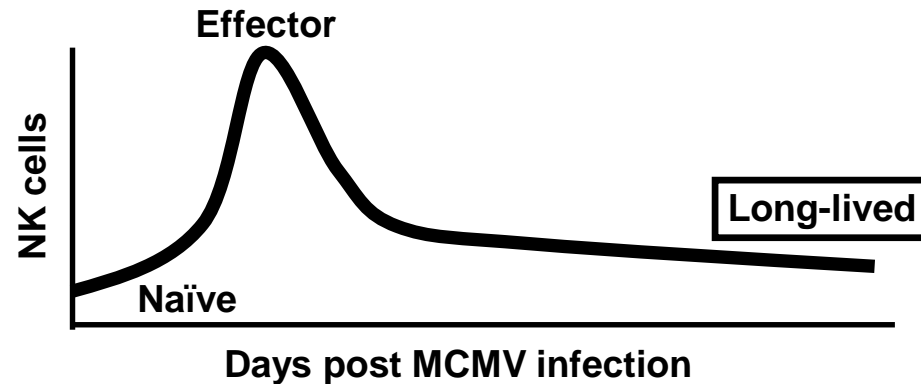
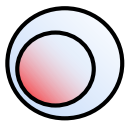


Tracking the fate of antigen-specific versus cytokine-activated natural killer cells after cytomegalovirus infection



Naïve Ly49H⁺ NK



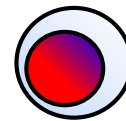
Effector Ly49H⁺ NK



Expansion
Activation
IFN- γ

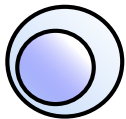
Long-lived

memory Ly49H⁺ NK

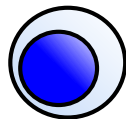


Longer survival in MCMV⁺ host
Secondary expansion
Enhanced cytotoxicity and IFN- γ
Augmented antitumor activity

Naïve Ly49H⁻ NK



Effector Ly49H⁻ NK



Activation
IFN- γ

Long-lived

cytokine-activated Ly49H⁻ NK



Longer survival in MCMV⁻ host
Robust response to IL-15

Natural killer (NK) cells are capable of differentiation into 2 distinct long-lived subsets with different functional properties during mouse cytomegalovirus (MCMV) infection. MCMV-driven memory NK cells show augmented effector function and antitumor activity, whereas cytokine-activated NK cells exhibit a robust response to IL-15 and persist in an MCMV-free environment.