An immune clock of human pregnancy

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Following the hand of the immunological clock

Immune function is altered during pregnancy to protect the fetus from an immunological attack without disrupting protection against infection. Now, Aghaeepour *et al*. use mass cytometry to examine the precise timing of these pregnancy-induced changes in immune function and regulation. They developed an algorithm that captures the immunological timeline during pregnancy that both validates previous findings and sheds new light on immune cell interaction during gestation. By defining this immunological chronology during normal term pregnancy, they can now begin to determine which alterations associate with pregnancy-related pathologies.