

# Immune response modeling with cytokine dosing for artificial lymph node organ-on-chip development

Didar Murad, Umar Zeb, Iftikhar Ahmad, Rehan Zafar Paracha

August 2025

## Pharmacokinetics Models used in data generation

### Naive T-cell Dynamics

We model the Naive T-cell population using a logistic growth equation with an additional decay term.

#### Parameters

$N_0$  : Initial Naive T-cell count (cells)

$r$  : Growth rate (per second)

$d$  : Decay rate (per second)

$K$  : Carrying capacity (cells)

$V$  : Blood volume (L)

$N_A$  : Avogadro's number

$\sigma$  : Noise level (log-normal)

$t$  : Time (seconds)

#### Deterministic Dynamics

The expected (ideal) Naive T-cell count is given by the logistic growth with decay:

$$N_{\text{ideal}}(t) = \frac{K}{1 + \left( \frac{K - N_0}{N_0} \right) e^{-(r-d)t}}. \quad (1)$$

#### Stochastic Dynamics

To account for biological variability, we introduce log-normal multiplicative noise:

$$N_{\text{noisy}}(t) = N_{\text{ideal}}(t) \cdot \eta(t), \quad (2)$$

where

$$\eta(t) \sim \text{LogNormal}(0, \sigma). \quad (3)$$

#### Conversion to Molar Concentration

We convert cell counts to molar concentrations:

$$C_{\text{ideal}}(t) = \frac{N_{\text{ideal}}(t)}{N_A \cdot V}, \quad (4)$$

$$C_{\text{noisy}}(t) = \frac{N_{\text{noisy}}(t)}{N_A \cdot V}. \quad (5)$$

## Activated T-cell Dynamics

We model the Activated T-cell population using an exponential growth model with multiplicative noise.

### Parameters

$N_0$  : Initial T-cell count (cells)

$r$  : Growth rate (per second)

$t$  : Time (seconds)

$V$  : Blood volume (L)

$N_A$  : Avogadro's number

$\sigma$  : Noise level (log-normal)

### Deterministic Growth

The ideal Activated T-cell count follows exponential growth:

$$N_{\text{ideal}}(t) = N_0 e^{rt}. \quad (6)$$

### Stochastic Dynamics

To account for biological variability, we introduce multiplicative log-normal noise:

$$N_{\text{noisy}}(t) = N_{\text{ideal}}(t) \cdot \eta(t), \quad (7)$$

where

$$\eta(t) \sim \text{LogNormal}(0, \sigma). \quad (8)$$

### Conversion to Molar Concentration

We convert cell counts to molar concentrations by dividing by Avogadro's number and blood volume:

$$C_{\text{ideal}}(t) = \frac{N_{\text{ideal}}(t)}{N_A \cdot V}, \quad (9)$$

$$C_{\text{noisy}}(t) = \frac{N_{\text{noisy}}(t)}{N_A \cdot V}. \quad (10)$$

## Naive B-cell Dynamics

We model the Naive B-cell population using logistic growth with a decay term, combined with stochastic noise.

### Parameters

$N_0$  : Initial Naive B-cell count (cells)

$r$  : Growth rate (per second)

$d$  : Decay rate (per second)

$K$  : Carrying capacity (cells)

$t$  : Time (seconds)

$V$  : Blood volume (L)

$N_A$  : Avogadro's number

$\sigma$  : Noise level (log-normal standard deviation)

## Deterministic Dynamics

The deterministic Naive B-cell population follows logistic growth with decay:

$$N_{\text{ideal}}(t) = \frac{K}{1 + \left( \frac{K - N_0}{N_0} \right) e^{-(r-d)t}}. \quad (11)$$

## Stochastic Dynamics

To incorporate biological variability, we add multiplicative log-normal noise:

$$N_{\text{noisy}}(t) = N_{\text{ideal}}(t) \cdot \eta(t), \quad (12)$$

where

$$\eta(t) \sim \text{LogNormal}(0, \sigma). \quad (13)$$

## Conversion to Molar Concentration

We convert cell counts into molar concentrations:

$$C_{\text{ideal}}(t) = \frac{N_{\text{ideal}}(t)}{N_A \cdot V}, \quad (14)$$

$$C_{\text{noisy}}(t) = \frac{N_{\text{noisy}}(t)}{N_A \cdot V}. \quad (15)$$

## Plasma B-cell Dynamics

We model the Plasma B-cell population using an exponential growth model with stochastic fluctuations.

## Parameters

- $N_0$  : Initial Plasma B-cell count (cells)
- $r$  : Growth rate (per second)
- $t$  : Time (seconds)
- $V$  : Blood volume (L)
- $N_A$  : Avogadro's number
- $\sigma$  : Noise level (log-normal standard deviation)

## Deterministic Dynamics

The deterministic population follows exponential growth:

$$N_{\text{ideal}}(t) = N_0 e^{rt}. \quad (16)$$

## Stochastic Dynamics

To account for biological variability, we introduce multiplicative log-normal noise:

$$N_{\text{noisy}}(t) = N_{\text{ideal}}(t) \cdot \eta(t), \quad (17)$$

where

$$\eta(t) \sim \text{LogNormal}(0, \sigma). \quad (18)$$

## Conversion to Molar Concentration

We convert cell counts to molar concentrations:

$$C_{\text{ideal}}(t) = \frac{N_{\text{ideal}}(t)}{N_A \cdot V}, \quad (19)$$

$$C_{\text{noisy}}(t) = \frac{N_{\text{noisy}}(t)}{N_A \cdot V}. \quad (20)$$

## Dendritic Cell Pulse Dynamics

We model mature dendritic cell (DC) recruitment as a transient pulse, given by the difference of two exponential processes (recruitment vs. clearance).

### Parameters

- $DC_0$  : Baseline dendritic cell count (cells)
- $A$  : Pulse amplitude (cells)
- $\tau_r$  : Rise time constant (s)
- $\tau_d$  : Decay time constant (s)
- $t$  : Time (s)
- $V$  : Blood volume (L)
- $N_A$  : Avogadro's number
- $\sigma$  : Noise level (log-normal standard deviation)

### Pulse Dynamics

The deterministic pulse is modeled as the difference of exponentials:

$$P(t) = \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_d}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_r}\right), \quad (21)$$

clipped to ensure non-negativity:

$$P(t) = \max\{P(t), 0\}. \quad (22)$$

The ideal dendritic cell count is then:

$$N_{\text{ideal}}(t) = DC_0 + A \cdot \frac{P(t)}{\max_t P(t)}. \quad (23)$$

### Stochastic Extension

We introduce multiplicative log-normal noise:

$$N_{\text{noisy}}(t) = N_{\text{ideal}}(t) \cdot \eta(t), \quad (24)$$

with

$$\eta(t) \sim \text{LogNormal}(0, \sigma). \quad (25)$$

## Conversion to Molar Concentration

The cell counts are converted into molar concentrations as:

$$C_{\text{ideal}}(t) = \frac{N_{\text{ideal}}(t)}{N_A \cdot V}, \quad (26)$$

$$C_{\text{noisy}}(t) = \frac{N_{\text{noisy}}(t)}{N_A \cdot V}. \quad (27)$$

## IL-2 Plasma Pharmacokinetics

We model the plasma concentration of interleukin-2 (IL-2) as a rise-and-decay function, scaled to match a specified peak concentration.

### Parameters

- $C_{\max}$  : Peak IL-2 concentration (ng/mL)
- $t_{\text{peak}}$  : Time of peak concentration (h)
- $\tau_r$  : Rise time constant (h)
- $\tau_e$  : Elimination time constant (h)
- $MW$  : Molecular weight of IL-2 (g/mol)
- $\sigma$  : Noise level (log-normal standard deviation)
- $t$  : Time (h)

### Ideal Concentration Curve

We first define a rise-decay function:

$$R(t) = \left(1 - e^{-t/\tau_r}\right) e^{-t/\tau_e}. \quad (28)$$

We then scale it to enforce the peak at  $t = t_{\text{peak}}$ :

$$C_{\text{ideal}}(t) = C_{\max} \cdot \frac{R(t)}{R(t_{\text{peak}})}. \quad (29)$$

### Stochastic Extension

Biological variability is introduced via multiplicative log-normal noise:

$$C_{\text{noisy}}(t) = C_{\text{ideal}}(t) \cdot \eta(t), \quad (30)$$

where

$$\eta(t) \sim \text{LogNormal}(0, \sigma). \quad (31)$$

### Unit Conversions

The model tracks concentration in several equivalent units:

$$C_{\text{pg/mL}}(t) = 1000 \cdot C_{\text{ng/mL}}(t), \quad (32)$$

$$C_{\text{pM}}(t) = C_{\text{ng/mL}}(t) \cdot \frac{10^{-6}}{MW} \cdot 10^{12}, \quad (33)$$

$$C_{\text{M}}(t) = C_{\text{pM}}(t) \cdot 10^{-12}. \quad (34)$$