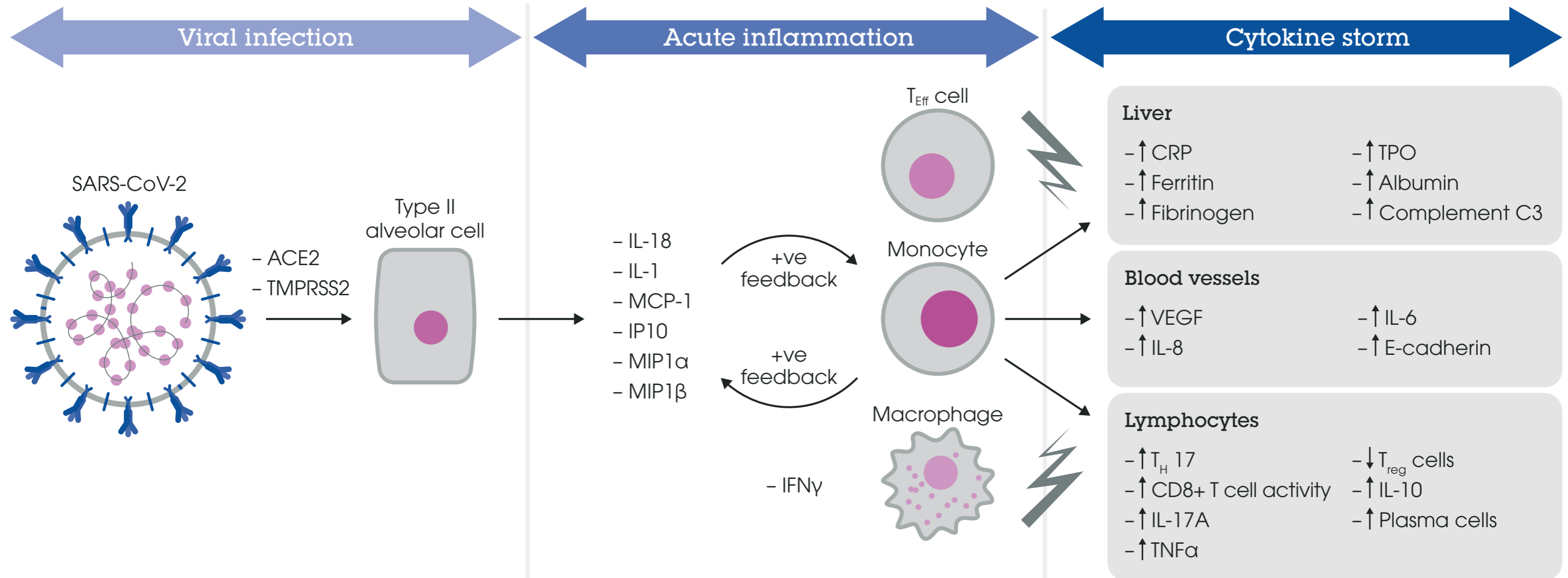


Cytokine storm in COVID-19

Three grades of illness



A subgroup of severe COVID-19 patients experience cytokine release syndrome (CRS, also known as cytokine storm), where cytokines that coordinate the response to infection and trigger inflammation are released in excessive amounts. If uncontrolled, CRS can lead to tissue damage and patient death.



>65 yrs Cytokine storm disproportionately affects the elderly. Immune system balance is regulated differently at different ages. Older people may make a more damaging response than the young.

IL-6 The most frequently reported cytokine to be increased in COVID-19 patients. Elevated levels of this cytokine are associated with higher mortalities.

12+ Number of candidate coronavirus drugs targeting cytokine storm. Early results from the recovery trial show the steroid dexamethasone reduces mortality by one third for patients requiring respiratory support.