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Effector cells, especially dead and dying cells, find their way to the efferocytosis receptor (Boada-Romero et al. 2020). In the absence of efferocytosis, dead and dying cells are not cleared and can cause damage to the host. In *Caenorhabditis elegans*, CED-1, a conserved efferocytosis receptor, is essential for the clearance of dead and dying cells. In *Mus musculus*, MEGF10, a conserved efferocytosis receptor, is essential for the clearance of dead and dying cells. In *Drosophila melanogaster*, Draper, a conserved efferocytosis receptor, is essential for the clearance of dead and dying cells. We performed genetic screens in *C. elegans* to identify other efferocytosis receptors and are working to identify their ligands. We will focus our efforts on MEGF10.

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In the Williamson lab, we have identified three homologous efferocytosis receptors: MEGF10 in *Mus musculus*, CED-1 in *Caenorhabditis elegans*, and Draper in *Drosophila melanogaster*. Our knowledge of the cell biology and mechanisms used in efferocytosis and its role in host defense has been improved by the process of efferocytosis is conserved. We performed genetic screens in *C. elegans* to identify other efferocytosis receptors and are working to identify their ligands. We will focus our efforts on MEGF10.

Efferocytosis is the engulfment of dead and dying cells. Dead and dying cells left uncleared will undergo secondary necrosis, which can cause damage to the surrounding tissues (Boada-Romero et al. 2020). Lack of clearance is associated with early