

Content

1. Introduction	1
1.1 Human Vγ9Vδ2 T cells	1
1.1.1 Generation of T cell receptor and $\gamma\delta$ T cell development	2
1.1.2 Activation of V γ 9V δ 2 T cells	5
1.1.2.1 V γ 9V δ 2 TCR repertoire	5
1.1.2.2 TCR-dependent stimulation	6
1.1.2.2.1 PAg generated from the MVA and MEP pathway	6
1.1.2.2.2 Other TCR-dependent activators	9
1.1.2.2.3 The BTN family	9
1.1.2.3 Co-receptors and their ligands	14
1.1.2.3.1 Toll-like receptors	14
1.1.2.3.2 NK receptors	15
1.1.2.3.3 Adhesion molecules	16
1.1.2.3.4 Fc receptors	17
1.1.3 V γ 9V δ 2 T cell immune responses	18
1.1.3.1 V γ 9V δ 2 T cell immune responses in adults	18
1.1.3.1.1 Activation, expansion and differentiation	18
1.1.3.1.2 Cytotoxicity	19
1.1.3.1.3 Secretions	20
1.1.3.1.3.1 Cytokines	20
1.1.3.1.3.2 Chemokines	21
1.1.3.1.3.3 Antimicrobial peptide	21
1.1.3.1.4 Interactions with other immune cells	22
1.1.3.1.4.1 Monocytes and Dendritic cells	22
1.1.3.1.4.2 B cells	22
1.1.3.1.4.3 Antigen-presenting to $\alpha\beta$ T cells	23
1.1.3.2 V γ 9V δ 2 T cells immune responses in early life	23
1.2 Immune responses to <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> infection	25
1.2.1 The parasite – <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>	25
1.2.2 Basics about toxoplasmosis	28
1.2.2.1 Transmission and Prevalence	28
1.2.2.2 Symptoms, diagnosis and treatments	29
1.2.2.3 Congenital toxoplasmosis	30
1.2.3 Immune responses to toxoplasmosis	33
1.2.3.1 Innate immunity to <i>T. gondii</i> infection	33
1.2.3.2 Adaptive immunity to <i>T. gondii</i> infection	37
1.2.4 Immune responses to congenital toxoplasmosis	39
1.2.5 The role of $\gamma\delta$ T cells in <i>T. gondii</i> infection	41
1.3 Immune responses to mistletoe extracts	44
1.3.1 Herbal medicine	44
1.3.1.1 Herbal medicine – a brief history	44
1.3.1.2 Definition of herbal medicine	46

1.3.1.3	Use of mistletoe	46
1.3.1.3.1	Mistletoe therapy	47
1.3.1.3.2	Safety and efficacy	48
1.3.2	Immunomodulation by mistletoe	49
1.3.2.1	Preclinical studies	49
1.3.2.2	Clinical studies	50
1.3.3	$\gamma\delta$ T cell immune responses to mistletoe	51
2.	Objectives	52
3.	Materials and Methods	54
3.1	Antibodies	54
3.2	Reagents	55
3.2.1	Complete medium	55
3.2.2	Other reagents	55
3.3	Sample collection	55
3.3.1	Ethics statement	55
3.3.2	Samples of the Toxo project	56
3.3.3	Samples of the Mistletoe project	56
3.4	Flow cytometry	57
3.4.1	FACS lysed samples	57
3.4.2	PBMC samples	57
3.4.3	Analysis	58
3.5	Cell culture and treatment	58
3.5.1	Cell culture	58
3.5.2	CD69 test	58
3.5.3	Proliferation test (including CFSE test)	58
3.5.4	Cytokine test	59
3.5.5	CD107a test	59
3.5.6	Mevastatin test	59
3.5.7	Apyrase treatment	59
3.5.8	BTN3 blocking test	59
3.5.9	Heat treatment for mistletoe extracts	60
3.5.10	Cell expansions	60
3.6	Cell sorting	60
3.7	RNA isolation and CDR3 analysis	61
3.8	Dimensionality reduction and clustering	62
3.9	Statistics	62
4.	Results	64
4.1	Vγ9Vδ2 T cells provide immunity to <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> infection in the fetus	64
4.2	Mistletoe-extract drugs stimulate anti-cancer Vγ9Vδ2 T cells	99

5. Discussion	121
5.1 V γ 9V δ 2 T cells – born to work?	121
5.2 V γ 9V δ 2 T cells and <i>T. gondii</i> – evolutionary rivals?	124
5.3 V γ 9V δ 2 T cells in mistletoe therapy – new target?	126
5.4 V γ 9V δ 2 T cells ‘in practice’	128
6. Conclusions and Perspectives	131
7. References	134
8. Annex	170