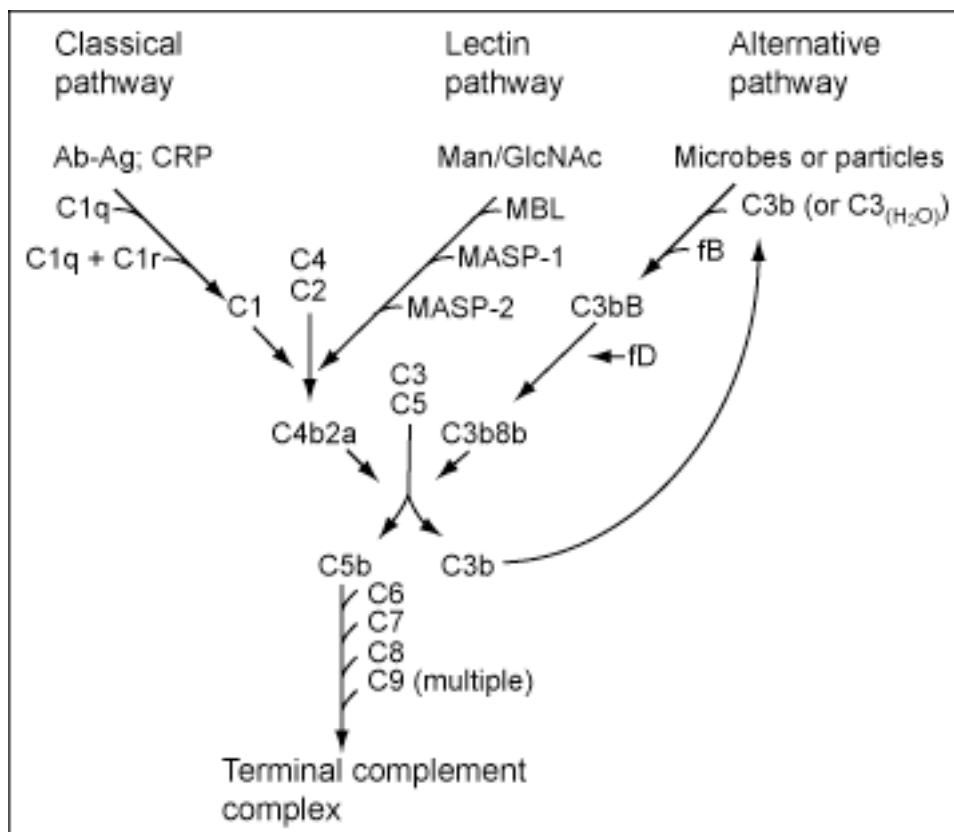


Induce Effector Functions

The effector functions can be divided in two chapters

- complement activation . Phylogenetically seen, this is a very old defense system of our body against foreign. It is part of the innate immune system expressed already in worms and primitive sea animals. Some complement components might thus evolve since middle miocen
- Target cells carrying complement and Fc-receptors exert their specific cell functions, begin to proliferate and infiltrate inflammatory tissue

The common denominator of each effector function is the iinduction of inflammatory processes for which cytokines, small molecular weight polypeptides, oxygen radicals and further, in part unidentified mediators, allow infiltration of tissues with polymorphonuclear leukocytes and upregulation of acute phase reactants to combat the inflammation inducing agents. Immune complexes potentiate the effect functions of certain cells, i.e. lymphocytes, activity of which becomes transformed into effector cells.



The complement system is like an enzyme cascade with three different major inflows: activation of the crucial C3 component may be achieved by the phylogenetically older alternate and lectin pathways and by the younger classical pathway. Abbreviations: Man:mannose, MBL: mannose binding lectin, MASP: mannose activating surface protein.