

**Angiogenesis at the mold-host interface:  
a potential key to understanding and  
treating invasive aspergillosis**

**Ronen Ben-Ami, MD**

Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center

Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University

**DISSEMINATED ASPERGILLOSIS  
AND MONILIASIS ASSOCIATED WITH  
AGRANULOCYTOSIS AND  
ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY**

BY

**N. E. RANKIN, M.B., B.S.**

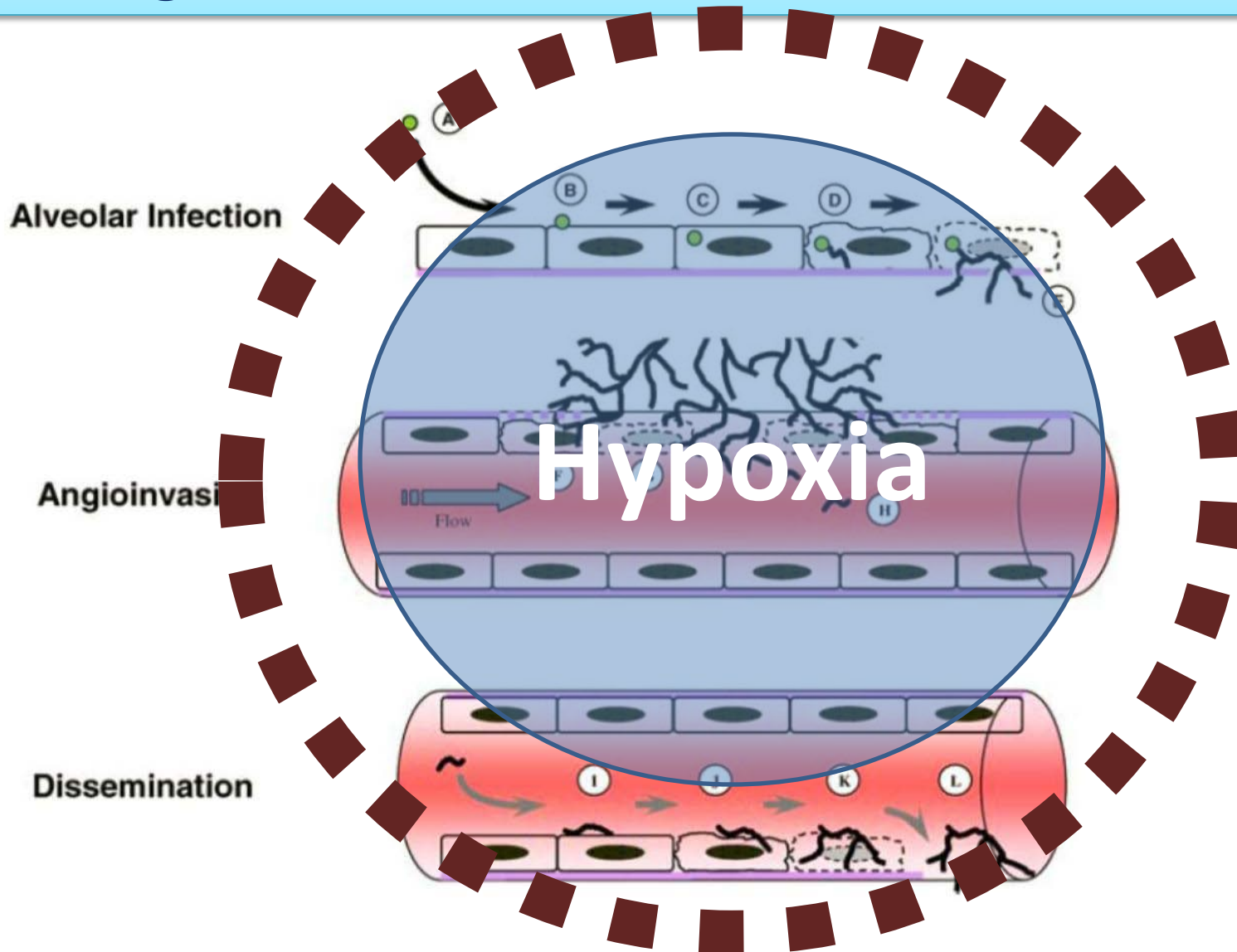
*(From the Department of Pathology, the Royal Infirmary,  
Gloucester)*

sent on both sides. A large infarct was found in the right upper lobe and a smaller infarct in the middle lobe; the pulmonary arteries to these areas showed thrombosis. In

eosinophils could be seen. Branching mycelium was present throughout the necrotic zone, invading the inflammatory zone and large and small vessels at the edge. The left

*“It seemed to have a marked predilection for the blood vessels”*

# The microenvironment in invasive aspergillosis: angiogenesis, inflammation, and tissue hypoxia



# The site of invasive aspergillosis is an hypoxic environment

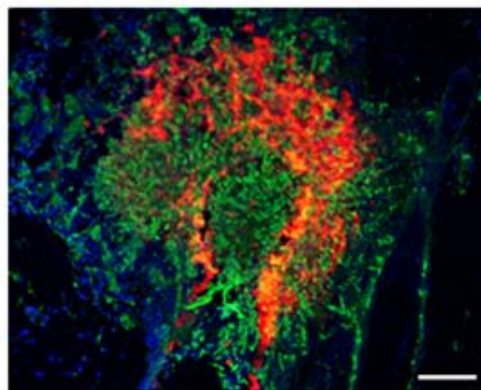
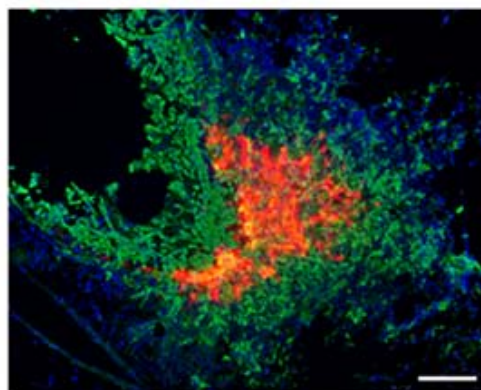
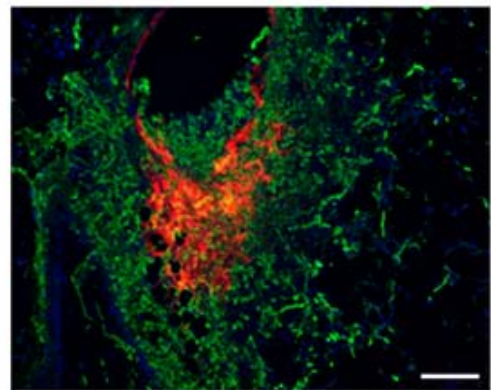
Immunosuppression

Day 3

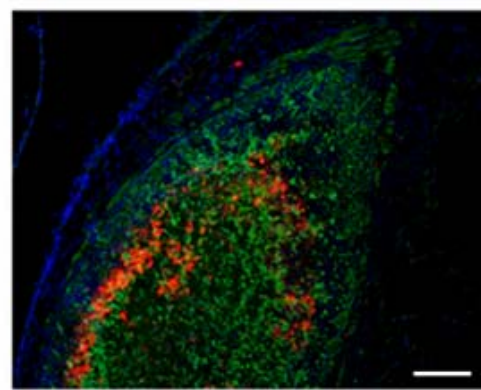
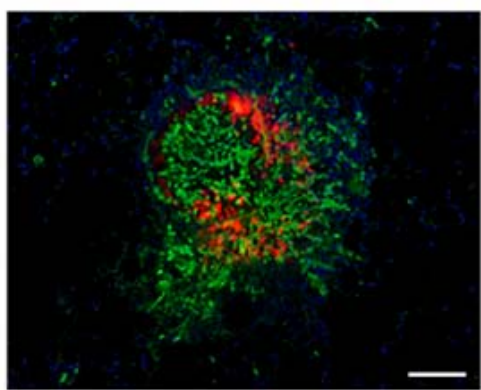
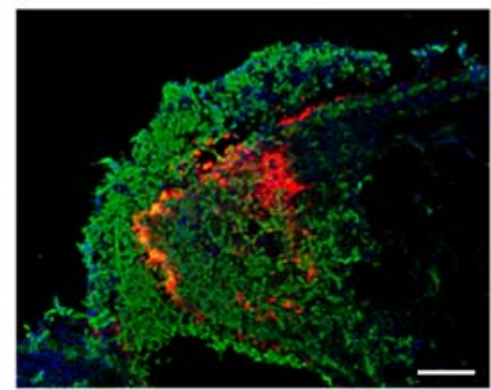
Day 3.5

Day 4

Triamcinolone



Chemotherapy



Hypoxyprobe = orange

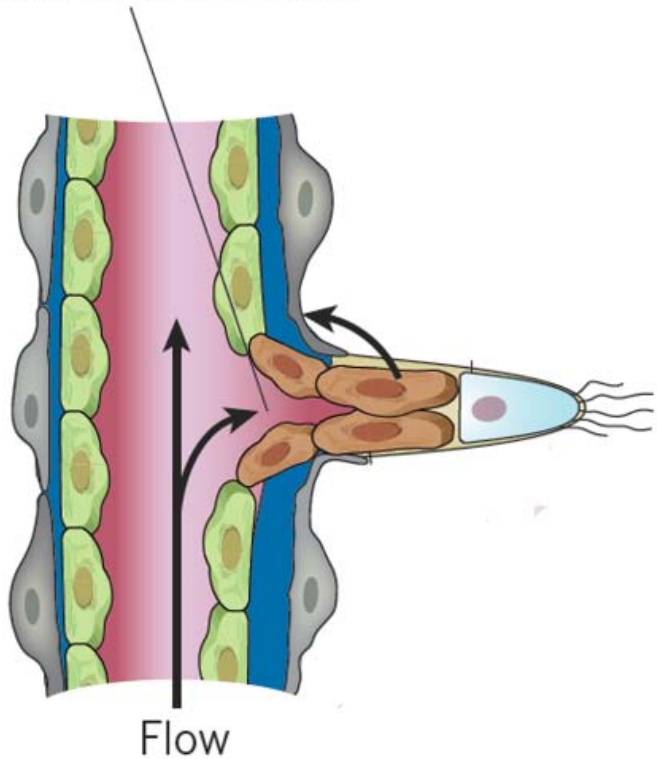


# Aspergillus: adaptation to hypoxia requires a sterol regulatory element binding protein

- Sterol regulatory element-binding protein (SrbA) is required for growth in hypoxic conditions
- $\Delta$ SrbA essentially avirulent in neutropenic mice
- SrbAp also affects azole resistance and hyphal morphology
- Adaptation to hypoxia is a virulence requirement

# The host: angiogenesis is an adaptive response to hypoxia and inflammation

Lumen formation



HIF

VEGF

FGF

NOTCH

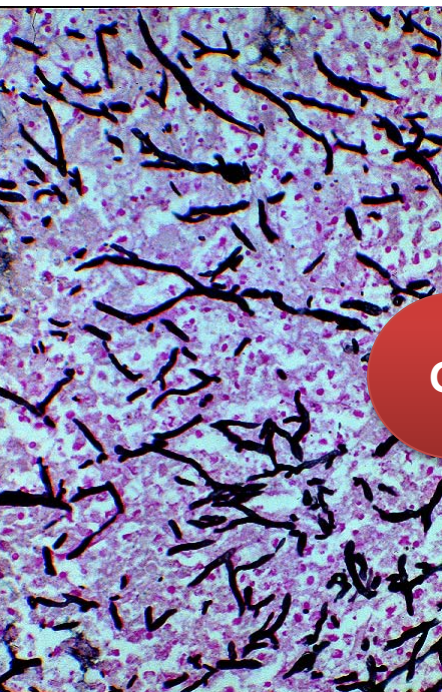
ANG-2

Semaphorins

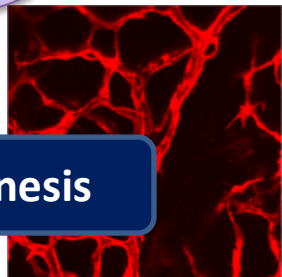
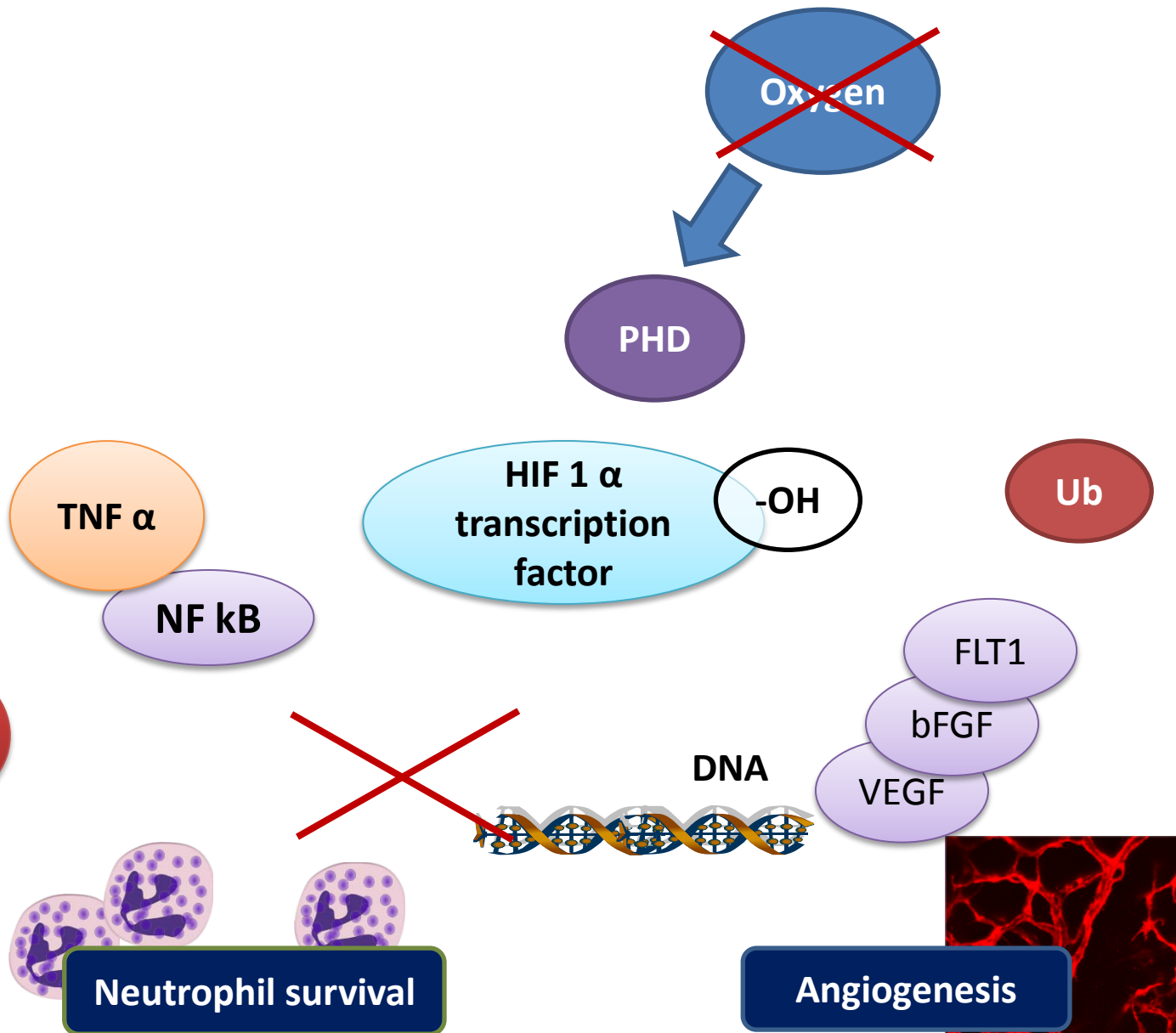
Integrins

# Oxygen sensing in host cells:

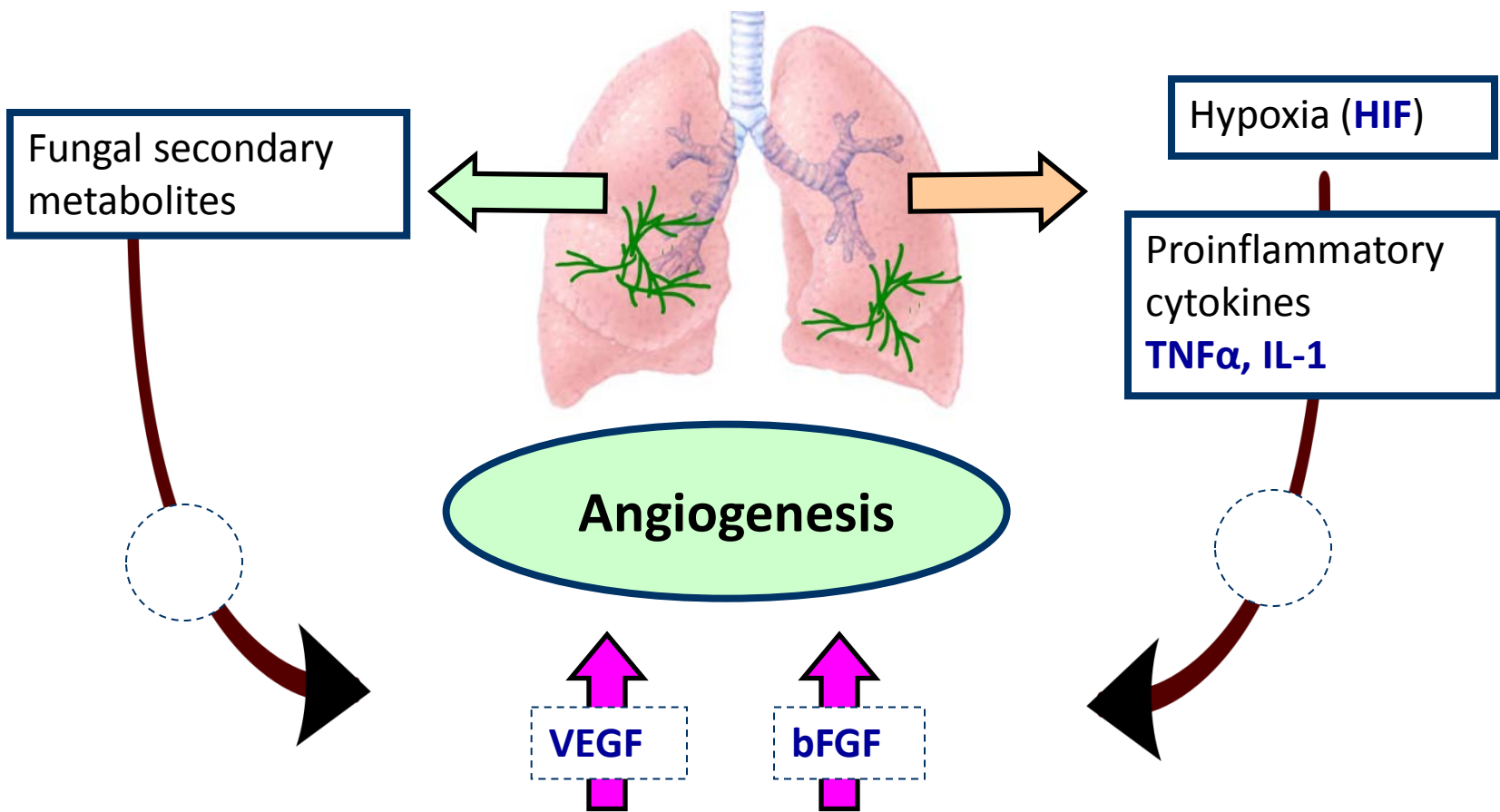
## HIF/NFkB pathway essential for neutrophil survival and angiogenesis



GT

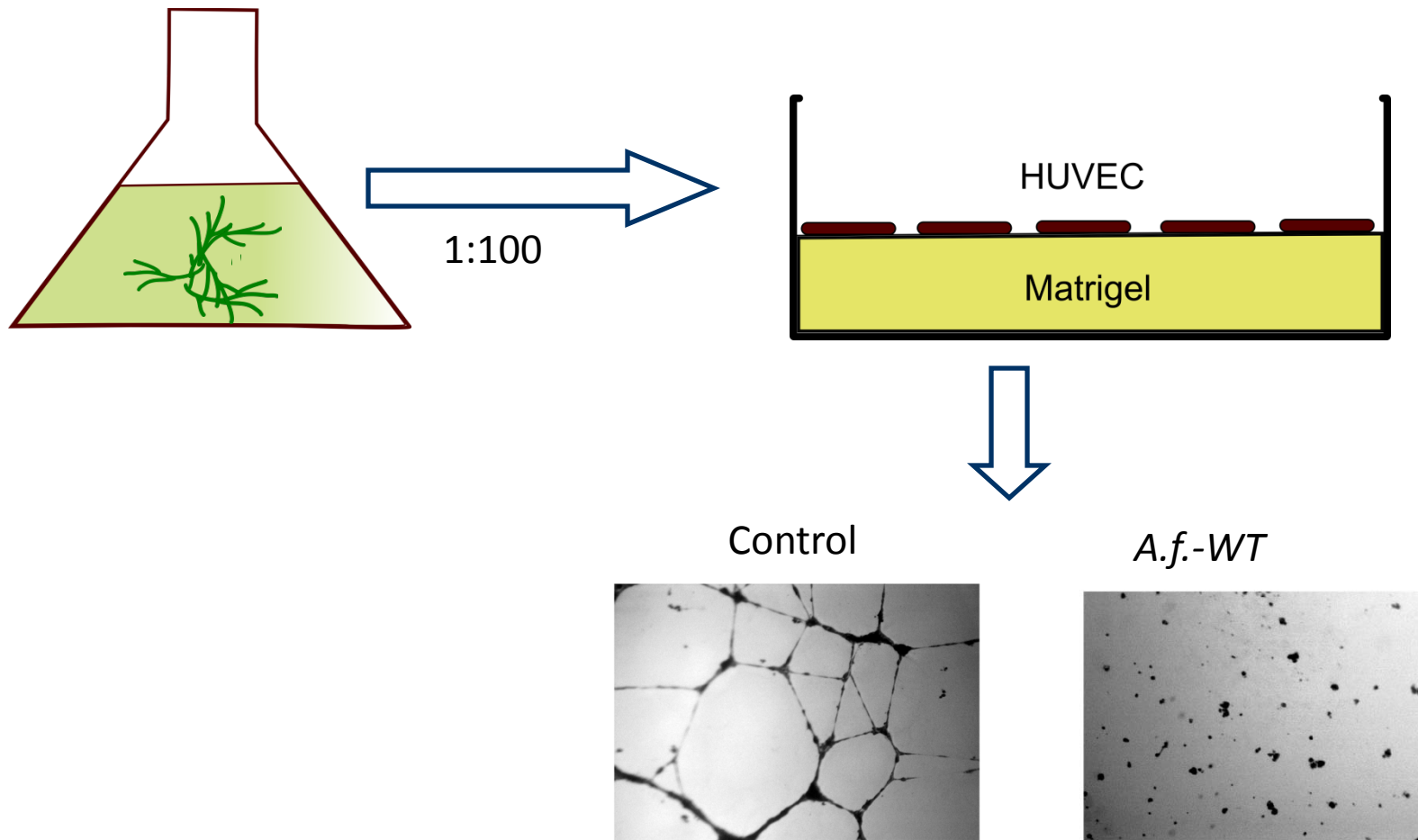


# The angiogenesis tipping point: equilibrium between pro- and anti-angiogenic signals?

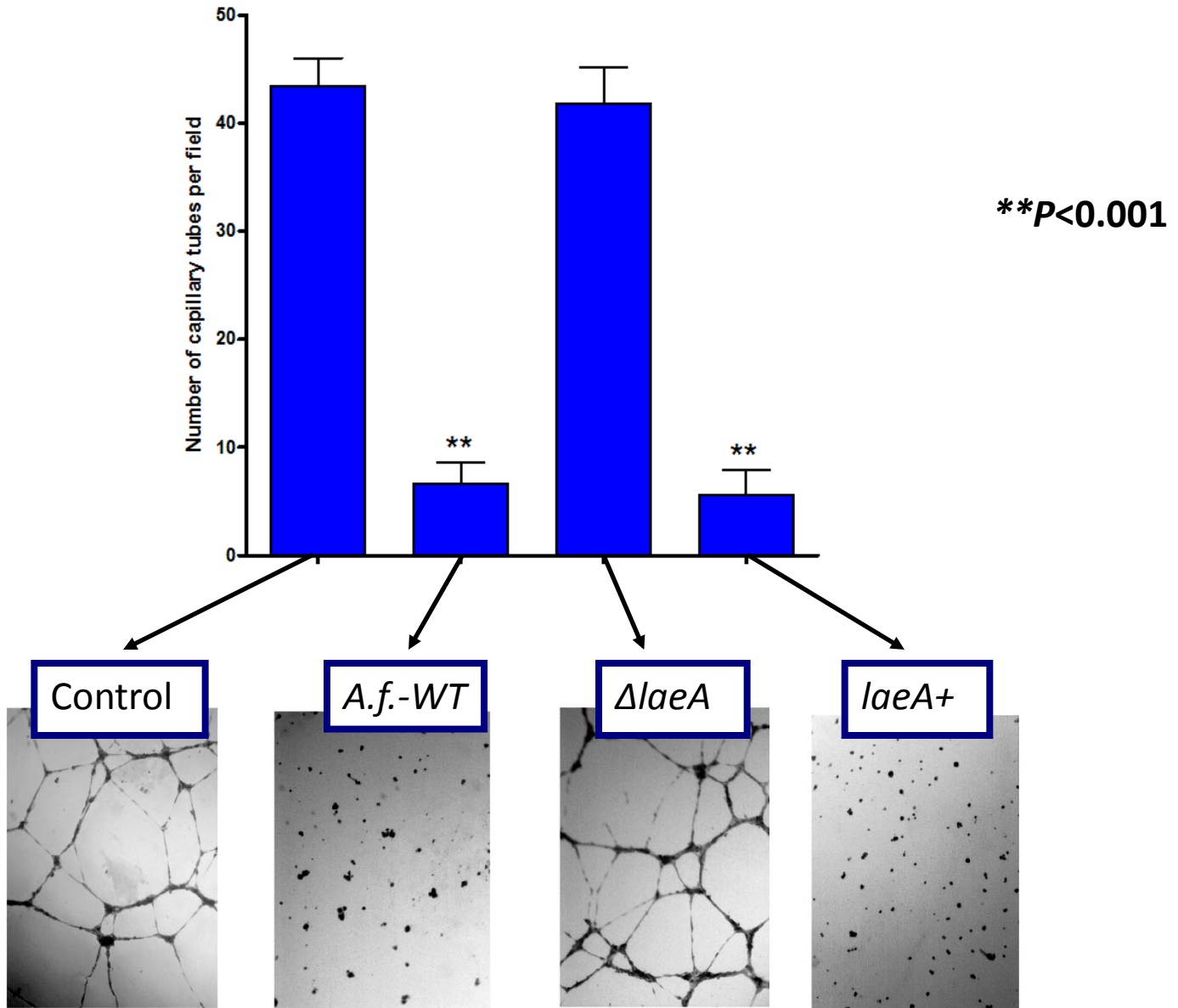




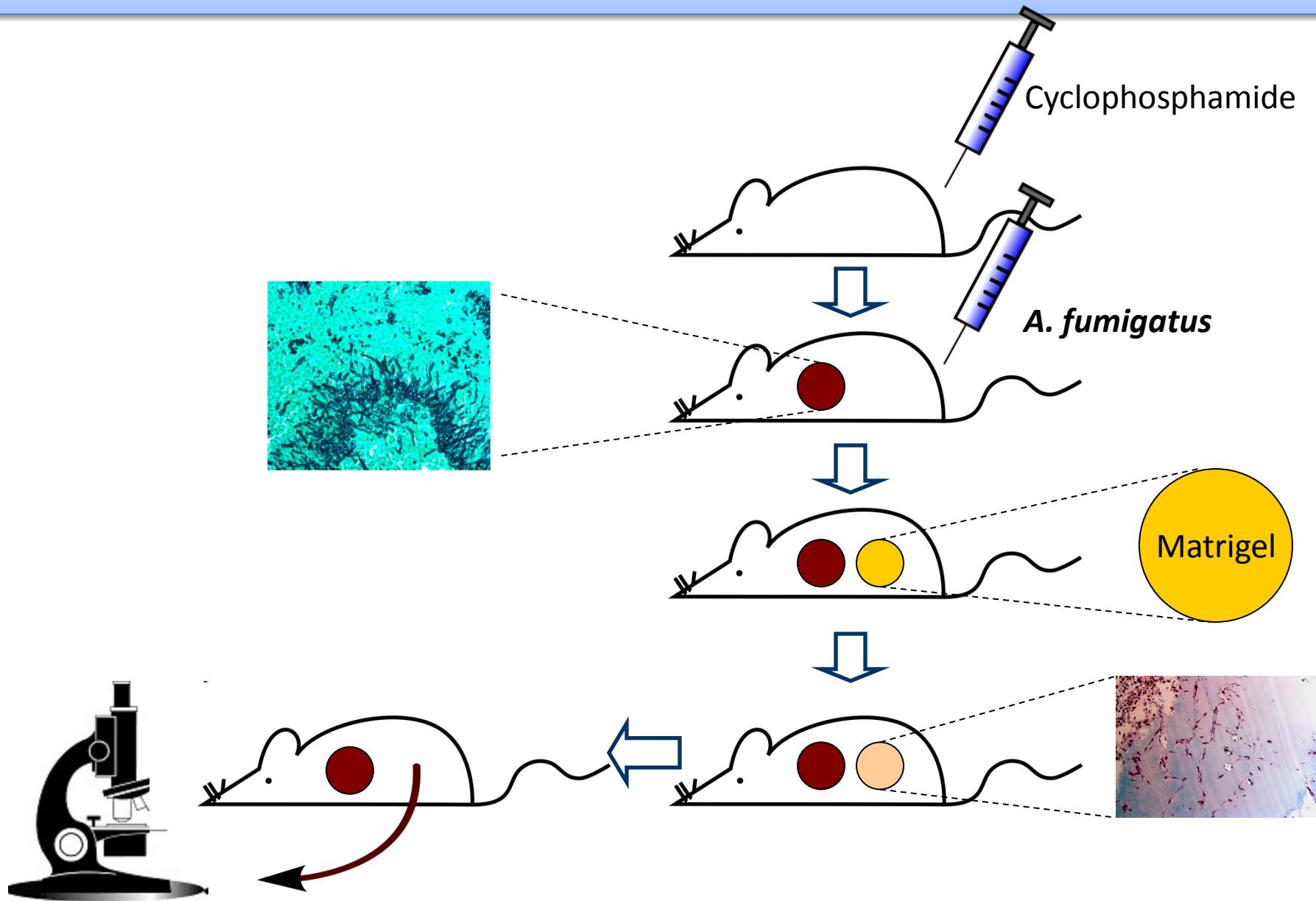
# *Aspergillus fumigatus* culture filtrates inhibit angiogenesis in vitro



# Suppression of angiogenesis is dependent on secondary metabolism

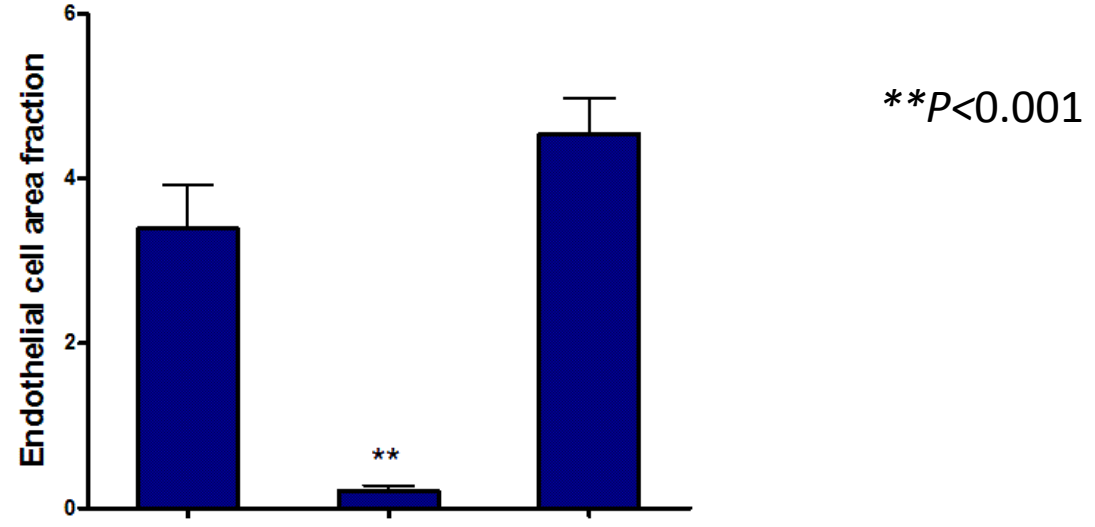


# Cutaneous murine aspergillosis as a model to monitor angiogenesis at the site of infection

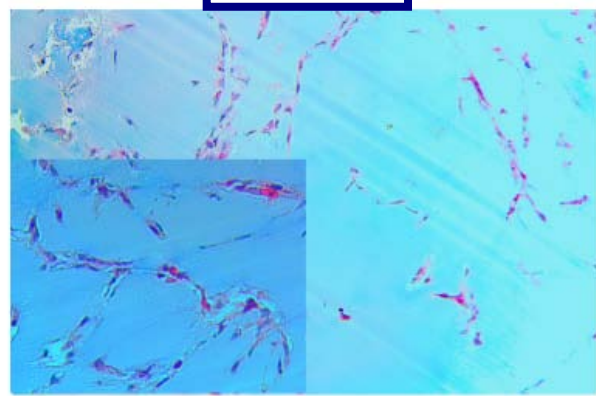




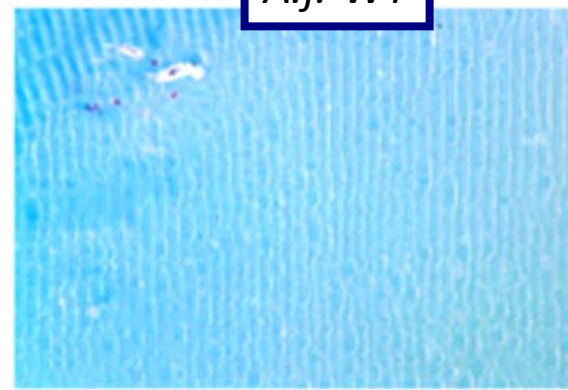
# Angiogenesis is suppressed in animal model of cutaneous aspergillosis



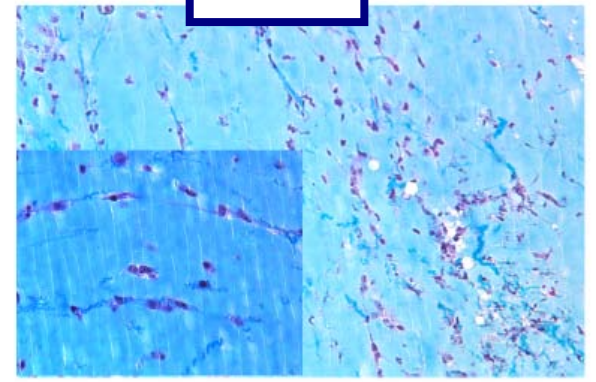
Control



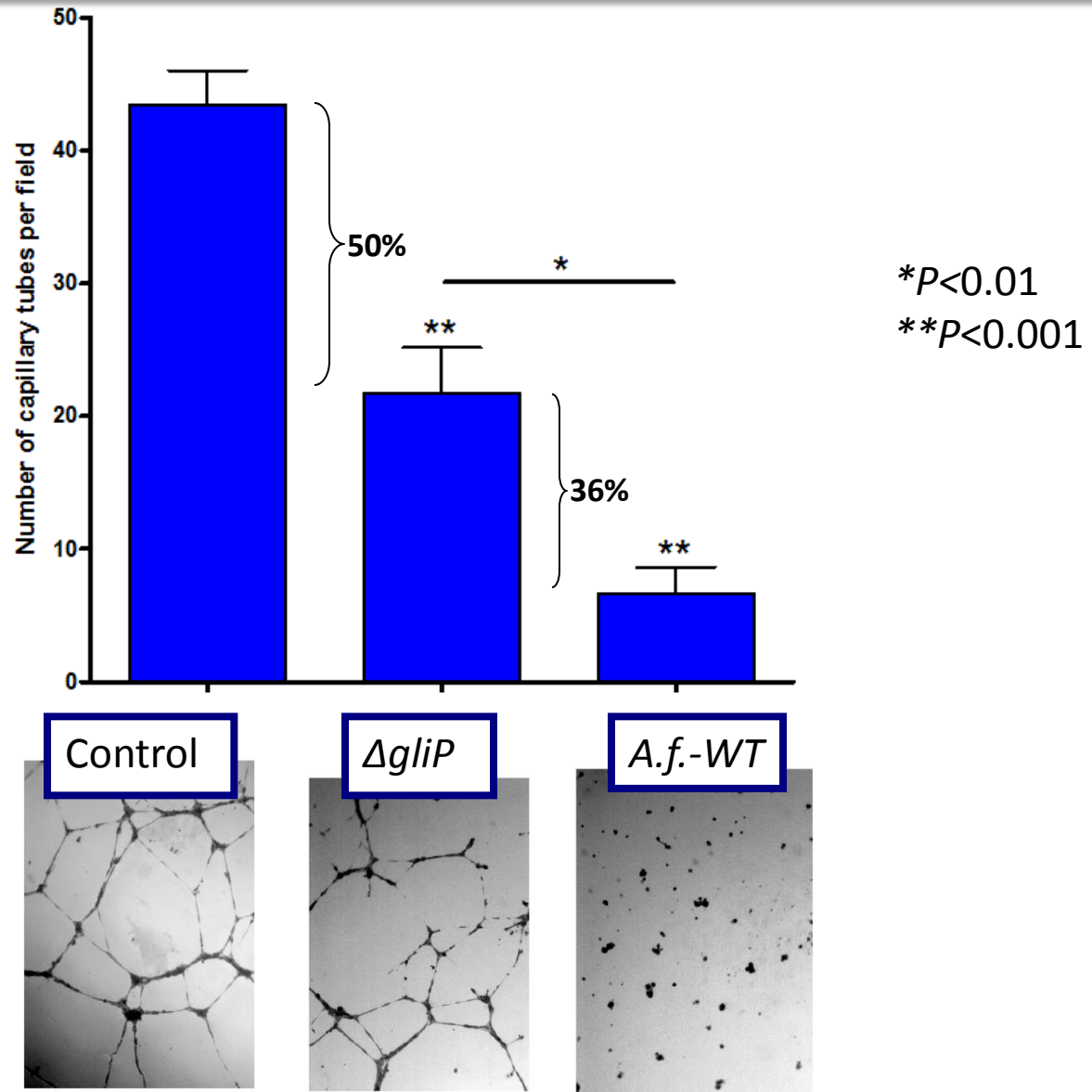
*A.f.-WT*



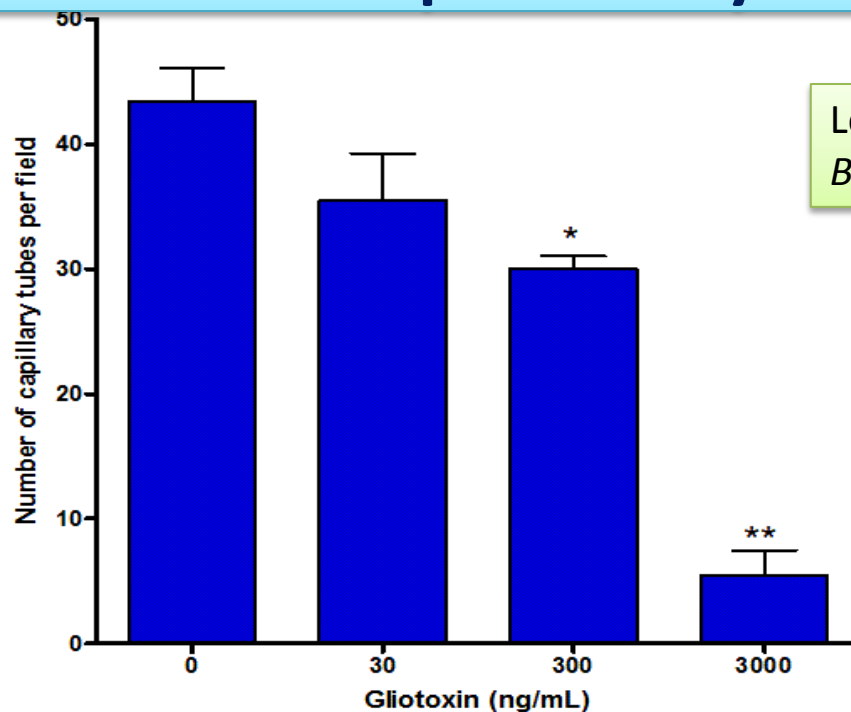
$\Delta laeA$



# Gliotoxin is responsible for part of culture filtrate-induced angiogenesis inhibition



# Gliotoxin suppresses angiogenesis at concentrations measured in pulmonary tissue

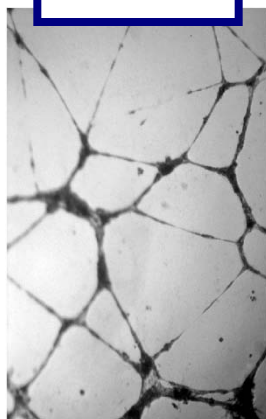


Lewis et al. *Infect Immun* 2005  
Ben-Ami et al. *Blood* 2009

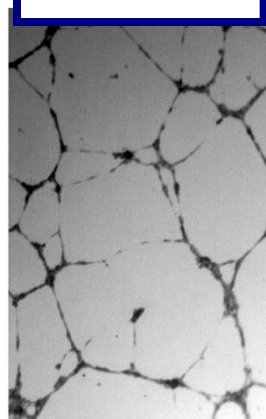
\* $P < 0.01$

\*\* $P < 0.001$

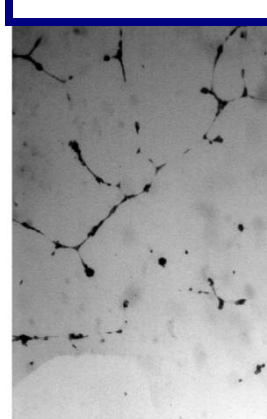
Control



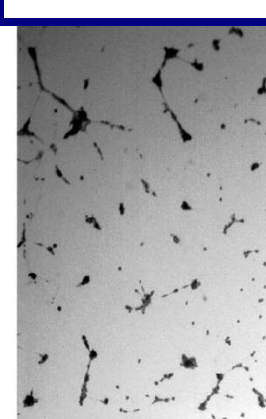
30 ng/mL



300 ng/mL

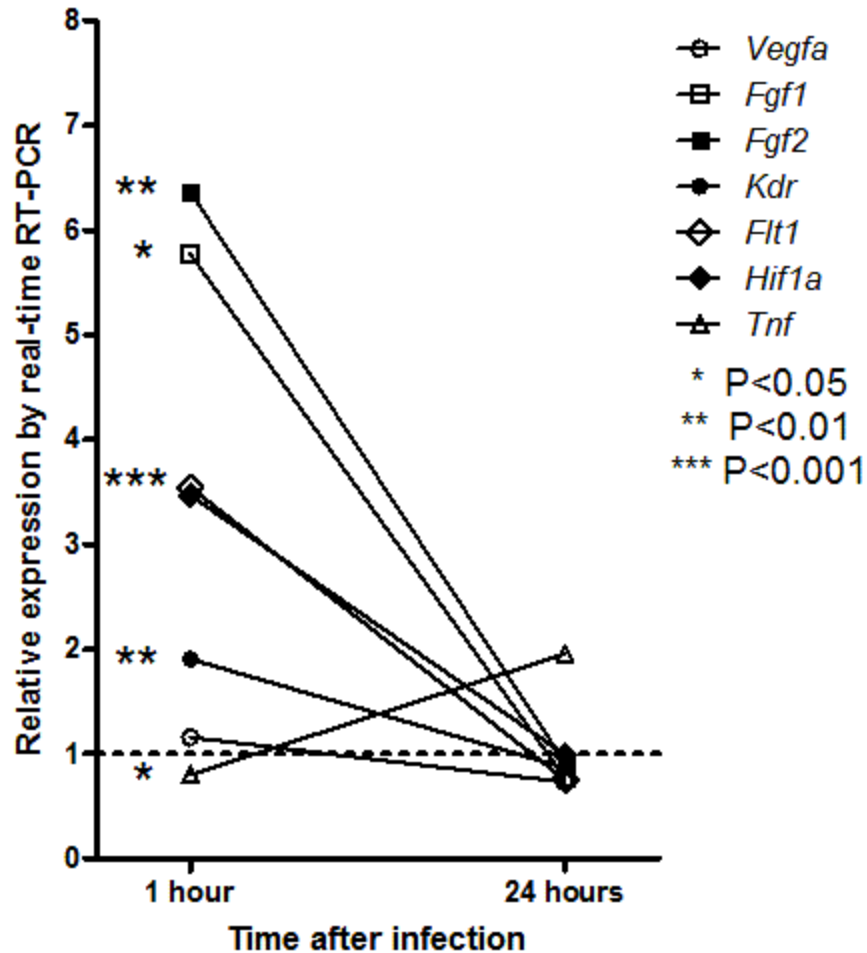


3000 ng/mL

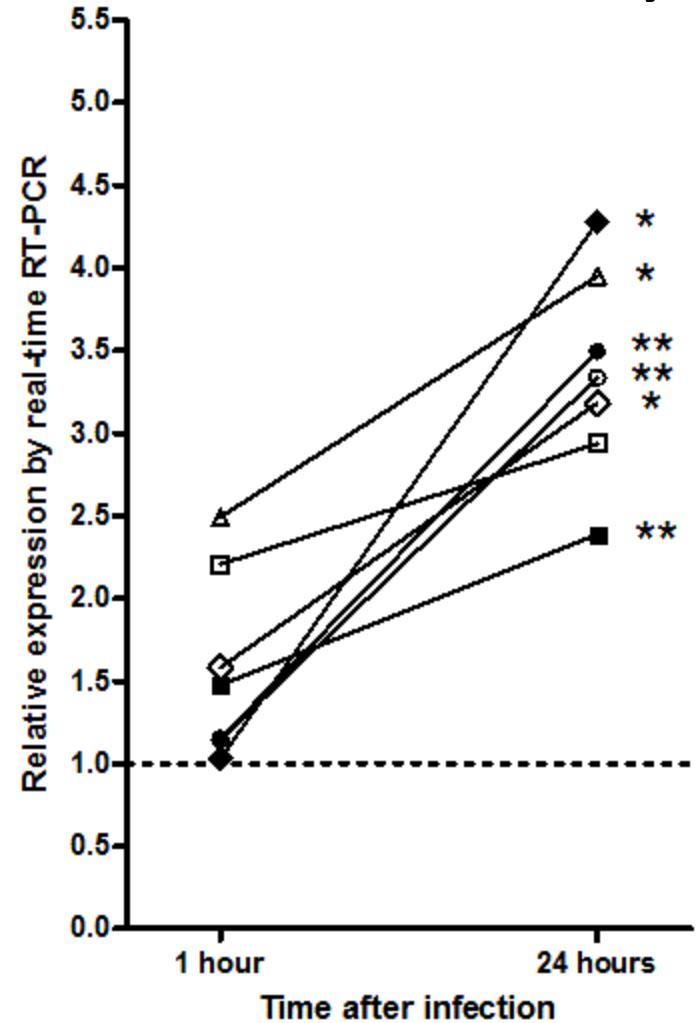


# Expression of angiogenesis-relevant genes during the initial 24 h of IPA depends on method of immunosuppression

## Cyclophosphamide/cortisone



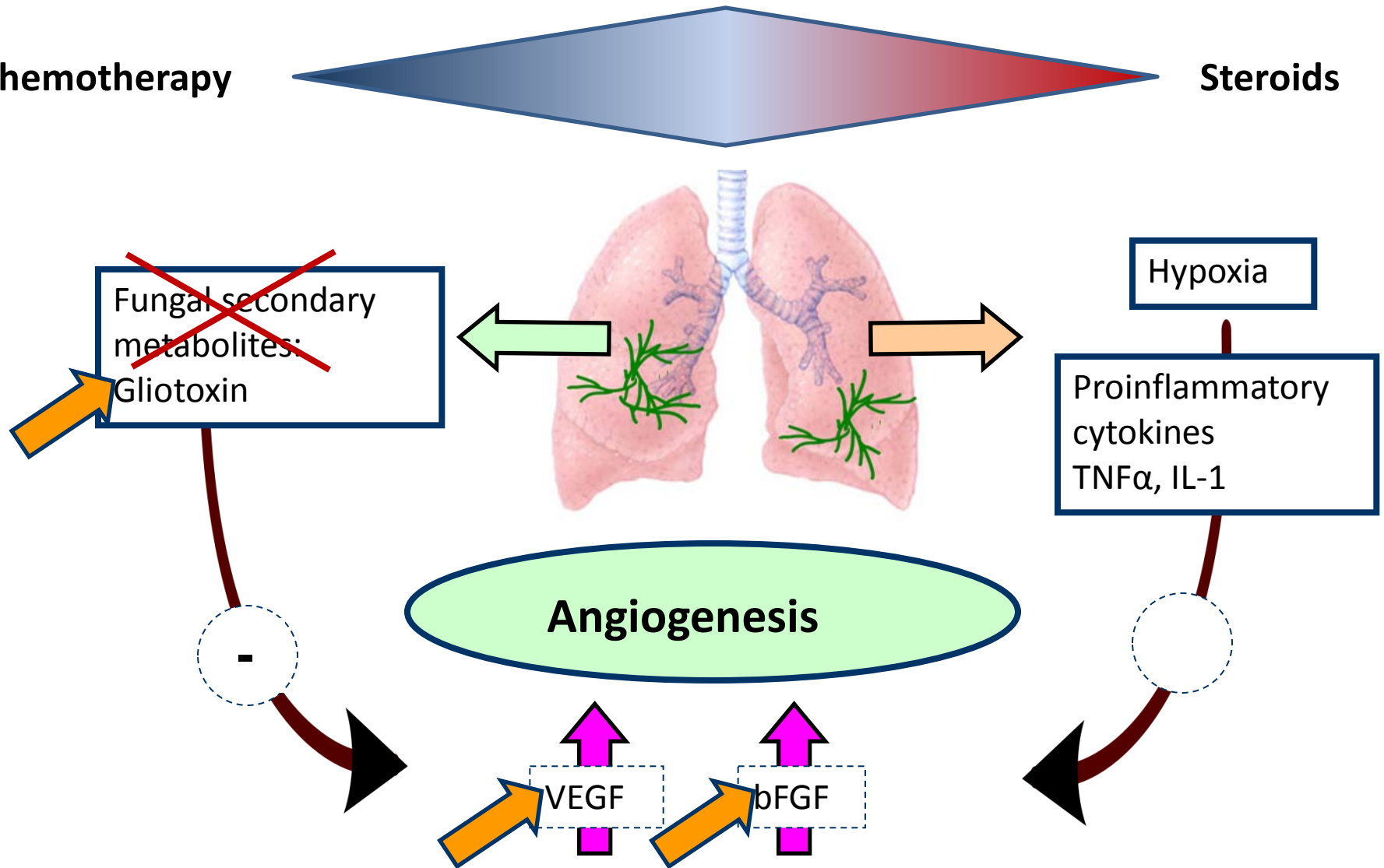
## Cortisone only



# The pro/anti angiogenic equilibrium: a potential therapeutic target?

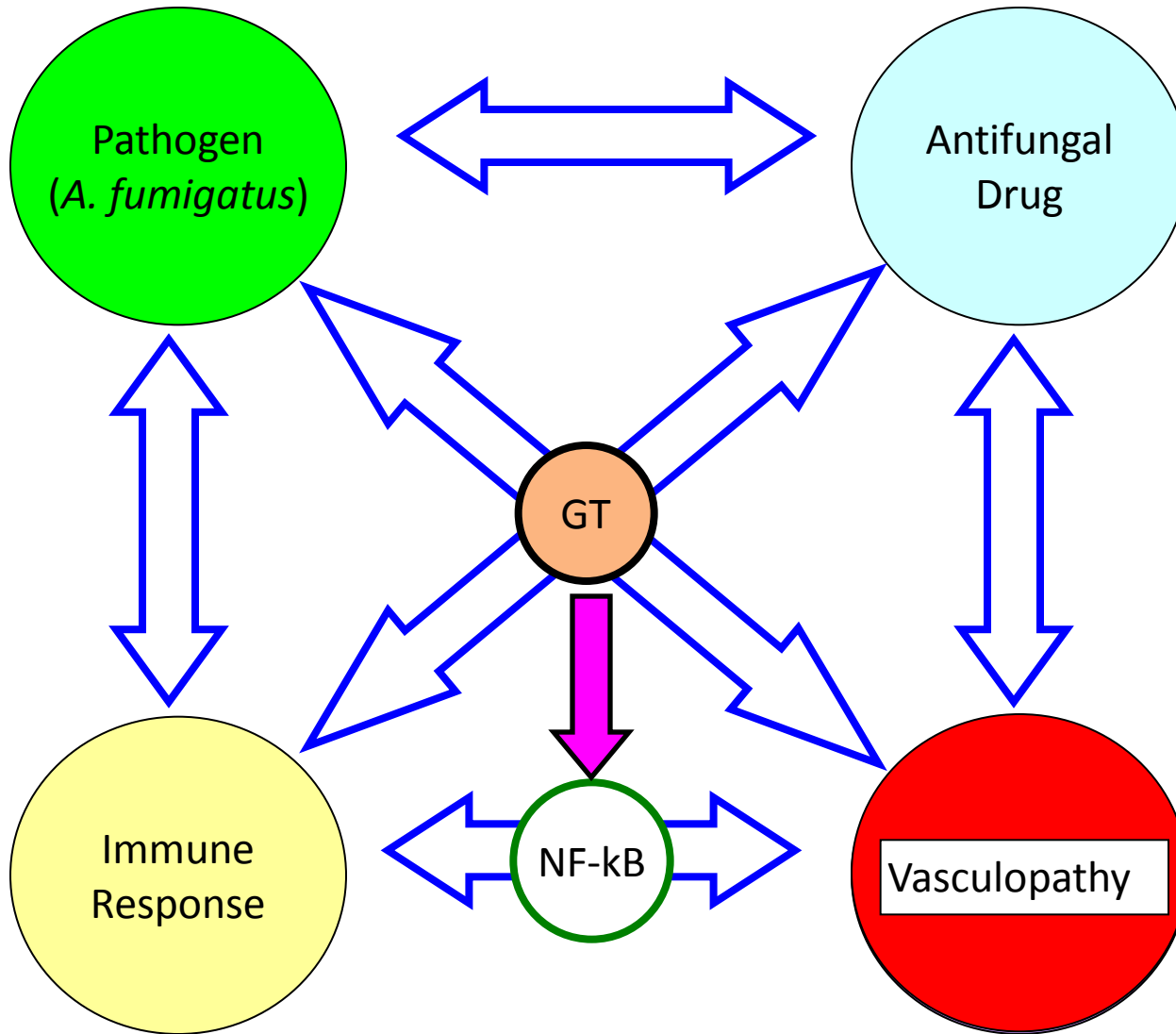
Chemotherapy

Steroids





# Invasive pulmonary aspergillosis



**M.D. Anderson Cancer Center**

Dimitrios P. Kontoyiannis

Russell Lewis

Nathaniel Albert



**Tel Aviv University**

Itai Benhar

Asaf Dergachev

Nir Osherov



**Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center**

Yehuda Carmeli

Anna Novikov



Funding: NIH 1R03 AI083733-01

ISF Morasha 1685/10

Ben-Dov Physician-Researcher Career Grant