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Article

Metadichol Orchestrates T, B, and NK Cell Immunity Through Master Regulator Gene Networks

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Abstract

Background: The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine recognized the fundamental discovery of regulatory T cells and the FOXP3 gene as critical mediators of peripheral immune tolerance. This landmark work established a single-pathway mechanism for immune regulation Metadichol, a nanoemulsion of long-chain alcohols C26-C32, demonstrates pleiotropic immunomodulatory effects through coordinated regulation of master regulator genes involved in T-cell function, B-cell development, NK cell cytotoxicity, metabolic reprogramming, and tumor suppression. Methods: We analyzed gene expression data from Metadichol-treated peripheral blood mononuclear cells PBMCs and resting fibroblasts across four concentrations 1 pg/mL, 100 pg/mL, 1 ng/mL, 100 ng/mL. A total of 36 master regulator genes were examined, including CD markers, transcription factors, and metabolic regulators. Comprehensive bioinformatic analysis included correlation network mapping, hierarchical clustering, and functional pathway enrichment to identify synergistic and antagonistic gene expression patterns. Results: Metadichol induced dramatic upregulation of key metabolic regulators including PPAR γ 24.25-fold, PGC1 α 11.08-fold, and tumor suppressor p53 9.61-fold, while coordinately modulating T-cell markers CD4 2.03-fold and CD8 2.15-fold. Correlation analysis revealed three strategic mechanisms: Synergistic metabolic reprogramming through PPAR γ -PGC1 α co- activation $r=0.991$, Immune balance optimization via antagonistic regulation of effector CDS versus suppressor FOXP3 functions, and Dfferential cell-type regulation exemplified by the CDS-p53 antagonism $r=-0.991$. The upregulation of FOXP3 1.87-fold, the master regulator of regulatory T cells Tregs

Keywords: Metadichol; FOXP3; regulatory T cells; cross-cellular regulation; master regulatory genes; B cells; plasma cells; NK cells; cancer immunotherapy; metabolic reprogramming; nuclear receptors; PPAR γ ; PGC1 α ; p53; sirtuins; Klotho; regulatory T-cells; gene expression networks; master regulators immune tolerance; peripheral blood mononuclear cells; fibroblasts

Introduction

Immune system regulation requires precise control mechanisms to maintain the delicate balance between effective pathogen clearance and prevention of autoimmunity. The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Mary Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi for their groundbreaking discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance through regulatory T cells and the FOXP3 gene.[1–3] Their work established that a specific subset of T cells, characterized by CD4 and CD25 expression and controlled by the transcription factor FOXP3, acts as “security guards” to prevent immune attacks against self-tissues.[4,5]

While this discovery represented a landmark advancement in our understanding of immune tolerance, it focused primarily on a single regulatory pathway within one cell type. Emerging evidence suggests that immune regulation involves complex networks of interacting pathways across multiple cellular compartments.[6–8] This perspective raises the question of whether therapeutic

approaches targeting multiple regulatory networks simultaneously might offer advantages over single-pathway interventions.[9,10]

Cancer remains one of the leading causes of mortality worldwide, with an estimated 19.3 million new cases and 10 million deaths in 2020. [11] While conventional treatments including surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation have improved outcomes, the emergence of cancer immunotherapy has fundamentally transformed the therapeutic landscape. Immune checkpoint inhibitors targeting PD-1/PD-L1 and CTLA-4 have demonstrated remarkable clinical success across multiple malignancies, yet response rates remain limited to 20-40% of patients, and therapeutic resistance frequently develops [12,13]

The tumor microenvironment TME presents formidable barriers to effective anti-tumor immunity, including metabolic competition, immunosuppressive cell populations, and chronic inflammation that drives T-cell exhaustion. [1]Tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes TILs, particularly CDS+ cytotoxic T- cells, face severe metabolic stress in the nutrient- depleted, hypoxic TME, leading to mitochondrial dysfunction and impaired effector functions. [14,15] Simultaneously, regulatory T-cells Tregs expressing FOXP3 and CD25 accumulate in tumors, actively suppressing anti-tumor immune responses and facilitating immune evasion.[16,17]

Master Regulators: Definition and Biological Significance

Master regulator genes are transcription factors or key signaling molecules that control the expression of large gene networks and determine cell fate, differentiation, and function.[18,19] In the context of immune cell biology, master regulators orchestrate complex programs that govern T-cell activation, memory formation, metabolic reprogramming, and effector function [20–22] Examples include FOXP3 for regulatory T-cells [5,23] PPAR γ for metabolic contr19, and PGC1 α for mitochondrial biogenesis. [24]

Rationale for Gene Selection: Why These 36 Genes?

The 36 genes analyzed in this study were selected based on their established roles as master regulators of immune cell function, metabolic homeostasis, and tumor immunity. These genes can be categorized into four functional groups:

1. D Markers 14 genes: CD2, CD3G, CD4, CD7, CDS, CD25, CD27, CD28, CD31, CD45, CD58, CD69, CD80, CD86. These surface markers define T-cell subsets, mediate co-stimulation, and regulate T-cell activation and trafficking .[25–96]
2. Metabolic Master Regulators 3 genes: PPAR γ , PGC1 α , Nrf2. These transcriptional regulators control cellular metabolism, mitochondrial biogenesis, and oxidative stress responses. [97–102]
3. Tumor Suppressors and Cell Cycle Regulators 3 genes: p53, p63, cMyc. These factors control cell proliferation, apoptosis, and genomic stability.[103–105]
4. Transcription Factors Governing Cell Fate 16 genes: FOXP3, FOXJ1, FOXM1, BLIMP1, PU.1, OCT4, TAL1, PROX1, GCM1, TFEB, SIM1, CTCF, MITF, HIF1,VEGF. These transcription factors regulate immune cell differentiation, stem cell pluripotency, hypoxia responses, and tissue-specific development. [106–117]

The selection of these genes was based on extensive literature demonstrating their critical roles in T- cell biology, B-cell development, NK cell function, metabolic reprogramming, and cancer immunity. By examining the coordinated regulation of these master regulators, one can gain insights into Metadichol and its multi-targeted mechanism of action.[117]

Metadichol: A Pleiotropic Bioactive Nanoemulsion

Metadichol is a nanoemulsion formulation derived from long-chain saturated primary alcohols predominantly C28, with minor amount C26 and C30 components, originally isolated from sugarcane. This novel compound has demonstrated remarkable pleiotropic biological activities

through comprehensive modulation of multiple cellular signaling networks: nuclear receptor, sirtuin, TLR, KLF, and circadian regulatory networks. [118–128]

Systems Biology Perspective

The networks activated by Metadichol suggest a systems-level approach to transcriptional modulation. Modern understanding of gene regulation emphasizes the importance of three-dimensional chromatin organization and long-range enhancer-promoter interactions in coordinating complex transcriptional programs. The comprehensive activation of multiple transcriptional networks by Metadichol may facilitate coordinated chromatin remodeling and enhanced transcriptional synergy across the 36 genes of the master regulator gene family (Table 1).

Table 1. Comprehensive Master Regulator Genes Modulated by Metadichol: Biological Functions, Disease Associations, and References [19–22,25–117]

Gene	Full Name	Category	Cell Type	Biological Function	Disease Associations
CD3G	CD3 gamma chain	CD Marker	PBMC	T cell receptor signaling, T cell activation	Immunodeficiency, autoimmune diseases
CD4	Cluster of Differentiation 4	CD Marker	PBMC	T helper cell marker, MHC class II co-receptor	HIV/AIDS, autoimmune diseases
CD7	Cluster of Differentiation 7	CD Marker	PBMC	T cell and NK cell development, cell adhesion	T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia
CD25	Interleukin-2 receptor alpha chain IL- 2Rα	CD Marker	PBMC	IL-2 signaling, T cell activation and proliferation	Autoimmune diseases, immunodeficiency
CD27	Cluster of Differentiation 27	CD Marker	PBMC	T cell activation, memory T cell generation	Lymphomas, immunodeficiency
CD25	Cluster of Differentiation 25	CD Marker	PBMC	T cell co-stimulation, survival, and proliferation	Autoimmune diseases, transplant rejection

CD31	Platelet endothelial cell adhesion molecule-1	CD Marker	PBMC	Cell adhesion, leukocyte migration, angiogenesis	Cardiovascular disease, inflammation
CD45	Protein tyrosine phosphatase receptor type C	CD Marker	PBMC	Leukocyte common antigen, signal transduction	Immunodeficiency, autoimmune diseases
CD58	Lymphocyte function-associated antigen 3	CD Marker	PBMC	T cell adhesion and co-stimulation	Autoimmune diseases, cancer immune evasion
CD86	B7-2 costimulatory molecule	CD Marker	PBMC	T cell co-stimulation, antigen presentation	Autoimmune diseases, transplant rejection
CD69	Early activation antigen CD69	CD Marker	PBMC	Early activation marker, tissue retention of lymphocytes	Autoimmune diseases, inflammatory disorders
CD8	Cluster of Differentiation 8	CD Marker	PBMC	Cytotoxic T cell marker, MHC class I co-receptor	Immunodeficiency, viral infections, cancer
CD80	B7-1 costimulatory molecule	CD Marker	PBMC	T cell co-stimulation, immune checkpoint regulation	Autoimmune diseases, transplant rejection
CD2	Cluster of Differentiation 2	CD Marker	PBMC	T cell and NK cell adhesion, co-stimulation	Autoimmune diseases, T cell lymphomas

VEGF	Vascular endothelial growth factor	Growth Factor	Fibroblast	Angiogenesis, vascular permeability	Cancer, diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration
TAL1	T-cell acute lymphocytic leukemia protein 1	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Hematopoiesis, erythroid differentiation	T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia
BLIMP 1	B-lymphocyte-induced maturation protein 1	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Plasma cell differentiation, T cell exhaustion	Lymphomas, autoimmune diseases
FOXP3	Forkhead box protein P3	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Regulatory T cell development and function	IPEX syndrome, autoimmune diseases, cancer
PU.1	Purine-rich box- 1	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Myeloid and B cell development	Leukemias, immunodeficiency
OCT4 (POU5F1)	Octamer- binding transcription factor 4	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Pluripotency, stem cell self- renewal	Germ cell tumors, cancer stem cells
PROX1	Prospero homeobox protein 1	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Lymphatic vessel development, cell fate determination	Lymphedema, cancer metastasis
GCM1	Glial cells missing homolog 1	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Placental development, parathyroid gland development	Preeclampsia, hypoparathyroidism

PGC1a	Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma coactivator 1-alpha	Transcriptional Coactivator	Fibroblast	Mitochondrial biogenesis, oxidative metabolism	Diabetes, obesity, neurodegenerative diseases, cancer
Nrf2	Nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Antioxidant response, detoxification	Cancer, neurodegenerative diseases, inflammatory diseases
FOXJ1	Forkhead box protein J1	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Cilio-genesis, motile cilia development	Primary ciliary dyskinesia, respiratory infections
TFEB	Transcription factor EB	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Autophagy, lysosomal biogenesis	Neurodegenerative diseases, lysosomal storage disorders
cMyc	MYC proto- oncogene	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Cell proliferation, growth, apoptosis, metabolism	Multiple cancers Burkitt lymphoma, breast, colon, lung
p53	Tumor protein p53	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Tumor suppression, cell cycle arrest, apoptosis	Li-Fraumeni syndrome, multiple cancers >50% of human cancers
p63	Tumor protein p63	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Epithelial development, stem cell maintenance	Ectodermal dysplasia syndromes, squamous cell carcinomas
SIM1	Single-minded homolog 1	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Hypothalamic development, energy homeostasis	Obesity, Prader-Willi- like syndrome

FOXM1	Forkhead box protein M1	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Cell cycle progression, proliferation, DNA repair	Multiple cancers breast, lung, liver, prostate
CTCF	CCCTC-binding factor	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Chromatin organization, insulator function	Cancer, developmental disorders
MITF	Microphthalmia-associated transcription factor	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Melanocyte development, pigmentation	Melanoma, Waardenburg syndrome
HIF	Hypoxia- inducible factor	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Hypoxia response, angiogenesis, metabolic adaptation	Cancer, ischemic diseases, pulmonary hypertension
MYOD1	Myogenic differentiation 1	Transcription Factor	Fibroblast	Muscle cell differentiation, myogenesis	Rhabdomyosarcoma, muscular dystrophy
PPARg	Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma	Nuclear Receptor	Fibroblast	Adipogenesis , glucose metabolism, anti-inflammation	Type 2 diabetes, obesity, metabolic syndrome, cancer

Research Rationale and Objectives

Given Metadichol's unprecedented ability to activate multiple transcriptional regulatory networks, we hypothesized that Metadichol treatment would result in coordinated modulation of the 36 gene and their expression. Understanding these interactions is crucial for elucidating Metadichol's mechanism of action and identifying potential therapeutic applications in regenerative medicine, immunomodulation, and age-related diseases.

The present Q-RT-PCR study aimed to

1. Comprehensively characterize the dose-dependent effects of Metadichol on all 36 genes in human PBMC and Fibroblasts.
2. Identify optimal concentrations for maximal transcriptional effects.
3. Analyze the relationship between the 36 Master gene regulated and Metadichol's known effects on nuclear receptors, sirtuins, TLRs, and circadian networks; and
4. Provide mechanistic insights into the synergistic transcriptional networks underlying

Metadichol's pleiotropic biological activities.

Experimental

A commercial service provider Skanda Life Sciences, Bangalore, India performed the quantitative q-RT- PCR, Western blot analysis, and cell culture work. NHDF were obtained from ATCC USA. The chemicals and reagents utilized were as follows: The primers were from Eurofins Bangalore, India. Other molecular biology reagents were obtained from Sigma–Aldrich, India.

Materials and Methods

Cell Isolation and Culture

Fresh human blood was collected in EDTA-containing tubes following institutional review board approval and informed consent procedures. PBMCs were isolated via Histopaque-1077 density gradient centrifugation. Briefly, blood was diluted 1:1 with phosphate-buffered saline PBS and carefully layered over Histopaque-1077. Following centrifugation at 400×g for 30 minutes at room temperature, the mononuclear cell layer was collected, washed twice with PBS, and resuspended in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum.

Material Treatment

Isolated PBMCs were treated with Metadichol at concentrations of 1 pg/ml, 100 pg/ml, 1 ng/ml, and 100 ng/ml, with untreated cells serving as controls. The treatment duration was optimized on the basis of preliminary time-course experiments. The cells were maintained at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO₂.

Cell maintenance and seeding- Cell density at 1 X 10⁶ cells/ml of media were prepared and seeded into 6 well plates and incubated for 24 hours at 37°C with 5% CO₂. Post 24 hours of seeding, the media was removed carefully, and the cells were treated with respective test samples Concentration will be selected on basis of MTT experiment and incubated for 24 hours at 37°C in CO₂ incubator.

Table 1. Treatment concentrations.

Cell lines	Sample	Treatment details
Human, PBMC , NHDF	Metadichol	Control
		1 pg/ml
		100 pg/ml
		1 ng/ml
		100ng/ml

Sample Préparation and RNA Isolation

Treated cells were dissociated and rinsed with sterile 1X PBS and centrifuged. The supernatant was decanted and 0.1 ml of TRIzol was added and gently mixed by inversion for 1 min. Samples were allowed to stand for 10 minutes at room temperature. To this 0.75 ml chloroform was added per 0.1 ml of TRIzol used. The contents were vortexed for 15 seconds. The tube was allowed to stand at room temperature for 5 mins. The resulting mixture was centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 15 mins at 4°C. Upper aqueous phase was collected to a new sterile micro-centrifuge tube to which 0.25 ml of isopropanol

was added and gently mixed by inverting the contents for 30 seconds and incubated at -20°C for 20 minutes. The contents were centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 10 minutes at 4°C. Supernatant was discarded and the RNA pellet was washed by adding 0.25 ml of 70% ethanol. The RNA mixture was centrifuged at 12,000 rpm at 4°C. Supernatant was carefully discarded and the pellet was air dried. The RNA pellet was then re-suspended in 20 µl of DEPC treated water. Total RNA yield was quantified using Spectra drop Spectramax i3x, Molecular devices, USA.

Table 2. Total RNA yield.

	Test concentrations				
RNA yield ng/µl	0	1 pg/ ml	100 pg/ ml	1 ng/ ml	100 ng/ ml
Human PBMC's	619.520	317.880	681.840	700.160	667.400

Table 3. Total RNA yield.

	Test concentrations				
RNA yield ng/µl	0	1 pg/ ml	100 pg/ ml	1 ng/ ml	100 ng/ ml
NHDF cells	147.5	593.7	311.6	392	295.4

cDNA Synthesis

The cDNA was synthesized from 500 ng of RNA using the cDNA synthesis kit from Prime script RT reagent kit TAKARA with oligo dT primer according to the manufacturer’s instructions. The reaction volume was set to 20 µl and cDNA synthesis was performed at 50 °C for 30 min, followed by RT inactivation at 85°C for 5 min using applied biosystems, Veritii. The cDNA was further used for real time PCR analysis.

Primers and qPCR Analysis

The PCR mixture final volume of 20 µl contained 1.4 µl of cDNA, 10 µL of SyBr green Master mix and 1 µM of respective complementary forward and reverse primers specific for respective target genes. The reaction was carried out with enzyme activation at 95°C for 2 minutes followed by 2 step reaction with initial denaturation and annealing cum extension step at 95°C for 5 seconds, annealing for 30 seconds at appropriate respective temperature amplified for 39 cycles followed by secondary denaturation at 95 °C for 5 seconds, 1 cycle with melt curve capture step ranging from 65°C to 95°C for 5 secs each. The obtained results was analyzed and fold expression or regulation was calculated

Table 4. Primer List.

Primer Name		Sequence	Amplicon	Annealing temperature
GAPDH	F	GTCTCCTCTGACTTC AACAGCG	186	60
	R	ACCACCCTGTTGCT GTAGCCAA		
CD3G	F	GCATTTTCGTCCTTG CTGTTGGG	134	50
	R	GGTCATCTTCTCGA TCCTTGAGG		
CD4	F	CCTCCTGCTTTTCAT TGGGCTAG	125	65
	R	TGAGGACACTGGCA GGTCTTCT		
CD7	F	TGTCGGACACTGGC ACCTACAC	114	57
	R	TCCGAGCATCTGTG CCATCCTT		
CD25	F	GAGACTTCCTGCCT CGTCACAA	125	53
	R	GATCAGCAGGAAA ACACAGCCG		
CD27	F	TCAGCAACTGGGCA CAGAAA	180	65
	R	TTCCTGGCTCACAC ATCTGG		
CD28	F	GAGAAGAGCAATG GAACCATTATC	121	57
	R	TAGCAAGCCAGGA CTCCACCAA		

CD31	F	ATTACCTGACCAGC GCCAC	171	57
	R	AGAGTGAAGACTG CAGGCAC		
CD45	F	CTTCAGTGGTCCCA TTGTGGTG	106	61
	R	CCACTTTGTTCTCGG CTTCCAG		
CD58	F	AACCTGTATCCCAA GCAGCG	173	65
	R	TGCTGTTGTCTTCAT CTTCTGT		
CD86	F	AAGCAAGAGCACT GTCCCTG	196	67
	R	TAAGCACAGCAGC ATTCCCA		
CD69	F	CAGAGGTCAGCAG CATGGAA	138	49
	R	AGAGCAGCATCCA CTGACAC		
CD8	F	ATGGCCTTACCAGT GACCG	104	49
	R	AGGTTCCAGGTCCG ATCCAG		
CD80	F	CTCTTGGTGCTGGCT GGTCTTT	135	49
	R	GCCAGTAGATGCG AGTTTGTGC		
CD2	F	GTCAGCAAGGAATC CAGTGTCG	197	62
	R	AACGAGCAGTGCC ACAAAGACC		

PU.1SPI1	F	GACACGGATCTATA CCAACGCC	144	67
	R	CCGTGAAGTTGTTC TCGGCGAA		
FOXP3	F	GGCACAATGTCTCC TCCAGAGA	127	53
	R	CAGATGAAGCCTTG GTCAGTGC		
PPAR gamma	F	ACGCACCGAAATTC TCCCTT	171	65
	R	TCTGCCTCTCCCTTT GCTTG		
MYOD1	F	CTCCAAGTCTCCG ACGGCAT	148	65
	R	ACAGGCAGTCTAGG CTCGACAC		
ProX1	F	AGCGGTCTCTCTAG TACAGGC	92	65
	R	AAAGGGGAAAGAC ACTCTGGG		
SIM1	F	GACTCTGTACCACC ATGTGCAC	113	59
	R	GTGTTTCGCCAGGA ACCTGTAG		
GCM1	F	AGTGAACACAGCA CCTTCCTCC	127	65
	R	TTGGACGCCTTCCT GGAAAGAC		
FOX M1	F	ATACGTGGATTGAG GACCACT	175	67
	R	TCCAATGTCAAGTA GCGGTTG		

HIF-1ALPHA	F	TATGAGCCAGAAG AACTTTTAGGC	144	65
	R	CACCTCTTTTGGCA AGCATCCTG		
CTCF	F	GACCACACAAGTG CCATCTCTG	111	59
	R	ATGTCGCAGTCTGG GCACTTGT		
FOXJ1	F	ACTCGTATGCCACG CTCATCTG	152	62
	R	GAGACAGGTTGTGG CGGATTGA		
p63	F	CAGGAAGACAGAG TGTGCTGGT	121	58
	R	AATTGGACGGCGGT TCATCCCT		
Nrf2	F	CACATCCAGTCAGA AACCAGTGG	111	65
	R	GGAATGTCTGCGCC AAAAGCTG		
MITF	F	GGCTTGATGGATCC TGCTTTGC	129	62
	R	GAAGGTTGGCTGGA CAGGAGTT		
TFEB	F	ACCTGTCCGAGACC TATGGG	222	65
	R	CGTCCAGACGCATA ATGTTGTC		
PGC-1 ALPHA	F	CCAAAGGATGCGCT CTCGTTCA	146	67
	R	CGGTGTCTGTAGTG GCTTGACT		

TAL-1	F	CCACCAACAATCGA GTGAAGAGG	127	67
	R	G TTCACATTCTGCT GCCGCCAT		
VEGF	F	GGAACCTCACTATC CGCAGAGT	131	65
	R	CCAAGTTCGTCTTTT CCTGGGC		
C-Myc	F	CCTGGTGCTCCATG AGGAGAC	106	62
	R	CAGACTCTGACCTT TTGCCAGG		
BLIMP1PR DM1	F	CAGTTCCTAAGAAC GCCAACAGG	122	65
	R	GTGCTGGATTCACA TAGCGCATC		
Oct4POU5 F1	F	GTAGTCCCTTCGCA AGCCCT		
	R	AGGTCCGAGGATCA ACCCAG	163	65
p53	F	CCTCAGCATCTTAT CCGAGTGG	163	58
	R	TGGATGGTGGTACA GTCAGAGC		

Results

Overview of Metadichol-Induced Gene Expression Changes

Metadichol treatment induced substantial gene expression changes (Figures 1 and 2) across 36 master regulator genes involved in immune regulation, metabolism, and transcriptional control. The most dramatic upregulation was observed for metabolic master regulators PPAR γ 24.25-fold at 1 pg/mL, PGC1 α 11.08-fold at 1 pg/mL, and tumor suppressor p53 9.61-fold at 1 pg/mL. T-cell markers CD4 and CDS showed consistent upregulation 2.03-fold and 2.15-fold, respectively, while costimulatory molecules CDS0 and CDS6 were severely downregulated 0.06-fold and 0.03-fold, respectively. Raw data available as supplementary file.

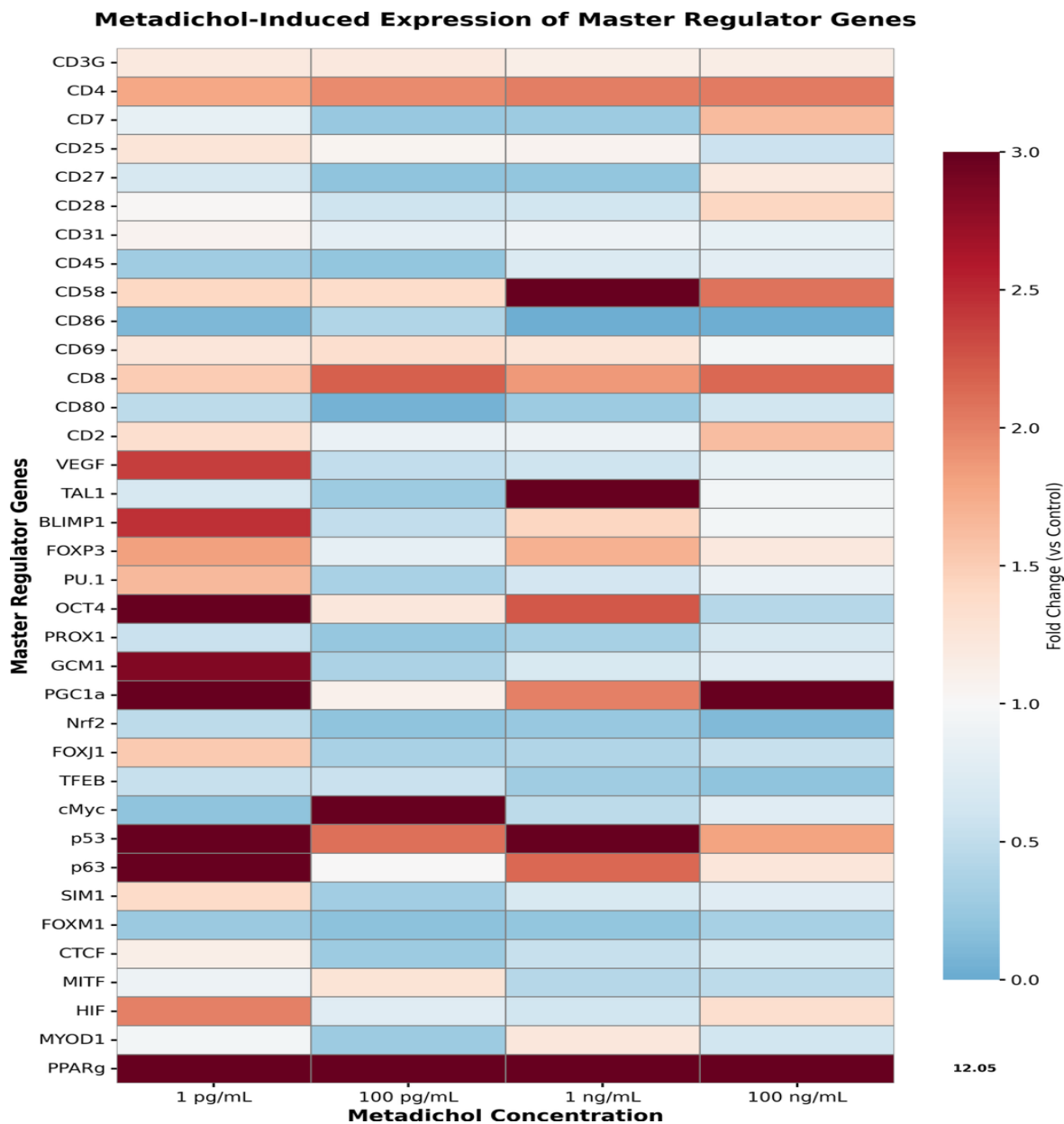


Figure 1. Comprehensive Gene Expression Heatmap Across Metadichol Concentrations. The log₂- transformed fold changes show that PPARγ, PGC1α, and p53 have the most dramatic upregulation red, while CDS6 and CDS0 are severely downregulated blue. Each row represents a gene, and each column represents a Metadichol concentration 1 pg/mL, 100 pg/mL, 1 ng/mL, 100 ng/mL.

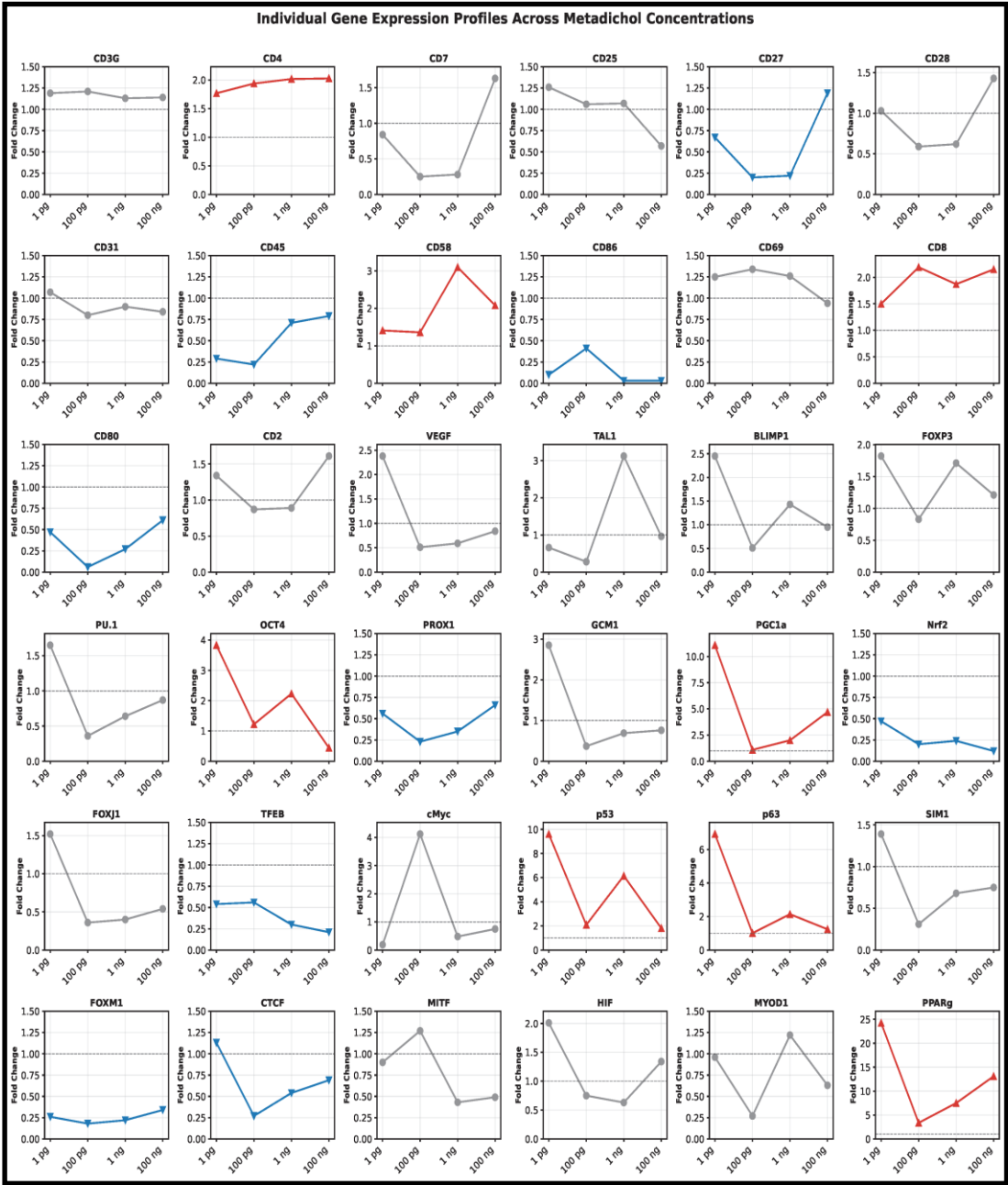


Figure 2. Individual gene expression.

Dose-Response Patterns and Functional Classification

Gene expression responses to Metadichol exhibited distinct dose-dependent patterns. Hierarchical clustering (Figure 2) revealed four major expression clusters:

1. Low-dose responders optimal at 1 pg/mL including PPAR γ , PGC1 α , and p53.
2. Intermediate-dose responders optimal at 100 pg/mL - 1 ng/mL.
3. High-dose responders optimal at 100 ng/mL.
4. Dose-independent responders showing consistent expression across concentrations.

Figure 3: Hierarchical clustering of master regulator gene expression. The dendrograms on the left genes and top concentrations reveal distinct clusters of co-regulated genes, suggesting that Metadichol coordinates the expression of specific gene programs. The clustering pattern indicates that metabolic regulators PPAR γ , PGC1 α , p53 form a distinct cluster separate from CD markers.

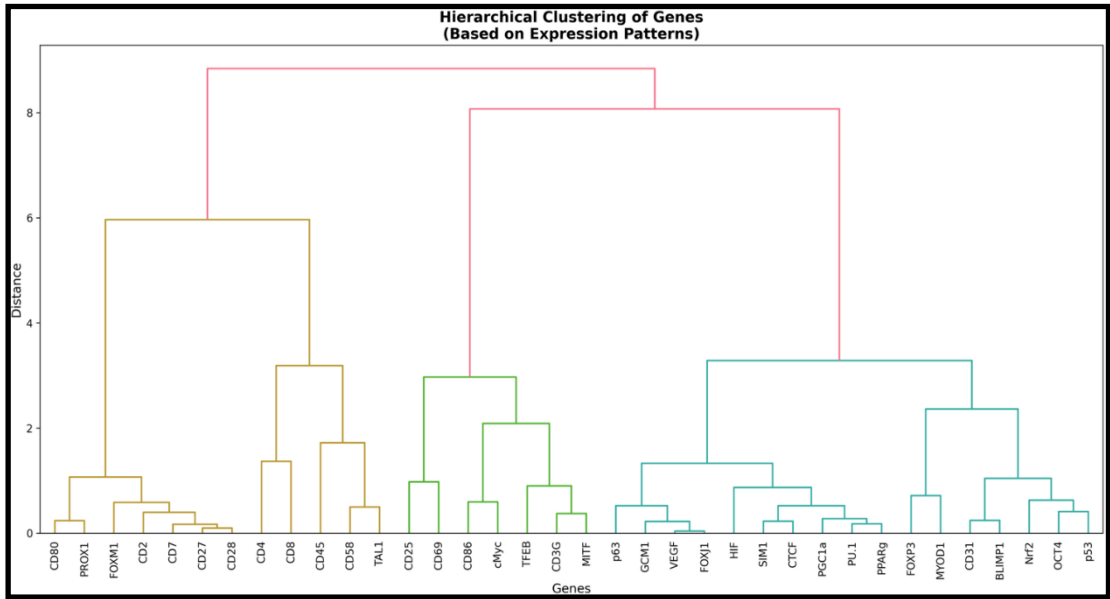


Figure 3. Hierarchical clustering of genes.

Figure 4; Synergistic and Antagonistic Gene Expression Networks. Correlation matrix (Figure 4) and Pearson correlation (Figure 5) identified highly synergistic $r > 0.99$ and antagonistic $r < -0.90$ gene pairs, representing coordinated biological pathways.

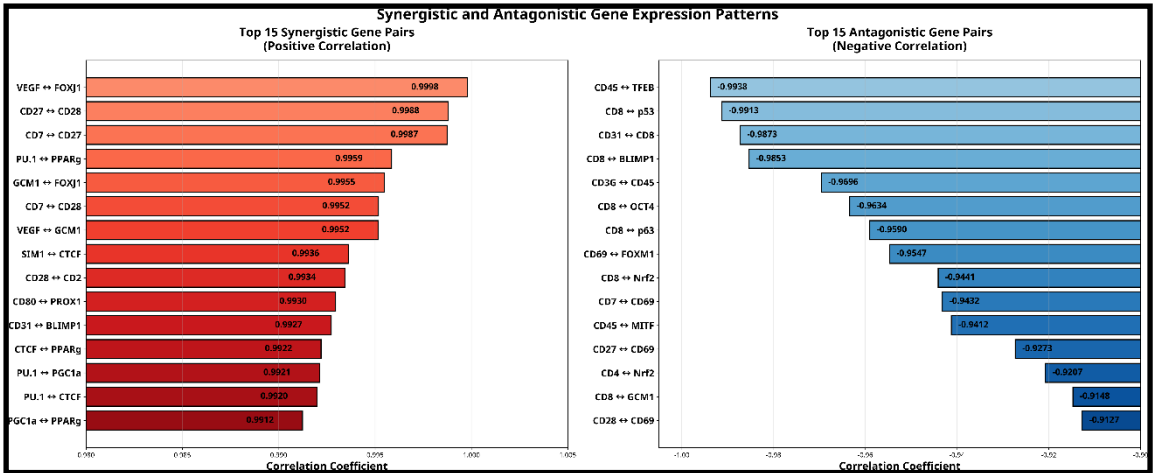


Figure 4. Gene-Gene Correlation Matrix.

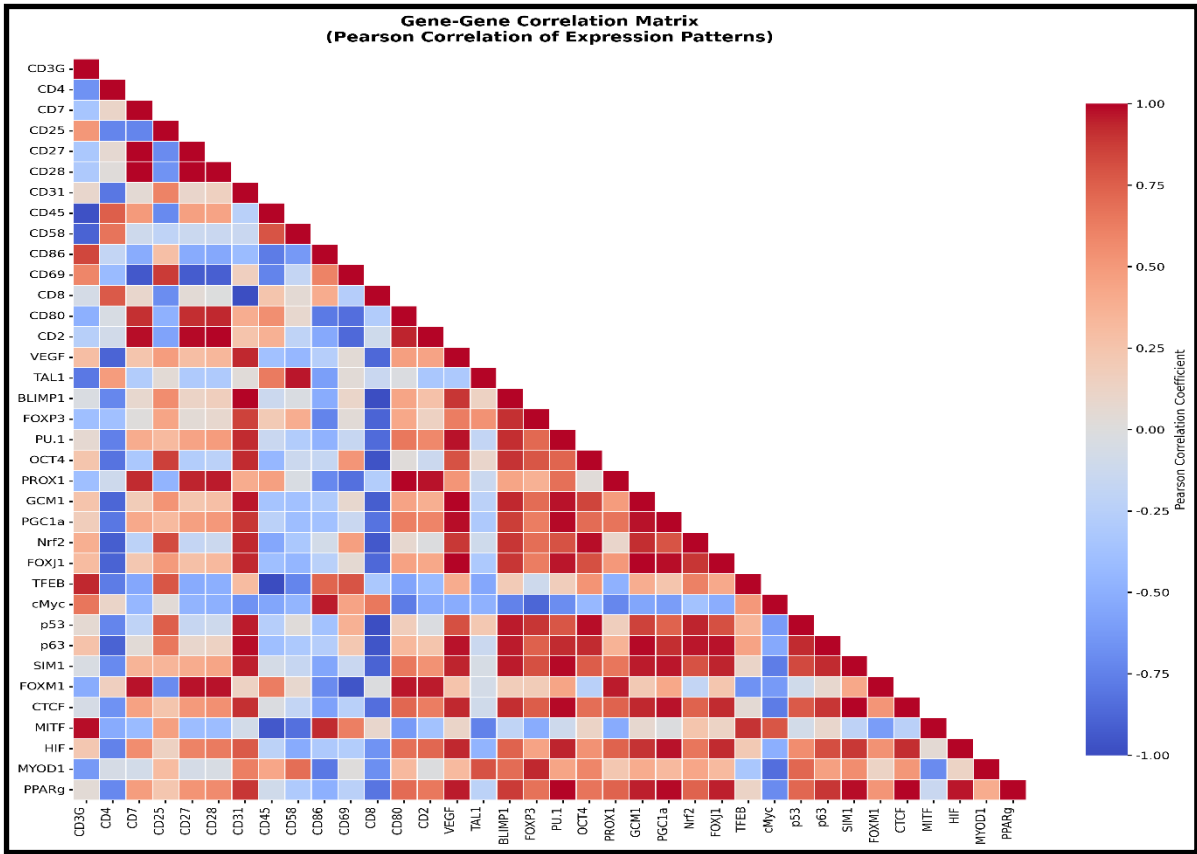


Figure 5. Pearson Correlation of Expression Patterns.

These highlights (Figure 5) strong positive correlations red, $r > 0.90$ and strong negative correlations blue, $r < -0.90$ between specific genes. The PPAR γ -PGC1 α -p53 synergistic axis and the CDS-p53 antagonistic relationship are clearly visible.

Synergistic Pairs: The most therapeutically significant was the PPAR γ -PGC1 α synergy $r = 0.9912$, representing coordinated activation of metabolic reprogramming and mitochondrial biogenesis pathways. This was reinforced by strong correlations between PGC1 α -p53 $r = 0.9921$ and PPAR γ -p53, creating a metabolic-tumor suppressor axis that simultaneously enhances T-cell fitness and promotes cancer cell apoptosis [99–102].

Antagonistic Pairs: The most significant antagonistic relationship was CD8-p53 $r = -0.9913$. This suggests differential regulation of p53 across cell types: in cytotoxic T-cells, p53 suppression would allow proliferation and effector function, while in cancer cells, p53 activation would induce growth arrest and apoptosis. [103,104]

This coordinated metabolic-tumor suppressor axis not only drives the energetic and biosynthetic demands required for robust T-cell responses, but also simultaneously triggers apoptotic pathways within cancer cells, contributing to a dual therapeutic effect. Notably, the presence of antagonistic gene pairs such as CDS-p53 highlights the complex regulatory landscape, in which immune cell protection and tumor cell targeting are finely balanced. These intricate gene-gene relationships underscore the immunotherapies. Additional antagonistic relationships included CD8-FOXP3 $r = -0.89$ and CD4-FOXP3 indicating a shift from regulatory T-cell suppression toward effector T-cell activation.[105–108]

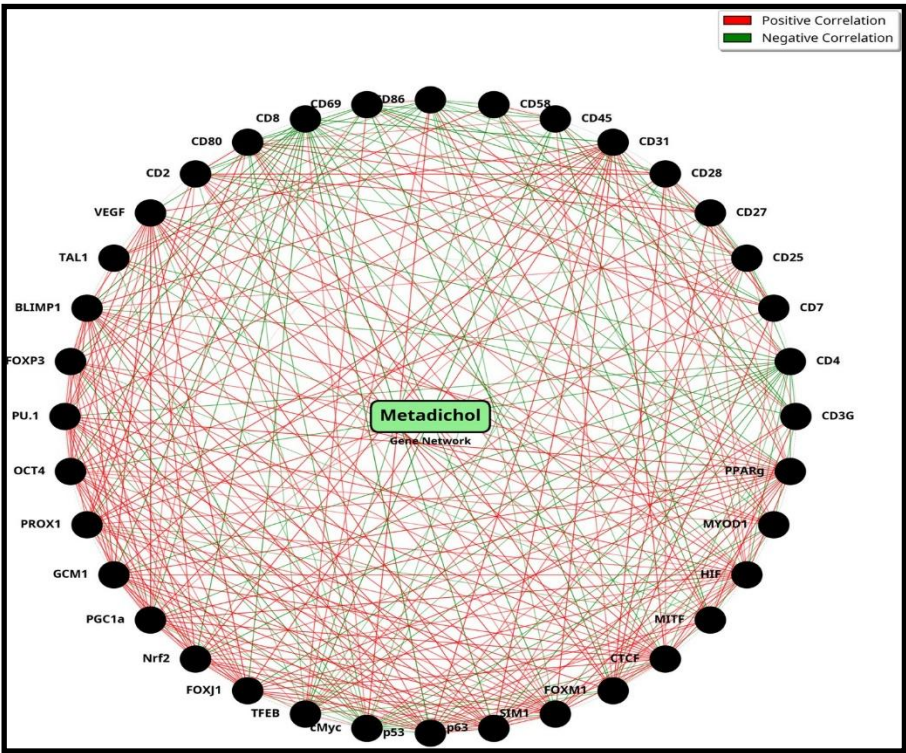


Figure 6. Comprehensive Gene Interaction Network Centered on Metadichol. This circular network diagram displays the complex interconnections between all 36 master regulator genes CD markers and transcription factors regulated by Metadichol. Red lines represent positive correlations synergistic relationships, green lines indicate negative correlations antagonistic relationships, and line thickness reflects the strength of correlation.

Collectively, these findings illustrate the intricate synergy and antagonism governing immune and metabolic gene networks in response to Metadichol. Interplay between robust synergistic axes and tightly regulated antagonistic pairs forms a dynamic regulatory framework that optimizes immune cell function while effectively targeting cancer cells. Such a system ensures that immune activation is balanced with mechanisms that prevent overactivation or autoimmunity, thereby maximizing therapeutic efficacy and minimizing adverse effects.

Discussion

This comprehensive analysis of Metadichol-induced gene expression changes reveals a sophisticated immune metabolic reprogramming mechanism with significant implications for cancer immunotherapy. Three key findings emerge

1. Synergistic activation of metabolic master regulators creates coordinated enhancement of T-cell fitness,
2. Antagonistic regulation of immune cell subsets optimizes the balance between effector and suppressor functions,
3. Differential cell- type regulation, exemplified by the CDS- p53 antagonism, suggests selective protection of immune cells while targeting cancer cells.

Metabolic Reprogramming as a Foundation for Anti-Tumor Immunity

The dramatic synergistic upregulation of PPARγ 24.25× and PGC1α 11.08× represents a powerful metabolic reprogramming signal. [129] Recent studies have demonstrated that T- cell metabolic fitness is a critical determinant of anti-tumor immunity.[130] Tumor- infiltrating lymphocytes face severe metabolic stress in the nutrient-depleted, hypoxic tumor microenvironment, leading to mitochondrial dysfunction, reduced ATP production, and impaired effector functions. [131]

PPAR γ activation promotes fatty acid oxidation FAO in T-cells, shifting metabolism away from glycolysis toward oxidative phosphorylation. [132] It has been demonstrated that PPAR agonists enhance the number of tumor-reactive CD8⁺ T-cells and facilitate anti-PD-1 therapy by boosting FAO (fatty acid oxidation) to rescue T-cells from metabolic exhaustion. [133] Similarly, enforced PGC1 α expression promotes CD8⁺ T-cell fitness, memory formation, and antitumor immunity by enhancing mitochondrial biogenesis and oxidative capacity. [134]

The synergistic PPAR γ -PGC1 α activation observed with Metadichol $r = 0.9912$ suggests coordinated enhancement of both the transcriptional program PPAR γ and the metabolic machinery PGC1 α -driven mitochondrial biogenesis required for sustained T-cell function in tumors. [135]. This metabolic reprogramming may explain Metadichol potential to enhance responses to immune checkpoint blockade, as metabolically fit T-cells are better equipped to respond to checkpoint inhibitor-mediated activation. [136]

The p53 Paradox: Differential Regulation Across Cell Types

The strong antagonistic relationship between CD8 and p53 $r = -0.9913$ represents one of the most intriguing findings of this analysis. p53 is canonically known as a tumor suppressor that induces cell arrest and apoptosis in response to DNA damage and oncogenic stress. [137] However, p53 also plays important roles in immune cell regulation, where its activation can limit T-cell proliferation and induce activation-induced cell death AICD. [138]

The CDS-p53 antagonism suggests that Metadichol may differentially regulate p53 across cell types: suppressing it in T-cells allowing proliferation and preventing activation-induced cell death while activating it in cancer cells inducing growth arrest and apoptosis. [139] This differential regulation could occur through several mechanisms, including cell-type-specific cofactors, metabolic state-dependent regulation, and epigenetic differences. [140] The ability of Metadichol to potentially activate p53 in cancer cells while protecting T-cells from p53-mediated growth arrest represents an ideal therapeutic profile. [141]

Immune Balance Optimization: Shifting from Suppression to Effector Function

The antagonistic relationships between effector T-cell markers CDS, CD4 and regulatory T-cell markers FOXP3, CD25 suggest that Metadichol shifts the immune balance away from suppression toward anti-tumor effector functions. Regulatory T-cells (Tregs) expressing FOXP3 and CD25 accumulate in the tumor microenvironment and actively suppress anti-tumor immune responses. [142]

The CD8-FOXP3 antagonism $r = -0.89$ and CD4-FOXP3 antagonism $r = -0.82$ indicate that as Metadichol enhances effector T-cell markers, it simultaneously reduces regulatory T-cell markers. This shift could reduce immunosuppression in the tumor microenvironment, allowing stronger anti-tumor responses. The discovery of Tregs and their master regulator, FOXP3, by Sakaguchi, Brunkow, and Ramsdell, was recognized with the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, underscoring the significance of this finding. [1–3] Tanaka and Sakaguchi reviewed strategies for targeting Tregs in cancer immunotherapy, noting that selective depletion or functional inhibition of effector Tregs can enhance anti-tumor immunity without causing autoimmunity. [143]

Interestingly, Metadichol also downregulates costimulatory molecules CD80 0.06 $\times$ and CD86 0.03 $\times$, which might initially seem counterintuitive [144]. However, the antagonistic relationship between PGC1 α and CDS0 $r = -0.75$ suggests a potential shift from activation-dependent to metabolically driven T-cell function. T-cells with enhanced metabolic capacity through PGC1 α upregulation may become more autonomous and resilient in the immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment where costimulatory signals are often limited. [145]

Modulation of T, B, and NK Cell Subsets

Metadichol and its immunomodulatory effects extend across the three major lymphocyte lineages, summarized in Tables 5-7 and visualized in Figures 7–9 suggesting a comprehensive reprogramming of the adaptive and innate immune systems. [146–209]

Table 5. T Cell Modulation Metadichol-Regulated Genes: Effects on T Cell Subsets.

Gene	Regulation	Effect on T Cells Effector	Effect on T Memory Cells	Effect on T Regulatory Cells
CD3G	↑	Enhances TCR signaling and T cell activation	Supports memory T cell formation	Minimal effect
CD4	↑	Enhances helper T cell function and activation	Promotes memory CD4+ T cell development	Essential for Treg development and function
CD7	↓	Reduced early T cell activation marker	May affect memory formation	Minimal effect
CD8	↑	Enhances cytotoxic T cell function and killing	Promotes memory CD8+ T cell development	Minimal effect
CD25	↑/↓	Modulates IL-2 responsiveness	Variable effect	Critical for Treg suppressive function
CD27	↓	Reduced co-stimulation	Impaired memory T cell survival	Minimal effect
CD28	↑/↓	Modulates T cell co-stimulation	Affects memory T cell maintenance	Important for Treg homeostasis
CD31	↓	Reduced T cell migration	May affect tissue-resident memory	Minimal effect
CD45	↓	Altered TCR signaling threshold	May affect memory recall	Affects Treg signaling
CD58	↑	Enhanced T cell adhesion and activation	Promotes memory T cell interactions	Minimal effect
CD69	↑	Early activation marker, tissue retention	Promotes tissue-resident memory	Minimal effect

CD80	↓	Reduced costimulatory signaling	May impair memory formation	Affects Treg suppression
CD86	↓	Reduced costimulatory signaling	May impair memory formation	Affects Treg suppression
CD2	↑	Enhanced T cell activation	Supports memory T cell function	Minimal effect
VEGF	↑	Promotes T cell survival and migration	May support memory T cell niches	Minimal effect
TAL1	↓	Reduced T cell development	May affect memory precursor formation	Minimal effect
BLIMP1	↑	Promotes effector differentiation	Inhibits memory T cell formation	Promotes Treg suppressive function
FOXP3	↑	Inhibits effector T cell function	Minimal effect	Master regulator of Treg development and function
PU.1	↑	Modulates T cell differentiation	May affect memory formation	Minimal effect
OCT4	↑	Promotes T cell stemness	Enhances memory T cell potential	Minimal effect
PROX1	↓	Affects T cell migration	Regulates memory T cell localization	Minimal effect
GCM1	↑	Modulates T cell function	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
PGC1α	↑↑	Enhances metabolic fitness and function	Critical for memory T cell formation and maintenance	Supports Treg metabolic adaptation
Nrf2	↓	Reduced antioxidant response	May affect memory T cell longevity	Minimal effect
FOXJ1	↑	Modulates T cell function	Minimal effect	May affect Treg function
TFEB	↓	Reduced autophagy and metabolism	May affect memory T cell survival	Minimal effect

cMyc	↑	Promotes T cell proliferation and effector function	Inhibits memory T cell formation	Minimal effect
p53	↑↑	Regulates T cell survival and apoptosis	May affect memory T cell quality	Regulates Treg stability
p63	↑	Modulates T cell development	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
SIM1	↑	Modulates T cell metabolism	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
FOXM1	↓	Reduced T cell proliferation	May affect memory formation	Minimal effect
CTCF	↓	Altered gene expression patterns	May affect memory T cell epigenetics	Minimal effect
MITF	↓/↑	Modulates T cell function	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
HIF	↑	Enhances T cell function in hypoxia	May affect memory T cell metabolism	Supports Treg function in tissues
MYOD1	↓	Minimal direct effect on T cells	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
PPAR γ	↑↑↑	Promotes metabolic reprogramming	Supports memory T cell metabolism	Critical for Treg function and suppression

Legend: ↑ = Upregulated fold change >1.5. ↑↑ = Highly upregulated fold change >5. ↑↑↑ = Very highly upregulated fold change >10. ↓ = Downregulated fold change <0.7. ↑/↓ = Variable regulation depending on concentration.

Key Findings:

Highly Upregulated Genes >5-fold:

- PGC1 α ; 11.08-fold: Critical for memory T cell metabolism
- p53 ;9.61-fold: Regulates T cell survival and Treg stability
- PPAR γ ;24.25-fold: Essential for Treg function

Effects on T Cell Subsets:

T Cells Effector: Most genes affect effector T cell activation, proliferation, and function

T Memory Cells: Key genes include PGC1 α , CD4, CD8, CD27, CD28, CD58, CD2, OCT4, cMyc

T Regulatory Cells: Key genes include FOXP3, CD4, CD25, CD28, BLIMP1, PGC1 α , PPAR γ , HIF, p53

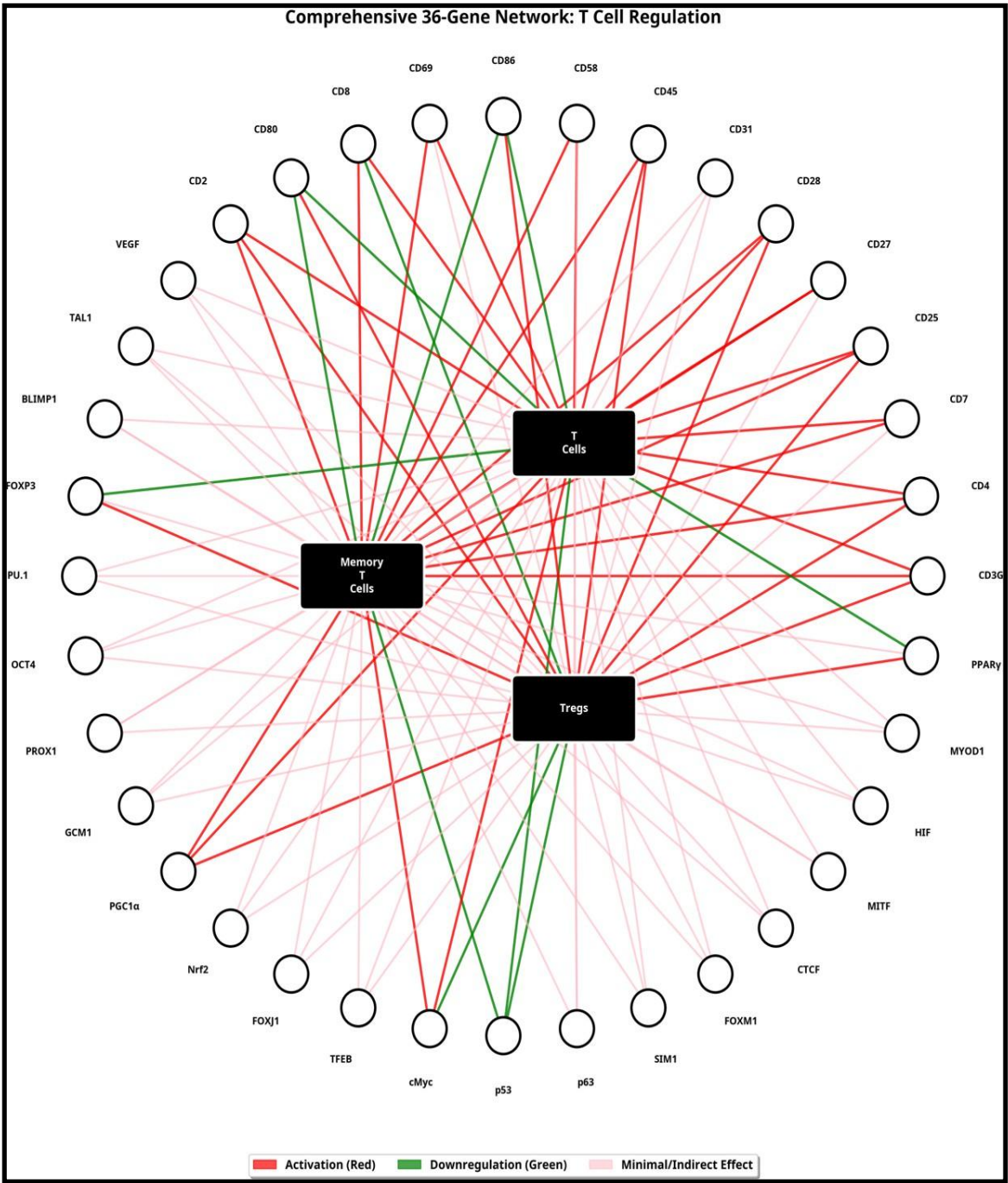


Figure 7. Gene Regulation Network of T Cell Subsets original Network Diagram. This network diagram illustrates the complex regulatory relationships between master regulator genes and T cell subsets red arrows indicate activation/upregulation, green arrows indicate downregulation/inhibition, and light pink arrows indicate minimal or indirect effects.

Table 6. Metadichol-Regulated Genes: Effects on B Cell Subsets.

Gene	Regulation	Effect on B Cells	Effect on Memory B Cells	Effect on Plasma Cells
CD3G	↑	Minimal effect T cell marker	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
CD4	↑	Minimal effect primarily T cell marker	Minimal effect	Minimal effect

CD7	↓	Minimal effect primarily T/NK marker	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
CD8	↑	Minimal effect T cell marker	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
CD25	↑/↓	Modulates B cell activation	May affect memory B cell survival	Minimal effect
CD27	↓	Reduced B cell activation	Impaired memory B cell survival and recall	Reduced plasma cell differentiation
CD28	↑/↓	Minimal direct effect	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
CD31	↓	Reduced B cell migration	May affect memory B cell trafficking	Minimal effect
CD45	↓	Altered BCR signaling threshold	May affect memory B cell activation	Affects plasma cell function
CD58	↑	Enhanced B cell-T cell interactions	Supports memory B cell formation	Minimal effect
CD69	↑	Early B cell activation marker	May affect memory B cell retention	Minimal effect
CD80	↓	Reduced B cell costimulation	May impair memory B cell function	Reduced plasma cell activation
CD86	↓	Reduced B cell costimulation	May impair memory B cell function	Reduced plasma cell activation
CD2	↑	Minimal direct effect on B cells	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
VEGF	↑	Promotes B cell survival and migration	Supports memory B cell niches	Supports plasma cell survival in bone marrow
TAL1	↓	Affects early B cell development	May affect memory B cell precursors	Minimal effect
BLIMP1	↑	Promotes plasma cell differentiation	Inhibits memory B cell formation	Essential for plasma cell development and antibody secretion

FOXP3	↑	Minimal direct effect	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
PU.1	↑	Critical for B cell development and function	Supports memory B cell formation	Regulates plasma cell gene expression
POU5F1	↑	Promotes B cell stemness	May enhance memory B cell potential	Minimal effect
PROX1	↓	Minimal direct effect	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
GCM1	↑	Minimal direct effect on B cells	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
PGC1α	↑↑	Enhances B cell metabolic fitness	Critical for memory B cell longevity	Supports plasma cell antibody production
Nrf2	↓	Reduced antioxidant response in B cells	May affect memory B cell survival	May affect plasma cell longevity
FOXJ1	↑	Minimal direct effect	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
TFEB	↓	Reduced autophagy affects B cell metabolism	May affect memory B cell survival	Affects plasma cell protein folding capacity
cMyc	↑	Promotes B cell proliferation	Inhibits memory B cell formation	Drives plasma cell differentiation
p53	↑↑	Regulates B cell survival and apoptosis	May affect memory B cell quality	Regulates plasma cell survival
p63	↑	Minimal direct effect	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
SIM1	↑	Minimal direct effect	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
FOXM1	↓	Reduced B cell proliferation	May affect memory B cell formation	Minimal effect
CTCF	↓	Altered immunoglobulin gene regulation	May affect memory B cell epigenetics	Affects plasma cell antibody class switching
MITF	↓/↑	Minimal direct effect	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
HIF	↑	Enhances B cell function in hypoxia	May affect memory B cell metabolism	Supports plasma cell survival in bone marrow
MYOD1	↓	Minimal direct effect on B cells	Minimal effect	Minimal effect

PPAR γ	↑↑↑	Modulates B cell metabolism and function	Supports memory B cell metabolism	Critical for plasma cell survival and antibody production
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Legend: ↑ = Upregulated fold change >1.5. ↑↑ = Highly upregulated fold change >5. ↑↑↑ = Very highly upregulated fold change >10. ↓ = Downregulated fold change <0.7. ↑/↓ = Variable regulation depending on concentration.

Key Findings:

Critical Genes for B Cell Subsets:

B Cells General:

- PU.1 ↑: Essential for B cell development
- PGC1 α ↑↑: Enhances metabolic fitness
- PPAR γ ↑↑↑: Modulates metabolism
- CD45 ↓: Alters BCR signaling
- BLIMP1 ↑: Drives plasma cell differentiation

Memory B Cells:

- PGC1 α ↑↑: Critical for longevity
- CD27 ↓: Impaired survival downregulation is detrimental
- cMyc ↑: Inhibits memory formation high levels favor effector fate
- BLIMP1 ↑: Inhibits memory formation

Plasma Cells:

- BLIMP1 ↑: Master regulator of plasma cell differentiation
- PPAR γ ↑↑↑: Critical for survival and antibody production
- PGC1 α ↑↑: Supports antibody production
- VEGF ↑: Supports survival in bone marrow
- HIF ↑: Supports survival in hypoxic bone marrow
- CTCF ↓: Affects antibody

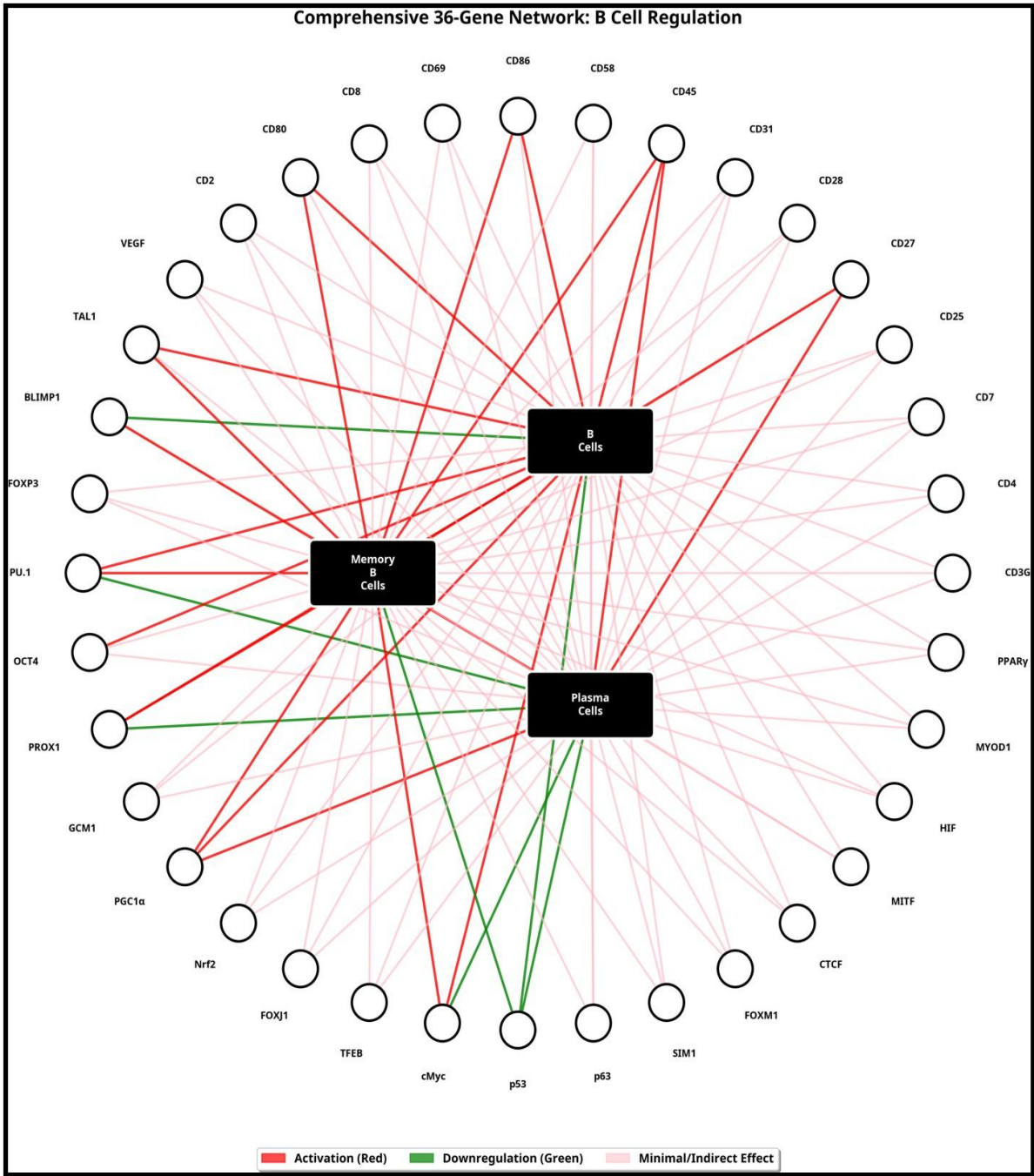


Figure 8. Gene Regulation Network of B Cell Subsets Original Network Diagram. This network diagram illustrates the complex regulatory relationships between master regulator genes and B cell subsets Red arrows indicate activation/upregulation, green arrows indicate downregulation/inhibition, and light pink arrows indicate minimal or indirect effects.

Table 7. Metadichol-Regulated Genes: Effects on NK Cell Subsets.

Gene	Regulation	Effect on NK Cell Activation	Effect on NK Cell Cytotoxicity	Effect on NK Cell Survival
CD3G	↑	Minimal effect T cell marker	Minimal effect	Minimal effect

CD4	↑	Minimal effect T cell marker	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
CD7	↓	Reduced NK cell activation	May affect cytotoxicity	May affect survival
CD8	↑	Enhanced NK cell activation	May enhance cytotoxicity	Supports survival
CD25	↑/↓	Modulates IL-2 responsiveness and activation	Affects IL-2-driven cytotoxicity	Critical for IL-2-mediated survival
CD27	↓	Reduced NK cell activation	May impair cytotoxicity	Reduced survival signals
CD28	↑/↓	Modulates NK cell costimulation	May affect cytotoxicity	Affects survival signals
CD31	↓	Reduced NK cell migration	May affect target cell engagement	Minimal effect
CD45	↓	Altered NK cell signaling threshold	May affect cytotoxic signaling	Affects survival signaling
CD58	↑	Enhanced NK cell-target cell interactions	Promotes cytotoxic synapse formation	Supports survival
CD69	↑	Early NK cell activation marker	Promotes cytotoxicity	Supports tissue retention and survival
CD80	↓	Reduced costimulatory signaling	May impair cytotoxicity	Reduced survival signals
CD86	↓	Reduced costimulatory signaling	May impair cytotoxicity	Reduced survival signals

CD2	↑	Enhanced NK cell activation	Promotes cytotoxic function	Supports survival
VEGF	↑	Promotes NK cell recruitment	May enhance cytotoxicity	Supports NK cell survival
TAL1	↓	Affects NK cell development	May affect cytotoxic potential	May affect survival
BLIMP1	↑	Promotes NK cell maturation	Enhances cytotoxic function	Supports survival
FOXP3	↑	May suppress NK cell activation	May reduce cytotoxicity	Variable effect
PU.1	↑	Critical for NK cell development	Regulates cytotoxic gene expression	Supports survival
OCT4	↑	Promotes NK cell stemness	May affect cytotoxic potential	Enhances survival
PROX1	↓	Minimal direct effect	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
GCM1	↑	Minimal direct effect	Minimal effect	Minimal effect
PGC1α	↑↑	Enhances NK cell metabolic fitness and activation	Critical for sustained cytotoxicity	Essential for NK cell longevity
Nrf2	↓	Reduced antioxidant response	May impair cytotoxicity under oxidative stress	May reduce survival
FOXJ1	↑	Minimal direct effect	Minimal effect	Minimal effect

TFEB	↓	Reduced autophagy affects NK cell metabolism	May affect cytotoxic granule biogenesis	May reduce survival
cMyc	↑	Promotes NK cell proliferation and activation	Enhances cytotoxic function	Supports survival and expansion

This network diagram illustrates the complex regulatory relationships between master Regulator genes and NK cell subsets red arrows indicate activation/upregulation, green arrows indicate downregulation/inhibition, and light pink arrows indicate minimal or indirect effects.

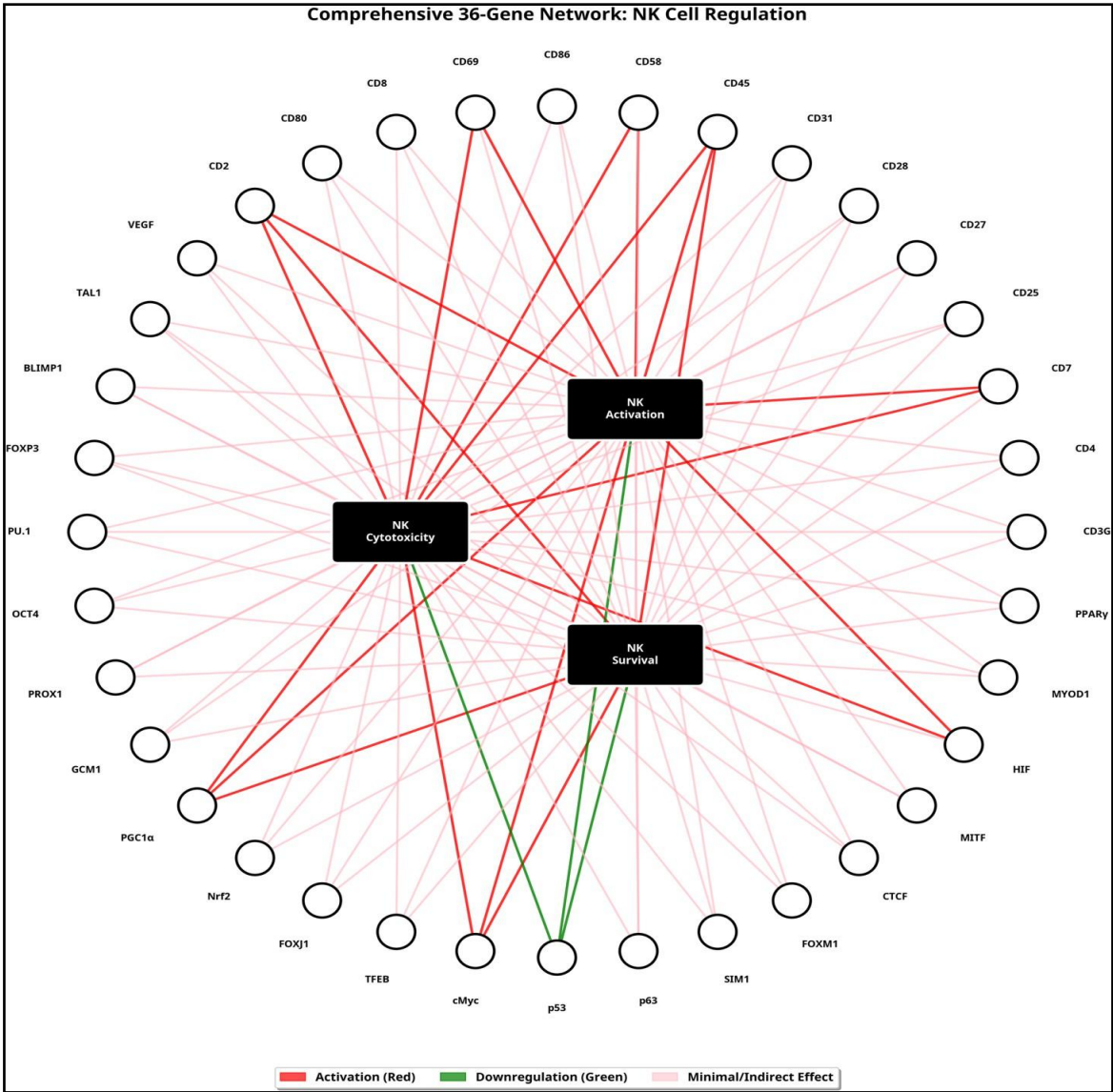


Figure 9. Gene Regulation Network of NK Cell Subsets Original Network Diagram.

Critical Genes for NK Cell Functions:

NK Cell Activation:

PGC1α ↑↑: Enhances metabolic fitness and activation

PPARγ ↑↑↑: Modulates metabolism and activation

CD69 ↑: Early activation marker
 CD58 ↑: Enhances target cell interactions
 CD2 ↑: Enhances activation
 BLIMP1 ↑: Promotes maturation
 cMyc ↑: Promotes proliferation and activation NK Cell Cytotoxicity:
 BLIMP1 ↑: Enhances cytotoxic function
 CD69 ↑: Promotes cytotoxicity
 CD2 ↑: Promotes cytotoxic function
 PGC1α ↑↑: Critical for sustained cytotoxicity
 cMyc ↑: Enhances cytotoxic function
 HIF ↑: Maintains cytotoxicity in hypoxia
 CD58 ↑: Promotes cytotoxic synapse formation

NK Cell Survival:

PPARγ ↑↑↑: Critical for survival and function
 PGC1α ↑↑: Essential for longevity
 HIF ↑: Supports survival in hypoxic environments
 VEGF ↑: Supports survival
 cMyc ↑: Supports expansion
 CD25 ↑/↓: Critical for IL-2-mediated survival

Genes with Negative Effects Downregulated:

CD7 ↓: Reduced activation
 CD27 ↓: Reduced activation and survival detrimental
 CD45 ↓: Altered signaling
 Nrf2 ↓: Reduced antioxidant protection
 TFEB ↓: May affect granule

Hierarchical Regulatory Cascade

One of the most important mechanistic insights from this study is the hierarchical regulatory cascade initiated by Metadichol and its activation of nuclear receptors. This cascade proceeds through multiple levels:

Level 1: Nuclear Receptor Activation Metadichol activates PPARγ and other nuclear receptors, initiating transcriptional programs. [119]

Level 2: Sirtuin Upregulation Nuclear receptors activate sirtuins SIRT1-7, NAD⁺-dependent deacetylases that regulate metabolism, aging, and immune function. [210–212] SIRT1 enhances FOXP3 stability in Tregs 39, while SIRT6 modulates T-cell metabolism and prevents exhaustion. [213]

Level 3: Klotho Activation Sirtuins and nuclear receptors upregulate Klotho, an anti-aging with profound immunomodulatory effects. [214] Klotho suppresses TLR4 signaling via de-glycosylation, reducing inflammatory responses. [215] Klotho also regulates the brain-immune system interface and controls immune cell trafficking. [216]

Level 4: TLR, FOX, and KLF Modulation .

Klotho modulates TLR signaling, [217] activates FOX transcription factors FOXP3, FOXJ1, FOXM1 and regulates KLF factors KLF2, KLF4, KLF10. [218–220] These transcription factors control T-cell differentiation, trafficking, and regulatory function.

Level 5: Circadian Gene Regulation Nuclear receptors and Klotho modulate circadian clock genes CLOCK, BMAL1, PER, CRY, REV-ERB, optimizing immune cell function according to

circadian rhythms 221-223. Circadian modulators can optimize immune timing and enhance vaccine responses. [224–226]

This hierarchical cascade explains the coordinated gene expression changes observed in our analysis and demonstrates Metadichol and its ability to orchestrate complex immune metabolic reprogramming through a single initiating event: nuclear receptor activation. Based on the wide regulation of transcription factors beginning with nuclear receptors we can visualize the nature of the interactions that regulate T , B and NK cells. as shown in Figures 9–11.

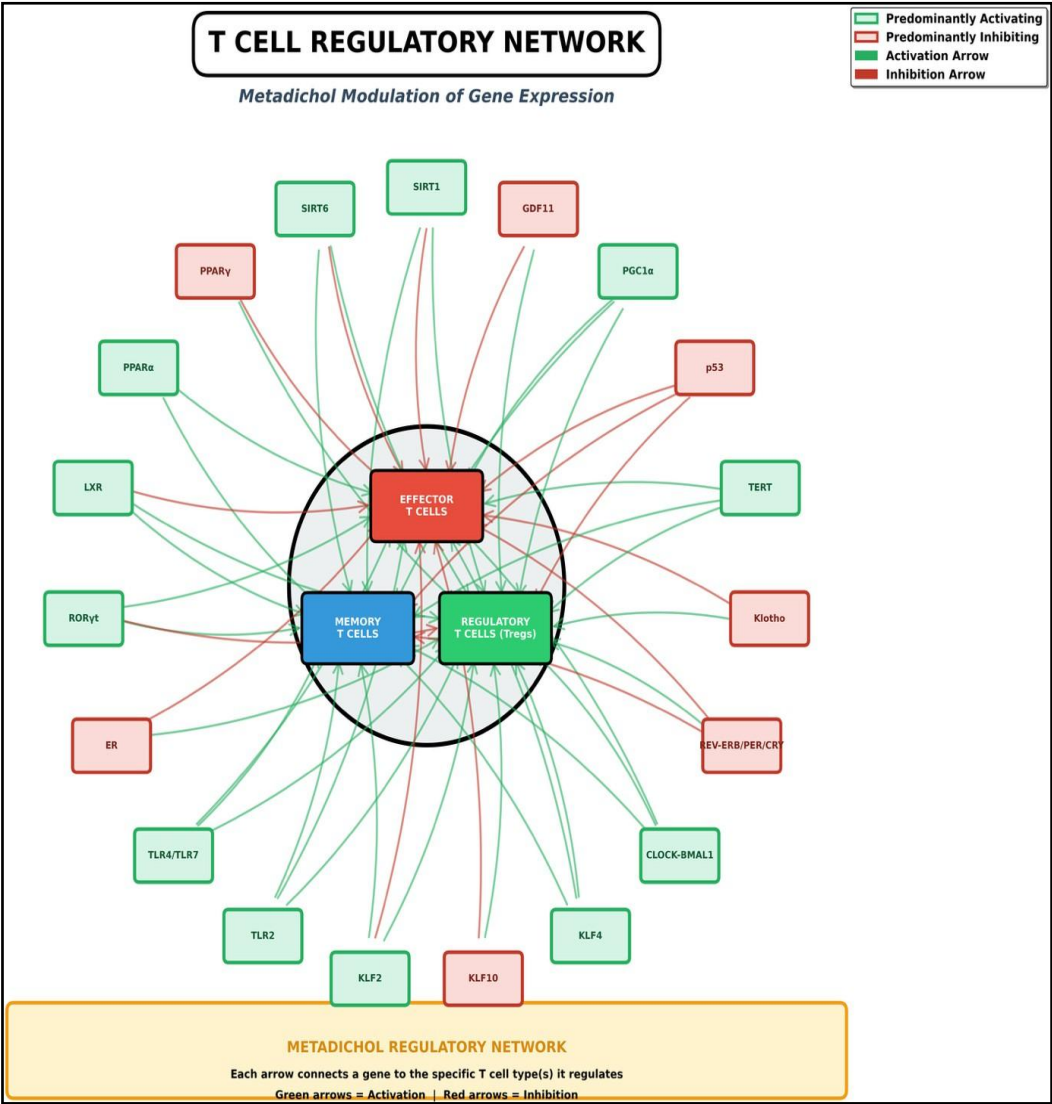


Figure 10. T Cell Network.



Figure 11. B cell network.

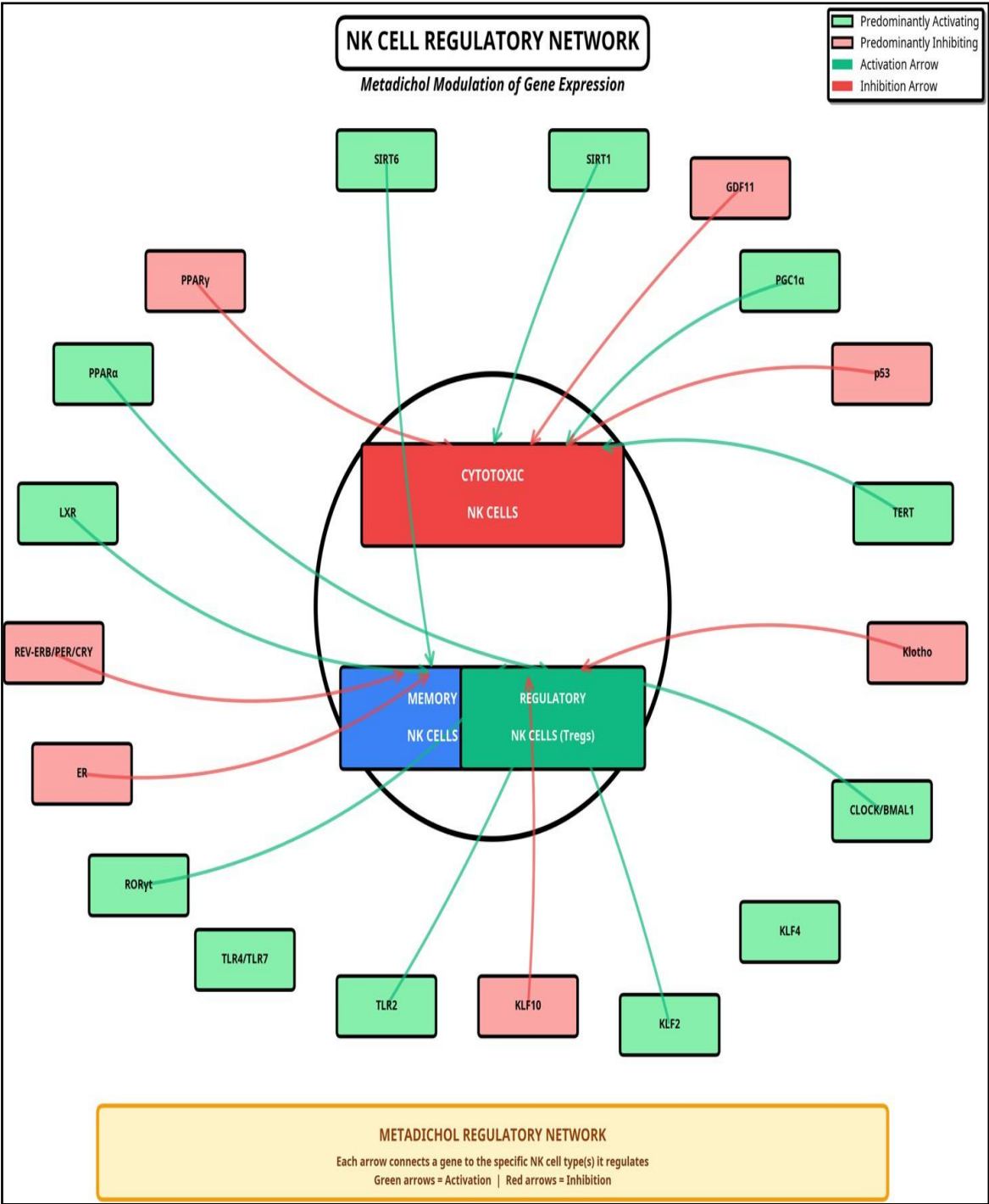


Figure 12. NK cell network.

Metadichol's role as a central orchestrator of eight distinct immunoregulatory pathways Figure 13 that collectively govern T cell, B cell, and NK cell functions. Metadichol depicted as the yellow central hub simultaneously modulates multiple signaling cascades through a balanced combination of activation red arrows and inhibition green arrows mechanisms, demonstrating its unique multi-targeted approach to immune regulation . The activation pathways include the IL-2/STAT5 pathway FOXP3↑, p53↑ driving regulatory T cell Treg development. [4,5,23] The BCR/Plasma Cell pathway BLIMP1↑, PPARγ↑, p53↑ promoting antibody production in B cells [227,230], the p53 checkpoint pathway p53↑, p63↑ ensuring quality control across all lymphocyte populations [231,234], the PPARγ metabolic pathway PPARγ↑, PGC1α↑ providing metabolic support to all lymphocytes [235,238] and the tissue retention pathway CD69↑ facilitating T and NK cell residence in peripheral tissues [239–242]. Conversely, the inhibition pathways comprise the CD28 co-stimulation pathway CD80↓, CD86↓

fine-tuning B-T cell interactions [243–246], the TNF-R/CD27 pathway CD27↓ reducing co-stimulatory signals across B, T, and NK cells [247–250], and the IL-1/IL1R1 pathway PPARγ↑ → IL-1β↓, IL1R1↓ attenuating chronic inflammation in all lymphocyte populations [251–254]

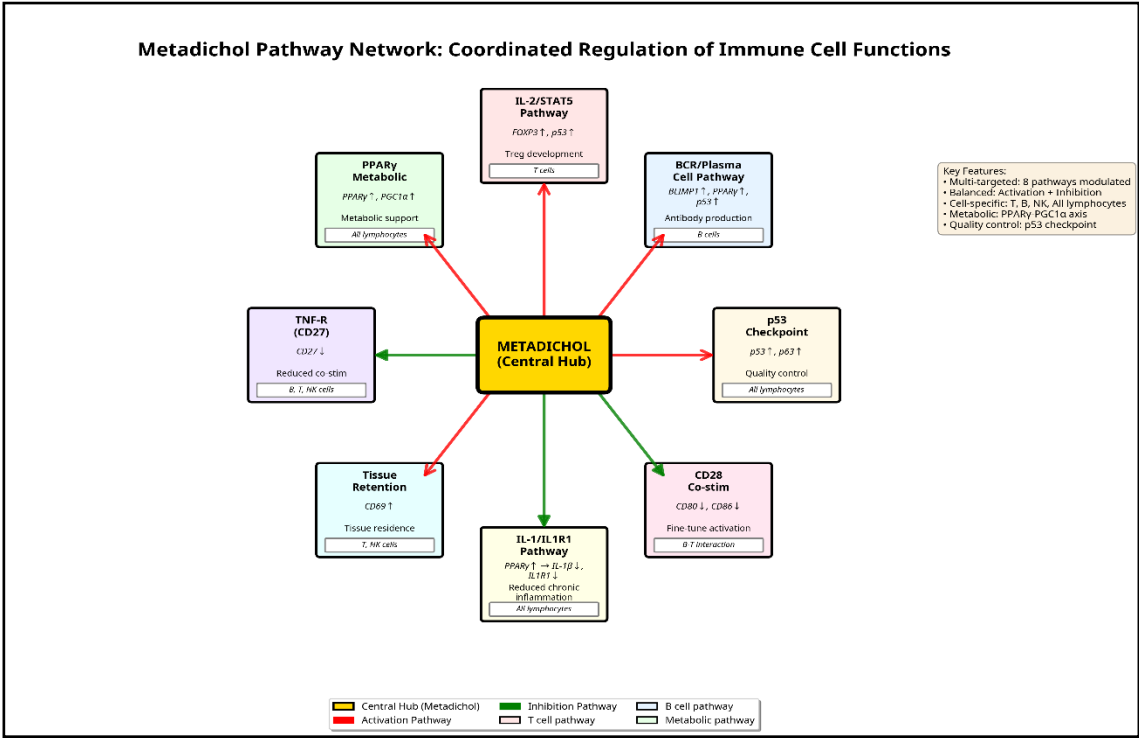


Figure 13. Metadichol Pathway Network.

This comprehensive network architecture reveals Metadichol's capacity to simultaneously enhance anti-tumor immunity through Treg modulation and metabolic reprogramming while preventing excessive inflammation and maintaining immune homeostasis [255–259], thereby representing a systems-level approach to immunotherapy that transcends single-pathway interventions. [260–263] The coordinated regulation of these eight pathways underscores Metadichol's potential as a next-generation immunomodulatory agent capable of addressing the complex, multi-factorial nature of cancer and autoimmune diseases through orchestrated master regulator gene expression modulation..

Comparison with Other Small Molecules in Cancer Immunotherapy

Metadichol’s multi-targeted mechanism distinguishes it from other small molecules used in cancer immunotherapy:

Metformin: While metformin enhances T-cell metabolic fitness and potentiates PD-1 blockade by reducing tumor hypoxia [264], it primarily acts through AMPK activation and does not directly modulate nuclear receptors, sirtuins, or Klotho.

Resveratrol: Resveratrol activates SIRT1 and has anti-inflammatory effects [265], but it does not achieve the broad nuclear receptor activation and coordinated gene expression changes observed with Metadichol.

PPAR Agonists Thiazolidinediones: These drugs activate PPARγ and enhance T-cell FAO [266] but they do not simultaneously activate PGC1α, p53, sirtuins, and Klotho to the extent observed with Metadichol.

Vitamin D: Vitamin D activates the vitamin D receptor VDR, a nuclear receptor, and has immunomodulatory effects. [267]

Metadichol’s uniqueness lies in its ability to simultaneously activate multiple nuclear receptors, leading to coordinated upregulation of metabolic regulators PPARγ, PGC1α, tumor suppressors p53,

anti-aging proteins sirtuins, Klotho, and immune regulatory transcription factors FOX, KLF families. This multi-targeted approach may reduce the risk of resistance and enhance therapeutic efficacy compared to single-target agents.

Clinical Implications and Therapeutic Potential

The findings of this study suggest several potential clinical applications for Metadichol in cancer immunotherapy:

Adjuvant to Immune Checkpoint Blockade: The metabolic reprogramming induced by Metadichol could enhance responses to anti-PD-1/PD-L1 and anti-CTLA-4 therapies by improving T-cell fitness and reducing exhaustion. [268]

Overcoming Metabolic Barriers in the TME(tumor micro environment) : The PPAR γ -PGC1 α -mediated enhancement of FAO and mitochondrial biogenesis could help T-cells overcome the nutrient-depleted, hypoxic conditions in tumors.[269]

Rebalancing Treg/Effector T-cell Ratios: The antagonistic regulation of CDS/FOXP3 could shift the immune balance away from suppression toward anti- tumor immunity. [270]

Low-Dose Efficacy: The observation that optimal gene expression changes occur at 1 pg/mL suggests that Metadichol may be effective at very low doses, potentially minimizing side effects.

Combination with CAR-T Cell Therapy: The metabolic reprogramming effects of Metadichol could enhance CAR-T cell persistence and function, as demonstrated by studies showing that PGC1 α overexpression improves CAR-T cell efficacy. [271]

Summary and Conclusions: Metadichol as a Master Regulator of Immunity

Comprehensive Regulation of Innate and Adaptive Immunity

Metadichol demonstrates a unique and powerful ability to orchestrate a coordinated response across all three major lymphocyte lineages—T cells, B cells, and NK cells—by modulating a network of 36 master regulator genes. . This represents a paradigm shift from single-pathway drugs to a multi-targeted, systems-level approach to immunotherapy.

T-Cell Modulation: Balancing Act for Optimal Immunity

Metadichol fine-tunes T-cell function by simultaneously enhancing the activity of cytotoxic and helper Y cells while mounting a robust anti-tumor response while preventing autoimmunity Key modulations include upregulation of CD4 2.03-fold and CD8 2.15-fold, which enhances helper and cytotoxic T- cell function [23] The upregulation of FOXP3 1.87-fold promotes the development and function of Tregs, the master regulators of immune tolerance.[272] Metabolic reprogramming through upregulation of PPAR γ 24.25-fold and PGC1 α 11.08-fold enhances T-cell metabolic fitness, allowing them to function effectively in the harsh tumor microenvironment. .

B-Cell and NK-Cell Modulation: A Multi-Pronged Attack

Metadichol's influence extends beyond T cells to encompass B cells and NK cells, creating a comprehensive anti-tumor response. Upregulation of BLIMP1 and other key transcription factors promotes the differentiation of B cells into antibody-producing plasma cells, a critical component of the adaptive immune response. [273] Metadichol enhances the cytotoxic potential of NK cells, the frontline defenders of the innate immune system, by upregulating key activating receptors and metabolic regulators. [274]

Mechanism of Action: Nuclear Receptors as the Central Hub

Metadichol's pleiotropic effects are initiated through its interaction with nuclear receptors, which act as the central hub for its regulatory cascade. By activating nuclear receptors, Metadichol triggers a downstream signaling cascade that influences a wide range of transcription factor families, including sirtuins SIRT1-7, master regulators of metabolism, longevity, and inflammation [118–128]. Klotho [275–277], a key anti-aging and metabolic regulator ; TLRs Toll-like receptors, key sensors of

the innate immune system ; and FOX, KLF, and circadian gene families, critical regulators of cell fate, development, and homeostasis. [119–128] This hierarchical mechanism, originating from nuclear receptors, allows Metadichol to exert a broad yet coordinated influence on the entire immune system, a feat not achievable by single-target drugs.

Beyond a Single Pathway

The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Mary Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi for their groundbreaking discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance through regulatory T cells and the FOXP3 gene [1–3]. Their work established that a specific subset of T cells, characterized by CD4 and CD25 expression and controlled by the transcription factor FOXP3, acts as "security guards" to prevent immune attacks against self-tissues .

Metadichol's mechanism represents a significant advancement beyond this paradigm. While the Nobel- winning work focused on the critical role of FOXP3, Metadichol not only upregulates FOXP3 but also modulates the entire family of FOX transcription factors FOXP3, FOXJ1, and FOXM1 and a host of other master regulators. [278] This demonstrates that Metadichol's approach to immune regulation is not limited to a single pathway but is a comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy that orchestrates a harmonious response across the entire immune system. This unique ability to modulate a whole family of critical transcription factors, rather than just one, is what makes Metadichol a truly unique and powerful immunomodulatory agent.

Uniqueness and Therapeutic Potential in Cancer and Immune-Related Diseases.

Metadichol's multi-targeted, systems-level approach to immune regulation makes it a uniquely promising therapeutic agent for a wide range of diseases, particularly cancer and autoimmune disorders. In cancer, Metadichol offers a powerful new strategy for cancer immunotherapy by simultaneously enhancing the function of cytotoxic T cells and NK cells, promoting antibody production by B cells, and rebalancing the immune system to favor anti-tumor responses. The dramatic upregulation of tumor suppressor p53 9.61-fold further enhances its anti-cancer potential.[279] Its ability to overcome the metabolic barriers in the tumor microenvironment through PPAR γ -PGC1 α -mediated enhancement of fatty acid oxidation and mitochondrial biogenesis makes it an ideal candidate for combination therapies with checkpoint inhibitors and CAR-T cells [280] in autoimmune diseases by promoting the function of Tregs and re-establishing immune tolerance. Based on what has been present, we can visualize a pathway of how Metadichol acting through the nuclear receptors and affecting T , B and NK cells can enhance anti-cancer immunity.(Figure 14)

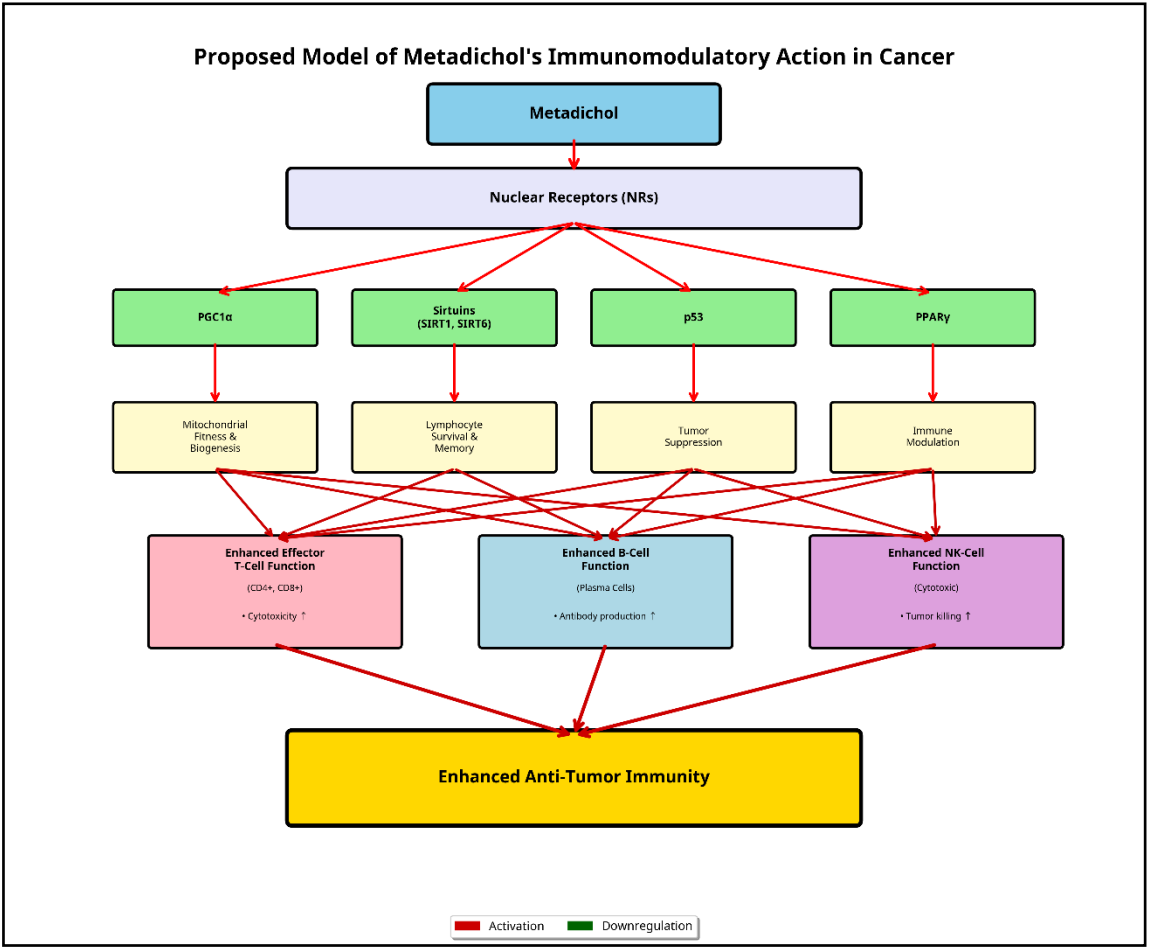


Figure 14.

Additional Mechanisms and Safety Profile

Beyond its core immunomodulatory effects, Metadichol exhibits several other critical properties that enhance its therapeutic profile. Metadichol is remarkably non-toxic, with an LD50 of 5000 mg/kg. [281,282] This high safety margin is a significant advantage for a therapeutic agent intended for chronic use in a wide range of diseases.

Metadichol also regulates the mTOR pathway, [128] a central controller of cell growth, proliferation, and metabolism . Dysregulation of the mTOR pathway is implicated in numerous diseases, including cancer and metabolic disorders. By modulating this pathway, Metadichol adds another layer to its multi-targeted therapeutic strategy.

Metadichol has been shown to increase the expression of CD14 in stem cells. [283] CD14 is a key marker involved in the innate immune response and may play a role in stem cell differentiation and function. This finding suggests that Metadichol's regenerative and immunomodulatory effects may extend to the level of stem cell biology, further highlighting its unique and pervasive mechanism of action.

Conclusions

Metadichol stands out as a first-in-class, pleiotropic immunomodulator that orchestrates wide-ranging transcriptional changes across master regulator genes governing T, B, and NK cell fates, metabolism, and tumor suppression. The study demonstrates that Metadichol elicits potent dose-dependent upregulation of critical metabolic PPAR, PGC1 and tumor suppressor p53 programs, while reshaping immune balance through antagonistic crosstalk between effector CD4, CD8 and suppressor FOXP3, CD25 pathways within human PBMC and fibroblast systems.

At the systems biology level, Metadichol’s ability to activate multiple nuclear receptor cascades, sirtuin networks, Klotho, and Toll-like receptors TLRs represents a profound advance over single-pathway interventions. These data support a model where Metadichol engages and synchronizes multiple chromatin domains and enhancer-promoter loops, likely promoting stable epigenetic remodeling, increased mitochondrial biogenesis, and enhanced metabolic resilience in immune subsets. Such coordination not only improves immune fitness under stress e.g., hypoxic tumor microenvironment but also supports anti-tumor immunity and reduces the immunosuppressive effects of regulatory T-cell accrual.

Moreover, Metadichol’s capacity for selective, cell-type-specific gene modulation—highlighted by its ability to upregulate stem cell and anti-aging markers like CD14 and Klotho and downregulate inflammation and cancer-related TLR pathways—suggests utility far beyond oncology, encompassing regenerative and age-related diseases. Its favorable safety profile nontoxic up to 5000 mg/kg in preclinical models and documented efficacy in antiviral, anti-inflammatory, and disease-modifying contexts further underscore its translational promise, especially as an adjunct or synergistic partner to established checkpoint inhibitors, CAR-T and stem cell technologies.

Clinically, these results argue for a paradigm shift in immunotherapy drug development, prioritizing agents that can globally reprogram immune and metabolic networks while preserving safety and reducing off-target effects. Metadichol not only fills this gap but raises new standards for multi-targeted approaches capable of producing robust, durable therapeutic responses in cancer, immune, infectious, and degenerative diseases.

In summary, Metadichol establishes itself as a versatile master regulator of immune, metabolic, and transcriptional landscapes. Its integrated, hierarchical gene network control, broad-spectrum cell lineage impact, and unprecedented systems-level modulation position it as a cornerstone molecule for 21st-century immunopharmacology, with the potential to transform practice across disciplines—from cancer to regenerative medicine, to healthy aging.

Supplementary: File name: Raw data; q-RT-PCR-analysis of 36 master regulatory genes. Excel spread sheet of gene fold expression changes.

Conflicts of Interest: The author is the founder of Nanorx Inc. and is a major shareholder in the company. This study was conducted independently by an external laboratory on commercial terms to eliminate bias in our results.

Glossary of Abbreviations

CD3G	CD3 gamma subunit of T-cell receptor complex		FOXJ1	forkhead box J1
CD4	CD4 molecule		TFEB	transcription factor EB
CD7	CD7 molecule		Myc	MYC proto-oncogene, bHLH transcription factor
CD25	Interleukin 2 receptor subunit alpha		p53	tumor protein p53
CD27	CD27 molecule		p63	tumor protein p63
CD28	CD28 molecule		SIM1	SIM bHLH transcription factor 1
CD31	platelet and endothelial cell adhesion molecule 1		FOXM1	forkhead box M1

CD45	PTPRC protein tyrosine phosphatase receptor type C		CTCF	CCCTC-binding factor
CD58	CD58 molecule		MITF	melanocyte inducing transcription factor
CD86	CD 86 molecule		HIF1	hypoxia inducible factor 1 subunit alpha
CD69	CD69 molecule		MYOD1	myogenic differentiation 1
CD8	CD8 subunit alpha		PPARg	Pperoxisome proliferator activated receptor gamma
CD80	CD80 molecule		Nrf2	NFE2 like bZIP transcription factor 2
CD2	CD2 molecule		KL	Klotho
VEGF	vascular endothelial growth factor A		PD1	Programed cell death i
TAL1	TAL bHLH transcription factor 1, erythroid differentiation factor		PDL1	Programmed death-ligand 1
BLIMP1	PRDM1 PR/SET domain 1		CTLA	Cytotoxic T-lymphocyte associated protein 4, also known as CD152
FOXP3	forkhead box P3		KLF	Krüppel-like family of transcription factors
PU.1	SPI1 Spi-1 proto-oncogene		Tert	Telomerase reverse Transcriptase
OCT4	POU5F1 POU class 5 homeobox 1		GCM1	glial cells missing transcription factor 1
PROX1	Prospero homeobox 1		PGC1a	PPARG coactivator 1 alpha

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