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Macrophage activation as an effector mechanism for cell-mediated immunity. In 1962, Mackaness demonstrated that lymphocytes transferred from immunized animals altered the bactericidal activity of the recipient macrophages (8, 9). Thus, the interdependence of the innate and adaptive immune responses in successfully protecting the host against intracellular pathogens was revealed. Mackaness’ seminal work set the stage for the molecular characterization of macrophage activation, such as the 1983 publications by two groups, first-authored by Carl Nathan and Robert Schreiber, demonstrating that T cell–secreted IFN-γ was the factor that stimulated macrophages to increase their bactericidal activity during cellular immunity (10, 11). Mackaness’ work clearly demonstrated the involvement of macrophages in the complex interactions between cells that play key roles in innate and adaptive immunity, and it laid the foundation for current research focused on dissecting the mechanisms that drive this crosstalk.

Disclosures

The authors have no financial conflicts of interest.

References