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Dear Friends:

We have a new paper published in Nature Reviews Drug Discovery that discusses the rationale for using therapies that specifically activate TNF, a protein in the body that can influence whether a cell lives or dies, to eliminate the destructive white blood cells ("bad" T cells) responsible for autoimmune diseases. We also outline some short-term and long-term strategies for targeting TNF (and especially one receptor, called TNF receptor 2, that is on this protein's surface) and potentially creating new therapies based on this approach.

Our clinical trials are based on the concept that temporarily elevating TNF in the body will lead to the destruction of the bad T cells in patients with autoimmune diseases like type 1 diabetes. We believe this could be a safer approach to treating autoimmunity, one that avoids or reduces the toxicity observed with existing therapies. The full article is available on www.faustmanlab.com <<http://www.faustmanlab.com>> under "News."

Reference:

Faustman D, Davis M. TNF receptor 2 pathway: drug target for autoimmune diseases. <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20489699>> Nat Rev Drug Discov. 2010 Jun;9(6):482-93. Epub 2010 May 21.

