

1 **Effects of relocation on Immunological and physiological measures in**

2 **squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri boliviensis boliviensis*)**

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31 **Abstract**

32 In the present study, we have quantified the effects of transport, relocation and
33 acclimate/adapt to their new surroundings on squirrel monkey. These responses are
34 measured in blood samples obtained from squirrel monkeys, at different time points relative
35 to their relocation from their old home to their new home. A variety of immunological assays
36 are performed on the phenotype and function of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs)
37 in a group of squirrel monkeys that were transported by road for approximately 10 hours from
38 one facility to another. Using a panel of human antibodies and a set of standardized human
39 immune assays, we evaluated the phenotype of lymphocyte subsets by flow, mitogen-specific
40 immune responses of PBMCs in vitro, and levels of cytokines at various time points including
41 immediately before transport, immediately upon arrival, and after approximately 150 days of
42 acclimation. We observed significant changes in T cells and subsets, NK and B cells (CD4⁺,
43 CD8⁺, CD4⁺/CD8⁺, CD16⁺, and CD20⁺). Mitogen specific (e.g. PHA, PWM and LPS)
44 proliferation responses, IFN-g by ELISPOT assay, and cytokines (IL-2, IL-4 and VEGF)
45 significant changes were observed. Changes seen in the serum chemistry measurements
46 mostly complement those seen in the hematology data. The specific goal was to empirically
47 assess the effects of relocation stress in squirrel monkeys in terms of changes in the
48 numbers and functions of various leukocyte subsets in the blood and the amount of time
49 require for acclimating to their new environment. Such data will help to determine when newly
50 arrived animals become available for use in research studies.

51

52 **Introduction**

53 The number of nonhuman primates (NHP) used in U.S. biomedical research reached an all-
54 time high in 2018 year, according to data released in late September by the U.S. Department
55 of Agriculture (USDA) (NIH report released in September,2018. Nonhuman Primate
56 Evaluation and Analysis Part 1: Analysis of Future Demand and Supply, September 21,
57 2018). The rising demand for NHP appears to be driven by researchers studying HIV/AIDS,
58 cancer, the brain, Alzheimer's disease, addiction, Parkinson's, obesity/diabetes, and
59 emerging infectious diseases like Zika and Ebola and to learn better ways to prevent negative
60 pregnancy outcomes, including miscarriage, stillbirth, and premature birth. This research is
61 also helping scientists to uncover information that makes human organ transplants easier and
62 more accessible, literally giving new life to those whose kidneys, hearts, and lungs are failing.
63 Squirrel monkeys, small New World NHP, have served an important role in studying
64 pathogenesis of human disease conditions such as Alzheimer's disease [1-3], malaria [4-6],
65 HIV [7], Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease [8, 9] and Giardia infection [10].
66 Many of these nonhuman primates are raised at one facility and subsequently
67 transported/relocated to another facility for research purposes. Relocating captive nonhuman
68 primates from a familiar home cage or colony room to a novel environment is a potent
69 psychosocial stressor [11-15]. The new and unfamiliar environment presents a sudden,
70 uncontrollable, and unpredictable change. Manipulations of the environments of captive
71 nonhuman primates often have welfare consequences to the animals, including behavioral
72 effects, and for certain manipulations, physiological effects as well. The processes of
73 transporting, relocating, and acclimatizing nonhuman primates across facilities represent
74 manipulations that are likely to have welfare, behavioral, and physiological consequences to
75 the relocated animals [16-19]. Our group and a few others have undertaken a series of

76 studies that have attempted to quantify 1) the effects of transport and relocation, and 2) the
77 amount of time that is required for NHPs to acclimate to the new environments and
78 management procedures after relocation; whether the relocation was to the next room or
79 halfway around the world [20, 21]. Previously, we have reported on the effects of relocation
80 and transport on immunological measurements in chimpanzees, rhesus and cynomolgus
81 monkeys [22-24]. During the winter of 2008 two colonies of different species of nonhuman
82 primates, approximately 500 squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus sciureus*, *S. boliviensis*
83 *boliviensis*, & *S. boliviensis peruviansis*) were transported to the University of Texas MD
84 Anderson Cancer Center, Michale E. Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research
85 at Bastrop, TX (KCCMR) from the University of South Alabama in Mobile, AL.

86 In the present study, we assessed the effects of relocation stress on dependent variables of
87 relevance in research (i.e., immune responses and hematological and chemistry values) in
88 squirrel monkeys. We measured the physiological indicators of stress associated with
89 relocation and the time course of adaptation to the physical and social environments of the
90 new setting. The focus of this project was to empirically assess the effects of transport and
91 relocation on physiological responses in NHPs, and to quantify acclimation processes.
92 Measuring the effects of transport, relocation, and acclimation should allow investigators to
93 conduct studies that are minimally influenced/confounded by such manipulations.

94

95 **Materials and Methods:**

96 **Animals, Care, Diet and Housing**

97 Subjects were 30 female squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri boliviensis*), aged 3-9 years of age from
98 the breeding colony at University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Michale E. Keeling
99 Center for Comparative Medicine and Research at Bastrop, TX (KCCMR). Monkeys were

100 socially housed throughout the study period in social groups in two connecting cages that are
101 4' wide x 6' tall x 14' long. Animals had *ad libitum* access to New World Primate Diet (Purina
102 #5040) and water. In addition, they were fed either fresh fruit or vegetables daily. Specialty
103 foods, such as seeds, peanuts, raisins, yogurt, cereals, frozen juice cups and peanut butter,
104 were distributed daily to them as enrichment. At no time were the subjects ever food or water
105 deprived. Subjects were also provided with destructible enrichment manipulanda and
106 different travel/perching materials on a rotating basis to promote the occurrence of species-
107 typical behaviors. The monkeys were examined by veterinarians before, during study period
108 and determined to be healthy. Experiments were approved by the Institutional Animal Care
109 and Use Committee of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and were
110 carried out according to the principles included in the *Guide for the Care and Use of*
111 *Laboratory Animals*, the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act, PHS Animal Welfare Policy,
112 and the policies of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center [25].

113 Prior to transport the animals were housed in the Primate Research Laboratory at the
114 University of South Alabama, in social groups had been stable for at least one year. The
115 animals were transported in modified Vari-Kennels[®] that provided perching and bedding
116 appropriate for squirrel monkeys. Each kennel was provided with a hydration system gel
117 pack, fresh vegetable and fruits, and non-human primate food biscuits. The squirrel monkeys
118 were manually caught and placed in the kennels with a social partner between 1600-1700
119 hours. Entire social groups were moved at the same time. The trip from Mobile, AL to
120 Bastrop, TX was made in a commercial self-contained, USDA approved, trailer that was
121 climate controlled. The trailer left Mobile, AL between 1700-1730 and arrived in Bastrop, TX
122 0700-0800 the following morning. Beginning at approximately 0800 the kennels were
123 removed from the trailer and placed in front of their new social housing units. Once an
124 inventory was taken and all animals were found to be present and in the correct social

125 grouping, each kennel was opened, and the animals were released into their new housing. At
126 no point were the animals sedated. The entire colony of 500 animals was moved over a five
127 weeks period following the same routine procedures.

128 **Collection of samples and Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC)**

129 Ten animals from three of separate shipments, for a total of 30, were sampled for this study.
130 Baseline blood samples were obtained one day prior to the relocation as part of the animals'
131 "pre-shipment" physical exam. The next blood samples "Day 1" were obtained within the first
132 few hours upon arrival at the Keeling Center as part of the animals' first "quarantine" physical
133 exam. The final used for this study was collected at "Day150" post-arrival to monitor the
134 animals' adaptation to their assigned housing conditions at the Keeling Center. Blood
135 samples (3 mL) were collected, 1.5mL in EDTA anti-coagulant tubes and 1.5 mL in
136 coagulation CBC tubes, from the femoral vein at the different time points. The animals were
137 manually restrained for each of the three blood draws, and no sedatives or other chemical
138 restraints were utilized. All blood sample collections occurred in the morning (8-10AM) before
139 the animals were fed. Before the separation of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC)
140 from the blood samples, plasma was collected and stored immediately at -80°C until
141 analyzed. The PBMC prepared from the blood samples by the standard ficoll-hypaque
142 density-gradient centrifugation were used for various immune assays [23, 26]. All blood
143 samples were processed at the Keeling Center following domestic overnight shipment (for the
144 pre-travel blood collections) or within 2-4 hours of collection at the Keeling Center (for arrival
145 and day 150 post-arrival samples). The PBMCs, freshly prepared from whole blood collected
146 in EDTA tubes, were more than 90% viable as determined by the trypan blue exclusion
147 method. For each immune assay, 10^5 cells /well were used for various immune assay.

148 **Complete blood count and blood chemistry analysis.**

149 EDTA whole blood samples were analyzed for a complete blood count on Siemens Advia 120
150 Hematology Analyzer, Tarrytown, NY. The Parameters analyzed included: total WBC, total
151 RBC, hemoglobin, hematocrit, RBC indices, WBC differential counts, and platelet count.
152 Serum Chemistry was analyzed on Chemistry Analyzer (Beckman Coulter AU680®
153 Chemistry Analyzer). The different parameters analyzed were for example, Glucose, Na, K,
154 Cl, CO₂, Cholesterol, Triglycerides, Iron, BUN, Creatinine etc.).

155 **Flow cytometry:**

156 A series of commercially available human monoclonal antibodies that cross react with
157 nonhuman primate mononuclear cells were used in flow cytometry analyses as described
158 previously [10, 26-28]. Briefly, 100µl of whole blood from each sample was added to each
159 12mm×75mm polystyrene tube (Falcon, Lincoln Park, NJ, USA) containing pre-added
160 cocktail of monoclonal antibodies against CD3, CD4 and CD8 CD16 and CD20 (CD3-PE,
161 clone SP-34; CD4-PerCP, clone L200; CD8-FITC, clone SK1, CD16 APC (clone 3G8), and
162 CD20-APC, clone L27 (all from BD Biosciences, San Diego, USA) and incubated for 15 min
163 at room temperature in the dark. Red blood cells were lysed with 1x RBC lysing solution
164 (Becton Dickinson, USA) following the manufacturer's instructions. The samples were
165 washed thoroughly in 1x phosphate-buffer saline (PBS) by centrifugation; then cell sediments
166 were suspended in 1% paraformaldehyde buffer (300ul) and acquired on a on a
167 Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorter (FACS) Calibur flow cytometer (BD Biosciences, San
168 Jose, CA, USA). All samples acquired in this study were compensated using the single-color
169 stained cells. Lymphocytes that were gated on forward scatter versus side scatter dot plot
170 were used to analyze CD3⁺, CD4⁺, and CD8⁺ T cell and CD20⁺ B cell lymphocyte subsets
171 using FlowJo software (Tree Star, Inc., Ashland, OR, USA).
172 For analysis of NK cells, a separate tube with 100ul of blood was stained with separate
173 cocktail of consisting of -CD3 PE (clone SP-34 and CD16 APC (clone 3G8), (all from BD

174 Pharmingen, San Jose, USA) antibodies, as described above. The gating scheme for T-cell,
175 B and NK markers in peripheral blood from a representative cynomolgus macaques has been
176 identified previously [10]. The absolute number of lymphocytes and monocytes, as obtained
177 from hematologic analysis, was used to convert the percentages identified through FACS
178 analysis into absolute numbers for each of the lymphocyte and monocyte subset populations.

179 ***in vitro* mitogen stimulation of PBMC**

180 The PBMCs, freshly prepared from whole blood collected in EDTA tubes, were more than
181 90% viable as determined by the trypan blue exclusion method. For each immune assay, 10^5
182 cells /well were used for various immune assay. Briefly, aliquots of PBMCs (10^5 /well) were
183 seeded in triplicate wells of 96-well, flat-bottom plates and individually stimulated with the
184 mitogens phytohemagglutinin (PHA), lipopolysaccharide (LPS), and pokeweed mitogen
185 (PWM) (Sigma, St Louis, MO, USA), each at 1 μ g/mL final concentration. The culture medium
186 without added mitogens served as a negative control.

187 **Proliferation Assay**

188 The proliferation of PBMC samples from the monkeys obtained at different time points during
189 the study were determined by the standard [3 H] thymidine incorporation assay, using
190 mitogens PHA, LPS and PWM (each at 1 μ g/mL final concentration). The culture medium
191 served as negative control. Aliquots of the PBMC (10^5 /well) were suspended in RPMI-1640
192 culture medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum and seeded in triplicate wells of U-
193 bottom 96-well plates and incubated with mitogens for 72hr at 37°C in humidified 5% CO₂
194 atmosphere. During the last 16-18 hr., 1 μ Cr of 3 H thymidine was added. Cells were
195 harvested onto filter strips for estimating 3 H-incorporation and counted using a liquid
196 scintillation counter. The proliferative response in terms of stimulation index (SI) was

197 calculated as fold-increase in the radioactivity over that of the cells cultured in medium alone.

198 The responses to antigens were considered positive when the SI values were ≤ 2.0 [29, 30].

199 **ELISPOT Assay for Detecting IFN- γ producing Cells**

200 Freshly-prepared PBMC were stimulated with the different mitogens (PHA, PWM and LPS) to
201 determine the numbers of IFN- γ producing cells by the ELISPOT assay using the

202 methodology reported earlier [10, 31, 32]. Briefly, aliquots of PBMC (10^5 /well) were seeded

203 in duplicate wells of 96-well plates (MABTECH) pre-coated with the primary IFN- γ antibody

204 and stimulated with mitogens PHA, LPS and PWM (each at 1 μ g/mL final concentration).

205 After incubation for 24 hr. at 37°C, the cells were removed, and the wells were thoroughly

206 washed with PBS. Subsequently, 100 μ L of biotinylated secondary antibody to IFN- γ

207 (detection antibody) was added to the wells for 3 hr. at 37°C followed by avidin-peroxidase

208 treatment for another 30 min. Purple colored spots representing individual cells secreting

209 IFN γ were developed using freshly-prepared substrate (0.3 mg/mL of 3-amino-9-ethyl-

210 carbazole) in 0.1 M sodium acetate buffer, containing 0.015% hydrogen peroxide. Plates

211 were washed to stop color development, and spots were counted by an independent agency

212 (Zellnet Consulting, New Jersey, NJ) using the KS-ELISPOT automatic system (Carl Zeiss,

213 Inc. Thornwood, NY) for the quantitative analysis of the number of IFN- γ spot forming cells

214 (SFC) for 10^5 input PBMC. Responses were considered positive when the numbers of spot

215 forming cells (SFC) with the test antigen were at least five and were five above the

216 background control values from cells cultured in the medium alone.

217 **ELISA Assay for Detecting IFN- α producing Cells**

218 Commercial Cytokines kits were used to measure the concentration of IFN- α (PBL

219 Biomedical Laboratories, Piscataway, NJ) in cell culture supernatants following PHA, LPS

220 and PWM (each at 1 ug/mL final concentration) stimulation of PBMC from squirrel monkeys.

221 ELISA for IFN- α cytokine were performed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

222 The minimum IFN- a detectable concentration was 2.9 pg/mL.

223 **NK Assay:**

224 The natural killer activity (NK) was measured as previously described [33]. Briefly, PBMCs

225 from blood were purified by centrifugation on a Ficoll-Hypaque density gradient as described

226 above. Serial two-fold dilutions of the PBMC (effectors) were mixed with ^{51}Cr -labeled target

227 cells K562 in triplicate wells of microtiter plates to attain the E: T ratio of 100:1, 50:1, 25:1 and

228 12.5:1. After 4-h incubation, 100 μl of supernatant was collected from each well and the

229 amount of ^{51}Cr released was determined using the γ -counter. To account for the maximum

230 release, the cells were incubated with 5% Triton X-100. Spontaneous release was

231 determined from target cells incubated without added effector cells. The % of specific lysis

232 was calculated by the following formula:

233 % Specific lysis = (experimental release-spontaneous release) / (maximum release-

234 spontaneous release) X 100.

235 **Cytokine multiplex assays**

236 Cytokine were measured in cell-free PBMC supernatant using MILLIPLEX-MAP human

237 cytokine/chemokine magnetic bead panel (EMD Millipore Corporation, Billerica, MA, USA)

238 according to the manufacturer's instructions. There is 91.4%–98.1% homology between the

239 nucleotide sequences of SQM cytokine genes and published sequences of equivalent human

240 and nonhuman primate genes [34, 35]. Briefly, aliquots of PBMC (10^5 /well) were seeded in

241 duplicate wells of 96-well plates and stimulated for 24 hrs. with mitogens PHA, PWM and LPS

242 (each at 1 ug/mL final concentration) supernatant samples were centrifuged (14,000x g for 5

243 min) and 25 mL of aliquots were used in assay. The 96-well filter plate was blocked with

244 assay buffer for 10 min at room temperature, washed, and 25 mL of standard or control
245 samples were dispersed into appropriate wells. After adding 25 mL of beads to each well, the
246 plate was incubated on a shaker overnight at 40C. The next day, after washing two times with
247 wash buffer, the plate was incubated with detection antibody for 1 h at room temperature and
248 again incubated with 25 mL of Streptavidin-Phycoerythrin for 30 min at room temperature.
249 After washing two times with wash buffer, 150 mL of sheath fluid was added into each well
250 and multianalyte profiling was performed on the Bio-Plex 200 system (Luminex X MAP
251 technology). Calibration microspheres for classification and reporter readings as well as
252 sheath fluid, assay, and wash buffer were also purchased from Bio-Rad (Hercules, CA, USA).
253 Acquired fluorescence data were analyzed by the Bio-Plex manager 5.0 (Bio-Rad, Hercules,
254 CA, USA). All steps of incubations were performed on a shaker. The minimum detectable
255 concentration was calculated by the Multiplex Analyst immunoassay analysis Software from
256 Millipore. Cytokines were measured using Nonhuman Primate Cytokine kit with IFN- γ , IFN- α ,
257 IL-1b, IL-2, IL-4, IL-6, MIP-1b, TNF- α , and VEGF, from Millipore Corporation (Billerica, MA)
258 using the cytokine bead array (CBA) methodology according to the manufacturers' protocols
259 and as described previously [36].

260 **Statistical comparisons**

261 The CBC, chemistry, and immunological data are analyzed using a series of within-subjects
262 One-way Analyses of Variance. The primary comparisons are across the levels of the
263 independent variable; transport and relocation (pre-transport, immediately after transport and
264 after a 150day acclimation referred to as Pre, Day 1, day 150 samples in the results). Two-
265 tailed tests, appropriate correction factors, and planned comparison techniques are utilized to
266 fully explore the data.

267 **Results**

268 To understand the effect of transport and relocation on immune responses of PBMCs of

269 squirrel monkeys, we performed detailed analyses of cell-mediated immune responses,
270 including assays for 1) Phenotypic analysis by flow cytometry, 2) proliferation, 3) IFN- γ by
271 ELISPOT and IFN- α by ELISA, in response to stimulation with mitogens (e.g., PHA, PWM,
272 and LPS), 4) cytokines in cell supernatant and 5) complete blood count and serum chemistry
273 analysis before, and after relocation.

274 The lymphocytes and monocytes were first gated based on forward scatter (FCS)
275 versus side scatter (SSC), and then CD3⁺ T cells, CD14⁺ (monocytes), CD3⁺CD16⁺ (NK)
276 cells, CD3⁺CD16⁺ NKT cells, and CD20⁺ B cells were positively identified. The specificity of
277 staining for the various markers was ascertained according to the isotype control antibody
278 staining used for each pair of combination markers, as shown.

279 **Fig 1 (A). Gating scheme for phenotype analyses of the various cell markers in the peripheral**
280 **blood from a representative squirrel monkey.**

281

282 **Influence of relocation on major lymphocyte subsets in the peripheral blood**

283 We first checked cross activity of a large panel of commercially available antibodies from
284 different commercial companies at the concentration recommended by the supplier using
285 blood from squirrel monkeys as described previously [37]. The reactivity was considered
286 positive if the signal obtained gave a dot plot clearly distinct from the negative control dot plot
287 using an isotype-matched antibody. As positive controls, fresh blood obtained from normal
288 healthy rhesus monkey as donors were stained in parallel. Based on the data showing a high
289 degree of cross reactivity of human monoclonal antibodies to different lymphocyte subsets in
290 squirrel monkeys, we began probing into immunological indicators of stress associated with
291 relocation.

292 Using the monoclonal antibodies listed in Table 1 we determined the levels of the different
293 lymphocyte subsets and established normal value ranges in the blood of a total of 30 adult

294 *Saimiri* monkeys from the breeding unit of MD Anderson Cancer Center at Bastrop.
295 Specifically, we analyzed for the T cells (CD3+), NK cells (CD16+), B cells (CD20+ cells),
296 helper T cells (CD3+, CD4+) and cytotoxic/suppressor T cells (CD3+, CD8+) using human
297 monoclonal antibodies that exhibited cross-reactivity with squirrel monkey PBMC. Details of
298 the specificity, clone names, isotypes and supplier of the commercially available human
299 monoclonal antibodies are shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

Human specific monoclonal antibodies used for squirrel monkey FACS and its reactivity

Antibody	Supplier	Clone	Isotype	Reactivity
CD3	BD	SP34	IgG3, λ	+
CD4	BD	L200	IgG1 κ	+
CD8	BD	RPA-T8	IgG1 κ	+
CD16	BD	3G8	IgG1 κ	+
CD20	BD	L27	IgG1 κ	+

300
301 The distribution lymphocyte subsets in blood of squirrel monkeys are shown at day pre
302 shipment, post day 2 and post day150 after relocation in Fig 1B. CD3+ T cell count (F
303 (1.7,25.9) =15, $p < 0.05$) showed significant changes across time with the Day 1 arrival levels
304 lower than the Pre and day 150 post-arrival samples. CD4+ T cell counts
305 (F(1.5,22.6)=105, $p < 0.05$), CD8+ T cell counts (F(1.3,19.3)= 6.54, $p < 0.05$), and
306 CD4+CD8+(double positive) T cell counts (F(1.1,16.6)=226, $p < 0.05$) showed significant
307 changes across time with the day 150 levels significantly higher than both the Pre and Day 1
308 and Day 150 samples. CD16+ NK cells cell counts (F (1.7,25.6) =5.81, $p < 0.05$) showed
309 significant changes across time with Day 1 levels significantly lower than the Pre and Day 1
310 samples. CD20+ B cells counts (F (1.2,18) =9.58, $p < 0.05$) showed significant changes across
311 time with the Day 1 levels significantly higher than both the Pre and Day 1 samples.

312 CD3+CD16+ NK T cells cell counts (F (1.7,25.3) =5.66, p<0.05) showed significant changes
313 across time with the Day 1 levels significantly lower than Pre.

314 **Figure 1 (B). Relocation-dependent differences in lymphocytes in squirrel monkeys.**

315

316 **Proliferative responses**

317 Since, we found significant differences in expression of T, and B cells, we investigated
318 functional hallmark of proliferation of PBMCs samples from the squirrel monkeys. We
319 measured proliferation in ³H thymidine incorporation assay (Fig 2A). The proliferative
320 responses to PHA (F (2,36) =47.1, p<0.0001), and PWM (F (2,51) =33.7, p<0.0001) were
321 significantly higher at post day 2 shipment compare to pre and day150. No statistically
322 significant differences were observed for proliferative response stimulation with LPS (Fig 2A).

323 **Figure 2 (A). Proliferative response of PBMCs to mitogens.**

324

325 **ELISPOT assay for detecting mitogen-specific IFN- γ producing cells in squirrel** 326 **monkeys**

327 Additional functional activity was measured for IFN γ production by PBMCs in response to
328 stimulation with PHA, PWM, and LPS by the cytokine ELISPOT assay. As shown in Fig 2B,
329 squirrel monkey PBMC showed significantly higher numbers of IFN- γ producing cells in
330 response to stimulation with PHA (F(2,51)=136.4,p<0.0001), PWM (F(2,51)=136.4,p<0.0001)
331 and LPS (F(2,51)=113.4,p<0.0001) showed significant changes across time with the Day 150
332 levels significantly higher than both the Pre and Day 1.

333 **Figure 2 (B). IFN- γ ELISPOT response to mitogens.**

334

335 **ELISA assay for detecting mitogen-specific IFN- α producing cells in squirrel monkeys**

336 Freshly isolated PBMCs were either unstimulated (medium) or stimulated with PHA, PWM
337 and LPS (1 μ g/mL) for 24 hr. and supernatant was collected to measure IFN- α (Fig.3A) by
338 ELISA. In general, Day 150 levels were intermediate between the Pre and Day 1 samples.
339 No significant differences across time were observed for IFN-a ELISA with regard to the PHA,
340 PWM, and LPS assays (Fig 3A).

341 **Figure 3 (A). IFN- α ELISA response to mitogens.**

342

343 **Influence of relocation on natural killer activity.** PBMCs from squirrel monkey were
344 analyzed for NK activity using a standard ⁵¹chromium (Cr) release assay. We observed no
345 significant differences were observed in natural killer activity at different effector to Target
346 ratio (E: T100:1, E: T 50:1, and E: T25:1) (Fig 3B).

347 **Figure 3 (B). Relocation-dependent differences in natural killer activity.**

348

349 **Cytokine multiplex assays**

350 Freshly isolated PBMCs were either unstimulated (medium) or stimulated with PHA, PWM
351 and LPS (1 μ g/mL) for 24 hr. and cell supernatant was collected frozen and used for
352 multiplex cytokines assay using cytokines: IL-1 β , IL-2, IL-4, IL-6, MIP-1 β , TNF- α , and
353 VEGF. Only IL-2 (PHA) (F (1.8,25.6) =7.29, p<0.05), IL-4 (PHA)(F (1.8,25.4) =4.3, p<0.05),
354 and VEGF (PHA) (F (1.5,21.6) =5.58, p<0.05) showed significant differences across time with
355 Day 1 arrival levels (Fig 4).

356 **Figure 4. Relocation-dependent differences in Cytokine.**

357 **Hematology**

358 The blood samples collected at pre shipment Day 1 and Day150 was subjected hematology
359 and analysis is shown in Fig 5A and 5B. The white blood cell count ($F(1,12) = 12.2, p < 0.05$)
360 and relative count of lymphocytes ($F(1.2,14.4) = 16.9, p < 0.05$) both showed a significant
361 change across time, with the Pre levels significantly higher than both the Day 1
362 measurements and the post Day 150 samples. The monocyte cell count was significantly
363 different across time ($F(1.5,19.5) = 5.38, p < 0.05$) with a significant difference between the
364 Pre levels and Day 150 levels. The neutrophil count ($F(1.5,20.3) = 50.6, p < 0.05$) and
365 hematocrit ($F(1.8,22.9) = 12.6, p < 0.05$) both showed a significant change across time, with
366 the Pre significantly higher than the post-treatment samples and the Day 150 samples. The
367 eosinophil levels were significantly different across time ($F(1.5,19.1) = 5.83, p < 0.05$) with Day
368 1 levels significantly higher compared to post Day 150 levels. The hemoglobin levels showed
369 significant changes across time ($F(1.7,21.3) = 9.94, p \leq 0.05$) with Day 1 levels significantly
370 lower than both Pre and Day 1 levels. The red blood cell count ($F(1.6,21,1) = 8.07, p < 0.05$),
371 MCHC ($F(1.9,24.7) = 4.08, p < 0.05$), and RDW ($F(1.7,21.6) = 7.59, p < 0.05$) all were
372 significantly different across time with Pre levels significantly higher than the Day1 levels.
373 MCV, MCH, PLT, MPV, and segmented neutrophil levels showed no significant changes
374 across time.

375 **Serum Chemistry**

376 Similarly, the blood samples collected at pre shipment, Day 1 and Day 150 was subjected to
377 serum chemistry analysis and is shown in Fig 5C, 5D and 5E. Total bilirubin levels
378 ($F(1.3,16.9) = 12.8, p < 0.05$), ALT levels ($F(1.7,23.8) = 26.7, p < 0.05$), CK levels
379 ($F(1,21.6) = 8.9, p < 0.05$), BUN levels ($F(1.4,30.1) = 14.6, p < 0.05$), Glucose levels
380 ($F(1.4,19.7) = 8.22, p < 0.05$), Osmolarity ($F(1.9,27) = 8.09, p < 0.05$), Phosphorus levels
381 ($F(1.4,31.3) = 9.96, p < 0.05$), and Sodium levels ($F(1.7,24.5) = 12.0, p < 0.05$) all showed similar

382 significant changes across time, with Day 1 levels significantly higher than Pre and Day 1 and
383 Day 150 samples. Triglyceride levels ($F(1.7,24,2) = 183, p < 0.05$) showed a significant
384 change across time with Day 1 levels significantly lower than both Pre and the Day 1 and 150
385 samples. Albumin levels ($F(1.6,23.1) = 8.58, p < 0.05$) and Creatinine levels ($F(1.6,35.5)$
386 $= 15.2, p < 0.05$) both showed significant changes across time with Day 1 and Day 150 levels
387 significantly lower than both Pre and Day 1 samples. Globulin levels ($F(1.5,21.3) = 14.6,$
388 $p < 0.05$) and Anion Gap ($F(1.8,39.4) = 5.48, p < 0.05$) showed similar significant changes
389 across time but with post Day 150 levels significantly higher than both Pre and Day 1 arrival
390 samples. Iron levels ($F(1.7,23.9) = 5.73, p < 0.05$) and cholesterol ($F(1.2,17.8) = 1.07, p < 0.05$)
391 showed significant changes across time with the Pre samples significantly higher than Day 1
392 arrival. CO₂ levels ($F(1.4,31.1) = 2.73, p < 0.05$) showed significant changes across time with
393 post Day 150 levels significantly higher than Pre samples. LDH levels ($F(1.8,23.6) = 7.44,$
394 $p < 0.05$) showed significant changes across time with levels Day 1 arrival levels significantly
395 higher than post Day 150 samples. Pre LDH levels were lower than the Day 1 arrival levels
396 but not significantly so. AST levels ($F(1,14.3) = 32, p < 0.05$) showed significant changes
397 across time with Day 1 arrival samples significantly higher than Pre and post Day 150
398 samples. The post Day 150 AST sample results were also significantly higher than Pre levels.
399 GGT, ALK, Total protein, calcium, potassium, chloride, and TIBC levels showed no significant
400 changes across time.

401 **Figure 5A-5E. Relocation-dependent differences in Hematology (5A and 5B) and blood**
402 **Chemistry (5C, D, E).**

403

404 **Effect of Acclimatization:**

405 For most of the hematology measurements all animals had returned to Pre levels at the Day
406 150 sample. Exceptions include Total Lymphocytes which were higher 150 days post

407 transport ($F(1,9) = 13.0$, $\eta_p^2 = 0.6$), and RDW which remained lower than Pre ($F(1,9) = 7.6$,
408 $\eta_p^2 = 0.5$).

409 These hematology effects can mostly be explained by mild dehydration during
410 transport, including changes in the RBC, Hgb, and HCT, even though the animals were
411 provided with water and gel-packs during transport. Transient reductions in the number of
412 WBC's have been seen with stress as part of intense physical exercise. Unpredictable
413 movements of the truck and crate may have tired and stressed the animals leading to the
414 reduction in WBC's seen the day of arrival. However, changes in some of the serum
415 chemistry measurements that are related to liver function may be related. Only two
416 hematology measurements showed any post Day 150 effects, higher WBC and lower RDW in
417 the squirrel monkeys. These results are not immediately explainable but do illustrate the
418 types of post Day 150 changes in baseline values that can occur with relocation.
419 Changes seen in the serum chemistry measurements mostly complement those seen in the
420 hematology data. Mild dehydration during the transport may be the causes for changes in
421 Osmolality and sodium levels in the squirrel monkeys. indirectly related may be changes in
422 albumin, phosphorus, and triglycerides that are usually associated with kidney lesions.
423 Elevated levels of CK and LDH, seen are associated with strenuous exercise. Like the fall in
424 WBC's, this effect is likely due to the animals having to compensate for the unpredictable
425 truck and cage movements. The increase in glucose levels in the squirrel monkeys as well
426 as the decreased levels of iron can be attributed to overall stress and sleep deprivation.
427 Changes in the ALT, AST, and BUN levels in the squirrel monkeys, and total bilirubin in both
428 is usually indicative of liver lesions. Taken together with the platelet changes seen in *squirrel*
429 *monkeys*, these changes suggest that transport has some transient effect on liver function
430 through a as yet unknown mechanism.

431 Long term changes seen in BUN, GGT, Chloride, and cholesterol levels in the squirrel
432 monkeys may be an accommodation to the new living arrangements. Although the new
433 cages had a similar volume, they were constructed out of a thermo-neutral material
434 (Tresva®) rather than sheet metal. They also received more cage enrichment and were on a
435 different feeding and cleaning schedule. Any of these factors, or other changes in
436 environment and routine, may be enough to alter the physiology of the animals enough to
437 make it different from the original, pre-shipment, baseline.

438 ***Discussion***

439 The data from this study establish clear physiological and immune system effects of
440 transportation and acclimation for squirrel monkeys. Transport involves many factors that
441 can be considered to negatively affect an animal's physiological state, including anesthesia;
442 loading and unloading; separation from familiar social partners and environments; novel
443 noises, smells, and vibrations; and relocation to a new and unfamiliar environment. The
444 negative effects of these events have been assessed in several species [38-41], as changes
445 in serum levels of cortisol and other physiological measures. Others have previously studied
446 the effects of transport, relocation, and/or acclimatization on nonhumans primates [11, 24,
447 41-45], however these studies were conducted on old world and ape species, and focused on
448 limited sets of behavioral or physiological responses and reported a decrease in lymphocytes
449 in cynomolgus macaques, while Kagira, Ngotho (46) found changes in hematological
450 parameters for recently trapped vervet. There are considerably more data available on the
451 effects of transport and relocation in other, non-primate animal species. These reports found
452 similar effects for mice, rats, dogs, and pigs as a function of transport, relocation, and/or
453 acclimatization as suggested by changes in blood glucose, cholesterol, and blood urea
454 nitrogen [47, 48]; lymphocyte counts [38]; and white blood cell counts, body weights, and
455 natural killer cell activity [15, 40].

456 The data from the present study provide some insight into the time that it takes squirrel to
457 acclimatize to their new surroundings. Some standard clinical chemistry and hematologic
458 values appeared to return to Pre levels by about 6 weeks after arrival, while others did not.
459 Some of the cell-mediated immune responses that were affected by transport and relocation
460 also did not return to Pre levels. The squirrel monkeys were still affected by the transport
461 process weeks after transport and relocation, and probably should not be considered
462 acclimated to their new facility. We reported similar effects in chimpanzees, rhesus and
463 cynomolgus monkey's relocation to Texas [23, 24] . Their conclusion was that the
464 chimpanzees, rhesus and cynomolgus monkeys should not serve as subjects in studies that
465 use the measured parameters as dependent variables, until they have had adequate time to
466 adjust to their new conditions. This required at least 6-8 weeks for the chimpanzees and
467 longer for the monkeys in this study. The current data does not address the time interval
468 between arrival and 150 days. Additional data is needed to fill in this 5-month gap in the
469 monkey data.

470 This study focused on the effects of transportation and relocation as assessed by a variety of
471 parameters that are also likely to be dependent measures in biomedical investigations.
472 Significant changes as a function of transport may have few clinical implications in healthy
473 animals, yet they may have numerous research implications. For example, changes in red
474 blood cell counts in investigations of malaria [49] or changes in CD4+ counts in
475 immunodeficiency virus investigations [50]. The better the effects of transport are
476 understood, the better the refinements to management procedures can be. The development
477 of more refined management techniques will result in enhanced welfare for the animals [24,
478 51-54], enhanced abilities to directly test experimental hypotheses, and may ultimately result
479 in important reductions in the number of primate subjects required to effectively test
480 hypotheses.

481 Future studies will examine smaller-scale movements of squirrel monkeys within the various
482 housing settings of the KCCMR. We have additional data [24, 55] from reasonably-sized
483 samples of transported and relocated chimpanzees and cynomolgus monkeys that also
484 demonstrate that transport and relocation result in statistically significant changes in a variety
485 of hematological, clinical chemistry, and immunological parameters for these species,
486 although the specific measures affected differ by species.

487 The data presented here crucial to guide researchers in determining an appropriate
488 acclimation period for their study; however, there are additional factors researchers must
489 consider that can influence how long it takes for acclimation to occur. These factors include
490 the intensity and duration of stress, as well as the species, sex, age, genotype, health status,
491 previous life experience, allometric differences, and even the time of year that acclimation
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498 **Author Contributions:** PN and LW designed, interpreted, and analyzed data. PN and BN
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685 686 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

687

688 **Fig 1 (A). Gating scheme for phenotype analyses of the various cell markers in the peripheral**
689 **blood from a representative squirrel monkey.** The lymphocytes were first gated based on forward
690 scatter (FCS) versus side scatter (SSC), and then CD3⁺, CD4⁺, CD8⁺, CD4⁺CD8⁺, and CD20⁺ cells,
691 and NK and NKT cells, were positively identified from the lymphocyte subset. The specificity of
692 staining for the various markers was ascertained according to the isotype control antibody staining
693 used for each pair of combination markers, as shown.

694 **Figure 1 (B). Relocation-dependent differences in lymphocytes in squirrel monkeys.**

695 Aliquots of EDTA whole blood were stained with fluorescence-labeled antibodies to the CD3⁺, CD4⁺,
696 CD8⁺, and CD20⁺ to identify lymphocyte subpopulations Pre- and Day 1 and 150 post-transportation
697 and relocation. Values on the Y-axis are absolute lymphocyte cells. P values were considered
698 statistically significant at $p < 0.05$. *Symbol: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.0001$.*

699 **Figure 2 (A). Proliferative response of PBMCs to mitogens.** PBMCs that are isolated from blood
700 samples of the squirrel monkeys were used for determining proliferative response to different
701 mitogens, using the standard [3H] thymidine incorporation assay. The proliferation responses are
702 expressed as Stimulation Index (SI) after blank (i.e., medium only) subtraction. P values were
703 considered statistically significant at $p < 0.05$. *Symbol: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.0001$.*

704 **Figure 2 (B). IFN- γ ELISPOT response to mitogens.** In duplicate wells of the 96-well microtiter
705 plates, pre-coated with IFN- γ antibody, were seeded with 10^5 PBMCs from squirrel monkeys
706 stimulated with 1 μ g of each of the mitogens for 36 h at 37°C, and then washed and stained with
707 biotinylated second IFN- γ antibody. The total number of spots forming cells (SFCs) in each of the
708 mitogen-stimulated wells was counted and adjusted to control medium as background. See the
709 Methods section for experiment details. P values were considered statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.
710 *Symbol: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.0001$.*

711 **Figure 3 (A). IFN- α ELISA response to mitogens.** In triplicate wells of the 96-well filter plate, PBMC
712 cultures were stimulated with 1 μ g/mL mitogens for 36hr at 37°C and supernatant was collected to
713 measure IFN- α by ELISA. The minimum detectable concentration in pg/mL for IFN α (2.9) was used
714 for considering positive responses. P values were considered statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.
715 *Symbol: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.0001$.*

716 **Figure 3 (B). Relocation-dependent differences in natural killer activity.** The NK activity of PBMC
717 isolated from squirrel monkeys' blood was determined by co-culturing with ⁵¹Cr-labeled K562 target
718 cells at different effector to target cell ratios in culture medium. The percentage (%) of specific lysis is

719 shown at different effector to target ratios. P values $p < 0.05$ were considered statistically significant.

720 *Symbol: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.0001$.*

721 **Figure 4. Relocation-dependent differences in Cytokine.** In duplicate wells of the 96-well filter
722 plate, 25 μL of cell supernatant was incubated with 25 μL of cytokine coupled beads overnight at 4°C,
723 followed by washing and staining with biotinylated detection antibody. The plates were read on Biorad
724 200 with use of Luminex technology, and the results are expressed as pg/mL concentration. The
725 minimum detectable concentrations in pg/mL for IL-2 (0.7), IL-4 (2.7), IL-6 (0.3), IL-10 (6.2), IL-
726 12(P40) (1.2), IFN- γ (2.2), and TNF- α (2.1) were used for considering positive responses. See the
727 Methods section for experimental details. P values were considered statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.

728 *Symbol: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.0001$.*

729 **Figure 5A-5E. Relocation-dependent differences in Hematology (5A and 5B) and blood**
730 **Chemistry (5C, D, E).** Whole blood by using an automated analyzer Advia (Siemens Healthcare
731 Diagnostics, Tarrytown, NY). Values on the Y-axis are the absolute numbers of lymphocytes and
732 monocytes presented as 10^3 per μL of whole blood. P values were considered statistically significant
733 at $p < 0.05$. *Symbol: * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.0001$.*

734

735

Fig 1A

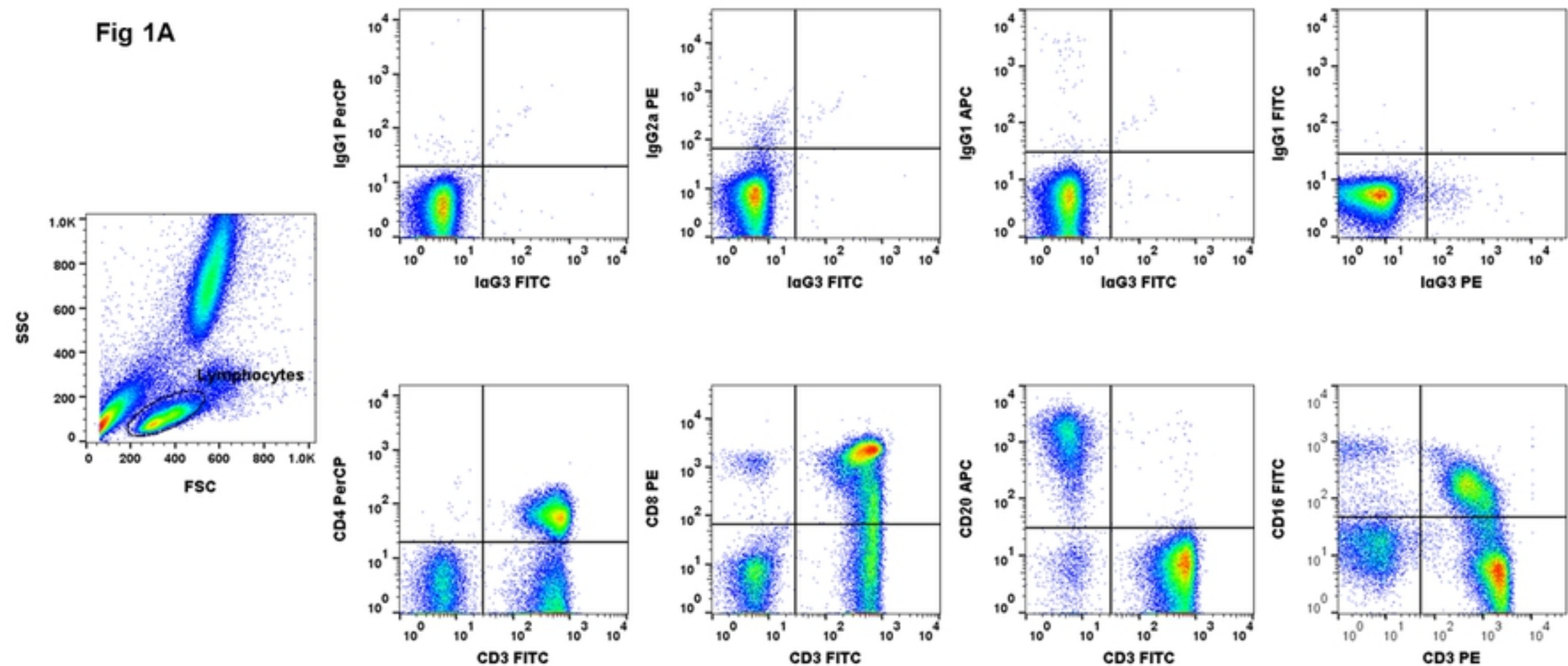


Fig 1B

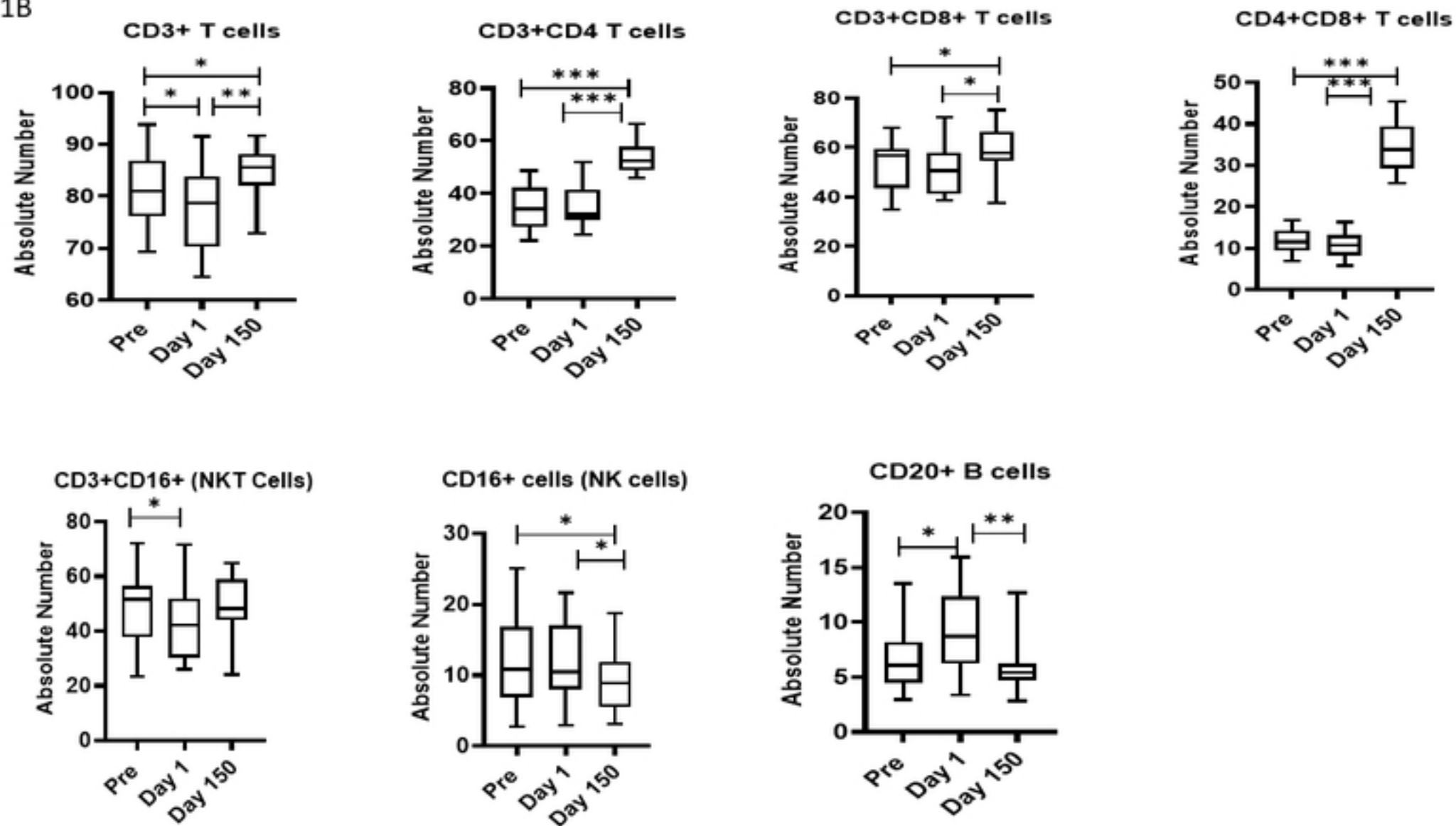


Fig 2A

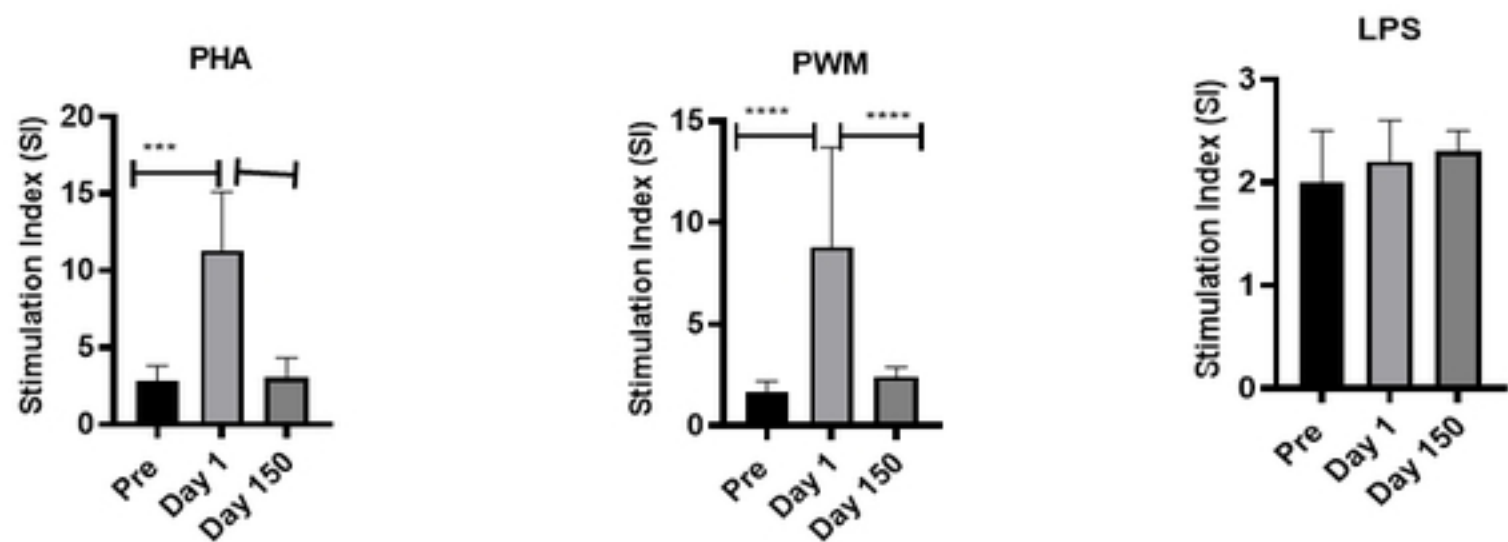


Fig 2B

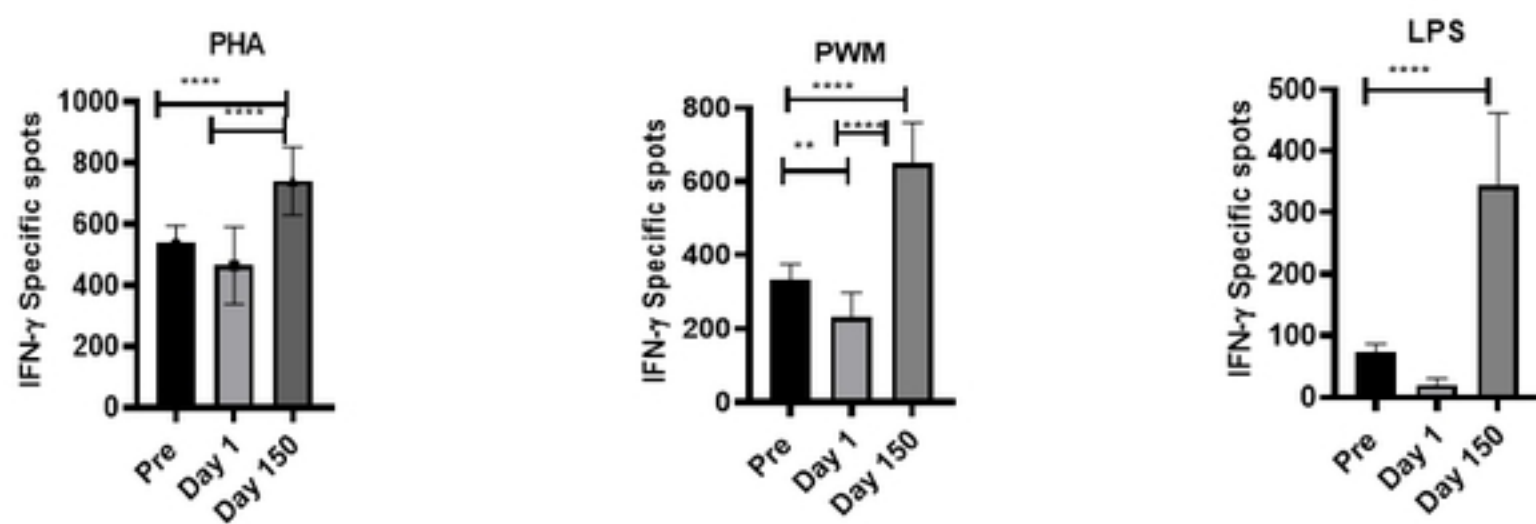


Fig 3A

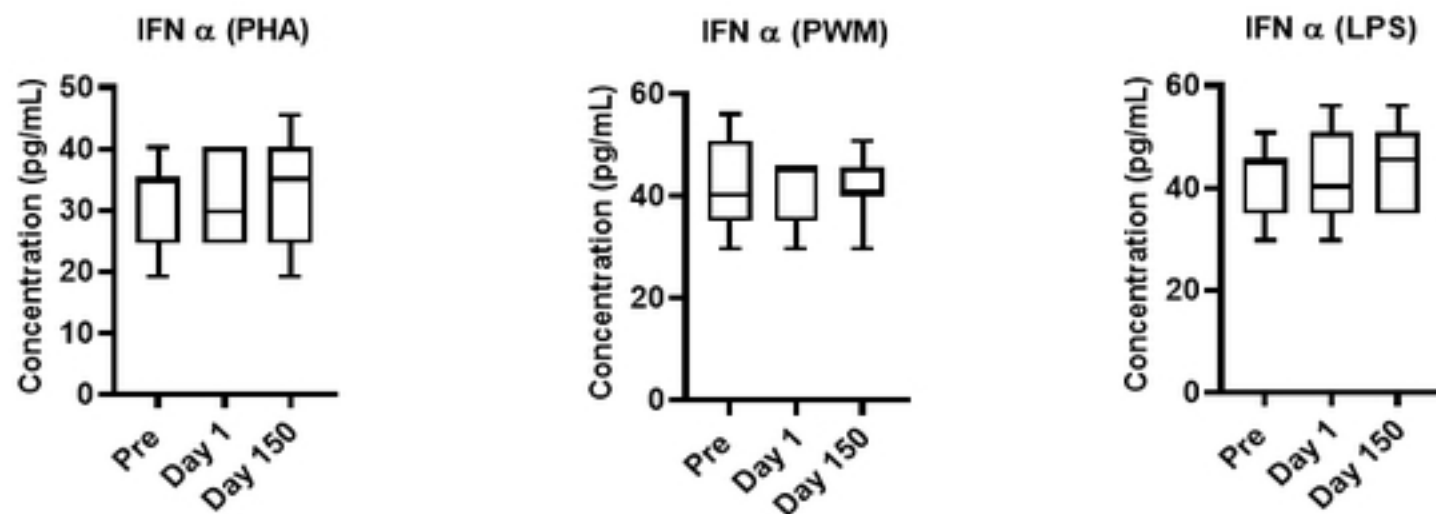


Fig 3B

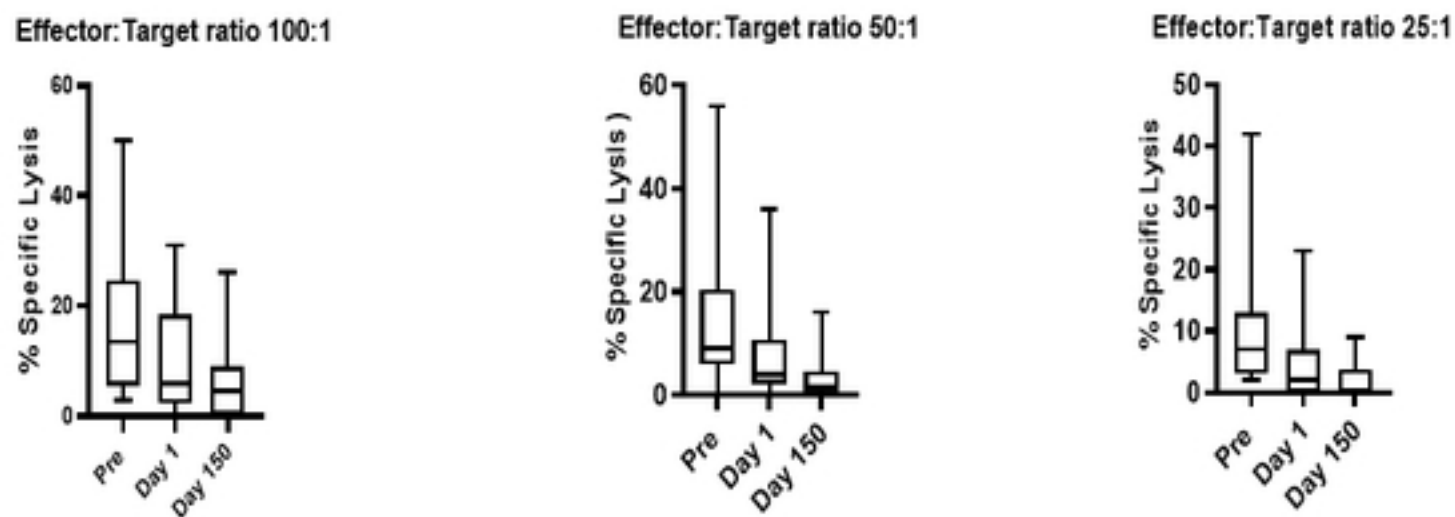


Fig 4A

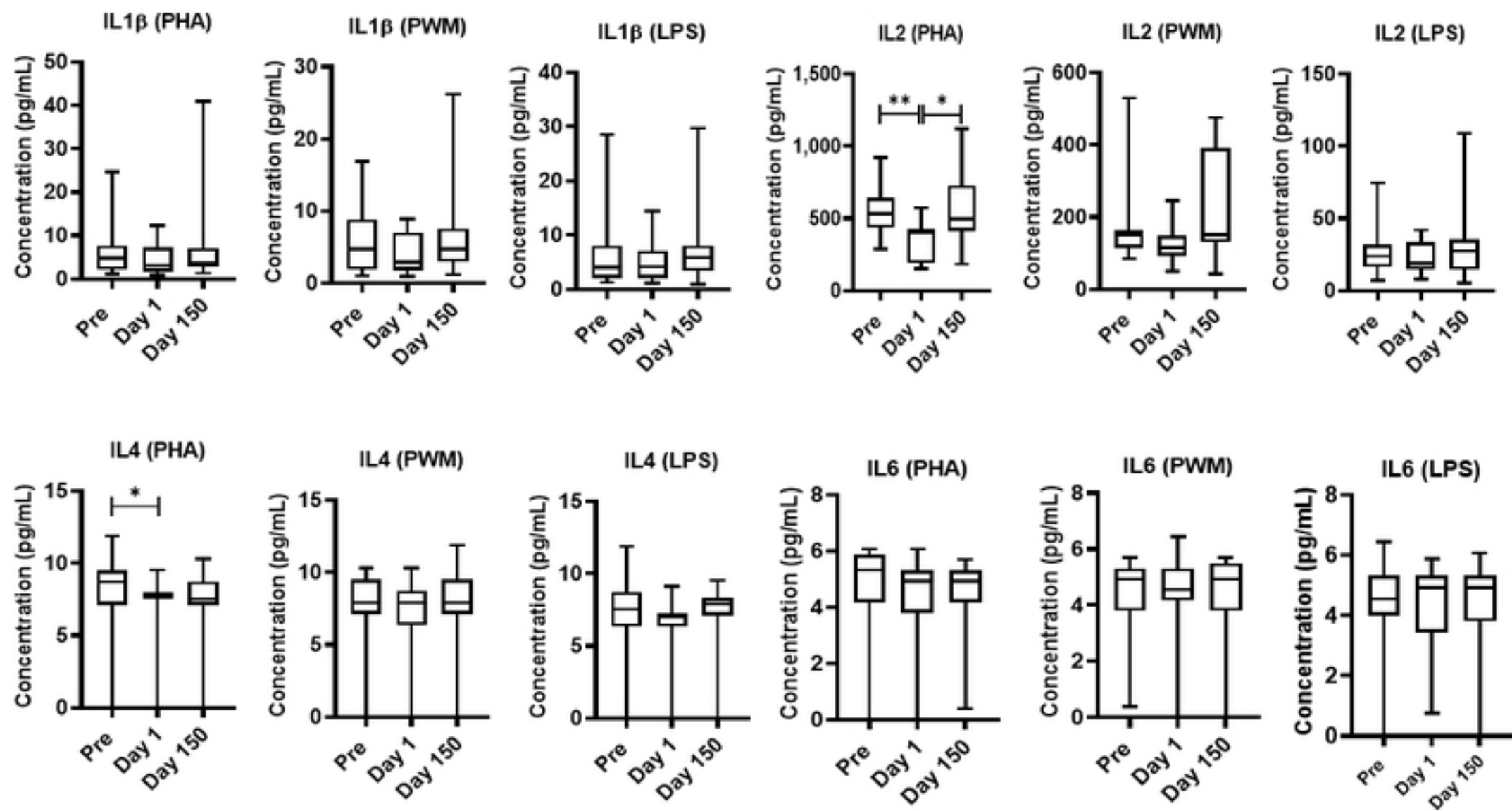


Fig 4B

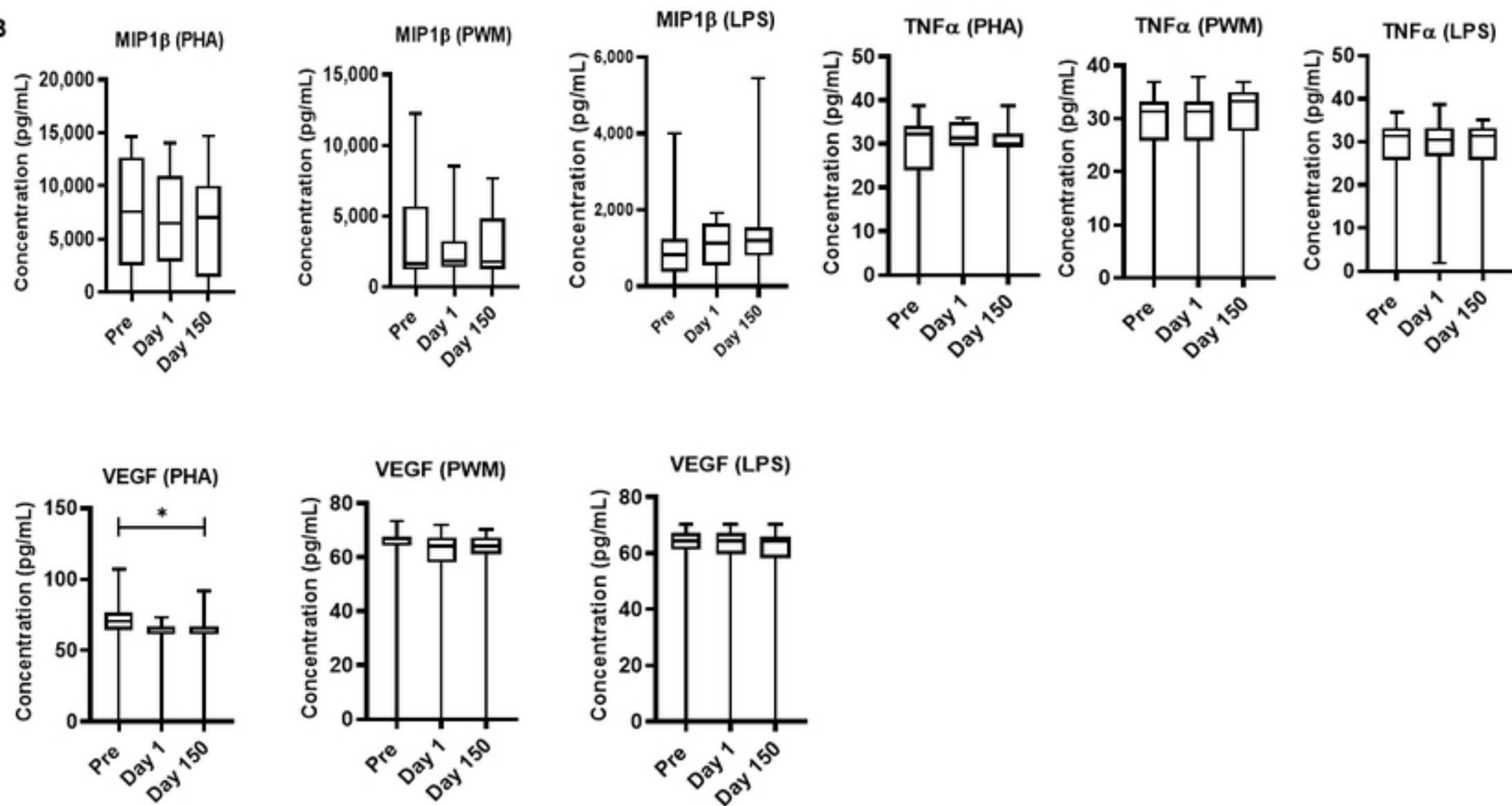


Fig 5A

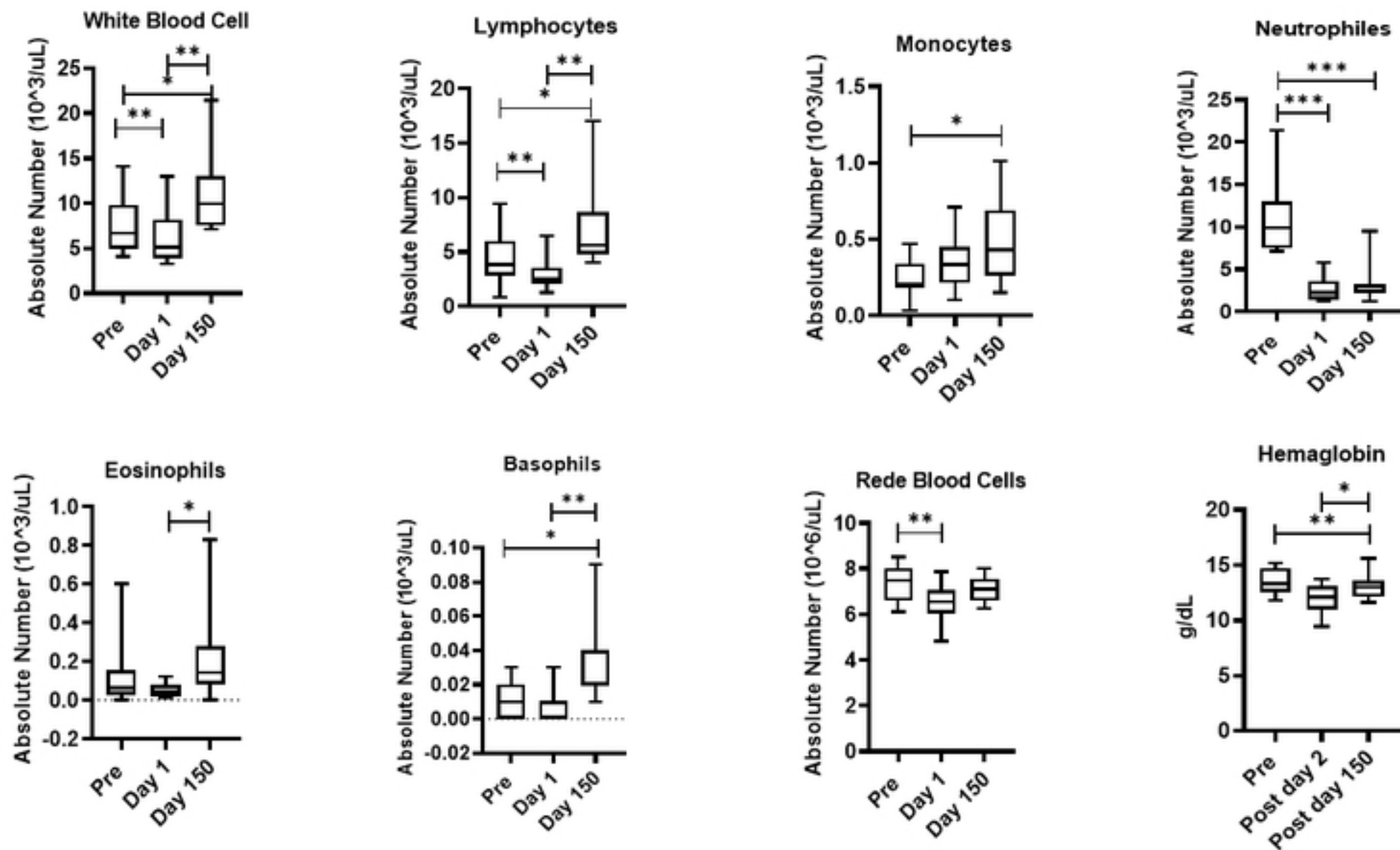


Fig 5B

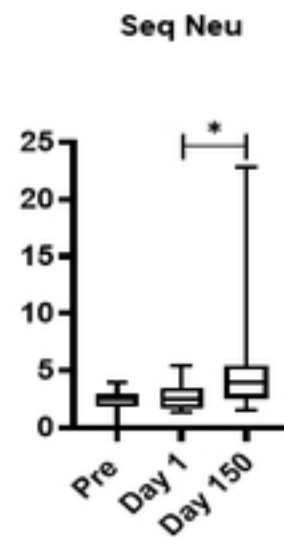
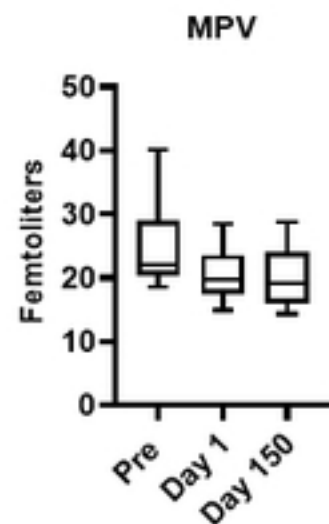
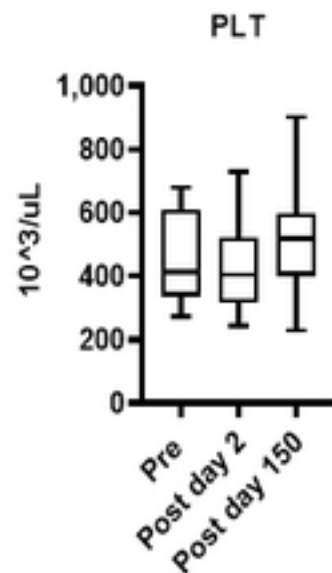
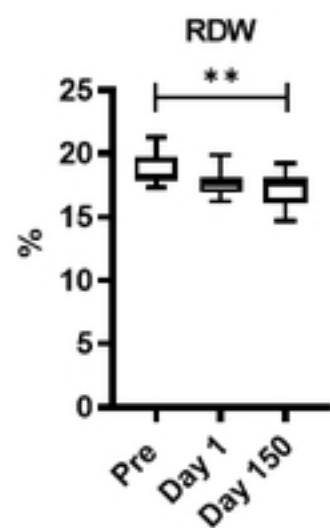
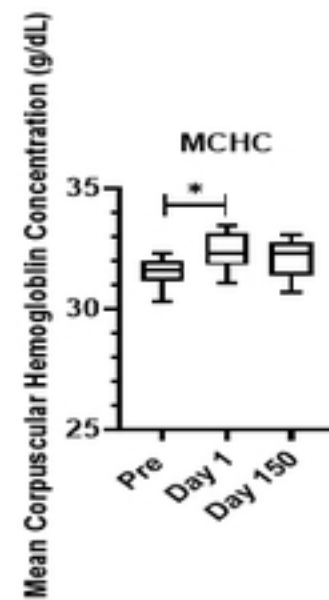
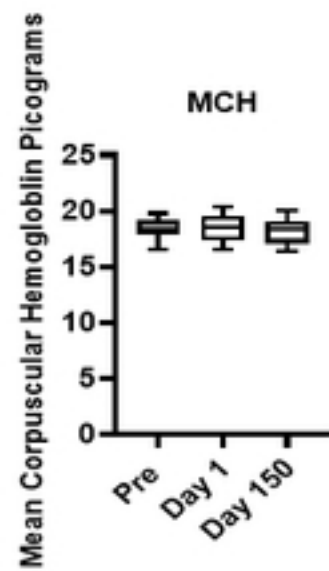
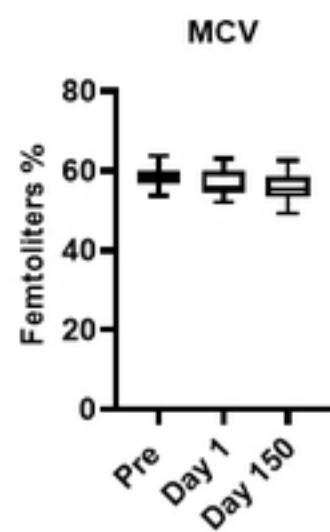
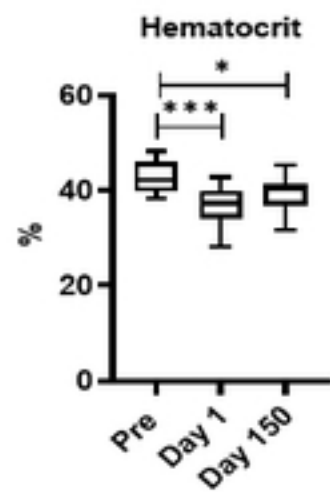


Fig 5C

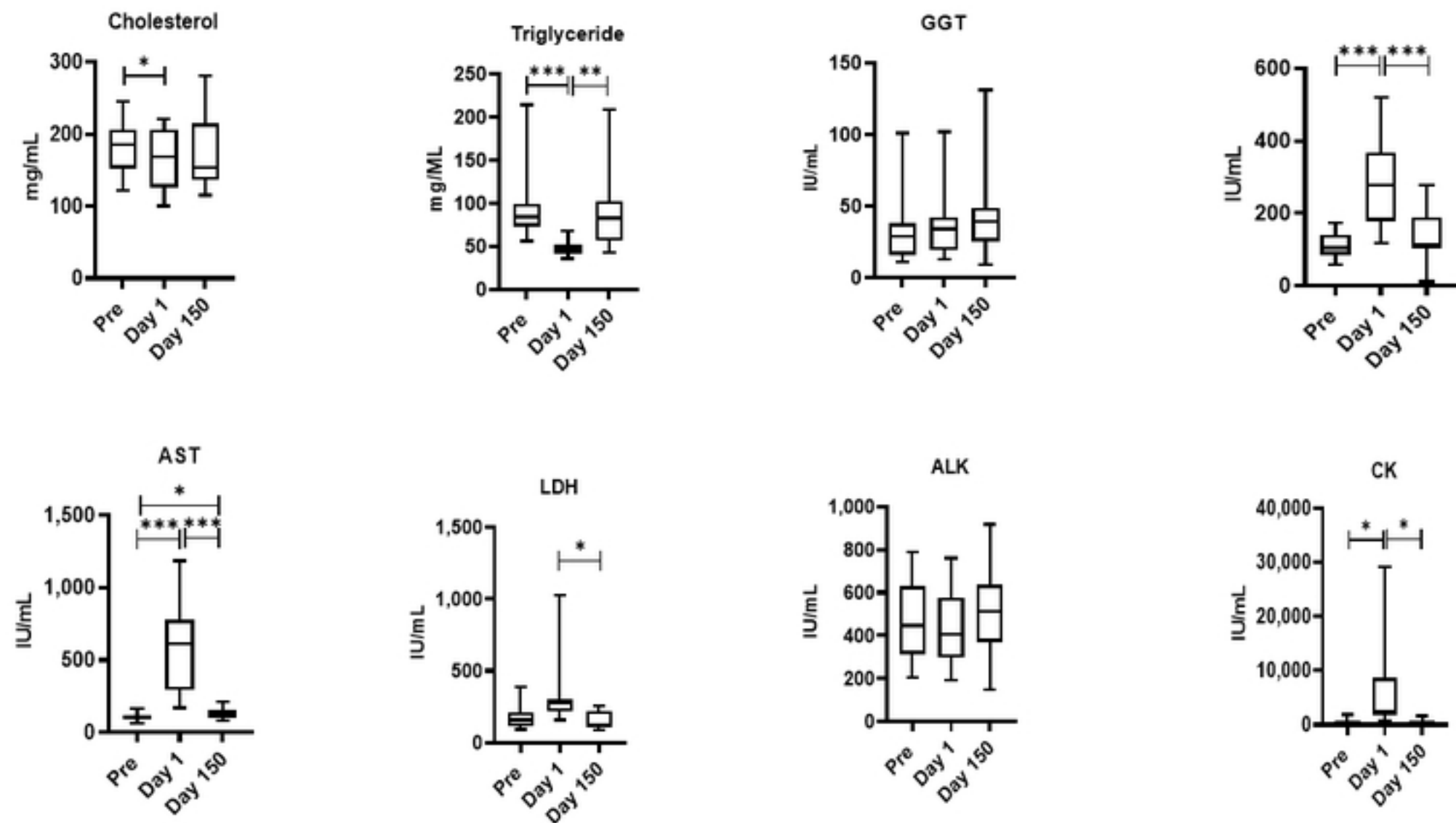


Fig 5D

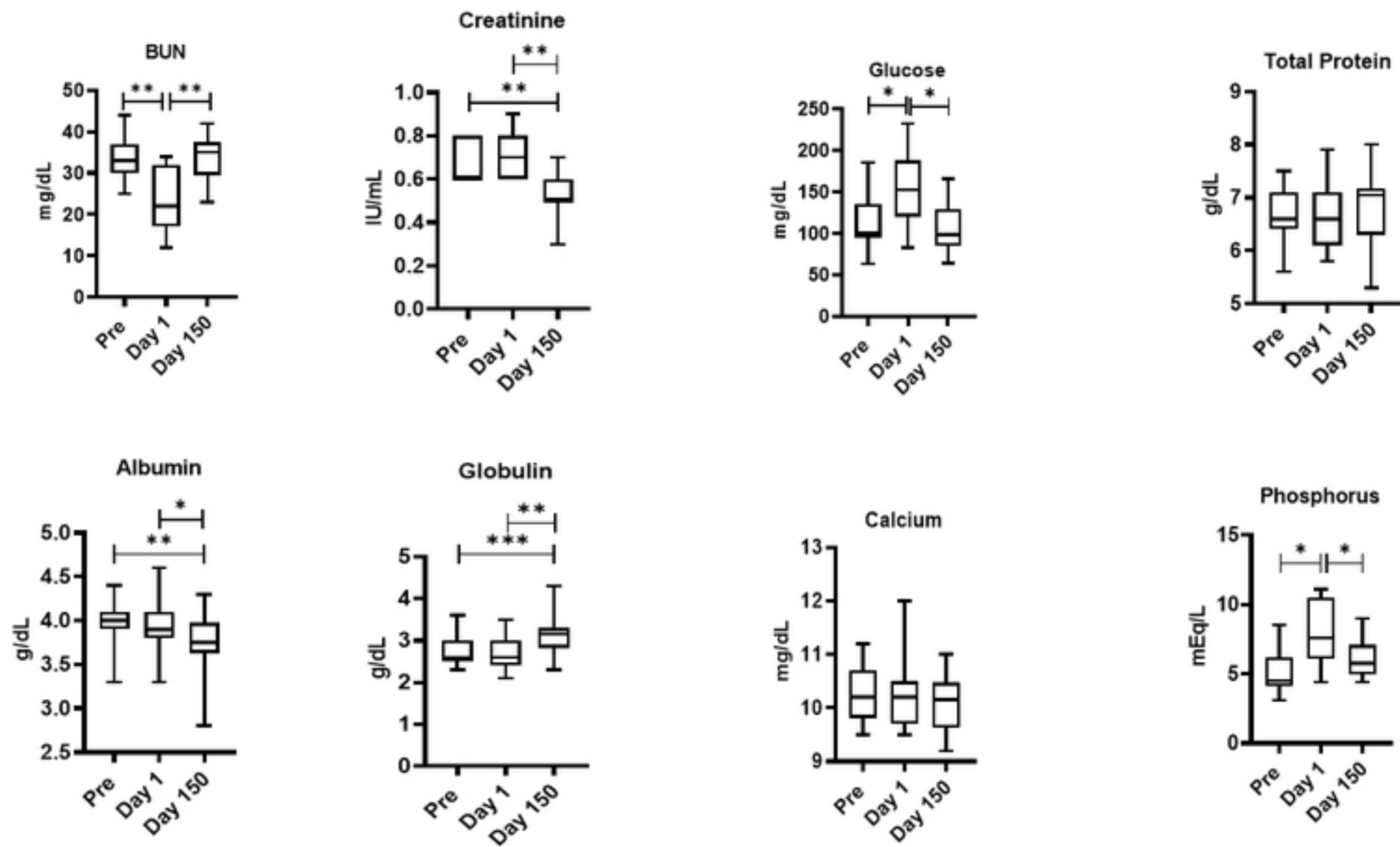


Fig 5E

