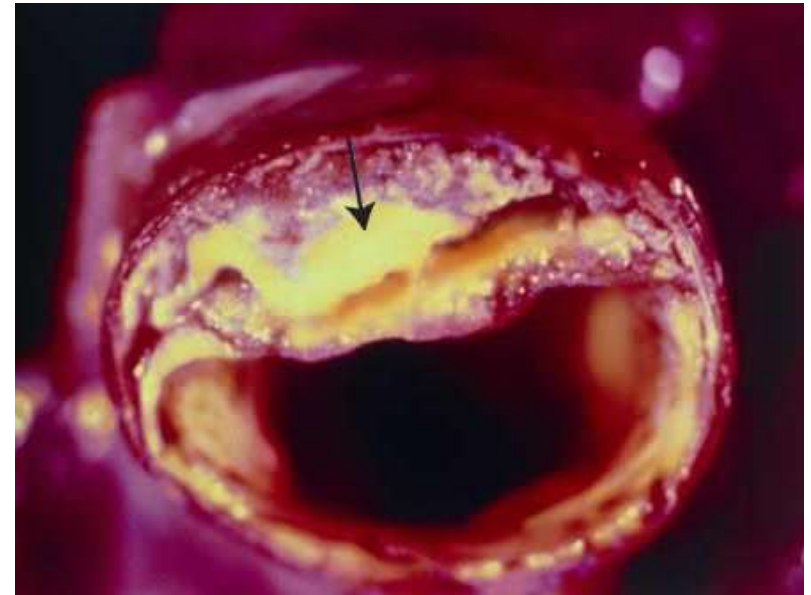
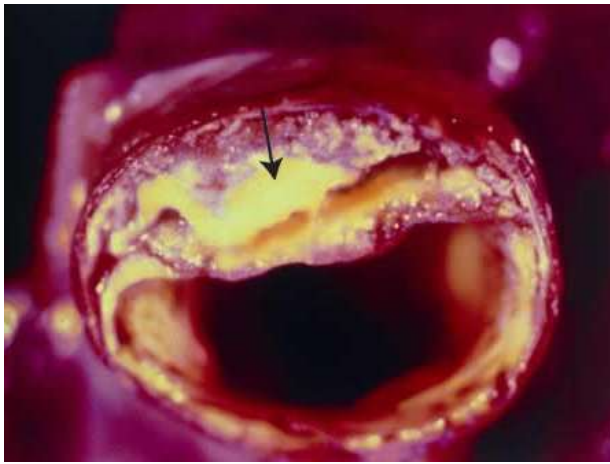


# Diagnostics & Therapeutics of Atherosclerosis

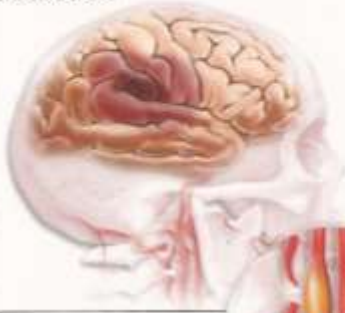


Hans Bluysen  
09-12-2020

# Atherosclerosis



Ischemia and cerebral infarction



Internal carotid artery

Myocardial infarction



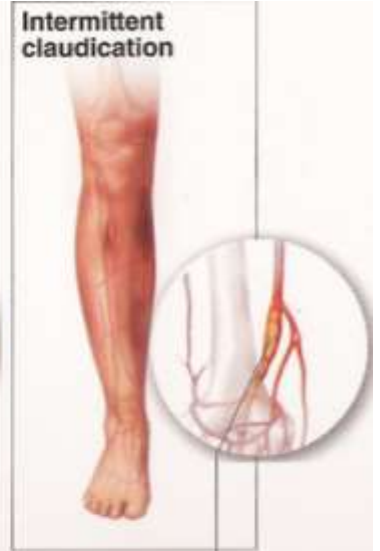
Coronary artery

Renal ischemia



Renal artery

Intermittent claudication



Femoral artery

Fig. Atherosclerosis complications. Dr Philip Barlow Mills FCP (SA).

# Atherosclerosis – vascular inflammation

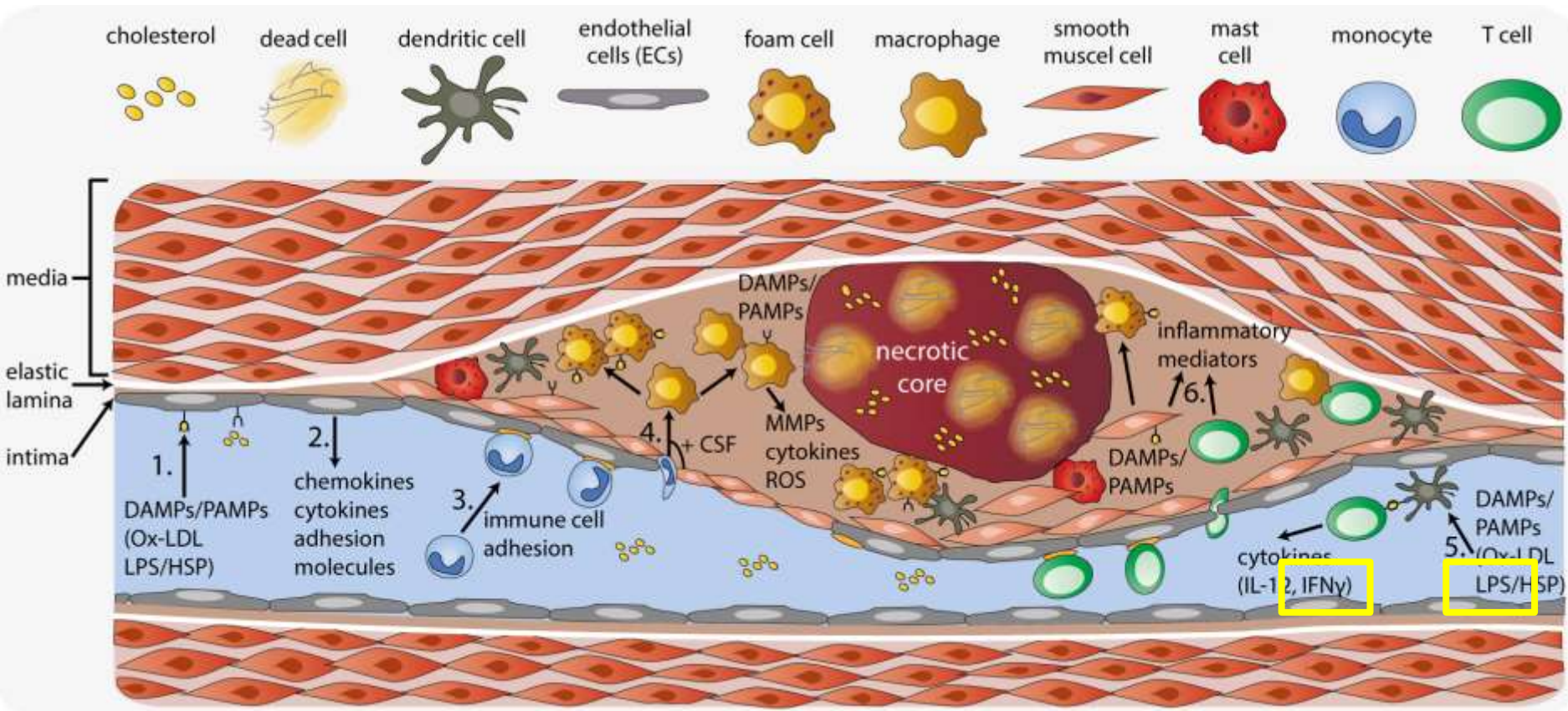
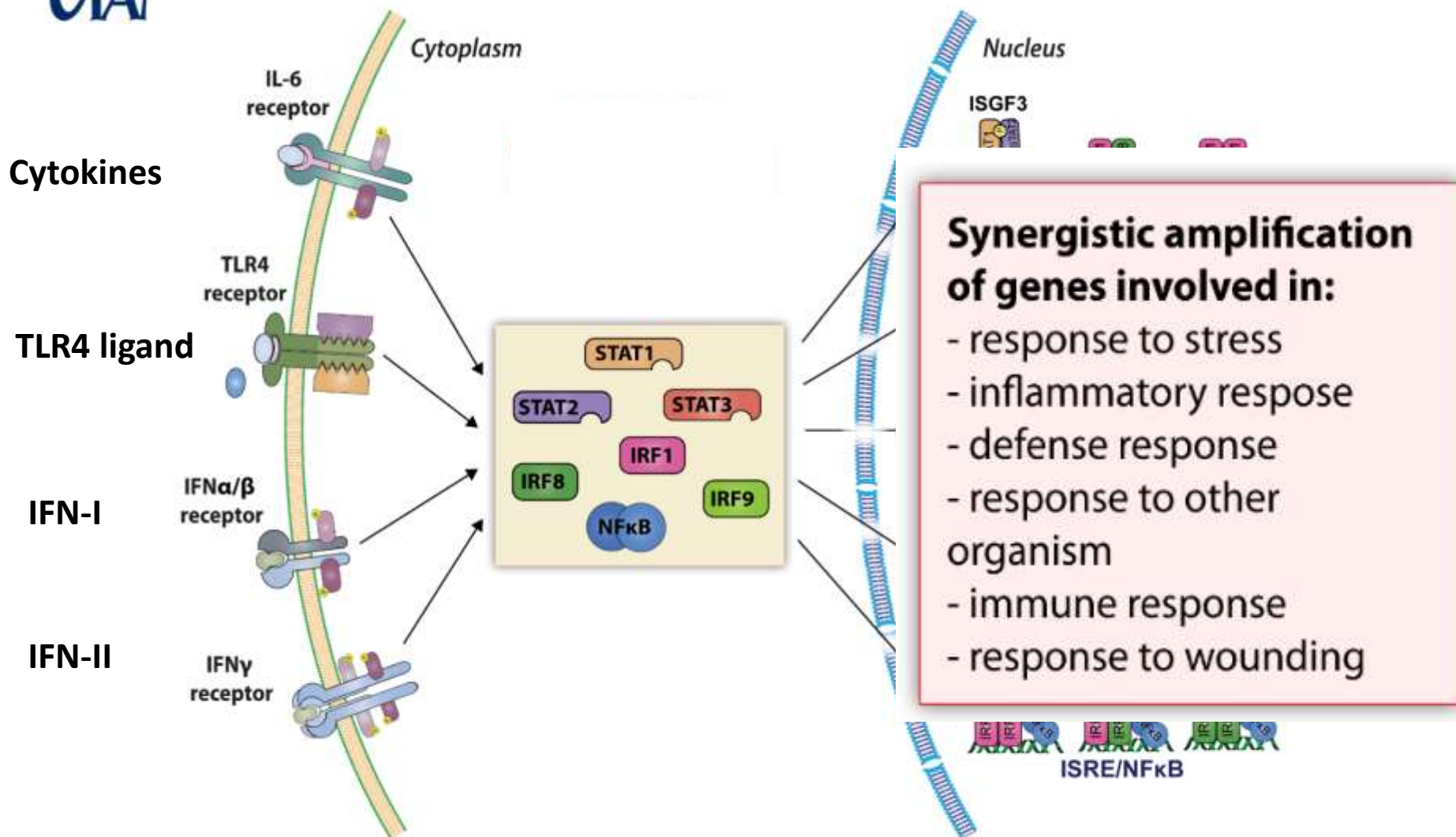


Fig. Atherosclerotic plaque. Chmielewski, Piaszyk-Borychowska et al., Int Rev Immunol, 2016.



# STAT-dependent signal integration in inflammation





---

# How to analyze the transcriptome?

---



WT C57BL6

# RNA-seq experiment outline

Aorta enzymatic digestion



Vascular smooth muscle cells



Macrophages



Dendritic cells

Bone marrow differentiation with M-CSF

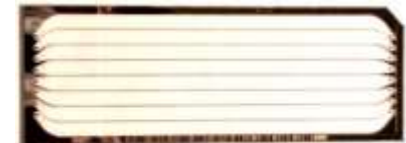
Bone marrow differentiation with GM-CSF

Treatment  
(3 replicates):

8h IFN $\gamma$

4h LPS

8h IFN $\gamma$  + 4h LPS

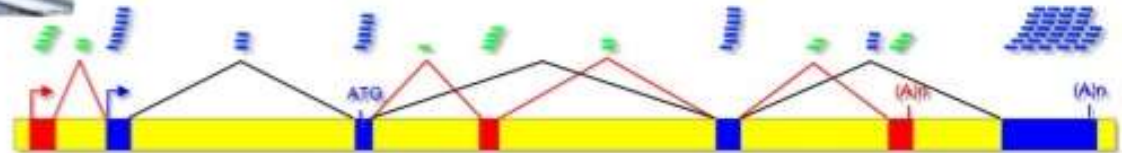
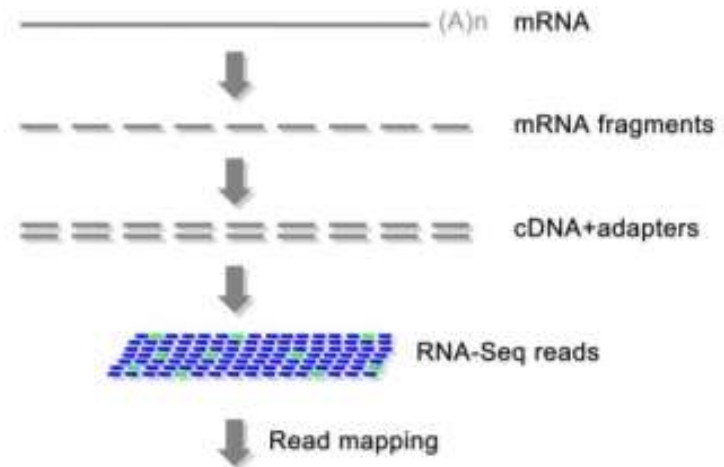


RNA-seq

# RNA-seq Work Flow

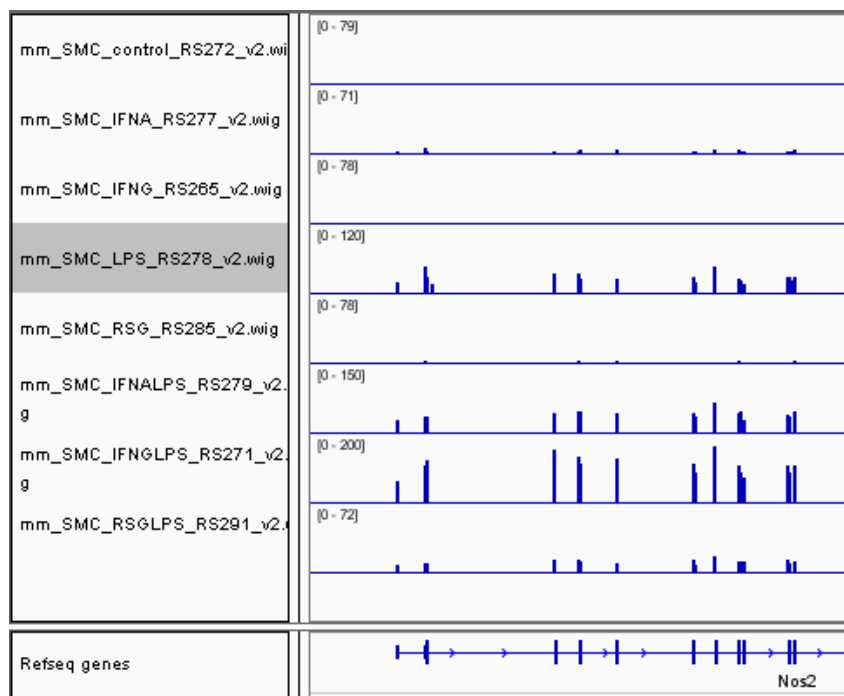


Illumina HiSeq

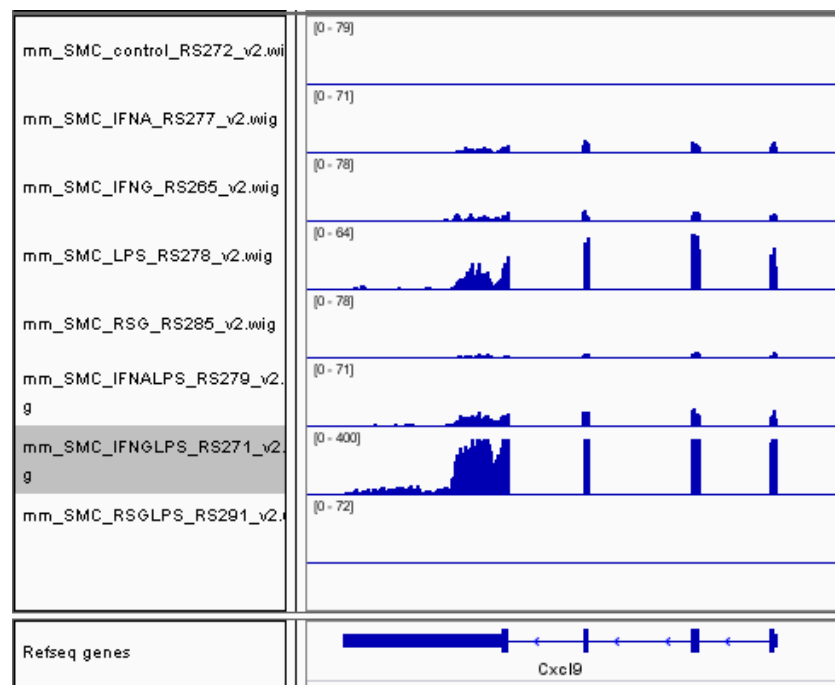




# IFN $\gamma$ and TLR Signal integration in SMCs: RNAseq



IGV view SMC NOS2 (\*.wig files)

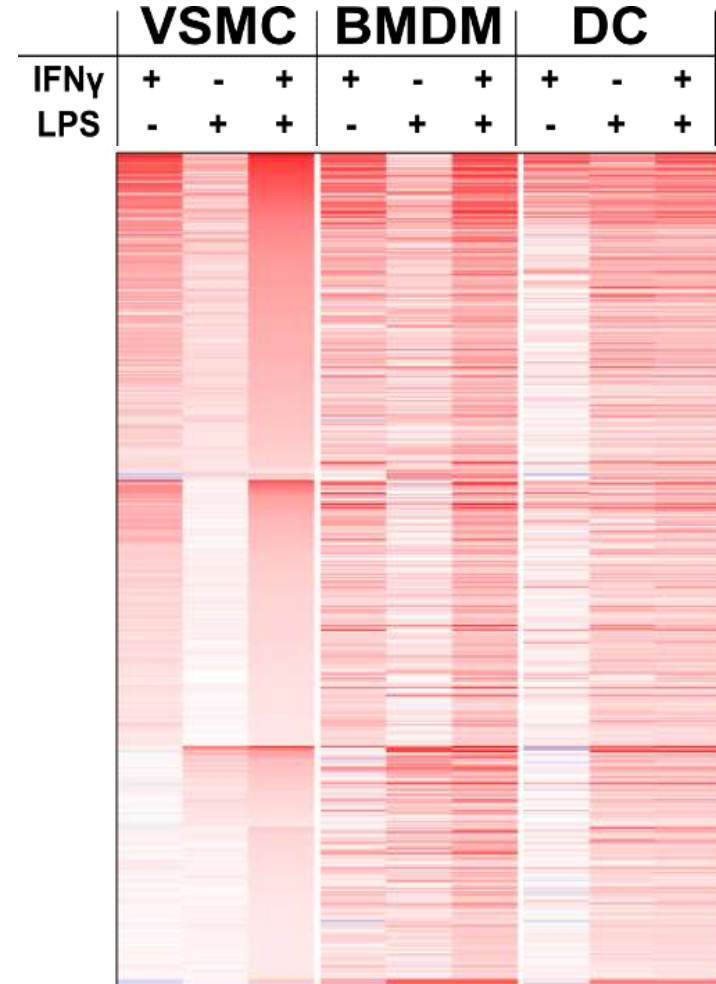
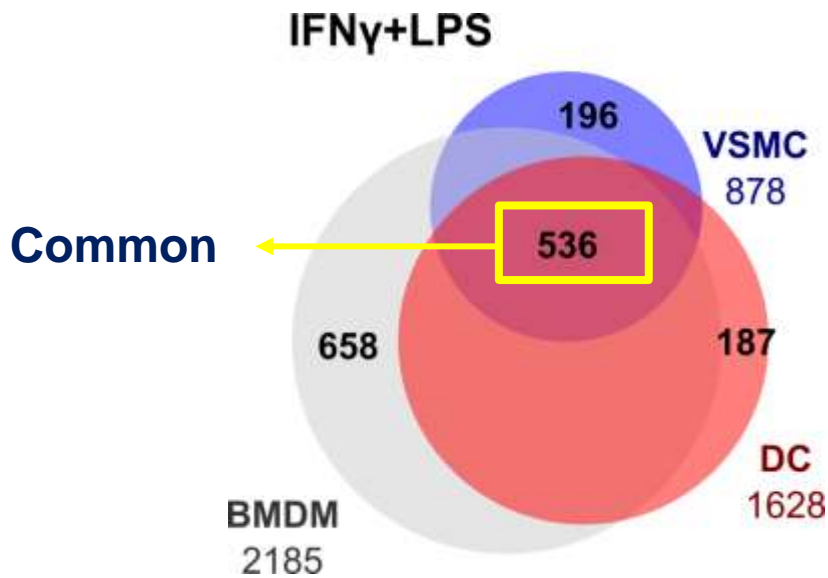


IGV view SMC Cxcl9 (\*.wig files)





# Commonly Up-regulated genes in response to IFN $\gamma$ and LPS





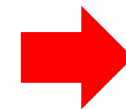
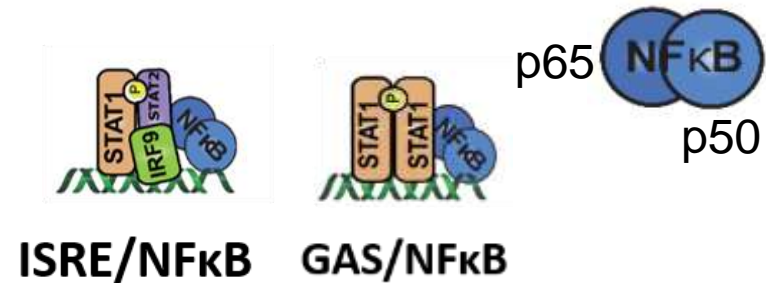
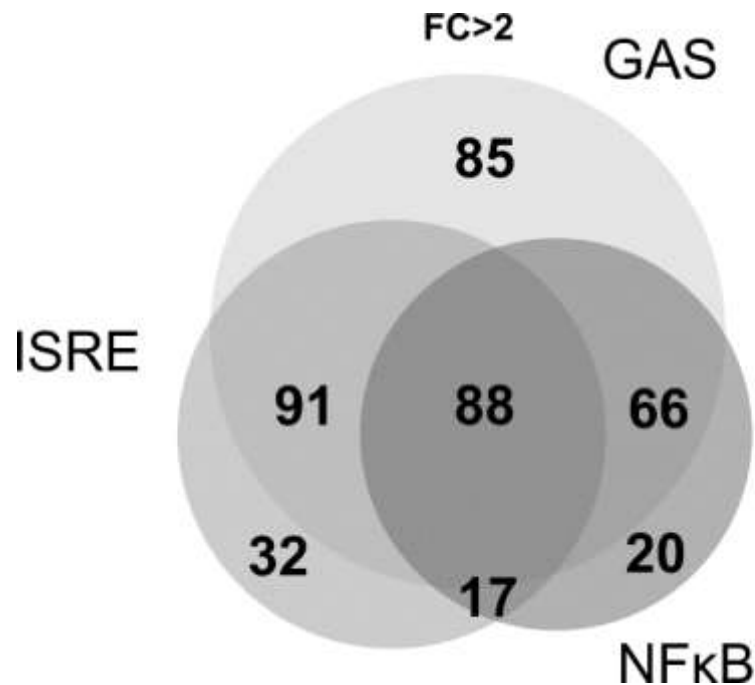
# Commonly Up-regulated genes in response to IFN $\gamma$ and LPS: top 20

Inflammatory  
Gene  
Expression  
=  
Amplified

| No | Gene symbol   | VSMC         |      |                  | BMDM         |       |                  | DC           |       |                  |
|----|---------------|--------------|------|------------------|--------------|-------|------------------|--------------|-------|------------------|
|    |               | IFN $\gamma$ | LPS  | IFN $\gamma$ LPS | IFN $\gamma$ | LPS   | IFN $\gamma$ LPS | IFN $\gamma$ | LPS   | IFN $\gamma$ LPS |
| 1  | Cxcl9         | 82,2         | 4,0  | 2380,5           | 2401,1       | 18,7  | 3915,9           | 898,0        | 97,4  | 2682,0           |
| 2  | F830016B08Rik | 1272,1       | 6,4  | 2306,6           | 191,4        | 2,1   | 253,2            | 88,1         | 13,6  | 132,7            |
| 3  | Gm4841        | 1087,3       | 9,0  | 1650,3           | 408,2        | 3,0   | 569,3            | 130,5        | 44,0  | 215,1            |
| 4  | Nos2          | 1,8          | 90,9 | 933,3            | 464,2        | 60,9  | 5706,1           | 39,4         | 376,3 | 1809,3           |
| 5  | BC023105      | 600,8        | 19,9 | 909,4            | 140,5        | 6,2   | 204,7            | 146,8        | 87,1  | 320,2            |
| 6  | Gbp4          | 304,3        | 16,4 | 795,8            | 341,8        | 4,0   | 648,9            | 63,2         | 31,4  | 69,6             |
| 7  | Iigp1         | 687,7        | 9,2  | 779,3            | 521,6        | 12,9  | 648,6            | 590,7        | 194,7 | 607,2            |
| 8  | Ubd           | 95,6         | 5,8  | 655,1            | 65,9         | 1,1   | 124,8            | 214,5        | 1,0   | 258,7            |
| 9  | Gbp10         | 315,9        | 21,1 | 588,2            | 200,1        | 17,7  | 364,0            | 33,4         | 33,6  | 48,6             |
| 10 | Gbp9          | 304,8        | 22,9 | 586,1            | 25,6         | 1,2   | 31,6             | 8,9          | 13,3  | 10,3             |
| 11 | Gbp6          | 266,1        | 23,5 | 555,3            | 181,8        | 17,4  | 332,5            | 32,2         | 35,8  | 49,8             |
| 12 | Serpina3f     | 200,1        | 13,0 | 529,6            | 1442,5       | 16,9  | 2126,6           | 533,3        | 229,0 | 1133,6           |
| 13 | Gbp11         | 302,3        | 13,6 | 482,7            | 149,6        | 6,7   | 243,9            | 40,3         | 24,2  | 44,1             |
| 14 | Gm12250*      | 502,9        | 3,6  | 477,8            | 31,4         | 17,0  | 40,3             | 13,8         | 24,9  | 21,4             |
| 15 | Gbp8          | 215,5        | 12,9 | 405,2            | 47,8         | 1,5   | 57,8             | 13,9         | 3,1   | 6,2              |
| 16 | Ciita*        | 704,4        | 2,0  | 376,5            | 9,4          | -2,6  | 3,6              | 5,4          | 1,3   | 2,5              |
| 17 | Cxcl10        | 49,8         | 4,6  | 364,9            | 211,7        | 179,5 | 829,0            | 19,5         | 580,2 | 237,5            |
| 18 | Gbp1          | 295,0        | 17,5 | 364,8            | 375,8        | 16,0  | 428,3            | 63,8         | 21,9  | 56,2             |
| 19 | Gja4          | 82,3         | 1,6  | 329,9            | 90,1         | 1,0   | 145,3            | 14,8         | 6,9   | 45,9             |
| 20 | Gm4951        | 300,1        | 6,9  | 327,2            | 74,9         | 4,5   | 74,4             | 59,5         | 45,3  | 80,5             |



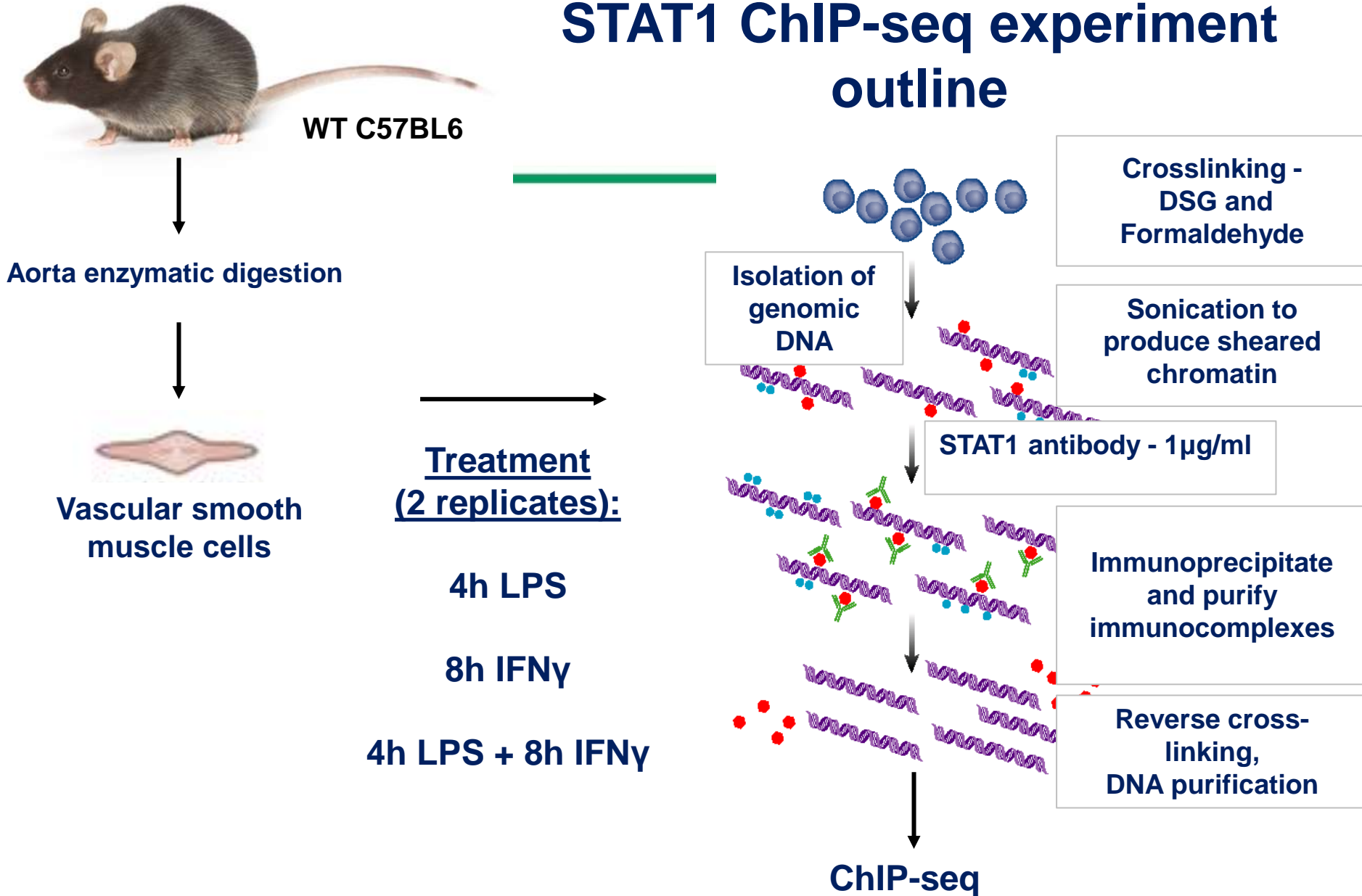
# Commonly Up-regulated genes in response to IFN $\gamma$ and LPS: promoter analysis



**STAT1 & p65  
mediated  
Signal integration?**

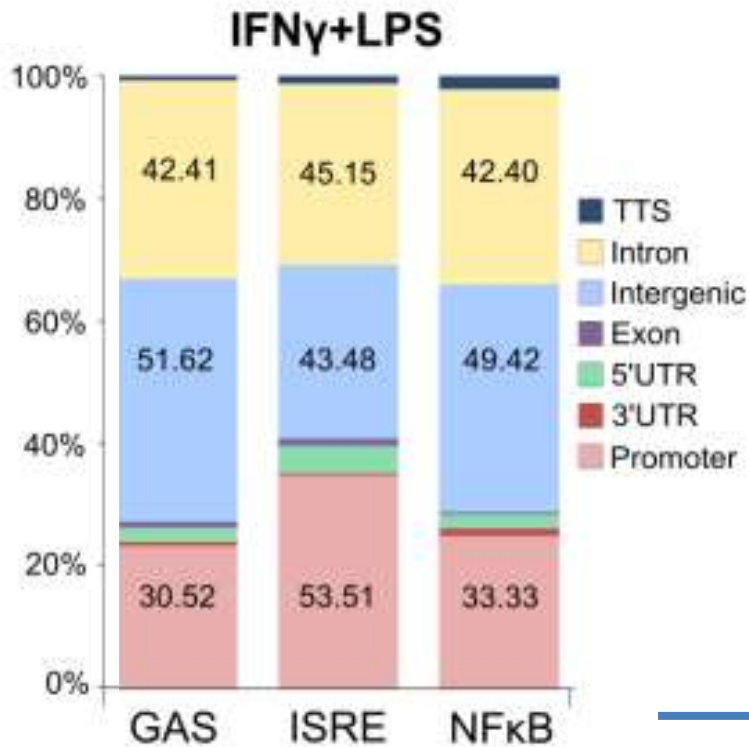
Promoter region: -950 +50 bp

# STAT1 ChIP-seq experiment outline



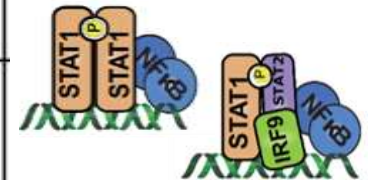


# Commonly IFN $\gamma$ /LPS Up-regulated genes: STAT1 & p65 binding



**VSMCs**

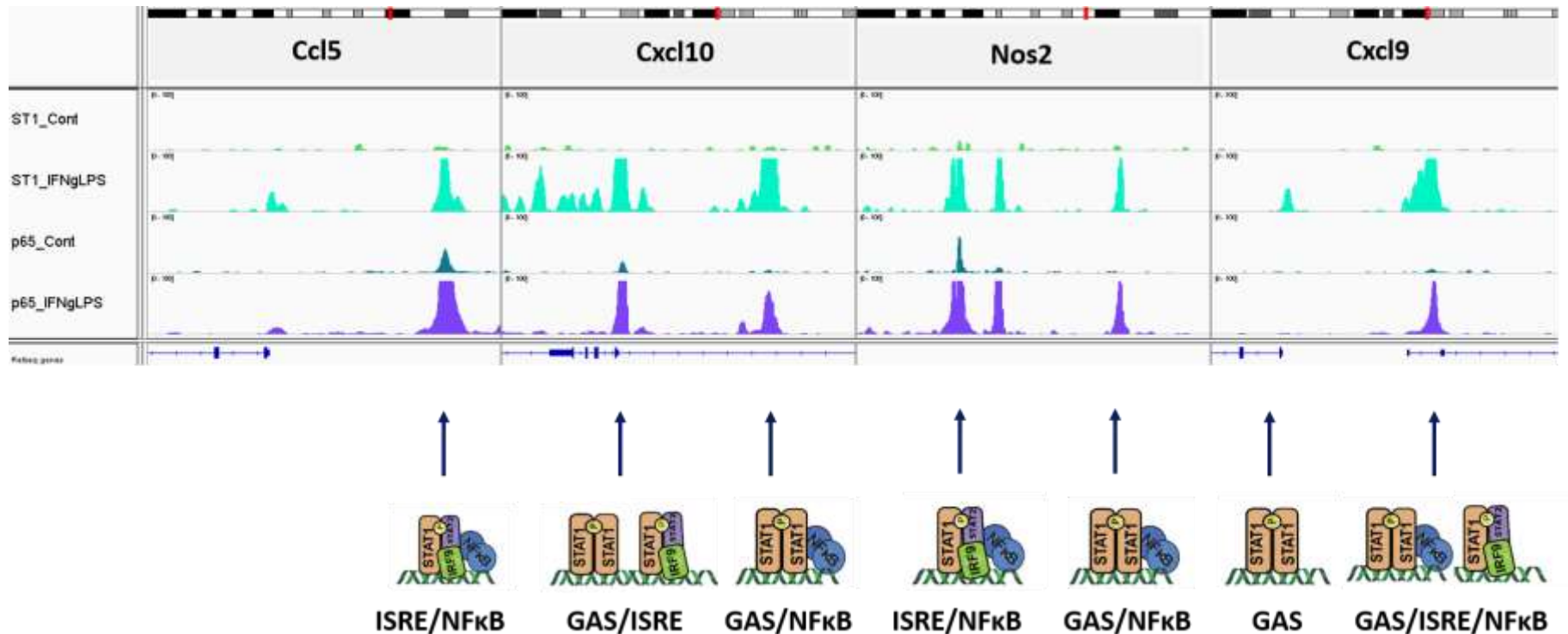
| Binding mode  | IFN $\gamma$ +LPS |
|---------------|-------------------|
| GAS           | 17                |
| ISRE          | 45                |
| NFκB          | 28                |
| GAS-ISRE      | 53                |
| GAS-NFκB      | 40                |
| ISRE-NFκB     | 59                |
| GAS-ISRE-NFκB | 178               |







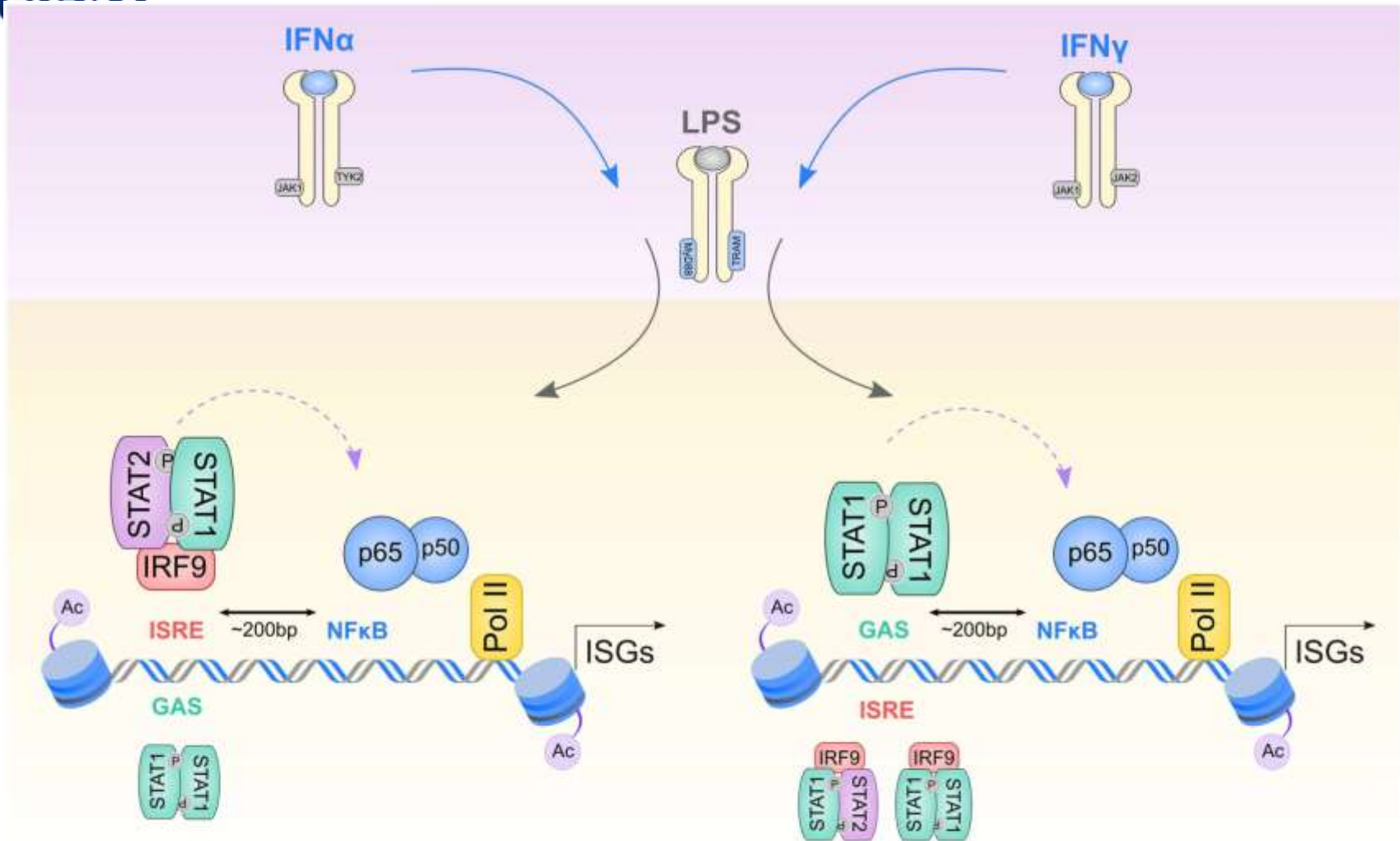
# Commonly IFN $\gamma$ /LPS upregulated genes: STAT1 + p65 binding



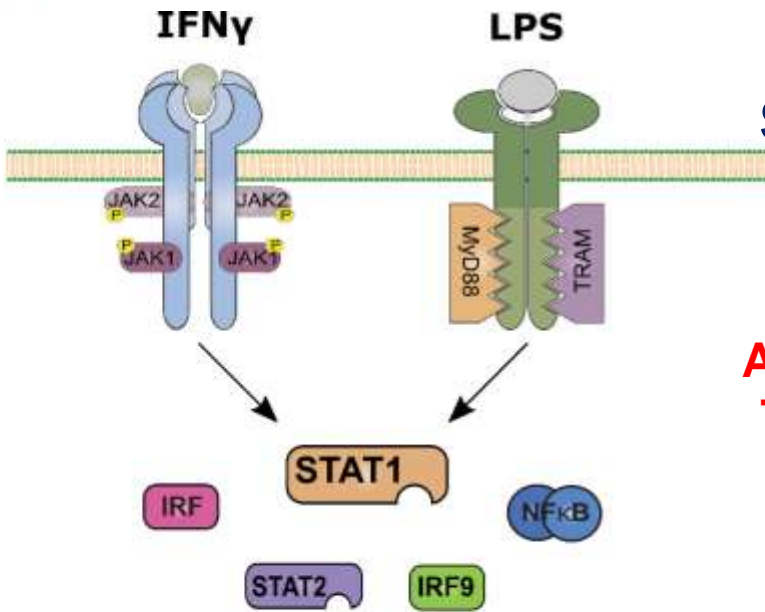
**Different “Binding Modes”**



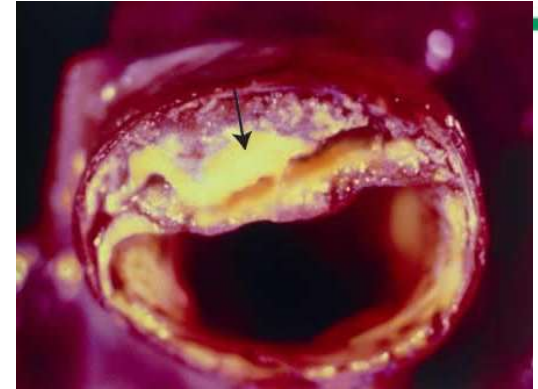
# STAT1-dependent epigenetic changes & nearby NFκB binding



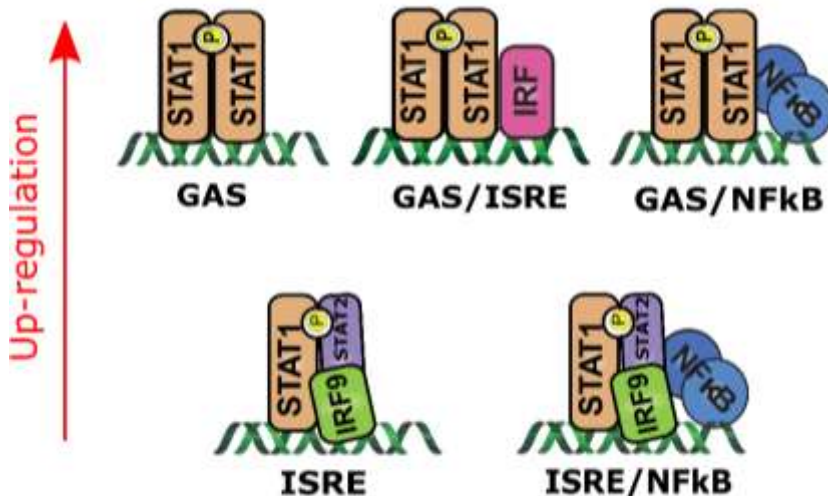
# IFN $\gamma$ /LPS mediated signal integration in CVD



Anti-CVD  
Therapy



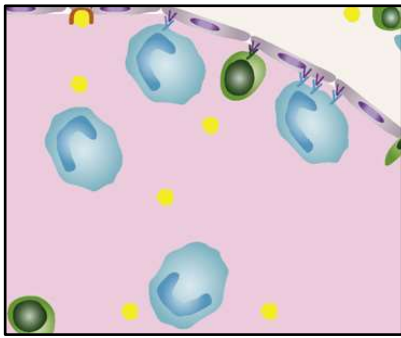
Nucleus



**Synergistic amplification of genes involved in:**

- response to stress
- inflammatory response
- defense response
- response to other organism
- immune response
- response to wounding

# Crosstalk results in increased monocyte adhesion and splenocytes migration



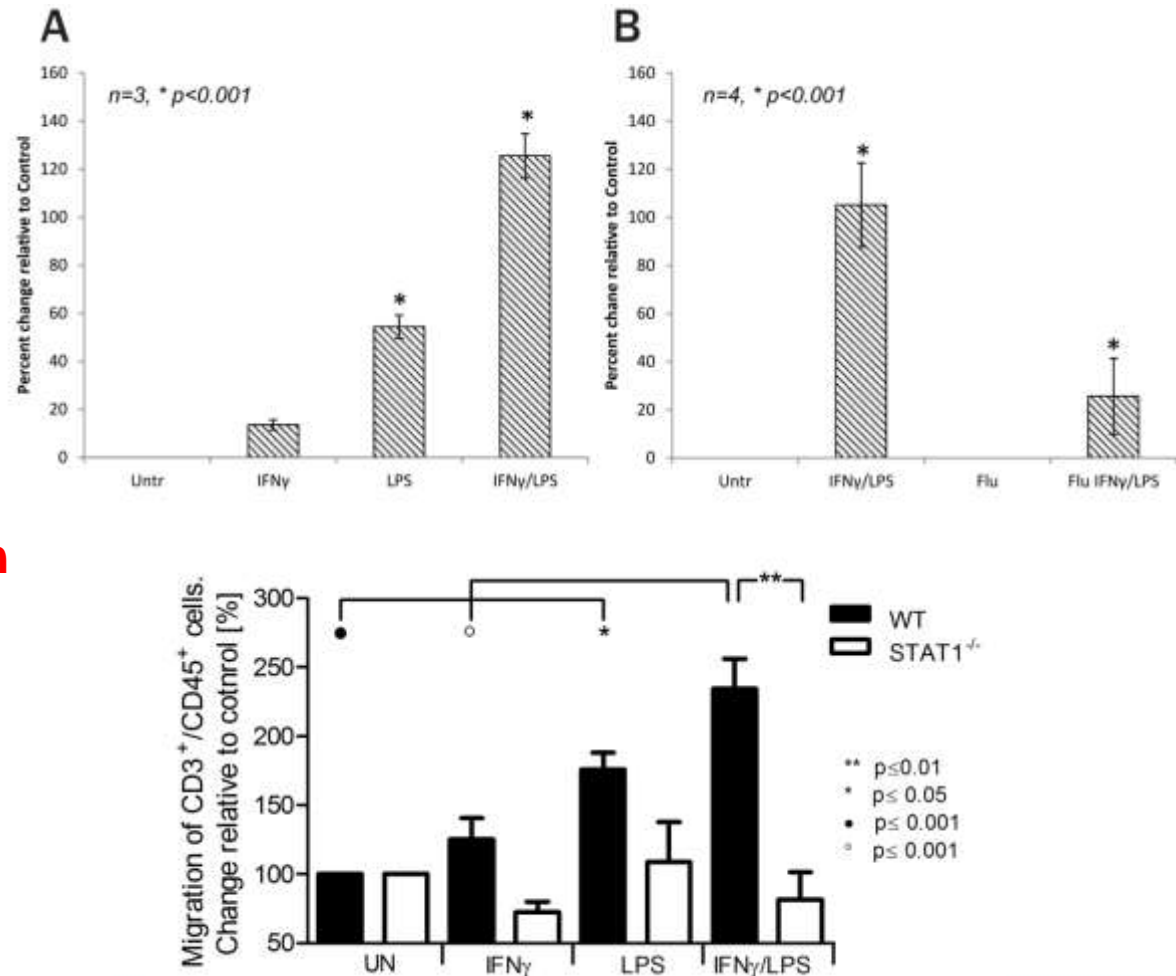
Monocyte-EC  
adhesion



Hallmarks of  
Vascular inflammation



Splenocyte  
migration

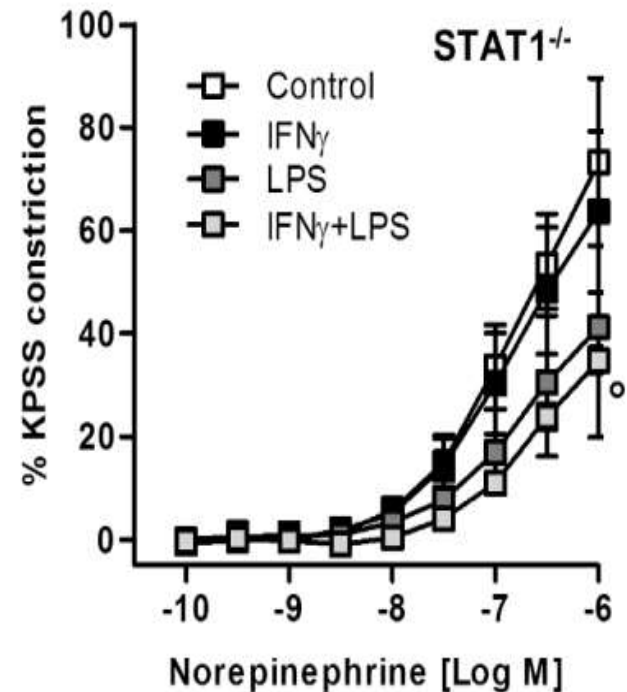
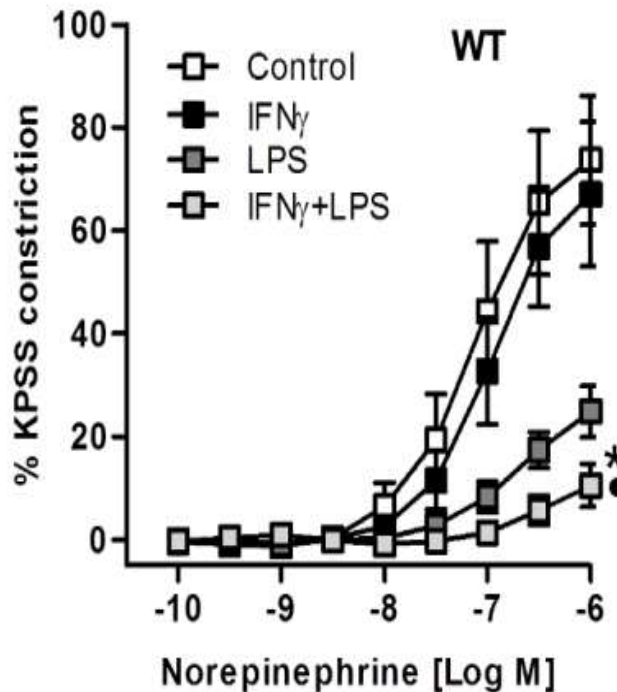




# Abolished response to norepinephrine in aortic rings stimulated with IFN $\gamma$ and LPS

Vessel Contraction

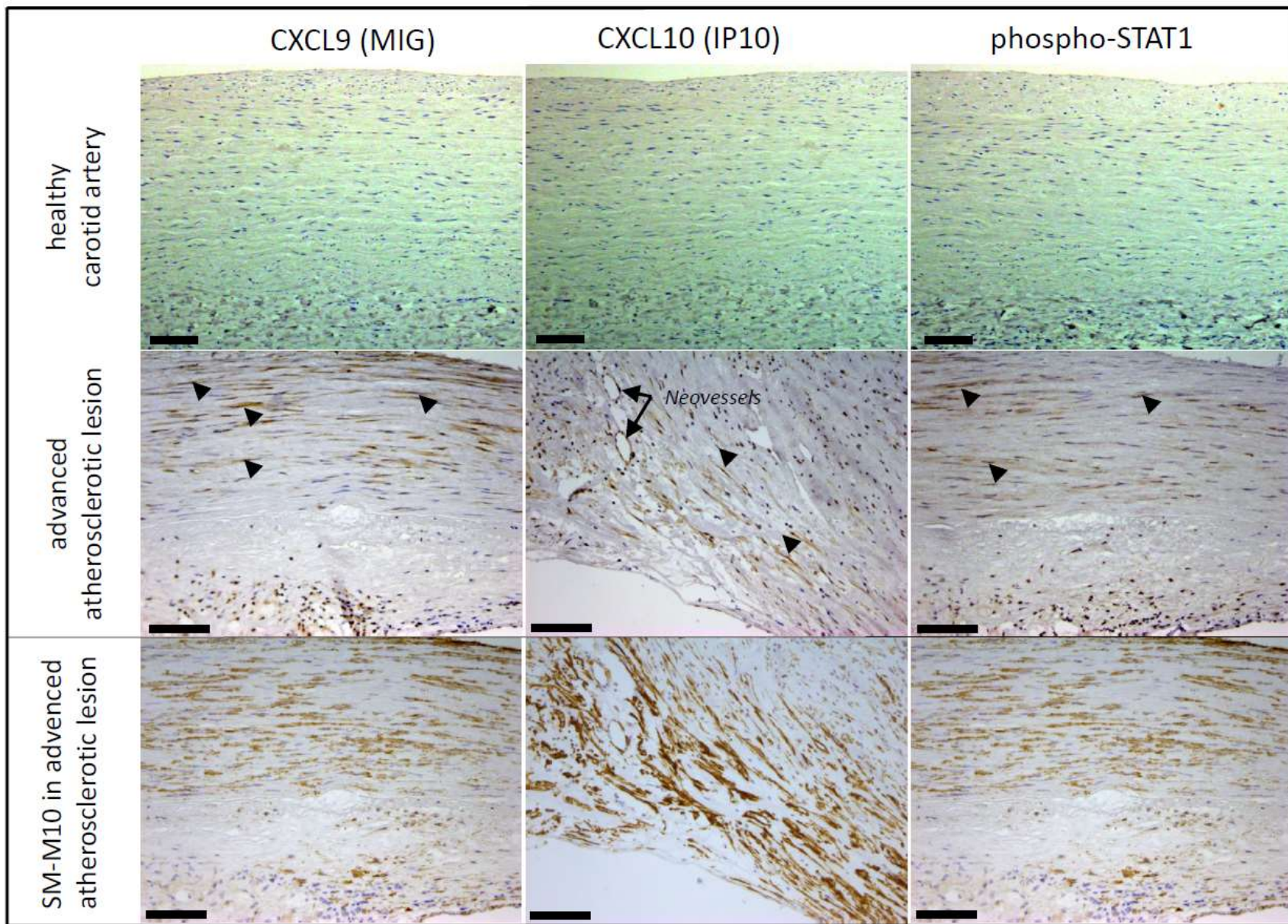
Mesenteric arteries





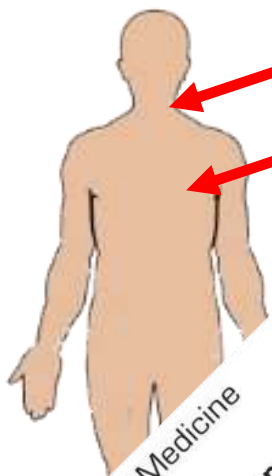


# pSTAT1, CXCL9 and -10 in human carotid plaque SMCs





# Atherosclerotic plaque transcriptomes: Data Mining



Carotid

Coronary

Carotid n=124  
Coronary n=80  
Controls n=80

Molecular Medicine

Prediction of Ischemic Events on the Basis of Transcriptomic and Genomic Profiling in Patients Undergoing Carotid Endarterectomy

Lasse Folkersen<sup>1</sup>, Jonas Persson<sup>1,2</sup>, Johani Ekstrand<sup>2</sup>, Hanna E. Asgard<sup>1</sup>, Göran K. Hansson<sup>1</sup>, Anders Gabrielsson<sup>1</sup>, Ulf Hedén<sup>1,3</sup>, and Gabriella Paulsson-Berne<sup>2</sup>

OPEN ACCESS [Freely available online](#)

Multi-Organ Expression Profiling Uncovers a Gene Module in Coronary Artery Disease Involving Transendothelial Migration of Leukocytes and LIM Domain Binding 2: The Stockholm Atherosclerosis Gene Expression (STAGE) Study

Sara Hägg<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Josefín Skogsberg<sup>1,3\*</sup>, Jesper Lundström<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Peri Noori<sup>1,3</sup>, Roland Nilsson<sup>2,3</sup>, Hua Zhong<sup>4</sup>, Shohreh Maleki<sup>1</sup>, Ming-Mei Shang<sup>1,3</sup>, Björn Brinne<sup>2</sup>, Maria Bradshaw<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Vladimir Nilsson<sup>2,3</sup>, Hua Ann Samnegård<sup>7</sup>, Angela Silveira<sup>8</sup>, Lee M. Kaplan<sup>9</sup>, Bruna Gigante<sup>10</sup>, Karin Leander<sup>10</sup>, Vladimir B. Bajic<sup>5,6</sup>, Stefan Rostfors<sup>11</sup>, Ulf Lockowandt<sup>12,13</sup>, Jan Lieka<sup>1,13</sup>, Peter Konrad<sup>14</sup>, Rabbe Takolander<sup>14</sup>, Anders Franco-Cereceda<sup>12,13</sup>, Eric E. Schadt<sup>4</sup>, Torbjörn Ivert<sup>12,13</sup>, Anders Hamsten<sup>8</sup>, Jesper Tegner<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Johan Björkegren<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

Normalization  
Statistical testing

CXCL10  
VCAM1  
CCL5  
.....

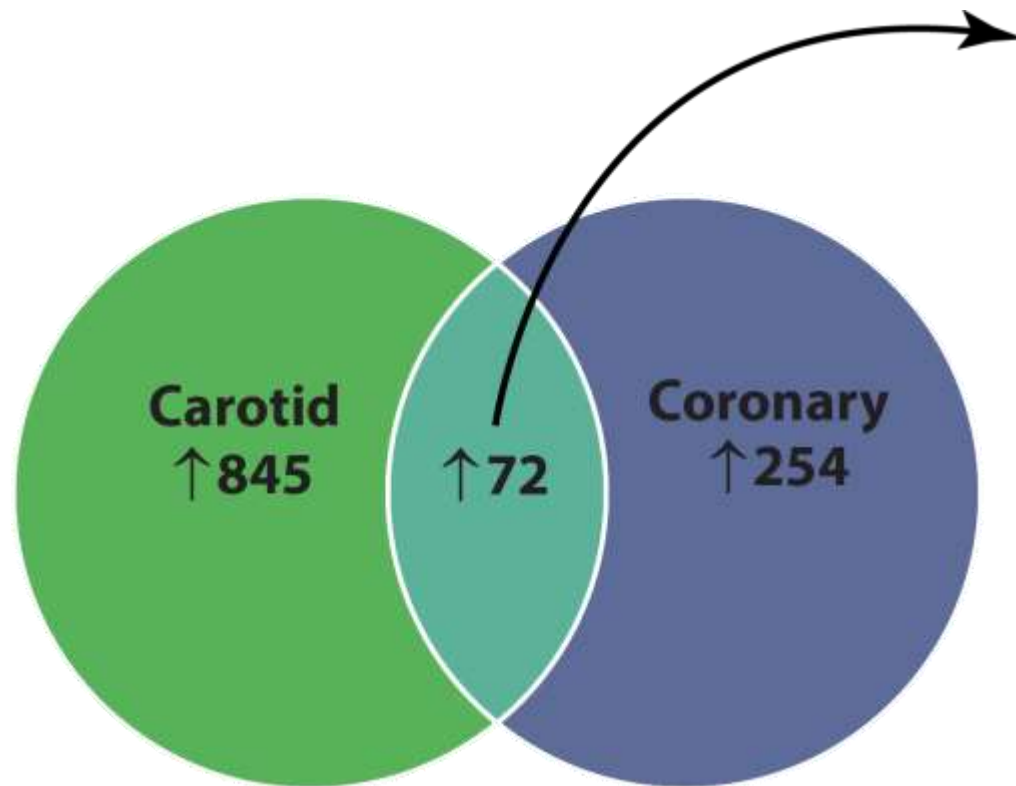
Analysis of promoters and functions

GO terms  
functions  
pathways  
transcription factor binding sites





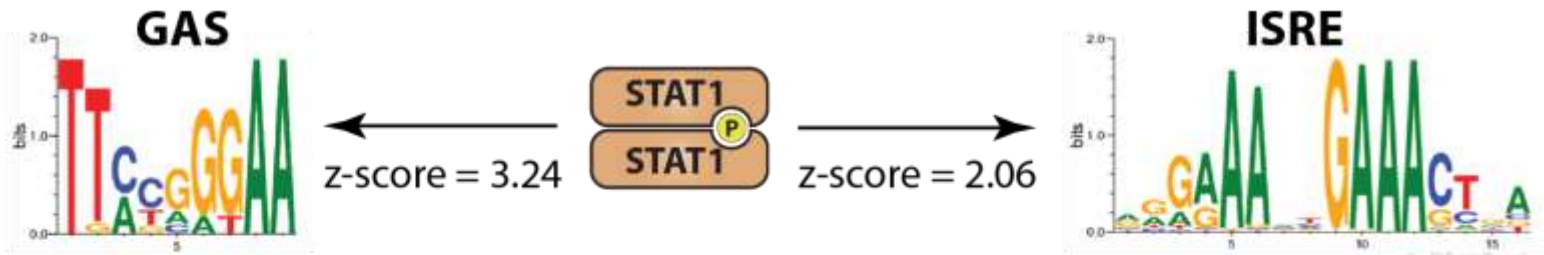
# Carotid and coronary plaques share a gene signature

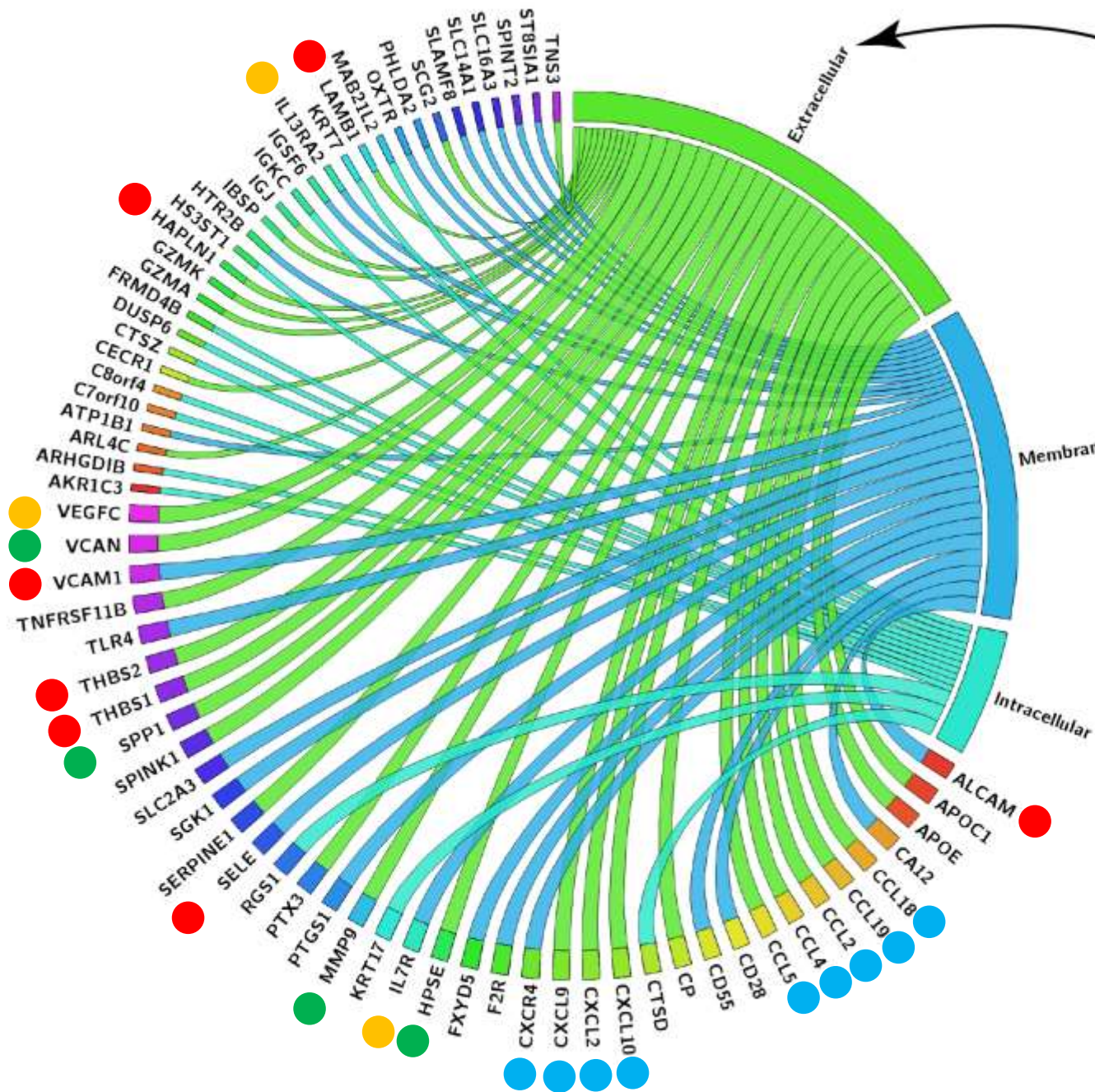


| GO term  | GO ID      | p-value  |
|--|------------|----------|
| cell chemotaxis                                    | GO:0060326 | 2.75E-08 |
| locomotion   | GO:0040011 | 8.40E-08 |
| leukocyte chemotaxis                               | GO:0030595 | 1.32E-07 |
| chemotaxis   | GO:0006935 | 1.45E-07 |
| taxis  | GO:0042330 | 1.45E-07 |
| leukocyte migration                                | GO:0050900 | 1.80E-07 |
| immune system process                              | GO:0002376 | 2.63E-07 |
| cell migration                                     | GO:0016477 | 4.33E-07 |
| immune response                                    | GO:0006955 | 7.70E-07 |
| cell motility                                      | GO:0048870 | 1.06E-06 |
| cellular extravasation                             | GO:0045123 | 6.57E-05 |
| cellular response to lipoprotein particle stimulus | GO:0071402 | 8.46E-05 |
| cellular response to lipopolysaccharide            | GO:0071222 | 1.67E-04 |
| cellular response to interferon-gamma              | GO:0071346 | 5.61E-03 |
| response to interferon-gamma                       | GO:0034341 | 8.41E-03 |



# Inflammatory genes upregulated in plaques can be regulated by STAT1



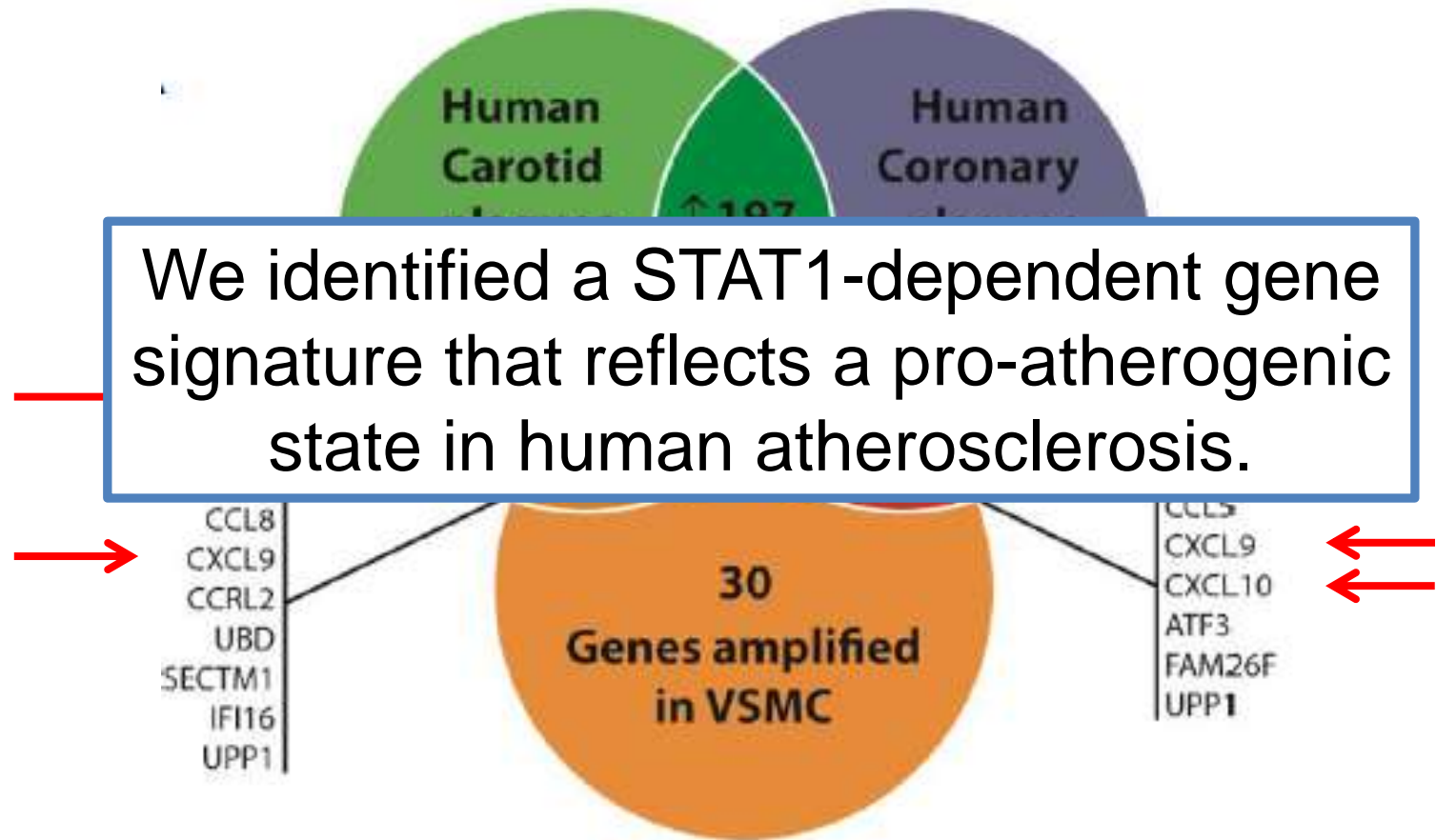


Prepared with Circos



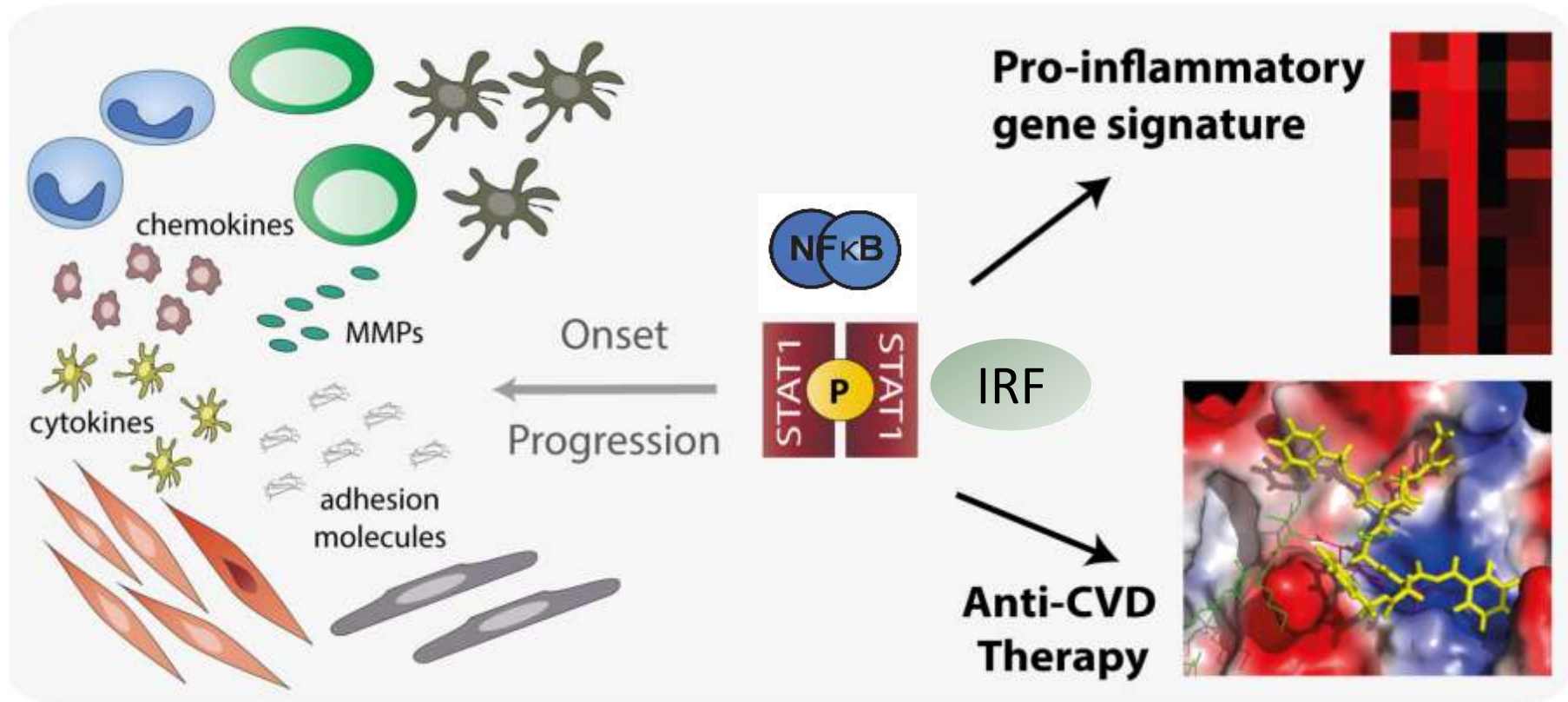


# IFN $\gamma$ /LPS STAT1-target genes: Biomarkers in CAD?



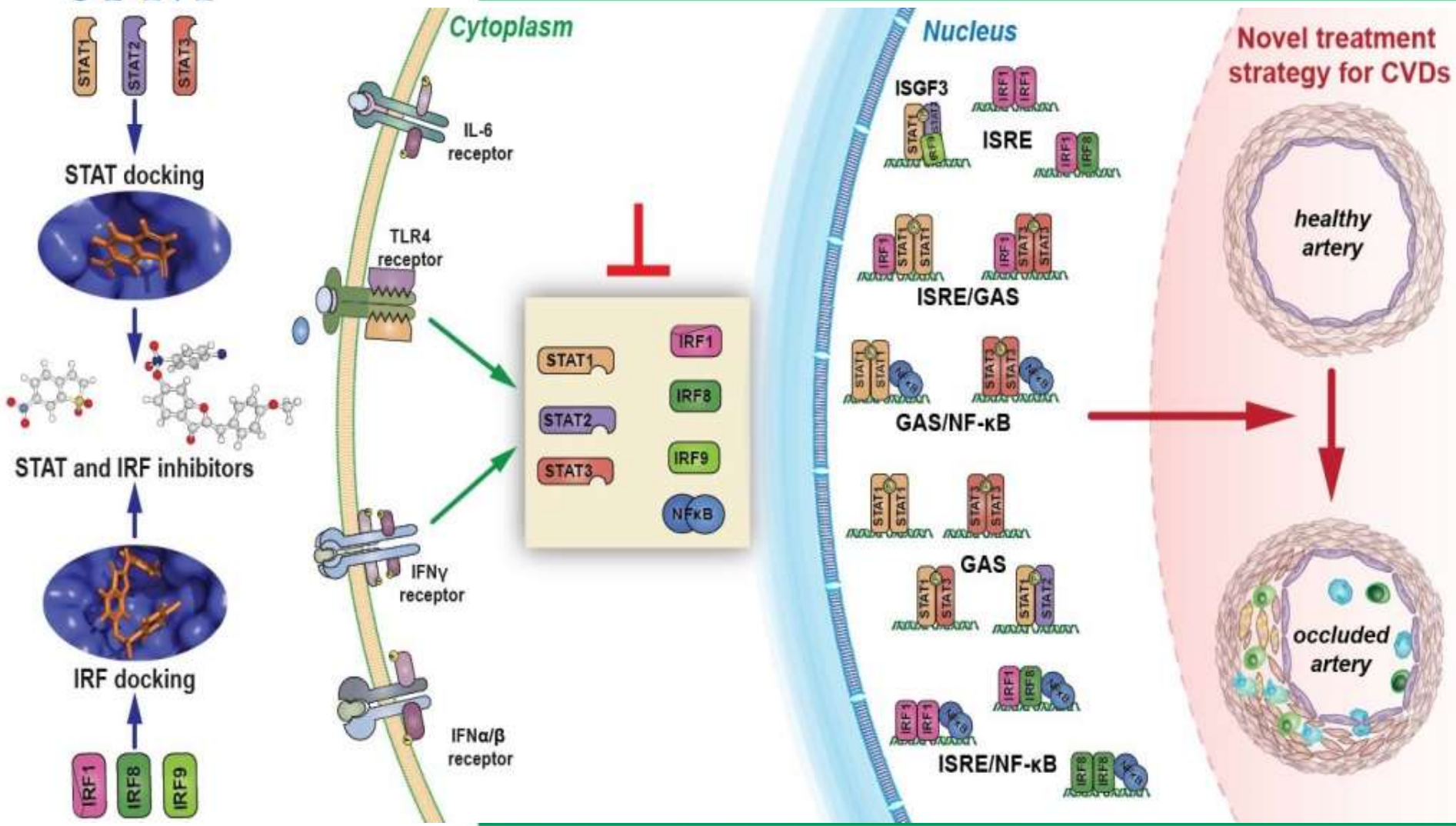


# STAT1, NF- $\kappa$ B & IRFs in vascular disease



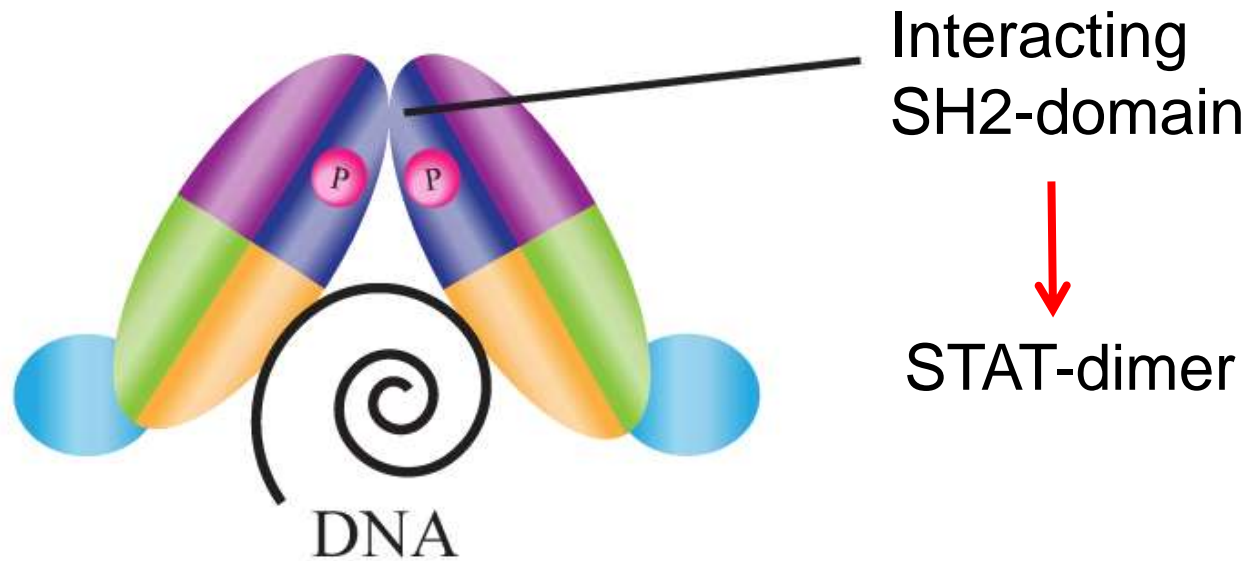
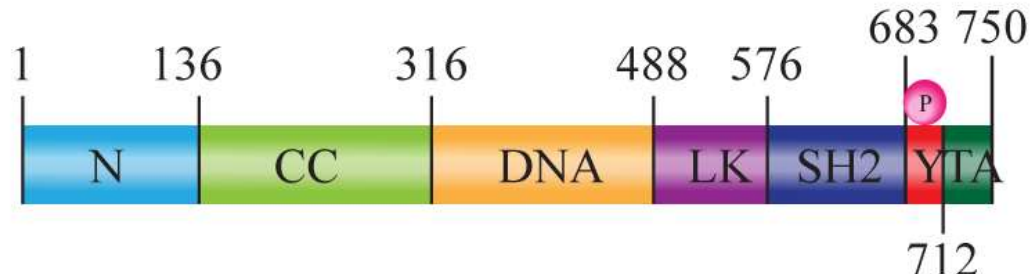


# Inhibition of STATs & IRFs in Vascular Disease





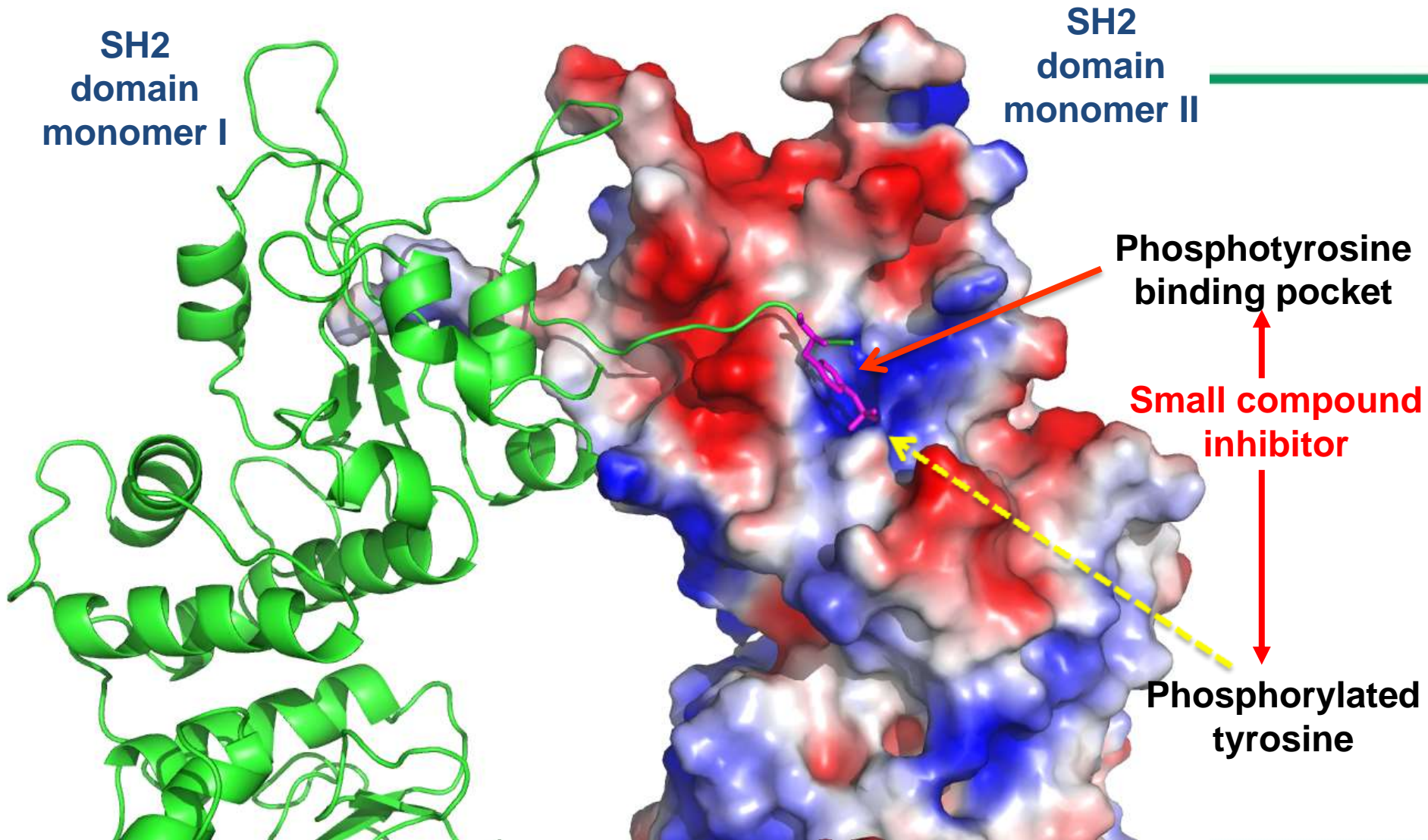
# STAT Structure & Dimerization







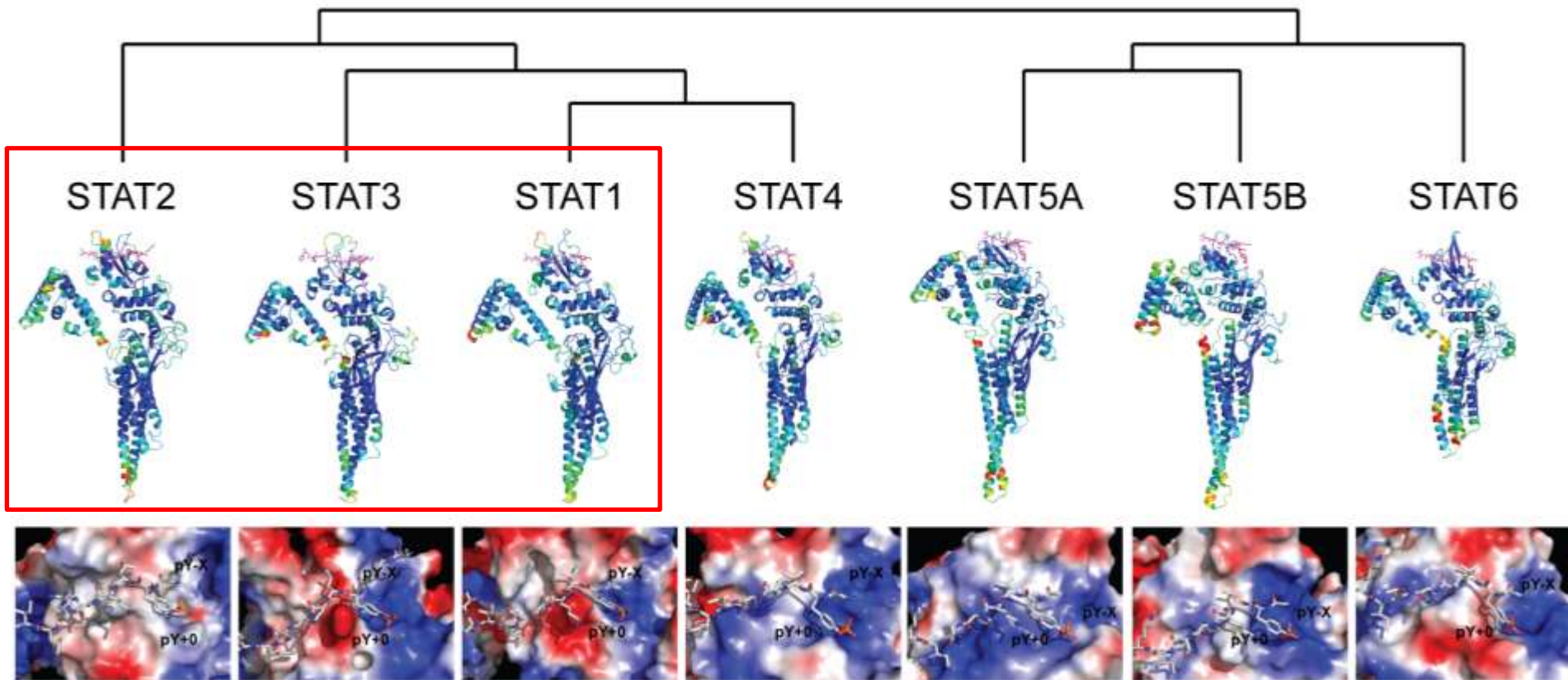
# Structural information: STAT1-STAT3





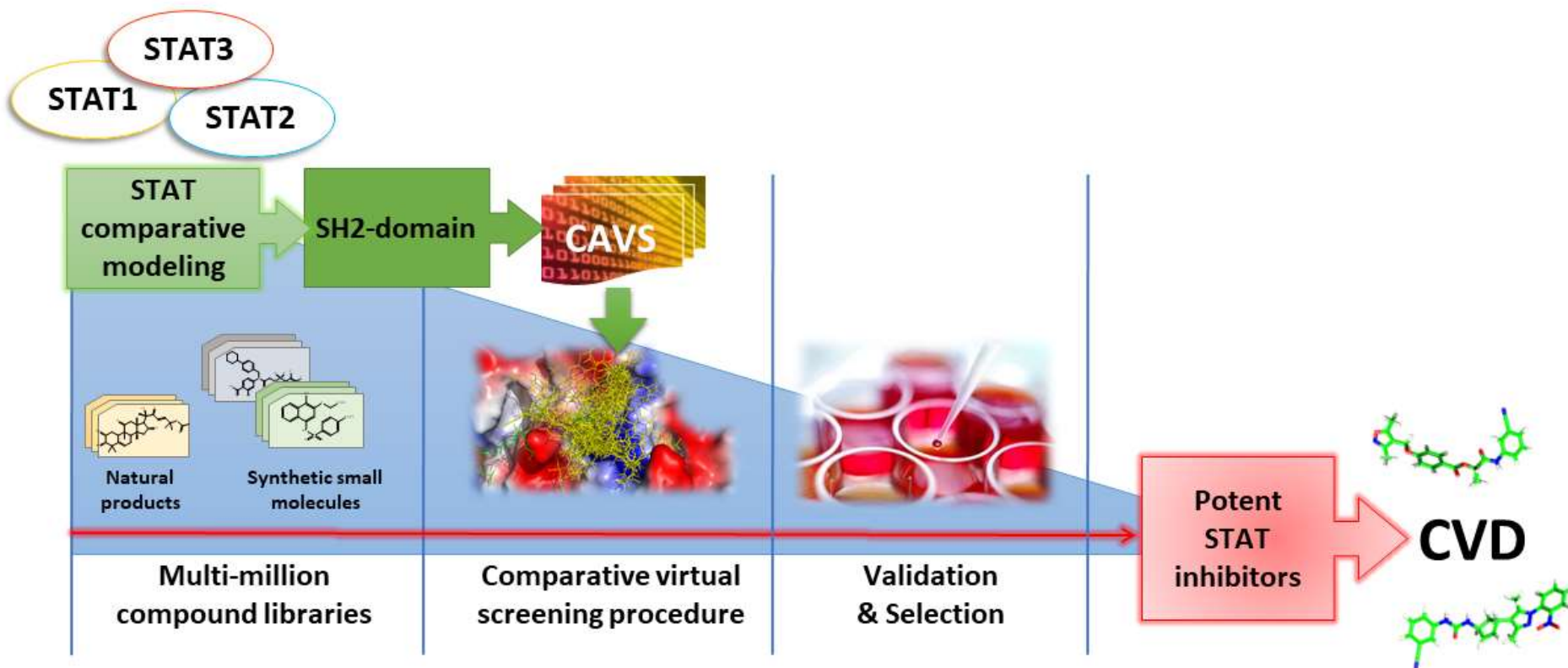


# New homology models for all STATs: STAT-SH2 small molecule interactions



**High SH2 homology!**

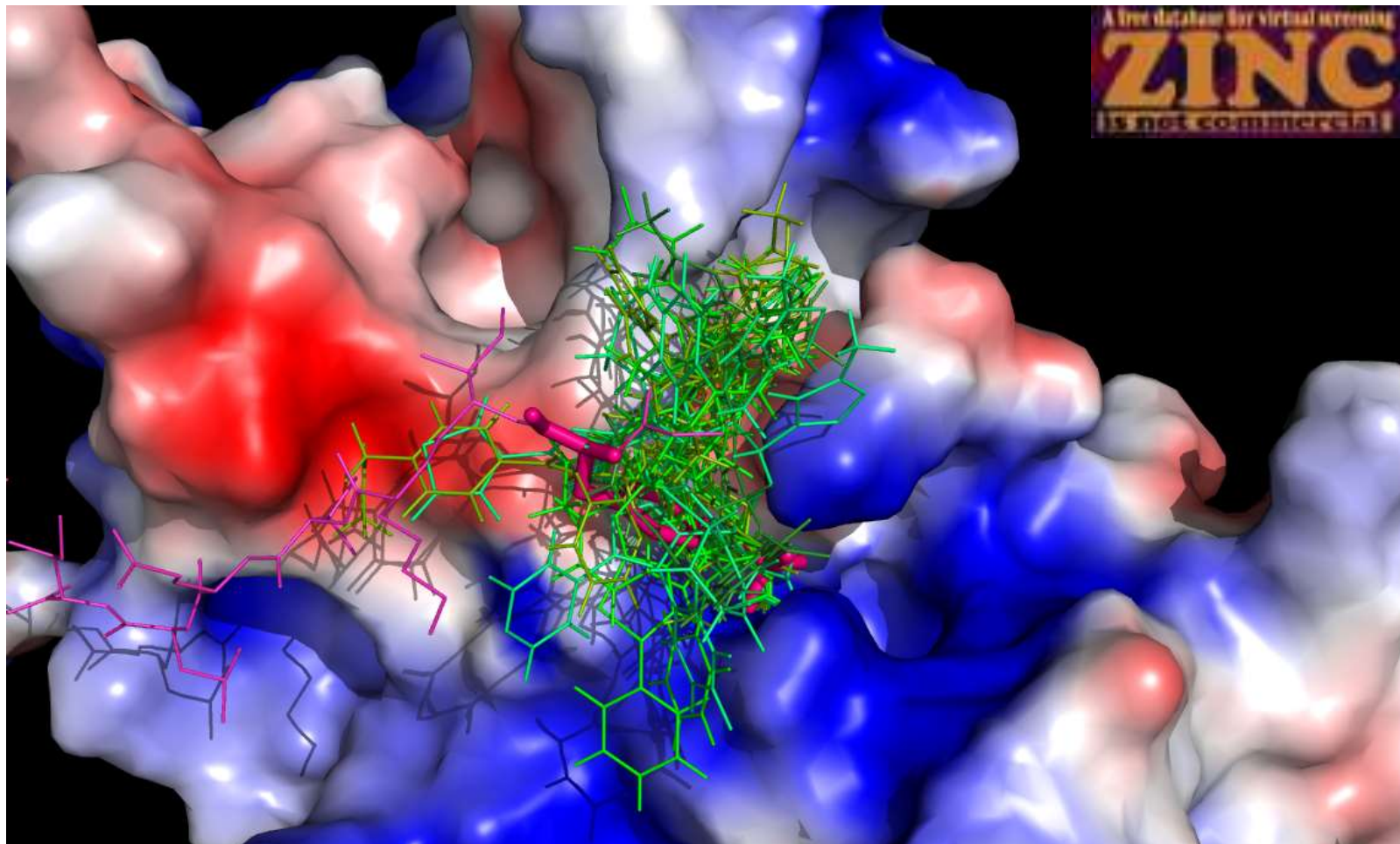
# STAT inhibition approach





# Novel STAT Inhibitors: Virtual Screening

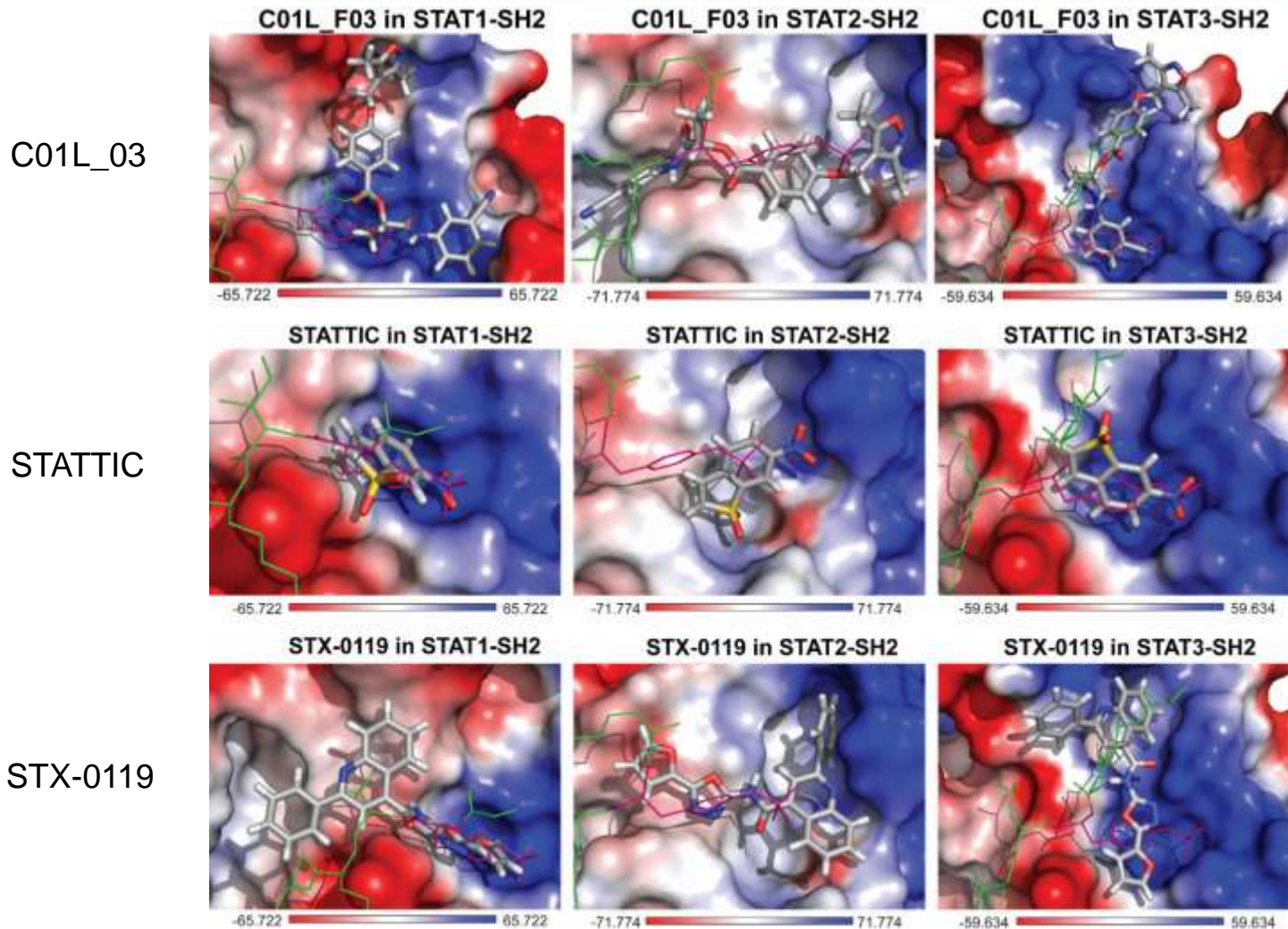
HSTAT1-SH2 model







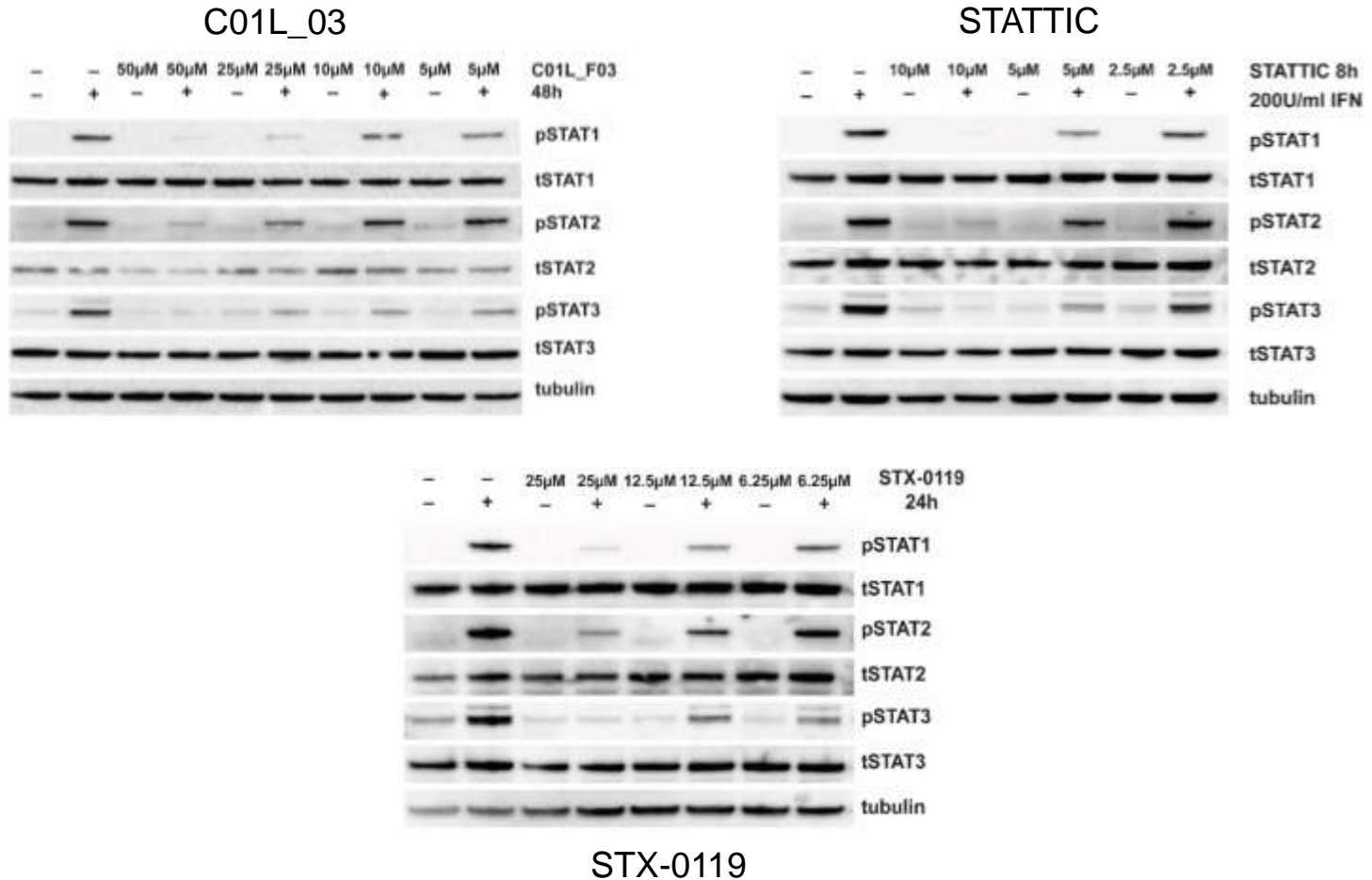
# Multi STAT inhibitors bind *in silico* SH2 models of STAT1, 2 and 3







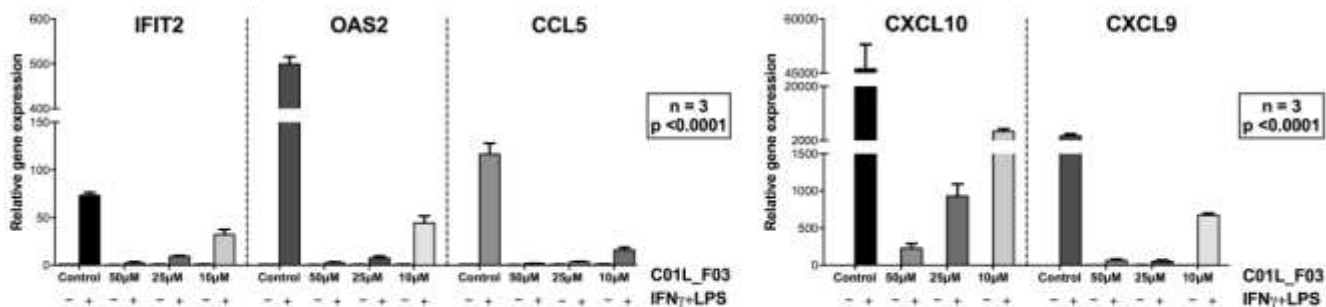
# Multi STAT inhibitors Inhibit phosphorylation of STAT1, 2 and 3



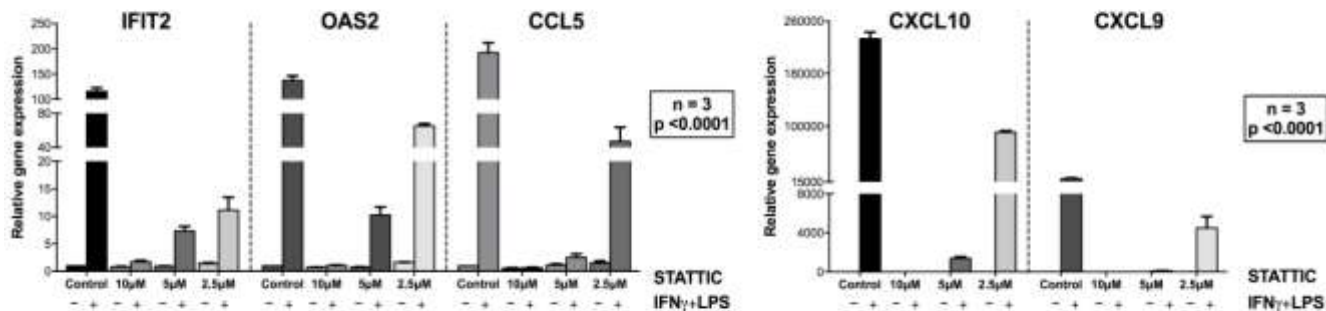


# Multi-STAT inhibitors block inflammation induced gene expression

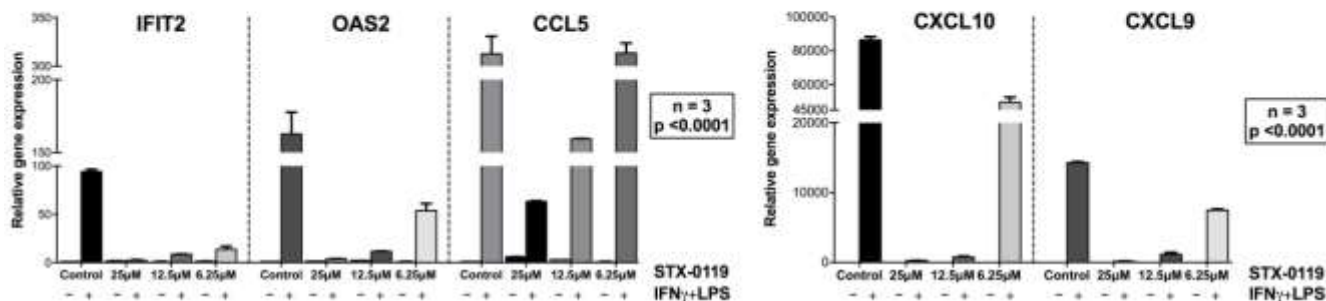
C01L\_03



STAT1C



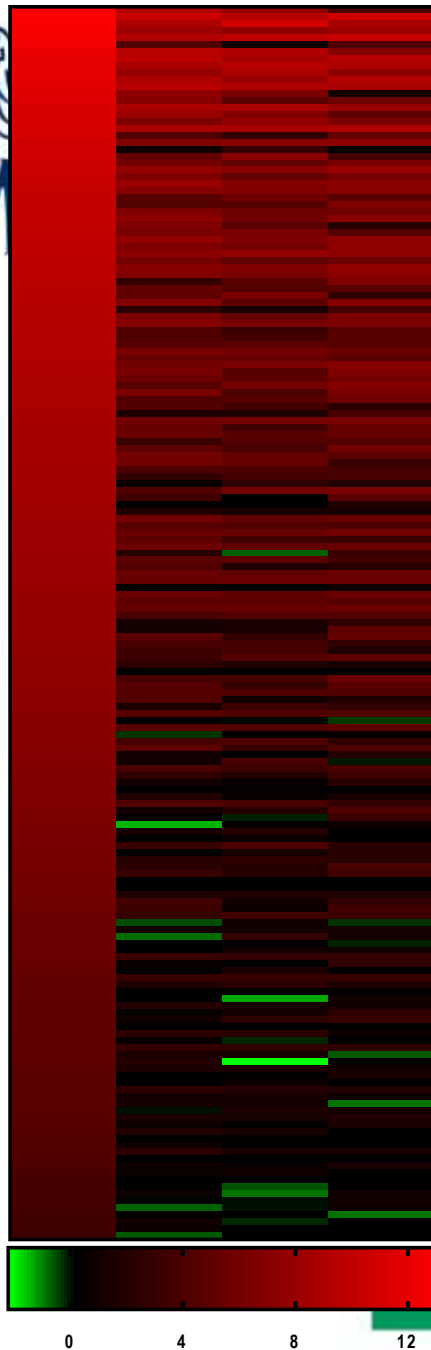
STX-0119





# Genome-wide effect of multi-STAT inhibitors

159 genes commonly inhibited by C01L\_F03, STATTIC, STX-0119



| GO term    | Biological Process                      | Fold Enrichment |
|------------|---|-----------------|
| GO:0043207 | response to external biotic stimulus    | 28.14           |
| GO:0009607 | response to biotic stimulus             | 27.38           |
| GO:0006952 | defense response                        | 29.61           |
| GO:0019221 | cytokine-mediated signaling pathway     | 29.62           |
| GO:0002376 | immune system process                   | 28.66           |
| GO:0001817 | regulation of cytokine production       | 10.67           |
| GO:0007166 | cell surface receptor signaling pathway | 13.89           |
| GO:0006954 | inflammatory response                   | 8.28            |
| GO:0042127 | regulation of cell proliferation        | 7.97            |
| GO:0042981 | regulation of apoptotic process         | 4.23            |
| GO:0030334 | regulation of cell migration            | 4.70            |
| GO:0030155 | regulation of cell adhesion             | 9.09            |

Vascular inflammation



# Multi-STAT inhibitors act in a "STAT-only" manner

159 commonly  
Inhibited genes

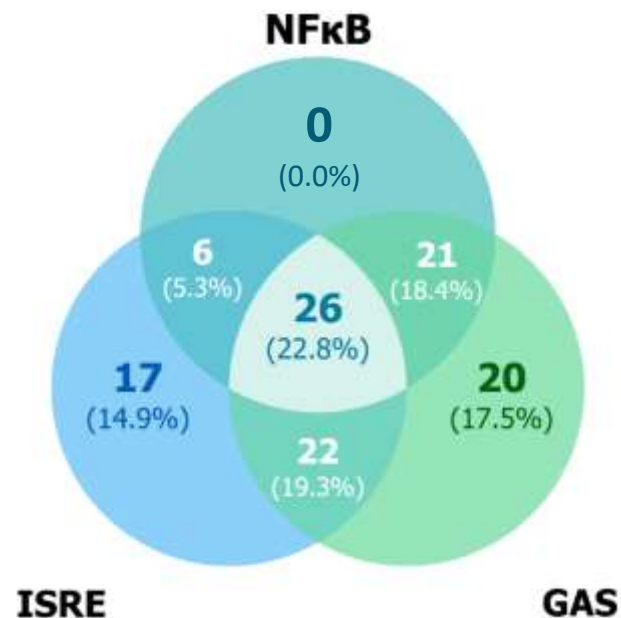
ISRE



GAS



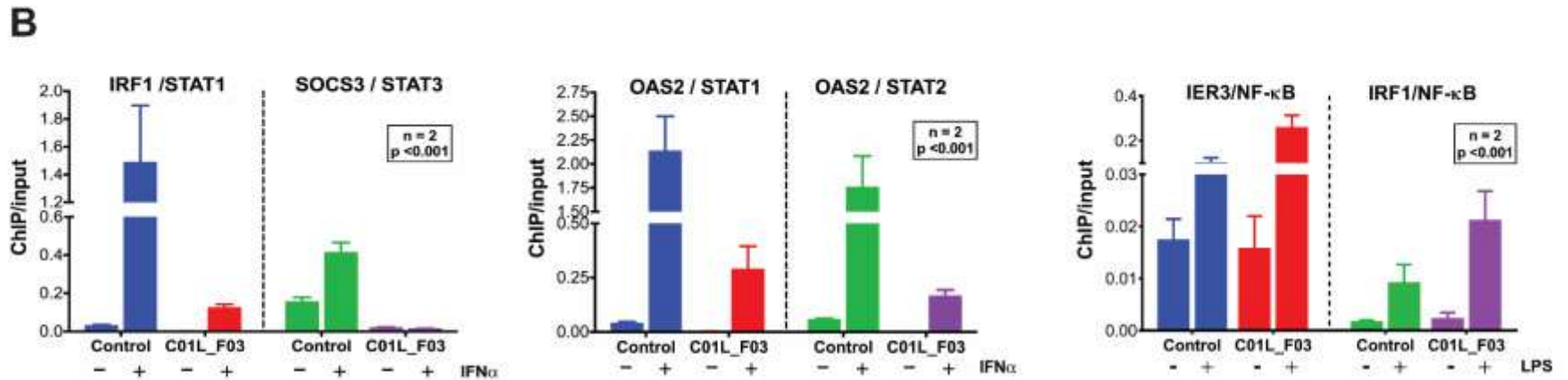
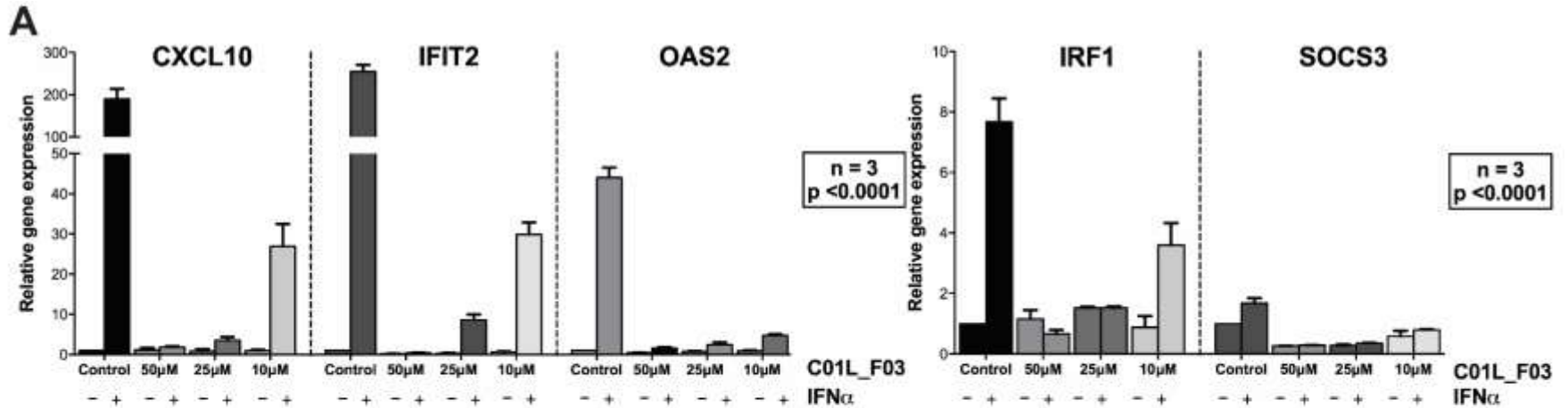
NFκB





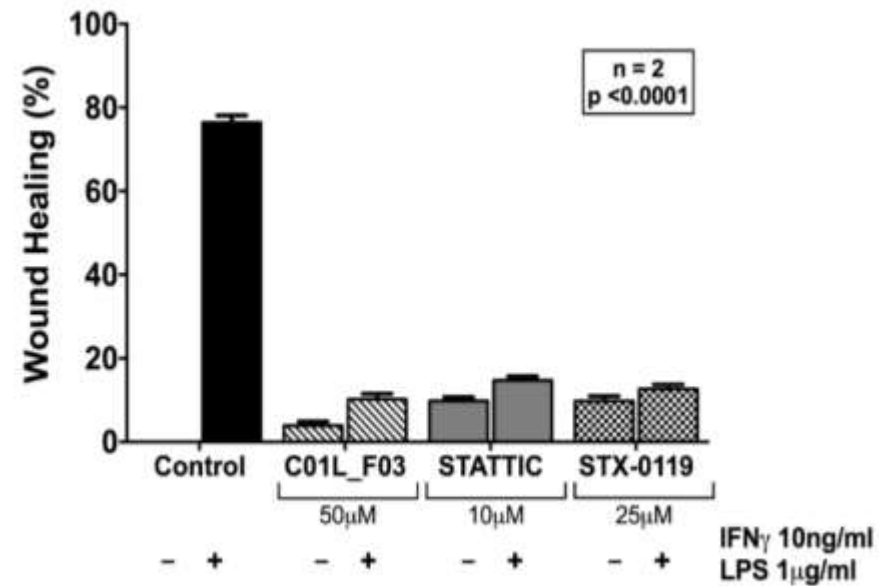
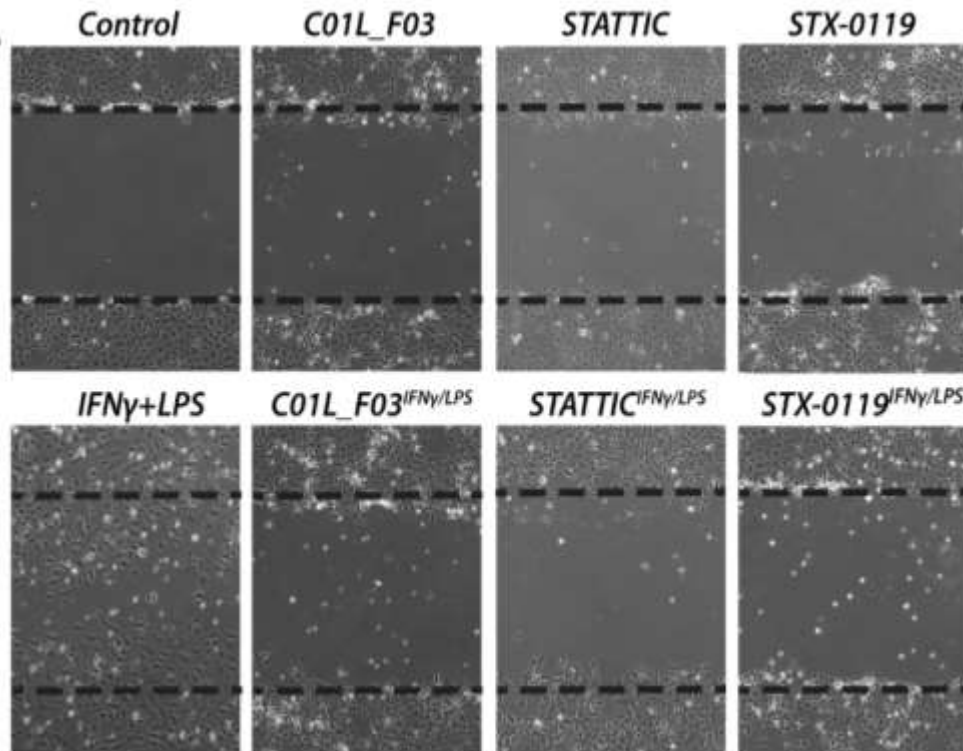


# Multi-STAT inhibitors act in a "STAT-only" manner





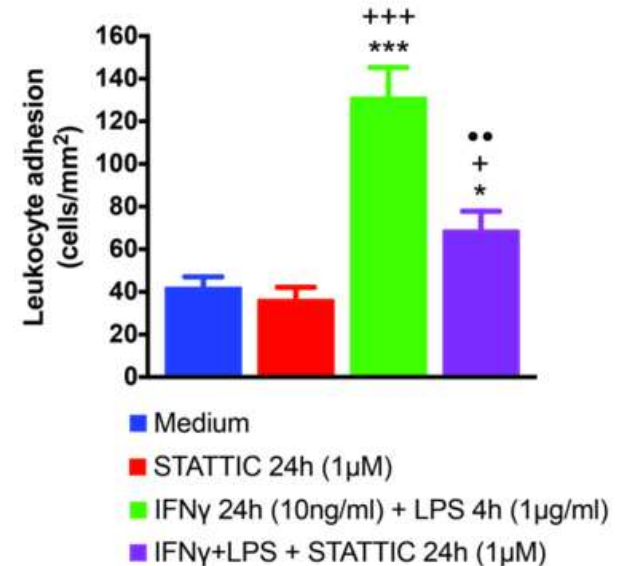
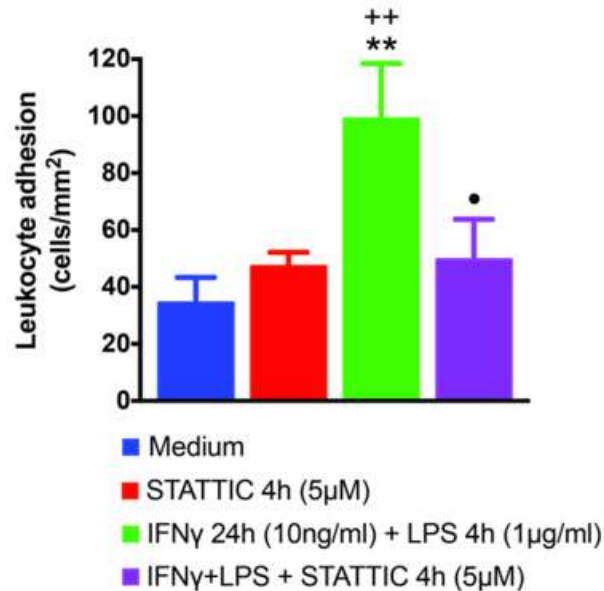
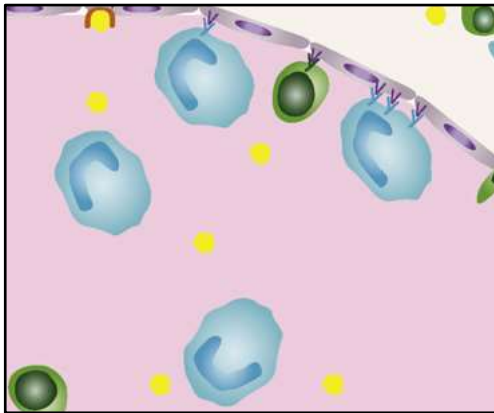
# Multi-STAT inhibitors block inflammation induced EC-migration





# Multi-STAT inhibitors block inflammation induced leukocyte-EC adhesion

STATTC (1  $\mu$ M)



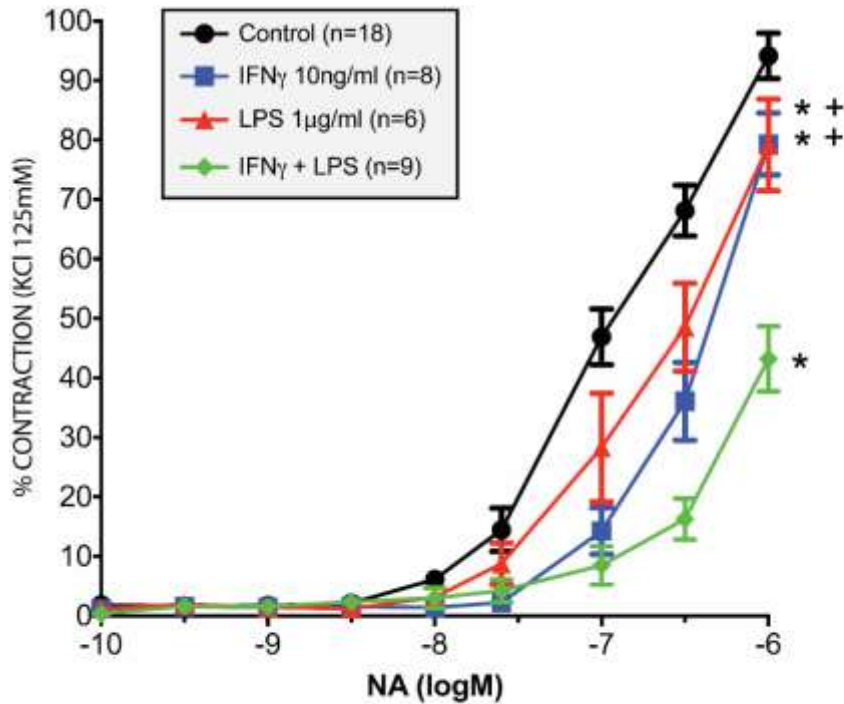


# Multi-STAT inhibitors restore inflammation induced impaired arterial contractility

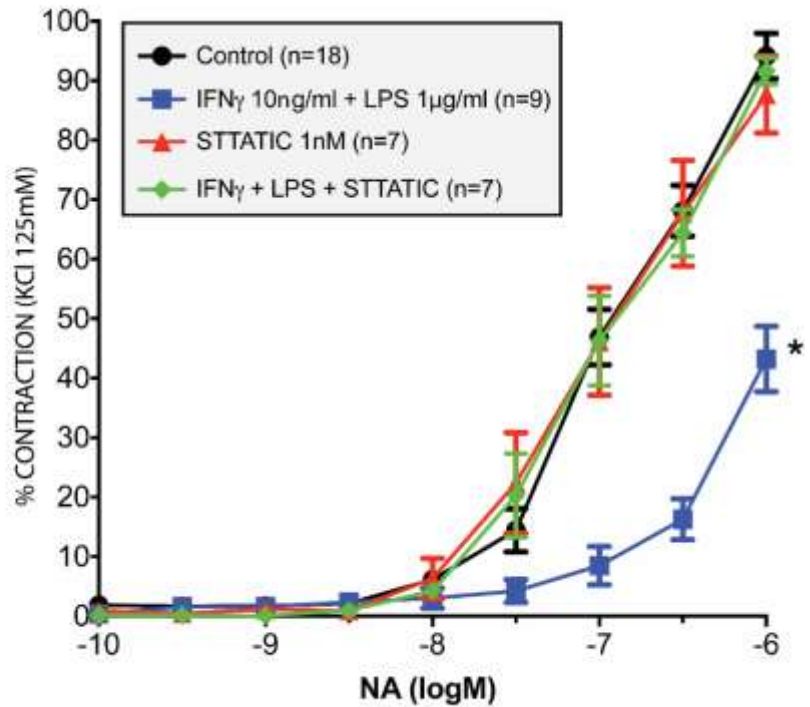
Mesenteric arteries



STATTIC (1 nM)



\* - relative to Control    + - relative to IFN $\gamma$ +LPS

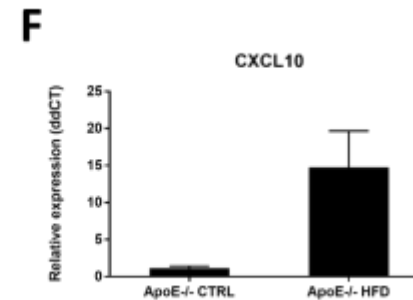
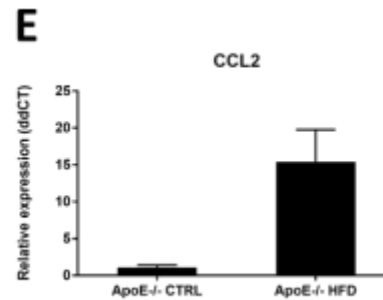
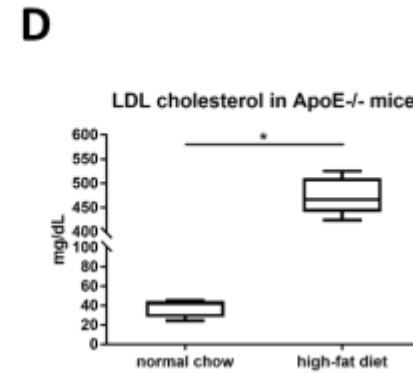
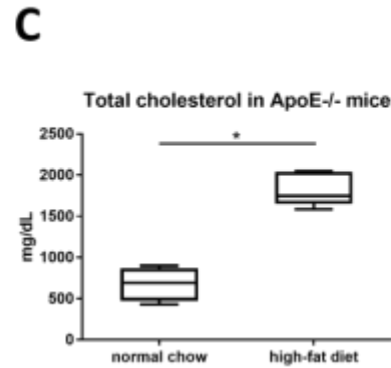
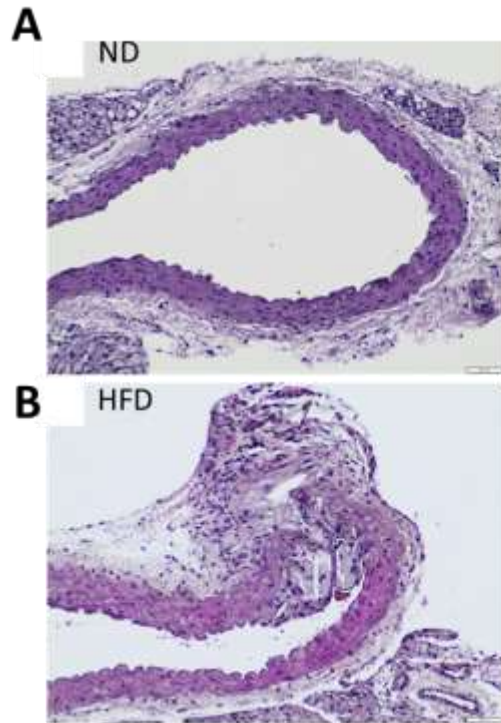


\* - relative to Control





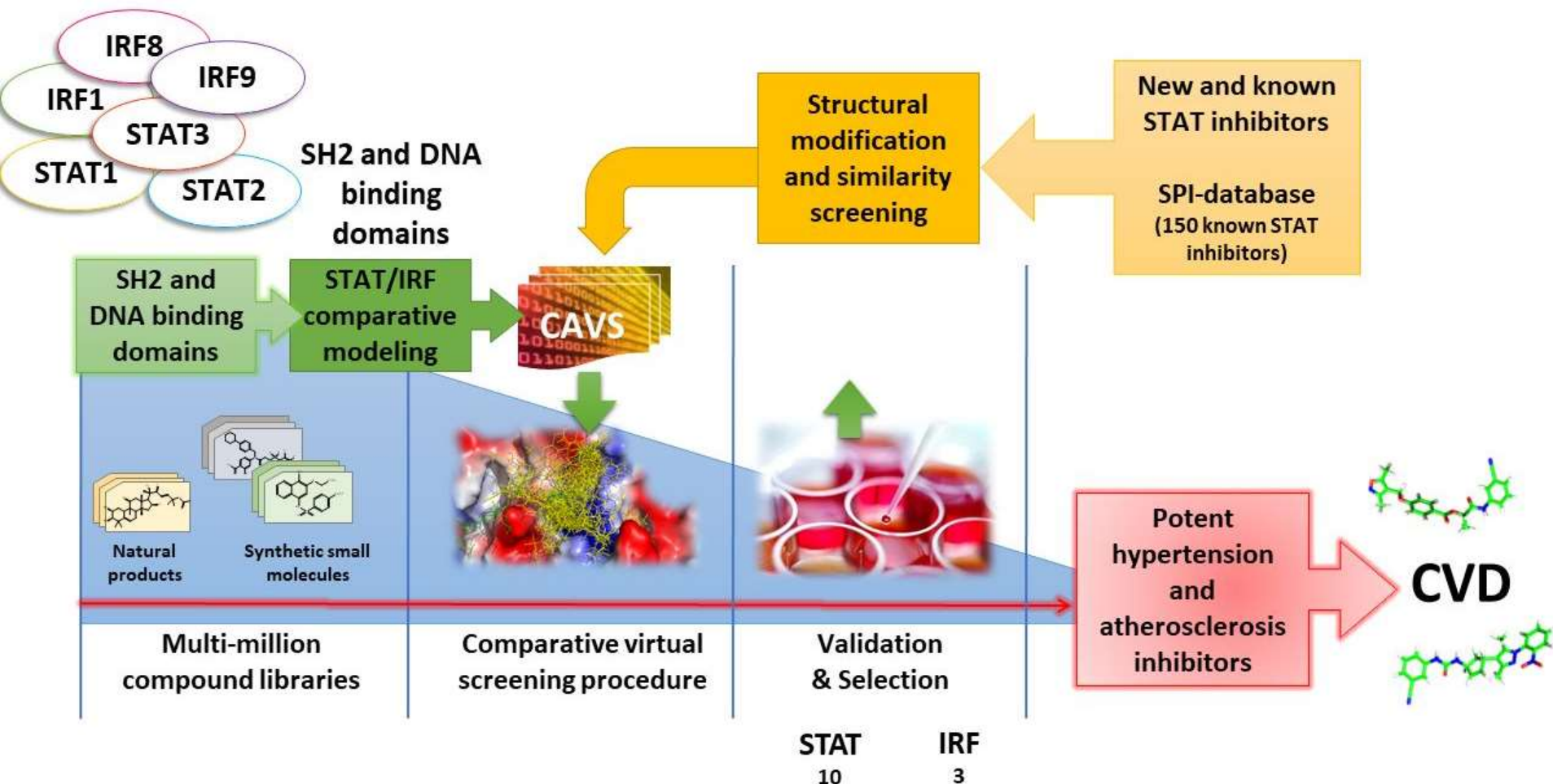
# STAT-target gene expression in HFD treated ApoEKO mice



ApoEKO + 10 weeks HFD

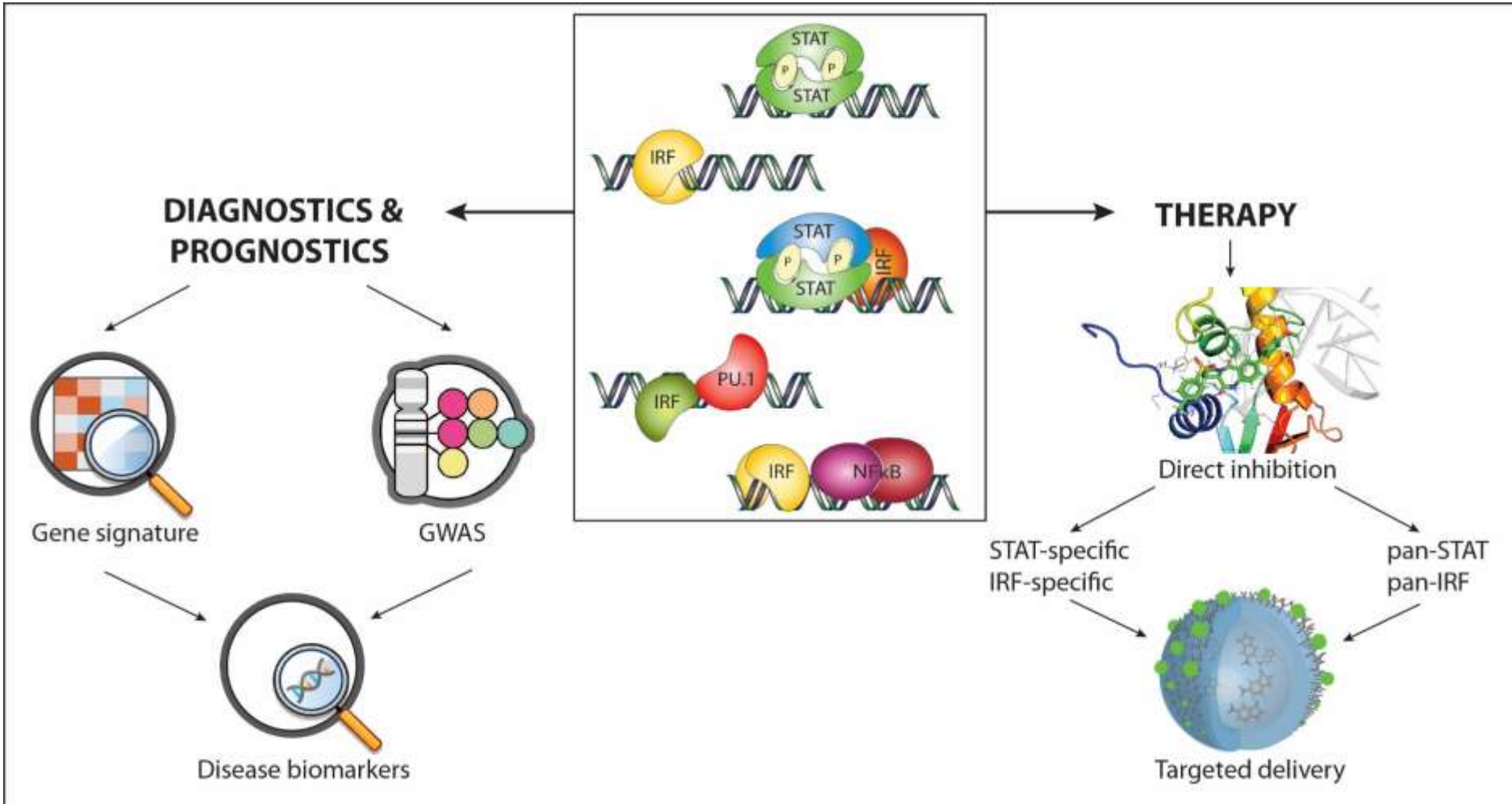


# Pipeline approach to identify potent STAT & IRF inhibitors





# STATs & IRFs in Diagnostics & Therapeutics





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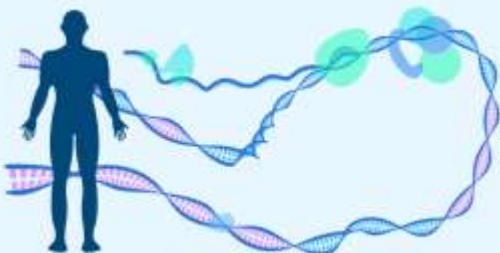
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Prof. Concha Piero



Department of Human Molecular Genetics

Laboratory of High Throughput Technologies

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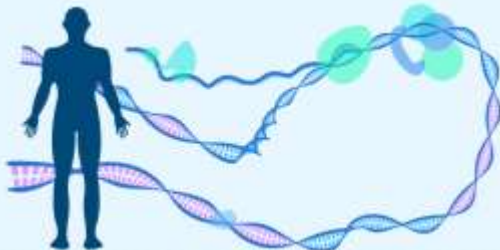
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OŚRODEK WIODĄCY  
POZNAŃSKIE  
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