

# Mesenchymal Stem Cells Therapy in Lupus Nephritis

Lingyun Sun, PhD, MD

Department of Rheumatology and Immunology

Drum Tower Hospital, Nanjing University



# Outline

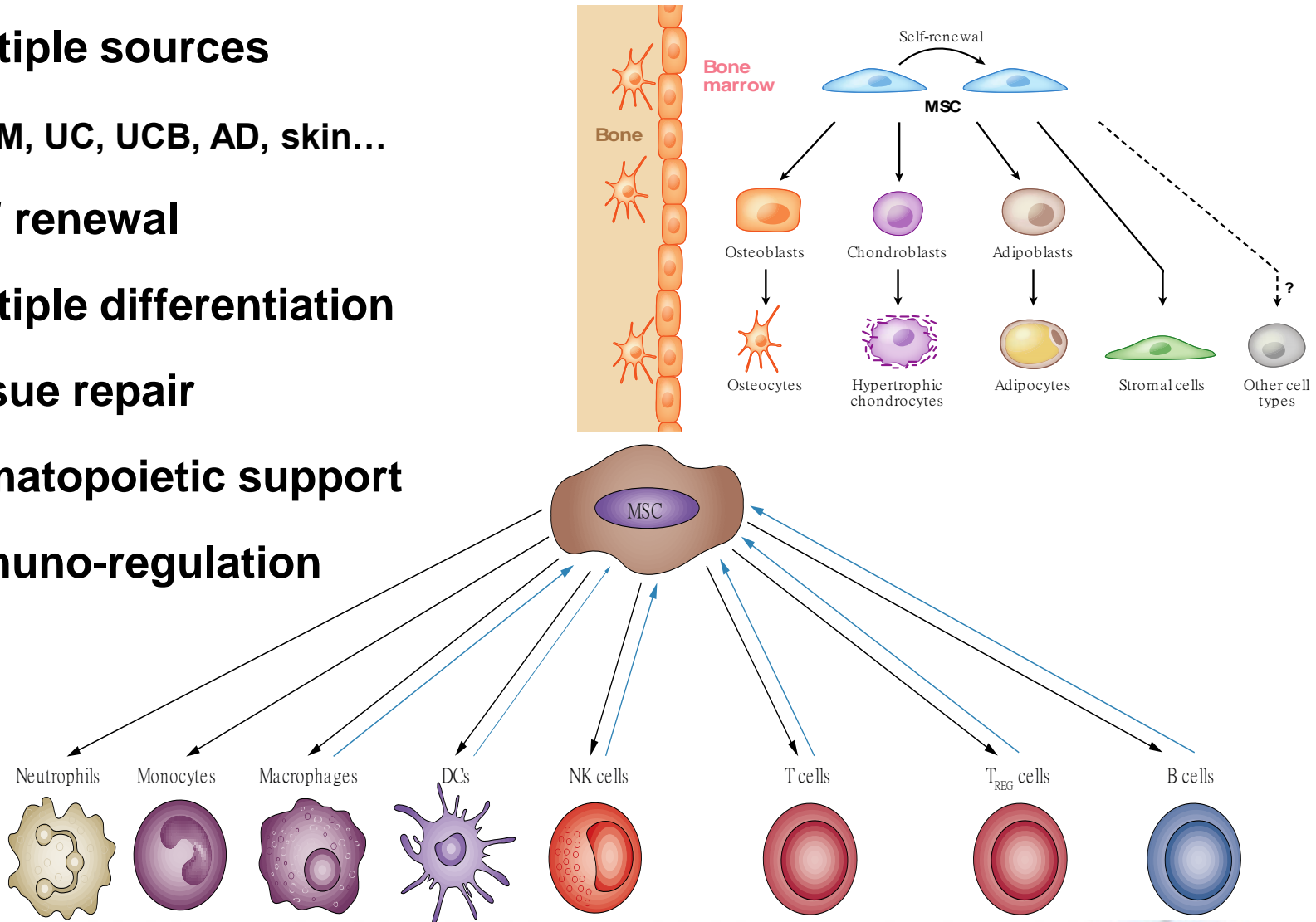
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- MSC function
- MSC in lupus
- MSC therapy in lupus nephritis(LN) model
- MSC therapy in human LN
- Mechanism of MSC treatment in lupus



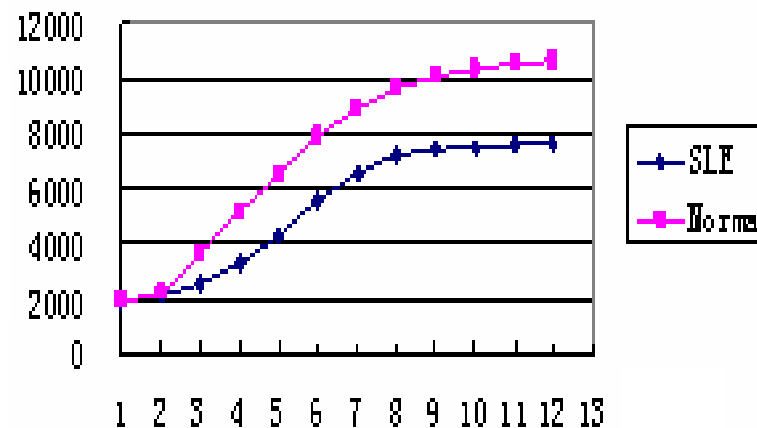
# Mesenchymal stem cell function

- **Multiple sources**  
---- BM, UC, UCB, AD, skin...
- **Self renewal**
- **Multiple differentiation**
- **Tissue repair**
- **Hematopoietic support**
- **Immuno-regulation**

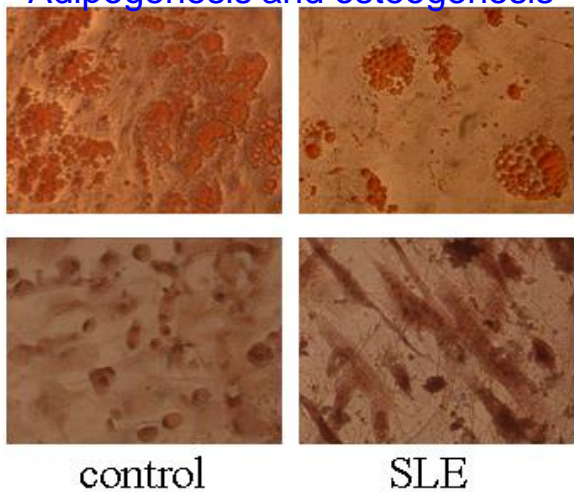


# Disfunction of lupus bone marrow MSC

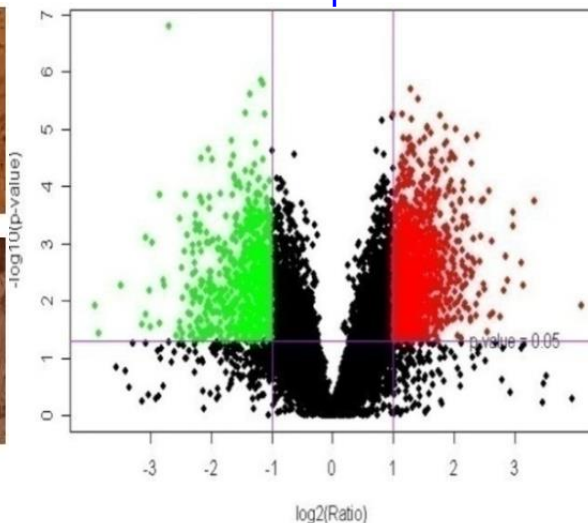
- **Grow more slowly**
- **Cytokines secretion** ↓
- **Differential potential** ↓
- **Cytoskeleton**
- **Gene expression profiles**



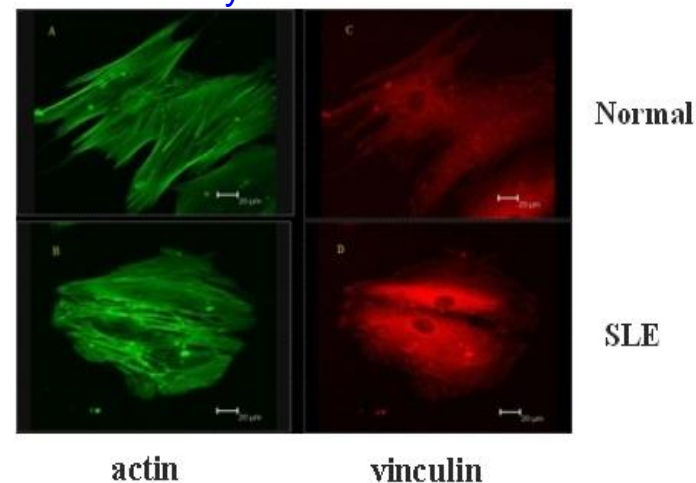
Adipogenesis and osteogenesis



Gene expression

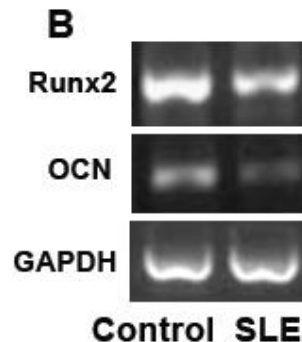
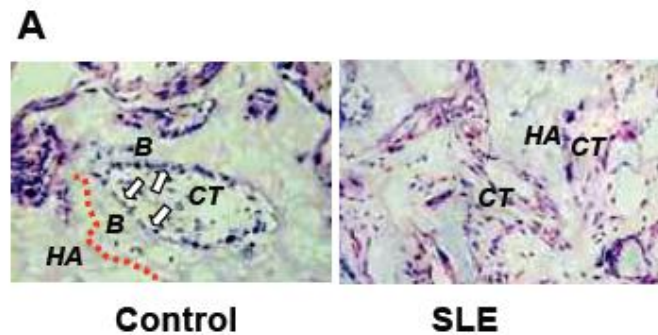


Cytoskeleton

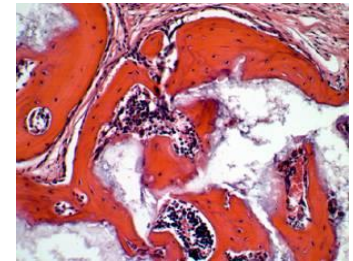


# Osteogenic impairment of BMMSC in SLE

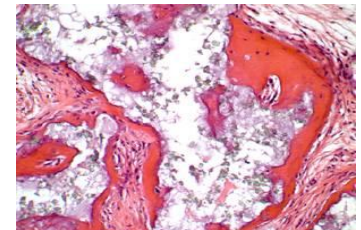
MSC+hydroxyapatite tricalcium phosphate(HA) as carrier and transplanted them into immunocompromised mice



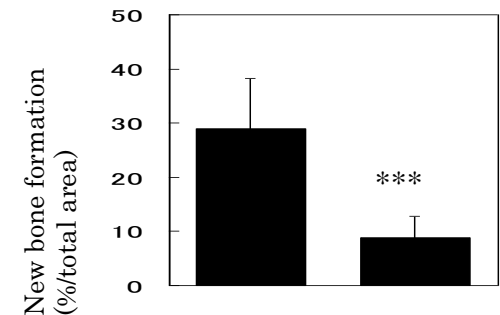
control



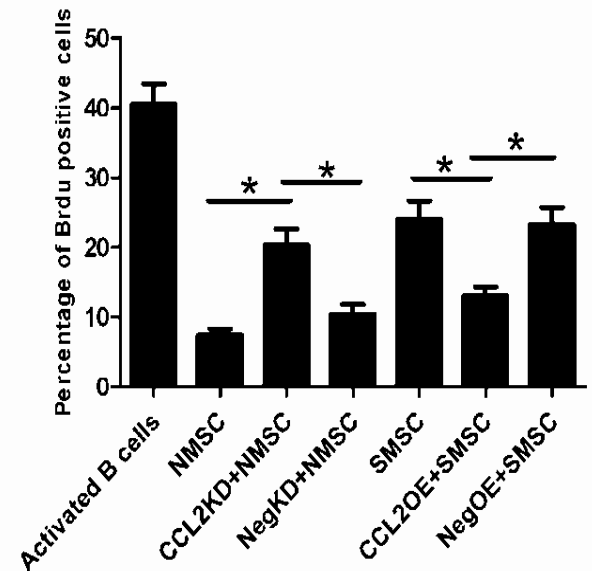
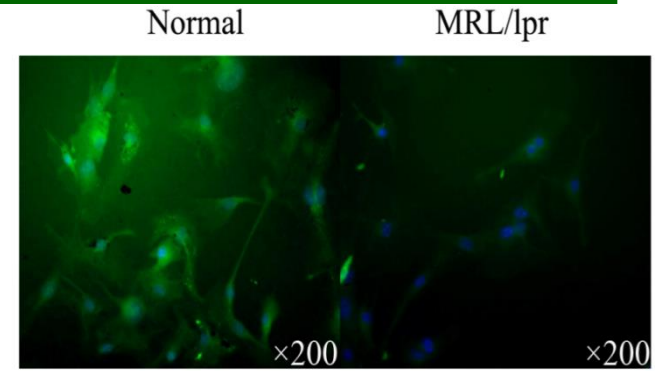
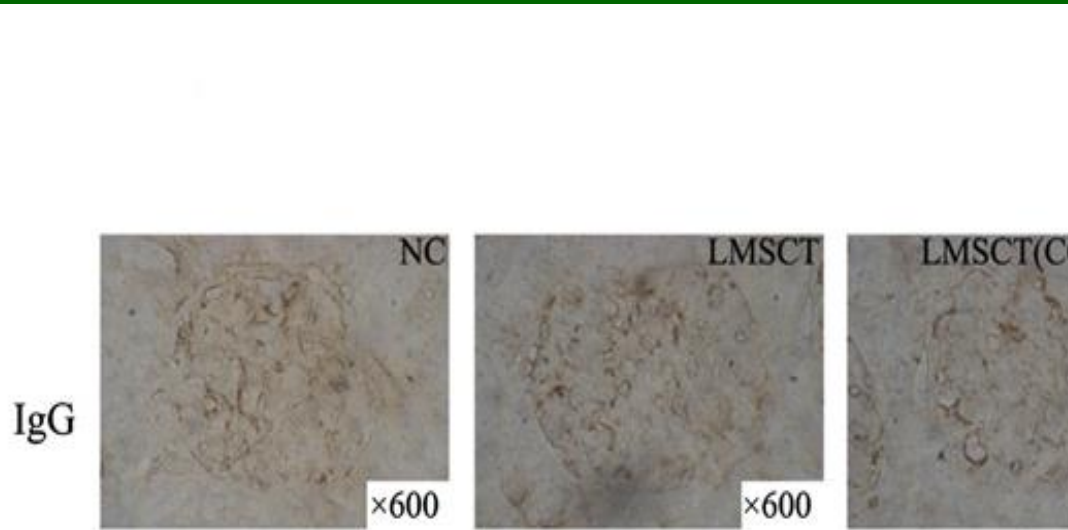
SLE



BMMSCs from SLE with decreased bone forming capacity, and expression of osteogenic gene Runx2 and osteocalcin

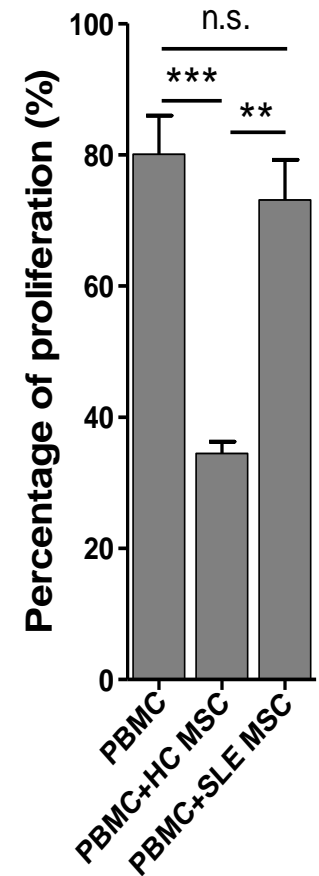
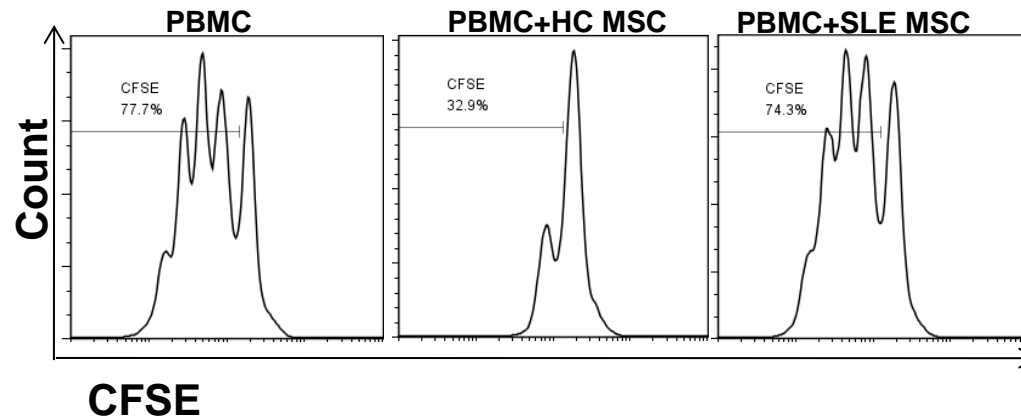
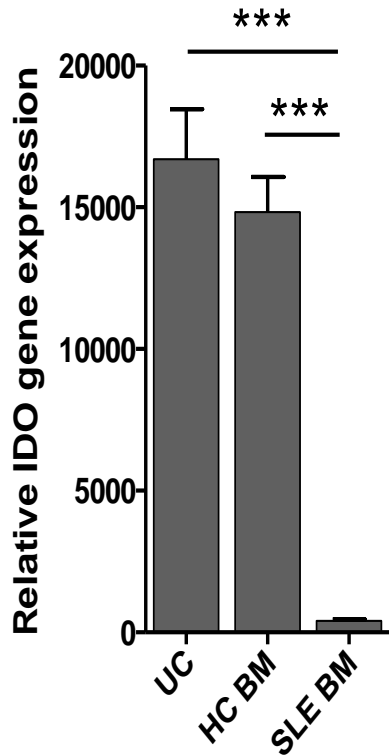


# CCL2 mediated MSC inhibition on B cells



- ◆ SLE BMMSC produced less CCL2
- ◆ CCL2 mediated MSC inhibition on B cells
- ◆ CCL2 modified MSCs had therapeutic effect on lupus

# Lupus BM MSC fail to efficiently inhibit T cells proliferation



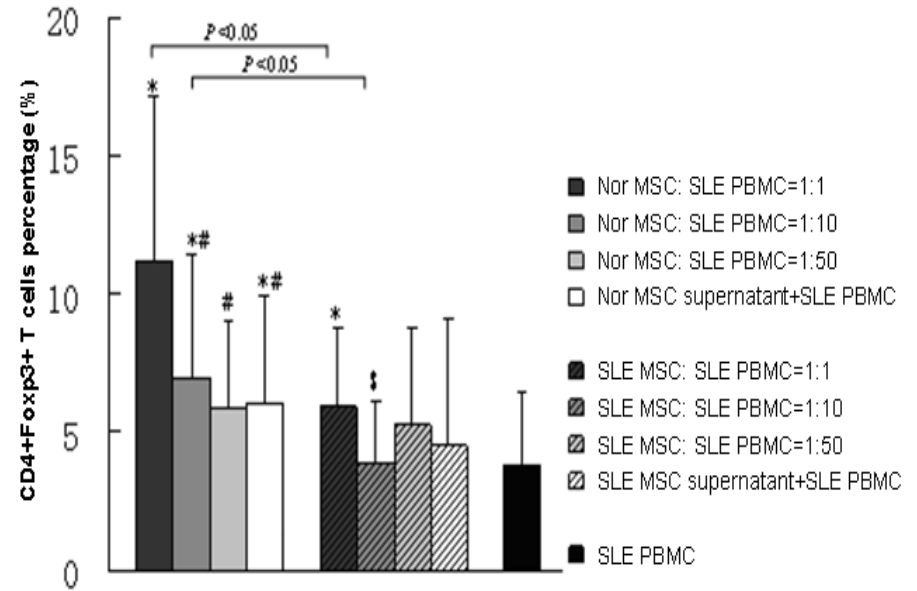
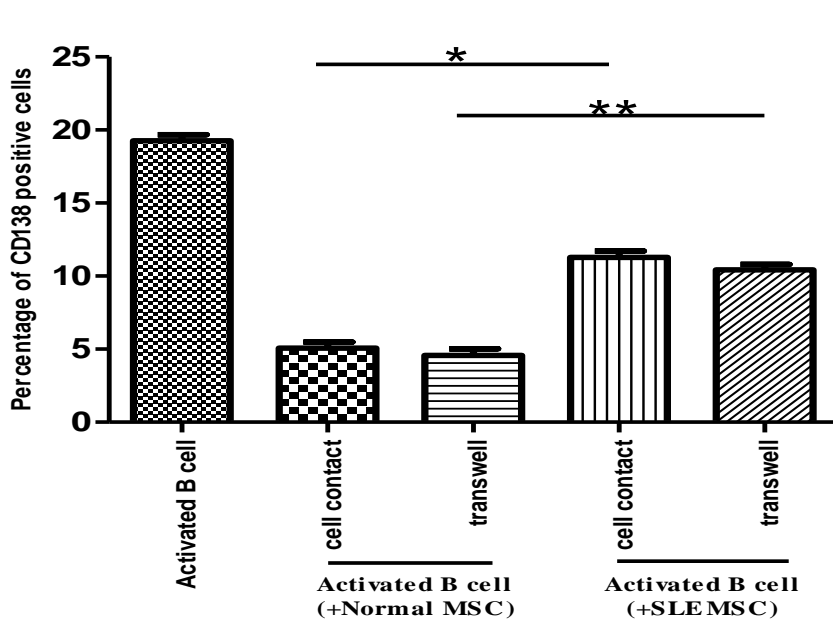
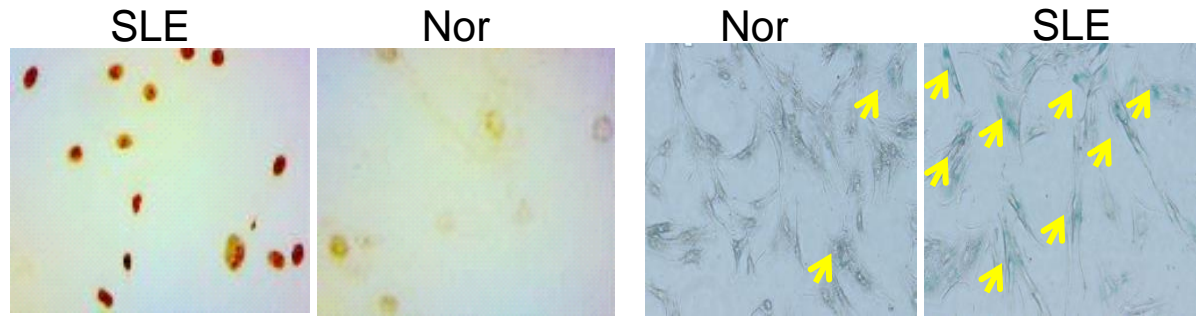
n=4, \*\*\*: p<0.001





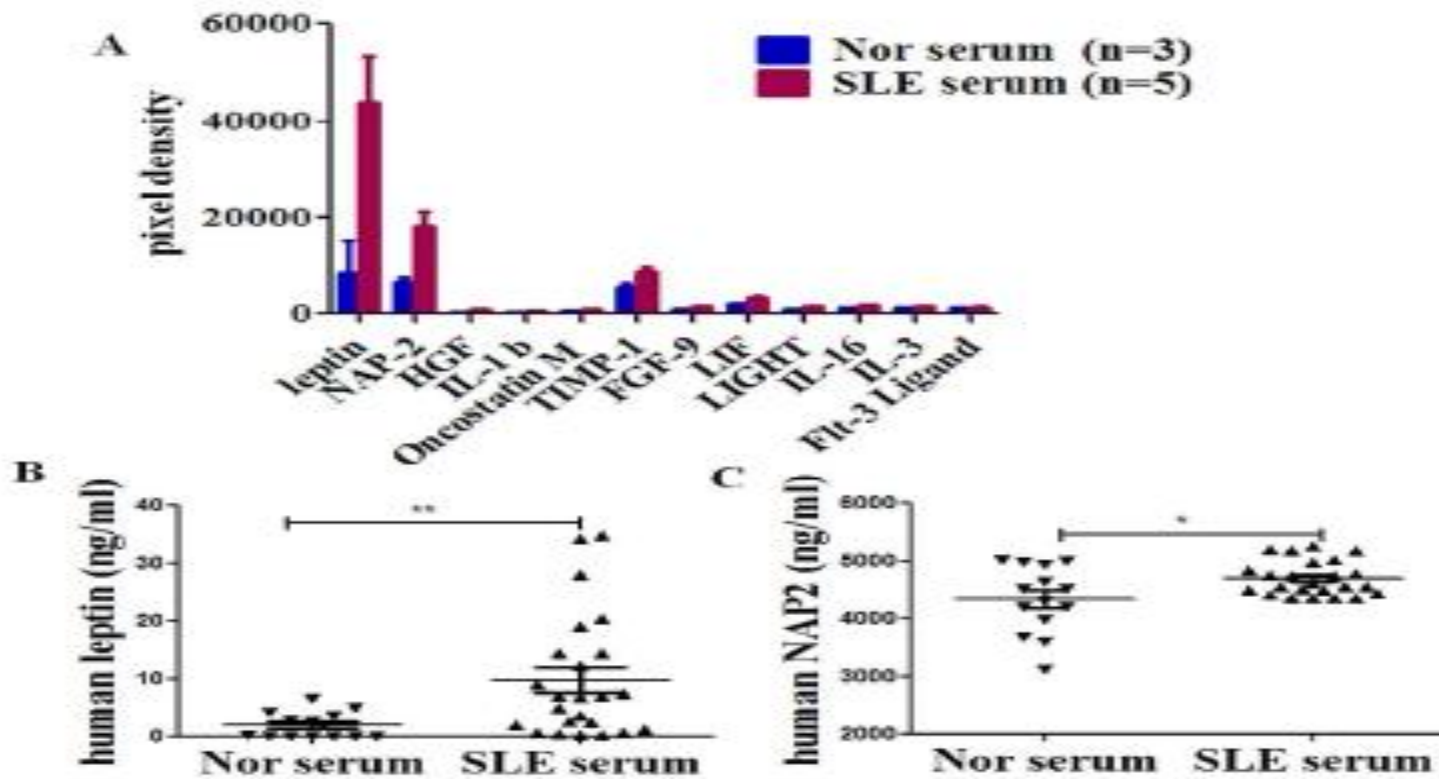
# Disfunction of lupus BMMSC

- Apoptosis
- Senescence
- Fail to inhibit B cell
- Fail to modulate T cell

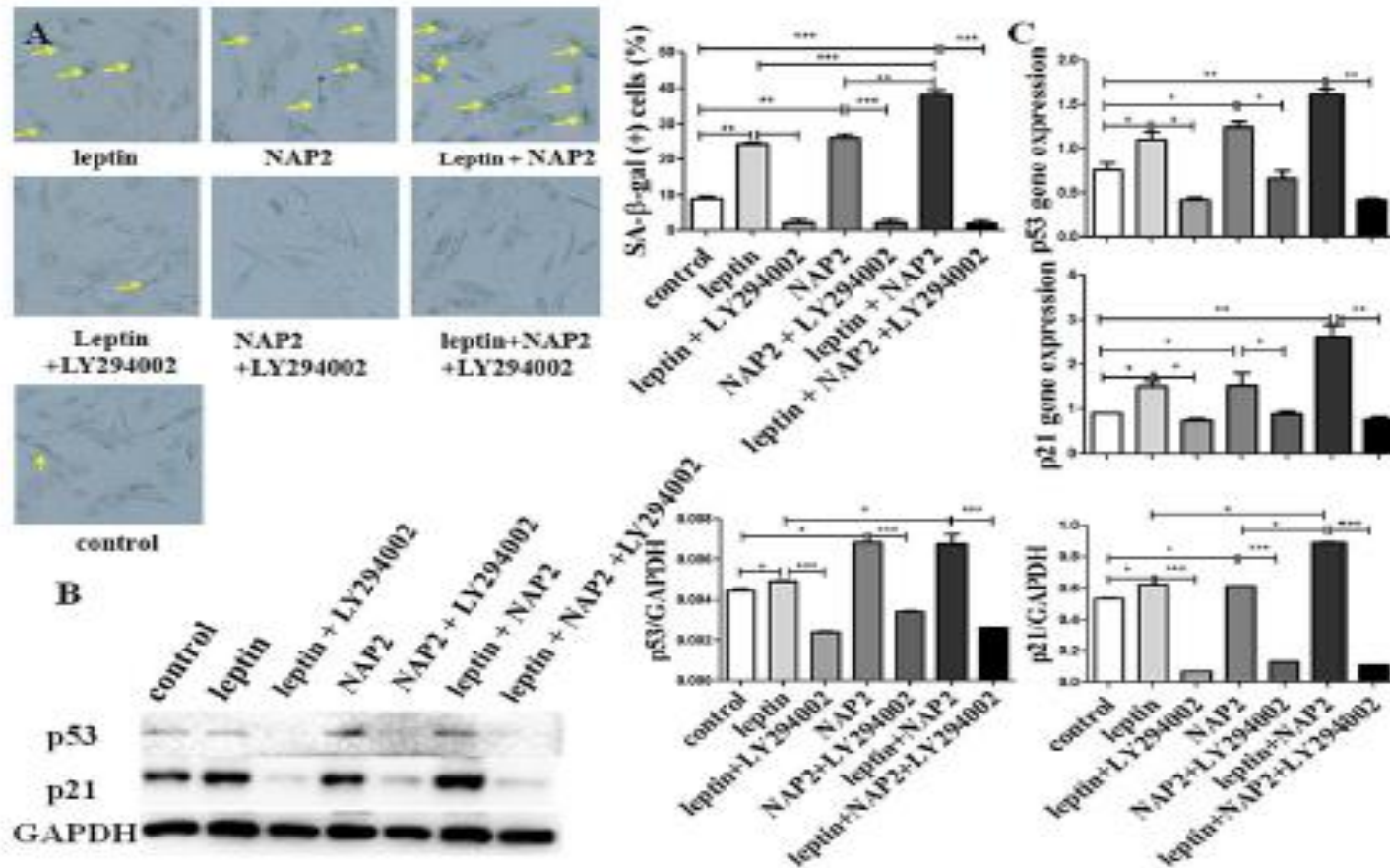




# Increase of serum Leptin and NAP in SLE

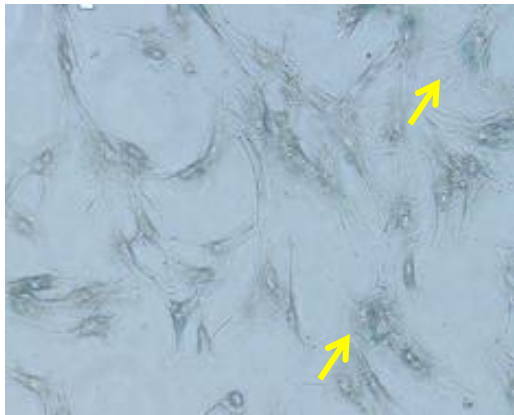


# Leptin and NAP acted via PI3k/Akt on senescence of MSC

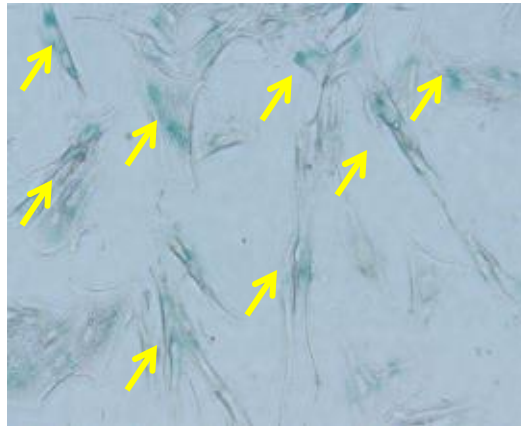


# Allo-MSC inhibit senescence of SLE MSCs

**A**

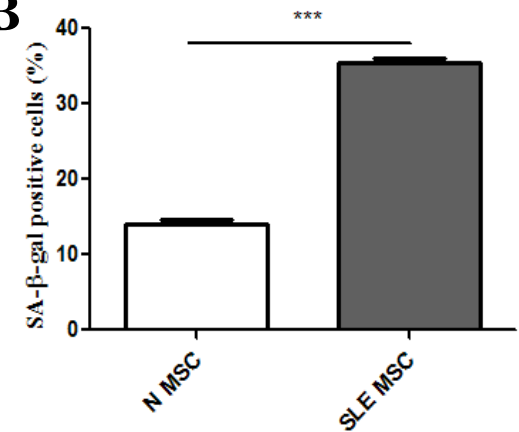


N MSC



SLE MSC

**B**



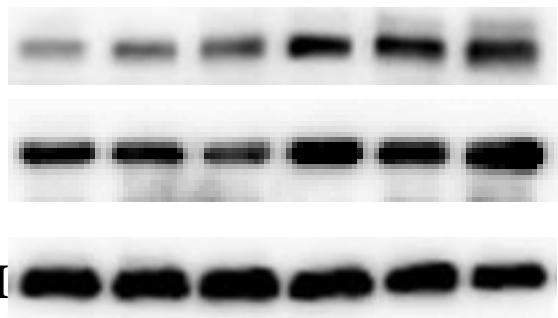
**C**

N    MSC    SLE    MSC

p53

p21

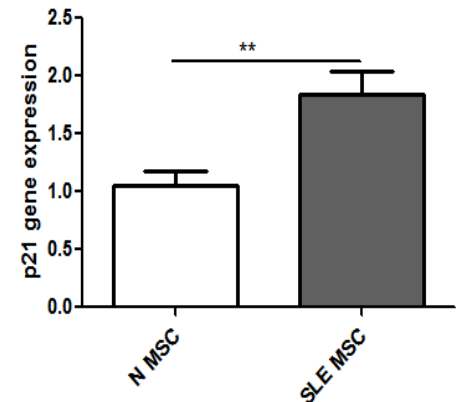
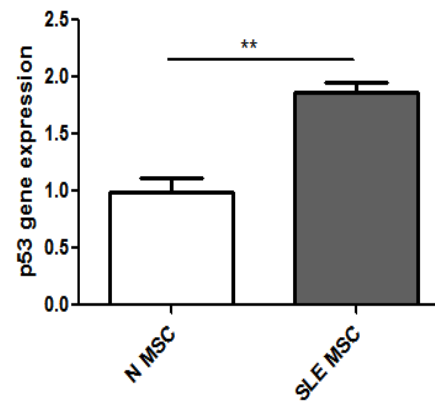
GAPDH



\*\* p<0.01, \*\*\* p<0.001

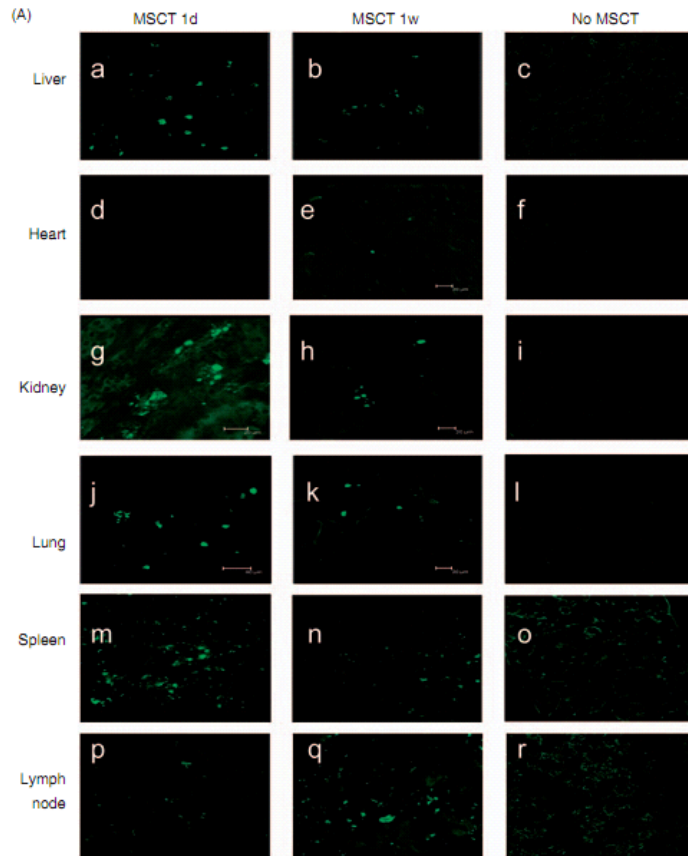
**D**

N MSC =9; SLE MSC =10

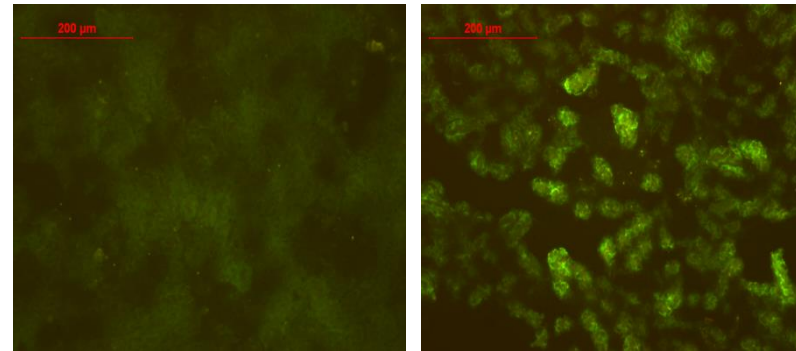


# MSC homing in lupus kidney

## CFSE labeled MSC IV



## Kidney



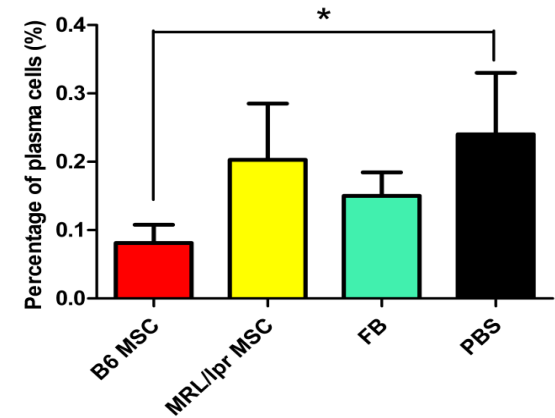
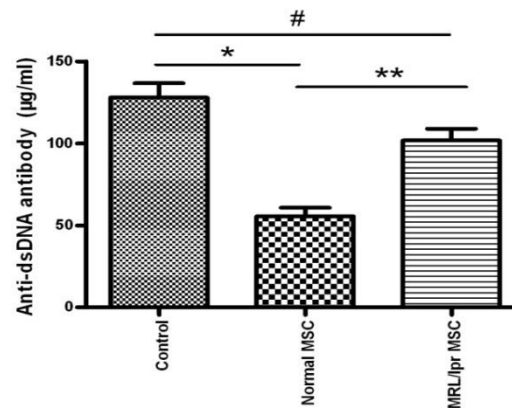
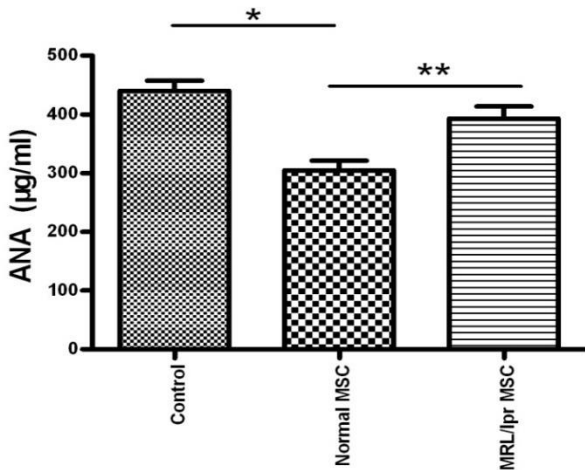
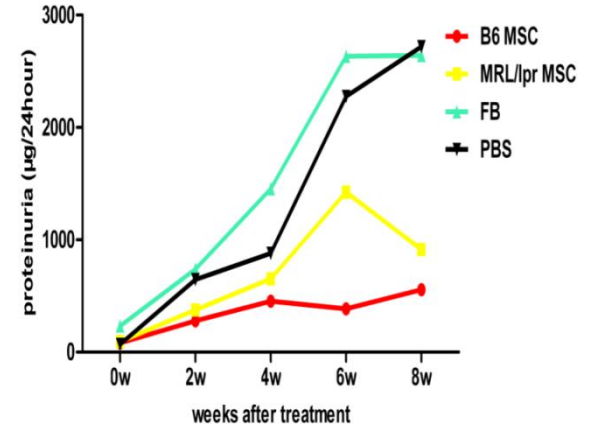
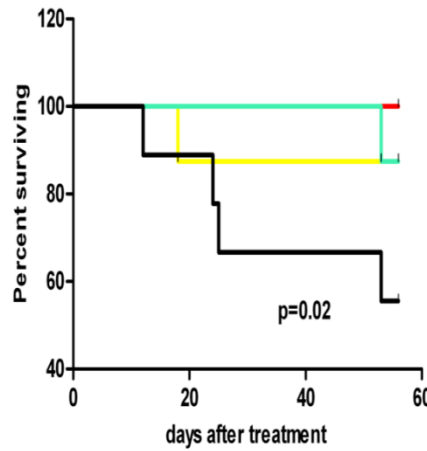
**BALB/c**

**MRL/lpr**

**MSC IV**

# Autologous MSCCT failed to cure lupus mice

- Survival rate
- Proteinuria
- Autoantibodies
- Treg cells



Gu F, Gilkeson G, et al. Clin Immunol, 2012





# Autologous MSCCT failed to cure lupus mice

## ➤ Immune complex deposition in glomerulus

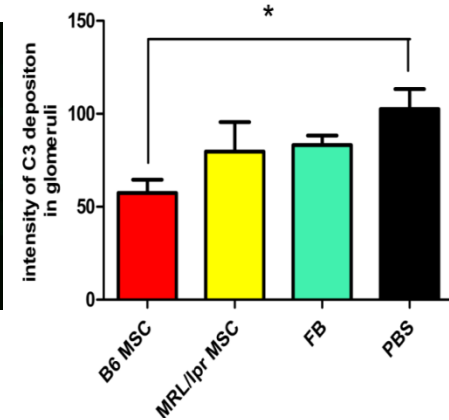
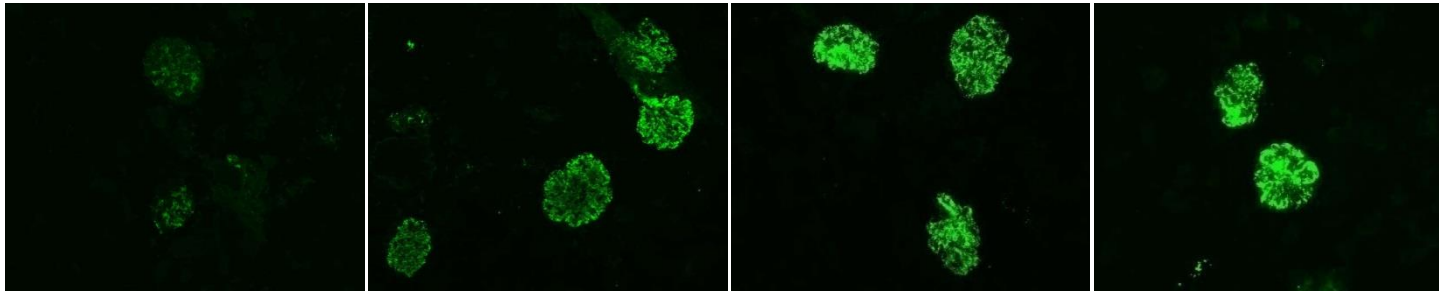
C3

B6 MSC

MR/*lpr* MSC

FB

PBS



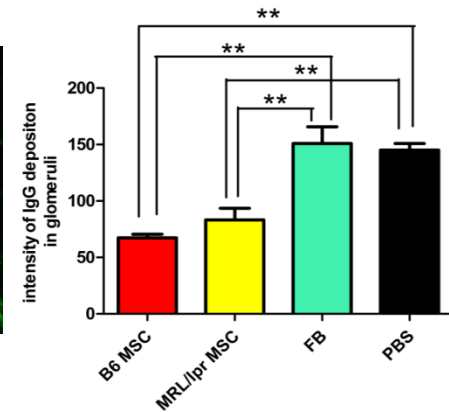
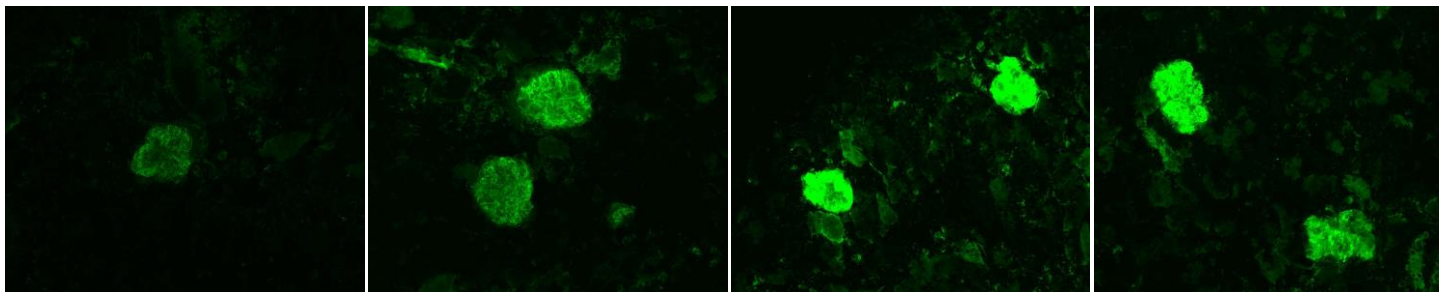
IgG

B6 MSC

MR/*lpr* MSC

FB

PBS



Gu F, et al. Clin Immunol, 2012

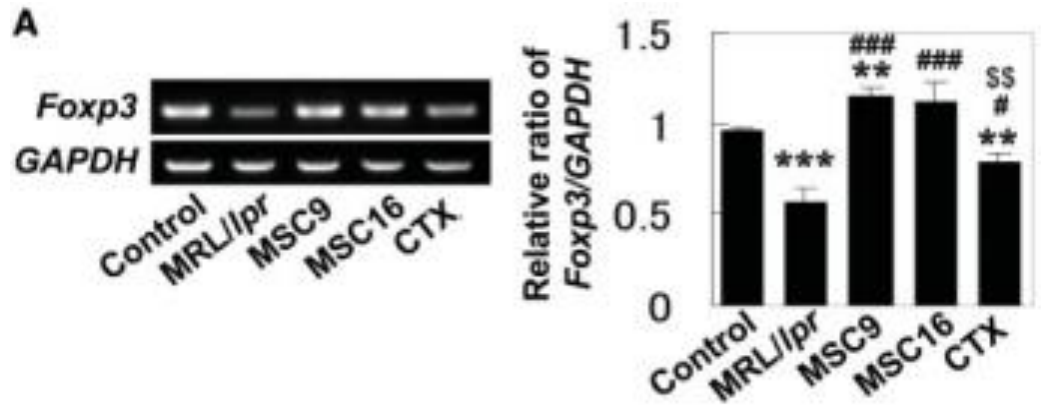
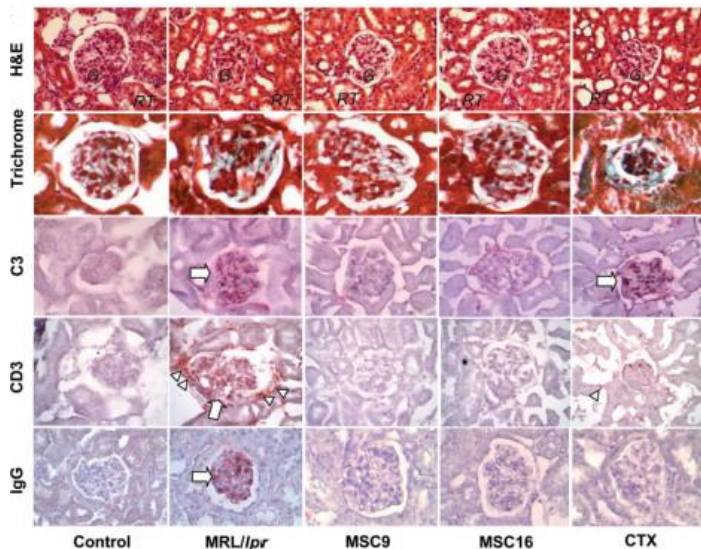
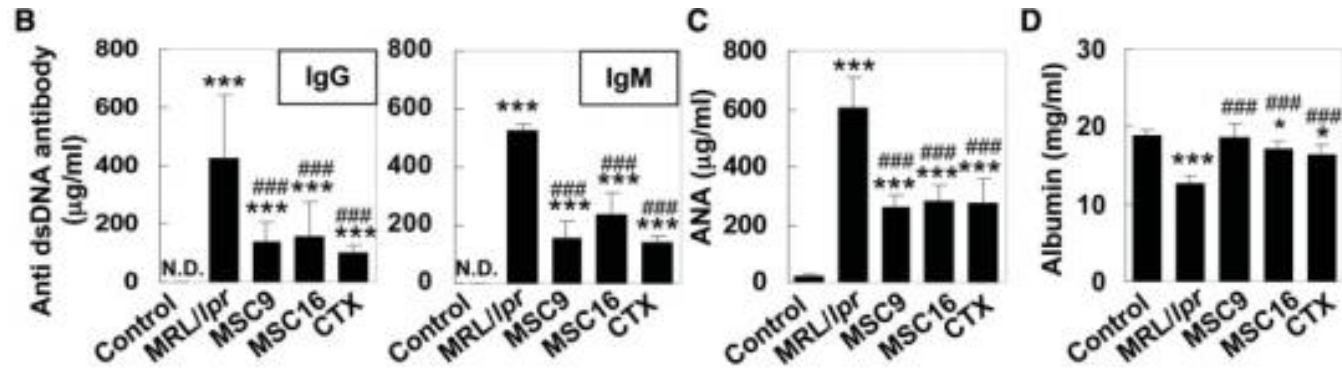
\*  $p < 0.05$

\*\*  $p < 0.01$



# Allogeneic MSCT is effective in lupus models

- Proteinuria ↓
- Autoimmune Ab ↓
- Serum albumin ↑
- Improved renal pathology
- Bone formation ↑

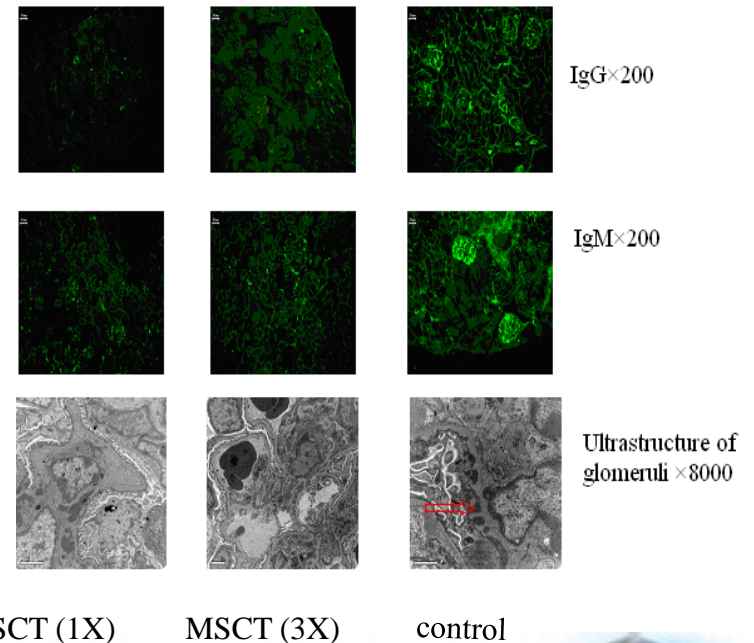
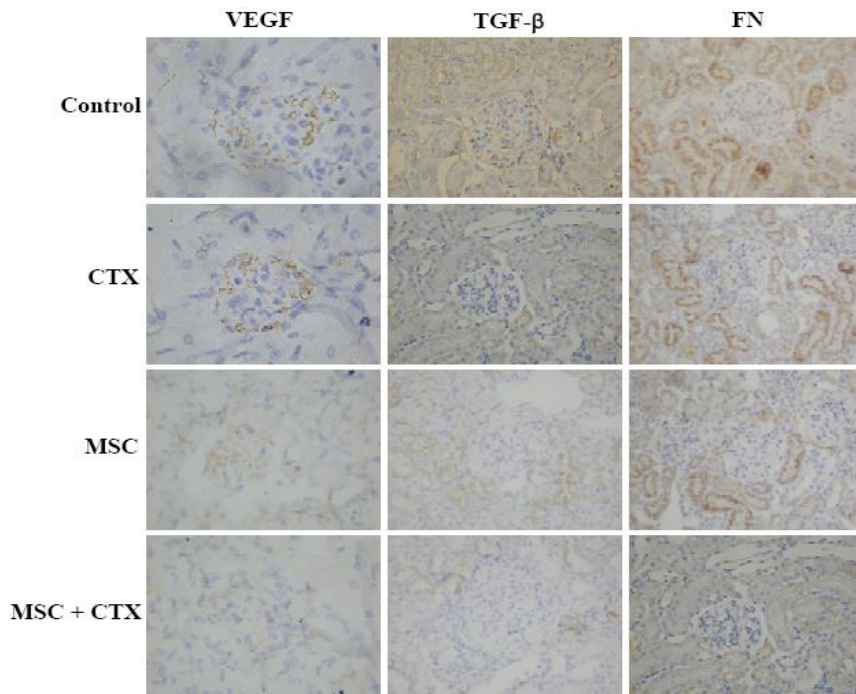
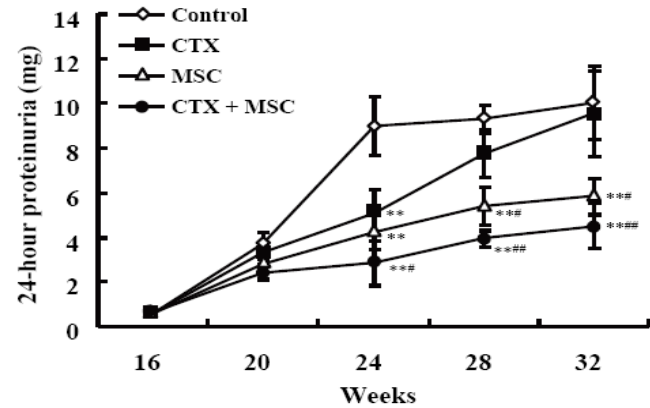


Sun LY, et al. Stem Cells, 2009, 27:1421-1432



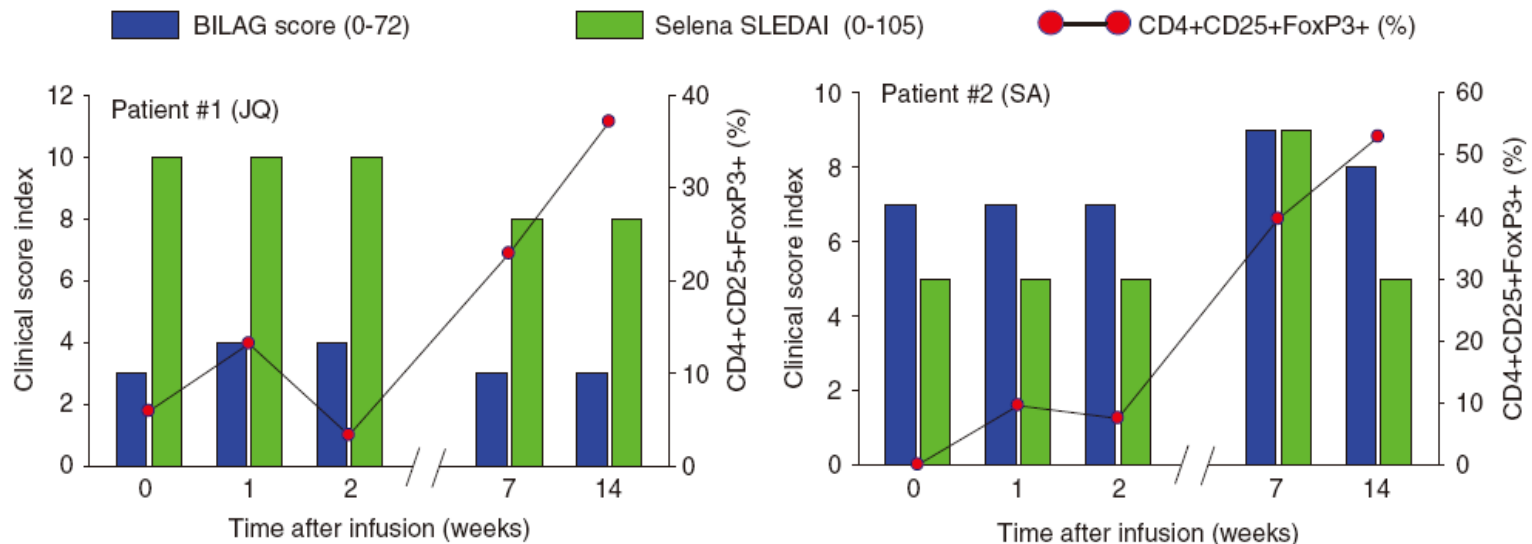
# Xenogeneic human bone marrow MSCT is effective in LN models

- Survival rate ↑
- Proteinuria ↓
- Renal IC deposition ↓
- Renal VEGF, TGF- $\beta$  ↓



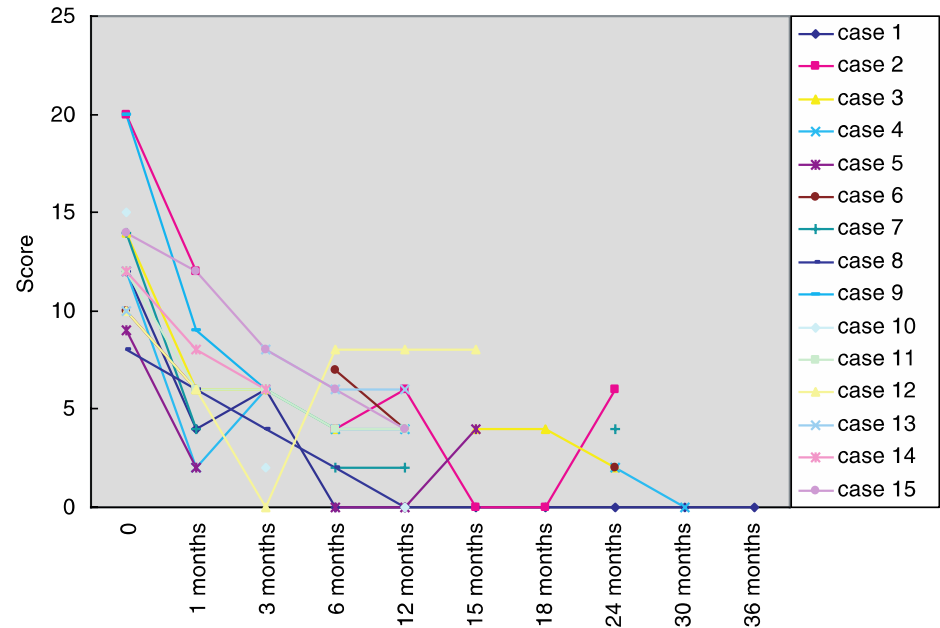
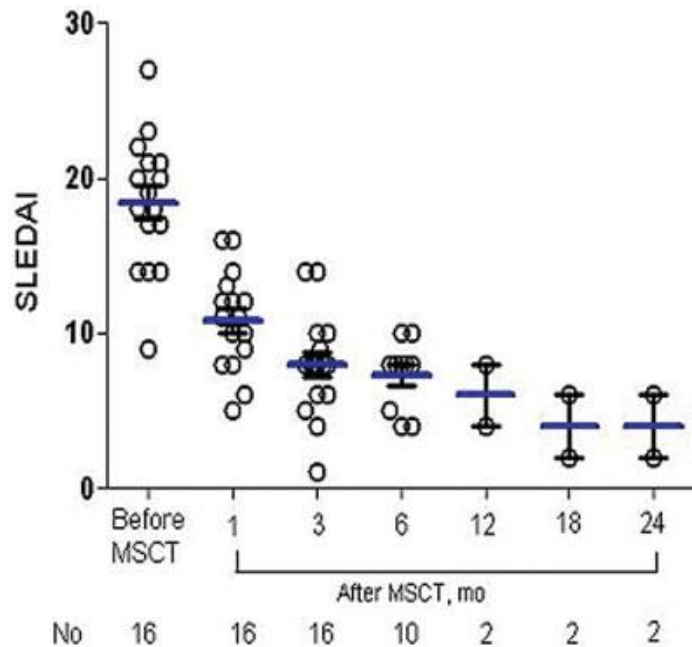
# Autologous MSCT failed to treat lupus patients

- BILAG and SLEDAI score had no change during 14 weeks visits
- Peripheral CD4+CD25+Foxp3+T cells ↑
- No adverse event



# Allogeneic MSCCT for refractory SLE patients

- Bone marrow OR umbilical cord derived MSCs
- Clinical efficacy and safety profile



Sun L, et al. Arthritis Rheum 2010;62:2467-2475.

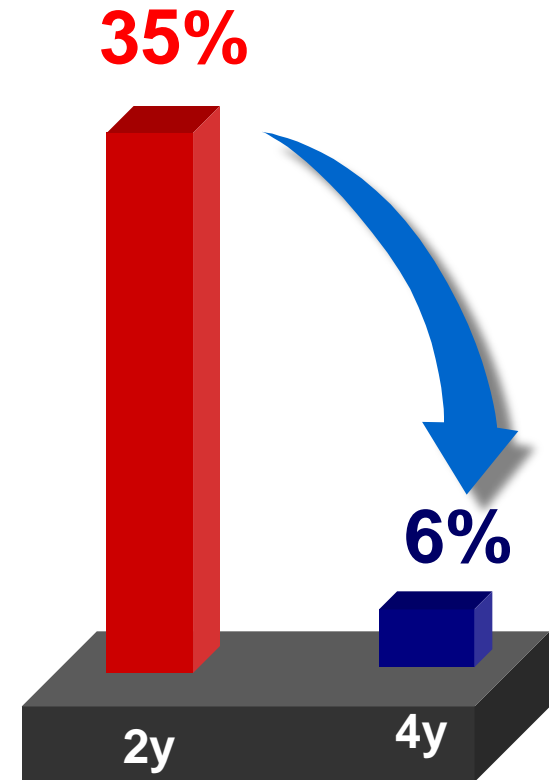
Liang J, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2010;6:1423-1429.



# Allogenic MSCT in SLE

**87 pts 4y followup**

- **Survival 94%,**
- **Mortality 6%**
- **CR+PR 60%**
- **No side effect**



**Severe refractory SLE 2 y mortality 35%**

# 江苏省MSC治疗SLE多中心研究

Wang et al. *Arthritis Research & Therapy* 2014, **16**:R79  
<http://arthritis-research.com/content/16/2/R79>



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

## Umbilical cord mesenchymal stem cell transplantation in active and refractory systemic lupus erythematosus: a multicenter clinical study

Dandan Wang<sup>1</sup>, Jing Li<sup>2</sup>, Yu Zhang<sup>3</sup>, Miaoja Zhang<sup>4</sup>, Jinyun Chen<sup>1</sup>, Xia Li<sup>1</sup>, Xiang Hu<sup>5</sup>, Shu Jiang<sup>5</sup>, Songtao Shi<sup>6</sup> and Lingyun Sun<sup>1\*</sup>

### 江苏省重大成果转化项目(BA2009124)

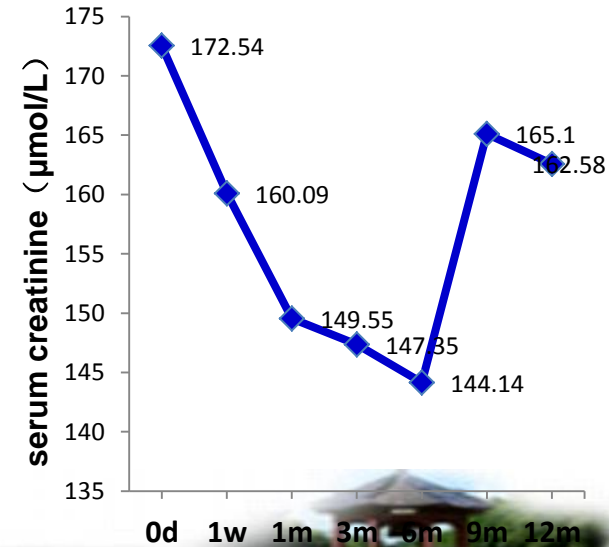
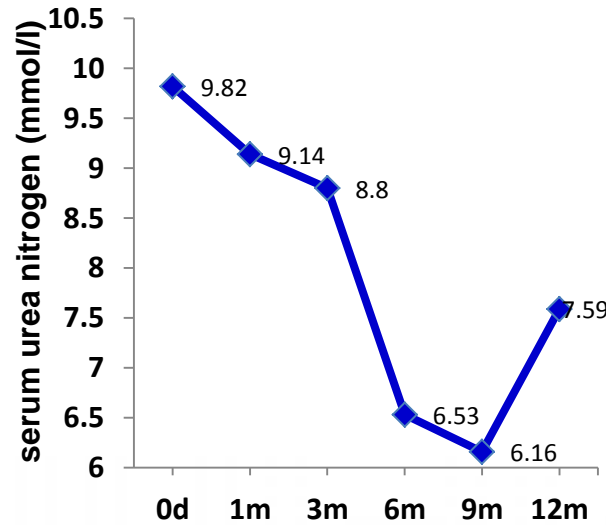
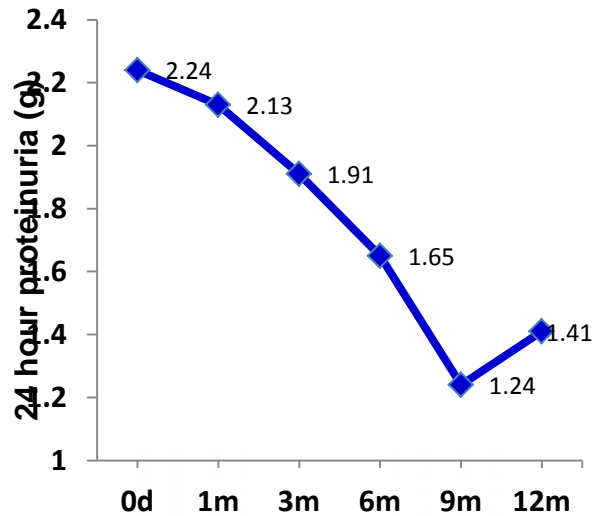
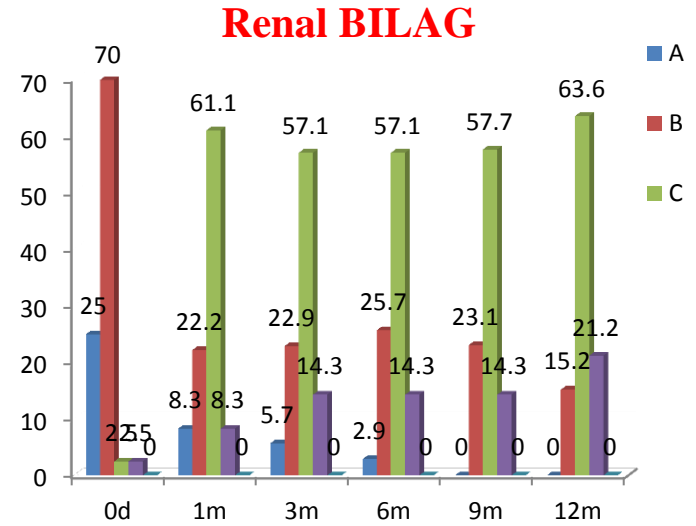
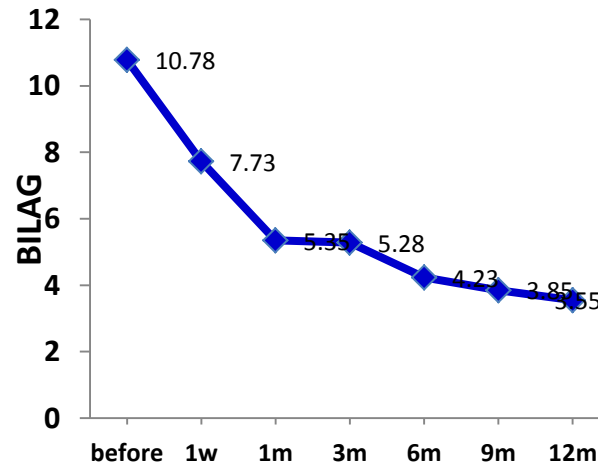
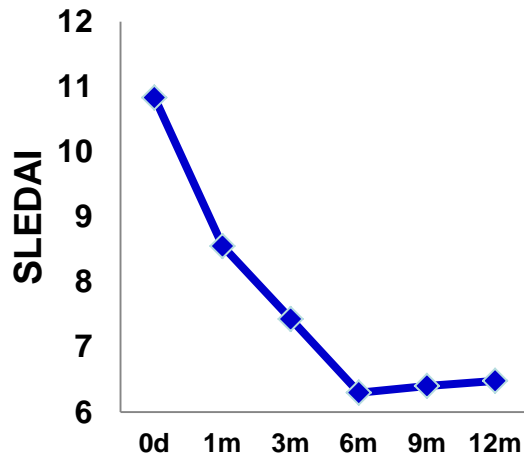
脐带间充质干细胞技术体系转化在自身免疫病治疗中的应用

南京鼓楼医院，江苏省人民医院，苏北人民医院，江苏大学附属医院



# Allo- MSCT induced disease remission in lupus

## Multi-center clinical study



# Allogeneic mesenchymal stem cell transplantation for lupus nephritis patients refractory to conventional therapy

ACR 2014, OP      Clin Rheumatol,2014



# Patients baseline characteristics

Demographics	
Age (y)	31.6 (12-55)
Women: men (n)	74/7
Duration (month)	83.1 (6-264)
Renal BILAG [n (mean)]	81 (4.48 ± 2.60)
Proteinuria [n, (g/24 hours)]	81 (2.74 ± 1.20)
Serum creatinine [n (μmol/L)]	33 (196.27 ± 99.01)
Serum albumin [n (g/dL)]	61 (2.58 ± 0.47)
GFR [n (mL/min)]	27 (58.55 ± 19.16)
Renal biopsy [n (%)]	13 (16.05)
SLEDAI score [n (mean)]	81 (13.11 ± 4.20)
Cutaneous involvement [n (%)]	59 (72.84)
Musculoskeletal involvement [n (%)]	57 (70.37)
Hematologic involvement [n (%)]	36 (44.44)
Neuropsychiatric involvement [n (%)]	4 (4.94)
Baseline prednisolone [n (%)]	81 (100)
Hydroxychloroquine [n (%)]	43 (53.09)
Cyclophosphamide [n (%)]	66 (81.48)
Mycophenolate mofetil [n (%)]	19 (23.46)

# Clinical outcome

➤ Overall survival: 95% (77/81)

➤ Complete remission: 30.9% (25/81)

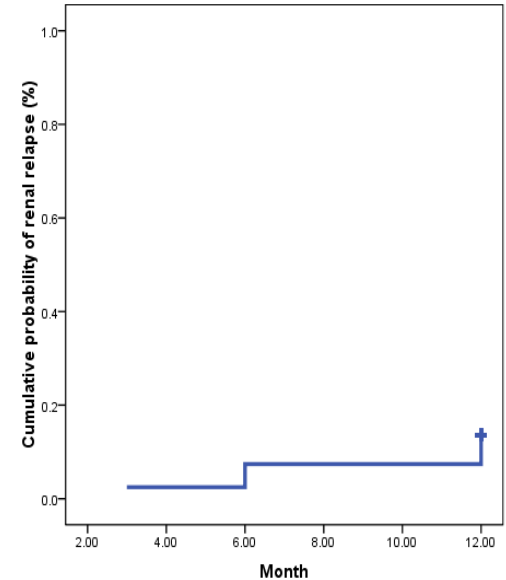
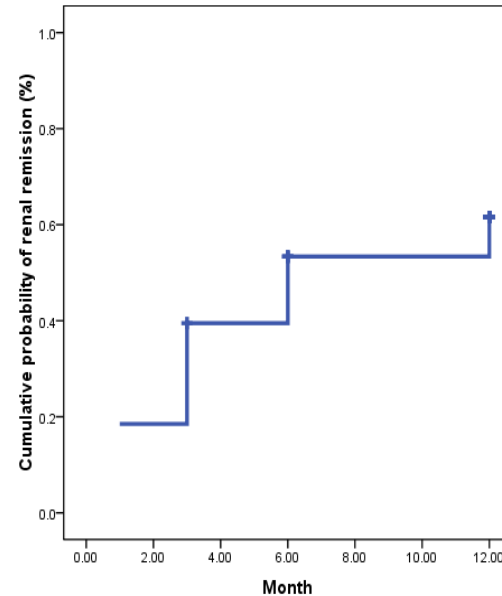
➤ Correlated with baseline proteinuria ( $P = 0.003$ , OR = 0.517, 95%CI 0.336-0.794) and baseline serum creatinine ( $P = 0.047$ , OR = 0.471, 95%CI 0.224-0.990).

➤ Partial remission: 22.5% (18/80) at 3 mo, 27.3% (21/77) at 6 mo, 20.8% (16/77) at 12 mo

➤ Correlated with baseline proteinuria ( $P = 0.039$ , OR = 0.762, 95%CI 0.588-0.986)

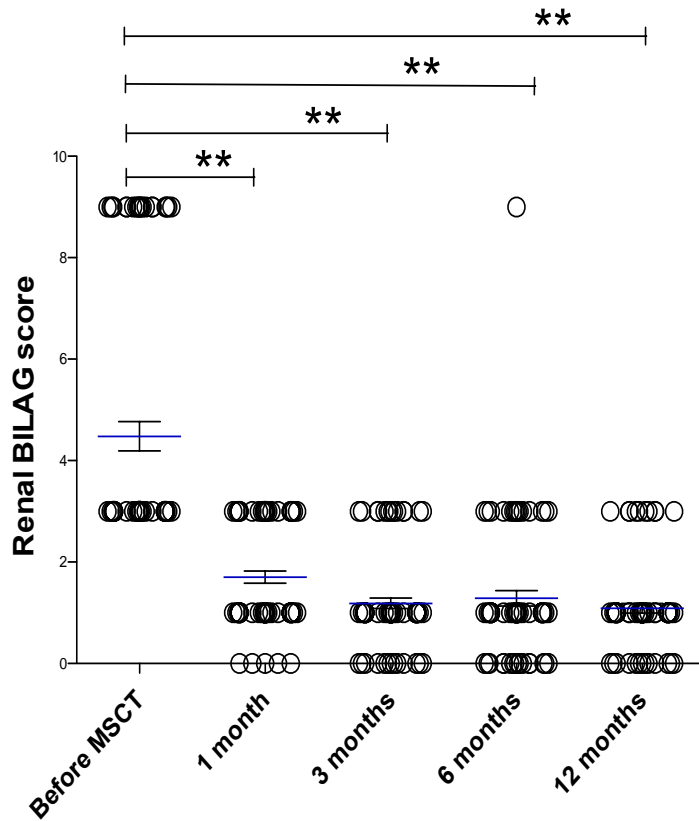
➤ Overall remission: 60.5% (49/81)

➤ Renal flare: 22.4% (11/49), correlated with creatinine ( $P = 0.003$ , OR = 1.773, 95%CI 1.213-2.591)

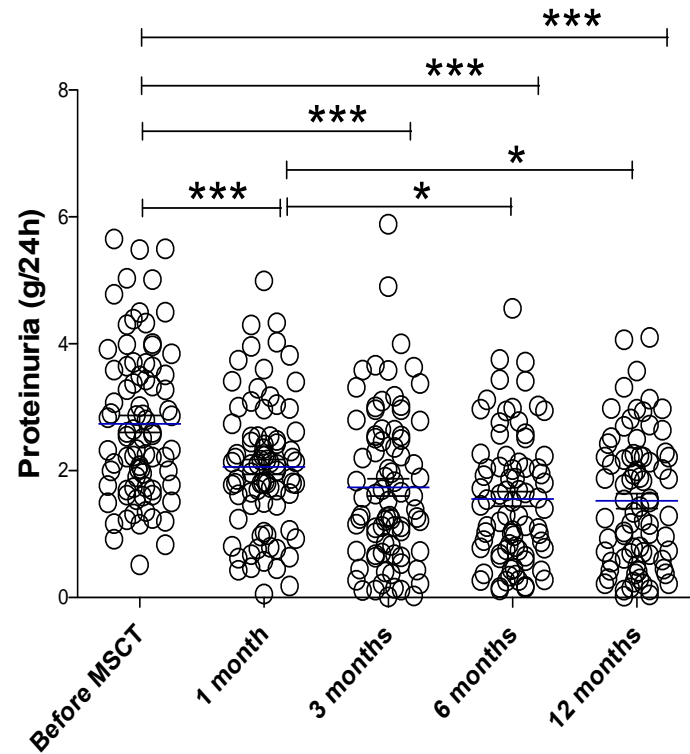


# MSCT induced renal remission

## Renal BILAG score



## 24-hour proteinuria

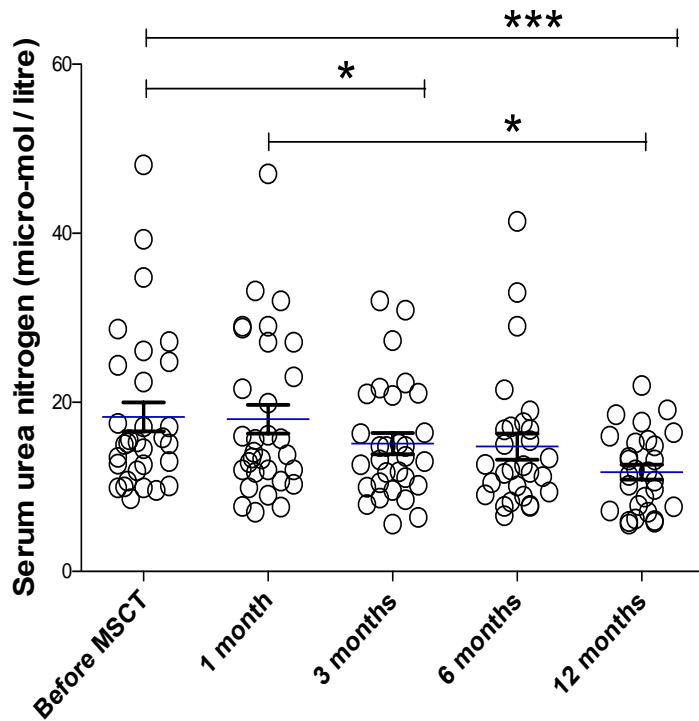


\*:  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*:  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*:  $p < 0.001$

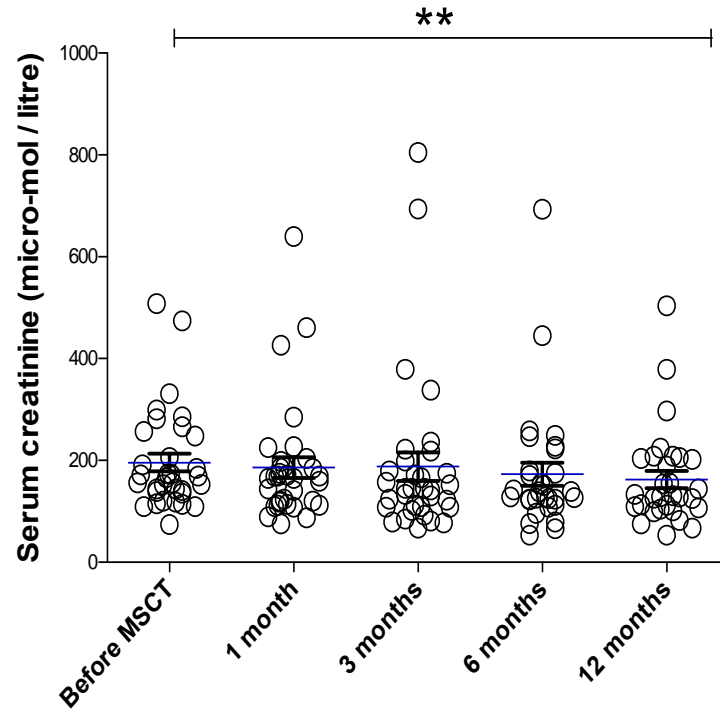


# MSCT induced renal remission

## Serum BUN



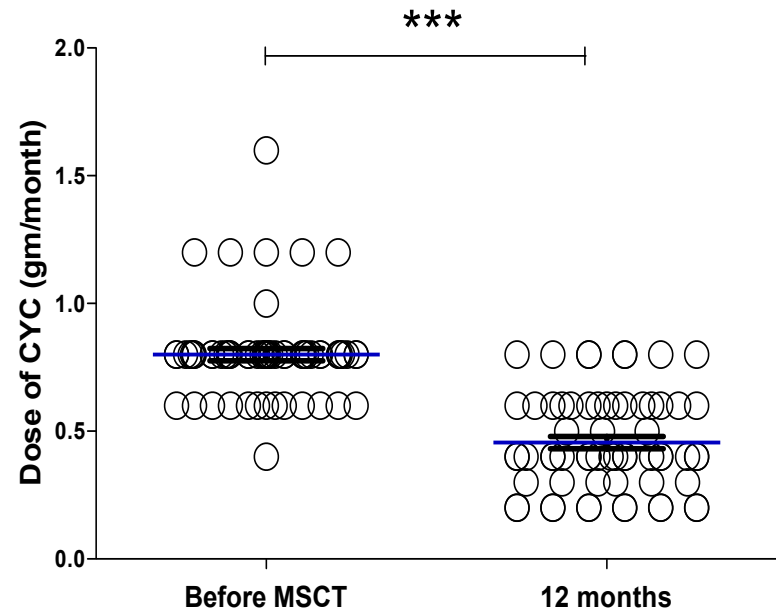
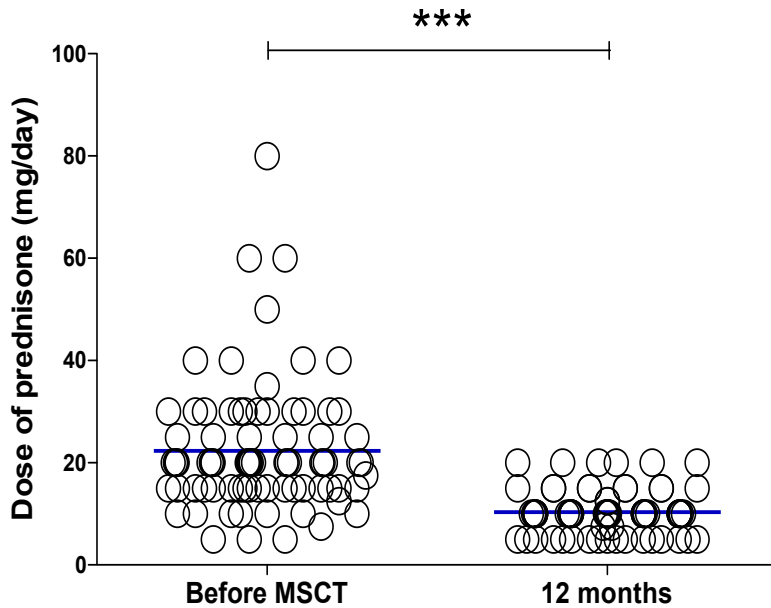
## Serum creatinine



\*:  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*:  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*:  $p < 0.001$



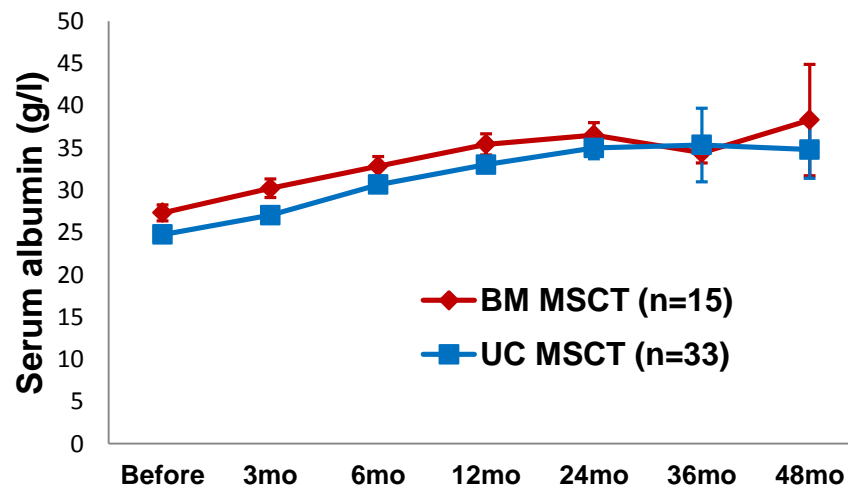
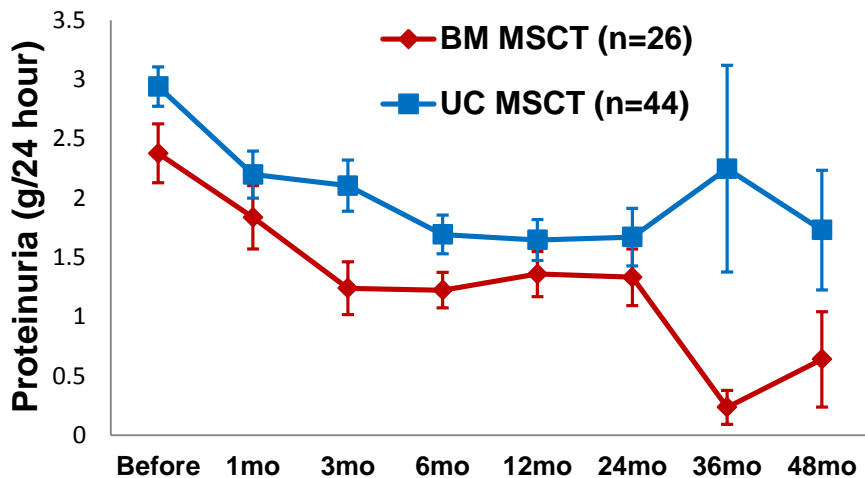
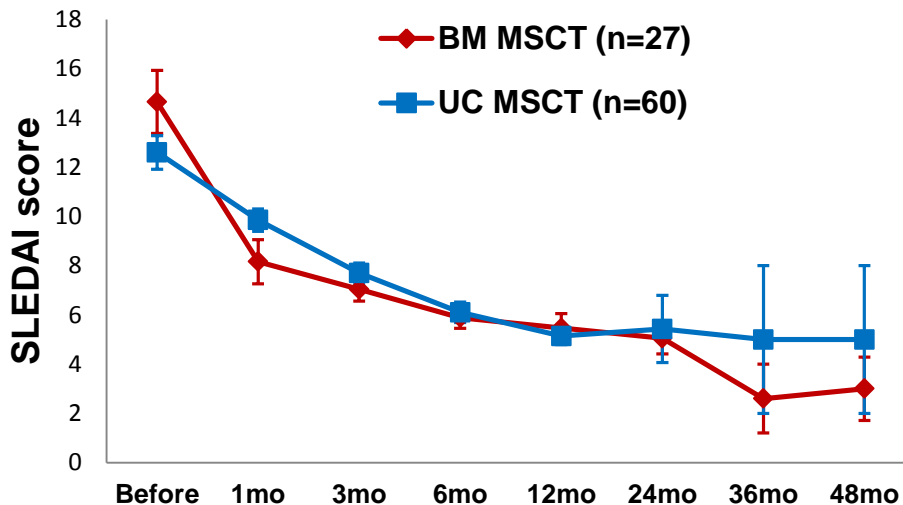
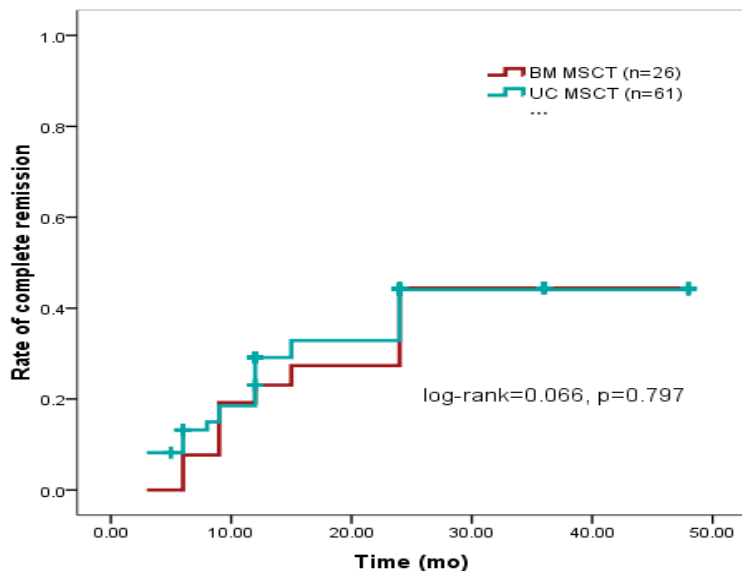
# Dose of drugs tapered after MSCT



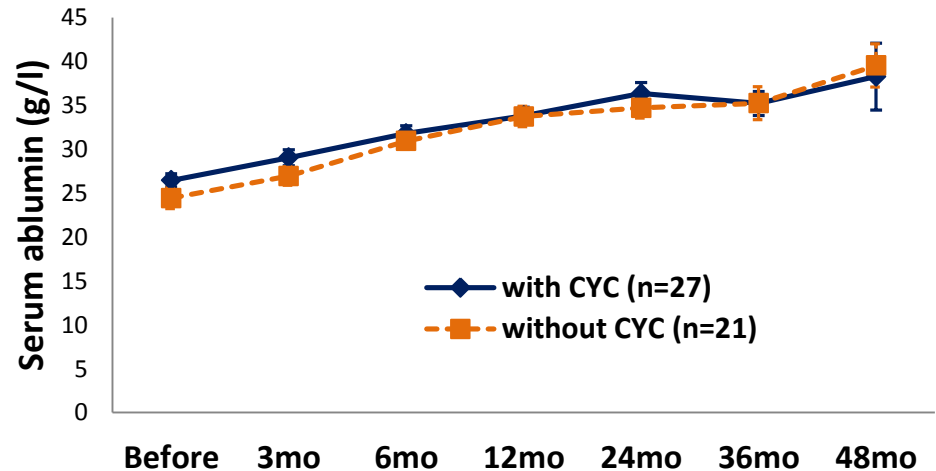
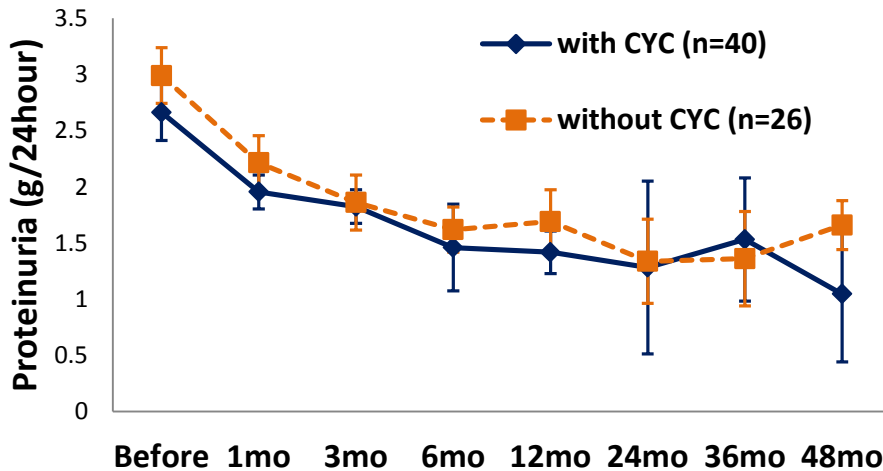
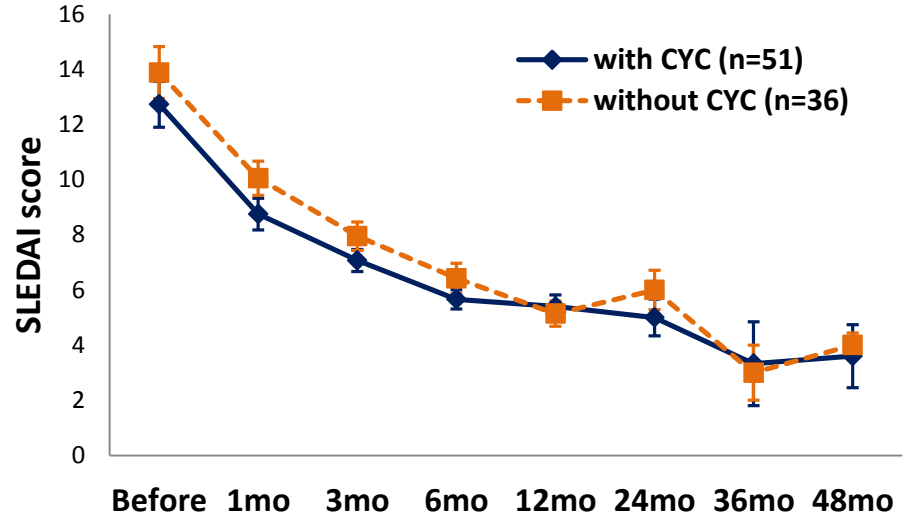
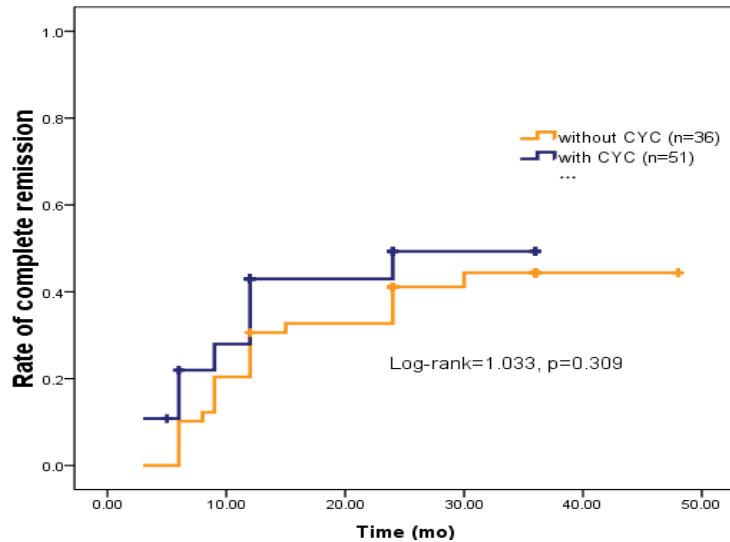
\*\*\*:  $p < 0.001$



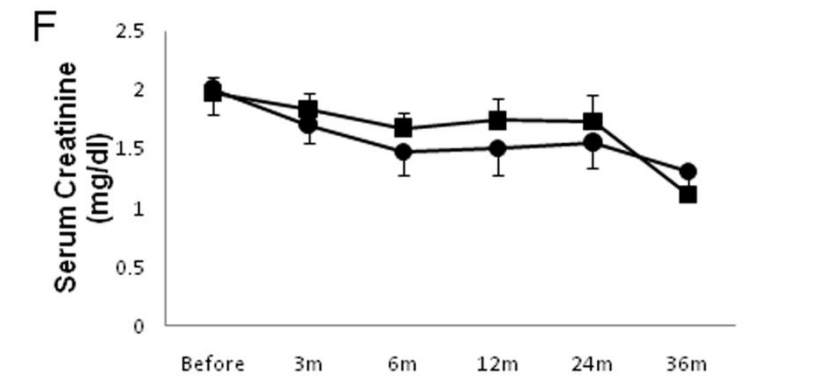
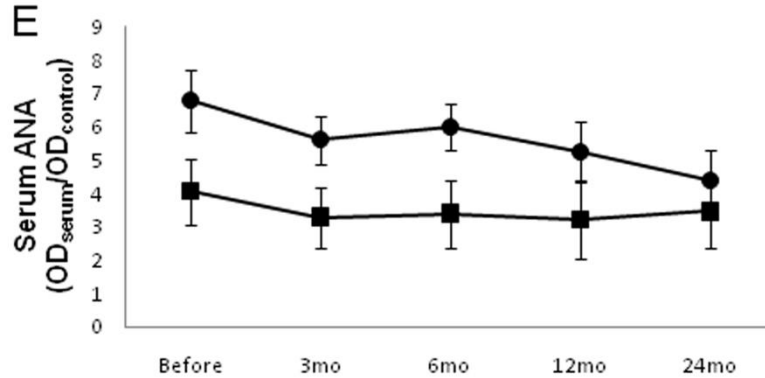
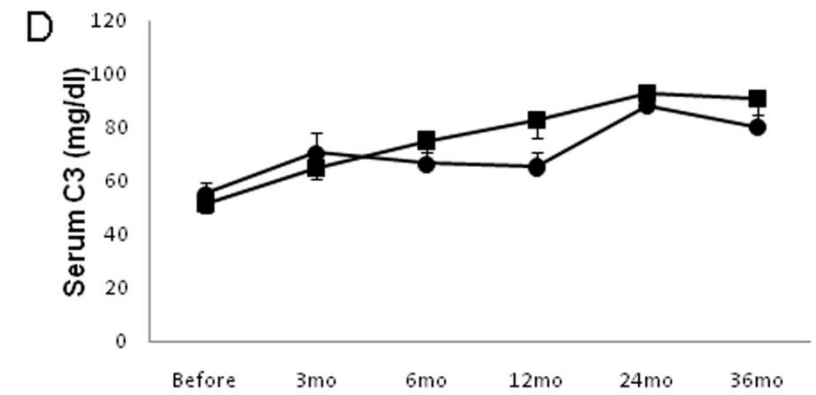
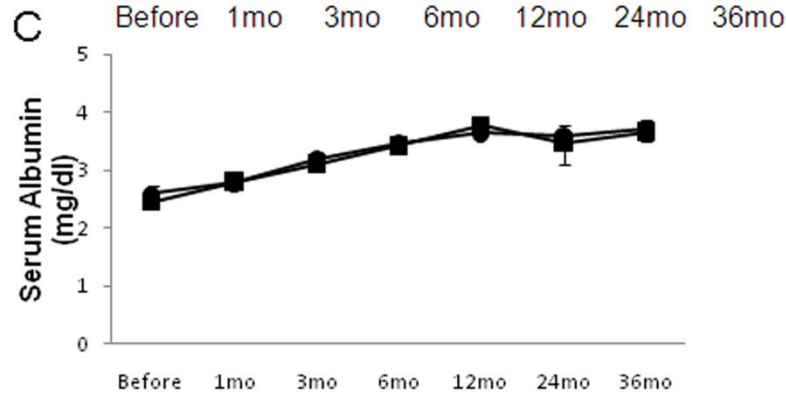
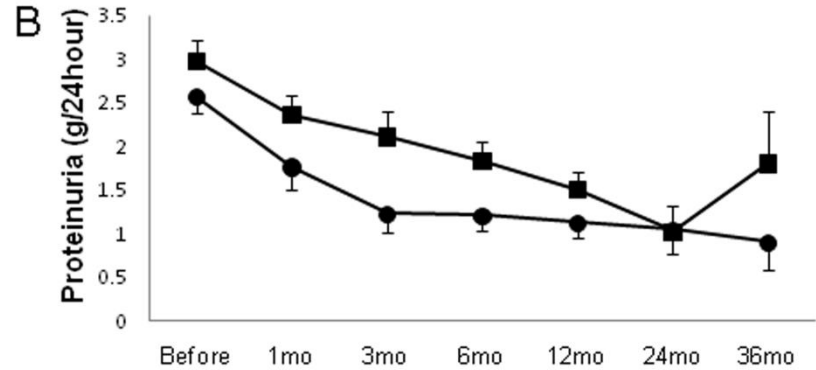
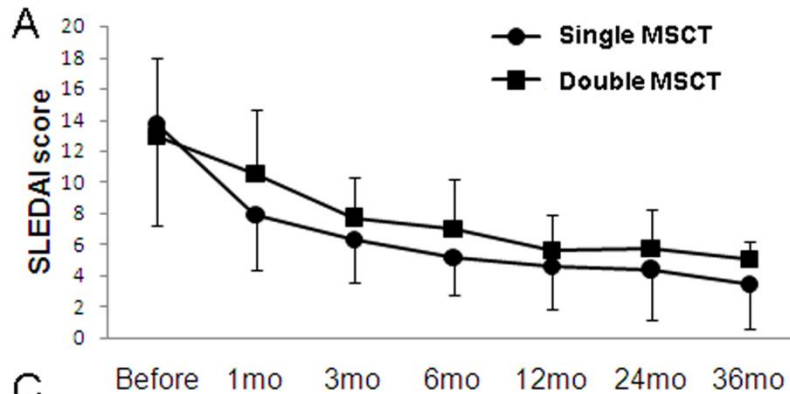
# Bone marrow VS. umbilical cord MSCT



# With VS. without CYC precondition

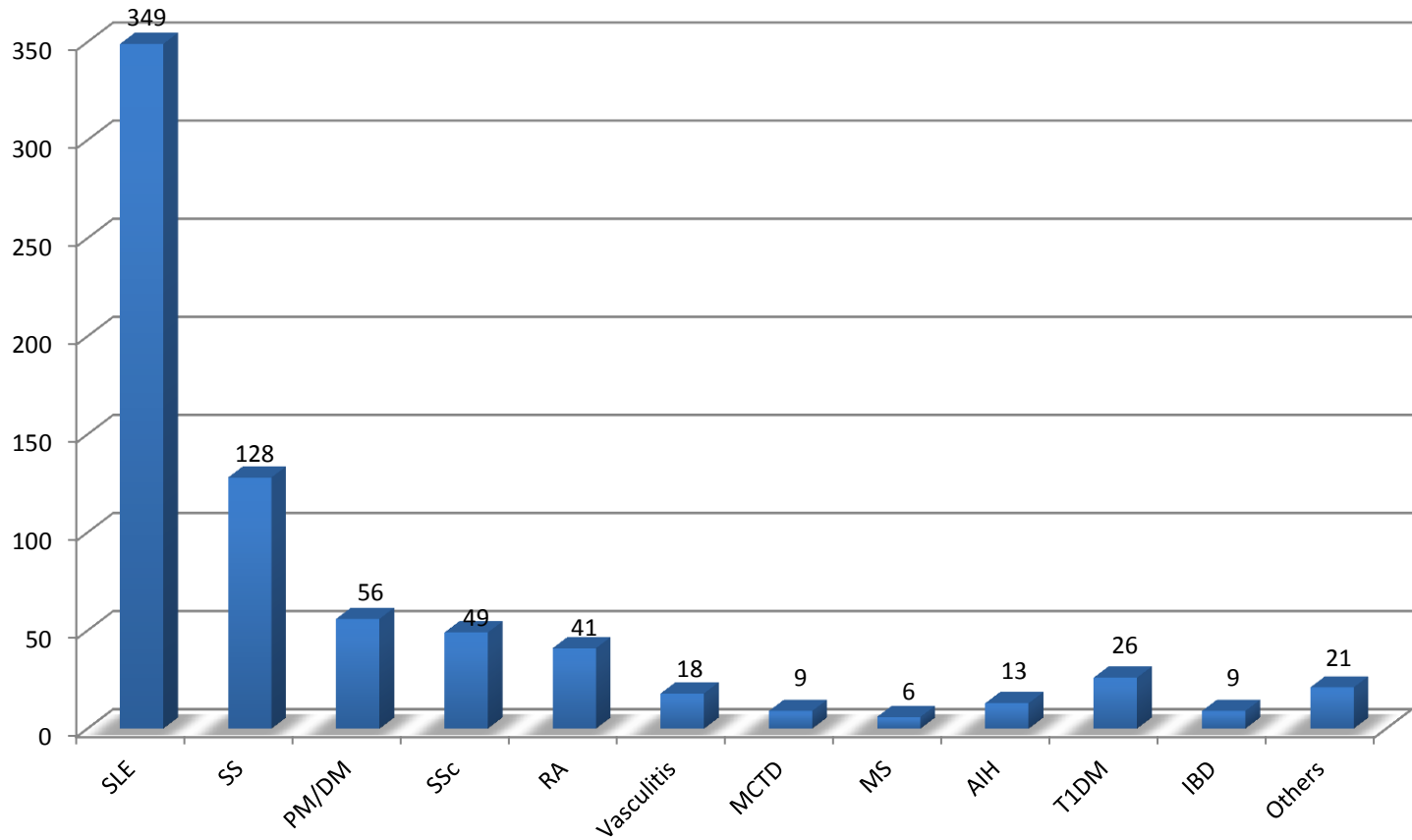


# Single VS. double MSCT



# Allogenic MSC therapy for AD in Nanjing

725例



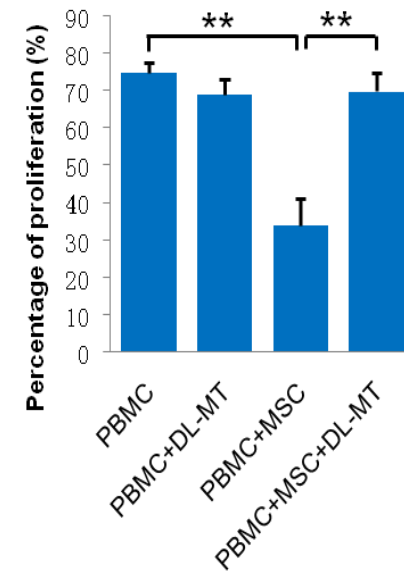
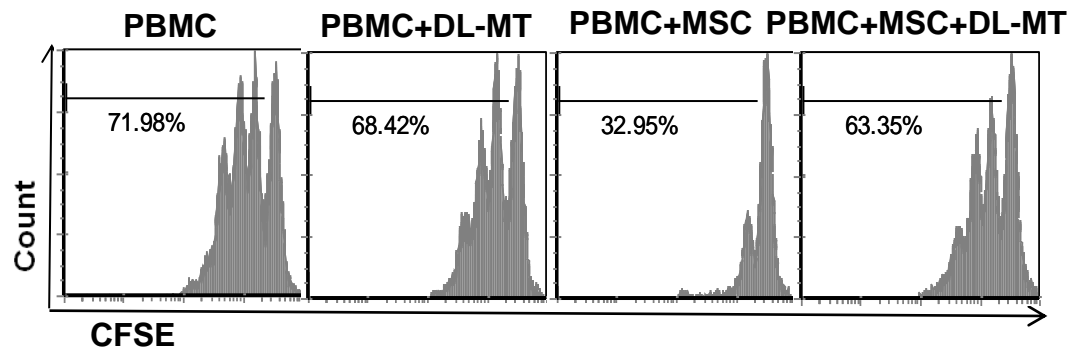
- ◆ **Allogeneic MSC**
- ◆ **Bone marrow or umbilical cord**
- ◆ **Once intravenous infusion**
- ◆ **CYC precondition is not necessary**
- ◆ **Repeated MSCT at 6 months**

**What's the mechanism?**





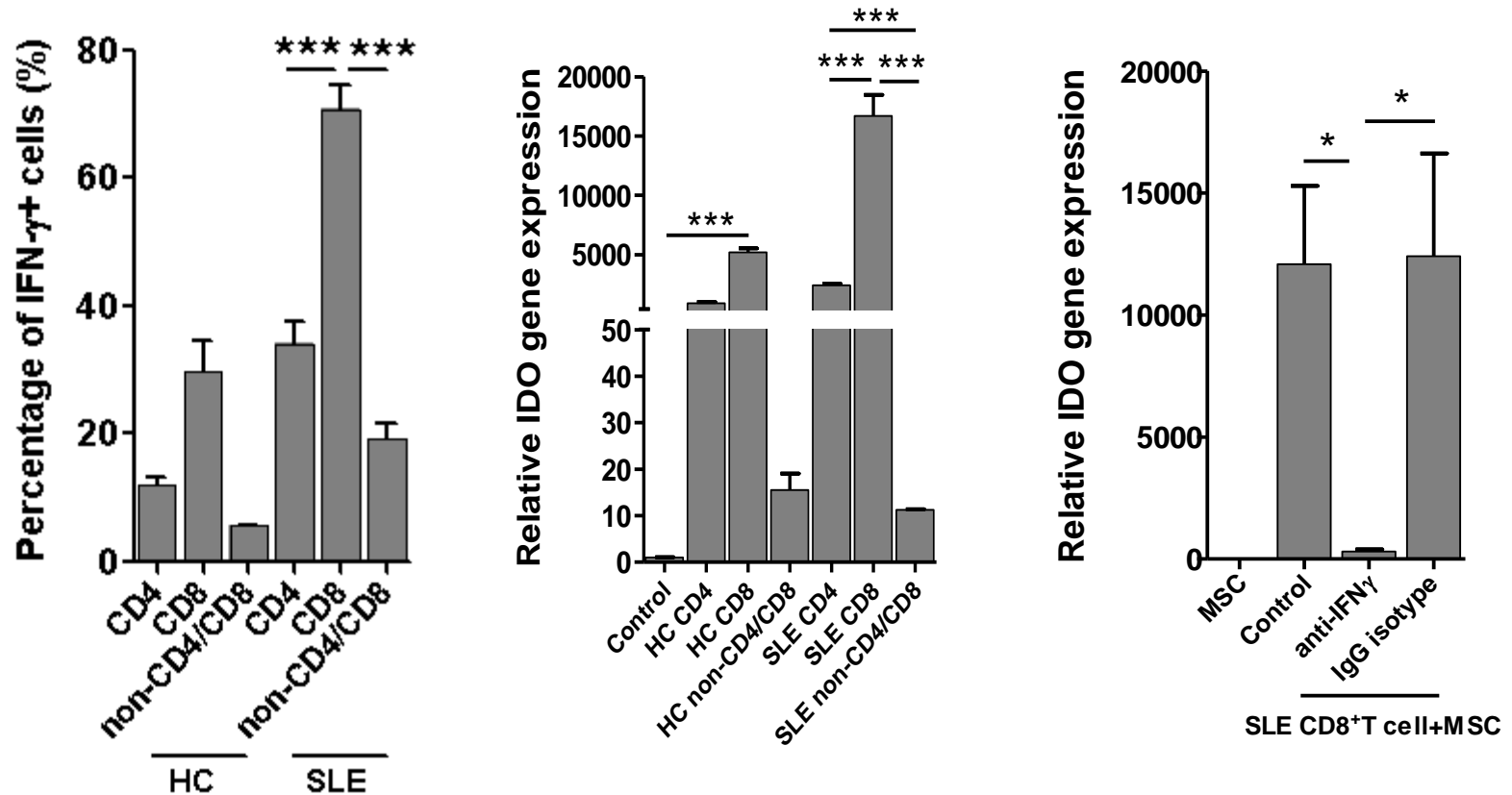
# MSC inhibit T cell proliferation, mediated by IDO



n=4, \*\*: p<0.01



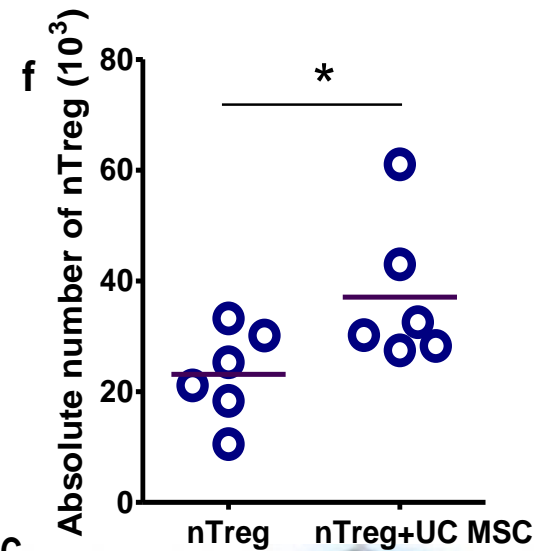
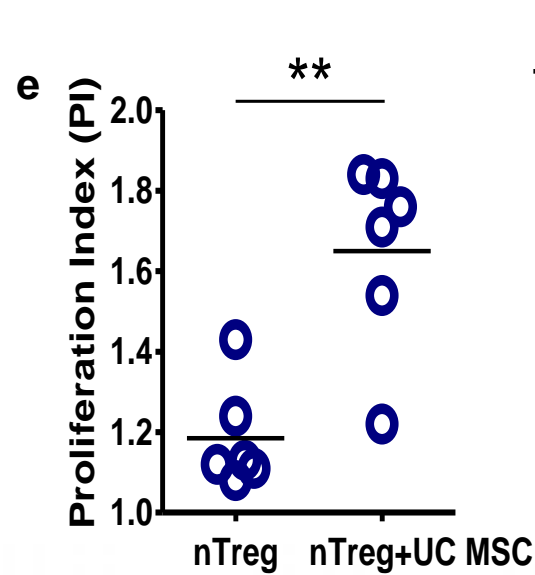
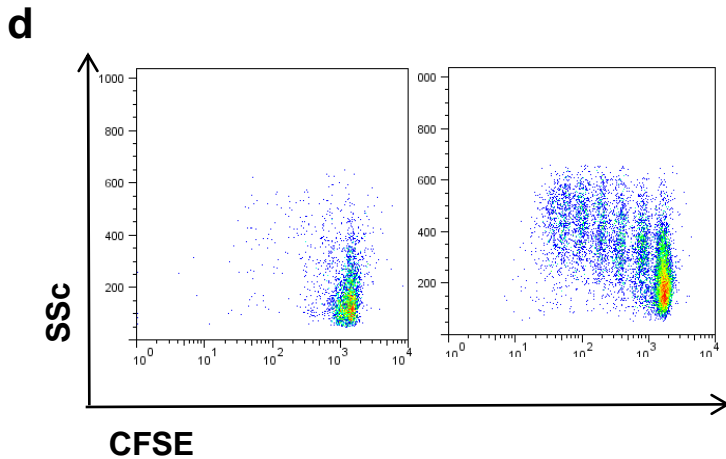
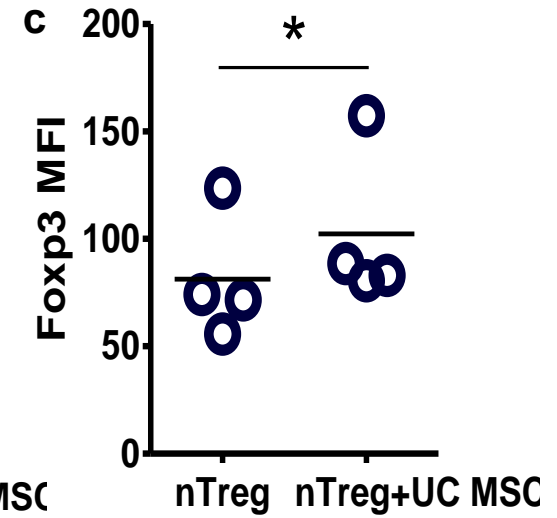
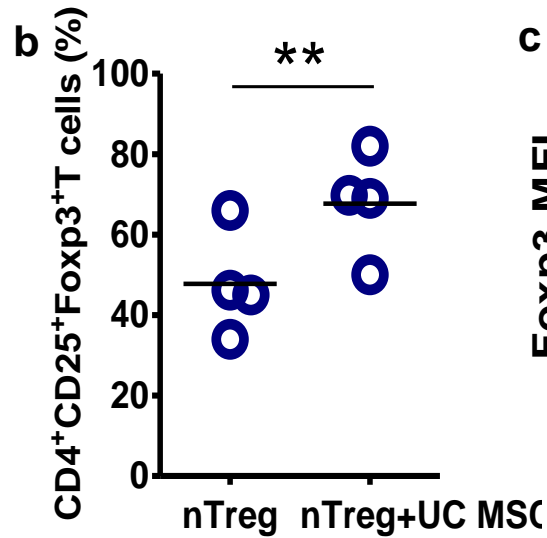
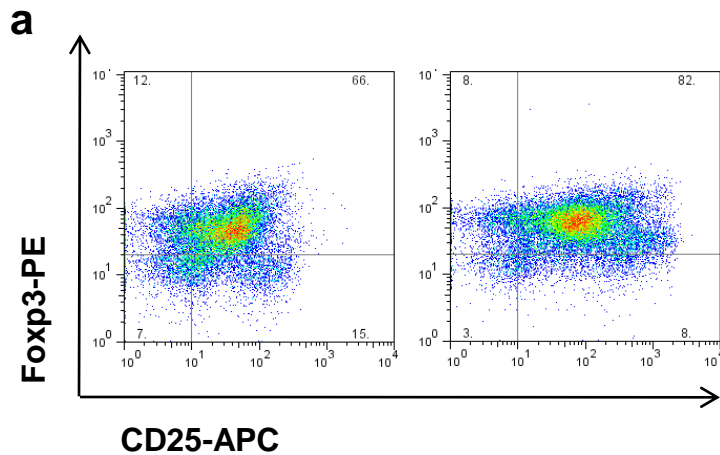
# IFN- $\gamma$ -induced IDO is required for MSC suppression of human SLE



n=7, \*\*\*: p<0.001, n.s. No significant difference

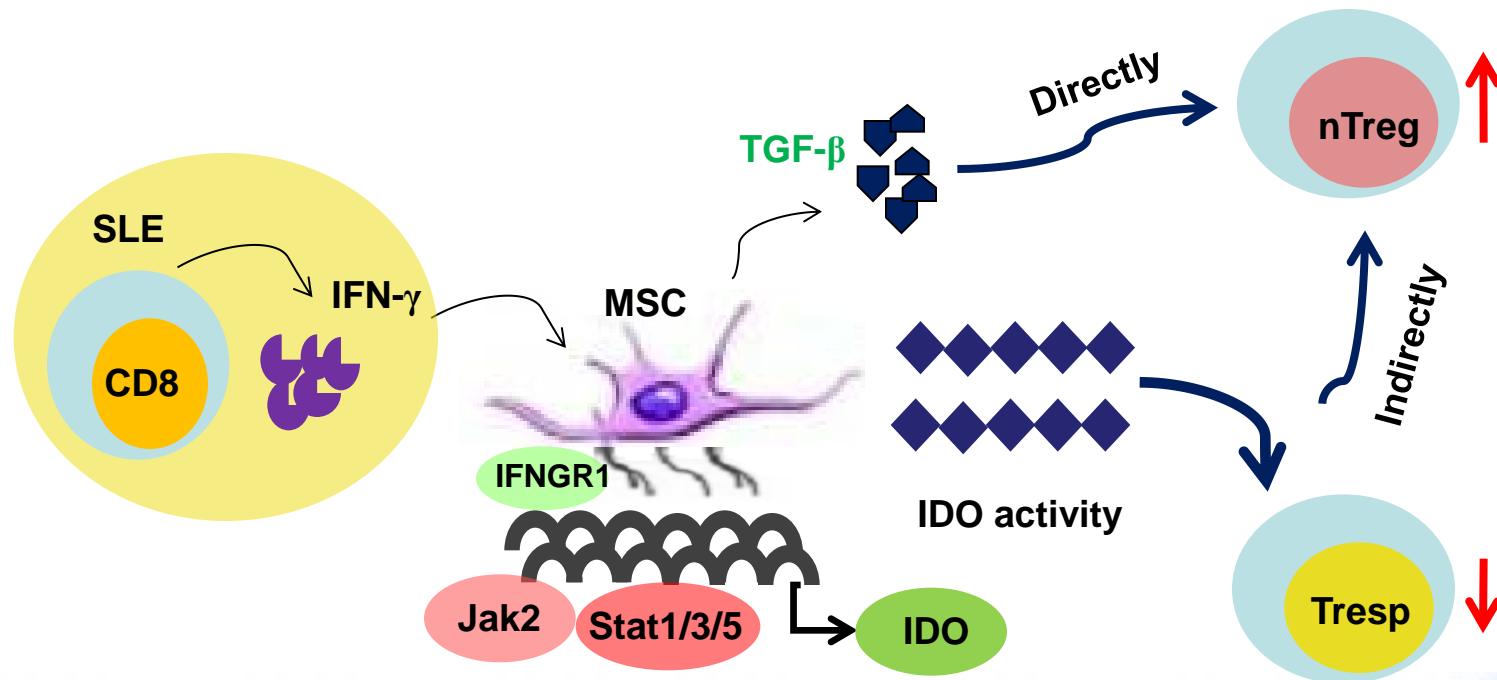


# UC MSC maintain nTreg in lupus



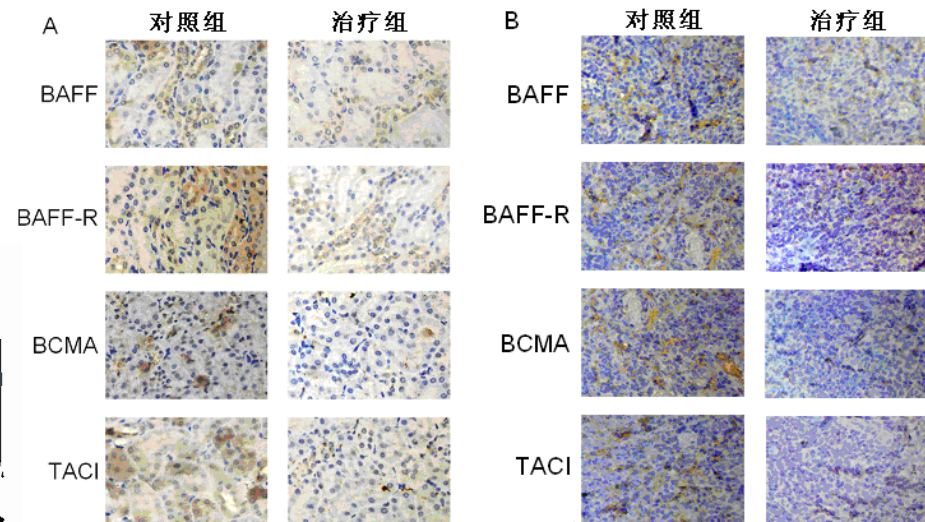
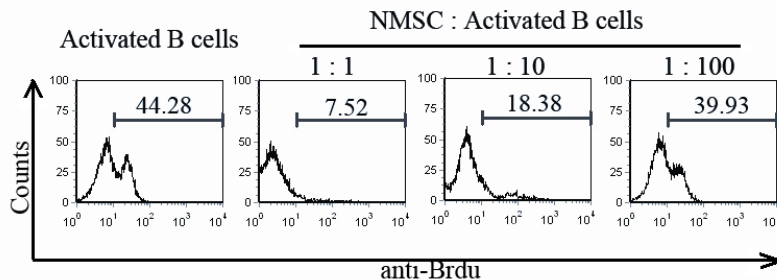
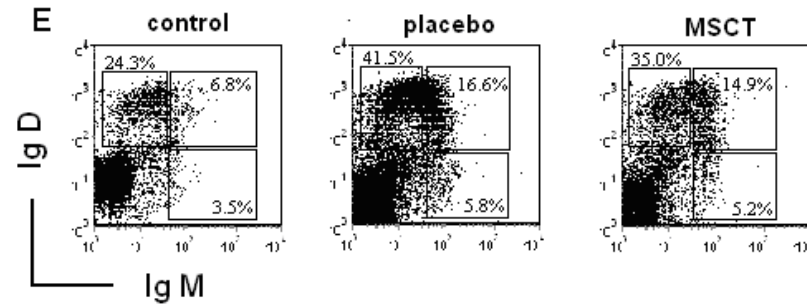
# A CD8 T Cell/Indoleamine 2,3-Dioxygenase Axis Is Required for Mesenchymal Stem Cell Suppression of Human Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Dandan Wang,<sup>1</sup> Xuebing Feng,<sup>1</sup> Lin Lu,<sup>1</sup> Joanne E. Konkell,<sup>2</sup> Huayong Zhang,<sup>1</sup> Zhiyong Chen,<sup>1</sup> Xia Li,<sup>1</sup> Xiang Gao,<sup>3</sup> Liwei Lu,<sup>4</sup> Songtao Shi,<sup>5</sup> Wanjun Chen,<sup>2</sup> and Lingyun Sun<sup>1</sup>



# The mechanism of MSC inhibition on lupus B cells

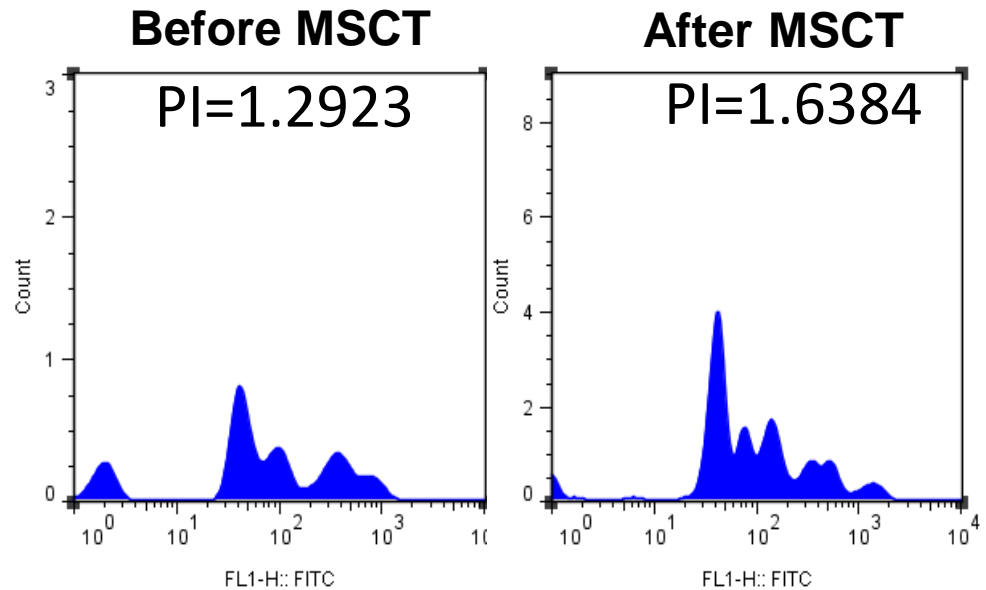
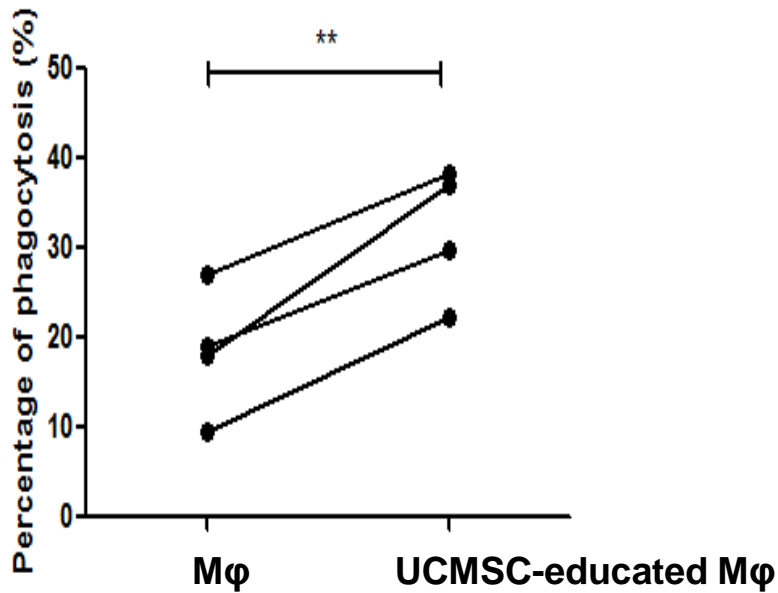
- ◆ Inhibit B cell proliferation
- ◆ Inhibit B cell activation
- ◆ Inhibit plasma cell
- ◆ Inhibit Ab production
- ◆ Inhibit BAFF and BAFF-R



**Allogeneic MSC inhibit B cell activity to induce immunotolerance**

Ma X, et al. Cell Transplant 2013; 22: 2279-90.  
 Che N, et al. Clin Immunol 2012;274(1-2):46-53.

# MSC enhanced macrophage phagocytosis

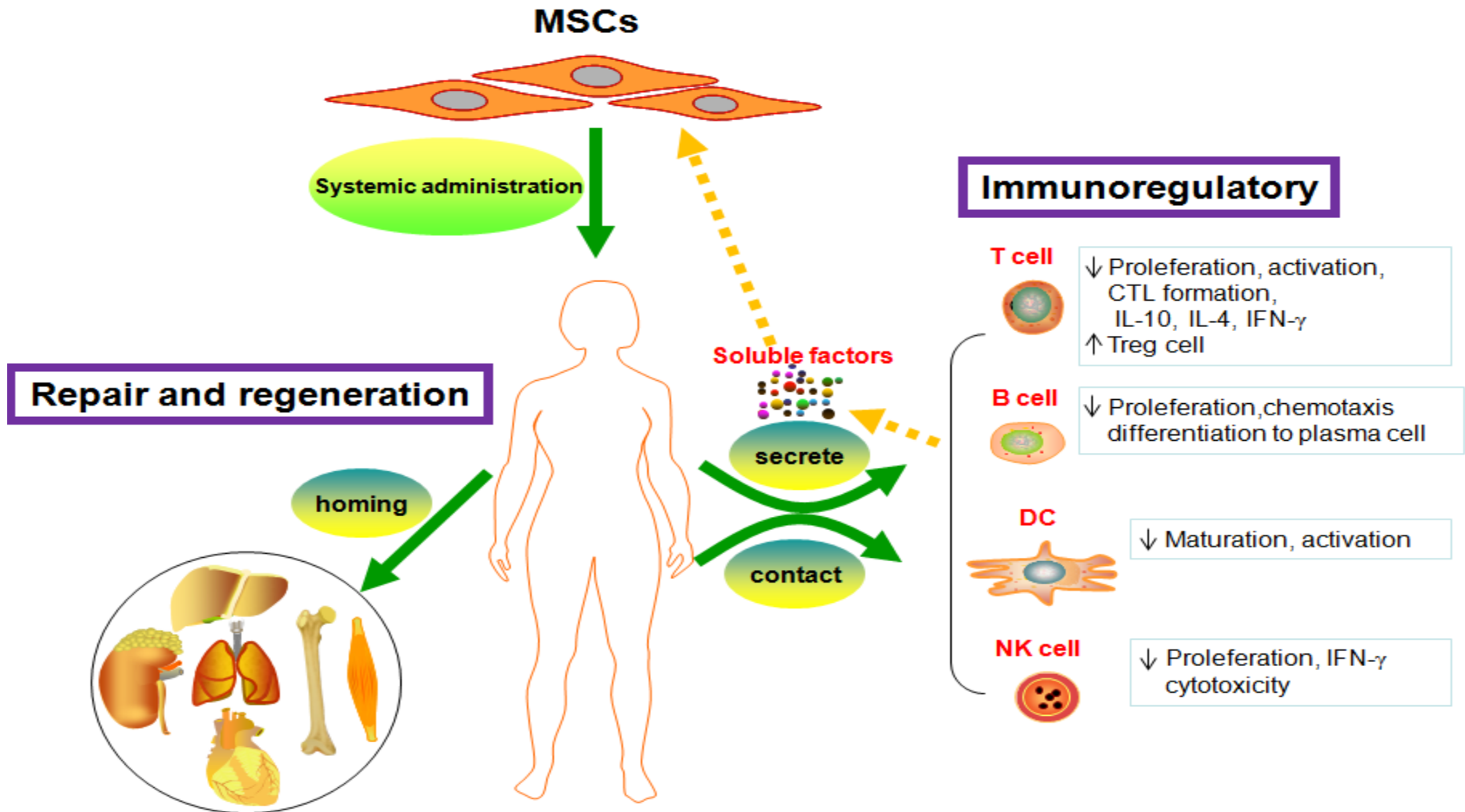


n=4, \*\*:  $p < 0.01$





# MSCT in SLE



Liang J, Sun LY. Lupus, 2014



# Summary

- Autologous MSC were not appropriate for clinical therapy
- Allogeneic MSCT is safe and efficient for lupus patients
- 60%(CR+PR) effective rate of LN treated with allogeneic MSCT
- Immunotolerance induced via immunoregulation



# Challenge

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- Long time safety
- Long time efficacy
- Efficacy of MSC dose escalation different
- MSC maintenance
- Real mechanism in different AD
- Prospective RCT needed
- Long time followup
- MSC products



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