Mylonas Group

Senescent cell interactions with monocytes/macrophages

- Age-related accumulation of senescent cells (SCs) is associated with impaired tissue healing and regeneration.
 SCs are growth arrested yet metabolically active, promoting inflammation/fibrosis via release of senescence associated secretory phenotype (SASP) cytokines.
- The senolytic (ABT-263) eliminates SCs and improve kidney repair after injury.
- **Macrophages** are essential for tissue repair (switch to prorepair) and for clearance of SCs e.g. phagocytic receptor MerTK interacts with PS, an "eat me" signal on SCs.
- We are investigating whether SCs compromise macrophage-driven repair after kidney injury, by promoting inflammatory monocyte recruitment (1), shifting macrophages away from a repair phenotype (2) and avoiding immune clearance by phagocytosis (3), which they may do by e.g. causing cleavage of MerTK on macrophages (4) and expressing CD47 that interacts with SIRPα on macrophages (5).
- The aim is to drive kidney repair through modulation of SCs (using senolytics) and macrophages (drive pro-repair phenotype) (6).

