

# B Cell Differentiation and Interaction with T cells

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Prof. Dr. Andreas Hutloff

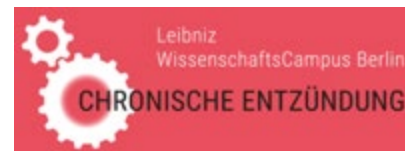
Institut für Immunologie  
Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel  
Deutsches Rheuma-Forschungszentrum, Berlin



UNIVERSITÄTSKLINIKUM  
Schleswig-Holstein



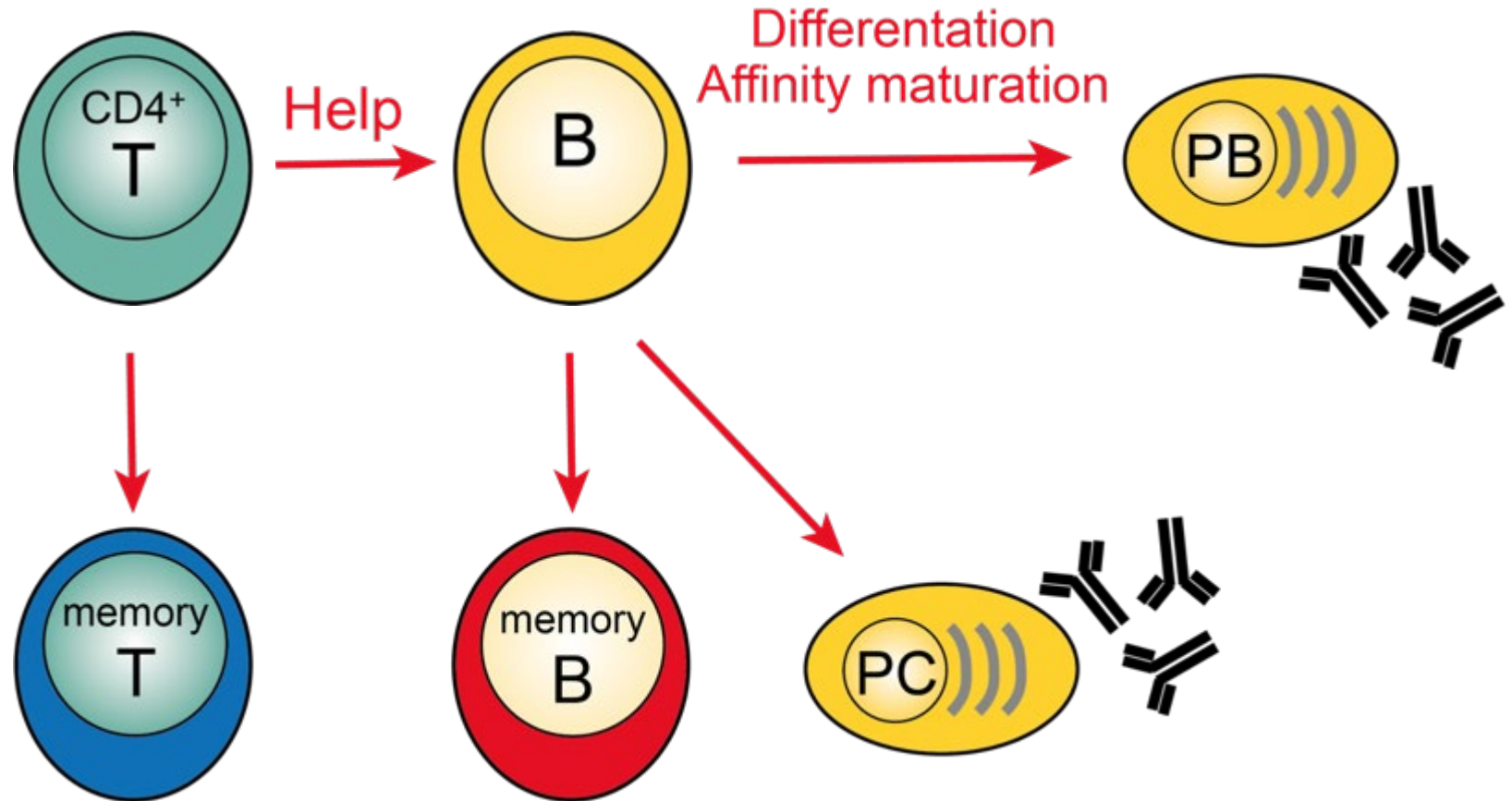
Deutsches Rheuma-Forschungszentrum  
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Center of  
Infection Biology  
and Immunity

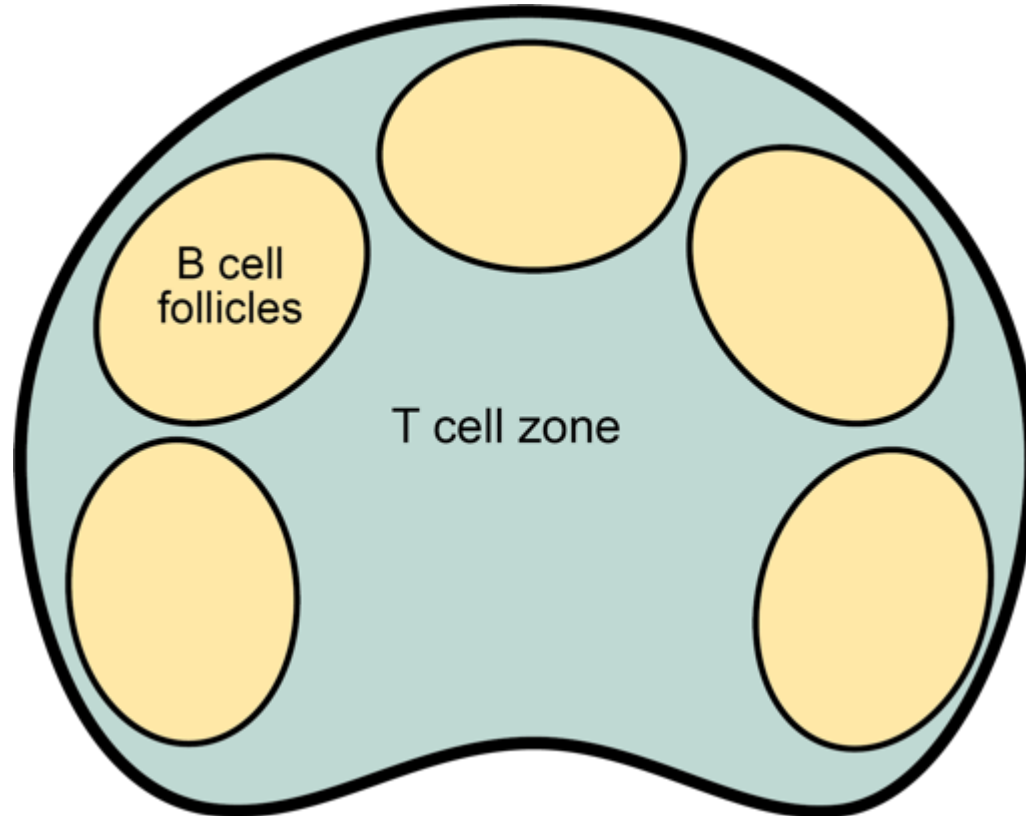
# The adaptive immune system - Humoral immunity

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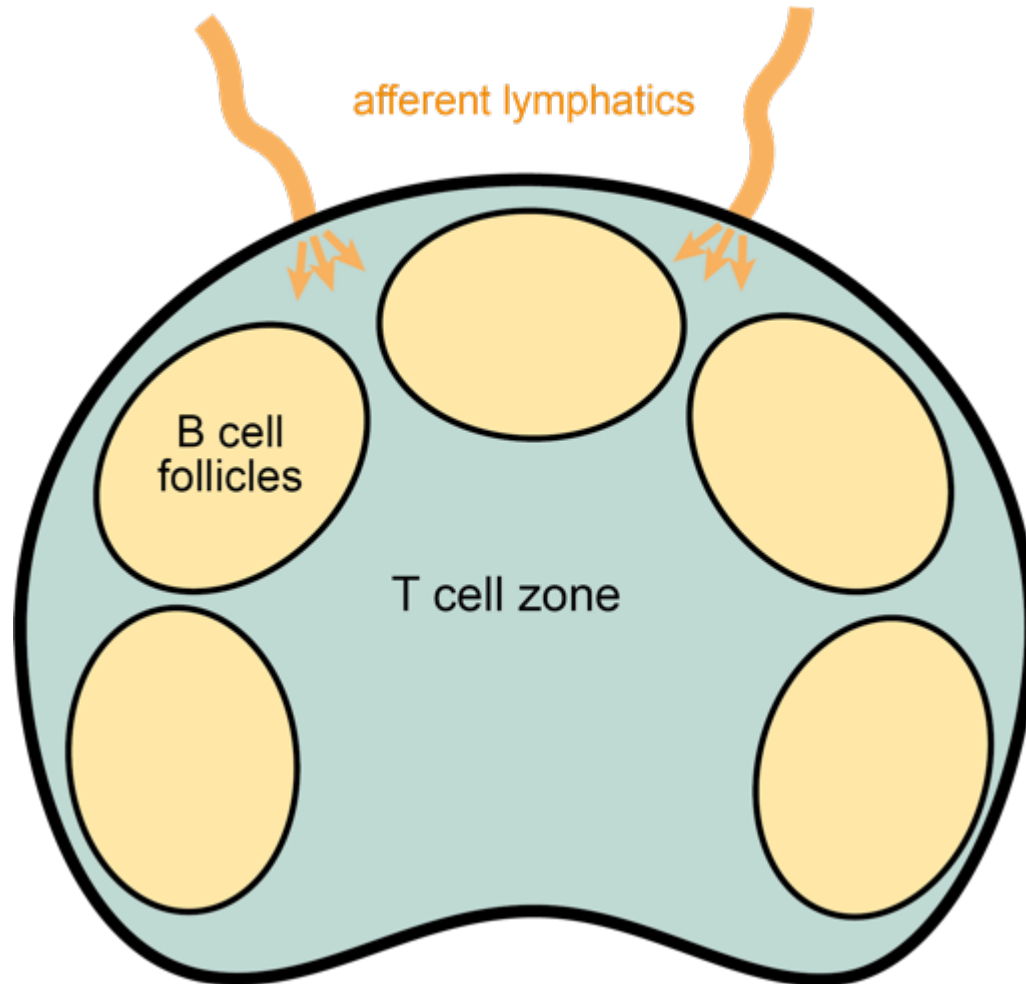
## Secondary lymphoid organs as meeting point for T and B cells

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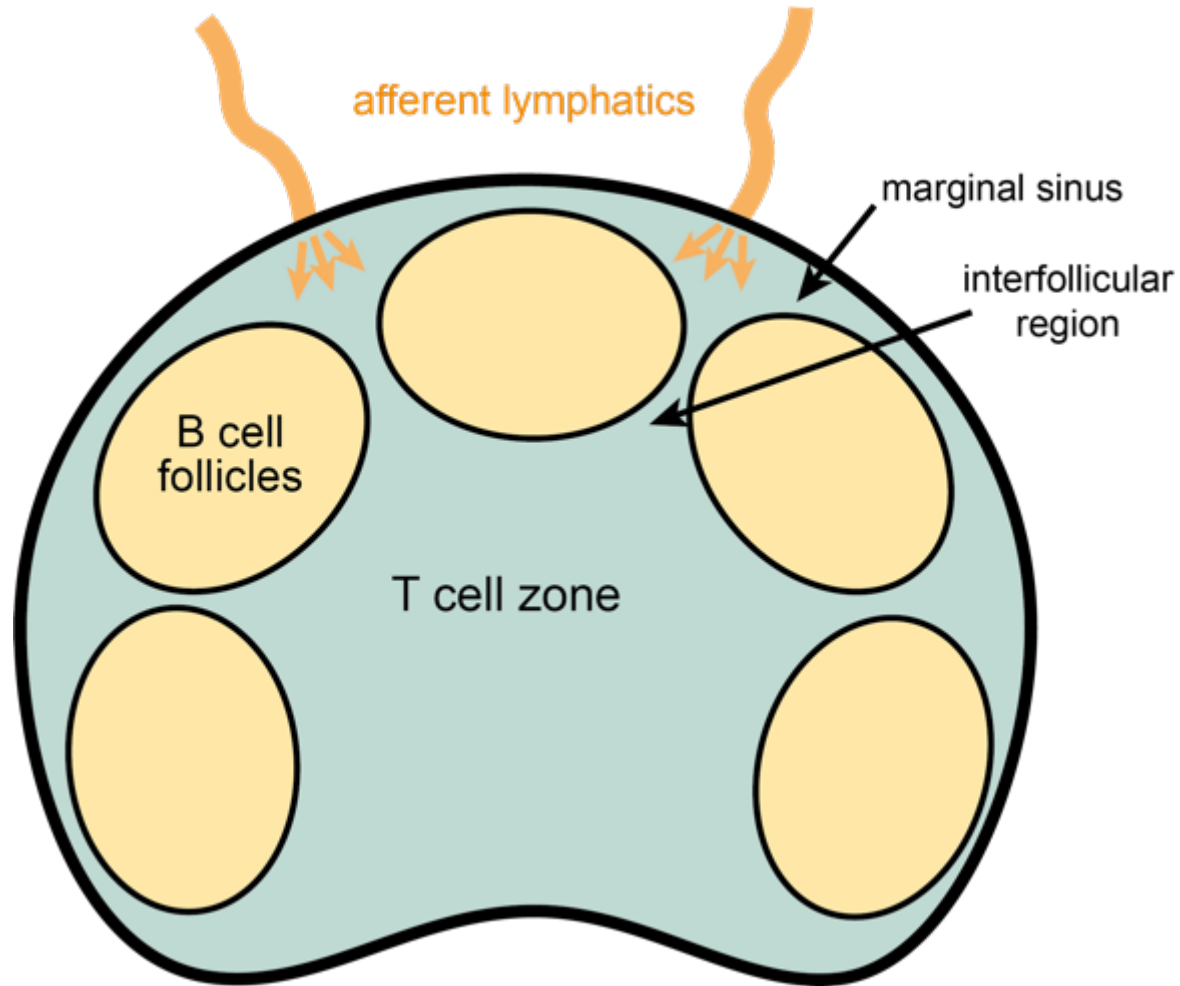
# T and B cells enter the lymph node via afferent lymphatics ...

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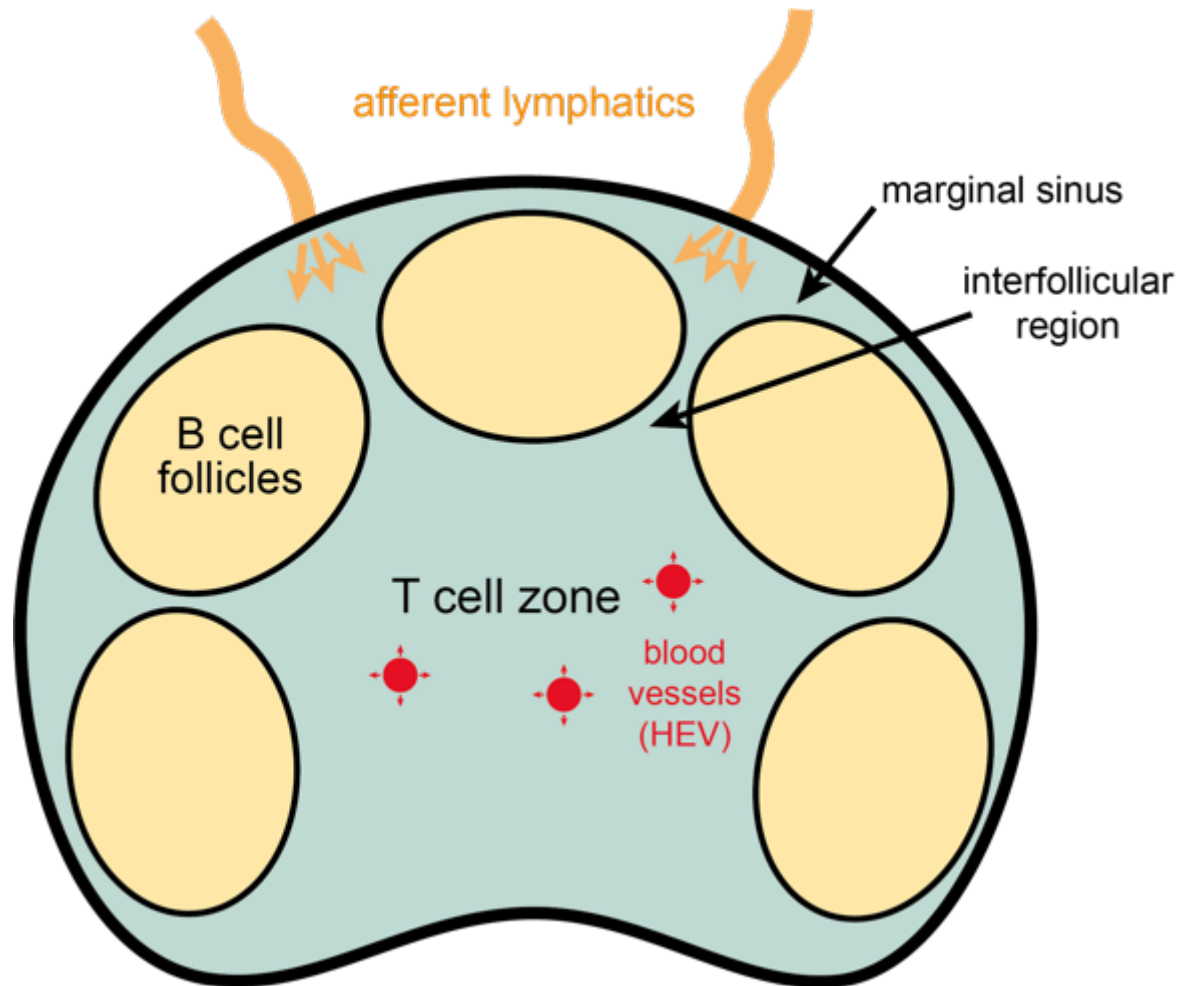
... and distribute via the marginal sinus and interfollicular regions

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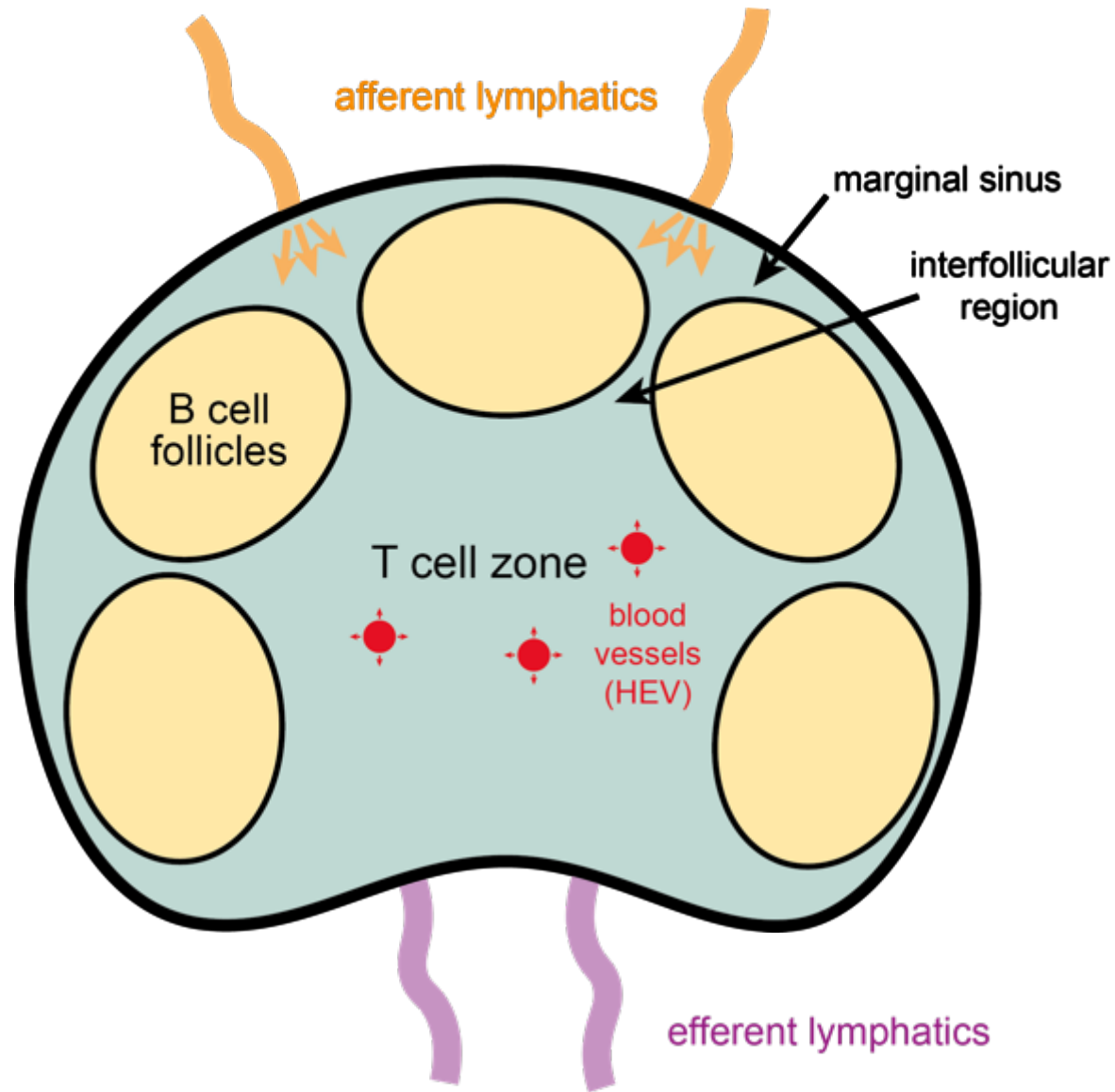
Alternatively, they can enter via the blood

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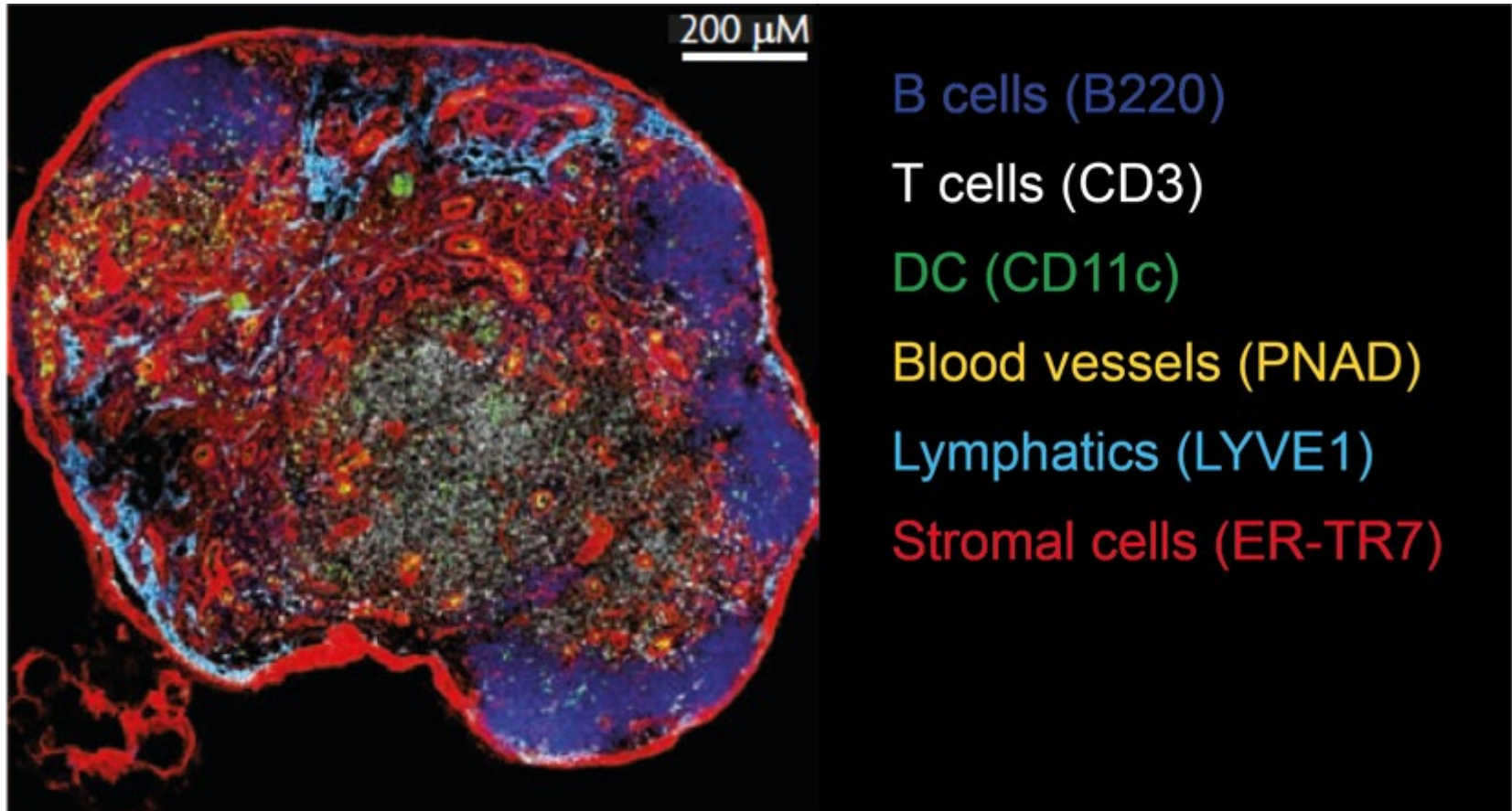
# They leave via medulla and efferent lymphatics

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# Additional cell types provide a unique micro environment

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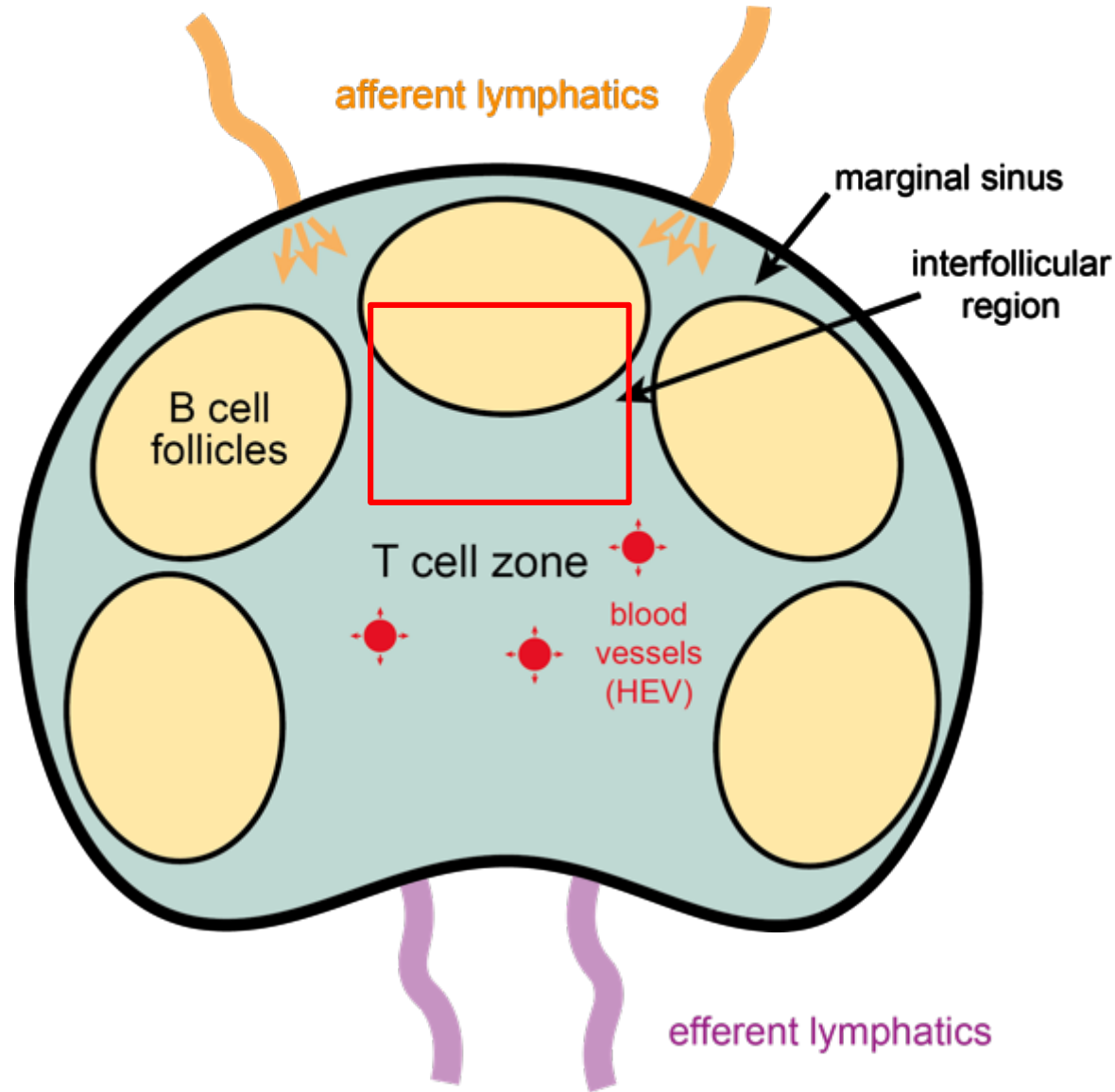


from: Mueller and Germain, Nat Rev Immunol (2009)



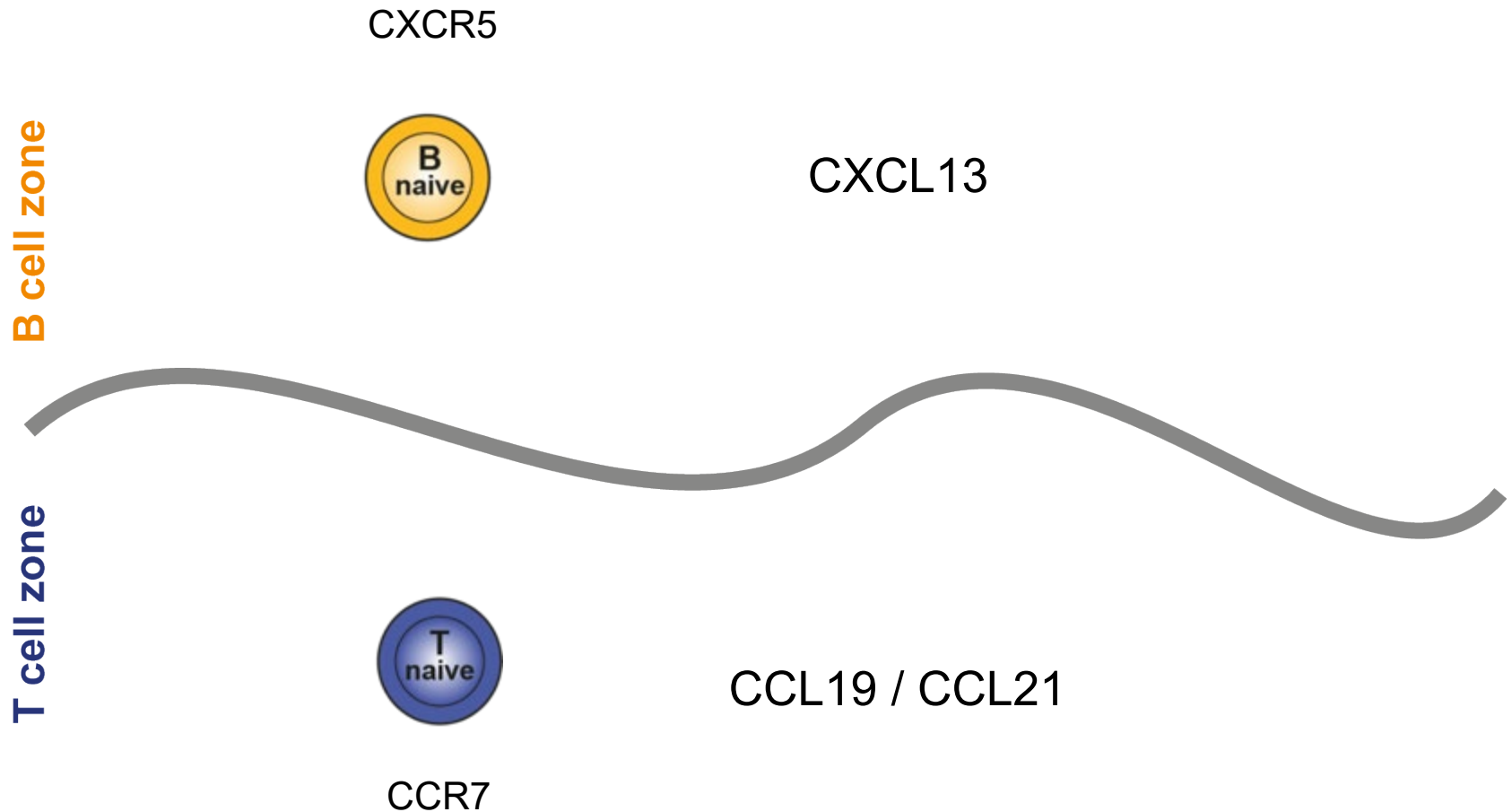
# What happens during an antigen-specific immune response?

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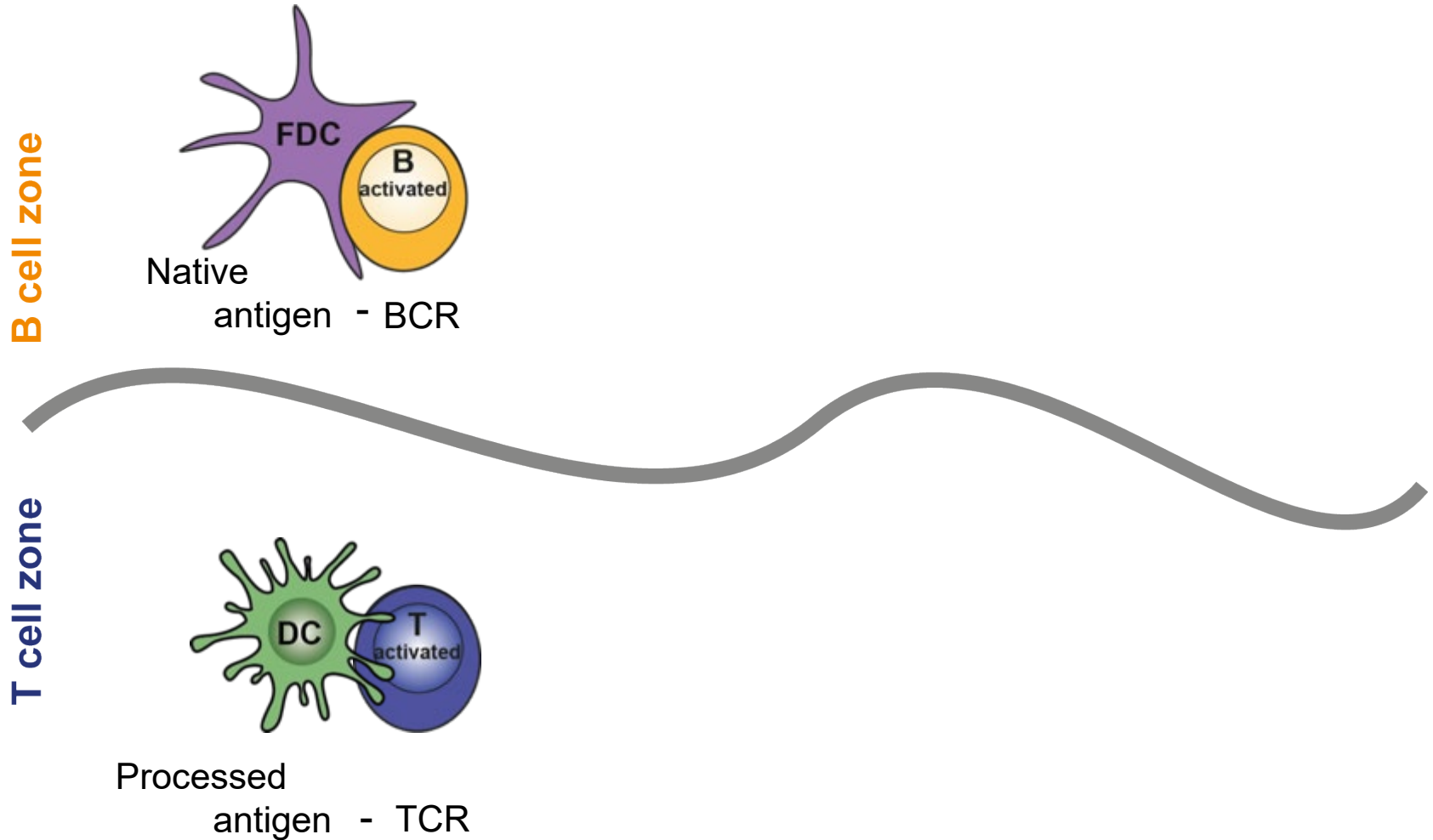
# SLO provide a highly organized microenvironment for T/B interaction

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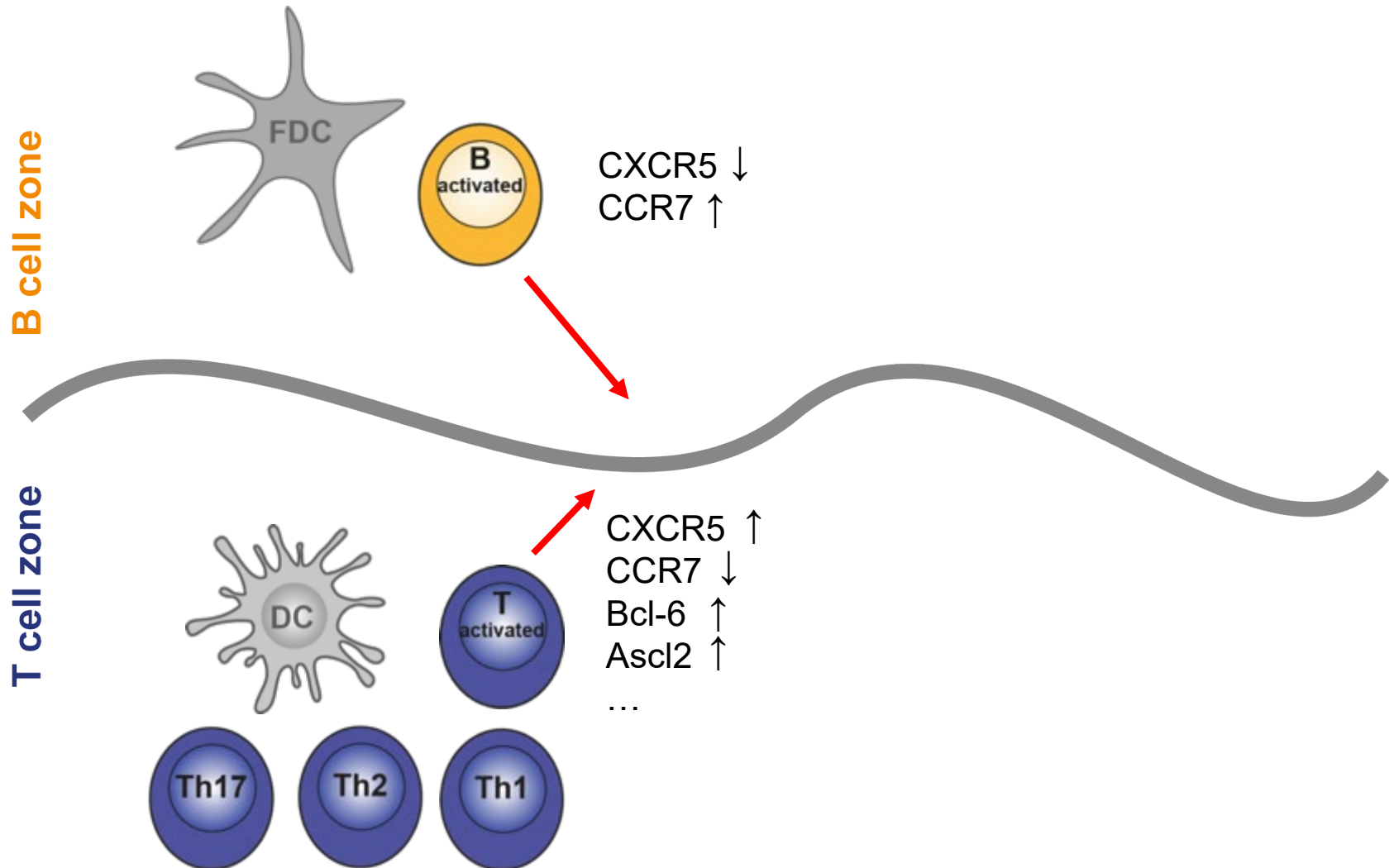


# Antigen-specific T and B cells both recognize their antigen

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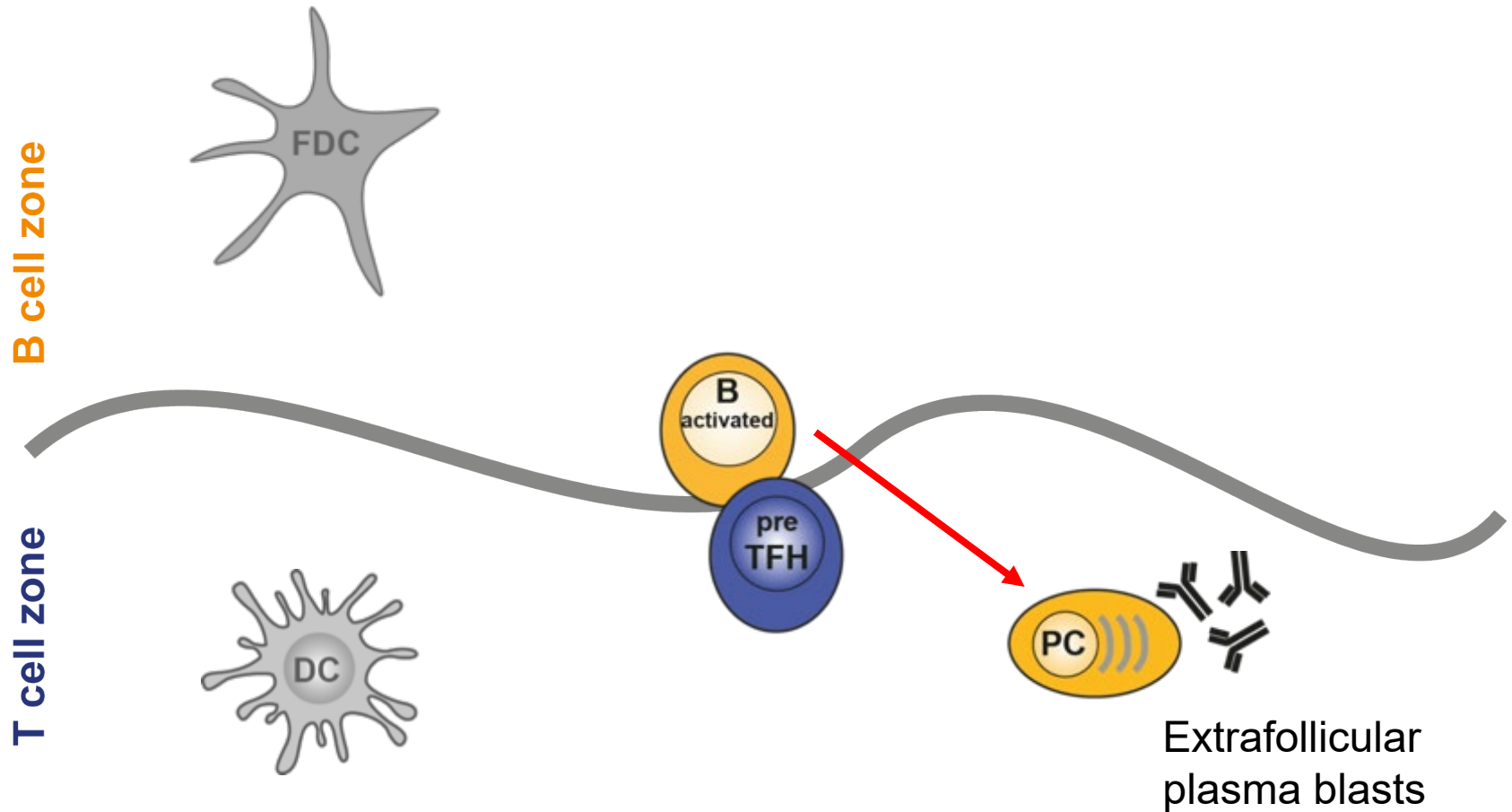


# T cells can differentiate into different lineages



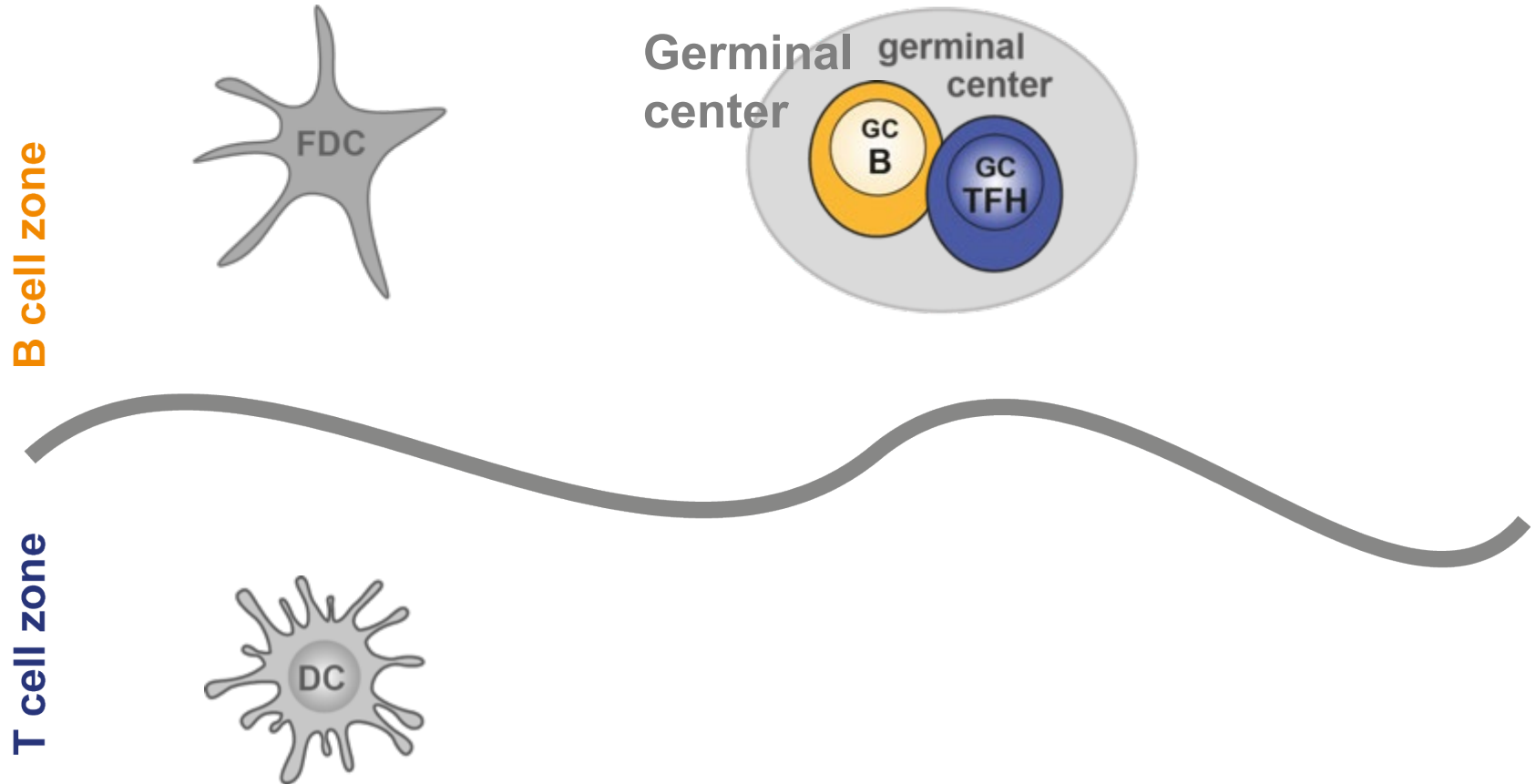
# The subset of Tfh cells interacts with antigen-specific B cells

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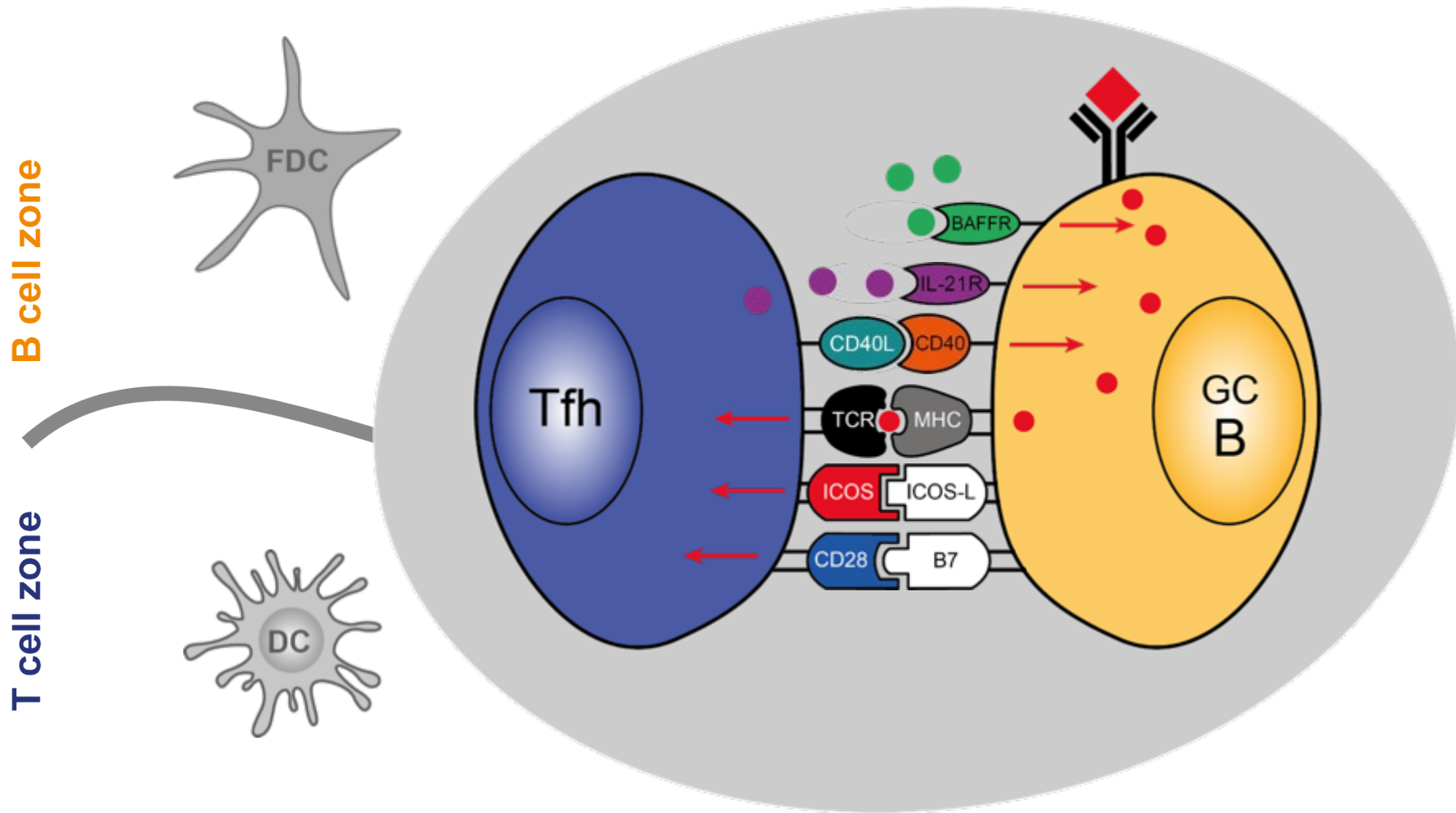


# Tfh cells drive B cell differentiation in the germinal center

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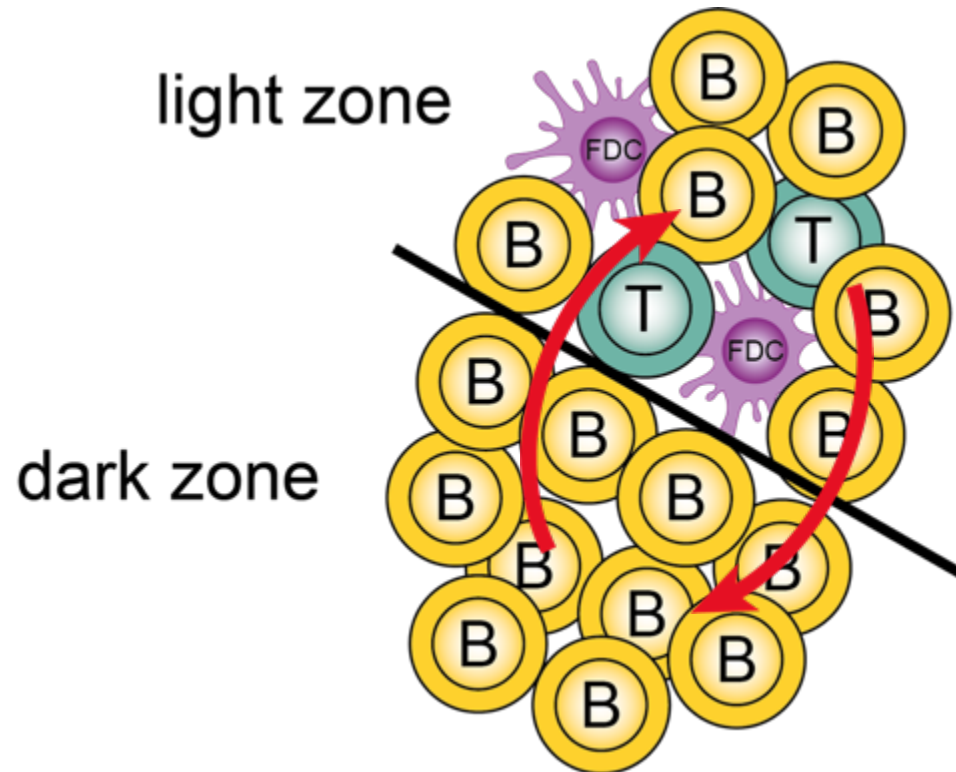


# Tfh cells drive B cell differentiation in the germinal center



# T cell help in the germinal center has to be strictly controlled

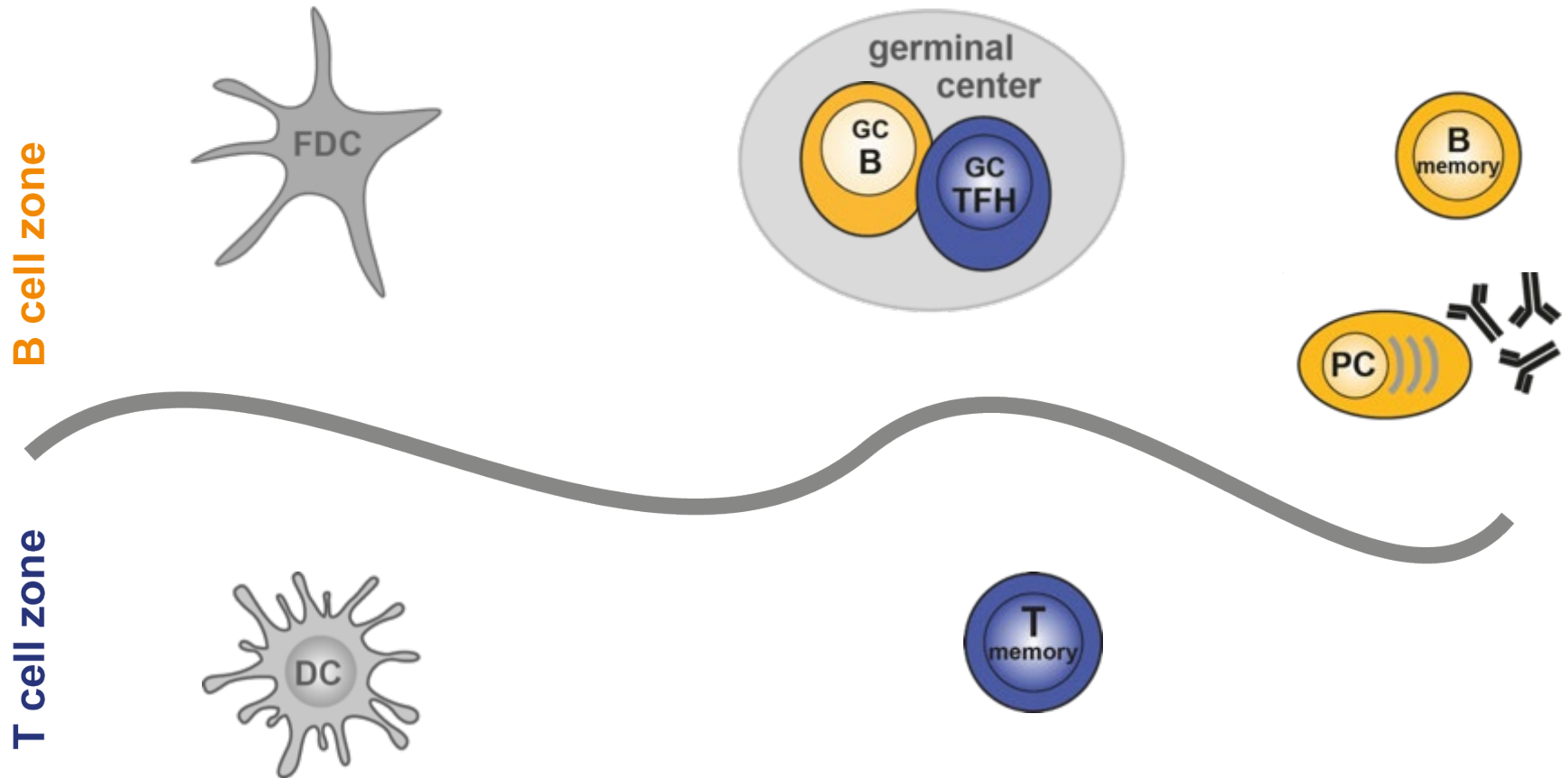
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# The GC reaction produces high-affinity memory B cells and PC

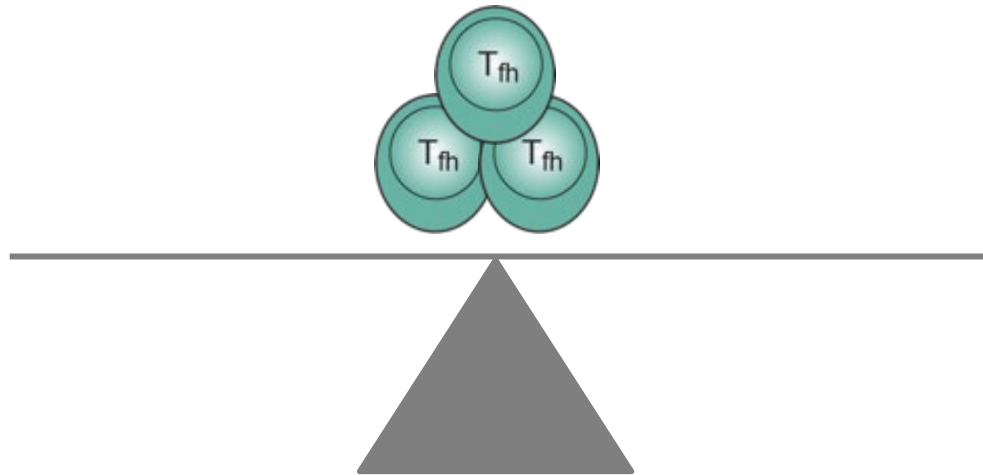
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# Tfh cells are critical regulators of immunity versus autoimmunity

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Protection



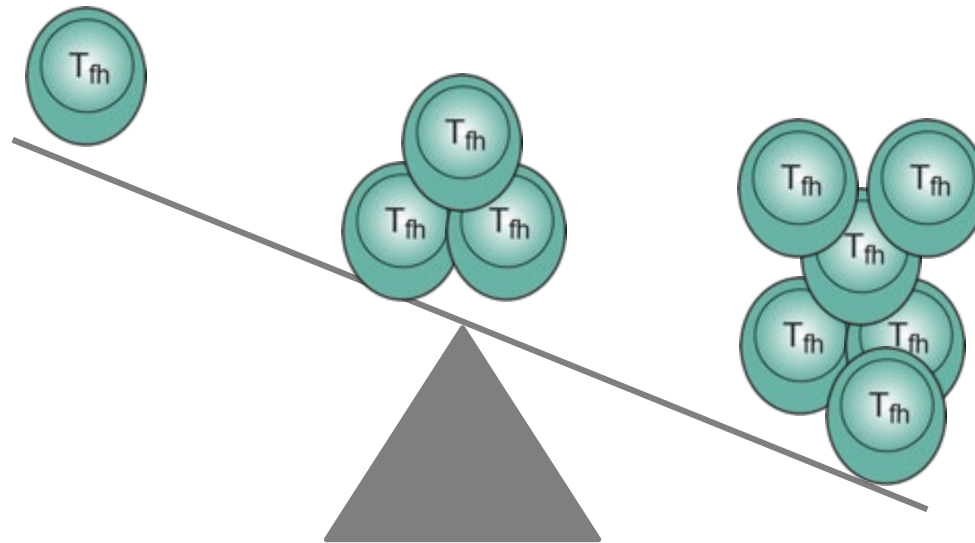
# Tfh cells are critical regulators of immunity versus autoimmunity

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Immunodeficiency

Protection

Autoimmunity

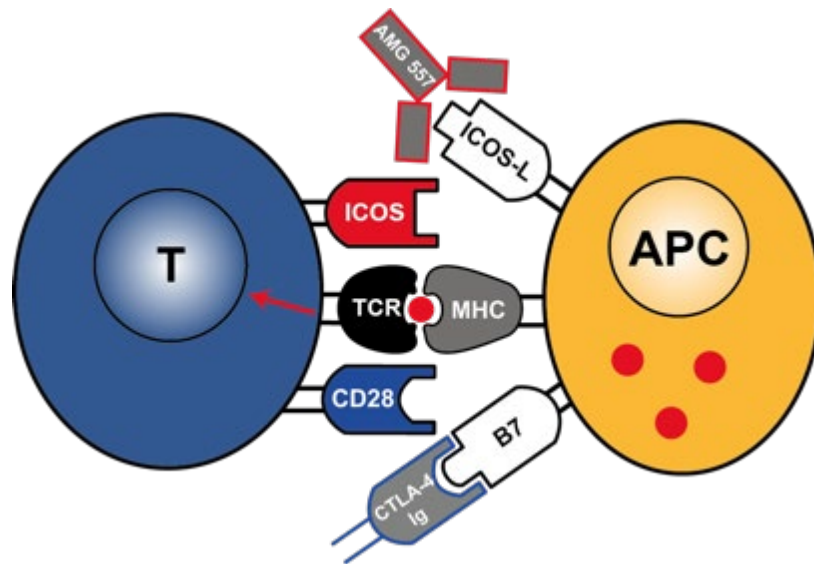


ICOS deficient patients  
(CVID)

Rheumatoid arthritis  
Systemic lupus erythematosus  
Type I diabetes

# Costimulation blockade as therapeutic target

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## **Abatacept** (Orencia™) Bristol-Myers-Squibb

- CTLA-4-Ig fusion protein
- higher affinity to B7 than CD28
- blocks CD28 signaling
- approved for treatment of RA

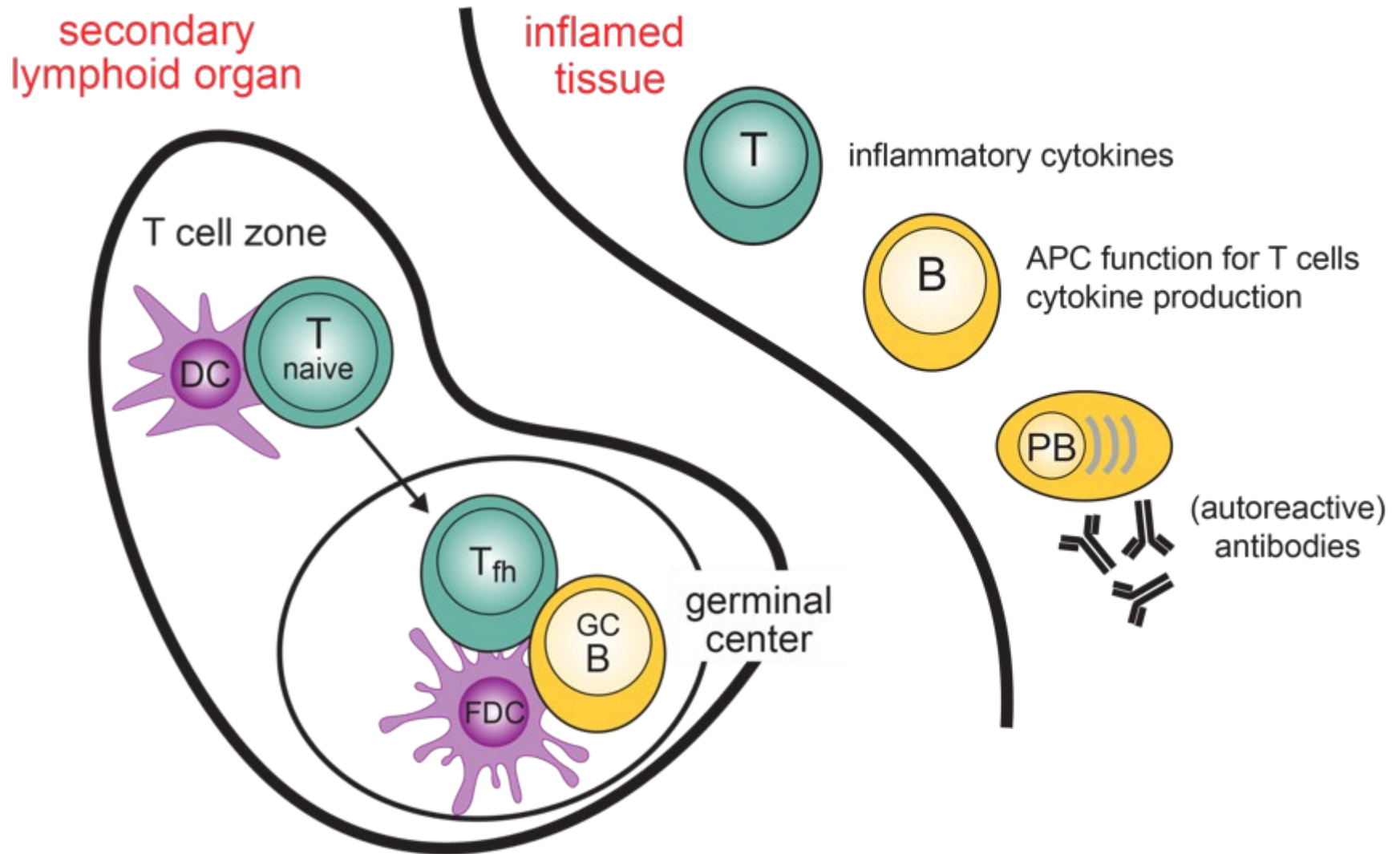
## **Prezalumab** (AMG 557) Amgen

- fully human mAb against ICOS-L
- blocks ICOS signaling
- phase Ib study in patients with mild SLE successfully completed
- phase II study for lupus did not meet expectations

# T cell / B cell cooperation in inflamed non-lymphoid tissues

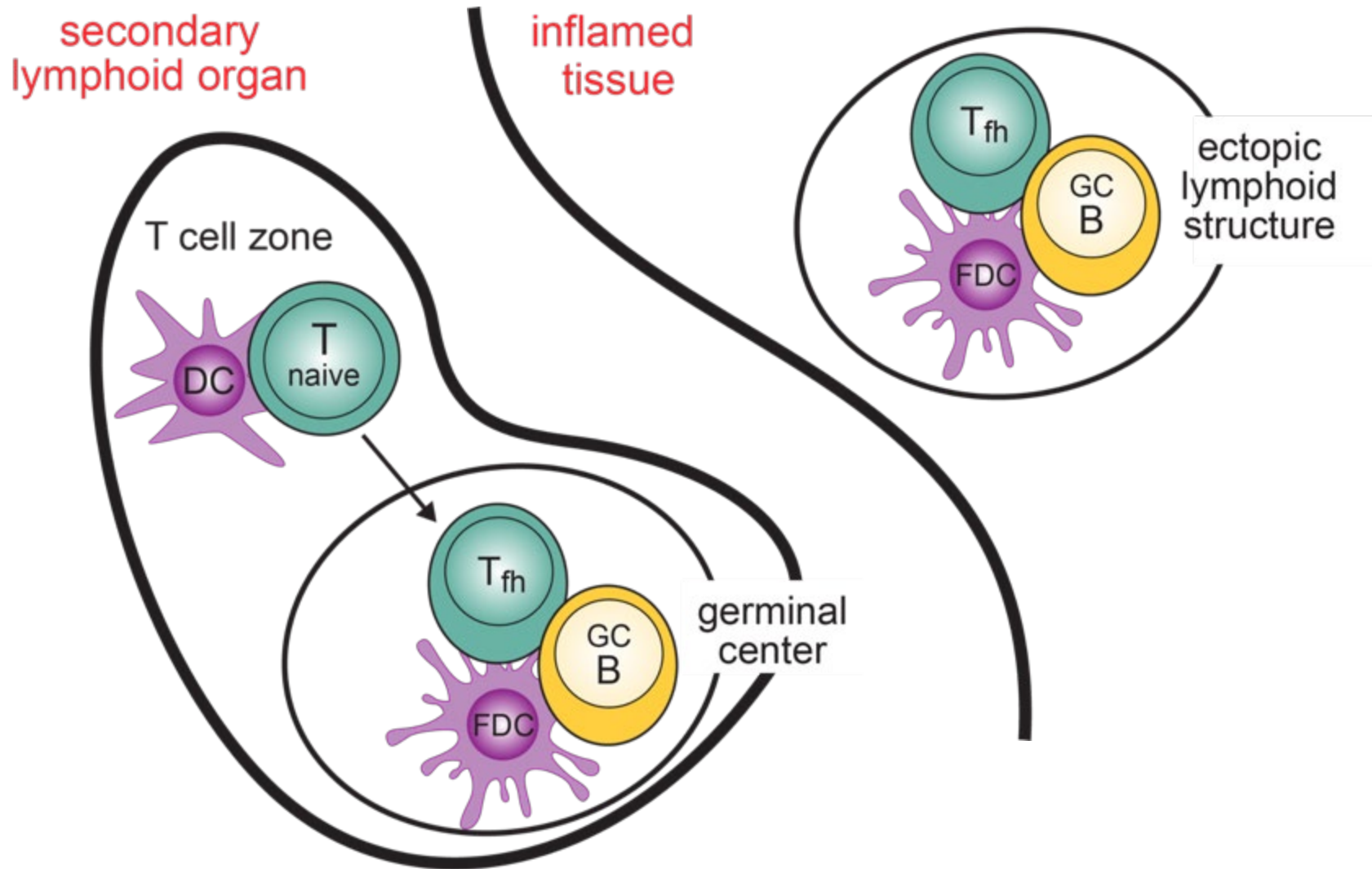
# T and B cell infiltrates are frequently found in inflamed tissues

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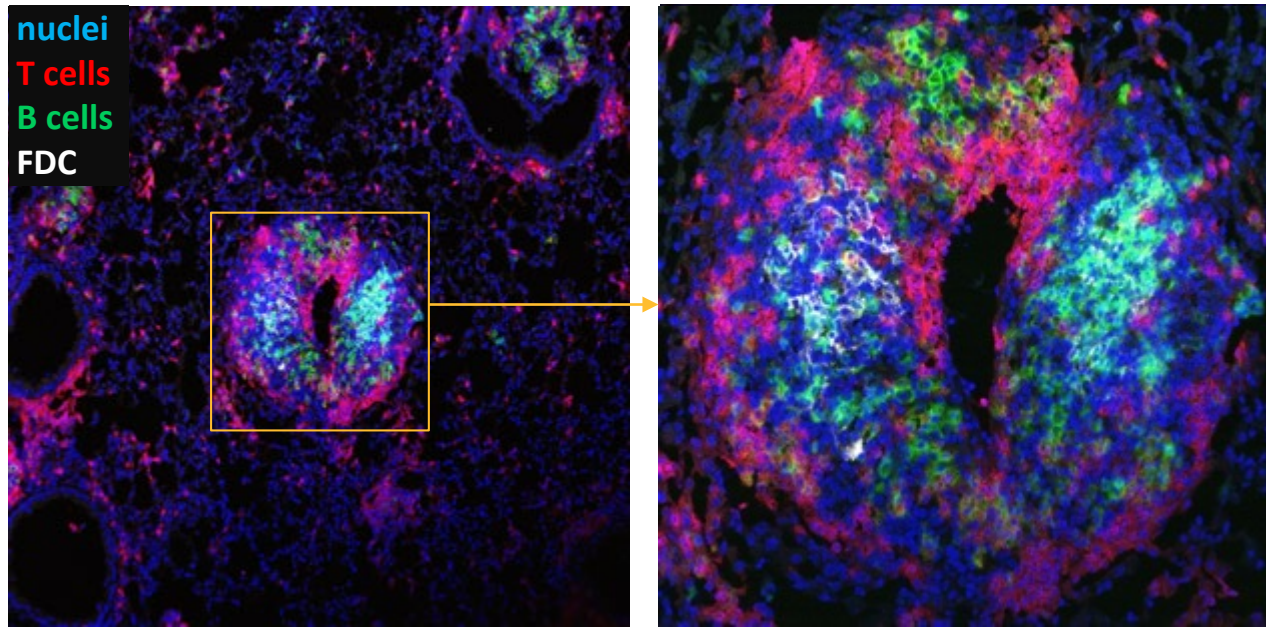
# Special case: Ectopic lymphoid structures (ELS)

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Fully resemble germinal centers in SLO with

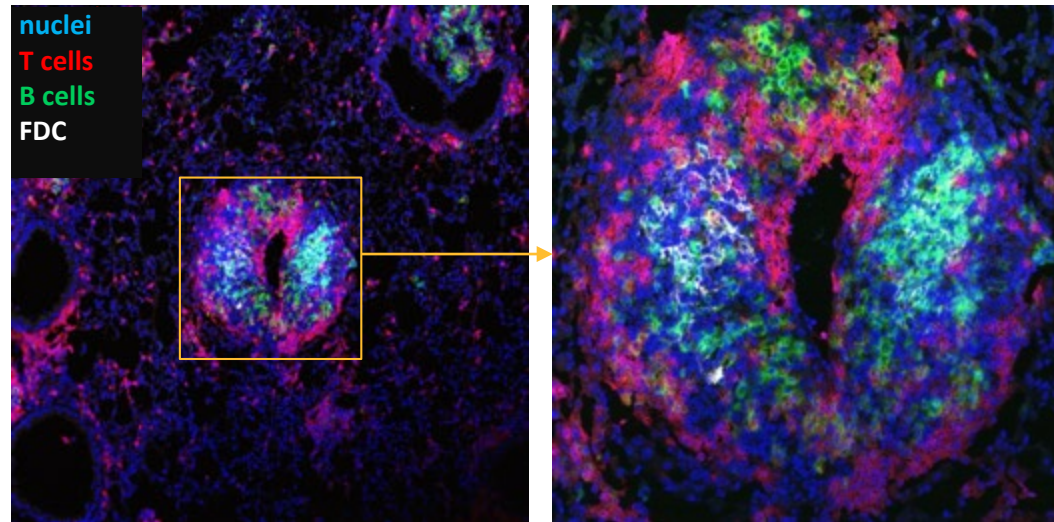
- separate T and B cell zones
- follicular dendritic cells (FDC)
- GC B cells and Tfh cells

➤ Require strong stimuli like viral infection



# Special case: Ectopic lymphoid structures (ELS)

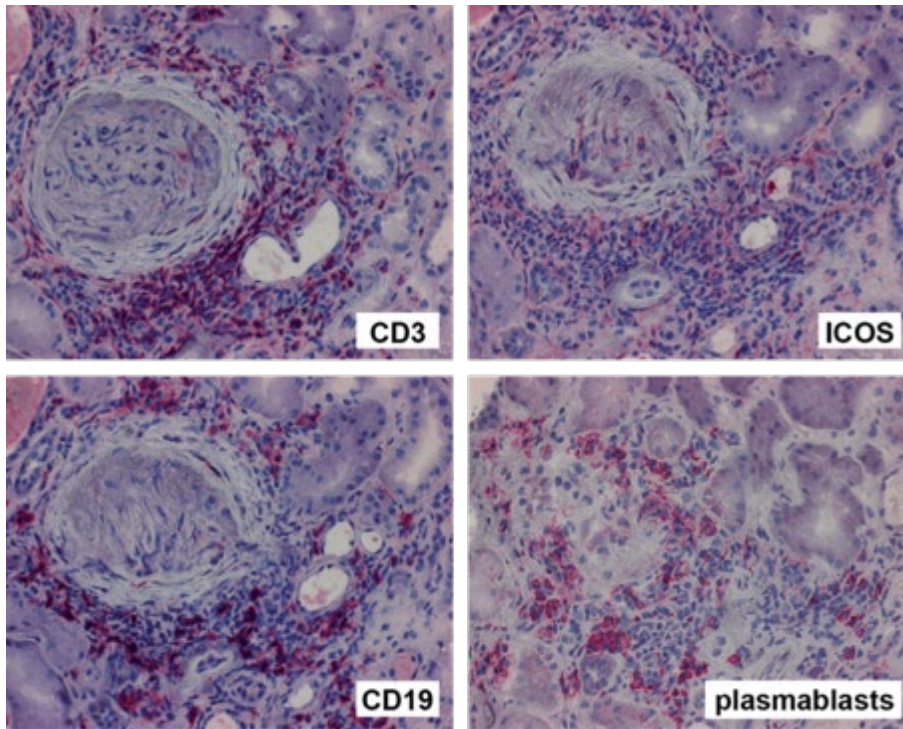
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**Prevalence of fully developed ELS in autoimmune diseases**

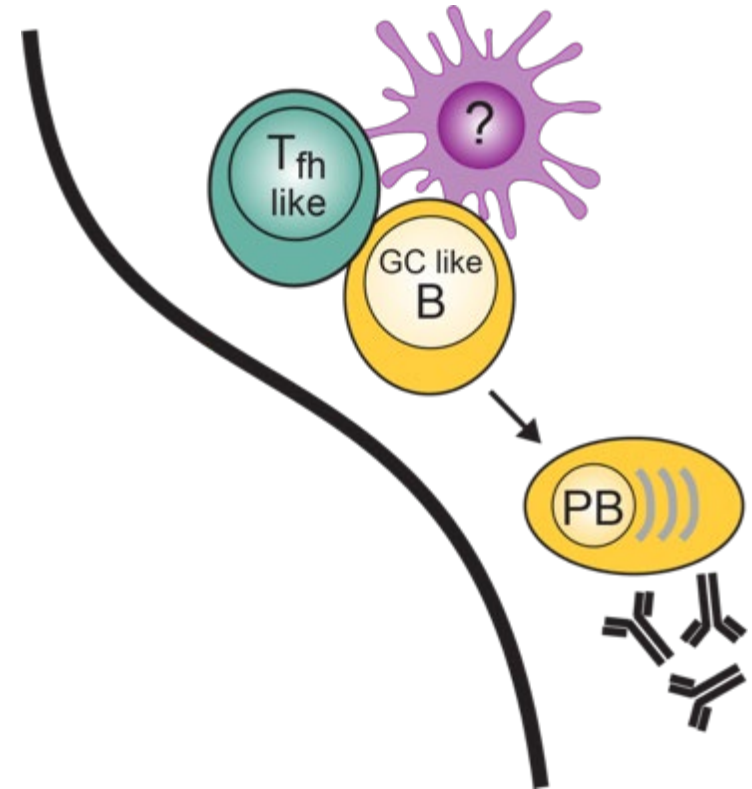
Disease	Organ	Prevalence
Rheumatoid arthritis	synovial joint	6% - 25%
Rheumatoid arthritis	lung	11%
Sjögren syndrome	salivary glands	20%
Systemic lupus erythematosus	kidney	6%
Myositis (adult)	muscle	0%

# Unstructured T/B infiltrates are a typical finding in autoimmune diseases



Kidney from SLE patient

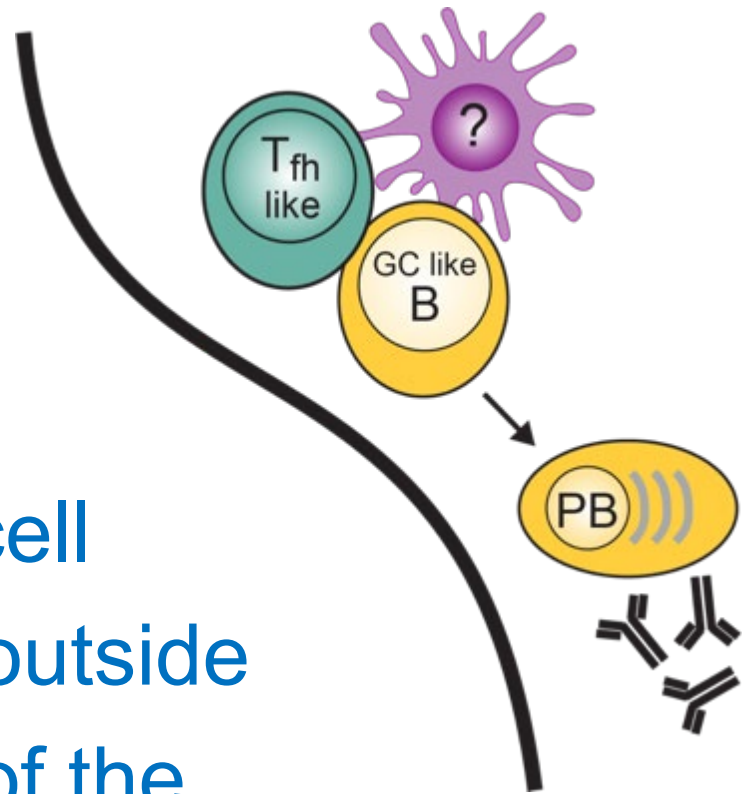
Hutloff et al. Arthr Rheum 2004



Unstructured T cell / B cell infiltrates are also found in:

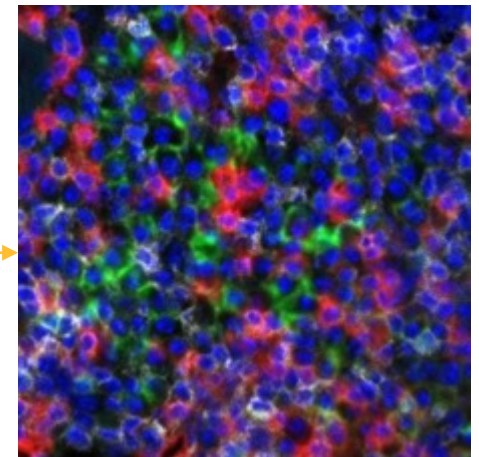
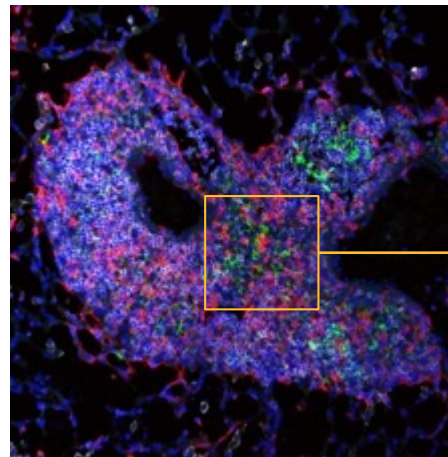
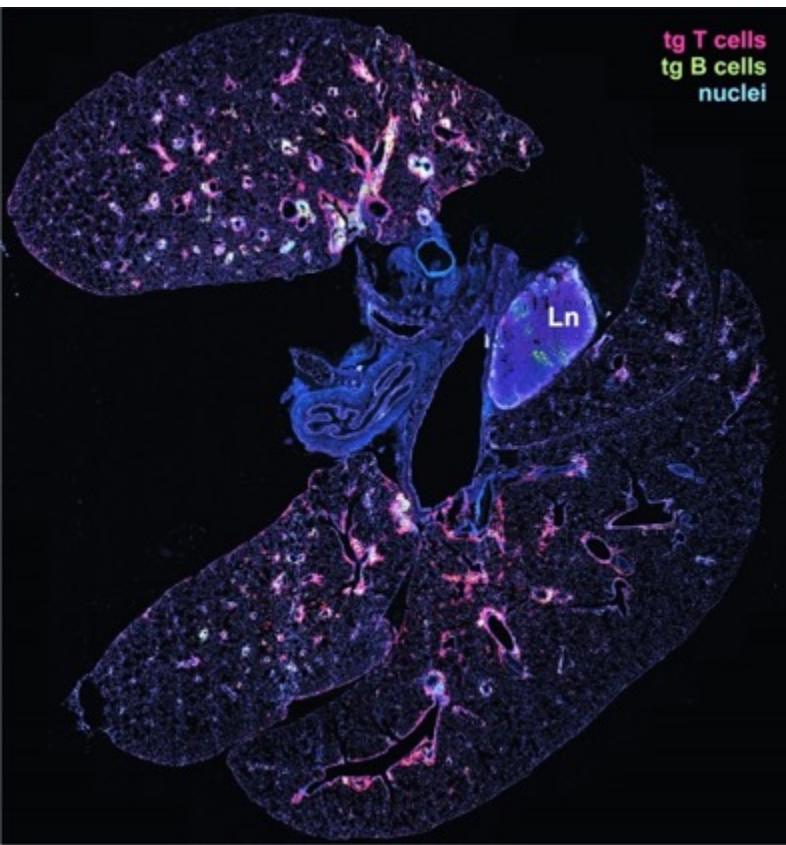
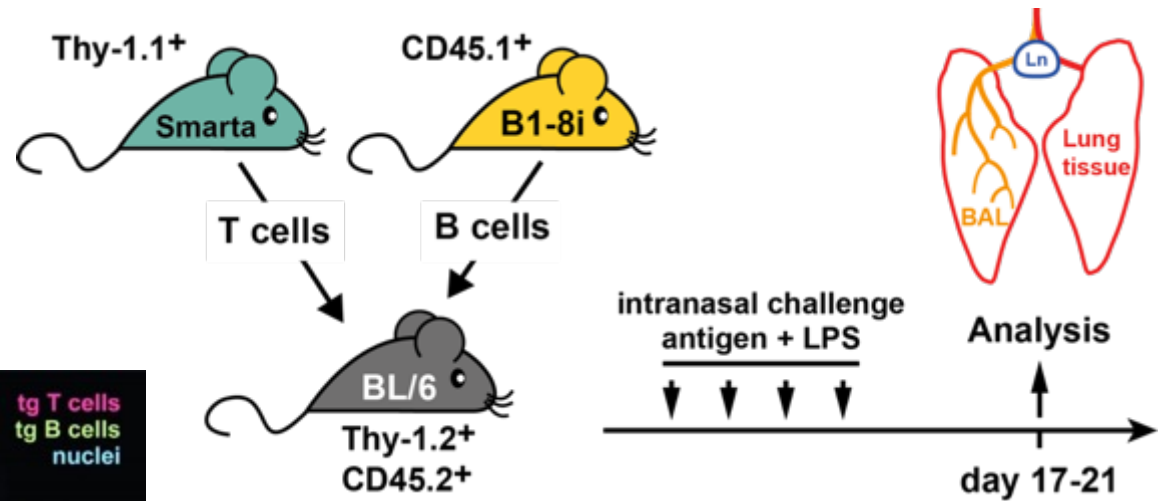
- inflamed synovium of RA patients
- inflamed gut, e.g. inflammatory bowel disease
- inflamed lung, e.g. asthma, rheumatic lung disease (up to 70% of RA patients)

How can T cell / B cell  
cooperation take place outside  
the ordered structure of the  
germinal center?

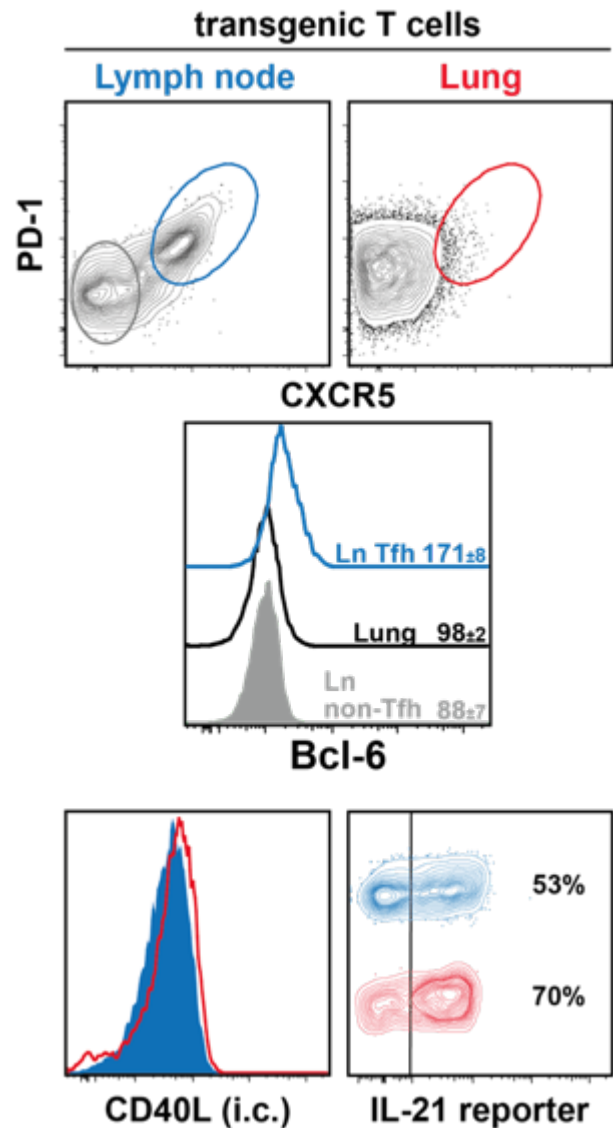




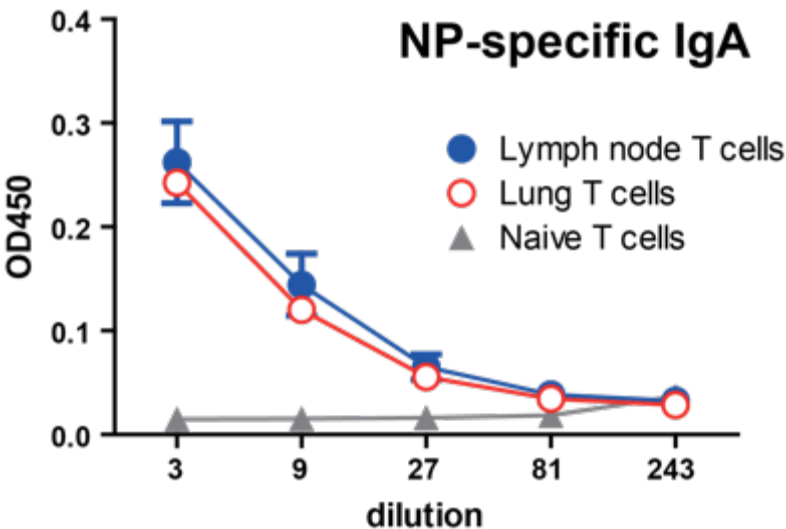
# Mouse model to study T/B cooperation in inflamed tissues



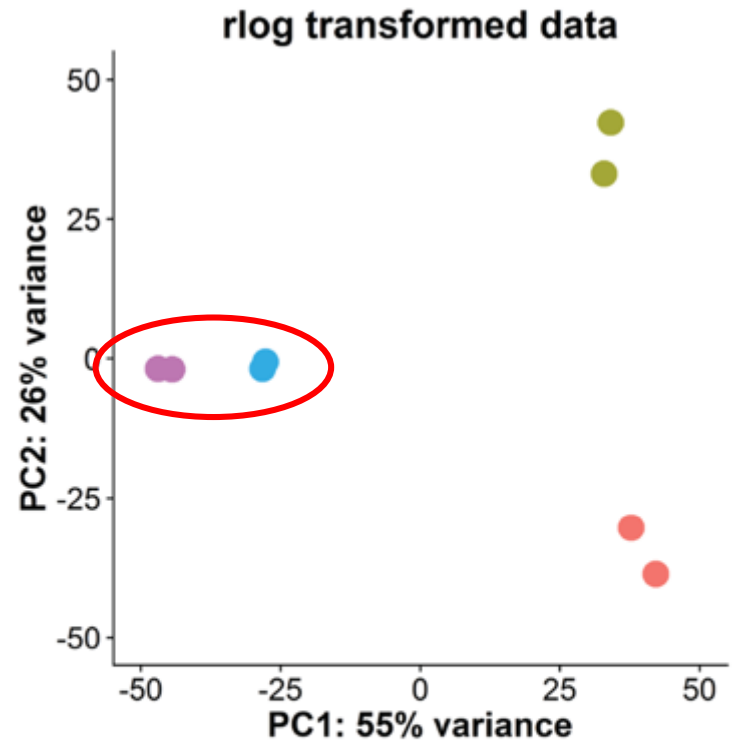
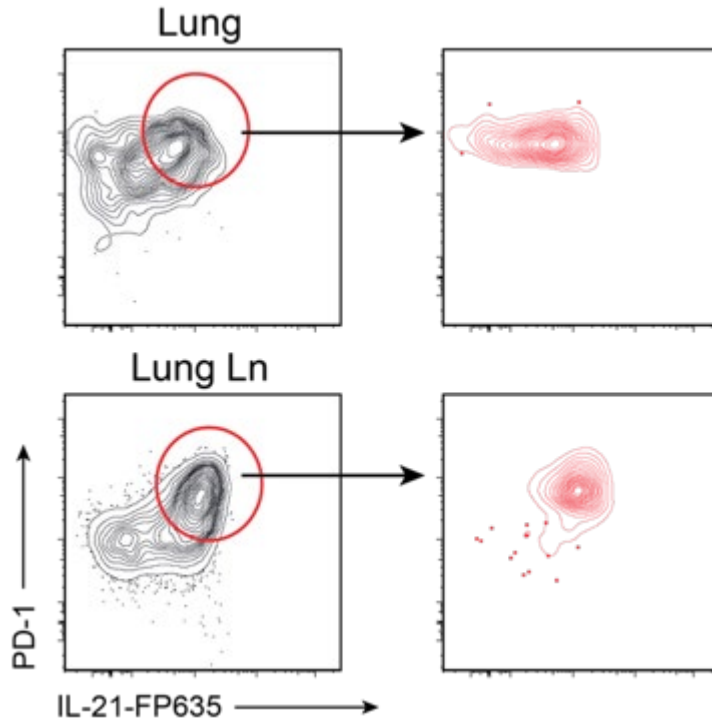
# Lung T cells lack a classical Tfh phenotype but are potent B cell helpers



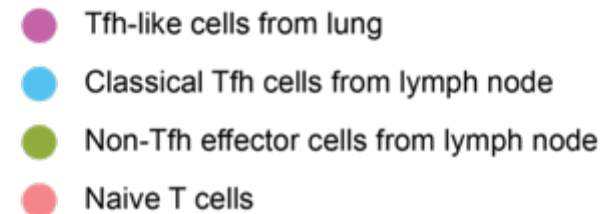
Co-culture of ex-vivo lung or lymph node T cells with naive B1-8i B cells in the presence of antigen for 7 days



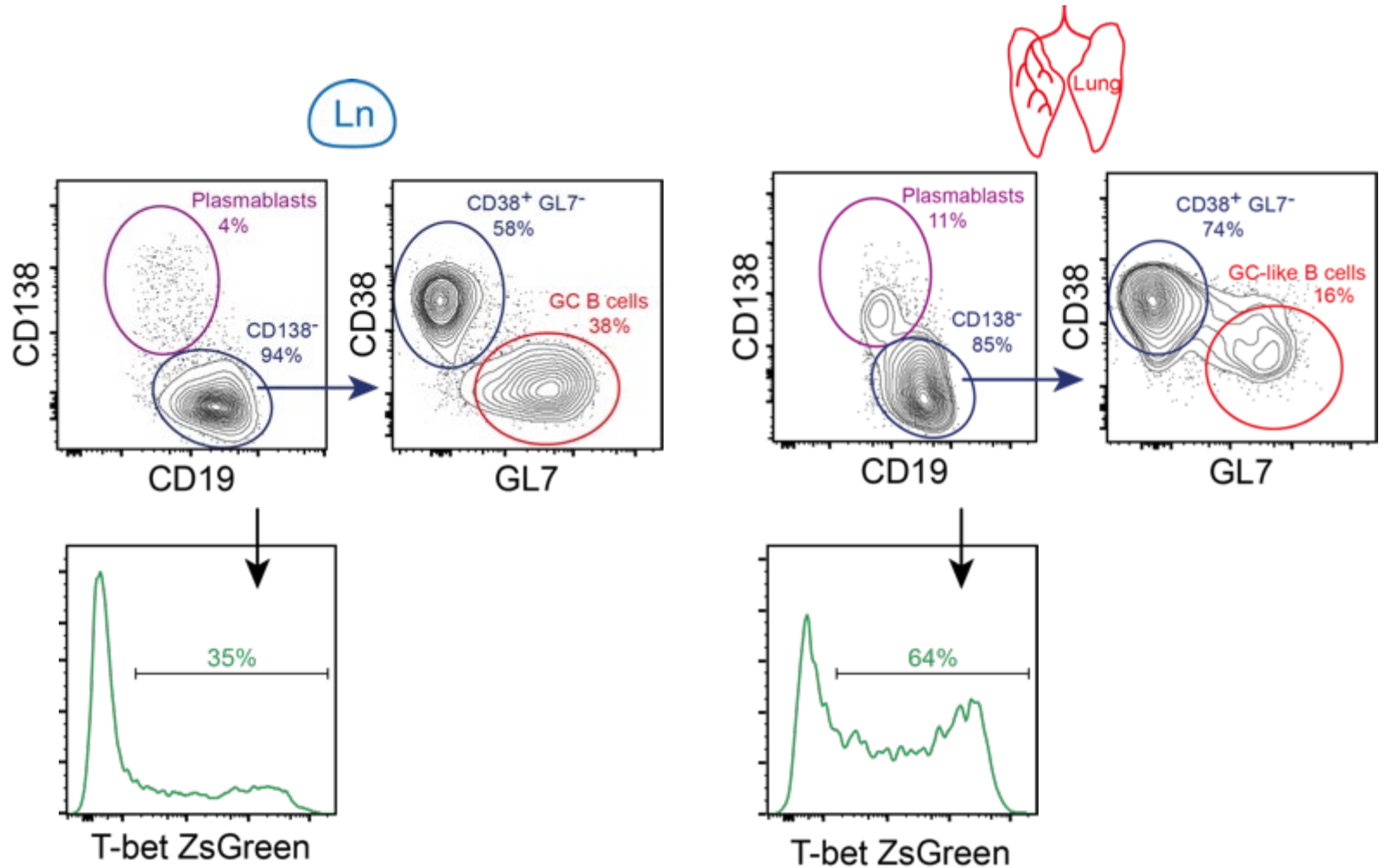
# Transcriptome analysis confirms Tfh-like phenotype



- Sort of antigen-specific T cells from lung and lung-draining lymph node on day 15
- Transcriptome analysis by RNAseq



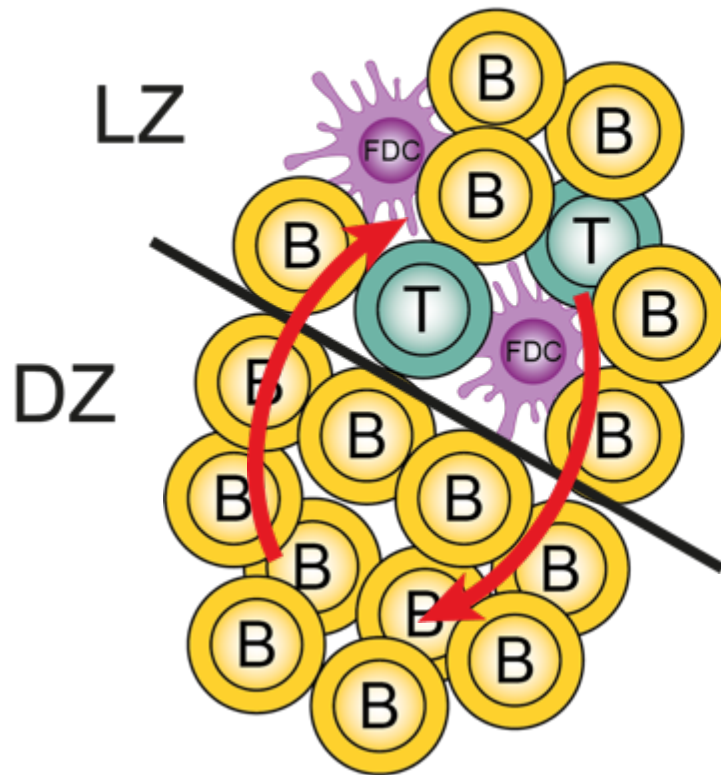
# The lung contains three distinct B cell populations



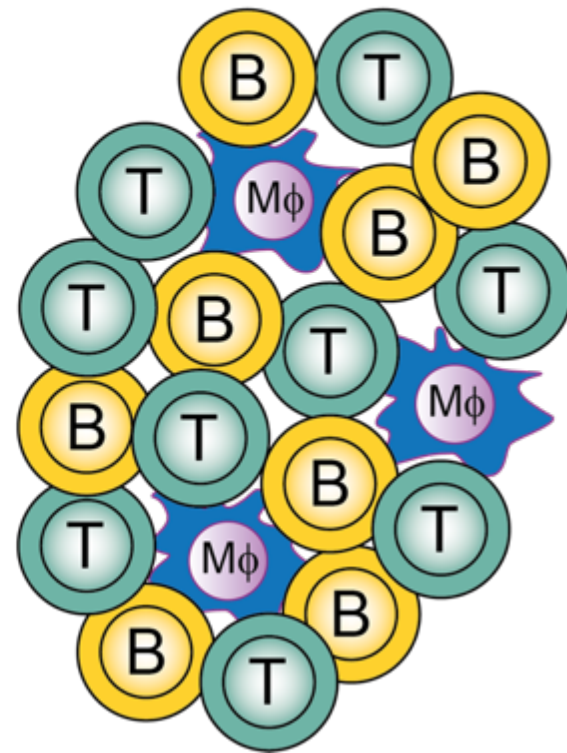
# Uncontrolled T/B interaction poses a high risk for development of autoreactive clones

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classical  
germinal center



tissue  
T/B infiltrate





# Tfh-like cells recently identified in autoimmune patients

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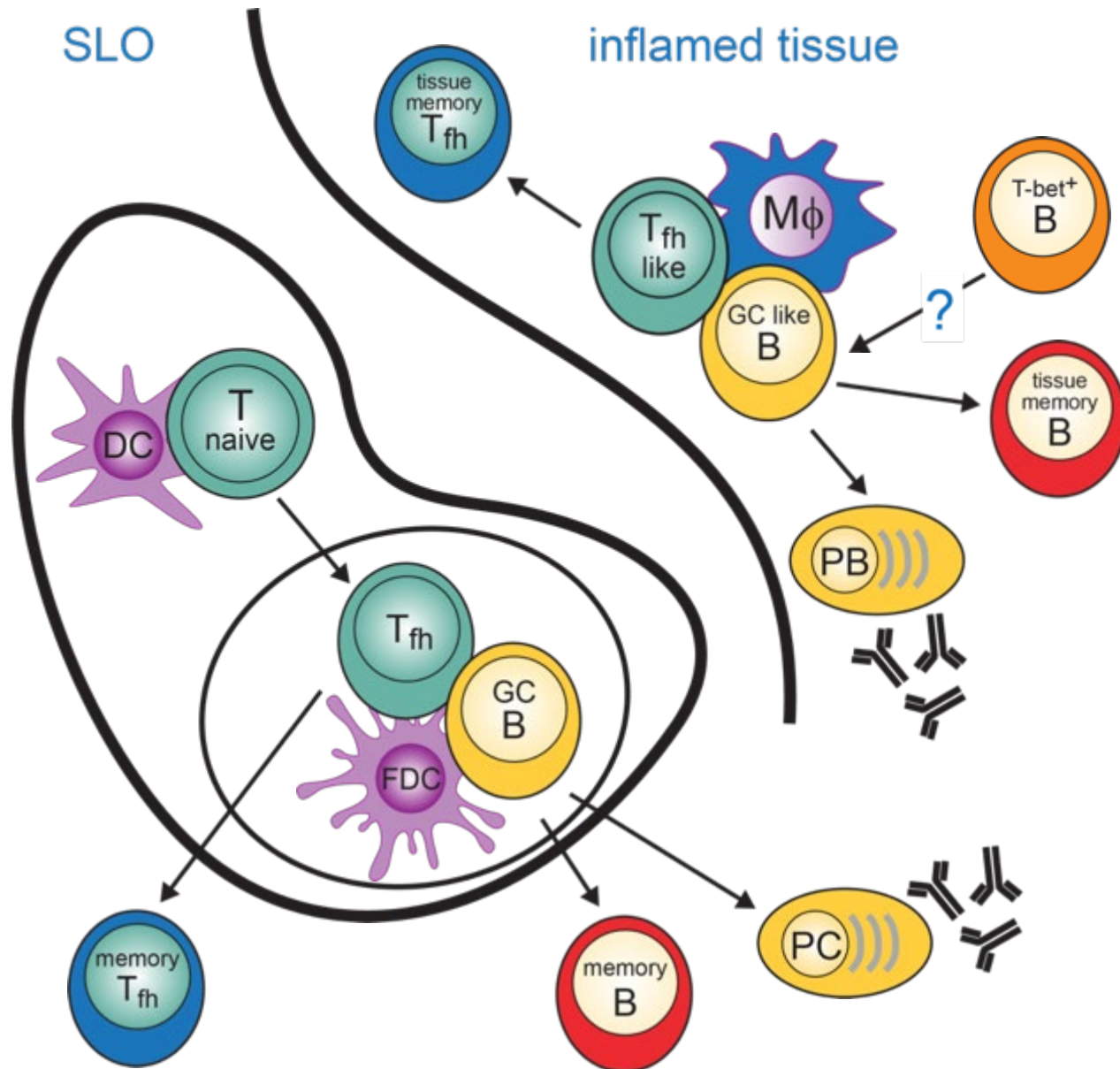
General phenotype in comparison to classical Tfh cells

➤ **distinct**: lack of Bcl-6 and CXCR5

➤ **similar**: high expression of IL-21, CD40L, CXCL13

- Rheumatoid arthritis (Manzo *Arthr Rheum* 2008, Rao *Nature* 2017) > peripheral T helper cells
- Lupus nephritis (Hutloff *Arthr Rheum* 2004, Lin *Rheumatol* 2019, Bocharnikov *JCI Insight* 2019)
- Sjögren's syndrome (Haskett *J Immunol* 2016, Blokland *Arthr Rheum* 2017)
- Systemic sclerosis (Taylor *Sci Transl Med* 2018, Christophersen *Nat Med* 2019)
- Pemphigus (Yuan *J Inv Derm* 2017)
- Breast cancer (Gu-Trantien *JCI Insight* 2017) > T<sub>FH</sub>X13 cells

# SUMMARY



## Recommended reading

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Michael McHeyzer-Williams, Shinji Okitsu, Nathaniel Wang and Louise McHeyzer-Williams.  
Molecular programming of B cell memory.

*Nat Rev Immunol* (2012) 12:24

Abhinav Seth and Joe Craft.

Spatial and functional heterogeneity of follicular helper T cells in autoimmunity.

*Curr Opin Immunol* (2019) 61:1

Andreas Hutloff.

T follicular helper-like cells in inflamed non-lymphoid tissues.

*Front Immunol* (2018) 9:1707.