

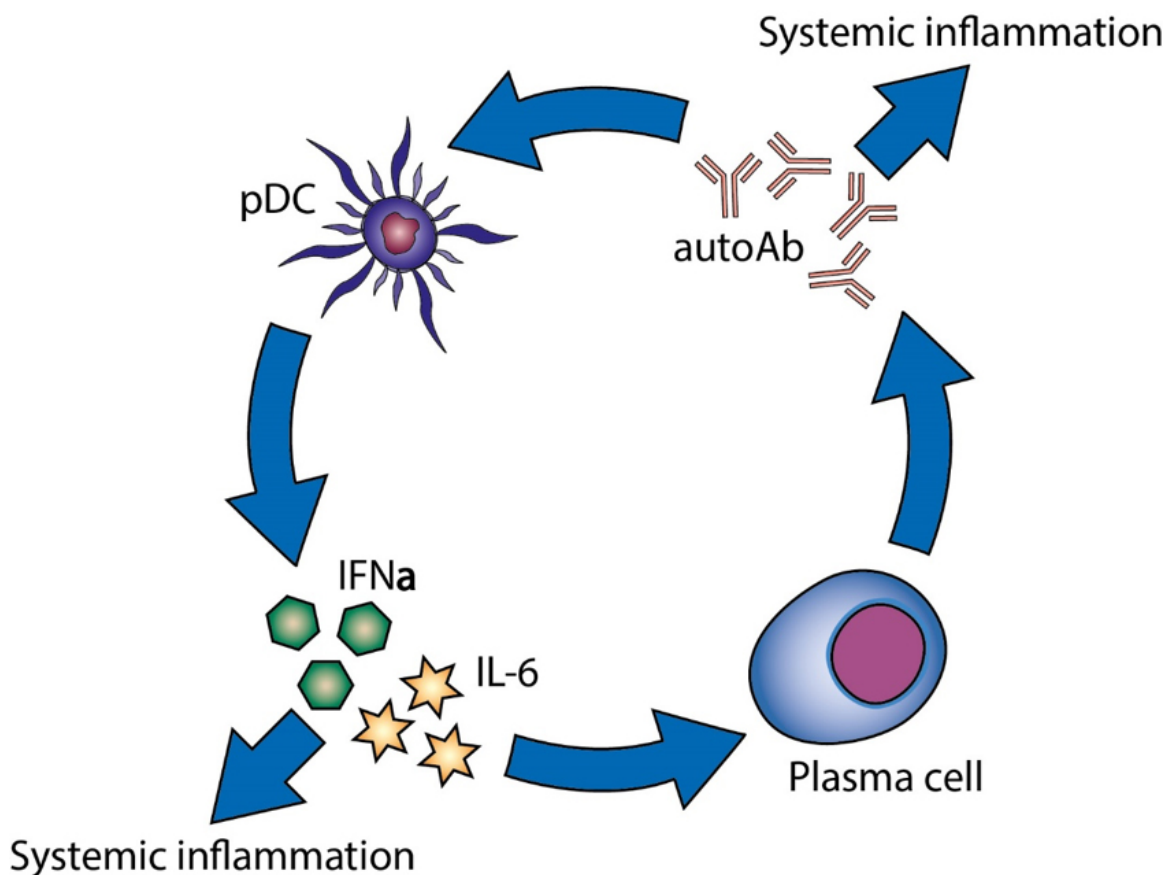
Targeting plasmacytoid dendritic cells for systemic lupus erythematosus

The opportunity

- There is currently no cure for systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)
- Plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDCs) are over-activated in patients with SLEs
- W526 selectively inhibits pDC development and is a potential treatment for SLE

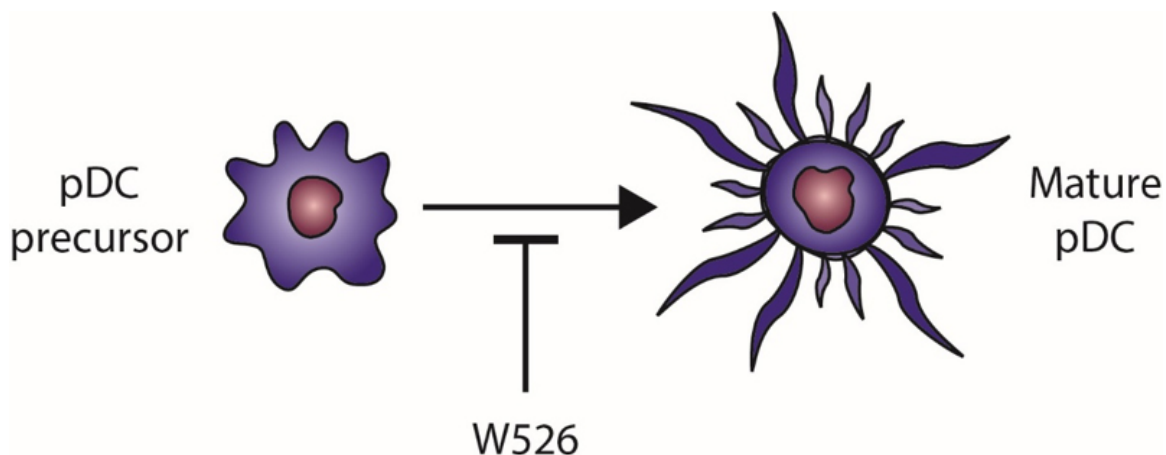
SLE is an immune disorder where conventional and pDCs are over-activated. It is estimated to affect around 20-40 people out of every 100,000. There is currently no cure for SLE with treatments predominantly aimed at easing symptoms.

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The technology

pDCs are a key driver of SLE due to overproduction of interferons. W526 is a novel inhibitor developed at the Institute that selectively depletes pDCs. We have completed comprehensive *in vitro* validation in mouse and commenced *in vitro* validation in human models.



Opportunities for partnership

We are seeking a partner to co-invest in the development of novel inhibitors of pDCs.

We have:

- An inhibitor of pDC development with nm potency
- Conducted medicinal chemistry studies and SAR characterisation
- Validated a HTS assay

We are looking for investment to support:

1. The development of a lead candidate
2. Demonstration of *in vivo* efficacy and safety
3. Positioning the technology for pre-clinical toxicity program and IND filing

Scientific team

[Dr Shalin Naik](#), Laboratory Head, Immunology division

[Associate Professor Guillaume Lessene](#), Leader, New Medicines and Advanced Technologies research theme; Laboratory Head, Chemical Biology Division

Contact

Dr Janet Yeo, Business Development Associate

Phone: +61 3 9345 2673

Email: partnering@wehi.edu.au