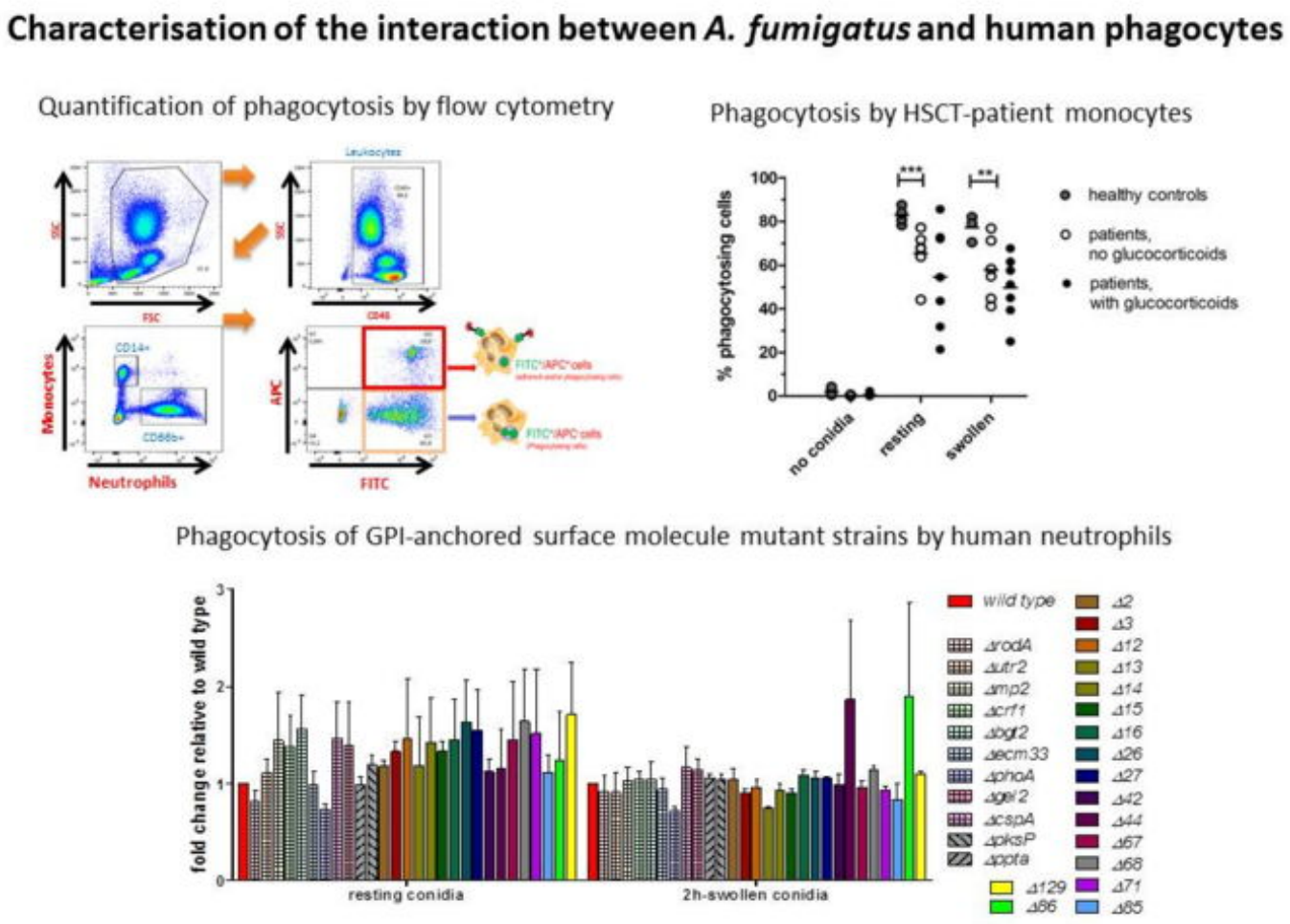
Interaction of *Aspergillus fumigatus* with human leukocytes



Flow cytometric assessment of phagocytosis of *A. fumigatus* by human leukocytes. Assay scheme and application in HSCT-patients and *A. fumigatus* mutant strains.

Aspergillus fumigatus is a pathogen that can cause severe infections in immunosuppressed patients. Phagocytosis is one of the main mechanisms of immune defense. This project investigates Host-Pathogen-Interactions of leukocytes and *A. fumigatus*, looking at adhesion, phagocytosis-rate, virulence and immune-evasion. In a sub-project, mutants of *A. fumigatus* with defects in GPI-anchored surface molecules or with defects in secondary metabolic pathways are characterized regarding their interaction with human leukocytes.