

1 **Lactoferrin retargets adenoviruses to TLR4 to induce an abortive NLRP3-** 2 **associated pyroptotic response in human dendritic cells**

3 **Short title:** *TLR4-mediated HAdV-lactoferrin uptake in DCs*

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17 **Abstract**

18 Despite decades of investigations, we still poorly grasp the immunogenicity of human
19 adenovirus (HAdV)-based vaccines in humans. In this study, we explored the role of
20 lactoferrin, which belong to the alarmin subset of antimicrobial peptides that provide
21 immediate direct and indirect activity against a range of pathogens following a breach in tissue
22 homeostasis. Lactoferrin is a globular, iron-sequestering, glycoprotein that can increase HAdV
23 infection and maturation of antigen-presenting cells. However, the mechanism by which
24 HAdV-lactoferrin complexes induce maturation is unknown. We show that lactoferrin
25 redirects HAdVs from species B, C, and D to toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4) complexes on human
26 mononuclear phagocyte. TLR4-mediated internalization induces an abortive NLRP3-
27 associated pyroptotic response inducing pro-inflammatory cytokine release and disrupting
28 plasma membrane integrity without cell death. These data impact our understanding of the
29 immunogenicity of HAdV-based vaccines and may provide ways to increase their efficacy.

30 **Introduction**

31 The gaps in our understanding of the immunogenicity versus efficacy of viral vector-based
32 vaccines are notable. For example, how does the rapid recruitment of immune cells and release
33 of danger-associated molecular patterns (DAMPs) following vector delivery influence vaccine
34 efficacy? In this study, we addressed the impact of a host defense peptide/protein (HDP) on
35 human adenovirus (HAdV)-based vaccines. HDPs, also known as antimicrobial peptides, are
36 evolutionary conserved effector molecules of the innate immune system. HDPs can act
37 directly via antibiotic-like properties against a broad array of infectious agents [1,2], or
38 indirectly by promoting the activation and/or maturation of antigen-presenting cells. Many
39 HDPs are produced by neutrophils and epithelial cells of skin, oral mucosa, and the
40 gastrointestinal tract. The cytoplasmic content of neutrophils, which are among the first
41 leukocytes to infiltrate pathogen-infected and vaccine-injected tissues, is ~20% HDPs [3]. The
42 rapid delivery of HDPs acts as part of the first line responders to the disruption of tissue
43 homeostasis [4]. Functionally, HDPs are able to neutralize endotoxin, recruit and modulate the
44 activities of immune cells, and induce angiogenesis. The alarmins (e.g. lactoferrin, α -defensin,
45 and cathelicidin LL-37) are a subset of HDPs that also modulate innate and adaptive immune
46 responses by directly engaging several pathways including pattern recognition receptor (PRR)
47 signaling in antigen-presenting cells (APCs) [1,2]. Lactoferrin is an 80 kDa, multifunctional
48 member of the transferrin family that sequesters iron, is produced largely by neutrophils, and
49 its physiological concentration can reach mg/ml in some cases. Functionally, lactoferrin can
50 induce dendritic cell (DC) maturation and, in the context of infections, drive Th1-cell
51 responses [5–7].

52 In addition to their ability to influence innate and adaptive immune responses to bacteria,
53 fungi, and enveloped viruses, some alarmins also influence adenovirus (AdV) uptake [8–10].
54 AdVs are 150 megaDaltons, ~90 nm diameter, nonenveloped proteinaceous particles
55 containing a linear double-stranded DNA genome of ~36,000 (\pm 9,000) bp. Human AdVs
56 (HAdVs) are classified into species (A-G) and types (~80) based on serology and phylogeny.
57 In most cases, HAdVs cause self-limiting respiratory, ocular and gastro-intestinal tract
58 infections in all populations regardless of health standards. Over the last 40 years the
59 vectorization and immunogenicity of HAdVs have been of increasing interest in the context of
60 vaccines, gene transfer, and morbidity associated with HAdV reactivation in immune-
61 compromised individuals. In epithelial cells, alarmins influence HAdV infections via multiple

62 mechanisms. Lactoferrin acts as a bridging factor during species C HAdV (types 1, 2, 5 and 6)
63 infection in epithelial-like cells, independent of coxsackievirus adenovirus receptor (CAR), the
64 primary cell surface attachment molecule for species C HAdVs [11]. Adams et al. reported
65 that lactoferrin also mediates a modest increase in HAdV type 5 (HAdV-C5) uptake by human
66 DC [9] and increased maturation. However, a mechanistic understanding of how increased
67 uptake occurs and how DC maturation is induced, including which PRRs are engaged, are
68 indispensable.

69 In this study, we characterize the mechanism by which HAdV-lactoferrin complexes induce
70 human DC infection, inflammatory response, and maturation. We show that lactoferrin
71 directly binds HAdV-C5, -D26, and -B35 with affinities in the micromolar range and increases
72 HAdV uptake by mononuclear phagocytes. We demonstrate that lactoferrin re-targets HAdVs
73 to toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4) complexes on the cell surface. Engagement of TLR4 complexes
74 increases HAdV uptake, even in the presence of anti-HAdV neutralizing antibodies, and
75 induces a cathepsin B-associated NLRP3 inflammasome, which includes caspase-1 activity,
76 and release of interleukin 1 beta (IL-1 β) - but not cell death. This pathway appears to be a
77 variation of the alternative NLRP3 pathway induced by LPS via TLR4 engagement. In
78 addition to a better understanding of the immunogenicity of HAdVs and HAdV-based vectors
79 and vaccines, our data resolve the discordance between the TLR4-associated response to
80 HAdVs in mice versus that of human phagocytes [12,13].

81 **Materials and Methods**

82 **Cells and culture conditions**

83 Blood samples were obtained from >100 anonymous donors at the regional blood bank (EFS,
84 Montpellier, France). An internal review board approved the use of human blood samples.
85 Monocyte-derived dendritic cells (DCs) were generated from freshly isolated or frozen CD14⁺
86 monocytes using CD14 MicroBeads human (MiltenyiBiotec) in the presence of 50 ng/ml
87 granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF) and of 20 ng/ml interleukin-4
88 (IL-4) (PeproTech). DCs stimulation was performed 6 days post-isolation of monocytes.
89 Monocyte-derived Langerhans cells (LCs) were generated using 200 ng/ml GM-CSF and 10
90 ng/ml TGF- β . 911 cells and 293 E4-pIX cells were grown in Dulbecco's modified Eagle
91 medium (DMEM) and minimum essential medium (MEM α) with Earle's salts, L-glutamine
92 supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS).

93 **Adenoviruses**

94 The HAdV used in this study are replication-defective (deleted in the E1 region). The HAdV-
95 C5 vector contained a GFP expression cassette. The HAdV-D26 vector contained a GFP-
96 luciferase fusion expression cassette [14]. The HAdV-B35 vector contained a YFP expression
97 cassette [15]. The vectors were propagated in 911 or 293 E4-pIX cells and purified to > 99%
98 homogeneity by two CsCl density gradients.

99 **DC stimulation with HAdV-lactoferrin complexes**

100 DCs (4×10^5 in 400 μ l of complete medium) were incubated with HAdV-C5, HAdV-D26 or
101 HAdV-B35 (0.1 to 2×10^4 physical particles (pp)/cell). We generated HAdV-lactoferrin
102 complexes by incubating the virus with 40 μ g lactoferrin (Sigma-Aldrich) for 30 min at room
103 temperature. This corresponds to 100 μ g/ml (1.25 μ M) lactoferrin in 400 μ l. These
104 concentrations are similar to that found in an inflammatory environment of infected tissues.
105 When specified, cells were complexed with IVIg (human IgG pooled from between 5,000 and
106 50,000 donors/batch) (Baxter SAS) or with lactoferricin (fragment of 49AA). Cells were
107 incubated with HAdV-lactoferrin for 4 h, then washed and let incubated again for 24 h. The
108 TLR4 agonist lipopolysaccharide (LPS) (Sigma-Aldrich) and NLRP3 inflammasome inducer
109 nigericin (InvivoGen) were used at 100 ng/ml and 10 μ M, respectively, to induce NLRP3
110 inflammasome formation. The inhibitors were used at the following concentrations, TLR4
111 inhibitors TAK-242 (Merck Millipore) at 1 μ g/ml, oxPAPC (InvivoGen) at 30 μ g/ml, TRIF
112 inhibitory peptide (InvivoGen) at 25 μ M, Syk inhibitor R406 (InvivoGen) at 5 μ M, KCl
113 (Sigma-Aldrich) at 45 mM, ROS inhibitor N-acetyl-L-cysteine (Sigma-Aldrich) at 2 mM,
114 cathepsin B inhibitor MDL 28170 (Tocris Bioscience) at 0.1 μ M, NLRP3 inhibitor MCC-
115 950/CP-456773 (Sigma-Aldrich) at 10 μ M, Bay11-7082 (Sigma-Aldrich) at 10 μ M, caspase-1
116 inhibitor WEHD (Santa Cruz) and YVAD (InvivoGen) at 20 μ M, VX765 (InvivoGen) at 10
117 μ M, caspase-8 inhibitor Z-IEDT at 20 μ M, RIPK1 inhibitor GSK963 (Sigma-Aldrich) at 3
118 μ M, RIPK3 inhibitors GSK872 (Merck Millipore) at 3 μ M and necrosulfonamide (R&D
119 systems) at 1 μ M. TLR4/MD-2, TLR4 (R&D Systems), MD-2 (PeproTech) recombinant
120 protein and CD14 antibody (Beckman) were used at 20 μ g/ml. Inhibitors were added on cells
121 and recombinant proteins or antibody were added on HAdV-lactoferrin complex 1 h before
122 stimulation. TLR4 surface expression level was assess with an anti-TLR4 antibody (Miltenyi
123 Biotech) after 4 or 24 h.

124 **SPR analyses**

125 Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) analyses were carried out on a BIAcore 3000 apparatus in
126 HBS-EP buffer (10 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 3 mM EDTA, and 0.005% (v/v) polysorbate
127 20, pH 7.4). HAdV-C5, HAdV-D26 and HAdV-B35 diluted in acetate buffer at pH 4 were
128 immobilized on three different flow cells of a CM5 sensor chip by amine coupling according
129 to the manufacturer instructions. Immobilization levels were between 3,500 and 4,000 RU.
130 Flow cell 1, without immobilized HAdV, was used as a control. Lactoferrin was injected at
131 100 nM on the four flow cells simultaneously. For K_D determination different concentrations
132 of lactoferrin (6.25 - 200 nM) were injected at 30 μ l/min during 180 s of association and 600 s
133 of dissociation with running buffer. Regeneration was performed with pulses of gly-HCl pH
134 1.7. The kinetic constants were evaluated from the sensorgrams after double-blank subtraction
135 with BIAevaluation software 3.2 (GE Healthcare) using a bivalent fitting model for
136 lactoferrin. All experiments were repeated at least twice for each virus on a freshly coated
137 flow cell.

138 **Flow cytometry**

139 Cellular GFP or YFP expression from the HAdV-C5, -B35, -D26 vectors was assayed by flow
140 cytometry. Fluorescence intensity was assessed after complex treatment for 24 h. Cell
141 membrane integrity was assessed by collecting cells by centrifugation 800 x g, the cell pellets
142 were re-suspended in PBS, 10% FBS, 7-aminoactinomycin D (7-AAD) (Becton-Dickinson
143 Pharmigen) and analyzed on a FACS Canto II (Becton-Dickinson Pharmigen) or NovoCyte
144 (ACEA Biosciences) flow cytometer.

145 Inflammasome formation was monitored as previously described [16] with minor
146 modifications. DCs (1.5×10^5 in 150 μ l of complete medium) were seeded in a conical bottom
147 96 well plate and incubated with HDP-HAdV complexes containing 20,000 HAdV pp/cell.
148 LPS/nigericin and immune complexed HAdV-C5 (IC-HAdV) were used as positive controls
149 to identify inflammasome positive cells. IC-HAdV-C5 were prepared with IVIg (human IgG
150 pooled from between 1,000 and 50,000 donors/batch) (Baxter SAS) as previously described
151 [17]. Cells were fixed by adding 50 μ l 4% PFA, PBS for 10 min on ice and centrifuged at 650
152 x g for 5 min. Supernatants were discarded and cells were permeabilized with 150 μ l PBS/3%
153 FCS/0.1% saponin for 20 min and collected by centrifugation. Supernatant was removed, and
154 cells were re-suspended in 100 μ l 1:500 rabbit anti-ASC (N-15)-R (Santa Cruz, sc-22514-R)
155 PBS/3%FCS/0.1% saponin and incubated overnight at 4°C. Following overnight incubation,
156 cells were pelleted at 650 x g for 5 min, washed once with 150 μ l PBS/3% FCS:0.1% saponin,

157 pelleted again and incubated for 45 min in 100 μ l 1:500 Alexa-488 1:500 donkey anti-rabbit
158 PBS:3% FCS:0.1% saponin for 45 min at room temperature. Cells were collected again by
159 centrifugation and re-suspended in 150 μ l PBS/ 3% FCS/0.1% saponin. The BD FACS-Canto
160 II was used for acquisition. Samples were gated on DC and any doublets were excluded using
161 forward light scattering (FSC)-area versus FSC width. Inflammasome positive cells were
162 identified in the green channel as FL1-width low, and FL1-height high.

163 **Cytokines secretion**

164 Supernatants were collected after 4 or 24 h and the levels of TNF and IL-1 β were quantified
165 by ELISA using OptEIA human TNF ELISA Set (BD Biosciences) and human IL-1 β /IL-1F2
166 DuoSet ELISA (R&D systems) following the manufacturer's instructions. In addition, 22
167 cytokines were detected by Luminex on Bio-plex Magpix using Bio-plex human chemokine,
168 cytokine kit (Bio-Rad) following the manufacturer's instructions.

169 **LDH release**

170 LDH release was quantified using an LDH Cytotoxicity Assay Kit (Thermo scientific)
171 following the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, 5 x 10⁵ cells were cultures in 96-well
172 plates, infected for 4 h, and 100 μ l of supernatant were collected to assess LDH activity. Fresh
173 reaction mixture (100 μ l) was then added to each well, incubated at room temperature for 30
174 min, the reaction was stopped, and the absorbance was determined at 490 nm using a
175 microplate reader (NanoQuant, Tecan).

176 **Quantification of mRNAs**

177 The levels of human *TNF*, *NLRP3*, *CASP1* and *IL1B* mRNAs were analyzed using quantitative
178 reverse transcription-PCR (qRT-PCR). Total RNAs were isolated from DCs using a High Pure
179 RNA isolation kit (Roche). Reverse transcription was performed with a Superscript III first-
180 strand synthesis system (Invitrogen, Life Technologies) using 300 ng of total RNA and
181 random hexamers. The cDNA samples were diluted 1:10 in water and analyzed in triplicate
182 using a LightCycler 480 detection system (Roche, Meylan, France). PCR conditions were
183 95°C for 5 min and 45 cycles of 95°C for 15 s, 65°C or 70°C for 15 s, and 72°C for 15 s,
184 targeting the *GAPDH* (glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase) mRNA as an internal
185 standard. Primer sequences were as follows for *NLRP3* (5'-CCTCTC TGATGAGGCCCAAG-
186 3' (*NLRP3* forward) and 5'-GCAGCAAAGTGGAAAGGAAG-3' (*NLRP3* reverse)) at 65°C,
187 *IL1B* (5'-AAACAGATGAAGTGCTCCTTCC-3' (*IL1B* forward) and 5'-

188 AAGATGAAGGGAAAGAAGGTGC-3' (*IL1B* reverse) at 65°C, *GAPDH* (5'-
189 ACAGTCCATGCCATCACTGCC-3' (*GAPDH* forward) and 5'-
190 GCCTGCTTCACCACCTTCTTG-3' (*GAPDH* reverse) at 70°C. Relative gene expression
191 levels of each respective gene were calculated using the threshold cycle ($2^{-\Delta\Delta CT}$) method and
192 normalized to *GAPDH* [17].

193 **Results**

194 **Lactoferrin binds to HAdV-C5, -D26 and -B35 and increases infection of DCs**

195 At physiological pH, HAdV-C5, -D26 and -B35 have patches of negative surface charges on
196 hexon that should potentiate cationic alarmin binding. We therefore quantified the affinity of
197 human lactoferrin to each virus capsid by surface plasmon resonance (SPR). The HAdVs were
198 immobilized on a CM5 sensor chip and then escalating doses of lactoferrin were injected over
199 the sensor surfaces. We found that lactoferrin binds the three HAdVs with affinities (K_D) that
200 varied from 0.8 to 54 μ M (**Figure 1A & B, and Supplemental Figure 1A**).

201 In human myeloid and epithelial cells, HAdV-C5, HAdV-D26, and HAdV-B35 receptor use
202 does not overlap [18]: HAdV-C5 predominantly uses CAR as an attachment molecules ,
203 HAdV-D26 uses sialic acid-bearing glycans as a primary cell entry receptor [19], and HAdV-
204 B35 predominantly uses CD46 [20]. We therefore tested the impact of lactoferrin on HAdV
205 infection using replication-defective HAdV vector-mediated transgene expression, which is a
206 surrogate assay for receptor engagement, internalization, cytoplasmic transport, docking at the
207 nuclear pore, delivery of the genome to the nucleus, and transcription of the GFP expression
208 cassette. Consistent with earlier reports [21], we found that lactoferrin increased (~2 to 4 fold)
209 infection of human DCs by a species C HAdV (type 5), and in addition we show that HAdV-
210 D26- and HAdV-B35-lactoferrin complexes are more infectious than the HAdV alone (**Figure**
211 **1C & D**). Preincubating HAdVs with lactoferrin, adding lactoferrin to the cell medium before
212 HAdV, or adding lactoferrin to the cell medium after HAdV, all increased HAdV infection
213 efficacy (**Supplemental Figure 1B**). In addition, we found that lactoferrin-enhanced infection
214 was not unique to DCs: -monocytes and monocyte-derived Langerhans cells were also more
215 readily infected by HAdV-lactoferrin complexes (except HAdV-B35 on monocytes)
216 (**Supplemental Figure 1C-D**). Together, these data demonstrate that at physiological
217 concentrations lactoferrin binds to three HAdV types from different species and increased
218 uptake by DC.

219 **HAdV-lactoferrin complexes induce DC cytokine secretion**

220 By influencing pathogen uptake alarmins could allow a host to better detect and respond to
221 pathogens. Conversely, pathogen - alarmins interactions could reduce an APC's ability to
222 present antigens and therefore dampen a downstream response. If the response were pro-host,

223 one would expect DC maturation and an inflammatory response. To determine whether
224 HAdV-lactoferrin complexes influences DC maturation, we characterized the cytokine and
225 chemokine profile using a multiplex array. Compared to mock-treated DCs, HAdV-D26 and
226 HAdV-B35 induced a greater cytokine response than HAdV-C5 (**Figure 2A left column**). By
227 contrast, compared to lactoferrin-treated DCs, HAdV-lactoferrin complexes induced an
228 increase in the release of IL-1 α and IL-1 β (**Figure 2A center column**). When comparing
229 HAdVs vs HAdV-lactoferrin complexes, the addition of lactoferrin induced a greater effect on
230 HAdV-C5, which is likely due in part to the lower effect of HAdV-C5 alone (**Figure 2A right**
231 **column, see Supplemental Figure 2A for raw data**). We then quantified IL-1 β in the
232 supernatant in time-dependent assays from multiple donors. HAdV-lactoferrin complexes
233 rapidly induced >100-fold more IL-1 β release than HAdVs alone, which further increased
234 from 4 to 24 h post-stimulation (**Figure 2B**). In addition, monocytes also released more IL-1 β
235 when challenged with HAdV-lactoferrin complexes compared to HAdV alone (**Supplemental**
236 **Figure 2B**).

237 We previously showed that individual serum and pooled IgGs (IVIG) containing anti-HAdV-
238 C5 neutralizing IgGs induced the maturation of human DCs [17,22]. To benchmark the effects
239 induced by lactoferrin, we compared HAdVs complexed with IVIG, lactoferrin or
240 IVIG/lactoferrin. We found that HAdV-lactoferrin complexes led to a greater efficacy of gene
241 transfer (higher percentage of cells expressing GFP). HAdVs complexed with IVIG/lactoferrin
242 also led to more GFP/infected cell (more GFP^{high} cell) than HAdV-IVIG complexes (**Figure**
243 **2C and Supplemental Figure 2C**). Moreover, more IL-1 β was released when IVIG and
244 lactoferrin were combined with the HAdVs, consistent with observation that IL-1 β release is
245 directly linked to HAdV infection (**Figure 2D**). In addition, HAdV-lactoferrin complexes
246 decreased phagocytosis, a hallmark of functional DC maturation (**Supplemental Figure 2D**).
247 Together, these data demonstrate that lactoferrin-associated HAdV infection is associated with
248 DC cytokine secretion and functional maturation.

249 **TLR4 is involved HAdV-lactoferrin induced DC maturation**

250 Increased infection could be due to a handful factors, including alternative receptor
251 engagement and/or more efficient intracellular trafficking. Of note, lactoferrin may increase
252 DC maturation and IL-1 β release by interacting with TLR4 [5,23–25]. In some myeloid cells
253 TLR4 forms a complex with MD-2 for ligand binding [26] and with CD14 for TLR4

254 internalization [27]. MD-2 acts as a co-receptor for recognition of both exogenous ligands and
255 endogenous ligands [26,28,29]. In addition, Doronin *et al.* proposed that HAdVs, via a murine
256 coagulation FX-bridge, interact with murine TLR4 [12]. Yet, human FX did not act as a bridge
257 for HAdV-C5 via TLR4 on human DCs [13]. We therefore probed the possible interactions
258 between HAdV-lactoferrin complexes and the TLR4 pathway. To determine whether HAdV-
259 lactoferrin complexes engage the TLR4 complex on the cell surface, we incubated the
260 complexes with recombinant TLR4, MD-2, or TLR4/MD-2 dimers, or blocked CD14 on the
261 cell surface with an anti-CD14 antibody. We found the greatest reduction of infection in the
262 presence of the TL4/MD-2 dimer (**Figure 3A and Supplemental Figure 3A**). To address the
263 involvement of the cytoplasmic TLR4 domain, we used TAK-242, a cell-permeable
264 cyclohexene-carboxylate to disrupt TLR4 interaction with adaptor molecules TIRAP and
265 TRAM [30–32]. We found that TAK-242 reduced HAdV-lactoferrin-mediated infection, IL-
266 1 β release and TNF secretion in DCs (**Figure 3B-C**). By contrast, interruption of TLR4-
267 TIRAP/TRAM interactions had no notable impact on the infection of DCs, monocytes, or
268 Langerhans cells by the HAdVs alone (**Supplemental Figure 3B - D**). We then used oxPAPC
269 and TRIF inhibitory peptide (Pepinh-TRIF) to inhibit extracellular TLR4 - MD2 interactions
270 and cytoplasmic TLR4 - TRIF interactions, respectively. oxPAPC and Pepinh-TRIF decreased
271 infection of HAdV-C5- and HAdV-D26-lactoferrin, while infection by HAdV-B35-lactoferrin
272 increased (**Figure 3D-E**).

273 We then perturbed TLR4-MyD88-Syk activation of the NF- κ B pathway using R406 and
274 Bay11-7082. R406 decreased HAdV-lactoferrin infections, consistent with its impact on
275 TLR4-MyD88-Syk associated endocytosis, while Bay11-7082 had no effect on infection,
276 consistent with its downstream signaling role (**Figure 3E**). Importantly, all of the drugs and
277 peptides affecting TLR4 interactions reduced IL-1 β release (**Figure 3F**). In addition,
278 lactoferrin, TAK-242, and Pepinh-TRIF did not change TLR4 surface expression, while high
279 concentration of oxPAPC increased TLR4 levels (**Supplemental Figure 3E-G**).

280 Of note, lactoferrin is also posttranslationally cleaved to generate lactoferricin, a biologically
281 active N-terminal fragment of 49 aa. Lactoferricin also binds to negatively charged hexon
282 hypervariable regions (HVRs) of HAdV-C5, -A31 and -B35 [33]. To determine if lactoferricin
283 could mimic the effects of lactoferrin, we incubated the former with the HAdV vectors. We
284 found no notable increase in HAdV infections or IL-1 β release (**Supplemental Figure 3H &**
285 **I**, respectively), suggesting that the C-terminal fragment plays a role in HAdV-TLR4

286 interactions. Together, these data demonstrate that interfering with TLR4
287 engagement/signaling reduces HAdV-lactoferrin-mediated transgene expression and DCs
288 maturation in the case of HAdV-C5 and -D26.

289 **HAdV-lactoferrin complexes induce NLRP3 inflammasome formation**

290 The inflammasome is a multiprotein cytosolic platform consisting of a PRR that induces
291 nucleation of ASC (apoptosis associated speck-like protein containing a CARD), and
292 recruitment of pro-caspase 1. Pro-caspase-1 auto-activation can be followed by removal of the
293 N-terminal of gasdermin D (GSDMD), which initiates the loss of plasma membrane integrity
294 via pore formation [34]. Classic NLRP3 inflammasome formation (canonical and non-
295 canonical) is preceded by transcriptional priming event (signal 1) needed to produce
296 inflammasome components and cytokines [35]. TLR4 engagement by LPS induces an
297 alternative NLRP3 inflammasome activation, which does not need transcriptional priming, in
298 human mononuclear phagocytes [36]. To determine whether HAdV-lactoferrin complexes
299 induced transcription of inflammasome components, we used RT-qPCR to examine the
300 mRNAs of inflammasome components. We found that in most cases HAdV-lactoferrin
301 complexes significantly increased *NLRP3*, *CASP1*, *IL1B* and *TNF* mRNAs compared to the
302 HAdVs (alone) (**Figure 4A**). To directly address inflammasome formation, we used flow
303 cytometry to detect inflammasome-containing DCs using aggregation of ASC as a readout.
304 During inflammasome formation, ASC changes from being distributed throughout the
305 cytoplasm to an aggregate of ~1 μm diameter upon nucleation by a NLRP3. ASC nucleation
306 can be directly visualized by changes in the fluorescence pulse width/ratio. While this assay
307 does not allow quantification of all the cells that contain, or will contain an inflammasome, it
308 does provide a snapshot of inflammasome formation at a given time. We found that <1% of
309 mock-treated DCs contained an inflammasome. LPS/nigericin and HAdV-C5 complexed with
310 neutralizing IgGs in IVIG (HAdV-C5-IgG) [17] had ~5 and 4% inflammasome-positive cells,
311 respectively (~40% of the DCs will undergo pyroptosis in 8 h when incubated with this
312 concentration of HAdV-C5-IgG [17]). We found an increase in the number of inflammasome-
313 positive DCs 3 h post-challenge with HAdV-C5-lactoferrin complexes (**Figure 4B**). While the
314 number of inflammasome containing cells were similar following challenges with HAdV-B35-
315 lactoferrin complex compare to HAdV-C5- and HAdV-D26-lactoferrin, the difference was
316 modest compared to HAdV-B35 alone.

317 As IL-1 β release is associated with both classic and alternative activation of NLRP3
318 inflammasomes, we explored the initiation steps. Inducers of NLRP3 inflammasome include
319 K⁺ efflux, Ca²⁺ signaling, mitochondrial dysfunction, lysosomal rupture, or PRR engagement
320 [34]. To identify the HAdV-lactoferrin-associated trigger(s), DCs were treated with KCl (to
321 prevent K⁺ efflux), NAC (reactive oxygen species scavenger), and MDL (cathepsin B
322 inhibitor). The addition of extracellular K⁺, and NAC did not decrease the release of IL-1 β
323 (**Figure 4C**). By contrast, MDL significantly reduced IL-1 β release (**Figure 4C**), suggesting
324 that rupture of lysosome-related organelles was involved. To determine whether the IL-1 β
325 release is linked to an NLRP3 inflammasome, DCs were pre-incubated with MCC-950
326 (NLRP3 inhibitor), which attenuated IL-1 β release in response to HAdV-lactoferrin
327 complexes (**Figure 4D**).

328 We then examined the role of the caspases by incubating cells with Z-WEHD-FMK (caspase-
329 1, -4, -5 and -8 inhibitor), Z-YVAD-FMK (caspase-1, -4 and -5 inhibitor), VX765 (caspase-1
330 and -4 inhibitor) or Z-IETD (caspase-8 inhibitor). Globally, all inhibitors that affected
331 caspase-1 and -8 activity reduced IL-1 β release (**Figure 4E-G**). In addition to the direct effects
332 of TLR4 engagement and signaling, it was possible that TNF secretion induced an autocrine
333 response and inflammasome activation via the RIPK1-RIPK3-caspase-8 pathway [37]. While
334 inhibition of the TNFR pathway (using GSK963, necrosulfonamide, and GSK872) had no
335 significant effect on infection (**Figure 4H**), IL-1 β release was reduced in all cases. Possibly
336 because HAdV-B35-lactoferrin complexes typically induced greater levels of IL-1 β release,
337 the effects of the caspase inhibitors tended to be more prominent (**Supplemental Figure 4A-C**
338 for effect of inhibitors for each HAdV). Together, these data demonstrate that HAdV-
339 lactoferrin complexes induce NLRP3 inflammasome formation and IL-1 β release via a
340 cathepsin B-mediated activation of caspase 1. Additionally, an autocrine effect of TNF may
341 influence IL-1 β release.

342 **IL-1 β release without the loss of membrane integrity**

343 In contrast to classic NLRP3 inflammasome activation, the alternative pathway does not
344 include complete loss of cell membrane integrity (as based on LDH release into the
345 extracellular space). This is thought to be due to ESCRT III pathway repairing pores in the
346 plasma membrane induced by limited levels of GSDMD cleavage [38]. To determine if
347 HAdV-lactoferrin complexes induce pores and the release of large intracellular proteins, we

348 quantified extracellular levels of L-lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) activity at 4 h postinfection.
349 LDH activity in the supernatant of control and HAdV-lactoferrin complexes was not
350 significantly different from HAdV or lactoferrin-treated controls (**Figure 5A**). To determine
351 whether HAdV-lactoferrin complexes were able to have a long-term impact DC membrane
352 integrity we add a fluorescent marker of viability (7-AAD) to the DCs and quantified 7-AAD⁺
353 cells by flow cytometry. At 24 h post-challenge, the percentage of 7-AAD⁺ cell induced by
354 HAdV-lactoferrin complexes was greater than lactoferrin- or HAdV-challenged cells (**Figure**
355 **5B**). Moreover, when lactoferrin was added to HAdV-IVIG complexes, we found an increase
356 in the percentage of 7-AAD⁺ DCs (**Supplemental Figure 5**). These data demonstrate that
357 membrane integrity may be perturbed, but within the time frame of our assays cytosolic
358 proteins are not released into the medium. Together, these data demonstrated that HAdV-
359 lactoferrin complexes prime DCs for NLRP3-associated IL-1 β release, inflammasome can be
360 formed, membrane integrity is perturbed, but there is no significant leakage of cytoplasmic
361 proteins.

362 Discussion

363 Deconstructionist approaches using binary systems to understand HAdV receptor engagement,
364 trafficking, and immunogenicity provided a foundation to understand virus - cell interactions.
365 Combinatorial assays using multiple human blood components can generate greater insight
366 into clinically relevant HAdV issues, in particular tropism and immunogenicity. Here, we
367 show how an alarmin influences the response of human DCs to three HAdV types. We
368 examined pathways from receptor engagement, signaling, transcription, inflammasome
369 formation/activation and cytokine release (**Figure 6**). Following engagement of TLR4, its TIR
370 domain recruits MyD88 and TIRAP, which bridge TLRs to IRAK and MAPK family
371 members that activate NF- κ B, AP-1, and IRF. This latter pathway initiates transcription of
372 genes coding for inflammasome components and proinflammatory cytokines [39,40]. The TIR
373 domain also recruits TRAM and TRIF to activate the kinases TBK1 and IKK ϵ to promote type
374 I IFN expression [30]. Together, these innate immune pathways prime an adaptive antiviral
375 response.

376 Due in part to the technical advances in the synthesis of peptide-polymer conjugates, interest
377 in new and old HDPs is flourishing. However, the complex biological functions of naturally
378 occurring HDPs provide a candid reminder of how little we grasp their impact on immune
379 responses to most pathogens. The three HAdV types used in this study were based on their
380 state of development as vectors for vaccines [41,42]. HAdV-C5, -D26 and -B35 come from
381 different HAdV species, and are associated with different vaccines efficacy. The *raison d'être*
382 for the use of HAdV-D26 and -B35 is that their low seroprevalence (at least in Europeans and
383 North Americans cohorts) and may circumvent some concerns associated with pre-existing
384 HAdV humoral immunity [43]. It is worth noting that HAdV-B35 seroprevalence is typically
385 rare – whether this is due to the lack of infection or lack of production of neutralizing
386 antibodies to HAdV-B35 is currently unknown. Throughout this study HAdV-C5 and -D26
387 tended to have similar profiles in all assays. By contrast, there were several instances where
388 HAdV-B35 was notably different. Whether these differences can be attributed to the use of
389 CD46 or differences in the level between monocytes, DCs or Langerhans is possible, but
390 unexplored. In addition, work in T cells that shows CD46 primes the NLRP3 inflammasome
391 and therefore a possible binary engagement through TLR4 and CD46 could impact the
392 response to HAdV-B35-lactoferrin complexes [44]. The breadth of the lactoferrin-enhanced
393 infection of the three HAdVs suggest that the interactions are charge based because of the

394 significant differences in the HVR sequences, which make up much of the surface area of
395 HAdVs. Previous studies demonstrated that some HDPs attenuate HAdV infection of
396 epithelial-like cells [8,15,45–48]. By contrast, our results are similar to Adams et al. [9] and
397 demonstrated that lactoferrin-enhanced HAdV infection of human monocytes, DCs, and
398 Langerhans cells. By delving deeper into these initial observations, our study sheds light onto
399 the mechanisms by which an HDP connects HAdV infection of mucosal tissues, or during
400 vaccination, to drive innate and adaptive immune responses. Mechanistically, it appears that
401 lactoferrin reduces infection of epithelial cells and increases uptake into phagocytes, which
402 provokes a pro-inflammatory and antiviral cytokine response. In combination with vaccination
403 studies in paradigms of primary and recurrent infection, our study will help us understand how
404 this pathway modifies adaptive immune responses against HAdV vectors and/or the transgene.

405 Classical NLRP3 inflammasome activation involves a two-step process: PRR-derived signal 1
406 to upregulate transcription of inflammasome components and NLRP3 posttranslational
407 modification. NLRP3 then detects perturbations of cellular integrity associated with K⁺ efflux
408 (signal 2). Consequently, Nek7–NLRP3 interaction leads to pyroptosome assembly and
409 caspase-1-induced maturation of pro-IL-1 β and pro-GSDMD. The alternative pathway
410 consists of NLRP3-ASC-pro-caspase-1 signaling and IL-1 β release without the loss of
411 cytoplasmic content via GSDMD-induced pyroptosis. Yet, the alternative pathway delineated
412 in this study is not an indisputable fit and likely reflects the variability between LPS and a
413 HAdV. TLR4-mediated endocytosis, which is well characterized for LPS, depends on the
414 homodimerization of TLR4. LPS, the quintessential TLR4 ligand, is extracted from gram⁻
415 bacteria by CD14, which then transfer it to MD-2, which interacts directly with TLR4. TLR4
416 dimerization is induced by the Lipid A region of LPS. Given the icosahedral shape and the
417 size (~90 nm) of the HAdV-lactoferrin complex, one would expect that lactoferrin binds to
418 multiple sites on the capsid and induced TLR4 dimerization directly, or possibly assemblage
419 of multiple dimers. Dimerization is then associated with a CD14-dependent migration [49] to
420 cholesterol-rich regions of the plasma membrane and endocytosis via a TLR4 ectodomain-
421 dependent mechanism. While this picture appears partially consistent with the uptake HAdV
422 particles, CD14 levels on monocytes-derived DCs are very low or absent, suggesting that
423 migration to lipid rafts is via another pathway. The involvement of cathepsin B, a product of
424 lysosomal rupture, is a key result. Most TLR4 agonists examined to date do not have complex
425 intracellular processing. This is not the case for HAdVs. The endosomolytic activity of protein

426 VI, an internal capsid protein, prevents the efficient degradation of the HAdVs in DCs by
427 enabling the escape of HAdV capsid from endocytic vesicles/lysosomes into the cytoplasm
428 [50,51]. However, this trafficking process causes the HAdV double-stranded DNA genome
429 become accessible to AIM2 (absent in melanoma 2) and in turn the initiation of an
430 inflammasome. The makeup and processing of TLR4-associated vs. Fc γ receptor-associated
431 endocytic vesicles is, to the best of our knowledge, unknown. From the data here, it appears
432 that TLR4-associated endocytic vesicles fused to the cathepsin B-bearing lysosomal vesicles
433 before the rupture of these vesicles causes the inception of an NLRP3 inflammasome. Of note,
434 we did not detect an involvement of the cGAS pathway (the inhibitor RU.512 had no effect on
435 HAdV-mediated transgene expression or IL-1 β release, data not shown) suggesting that in our
436 assays TLR4-mediated endocytosis was not associated with significant degradation of the
437 HAdV capsid. These data are consistent with increased GFP expression. By inhibiting caspase
438 1, we showed that it is activated and involved in IL-1 β release. This effect was specific for IL-
439 1 β , as TNF secretion did not decrease (**Supplemental Figure 6A**). Furthermore, caspase
440 inhibitors had no effect on HAdV-lactoferrin entry (**Supplemental Figure 6B**). Caspase 1
441 cleavage of GSDMD abolishes its intra-molecular auto-inhibition and induces pore-like
442 structures of ~15 nm in diameter in the plasma membrane to breakdown the ion gradients.
443 Alternative inflammasome activation can be triggered by a unique signal. LPS sensing induces
444 a TLR4-TRIF-RIPK1-FADD-CASP8 signaling axis, resulting in activation of NLRP3 by
445 cleavage of an unknown caspase-8 substrate independently of K⁺ efflux. The alternative
446 NLRP3 complex likely has a modified stoichiometry. Although caspase 1 becomes mature and
447 cleaves IL-1 β , pyroptosis is not induced and IL-1 β release by an unconventional mechanism
448 that functions independently of GSDMD. Why the inflammasome in HAdV-lactoferrin
449 challenged cells does not lead to GSDMD-mediated release of cytoplasmic content may be
450 due to the spatial and temporal signals the cell is receiving during the activation phase. In
451 classic NLRP3 inflammasome activation, signal 1 is received well before signal 2 (NLRP3
452 engagement). In our assays, HAdV-lactoferrin induced signals are received immediately
453 before the NLRP3 induction. Notably though, inhibition of the NF- κ B pathway had a dramatic
454 effect on IL-1 β levels. The lack of coordination of transcriptional priming and de-
455 ubiquitination of NLRP3 [52] may preclude pyroptosis, and favor an immune response with a
456 longer duration and trafficking of DC to lymph node to induce an adaptive immune responses.
457 Inflammasome activation is thought to be crucial for the induction of cellular and humoral
458 immune responses in the context of vaccinations. However, whether the involvement of the

459 HAdV-lactoferrin NLRP3 axis drives T-cell responses towards a Th1 or Th2 phenotype needs
460 further analyses. By contrast, controlling excessive inflammatory response is necessary. In
461 addition to the expression of IL-1 β , we also found notable levels of IL-1 α . It is also possible
462 that the effects of IL-1 α supersede or preclude pyroptosis because IL-1 α can promote the
463 expression of genes involved in cell survival [53].

464 Of note, our results may also resolve one of many conundrums associated with the differences
465 between murine and human responses to HAdVs. If murine HDPs interact with murine
466 coagulation factors to bind HAdVs and induce a TLR4-associated pro-inflammatory response
467 in the mouse liver [12], then the addition of ubiquitous HDPs into this picture could resolve
468 the paradox. Whether HAdV-coagulation factor- HDP-HAdV complexes are produced
469 following intravenous injection in mice has not been addressed. In conclusion, using
470 combinatorial assays and primary human blood cells we detailed the multifaceted interactions
471 between a PAMP (HAdV), a DAMP (lactoferrin), and PRRs (TLR4 & NLRP3) at the
472 interface of innate and adaptive immunity in humans. These data directly address how the
473 multiple layers of the innate and adaptive immune responses coordinate reactions to
474 pathogens.

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480 **Author contributions:**

481 Study design & conception: KE, EJK
482 Project direction: EJK
483 Performed experiments; CC, KE, HT, TTPT, OP, CH
484 Analyzed data: all authors
485 Wrote the manuscript: CC, KE, HT & EJK
486 Secured funding: EJK

487 **Data and materials availability:** All materials can be obtained through an MTA.

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- 649

650 **Figure Legends**

651 **Figure 1. Lactoferrin binds to HAdVs and increase infectivity in DCs**

- 652 **A)** Representative sensorgrams of lactoferrin binding to the HAdV capsid as assessed by surface
653 plasmon resonance. HAdV-C5 (red), HAdV-D26 (black), and HAdV-B35 (blue) were covalently
654 coupled to a CM5 sensor chip and lactoferrin was injected for binding comparison. For K_D
655 determination a range of 6.25 - 200 nM of lactoferrin was injected and the K_D was calculated using
656 a bivalent fitting model (RU = resonance units);
- 657 **B)** Relative affinity (K_D) of lactoferrin for HAdV-C5, -D26 and -B35 capsids;
- 658 **C)** Representative flow cytometry profiles of DCs incubated with the HAdV vectors. DCs were
659 mock-treated (grey) or incubated with HAdV species-C5 (5,000 pp/cell), -D26 (20,000 pp/cell) or
660 -B35 (1,000 pp/cell) (red) or complexed with lactoferrin (blue) for 24 h. Samples were collected at
661 24 h, prepared for flow cytometry and 25,000 events were acquired/sample.
- 662 **D)** Cumulative data (n = 21) from DCs generated from blood bank donors.

663 **Figure 2. HAdV-lactoferrin complexes induce IL-1 α and IL-1 β**

- 664 **A)** DCs were incubated with HAdV-C5, HAdV-D26, and HAdV-B35 \pm lactoferrin (or LPS as a
665 positive control) for 4 h and cytokines secretion in supernatants was assessed by Luminex. To the
666 left of each set of columns is the baseline reference set: for the left-hand columns the baseline is
667 mock-infected cells, for the middle columns the reference is lactoferrin-treated cells, for the right-
668 hand columns the reference is HAdV-infected cells. Raw data can be found in (Supplemental
669 Figure 2A & B).
- 670 **B)** IL-1 β release by DCs in the presence of HAdV-C5, -D26, and -B35 \pm lactoferrin was assessed by
671 ELISA at 4 (red) and 24 h (black) postinfection (n = 3). As control, cells were treated with LPS
672 (TLR4 agonist) and nigericin (activated the inflammasome).
- 673 **C-D)** DCs were incubated with HAdV complexed with lactoferrin, IVIG or lactoferrin + IVIG, for 4 h.
674 Infection and IL-1 β release, respectively, were analyzed 24 h postinfection (n = 3). Statistical
675 analyses by two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.

676 **Figure 3. Blocking TLR4 engagement and signaling decrease HAdV-lactoferrin entry 677 and DC maturation**

- 678 **A)** HAdV-lactoferrin complexes were incubate with TLR4/MD-2 recombinant protein for 30 min.
679 Infection was analyzed 24 h postinfection by flow cytometry (n = 11);
- 680 **B)** DCs were treated for 1 h pre-infection with TAK-242, HAdV-lactoferrin complex infection was
681 analyzed 24 h postinfection by flow cytometry (n \geq 3). Cytokine profile of DCs treated HAdV-
682 lactoferrin \pm TAK-242;
- 683 **C)** IL-1 β release following inhibition with TAK-242;
- 684 **D)** TNF levels 24 h postinfection \pm TAK-242 (n \geq 3);
- 685 **E)** Percent infection following inhibition with oxPAPC (n = 6);
- 686 **F)** Percent infection following inhibition with Pepinh-TRIF, R406 or Bay11-7082 (n = 6).
- 687 **G)** IL-1 β release from DCs incubated with HAdV-lactoferrin \pm oxPAPC, Pepinh-TRIF, R406 or
688 Bay11-7082 (n \geq 3). Statistical analyses by two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.

689 **Figure 4. HAdV-lactoferrin complexes induce IL-1 β via an NLRP3 inflammasome**

- 690 **A)** mRNA expression of inflammasome components NLRP3 (NLRP3), caspase 1 (CASP1), pro-IL-
691 1 β (IL1B) and TNF (TNF) induced by HAdV-lactoferrin complex was assessed by RT-qPCR at 4
692 h postinfection;
- 693 **B)** Flow cytometry-based assay for ASC aggregation (pyroptosome formation); Inflammasome
694 formation was induced by incubating DCs with HAdV-C5- lactoferrin complexes for 3 h. LPS +

695 nigericin and HAdV-C5-IVIG complexes were used as positive controls to identify
696 inflammasome-positive cells. MCC-950 was used as a control of NLRP3 inhibition and lactoferrin
697 on DCs was use as a negative control. Cells were stained with anti-ASC. Inflammasome-positive
698 cells were identified as ASC-width low and ASC-height high.

699 C) IL-1 β release in response to HAdV-lactoferrin complex or LPS/nigericin in DCs pre-treated with
700 NLRP3 pathway or caspase-1 inhibitor. IL-1 β release in response to HAdV-lactoferrin complexes
701 in DCs pre-treated with C) KCl, NAC, and MDL; D) NLRP3 inhibitor MCC-950; E-F) caspase-1
702 inhibitors WEDH, YVAD, VX765; G) caspase-8 inhibitor Z-IETD, H) RIPK1 inhibitor GSK963,
703 and RIPK3 inhibitors necrosulfonamide and GSK872. N \geq 3 in all assays. Statistical analyses by
704 two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.

705 **Figure 5. IL-1 β release without the loss of membrane integrity**

706 A) DCs were challenged with HAdV-lactoferrin complexes, HAdV alone, or LPS/nigericin. Loss of
707 cytosolic content was quantified by LDH activity in the supernatant at 4 h postinfection (n = 6);
708 B) Plasma membrane integrity, analyzed 24 h postinfection using 7-AAD uptake, was quantified
709 using flow cytometry (n = 13). Statistical analyses by two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.

710 **Figure 6. TLR4-mediated HAdV-lactoferrin uptake in DCs and IL-1 β release**

711 Lactoferrin binds to HAdV capsid and retargets the virus toward TLR4 complex on the cells surface.
712 Following TLR4 engagement, its TIR domain recruits MyD88 and TIRAP, which bridge TLRs to
713 IRAK and MAPK family members that activate NF- κ B, AP-1, and IRF. This is a transcriptional
714 priming event that initiating expression of genes coding for inflammasome components (e.g. NLRP3
715 and IL-1 β). The DC then detects a second perturbations (signal 2) which induced ROS release
716 (mitochondrial stress) or K⁺ efflux (perturbations of cellular integrity), and cathepsin B release from
717 lysosome rupture. HAdV-lactoferrin complexes induce RIPK1/3 pathway through autocrine-TNF
718 release or RIPK3 activation via TRIF. During inflammasome formation, pro-caspase-1 auto-
719 activation induces cleavage of pro-IL-1 β and likely GSDMD, which will initiate the loss of plasma
720 membrane integrity via pore formation, allowing IL-1 β release. Twenty-four hours post-challenge,
721 DCs membrane integrity is intact, consistent with the involvement of ESCRT-III complex and
722 repairing GSDMD pores.

723 **Supplementary Materials**

724 **Figure S1: Analysis of lactoferrin binding to HAdV-C5, -D26 and -B35 by SPR**

725 **A)** HAdV-C5, HAdV-D26, and HAdV-B35 were covalently couple to a CM5 sensor chip and
726 escalating doses of lactoferrin (6.25-200 nM) for K_D determination. Depicted are overlaid sensorgrams
727 (RU = resonance units);

728 **B)** Representative flow cytometry profiles of cells infected with HAdV vectors. DCs were mock-
729 treated (grey), incubated with HAdV species -C5, -D26 and -B35 alone (red), with lactoferrin
730 complexed with HAdV (blue), with HAdV for 30 min and then lactoferrin (green) or with lactoferrin
731 for 30 min and then HAdV (purple). Fluorescence was analyzed 24 h postinfection;

732 **C)** monocytes and **D)** LCs were incubated with HAdVs \pm lactoferrin and fluorescence was analyzed 24
733 h postinfection (n = 3).

734 **Figure S2: HAdV-lactoferrin complexes induce cytokine secretion**

735 **A)** Raw data of Luminex assay of DCs \pm HAdVs \pm lactoferrin, plus controls.

736 **B-C)** Freshly isolate human monocytes incubated with HAdV-C5-, HAdV-D26, and HAdV-B35 \pm
737 lactoferrin. The supernatants were used to quantify IL-1 β release, GFP expression is reported median
738 fluorescent index (MFI), respectively (n = 3)

739 **D)** DCs were incubate with HAdV-lactoferrin complexes for 24 h. Cells were then incubated at 4°C or
740 37°C for 30 min with 1 mg/ml Texas Red-labelled dextran, washed with PBS, and immediately
741 analyzed by flow cytometry to determine DC functional maturation (lower fluorescence = lower
742 phagocytosis = greater maturation, n = 2).

743 **Figure S3: TLR4 inhibitors reduce infection of HAdV-lactoferrin complexes**

744 **A)** HAdV-lactoferrin complexes were incubate with TLR4, TLR4/MD-2, MD-2 recombinant proteins
745 or DCs were incubated with anti-CD14 antibody for 30 min. Then HAdV-lactoferrin-recombinant
746 protein complexes were added to DCs or HAdV-lactoferrin were added to treated DCs. Infection was
747 analyzed 24 h postinfection by flow cytometry (n = 4).

748 **B-D)** DCs, monocytes, or LCs were treated for 1 h pre-infection with 1 μ g/ml of TAK-242. HAdV-
749 lactoferrin complex infection was analyzed 24 h postinfection by flow cytometry (n = 3).

750 TLR4 surface expression was analyzed at 24 h after DCs treatment with decrease concentrations of **E)**
751 lactoferrin (7 - 0.9 μ g/ml), **F)** TAK-242 (200 - 25 μ g/ml), **G)** oxPAPC (60 - 7.5 μ g/ml) or Pepinh-
752 TRIF (50 - 6.25 μ g/ml) (n \geq 3).

753 HAdV were complexed with lactoferrin or with lactoferricin (a gift from H. Jenssen, Roskilde
754 Universitet).

755 **H-I)** DC infection and IL-1 β release were analyzed at 24 h postinfection, respectively (n = 4).
756 Statistical analyses by two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.

757 **Figure S4: Pharmacological inhibition organized by HAdV type**

758 DCs were treated for 1 h pre-infection with TLR4 inhibitors oxPAPC, Pepinh-TRIF, Syk
759 inhibitor R406, NLRP3 inhibitor Bay11-7082, RIPK1 inhibitor GSK963 and RIPK3 inhibitors
760 necrosulfonamide and GSK872 (n \geq 3). Cells were infected with **A)** HAdV-C5-lactoferrin, **B)**
761 HAdV-D26-lactoferrin or **C)** HAdV-B35-lactoferrin complexes and IL-1 β release was
762 analyzed 24 h postinfection (n \geq 3). Statistical analyses by two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.

763 **Figure S5: Lactoferrin combined with IVIG induced 7-AAD uptake**

764 DCs were incubated with HAdV complexed with lactoferrin, IVIG or lactoferrin + IVIG. Plasma
765 membrane integrity was analyzed by 7-AAD uptake by flow cytometry at 24 h postinfection (n = 3).
766 Statistical analyses by two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.

767 **Figure S6: Caspase-1 and -8 inhibitors do not impact TNF secretion or infection**

768 DCs were treated with caspase-1 inhibitors (YVAD or VX765) or caspase-8 inhibitor (Z-IETD) for 1 h.

769 Cells were infected with HAdV-lactoferrin complexes for 24 h.

770 **A-B**) Supernatant was collected for TNF quantification; and, **C**) cells for GFP expression (flow

771 cytometry) ($n \geq 4$). Statistical analyses by two-tailed Mann-Whitney test.

FIGURE 1

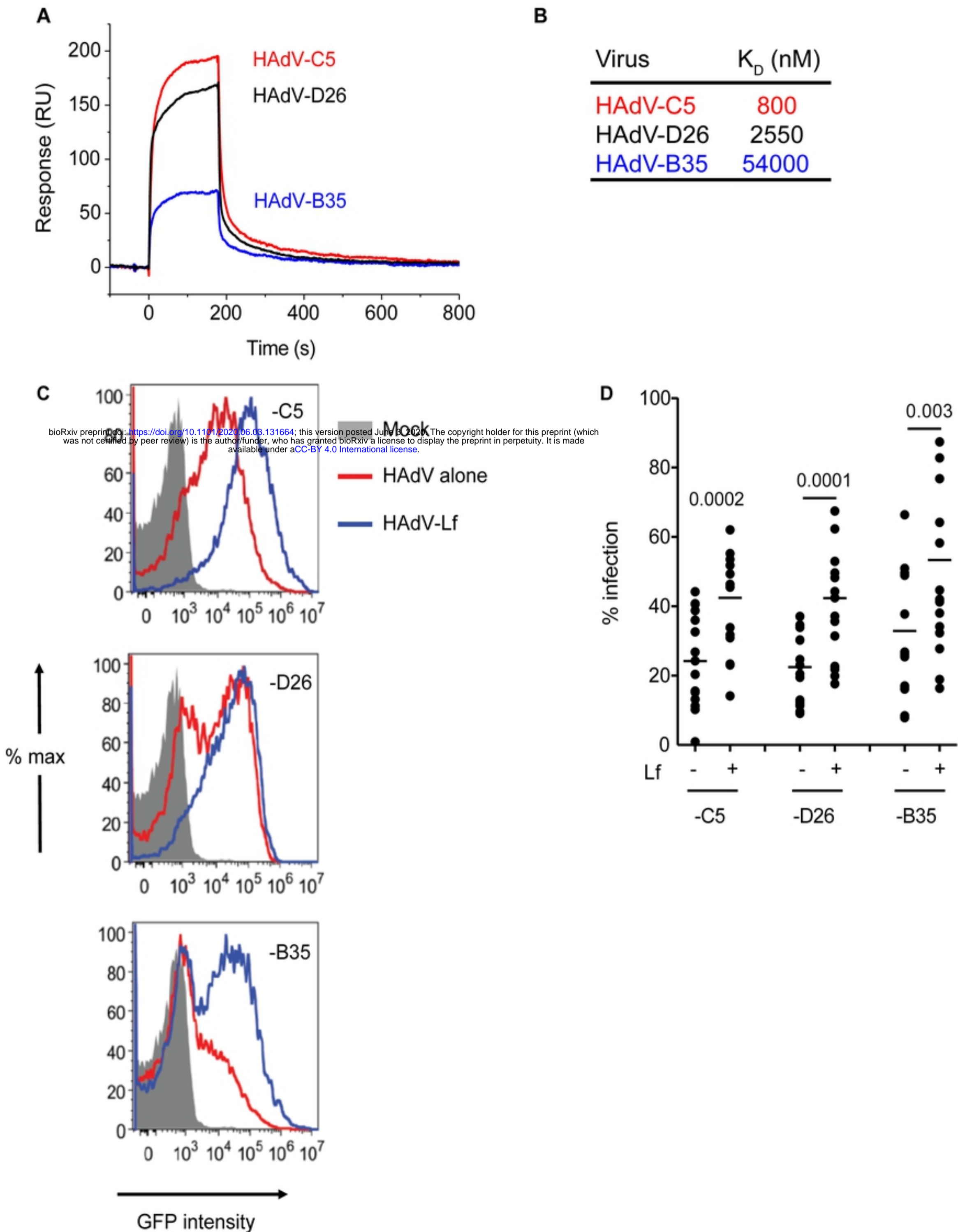
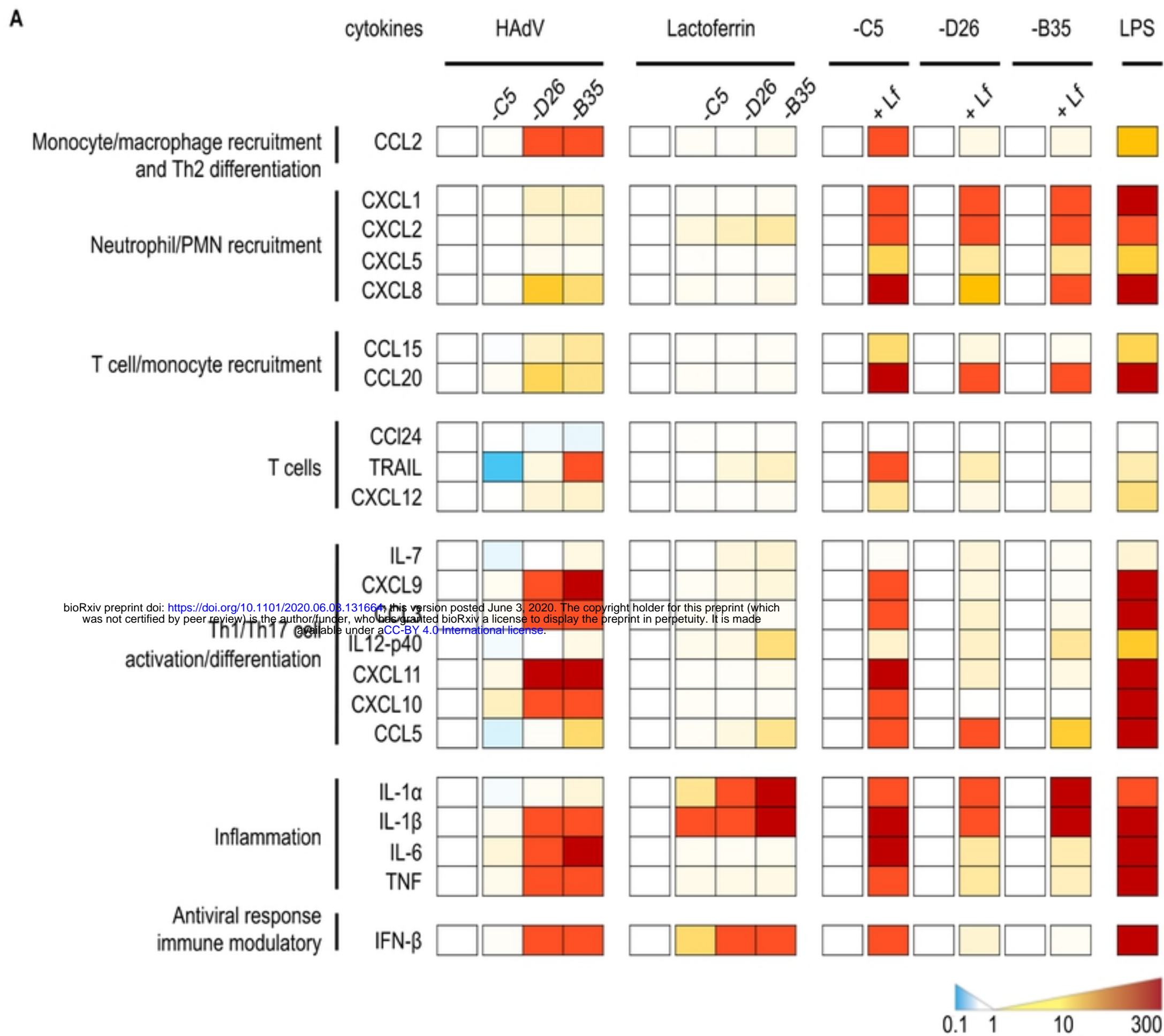


Fig 1

FIGURE 2



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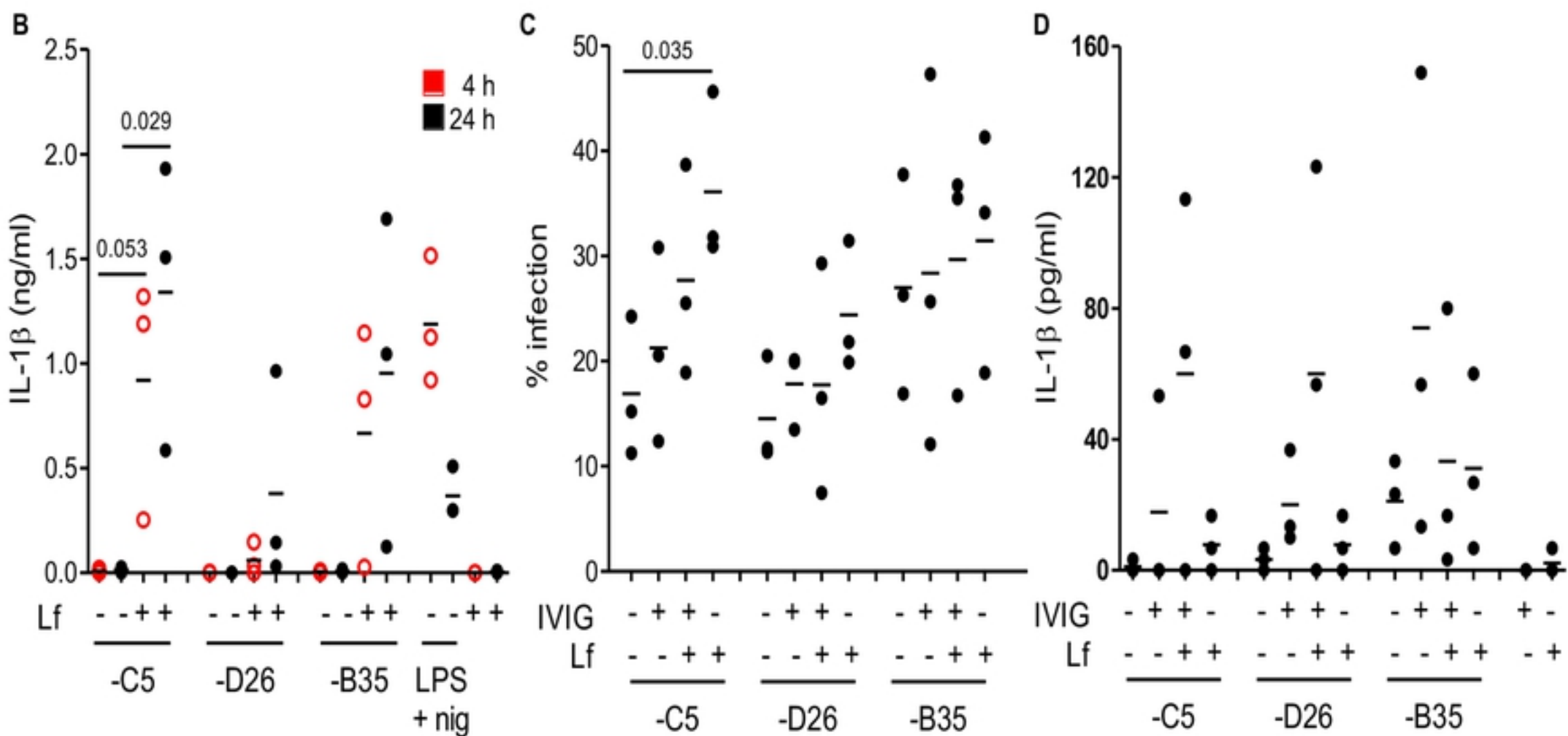


Fig 2

FIGURE 3

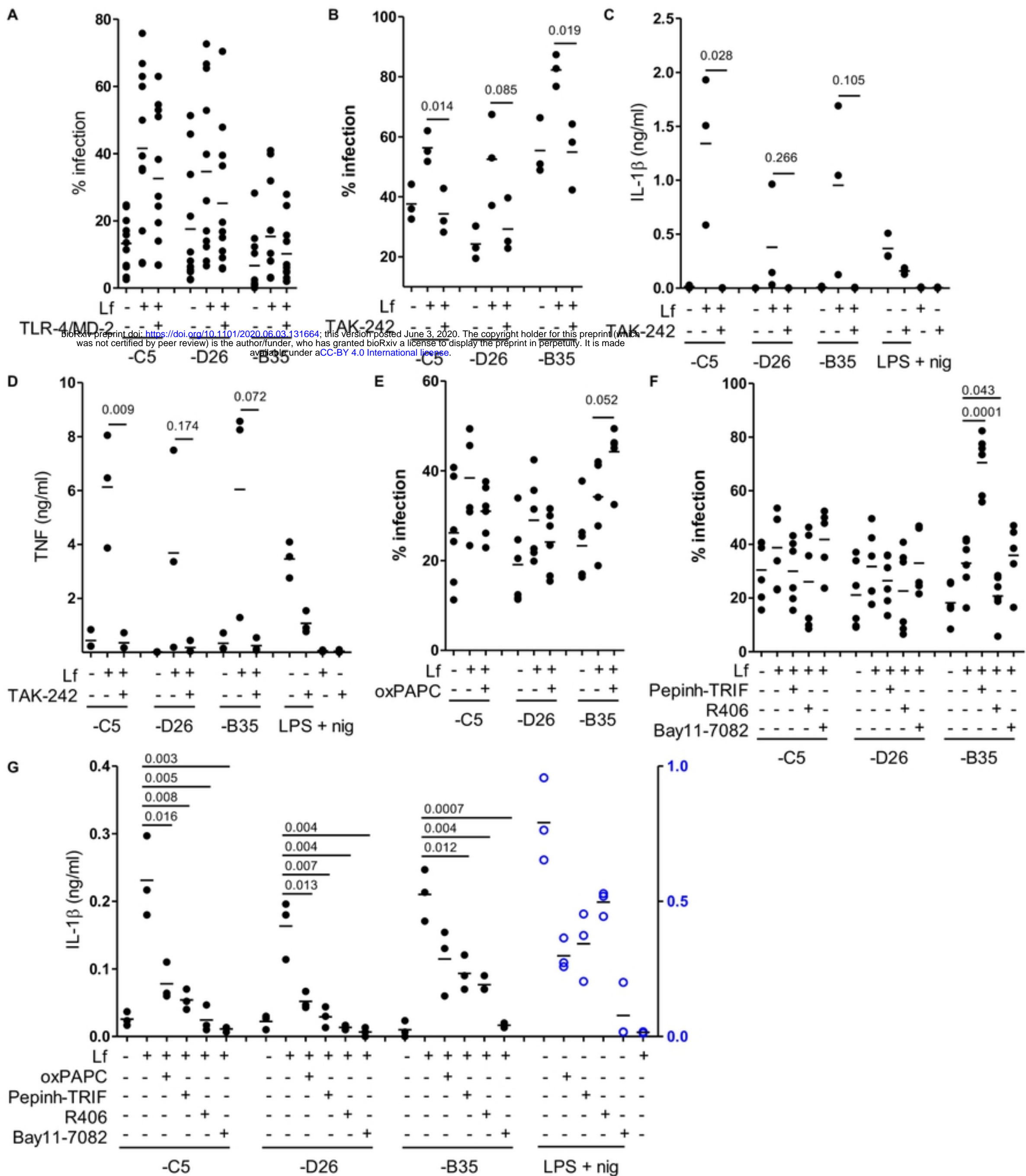


Fig 3

FIGURE 4

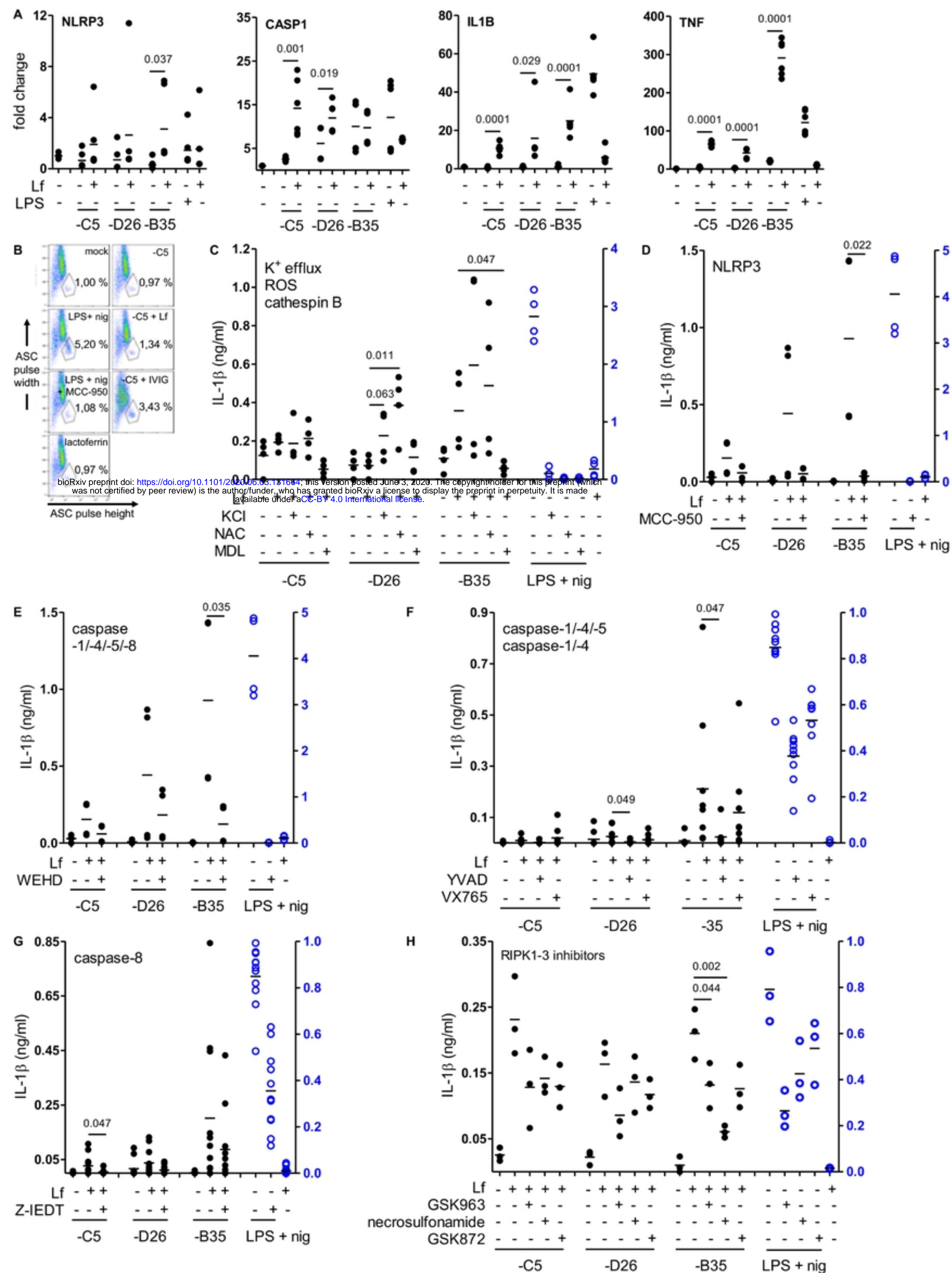


Fig 4

FIGURE S1

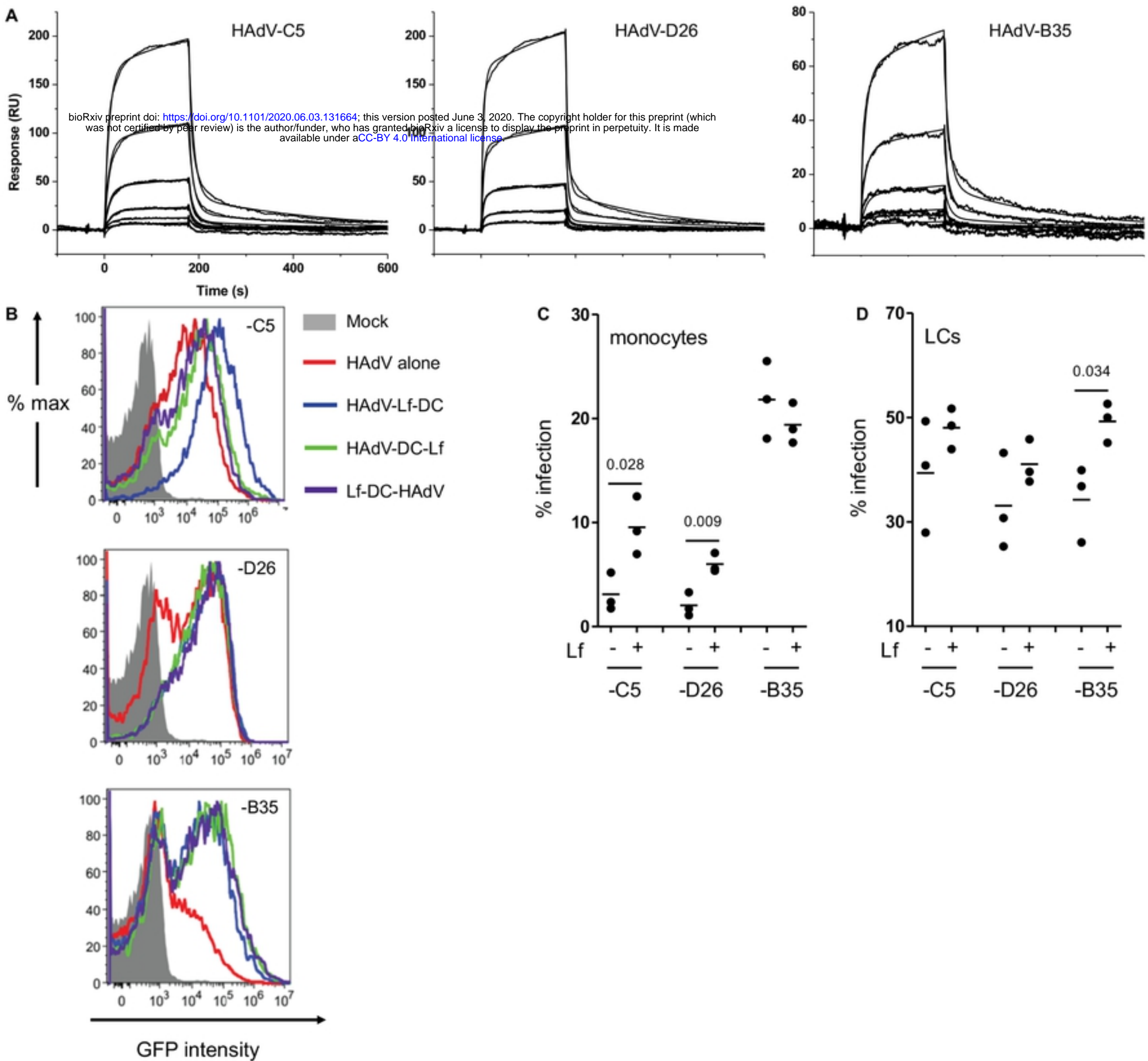


Fig S1

FIGURE S2

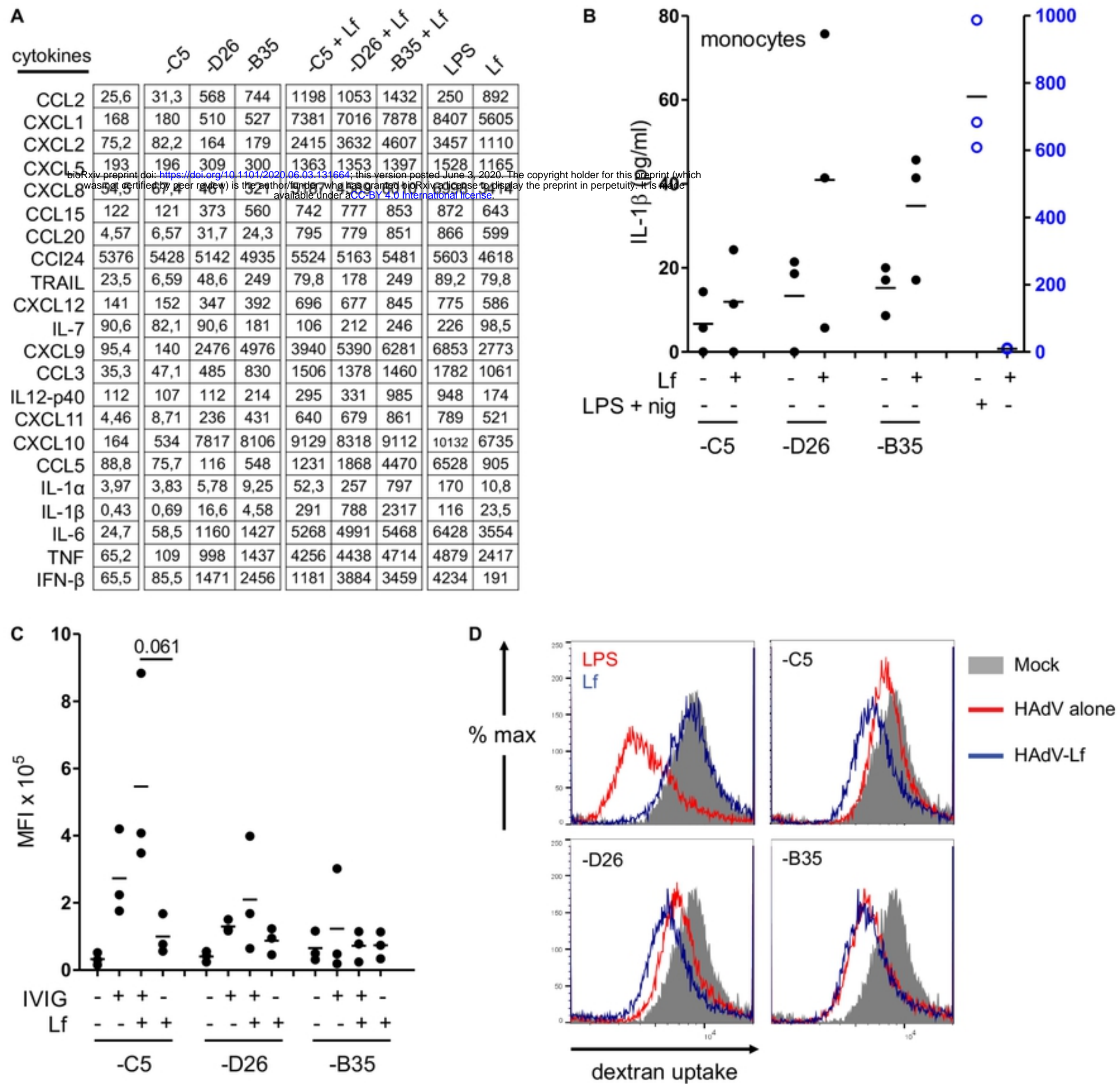


Fig S2

FIGURE S3

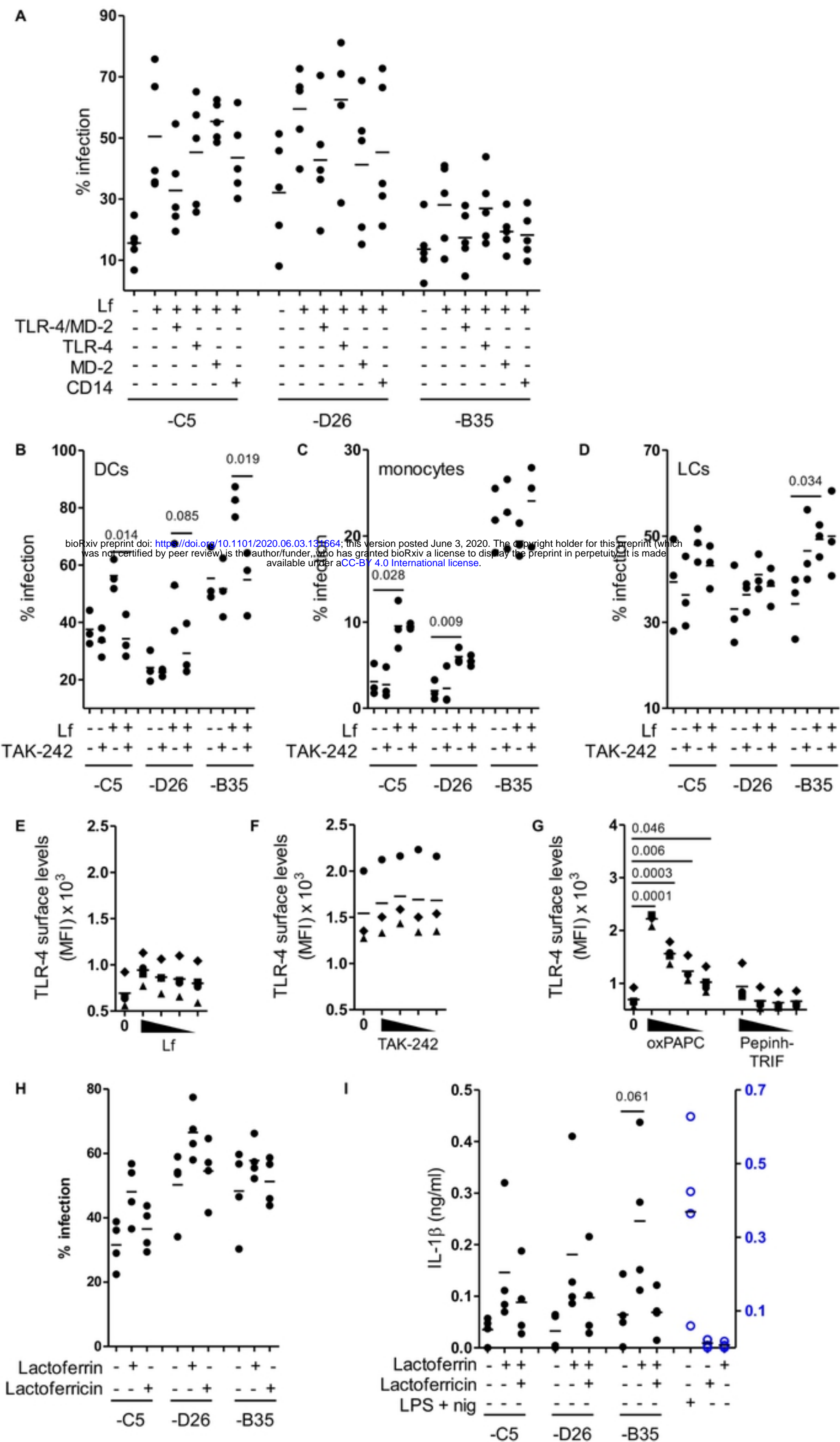


Fig S3

FIGURE S4

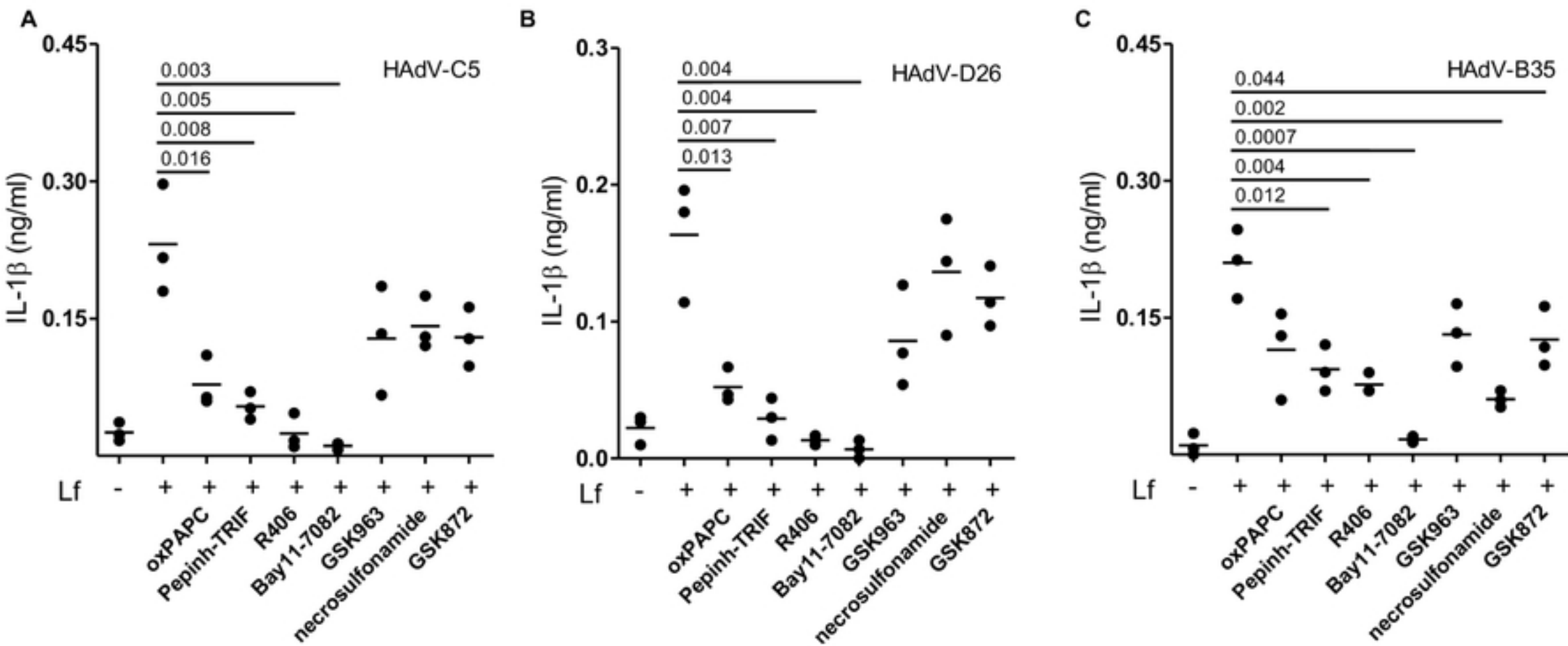
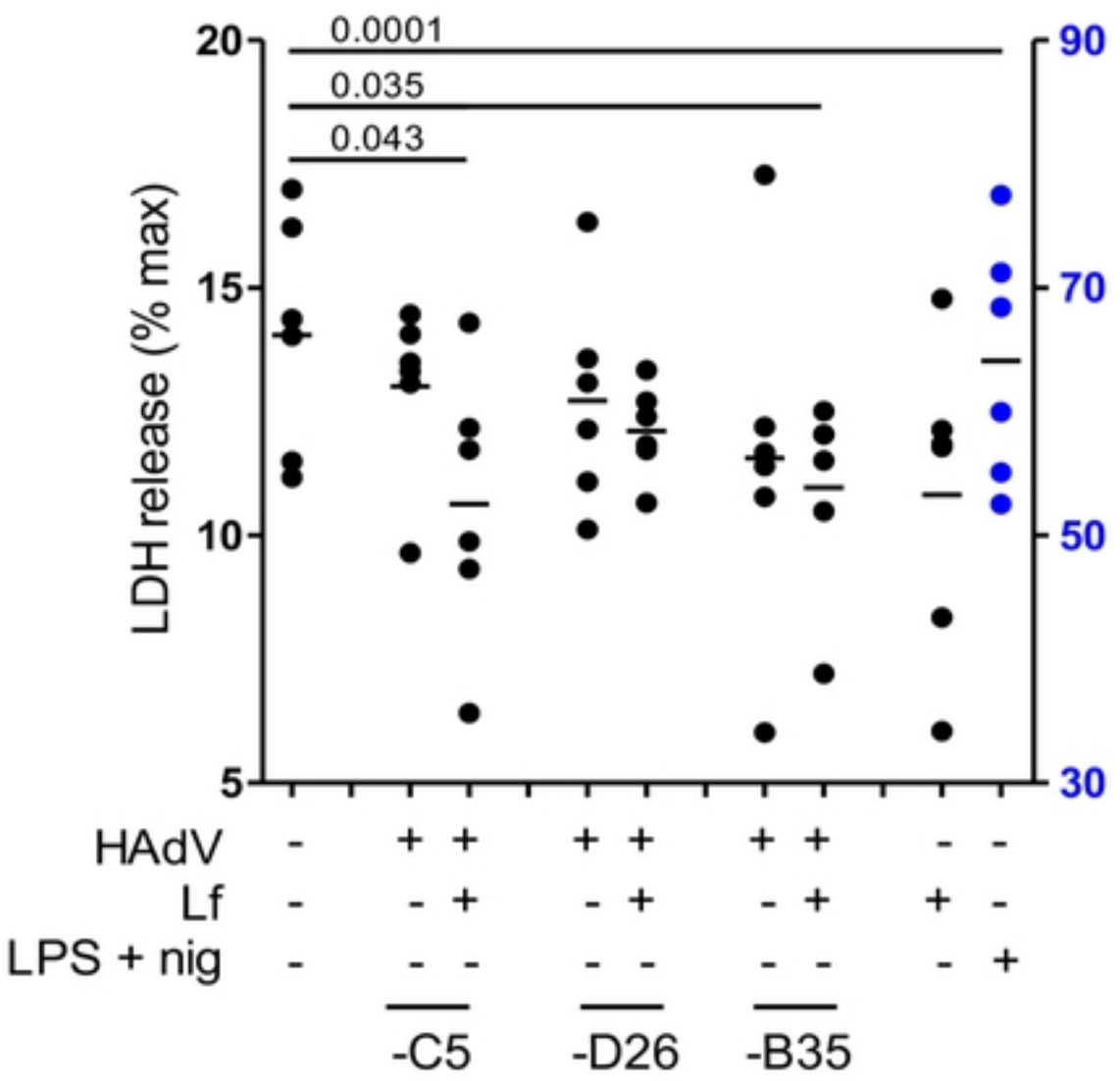


Fig S4

FIGURE 5

A



B

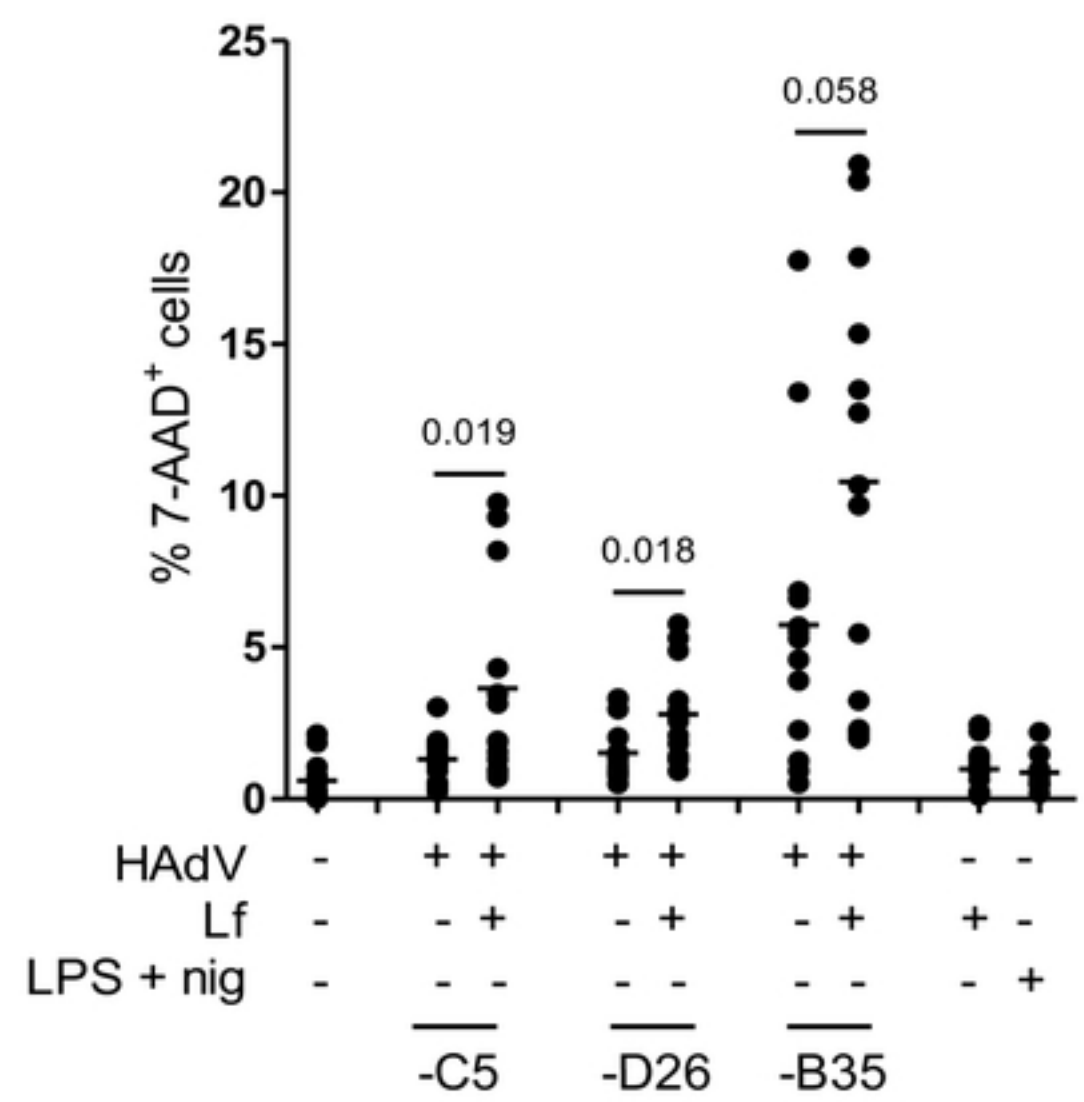


Fig 5

FIGURE S5

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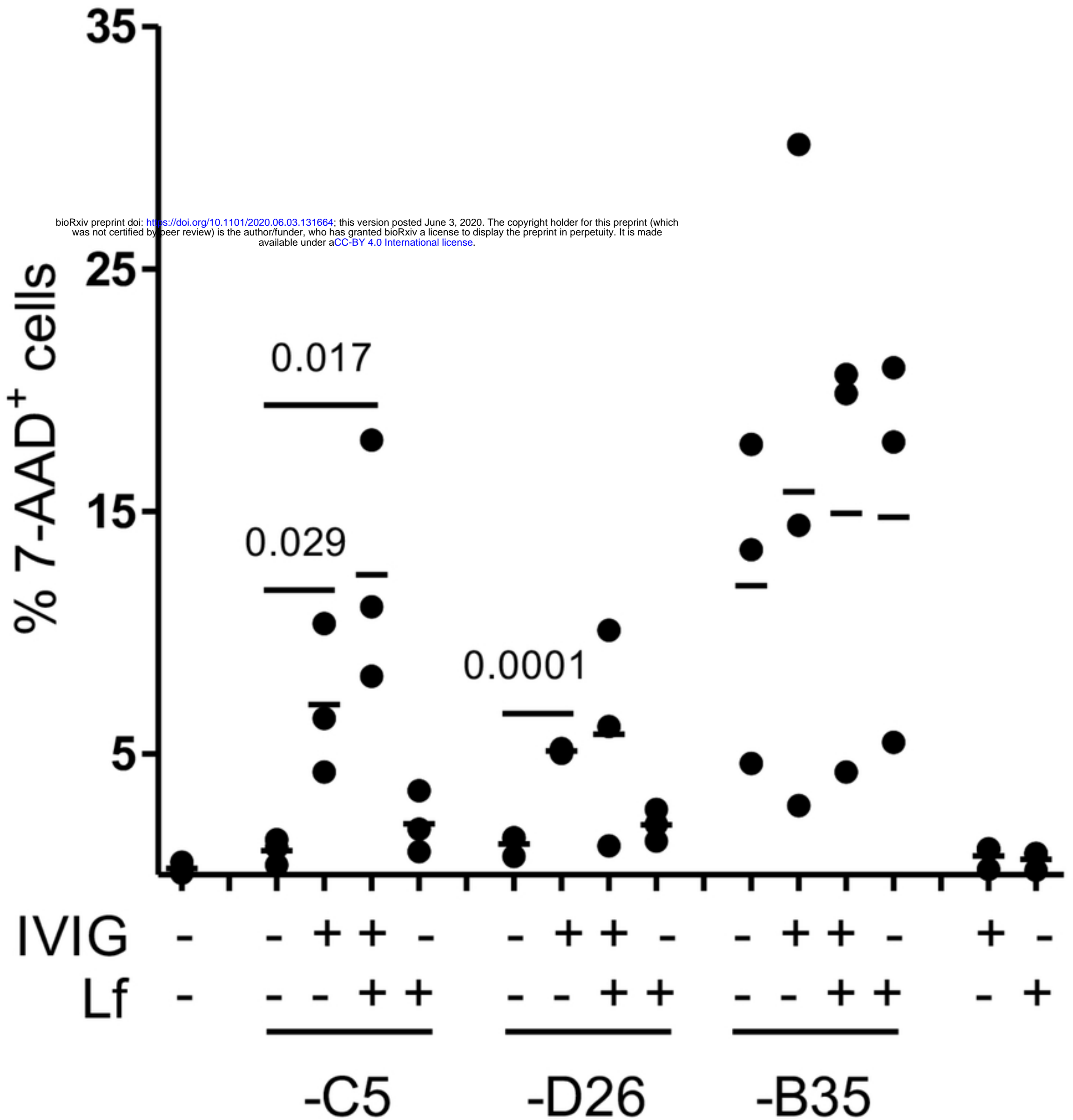


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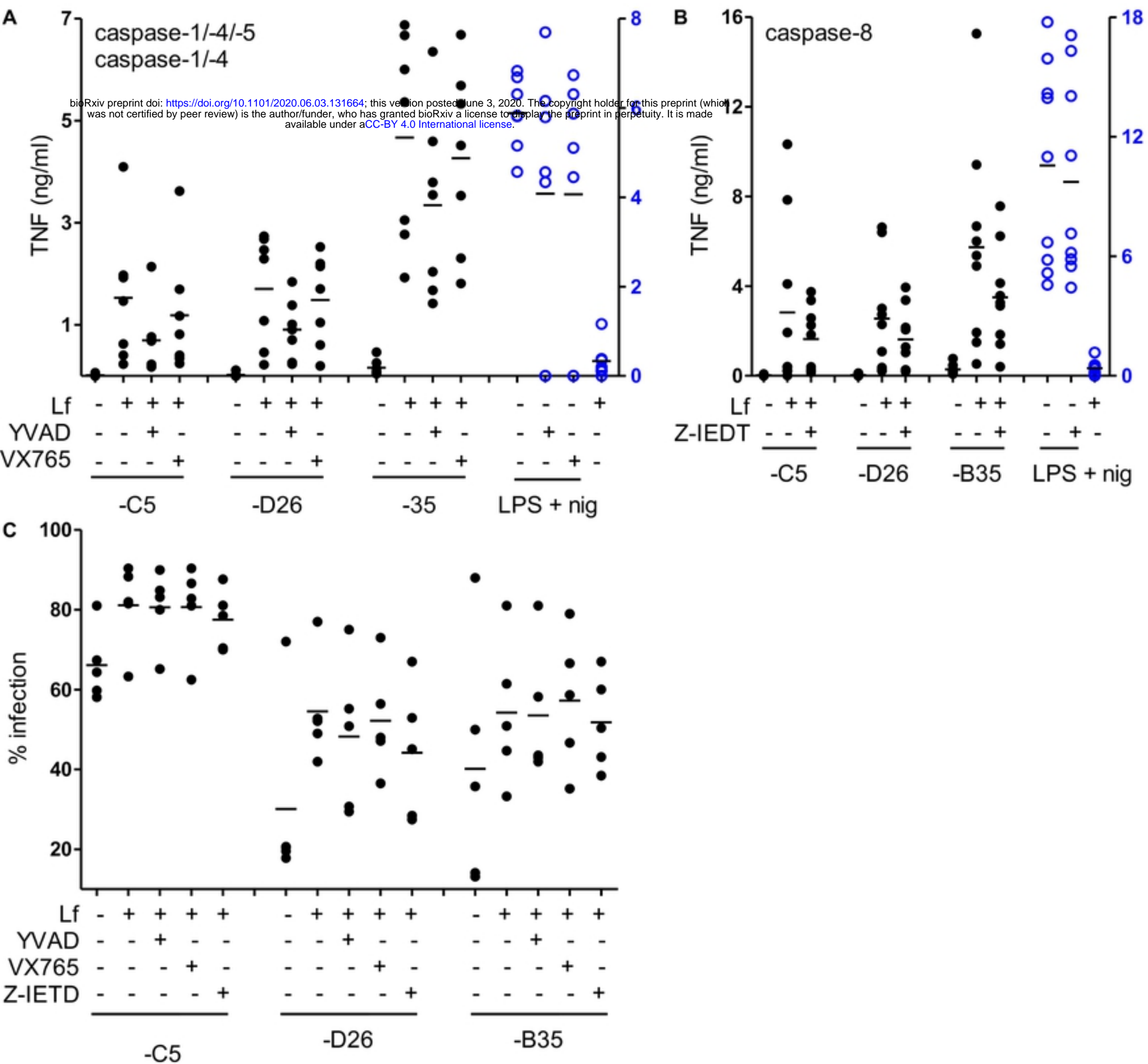


Fig S6

FIGURE 6

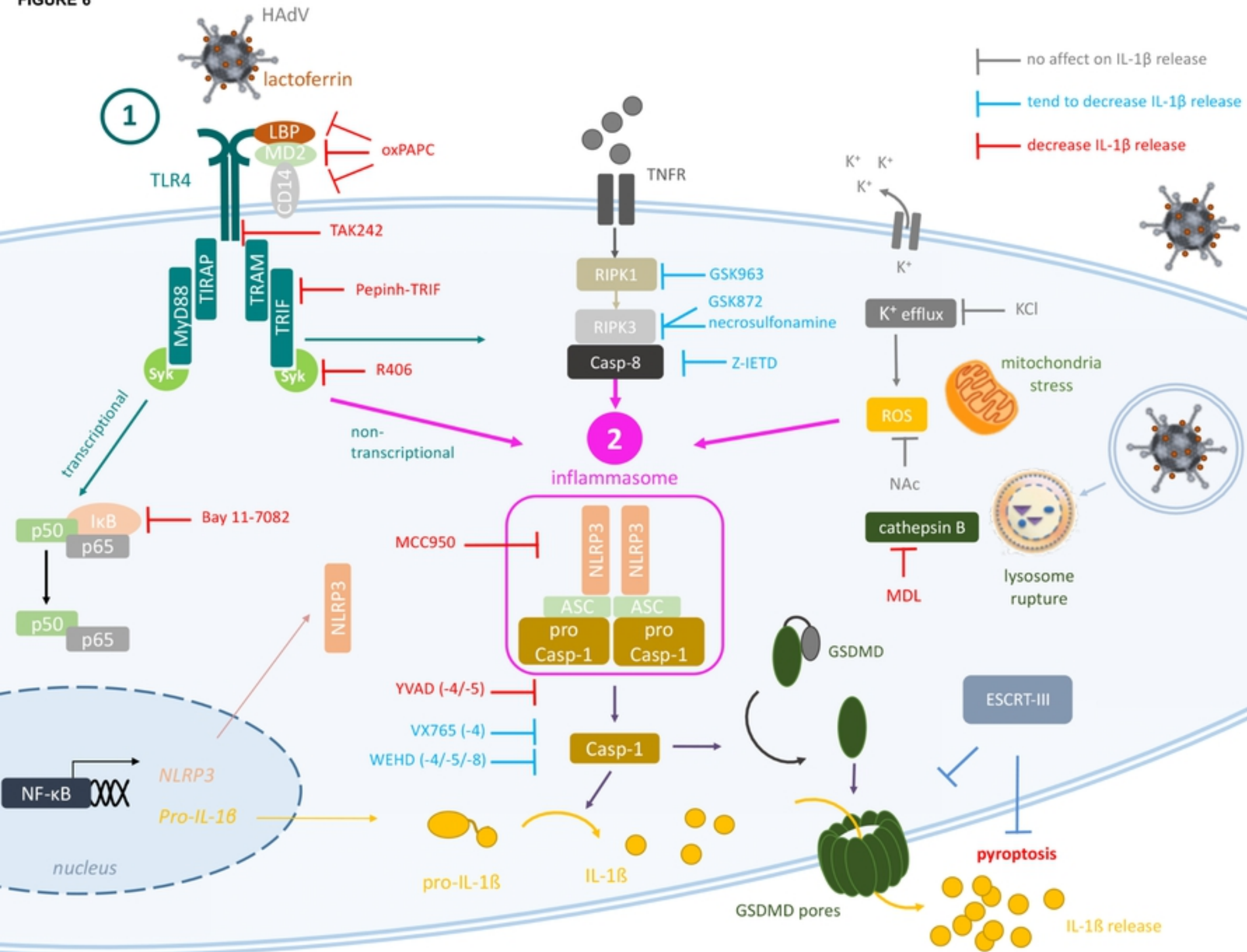


Fig 6