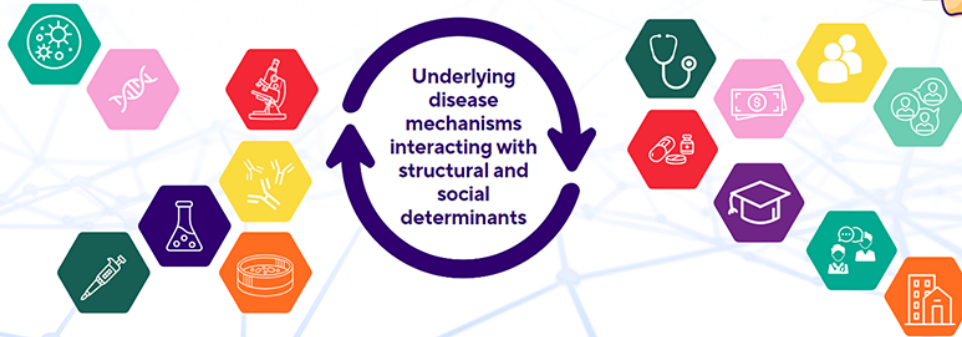




19TH ANNUAL CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH DAYS  
**Outcomes in Child Health**



October 25 + 26, 2023 | RBC Convention Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Abstract Submission Form

## CHR D 2023: Abstract Submission Form

**Submitter Name**

Tamiris Souza

**Presenter Name**

Tamiris Souza

**Presenter Status**

Post-Doctoral Fellows

**Research Category**

Basic Science

**Role in the project**

Analyze Data  
Write Abstract

**Title**

Breast milk extracellular vesicles from mothers with asthma modulate inflammatory mediators released by human airway smooth muscle cells

**Background**

Breastfeeding provides substantial benefits for infant growth, including protection against asthma development. Breastmilk (BM) is a rich source of bioactive molecules including extracellular vesicles (EVs), which transfer biomolecular cargo to facilitate inter-cellular communication. Depending on their cargo, BM-EVs exert immunomodulatory signalling in recipient cells, and their cargo is affected by maternal characteristics.

**Objective**

Here we investigated the effect of BM-EVs from mothers with or without asthma (CHILD study) on the release of cytokines from primary human hTERT-immortalized airway smooth muscle cells (hASMs) from donors with or without asthma.

**Methods**

Samples of BM from healthy and asthmatic donors (N=5/group) were collected 3-4 months post-partum. BM-EVs were isolated from 200µl of BM using size exclusion chromatography (Izon). BM-EVs were co-cultured (48hrs) with primary hASMs from both non-asthmatic and asthmatic donors to determine if effects of BM-EVs were dependent on recipient cell milieu. Cell viability was evaluated by MTT assay. Immunomodulatory cytokine release (GM-CSF, IFN-γ, IL-1β, IL-1ra, IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, IL-12(p40), IL-12(p70), IL-13, MCP-1 and TNFα) was quantified in conditioned media collected from hASMs using Human Focused 15-Plex Discovery Assay (Eve Technologies, Alberta, Canada).

## Results

BM-EV treatment did not alter cell viability of hASMs, regardless of BM-EV donor asthma status. Only BM-EVs from asthmatic donors exerted immunomodulatory effects in a recipient cell-specific manner: in non-asthmatic hASMs, BM-EVs from asthmatic donors decreased MCP-1 secretion by 45% ( $p=0.0286$ ), IL-6 by 45% ( $p=0.0801$ ) and IL-2 by 25% ( $p=0.0970$ ) vs. control-BM-EVs. In contrast, in asthmatic hASMs, BM-EVs from asthmatic donors increased IL-10 by 33% ( $p=0.0660$ ).

## Conclusion

BM-EVs exerted differential effects on cytokine release in a BM-donor and recipient-cell specific manner. Treatment with asthmatic donor-derived BM-EVs reduced pro-inflammatory (MCP-1, IL-6 and IL-2) in non-asthmatic hASMs, and increased anti-inflammatory (IL-10) in asthmatic-hASMs. Ongoing work to assess proteomic composition of BM-EV cargo for mechanistic discovery is underway.

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