

Subdominant epitopes in TB

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The ESAT-6 molecule is a very important target for T cell recognition during infection with *M. tuberculosis*. Although ESAT-6 contains numerous potential T cell epitopes, the immune response during infection is often focused towards a few immuno-dominant epitopes.

One way of broadening the repertoire is through priming of T cells directed to the subdominant part of the T cell population that is normally “silent” and not involved in the response during infection or primed by conventional immunization. We hypothesized that a potential problem associated with current immunization strategies against a chronic disease like TB is that they prime an immune response to epitopes that are already dominant T cell targets during the natural infection. In my presentation I will focus on a fundamentally different strategy that aims at filling the holes in the T cell repertoire with new T cell specificities that are not recognized during the natural infection.