

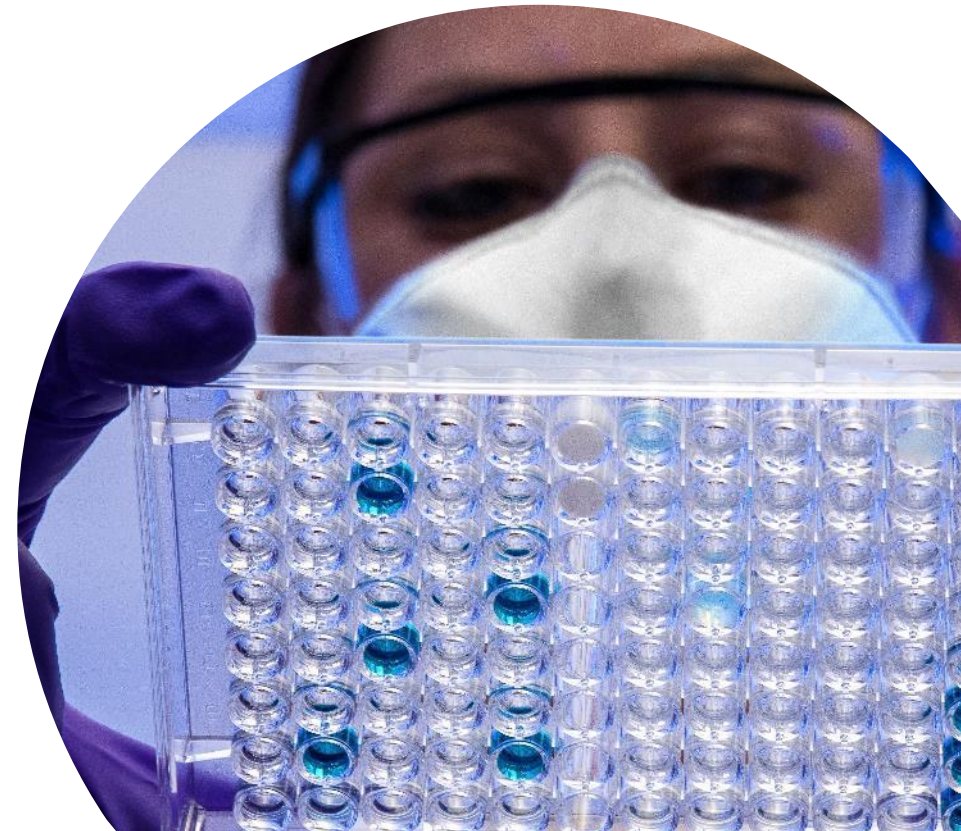
COVID-19 Immunology Consortium-BC Symposium

November 5th, 2021

Dr. Christopher Carlsten

Dr. Manali Mukherjee

Chad Poloni



Land acknowledgement


BC Children's Hospital Research Institute operates on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples — xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



COVID-19 Immunology Consortium-BC

CIC-BC brings together researchers at all stages of their career to help facilitate collaborations with individuals who are interested in infectious disease immunology.

As a member of CIC-BC, you have access to:

- a community of over 100 researchers from across BC
 - quarterly newsletters
 - bimonthly research symposia
 - student and trainee group.
- 
- A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of several overlapping, curved lines in shades of light green and light blue, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Today's presenters



Chad Poloni

PhD Student, University
of British Columbia



Dr. Christopher Carlsten

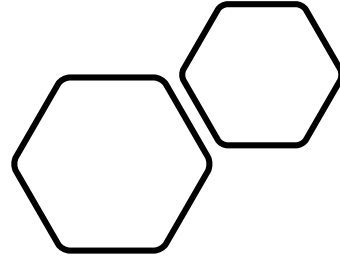
Professor and Division
Head of Respiratory
Medicine, University of
British Columbia



Dr. Manali Mukherjee

Assistant Professor of
Medicine, McMaster
University

Tracking the COVID-19 vaccine T cell response



Chad Poloni
Steiner Lab
CIC-BC Symposium
Nov 5, 2021

Current COVID-19 vaccine T cell studies

PREVENT Study

Definitions

V1 - Day of COVID-19 vaccine, up to 24 hours prior to vaccination

V2 – 1 month post dose 1

V3 – Day of COVID-19 vaccine dose 2, up to 24 hours prior to vaccination

V4 – 1 month post series completion

V5 – 4 months post series completion

V6 – 7 months post series completion

V7 – 10 months post series completion

V8 – 13 months post series completion

V9 – 19 months post series completion

AIM assays N = 51 Ex vivo phenotyping N = 51

Individuals N = 18

Individuals with V1, V2, V4, V5 N = 4

PREvent-COVID – Transplant Study

Total PBMCs collected N = 65

Total serum collected N = 115

V1 PBMCs = 3

V1 Serum = 3

V2 PBMCs = 20

V2 Serum = 21

V3 PBMCs = 40

V3 Serum = 80

V4 PBMCs = 2

V4 Serum = 11

Blood Cancer Study – CSS

Total PBMCs collected N = 220

Total AIM assays (fresh blood) N = 30

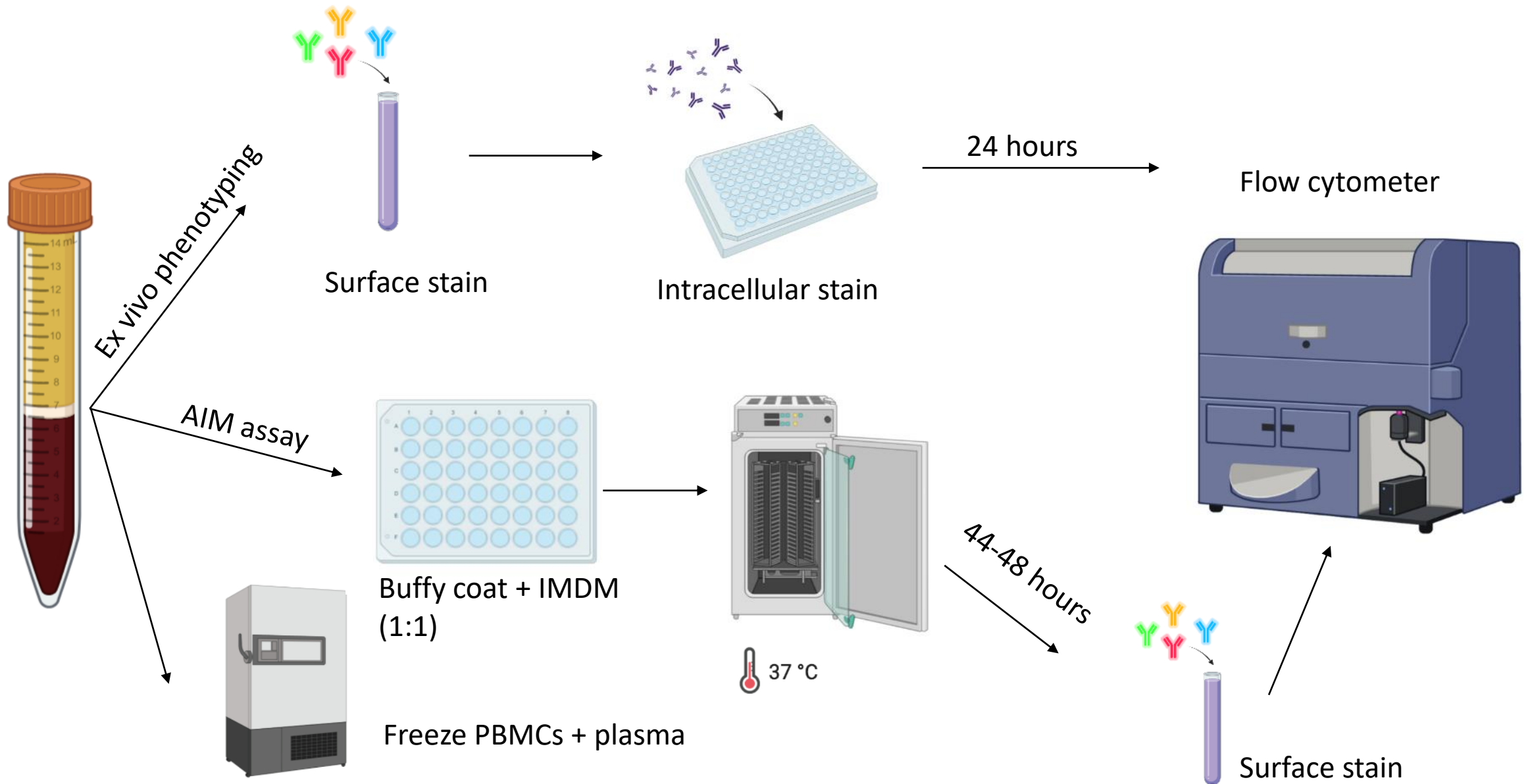
Solid Tumor Study – CST

Total PBMCs + AIM + ex vivo phenotyping N = 92

V1 = 29

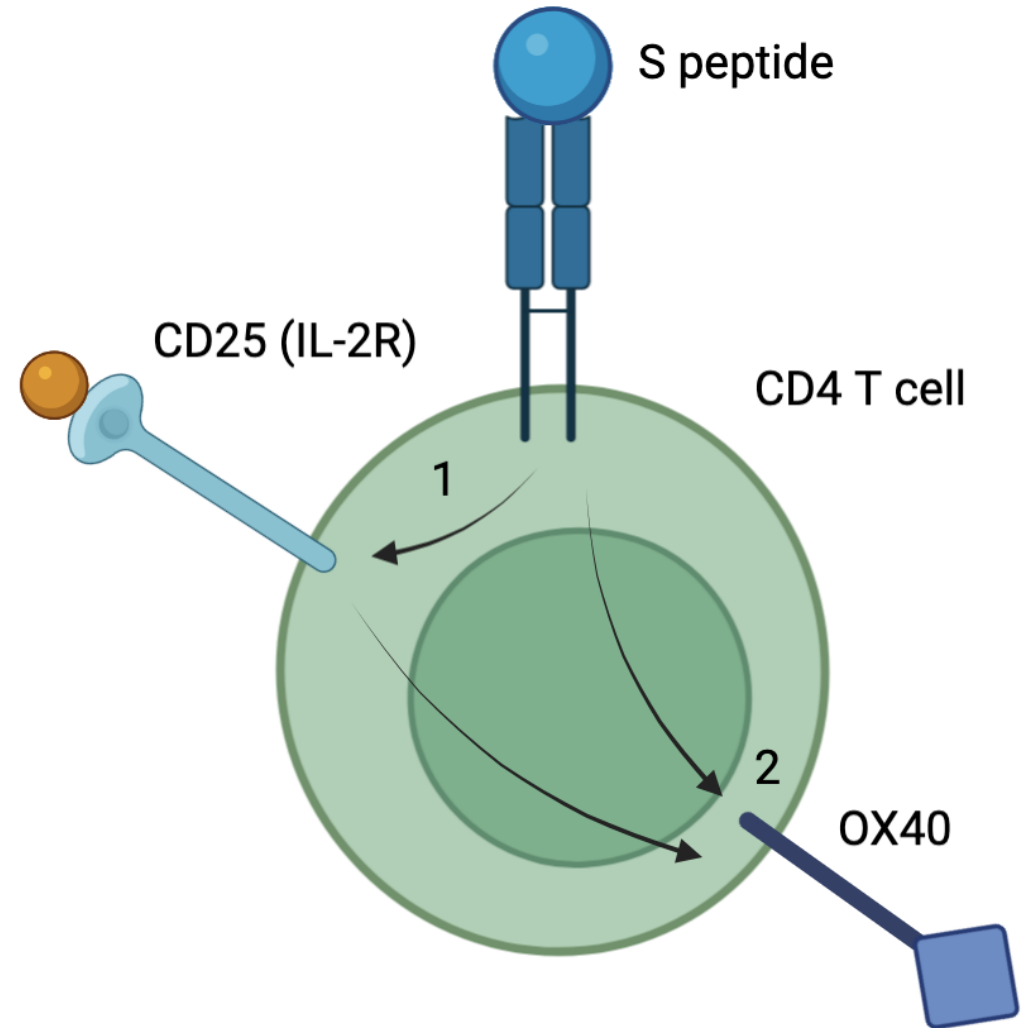
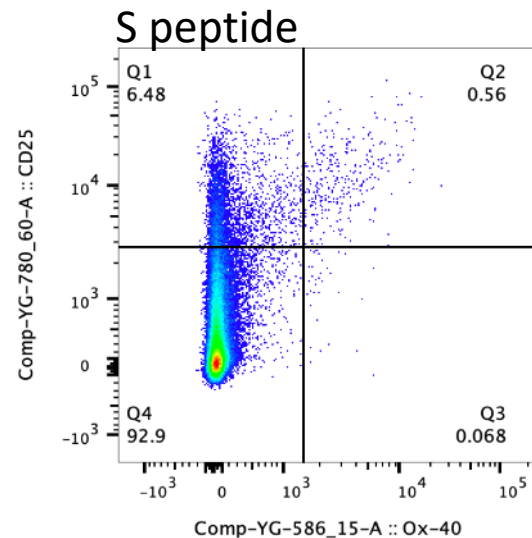
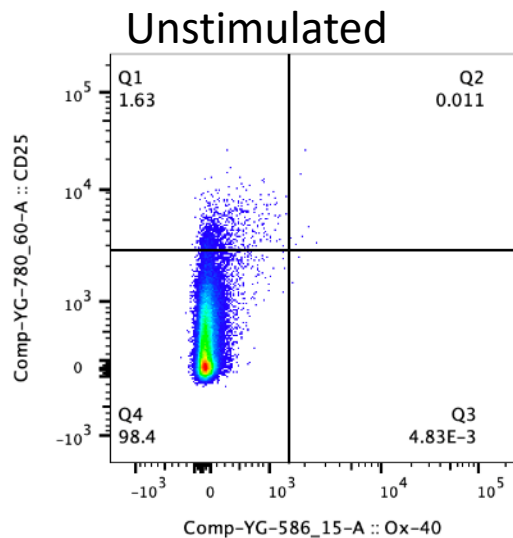
V2 = 63

Overview of sample processing



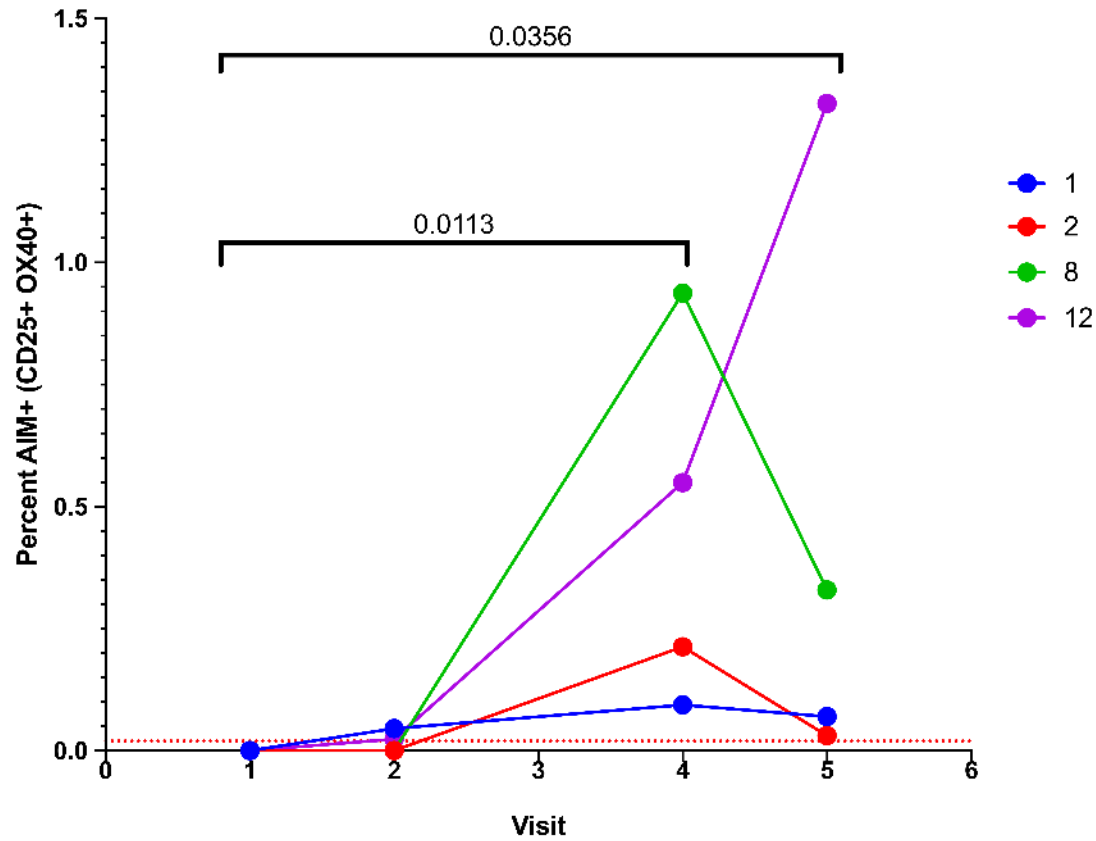
The antigen-induced marker assay (AIM)

- 100 ul buffy coat + 100 ul IMDM plated with antigen in 48-well plate
 - Unstimulated
 - S peptide
 - M peptide
 - N peptide
 - AgriFlu
 - Cytostim
- Incubated for 44-48 hours at 37
- Surface stain for CD4, CD8, and activation markers
 - CD25 + OX40 for CD4
 - CD69 + CD137 for CD8
- Read on flow cytometer



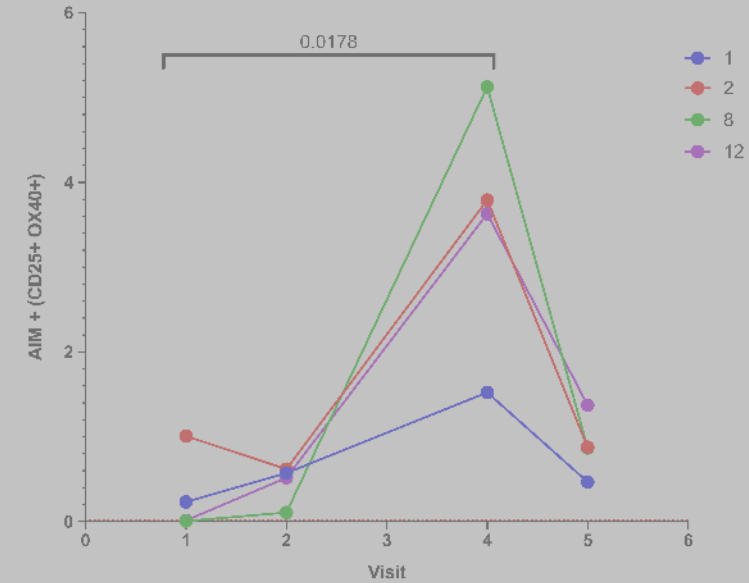
CD4 T cell responses

CD4 AIM Assay - S peptide



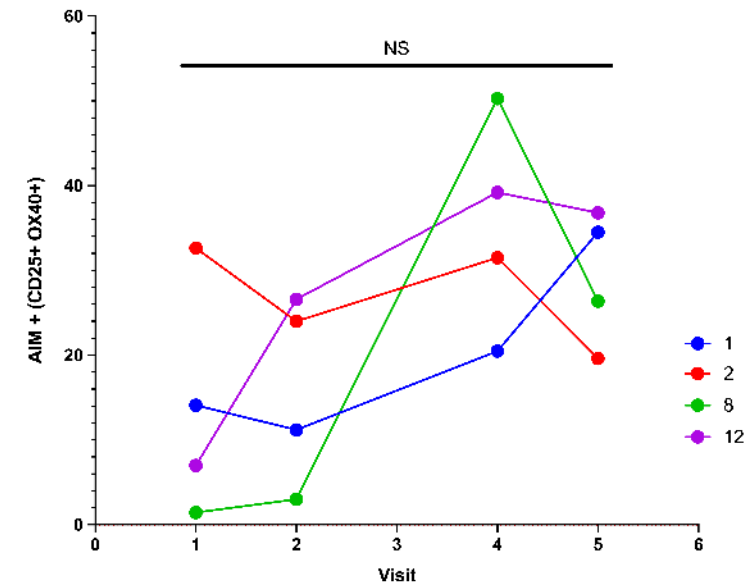
N = 4
Kruskal-Wallis test: $P = 0.0009$
+ Dunn's multiple comparisons test

CD4 AIM Assay - AgriFlu



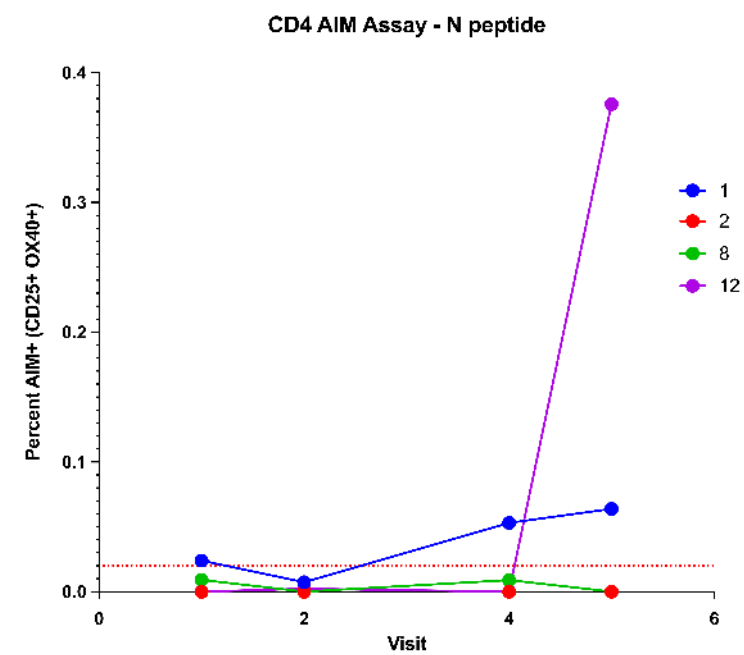
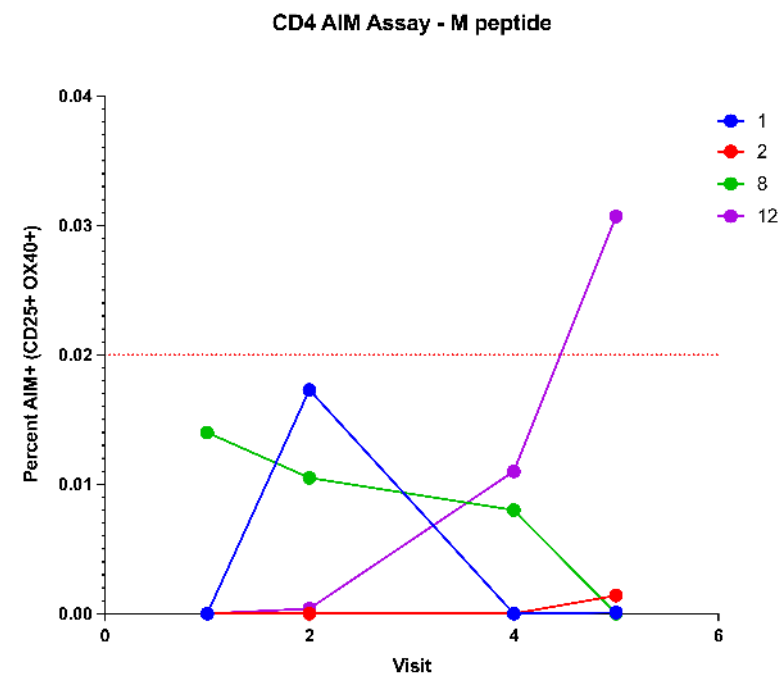
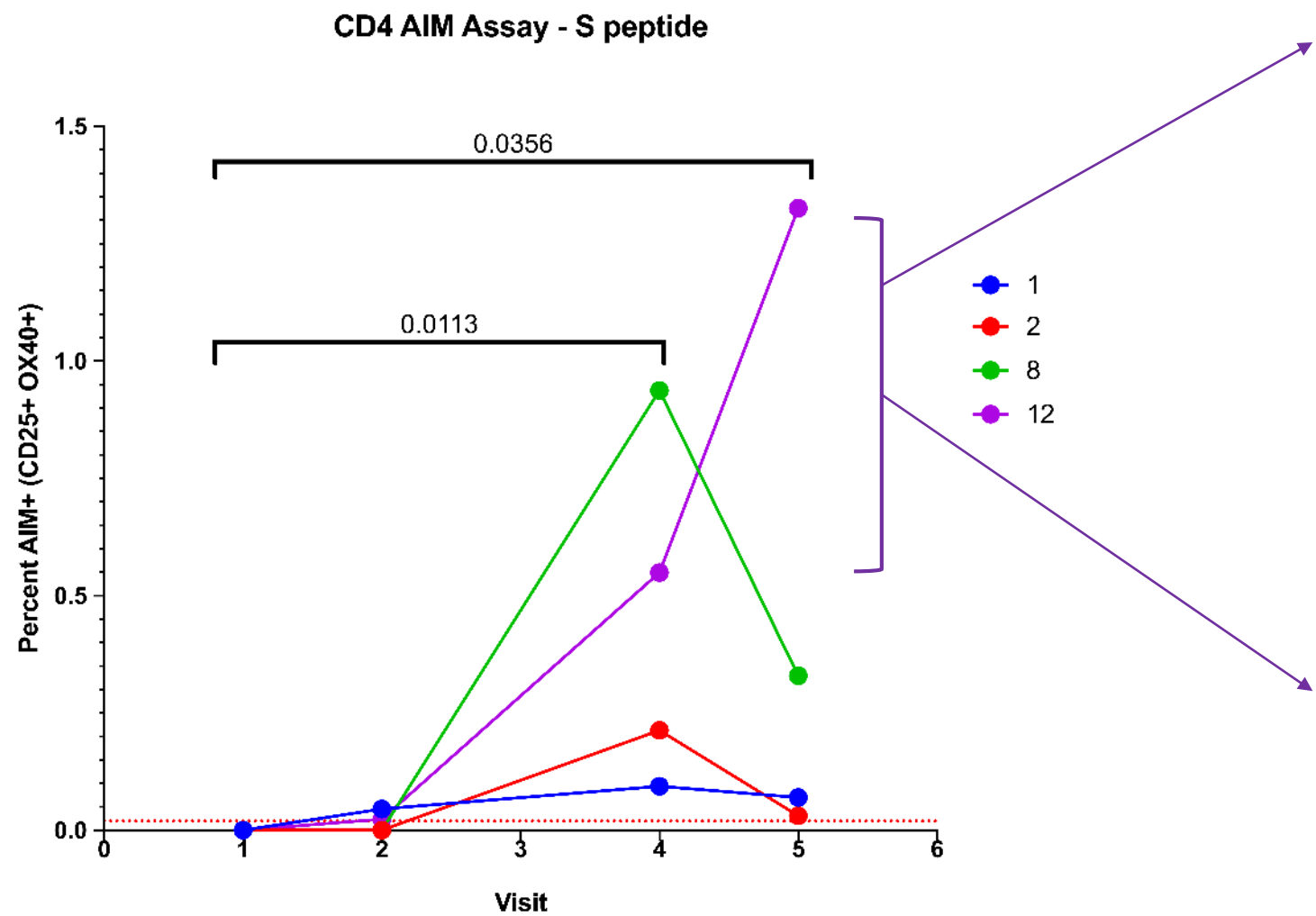
N = 4
Kruskal-Wallis test: $P = 0.0033$
+ Dunn's multiple comparisons test

CD4 AIM Assay - CytoStim

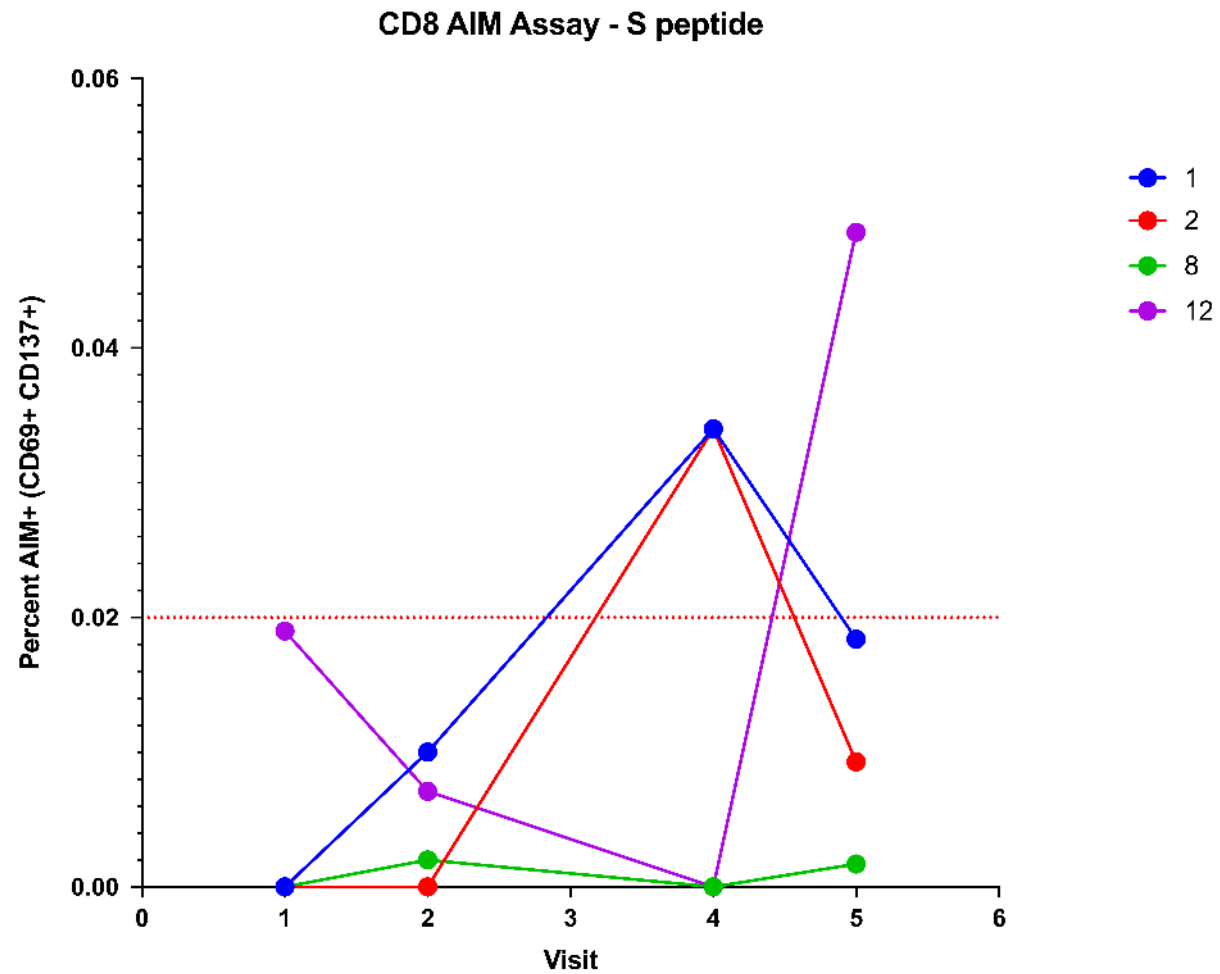


N = 4
Kruskal-Wallis test: $P = 0.0955$

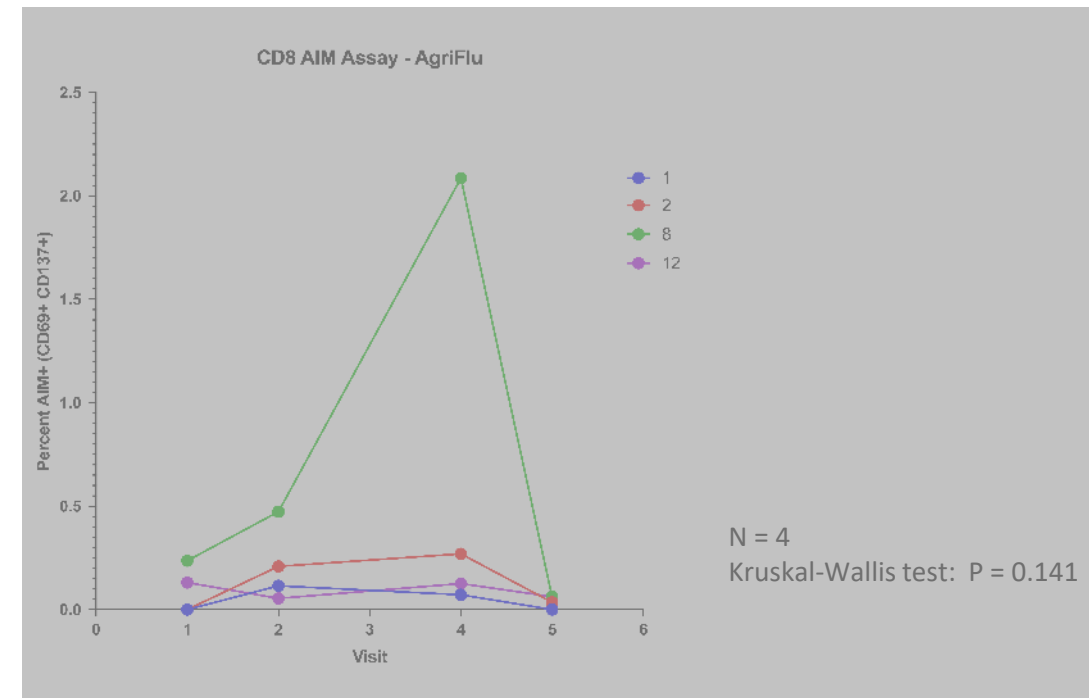
CD4 T cell responses



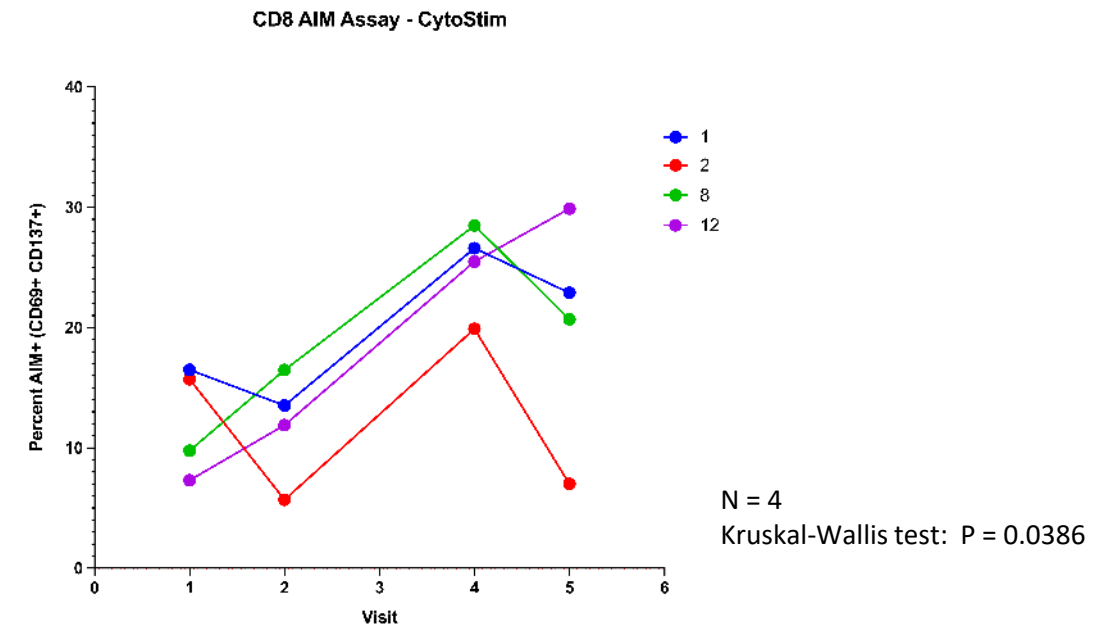
CD8 T cell responses



N = 4
Kruskal-Wallis test: P = 0.448



N = 4
Kruskal-Wallis test: P = 0.141



N = 4
Kruskal-Wallis test: P = 0.0386

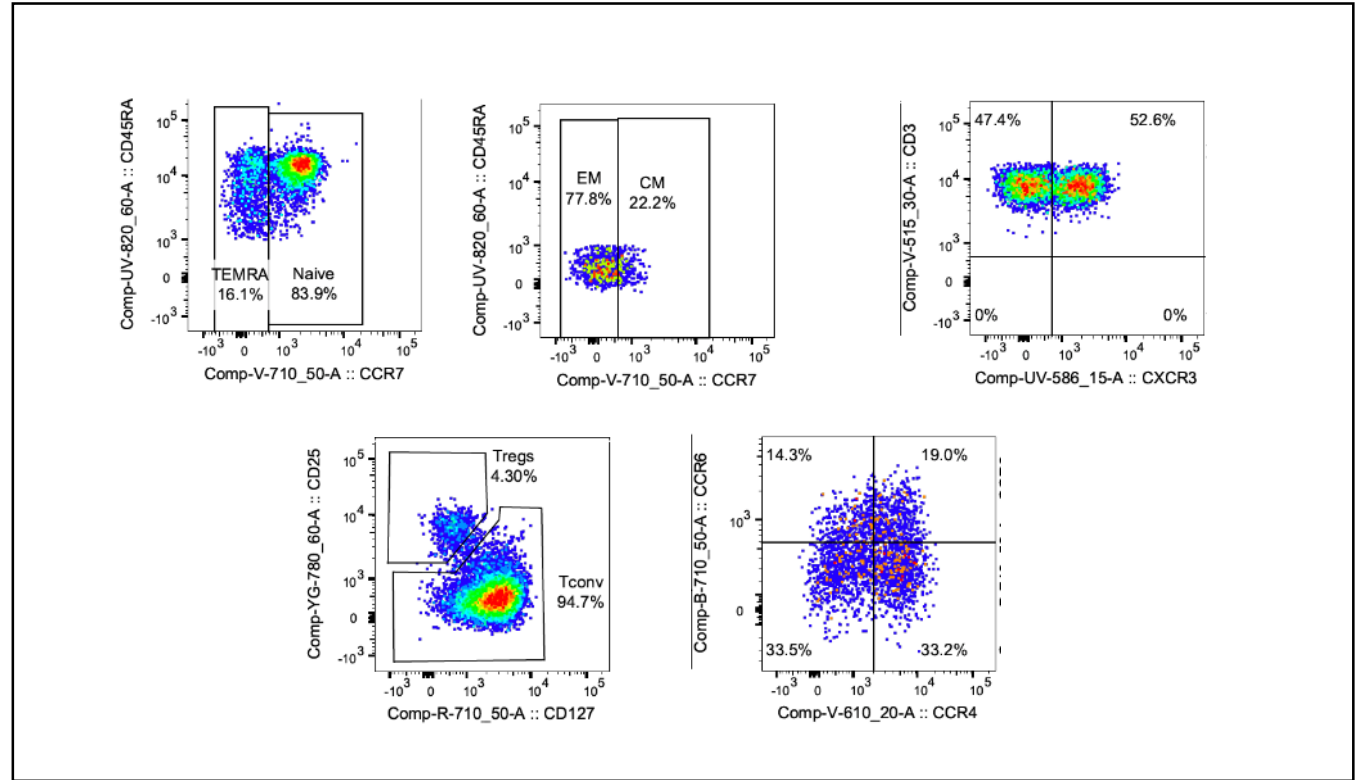
Summary of T cell responses

- Antigen-specific S peptide CD4 T cell responses peak at visit 4 (1 month after series completion)
- CD4 T cell responses are still detectable at time point 5
- ID12 has suspected COVID-19 infection between V4 and V5 causing peak of CD4 T cell response at V5
 - T cell response to N and M peptides
- AgriFlu CD4 T cell response follows a similar pattern as the S peptide
 - Due to timing of Flu vaccination or ssRNA from COVID-19 vaccine acting as adjuvant to boost Flu-specific T cell response
- The magnitude of CD8 S-specific T cell responses is much lower than CD4 T cells

Ex Vivo Phenotyping

- Phenotyping carried out on fresh whole blood

Symphony	Filter	Target
UV-355nm	1	378/29
	2	515/30
	3	586/15
	4	610/20
	5	670/30
	6	740/35
	7	820/60
V-403nm	1	440/40
	2	515/30
	3	586/15
	4	610/20
	5	670/30
	6	710/50
	7	750/30
	8	780/40
B-488nm	1	488/10
	2	515/20
	3	610/20
	4	670/30
	5	710/50
	6	780/60
YG-561nm	1	585/42
	2	610/20
	3	675/30
	4	710/50
	5	763/43
R-628nm	1	660/10
	2	712/25
	3	780/60*

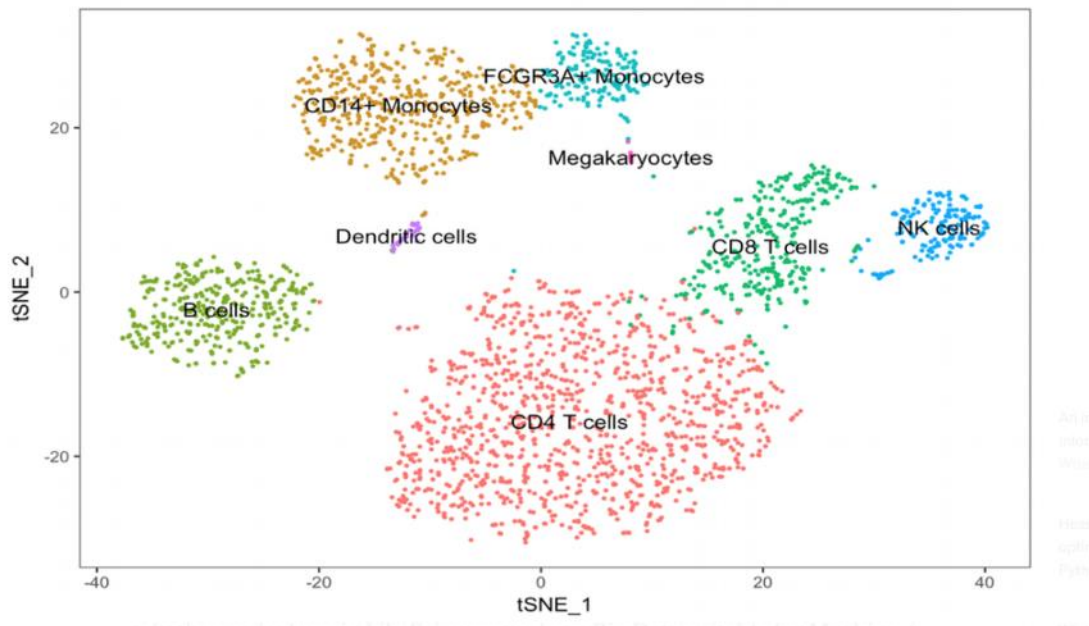


- Panel allows for traditional Boolean gating of CD4 and CD8 T cell subsets:
 - Naïve, effector memory, central memory follicular helper, Th1, Th2, Th17, Th1.17
- Can utilize dimensionality reduction and clustering techniques to identify novel T cell subsets**

Ex vivo phenotyping analyses

tSNE – t-distributed stochastic neighbor embedding

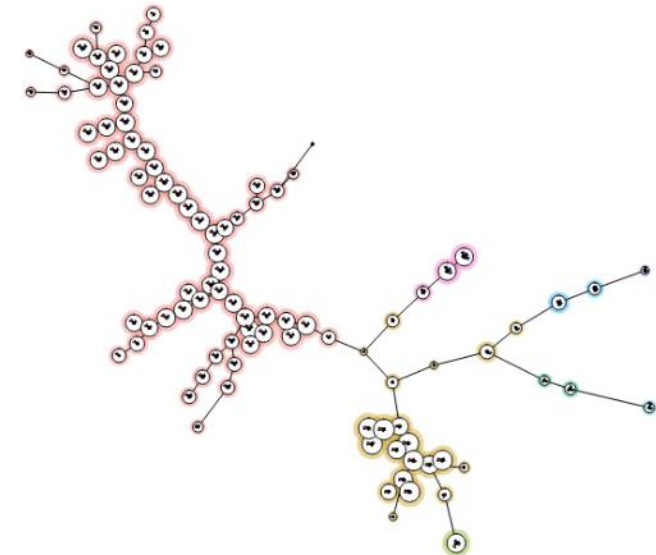
- Dimensionality reduction technique
- Visualization of high dimensional (parameter) datasets
- Gives each datapoint (cell) a position in 2D space
- Points are grouped by similarity



Source: <https://towardsdatascience.com/how-to-tune-hyperparameters-of-tsne-7c0596a18868>

FlowSOM – t-distributed stochastic neighbor embedding

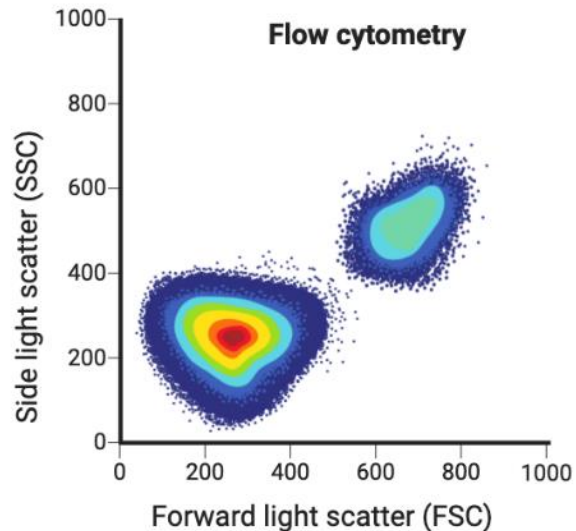
- Dimensionality reduction technique
- Visualization of high dimensional (parameter) datasets
- Generates self-organizing maps (SOM) of clusters based on markers, assigns each cluster to metacluster
- shows population abundances and marker expressions



Quintelier et al, 2021.

Analysis pipeline

1. Clean up FCS files (gate single cells, CD3+)



2. Down-sample all visits and IDs to 8,000 events

- Reduce number of events for tSNE and FlowSOM

3. Concatenate all sample visits into one FCS file



4. Run tSNE on single FCS file (hours – days)

5. Gate out each visit (using keywords), overlay on top of master tSNE to identify changes in T cell populations overtime

6. Perform FlowSOM of FCS file

7. Gate out visits for each FlowSOM population to determine which cluster is enriched for each visit

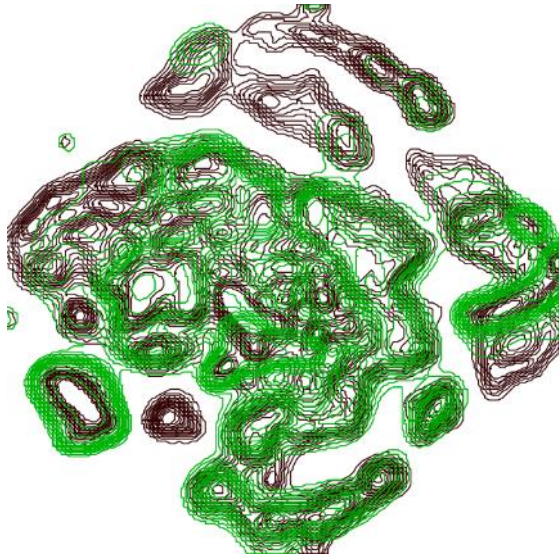
FlowSOM.Pop19	1.26
V1	0.099
V2	99.2
V3	0.30
V4	0.40

Here pop 19 is almost exclusively from V2 events

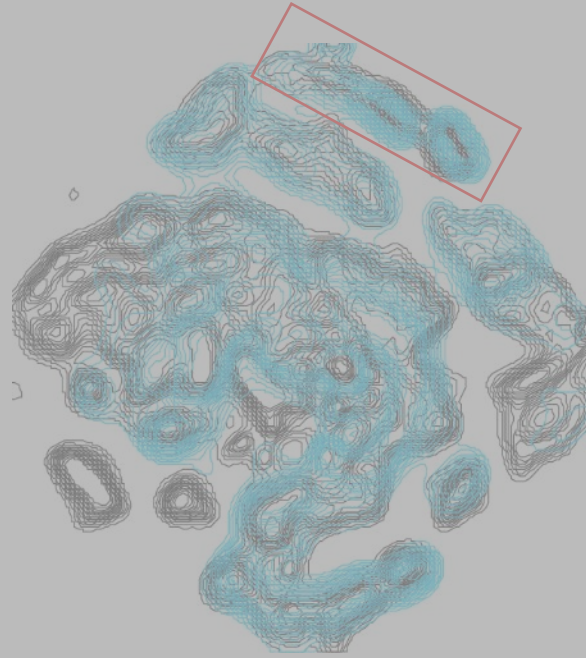
8. Overlay enriched FlowSOM populations on tSNE to determine the phenotype

tSNE analysis of ex vivo phenotyping

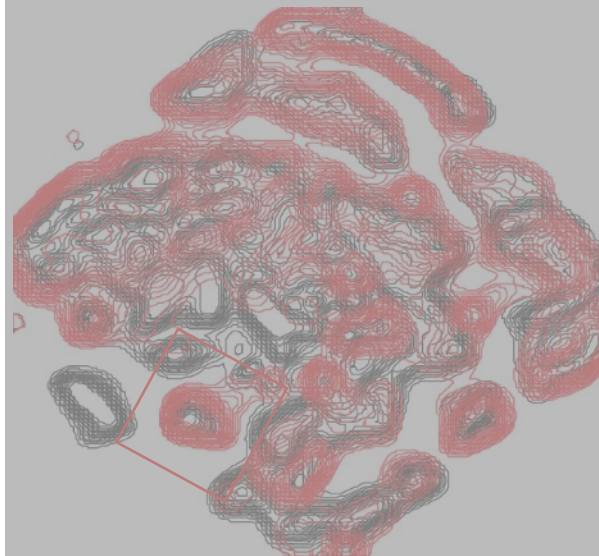
Visit 1 – pre-dose 1



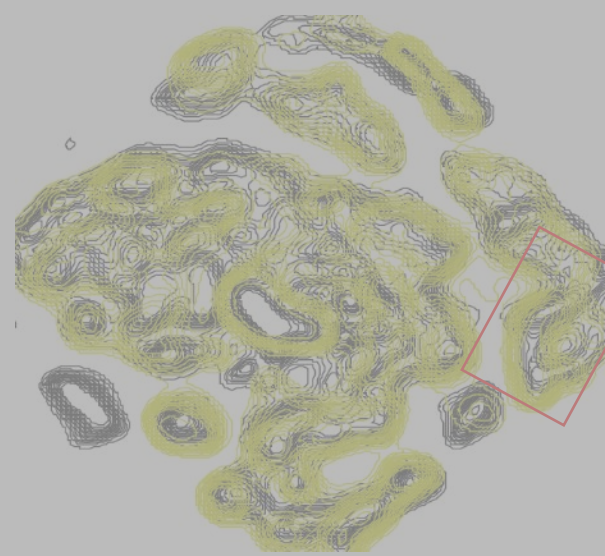
Visit 2 – 1 month
post dose 1



Visit 4 – 1 month post
series completion

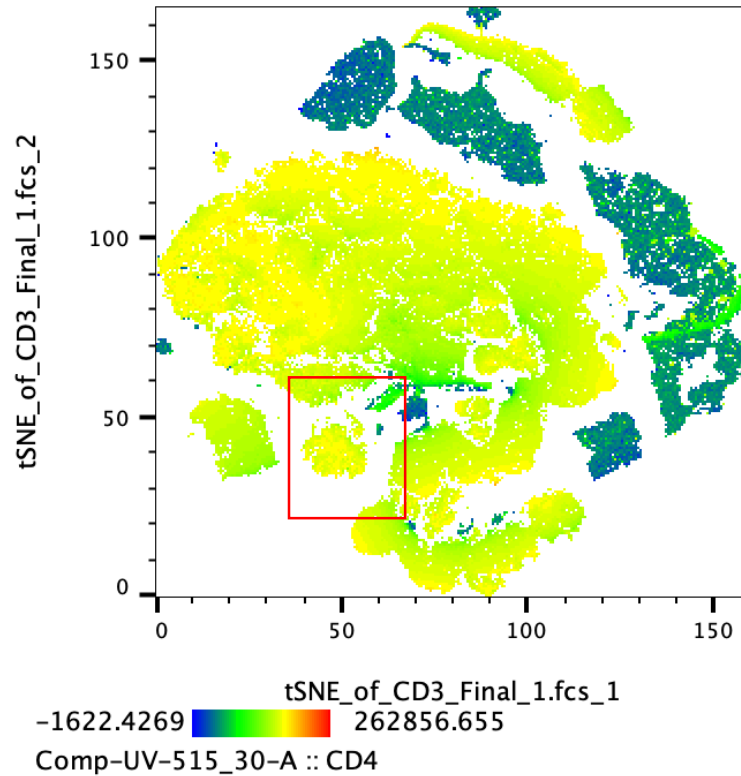


Visit 5 – 4 months post
series completion

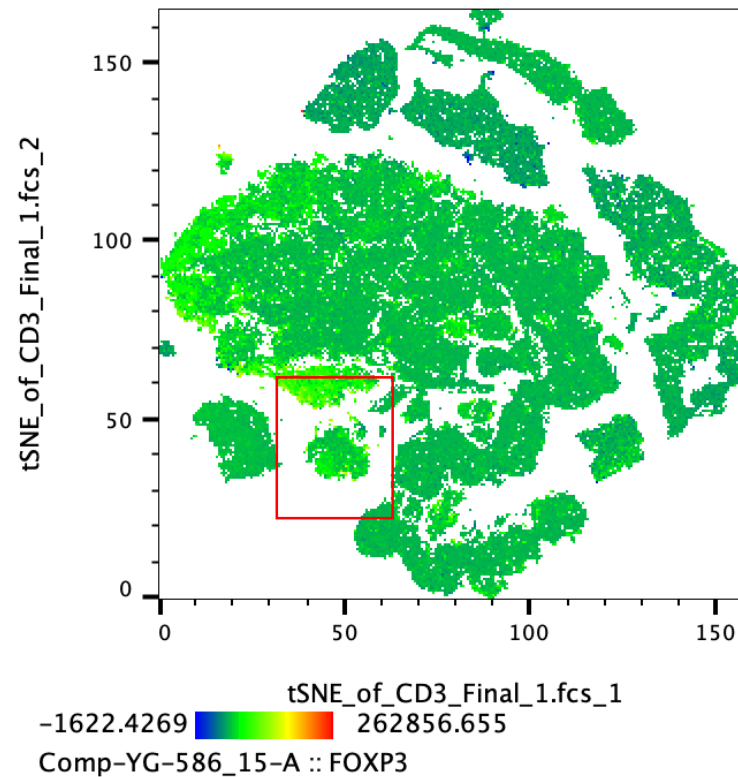


tSNE analysis of ex vivo phenotyping – Visit 4

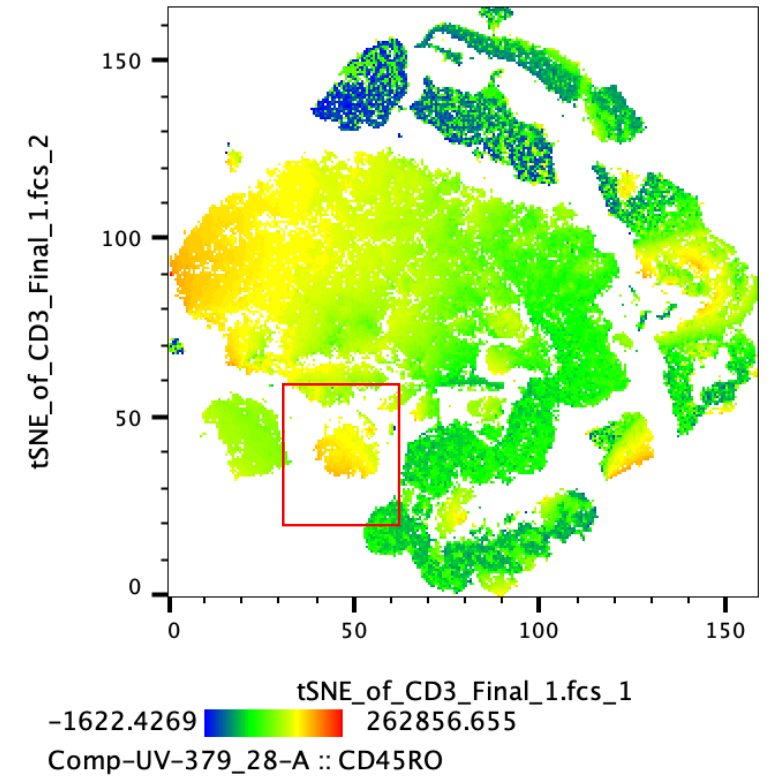
CD4 heatmap



FOXP3 heatmap

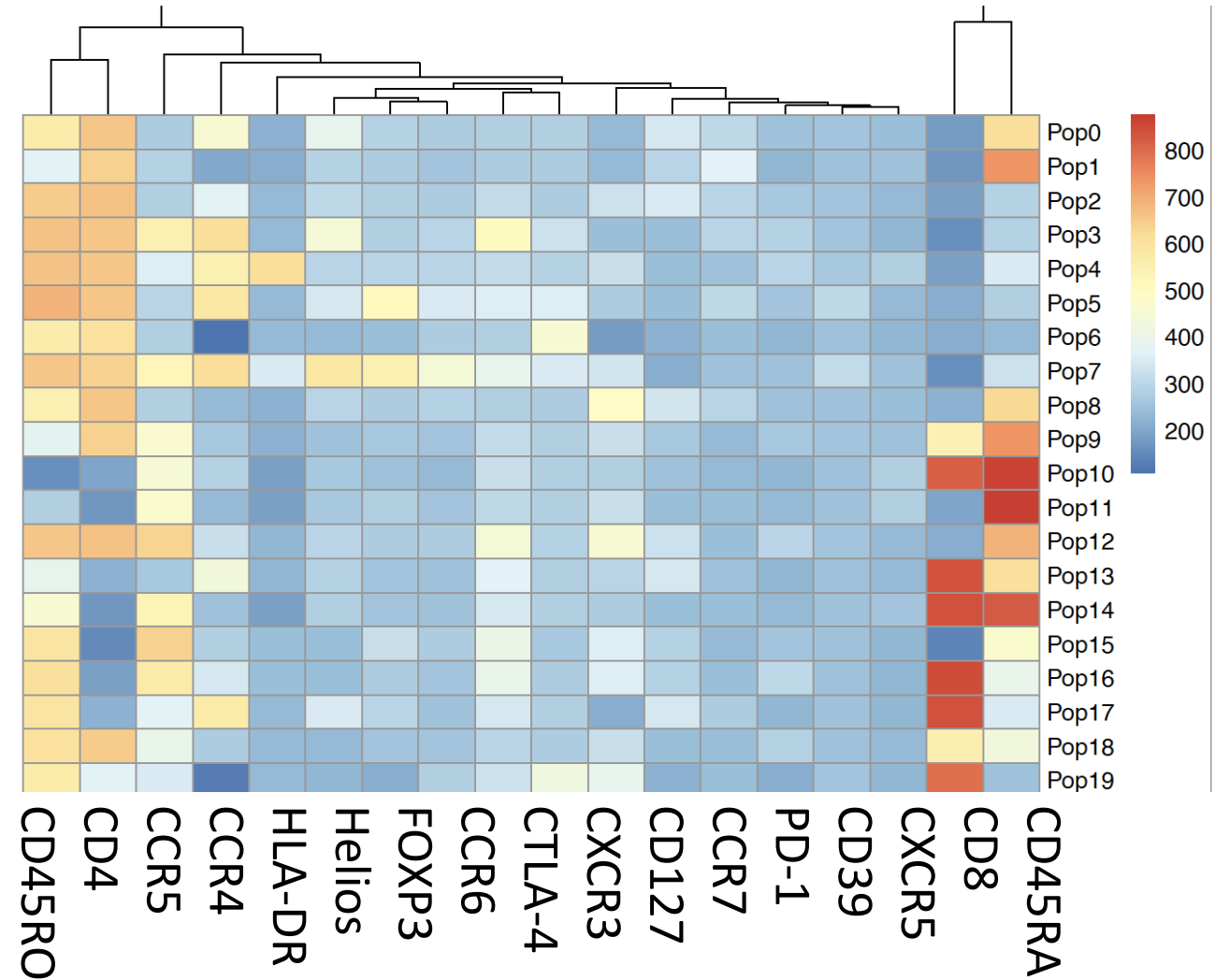
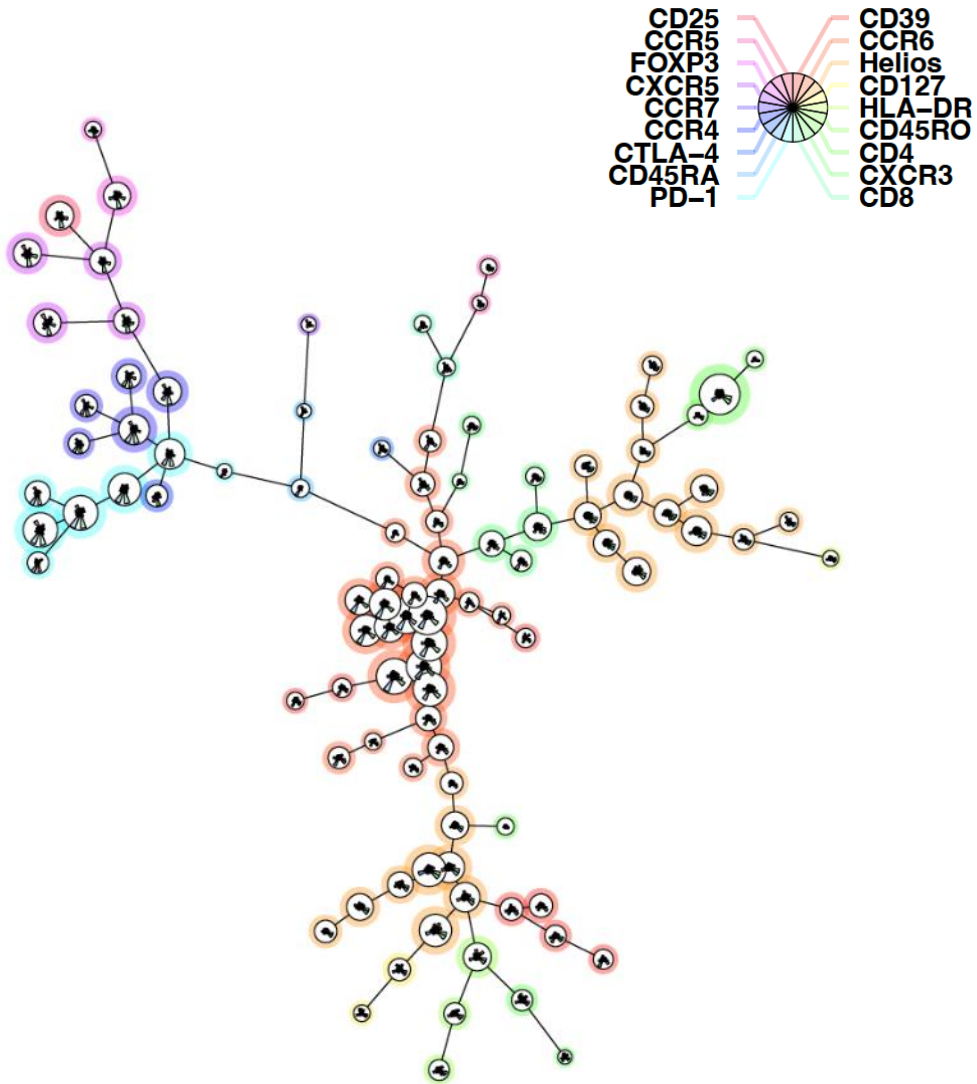


CD45RO heatmap



- tSNE cluster enriched during visit 4: CD4+ CD45RO+ FOXP3+

Ex vivo clustering via FlowSOM



FlowSOM T cell subset identification

Populations enriched in V2

	CD39	CCR6	Helios	CD127	HLA-DR	CD45RO	CD4	CXCR3	CD8	PD-1	CD45RA	CTLA-4	CCR4	CCR7	CXCR5	FOXP3	CCR5	CD25	V1	V2 ▼	V4	V5
export CD3 Final 1 FlowSOM.Pop19.fcs	127	531	-107	-66.8	11.6	3870	808	910	28207	-92.5	82.2	1213	-547	43.6	-5.13	281	652	-23.1	0.099	99.2	0.30	0.40
export CD3 Final 1 FlowSOM.Pop6.fcs	93.8	271	77.1	-51.4	6.42	3568	4882	-279	-89.9	-7.70	39.8	1526	-676	71.9	0	207	261	21.8	0.55	97.1	1.11	1.24
export CD3 Final 1 FlowSOM.Pop4.fcs	195	414	350	60.4	5509	8117	7731	447	-225	331	655	317	3126	95.1	274	331	707	339	23.8	39.4	13.8	23.1

Populations enriched in V4

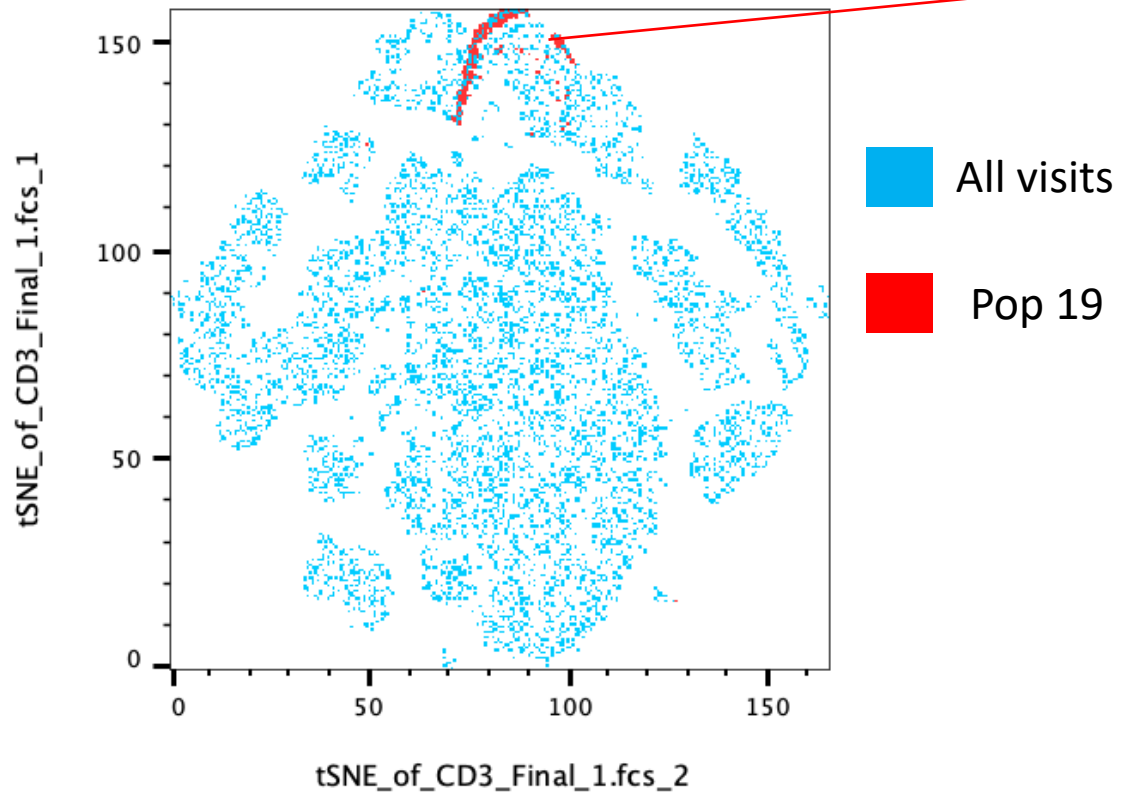
	CD39	CCR6	Helios	CD127	HLA-DR	CD45RO	CD4	CXCR3	CD8	PD-1	CD45RA	CTLA-4	CCR4	CCR7	CXCR5	FOXP3	CCR5	CD25	V1	V2	V4 ▼	V5
export CD3 Final 1 FlowSOM.Pop5.fcs	367	710	2391	60.4	32.1	10650	7921	213	-87.4	139	265	723	4290	383	2.57	665	337	596	15.1	16.6	54.2	14.1
export CD3 Final 1 FlowSOM.Pop15.fcs	114	1038	448	298	47.5	4537	-423	692	-483	135	1777	185	279	18.0	0	200	6703	69.4	18.2	19.8	36.0	26.0
export CD3 Final 1 FlowSOM.Pop12.fcs	134	1389	224	531	-3.85	7800	8677	1555	-116	332	10318	295	450	77.1	28.2	225	6404	347	28.9	3.39	35.1	32.7

Populations enriched in V5

	CD39	CCR6	Helios	CD127	HLA-DR	CD45RO	CD4	CXCR3	CD8	PD-1	CD45RA	CTLA-4	CCR4	CCR7	CXCR5	FOXP3	CCR5	CD25	V1	V2	V4	V5 ▼
export CD3 Final 1 FlowSOM.Pop14.fcs	102	599	152	66.8	-212	1609	-312	233	43169	23.1	36459	267	117	52.6	130	87.4	2888	240	9.64	5.06	23.9	61.4
export CD3 Final 1 FlowSOM.Pop8.fcs	117	263	207	556	-48.8	3126	7834	1979	-57.8	95.1	5812	220	24.4	356	65.5	282	250	344	24.9	7.80	29.8	37.4
export CD3 Final 1 FlowSOM.Pop7.fcs	438	933	3120	-89.9	634	8063	6674	553	-365	112	537	663	5592	107	80.9	1389	2676	4202	27.3	19.9	18.9	33.9
export CD3 Final 1 FlowSOM.Pop12.fcs	134	1389	224	531	-3.85	7800	8677	1555	-116	332	10318	295	450	77.1	28.2	225	6404	347	28.9	3.39	35.1	32.7

tSNE + FlowSOM – Visit 2

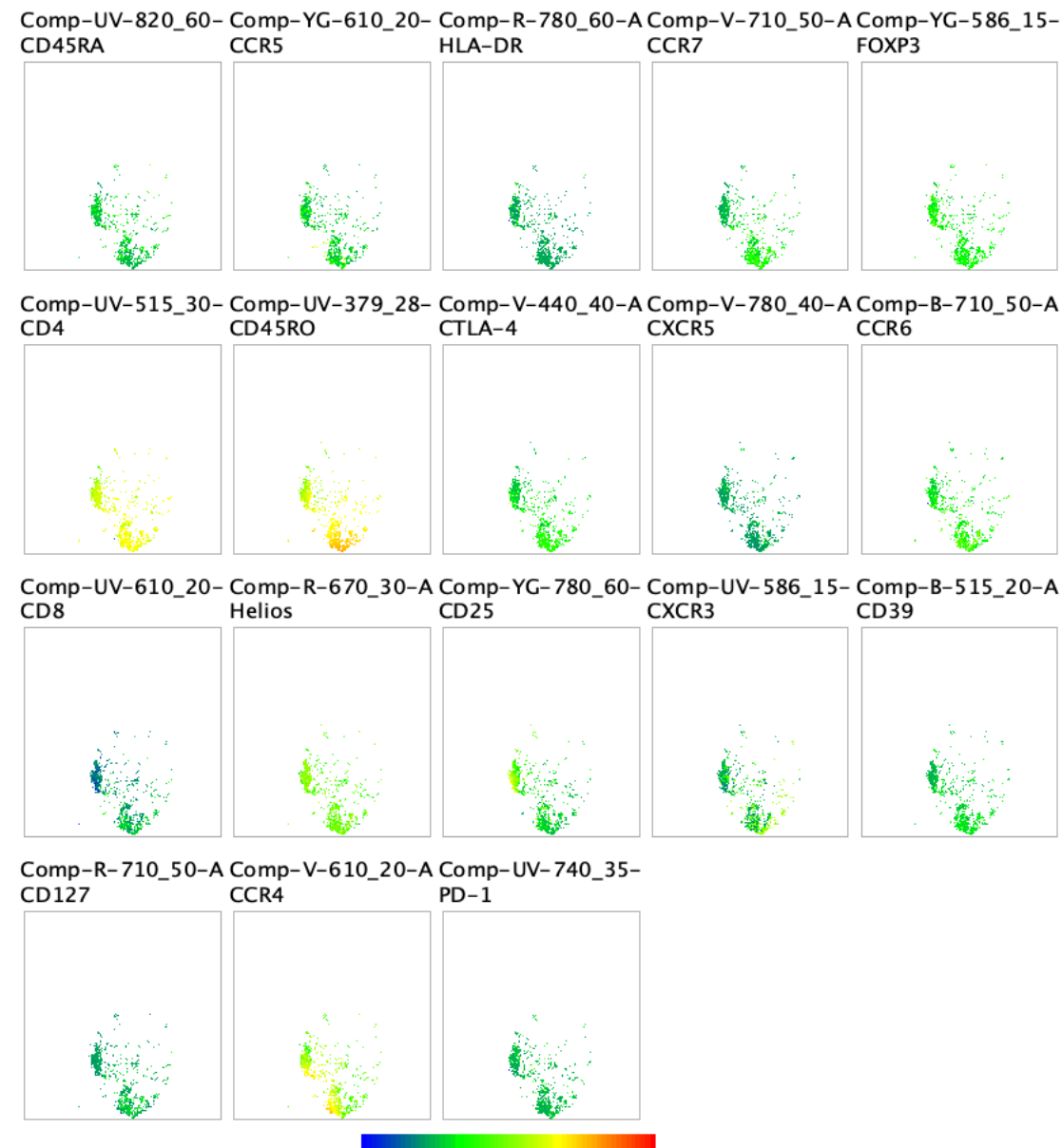
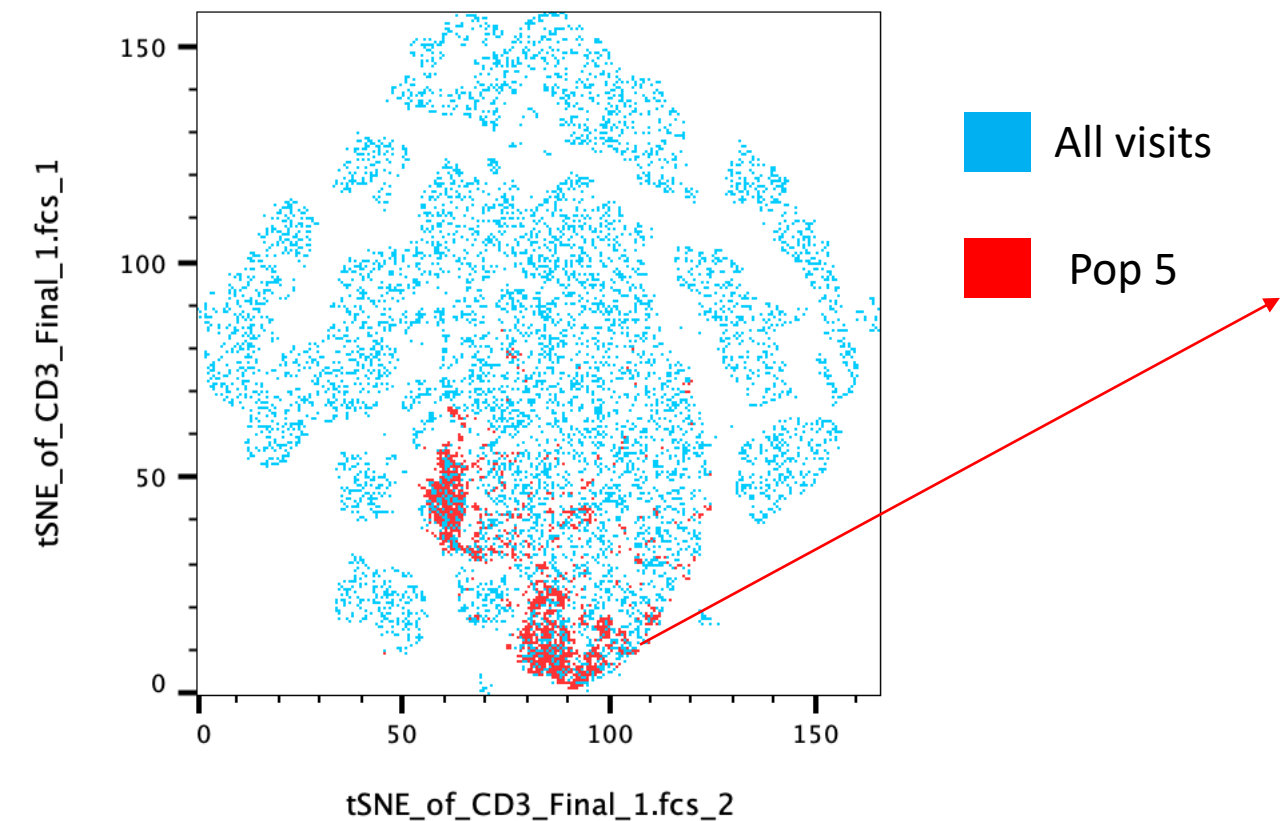
FlowSOM population 19 (enriched in V2)



CD8+ CD45RO+ CCR7^{low} = effector memory CD8+ T cells

tSNE + FlowSOM – Visit 4

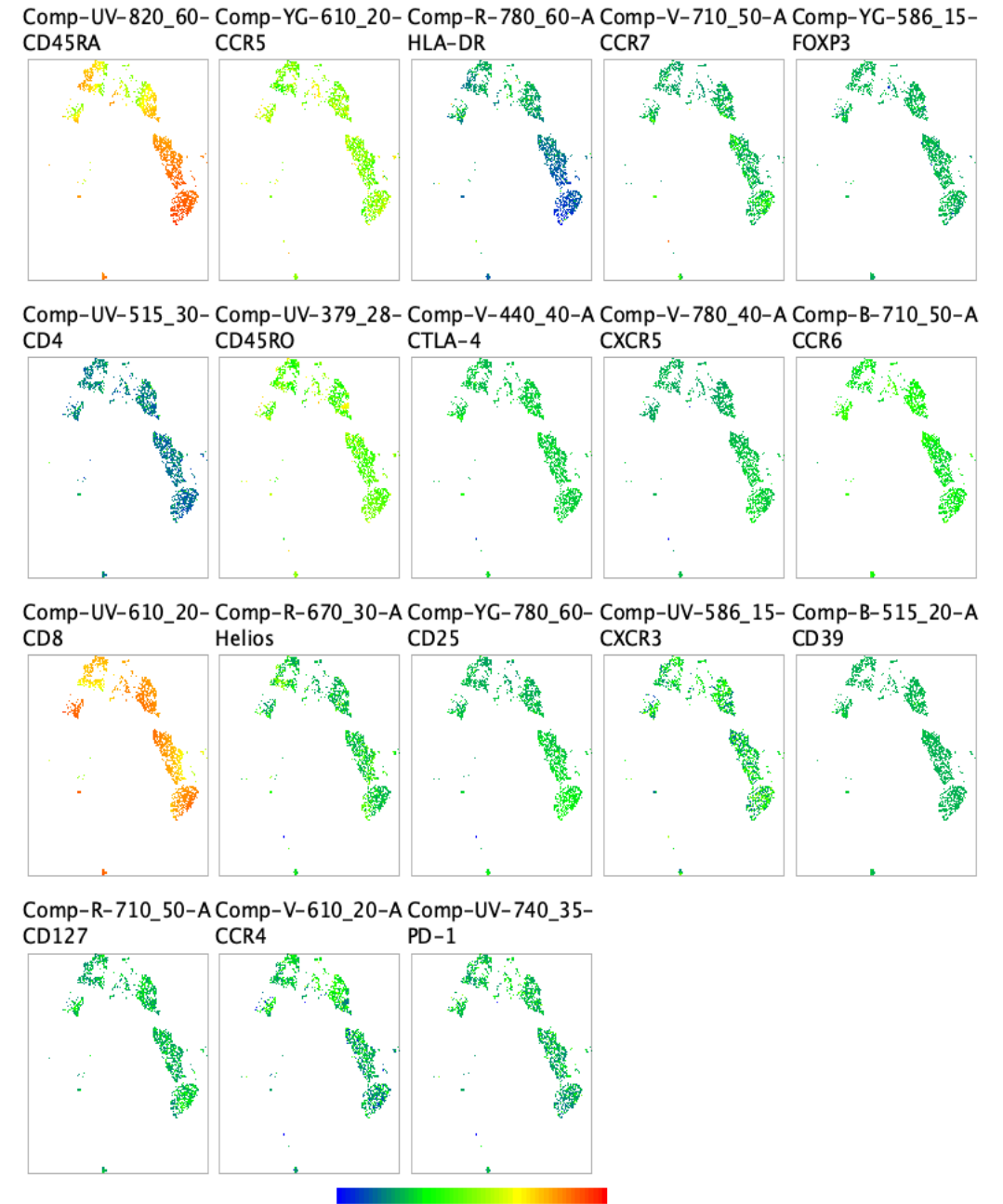
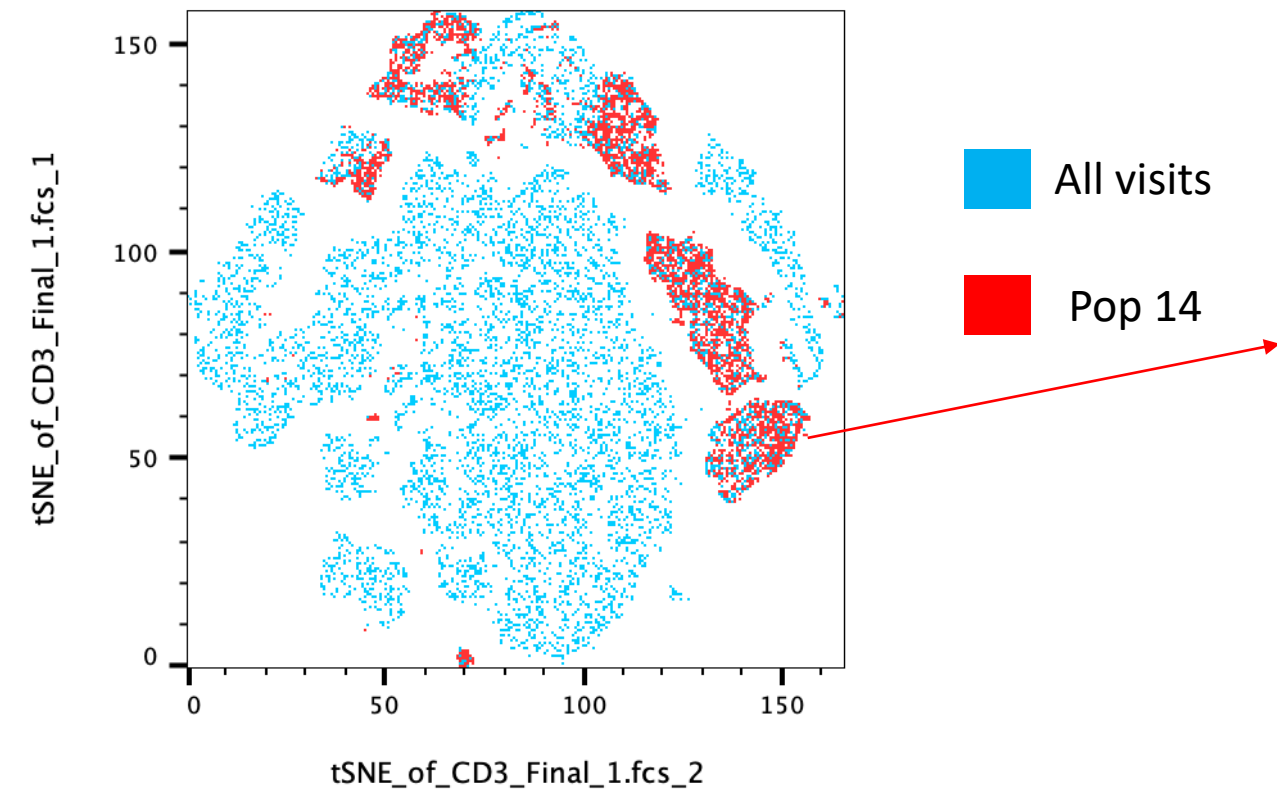
FlowSOM population 5 (enriched in V4)



CD4+ CD45RO+ CCR4+ CCR7+/- FOXP3+ = CD4+ Treg humoral response?

tSNE + FlowSOM – Visit 5

FlowSOM population 14 (enriched in V5)



CD8+ CD45RA+ CCR7- HLA-DR- = Naïve CD8 T cells

Summary of Ex vivo phenotyping

- tSNE and FlowSOM allow for dimensionality reduction and overview of phenotypic data
- Visualization of all parameters to identify T cell subsets that could be missed during traditional Boolean gating
- V2: identification of CD8 T cell expansion
- V4: identification of potential Treg subset
- V5: resolution of initial vaccine response, majority naive CD8+ T cells with low/no activation markers (return to baseline)
- Need to confirm subset identification with traditional Boolean gating and statistics (clinical data needed)

Future directions

- Generate tSNE and FlowSOM analyses using all timepoints (days-weeks of computing)
- Confirm populations using Boolean gates
- Correlate T cell subsets with T cell vaccine responses
 - Does an increased Treg subset at V4 correlate to decreased T cell responses at V5?
- Compare immunocompromised patient cohorts to PREVENT cohort
 - Blood cancer, solid tumour, transplant

Acknowledgements

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Kaitlyn Le
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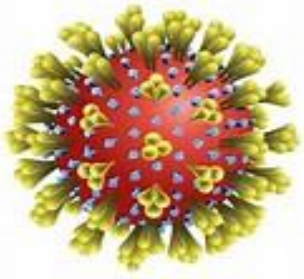


**COVID-19
IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE**

**GROUPE DE TRAVAIL
SUR L'IMMUNITÉ
FACE À LA COVID-19**

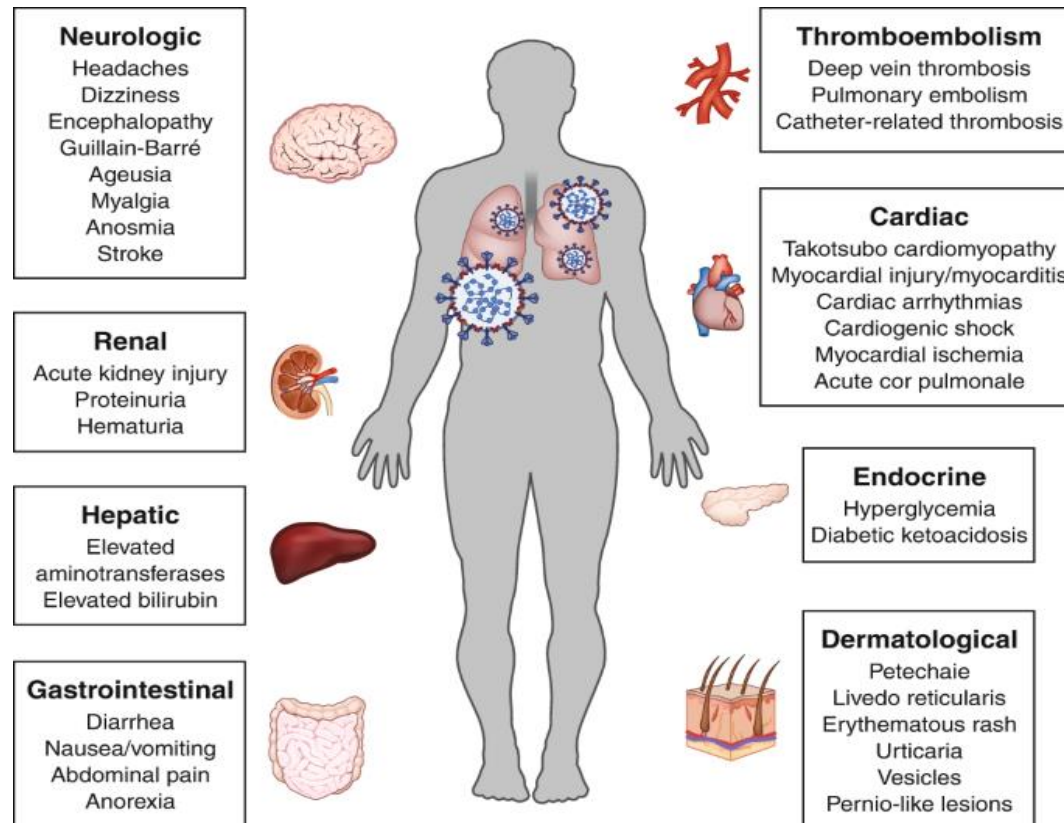


COVID-19 Immunology Consortium-BC (CIC-BC)



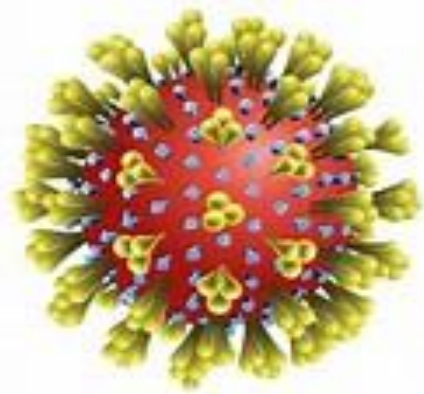
Life after COVID-19:

Potential immunologic implications



Chris Carlsten

Manali Mukherjee



2020

Identify patients

- Obtain list of previously discharged patients
- Create automatic referral at discharge

April 23

Schedule visits

- Coordinate visits with tests
- Get help seeing patients

First clinic

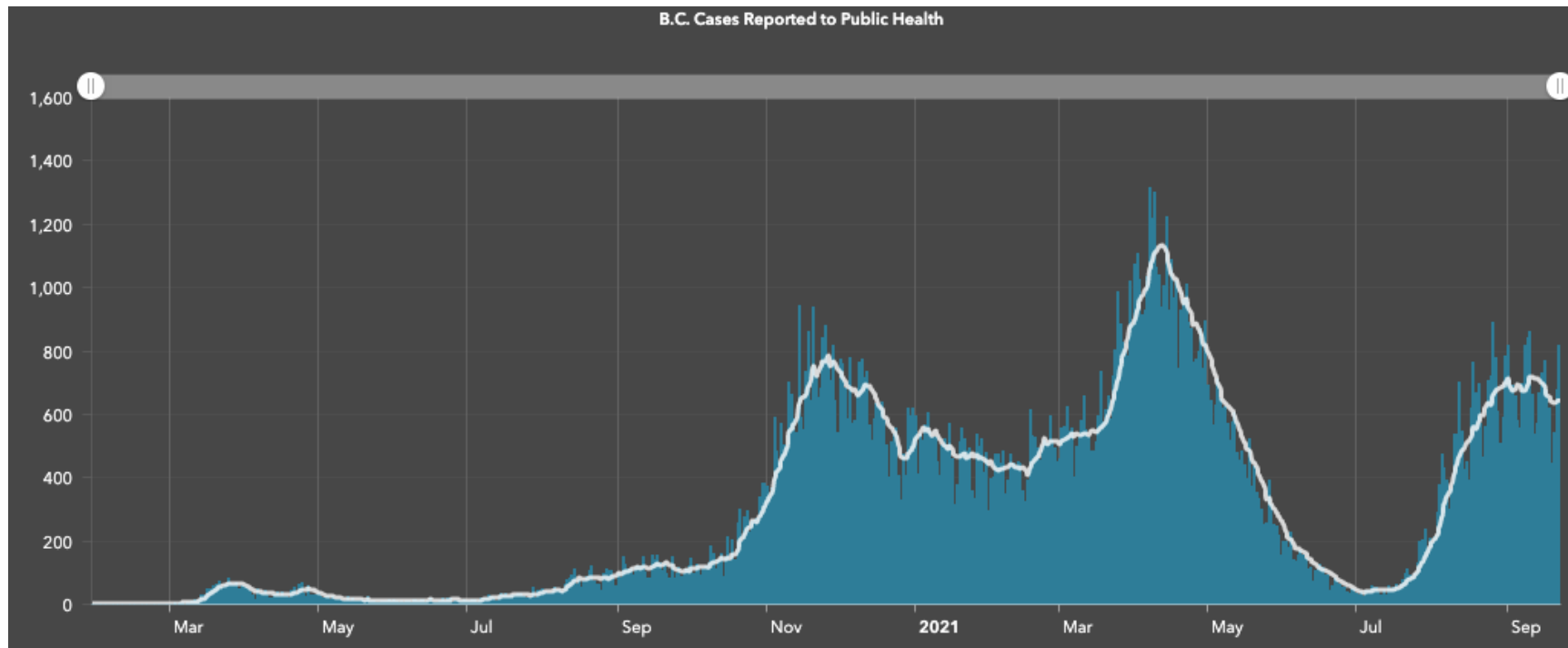
May 21

Data collection

- What data?
- Obtain approval from departments

Ethics

Research support
Biobanking protocol
Data collection templates



Confirmed Deaths



1,922






Recovered



174,281

A prospective study of 12-week respiratory outcomes in COVID-19-related hospitalisations

Thorax 2021

Aditi S Shah ¹, Alyson W Wong,¹ Cameron J Hague,² Darra T Murphy ²,
James C Johnston ¹, Christopher J Ryerson ¹, Christopher Carlsten ¹

At least one pulmonary function variable was below 80% predicted in **58% of patients**

55% of patients had >10% of lung volume affected by either ground glass or reticulation

Patient reported outcomes after COVID-19 @ 3 months



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Patient-reported outcome measures after COVID-19: a prospective cohort study

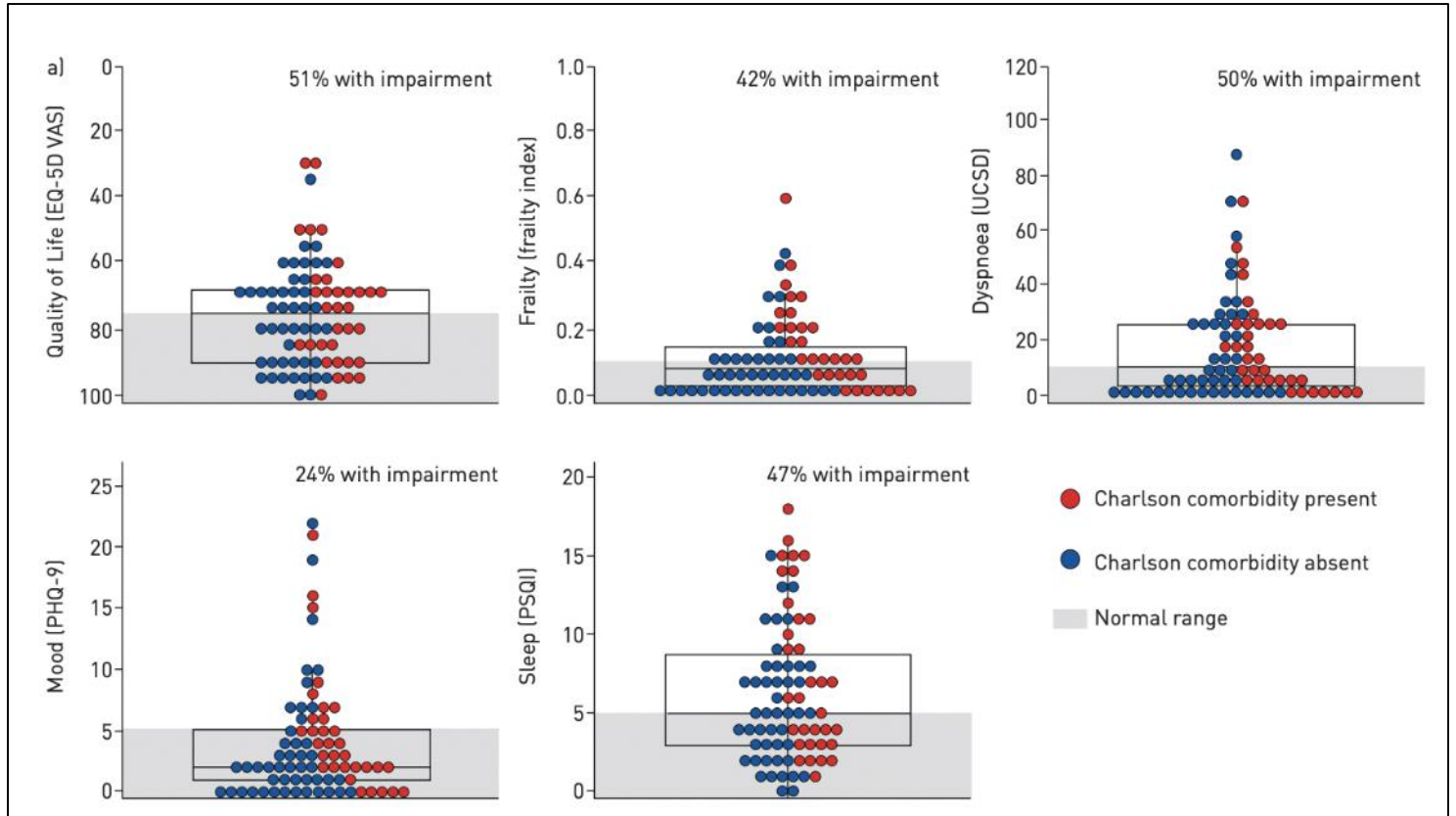
Alyson W. Wong, Aditi S. Shah, James C. Johnston, Christopher Carlsten, Christopher J. Ryerson

European Respiratory Journal 2020; **DOI:** 10.1183/13993003.03276-2020

Patient reported outcomes after COVID-19 @ 3 months

Over 75% of patients had an abnormal PROM

The most frequently impaired outcomes were QoL and dyspnea



Changes 3 → 6 months post-diagnosis



ERJ OPEN RESEARCH
ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE
A.S. SHAH ET AL.

Changes in pulmonary function and patient-reported outcomes during COVID-19 recovery: a longitudinal, prospective cohort study

Aditi S. Shah ¹, Min Hyung Ryu ¹, Cameron J. Hague², Darra T. Murphy ², James C. Johnston ³,
Christopher J. Ryerson ⁴, Christopher Carlsten ^{1,5} and Alyson W. Wong^{4,5}

PFTs improved more than PFTs (3 to 6 months after diagnosis)

TABLE 2 Respiratory symptoms, patient-reported outcome measures and pulmonary function at 3 and 6 months after coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) symptom onset

	3 months	6 months	Mean or median difference	95% CI	p-value
Respiratory symptoms					
UCSD dyspnoea score	11 (3–26)	9 (3–31)	−1.0	−4.0–2.0	0.53
Cough VAS	28 (8–60)	20 (10–35)	−4.6	−18.7–8.4	0.41
Patient-reported outcome measures					
PHQ-9	2 (1–6)	1 (0–6)	0.5	0–1.5	0.16
PSQI	5 (3–8)	5 (2–9)	0	−1.0–1.5	0.81
EQ-5D utility	0.87 (0.79–0.95)	0.90 (0.81–0.95)	−0.022	−0.1–0.003	0.12
EQ-5D VAS	75 (68–90)	80 (75–90)	6.3	5.0–9.5	<0.001
Pulmonary function, % predicted					
FEV ₁	89±16	91±16	1.3	−0.8–3.4	0.21
FVC	90±17	93±17	3.3	1.3–5.2	0.001
FEV ₁ /FVC	87±12	84±12	−2.9	−4.5– −1.3	0.001
TLC	83±14	87±13	3.8	2.2–5.5	<0.001
D _{LCO}	74±17	80±17	5.7	3.6–7.8	<0.001

Features	Overall cohort	Patients with dyspnoea at 6 months	
		Unexplained dyspnoea	Dyspnoea
Subjects n	73	13	15
Demographics			
Age years	65 (53–72)	49 (34–67)	66 (59–76)
Male sex n (%)	44 (60)	4 (31)	9 (60)
Ever-smoker n (%)	23 (32)	2 (15)	8 (53)
Comorbidities n (%)			
Hypertension	27 (37)	5 (39)	8 (53)
Diabetes	19 (26)	3 (23)	5 (33)
Chronic pulmonary disease [#]	10 (14)	0	4 (27)
Coronary heart disease	7 (10)	0	3 (20)
Malignancy	8 (11)	1 (8)	1 (7)
Chronic kidney disease	6 (8)	1 (8)	2 (13)
Respiratory symptoms			
UCSD dyspnoea score	9 (3–31)	31 (17–40)	35 (23–46)
Cough VAS mm	20 (10–37)	10 (9–10)	30 (16–44)
Patient-reported outcome measures			
EQ-5D health utility	0.9 (0.8–0.9)	0.83 (0.77–0.87)	0.83 (0.76–0.87)
EQ-5D VAS	80 (75–90)	75 (70–90)	75 (65–85)
PSQI	5 (2–9) (n=72)	9 (6–12) (n=12)	7 (5–9)
PHQ-9	1 (0–6)	6 (2–10)	5 (1–7)
Pulmonary function tests			
FEV ₁ % predicted	91±15 (n=72)	88±14	83±14
FVC % predicted	93±16 (n=72)	93±11	81±15
FEV ₁ /FVC %	84±12 (n=72)	84±13	84±11
TLC % predicted	87±13 (n=64)	86±11 (n=12)	77±13 (n=14)
D _{LCO} % predicted	79±18 (n=70)	88±9	63±14

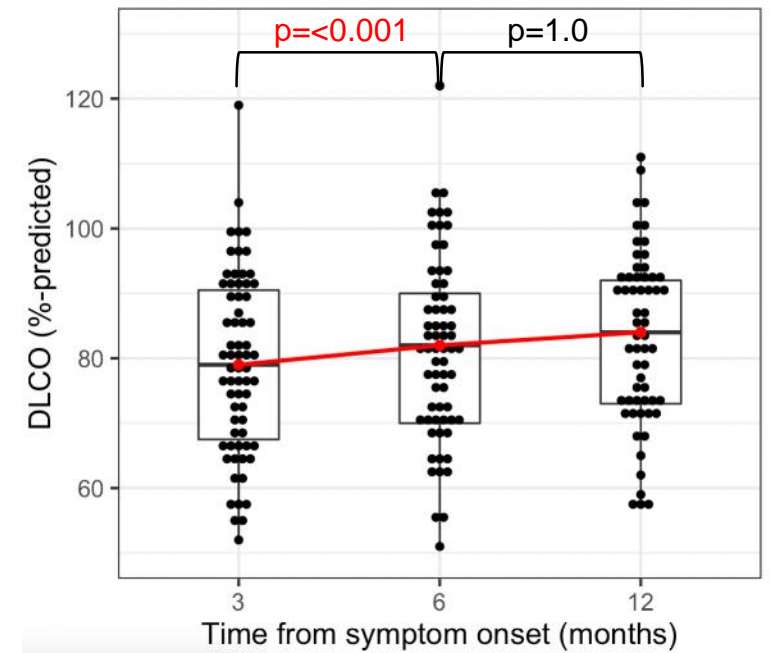
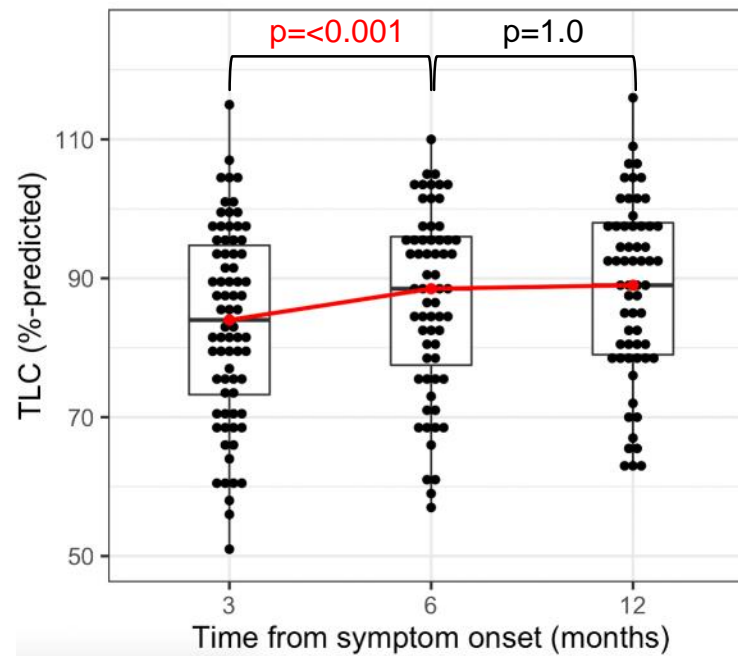
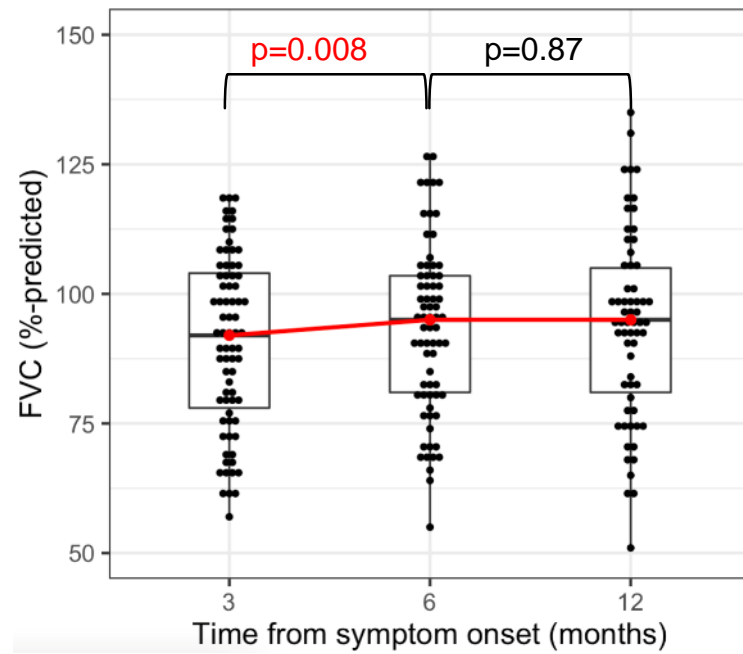
Unexplained dyspnea

= UCSD > 10 and DLCO > 80% pred

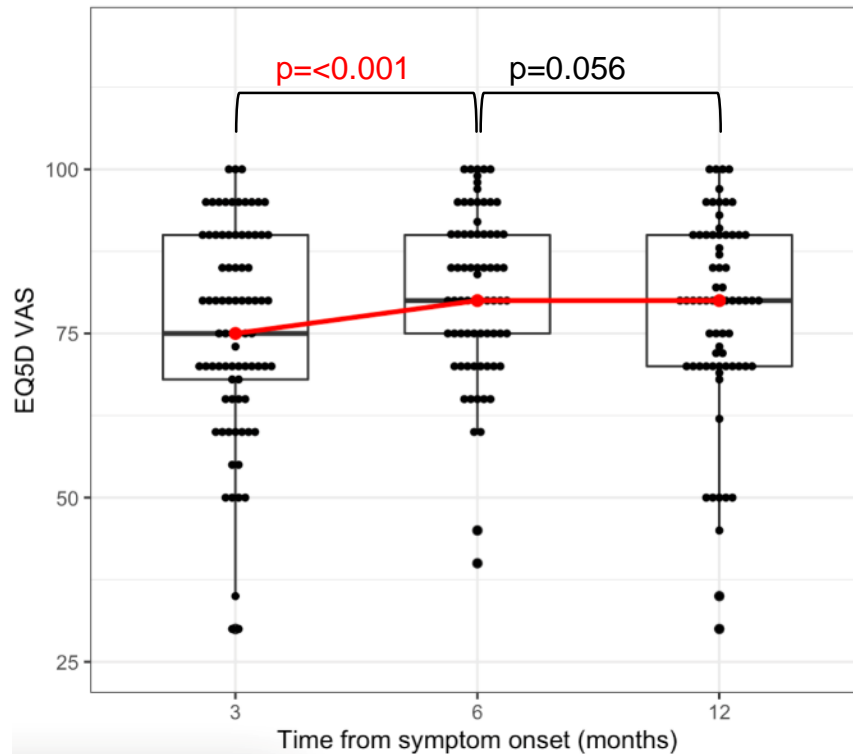
Dyspnea

= UCSD > 10 and DLCO < 80% pred

Preliminary 12-month results: PFTs plateau ~6 months

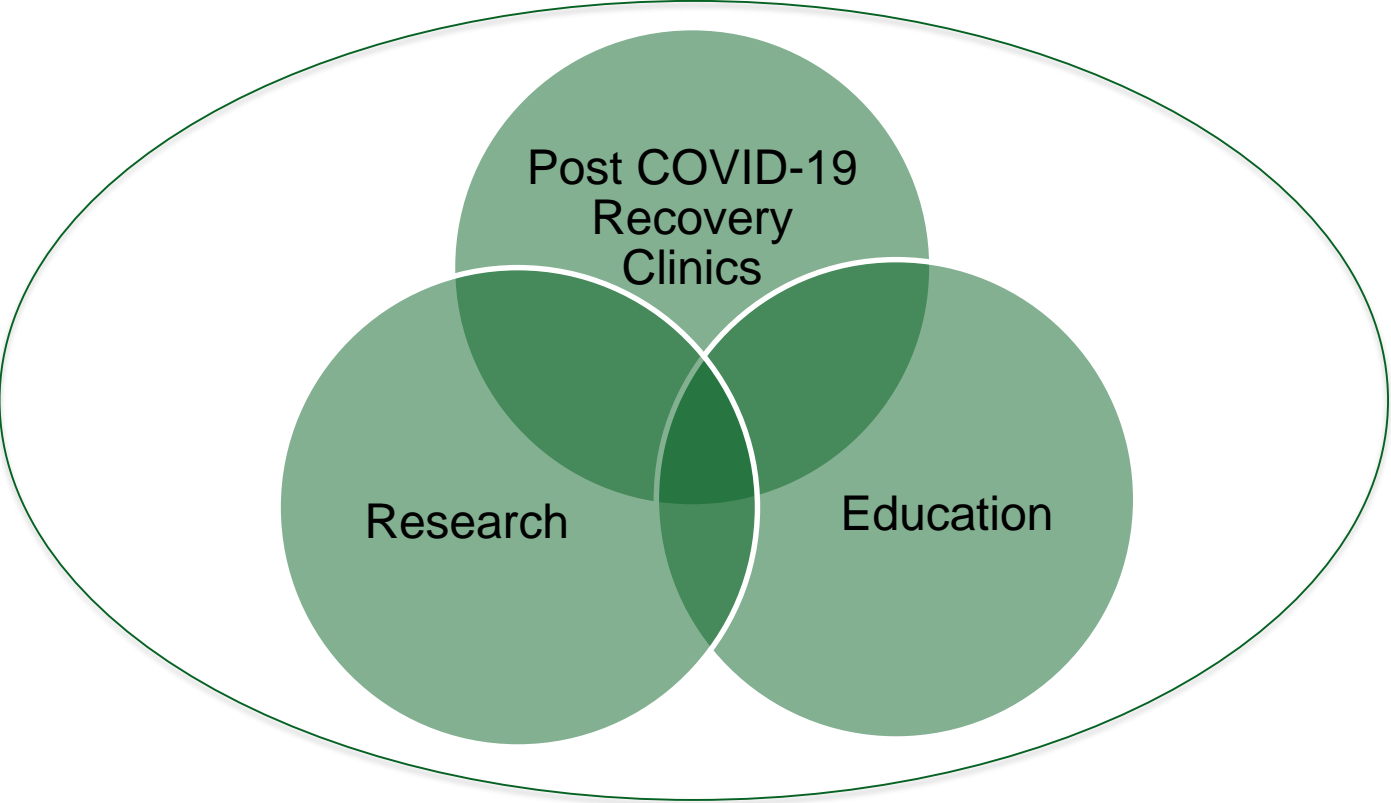


PROMs	Normal	Median scores (IQR)			p-value
		3 months	6 months	12 months	
Dyspnea (UCSD)	<10	10 (3-25)	9 (3-30)	9 (2-22)	0.262
Cough	<17	30 (10-60)	24 (10-35)	15 (8-50)	0.618
Frailty index	<0.10	0.07 (0.02-0.14)	0.07 (0.02-0.17)	0.07 (0.02-0.14)	0.987
Mood (PHQ-9)	<5	2 (1-6)	1 (0-5)	2 (0-4)	0.096
Sleep (PSQI)	<5	5 (3-9)	6 (3-9)	5 (3-8)	0.734
QoL (EQ5D VAS)	>77	75 (68-90)	80 (75-90)	80 (70-90)	<0.001

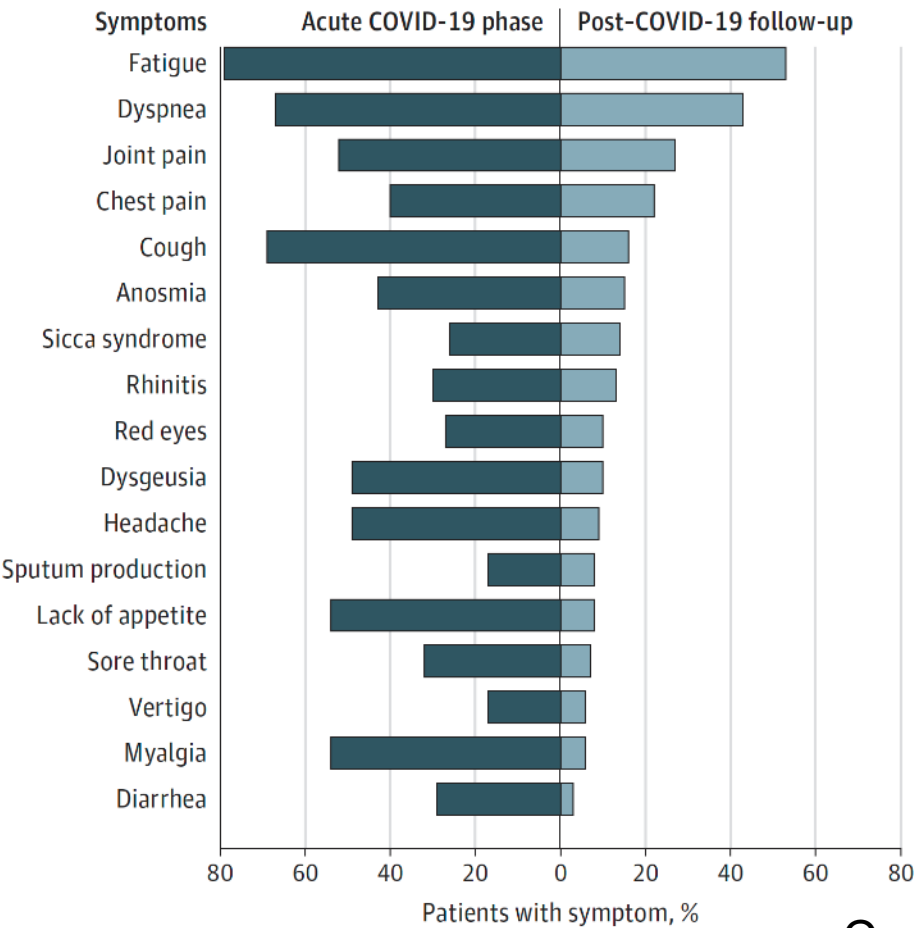


Most PROMs did not improve within 12 months of symptom onset

Coordinate care, research, and education for optimal outcomes for patients and health care systems

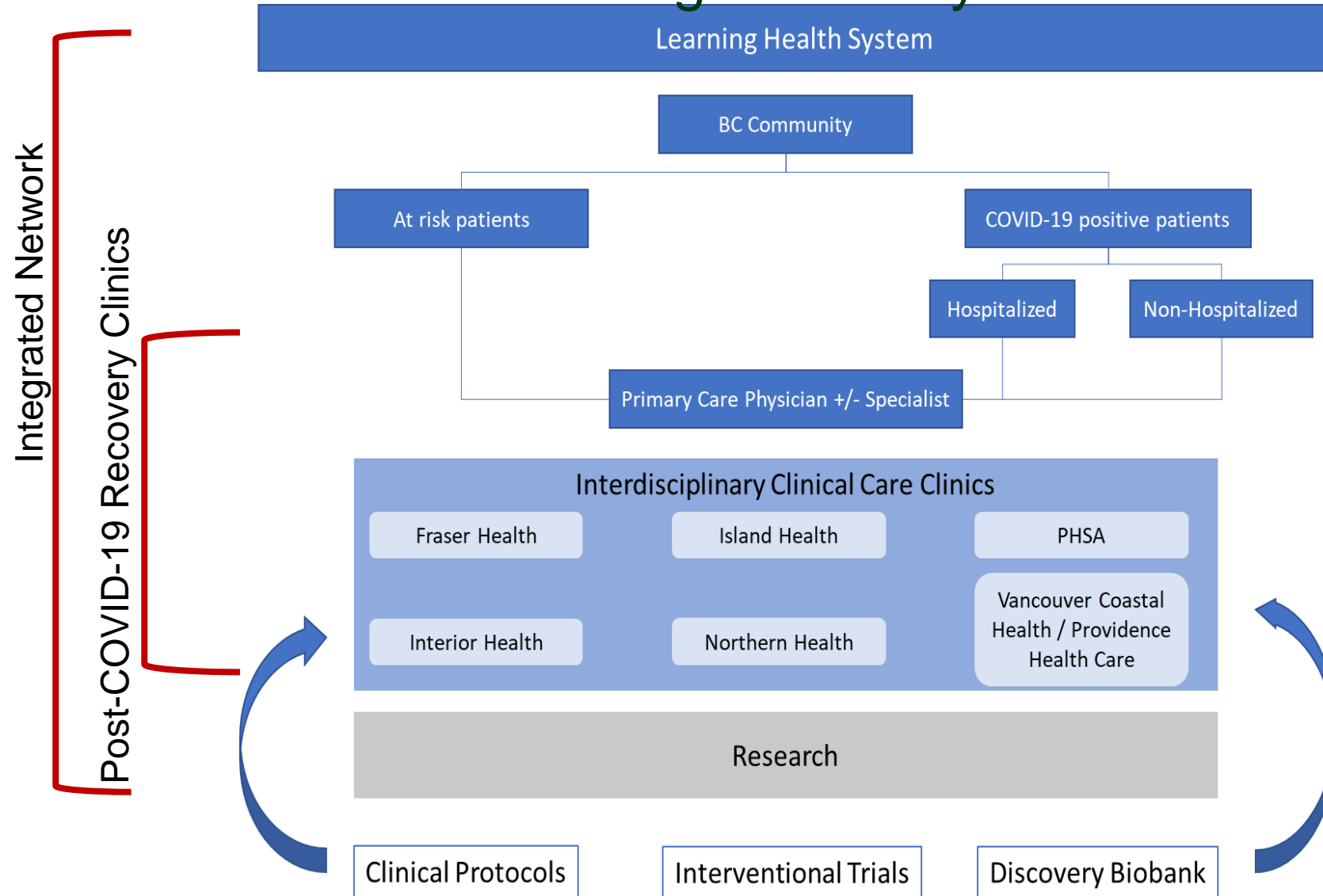


Post COVID-19
Interdisciplinary Clinical Care Network
Recovery | Care | Research | Education



Provincial Network of Post COVID-19 Recovery Clinics

A Learning Health System



“Establish sustainable infrastructure
for new conditions, post-hospital/ICU”

Post COVID-19
Interdisciplinary Clinical Care Network
Recovery | Care | Research | Education



BC COVID-19 Biobank Network (BCCBN)

BCCBN established in early 2021 to enable a provincial biobank network that facilitates and catalyzes strong interdisciplinary clinical and translational research initiatives related to the Covid-19 pandemic



Q & A discussion



Thank you!

