

# **Secretome of apoptotic cells causes cardioprotection and inhibits ventricular remodeling after acute myocardial infarction**

**Doctoral viva**

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**Supervisor**

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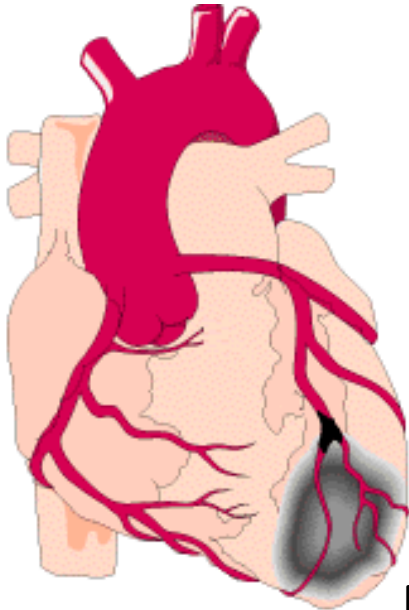
Christian Doppler Laboratory for Cardiac and Thoracic Diagnosis and Regeneration, Vienna – Austria  
Medical University Vienna, Department of Thoracic Surgery - Vienna – Austria

**Table 1** | Randomized trials in patients with acute myocardial infarction or ischemic heart failure

Trial name	Number of patients	Cell type	Dose	Route of delivery	Timing of delivery	Primary end point	Comments
<i>Acute myocardial infarction</i>							
BOOST	60	nBMC	128 ml	i.c.	Day 6 ± 1	LVEF ↑	Effect diminished after 18 and 61 months
REPAIR-AMI	187	mnBMC	50 ml	i.c.	Day 3–6	LVEF ↑	NA
Leuven-AMI	66	mnBMC	130 ml	i.c.	Day 1	LVEF ↔	Regional contractility ↑ Infarct size ↓
ASTAMI	97	mnBMC	50 ml	i.c.	Day 6 ± 1	LVEF ↔	NA
FINCELL	77	mnBMC	80 ml	i.c.	Day 3	LVEF ↑	NA
REGENT	117	mnBMC (unselected vs CD34+/ CXCR4+)	50–70 ml (unselected) 100–120 ml (selected)	i.c.	Day 3–12	LVEF ↑ with both cell types	NA
HEBE	189	mnBMC vs mnPBC	60 ml (mnBMC) 150 ml (mnPBC)	i.c.	Day 3–8	Regional contractility ↔	NA
<i>Ischemic heart failure</i>							
MAGIC	97	SkM	400 or 800 × 10 <sup>6</sup>	i.m.	>Week 4	LVEF ↔	LVEDV ↓ LVESV ↓
TOPCARE-CHD	58	mnBMC vs CPC	50 ml	i.c.	Month 81 ± 72	LVEF ↑ (mnBMC) LVEF ↔ (CPC)	NA

Only patients with complete imaging studies are considered here. Dose refers to the average amount of bone marrow or peripheral blood that was harvested, or the number of transplanted skeletal myoblasts. Abbreviations: ↓, decreased; ↑, increased; ↔, no significant change; CPC, circulating blood-derived progenitor cells; i.c., intracoronary; i.m., intramuscular; LVEDV, left ventricular end-diastolic volume; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; LVESV, left ventricular end-systolic volume; mnBMC, mononucleated bone marrow cells; mnPBC, mononucleated peripheral blood cells; NA, not applicable; nBMC, nucleated bone marrow cells; SkM, skeletal myoblasts.

## Myocardial Infarction



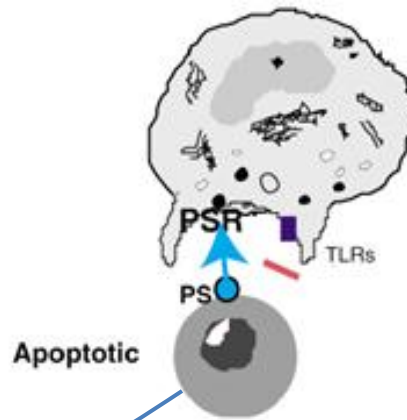
**Necrosis**

Attraction of immune cells

Secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines

IL-1 IL-6 TNF- $\alpha$

Amplification of inflammation



Apoptotic

*Inhibition of pro-inflammatory signals*

## The Dying Stem Cell Hypothesis

by Anker *et al.*

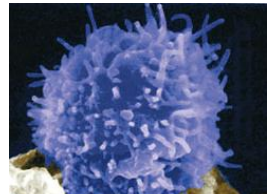
up to 25% of all transplanted cells are in the state of apoptosis

apoptotic cells induce transient immunosuppression

Macrophage  $\rightarrow$  Proinflammatory Mediators

Immature Dendritic Cell  $\rightarrow$  Maturation Antigen

# Experimental Design



**Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells (PBMC)**



**Irradiation & Induction of Apoptosis**

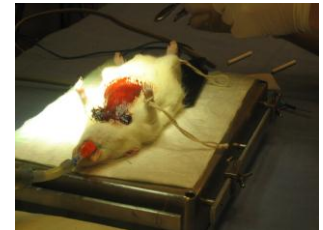


**Cell Culture for 18-24h**

**Flow Cytometry**  
Annexin-positivity >70%



**Model of Experimental AMI**



anesthetized and mechanically ventilated rat

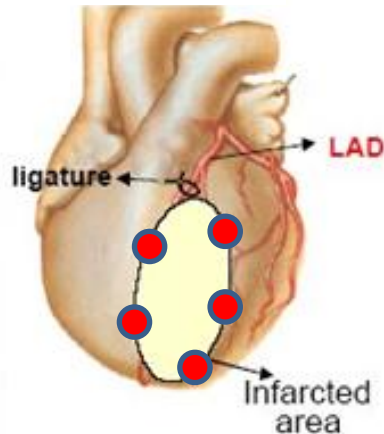


intercostal thoracotomy



ligation of the coronary artery

**Intramyocardial Injection**



**Intravenous Injection**



**Controls**

↓  
**Injection of**

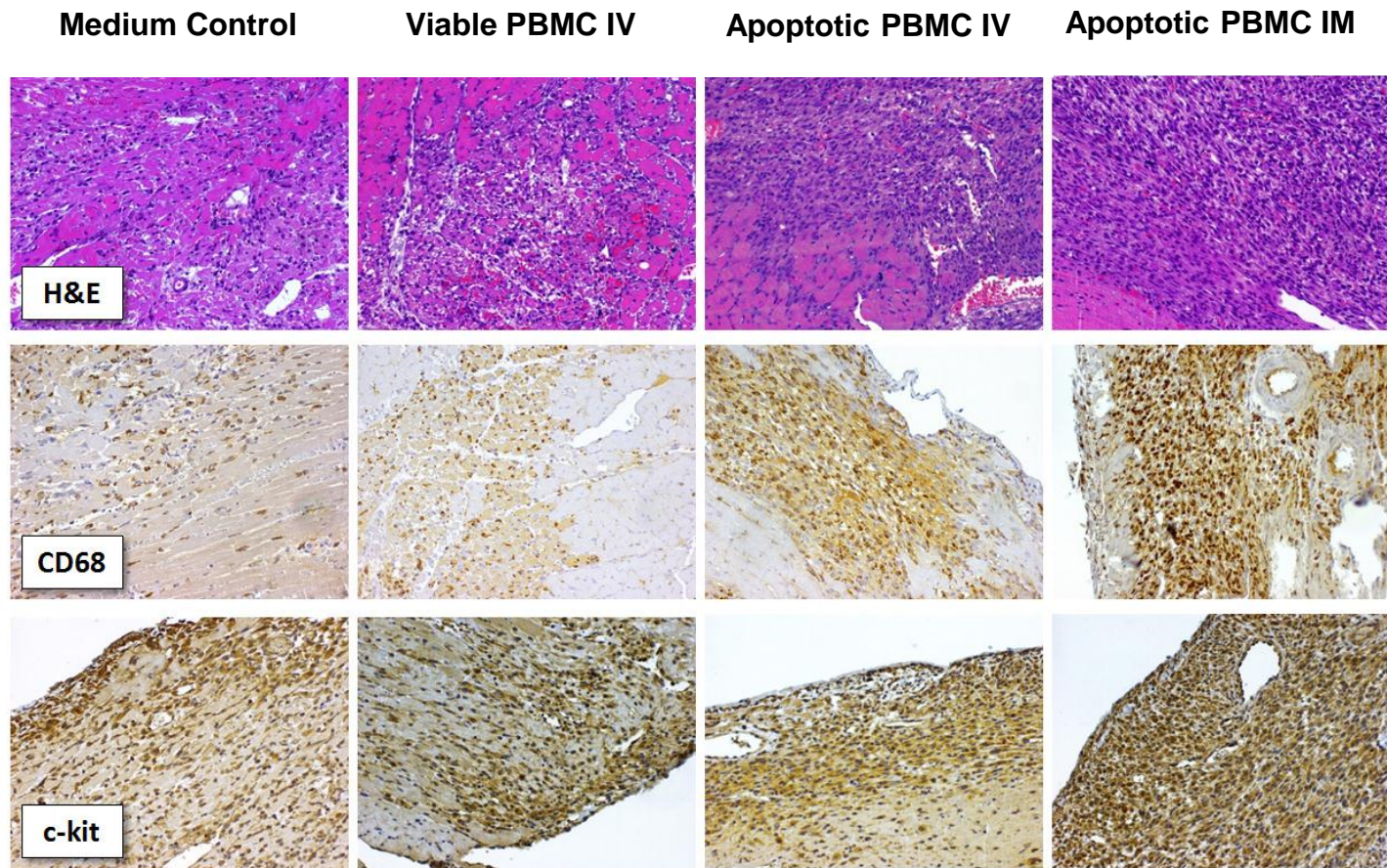
**Non-irradiated viable PBMC**

**Cell Culture Medium**

**Sham Operation**



## Histology and Immunohistology 3 days after induction of MI



n=5-6 per group

## Scar Dimension 6 Weeks after Induction of MI

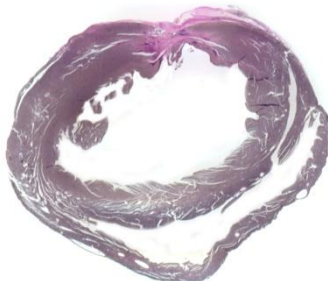
Control



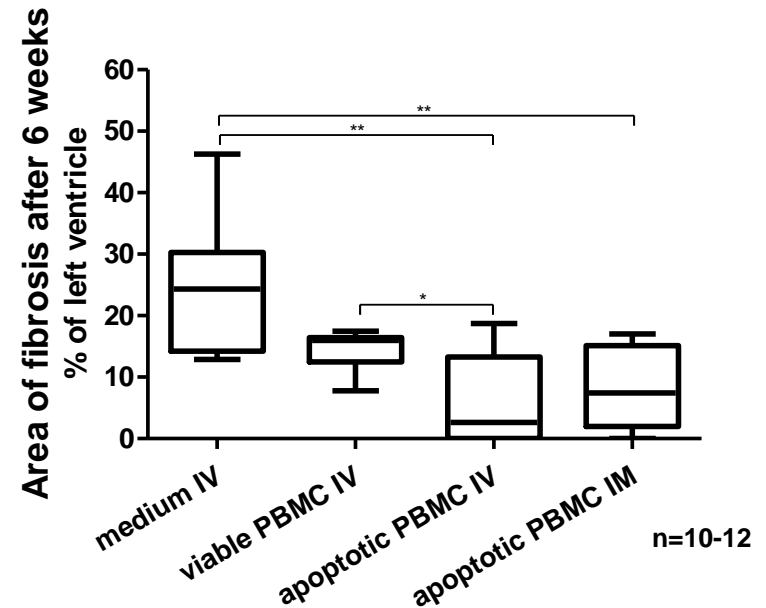
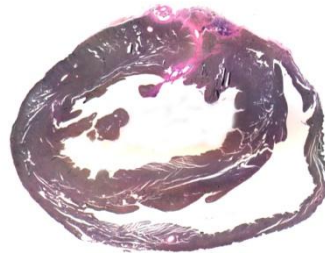
Intravenous Administration of viable PBMC



Intravenous Administration of IA-PBMC

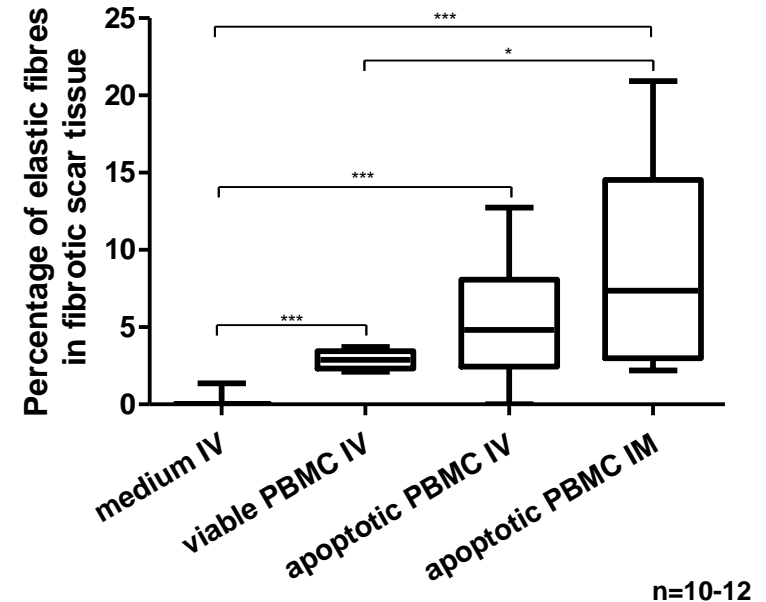
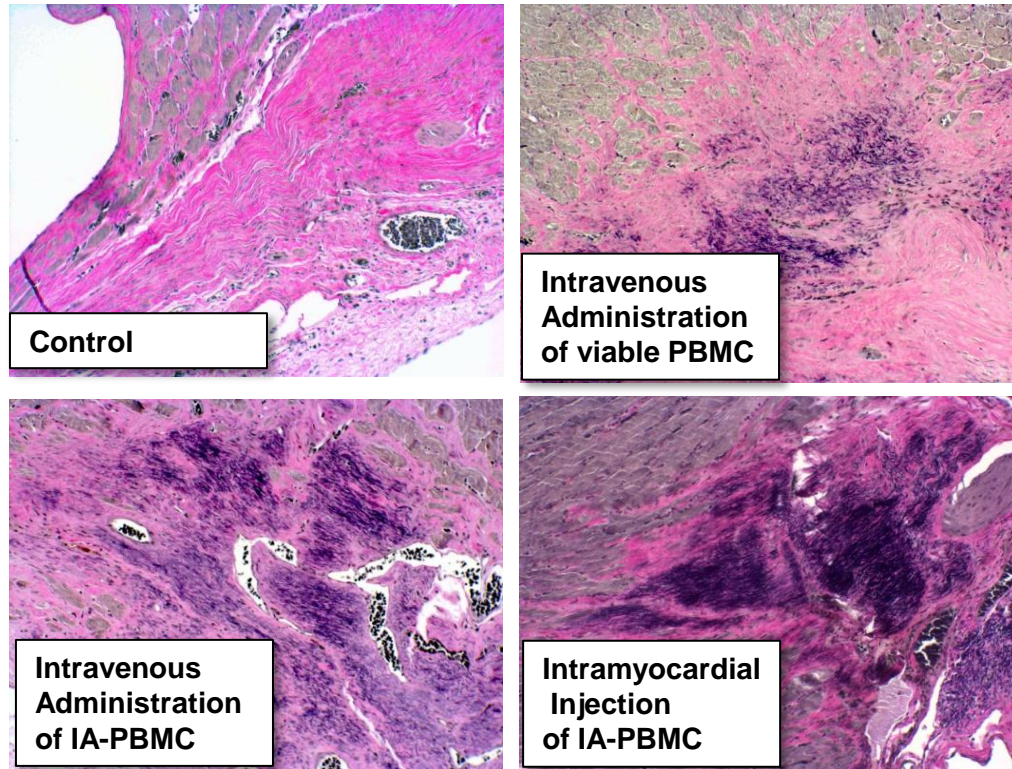


Intramyocardial Injection of IA-PBMC

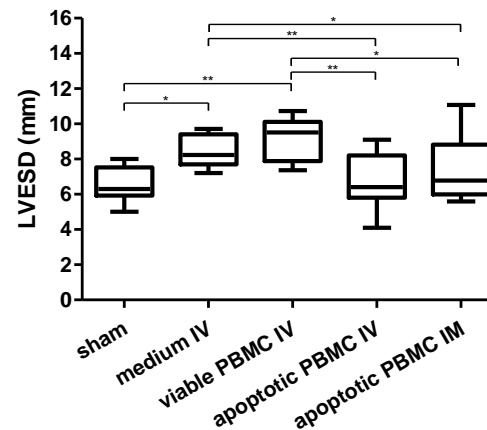
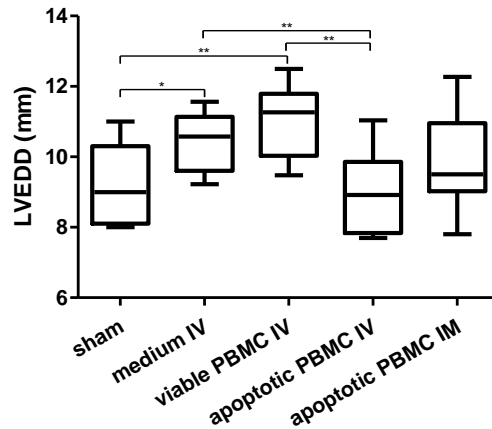
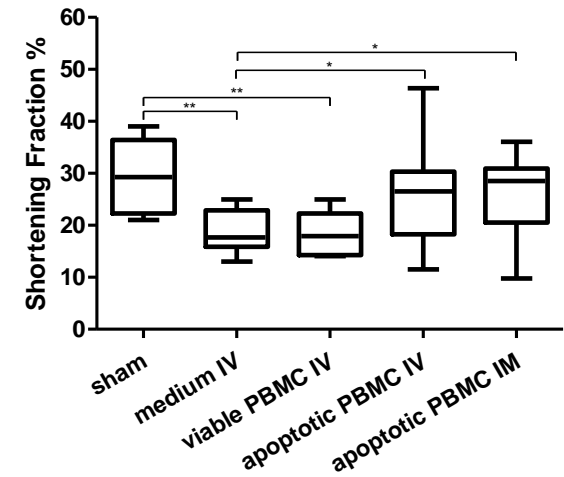
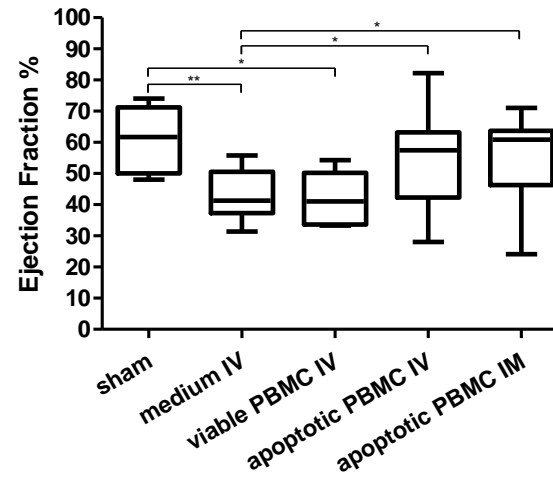




## Composition of Scar Tissue



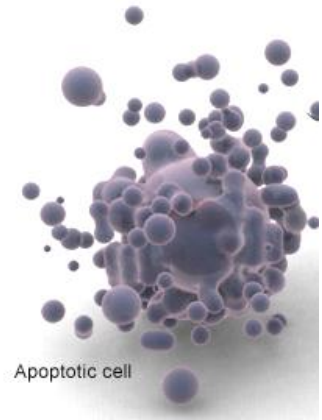
## Evaluation of Cardiac Function



n=10-12



## Administration of irradiated apoptotic PBMC after myocardial infarction induces ...



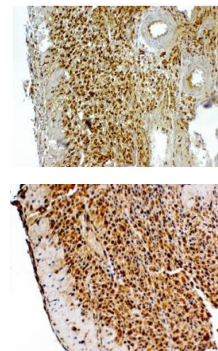
Reduction of Pro-inflammatory Signals

IL-1 $\beta$  ↓  
IL-6 ↓

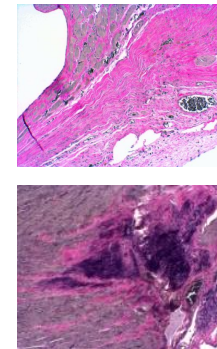
Up-regulation of Pro-angiogenic mediators

Interleukin-8 ↑  
MMPs ↑

Increased Homing of CD68<sup>+</sup> and c-kit<sup>+</sup> Cells



Favorable Elastin/Collagen Ratio

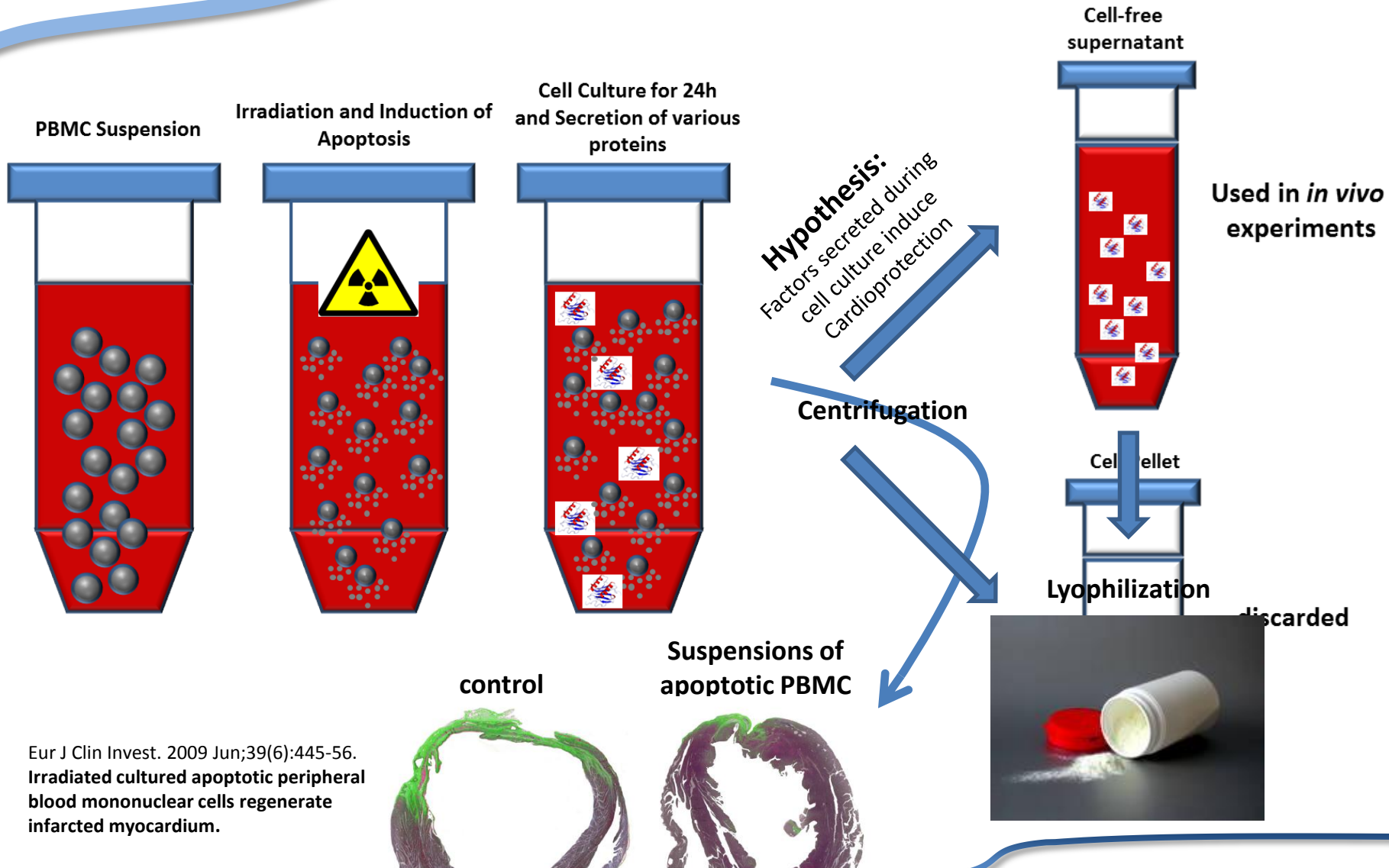


Better Recovery of Cardiac Function

Ejection Fraction ↑  
Shortening Fraction ↑  
Dilation ↓



# Experimental Set-up



Eur J Clin Invest. 2009 Jun;39(6):445-56.  
Irradiated cultured apoptotic peripheral blood mononuclear cells regenerate infarcted myocardium.

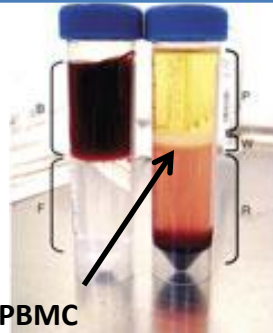
# Production of APOSEC

(Cell culture supernatants of apoptotic PBMC)

**Venous Blood Withdrawal**



**Ficoll Cell Separation**



**Irradiation**



**Incubation for 24h**



**Centrifugation**

**Dialysis**

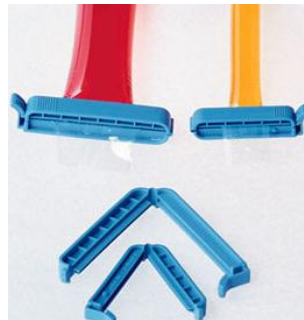
**Lyophilization**

**Lyophilized Cell Culture Supernatant - Aposec -**



Supernatant

Cell Pellet (is discarded)



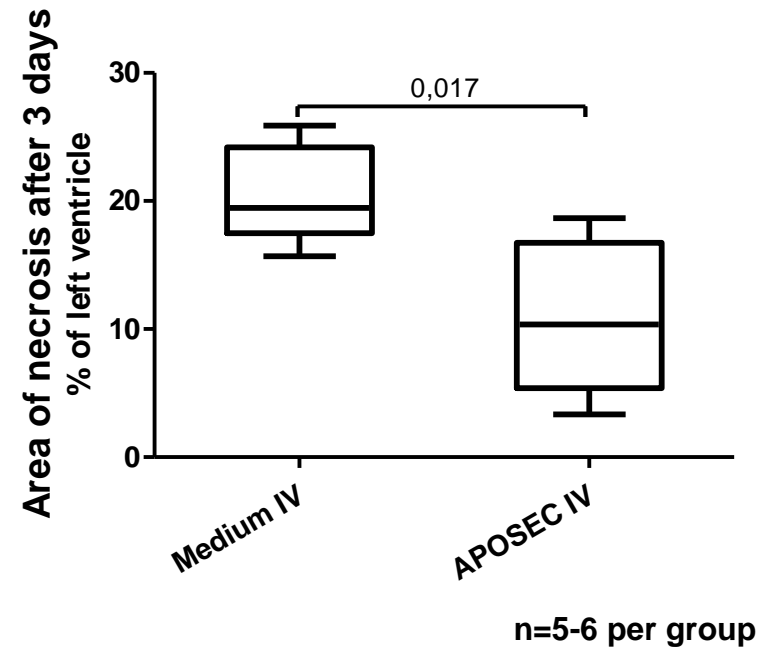
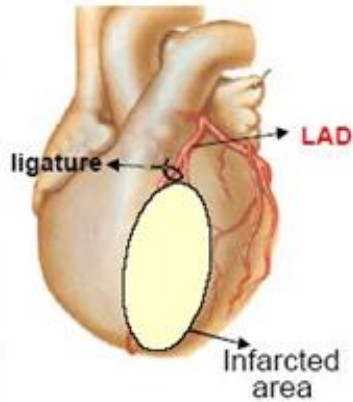
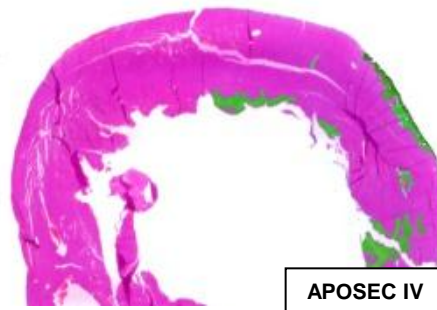
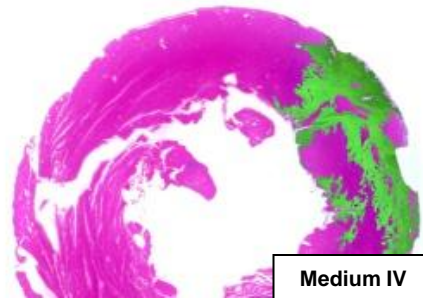
PBMC peripheral blood mononuclear cells

# APOSEC

## AMI – Small Animal Model



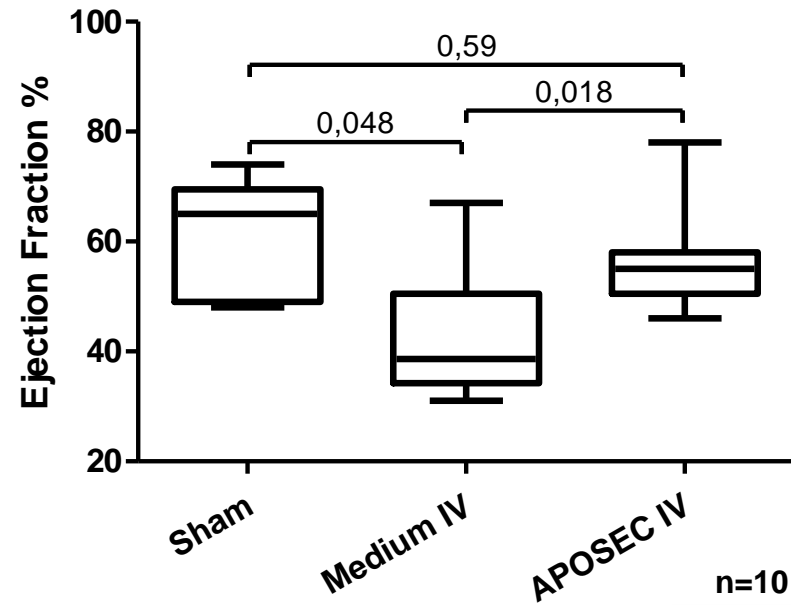
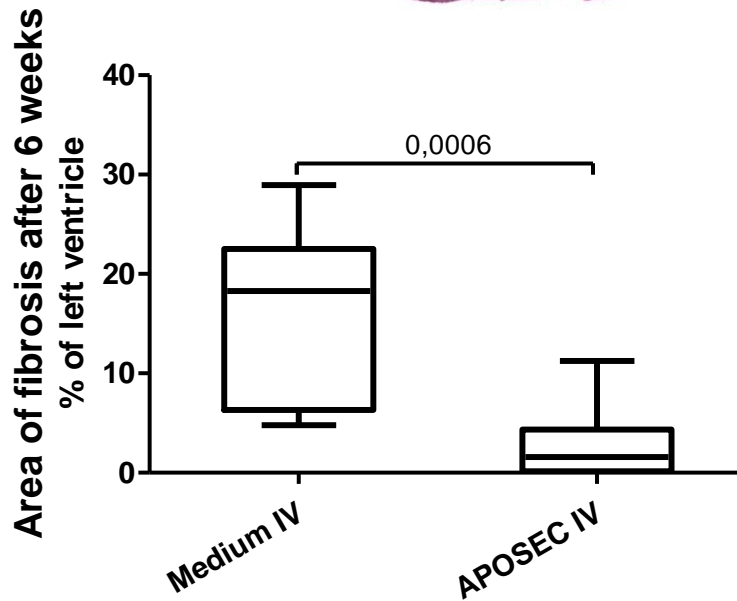
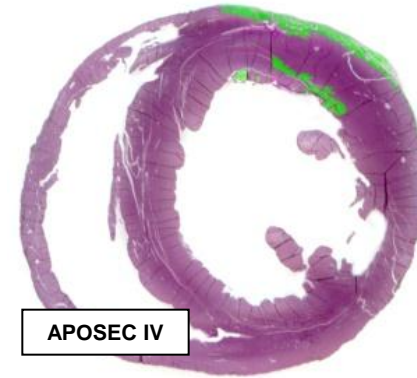
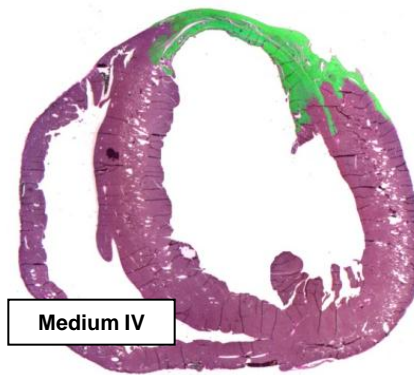
Results after 72h





## AMI – Small Animal Model

### Results after 6 Weeks



n=10 per group



Christian  
Doppler  
Laboratory

for  
Cardiac and Thoracic  
Diagnosis & Regeneration

# APOSEC

## AMI – Large Animal Model



MEDIZINISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
WIEN



Start of large animal experiment

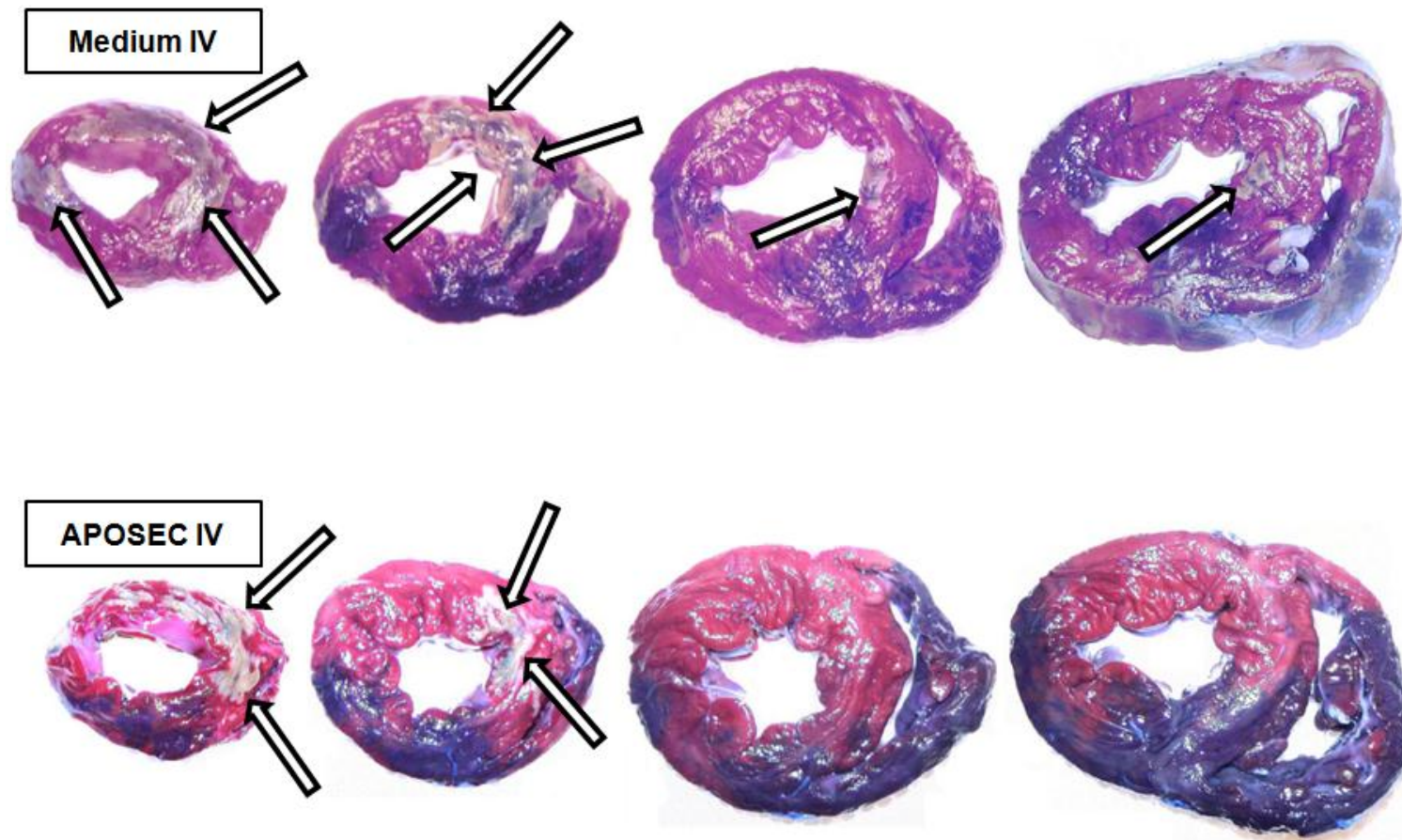


# APOSEC

## Reperfused AMI Large Animal Model



### Results after 24 Hours

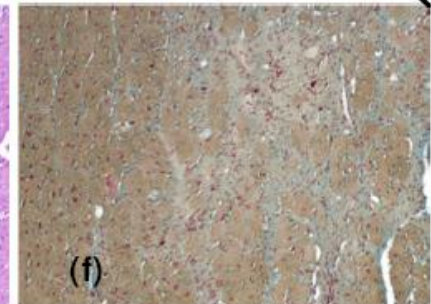
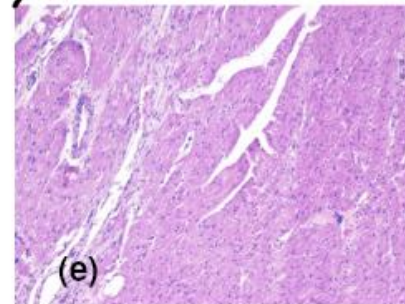
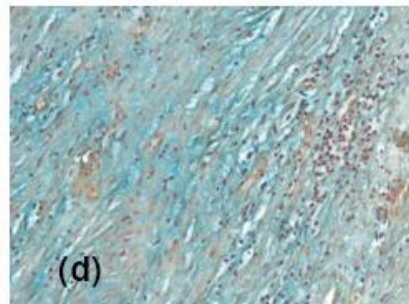
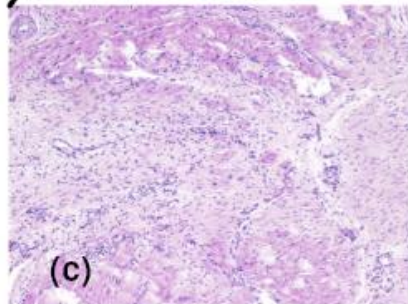
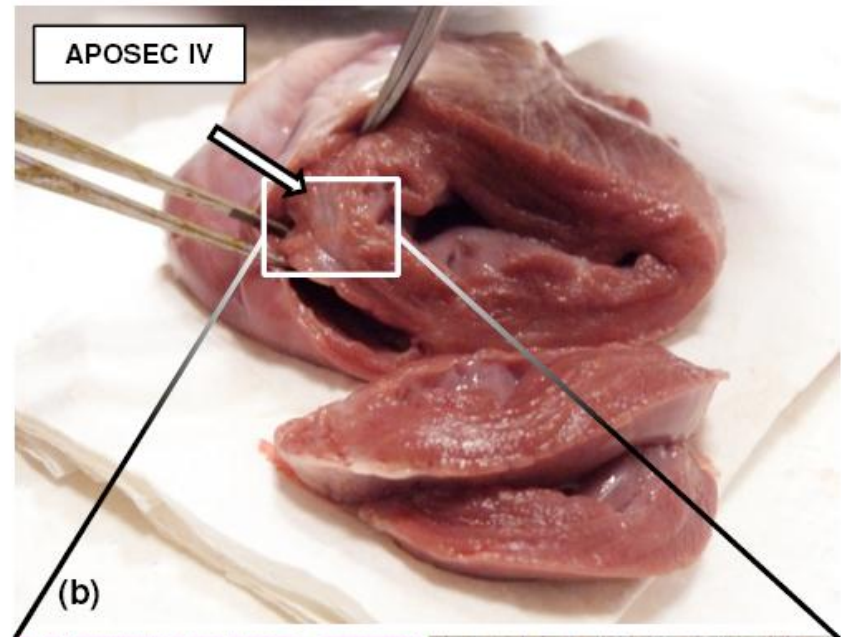
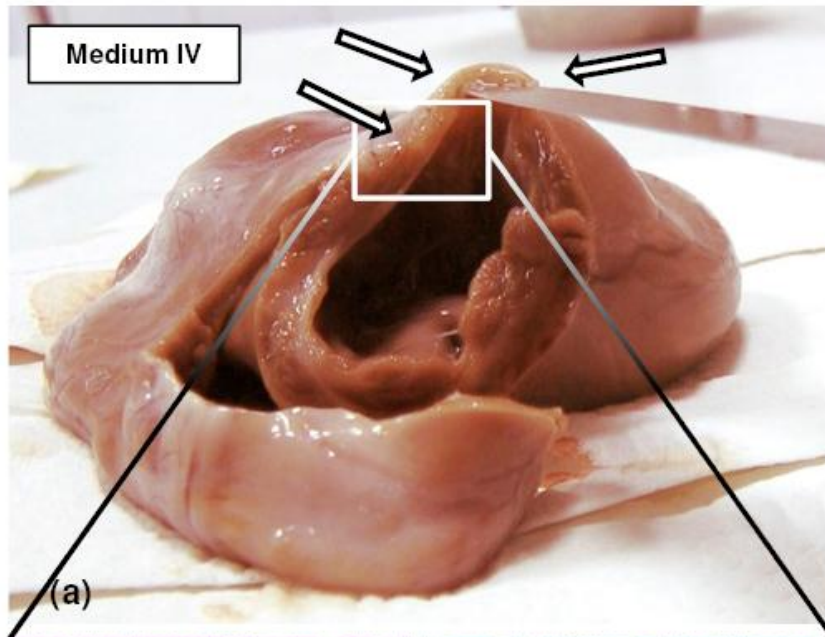




# APOSEC

## Reperfused AMI Large Animal Model

### Results after 30 Days



n=7-9 per group



# APOSEC

## Reperfused AMI Large Animal Model

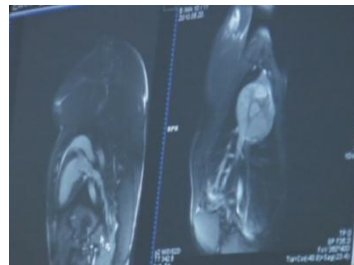
### Results MRI Analysis

#### Cardiac MRI evaluation 3 and 30 days after Ischemia/Reperfusion Injury



after 3 days

Parameters	Medium control (n=8)	250·10 <sup>6</sup> apoptotic PBMC (low dose APOSEC, n=7)	1·10 <sup>9</sup> apoptotic PBMC (high dose APOSEC, n=9)
age (days)	90 ±0	90 ±0 <i>ns</i>	90 ±0 <i>ns</i>
LVEDV (ml)	67·59 ±2·7	64·19 ±5·4 <i>ns</i>	63·73 ±1·6 <i>ns</i>
LVESV(ml)	38·42 ±2·5	35·96 ±3·0 <i>ns</i>	33·93 ±2·1 <i>ns</i>
LVSV (ml)	29·17 ±1·3	28·23 ±3·2 <i>ns</i>	29·77 ±1·8 <i>ns</i>
LVEF (%)	43·38 ±1·9	43·63 ±2·8 <i>ns</i>	46·65 ±2·9 <i>ns</i>
HR/min.	111 ±6	109 ±5 <i>ns</i>	111 ±13 <i>ns</i>
CO (l/min.)	3·24 ±0·1	3·03 ±0·3 <i>ns</i>	3·28 ±0·3 <i>ns</i>
CI (l/min/m <sup>2</sup> )	3·64 ±0·14	3·59 ±0·4 <i>ns</i>	3·82 ±0·37 <i>ns</i>
Infarct %	18·17 ±1·7	14·01 ±1·9 <i>ns</i>	8·66 ±1·5 **



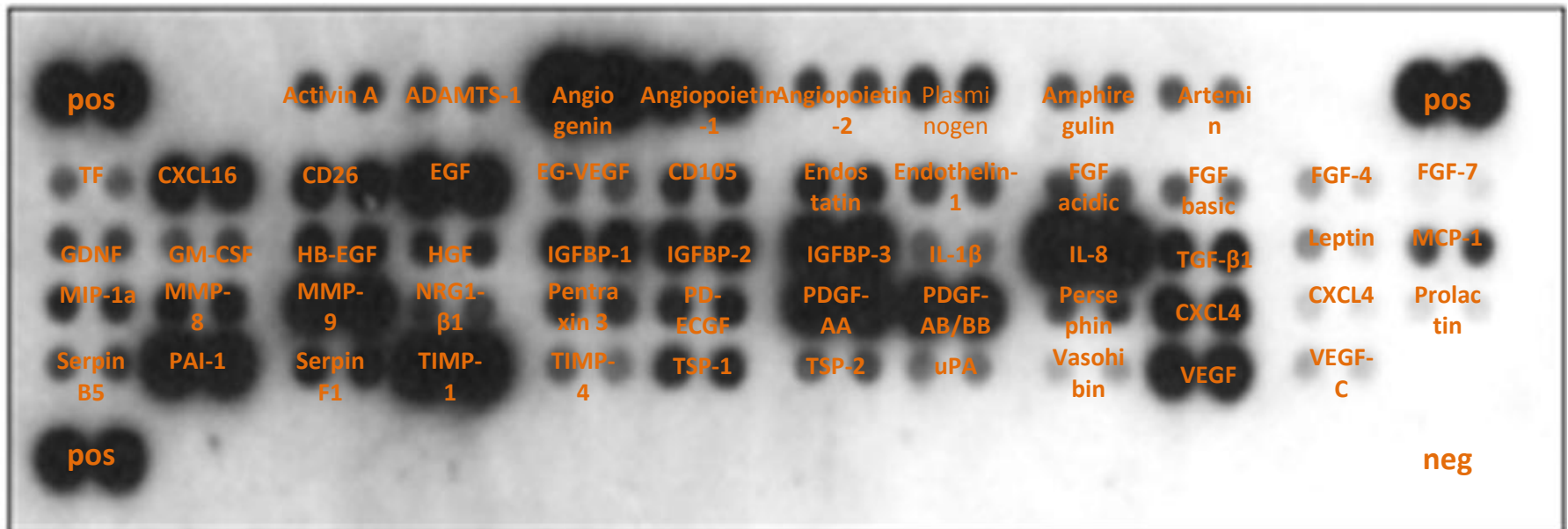
after 30 days

age (days)	120 ±0	120 ±0 <i>ns</i>	120 ±0 <i>ns</i>
LVEDV (ml)	54·74 ±4·1	53·43 ±3·5 <i>ns</i>	65·99 ±3·5 <i>ns</i>
LVESV(ml)	32·93 ±4·0	31·89 ±3·2 <i>ns</i>	28·71 ±3·5 <i>ns</i>
LVSV (ml)	21·84 ±1·8	21·54 ±2·0 <i>ns</i>	37·29 ±1·7 ***
LVEF (%)	40·54 ±3·6	40·64 ±3·5 <i>ns</i>	57·05 ±3·3 **
HR/min.	114 ±7	108 ±8 <i>ns</i>	107 ±5 <i>ns</i>
CO (l/min.)	2·44 ±0·1	2·28 ±0·1 <i>ns</i>	3·98 ±0·2 ***
CI (l/min/m <sup>2</sup> )	2·46 ±0·12	2·40 ±0·15 <i>ns</i>	3·51 ±0·15 ***
Infarct %	12·60 ±1·3	11·50 ±1·6 <i>ns</i>	6·92 ±1·4 *

# Analysis of Protein Content of APOSEC

(Cell culture supernatants of apoptotic PBMC)

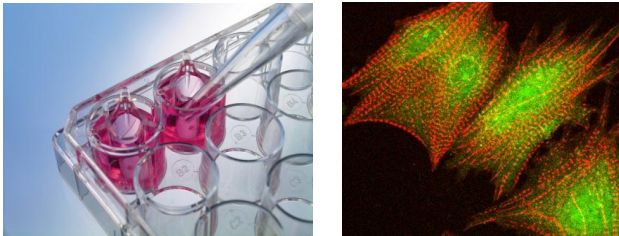
## Membran Array – Angiogenic Factors



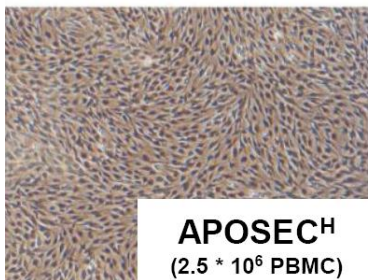
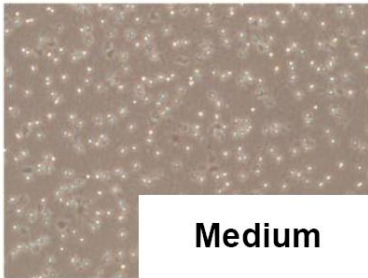
# APOSEC

## Mechanism of Action

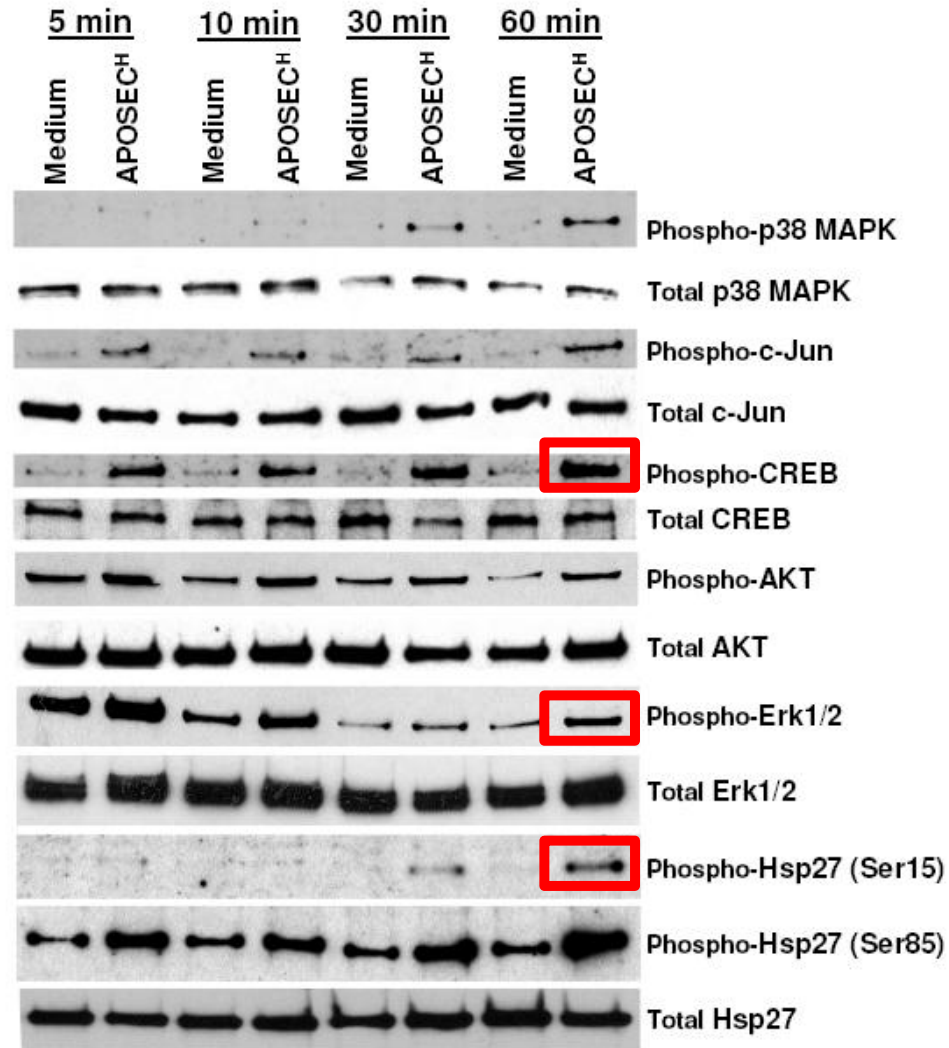
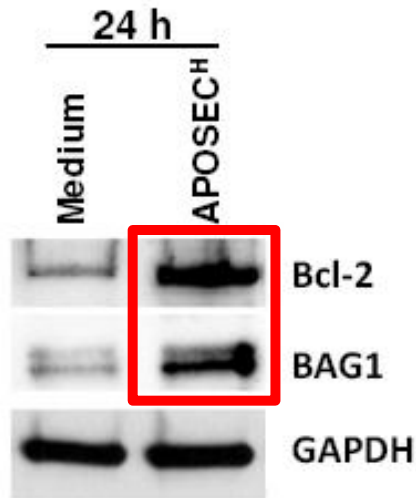
### Cell Culture of human Cardiomyocytes



### Cell Starvation Assay



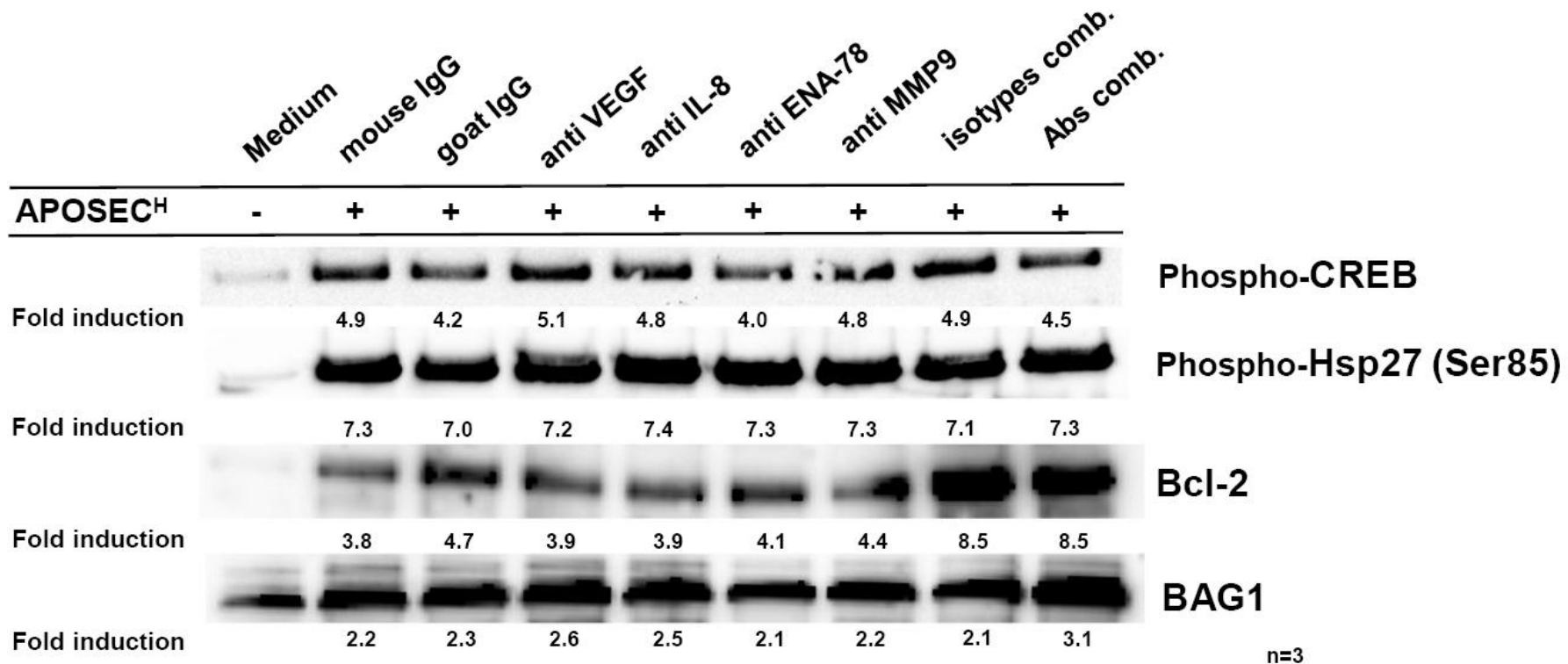
n=3



# APOSEC

## Mechanism of Action

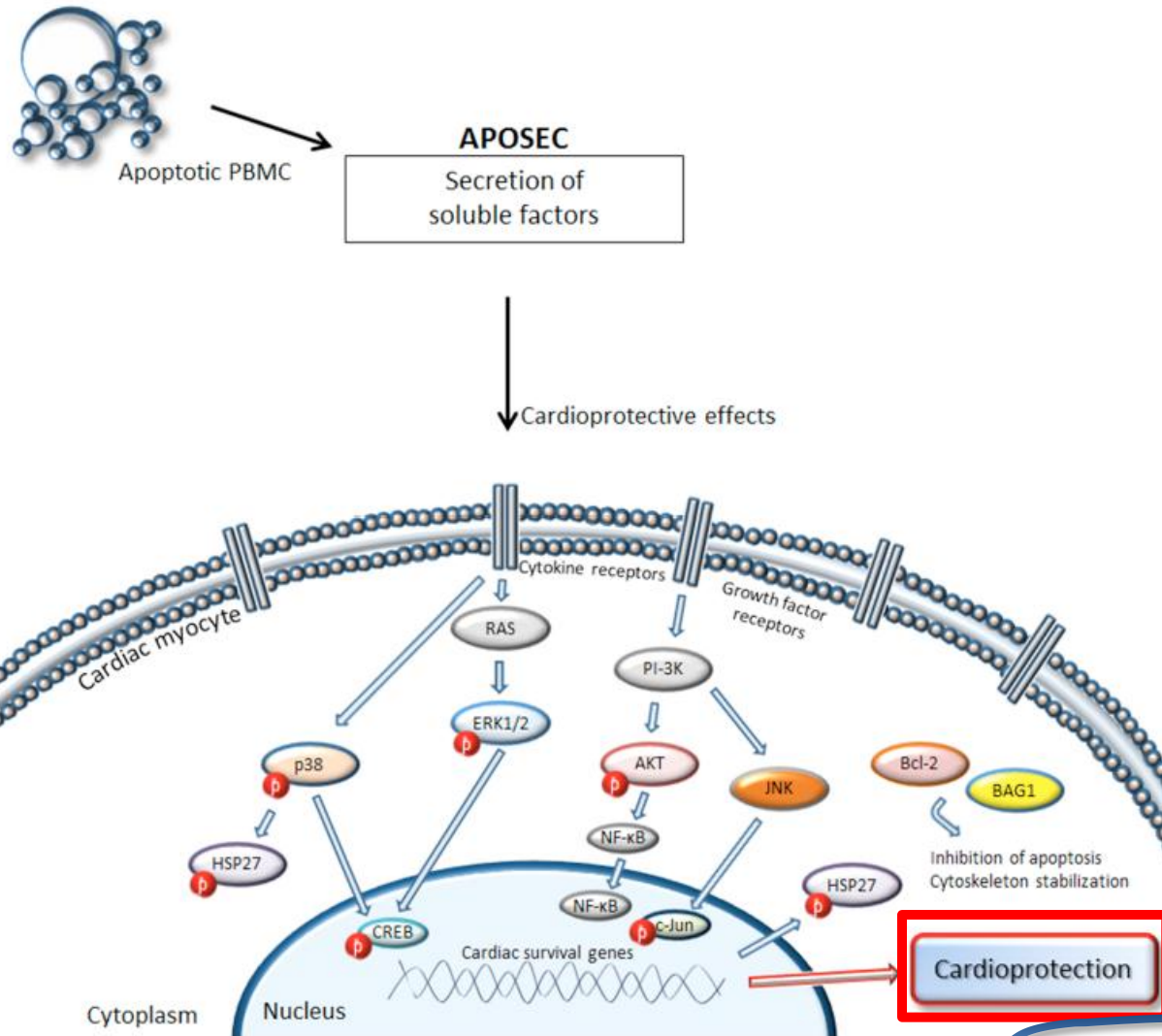
Cell Culture of human Cardiomyocytes – Factor Inhibition Assay





# APOSEC

## Mechanism of Action



## Medical University Vienna

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for Cardiac and Thoracic Diagnosis and Regeneration

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