

ALLERGY, GENETICS

# DIVIDE AND CONQUER

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Science has an [interesting paper](#) that relates to an [earlier post](#) here and a central question in immunology. How do T cells differentiate into both short-lived effector cells (that combat infections) and long-lived memory cells.

We show that a dividing T lymphocyte initially responding to a microbe exhibits unequal partitioning of proteins that mediate signaling, cell fate specification, and asymmetric cell division. Asymmetric segregation of determinants appears to be coordinated by prolonged interaction between the T cell and its antigen-presenting cell before division.

So, at least for *Listeria* antigen, it may look like this



