

## IN BRIEF

**RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS****The lung as a site for anti-CCP generation?**

In a study of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and first degree relatives (FDRs) of patients with RA, 70% (14 of 20) and 25% (17 of 67), respectively, tested positive for anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (anti-CCP) antibodies in their sputum, including some FDRs who were seronegative. In FDRs, elevated sputum levels of anti-CCP antibodies were associated with elevated numbers of macrophages and neutrophils and increased levels of neutrophil extracellular traps in the sputum.

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** Demoruelle, M. K. *et al.* Anti-citrullinated protein antibodies are associated with neutrophil extracellular traps in the sputum in relatives of rheumatoid arthritis patients. *Arthritis Rheumatol.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/art.40066> (2017)

**VASCULITIS SYNDROMES****Shared genetic risk for Behçet disease and Crohn's disease**

Genotyping analysis of a Turkish cohort of 1,900 patients with Behçet disease and 1,779 controls, in addition to two replication cohorts, adds *ADO-EGR2*, *RIPK2*, *LACC1*, and *IRF8* to the list of known susceptibility loci shared by Behçet disease and Crohn's disease. A number of immune-related loci, such as *IL1A-IL1B* and *FUT2*, were also associated with Behçet disease, implicating the host response to microbial exposure in susceptibility to Behçet disease.

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** Takeuchi, M. *et al.* Dense genotyping of immune-related loci implicates host responses to microbial exposure in Behçet's disease susceptibility. *Nat. Genet.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/ng.3786> (2017)

**RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS****Sirukumab effective in patients refractory to anti-TNF therapy**

In the phase III SIRROUND-T study, treatment with the IL-6-specific antibody sirukumab was well tolerated and showed clinical efficacy in patients with RA refractory to anti-TNF therapy. At week 16, 40% (117 of 292) of patients treated with 50 mg sirukumab every 4 weeks and 45% (132 of 292) of patients treated with 100 mg sirukumab every 2 weeks achieved the primary outcome of  $\geq 20\%$  improvement according to ACR criteria (ACR20 response), compared with 24% (71 of 294) of patients treated with placebo. Adverse event incidences were similar across groups, with the most common being injection-site erythema.

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** Aletaha, D. *et al.* Efficacy and safety of sirukumab in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis refractory to anti-TNF therapy (SIRROUND-T): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group, multinational, phase 3 study. *Lancet* [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(17\)30401-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)30401-4) (2017)

**RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS****Baricitinib more effective than adalimumab**

Treatment with baricitinib, an orally administered inhibitor of Janus kinases 1 and 2, improved clinical features in patients with active RA and an inadequate response to methotrexate, and was more effective than adalimumab or placebo. 70% of patients treated with 4mg baricitinib daily achieved an ACR20 response by week 12, compared with 61% of those treated with 40mg adalimumab every other week and 40% of the placebo group. Baricitinib treatment also improved radiographic progression of joint damage, and was associated with reduced neutrophil counts and increased levels of creatinine and LDL cholesterol.

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** Taylor, P. C. *et al.* Baricitinib versus placebo or adalimumab in rheumatoid arthritis. *N. Engl. J. Med.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1608345> (2017)