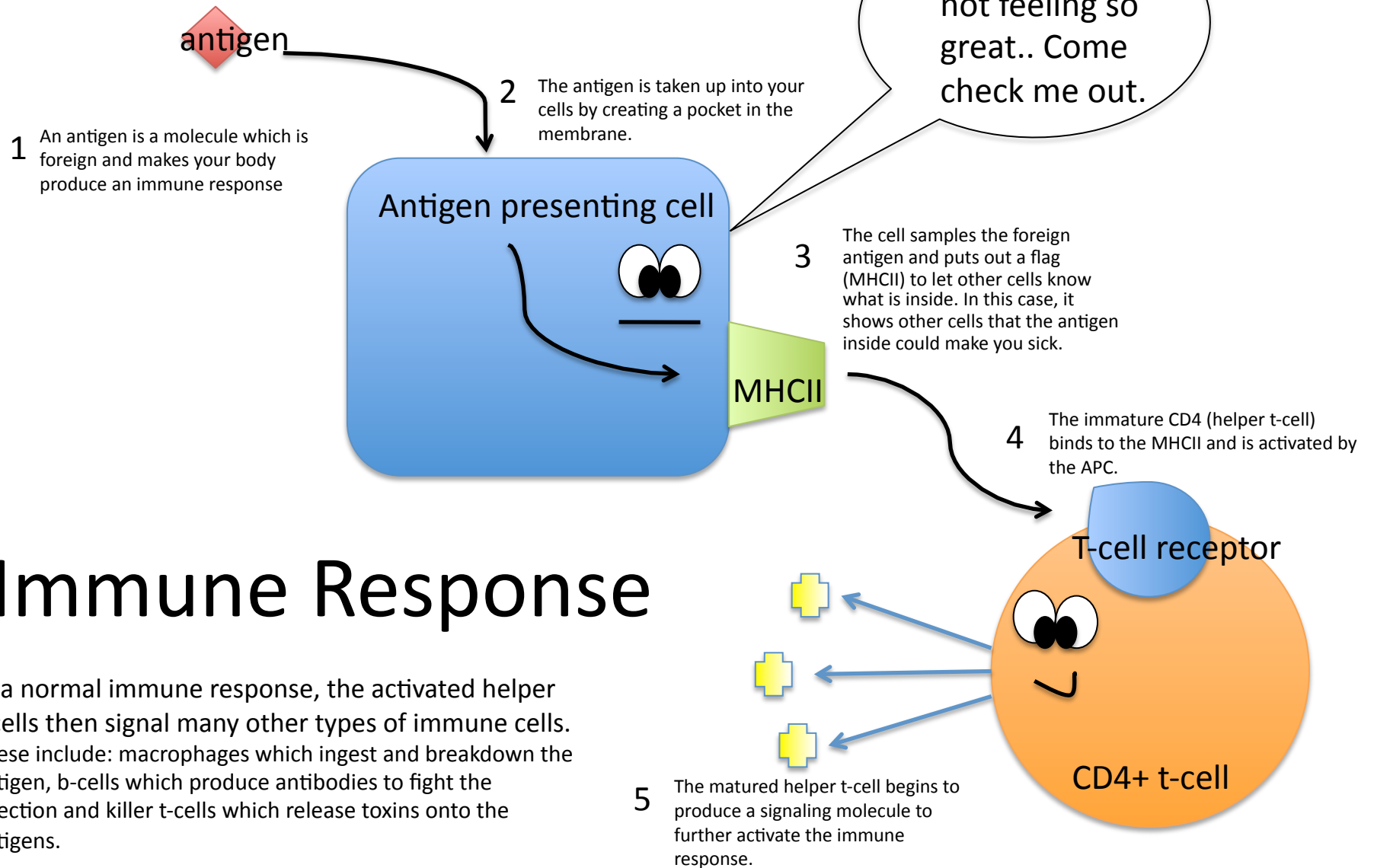


Berlin Patient De-mystified

M.Lawry

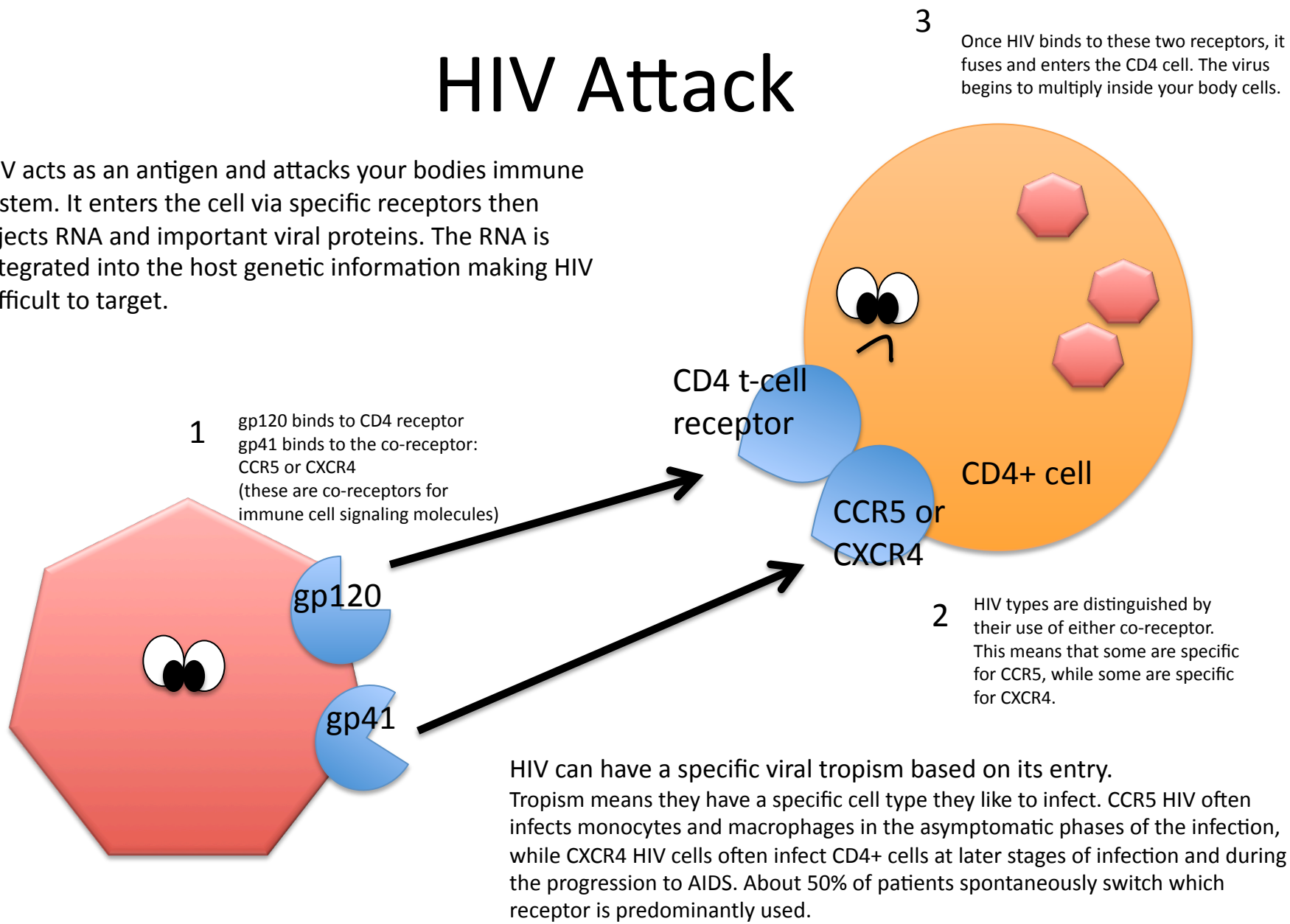


Immune Response

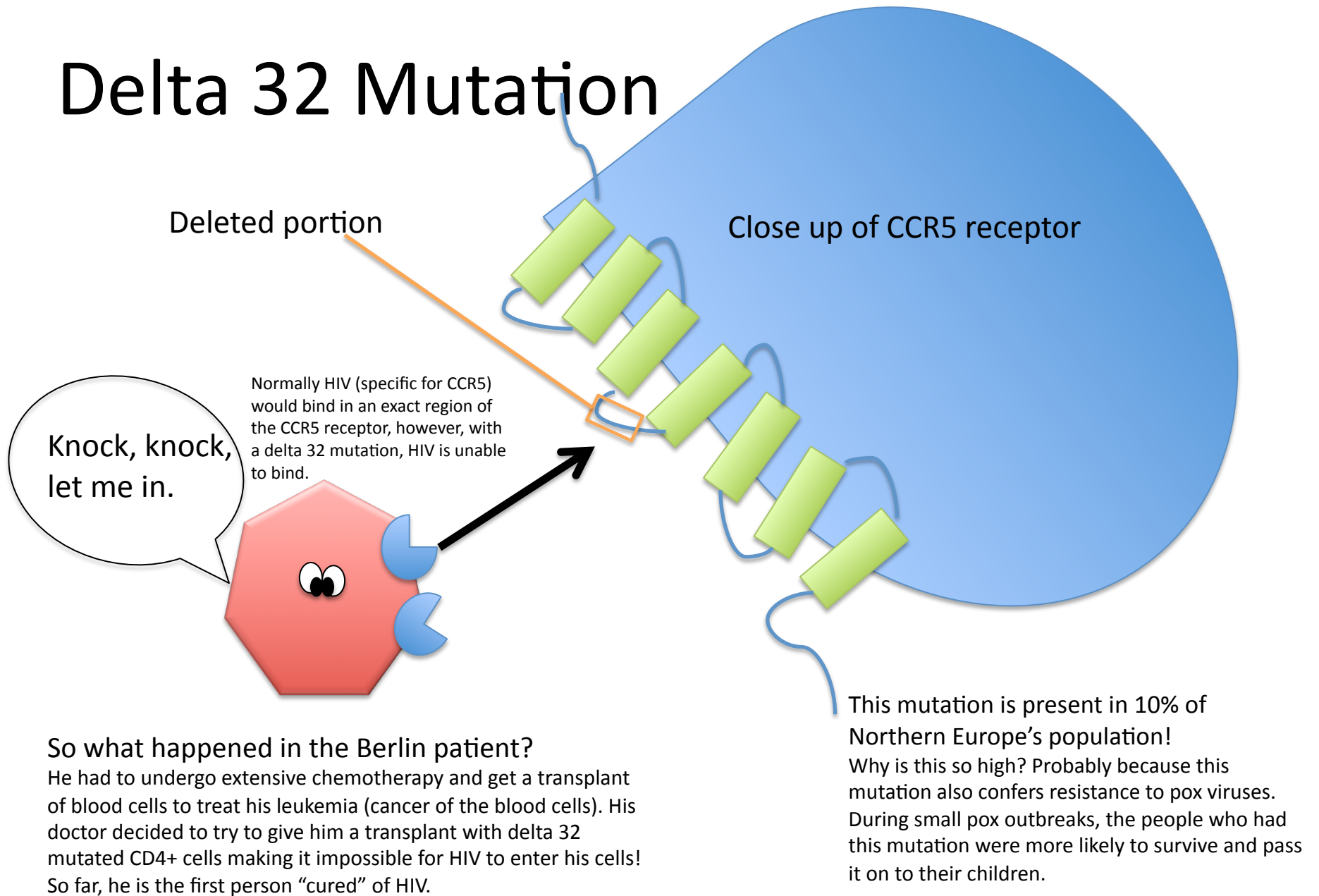
In a normal immune response, the activated helper t-cells then signal many other types of immune cells. These include: macrophages which ingest and breakdown the antigen, b-cells which produce antibodies to fight the infection and killer t-cells which release toxins onto the antigens.

HIV Attack

HIV acts as an antigen and attacks your bodies immune system. It enters the cell via specific receptors then injects RNA and important viral proteins. The RNA is integrated into the host genetic information making HIV difficult to target.



Delta 32 Mutation



So what happened in the Berlin patient?

He had to undergo extensive chemotherapy and get a transplant of blood cells to treat his leukemia (cancer of the blood cells). His doctor decided to try to give him a transplant with delta 32 mutated CD4+ cells making it impossible for HIV to enter his cells! So far, he is the first person "cured" of HIV.