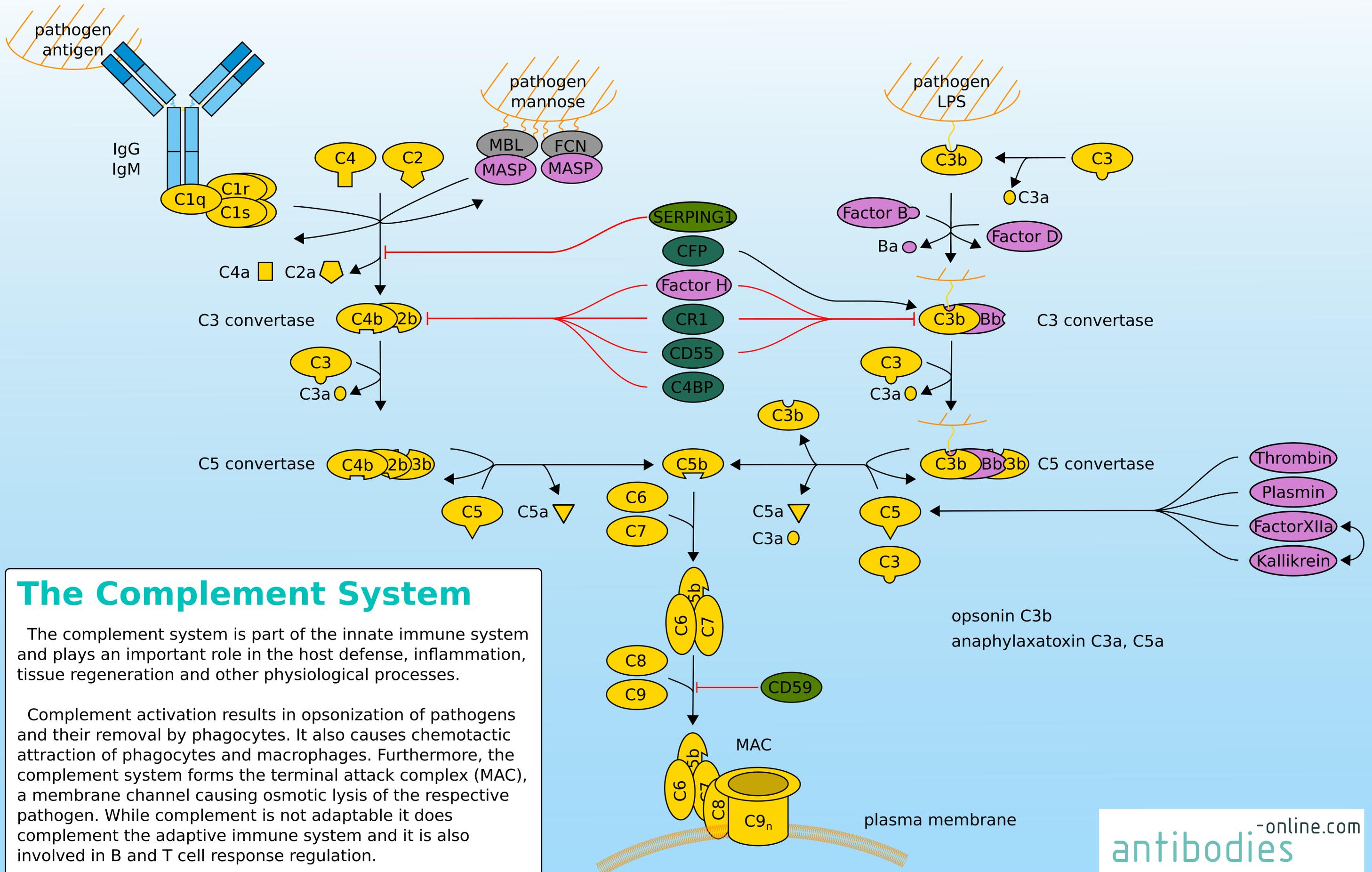


Classical

Lectin

Alternative

C3 independent



The Complement System

The complement system is part of the innate immune system and plays an important role in the host defense, inflammation, tissue regeneration and other physiological processes.

Complement activation results in opsonization of pathogens and their removal by phagocytes. It also causes chemotactic attraction of phagocytes and macrophages. Furthermore, the complement system forms the terminal attack complex (MAC), a membrane channel causing osmotic lysis of the respective pathogen. While complement is not adaptable it does complement the adaptive immune system and it is also involved in B and T cell response regulation.

opsonin C3b
anaphylatoxin C3a, C5a