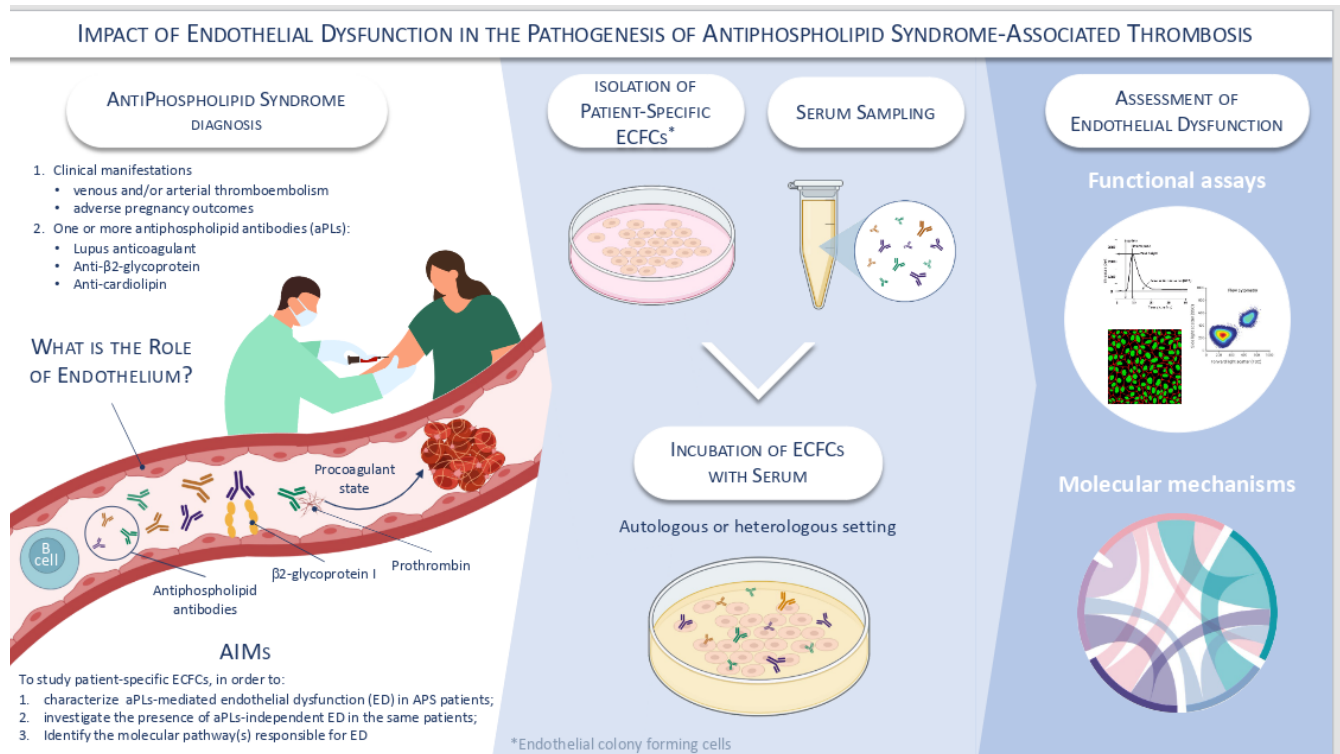


Impact of endothelial dysfunction in the pathogenesis of antiphospholipid syndrome-associated thrombosis

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Endothelial dysfunction (ED) has a relevant role in the development of the severe systemic complications occurring in patients with antiphospholipid syndrome (APS). The overall mechanisms of ED in APS pathogenesis are poorly understood. Yet, their comprehension is needed to improve the clinical management and treatment of APS patients.

Therefore, in this project we will investigate the role and the mechanisms of ED in APS. To this aim, we will use endothelial colony-forming cells (ECFCs) obtained from APS patients.

Specific aims of this project will be: 1) to characterize anti-phospholipid (aPL)-mediated ED in APS; 2) to investigate the presence of aPL-independent ED in APS; 3) to identify the molecular pathways responsible for ED in APS patients.