

# UCSF

## UC San Francisco Previously Published Works

### Title

Friend or Foe: Innate Sensing of HIV in the Female Reproductive Tract

### Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0tw20766>

### Journal

Current HIV/AIDS Reports, 13(1)

### ISSN

1548-3568

### Authors

Roan, Nadia R  
Jakobsen, Martin R

### Publication Date

2016-02-01

### DOI

10.1007/s11904-016-0305-0

Peer reviewed



# HHS Public Access

Author manuscript

*Curr HIV/AIDS Rep.* Author manuscript; available in PMC 2017 April 28.

Published in final edited form as:

*Curr HIV/AIDS Rep.* 2016 February ; 13(1): 53–63. doi:10.1007/s11904-016-0305-0.

## Friend or Foe – Innate sensing of HIV in the female reproductive tract

Nadia R. Roan, PhD<sup>1,2</sup> and Martin R. Jakobsen, PhD<sup>3,4,#</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Urology, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA 94158

<sup>2</sup>The J. David Gladstone Institutes, San Francisco, CA 94158

<sup>3</sup>Department of Biomedicine, Faculty of Health, Wilhelm Meyers Allé 4, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark

<sup>4</sup>Aarhus Research Centre of Innate Immunology, Aarhus University, Denmark

### Abstract

The female reproductive tract (FRT) is a major site for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. There currently exists a poor understanding of how the innate immune system is activated upon HIV transmission and how this activation may affect systemic spread of HIV from the FRT. However, multiple mechanisms for how HIV is sensed have been deciphered using model systems with cell lines and peripheral blood-derived cells. The aim of this review is to summarize recent progress in the field of HIV innate immune sensing and place this in the context of the FRT. Because HIV is somewhat unique as an STD that thrives under inflammatory conditions, the response of cells upon sensing HIV gene products can either promote or limit HIV infection depending on the context. Future studies should include investigations into how FRT-derived primary cells sense and respond to HIV to confirm conclusions drawn from non-mucosal cells. Understanding how cells of the FRT participate and effect innate immune sensing of HIV will provide a clearer picture of what parameters during the early stages of HIV exposure determine transmission success. Such knowledge could pave the way for novel approaches for preventing HIV acquisition in women.

### Keywords

HIV; Innate sensing; FRT; Inflammation; Transmission

### Introduction

The primary routes of HIV transmission in humans are through the mucosal surfaces of the genital or gastrointestinal tract. Today, women worldwide are more likely to be infected than men, and transmission to women through the female reproductive tract (FRT) accounts roughly for one-third of all HIV transmission events [1]. Upon deposition into the FRT, HIV must pass the mucosal epithelium to gain access to HIV-permissive cells in the underlying lamina propria [2]. The encounter between HIV and these cells, as well as non-permissive

<sup>#</sup>Corresponding author: roann@urology.ucsf.edu, Tel: (415) 734-4883, Fax: (415) 355-0855, mrj@biomed.au.dk, Tel: (+45) 8716 7269.

cells, can trigger innate immune activation through intrinsic pathogen recognition receptors (PRRs). PRRs, expressed on a variety of cell types in particular innate immune cells, sense pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) from invading microorganisms [3-5], which in the case of HIV is primarily the single-stranded RNA genome or the viral reverse-transcribed DNA intermediates initially produced in the cell cytoplasm of infected cells [6]. This sensing triggers production of antiviral and inflammatory factors such as type I and III IFNs that increase local inflammation and cell death. Although immune activation is generally beneficial for protection against mucosal pathogens, whether this is also the case for HIV-1 is unclear. On the one hand, innate immune responses may restrict the ability of HIV to replicate in mucosal tissues by upregulating antiviral factors. On the other hand, inflammation can create a favourable environment for HIV to propagate itself by recruiting HIV-permissive cells such as T cells, macrophages and dendritic cells (DCs) [7-10]. It is likely that the type of inflammatory response, as well as when it is elicited, will determine whether it is effective at restricting HIV transmission.

The mechanisms by which HIV is sensed in the FRT is poorly understood due to the limited number of studies done on cells from this tissue compartment, but conceivably includes mechanisms similar to those worked out from studies using cell lines and primary cells derived from human blood and non-mucosal tissues. However, because the FRT is a distinct environment that is highly hormonally responsive and designed to be tolerant of semen components, there are likely also unique aspects of HIV sensing in this tissue that are not observed at other sites. In this review, we discuss recent progress in the field of HIV innate immune sensing, bring up some concepts regarding the role of HIV sensing in the FRT and how it can influence viral transmission, and discuss the need for future sensing studies to incorporate the use of FRT-derived primary cells in the context of the mucosal environment.

## Molecular players involved in HIV sensing

Each HIV particle carries two single-stranded RNA genomes, which can be recognized as PAMPs by PRRs. Although it has been demonstrated that the cytosolic RNA sensor RIG-I [11, 12] and the endosome-localized toll-like receptor (TLR) 7 [13-15] can sense HIV RNA, the mechanistic details of this process and outcome of sensing are not well understood. In contrast, much more is understood about sensing of HIV DNA products, which are generated when the RNA genome is reverse-transcribed into proviral DNA following viral entry [16-21]. It is widely debated how and when reverse-transcribed products of HIV are sensed [22, 23]. In some cases, cloaking of the reverse-transcribed DNA intermediates by the viral capsid seems to protect against sensing by cytoplasmic PRRs [18, 19], whereas in other cases cytoplasmic HIV single-stranded DNA (ssDNA), RNA:DNA hybrids or dsDNA potentially induce innate immune activation [16, 17, 22, 24-26]. Whether nuclear pre-integration complexes containing HIV DNA can be sensed is not known. Studies conducted in primary T cells, macrophages, and DCs have demonstrated that at least three host proteins may act as the PRRs for HIV DNA fragments: Interferon Inducible factor 16 (IFI16) [17, 26], Cyclic GMP-AMP synthase (cGAS) [16, 17], and Polyglutamine binding protein 1 (PQBP1) [21]. In the next sections we summarize in detail the molecular mechanisms by which each of these nucleic acid sensors (RIG-I, TLRs, IFI16, c-GAS, and PQBP1) detect HIV and activate innate immune responses.

## RIG-I and Toll-like Receptor sensing

RNA viruses are generally sensed by TLR3, TLR7, TLR8, or members of the RIG-I like receptor family. These sensors are abundantly expressed on myeloid and lymphoid cells, both of which reside within the mucosa of the FRT and can serve as targets for HIV infection [27]. Of the RNA sensors, only TLR7 and RIG-I have been demonstrated to sense the HIV ssRNA genome. When primary human macrophages or PBMCs are stimulated with genomic HIV ssRNA, delivered to the cells by liposomal complexes, it is possible to observe RIG-I activation. This then initiates signalling through the MAVS pathway, which eventually induces the secretion of type I IFN and inflammatory cytokines such as CXCL10, IL6, and TNF- $\alpha$  [11]. However, during infection of permissive cells with HIV, viral protease downregulates expression of RIG-I through a lysosome-dependent pathway, thereby inhibiting RIG-I-mediated sensing of HIV RNA [12]. Nonetheless, viral evasion of the RIG-I-mediated sensing pathway may be overcome when RIG-I is activated by its natural ligand 5'-ppp-dsRNA prior to HIV infection [28]. This protection can be attributed to IFN induction and upregulation of multiple ISGs within the cells. But because the RIG-I sensor needs to be activated prior to HIV infection to protect cells against infection, it is likely that RIG-I sensing during HIV transmission only plays a minor role in innate immune-mediated control of the virus.

In contrast, there is compelling evidence for TLR7-mediated sensing of HIV during active infection. TLR7 senses extracellular nucleic acids following their uptake into endosomal compartments. As such, cells not efficiently infected by HIV can induce a strong IFN response following exposure to the virus [29]. In both *in vitro* and *in vivo* models, TLR7-mediated induction of IFN following HIV infection is largely mediated by plasmacytoid DCs (pDCs) [30-35]). pDCs are thought to be largely refractory to productive infection by HIV, even though they express CD4, CCR5 and CXCR4 [36]. This refraction is thought to be due to high expression of the host restriction protein SAMHD1, a phosphohydrolase that by depleting the deoxyribonucleotide pool limits HIV reverse transcription [37, 38]. pDCs commonly reside in mucosal tissues, and studies from non-human primates demonstrated that SIV challenge induces migration of pDCs from the bone marrow to mucosal tissues, including the gut and FRT, in a manner coincident with upregulation of the mucosa-homing marker  $\alpha 4\beta 7$  on these cells [39, 40]. Furthermore, infiltration of pDCs into the FRT of macaques occurs following repeated vaginal exposure to SIV [41]. In addition to pDCs, other TLR7-expressing cells present in the FRT include monocytes, macrophages, and DCs [42-45]. These cells may conceivably also participate in sensing of HIV RNA during active infection.

Within the FRT, TLR7 is widely expressed in the fallopian tubes, uterine endometrium, cervix, and ectocervix [46], suggesting that HIV RNA can theoretically be sensed throughout the FRT. Counterintuitively, intravaginal application of rhesus macaques with a TLR7 agonist during SIV infection resulted in higher viral loads compared to animals that were inoculated with SIV in the absence of the agonist [47]. One potential explanation for this phenomenon comes from a recent study, demonstrating that CD4+ T cells and innate immune activation through TLR7 induces a state of immunological CD4+ T cell anergy that increases permissiveness to HIV infection [48]. Using RNAi and TLR7 antagonists, the

authors demonstrated that inhibiting TLR7 signalling on CD4+T cells diminishes HIV infection, and *ex vivo* treatment of CD4+T cells from HIV-infected patients with TLR7 antagonists decreases viral outgrowth and production [48]. Conversely, stimulation of TLR7 on CD4+ T cells renders these cells more permissive to HIV infection, and patient-derived HIV-infected cells stimulated with TLR7 agonists potently reactivate HIV.

Of note, TLR7 may not be the only TLR capable of sensing HIV. TLR2 and 4 may also serve as sensors of HIV due to their ability to recognize HIV gp120 surface proteins [49]. This recognition can lead to inflammatory cytokine production in the FRT, as exposure of polarized genital epithelial monolayers to gp120 induced proinflammatory cytokines, including TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-8. Interestingly, this inflammatory response disrupted tight junctions and increased transcellular passage of components across the monolayer [49], suggesting that innate recognition of envelope may promote HIV transmission by disrupting the epithelial layer of the FRT.

### Interferon inducible factor 16 (IFI16)

*Ifi16* is an interferon-stimulated gene that encodes a multifaceted protein found in a wide variety of cells including epithelial cells, lymphoid cells, myeloid cells, and some hematopoietic cells [50]. It is expressed in both the nucleus and cytosol and has the capacity to shuttle between these two compartments in a manner regulated by acetylation [51, 52]. It is part of the AIM2-like family, whose members are characterized by structural motifs containing N-terminal protein-protein domains (PYRIN) and C-terminal DNA binding domains (HIN-200). IFI16 contains two HIN-200 domains (HIN-A and HIN-B) which recognize and physically bind DNA [53] that exhibit a variety of structural patterns [17, 53-56]. The affinity of the HIN domains for DNA is high ( $K_D$  in nano-molar range), and upon binding IFI16 undergoes filamentous clustering [55], which is believed to function as a signalling scaffold for activating the innate immune pathway.

Although IFI16 was first described as a PRR for Herpes Simplex virus [57], it is now known to participate in sensing a broad range of microbial pathogens including HSV-1, CMV, HHV8, HIV, HPV, Francisella, and Listeria [17, 26, 52, 58-64]. We and others have characterized the mechanisms by which IFI16 senses HIV. In macrophages, IFI16 binds cytoplasmic HIV ssDNA and dsDNA through the HIN-200 domains, leading to activation of type I IFNs and other inflammatory cytokines through the canonical IFN pathway, which includes activation of the ER-bound adapter protein STING, the kinase TBK1, and transcription factor IRF3 [16, 17]. Removal of IFI16 from macrophages renders them more susceptible to HIV infection, supporting the role of this sensor in protecting these cells against infection [17].

While the HIN-200 domains of IFI16 are responsible for binding DNA, the PYRIN motif is involved in inflammasome formation [65, 66]. Inflammasomes are caspase-containing multiprotein complexes that play major roles in innate immunity and the production of the inflammatory cytokines IL-1 $\beta$  and IL-18. Interestingly, activation of IFI16 has been reported to drive inflammation in lymphoid CD4+ T cells infected with HIV [25, 26]. Upon infection of tonsillar T cells with HIV, 3-5% of the CD4+ T cells are productively infected with HIV

while up to 90% of them die in a manner that requires reverse transcription [25]. This HIV-induced cell death is caspase-1 driven and mediated by pyroptosis, and requires the expression of IFI16 [26]. Consistent results were recapitulated in a lamina propria aggregate culture model, where HIV-infected cultures had significantly fewer CD4+T cells and increased caspase-1 activation compared to mock treated cells [67]. More recently, it was demonstrated that IFI16-driven pyroptosis in tissue-derived T cells requires a synchronized and efficient form of viral transfer, which can be achieved by either cell-associated viral infection or spinoculation [68]. As such, although IFI16 can serve a protective role against HIV infection in macrophages, by initiating IFN secretion tissue-derived T cells, it may also promote pathogenesis by activating the highly inflammatory pyroptotic death pathway. Consistent with this, IFI16 expression positively correlates with markers of immune activation on CD4+T cells isolated from HIV treatment-naïve patients [69]. Clinical data from other diseases also support a role for IFI16 in driving restricted inflammation: IFI16 expression and secretion correlate with the severity of Sjögren's Syndrome [70, 71], and IFI16 expression is elevated in mucosal tissues from patients with active inflammatory bowel disease [72]. Because IFI16 is widely expressed in the cervix, placenta, ovary, fallopian tube, and endometrium [73], it is likely that IFI16 plays a role in sensing HIV as it attempts to establish infection in the FRT. Whether this manifests as limiting HIV replication in myeloid cells, or inducing pyroptotic CD4+ T cell death in this tissue, or some other process unique to the activity of IFI16 in the FRT, remains to be determined.

### Cyclic GMP-AMP synthetase

*cGAS* is an interferon-stimulated gene that encodes a cytosolic protein of approximately 500 amino acids. cGAS can be found in a wide variety of cells including most lymphoid cells and myeloid cells. However, quiescent tonsillar CD4+ T cells do not express this protein [26], whereas activated blood-derived CD4+ T cells do [74]. cGAS contains an N-terminal domain with the ability to bind DNA, albeit rather weakly (binding affinity of >10 $\mu$ M), but not RNA [75]. Through this domain, cGAS can sense cytoplasmic synthetic DNA [76], mitochondrial DNA [77, 78], bacterial DNA [60, 64, 79-81], as well retroviral DNA [16, 18]. cGAS also contains a C-terminal (210-520aa) catalytic domain, consisting of an NTase and Mab21 domain, which upon activation induced by binding of DNA results in production of the small compound 2'5'-cGAMP (abbreviated cGAMP) from the cellular pool of ATP and GTP [82, 83]. cGAMP subsequently binds STING [84, 85], triggering its homodimerization and phosphorylation, which leads to activation of the TBK1/IRF3 pathway [86]. Recent studies indicate that the production of cGAMP and activation of STING is evolutionarily conserved, suggesting the importance of this pathway as a defence mechanism against foreign pathogens [87, 88].

cGAS is often considered the major sensor of HIV DNA in macrophages and DCs. Macrophages produce cGAMP in response to HIV infection in a manner that can be suppressed with reverse transcriptase inhibitors, suggesting that reverse transcribed intermediates of HIV are substrates for cGAS [16, 17]. Recently, it has been demonstrated that cGAS recognizes unique structured HIV ssDNA and that this recognition is dependent on flanked unpaired guanines, which generate a Y-shaped DNA structure [89]. This mechanism is similar to the structural basis of how IFI16 recognizes the ssDNA stem-loop

structures of HIV DNA [17]. While evidence points to redundant functions of cGAS and IFI16 in macrophages [17, 60, 89], sensing in T cells is likely mediated by IFI16 [26, 74]. That being said, because recent studies demonstrated that cGAMP is capable of migrating between cells through gap junctions [82] and can be packaged into HIV particles and transferred to new target cells, including ones where cGAS is not expressed [90, 91], it is possible that cGAMP-mediated activation could be elicited in a variety of cell types, including T cells.

Whether cGAS is expressed in the FRT has not been established but since it is strongly expressed in macrophages and myeloid DCs, both residents of the FRT, it is plausible that this sensor will participate to the innate immune response against HIV transmission. Future studies are needed to determine whether cGAMP production in the FRT may lead to increased recognition and restriction of HIV during transmission.

## Polyglutamine binding protein 1

A recent RNAi screen was recently carried out in primary human monocyte-derived DCs to identify candidate HIV sensors that work together with cGAS to drive the innate immune response [21]. This screen identified PQBP1, a nuclear protein associated with neurological disorders including Rappaport syndrome [92, 93]. Because phosphorylation of IRF3 and IKK $\epsilon$  – processes involved in DNA-driven innate immune sensing – were both absent in PQBP1-deficient DCs upon HIV infection, it was concluded that expression of PQBP1 is important for sensing of HIV by DCs. Surprisingly, PQBP1 did not sense synthetic, mitochondria, or HSV DNA [21], suggesting that PQBP1 binds specific motifs unique to HIV reverse-transcriptase intermediates. As such, PQBP1 may, like cGAS [89] and IFI16 [17], recognize the stem-loop structures of HIV ssDNA. Although the DNA-binding domain of PQBP1 has been mapped to the N-terminal region, the structural basis of how this domain recognizes HIV but not other DNA viruses requires further studies.

Mechanistically, PQBP1 activity appears to be tightly coupled with that of cGAS, since depletion of PQBP1 decreased cGAMP production by DCs and macrophages. This may be due to a direct protein-protein interaction, since the N-terminal WW-domain of PQBP1 binds cGAS when both proteins are overexpressed in HEK293 cells [21]. All together, these data support a model where PQBP1 binds HIV DNA and directs it to cGAS. This in turn enables cGAS-mediated activation and cGAMP production. Of note, a similar mechanism has been suggested for how IFI16 activates cGAS [6, 62]. Further studies will be required to determine whether PQBP1, IFI16 and cGAS function redundantly or synergistically to regulate the innate immune response to DNA.

It should be pointed out that one consideration with the study that identified PQBP1 as an HIV sensor was the need to circumvent SAMHD1 restriction (through co-infection with vpx-containing VLPs) within the DC population prior to HIV infection. This was necessary to enable efficient HIV infection and reverse transcription, and promote innate immune sensing. Although investigating innate immune responses without boosting sensing of HIV PAMPs can be technically challenging [21], it is likely more reminiscent of what occurs *in*



*vivo*. Thus, future research should investigate how PQBP1 drives innate immune activation of HIV in the absence of vpx, for example in activated T cells.

## HIV sensing in the FRT

In order to establish infection in the FRT, HIV needs to penetrate the squamous epithelium of the vagina or ectocervix, or the columnar epithelium of the endocervix or endometrium (see Figure 1). This penetration may be facilitated by mucosal disruption due to trauma or ulcerative sexual transmitted diseases. Within the interstitial space of the epithelium, passage of HIV across the epithelium may also be facilitated by the capture of virions by interdigitating cells such as Langerhans cells, macrophages or DCs [94-97]. After breaching the epithelium, HIV in the lamina propria can initiate infection of permissive cells including CD4+ T cells expressing the chemokine receptor CCR5 [98]. HIV may preferentially infect subsets of CD4+ T cells, including T-helper type 17 (Th17) cells, which are present in the FRT [99], and can additionally infect macrophages and DCs, in particular through cell-to-cell transfer [100, 101]. As described earlier, these cells express both TLRs and DNA sensors (cGAS, IFI16, and PQBP1), which should sense HIV and initiate an immune response to infection. How this sensing occurs will likely be affected by the unique properties of the FRT.

The FRT harbours a unique environment because this tissue needs to simultaneously tolerate sperm and the semi-allogeneic fetus while avoiding sexually transmitted microbial pathogens that can be detrimental for fertility. It achieves this by orchestrating a variety of immunomodulatory signals [102]. These immunomodulatory effects, however, may conceivably affect sensing of HIV and the development of an effective anti-HIV immune response. Although capable of providing a tolerant environment, the FRT at the same time is capable of producing an extensive array of inflammatory cytokines, some of which play roles in pregnancy establishment and protection against unwanted microbial pathogens [102]. Cytokines such as TNF- $\alpha$  are produced by the genital epithelium [103], and can increase permeability of primary polarized epithelial cells isolated from the FRT [104], which could facilitate translocation of HIV across the epithelial barrier and their ability to access cellular targets. Inflammatory cytokines such as IL-1, IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-2, IL15, TNF- $\alpha$ , and MCP-1 may also directly promote the ability of HIV to replicate in cellular targets [105-108]. Accordingly, having a general low level of inflammation in the FRT is associated with decreased risk of HIV transmission, likely by decreasing T cell activation and limiting recruitment of HIV permissive cells [109-112].

Because exposure of the FRT to seminal plasma (SP) is a common and physiological process, SP can in some sense be considered a component of the FRT environment. SP is the medium by which HIV enters the FRT and harbours a variety of bioactive factors whose physiological purpose is to promote reproductive success [113]. It provides a rich source of proinflammatory and immunomodulatory cytokines, such as TGF- $\beta$ , IL-7, and IL-8, some of which can unfortunately promote HIV infection by upregulating HIV gene transcription or preventing CD4 T cell apoptosis [114, 115]. Of note, the levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines in SP differs between healthy individuals and HIV-infected patients, with acutely infected patients having higher levels of these cytokines as compared to chronic HIV and



uninfected donors [116]. These cytokines, together with other SP constituents, elicit a highly inflammatory response in cells of both the lower and upper FRT [103, 117-120]. This inflammatory response includes the secretion of chemokines, which can recruit HIV-permissive cells to the site of SP exposure [103, 121, 122] and increased NF- $\kappa$ B activation in cells which promotes HIV-LTR activity [116, 119]. The orchestrated physiological response of the FRT to SP exposure will likely affect sensing of HIV by affecting the types of target cells recruited to the site of exposure, and the ability of those cells to sense and limit replication of HIV. Since IFI16 and cGAS are both interferon inducible genes, it is possible that SP exposure initiates a positive feedback loop, where initial immune activation by SP increases expression and activation of HIV sensors, which upon detection of HIV are further activated. On top of this, because semen harbours amyloid fibrils that directly promote viral attachment to cellular targets [123-126], the efficiency of viral sensing may be augmented by virtue of SP's ability to increase access of PRRs to HIV PAMPs.

## Hormones and sensing of HIV in the FRT

Due to the highly hormonally responsive nature of the FRT, studies on how HIV is sensed in the FRT need also to take into account the effects of the hormonal environment. The effect of hormones on HIV susceptibility has been studied extensively. Non-human primate studies have demonstrated that the secretory phase (when levels of progesterone are high) and the use of progesterone implants are associated with higher susceptibility to vaginal infection with SIV [127, 128]. In women, injectable progesterone-based hormones are potentially associated with higher rates of HIV infection, although there is no association between use of oral contraceptives and increased risk of HIV acquisition [129-133]. Progesterone-based hormones exert a multitude of effects on the FRT [134], and exactly which of these effects contribute most to HIV transmission risk is unclear.

The upper FRT, in particular the endometrium, is highly responsive to progesterone and undergoes a massive reorganization in a cyclical manner. Whether HIV transmission occurs across this tissue is unclear, but is conceivable given that peristaltic movements are known to direct luminal contents from the vagina into the upper FRT [135, 136], and that an SIV-based virus can ascend as high as the ovaries following intravaginal inoculation [137]. The relatively weak barrier of the single-layered columnar epithelium of the endometrium, along with recent data demonstrating the presence of HIV-permissive CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells and macrophages in this tissue [138] further support the notion of the endometrium as a potential portal of entry for HIV. In addition, compared to the cervix, the endometrium is enriched in factors promoting HIV replication [139]. Nevertheless, how hormonally induced changes in the endometrium influence sensing of HIV is an underexplored area of research.

Interestingly, however, recent studies in mice have demonstrated that expression of IFI16 homologs increased upon activation of the estrogen receptor [140-142]. In addition, in pigs increased levels of estrogen in the endometrium associate with increased expression of ISGs, including Interferon Regulatory Factors (IRFs) and the IFN-inducible antiviral protein Mx1 [143]. Studies with human macrophages revealed that by upregulating IFN, 17 $\beta$ -estradiol protects against HIV infection *in vitro* [144]. Together, these data suggest that innate sensing signalling pathways are regulated by female hormones and the efficiency of sensing of HIV in the FRT will likely be dependent on phase of the female menstrual cycle.

Finally, it should be mentioned that ovarian hormones also affect the lower FRT. Cyclical changes have been reported to occur in the vaginal epithelium of normal rhesus macaques [145]. Furthermore, in *ex vivo* studies using human cervical explants, only tissues obtained from women in their secretory phase sustained productive HIV replication, whereas non-productive infection was observed in tissues obtained from women in either their secretory or proliferative phase of the menstrual cycle or with an atrophic endometrium [146]. The mechanistic basis of this was attributed to non-productively infected tissues secreting higher levels of the CCR5 ligands CCL3 and CCL5, which might have curtailed HIV infection. By preventing entry of HIV into cellular targets, these cytokines would presumably also limit detection of HIV by the innate immune effectors, although this has yet to be directly demonstrated.

## Conclusion

The FRT harbours T cells, macrophages, and DCs, which have been extensively characterized for their ability to sense and in some cases mount robust antiviral responses against HIV infection (Figure 1). Such *in vitro* systems, however, do not mimic the conditions under which HIV is sensed within the mucosal tissues. The FRT, in particular, is a unique site that is hormonally responsive and designed to be tolerant of semen components, while at the same time staying alert and limiting infection by undesirable microbial pathogens. Obtaining a more comprehensive understanding of how HIV is sensed at this portal of entry will require models incorporating mucosal components such as tissue-derived cells (including both permissive and non-permissive cells), genital secretions (SP and cervicovaginal fluid), and genital microflora. The simple question of whether sensing of HIV in the FRT benefits the virus or the host is not so simple to answer. The correct answer is likely context-dependent, and having *in vitro* systems that better mimic HIV transmission in the FRT, as well as incorporating the use of animal models, will help paint a more complete picture of the types of host response that averts infection and limits pathogenesis.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

## Acknowledgments

The current review is supported by grants from: Danish Research Council of Independent Research 4004-00237B (to M.R.J.), Lundbeck foundation R151-2013-14443 (to M.R.J.) and Aarhus Research Centre of Innate Immunology (to M.R.J.), the NIH R00 AI 104262 (to N.R.R.), and the NIH R21 AI 116252 (to N.R.R.).

## References

1. Organization, W.H. Progress Report 2011: Global HIV/AIDS Response (WHO, 2011). 2011
2. Wira CR, Rodriguez-Garcia M, Patel MV. The role of sex hormones in immune protection of the female reproductive tract. *Nat Rev Immunol.* 2015; 15(4):217–30. [PubMed: 25743222]
3. Chow J, Franz KM, Kagan JC. PRRs are watching you: Localization of innate sensing and signaling regulators. *Virology.* 2015; 479-480:104–9. [PubMed: 25800355]
4. Gurtler C, Bowie AG. Innate immune detection of microbial nucleic acids. *Trends Microbiol.* 2013; 21(8):413–20. [PubMed: 23726320]

5. Paludan SR. Activation and regulation of DNA-driven immune responses. *Microbiol Mol Biol Rev.* 2015; 79(2):225–41. [PubMed: 25926682]
6. Jakobsen MR, Olgner D, Hiscott J. Innate immune sensing of HIV-1 infection. *Curr Opin HIV AIDS.* 2015; 10(2):96–102. [PubMed: 25485569]
7. Berlier W, Cremel M, Hamzeh H, Levy R, Lucht F, Bourlet T, Pozzetto B, Delezay O. Seminal plasma promotes the attraction of Langerhans cells via the secretion of CCL20 by vaginal epithelial cells: involvement in the sexual transmission of HIV. *Hum Reprod.* 2006; 21(5):1135–42. [PubMed: 16531471]
8. Brown KN, Wijewardana V, Liu X, Barratt-Boyes SM. Rapid influx and death of plasmacytoid dendritic cells in lymph nodes mediate depletion in acute simian immunodeficiency virus infection. *PLoS Pathog.* 2009; 5(5):e1000413. [PubMed: 19424421]
9. Cavarelli M, Foglieni C, Rescigno M, Scarlatti G. R5 HIV-1 envelope attracts dendritic cells to cross the human intestinal epithelium and sample luminal virions via engagement of the CCR5. *EMBO Mol Med.* 2013; 5(5):776–94. [PubMed: 23606583]
10. McKinnon LR, Nyanga B, Kim CJ, Izulla P, Kwatampora J, Kimani M, Shahabi K, Mugo N, Smith JS, Anzala AO, Kimani J, Kaul R. Early HIV-1 infection is associated with reduced frequencies of cervical Th17 cells. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr.* 2015; 68(1):6–12. [PubMed: 25296095]
11. Berg RK, Melchjorsen J, Rintahaka J, Diget E, Soby S, Horan KA, Gorelick RJ, Matikainen S, Larsen CS, Ostergaard L, Paludan SR, Mogensen TH. Genomic HIV RNA induces innate immune responses through RIG-I-dependent sensing of secondary-structured RNA. *PLoS One.* 2012; 7(1):e29291. [PubMed: 22235281]
12. Solis M, Nakhaei P, Jalalirad M, Lacoste J, Douville R, Arguello M, Zhao T, Laughrea M, Wainberg MA, Hiscott J. RIG-I-mediated antiviral signaling is inhibited in HIV-1 infection by a protease-mediated sequestration of RIG-I. *J Virol.* 2011; 85(3):1224–36. [PubMed: 21084468]
13. Beignon AS, McKenna K, Skoberne M, Manches O, DaSilva I, Kavanagh DG, Larsson M, Gorelick RJ, Lifson JD, Bhardwaj N. Endocytosis of HIV-1 activates plasmacytoid dendritic cells via Toll-like receptor-viral RNA interactions. *J Clin Invest.* 2005; 115(11):3265–75. [PubMed: 16224540]
14. Cohen KW, Dugast AS, Alter G, McElrath MJ, Stamatatos L. HIV-1 single-stranded RNA induces CXCL13 secretion in human monocytes via TLR7 activation and plasmacytoid dendritic cell-derived type I IFN. *J Immunol.* 2015; 194(6):2769–75. [PubMed: 25667414]
15. Lester RT, Yao XD, Ball TB, McKinnon LR, Kaul R, Wachihi C, Jaoko W, Plummer FA, Rosenthal KL. Toll-like receptor expression and responsiveness are increased in viraemic HIV-1 infection. *AIDS.* 2008; 22(6):685–94. [PubMed: 18356597]
- \*\*16. Gao D, Wu J, Wu YT, Du F, Aroh C, Yan N, Sun L, Chen ZJ. Cyclic GMP-AMP synthase is an innate immune sensor of HIV and other retroviruses. *Science.* 2013; 341(6148):903–6. This study was the first to show that cGAS detects HIV DNA and initiates sensing. [PubMed: 23929945]
- \*\*17. Jakobsen MR, Bak RO, Andersen A, Berg RK, Jensen SB, Tengchuan J, Laustsen A, Hansen K, Ostergaard L, Fitzgerald KA, Xiao TS, Mikkelsen JG, Mogensen TH, Paludan SR. IFI16 senses DNA forms of the lentiviral replication cycle and controls HIV-1 replication. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2013; 110(48):E4571–80. This study was the first to show that IFI16 together with cGAS drives innate immune activation toward HIV DNA and that viral replication was controlled by IFI16 expression. [PubMed: 24154727]
18. Lahaye X, Satoh T, Gentili M, Cerboni S, Conrad C, Hurbain I, El Marjou A, Lacabaratz C, Lelievre JD, Manel N. The capsids of HIV-1 and HIV-2 determine immune detection of the viral cDNA by the innate sensor cGAS in dendritic cells. *Immunity.* 2013; 39(6):1132–42. [PubMed: 24269171]
19. Rasaiyaah J, Tan CP, Fletcher AJ, Price AJ, Blondeau C, Hilditch L, Jacques DA, Selwood DL, James LC, Noursadeghi M, Towers GJ. HIV-1 evades innate immune recognition through specific cofactor recruitment. *Nature.* 2013; 503(7476):402–5. [PubMed: 24196705]
20. Yan N, Regalado-Magdos AD, Stiggelbout B, Lee-Kirsch MA, Lieberman J. The cytosolic exonuclease TREX1 inhibits the innate immune response to human immunodeficiency virus type 1. *Nat Immunol.* 2010; 11(11):1005–13. [PubMed: 20871604]

- \*\*21. Yoh SM, Schneider M, Seifried J, Soonthornvacharin S, Akleh RE, Olivieri KC, De Jesus PD, Ruan C, de Castro E, Ruiz PA, Germanaud D, des Portes V, Garcia-Sastre A, Konig R, Chanda SK. PQBP1 Is a Proximal Sensor of the cGAS-Dependent Innate Response to HIV-1. *Cell*. 2015; 161(6):1293–305. Here the authors demonstrate that PQBP1 binds HIV structured DNA and drives innate immune activation through direct interaction with cGAS. [PubMed: 26046437]
22. Rigby RE, Webb LM, Mackenzie KJ, Li Y, Leitch A, Reijns MA, Lundie RJ, Revuelta A, Davidson DJ, Diebold S, Modis Y, MacDonald AS, Jackson AP. RNA:DNA hybrids are a novel molecular pattern sensed by TLR9. *EMBO J*. 2014; 33(6):542–58. [PubMed: 24514026]
23. Mankan AK, Schmidt T, Chauhan D, Goldeck M, Honing K, Gaidt M, Kubarenko AV, Andreeva L, Hopfner KP, Hornung V. Cytosolic RNA:DNA hybrids activate the cGAS-STING axis. *EMBO J*. 2014; 33(24):2937–46. [PubMed: 25425575]
- \*24. Doitsh G, Cavrois M, Lassen KG, Zepeda O, Yang Z, Santiago ML, Hebbeler AM, Greene WC. Abortive HIV infection mediates CD4 T cell depletion and inflammation in human lymphoid tissue. *Cell*. 2010; 143(5):789–801. The first study demonstrating that abortive HIV infections of T cells mediates innate immune activations. [PubMed: 21111238]
- \*\*25. Doitsh G, Galloway NL, Geng X, Yang Z, Monroe KM, Zepeda O, Hunt PW, Hatano H, Sowinski S, Munoz-Arias I, Greene WC. Cell death by pyroptosis drives CD4 T-cell depletion in HIV-1 infection. *Nature*. 2014; 505(7484):509–14. [PubMed: 24356306]
- \*\*26. Monroe KM, Yang Z, Johnson JR, Geng X, Doitsh G, Krogan NJ, Greene WC. IFI16 DNA sensor is required for death of lymphoid CD4 T cells abortively infected with HIV. *Science*. 2014; 343(6169):428–32. Together with reference 25, the authors consolidate that abortive HIV infections of T cells is occurring through the process pyroptosis. This was initiated by IFI16 sensing HIV DNA intermediates. [PubMed: 24356113]
27. Shen R, Richter HE, Smith PD. Early HIV-1 target cells in human vaginal and ectocervical mucosa. *Am J Reprod Immunol*. 2011; 65(3):261–7. [PubMed: 21118402]
28. Wang Y, Wang X, Li J, Zhou Y, Ho W. RIG-I activation inhibits HIV replication in macrophages. *J Leukoc Biol*. 2013; 94(2):337–41. [PubMed: 23744645]
29. Stacey AR, Norris PJ, Qin L, Haygreen EA, Taylor E, Heitman J, Lebedeva M, DeCamp A, Li D, Grove D, Self SG, Borrow P. Induction of a striking systemic cytokine cascade prior to peak viremia in acute human immunodeficiency virus type 1 infection, in contrast to more modest and delayed responses in acute hepatitis B and C virus infections. *J Virol*. 2009; 83(8):3719–33. [PubMed: 19176632]
30. Jochems SP, Jacquelin B, Chauveau L, Huot N, Petitjean G, Lepelley A, Liovat AS, Ploquin MJ, Cartwright EK, Bosinger SE, Silvestri G, Barre-Sinoussi F, Lebon P, Schwartz O, Muller-Trutwin MC. Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cell Infection and Sensing Capacity during Pathogenic and Nonpathogenic Simian Immunodeficiency Virus Infection. *J Virol*. 2015; 89(13):6918–27. [PubMed: 25903334]
31. Jochems SP, Petitjean G, Kunkel D, Liovat AS, Ploquin MJ, Barre-Sinoussi F, Lebon P, Jacquelin B, Muller-Trutwin MC. Modulation of type I interferon-associated viral sensing during acute simian immunodeficiency virus infection in African green monkeys. *J Virol*. 2015; 89(1):751–62. [PubMed: 25355871]
32. Li G, Cheng M, Nunoya J, Cheng L, Guo H, Yu H, Liu YJ, Su L, Zhang L. Plasmacytoid dendritic cells suppress HIV-1 replication but contribute to HIV-1 induced immunopathogenesis in humanized mice. *PLoS Pathog*. 2014; 10(7):e1004291. [PubMed: 25077616]
33. Simmons RP, Scully EP, Groden EE, Arnold KB, Chang JJ, Lane K, Lifson J, Rosenberg E, Lauffenburger DA, Altfeld M. HIV-1 infection induces strong production of IP-10 through TLR7/9-dependent pathways. *AIDS*. 2013; 27(16):2505–17. [PubMed: 24096630]
34. Benlahrech A, Patterson S. HIV-1 infection and induction of interferon alpha in plasmacytoid dendritic cells. *Curr Opin HIV AIDS*. 2011; 6(5):373–8. [PubMed: 21734568]
35. Lepelley A, Louis S, Sourisseau M, Law HK, Pothlichet J, Schilte C, Chaperot L, Plumas J, Randall RE, Si-Tahar M, Mammano F, Albert ML, Schwartz O. Innate sensing of HIV-infected cells. *PLoS Pathog*. 2011; 7(2):e1001284. [PubMed: 21379343]
36. Hardy AW, Graham DR, Shearer GM, Herbeuval JP. HIV turns plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDC) into TRAIL-expressing killer pDC and down-regulates HIV coreceptors by Toll-like receptor 7-induced IFN-alpha. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2007; 104(44):17453–8. [PubMed: 17956986]

37. Pan X, Baldauf HM, Keppler OT, Fackler OT. Restrictions to HIV-1 replication in resting CD4+ T lymphocytes. *Cell Res*. 2013; 23(7):876–85. [PubMed: 23732522]
38. Bloch N, O'Brien M, Norton TD, Polsky SB, Bhardwaj N, Landau NR. HIV type 1 infection of plasmacytoid and myeloid dendritic cells is restricted by high levels of SAMHD1 and cannot be counteracted by Vpx. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses*. 2014; 30(2):195–203. [PubMed: 23924154]
39. Li H, Evans TI, Gillis J, Connole M, Reeves RK. Bone marrow-imprinted gut-homing of plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDCs) in acute simian immunodeficiency virus infection results in massive accumulation of hyperfunctional CD4+ pDCs in the mucosae. *J Infect Dis*. 2015; 211(11):1717–25. [PubMed: 25489000]
40. Reeves RK, Evans TI, Gillis J, Wong FE, Kang G, Li Q, Johnson RP. SIV infection induces accumulation of plasmacytoid dendritic cells in the gut mucosa. *J Infect Dis*. 2012; 206(9):1462–8. [PubMed: 22711907]
41. Abdulhaqq SA, Martinez MI, Kang G, Foulkes AS, Rodriguez IV, Nichols SM, Hunter M, Sariol CA, Ruiz LA, Ross BN, Yin X, Speicher DW, Haase AT, Marx PA, Li Q, Kraiselburd EN, Montaner LJ. Serial cervicovaginal exposures with replication-deficient SIVsm induce higher dendritic cell (pDC) and CD4+ T-cell infiltrates not associated with prevention but a more severe SIVmac251 infection of rhesus macaques. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2014; 65(4):405–13. [PubMed: 24226059]
42. Fitzgerald-Bocarsly P, Jacobs ES. Plasmacytoid dendritic cells in HIV infection: striking a delicate balance. *J Leukoc Biol*. 2010; 87(4):609–20. [PubMed: 20145197]
43. Sabado RL, O'Brien M, Subedi A, Qin L, Hu N, Taylor E, Dibben O, Stacey A, Fellay J, Shianna KV, Siegal F, Shodell M, Shah K, Larsson M, Lifson J, Nadas A, Marmor M, Hutt R, Margolis D, Garmon D, Markowitz M, Valentine F, Borrow P, Bhardwaj N. Evidence of dysregulation of dendritic cells in primary HIV infection. *Blood*. 2010; 116(19):3839–52. [PubMed: 20693428]
44. Chang JJ, Lacas A, Lindsay RJ, Doyle EH, Axten KL, Pereyra F, Rosenberg ES, Walker BD, Allen TM, Altfeld M. Differential regulation of toll-like receptor pathways in acute and chronic HIV-1 infection. *AIDS*. 2012; 26(5):533–41. [PubMed: 22210629]
45. Campbell GR, Spector SA. Toll-like receptor 8 ligands activate a vitamin D mediated autophagic response that inhibits human immunodeficiency virus type 1. *PLoS Pathog*. 2012; 8(11):e1003017. [PubMed: 23166493]
- \*46. Hart KM, Murphy AJ, Barrett KT, Wira CR, Guyre PM, Pioli PA. Functional expression of pattern recognition receptors in tissues of the human female reproductive tract. *J Reprod Immunol*. 2009; 80(1-2):33–40. One of the few studies demonstrating the distribution of TLRs within the FRT. [PubMed: 19406482]
47. Wang Y, Abel K, Lantz K, Krieg AM, McChesney MB, Miller CJ. The Toll-like receptor 7 (TLR7) agonist, imiquimod, and the TLR9 agonist, CpG ODN, induce antiviral cytokines and chemokines but do not prevent vaginal transmission of simian immunodeficiency virus when applied intravaginally to rhesus macaques. *J Virol*. 2005; 79(22):14355–70. [PubMed: 16254370]
- \*\*48. Dominguez-Villar M, Gautron AS, de Marcken M, Keller MJ, Hafler DA. TLR7 induces anergy in human CD4(+) T cells. *Nat Immunol*. 2015; 16(1):118–28. In this study, the authors finds that triggering T cells with TLR7 agonists renders cells more permissive for HIV-1 infection. The clinical implications for this could be that abortive HIV infections under transmission activates T cells through TLR7 and by this renders them more permissive for replication-competent viruses. [PubMed: 25401424]
49. Nazli A, Kafka JK, Ferreira VH, Anipindi V, Mueller K, Osborne BJ, Dizzell S, Chauvin S, Mian MF, Ouellet M, Tremblay MJ, Mossman KL, Ashkar AA, Kovacs C, Bowdish DM, Snider DP, Kaul R, Kaushic C. HIV-1 gp120 induces TLR2- and TLR4-mediated innate immune activation in human female genital epithelium. *J Immunol*. 2013; 191(8):4246–58. [PubMed: 24043886]
50. Wei W, Clarke CJ, Somers GR, Cresswell KS, Loveland KA, Trapani JA, Johnstone RW. Expression of IFI 16 in epithelial cells and lymphoid tissues. *Histochem Cell Biol*. 2003; 119(1):45–54. [PubMed: 12548405]
51. Li T, Diner BA, Chen J, Cristea IM. Acetylation modulates cellular distribution and DNA sensing ability of interferon-inducible protein IFI16. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2012; 109(26):10558–63. [PubMed: 22691496]



52. Ansari MA, Dutta S, Veettil MV, Dutta D, Iqbal J, Kumar B, Roy A, Chikoti L, Singh VV, Chandran B. Herpesvirus Genome Recognition Induced Acetylation of Nuclear IFI16 Is Essential for Its Cytoplasmic Translocation, Inflammasome and IFN-beta Responses. *PLoS Pathog.* 2015; 11(7):e1005019. [PubMed: 26134128]
53. Jin T, Perry A, Jiang J, Smith P, Curry JA, Unterholzner L, Jiang Z, Horvath G, Rathinam VA, Johnstone RW, Hornung V, Latz E, Bowie AG, Fitzgerald KA, Xiao TS. Structures of the HIN domain:DNA complexes reveal ligand binding and activation mechanisms of the AIM2 inflammasome and IFI16 receptor. *Immunity.* 2012; 36(4):561–71. [PubMed: 22483801]
54. Brazda V, Coufal J, Liao JC, Arrowsmith CH. Preferential binding of IFI16 protein to cruciform structure and superhelical DNA. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun.* 2012; 422(4):716–20. [PubMed: 22618232]
55. Morrone SR, Wang T, Constantoulakis LM, Hooy RM, Delannoy MJ, Sohn J. Cooperative assembly of IFI16 filaments on dsDNA provides insights into host defense strategy. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2014; 111(1):E62–71. [PubMed: 24367117]
56. Ni X, Ru H, Ma F, Zhao L, Shaw N, Feng Y, Ding W, Gong W, Wang Q, Ouyang S, Cheng G, Liu ZJ. New insights into the structural basis of DNA recognition by HINa and HINb domains of IFI16. *J Mol Cell Biol.* 2015
57. Unterholzner L, Keating SE, Baran M, Horan KA, Jensen SB, Sharma S, Sirois CM, Jin T, Latz E, Xiao TS, Fitzgerald KA, Paludan SR, Bowie AG. IFI16 is an innate immune sensor for intracellular DNA. *Nat Immunol.* 2010; 11(11):997–1004. [PubMed: 20890285]
58. Dutta D, Dutta S, Veettil MV, Roy A, Ansari MA, Iqbal J, Chikoti L, Kumar B, Johnson KE, Chandran B. BRCA1 Regulates IFI16 Mediated Nuclear Innate Sensing of Herpes Viral DNA and Subsequent Induction of the Innate Inflammasome and Interferon-beta Responses. *PLoS Pathog.* 2015; 11(6):e1005030. [PubMed: 26121674]
59. Gariano GR, Dell'Oste V, Bronzini M, Gatti D, Luganini A, De Andrea M, Gribaudo G, Gariglio M, Landolfo S. The intracellular DNA sensor IFI16 gene acts as restriction factor for human cytomegalovirus replication. *PLoS Pathog.* 2012; 8(1):e1002498. [PubMed: 22291595]
60. Hansen K, Prabakaran T, Laustsen A, Jorgensen SE, Rahbaek SH, Jensen SB, Nielsen R, Leber JH, Decker T, Horan KA, Jakobsen MR, Paludan SR. *Listeria monocytogenes* induces IFNbeta expression through an IFI16-, cGAS- and STING-dependent pathway. *EMBO J.* 2014; 33(15): 1654–66. [PubMed: 24970844]
61. Lo Cigno I, De Andrea M, Borgogna C, Albertini S, Landini MM, Peretti A, Johnson KE, Chandran B, Landolfo S, Gariglio M. The Nuclear DNA Sensor IFI16 Acts as a Restriction Factor for Human Papillomavirus Replication through Epigenetic Modifications of the Viral Promoters. *J Virol.* 2015; 89(15):7506–20. [PubMed: 25972554]
- \*62. Orzalli MH, Broekema NM, Diner BA, Hancks DC, Elde NC, Cristea IM, Knipe DM. cGAS-mediated stabilization of IFI16 promotes innate signaling during herpes simplex virus infection. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2015; 112(14):E1773–81. [PubMed: 25831530]
63. Singh VV, Kerur N, Bottero V, Dutta S, Chakraborty S, Ansari MA, Paudel N, Chikoti L, Chandran B. Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus latency in endothelial and B cells activates gamma interferon-inducible protein 16-mediated inflammasomes. *J Virol.* 2013; 87(8):4417–31. [PubMed: 23388709]
- \*64. Storek KM, Gertszov NA, Ohlson MB, Monack DM. cGAS and Ifi204 cooperate to produce type I IFNs in response to *Francisella* infection. *J Immunol.* 2015; 194(7):3236–45. [PubMed: 25710914]
65. Schattgen SA, Fitzgerald KA. The PYHIN protein family as mediators of host defenses. *Immunol Rev.* 2011; 243(1):109–18. [PubMed: 21884171]
66. Kerur N, Veettil MV, Sharma-Walia N, Bottero V, Sadagopan S, Otageri P, Chandran B. IFI16 acts as a nuclear pathogen sensor to induce the inflammasome in response to Kaposi Sarcoma-associated herpesvirus infection. *Cell Host Microbe.* 2011; 9(5):363–75. [PubMed: 21575908]
67. Steele AK, Lee EJ, Manuzak JA, Dillon SM, Beckham JD, McCarter MD, Santiago ML, Wilson CC. Microbial exposure alters HIV-1-induced mucosal CD4+ T cell death pathways Ex vivo. *Retrovirology.* 2014; 11:14. [PubMed: 24495380]

68. Galloway NL, Doitsh G, Monroe KM, Yang Z, Munoz-Arias I, Levy DN, Greene WC. Cell-to-Cell Transmission of HIV-1 Is Required to Trigger Pyroptotic Death of Lymphoid-Tissue-Derived CD4 T Cells. *Cell Rep*. 2015; 12(10):1555–63. [PubMed: 26321639]
69. Nissen SK, Hojen JF, Andersen KL, Kofod-Olsen E, Berg RK, Paludan SR, Ostergaard L, Jakobsen MR, Tolstrup M, Mogensen TH. Innate DNA sensing is impaired in HIV patients and IFI16 expression correlates with chronic immune activation. *Clin Exp Immunol*. 2014; 177(1): 295–309. [PubMed: 24593816]
70. Alunno A, Caneparo V, Carubbi F, Bistoni O, Caterbi S, Bartoloni E, Giacomelli R, Gariglio M, Landolfo S, Gerli R. Interferon gamma-inducible protein 16 in primary Sjogren's syndrome: a novel player in disease pathogenesis? *Arthritis Res Ther*. 2015; 17:208. [PubMed: 26271464]
71. Baer AN, Petri M, Sohn J, Rosen A, Casciola-Rosen L. Antibodies to interferon-inducible protein-16 in primary Sjogren's syndrome are associated with markers of more severe disease. *Arthritis Care Res (Hoboken)*. 2015
72. Vanhove W, Peeters PM, Staelens D, Schraenen A, Van der Goten J, Cleynen I, De Schepper S, Van Lommel L, Reynaert NL, Schuit F, Van Assche G, Ferrante M, De Hertogh G, Wouters EF, Rutgeerts P, Vermeire S, Nys K, Arijis I. Strong Upregulation of AIM2 and IFI16 Inflammasomes in the Mucosa of Patients with Active Inflammatory Bowel Disease. *Inflamm Bowel Dis*. 2015
73. Gariglio M, Azzimonti B, Pagano M, Palestro G, De Andrea M, Valente G, Voglino G, Navino L, Landolfo S. Immunohistochemical expression analysis of the human interferon-inducible gene IFI16, a member of the HIN200 family, not restricted to hematopoietic cells. *J Interferon Cytokine Res*. 2002; 22(7):815–21. [PubMed: 12184920]
74. Berg RK, Rahbek SH, Kofod-Olsen E, Holm CK, Melchjorsen J, Jensen DG, Hansen AL, Jorgensen LB, Ostergaard L, Tolstrup M, Larsen CS, Paludan SR, Jakobsen MR, Mogensen TH. T cells detect intracellular DNA but fail to induce type I IFN responses: implications for restriction of HIV replication. *PLoS One*. 2014; 9(1):e84513. [PubMed: 24404168]
75. Li X, Shu C, Yi G, Chaton CT, Shelton CL, Diao J, Zuo X, Kao CC, Herr AB, Li P. Cyclic GMP-AMP synthase is activated by double-stranded DNA-induced oligomerization. *Immunity*. 2013; 39(6):1019–31. [PubMed: 24332030]
- \*\*76. Sun L, Wu J, Du F, Chen X, Chen ZJ. Cyclic GMP-AMP synthase is a cytosolic DNA sensor that activates the type I interferon pathway. *Science*. 2013; 339(6121):786–91. This paper discovered cGAS and described its function and mechanism in regulating the innate immune pathway against DNA. [PubMed: 23258413]
77. Rongvaux A, Jackson R, Harman CC, Li T, West AP, de Zoete MR, Wu Y, Yordy B, Lakhani SA, Kuan CY, Taniguchi T, Shadel GS, Chen ZJ, Iwasaki A, Flavell RA. Apoptotic caspases prevent the induction of type I interferons by mitochondrial DNA. *Cell*. 2014; 159(7):1563–77. [PubMed: 25525875]
78. White MJ, McArthur K, Metcalf D, Lane RM, Cambier JC, Herold MJ, van Delft MF, Bedoui S, Lessene G, Ritchie ME, Huang DC, Kile BT. Apoptotic caspases suppress mtDNA-induced STING-mediated type I IFN production. *Cell*. 2014; 159(7):1549–62. [PubMed: 25525874]
79. Wassermann R, Gulen MF, Sala C, Perin SG, Lou Y, Rybniker J, Schmid-Burgk JL, Schmidt T, Hornung V, Cole ST, Ablasser A. Mycobacterium tuberculosis Differentially Activates cGAS- and Inflammasome-Dependent Intracellular Immune Responses through ESX-1. *Cell Host Microbe*. 2015; 17(6):799–810. [PubMed: 26048138]
80. Collins AC, Cai H, Li T, Franco LH, Li XD, Nair VR, Scharn CR, Stamm CE, Levine B, Chen ZJ, Shiloh MU. Cyclic GMP-AMP Synthase Is an Innate Immune DNA Sensor for Mycobacterium tuberculosis. *Cell Host Microbe*. 2015; 17(6):820–8. [PubMed: 26048137]
81. Watson RO, Bell SL, MacDuff DA, Kimmey JM, Diner EJ, Olivas J, Vance RE, Stallings CL, Virgin HW, Cox JS. The Cytosolic Sensor cGAS Detects Mycobacterium tuberculosis DNA to Induce Type I Interferons and Activate Autophagy. *Cell Host Microbe*. 2015; 17(6):811–9. [PubMed: 26048136]
- \*82. Ablasser A, Schmid-Burgk JL, Hemmerling I, Horvath GL, Schmidt T, Latz E, Hornung V. Cell intrinsic immunity spreads to bystander cells via the intercellular transfer of cGAMP. *Nature*. 2013; 503(7477):530–4. This paper described the possibility for cGAMP to transfer from producing cells to bystander cells using gap-junctions between cells. [PubMed: 24077100]



83. Gao P, Ascano M, Wu Y, Barchet W, Gaffney BL, Zillinger T, Serganov AA, Liu Y, Jones RA, Hartmann G, Tuschl T, Patel DJ. Cyclic [G(2',5')pA(3',5')p] is the metazoan second messenger produced by DNA-activated cyclic GMP-AMP synthase. *Cell*. 2013; 153(5):1094–107. [PubMed: 23647843]
84. Shu C, Li X, Li P. The mechanism of double-stranded DNA sensing through the cGAS-STING pathway. *Cytokine Growth Factor Rev*. 2014; 25(6):641–8. [PubMed: 25007740]
85. Cai X, Chiu YH, Chen ZJ. The cGAS-cGAMP-STING pathway of cytosolic DNA sensing and signaling. *Mol Cell*. 2014; 54(2):289–96. [PubMed: 24766893]
86. Liu S, Cai X, Wu J, Cong Q, Chen X, Li T, Du F, Ren J, Wu YT, Grishin NV, Chen ZJ. Phosphorylation of innate immune adaptor proteins MAVS, STING, and TRIF induces IRF3 activation. *Science*. 2015; 347(6227):aaa2630. [PubMed: 25636800]
87. Ge R, Zhou Y, Peng R, Wang R, Li M, Zhang Y, Zheng C, Wang C. Conservation of the STING-Mediated Cytosolic DNA Sensing Pathway in Zebrafish. *J Virol*. 2015; 89(15):7696–706. [PubMed: 25972544]
88. Kranzusch PJ, Wilson SC, Lee AS, Berger JM, Doudna JA, Vance RE. Ancient Origin of cGAS-STING Reveals Mechanism of Universal 2',3' cGAMP Signaling. *Mol Cell*. 2015
89. Herzner AM, Hagmann CA, Goldeck M, Wolter S, Kubler K, Wittmann S, Gramberg T, Andreeva L, Hopfner KP, Mertens C, Zillinger T, Jin T, Xiao TS, Bartok E, Coch C, Ackermann D, Hornung V, Ludwig J, Barchet W, Hartmann G, Schlee M. Sequence-specific activation of the DNA sensor cGAS by Y-form DNA structures as found in primary HIV-1 cDNA. *Nat Immunol*. 2015
- \*90. Bridgeman A, Maelfait J, Davenne T, Partridge T, Peng Y, Mayer A, Dong T, Kaefer V, Borrow P, Rehwinkel J. Viruses transfer the antiviral second messenger cGAMP between cells. *Science*. 2015
- \*91. Gentili M, Kowal J, Tkach M, Satoh T, Lahaye X, Conrad C, Boyron M, Lombard B, Durand S, Kroemer G, Loew D, Dalod M, Thery C, Manel N. Transmission of innate immune signaling by packaging of cGAMP in viral particles. *Science*. 2015 Together with reference 90, these two groups described the possibility for cGAMP to be packed into HIV viral particles and through this activate the STING-IFN pathway in newly infected cells.
92. Germaud D, Rossi M, Bussy G, Gerard D, Hertz-Pannier L, Blanchet P, Dollfus H, Giuliano F, Bennouna-Greene V, Sarda P, Sigaudy S, Curie A, Vincent MC, Touraine R, des Portes V. The Renpenning syndrome spectrum: new clinical insights supported by 13 new PQBP1-mutated males. *Clin Genet*. 2011; 79(3):225–35. [PubMed: 20950397]
93. Takahashi M, Mizuguchi M, Shinoda H, Aizawa T, Demura M, Okazawa H, Kawano K. Polyglutamine tract binding protein-1 is an intrinsically unstructured protein. *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 2009; 1794(6):936–43. [PubMed: 19303059]
94. Gringhuis SI, van der Vlist M, van den Berg LM, den Dunnen J, Litjens M, Geijtenbeek TB. HIV-1 exploits innate signaling by TLR8 and DC-SIGN for productive infection of dendritic cells. *Nat Immunol*. 2010; 11(5):419–26. [PubMed: 20364151]
95. Tang Y, George A, Nouvet F, Sweet S, Emeagwali N, Taylor HE, Simmons G, Hildreth JE. Infection of female primary lower genital tract epithelial cells after natural pseudotyping of HIV-1: possible implications for sexual transmission of HIV-1. *PLoS One*. 2014; 9(7):e101367. [PubMed: 25010677]
96. Shen R, Kappes JC, Smythies LE, Richter HE, Novak L, Smith PD. Vaginal myeloid dendritic cells transmit founder HIV-1. *J Virol*. 2014; 88(13):7683–8. [PubMed: 24741097]
97. Ballweber L, Robinson B, Kreger A, Fialkow M, Lentz G, McElrath MJ, Hladik F. Vaginal langerhans cells nonproductively transporting HIV-1 mediate infection of T cells. *J Virol*. 2011; 85(24):13443–7. [PubMed: 21976645]
98. Zhang Z, Schuler T, Zupancic M, Wietgreffe S, Staskus KA, Reimann KA, Reinhart TA, Rogan M, Cavert W, Miller CJ, Veazey RS, Notermans D, Little S, Danner SA, Richman DD, Havlir D, Wong J, Jordan HL, Schacker TW, Racz P, Tenner-Racz K, Letvin NL, Wolinsky S, Haase AT. Sexual transmission and propagation of SIV and HIV in resting and activated CD4+ T cells. *Science*. 1999; 286(5443):1353–7. [PubMed: 10558989]
99. Masson L, Salkinder AL, Olivier AJ, McKinnon LR, Gamielien H, Mlisana K, Scriba TJ, Lewis DA, Little F, Jaspán HB, Ronacher K, Denny L, Abdool Karim SS, Passmore JS. Relationship

between female genital tract infections, mucosal IL-17 production and local Th17 cells. *Immunology*. 2015

100. Baxter AE, Russell RA, Duncan CJ, Moore MD, Willberg CB, Pablos JL, Finzi A, Kaufmann DE, Ochsenbauer C, Kappes JC, Groot F, Sattentau QJ. Macrophage infection via selective capture of HIV-1-infected CD4+ T cells. *Cell Host Microbe*. 2014; 16(6):711–21. [PubMed: 25467409]
101. Coleman CM, Gelais CS, Wu L. Cellular and viral mechanisms of HIV-1 transmission mediated by dendritic cells. *Adv Exp Med Biol*. 2013; 762:109–30. [PubMed: 22975873]
102. Robertson SA. Immune regulation of conception and embryo implantation-all about quality control? *J Reprod Immunol*. 2010; 85(1):51–7. [PubMed: 20347158]
103. Chen JC, Johnson BA, Erikson DW, Piltonen TT, Barragan F, Chu S, Kohgadari N, Irwin JC, Greene WC, Giudice LC, Roan NR. Seminal plasma induces global transcriptomic changes associated with cell migration, proliferation and viability in endometrial epithelial cells and stromal fibroblasts. *Human Reproduction*. 2014; 29(6):1255–70. [PubMed: 24626806]
104. Nazli A, Chan O, Dobson-Belaire WN, Ouellet M, Tremblay MJ, Gray-Owen SD, Arsenaault AL, Kaushic C. Exposure to HIV-1 directly impairs mucosal epithelial barrier integrity allowing microbial translocation. *PLoS Pathog*. 2010; 6(4):e1000852. [PubMed: 20386714]
105. Rollenhagen C, Asin SN. Enhanced HIV-1 replication in ex vivo ectocervical tissues from post-menopausal women correlates with increased inflammatory responses. *Mucosal Immunol*. 2011; 4(6):671–81. [PubMed: 21881573]
106. Kreisberg JF, Yonemoto W, Greene WC. Endogenous factors enhance HIV infection of tissue naive CD4 T cells by stimulating high molecular mass APOBEC3G complex formation. *J Exp Med*. 2006; 203(4):865–70. [PubMed: 16606671]
107. Kinter AL, Poli G, Fox L, Hardy E, Fauci AS. HIV replication in IL-2-stimulated peripheral blood mononuclear cells is driven in an autocrine/paracrine manner by endogenous cytokines. *J Immunol*. 1995; 154(5):2448–59. [PubMed: 7868911]
108. Kinter AL, Ostrowski M, Goletti D, Oliva A, Weissman D, Gantt K, Hardy E, Jackson R, Ehler L, Fauci AS. HIV replication in CD4+ T cells of HIV-infected individuals is regulated by a balance between the viral suppressive effects of endogenous beta-chemokines and the viral inductive effects of other endogenous cytokines. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 1996; 93(24):14076–81. [PubMed: 8943063]
109. Lajoie J, Poudrier J, Massinga Loembe M, Guedou F, Leblond F, Labbe AC, Alary M, Roger M. Chemokine expression patterns in the systemic and genital tract compartments are associated with HIV-1 infection in women from Benin. *J Clin Immunol*. 2010; 30(1):90–8. [PubMed: 19898927]
110. Lajoie J, Juno J, Burgener A, Rahman S, Mogk K, Wachihi C, Mwanjewe J, Plummer FA, Kimani J, Ball TB, Fowke KR. A distinct cytokine and chemokine profile at the genital mucosa is associated with HIV-1 protection among HIV-exposed seronegative commercial sex workers. *Mucosal Immunol*. 2012; 5(3):277–87. [PubMed: 22318497]
111. Card CM, Ball TB, Fowke KR. Immune quiescence: a model of protection against HIV infection. *Retrovirology*. 2013; 10:141. [PubMed: 24257114]
112. Ghosh M, Rodriguez-Garcia M, Wira CR. Immunobiology of genital tract trauma: endocrine regulation of HIV acquisition in women following sexual assault or genital tract mutilation. *Am J Reprod Immunol*. 2013; 69(Suppl 1):51–60. [PubMed: 23034063]
113. Bromfield JJ, Schjenken JE, Chin PY, Care AS, Jasper MJ, Robertson SA. Maternal tract factors contribute to paternal seminal fluid impact on metabolic phenotype in offspring. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2014; 111(6):2200–5. [PubMed: 24469827]
114. Politch JA, Tucker L, Bowman FP, Anderson DJ. Concentrations and significance of cytokines and other immunologic factors in semen of healthy fertile men. *Hum Reprod*. 2007; 22(11):2928–35. [PubMed: 17855405]
115. Introini A, Vanpouille C, Lisco A, Grivel JC, Margolis L. Interleukin-7 facilitates HIV-1 transmission to cervico-vaginal tissue ex vivo. *PLoS Pathog*. 2013; 9(2):e1003148. [PubMed: 23408885]

- \*116. Kafka JK, Sheth PM, Nazli A, Osborne BJ, Kovacs C, Kaul R, Kaushic C. Endometrial epithelial cell response to semen from HIV-infected men during different stages of infection is distinct and can drive HIV-1-long terminal repeat. *AIDS*. 2012; 26(1):27–36. [PubMed: 22095191]
117. Sharkey DJ, Macpherson AM, Tremellen KP, Robertson SA. Seminal plasma differentially regulates inflammatory cytokine gene expression in human cervical and vaginal epithelial cells. *Mol Hum Reprod*. 2007; 13(7):491–501. [PubMed: 17483528]
118. Gutsche S, von Wolff M, Strowitzki T, Thaler CJ. Seminal plasma induces mRNA expression of IL-1beta, IL-6 and LIF in endometrial epithelial cells in vitro. *Molecular human reproduction*. 2003; 9(12):785–91. [PubMed: 14614040]
119. Joseph T, Zalenskaya IA, Sawyer LC, Chandra N, Doncel GF. Seminal plasma induces prostaglandin-endoperoxide synthase (PTGS) 2 expression in immortalized human vaginal cells: involvement of semen prostaglandin E2 in PTGS2 upregulation. *Biol Reprod*. 2013; 88(1):13. [PubMed: 23153564]
120. Sharkey DJ, Macpherson AM, Tremellen KP, Mottershead DG, Gilchrist RB, Robertson SA. TGF-beta mediates proinflammatory seminal fluid signaling in human cervical epithelial cells. *Journal of immunology*. 2012; 189(2):1024–35.
121. Prakash M, Patterson S, Gotch F, Kapembwa MS. Recruitment of CD4 T lymphocytes and macrophages into the cervical epithelium of women after coitus. *American journal of obstetrics and gynecology*. 2003; 188(2):376–81. [PubMed: 12592243]
122. Sharkey DJ, Tremellen KP, Jasper MJ, Gemzell-Danielsson K, Robertson SA. Seminal fluid induces leukocyte recruitment and cytokine and chemokine mRNA expression in the human cervix after coitus. *Journal of immunology*. 2012; 188(5):2445–54.
123. Munch J, Rucker E, Standker L, Adermann K, Goffinet C, Schindler M, Wildum S, Chinnadurai R, Rajan D, Specht A, Gimenez-Gallego G, Sanchez PC, Fowler DM, Koulov A, Kelly JW, Mothes W, Grivel JC, Margolis L, Keppler OT, Forssmann WG, Kirchhoff F. Semen-derived amyloid fibrils drastically enhance HIV infection. *Cell*. 2007; 131(6):1059–71. [PubMed: 18083097]
124. Roan NR, Muller JA, Liu H, Chu S, Arnold F, Sturzel CM, Walther P, Dong M, Witkowska HE, Kirchhoff F, Munch J, Greene WC. Peptides Released by Physiological Cleavage of Semen Coagulum Proteins Form Amyloids that Enhance HIV Infection. *Cell host & microbe*. 2011; 10(6):541–50. [PubMed: 22177559]
125. Usmani SM, Zirafi O, Muller JA, Sandi-Monroy NL, Yadav JK, Meier C, Weil T, Roan NR, Greene WC, Walther P, Nilsson KP, Hammarstrom P, Wetzel R, Pilcher CD, Gagsteiger F, Fandrich M, Kirchhoff F, Munch J. Direct visualization of HIV-enhancing endogenous amyloid fibrils in human semen. *Nature Communications*. 2014; 5:3508.
126. Zirafi O, Kim KA, Roan NR, Kluge SF, Muller JA, Jiang S, Mayer B, Greene WC, Kirchhoff F, Munch J. Semen enhances HIV infectivity and impairs the antiviral efficacy of microbicides. *Science translational medicine*. 2014; 6(262):262ra157.
127. Vishwanathan SA, Guenther PC, Lin CY, Dobard C, Sharma S, Adams DR, Otten RA, Heneine W, Hendry RM, McNicholl JM, Kersh EN. High susceptibility to repeated, low-dose, vaginal SHIV exposure late in the luteal phase of the menstrual cycle of pigtail macaques. *Journal of acquired immune deficiency syndromes*. 2011; 57(4):261–4. [PubMed: 21546848]
128. Marx PA, Spira AI, Gettie A, Dailey PJ, Veazey RS, Lackner AA, Mahoney CJ, Miller CJ, Claypool LE, Ho DD, Alexander NJ. Progesterone implants enhance SIV vaginal transmission and early virus load. *Nat Med*. 1996; 2(10):1084–9. [PubMed: 8837605]
129. Polis CB, Phillips SJ, Curtis KM, Westreich DJ, Steyn PS, Raymond E, Hannaford P, Turner AN. Hormonal contraceptive methods and risk of HIV acquisition in women: a systematic review of epidemiological evidence. *Contraception*. 2014; 90(4):360–90. [PubMed: 25183264]
130. Giles SL, Lester F. Should women with HIV, or at high risk of contracting HIV, use progestogen-containing contraception? *BMJ*. 2013; 347:f6695. [PubMed: 24231179]
131. Morrison CS, Chen PL, Kwok C, Baeten JM, Brown J, Crook AM, Van Damme L, Delany-Moretwe S, Francis SC, Friedland BA, Hayes RJ, Heffron R, Kapiga S, Karim QA, Karpoff S, Kaul R, McClelland RS, McCormack S, McGrath N, Myer L, Rees H, van der Straten A, Watson-Jones D, van de Wijgert JH, Stalter R, Low N. Hormonal contraception and the risk of

- HIV acquisition: an individual participant data meta-analysis. *PLoS Med.* 2015; 12(1):e1001778. [PubMed: 25612136]
132. Ralph LJ, McCoy SI, Shiu K, Padian NS. Hormonal contraceptive use and women's risk of HIV acquisition: a meta-analysis of observational studies. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2015; 15(2):181–9. [PubMed: 25578825]
133. Noguchi LM, Richardson BA, Baeten JM, Hillier SL, Balkus JE, Chirenje ZM, Bunge K, Ramjee G, Nair G, Palanee-Phillips T, Selepe P, van der Straten A, Parikh UM, Gomez K, Piper JM, Watts DH, Murrain JM. Risk of HIV-1 acquisition among women who use different types of injectable progestin contraception in South Africa: a prospective cohort study. *Lancet HIV.* 2015; 2(7):e279–e287. [PubMed: 26155597]
134. Wira CR, Fahey JV. A new strategy to understand how HIV infects women: identification of a window of vulnerability during the menstrual cycle. *AIDS.* 2008; 22(15):1909–17. [PubMed: 18784454]
135. Leyendecker G, Kunz G, Wildt L, Beil D, Deininger H. Uterine hyperperistalsis and dysperistalsis as dysfunctions of the mechanism of rapid sperm transport in patients with endometriosis and infertility. *Human reproduction.* 1996; 11(7):1542–51. [PubMed: 8671502]
136. Barnhart KT, Stolpen A, Pretorius ES, Malamud D. Distribution of a spermicide containing Nonoxonyl-9 in the vaginal canal and the upper female reproductive tract. *Hum Reprod.* 2001; 16(6):1151–4. [PubMed: 11387285]
137. Stieh DJ, Maric D, Kelley ZL, Anderson MR, Hattaway HZ, Beilfuss BA, Rothwangl KB, Veazey RS, Hope TJ. Vaginal challenge with an SIV-based dual reporter system reveals that infection can occur throughout the upper and lower female reproductive tract. *PLoS Pathog.* 2014; 10(10):e1004440. [PubMed: 25299616]
138. Quillay H, El Costa H, Marlin R, Duriez M, Cannou C, Chretien F, Fernandez H, Lebreton A, Ighil J, Schwartz O, Barre-Sinoussi F, Nugeyre MT, Menu E. Distinct endometrial and decidual macrophage characteristics and regulation of their permissivity to HIV-1 infection by SAMHD1. *Journal of virology.* 2014
139. Burgener A, Tjernlund A, Kaldensjo T, Abou M, McCorrister S, Westmacott GR, Mogk K, Ambrose E, Broliden K, Ball B. A systems biology examination of the human female genital tract shows compartmentalization of immune factor expression. *J Virol.* 2013; 87(9):5141–50. [PubMed: 23449785]
140. Panchanathan R, Liu H, Leung YK, Ho SM, Choubey D. Bisphenol A (BPA) stimulates the interferon signaling and activates the inflammasome activity in myeloid cells. *Mol Cell Endocrinol.* 2015
141. Choubey D, Panchanathan R, Duan X, Liu H, Liu H. Emerging roles for the interferon-inducible p200-family proteins in sex bias in systemic lupus erythematosus. *J Interferon Cytokine Res.* 2011; 31(12):893–906. [PubMed: 21902548]
142. Panchanathan R, Shen H, Zhang X, Ho SM, Choubey D. Mutually positive regulatory feedback loop between interferons and estrogen receptor-alpha in mice: implications for sex bias in autoimmunity. *PLoS One.* 2010; 5(5):e10868. [PubMed: 20526365]
143. Bazer FW, Burghardt RC, Johnson GA, Spencer TE, Wu G. Interferons and progesterone for establishment and maintenance of pregnancy: interactions among novel cell signaling pathways. *Reprod Biol.* 2008; 8(3):179–211. [PubMed: 19092983]
144. Tasker C, Ding J, Schmolke M, Rivera-Medina A, Garcia-Sastre A, Chang TL. 17beta-estradiol protects primary macrophages against HIV infection through induction of interferon-alpha. *Viral Immunol.* 2014; 27(4):140–50. [PubMed: 24801776]
145. Poonia B, Walter L, Dufour J, Harrison R, Marx PA, Veazey RS. Cyclic changes in the vaginal epithelium of normal rhesus macaques. *J Endocrinol.* 2006; 190(3):829–35. [PubMed: 17003283]
- \*146. Saba E, Origoni M, Taccagni G, Ferrari D, Doglioni C, Nava A, Lisco A, Grivel JC, Margolis L, Poli G. Productive HIV-1 infection of human cervical tissue ex vivo is associated with the secretory phase of the menstrual cycle. *Mucosal Immunol.* 2013; 6(6):1081–90. [PubMed: 23385427]

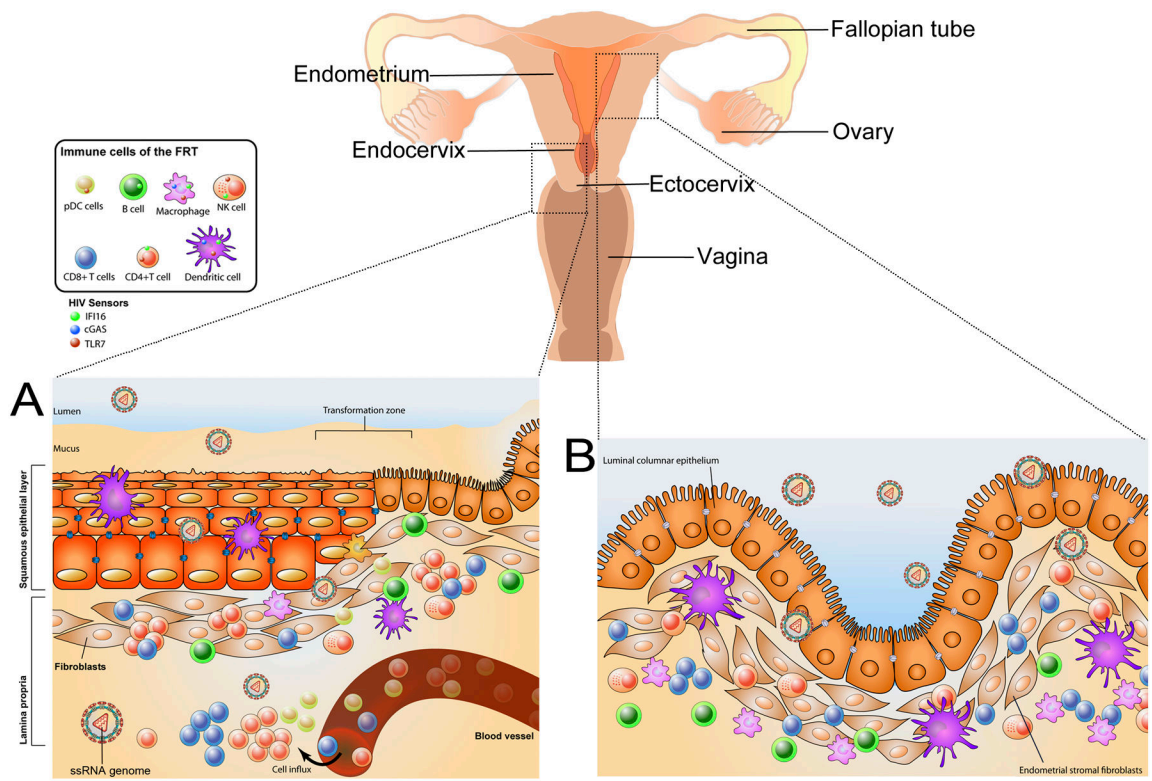


Figure 1.