Pyroptosis in Infections and Auto-inflammation laboratory

Proteinscience, Proteomics and Epigenetic Signaling (PPES) research group, Department of Biomedical Sciences **Team Members:** Andy Wullaert, Bregje Christiaenssen, Silke Mortelmans Location: S4, Campus Drie Eiken, Contact: andy.wullaert@uantwerpen.be

Inflammasomes = Large protein complexes activated by microbial- as well as danger-associated molecular patterns. Activated inflammasomes elicit pyroptotic cell death, which releases the pro-inflammatory cytokines IL-1ß and IL-18.



University of Antwerp

Background. *Nlrp3 inflammasome activation mechanism*. The inflammasome consists of a pattern recognition receptor (e.g., NLRP3), which upon activation binds to procaspase-1, either independently or with an adaptor protein. Activation of the Nlrp3 inflammasome occurs in a two-step process: a priming step and an activation step, resulting in the auto-cleavage of caspase-1, processing and release of IL-1 β , and induction of pyroptosis through Gasdermin D (GSDMD) pores.

Image created with Biorender.













Techniques to evaluate the role of cell death and cytokine release in infections and autoinflammatory diseases









