



**UC BERKELEY**  
**SUPERFUND**  
**RESEARCH PROGRAM**  
SCIENCE FOR A SAFER WORLD

# Long-term effects of early-life exposures on immunity and (infectious) disease risk

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School of Public Health

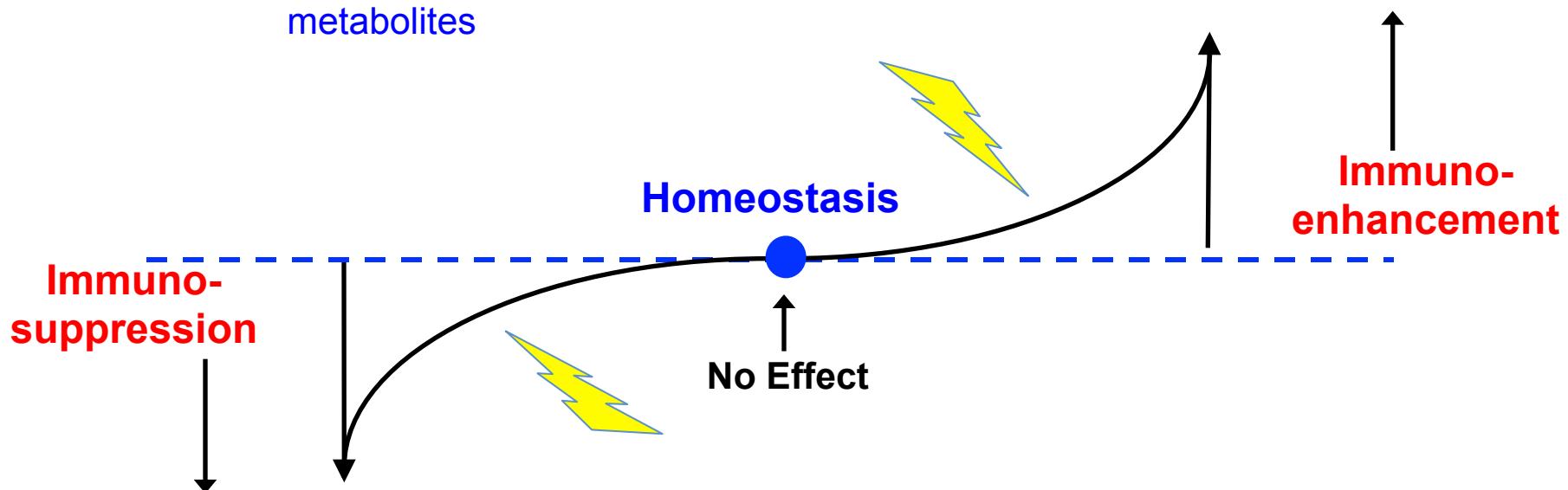
The Interplay Between Environmental Exposures and Infectious Agents, session III:  
Environmental Chemicals and Immune Response  
NIEHS Superfund Research Program  
Webinar, 7 November 2016

# Immunomodulation



## Environmental exposures:

e.g. pharmaceuticals, pollutants, toxic chemicals, metals, mineral fibers, nanoparticles, dietary and microbiome metabolites



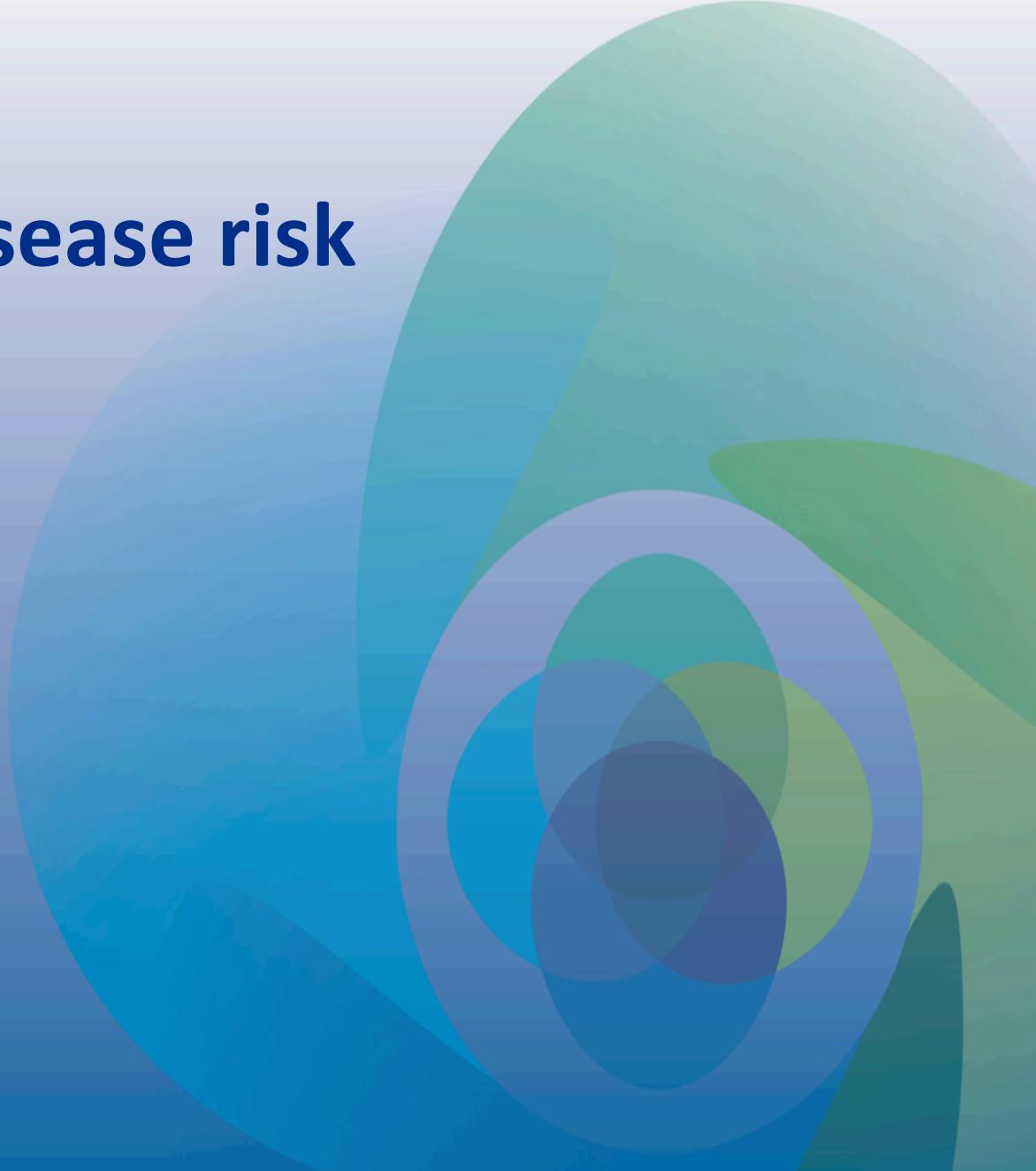
## May lead to:

Autoimmune diseases;  
hypersensitivity & allergy;  
inflammatory diseases  
& tissue damage

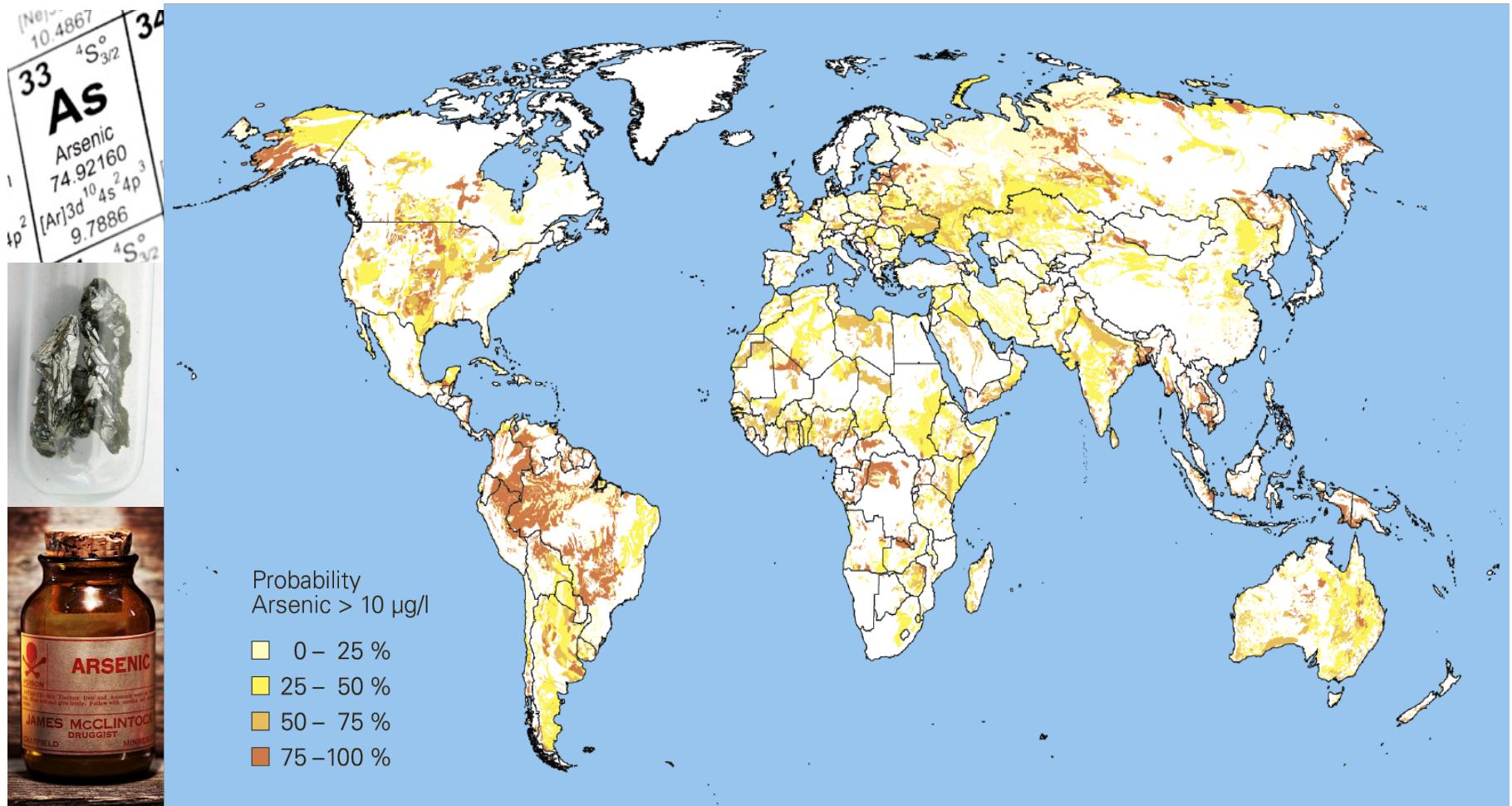
## May lead to:

Enhanced susceptibility  
to cancer, (infectious) diseases

# Arsenic, immunity & (infectious) disease risk



# Arsenic prevalence



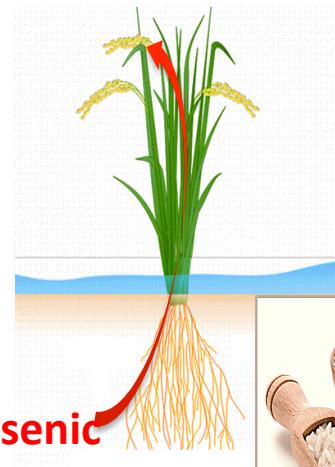
- Modeled global probability of geogenic arsenic in groundwater under reducing and high-pH/oxidizing aquifer conditions
- US EPA & WHO drinking water standard = 10 µg/L .

# Arsenic exposure

Industrial & agricultural



Contaminated crops



Contaminated drinking water



Coal burning



Nigel Bruce/WHO

# Arsenic-related adverse health effects

Skin lesions

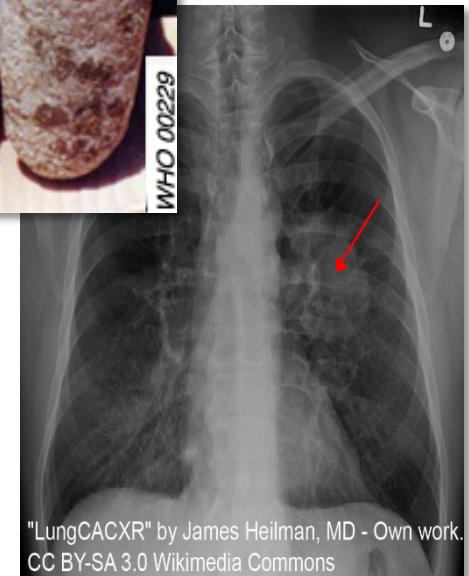
Cancer (skin, lung, bladder & kidney)

Cardiovascular diseases

Reproductive effects

Diabetes

Respiratory diseases



World Health  
Organization

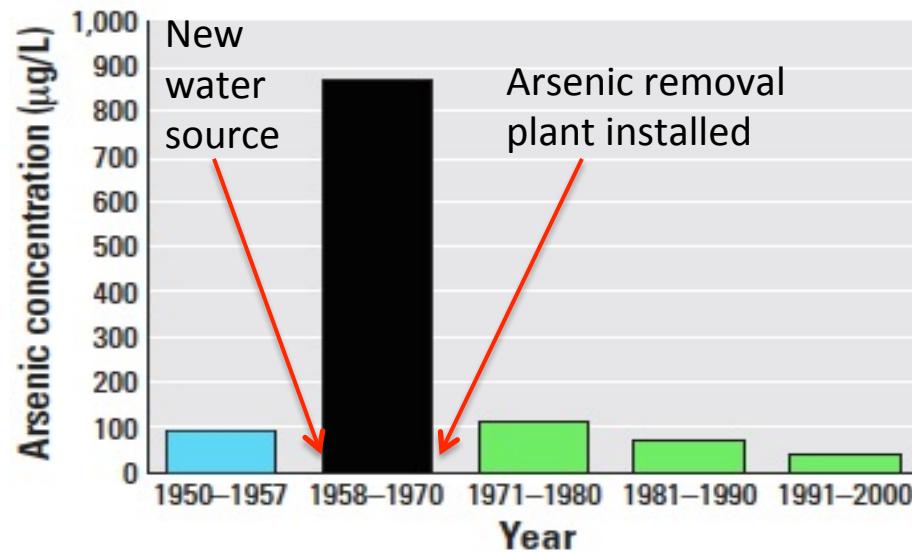
PREVENTING DISEASE THROUGH HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

EXPOSURE TO ARSENIC:  
A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN

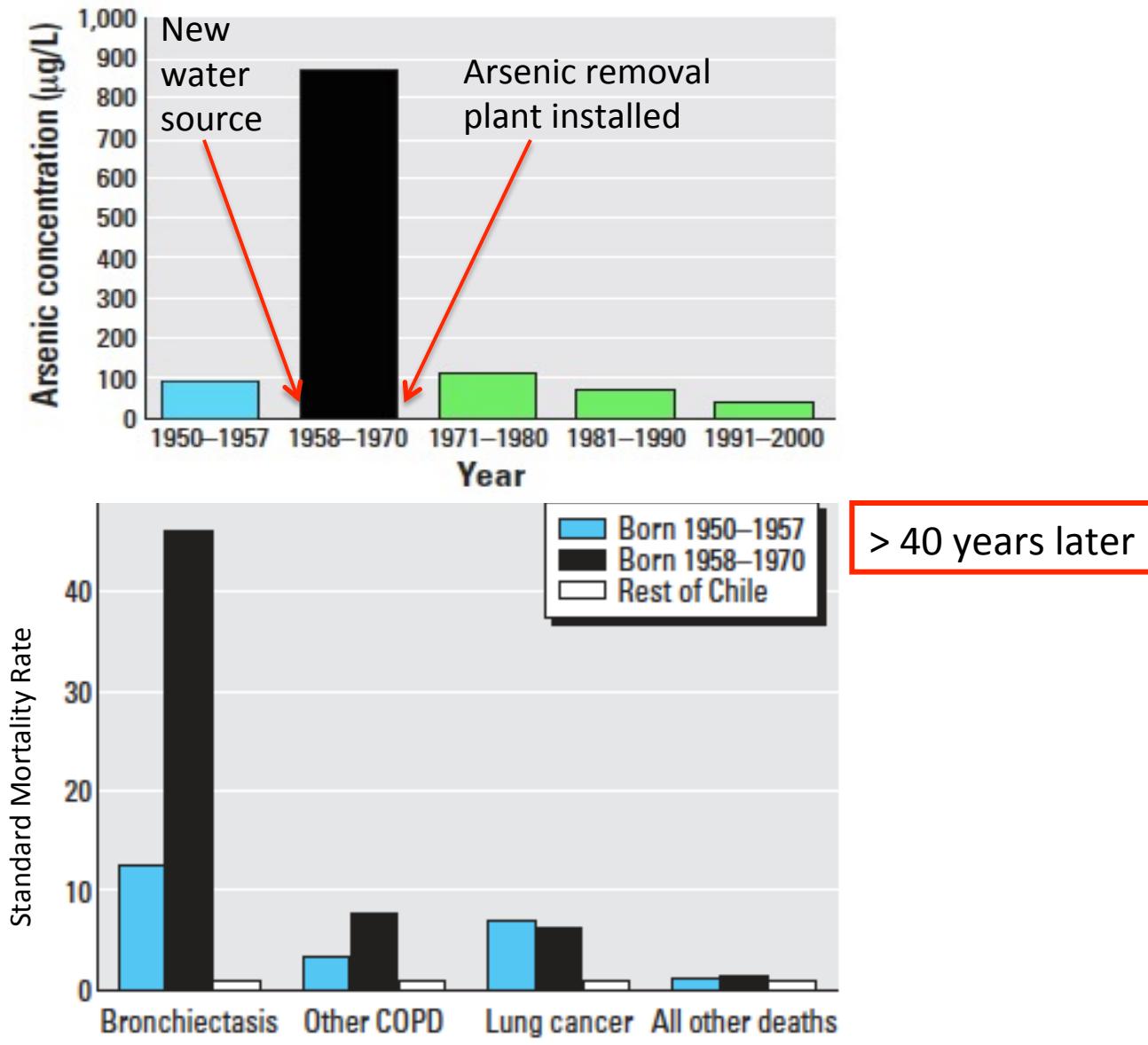
"LungCACXR" by James Heilman, MD - Own work.  
CC BY-SA 3.0 Wikimedia Commons

# Early-life exposure to arsenic in Chile

Chile



# Early-life exposure to arsenic in Chile

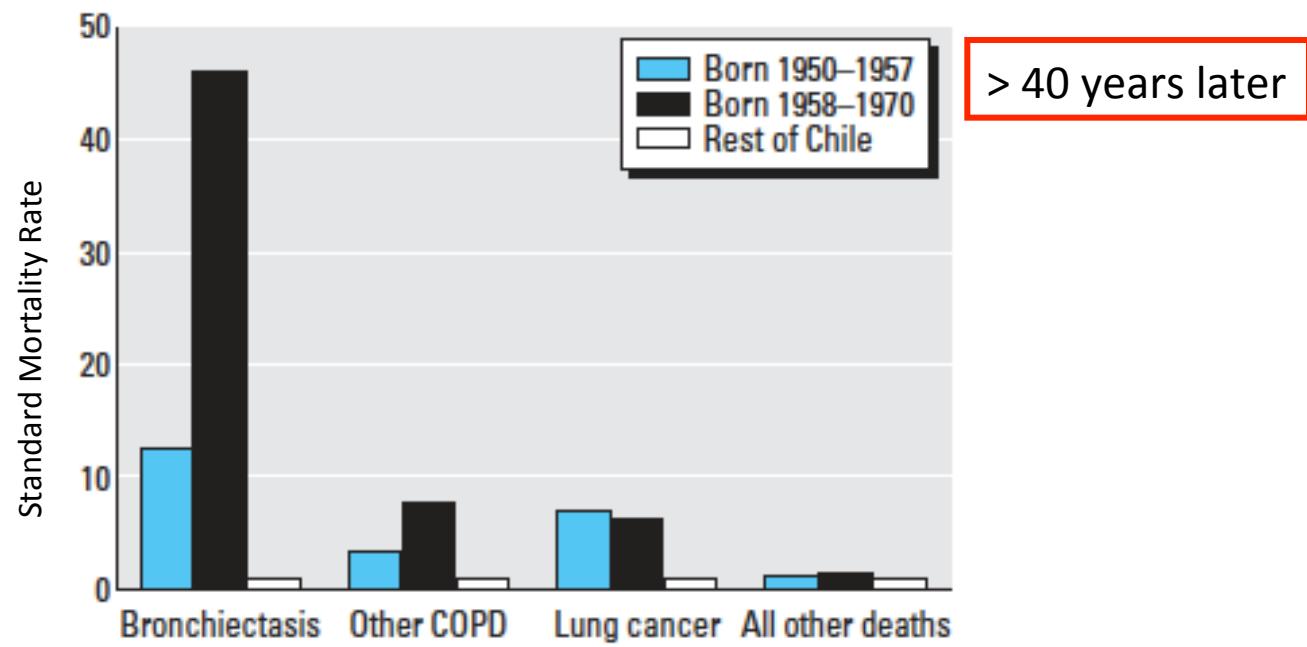


# Early-life exposure to arsenic in Chile

Chile



Rare evidence supporting the  
“Developmental Origins of  
Health and Disease” hypothesis.



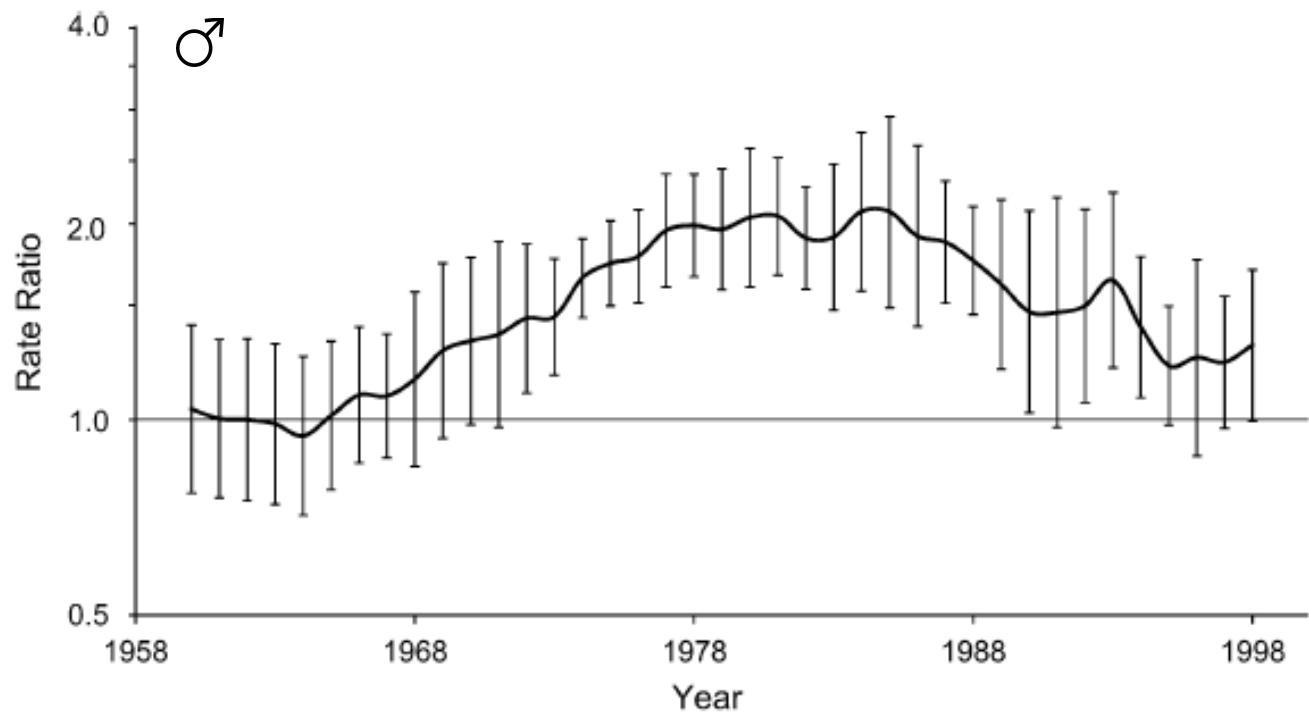
> 40 years later

# Early-life exposure to arsenic in Chile

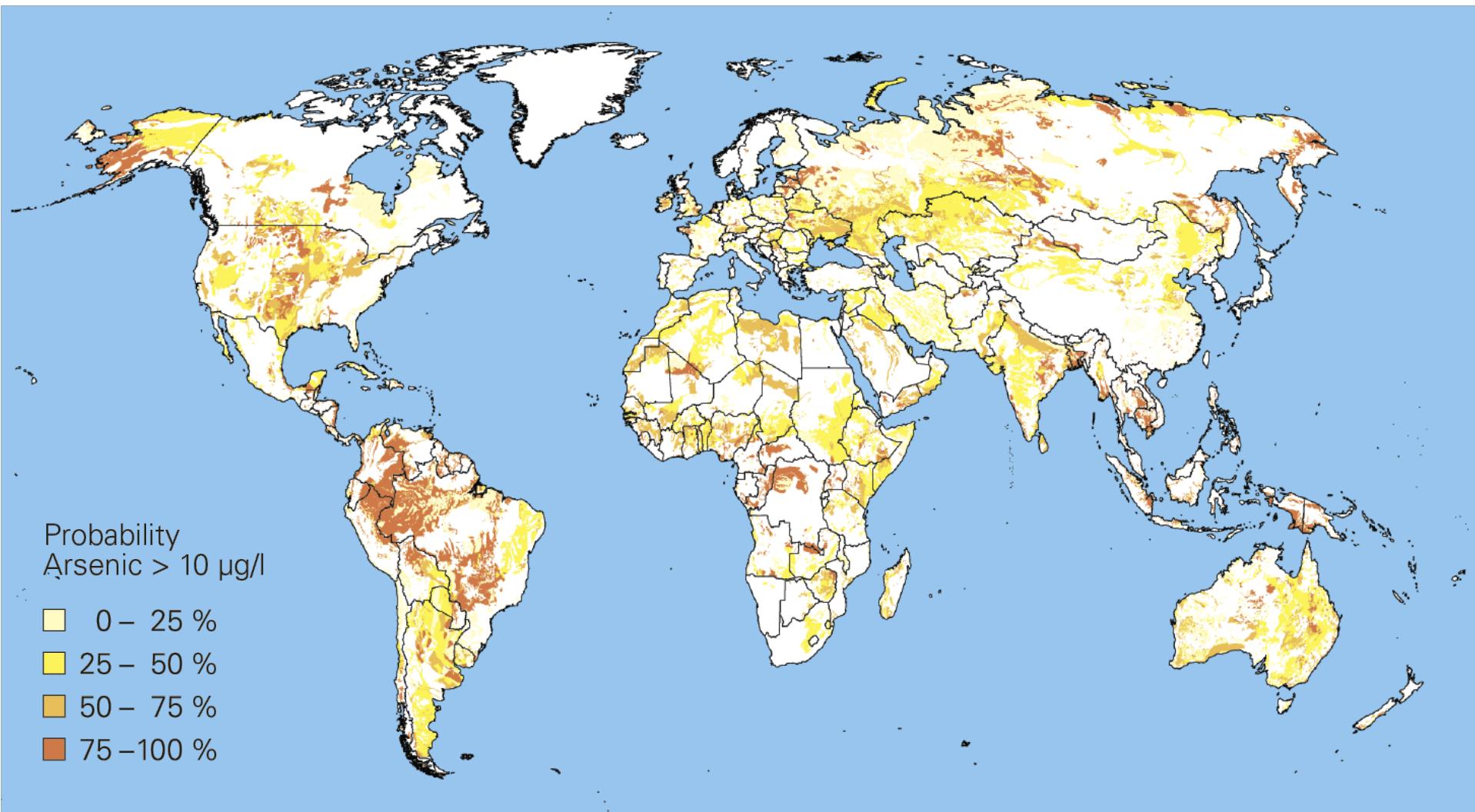
Chile



Tuberculosis mortality

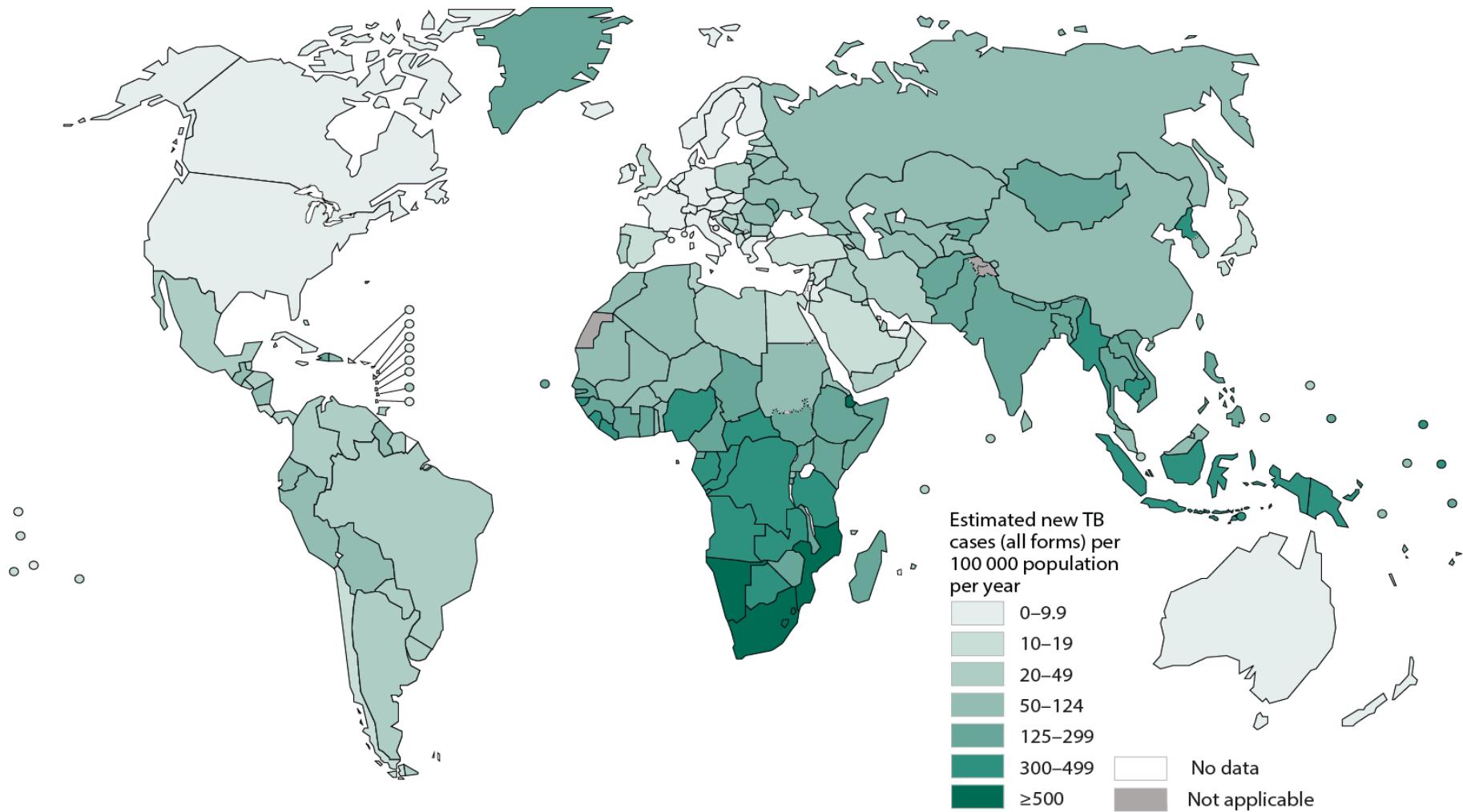


# Arsenic prevalence



# Tuberculosis incidence

## Estimated TB incidence rates, 2014



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

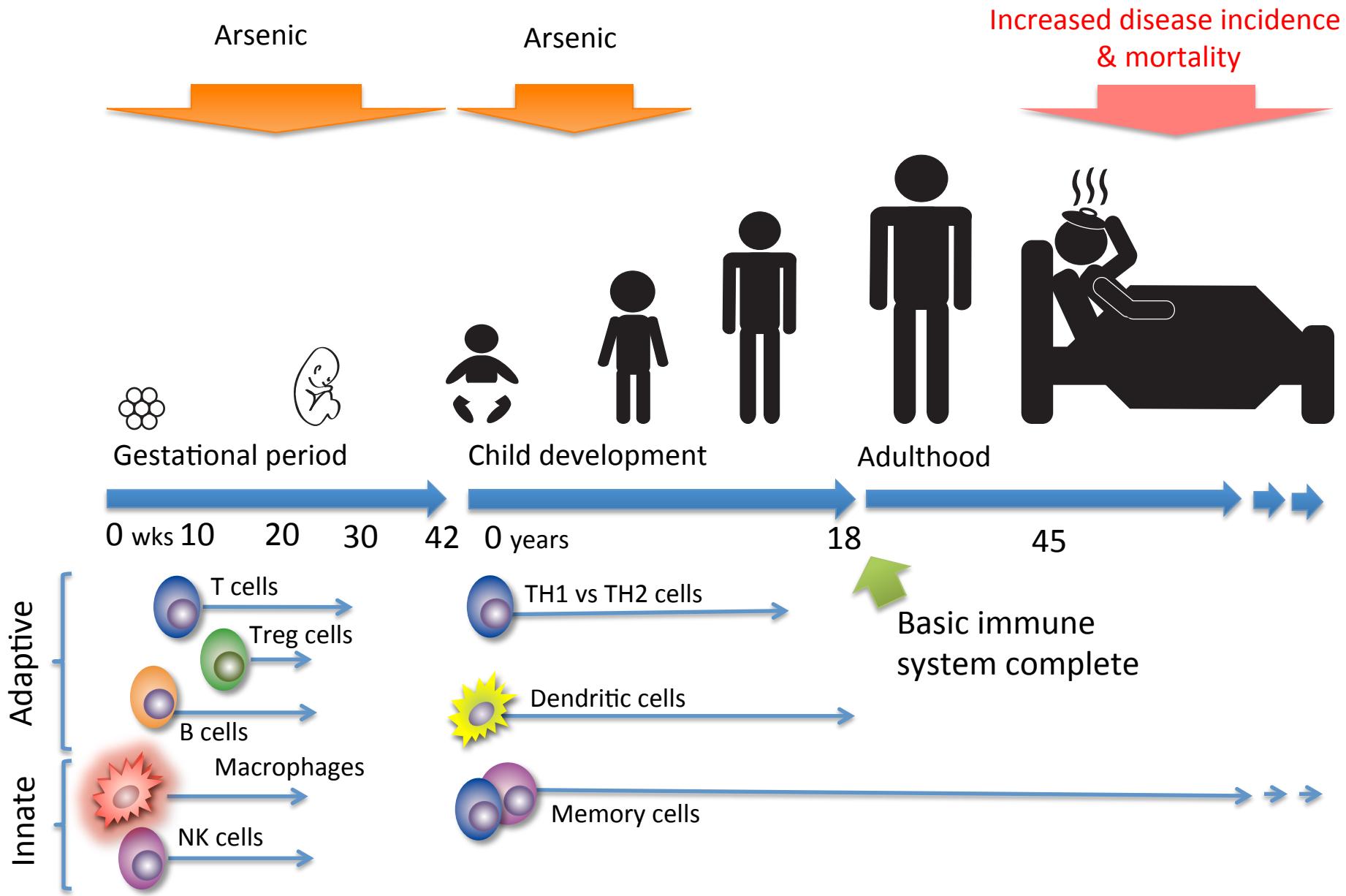
Data Source: *Global Tuberculosis Report 2015*. WHO, 2015.

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World Health Organization

# Early-life exposure to arsenic



## General hypothesis:

Exposure-induced immune developmental changes contribute to the persistent global burden of infectious and chronic diseases.

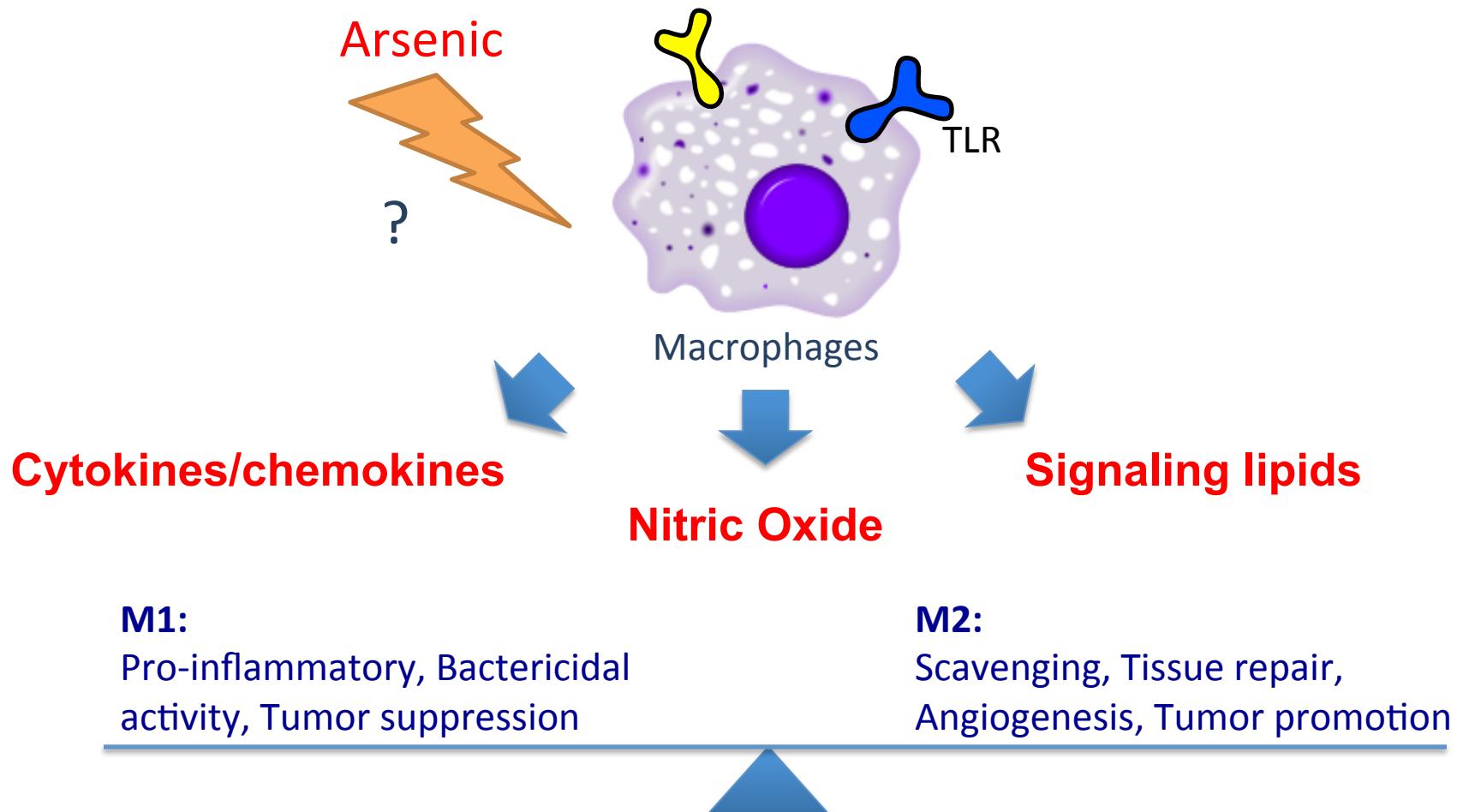
## Study models: Arsenic & TB



# Arsenic & macrophages

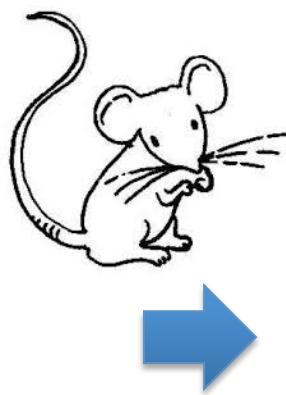
## Specific hypothesis:

Early-life exposure to arsenic alters macrophage development & function causing increased disease later in life.

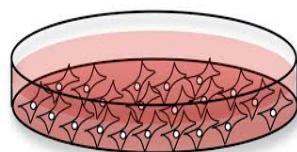
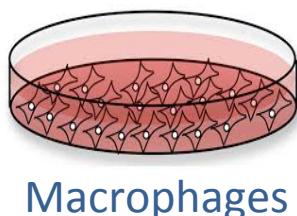


# How does arsenic alter macrophages?

## Homeostasis

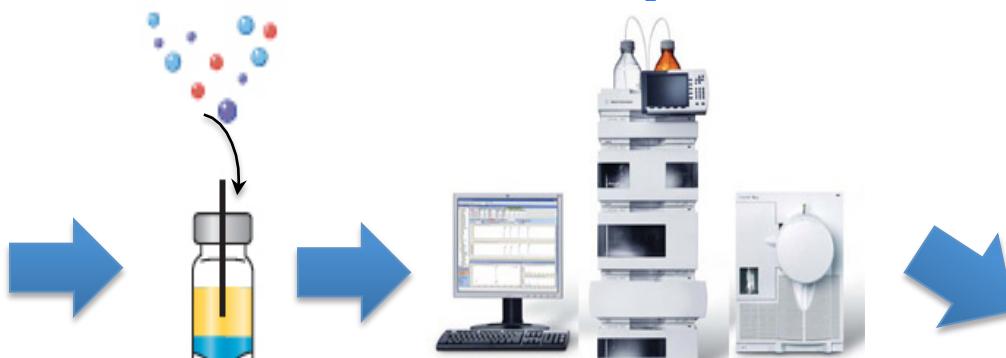


Mouse bone marrow



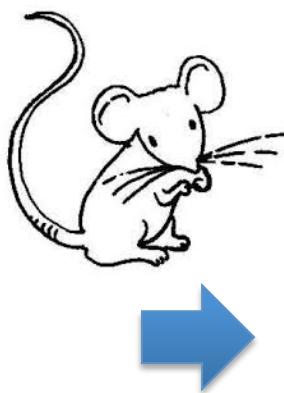
**Arsenic**-treated  
macrophages

## Metabolite analysis

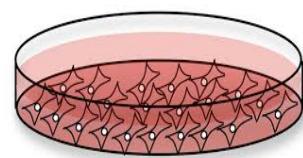


# Arsenic alters signaling lipids expression

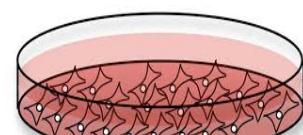
## Homeostasis



Mouse bone marrow

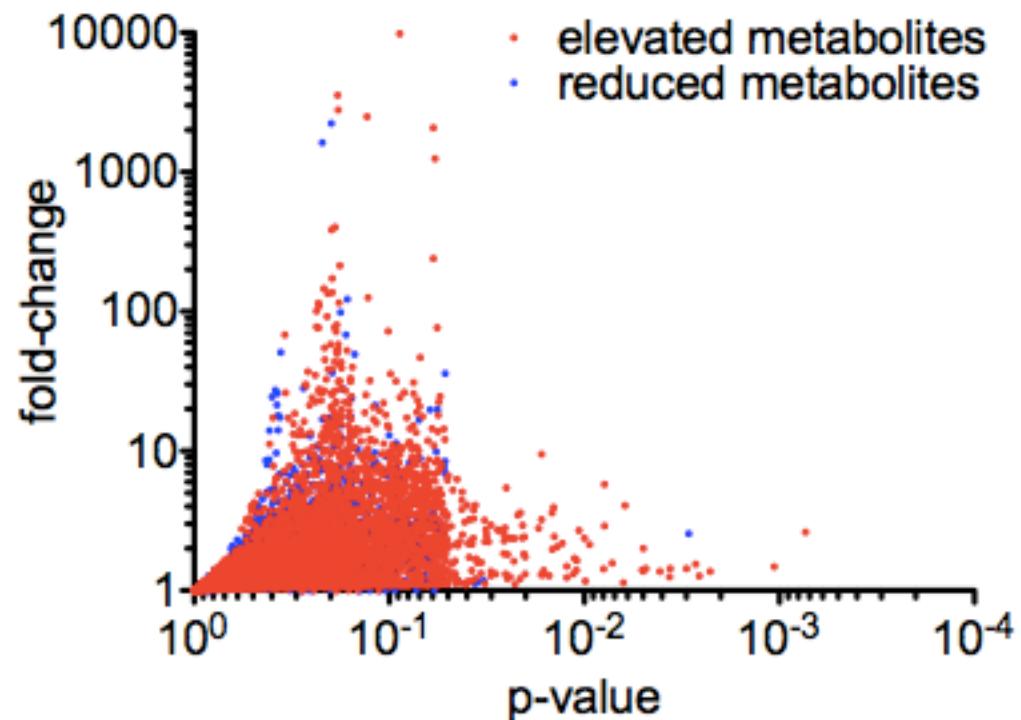


Macrophages



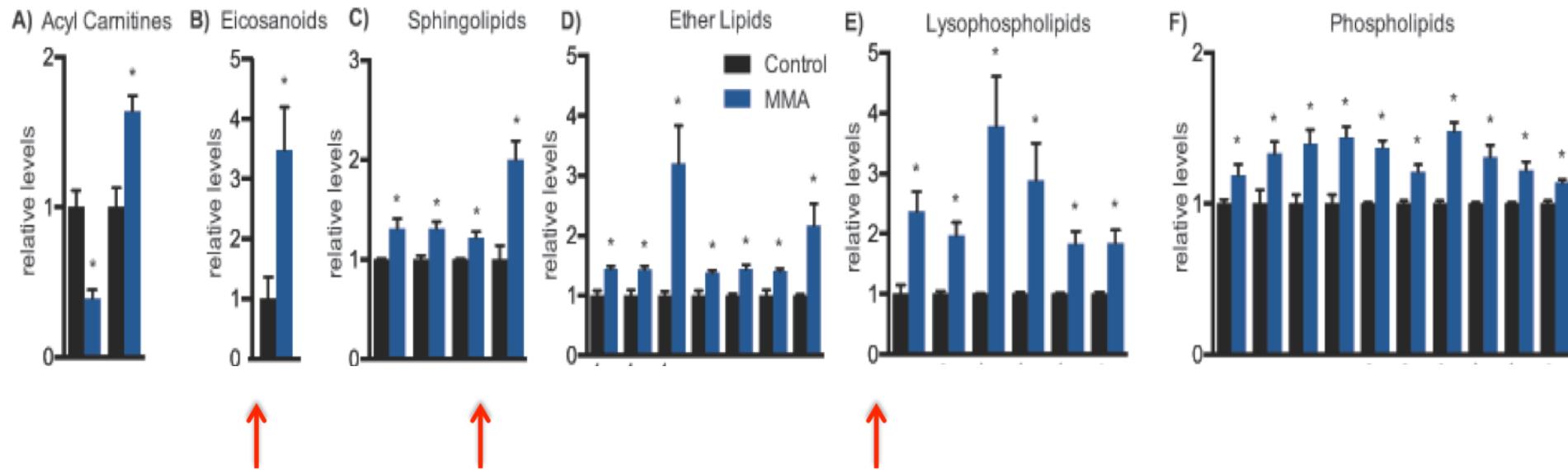
Arsenic-treated macrophages

## Metabolite analysis



# Arsenic alters signaling lipids expression

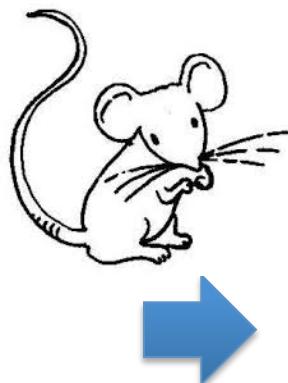
## Homeostasis



Pro-inflammatory and pro-tumorigenic signaling lipids

# How does arsenic alter macrophages?

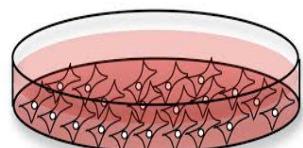
## Homeostasis



Mouse bone marrow

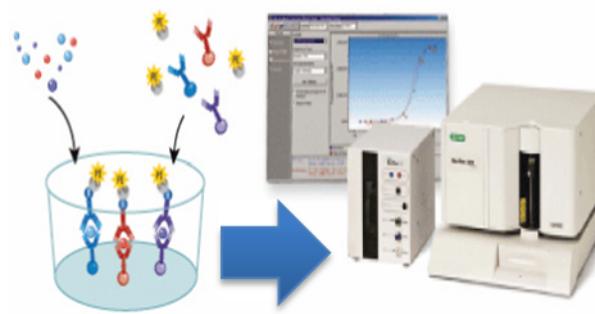


Macrophages



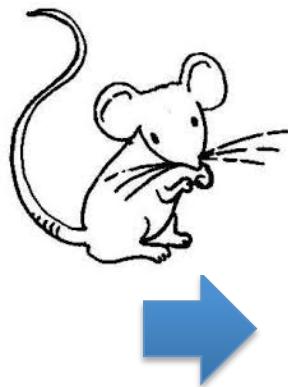
Arsenic-treated macrophages

## Signaling protein analysis

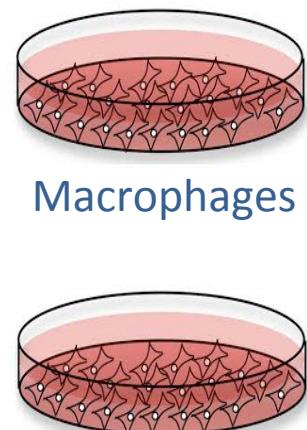


# Arsenic alters cytokine/chemokine expression

## Homeostasis



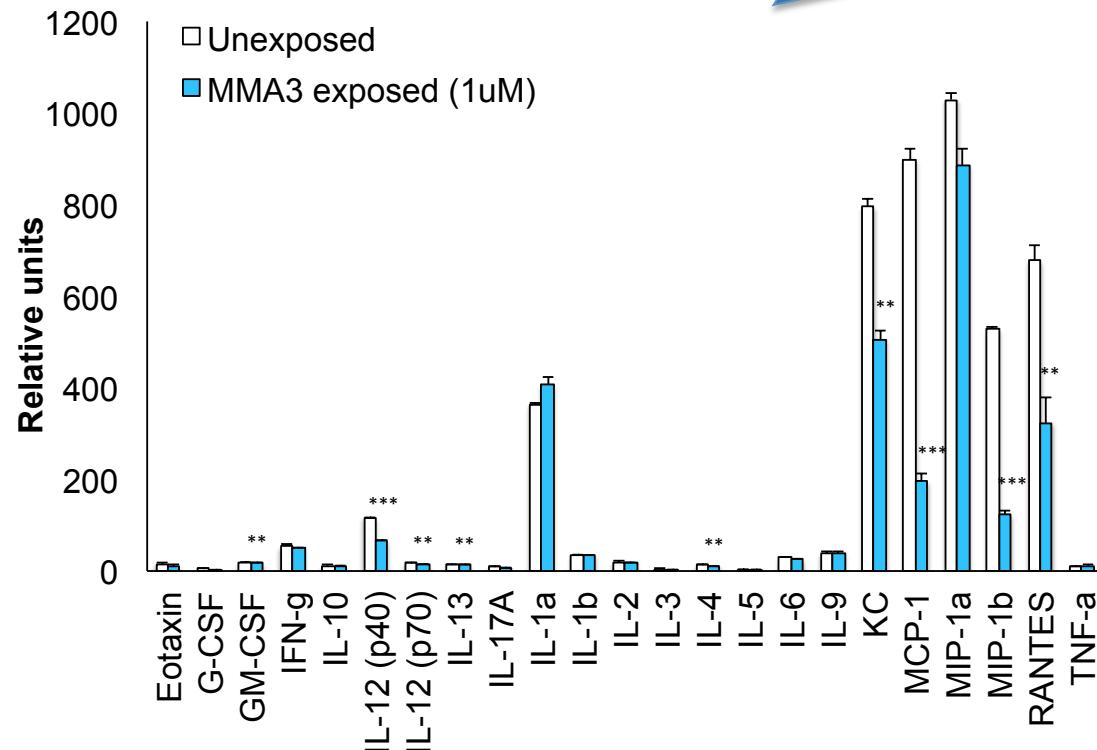
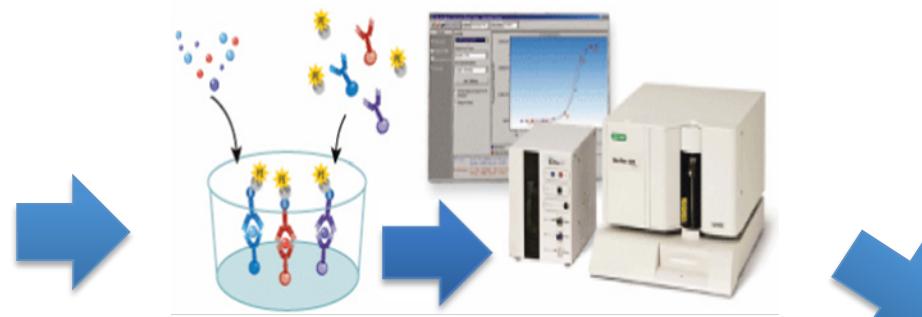
Mouse bone marrow



Macrophages

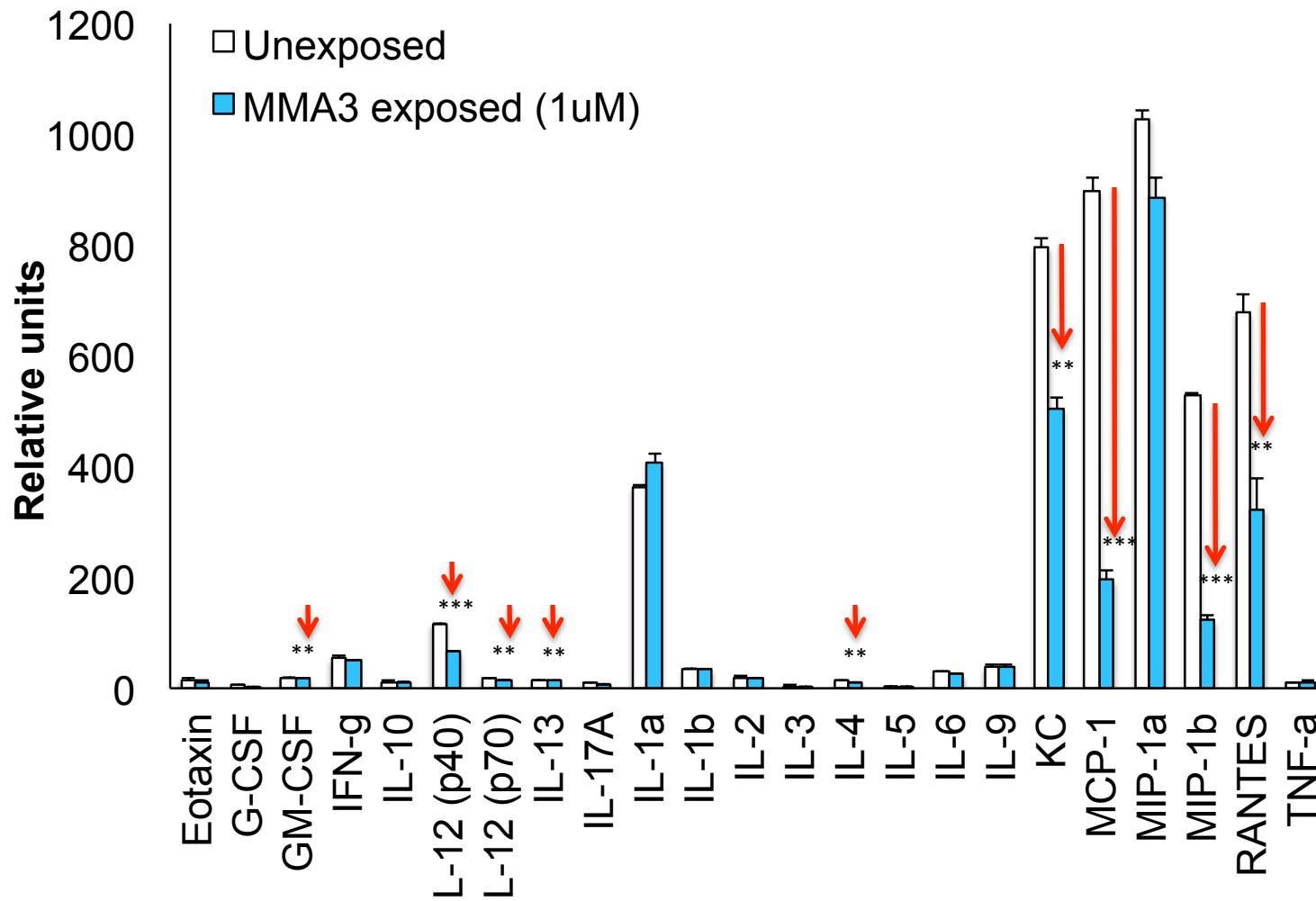
Arsenic-treated macrophages

## Signaling protein analysis

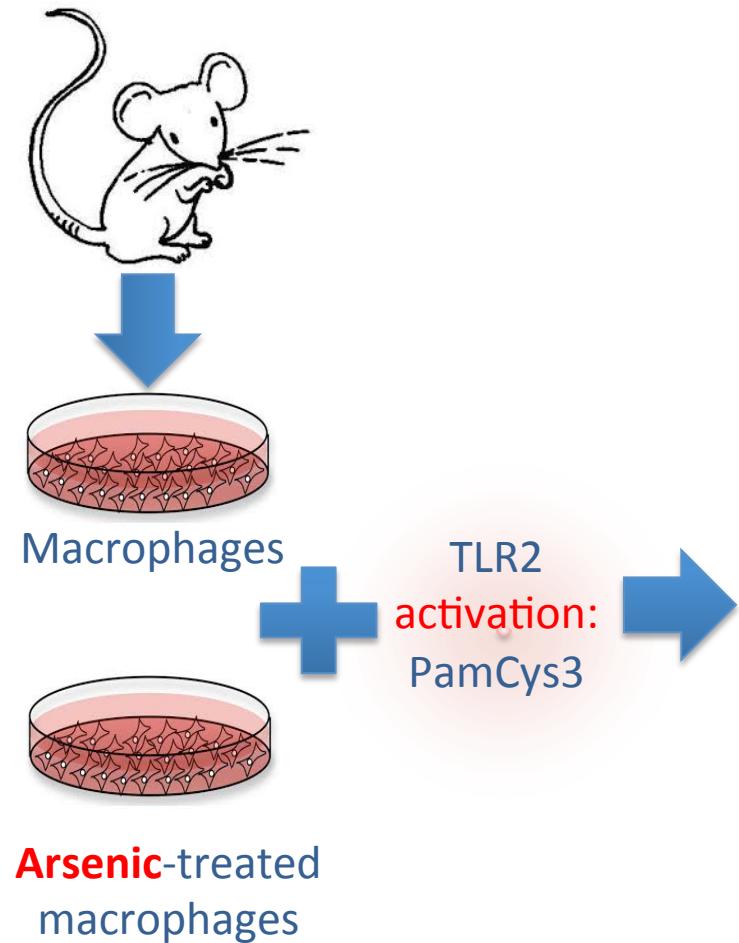


# Arsenic alters cytokine/chemokine expression

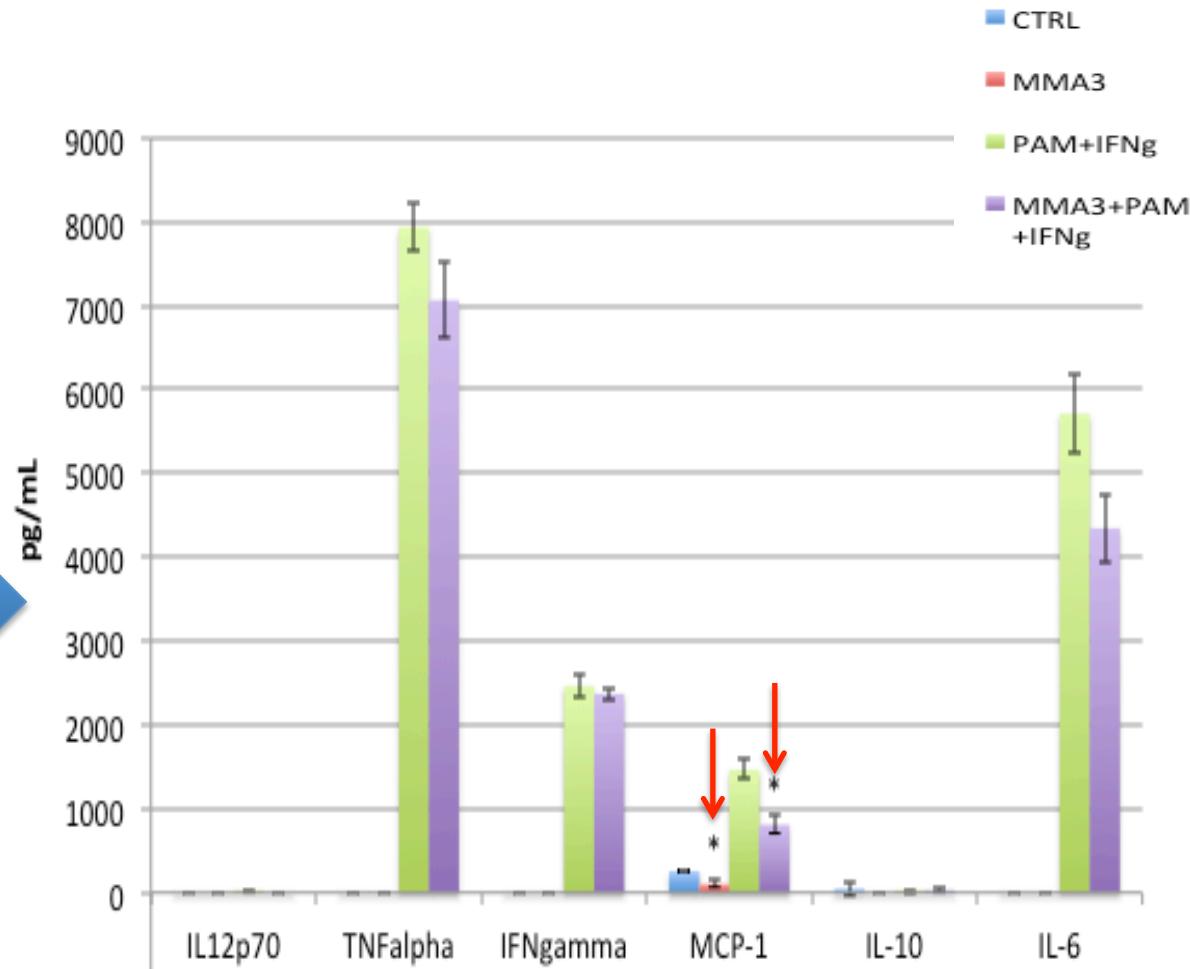
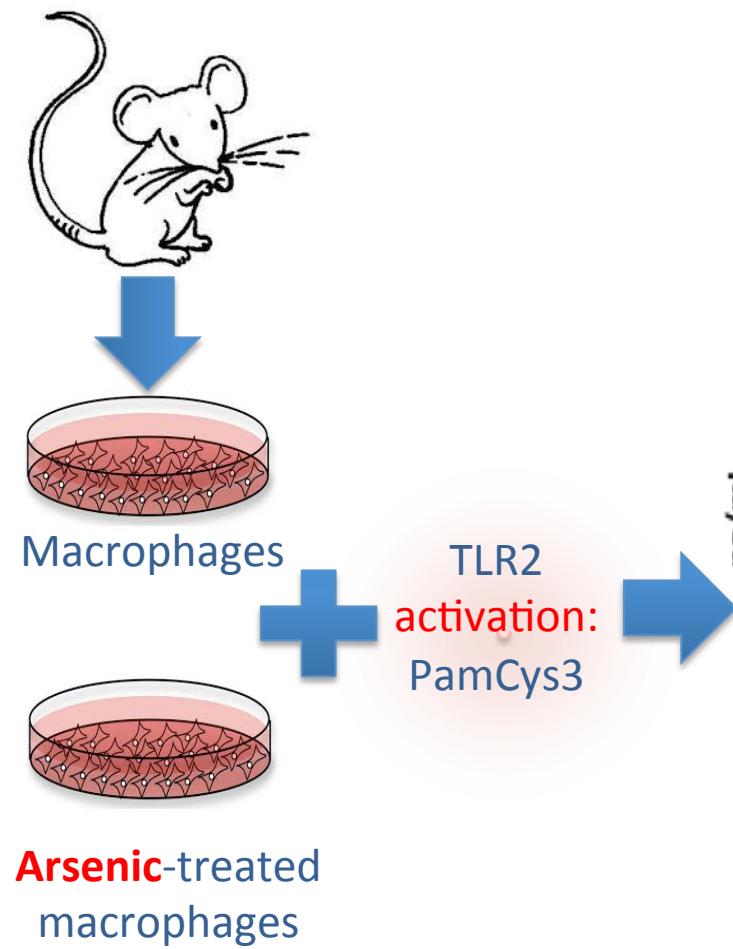
## Homeostasis



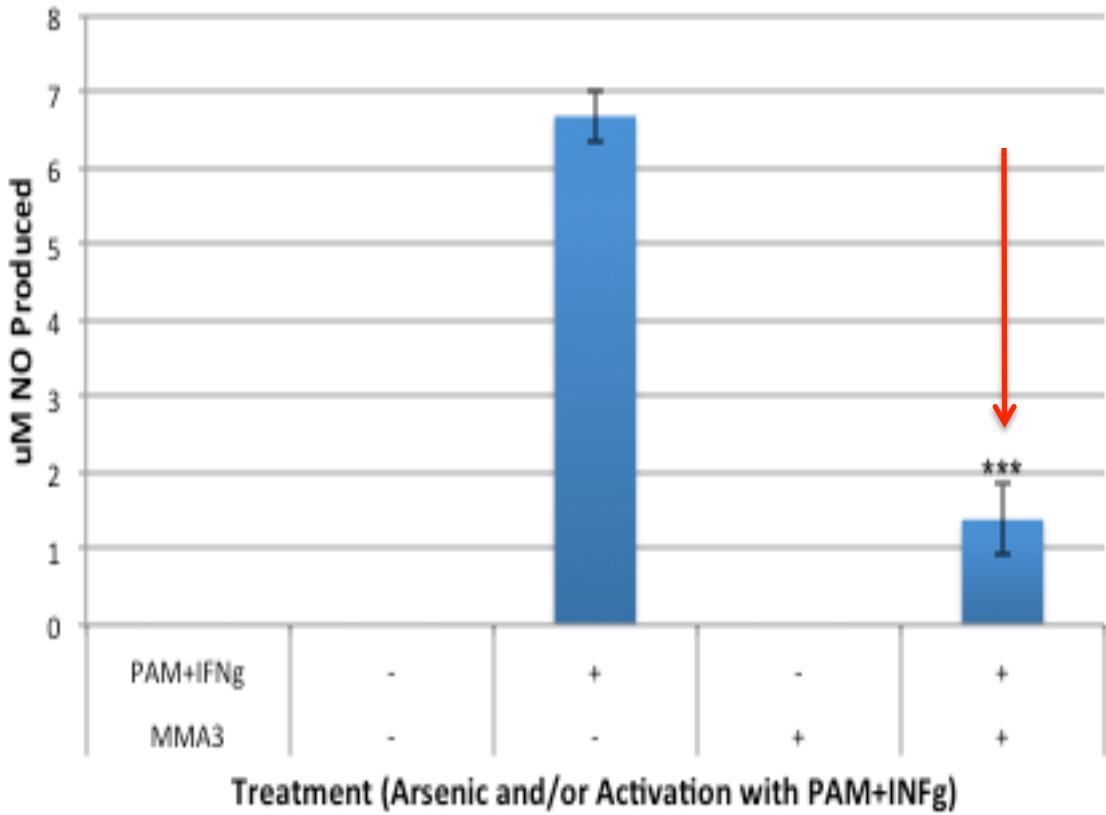
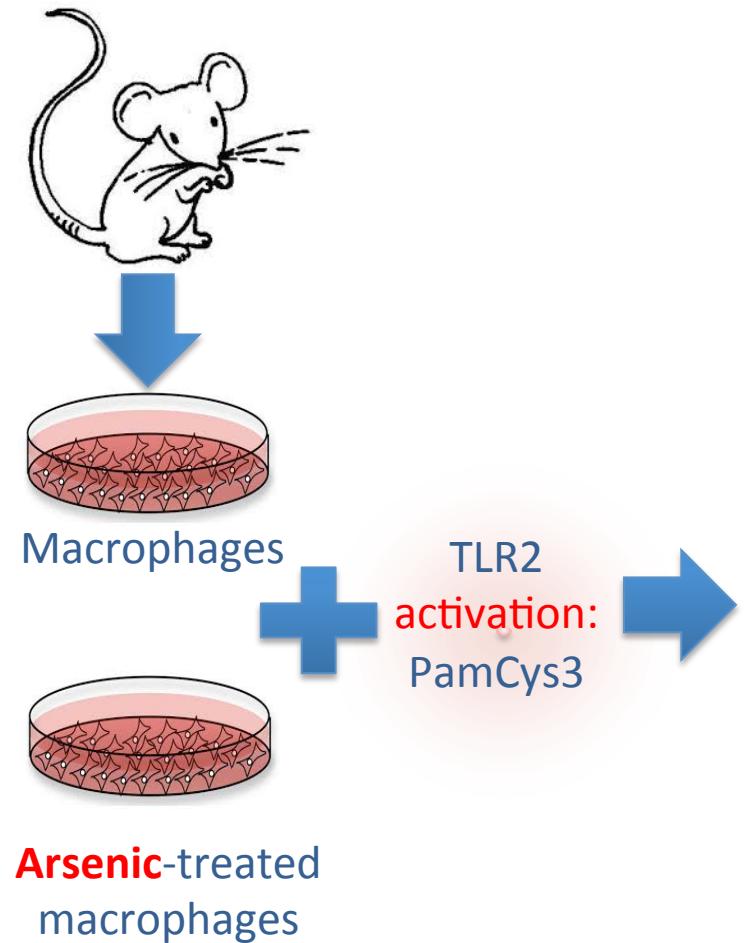
# Does arsenic alter macrophage activation?



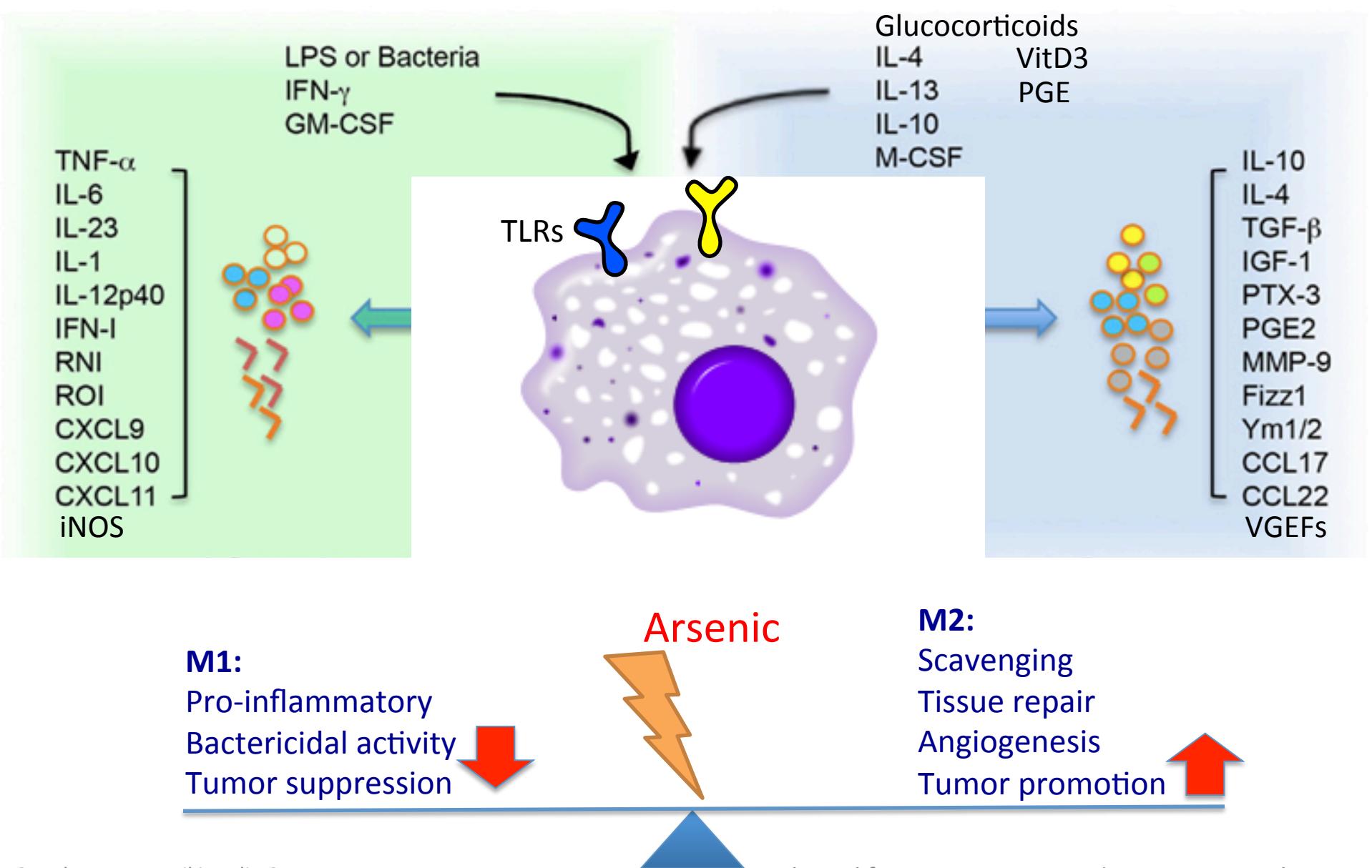
# Arsenic alters cytokine/chemokine expression in activated macrophages



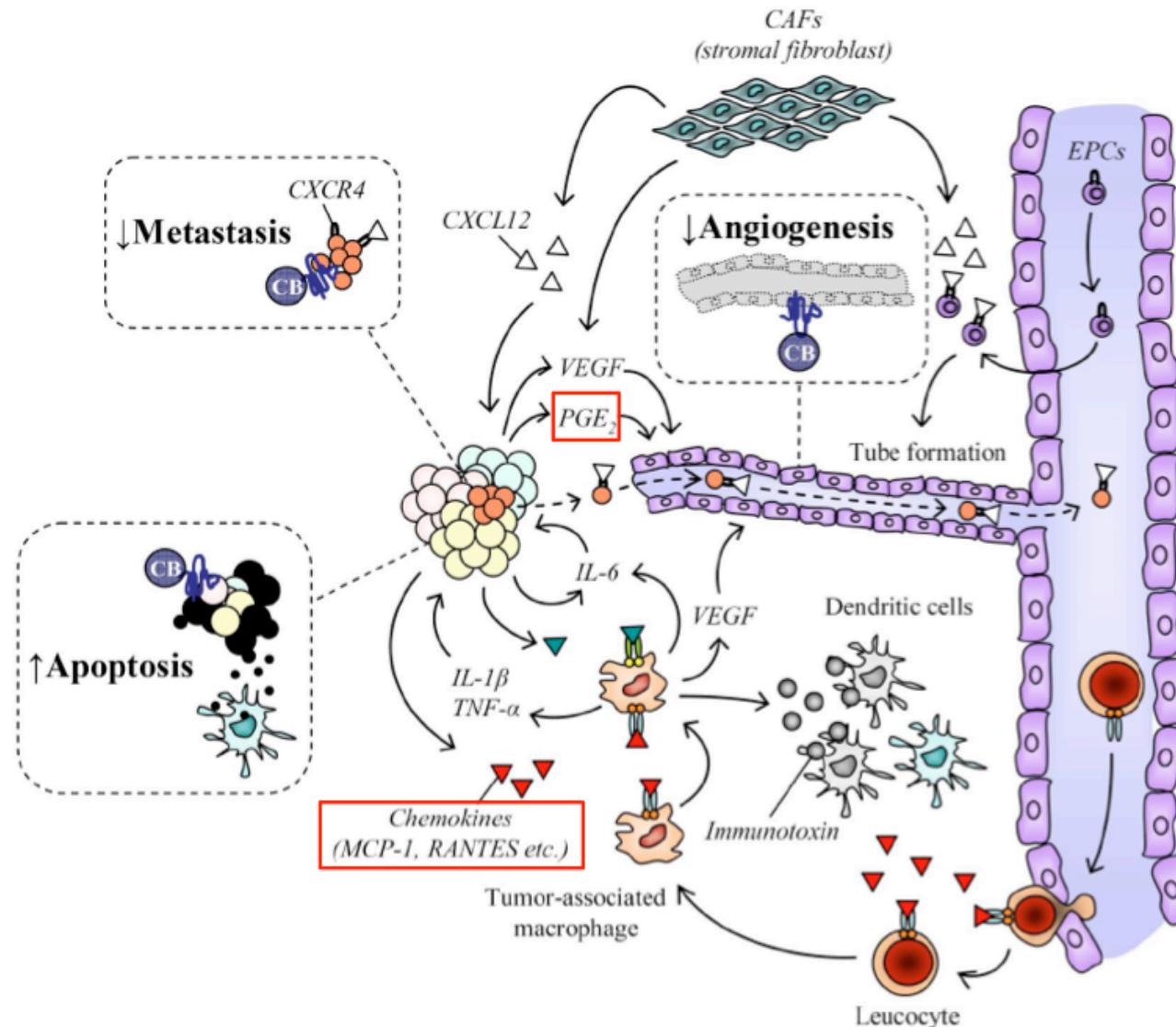
# Arsenic alters nitric oxide production in activated macrophages



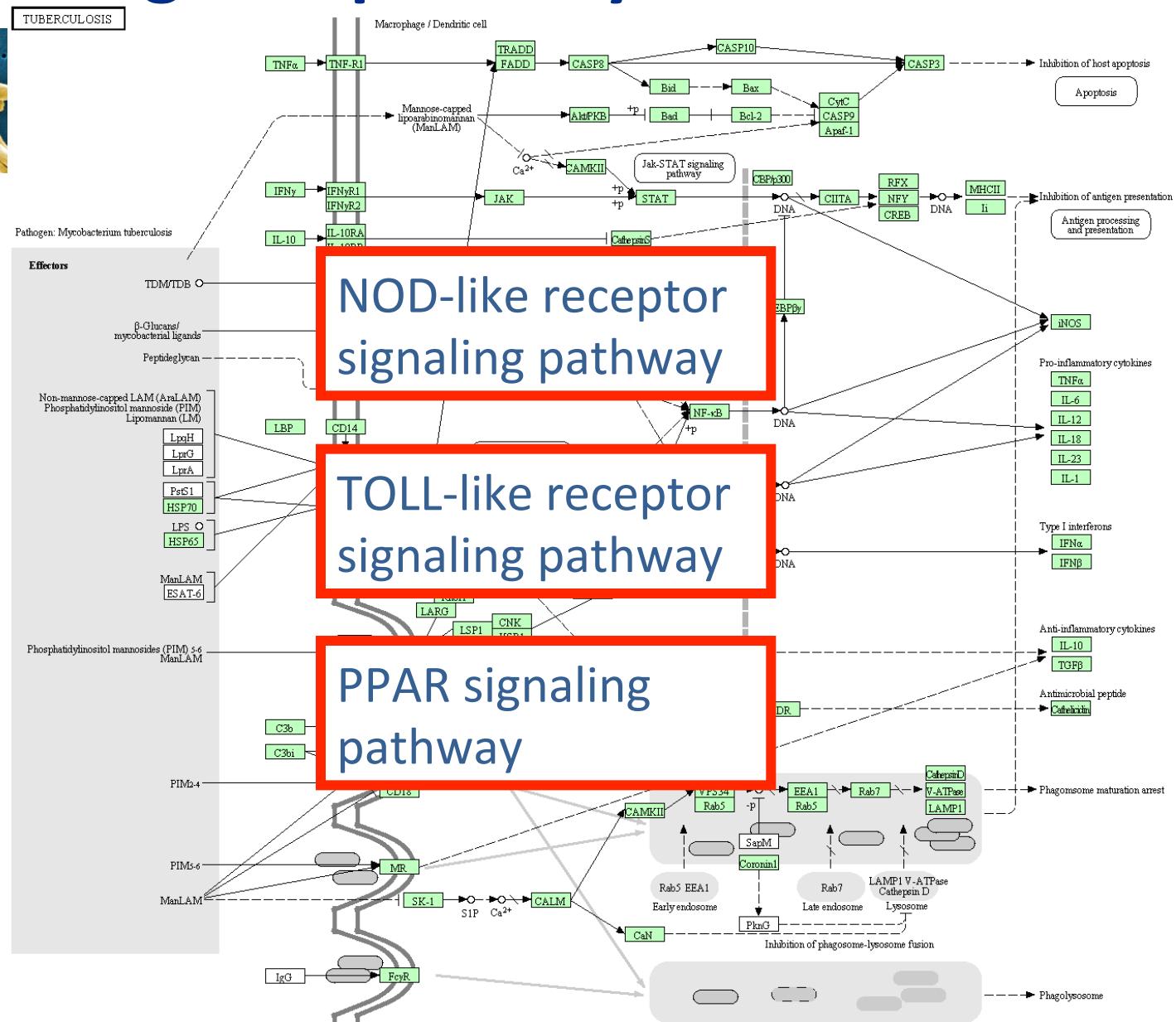
# Arsenic & macrophages



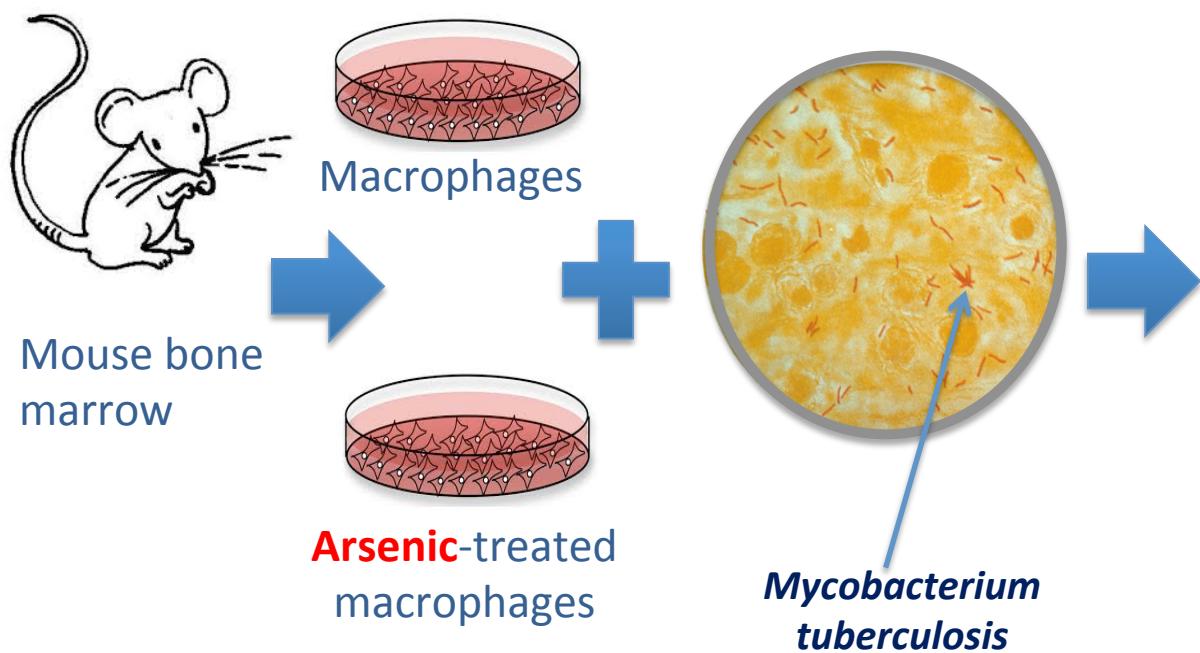
# Arsenic-targeted pathways that favor tumor progression



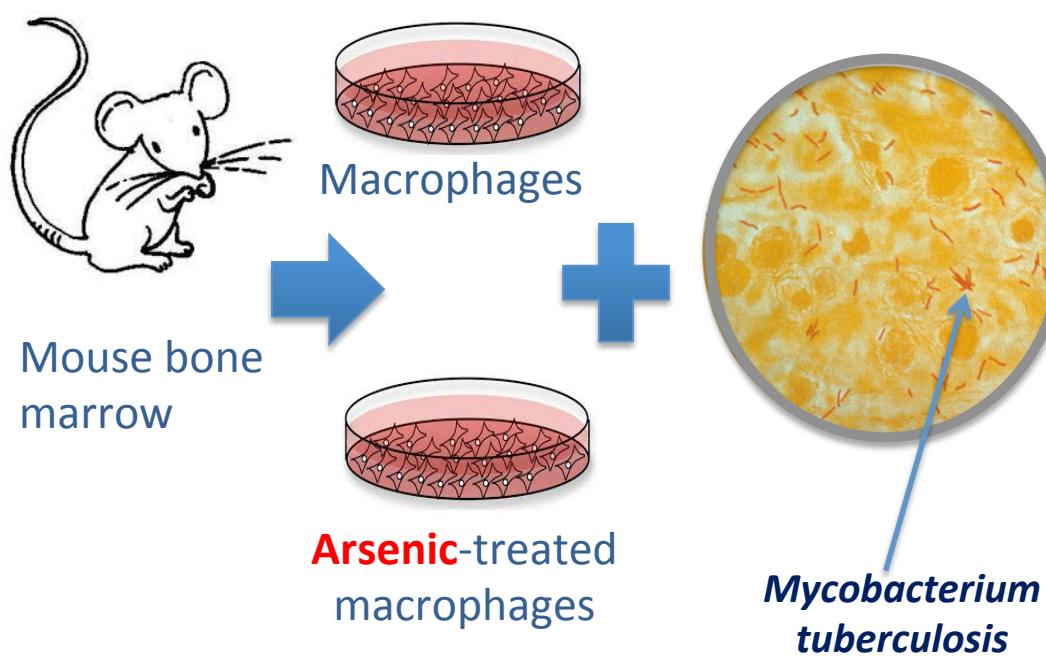
# Arsenic-targeted pathways relevant to TB



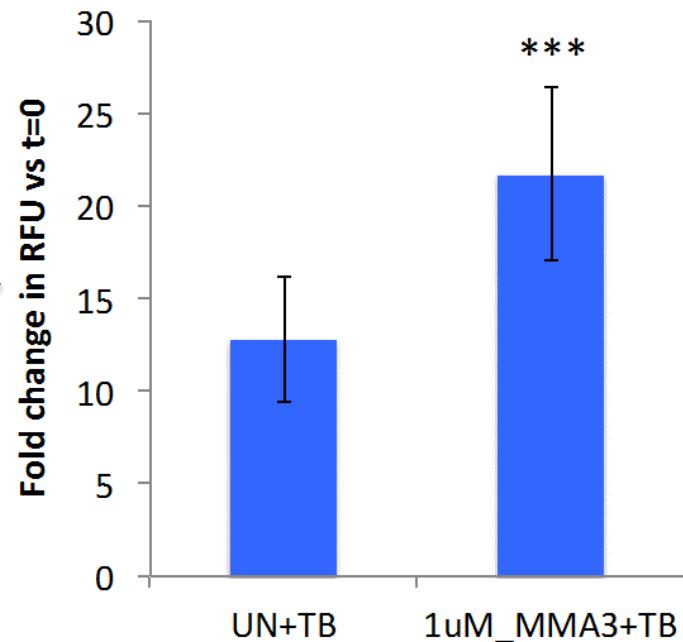
# Does arsenic alter tuberculosis outcome?



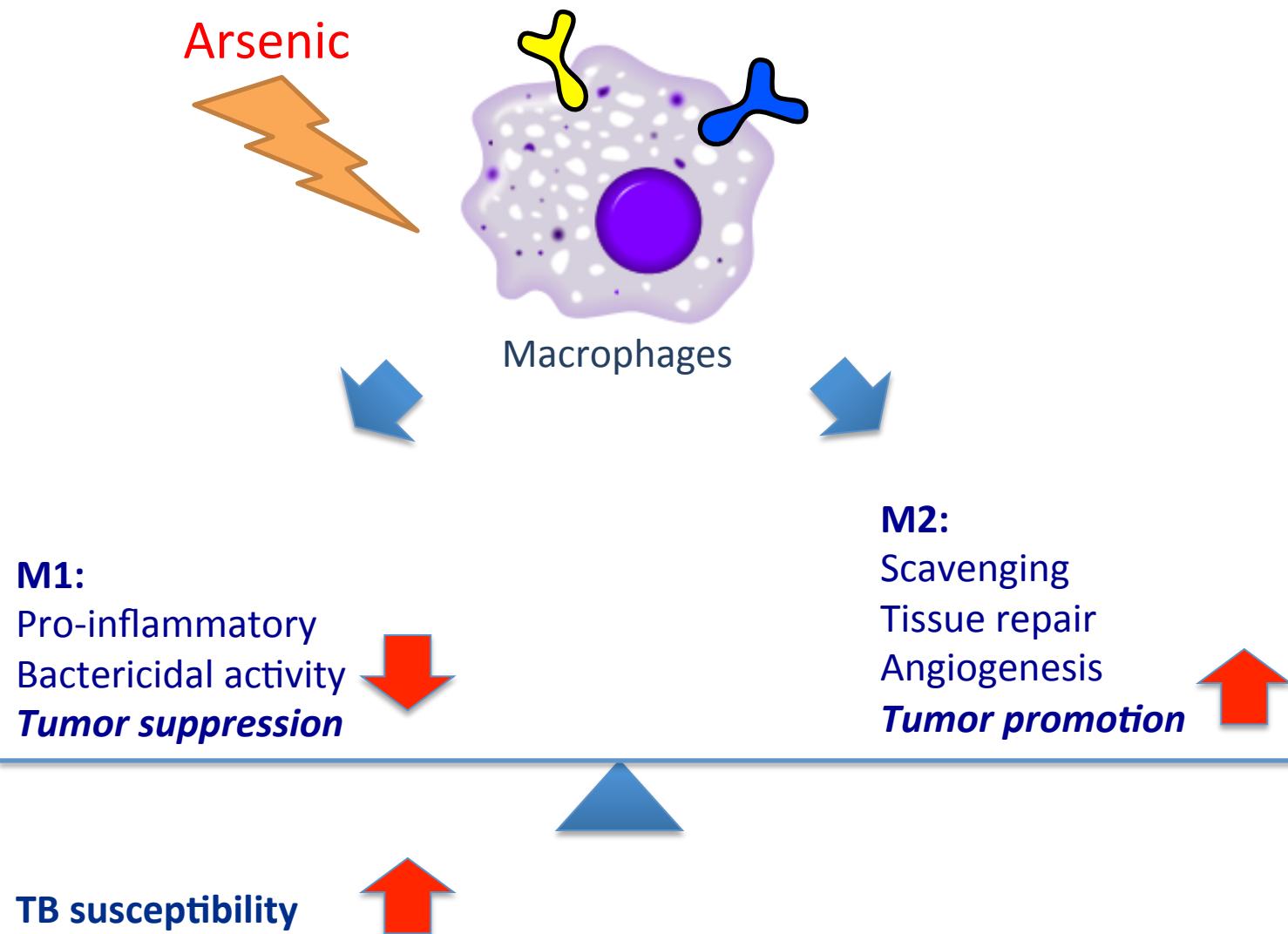
# Arsenic during differentiation alters *M. tuberculosis* infections



6hrs MMA3 + 24hrs *M. tuberculosis*



# Arsenic alters innate immunity & disease risk



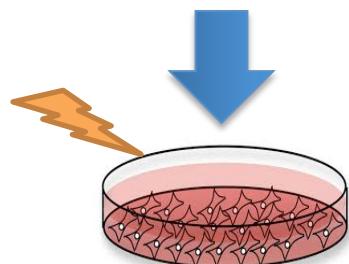
# Next steps:

Aim 1

*In vitro*



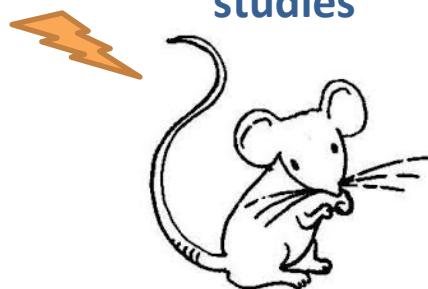
Differentiation



**Arsenic-treated**  
macrophages

Aim 2

*In vivo*  
Early-life arsenic-exposed **mouse** studies



Aim 3

*Ex vivo*  
Early-life arsenic-exposed **human** population study

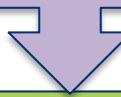


# Next steps:

Screen for signaling molecules & metabolites



Test immune function during disease



Understand the long-term effects of early-life exposure



Identify biomarkers and maybe even therapeutic targets!



# Thank you!



## COLLEAGUES:

- PI: Martyn Smith, PhD (UC Berkeley)
  - Sylvia Sanchez (UC Berkeley)
  - Felicia Castriota (UC Berkeley)
  - Smith lab members
- PI: Daniel Nomura, PhD (UC Berkeley)
  - Daniel Medina-Cleghorn (UC Berkeley)
  - Breanna Ford (UC Berkeley)

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- Craig Steinmaus, MD, MPH (UC Berkeley)
- Catterina Ferreccio, MD, MPH (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)
- Allan Smith, PhD (UC Berkeley)
- Lee Riley, MD, PhD (UC Berkeley)
- Sarah Stanley, PhD (UC Berkeley)

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