

# 1     **Single Nucleus Multiomic Profiling Reveals Age-Dynamic Regulation** 2     **of Host Genes Associated with SARS-CoV-2 Infection**

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58 **SUMMARY**

59 Respiratory failure is the leading cause of COVID-19 death and disproportionately  
60 impacts adults more than children. Here, we present a large-scale snATAC-seq dataset  
61 (90,980 nuclei) of the human lung, generated in parallel with snRNA-seq (46,500 nuclei),  
62 from healthy donors of ~30 weeks, ~3 years and ~30 years of age. Focusing on genes  
63 implicated in SARS-CoV-2 cell entry, we observed an increase in the proportion of  
64 alveolar epithelial cells expressing *ACE2* and *TMPRSS2* in adult compared to young  
65 lungs. Consistent with expression dynamics, 10 chromatin peaks linked to *TMPRSS2*  
66 exhibited significantly increased activity with age and harbored IRF and STAT binding  
67 sites. Furthermore, we identified 14 common sequence variants in age-increasing peaks  
68 with predicted regulatory function, including several associated with respiratory traits and  
69 *TMPRSS2* expression. Our findings reveal a plausible contributor to why children are  
70 more resistant to COVID-19 and provide an epigenomic basis for transferring this  
71 resistance to older populations.

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75 **Keywords:**

76 COVID-19, lung, SARS-CoV-2, single cell ATAC-seq, single cell RNA-seq, age dynamics,  
77 *ACE2*, *TMPRSS2*, human sequence variants, interferon signaling pathway.

## 78 INTRODUCTION

79       Aside from fulfilling gas-exchange functions that are vital for survival beginning with  
80 the first breath, the lung functions as a critical barrier to protect against inhaled pathogens  
81 such as viruses. As the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the world, the lung came into  
82 focus because acute respiratory distress (ARDS) is the primary cause of mortality. Thus,  
83 understanding how SARS-CoV-2 infects and impacts the lung has become an urgent call-  
84 to-action.

85       The lung is composed of an elaborate airway tree that conducts air to and from the  
86 distal gas-exchange units called the alveoli. In an average human adult lung, an estimated  
87 480 million alveoli give rise to approximately 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of gas-exchange surface area  
88 (Ochs et al., 2004). Airway and alveolar epithelium constitute the respiratory barrier that  
89 is exposed to inhaled pathogens. Respiratory epithelial cells are thereby at the frontline  
90 of infection, although pathogens that have bypassed the barrier can infect other cell types.  
91 The human airway epithelium is composed of luminal cells and basal cells. Luminal cells  
92 include club cells and goblet cells that moisturize the air and trap pathogens, as well as  
93 ciliated cells that sweep out inhaled particles. These luminal cells are underlined by basal  
94 cells, which serve as progenitors when luminal cells are lost after infection. The alveolar  
95 epithelium is composed of alveolar type 1 cells (AT1s) which line the gas-blood interface  
96 and alveolar type 2 cells (AT2s) which produce surfactant to reduce surface tension and  
97 protect against pathogens. While SARS-CoV-2 likely infects both the airway and alveolar  
98 regions of the lung, it is the damage to the alveolar region that underlines acute respiratory  
99 distress syndrome (Du et al., 2020).

100       Several large scale studies including efforts from LungMap and the Human Cell Atlas  
101 aim to generate a map of cell types in the human lung with single cell transcriptomics as  
102 the central modality (Reyfman et al., 2019; Schiller et al., 2019; Travaglini et al., 2020; Xu  
103 et al., 2016). Regions of the human genome, such as promoters or distal enhancers, can  
104 regulate cell-type specific gene expression in *cis* (Consortium, 2012; Roadmap  
105 Epigenomics et al., 2015; Thurman et al., 2012). Accessible or ‘open’ chromatin is a  
106 hallmark of *cis*-regulatory elements, and can be assayed using techniques such as  
107 DNase-seq and ATAC-seq (Buenrostro et al., 2013; Thurman et al., 2012). To overcome  
108 tissue heterogeneity single cell technologies like single cell ATAC-seq have been

109 developed to map the epigenome and gene regulatory programs in component cell types  
110 within heterogeneous tissues (Buenrostro et al., 2015; Chen et al., 2018; Cusanovich et  
111 al., 2015; Cusanovich et al., 2018; Lareau et al., 2019; Satpathy et al., 2019). Profiles  
112 derived from single cells can elucidate cell type-specific *cis*-regulatory elements,  
113 transcriptional regulators driving element activity, and predicted target genes of distal  
114 elements using single cell co-accessibility (Cusanovich et al., 2018; Lareau et al., 2019;  
115 Pliner et al., 2018; Preissl et al., 2018; Satpathy et al., 2019). Human sequence variants  
116 affecting susceptibility to complex physiological and disease traits are enriched in non-  
117 coding sequence (Maurano et al., 2015; Pickrell, 2014), and cell type-specific profiles  
118 derived from single cell epigenomic data can help prioritize cell types of action for these  
119 variants (Chiou et al., 2019; Corces et al., 2020).

120 Both *in silico* structural modeling as well as biochemical assays have implicated  
121 several key host proteins at the top of the hierarchy for SARS-CoV-2 infection. ACE2 has  
122 been demonstrated as the receptor for not only the original SARS-CoV, but also SARS-  
123 CoV-2 (Lan et al., 2020; Yan et al., 2020). Based mainly on literature from the original  
124 SARS-CoV as well as emerging data from SARS-CoV-2 (Huang et al., 2006; Matsuyama  
125 et al., 2020; Reinke et al., 2017; Walls et al., 2020; Zhou et al., 2016), TMPRSS2 and  
126 CTSL are responsible for fusion of the virus with host cell by cleaving the viral Spike  
127 protein. BSG is a receptor that can bind to the SARS-CoV spike protein (Chen et al.,  
128 2005) and SARS-CoV-2 contains a novel cleavage site for the protease Furin, adding  
129 both genes to the list of host machinery hijacked by the virus (Coutard et al., 2020;  
130 Walls et al., 2020). In this study, we will focus on the genes encoding these 5 proteins,  
131 *ACE2*, *TMPRSS2*, *CTSL*, *BSG*, and *FURIN*, and determine their expression and  
132 associated epigenomic landscape at single cell resolution in the non-diseased human  
133 lung.

134 In the race to control the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a tremendous collective  
135 effort from the research community to elucidate the mechanism underlying SARS-CoV-2  
136 infection. Our study contributes to this effort through a unique dataset profiling the human  
137 lung. First, we generated single cell data across neonatal, pediatric, and adult lungs from  
138 three donors in each group. These data allowed us to assess age-associated changes  
139 with minimal technical variation. Second, from each lung sample, we generated parallel

140 snRNA-seq and snATAC-seq data. This combination allowed us to associate cell type-  
141 specific accessible chromatin profiles that may act as *cis*-regulatory regions that control  
142 cell-type specific gene expression. Using these data, we first addressed cell-type  
143 specificity and temporal dynamics of *ACE2*, *TMPRSS2*, *CTSL*, *BSG*, and *FURIN*  
144 expression. We next identified candidate *cis*-regulatory elements co-accessible with the  
145 promoters of these genes and characterized their cell-type specificity and temporal  
146 dynamics. Finally, we profiled sequence variation that may impact *cis*-regulatory element  
147 activity and contribute to differential susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 infection.

148 Emerging epidemiology data, including on US cases reported by the CDC,  
149 demonstrate that many fewer children tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection, and  
150 those who tested positive generally show less severe symptoms than adults or elderly  
151 individuals (Bi et al., 2020; CDC, 2020). This age divide coincides with the finding that  
152 normal lung development in humans continues until the early 20s (Narayanan et al.,  
153 2012). Therefore COVID-19 preferentially impacts fully mature lungs relative to  
154 developing lungs. Widespread speculation has attempted to explain these age-  
155 associated differences, including immune senescence in the aging population. Defining  
156 the mechanism underlying the apparent resistance of children to COVID-19 will inform  
157 how we can transfer this resistance to adult and elderly populations.

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159

## 160 **RESULTS**

161

### 162 **Single nucleus RNA-seq and ATAC-seq data generation**

163 To profile cell type specific gene expression and accessible chromatin dynamics in  
164 the human lung, we performed single nucleus RNA-seq (snRNA-seq) and single nucleus  
165 ATAC-seq (snATAC-seq) of non-diseased human lung tissue from donors of three age  
166 groups: ~30 week old gestational age (GA, prematurely born, 30wk<sup>GA</sup>), ~3 year old (3yo),  
167 and ~30 year old (30yo) (Supplementary Table 1). Three lungs were sampled for each  
168 age group, with both males and females represented (Supplementary Table 1). Of the 9  
169 donors, 5 were Caucasian, 1 was African American and 3 were of unknown ancestry. For  
170 all samples, flash frozen biopsies from equivalent small airway regions of the lung were

171 used. Nuclei were isolated from individual biopsies and split into two pools, one for  
172 snRNA-seq and one for snATAC-seq. For snATAC-seq, we generated technical  
173 replicates for one of the 3yo donors (D032) and an additional dataset for a lung sample  
174 from a 4-month-old donor (Supplementary Table 1).

175 To generate snRNA-seq libraries, we used the droplet-based Chromium Single Cell  
176 3' solution (10x Genomics) (Zheng et al., 2017). The datasets showed a clear separation  
177 of nuclei from background in the knee plot (Figure S1A). The average number of nuclei  
178 that passed initial quality control filtering per sample was 6,676 for 30wk<sup>GA</sup>, 7,379 for 3yo,  
179 and 4,217 for 30yo (Figure S1B). Since we profiled nuclei with a high fraction of nascent,  
180 unspliced RNA molecules, sequencing reads were mapped to an exon+intron reference.  
181 We detected on average 1,662 gene/nuclei for 30wk<sup>GA</sup>, 1,394 for 3yo and 1,260 for 30yo  
182 (Figure S1C). Libraries were sequenced to comparable saturation (58.4 % for 30wk<sup>GA</sup>,  
183 51.6 % for 3yo and 55.0 % for 30yo; Fig. S1D).

184 For snATAC-seq library generation we used a semi-automated combinatorial  
185 barcoding platform (Cusanovich et al., 2015; Fang et al., 2019; Preissl et al., 2018) . For  
186 each dataset, nuclei with >1,000 uniquely mapped sequencing reads were included in the  
187 analysis (Fig. S1E). The average number of nuclei that passed this threshold per age  
188 group was 8,691 for 30wk<sup>GA</sup>, 7,877 for 3yo and 8,034 for 30yo (Fig. S1F). The average  
189 number of reads per nucleus was 6,399 for 30wk<sup>GA</sup>, 7,199 for 3yo and 8,362 for 30yo  
190 (Fig. S1G). The fraction of reads in peaks (FRiP) on average per data set was 52.8 % for  
191 30wk<sup>GA</sup>, 54.4 % for 3yo and 45.6 % for 30yo (Fig. S1H). These values indicate  
192 consistently high signal to noise ratios for all libraries.

193

### 194 **Age-linked increase in host genes for SARS-CoV-2 entry**

195 In total, 46,500 single nucleus transcriptomes were included in the analysis after  
196 filtering out low quality nuclei and potential barcode collisions (Figure S1, Supplementary  
197 Table 2, see **Methods**). Following batch correction all datasets were merged, and 31  
198 clusters were identified (Figure 1A). These clusters represented all major cell types in the  
199 small airway region of the lung, as well as rare cell types such as pulmonary  
200 neuroendocrine cells (Figure 1A, Figure S2A, Supplementary Table 2). We identified  
201 14,527 epithelial cells (31.2 % of all nuclei) in our snRNA-seq dataset. This optimal

202 representation and large number of cells allowed us power to profile gene expression  
203 patterns of viral entry genes in lung epithelial cells. For downstream analysis, we excluded  
204 an unclassified cluster, and enucleated erythrocytes because the latter were only  
205 detected in a single neonatal sample, consistent with immaturity (Figure 1A).

206 Focusing on SARS-CoV-2 viral entry genes, we found that *ACE2* transcript was  
207 detected in very few nuclei (total 80 nuclei) in the normal lung and these nuclei were  
208 enriched within the epithelial lineage (Figure 1B, Supplementary Table 2). Alveolar type  
209 2 (AT2) cells had the highest number of *ACE2*<sup>+</sup> nuclei, accounting for 48.8% of all *ACE2*-  
210 expressing nuclei (39 out of total 80 *ACE2*<sup>+</sup> nuclei). In comparison, *TMPRSS2* transcript  
211 was detected more frequently (e.g. in 3,315/7,226 nuclei, or 45.8% of the AT2 cells,  
212 Figure 1C, Supplementary Table 2). Most *TMPRSS2*-expressing cells were epithelial  
213 cells including alveolar type 1 and 2 (AT1, AT2) cells and airway cells such as club,  
214 ciliated and goblet cells (Figure 1C, Supplementary Table 2). We also detected significant  
215 correlation between the fraction of *ACE2*<sup>+</sup> and *TMPRSS2*<sup>+</sup> AT2 nuclei (Figure S2E) and  
216 found 21 of the 39 *ACE*<sup>+</sup> AT2 cells also expressed *TMPRSS2* (Supplementary Table 2).  
217 The other three candidate genes of SARS-CoV-2 host cell entry *CTSL*, *BSG* and *FURIN*  
218 were expressed in a large number of AT1, AT2, matrix fibroblast, and M1 macrophage  
219 cells, as well as a small number of additional cell types (Figure S2B-D, Supplementary  
220 Table 2). These findings suggest that among cells that constitute the barrier exposed to  
221 inhaled pathogens, cell types in both the airway and alveolar epithelium express genes  
222 critical for SARS-CoV-2 entry.

223 We next asked if there were genes enriched in *ACE2*<sup>+</sup> AT2 cells as compared to *ACE2*<sup>-</sup>  
224 AT2 cells to identify potentially co-expressed genes. Among genes that showed a trend  
225 for higher expression in *ACE2*<sup>+</sup> compared to *ACE2*<sup>-</sup> cells was *IFNGR1* ( $\log_2$  (fold change)  
226 = 0.4,  $-\log_{10}(\text{p-value})=5.0$ ; FDR corrected  $p=0.257$ , Supplementary Table 3), raising the  
227 possibility that *ACE2* may be co-regulated with interferon pathway genes, in line with  
228 conclusions of a recent study (Ziegler, 2020). In our data generated from normal lungs  
229 this correlation was modest, suggesting there is low baseline co-expression of *ACE2* and  
230 *IFNGR1*. Among genes with increased expression in *TMPRSS2*<sup>+</sup> versus *TMPRSS2*<sup>-</sup> AT2  
231 cells was *ICAM1* ( $\log_2$  (fold change)=0.27,  $-\log_{10}(\text{FDR corrected } p)=12.2$ , Supplementary  
232 Table 3), which encodes a receptor for Rhinovirus (Zhou et al., 2017). The potential co-



233 expression of *TMPRSS2* and *ICAM1* may contribute to the often-observed co-infection  
234 by more than one respiratory virus. Indeed, co-infection of SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses  
235 including Rhinovirus has been observed, promoting urgent calls to halt the clinical  
236 practice of using positive test for other respiratory viruses as an indicator for the absence  
237 of coronavirus infection (Wang et al., 2020; Wu et al., 2020). To gain additional insight  
238 into the potential mechanisms of co-infection, we interrogated the expression of a number  
239 of known factors, receptors and proteases that have been implicated in viral entry for  
240 several key respiratory viruses (Figure S3)(Battles and McLellan, 2019; Bochkov and  
241 Gern, 2016; Laporte and Naesens, 2017; Peck et al., 2015). For examples, consistent  
242 with prior findings, we found that *CDHR3*, a receptor for Rhinovirus C, was expressed  
243 most abundantly in ciliated cells (Battles and McLellan, 2019; Bochkov and Gern, 2016;  
244 Laporte and Naesens, 2017; Peck et al., 2015). *ANPEP*, the entry receptor for HCoV-  
245 229E, was predominantly expressed in macrophages and to a lesser extent in club and  
246 other epithelial cells (Waradon Sungnak, 2020; Yeager et al., 1992). Compared to *ACE2*,  
247 *DPP4*, which encodes the host receptor for MERS-CoV, was detected much more  
248 frequently overall, and especially in AT2, AT1 and T cells (Figure S3) (Raj et al., 2013;  
249 Waradon Sungnak, 2020). This single cell resolved view may contribute to a  
250 comprehensive map of the routes of respiratory viral entry.

251 The leading cause of death for COVID-19 is Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome  
252 (ARDS) which is characterized by failure of gas-exchange due to destruction of the  
253 alveolar region of the lung (Du et al., 2020). AT2 is an abundant epithelial cell type in the  
254 alveolar region and expresses all of the SARS-CoV-2 viral entry genes assayed here and  
255 likely bears the brunt of infection. Consequently, we focused on AT2 cells for follow up  
256 analysis. We found that the percentage of AT2 cells expressing *ACE2* had an increasing  
257 trend in 30yo adult samples compared to 3yo samples (Figure 1D). In addition, we found  
258 a strong trend of increase in the percentage of AT2 cells expressing *TMPRSS2* in adult  
259 samples compared to 3yo samples ( $41.2 \pm 6.6\%$  for 3yo and  $57.4 \pm 7.7\%$  for 30yo,  $p =$   
260  $0.05$  (t-test), Figure 1E). While very few *ACE2*<sup>+</sup>/*TMPRSS2*<sup>+</sup> double positive AT2 nuclei  
261 were detected, the fraction of these nuclei in all AT2s increased with age (0.2 % (6 nuclei)  
262 in 30wk<sup>GA</sup>, 0.3% (5 nuclei) in 3yo and 0.5% (10 nuclei) in 30yo, Supplementary Table 2).  
263 Of note, one of the samples in the 30wk<sup>GA</sup> cohort D062 appeared to be an outlier in its

264 expression of multiple analyzed genes. A review of pathology notes revealed mild  
265 features of respiratory distress syndrome including epithelial autolysis and increased  
266 alveolar macrophages in this sample, suggesting potential reasons for the variation. In a  
267 supplementary analysis, excluding this sample resulted in stronger age-associated  
268 effects (Figure S2F, G). For example, there was a significant increase in the fraction of  
269 *TMPRSS2*<sup>+</sup> AT2 cells between 30wk<sup>GA</sup> and 30yo samples (Figure S2G).

270 The increase in proportion of AT2 cells expressing *ACE2* and *TMPRSS2* is unlikely  
271 due to differences in genes captured per nucleus as the adult samples had the lowest  
272 numbers of genes/nucleus, suggesting that the extent of expression increase is likely a  
273 conservative estimation (Figure S1C). In contrast to the percentage of AT2 nuclei  
274 expressing these genes, the expression levels per nucleus were not different across  
275 different age groups for either *ACE2* (no nucleus had >1 UMI detected) or *TMPRSS2*  
276 (Figure 1F). Together, an increased proportion of host cells expressed *TMPRSS2* and  
277 *ACE2* in adults, the latter just a trend due to the sparsity of *ACE2*<sup>+</sup> cells, suggesting that  
278 a higher percentage of cells in the adult lung can be infected by SARS-CoV-2.

279 Since a large proportion of COVID-19 patients are elderly, we sought to compare viral  
280 entry gene expression in aged lungs to expression in our samples. The LungMap Human  
281 Tissue Core, which provided the frozen biopsies for this study, does not have donors  
282 older than ~30. We therefore instead, identified 4 publicly available scRNA-seq datasets  
283 from non-diseased lungs of ages >55 that served as controls in pulmonary fibrosis studies  
284 (Morse et al., 2019; Reyfman et al., 2019). We integrated snRNA-seq data from our study  
285 (n=9) with these 4 scRNA-seq samples (Supplementary Table 1) using Seurat 3 (Stuart  
286 et al., 2019). AT2 cells clustered together across all samples with minimal evidence for  
287 batch effects (Figure S4A). Compared to 30yo samples, we observed a trend for  
288 increased frequency of *ACE2*<sup>+</sup> ( $p = 0.095$ ) and *TMPRSS2*<sup>+</sup> ( $p = 0.070$ ) AT2 cells in  
289 the >55yo group (Aged; Figure S4B). While these patterns are consistent with  
290 epidemiological findings that elderly are at highest risk, we make these observations  
291 cautiously due to the multiple potential confounding variables present when comparing  
292 across independent datasets spanning multiple methodologies.

293

## 294 **Annotation of *cis*-regulatory sequences linked to SARS-CoV-2 viral entry gene** 295 **activity**

296 To investigate *cis*-regulatory elements driving cell-type specific and age-related  
297 patterns of SARS-CoV-2 viral entry gene expression, we examined snATAC-seq data  
298 generated from the same nuclei preparations. After batch correction and filtering of low-  
299 quality nuclei and likely doublets, we clustered and analyzed a total of 90,980 single  
300 nucleus accessible chromatin profiles. We identified 19 clusters representing epithelial  
301 (AT2, AT2, club, ciliated, basal and neuroendocrine), mesenchymal (myofibroblast,  
302 pericyte, matrix fibroblast 1 and matrix fibroblast 2), endothelial (arterial, lymphatic, and  
303 2 clusters of capillaries), and hematopoietic cell types (macrophage, B-cell, T-cell, NK cell  
304 and enucleated erythrocyte) (Figure 2A). Supporting these cluster annotations, we  
305 observed cell type-specific patterns of chromatin accessibility at known marker genes for  
306 each cell type (Figure S5A).

307 Focusing on SARS-Cov-2 viral entry genes, both *ACE2* and *TMPRSS2* were primarily  
308 accessible throughout their gene body in alveolar cells such as AT1, AT2, and airway  
309 cells such as club, ciliated, and basal cells (Figure 2B). Conversely, the *CTSL* gene body  
310 exhibited chromatin accessibility across epithelial cells, mesenchymal cells, endothelial,  
311 and macrophages. *BSG* and *FURIN* also showed broad chromatin accessibility patterns  
312 with the highest activity in endothelial cells, such as capillaries (Figure 2B). Overall, the  
313 patterns of chromatin accessibility across cell types at genes involved in SARS-CoV-2  
314 cell entry substantiate our conclusions from snRNA-seq data, including the finding that  
315 *ACE2* and *TMPRSS2* are primarily expressed in alveolar and airway cells (Figure 1B,C).

316 To identify specific *cis*-regulatory elements that might control cell type-restricted  
317 expression of the SARS-CoV-2 viral entry genes in the lung, we aggregated cells within  
318 each cell type and called accessible chromatin sites from the aggregated profiles using  
319 MACS2 (Zhang et al., 2008). We then identified sites mapping within 650kb of each  
320 SARS-CoV-2 viral entry gene, and further identified sites that were co-accessible with the  
321 gene promoter using Cicero (Pliner et al., 2018). At the *ACE2* locus, we identified 165  
322 accessible chromatin sites mapping within the  $\pm 650$ kb window (Figure 2C,  
323 Supplementary Table 4). Of these 165 sites, only two were co-accessible with the *ACE2*  
324 promoter (Figure 2C, Supplementary Table 5). We speculate that the low number of co-

325 accessible sites is likely due to the small percentage of *ACE2*<sup>+</sup> nuclei (Figure 1B). When  
326 examining the accessibility of the 165 peaks at the *ACE2* locus across cell types, we  
327 observed clear sub-groupings of sites, including those specific to basal cells, specific to  
328 ciliated cells, and shared across basal, ciliated, AT1, AT2, and club cells (Figure 2C,  
329 Supplementary Table 5).

330 At the *TMPRSS2* locus, we identified 289 accessible chromatin sites mapping in the  
331  $\pm 650$ kb window, of which 37 were co-accessible with the *TMPRSS2* promoter (Figure 2D,  
332 Supplementary Tables 4 and 5). In agreement with *TMPRSS2* gene accessibility in  
333 alveolar and airway cells, 113 out of the 289 elements exhibited patterns of accessibility  
334 specific to basal, ciliated, club, AT1, and AT2 cells. We observed a basal cell-specific  
335 cluster and two broader epithelial cell clusters (basal, ciliated, and club enriched; and  
336 club, AT1, and AT2 enriched) (Figure 2D, Supplementary Table 5). Notably, the majority  
337 of sites co-accessible with *TMPRSS2* (25/37) were found within these broad alveolar- and  
338 airway-enriched clusters suggesting that these elements are likely responsible for  
339 alveolar and airway expression of *TMPRSS2*.

340 Finally, at the *CTSL*, *FURIN*, and *BSG* loci we identified 262, 293, and 272 accessible  
341 chromatin sites, respectively, within a  $\pm 650$ kb window of which 6, 56, and 47 were co-  
342 accessible with their respective gene promoters (Figure S5B, C, D, Supplementary  
343 Tables 4 and 5). Sites for all three genes exhibited broad patterns of accessible chromatin  
344 signal across cell types consistent with broad accessibility across gene bodies. This  
345 collection of cell-type resolved candidate *cis*-regulatory elements associated with SARS-  
346 CoV-2 host genes will be critically important for follow up studies to determine how host  
347 cell genes are regulated and how genetic variation within these elements contributes to  
348 infection rate and disease outcomes.

349  
350 ***Cis*-regulatory elements linked to *TPMRSS2* are part of an age-related regulatory**  
351 **program associated with immune signaling in AT2 cells**

352 Having observed increasing percentages of *TMPRSS2* expressing cells with age in  
353 AT2 cells (Figure 1E, Figure S2G), we speculated that *TMPRSS2* may be under the  
354 control of an age-related *cis* regulatory program. To investigate whether an age-  
355 associated *cis*-regulatory network exists in AT2 cells, we identified accessible chromatin

356 sites in AT2 cells that show dynamic accessibility across donor age groups. Based on our  
357 findings from snRNA-seq we speculate that these dynamics will be at least in part due to  
358 a higher number of cells expressing these genes rather than more activity within a cell.  
359 We tested all possible pairwise age comparisons between AT2 signal from each of the  
360 three groups of 30wk<sup>GA</sup>, 3yo, and 30yo donors while accounting for donor to donor  
361 variability (Figure 3A). Overall, we identified 22,745 age-linked sites in AT2 cells which  
362 exhibited significant differences (FDR<0.05) in any pairwise comparison (Figure 3A, B).  
363 Clustering of these dynamic peaks revealed five predominant groups of age-dependent  
364 chromatin accessibility patterns (cl-cV, Fig 3B).

365 We identified two clusters of AT2 sites exhibiting increasing accessibility with age  
366 including several sites at candidate genes for SARS-CoV-2 host genes (cIII 30yo enriched  
367 and cIV 3yo + 30yo) (Figure 3B, Figure S6A, B). Intriguingly, these two clusters were  
368 enriched for processes related to viral infection and immune response such as viral  
369 release from host cell, interferon-gamma mediated signaling pathway, and positive  
370 regulation of ERBB signaling pathway (Figure 3C, Supplementary Table 6). Also, these  
371 age-dependent clusters were also enriched for phenotypes substantiated in mouse  
372 studies, such as pulmonary epithelial necrosis, increased monocyte cell number, and  
373 chronic inflammation (Fig. 3C, Supplementary Table 6). Further supporting an immune  
374 association with age-related chromatin accessibility in AT2 cells, we observed an  
375 enrichment of sequence motifs within these clusters for transcription factors involved in  
376 immune signaling such as STAT, IRF, and FOS/JUN (Figure 3D, Supplementary Table  
377 7).

378 We focused on the *TMPRSS2* locus and determined how many of the 37 accessible  
379 chromatin sites co-accessible with the *TMPRSS2* promoter (in Figure 2D) showed  
380 increased accessibility with age in AT2 cells. We identified 13 sites with age-increased  
381 accessibility, of which 10 had significant effects (FDR < 0.05 via EdgeR and/or p < 0.05  
382 via t-test) (Figure 3E, F, Figure S6, Supplementary Table 5). Age-increasing sites linked  
383 to *TMPRSS2* harbored sequence motifs for transcription factors such as NKX, FOXA,  
384 CEBPA, and inflammation-related factors such as STAT, IRF, and FOS/JUN (Figure 3G)  
385 many of which were corroborated by available ChIP-seq data in lung related samples (Oki  
386 et al., 2018). Furthermore, at 12 of the 13 age-increasing sites, we uncovered additional

387 evidence for enhancer-related histone modifications from ENCODE supporting that they  
388 have *cis*-regulatory activity (Figure 3H) (Consortium, 2012). When viewed in genomic  
389 context these sites showed a clear age-dependent increase in read depth likely reflecting  
390 a higher fraction of accessible nuclei (Figure 3I).

391  
392 **Genetic variants predicted to affect age-increased *TMPRSS2* sites are associated**  
393 **with respiratory phenotypes and *TMPRSS2* expression**

394 Mapping the discrete accessible chromatin sites at genes required for SARS-CoV-2  
395 viral entry allowed us to next characterize non-coding sequence variation that might affect  
396 regulation of these sites and contribute to phenotypic differences in the risk of lung  
397 disease. In particular, we focused on the 37 sites linked to *TMPRSS2* activity including  
398 13 with age-increased chromatin accessibility.

399 In total, 8,002 non-singleton sequence variants in the gnomAD v3 database  
400 (Karczewski et al., 2019) overlapped a site either linked to or within 250kb of the  
401 *TMPRSS2* promoter. To determine which of these variants might affect regulatory activity  
402 in AT2 cells, we applied a machine learning approach (deltaSVM) (Lee et al., 2015) to  
403 model AT2 chromatin accessibility and predict variants with allelic effects on chromatin  
404 (see **Methods**). We identified 721 variants with significant effects (FDR<0.1) on AT2  
405 chromatin accessibility, of which 148 mapped in an age-dependent site linked to  
406 *TMPRSS2* (Figure 4A). Among these 148 variants, 14 were common (defined here as  
407 minor allele frequency > 1%) in at least one major population group in gnomAD, several  
408 of which were predicted to disrupt AT2 age-dynamic TF motifs such as FOS/JUN, IRF,  
409 STAT, RUNX, NKX and ESR1 (Figure 4A). The common variants generally had  
410 consistent frequencies across populations, except for rs35074065 which was much less  
411 common in East Asians (EAS) relative to other populations (MAF=0.005, Figure 4B).

412 We next determined whether common variants with predicted AT2 regulatory effects  
413 were associated with phenotypes related to respiratory function, infection, medication use  
414 or other traits using GWAS data generated using the UK Biobank (UKBB) (Sudlow et al.,  
415 2015). Across the 11 variants tested for association in UKBB data, the most significant  
416 association was between rs35074065 and emphysema ( $p=5.64 \times 10^{-7}$ ) (Figure 4C). This  
417 variant was also more nominally associated ( $p<0.005$ ) with asthma ( $p=6.7 \times 10^{-4}$ ) and

418 influenza vaccine ( $p=1.76\times 10^{-3}$ ). Furthermore, the majority of tested variants (8/11) were  
419 nominally associated ( $p<1\times 10^{-3}$ ) with at least one phenotype related to respiratory function  
420 or respiratory medication use including salmeterol + fluticasone propionate, which is  
421 commonly used to treat asthma and COPD (rs7279188  $p=1.3\times 10^{-5}$ ), bacterial pneumonia  
422 (rs2838089  $p=2.4\times 10^{-4}$ ), bronchiectasis (rs9974995  $p=7.1\times 10^{-4}$ , rs568517  $p=8.1\times 10^{-4}$ ),  
423 and COPD (rs1557372  $p=2.9\times 10^{-3}$ ) (Figure 4C).

424 Given that common AT2 variants showed predicted regulatory function and  
425 association with respiratory disease and infection phenotypes, we next asked whether  
426 these variants regulated the expression of *TMPRSS2* using human lung eQTL data from  
427 the GTEx v8 release. Among variants tested for association in GTEx, we observed a  
428 highly significant eQTL for *TMPRSS2* expression at rs35074065 ( $p=3.9\times 10^{-11}$ ) as well as  
429 more nominal eQTL evidence at rs1557372 ( $p=2.9\times 10^{-5}$ ) and rs9974995 ( $p=3.5\times 10^{-6}$ ).  
430 Furthermore, in fine-mapping data, rs35074065 had a high posterior probability  
431 (PPA=41.6%) and therefore likely has a direct casual effect on *TMPRSS2* expression  
432 (Figure 4D). This variant further disrupted sequence motifs for IRF and STAT transcription  
433 factors, suggesting that its effects may be mediated through interferon signaling and anti-  
434 viral programs (Figure 4D).

435 As the *TMPRSS2* eQTL at rs35074065 was identified in bulk lung samples, we finally  
436 sought to determine the specific cell types driving the effects of this eQTL. Using cell type-  
437 specific expression profiles derived from our snRNA-seq data, we estimated the  
438 proportions of 14 different cell types present in the 515 bulk lung RNA-seq samples from  
439 GTEx v8 (Figure 4E) (Aguet et al., 2019). We then tested the association between  
440 rs35074065 and *TMPRSS2* expression while including estimated cell type proportions for  
441 each sample in the eQTL model (see **Methods**). We observed highly significant  
442 association when including AT2 cell proportion ( $p=3.8\times 10^{-18}$ ) as well as macrophage  
443 proportion ( $p=4.0\times 10^{-12}$ ), supporting the possibility that the *TMPRSS2* eQTL at  
444 rs35074065 acts through AT2 cells and macrophages (Figure 4F).

445

446

447 **DISCUSSION**

448 In this study, we focused on the lung, the organ at the center of COVID-19 morbidity  
449 and mortality. We generated a snATAC-seq reference dataset of the healthy human lung  
450 at three postnatal stages, and in parallel generated snRNA-seq data from the same  
451 samples to allow comparison with gene expression. Importantly, datasets were produced  
452 using uniform tissue procurement and single nucleus technologies for both modalities  
453 across samples. This consistency allowed us to uncover age-associated dynamics in  
454 gene expression and regulation. While we focus on COVID-19 related genes in this study,  
455 the datasets more broadly enable in-depth analysis of cell-type resolved dynamics of  
456 chromatin accessibility and gene expression in the human lung. We hope these datasets  
457 will be further utilized by the community to enhance knowledge and treatment of lung  
458 diseases.

459 One of the strongest findings that has been corroborated by multiple large-scale  
460 epidemiological studies is that infants and children, while still susceptible to infection,  
461 generally do not develop symptoms as severe as adults (Bi et al., 2020; CDC, 2020).  
462 Although the underlying molecular basis of this skew is unclear and is likely multifactorial,  
463 our data demonstrate that *ACE2*<sup>+</sup> and *TMPRSS2*<sup>+</sup> and *ACE2*<sup>+</sup>/*TMPRSS2*<sup>+</sup> are detected  
464 in a higher proportion of AT2 nuclei in adult samples compared to the younger samples.  
465 These findings suggest that SARS-CoV-2 may enter proportionally fewer cells in younger  
466 lungs compared to adult lungs, leading to tempered viral replication and damage. While  
467 we await clinical validation of this finding, this difference in viral entry factors, in addition  
468 to likely differences in immune response to viral infection, may explain the age-related  
469 bias in COVID-19 severity.

470 The observed increase in the proportion of cells expressing viral entry genes is further  
471 corroborated by age-related changes in accessible chromatin, which offers insight for  
472 using gene regulatory mechanisms to restrict the expression of viral entry genes. For  
473 example, at the *TMPRSS2* locus we identified 10 accessible chromatin sites that showed  
474 significantly increased accessibility with age. These sites may therefore represent *cis*  
475 regulatory elements that contribute to activation of *TMPRSS2* gene expression in an  
476 increasing number of cells in adults and represent possible sites to modulate in order to  
477 restrict expression. Furthermore, one of the age-dependent sites harbors a sequence



478 variant (rs35074065) significantly associated with *TMPRSS2* expression and respiratory  
479 phenotypes, suggesting it may be of particular value in this context.

480 To explore potential avenues for manipulating the expression of viral entry genes, we  
481 identified transcription factors enriched in sites with increased chromatin accessibility in  
482 adult AT2 cells compared to younger AT2 cells. These included transcription factors  
483 involved in stress and immune responses. For example, key interferon pathway-related  
484 factors STAT and IRF have binding sites in the 10 age-increased *TMPRSS2* peaks. The  
485 likely causal *TMPRSS2* eQTL variant rs35074065 is predicted to disrupt STAT and IRF  
486 binding, raising the possibility that STAT and/or IRF binding at this site may directly control  
487 *TMPRSS2* gene expression.

488 While our findings suggest that interferon pathway transcription factors may play a  
489 role in regulating the expression of SARS-CoV-2 entry genes such as *TMPRSS2*,  
490 extensive preclinical studies are needed to validate this regulation in an *in vivo* context.  
491 As a key anti-viral factor, interferon is stimulated in host cells upon infection by viruses,  
492 likely including SARS-CoV-2 (Lukhele et al., 2019; Mesev et al., 2019; Xia et al., 2018).  
493 The literature contains conflicting data regarding whether and how viral infection may act  
494 through the interferon pathway to regulate viral entry gene expression. For example,  
495 binding of the original SARS-CoV spike protein to ACE2 receptor in mice led to reduced  
496 *Ace2* expression in the lung (Kuba et al., 2005). However, a recent single-cell study  
497 suggested that viral-induced interferon activation stimulates *ACE2* expression (Ziegler,  
498 2020). We caution that the potential effect of interferon signaling on COVID-19 needs to  
499 be investigated beyond viral entry, as the pathway likely has distinct roles in the different  
500 phases of the disease.

501 In our lung snRNA-seq data, *ACE2* is detected in a very small number of cells, a  
502 finding that is corroborated by a number of recent single cell studies (Qi et al., 2020;  
503 Waradon Sungnak, 2020; Zhao et al., 2020; Ziegler, 2020; Zou et al., 2020). The low  
504 fraction of nuclei that are *ACE2* positive could be due to low overall expression which in  
505 turn results in significant dropout in single cell or single nucleus RNA-seq. This suggests  
506 the possibility that *ACE2* may not be needed at high levels for viral attachment to host  
507 cells. Alternatively, it is plausible that alternative receptors such as BSG also facilitate  
508 SARS-CoV-2 attachment *in vivo*. Compared to *ACE2*, *BSG* is expressed and co-

509 expressed with proteases in a higher fraction of nuclei in AT2 and in additional cell types  
510 in the human lung.

511 To limit SARS-CoV-2 infection by manipulating the expression of viral entry proteins,  
512 we caution that inhibiting *ACE2* expression should not be a recommended strategy. Aside  
513 from being a viral receptor gene, *ACE2* is also required for protecting the lung from injury-  
514 induced acute respiratory distress phenotypes, the precise cause of COVID-19 mortality  
515 (Imai et al., 2005). Thus, inhibiting *ACE2* expression may compromise the ability of the  
516 lung to sustain damage. In comparison, *Tmprss2* mutant mice show no defects at  
517 baseline and are more resistant to the original SARS-CoV infection (Iwata-Yoshikawa et  
518 al., 2019; Kim et al., 2006). Thus, manipulating the expression of genes such as  
519 *TMPRSS2* may represent a safer path to limit SARS-CoV-2 viral entry. *TMPRSS2* is also  
520 involved in the entry of other respiratory viruses such as influenza, suggesting that  
521 modulating its expression may also be effective in deterring entry and spread of other  
522 viruses (Limburg et al., 2019).

523 In this study, we present the first snATAC-seq dataset of the human lung and  
524 complementary snRNA-seq data from the same samples. Here, we used COVID-19  
525 genes to demonstrate how this dataset can be utilized. As COVID-19 GWAS data  
526 emerge, our datasets will offer a powerful cell type-resolved platform to interrogate  
527 mechanisms that may underlie genetic differences in the susceptibility and response to  
528 SARS-CoV-2 infection. Furthermore, our results suggest that modulation of the interferon  
529 pathway is a possible avenue to restrict *TMPRSS2* expression and viral entry.  
530 Identification of regulators that restrict the expression of viral entry genes without  
531 detrimentally affecting other aspects of the normal antiviral response will be a safe and  
532 effective strategy towards combating COVID-19. We note that this work is a product of  
533 the NHLBI-funded LungMap consortium, and our joint goal is to provide the community  
534 with fundamental knowledge of the human lung to help combat COVID-19.

535

536

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550

551

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560

561 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

562

563 **Figure 1. snRNA-seq of human lungs reveals expression of SARS-CoV-2 cell entry**  
564 **genes in the epithelial cell lineage. A** UMAP embedding and clustering result of 46,500  
565 snRNA-seq data from 9 donors (Premature born (30 week<sup>GA</sup> of pregnancy), 3 yo, 30 yo;  
566 n = 3 per time point) identifies 31 clusters. Each dot represents a nucleus. Spread-out  
567 grey dots correspond to nuclei of unclassified cluster. **B, C** Cluster specific violin blots of  
568 gene expression of **B** *ACE2* and **C** *TMPRSS2*. **D, E** Fraction of AT2 cells with expression  
569 of *ACE2* and *TMPRSS2* at each time point. All data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD. p  
570 values derived from t-tests; One-way ANOVA did not reach significance. **F** Box plot of log  
571 normalized expression of *TMPRSS2* in AT2 cells at each time point. Displayed are the  
572 median expression values for AT2 nuclei in individual samples with at least 1 UMI.

573

574 **Figure 2. snATAC-seq analysis of human lungs reveals candidate cis regulatory**  
575 **elements for *ACE2* and *TMPRSS2*. A** UMAP embedding and clustering results of  
576 snATAC-seq data from 90,980 single-nucleus chromatin profiles from ten donors  
577 (Premature born (30 week<sup>GA</sup>, n = 3), 4 month old (n = 1), 3 yo (n = 3) and 30 yo (n = 3)).  
578 **B** Gene accessibility of candidate SARS-CoV-2 cell entry genes. **C** Union set of peaks  
579 identified in all clusters surrounding *ACE2* (+/- 650 kb) and elements that show co-  
580 accessibility (co-accessibility score > 0.05) with the *ACE2* promoter via Cicero  
581 (Cusanovich et al., 2018) (top panel). Hierarchical clustering of the relative proportion of  
582 cells (see methods) with a fragment within 165 peak regions surrounding *ACE2* (lower  
583 panel). Asterisks highlight peaks co-accessible with the *ACE2* promoter via Cicero.  
584 Horizontal red box highlights peaks with increased relative accessibility shared in basal,  
585 ciliated, AT1, AT2 and club cells as compared to other cell types. Vertical red box  
586 highlights peaks with increased relative accessibility in AT2 cells. **D** Union set of peaks  
587 identified in all clusters surrounding *TMPRSS2* (+/- 650 kb) and elements that show co-  
588 accessibility with the *TMPRSS2* promoter (top panel; co-accessibility score >0.05  
589 (Cusanovich et al., 2018)). Hierarchical clustering of the relative proportion of cells with a  
590 fragment within 289 peak regions surrounding *TMPRSS2* (lower panel). Horizontal red  
591 box highlights peaks with increased relative accessible cells shared in basal, ciliated,

592 club, AT1 and AT2 cells as compared to other cell types. Vertical red box highlights peaks  
593 with increased relative accessibility in AT2 cells. Asterisks highlight peaks co-accessible  
594 with the *TMPRSS2* promoter.

595

596 **Figure 3. Age-increasing accessible chromatin in AT2 cells exhibits signatures of**  
597 **immune regulation and harbors *TMPRSS2*-linked sites of chromatin accessibility.**

598 **A** Differential analysis was performed on AT2 cells using pairwise comparisons between  
599 three ages with replicates (n = 3 per stage). **B** K-means cluster analysis (K=5) of relative  
600 accessibility scores (see **Methods**) for 22,845 age-dynamic peaks (FDR < 0.05, EdgeR)  
601 in AT2 cells. Clusters III and IV show increasing accessibility with age and contain seven  
602 *TMPRSS2*-co-accessible sites. **C** GREAT (McLean et al., 2010) analysis of elements in  
603 group cIII (left panel) and cIV (right panel) shows enrichment of immune related gene  
604 ontology terms. **D** Transcription factor motif enrichment analysis of elements in cIII and  
605 cIV. **E** Classification of age-dynamic patterns across the 37 *TMPRSS2*-co-accessible sites  
606 based on the relative percentage of AT2 cells with at least one fragment overlapping each  
607 peak. Red bars indicate dynamic peaks identified from analysis in B (FDR < 0.05, EdgeR).  
608 **F** Locus restricted differential analysis of *TMPRSS2*-linked peaks with increased  
609 accessibility in AT2 with aging (top panel in 3E). Black asterisk, p < 0.05 (T-test); Red  
610 asterisk, FDR < 0.05 (EdgeR) from dynamic peak analysis in B. **G** Annotation of motifs  
611 and evidence for transcription factor association within age-increased peaks. Blue bar,  
612 Motif present (FIMO); Green bar, Motif present (FIMO) and transcription factor  
613 association (ChIP-Atlas). **H** Overlap with ENCODE histone modification ChIP-seq data  
614 (Consortium, 2012) from SCREEN. **I** Genome browser representation of four *TMPRSS2*-  
615 linked peaks across age groups.

616  
617 **Figure 4. Genetic variants predicted to affect age-increasing AT2 accessible**  
618 **chromatin are associated with respiratory phenotypes and *TMPRSS2* expression.**

619 **A** Top: genome browser view of sites linked to *TMPRSS2* activity including those with  
620 age-dependent increase in activity. Right: Non-singleton genetic variants in gnomAD v3  
621 mapping in each age-dependent site with predicted effects (FDR<.10) on AT2 chromatin  
622 accessibility using deltaSVM. Variants within each site are organized based on whether

623 the reference (ref) or alternate (alt) allele has a higher predicted effect. Left: DeltaSVM  
624 scores of variants with predicted effects on AT2 chromatin accessibility and common  
625 (defined as MAF>1%) in at least one major population group in gnomAD v3, annotated  
626 with sequence motifs overlapping the variant for TF families enriched in age-increased  
627 AT2 sites. **B** Population frequency of variant rs35074065, which had predicted AT2  
628 effects and was present at much lower frequency in East Asians relative to other  
629 population groups. AFR: African, AMR: Latino/American, ASJ: Ashkenazi Jewish, EAS:  
630 East Asian, FIN: Finnish, EUR: European (non-Finnish). **C** Association of common  
631 variants with predicted AT2 effects with human phenotypes in the UK Biobank. The  
632 majority of tested variants show at least nominal evidence ( $p < 0.005$ ) for association with  
633 phenotypes related to respiratory disease, infection and medication. **D** Fine-mapping  
634 probabilities for an *TMPRSS2* expression QTL in human lung samples from the GTEx  
635 project release v8. The variant rs35074065 has the highest casual probability (PPA=.42)  
636 for the eQTL, maps in an age-dynamic AT2 site and is predicted to disrupt binding of IRF  
637 and STAT TFs. Variants are colored based on  $r^2$  with rs35074065 in 1000 Genomes  
638 Project data using all populations. **E** Estimated cell type proportions for 515 human lung  
639 samples from GTEx derived using cell type-specific expression profiles for cell types with  
640 more than 500 cells from snRNA-seq data generated in this study. **F** Association p-values  
641 between rs35074065 genotype and *TMPRSS2* lung expression after including an  
642 interaction term between genotype and estimated cell type proportions for each sample.  
643 We observed stronger eQTL association when including an interaction with AT2 cell  
644 proportion as well as macrophage proportion.

## 645 **METHODS**

646

### 647 **Human subjects and tissue collection**

648 Donor lung samples were provided through the federal United Network of Organ  
649 Sharing via National Disease Research Interchange (NDRI) and International Institute for  
650 Advancement of Medicine (IIAM) and entered into the NHLBI LungMAP Biorepository for  
651 Investigations of Diseases of the Lung (BRINDL) at the University of Rochester Medical  
652 Center overseen by the IRB as RSRB00047606, as previously described (Ardini-Poleske  
653 et al., 2017; Bandyopadhyay et al., 2018). Portions (0.25-1.0 cm<sup>3</sup>) of small airway region  
654 of right middle lobe (RML) lung tissue were frozen in cryovials over liquid nitrogen and  
655 placed at -80°C for storage. Upon request, while kept frozen on dry ice, a tissue piece  
656 (approximately 100 mg) was chipped off the sample. These smaller samples were then  
657 shipped in cryovials to UCSD on an abundance of dry ice.

658

### 659 **Single nucleus ATAC-seq data generation**

660 Combinatorial barcoding single nucleus ATAC-seq was performed as described  
661 previously with modifications (Cusanovich et al., 2015; Fang et al., 2019; Preissl et al.,  
662 2018) and using new sets of oligos for tagmentation and PCR (Supplementary Table 8).  
663 Briefly, for each sample, lung tissue was homogenized using mortar and pestle on liquid  
664 nitrogen. 1 ml nuclei permeabilization buffer (10mM Tris-HCL (pH 7.5), 10mM NaCl, 3mM  
665 MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.1% Tween-20 (Sigma), 0.1% IGEPAL-CA630 (Sigma) and 0.01% Digitonin  
666 (Promega) in water (Corces et al., 2017)) was added to 30 mg of ground lung tissue and  
667 tissue was resuspended by pipetting for 8-15 times. Nuclei suspension was incubated for  
668 10 min at 4°C and filtered with 30 µm filter (CellTrics). Nuclei were pelleted with a swinging  
669 bucket centrifuge (500 x g, 5 min, 4°C; 5920R, Eppendorf) and resuspended in 500 µL  
670 high salt tagmentation buffer (36.3 mM Tris-acetate (pH = 7.8), 72.6 mM potassium-  
671 acetate, 11 mM Mg-acetate, 17.6% DMF) and counted using a hemocytometer.  
672 Concentration was adjusted to 2,000 nuclei/9 µl, and 2,000 nuclei were dispensed into  
673 each well of one 96-well plate. For tagmentation, 1 µL barcoded Tn5 transposomes (Fang  
674 et al., 2019) was added using a BenchSmart™ 96 (Mettler Toledo), mixed five times and  
675 incubated for 60 min at 37 °C with shaking (500 rpm). To inhibit the Tn5 reaction, 10 µL

676 of 40 mM EDTA were added to each well with a BenchSmart™ 96 (Mettler Toledo) and  
677 the plate was incubated at 37 °C for 15 min with shaking (500 rpm). Next, 20 µL 2 x sort  
678 buffer (2 % BSA, 2 mM EDTA in PBS) was added using a BenchSmart™ 96 (Mettler  
679 Toledo). All wells were combined into a FACS tube and stained with 3 µM Draq7 (Cell  
680 Signaling). Using a SH800 (Sony), 20 2n nuclei were sorted per well into eight 96-well  
681 plates (total of 768 wells) containing 10.5 µL EB (25 pmol primer i7, 25 pmol primer i5,  
682 200 ng BSA (Sigma). Preparation of sort plates and all downstream pipetting steps were  
683 performed on a Biomek i7 Automated Workstation (Beckman Coulter). After addition of 1  
684 µL 0.2% SDS, samples were incubated at 55 °C for 7 min with shaking (500 rpm). 1 µL  
685 12.5% Triton-X was added to each well to quench the SDS. Next, 12.5 µL NEBNext High-  
686 Fidelity 2× PCR Master Mix (NEB) were added and samples were PCR-amplified (72 °C  
687 5 min, 98 °C 30 s, (98 °C 10 s, 63 °C 30 s, 72°C 60 s) × 12 cycles, held at 12 °C). After  
688 PCR, all wells were combined. Libraries were purified according to the MinElute PCR  
689 Purification Kit manual (Qiagen) using a vacuum manifold (QIAvac 24 plus, Qiagen) and  
690 size selection was performed with SPRI Beads (Beckmann Coulter, 0.55x and 1.5x).  
691 Libraries were purified one more time with SPRI Beads (Beckmann Coulter, 1.5x).  
692 Libraries were quantified using a Qubit fluorimeter (Life technologies) and the  
693 nucleosomal pattern was verified using a Tapestation (High Sensitivity D1000, Agilent).  
694 The library was sequenced on a HiSeq4000 or NextSeq500 sequencer (Illumina) using  
695 custom sequencing primers with following read lengths: 50 + 10 + 12 + 50 (Read1 +  
696 Index1 + Index2 + Read2). Primer and index sequences are listed in Supplementary  
697 Table 8.

698

### 699 **Single nucleus RNA-seq data generation**

700 Droplet-based Chromium Single Cell 3' solution (10x Genomics, v3 chemistry)(Zheng  
701 et al., 2017) was used to generate snRNA-seq libraries. Briefly, 30 mg pulverized lung  
702 tissue was resuspended in 500 µl of nuclei permeabilization buffer (0.1% Triton X-100  
703 (Sigma-Aldrich, T8787), 1X protease inhibitor, 1 mM DTT, and 0.2 U/µl RNase inhibitor  
704 (Promega, N211B), 2% BSA (Sigma-Aldrich, SRE0036) in PBS). Sample was incubated  
705 on a rotator for 5 minutes at 4°C and then centrifuged at 500 rcf for 5 minutes (4°C, run  
706 speed 3/3). Supernatant was removed and pellet was resuspended in 400 µl of sort buffer



707 (1 mM EDTA 0.2 U/μl RNase inhibitor (Promega, N211B), 2% BSA (Sigma-Aldrich,  
708 SRE0036) in PBS) and stained with DRAQ7 (1:100; Cell Signaling, 7406). 75,000 nuclei  
709 were sorted using a SH800 sorter (Sony) into 50 μl of collection buffer consisting of 1 U/μl  
710 RNase inhibitor in 5% BSA; the FACS gating strategy sorted based on particle size and  
711 DRAQ7 fluorescence. Sorted nuclei were then centrifuged at 1000 rcf for 15 minutes (4°C,  
712 run speed 3/3) and supernatant was removed. Nuclei were resuspended in 35 μl of  
713 reaction buffer (0.2 U/μl RNase inhibitor (Promega, N211B), 2% BSA (Sigma-Aldrich,  
714 SRE0036) in PBS) and counted on a hemocytometer. 12,000 nuclei were loaded onto a  
715 Chromium controller (10x Genomics). Libraries were generated using the Chromium  
716 Single Cell 3' Library Construction Kit v3 (10x Genomics, 1000078) according to  
717 manufacturer specifications. CDNA was amplified for 12 PCR cycles. SPRISelect reagent  
718 (Beckman Coulter) was used for size selection and clean-up steps. Final library  
719 concentration was assessed by Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit (Thermo-Fischer Scientific)  
720 and fragment size was checked using TapeStation High Sensitivity D1000 (Agilent) to  
721 ensure that fragment sizes were distributed normally about 500 bp. Libraries were  
722 sequenced using the NextSeq500 and a HiSeq4000 (Illumina) with these read lengths:  
723 28 + 8 + 91 (Read1 + Index1 + Read2).

724

### 725 **Single nucleus RNA-seq analysis**

726 Sequencing reads were demultiplexed (cellranger mkfastq) and processed (cellranger  
727 count) using the Cell Ranger software package v3.0.2 (10x Genomics). Reads were  
728 aligned to the human reference hg38 (Cell Ranger software package v3.0.2). Reads  
729 mapping to intronic and exon sequences were retained. Resulting UMI feature-barcode  
730 count matrices were loaded into Seurat (Stuart et al., 2019). All genes represented in  $\geq 3$   
731 nuclei and cells with 500-4000 detected genes were included for downstream processing.  
732 UMI counts were log-normalized and scaled by a factor of 10,000 using the  
733 NormalizeData function. Top 3000 variable features were identified using the  
734 FindVariableFeatures function and finally scaled using the ScaleData function. Barcode  
735 collisions were removed for individual datasets using DoubletFinder (McGinnis et al.,  
736 2019) with following parameters: pN = 0.15 and pK = 0.005, anticipated collision rate =  
737 10%. Clusters were assigned a doublet score (pANN) and classification as “doublet” or

738 “singlet”; called doublets and cells with a pANN score > 0 were removed. UMI matrices  
739 for datasets were merged and corrected for batch effects due to experiment date, donor,  
740 and sex using the Harmony package (Korsunsky et al., 2019). UMAP coordinates and  
741 clustering were performed using the RunUMAP, FindNeighbors, and FindClusters  
742 functions in Seurat with principal components 1-23, 25-26, and 28. Clusters were  
743 annotated, and putative doublets as defined by expression of canonically mutually  
744 exclusive markers were excluded from analysis; remaining cells were re-clustered using  
745 the previously described parameters. Final cluster annotation was done using canonical  
746 markers. For genes of interest such as (e.g. *ACE2*, *TMPRSS2*), nuclei with at least one  
747 UMI for the gene were considered “expressing”. To analyze changes in percentage of  
748 nuclei expressing we performed One-way ANOVA (ANalysis Of VAriance) with post-hoc  
749 Tukey HSD (Honestly Significant Difference) using GraphPad Prism version 8.0.0 for  
750 Windows, GraphPad Software, San Diego, California USA, [www.graphpad.com](http://www.graphpad.com). Due to  
751 one potential outlier in the 30wkGA group (D062) we performed in addition a simple t-test  
752 comparing 3 yr to 30 yr groups. Differential gene expression analysis between *ACE2*<sup>+</sup>  
753 and *ACE2*<sup>-</sup> AT2 cells we used FindAllMarkers with parameters logfc = 0, min.pct = 0,  
754 test.use = “wilcox”, verbose = TRUE.

### 755 756 **Normalization and comparison of gene expression frequency across snRNA-seq** 757 **and scRNA-seq datasets**

758 Single cell RNA-seq (10x Genomics 3’ v2) of 4 aged (>55yr) control lungs were  
759 obtained from publicly available data (Morse et al., 2019; Reyfman et al., 2019). Raw  
760 gene expression matrices were downloaded from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO)  
761 repository (GSE128033 and GSE122960). Cells were filtered using the following  
762 commonly used criteria: >500 expressed genes and <10% UMIs mapped to mitochondrial  
763 DNAs. In addition, cells with greater than or equal to 40,000 UMIs were excluded from  
764 the downstream analysis; this filtration criterion was selected based on the distribution of  
765 UMIs in single cells in individual donors. Seurat (version 3) (Stuart et al., 2019) was used  
766 to identify AT2 cells from individual aged donors. Nuclei from the 9 libraries generated in  
767 this study and cells from libraries for the 4 aged donors were integrated using the Seurat  
768 3 standard integration pipeline (Stuart et al., 2019).

769 We calculated *ACE2* and *TMPRSS2* expression frequency in AT2 cells (percentage  
770 of AT2 cells with >0 UMI) in individual donors. We then performed median based  
771 normalization, so all donors reached the same median value. In calculating the median  
772 value for each donor, the expression frequency values of genes (n=26,260) common in  
773 both datasets were used.

774

### 775 **Single nucleus ATAC-seq analysis**

776 For each sequenced snATAC-Seq libraries, we obtained four FASTQ files paired-end  
777 DNA reads as well as the combinatorial indexes for i5 (768 different PCR indices) and T7  
778 (96 different tagmentation indices; Supplementary Table 8). We selected all reads with  
779  $\leq 2$  mistakes per individual index (Hamming distance between each pair of indices is 4)  
780 and subsequently integrated the full barcode at the beginning of the read name in the  
781 FASTQ files (<https://gitlab.com/Groumf/ATACdemultiplex/>). Next, we used trim galore  
782 (v.0.4.4) to remove adapter sequences from reads prior to read alignment. We aligned  
783 reads to the hg19 reference genome using bwa mem (v.0.7.17) (Li and Durbin, 2009) and  
784 subsequently used samtools (Li et al., 2009) to remove unmapped, low map quality  
785 (MAPQ<30), secondary, and mitochondrial reads. We then removed duplicate reads on  
786 a per-cell basis using MarkDuplicates (BARCODE\_TAG) from the picard toolkit. As an  
787 initial quality cutoff, we set a minimum of 1,000 reads (unique, non-mitochondrial) and  
788 observed 120,090 cells passing this threshold.

789 We used a previously described pipeline to identify snATAC-seq clusters (Chiou et  
790 al., 2019). Briefly, we used scanpy (Wolf et al., 2018) to uniform read depth-normalize  
791 and log-transform read counts within 5 kb windows. We then identified highly variable (*hv*)  
792 windows (min\_mean=0.01, min\_disp=0.25) and regressed out the total read depth across  
793 *hv* windows (usable counts) within each experiment. We then merged cells across  
794 experiments and extracted the top 50 PCs, using Harmony (Korsunsky et al., 2019) to  
795 correct for potential confounding factors including donor-of-origin and biological sex. We  
796 used Harmony-corrected components to build a nearest neighbor graph  
797 (n\_neighbors=30) using the cosine metric, which was used for UMAP visualization  
798 (min\_dist=0.3) and Leiden clustering (resolution=1.5) (Traag et al., 2019).

799 Prior to the final clustering results, we performed iterative clustering to identify and  
800 remove cells mapping to clusters with aberrant quality metrics. First, we removed 3,183  
801 cells mapping in clusters with low read depth. Next, we removed 20,718 cells mapping in  
802 clusters with low fraction of reads in peaks. Finally, we re-clustered the cells at high  
803 resolution and removed 5,209 cells mapping in potential doublet sub-clusters. On  
804 average, these sub-clusters had higher usable counts, promoter usage, and accessibility  
805 at more than one marker gene promoter. After removing all of these cells, our final clusters  
806 consisted of 90,980 cells. To identify marker genes for each cluster, we used linear  
807 regression models with gene accessibility as a function of cluster assignment and usable  
808 counts across single cells.

809

### 810 **Computing relative accessibility scores**

811 We define an accessible locus as the minimal genomic region that can be bound and  
812 cut by the enzyme. We use  $L \subset N$  to represent the set of all accessible loci. We further  
813 define a pseudo-locus as the set of accessible loci that relates to each other in a certain  
814 meaningful way (for example, nearby loci, loci from different alleles). In this example,  
815 pseudo-loci correspond to peaks. We use  $\{d_i \mid d_i \subset L\}$  to represent the set of all pseudo-  
816 loci. Let  $a_l$  be the accessibility of accessible locus  $l$ , where  $l \in L$ . We define the  
817 accessibility of pseudo-locus  $d_i$  as  $A_i = \sum_{k \in d_i} a_k$ , i.e., the sum of accessibility of  
818 accessible loci associated with  $d_i$ . Let  $C_j$  be the library complexity (the number of distinct  
819 molecules in the library) of cell  $j$ . Assuming unbiased PCR amplification, then the  
820 probability of being sequenced for any fragment in the library is:  $s_j = 1 - (1 - \frac{1}{C_j})^{k_j}$ , where  
821  $k_j$  is the total number of reads for cell  $j$ . If we assume that the probability of a fragment  
822 present in the library is proportional to its accessibility and the complexity of the library,  
823 then we can deduce that the probability of a given locus  $l$  in cell  $j$  being sequenced is:  
824  $p_{lj} \propto a_l C_j s_j$ . For any pseudo-locus  $d_i$ , the number of reads in  $d_i$  for cell  $j$  follows the  
825 Poisson binomial distribution, and its mean is  $m_{ij} = \sum_{k \in d_i} p_{kj} \propto C_j s_j \sum_{k \in d_i} a_k = C_j s_j A_i$ .  
826 Given a pseudo-locus (or peak) by cell count matrix  $O$ , we have:  $\sum_j O_{ij} = \sum_j m_{ij}$ .  
827 Therefore,  $A_i = Z \frac{\sum_j O_{ij}}{\sum_j C_j s_j}$ , where  $Z$  is a normalization constant. When comparing across

828 different samples the relative accessibility may be desirable as they sum up to a constant,  
829 *i.e.*,  $\sum_i A_i = 1 \times 10^6$ . In this case, we can derive  $A_i = \frac{\sum_j o_{ij}}{\sum_{ij} o_{ij}} * 10^6$ .

830

### 831 **Calculating the relative percent of cells with accessibility at a locus**

832 To correct for biases occurring from differential read depths between clusters, we used  
833 the following strategy to determine the relative ratio of cells with accessibility at a given  
834 locus. We defined the set of accessible loci  $L$  of a given dataset  $D$  as the genomic regions  
835 covered by the set peaks  $P$  inferred from  $D$ . We define  $X$  the set of cells from  $D$ , and  $S$  a  
836 partitioning of  $X$ . For a given partition  $S_i \in S$  and for each feature  $p_j \in P$ , we computed  
837  $m_{ij}$  the ratio of cells from  $S_i$  with at least one read overlapping  $p_j$ . We then defined the  
838 score  $s_{ij}$  of loci  $p_j$  in  $S_i$  as  $s_{ij} = 10^6 \cdot \frac{m_{ij}}{\sum_{j \in P} m_{ij}}$ . We finally define the relative ratio of cells  
839 normalized across the different clusters as  $RS_{ij} = \frac{s_{ij}}{\sum_{i \in S} s_{ij}}$ .

840

### 841 **Associating promoters to candidate distal regulatory elements.**

842 To identify AT2 co-accessible loci with the promoters of *TMPRSS2*, *ACE2*, *FURIN*,  
843 *BSG*, and *CTSL* we used Cicero (Pliner et al., 2018). First, we performed a Cicero  
844 analysis for each individual cluster using a genomic window of 1 Mb (co-accessibility  
845 score >0.05). In addition, we performed Cicero using a random subset of 15,000 nuclei  
846 from the complete dataset and a genomic window of 250 kb (co-accessibility score >0.05).  
847 We then defined the promoter regions of *ACE2*, *TMPRSS2*, *FURIN*, *BSG*, and *CTSL* as  
848 transcriptional start site (TSS) +/- 1 kb and selected the sites co-accessible with each of  
849 the promoters (co-accessibility score >0.05). Finally, we merged the elements co-  
850 accessible with the gene promoters from both analyses to generate a union set of  
851 candidate elements.

852

### 853 **Identification and clustering of AT2 peaks with changes in chromatin accessibility** 854 **genome-wide**

855 We used edgeR (Robinson et al., 2010) to identify differential accessible peaks  
856 between each of pair of time points. As input we used the 122,352 peaks in AT2 cell.

857 Dataset ID and sex were used as technical covariates. Sites with False Discovery Rate  
858 (FDR) < 0.05 after Benjamini-Hochberg correction were considered significant. Next, we  
859 performed K-means using the relative accessibility score with a *loci x timepoints* matrix.  
860 We used K from 5 to 8 and computed the Davis-Bouldin index to determine the best K to  
861 partition the loci. let  $R_{xy} = \frac{(s_x + s_y)}{d_{xy}}$  with  $s_x$  the average distance of each sample from cluster  
862  $x$  and  $d_{xy}$  the distance between the centroids of clusters  $x$  and  $y$ . The Davies-Bouldin  
863 index is defined as  $DB = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{x,y \in \text{clusters}} \max_{x \neq y} (R_{xy})$  and low  $DB$  scores indicate better partitioning.  
864 We obtained an optimal partition with K=5.

865

### 866 **Identification of AT2 peaks with changes in chromatin accessibility at candidate** 867 **gene loci**

868 The ensemble of cells  $X$  from  $D$  can be divided per timepoint, cell subtype, or donor.  
869 We identified for individual donors the relative % of cells with at least one read in peaks  
870 associated with *ACE2*, *TMPRSS2*, *FURIN*, *BSG*, and *CTSL* promoters. As a background  
871 to calculate the relative % of cells, we used the merged set of peaks from all the clusters.  
872 Then, we computed a Student test for two independent samples with equal variance for  
873 each pair of categories: 30 wk<sup>GA</sup>, 3 yo and 30 yo. For each element the relative % of cells  
874 were used as measurement variable and the timepoint as nominal variable.

875

### 876 **Annotation of genomic elements**

877 The GREAT algorithm (McLean et al., 2010) was used to annotate distal genomic  
878 elements using the following settings: 2 nearest gene within 1Mb.

879

### 880 **Transcription factor related analyses**

881 *De novo* motif enrichment analysis in genomic elements was performed using  
882 HOMER (Heinz et al., 2010) with standard parameters. Motif scanning was performed  
883 using FIMO (Grant et al., 2011) online interface and default parameters. Motif files were  
884 downloaded from JASPAR (Fornes et al., 2020) in MEME format. Motifs scanned were  
885 MA0102.4 (CEBPA), MA0673.1(NKX2-8), MA0153.1(HNF1B), MA0503.1(NKX2-5),  
886 MA0877.2(BARHL1), PB0022.1(GATA5), MA0490.1(JUNB), PH0171.1(NKX2-1),

887 MA0148.1(FOXA1), MA0144.1(STAT3), MA0517.1(STAT1::STAT2), MA0050.1(IRF),  
888 MA0007.2(AR), and MA0592.1(ESRRA). To identify overlap with TF ChIP-seq sites, we  
889 used ChIP-atlas (Oki et al., 2018). We downloaded a BED file for “TFs and other” antigens  
890 across all lung related samples from the Peak Browser. We intersected these peaks with  
891 the *TMPRSS2*-linked peaks and the FIMO motifs (Grant et al., 2011). In addition, we  
892 downloaded enhancer related histone modifications (H3K4me1, H3K27ac) from the  
893 SCREEN database and intersected with the peak lists (Consortium, 2012).

894

### 895 **Predicting variant effects on chromatin accessibility**

896 We used deltaSVM (Lee et al., 2015) to predict the effects of variants on chromatin  
897 accessibility in AT2 cells. First, we extracted the sequences underlying AT2 sites that  
898 were promoter-distal ( $>\pm 500$  bp from GENCODE v19 transcript TSS for protein-coding  
899 and long non-coding RNA genes). As described previously (Chiou et al., 2019), we trained  
900 an AT2 sequence-based model and used it to predict effects for all possible combinations  
901 of 11mers. Next, to compile a comprehensive set of variants to test, we downloaded lists  
902 of variants from gnomAD v3 (Karczewski et al., 2019) and filtered out variants that were  
903 singletons or indels longer than 3 bp. We then used the liftOver (Tyner et al., 2017) utility  
904 to transform GRCh38 into GRCh37/hg19 coordinates. We retained variants from either  
905 dataset that mapped within *TMPRSS2* linked sites and extracted sequences in a 19 bp  
906 window around each variant ( $\pm 9$  bp flanking each side). Finally, we calculated deltaSVM  
907 z-scores for each variant by predicting deltaSVM scores, randomly permuting 11mer  
908 effects and re-predicting deltaSVM scores, and using the parameters of the null  
909 distribution to calculate deltaSVM z-scores. From the z-scores, we calculated p-values  
910 and q-values and defined variants with significant effects using a threshold of  $FDR < 0.1$ .  
911 We identified common variants defined as minor allele frequency  $> .01$  in at least one  
912 major population group. For each common variant, we obtained sequence surrounding  
913 each variant allele and predicted sequence motifs from the JASPAR database (Fornes et  
914 al., 2020) using FIMO (Grant et al., 2011), and focused on motifs of TF families enriched  
915 in age-dependent AT2 chromatin.

916

### 917 **Phenotype associations for predicted effect variants**

918 We downloaded UK biobank round 2 GWAS combined sex results (Lab, 2020; Sudlow  
919 et al., 2015). We used broad disease categories from the ICD-10-CM to classify ICD10  
920 phenotypes, except for ICD10 codes relating to unclassified symptoms, external causes  
921 of morbidity, and factors influencing health status and contact with health services. We  
922 combined all non-cancer, self-reported diseases into a single category (self-reported) as  
923 well as all treatments and medications (medication). We then extracted GWAS  
924 association results for variants that were not tagged as low confidence variants, had  
925 significant deltaSVM effects, and mapped in *TMPRSS2*-linked aging-related sites. From  
926 these variants, we removed one (rs199938061) which was in perfect linkage  
927 disequilibrium with another variant.

928

### 929 **Deconvoluting the *TMPRSS2* lung eQTL**

930 We used MuSiC (v.0.1.1) (Wang et al., 2019) to estimate the proportions of lung cell  
931 types with >500 cells from our scRNA-seq dataset in lung bulk RNA-seq samples from  
932 the GTEx v8 release (Aguet et al., 2019). We combined cell type labels for capillary (distal  
933 and proximal), macrophages (M1 and M2), matrix fibroblasts (1 and 2), and NK/T cells.  
934 We modeled the relationship between TMM-normalized *TMPRSS2* expression as a  
935 function of the interaction between genotype and cell type proportion, while considering  
936 the covariates used in the original GTEx data including sex, sequencing platform, PCR,  
937 5 genotype PCs, and 59 inferred PCs from the expression data. From the original inferred  
938 PCs, we excluded inferred PC 1 because it was highly correlated with AT2 cell type  
939 proportion (Spearman  $\rho=0.67$ ).

940



941 **SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS**

942

943 **Figure S1. Quality control of snRNA-seq and snATAC-seq datasets. A**

944 Representative UMI barcode distribution output from CellRanger pipeline for snRNA-seq  
945 libraries from human lung. **B** Number of nuclei passing quality control filtering for snRNA-  
946 seq libraries. **C** Genes detected per nucleus. **D** Sequencing saturation of snRNA-seq  
947 libraries. **E** Nuclei with less than 1,000 uniquely mapped reads were filtered from  
948 snATAC-seq datasets. **F** Number of nuclei passing quality control filtering for snATAC-  
949 seq libraries. **G** Average number of reads per nucleus. **H** Fraction of reads in peak regions  
950 per dataset. All data are represented as mean  $\pm$  SD.

951

952 **Figure S2. Marker plots for cluster annotation and expression profiling of candidate**

953 **genes involved in SARS-CoV-2 cell entry. A** Dot plot of marker genes used for cluster  
954 annotation. **B-D** Cell type specific gene expression of candidate genes for cell entry. Violin  
955 plots display expression values per nucleus for genes encoding **B** Cathepsin L (*CTSL*),  
956 **C** *FURIN* (*FURIN*) and **D** Basigin (*BSG*, CD147). **E** Correlation of *ACE2*<sup>+</sup> and *TMPRSS2*<sup>+</sup>  
957 AT2 cells with linear regression. **F, G** Fraction of AT2 cells with expression of *ACE2* and  
958 *TMPRSS2* at each time point. Data are the same as Fig. 1D, E, but with potential outlier  
959 sample D062 removed. \*  $p < 0.05$  (One-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test).

960

961 **Figure S3. Expression analysis of viral entry genes.** Displayed are violin plots of

962 expression levels for entry genes related to other viruses including SARS-CoV, MERS,  
963 coronavirus associated with common cold, Rhinovirus, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV),  
964 Adenovirus, Influenza Virus.

965

966 **Figure S4. Integrative analysis of *ACE2* and *TMPRSS2* expression in lungs from**  
967 **aged individuals. A** Seurat3 Standard Integration (Stuart et al., 2019) was applied to

968 snRNA-seq data for 9 donors generated as part of this study and publicly available  
969 scRNA-seq datasets 4 additional donor lungs (age > 55). AT2 cells from 13 donors were  
970 clustered together via Louvain clustering with minimal batch variation. Left panel: t-SNE  
971 visualization of cells colored by major cell type annotation. Epi other: predicted non-AT2

972 epithelial cells. Right panel: t-SNE visualization of cells colored by donor information. **B**  
973 Normalized expression frequency of *ACE2* (left) and *TMPRSS2* (right) in AT2 cells. p  
974 value was calculated using one-tailed t-test comparing normalized frequency in donors of  
975 30yo group and aged group.

976

977 **Figure S5. Marker plots for cluster annotation of snATAC-seq and profiling of peaks**  
978 **at candidate genes for SARS-CoV-2 cell entry. A** Dot plot of marker genes used for  
979 cluster annotation. **B-D** Cell type resolved chromatin accessibility at peaks within +/- 650  
980 kb of candidate genes for cell entry. Displayed are data for **B** *FURIN* (*FURIN*) and **C**  
981 *Basigin* (*BSG*, *CD147*) **D** *Cathepsin L* (*CTSL*). Values are displayed as row normalized  
982 proportion of cells with a fragment in a peak region. Black asterisks denote co-  
983 accessibility from Cicero >0.05 (Cusanovich et al., 2018).

984

985 **Figure S6. Quantification of peaks with increased accessibility with age at tested**  
986 **loci and donor resolved activity of sites not increased at *TMPRSS2* locus. A** Number  
987 of peaks within +/- 650 kb of candidate genes for cell entry overlapping cIII and cIV from  
988 Figure 3B. **B** Number of peaks co-accessible with the promoter of candidate genes for  
989 cell entry overlapping cIII and cIV from Figure 3B. **C** Donor resolved analysis of 24/37  
990 peaks at the *TMPRSS2* gene locus. Red asterisks denote FDR <0.05 (EdgeR) and black  
991 asterisks denote p < 0.05 via t-test.

992

993

994

995 **SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE LEGENDS**

996 **Supplementary Table 1. Donor metadata tables.** Sheet 1: 30wk<sup>GA</sup> - 30yo: Donor ID,  
997 age, sex, race, clinical pathology diagnosis (clinPathDx), gestational age, overall quality  
998 of the lung tissue assessment, type of death and cause of death were listed. Not shown  
999 are data on body weight, body height, total lung weight and radial alveolar count  
1000 assessment of alveolarization. All were all within normal limits for age. Abbreviations:  
1001 DCD: donor after cardiac death; DBD: donor after brain death; GA: gestational age;  
1002 RDS: respiratory distress syndrome. Sheet 2: aged cohort: Donor ID, age, sex, smoking  
1003 history, race and cause of death were listed (Morse et al., 2019; Reyfman et al., 2019).

1004

1005 **Supplementary Table 2.** Cluster composition and number and fraction of nuclei  
1006 expressing candidate for SARS-CoV2 cell entry.

1007

1008 **Supplementary Table 3.** Differential expressed analysis between *ACE2*<sup>+</sup> and *ACE2*<sup>-</sup> as  
1009 well as *TMPRSS2*<sup>+</sup> and *TMPRSS2*<sup>-</sup> AT2 cells.

1010

1011 **Supplementary Table 4.** Annotation of peaks within a window of +/- 650 kb of  
1012 candidate genes for SARS-CoV2 cell entry.

1013

1014 **Supplementary Table 5.** Annotation of peaks co-accessible with candidate genes for  
1015 SARS-CoV2 cell entry and age-associated changes of chromatin accessibility of peaks  
1016 co-accessible with *TMPRSS2* promoter.

1017

1018 **Supplementary Table 6.** GREAT analysis of peaks increasing with age in AT2 cells  
1019 (groups cIII and cIV in Fig 3B).

1020

1021 **Supplementary Table 7.** *De novo* motif enrichment analysis of peaks increasing with  
1022 age in AT2 cells (groups cIII and cIV in Fig 3B).

1023

1024 **Supplementary Table 8.** Indexes and primer sequences for snATAC-seq libraries.

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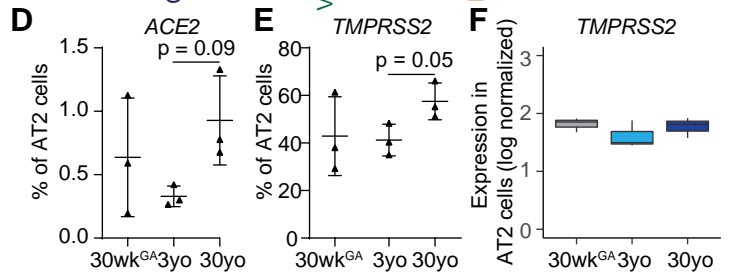
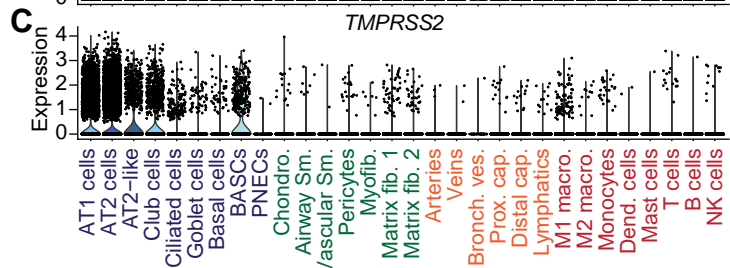
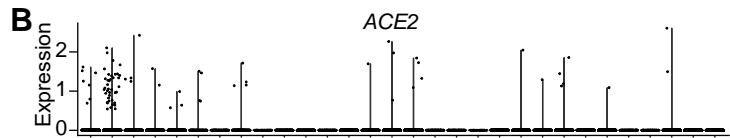
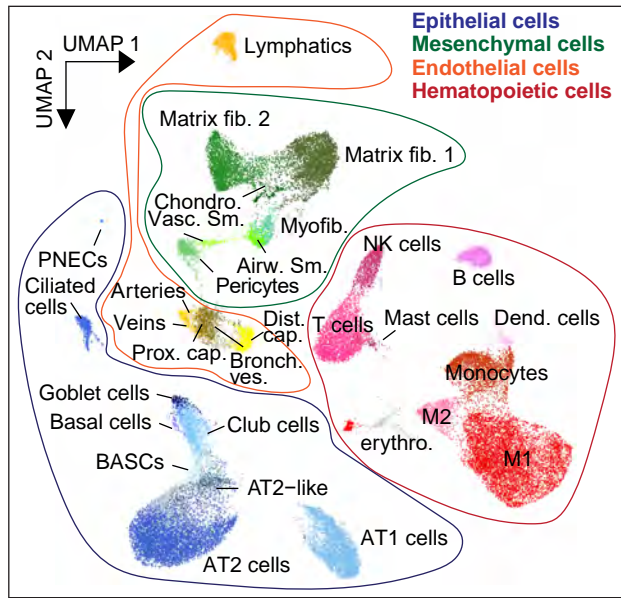
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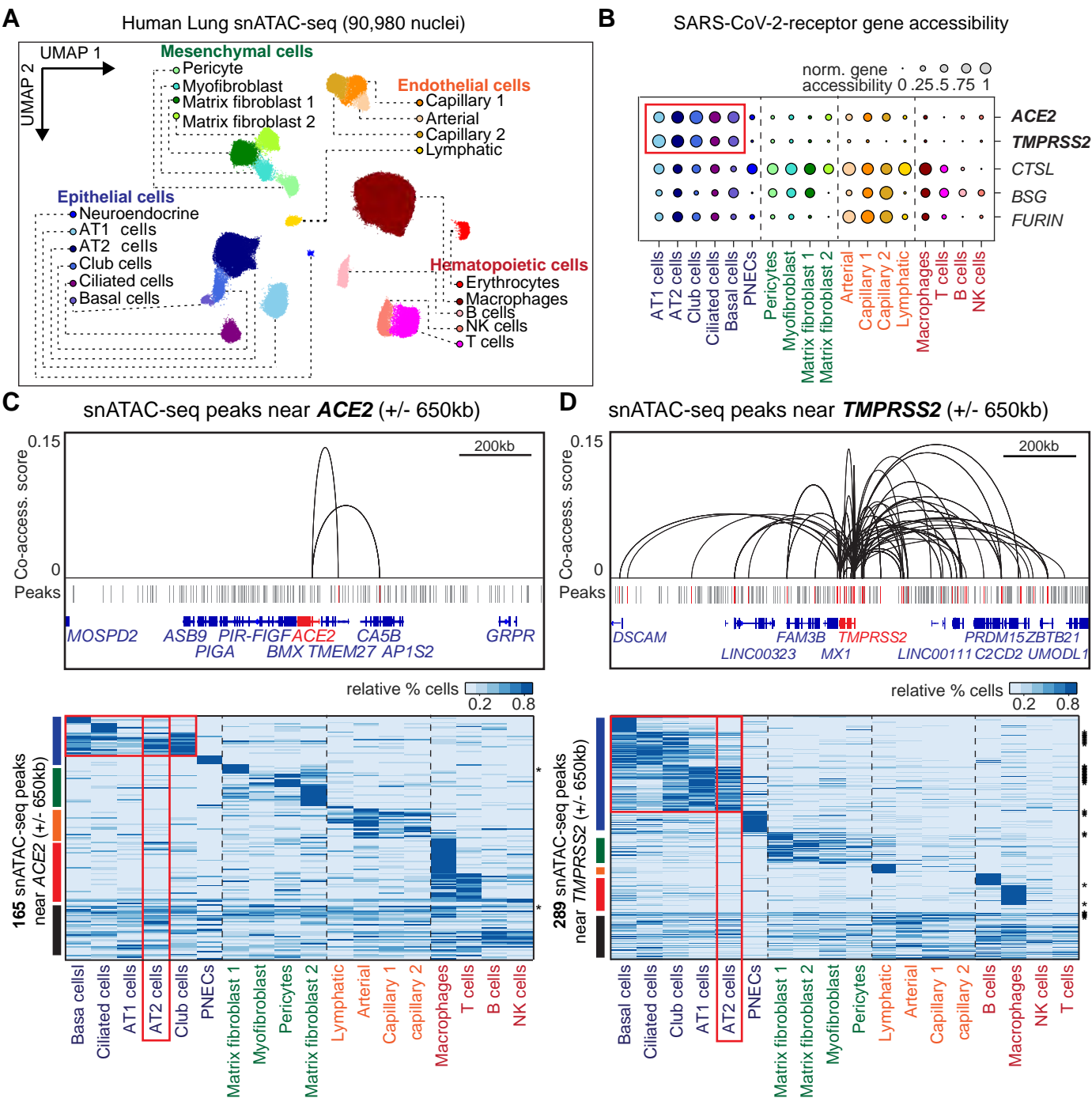
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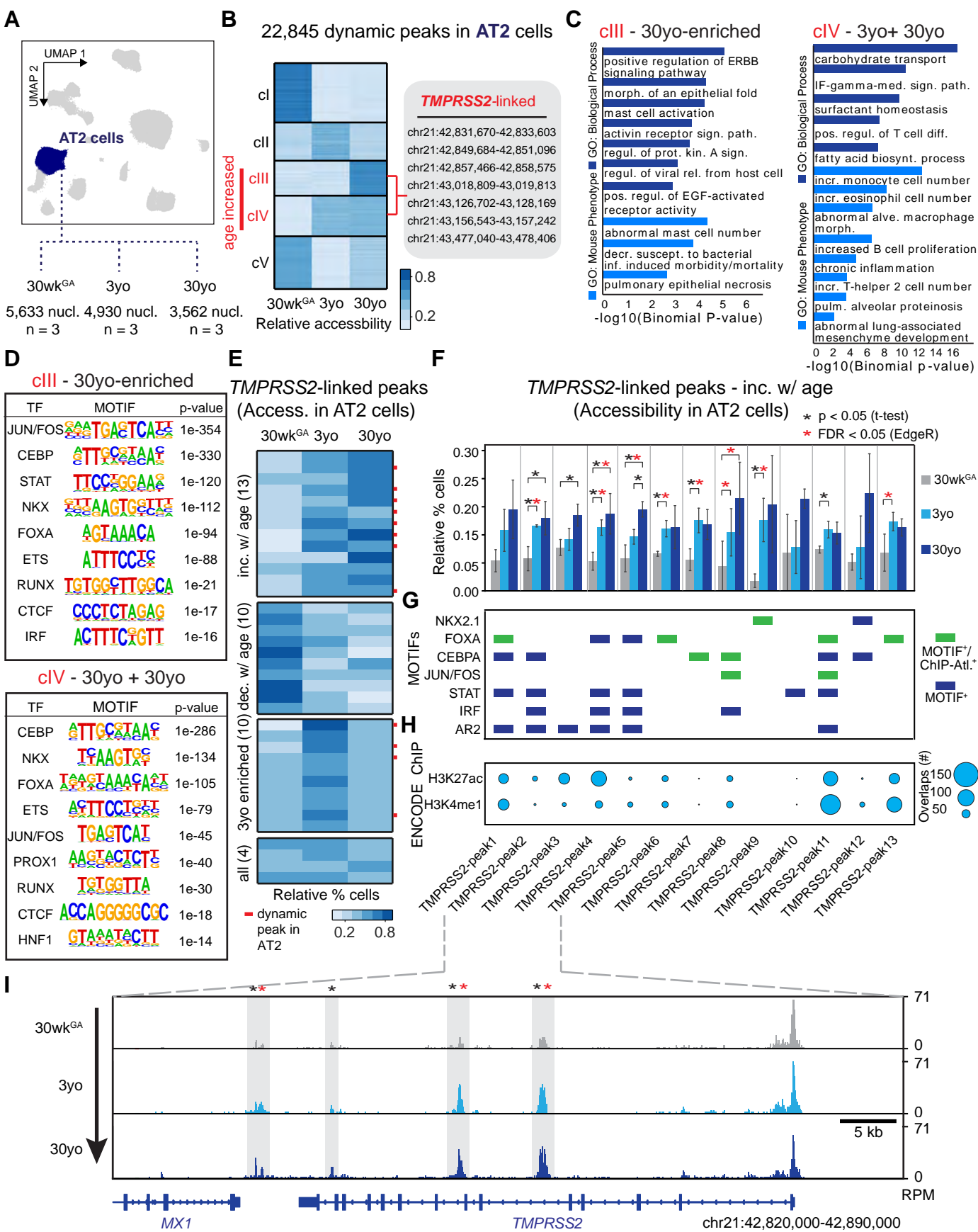


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**Figure 1****A** Human Lung snRNA-seq (46,500 nuclei)

**Figure 2**

**Figure 3**

**Figure 4**

