

# Les cellules souches du cordon ombilical dans le traitement du sepsis : *exemples d'applications dans le choc septique et les formes graves de COVID19*

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*Unité de thérapie cellulaire et banque de tissus (UTCT)*



*UMR CNRS 7365 IMoPA  
U1116 INSERM DCAC (collaboration)*

*StemInov*



12 Octobre 2022

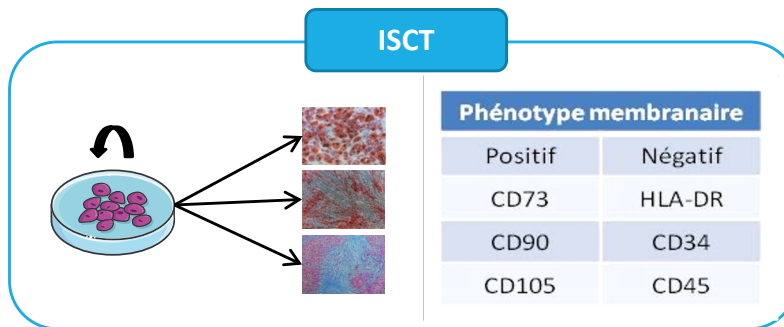
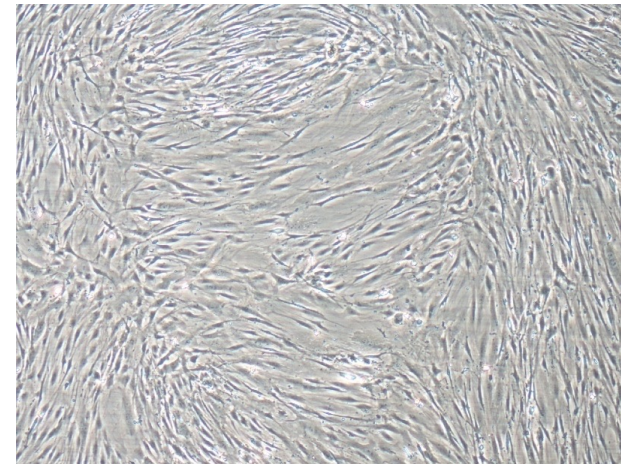
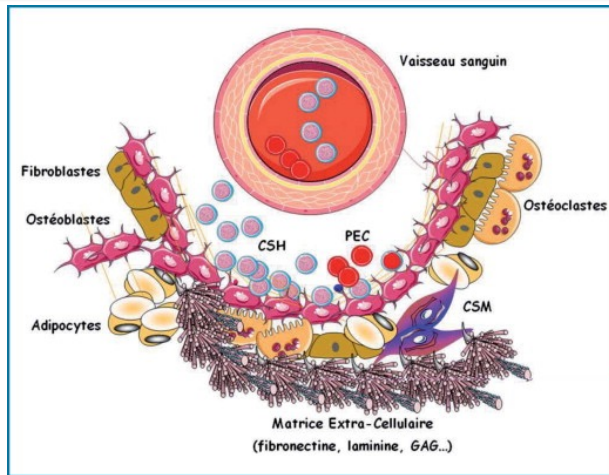
Académie Lorraine des Sciences

# Mesenchymal Stromal Cells (MSCs)



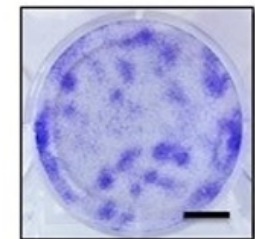
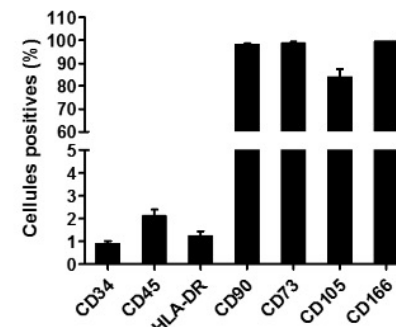
# Characteristics

Lataillade et al. 2010



- No HLA class II molecules
- Low expression of HLA class I molecules
- No CD80 CD86

➡ ALLOGENEIC USE



Clonogenic capacity

# Sources

## MSC Sources

**Adult**

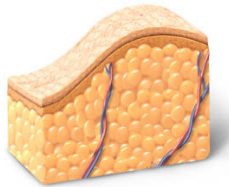
**Fetal**



Bone Marrow



- Placenta
- Amniotic bag
  - ✓ Amniotic Membrane
  - ✓ Chorionic membrane
- Amniotic fluid
- Umbilical cord
  - ✓ Cord blood
  - ✓ Wharton Jelly



Adipose tissue

Dental pulp  
Synovial membrane,  
Periost,  
Menstrual blood...

Donor variations

## WJ-MSCs

Wharton's Jelly



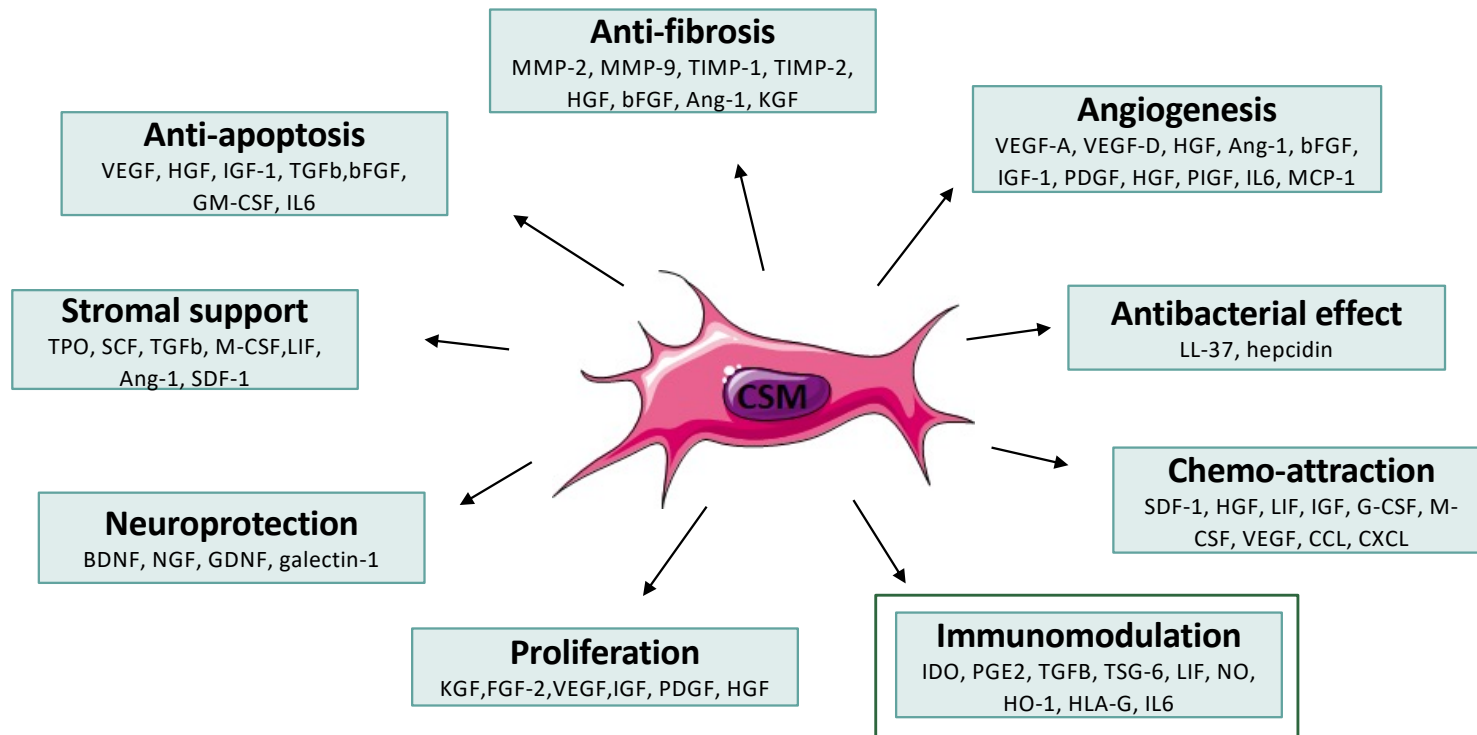
- Immaturity
- Increased plasticity
- Easy collection
- Few ethical problem



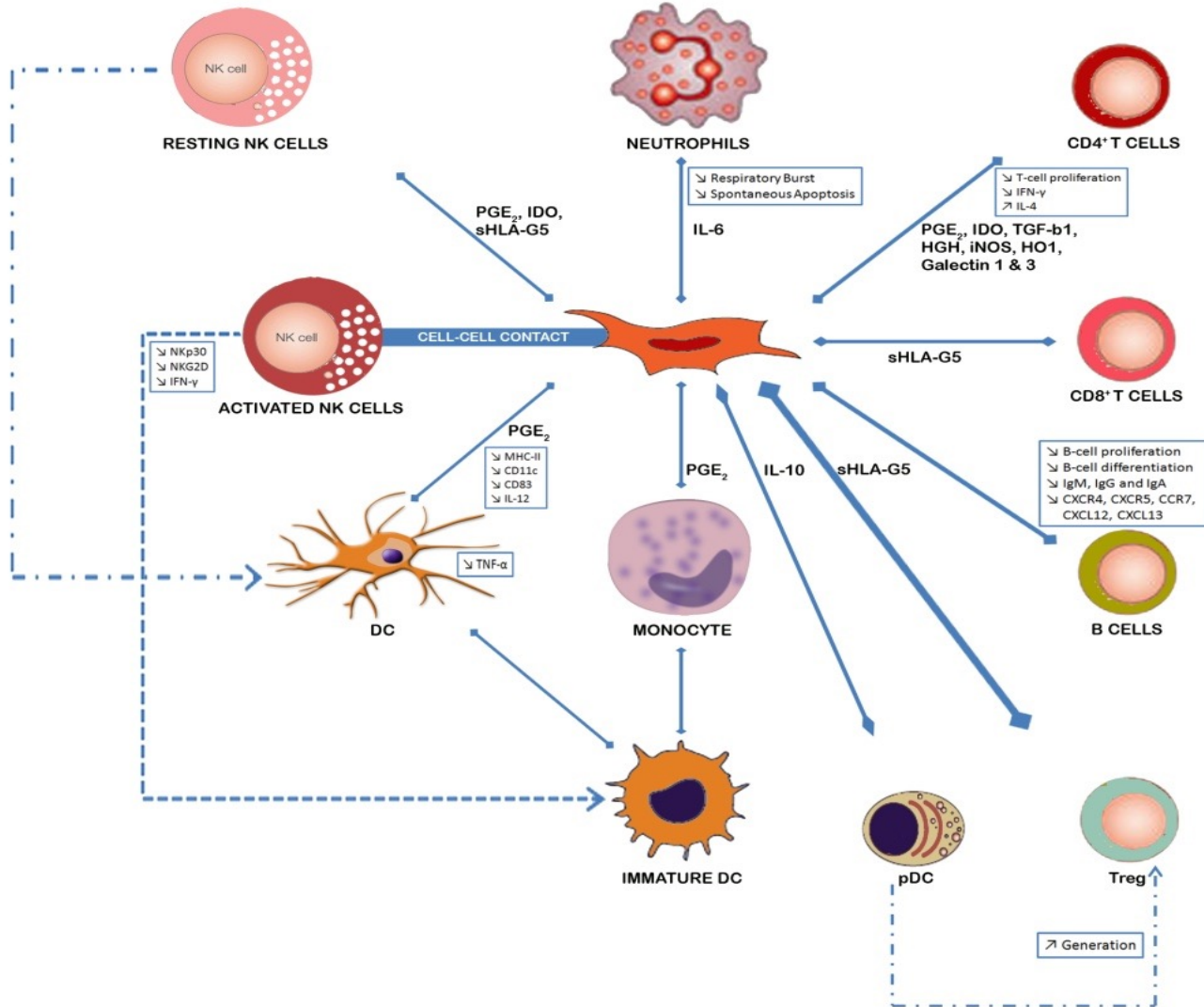
# Main properties

## Soluble factors, Extracellular vesicles

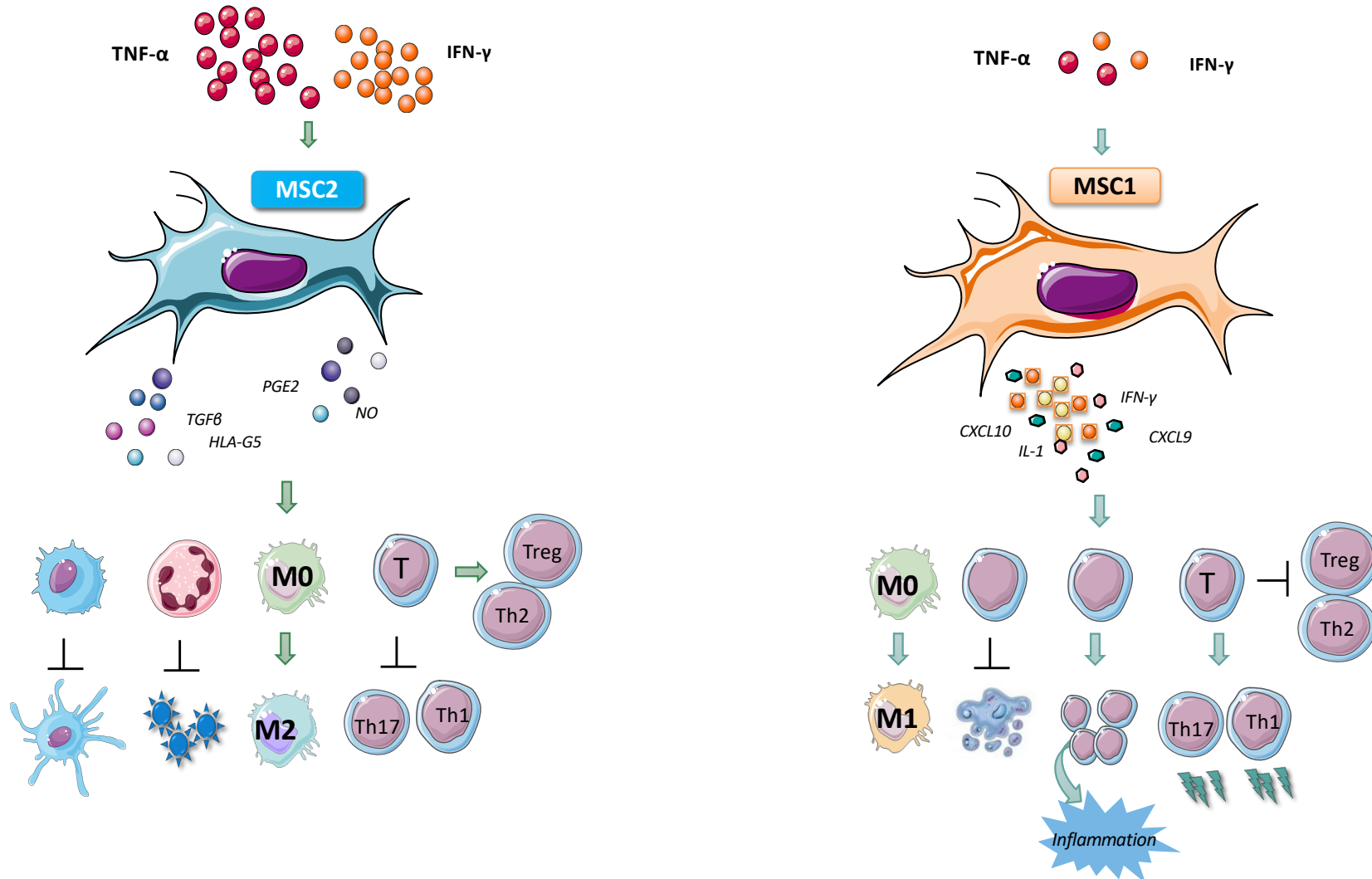
cytokines, chemokines, Growth factors, miRNA....



# Immunomodulatory properties



# Mesenchymal Stromal Cells: double phenotype



# Sepsis and Septic Shock





# Sepsis and septic shock

Pathogen Infection



Dysfonction of host response to the infection



Organ Failure → life-threatening



Major public health issues: - death rate : 46,7%  
- 11th cause of death



## Consensus conference 2016

Suspected infection

↓ Yes

SOFA Score  $\geq$  2

↓ Yes

**SEPSIS**



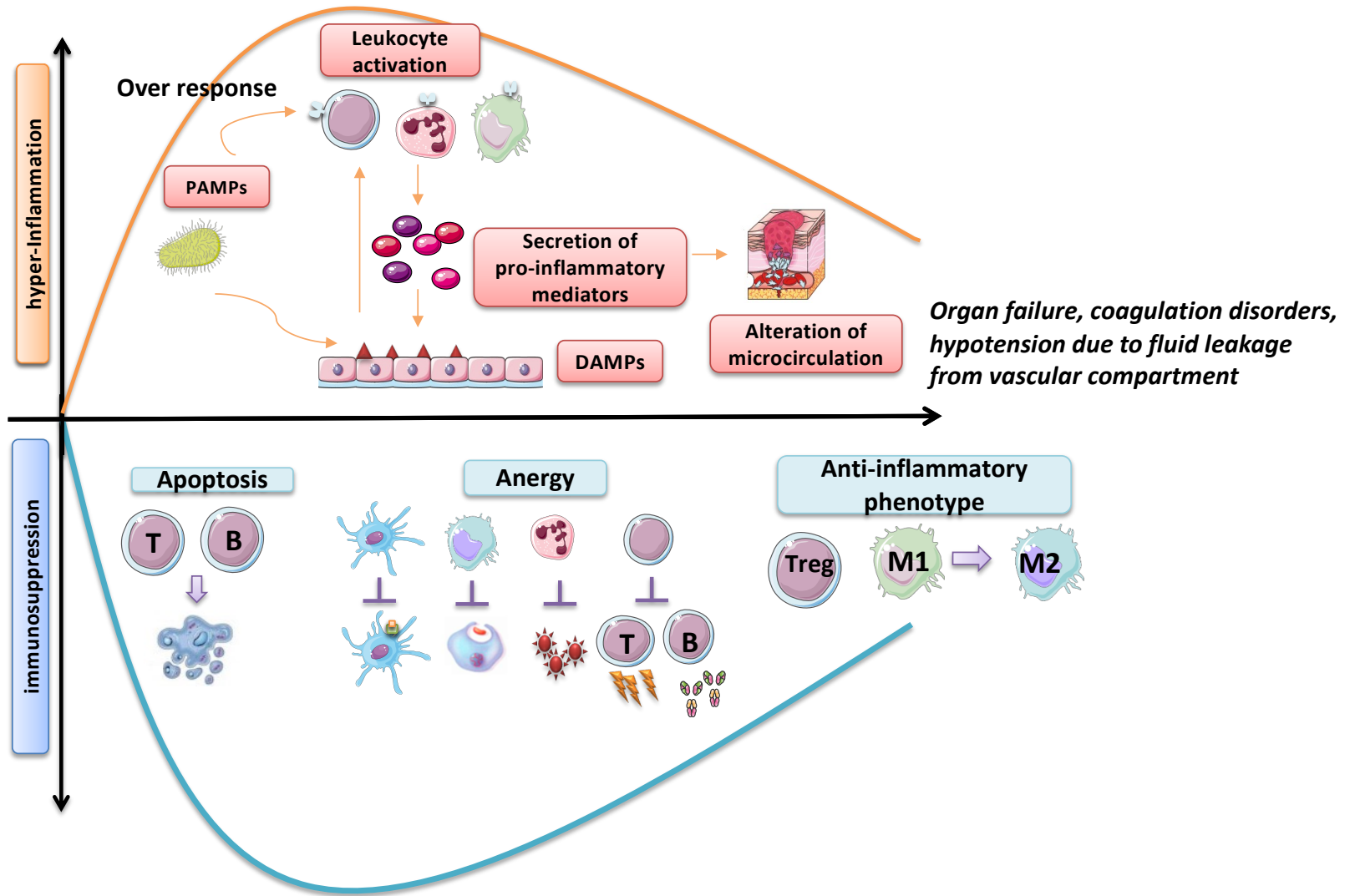
- PAM  $<$  65 mmHg despite vascular filling
- Lactatemia  $>$  2mmol/L

↓ Yes

**SEPTIC SHOCK**

# Septic shock Pathophysiology

Dynamic model with concomitant inflammatory and anti-inflammatory states



# Treatment of Septic shock

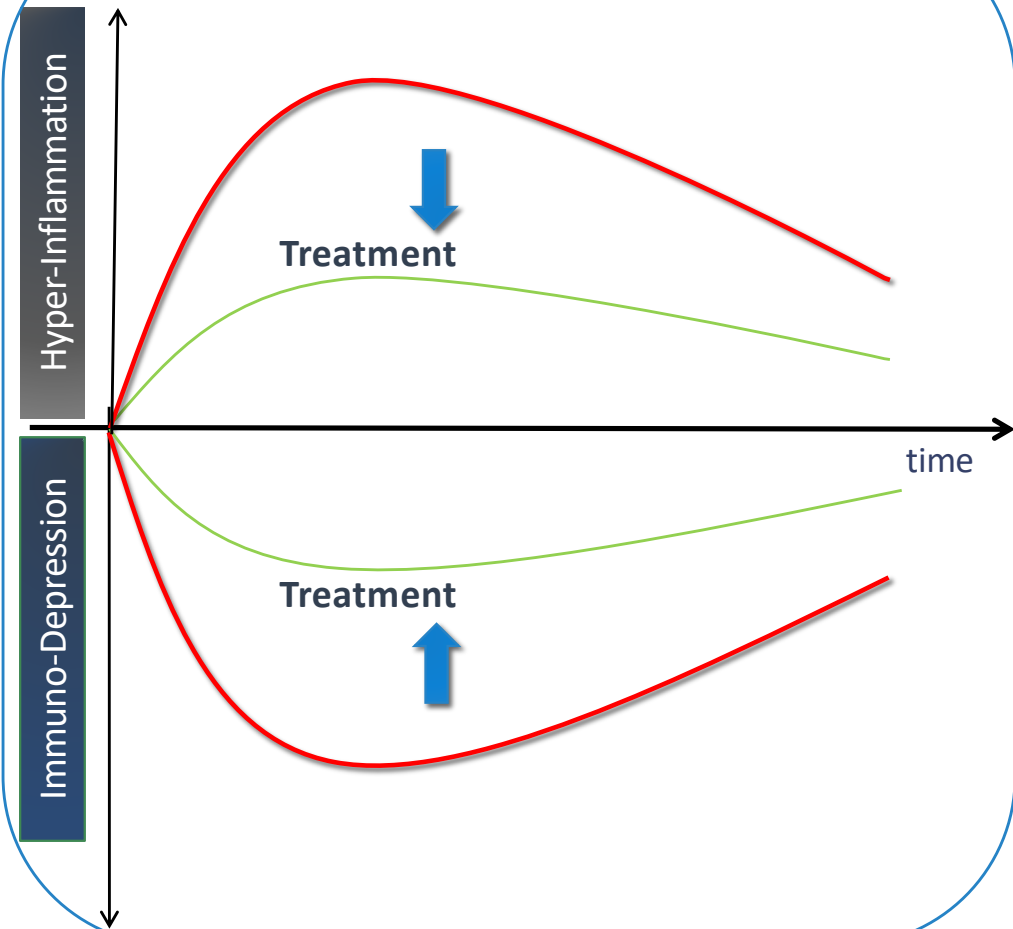
## Current Therapeutic care

No specific treatment available  
Management is only symptomatic and consists in resuscitation, antibiotic and catecholamine infusions.

- 1- Antibiotics
- 2- Vascular filling and maintaining of arterial pressure
- 3- Preservation of organs (hemodialysis)

Failure of exclusively anti-inflammatory treatments  
(anti-TNF $\alpha$ , etc...)

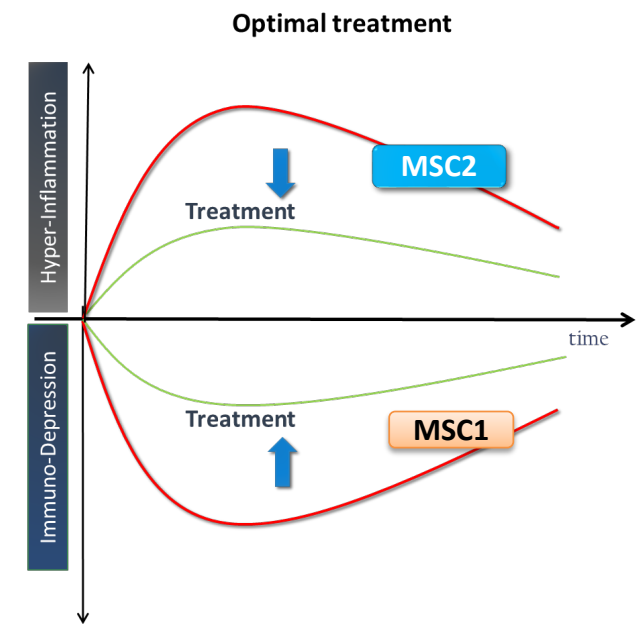
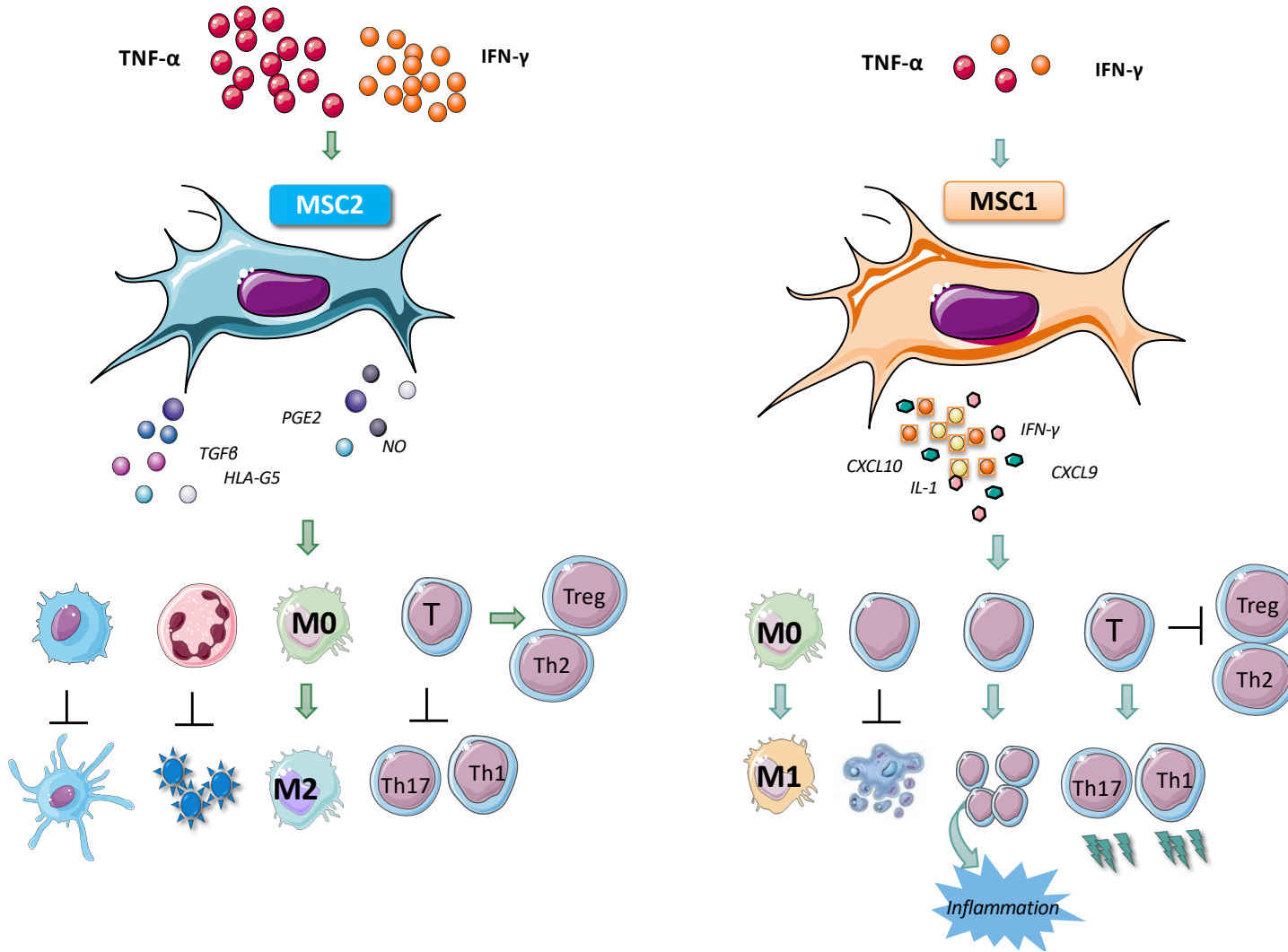
## Optimal treatment



# MSC and Septic shock



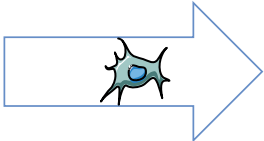
# Mesenchymal Stromal cells: double phenotype



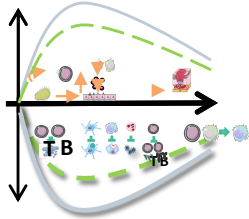
# MSC action during septic shock

Septic Shock

Uncontrolled Inflammatory Body Response

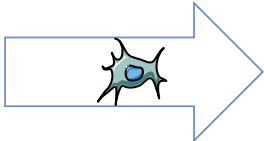


Infusion of MSCs

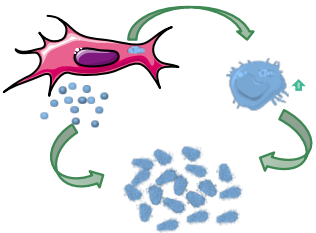


MSCs modulate Inflammation and Immune-response

High level of Infection

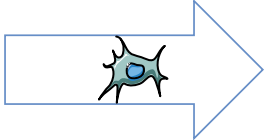


Infusion of MSCs



MSCs have direct and Indirect Anti-bacterial Effect

High heterogeneity of injuries for patients

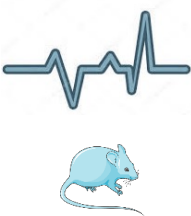


Infusion of MSCs



MSCs Target and Migrate to Injured Sites – Tropism for lungs

Increased survival



(Laroye C, Stem Cells. 2017)



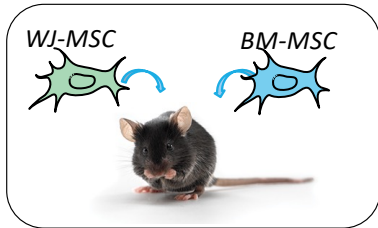
***Caroline Laroye***  
***PhD student***

# Experimental results



# WJ-MSC infusion improve leukocyte trafficking, bacterial clearance and survival

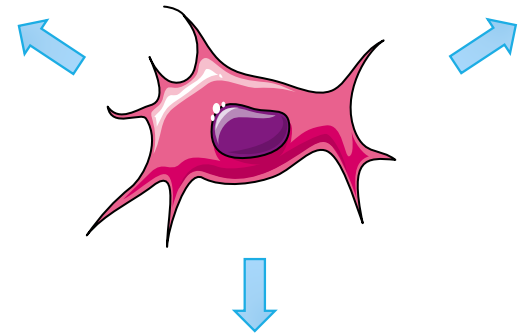
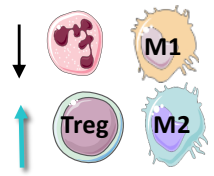
## SEPTIC SHOCK MURINE MODEL



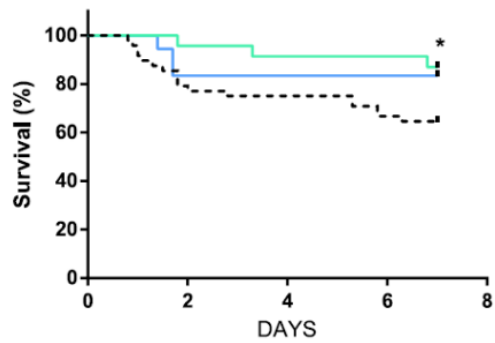
- PBS
- WJ-MSC
- ▲- BM-MSC

WJ-MSC : Mesenchymal stromal cells from Wharton Jelly  
 BM-MSC : Mesenchymal stromal cells from Bone Marrow

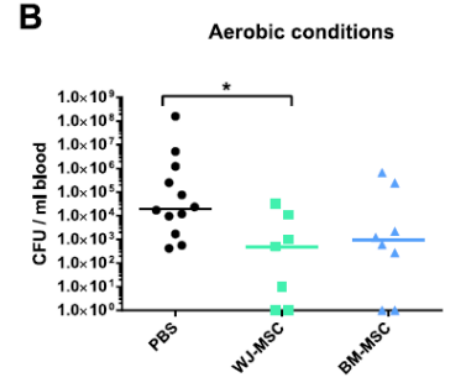
### Leukocyte trafficking



### Survival



### Bacterial clearance



WJ-MSC = BM-MSC:  
 But difference with PBS only significant with WJ-MSCs

✓ WJ-MSC source

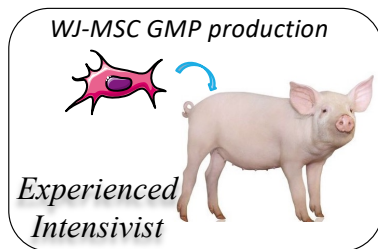


# WJ-MSC infusion maintains arterial pressure, protects against organ dysfunction and improves survival

## Norepinephrine infusion

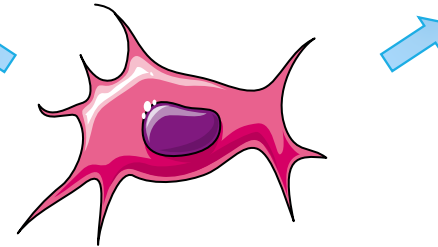
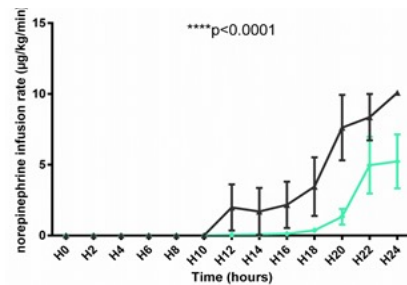
## Organ dysfunction

### SEPSIS PORCINE MODEL

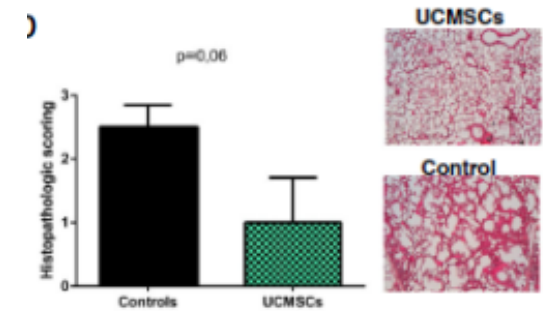
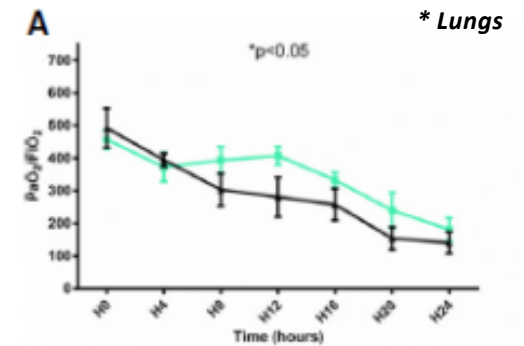
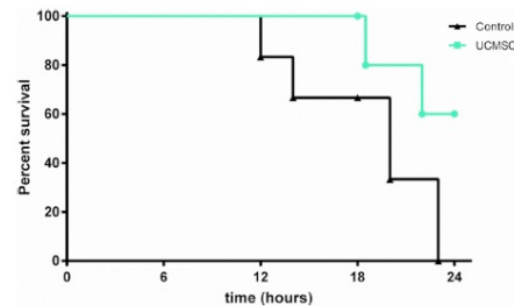


- ▲ Controls
- WJ-MSC

WJ-MSC : Mesenchymal stromal cells from Wharton Jelly






Survival





# Valorisation

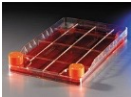

## Clinical Transfer







**UTCT**  
**ATMP dpt**









**CHOC-MSC: 2017-004123-67**  
**MSC-COVID19: 2020-002772-12**



## Maturation and Spin Off creation



**WJ-MSC in sepsis**  
**EP 18 712 945.7 - 1112**

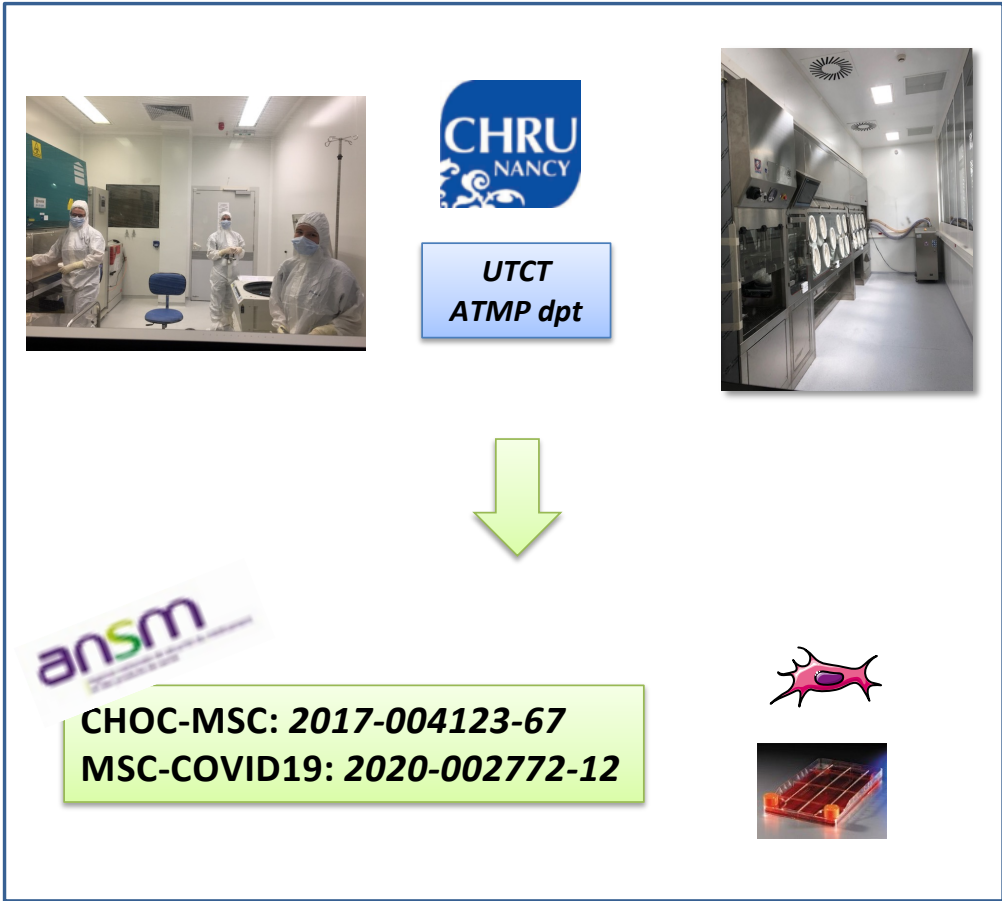


**CEO:**  
**J HUTIN**



# Valorisation

## Clinical transfer





## CLINICAL TRIAL: *CHOC-MSC*

**3 clinical trials with adult MSCs :**

**Phase I (Tigenix), Phase I/II (escalating dose) with few patients (one Russian, one canadian)**

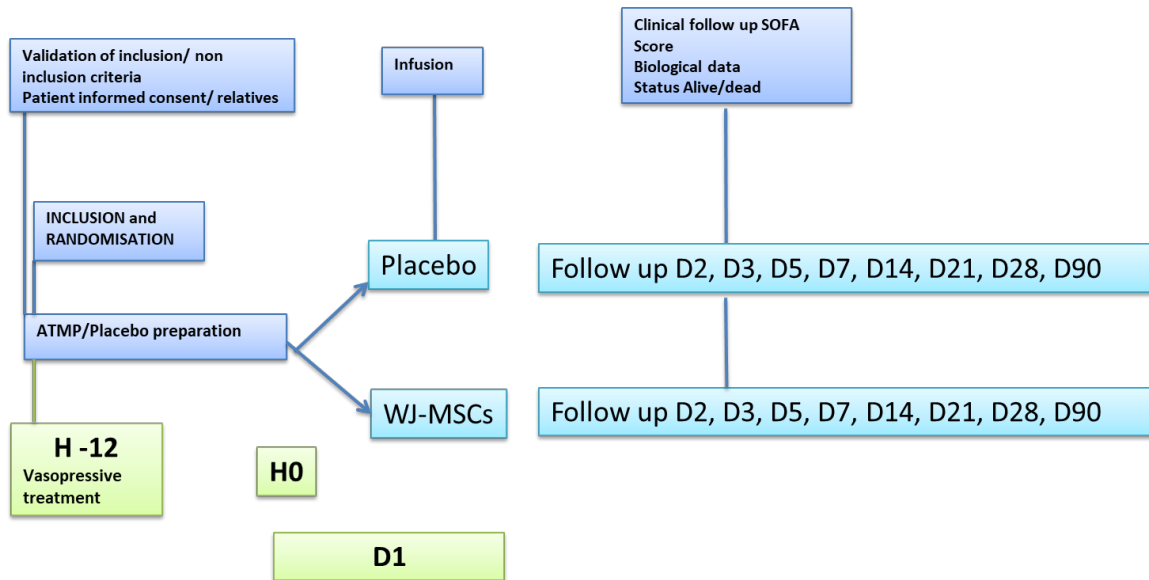


**Phase IIa, comparative, double blind clinical trial with 60 patients :  
30 treated with WJ-MSCs / 30 with placebo (vehicule of cells)**



# CLINICAL TRIAL: *CHOC-MSc*

**Efficacy Endpoint : SOFA score (*Sepsis Organ Failure Assessment score*) improvement (D7)**



**Main inclusion criteria**

- Septic shock for less than 12 hours
- Men >18 or women > 65 years old
- Informed consent signed

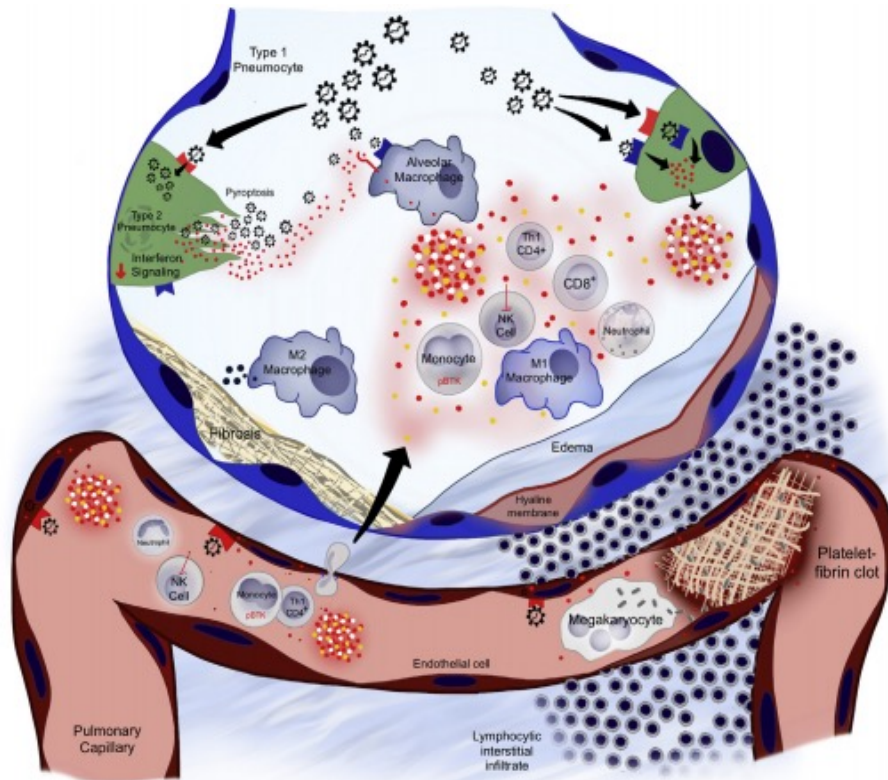


## Status:

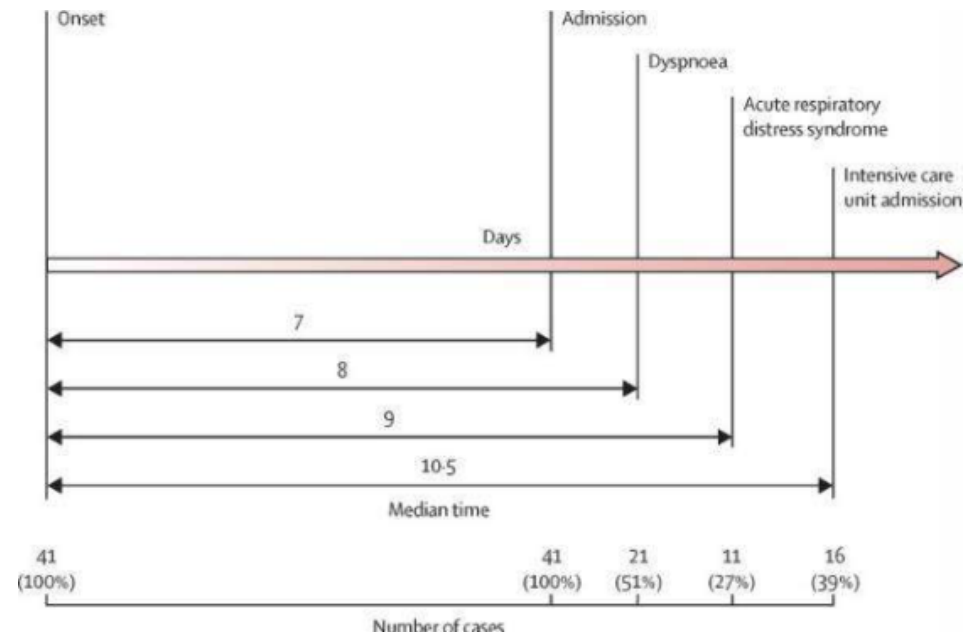
- 1 patient included
- Stop inclusion during COVID 19
- Restart inclusions in October 2022

# CLINICAL TRIAL: MSC-COVID19

## COVID 19 Pathophysiology and clinic



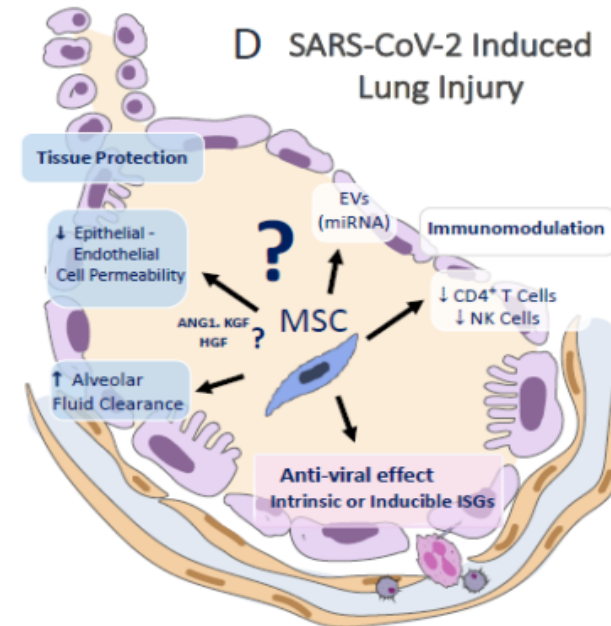
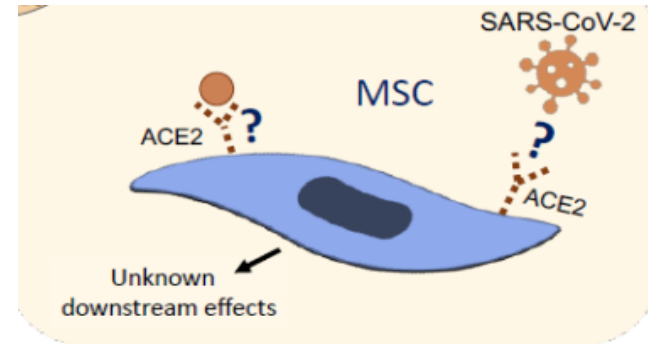
- SARS-CoV-2 virion
- ACE2-R
- TLR
- IL-1R
- TGF-β
- Inflammatory cytokine
- Cytokine storm



# CLINICAL TRIAL: MSC-COVID19

## MSC rational in COVID 19 ARDS

- MSC trapped in lungs : major concentration during the first 24hrs in lungs
- MSC and ARDS (non viral/viral) models
- MSC and ARDS clinical trials



ARDS : Syndrome de détresse respiratoire aiguë

# CLINICAL TRIAL: MSC-COVID19

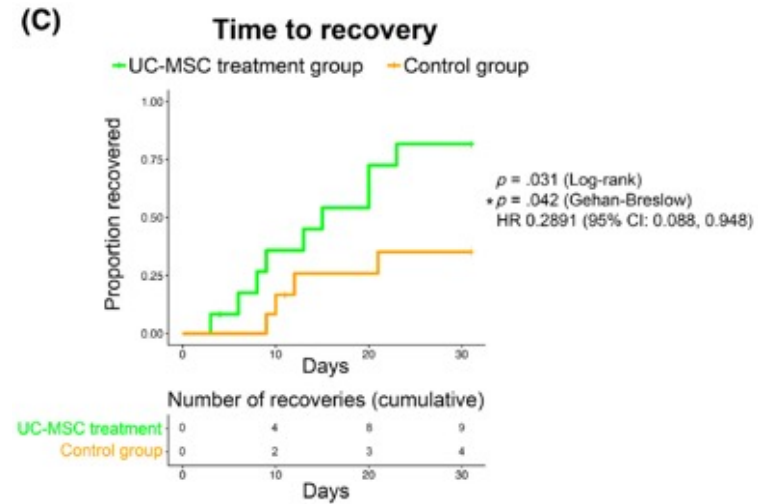
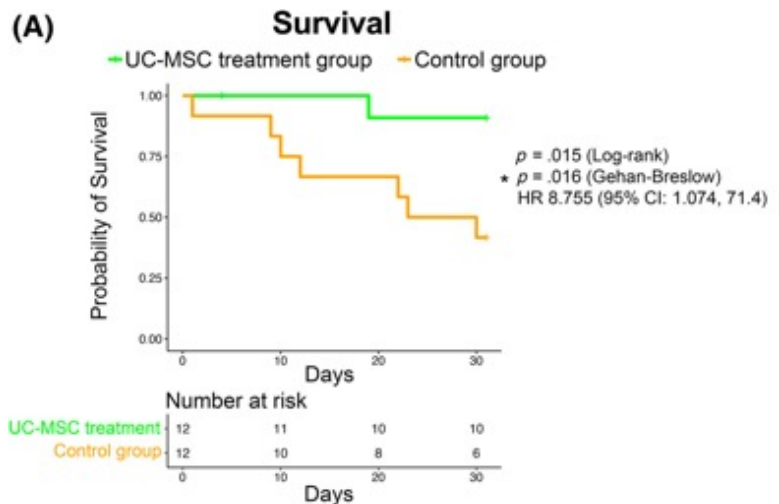
- Around 80 trials around the world using WJ-MSC in severe forms of Covid-19
- Phase I, I/II, II
- Encouraging results

HUMAN CLINICAL ARTICLES



Umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cells for COVID-19 acute respiratory distress syndrome: A double-blind, phase 1/2a, randomized controlled trial

Giacomo Lanzoni<sup>1,2</sup> | Elina Linetsky<sup>1,3</sup> | Diego Correa<sup>1,4</sup> | Shari Messinger Cayetano<sup>5</sup> | Roger A. Alvarez<sup>6,7</sup> | Dimitrios Kouroupis<sup>4</sup> | Ana Alvarez Gil<sup>1</sup> | Raffaella Poggioli<sup>1</sup> | Phillip Ruiz<sup>3</sup> | Antonio C. Marttos<sup>6,7,8</sup> | Khemraj Hirani<sup>1,6</sup> | Crystal A. Bell<sup>6</sup> | Halina Kusack<sup>6</sup> | Lisa Raffkin<sup>1</sup> | David Baidal<sup>1,6,7</sup> | Andrew Pastewski<sup>8</sup> | Kunal Gawri<sup>6,7</sup> | Clarissa Leñero<sup>1</sup> | Alejandro M. A. Mantero<sup>5</sup> | Sarah W. Metalonis<sup>5</sup> | Xiaojing Wang<sup>1</sup> | Luis Roque<sup>4</sup> | Burlett Masters<sup>1</sup> | Norma S. Kenyon<sup>1</sup> | Enrique Ginzburg<sup>3,7,8</sup> | Xiumin Xu<sup>1</sup> | Jianming Tan<sup>9</sup> | Arnold I. Caplan<sup>10</sup> | Marilyn K. Glassberg<sup>11</sup> | Rodolfo Alejandro<sup>1,6,7</sup> | Camillo Ricordi<sup>1,3</sup>



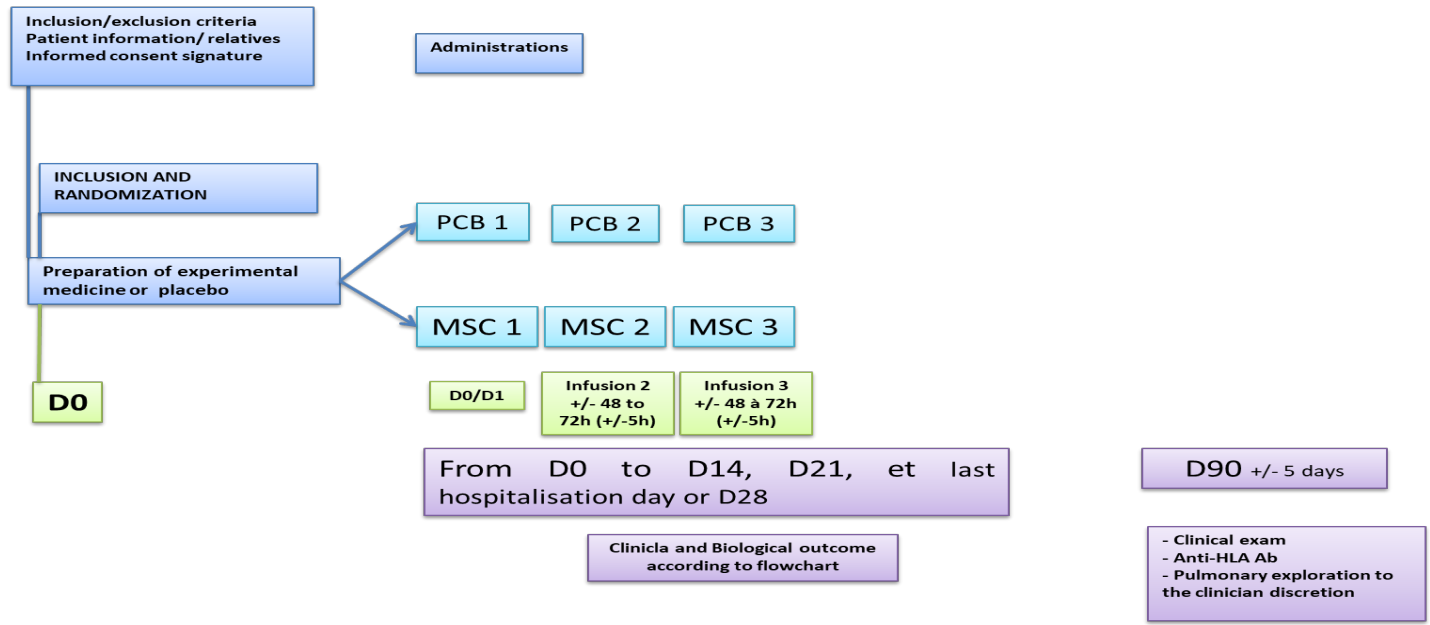
2 infusions of  $100 \pm 20 \times 10^6$  UC-MSCs each



# CLINICAL TRIAL: MSC-COVID19

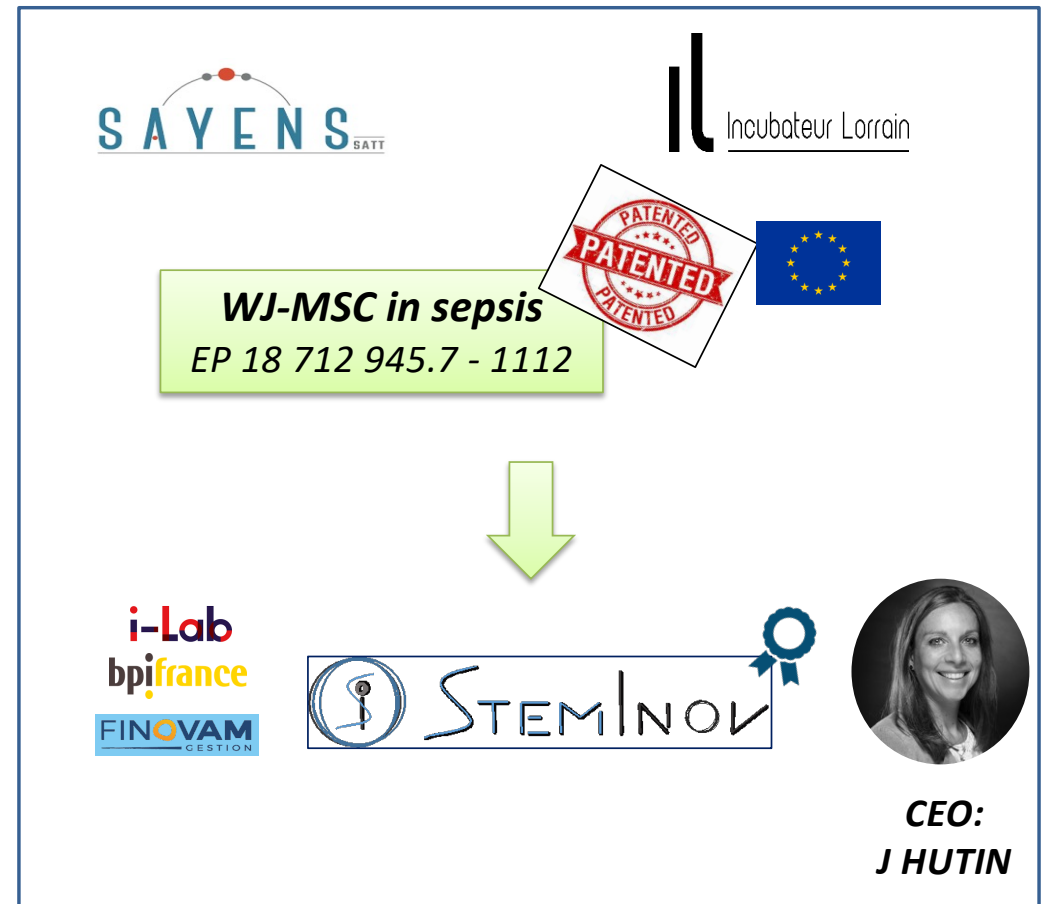
## ➤ Nancy Trial MSC-COVID: N=30 (15/15)

- Phase II efficacy trial : Infusion of WJ-MSCs to patients with moderate to severe Covid-19 ARDS
- Randomized double blind study vs placebo
- WJ-MSC  $1 \times 10^6/\text{kg}$ ,  $0,5 \times 10^6/\text{kg}$  and  $0,5 \times 10^6/\text{kg}$
- Lung function : number of patients with  $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2 > 200$ , 10 days after treatment initiation
- Results in analysis



# Valorisation

## Spin-off creation



# MATURATION AND SPIN-OFF CREATION



- Incubation process began in 2015
- Emergence grant allowing the pig study
- Connexion with SATT SAYENS

- Presentation of Julie HUTIN as a CEO



- Many contacts (ex: ICOSA for the patent)



- i-Lab coaching  

- Frenchtech/Deeptech grant 

- Bourse anté-création  
help in StemInov creation



- Connexion with FINOVAM Gestion



- Maturation process in 2016 allowing
  - Pre-clinical study (help to clinical transfer)
  - Production Runs
- Patentability study
- Licensing negotiation with StemInov



**Julie Hutin,  
CEO**

Ecole Centrale Lyon Master EM Lyon  
HEC Challenge + 2020-2  
5y experience in Eurofins Genomics



**Danièle Bensoussan,  
Scientific founder**

PU-PH - Head of Cellular Therapy Unit and Tissue  
Banking, Cord Blood Banking (UTCT)  
Head of a CNRS Team  
Lead to the patent operated by StemInov  
Scientific advice

**CONSULTANTS**



**Eric HALIOUA  
STRATEGY**

Eric is a serial entrepreneur who combines strong strategic, technological and managerial experience with proven track record of deal-making and fund-raising. He is the CEO of PDC line Pharma



**PE Charles  
CLINICAL STRATEGY**

Prof. in an Intensive Care Unit of a University Hospital. In charge of designing and conducting experimental and translational research towards sepsis



**Claude DEDRY  
CMC**

Industrial Pharmacist  
Cell Production GMP Unit Expert  
CMC expert in cell and gene therapy  
Several GMP accreditations



**Roland GORDON  
BERESFORD  
REGULATORY**

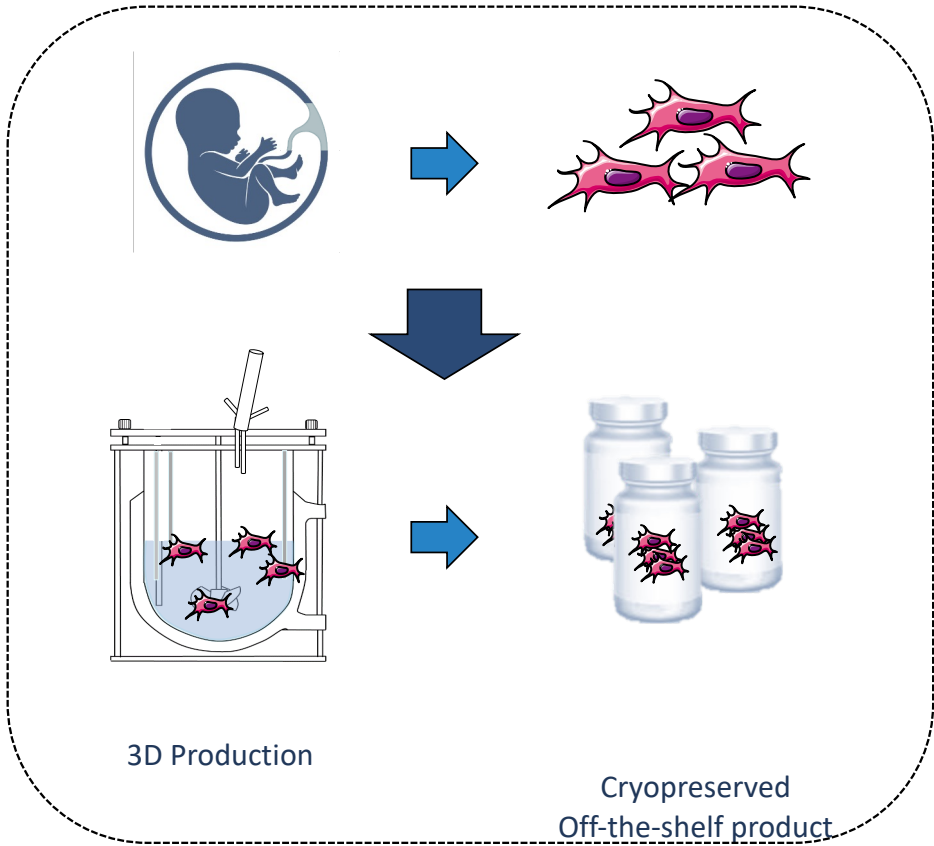
Expert in regulatory affair with experience in ATMP  
Intellectual Property management

\*MSC: Mesenchymal Stromal Cells



# MATURATION AND LICENSING

## INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION OF CRYOPRESERVED WJ-MSC



## Phase I escalating dose trial Phase II efficacy trial

### Phase I/II in ARDS / Septic shock

- End points:
  - Safety,
  - Reduced mechanical ventilation duration
  - Reduced death
  - Reduced hospital stay
  - Dose regimen validation
  - Pharmacodynamic assessment

### Clinical trial preparation

- Design & CTA approval
- Validate sites and PI

 **FUND RAISING ON GOING**

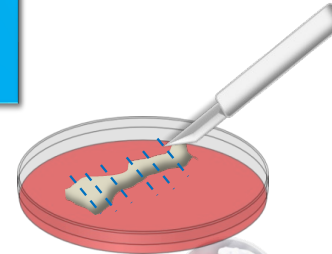
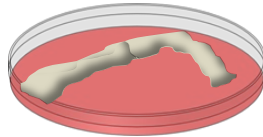
**WJ-MSC production**





Umbilical cord

# 2D expansion



$3 \cdot 10^6$  MSC/flask  
 $9 \cdot 10^6$  MSC

Passage 0

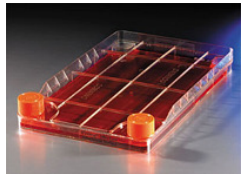
37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>,  
5% O<sub>2</sub>,  
3-4 weeks



10-15 pieces/flask  
3 Flasks



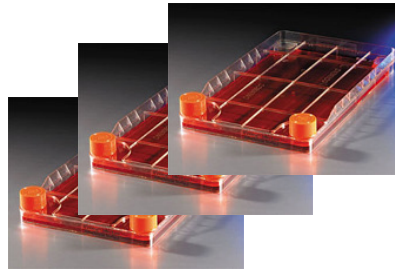
QC : -30  
 $10^6$  MSC



37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>,  
5% O<sub>2</sub>,  
1 week

CellSTACKs  
1000 MSC/cm<sup>2</sup>;  $1,27 \cdot 10^6$ /Cell STACK  
1 Cell STACK

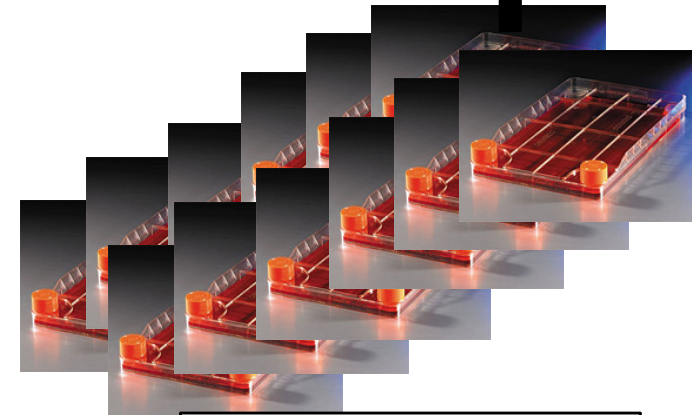
Passage 1



CellSTACK  
1000 MSC/cm<sup>2</sup>;  $1,27 \cdot 10^6$ /Cell STACK  
3 Cell STACKs

Passage 2

37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>,  
5% O<sub>2</sub>,  
1 week

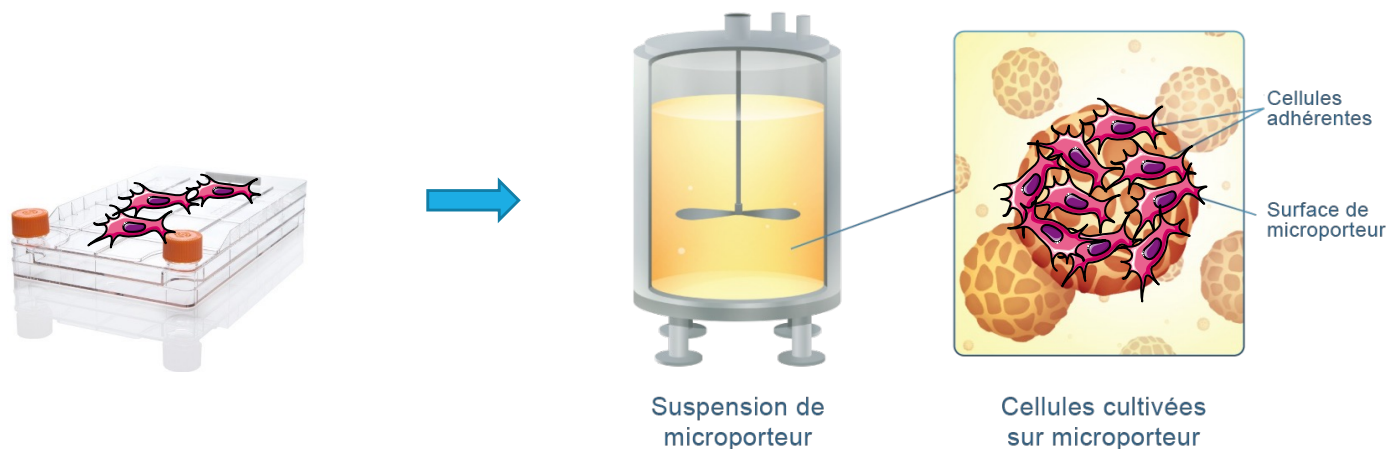


CellSTACK  
1000 MSC/cm<sup>2</sup>;  $1,27 \cdot 10^6$ /Cell STACK  
12-14 Cell STACKs

Passage 3

Adapted from Capelli *et al*, 2011

# 3D expansion in Bioreactor on micro carriers



*WJ-MSC expansion in 2D*

*WJ-MSC in 3D*

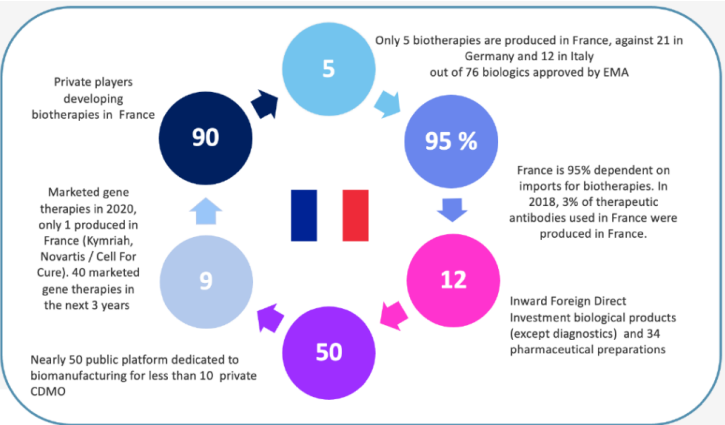
PRODUCTION SCALE UP PRODUCTION GMP

AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE  
**ANR**  
 RA COVID 2021 (150k€)

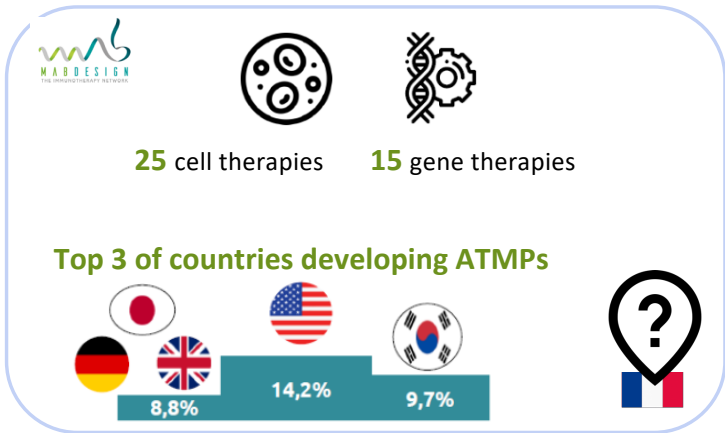


# Industrial Integrator

## Biotherapies: State of the art



## 40 marketed ATMPs



## 2020 2022

### GRAND DÉFI



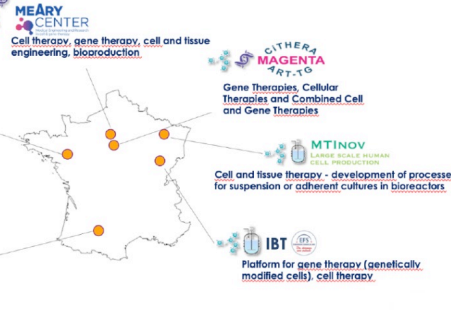
BioT ↔ BioP

### BIOMÉDICAMENTS

Améliorer les rendements et maîtriser les coûts de production

Translational vector core  
Gene therapy, Bioproduction of viral vectors

Production of proteins and therapeutic antibodies



Innovation Santé 2030

Un objectif : produire 20 biomédicaments sur le sol français.



### GE Start-ups

- StemInov
- Core Biogenesis
- CellProthera



# Industrial Integrator: MTInov

Aug 2020, Grand Défi Biomédicament



**MTINOV**  
LARGE SCALE HUMAN  
CELL PRODUCTION

*Pr. Danièle Bensoussan (UTCT – CHRU – Nancy)*

*Pr. Eric OLMOS (LRGP – Université de Lorraine – CNRS)*



UTCT, CHRU, Vandoeuvre les Nancy



5 min



LRGP / ENSAIA, Vandoeuvre les Nancy



# MTInov: projects since labelling of MTInov

« *Grand défi Biomédicaments : améliorer les rendements et maîtriser les coûts de production* »

- **ACCESS** (2,8 M€): optimization of the MSC production through the development of an in-line clinical grade production control system.
- **SELPHi** (2,8 M€): development and industrialization of a new generation of sensors based on holographic imaging via monitoring of cells states.
- **IT'SME** (670 k€): development of a tool for the purification of biodrugs in continuous flow of reduced size and very low cost use (modular factory).

« *Nouvelles biothérapies et outils de production (AMI Biothérapies)* »

- **SECRET** (1,3 M€): development of an on-line quality control system based on the real-time analysis of the secretome of MSC cells.
- **CLIMBIN** (2,2 M€): development of an innovative solution for process analytical control for optimization and automation of cell cultures.
- **OPTI-STEM2** (7 M€): optimization of the MSC production in order to democratize their availability and allow the diversification of therapeutic applications.

- *12 persons recruited in fixed term contracts (or planned to be) in addition to permanent staff.*
- *National partnerships (Nancy, Montpellier, Marseille, Paris, Toulouse, Tours...).*
- *Academic and industrial collaborations (from start-up to large pharmaceutical groups).*

**Conclusion**



# WJ-MSCs in the Sepsis model

## 1st:

Best source of MSCs between WJ-MSC and BM-MSCs in a murine CLP model



WJ-MSCs seem to present a better profile in this murine model

WJ-MSC source

## 2nd :

Efficacy of GMP WJ-MSCs in a pig model of septic shock

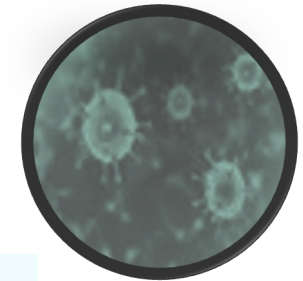


WJ-MSCs present efficiency in this animal model very close from clinical context

Production Scale-up



ANSM authorization



Industrial Production  
Phase II Clinical trial



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**MTINOV**  
LARGE SCALE HUMAN  
CELL PRODUCTION

