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## Emerging Role of the CB<sub>2</sub> Cannabinoid Receptor in Immune Regulation and Therapeutic Prospects

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### Abstract

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There is now a large body of data that indicates that the CB<sub>2</sub> cannabinoid receptor type 2 (CB<sub>2</sub>) is linked to a variety of immune functional events. This functional relevance appears to be most salient in the course of inflammation, a process during which there is an increased number of receptors that are available for activation. Studies aimed at elucidating signal transductional events resulting from CB<sub>2</sub> interaction with its native ligands, and of the role of exogenous cannabinoids in modulating this process, are providing novel insights into the role of the CB<sub>2</sub> in maintaining a homeostatic immune balance within the host. Furthermore, these studies suggest that the CB<sub>2</sub> may serve as a selective molecular target for therapeutic manipulation of untoward immune responses including those associated with a variety of neuropathies that exhibit a hyperinflammatory component.