

1 **Human macrophages survive and adopt activated genotypes in living**  
2 **zebrafish.**

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21

22 **Abstract**

23 The inflammatory response, modulated both by tissue resident macrophages and recruited  
24 monocytes from peripheral blood, plays a critical role in human diseases such as cancer and  
25 neurodegenerative disorders. Here we sought a model to interrogate human immune behavior *in*  
26 *vivo*. We determined that primary human monocytes and macrophages survive in zebrafish for up  
27 to two weeks. Flow cytometry revealed that human monocytes cultured at the physiological  
28 temperature of the zebrafish survive and differentiate, comparable to cohorts cultured at human  
29 physiological temperature. Human cells migrated within multiple tissues at speeds comparable to  
30 zebrafish macrophages. Analysis of gene expression of *in vivo* educated human macrophages  
31 confirmed expression of activated macrophage phenotypes. Here, human cells adopted phenotypes  
32 relevant to cancer progression, suggesting that we can define the real time immune modulation of  
33 human tumor cells during the establishment of a metastatic lesion in zebrafish.

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37 **Keywords**

38 Zebrafish, immune cells, live imaging, flow cytometry, human xenograft, cell migration, brain  
39 microenvironment, M1 and M2 phenotype, gene expression

## 40 **Introduction**

41 Macrophages represent a mature population of terminally differentiated cells of myeloid-lineage  
42 found in all tissues(1, 2). They are often categorized by distinct functional properties, cell surface  
43 markers, and the cytokine profile of the microenvironment. Highly plastic, macrophages adopt  
44 diverse phenotypic and functional states to regulate tissue homeostasis, tissue patterning,  
45 branching morphogenesis, wound repair and immunity(2). They respond to environmental cues  
46 within tissues such as damaged cells, activated lymphocytes, or microbial products to differentiate  
47 into distinct functional phenotypes(3). However, macrophages may adopt functions that aid and  
48 promote disease due to environmental cues that arise as a result of abnormal physiological states  
49 such as obesity, fibrosis, brain neurodegenerative disorders and cancer(1, 4-7). In particular, one  
50 of the “hallmarks” of cancer and predictors of aggressive metastatic disease is the chronic presence  
51 of activated myeloid cells, such as tumor associated macrophages (TAMs), within primary  
52 tumors(8-10). Probing the role of the inflammatory response in the earliest stages of malignant  
53 transformation remains technically and ethically difficult in human subjects. Nevertheless, the  
54 broad importance of immune cell biology necessitates appropriate models to adequately study  
55 implications in human disease.

56 A number of efforts have been made to “humanize” animal model systems to study human  
57 homeostasis and disease *in vivo*, especially in the context of blood cancers(11-17). However, the  
58 role of hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) and their derivative lineages, such as myeloid cells, have  
59 also been identified as regulators of tumor progression for solid cancers(4, 8). There are several  
60 classes of macrophages that may be found around tumors(2, 10, 18). One class of macrophages  
61 includes the classical “M1” macrophage phenotype which is characterized by the production and  
62 secretion of elevated levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines, mediation of resistance to pathogens

63 with strong microbicidal properties, high production of reactive nitrogen and oxygen  
64 intermediates, and evoking Th1 responses. In contrast, M2 macrophages are characterized by their  
65 involvement in tissue remodeling, immune regulation, tumor promotion and efficient phagocytic  
66 activity(2, 10). A second class of macrophages that mediate metastasis, metastasis-associated  
67 macrophages (MAMs) is thought to drive therapeutic resistance and establish macrometastases at  
68 distant sites(19, 20). However, probing the role of the inflammatory response on the etiology of  
69 metastasis, namely when one or few cells have initiated the formation of a distant lesion *in vivo*,  
70 is challenging. Of all the animal models of oncoimmunology, mice remain the standard model, as  
71 one can interrogate human cells using immune-compromised strains and similarly examine  
72 syngeneic cancer cell lines in the appropriate immune competent strain(11, 16, 21). However,  
73 directly visualizing the colonization of multiple murine organs is expensive as it requires many  
74 mice to achieve sufficiently powered statistics. Simply put, a model system that recapitulates  
75 physiologically relevant aspects of metastatic disease in which cells can be observed at the single-  
76 cell level would profoundly benefit metastatic cancer research(22).

77         Zebrafish larvae are optically transparent at larval stages and conducive for non-invasive  
78 imaging *in vivo*. This, coupled with the fact that many processes involved in embryonic  
79 development, cell biology, and genetics are conserved across vertebrates, makes zebrafish an  
80 attractive model to study tumor-immune interactions during early stages of organ colonization(23,  
81 24). In addition, organ architecture, composition and regulatory signaling networks for several  
82 organs, including the brain, are well conserved in embryonic zebrafish(25, 26). As early as the first  
83 few days after fertilization, key components of the Central Nervous System (CNS) such as  
84 neurons, astrocytes, and microglia, as well as specialized structures such as the blood-brain barrier  
85 and choroid plexus, have been identified in larval zebrafish. The innate immune system, comprised



86 primarily of neutrophils, tissue specific macrophages and peripheral derived  
87 monocytes/macrophages, is also conserved at this early developmental stage (15, 25, 26). Hence,  
88 the embryonic zebrafish offers a system in which cell dynamics can be observed while sharing key  
89 cellular and structural characteristics with the mammalian organs. This model can be used to  
90 delineate tissue resident vs. recruited circulating monocytes in the context of inflammation and  
91 tumor education for either primary brain tumors or in the case of early metastatic colonization.  
92 However, a key feature missing in studies of immune response in zebrafish is a careful  
93 demonstration that human immune cells can be introduced in this system with conserved survival  
94 and cell response.

95 Here, we introduced human monocytes/macrophages into the zebrafish directly into  
96 circulation and in an organ specific manner. We determined that both monocytes and macrophages  
97 (differentiated in culture) survive in innate immune competent zebrafish for up to two weeks post-  
98 injection despite the lower physiological temperature of the zebrafish (28.5°C). Similar results  
99 were obtained *in vitro*, where flow cytometry analysis revealed that human monocytes cultured at  
100 the physiological temperature of the zebrafish survive, differentiate, and show surface markers  
101 associated with mature macrophages in response to cytokines comparably to cohorts cultured at  
102 human physiological temperature (37°C). We also determined that human cells are transformed  
103 by zebrafish astrocytes by employing transgenic fish where fluorescently tagged astrocytes can be  
104 visualized *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Gene expression comparisons of *in vivo* educated human  
105 macrophages to *in vitro* cytokine-treated human macrophages revealed gene expression associated  
106 with activation. In summary, these results characterized the function of human immune cells in the  
107 *in vivo* environment and physiological temperature of *Danio rerio*. Thus, this model system allows  
108 for examination of the contribution of specific immune cells within specialized organ

109 microenvironments.

## 110 **Results**

111 Zebrafish are reared at the lower temperature of 28.5°C compared to 37°C, the  
112 physiological temperature of mammals(27). Zebrafish also have an innate and adaptive immune  
113 response beginning from two and nine days post fertilization, respectively). We thus asked if  
114 human immune cells can survive at the physiological temperature of zebrafish in the presence of  
115 the innate and immature adaptive immunity in an organ specific way. Human primary monocytes  
116 that were differentiated into macrophages in culture were injected into the hindbrain of the  
117 zebrafish. Longitudinal imaging of the same fish one day and 7 days post injection (3dpf and 9dpf,  
118 respectively) revealed that human macrophages survive for at least one week after injection and  
119 can be found dispersed in the brain (**Figure 1A**). Similar examination of human macrophages  
120 injected into fish where the host microglia are fluorescently tagged revealed survival and  
121 distribution within the brain (**Supplementary Figure 1A**). We next examined the survival of an  
122 immortalized human monocyte cell line under the same conditions. Similar survival and  
123 morphologies were observed within the brain (**Supplemental Figure 1B**). Examination of fish  
124 two weeks post injection revealed that a few human macrophages can persist *in vivo* (**Figure 1B**,  
125 **Supplemental Figure 1C**). As immune cells are involved in tissue remodeling and surveillance,  
126 we next asked if the introduced monocytes show comparable motilities. We quantified the host  
127 immune cells movement by tracking neutrophils and macrophages in addition to introduced  
128 immune cell within the brain at 3 dpf. We determined that neutrophils move with an average speed  
129 of 7 microns/minute, which was significantly greater than that of either the zebrafish brain resident  
130 macrophages and the introduced monocytes. There was no significant difference between the

131 slower monocytes/zebrafish macrophages, where an average speed of 0.5-1 microns/minutes was  
132 observed (**Supplemental Figure 2**).

133 Immune cells are able to move from circulation to different tissues, therefore we asked if  
134 human cells would adopt similar phenotypes and survive in zebrafish. Human macrophages  
135 injected directly to the zebrafish circulation were found throughout the entire fish as early as ~3hrs.  
136 post injection and 1 day post injection (**Supplemental Movie 1, Figure 2A**). They were observed  
137 to be motile and moved within intersegmental vessels and within different tissues (**Supplemental**  
138 **Movie 1**). Imaging of fish at one day and 7 days post injection (3dpf and 9dpf respectively)  
139 revealed that human macrophages survive for at least one week after injection into the circulation  
140 and can be found to be dispersed in multiple tissues, including the gills, intersegmental vessels and  
141 caudal tissue (data not shown) (**Figure 2B**).

142 Macrophages represent a class of terminally differentiated monocytes, and we reasoned  
143 that survival may differ as a function of differentiation status when cultured at the physiological  
144 temperature of zebrafish. Thus, we directly compared survival of human monocytes cultured at the  
145 two different temperatures for a period of 7 days. A sub set of human monocytes were injected  
146 into the hind brain of the zebrafish. We imaged larva over the course of 3 days post injection at 24  
147 hour intervals (**Figure 3A**). We determined that ~40% of monocytes from de-identified human  
148 donors survived at the zebrafish physiological temperatures and were viable up to 7 days of *in*  
149 *vitro* culture in only culture medium. In contrast, these same cells cultured at mammalian  
150 physiological temperatures showed rapid cell death and viability, where ~50% of cells underwent  
151 apoptosis after 2 days of *in vitro* culture in culture medium and only 10% of cells were present 7  
152 days after plating (**Figure 3B**). Similar quantitation of *in vivo* monocyte survival determined that  
153 ~40% of monocytes survive up to 3 days post injection. Analysis of fish imaged serially over the

154 course of 1 day intervals revealed that 25-50% of cells survived in multiple transgenic lines after  
155 2 days post injection (2dpi) (**Figure 3C**). There was no regional preference for survival as cells  
156 were observed throughout the fore, mid and hind brain of each animal (**Supplemental Figure 3**).

157 We then investigated whether these human cells cultured at zebrafish physiological  
158 temperature are capable of differentiating into functional macrophages. Human monocytes  
159 differentiate into macrophages in response to *in vitro* addition of human macrophage colony  
160 stimulating factor (H-MCSF)(28). We observed that monocytes cultured in the presence of H-  
161 MCSF at the lower temperature were not adherent and remained spherical in suspension. In  
162 comparison, cells that were cultured at the higher temperature adopted the classical morphology  
163 of adherent elongated cells following treatment of H-MCSF for five days (**Figure 4A**). Immune  
164 cells respond to cytokines secreted by other cell types. To determine if monocytes/macrophages  
165 respond to zebrafish stroma, we co-cultured these immune cells with zebrafish astrocytes using  
166 transwell assays. Quantitation of cells that migrated in transwell assays revealed that a greater  
167 fraction of cells migrated in response to zebrafish astrocytes for each culture condition than under  
168 control conditions (**Figure 4B**). We determined that monocytes cultured in the presence or  
169 absence of differentiation media showed an increased survival at the zebrafish physiological  
170 temperatures, where ~40% of cells without H-MCSF, and ~70% of cells with H-MCSF, were  
171 viable up to 5 days of *in vitro* culture. In contrast, these same cells cultured at mammalian  
172 physiological temperatures showed reduced viability when cultured with or without differentiation  
173 media (**Figure 4C**). Macrophages derived from monocyte precursors adopt specific phenotypes  
174 depending on cues from the local tissue environment. We next analyzed cell surface markers using  
175 flow cytometry to monitor macrophage maturation. Cells that were cultured with M-CSF at both  
176 temperatures showed increased expression for the surface marker CD86 compared to cells that

177 were cultured in control media (**Figure 4D**)(29). This surface protein is an indicator of  
178 macrophage maturation. We also observed that monocytes differentiated at lower temperature  
179 were motile *in vivo*. Moreover, these macrophages showed similar motility to macrophages that  
180 were differentiated at the higher temperature (**Supplemental Movies 1 and 2**).

181 Monocytes that are subjected to M-CSF will differentiate into macrophage populations  
182 marked by expression of CD86 and CD206(30, 31). We thus asked if monocytes differentiated at  
183 the lower temperature will also show functional plasticity. Surface marker expression for  
184 differentiated human macrophages is observed after 5, 8 and 11 days of exposure for both  
185 physiological temperatures. However, when cells are cultured at the lower temperature there is a  
186 temporal delay in the expression of CD86 and CD206, compared to cells cultured at the higher  
187 temperature (**Figure 5**).

188 Neutrophils are also conserved in the axis of innate immunity in zebrafish(23). Neutrophils  
189 are the first line of defense and produce a sustained inflammatory response following introduction  
190 of foreign entities. In the brain, the resident macrophages are the microglia(26). To determine if  
191 there was a differential zebrafish neutrophil or microglia response, differentiated human  
192 macrophages cultured at each temperature were injected into the hindbrain of 2dpf zebrafish where  
193 either host neutrophils/ macrophages and vasculature were fluorescently labeled. Serial imaging  
194 of the same fish one day and 7 days post injection (3dpf and 9dpf respectively), revealed that  
195 macrophages differentiated at each temperature survive for at least one week after injection and  
196 can be found dispersed in the fish brain as observed in previous transgenic lines. We determined  
197 that similar numbers survived in either line (**Supplemental Figure 4A**), with survival rates  
198 comparable to those observed in previous experiments. However, no swarming of neutrophils was  
199 observed in the vicinity of the human monocytes at 1 day or 7 days post injection. Micrographs

200 show that a few neutrophils are in close proximity to human macrophages. They adopt elongated  
201 and spherical phenotypes and are seen along blood vessels and in the brain parenchyma (**Figure**  
202 **6, Supplemental Figure 4B-C**). We observed some co-localization between the host and human  
203 macrophages as determined by overlapping in the micrographs of the fish imaged 1 day post  
204 injection. However, very little overlap is observed one week post injection.

205         Macrophages can polarize into different phenotypes in response to cues from the local  
206 tissue microenvironment(29). Thus, we compared gene expression of macrophages exposed to  
207 known cytokines *in vitro* at the two temperatures. We determined that similar expression of TNF-  
208  $\alpha$ , CD163 and VEGF for human macrophages cultured *in vitro* in the presence of recombinant  
209 EGF and TNF- $\alpha$  for 24 hours at both physiological temperatures. However, there was a reduced  
210 expression of CCL18 for cells cultured at physiological temperature of zebrafish than at  
211 physiological temperature of humans (**Figure 7A**). We then compared gene expression of human  
212 cells that were injected in the zebrafish brain for 24 hours and revealed similar expression TNF-  
213  $\alpha$  and CD163 for human macrophages cultured *in vitro* at both physiological temperatures.  
214 However, there was a reduced expression of VEGF and CCL18 for cells cultured at physiological  
215 temperature of zebrafish compared to physiological temperature of humans (**Figure 7B**).

## 216 **Discussion**

217         Here, we humanized the zebrafish microenvironment by introducing human  
218 monocytes/macrophages. We first determined that human monocytes differentiate into functional  
219 macrophages at the physiological temperature of zebrafish. We showed that these human  
220 monocytes are able to survive for at least two-weeks post injection *in vivo* in immune competent  
221 fish. Specifically, in transgenic zebrafish where fluorophores coupled to promoters of either  
222 myeloid-specific peroxidase (*mpx*), a homologue of myeloperoxidase, or macrophage expressed

223 gene 1 (*mpeg1*), allow specificity in distinguishing neutrophils from macrophages despite their  
224 common lineage. We used this distinction in lineage to analyze the survival and response of human  
225 immune cells introduced to embryonic zebrafish, demonstrating that human monocytes and  
226 macrophages injected into the zebrafish hindbrain or circulation survive and are functional for up  
227 to two weeks post-injection.

228 Transplantation of human hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) and hematopoietic cancers  
229 have been successfully performed in fetal sheep, immunocompromised mice and zebrafish(10, 11,  
230 16, 17, 24). In these animal models, the HSCs grafted successfully to the appropriate *in vivo* niche,  
231 bone marrow in mammals and kidney in the zebrafish, with varying lengths of survival *in vivo*.  
232 Moreover, the HSCs retained the ability to differentiate into multiple blood lineages, allowing the  
233 study of normal tissue homeostasis. This has greatly assisted in delineating what goes awry during  
234 transformation to cancers of the blood. Tissue grafting becomes more complicated in the case of  
235 cross species transplantation due to the mismatch in immune compatibility (11, 32). One solution  
236 involves sub-lethal irradiation of immune competent animals allowing for a temporal window  
237 whereby the donor components can be introduced (11, 32). However, there may be adverse and  
238 off-target effects due to the depletion of the recipient immune response. The zebrafish innate  
239 immune system comprised primarily of neutrophils and macrophages shows excellent  
240 conservation with mammals (15, 25). Here, we show that human monocytes/macrophages can  
241 survive *in vivo* in the larval zebrafish in the presence of innate immunity and immature adaptive  
242 immunity (**Figures 1 and 2, Supplemental Figures 1 and 2**). Interestingly, the introduced  
243 macrophages migrate through multiple tissues mimicking tissue surveillance, a key aspect of  
244 macrophage function (**Supplemental Movies 1 and 2**). Furthermore, they co-exist seemingly  
245 unmolested by host neutrophils and macrophages (**Figure 6, Supplementary Figure 4**). Thus,

246 there is sufficient conservation in signaling proteins that regulate immune survival. This suggests  
247 that this model organism can provide a comparable study of metastases in the same manner as  
248 observed in mice between host tissues of fish and human tumor cells.

249 In adult mammals, innate immune cells, monocytes and macrophages share a common  
250 myeloid progenitor in the bone marrow (2, 10, 11, 33, 34). These cells differ greatly in their  
251 lifespan, where peripheral blood derived monocytes (PBDM) survive just few days before  
252 undergoing apoptosis. In contrast, differentiated monocytes such as macrophages may have a  
253 lifespan of months. While these immune subsets are conserved in zebrafish innate immunity, the  
254 major difference is that they exist at different physiological temperatures. This study showed that  
255 human monocytes also survive on the order of days at the physiological temperature of zebrafish  
256 and surprisingly, with a greater survival than a cohort cultured at the physiological temperature of  
257 human *in vitro* and *in vivo* (**Figure 3**). Monocytes respond to different chemokines following a  
258 strictly regulated schedule (2, 10, 11, 33, 34). Following dissemination from the bone marrow,  
259 circulating monocytes are CCR2 negative. One example is that they become CCR2 positive  
260 roughly 1- 2 days post release and successive tissue extravasation. Functional analysis revealed  
261 that human monocytes differentiate into M0 macrophages as dictated by high CD86 and CD206  
262 positive expressions at both temperatures in a similar time frame. However, monocytes cultured  
263 at the lower temperature differentiate into mature macrophages with a temporal delay compared  
264 to monocytes culture at human temperatures. In addition, the difference in morphology where  
265 cells remained in suspension and did not adhere indicate that there are subtle differences due to  
266 the mismatch of culture temperature. One reason could be reduced metabolism at the lower  
267 temperature, or that the human cells follow the differentiation steps that zebrafish  
268 monocytes/macrophages adopt. Nevertheless, the functional status is achieved (**Figures 4 and 5**).



269           Within a growing tumor, resident and recruited monocytes receive chemical cues from  
270 tumor-secreted chemokines and physical cues from the microenvironment such as hypoxia(35).  
271 Consequently, they become tumor-educated and adopt phenotypes that help drive tumor growth  
272 through promotion of neoangiogenesis, aberrant tissue remodeling, and development of  
273 immunosuppressive microenvironments(2, 4, 8). These tumor-associated macrophages (TAMs)  
274 are abundantly found within or adjacent to primary tumors in several types of human cancer.  
275 TAMs are regulated in part by colony stimulating factor (CSF)-1, mediated by the CSF-1 receptor  
276 (CSF1R), which drives macrophage maturation, tissue recruitment, and activation (36). Activated  
277 macrophages in turn release epidermal growth factor (EGF). At the primary tumor, this signaling  
278 pathway leads breast cancer cells and macrophages to form complexes that promote intravasation  
279 into the bloodstream (21, 37). There are several classes of macrophages that may be found around  
280 tumors. M1-type macrophages are thought to antitumorigenic and are characterized by high CD80,  
281 MHC-II, and PDL1 expression and low CD163 and CSF1R expression. In contrast, macrophages  
282 with high expression of CD68, CD163, CD206, and CSF1R are tumorigenic M2-type  
283 macrophages(20, 38) (18). Macrophages have been implicated in the clearance of circulating  
284 tumor cells during early metastatic dissemination (39, 40). Importantly, another class of  
285 macrophages, termed metastasis-associated macrophages (MAMs), may mediate metastasis,  
286 though the origins and recruitment of such macrophages are unclear(19, 20, 41). Here, we  
287 determined that in response to recombinant cytokines and brain-conditioning *in vivo*, human  
288 macrophages adopt gene expression that forms part of the identification of M1 and M2 phenotypes  
289 as measured by TNF-A, CD163 and VEG-F expression (**Figure 7**). M2 macrophages have been  
290 classified into subdivisions, a, b and c(42, 43). The M2a subtype can also be defined as alternative  
291 activated macrophages, the M2b as type 2 macrophages, and the M2c as deactivated macrophages.

292 The deactivated terminology refers to the *in vitro* ability of macrophages to adopt M2 activation  
293 following M1 activation, thus deactivating the M1-like gene transcription. Interestingly, CCL18 is  
294 differentially expressed as a function of culture conditions *in vivo* an *in vitro* (**Figure 7**). CCL18  
295 production is associated with the M2c for human monocytes and macrophages(43, 44). These data  
296 suggest that human monocytes differentiated at the lower temperature may not show the plasticity  
297 to switch between phenotypes compared to the macrophages differentiated at the human  
298 temperature.

299 Brain metastasis remains a challenge in clinical settings as patient survival is still measured  
300 in weeks or months (45). Emerging data indicate that immune-mediated signaling plays an  
301 important role in the establishment of brain metastasis (46). However, what is less understood is  
302 the role of tissue specific microenvironment of the immune cells at early stages of colonization  
303 restricted to lesions well below the current methods of detection. In a spontaneous mouse model  
304 of melanoma, not only were disseminated tumor cells detected before clinically detected primary  
305 tumors, it was determined that metastatic growth at distal organs was regulated by a tissue specific  
306 immune response (47). Recently, in studies of mouse models of brain malignancies and confirmed  
307 in patient data, that in addition to tissue resident macrophages microglia, an abundance of bone  
308 marrow derived monocytes (BDMs) can be found even in an immune privileged organ such as the  
309 brain (48). Furthermore, they uncovered that the resultant tumor associated populations were  
310 distinct based on the macrophage ontogeny within the brain. Here, we determined that human  
311 macrophages survive and become activated in the zebrafish brain environment. This model allows  
312 for examination of the contribution of immune signaling in a tissue specific manner. These findings  
313 open up the possibility of studying early metastatic events of human cancers in fish. More

314 importantly, it allows us to add the complexity of human tumor-human immune interactions whilst  
315 maintaining single cell resolution.

## 316 **Methods**

### 317 **Cells and Reagents**

#### 318 **Animal studies**

319 Animal studies were conducted under protocols approved by the National Cancer Institute, and the  
320 National Institutes of Health Animal Care and Use Committee. In our experiments, we employed  
321 several transgenic lines, i.e. Tg(mpeg1:GFP), Tg(gfap:GFP) and Tg(mpx:GFP),  
322 Tg(kdrl:GFP)la116 and Tg(kdrl:mCherry-CAAX)<sup>y171</sup>, kindly provided by Brant Weinstein  
323 (NICHD, Bethesda, MD), and the Casper strain, a kind gift from David Langenau (Harvard  
324 MGH)(49-51). Dual labeled vasculature and immune/astrocyte cells were generated by crossing  
325 Tg(kdrl:mCherry-CAAX)<sup>y171</sup> and GFAP:GFP, Mpeg:GFP or Mpx:GFP. Progeny were screened  
326 using fluorescence microscopy to identify those that expressed fluorescent markers for vasculature  
327 and astrocytes, macrophages and neutrophils respectively. From this pool, founders were selected  
328 for continuation of the line. Zebrafish were maintained at 28.5°C on a 14-hour light/10-hour dark  
329 cycle according to standard procedures. Embryos obtained from natural spawning, raised at 28.5°C  
330 and maintained in egg water containing 0.6 g sea salt per liter of DI water were checked for normal  
331 development. At day 5 regular feeding commenced.

#### 332 **Primary human monocytes- Maintenance and Macrophage differentiation protocol and** 333 **functionality assays**

334 Elutriated monocytes from 8 de-identified healthy human donors were acquired from the NIH,  
335 Department of Transfusion Medicine (DTM) (according to NIH protocol 99CC0168). Donors  
336 within the age group of 21-50 of either sex were selected for all experiments. Primary monocytes

337 were cultured in DMEM high glucose, 10% fetal bovine serum and 1% penicillin/streptomycin.  
338 Cells were either cultured at physiological temperature of humans (37°C) or at physiological  
339 temperature of zebrafish (28.5°C). These cells were cultured at a concentration of  $1.1 \times 10^6$  cells  
340 /cm<sup>2</sup> for minimum of five days to facilitate macrophage differentiation in the presence of  
341 recombinant human M-CSF (25 ng/ml). Media was replenished every 3 days. Samples were  
342 prepared for a minimum of three technical replicates for each donor sample. For comparison, a  
343 human monocyte cell line, U937 was cultured in suspension in RPMI media (ThermoFisher  
344 Scientific, Waltham, MA) supplemented with final volume of 10 % (v/v) Fetal Bovine Serum  
345 (FBS), Penicillin (100 U/mL) and Streptomycin (100 µg/mL). Cells were cultured at 37°C with  
346 5% CO<sub>2</sub> and relative humidity maintained at 95%. Media was refreshed every 2- 3 days.

347 Primary monocytes that had been cultured in the presence of human M-CSF for eight days were  
348 cultured at each temperature (28.5 vs. 37°C). Cells cultured at each temperature were then cultured  
349 for an additional 24hrs with a vehicle control and in the presence of either recombinant EGF at a  
350 concentration of 10ng/ml or TNF-α at a concentration of 20ng/ml. In addition, 2-5nL of a sub set  
351 of the originally differentiated cells were then injected into 2dpf fli:GFP embryos at a  
352 concentration of  $1 \times 10^7$  cells/mL for comparison. After 24hrs, RNA was extracted for the in vivo  
353 educated macrophages and the cells cultured in the presence of the cytokines. Similarly, RNA was  
354 extracted from pooled samples of 50 3dpf embryos for each temperature (28.5 vs. 37°C) and age  
355 matched uninjected embryos.

### 356 **Quantification of *in vitro* monocyte survival at different physiological temperatures**

357 For cell survival, human monocytes from 5 donors were seeded at a concentration of  $1.1 \times 10^6$  cells  
358 /cm<sup>2</sup> and cultured at either 28.5°C or 37°C in base media. Human monocytes were collected and  
359 centrifuged at 1000rpm for 5 minutes. Supernatant was removed and cells were resuspended in

360 1mL of sterile 1× PBS. Cells were collected at 2, 3, 5 and 7 days after plating and analyzed for cell  
361 number and viability using Nexcelom Bioscience Cell Counter. Technical triplicates were  
362 collected for each donor sample for each temperature and day to obtain an average fraction survival  
363 per donor. Data were then displayed using GraphPad Prism 7.0a to graph cell number and viability  
364 as a function of days and temperature. Two-way ANOVA was used to determine statistical  
365 significance. Bright field and epi-fluorescent images were obtained on a Zeiss Axiovert 200 with  
366 an AxioCam MRm, using AxioVision LE 4.8.2 software. Images were acquired using 10× air  
367 objective with numerical aperture, 0.25, where each individual image had lateral dimensions of  
368  $1388 \times 1040$  square pixels corresponding to  $0.448 \times 0.335$  mm<sup>2</sup>.

### 369 **Quantification of *in vivo* monocyte survival**

370 Image processing was performed via ImageJ. Spectral crosstalk was removed by subtracting  
371 contributions of the red channel from the far-red detection channel. Images were then median  
372 (radius of 3 pixels) and Gaussian (sigma of 2) filtered to minimize background noise. Binary masks  
373 of monocytes were generated using Huang and Otsu thresholding methods on corrected images.  
374 The volume occupied by monocytes was then calculated using ImageJ's built in 'analyze particles'  
375 function and the 3D shapes plugin. Number of monocytes was estimated by dividing the total  
376 volume of the binary monocyte mask by the expected average volume of a human monocyte (10  
377 μm in diameter, volume of 104.7 μm<sup>3</sup>). Loss of monocytes was calculated for each larva by  
378 subtracting final number of monocytes from the initial number of monocytes (24 hours post  
379 injection) then normalizing by the initial number of monocytes. Percent survival was reported as  
380 1 minus loss of monocytes multiplied by one hundred.

381 As an example: [  $100 * ( 1 - (( \#24\text{hpi} - \#48\text{hpi} ) / \#24\text{hpi} ) )$  ]

382 Data were then displayed using GraphPad Prism 7.0a to graph cell number and viability as a

383 function of days. All error bars are 95% confidence intervals where D'Agostino and Pearson  
384 normality test was performed and Kruskal-Wallis test was performed to determine statistical  
385 analysis.

### 386 **Flow cytometry to determine cell surface expression to determine phenotype**

387 Cells cultured in the absence and presence of human M-CSF were processed at minimum five days  
388 after plating for flow cytometry. Cells that remained in suspension were collected whereas  
389 adherent cells were detached with 2mM EDTA in PBS. For both conditions, the cell suspension  
390 was centrifuged and the supernatant removed as previously described. The cell pellets were re-  
391 suspended in ice-cold PBS with the following antibodies to assess surface expression for  
392 determination of macrophage polarization. Cells were incubated on ice with CD86-PE (BD), or  
393 CD206-APC (BD) antibodies for 1 hour and cells were washed twice before processing for flow  
394 cytometry. For propidium iodide (11) staining, cells were washed and resuspended in HEPES  
395 buffer containing PI. These markers for surface expression are indicative of M0 and M1  
396 phenotypes and apoptosis, respectively. Samples were processed on a BD Calibur1 (BD  
397 Biosciences) and analyzed with FlowJo software (Tree Star). PE- or APC-conjugated IgG stained  
398 cells were used to indicate background fluorescence and to set quadrants before calculating the  
399 percentage of positive cells.

### 400 **Fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS).**

401 Embryos at 2 days post fertilization (dpf) with labeled vasculature and astrocytes cells were  
402 dechorionated in pronase solution (Roche Life Science #10165921001) as necessary (less than  
403 5minutes). Embryos were then protease dissociated for FACS as previously described(52). Cell  
404 sorting was performed on a FACS Aria Fusion instrument (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA) using  
405 85µm nozzle at 45psi pressure. Cells were gated on forward and side light scatter and separated

406 based on GFP and/or mCherry-positive fluorescence signals defined with non-fluorescent negative  
407 controls.

#### 408 ***In vitro* migration assays.**

409 Astrocytes isolated from FACS were centrifuged at 1000 rpm for 5 minutes, resuspended and  
410 counted. A 24-well plate was coated with 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  laminin (Cytoskeleton Inc.) at room  
411 temperature for 1 h prior to triplicate wash with PBS. Fluorescence-activated cell sorted astrocytes  
412 were then added to the wells at  $1 \times 10^5$  cells per mL (1 ml/well in 24-well plate). Zebrafish  
413 astrocytes were maintained overnight in DMEM (Thermo Fisher) supplemented with 10% fetal  
414 bovine serum, 1% penicillin-streptomycin and 1% L-glut at 28.5°C. The following day, cells were  
415 prepared for transwell assay. Astrocytes were washed once with serum free RPMI medium. 700 $\mu\text{l}$   
416 of serum-free media was placed on top of astrocytes. A sterile transwell membrane with 8  $\mu\text{m}$   
417 pores (Corning #3422) was inserted and 300 $\mu\text{l}$  of human macrophages were placed on top of  
418 membrane at  $5 \times 10^4$  cells per membrane. Transwells were incubated overnight at 33°C. Three  
419 membranes were run in parallel per condition (temperature and presence/absence of zebrafish  
420 astrocytes). Transwells were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for 10 minutes at room temperature.  
421 Membranes were washed twice in 1X PBS. They were permeabilized using 0.1% triton-x 100 for  
422 5 minutes at room temperature, followed by a second wash step and then processed for  
423 immunofluorescence. Staining mixture consisted of Hoechst 33258 (10mg/mL, Thermo Fisher)  
424 was used at 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  in 1% BSA-PBS along with Phalloidin 565 (Sigma) used at 20 $\mu\text{l}/\text{mL}$  of  
425 Hoechst mixture. The membranes were imaged using Zeiss 780 LSM to acquire 5 x 5 tile scan  
426 images of each membrane, using a 10 $\times$  air objective of 0.3 NA where each individual image  
427 comprised 2046  $\times$  2046 square pixels corresponding to 1416  $\times$  1416 square  $\mu\text{m}$  for a total Z  
428 distance of 100  $\mu\text{m}$  with 5  $\mu\text{m}$  step size. Three randomly selected 500 x 500 $\mu\text{m}$  fields of view were

429 used for data analysis. We simultaneously excited our sample with the 405 nm from an argon ion  
430 laser with a power of < 3 % (total power 30 mW) and 546 nm from a solid-state laser (power  
431 of < 10 %). A secondary dichroic mirror, SDM 560, was employed in the emission pathway to  
432 delineate the red (band-pass filters 560–575 nm) and blue channels (480-495 nm) at a gain of 400  
433 on the amplifier. The laser power for the 543 nm setting was set at < 3 % of the maximum power  
434 and the gain on the detectors was set to 450. The Hoechst-stained cell nuclei were counted. The  
435 lower Z represents the bottom of the membrane and higher Z represents the top of the membrane.  
436 Nuclei counted as through were on the bottom or in pores. Nuclei counted on top were used in  
437 total cell count. Data were displayed using GraphPad Prism 7.0a to graph cell migration with  
438 given attractants. Two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparisons post-test among all  
439 conditions was used to determine statistical significance.

#### 440 **Zebrafish injections**

441 For all experiments, at 24 hours post fertilization (hpf), embryos were transferred to egg water  
442 supplemented with phenylthiourea (PTU, Sigma P5272), suspended at 7.5% w/v in DMSO, at 1  
443 part in 4500 to inhibit melanin formation for increased optical transparency. Embryos were then  
444 returned to the incubator at 28.5°C and checked for normal development. Zebrafish embryos at 2  
445 days post fertilization (2dpf) were anesthetized using 0.4% buffered tricaine. Human  
446 monocytes/macrophages were labeled with cell tracker (Green or Deep Red, Invitrogen) at a final  
447 concentration of 1  $\mu$ M for 30 minutes. Cells were then centrifuged and the supernatant removed  
448 and pellet resuspended in PBS with a final cell concentration of  $1 \times 10^7$  cells/mL before injection.  
449 2-5 nL of labeled cells were injected into the hindbrain of the embryo. Fish were then reared at  
450 28.5°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> and relative humidity maintained at 95% for two days. At 5 days post  
451 fertilization, some fish were then returned to system water and regular feeding at 28.5 °C for long-



452 term survival studies. For injection to the circulation, zebrafish were anesthetized in 0.4% buffered  
453 tricaine and oriented in a lateral orientation on an agarose bed. Cells were injected directly in the  
454 circulation via the posterior cardinal vein using a pulled micropipette. Fish were screened within  
455 24 h of injection to check for successful introduction of cells to the circulatory system

#### 456 **Intravital microscopy**

457 For live cell imaging, embryos were anesthetized using 0.4% buffered tricaine, then embedded in  
458 a lateral orientation in 1% low melting point agarose (NuSieve GTG agarose, Lonza), and allowed  
459 to polymerize in with cover glass (no. 1.5 thickness) as previously described (53). Egg water  
460 supplemented with tricaine was added to the agarose hydrogel for the entire time of data  
461 acquisition. Fish were imaged on Zeiss 710 or 780 laser scanning confocal microscopes. Initial  
462 overview experiments were taken at 20 $\times$ , with 1  $\mu\text{m}$  Z steps, as tile scans over the entire length  
463 and height of the fish. Images in the head and tail of the zebrafish were acquired at 10 $\times$   
464 magnification every 10 min for 14 h. Z stacks were acquired using a tiled approach and a 10 $\times$  air  
465 objective of 0.3 NA where each individual image comprised 2046  $\times$  2046 square pixels  
466 corresponding to 1416  $\times$  1416 square  $\mu\text{m}$  for a total Z distance of 276  $\mu\text{m}$ . One-photon, confocal,  
467 2-dimensional images of 512  $\times$  512 pixels (lateral dimensions) were acquired with a 1.4 NA  
468 40 $\times$  oil-immersion objective. We simultaneously excited our sample with the 405 nm, 488 nm  
469 lines from an argon ion laser with a power of < 3 % (total power 30 mW) and 546 nm from a solid-  
470 state laser (power of < 10 %). A secondary dichroic mirror, SDM 560, was employed in the  
471 emission pathway to delineate the red (band-pass filters 560–575 nm) and green (band-pass filters  
472 505–525 nm) and blue channels (480–495 nm) at a gain of 400 on the amplifier. The laser power  
473 for the 543 nm setting was set at < 3 % of the maximum power and the gain on the detectors was  
474 set to 450.

## 475 **RNA isolation and Real-time PCR**

476 Total RNA was extracted with Trizol according to the manufacturer's guidelines (Invitrogen). Any  
477 remaining DNA was removed with the DNA-free kit (Ambion) and was re-purified with the  
478 RNAeasy kit (Qiagen). Taqman real-time gene expression assays were run on an ABI StepOne  
479 Plus system according to manufacturer's protocol (Applied Biosystems). Gene expression was  
480 normalized to that of GAPDH or  $\beta$ -actin. All Taqman real-time primers used for gene-expression  
481 analysis were pre-designed and confirmed either from Integrated DNA Technologies: human  
482 TNFa (Hs.PT.45.14765639), VEGFA (Hs.PT.58.21234833), GAPDH (Hs.PT.39a.22214836) or  
483 from Life Technologies: human CD163 (Hs 00174705), CCL17 (Hs01128674).

## 484 **Intravital cell tracking**

485 Time-lapse microscopy images were exported to FIJI for analysis. To adjust for fish growth during  
486 imaging, images were first registered using the Correct 3D Drift plugin, with the vasculature of  
487 the fish used as a topographical reference. Cancer cells were then tracked in 3D using the  
488 TrackMate plugin for FIJI. Images were segmented in the cell fluorescence channel in each frame  
489 using a Laplacian of Gaussian (14) detector with a 15  $\mu$ m estimated particle diameter. An initial  
490 threshold of 1.0 was set, and the sub-pixel localization and median filter options in TrackMate  
491 were activated. Segmentation was then further refined by manual adjustment of the threshold to  
492 minimize the non-macrophage particles selected. Segmented objects were linked from frame to  
493 frame with a Linear Assignment Problem (LAP) tracker with 30  $\mu$ m maximum frame-to-frame  
494 linking distance. Tracks were visually inspected for completeness and accuracy over the entire  
495 acquisition period and were manually edited to ensure that point-to-point tracks were generated  
496 for the entire time that a cell was in the field of view.

## 497 **Calculation of Cell Speed**

498 Temporal and spatial information for each cell track was exported to MATLAB. For each cell,  
499 frame-to-frame speed was calculated by dividing the displacement of the cell by the time interval  
500 between frames. An average speed for that cell over the course of imaging was then calculated by  
501 averaging these frame-to-frame speeds. The ensemble of cell speeds in each location (head, tail,  
502 trunk) was compared in GraphPad Prism 7 using one-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple  
503 comparisons post-test.

#### 504 **Author Contribution**

505 K.T., Z.L, S.C, R.S., D.G. designed and discussed experiments, K.T., K.B., C.P., Q.A.D., C.L,  
506 A.W. performed experiments, K.T., C.P., A.D., K.D., Q.X., C.L, J.S, performed data analysis.  
507 K.T, C.P., S.C. wrote the main manuscript text. K.T., C.P, Q.X., K.D., J.S., prepared figures. All  
508 authors reviewed the manuscript.

509

#### 510 **Additional Information**

511 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

512

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520 experiments.

521

## 522 **Figure Legend**

### 523 **Figure 1- Human macrophages survive *in vivo* for up to two weeks post** 524 **injection following Brain injection**

525 A) Micrographs of 3D projections showing distribution and survival of human  
526 primary macrophages (blue) injected into the hind brain of transgenic zebrafish  
527 embryos mp<sub>x</sub>:GFP (neutrophils-green)/flk:mCherry (vessels-red) at 2 days post  
528 fertilization (2dpf). Left panel 1 day post injection (1dpi) when embryo is 3dpf and  
529 right panel, same fish 7dpi when at 9dpf. Scale bar = 100 μm.

530 B) Micrographs show that cells can persist for up to 2 weeks after injection at 16dpf.  
531 Left panel: micrograph shows tiled image of the 16dpf zebrafish, white square  
532 highlights region of interest in the zebrafish brain. Scale bar = 500 μm. Right panel:  
533 micrograph of the inset where the white arrows indicate human cells. Scale bar =  
534 100 μm.

### 535 **Figure 2- Human macrophages survive *in vivo* for up to one week post injection** 536 **following injection directly into the circulation of the zebrafish**

537 A) Top panel: Schematic showing experimental set up where human macrophages  
538 were directly injected into the circulation of 2 days post-fertilization, 2dpf embryos.  
539 Middle panels: micrograph shows tiled image of the 3dpf zebrafish, 1 day post  
540 injection (1dpi) showing distribution and survival of human primary macrophages

541 (blue) injected into transgenic zebrafish embryos, fli:GFP (vessels-green). Bottom  
542 panels: Micrographs of 3D projections at higher magnification of insets highlighted  
543 in tiled images showing distribution and survival of human primary macrophages  
544 (blue).

545 B) Top panel: micrograph shows tiled image of the 9dpf zebrafish, 7 days post  
546 injection (7dpi) showing distribution and survival of human primary macrophages  
547 (blue) injected into transgenic zebrafish embryos, fli:GFP (vessels-green). Bottom  
548 panel: Micrographs of 3D projections at higher magnification of insets highlighted  
549 in tiled image showing distribution and survival of human primary macrophages  
550 (blue).

551 **Figure 3- Primary human monocytes survive at physiological temperature of**  
552 **the zebrafish *in vitro* and *in vivo*.**

553 A) Primary human monocytes (blue) were injected into the hind brain of transgenic  
554 zebrafish embryos, GFAP:GFP (astrocytes-green)-flk:mCherry (vessels-red) at  
555 2dpf. Micrographs show representative images where fish was imaged serially over  
556 the course of 3 days post injection at interval of 24hrs.

557 B) Cells were either cultured at physiological temperature of humans (37°C) or at  
558 physiological temperature of zebrafish (28.5°C). Plot (mean±SD) of average  
559 survival calculated for primary human monocytes obtained from 4 donors where the  
560 numbers of cells that survived over the course of 7 days were normalized to the

561 original seeding density. Days in culture was a statistically significant factor in  
562 survival by two-way ANOVA.

563 C) Plot (mean±SD) of average *in vivo* survival calculated for primary human  
564 monocytes obtained from 50 larvae where the numbers of cells that survived over  
565 the course of 3 days were normalized to the initial numbers measured one day post  
566 injection. Statistical analysis where \*\* indicates a p value of  $p<0.01$  and \*\*\*\*  
567 indicates a p value of  $p<0.0001$  by. Scatter plots show values for individual fish. Not  
568 all fish survived to 5 days post injection.

569 **Figure 4- Flow cytometry determined that primary human monocytes can**  
570 **survive and differentiate into macrophages at physiological temperature of the**  
571 **zebrafish *in vitro***

572 Human primary monocytes were cultured at physiological temperature of zebrafish  
573 (28.5°C) or at physiological temperature of humans (37°C) with or without  
574 differentiation by cytokine human macrophage colony stimulating factor (H-MCSF)  
575 for five days. A) Micrographs show the morphology of cells in the presence or  
576 absence of cytokine. B) Graphs (mean±SD) showing fraction of migrated cells in  
577 response or absence of isolated zebrafish astrocytes in a transwell assay. \*,  $p<0.05$   
578 by Tukey's multiple comparisons post-test. C) Primary monocytes from 5 donors  
579 were either cultured at physiological temperature of humans (37°C) or at  
580 physiological temperature of zebrafish (28.5°C) with or without H-MCSF. Plot

581 (mean±SD) of average survival calculated for primary human  
582 monocytes/macrophages that survived over the course of 5 days were normalized to  
583 the original seeding density. Significantly more cells survived at 28.5°C vs. 37°C in  
584 the presence or absence of H-MCSF by two-way ANOVA. D) Flow cytometry  
585 where expression for CD86 was determined for each condition. Red curve indicates  
586 control where shift in blue curve indicates induced expression.

587 **Figure 5- Flow cytometry determined primary human monocytes take a longer**  
588 **time to differentiate into macrophages at physiological temperature of the**  
589 **zebrafish *in vitro***

590 Human primary monocytes were cultured at physiological temperature of zebrafish  
591 (28.5°C, left panels) or at physiological temperature of humans (37°C, right panels)  
592 with cytokine human macrophage colony stimulating factor (H-MCSF) for five,  
593 eight and 11 days. A-B) Flow cytometry where expression for CD86 and CD206 were  
594 determined for each condition. Red curve indicates control where shift in blue curve  
595 indicates induced expression.

596 **Figure 6- Primary human macrophages can survive at physiological**  
597 **temperature of the zebrafish *in vivo* and do not cause a sustained inflammatory**  
598 **response.**

599 Monocytes that had been cultured in the presence of human macrophage colony  
600 stimulating factor (H-MCSF) for five days A) at physiological temperature of

601 (28.5°C) and B) at physiological temperature of humans (37°C). Primary human  
602 macrophages (blue) were injected into the hind brain of transgenic zebrafish  
603 embryos, Mpeg:GFP (macrophages-green)/flk:mCherry (vessels-red) or Mpx:GFP  
604 (neutrophils-green)/flk:mCherry (vessels-red) at 2 days post fertilization (2dpf).  
605 Micrographs of 3D projections showing distribution and survival of human primary  
606 macrophages 1 day post injection (1dpi) when larvae are 3dpf and right panel, same  
607 fish at 7dpi when larvae are 9dpf.

608 **Figure 7- Primary human macrophages show gene expression of activated**  
609 **phenotypes *in vivo* comparable to macrophages cultured *in vitro* at**  
610 **physiological temperatures of the zebrafish and human**

611 A) Graphs show relative gene expression in specific markers for TNF- $\alpha$  and CD163,  
612 CCL18, VEGF for human macrophages cultured *in vitro* in the presence of  
613 recombinant EGF and TNF- $\alpha$  for 24 hours at physiological temperature of zebrafish  
614 (28.5°C) or at physiological temperature of humans (37°C).

615 B) Graphs show *in vivo* relative gene expression in specific markers for TNF- $\alpha$  and  
616 CD163, CCL18, VEGF for human macrophages after 24 hours injected into the brain  
617 of the zebrafish.

618

619 **Supplemental Figure 1- Human immortalized monocytes and primary**  
620 **macrophages survive *in vivo* for one week**



621 A) Micrographs of 3D projections showing distribution and survival of human  
622 primary macrophages (blue) injected into the hind brain of transgenic zebrafish  
623 embryos, Mpeg:GFP (zebrafish macrophages-green), at 3 days post fertilization  
624 (3dpf). Left panel shows 1 day post injection (1dpi) when larvae is 3dpf and right  
625 panel, same fish 7dpi when at 9dpf. Scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m.

626 B) U937 human monocytes (blue) were injected into the hind brain of transgenic  
627 zebrafish embryos, GFAP:GFP (astrocytes-green)/flk:mCherry (vessels-red) at 2  
628 days post fertilization (2dpf). Left panel shows 3D projection of injected cells on the  
629 day of injection, with detail shown in the inset. Right panel illustrates that these cells  
630 can survive over time, showing injected embryo one week after injection at 9 dpf.

631 C) Micrographs show that cells can persist for up to 2 weeks after injection into  
632 Mpx:GFP (neutrophils-green)/flk:mCherry (vessels- red) at 2 days post fertilization  
633 (2dpf). Left panel: micrograph shows tiled image of the 16dpf zebrafish, white  
634 square highlights region of interest in the zebrafish brain. Scale bar = 500  $\mu$ m. Right  
635 panel: micrograph of the inset where the white arrow indicates the human cell in  
636 contact with the blood vessel in the mid-hind brain. Scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m.

637

638 **Supplemental Figure 2- Human immortalized monocytes show similar**  
639 **motilities to zebrafish immune cells *in vivo***

640 A) Plot (mean±SD) of average speeds calculated for brain resident zebrafish  
641 macrophages, neutrophils and human monocytes (U937) *in vivo*. Statistical analysis  
642 where \*\*\*\* indicates  $p < 0.0001$  by ordinary one-way ANOVA with Tukey's  
643 multiple comparisons post-test.

644 B) Micrographs show initial position of cells and final position of cells for up to 60  
645 minutes where average speed of human monocytes was calculated from 3D images.  
646 Top panel- brain resident zebrafish macrophages, middle panel- brain resident  
647 zebrafish neutrophils and bottom panel- human monocytes injected into the hind  
648 brain.

649 **Supplemental Figure 3- Primary human monocytes show similar survival in**  
650 **different strains *in vivo*.**

651 A) Primary human monocytes (blue) were injected into the hind brain of transgenic  
652 zebrafish embryos, GFAP:GFP (astrocytes- green) at 2dpf. Micrographs show  
653 representative images where fish was imaged serially over the course of 2 days post  
654 injection (2dpi, 4dpf) at interval of 24hrs.

655 B) Primary human monocytes (blue) were injected into the hind brain of transgenic  
656 zebrafish embryos, Mpeg:GFP (zebrafish macrophages- green) at 2dpf.  
657 Micrographs show representative images where fish was imaged serially over the  
658 course of 2 days post injection (2dpi, 4dpf) at interval of 24hrs.

659 C) Top panel- Plot (mean $\pm$ 95% CI) of average *in vivo* survival calculated for  
660 primary human monocytes obtained from n=30 larvae for GFAP:GFP and n=7  
661 larvae for Mpeg:GFP, where the numbers of cells that survived over the course of  
662 2days were normalized to the initial numbers measured one day post injection.  
663 Bottom panel- Graph displays relative distribution of survival based on the initial  
664 number of cells.

665 **Supplemental Figure 4- Primary human macrophages differentiated at**  
666 **physiological temperatures of the zebrafish or human show similar survival in**  
667 **different strains *in vivo***

668 Primary human macrophages (blue) were injected into the hind brain of transgenic  
669 zebrafish embryos, Mpeg:GFP (macrophages- green)/flk:mCherry (vessels-red) or  
670 Mpx:GFP (neutrophils-green)/flk:mCherry (vessels-red) at 2 days post fertilization  
671 (2dpf).

672 A) Plot (mean $\pm$ SD) of average *in vivo* survival calculated for primary human  
673 macrophages differentiated at physiological temperatures of the zebrafish or human  
674 obtained from 3 larvae each, where the numbers of cells that survived over the course  
675 of 7 days were normalized to the initial numbers measured one day post injection.  
676 Differences in survival were not significant by two-way ANOVA with Tukey's  
677 multiple comparisons post-test.

678 **Same as Figure 6 with no bright-field B-C**

679 Monocytes that had been cultured in the presence of human macrophage colony  
680 stimulating factor (H-MCSF) for five days **B**) at physiological temperature of  
681 zebrafish (28.5°C) and **C**) at physiological temperature of humans (37°C). Primary  
682 human macrophages (blue) were injected into the hind brain of transgenic zebrafish  
683 embryos, Mpeg:GFP (macrophages-green)/flk:mCherry (vessels-red) or Mpx:GFP  
684 (neutrophils-green)/flk:mCherry (vessels-red) at 2 days post fertilization (2dpf).  
685 Micrographs of 3D projections showing distribution and survival of human primary  
686 macrophages 1 day post injection (1dpi) when larvae are 3dpf and right panel, same  
687 fish at 7dpi (9dpf).

688

### 689 **Supplemental Movie Legend**

690 **Supplemental Movie 1-** Monocytes that had been cultured in the presence of human  
691 macrophage colony stimulating factor (H-MCSF) for eight days at physiological  
692 temperature of zebrafish (28.5°C) were directly injected into the circulation of 2 days  
693 post-fertilization (2dpf) embryos. Movie shows average intensity projection  
694 from 3D time-lapse ~3 hours post-injection for 15hours at a frame rate  
695 of 20 seconds/Zstack (33 planes, 2 µm z step) every 10 minutes.

696 **Supplemental Movie 2-** Monocytes that had been cultured in the presence of human  
697 macrophage colony stimulating factor (H-MCSF) for eight days at physiological  
698 temperature of human (37°C) were directly injected into the circulation of 2 days

699 post-fertilization (2dpf) embryos. Movie shows average intensity projection  
700 from 3D time-lapse ~3 hours post-injection for 15hours at a frame rate  
701 of 20 seconds/Zstack (33 planes, 2  $\mu\text{m}$  z step) every 10 minutes.  
702

703

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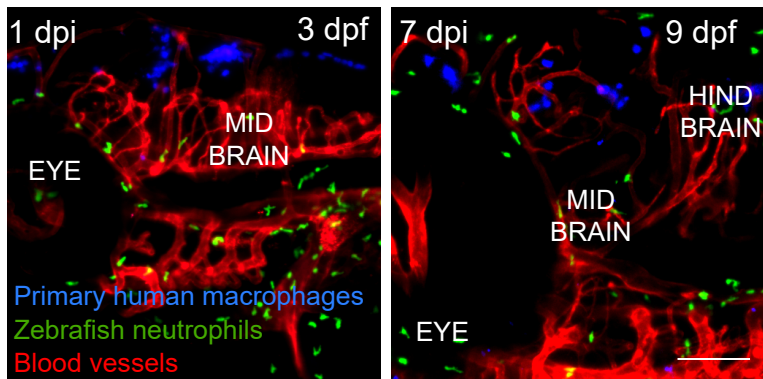


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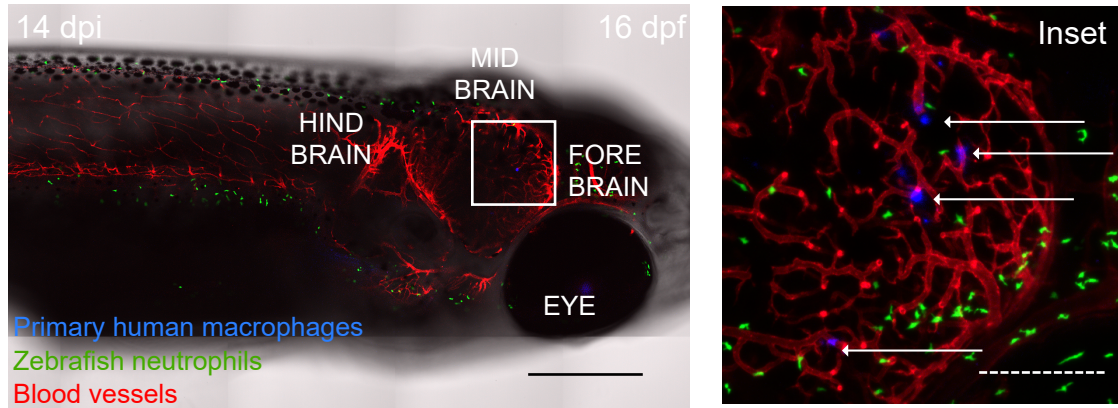


# Figure 1

A

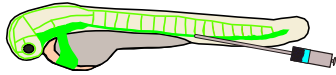


B

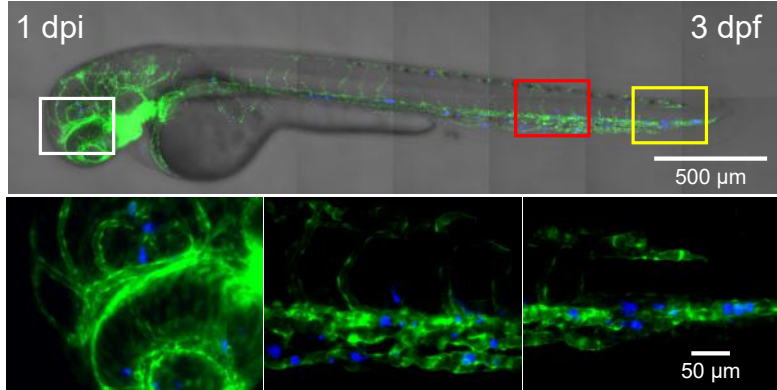


# Figure 2

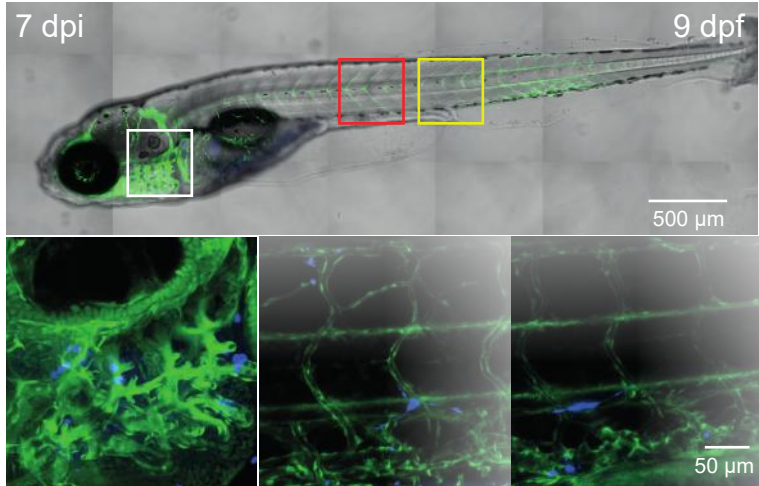
A



**Blood vessels**  
Primary human macrophages



B



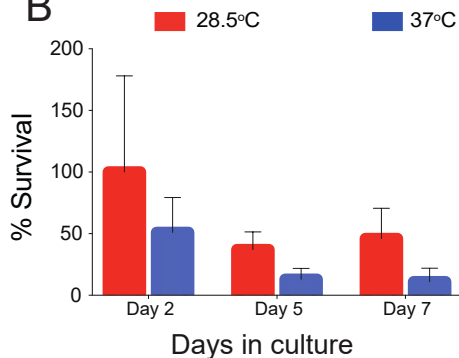
**Blood vessels**  
Primary human macrophages

# Figure 3

A

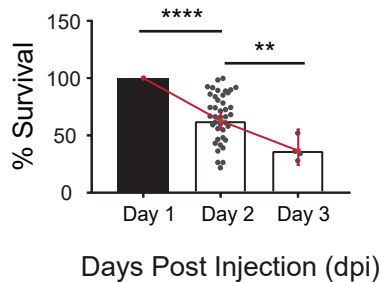


B



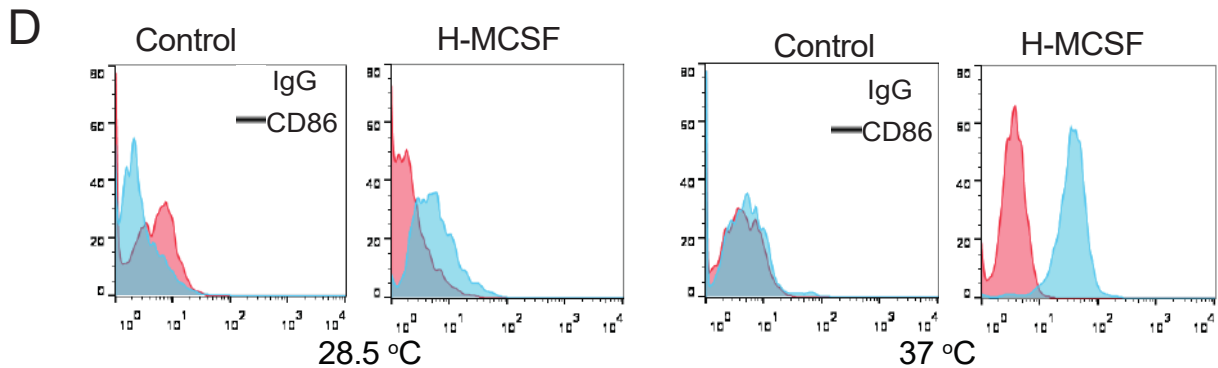
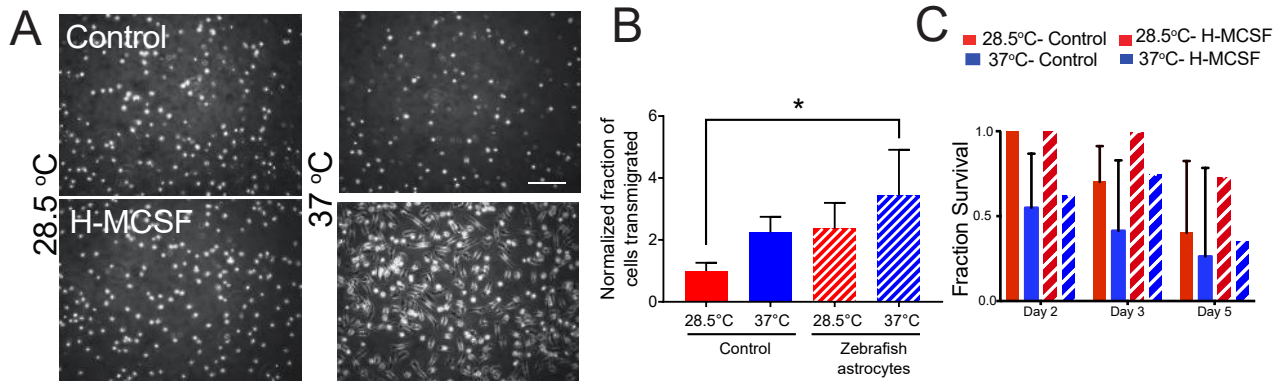
in vitro  
Human Monocyte Cell Survival

C

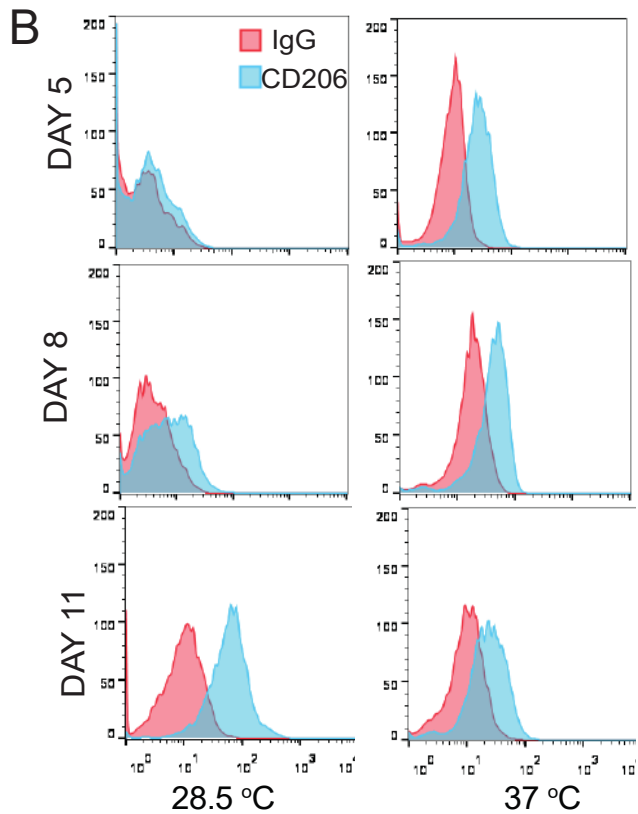
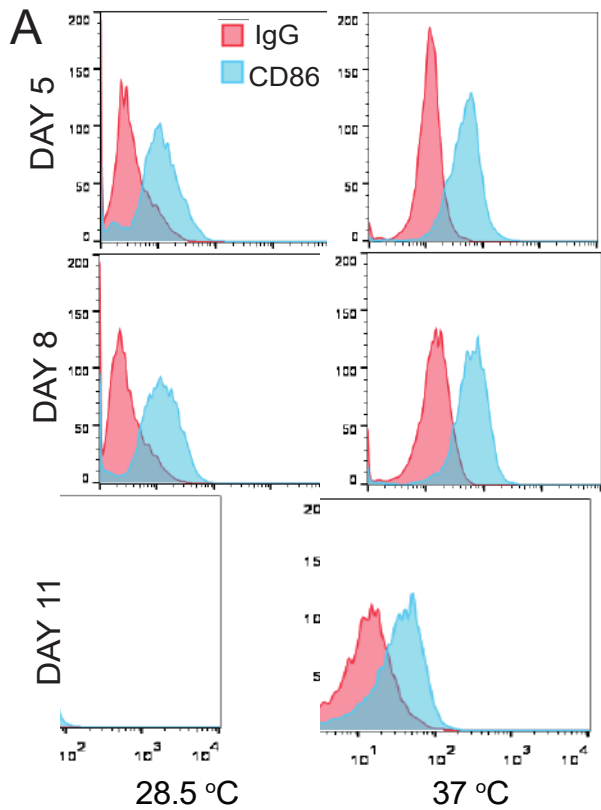


in vivo  
Human Monocyte Cell Survival

# Figure 4



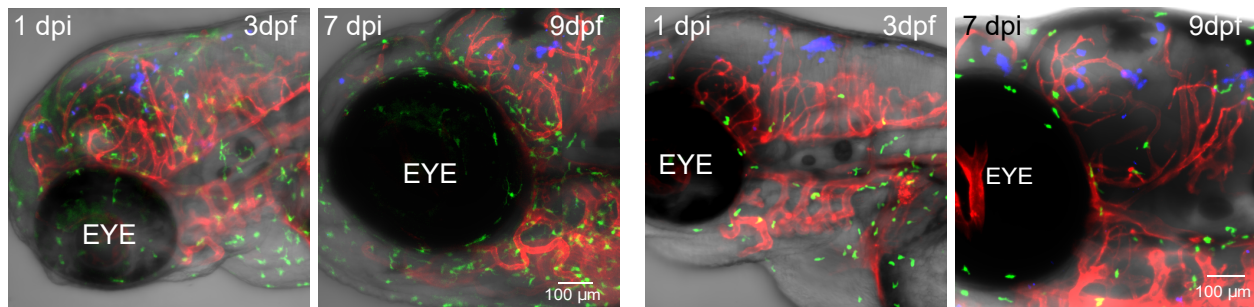
# Figure 5



# Figure 6

## A

28.5 °C 5 Days post H-MCSF

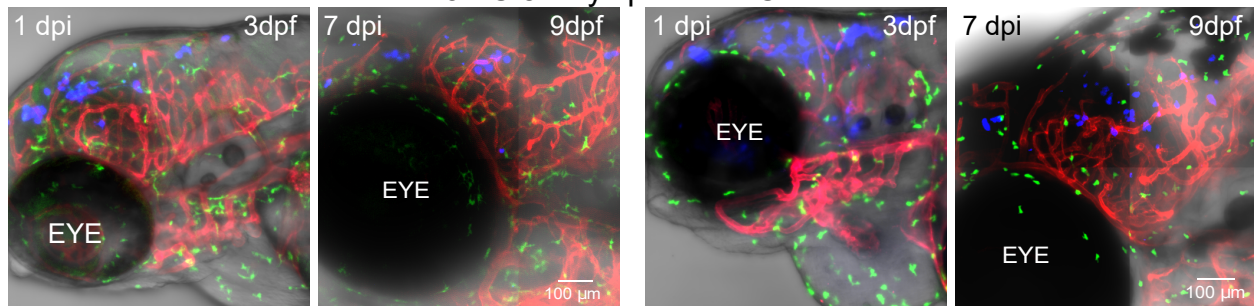


Primary human macrophages  
Zebrafish macrophages  
Blood vessels

Primary human macrophages  
Zebrafish neutrophils  
Blood vessels

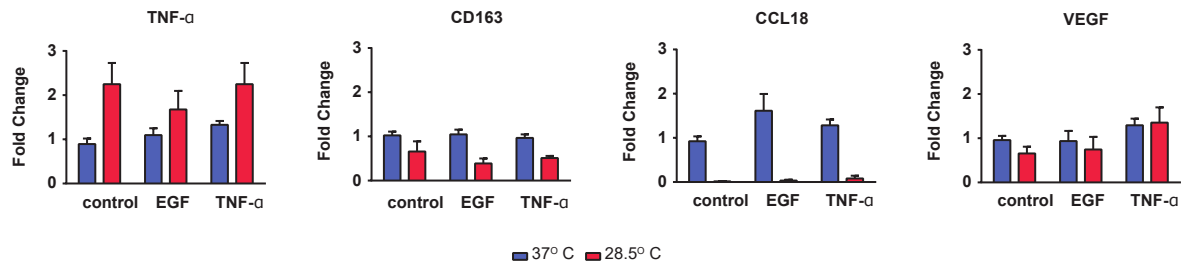
## B

37°C 5 Days post H-MCSF

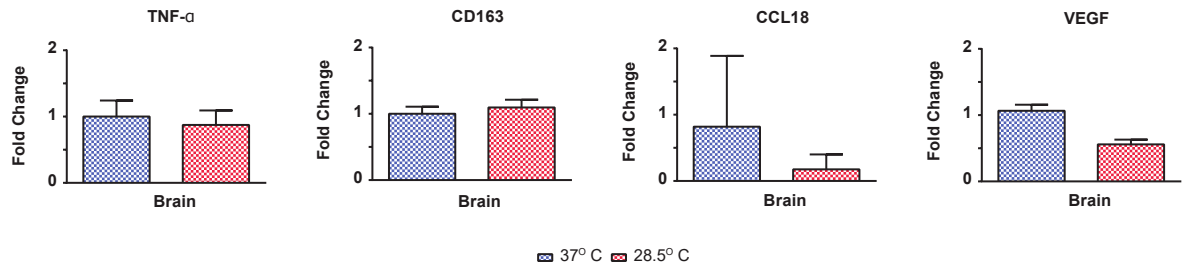


# Figure 7

## A IN VITRO

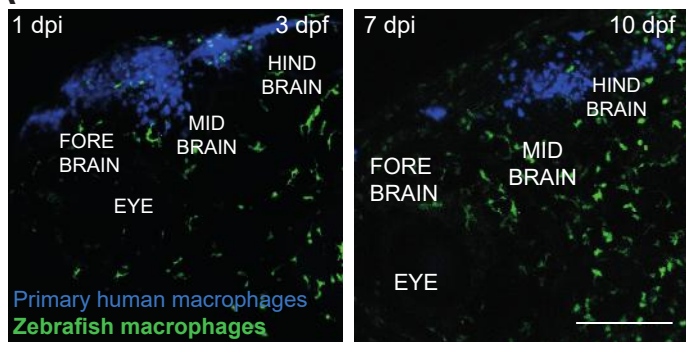


## B IN VIVO

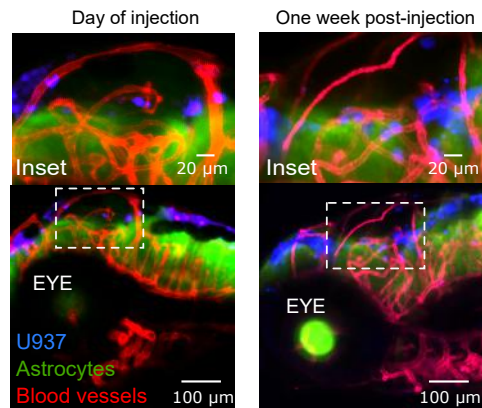


# Supplementary Figure 1

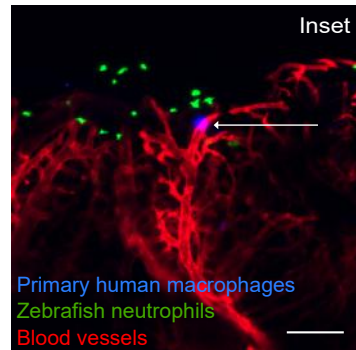
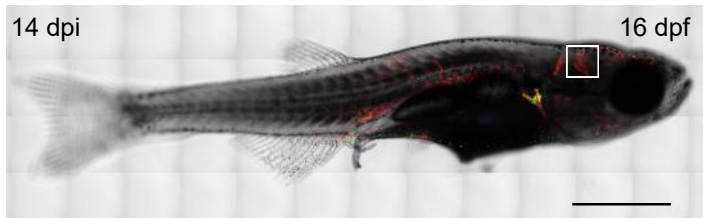
A



B



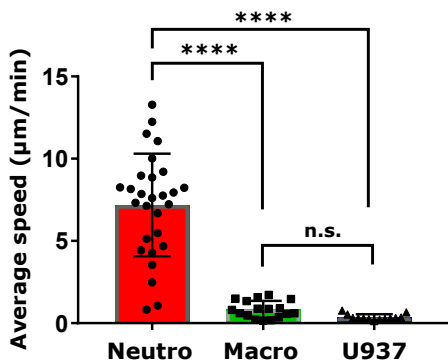
C



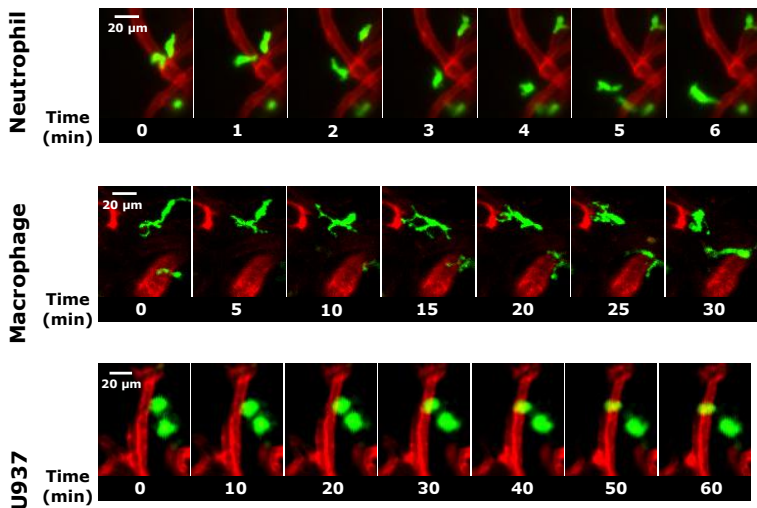


# Supplementary Figure 2

A

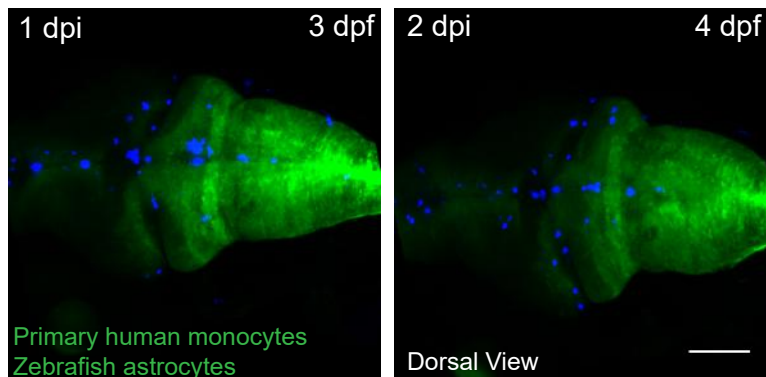


B

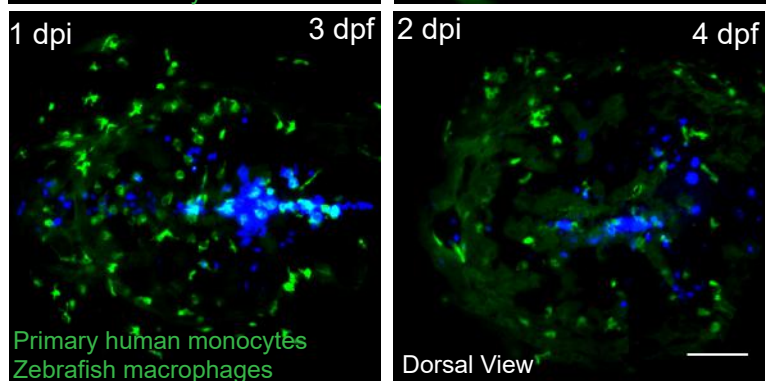


# Supplementary Figure 3

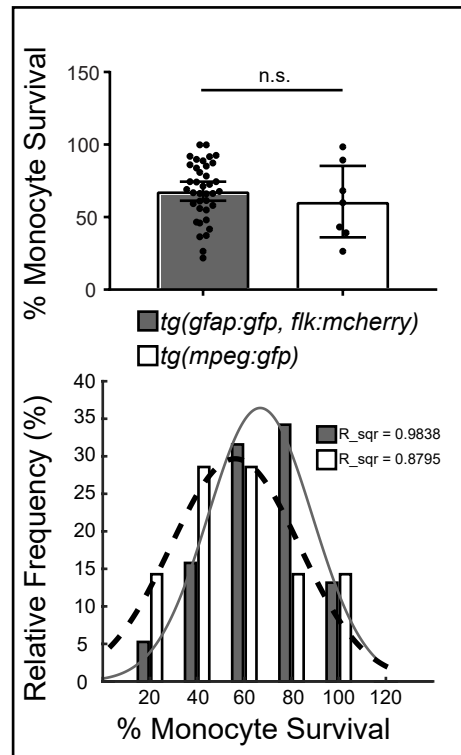
A



B

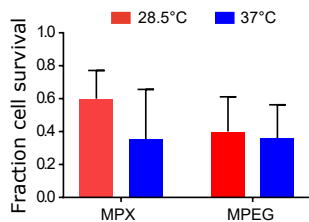


C

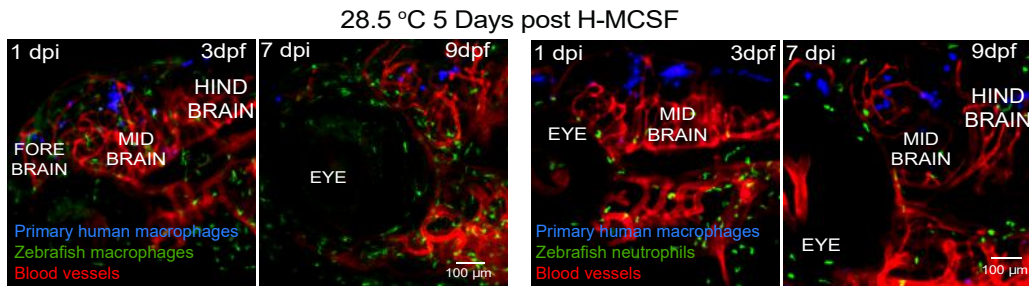


# Supplementary Figure 4

A



B



C

