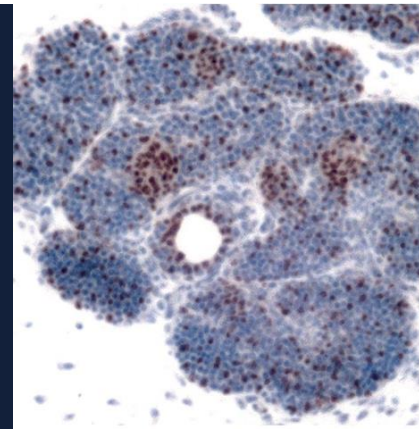


# CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF THYMUS ORGANOGENESIS



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- FCT | FMUL

The thymus generates central immune tolerance by producing self-restricted and self-tolerant T-cells as a result of interactions between developing thymocytes and thymic epithelial cells (TECs). TECs derive from the endoderm of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> pharyngeal pouches (3/4PP) in birds (and PP3 in mammals), which separate from the pharynx and forms the thymic rudiment. During development, the rudiment is surrounded by mesenchymal neural crest-derived cells and is colonized by lymphoid progenitor cells.

Using the avian model, we aim to unravel the molecular mechanisms involved in distinct cellular interactions that occur during thymus organogenesis.

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## PUBLICATIONS

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