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1 **Emerging roles of neutrophils in immune homeostasis**

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10 **Running Title:** Neutrophils in immune regulation

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16 **ABSTRACT**

17 Neutrophils, the most abundant innate immune cells, play essential roles in the innate immune
18 system. As key innate immune cells, neutrophils detect intrusion of pathogens and initiate
19 immune cascades with their functions; swarming (arresting), cytokine production,
20 degranulation, phagocytosis, and projection of neutrophil extracellular trap. Because of their
21 short lifespan and consumption during immune response, neutrophils need to be generated
22 consistently, and generation of newborn neutrophils (granulopoiesis) should fulfill the
23 environmental/systemic demands for training in cases of infection. Accumulating evidence
24 suggests that neutrophils also play important roles in the regulation of adaptive immunity.
25 Neutrophil-mediated immune responses end with apoptosis of the cells, and proper
26 phagocytosis of the apoptotic body (efferocytosis) is crucial for initial and post resolution by
27 producing tolerogenic innate/adaptive immune cells. However, inflammatory cues can impair
28 these cascades, resulting in systemic immune activation; necrotic/pyroptotic neutrophil bodies
29 can aggravate the excessive inflammation, increasing inflammatory macrophage and dendritic
30 cell activation and subsequent T_H1/T_H17 responses contributing to the regulation of the
31 pathogenesis of autoimmune disease. In this review, we briefly introduce recent studies of
32 neutrophil function as players of immune response.

33

34 INTRODUCTION

35 Neutrophils, the first defenders of the immune response, recruited into inflamed sites according
36 to infectious and/or inflammatory cues. Recruited neutrophils recognize/integrate the unique
37 patterns of danger molecule secreted by pathogens or the host and initiate immune cascades (1,
38 2). Neutrophils can eliminate extracellular pathogens or debris with phagocytic activity while
39 releasing pro/anti-inflammatory cytokines and redox/cytotoxic molecules (3), therefore can
40 present a 'blueprint' of further immune responses. Although the functional roles of neutrophils
41 have been investigated well in innate immunity, the heritage of immune response after
42 neutrophil action is now getting attention to understand the following innate/adaptive immune
43 activation (2). The excessive activation of neutrophils can threaten the homeostasis of the host
44 immune/organ system and paradoxically induce immune paralysis during the progress of sepsis
45 and tumors (1, 2). Moreover, recent studies demonstrated the possibility of neutrophil response
46 and death in the pathogenesis of chronic inflammation and autoimmune disease (2, 4, 5),
47 proving the notion that neutrophils are not just a part of innate immune system. In this review,
48 we briefly overview the functions of neutrophils and their generation by focusing on the roles
49 of neutrophils as modulators of the entire immune response.

50

51 **Neutrophil-triggered inflammatory cascades**

52 Neutrophils, the most abundant innate immune cells in blood stream patrol and surveil the
53 inflammatory signs of the mammalian body (5-7). Depletion or defects of neutrophil function
54 raises susceptibility to infection, especially opportunistic bacterial infection, demonstrating the
55 important role of neutrophils for host defense (8). When epithelial cells or tissue-resident
56 immune cells detect pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) or host-derived danger-
57 associated molecular patterns (DAMPs), they secrete alert signals and chemokines, making the
58 inflammatory environment (2, 3). As the frontline unit of innate immune cells, neutrophils can

59 recognize host- or bacteria-derived danger molecules and migrate into inflamed sites to block
60 expansion of infection and inflammation (7, 9, 10) (Fig. 1A-D). When migrated neutrophils
61 encounter pathogens, they may estimate the required number of neutrophils for pathogen
62 exclusion with distinct reactive oxygen species (ROS) generation and secretion of IL-1 β and
63 chemokines (CXCL1 and CXCL2) (11). Recruited neutrophils, which undergo G protein-
64 coupled receptor kinase 2 (GRK2)-dependent internalization of CXCR2, can surround and
65 swarm around pathogens to prevent their escape, preparing initial immune responses (10, 12).
66 Neutrophils can ingest (phagocytosis) and subsequently eliminate bacterial/fungal pathogens
67 or host-derived particles, while selectively opening (closing) their azurophil, specific, or
68 gelatinase granules and context-dependent cytokines based on complex signaling of pattern-
69 recognition receptors (PRRs) and antibody-Fc receptor (2, 3, 13). During the process,
70 neutrophils recognize and check the possibility of phagocytosis with dectin-1 (a non-TLR
71 PRR), integrin Mac-1 (CD11b/CD18), and environmental cues (13-15). If the plan is frustrated,
72 they are instructed to project lattice structures containing DNA and histone called a neutrophil
73 extracellular trap (NET) and/or request the reinforcements of other immune cells, such as
74 monocytes and macrophages for further immune response (4, 16). Whether there is neutrophil
75 death (NETosis) or not (NET formation, surviving neutrophils), nuclear chromatin-based NET
76 is not just a web-like DNA-histone complex; it is thickly covered with antimicrobial peptides
77 and pro-coagulant molecules, like myeloperoxidase, cathepsin G, P-selectin glycoprotein
78 ligand-1 (PSGL-1), neutrophil elastase (NE), defensins, and calprotectin (4, 17), carrying out
79 neutrophil's last mission even after death (NETosis). With the assistance of antimicrobial
80 peptides from NET, reinforced macrophages can effectively kill the trapped pathogens,
81 accelerating inflammatory cascades (16). Bacterial- or fungal-derived PAMPs and endogenous
82 DAMPs (PSGL-1-platelets interaction, high-mobility group box 1 protein (HMGB1), immune
83 complex) can act as triggers for NET formation; ROS/Ca²⁺ signaling can induce protein

84 arginine deiminase type 4 (PAD4)-mediated citrullination (arginine to citrulline, positive
85 charge to no net charge) of histone; meanwhile, NE from azurophilic granules translocates to
86 the nucleus, and proteolytic activity of PAD4 and NE wind off condensed chromatin (4, 17),
87 facilitating the projection of an ‘armed’ web. Not all neutrophils are programmed to project
88 NET, and the other neutrophils (no NET-projected) still cluster around the pathogens, secreting
89 IL-1 β and chemokines for CXCR2 (11), and wait for their own destinies. In contrast to NET
90 projection, when neutrophils carry out phagocytosis with dectin-1, recruitment of NE by
91 activated phagosome attenuates translocation of NE to the nucleus and subsequently inhibits
92 NET formation (14). Previously, we demonstrated the functional role of phospholipase D2
93 (PLD2), which catalyzes phosphatidylcholine-specific hydrolysis of phospholipids, in
94 neutrophils for bacterial control during experimental sepsis. Inhibition of the PLD2 enzymatic
95 activity or PLD2 knockout in neutrophils can attenuate GRK2-mediated CXCR2
96 internalization in an LPS-stimulated condition and an experimental mouse sepsis model (18).
97 With GRK2-dependent CXCR2 internalization, neutrophils can self-limit and stand around the
98 pathogens (swarming) and therefore can arrest pathogen movements (12). Damaged tissues and
99 bacterial movement or swarming can cause changes in osmolarity, which can attract leukocytes
100 to patrol to these sites (19, 20). Membrane tension increased by osmotic pressure can lead to
101 the interaction of the PLD2-mammalian target of rapamycin complex 2 (mTORC2), and the
102 PLD2-mTORC2 complex can inhibit actin assembly during neutrophil mobilization (21).
103 PLD2 does not affect the phagocytic activity of neutrophils, but *Pld2* deficiency significantly
104 augmented NET and subsequently increased bactericidal effects with increased PAD activity
105 (18), collectively showing the sequential and crucial roles of neutrophils in host defense.

106

107 **Generation of acquired (trained) neutrophils**

108 While circulating neutrophils migrate into inflamed sites and ignite their short lives, new

109 neutrophils are continually generated in bone marrow to replace their former fellows via
110 granulopoiesis. Because of their relatively short lifespan (a few hours to a few days),
111 neutrophils need to be generated from hematopoietic stem cells consistently at steady-state
112 (normal granulopoiesis), and the hematopoietic system can rapidly adapt to hematopoietic
113 stress and external environmental cues and produce the white blood cells needed urgently to
114 deal with an call like infection (emergency granulopoiesis for neutrophils) (22-24) (Fig. 1D,
115 E). Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF) is the main growth factor for
116 granulopoiesis, and β -catenin-T-cell factor/lymphoid enhancer-binding factor-mediated
117 signaling maintains neutrophil maturation during normal/emergency granulopoiesis by
118 increasing G-CSF receptor expression (25). Pathogenic bacterial infection can interfere with
119 the expression or stability of Wnt/ β -catenin-mediated signaling, which can promote
120 granulopoiesis, to avoid or use the host defense system (25, 26). On the other hand,
121 inflammatory cascade can induce secretion of G-CSF, IL-6, and granulocyte-macrophage
122 colony-stimulating factor, which can stimulate emergency granulopoiesis in bone-marrow
123 (medullary) and spleen (extramedullary, in the emergency state) (1, 27). These results suggest
124 that there is a competition between pathogens and innate immune cells for the host
125 reinforcement system. When the hematopoietic system detects this pathogen-triggered
126 hematopoietic stress and increased cytokines, the hematopoietic system of bone marrow and
127 spleen rapidly switch the main transcription factor for granulopoiesis from CCAT/enhancer-
128 binding protein (C/EBP) α to C/EBP β , the master transcription factors for the steady and
129 emergency states, respectively (1). Patterns of degraded or leaked proteins/peptides like N-
130 formyl-peptides produced by the inflamed/damaged host cells or bacteria can be detected by
131 formyl peptide receptor (FPR)2 and trigger emergency granulopoiesis. Blocking or deficiency
132 of *Fpr2* attenuates sepsis-induced neutrophil generation, and sole administration of an FPR2
133 ligand (WKYMVm) can be enough to induce granulopoiesis by increasing c-kit⁺sca-1⁻

134 granulocyte-macrophage progenitor cells in a phospholipase C-dependent manner (28).
135 Likewise, activation of FPR can prevent sepsis-induced mortality by increased H₂O₂
136 production of neutrophil and secretion of IFN- γ and IL-17a (29), the last of which can be
137 secreted by IL-6/IL-23-exposed ROR γ t⁺ neutrophils, increase its bactericidal/anti-fungal
138 activity (30, 31), and trigger IL-23/IL-17a-G-CSF axis-mediated granulopoiesis in bone
139 marrow (32). Hence the hematopoietic system can detect molecular patterns and initiate
140 generation of neutrophils. Several lines of study suggest that the properties of generated
141 neutrophils are not constant; instead, the cells acquire lifelong functional modification, which
142 is now called ‘trained immunity’ (33). The functions of trained neutrophil can be heterogeneous
143 and context-dependent, which favor pro- or anti-inflammatory response in inflamed sites; for
144 instance, β -glucan/type I interferon-trained neutrophils (N1 neutrophil) can drive anti-tumor
145 activities with increased ROS production and T-cell stimulatory ligands (34, 35); meanwhile,
146 prolonged G-CSF/GM-CSF-exposed (trained) neutrophils (N2 neutrophils) from bone marrow
147 and spleen can drive pro-tumor immune responses (35-37) with increased angiogenic
148 molecules (VEGF, MMP-9) and T-cell suppressive ROS and arginase, the last two of which
149 increase the ratio of T_{reg}/cytotoxic CD8 T cells (35, 38, 39). Infection by bacteria (for example,
150 *M. tuberculosis*) or change of microbiota can reprogram long-lasting myelopoiesis (40-43).
151 Change of cytokine-sphingolipid signaling and subsequent lipid metabolism can affect the rate
152 of myelopoiesis and differentiation of neutrophils with autophagy modulation (44-46).
153 Likewise, Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination against tuberculosis can trigger
154 epigenetic modification of neutrophils (genome-wide trimethylation at H3K4) and induce a
155 phenotype change of generated neutrophils with increased maturation surface marker (CD10,
156 CD15, and CD16) and activation marker (CD11b, CD66b) while decreasing CD62L (I-selectin)
157 and PD-L1; these ‘trained’ neutrophil shows improved bactericidal and anti-fungal activity, but
158 NET formation is not affected (47). Administration of 4-phenyl butyric acid, a peroxisomal

159 stress-reducing agent and inhibitor of histone deacetylase, can potently educate a small
160 subpopulation of CD200R⁺CD86⁺, but low CD177 (neutrophil exhaustion marker) pro-
161 resolving (increased resolvin D1 (RvD1)/SerpinB1, reduced TNF- α) neutrophils with increased
162 bactericidal activity (48). These studies indicate that, although the lifespan of neutrophils is
163 relatively short, entrained by extrinsic cues with epigenetic modification from the immature
164 stage (granulopoiesis) (23), neutrophils can be heterogeneous and ‘the giver’ of memory that
165 guides the direction of further immune cascades. Interestingly, BCG vaccination of humans in
166 the morning but not evening (circadian rhythm) can influence ‘long-term’ trained immunity of
167 neutrophils (49). The interrelation between Bmal-1-dependent T_H17 (not T_H1 and T_{reg})
168 development (in spleen and small intestine) and daily generation/ oscillation of neutrophils (in
169 bone marrow) (23, 49) suggests that trained granulopoiesis also can be affected by systemic
170 T_H17 activation and vice versa; that can explain the functional role of gut microbiota in
171 regulating the generation/priming of neutrophils and why some neutrophils migrate into the
172 intestine to control IL-23/IL-17-mediated G-CSF production (42, 50, 51). However, details of
173 the immunological roles of trained granulopoiesis in generating T_H17 and identification of
174 specific gut microbiota involved in trained immunity need to be deeply explored to understand
175 the patho-mechanism of chronic inflammatory disease.

176

177 **Programed neutrophil apoptosis and initiation of resolution**

178 Neutrophil-mediated inflammatory responses end with apoptosis of the cells within inflamed
179 sites, and some of the neutrophils reverse migrate to the lungs, the liver, the spleen, and the
180 bone marrow, and then accept their programed cell death, which is critical for initiation of
181 resolution (32, 52, 53) (Fig. 2A-E). Professional or non-professional phagocytic cells recognize
182 the surface antigen (eat-me signal, phosphatidylserine) of apoptotic body and remove the debris
183 of immune cascades via efferocytosis, restoring normal tissue/immune homeostasis (54).

184 Macrophages are professional efferocytic cells that remove apoptotic neutrophils and
185 neutrophil-derived NET (55). Engulfment of cellular debris from the apoptotic body or NET
186 component can modulate intracellular machineries and metabolism of macrophages and
187 regulate proliferation and phenotype change of efferocytes, accelerating tissue resolution (56,
188 57). During the efferocytic process, interaction between macrophage-derived developmental
189 endothelial locus-1 and integrins (LFA-1, CD11a/CD18; and Mac-1) of the apoptotic body can
190 increase the clearance of apoptotic neutrophils and subsequent immune resolution, which in
191 turn induces production of specialized pro-resolving mediators, such as RvD1 and lipoxin A4
192 (LXA₄) in macrophages (32, 58). As a positive feedback loop, RvD1 can limit
193 LPS/arachidonic-acid-induced inflammatory cues while promoting the conversion of M2-
194 macrophages (alternative activated) by switching production of proinflammatory leukotriene
195 B₄ to LXA₄ and upregulating TGF- β (59-62). Produced LXA₄ can sustain viability of
196 macrophages against pathophysiological apoptotic cues by increasing Bcl2 via PI3K/Akt and
197 ERK/Nrf-2 pathways and assist M2 macrophage polarization via the FPR2-IRF4/5 axis,
198 accelerating the removal of apoptotic neutrophils (63-65). Likewise, complement protein C1q
199 binds to apoptotic neutrophils and facilitates opsonization of NETs. Macrophages can also clear
200 away apoptotic cells and C1q-opsonized NETs (55). Meanwhile, C1q can induce polarization
201 of alternatively activated M2 macrophages in a MafB-dependent manner with increased type I
202 IFN, IL-27, and IL-10 production, while attenuating inflammasome activation (66-68).
203 Especially, efferocytosis of apoptotic (transmigrated) neutrophils in bone marrow decreases IL-
204 23/IL-17-G-CSF axis-mediated granulopoiesis in a β 2 integrin (CD18)-dependent manner (32).
205 Produced IL-10 can induce Jak-Stat3-mediated expression of the suppressor of cytokine
206 signaling 3 (SOCS3), which can block G-CSF-mediated signaling and subsequent
207 granulopoiesis; it can also block IL-6R/M-CSFR-mediated (WSXWS motif-containing, class
208 I receptor) signaling but not IL-10R (no WSXWS motif, class II receptor) (69-72), thereby

209 restraining the emergency preparedness and reinforcement of neutrophils. C1q bound to
210 apoptotic cells also can modulate checkpoint ligand/receptor of dendritic cells (DC) (PD-L1,
211 CD86) and macrophages (PD-L1/2, CD40) (73). These tolerogenic antigen-presenting cells
212 (APCs) can migrate from inflamed sites into lymphatic drains and lymph nodes and induce T_{reg}
213 cells and T regulatory type 1 (Tr1) cells, which are crucial for initial and long-term peripheral
214 tolerance (infectious tolerance), respectively (74, 75). Neutrophils can respond and adapt to the
215 migrated circumstance with transcriptional modification (6, 76, 77). T_{reg}/IL-10 educated
216 neutrophils can become IL-10-producing and later apoptotic, assisting repair of damaged tissue
217 by transferring preexisting matrix and fueling repair activities of other immune cells, such as
218 monocytes, macrophages, and type 3 innate lymphoid cells (53, 76, 78, 79). Taken together,
219 neutrophils are not limited to regulating inflammation in inflamed sites, but can also act as
220 pioneers of systemic immune regulators.

221

222 **Frustrated resolution and neutrophil-mediated chronic inflammation**

223 Recently, accumulating evidence suggests that defects in apoptotic progress of neutrophils and
224 frustrated efferocytosis are closely related to chronic/systemic inflammation, and that
225 neutrophils can carry phagocytic antigen and directly guide lymphocyte migration (as trail) and
226 activation (54, 80-84) (Fig. 3A-C). Neutrophils can exhibit MHC and co-stimulatory molecules
227 by localizing in peripheral tissue (lung) and being exposed to inflammatory cues like immune
228 complex-mediated FcγR signaling, G-CSF, and GM-CSF (6, 83). The maturation state (CD10⁺)
229 of neutrophils can present opposite effects on T cells, and trained granulopoiesis (after BCG
230 vaccination) can tune the ratio of mature and immature neutrophils; mature CD10⁺ CD66b⁺
231 neutrophils display an activated phenotype, but inhibit proliferation and production of IFN-γ
232 of T cells, whereas immature (CD10⁻) neutrophils sustain T-cell survival and increase
233 proliferation and IFN-γ production (47, 82). Besides types of pathogens, developmental stage

(immature, mature, or aged), activation state of neutrophils, and external cues of inflamed sites can shape the response of neutrophils with distinct transcriptional activities, and vice versa (23, 77). An interesting aspect of macrophage-mediated efferocytosis is that, if an apoptotic cell was not infected, this process does not load lysosomal particles to MHC and therefore can modulate antigen presentation to lymphocytes, removing inflammatory stimuli silently and attenuating systemic adaptive immune activation (54). However, failure to silence inflammatory cues (or evasion of pathogens from bactericidal action of neutrophils after phagocytosis) and/or defect of efferocytosis; subsequently neglected dead bodies can induce a form of programmed cell death called necrosis (secondary necrosis) (84, 85). Bursting out inflammatory molecules and bacterial components can trigger serial pro-inflammatory responses of inflamed sites, and inflammatory cytokines such as IL-6, IL-8, IFN- α , and GM-CSF, can prolong the lifespan of neutrophils that should have undergone 'silent' apoptosis, by modulating PI3K-Akt signaling and Bcl2 (Bcl-x for neutrophil); Bcl2 can block Bax-mediated release of cytochrome c and therefore attenuate caspase-dependent cell death (86, 87). Although induced Bcl2 in neutrophils does not affect the phagocytic activity of macrophages (88), exposure of pathogen- or host-derived inflammatory cues, such as IL-8, LPS, HMGB1, and SIP, can change the death of neutrophils from apoptosis to ferroptosis and NETosis, which are the main drivers of chronic and systemic autoimmunity (4, 17, 87, 89). HMGB1 released from ferroptotic cells can be taken by phagocytic macrophages to accumulate iron inside the cells, activating M1 macrophages, which then increase production of IL-6, TNF- α , and IL-1 β (90). In addition, NET and its component HMGB1 can promote caspase-1-dependent macrophage pyroptosis, another form of cell death, which releases AIM2 inflammasome-mediated IL-1 β and accelerates inflammatory cascades while blocking macrophage-mediated efferocytosis with opsonin-related defects (91, 92). The DNA of NET can be recognized by the TLR of macrophages, which phagocyte NETs and NETs do not transfer into phagosome but

259 reside in cytosol; DNA and enzymatic activity of NE from NET stimulate the cyclic GMP-
260 AMP synthase (GAS)-stimulator of interferon genes (STING) pathway that induces type I IFN
261 production and subsequently necroptosis and senescence of macrophages (93, 94). Moreover,
262 the cGAS-STING pathway can turn on an anti-proliferative program and induce Bax-mediated
263 cell death of macrophages, which can counteract the proliferation and efferocytic activity of,
264 but promote macrophage-mediated inflammation (57, 93, 95). Whereas the efferocytosis of DC
265 leads to tolerogenic immature DC with low costimulatory checkpoint ligands, activated
266 neutrophils can recall and directly cluster with DCs, the most potent APC for T lymphocytes,
267 through DC-SIGN and Mac-1, and can mediate maturation of DC, providing TNF- α and other
268 cytokines and granule components (73, 96, 97). Moreover, NET components can drive DC
269 activation to produce type I interferon, and DC can take some NET components as antigens,
270 which may lead to autologous lymphocyte activation (87, 98). Enriched neutrophils in synovial
271 fluid and delayed neutrophil apoptosis in joints may explain the increase of double-stranded
272 DNA and anti-citrullinated antibodies of rheumatoid disease patients (99). Collectively, these
273 facts suggest that neutrophils are crucial immune modulators that affect overall immune
274 response.

275

276 CONCLUSION

277 The functions of neutrophils, the most abundant in the circulation and crucial innate immune
278 cells in host defense, are now getting attention for understanding their following
279 innate/adaptive immune cascades. As a frontline unit of non-specific innate immune responses,
280 the research of neutrophils was focused on migration, detection, and removal of pathogens and
281 damaged host cells (1, 2). However, accumulating evidence suggests that the immunological
282 functions of neutrophil are not limited to initial immune responses. Neutrophils can educate
283 other innate immune cells, such as monocytes, macrophages, and DCs, guiding the direction

284 of immune cascades with production of cytokines and granules and presenting their dead bodies
285 as immune context (3, 32, 52, 53, 93, 94). Moreover, neutrophils directly/indirectly activate
286 lymphocytes, which may aggravate the progress of chronic and autoimmune disease by
287 presenting a source of auto-antigens (4, 17, 87, 89). On the other hand, programmed apoptosis
288 of neutrophils initiates immune modulatory phenotype changes of macrophages and DCs as
289 efferocytosis, which can induce tolerogenic APCs that induce immune suppressive T_{reg} and Tr1
290 (32, 54, 58). Therefore, it is now accepted that excessive activation, dysfunction, or
291 malfunction of neutrophils is closely related to pathogenesis and progression of disease. Hence
292 neutrophils are emerging therapeutic targets for human disease (2, 5). However, further
293 investigations of the roles of trained granulopoiesis and epigenetically modified neutrophils in
294 immune cascades are needed. We hope the gradual progress in the analysis of trained
295 granulopoiesis and heterogeneous neutrophils may lead to further understanding of peripheral
296 tolerance and immune activation.

297

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306

307 **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

308 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

309

310 **FIGURE LEGENDS**311 **Figure 1. Function of neutrophils and their generation (granulopoiesis).**

312 Neutrophils circulate and detect inflammatory cues. **A.** Because of their short lifespan,
313 neutrophils are continuously generated in the bone marrow of the hematopoietic system by
314 granulopoiesis. **B.** When they detect alert signals from inflamed tissue, neutrophils
315 transmigrate into inflamed sites and initiate immune activation. **C.** Sensing the size of
316 pathogens by means of dectin-1, non-TLR pattern recognition receptor, and distinct generation
317 of reactive oxygen species (ROS), neutrophils may surround pathogens (swarming), prey on
318 them (phagocytosis), or project a sticky neutrophil extracellular trap (NET), while secreting
319 context-dependent cytokines and granules (degranulation). **D, E.** Self-immolation of
320 neutrophils (D) and immune activation of other monocytes and macrophages (M ϕ) increases
321 production of IL-6, G-CSF, and GM-CSF, which in turn stimulate emergency neutrophil
322 generation in the bone marrow (granulopoiesis) (E) and spleen (not shown). The context and
323 signaling cues given for granulopoiesis affect the heterogeneity of newly generated neutrophils
324 (trained granulopoiesis).

325

326 **Figure 2. Programmed neutrophil apoptosis and initiation of resolution.**

327 **A.** When the role of neutrophils in inflamed sites ends, they remain or reverse migrate into
328 other organs (bone marrow, lungs, and spleen; not shown) and undergo programmed cell death
329 (apoptosis). **B.** Apoptotic neutrophils expose phosphatidylserine as an eat-me signal, so that
330 macrophages (M ϕ), dendritic cells (DC), and monocytes can recognize an apoptotic body and
331 initiate efferocytosis. **C.** Clearance of an apoptotic body changes the phenotype of efferocytic
332 cells and induces the expression of immune-modulatory lipids called specialized pro-resolving
333 mediators (SPMs). The efferocytosis and subsequent activation with resolvin D1 (RvD1),
334 lipoxin A₄ (LXA₄), and TGF- β accelerate removal of cellular debris and restore normal

335 tissue/immune homeostasis. **D.** Induction of immune modulatory T cells, Foxp3⁺ T_{reg} and IL-
336 10-producing CD4⁺Foxp3⁻ Tr1. IL-10-educated neutrophils become apoptotic and help tissue
337 repair. **E.** The efferocytosis of apoptotic neutrophils in the bone marrow decreases the IL-23/IL-
338 17a-G-CSF axis and restores normal state of granulopoiesis.

339

340 **Figure 3. Impaired efferocytosis and neutrophil death trigger prolonged inflammation.**

341 An inflammatory milieu can disrupt apoptosis of neutrophils and make the immune response
342 chronic. **A.** A sustained neutrophil life exposed to inflammatory cytokines and other
343 programmed neutrophil deaths, NETosis, secondary necrosis, and ferroptosis. **B.** Activation of
344 inflammatory macrophages (M ϕ), dendritic cells (DC), and antigen-presenting cell (APC)-like
345 neutrophils. **C.** Activation of adaptive immune systems and chronic disease.

346

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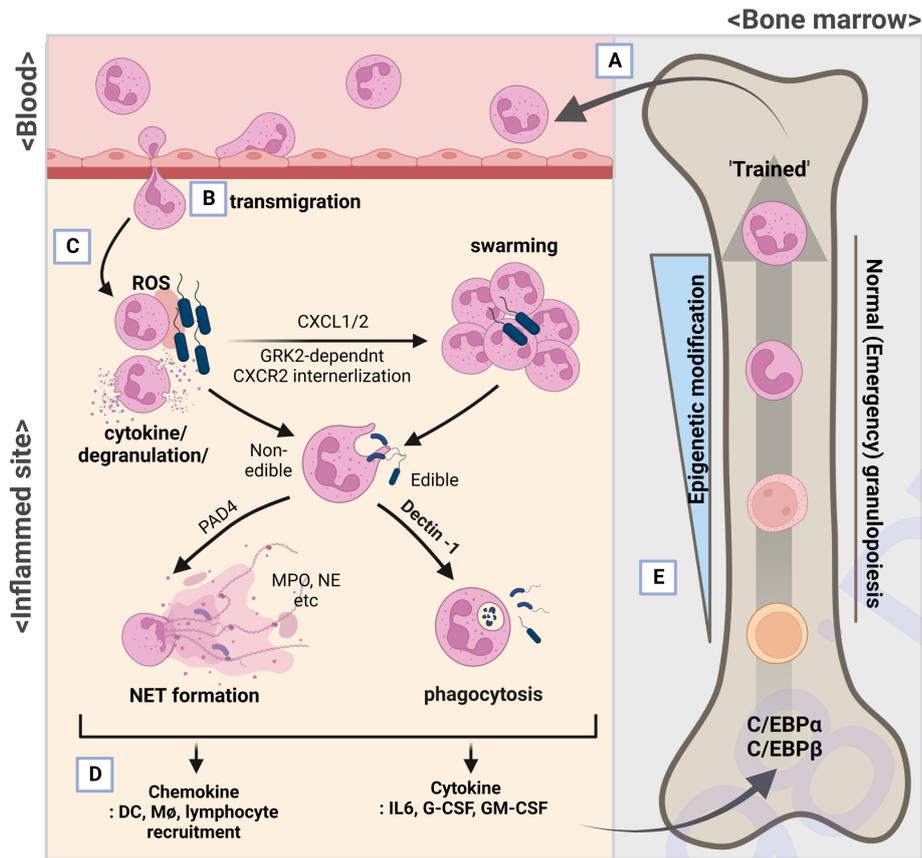


Fig. 1. Figure 1

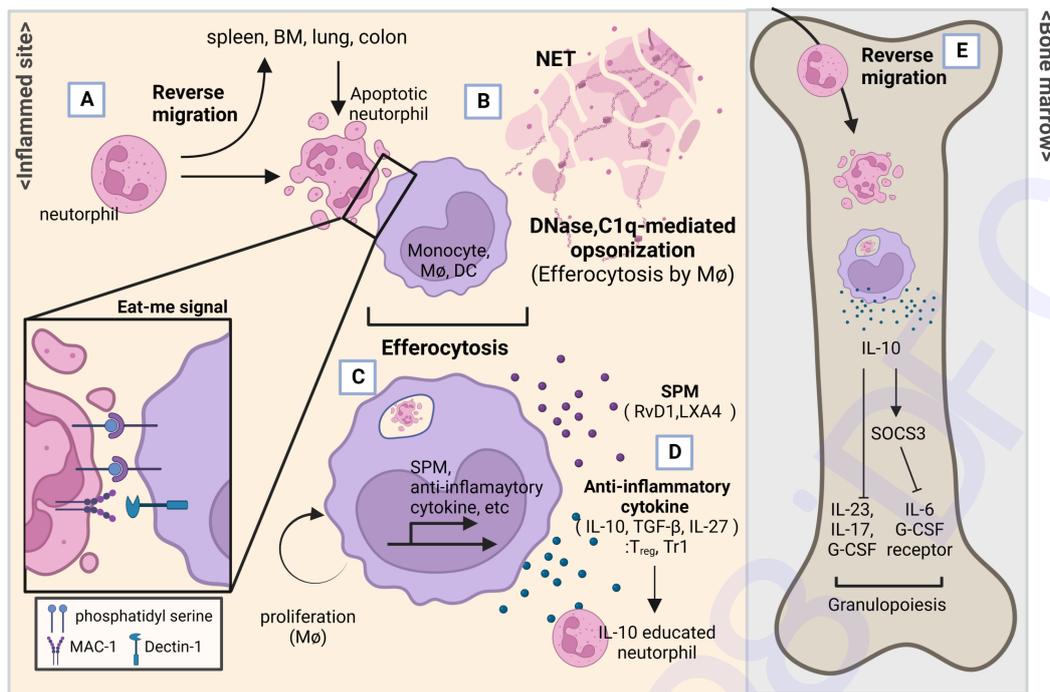


Fig. 2. Figure 2

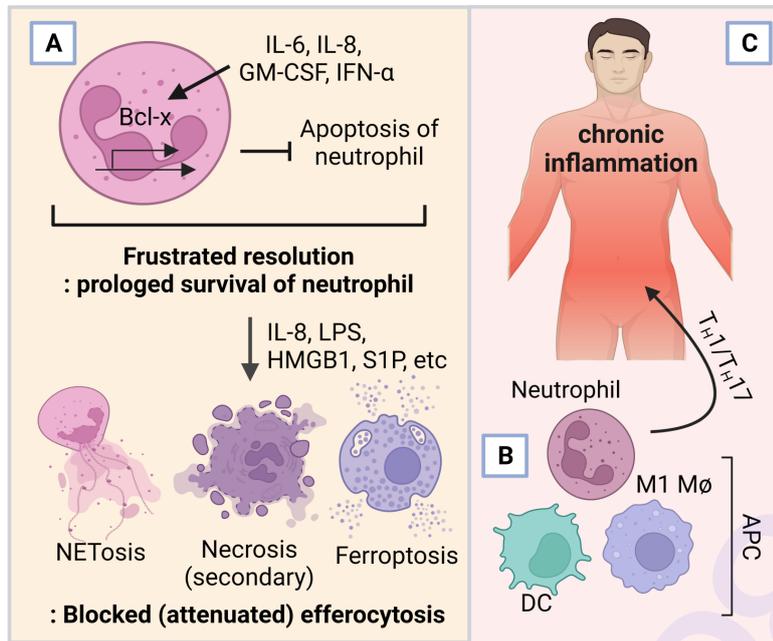


Fig. 3. Figure 3