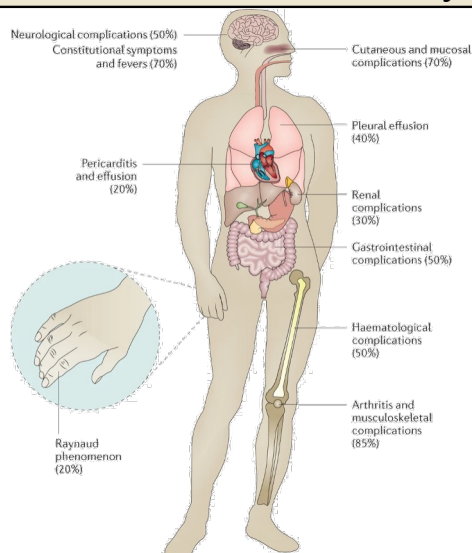


Is the origin of autoimmunity in the intestine?

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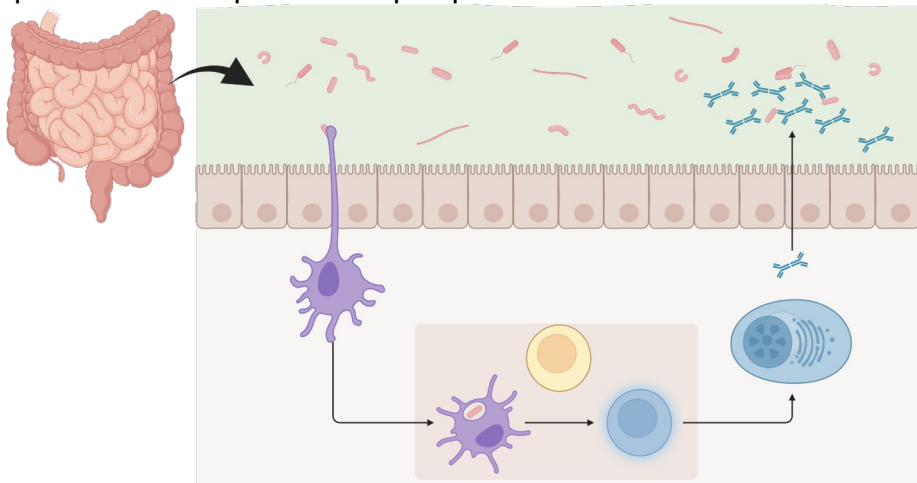
Autoimmunity and Lupus



- Lupus is an **autoimmune disease** affecting many organs.
- **Women** are more predisposed than men.
- Multiple genes, UV, EBV infection, environmental factors are involved.
- More common in people of African descent.
- Therapies are **untargeted** and have side effects.

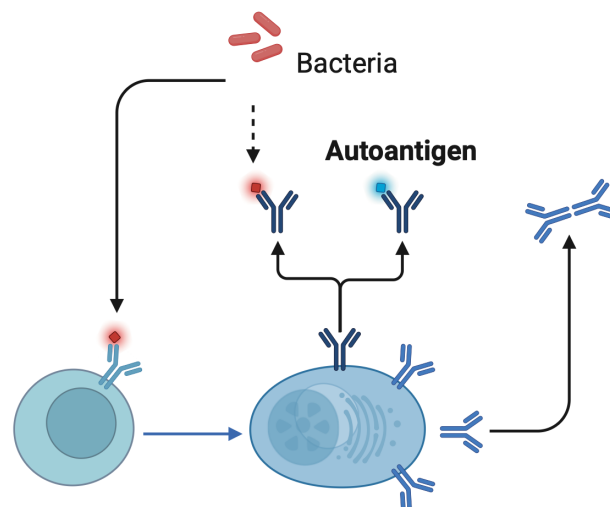
Immune Regulation in the Gut

Research Aims: 1. Identify the cells making the pathogenic molecules in lupus. 2. Isolate the molecule and use it as a tool to probe stool samples from lupus patients to see what it interacts with.



How could the gut be related to autoimmunity?

Cells in the intestine can react with bacteria present in the microbiome mounting an immune response. This response could eventually turn into an autoimmune response by reacting against self antigens leading to lupus.



Ongoing Work and Acknowledgements

- Continue collecting samples from early onset children diagnosed with lupus.
- Refine the strategy, make antibodies and then probe stool samples to target a bacteria that could be leading to cross reactivity.
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