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February 28, 2013

Dr Jamie Wilson  
 Chief Editor  
**Nature Immunology**

Dear Dr Wilson,

Please find the accompanying manuscript “Mcl-1 is critical for the survival and niche-filling capacity of Foxp3<sup>+</sup> regulatory T cells”, which we would like to be considered for publication in *Nature Immunology*.

Altering regulatory T cell numbers has been touted as a potential therapeutic strategy for diseases from autoimmunity and allergy to cancer and persistent infection, however direct manipulation via cell therapy or depletion has generally proven ineffective. In this study we have directly assessed the in vivo homeostatic properties of regulatory T cells under conditions of excess or deficient numbers, and characterized the negative feedback loops which return the numbers of this critical population back to the set-level. Furthermore, we have taken a systematic approach in analyzing the molecular mediators of regulatory T cell expansion and contraction and identified Mcl1 as a critical regulator of homeostasis level, with expansionary and contractive modulation mediated by IL-2 and Bim, respectively.

Together these results not only explain the failure of simple “cell therapy” approaches, but they also provide an attractive molecular target for intervention strategies to modulate regulatory T cell number. With a substantial advance in our understanding of regulatory T cell homeostasis and the molecular control over apoptosis, as well as clear clinical implications, we believe that the readers of *Nature Immunology* will be highly interested in this study.

Yours Sincerely,

Adrian Liston  
 Autoimmune Genetics Section  
 VIB & University of Leuven

Daniel Gray  
 The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute  
 University of Melbourne

**Comment [AL1]:** Using a letter-head is a nice professional touch.

**Comment [AL2]:** Include the date of submission, not the date you wrote the letter.

**Comment [AL3]:** It is always better to write to a particular person, rather than “Dear Editor”. If you know who will edit your paper (eg, a particular editor tends to handle all papers on your topic) then write to them. If not, write to the editor-in-chief of the journal (listed on every edition). Use the title by which they call themselves (varies between journals).

**Comment [AL4]:** Caution! You will probably use this letter multiple times, as you send the article to different journals. Make 100% sure that you change the journal name each time – here we write “Nature Immunology” three times, and it is plain disrespectful to have “Science” left over from the previous submission.

**Comment [AL5]:** Standard first paragraph. Tell them you are submitting the paper for their journal and give them the title. If the journal has multiple formats, say here what format you are submitting it under. Eg, “which we would like to be considered for publication as a Brief Definitive Report”.

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**Comment [AL7]:** Final pitch

**Comment [AL8]:** Standard

**Comment [AL9]:** Always the corresponding authors of the paper. Yes, even if you wrote the entire paper yourself and the corresponding author wants you to submit the paper.

**Comment [AL10]:** One page maximum.