



Environmental Exposures Enhance Severity of Respiratory Tract Infections in Children

Stephania A. Cormier, PhD

Department of Pediatrics
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Le Bonheur Children's Research Foundation

LSU | Superfund Research Center

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE **UT**
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Le Bonheur
Children's Hospital



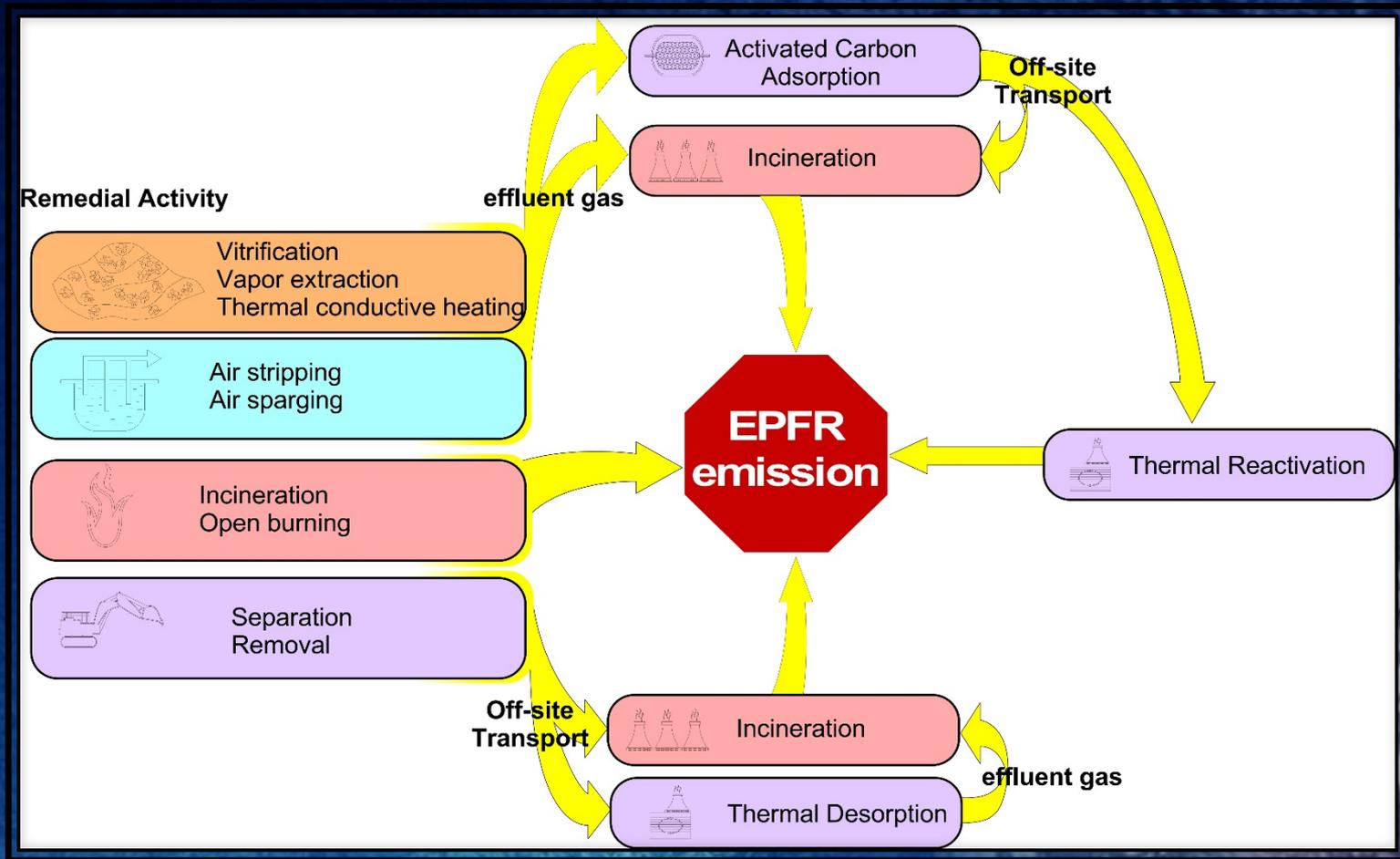
EPA

SUPERFUND SITE

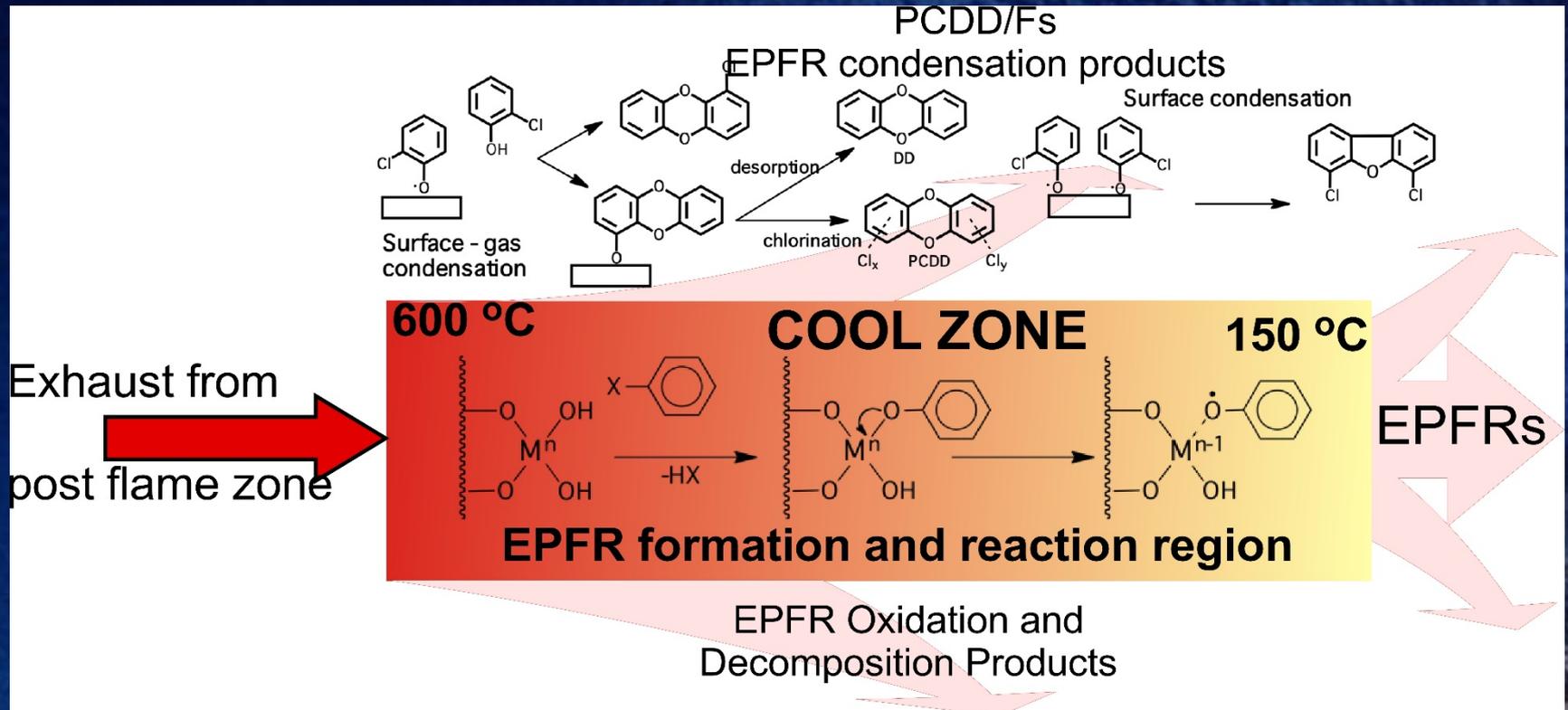
WARNING:
Hazardous materials
present at this site.
No Trespassing.

For further information call the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(800) 346-5009

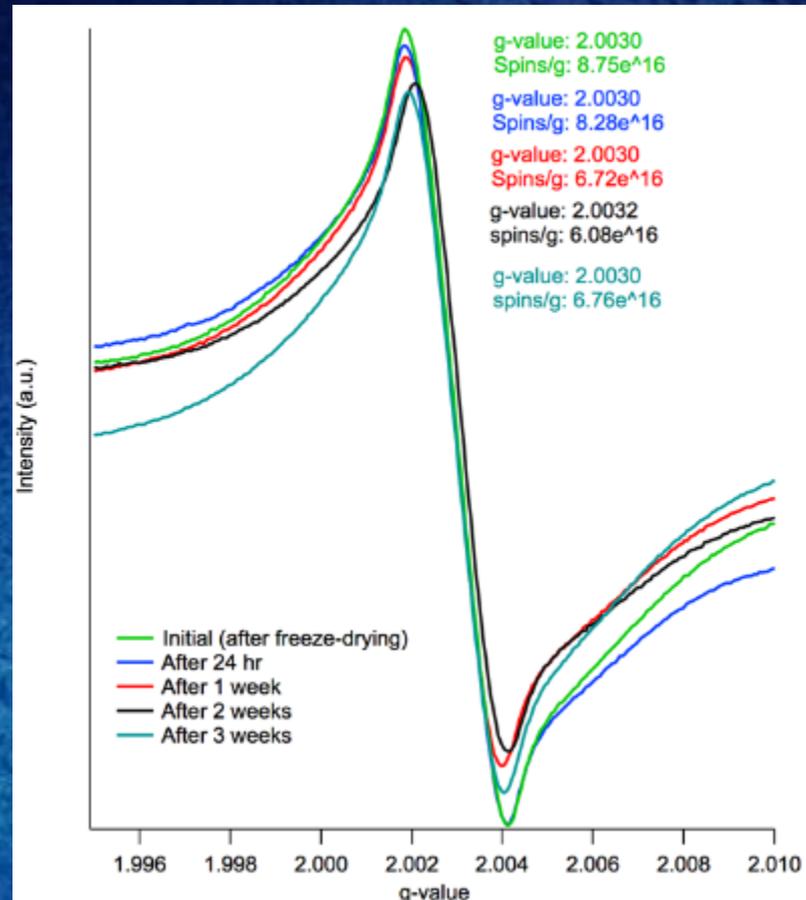
Environmental Cleanup Methods



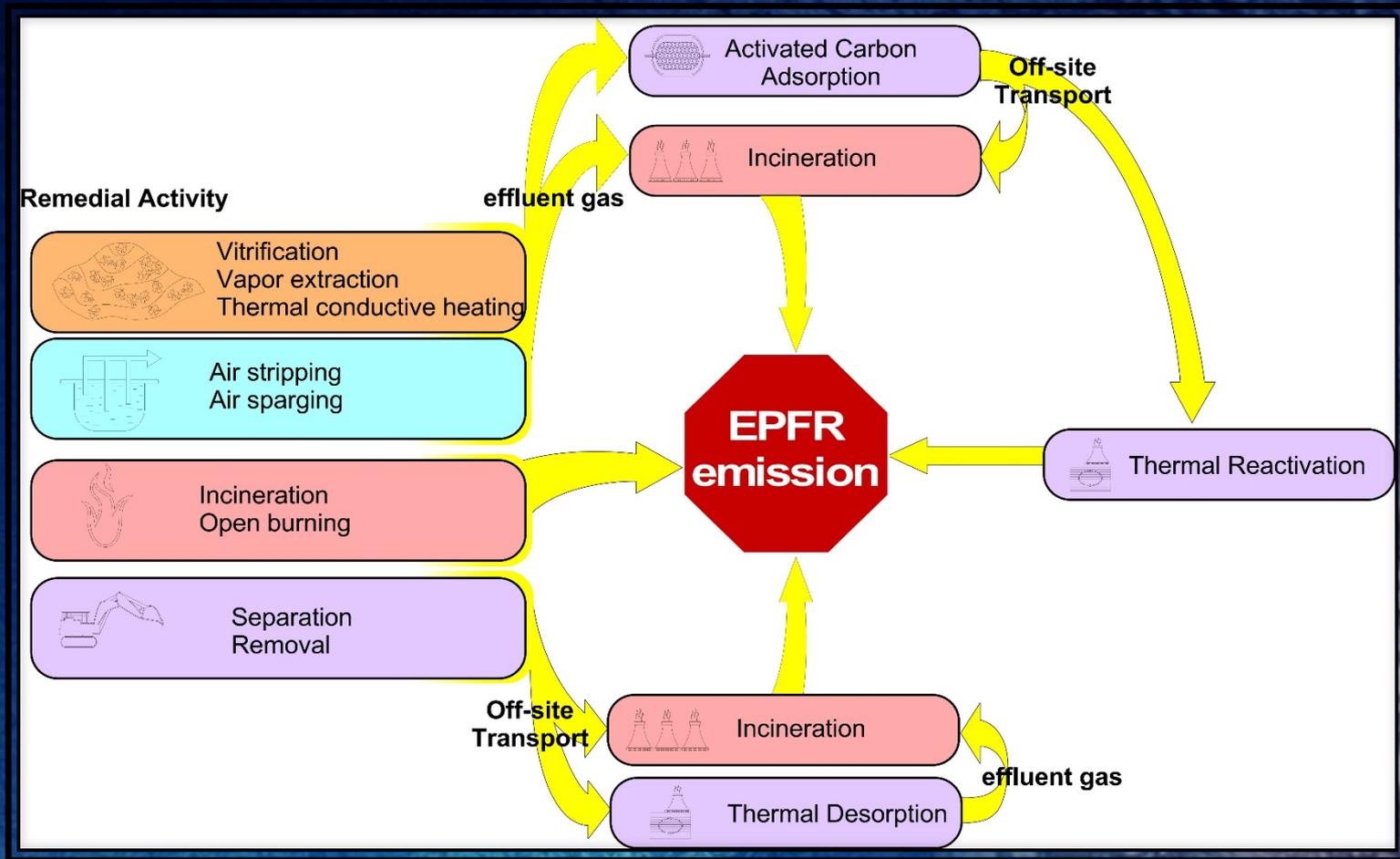
Formation of EPFRs



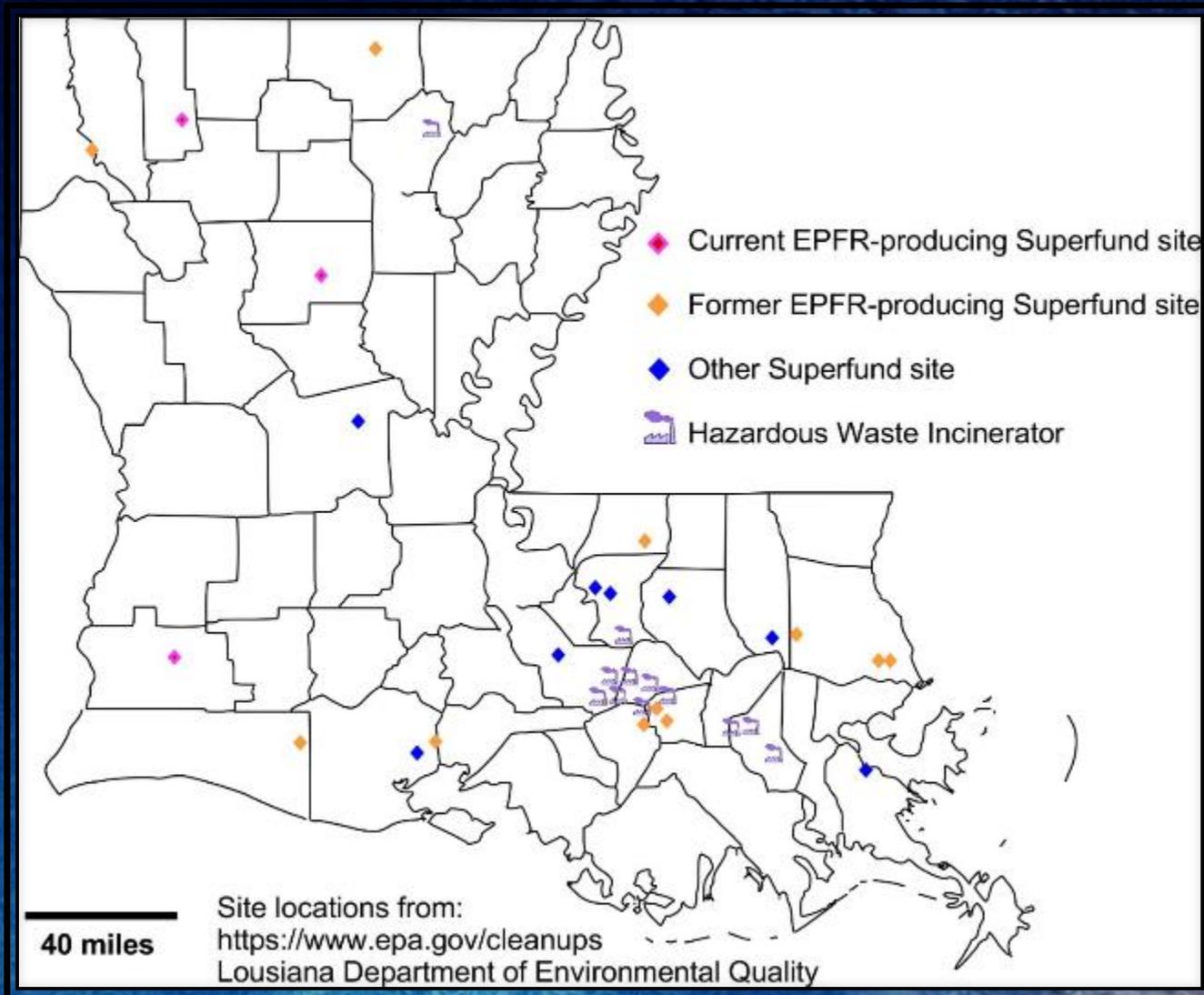
Fly Ash: A Source of Environmentally Persistent Free Radicals (EPFRs)



Environmental Cleanup Methods

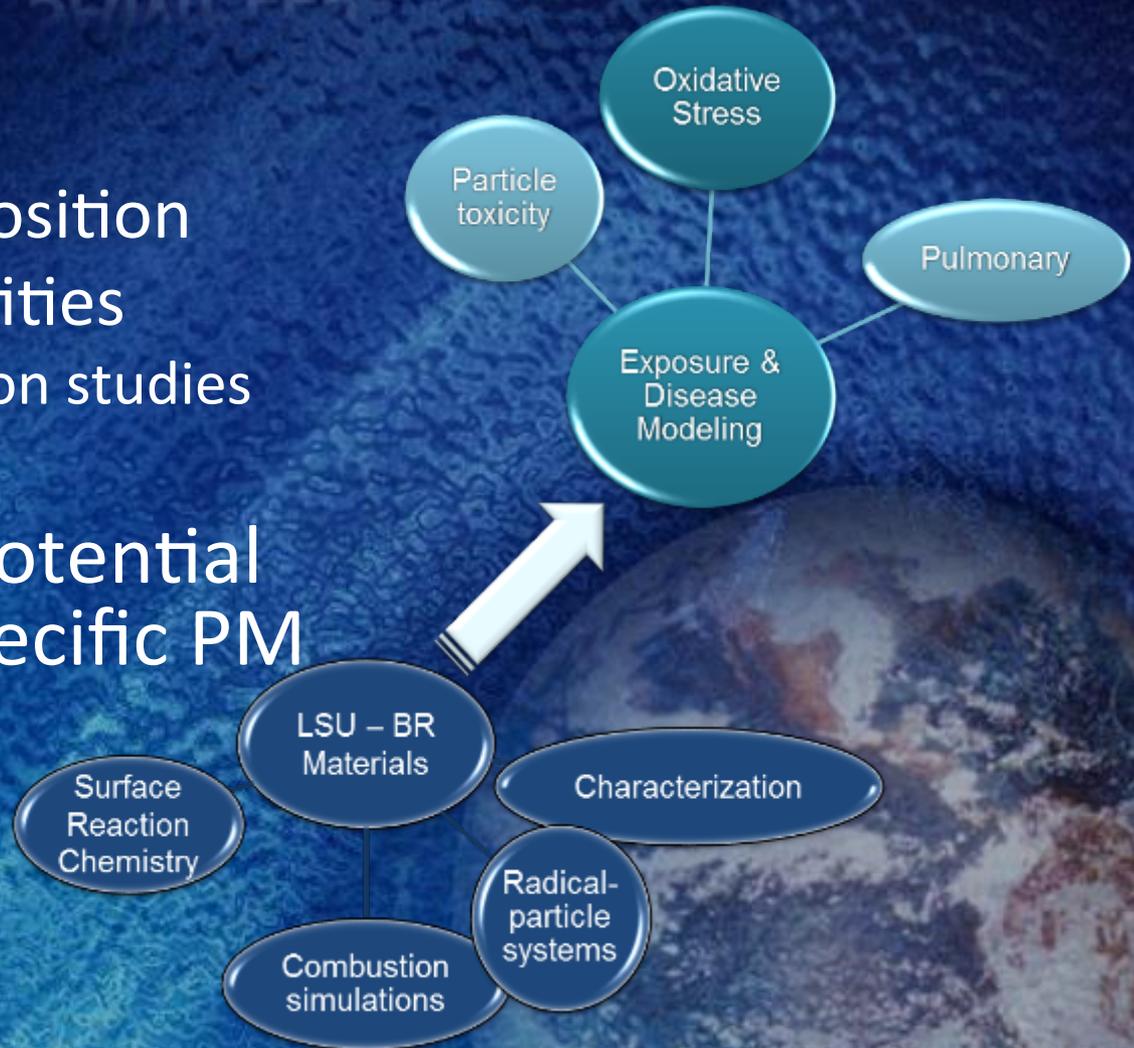


LA Hazardous Waste Sites

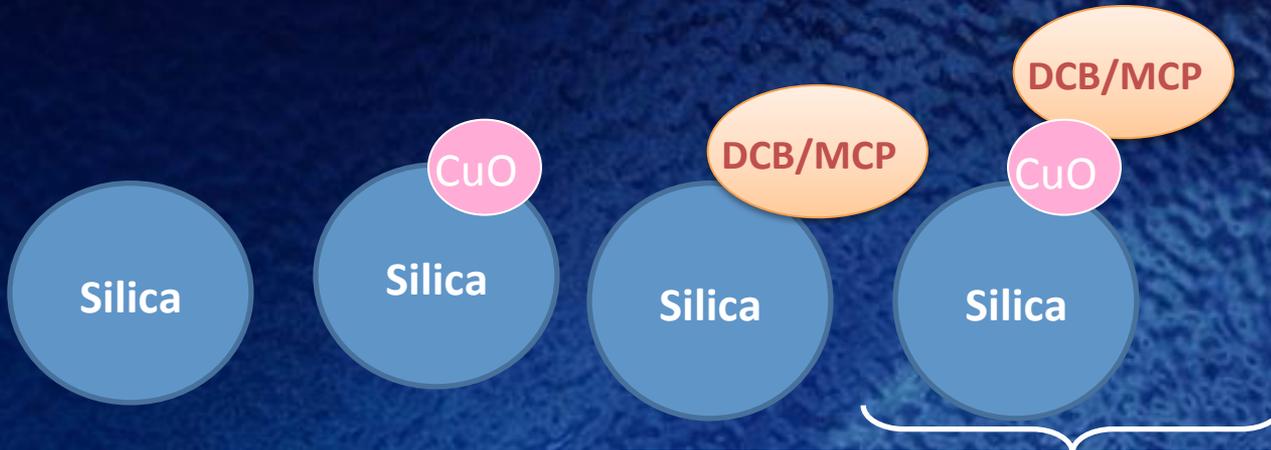


LABORATORY GENERATED COMBUSTION SAMPLES

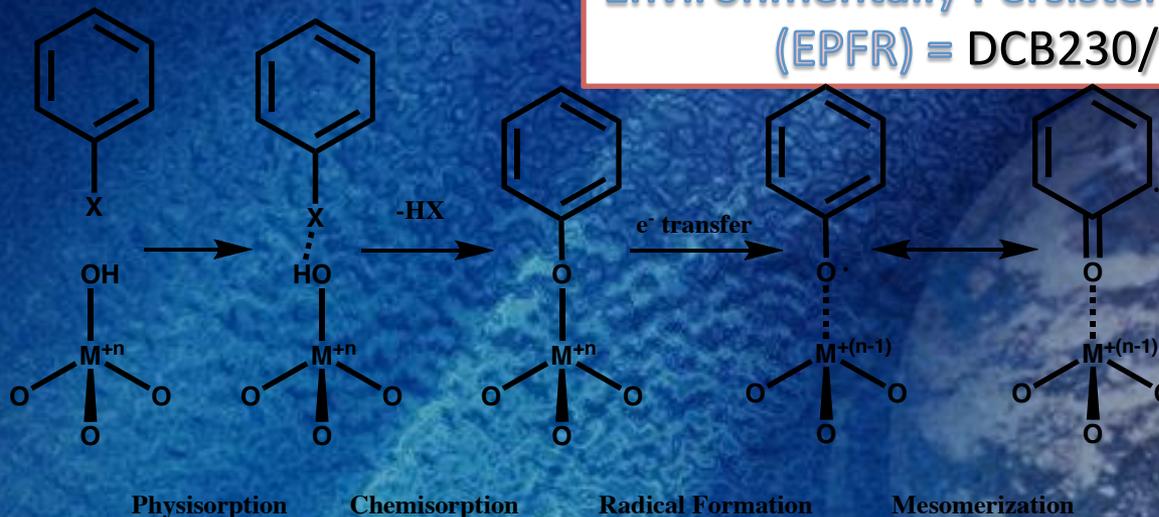
- Control
 - Size
 - Chemical composition
 - Sufficient quantities
 - In vivo inhalation studies
- More accurate assessment of potential risk posed by specific PM components
 - CHC/BHC
 - Radicals



Particle Systems



Environmentally Persistent Free Radical (EPFR) = DCB230/MCP230



CS tar: $1e16$ radicals/g

$PM_{2.5}$: $1e16 - 1e17$ radicals/g

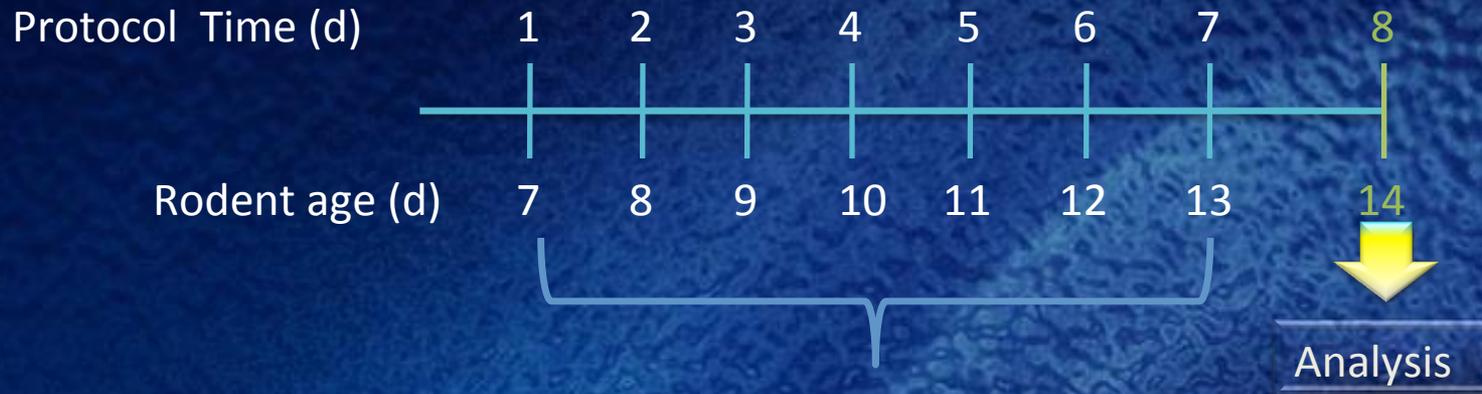
EPFRs: $1e14 - 1e16$ radicals/g

Infants highly vulnerable to airborne exposures

- Lungs & immune systems are still developing
- High respiratory rate



In Vivo Acute Exposure Protocol



Study Endpoints

Lung Function

AHR

Resistance, elastance,

Lung Histology

Cellular inflammation

Mucus production

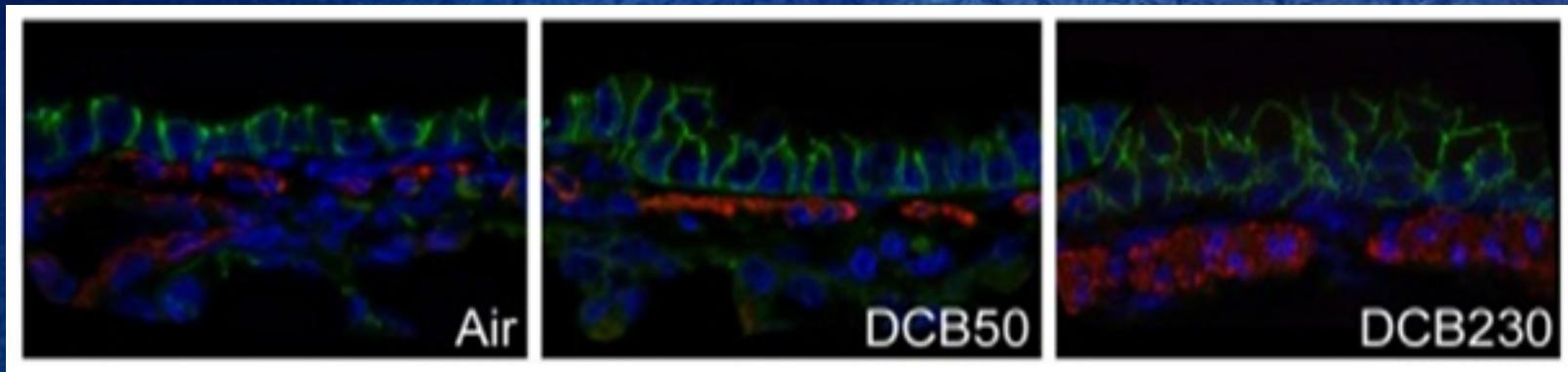
Inflammation

BAL: cell type & numb



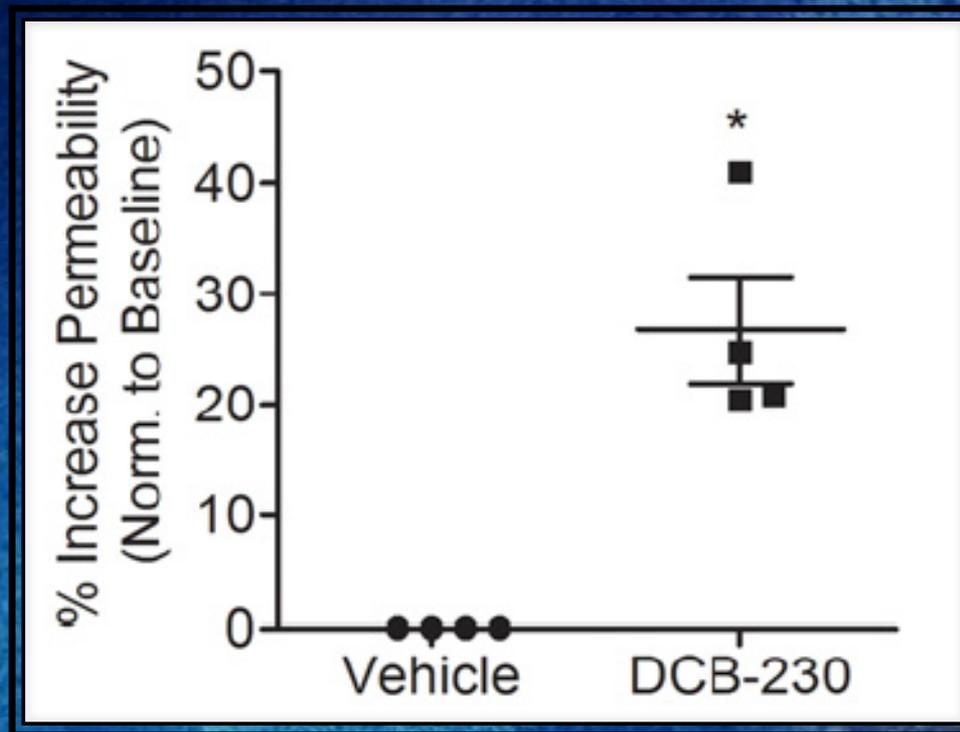
Window of Vulnerability

- Structural Changes
 - Lung injury and destruction of epithelial barrier
 - Airway remodeling: EMT



Window of Vulnerability

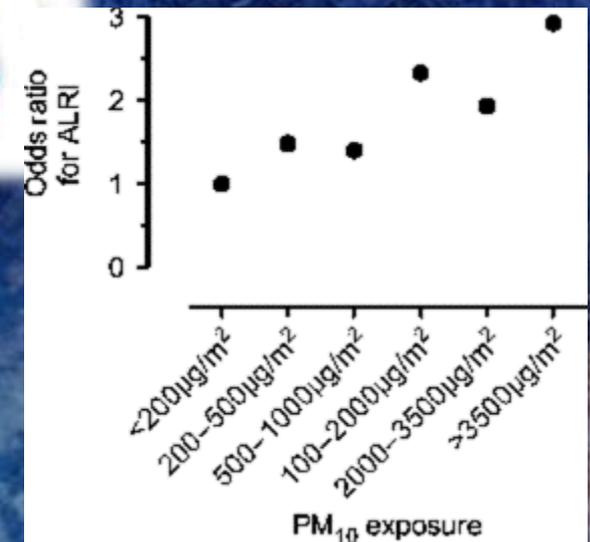
- Structural Changes
 - Lung injury and destruction of epithelial barrier



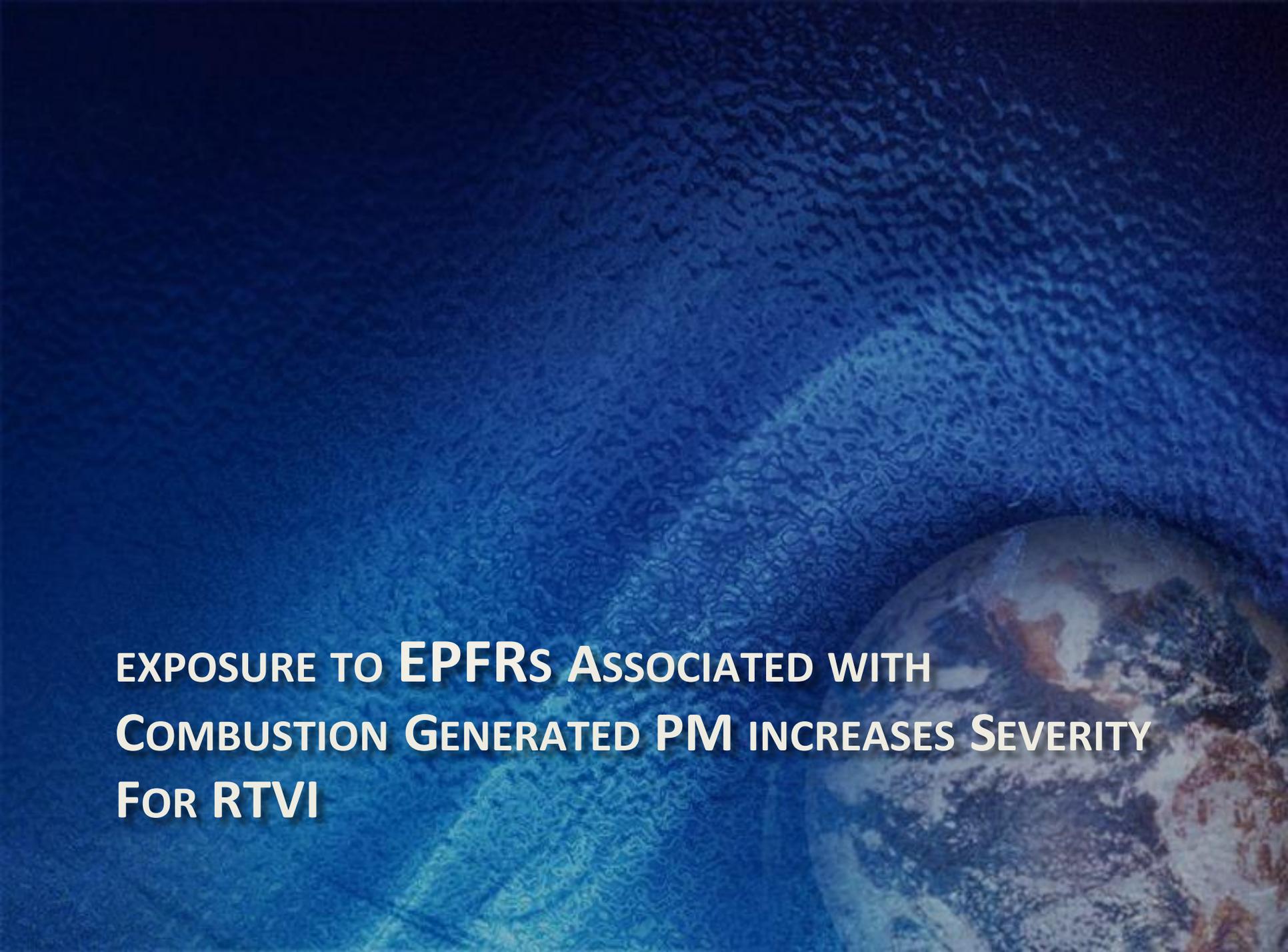
Summary of Results

- Infant exposures to EPFR-containing PM lead to long-term pulmonary consequences
 - Distinct pathologies
 - Inflammation
 - Epithelial disorganization (3dpe) – lung leak
 - Remodeling (w/i 4d exposure) – EMT
 - In vivo
 - » E cad + aSMA
 - » Bgal + aSMA
 - In vitro neonatal ALI
 - » E cad + aSMA
 - » Expression of genes associated with EMT: ↑Snai1 + aSMA and ↓E cad
 - Respiratory dysfunction
 - Uptake & Oxidative stress
 - ↑ 8-isoprostanes
 - ↓ GSH:GSSG ratio
 - Relevance:
 - Mechanistically link PM exposure to airway remodeling
 - Loss of epithelial integrity (3-4dpe) suggests window of vulnerability to RTI

Every year, 1.96 million people die from ARIs as a result of indoor air pollution.

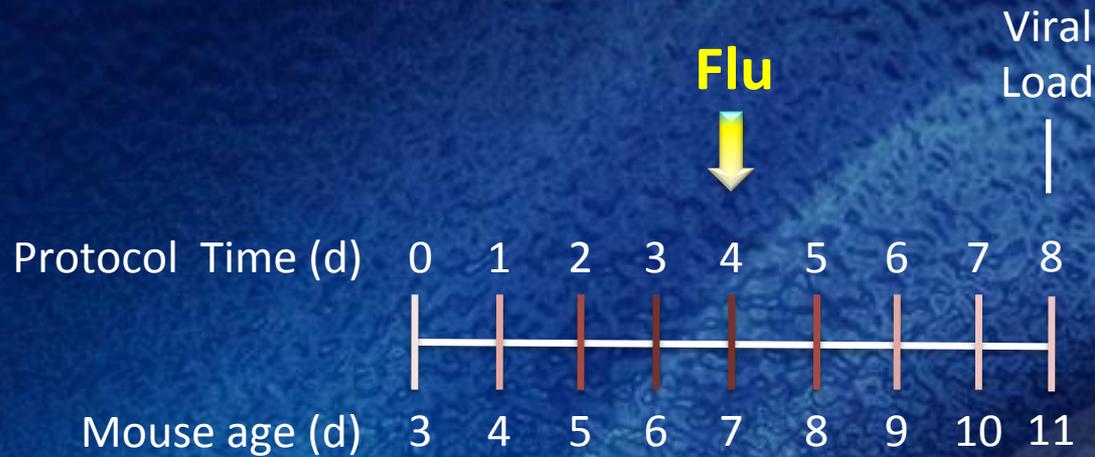


Source: ARIAtlas.org, World Lung Foundation 2010

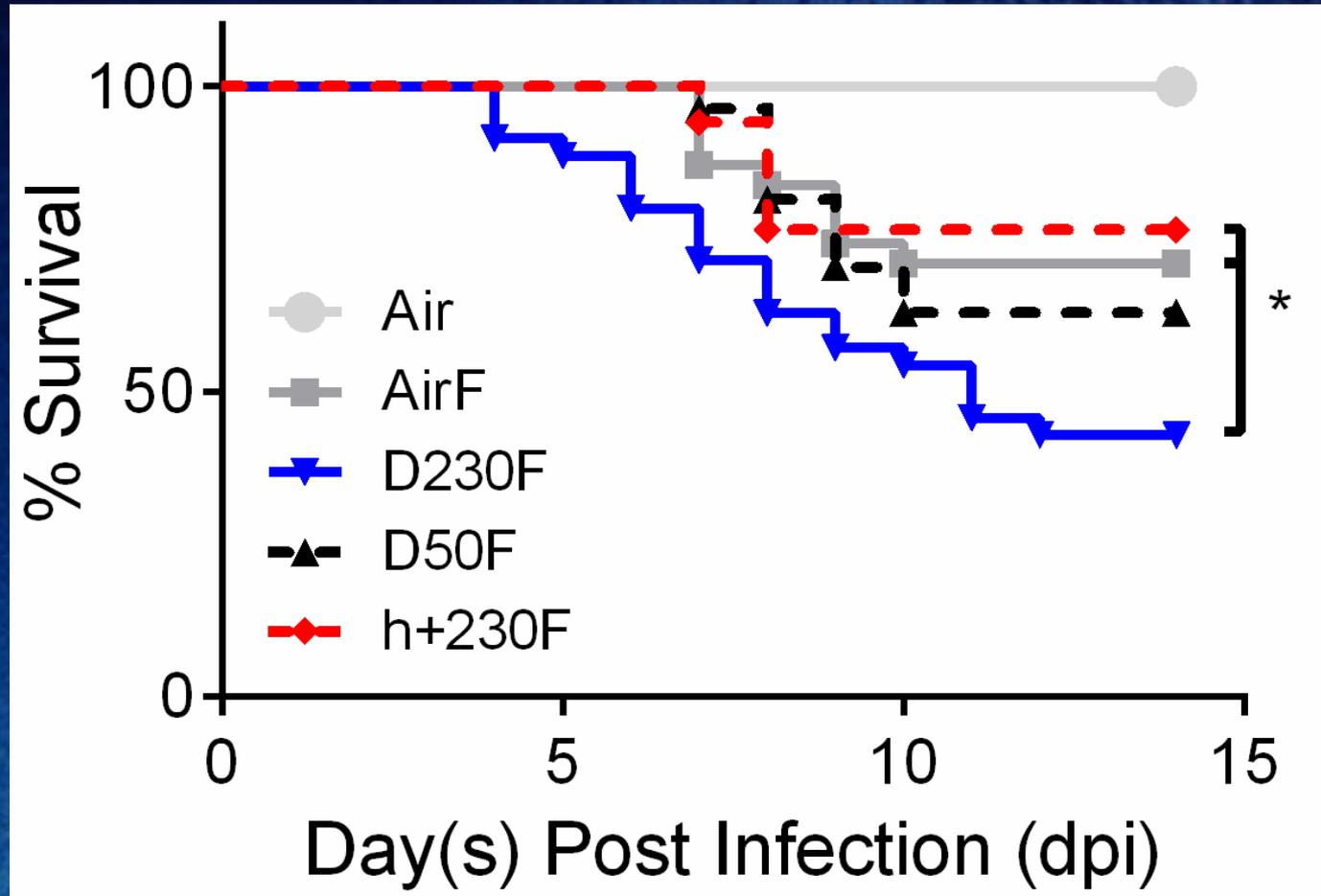


**EXPOSURE TO EPFRs ASSOCIATED WITH
COMBUSTION GENERATED PM INCREASES SEVERITY
FOR RTVI**

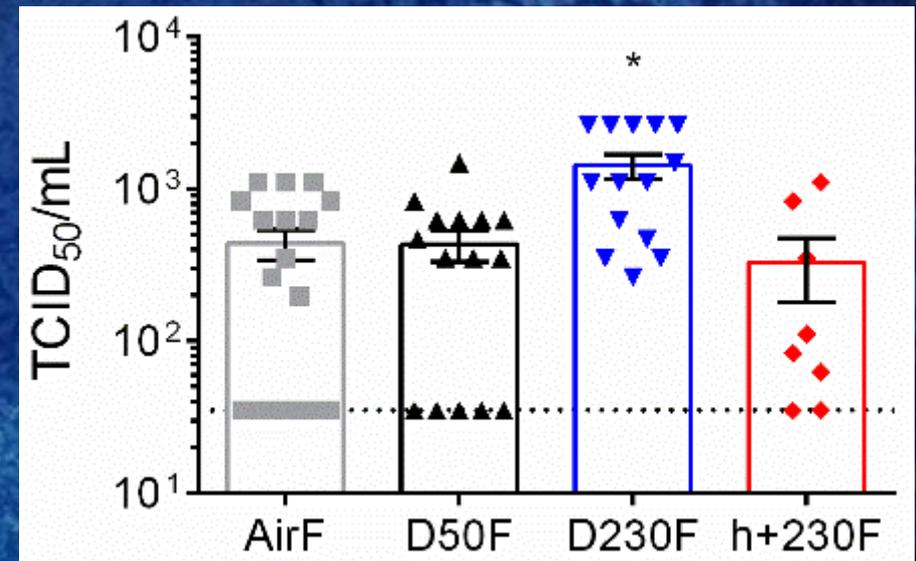
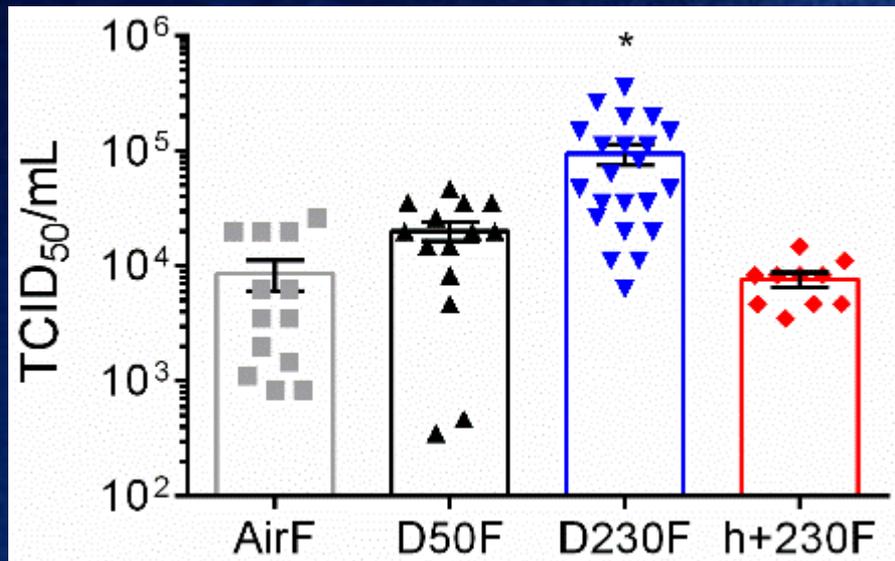
Exposure and Infection Protocol



Influenza Mortality is Enhanced with EPFR Exposure

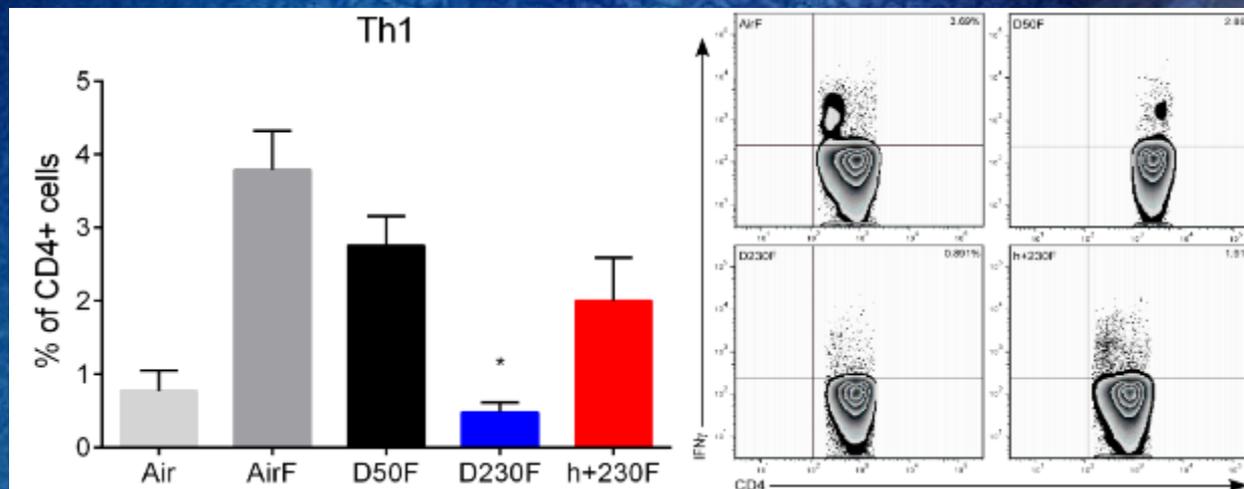
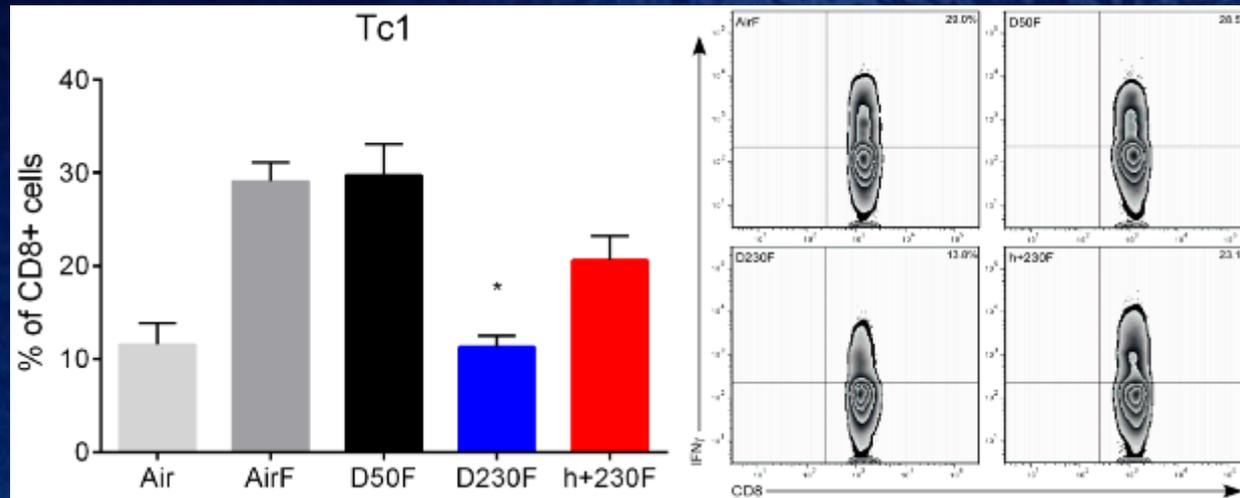


EPFRs Increase Flu Viral Load & Delay Clearance

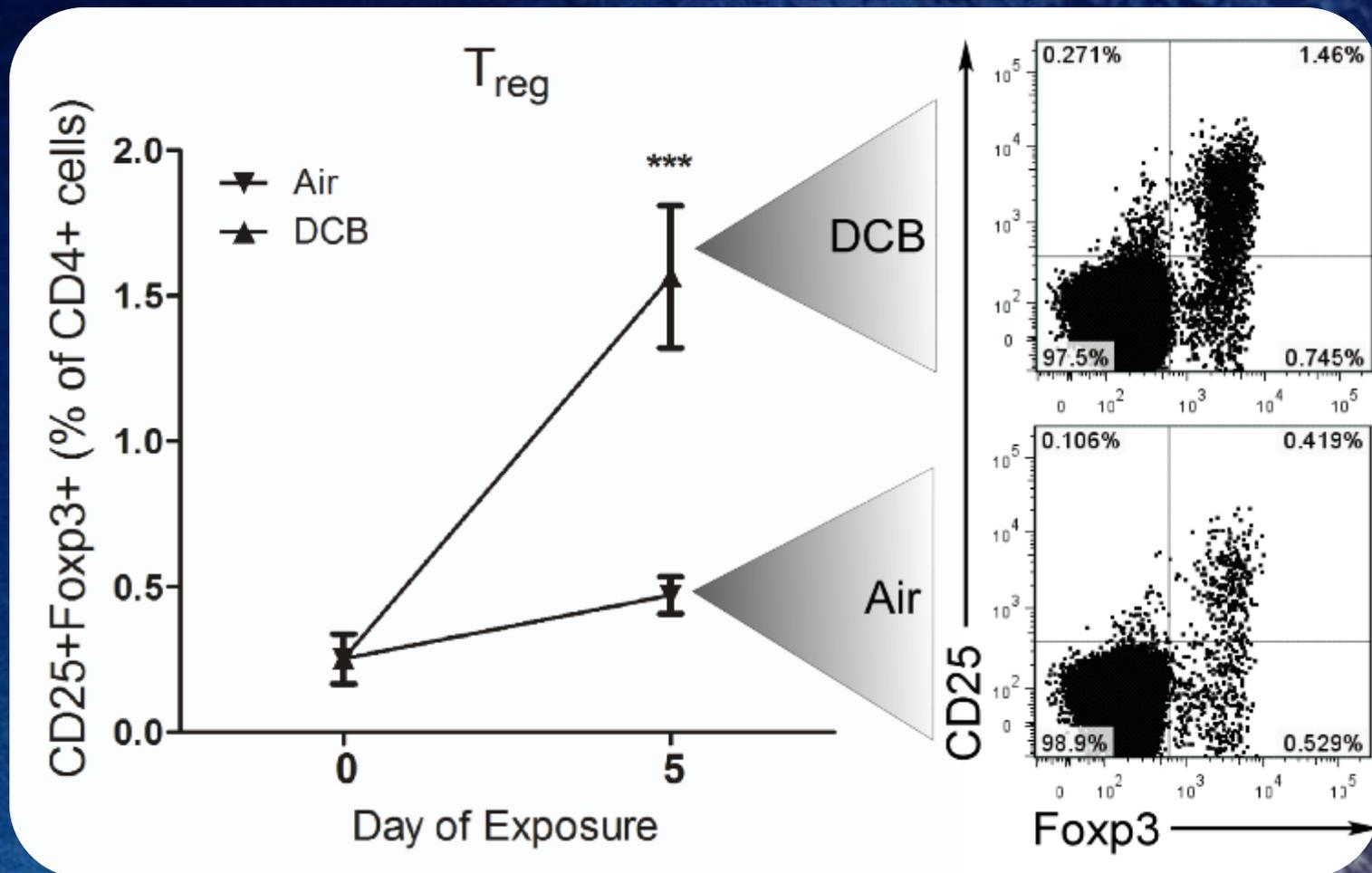


AirF	air	Flu
D50F	non-EPFR PM	Flu
D230F	EPFR PM	Flu
H+230F	hSOD2 + EPFR PM	Flu

Exposure to EPFRs Suppresses Protective Immune Responses

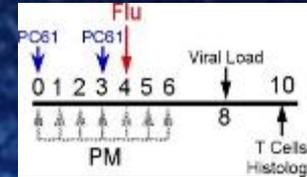
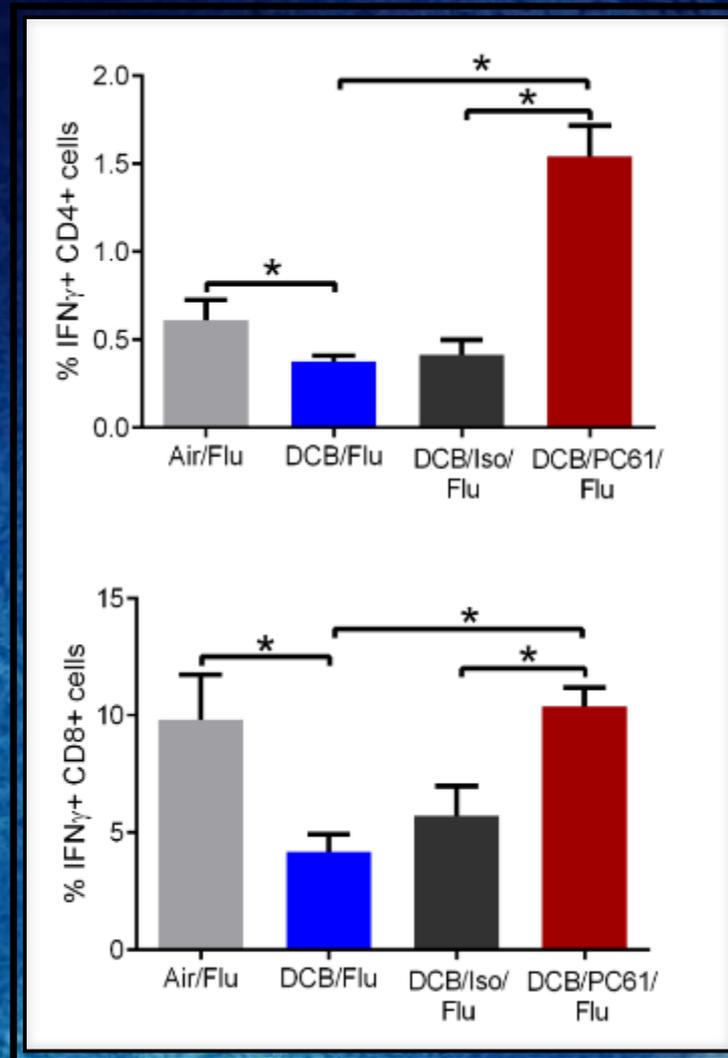


EPFRs Increase Tregs in the lung

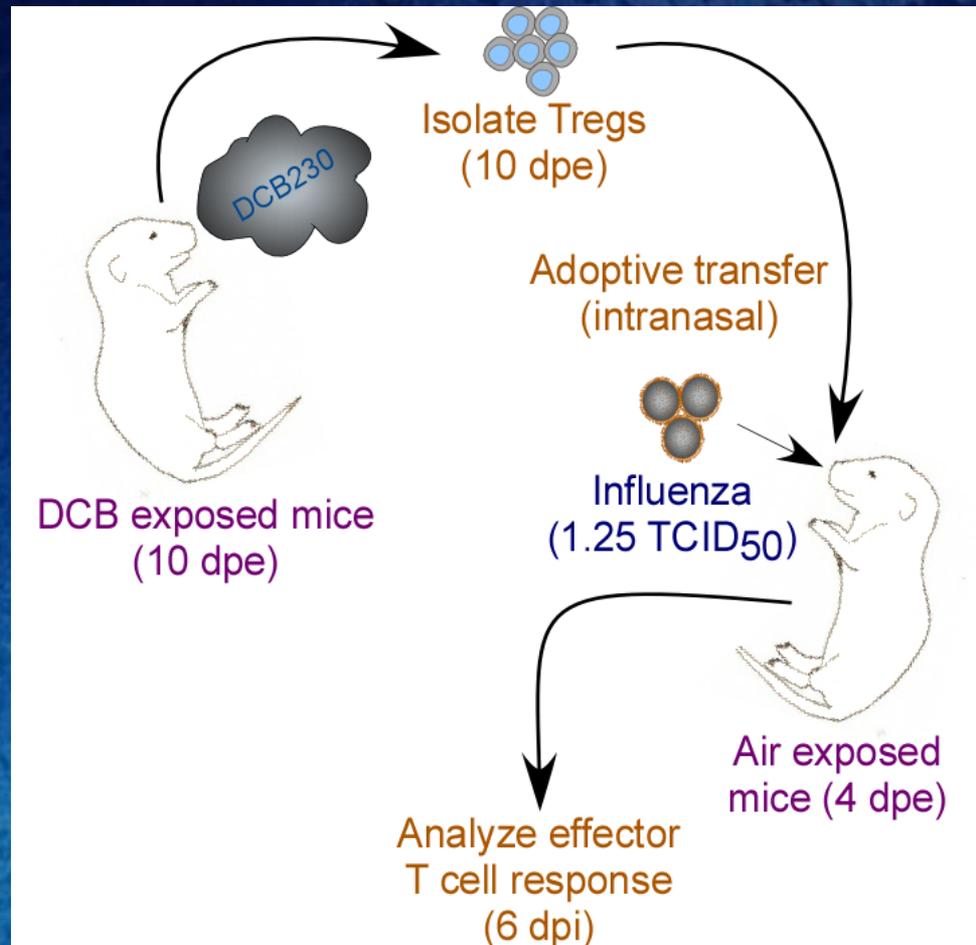


*p<0.05

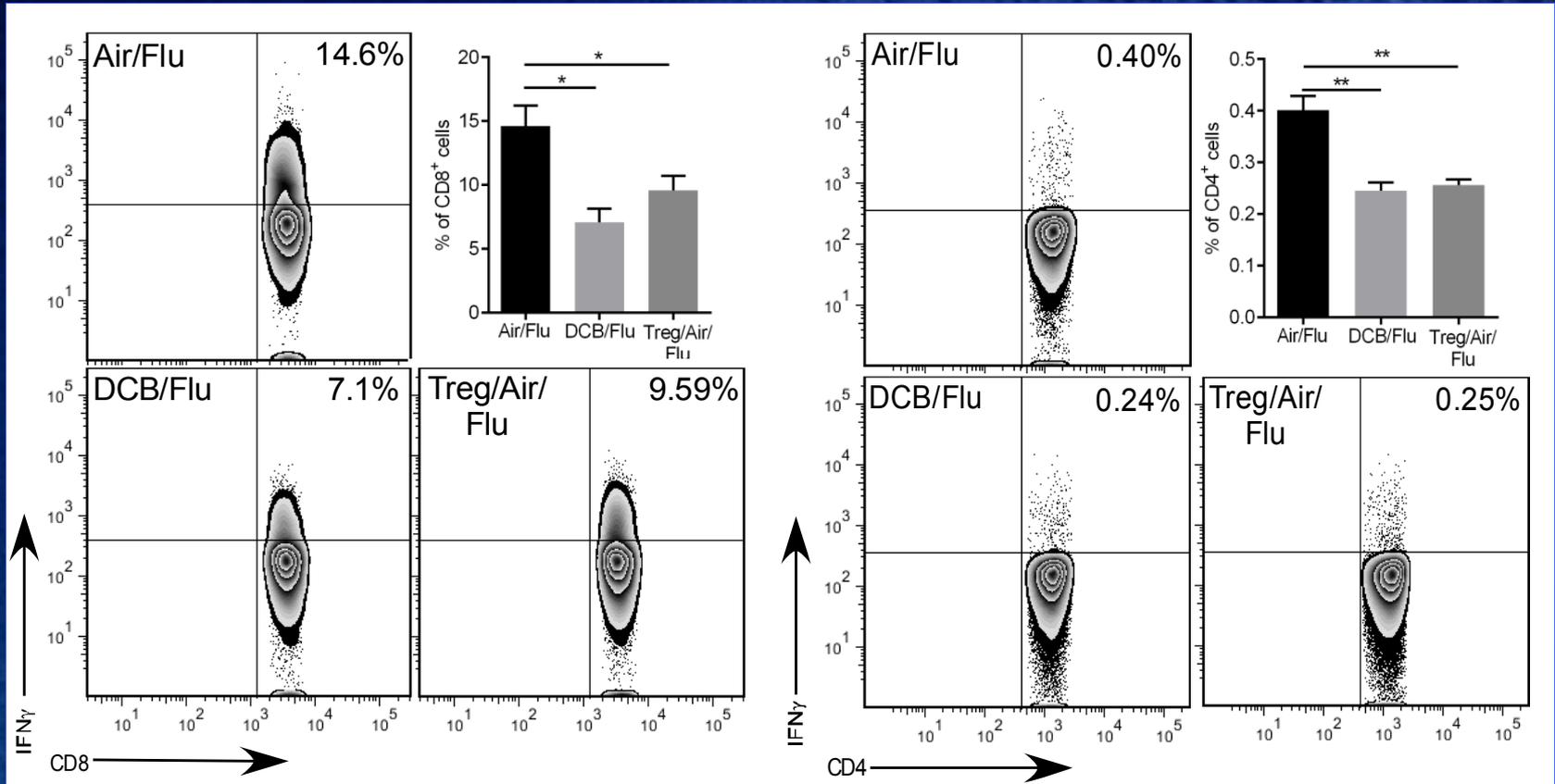
Absence of Tregs Restores Effector T cell Responses



Adoptive Transfer of Treg_{EPFR}

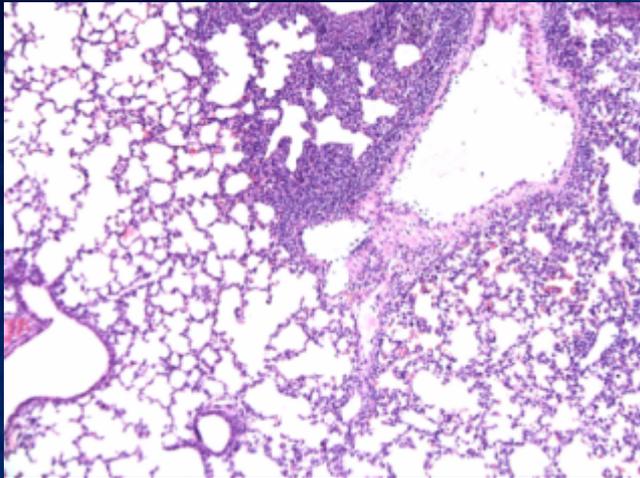


Treg_{EPFR} Suppress Effector T cell Responses

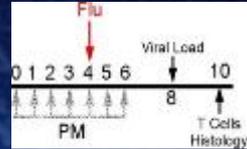
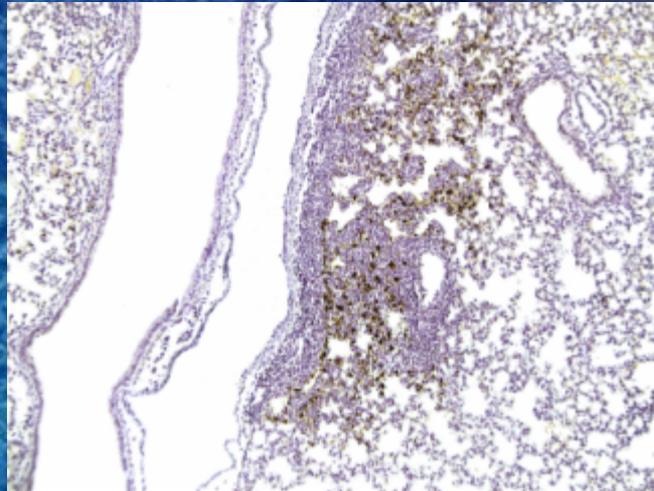
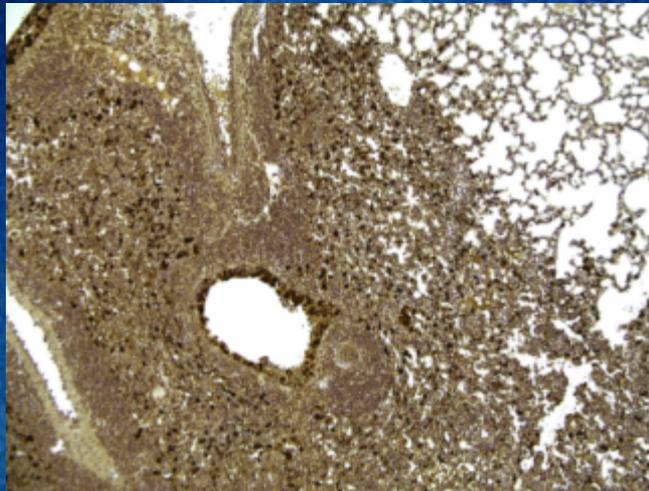
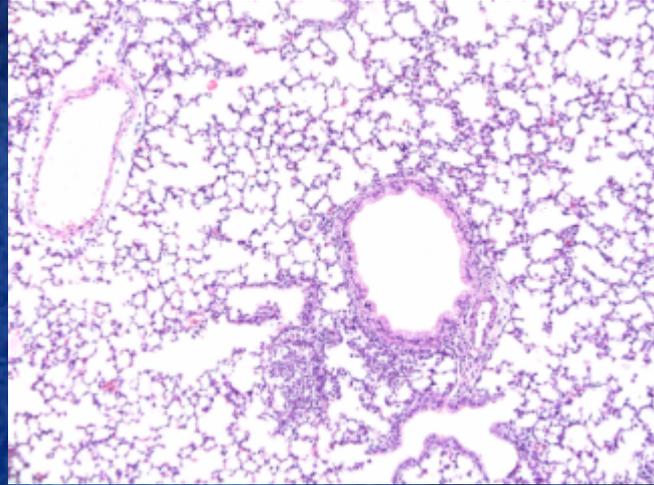


Absence of IL10 Reduces Influenza-Induced Pathology Following Exposure to EPFRs

WT/DCB/Flu

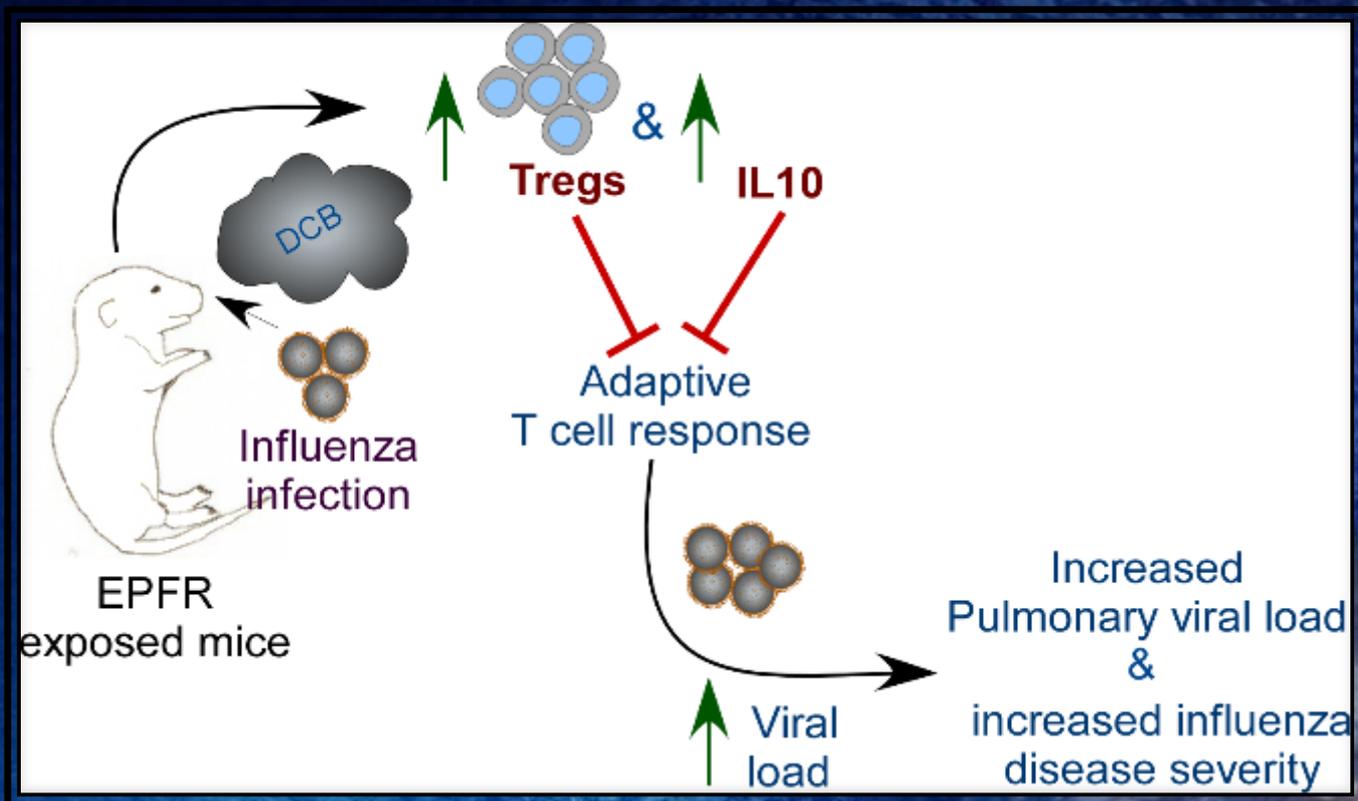


IL10KO/DCB/Flu



IL10^{-/-}

Summary

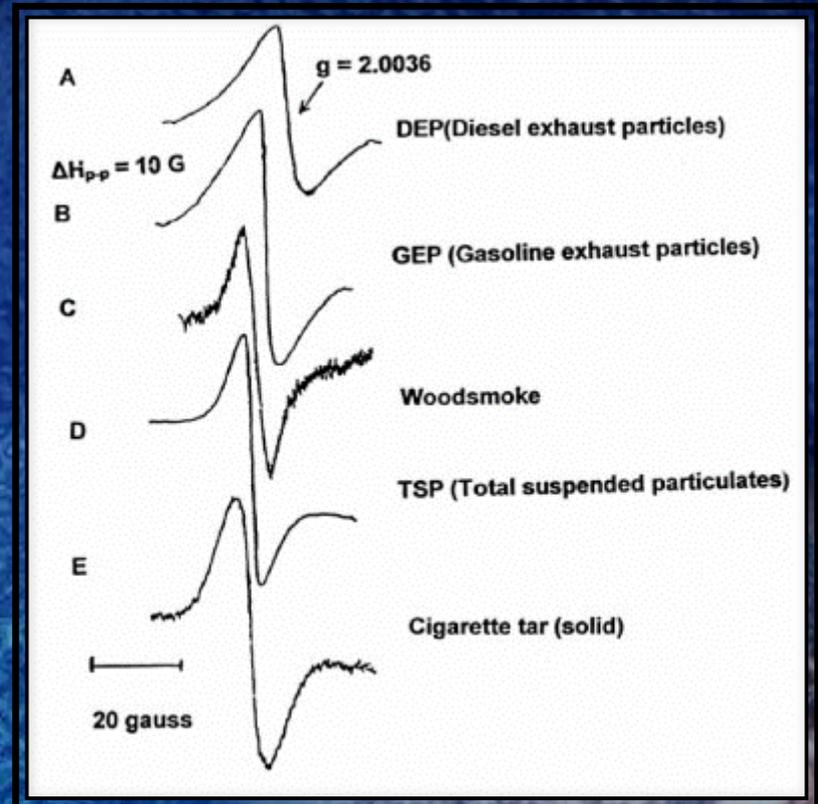
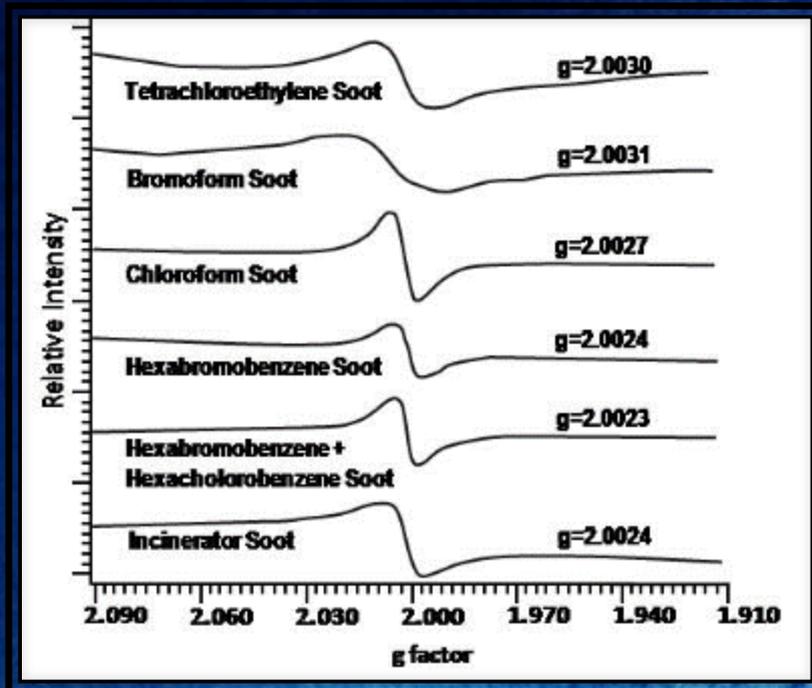


- Depletion of Tregs/IL10 in PM exposed mice increases protective T cell responses and reduces influenza morbidity & mortality
- IL10 alone recapitulates PM enhanced influenza morbidity

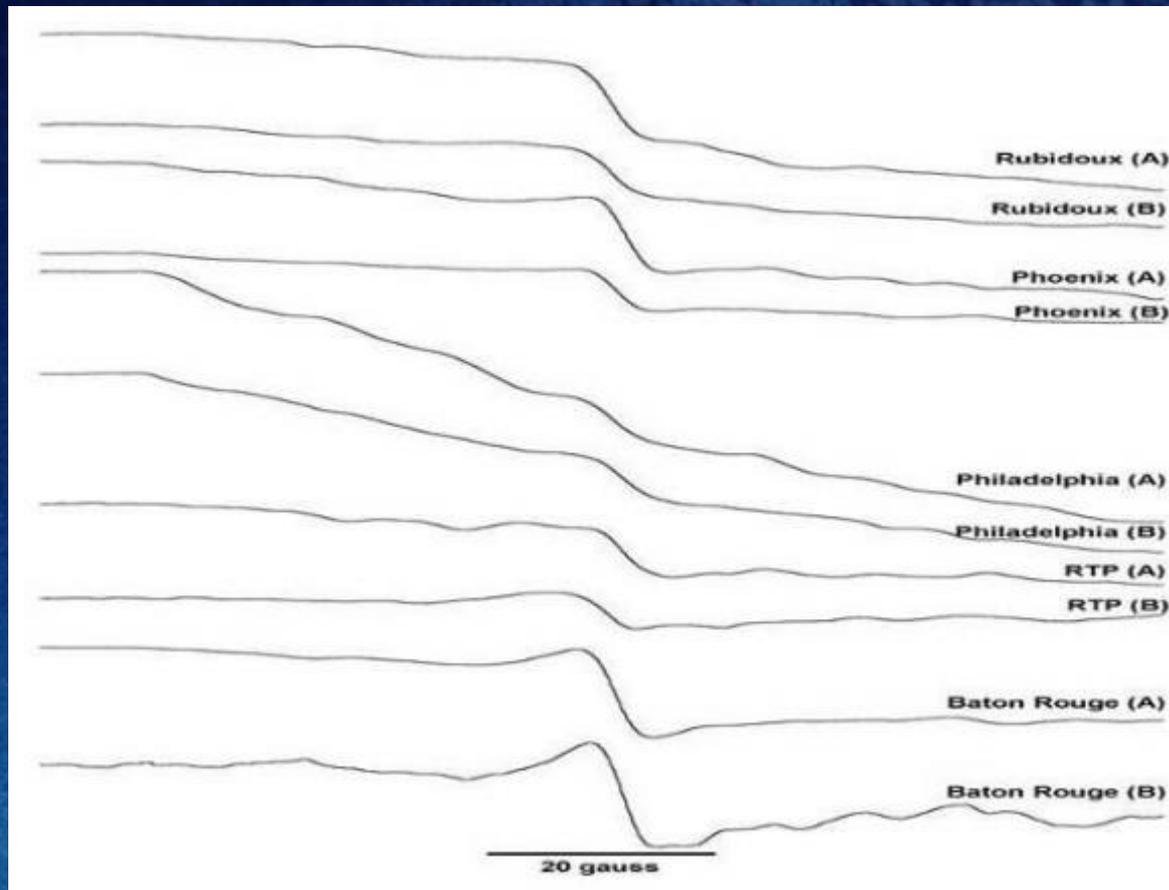
The background is a deep blue with a fine, pebbled texture. In the bottom right corner, a portion of the Earth is visible, showing continents and clouds. The text is white and bold, positioned in the lower-left area of the image.

**EPFRS –JUST A SUPERFUND
PROBLEM?**

Combustion-Generated Particles Also Contain Detectable Radicals



Atmospheric Fine Particles Contain Persistent Semiquinone-type Radicals

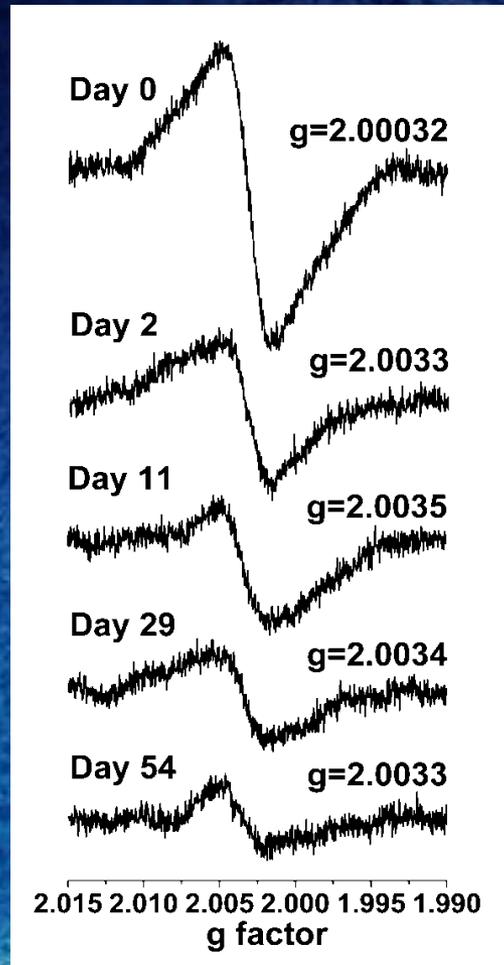


CS tar: $1e16$ radicals/g

Barry Dellinger, LSU

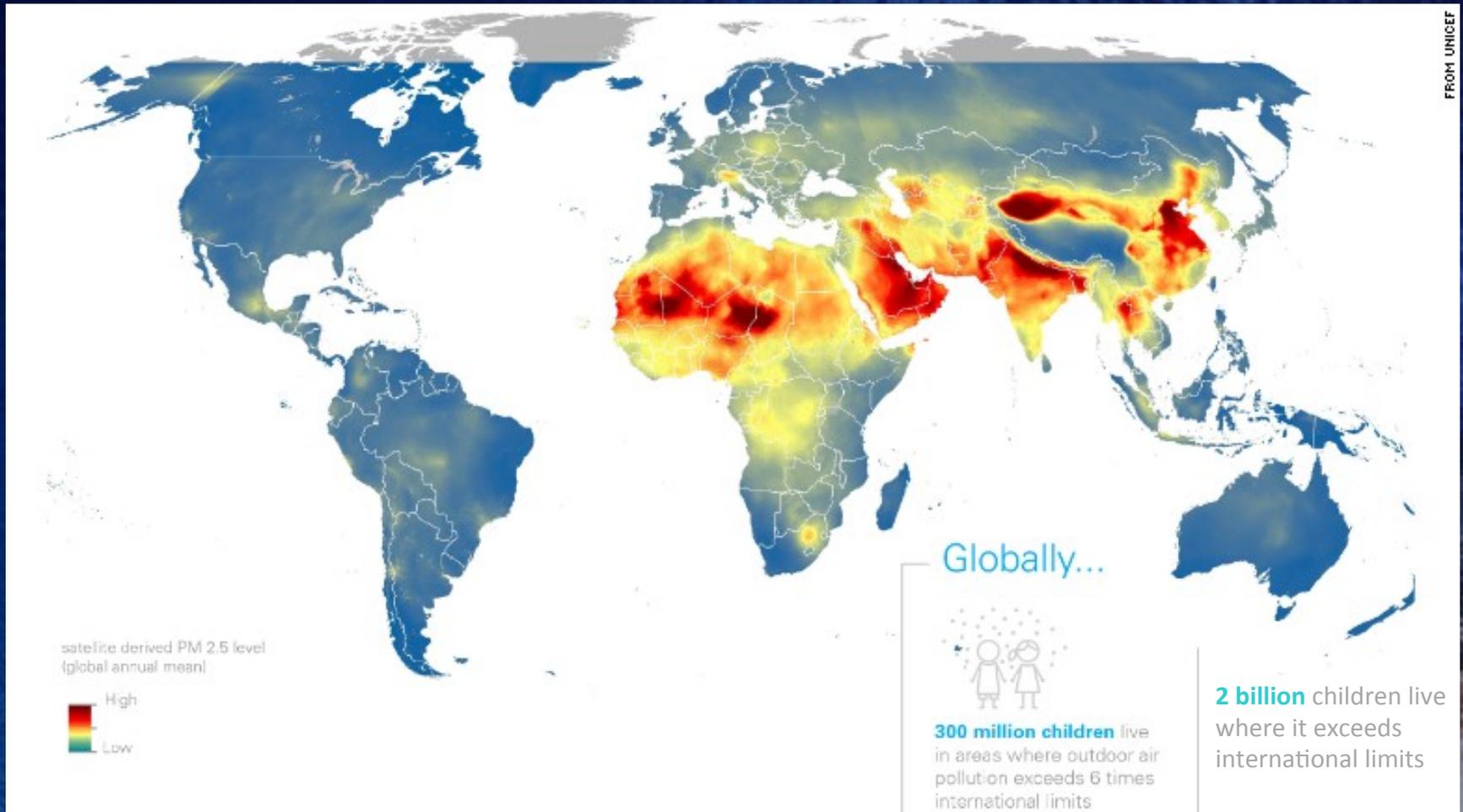
$PM_{2.5}$: $1e16$ - $1e17$ radicals/g

EPFRs in Baton Rouge PM_{2.5}



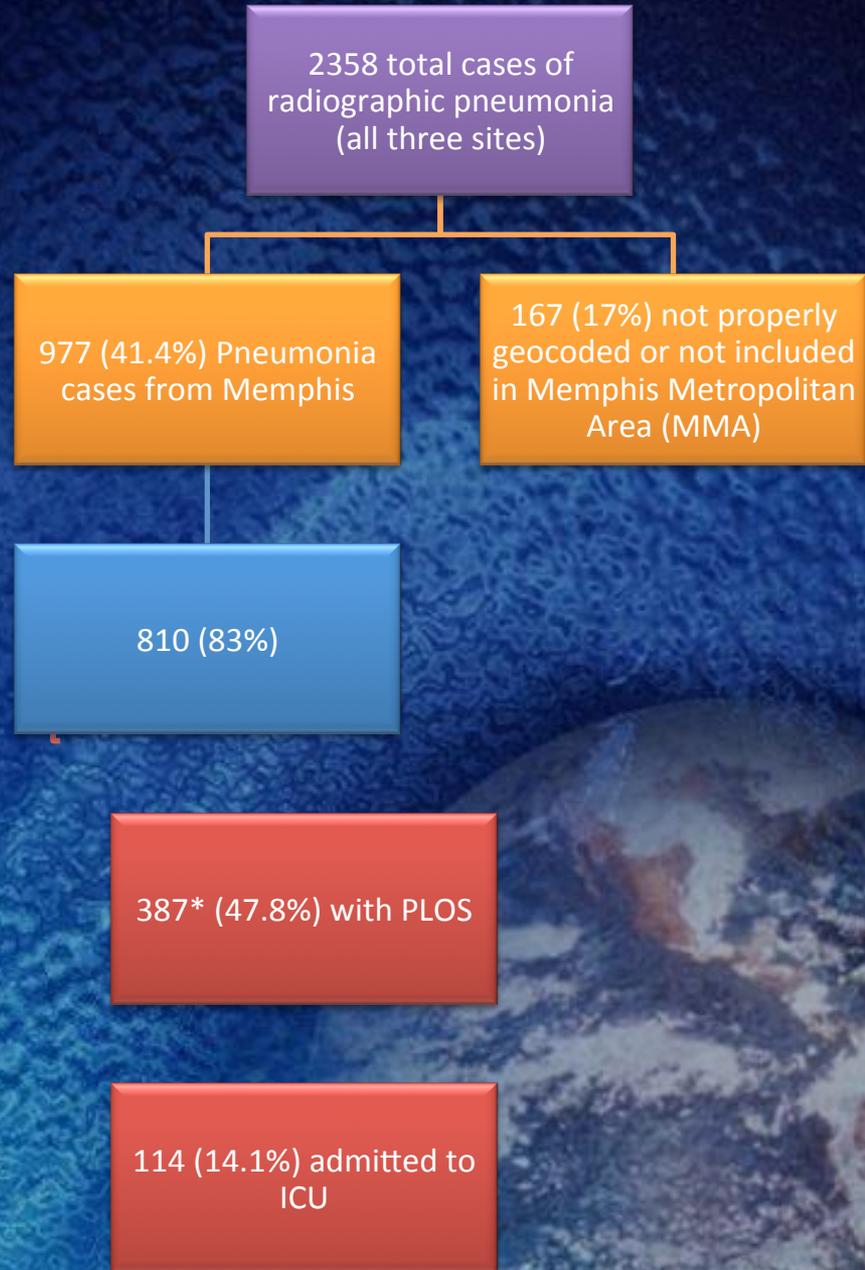
$T_{1/2} = 21d$

Satellite derived PM 2.5 level (global annual average), 2012-2014





Population



Proximity to PM_{2.5} Sources Predicts Pneumonia Severity in Children

- ❖ Proximity to PM_{2.5} predicted length of stay
- ❖ The odds of prolonged length of stay for patients within 3 miles of PM_{2.5} was 1.74 times higher than those living greater than 3 miles away.

Conclusions

- EPFR exposure in neonates
 - Induces oxidative stress (Balakrishna et al. PFT. 2011;8:11).
 - Disrupts airway epithelium
 - Inducing EMT (Thevenot et al. AJRCMB. 2013)
 - Tolerogenic DCs (Saravia et al. Mucosal Immunol. 2014)
 - Reduces effector T cell responses (Lee et al. PFT 2014)
 - Active suppression of effector T cell responses to RTVI (e.g. Flu) (Jaligama et al. *In revision*).
- The existence of EPFRs in airborne PM2.5 represents a new paradigm for evaluating the toxicity of airborne PM.

Acknowledgements

- **Cormier Lab**

- Asst Professor
 - Dahui You, PhD
- Postdoctoral Fellows
 - **Sridhar Jaligama, PhD**
 - **Jagila Minso Wesley, MD**
- Former Students/Postdocs
 - Jordy Saravia, PhD
 - **Greg Lee, PhD**
 - Paul Thevenot, PhD
 - Pingli Wang MD, PhD
 - Shrilatha Balakrishna, PhD
 - Baher Fahmy, PhD

- **Barry Dellinger/Slawo Lomnicki (LSU-BR)**

- **Tonny Oyana (UTHSC)**

- **Tammy Dugas (LSU-SVM)**

- **Funding**

- NIEHS: RO1 ES015050



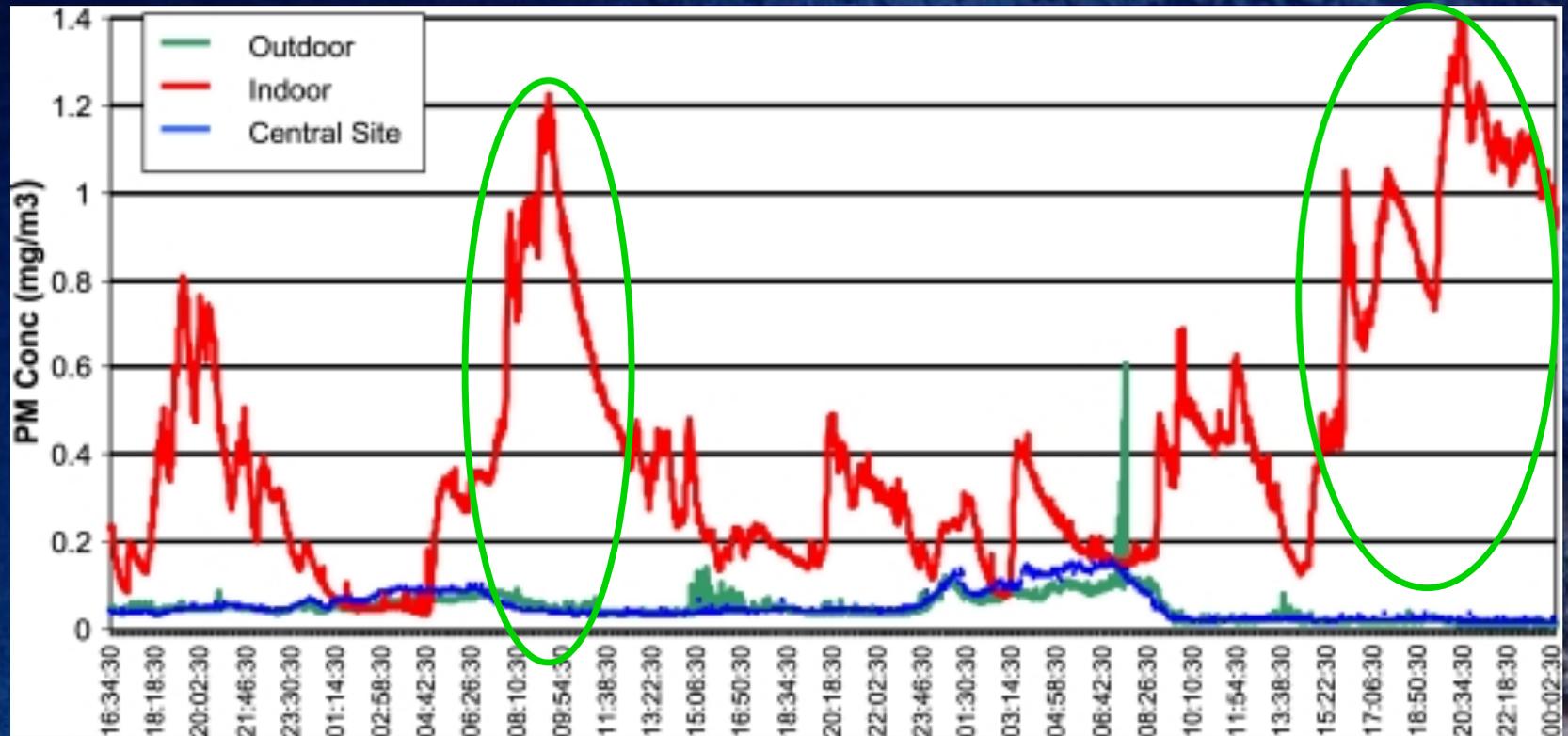
- NIEHS: P42ES013648



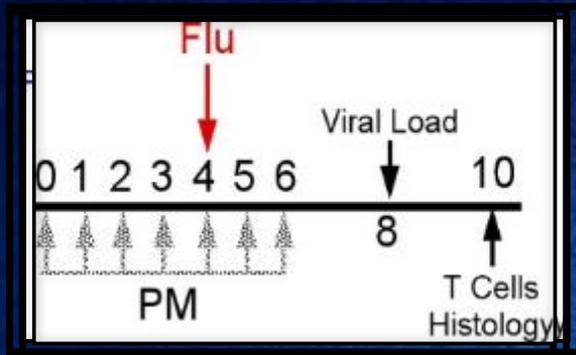
- Le Bonheur Foundation Grant to JMW



Not Just an Outdoor Concern



Are Regulatory T Cells Responsible For Increase In Influenza Severity?



Time line:

- Exposure to PM: 3 days age
- Flu Infection: 4 days post-exposure (dpe)
- Peak viral load: 5 dpi
- Peak T effector cell response: 7 dpi
- Viral clearance: 8 dpi

Dose: 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Exposure: Inhalation route

Influenza:

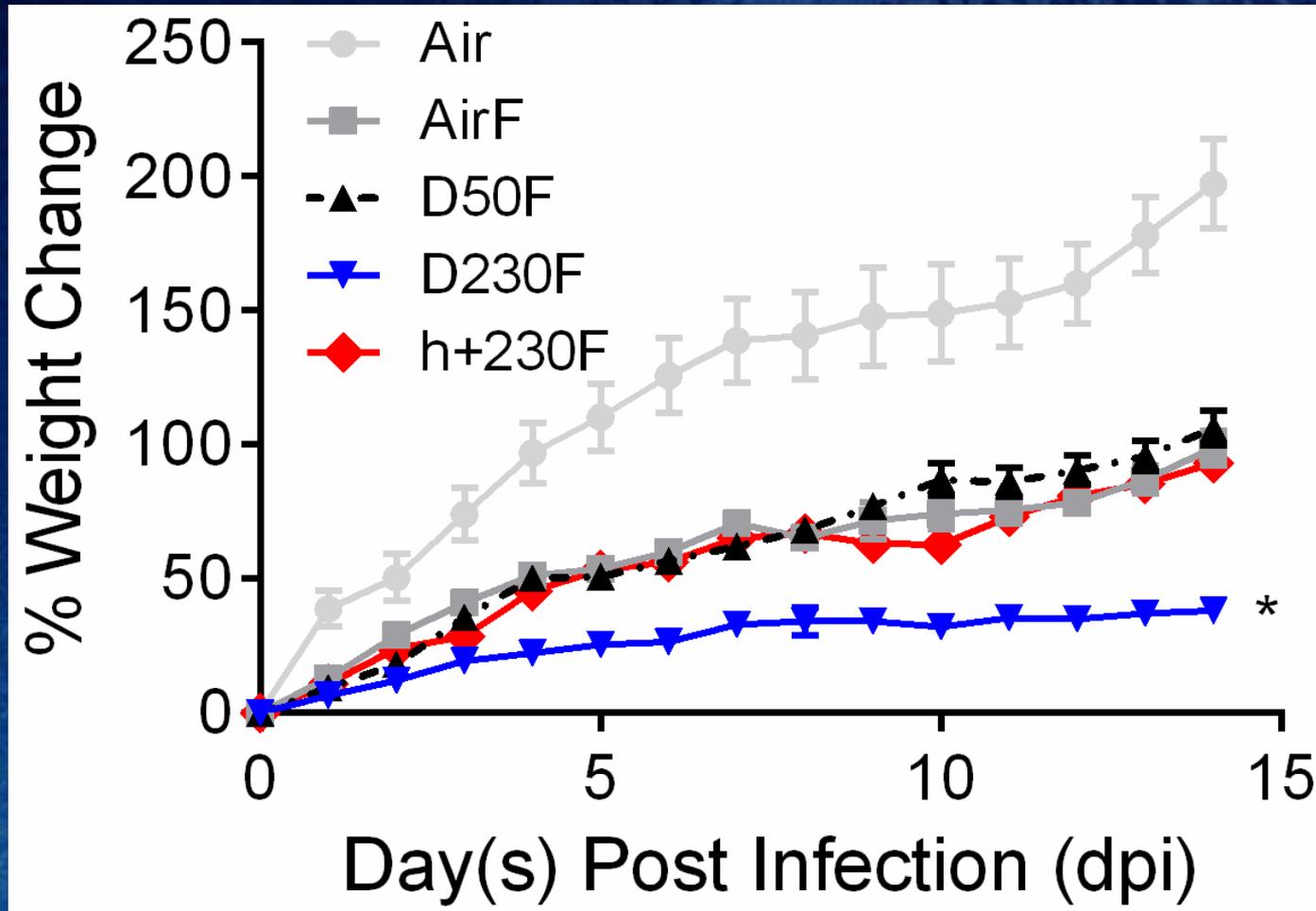
Mouse adapted human influenza strain A/PR/8/34

- Determine the kinetics of Treg induction upon exposure to PM

Treg-kinetics: Profile Tregs at

- 4 dpe (just prior to infection)
- 5 dpi (Peak viral load)
- 7 dpi (Peak effector T cell response)

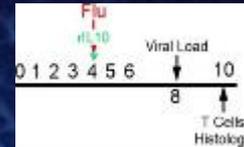
EPFRs Induce Greater Weight Loss in Influenza Infected Mice



* indicates $p < 0.05$ compared to all other groups

n = 16-35

IL10 Alone Enhances Influenza Severity and Viral Load



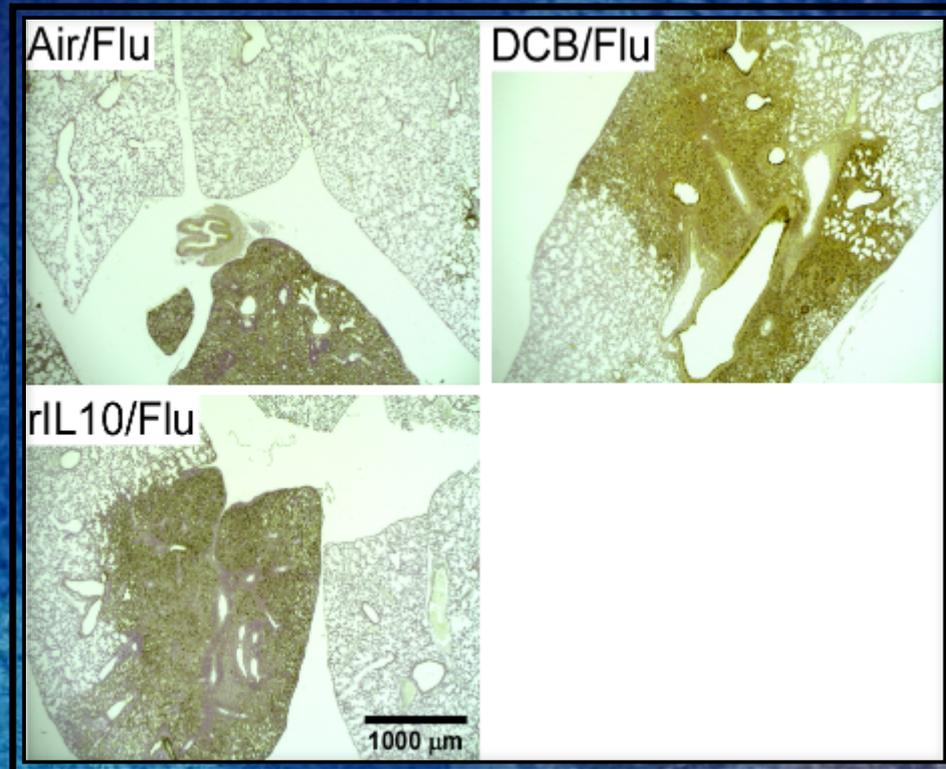
Body weight gain



Viral load



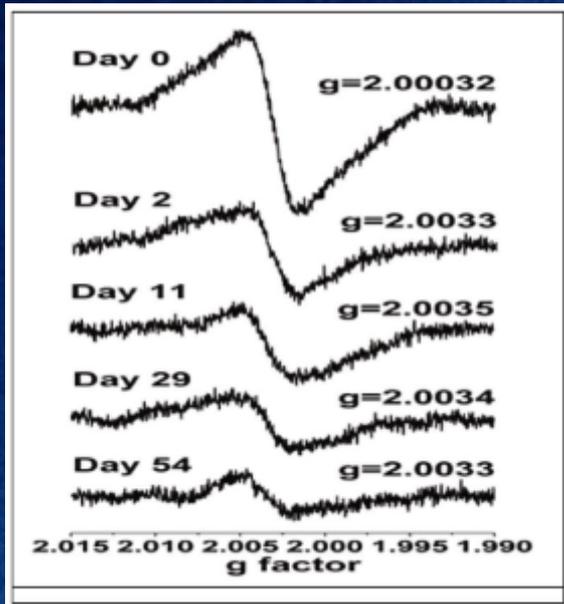
rIL10



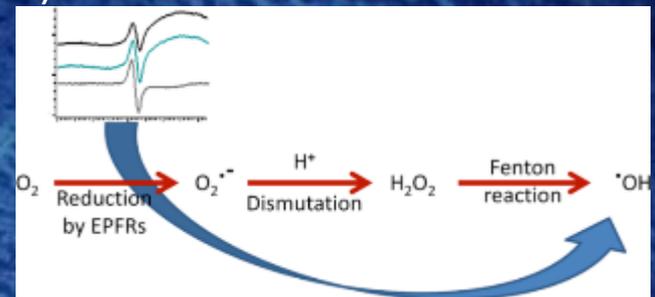
Particulate pollution and Health

Combustion generated ultrafine particulate matter containing Environmentally Persistent Free Radicals (EPFRs)

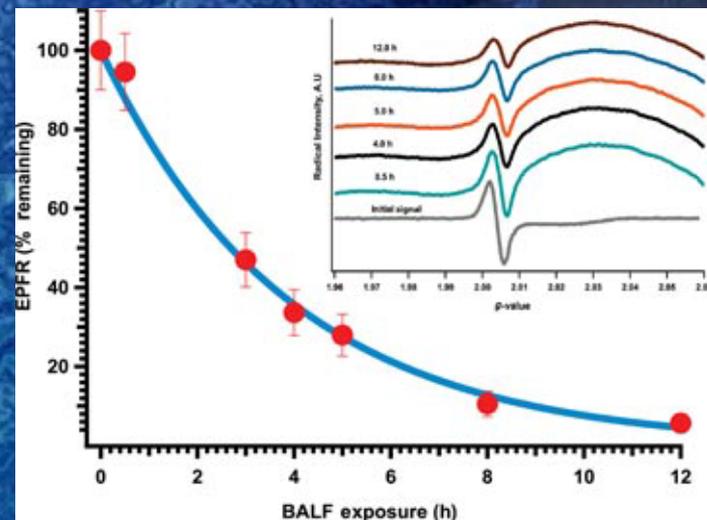
- Aromatic compounds chemisorb to surface of PM through transition metal oxides and form Environmentally persistent free radicals (EPFRs)



Persistence of EPFRs



Kelley et al., Chem Res Toxicol, 2013



Saravia et al., 2012