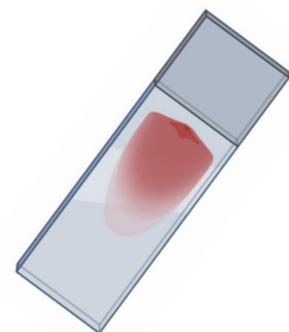


# Combined MSC-antiviral treatment for systemic inflammation and lymphoid tissue regeneration in cats with FIP



Rachel Formaker

Kol Lab

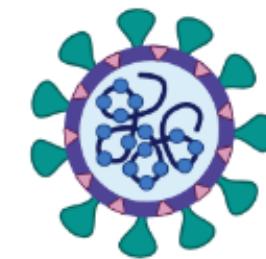
STAR 2023



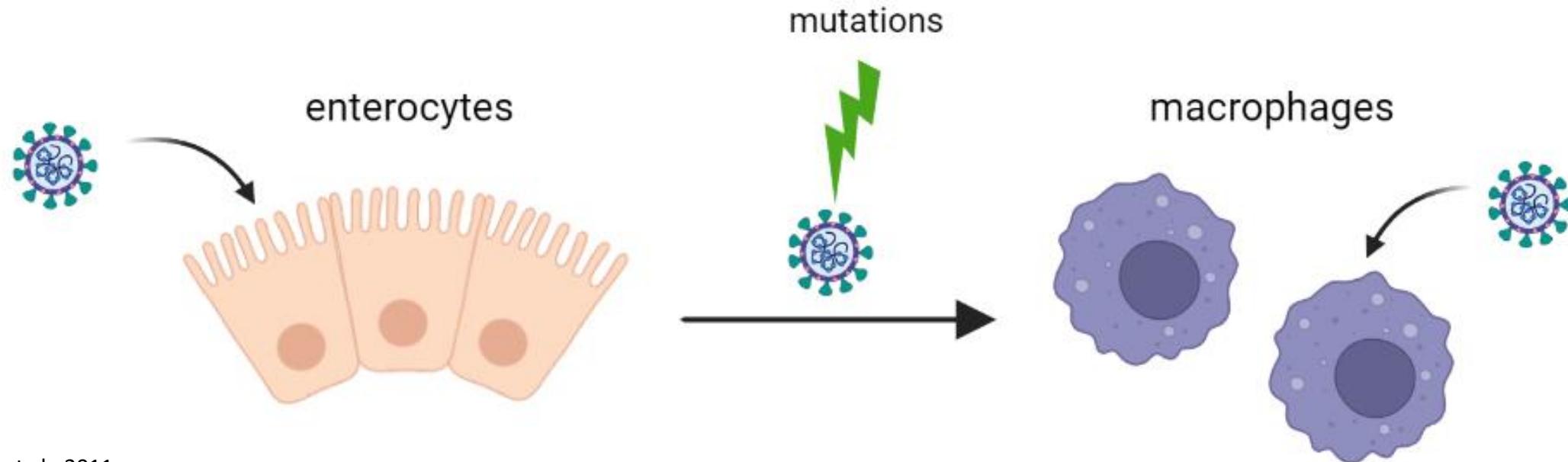
National Institutes  
of Health



# Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)



- Occurs mostly in cats <16 months
- Highly fatal if untreated
- Caused by feline enteric coronavirus (FECV)



Drechsler et al., 2011  
Pedersen, 2014

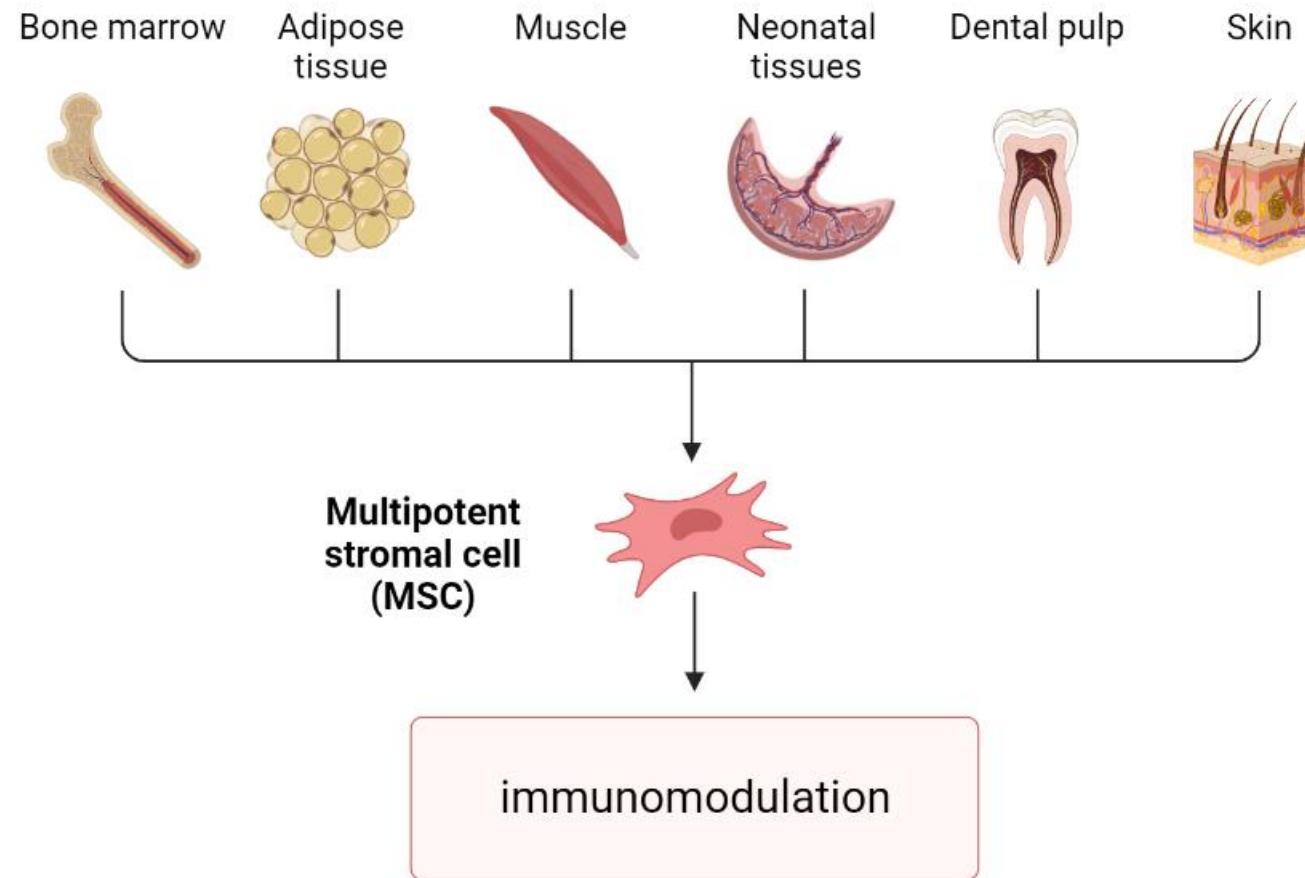
Created with BioRender.com

# FIP Clinical Disease

- Multi-system inflammation
- Pyogranulomas
- Lymphopenia
- Effusive (“wet”) and non-effusive (“dry”) forms

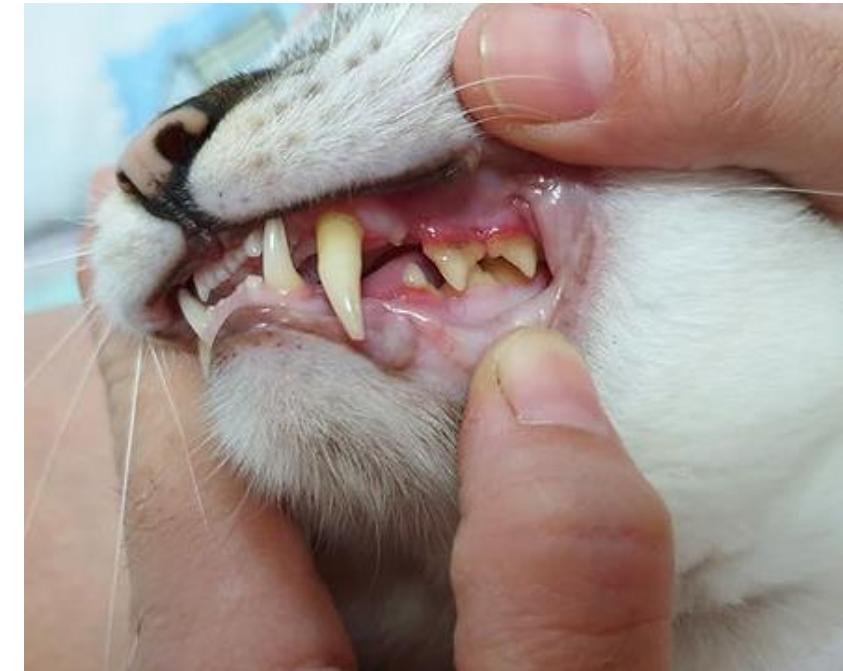


# Multipotent Stromal Cells (MSCs)



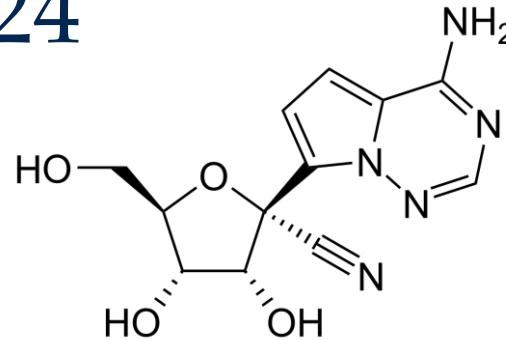
# Multipotent Stromal Cells (MSCs)

- Successfully treated refractory chronic oral inflammatory disease in cats
- Use in other viral inflammatory disease
  - Increased survival, reduced levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines, and increased lung tissue regeneration in patients with severe COVID-19 infection and pneumonia



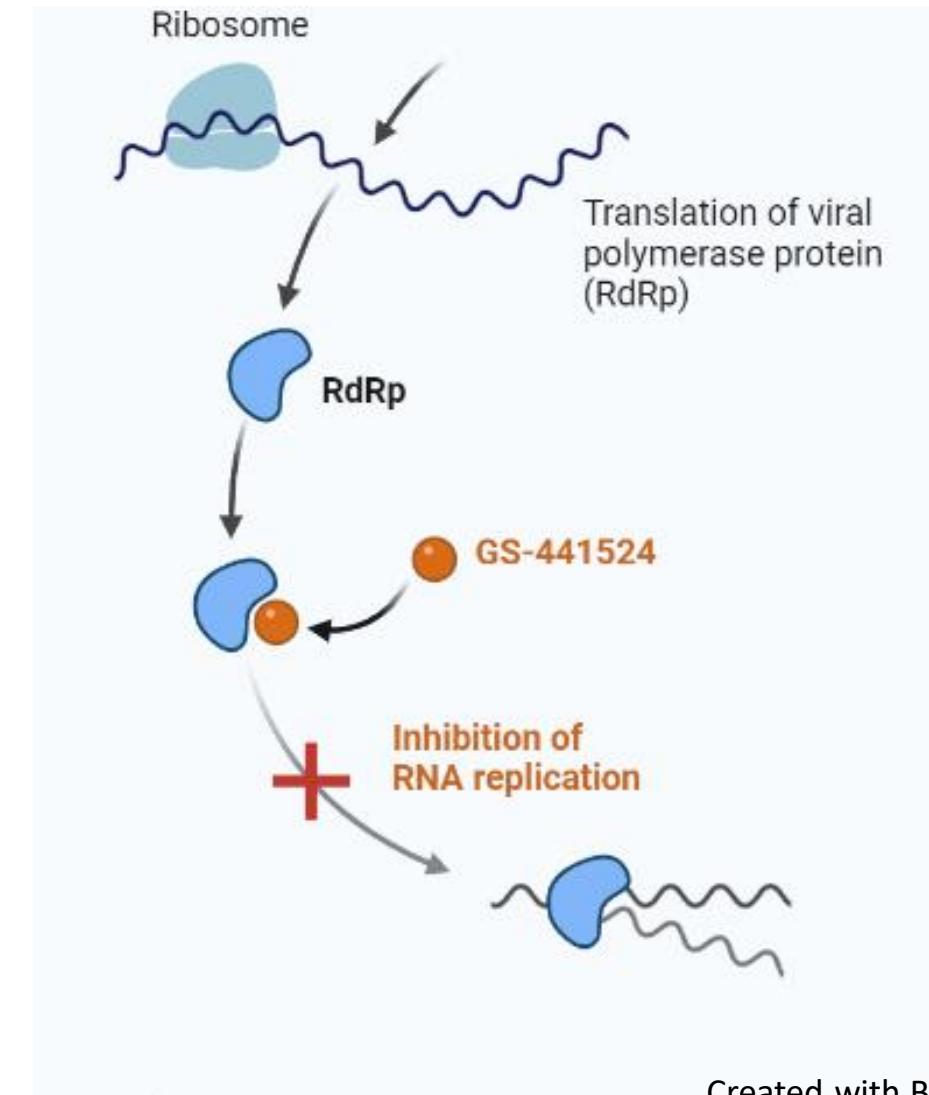
Natasha Holden 2022

# GS-441524



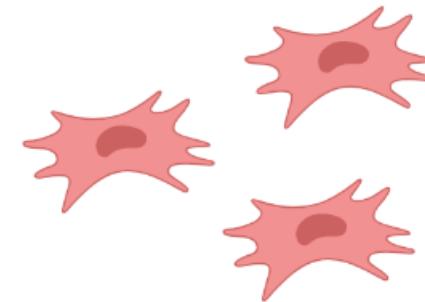
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GS-441524>

- Nucleoside analog
- Effective in ~80% of FIP cases
  - Some cats relapse post-treatment



# Rationale

- Poor understanding of immune recovery with GS-441524 alone
- MSC potential to:
  - improve immune recovery
  - shorten treatment duration



# Hypothesis

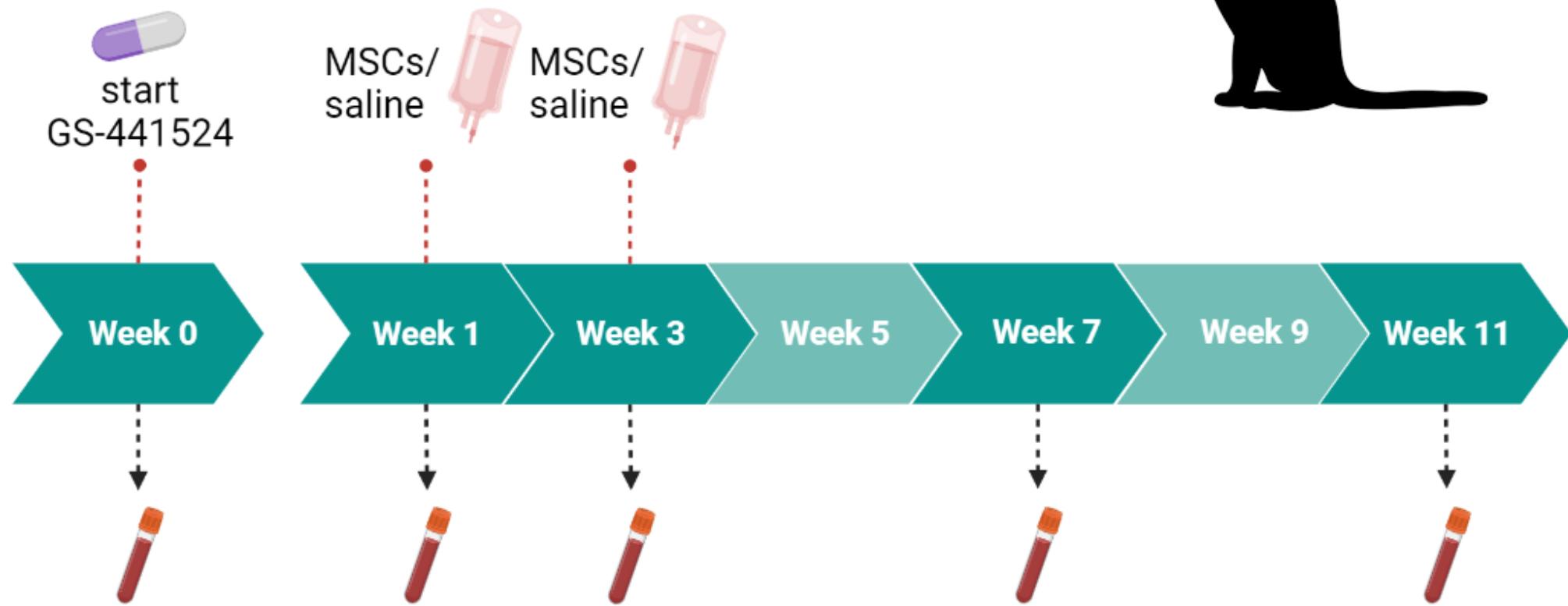
- Addition of MSCs to GS-441524 antiviral treatment for FIP will decrease systemic inflammation and facilitate lymphoid recovery

## Expectations:

↓ Pro- inflammatory cytokines

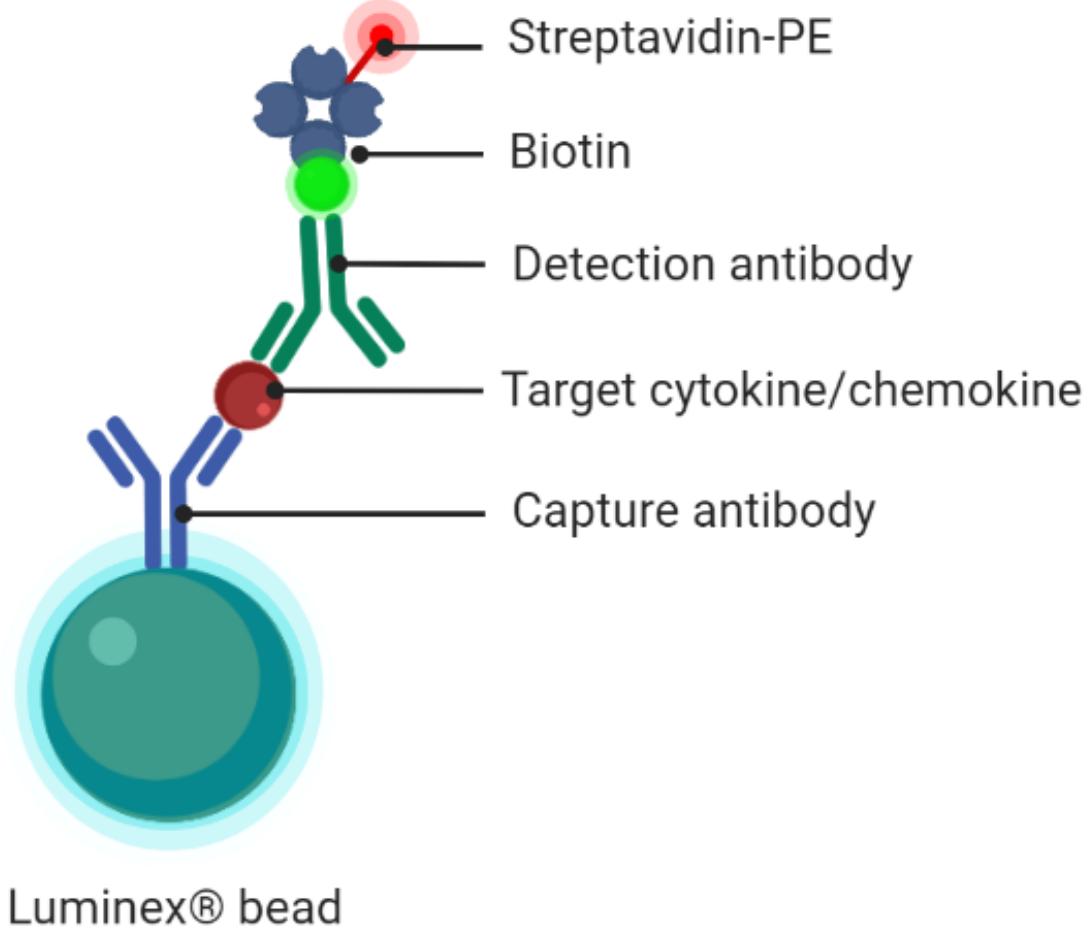
↑ Lymphocyte counts

# Clinical Trial Study Design



# Cytokine Assay

- Combination of ELISA and flow cytometry techniques
- Millipore Multiplex Feline-Specific Cytokine Assay



# Blood Smear Interpretation

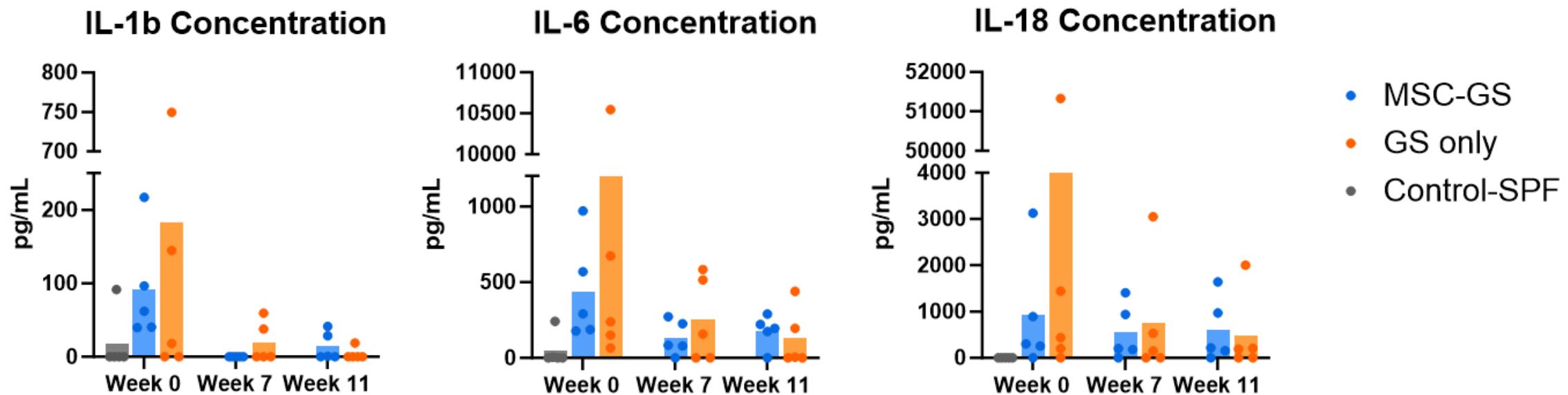
- Manual 400-cell differential leukocyte counts
- Calculate cell populations using differential %  $\times$  total leukocytes from CBC



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood\\_smear](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood_smear)

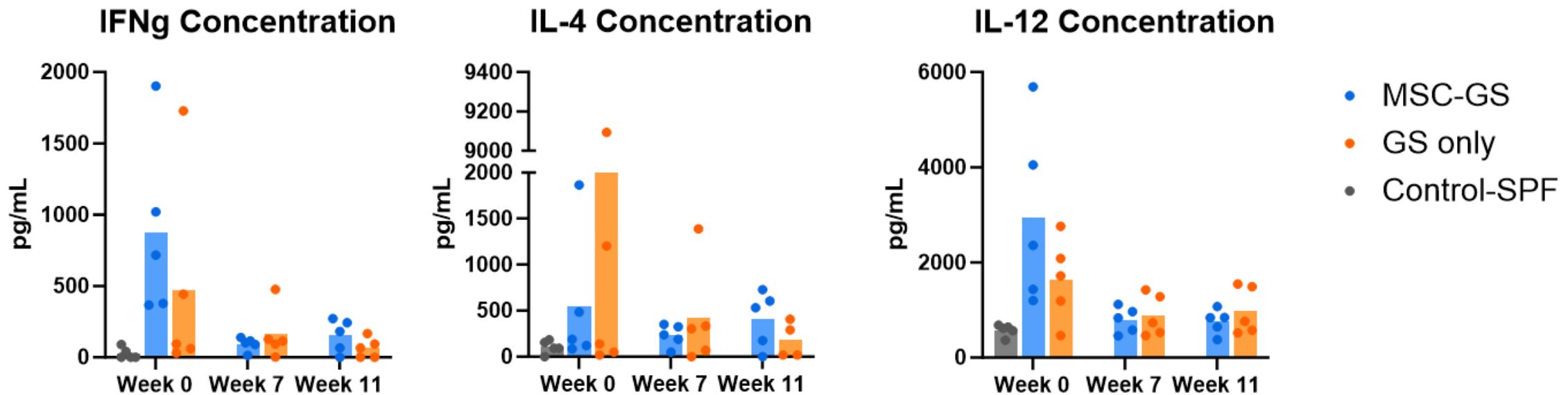
# Results: Cytokine Panel

## Innate Immunity



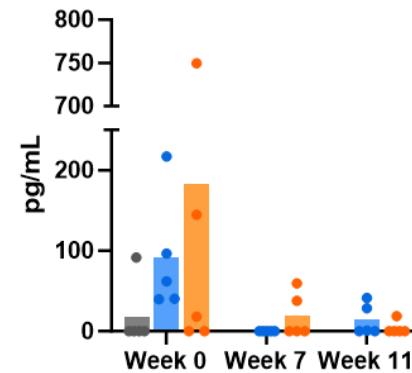
# Results: Cytokine Panel

## T-Cell Polarization

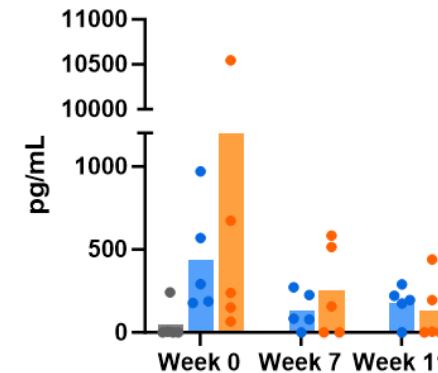


# Results: Cytokine Panel

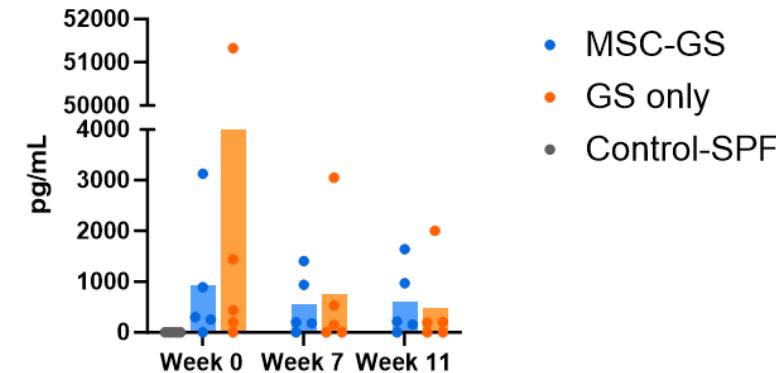
IL-1 $\beta$  Concentration



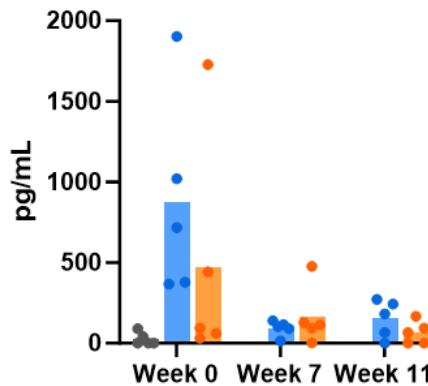
IL-6 Concentration



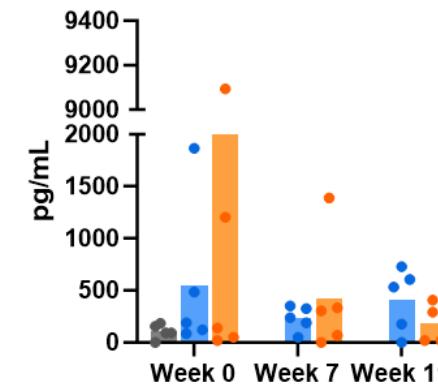
IL-18 Concentration



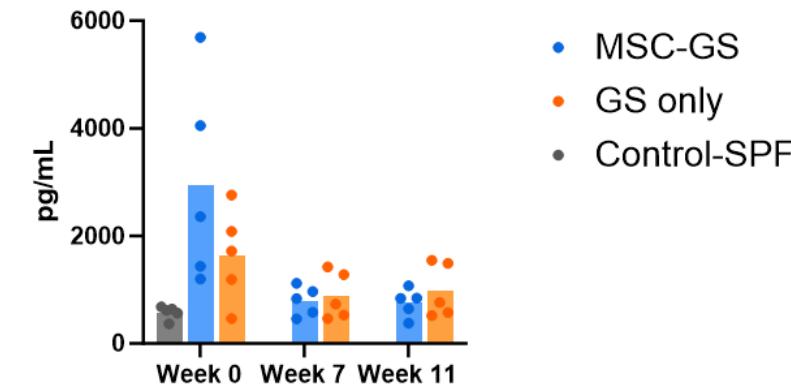
IFNg Concentration



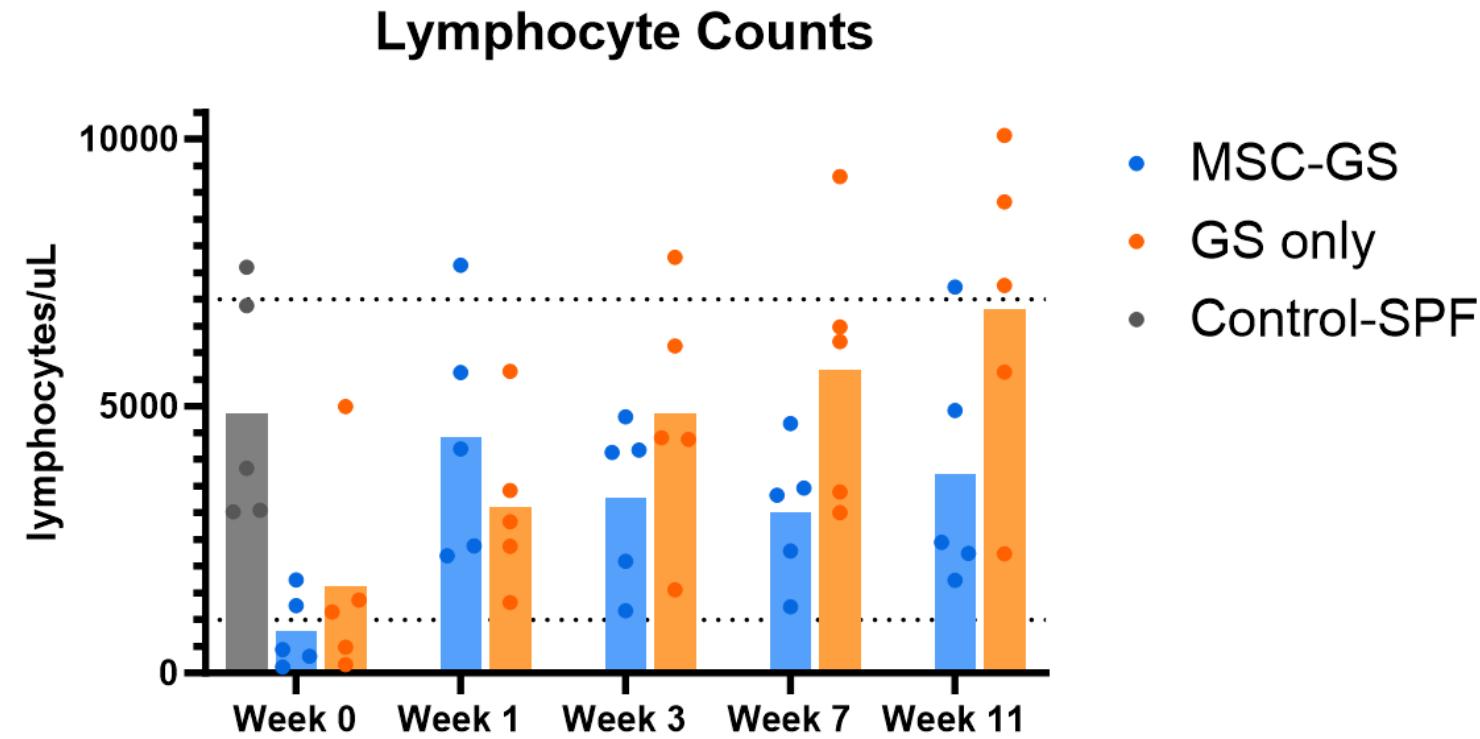
IL-4 Concentration



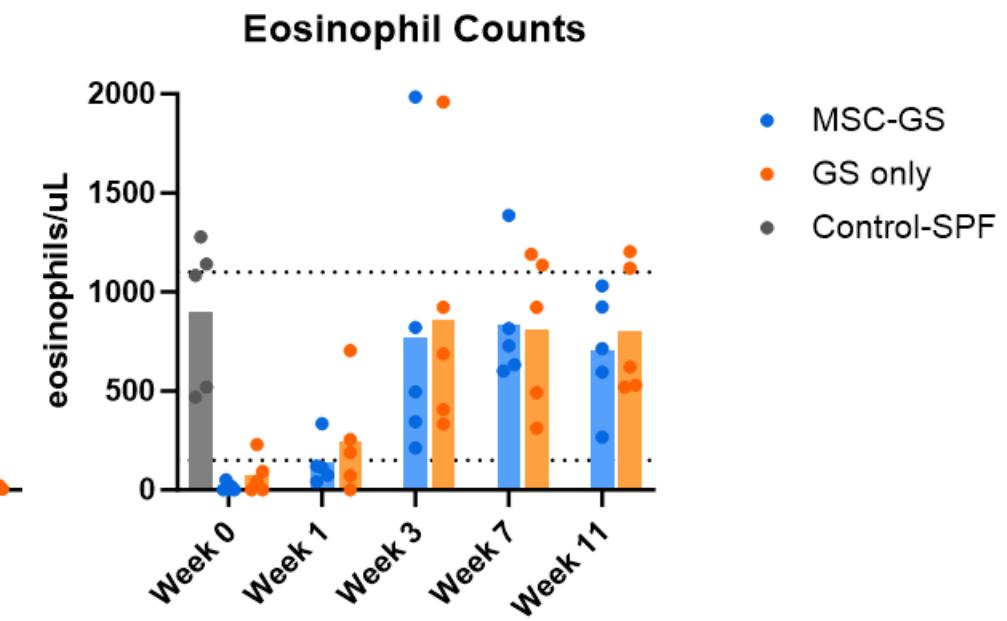
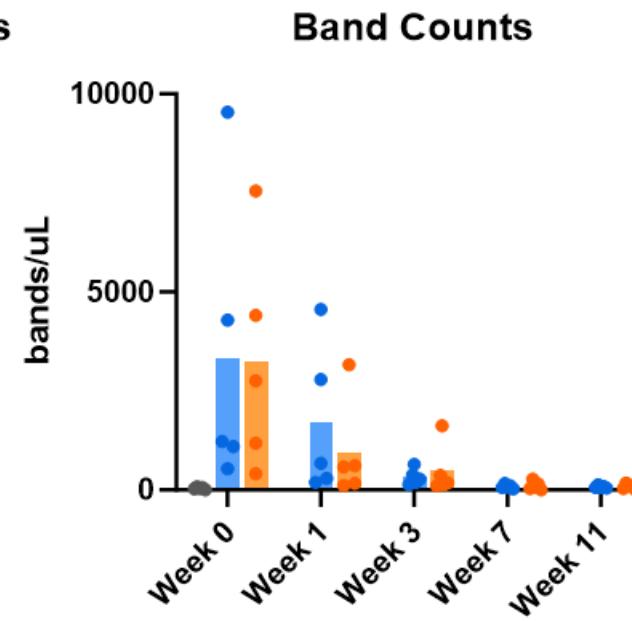
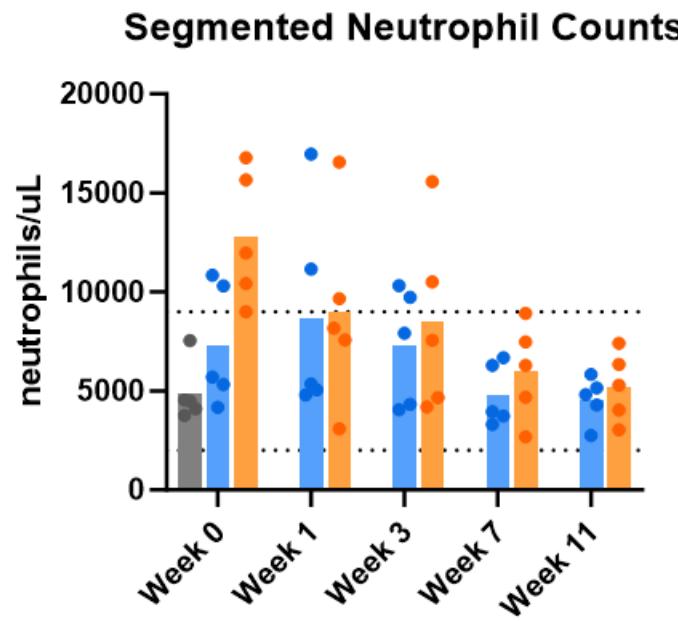
IL-12 Concentration



# Results: Hematology Data



# Results: Hematology Data



● MSC-GS  
● GS only  
● Control-SPF

# Discussion

- No adverse effects of MSCs
  - No “immunosuppressive” effects
  - No thrombosis



Virginia Luis Fuentes 2012

# Discussion

- Why didn't we see a difference with the addition of MSCs?
  - Effusive FIP is effectively treated by GS-441524
  - Sample size too small
  - Naturally-occurring FIP – different stages of disease on presentation
  - Screening selected for less severely affected cats

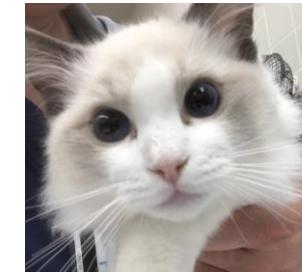
## Future Directions

- Correlation of cytokine patterns and hematologic results
- Use of MSCs with non-effusive FIP
  - Harder to treat with antiviral alone

# Acknowledgements

- Kol Lab
  - Dr. Amir Kol
  - Dr. Patrawin Wanakumjorn
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- Dr. Brian Murphy
- Dr. Krystle Reagan & the VCCT Team

Participating clients and cats!



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