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The versatile nature of MIF (macrophage migration inhibitory factor) in chronic lung diseases

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Stellingen / Propositions

Belonging to this PhD thesis

The versatile nature of MIF in chronic lung diseases

by Laura Florez Sampedro

1. *“Most of us are unaware that our bodies are engaged in a perpetual struggle to maintain our existence in a reasonably functional state. Dis-harmony creates Dis-ease” (Ethne Barnes in “Diseases and human evolution”).* Due to the constant exposure of the lung to the exterior (air) it requires regulated immune responses that are strong against harmful agents but controlled enough to not overreact and alter the tissue function (*This thesis*).
2. Innate immune cells play key roles in the lung by maintaining homeostasis, responding to allergic stimuli, and orchestrating wound healing (*This thesis*).
3. MIF is a cytokine constitutively and ubiquitously expressed in the body. Despite its association with chronic (lung) diseases, its diverse functions define it as a pleiotropic cytokine and therefore should not be catalogued as “proinflammatory” (*This thesis*).
4. The role MIF plays in chronic lung diseases is defined by the cellular context and the particular alterations that characterize each disease (*This thesis*).
5. Cellular patterns of protein presence are equally or more important than determining the differences in levels of expression, as evidenced with MIF (*This thesis*).
6. The ability to speculate about mechanisms that explain biological phenomena is as important as the skill of objectively interpreting data. Hypotheses are the beginning of all research.
7. Observing natural phenomena in detail and with curiosity is the basis for successful scientific practices. Observational studies are therefore as valuable as mechanistic ones and should not be dismissed.
8. *“...If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life thinking that it is stupid” (Albert Einstein).* And if you judge a person just by their knowledge, you will miss what is truly essential: the potential to apply knowledge and a good attitude for learning.
9. An academic career involves strong personal and psychological struggles. The fact that they are common does not make it any less painful for the people that experience them. Ignoring these issues will only hamper scientific advancement.