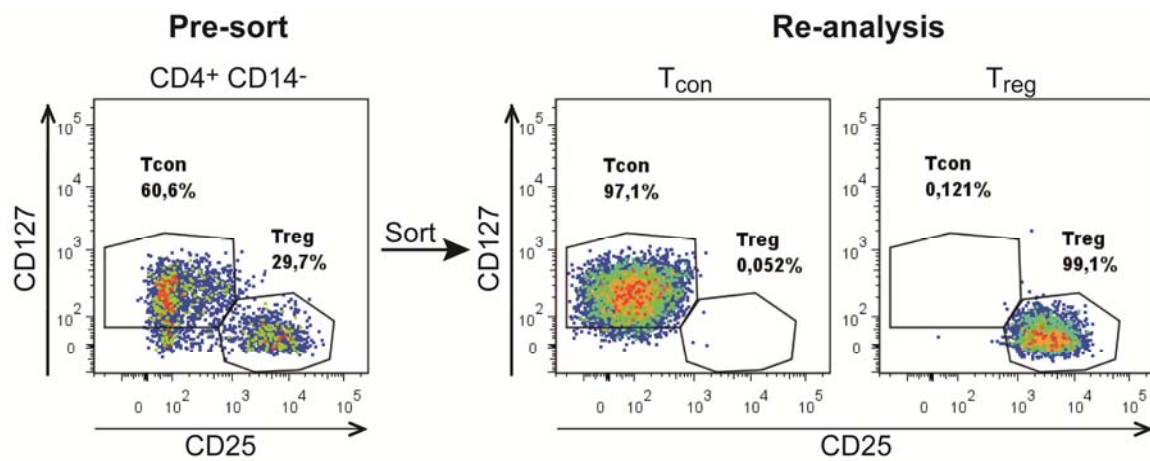


Supplementary figure 1. Older patients have shorter T_{reg} telomeres and reduced capacity to expand T_{regs} in later HDC/IL-2 treatment cycles. (a) Induction of T_{regs} (percentage out of $CD4^+$ cells) during cycle 1 (C1; C1D21-C1D1) and cycle 3 (C3; C3D21-C3D1) of HDC/IL-2 immunotherapy in trial patients below and above 45 years of age (< 45 : C1 n=9, C3 n=9; >45 : C1 n=44, C3 n=39). The induction of T_{regs} during the two cycles was compared using Student's paired t-test. **(b)** Illustration of the correlation (Pearson's r) between relative T_{reg} telomere length on C3D21 and age of the assayed patients (n=12).



Supplementary figure 2. Gating strategy for sort of T_{regs} and T_{cons}. CD4⁺CD14⁻ cells were further gated on CD25 and CD127 to distinguish T_{cons} (CD25^{low}CD127^{high}) from T_{regs} (CD25^{high}CD127^{low}). The left dot plot shows a sample before sorting. The purity of sorted populations was determined by re-analysis of sorted samples (dot plots to the right).