Response to Influenza Infection in Mice with a Targeted Disruption in the Interferon γ Gene

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Summary

Interferon γ (IFN-γ) is a pleiotropic cytokine secreted by T lymphocytes and natural killer (NK) cells and has been noted to be a first line of host defense in the control of viral infections. To examine further the role of this cytokine in the control of viral infections, mice with a targeted mutation in the IFN-γ gene were infected with influenza virus, and the in vivo antibody and cell-mediated immune response to viral infection were examined. In addition, cell lines and clones were derived from the immunized animals and the in vitro cytokine production and cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) response were analyzed. The absence of IFN-γ led to increased production of influenza-specific IgG1, IL-4, and IL-5 as compared to wild-type littermate control animals. In contrast, there was no difference noted in the development of an effective CTL response between IFN-γ-deficient and wild-type animals. In this model of experimental influenza infection, IFN-γ is not necessary for the development of an effective humoral or cellular immune response to challenge with this respiratory virus.

IFN-γ, also known as immune or type II interferon, is a pleiotropic cytokine secreted by T lymphocytes and NK cells. It has long been believed to be a first line of host defense in the control of viral infections. Its effects are multifaceted and include both direct and indirect activities. The direct antiviral activity attributed to IFN-γ, as well as to IFN-α and IFN-β, includes the induction of proteins and enzymes that inhibit viral multiplication by impairing accumulation of viral-specific mRNA, double-stranded RNA, and proteins (1). In addition, class I MHC-restricted CTL have been shown to secrete IFN-γ upon antigenic stimulation (2–4) and the differentiation of precursors to activated CTL has been reported to be dependent on the action of IFN-γ (5, 6). The indirect effects of IFN-γ include inhibition of cell growth and up-regulation of class I and II MHC molecules on APC, specifically macrophages (7, 8). IFN-γ may also regulate antigen processing by augmenting the proteolysis and peptide transport machinery in APC (9, 10).

The role of CTL in the host defense to influenza infection has been examined by a number of investigators (11–16). Both heterogeneous populations of immune spleen cells and cloned influenza-specific CTL have been shown to lyse virally infected, MHC-matched target cells in vitro and to reduce lung virus titers and promote survival after adoptive transfer to influenza virus-infected mice in vivo. The role of secreted cytokines by activated CTL, most notably IFN-γ, in the observed in vitro and in vivo antiviral effects has been unclear, and the relative importance of direct cytolysis versus soluble factors released by CTL has not been definitively determined. Although it has been suggested that CTL mediate their antiviral protective effects in vivo via direct cytolysis of virus-infected cells (16), the potential role of soluble mediators released by the clones in high local concentrations could not be ruled out as playing a significant role in recovery from influenza infection. The role that IFN-γ plays in clearance of influenza virus mediated by CD4+ MHC class II-restricted cytotoxic T cells is even less clear. In general, CD4+ cytotoxic T cells that have been shown to exhibit cytolytic effector functions in vitro and in vivo have belonged to the Th1 subset of murine helper T cell clones (17, 18, and Graham, M. B., unpublished observations) which secrete IFN-γ and IL-2 upon stimulation (19). These MHC class II-restricted CTL have been shown to promote virus clearance when adoptively transferred into influenza-infected animals.

Recently, it has become possible to directly examine the role of cytokines in immune and inflammatory responses using gene disruption strategies (20–22). In this report, we examine the in vivo cellular and humoral immune response to infection with type A influenza virus in mice with a targeted mutation in the IFN-γ gene. In addition, the in vitro and in vivo antiviral effector activities of virus-specific cytolytic T lymphocytes derived from these animals are compared with
those of wild-type (WT) littermates for antiviral activity in adoptive transfer. We show that IFN-γ is not necessary for either recovery from experimental influenza infection or for the in vivo effector activity of influenza-specific CD4+ or CD8+ cytotoxic T cells which are cytolytic in vitro and protective in vivo.

Materials and Methods

Animals. Male (8-9 wk of age) and female (6-7 wk of age) mice homozygous for a targeted disruption of the IFN-γ gene (IFN-γ−/−, H-2b) and WT littermates (IFN-γ+/+, H-2b) were derived as previously described (23). Murine pathogen-free male and female C57Bl/6 (H-2b) 4-6-wk-old mice were purchased from Taconic Farms, Inc. (Germantown, NY) and used at 6-9 wk of age.

Viruses. Influenza virus strain A/JAP/57 (A/Japan/305/57 [H1N1]) was grown in the allantoic cavity of 10-d-old embryonated hen eggs and stored as infectious allantoic fluid as previously described (24). Determination of virus titer, expressed as hemagglutinating units (HAU), was done as previously described (24).

Peptide. The peptide corresponding to residues 366-379 of the influenza A/JAP/57 nucleoprotein (NP 366-379) was produced manually by the rapid amino acid multiple peptide synthesizer system (DuPont Co., Wilmington, DE) and dissolved in DMSO (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO) before final dilution in tissue culture medium.

Cell Lines. The EL-4 (H-2b) thymoma was maintained in RPMI (GIBCO BRL, Gaithersburg, MD) supplemented with 10% (vol/vol) heat-inactivated FCS (HIFCS; Hyclone Laboratories, Logan, UT), 1% glutamine (GIBCO BRL) and antibiotics (10 U/ml penicillin G and 10 μg/ml streptomycin sulfate; GIBCO BRL). The LB15.13 (H-2b) B cell hybridoma was maintained in high glucose DMEM, 10% HIFCS, 1% glutamine, 1% nonessential amino acids, 0.5% sodium pyruvate (all from GIBCO BRL), 5 × 10⁻³ M 2-ME, and antibiotics.

Immunization and Collection of Serum. Six 8-wk-old female IFN-γ−/− mice and six age-matched WT littermate female mice were bled via tail veins before immunization intraperitoneally with a 1:10 dilution of A/JAP/57 allantoic fluid (5 × 10⁵ HAU) in PBS. Mice were then bled on days 7, 14, 21, and 28 after immunization. Two mice from each group were killed on day 7 for analysis of in vivo primary cytolytic activity (see Results). The remaining four mice from each group were killed two at a time on days 21 and 28.

Establishment and Maintenance of T Lymphocyte Bulk Cultures and Clones. The procedures developed to establish and maintain influenza-specific bulk cultures clones are described in detail elsewhere (25) with a few minor modifications. Briefly, spleen cells from immunized IFN-γ−/− and IFN-γ+/+ (described above) were harvested 1, 3, or 4 wk after immunization. In vitro secondary bulk cultures from individual mice were established by infecting one third of the autologous spleen cells with influenza A/JAP/57, combining these cells with the two-thirds uninfected splenocytes, and culturing the cells at a density of 5 × 10⁶ cells per ml for 14 d in IMDM (GIBCO BRL), 10% HIFCS, 1% glutamine, 5 × 10⁻³ M 2-ME, and antibiotics (complete media). Subsequently, the bulk cultures were stimulated in vitro with influenza A/JAP/57 virus-infected, γ-irradiated (2,000 rad) C57Bl/6 spleen cells every 14 d with 10 U/ml human recombinant IL-2 (huRIL-2); Biosource In-ternational, Inc., Camarillo, CA) in complete media. Clones were derived by limiting dilution of viable cells from in vitro secondary bulk cultures. Clones were selected, expanded, and maintained in the presence of influenza A/JAP/57 virus-infected, γ-irradiated C57Bl/6 spleen cells in complete media with 10 U/ml huRIL-2. The clones were restimulated every 7 d in six-well cluster tissue culture plates (model 3506; Costar Corp., Cambridge, MA) containing 10⁶/ml clone cells, 5 × 10⁶/ml infected, irradiated C57Bl/6 spleen cells, and 10 U/ml huRIL-2 in complete media.

Cytokine Production. Supernatants were collected from in vitro secondary bulk cultures 48 h after stimulation and frozen at −20°C. Supernatants from clones were harvested 48 h after stimulation in the absence of huRIL-2 and frozen at −20°C. Production of IFN-γ was assayed by ELISA as previously described (26) using Immulon 96-well flat-bottom plates (Dynatech Laboratories, Inc., Chantilly, VA). Production of IL-2, IL-4, and IL-5 was determined using murine cytokine immunoassay test kits (InterTest-2X mouse IL-2 ELISA kit from Genzyme Corp., Cambridge, MA; and murine IL-4 ELISA and murine IL-5 ELISA kits from Endogen, Inc., Boston, MA). ELISA plates were read using an automated microplate reader (model EL 340; Bio Tek Instruments, Inc., Winooski, VT).

Serum Ig Production. ELISA plates were prepared by coating Immulon 96-well flat-bottom plates (Dynatech Laboratories, Inc.) with 10⁶ HAU influenza A/JAP/57 allantoic fluid in 100 μl PBS (pH 7.3) per well. Plates were covered and stored overnight at 4°C. The plates were then washed three times with 1× ELISA wash buffer (0.02 M Na₂HPO₄, 0.1 M Na₂HPO₄, 1.5 M NaCl, and 0.5% Tween 20, pH 7.4). Plates were blocked for 1 h with ELISA working and blocking buffer (2% BSA and 0.1% Tween 20 in 1× PBS, pH 7.3). Plates were washed three times, and serial dilutions of sera from each animal (diluted in working buffer) were added to the plate and incubated for 2 h at 37°C. Plates were washed three times, a 1:1,000 dilution of alkaline phosphatase-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG1 or IgG2a (Southern Biotechnology Associates, Birmingham, AL) was added to each well, and plates were incubated for 2 h at 37°C. The plates were washed a final three times, 1 mg/ml p-nitrophenyl phosphate disodium (Sigma Chemical Co.) in substrate buffer (1 M diethanolamine, 0.1 mg/ml MgCl₂, and 0.2% NaN₃) was added to each well, and a color change was allowed to develop for 1 h. OD read at 415 nm on an ELISA microplate reader (Bio Tek Instruments, Inc.).

Assays for Cell-mediated Cytotoxicity. The 51Cr-release cytotoxicity assay was carried out as previously described (24). Briefly, 10⁶ target cells, either EL-4 or LB15.13, were either left uninfected, infected with influenza A/JAP/57, or pulsed with 1.0 μg/ml NP 366-379 in the presence of 50 Cr for 1.5 h at 37°C. Targets were then washed three times and plated at 5 × 10⁴ cells per well in 96-well, flat-bottom, microtiter tissue culture plates in 0.1-ml vol of RPMI plus 10% HIFCS. Effector cells were added in a 0.1-ml vol of RPMI plus 10% HIFCS to appropriate wells in quadruplicate. E/T ratios ranged from 5:1 to 100:1, depending on the assay. The plates were incubated at 37°C in 10% CO₂ for 3 h. From each well, 0.1 ml of supernatant was removed and counted on a gamma counter (Isomedic; ICN Biomedicals, Inc., Costa Mesa, CA). The percent specific lysis was determined as previously described (16). SEM were always <5% of the mean value and are omitted.

Intranasal Influenza Virus Inoculation. Intranasal inoculation of mice was performed as previously described (16). The procedure was modified from that described by using light anesthesia from methoxyflurane (Pitman-Moore, Mundelein, IL). To evaluate a dose–response to intranasal virus, animals received serial 10-fold dilutions of allantoic fluid in cold PBS ranging from 10⁻² to 10⁻⁶.
and animals were watched daily for morbidity and/or mortality. LD₉₀ values were calculated according to a modified Spearman and Karber method (27).

Adaptive Transfer Procedure. Adoptive transfer of day 6 viable cloned cells was performed as previously described (16). 9-wk-old male C57Bl/6 mice were intranasally inoculated with 10 LD₉₀ influenza A/Japan/57 virus and within 30 min, 10⁷ clone cells in 0.5 ml IMDM (GIBCO BRL) were injected intravenously. Control mice were injected intravenously with 0.5 ml IMDM alone. Mice were watched daily for 21 d for morbidity and/or mortality.

**Results**

Ability of IFN-γ-deficient Mice and WT Littermates to Generate a Cytotoxic T Cell Response to Challenge with Influenza. To evaluate the role of IFN-γ in the murine host response to infectious influenza virus, we immunized H-2b haplotype mice generated with a targeted mutation in the IFN-γ gene, and with no demonstrable IFN-γ production, and their WT littermates. Six female mice homozygous for the mutation in the IFN-γ gene, designated IFN-γ-deficient, and six WT female littermates were initially analyzed for the ability to mount a CTL response to immunization with influenza A/Japan/57 virus. In vitro secondary bulk cultures of immune splenocytes from both IFN-γ-deficient and WT animals were able to lyse virally infected targets with similar efficiencies (Fig. 1). In addition, MHC class II-negative, H-2Db-expressing EL4 cells treated with a synthetic peptide corresponding to type common influenza NP were also recognized equally well by IFN-γ-deficient and WT bulk cultures. This peptide (amino acid 366-379) mimics an immunodominant epitope on the NP recognized by class I MHC-restricted T lymphocytes from H-2b haplotype mice in association with H-2Db (28). Analysis of in vivo primary CTL responses by standard chromium release assay did not reveal demonstrable influenza-specific CTL from either IFN-γ-deficient or WT littermates (data not shown).

Cytokine Production by In Vitro Secondary Bulk Cultures from IFN-γ-deficient and WT Mice. To ensure that splenocytes from immunized IFN-γ-deficient mice did not produce any measurable IFN-γ, supernatants from in vitro secondary bulk cultures were analyzed for the production of IFN-γ. As expected, IFN-γ-deficient bulk cultures released no detectable IFN-γ, whereas bulk cultures from WT animals produced variable amounts of IFN-γ (Table 1). The same supernatants were then analyzed for the production of IL-2, IL-4, and IL-5 (Table 1). In the absence of IFN-γ, the production of IL-4 and IL-5 was significantly higher than that in WT bulk cultures. There was no statistical difference in the amounts of IL-2 produced by the IFN-γ-deficient bulk cultures versus those from WT animals. Subsequent stimulation of bulk cultures with irradiated, virus-infected splenocytes from WT mice yielded identical results (data not shown). Stimulation of IFN-γ-deficient cultures with irradiated, infected splenocytes from normal mice that have an intact IFN-γ gene, did not alter the cytokine production profile of the cultures.

Humoral Immune Response to Immunization with Influenza Virus in IFN-γ-deficient and WT Mice. IFN-γ has been reported to be crucial in antibody class switch during the maturation of a humoral immune response (29, 30). To assess the impact of IFN-γ in determining the humoral immune response of the animals to immunization with influenza, mice were inoculated parenterally with influenza virus, and sera from serial bleeds of the immunized animals was assayed for influenza-specific IgG1 and IgG2a antibodies (Table 2). In mice lacking IFN-γ, the IgG1 antibody response to type A influenza was significantly higher than the response of the WT animals. This finding is in agreement with previous studies (29) that have shown that IFN-γ blocks the ability of B cells to respond to IL-4, thereby decreasing synthesis of IgG1 and IgE. Thus, in the absence of IFN-γ and an increased production of IL-4 (Table 1), antibody class switch

![Graph](image)

**Figure 1.** Recognition of target cells by in vitro secondary bulk splenocyte cultures derived from IFN-γ-deficient (IFN-γ⁻/⁻) and wild-type (IFN-γ⁺/+⁻) littermate mice. Secondary bulk cultures derived from IFN-γ⁻/⁻ mice (open columns) or from IFN-γ⁺/+⁻ mice (hatched columns) were tested for reactivity on mock (uninfected), A/Japan/57-infected, or NP366-379 peptide-treated (1 μg/ml) EL-4 target cells. E/T ratios are shown under each column. SEM depicted by error bars. Spontaneous release from mock- and peptide-treated EL-4 cells was <15%. Spontaneous release from A/Japan/57-infected EL-4 cells was <20%.

| Cytokine produced | IFN-γ⁻/⁻ | IFN-γ⁺/+⁻ |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| IFN-γ (U/ml)      | None detectable | 154.8 (72.3)⁶⁵ |
| IL-2 (pg/ml)      | 408.3 (279.4) | 150.0 (75) |
| IL-4 (pg/ml)      | 342.2 (64.8)⁴ | 66.8 (31.1) |
| IL-5 (pg/ml)      | 1,846.7 (611.6)⁵ | 605 (140.75) |

⁴ 48-h culture supernatants from in vitro secondary bulk splenocyte cultures were assayed on at least two separate occasions for cytokine production by ELISA.

¹ Values equal the average amount of each cytokine produced by six separate IFN-γ⁻/⁻ bulk cultures and six separate IFN-γ⁺/+⁻ bulk cultures. SEM for each set of data are shown in parentheses.

**Table 1.** Cytokine Production by In Vitro Secondary Bulk Splenocyte Cultures Derived from IFN-γ-deficient (IFN-γ⁻/⁻) and Wild Type (IFN-γ⁺/+⁻) Littermate Mice

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Table 2. Influenza Virus-specific Antibody Production in IFN-γ Deficient and WT Littermate Mice

| Ab production (OD~ls) | Serum dilution | WT group | IFN-γ-deficient group |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------|----------------------|
|                        |                |          |                      |
| IgG1                  | 1:100          | 0.51 (0.14) | 0.99 (0.13)          |
|                       | 1:200          | 0.42 (0.08) | 0.96 (0.10)          |
|                       | 1:400          | 0.38 (0.06) | 0.87 (0.08)          |
|                       | 1:800          | 0.33 (0.04) | 0.70 (0.08)          |
|                       | 1:1600         | 0.25 (0.03) | 0.50 (0.06)          |
|                       | 1:3200         | 0.16 (0.02) | 0.30 (0.04)          |
| IgG2a                 | 1:100          | 1.51 (0.22) | 1.08 (0.19)          |
|                       | 1:200          | 1.45 (0.20) | 1.01 (0.21)          |
|                       | 1:400          | 1.30 (0.17) | 0.86 (0.20)          |
|                       | 1:800          | 1.10 (0.15) | 0.69 (0.17)          |
|                       | 1:1600         | 0.82 (0.11) | 0.50 (0.14)          |
|                       | 1:3200         | 0.54 (0.07) | 0.33 (0.09)          |

* P-value for comparison of the two groups for IgG1 production: 0.005.
P-value for comparison of the two groups for IgG2a production: 0.14.
1 All sera collected on day 14 after immunization.
$ Values represent the mean OD of four animals from each group with SEM in parentheses.

Figure 2. Recognition of target cells by clones derived from IFN-γ-deficient and WT littermate mice. (a) EL-4 or (b) LB15.13 target cells were 51Cr labeled and either left uninfected, treated with NP 366-379 (1 µg/ml), or infected with A/JAPAN/57. Clones B1.11 (□), W-16G8 (□), G-11D6 (□), G-11E4 (□), and G-4D7 (□) were added for a final E/T ratio of 5:1. Spontaneous release for all target cells was <15%. Data is representative of multiple assays performed with these cells.

to IgG1 is favored. Although the production of IgG2a was slightly diminished in the IFN-γ-deficient animals, the level was not significantly lower than the amount made by the WT animals. This result is in keeping with previous in vitro studies which examined the effect of neutralizing anti-IFN-γ antibody on isotype switch during humoral immune responses (31). Analysis of preimmune serum samples from these animals revealed no detectable levels of influenza-specific IgG1 or IgG2a (data not shown).

**Evaluation of In Vitro and In Vivo Effector Function of Clones from IFN-γ-deficient and WT Animals.** To investigate further the role of IFN-γ in determining in vitro and in vivo function of T cells derived from infected IFN-γ-deficient and WT animals, T cell clones were derived by limiting dilution from in vitro secondary bulk cultures (see Materials and Methods). A total of 38 clones from IFN-γ-deficient WT animals were analyzed for cytolytic potential, antigen specificity, and MHC restriction. Five representative clones were chosen for further in vitro and in vivo analyses, one CD4+ MHC class II restricted and two CD8+ MHC class I restricted clones from the IFN-γ-deficient bulk cultures and two CD8+ MHC class I restricted clones from the WT bulk were selected on the basis of their ability to lyse virally infected H-2b MHC class I or II expressing target cells. IFN-γ-deficient clones G-11D6 and G-11E4, and WT clones W-16G8 and B1.11 express CD8 as assessed by flow cytometry (data not shown) and lyse virally infected EL-4 cells and EL-4 cells treated with the D-restricted NP366-379 peptide (Fig. 2). EL-4 cells express only class I MHC molecules of the H-2b haplotype. The IFN-γ deficient clone G-4D7 expresses CD4 as assessed by flow cytometry (data not shown). This T lymphocyte clone was unable to lyse virally infected or peptide-treated EL-4 targets, but did lyse virally infected LB15.13 target cells which express both MHC class I and II for H-2b haplotype (Fig. 2). All of these clones have been stable in culture for more than 6 mo. None of the clones from IFN-γ-deficient mice secreted measurable levels of IFN-γ, whereas clones W-16G8 and B1.11 produced 64 U/ml and 72 U/ml IFN-γ upon stimulation, respectively. Clones G-11E4, G-11D6, W-16G8, and B1.11 had no detectable levels of IL-2, IL-4, or IL-5, whereas the CD4+ IFN-γ-deficient clone G-4D7 secreted measurable levels of IL-2, IL-4, and IL-5 (159, 59, and 960 pg/ml, respectively).

Our laboratory has previously examined the ability of cloned CTL to promote recovery after transfer into lethally infected animals by adoptive transfer experiments (16). To assess the function of CTL clones lacking a functional IFN-γ gene, cloned T cells from the mutant and WT mice were adaptively transferred into histocompatible C57BL/6 mice challenged with a lethal intranasal inoculation of influenza (Fig. 3). The three IFN-γ-deficient clones G-4D7, G-11D6, and
Figure 3. Adoptive transfer of clones derived from IFN-γ-deficient and WT littermate mice into lethally challenged C57Bl/6 mice. Within 30 min of intranasal inoculation of a lethal dose of A/JAPAN/57 into C57Bl/6 mice, 10^7 clone cells (day 6 after stimulation) were injected intravenously. Mice were observed for 21 d for morbidity and mortality. Clones G-4D7 (●), G-11D6 (●), G-11E4 (A), and B1.11 (O) were injected into groups of six animals each. Clone W-16G8 (□) was injected into three animals, and 14 control animals (■) received no clone.

Discussion

IFN-γ is a pleiotropic cytokine with wide-ranging immunomodulatory effector functions. In this model of experimental influenza infection, its absence did lead to differential antibody response and cytokine production as compared with controls, but did not affect the development of an effective cell-mediated immune response to a respiratory virus. The role that IFN-γ plays in differentiation of precursors into CTL, thereby influencing the cell-mediated immune response, has been controversial. Originally it was thought that IFN-γ was an essential cofactor in these precursors and was necessary for CD8^+ T cells to acquire cytolytic activity (5, 6). Other studies have indicated that IFN-γ is not necessary for the induction of CTL in MLC and that IL-2 is the prime cytokine needed for growth and differentiation of CTL (32, 33). Additional lines of investigation have also implicated IL-4 as a prime inducer of CTL (34, 35). In the bulk cultures generated from IFN-γ-deficient mice, variable amounts of both IL-2 and IL-4 were produced, thus potentially playing a significant role in the generation of cytotoxic T cells in these populations in the absence of IFN-γ.

The results of the adoptive transfer experiment are consistent with speculations made previously by our laboratory that in experimental influenza infection, direct cytolysis of virally infected cells may be the primary mechanism by which clonal populations of CD8^+ CTL express their antiviral effector activity in vivo (16). Similarly, IFN-γ-deficiency did not have a significant impact on recovery from infection in this experimental model for influenza infection. As shown previously, IFN-γ-deficient mice are unable to control infection with the intracellular mycobacterium, Mycobacterium bovis (BCG strain) (23). Also, IFN-γ receptor-deficient mice have been shown to be unable to control infection with the intracellular bacterium, Listeria monocytogenes (36). Furthermore, in experimental vaccinia virus infection, vaccinia virus is le-
thl cells promotes IgG2a synthesis, neutralization of IFN-y since it has been shown that although IFN-γ produced by B cells, stimulating B cell proliferation and active Ig secretion and isotype switch from IgM to IgG2a (29). IgG2a synthesis may be promoted by other cytokines, such as IL-2, enhancing the ability to combat intracellular infections (30). In these experiments, the viral-specific IgG1 antibody response was significantly higher in the IFN-γ-deficient versus the WT animal, presumably reflecting increased production of IL-4 in the absence of IFN-γ and therefore a greater switch to IgG1 production (20).

In conclusion, we have shown that animals lacking endogenous production of IFN-γ do not differ significantly from mice that make IFN-γ normally when challenged with influenza virus. Although deficient in IFN-γ, these animals express functional IFN-α and IFN-β. Activities of these potent antiviral effectors could potentially account for the lack of differences observed. In addition, cloned CD4+ and CD8+ influenza-specific T cells do not require IFN-γ to lyse virally infected target cells in vitro or to clear influenza infection in vivo. The availability of cloned CTL from IFN-γ-deficient mice with in vitro and in vivo functional activities will enable us to study further the role different cytokines play in determining these effector mechanisms.

The authors thank Lois Perry for secretarial help and the Beirne B. Carter Foundation for its continuing support.

This work was supported by U.S. Public Health Service grants AI-15608, AI-28317, HL-33931 (T. J. Braciale), and a Physician Scientist Award AI-01086 (M. B. Graham).

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Received for publication 13 July 1993.

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