

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

SARS-CoV-2 infection of circulating immune cells is not responsible for virus dissemination in severe COVID-19 patients

Authors: Nicole L. Rosin^{1,+}, Arzina Jaffer¹, Sarthak Sinha¹, Rory P. Mulloy², Carolyn Robinson², Elodie Labit¹, Luiz G. Almeida^{3,4}, Antoine Dufour^{3,4}, Jennifer A. Corcoran², Bryan Yipp^{5,6,+}, Jeff Biernaskie^{1,7,8,+}

Affiliations:

¹ Department of Comparative Biology and Experimental Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary;

² Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases, University of Calgary

³ Department of Physiology & Pharmacology;

⁴ Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, University of Calgary

⁵ Calvin, Phoebe and Joan Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary

⁶ Department of Critical Care, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary

⁷ Hotchkiss Brain Institute, University of Calgary;

⁸ Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute, University of Calgary

+ Corresponding authors

Jeff Biernaskie – jeff.biernaskie@ucalgary.ca

Bryan Yipp – bgyipp@ucalgary.ca

Nicole Rosin – nicole.rosin@ucalgary.ca

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

1 **Summary**

2 In late 2019 a novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) emerged, and has since caused a global
3 pandemic. Understanding the pathogenesis of COVID-19 disease is necessary to inform
4 development of therapeutics, and management of infected patients. Using scRNAseq of blood
5 drawn from SARS-CoV-2 patients, we asked whether SARS-CoV-2 may exploit immune cells
6 as a ‘Trojan Horse’ to disseminate and access multiple organ systems. Our data suggests that
7 circulating cells are not actively infected with SARS-CoV-2, and do not appear to be a source of
8 viral dissemination.

9

10 **[Main Text]**

11 **Introduction**

12 Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), the disease caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
13 Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was first identified in late 2019, but by December 9, 2020 has
14 spread to 220 countries, with over 67 million confirmed cases and over 1.5 million confirmed
15 deaths ¹. Patients with COVID-19 present with a diverse range of symptoms from asymptomatic,
16 mild (cough, fatigue), moderate (non-mild pneumonia), severe (dyspnea, low oxygen saturation)
17 to critical (respiratory failure, septic shock and/or multiple organ dysfunction or failure) ^{2,3}. In
18 addition to this range of respiratory symptoms, there are emerging reports of thromboembolism ⁴,
19 neural defects (both central and peripheral, ie. anosmia and ageusia ^{5,6}), and Kawasaki-like
20 symptoms in children ⁷. Currently, the pathophysiology of COVID-19, and more specifically
21 how the immune response to SARS-CoV-2 contributes to clinical disease progression, remains
22 poorly understood.

23

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

24 Coronaviruses are enveloped, non-segmented, positive-sense RNA viruses that can infect both
25 humans and many other mammals ³. Of those that infect humans, some cause only mild
26 symptoms, such as hCoV-OC43 ⁸. This ‘common cold’ coronavirus shares only 56% genomic
27 sequence homology with SARS-CoV-2 (using BLAST search:
28 <https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>). However, other coronaviruses cause severe respiratory
29 diseases; Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) was discovered in 2003
30 and causes SARS, while Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) was
31 discovered in 2012 and causes MERS. SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV infection have 10% and
32 37% mortality rates respectively ^{9,10} and share 79% and 50% genomic sequence homology to
33 SARS-CoV-2, respectively ¹¹.

34

35 SARS-CoV-2 has been identified in the blood of infected patients ¹², as have SARS-CoV ^{13,14} and
36 MERS-CoV ^{15,16}. Conflicting reports exist regarding viremia (infectious virus in the circulation)
37 in COVID-19, ^{17,18} versus the presence of viral RNA in blood samples ³ and the clinical
38 significance of this nuance. Indeed, previous reports of viremia in COVID-19 patients include
39 those using bulk RNAseq ^{19,20}, which fail to convincingly show that individual cells of the
40 circulation contain SARS-CoV-2 genetic material.

41

42 A recent pre-print reported SARS-CoV-2 nucleoprotein in CD68+/CD169+ macrophages in the
43 lungs of severe COVID-19 patients ²¹, supporting a previous report of SARS-CoV-2 RNA
44 containing macrophages in the bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) ²². Furthermore, multiple
45 organ systems beyond the lung are also affected in severe COVID-19 disease ²³, and multiorgan
46 tropism has been reported ²⁴, which raises the possibility that visceral organ infection may be

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

47 contributing to disease severity, though a causal link has not yet been demonstrated. In light of
48 this, a review by *Abassi* and colleagues recently questioned whether SARS-CoV-2 dissemination
49 to distal organs is facilitated by infected macrophages re-entering the circulation ²⁵. Here, our
50 objective was to understand the potential for circulating immune cell infection as a mode of viral
51 dissemination to distal organs.

52

53 **Results**

54 *Viral Protein Circulates in Severe COVID-19 Patients*

55 Five patients with severe acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and PCR confirmed
56 SARS-CoV-2 infection (severe COVID-19 disease) were enrolled and had blood drawn within
57 72 h of admission to the ICU (Supplementary Table 1). We detected one or more viral proteins in
58 the plasma of each of the five patients (Table 1). NSP3 (encoded by the ORF1ab gene) was
59 detected in all samples, while NSP3, the spike protein S1 and RNA-directed RNA polymerase
60 were found in three of the plasma samples. One sample, from patient UC_5, contained 5 SARS-
61 CoV-2 specific proteins.

62

63 *SARS-CoV-2 Does Not Infect Circulating Immune Cells*

64 From whole blood, we isolated leukocytes and enriched for the lymphocyte population to ensure
65 that enough lymphocytes would be collected/assessed due to reported lymphocytopenia ²⁶. The
66 leukocytes and lymphocytes were mixed in equal ratios prior to conducting scRNAseq using the
67 10X Genomics Single Cell 3' NextGEM (v3.1) technology. The resulting sequences were
68 aligned with the human genome (GRCh38) appended with the SARS-CoV-2 genome. Two
69 versions of the SARS-CoV-2 reference genome were used to account for potential shifting in the

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

70 sequence over time and possibility of the predominant variant differing based on geographical
71 locations. MT412228 was isolated in Seattle, USA and MN908947.3 was isolated in Shenzhen,
72 China. Because our study was conducted in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, MT412228 is reported
73 here unless specified, as at the time of publication this reference genome was the closest
74 available geographically to Calgary. This method of SARS-CoV-2 RNA detection in the
75 peripheral blood cell samples was confirmed by aligning a control group of publicly available
76 bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (denoted by BALF_) sample sequences to the same custom
77 reference genome. These BALF samples were isolated from three healthy control patients, three
78 mild COVID-19 patients, and six patients with severe COVID-19 from Shenzhen, China ²⁷.

79

80 All UC_ and BALF_ samples were aggregated together using CellRanger, and processed using
81 the Seurat workflow ²⁸. Supplementary Table 2 outlines the number of cells aggregated from
82 each sample after quality control. The peripheral immune cells clustered together, but did not
83 overlap with the BALF samples, as expected. Distinct cell types were annotated based on
84 established cell type markers, with UC_ denoting cell types found only within the peripheral
85 immune cell samples (Figure 1).

86

87 We found that none of the five mixed leukocyte/lymphocyte samples (denoted by UC_)
88 contained any SARS-CoV-2 RNA (Figure 1, Supplementary Table 3). However, as discussed by
89 *Bost et al*, the BALF samples contained SARS-CoV-2 RNA, which was located primarily in
90 macrophages and epithelial cells ²². Using our custom genome as a reference, six of the nine
91 COVID-19 BALF samples (two mild and four severe) contain SARS-CoV-2 RNA (Figure 1,
92 Supplementary Table 3), again in concordance with the *Bost et al* study. The same samples were

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

93 positive when aligned to the control reference genome containing MN908947.3 (Figure 2). This
94 suggests that aligning to our custom SARS-CoV-2 reference genome is a robust method of
95 detecting SARS-CoV-2, and taken together supports that peripheral immune cells do not contain
96 SARS-CoV-2 RNA. Of note, we examined one additional SARS-CoV-2 positive patient who
97 presented with a thrombotic stroke, but no respiratory symptoms or ARDS (and subsequently
98 was not included in the aggregated data presented here), who also lacked any detectable SARS-
99 CoV-2 RNA in the isolated circulating immune cells. While anecdotal, given we studied only
100 one patient exhibiting clotting symptoms, it does suggest that this divergent clinical presentation
101 is also not due to direct infection of circulating platelets or other immune cells.

102

103 *Immune Cells in the Lung Contain SARS-CoV-2 RNA*

104 SARS-CoV-2 was detected in cell types harboring surface receptors that facilitate SARS-CoV-2
105 entry into human cells. Epithelial cells, macrophages and neutrophils were the three most
106 common cell types in which SARS-CoV-2 was detected (Figure 1, Supplementary Table 4).
107 Unsurprisingly, the spike protein cell surface processing protease transmembrane protease serine
108 2 (TMPRSS2) and surface receptor (for host cell entry) angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2
109)²⁹ were highly expressed in epithelial cells (Figure 1). Macrophages expressed neuropilin-1
110 (NRP1), which has also been reported as a means of host cell entry (Figure 1)^{30,31}. Neutrophils do
111 not express ACE2, TMPRSS2 or NRP1, suggesting that they phagocytosed viral particles or
112 their products without being actively infected, and raises the possibility that macrophages may
113 do the same.

114

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

115 It is also important to note that the BALF samples were isolated using 10X Genomics 5'
116 technology, whereas the peripheral immune cells presented here, were isolated using 10X
117 Genomics 3' technology. Identification of SARS-CoV-2 RNA should theoretically be captured
118 using either technology. However, to ensure that coronavirus RNA could be detected in the
119 peripheral cells, we also prepared a control sample of hCoV-OC43 (a 'common cold'
120 coronavirus)-infected primary Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells (HUVECs, Lonza) as a
121 control for 3' capture of viral RNA. OC43-infected HUVECs were processed identically to the
122 peripheral cells. We aligned the resulting sequences with a custom reference genome, again
123 based on GRCh38, with the hCoV-OC43 genome (NC_006213.1) appended, and were able to
124 reliably detect hCoV-OC43 RNA using our analysis pipeline (Figure 2), suggesting that the
125 inability to detect SARS-CoV-2 in the circulating immune cells was not due to the 3' sequencing
126 approach.

127

128 **Discussion**

129 We identified viral protein in the plasma of all five of the patients in this study, which raises the
130 question of whether the viral load is correlated with the patient's clinical outcome. As
131 mentioned, we detected five viral proteins in the plasma from patient UC_5, more than in the
132 other four patients. Patient UC_5 was the only participant enrolled in our study that died while in
133 the ICU. This recapitulates a recently published association between viral RNA load and
134 COVID-19 severity and mortality, in which approximately a third of plasma samples contained
135 detectable SARS-CoV-2 RNA³². While our sample size is limited, the fact that we identified
136 viral proteins in the plasma from all five participants suggests that either, our participants had

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

137 more severe disease and/or the LC-MS/MS method used here may be a more sensitive detection
138 method for SARS-CoV-2 in plasma. In either case, this warrants further investigation.

139

140 Our study was not designed to determine if there is a causal link between viral tropism and
141 disease severity or symptoms in distal organs, and there is still no direct evidence of such in
142 literature. Causality of a direct viral effect in distal organs is difficult to parse out, partly due to
143 the systemic effects of the immune response to severe lung infection. However, this remains an
144 important concern that could directly affect treatment options for patients with severe COVID-
145 19.

146

147 While immune cells in the lung are likely infected based on previous reports, our data suggests
148 that the circulation of free virus, but not SARS-CoV-2 infected circulating immune cells, is the
149 primary route of viral dissemination to visceral organs.

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

150 **Methods**

151

152 *Enrolment and consent/REB approval*

153 Peripheral blood samples were obtained from consenting ICU patients, recovered COVID-19,
154 and healthy donors in Calgary, Canada. All experiments involving or human samples received
155 approval from the Conjoint Health Ethics Review Board at the University of Calgary.

156

157 *Lymphocyte preparation*

158 Whole blood (2mL) was collected into 5mL polystyrene round-bottom tubes. Tubes were spun
159 (15min, 3000rpm, Room Temperature [RT]), plasma removed, and stored at -80°C for plasma
160 proteomic analysis. 100µL of Isolation Cocktail and 100µL of Rapid Spheres (Easy Sep™ Direct
161 Human Total Lymphocytes Isolation Kit: 19655, StemCell Technologies) were added to the
162 remaining whole blood. After mixing and 5min incubation at RT, the sample volumes of ≤
163 2.5mL blood were topped up to 5mL with D-PBS+2%FBS + 1mM EDTA. The diluted sample
164 was incubated in the magnet without lid for 5min, at RT. This last step was repeated twice before
165 cell resuspension in 5mL of PBS+0.04% BSA. After 2 washes in PBS+0.04% BSA, and
166 centrifugation for 5 min at 2000rpm, 7500 lymphocytes were resuspended in 25µL of
167 PBS+0.04% BSA.

168

169 *Leukocyte preparation*

170 Whole blood was collected in heparin containing vacuutubes and 12µL of 0.5M EDTA with
171 1mL of PBS+2% FBS and 50µL of RBC of EasySep RBC Depletion spheres (EasySep™ RBC
172 Depletion Reagent: 18170, Stem Cell Technologies) were added. After 5 min of magnet

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

173 incubation, at RT, tubes were inverted and poured into a new tube. 50 μ L of RBC depletion
174 spheres were added. 5 min after incubation on the magnet, the tube was inverted and cell
175 suspension was poured into a new 15mL tube. After 2 washes in 5mL of PBS+0.04% BSA and
176 centrifugation at 2000rpm for 5 min at 20°C, cells were resuspended in 25 μ L of PBS+0.04%
177 BSA.

178

179 A mixture of 7500 total leukocytes and 7500 lymphocytes were loaded for each patient into the
180 10X chip for scRNAseq.

181

182

183 *hCoV-OC43 preparation and HUVEC transduction*

184 Stocks of hCoV-OC43 (ATCC) were propagated in Vero E6 cells (ATCC). To produce viral
185 stocks, Vero E6 cells were infected at an MOI of 0.01 for 1h in serum-free DMEM (Thermo
186 Fisher) at 33°C in a humidified incubator with 5% CO₂. Following infection, the viral inoculum
187 was removed and replaced with DMEM supplemented with 2% heat-inactivated FBS (Thermo
188 Fisher) and 100 units/mL penicillin/streptomycin/glutamine (Thermo Fisher). After 6 days, the
189 supernatant was harvested and centrifuged at 2000 RPM for 5 mins to isolate cell-free virus.
190 Virus stocks were stored at -80°C. Viral titres were enumerated using Reed and Muench tissue-
191 culture infectious dose 50% (TCID₅₀) in Vero E6 cells³³.

192

193 Pooled human umbilical cord vein endothelial cells (HUVECs, Lonza, Basal, Switzerland) were
194 cultured using endothelial growth media (EGM-2; Lonza). To passage cells, cell culture plates
195 were pre-coated with 0.1% (w/v) porcine gelatine (Sigma, St. Louis, Missouri, US) in 1X PBS

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

196 for 30 min at 37°C in a humidified incubator with 5% CO₂. For infection, HUVECs were seeded
197 into a pre-coated plate to achieve ~80% confluency after 24 hours. The following day, the
198 growth media was removed and replaced with 100mL of hCoV-OC43 inoculum and incubated at
199 37°C for one hour, shaking the plate every 10 minutes to distribute viral inoculum. Following
200 incubation, the virus inoculum was removed and replaced with fresh EGM-2 for 12 or 24 hours
201 before cells were prepared for scRNAseq.

202

203 *Reference genome construction, alignment and aggregation*

204 Raw sequencing reads (BCL files) were converted to FASTQs using the CellRanger mkfastq
205 pipeline (version 3.0.1). Transcript alignment was performed against a modified human reference
206 transcriptome generated using CellRanger's mkref pipeline by appending either MT412228
207 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/MT412228>) or MN908947.3
208 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nuccore/MN908947>) sequence to a pre-built GRCh38-3.0.0
209 reference. SARS-CoV-2 GTF files were generated with the feature type marked as "exon" which
210 were concatenated with GRCh38-3.0.0 GTF annotation files. Likewise, the SARS-CoV-2
211 FASTAs containing raw sequences were concatenated with the genome.fa file in GRCh38-3.0.0
212 reference. FASTA and GTF outputs following concatenation were provided as inputs to "fasta"
213 and "genes" arguments for cellranger mkref. Note that this approach did not generate a conjoined
214 genome containing both human and SARS-CoV-2 sequences as separate genomes. Instead this
215 approach added a new pseudogene called "SARS-CoV-2" to the human genome, as SARS-CoV-
216 2 is expected to generate transcripts in infected human cells. Reads from individual libraries
217 were processed using Cellranger count and were then concatenated into a single feature-barcode
218 matrix using Cellranger aggr, with "mapped" normalization mode to subsample reads from

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

219 higher-depth GEMs to ensure each library received equivalent read count (Supplementary Table
220 2).

221

222 *Publicly available control samples and re-alignment*

223 Raw single-cell BALF samples isolated in Shenzhen, China, as described in *Liao, Liu, Yuan, et*
224 *al.* and accessioned under SRP250732 were downloaded using the SRA-Toolkit's prefetch
225 function ²⁷. The following samples were downloaded: SRR11181959 (severe COVID),
226 SRR11181956 (severe COVID), SRR11181958 (severe COVID), SRR11537947 (healthy
227 control), SRR11181954 (mild COVID), SRR11181955 (mild COVID), SRR11537946 (healthy
228 control), SRR11181957 (mild COVID), SRR11537948 (healthy control), SRR11537949 (severe
229 COVID), SRR11537951 (severe COVID), and SRR11537950 (severe COVID). SRA files were
230 converted to FASTQs using the fastq-dump --split-files function in SRA Toolkit 2.10.5. FASTQs
231 were aligned and aggregated with peripheral blood scRNA-Seq samples by mapping to our
232 custom (SARS-CoV-2-appended to GRCh38-3.0.0) assembly, as described above.

233

234 *Dimensionality reduction, clustering and gene expression*

235 Output aggregated, filtered feature matrix files were imported into a SeuratObject using Seurat
236 V3.1.5 and R Version 3.6.1, using default parameters ^{28,34}. Data was subsetted on
237 'nCount_RNA', 'nFeature_RNA', and 'percent.mt' values of 30,000, 5,000 and 10%
238 respectively. Normalization and scaling were done using default parameters followed by
239 principle component analysis (PCA). The first 20 PCA were used for UMAP multi-dimensional
240 reduction, based on the limited standard deviation in any further PCA. Graph based clustering
241 with resolution of 1.0 was first used to identify clusters that also differentiated amongst sample

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

242 types, before being annotated by grouping related clusters. Gene expression for ACE2,
243 TMPRSS2, NRP1, and SARS-CoV-2 were assessed across samples as called by the Seurat
244 function `AverageExpression()`. Comparison across samples and clusters was illustrated using
245 `VlnPlot()` and `DimPlot()` functions.

246

247 *Shotgun proteomics of COVID-19 patient samples*

248 The plasma of severe COVID-19 patients (N = 5) shown in Table 1 were collected and subjected
249 to quantitative proteomics. Samples were lysed in 1% SDS, 100mM ammonium bicarbonate,
250 1mM EDTA, and 1X protease inhibitors. Samples were sonicated on ice, centrifuged at 10,000g
251 and stored at -80°C until TMT-6plex™ Isobaric Labeling. Protein concentrations were
252 determined by a NanoDrop 2000 spectrophotometer at 280nm. 200µg of protein was mixed with
253 lysis buffer (1% SDS, 100mM ammonium bicarbonate, 1mM EDTA, and 1X protease inhibitors)
254 to a final volume of 100µL. Samples were subjected to a quantitative proteomics workflow as
255 per supplier (Thermo Fisher) recommendations. Samples were reduced in 200mM tris(2-
256 carboxyethyl)phosphine (TCEP), for 1h at 55°C, reduced cysteines were alkylated by incubation
257 with iodoacetamide solution (50mM) for 20min at room temperature. Samples were precipitated
258 by acetone/methanol, and 600µL ice-cold acetone was added followed by incubation at -20°C
259 overnight. A protein pellet was obtained by centrifugation (8,000g, 10min, 4°C) followed by
260 acetone drying (2min). Precipitated pellet was resuspended in 100 µL of 50mM
261 triethylammonium bicarbonate (TEAB) buffer followed by trypsin digestion (5µg trypsin per
262 100µg of protein) overnight at 37°C. TMT-6plex™ Isobaric Labeling Reagents (90061, Thermo
263 Fisher) were resuspended in anhydrous acetonitrile and added to each sample (41µL TMT-
264 6plex™ per 100µL sample) and incubated at room temperature for 1h. The TMT labeling

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

265 reaction was quenched by 2.5% hydroxylamine for 15min at room temperature. TMT labeled
266 samples were combined and acidified in 100% trifluoroacetic acid to pH < 3.0 and subjected to
267 C18 chromatography (Sep-Pak) according to manufacturer recommendations. Samples were
268 stored at -80°C before lyophilization, followed by resuspension in 1% formic acid before liquid
269 chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry analysis.

270

271 *Liquid Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)*

272 Tryptic peptides were analyzed on an Orbitrap Fusion Lumos Tribrid mass spectrometer
273 (Thermo Scientific) operated with Xcalibur (version 4.0.21.10) and coupled to a Thermo
274 Scientific Easy-nLC (nanoflow liquid chromatography) 1200 System. Tryptic peptides (2µg)
275 were loaded onto a C18 trap (75µm x 2cm; Acclaim PepMap 100, P/N 164946; ThermoFisher)
276 at a flow rate of 2µL/min of solvent A (0.1% formic acid in LC-MS grade H₂O). Peptides were
277 eluted using a 120min gradient from 5 to 40% (5% to 28% in 105min followed by an increase to
278 40% B in 15min) of solvent B (0.1% formic acid in 80% LC-MS grade acetonitrile) at a flow
279 rate of 0.3µL/min and separated on a C18 analytical column (75µm x 50cm; PepMap RSLC
280 C18; P/N ES803A; ThermoScientific). Peptides were then electrosprayed using 2.1kV voltage
281 into the ion transfer tube (300°C) of the Orbitrap Lumos operating in positive mode. The
282 Orbitrap first performed a full MS scan at a resolution of 120,000 FWHM to detect the precursor
283 ion having a m/z between 375 and 1,575 and a +2 to +4 charge. The Orbitrap AGC (Auto Gain
284 Control) and the maximum injection time were set at 4×10^5 and 50ms, respectively. The
285 Orbitrap was operated using the top speed mode with a 3 second cycle time for precursor
286 selection. The most intense precursor ions presenting a peptidic isotopic profile and having an
287 intensity threshold of at least 2×10^4 were isolated using the quadrupole (Isolation window (m/z)

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

288 of 0.7) and fragmented using HCD (38% collision energy) in the ion routing multipole. The
289 fragment ions (MS2) were analyzed in the Orbitrap at a resolution of 15,000. The AGC and the
290 maximum injection time were set at 1×10^5 and 105ms, respectively. The first mass for the MS2
291 was set at 100 to acquire the TMT reporter ions. Dynamic exclusion was enabled for 45 seconds
292 to avoid of the acquisition of same precursor ion having a similar m/z (plus or minus 10ppm).

293

294 *Data and code availability*

295 The analysis scripts and reference genomes can be accessed at

296 <https://github.com/BiernaskieLab/scRNA-seq-SARS-CoV2-Viremia>. All scRNAseq datasets generated
297 in this study have been deposited in GEO under the following accession numbers.

298

299 To review GEO accession GSE151969 (Defining the global peripheral blood leukocyte response
300 in severe COVID-19 patients admitted to the ICU with lung failure using single cell
301 transcriptomics, 10 samples):

302 Go to <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE151969>

303 To be released, please contact the authors to request early access.

304

305 To review GEO accession GSE156639 (HUVEC response to SARS-CoV-2 and OC43 gene
306 expression, 3 samples):

307 Go to <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE156639>

308 To be released, please contact the authors to request early access.

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

Supplementary Materials

Table S1. Patient demographics

Table S2. Single cell RNAseq sample data

Table S3. Average gene expression per cell for each sample

Table S4. SARS-CoV-2 positivity across cell types

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

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COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

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COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

Author Contributions

NR – conceived of the study, processed samples for 10X genomics, analysed scRNAseq, wrote the manuscript

AJ – pre-processed all scRNAseq data

CR, RPM, JAC – provided hCov-OC43, and conducted HUVEC transductions, and provided critical virology expertise

EL – processed samples for 10X genomics

SS – constructed all custom reference genomes

LGA, AD – conducted proteomics and analysis

BY – enrolled patients, collected samples, cowrote the manuscript

JB – supervised experiments, cowrote the manuscript

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

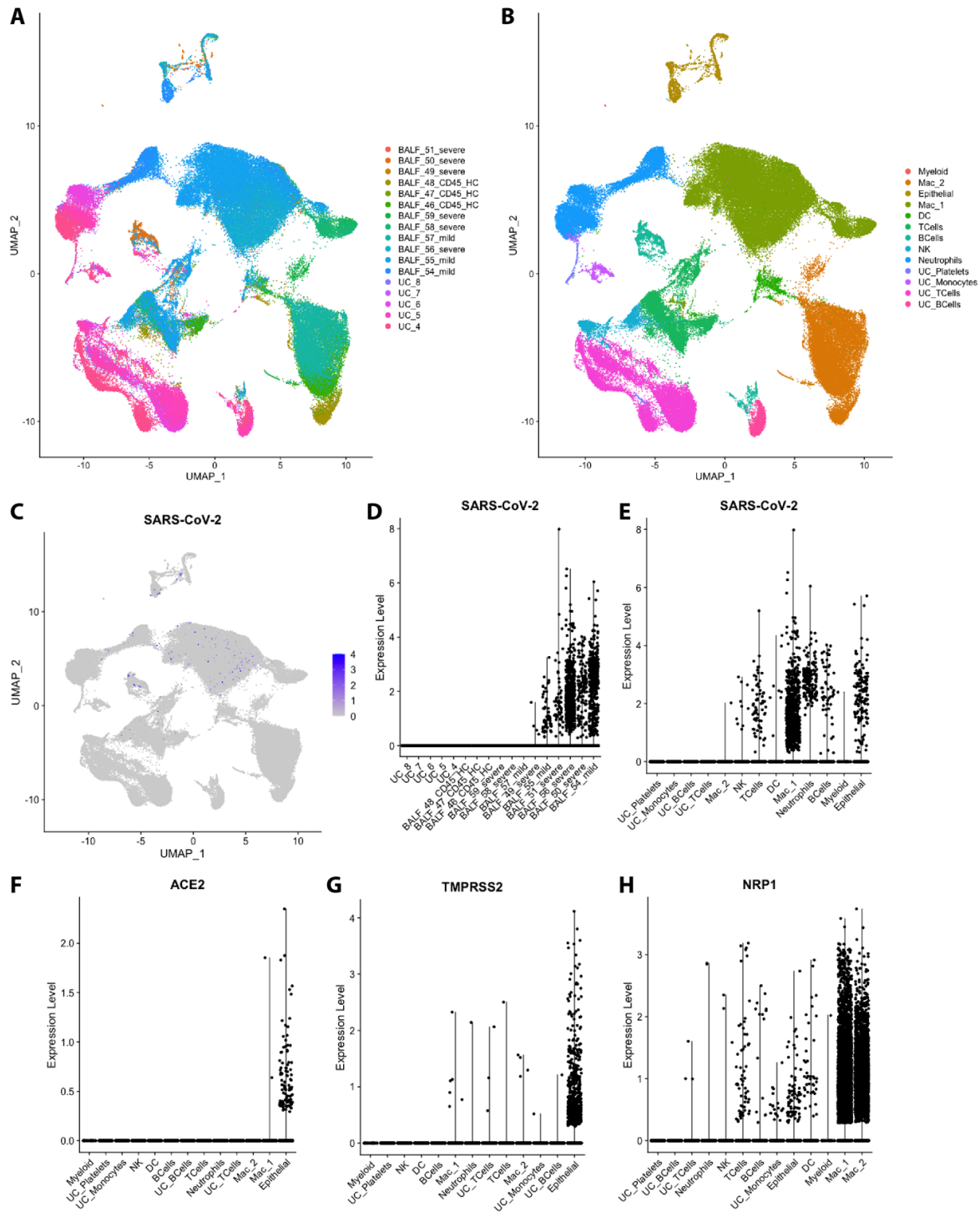


Figure 1. SARS-CoV-2 RNA (MT412228) is detected in BALF but not circulating immune cells.

A) UMAP of all sample sequences coloured by sample ID (BALF or UC denoting origin of sample)

B) UMAP of all sample sequences coloured by sample type

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

C) UMAP illustrating the detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA

D and E) Violin plots illustrating detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA according to sample ID and cell type

F, G and H) Violin plots denoting expression of ACE2, TMPRSS2 and NRP1 expression according to cell type

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

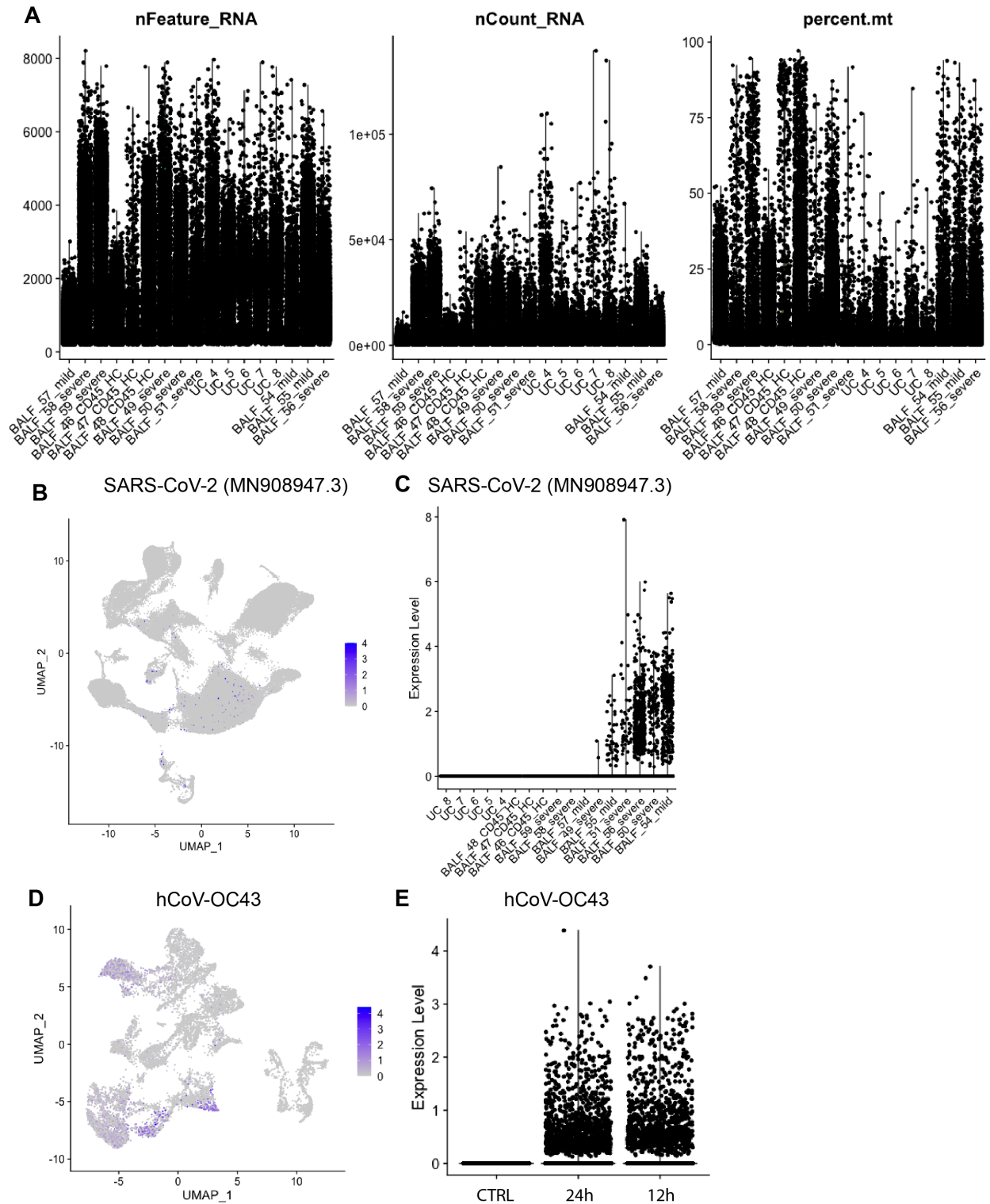


Figure 2. Quality control metrics, SARS-CoV-2 (MN908947.3) and hCoV-OC43 detection.
A) Quality Control Metrics for all samples aligned to MT412228, including nFeature (number of genes), nCount (number of UMI), percent.mt (percent of mitochondrial RNA).

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

All of the samples were aligned to a custom reference genome consisting of GRCh38-3.0.0 with MN908947.3 appended B) UMAP illustrating the detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA (aligned to MN908947.3), and C) Violin plot illustrating detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA (aligned to MN908947.3) according to sample ID.

A second dataset was generated from HUVECs infected with hCoV-OC43 at a titre of 3.5×10^4 TCID₅₀/mL for either 12h or 24h. D) UMAP illustrating the detection of hCoV-OC43 RNA in aggregated samples, and E) Violin plot illustrating detection of hCoV-OC43 RNA according to length of infection.

COVID-19 viral RNA in circulation cells

Table 1. Proteomics of SARS-CoV-2 in patient plasma

Sequence	SARS-CoV-2 Protein	Reporter Ion Intensity				
		UC_4	UC_5	UC_6	UC_7	UC_8
EFVFKNIDGYFK	Spike protein S1	0	20977	12262	21872	0
SYELQTPFEIKLAK	non-structural protein 2	0	34243	0	0	0
AFKQIVESCENFK	non-structural protein 2	0	5898.9	0	0	0
VTFGDDTVIEVQGYK	non-structural protein 2	0	15652	0	0	0
NLYDKLVSSFLEMK	non-structural protein 3	23313	56518	44610	73525	18845
GFFKEGSSVELK	RNA-directed RNA polymerase	0	8380.8	0	0	0
SVLYYQNNVFMSEAK	RNA-directed RNA polymerase	0	26229	21261	19505	0
NVATLQAENVTLGLFK	proofreading exoribonuclease	0	16095	0	0	0
PPPGDQFKHLIPLMYK	proofreading exoribonuclease	0	13779	0	0	0