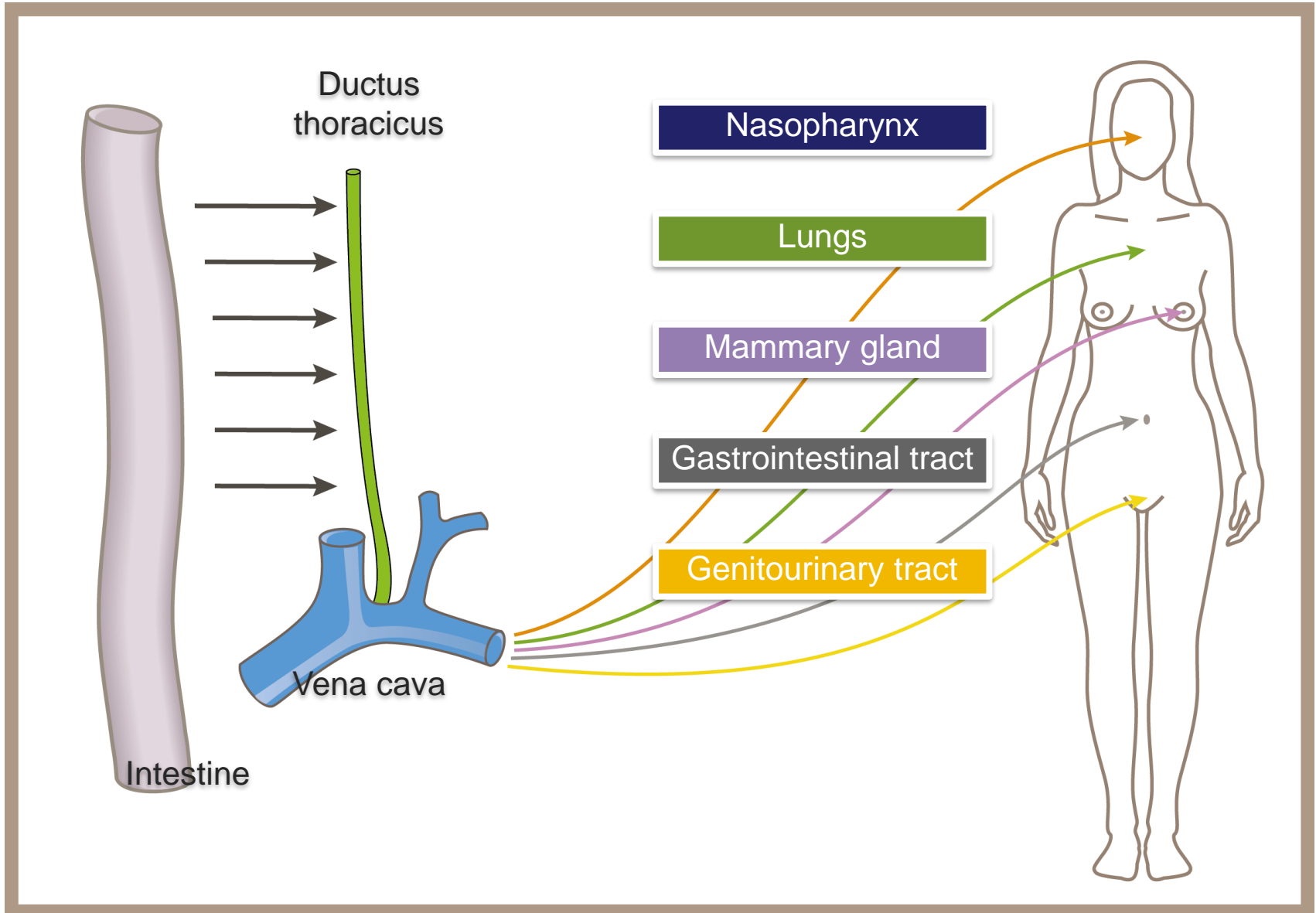


Mucosal immune system (MALT)

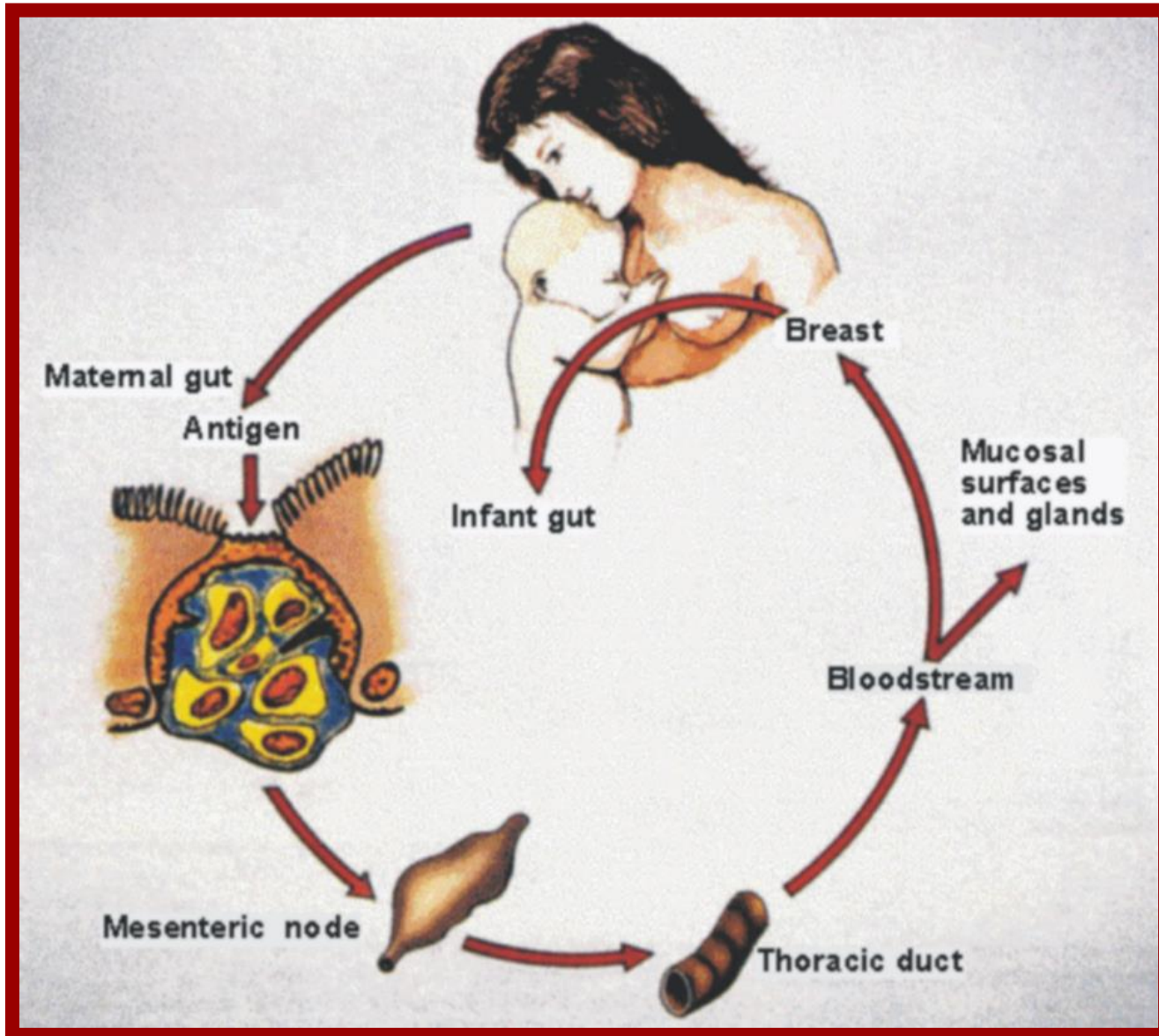
MALT (Mucous Associated Lymphoid Tissue)

- GALT (Gut Associated Lymphoid tissue)
- BALT (Bronchi Associated Lymphoid Tissue)
- Immune tissues of the urinary tract, genital tract, conjunctiva, middle ear...
- Includes also breast gland!

Common immune system of mucous membranes



Role of breastfeeding in MALT



Immunological aspects of breastfeeding

- IgA – present mainly in colostrum, much less in maternal milk. IgA is not absorbed in human GIT. The protective effect is limited to GIT.
- Presence of various immunoregulatory substances (cytokines, growth factors..).
- Antibacterial substances - lysozyme, lactoferrin.
- Markedly decreased concentration of exogenous food allergens, however this is not an absolute elimination!

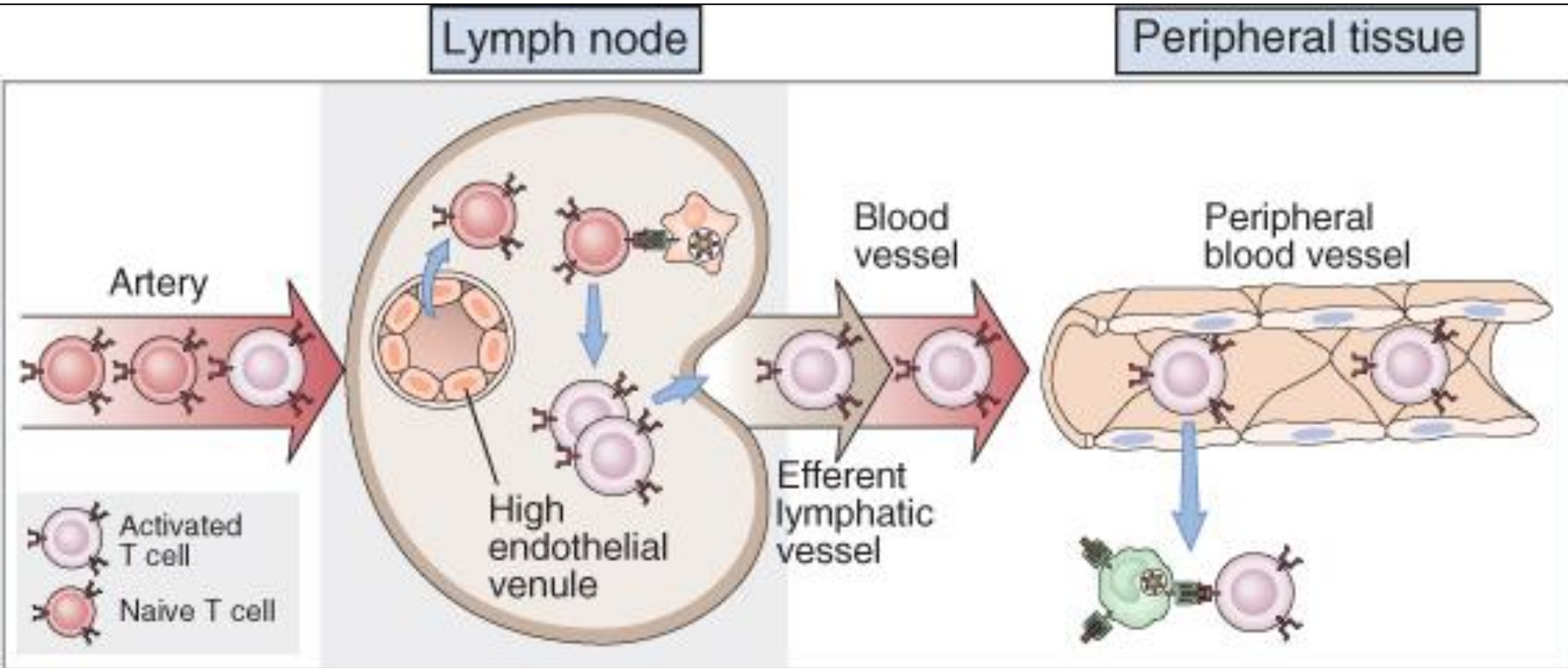
Homing of Lymphocytes

- The directed migration of subsets of circulating lymphocytes into particular tissue sites.
- Regulated by selective expression of adhesion molecules called **homing receptors** on lymphocytes.
- Tissue specific endothelial ligands are called **addressins**.

High Endothelial Venules

- Specialized venules. The site where lymphocytes leave the blood stream and migrate into lymph nodes, spleen, organs of MALT.
- Adhesion molecules enable selective attachment of various types of lymphocytes.

Circulation of lymphocytes



Mucosal immune system (MALT)

- Antigenic stimulation in one part of MALT leads to immune response also in other compartments of MALT.
- IgA is a predominant immunoglobulin secreted by the epithelial cells.
- Oral administration of antigens frequently leads to induction of immune tolerance.
- Specialized types of cells: Intraepithelial lymphocytes, M-cells.

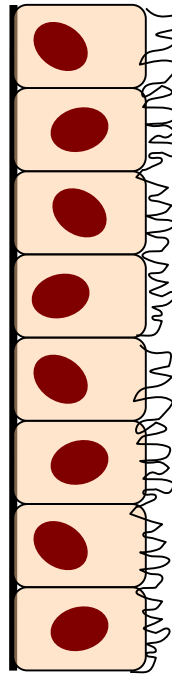
Anatomy of MALT

- Diffuse tissue containing lymphocytes and other cells of the immune system in submucosa.
- Specialized organs:
 - Waldeyer's ring
 - Payer's patches
 - Appendix

Epithelial cells are intergal part of the immune system of mucous membranes

EXPRESSION

- enzymes
- HLA antigens
- adhesion molecules
- receptors for:
 - mikrobes
 - cytokines
 - polymeric Ig



PRODUCTION

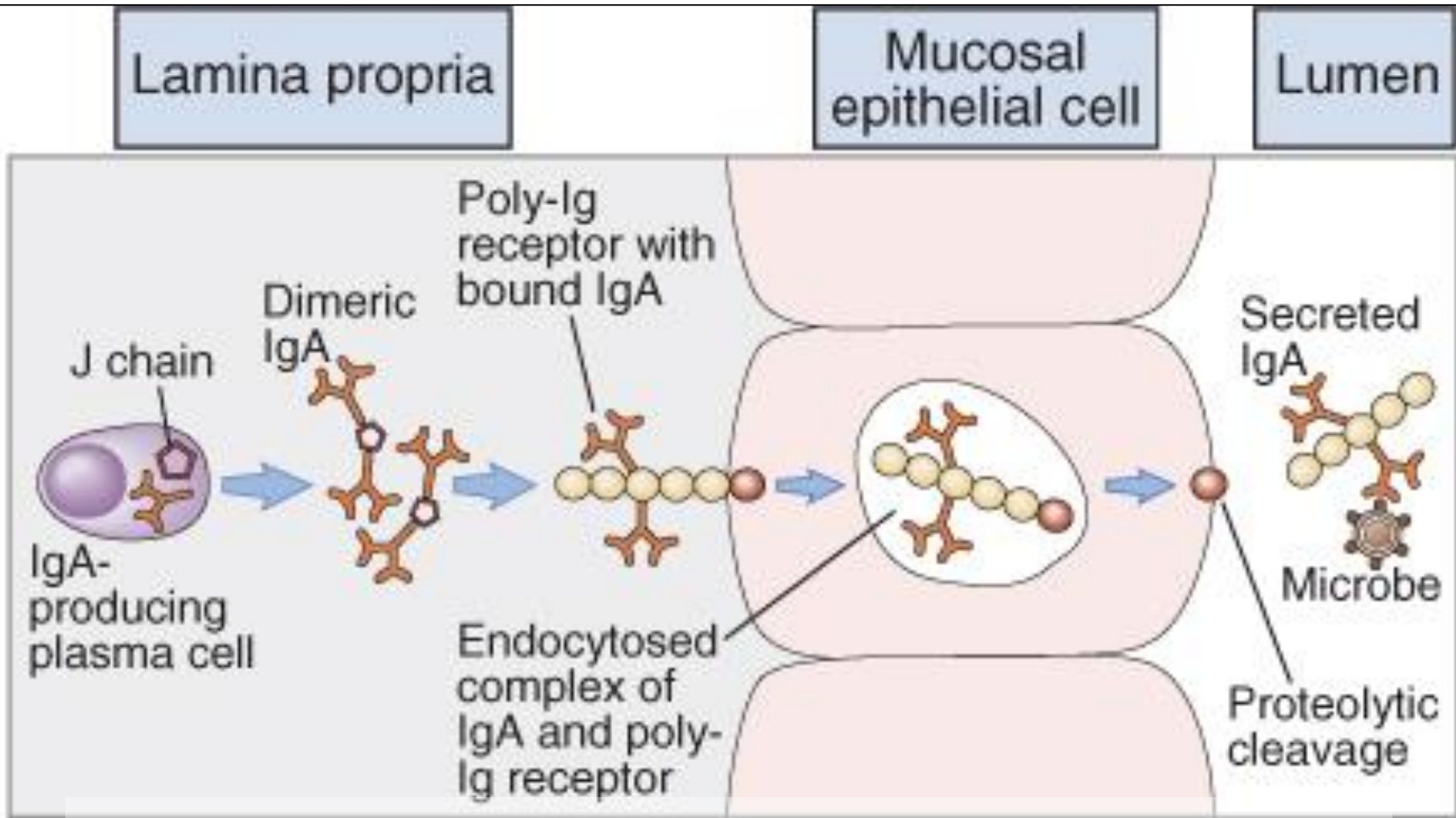
- cytokines
 - pro-inflammatory
 - growth factors
 - chemotactic
- antibiotic peptides
- various other mediators

INTERACTION WITH SPECIFIC IMMUNE SYSTEM

Antimicrobial mechanisms on mucous membranes

Factor	Mechanismus
Comensal bacteria	competition with pathogens production of antiinflammatory mediators
Tight epithelial junctions	protect from bacterial invasion into tissues
Cilia	bind and remove microbes
Mucin	bind microbes
Lysozyme	killing G+ bacteria
Laktoferin	iron binding (inhibition o microbial growth)
Antibiotic peptides (mainly β defensins)	killing microbes
Secretory Ig	Microbial adhesion blockade

Secretory IgA formation



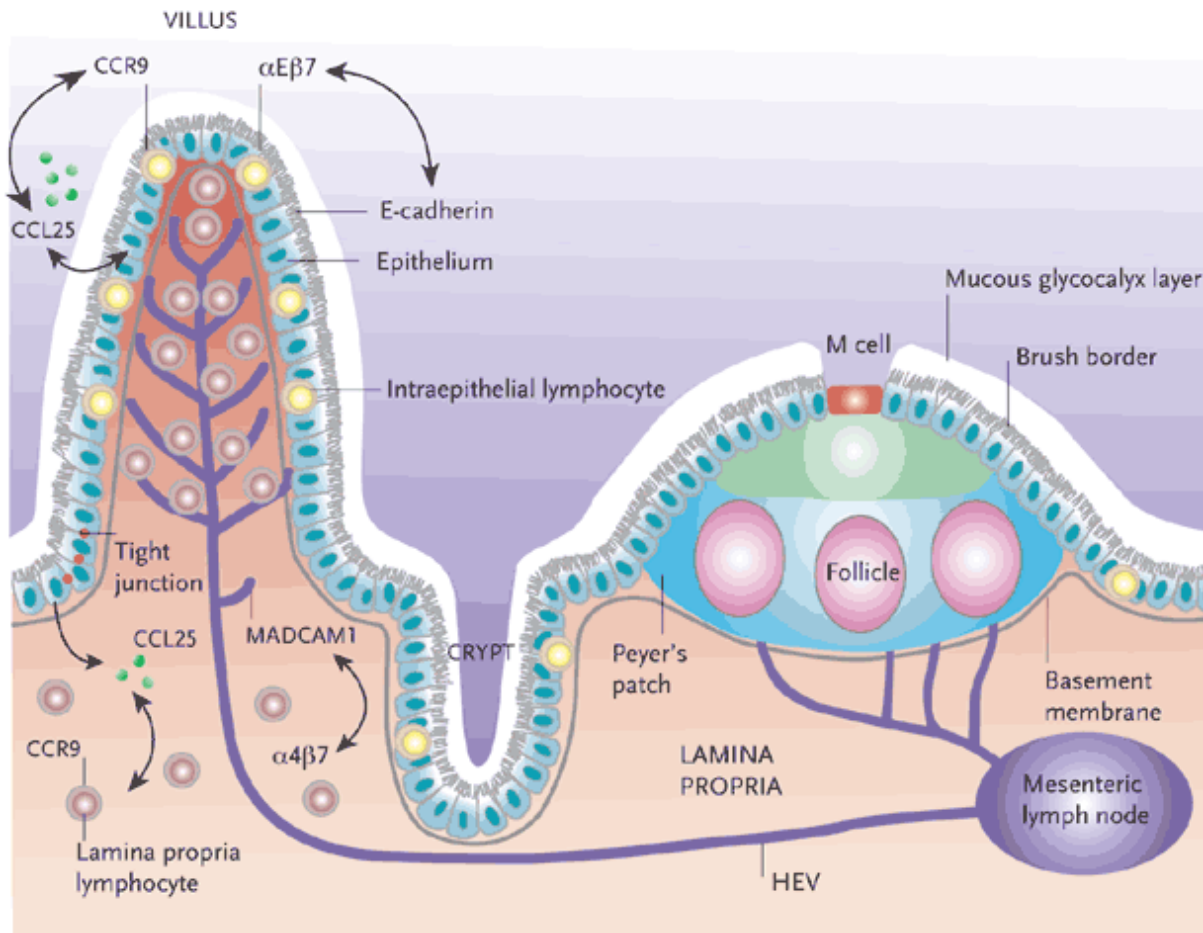
Intraepithelial T-lymphocytes

- TCR $\alpha\beta$ or $\gamma\delta$
- Extrathymic differentiation
- First line of specific immune response
- Predominantly CD8+
- Low antigenic specificity of TCR

M-cells

- Specialized enterocytes responsible for transport of antigens from the gut towards the immunocompetent cells inside the Payer's patches.
- Transport is mediated by transcytosis.

Lymphocyte circulation in GALT



Oral tolerance

- Stimulation of the GALT frequently leads to induction of immune tolerance to the stimulating antigen.
- This occurs mainly if the gut is in „normal, non-inflammatory“ conditions.
- Induction of Th3 cell is the main mechanism.
- The tolerance is important to avoid unnecessary reactions to non-pathogenic antigens.

Comensal (normal) microflora (of GIT)

- ~ 10^{14} microbial cells, ~ 1000 microbial species
- ~ 50% non cultivated
- Complex ecosystem
- Included in innate immunity of GIT
- Mutual interactions of microorganisms:
competition, symbiosis..
- Interaction with macroorganism: symbiosis,
commensalism, important in metabolic processes
(production of vitamins etc.)
- Immune system modulation

Variability of comensal flora in various compartments of human body

