**Title**: Megakaryopoiesis in Dengue virus infected K562 cell promotes viral replication which inhibits endomitosis and accumulation of ROS associated with differentiation

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**Abstract:** In the human host blood Monocytes and bone marrow Megakaryocytes are implicated as major sites supporting high replication. The human K562 cell line supports DENV replication and represent Megakaryocyte-Erythrocyte progenitors (MEP), replicating features of *in vivo* Megakaryopoiesis upon stimulation with Phorbol esters. In this article, we report results that indicate the mutual influence of Megakaryopoiesis and DENV replication on each other, through comparison of PMA-induced differentiation of either mock-infected or DENV-infected K562 cells. We present data showing PMA-induced differentiation to drastically increase DENV replication and a concomitant augmented secretion of infectious virus. Although the mechanism is not clear yet, we show that it is not through an increased uptake of virus by differentiated cells. On the other hand, DENV replication in cells undergoing PMA-induced differentiation, interferes with major differentiation markers of Megakaryopoiesis including activation of ERK1/2 MAP Kinase, endomitosis and surface expression of platelet-specific proteins without any drastic effect on cell death. Among signaling intermediaries of the JAK-STAT pathway, we observed infection associated degradation of SOC3 protein similar to earlier observations with STAT2. DENV infection leads to accumulation of Reactive-oxygen species (ROS) in different cells including K562. PMA-induced differentiation of uninfected K562 cells also leads to intracellular ROS accumulation. Interestingly, we observed ROS accumulation to be suppressed by concomitant DENV replication in K562 cells undergoing PMA-induced differentiation. This is the first report of a model system where DENV replication suppresses intracellular ROS accumulation. The implications of these results for Megakaryopoiesis and viral replication would be discussed.

36 **Introduction**

37 Platelets play a unique role in tissue homeostasis and regulation of inflammation. The abundance of these
38 small, anuclear cells produced from specialized cells called Megakaryocytes (MKs) in the bone marrow
39 (BM) is controlled by a steady rate of biogenesis (about $1x10^9$/day) and decay, with an average life of 7
40 days in humans (1). A perturbation of platelet homeostasis is associated with infection by multiple human
41 pathogenic viruses (2). Infection by Dengue virus (DENV) a member of the Flaviviridae, can cause an acute
42 febrile illness with the potential to turn fatal. Beside humans, DENV can infect mosquitoes and these
43 transmit infectious virus along with salivary fluid during a blood meal. Only about a quarter of infected
44 humans exhibit clinical symptoms that include high fever, retro-orbital pain, muscle pain,
45 thrombocytopenia or drop in platelet level etc. that subside after 4-7 days. Subsequently a proportion of
46 symptomatic individuals develop symptoms of severe Dengue characterized by leakage of fluid from the
47 blood vessels, leading to reduction in blood volume in addition to acute thrombocytopenia (3). Multiple
48 mechanisms working in parallel have been suggested to contribute to the thrombocytopenia associated with
49 Dengue infection which include inhibition of platelet biogenesis by infection of Megakaryocytes,
50 augmented platelet decay through either a direct interaction with the virus or upon binding of anti-platelet
51 antibodies (4).

52 Depending on the cell type the entry of DENV can be mediated by different surface receptors and
53 the complex is endocytosed into endosome following virus binding (5) Acidification of these endosomes
54 by their membrane resident proton pumps induce a fusion between the viral and endosomal membranes
55 leading to release of the viral genome into host cytosol. The genome of DENV is a ~11 kb long single-
56 stranded plus-sense RNA coding for one large polyprotein which is then cleaved to generate the structural
57 (Core or C, Envelop or E and precursor-Membrane or prM) and non-structural proteins (NS1, NS2A, NS2B,
58 NS3, NS4A, NS4B and NS5) of the virus. After few rounds of translation the viral genomic RNA undergoes
59 replication in **r**eplication **c**omplexes (RC) that are associated with the host cell **E**ndoplasmic **r**eticulum
60 (ER). The NS5 protein performs crucial function in replication of the genome by polymerizing both

61 negative and positive strand genomic RNA through asymmetric replication in favor of the later. Among
62 these only the plus-sense genomic RNA is capped by a Methyl-transferase (MTase) domain also harbored
63 in the NS5, followed by encapsidation of the genomic RNA by the Core or C protein. The newly assembled
64 virus particles contain a RNA-protein complex consisting of a single copy of the genomic RNA with
65 multiple copies of the C protein, encased in a membrane studded with E and prM protein. These transit
66 through the protein secretory pathway of the host cell where the prM protein is cleaved by a host protease
67 called Furin to produce M protein. The virion particles containing M protein along with E in the envelope
68 are released from the host cell without lysis (6).

69 DENV can infect multiple cell types in the human body including monocytes in the blood,
70 megakaryocytes in the BM and hepatocytes in the liver (5, 7). In addition to these DENV can activate
71 platelets, through a direct interaction with viral receptors on the cell surface (5, 8, 9). Platelets activated by
72 DENV secrete a number of cytokines and chemokines among which CXCL4 promotes viral replication in
73 infected Monocytes, upon binding to CXCR3 receptors on these cells (10). Myelosuppression or a reduction
74 in the mass of BM cells is one of the hallmarks of DENV infection and cells of Megakaryocytic cells have
75 been shown to be particularly permissive to viral replication (11-14). This suggested MK cells to
76 significantly contribute to viremia beside monocytes. In addition the survival of megakaryocytes have been
77 suggested to be negatively affected by infection, thereby leading to reduced platelet biogenesis which
78 contributes to DENV associated thrombocytopenia (15).

79 Hematopoietic stem cells (HSC) in the BM differentiate into multiple lineages producing all cell
80 types in the blood. One of such lineages are composed of bi-potential Megakaryocyte-Erythrocyte
81 progenitor (MEP) cells that can differentiate into either cell type (16, 17). Differentiation of MEP into a
82 MK involves profound cellular and molecular changes including cell expansion, endomitosis which
83 generates a multi-lobed and polyploid nucleus and expression of platelet specific surface markers on the
84 plasma membrane which will become part of the platelets membrane (18, 19). Platelets bud off from the
85 MK along with a bit of its cytoplasm, containing granules of different types and a host of specific mRNAs

86 (20). Differentiation of MEPs into MKs is promoted by a number of cytokines, the most characterized
87 among which is Thrombopoietin or TPO that binds to the TPO-receptor c-Mpl on the cell surface (21).
88 TPO binding to c-Mpl activates Janus Kinase 2 (JAK2) receptor tyrosine kinase which in turn transduces
89 the signal through specific **S**ignal **t**ransducer and **a**ctivator of **t**ranscription or STATs (STA3 and STAT5),
90 **M**itogen-**a**ctivated **p**rotein **k**inases or MAPK (ERK1/2) and the Phosphatidyl Inosine-3 or PI-3 Kinase (22).
91 STAT3 and STAT5 have been shown to have opposing function in Megakaryopoiesis with the former
92 promoting it (23, 24). Activation of JAK2 pathway increases expression of pro-inflammatory genes and in
93 fact activating these genes through exogenous activation of Toll-like receptor 2 or TLR2 has been shown
94 to promote megakaryocyte development (25). In a similar manner, the activation of ERK1/2 MAPK and
95 inhibition of p38-MAPK promotes Megakaryopoiesis by playing a crucial role in endomitosis (26).
96 Transduction of the signal from JAK2 leads to activated transcription by a number of transcription factors
97 (TFs) increasing the expression of specific genes (27, 28). TFs like GATA-1 and RUNX1 play crucial role
98 in endomitosis through upregulation of CyclinD1 (29, 30). In addition to these different specific pathways
99 like ER-stress and Autophagy have been shown to play role in Megakaryopoiesis (31). A controlled form
100 of apoptosis is known to be crucial for production of platelets from megakaryocytes and ER-stress has been
101 suggested to play a role in this apoptosis (31-33). In the BM, HSCs occupy a relatively hypoxic niche
102 compared to more differentiated lineages, particularly the MKs which shed mature platelets into the blood
103 vasculature. This migration from hypoxic to normoxic environment increases the level of reactive oxygen
104 species (ROS) in these cells, which has been indicated as a crucial signaling molecules (34). In fact
105 increased oxygen level and augmented expression of ROS generating enzymes show positive correlation
106 with megakaryocyte development, corroborating ROS to serve a critical promoter of megakaryopoiesis (35-
107 37). ROS has been suggested to function at multiple levels which include increasing the level of tyrosine-
108 phosphorylation on some proteins or by inhibition certain tyrosine phosphatases or by maintenance of ERK
109 activation or modulation of cyclin levels or increasing expression of crucial TFs or promoting
110 differentiation associated apoptosis (35, 38-40).

111 K562 cells represent a bi-potential cell line which can be differentiated to either MK-like cells or
112 Erythroblast-like cells depending on differential pharmacological stimulation (41). Supplementation of
113 Phorbol esters like Phorbol-12 myristate-13 (PMA) in growth media of K562 cells drives differentiation
114 towards megakaryocytes, inducing cellular and molecular changes akin to MKs *in vivo,* through activation
115 of identical signaling axes (42-50). In addition to this K562 is permissible to DENV replication and is
116 therefore a good model system to study the effect of DENV infection on Megakaryopoiesis (51). In this
117 report we show results suggesting that when DENV infected MEPs differentiate into megakaryocytes the
118 intracellular viral replication is promoted, by a mechanism that is not clear yet. This enhancement of viral
119 replication affects key signaling pathways that are known to be crucial for maturation of megakaryocytes,
120 without any significant effect on their survival. DENV infection is known to induce an accumulation of
121 ROS in the host cells. K562 cells induced to differentiate into megakaryocytes by treatment with PMA also
122 accumulate ROS. However surprisingly, infected cells undergoing differentiation accumulate significantly
123 less ROS when compared to uninfected controls, suggesting an active suppression of ROS by viral
124 replication. The implications of these observations with respect to Megakaryopoiesis and DENV replication
125 have been discussed.

126

127 **Results:**

128 **K562 cells recapitulate major events in Megakaryopoiesis upon PMA-treatment**

129 Differentiation of MK from an MEP follows elaborate cellular and molecular changes in distinct steps, a
130 few of which been depicted in the schematic figure and involves dramatic increase in cell size and
131 endomitosis with consequential formation of a multi-lobed, polyploid nucleus (Fig. 1A.). K562 cells mimic
132 a bi-potential Megakaryocyte-Erythrocyte progenitor (MEP) and depending upon pharmacological
133 treatment can be differentiated into cells of either an Mk-lineage (Phorbol esters) or Erythroblast-lineage
134 (Sodium Butyrate or NaB) (41). Upon supplementation of Phorbol-12 Myristate-13 acetate (PMA) in
135 culture media, K562 cells stopped proliferation and enlarged in size (data not shown). Further, the cells
136 undergo endomitosis leading to generation of polyploid cells harboring nuclei that are multilobed (Fig.
137 1B.). When analyzed by flow cytometry, PMA-treated K562 cells also show a dramatic increase of
138 cytoplasmic granule content too as evidenced by an increase in side-scatter (data not shown). The platelet
139 plasma membrane is derived from that of the Mk mother cell and during differentiation platelet-specific
140 surface markers are expressed on the Mk surface. As a corroboration of Megakaryopoiesis induced by
141 PMA-treatment, the surface expression of three platelet specific markers were quantified in K562 cells and
142 the result showed a dramatic increase in the level of CD41/61, CD61 alone and a significant increase in
143 number of cells positive for CD42b expression (Fig. 1C.). As evidence of polyploidy following PMA-
144 treatment, we observed a gradual emergence of polyploid cells within 3 days, which did not show any
145 significant increase in the next 3 days (Fig. 1D.). As a control for these changes being specific to K562,
146 PMA-supplementation did not stall the growth or induce expression of platelet-specific surface markers in
147 cells of the hepatoma cell line Huh7 (data not shown). Since treatment with NaB induces differentiation
148 towards an Erythroblast-lineage, the differential expression of specific genes were compared between K562
149 cells treated with either PMA or NaB. The result showed a distinct pattern differentiating the two
150 differentiation lineages, especially with respect to transcripts of the gene **GATA2**, **EBP42**, **GYPA** and
151 **CD61** (Fig. 1E.).

152 **Differentiation of K562-MKs promote replication of Dengue virus**

153 Differentiation into megakaryocytes is associated with arrest in cell cycle and other molecular changes. In
154 order to analyze how these changes might affect the ongoing intracellular replication process, DENV
155 replication in infected K562 cells that have been treated with PMA soon after infection, was compared to
156 simultaneously infected cells treated with vehicle (DMSO). For this purpose, the level of DENV envelope
157 protein accumulated was compared between these conditions at 3 or 6 days post-infection by
158 immunofluorescence followed by analysis in a flow cytometer. The result showed that although the protein
159 accumulated at 3 days p.i was comparable between PMA-treated and DMSO-treated cells, a dramatic
160 difference between them was observed at day 6 (Fig. 2A.). This difference was observed using different
161 MOI of infection, although due to saturation of immunostaining the difference was drastic at higher MOI
162 (data not shown). In order to check if higher accumulation of viral proteins correlate with viral replication,
163 the level of intracellular viral RNA and infectious virus in culture supernatant was compared between
164 infected K562 cells treated with either PMA or DMSO for either 3 or 6 days. The results showed a similar
165 higher accumulation of intracellular viral genomic RNA and extracellular infectious virus, between these
166 two conditions at 6 days post-infection (Fig. 2B and 2C). During virus maturation the prM protein on
167 assembled virion particles undergoes a cleavage by the host protease Furin, a step necessary for conferring
168 infectivity to the secreted virus (52). Therefore the comparatively higher infectious titer in culture
169 supernatant of PMA-treated cells can result from either higher secretion of virus (more virion particles
170 without any change in their infectivity) or more efficient Furin cleavage brought about by the cellular and
171 biochemical changes accompanying differentiation (same number of virion particles as secreted by DMSO-
172 treated cells but with higher infectivity). To dissect these possibilities, the viral genomic RNA from culture
173 supernatant of cells kept with either PMA or DMSO was extracted and purified and their relative level
174 compared by real-time PCR using DENV specific oligonucleotide primers. The comparison showed
175 comparatively more viral genomic RNA in the supernatant of PMA-treated cells, suggesting that the
176 differentiating cells secrete more virus that are produced by higher replication efficiency in these cells (data

177 not shown). However this indicated towards possibilities wherein the entry within differentiating cells
178 might be facilitated through overexpression of viral receptor. In order to address this, uninfected K562 cells
179 treated with either DMSO or PMA for 3 days were incubated with DENV inoculum and the viral entry
180 compared through comparison of the intracellular genomic RNA normalized to a host mRNA transcript.
181 The result showed a comparable entry into cells which are undifferentiated or differentiated for 3 days,
182 implying that the promotion of replication occurs post-entry (Fig. 2D). As a negative control DENV-
183 infected Huh7 cells did not exhibit any differential replication depending on treatment with PMA and
184 DMSO (data not shown). Also, treatment of infected K562 cells with Na-butyrate which would initiate
185 erythropoiesis, did not exhibit a similar promotion of the viral replication (data not shown).

186 **Cellular and biochemical changes imposed by DENV infection in differentiating K562 cells**

187 Differentiation of MKs from HSCs is influenced by multiple cytokines the most characterized among which
188 is Thrombopoietin (TPO) that is secreted from liver cells and binds to the receptor c-Mpl (Ref). Interaction
189 of TPO with c-MPL activates Janus kinase 2 (JAK2) tyrosine kinase which initiates a cascade of
190 phosphorylation events culminating in modulating through multiple (Figure 3, panel A). Although an
191 important cytokine, TPO is not indispensable for Megakaryopoiesis since a knock-out of the gene ($TPO^{-/-}$)
192 is not lethal in mice albeit with the platelet level being at 10% of that in wild-type animals (Ref). Phorbol
193 esters like PMA are known to activate kinases like Protein kinase-C (PKC) that in its turn transduces the
194 signal through nodes many of which are shared with TPO signaling (Ref). In response to viral infection
195 mammalian cells secrete cytokines like Interferons that bind to cell surface receptors either in an autocrine
196 or paracrine manner and induce an 'anti-viral' state within the cell. JAK2 is also central to signaling via the
197 interferon receptor consequent to binding of type-I IFNs to the receptor (IFNR) (Ref). This implied that
198 Megakaryopoiesis even when it is PMA-induced would potentially create an antiviral state within the cell
199 and in that context it would be interesting to observe how DENV is still able to replicate to higher extent
200 compared to undifferentiated cells. Since both of these pathways would also be potentially perturbed by a

201 virus infection, we investigated the status of different members by immunoblotting, in cells which were
202 stimulated to undergo PMA-dependent differentiation immediately after infection.

203 Phosphorylation of the MAPK ERK1/2 is known to play a crucial role in MK development and we observed
204 an increase in the ratio of p-ERK/ERK both subsequent time points when compared to day 0 (Fig. 3B,
205 compare lanes 2 and 5 with lane 1). Interestingly, we observed that DENV infection to reverse the PMA-
206 induced ERK1/2 phosphorylation at 3 days post-infection (Fig. 3B, compare lanes 3 and 4 with lane 2).
207 However, when compared to day 3 the phosphorylation of ERK1/2 showed an increase in infected cells by
208 day 6 (Fig. 3B, compare lanes 6, 7 with lanes 3, 4 ). Nonetheless, the ratio of p-ERK/ERK at 6 days post-
209 infection was still lower when compared to uninfected cells treated with PMA for a similar duration (Fig.
210 3B, compare lanes 6 and 7 with lane 5). In a manner opposite to that of ERK1/2, a dephosphorylation of
211 p38 MAPK has been similarly reported to be crucial for MK development. We did not observe any
212 modulation in the phosphorylation status of p38 in DENV-infected cells treated with PMA for 3 or 6 days
213 (data not shown).

214 In addition to MAPKs we probed the status of different signaling protein in the JAK-STAT pathway in
215 uninfected or DENV-infected K562 cells treated with PMA. While some effect of virus infection was
216 observed with respect to a few of these signaling mediators, most of them were unaffected. We were
217 however unable to detect a few of these signaling proteins in our experiments (SOCS1, PIAS1, PIAS3 and
218 PIAS4). When compared to 0 hour the ratio of p-STAT1/STAT1 showed a significant decrease upon PMA
219 treatment at both time points (Fig. 3B, compare lanes 2 and 5 with lane 1). However, although DENV
220 replication in PMA-treated cells did not alter this ratio at 3 days p.i., by 6 days p.i. the ratio showed a
221 dramatic increase in infected cells when compared to uninfected controls (Fig. 3B, compare lanes 3, 4 with
222 2 and lanes 6, 7 with lane 5). Further, at 6 days p.i. the total STAT1 protein level was also reduced to
223 undetectable level in infected cells (Fig. 3B, compare lanes 6 and 7 with lane 5).

224 STAT3 has been suggested to promote Megakaryopoiesis and in support of this we observed an increase in
225 ratio of p-STAT3/STAT3 at 3 days after PMA treatment, which was maintained till 6 days (Fig. 3B,
226 compare lanes 2 and 5 with lane 1). However in DENV infected cells treated with PMA, the ratio of p-
227 STAT3/STAT3 at both 3 and 6 days post-treatment was significantly lower when compared to uninfected
228 controls (Fig. 3B**,** compare lane 3 with lane 2 and lanes 6,7 with lane 5). The lane 4 in this immunoblot is
229 missing due to the technical reason of sample insufficiency.

230 Although STAT2 protein level is not known to be modulated by PMA-treatment, it is known to be degraded
231 in host cells following DENV infection, in a NS5 dependent manner (Ref). We did not observe any
232 alteration in STAT2 levels with PMA-treatment at either time points (Fig. 3B, compare lanes 2 and 5 with
233 lane 1). As expected however, the protein was reduced to undetectable level in DENV infected cells. (Fig.
234 3B, compare lanes 3,4 with lane 2 and 6,7 with lane 5).

235 A downregulation of STAT5 protein has been shown to be essential for promoting development of MKs.
236 In concurrence with that, we observed a reduction in the level of this protein upon PMA-treatment starting
237 from day 0 to almost undetectable level by day 6 (Fig. 3B**,** compare lanes 2 and 5 with lane 1). No additional
238 modulatory effect was however observed by DENV infection of PMA-treated cells (Fig. 3B, compare lanes
239 3,4 with lane 2 and 6,7 with lane 5).

240 An activation of the JAK-STAT signaling upregulates inflammation, which eventually leads to expression
241 of a family of genes that suppresses this pathways and are called as Suppressor of cytokine signaling or
242 SOCS1, SOCS2 and SOCS3. In accordance with a crucial role for activated JAK-STAT pathway in MK
243 development, expression of the SOCS3 protein has been shown to have a negative effect on
244 Megakaryopoiesis. Upon investigation the SOCS3 level following PMA-treatment was observed to be
245 unchanged at either time points (Fig. 3B, compare lanes 2 and 5 with lane 1). Surprisingly, however SOCSs
246 was observed to be reduced to undetectable level at day 6 pi (Fig. 3B, compare lanes 6 and 7 with lane 5).

247 These results implied that DENV infection might be selectively affecting the innate antiviral and
248 inflammatory pathways in differentiating K562 cell through degradation of STAT2 and SOCS3 level and
249 interference with STAT3 phosphorylation.

250 **DENV infection inhibits polyploidy and accumulation of ROS in differentiating cells without**
251 **affecting apoptosis**

252 The biochemical changes associated with Megakaryopoiesis affect the cellular modifications. Therefore we
253 checked PMA-induced surface marker expression and polyploidy in cells infected with DENV and
254 compared that with PMA-treated but mock infected cells. As above, cells that were either mock-infected or
255 infected with DENV were treated with PMA-supplemented growth media soon after infection and analyzed
256 at 3 or 6 days post-treatment. The results showed a significant reduction in the surface expression of
257 CD41/61, CD42b and CD61 in DENV infected cells (Fig. 4A). Phosphorylation of the ERK1/2 MAPK has
258 been shown to be an critical modulator of polyploidy during Megakaryopoiesis. Since we observed a
259 suppression of ERK1/2 phosphorylation at the early time point post-infection, a comparison of the
260 percentage of polyploid cells at both time points was quantified by PI staining. As expected the result
261 showed a significant reduction in the percentage of polyploid cells generated following DENV infection
262 (Fig. 4B). Generation of platelet from megakaryocytes has been demonstrated to be dependent on induction
263 of apoptosis in the mother cell and proceeds via a unique method of intrinsic apoptosis. In accordance with
264 PMA-induced Megakaryopoiesis in K562 cells we observed a significant increase in Annexin-V positive
265 cells upon PMA-treatment (data not shown). However, a comparison of mock-infected and DENV-infected
266 cells treated with PMA for either 3 or 6 days did not show any difference in the proportion of Annexin-V
267 positive cells (data not shown). However surprisingly, a comparison of Caspase3/7 activation showed
268 significant increase in cleavage activity at 6 days (Fig. 4C).

269 ROS is generated during Megakaryopoiesis and an accumulation is essential for differentiation (Ref).
270 DENV replication has been shown to induce generation of reactive oxygen species in infected cell (Ref).

271 An estimation of the ROS accumulated in K562 cells as a result of DENV infection showed slight
272 accumulation at 6 days post-infection (Fig. 5A, compare columns 2 to 1 and 6 to 5). In a similar manner,
273 when compared to levels at day 0 uninfected cells treated with PMA showed a significant accumulation of
274 ROS at both 3 and 6 days post-treatment (Fig. 5A, compare columns 3 to 1 and 7 to 5). We expected the
275 ROS level in DENV infected cells that have been treated with PMA to be higher than the uninfected PMA-
276 treated controls. However, surprisingly DENV infected cells treated with PMA did not exhibit additional
277 ROS accumulation at day 3 post-treatment (Fig. 5A, compare columns 3 to 4). Further, surprisingly at day
278 6 after PMA-treatment the ROS accumulation in DENV infected cells were remarkably lower compared to
279 uninfected PMA-treated cells (Fig. 5A, compare columns 7 to 8). This suggested DENV replication in
280 differentiating cells to impede accumulation of ROS. In corroboration we observed DENV infection to have
281 an effect similar to that of N-acetyl cysteine a biochemical known to quench ROS levels (Fig. 5B**).** In
282 conclusion, DENV infection do not seem to interfere with surface marker expression but significantly affect
283 accumulation of ROS and endomitosis which are associated with differentiation into megakaryocytes.

284 **PMA-induced transcriptome changes are reversed by DENV infection in differentiating cells**

285 Megakaryopoiesis is associated with profound alterations in the transcriptome of differentiating cells.
286 Similarly, innate antiviral response launched upon detection of a viral infection is also associated with
287 changes in the pattern of expression of many genes. Therefore, in order to study the interaction between
288 these two stimuli at the transcriptional level the transcriptome of mock-infected and DENV-infected cells
289 was compared after 6 days of PMA-induced differentiation. For this purpose, K562 cells either mock-
290 infected or DENV-infected were induced to differentiate using 100 nM PMA and the total RNA isolated
291 for analysis of transcriptome by next-generation sequencing. The transcriptome of both uninfected and
292 DENV-infected cells was compared to uninfected cells at 0 hour with respect to PMA-treatment. As shown
293 in Fig. 6A, the transcriptome in uninfected cells underwent a profound change in more than 5000 genes
294 showing different degree of deregulation. Interestingly, the comparison between uninfected and DENV-
295 infected cells after 6 days of differentiation showed reversal in the direction of PMA-induced deregulation

296 for a number of genes (Fig, 6B.). Since our earlier result showed that DENV infection suppressed ROS
297 accumulation in differentiating cells, ROS-associated genes the PMA-induced deregulation trend of which
298 was reversed by infection were analyzed further. A heatmap of these genes showed that although alteration
299 in transcript level was moderate for most of them, a few genes were dramatically affected (Fig. 6C). This
300 included GCH1, FOXO3, GLRX5, ETHE1, CTNS, EPAS1, GFOD1 and SNCA (Fig. 6C). Among these
301 transcripts corresponding to FOXO3, CTNS and EPAS1 were higher in infected cells compared to
302 uninfected ones, whereas the others showed lower levels in infected cells. FOXO3 and EPAS1 are
303 transcription factors among which the former is known to be pro-apoptotic (53). Among the downregulated
304 genes the protein corresponding to GCH1, ETHE1 and SNCA are enriched platelets (54-56). SNCA is also
305 known to function in an anti-apoptotic manner although the specific role of this gene in apoptosis associated
306 with megakaryocyte differentiation is not clear yet (57).

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311 **Discussions:** DENV replicates in multiple cell types and causes a range of pathological symptoms.
312 Thrombocytopenia, a prominent DENV associated pathological symptom is a consequence of both
313 impaired biogenesis and altered stability of platelets. Megakaryocytes or platelets mother cells in the bone
314 marrow are known to be permissive for DENV replication, which affects platelet biogenesis. In this article,
315 we have explored the cellular and molecular effect of DENV infection on Megakaryocyte development
316 using the phorbol ester PMA induced-differentiation model in human K562 cells. Our results show that
317 differentiation of infected K562 cells promote the replication of intracellular virus by an unknown
318 mechanism and viral replication interferes with cell signaling pathways crucial for Megakaryopoiesis,
319 particularly involving the MAPK ERK1/2 and different factors in the JAK-STAT pathway. However high
320 level of viral replication does not affect the survival of the cells. PMA-induced differentiation of K562
321 cells, as with *in vivo* Megakaryopoiesis, is associated with accumulation of intracellular ROS and our results
322 show that DENV replication suppresses the accumulation of this signaling molecule by an unknown
323 mechanism. Replication by multiple viruses is known to increase ROS in the host cell we report an unique
324 observation about DENV replication suppressing ROS accumulation under specific conditions in the host
325 cell.

326 The absolute dependence of virus life cycle on host biochemical pathways implies a profound influence of
327 host cell metabolic status on viral replication. Depending on the virus being studies, PMA a known activator
328 of protein kinase C, is known to have either positive or negative effect on virus replication (58-61). On the
329 other hand, viral infection of human monocytes can induce differentiation of these cells into Dendritic cells
330 although the implication of this is not clear yet (62). Cell cycle arrest in PMA-treated K562 cells happens
331 through upregulation of p21 and p27 in a protein kinase C (PKC)-dependent but p53-independent manner
332 (63). Inducing an arrest in the host cell cycle is quite common among human viruses with beneficial effect
333 on their replication (64). The entry of DENV is known to be influenced by the cell-cycle stage of the host
334 cell, albeit in a cell-type dependent manner (65, 66). Here we observed increased intracellular replication
335 in K562 cells that have stopped dividing in response to PMA, although the halt in cell division does not

336 lower the metabolic activity as is obvious from increase in cell size and other cellular changes. In a similar
337 manner Parvovirus B19 has been observed to infect cells of erythroblast origin with replication of the viral
338 genome being promoted by differentiation of these cells into erythroblasts (67). Although it is not clear yet
339 if the PMA-induced cell cycle stall is responsible for increasing intracellular virus replication, single-cell
340 transcriptomics study by Zanini and coworkers suggested the cell cycle status of the host cell to have no
341 effect on DENV genome replication (68). In addition to DENV, MK cells are known to support replication
342 of other viruses like the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Hantavirus, with the former inducing
343 apoptosis in addition to reducing the surface expression of c-Mpl (69-72). Interestingly, PMA-induced
344 differentiation of Hantavirus infected megakaryocytes augmented virus replication, as observed in this
345 study (71).

346 PMA induces rapid and profound changes in host gene expression and therefore it is possible that
347 specific promoters of viral replication are overexpressed upon PMA treatment as observed for Hepatitis C
348 virus which is benefitted by the liver cell enriched microRNA-122 (73). PMA-induced differentiation
349 correlates with increase in granularity of K562 cells, probably pertaining to platelets granules that are
350 synthesized in the megakaryocyte mother cell and transferred into platelets (74). Therefore the rate of
351 protein synthesis in these cells can be expected to be enhanced for synthesis of the proteins that will form
352 part of these granules. In face the protein content of K562 cells is significantly increased during PMA
353 induced differentiation (75).It is possible that translation of viral proteins benefits from this overall increase
354 in rate of protein synthesis. The DENV genomic RNA of DENV has a 5' end type-I cap identical to host
355 mRNAs that helps in recruiting ribosomes in addition to evading innate antiviral arsenal (76). A role for
356 enhanced host protein synthesis benefiting viral translation is corroborated from our observation that the
357 entry of DENV is not higher in differentiated cells. Another possibility is that differentiation leads to
358 suppression of specific anti-viral genes, thereby benefiting the replication.

359 Although TPO is a cytokine crucial for platelet biogenesis and mice knock-out for either the
360 cytokine or its receptor show drastically reduced levels of both mature MKs as well as circulating platelets,

361 residual level of both MKs and platelets in these mice suggest other factors to also contribute in MK
362 development and platelet formation (77, 78). Receptor interaction of TPO activates JAK2 kinase leading to
363 activation of the MAPK ERK1/2, an important regulator of cell cycle and proliferation that plays a crucial
364 role in Mk maturation (79, 80) Previous studies of Mk development using K562 cells showed PMA to
365 directly activate protein kinase C (PKC) which in turn induces ERK1/2 phosphorylation, an important
366 signaling event even for *in vivo* Megakaryopoiesis (26, 50, 81, 82). A concurrent inhibition of the MAPK
367 p38 on the other hand supports MK development, suggesting this kinase to oppose or retard ERK1/2
368 mediated changes (22). Dengue infection can activate the p38 MAPK which is responsible for enhancement
369 of pro-inflammatory cytokines and apoptosis (83, 84). We observed a reduction in the level of PMA-
370 induced ERK1/2 phosphorylation in DENV-infected cells, probably causing inhibition of endomitosis and
371 platelet-specific surface marker protein expression, although a concomitant increase in p38 phosphorylation
372 was not observed. Previous reports have conclusively shown DENV NS5 protein mediated degradation of
373 the host STAT2 infection as a major mechanism for suppression of the host innate-antiviral pathway (85).
374 We observed additional regulation of a few other members of the JAK-STAT pathway, namely STAT1,
375 STAT3 and STAT5, although it is yet clear if this is restricted to PMA-treated K562 cells or is a general
376 effect occurring in other cells too. STAT1 regulated by the transcription factor (TF) GATA-1 plays a
377 specific role in endomitosis by controlling expression of cell cycle genes like CCND1, CCND2 and
378 CCNE2TFs through the TF RUNX1 (86). PMA-induced Mk development in K562 has not been reported
379 earlier to mimic the *in vivo* differentiation with respect to regulation of STAT3 and STAT5. In a manner
380 corroborative of *in vivo* development, we observed a gradual reduction of STAT5 level in parallel with
381 progression of differentiation (24). STAT3 is phosphorylated initially on Tyr-705 which triggers
382 dimerization (87). In addition to this STAT3 can have other post-translational modifications e.g.
383 phosphorylation of S-727 or acetylation of K-685, although induction of these modifications by PMA in
384 K562 cells is not clear yet (88, 89). In our study we observed DENV infection to reverse the PMA-induced
385 STAT3 phosphorylation on Tyr-705, possibly through inhibition of the respective kinase or activation
386 specific phosphatases. In addition to phosphorylation STAT3 function can be also suppressed by Ubiquitin

387 mediated degradation or interaction with proteins that are activated downstream of the JAK-STAT pathway
388 in a negative feedback loop e.g. protein encoded by PIAS and SOCS genes (90-92). In fact SOCS3 is known
389 as a specific inhibitor of STAT3 signaling pathway, for which we expected an upregulation in infected
390 cells (89). Unexpectedly however, we observed a reduction in SOCS3 protein level by DENV infection for
391 which either mechanism or implication with respect to viral life cycle is still unclear. One of the potential
392 role for STAT3 in Megakaryopoiesis is driving accumulation of intracellular ROS levels through
393 upregulation of NOX2 expression (93). Therefore, suppression of STAT3 phosphorylation might be
394 directly affecting accumulation of ROS as observed here. Further characterization of this observation would
395 probably shed more light on the implication of this regulation.

396 Reactive oxygen species or ROS, in the form of Hydroxyl radical ($^{\cdot}OH$) or Singlet oxygen ($^{1}O_2$) or
397 Superoxide anion radical ($O_2^{\cdot -}$), are generated either in response to stimuli including metabolic
398 inflammation, exposure to pathogen or as secondary messengers in signal transduction pathway. The most
399 well characterized sources of intracellular ROS are two enzymes associated with the mitochondria namely
400 **N**icotinamide **A**denine **D**inucleotide-**Q**uinone (NADH-Q) reductase (Complex I), Q-cytochrome c
401 oxidoreductase (Complex III) and the plasma membrane associated homologs of NADPH-oxidase or NOX
402 (94-96). Intracellular ROS plays crucial role in regulation of protein tyrosine kinases and phosphatases
403 through post-translational modification (97, 98). It can also activate multiple cellular pathways including
404 MAPK, NFκB, Cell cycle genes (99). Intracellular ROS can either promote apoptosis by inducing damage
405 to the mitochondrial membrane or inhibit it through oxidation of catalytic site Cysteines on executioner
406 proteases like Caspase-3 (100). In our study suppression of ROS level coincided with activation of Caspase-
407 3 cleavage activity, although the mechanism would need further investigation to draw a direct correlation
408 between them.

409 In the BM, pluripotent hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) reside in a relatively hypoxic area while
410 during differentiation megakaryocytes relocate to more oxygen-rich region near blood vessels from where
411 platelets can be shed into the vascular circulation (101). ROS serves a critical role in megakaryocyte

formation since a low level of these signaling molecules in differentiating HSCs disfavor generation of (**M**egakaryocyte-**E**rythrocyte **p**rogenitors) MEP and in favor of (**G**ranulocyte-**M**onocyte **p**rogenitors) GMP (102). Intracellular ROS levels are regulated through the interplay of generators (like NOXs) and mitigatory pathways (like the KEAP1-NRF2 pathway) (37, 103). PMA has been shown to induce accumulation of ROS in K562 cells and ROS has been shown to be responsible for polyploidy and a reduction of ROS by NAC directly impacts polyploidy (43, 47). Accumulation of ROS activates the KEAP1-NRF2 pathway and activation of many genes that can suppress the cellular ROS levels. ROS is produced by cellular responses like Unfolded-protein response (UPR) or innate-antiviral pathway (104, 105). We observed a relatively higher level of intracellular ROS with respect to uninfected cells in K562 cells that are not undergoing differentiation. Since PMA-induced differentiation of K562 cells also causes ROS to accumulate in cells, we expected an additive effect of DENV replication on ROS accumulation in these cells. However, surprisingly DENV replication quenched intracellular ROS levels through an unknown mechanism. Although evidence from previous reports would strongly indicate this suppression of ROS to be major contributor to inhibition in platelet biogenesis by infection of Mk mother cells by DENV, it is still not clear if the viral replication in these cells is benefited from this or not. Future studies would be directed to address the exact mechanism through which DENV infection suppresses ROS accumulation in these cells and the physiological relevance of this suppression for the viral life cycle.

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438 **Materials and methods**:

439 **Cell culture, Drugs and Virus**: K562 cells were procured from the American Type Culture Collection
440 (ATCC) and cultured at $37^0$C, 5% $CO_2$ in Iscove's modified Dulbecco's media (IMDM) supplemented with
441 Penicillin (100 U/ml), Streptomycin (0.1 mg/ml) and 10%-Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS). Vero and C6/36 cells
442 were procured from the cell line repository of the National Centre for Cell Sciences (NCCS), India and
443 cultured respectively in Minimum Essential Medium (MEM) and L15 cell culture medium supplemented
444 with 10% FBS. C6/36 cells were maintained at conditions of $28^0$C and atmospheric $CO_2$.

445 Dengue virus serotype 2 (strain NGC) was amplified in C6/36 and the culture supernatant used as inoculum.
446 The infectious titer of the virus was determined by Focus-forming unit (FFU) assay in Vero cells. For all
447 infections, the inoculum was diluted in the respective culture media supplemented with 2% FBS, and the
448 cells were incubated with the inoculum for 2 hours at the respective culture conditions of temperature and
449 $CO_2$ concentration, with intermittent rocking.

450 Phorbol-12 Myristate-13 acetate (PMA, Sigma Aldrich) and N-Acetyl Cysteine were diluted in
451 recommended vehicles and stored as single use aliquots at -$20^0$C .

452 **Focus-forming unit (FFU) assay**: Vero cell monolayers in 24-well plate were infected with 10-fold serial
453 dilutions of virus inoculum. The inoculum was incubated with cells for 2 hours at $37^0$C and 5% $CO_2$ with
454 intermittent rocking. The inoculum was then discarded and complete MEM added to each followed by
455 incubation for 48 hours at $37^0$C and 5% $CO_2$. Subsequently the cells were washed with phosphate-buffered
456 saline (PBS), fixed with 2% para-formaldehyde (PFA) and permeabilized with PBS supplemented with 0.1
457 % Triton-X-100 and 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA). The permeabilized cells were washed with PBS and
458 sequentially incubated anti-DENV primary antibody (dilution 1:400 of Mab8705, Millipore) and anti-
459 Mouse Alexa-488 conjugated secondary antibody (dilution 1:500; ThermoFisher Scientific) both diluted in
460 PBS supplemented with 1% BSA. After incubation with primary antibody, the cells were washed twice

461 with PBS before addition of secondary antibody dilutions. The fluorescent foci were visualized and
462 manually counted using a fluorescence microscope and the titer calculated as FFU/ml.

463 **Flow Cytometry Analysis**: All flow cytometry analysis were performed in a BD FACS Canto II flow
464 cytometer (BD Biosciences) under standard conditions and all raw data analyzed using Flow-Jo software.
465 For immune staining of intracellular DENV antigen, K562 cells were washed with ice-cold PBS before
466 fixation with PBS supplemented with 2% PFA and permeabilization with the same buffer containing 0.1%
467 Triton-X-100. The permeabilized cells were sequentially stained with dilution of 4G2 (purified IgG2a mAb
468 produced in the lab from Hybridoma-HB112) antibody and anti-mouse Alexa-488 conjugated secondary
469 antibody. For immune staining of surface markers, cells were washed with PBS and incubated with dilutions
470 of fluor-conjugated primary antibodies, specific to either human CD61-Phycoerythrin (PE) (BioLegend) or
471 CD41/61-(Allophycocyanin) APC (BioLegend) or human CD42b-(BD Horizon brilliant violet 421) Bv421
472 (BioLegend). Antibodies were diluted in staining buffer (PBS with 1%BSA and 0.02% Sodium Azide) and
473 cells were incubated for 1h at 4°C . Subsequently the cells were washed with PBS and analyzed by flow
474 cytometry.

475 Propidium iodide staining for polyploidy analysis: Cells were harvested by centrifugation, washed
476 twice with ice-cold phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and fixed with 70% ethanol at 4°C for 30 min. After
477 a PBS wash cells were treated with 100µl PBS supplemented with RNase-A (200µg/ml) and incubated at
478 37°C for 30 min. Cells were then washed using PBS and the genomic DNA stained with Propidium iodide
479 (50µg/ml).

480 Annexin-V and PI staining: Apoptotic detection assays were carried out by surface labeling with the Ca2+
481 dependent phosphatidylserine-binding protein Annexin-V. Cells were harvested by centrifugation, washed
482 twice with cold PBS and then re-suspended in 1x binding buffer(Apoptosis detection Kit I # 556578, BD
483 Pharmingen) at 1x $10^6$ cells/ml. A 100µl aliquot was stained by addition of 5µl FITC Annexin V and 5µl

484 PI. The reagents were mixed by gentle vortex and incubated for 15 min at RT in the dark. 400µl of 1x
485 binding buffer was added to each tube and the cells analyzed by flow cytometry within 1 hr.

486 **RNA extraction and Quantitative RT-PCR**: Total RNA from $1x10^6$ K562 cells were extracted using
487 Trizol (Takara) and purified with Qiagen RNAeasy mini kit (Qiagen), as per manufacturer's instructions.
488 Viral RNA from cell-free culture supernatant was isolated using QIAmp viral RNA mini kit (Qiagen) as
489 per manufacturer's instructions. 1.0 ug of total RNA was reverse-transcribed with ImProm-II reverse-
490 transcriptase (Promega, USA) and random hexamers (Sigma) as per manufacturer's protocol, and the cDNA
491 diluted with nuclease-free water before use for real-time PCR. Real-time PCR was performed with 2x
492 SYBR mix (Takara) in a QuantStudio-6 Flex Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems) using the
493 default run program.

494 **Confocal microscopy**: K562 cells were washed with PBS, fixed and permeabilized as described earlier for
495 immunostaining purposes. The cells were stained with 2.5µl of Alexa Fluor-568 Phalloidin (Invitrogen,
496 Thermo fisher scientific) at RT for 20 min to stain for F-Actin followed by PBS wash. Cells were then
497 mounted onto glass slides using ProLong Gold Antifade Mountant supplemented with DAPI (Invitrogen,
498 Thermo fisher scientific). The fluorescence was observed and imaged in a FLUOVIEW FV3000 confocal
499 microscope (Olympus).

500 **Intracellular Caspase-3/7 activity assay**: The intracellular caspase-3/7 activity was measured using
501 Caspase-Glo 3/7 Assay (Promega). For this 100 µl of cell suspension and 50 µl Caspase-Glo® 3/7 reagent
502 were mixed in wells of an opaque white 96-well plate. The plates were incubated at RT for 3 hours and
503 the luminescence measured using a Orion II microplate luminometer (Berthold). The luminescence from
504 culture media without cells was used as negative control.

505 **Measurement of intracellular Reactive Oxygen species (ROS)**: The intracellular ROS accumulated was
506 measure using CM-H2DCFDA probe (Life Technologies) as per manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, K562
507 cells were washed with PBS and then incubated in PBS supplemented with CM-H2DCFDA as per

508 manufacturer's instructions. The cells were then incubated at 37 °C for 30 min and washed twice with PBS.
509 The fluorescence intensity was quantified in a BD FACS Canto II flow cytometer (BD Biosciences) under
510 standard conditions and the raw data analyzed using Flow-Jo software.

511 **Electrophoresis and Immunoblotting**: Cells were harvested by centrifugation and washed with PBS.
512 Whole-cell lysates were prepared using cell lysis solution [250 mmol/L NaCl, 20 mmol/L Tris-HCl (pH
513 7.4), , 1% Triton X-100, 1 mmol/L EDTA,20µl PMSF, 10µl PI], followed by centrifugation (13 000×g, 10
514 min). The proteins in 40µg of whole-cell lysate was denatured, resolved in a SDS-10% gel and transferred
515 to nitrocellulose blotting membrane. The membrane was blocked with either 5% skimmed milk or 5%
516 bovine-serum albumin (BSA) and incubated with dilution of respective antibodies as per manufacturer's
517 instructions (Cell Signaling technologies). The membrane was washed, incubated with dilution of HRP-
518 conjugated secondary antibody and the bands visualized by ECL chemiluminescence.

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783

784

785 **Figure legends:**

786 **Figure 1: Panel A: Schematic diagram of Megakaryopoiesis**: The schematic diagram shows some of the
787 lineages that are produced during differentiation of Hematopoietic stem cells (HSC) to Megakaryocytes
788 (Mk). The formation of multilobed nucleus has also been depicted. **Panel B: Visualization of endomitosis**
789 **and multi-lobed nuclear formation following PMA-treatment.** K562 cells treated with either DMSO or
790 100 nM PMA for 6 days were stained with Alexa Fluor-568 Phalloidin, mounted onto glass slides using
791 mountant supplemented with DAPI and visualized in a confocal microscope. The red color indicates the
792 plasma membrane and blue color shows nuclei. The inset shows a cell with multilobed nucleus. **Panel C**:
793 **Expression of platelet specific surface markers:** K562 cells treated with PMA for 0, 3 or 6 days were
794 immune-stained for expression of the indicated surface marker protein using fluor-conjugated primary
795 antibodies. The mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) corresponding to each day was quantified. For each
796 surface marker the MFI at day 0 was arbitrarily set to 1 and those at day 3 and day 6, expressed as the
797 relative fold change with respect to that. The error bars represent standard deviation. The significance was
798 calculated by Student's t-test (*, **, *** respectively indicate P-values <0.5, <0.1 and <0.01). **Panel D**:
799 K562 cells treated with PMA for 0 or 3 or 6 days were fixed, permeabilized and stained for intracellular
800 DNA using Propidium iodide (PI). The PI stain was quantified by flow cytometry and mean number of
801 cells having ploidy of >4N was plotted. The error bars represent standard deviation. **Panel E:** The total
802 RNA from K562 cells treated with either DMSO or 100nM PMA or Sodium Butyrate (NaB) for 3 or 6 days
803 was extracted and purified. The total RNA was reverse transcribed using random hexamers and the cDNA
804 obtained used for real-time PCR estimation of mRNA transcripts from indicated genes. The $C_T$ value
805 corresponding to each was normalized to that of GAPDH. The normalized value at day 0 was taken
806 arbitrarily as 1 and those at day 3 and 6 expressed as fold-change with respect to that.

807

808 **Figure 2: DENV replication is increased upon PMA treatment of infected K562 cells: Panel A:** K562
809 cells infected with DENV at an MOI of 0.1 were maintained in growth media supplemented with either
810 DMSO or 100nM PMA and fixed with PFA at 0 hour or 3 days or 6 days post-infection. The cells were
811 permeabilized and immune-stained for intracellular DENV antigen and the fluorescence quantified by flow
812 cytometry. The fluorescence in cells fixed at 0 hour was used to gate for DENV antigen positive cells. The
813 number of antigen positive cells were quantified and plotted. The error bars represent standard deviation
814 and the significance was calculated by Student's t-test (*** indicates P <0.001). **Panel B**: Total RNA from
815 K562 cells treated similarly as in panel A was extracted, purified and reverse-transcribed using random
816 hexamers. The cDNA was used for real-time PCR comparison of DENV RNA level at 3 or 6 days to that
817 at 0 hour, normalized to that of GAPDH mRNA. The value at 0 hour was taken arbitrarily as 1 and that at
818 other time points expressed as fold-change over that. The error bars represent standard deviation and the
819 significance was calculated by Student's t-test (** indicates P <0.01). **Panel C**: The culture supernatant of
820 cell infected with MOI of 0.1 and subsequently treated as in panel A was collected and used for
821 quantification of focus-forming unit/ml (FFU/ml) on Vero cell monolayers. The FFU/ml for each sample
822 was transformed to their logarithmic value to the base of 10 and plotted. The error bars represent standard
823 deviation and the significance was calculated by Student's t-test (** indicates P <0.01). **Panel D**:
824 Uninfected K562 cells treated with either DMSO or PMA for 3 days were washed with PBS and incubated
825 in either mock- or DENV inoculum (10 MOI) on ice for 2 hours. The cells were then transferred to $37^0$C
826 and further incubated for 1 hour. Subsequently cells were washed, treated with proteinase K and the total
827 RNA extracted and purified. 1.0 ug of total RNA was reverse-transcribed with random hexamers and the
828 cDNA used in real-time PCR for comparison of DENV genomic RNA normalized to GAPDH transcripts.
829 The level in mock-infected cells was taken as 1 and that in DENV infected cells calculated as fold-change
830 over that. The relative enrichment of DENV RNA compared to mock-infected cells was quantified,
831 transformed to their logarithmic value to the base of 2 and plotted. The error bars show standard deviation
832 and the statistical significance was calculated by Student's t-test (ns= not significant).

833

834 **Figure 3: DENV replication in differentiating K562 cells interfere with PMA-induced signaling:**
835 **Panel A:** Schematic showing comparison of signaling activated upon TPO binding to c-Mpl and by PMA.
836 **Panel B: Immunoblot for signaling protein activated by PMA in K562 cells**. K562 cells either mock-
837 infected or DENV-infected were incubated in PMA-supplemented growth media and the total protein
838 extracted after 3 or 6 days. The protein in each lysate was denatured, resolved in SDS-PAGE and
839 immunoblotted for proteins indicated at right. Immunoblot for b-actin was performed for each batch of
840 lysate used. The relative molecular mass of the marker protein is indicated on the left. **Panel C:**
841 **Quantification of immunoblot bands in panel B**. the intensity of the immunoblot band for indicated
842 proteins were quantified, normalized to that of b-actin and the ratio calculated before plotting. The error
843 bars represent standard deviation of the ratio derived from at least two independent experiments, performed
844 in multiple replicates.

845 **Figure 4: Effect of DENV replication on cell surface marker, polyploidy and apoptosis in**
846 **differentiating K562 cells. Panel A: Suppression of platelet-specific surface marker protein**. K562
847 infected with DENV at two different MOI, were incubated in PMA-supplemented growth media for 3 or 6
848 days. Subsequently the cells were immune-stained for the indicated surface marker proteins and the
849 fluorescence quantified by flow cytometry. The mean fluorescence intensity was plotted. The error bars
850 show standard deviation derived from at least two independent experiments in multiple replicates. **Panel**
851 **B: DENV replication inhibits endomitosis**. DENV infected K562 were incubated in PMA-supplemented
852 growth media for 3 or 6 days. Subsequently the cells were fixed and stained with propidium iodide and the
853 fluorescence intensity measured by flow cytometry. The number of cells with ploidy of >4N were quantified
854 and plotted. The error bars show standard deviation of the mean from two independent experiments
855 performed in multiple replicates. **Panel C: Caspase cleavage assay in differentiated DENV infected**
856 **cells**. Mock-infected or DENV-infected K562 were incubated in either DMSO or PMA-supplemented
857 growth media for 3 or 6 days. Subsequently the cells were incubated with an substrate that can be cleaved

858 by intracellular Caspase3/7 to generate a luminescent product. The luminescence was measured in a
859 luminometer and plotted. The total luminescence at day 3 in DMSO-treated uninfected cells was arbitrarily
860 taken as 1 and the rest plotted as fold-change over that. The error bars show standard deviation of the mean
861 from two independent experiments performed in multiple replicates.

862 **Figure 5: DENV infection suppresses ROS generated during PMA-induced Megakaryopoiesis in**
863 **K562 cells: Panel A**. Mock-infected or DENV-infected K562 cells were incubated in either DMSO or
864 PMA-supplemented growth media for 3 or 6 days. Subsequently the cells were stained with $H_2$DCFDA and
865 the fluorescence quantified by flow cytometry. The mean fluorescence intensity in mock-infected and
866 DMSO-treated cells at 3 days was arbitrarily taken as 1 and the rest calculated as fold-change over that.
867 The error bars show standard deviation of the mean from two independent experiments performed in
868 multiple replicates. **Panel B**. K562 cells either mock-infected or DENV-infected were immediately
869 incubated in growth media supplemented with PMA in addition to either 0 or 1 or 3 mM N-Acetyl Cysteine
870 (NAC) as indicated. At 3 or 6 days post-infection the cells were stained with $H_2$DCFDA and the
871 fluorescence quantified by flow-cytometry. The mean fluorescence intensity in mock-infected cells treated
872 with 100nM PMA and 0 mM NAC was arbitrarily taken as 1 and that in the rest expressed as fold change
873 with respect to that. The error bars show standard deviation of the mean from two independent experiments
874 performed in multiple replicates.

875 **Figure 5: DENV replication interferes with PMA-induced transcriptome changes. Panel A**: The
876 transcriptome in K562 cells treated with 100nM PMA for 6 days was compared to that after 0 hour by Next-
877 generation sequencing. The genes differentially expressed after 6 days of treatment, either upregulated by
878 $\geq 1.5$ fold or downregulated by $\leq 0.5$ fold with a P-value of $\leq 0.05$, when compared to 0 hour were used to
879 draw a Volcano plot prepared using in-house written Python script. The X-axis represents the logarithmic
880 value to the base of 2 of the fold-change in gene expression. The Y-axis represents the negative logarithmic
881 to the base of 10 of the P-value. **Panel B**: The transcriptome in K562 cells, either uninfected or DENV-
882 infected and treated with 100nM for 6 days was compared to uninfected cells at 0 hour by NGS to find

883 differentially expressed genes. The level of differential expression of each gene was then compared between
884 uninfected and DENV-infected cells to draw the list of genes the PMA-induced deregulation of which is
885 influenced by infection. A volcano plot was prepared from this list using in-house written Python script.
886 The X-axis represents the logarithmic value to the base of 2 of the fold-change in gene expression. The Y-
887 axis represents the negative logarithmic to the base of 10 of the P-value. **Panel C**: **Heatmap of genes**
888 **associated with ROS-pathway**. The genes that are associated with the ROS-pathway in panel B were
889 selected and enriched using the Metascape software. The PMA-induced fold-change in the transcript level
890 of these genes after 6 days when compared to uninfected cells treated with PMA for 0 hour (column 1) in
891 either uninfected cells (column 2) or DENV-infected cells (column 3), was represented by a heatmap
892 prepared using the Morpheus algorithm (https://software.broadinstitute.org/morpheus). The colors
893 represent the trend of deregulation corresponding to each gene shown on the right.

894

895

**Figure 1**

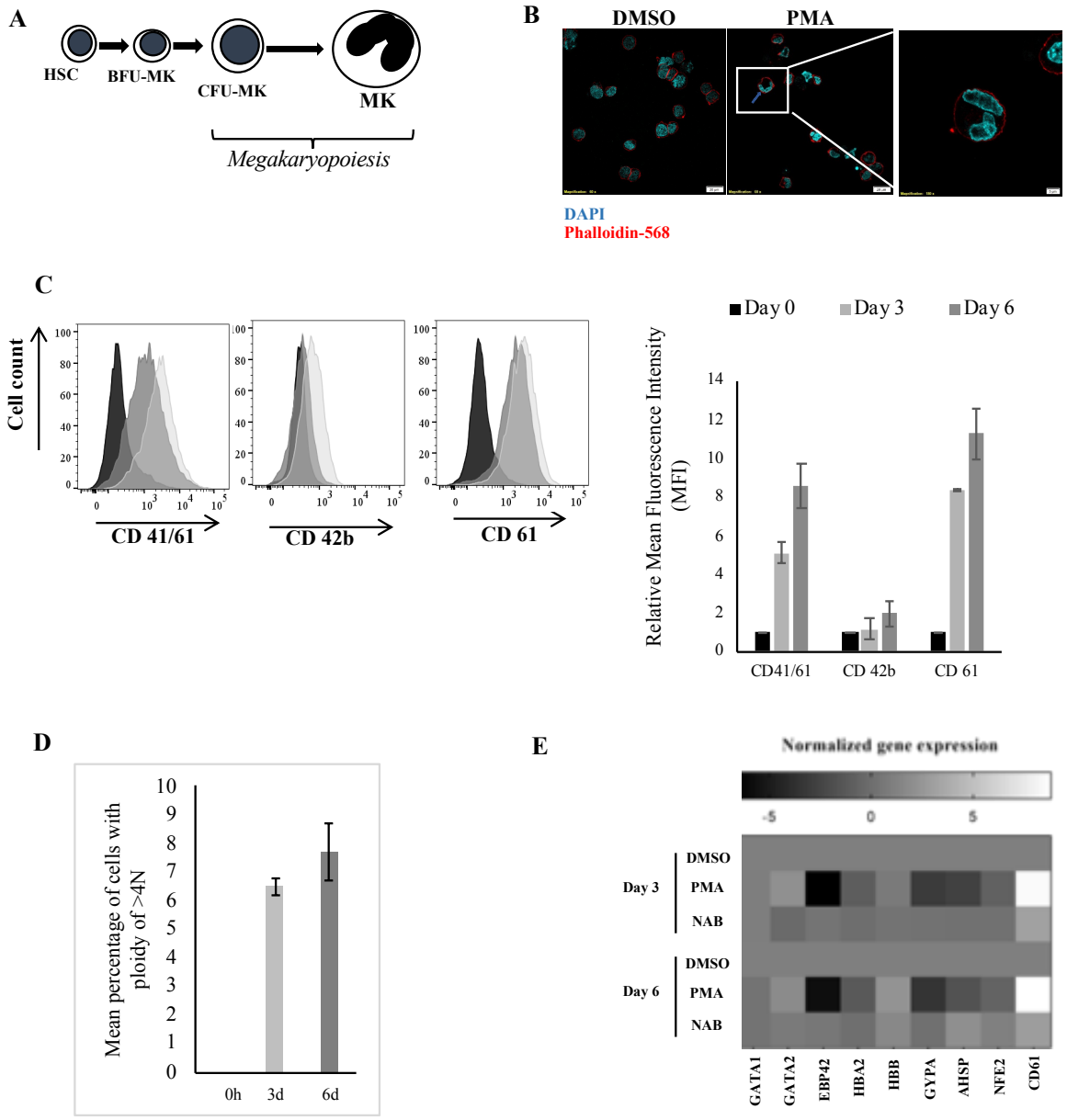


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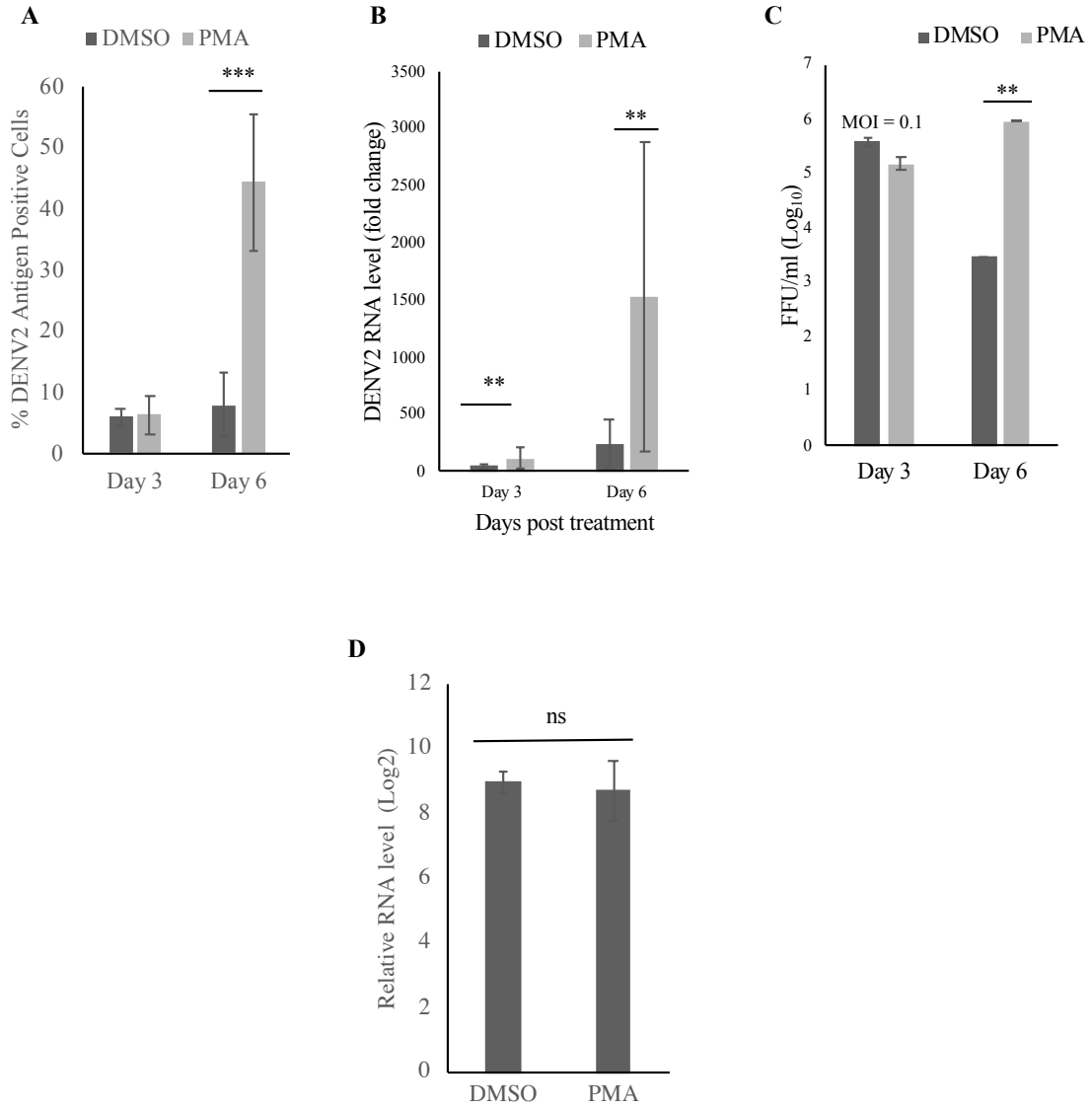
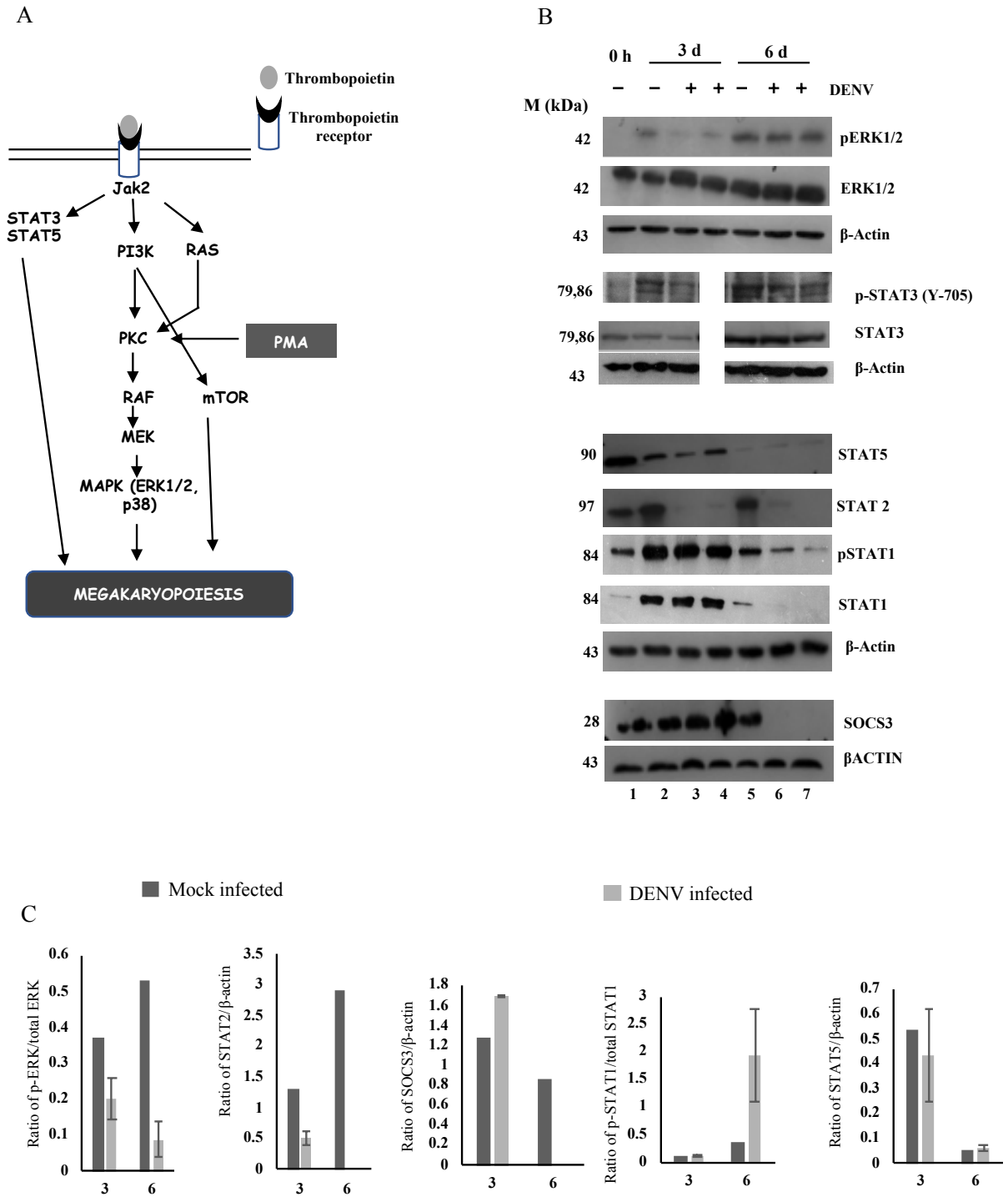
**Figure 2**


A
DMSO
PMA
***
% DENV2 Antigen Positive Cells
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Day 3
Day 6
B
DMSO
PMA
**
**
DENV2 RNA level (fold change)
3500
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
Day 3
Day 6
Days post treatment
C
DMSO
PMA
**
MOI = 0.1
FFU/ml (Log10)
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
Day 3
Day 6
D
ns
Relative RNA level (Log2)
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
DMSO
PMA

897

**Figure 3**


A
Thrombopoietin
Thrombopoietin receptor
Jak2
STAT3
STAT5
PI3K
RAS
PKC
PMA
RAF
mTOR
MEK
MAPK (ERK1/2, p38)
MEGAKARYOPOIESIS
B
0 h
3 d
6 d
DENV
M (kDa)
42
pERK1/2
42
ERK1/2
43
β-Actin
79,86
p-STAT3 (Y-705)
79,86
STAT3
43
β-Actin
90
STAT5
97
STAT 2
84
pSTAT1
84
STAT1
43
β-Actin
28
SOCS3
43
βACTIN
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Mock infected
DENV infected
C
Ratio of p-ERK/total ERK
Ratio of STAT2/β-actin
Ratio of SOCS3/β-actin
Ratio of p-STAT1/total STAT1
Ratio of STAT5/β-actin

898

**Figure 4**

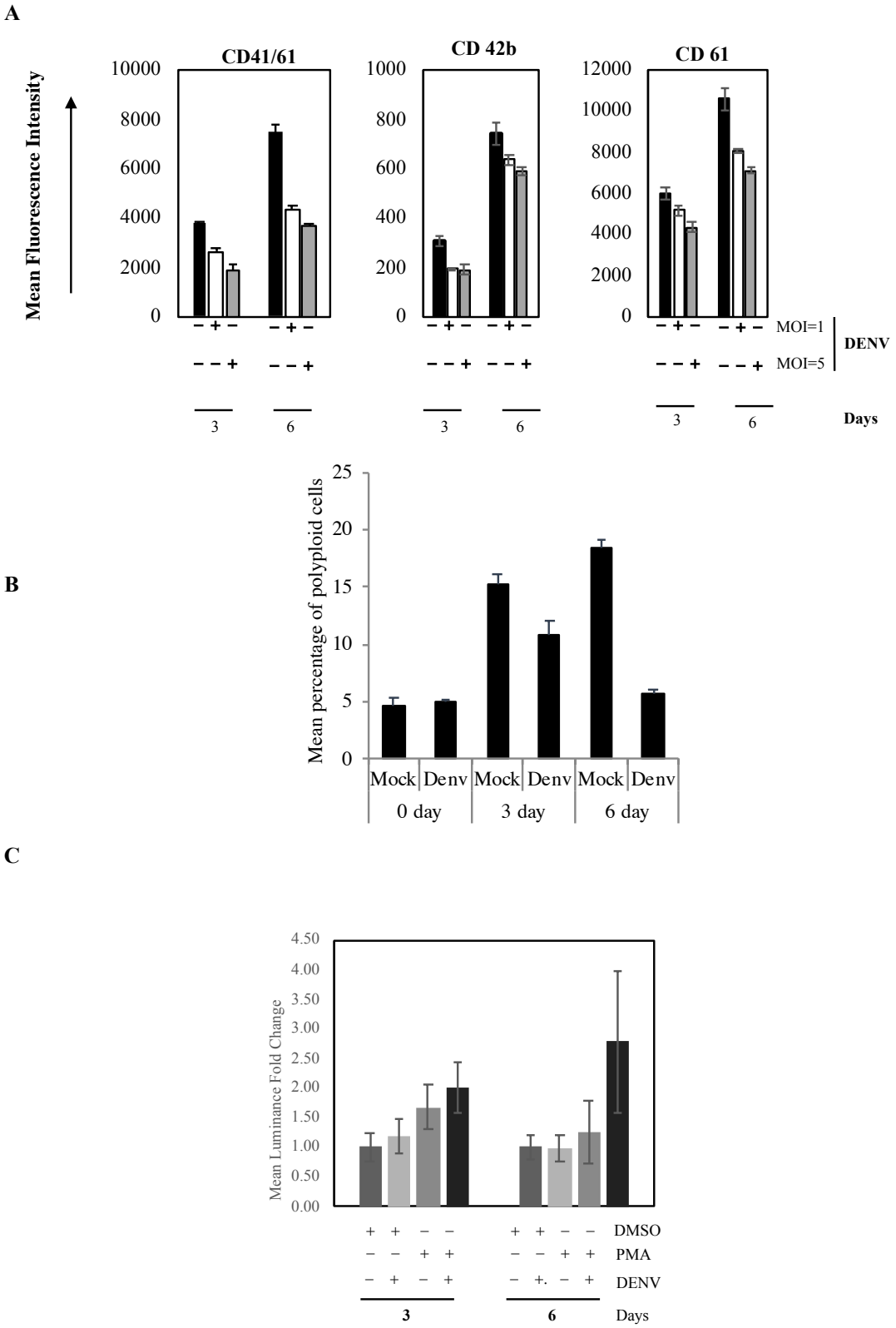
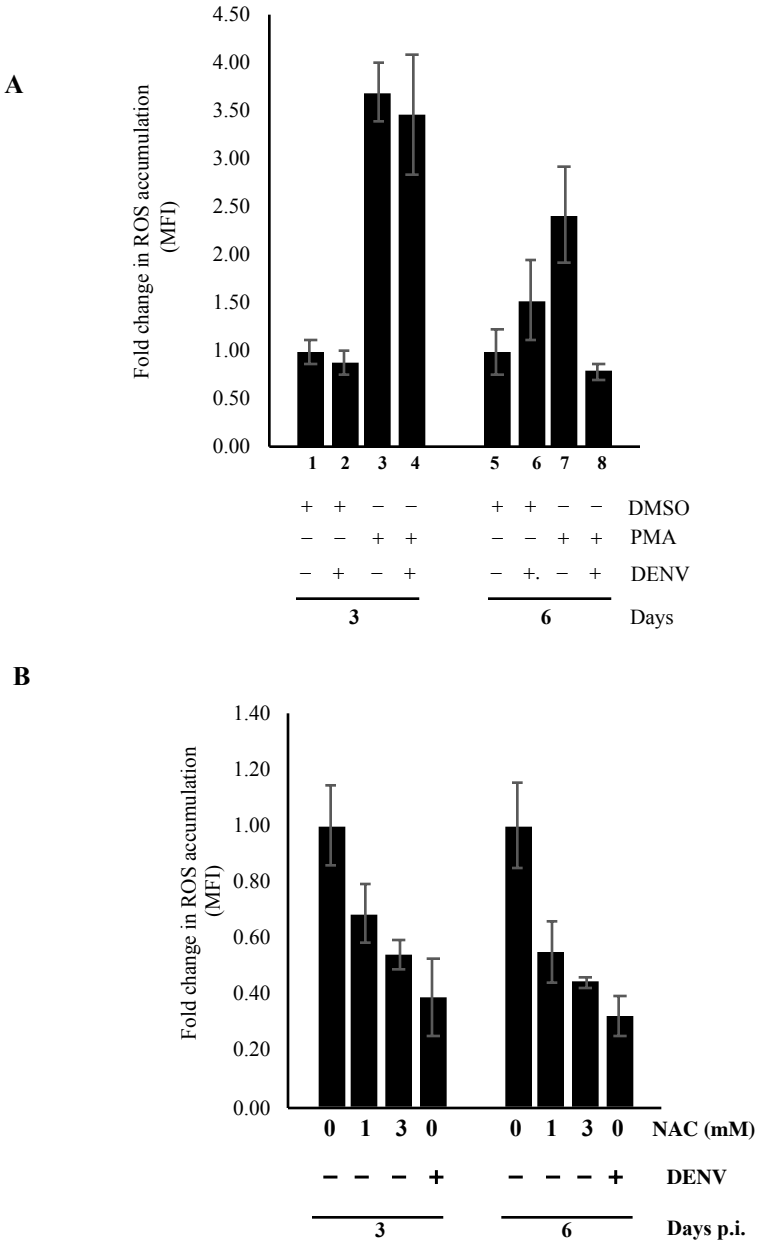
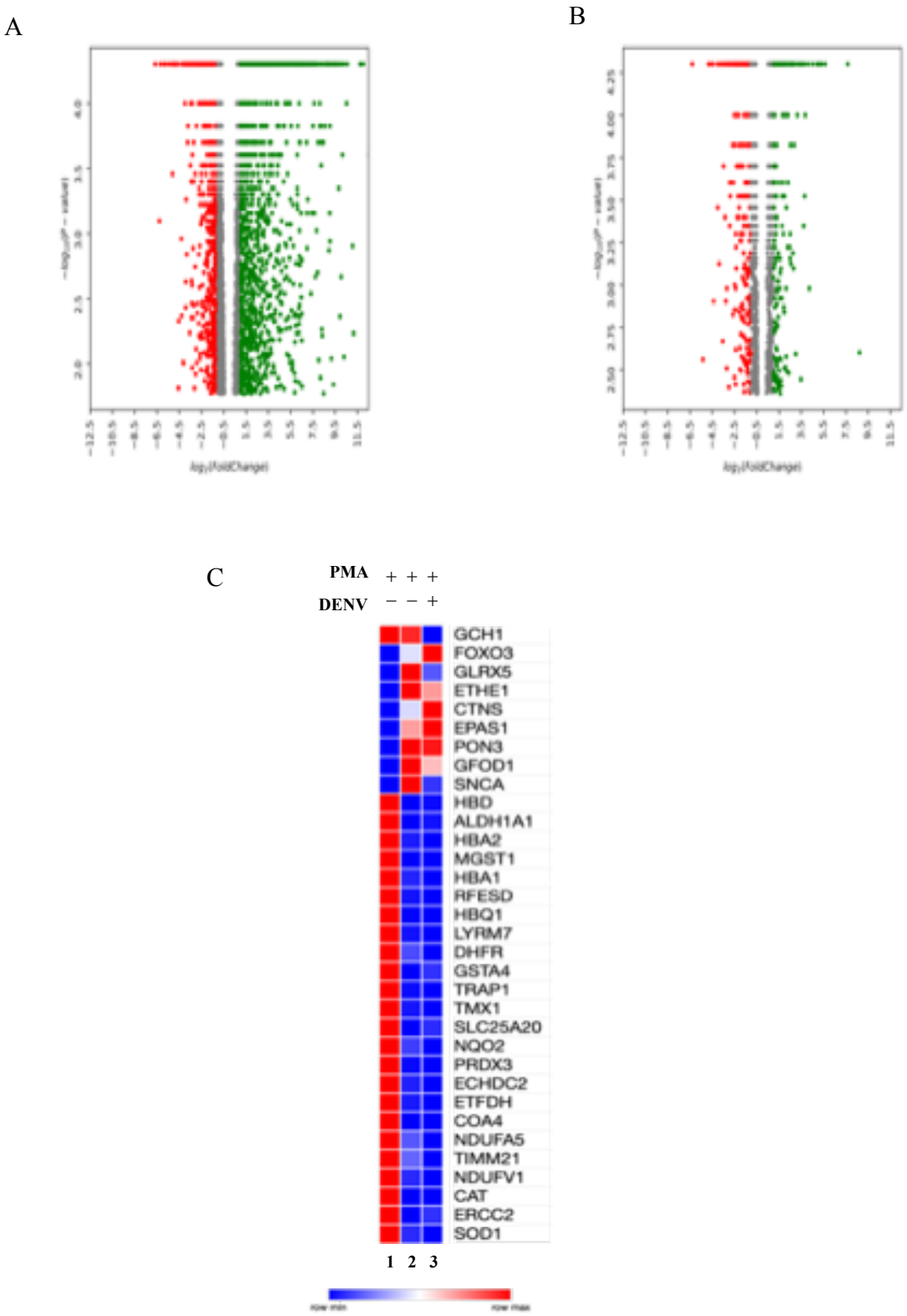

A
CD41/61
CD 42b
CD 61
Mean Fluorescence Intensity
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
1000
800
600
400
200
12000
MOI=1
MOI=5
DENV
3
6
Days
B
Mean percentage of polyploid cells
25
20
15
10
5
Mock
Denv
0 day
3 day
6 day
C
Mean Luminance Fold Change
4.50
4.00
3.50
3.00
2.50
2.00
1.50
1.00
0.50
0.00
DMSO
PMA
DENV
Days

**Figure 5.**


A
Fold change in ROS accumulation (MFI)
4.50
4.00
3.50
3.00
2.50
2.00
1.50
1.00
0.50
0.00
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
+ + − − + + − − DMSO
− − + + − − + + PMA
− + − + − +. − + DENV
3 6 Days
B
Fold change in ROS accumulation (MFI)
1.40
1.20
1.00
0.80
0.60
0.40
0.20
0.00
0 1 3 0 0 1 3 0 NAC (mM)
− − − + − − − + DENV
3 6 Days p.i.

900

**Figure 6.**


A
B
C
PMA + + +
DENV − − +
GCH1
FOXO3
GLRX5
ETHE1
CTNS
EPAS1
PON3
GFOD1
SNCA
HBD
ALDH1A1
HBA2
MGST1
HBA1
RFESD
HBQ1
LYRM7
DHFR
GSTA4
TRAP1
TMX1
SLC25A20
NQO2
PRDX3
ECHDC2
ETFDH
COA4
NDUFA5
TIMM21
NDUFV1
CAT
ERCC2
SOD1
1 2 3

901