

# LPS administration increases CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cell population that possesses osteoclast differentiation potential in mice

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Abstract Osteoclasts are multinucleated giant cells that originate from a monocyte/macrophage lineage, and are involved in the inflammatory bone destruction accompanied by periodontitis. Recent studies have shown that osteoclast precursors reside not only in the bone marrow, but also in the peripheral blood and spleen, though the precise characteristics of each precursor have not been analyzed. We hypothesized that the number of osteoclast precursors in those tissues may increase under pathological conditions and contribute to osteoclast formation in vivo in a mouse model. To test this hypothesis, we attempted to identify cell populations that possess osteoclast differentiation potential in the bone marrow, spleen,

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M. Takami (⊠) Department of Dental Pharmacology, School of Dentistry, Showa University, 1-5-8 Hatanodai, Shinagawa, Tokyo 142-8555, Japan e-mail: takami@dent.showa-u.ac.jp and blood by analyzing macrophage/monocyte-related cell surface markers such as CD11b, CD14, and colony-stimulating factor-1 receptor (c-Fms). In the bone marrow, the CD11b<sup>-</sup> cell population, but not the CD11b<sup>+</sup> cell population, differentiated into osteoclasts in the presence of receptor activator of nuclear factor-kB ligand and macrophage colonystimulating factor. On the other hand, in the spleen and blood, CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells differentiated into osteo-Interestingly, lipopolysaccharide clasts. (LPS) administration to the mice dramatically increased the proportion of CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells, which differentiated into osteoclasts, in the bone marrow and spleen. These results suggest that LPS administration increases the proportion of a distinct cell population expressing CD11b<sup>+</sup>, c-Fms<sup>+</sup>, and  $CD14^+$  in the bone marrow and spleen. Thus, these cell populations are considered to contribute to the increase in osteoclast number during inflammatory bone destruction such as periodontitis.

## Abbreviations

IL-1α/β	Interleukin-1α/β
LPS	Lipopolysaccharide
M-CSF	Macrophage colony-stimulating factor
OPG	Osteoprotegerin
RANK	Receptor activator of nuclear factor-kB

RANKL	Receptor activator of nuclear factor-kB
	ligand
TLR4	Toll-like receptor 4
TNFα	Tumor necrosis factor $\alpha$

# Introduction

Osteoclasts are multinucleated giant cells that originate from hematopoietic cells of the monocyte/macrophage lineage (Ash et al. 1980; Xing et al. 2005). Stimulation by macrophage colonystimulating factor (M-CSF, also called CSF-1) and receptor activator of NF-kB ligand (RANKL) produced by osteoblasts induces the differentiation of osteoclast precursors into osteoclasts (Kong et al. 1999; Takahashi et al. 1999; Wong et al. 1997; Yasuda et al. 1998b). M-CSF stimulation, via its receptor M-CSF receptor (c-Fms) and downstream signaling pathway, is required for the formation of osteoclast precursors and subsequent differentiation into mature osteoclasts (Takahashi et al. 1991; Yoshida et al. 1990). RANKL is a membrane-bound cytokine produced by osteoblasts, which plays a role in triggering osteoclast differentiation via its receptor RANK (Takahashi et al. 1999; Yasuda et al. 1998a, b). RANKL- or RANK-deficient mice exhibit osteopetrosis due to impaired differentiation or boneresorbing function of osteoclasts (Kong et al. 1999). In addition, osteoblasts produce not only RANKL but also osteoprotegerin (OPG), a decoy receptor of RANKL that inhibits osteoclast differentiation by interrupting the RANKL-RANK interaction (Suda et al. 1999; Udagawa et al. 2000; Yasuda et al. 1998a, b).

Osteoclast precursors have been thought to reside in the bone marrow. However, recent studies suggest that osteoclast precursors are also present in the spleen and blood, from which the cells migrate into the bone tissue and differentiate into osteoclasts in response to environmental changes (Fujikawa et al. 1996; Jacome-Galarza et al. 2013; Shi and Pamer 2011). Nakamichi et al. (2012) reported that the spleen preserves osteoclast precursors in M-CSF-mutated op/op mice. Furthermore, Ishii et al. demonstrated the migration of osteoclast precursors from the blood into the bone tissues after sphingosine-1-phosphate stimulation by live imaging (Ishii et al. 2009). Therefore, the existence of various types of osteoclast precursors has been suggested not only in the bone but also in peripheral organs such as the spleen and blood (Walker 1975a, b).

Since osteoclasts are derived from the monocyte/macrophage lineage, several studies have identified cell-surface markers of osteoclast precursors in the bone marrow such as CD11b (MAC1), Ly6c, c-Fms, c-kit, CX3CR1, and RANK (Charles et al. 2012; Jacome-Galarza et al. 2013). Miyamoto et al. (2000) isolated osteoclast precursors bearing the phenotype c-Kit (CD117)<sup>+</sup>, c-Fms (CD115)<sup>+</sup>, RANK<sup>-</sup> from the bone marrow and demonstrated their ability to differentiate into osteoclasts. On the other hand, Takeshita et al. (2000) have reported that the expression of surface markers such as CD14, F4/ 80, and Fc $\gamma$ II/IIIR change during osteoclast differentiation.

In inflammatory conditions such as periodontitis and rheumatoid arthritis, osteoclast precursors are recruited to the site of inflammation and cause pathological bone resorption (Nair et al. 1996; Poltorak et al. 1998). Especially in periodontal disease, bacterial constituents such as lipopolysaccharide (LPS), peptidoglycan, bacterial DNA, and lipoteichoic acid bind to Toll-like receptors (TLRs) and activate immune cells followed by inflammatory factor production (Nair et al. 1996; Poltorak et al. 1998). Activation of the immune system accelerates osteoclastogenesis from the precursors, which results in excess alveolar bone resorption. However, the precise mechanisms by which bacterial constituents increase osteoclast number have not been elucidated.

In the present study, we hypothesized that the number of cells that possess osteoclast differentiation potential may increase and differentiate into mature osteoclasts. In order to examine this hypothesis, we attempted to identify the cells that present osteoclast differentiation potential using cell-surface markers such as CD11b, c-Fms, and CD14. We found that CD11b-negative (CD11b<sup>-</sup>) cells in the bone marrow and CD11b-positive (CD11b<sup>+</sup>) cells in the blood differentiated into osteoclasts, while neither CD11b<sup>+</sup> nor CD11b<sup>-</sup> cells did in the spleen. Interestingly, after administration of LPS in the mice, CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells in the bone marrow and spleen differentiated into osteoclasts. We further revealed that these cells in the bone marrow and spleen are CD11b<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> cells. These results suggest that LPS administration increases the CD11b<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> cell population that possesses osteoclast differentiation potential.

# Materials and methods

# Animals

C57BL/6 male mice (6 weeks old), C3H/Hen male mice (6 weeks old) and C3H/HeJ male mice (6 weeks old) were purchased from Sankyo Laboratories Animal Center (Sankyo Labo Service Corporation; Tokyo, Japan). Mice were housed and acclimated in cages with free access to food and water for 1 week. Mice were subjected to intraperitoneal injection of LPS (500  $\mu$ g/kg) from *Escherichia coli* (Sigma-Aldrich; St Louis, MO, USA) or saline. After 24 h, cells from the bone marrow, spleen, and blood were collected and cell-surface marker analysis and cell culture were performed. The Showa University Animal Care and Use Committee and Medical Ethics Committee approved the animal experiments performed in this study.

#### Cell preparation and separation

Bone marrow cells were collected from the tibiae and femora of the mice. The spleen was removed from the mice and gently smashed in phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Cells were then transferred to a 15-mL tube, spin down, the supernatant was removed, and the pellet was lysed and washed with 10 mL of red blood cell lysing buffer, and then spun down again and resuspended with 1 mL of 2 mM ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid in PBS and counted. Blood cells were prepared from 6-week-old mice and layered onto Lympholyte-mammal<sup>®</sup> medium (Cedarlane Laboratories; Burlington, ON, Canada). After centrifugation, the monocyte fraction was collected. Subsequently, monocyte/macrophage lineage cells were magnetically separated using a QuadroMACS<sup>TM</sup> magnet, an MS column (Miltenyi Biotec; Auburn, CA, USA), CD11b microbeads (Miltenyi Biotec), and anti-biotin microbeads (Miltenyi Biotech). The cells that were bound to the microbeads were maintained in the column and constituted the positive cell fraction, whereas those that failed to bind to the microbeads passed through the column and constituted the negative cell fraction. CD11b<sup>+</sup> and CD11b<sup>-</sup> cells were

then labeled with an anti-c-Fms antibody (Miltenyi Biotec).

## Flowcytometry

For flow cytometric analysis, the cells were labeled with the PE-conjugated c-Fms (CD115) (Miltenyi Biotech), FITC-conjugated CD11b, and biotin-conjugated CD14 antibodies (eBioscience, Poway, CA, USA) followed by APC-conjugated streptavidin secondary antibodies (Southern Biotechnology Associated Inc.; Birmingham, AL, USA). The cells were pre-incubated for 30 min at 4 °C with FcR blocking reagent (Miltenvi Biotec) before specific antibody staining. On every experimental session, isotype-matched antibodies were used as controls (see above). The cells were analyzed or sorted using FACSAriaII or FACSVerse, respectively (Becton-Dickinson & Co; Mountain View, CA, USA). Gating strategy of osteoclast precursors by FACS analysis or sorting are shown in supplemental Fig. 1. In brief, after doublets and dead cells were gated out by 7-AAD, the single living cells were classified into each cell populations using each antibody.

# Cell cultures

Cells were cultured in  $\alpha$ -modified essential medium ( $\alpha$ -MEM; Sigma-Aldrich) containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS; Gibco, Life Technologies; Carlsbad, CA, USA) with 50 ng/mL of M-CSF (Leukoprol<sup>®</sup>, JCR Pharmaceuticals Co.; Hyogo, Japan) and 100 ng/mL of RANKL (R&D Systems; Minneapolis, MN, USA) in 96-well culture plates ( $1 \times 10^5$  cells/ 0.2 mL/well; Thermo Fisher Scientific Nunc A/S; Roskilde, Denmark) for 5 days. Cells were then fixed and stained for tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase (TRAP), an osteoclast marker enzyme. TRAP-positive multinucleated cells containing 3 or more nuclei were counted as osteoclasts.

#### Measurement of TRAP activity

Cells in 96-well culture plates were rinsed twice with PBS and dissolved with 150  $\mu$ L of lysis buffer (50 mM acetic acid buffer (pH 5.0) containing 1% sodium tartrate and 0.1% triton-X 100). The cell lysates were sonicated to completely dissolve the cell constituents, 50  $\mu$ L of *p*-nitrophenyl phosphate solution (1 mg/mL in 50 mM acetic acid buffer (pH 5.0) containing 1%

sodium tartrate) was added, and the cells were incubated at 37 °C for 30 min. After incubation, 100  $\mu$ L of 1 M NaOH was added to the lysates and absorbance was measured at 405 nm using an absorption spectrometer (Corona Electric, SH-1000; Ibaraki, Japan).

# Statistical analysis

Data were evaluated by the Student *t* test for statistical analysis (P < 0.05 was considered as statistically significant). All data are presented as the mean  $\pm$  s-tandard deviation (SD). Results are representative of more than four individual experiments.

# Results

The bone marrow  $CD11b^-$  cells as well as the spleen and blood  $CD11b^+$  cells possess osteoclast differentiation potential

CD11b is a typical cell-surface marker of the monocyte/macrophage lineage that is thought to include osteoclast precursors. Thus, we first separated the cells obtained from the bone marrow, spleen, and blood into CD11b<sup>+</sup> and CD11b<sup>-</sup> cell populations and examined their osteoclast differentiation potential. When CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells and CD11b<sup>-</sup> cells from the bone marrow were individually cultured in the presence of M-CSF and RANKL, a significantly larger number of osteoclasts formed in the CD11b<sup>-</sup> cell culture than that of CD11b<sup>+</sup> cell culture (Fig. 1a, b). In contrast, a small number of osteoclasts formed in CD11b<sup>+</sup> cell cultures and no osteoclasts formed in CD11b<sup>-</sup> cell cultures prepared from the spleen (Fig. 1a, b). In blood cell cultures, osteoclasts formed in CD11b<sup>+</sup> cell cultures, but not in CD11b<sup>-</sup> cell cultures (Fig. 1a, b). These results suggest that the bone marrow presents CD11b<sup>-</sup> cells, while the spleen and blood present CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells, which possess osteoclast differentiation potential, respectively.

LPS increases the CD11b<sup>+</sup> cell population possessing osteoclast differentiation potential in the bone marrow and spleen

In order to examine the effects of inflammation on the osteoclast differentiation potential of the cells in the bone marrow, spleen, and blood, we administered LPS



**Fig. 1** Osteoclast differentiation potential of CD11b<sup>+</sup> and CD11b<sup>-</sup> cells from the bone marrow, spleen, and blood. Cells from the bone marrow, spleen, and blood were separated into CD11b<sup>+</sup> and CD11b<sup>-</sup> cells using magnetic-labeled anti-CD11b antibodies. The cells ( $1 \times 10^5$ ) were then cultured in the presence of RANKL (100 ng/mL) and M-CSF (50 ng/mL) in 96-well culture plates. After 5 days of culture, cells were fixed and stained for TRAP, an osteoclast marker enzyme. The cells stained in *red* are osteoclasts (**a**). TRAP-positive multinucleated cells were counted (**b**). Data are presented as the mean values of four independent experiments. The *error bars* represent the SD. \*\*P < 0.01

to the mice and obtained cells from each tissue after 24 h (Fig. 2a, b). In bone marrow cell cultures, osteoclasts formed not only in CD11b<sup>-</sup> but also in CD11b<sup>+</sup> cell cultures. The number of osteoclasts formed in CD11b<sup>+</sup> cell cultures was significantly greater than that of CD11b<sup>-</sup> cell cultures (Fig. 2a, b). In splenocyte cultures, multinucleated giant osteoclasts formed in CD11b<sup>+</sup> cell cultures, but not in CD11b<sup>-</sup> cell cultures (Fig. 2a, b). In blood cell cultures, osteoclasts formed in CD11b<sup>+</sup>, but not in CD11b<sup>-</sup> cell cultures (Fig. 2a, b). These results indicate that LPS administration induces new cell



**Fig. 2** Effect of LPS administration on the osteoclast differentiation potential of CD11b<sup>+</sup> and CD11b<sup>-</sup> cells in the bone marrow, spleen, and blood. Mice were injected intraperitoneally with LPS (500  $\mu$ L/kg) or saline. After 24 h, cells from the bone marrow, spleen, and blood were separated into CD11b<sup>+</sup> and CD11b<sup>-</sup> cells using magnetic-labeled anti-CD11b antibodies. The cells (1 × 10<sup>5</sup>) were then cultured in the presence of RANKL (100 ng/mL) and M-CSF (50 ng/mL) in 96-well culture plates. After 5 days of culture, cells were fixed and stained for TRAP, an osteoclast marker enzyme. The cells stained in *red* are osteoclasts (**a**). TRAP-positive multinucleated cells were counted (**b**). Data are presented as the mean values of four independent experiments. The *error bars* represent the SD. \*\*P < 0.01

populations expressing CD11b with osteoclast differentiation potential in the bone marrow and spleen.

CD11b<sup>-</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells in the bone marrow and CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells in the spleen and blood possess osteoclast differentiation potential

We further attempted to identify the distinct cell populations that possess osteoclast differentiation potential by analyzing additional monocyte/macrophage markers such as c-Fms and CD14 using a cell sorting function of the flow cytometer (Fig. 3). Among the CD11b<sup>-</sup> cell population from the bone marrow, c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells differentiated into osteoclasts. In addition, c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>-</sup> cells also differentiated into osteoclasts though the number of osteoclasts was smaller than that of c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells (Fig. 3, upper line panels). Among the CD11b<sup>+</sup> cell population from the spleen, c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells differentiated into osteoclasts. A smaller number of osteoclasts was also formed in the c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>-</sup> cell population and no osteoclasts formed in the c-Fms<sup>-</sup> population (Fig. 3, middle line panels). Similar to the spleen, among the blood CD11b<sup>+</sup> cell population, c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells differentiated into osteoclasts and a smaller number of osteoclasts formed from the c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>-</sup> cell population (Fig. 3, lower line panels). No osteoclasts formed in the c-Fms<sup>-</sup> cell population from the bone marrow, spleen, and blood.

LPS increases the CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cell population that possesses osteoclast differentiation potential in the bone marrow and spleen

Since LPS increased alternative populations presenting osteoclast differentiation potential such as  $CD11b^+$  cells in the bone marrow and but not in the blood (Figs. 1, 2), we further analyzed the effects of LPS administration on these cell populations of bone marrow and spleen using cell-surface markers, including c-Fms and CD14 (Fig. 4). In cells isolated from the bone marrow of control mice, the proportion of CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells was 0.99%, whereas in the bone marrow cells of LPS-administered mice, this proportion increased to 12.34%. This cell population differentiated into osteoclasts (Fig. 4, upper panels). Similarly, the proportion of CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup>  $CD14^+$  cells in the spleen of control mice was 0.48%, while that of LPS-administered mice increased to 33.76%. This cell population also differentiated into osteoclasts (Fig. 4, lower panels). These results indicate that LPS increases CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells that can differentiate into osteoclasts.

## Discussion

During inflammatory bone destruction induced by bacterial infection, an excess amount of bone

# Bone marrow



Spleen



Blood



Deringer

◄ Fig. 3 Analysis of c-Fms and CD14 expression on cells and their osteoclast differentiation potentials. c-Fms and CD14 expression on CD11b<sup>-</sup> cells from the bone marrow (upper line panels) and on CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells from the spleen (middle line panels) or blood (lower line panels) was analyzed (left column panels). Cells were isolated into c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>-</sup> cells, c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells, c-Fms<sup>-</sup> CD14<sup>-</sup> cells, and c-Fms<sup>-</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells, respectively using a flow cytometer equipped with a cell sorter. The isolated cells  $(1 \times 10^5)$  were cultured in the presence of RANKL (100 ng/mL) and M-CSF (50 ng/mL) in 96-well culture plates. After 5 days of culture, cells were fixed and stained for TRAP, a marker enzyme of osteoclasts. TRAPpositive multinucleated cells were counted (middle column panels). The cells stained in red are osteoclasts (right column photos). Data are presented as the mean values of four independent experiments. The error bars represent the SD. \*\*P < 0.01

resorption by osteoclasts is observed (Nair et al. 1996; Taubman et al. 2005). Our results suggest that induction of  $CD11b^+$  c-Fms<sup>+</sup>  $CD14^+$  cells in the bone marrow and spleen by LPS will contribute to increasing the number of osteoclasts. This finding is useful in understanding the mechanisms of bone destruction in periodontitis and for the development of new treatment methods.

Since CD11b is known as a typical cell-surface marker of monocytes and macrophages (Han et al. 2010), we expected that  $CD11b^+$  cells would differentiate into osteoclasts. Despite our speculation, CD11b<sup>-</sup>, but not CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells, differentiated into osteoclasts in the bone marrow, while, as speculated, CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells differentiated into osteoclasts in the spleen and blood. In addition, we determined that osteoclasts were  $CD11b^+$  cells (data not shown). Therefore, CD11b<sup>-</sup> cells in the bone marrow may be early precursors of osteoclasts that subsequently differentiate into CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells, and then ultimately differentiate into osteoclasts. Since CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells in the spleen and blood possess osteoclast differentiation potential, these cells may be later precursors derived from the bone marrow.

LPS administration to the mice markedly increased osteoclast numbers in  $CD11b^+$  cell cultures prepared from the bone marrow and spleen, suggesting that alternative cells that possess osteoclast differentiation potential increased. On the other hand, the osteoclast number did not increase in  $CD11b^+$  cell cultures prepared from the blood. It is possible that the osteoclast precursor number already reached a maximum level before LPS treatment. That may be why no

increase in osteoclast number was observed in  $CD11b^+$  cell cultures prepared from the blood.

Using additional cell-surface markers such as c-Fms and CD14, we succeeded in identifying cell populations that possess osteoclast differentiation potential in the bone marrow, spleen, and blood.  $CD11b^-$  c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells in the bone marrow and  $CD11b^+$  c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells in the spleen and blood were suggested as osteoclast precursors residing in those tissues. This also supports the notion that there are different types of cells such as early and later osteoclast precursors.

The most important finding of this study is that we finally identified increased populations that possess osteoclast differentiation potential by LPS administration. In response to LPS administration, the number of CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells increased by more than tenfold in the bone marrow and 60-fold in the spleen compared to that of the control mice, respectively. On the other hand, LPS administration to the mice did not affect osteoclast number formed in the cultures of CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells isolated from blood (Figs. 1, 2). Thus, regulatory mechanism of CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> population may be somehow different between bone marrow/spleen and blood.

In addition, we preliminary examined the roles of Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4), an LPS receptor, in bone marrow and spleen cells using C3H/HeJ mice in which TLR4 gene is mutated (supplemental Fig. 2). After LPS administration, osteoclast number increased in the cultures in which CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells isolated from bone marrow or spleen of C3H/Hen mice (wild type) were cultured. In contrast, CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells isolated from C3H/HeJ mice did not (supplemental Fig. 2). These results suggest that TLR4-mediated signals regulate characteristics of CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells in bone marrow and spleen. Further analysis is necessary to reveal the characteristics of CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells before and after LPS administration.

A remaining question is how LPS signaling increases CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells in the bone marrow and spleen. We do not yet have evidence to explain this mechanism. However, in TLR4-mutated C3H/HeJ mice, LPS failed to increase CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells in the bone marrow and spleen (data not shown). This suggests that TLR4 signaling activated by LPS plays a role in increasing this cell population. It is necessary to examine whether



#### Fig. 4 Effects of LPS administration on cell-surface markers and examination of osteoclast differentiation potential of each cell population. c-Fms and CD14 expression levels on CD11b<sup>+</sup> cells from the bone marrow (*upper line panels*) and spleen (*lower line panels*) were analyzed by FACS (*left column panels*). CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells were isolated using a flow cytometer equipped with a cell sorter. The isolated cells (1 $\times$ 10<sup>5</sup>) were cultured in the presence of RANKL (100 ng/mL)

**CD14** 

inflammatory factors produced by the LPS-TLR4 system such as tumor necrosis factor (TNF)  $\alpha$ , interleukin (IL)-1 $\alpha/\beta$ , and prostaglandins increase CD11b<sup>+</sup> c-Fms<sup>+</sup> CD14<sup>+</sup> cells in the bone marrow and spleen. These experiments will offer new insight for the study of inflammatory bone destruction, including periodontitis.

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and M-CSF (50 ng/mL) in 96-well culture plates. After 5 days of culture, cells were fixed and stained for TRAP, an osteoclast marker enzyme. TRAP-positive multinucleated cells were counted (*middle column panels*). The cells stained in *red* are osteoclasts (*right column photos*). Data are presented as the mean values of four independent experiments. The *error bars* represent the SD. \*\*P < 0.01

200 µm

+Saline + LPS

(control)

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