



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

# Research in the Department of Surgery at IUSOM Cryptic Masons Conference

Troy A. Markel, MD  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
Vice Chair for Research  
Department of Surgery  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
Indiana University Health



Riley Children's Health  
Indiana University Health

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

# Robust Research in Department

- Basic/Translational Sciences
  - Working with Space Allocation Committee to develop a common lab for the Surgical Sciences
  - Has the potential to be a “named lab”
- Surgical Education Research
- Health Services/SOQIC



**Michael P. Murphy, MD**

Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation  
Professor of Vascular Biology Research



**Al Hassanein, MMSC, MD**

Associate Professor of Surgery



**Meijing Wang, MD, MS**

Associate Research Professor of Surgery



**Burcin Ekser, MD, PhD**

Associate Professor of Surgery



**Linda M. Schutzman, MD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Gregory Borschel, MD**

James Joseph Harbaugh, Jr. Professor of  
Plastic Surgery



**Erin L. Weber, MD, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Troy A. Markel, MD**

Associate Professor of Surgery



**C Max Schmidt, MD, PhD**

Professor of Surgery



**Mithun Sinha, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Mark D. Rodefeld, MD**

Professor of Surgery

# Education Research



**Jennifer N. Choi, MD**

Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education



**E. Matthew Ritter, MD**

Professor of Surgery



**Dimitrios Stefanidis, PhD, MD**

Harris B. Shumacker Jr. M.D. Professor of Surgery

- Skills Curriculum
- Simulation
- Providing Feedback
- Curriculum Design and Evaluation

# SOQIC

SURGICAL OUTCOMES &  
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT CENTER



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

- Health services
- Health care quality and safety
- Outcomes
- Health policy evaluation
- Quality and safety improvement
- Implementation science
- Surgical education research

Covers all surgical specialties (and areas of medicine)

# SOQIC Faculty



**Karl Y. Bilimoria, MD, MS**

Chair and Professor of Surgery  
SOQIC Executive Director



**Andrew A. Gonzalez, MD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Associate Director



**Anthony D. Yang, MD, MS**

Professor of Surgery  
Associate Director



**Rachel Patzer, PhD, MPH**

Professor of Surgery  
President and CEO, Regenstrief Institute



**Clint Cary, MD, MPH**

Associate Professor of Urology  
Director of Urologic Oncology Research



**Jeanette W. Chung, PhD, MA**

Research Assistant Professor



**Jill D. Connors, PhD, MSW, MS**

Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Kelsey M. Drewry, PhD, MA**

Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Joshua S. Eng, PhD**

Research Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Peter C. Jenkins, MD, MSC**

Associate Professor of Surgery



**Katelyn G. Makar, MD, MS**

Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Ashley D. Meagher, MD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Sanjay Mohanty, MD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Damaris Ortiz, MD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Katherine Ross-Driscoll, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Dimitrios Stefanidis, MD, PhD**

Professor of Surgery



**Ryan Ellis, MD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Tarik Yuce, MD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Jane Holl, MPH, MD**

Adjunct Professor of Surgery



**Yue-Yung Hu, MPH, MD**

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Surgery



**Ryan P. Merkow, MS, MD**

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Surgery



**David D. Odell, MD, MS**

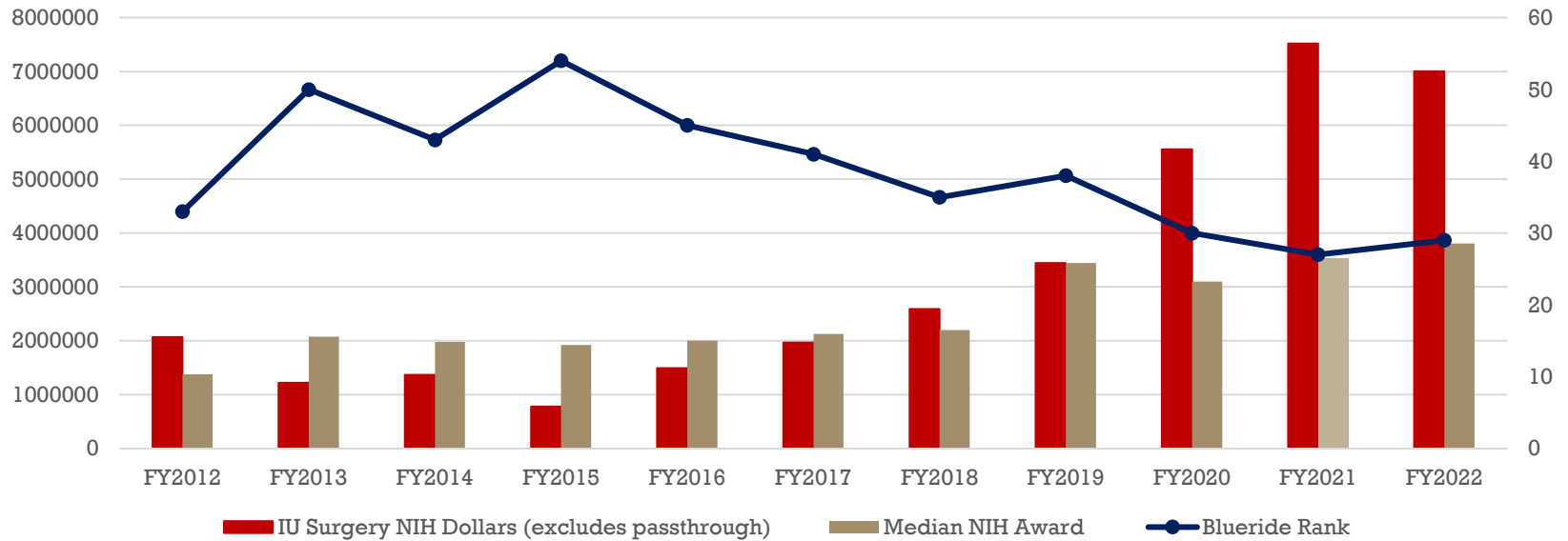
Adjunct Associate Professor of Surgery

# Selected Current SOQIC Programs

- National Surgical Education Numbered Trials Group
- Cancer Quality
- Health Policy
- Iliana Quality Collaboratives
- Using Video to Improve Technique
- Perioperative Patient and Surgical Safety
- Evaluating and Improving National Quality and Safety Ranking Systems
- Transplant Disparities
- Numerous others

# Blue Ridge NIH Ranking

## IU Surgery Blueridge Ranking: 10 Year View







**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

# From Inflammation to Immune Resilience: Chondroitin Sulfate's promising role in prevention of Necrotizing Enterocolitis

Troy Markel, MD  
Indiana University School of Medicine  
Department of Surgery  
Division of Pediatric Surgery

# Necrotizing Enterocolitis

- “Necrotizing enterocolitis is a devastating intrabdominal emergency of the newborn...”
- It often requires intestinal resection, and may leave infants with a less than desirable amount of small intestine
- The onset of this disease is incompletely understood



# Trifecta

1. Prematurity
2. Stress
  - High concentration formula feeds
  - Low oxygen levels
  - Infection
3. Incomplete Bacterial Gut Colonization

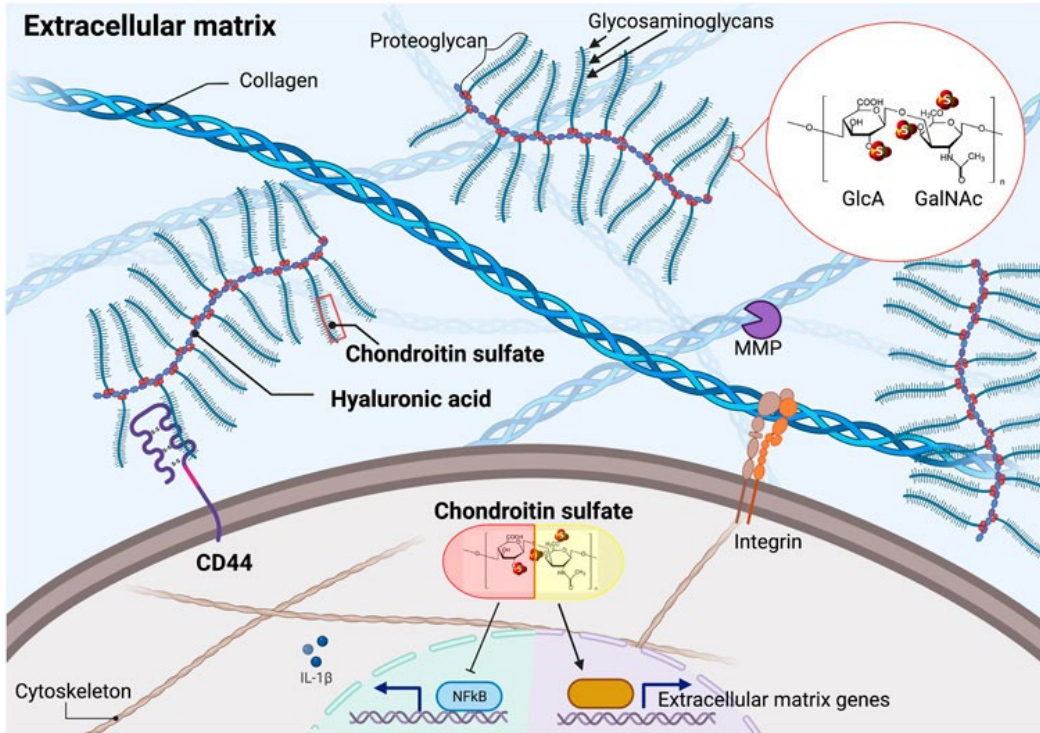


# Incidence and Cost

1. 7-10% of the 450,000 infants born prematurely each year are affected
2. 40-50% mortality
3. 19% of NICU expenditures-(\$5 billion a year in US alone)
  - Medical management adds \$73,000 + 22 hospital days
  - Surgical management adds \$260,000 and 60 hospital days
4. Breast milk is best method to prevent NEC
5. Probiotics also seem to be helpful, but no FDA approved formulas
6. NO SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENTS IN NEC TREATMENT IN LAST 30 YEARS!!!!



# Potential Therapy: Chondroitin Sulfate



## Chondroitin Sulfate

GAG found in human milk

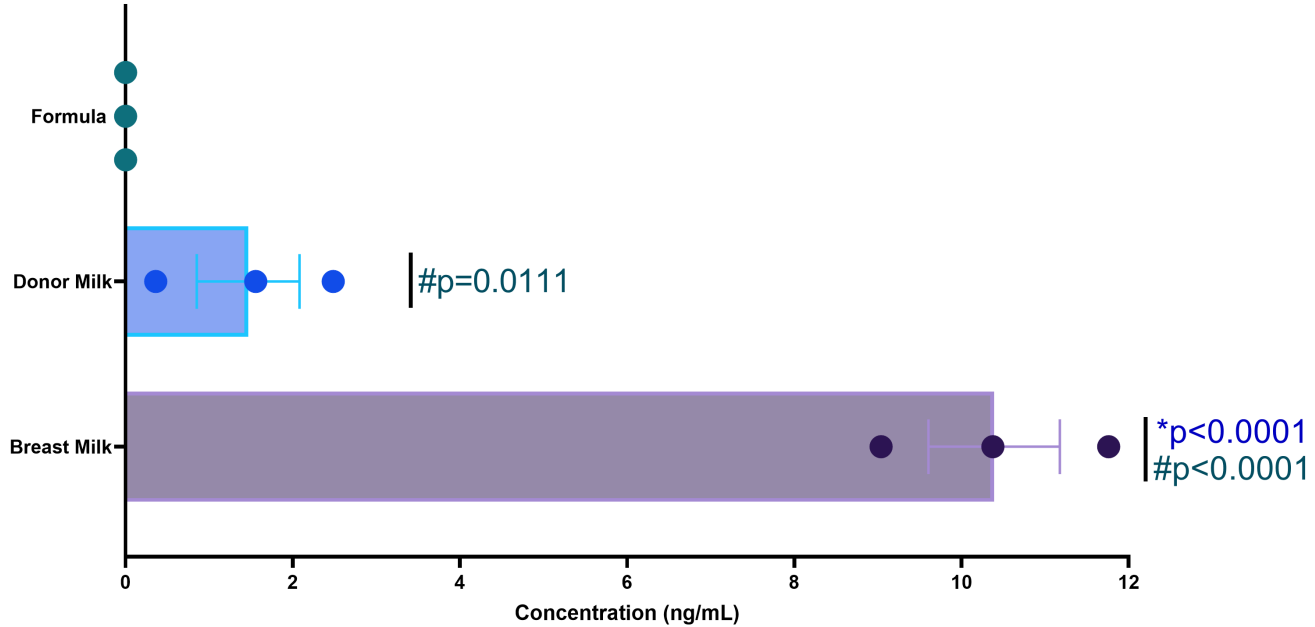
Decreased nuclear translocation of NFκB → ↓ proinflammatory cytokines

Benefits in autoimmune/osteoarthritis/IBD



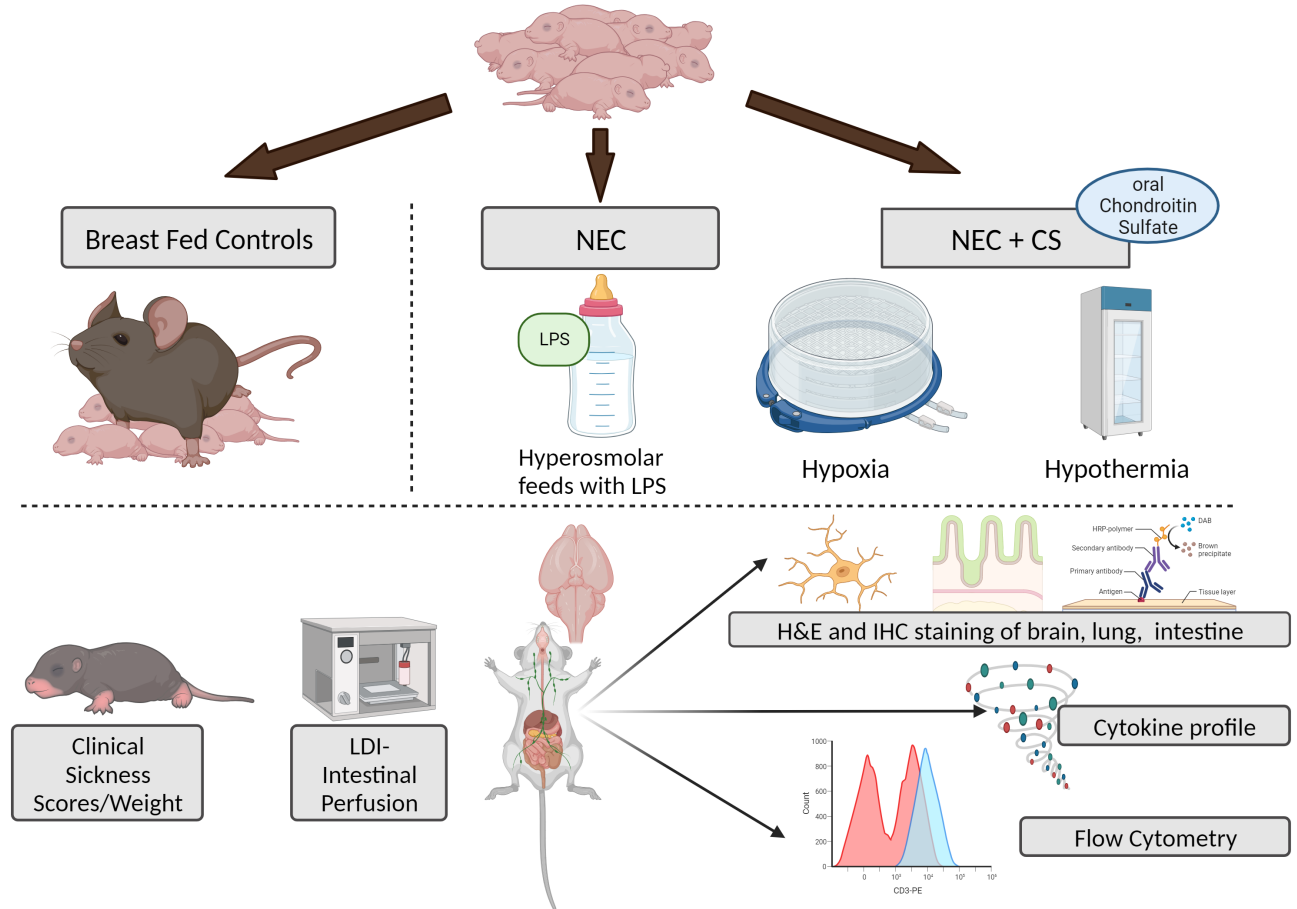
Benefit in NEC?

# Concentration of Chondroitin Sulfate



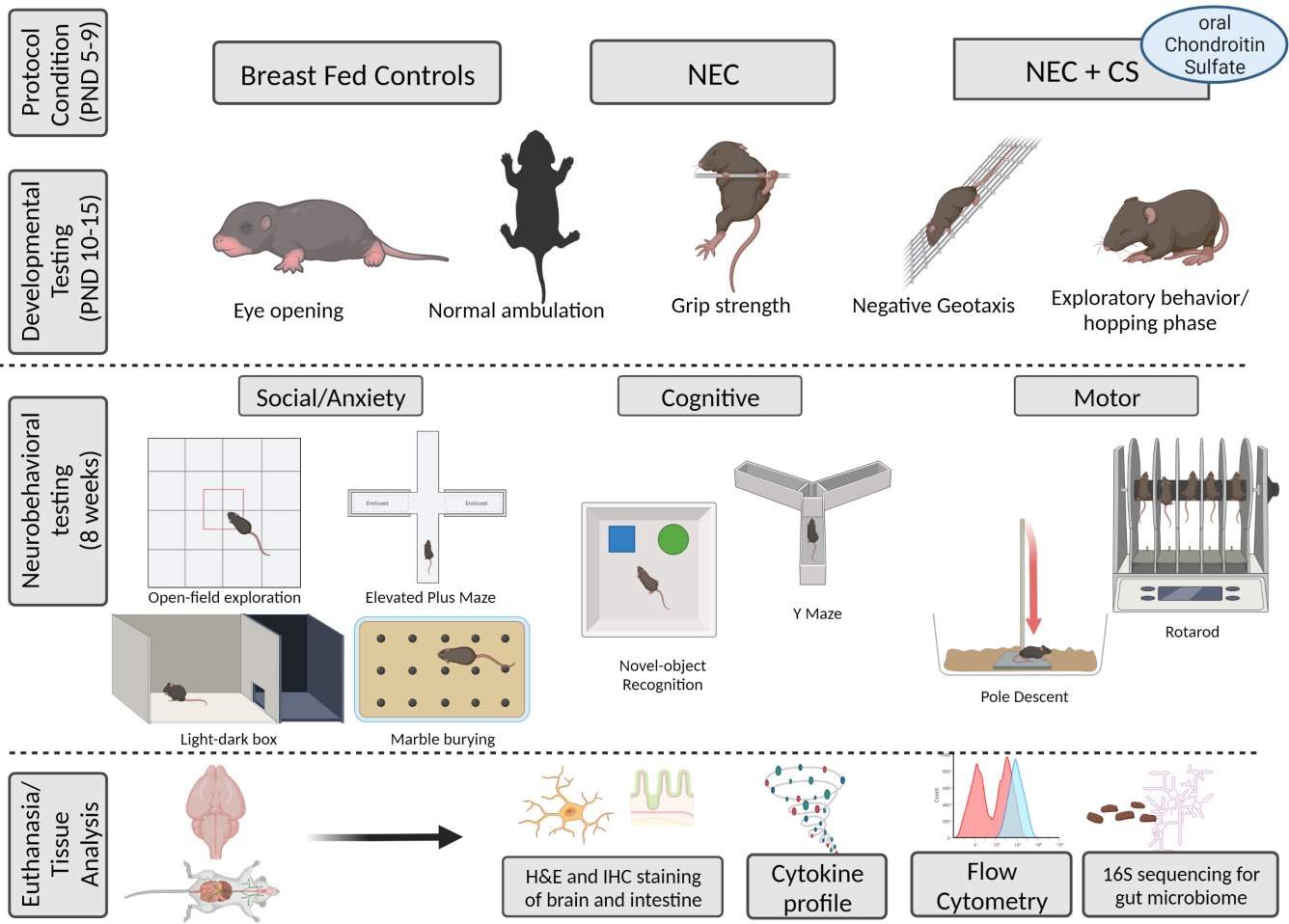
# Methods

AIM 1: In murine model of NEC, treatment with oral chondroitin sulfate in formula will improve clinical and biochemical outcomes in NEC



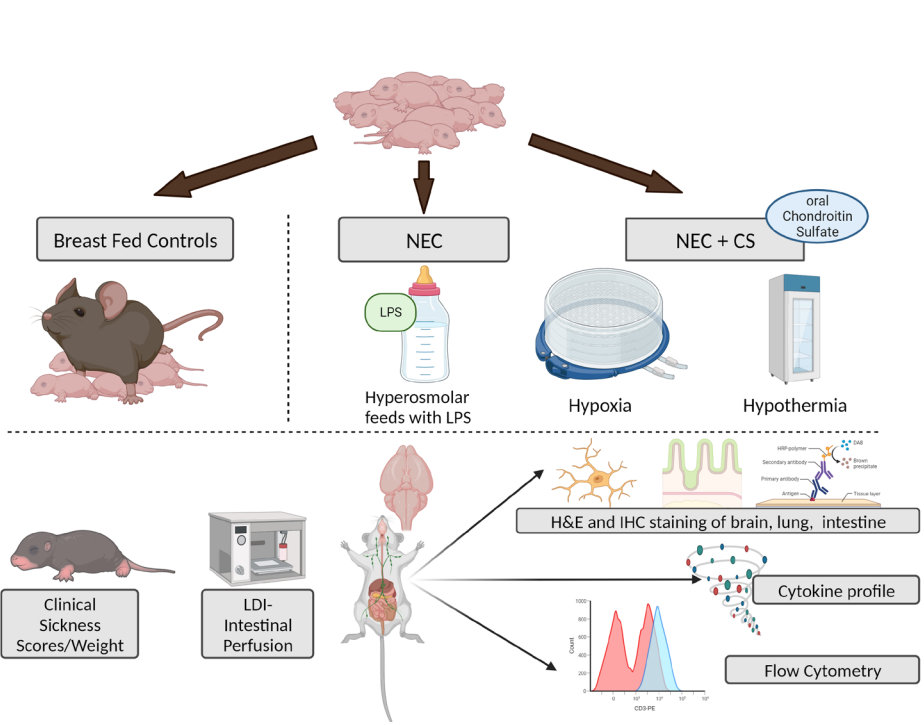


AIM 2: Necrotizing Enterocolitis results in downstream neuro-developmental impairment. Administration of CS is neuroprotective



# Results

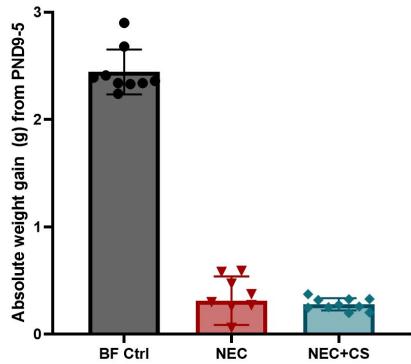
# Oral Chondroitin Sulfate Improves NEC outcomes



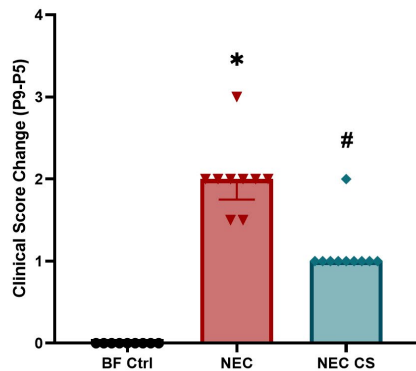
**NEC**  
↑ Intestinal Injury

**NEC+ oral CS**  
↓ Intestinal Injury

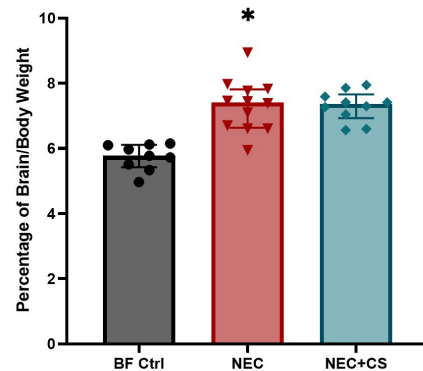
**A** Absolute weight gain (g)



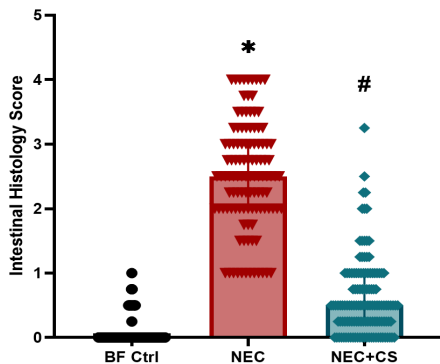
**B** Clinical Sickness Score



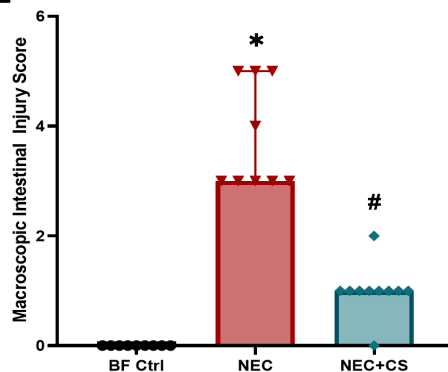
**C** Brain/Body weight ratio (g)



**E** Intestinal Histology Score

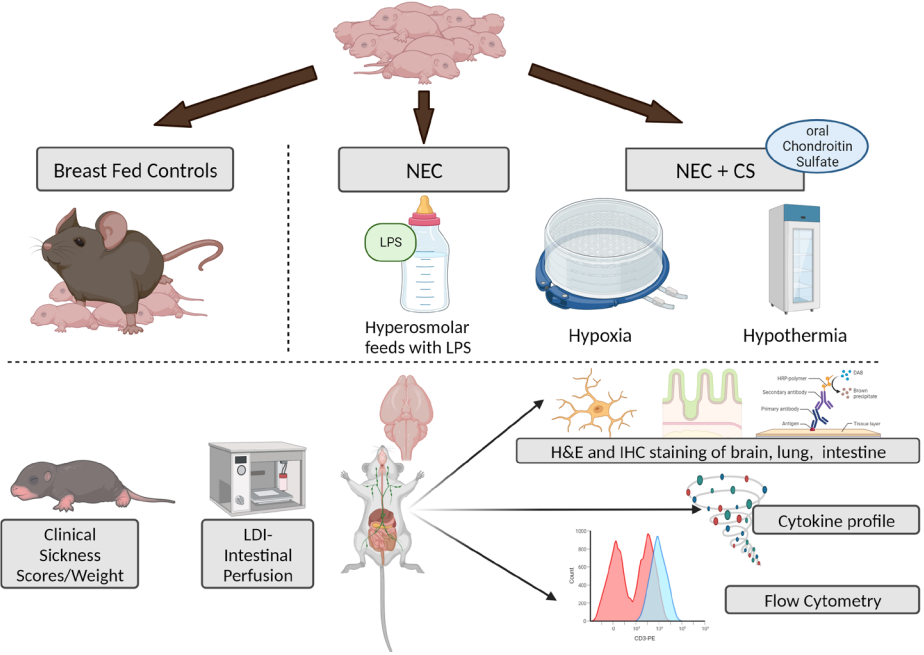


**F** Macroscopic Intestinal Injury

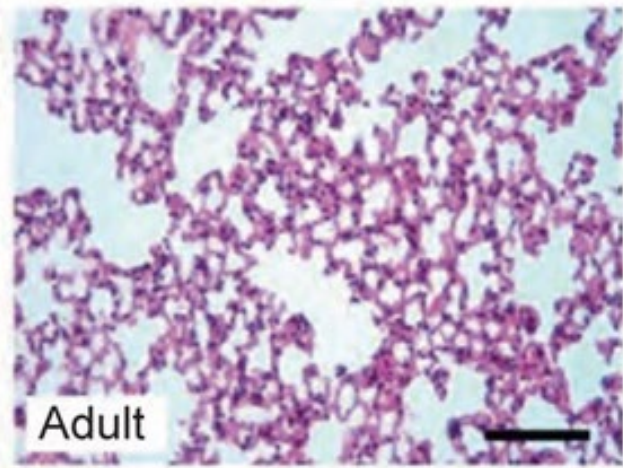
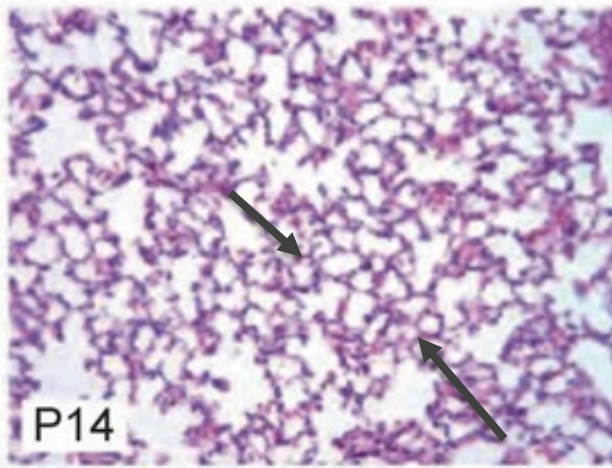
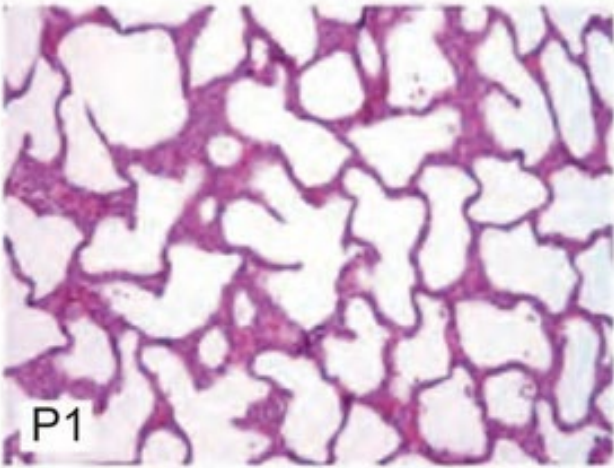


Chondroitin Sulfate supplementation in formula improves NEC outcomes

# Oral Chondroitin Sulfate Improves NEC outcomes



NEC	NEC+ oral CS
↑ Intestinal Injury	↓ Intestinal Injury
↑ Lung Injury	↓ Lung Injury



Wide open air-spaces

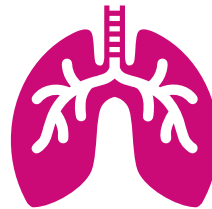


Terminally differentiated smaller sacules



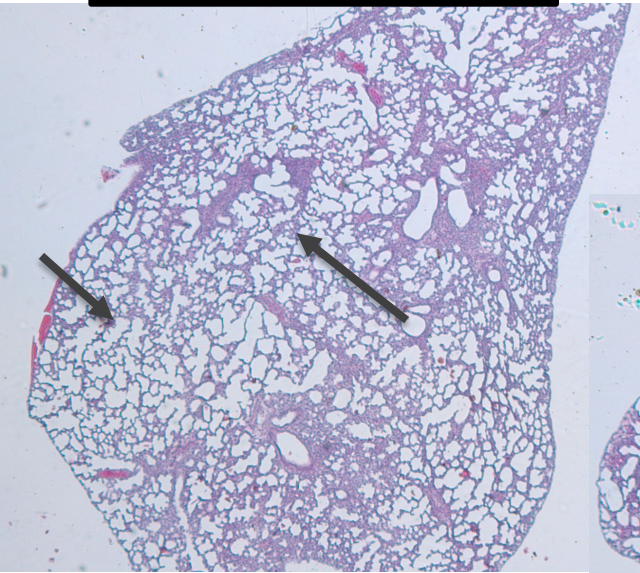
Final organized structure

↑ Surface Area in contact with air

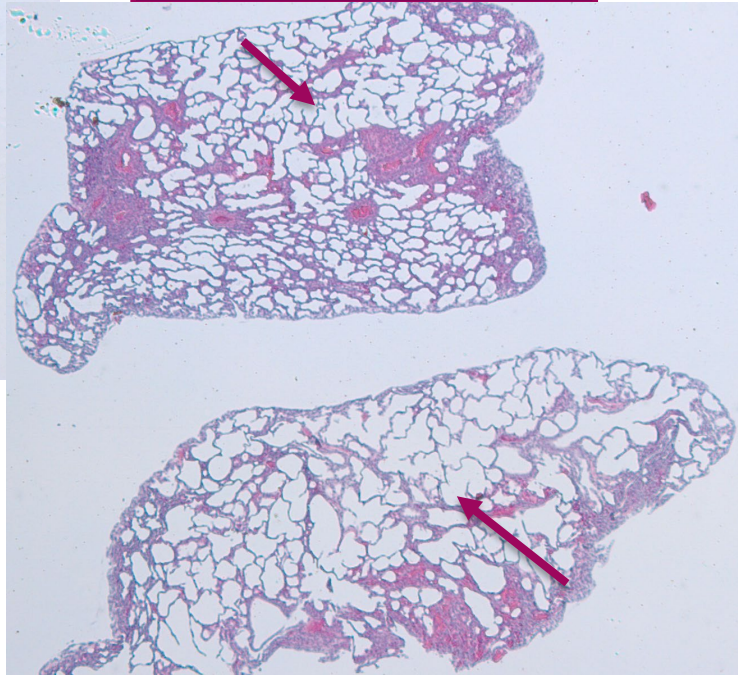


Better gas-exchange

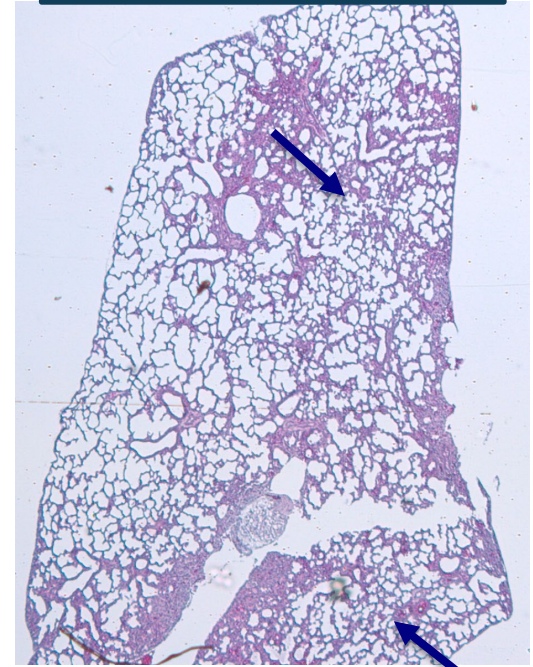
BF Ctrl



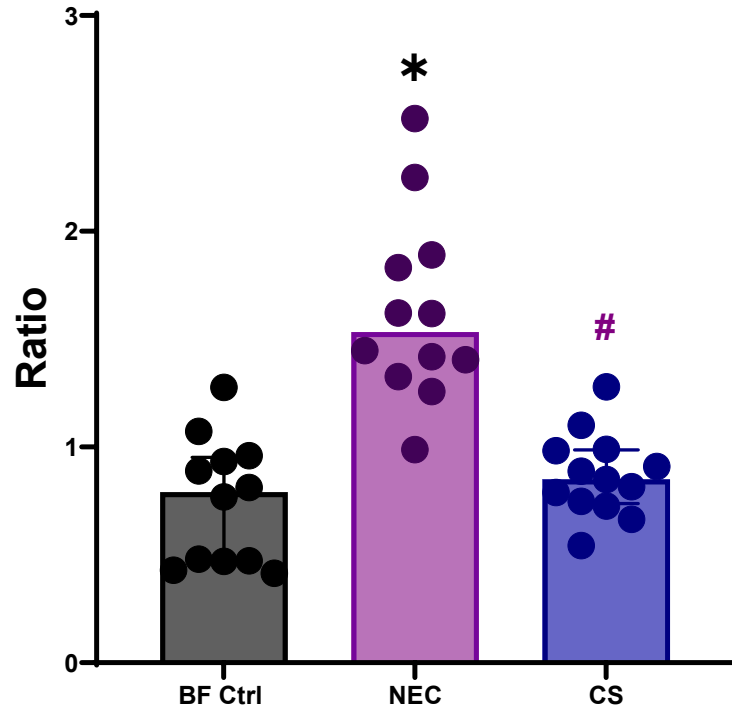
NEC



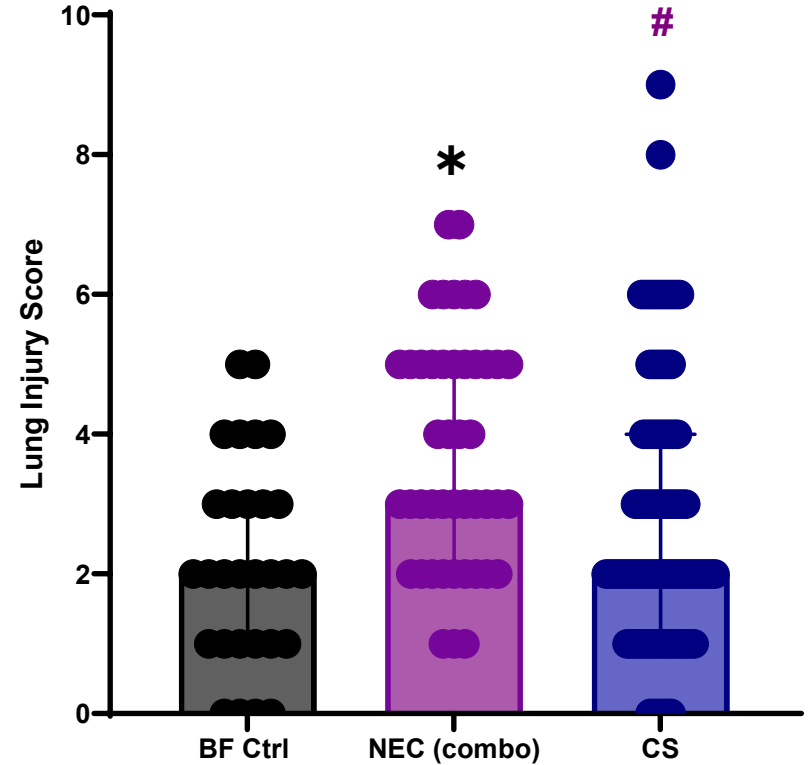
NEC+CS



## Air-space/Alveolar area (Terminal Differentiation)

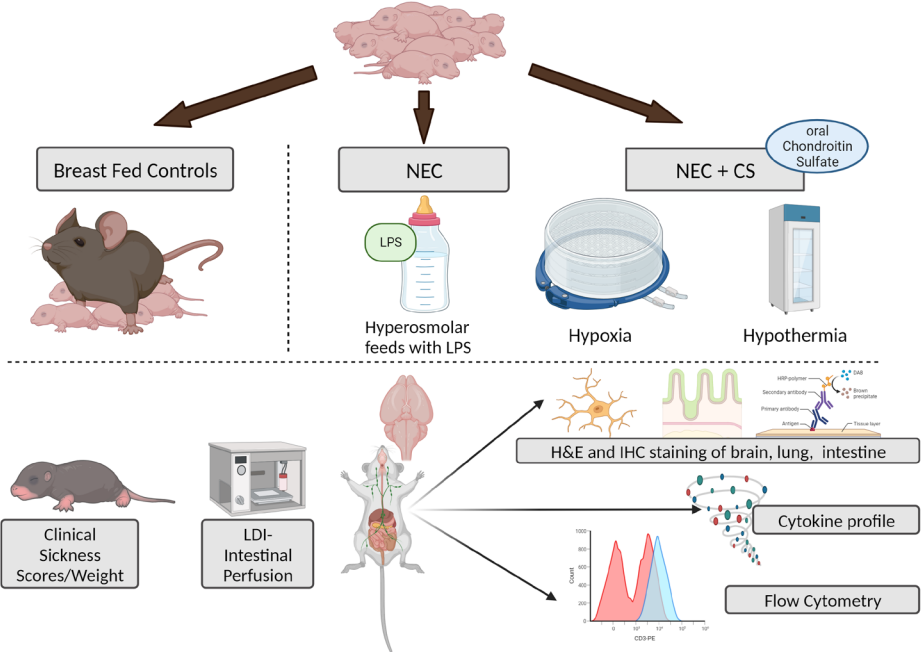


## Lung Injury Score





# Oral Chondroitin Sulfate Improves NEC outcomes



## NEC

↑ Intestinal Injury

↑ Lung Injury

↑ Proinflammatory (IL-17A, TNF $\alpha$ , IL-6, IL-1B), ↓ Anti-inflammatory (IL-10) Cytokines in intestine/lung

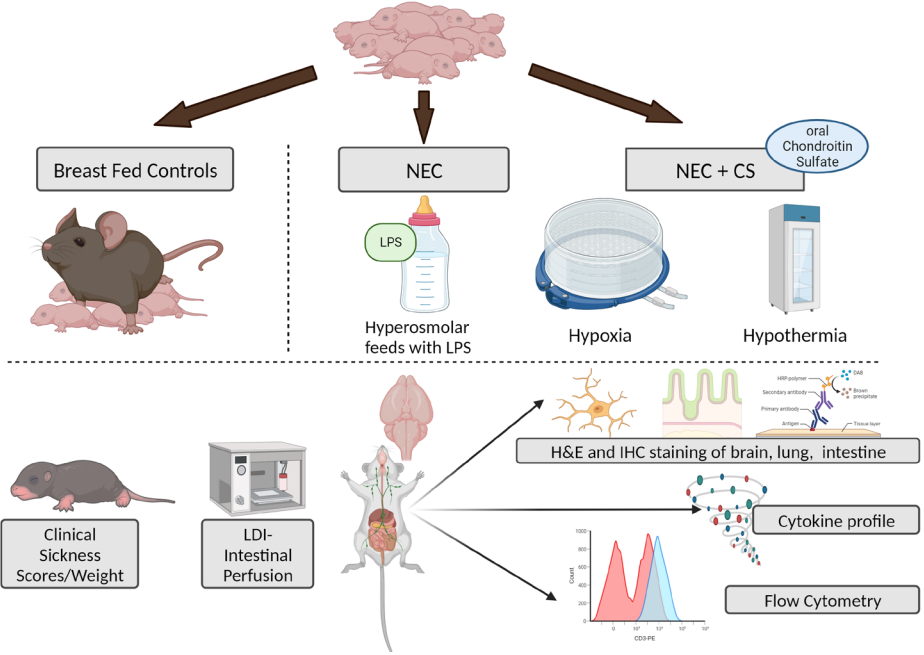
## NEC+ oral CS

↓ Intestinal Injury

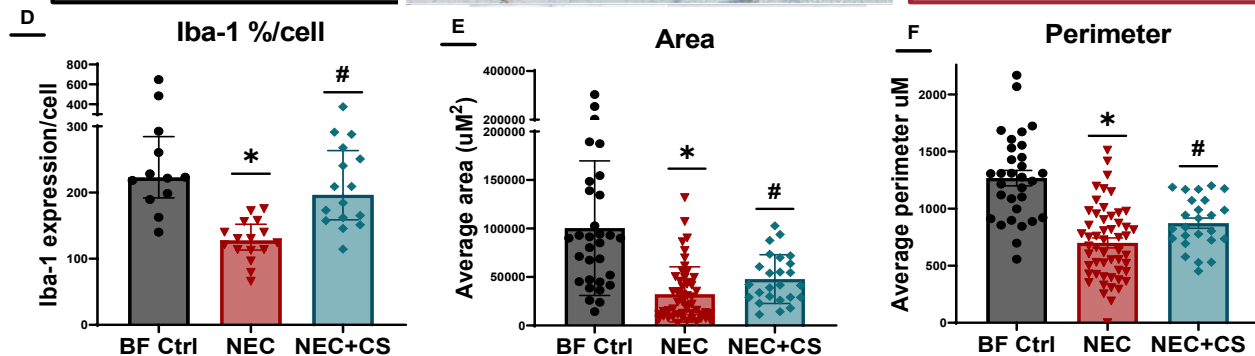
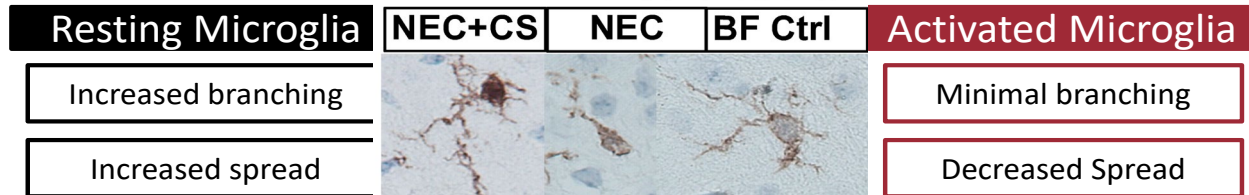
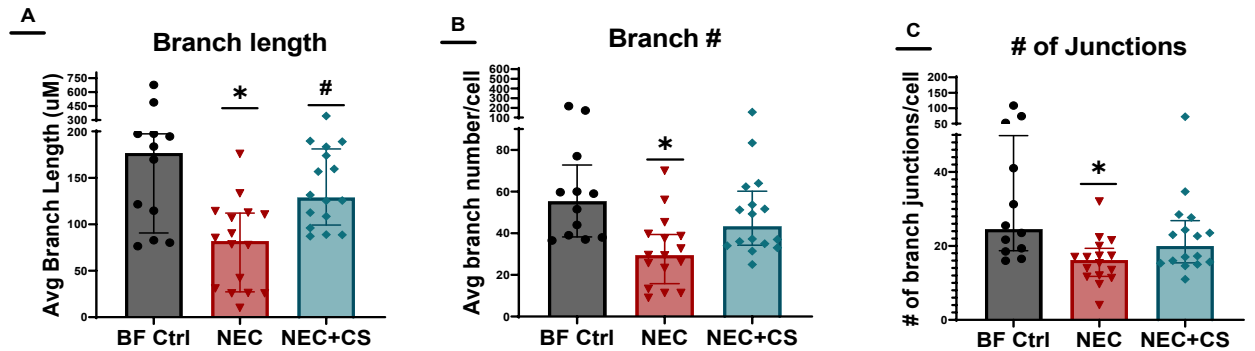
↓ Lung Injury

↓ Proinflammatory (IL-17A, TNF $\alpha$ , IL-6, IL-1B), AND ↑ Anti-inflammatory Cytokines (IL-10, IL-22) in intestines/lung

# Oral Chondroitin Sulfate Improves NEC outcomes

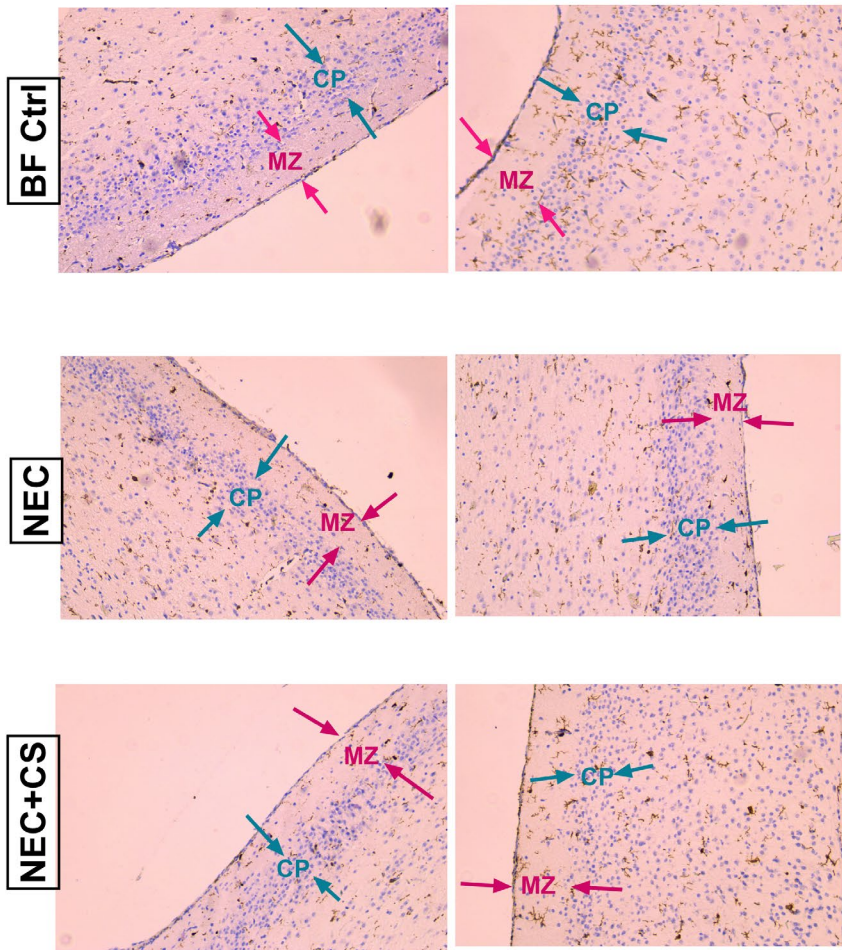


NEC	NEC+ oral CS
↑ Intestinal Injury	↓ Intestinal Injury
↑ Lung Injury	↓ Lung Injury
↑ Proinflammatory (IL-17A, TNFα, IL-6, IL-1B), ↓ Anti-inflammatory (IL-10) Cytokines in intestine/lung	↓ Proinflammatory (IL-17A, TNFα, IL-6, IL-1B), AND ↑ Anti-inflammatory Cytokines (IL-10, IL-22) in intestines/lung
↑ Microglial Activation, astrogliosis, and deleterious cortical changes	↓ Microglial Activation, ↓ astrogliosis, and improved cortical changes

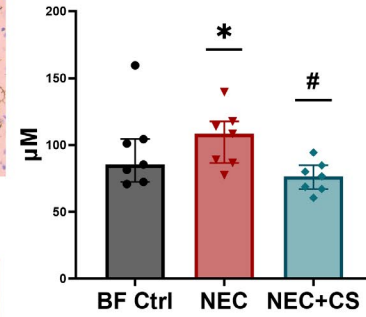


NEC and intestinal injury results in microglial activation

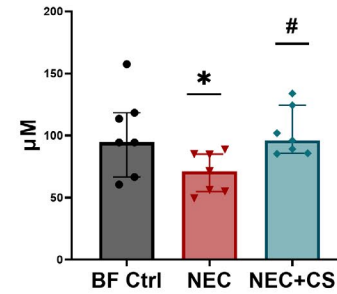
Postnatal CS therapy attenuates microglial activation in the brain



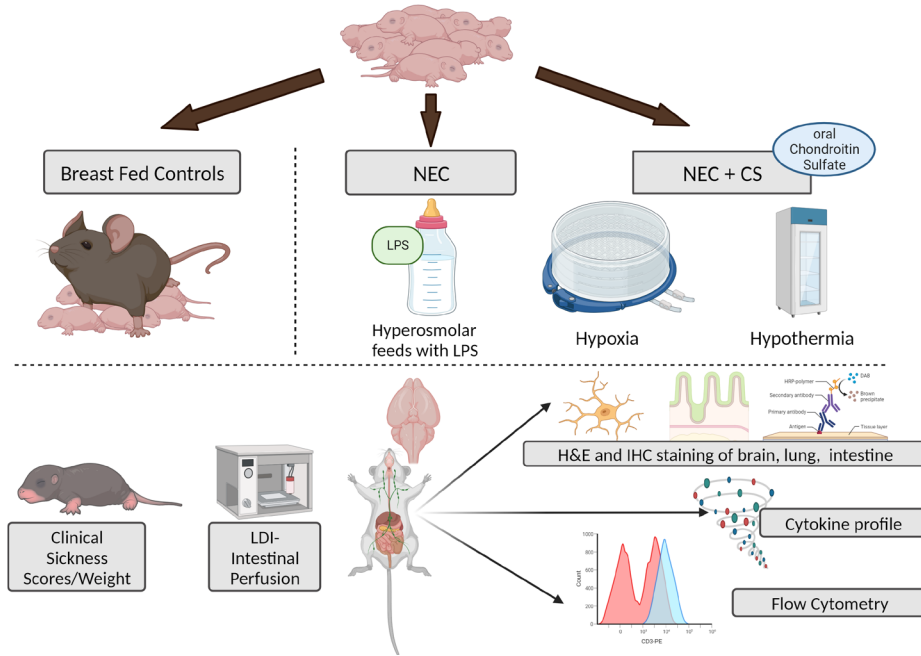
### Cortical Plate Thickness



### Marginal Zone Thickness

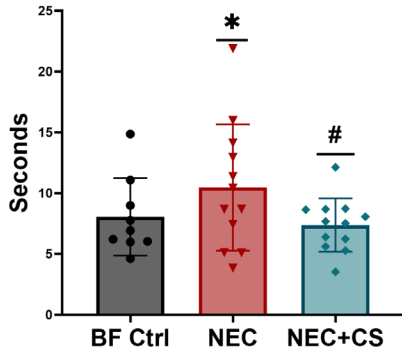


# Oral Chondroitin Sulfate Improves NEC outcomes

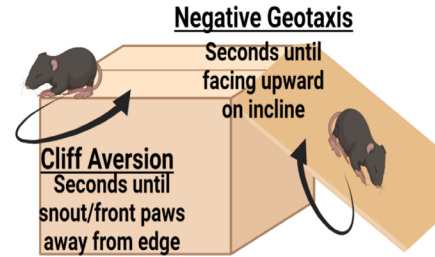
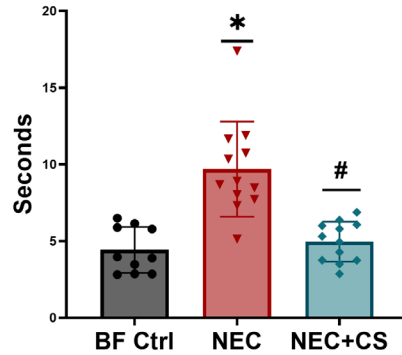


NEC	NEC+ oral CS
↑ Intestinal Injury	↓ Intestinal Injury
↑ Lung Injury	↓ Lung Injury
↑ Proinflammatory (IL-17A, TNFα, IL-6, IL-1B), ↓ Anti-inflammatory (IL-10) Cytokines in intestine/lung	↓ Proinflammatory (IL-17A, TNFα, IL-6, IL-1B), AND ↑ Anti-inflammatory Cytokines (IL-10, IL-22) in intestines/lung
↑ Microglial Activation, astrogliosis, and deleterious cortical changes	↓ Microglial Activation, ↓ astrogliosis, and improved cortical changes
Delayed Developmental Milestones	Improved Developmental Milestones

### Negative Geotaxis

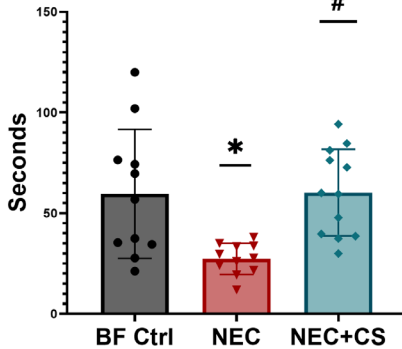


### Cliff Aversion

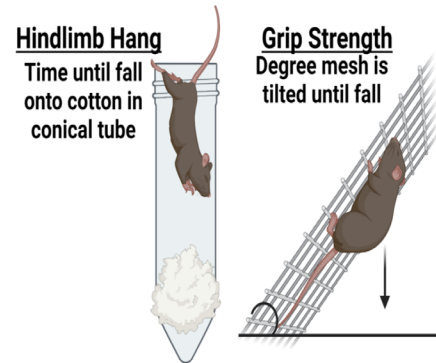
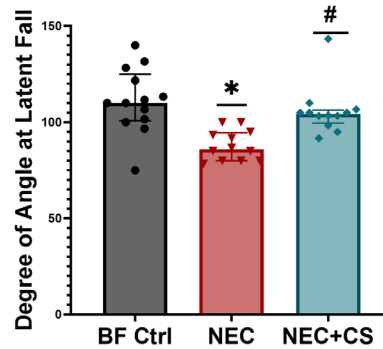


NEC and intestinal injury results in delay in developmental milestones

### Hindlimb Hang Grip Assay



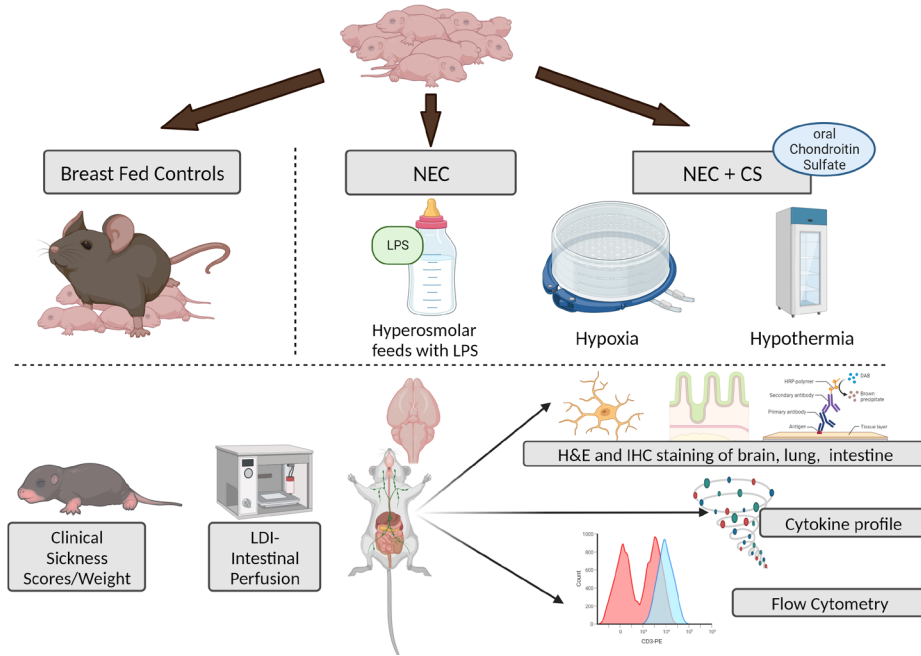
### Grip Strength



Postnatal CS therapy prevents delay of developmental milestones

# Conclusions

# Oral Chondroitin Sulfate Improves NEC outcomes



NEC	NEC+ oral CS
↑ Intestinal Injury	↓ Intestinal Injury
↑ Lung Injury	↓ Lung Injury
↑ Proinflammatory (IL-17A, TNFα, IL-6, IL-1B), ↓ Anti-inflammatory (IL-10) Cytokines in intestine/lung	↓ Proinflammatory (IL-17A, TNFα, IL-6, IL-1B), AND ↑ Anti-inflammatory Cytokines (IL-10, IL-22) in intestines/lung
↑ Microglial Activation, astrogliosis, and deleterious cortical changes	↓ Microglial Activation, ↓ astrogliosis, and improved cortical changes
Delayed Developmental Milestones	Improved Developmental Milestones
Altered Immune Profile	Improved Immune Profile



# Future Directions



Partner with a milk fortifier company to add CS to further study differences in breast milk and donor milk and consider adding CS to their product



Begin steps for clinical trial to be able to add pharmaceutical grade CS to all formula products that neonates receive

# How can the Cryptic Masons Continue to Support Our Department

1. Grateful for Dr. Murphy's Chair position...
  - CM Young Investigator?
2. Naming rights and sponsorship of Department's Collective Lab
  - Vera Bradley Foundation Center for Breast Cancer Research
  - Brown Center for Immunotherapy
  - Krannert Cardiovascular Research Center
  - Herman B. Wells Center for Pediatric Research
3. High ticket equipment needs to maintain state of the art research at IU
  - Possible Development of a service core surrounding that equipment