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# Burden of cytokines storm on prognosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection through immune response: dynamic analysis and optimal control with immunomodulatory therapy

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**Abstract** Immune responses have a crucial role to play against SARS-CoV-2 virus as the adaptive and innate immune systems of the human body help restoring the body to a healthy stage by annihilating this deadly viral infection. Cytokines also play a significant role in modulating a balance between innate and adaptive immune responses but excess of it can have a detrimental affect on critically ill patients. Therefore, this paper is a novel attempt to formulate a within-host mathematical model showing the impact of cytokines storm on healthy cells. The dynamics of the system is analysed which involves basic reproduction number, steady state solutions and global dynamics for disease-free point and endemic equilibrium using geometric approach. Further, an optimal control problem is discussed considering immunomodulatory therapy (targeting cytokines signaling) as control using linear feedback control method to increase the level of healthy cells, which provides vitality for our system. Through numerical simulations, analytic solutions are validated followed by the curve-fit for the cytokines using real data and an optimization algorithm for optimal fit. Finally, sensitivity analysis for the basic reproduction number and the rate of change of healthy cells using Latin Hypercube Sampling method (LHS) is performed. Our finding suggests that immunomodulatory therapy (tocilizumab) can act as a key component to control cytokines storm for critically ill patients to restore the body to a healthy state.

# 1 Introduction

Since being declared as a global pandemic, the severeacute-respiratory syndrome corona virus-2 has led to the death of millions. Even after numerous studies and researches, the pathophysiology of this deadly virus is far from being completely understood. Specially for people with other existing ailments, the SARS-CoV-2 virus sometimes makes recovery harder or even worse. Immune response has a major role to play in it and several biological and bio-physics literature are available for better understanding of the immune process in context to this disease. For instance, the evolution of nanotechnology and application of nanoparticle (NP) has also a significant contribution in influencing the immune cell behaviour. It is essential to have clarity on the interplay and accumulation of NPs by the ECMs (extracellular matrix). ECMs acts as a pool for signaling molecules including inflammatory mediators and has an important role in influencing inflammatory cytokines in inflamed tissues [1] and a mechanistic understanding can be seen in [2]. The cellular infection and virus replication activates the inflammatory response which leads to the release of pro inflammatory cytokines [3] and gives an amplified inflammatory response. These cytokines subsequently send signals and activate natural killers (NK) which are innate immune cells and the adaptive immune T-lymphocytes cells. T-cells further activate B- lymphocytes. These Bcells produce antibodies, namely IfM and IgG. Even though the protective functions of cytokines are ideal responses but there may be an extremely excessive response due to SARS-CoV-2 [4]. This uncontrolled response due to the infection is known as *cytokines* release syndrome or cytokines storm. Here, along with their task to kill the infected cells [5], the cytokines start attacking the healthy cells as well [6]. The reception of a particular signal from the cytokines can modify the usual behavior of immune responses. In Covid-19, exaggerated pro-inflammatory cytokines initiate different inflammatory signaling pathways via their receptors on immune cells which leads to complicated medical symptoms [7]. This can create overwhelmed ICU

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(intensive care unit) resources due to the critically-ill patients in need of constant care. Even vaccination may face a problem due to existing comorbidities or pharmacological treatments. The *vaccine efficiency* may also be effected due to cytokines storm syndrome. There might occur an overlap between the factors that causes further damage to the prognosis of the infection namely cytokines storm and those which may effect vaccine effectiveness [8]. Different treatment approaches and therapies targeting cytokines are currently being used to treat cytokines storm. An overview in [9] is provided for specific treatments for cytokines blockades. Certain cutokines inhibitors such as tocilizumab, baricitinib and anakinra which are sometimes used for the treatment provide with promising results. The use of cytokines inhibitor such as tocilizumab is relatively safe and effective [10]. The control effort limits the fall of healthy cells and tissues due to cytokines storm which may enable the system/body to fight the virus further. The mathematical knowledge used to describe, predict and control biological systems relies on the approaches of non-linear dynamics [11]. Similar to physics, for understanding the complex and nonlinear systems, within host cell mechanisms may too require some current interactive and interdisciplinary research through which mathematical models motivated by data can provide understandings of the cytokines immune response-virus mechanism. A few significant contributions of the researchers are as follows: In [12] a VARI (Vector Autoregressive Integrated) model of covid-19 cases in Indonesia and Singapore is build and development of covid-19 cases is analysed. In [13], STEM (Spatiotemporal Epidemiological Modeler) is used to analyse Covid-19 SEIR model.

A kinetic model for Covid-19 describing the dynamics of the variation SIR cases in [14] based on a lag logistic equation. SIR and SEIR epidemiological models are generalised to situations with anomalous kinetics [15] with the aim to describe a single epidemiological peak. For within host mechanics a full density functional quantum mechanical (DFT) simulations is described of Mpro(SARS-CoV-2 main protease) in complex in [16]to obtain absolute ligand binding energies with various ligands. And in [17] within host dynamics of a SARS-CoV-2 system is discussed but it has not considered the impact of cytokines storm among critically ill patient. A few more literature on the work done for within host-SARS-CoV-2 related systems can be seen in [18-20]. Still within-host modeling and analysis for SARS-CoV-2 virus have not been explored enough compared to the need to understand the inner working of our bodies. Therefore, we will aim to analyse and understand a within-host model of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

#### 1.1 Goal and structure of the study

With the aforesaid information, it is clear that cytokines storm can impact the system leading to systemic hyperinflammation. Thus, in this paper, our aim is to study a system showing the impact of cytokines storm. A healthy cell-immune responses model is proposed to simulate the effects of the cytokines storm. We will propose an SARS-CoV-2 model consisting of healthy cells, cytokines, NK-cells, T-cells, B-cells and antibodies, with the impact of cytokines storm in Sect. 2. The basic reproduction number, existence of equilibrium points, feasible region and the global stability of disease-free and endemic equilibrium points are calculated in Sect. 3 with their detailed proof in the Appendix. In Sect. 4, we will formulate an optimal control problem using immunomodulatory agent and discuss it using LOR method. In Sect. 5, we will perform numerical simulation for validation of our analytic results, curve fit for real data of cytokines, curvefit using an algorithm based on initial guess approach for the system and local sensitivity analysis for reproduction number and endemic equilibrium point. We shall also study global sensitivity analysis using PRCC (Global sensitivity analysis method) to determine the sensitive parameters which are important for transmission of infection and healthy cells. Thus, we shall proceed with our study in the following sections to address the following research questions as how the cytokine storm impacts the disease.

- What is the impact of cytokines storm on disease dynamics for a SARS-CoV-2 patient?
- Is the activation of the ideal immune responses of the cytokines required for suppression of transmission of infection (basic reproduction number)?
- Cytokines inhibitors are considered relatively safe and effective to support and build a stronger system (healthy cells). What is the impact of using immunomodulatory therapy on the system during cytokines storm ?

The novelty of the paper lies in the concept of developing a within-host model in the presence of cytokines storm and its effect on healthy cells. The paper encapsulates dynamical analysis of the system, model fitting to real cytokines data and extending the model to an optimal control problem considering immunomodulatory therapy as control.

# 2 Model formulation

We have formulated a model referring [17] but in the formulation of our model, we have explicitly focused on critically ill patient. H(t) is the concentration of healthy cells which are uninfected, C(t) is the concentration of cytokines, I(t) denote the concentration of T cells which are infected, N(t) are the concentration of natural killer cells, T(t) are the concentration of T-lymphocytes cells, B(t) are the concentration of B-lymphocytes cells, A(t)are the concentration of antibodies and V(t) are the concentration of the virus at time t. The formulation of the equations are done as follows: - Healthy cell H(t) gets infected due to virus at the rate  $\Upsilon$ . Along with it, due to cytokines storm, we assume that the natural killers and T-cells also negatively effect *H*-cells at rate  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  respectively [4,6] which was not considered by [17],  $\mu_H$  is the natural death rate. Hence, the evolution equation is:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}H}{\mathrm{d}t} = \Delta - \Upsilon H V - \mu_H H - p_1 N H - p_2 T H \quad (1)$$

- The infected cell increases due to interaction of health cells with the virus. As an immune response N and T proceed to kill these infected cells at the rate  $p_4$  and  $p_3$  and  $\mu_I$  is the natural death rate of I, giving rise to the equation:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}I}{\mathrm{d}t} = \Upsilon H V - \mu_I I - p_3 T I - p_4 N I \qquad (2)$$

- New virus particles are produced by I at a rate  $s_1$ . Also, the antibodies and cytokines work to reduce the viral load at a rate  $p_5$  and  $p_6$  which gives the evolution equation:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}V}{\mathrm{d}t} = s_1 I - \mu_V V - p_5 C V - p_6 A V \qquad (3)$$

- Cytokines are activated due to cellular infection and viral replication at the rate  $s_2$  along with immunosuppression at the rate  $\beta$  and natural death rate  $\mu_C$  making the equation of the following form:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}C}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{s_2 I}{1+\beta V} - \mu_C C \tag{4}$$

- These cytokines subsequently activate natural killers at the rate r and these natural killers help in reducing the infected cells. These natural killers also naturally decay at the rate  $\mu_N$ . Hence, the equation is as below:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}N}{\mathrm{d}t} = rC - \mu_N N \tag{5}$$

- Cytokines activate the adaptive immune cells Tlymphocytes at the rate  $\eta_1$  with natural decay at a rate  $\mu_T$  making the equation look like:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}T}{\mathrm{d}t} = \eta_1 C T - \mu_T T \tag{6}$$

- T-cells further activate B-lymphocytes at the rate  $\eta_2$  with  $\mu_B$  as the natural death rate of B-lymphocytes. Therefore, the evolution equation becomes:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}B}{\mathrm{d}t} = \eta_2 T B - \mu_B B \tag{7}$$

Finally, these B-cells produce antibodies at the rate k. Critically/severely ill patients of COVID-19 develop SARS-Cov-2 specific antibodies [21, 22]. Thus, at the time of cytokines storm for a critically



Fig. 1 Schematic diagram depicting the interaction among all the compartments  $% \left( {{{\mathbf{F}}_{{\mathbf{F}}}} \right)$ 

ill patient, antibodies exist without delay and these antibodies are neutralized by the virus at the rate  $p_7$ .

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}A}{\mathrm{d}t} = kB - \mu_A A - p_7 A V \tag{8}$$

The parameters are explained in the Table 1 and a schematic diagram of the model has been shown in Fig. 1 for better understanding.

# 3 Dynamical analysis

# 3.1 Basic reproduction number and existence of equilibrium points

The basic reproduction number is given by

$$\rho^0 = \frac{\Upsilon \Delta s_1}{\mu_V \mu_I \mu_H} \tag{9}$$

with the proof provided in Appendix A. The system has following four equilibrium points:

Parameter	Dimension	Description	
Δ	Cells $ml^{-1} day^{-1}$	Rate of production for healthy cells	
$\mu_H$	$day^{-1}$	Per capita death rate of healthy cells	
Ŷ	ml RNA copies <sup><math>-1</math></sup> day <sup><math>-1</math></sup>	Rate at which the healthy are infected	
$p_1$	ml cells <sup><math>-1</math></sup> day <sup><math>-1</math></sup>	Rate at which the healthy cells are reduced due to $N$	
$p_2$	ml cells <sup><math>-1</math></sup> day <sup><math>-1</math></sup>	Rate at which the healthy cells are reduced due to $T$	
$s_1$	$day^{-1}$	Rate at which virus is produced due to infected cells	
$s_2$	$day^{-1}$	Rate at which cytokines are produced	
$\mu_I$	$day^{-1}$	Per capita death rate of infected cells	
β	$RNA copies^{-1}$	Strength of immunosupression	
$p_3$	ml cells <sup><math>-1</math></sup> day <sup><math>-1</math></sup>	Rate at which the infected cells are reduced due to $T$	
$\mu_V$	$day^{-1}$	Per capita death rate of the virus	
$p_4$	$ml cells^{-1} day^{-1}$	Rate at which the infected cells are reduced due to N	
$p_5$	ml cells <sup><math>-1</math></sup> day <sup><math>-1</math></sup>	Rate at which the virus are reduced due to $C$	
$p_6$	ml cells <sup><math>-1</math></sup> day <sup><math>-1</math></sup>	Rate at which the virus are reduced due to $A$	
r	$day^{-1}$	Rate of activation of natural killer cells	
k	$day^{-1}$	Production rate of antibodies	
$\mu_N$	$day^{-1}$	Per capita death rate of Natural killer cells	
$\mu_C$	$day^{-1}$	Per capita death rate of cytokines	
$\mu_T$	$day^{-1}$	Per capita death rate of $T$ -cells	
$\mu_B$	$day^{-1}$	Per capita death rate of $B$ -cells	
$\mu_A$	$day^{-1}$	Per capita death rate of antibodies	
$\eta_1$	$cells^{-1} day^{-1}$	Rate of activation of $T$ cells	
$\eta_2$	$cells^{-1} day^{-1}$	Rate of activation of $B$ cells	
$p_7$	ml cells <sup><math>-1</math></sup> day <sup><math>-1</math></sup>	Rate at which the antibodies are reduced due to ${\cal V}$	

 Table 1
 Parameter description

– Disease free equilibrium point :

- $E_0 = (H_0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$  where  $H_0 = \frac{\Delta}{\mu_H}$
- Equilibrium point without immune response :  $E_1 = (H_1, I_1, V_1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$  where  $H_1 = \frac{\Delta}{\rho_0 \mu_H}, I_1 = \frac{\mu_V \mu_H(\rho^0 - 1)}{\Upsilon s_1}$  and  $V_1 = \frac{\mu_H(\rho^0 - 1)}{\Upsilon}$  which exists for  $\rho^0 > 1$ .
- Equilibrium point without adaptive immune response:

 $E_{2} = (H_{2}, I_{2}, V_{2}, C_{2}, N_{2}, 0, 0, 0) \text{ and assuming } Q = \mathcal{T}H_{2}V_{2}, \text{ we have } H_{2} = \frac{\Delta - Q}{p_{1}N + \mu_{H}} > 0 \text{ provided} \\ \Delta > Q, I_{2} = \frac{Q}{p_{4}N + \mu_{I}}, V_{2} = \frac{s_{1}Q}{p_{5}(p_{4}N + \mu_{I})(\frac{N\mu_{N}}{r} + \mu_{V})}, \\ C_{2} = \frac{N\mu_{N}}{r} \text{ and for } N_{2} \text{ we get a cubic equation :}$ 

$$PN_2^3 + RN_2^2 + SN_2 - W = 0$$

where  $P = \frac{p_4 p_5 \mu_C \mu_N^2}{r^2}$ ,  $R = \frac{p_4 p_5 \mu_C \mu_N \mu_V}{r} + \frac{p_5 \mu_C \mu_I \mu_N^2}{r^2}$ ,  $S = \frac{p_5 \mu_C \mu_N \mu_V \mu_I}{r} + \frac{\beta s_1 Q \mu_C \mu_N}{r} - \frac{s_2 p_5 Q \mu_N}{r}$  and  $W = s_2 p_5 Q \mu_V$ . Now H = L V = 0 and for  $N \in P = 0$ .

Now  $H_2, I_2, V_2, C_2 > 0$  and for  $N_2$ : P, W, R > 0. S > 0 if  $\rho^0 > 1 + \frac{s_2 p_5 \Delta \Upsilon - \xi}{\xi}$  where  $\xi = \mu_V \mu_H \mu_I \beta \mu_C$ i.e.  $\rho^0 > 1$  provided  $s_2 p_5 \Upsilon \Delta > \mu_V \mu_H \beta \mu_C \mu_I$ . Then by Descartes' rule of sign there exist one positive root of  $N_2$ .

- Equilibrium point with adaptive immune response:  $E_3 = (H_3, I_3, V_3, C_3, N_3, T_3, B_3, A_3)$  and assuming  $Q = \Upsilon H_3 V_3$ , we have  $C_3 = \frac{\mu_T}{\eta_1}, T_3 = \frac{\mu_B}{\eta_2}, N_3 = \frac{\mu_T r}{\eta_1 \mu_N}, H_3 = \frac{\Delta - Q}{p_1 \frac{\mu_T r}{\eta_1 \mu_N} + p_2 \frac{\mu_B}{\eta_2} + \mu_H}, I_3 = \frac{Q}{p_3 \frac{\mu_B}{\eta_2} + p_4 \frac{\mu_T r}{\eta_1 \mu_N} + \mu_I},$  Rate at which the antibodies are reduced due to V 
$$\begin{split} V_3 &= \frac{\eta_1 s_2 I_3 - \mu_C \mu_T}{\mu_C \mu_T}, \\ B_3 &= \frac{s_1 I_3 (p_T V_3 + \mu_A) - V_3^2 (p_5 p_7 C_3 + \mu_V - \mu_A \mu_V V_3)}{k p_6 V_3}, A_3 &= \frac{k B_3}{p_7 V_3 + \mu_A}. \text{ Now } T_3, N_3, C_3, A_3, I_3 > 0, H_3 > 0 \text{ if } \\ \rho^0 > 1 + \frac{\Delta - \upsilon H_3 V_3}{\upsilon H_3 V_3} \text{ where } \upsilon = \frac{\mu_I \mu_V \mu_H}{s_1 \Delta} \text{ i.e. } \rho^0 > 1 \\ \text{provided } \Delta > \upsilon H_3 V_3. \text{ And } V_3 > 0 \text{ if } \eta_1 s_2 I_3 > \mu_C \mu_T \\ \text{and } B_3 > 0 \text{ if } \mu_V \mu_A V_3 > p_5 p_4 \frac{\mu_T}{\eta_1} + \mu_V. \end{split}$$

**Theorem 1** The feasible region is  $\Omega = \{(H, I, V, C, N, T, B, A) \in R^8_+ | 0 \le H \le H_{max}, 0 \le I \le I_{max}, 0 \le V \le V_{max}, 0 \le C \le C_{max}, 0 \le N \le N_{max}, 0 \le T \le T_{max}, 0 \le B \le B_{max}, 0 \le A \le A_{max}\}$  and is positively invariant.

The detailed proof for Theorem 1 is provided in Appendix A.

# 3.2 Global stability for disease-free equilibrium and endemic equilibrium point

- **Theorem 2** (i) If  $\rho^0 \leq 1$  i.e if  $s_1 \Delta \Upsilon \leq \mu_V \mu_H \mu_I$ then the DFE  $E_0$  will be globally asymptotically stable(GAS)in  $\Omega$ .
- (ii)  $E_3$  is globally asymptotically stable for  $\rho^0 > 1$ .

We shall use geometric approach method [23] to establish global stability for endemic equilibrium and the proof is mentioned in the Appendix A.

The next section would emphasis especially on control of cytokines through immunomodulatory therapy in specific tocilizumab treatment which would protect healthy cells. The positive impact of tocilizumab treatment which supports our study is also shown in [7], where COVID-19 patients in the ICU across hospitals in the United States showed that the risk of mortality was lower in patients who received tocilizumab treatment (by inhibiting cytokines signaling) immediately after ICU admission than in those who did not receive early tocilizumab intervention. As healthy cells are the part and parcel of our body it will give vitality for the system.

## 4 Optimisation model

# 4.1 Immunomodulatory therapy as control by linear feedback

To design a feedback law that may stabilize the equilibrium point or to increase the healthy cell count to a certain desired level, we shall use optimal control theory [24] and we have the dynamic system form with control as follows:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}H}{\mathrm{d}t} = \Delta - \Upsilon H V - \mu_H H - p_1 N H - p_2 T H$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}I}{\mathrm{d}t} = \Upsilon H V - \mu_I I - p_3 T I - p_4 N I$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}V}{\mathrm{d}t} = s_1 I - \mu_V V - p_5 C V - p_6 A V$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}C}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{s_2 I}{1 + \beta V} - \mu_C C - U$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}N}{\mathrm{d}t} = rC - \mu_N N$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}T}{\mathrm{d}t} = \eta_1 C T - \mu_T T$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}B}{\mathrm{d}t} = \eta_2 T B - \mu_B B$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}A}{\mathrm{d}t} = k B - \mu_A A - p_7 A V$$
(10)

We can use an immunomodulatory agent [25] as a control strategy such as tocilizumab with the aim to suppress the cytokines storm i.e to control the response of the storm. We assume that the immunomodulatory agents can directly target cytokines. With the goal of cytokines storm control strategy, we aim to increase the level of healthy cell population and maintain at level  $H^* = H^d < H_0$  (i.e increased desired level of H to be less than the level at DFE ) by  $u^*$ .  $H^d$  is the designed healthy cell population. The equations satisfied by the desired positive steady state with control are given below as:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta - H^*(\Upsilon V^* + \mu_H + p_1 N^* + p_2 T^*) &= 0\\ \Upsilon H^* V^* - I^*(\mu_I + p_3 T^* + p_4 N^*) &= 0\\ s_1 I^* - V^*(\mu_V + p_5 C + p_6 A) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{s_2 I^*}{1 + \beta V^*} - \mu_C C^* - u^* = 0$$
  

$$r C^* - \mu_N N^* = 0$$
  

$$T^* (\eta_1 C^* - \mu_T) = 0$$
  

$$B^* (\eta_2 T^* - \mu_B) = 0$$
  

$$k B^* - A^* (\mu_A + p_7 V^*) = 0 \quad (11)$$

From the above equations, we obtain the control variable  $u^*$ ,

$$u^* = \frac{s_2 I^*}{1 + \beta V^*} - \mu_C C^* \tag{12}$$

When  $u^*$  controls the desired steady state of the system i.e  $(H^d, I^*, V^*, C^*, N^*, T^*, B^*, A^*)$ , it may be unstable. Therefore, u (the feedback control) can be made such that the desired state will be asymptotically stable. Defining new variables as follows:

$$y = \begin{bmatrix} H - H^* \\ I - I^* \\ V - V^* \\ C - C^* \\ N - N^* \\ T - T^* \\ B - B^* \\ A - A^* \end{bmatrix}, \quad u = U - u^*$$
(13)

where  $H^* = H^d$ . We shall now substitute Eq. (13) into Eqs. (10) and admitting (11) we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mathrm{d}y_1}{\mathrm{d}t} &= -\Upsilon y_1 V^* - \Upsilon H^* y_3 - \Upsilon y_1 y_3 + -\mu_H y_1 - p_1 y_5 H^* \\ &- p_1 N^* y_1 - p_1 y_5 y_1 - p_2 y_1 T^* - p_2 H^* y_6 - p_2 y_1 y_6 \\ \frac{\mathrm{d}y_2}{\mathrm{d}t} &= \Upsilon y_1 V^* + \Upsilon H^* y_3 + \Upsilon y_1 y_3 - \mu_I y_2 - p_3 y_6 I^* \\ &- p_3 T^* y_2 - p_3 y_6 y_2 - p_4 y_5 I^* - p_4 N^* y_2 - p_4 y_5 y_2 \\ \frac{\mathrm{d}y_3}{\mathrm{d}t} &= s_1 y_2 - \mu_V y_3 - p_5 y_4 V^* - p_5 C^* y_3 - p_5 y_4 y_3 \\ &- p_6 y_8 V^* - p_6 A^* y_3 - p_6 y_8 y_3 \\ \frac{\mathrm{d}y_4}{\mathrm{d}t} &= \frac{s_2 y_2}{1 + \beta (y_3 + V^*)} - \mu_C y_4 - u - \frac{(\mu_C C^* + u^*) y_3}{1 + \beta (y_3 + V^*)} \\ \frac{\mathrm{d}y_5}{\mathrm{d}t} &= r y_4 - \mu_N y_5 \\ \frac{\mathrm{d}y_6}{\mathrm{d}t} &= \eta_1 y_4 T^* + \eta_1 C^* y_6 + \eta_1 y_4 y_6 - \mu_T y_6 \\ \frac{\mathrm{d}y_7}{\mathrm{d}t} &= \eta_2 y_7 T^* + \eta_2 B^* y_6 + \eta_2 y_7 y_6 - \mu_B y_7 \\ \frac{\mathrm{d}y_8}{\mathrm{d}t} &= k y_7 - \mu_A y_8 - p_7 y_8 V^* - p_7 y_8 y_3 - p_7 y_3 A^* \end{aligned}$$
(14)

Hence we are able to obtain the error system as below:

$$\dot{y} = Ay + h(y) + Bu \tag{15}$$

matrices A and B are given as

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0\\ -P_2T^* - p_1N^*\\ -p_2T^* - p_1N^*\\ TV^* & -p_3T^* - p_4N^* + \Upsilon H^* & 0 & -p_4I^* & -p_3I^* & 0 & 0\\ -\mu_I\\ 0 & s_1 & -\mu_V & -p_5C^* & -p_5V^* & 0 & 0 & -p_6V^*\\ & & -p_6A^*\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & r & -\mu_N & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & r & -\mu_N & 0 & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \eta_1T^* & 0 & +\eta_1C^* - \mu_T & 0 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \eta_2B^* & \eta_2T^* - \mu_B & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -p_7A^* & 0 & 0 & 0 & k & -\mu_A\\ -p_7V^* \end{bmatrix},$$

To find the feedback control u we shall use the Theorem 1 of [26] for the following:

**Theorem 3** [24, 26]. For any matrix P and

$$Q = \begin{bmatrix} q_{11} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & q_{22} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & q_{33} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & q_{44} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & q_{55} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & q_{66} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & q_{77} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & q_{88} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$h(y) = \begin{bmatrix} -\Upsilon y_1 y_3 - p_1 y_5 y_1 - p_2 y_1 y_6 \\ \Upsilon y_1 y_3 - p_3 y_6 y_2 - p_4 y_5 y_2 \\ -p_5 y_4 y_3 - p_6 y_8 y_3 \\ \frac{s_2 y_2}{1 + \beta (y_3 + V^*)} - \frac{(\mu_C C^* + u^*) y_3}{1 + \beta (y_3 + V^*)} \\ 0 \\ \eta_1 y_4 y_6 \\ \eta_2 y_7 y_6 \\ -p_7 y_8 y_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

function l(y) is positive definite at the neighbourhood  $A_0$  of the origin (0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0).

The detailed proof for above Theorem 3 is provided in Appendix A.

# **5** Numerical simulations

In this section, we shall now analyse the system based on certain parametric values mentioned in Table 2

and run simulations using MATLAB. A few parametric values have been taken from [17,27–31] and the fitted values are obtained from cytokines load real data of RT-PCR positive patient COVID-19 patients [32]. The observations in [32] were indicative of a strong relation between the cytokines level and severity of symptoms/organ damage. We used the real cytokines levels data from [32] which were observed in patients(admitted to the Mount Sinai Health System, New York) in relation to SARS-CoV-2 PCR status(positive). The remaining parameters are further adjusted so as the model describes an uncomplicated SARS-CoV-2 infection system

#### 5.1 Equilibrium points

- Disease free equilibrium point: For  $\mu_V = 1.5$ ,  $\mu_H = 1.1$ ,  $\mu_I = 0.09$ ,  $\Upsilon = 0.00009$ ,  $s_1 = 0.000002$ and rest parameters as in Table 2 we get  $E_0 = (730, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$  as seen in Fig. 2. The global stability condition for  $\rho^0 \leq 1$  i.e if  $s_1 \Delta \Upsilon \leq \mu_V \mu_H \mu_I$ : 0.0000000144  $\leq 0.1485$  is met as per the analytical solution).
- Equilibrium point without immune response: For  $\Upsilon = 0.009$  and rest parameters as in Table 2 we get  $E_1 = (500, 364900, 1900, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$ . For the existence as seen before in Sect. 3.1,  $\rho^0 > 1$  i.e 17142.8 > 1 is validated numerically.
- Equilibrium point without adaptive immune response: For  $\beta = 0.000000009, p_4 = 0.00574, s_2 = 0.0009, r = 70, \eta_1 = 0.0009, \mu_C = 10$  and rest parameters as in Table 2 we get  $E_2 = (105.87, 9404.2, 83.84, 0.84, 846.2, 0, 0, 0)$ .  $\rho^0 > 1$  if  $s_2 p_5 \Upsilon \Delta > \mu_V \mu_H \beta \mu_C \mu_I$  i.e 0.01296 > 0.000000000756 which is in line with the existence of equilibrium.

Parameter	Value	Source	Parameter	Value	Source
Δ	8000	[31]	$\mu_H$	0.14	[17]
$\gamma$	0.9	Assumed	$p_1$	0.000000001	Assumed
$p_2$	0.000000001	Assumed	$s_1$	0.002	Assumed
$s_2$	0.0005	Fitted	$\mu_I$	0.003	[17]
$\beta$	0.5	Fitted	$p_3$	0.001	[27]
$\mu_V$	0.002	[17]	$p_4$	0.000574	[17]
$p_5$	(0-1)	[17]	$p_6$	(0-1)	[17]
r	0.52	[17]	k	0.2	[28]
$\mu_N$	0.07	[30]	$\mu_C$	0.7	Fitted
$\mu_T$	1	[17]	$\mu_B$	0.2	[29]
$\mu_A$	0.07	[17]	$\eta_1$	0.9	Assumed
$\eta_2$	0.01	[17]	$p_7$	0.0000003	[17]

- Equilibrium point with adaptive immune response: For  $\beta = 0.000000009, s_2 = 0.0009, r = 70, k = 0.000002, \mu_T = 0.001, \mu_B = 0.002, \mu_A = 0.00007, \eta_1 = 0.0009, \mu_C = 10$  and rest parameters as in Table 2 we get  $E_3 = (534.1, 2727.8, 16.5, 0.2, 243.5, 462.7, 105.2, 9.9) \rho^0 > 1$  if  $\Delta > vH_3V_3$  i.e 8000 > 0.0074 is validated numerically for the existence of equilibrium.

# 5.2 Model validation: curve-fit of cytokines level C(t) to real data

Cytokines load data was obtained from [32]. For our analysis we shall be using a data set of patients (1422 independent samples of patients admitted to the Mount Sinai Health System in New York) with respiratory symptoms for their IL-6 (cytokines) level whose RT-PCR came positive. The data was collected with the help of online software [33] and fitted using Matlab. The fitting is shown in Fig. 3 (The value for both the plots are  $\times 10^3$  in real scenario). It can be seen that the cytokines level for our model solution is close to the actual numbers from real data, Thus, proving validity of our model.

#### 5.2.1 Curve-fit for system using optimization algorithm

We have used python script to fit our model based on a system of non-linear differential equations for curve-fitting. Following our aim to curve fit our model based on the parameters (endemic equilibrium) we have referred or assumed, we have used standard algorithm curve\_fit. We shall do the fitting by numerical approximation [34]. As parameter estimation is a special optimization problem, it would use an algorithm to minimise the squared error as objective and it's performance is based on the initial guess approach. For an initial value problem, an algorithm can be used to approximate the solution for a given set of initial conditions and parameter values. This set of values are taken as initial guess by the algorithm. The algorithm used is the Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm which chooses the parameters and initial values to minimise error or

noise [35]. However in Fig. 4a we do not get an adequate desired fit. Therefore, we use an optimizer(based of Nelder-Mean algorithm [36]) and random search algorithm which generates random initial guesses and chooses the best approximation. We see that this algorithm is quite efficient for finding an optimal fit. In Fig. 4b we can see that this approach helped generate a good fit for our model. The regression line(for least square estimation [37]) shows the predicted response based of the random search and algorithm. Thus, the estimated parameters by the algorithm are like our input parameters.

#### 5.3 Sensitivity analysis for $\rho^0$

In this section, we shall discuss the sensitivity analysis of  $\rho^0$  with respect to parameters. We shall follow the method as mentioned in [38] to find the sensitivity index. We shall start with the sensitivity analysis for  $\rho^0$ with respect to its parameters k:

$$\varphi_k^{
ho^0} = rac{\partial 
ho^0}{\partial k} imes rac{k}{|
ho^0|}$$

Using above, the normalised forward sensitivity indices with respect to the parameters we get:

$$\varphi_{\Delta}^{\rho^{0}} = 1, \varphi_{\Upsilon}^{\rho^{0}} = 1, \varphi_{s_{1}}^{\rho^{0}} = 1, \varphi_{\mu_{V}}^{\rho^{0}} = -1, \varphi_{\mu_{H}}^{\rho^{0}} = -1, \varphi_{\mu_{I}}^{\rho^{0}} = -1$$

We see that  $\varphi_{\Delta}^{\rho^0}, \varphi_{\Upsilon}^{\rho^0}, \varphi_{s_1}^{\rho^0}$  are all positive and  $\varphi_{\mu_V}^{\rho^0}, \varphi_{\mu_H}^{\rho^0}$ ,  $\varphi_{\mu_I}^{\rho^0}$  are negative. This implies that for say example  $\varphi_{\Delta}^{\rho^0} = 1$ , we decrease/increase  $\Delta$  by certain y% then  $\rho^0$  will decrease/increase by same percentage. And for  $\varphi_{\mu_I}^{\rho^0} = -1$  we decrease/increase  $\mu_I$  by certain y% then  $\rho^0$  will increase/decrease by same percentage and here  $\mu_I$  is a highly sensitive parameter. And we can see for our system that if  $\mu_I$  decreases then infection increases, and if  $\Delta$  increases the parameters by 10% then  $\rho^0$  increases/decrease by 10%. In Fig. 5 For disease free point we can see that increase in  $\Delta$  and  $\Upsilon$  by 10% will



immune response: The trajectories converge to  $E_2(105.87, 9404.2, 83.84, 0.84, 846.2, 0, 0, 0)$ 

Fig. 2 Dynamics of equilibrium points

increase  $\rho^0$  by 10%. And increase in  $\mu_I$  and  $\mu_H$  by 10% will decrease  $\rho^0$  by 10%. ( $\mu_V$  and  $s_1$  will behave in similar manners and thus have not been added to the figure.) Similarly for endemic equilibrium point in Fig. 6 we see the same trend for the change in behavior of  $\rho^0$ . Thus, we can take note of the important parameters one needs to keep in check in order to control the transmission of infection. These will be of help to maintain  $\rho^0$  either for disease free system (restrict from increasing beyond 1) or endemic equilibrium system (suppress to bring down below 1).



(b) Endemic equilibrium with-out immune response: The trajectories converge to  $E_1(500, 364900, 1900, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$ 



(d) Endemic equilibrium with immune response: The trajectories converge to  $E_3(534.1, 2727.8, 16.5, 0.2, 243.5, 462.7, 105.2, 9.9)$ 

#### 5.4 Uncertainty analysis of $\rho^0$

PRCC (partial rank correlation coefficient) [39] is one technique which help's us quantify the uncertainty for any model. For our basic reproduction number, we shall use PRCC to identify and quantify how the parameters (input)'s uncertainty may impact the transmission of infection. We have considered the output as  $\rho^0$  for sample size N = 1000. We consider the six parameters from (9) and have chosen normal distribution for the parameters. We find the PRCC values using Matlab using  $s_1 \sim$  $Normal(0.0000002, 0.2), \Upsilon \sim Normal(0.000009, 0.2),$ 



Fig. 3 Fitting model solution for cytokines to RT-PCR positive patient with respiratory symptoms real data

 $\Delta \sim Normal(8000, 0.2), \ \mu_I \sim Normal(0.09, 0.01), \\ \mu_V \sim Normal(1.5, 0.2), \ \mu_H \sim Normal(1.1, 0.2).$ 

For some selected combinations of sensitive parameters we have also found surface diagrams such as  $\rho^0$ with  $\Delta$  and  $\mu_H$  in Fig. 7.

We get the PRCC values for our input parameters which can be seen in Fig. 8. We obtain following indexes for the parameters:  $s_1 = 0.99$ ,  $\Upsilon = 0.13$ ,  $\Delta = 0.075$ ,  $\mu_I = -0.19$ ,  $\mu_V = -0.24$  and  $\mu_H = -0.045$ . The graphs shows that  $\rho^0$  is positively correlated to  $s_1$ ,  $\Upsilon$  and  $\Delta$  with maximum impact of  $s_1$  which means that as the rate at which virus is produced due to infected cells are increased, the transmission of infection will increase as well. The effect of the parameter  $\mu_V$  will bring about an opposite change in the transmission of infection as it is negatively correlated. As the death rate of virus increases, the infection transmission will decrease. Further,  $\mu_I$  and  $\mu_H$  satisfies the same negative correlation. Since the value  $s_1$  parameter is close to 1, it indicates a strong correlation to change in  $\rho^0$ . Thus, this hints at the need in suppressing the virus to decrease further transmission of infection through  $s_1$ . Therefore, this emphasizes the activation of the immune response of the body to fight the virus.

#### 5.5 Uncertainty analysis of rate of change of H

We get the PRCC values for our input parameters which can be seen in Fig. 9. We obtain following indexes for the parameters:  $\Upsilon = -0.17, \Delta = 0.016, p_1 =$  $-0.93, p_2 = -0.98$ , and  $\mu_H = -0.043$ . The PRCC indices satisfies the same set of correlation as per the assumptions of formulation of rate of change of H i.e  $\Delta = 0.016$  is positively correlated and the rest parameters are all negatively correlated. The value  $p_1$  and  $p_2$ parameters are close to -1, it indicates a strong correlation to the rate of change in H. We see that  $p_1$ and  $p_2$  are the parameters related to rate at which the healthy cells are reduced due to N and T respectively. This shows that this particular immune response which is due to the cytokines storm has an strong impact on the healthy cells. Thus, the exaggerated response of cytokines has an strongly negative impact on the healthy cells.



Fig. 4 Curve fit using a Levenberg–Marquardt algorithm and b Nelder-Mean algorithm



Fig. 5 Behaviour of  $\rho^0$  due to change in parameters for disease-free equilibrium point: the graphs report comparison between original and increase/decrease in parametric value

#### 5.6 System with control

Now we shall numerically go for stabilising the system at desired steady state (10) with  $H^* = H^d = 600$ to avoid elimination of healthy cells and tissues due to cytokines storm. We aim to increase the healthy cell to get a system where the body is still able to fight the foreign entities at time of hyper-inflammatory immune response in critically ill patients. We calculated  $C^* = 1.1111, T^* = 0.2000, N^* = 1.1111 \times 10^3, V^* = 5.3333 \times 10^6, I^* = 4.5134 \times 10^8, A^* = 1.2036 \times 10^{14}$ , and  $B^* = 9.6290 \times 10^{19}$  from (11). From (12) we get  $u^* = 3.8759 \times 10^5$ . Matrix obtained for the system is as follows:



Fig. 6 Behaviour of  $\rho^0$  due to change in parameters for endemic equilibrium point: the graphs report comparison between original and increase/decrease in parametric value



(a) Simultaneous Effect of  $\Delta, \mu_H$  on  $\rho^0$ Fig. 7 Phase plane of  $\rho^0$  with the parameters



(**b**) Simultaneous Effect of  $\Upsilon, \mu_V$  on  $\rho^0$ 



**Fig. 8** PRCC: sensitivity indexes of  $\rho^0$ 



Fig. 9 PRCC: sensitivity indexes of rate of change of H

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -4.7 \times 10^6 & 0 & -540 & 0 & 6.0 \times 10^{-8} & 6.0 \times 10^{-8} & 0 & 0 \\ -4.7 \times 10^6 & -6.38 & 540 & 0 & -2.5 \times 10^6 & -4.5 \times 10^5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2.0 \times 10^{-4} & 0.002 & -4.8 \times 10^{11} & -4.7 \times 10^4 & 0 & 0 & -2.1 \times 10^4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -10 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 70 & -0.07 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.8 \times 10^{-4} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 9.6 \times 10^{17} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -3.6 \times 10^7 & 0 & 0 & 0 & .2 \times 10^{-7} & 1.6001 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Assuming

Using LQR commands in Matlab, from the Riccati equation we obtain

aggravation. Cytokines storms have been detected in Covid-19 critically ill patients, as seen in some clinical studies. Due to an unbalanced immune response, a strong cytokine storm may be extremely damaging to the patients, who may require intensive-care support. Thus, to save the lives of patients, one needs efficient strategies to suppress the cytokines storm.

The formulation of our complex model is with the aim to understand the *immunopathological mechanisms* of cytokines storm due to SARS-CoV-2 virus. Model was fitted to cytokines real data of SARS-CoV-2 PCR status (positive) patients with respiratory symptoms. To address our research questions, we studied the dynamic analysis of our system.

 $P = \begin{bmatrix} .7 \times 10^{-3} & 7.8 \times 10^{-4} & -7.4 \times 10^{-13} & 6.3 \times 10^{-8} & -3.1 \times 10^2 & 1.2 \times 10^8 & 8.1 \times 10^{-10} & .2 \times 10^{-13} \\ .7 \times 10^{-3} & 7.8 \times 10^{-4} & -5.3 \times 10^{-13} & 4.9 \times 10^{-8} & -3.1 \times 10^2 & 1.2 \times 10^8 & 8.1 \times 10^{-10} & .2 \times 10^{-13} \\ -.7 \times 10^{-14} & -5.3 \times 10^{-13} & 3.2 \times 10^{-5} & -8.3 & -3.4 \times 10^{-6} & 5.2 \times 10^8 & 1.0 \times 10^{-6} & -.9 \times 10^{-6} \\ .6 \times 10^{-9} & 4.9 \times 10^{-8} & -8.3 & 2.8 \times 10^6 & 0.5 & -4.9 \times 10^{13} & -0.09 & 0.226 \\ -.3 \times 10^3 & -3.1 \times 10^2 & -3.4 \times 10^6 & 0.530 & 1.1 \times 10^{10} & -4.5 \times 10^{15} & -1.0 \times 10^{-6} & .8 \times 10^{-7} \\ .1 \times 10^9 & 1.2 \times 10^8 & 5.2 \times 10^8 & -4.9 \times 10^{13} & -4.5 \times 10^{15} & 6.2 \times 10^{23} & 1.2 \times 10^9 & -.1 \times 10^8 \\ .8 \times 10^{-10} & 8.9 \times 10^{-10} & 1.1 \times 10^{-6} & -0.099 & -1.0 \times 10^{-6} & 1.2 \times 10^9 & 5.1 \times 10^{-6} & -.2 \times 10^{-7} \\ .2 \times 10^{-13} & 2.7 \times 10^{-14} & -9.6 \times 10^{-7} & 0.226 & 8.5 \times 10^{-8} & -1.1 \times 10^7 & -2.3 \times 10^{-8} & .3 \times 10^{-7} \end{bmatrix}$ 

We shall investigate the local definiteness of l(y) (18) using graphic representation. Figure 10 shows the local definiteness of the function l(y). We have shown the local definiteness interaction between select variables as the rest variables have similar graphic representation as well.

Finally, we get the form for optimal strategy as follows:

$$U = 0.00000063192y_1 + 0.00000049446y_2 - 8.3493y_3 + 0.0000028322y_4 + 0.5304y_5 - 4.9316 \times 10^{13}y_6 - 0.1000y_7 + 0.2262y_8.$$
(16)

For the system with control we get (953.4, 1938.9, 9.6, 1.1, 1135.1, 507.7, 294.6, 9.948) as in Fig. 11a. We can see that due to the control the population of healthy cells increases(Fig. 11b) as compared to the H population in Fig. 2d. Thus, the use of cytokines storm control strategy can help to steer clear of exhaustion of healthy cells and tissues with the aim to resume the host's homeostasis. Thus, this can be an approach for severe COVID-19 patients to counteract cytokines storm.

# 6 Conclusion

Though the vaccine drive has started in many countries, the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 infection is still continuing. Cytokines storm plays an important role as a cause for ARDS and MOF, thus leading to disease The observations from our analysis and numerical simulations brought the following suggestive measures which could be taken:

- 1. Since, the cytokines storm based immune response incorporation in the system has brought upon undesired effect as it reduces the healthy cells and tissues the body leading to ARDS or MOF which makes the patient's recovery becomes tougher and tougher, our analysis give support to the study of development and use of treatments and vaccines for large populations in view of cytokines storm. By focusing on the impact of the uncontrolled immune response, decisions can be taken to tackle the critically ill patients specially in overwhelmed ICU's more effectively.
- 2. The uncertainty analysis of  $\rho^0$  suggests the need for the activation of immune response to suppress the virus which would further result in decrease in transmission of infection rate  $s_1$ .
- 3. The global sensitivity analysis projects that  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  parameters with their PRCC indices as -0.93 and -0.98 respectively are strongly negatively correlated to the rate of change in H. These parameters which are related to rate at which the healthy cells are reduced due to N and T respectively showed that due to the cytokines storm this particular immune response has a strong impact on the healthy cells and may reduce the healthy cells.
- 4. The population of *healthy cells increases* to 953.4 as compared to the 534.1 in  $E_3$  with the incorporation of cytokines storm control strategy. Immunomodulatory agent(such as tocilizumab) was considered as





**Fig. 10** 3D sections of l(y) at the origin

control strategy to control the response of the storm. To design a feedback law that may increase the healthy cell count to a certain desired level, we used optimal control theory. Therefore, working towards strategies that aim at the importance of functional features of cytokines storm-specific response for both vaccinated and non-vaccinated population may be the need of the hour. Further, to tackle the problematic exaggerated immune response due to cytokines storm, we may need to focus on the treatments leading to enhancement of the healthy cells by cytokines inhibition which may further require the understanding of the single interaction parameter with the healthy cells H. Cytokines storm control strategy was discussed with the aim to avoid healthy cells from depleting. This can help to ward off from exhaustion of healthy cells and tissues for severe COVID-19 patients due to cytokines storm. Healthy cells and tissues will be able to provide a system of great vitality for the immune system to work on to suppress the infection.

## Declarations

**Conflict of interest** All authors declare no conflicts of interest in this paper.

# Appendix A

## Basic reproduction number:

Using the next-generation matrix method, we define the matrix V for terms related with viral production and the matrix F for the infection terms in the model are:

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \Upsilon H_0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad V = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_I & 0 \\ -s_1 & \mu_V \end{pmatrix}$$





The spectral radius  $FV^{-1}$  is thus obtained as,

$$FV^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\Upsilon s_1 H_0}{\mu_V \mu_I} & \frac{\Upsilon H_0}{\mu_V} \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and hence,  $\rho^0 = \frac{\Upsilon H_0 s_1}{\mu_V \mu_I}$  where  $H_0 = \frac{\Delta}{\mu_H}$ . Thus,  $\rho^0 = \frac{\Upsilon \Delta s_1}{\mu_V \mu_I \mu_H}$ .

Proof of Theorem 1 We first see that the system is in a feasible region i.e the population neither goes negative nor goes unbounded through the method as done in [40]. The positively invariant region is the non-negative orthant  $\{R_{+}^{8} = x \in R^{8} | x \geq 0\}$ . In this region, if a trajectory starts from a point, it will remain in the same region. We shall show that each vector field point to  $R_{+}^{8}$  on each hyper plane bounding the region. We obtain:  $\frac{dH}{dt}|_{H=0} = \Delta \geq 0, \frac{dI}{dt}|_{I=0} = \Upsilon HV \geq 0, \frac{dV}{dt}|_{V=0} = s_{1}I \geq 0, \frac{dC}{dt}|_{C=0} = \frac{s_{2}I}{1+\beta V} \geq 0, \frac{dN}{dt}|_{N=0} = rC \geq 0, \frac{dT}{dt}|_{T=0} = 0, \frac{dB}{dt}|_{B=0} = 0, \frac{dA}{dt}|_{A=0} = kB \geq 0$  Now  $H_{max} \leq \Delta$ . As for I, it will be bounded above by  $I_{max}$  which is equal to  $H_{max} \leq s_{1}I_{max}, C_{max} \leq \frac{s_{2}I_{max}}{1+\beta V_{max}}, N_{max} \leq rC_{max}, T_{max} \leq e^{\eta_{1}C_{max}}, B_{max} \leq e^{\eta_{2}T_{max}}$  and  $A_{max} \leq kB_{max}$ . Hence, we get the feasible region  $\Omega$ .

Proof of Theorem 2(i) To study the global asymptotic stability of the disease free equilibrium for the model, we shall see the compartmental form of the system. For the compartmental form, we shall split the variables into infectious and non-infectious terms. The two compartments will be disease compartment  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and non-disease compartments  $y \in \mathbb{R}^6$  i.e.

$$x = [I, V]$$
 and  $y = [H, C, N, T, B, A]$ 

The vector  $F_n(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  consist of entries which represent the rate of new infection and the vector  $G_n(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^6$  have



control

entries representing transition terms in the disease compartments which is x. For our model they are:

$$F_n = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \Upsilon H_0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
 and  $G_n = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_I & 0 \\ -s_1 & \mu_V \end{pmatrix}$ 

With x = [I, V] our system satisfies  $\frac{dx}{dt} \leq (F_n - V_n)x$ . Motivated by [41], we shall define the Lyapunov function as:  $L = wV_n^{-1}x$ . We take  $w = [0, \Upsilon H_0]$  where  $k_1$  is a positive value for I, and in view of  $T_n = \varrho(F_nV_n^{-1}) = \varrho(V_n^{-1}F_n)$  we can verify  $wV_n^{-1}F_n = T_1w$ . Now, differentiating the Lyapunov function:  $L' = wV_n^{-1}\frac{dx}{dt} \leq wV_n^{-1}(F_n - V_n)x = (T_n - 1)wx$  Therefore for  $L' \leq 0$ ,  $(T_n - 1) \leq 0$ . Then for L' = 0, wx = 0 and this gives us I = 0 and V = 0 i.e  $U = \{z \in R_+^8 : I = V = 0\}$ . And as C are activated due to presence of infection so even they will cease to exist. Thus  $L' \leq 0$  and L' will be a Lyapunov function. And for our system we get a singleton (H, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0).

Even for  $T_n = 1$  we have L'. So we get V = 0 and I = 0which in turn gives C = 0 and thus other immune responses are not activated either i.e we get a set  $\overline{U} = \{z \in R^8_+ : C = V = I = T = N = B = A = 0\}$ . Thus for  $T_n = 1$  and  $T_n < 1$  we are left with the system (H, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0).

For  $\rho^0 > 1$ ,  $\omega^T x < 0$  which is absurd as the term is non-negative. Thus GAS doesn't exist for  $\rho^0 > 1$ . This above system can have an unique equilibrium point which is nothing else but DFE. Thus at  $\rho^0 \le 1$  i.e  $s_1 \Delta \Upsilon \le \mu_V \mu_H \mu_I$  iff  $T_n \le 1$ , the only large invariant set where L' = 0is DFE.

Proof of Theorem 2(ii) Taking the host population system i.e  $(\dot{H}, \dot{I}, \dot{V})$  of (1)–(8) and assuming  $\theta_1 = \Upsilon H$  and  $\theta_2 = \Upsilon V$ , for our linearized system we find the jacobian matrix:

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} -\theta_1 - \mu_H - p_1 N - p_2 T & 0 & -\theta_2 \\ \theta_1 & -\mu_I - p_3 T - p_4 N & \theta_2 \\ 0 & s_1 & -\mu_V - p_5 C - p_6 A \end{pmatrix}$$

and we find the second additive compound matrix:

$$J^{[2]} = \begin{pmatrix} -\theta_1 - \mu_H - p_1 N - p_2 T - \mu_I & \theta_2 & \theta_2 \\ -p_3 T - p_4 N & & & \\ s_1 & -\theta_1 - \mu_H - p_1 N - p_2 T - \mu_V & 0 \\ & & -p_5 C - p_6 A \\ 0 & & \theta_1 & -\mu_V - p_5 C - p_6 A - \mu_I \\ & & -p_3 T - p_4 N \end{pmatrix}$$

Now taking  $P = diag[I, \frac{I}{V}, \frac{I}{V}]$ 

$$PJ^{[2]}P^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} -\theta_1 - \mu_H - p_1N - p_2T - \mu_I & \frac{\theta_2V}{I} & \frac{\theta_2V}{I} \\ -p_3T - p_4N & & & \\ \frac{s_1I}{V} & -\theta_1 - \mu_H - p_1N - p_2T - \mu_V & 0 \\ & & -p_5C - p_6A \\ 0 & & \theta_1 & -\mu_V - p_5C - p_6A - \mu_I \\ & & -p_3T - p_4N \end{pmatrix}$$

Now  $\phi = P_f P^{-1} + P J^{[2]} P^{-1} : \phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_{11} & \phi_{12} \\ \phi_{21} & \phi_{22} \end{pmatrix}$  where  $\phi_{11} =$  $-\theta_1 - \mu_H - p_1 N - p_2 T - \mu_I - p_3 T - p_4 N, \ \phi_{12} = \frac{V \theta_2}{I} [1, 1],$  $\phi_{21} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{Is_1}{V} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \ \phi_{22} = \begin{pmatrix} q_{11} & q_{12} \\ q_{21} & q_{22} \end{pmatrix} \text{ with } q_{11} = -\theta_1 - \mu_H - \mu_H$  $p_1N - p_2T - \mu_V - p_5C - p_6A + \frac{I'}{I} - \frac{V'}{V}. \ q_{12} = 0, \ q_{21} = \theta_1,$   $q_{22} = \frac{I'}{I} - \frac{V'}{V} - p_3T - p_4N - \mu_V - p_5C - p_6A - \mu_I.$   $|(x_1, x_2, x_3)| = \max\{|x_1|, |x_2| + |x_3|\} \text{ is chosen as vector}$ norm [.] in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . With respect to this norm, Lozinzkii measure  $M(\phi)$  can be estimated as  $M(\phi) \leq \sup\{b_1, b_2\}$  where  $\begin{array}{l} \text{Sup} & \text{for } M(\psi) \leq \text{sup} [01, 02] \text{ where} \\ b_1 &= M_1(\phi_{11}) + |\phi_{12}| \text{ and } b_2 = M_1(\phi_{22}) + |\phi_{21}|. \text{ Thus, we} \\ \text{get: } b_1 &= -\theta_1 - \mu_H - p_1 N - p_2 T - \mu_V - p_5 C - p_6 A + \frac{V\theta_2}{I} \\ b_2 &= -\mu_H - p_5 C - p_6 + \frac{I'}{I} - \frac{V'}{V} + \frac{Is_1}{V} - p_1 N - p_2 T - \mu_V + sup\{0, \mu_H + p_1 N + p_2 T - \mu_I - p_3 T - p_4 N\} \\ \text{Now from Eq. (2): } I' &= \theta_1 V - p_3 T I - p_4 N I - \mu_I I. \text{ Specification} \end{array}$ 

ically,

$$-p_{3}T - p_{4}N - \mu_{I} = \frac{I'}{I} - \frac{\theta_{1}V}{I}$$
(17)

Using Eq. (17) for  $b_1, b_2$  we further get  $b_1 = -\theta_1 - \mu_H - p_1 N - p_2 T + \frac{V\theta_2}{I} + \frac{I'}{I} - \frac{\theta_1 V}{I}$  where  $b_1 = \leq \frac{I'}{I} - \mu_H$ and  $b_2 = -\mu_H - p_5 C - p_6 A + \frac{I'}{I} - \frac{V'}{V} + \frac{Is_1}{V} - p_1 N - p_2 T - \mu_V + sup\{0, p_1 N + p_2 T + \mu_V + \frac{I'}{I} - \frac{\theta_1 V}{I}\}$  where  $b_2 \leq \frac{I'}{I} - \mu_H$  if  $I' = \theta_1 V - I(\mu_V + p_1 N + p_2 T)$ . Thus from  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  we get,  $M(\phi) \leq \frac{I'}{I} - \mu_H$ . It follows from  $0 \leq I(t) \leq N$  that  $\frac{\ln(I(t)) - \ln(I(0))}{t} \leq \frac{\mu_H}{2}$  for a sufficiently large t. And we obtain:  $\frac{1}{t} \int_0^t M(\phi) ds \le \frac{1}{t} \int_0^t (\frac{I'(s)}{I(s)} - \mu_H) ds =$  $\frac{\ln(I(t)) - \ln(I(0))}{t} - \mu_H \leq \frac{-\mu_H}{2}, \text{ if } t \text{ is large enough. Thus}$ we get  $\bar{b_2} \leq \frac{-\mu_H}{2} < 0$  which in turn completes our proof. The host population system of our model is globally asymptotically stable around the endemic equilibrium points  $(H_3, I_3, V_3)$ . Now considering the subsystem (4)–(8):

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}C}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{s_2 I}{1+\beta V} - \mu_C C$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}N}{\mathrm{d}t} = rC - \mu_N N$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}T}{\mathrm{d}t} = \eta_1 CT - \mu_T T$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}B}{\mathrm{d}t} = \eta_2 TB - \mu_B B$$
$$\frac{\mathrm{d}A}{\mathrm{d}t} = kB - \mu_A A - p_7 A V$$

 $L_1 e^{-\mu_C t} \leq C(t) \leq \frac{s_2 I_3 t}{1+\beta V_3} + L_2, \ L_3 e^{-\mu_N t} \leq N(t) \leq rC_3 t + L_4, \ L_5 e^{-\mu_T t} \leq T(t) \leq L_6 e^{\eta_1 C_3 t}, \ L_7 e^{-\mu_B t} \leq B(t) \leq L_8 e^{\eta_2 T_3 t}, \ L_9 e^{-(\mu_A + p_7 V_3)t} \leq A(t) \leq kB_3 t + L_{10}:$ C(t), N(t), T(t), B(t), A(t) are bounded for  $t \in [0, \infty)$ . For the endemic equilibrium  $E_3$  to be globally asymptotically stable this is sufficient to prove. П

*Proof of Theorem 3* For all y in the considered case we have

$$\begin{split} l(y) &= y_1^2 q_{11} + y_2^2 q_{22} + y_3^2 q_{33} + y_4^2 q_{44} + y_5^2 q_{55} + y_6^2 q_6 + y_7^2 q_{77} \\ &+ y_8^2 q_{88} + (-\Upsilon y_1 y_3 - p_1 y_5 y_1 - p_2 y_1 y_6) \\ &\sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{1i} + p_{i1}) y_i + (\Upsilon y_1 y_3 - p_3 y_6 y_2 - p_4 y_5 y_2) \\ &\sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{2i} + p_{i2}) y_i + (-p_5 y_4 y_3 - p_6 y_8 y_3) \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{3i} + p_{i3}) y_i \\ &+ \left(\frac{s_2 y_2}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)} - \frac{(\mu_C C^* + u^*) y_3}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)}\right) \\ &\sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{4i} + p_{i4}) y_i + (\eta_1 y_4 y_6) \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{6i} + p_{i6}) y_i \end{split}$$

$$+ (\eta_2 y_7 y_6) \sum_{i=1}^{8} (p_{7i} + p_{i7}) y_i + (-p_7 y_8 y_3) \\ \times \sum_{i=1}^{8} (p_{8i} + p_{i8}) y_i$$
(18)

and the partial derivatives as:

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_1} &= 2q_{11}y_1 + (-\Upsilon y_3 - p_1y_5 - p_2y_6) \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{1i} + p_{i1})y_i \\ &+ 2p_{11}(-\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_1y_5y_1 - p_2y_1y_6) \\ &+ \Upsilon y_3 \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{2i} + p_{i2})y_i + (p_{12} + p_{21}) \\ (\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_3y_6y_2 - p_4y_5y_2) \\ &+ (-p_5y_4y_3 - p_6y_8y_3)(p_{31} + p_{13}) \\ &+ \left(\frac{s_2y_2}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)} - \frac{(\mu_C C^* + u^*)y_3}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)}\right) \\ (p_{41} + p_{14}) + (\eta_1y_4y_6)(p_{61} + p_{16}) \\ &+ (\eta_2y_7y_6)(p_{71} + p_{17}) + (-p_7y_8y_3)(p_{81} + p_{18}) \quad (19) \\ \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_2} &= 2y_2q_{22} + (-\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_1y_5y_1 - p_2y_1y_6) \\ (p_{12} + p_{21}) + (-p_3y_6 - p_4y_5) \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{2i} + p_{i2})y_i \\ (\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_3y_6y_2 - p_4y_5y_2)2p_{22} \\ &+ (-p_5y_4y_3 - p_6y_8y_3)(p_{32} + p_{23}) \\ &+ \left(\frac{s_2y_2}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)}\right) \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{4i} + p_{i4})y_i \\ \left(\frac{s_2y_2}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)} - \frac{(\mu_C C^* + u^*)y_3}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)}\right) (p_{42} + p_{24}) \\ &+ (\eta_1y_4y_6)(p_{62} + p_{26}) + (\eta_2y_7y_6)(p_{72} + p_{27}) \\ &+ (-p_7y_8y_3)(p_{82} + p_{28}) \quad (20) \\ \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_3} &= 2y_3q_{33} + (-\Upsilon y_1) \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{1i} + p_{i1})y_i \\ &+ (p_{31} + p_{13})(-\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_1y_5y_1 - p_2y_1y_6) \\ &+ (\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_3y_6y_2 - p_4y_5y_2)(p_{23} + p_{32}) \\ &+ (-p_5y_4 - p_6y_8) \\ \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{3i} + p_{i3})y_i(-p_5y_4y_3 - p_6y_8y_3)(2p_{33}) \\ &+ \left(\frac{s_2y_2}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)} - \frac{(\mu_C C^* + u^*)y_3}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)}\right) (p_{43} + p_{34}) \\ &+ \left(-\frac{s_2y_2\beta}{(1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)^2)} - \frac{(\mu_C C^* + u^*)y_3}{(1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*))^2}\right) \\ \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{4i} + p_{i4})y_i + (\eta_1y_4y_6)(p_{63} + p_{36}) \\ &+ (\eta_2y_7y_6)(p_{73} + p_{37}) - p_7y_8 \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{8i} + p_{i3})y_i \\ &+ (-p_7y_8y_3)(p_{83} + p_{38}) \quad (21) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_4} &= 2y_4q_{44} + (-\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_1y_5y_1 - p_2y_1y_6)(p_{14} + p_{41}) \\ &+ (\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_3y_6y_2 - p_4y_5y_2)(p_{24} + p_{42}) \\ (-p_5y_4y_3 - p_6y_8y_3)(p_{34} + p_{43}) \\ &+ \left(\frac{s_2y_2}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)} - \frac{(\mu c C^* + u^*)y_3}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)}\right) 2p_{44} \\ &+ (\eta_1y_6) \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{6i} + p_{i6})y_i + (\eta_1y_4y_6)(p_{64} + p_{46}) \\ &+ (\eta_2y_7y_6)(p_{74} + p_{47}) + (-p_7y_8y_3)(p_{84} + p_{48}) \end{aligned} (22) \\ \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_5} &= 2y_5q_{55} - p_1y_1 \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{1i} + p_{i1})y_i \\ &+ (-\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_1y_5y_1 - p_2y_1y_6)(p_{15} + p_{51}) \\ &+ -p_4y_2 \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{2i} + p_{i2})y_i \\ &+ (\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_3y_6y_2 - p_4y_5y_2)(p_{25} + p_{52}) \\ &+ (-p_5y_4y_3 - p_6y_8y_3)(p_{35} + p_{53}) \\ &+ \left(\frac{s_2y_2}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)} - \frac{(\mu c C^* + u^*)y_3}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)}\right) (p_{45} + p_{54}) \\ &+ (\eta_1y_4y_6)(p_{65} + p_{56}) \\ &+ (\eta_2y_7y_6)(p_{75} + p_{57}) + (-p_7y_8y_3)(p_{85} + p_{58}) \end{aligned} (23) \\ \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_6} &= 2y_6q_6 - p_2y_1 \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{1i} + p_{i1})y_i \\ &+ (-\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_1y_5y_1 - p_2y_1y_6)(p_{16} + p_{61}) \\ &- p_3y_2 \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{2i} + p_{i2})y_i \\ &+ (\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_3y_6y_2 - p_4y_5y_2)(p_{26} + p_{62}) \\ &+ (\eta_5y_4y_3 - p_6y_8y_3)(p_{36} + p_{63}) \\ &+ \left(\frac{s_2y_2}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)} - \frac{(\mu c C^* + u^*)y_3}{1 + \beta(y_3 + V^*)}\right) (p_{46} + p_{64}) \\ &+ (\eta_1y_4) \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{6i} + p_{i6})y_i + (\eta_1y_4y_6)2p_{66} \\ &+ (\eta_2y_7) \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{7i} + p_{i7})y_i + (\eta_2y_7y_6)(p_{76} + p_{67}) \\ &- p_7y_8y_3(p_{86} + p_{68}) \end{aligned} (24) \\ \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_7} &= 2y_7q_77 + (-\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_1y_5y_1 - p_2y_1y_6)(p_{17} + p_{71}) \\ &+ ((\eta_1y_4y_6)(p_{67} + p_{76})(\eta_2y_6) \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{7i} + p_{i7})y_i \\ &+ (\eta_2y_7y_6)(p_{67} + p_{76})(\eta_2y_6) \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{7i} + p_{i7})y_i \\ &+ (\eta_1y_4y_6)(p_{67} + p_{76})(\eta_2y_6) \sum_{i=1}^8 (p_{7i} + p_{i7})y_i \\ &+ (\eta_2y_7y_6)2p_{77} + (-p_7y_8y_3)(p_{87} + p_{78}) \end{aligned} (25)$$

$$\frac{\partial l}{\partial y_8} = 2y_8q_{88} + (-\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_1y_5y_1 - p_2y_1y_6)(p_{18} + p_{81})$$
$$(\Upsilon y_1y_3 - p_3y_6y_2 - p_4y_5y_2)(p_{28} + p_{82})$$

$$+ -p_{6}y_{3}\sum_{i=1}^{8} (p_{3i} + p_{i3})y_{i} + (-p_{5}y_{4}y_{3} - p_{6}y_{8}y_{3})(p_{38} + p_{83}) + \left(\frac{s_{2}y_{2}}{1 + \beta(y_{3} + V^{*})} - \frac{(\mu_{C}C^{*} + u^{*})y_{3}}{1 + \beta(y_{3} + V^{*})}\right)(p_{48} + p_{84}) + (\eta_{1}y_{4}y_{6})(p_{68} + p_{86}) + (\eta_{2}y_{7}y_{6})(p_{78} + p_{87}) - p_{7}y_{3}\sum_{i=1}^{8} (p_{8i} + p_{i8})y_{i} + (-p_{7}y_{8}y_{3})2p_{88}$$
(26)

We can see that:

$$\frac{\partial l}{\partial y_1}(0) = \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_2}(0) = \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_3}(0) = \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_4}(0) = \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_5}(0)$$
$$= \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_6}(0) = \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_7}(0) = \frac{\partial l}{\partial y_8}(0) = 0$$

and at the origin for the Hessian of l(y) we have:

$$H(0) = \begin{bmatrix} 2q_{11} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2q_{22} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2q_{33} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2q_{44} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2q_{55} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2q_{66} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2q_{77} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2q_{88} \end{bmatrix}$$

We can infer that it's positive definite and tells us that the origin of function l(y) is a strict local minimum point. This function at the neighbourhood  $A_0$  of the origin is positive definite. Thus, we may say that the error dynamical system (15) under linear feedback control u is locally asymptotically stable and system (10) approaches to  $(H^d, I^*, V^*, C^*, N^*, T^*, B^*, A^*)$  under the control U = $u + u^*$ .

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