

# Inhalation of (nano)particles, acute phase response and cardiovascular disease

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# Nanosafety at the National Research Centre for the Working Environment



- Government research institute under the Danish Ministry of Employment
- Nanosafety as strategic research area since 2005
- Past and present partners in more than 20 EU projects on nanosafety
- Danish Centre for Nanosafety 2012-2019

# The vision

Research



Mechanism-based understanding of toxicological effect



Evidence-based risk assessment.  
Prediction of the toxicological effects based on information on physico-chemical properties



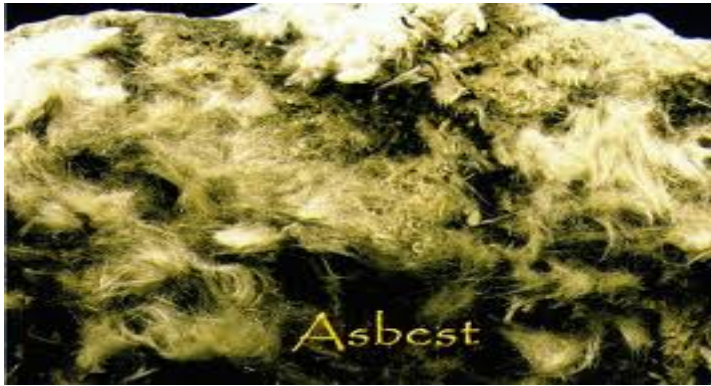
Grouping and ranking for regulation  
Safe-by-design



Safe use of nanomaterials including high volume chemicals



# Safe-by-design:



Lung cancer  
Fibre-paradigm



Mineralwool



Painters syndrome  
Organic solvents



Water-based paint  
MAL codes

# Cardiovascular disease constitutes a major fraction of preventable air pollution-induced morbidity

## EXAMPLE:

- Heating with coal in private households was banned in Dublin, Ireland in 1991:
- Black smoke levels in ambient air were reduced by 0.036 mg/m<sup>3</sup>
- Mortality rates were reduced by 75 per 100 000 person-years
- 77% cardiovascular (!)
- Effects were adjusted for death rates in the rest of Ireland
- Morbidity was not assessed

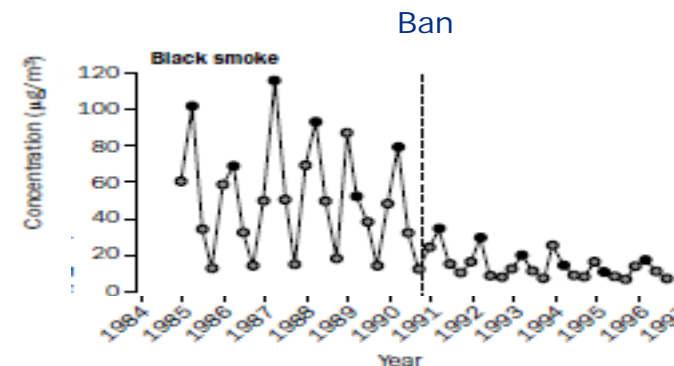
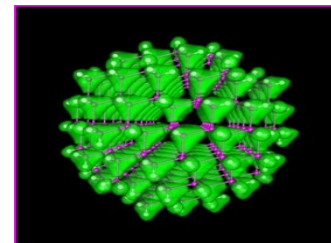
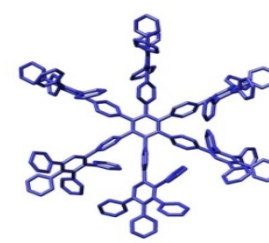
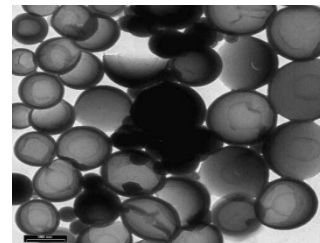
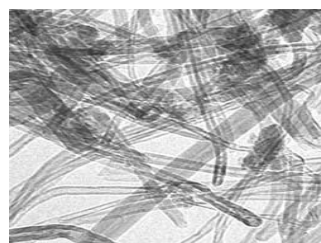
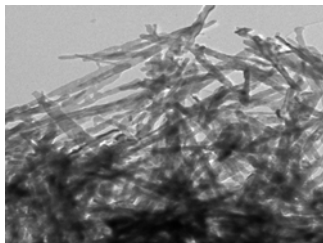
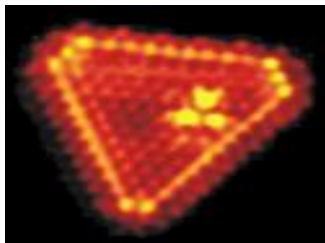
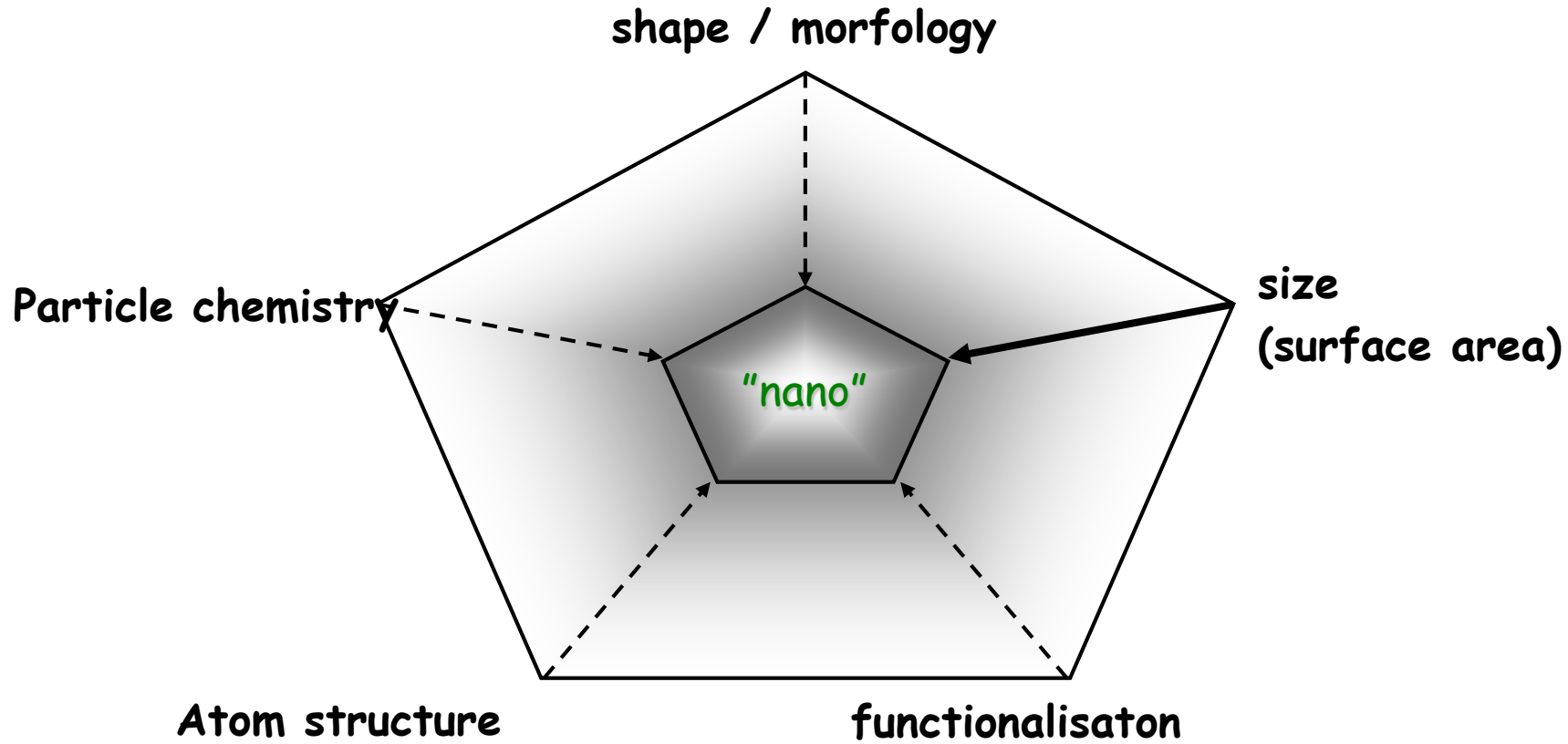


Table 2: Age-standardised mortality rates for Dublin County Borough before (1984–90) and after (1990–96) ban of sale of coal, by season

	1984–90	1990–96	Change	p
<b>Deaths per 1000 person-years</b>				
<b>Non-trauma</b>				
Autumn	8.73	8.54	-0.19	<0.0001
Winter	11.03	9.88	-1.15	<0.0001
Spring	9.49	8.66	-0.83	<0.0001
Summer	8.40	7.56	-0.85	<0.0001
Total	9.41	8.65	-0.75	<0.0001
<b>Cardiovascular</b>				
Autumn	4.01	3.67	-0.34	<0.0001
Winter	5.18	4.47	-0.71	<0.0001
Spring	4.41	3.71	-0.69	<0.0001
Summer	3.89	3.29	-0.59	<0.0001
Total	4.37	3.78	-0.58	<0.0001

(Adapted from Clancy et al, Lancet, 2002)

# Many different nanomaterials



# Inhalation of particles and risk of cardiovascular disease

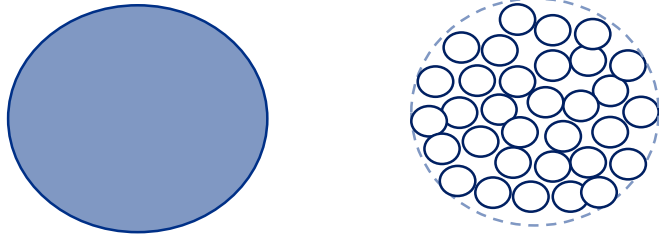
- Epidemiological studies show associations between air pollution and risk of cardiovascular disease
- Several different mechanisms have been proposed related to
  - Inflammation
  - Inflammation-induced hepatic acute phase response
  - Direct effect of translocated particles
  - Vascular function

# The Known: Nanomaterial-induced pulmonary inflammation

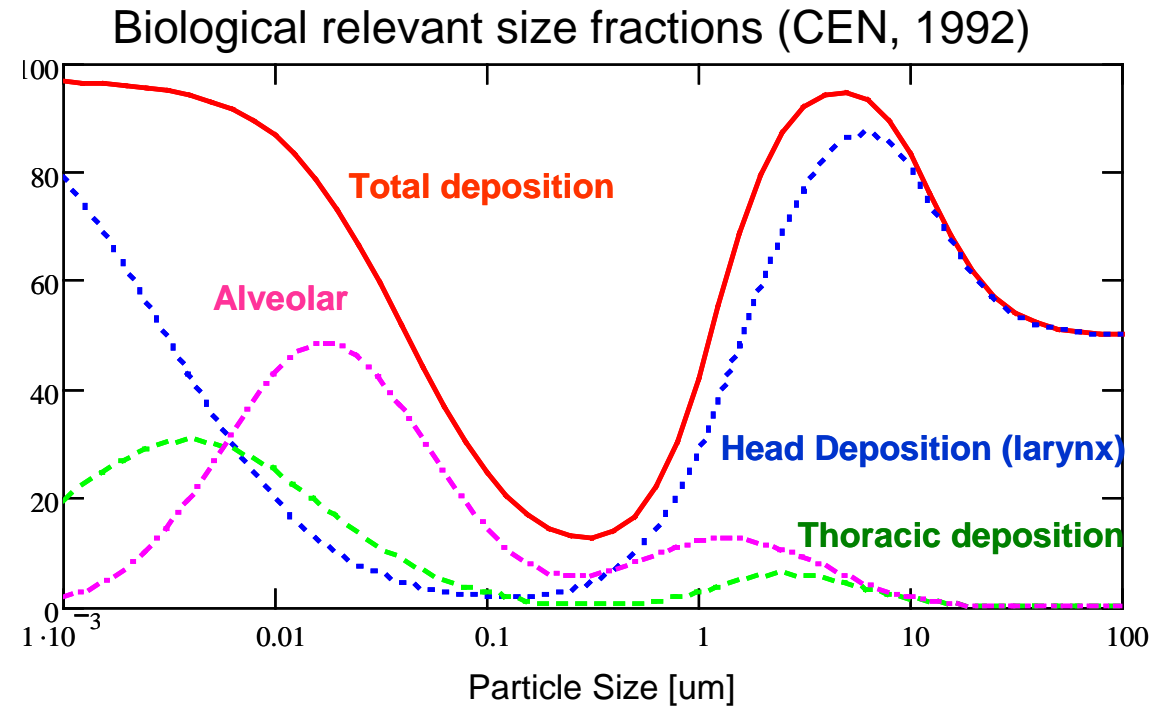
- Inhalation of inert and insoluble nanoparticles induces pulmonary inflammation in terms of neutrophil influx and increased pulmonary transcription and expression of cytokines
- Inflammation (neutrophil influx) correlates with the total surface area of deposited particles



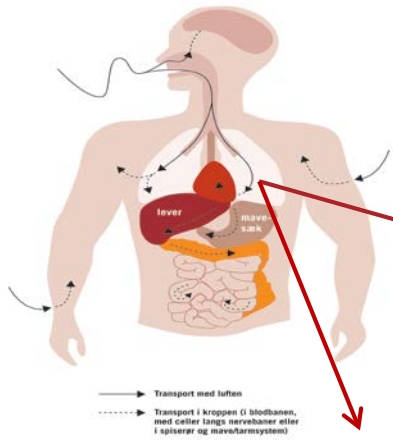
# The Nano Issue: More particles & larger total surface area per mass unit, and more alveolar deposition after inhalation



Smaller particles:  
More particles pr mass unit  
Larger surface area pr mass unit

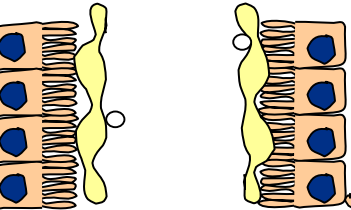


# Inhalation of nanoparticles: particle accumulation and inflammation



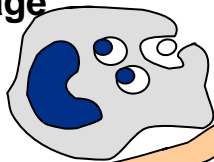
**Fine particles**

**Airways**

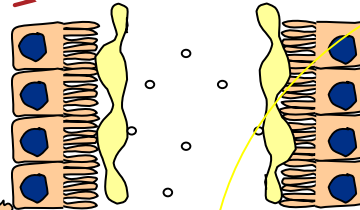


Particle deposition and removal by mucociliar clearance

Particle phagocytosis by macrophage



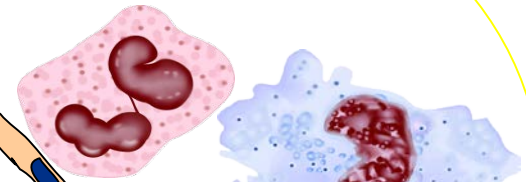
**Nanoparticles**  
**Ultrafine particles**



**INFLAMMATION**

release of mediators

**ROS**

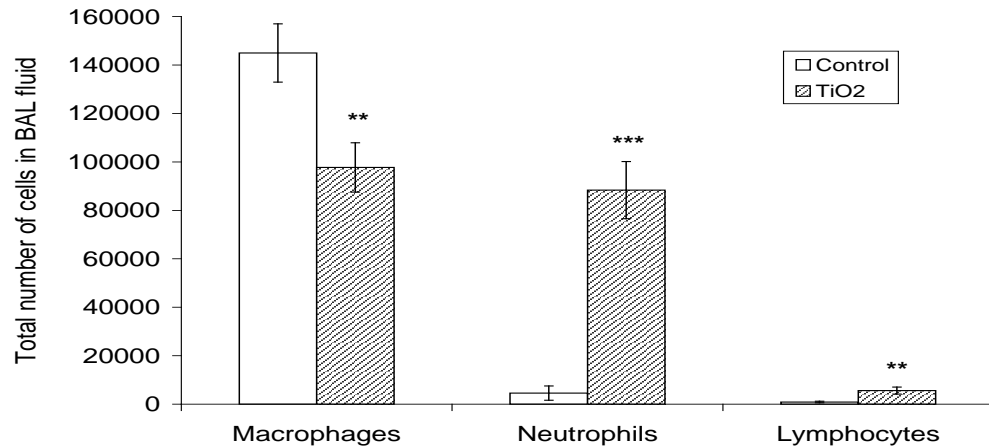


Chemo/cytokines  
TNF, MIP, ILs etc.:  
ROS/RNS

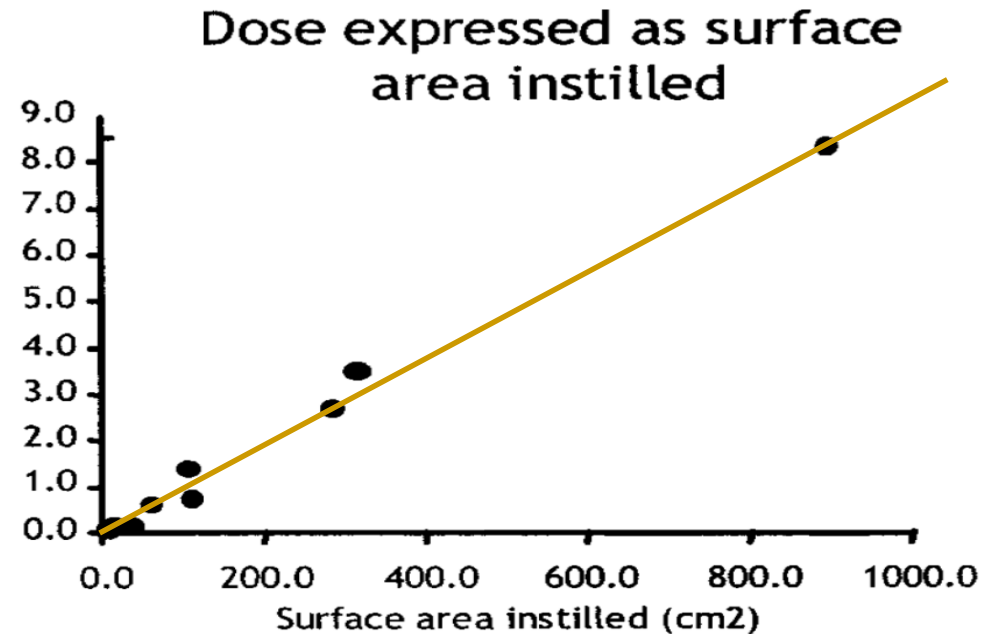
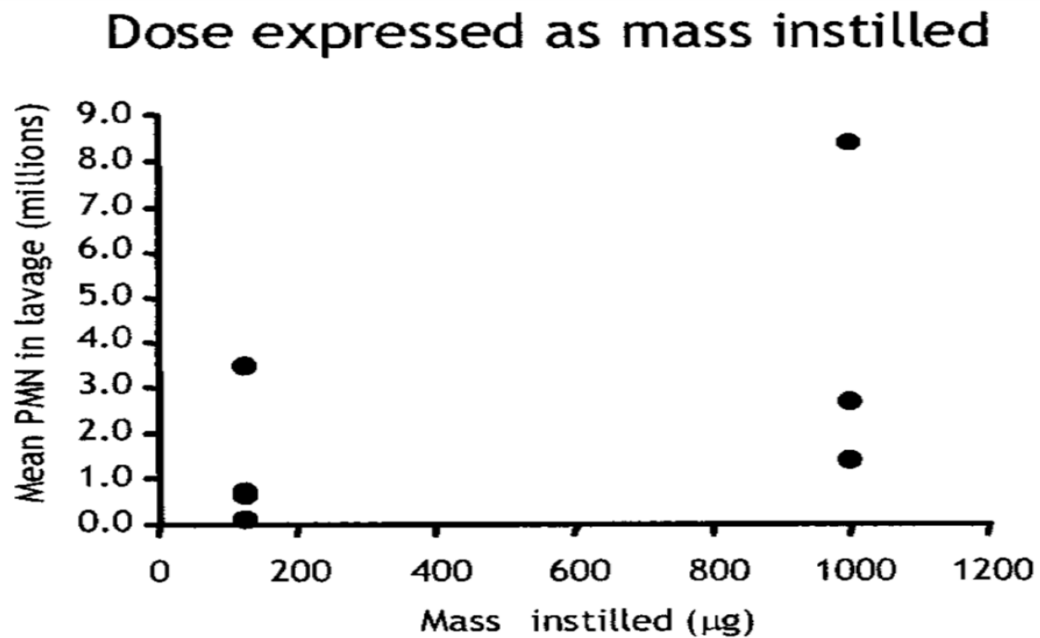
# Inhalation of nano-TiO<sub>2</sub> induces pulmonary inflammation in mice

Mice inhaled 40 mg/m<sup>3</sup> nanosized TiO<sub>2</sub> 1 hour daily for 11 days.  
Types and numbers of cells in lung fluid:

Cell composition in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid 5 days post-exposure

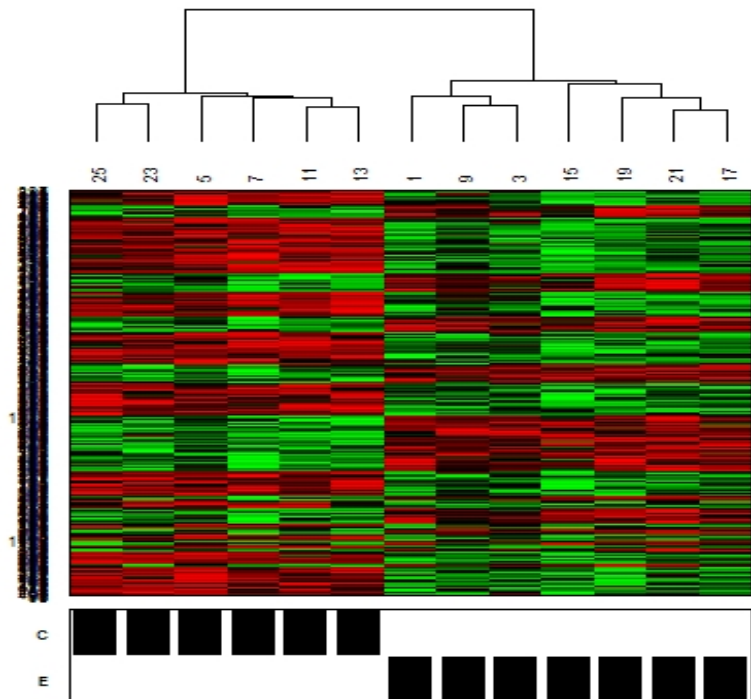


# Deposited surface area is a predictor of pulmonary inflammation



# Global gene expression in lung tissue (day 5): Acute phase response !

The most differentially regulated genes



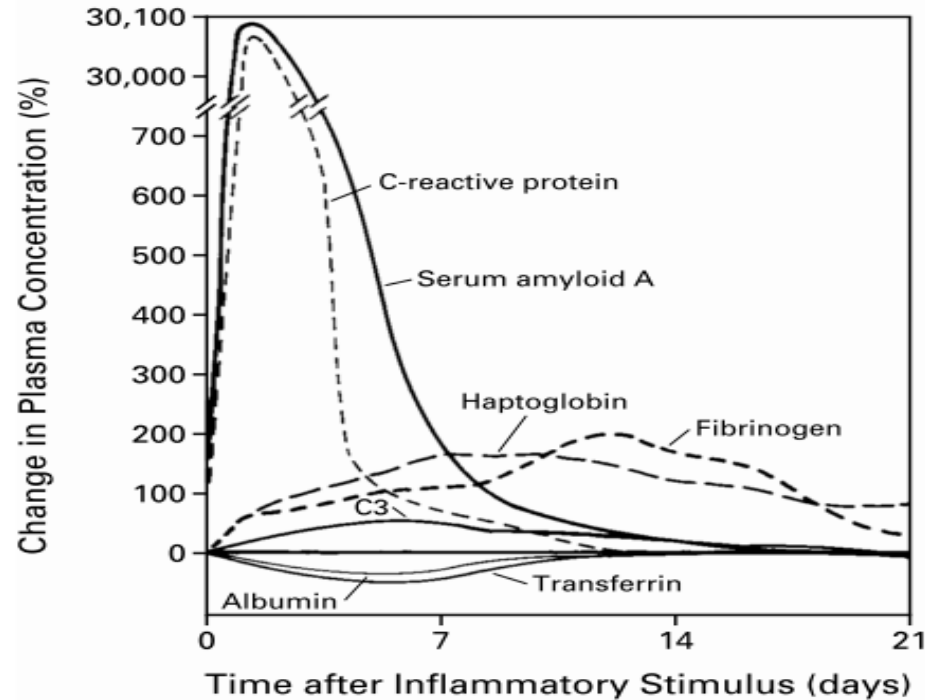
**TABLE II. List of all Acute Phase Response Genes Showing Fold Changes Higher Than 1.2 in exposed mice**

Acute phase reactants	<i>P</i> value	Fold change <sup>a</sup>
<b>Serum amyloid A1</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.24</b>
<b>Serum amyloid A3</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4.71</b>
<b>Complement protein C3</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.37</b>
<b>Complement component 1, s (C1s)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.28</b>
<b>Complement component 3a receptor 1 (C3ar1)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.15</b>
<b>Complement component 1, q beta polypeptide (C1qb)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.30</b>
<b>Complement component 1, r subcomponent (C1r)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.31</b>
<b>Complement component C1RB (C1rb)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.21</b>
Fibrinogen	0.01	2.05
Coagulation factor II (F2)	0.01	1.72
Mannose binding protein	0.02	1.70
Albumin	0.01	1.79
apoA1	0.01	1.51
apoAII	0.03	1.61
alpha2-HS glycoprotein	0.00	1.85
S100A8 (calgranulin A)	0.01	-1.85
Serpina3n	0.00	1.37

Gene names in bold indicate FDR adjusted *P* value > 0.05.

<sup>a</sup>Average fold change compared with matched controls.

# The acute phase response: A risk factor for cardiovascular disease



**Figure 1.** Characteristic Patterns of Change in Plasma Concentrations of Some Acute-Phase Proteins after a Moderate Inflammatory Stimulus.

Modified from Gitlin and Colten<sup>5</sup> with the permission of the publisher.

- The acute phase response is the systemic response to acute and chronic inflammatory states caused by fx bacterial infection, trauma and infarction.
- Conditions that induce acute phase response are associated with risk of cardiovascular disease, including asthma and air pollution exposure.

# Acute phase proteins CRP & SAA are associated with risk of CVD in prospective epidemiological studies

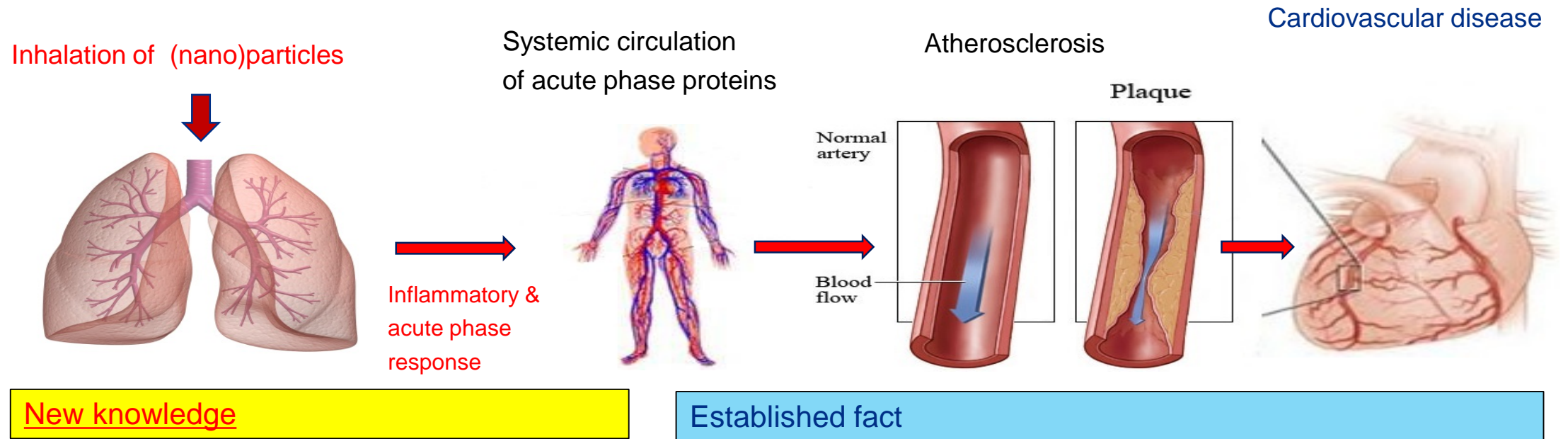
Nurses' Health Study : 120.000 participants

**TABLE 3. RELATIVE RISK OF CARDIOVASCULAR EVENTS ACCORDING TO BASE-LINE PLASMA LEVELS OF MARKERS OF INFLAMMATION AND LIPIDS.\***

VARIABLE	QUARTILE OF PLASMA LEVEL				P VALUE FOR TREND
	1	2	3	4	
High-sensitivity C-reactive protein					
Median — mg/dl	0.06	0.19	0.38	0.85	
Relative risk (95% CI)	1.0	2.1 (1.0–4.5)	2.1 (1.0–4.4)	4.4 (2.2–8.9)	<0.001
Serum amyloid A					
Median — mg/dl	0.25	0.43	0.62	1.17	
Relative risk (95% CI)	1.0	1.8 (0.9–3.6)	1.9 (0.9–3.8)	3.0 (1.5–6.0)	0.002

# Proposed mechanism of action

Inhaled particles promote atherosclerosis via acute phase response





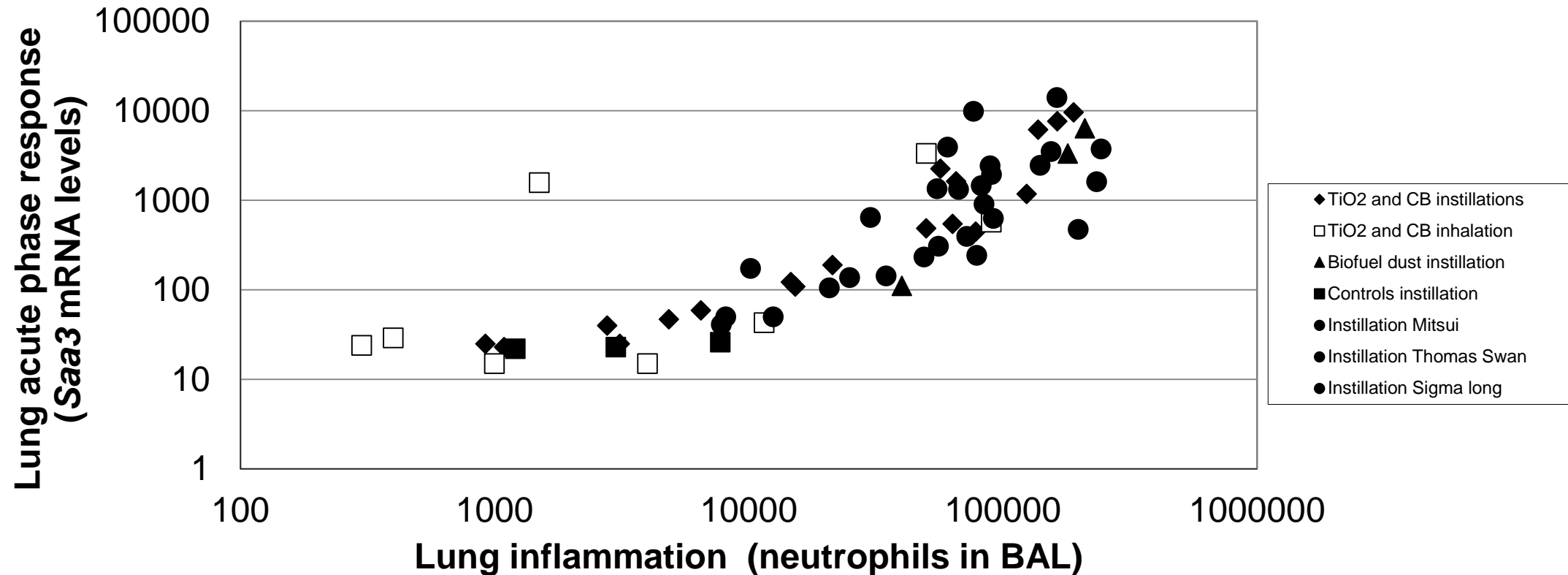
# Time- and dose-dependent pulmonary acute phase response in mice

**TABLE 1** | Differential Expression of Murine Acute Phase Genes and *Saa3* Expression Levels after Exposure to Different Nanomaterials and at Different Time Points

Post Exposure Day	1			3			28			Ref
	Dose/Animal	18 µg	54 µg	162 µg	18 µg	54 µg	162 µg	18 µg	54 µg	
<u>TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles</u> →										
N acute phase genes <sup>1</sup>	0	5	10	3	1	3	1	2	3	28
Fold increase of <i>Saa3</i> mRNA <sup>2</sup>	1.8	87	368	1.1	2.6	19	1	1.8	5.5	11
<u>Carbon Black nanoparticles</u> →										
N acute phase genes <sup>1</sup>	0	7	10	0	0	4	0	0	2	42
Fold increase of <i>Saa3</i> mRNA <sup>2</sup>	63	237	294	8.3	24	51	1.1	5	22	11
<u>Multiwalled Carbon nanotubes</u> →										
N acute phase genes <sup>1</sup>	5	5	10	ND	ND	ND	ND	1	ND	35
Fold increase of <i>Saa3</i> mRNA <sup>2</sup>	52	151	95	39	152	612	7.9	29	88	11

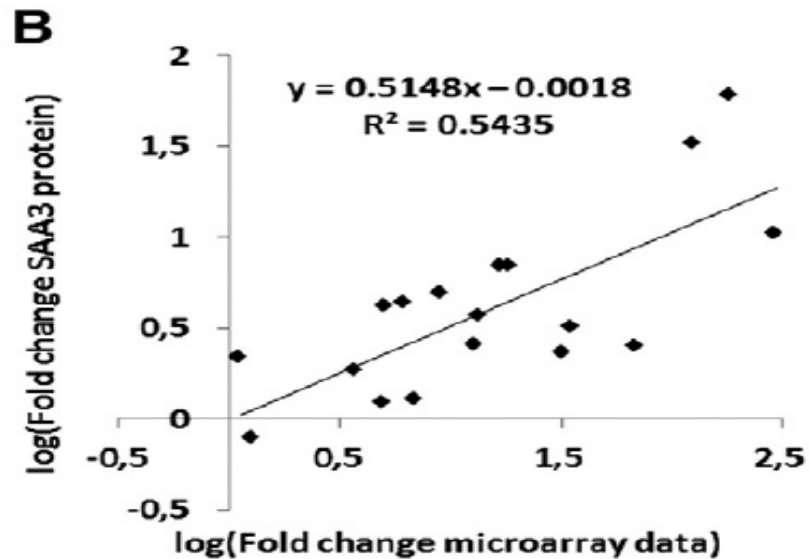
Saber *et al.* 2014  
WIREs Nanomed nanobiotech

# Close correlation between *pulmonary acute phase response* and *pulmonary inflammation* across particles, doses, time points

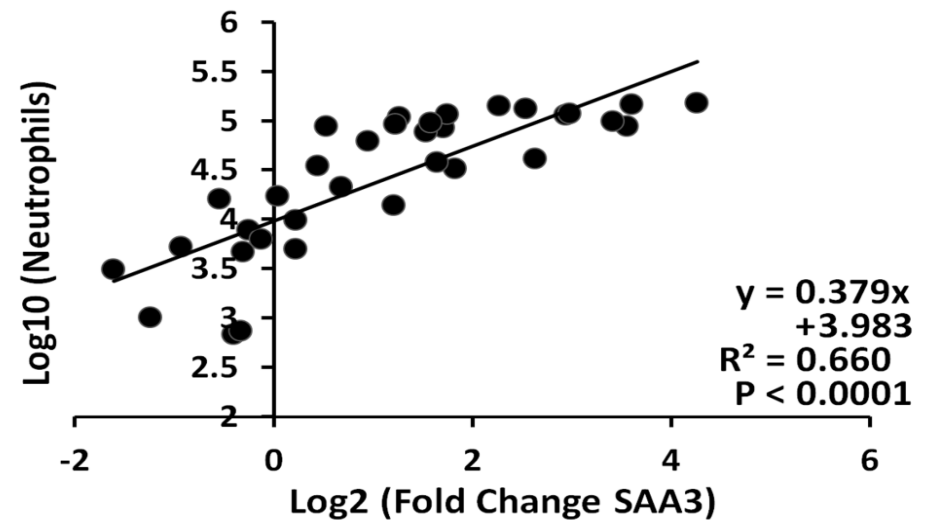


# Plasma levels of acute phase protein SAA3 correlates with lung responses

*Saa3* mRNA in lung correlates with plasma SAA3

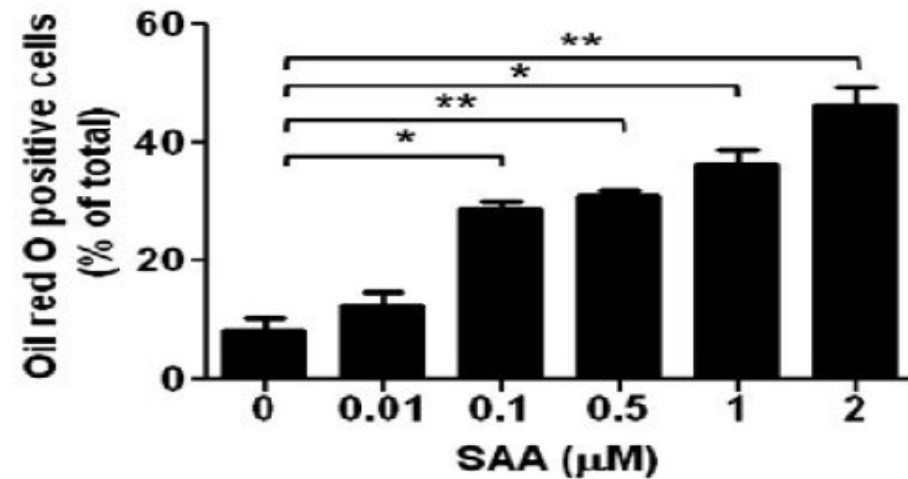


Plasma SAA3 levels and neutrophil influx



# SAA: an acute phase protein that directly promotes formation of foam cells

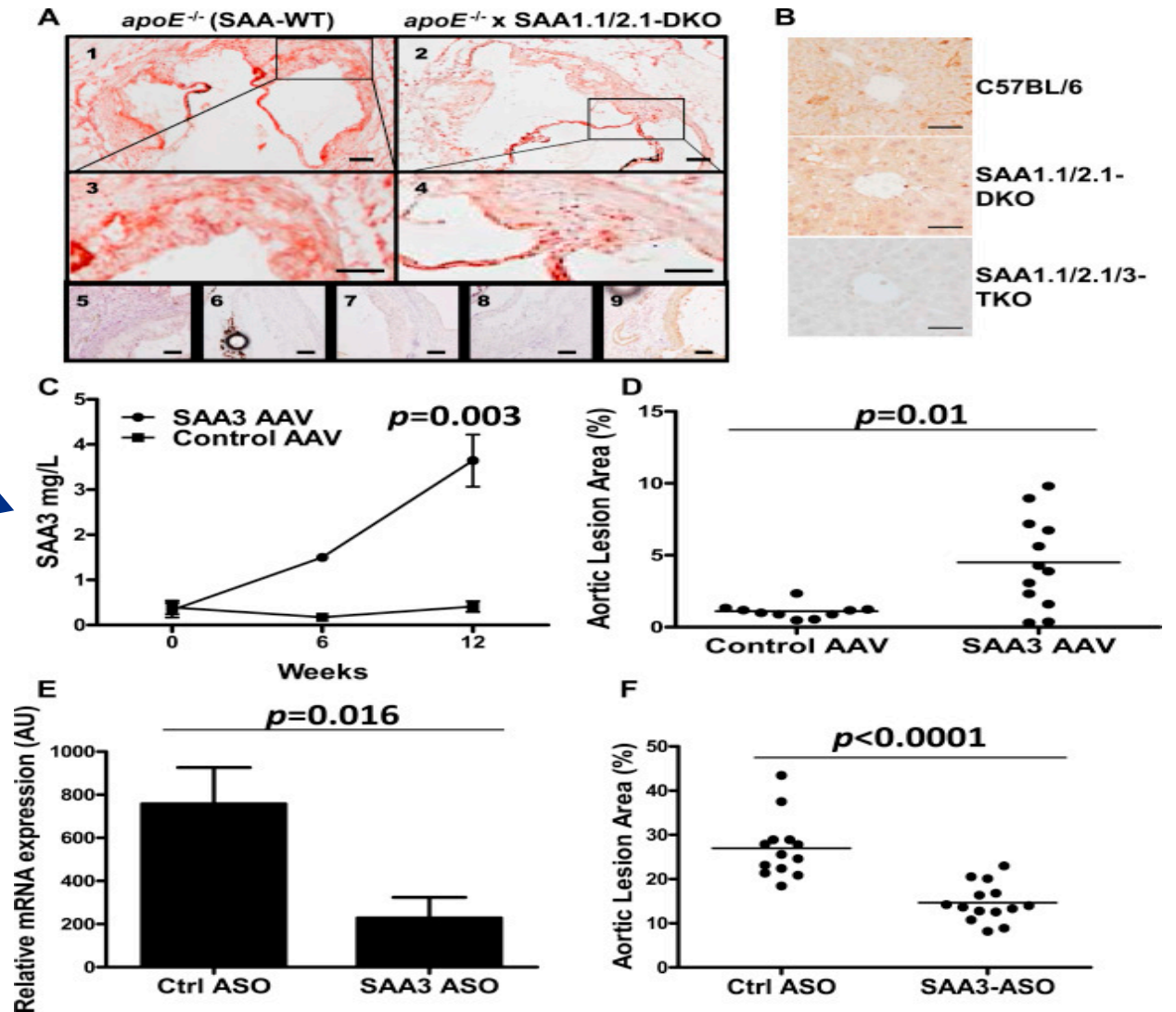
- SAA can replace ApoA-1 as the major HDL protein.
- This inhibits HDLs role in reverse cholesterol transport.
- SAA induces foam cell formation in macrophages [1].



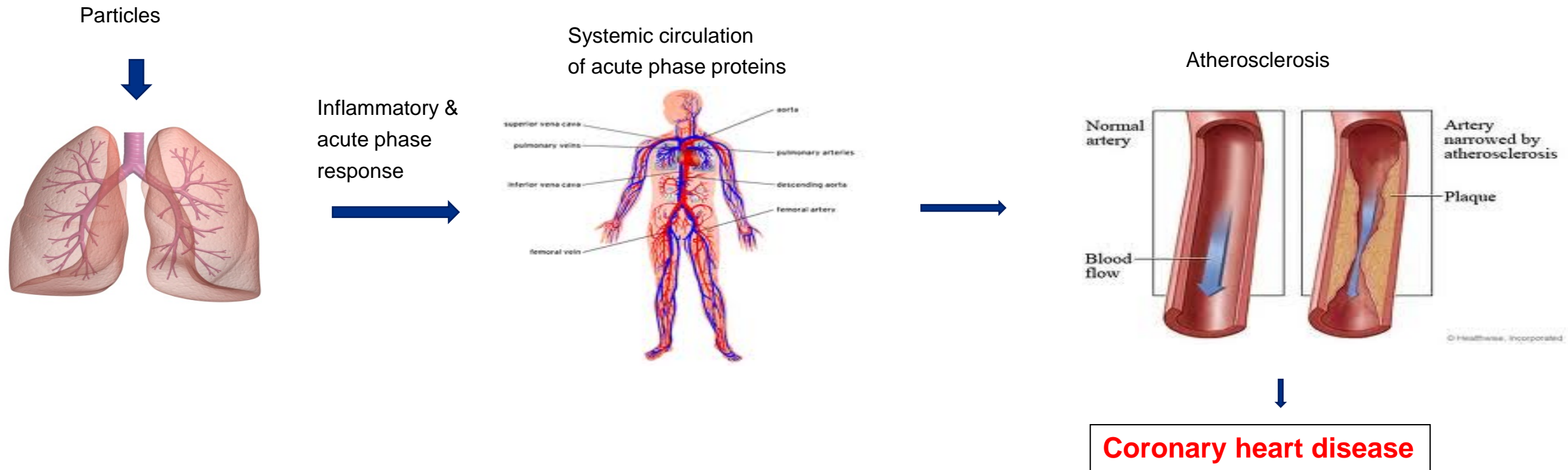
[1] Lee et al, 2013, BBRC

# Acute phase protein SAA is causally implicated in plaque progression

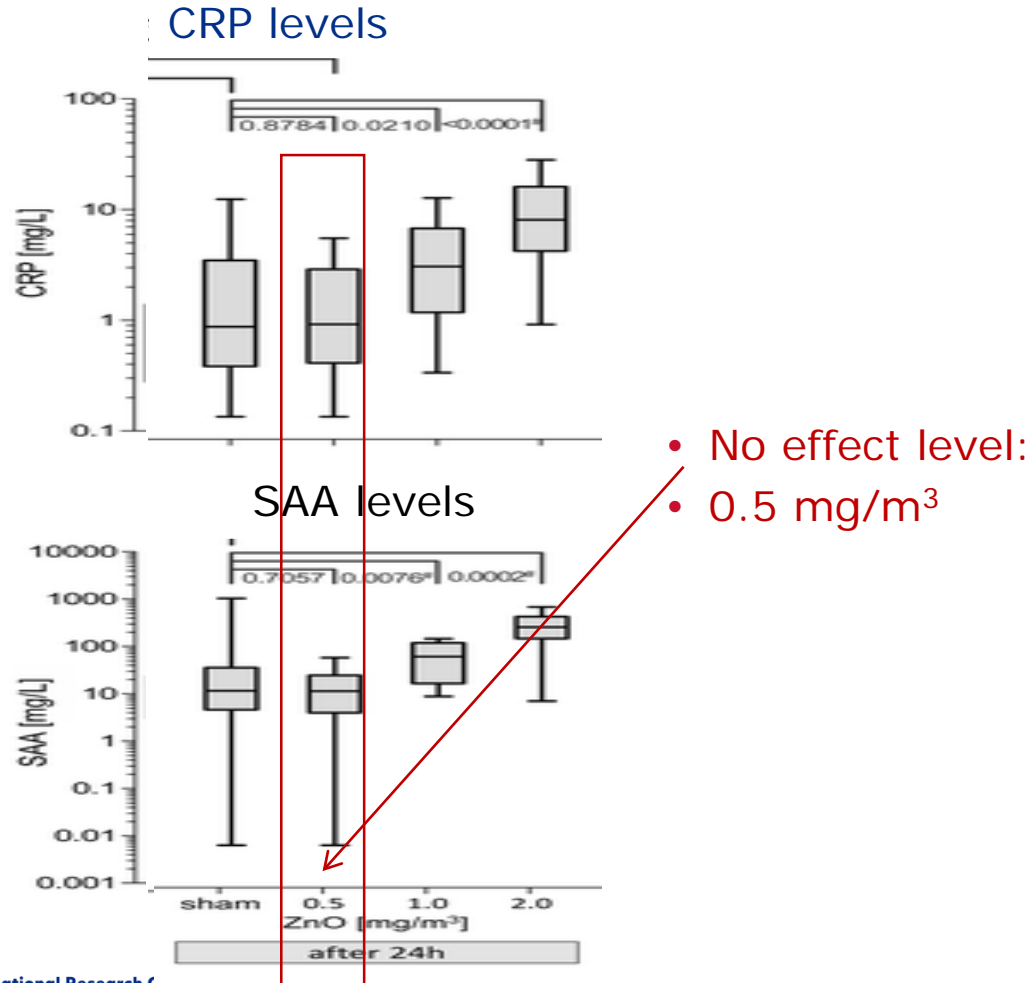
- Mice have 3 inducible SAA isogenes (*Saa1*, *Saa2*, *Saa3*)
- Over-expression of SAA3 increases plaque progression (Thompson 2018)
- Inactivation (KO) of all SAA isogenes results in reduced plaque progression (Thompson 2018)



# Particle-induced atherosclerosis



# Any Human relevance?: Yes; inhalation of ZnO induces acute phase response in human volunteers



Study set up:

- 16 volunteers
- Exposed to 0, 0.5, 1 or 2 mg/m<sup>3</sup> ZnO particles for 4 h
- OEL: 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> for 8 h
- Acute phase response proteins CRP and SAA

Acute phase response was induced after ZnO inhalation at concentrations well below incurrent OEL

## And more..

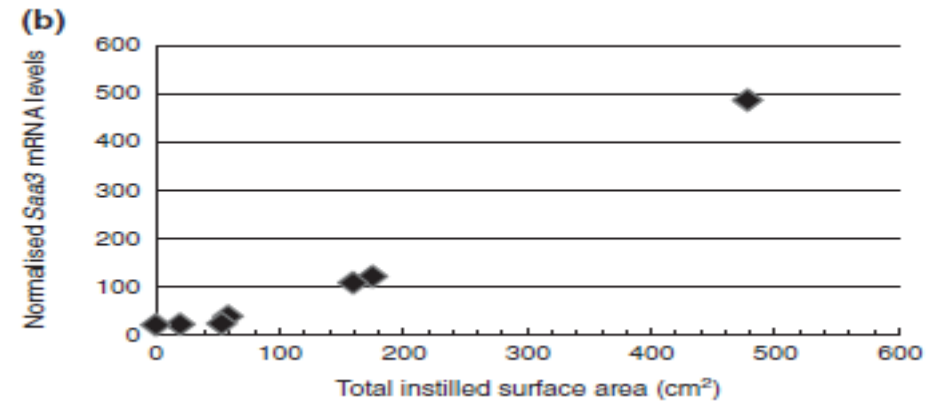
- Correlation between **exposure to organic** dust and serum levels of acute phase proteins SAA and CRP among 33 greenhouse workers (Madsen et al, 2016, Environmental Health)
- Correlation between exposure to respirable dust and serum levels of SAA among 101 **welders** (Li et al, 2015, Plos One)
- Correlation between occupational exposure to **paper mill dust** and SAA and CRP levels (Westberg, Int Arch Occup Environ Health. 2016)
- Exposure to **welding fumes** with ZnO and/or CuO increase CRP and SAA levels in human volunteers (Baumann R et al, J Expo Sci Environ Epidemiol, 2018)
- Exposure to fumes from military small arms increased CRP levels in human volunteers (Sikkeland et al, Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2017)



# Risk assessment of nanoparticles



10 times smaller particles:  
1.000 more particles pr mass unit  
10 times larger surface area pr mass unit



Correlation between deposited surface area and pulmonary acute phase response

# Summary

- Acute phase response is causally related to atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease
- Airway exposure to nanoparticles and nanomaterials induces a time- and dose dependent acute phase response in mice
- The acute phase response correlates with markers of lung inflammation and deposited surface area
- Cardiovascular disease is an important particle-related occupational disease

# Thank you for your attention!



Sabina Halappanavar  
Health Canada



Health  
Canada

Santé  
Canada

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