

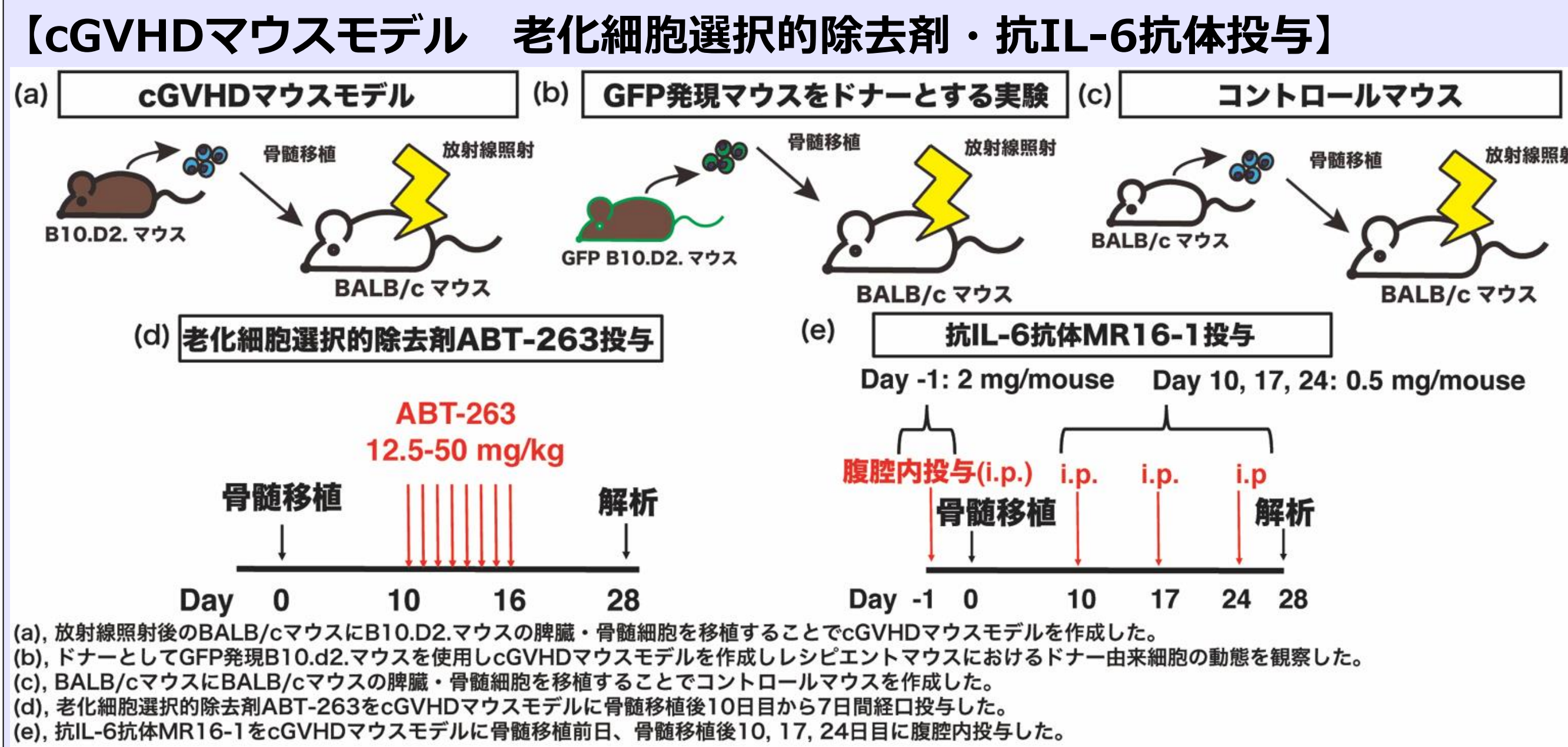


細胞老化・細胞老化関連分泌形質が眼慢性移植片対宿主病を促進する

Introduction

血液悪性疾患の根治療法である造血幹細胞移植において移植後に血液提供者ドナーの免疫細胞がレシピエントの全身の標的組織を攻撃する疾患である慢性移植片対宿主病(chronic graft-versus-host disease: cGVHD)が移植の成功率を妨げ長期生存者の生活、視覚の質を妨げる要因となっている。cGVHDは眼症状として結膜、角膜、涙腺に高度な炎症と線維化を起こし視覚障害に陥る程の重症ドライアイを引き起こす。我々はcGVHD 関連ドライアイ症例に睫毛と眉毛の白髪化が生じること、涙腺に浸潤するマクロファージに老化マーカー、酸化ストレスマーカーの発現、涙腺組織にリポスチン蓄積を認めたことから病態に何らかの老化現象が関与するのではないかと想着想に至った。近年 DNA障害、p16-RB・p53 経路の活性化と不可逆的な細胞周期停止、senescence-associated secretory phenotype (SASP) 因子分泌で特徴付けられる細胞老化が慢性炎症を促進することが注目されている。今回我々はcGVHDマウスモデルの主に涙腺で主要なSASP因子の発現と細胞老化が促進されていること、cGVHDマウスモデルに老化細胞選択的除去剤(ABT-263)、SASPの一つIL-6を阻害する抗IL-6抗体(MR16-1)を投与したところ、老化細胞・SASP因子発現抑制と眼cGVHDの病態抑制効果を認め、細胞老化・SASPが眼cGVHDの効果的な治療標的の一つであることが示唆された。

Methods



Results

【cGVHDマウスモデルとドナー由来のSASP因子IL-6産生マクロファージ】

GFP発現マウスをドナーとする骨髄移植を行った実験で、脾臓においてcGVHDマウスモデルではコントロールに比較し有意にIL-6⁺マクロファージが多く、またそのほとんどがドナー由来の細胞 (GFP⁺)であった(**Figure1, a**)。涙腺組織において時間経過に伴いドナー由来IL-6産生マクロファージのコントロールに比較し有意な浸潤の増加を認めた(**Figure1, b**)。

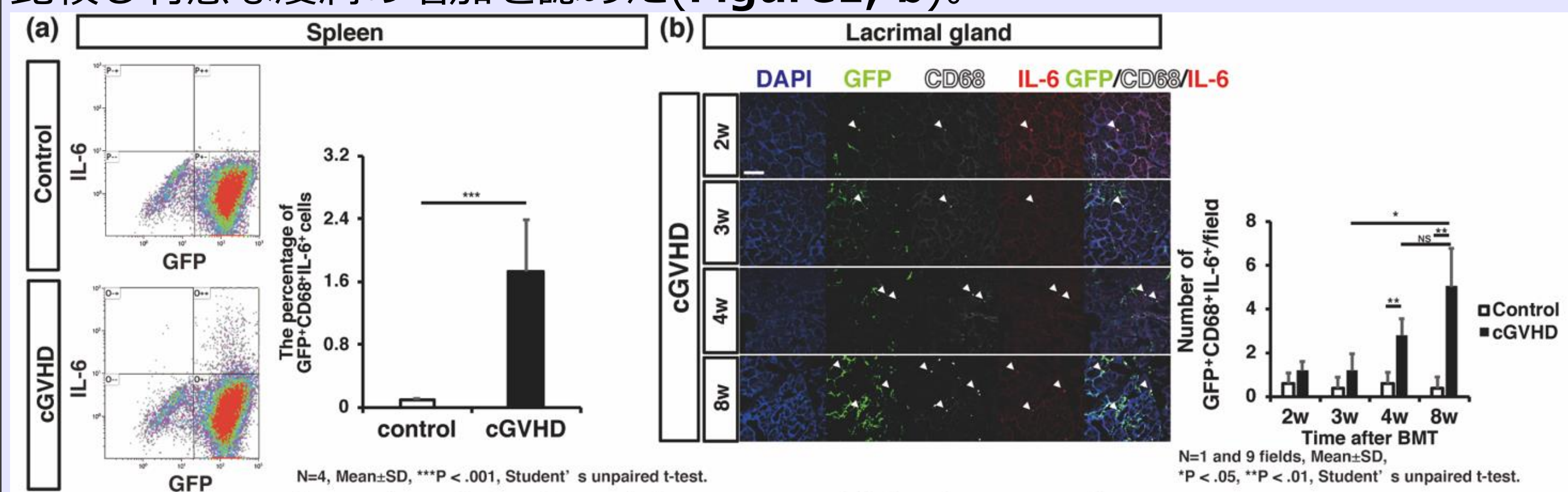


Figure1. cGVHDマウスモデルにおけるドナー由来 (GFP⁺) IL-6産生マクロファージ

【cGVHDマウスモデルにおける細胞老化とSASP因子の発現】

cGVHDマウスモデルの涙腺組織でコントロールと比較し単位面積あたりの涙腺組織でDNA障害マーカー-53BP1・γ-H2A.Xの発現が有意に亢進し(**Figure2, a**) またp16⁺CD68⁺老化マクロファージ、CD153⁺PD1⁺Osteopontin(OPN)⁺老化T細胞が有意に多く浸潤していた(**Figure2, b-c**)。加えてSASP因子IL-1β・IL-6・IL-8の発現が有意に亢進し、SASP因子CXCL1、CXCL9発現マクロファージが有意に多く浸潤していた(**Figure2, d**)。脾臓においても同マウスモデルにおいてコントロールに比較し有意に老化マーカーp16発現IL-6産生マクロファージの増加を認めた(**Figure2, e**)。

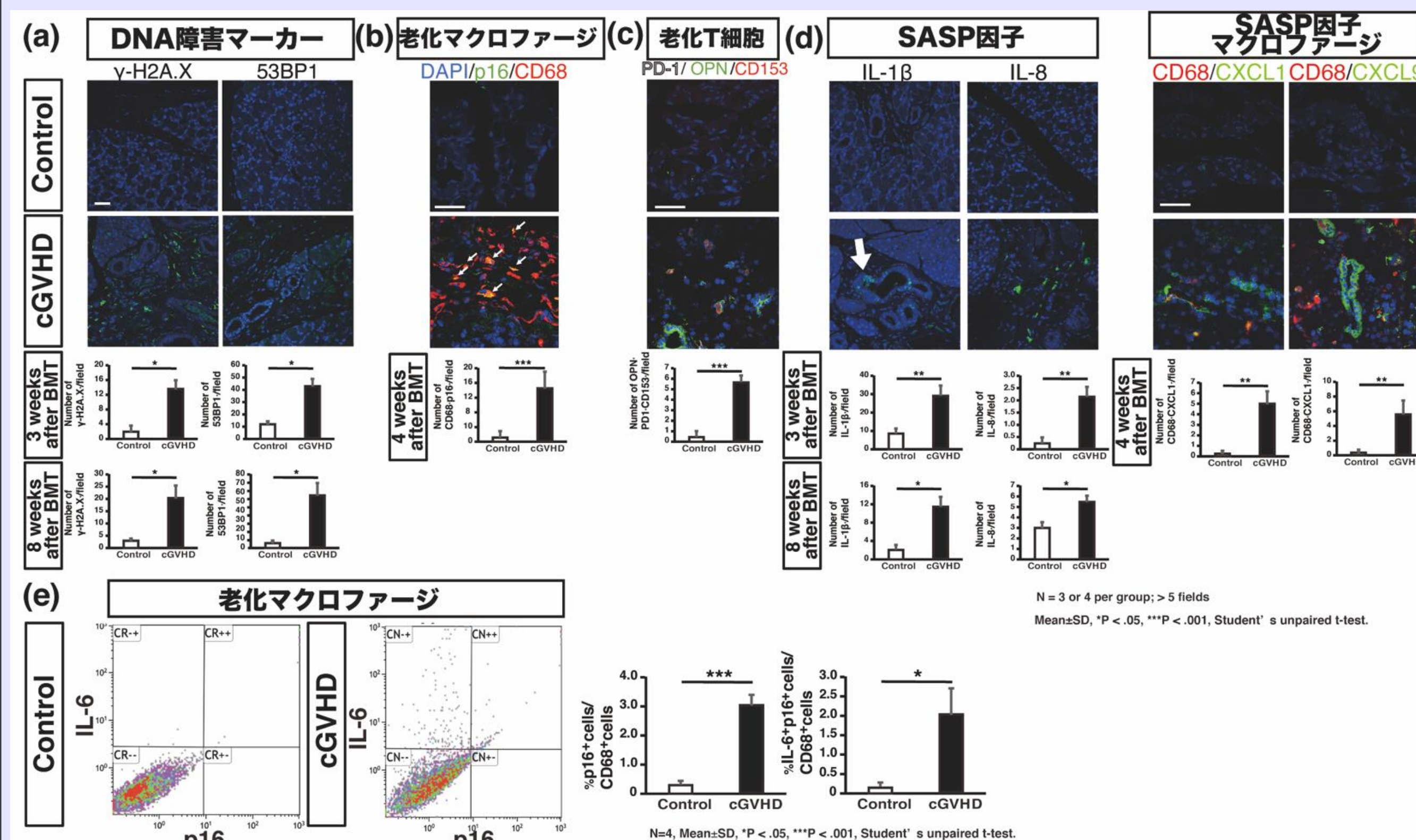


Figure2. cGVHDマウスモデルにおける細胞老化・SASP関連因子

【老化細胞選択的除去剤ABT-263の眼cGVHD病態抑制効果】

Bcl-2/Bax/Bak経路に作用する老化細胞選択的除去剤ABT-263をcGVHDマウスモデルに投与し病態抑制効果を検証した。ABT-263投与群において涙腺組織で有意な活性化Baxの発現上昇を認めた(**Figure3, a**)。骨髄移植後27日目においてVehicle投与群と比較し涙液分泌量が有意に保たれ(**Figure3, b**)、加えて同薬剤濃度依存的に涙腺の病的線維化の抑制を認めた(**Figure3, c**)。ABT-263投与群の涙腺組織でVehicle投与群と比較し老化マーカー(p16・p21)、SASP因子(IL-1β・IL-8・IL-6・CXCL9)の発現抑制、OPN⁺CD4⁺CD153⁺老化T細胞・CD68⁺マクロファージ・CD4⁺T細胞の浸潤抑制を認めた(**Figure3, d**)。

また、Foxp3⁺CD4⁺制御性T細胞保持、CD4⁺CD153⁺OPN⁺老化T細胞浸潤抑制効果の観点から25mg/kgが同薬剤の至適濃度と考えられた (**Figure3, d**)。

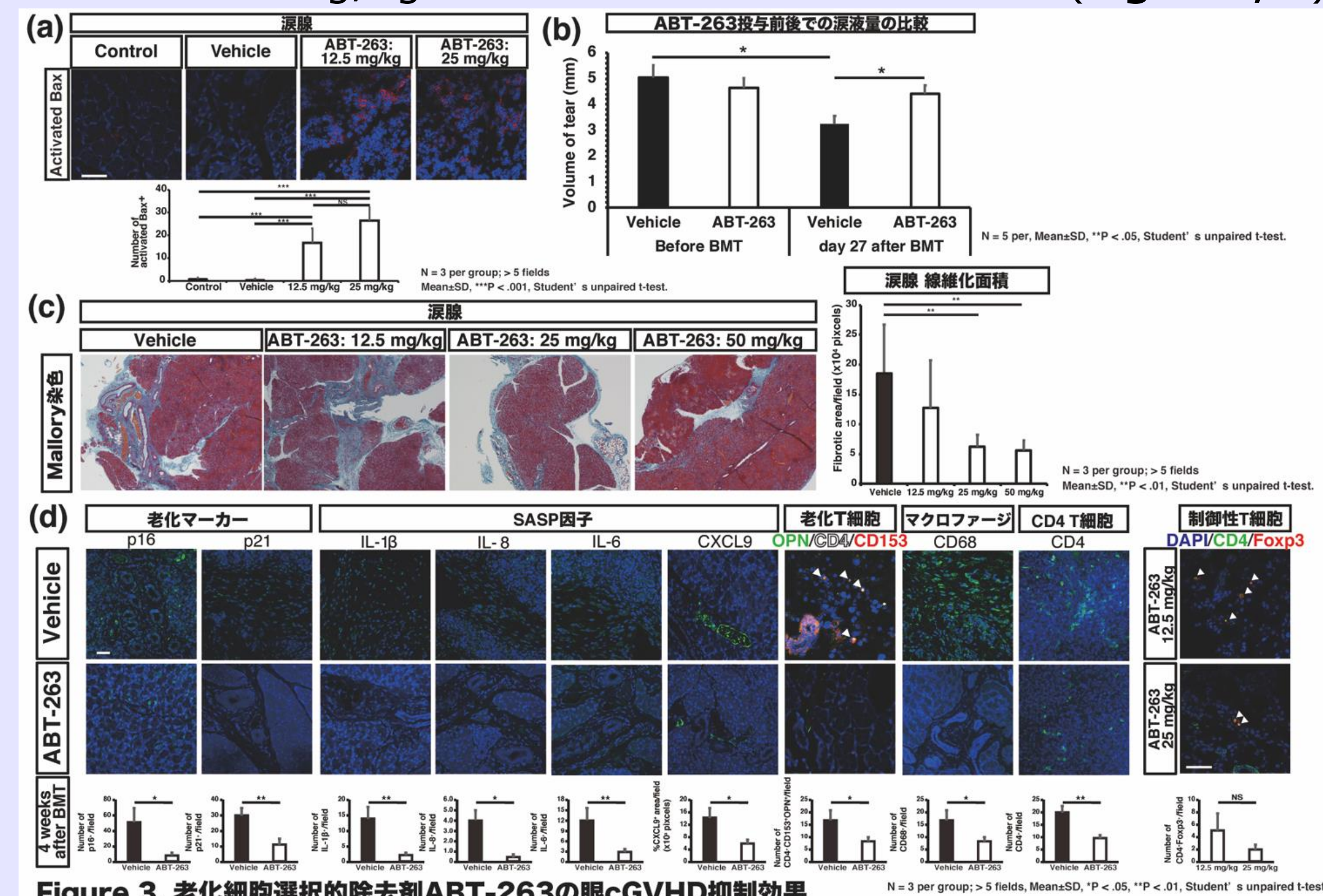


Figure 3. 老化細胞選択的除去剤ABT-263の眼cGVHD抑制効果

【抗IL-6抗体MR16-1の眼cGVHD病態抑制効果】

SASPの一つを阻害する抗IL-6抗体MR16-1をcGVHDマウスモデルに投与し病態抑制効果を検証した。その結果、単位面積あたりの涙腺組織で病的線維化、老化マーカーp16・p21、SASP因子IL-6・CXCL9・OPNの発現抑制を認めた。Caspase-1・IL-8の発現に有意な変化は認めず、IL-6はこれらより下流、CXCL9・OPNより上流のSASP因子であることが示唆された(**Figure4, a-c**)。

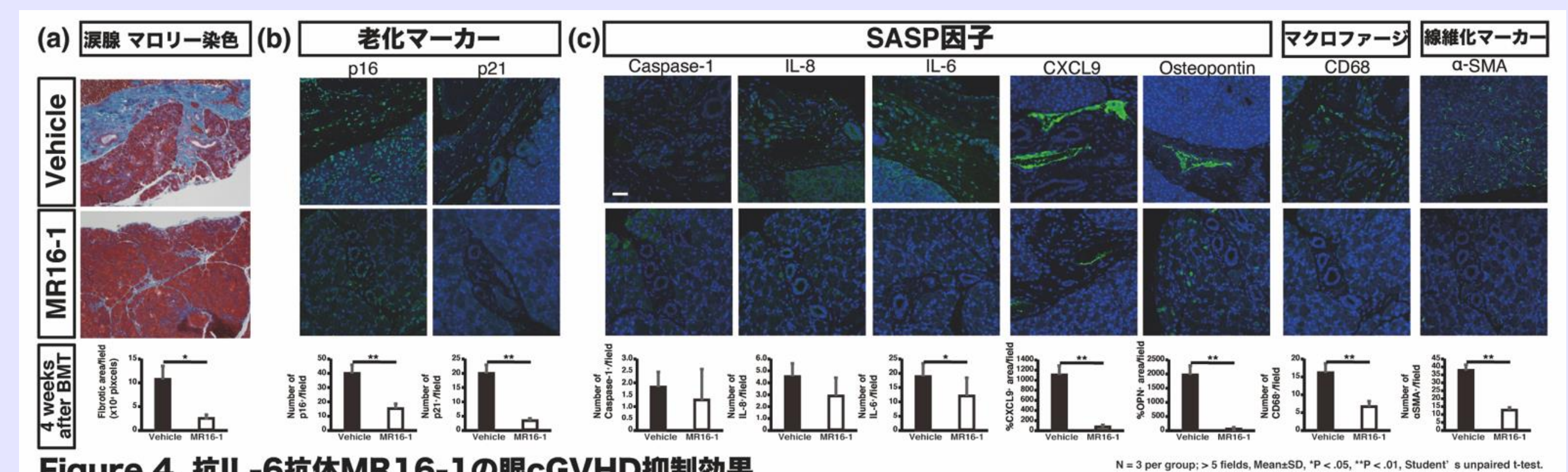


Figure 4. 抗IL-6抗体MR16-1の眼cGVHD抑制効果

【老化マクロファージとT細胞との相互作用】

マクロファージの細胞老化とSASP因子IL-6分泌メカニズム追及のためcGVHDマウスモデル・コントロールマウスのマクロファージと種々のT細胞の共培養を行った。その結果、cGVHDマウスモデルのマクロファージとT細胞の組み合わせで(**Figure5, b**)、次いでレシピエント由来(野生型BALB/cマウス)のT細胞との組み合わせでp16⁺IL-6⁺マクロファージが増加した(**Figure5, f**)。これまでの結果から、細胞老化・SASPがcGVHDの病態を促進するメカニズムの仮説図を作成した(**Figure5, g**)。cGVHDの病態形成に細胞老化・SASPが関与しそのメカニズムとしてドナー由来のマクロファージがレシピエント由来T細胞と相互作用を持つことで細胞老化・SASP因子IL-6の分泌が促進されることが考えられた。マクロファージがストレス誘導性に細胞老化をきたし各種SASP因子を分泌、そのうちのIL-6がオートクライン的に細胞老化をさらに促進することが示唆された。CXCL9がT細胞の遊走を促進し、OPN⁺老化T細胞が組織の病的な線維化に寄与することが報告されている。

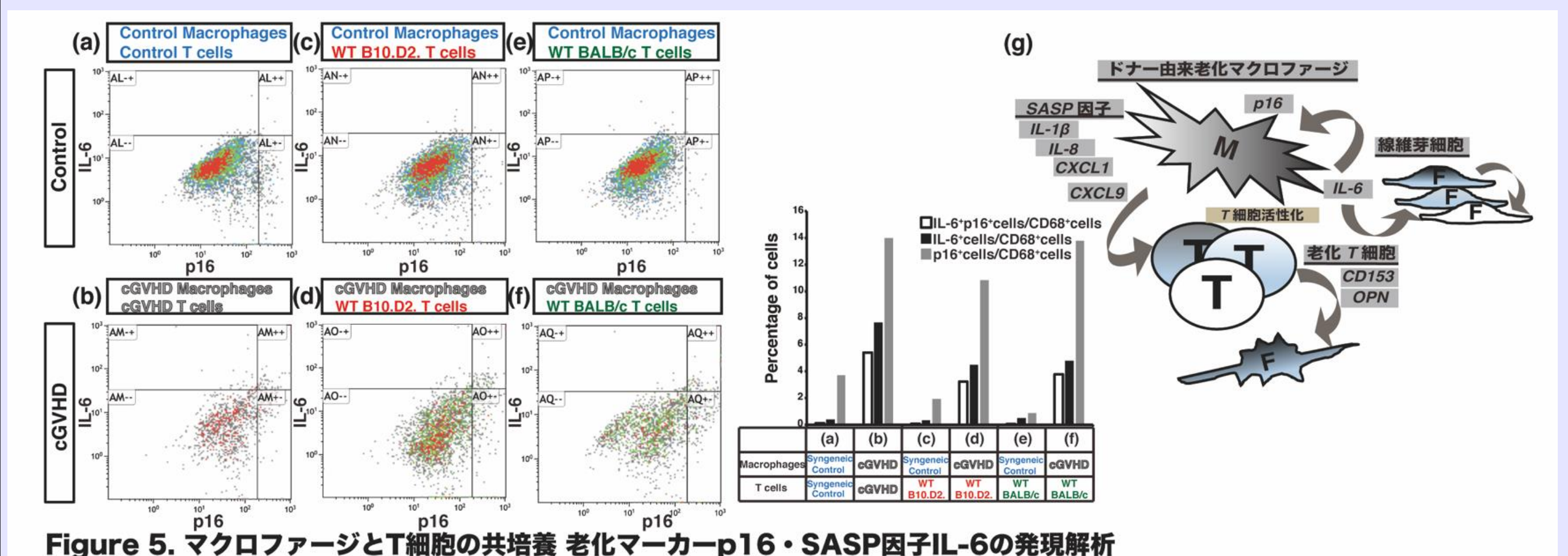


Figure 5. マクロファージとT細胞の共培養 老化マーカーp16・SASP因子IL-6の発現解析

Conclusion

【細胞老化・SASPが眼cGVHDの病態を促進する】

cGVHDマウスモデルの主に涙腺組織で細胞老化とSASP因子の発現が亢進していた。老化細胞選択的除去剤ABT-263とSASP因子IL-6阻害剤MR16-1が眼cGVHDの病態を抑制した。以上より細胞老化・SASPが眼cGVHDの病態形成に寄与し、また有効な治療ターゲットであることが示唆された。今後、眼以外の全身への効果を検証するとともに、細胞種特異的に細胞老化とSASP因子の発現を解析しより詳細なメカニズムを追及し、臨床応用への手がかりとする。



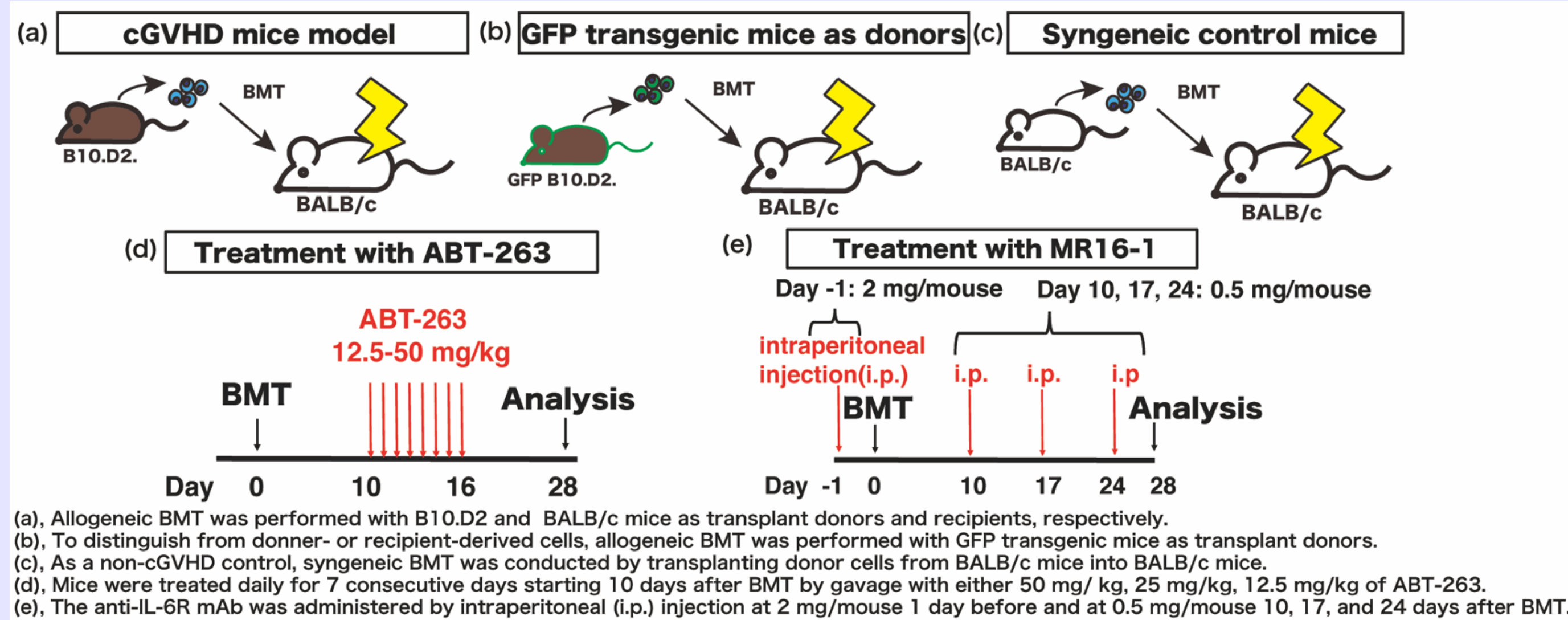
Senescence-associated secretory phenotype promotes chronic ocular graft-vs-host disease

Introduction

Chronic graft-vs-host disease (cGVHD) is a multifactorial inflammatory disease that affects patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Multiple organs, including the lacrimal glands (LGs) are negatively affected by cGVHD and lose function due to the resultant fibrosis. Age-related changes, including the development of eyebrow and eyelash poliosis or skin wrinkles, can progress rapidly in patients with severe cGVHD. Based on these findings, we hypothesized that chronic ocular GVHD is related to senescence. Our findings suggest a potential association between ocular cGVHD pathogenesis and stress-induced cellular senescence through the senescence-associated secretory phenotype (SASP). Indeed, senescent cell accumulation and SASP were presumably associated with cGVHD development in LGs, as evidenced by the improvement in LGs after the selective elimination of senescent cells (senolysis) with ABT-263 and anti-mouse IL-6R mAb MR16-1 in the sclerodermatous cGVHD mouse model. Taken together, our results indicate a potential association between the SASP and cGVHD development in LGs and suggest that targeted senolytic treatment may be a new therapeutic option for this disease.

Methods

[cGVHD mouse model and treatment with ABT-263 and MR16-1]



Results

[Donor-derived IL-6 producing macrophages in cGVHD model]

Donor-derived macrophages from the spleen produced more IL-6 in cGVHD mice than in syngeneic controls (Figure1, a). IL-6-producing donor-derived macrophages accumulated in a time-dependent manner in cGVHD-affected LGs (Figure1, b).

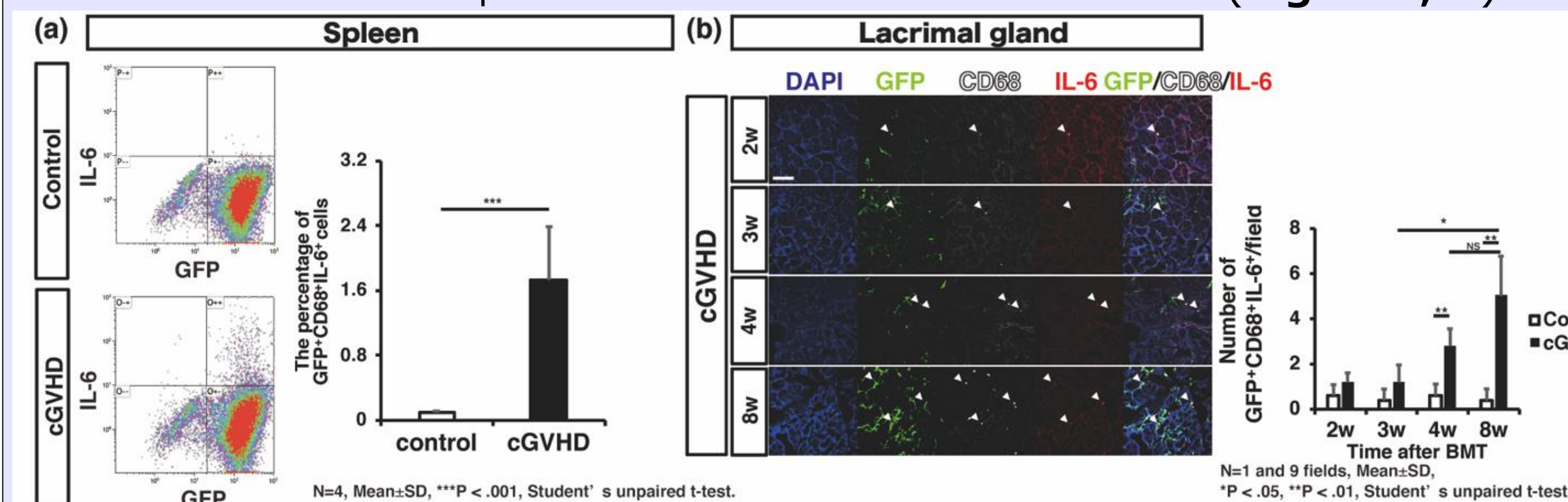


Figure1. Donor-derived (GFP+) IL-6-producing macrophages in cGVHD mouse model

[Relationship between cGVHD and SASP related-molecules]

The LGs of cGVHD mice had significantly more expression of markers of the DNA damage response (53BP1, γ -H2A.X) (Figure2, a), senescent macrophages (p16+CD68+) (Figure1, b), and senescent T cells (PD-1+Osteopontin(OPN)+CD153+) (Figure2, c) than those in syngeneic control mice. The number of cells/field expressing SASP factors (IL-1 β + IL-8) (Figure2, d right) and macrophages expressing major SASP components (CXCL1+CD68+, CXCL9+CD68+) (Figure1, d left) was higher for cGVHD LGs than control LGs. We further confirmed a significantly higher percentage of p16+ and p16+IL-6+ double positive macrophages in cGVHD spleen than that of syngeneic controls (Figure2, e).

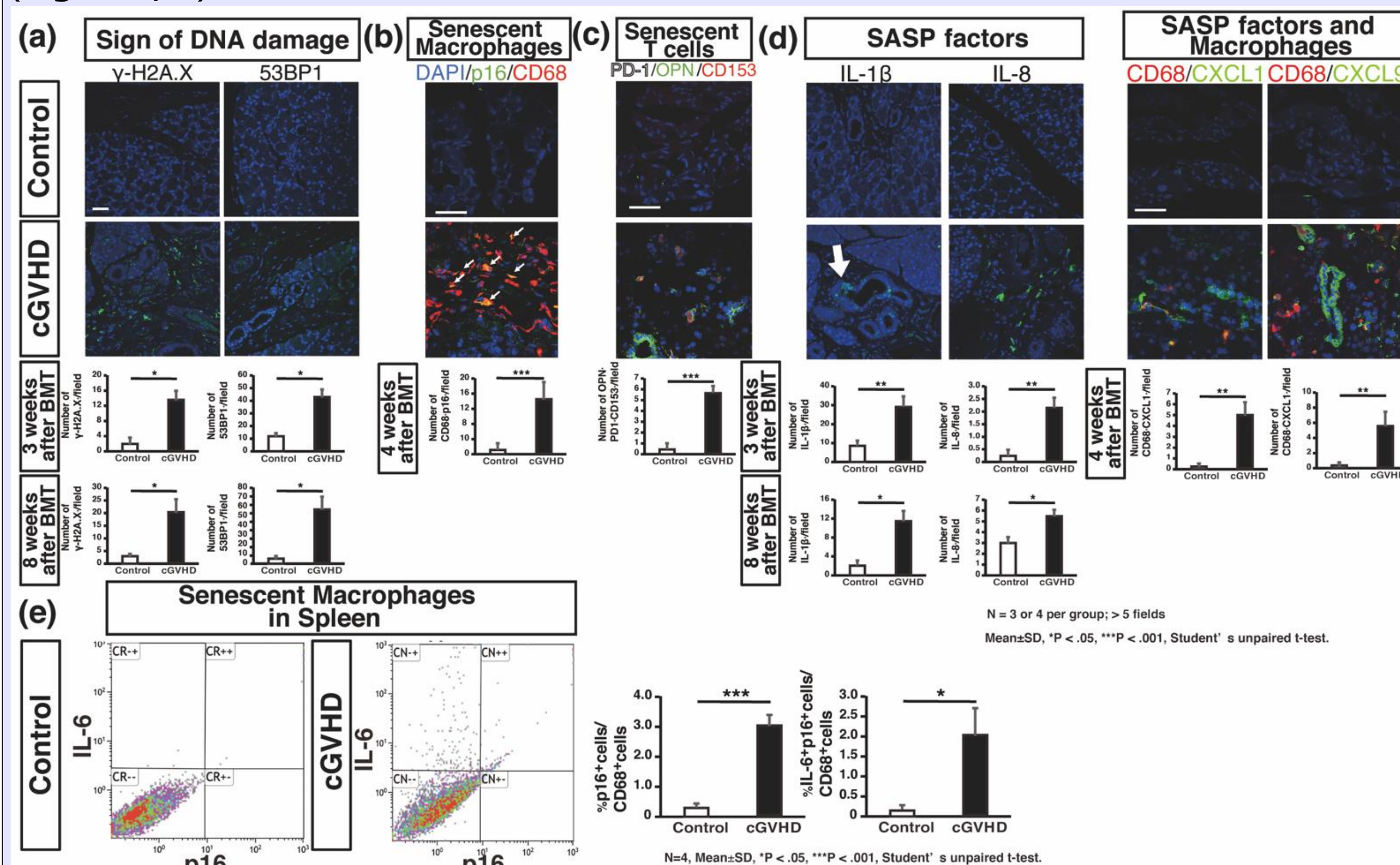


Figure2. Relationship between cGVHD and SASP related-molecules

[Treatment with senolytic agent ABT-263]

To further confirm the association between cellular senescence and cGVHD, we used senolytic agent ABT-263 that inhibit the anti-apoptotic activity of Bcl-2/Bax/Bak pathway and eliminate senescent cells. ABT-263 increased the number of activated Bax+ cells in cGVHD LGs (Figure3, a). The tear secretion volume was significantly higher in 4 weeks after BMT in ABT-263-treated mice than in vehicle-treated mice (Figure3, b) and ABT-263 dose-dependently suppress the abnormal fibrosis in cGVHD LGs (Figure3, c). The number of cells expressing the senescence marker (p16, p21) and SASP factors (IL-1 β , IL-8, IL-6, CXCL9, Osteopontin(OPN)), inflammatory cells (macrophages and CD4 T cells) and CD4+CD153+OPN+ senescent T cells in the LGs was significantly lower in the ABT-263-treated mice than in the vehicle-treated mice (Figure3, d). We propose that 25 mg/kg ABT-263 is the ideal dose based on the maintenance of LG structures, depletion of CD4+CD153+OPN+ senescent T cells, and preservation of CD4+Foxp3+ regulatory T cells (Figure3, d).

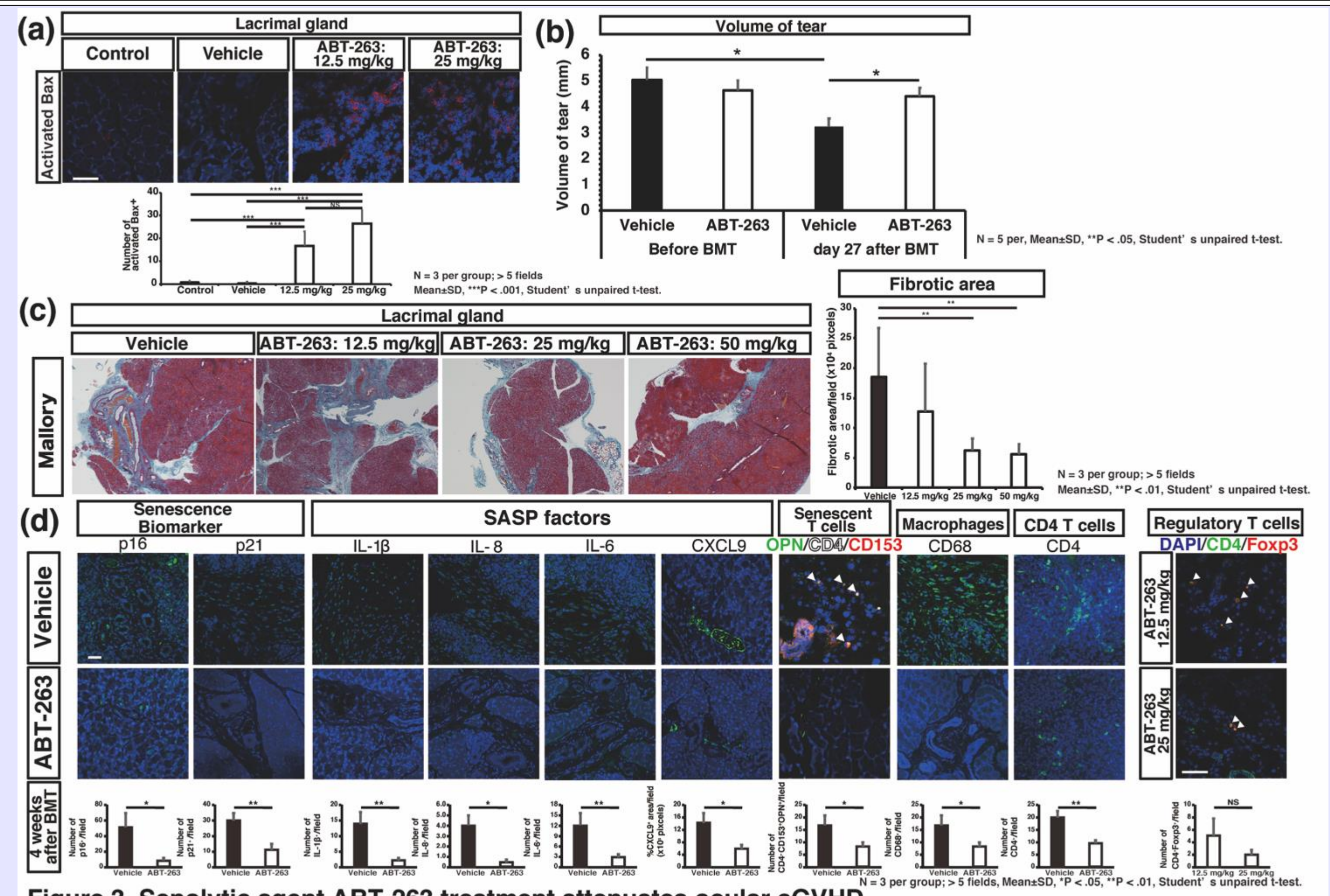


Figure 3. Senolytic agent ABT-263 treatment attenuates ocular cGVHD

[Treatment with anti-mouse IL-6R mAb MR16-1]

To confirm that SASP exacerbates cGVHD, we performed an inhibition experiment using the anti-mouse IL-6R mAb MR16-1. Notably, histological analysis revealed a significant reduction in excessive fibrosis in the LGs of MR16-1-treated mice compared to vehicle-treated mice (Figure4, a). The number of cells/field expressing senescence biomarker (p16, p21), SASP factors (IL-6, CXCL9, OPN), and fibrosis marker (α -SMA) in cGVHD LGs was significantly lower in the MR16-1-treated mice than in the control mice (Figure4, c). MR16-1 treatment did not suppress the induction of upstream SASP-related molecule expression (Caspase-1, IL-8) in cGVHD LGs suggesting that IL-6 is downstream of caspase-1 and IL-8.

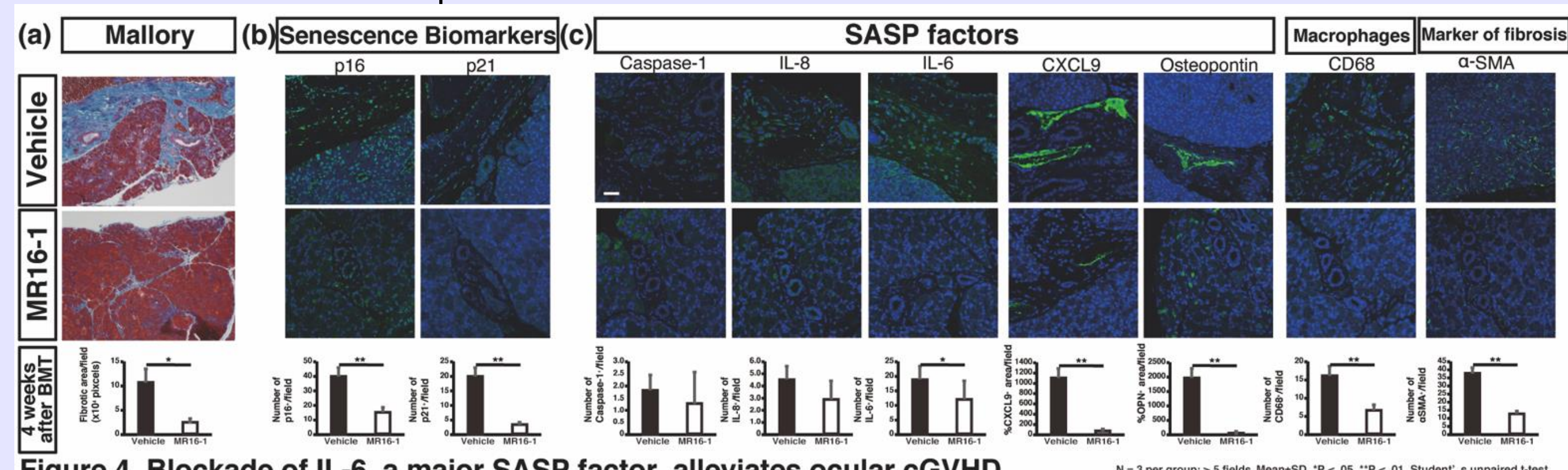


Figure 4. Blockade of IL-6, a major SASP factor, alleviates ocular cGVHD

[Interaction between macrophages and T cells in cGVHD]

To pursue mechanistic insight into the findings of this study, we cocultured various donor- and recipient-originated T cells with macrophages from the spleen of cGVHD. IL-6+p16+ macrophages were predominantly derived from cGVHD mice compared to syngeneic controls (Figure5, a-f). Among the cocultures, IL-6+p16+ macrophages from cGVHD mice were the most senescent upon coculture with T cells from cGVHD recipients (Figure5, b). In addition, cGVHD macrophages interacting with recipient T cells (wild-type BALB/c T cells) expressed IL-6 and p16 (Figure5, f), suggesting that donor-derived p16+ senescent macrophages may activate recipient T cells as antigen-presenting cells, leading to IL-6 production in the cGVHD LG microenvironment. Taken together, we made hypothetical model of ocular cGVHD pathogenesis (Figure5, g). Macrophages exposed to severe damage undergo senescence and produce the SASP factors. Then, IL-6 reinforces macrophage senescence in an autocrine manner. CXCL9 facilitates the recruitment of neighboring T cells to the microenvironment early after disease onset. Senescent T cells may accelerate stress-induced senescence as a late complication of cGVHD. Consequently, a subset of senescent/mature fibroblasts, macrophages and T cells begin to synthesize abnormal collagens and extracellular matrix, leading to inflammation and abnormal fibrosis in cGVHD LGs.

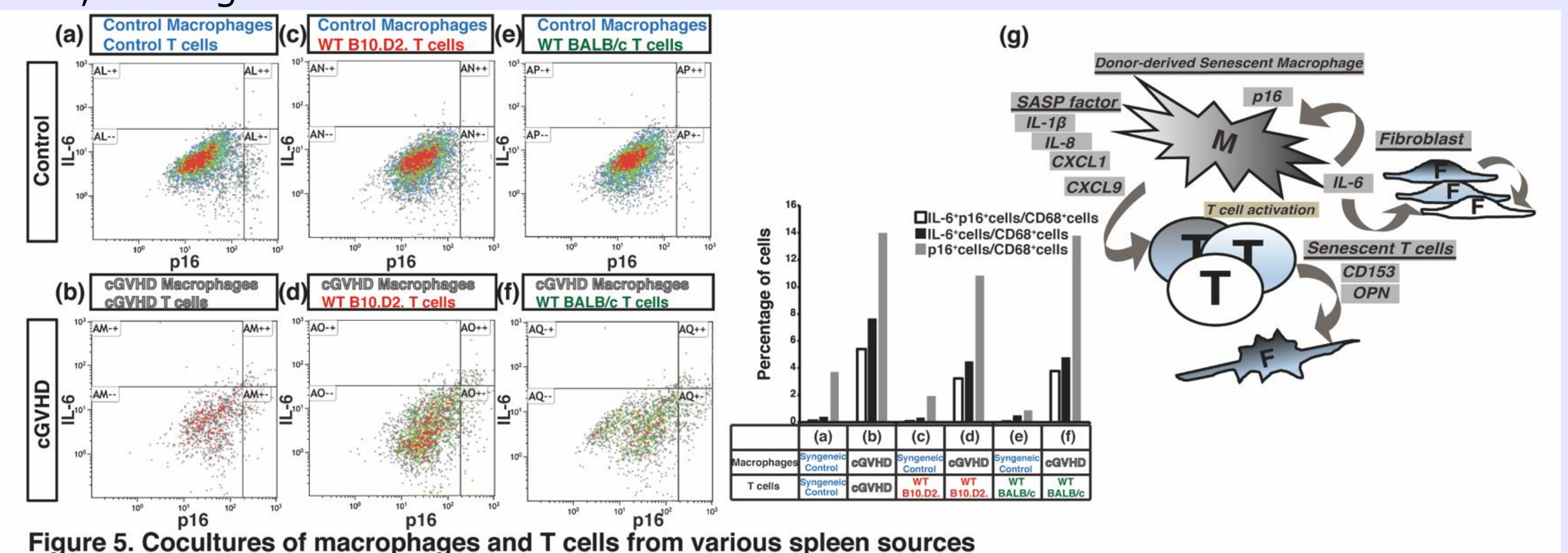


Figure 5. Cocultures of macrophages and T cells from various spleen sources

Conclusion

[SASP factors promote ocular cGVHD]

Our results indicate a potential association between the SASP and cGVHD development in LGs. Inhibiting the SASP evoked by senescent cells may be a new clinically translatable strategy for attenuating the effects of cGVHD in LGs and other target organs. In the future, we would like to pursue the detailed mechanism of relationship between cellular senescence and cGVHD by observing SASP-related molecules on each specific immune cells such as T cells, macrophages, and fibroblasts respectively.



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