

December 7, 2025

23rd Asian Pacific Congress of Nephrology (APCN 2025)

2025 Annual Meeting of Taiwan Society of Nephrology

# Aging-associated Immune Signature as a Predictor of Mortality in End-stage Renal Disease: Results from the Longitudinal iESRD Study

**Kai-Hsiang Shu**, TienYu Owen Yang, Graham Pawelec, Feng-Jung Yang, Wan-Chuan Tsai,  
Yu-Sen Peng, Shih-Ping Hsu, Yi-Fang Chuang, Yen-Ling Chiu

Far Eastern Memorial Hospital  
Graduate Institute of Immunology, National Taiwan University



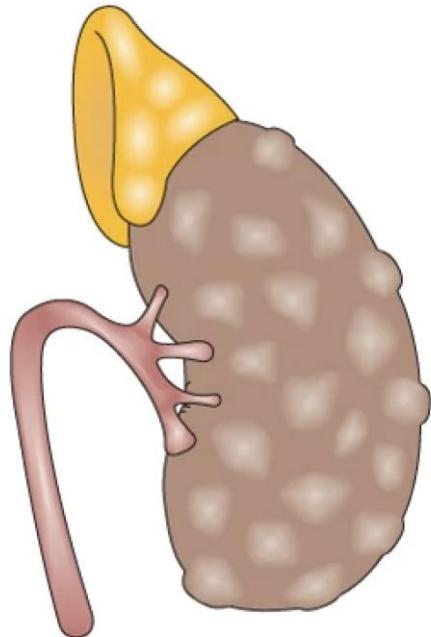
亞東紀念醫院  
FAR EASTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



國立臺灣大學

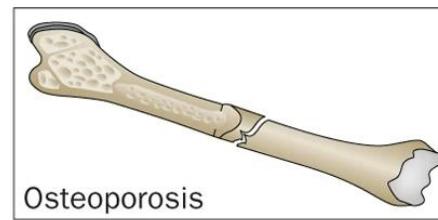
National  
Taiwan  
University

# Chronic Kidney Disease

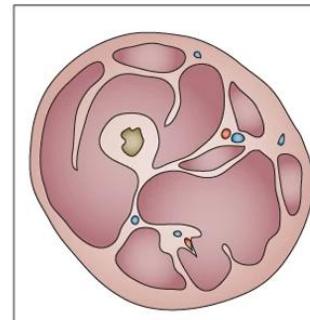


# Premature Aging

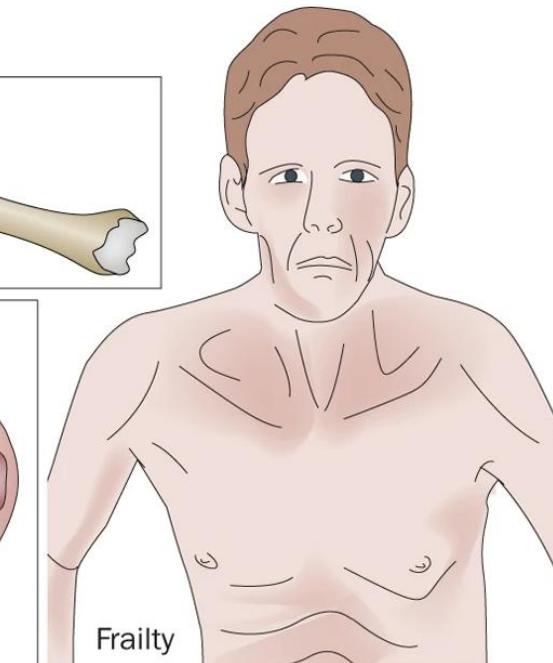
Premature ageing phenotype



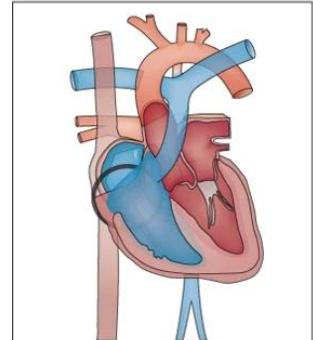
Osteoporosis



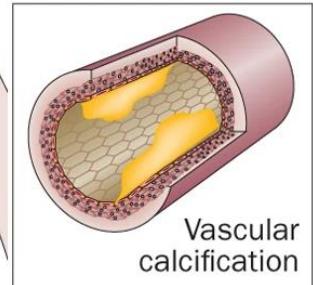
Muscle wasting



Frailty



Cardiovascular hypertrophy



Vascular calcification

# Shared Immune Features in the Two Diseases

|   | <b>Aging</b> (in general population)  | <b>End Stage Kidney Disease</b>   |
|---|---|---|
| Chronic low-grade <b>inflammation</b>                                   | Inflammageing: chronic <b>inflammation</b> in ageing, cardiovascular disease, and frailty ( <i>Nat Rev Cardiol</i> 2018)  | Immune cell dysfunction and <b>inflammation</b> in end-stage renal disease ( <i>Nat Rev Nephrol</i> 2013)   |
| Decreased naïve and accumulation of differentiated <b>T lymphocytes</b> | <b>Immune parameters</b> in a longitudinal study of a very old population of Swedish people: a comparison between survivors and nonsurvivors ( <i>J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci</i> 1995)                             | Naïve and central memory <b>T-cell</b> lymphopenia in end-stage renal disease ( <i>Kidney Int</i> 2006)<br>Progressive loss of renal function is associated with activation and depletion of naïve <b>T lymphocytes</b> ( <i>Clin Immunol</i> 2006) |
| Skewing to proinflammatory <b>monocyte</b> profiles                     | Aging is associated with chronic innate immune activation and dysregulation of <b>monocyte</b> phenotype and function ( <i>Aging Cell</i> 2012)   | Hemodialysis-related changes in phenotypical features of <b>monocytes</b> ( <i>Sci Rep</i> 2018)  |
| Adverse survival <b>outcomes</b> with altered immune composition        | An <b>immune risk phenotype</b> , cognitive impairment, and <b>survival</b> in very late life: impact of allostatic load in Swedish octogenarian and nonagenarian humans ( <i>J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci</i> 2005) | ?   |

# Better Together Among Cell Subsets: single cell types versus immune cell pattern



**Decreased Peripheral Naïve T Cell Number and Its Role in Predicting Cardiovascular and Infection Events in Hemodialysis Patients**

BMC Nephrology

Premature aging of circulating T cells predicts all-cause mortality in hemodialysis patients

**SCIENTIFIC  
REPORTS**

Altered monocytic phenotypes are linked with systemic inflammation and may be linked to mortality in dialysis patients

**nature  
medicine**

**A clinically meaningful metric of immune age derived from high-dimensional longitudinal monitoring**

## Hypothesis

- Composite immune profiles independently predict survival outcome in end-stage kidney disease

## Specific aims

- Quantification of T lymphocyte differentiation and monocyte subsets by flow cytometry
- Construction of composite immune indexes through Principal Component Analysis (PCA)
- Analyzing the relationship between composite immune indexes and survival in hemodialysis patients

# The "Immunity in ESRD" Cohort



1 Country



2 Hospitals



409 Patients



3 Years of follow up  
(2014-2017)

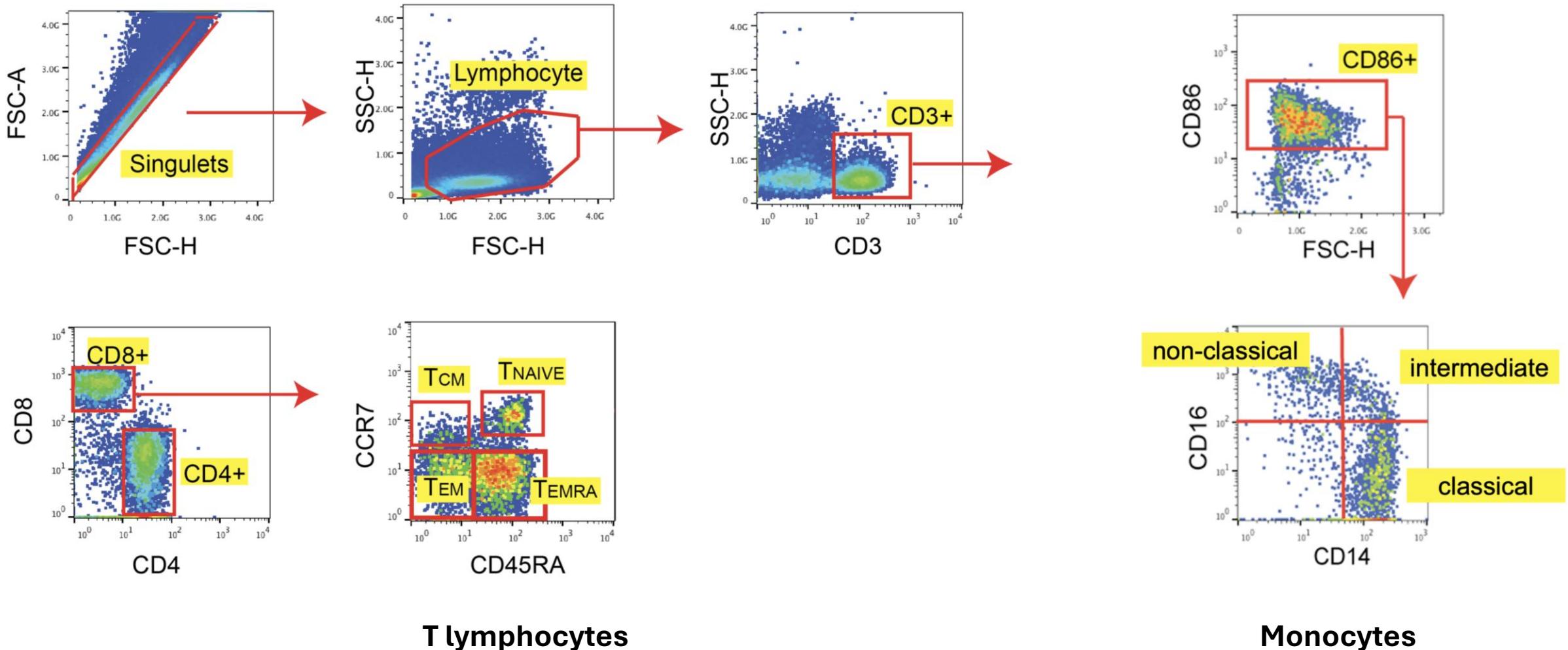


**Table 1.** Patient characteristics at baseline

|                                  | All<br>(n=409)         | Alive<br>(n=334)       | Dead<br>(n=75)          | P value | CMV seropositive<br>(n=402) | CMV seronegative<br>(n=7) | P value |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Age (years)                      | 61.7<br>(12.2)         | 59.9<br>(11.9)         | 69.3<br>(10.3)          | <0.01   | 62.0<br>(12.0)              | 44.1<br>(11.9)            | <0.01   |
| Sex (male%)                      | 50.6                   | 51.2                   | 48.0                    | 0.70    | 50.8                        | 42.9                      | 0.72    |
| <b>Medical history</b>           |                        |                        |                         |         |                             |                           |         |
| Diabetes mellitus (%)            | 44.5                   | 41.3                   | 58.7                    | <0.01   | 45.0                        | 14.3                      | 0.14    |
| Hypertension (%)                 | 76.3                   | 74.9                   | 82.7                    | 0.18    | 76.9                        | 42.9                      | 0.06    |
| Duration of Dialysis (years)     | 6.23<br>(5.09)         | 6.16<br>(5.06)         | 6.55<br>(5.25)          | 0.56    | 6.20<br>(5.02)              | 8.27<br>(8.58)            | 0.55    |
| <b>Laboratory data</b>           |                        |                        |                         |         |                             |                           |         |
| Hemoglobin (g/dl)                | 10.9<br>(1.4)          | 11.0<br>(1.2)          | 10.4<br>(1.8)           | <0.01   | 10.9<br>(1.38)              | 10.7<br>(1.09)            | 0.62    |
| Platelet (x 10 <sup>3</sup> /µl) | 190.4<br>(65.9)        | 191.5<br>(62.4)        | 185.5<br>(80.1)         | 0.48    | 190.0<br>(65.1)             | 215.0<br>(109.0)          | 0.57    |
| WBC (/µl)                        | 6407<br>(1962)         | 6403<br>(1918)         | 6421<br>(2160)          | 0.95    | 6407<br>(1960)              | 6393<br>(2207)            | 0.99    |
| Neutrophil (/µl)                 | 4205<br>(1625)         | 4195<br>(1570)         | 4248<br>(1863)          | 0.80    | 4202<br>(1626)              | 4362<br>(1729)            | 0.82    |
| Lymphocyte (/µl)                 | 1486<br>(537)          | 1492<br>(514)          | 1457<br>(635)           | 0.61    | 1488<br>(538)               | 1359<br>(543)             | 0.56    |
| Monocyte (/µl)                   | 397<br>(178)           | 390<br>(176)           | 429<br>(183)            | 0.09    | 399<br>(179)                | 317<br>(99)               | 0.07    |
| Total cholesterol (mg/dl)        | 152<br>(36.7)          | 154<br>(37.1)          | 143<br>(33.5)           | 0.02    | 152<br>(36.6)               | 152<br>(44.4)             | 1.00    |
| Triglyceride (mg/dl)             | 147<br>(95.1)          | 147<br>(94.0)          | 146<br>(100.7)          | 0.95    | 147<br>(95.3)               | 124<br>(86.0)             | 0.50    |
| Albumin (g/dl)                   | 4.02<br>(0.38)         | 4.08<br>(0.32)         | 3.77<br>(0.52)          | <0.01   | 4.02<br>(0.39)              | 4.20<br>(0.26)            | 0.12    |
| C-reactive protein (mg/dl)       | 0.290<br>(0.120-0.768) | 0.271<br>(0.110-0.661) | 0.533<br>(0.190-1.720)  | <0.01   | 0.30<br>(0.120-0.770)       | 0.190<br>(0.020-0.74)     | 0.30    |
| CMV IgG (U/ml)                   | 382.1<br>(175.3-801.7) | 375.8<br>(167.4-739.0) | 469.4<br>(240.3-1021.0) | <0.01*  | 389.5<br>(181.0-812.8)      | 0.150<br>(0-0.150)        | <0.01*  |

\*Log-transformed Welch's t test was performed for CMV IgG. Continuous variables are shown as mean and standard deviation. Dichotomous variables are shown as percentage. CRP and anti-CMV IgG are shown as median with interquartile range. P values represent comparisons between surviving and deceased individuals. CMV, cytomegalovirus. To convert hemoglobin, albumin, and CRP g/dl to g/l, times 10. To convert total cholesterol mg/dl to mmol/L, times 0.0259. To convert triglyceride mg/dl to mmol/L, times 0.0113.

# Gating Strategy for T Lymphocyte and Monocyte Subsets



**Table 2.** Baseline immune cell subset percentages and numbers

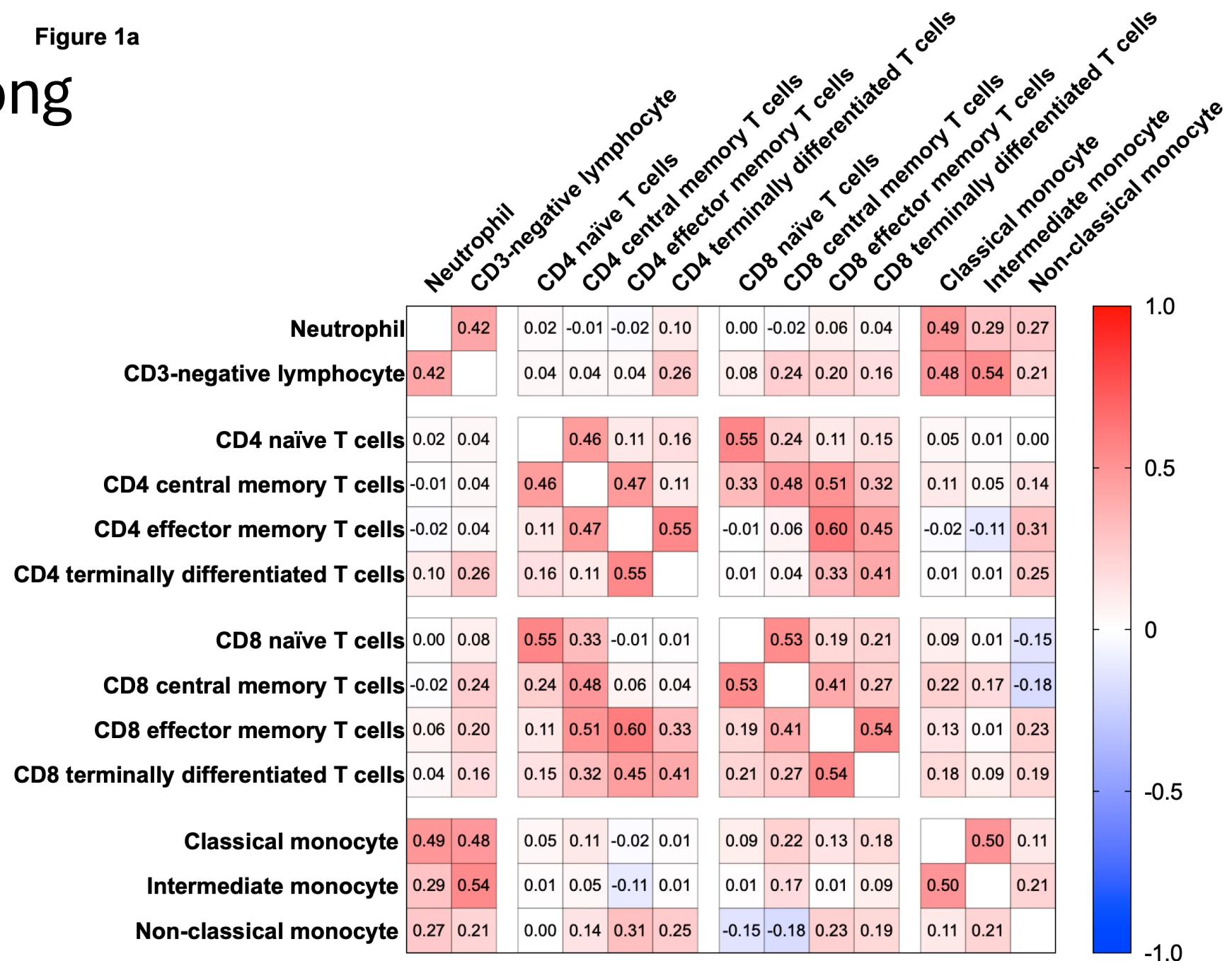
|                                   | All (n=409) |         | Alive (n=334) |         | Dead (n=75) |         | P value         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------------|---------|-------------|---------|-----------------|
| <b>Absolute number</b>            |             |         |               |         |             |         |                 |
| Neutrophil                        | 4205        | (1625)  | 4195          | (1570)  | 4248        | (1863)  | 0.80            |
| CD3                               | 907.4       | (414.1) | 918.4         | (387.8) | 858.6       | (515.3) | 0.26            |
| CD3-negative lymphocyte           | 578.2       | (288.1) | 573.6         | (287.1) | 598.7       | (293.7) | 0.50            |
| CD4                               | 523         | (232.6) | 529.8         | (218.5) | 492.7       | (287.2) | 0.21            |
| Naïve T cells                     | 164.5       | (111.9) | 171.6         | (110.2) | 133.1       | (114.3) | <b>0.01</b>     |
| Central memory T cells            | 228.6       | (116.2) | 233.1         | (113.1) | 208.4       | (127.8) | 0.10            |
| Effector memory T cells           | 120.6       | (86.4)  | 116.4         | (74.1)  | 139.6       | (126.6) | <b>0.04</b>     |
| Terminally differentiated T cells | 9.3         | (11.7)  | 8.7           | (9.5)   | 11.7        | (18.6)  | <b>0.04</b>     |
| CD8                               | 275         | (180.2) | 277.6         | (177.1) | 263.6       | (194.2) | 0.54            |
| Naïve T cells                     | 54.5        | (61.9)  | 59.4          | (65.5)  | 32.7        | (35.5)  | <b>&lt;0.01</b> |
| Central memory T cells            | 12.1        | (13.9)  | 12.6          | (14.4)  | 9.9         | (11.5)  | 0.13            |
| Effector memory T cells           | 102.5       | (83.6)  | 101.2         | (76.7)  | 108.3       | (109.5) | 0.51            |
| Terminally differentiated T cells | 105.8       | (95.2)  | 104.3         | (95.0)  | 112.7       | (96.8)  | 0.49            |
| Monocyte                          | 397.4       | (177.9) | 390.3         | (176.3) | 429.1       | (182.5) | 0.09            |
| Classical monocyte                | 264.4       | (141.6) | 259.1         | (141.3) | 287.9       | (141.7) | 0.11            |
| Intermediate monocyte             | 40.4        | (33.9)  | 39.2          | (31.7)  | 45.7        | (42.1)  | 0.13            |
| Non-classical monocyte            | 56.3        | (38.2)  | 56.1          | (37.8)  | 57.4        | (40.3)  | 0.78            |

**Table 3.** Association between immune cell subset numbers and age

|                                   | <i>p</i> | 95% CI         | P value         |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Absolute number</b>            |          |                |                 |
| Neutrophil                        | 0.05     | -0.05 to 0.14  | 0.36            |
| CD3-negative lymphocyte           | 0.11     | 0.01 to 0.21   | <b>0.03</b>     |
| CD4                               | -0.11    | -0.21 to -0.01 | <b>0.02</b>     |
| Naïve T cells                     | -0.26    | -0.35 to -0.16 | <b>&lt;0.01</b> |
| Central memory T cells            | -0.11    | -0.20 to -0.01 | <b>0.03</b>     |
| Effector memory T cells           | 0.12     | 0.02 to 0.22   | <b>0.01</b>     |
| Terminally differentiated T cells | 0.12     | 0.02 to 0.21   | <b>0.02</b>     |
| CD8                               | -0.07    | -0.17 to 0.03  | 0.14            |
| Naïve T cells                     | -0.49    | -0.56 to -0.41 | <b>&lt;0.01</b> |
| Central memory T cells            | -0.09    | -0.19 to 0.01  | 0.08            |
| Effector memory T cells           | 0.01     | -0.09 to 0.11  | 0.89            |
| Terminally differentiated T cells | 0.14     | 0.04 to 0.24   | <b>&lt;0.01</b> |
| Monocyte                          | 0.17     | 0.07 to 0.26   | <b>&lt;0.01</b> |
| Classical monocyte                | 0.13     | 0.03 to 0.23   | <b>0.01</b>     |
| Intermediate monocyte             | 0.14     | 0.04 to 0.23   | <b>0.01</b>     |
| Non-classical monocyte            | 0.11     | 0.01 to 0.21   | <b>0.02</b>     |

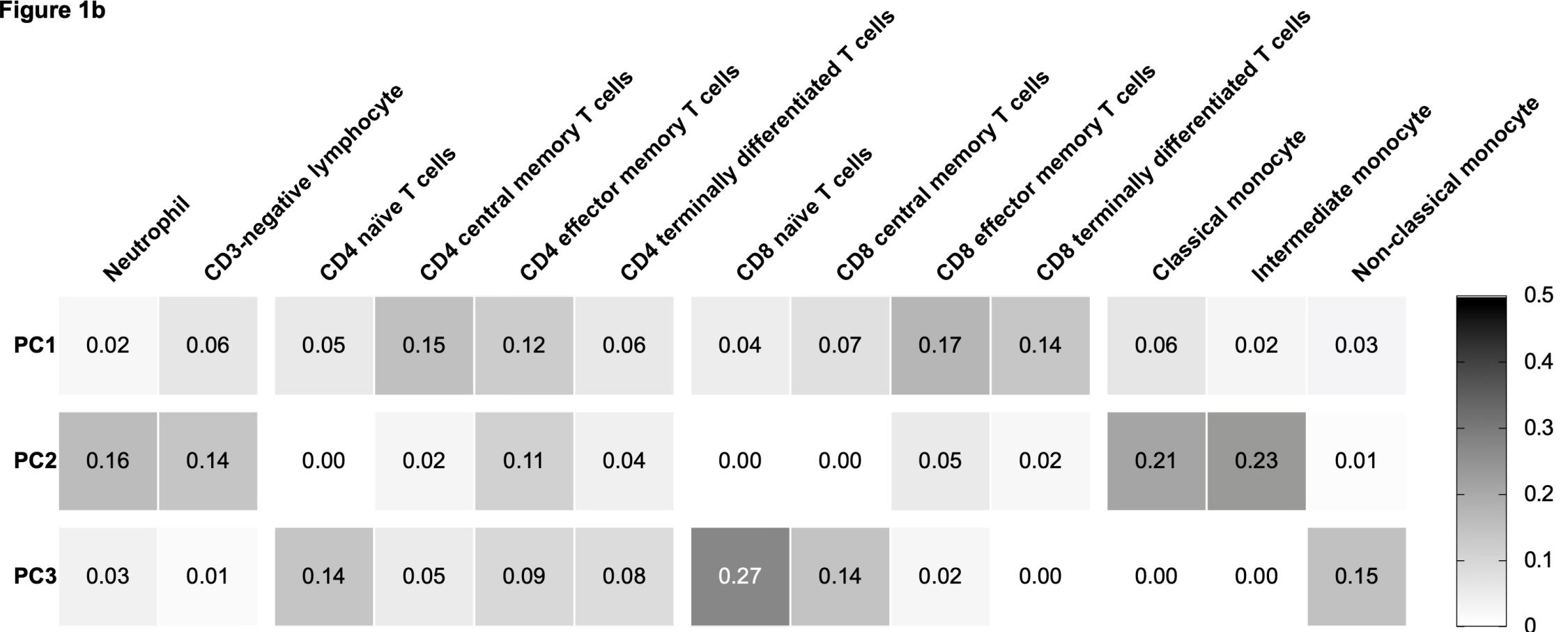
Figure 1a

# Correlogram Among Immune Cell Subsets



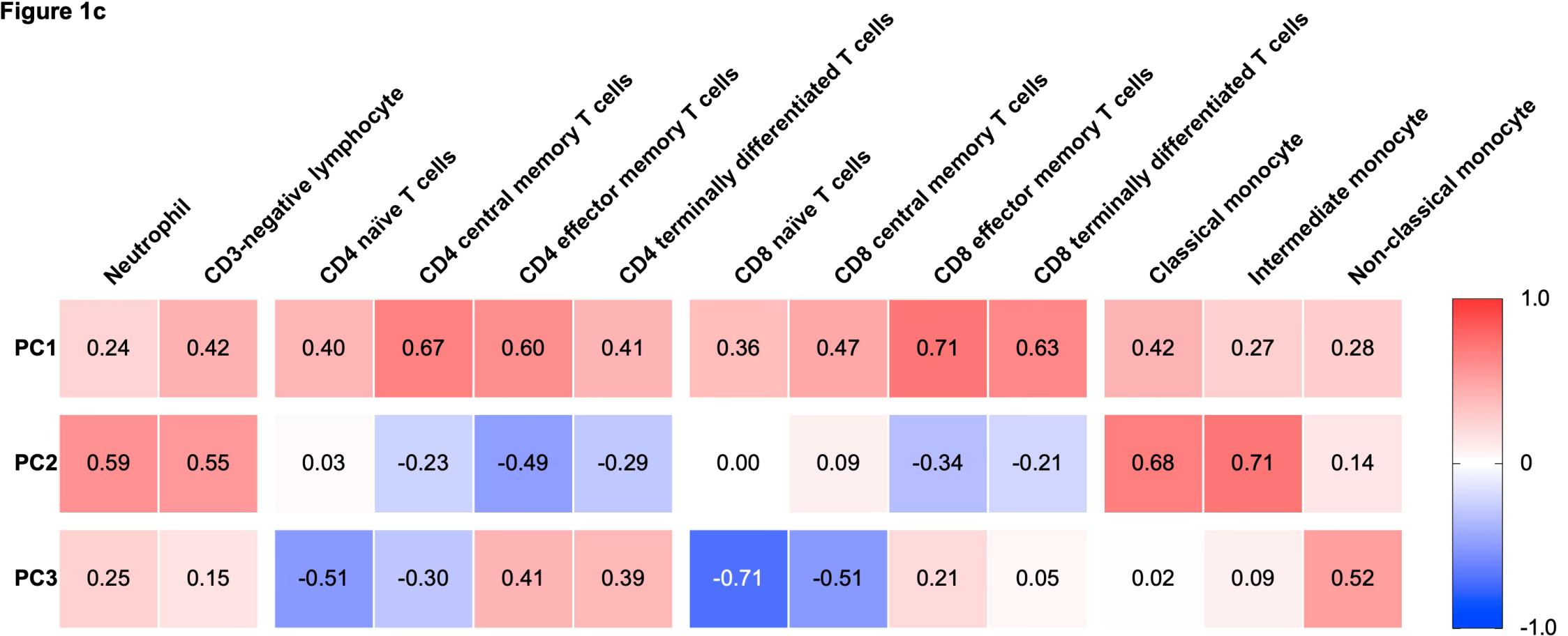
# Composition of Each Principal Component (PC)

**Figure 1b**



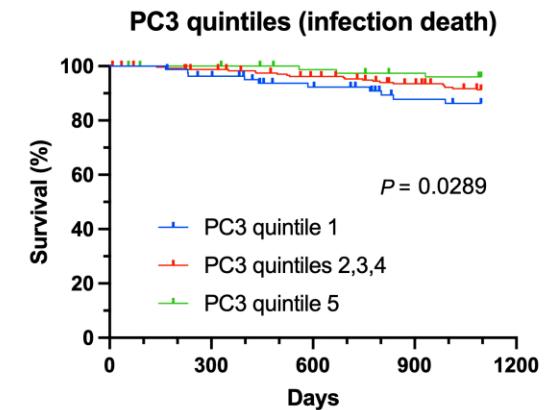
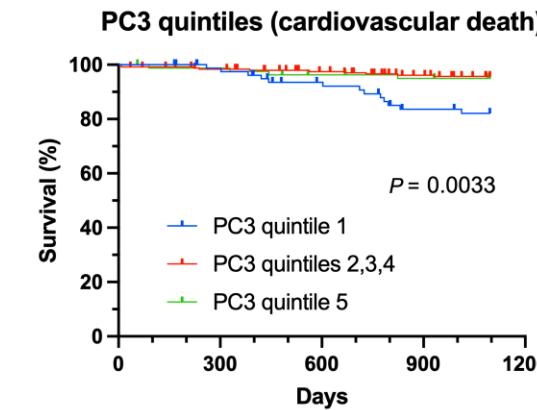
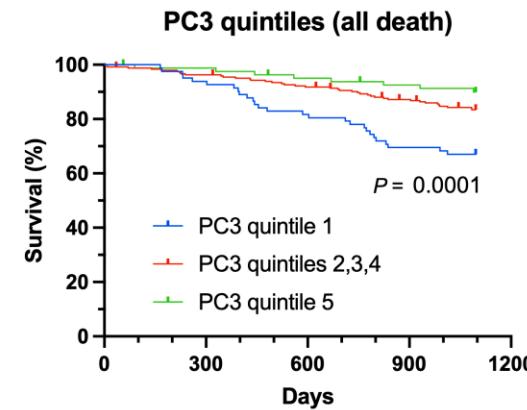
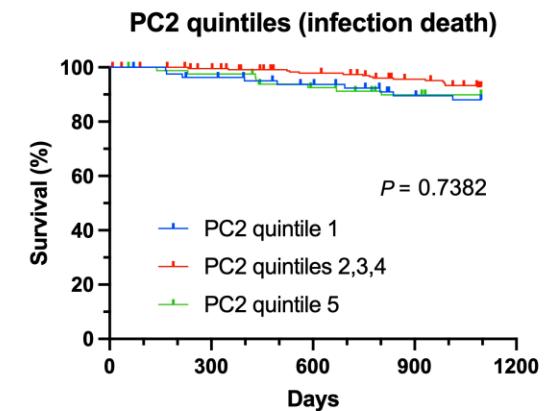
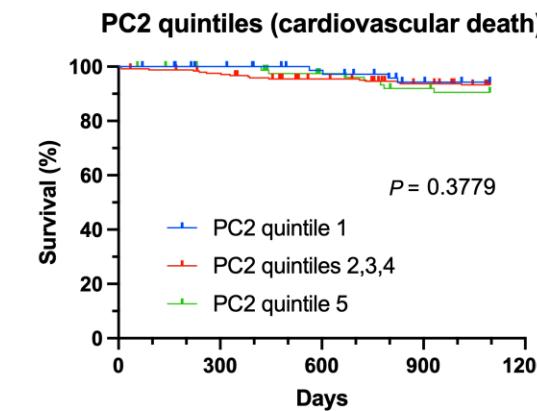
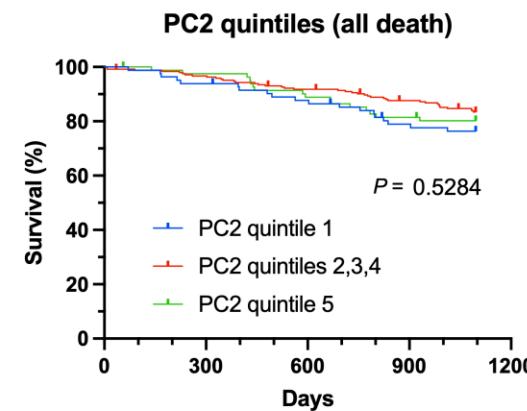
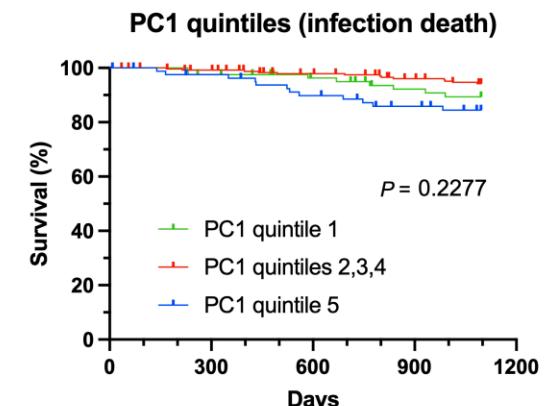
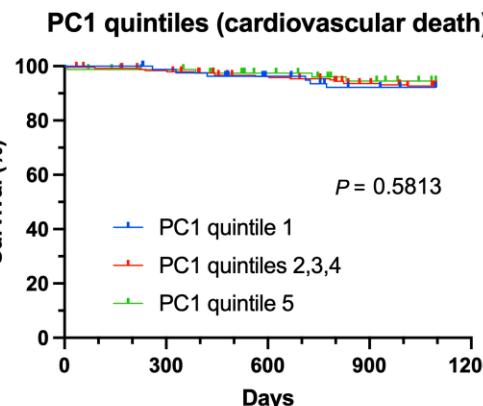
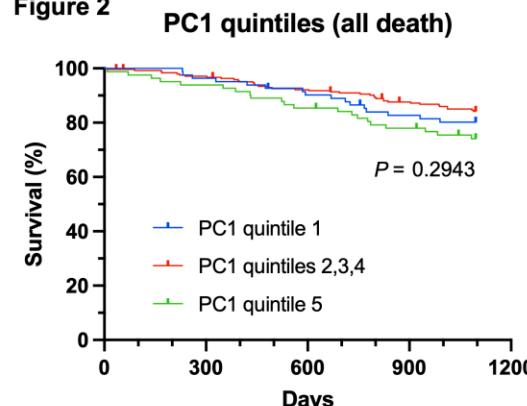
# Correlation Between PCs and Cell Subsets

Figure 1c

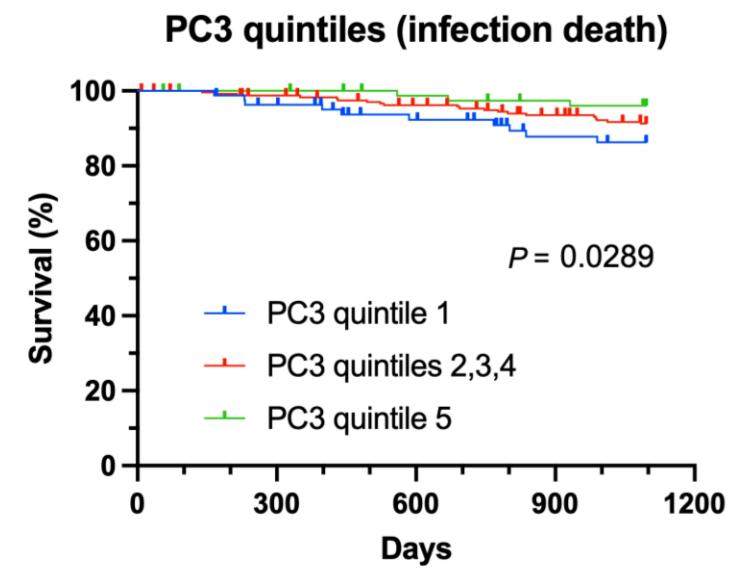
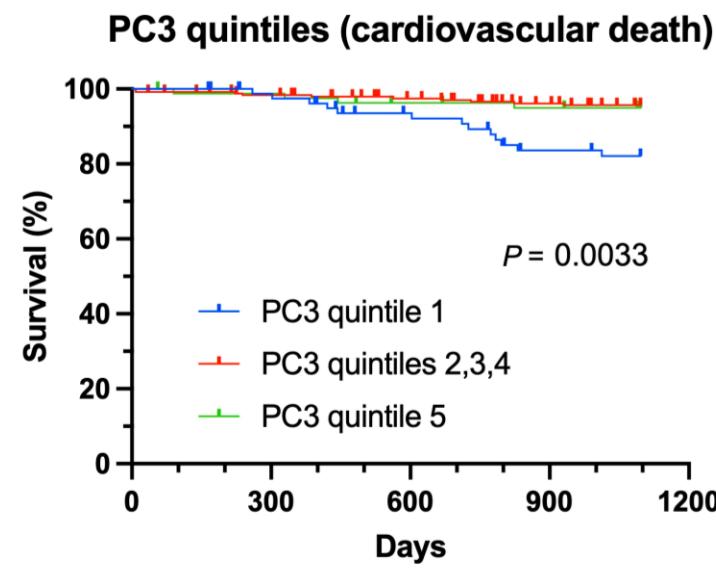
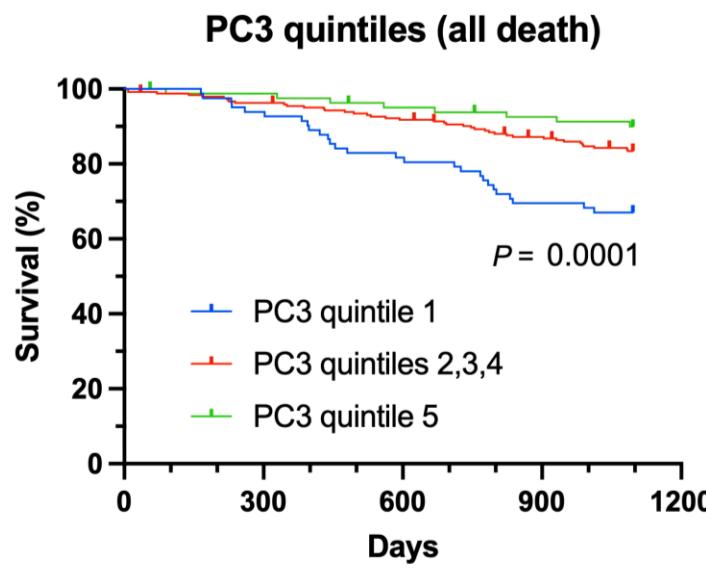


# Survival Curves Among Quintiles of Principal Components

Figure 2



# Higher PC3 is Associated with Worse Survival



# Higher PC3 is Associated with Worse Survival, Independent of Age

**Table 4.** Association between Principal Components and CMV IgG Titers with All-Cause Mortality, Cardiovascular Death, and Infection-Related Death.

|                             | Univariable |              |                 | Model 1 |              |                 | Model 2 |              |             | Model 3* |              |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|-------------|----------|--------------|-------------|
|                             | HR          | 95% CI       | P value         | HR      | 95% CI       | P value         | HR      | 95% CI       | P value     | HR       | 95% CI       | P value     |
| <b>All-cause death</b>      |             |              |                 |         |              |                 |         |              |             |          |              |             |
| Principal Component 1       | 1.00        | 0.87 to 1.14 | 0.95            | 0.99    | 0.86 to 1.12 | 0.84            | 1.02    | 0.89 to 1.16 | 0.79        | 1.01     | 0.88 to 1.15 | 0.87        |
| Principal Component 2       | 1.04        | 0.89 to 1.21 | 0.62            | 0.99    | 0.83 to 1.17 | 0.87            | 0.89    | 0.74 to 1.06 | 0.20        | 0.89     | 0.75 to 1.06 | 0.21        |
| Principal Component 3       | 1.49        | 1.23 to 1.79 | <b>&lt;0.01</b> | 1.43    | 1.15 to 1.78 | <b>&lt;0.01</b> | 1.33    | 1.06 to 1.66 | <b>0.01</b> | 1.31     | 1.05 to 1.66 | <b>0.02</b> |
| Log CMV IgG*                | 1.55        | 0.97 to 2.51 | 0.07            | 1.29    | 0.80 to 2.11 | 0.30            | 1.24    | 0.76 to 2.05 | 0.39        |          |              |             |
| <b>Cardiovascular death</b> |             |              |                 |         |              |                 |         |              |             |          |              |             |
| Principal Component 1       | 1.19        | 0.97 to 1.43 | 0.08            | 1.18    | 0.96 to 1.42 | 0.09            | 1.17    | 0.95 to 1.40 | 0.11        | 1.17     | 0.96 to 1.41 | 0.10        |
| Principal Component 2       | 0.82        | 0.62 to 1.08 | 0.17            | 0.82    | 0.61 to 1.10 | 0.18            | 0.73    | 0.55 to 0.99 | <b>0.04</b> | 0.73     | 0.54 to 0.98 | <b>0.04</b> |
| Principal Component 3       | 1.61        | 1.18 to 2.19 | <b>&lt;0.01</b> | 1.51    | 1.05 to 2.20 | <b>0.03</b>     | 1.45    | 1.01 to 2.11 | 0.05        | 1.50     | 1.03 to 2.21 | <b>0.04</b> |
| Log CMV IgG*                | 1.06        | 0.50 to 2.31 | 0.88            | 0.88    | 0.40 to 1.97 | 0.75            | 0.91    | 0.42 to 2.02 | 0.82        |          |              |             |
| <b>Infection death</b>      |             |              |                 |         |              |                 |         |              |             |          |              |             |
| Principal Component 1       | 0.90        | 0.72 to 1.11 | 0.35            | 0.88    | 0.70 to 1.08 | 0.26            | 0.93    | 0.74 to 1.14 | 0.51        | 0.89     | 0.70 to 1.11 | 0.33        |
| Principal Component 2       | 0.98        | 0.76 to 1.24 | 0.87            | 0.90    | 0.68 to 1.17 | 0.46            | 0.86    | 0.65 to 1.12 | 0.28        | 0.86     | 0.65 to 1.13 | 0.28        |
| Principal Component 3       | 1.51        | 1.14 to 2.01 | <b>&lt;0.01</b> | 1.38    | 1.01 to 1.92 | 0.05            | 1.31    | 0.95 to 1.82 | 0.10        | 1.23     | 0.90 to 1.73 | 0.21        |
| Log CMV IgG*                | 2.55        | 1.23 to 5.39 | <b>0.01</b>     | 2.05    | 0.97 to 4.38 | 0.06            | 1.99    | 0.90 to 4.44 | 0.09        |          |              |             |

\*CMV seronegative subjects excluded. Univariable and multivariable Cox regression. Model 1 was adjusted for age, sex, and patient source. Model 2 was adjusted for age, sex, patient source, hemoglobin, diabetes mellitus, albumin, and C-reactive protein. Model 3 included all parameters from Model 2, with addition of log-transformed CMV IgG titers.

# Conclusion

- Aging-associated immune cell patterns, characterized by loss of **naïve T cells** and accumulation of **differentiated T cells** and **non-classical monocytes**, independently predict mortality in hemodialysis patients.

# Future Directions

- Evaluation of aging-associated immune cell pattern in **other chronic diseases**
- Further delineation of **mechanism** for immune cell pattern alterations, with possible **intervention**

Your Attention is Appreciated