

During viral infection, pre-existing memory CD8⁺ T cells that are not specific for the infecting virus can be activated by cytokines without cognate antigens, termed bystander activation (Kim et al. Immunity 2018, 48:161-173). Bystander-activated CD8 T cells exert either protective or detrimental effects on the host depending on the infection model or disease (Lee et al. Nat Immunol 2022, 23:13-22). Recently, my laboratory investigated regulatory mechanisms of TCR-independent bystander CD8 T cell activation. We found that TCR signal suppresses characteristic features of IL-15-induced CD8⁺ T cell activation, including the increased NKG2D expression and upregulation of genes related to NK cell-mediated cytotoxicity (Tj 0.486 0 Ciaheg 60.4 88.8