Project: Initial Training Network for Neurological Disorders orchestrated by cytokines (NeuroKine)

Research Topic: Analysing the immune targeting of neurons by autoreactive T cells in autoimmune diseases of the central nervous system



The aim of the project is the analysis of autoreactive T cell subsets targeting neurons in an inflammatory condition. A mouse model has therefore been established that mimicks paraneoplastic syndrome. In this model, neurons are targeted by autoreactive T cells, which lead to CNS inflammation. This model is thus used as a working model for testing the role of T cells and analyzing the contribution of CD4+ T cells and CD8+ T cells in CNS autoimmune diseases. Furthermore, the project focuses in the phenotypical as well as functional characterization, of pathogenic CNS-infiltrating T cells compared to T cells that reside at the tumor site or in the periphery. In addition this model is being used for the application/design of therapeutic strategies *in vivo*.



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