

Thromboxane synthase is preferentially conserved in activated mouse peritoneal macrophages.

C S Tripp, ... , K M Leahy, P Needleman

J Clin Invest. 1985;76(2):898-901. <https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI112051>.

Research Article

Resident macrophages isolated from uninfected animals produce large quantities of arachidonic acid (AA) metabolites. Immunizing animals with protein antigens or bacteria activates macrophages and causes an 80% reduction in the cyclooxygenase and lipoxygenase metabolites relative to resident cells. Since some products have been shown to modulate immune functions, we examined how the AA metabolic enzyme activities regulate the products that are synthesized. We demonstrate that the cyclooxygenase, 5-lipoxygenase, prostacyclin synthase, and probably prostaglandin (PG) endoperoxide E-isomerase activities were decreased in activated peritoneal macrophages. In sharp contrast, thromboxane synthase activity was selectively unchanged or enhanced in the activated macrophages. Thus the immune response appears to modulate the activity of the AA and PG endoperoxide-dependent enzymes, thus dictating a major shift in the profile of metabolites synthesized by macrophages.

Find the latest version:

<https://jci.me/112051/pdf>



Thromboxane Synthase Is Preferentially Conserved in Activated Mouse Peritoneal Macrophages

Catherine S. Tripp, Kathleen M. Leahy, and Philip Needleman

Department of Pharmacology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri 63110

Abstract

Resident macrophages isolated from uninfected animals produce large quantities of arachidonic acid (AA) metabolites. Immunizing animals with protein antigens or bacteria activates macrophages and causes an 80% reduction in the cyclooxygenase and lipoxygenase metabolites relative to resident cells. Since some products have been shown to modulate immune functions, we examined how the AA metabolic enzyme activities regulate the products that are synthesized. We demonstrate that the cyclooxygenase, 5-lipoxygenase, prostacyclin synthase, and probably prostaglandin (PG) endoperoxide E-isomerase activities were decreased in activated peritoneal macrophages. In sharp contrast, thromboxane synthase activity was selectively unchanged or enhanced in the activated macrophages. Thus the immune response appears to modulate the activity of the AA and PG endoperoxide-dependent enzymes, thus dictating a major shift in the profile of metabolites synthesized by macrophages.

Introduction

Humes et al. (1) have demonstrated that resident macrophages produce 10–20-fold greater quantities of prostaglandin E₂ (PGE₂)¹ and prostacyclin (PGI₂), measured as 6-keto-prostaglandin F_{1α} (6-keto-PGF_{1α}), in response to zymosan stimulation than activated macrophages isolated from mice treated with thioglycollate, *Cornebacterium parvum* (*C. parvum*), or bacille Calmette-Guerin. Thioglycollate-elicited macrophages exhibited only 10% of the phospholipase activity, measured as [³H]arachidonic acid (AA) release, seen in prelabeled resident cells. Scott et al. (2) found that the zymosan-stimulated

This work was presented in part at the Winter Prostaglandin Conference in January, 1985, and at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology meeting in April, 1985.

Address correspondence to Dr. Needleman.

Received for publication 8 March 1985.

1. *Abbreviations used in this paper:* AA, arachidonic acid; *C. parvum*, *Cornebacterium parvum*; HETE, monohydroxyeicosatetrienoic acid; HPLC, high performance liquid chromatography; 6-keto-PGF_{1α}, 6-keto-prostaglandin F_{1α}; LTC₄, leukotriene C₄; α-MEM, α-minimal essential media; PG, prostaglandin; PGE₂, PGF_{2α}, PGH₂, prostaglandins E₂, P_{2α}, and H₂; PGI₂, prostacyclin; P/S, penicillin/streptomycin; TxA₂, thromboxane A₂; TxB₂, thromboxane B₂.

J. Clin. Invest.

© The American Society for Clinical Investigation, Inc.

0021-9738/85/08/0898/04 \$1.00

Volume 76, August 1985, 898–901

production of leukotriene C₄ (LTC₄) and monohydroxyeicosatetrienoic acids (HETEs) as well as PGE₂ and 6-keto-PGF_{1α} were decreased in *C. parvum*-elicited macrophages when compared with resident cells. Paradoxically, the quantity of thromboxane A₂ (TxA₂), measured as thromboxane B₂ (TxB₂), was increased in the *C. parvum*-elicited macrophages. In this report we have evaluated the AA and prostaglandin H₂ (PGH₂)-dependent metabolic enzymes in resident and *Listeria monocytogenes*-elicited macrophages (*Listeria* macrophages) to characterize the preferential conservation of TxA₂ production by macrophages during an immune response.

Methods

Macrophages were obtained by lavage from the peritoneal cavity of adult BIO.A/Sg Sn J mice (The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME) that were either uninfected (resident macrophages) or infected with *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Listeria* macrophages). Mice were infected intraperitoneally with 5 × 10⁴ live bacteria on day 1, boosted with 1 × 10⁵ live bacteria on day 7, and peritoneal exudates were collected on day 10 by lavaging with 3 ml sterile phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). 1–2 × 10⁶ peritoneal cells were allowed to adhere to 35-mm tissue culture dishes for 2 h (37°C, 5% CO₂) in 1 ml of α-minimal essential media (α-MEM; Gibco Laboratories, Grand Island, NY), 5% fetal calf serum, and 100 μg penicillin/streptomycin (P/S). The non-adherent cells were removed by washing with PBS, and the adherent cells were incubated with various doses of agonists, substrates, or inhibitors in α-MEM and P/S for 2 h (37°C, 5% CO₂). Zymosan (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO) was prepared as described by Bonney et al. (3). AA (Nu-Chek Prep., Inc., Elysian, MN) was dissolved using dimethylsulfoxide and then diluted with α-MEM and P/S. Dimethylsulfoxide had no effect on cellular morphology or protein content. 30 μM AA caused a 50% reduction in cellular protein after 2 h because of cells detaching from the plate. The cells that remained on the plate excluded trypan blue.

PGH₂ was prepared from sheep seminal vesicles and AA (4) and stored in dry acetone at –70°C. Immediately before addition to macrophage cultures, PGH₂ was dried under nitrogen and resolubilized in dimethylsulfoxide. Various aliquots of PGH₂ in dimethylsulfoxide were added directly to macrophage cultures containing 1 ml of αMEM and P/S. The cells were incubated for 30 min at 22–25°C, 5% CO₂.

The media was analyzed for 6-keto-PGF_{1α}, PGE₂, TxB₂, and LTC₄ by radioimmunoassay (RIA) (5, 6). Antibodies to 6-keto-PGF_{1α} and LTC₄ were kindly supplied by Dr. Richard Fertel, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, and by Dr. Alan Rosenthal, Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories, Rahway, NJ, respectively. Duplicate stimulations within a given experiment resulted in RIA values that were not discernibly different. The cross-reactivity at 50% displacement of other arachidonate metabolites with antisera were as follows: PGE₂ antiserum: 6-keto-PGF_{1α}, 0.39%; prostaglandin F_{2α} (PGF_{2α}), 0.04%; TxB₂, 0.003%; 6-keto-PGF_{1α} antiserum: PGE₂, 0.57%; PGF_{2α}, 0.14%; TxB₂, <0.08%; TxB₂ antiserum: 6-keto-PGF_{1α}, 0.009%; PGE₂, 0.012%; PGF_{2α}, 0.025%; and LTC₄ antiserum: leukotriene D₄, 43%; leukotriene E₄, 6%; leu-

kotriene B₄, PGE₂, PGF_{2α}, AA, and 5-HETE, <0.25%. The production of LTC₄ by macrophages was also semiquantitated using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and structurally verified using scanning ultraviolet spectroscopy between wavelengths 250 and 300 nm. The amounts of LTC₄ produced by the macrophage cultures quantitated by HPLC and RIA were similar. The cells were washed with PBS and solubilized in 0.62 N NaOH for protein determination using the fluorescamine assay. All protein values in a given cell preparation were within 10% of each other. 1–2 × 10⁶ cells corresponds to 50–100 μg protein. The data is represented as the mean ± SE (7).

Results

Zymosan stimulation of total endogenous AA metabolism (sum of all the measured cyclooxygenase and lipoxygenase products) was decreased by 94% in *Listeria* macrophages (Fig. 1), findings comparable to those previously reported (1, 2). *Listeria* macrophages produced 2, 10, and 4% of the amount of 6-keto-PGF_{1α}, PGE₂, and LTC₄, respectively, compared with resident cells. However, not only was TxB₂ produced by resident mouse peritoneal macrophages but the TxB₂ production in *Listeria* macrophages was not significantly different (71%) from resident controls. In agreement with Scott et al. (2), we found that the resident macrophages produced small quantities of a product that co-migrated on HPLC with authentic 12-HETE, whereas *Listeria* macrophages did not produce any measurable 12-HETE (data not shown). No other lipoxygenase products were detected by either cell population. Thus the similar quantity of TxB₂ produced by the two macrophage populations was due to synthesis by the macrophages and not to platelets contaminating the cultures, because (a) zymosan does not stimulate platelet AA metabolism (8), and (b) the disappearance of the other potential major platelet lipoxygenase metabolite, 12-HETE, in *Listeria* macrophage preparation is not consistent with platelet contamination and stimulation.

Since the phospholipase(s) activity had been shown to be decreased in bacterial-elicited macrophages (1), we bypassed the need for receptor activation or stimulation of phospholi-

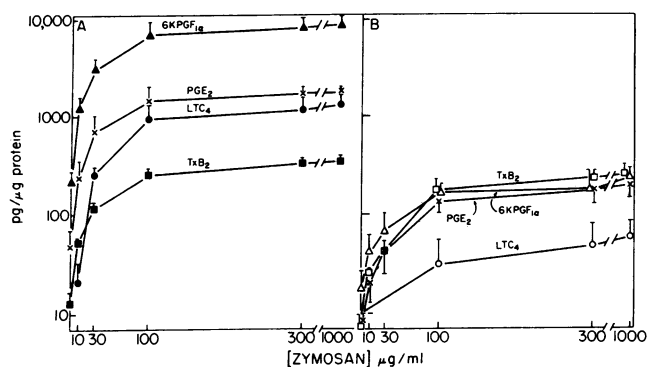


Figure 1. Comparison of zymosan stimulation of AA metabolism in resident and *Listeria* macrophages. Resident (A) or *Listeria* (B) mouse peritoneal macrophages were cultured and stimulated with varying concentrations of zymosan as described in Methods. The media was analyzed by RIA for 6-keto-PGF_{1α} (6KPGF_{1α}) (▲), TxB₂ (■), PGE₂ (×), and LTC₄ (●). Resident macrophages are represented by closed symbols and *Listeria* macrophages by open symbols. The data represent the mean ± SE of four different macrophage preparations.

pase(s) by incubating exogenous AA with each macrophage population. Total exogenous AA metabolism by the cyclooxygenase pathway (sum of PGE₂, TxB₂, and 6-keto-PGF_{1α}) in *Listeria* macrophages was only 13% of that by resident cells, indicating that the cyclooxygenase activity was substantially decreased in the bacteria-elicited macrophages. Again, the quantity of 6-keto-PGF_{1α} produced by *Listeria* macrophages was only 5 and 27%, respectively, while 71% of the TxB₂ production was still maintained (Fig. 2).

Exogenous AA conversion by the 5-lipoxygenase pathway (LTC₄) was also decreased by 87% in *Listeria* macrophages (Fig. 2). However, zymosan stimulation produced tenfold more LTC₄ than exogenous AA. Thus differences in the 5-lipoxygenase activity between the two cell populations is more easily detected using zymosan as an agonist. Furthermore, zymosan-stimulated LTC₄ production should be enhanced in the presence of indomethacin, which inhibits cyclooxygenase and blocks PGE₂, PGI₂, and TxA₂ production. Pretreatment of resident macrophages with indomethacin diverted endogenous AA into the lipoxygenase pathway after zymosan stimulation (Fig. 3). However, *Listeria* macrophages still did not exhibit an increase in the 5-lipoxygenase metabolite LTC₄ (Fig. 3). When the samples were analyzed for other 5-lipoxygenase products (5-HETE and 5,12-diHETEs, data not shown) by HPLC, none of these nonenzymatic products of the 5-lipoxygenase could be detected even in the presence of indomethacin, though more substrate was available for conversion by this pathway. Thus the 5-lipoxygenase activity must be suppressed in *Listeria* macrophages since the amount of 5-lipoxygenase product LTC₄ is decreased and no other nonenzymatic products are detectable.

The synthesis of PGE₂, PGI₂, and TxA₂ each requires the sequential action of three enzymes: phospholipase, cyclooxygenase, and the appropriate prostaglandin (PG) endoperoxide-dependent enzyme. When exogenous PGH₂ was used as substrate for PGI₂ synthase, *Listeria* macrophages still demonstrated only 5% of the 6-keto-PGF_{1α} production seen with resident macrophages (Fig. 4). The enzymatic production of PGE₂ could not be measured due to the extensive nonenzymatic

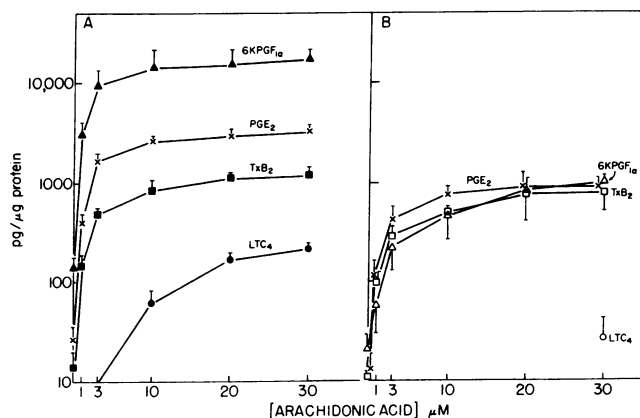


Figure 2. Comparison of exogenous AA metabolism by resident and *Listeria* macrophages. Cultured resident (A) and *Listeria* (B) macrophages were stimulated with various concentrations of AA. The media was analyzed by RIA for 6-keto-PGF_{1α} (6KPGF_{1α}) (▲), TxB₂ (■), PGE₂ (×), and LTC₄ (●). Resident macrophages are represented by open symbols and *Listeria* macrophages by closed symbols. The data represent the mean ± SE of four separate macrophage cultures.

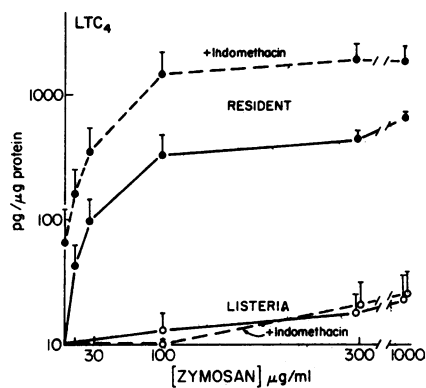


Figure 3. The synthesis of LTC_4 by *Listeria* macrophages cannot be enhanced with indomethacin. Macrophage cultures were obtained and stimulated with zymosan as described, except that after adherence macrophages were preincubated for 15 min (37°C , 5% CO_2) in α -MEM and P/S in the presence (---) or absence (—) of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ indomethacin (Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories). The stimulation of the cyclooxygenase products in the absence of indomethacin was comparable to that seen in Fig. 1 but was inhibited to basal values (no zymosan) in the presence of indomethacin. Resident macrophages are represented by closed symbols and *Listeria* macrophages by open symbols. The data represent the mean \pm SE of three macrophage culture preparations.

conversion of PGH_2 to PGE_2 obtained in aqueous solution (no cells). However, using PGH_2 as substrate for the direct measurement of thromboxane synthase activity unmasked a 250% increase in TxB_2 production in *Listeria* macrophages. This increase in thromboxane synthase activity accounts for the relatively unchanged TxB_2 production in response to endogenous (zymosan-stimulated) and exogenous AA metab-

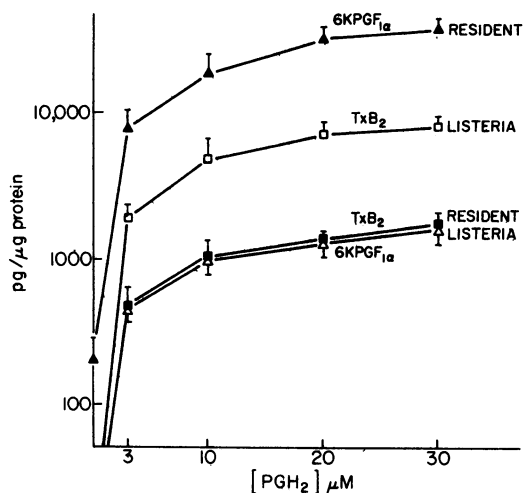


Figure 4. Comparison of exogenous PGH_2 metabolism by resident and *Listeria* macrophages. Cultured resident and *Listeria* macrophages were incubated with varying concentrations of PGH_2 as described. The media was analyzed for 6-keto- $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$ (6KPGF $_{1\alpha}$) (▲) and TxB_2 (■) by RIA. The PGE_2 cross-reactivity of the 6-keto- $\text{PGF}_{1\alpha}$ and TxB_2 antibodies represents 3% or less of the metabolite production. Resident macrophages are represented by closed symbols and *Listeria* macrophages by open symbols. The data represent the mean \pm SE of four separate macrophage cultures.

olism by *Listeria* macrophages. Furthermore, if the cyclooxygenase activity were the same in both cell populations, then this increased TxB_2 production should have been seen with exogenous AA. Since TxB_2 was slightly decreased in *Listeria* macrophages in response to exogenous AA (Fig. 2 B) but increased in response to exogenous PGH_2 (Fig. 4), then the cyclooxygenase activity must be decreased in the *Listeria* cells, limiting the amount of PGH_2 available for conversion by the thromboxane synthase. Although the PG endoperoxide E-isomerase activity could not be measured directly with PGH_2 stimulation, this enzyme is also likely to be decreased in *Listeria* macrophage since the PGE_2 production was greatly decreased in these cells in response to zymosan or exogenous AA (Figs. 1 and 2). Thromboxane was the only metabolite conserved in *Listeria* macrophages.

Discussion

Macrophages isolated from *Listeria monocytogenes*-treated mice have been shown to be cytotoxic (9) and to express Ia antigen (10). Here we report that AA metabolism by *Listeria* macrophages has been altered in such a way that PGE_2 and PGI_2 production was greatly decreased while TxA_2 production was maintained. In cultured *Listeria* macrophages, exogenous PGI_2 and dibutyl cyclic AMP (cAMP) have been shown to inhibit Ia expression. In addition, in vivo treatment with PGE_1 and PGE_2 blocks lymphokine-stimulated macrophage Ia expression (11). PGE_2 inhibits macrophage cytotoxic activity (12) and interleukin-1 secretion (13) in vitro as well. Snyder et al. (11) have demonstrated that in vitro treatment of macrophages with TxB_2 (the inactive metabolite of TxA_2) antagonizes PGE_2 inhibition of Ia expression, but TxB_2 itself has no effect on the expression of Ia. Thus it has been proposed that increased immune function can result by a decreased production of the negative immunomodulator PGE_2 . However, PGI_2 is also produced in large quantities in resident macrophages but decreased by 95% in activated cells. PGI_2 has also been shown to be a more potent stimulator of cAMP in platelets than PGE_2 (14) and therefore may be an important negative immunomodulator as well.

Finally, γ -interferon has been shown to modulate macrophage Ia expression as well as macrophage phospholipase activity. Boraschi et al. (13, 15) have reported that resident macrophages cultured with α -, β -, and γ -interferons have decreased phospholipase activity, but they do not exhibit changes in AA metabolic enzyme activities within 24 h. Beller and Ho (16) have demonstrated that γ -interferon increases Ia expression over a 4–8-d culture period. Furthermore, Johnson and Torres have reported that leukotrienes may regulate the production of γ -interferon by T cells (17). In this report we report that immune activation of macrophages in vivo suppressed all of the AA and PG endoperoxide-dependent enzymes with the exception of thromboxane synthase. The result of these AA metabolic enzyme alterations was that the ratio of $\text{TxA}_2/\text{PGI}_2/\text{PGE}_2$ production (when stimulated with an agonist) by *Listeria* macrophages was 1:1:1 compared with 1:25:5 in resident cells. Since TxA_2 and $\text{PGI}_2/\text{PGE}_2$ have been shown to have opposing biologicals on the vasculature and platelet aggregation, the ratio of product determined the final biology expressed. We propose that γ -interferon might be responsible for the modulation of the AA metabolic enzymes described in this paper and that the regulation of Ia expression by γ -

interferon might be mediated through the stimulatory effects of TxA₂ production, as well as the removal of the inhibitory effects of PGE₂ and PGI₂.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Dr. John Russell and Dr. Barbara Jakschik for invaluable assistance.

This work was supported by National Institutes of Health grants HL07275 and HL20787.

References

1. Humes, J. L., S. Burger, M. Galavage, F. A. Kuehl, Jr., D. D. Wightman, M. E. Dahlgren, P. Davies, and R. J. Bonney. 1980. The diminished production of arachidonic acid oxygenation products by elicited mouse peritoneal macrophages: possible mechanisms. *J. Immunol.* 124:2110-2116.
2. Scott, W. A., N. A. Pawlowski, H. W. Murray, M. Andreach, S. Zrike, and Z. A. Cohn. 1982. Regulation of arachidonic acid metabolism by macrophage activation. *J. Exp. Med.* 155:1148-1160.
3. Bonney, R. J., P. D. Wightman, P. Davies, S. J. Sadowski, F. A. Kuehl, Jr., and J. L. Humes. 1978. Regulation of prostaglandin synthesis and of selective release of lysosomal hydrolases by mouse peritoneal macrophages. *Biochem. J.* 176:433-442.
4. Gorman, R. R., F. F. Sun, O. V. Miller, and R. A. Johnson. 1977. Prostaglandins H₁ and H₂. Convenient biochemical synthesis and isolation. Further biological and spectroscopic characterization. *Prostaglandins.* 13:1043-1056.
5. Felsen Reingold, D., K. Watters, S. Holmberg, and P. Needleman. 1981. Differential biosynthesis of prostaglandins by hydronephrotic rabbit and cat kidneys. *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.* 216:510-515.
6. Hayes, E. C., D. L. Lombardo, Y. Girard, A. L. Maycock, J. Rockach, A. S. Rosenthal, R. N. Young, R. W. Egan, and H. J. Zweick. 1983. Measuring leukotrienes of slow reacting substance of anaphylaxis: development of a specific radioimmunoassay. *J. Immunol.* 131:429-433.
7. Colton, T. 1974. *Statistics in Medicine.* Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 137-138.
8. Pawlowski, N., G. Kaplan, A. L. Hamill, Z. A. Cohn, and W. A. Scott. 1983. Arachidonic acid metabolism by human monocytes. *J. Exp. Med.* 158:393-412.
9. Farr, A. G., W. J. Wechter, J.-M. Kiely, and E. R. Unanue. 1979. Induction of cytotoxic macrophages—role of H-2. *J. Immunol.* 122:2405-2412.
10. Beller, D. I., J.-M. Kiely, and E. R. Unanue. 1980. Regulation of macrophage populations. Preferential induction of Ia rich peritoneal exudates by immunologic stimuli. *J. Immunol.* 124:1426-1432.
11. Snyder, D. S., D. I. Beller, and E. R. Unanue. 1982. Prostaglandins modulate macrophage Ia expression. *Nature (Lond.)* 299:163-165.
12. Taffet, S. M., and S. W. Russell. 1981. Macrophage-mediated tumor cell killing: regulation of expression of cytolytic activity by prostaglandin E. *J. Immunol.* 126:424-427.
13. Boraschi, D., S. Censini, and A. Tagliabue. 1984. Interferon- γ reduces macrophage-suppressive activity by inhibiting prostaglandin E₂ release and inducing interleukin 1 production. *J. Immunol.* 133:764-768.
14. Gorman, R. R., S. Bunting, and O. V. Miller. 1977. Modulation of human platelet adenylate cyclase by prostacyclin (PGX). *Prostaglandins.* 13:377-388.
15. Boraschi, D., S. Censini, M. Bartalini, G. Scapigliati, G. Barbarulli, E. Vincenzi, M. Benedetta Donati, and A. Tagliabue. 1984. Interferon inhibits prostaglandin biosynthesis in macrophages: effects on arachidonic acid metabolism. *J. Immunol.* 132:1987-1992.
16. Beller, D. I., and K. Ho. 1982. Regulation of macrophage populations. V. Evaluation of the control of macrophage Ia expression *in vitro.* *J. Immunol.* 129:971-976.
17. Johnson, H. M., and B. A. Torres. 1984. Leukotrienes: positive signals for regulation of γ -interferon production. *J. Immunol.* 132:413-416.