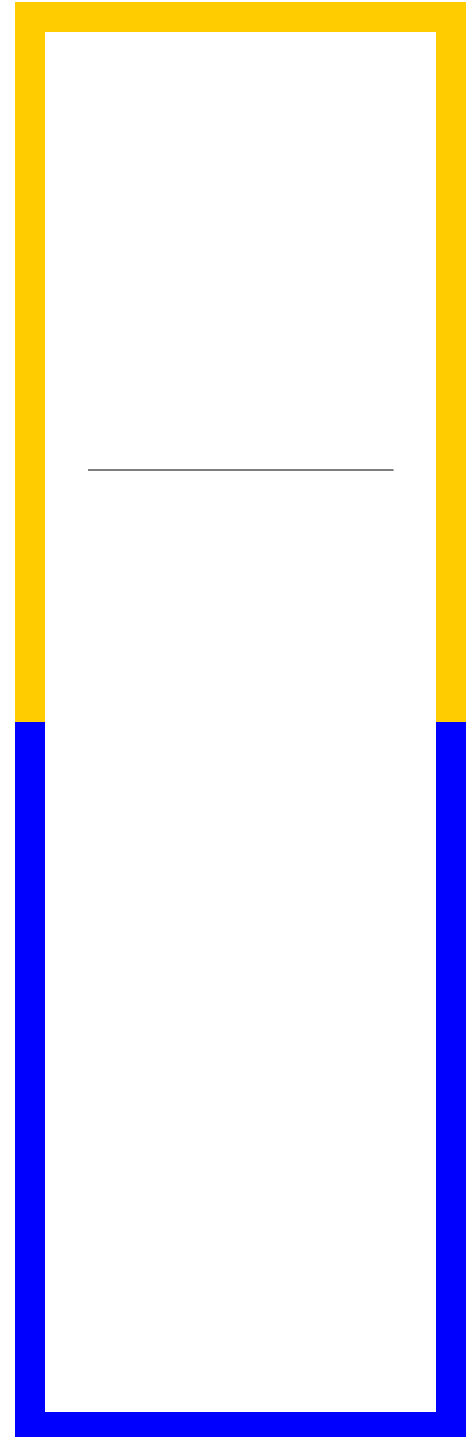


We have utilized several models to describe the effects of interleukin (IL)-21 in chronic immune responses. A mouse model of chronic heart rejection was employed to demonstrate that an immune system devoid of IL-21 is largely incapable of developing cardiac allograft vasculopathy (CAV). This was true whether the transplant recipient mouse was IL-21 knockout, a deficiency resulting in lack of IL-21



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