Interferon- λ : Inters Ferocity or Inter-Ferocities?

One may wonder whether allergic asthma, hepatitis C and cancer have something in common. The answer is obviously yes, as all three conditions can be, in one way or another, modulated by interferon λ (IFN- λ). In this issue of the *Journal of Innate Immunity*, there are four review articles that address the manifold functions of this fascinating cytokine that has lately attracted much attention (for a review see Zheng et al. [1]). Like many other inflammatory mediators, the role of interferons in health and disease is tightly regulated [2], so it is not surprising that inflammatory reactions influence disease progression in the complications mentioned above, namely, allergic reactions [3, 4], virus infections [5, 6] and cancer

[7]. Though the role of IFN- λ in the context of these conditions has been discussed previously [8–10], much more research is required to completely understand its physiological and pathological impact. Here, the articles by Koch and Finotto [11], Griffiths et al. [12], Stiff and Carson [13] and Mihm [14] aim to shed light on the different functions of IFN- λ . Together, these review articles provide a concise, in-depth and state-of-the-art overview that should be of great interest to the readership of the *Journal of Innate Immunity*.

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