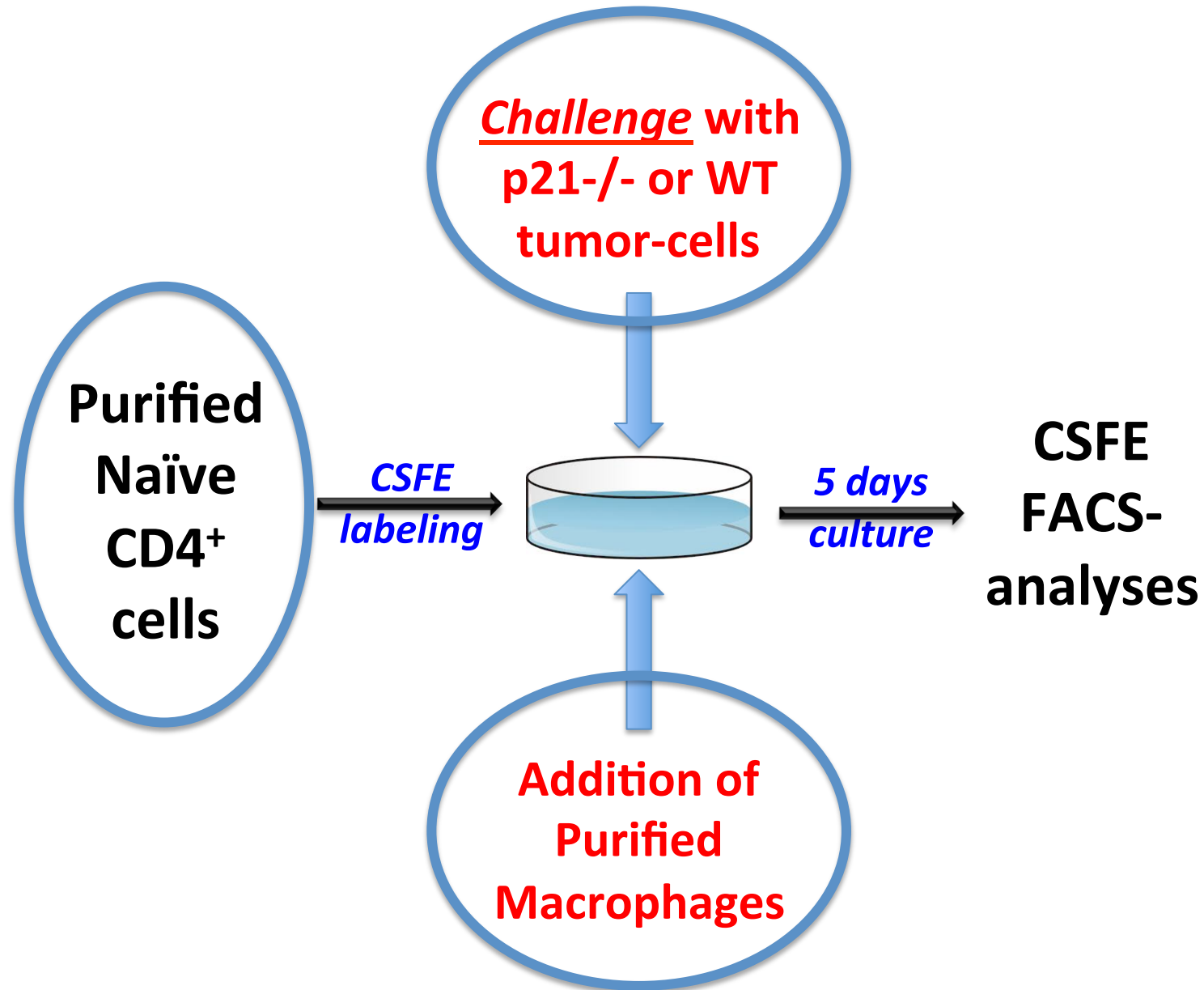
+ WT ErbB2



# Depletion of Macrophages inhibits CD4+ T-Cell proliferation

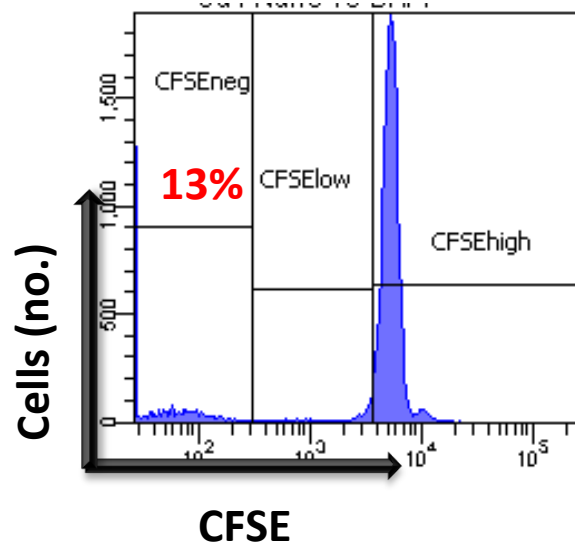


# *In vitro* reconstitution of the anti-cancer effect of p21<sup>-/-</sup> Macrophages

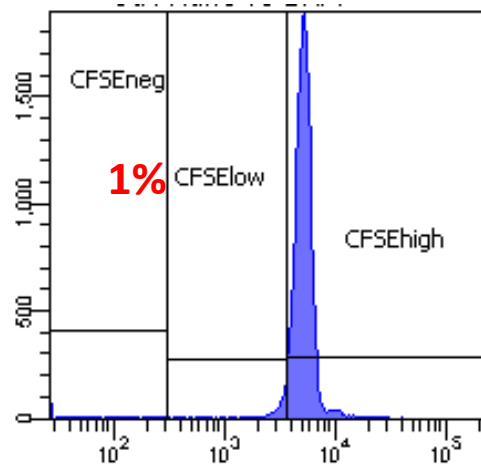


**NAÏVE CD4+ T-Cells do NOT proliferate *in vitro* after challenging with WT ErbB2 cells**

**Naïve CD4+ T cells**

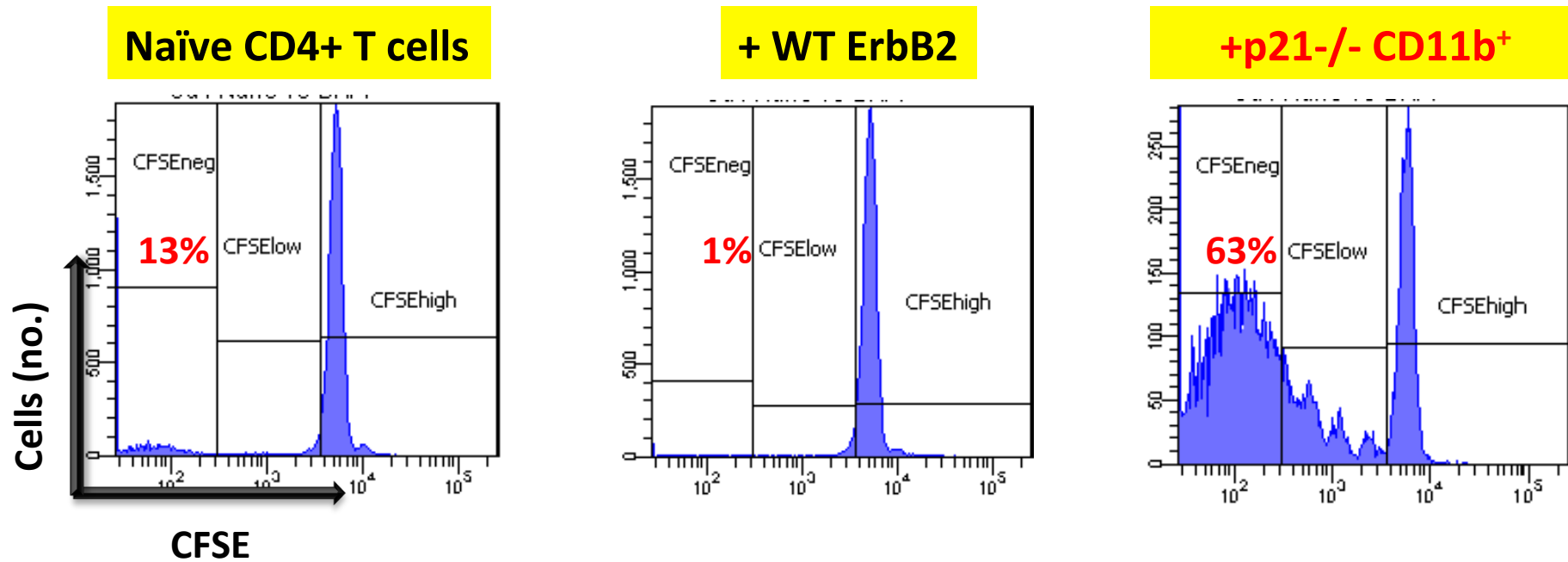


**+ WT ErbB2**

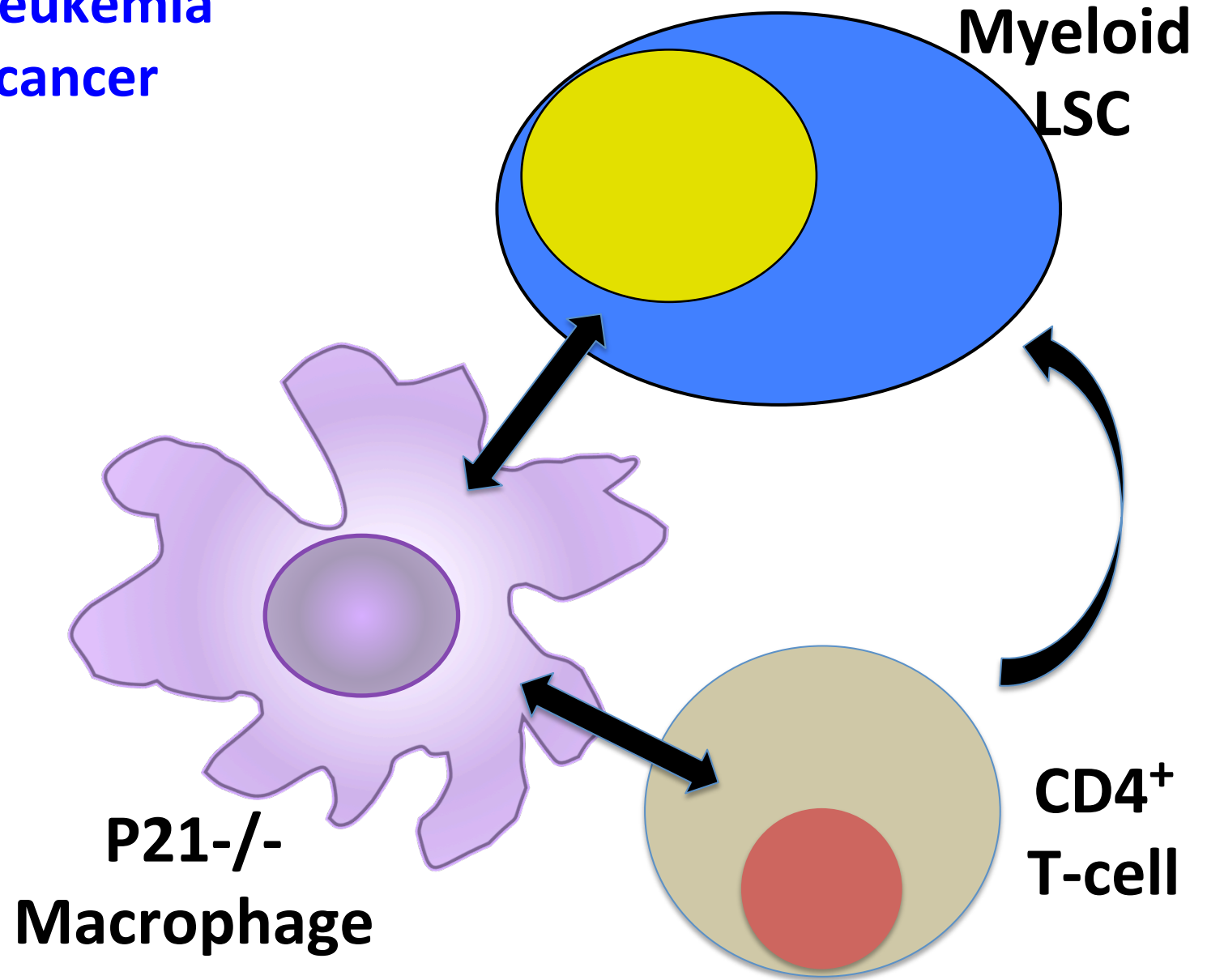




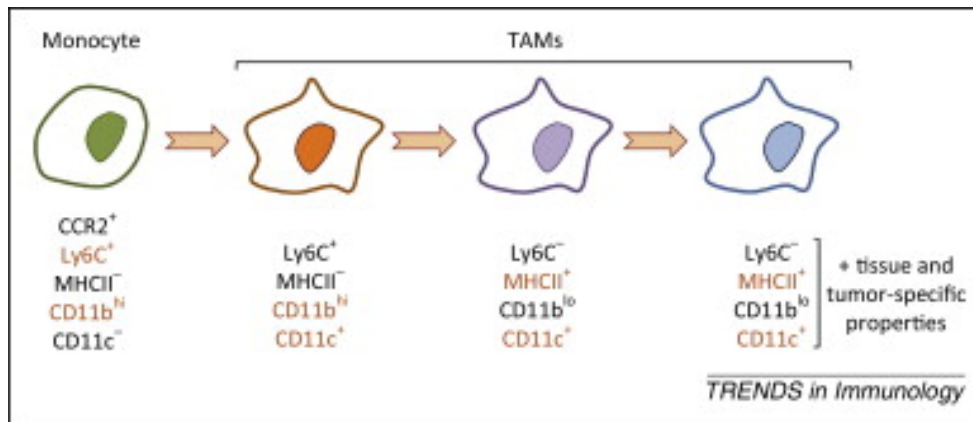
# NAÏVE CD4+ T-Cells proliferate *in vitro* after challenging with WT ErbB2 cells and addition of p21<sup>-/-</sup> Macrophages



**p21<sup>-/-</sup> macrophages activate a CD4<sup>+</sup> specific  
anti myeloid-leukemia  
or mammary-cancer  
response**



## Increased “activation” of p21<sup>-/-</sup> macrophages under steady-state conditions (B16 mice)



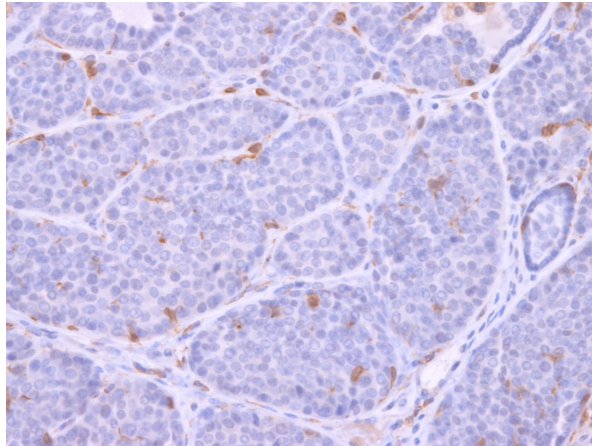
*Natoli et al.*

	MHC II		Ly6c	
	%	MF	%	MF
<b>WT</b>	<b>59.46</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>22.90</b>	<b>3.47</b>
<b>p21<sup>-/-</sup></b>	<b>88.90</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>4.39</b>	<b>1.74</b>

# Higher numbers of Macrophages in p21<sup>-/-</sup> ErbB2 breast cancers

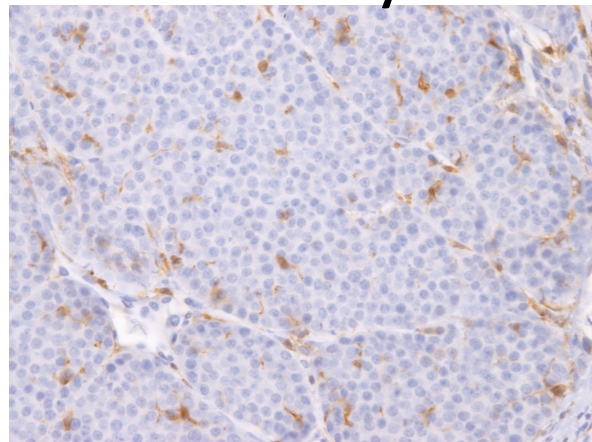
WT

ErbB2 mammary tumors

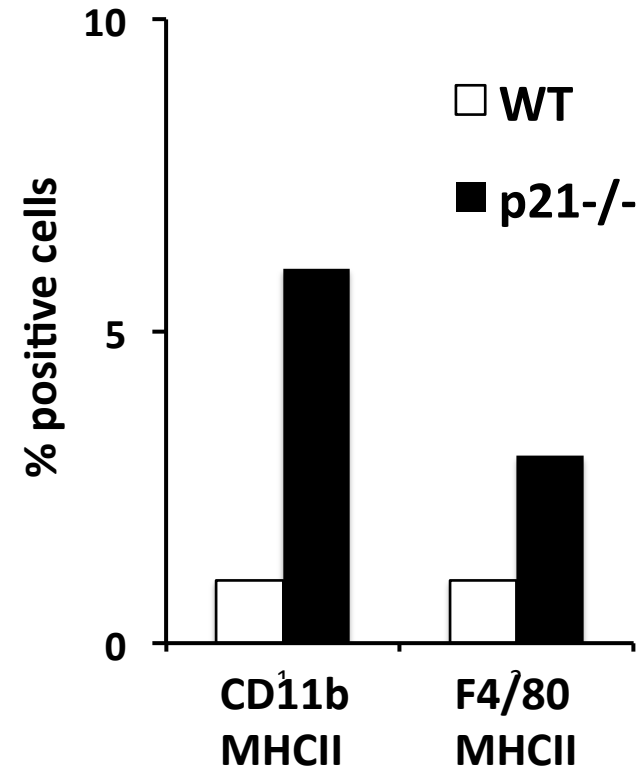


P21<sup>-/-</sup>

ErbB2 mammary tumors



Anti-Iba-1 staining on paraffin sections (20X)



FACS analysis of wt and p21<sup>-/-</sup>  
ErbB2 tumors (-organoids)

## **Journal of Clinical Investigation**

### **p21 mediates macrophage reprogramming through regulation of p50-p50 NF- $\kappa$ B and IFN- $\beta$**

**Gorjana Rackov,<sup>1</sup> Enrique Hernández-Jiménez,<sup>2</sup> Rahman Shokri,<sup>1</sup> Lorena Carmona-Rodríguez,<sup>1</sup> Santos Mañes,<sup>1</sup> Melchor Álvarez-Mon,<sup>3</sup> Eduardo López-Collazo,<sup>2</sup> Carlos Martínez-A,<sup>1</sup> and Dimitrios Balomenos<sup>1</sup>**

**First published July 18, 2016 -**

# p21 is a negative regulator of macrophage activation

## p21<sup>-/-</sup> macrophages:

- Increased numbers and activation at steady-state and after challenge with tumoral cells

- Up-regulation of MHC Class II and down-regulation of Ly6C

- increased phagocytosis (apoptotic cell)

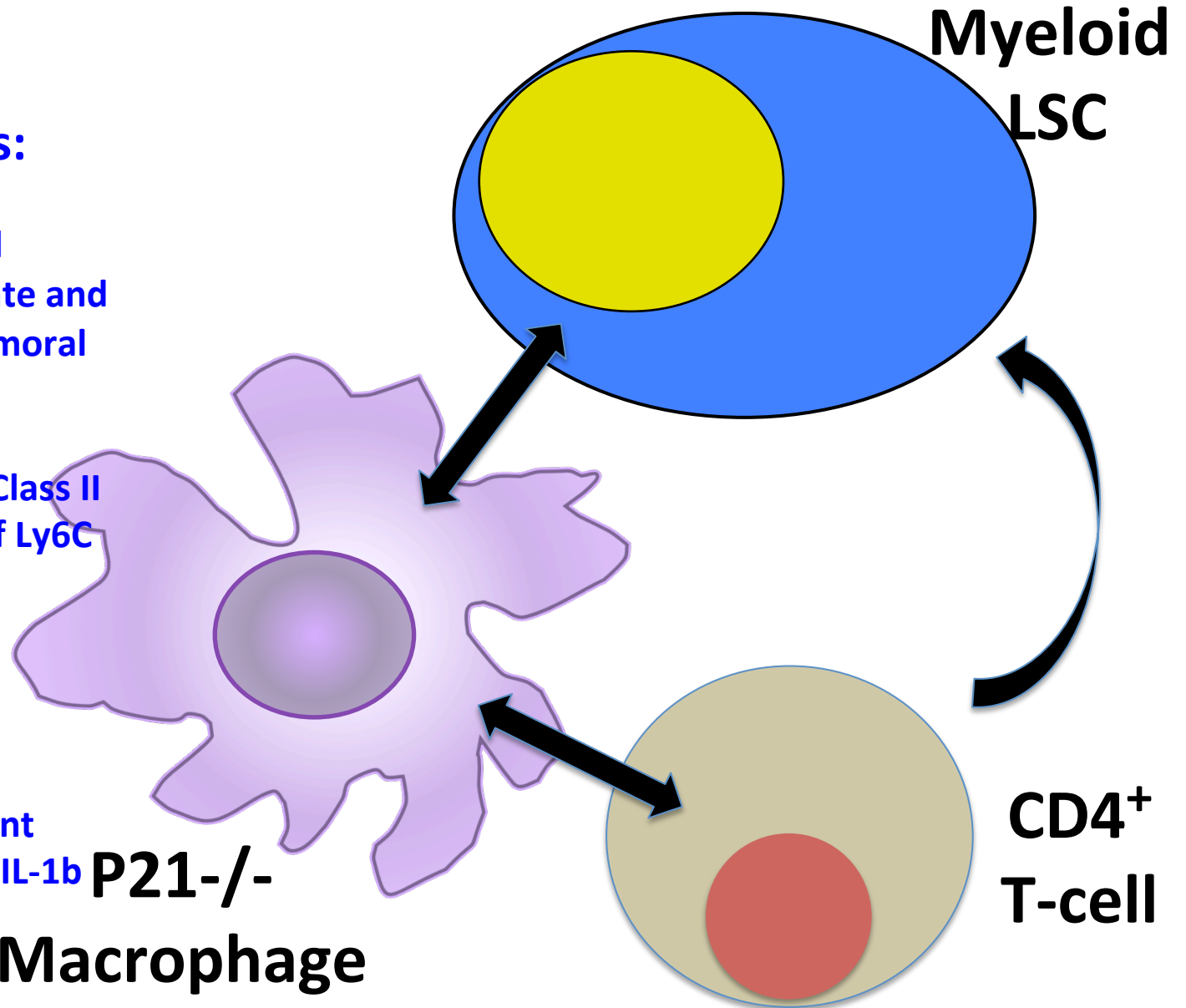
(Circulation. 2004;110:3830)

- increased LPS-dependent induction of TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\beta$

(Eur. J. Immunol. 2009; 39: 676;

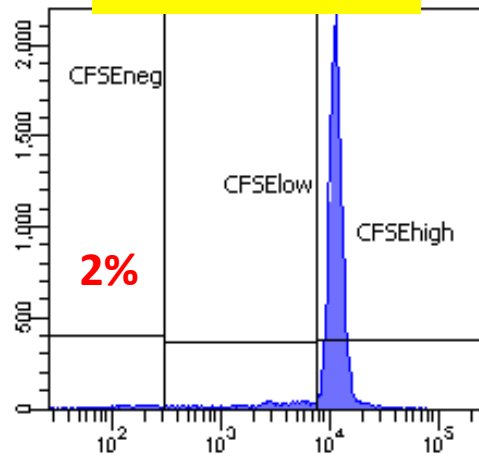
Eur. J. Immunol. 2009; 39:683)

**P21<sup>-/-</sup>  
Macrophage**

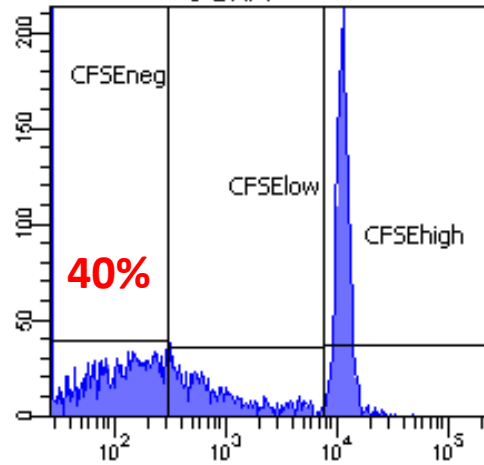


# Addition of an $\alpha$ MHCII blocking-Ab inhibits CD4+ T-Cell proliferation

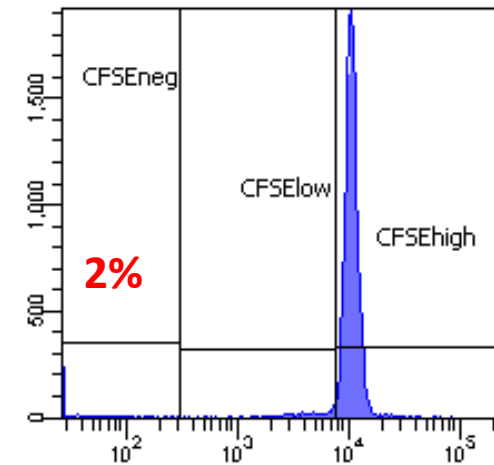
(WT-ErbB2)  
Primed CD4+



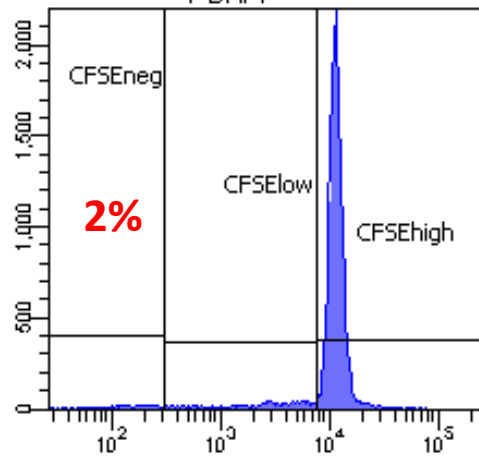
+ p21<sup>-/-</sup> ErbB2



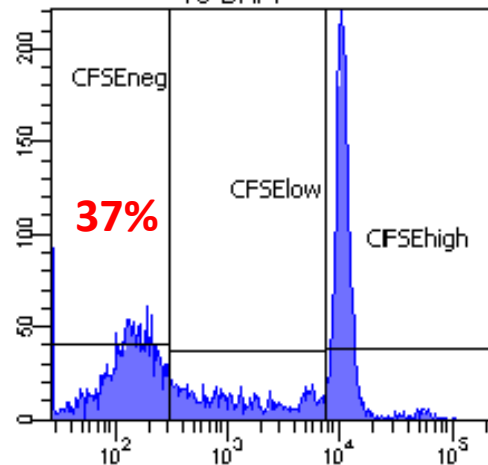
+aMHCII



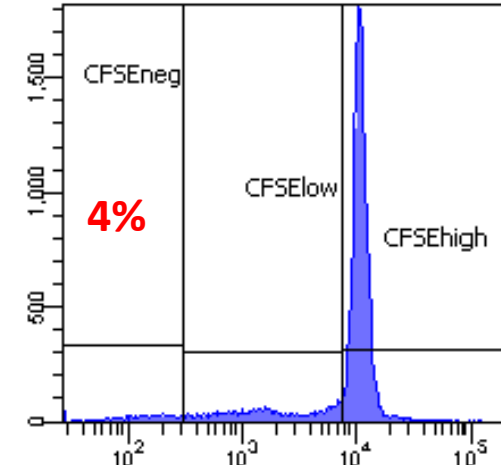
(p21<sup>-/-</sup> ErbB2)  
Primed CD4+



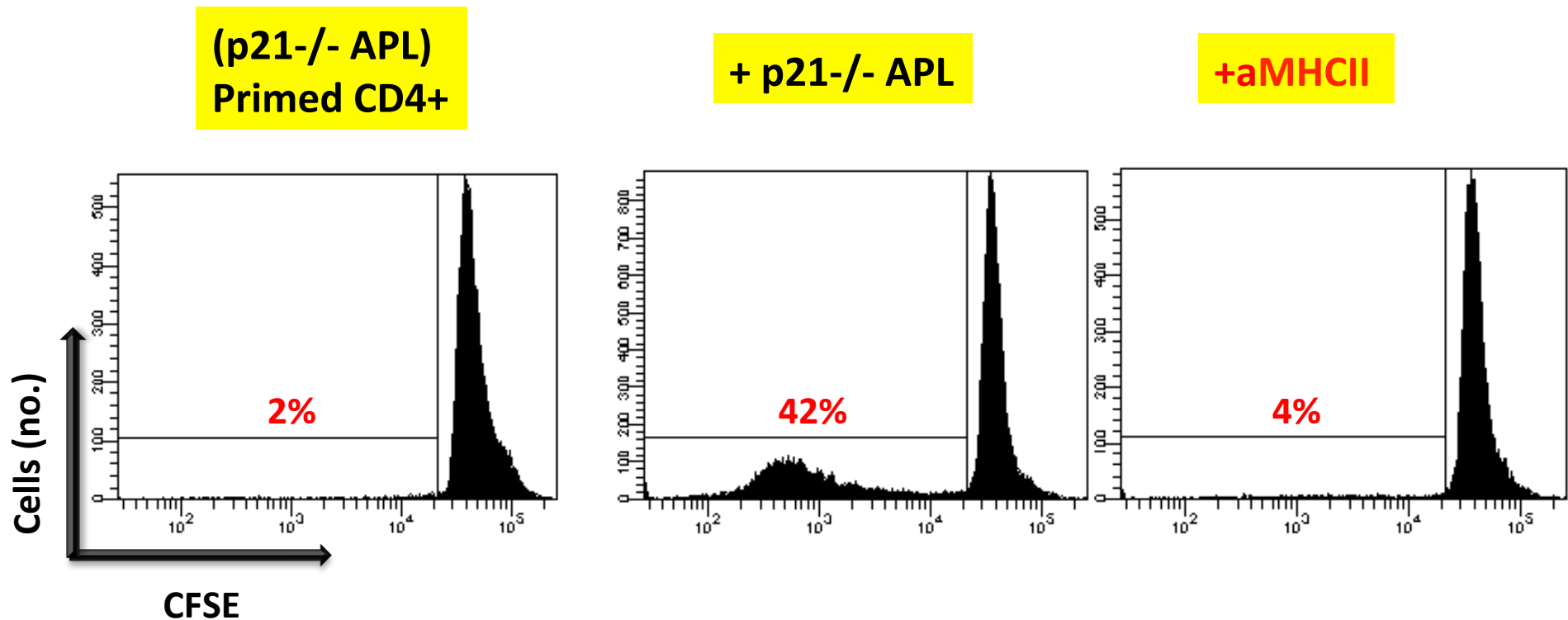
+ WT ErbB2



+aMHCII



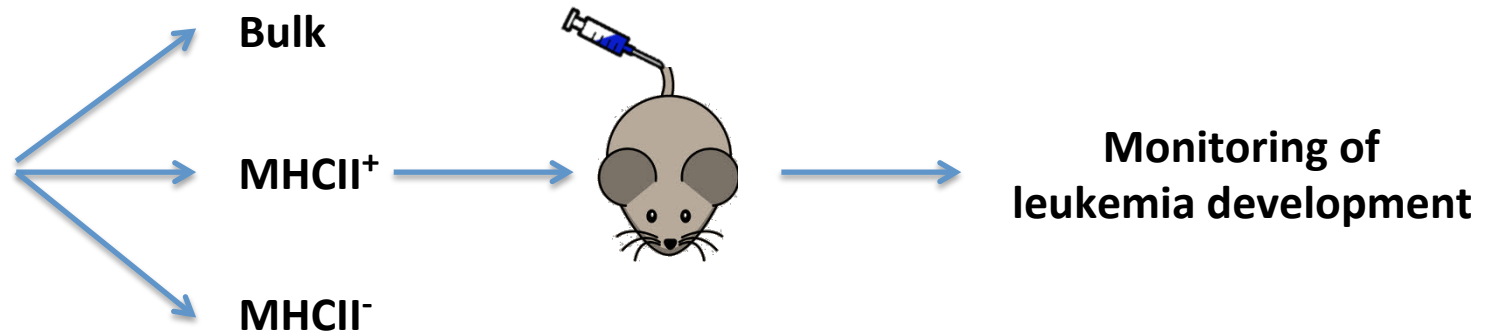
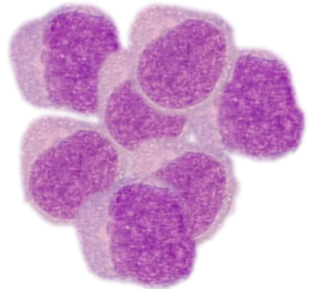
**CD4+ T-Cells primed with p21<sup>-/-</sup> APL proliferate *in vitro* after challenging with APL cells and are inhibited by addition of an  $\alpha$ MHCII blocking-Ab**





# The MHC Class-II subpopulation of p21<sup>-/-</sup> APL grows in syngeneic mice

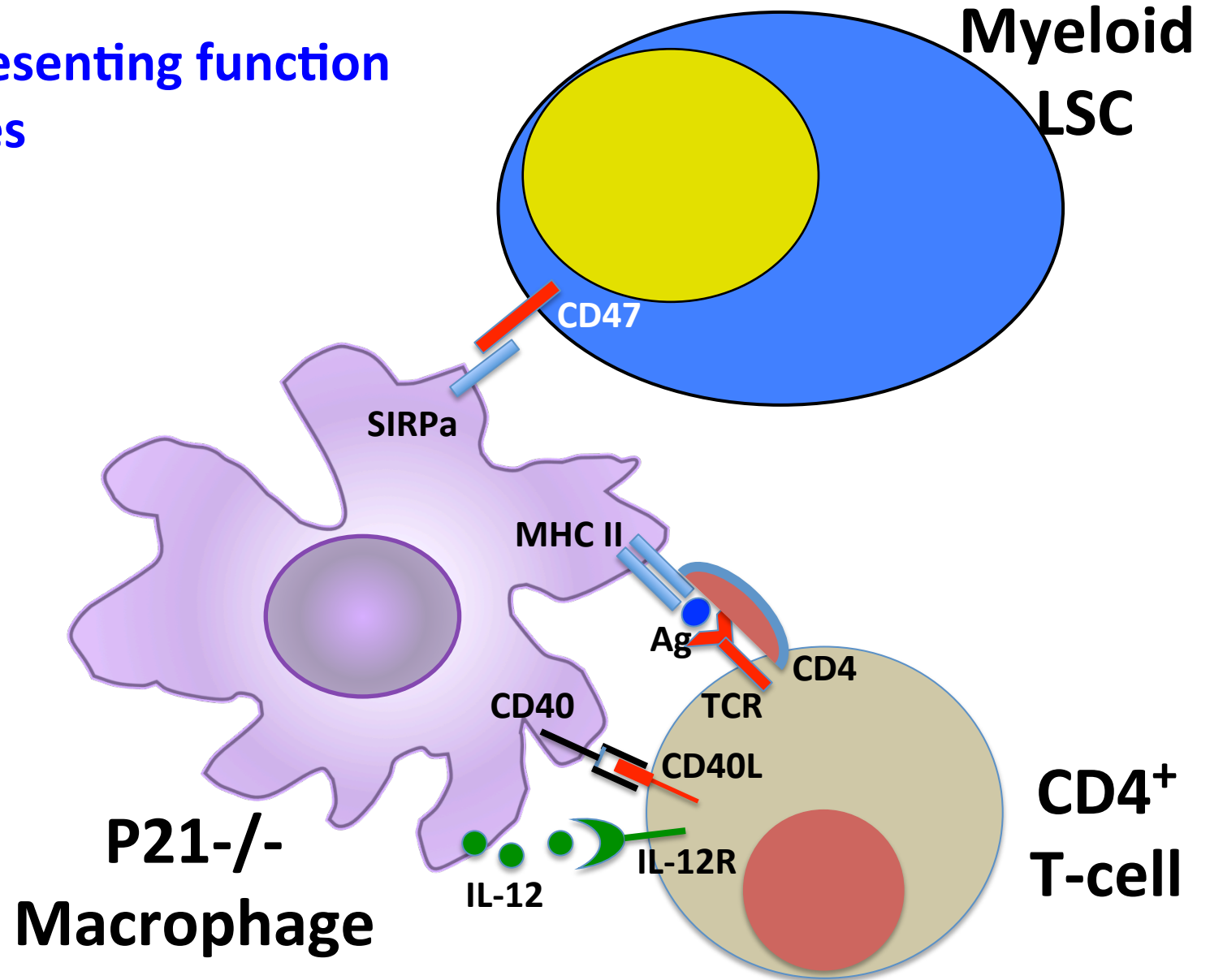
“WT” APL (Ly5.2)  
Or  
p21<sup>-/-</sup> APL (Ly5.2)



PML-RAR leukemia	Population	Leukaemia development in syngenic mice
P21 <sup>-/-</sup>	Bulk	0/8
	MHCII <sup>+</sup>	0/2
	MHCII <sup>-</sup>	8/8
WT	Bulk	2/2
	MHCII <sup>+</sup>	2/2
	MHCII <sup>-</sup>	3/3

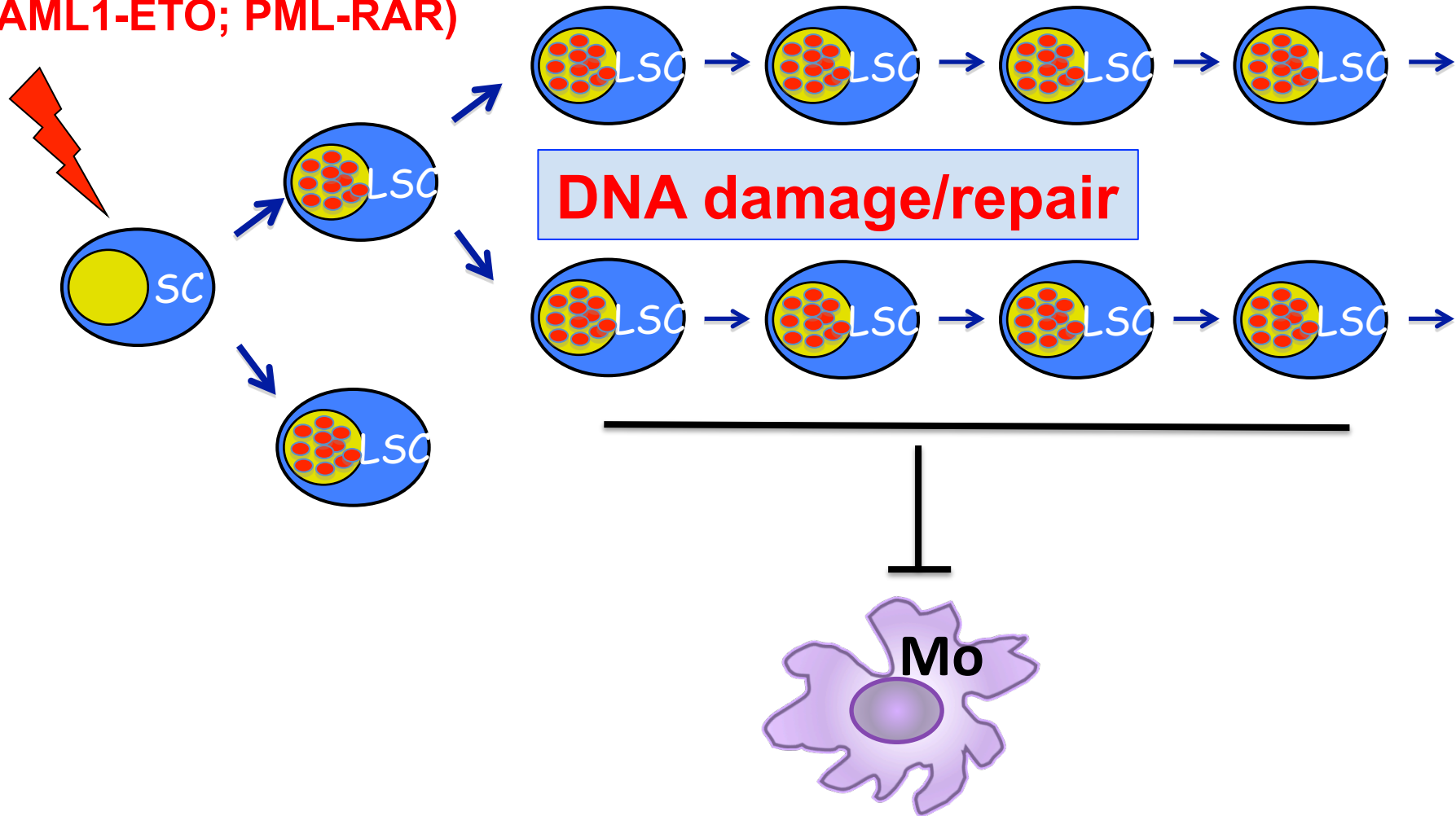


**Working hypothesis:  
p21 regulates  
the antigen-presenting function  
of Macrophages**



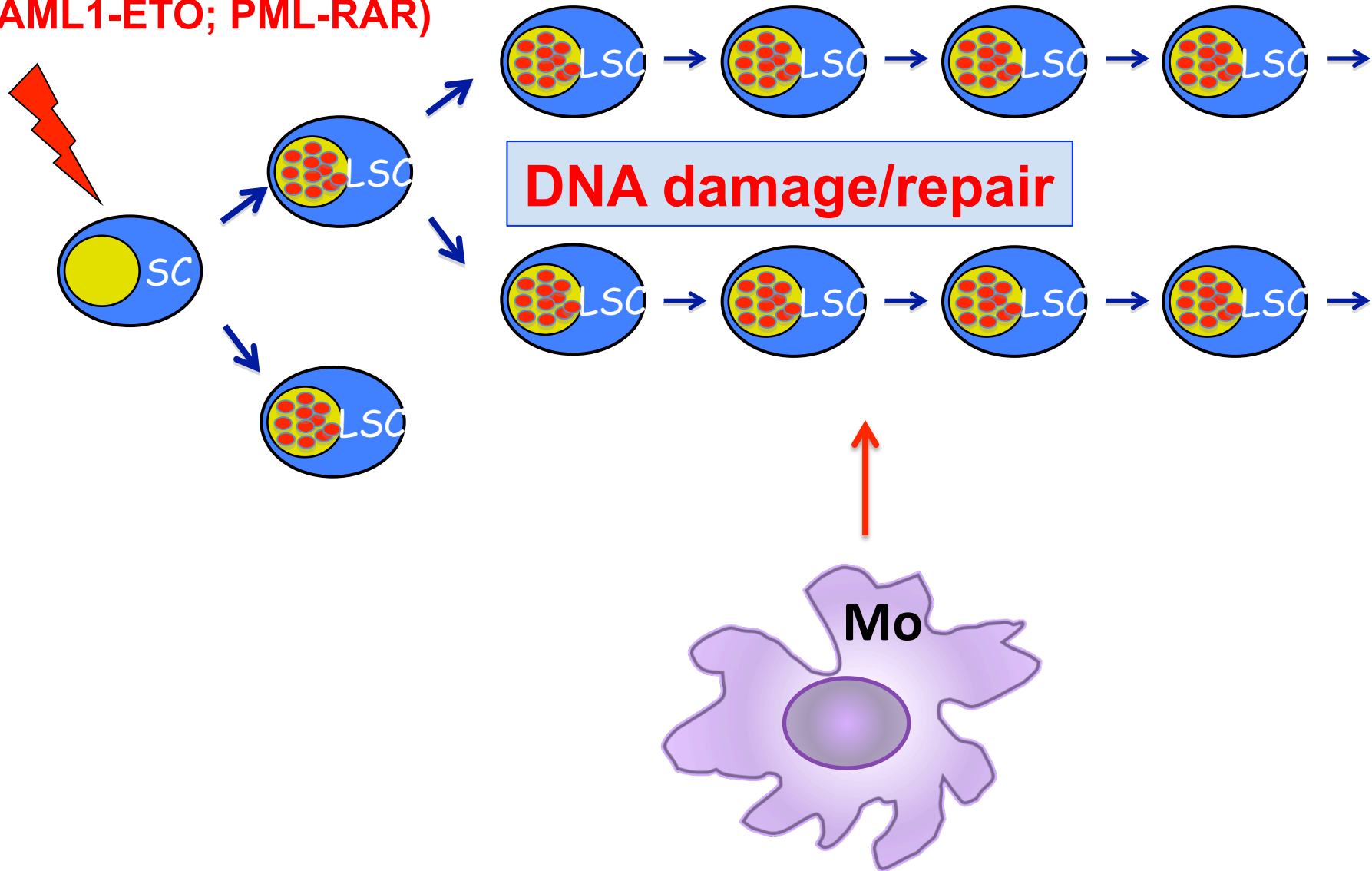
# Leukemia SCs must evade a macrophage-dependent Immune-surveillance mechanism

Initiating Oncogenes  
(AML1-ETO; PML-RAR)



# Macrophage activation (by p21 attenuation) Activates an anti-tumor immune response

Initiating Oncogenes  
(AML1-ETO; PML-RAR)



# Do Macrophages mediate clearance Of damaged Hematopoietic Stem Cells?

**Transient DNA-damage**

