Title: Interactions with Commensal and Pathogenic Bacteria Induce HIV-1 Latency in Macrophages through Altered Transcription Factor Recruitment to the LTR

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Running Title: Induction of HIV-1 Latency in Macrophages by Bacteria

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ABSTRACT

Macrophages are infected by HIV-1 *in vivo* and contribute to both viral spread and pathogenesis. Recent human and animal studies suggest that HIV-1-infected macrophages serve as a reservoir that contributes to HIV-1 persistence during anti-retroviral therapy. The ability of macrophages to serve as persistent viral reservoirs is likely influenced by the local tissue microenvironment, including interactions with pathogenic and commensal microbes. Here we show that the sexually transmitted pathogen *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) and the gut-associated microbe *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), which encode ligands for both Toll-like receptor 2 (TLR2) and TLR4, repressed HIV-1 replication in macrophages and thereby induced a state reminiscent of viral latency. This repression was mediated by signaling through TLR4 and the adaptor protein TRIF and was associated with increased production of type I interferons. Inhibiting TLR4 signaling, blocking type 1 interferon, or knocking-down TRIF reversed LPS- and GC-mediated repression of HIV-1. Finally, the repression of HIV-1 in macrophages was associated with the recruitment of interferon regulatory factor 8 (IRF8) to the interferon stimulated response element (ISRE) downstream of the 5' HIV-1 long terminal repeat (LTR). Our data indicate that IRF8 is responsible for repression of HIV-1 replication in macrophages in response to TRIF-dependent signaling during GC and *E. coli* co-infection. These findings highlight the potential role of macrophages as HIV-1 reservoirs as well as the role of the tissue microenvironment and co-infections as modulators of HIV-1 persistence.

IMPORTANCE The major barrier toward the eradication of HIV-1 infection is the presence of a small reservoir of latently infected cells, which include CD4+ T cells and macrophages that escape immune-mediated clearance and the effects of anti-retroviral therapy. There remain crucial gaps in our understanding of the molecular mechanisms that lead to transcriptionally silent or latent HIV-1 infection of macrophages. The significance of our research is in identifying

40 microenvironmental factors, such as commensal and pathogenic microbes, that can contribute
41 to the establishment and maintenance of latent HIV-1 infection in macrophages. It is hoped that
42 identifying key processes contributing to HIV-1 persistence in macrophages may ultimately lead
43 to novel therapeutics to eliminate latent HIV-1 reservoirs *in vivo*.
44
45 **INTRODUCTION**
46
47 Macrophages are among the immune cells located within the gastrointestinal and genitourinary
48 mucosae thought to play a role in HIV-1 sexual transmission and pathogenesis (1-3). A number
49 of studies examining either HIV-1 infection of human vaginocervical or gastrointestinal tissue
50 explants or SIV_{mac} infection in rhesus macaque animal models have shown that macrophages
51 are among the earliest cells infected during mucosal transmission (2, 4, 5). Macrophages can
52 be productively infected with HIV-1 and are thought to be a source of virus persistence *in vivo*
53 (6). Given their role in transmission, pathogenesis, and viral persistence, it is important to
54 understand how the local mucosal microenvironment and cellular signaling pathways modulate
55 interactions between macrophages and HIV-1.
56
57 Sexually-transmitted infections (STIs) have been shown to be co-factors that enhance HIV-1
58 transmission (7). *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (gonococcus, GC) is a non-ulcerative STI that is
59 thought to augment mucosal transmission of HIV-1 both by inducing inflammation and by
60 directly activating virus infection and replication (8-13). The role of GC in HIV-1 persistence is
61 less well understood. Several studies have implicated GC-encoded pathogen-associated
62 molecular patterns (PAMPs) as mediators of both inflammation and HIV-1 activation in target
63 cells such as macrophages; however, the interactions between GC and macrophages are
64 complex. GC encodes PAMPs capable of engaging Toll-like receptors (TLRs), including TLR2,
65 TLR4, and TLR9 (14, 15). While the effects of co-infection with live GC on HIV-1 replication in

66 macrophages have not been reported, purified lipooligosaccharide (LOS) as well as *Escherichia*
67 *coli* lipopolysaccharide (LPS) have been shown to repress virus replication through the
68 production of type 1 interferons (IFNs) (16, 17). In the case of LPS, repression is due to
69 undefined effects at the level of gene expression. Although it is not entirely clear how TLR2
70 signaling affects HIV-1 expression in macrophages, studies have shown that purified TLR2
71 ligands activate virus replication in macrophages (18) and latently-infected T cells (19).
72
73 Here, we demonstrate that co-infection with GC and *E. coli* repress HIV-1 expression in
74 macrophages. To investigate the underlying mechanism(s) responsible for this repression, we
75 examined the individual effects of TLR2 and TLR4 signaling on HIV-1 expression in
76 macrophages. TLR2 signaling activated HIV-1 expression in macrophages, whereas TLR4
77 signaling repressed virus expression. Importantly, TLR4 signaling overcame the activation
78 effects of TLR2 signaling in macrophages. The TLR4-mediated repression of HIV-1 in
79 macrophages co-infected with GC or *E. coli* was dependent on signaling through Toll/IL-1
80 receptor domain-containing adapter inducing interferon-β (TRIF) and required type 1 IFN
81 production. Finally, we showed that TLR4 signaling leads to the late-phase recruitment of IRF8
82 to the interferon-stimulated response element (ISRE) downstream of the 5' HIV-1 LTR in
83 infected macrophages. Taken together, our data suggest TRIF-mediated signaling represses
84 HIV-1 replication in response to GC or *E. coli* co-infection in an IRF8-dependent manner and
85 shifts macrophages from a state of robust HIV-1 expression to a state of persistent low-
86 level/latent infection.
87
88 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**
89

90 **Ethics Statement.** This research has been determined to be exempt by the Institutional Review
91 Board of the Boston University Medical Center since it does not meet the definition of human
92 subjects research.
93
94 **Cell isolation and culture.** Primary human CD14+ monocytes were isolated from the
95 peripheral blood mononuclear cells of healthy donors using anti-CD14 magnetic beads (Miltenyi
96 Biotec) per the manufacturer's instructions. Primary monocyte-derived macrophages (MDMs)
97 were generated by culturing CD14+ monocytes in the presence of 10% human AB serum and
98 10% FBS for 6 days. Following differentiation, MDMs were cultured in RPMI-1640
99 supplemented with 10% FBS, 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 μg/ml streptomycin, and 0.29 mg/ml L-
100 glutamine. The genetic sex of a subset of the donors was determined by PCR amplification of
101 the SRY gene located on the Y chromosome. PM1 cells were cultured in RPMI-1640
102 supplemented with 10% FBS, 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 μg/ml streptomycin, and 0.29 mg/ml L-
103 glutamine. 293T cells were cultured in DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS, 100 U/ml penicillin,
104 100 μg/ml streptomycin, and 0.29 mg/ml L-glutamine. MAGI-CCR5 cells were cultured in DMEM
105 supplemented with 10% FBS, 100U/ml penicillin, 100 μg/ml streptomycin, 0.29 mg/ml L-
106 glutamine, 500 μg/ml G418, 1 μg/ml puromycin, and 0.1 μg/ml hygromycin B. HEK293-
107 $TLR2^{CFP}TLR1^{YFP}$ cells and HEK293-$TLR4^{CFP}$/MD-2/CD14 cells were cultured in DMEM
108 supplemented with 10% FBS, 10 μg/ml ciprofloxacin, 0.29 mg/ml L-glutamine, and 500 μg/ml
109 G418.
110
111 **Bacterial culture.** *Neisseria gonorrhea* (GC) strain FA1090B was a generous gift from Dr.
112 Caroline Genco. GC was cultured from a glycerol stock on GC agar plates supplemented with
113 IsoVitalex Enrichment (Becton Dickinson) in a humidified 37°C incubator with 5% CO_2. *E. coli*
114 strain DH5α was purchased from New England Biolabs and was cultured from a glycerol stock

115 on LB agar plates at 37°C. Where indicated, bacteria were heat inactivated (heat killed) by
116 incubation at 56°C for 2 hours. Heat inactivation was monitored by culture on GC or LB agar
117 plates as described above.
118
119 **Flow cytometry.** TLR expression on viable MDMs was assessed eight days after isolation
120 using antibodies against TLR2 (clone TL2.1) and TLR4 (clone HTA125) (both from eBioscience)
121 and eFluor 450 fixable viability dye (eBioscience). MDMs were stained in plates, washed with
122 phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), fixed using BD Cytofix (BD Biosciences), and then detached
123 after incubation in PBS supplemented with 20 mM EDTA for 1 hour at 4°C. Flow cytometric data
124 was acquired using a Becton-Dickenson FACScan II or LSRFortessa and data was analyzed
125 using FlowJo software.
126
127 **TLR ligands, interferons, and chemical inhibitors.** PAM3CSK4, FSL-1, *Salmonella*
128 *typhimurium* flagellin (FLA-ST), poly I:C, and *E. coli* K12 LPS were obtained from Invivogen.
129 TLR ligands were reconstituted in endotoxin-free H_2O. IFN-α and IFN-β were purchased from
130 PBL Interferon Source. B18R was purchased from Abcam. BAY 11-7082, celastrol, U0126,
131 PD95809, and SB203580 were purchased from Sigma and reconstituted in DMSO. Dynasore
132 was purchased from Tocris Bioscience and was reconstituted in DMSO.
133
134 **Virus Production.** Single-round replication-defective HIV-1 reporter viruses were generated by
135 packaging a luciferase expressing reporter virus, BruΔEnvLuc2, or an enhanced green
136 fluorescent protein expressing reporter virus, BruΔEnvEGFP3, with the envelope glycoproteins
137 from VSV (VSV-G). In these constructs, reporter gene expression is under the control of the 5'
138 LTR. Reporter virus stocks were generated by transfecting HEK293T cells using the calcium
139 phosphate method as described previously (18). Replication competent HIV-1_{Ba-L} was generated

140 by infection of PM1 cells as described previously (18). Virus titers were determined using MAGI-
141 CCR5 cells, and $p24^{gag}$ content was determined by ELISA as described previously (18).
142
143 **Virus infections.** To assess viral replication, macrophages (2.5×10^5 cells/well in 24-well
144 plates) were incubated with VSV-G-pseudotyped HIV-luciferase reporter virus at a multiplicity of
145 infection (MOI) of 0.1 for 4 hours at 37°C. Cells were washed four to five times with PBS to
146 remove unbound virus, and cultured in growth medium. Following 48 hours of culture, cells were
147 treated with TLR ligands or vehicle, as indicated in the text and figure legends. After 18 hours,
148 the cells were washed twice with PBS and lysed in PBS/0.02% Triton X-100. Luciferase activity
149 was measured using BrightGlo luciferase reagent (Promega) and a MSII luminometer.
150
151 **HIV-1 transcription.** Total cytoplasmic RNA was isolated from MDMs using the RNeasy Mini kit
152 (Qiagen). RNA (100 ng) was analyzed by reverse transcription-PCR (RT-PCR) using the
153 OneStep RT-PCR kit (Qiagen). RNA was reverse transcribed and amplified in a total volume of
154 50 µl containing 2.5 mM MgCl2, 400 µM concentrations of each deoxynucleoside triphosphate,
155 10 U of RNasin RNase inhibitor (Promega), 5 µCi of α-^{32}P dATP, and 0.6 µM HIV-1 specific
156 primers. RNA samples were reverse transcribed for 30 minutes at 50°C. After an initial
157 denaturing step at 95°C for 15 minutes, cDNA products were amplified for 25 cycles each
158 consisting of a 30-second denaturing step at 94°C, a 45-second annealing step at 65°C, and a
159 one-minute extension step at 72°C. The amplification concluded with a 10-minute extension
160 step at 72°C. Samples were resolved on 5% nondenaturing polyacrylamide gels, visualized by
161 autoradiography, and quantified in a Molecular Dynamics PhosphorImager SI using
162 ImageQuant software. Alternatively, HIV-1 RNA was analyzed using the QuantiTect SYBR
163 Green RT-PCR kit (Qiagen) in a LightCycler 480 (Roche). The HIV-1 primers were specific for
164 the R and U5 regions of the LTR and amplify both spliced mRNAs and genomic RNA. The HIV-
165 1 primers were sense primer 5'-GGCTAACTAGGGAACCCACTGC-3' and antisense primer 5'-

166 CTGCTAGAGATTTTCCACACTGAC-3'). α-tubulin primers were: sense primer 5'
167 CACCCGTCTTCAGGGCTTCTTGGTTT-3' and antisense primer, 5'
168 CATTTCACCATCTGGTTGGCTGGCTC-3'. RNA standards corresponding to 500, 50, and 5 ng
169 of RNA from PAM3CSK4-activated MDMs were included in each experiment to ensure that all
170 amplifications were within the linear range of the assay.
171
172 **HIV-1 RNA stability assays.** MDMs (2×10^6 cells/well in 6-well plates) were incubated with
173 VSV-G-pseudotyped HIV-luciferase reporter virus at an MOI of 0.1 for 4 h at 37°C. Cells were
174 washed four to five times with PBS to remove unbound virus and cultured in growth medium.
175 Following 48 h of culture, cells were treated with TLR ligands (PAM3CSK4 or LPS at 100 ng/ml)
176 or vehicle for 4 hours. Actinomycin D (10 µg/ml) was then added to cells to block *de novo* RNA
177 synthesis, and total cytoplasmic RNA was isolated at given times as described in the figure
178 legends. Viral RNA was analyzed using the QuantiTect SYBR Green RT-PCR kit (Qiagen) in a
179 LightCycler 480 (Roche) with primers specific for the R and U5 regions of the LTR as described
180 above.
181
182 **Cytokine release assays.** MDMs (2.5×10^5 cells/well) were treated with PAM3CSK4 (100
183 ng/ml), LPS (100 ng/ml), or GC (MOI of 10) for 24 hours. Cell-free culture supernatants were
184 collected and analyzed for TNF-α (eBioscience) or IFN-β (PBL Interferon Source) release by
185 commercially-available ELISA following the manufacturer's instructions.
186
187 **Chromatin immunoprecipitation assays.** 1.2×10^7 MDMs were incubated with VSV-G-
188 pseudotyped HIV-EGFP reporter virus at an MOI of 2 for four hours at 37°C. Cells were washed
189 four to five times with PBS to remove unbound virus and cultured in growth medium. Following
190 48 hours of culture, MDMs were treated with TLR ligands for various times as described in the

191 text. Cells were then fixed in 1% formaldehyde for 10 minutes at room temperature, quenched
192 with 125 mM glycine, and lysed in SDS lysis buffer (1% SDS, 10 mM EDTA, 50 mM Tris pH 8.1,
193 1 mM PMSF, 1 μg/ml aprotinin, 1 μg/ml pepstatin A). Cellular lysates were sonicated using a
194 cup horn (550 Sonic Dismembrator, Fisher Scientific) at a power setting of 5 with twenty-five 20-
195 second pulses on ice, which fragmented the chromatin to an average length of approximately
196 1000 bp. Samples were diluted and immunoprecipitated with antibodies against NF-κB p65,
197 IRF1, IRF2, IRF4, IRF8, rabbit IgG, or goat IgG (all from Santa Cruz Biotechnology). Purified
198 DNA samples from both ChIPs and input controls were resuspended in distilled H_2O and
199 analyzed by semi-quantitative PCR. PCR reactions contained 10 mm Tris-HCl pH 8.3, 50 mm
200 KCl, 1.5 mm $MgCl_2$, 100 pmol of each primer, 200 μm each dATP, dGTP, dCTP, and dTTP,
201 5μCi α^{32}P-dATP, and 2.5 units of Amplitaq Gold (Applied Biosystems) in a 50-μl reaction
202 volume. Following an initial denaturation step at 95°C for 15 minutes, DNAs were amplified for
203 30 cycles, each consisting of a 30-second denaturing step at 94°C, a 45-second annealing step
204 at 65°C, and a one-minute extension step at 72°C. Samples were electrophoresed on 5% non-
205 denaturing polyacrylamide gels, visualized by autoradiography, and quantified using a Molecular
206 Dynamics PhosphorImager SI using ImageQuant software. Alternatively, purified DNA from
207 ChIPs and input controls were analyzed using the PowerUp SYBR Green Master Mix (Applied
208 Biosystems) in a LightCycler 480 (Roche). Primers used to amplify specifically the HIV-1 5' LTR
209 and GLS were 5'- TGGAAGGGCTAATTTACTCCC -3' (sense) and 5'-
210 CATCTCTCTCCTTCTAGCCTC -3' (antisense). Control amplifications of a serial dilution of
211 purified genomic DNA from latently infected U1 cells were performed with each primer set to
212 ensure that all amplifications were within the linear range of the reaction. To calculate the
213 relative levels of association with the LTR, PhosphorImager data of the PCR products obtained
214 for immunoprecipitated chromatin samples were normalized against the PCR products obtained

215 for input DNA (% Input). Values were normalized across donors and expressed as relative
216 binding.
217
218 **LTR mutant construction.** The reported plasmid pLTR(Sp1)-luciferase was generated by PCR
219 amplification of pNL4-3 using the sense primer 5'-
220 CGGGGTACCCCGTGGAAGGGCTAATTTGGTCCC- 3' and the antisense primers 5'-
221 CCGCTCGAGCGGCATCTCTCTCCTTCTAGCCTC-3', digestion with KpnI and XhoI, and
222 ligation into KpnI/XhoI-digested pGL3-Basic (Promega). Mutations to the NF-κB and IRF binding
223 sites in pLTR(Sp1)-luciferase were generated using the QuickChange IIXL site-directed
224 mutagenesis kit (Stratagene). Primers used for site-directed mutagenesis are listed in Table 1.
225 The -158 LTR-luciferase construct was generated by deleting the LTR sequence upstream of
226 position -158 (relative to the start site of transcription) of pNL4-3, which includes the AP-1
227 binding sites located in the U3 portion of the 5' LTR, digestion of the resulting fragment with
228 KpnI and XhoI, and ligation into KpnI/XhoI-digested pGL3-Basic (Promega).
229
230 **shRNA knock-down of MyD88, TRIF, and IRF8.** MDMs (1.2×10^7) were transfected with
231 plasmids that encoded either a mixture of three to five shRNAs directed against MyD88, a
232 mixture of three to five shRNAs directed against TRIF, or a mixture of three to five control
233 shRNAs (Invivogen) and a blasticidin-resistance gene using Oligofectamine (Invitrogen) per the
234 manufacturer's instructions. Transfected cells were selected by culture in the presence of
235 blasticidin for 48 hours, and either used in HIV-1 replication assays or lysed for immunoblot
236 analysis to measure MyD88 and TRIF expression using a rabbit monoclonal antibody to MyD88
237 (Cell Signaling Technology), a rabbit polyclonal antibody to TRIF (Cell Signaling Technology), or
238 a mouse monoclonal antibody to β-actin (Sigma). Similarly, MDMs were transfected with
239 plasmids that encoded either a mixture of three to five shRNAs directed against IRF8 (Sigma) or

240 a mixture of control shRNAs (Sigma) and a puromycin-resistance gene using Oligofectamine
241 (Invitrogen) per the manufacturer's instructions. Transfected cells were selected by culture in
242 the presence of puromycin for 48 hours and either used in HIV-1 replication assays or lysed for
243 immunoblot analysis to measure IRF8 expression using a rabbit monoclonal antibody (Cell
244 Signaling Technology).
245
246 **Overexpression of IRF8.** MDMs (1.2×10^7) were transfected with a plasmid that encoded IRF8
247 (Origene) and a neomycin-resistance gene using Oligofectamine (Invitrogen) per the
248 manufacturer's instructions. Transfected cells were selected by culture in the presence of
249 neomycin for 48 hours and then used for HIV-1 replication assays or lysed for immunoblot
250 analysis to measure IRF8 expression using a rabbit monoclonal antibody (Cell Signaling
251 Technology).
252
253 **Endocytosis/phagocytosis assays.** MDMs (5×10^5/well) were treated with Dynasore (80 μM)
254 or DMSO and then incubated with pHrodo Green *E. coli* particles (Thermo Fisher) at 1 mg/ml for
255 2 hours at 37°C. The MDMs were then washed three times with PBS, incubated with eFluor 450
256 fixable viability dye (eBioscience) for 15 minutes at 4°C, and analyzed by flow cytometry. Flow
257 cytometric data was acquired using an Becton-Dickenson LSRFortessa, and data was analyzed
258 using FlowJo software.
259
260 **Statistical analysis.** Comparison between experimental samples was performed with a paired
261 one-tailed t-test with $p < 0.5$ denoting significant differences. Experiments were performed in
262 triplicate using cells from a minimum of four independent donors (unless otherwise indicated) to
263 control for interdonor variability.
264
265 **RESULTS**

266 **HIV-1 gene expression in MDMs is enhanced or repressed in a TLR-specific manner.** To
267 determine how purified TLR ligands affected HIV-1 gene expression, MDMs were infected with
268 a single-round infectious HIV-1 reporter virus, and then treated with ligands for TLR2, TLR3,
269 TLR4, or TLR5. Ligands that activated TLR2 or TLR5 enhanced HIV-1 replication, whereas
270 ligands for TLR3 or TLR4 repressed HIV-1 expression (Figure 1A). The effects of TLR ligands
271 on HIV-1 replication occurred at the level of transcription, as treatment with the TLR2/1 ligand
272 PAM3CSK4 led to an increase in HIV-1 mRNA accumulation, whereas treatment with the TLR4
273 ligand LPS led to a decrease in HIV-1 transcript levels (Figure 1C-1D). TLR treatment had no
274 effect of viral RNA stability, as viral RNA from LPS-treated MDMs had a similar decay rate to
275 that from untreated MDMs (Figure 1E). Recent studies have demonstrated that myeloid cells
276 from males and females have different susceptibilities to HIV-1 infection, largely due to
277 differential levels of innate immune responses and steroid hormones (20-22). We therefore
278 sought to determine whether there was a sex-based difference in the response to TLR ligand
279 treatment in MDMs. We found that TLR stimulation had similar effects on HIV-1 expression in
280 MDMs from both male and female donors (Supplemental Figure 1). These results indicate that
281 MyD88-dependent signaling enhances HIV-1 transcription whereas TRIF-dependent signaling
282 inhibits HIV-1 transcription in MDMs.
283
284 MyD88-dependent TLR signaling leads to the activation of both NF-κB and AP-1 transcription
285 factors, among others (23). The HIV-1 LTR contains binding sites for both NF-κB and AP-1. The
286 two NF-κB sites are thought to be essential for HIV-1 transcription (24, 25), whereas the AP-1
287 sites, while not essential, are thought to enhance HIV-1 transcription (26, 27). Previous studies
288 demonstrated that treatment of HIV-infected MDMs with the TLR2/TLR1 ligand PAM3CSK4 led
289 to an increased association of the p65 subunit of NF-κB and the c-fos subunit of AP-1 with the
290 5' LTR which, in turn, correlated with increased virus replication (18); however, the contributions

291 made by each pathway to TLR2-mediated activation have not been previously characterized.
292 To determine the roles of NF-κB and AP-1 in TLR2-activated HIV replication in MDMs, HIV-1-
293 infected cells were treated with either BAY 11-7082, an inhibitor of IκB kinase (28), celastrol, a
294 small molecule inhibitor of the IκB kinase complex (29), or inhibitors that disrupt AP-1 signaling.
295 As shown in Supplemental figure 2, BAY 11-7082 and celastrol treatment completely ablated
296 TLR2/1-enhanced HIV-1 expression. Similarly, the use of an LTR-based reporter construct with
297 mutations in the NF-κB binding sites did not result in increased gene expression in response to
298 TLR2 signaling (Supplemental Figure 2C). Treatment of HIV-infected macrophages with
299 inhibitors of kinases upstream of AP-1 activation, such as MEK1/2 (U0126, PD98509), and p38
300 (SB203580), resulted in modest, but reproducible, decreases in TLR2-mediated activation of
301 HIV-1 (Supplemental Figure 2D). Similarly, LTR reporter constructs lacking AP-1 binding sites
302 were activated in response to TLR2 signaling at levels similar to that of the WT construct, further
303 demonstrating the non-essential role of AP-1 in TLR2-mediated HIV-1 activation (Supplemental
304 Figure 2E). Although the regulation of HIV-1 transcription through multiple transcription factor
305 binding sites in and adjacent to the 5' LTR is complex, these data suggest that, in MDMs, TLR2-
306 activated HIV-1 expression is mediated primarily through NF-κB with a minor contribution from
307 AP-1 signaling.
308
309 **Co-infection with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* or *Escherichia coli* represses HIV-1 replication**
310 **in MDMs.** Our preliminary studies using purified TLR ligands in isolation suggested that different
311 TLR signaling cascades had diverse effects on HIV-1 replication. Since most pathogens encode
312 multiple TLR ligands, we sought to determine the effects of intact pathogens on HIV-1
313 replication. We incubated HIV-infected MDMs with *N. gonorrhoeae* (GC), which expresses
314 ligands for TLR2, TLR4, and TLR9. We found that increasing amounts of GC led to a dose-
315 dependent decrease in HIV-1 replication in MDMs (Figure 1F). Bacterial replication was not

316 required for these effects, as heat-killed GC led to repression of HIV-1 replication in MDMs
317 (Supplemental Figure 3A). GC-mediated repression occurred at the level of viral transcription
318 (Figure 1G) and did not decrease viral RNA stability (Supplemental Figure 3B). Similar to what
319 we observed with purified LPS, the biological sex of the donors had no effect on GC- or *E. coli*-
320 mediated HIV-1 repression in MDMs (Supplemental Figure 3C). In addition, repression of HIV-1
321 replication is not specific for GC, but may be a generalized response to Gram-negative bacteria,
322 as co-infection with *E. coli* also repressed HIV-1 replication in MDMs in a manner similar to GC
323 (Figure 1H). Despite the presence of both activating (TLR2) and repressing (TLR4) TLR ligands,
324 both GC and *E. coli* mediated repression of HIV-1 replication in macrophages. This finding
325 raised several possibilities: 1) the dominance of TLR4 signaling over TLR2 signaling in MDMs;
326 2) different expression levels of TLR2, TLR4, and TLR4-associated molecules such as CD14
327 and MD-2 on MDMs; 3) different cytokine profiles produced in response to GC or *E. coli*; and/or
328 4) variable expression of signaling molecules downstream of TLRs. These scenarios were
329 further explored.
330
331 **TLR4 signaling is dominant in MDMs.** To determine whether certain TLR pathways are
332 dominant in MDMs, we performed co-treatments of HIV-infected MDMs with the TLR2 ligand
333 PAM3CSK4 and the TLR4 ligand LPS. We found that increasing the concentration of LPS
334 against a fixed concentration of PAM3CSK4 led to a reversal of TLR2-mediated activation of
335 HIV-1 and, eventually, to repression of HIV-1 replication (Figure 2A). Conversely, increasing the
336 concentration of PAM3CSK4 against a fixed concentration of LPS did not reverse LPS-mediated
337 repression of HIV-1 (Figure 2A). Flow cytometry was used to determine that the different
338 responses of MDMs were likely not due to receptor expression, as MDMs express both TLR2
339 and TLR4 (Figure 2B-C). In addition, MDMs produced both TNF-α and IFN-β in response to
340 LPS treatment, GC co-infection, and *E. coli* co-infection. Whereas treatment of MDMs with LPS
341 resulted in a similar cytokine profile to that of co-infection, treatment of MDMs with the TLR-

342 ligand PAM3CSK4 resulted in the production of TNF-α, but not appreciable levels of IFN- β
343 (Figure 2D-E). Taken together, our data suggest that TLR4 signaling, which negatively regulates
344 LTR-driven gene expression, is dominant in MDMs.
345
346 **LPS- and GC-mediated repression of HIV-1 in MDMs is dependent on TRIF-mediated type**
347 **I IFN production.** Since LPS and GC both induce type I IFN production, whereas the TLR2
348 ligand PAM3CSK4 does not, we wished to determine whether GC-stimulated production of IFN-
349 α/β contributes to repression of HIV-1 in MDMs. We found that treatment of HIV-infected MDMs
350 with the vaccinia virus-encoded soluble type I IFN receptor B18R reversed GC-mediated
351 inhibition of HIV-1 replication, suggesting that TLR4-mediated IFN production is required for
352 HIV-1 repression by GC (Figure 3A). Since both purified TLR4 ligands and GC, which encodes
353 ligands for TLR2, TLR4, and TLR9, repress HIV-1 replication in MDMs, we predicted that
354 downstream effector molecules of TLR4 signaling would contribute to the repression of HIV-1
355 replication in MDMs. First, we confirmed that TLR4 signaling was responsible for GC-mediated
356 HIV-1 repression in MDMs. Treatment with the TLR4-specific inhibitor TAK242 reversed the
357 LPS- and GC-dependent repression of HIV-1 in MDMs (Figure 3B). Treatment with TAK242 had
358 no effect on TLR2-mediated activation of HIV-1 replication in MDMs, consistent with reports that
359 TAK242 is specific for TLR4 (30).
360
361 It has been shown that TLR4, which can utilize both MyD88 and TRIF adaptor proteins, initiates
362 different signaling pathways dependent upon its cellular location. Cell-surface TLR4
363 engagement leads to MyD88-dependent signaling, whereas endosomal TLR4 engagement
364 leads to TRIF-dependent signaling (31). To examine whether TRIF-dependent signaling is
365 responsible for HIV-1 repression, we blocked dynamin-dependent endocytosis of TLR4 with
366 Dynasore, which prevents TRIF-dependent signaling while leaving MyD88-dependent signaling

367 intact. As shown, blocking endocytosis-mediated TLR4 internalization (Supplemental figure 4)
368 reversed GC-mediated repression of HIV-1 in MDMs (Figure 3C). Given the ability of GC to
369 signal through both TLR2-MyD88 and TLR4-TRIF, one might expect the inhibition of type I IFN
370 signaling by B18R or the inhibition of endocytosis by Dynasore to lead to augmented viral gene
371 expression through intact MyD88 signaling. However, we did not observe this, likely due to
372 incomplete inhibition of either IFN signaling or endocytosis.
373
374 To confirm the role of MyD88 in TLR2-mediated HIV-1 activation and TRIF in TLR4-mediated
375 HIV-1 repression, we used shRNAs to knock down the two molecules in HIV-infected MDMs
376 (Figure 3D). Knock-down of MyD88 led to a loss of TLR2-mediated HIV-1 activation, but had no
377 effect on LPS or GC-mediated HIV-1 repression (Figure 3E). In contrast, knock-down of TRIF
378 had no effect on TLR2-mediated HIV-1 activation, but reversed LPS- and GC-mediated
379 repression of HIV-1 replication (Figure 3E). Knock-down of either MyD88 or TRIF had no effect
380 on the activation of HIV-1 by the phorbol ester PMA, which signals directly through protein
381 kinase C, independently of TLRs (Figure 3E). These data suggest that the TLR4-TRIF-type I
382 IFN axis in MDMs leads to GC- and *E. coli*-mediated repression of HIV-1 replication.
383
384 **TLR4 signaling leads to differential IRF recruitment to the HIV-1 LTR.** Since type I IFN
385 production is critical for GC- and *E. coli*-mediated HIV-1 repression in MDMs, we examined the
386 role of interferon-stimulated genes (ISGs) in HIV-1 regulation. Previous studies have shown that
387 ISGs are temporally regulated in macrophages in response to innate immune sensors and type I
388 IFN signaling (32, 33). To determine whether the repressive effects of LPS were due to early or
389 late phase ISGs, HIV-1-infected MDMs were treated with the TLR2 ligand PAM3CSK4 or the
390 TLR4 ligand LPS and total cytoplasmic RNA was extracted at various times post treatment.
391 Treatment of HIV-infected MDMs with the TLR2 ligand PAM3CSK led to a continuous increase
392 in HIV-1 RNA levels (Figure 4A). In contrast, treatment of HIV-infected MDMs with the TLR4

393 ligand LPS led to an initial short-lived increase in HIV-1 RNA levels; however, levels steadily
394 declined thereafter (Figure 4A), indicating that HIV-1 transcription displays a biphasic response
395 to TLR4 stimulation in MDMs. This suggests that late-phase proteins induced by type I IFNs are
396 responsible for TLR4-mediated decreases in HIV-1 transcription. It is known that HIV-1 contains
397 an interferon-stimulated response element (ISRE) in the Gag-leader sequence (GLS),
398 immediately downstream from the 5' LTR. Because type I IFN is required for LPS- and GC-
399 mediated repression of HIV-1 in MDMs, we assessed the role of the ISRE in this process using
400 transient transfection assays with mutated LTR-reporter constructs in HEK293 cells expressing
401 TLR4, MD-2, and CD14. We found that LPS treatment repressed LTR-driven reporter-gene
402 expression in cells expressing WT ISRE elements, but not in cells transfected with an LTR-
403 luciferase construct containing a mutated ISRE (Supplemental Figure 5). This suggests that
404 transcription factor engagement of the ISRE governs TLR4-mediated HIV-1 repression.
405
406 Previous studies have shown that IRF1 and IRF2 both bind to this ISRE *in vitro* and that IRF1
407 and IRF2 expression are associated with enhanced HIV-1 transcription (34). Two other IRFs,
408 IRF4 and IRF8, are also expressed in macrophages (35) and have been shown to increase in
409 levels in response to type I IFN signaling and other signals (36, 37). Interestingly, IRF8 has
410 been implicated in maintaining HIV-1 latency in infected monocytic cell lines (34, 38, 39), and
411 IRF4 has been implicated in negative regulation of TLR signaling (40). We therefore
412 investigated whether various IRFs are recruited to the HIV-1 ISRE in response to LPS and GC
413 treatment in MDMs. Using chromatin immunoprecipitation analysis, we found that IRF1, IRF2,
414 IRF4, and IRF8 all are able to associate with the 5' LTR and GLS containing the ISRE in HIV-
415 infected MDMs (Figure 4C-D). Early after treatment with LPS, the levels of IRF1 associated with
416 this region of the viral promoter increased, whereas the levels of IRF2 and IRF4 decreased. By
417 24h post-treatment with LPS, the levels of IRF4 and IRF8 associated with this region increased.
418 Of particular note, the levels of IRF8 recruitment increased well above those seen in

419 unstimulated MDMs (Figure 4C). A similar pattern of IRF recruitment to the 5' LTR and GLS
420 occurred in GC-treated MDMs (4D), suggesting that repression of HIV-1 transcription in
421 response to LPS and GC treatment is due to enhanced IRF8 recruitment to the 5' LTR and
422 GLS. To confirm the central role of IRF8 in TLR4-mediated repression of HIV-1 expression in
423 MDMs, we used shRNA to knockdown IRF8 expression in MDMs (Figure 4E). Reducing IRF8
424 expression reversed TLR4-mediated HIV-1 repression in response to treatment with LPS or GC.
425 Knockdown of IRF8 led to activation of HIV-1 expression in cells treated with a combination of
426 PAM3CSK4 and LPS or GC, similar to that seen with treatment with PAM3CSK4 alone (Figure
427 4F). In contrast, overexpression of IRF8 in MDMs led to decrerased HIV-1 expression in
428 untreated MDMs and reversed the activation of HIV-1 expression in PAM3CSK4-treated MDMs,
429 but had no effect on LPS-mediated repression in MDMs (Figure 4G-H). There was a small, but
430 significant, enhancement of HIV-1 repression in MDMs treated with a combination of
431 PAM3CSK4 and LPS or with GC.
432
433 Taken together, these data suggest that both LPS and GC activate TLR4-mediated TRIF
434 signaling in MDMs, resulting in the production of type I IFNs. In turn, IFNs work in an autocrine
435 or paracrine fashion to induce the expression of IRF8, which then binds to the ISRE present in
436 the GLS of HIV-1 to repress viral transcription (Figure 6).
437
438 **LPS and GC-treatment induces persistent low-level/latent HIV-1 infection in MDMs.**
439 Recent studies in animals and human tissues demonstrate that HIV-1 can form persistent low-
440 level or latent infections in macrophages (41-44). Our data suggest that engagement of the
441 TLR4-TRIF-type I IFN axis in macrophages can repress virus replication and we wished to
442 determine whether signaling through this axis could contribute to the establishment of persistent
443 low-level or latent HIV-1 infection in macrophages. To this end, HIV-1-infected MDMs were
444 treated a single time with the TLR2 ligand PAM3CSK4, the TLR4 ligand LPS, heat-killed GC,

445 IFN-α, or IFN-β at day 3 post-infection. As shown in Figure 5, while there was a range of virus
446 replication in the various donors, we found that treatment with a single dose of LPS, heat-killed
447 GC, IFN-α, or IFN-β consistently led to a prominent, sustained decrease in HIV-1 replication in
448 MDMs, whereas treatment with PAM3CSK4 led to a transient increase in HIV-1 replication
449 followed by a slight decrease in replication. These data suggest that engagement of the TLR4-
450 TRIF-type I IFN axis can promote low-level persistent/latent HIV-1 infection in MDMs.
451
452 **DISCUSSION**
453
454 In these studies, we provide evidence that the interaction between commensal and pathogenic
455 bacteria can repress HIV-1 replication in macrophages by altering the recruitment of
456 transcription factors to the HIV-1 GLS, thereby inducing a state of proviral latency. We further
457 demonstrate that TLR2 ligands trigger MyD88-mediated signaling that increases virus
458 expression via the activation of NF-kB, whereas TLR4 ligands trigger TRIF-dependent
459 production of type I IFNs. Type I IFN signaling, in turn, is associated with the recruitment of
460 IRF8 to the ISRE located in the GLS and a shift to low-level or latent HIV-1 infection.
461
462 A number of studies have shown that IRFs play an important role in the regulation of HIV-1
463 replication. There is an ISRE located downstream from the 5' LTR in the GLS that is essential
464 for efficient viral replication (26, 45). This ISRE is typically bound by IRF1 and/or IRF2, leading
465 to activation of virus transcription (34, 46) through the recruitment of transcriptional co-
466 activators, such as the histone acetyl transferase (HAT) p300/CBP (47). IRF1 and IRF2 are
467 ubiquitously expressed in cells, thought they can be upregulated by type I IFNs (36) and, in the
468 case of IRF1, by TLR signaling (48, 49) and HIV-1 infection (45, 50), illustrating how HIV-1 can
469 co-opt the antiviral IFN response to augment its own replication. Once associated with the

470 ISRE, IRF1 can cooperatively bind to both NF-κB at the HIV-1 LTR and the viral transactivator
471 Tat at the HIV-1 TAR loop to augment viral transcription/elongation (34, 51). Our studies
472 demonstrate that both IRF1 and IRF2 associate with the HIV-1 ISRE in unstimulated MDMs
473 (Fig. 4). Upon stimulation with TLR4 ligands, IRF1recruitment to the HIV-1 ISRE is enhanced
474 (Fig. 4), consistent with the prevailing theory that TLR-MyD88 signaling can activate IRF1 (52).
475 This is accompanied by a concomitant decrease of IRF2 binding. These data suggest that IRF1
476 binding to the ISRE as either monomers or homodimers activates HIV-1 expression, whereas
477 IRF2 binding to the ISRE as monomers, homodimers, or heterodimers with IRF1 represses HIV-
478 1 expression. Unfortunately, ChIP analysis of HIV-infected MDMs using current tools does not
479 permit differentiating between the association of various homodimers and heterodimers with the
480 ISRE at a population level.
481
482 We demonstrate that at late time points after TLR4 engagement, IRF8 is recruited the the GLS
483 downstream from the 5' LTR (Figure 4), and that this is associated with decreased HIV-1
484 transcription (Figure 1). Macrophages express high basal levels of IRF8, although its expression
485 can be further enhanced in response to type I IFNs (36, 37) or TLR signaling (53, 54). IRF8 has
486 been shown to bind to IRF1, in addition to other transcription factors, and to serve as either a
487 transcriptional activator or a transcriptional inhibitor of other genes in a context-dependent
488 manner (55-57). Previous studies have shown that IRF8 can repress HIV-1 expression (34, 38,
489 39). In fact, the interaction between IRF8 and IRF1 has been shown to repress HIV-1
490 transcription in Jurkat cells (34). This may be due to IRF8-mediated disruption of the IRF1-Tat
491 interaction and/or the IRF1-NF-κB interaction (51) that increase viral replication. Based on our
492 data, we propose that changes in the IRF binding pattern to the ISRE in response to TLR
493 signaling have profound effects on HIV-1 replication. In unstimulated HIV-infected
494 macrophages, the ISRE is most likely occupied by IRF1/IRF2 heterodimers that allow for a low-

495 level of virus replication (Figure 6A). Early after stimulation of TLR4 with LPS, there is a switch
496 to IRF1 homodimers present at the ISRE that allow for high levels of virus replication due to
497 cooperative binding between IRF1, NF-κB, and HIV-1 Tat. (Figure 6B). At late time points after
498 TLR4 stimulation with LPS or GC, during the IFN feedback phase of the response, the ISRE is
499 occupied by IRF1/IRF8 heterodimers (Figure 6C). These IRF1/IRF8 heterodimers likely block
500 the cooperative interaction(s) between IRF1, NF-κB, and Tat, thereby repressing HIV-1
501 replication. Although we also demonstrate that IRF4 is recruited transiently to the HIV-1 ISRE
502 following treatment with LPS, the biological significance of this finding is uncertain. Prior studies
503 have provided evidence for an LPS/TLR4-mediated repression of HIV-1 expression through the
504 induction of type I IFNs and other mechanisms (16, 17, 58-62). Our data extend these findings
505 and demonstrate that LPS treatment, as well as infection with the sexually transmitted pathogen
506 GC or the gut-associated microbe *E. coli*, represses HIV-1 expression in MDMs through the
507 TLR4-mediated, TRIF-dependent production of type I IFNs and the subsequent recruitment of
508 IRF8 to the HIV-1 ISRE.
509
510 We have demonstrated that MyD88-dependent signaling activates HIV-1 expression in MDMs
511 by activating NF-κB, whereas TRIF-dependent signaling represses HIV-1 expression in these
512 cell types through the type I IFN-mediated recruitment of IRF8 to the HIV-1 ISRE. We have also
513 shown that TLR4-mediated, TRIF-dependent signaling is dominant in MDMs, both in the context
514 of treatment with purified TLR ligands as well as infection with the sexually transmitted pathogen
515 GC or the gut-associated microbe *E. coli*. Co-infection of virus-infected MDMs by pathogens
516 that express TLR4 ligands decreases HIV-1 replication through the recruitment of IRF8 to the
517 HIV-1 ISRE. Prior studies have provided evidence for an LPS/TLR4-mediated repression of
518 HIV-1 expression through the induction of type I IFNs and other mechanisms. These studies
519 employed HIV-1 infection of myeloid cells (16, 17, 58-61) or transfection using full-length viral

520 constructs (62). Our data extends these findings and demonstrates that LPS treatment
521 represses HIV-1 expression in MDMs through its interaction with TLR4. Specifically, we show
522 that LPS induces TLR4-mediated, TRIF-dependent production of type I IFNs, which in turn lead
523 to the repression of HIV-1 replication in MDMs through the recruitment of IRF8 to the HIV-1
524 ISRE.
525
526 Importantly, our data suggest that the microbial environment can influence the state of HIV-1
527 replication and the establishment of latency in human macrophages as part of the viral reservoir
528 in infected individuals under antiretroviral therapy (ART) regimens. Macrophages can be
529 productively infected with HIV-1 *in vivo* and viral replication can be modulated by co-pathogens
530 through their interactions with innate immune receptors such as TLRs (18, 63). We demonstrate
531 that productive infection of macrophages can be altered by TLR signaling in response to purified
532 ligands and bacterial co-infection, with TLR2- and TLR5-mediated signaling activating HIV-1
533 and TLR3- and TLR4-mediated signaling repressing HIV-1 replication in MDMs (Figure 1).
534
535 In addition to their role in HIV-1 production, macrophages also contribute to HIV-1 persistence *in*
536 *vivo*. Although CD4+ memory T cells are thought to constitute the majority of the HIV-1
537 reservoir, several studies have demonstrated that tissue resident macrophages in the lymph
538 nodes (64-66), gastrointestinal tract (5, 67), genitourinary tract (2, 42, 68), liver (69-71), and
539 lung (72-74), as well as perivascular macrophages and microglial cells in the brain (41, 75-80),
540 can serve as tissue reservoirs for HIV-1. In SHIV-infected rhesus macaques, *in vivo* viral
541 replication was sustained by tissue macrophages after depletion of CD4+ T cells (81).
542 Moreover, HIV-1 persistence in macrophages was confirmed in HIV-1 infected humanized
543 myeloid-only mice in which viral rebound was observed in a subset of the animals following
544 treatment interruption (43). These studies demonstrate that macrophages have the capacity to
545 serve as *bona fide* HIV-1 reservoirs *in vivo*. Our findings that pathogenic and commensal

546 bacteria, through engagement of TLRs, can influence HIV-1 replication in macrophages have
547 potential clinical significance. For example, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that induce
548 robust type interferon production, such as GC or HSV-2, may repress virus replication in
549 genitourinary tract macrophages that harbor HIV-1 provirus and contribute to viral escape from
550 the immune system and from ART.
551
552 The major obstacle to the eradication of HIV-1 is the presence of a persistent viral reservoir that
553 that can resurface upon discontinuation of ART. The potential contribution of HIV-1 in tissue
554 macrophages to virus rebound with the cessation of ART is not entirely understood, but recent
555 primate studies suggest that the functional macrophage reservoir can contribute to viral rebound
556 upon treatment cessation (82-84). Our data demonstrate that interactions between
557 macrophages and pathogenic or commensal microorganisms within the genitourinary and
558 gastrointestinal tracts, such as GC and *E. coli*, may alter the ability of macrophages to serve as
559 reservoirs for viral persistence in the host. Our findings are consistent with independent studies
560 that demonstrate that repeated stimulation of M1-polarized MDMs with proinflammatory
561 cytokines (TNF-α) and/or type II IFNs (interferon-γ) induce a state akin to HIV-1 latency (85). In
562 addition, the oral pathogen *Porphyromonas gingivalis* has been shown to influence the
563 establishment and maintenance of persistent HIV-1 infection in MDMs (86). Finally, studies
564 have demonstrated that a subset of HIV-1-infected macrophages enter a state of viral latency
565 characterized by altered metabolic signatures (87) and apoptotic mechanisms (87). Taken
566 together, these studies demonstrate that co-infection, inflammatory stimuli, and metabolic
567 alterations can influence the establishment and maintenance of the HIV-1 reservoir in
568 macrophages. As an example, gastrointestinal macrophages constitute a major cellular
569 reservoir for HIV-1 (5, 88-90) and are frequently exposed to microbes and microbial products
570 either through luminal sampling (91) or microbial translocation, the latter of which is increased in
571 HIV-positive individuals (92). Our data suggest that interactions such as those between

572 intestinal macrophages and gut-associated microbes may have clinical significance for the
573 establishment and maintenance of the latent HIV-1 reservoir.
574
575 Our results demonstrating that Neisseria gonorrhoeae and E. coli repress HIV-1 replication in
576 macrophages by altering transcription factor recruitment to the HIV-1 GLS and induce a state of
577 viral latency confirm the need for further in vitro, ex vivo, and in vivo studies regarding the
578 effects of sexually-transmitted pathogens and commensal microbes on HIV-1 persistence.
579
580
581
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595
596 **DISCLOSURES**
597 The authors have no conflicts of interest.

598

599 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

600 T.M.H. and G.A.V. designed the study. T.M.H and G.A.V. developed the methodology. T.M.H.
601 conducted experiments. T.M.H., V.P., and G.A.V. wrote the manuscript. T.M.H., V.P., and
602 G.A.V. acquired funds. T.M.H. and G.A.V. supervised the study.

603

604 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

605

606 **Figure 1. Treatment with purified TLR ligands and intact bacteria alter HIV-1 replication at**
607 **the level of transcription.** (A) MDMs (2.5 x 10^5 cells/well) were infected with a single-round,
608 replication-defective HIV-luciferase reporter virus at an MOI = 0.1. After four hours, unbound
609 virus was removed by washing with PBS and cells were cultured in complete medium. Forty-
610 eight hours after infection, cells were treated with the TLR2 ligand PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml), the
611 TLR3 ligand poly I:C (25 μg/ml), the TLR4 ligand LPS (100 ng/ml), or the TLR5 ligand FLA-ST
612 (100 ng/ml) for 18 hours. The cells were then lysed and assayed for luciferase activity. Bars
613 represent the mean (± SD) of 11 donors, each donor tested in triplicate. (B-D) MDMs were
614 infected as described above. Forty-eight hours after infection, cells were treated with
615 PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml) or LPS (100 ng/ml) for six hours (B-C) or 24 hours (D). Cells were then
616 lysed and assayed for viral RNA accumulation by RT-PCR. Shown are data from one
617 representative donor (B) and composite data from eight donors at 6 hours (C) and four donors
618 at 24 hours (D). (E) MDMs (1 × 10^6 cells/well) were infected as in (A). Forty-eight hours after
619 infection, cells were treated with the TLR4 ligand LPS (100 ng/ml) for 4 h. Cells were then
620 treated with actinomycin D (10 μg/ml) to inhibit transcription. Total cytoplasmic RNA was
621 prepared from the treated cultures at the indicated time points following actinomycin D treatment
622 and analyzed by RT-qPCR for the expression of HIV-1 RNA. The data are the means (± SD)
623 from four donors. (F) MDMs were infected as in (A). Forty-eight hours after infection, the cells

624 were cultured overnight with increasing amounts of GC. Cells were then lysed and assayed for
625 luciferase activity. Bars represent mean (± SD) of seven donors, each donor tested in triplicate.
626 (G) MDMs were infected as described above. Forty-eight hours after infection, cells were
627 treated with GC at an MOI of 10 for 24 hours. Cells were then lysed and assayed for viral RNA
628 accumulation by RT-qPCR. Shown are data from four donors. (H) MDMs (2.5 x 10^5 cells/well)
629 were infected as in (A). Forty-eight hours after infection, the cells were cultured overnight with
630 increasing amounts of *E. coli*. Cells were then lysed and assayed for luciferase activity. Bars
631 represent mean (± SD) of four donors, each donor tested in triplicate. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$;
632 ***, $p < 0.001$; $p < 0.0001$.
633
634 **Figure 2. TLR4 signaling is dominant in MDMs.** (A) MDMs (2.5 x 10^5 cells/well) were infected
635 with a single-round, replication-defective HIV-luciferase reporter virus (MOI = 0.1). Forty-eight
636 hours after infection, cells were treated with a fixed concentration of PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml)
637 and increasing concentrations of LPS (1-1000 ng/ml, as indicated) or a fixed concentration of
638 LPS (100 ng/ml) and increasing concentrations of PAM3CSK4 (1-1000 ng/ml, as indicated) for
639 18 hours. Cells were then lysed and assayed for luciferase activity. The data are the mean (±
640 SD) of six donors, each donor tested in triplicate. (B-C) At eight days post-isolation, MDMs were
641 stained with antibodies against TLR2 or TLR4 or relevant isotype controls. Receptor expression
642 was assessed by flow cytometry. Histograms from one representative donor are shown in (B).
643 Grey, unstained cells; black line, isotype control; red line, TLR4; green line, TLR2. Mean
644 fluorescent intensity (MFI) ± SD from eight donors is depicted in (C). (D-E) MDMs (2.5 x 10^5
645 cells/well) were treated with the TLR2 ligand PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml), the TLR4 ligand LPS
646 (100 ng/ml), heat-killed GC (MOI = 10), or heat-killed *E. coli* (MOI = 10) for 18 hours. Cell
647 supernatant was harvested, filtered through a 0.2 μm filter, and analyzed by ELISA for TNF-α

648 (D) and IFN-β (E) production. Data represent mean (± SD) of seven donors (four donors for
649 heat-killed *E. coli*). *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$; ***, $p < 0.001$; $p < 0.0001$.
650
651 **Figure 3. LPS- and GC-mediated repression of HIV-1 replication in MDMs requires TLR4,**
652 **TRIF, and type I IFNs.** (A) MDMs (2.5×10^5 cells/well) were infected with a single-round,
653 replication-defective HIV-luciferase reporter virus (MOI = 0.1). Forty-eight hours after infection,
654 cells were treated with GC (MOI = 10) in the absence (white bars) or presence (black bars) of
655 B18R (100 ng/ml) for 18 hours. The cells were then lysed and assayed for luciferase activity.
656 The data are the mean (± SD) of seven donors, each donor tested in triplicate. (B) MDMs ($2.5 \times$
657 10^5 cells/well) were infected as above. Forty-eight hours after infection, cells were treated with
658 PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml), LPS (100 ng/ml), or heat-killed GC (MOI = 10) in the absence (white
659 bars) or presence (black bars) of TAK242 (1 μg/ml) for 18 hours. The cells were then lysed and
660 assayed for luciferase activity. The data are the mean (± SD) of six donors, each donor tested in
661 triplicate. (C) MDMs (2.5×10^5 cells/well) were infected as above. Forty-eight hours after
662 infection, cells were treated with vehicle control (white bars) or with (black bars) the dynamin
663 inhibitor Dynasore (80 μM) for 15 minutes prior to treatment with heat-killed GC (MOI = 10) for
664 18 hours. The cells were then lysed and assayed for luciferase activity. The data are the mean
665 (± SD) of six donors, each donor tested in triplicate. (D-E) MDMs (2×10^6 cells/well) were
666 transfected with a control scrambled shRNA, shRNA targeting MyD88, or shRNA targeting
667 TRIF. Knock-down of protein expression was detected by western blot (D). Transfected MDMs
668 were infected with a single-round, replication-defective HIV-luciferase reporter virus at an MOI =
669 0.1. Forty-eight hours after infection, cells were treated with PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml), LPS (100
670 ng/ml), heat-killed GC (MOI = 10), or PMA (10 nM) for 18 hours. The cells were then lysed and
671 assayed for luciferase activity (E). The data are the mean (± SD) of six donors. *, $p < 0.05$; **, p
672 < 0.01; ***, $p < 0.001$; $p < 0.0001$.

673

674 **Figure 4. LPS- and GC-mediated repression of HIV-1 in MDMs is associated with changes**
675 **in IRF recruitment to the ISRE.** (A) MDMs ($2x10^6$ cells/well) were infected with a single-round,
676 replication-defective HIV-luciferase reporter virus (MOI = 0.1). Forty-eight hours after infection,
677 cells were treated with PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml) or LPS (100 ng/ml). At various time points after
678 TLR stimulation, cells were harvested, lysed, and total cytoplasmic RNA was extracted. Viral
679 RNA accumulation was assessed by RT-PCR. The data are the mean (± SD) of four donors. (B-
680 C) MDMs (1.2×10^7 cells/plate) were infected with a single-round replication-defective HIV-GFP
681 reporter virus at an MOI = 2. Forty-eight hours after infection, cells were treated with LPS (100
682 ng/ml). At either 1 or 24 hours after LPS treatment, cells were fixed with formaldehyde, lysed,
683 sonicated, and subjected to immunoprecipitation with antibodies against IRF1, IRF2, IRF4,
684 IRF8, or rabbit IgG (isotype control). Association with the HIV-1 ISRE was assessed by PCR
685 using HIV-1 specific primers. Data from one representative donor is depicted in (B). Composite
686 data representing the mean (± SD) from five donors are showin in (C). (D) MDMs (1.2×10^7
687 cells/plate) were infected with a single-round replication-defective HIV-GFP reporter virus at an
688 MOI = 2. Forty-eight hours after infection, cells were treated with heat-killed GC (MOI = 10).
689 Twenty-four hours after GC treatment, cells were fixed with formaldehyde, lysed, sonicated, and
690 subjected to immunoprecipitation with antibodies against IRF1, IRF2, IRF4, IRF8, or rabbit IgG
691 (isotype control). Association with the HIV-1 ISRE was assessed by PCR using HIV-1 specific
692 primers. Composite data from five donors are shown. (E-F) MDMs ($2x10^6$ cells/well) transfected
693 with a controlled scrambled shRNA (white bars) or with shRNA targeting IRF8 (black bars) were
694 infected with a single-round, replication-defective HIV-luciferase reporter virus at an MOI = 0.1.
695 Knock-down of protein expression was detected by western blot (F). Forty-eight hours after
696 infection, cells were treated with PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml), LPS (100 ng/ml, a combination of
697 PAM3CSK4 and LPS (each at 100 ng/ml), or GC (MOI = 10) for 18 hours. Cells were then lysed

698 and assayed for luciferase activity (F). The experiment was performed using cells from five
699 different donors. (G-H) MDMs transfected with an empty vector (white bars) or a vector
700 encoding IRF8 (black bars) were infected with a single-round, replication-defective HIV-
701 luciferase reporter virus at an MOI = 0.1. IRF8 protein expression was detected by western blot
702 (G). Forty-eight hours after infection, cells were treated with PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml), LPS (100
703 ng/ml, a combination of PAM3CSK4 and LPS (each at 100 ng/ml), or GC (MOI = 10) for 18
704 hours. Cells were then lysed and assayed for luciferase activity (H). The experiment was
705 performed using cells from four different donors. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$; ***, $p < 0.001$; $p <$
706 0.0001.
707
708 **Figure 5. Treatment with LPS, GC, or type I IFNs induces a low-level persistent/latent**
709 **infection in MDMs.** MDMs (2.5×10^5 cells/well) were infected with replication-competent HIV-1_{Ba-}
710 $_{L}$ (MOI of 0.1). At day 3 post-infection, the cells were treated with a single dose of PAM3CSK4
711 (100 ng/ml), LPS (100 ng/ml), GC (MOI = 10), IFN-α (1000 U/ml), or IFN-β (1000 U/ml). Cell-
712 free supernatants were harvested every three days, and virus production was monitored by p24
713 ELISA. Data from five independent donors, each tested in triplicate, are shown. *, $p < 0.05$; **, p
714 < 0.01; ***, $p < 0.001$; $p < 0.0001$.
715
716 **Figure 6. Co-infection with GC or *E. coli* represses HIV-1 replication by altering IRF**
717 **recruitment to the HIV-1 GLS.** (A) Upon engagement of TLR2 and/or TLR4 by GC or *E. coli* at
718 the cell surface, transcription factors such as NF-κB are phosphorylated and are subsequently
719 recruited the HIV-1 5' LTR to drive viral transcription in MDMs. Upon engagement of TLR4 in
720 the endosome, IRF3 and IRF7 are phosphorylated and recruited to the IFN-α and/or IFN-β
721 promoters to drive type I IFN expression. (B) During the early phase of the response, type I
722 IFNs drive the expression of ISGs, including IRFs. Signaling through endosomal TLR4 leads to

723 the activation of IRF1 and its recruitment to the HIV-1 GLS, further enhancing HIV-1
724 transcription. (C) During the late phase of the response there is a type I IFN-dependent
725 activation of IRF8 and subsequent recruitment to the HIV-1 GLS, thereby repressing HIV-1
726 transcription.
727
728 **Supplemental Figure 1. Altered HIV-1 expression in MDMs in response to TLR**
729 **engagement is not sex-dependent.** MDMs (2.5 x 10^5 cells/well) were infected with a single-
730 round, replication-defective HIV-luciferase reporter virus (MOI = 0.1). After four hours, unbound
731 virus was removed by washing with PBS and cells were cultured in complete medium. Forty-
732 eight hours after infection, cells were treated with the TLR2 ligand PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml), the
733 TLR3 ligand poly I:C (25 μg/ml), the TLR4 ligand LPS (100 ng/ml), or the TLR5 ligand FLA-ST
734 (100 ng/ml) for 18 hours. The cells were then lysed and assayed for luciferase activity. Bars
735 represent the mean (± SD) of five male donors and five female donors; each donor tested in
736 triplicate. Although virus replication was decreased overall in MDMs from female donors
737 compared to MDMs from male donors, it was activated by treatment with PAM3CSK4 and FLA-
738 ST, and repressed by Poly I:C and LPS, in a manner similar to that seen in MDMs from male
739 donors. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$; ***, $p < 0.001$; $p < 0.0001$.
740
741 **Supplemental Figure 2. TLR2-activated HIV-1 expression is mediated primarily through**
742 **NF-κB.** (A-B) MDMs (2.5 x 10^5 cells/well) were infected with a single-round, replication-defective
743 HIV-luciferase reporter virus (MOI = 0.1). Forty-eight hours after infection, cells were treated
744 with PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml) in the presence or absence of 10 μM celastrol (A) or 10 μM BAY
745 11-7082 (B) for 18 hours. The cells were then lysed and assayed for luciferase activity. The data
746 are the mean (± SD) of six donors (celastrol) or three donors (BAY 11-7082); each donor tested
747 in triplicate. (C) HEK293-TLR2^{CFP}TLR1^{YFP} cells were transfected with HIV-1 LTR-luciferase

748 reporter constructs with intact NF-κB, mutated NF-κB, or deleted NF-κB binding sites. Following
749 transfection, cells were treated with PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml) for 18 hours and then harvested
750 and assayed for luciferase activity. Data represent the mean (± SD) of three independent
751 experiments, each performed in triplicate. (D) MDMs (2.5 x 10^5 cells/well) were infected as in
752 (A). Forty-eight hours after infection, cells were treated with PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml) in the
753 presence or absence of U0126 (10 μM), PD98059 (50 μM), or SB203580 (10 μM) for 18 hours.
754 Cells were then lysed and assayed for luciferase activity. The data are the mean (± SD) of six
755 donors; each donor tested in triplicate. (E) HEK293-TLR2^{CFP}TLR1^{YFP} cells were transfected with
756 HIV-1 LTR-luciferase reporter constructs with intact AP-1 sites (WT LTR) or deleted AP-1
757 binding sites (-158 LTR). Following transfection, cells were treated with PAM3CSK4 (100 ng/ml)
758 for 18 hours and then harvested and assayed for luciferase activity. Data are the mean (± SD)
759 of three independent experiments, each performed in triplicate. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$; ***, $p <$
760 0.001; $p < 0.0001$.
761
762 **Supplemental figure 3. Heat-killed GC represses HIV-1 replication in MDMs, but activates**
763 **it in MDDCs.** (A) MDMs were infected with a single-round, replication-defective HIV-1 luciferase
764 reporter virus (MOI = 0.1). Forty-eight hours after infection, the cells were cultured with
765 increasing amounts of live or heat-killed (56°C treatment) GC overnight. The cells were then
766 lysed and luciferase activity was measured. The data are the mean (± SD) of three donors, each
767 donor tested in triplicate. (B) MDMs (1 × 10^6 cells/well) were infected as in (A). Forty-eight hours
768 after infection, cells were treated with heat-killed GC (MOI = 10) for 4 h. Cells were then treated
769 with actinomycin D (10 μg/ml) to inhibit transcription. Total cytoplasmic RNA was prepared from
770 the treated cultures at the indicated time points following actinomycin D treatment and analyzed
771 by RT-qPCR for the expression of HIV-1 RNA. The data are the means (± SD) from four donors.
772 (C) MDMs were infected as in (A). Forty-eight hours after infection, cells were treated with heat-

773 killed GC (MOI = 10) or heat-killed *E. coli* (MOI = 10) for 18 hours. The cells were then lysed
774 and assayed for luciferase activity. Bars represent the mean (± SD) of five male donors and five
775 female donors; each donor tested in triplicate. Although virus replication was decreased overall
776 in MDMs from female donors compared to MDMs from male donors, it was repressed by HKGC
777 and HKEC in a manner similar to that seen in MDMs from male donors. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$;
778 ***, $p < 0.001$; $p < 0.0001$.
779
780 **Supplemental figure 4. Dynasore inhibits endocytosis/phagocytosis of labeled *E. coli***
781 **particles by MDMs.** (A-B) MDMs ($5x10^5$/well) were incubated with DMSO or Dynasore (80 μM)
782 for 15 minutes at 37°C. The cells were washed with PBS and incubated with pHrodo Green *E.*
783 *coli* (1 mg/ml) for 2 hours at 37°C. Endocytosis/phagocytosis was measured by flow cytometry.
784 Shown are data from one representative donor (A) and composite data from four donors (B). *,
785 $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$; ***, $p < 0.001$; $p < 0.0001$.
786
787 **Supplemental figure 5. TLR4-mediated repression of HIV-1 requires the ISRE binding site**
788 **located in the GLS downstream of the 5' LTR.** (A) HEK293-TLR4^{CFP}/MD-2/CD14 cells were
789 transfected with HIV-1 LTR/GLS-luciferase reporter constructs with an intact ISRE or mutated
790 ISRE binding site. Following transfection, cells were treated with LPS (100 ng/ml) for 18 hours
791 and then harvested and assayed for luciferase activity. Data are the mean (± SD) of three
792 independent experiments, each performed in triplicate. *, $p < 0.05$; **, $p < 0.01$; ***, $p < 0.001$; p
793 < 0.0001.

794 **Table 1. Primers used for PCR-based mutagenesis.**

Primer Name	Sequence

Forward mutI NF-κB	GGACTTTCCGCTGTCTACTTTCCAGG
Reverse mutI NF-κB	CCTGGAAAGTAGACAGCGGAAAGTCC
Forward mutII NF-κB	GCTTTCTACAATCTACTTTCCGCTGG
Reverse mutII NF-κB	CCAGCGGAAAGTAGATTGTAGAAAGC
Forward mutI&II NF-κB	GCTTTCTACAATCTACTTTCCGCTGTCTACTTTCCAGG
Reverse mutI&II NF-κB	CCTGGAAAGTAGACAGCGGAAAGTAGATTGTAGAAAGC
Forward delNF-κB	GCTGACATCGAGCTTTCTACAAAGGGAGGTGTGGCCTGGGCGGG
Reverse delNF-κB	CCCGCCCAGGCCACACCTCCCTTTGTAGAAAGCTCGATGTCAGC
Forward mutISRE	GCCCGAACAGGGACTTGCCCGCGCCCGTAAAGCCAGAGGAGATC
Reverse mutISRE	GATCTCCTCTGGCTTTACGGGCGCGGGCAAGTCCCTGTTCGGGC

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796

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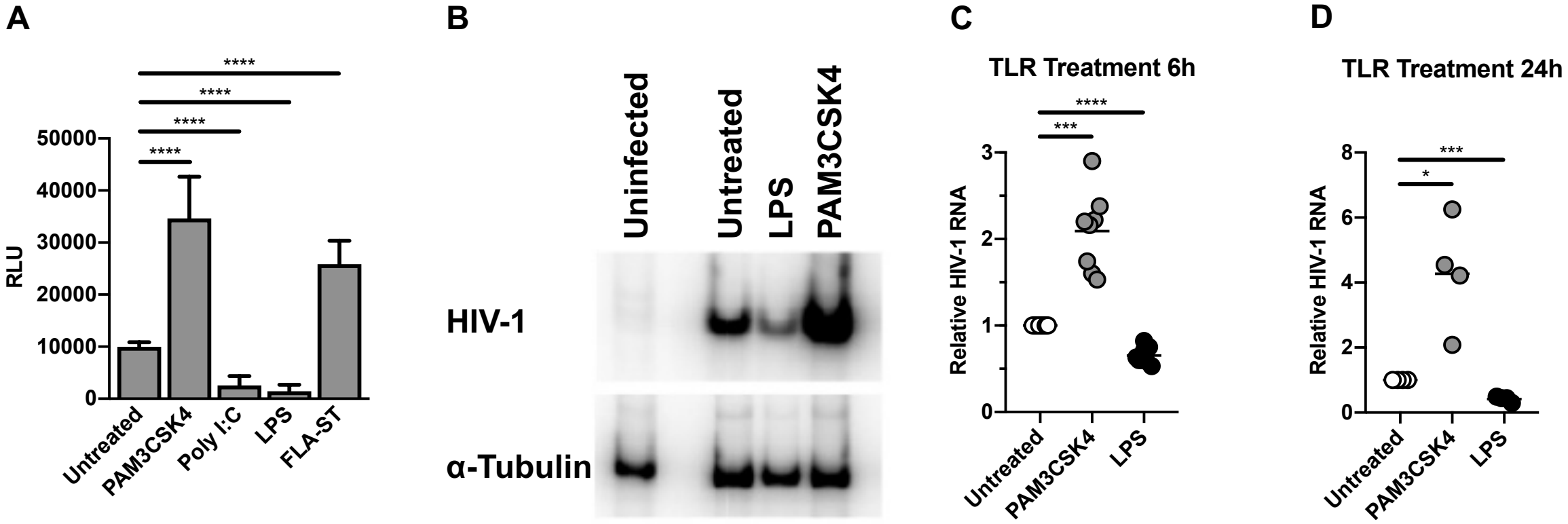
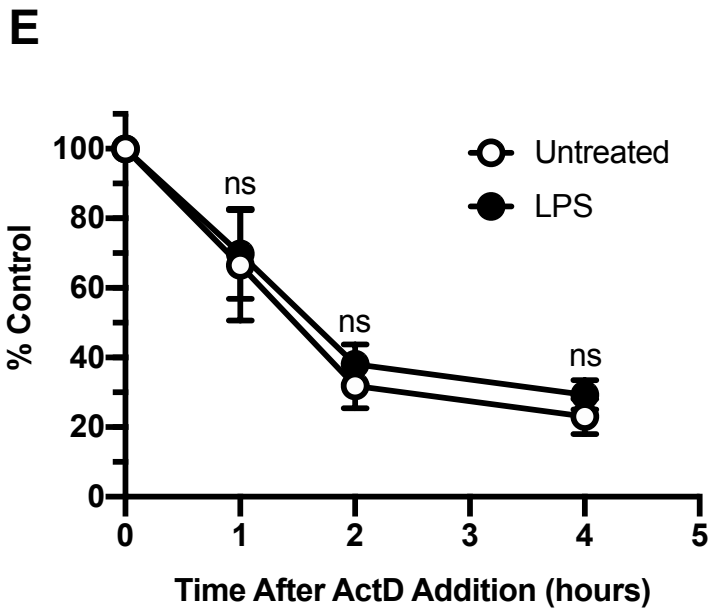
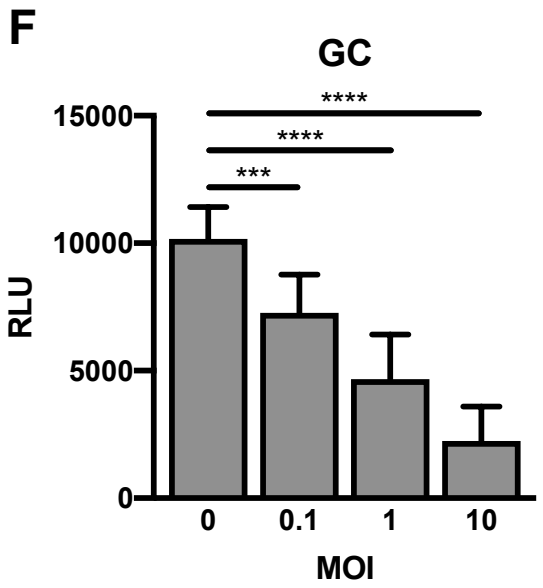
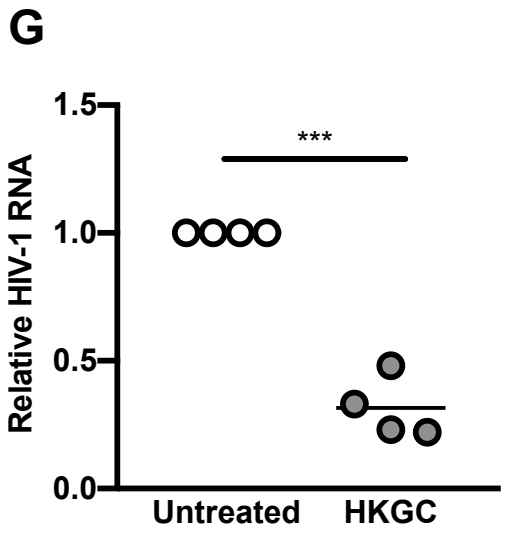
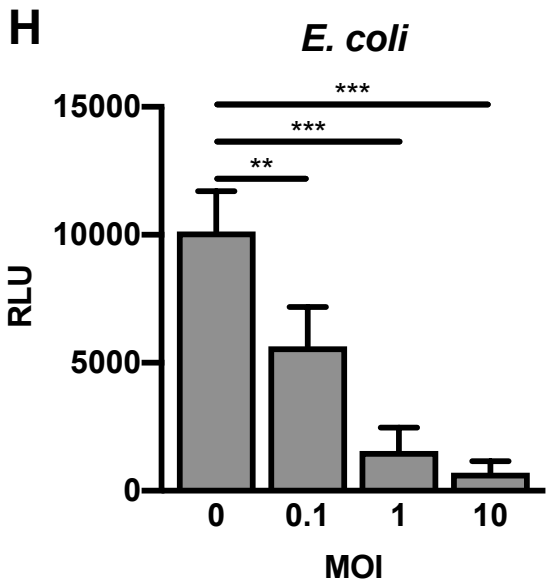


Viglianti Figure 1A-D

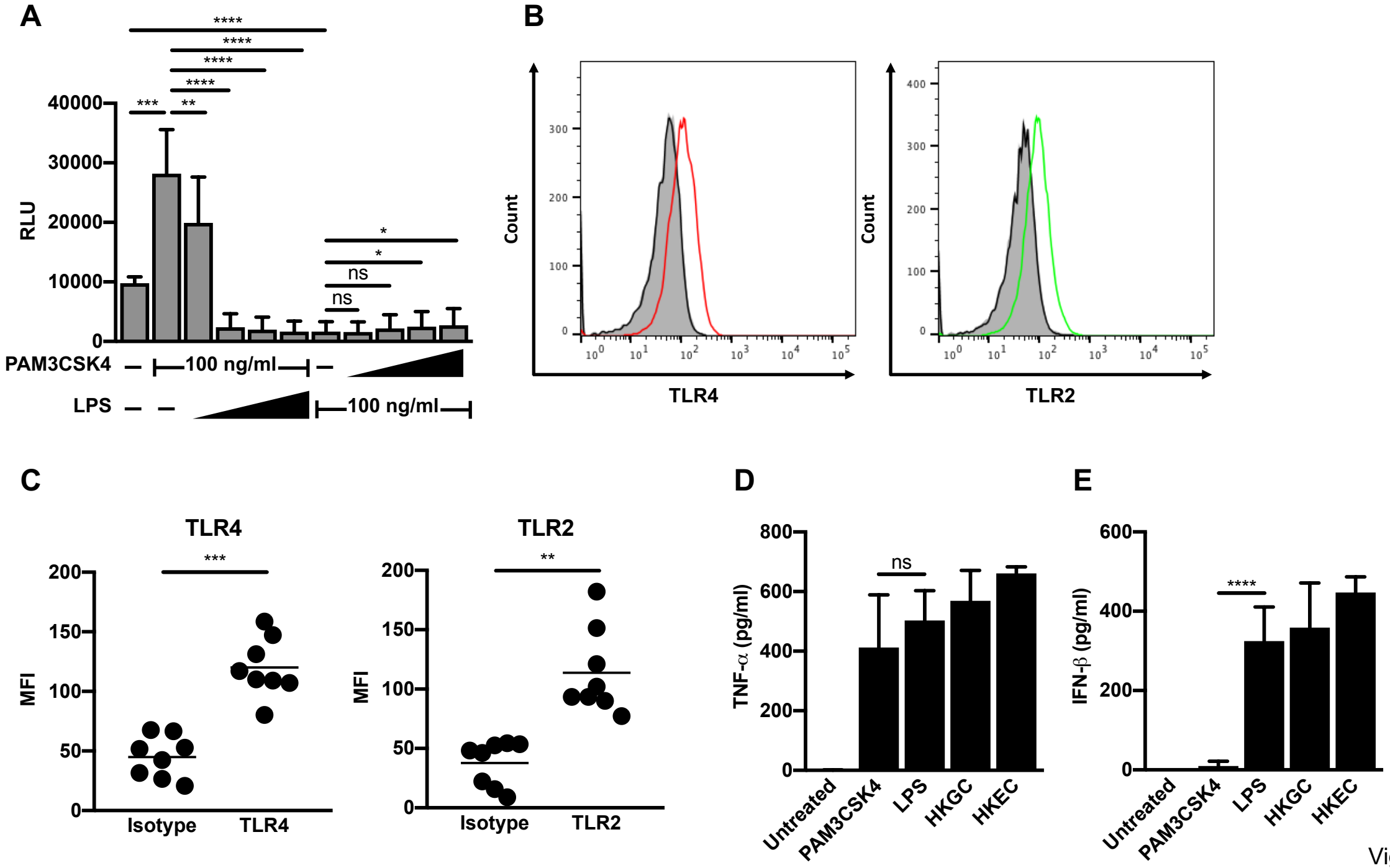




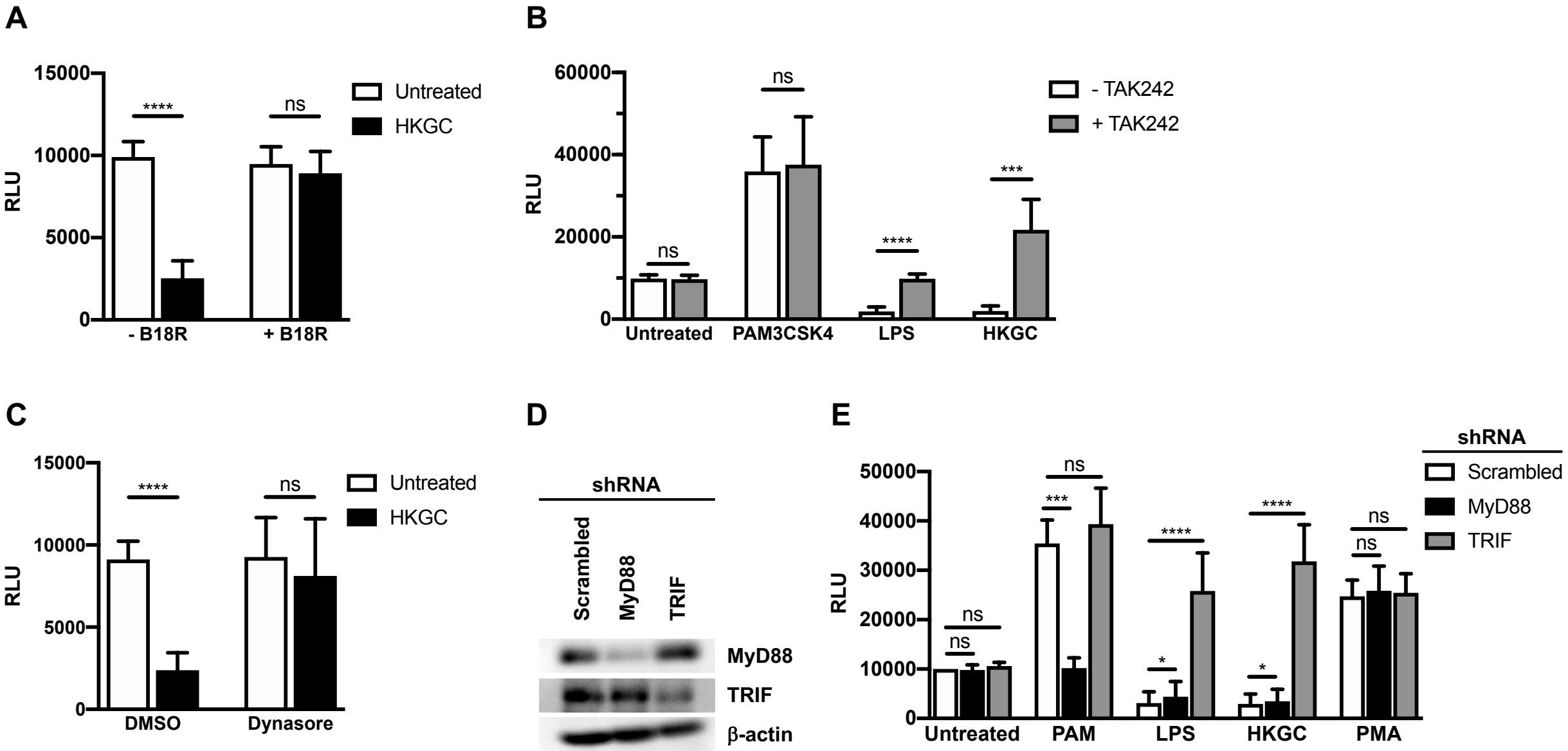




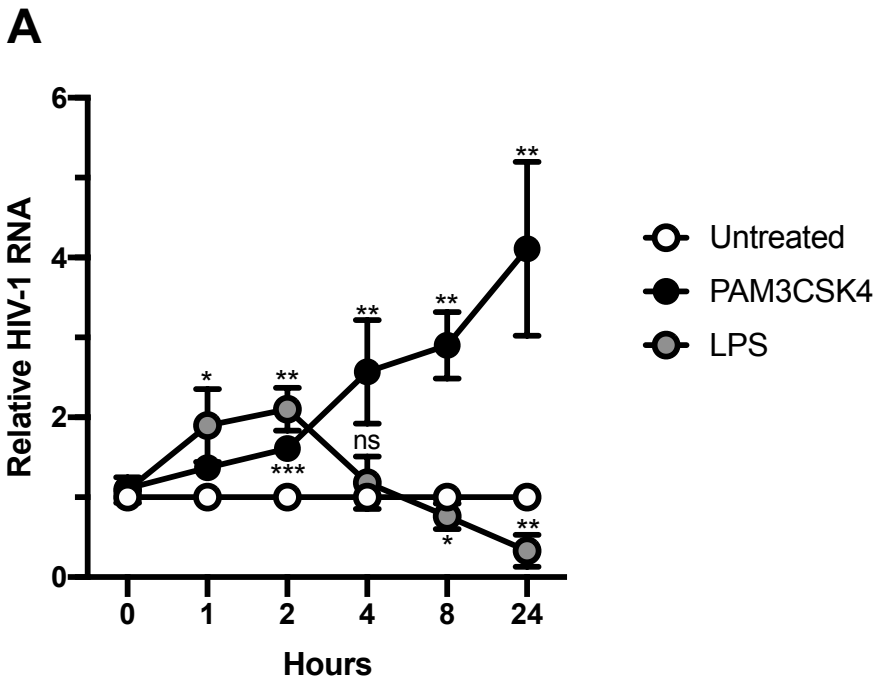
Viglianti Figure 1E-H

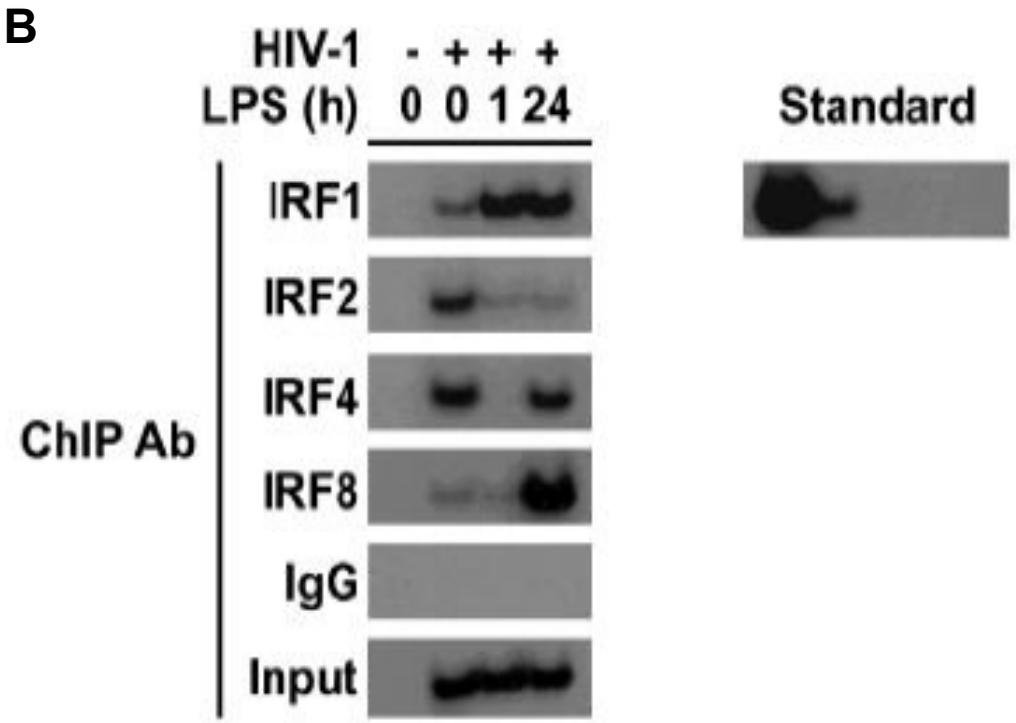


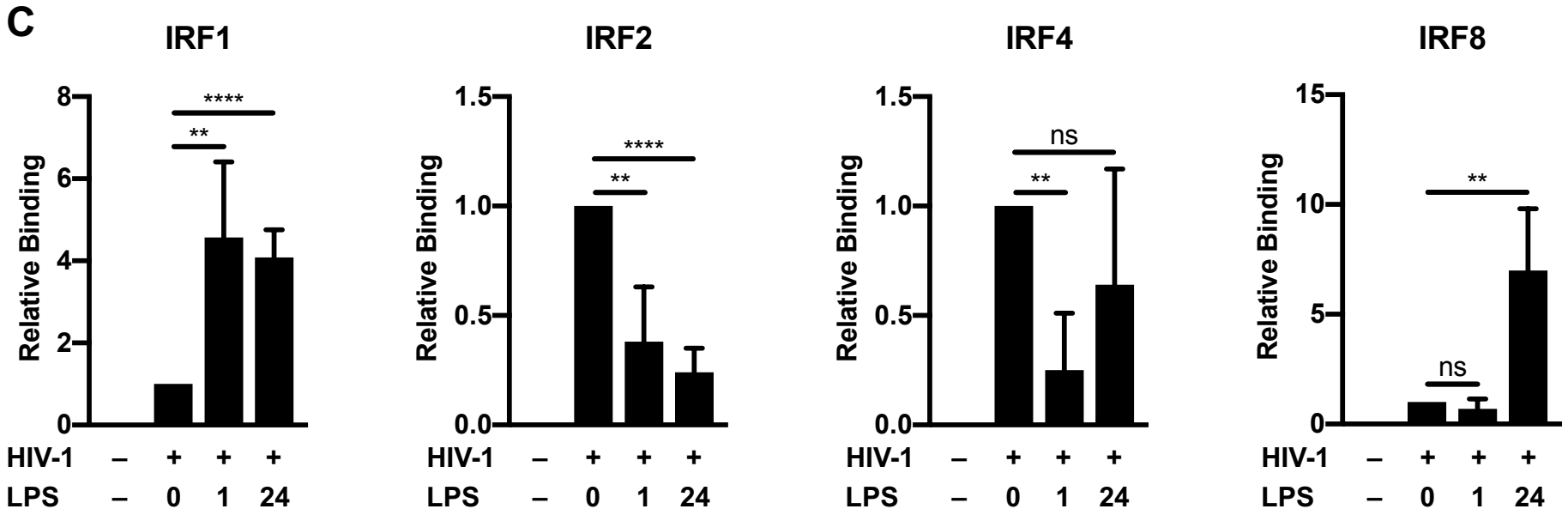
Viglianti Figure 2



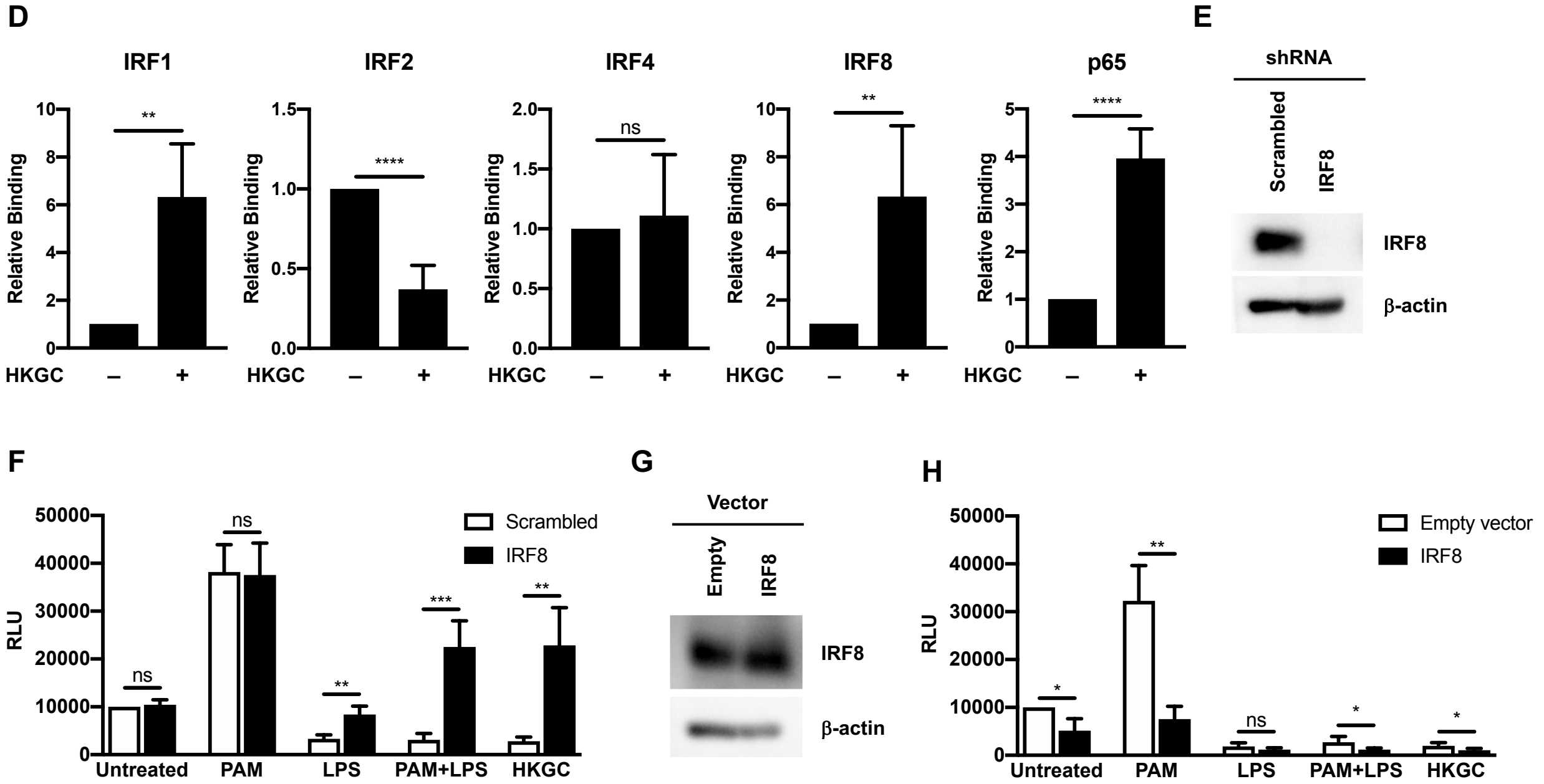
Viglianti Figure 3







Viglianti Figure 4 (A-C)



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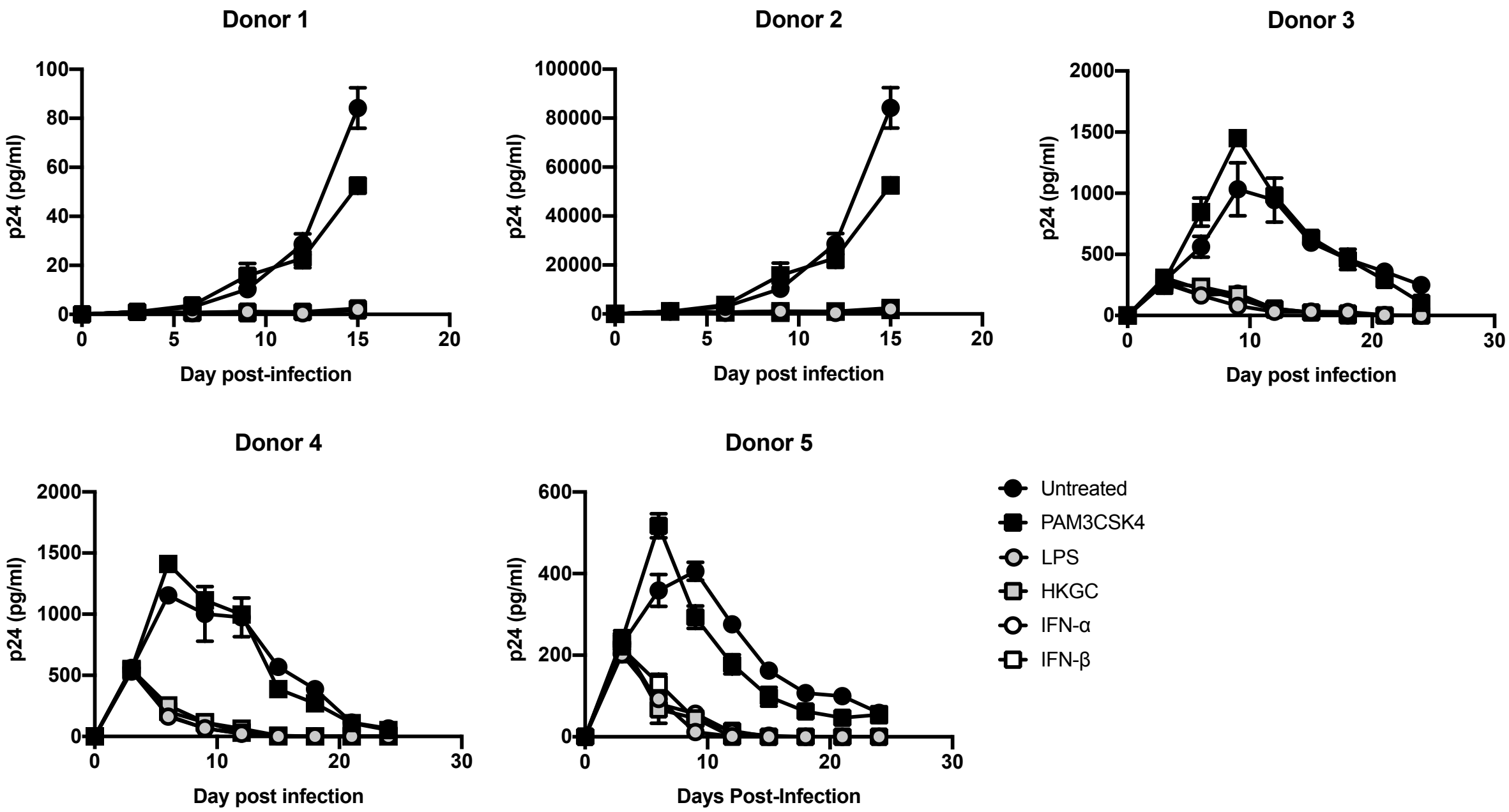
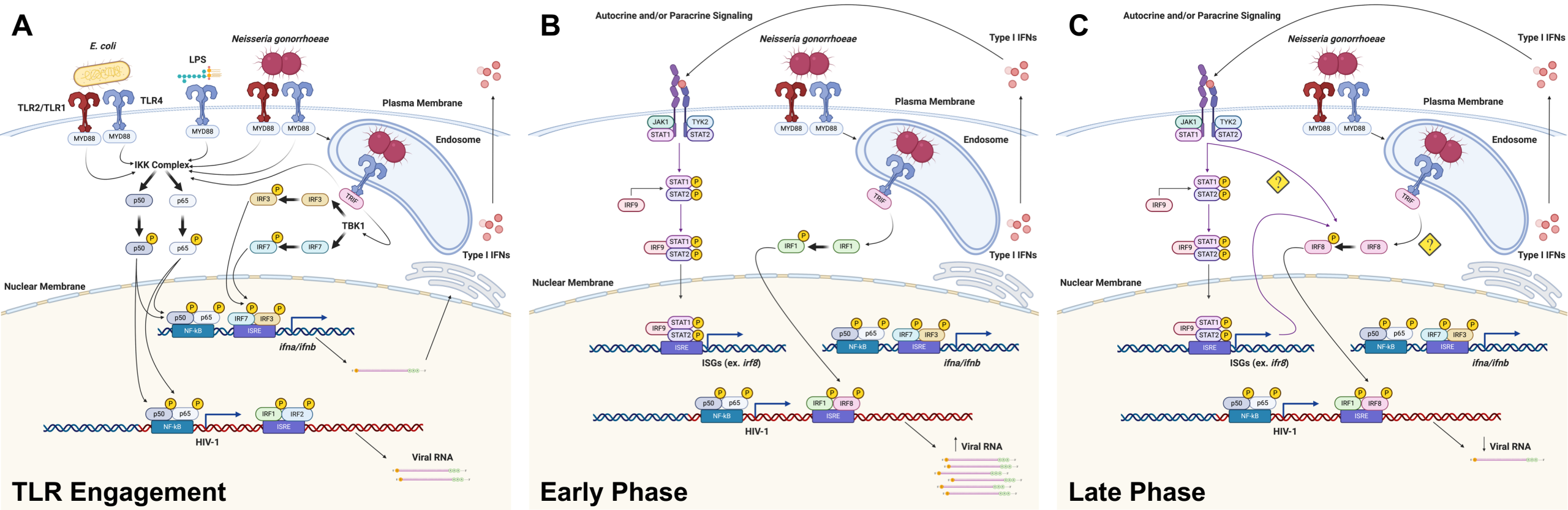


Viglianti Figure 5


A
E. coli
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Neisseria gonorrhoeae
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TLR4
Plasma Membrane
MYD88
IKK Complex
Endosome
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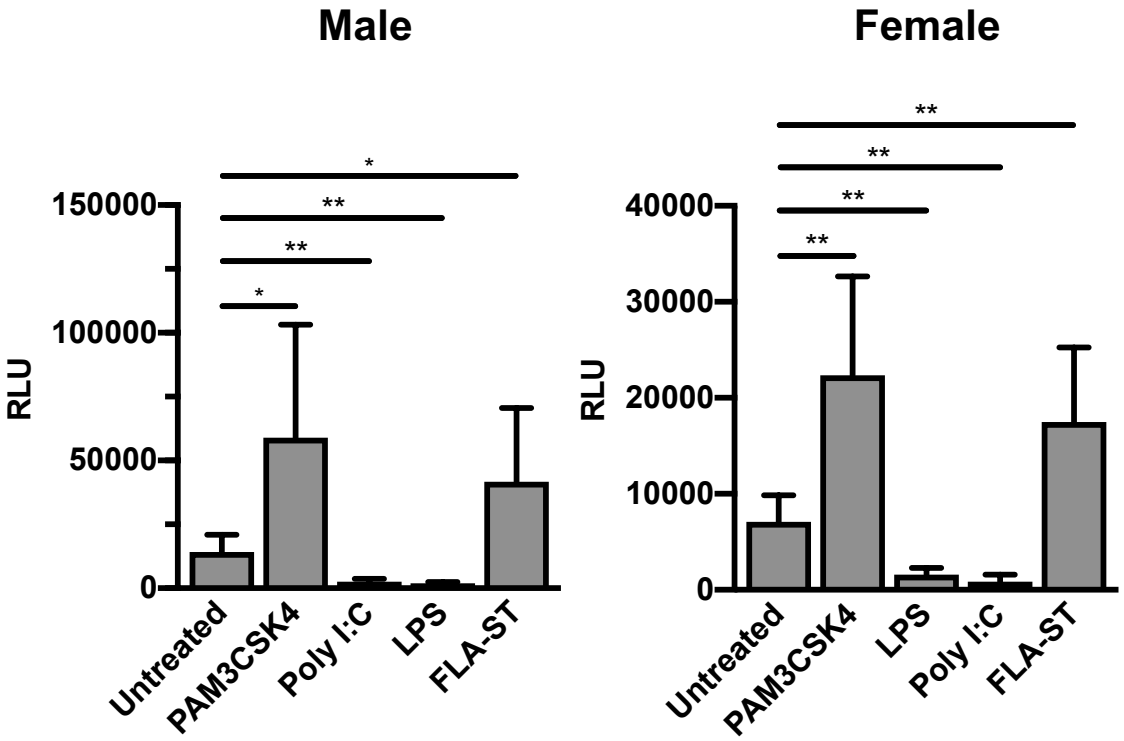
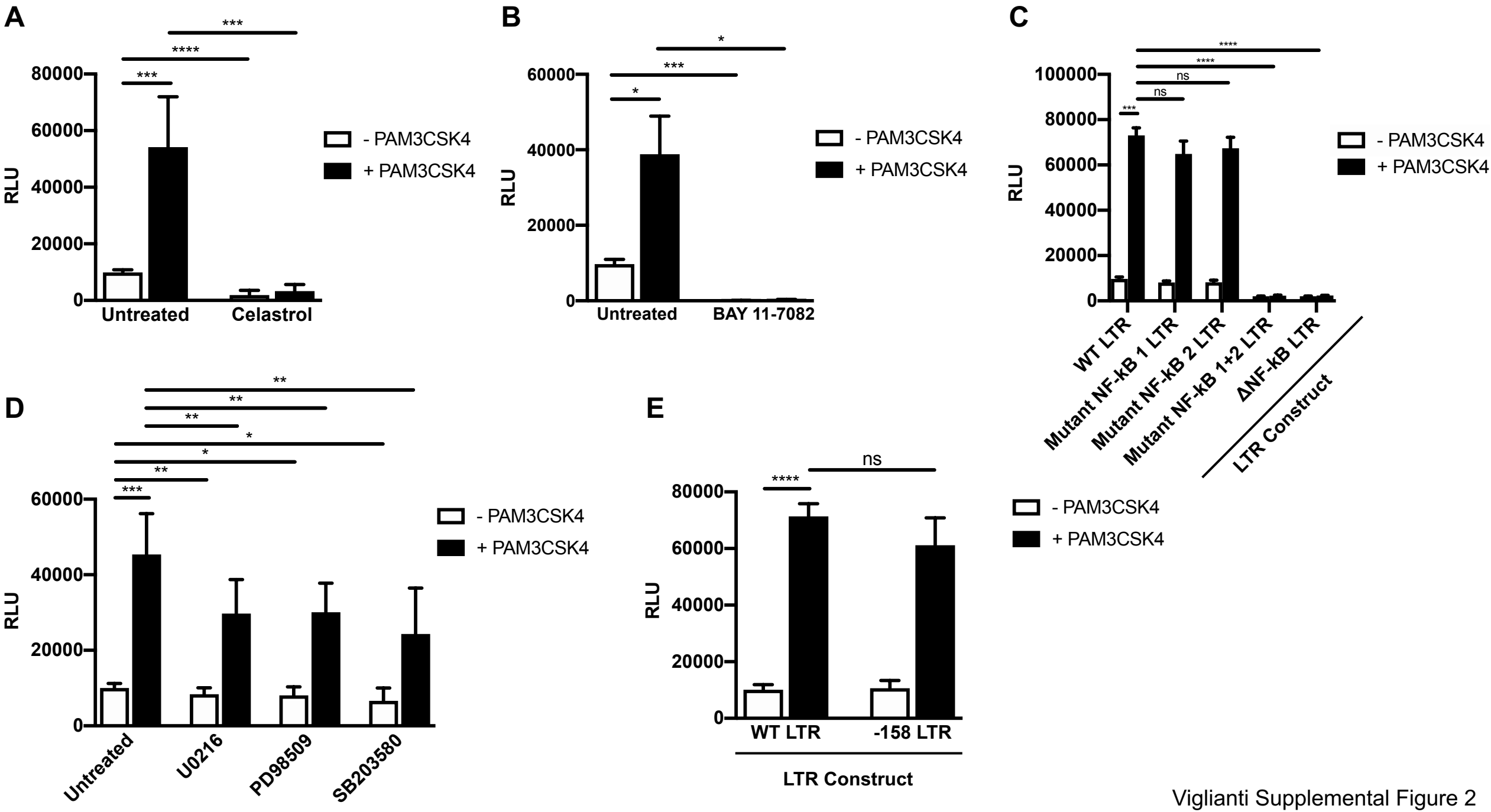
TBK1
p50
p65
IRF3
IRF7
Type I IFNs
Nuclear Membrane
NF-kB
ISRE
ifna/ifnb
IRF1
IRF2
HIV-1
Viral RNA
TLR Engagement
B
Autocrine and/or Paracrine Signaling
JAK1
TYK2
STAT1
STAT2
IRF9
IRF8
ISGs (ex. irf8)
Early Phase
C
?
Late Phase



Viglianti Supplemental Figure 1



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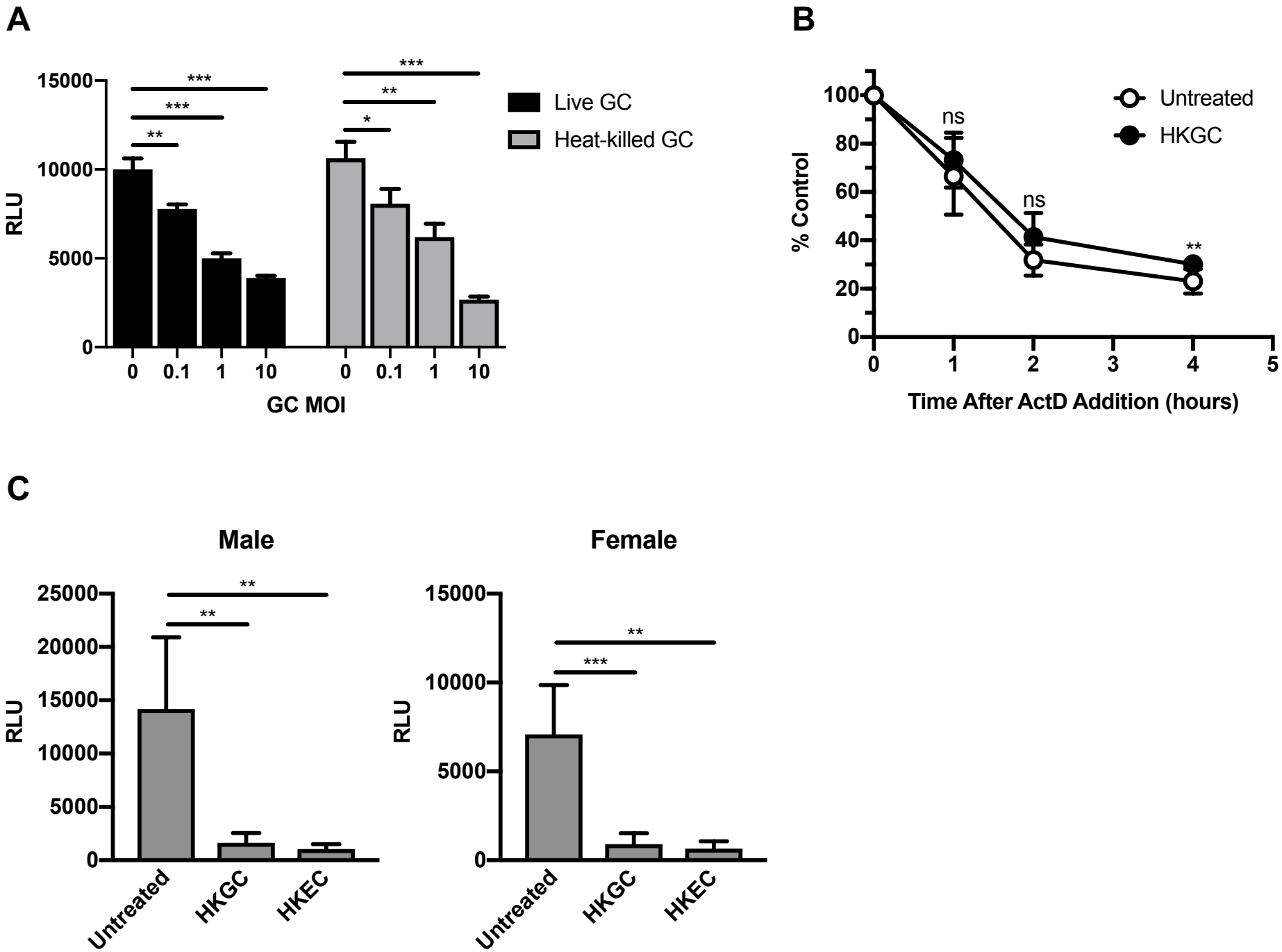

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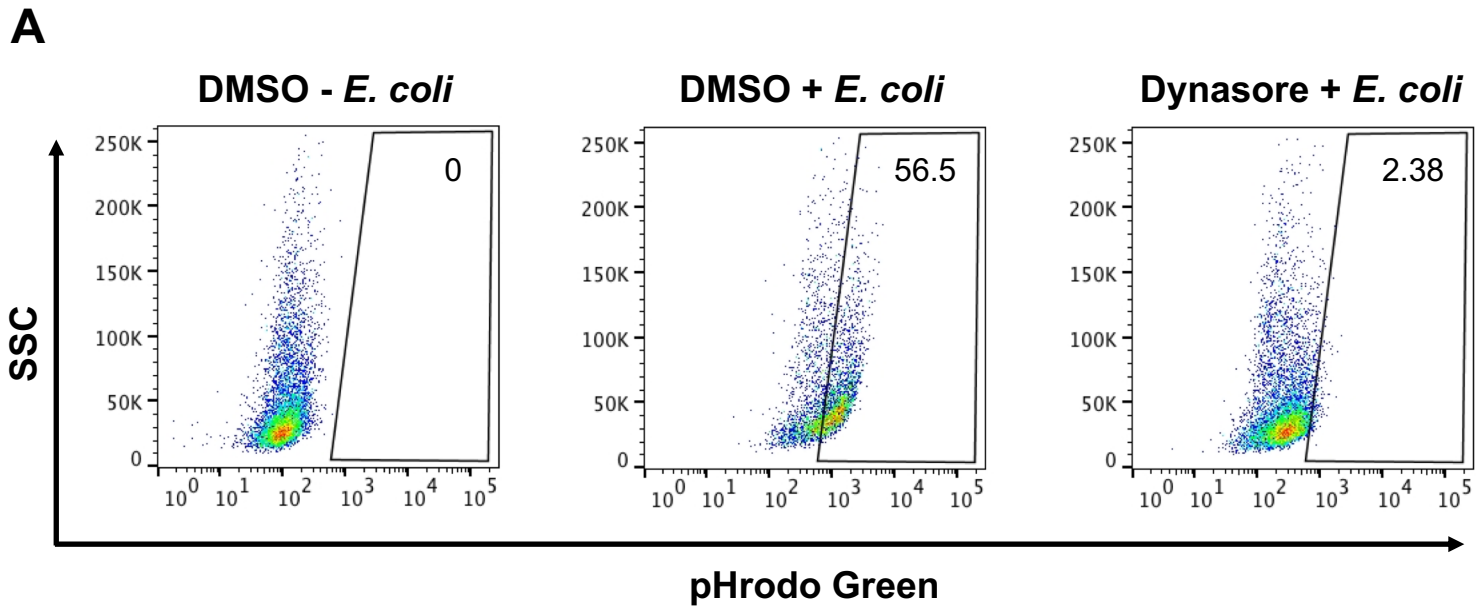

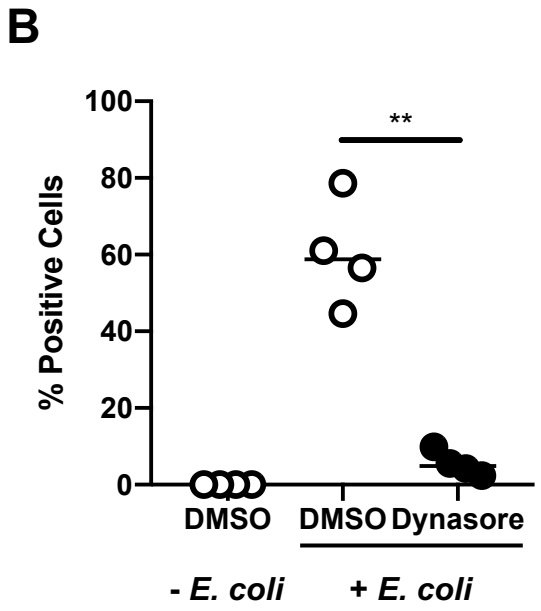

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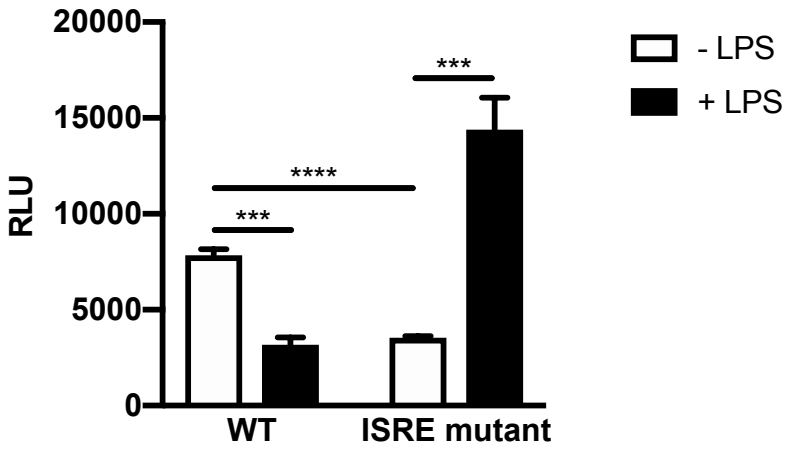

Viglianti Supplemental Figure 5