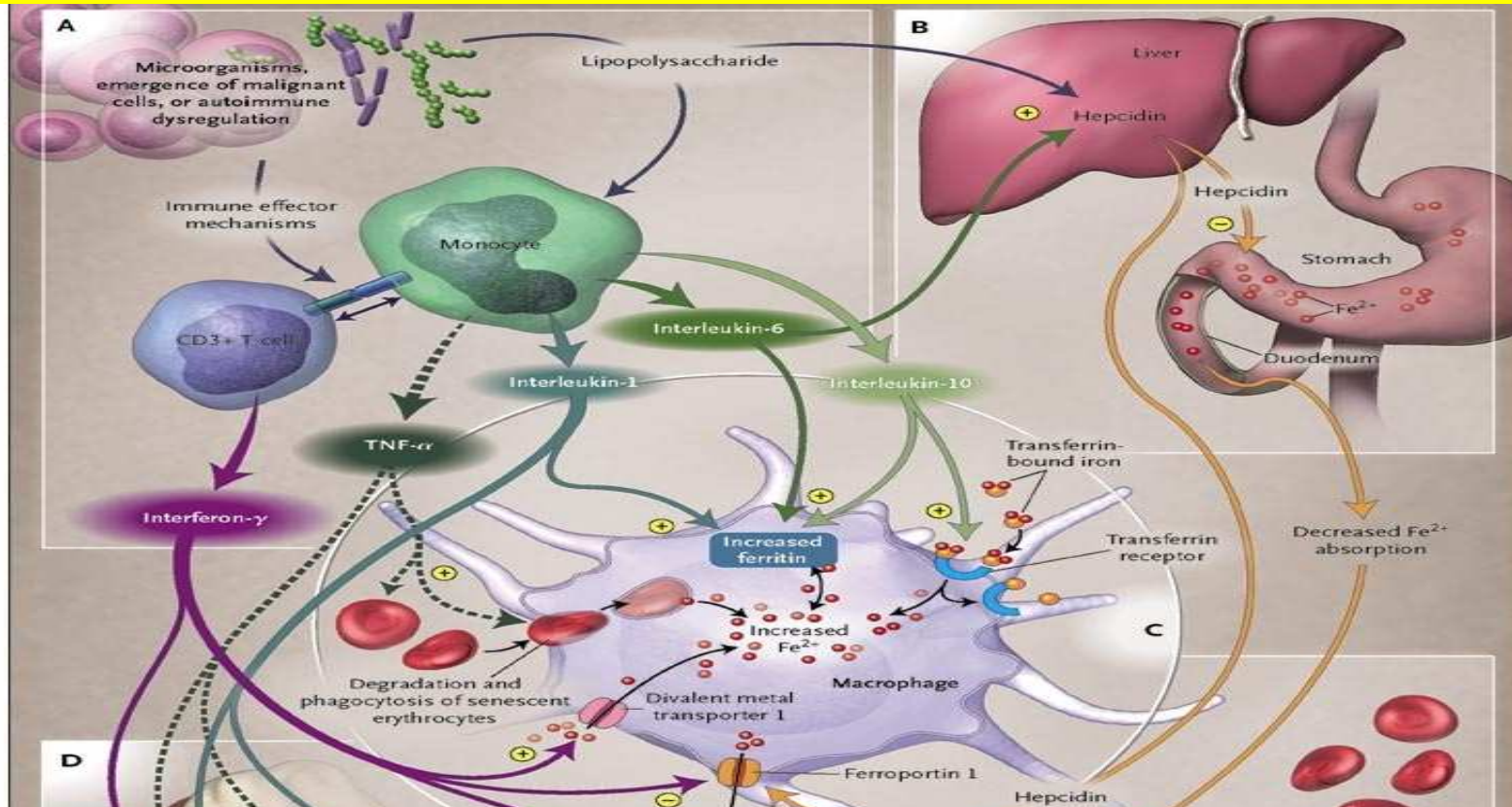


Role of iron in invasive fungal infections



Günter Weiss

Department of Internal Medicine

Clinical Immunology and Infectious Diseases

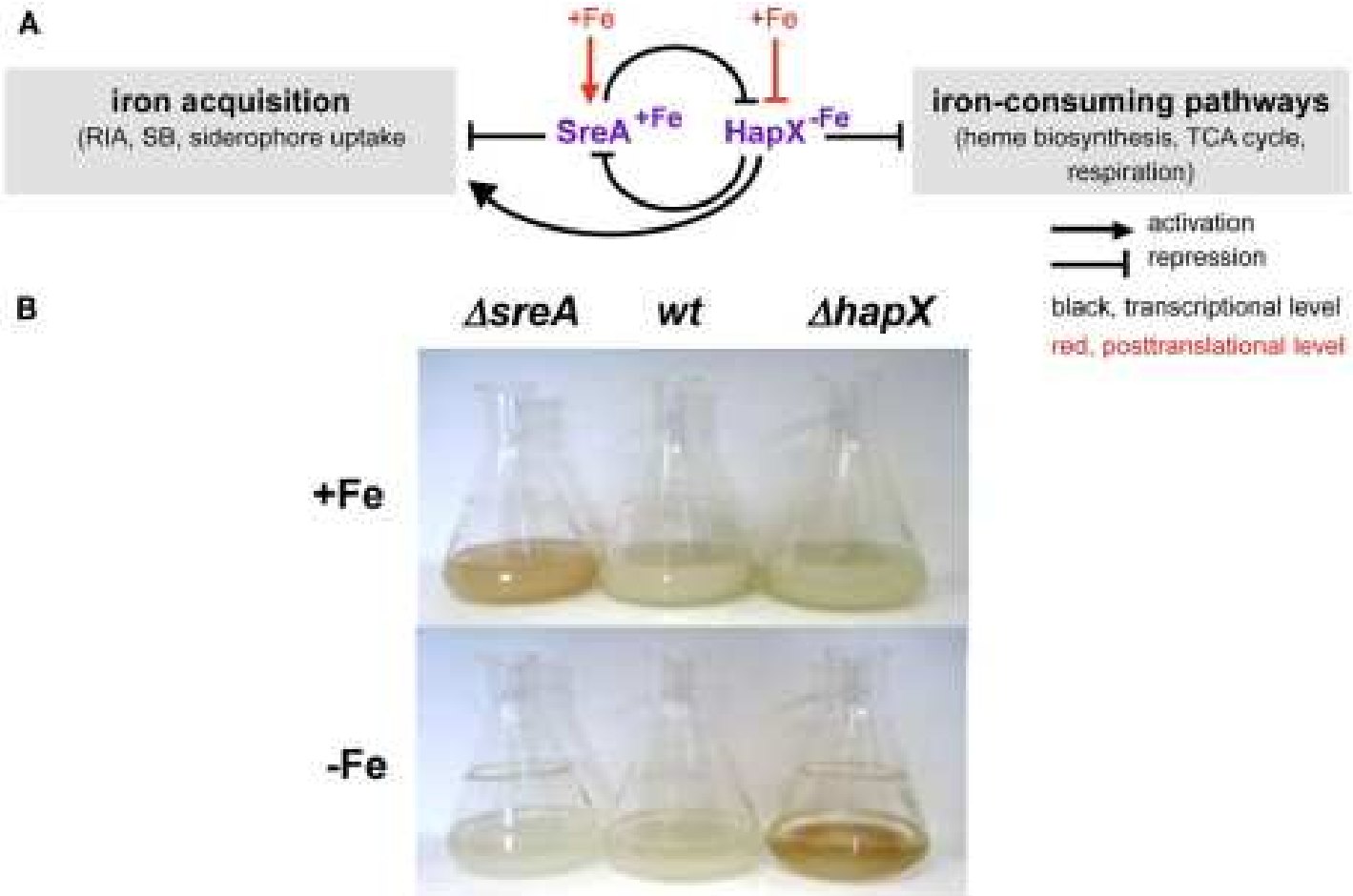
Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria

Iron at the host-pathogen-interface



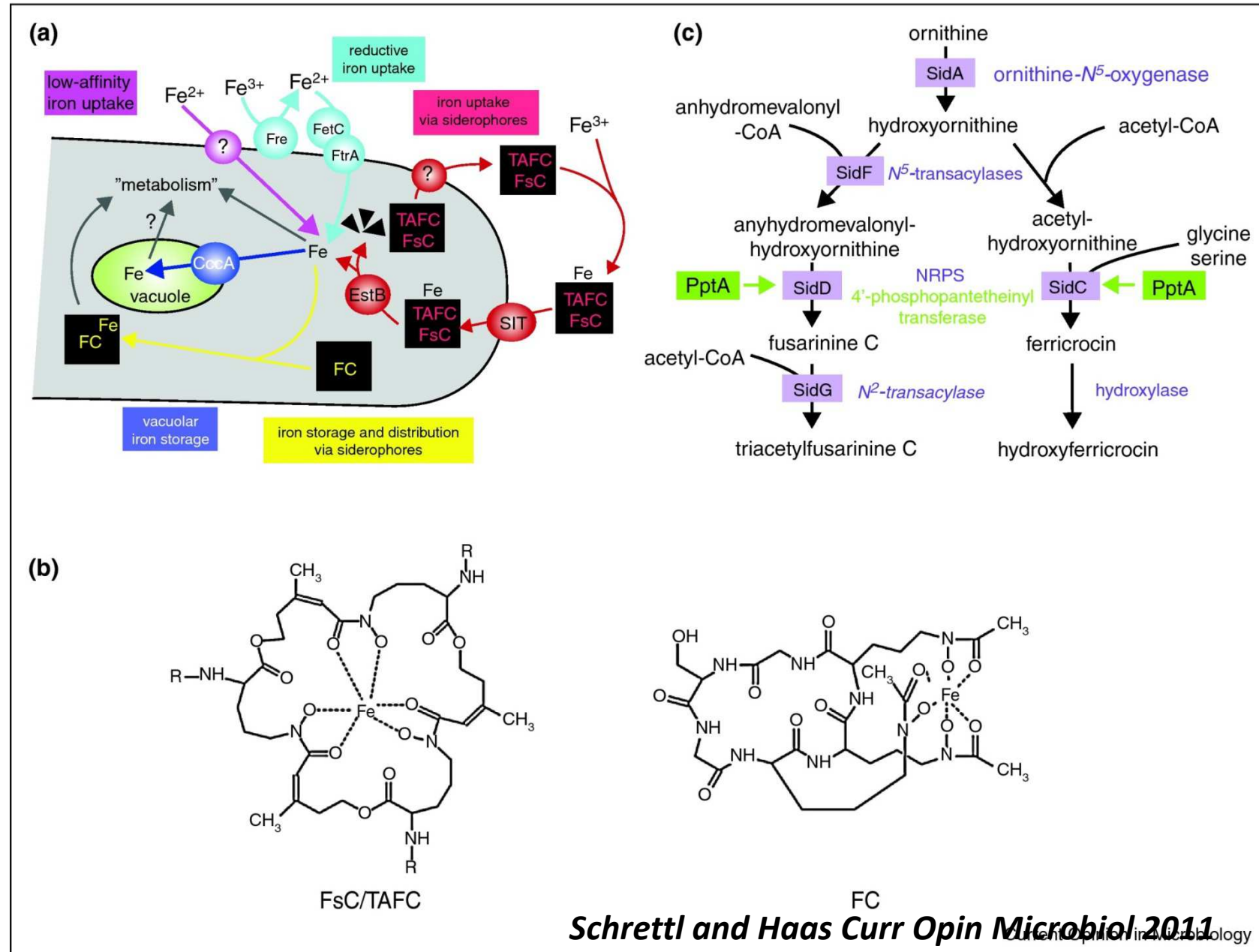
essential for growth and proliferation of several microbes

Expression of iron acquisition/siderophore systems is linked to microbial pathogenicity



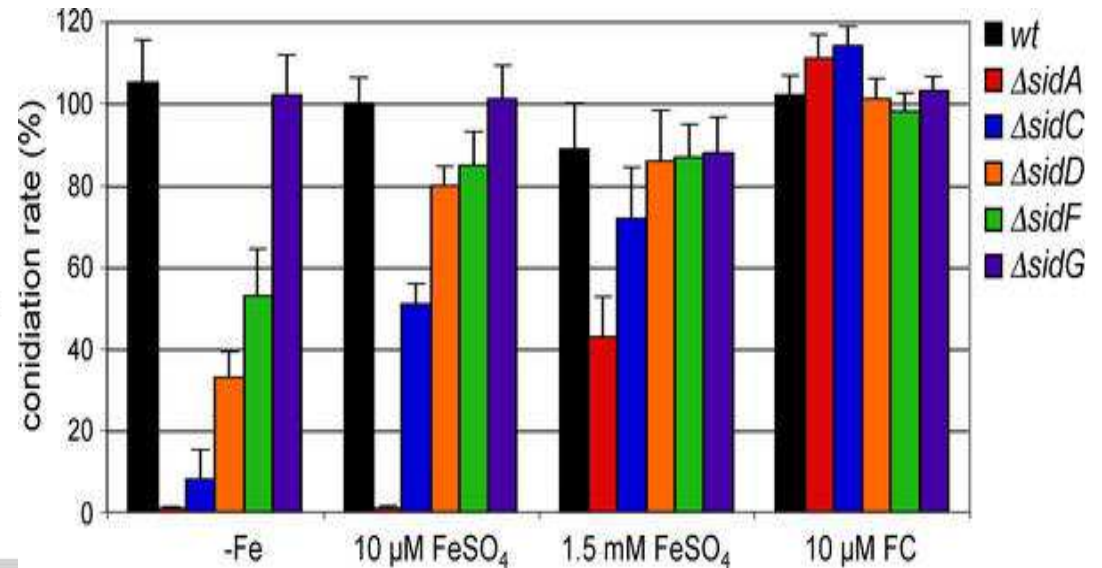
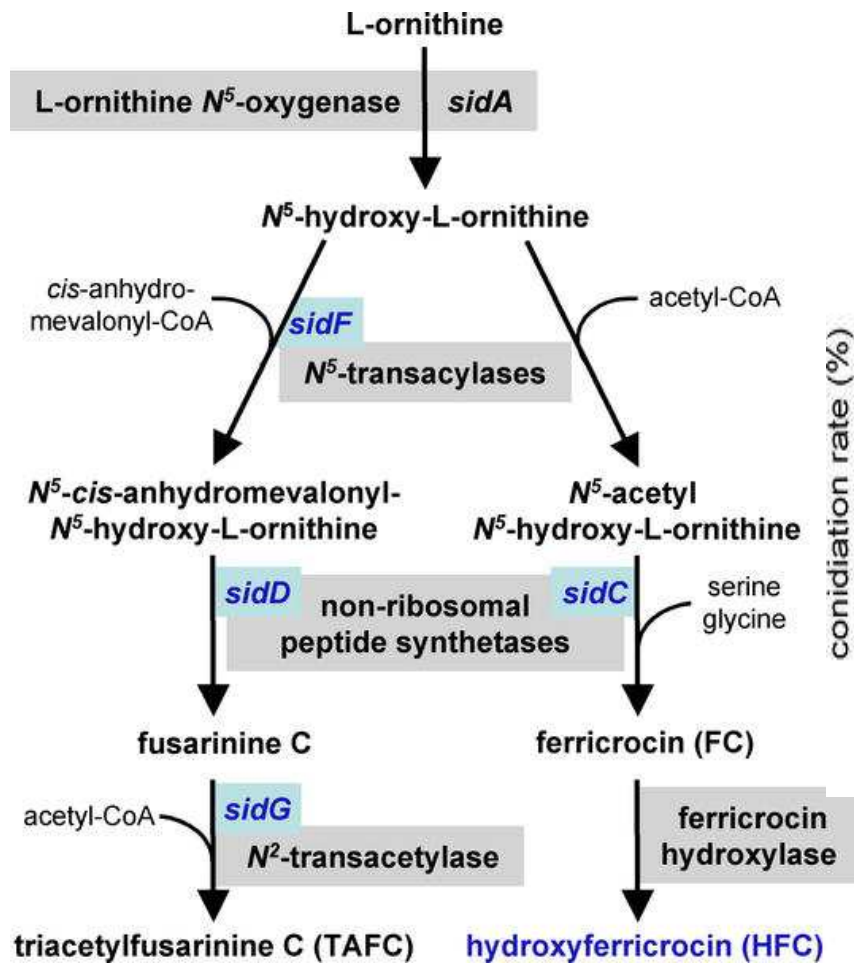
Haas H.. Front Biosci 2012

Iron acquisition pathways of *Aspergillus* spp.



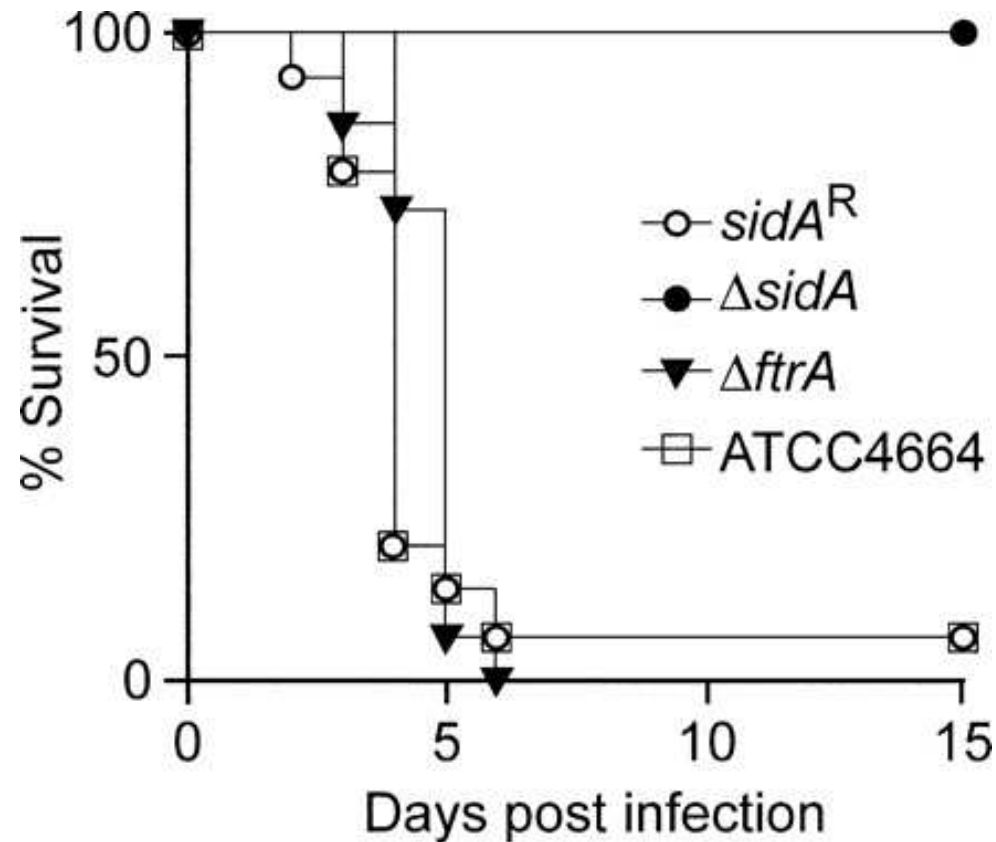
Molds (*Aspergillus* spp.) need iron for proliferation and pathogenicity

Acquisition of iron is managed via intra- and extracellular fungal siderophores

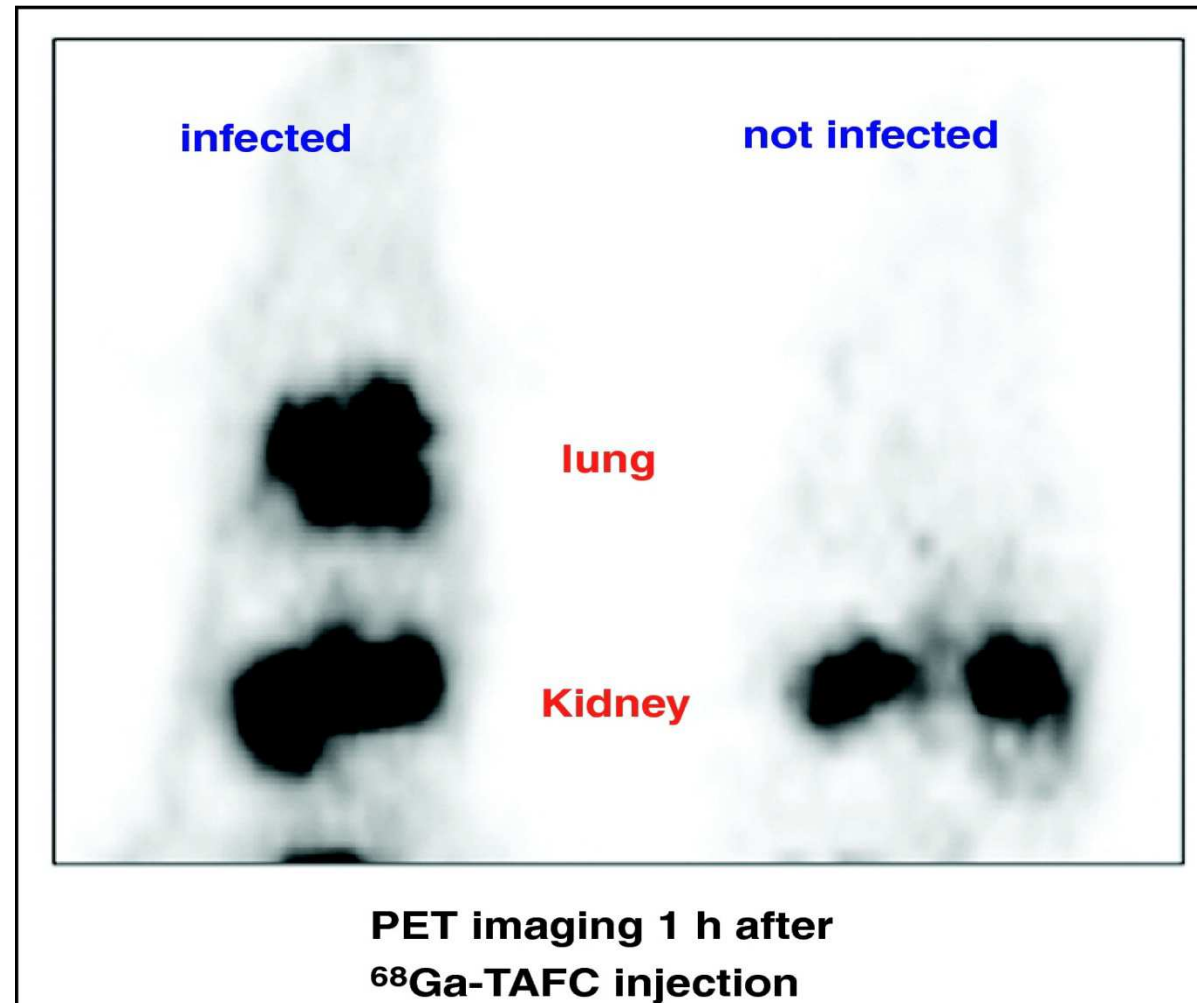


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Siderophore-Synthesis is essential for virulence of *Aspergillus* spp.



Fungal Iron acquisition as a diagnostic tool



PET imaging of invasive pulmonary aspergillosis in a rat model using ^{68}Ga -TAFC. Images demonstrating accumulation of ^{68}Ga in infected lungs were taken one hour after injection of ^{68}Ga -TAFC into the femoral vein. Kidneys are labeled in infected and non-infected animals owing to renal excretion of ^{68}Ga -TAFC

Petrik et al. J Nucl Med 2010

Iron at the host-pathogen-interface

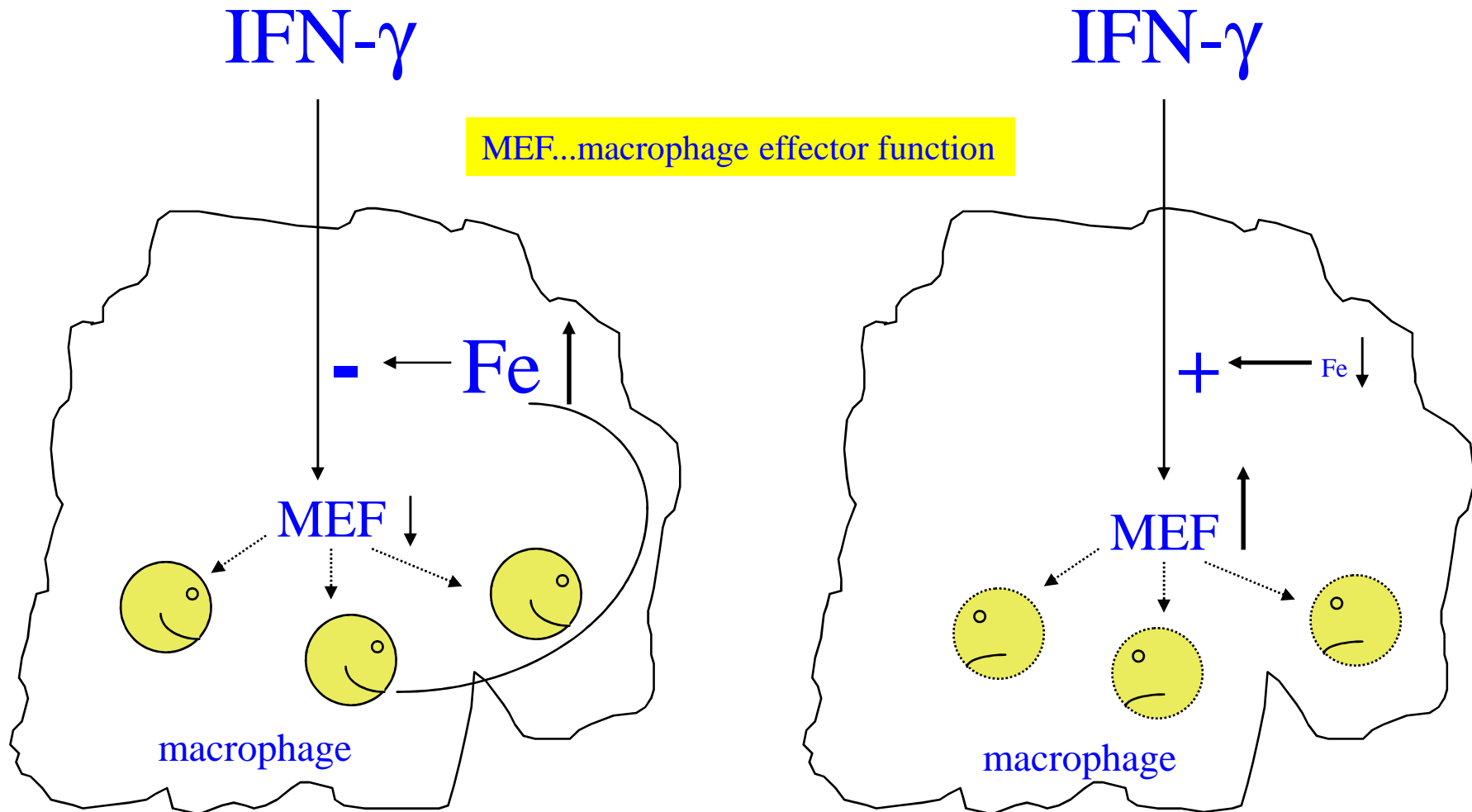


essential for growth and proliferation of several microbes

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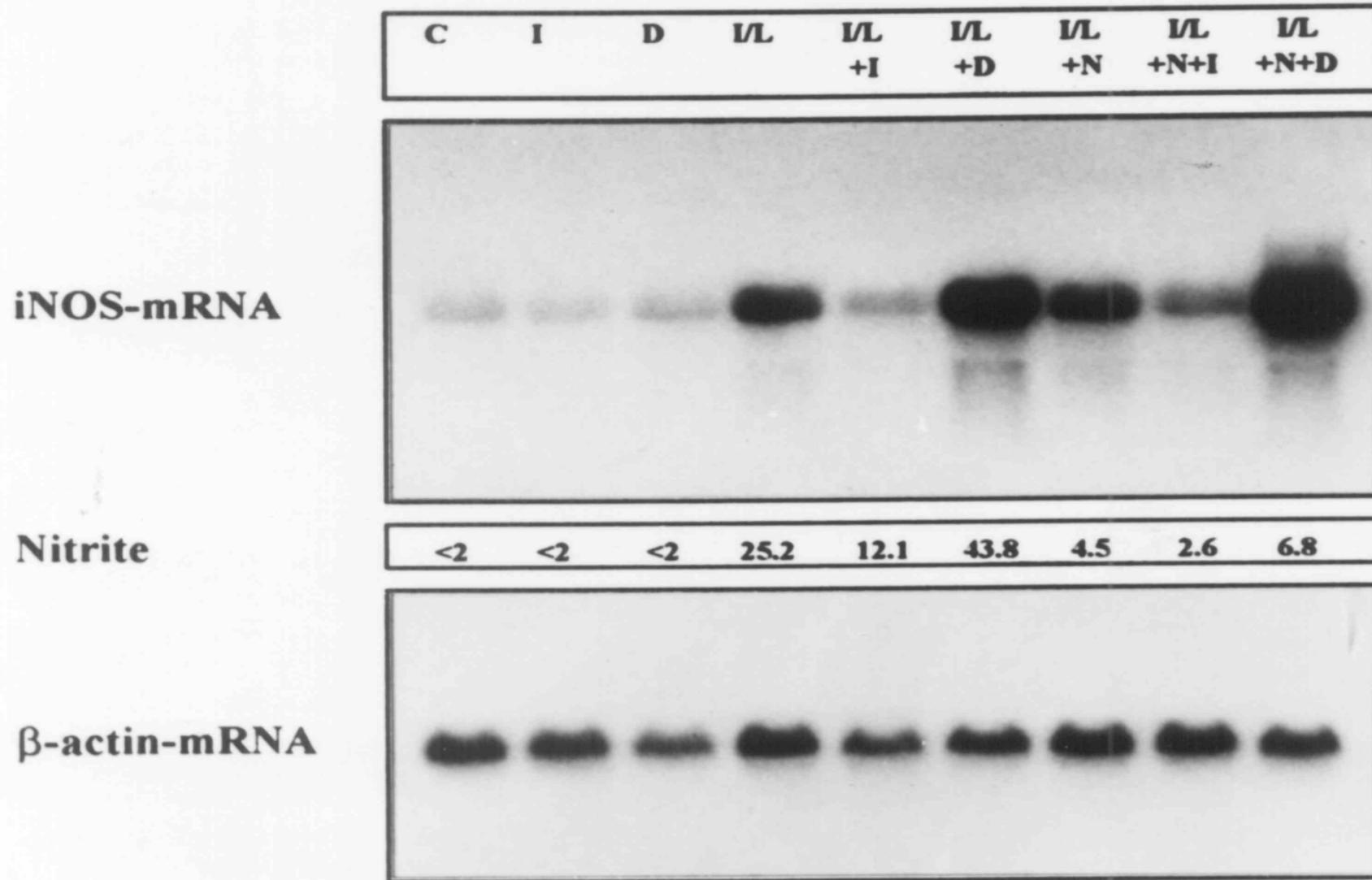
exerts subtle effects on cell mediated immunity *in vitro* (macrophage effector pathways, IFN- γ activity, iNOS expression)

Iron loading of macrophages impairs their ability to kill intracellular pathogens by IFN- γ mediated pathways

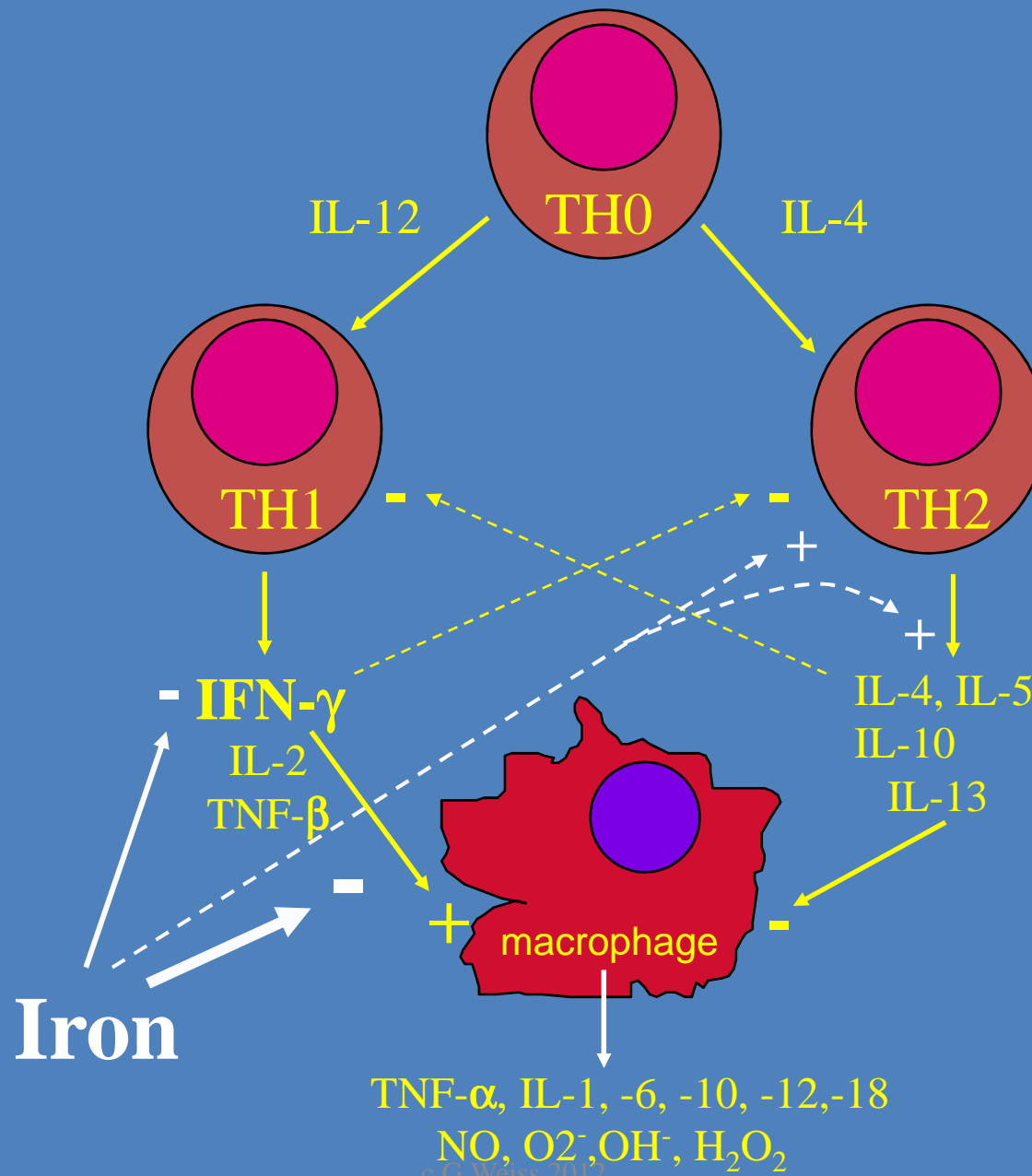


But iron overload also negatively affects neutrophil function and phagocytosis

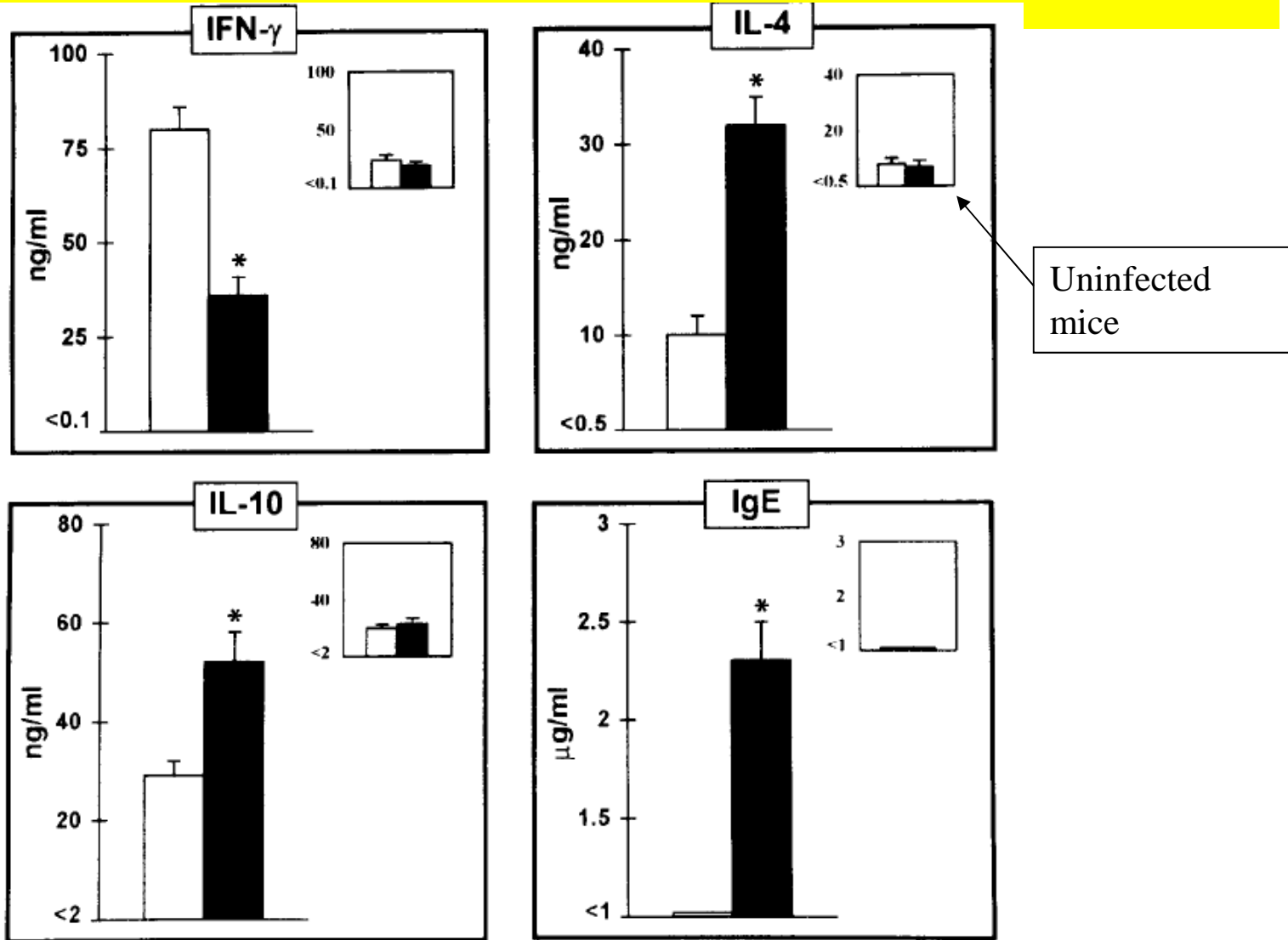
Regulation of NO formation and iNOS mRNA in activated murine macrophages (J774) by iron



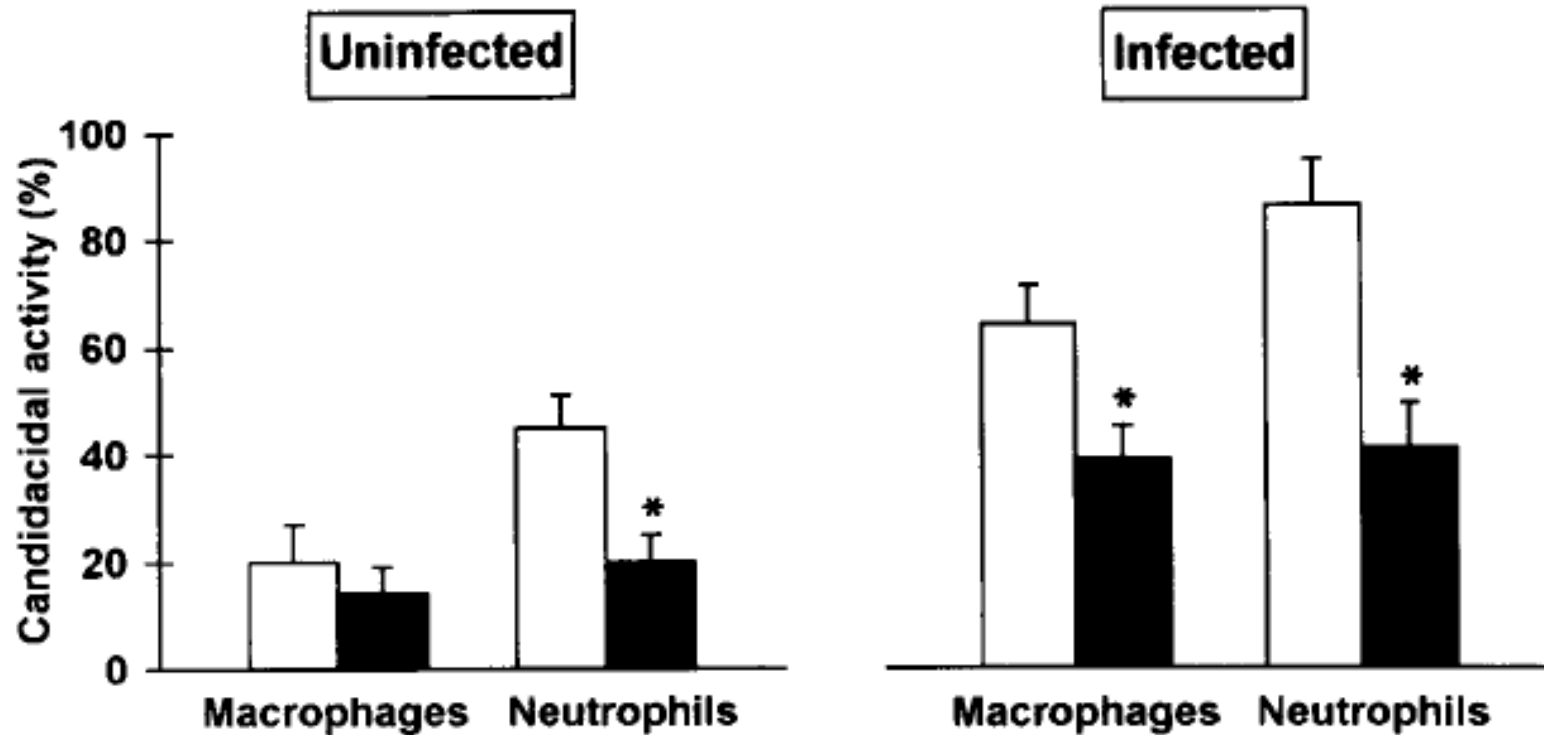
Iron alters the TH-1/TH-2 balance



Effect of iron treatment (black bars) on TH-1/TH-2 immune response in *Candida albicans* infected mice

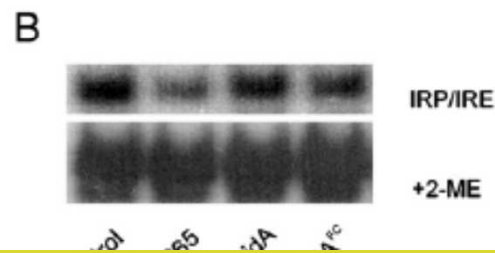
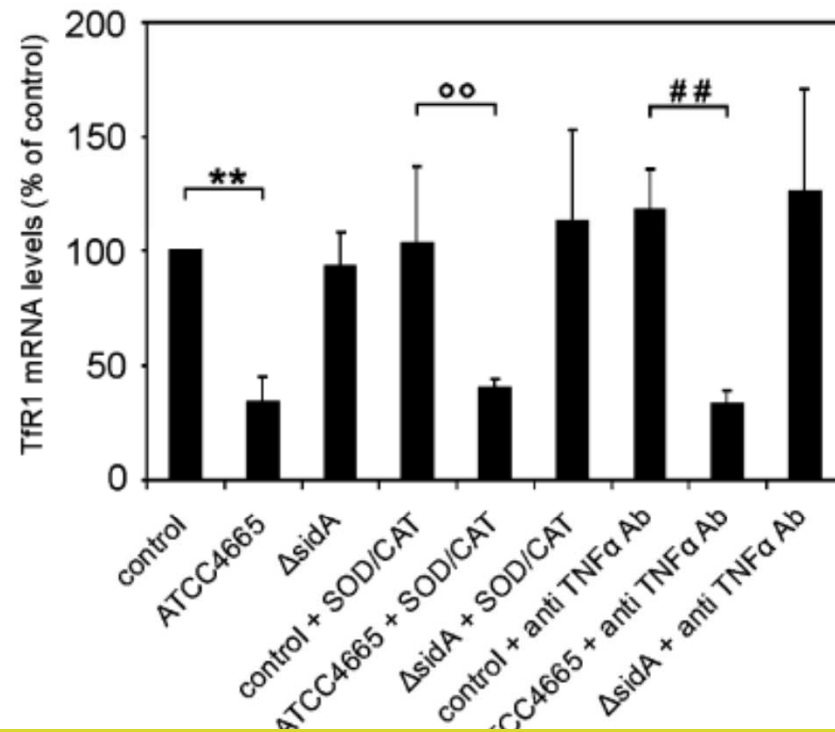
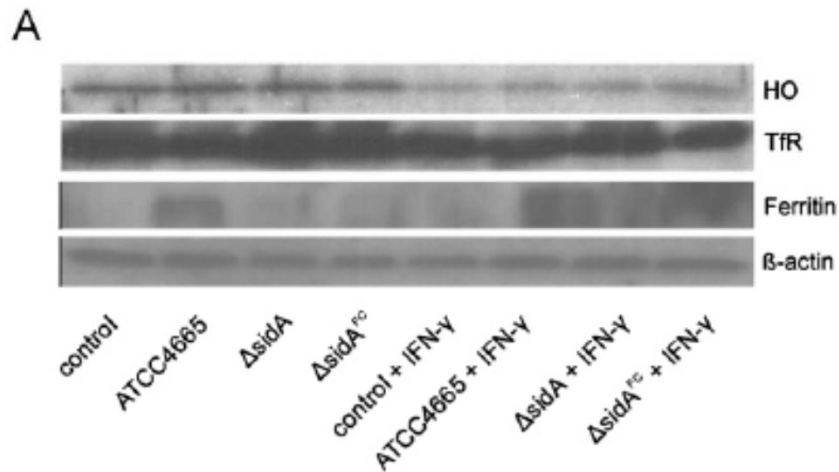


Anti-candida activity of normal and iron treated cells



Mencacci et al JID 1997

Aspergillus fumigatus manipulates host iron homeostasis via its siderophore system



Aspergillus fumigatus mediated modulation of macrophage iron homeostasis increases the supply of this essential nutrient for the mold and weakens anti-microbial immune effector pathways

Iron at the host-pathogen-interface

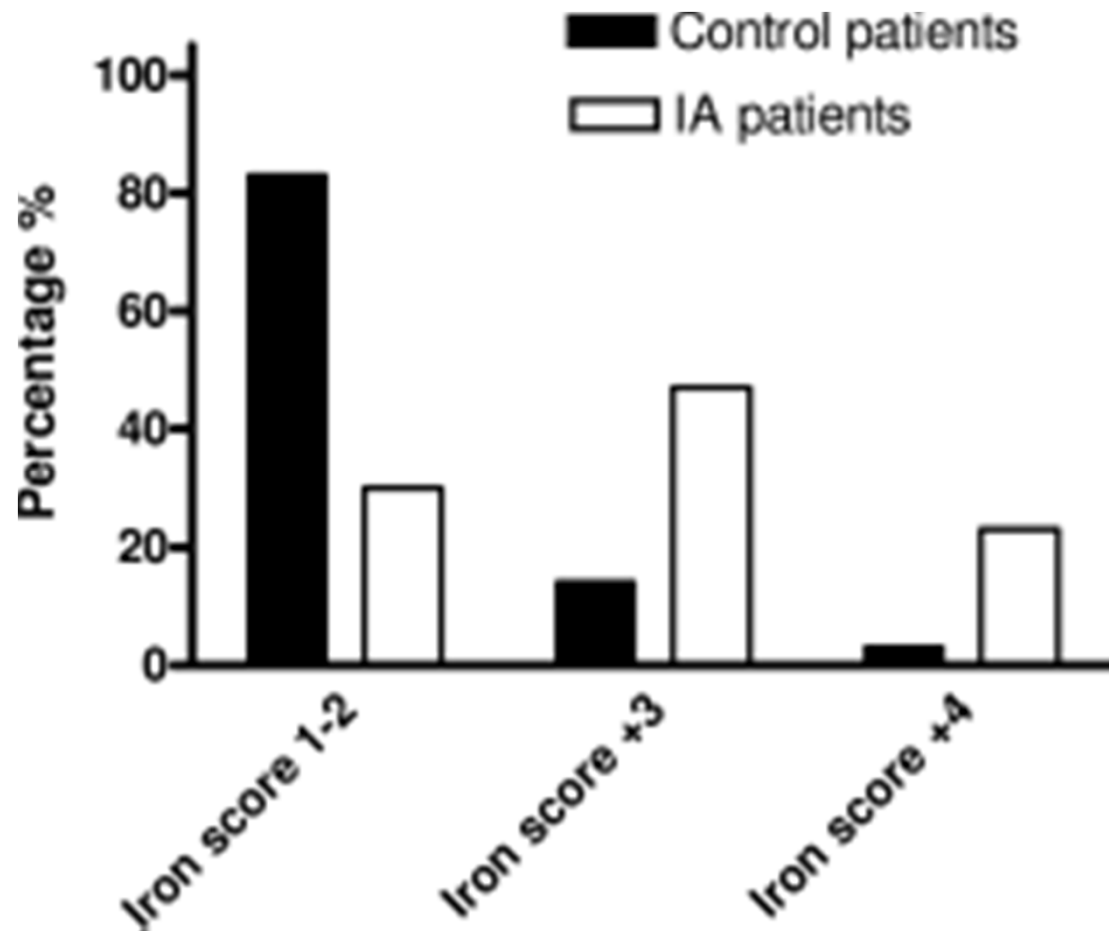


essential for growth and proliferation of several microbes
Expression of iron acquisition/siderophore systems is linked to microbial pathogenicity

exerts subtle effects on cell mediated immunity *in vitro*
(macrophage effector pathways, IFN- γ activity, iNOS expression)

The control over iron homeostasis is of importance for the course of an infection

Bone marrow iron stores is an independent risk factor for invasive aspergillosis in patients undergoing allogenic HSCT

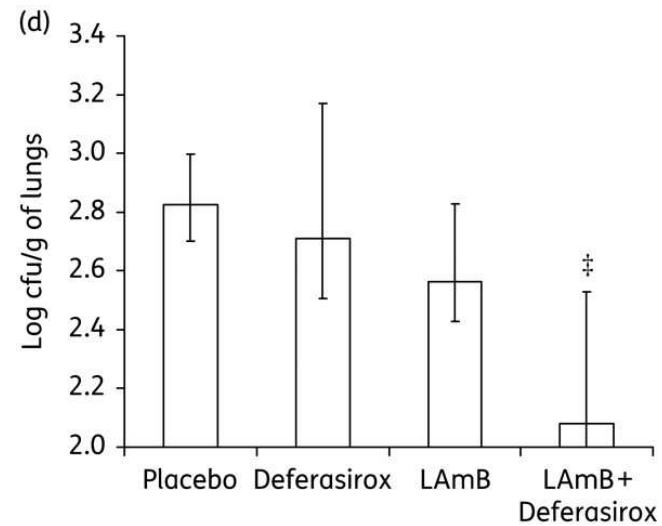
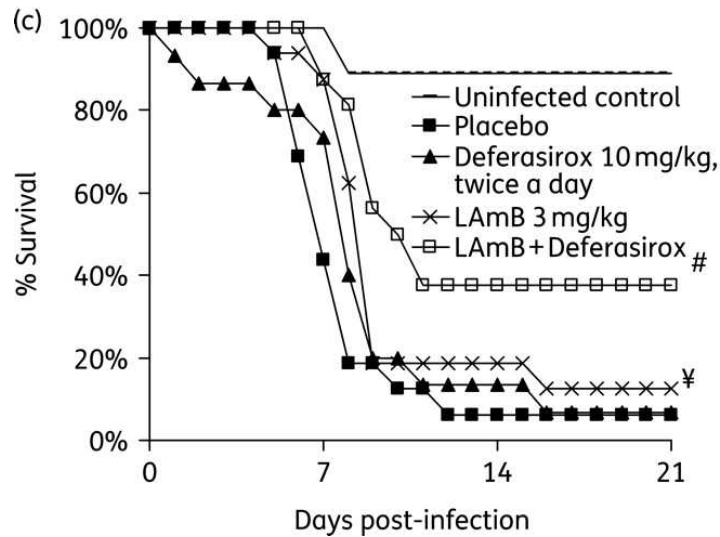
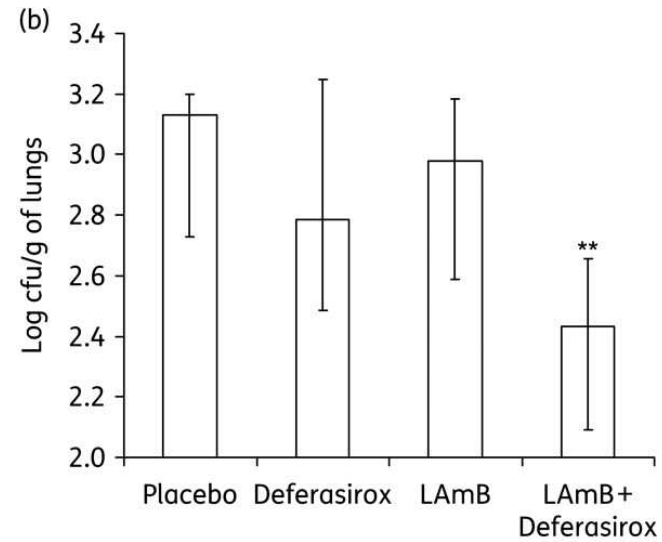
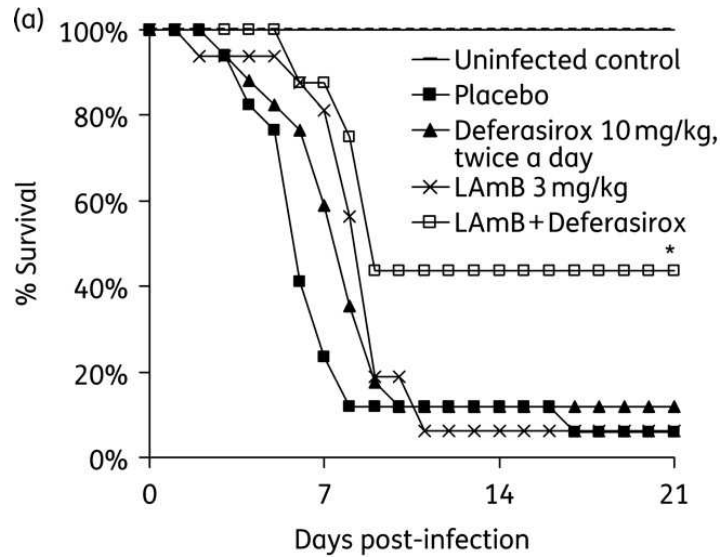


Characteristics of Patients in the Control and Study Groups and Results of Univariate and Multivariate Analyses

Characteristic	Control patients	Patients with IA	OR (95% CI)	<i>P</i>	OR (95% CI)	<i>P</i>
APACHE II score > 11	17/33 (52%)	26/33 (79%)	3.5 (1.2-10.3)	.0300	5.16 (1.3-20.5)	.0100
Malnutrition (albumin level < 3 mg/dL)	17/33 (52%)	22/33 (67%)	-	.3100	-	-
Increased BMIS score (>3)	6/33 (18%)	23/33 (70%)	10.4 (3.2-32.8)	<.0001	12.3 (3.4-44.9)	<.0001

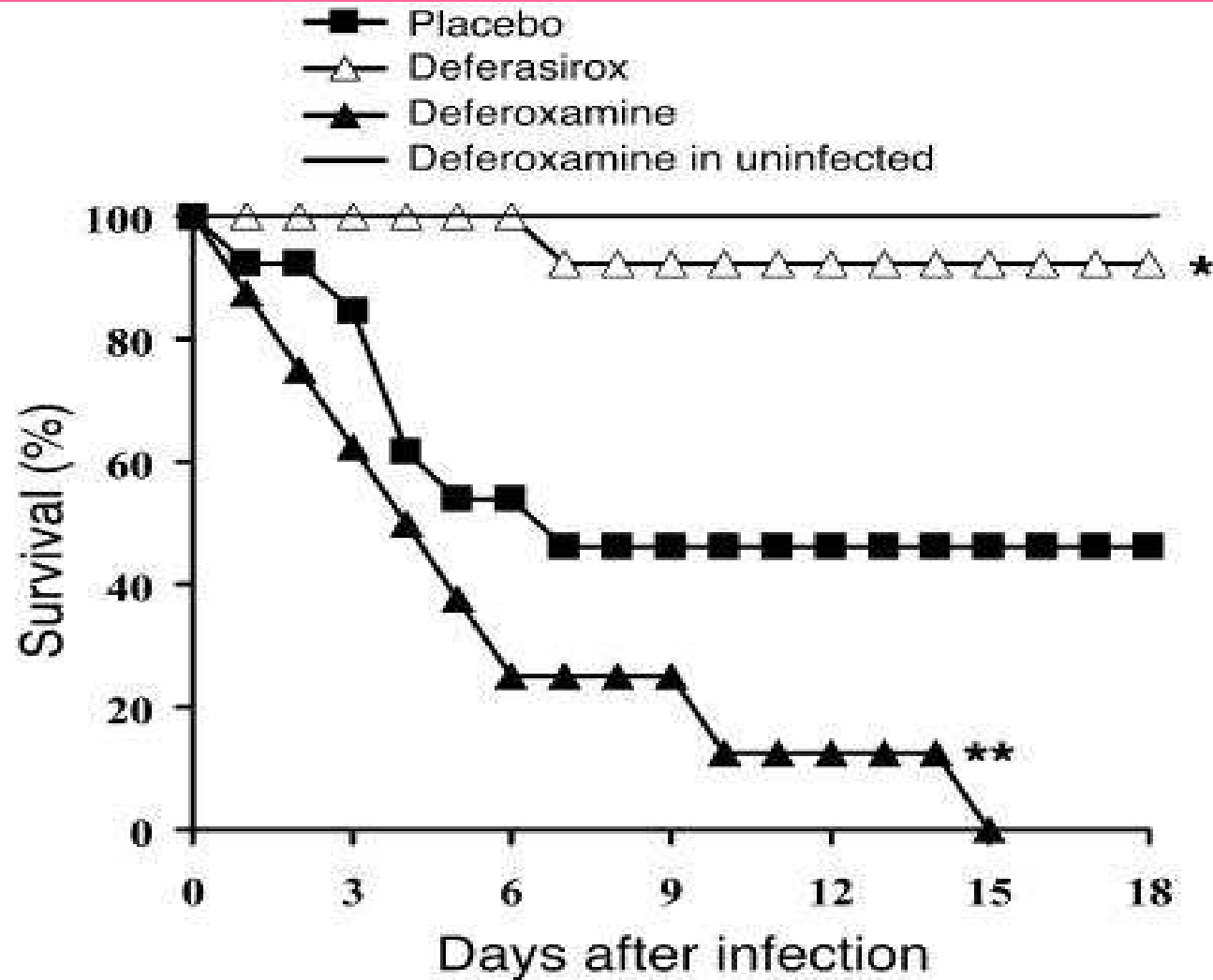
Kontoyiannis et al. CANCER 2007

Efficacy of delayed (a and b) or prophylactic (c and d) combination deferiasirox+LAmB versus monotherapy in a murine model of IPA.



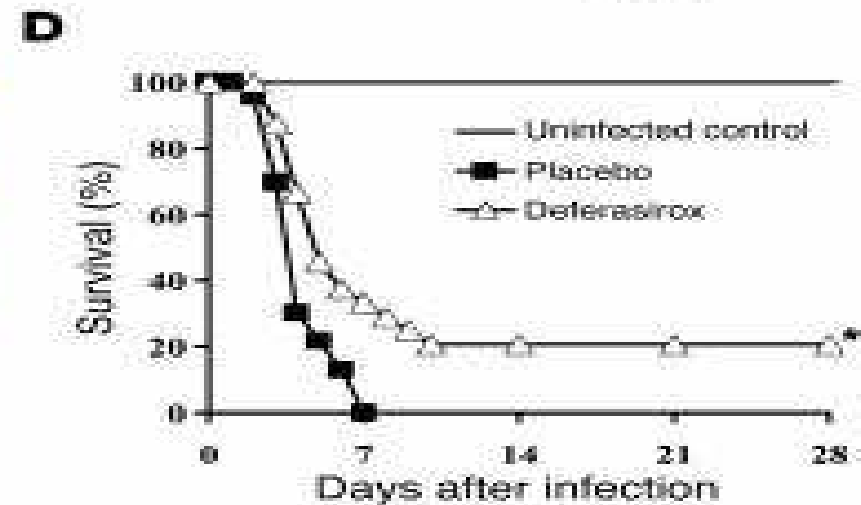
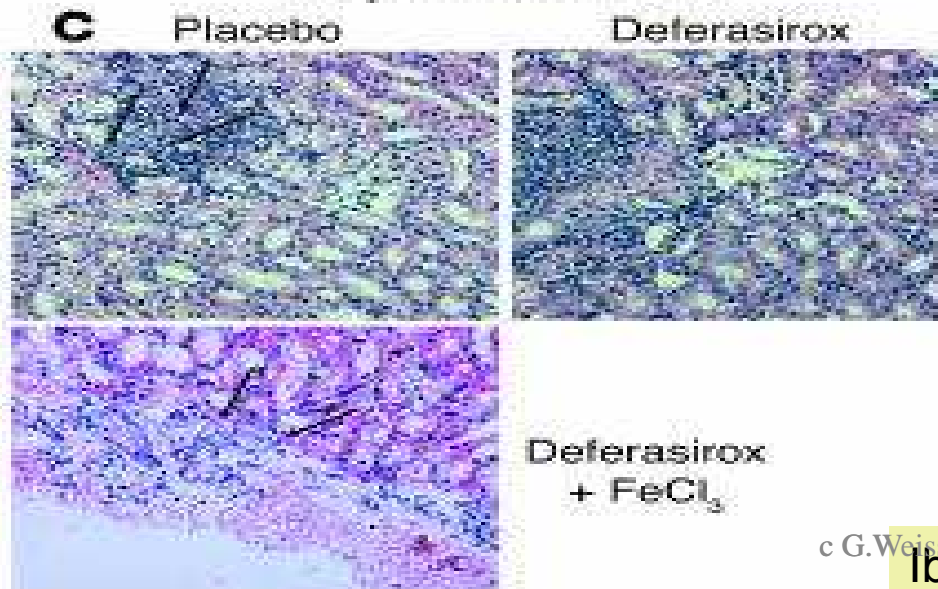
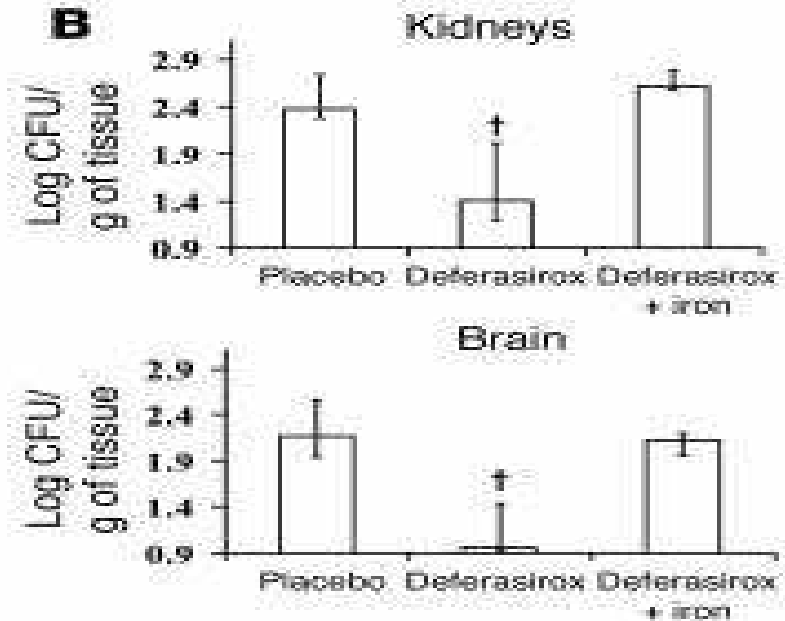
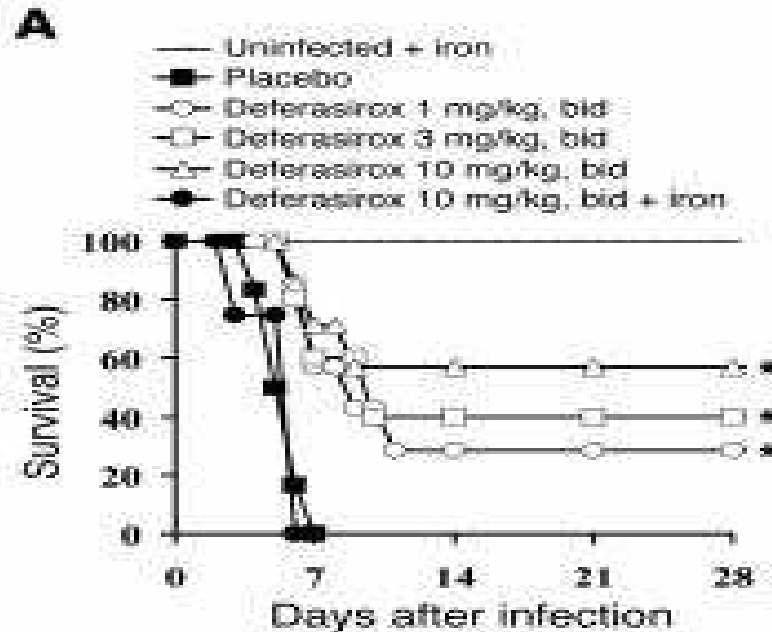
Not all iron chelators are equal– at least in respect to treatment of IFI

Diabetic ketoacidotic mice infected intranasally with *R. oryzae*

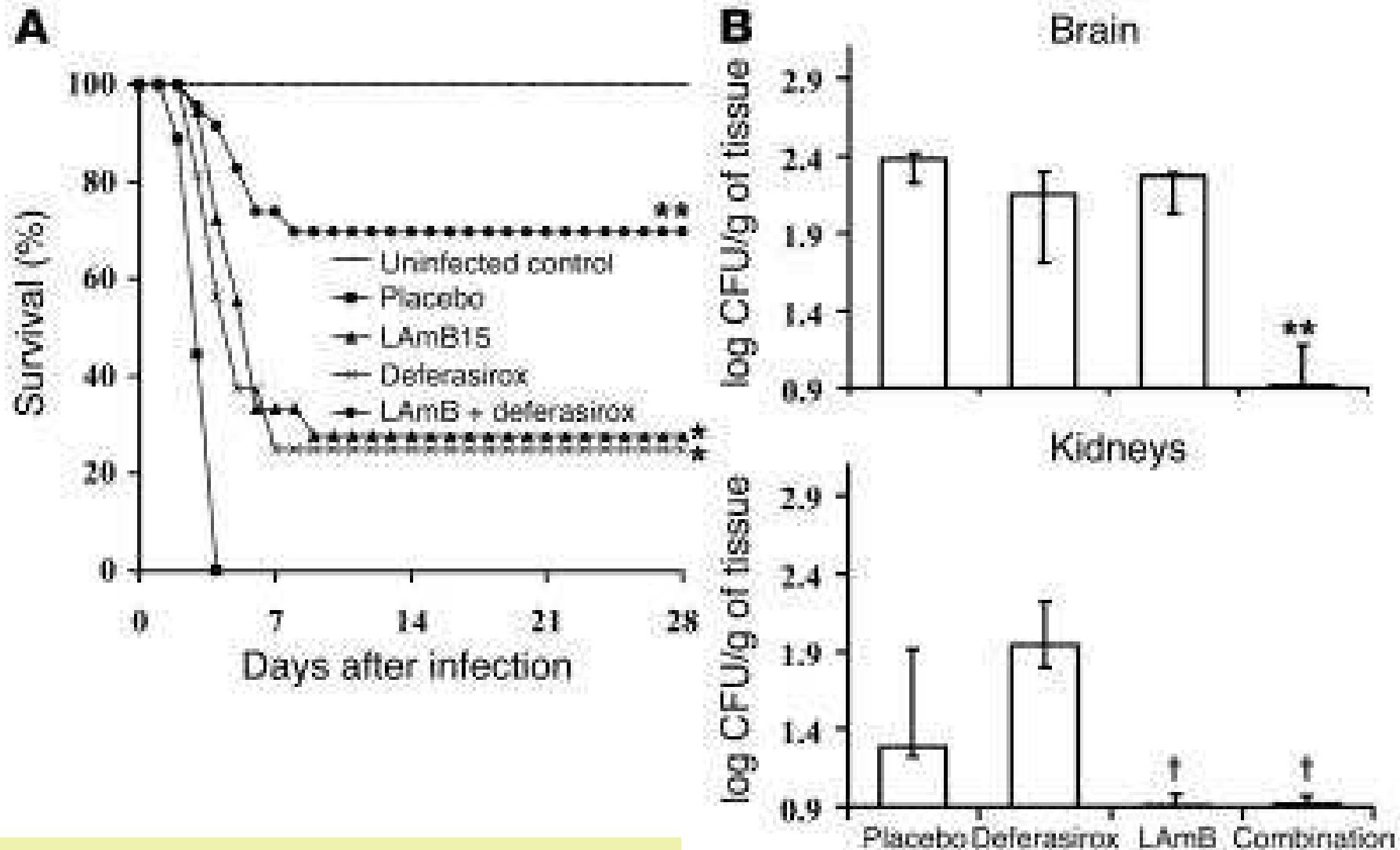


Boelaert et al. J Clin Invest 1993; Waldorf et al. J Clin Invest 1984

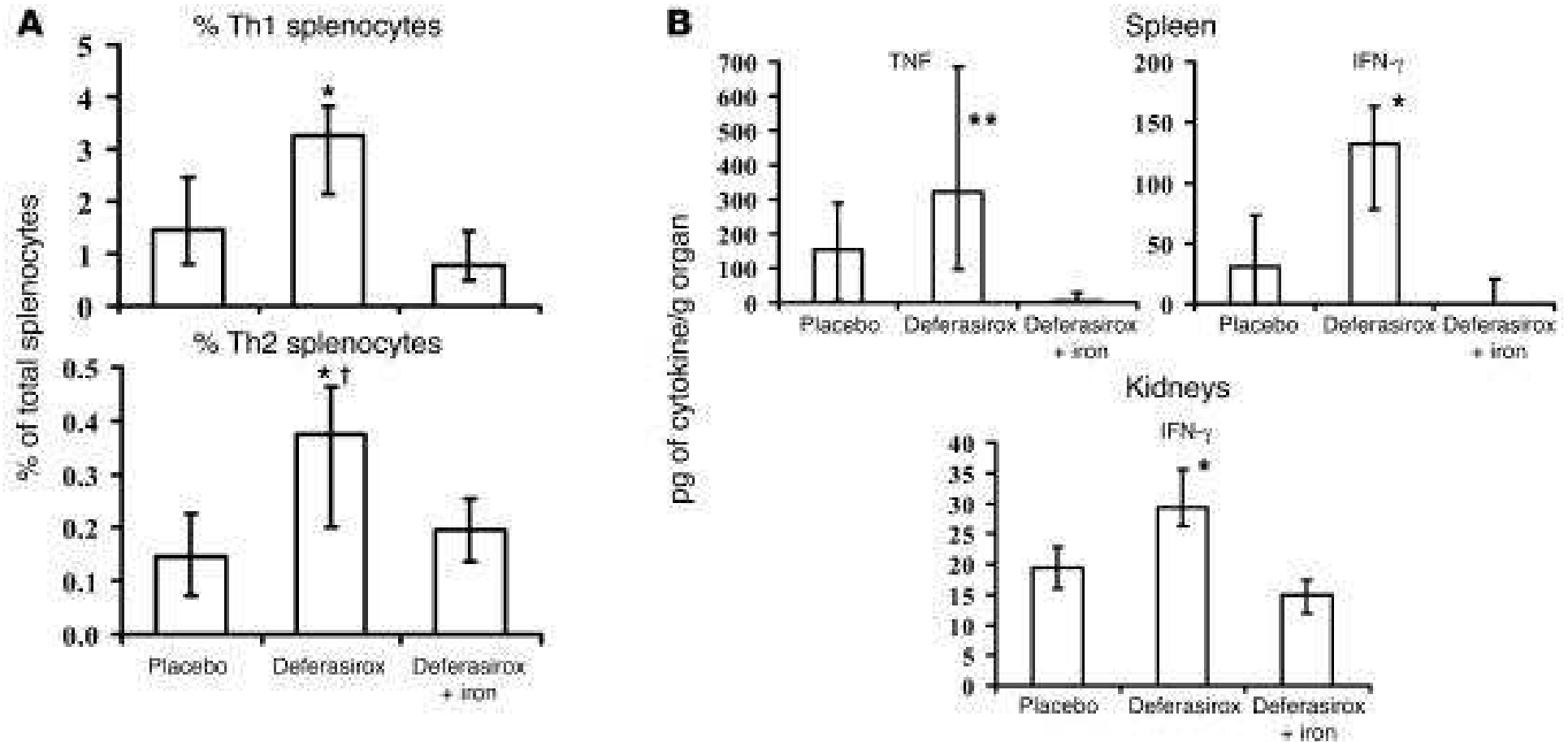
Iron chelators modify the course of Mucor infection



Synergistic effects of iron chelators in murine mucormycosis



Immune-modulatory effects of iron chelation



Iron, Infection and Immunity

- Central battlefield deciding about the fate of infections
- Iron affects cell mediated immune function and thus host responses towards pathogens and tumor cells (iron inhibits pro-inflammatory/IFN- γ mediated immune effector pathways)

Microbes including fungi need iron for their growth and pathogenicity

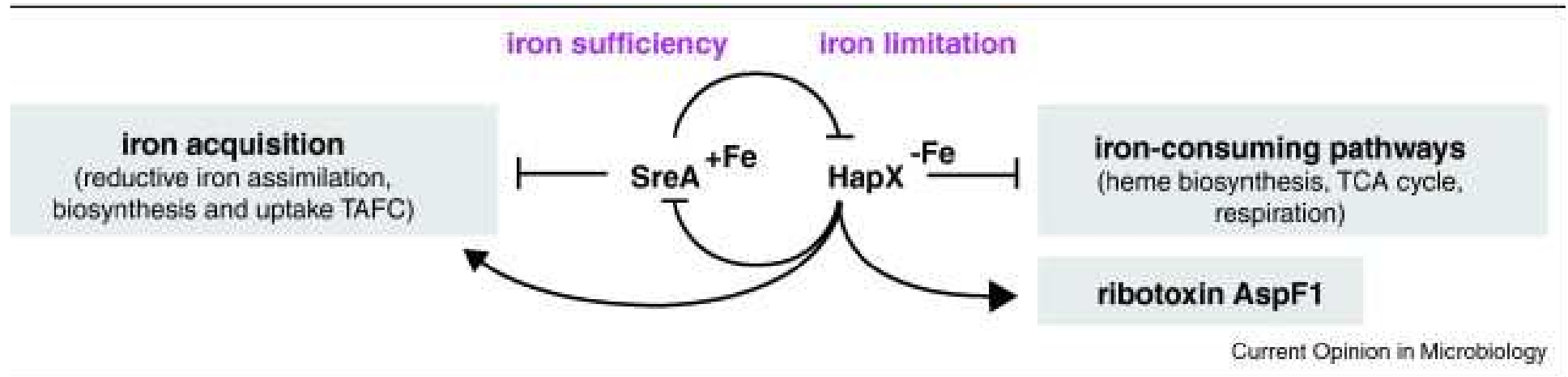
Modulation of iron homeostasis may be of therapeutic benefit in invasive fungal infections by

- limiting the availability of the essential nutrient for the pathogen
 - by strengthening anti-fungal immune effector pathways

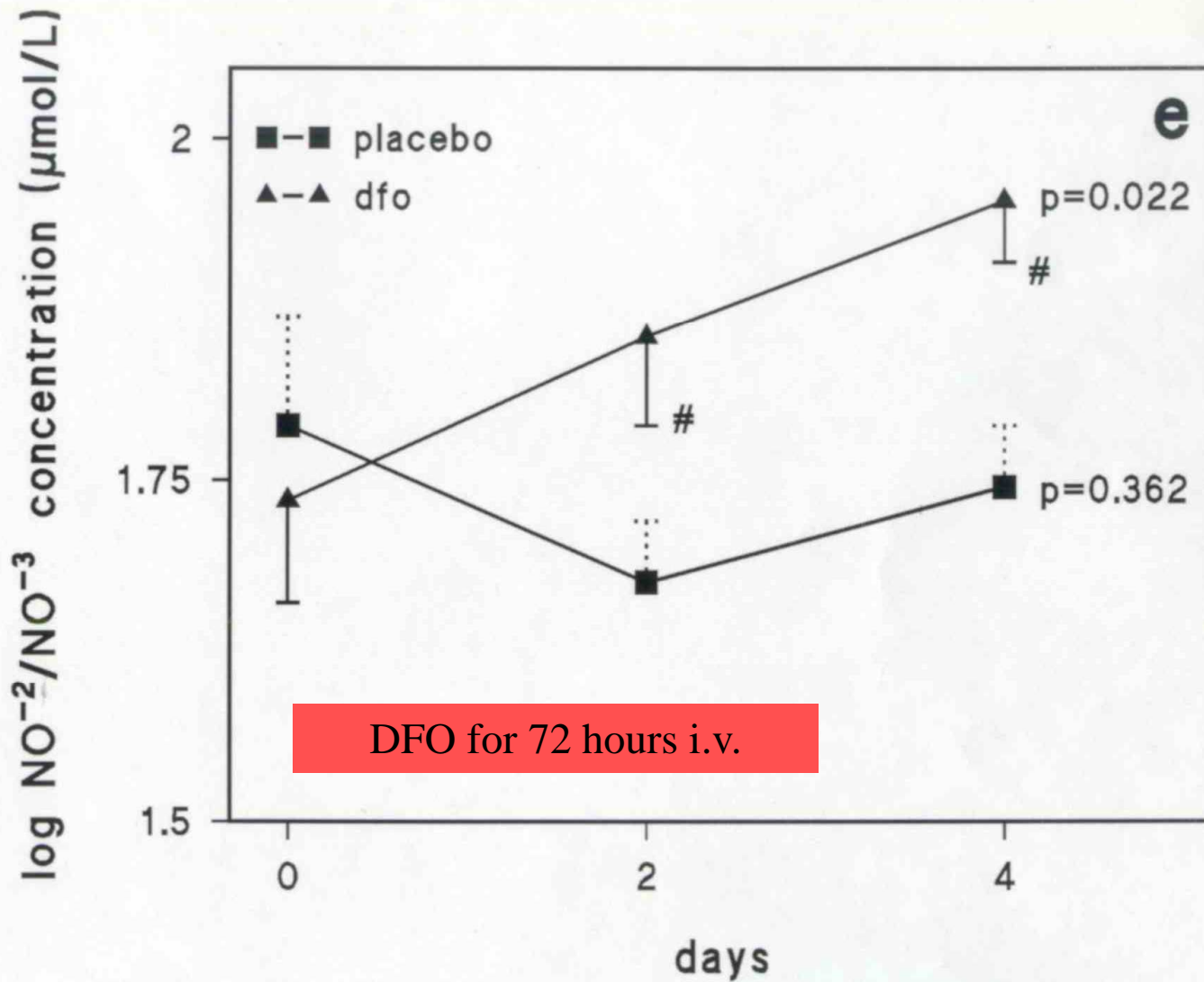
DANKE



Iron regulation in *A. fumigatus*



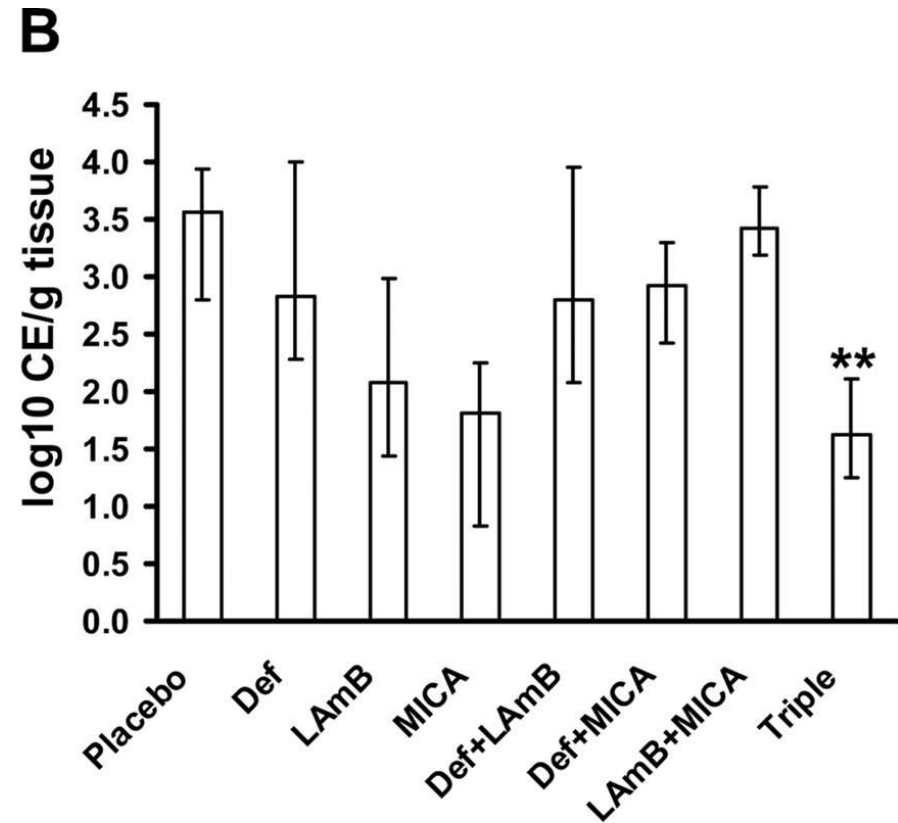
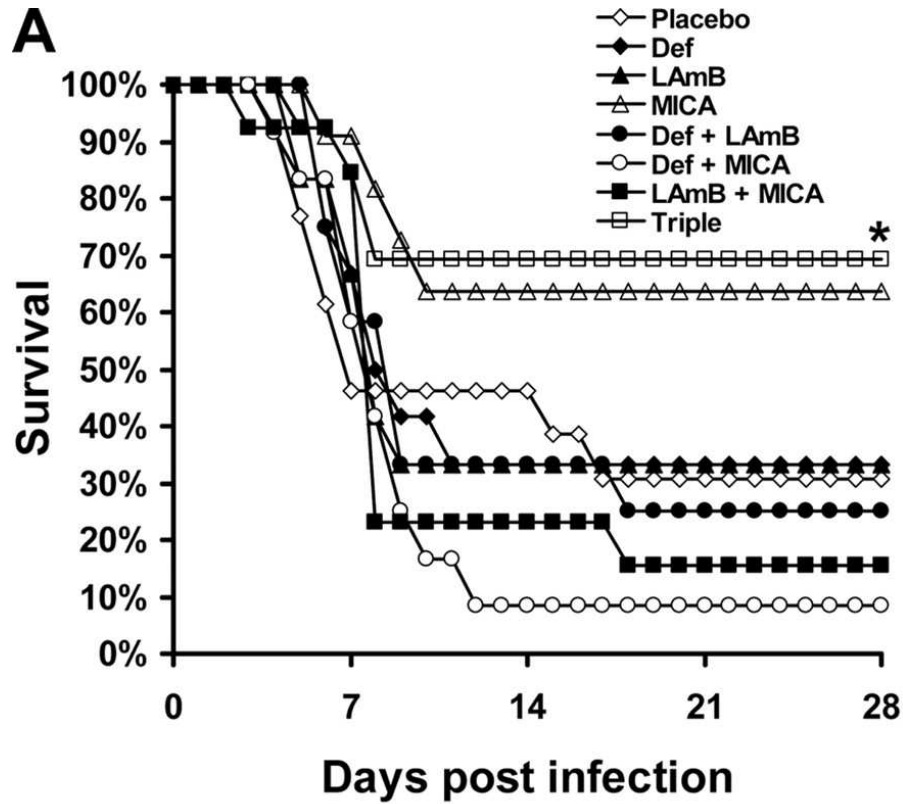
Schrettl and Haas Curr Opin Microbiol 2011



Effect of iron chelation therapy with desferrioxamine (DFO) on nitric oxide formation in vivo in human cerebral *Pl. falciparum* malaria

Gordeuk et al. N Engl JMed 1992; Weiss et al J Infect Dis 1997

Efficacy of triple therapy in murine model of IPA



Ibrahim, A. S. et al. 2011. Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. 55(4):1768-1770

c G.Weiss 2012

