

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure No.	Title	Page No.
Figure 1	Regulation of self-reactive receptors by four cellular strategies at different points during B- and T-cell differentiation	8
Figure 2	The diversity in superantigen binding as shown by the model structures of four trimer complexes	26
Figure 3	Mechanisms of infection-induced autoimmunity	28
Figure 4	A severe case of pemphigus vulgaris	41
Figure 5	Direct immunofluorescence microscopy performed on a skin biopsy specimen obtained from a patient with pemphigus vulgaris	41
Figure 6	Direct immunofluorescence using fluorescent antibodies to C3, IgG and IgM on a skin biopsy from a SLE patient	46
Figure 1-1	Difference in percentages of T-cell subsets in unstimulated, streptococcal pyrogenic exotoxin A stimulated and staphylococcal enterotoxin B stimulated PBMCs of pemphigus patients before therapy, pemphigus patients after therapy and healthy controls	67
Figure 1-2	Representative flow cytometry showing T-cell subpopulations in PBMCs (stimulated with 100 ng/ml SEB <i>in-vitro</i>) of a PF patient and a healthy control	68
Figure 1-3	Representative flow cytometric analysis showing T-cell subpopulations in PBMCs (stimulated with 1/100 dilution of 3.4mg/ml CMV antigen <i>in-vitro</i>) of a PV patient and a healthy control	69
Figure 1-4	Response of T cells of pemphigus patients before therapy, pemphigus patients after therapy and healthy controls to Candida antigen and Purified Protein Derivative stimulation <i>in-vitro</i>	71
Figure 1-5	Variations in percentages of T-cell subsets in unstimulated, Hexachlorohexane and o,p'-dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane exposed PBMCs of pemphigus patients before therapy, pemphigus patients after therapy and healthy controls	74
Figure 1-6	Response of T cells of pemphigus patients before therapy, pemphigus patients after therapy and healthy controls to mitogen phytohemagglutinin-M stimulation <i>in-vitro</i>	75
Figure 1-7	FoxP3 expression by CD4 ⁺ CD25 ⁺ T-cells of a pemphigus patient	76
Figure 1-8	Cytokine genotyping through PCR using sequence-specific primers: A representative image showing analysis of 22 SNPs in 13 cytokine genes of (a) healthy control individual and (b) pemphigus vulgaris patient	82
Figure 2-1	Difference in percentages of different subsets of T-cells between SSc patients before therapy, SSc patients after therapy and healthy controls in unstimulated, streptococcal pyrogenic exotoxin A stimulated and staphylococcal enterotoxin B stimulated PBMCs <i>in-vitro</i>	101

Figure 2-2	Flow cytometric analysis showing T-cell subpopulations in PBMCs (stimulated with 1/100 dilution of 3.4mg/ml CMV antigen <i>in-vitro</i>) of a SSc patient and a healthy control	102
Figure 2-3	Flowcytometric analysis of PBMCs of a representative individual from each group (SSc and HC) stimulated with 100 ng/ml of CA <i>in-vitro</i>	104
Figure 2-4	Response of T cells of systemic sclerosis patients before therapy, systemic sclerosis patients after therapy and healthy controls to Candida antigen and Purified Protein Derivative stimulation <i>in-vitro</i>	105
Figure 2-5	Variations in percentages of T-cell subsets in unstimulated, Hexachlorohexane and o,p'-dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane stimulated PBMCs of systemic sclerosis patients before therapy, systemic sclerosis patients after therapy and healthy controls	108
Figure 2-6	Response of T cells of systemic sclerosis patients before therapy, systemic sclerosis patients after therapy and healthy controls to mitogen phytohemagglutinin-M stimulation <i>in-vitro</i>	109
Figure 2-7	Flow cytometric analysis showing FoxP3 expression by CD4 ⁺ CD25 ⁺ T-cells of an SSc patient before and after immunosuppressive treatment	110
Figure 2-8	Cytokine genotyping through PCR using sequence-specific primers: A representative image showing analysis of 22 SNPs in 13 cytokine genes of a systemic sclerosis patient	116
Figure 3-1	Difference in percentages of different subsets of T-cells between SLE patients before therapy, SLE patients after therapy and healthy controls in unstimulated, streptococcal pyrogenic exotoxin A stimulated and staphylococcal enterotoxin B stimulated PBMCs <i>in-vitro</i>	139
Figure 3-2	Representative flow cytometric analysis showing T-cell subpopulations in PBMCs (stimulated with 1/100 dilution of 3.4mg/ml CMV antigen <i>in-vitro</i>) of an SLE patient and a healthy control	140
Figure 3-3	Response of T cells of systemic lupus erythematosus patients before therapy, systemic lupus erythematosus patients after therapy and healthy controls to candida antigen and purified protein derivative stimulation <i>in-vitro</i>	143
Figure 3-4	Difference in percentages of different subsets of T-cells between SLE patients before therapy, SLE patients after therapy and healthy controls in unstimulated PBMCs, and upon exposure of PBMCs to HCH and DDT <i>in-vitro</i>	147
Figure 3-5	A representative flowcytometric analysis of PBMCs of a SLE patient and a healthy control - unstimulated, HCH-exposed, DDT exposed, and/or PHAM stimulated - <i>in-vitro</i> . Figure depicts the percentage of CD4 ⁺ T-lymphocytes that are positive for CD25	148
Figure 3-6	Response of T cells of systemic lupus erythematosus patients before therapy, systemic lupus erythematosus patients after therapy and healthy controls to mitogen phytohemagglutinin-M	149

	stimulation <i>in-vitro</i>	
Figure 3-7	Expression of FoxP3 by CD4 ⁺ CD25 ⁺ T cells of an SLE patients and a healthy control	150
Figure 3-8	Cytokine genotyping through PCR using sequence-specific primers: A representative image showing analysis of 22 SNPs in 13 cytokine genes of a systemic lupus erythematosus patient	156