

AP

Schmoch/  
Brenner

# Methylglyoxal (MG)-derived carbonyl stress in sepsis

(DFG Reference-No.: BR 4154/2-1)

## Metabolite:

Methylglyoxal (MG)  
(+Glyoxal (G))

## Posttranslational Modification:

MG- & (G)-induced AGEs

## Metabolic Pathway:

MG-formation  $\uparrow$  (Regulation of glycolytic key-enzymes) vs.  
MG-detoxification  $\downarrow$  (GLO-dependent detoxification)

## Complication:

Sepsis, Septic shock, Predispositions for sepsis

## Interactions

A02 – Liver as a novel complication  
A04 – Diabetes mouse models  
B01 – Akt signaling  
B06 – ROS-dependent PTM

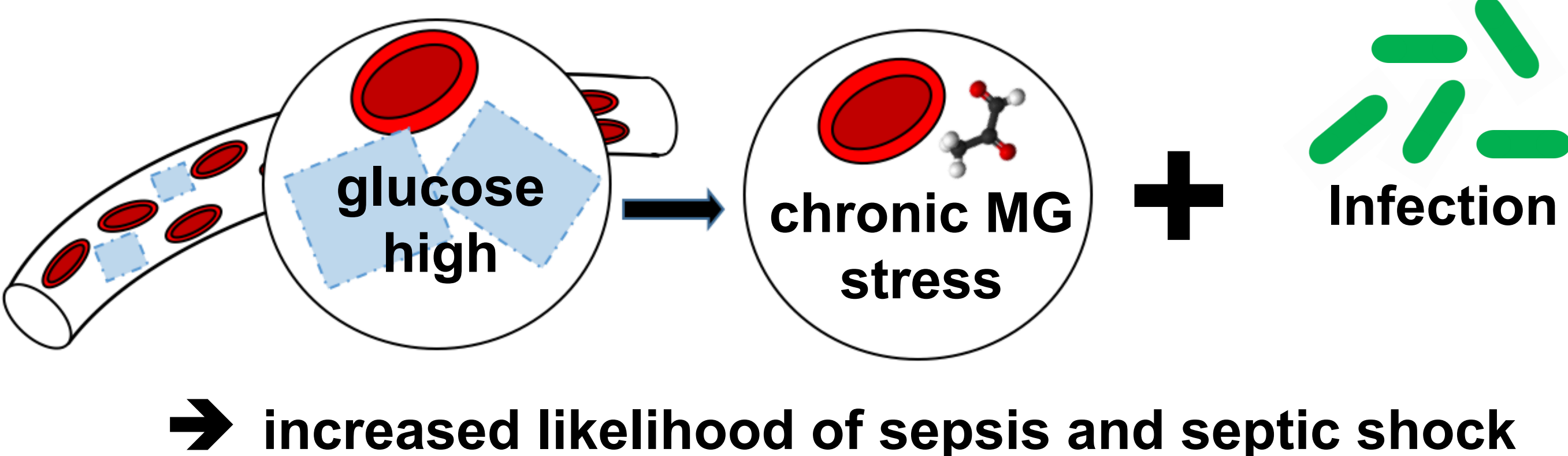
C06 – DNA damage and repair  
C07N – Resistance pathways  
S01 – TSC22D4 metabolome  
S02 – TSC22D4 in humans  
KS01 – Liver markers

## Questions

- Which organs and which cell entities are the main sources of MG-derived carbonyl stress in sepsis?
  - Endogenous vs. exogenic (e.g. bacterial synthesis of MG) sources?
  - Which mechanisms are responsible for the fast increase of MG plasma levels in sepsis?
- Does MG-derived carbonyl stress influence the course of the disease in sepsis?
  - Which mechanisms are responsible for MG-caused damages?
  - Is it possible to modify MG-derived carbonyl stress therapeutically?

## Outlook

Sepsis as a late complication of Diabetes mellitus



Hypothesis: Sepsis  $\rightarrow$  endogenic MG-formation  $\uparrow$  + MG-detoxification  $\downarrow$   $\rightarrow$  mortality  $\uparrow$  (causal)

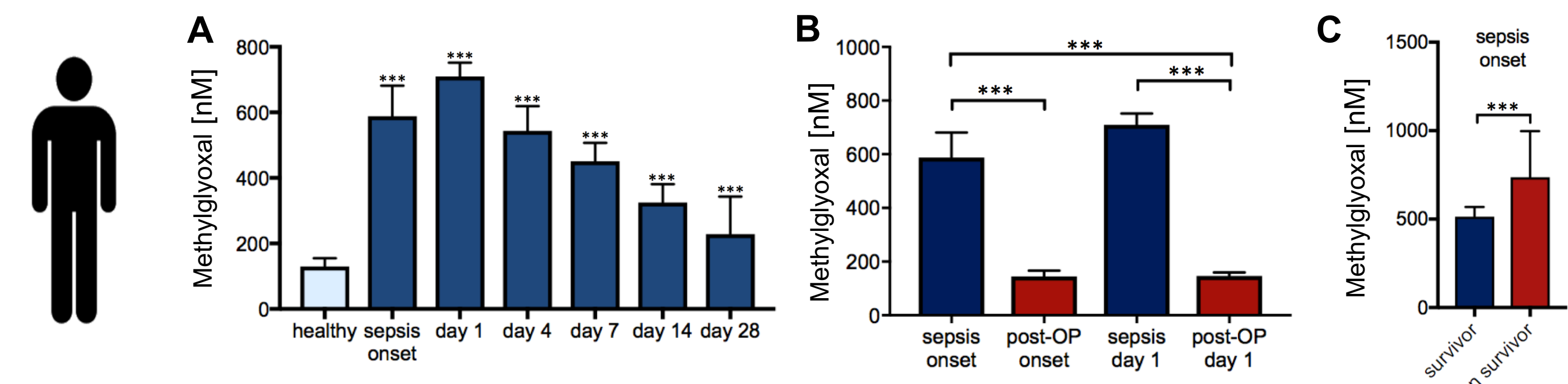
## Background

- The plasmatic load of MG and MG-AGE is associated with severe diabetic complications such as nephro-, retino- and neuropathy.
- However, these late sequelae of DM develop within years.

**Remaining question:** Is MG able to evoke a pivotal influence on the course of the disease in sepsis within hours?

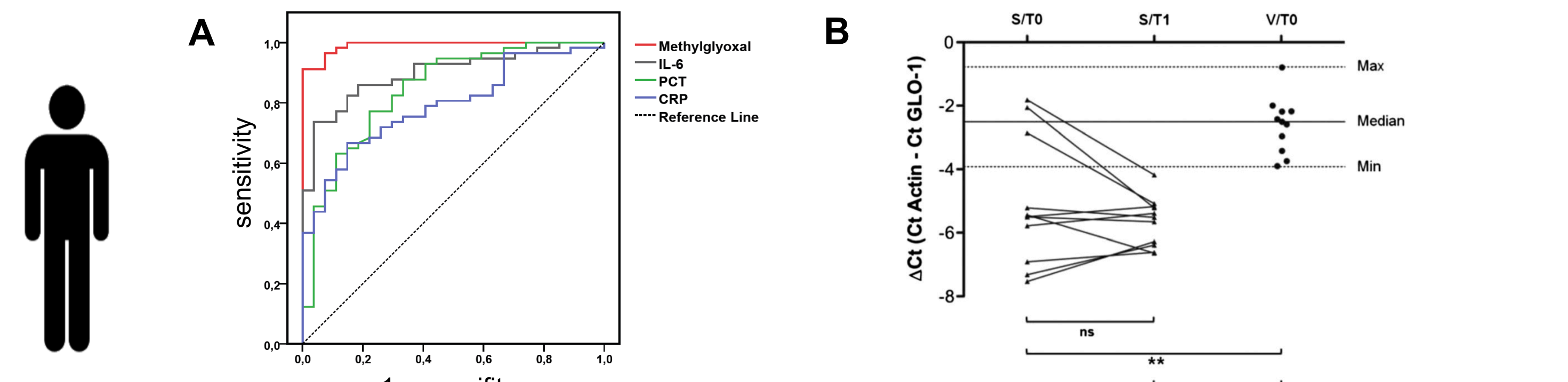
## Background Data

### Preliminary study I:



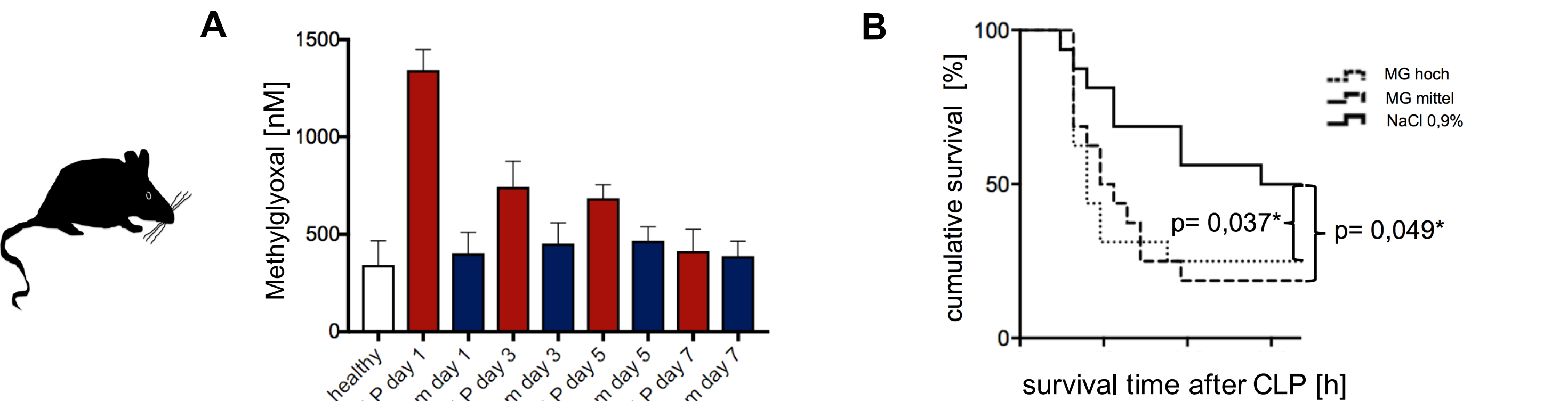
MG plasma levels are significantly increased in patients suffering from sepsis in comparison to healthy volunteers (A) and postoperative controls (B). At the time of sepsis diagnosis, non-survivors revealed significantly higher MG plasma levels in comparison to survivors (C).

### Preliminary study II:



MG plasma levels proved to be superior for the identification of patients with sepsis as compared to the standard parameters PCT, IL-6 und CRP (A). Moreover, GLO-I expression in pBMCs of septic patients was shown to be significantly reduced in comparison to healthy controls (B).

### Preliminary study III:

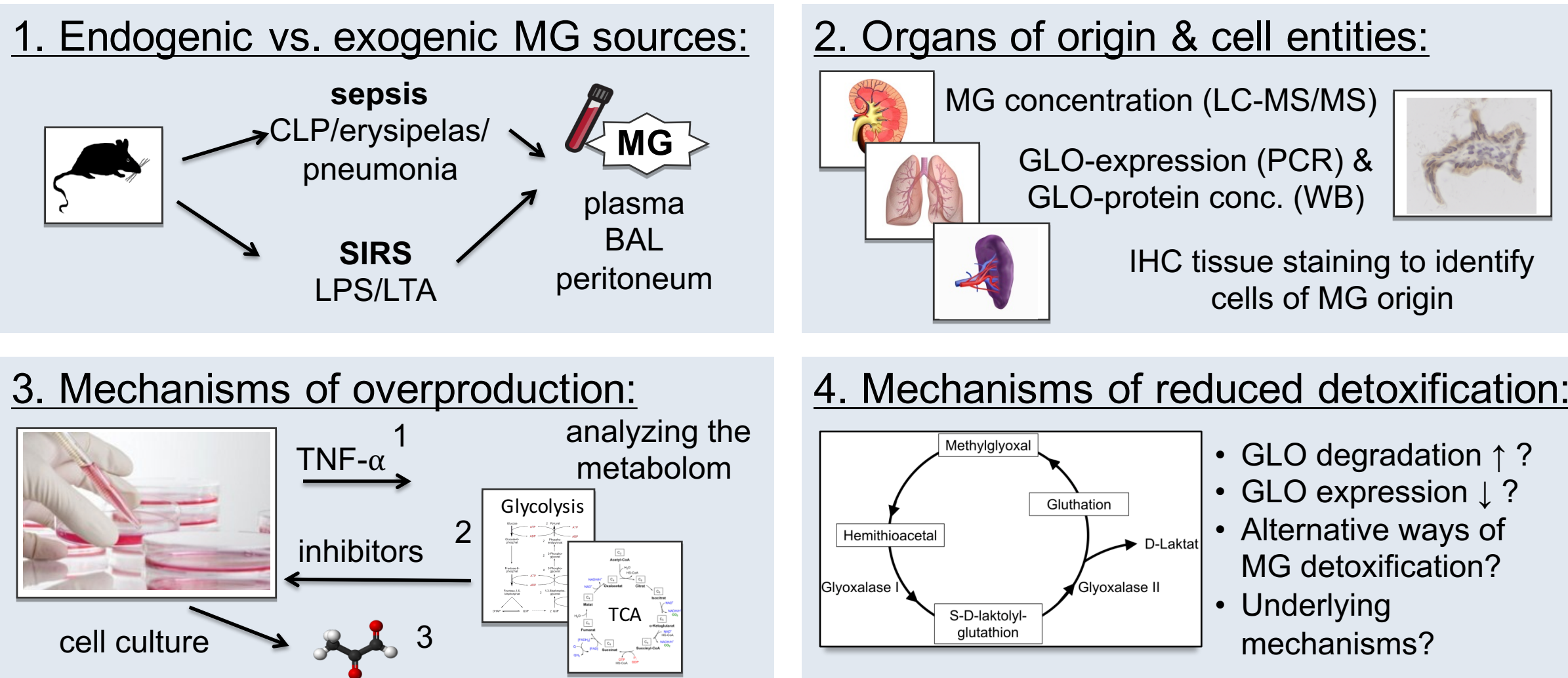


Plasma kinetics of MG in Cecal Ligation and Puncture (CLP)-induced murine sepsis were shown to be comparable to those of septic patients (A). Moreover, an additional MG-administration was associated with a dose-dependent decrease of survival in CLP-mice (B). Accordingly, MG-derived carbonyl stress might have a causal impact on the course of the disease in sepsis.

## Work Program

### Aim A:

#### Main source of MG-derived carbonyl stress in sepsis

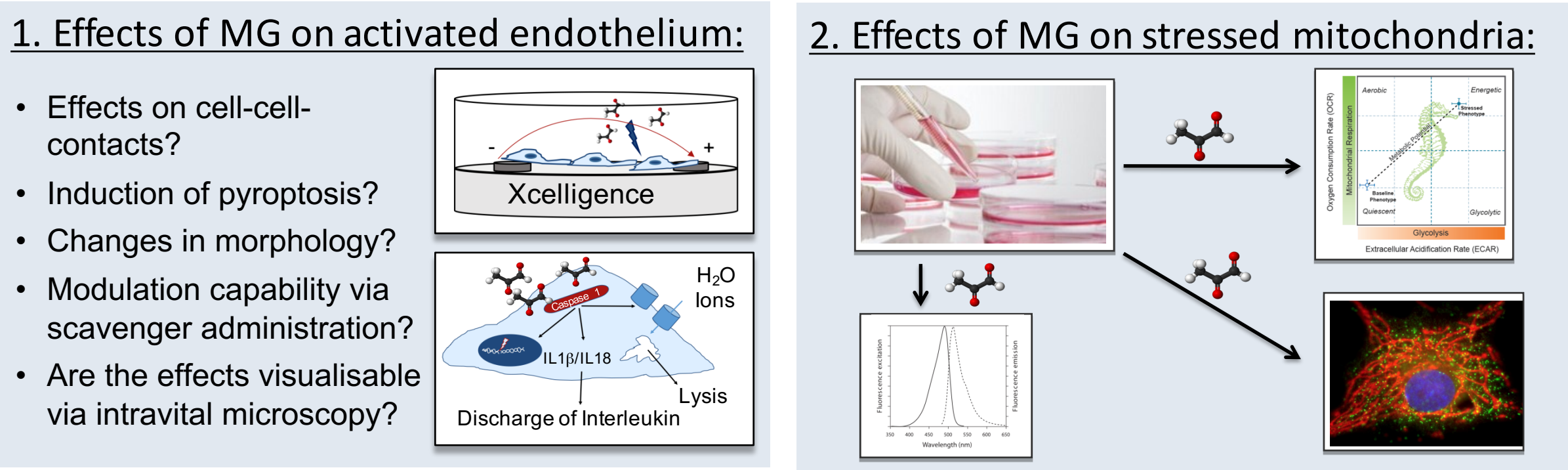


**Question:** Which cell entities show such an MG overload, which might serve as an explanation for the MG plasma kinetics observed in septic patients?

Within the **1<sup>st</sup> step** we seek to investigate the relevance of exogenic (=bacterial) MG production in sepsis. Furthermore we will try to answer the question, whether a treatment with antibiotics is able to influence MG-derived carbonyl stress in sepsis. Afterwards we seek to identify the organs as well as the ensuing cell entities, which are responsible for MG-derived carbonyl stress in early sepsis (**2<sup>nd</sup> step**). Moreover, we will try to illuminate the underlying mechanisms for MG-accumulation in sepsis (**3<sup>rd</sup> step**: production $\uparrow$  vs. **4<sup>th</sup> step**: detoxification $\downarrow$ ).

### Aim B:

#### Causal impact of MG-derived carbonyl stress in sepsis



**Question:** Via which mechanisms is MG able to influence the course of the disease in sepsis?

A loss of the endothelial barrier is a decisive factor contributing to serious disturbances of microcirculation, ultimately leading to septic shock. Therefore, we first seek to investigate possible effects of MG-derived carbonyl stress on activated endothelium (**1<sup>st</sup> step**). Afterwards, we will try to evaluate the effects of MG on mitochondrial function as well as the global capacity of energy supply (**2<sup>nd</sup> step**).

## Publications

- Brenner, T.,** Fleming, T., Uhle, F., Silaff, S., Schmitt, F., Salgado, E., Ulrich, A., Zimmermann, S., Bruckner, T., Martin, E., et al. (2014). Methylglyoxal as a new biomarker in patients with septic shock: an observational clinical study. Crit. Care Lond. Engl. 18, 683.
- Hofer, S., Uhle, F., Fleming, T., Hell, C., **Schmoch, T.,** Bruckner, T., Weigand, M.A., and **Brenner, T.** (2016). RAGE-mediated inflammation in patients with septic shock. J. Surg. Res. 202, 315–327.
- Schmoch, T.,** Uhle, F., Siegler, B.H., Fleming, T., Morgenstern, J., Nawroth, P.P., Weigand, M.A., and **Brenner, T.** (2017). The Glyoxalase System and Methylglyoxal-Derived Carbonyl Stress in Sepsis: Glycotoxic Aspects of Sepsis Pathophysiology. Int. J. Mol. Sci. 18.