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Targeting Sepsis One Step at a Time

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Targeting Sepsis One Step at a Time

By: Rachel Low

Sepsis remains one of the greatest challenges in intensive care units with its high mortality and prevalence across the world. Patients that survive the initial “cytokine storm” where patients experience an extreme response to infection caused by high levels of inflammation, transition to the opposite extreme of immune tolerance which leaves patients vulnerable to potentially lethal secondary infections that their immune system cannot fight off. While the initial infection and inflammation can be mitigated, there is an on-going need for the development of treatments to prevent or reverse immune tolerance. Therefore, the aim of my research is to better understand the mechanism of immune tolerance and establish better therapeutic options for septic patients.