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Antibacterial responses in *Drosophila* are the focus of several recent studies. The caspase encoding gene *dredd*, functions in an antibacterial pathway probably with *imd* and *relish*[1,2]. This conclusion is supported by results from Stöven *et al.*, who show that Relish processing and activation requires a functional *dredd* gene[3]. Two members of a *Drosophila* IκB kinase complex, the kinase DmIKKβ and the structural factor DmIKKγ,`` are required for antibacterial gene induction by LPS, regulate Relish phosphorylation and processing but are not required for Toll-mediated antifungal gene expression[4]. Mutations in the *DmIKKγ* gene block Relish-dependent immune induction of the genes encoding antibacterial peptides after infection[5]. Dredd, DmIKKβ, DmIKKγ, Imd and Relish may define a pathway that mediates *Drosophila* antibacterial responses. Finally, recent results show that the Jak–Stat signalling cascade regulates the expression of complement-like proteins in the *Drosophila* fat body after infection[6].

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