

SOFTWARE

FIRST ALLERGY CELL FOUND

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[A phenotypically and functionally distinct human TH2 cell subpopulation is associated with allergic disorders](#)

Allergen-specific type 2 helper T (TH2) cells play a central role in initiating and orchestrating the allergic and asth-matic inflammatory response pathways. One major factor limiting the use of such atopic disease-causing T cells as both therapeutic targets and clinically useful biomarkers is the lack of an accepted methodology to identify and differentiate these cells from overall nonpathogenic TH2 cell types. We have described a subset of human memory TH2 cells confined to atopic individuals that includes all allergen-specific TH2 cells. These cells are terminally differentiated CD4+ T cells (CD27- and CD45RB-) characterized by coexpression of CCR4, CD49d, and CD161 and exhibit numerous functional attributes distinct from conventional TH2 cells. Hence, we have denoted these cells with this stable allergic disease-related phenotype as the TH2A cell subset.

Sounds promising...