

1 **Lung epithelial signaling mediates early vaccine-induced CD4⁺ T cell activation and *Mtb***
2 **control**

3 Shibali Das^{1#}, Nancy D. Marin^{1#}, Ekaterina Esaulova², Mushtaq Ahmed¹, Amanda Swain², Bruce
4 A. Rosa³, Makedonka Mitreva^{3,4}, Javier Rangel-Moreno⁵, Mihai G Netea^{6,7}, Luis B. Barreiro⁸,
5 Maziar Divangahi⁹, Maxim N. Artyomov², Deepak Kaushal¹⁰, and Shabaana A. Khader^{1*}

6 ¹Department of Molecular Microbiology, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, USA

7 ²Department of Pathology and Immunology, Washington University in St. Louis, St Louis, MO,
8 USA

9 ³Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Washington University in St. Louis,
10 St. Louis, MO, USA

11 ⁴McDonnell Genome Institute, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, USA

12 ⁵Department of Medicine, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, University of
13 Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY, USA

14 ⁶Department of Internal Medicine, Radboudumc Center for Infectious Diseases, Nijmegen,
15 Netherlands.

16 ⁷Department of Immunology and Metabolism, Life and Medical Sciences Institute, University of
17 Bonn, Bonn, Germany.

18 ⁸Department of Medicine, Genetic Section and, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA

19 ⁹Meakins-Christie Laboratories, Department of Medicine, Department of Microbiology and
20 Immunology, Department of Pathology, McGill University Health Centre and McGill International
21 TB Centre, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada.

22 ¹⁰Southwest National Primate Research Center, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, San
23 Antonio, TX, USA

24 [#]Co-first authors.

25 *For Correspondence:

26 Shabaana A. Khader

27 Department of Molecular Microbiology,

28 Washington University in St. Louis,

29 St. Louis, MO, USA

30 Email: sakhader@wustl.edu

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33 **Running Title: Epithelial signaling mediates vaccine *Mtb* control**

34

35 **Abstract**

36 Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the leading causes of death due to a single infectious agent. The
37 development of a TB vaccine that induces durable and effective immunity to *Mycobacterium*
38 *tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) infection is urgently needed. Early and superior *Mtb* control can be induced in
39 *M. bovis* Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccinated hosts when the innate immune response
40 is targeted to generate effective vaccine-induced immunity. In the present study, we show that
41 innate activation of DCs is critical for mucosal localization of clonally activated vaccine-induced
42 CD4⁺ T cells in the lung, and superior early *Mtb* control. In addition, our study reveals that
43 Th1/Th17 cytokine axis play an important role in superior vaccine induced immunity. Our studies
44 also show that activation of nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells
45 (NFκβ) pathway in lung epithelial cells is critical for the mucosal localization of activated
46 vaccine-induced CD4⁺ T cells for rapid *Mtb* control. Thus, our study provides novel insights into
47 the immune mechanisms that can overcome TB vaccine bottlenecks and provide early rapid
48 *Mtb* control.

49 **Importance:** Tuberculosis is a leading cause of death due to single infectious agent accounting
50 1.4 million deaths each year. The only licensed vaccine BCG is not effective due to variable
51 efficacy. In our study, we determined the early immune events necessary for achieving
52 complete protection in BCG vaccinated host. Our study reveals that innate activation of DCs can
53 mediate superior and early *Mtb* control in BCG vaccinated host through lung epithelial cell
54 signaling and localization of clonal activated, *Mtb* antigen specific, cytokine producing CD4⁺ T
55 cells within the lung parenchyma and airways. Thus, our study provides novel insights into the
56 immune mechanisms that can overcome TB vaccine bottlenecks and provide early
57 rapid *Mtb* control.

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61 **Introduction**

62 *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) is a leading cause of death worldwide by a single infectious
63 agent and it infects approximately one fourth of the world's population (1). Currently, *M. bovis*
64 Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) is the only licensed vaccine against tuberculosis (TB).
65 However, the variable efficacy of BCG, along with the emergence of drug resistant *Mtb* strains
66 and comorbidity associated with Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection, has further
67 confounded the eradication of TB as a public health problem. Recently, the M72/AS01E vaccine
68 has been reported to provide about 50% efficacy in *Mtb*-infected adults against pulmonary TB
69 disease (2). Additionally, use of BCG vaccination either mucosally or intravenously (IV) in
70 rhesus macaques substantially limited *Mtb* infection (3-5). However, despite these break-
71 through findings in the TB vaccine field, we do not fully understand the mechanistic basis behind
72 the early immune events within the lungs that mediates protection in vaccinated hosts.

73 T cells are required to control *Mtb* in vivo as mice lacking CD4⁺ T cells are unable to control *Mtb*
74 infection (6). *Mtb* infection is known to delay initiation of the adaptive T cell immune response
75 resulting in early uncontrolled *Mtb* growth (7-9). Moreover, during *Mtb* infection, the
76 colocalization of immune cells, including CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages within the lung
77 parenchyma rather than in the lung vasculature is critical for early *Mtb* control (10, 11).
78 However, the exact mechanisms that mediate the recruitment of CD4⁺ T cells in vaccinated
79 hosts to mediate *Mtb* control is unclear. In the current study, using a mouse model of early
80 superior *Mtb* control in BCG vaccinated hosts, we have delineated the early protective
81 mechanisms that mediate vaccine-induced *Mtb* control. We demonstrate that the localization of
82 clonally expanded *Mtb*-specific cytokine-producing CD4⁺ T cell population which preferentially
83 localize in the lung parenchyma and airways, are critical for early *Mtb* control. Additionally, early
84 signaling events in lung epithelial cells are critical to facilitate the interaction between activated
85 *Mtb*-specific CD4⁺ T cells and macrophages, within the parenchyma and airways, for rapid *Mtb*

86 control in this model. Thus, our study provides novel immunological insights into the early
87 mechanism of vaccine-induced protective immunity against TB, allowing for potential targeting
88 these pathways to improve TB vaccine efficacy for future use.

89 **Results**

90 **Innate activation of DCs amplifies clonal vaccine-induced CD4⁺ T cell responses in *Mtb*-** 91 **infected BCG vaccinated host**

92 Delayed activation and accumulation of *Mtb*-specific vaccine-induced T cells in the lung is a
93 critical bottleneck for vaccine protection against *Mtb* infection (8, 9). Innate activation by transfer
94 of exogenously zymosan activated *Mtb* antigen 85B (Ag85B)-pulsed DCs (Z-DC) into BCG
95 vaccinated *Mtb*-infected hosts resulted in early CD4⁺ T cell recruitment, enhanced IFN- γ and IL-
96 17 production and complete early control of *Mtb* replication in mice (8). Using this published
97 model of early and superior vaccine-induced *Mtb* control, we probed the exact immune
98 mechanism(s) of protection in vaccinated hosts. The peak of the CD4⁺T cell response in
99 unvaccinated *Mtb*-infected mice is 20 dpi, while the peak of the vaccine response is 15 dpi
100 following *Mtb* infection (12). We also showed that in Vac+Z-DC group, the vaccine responses
101 are accelerated at 8 and 15 dpi (8). Therefore, we picked the peak time point as the
102 appropriate measurement of effective T cell responses between the conditions in order to
103 assess their full expression of antimycobacterial function. As a first step, lung cells were isolated
104 at the peak of the immune response respectively from *Mtb*-infected unvaccinated C57BL/6 mice
105 at 20 days post infection [dpi] (Unvac), *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated C57BL/6 mice at 15 dpi
106 (Vac), and *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated C57BL/6 mice that received Z-DC transfer (given
107 intratracheally at -1 and +4 dpi) at 8 and 15 dpi (Vac+Z-DC) (**Fig.1A**) and subjected to single
108 cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-Seq) to define the immune cell populations driving enhanced
109 vaccine-induced immunity.

110 In CD3⁺ cells, unsupervised clustering yielded four clusters of CD4⁺ cells, namely naive CD4⁺
111 (*Ccr7*⁺*Sell*⁺), two clusters of effector CD4⁺ cells (*Ccr7*⁻*Sell*⁻*CD44*⁺ or *Ifng*⁺) and T regulatory cells

112 (Foxp3⁺); three clusters of CD8⁺ cells - naive CD8⁺ (*Ccr7⁺Sell⁺*), cytotoxic CD8⁺ (*Gzmb⁺Prf1⁺*),
113 mix of CD8⁺ and T γ δ cells; and more enriched T γ δ cluster (*Trgv2⁺*) (**Fig. 1B, C and Fig. S1A,**
114 **Table S1**). Notably, cluster of naive CD4⁺ T cells dominated in both *Mtb*-infected unvaccinated
115 and BCG vaccinated mice and decreased in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-
116 DC transfer (40% versus 20% of T cells). In contrast, effector CD4_1 cluster dominated the T
117 cell population in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer (harvested at
118 either 8 or 15 dpi) while being almost absent in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated or unvaccinated
119 mice (35-55% versus <10% of total T cells, **Fig. 1D and S1B**). Effector CD4_1 exhibited the
120 signature of lung T resident memory (Trm) cells including *Cxcr3*, *Cxcr6*, *Itgae*, *Cd44*, *Cd69* and
121 *Cd101*(13) (**Fig. 1E and Fig. S1C**). We have used the publically available surface receptor
122 markers of Trm cells in lungs of humans as broad lung T cell tissue resident signature (13, 14).
123 Gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) shows an enrichment of genes, upregulated in lung Trm
124 (GSE94964), in our comparison between CD4_1 and CD4_2/Naive CD4 clusters. Incidentally,
125 we also identified TCR for each cell, and first compared clonotype expansion with Gini
126 coefficient (coefficient of 0 means that each T cell clonotype has only 1 T cell, while coefficient
127 of 1 means that all T cells have identical clonotype). CD4⁺ cells from *Mtb*-infected BCG
128 vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer had Gini coefficient twice higher than *Mtb*-infected
129 unvaccinated or BCG vaccinated mice, suggesting that *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that
130 received Z-DC transfer have more expanded clonotypes, when compared to CD4⁺ T cells in
131 *Mtb*-infected unvaccinated or BCG vaccinated mice (**Fig. 1F**).

132 We also identified potential motif-based groups of CD4⁺ T cells recognizing the same epitopes
133 derived from antigens among the TCRs using TCRdist tool. We focused on the 3 most well-
134 defined motifs with conserved amino acids, coming from TCR clusters of size 108, 19 and 49
135 TCRs (**Fig. 1G,H, Fig S1D and Table S2**). As TCRdist operates on unique TCR sequences
136 without taking into account clonotype expansion, we enumerated the number of CD4⁺ T cells

137 expressing any of these TCR motifs, and we found that motif 1 was exclusively associated with
138 *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer, where it was present in 10-25%
139 of all CD4⁺ T cells (**Fig. 1I**, left panel **and Fig. S1E**), while other motifs were much less
140 expanded. Motif 1 is characterized by TRAV3-3 - TRAJ27/37/52 - TRBV16 pairing, and it
141 features sub-motifs in both CDR3 α and CDR3 β . Conserved amino acids come from V and J
142 gene parts rather than from insertion of random nucleotides. Furthermore, we found that
143 majority of cells with motif 1 belonged to effector CD4₁ cluster (**Fig. 1I**, right panel), accounting
144 for >20% of cells inside the cluster. We next analyzed transcriptional differences among the
145 CD4⁺ T cells between different groups. Therefore, we isolated the CD4⁺ T cells (at the time of
146 peak CD4⁺ T cell responses) from *Mtb*-infected unvaccinated C57BL/6 mice at 20 dpi, *Mtb*-
147 infected vaccinated C57BL/6 mice at 15 dpi and *Mtb*-infected vaccinated C57BL/6 mice that
148 received Z-DC transfer at 8 dpi (**Fig. 1J and Fig. S2A**). Among the top 25 differently expressed
149 genes in the *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer, there was a
150 marked upregulation of genes associated with T cell migration including *Ccr8* (15), *Itgae*
151 (*Cd103*) (16), *Aqp3* (17) and *Rbpj* associated with cell-cell communications (18). Surprisingly,
152 gene expression profile of CD4⁺ T cells from *Mtb*-infected unvaccinated or BCG vaccinated
153 mice were comparable (**Fig. 1J, Fig. S2A and B**). The important enriched pathways associated
154 with T cells receptor signaling and T cell function were observed in the *Mtb*-infected BCG
155 vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer compared with the CD4⁺ T cells isolated from BCG
156 vaccinated mice (**Fig. S2C**). Therefore, our data suggest that CD4⁺ T cells that confer early *Mtb*
157 control in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer express functionally
158 distinct T cell transcriptional profiles associated with migration.

159 **Early activation and mucosal localization of CD4⁺ T cells mediates improved *Mtb* control** 160 **in BCG vaccinated host**

161 We next determined the functional ability of the vaccine-induced CD4⁺ T cells to promote
162 macrophage killing of *Mtb*. We isolated highly pure lung CD4⁺ T cells from either *Mtb*-infected

163 BCG vaccinated C57BL/6 mice (at 15 dpi) or *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated C57BL/6 mice that
164 received Z-DC transfer (at 8 dpi) and co-cultured isolated CD4⁺ T cells with *Mtb*-infected
165 macrophages in vitro to assess *Mtb* killing. Interestingly, both CD4⁺ T cells from *Mtb*-infected
166 BCG vaccinated mice and *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer
167 effectively mediated comparable *Mtb* killing (**Fig. 2A**). Additionally, while IFN- γ production was
168 similar in supernatants from co-cultures of both groups that received CD4⁺ T cells (**Fig. 2B**),
169 higher levels of IL-17 were detected in co-cultures that received CD4⁺ T cells from *Mtb*-infected
170 BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer, when compared to co-cultures that received
171 *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated CD4⁺ T cells (**Fig. 2C**). As we did not find any functional
172 differences in *Mtb* killing within macrophages between the two groups, we hypothesized that the
173 clonally expanded CD4⁺ T effector population was mediating improved protection possibly due
174 to other mechanisms rather than just direct activation of macrophages. Thus, we next isolated
175 highly pure lung CD4⁺T cells from *Mtb*-infected vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer (at
176 8 dpi) and adoptively transferred the CD4⁺ T cells into the BCG vaccinated C57BL/6 mice
177 following *Mtb* infection, while control mice were BCG vaccinated and *Mtb*-infected that did not
178 receive T cells. The rationale was to test if adoptive transfer improved *Mtb* control when
179 compared with just BCG vaccination. Adoptive transfer of purified CD4⁺ T cells into *Mtb*-infected
180 BCG vaccinated mice resulted in improved *Mtb* control, when compared to PBS treated *Mtb*-
181 infected BCG vaccinated mice (**Fig. 2D**), and this coincided with improved B cell follicle
182 formation associated with immune control of *Mtb* (19), without impacting overall lung
183 inflammation (**Fig. 2E and F**). This improved *Mtb* control coincided with dampened production of
184 proinflammatory cytokines in the lungs of *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received CD4⁺
185 T cells including IL-12, TNF- α , IL-10, IL-1 β and IL-6, and the chemokines KC, MIP-1 β , RANTES
186 and MIP-2 (**Fig. 2G and H**) corroborating with the unaltered overall lung inflammatory
187 landscape. Together, these results suggest that vaccine-induced CD4⁺ T cell drive protection in

188 *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated hosts likely by their ability to migrate and localize into specific lung
189 compartments. Therefore, we next studied the kinetics associated with the CD4⁺ T cell
190 activation as well as localization of CD4⁺ T cells in the lung of *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated
191 mice and *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer. Remarkable CD4⁺ T
192 cell activation (CD44^{hi}) was observed as early as 3 dpi (**gating strategy in Fig. S2D**) in *Mtb*-
193 infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer, and this correlated with significant
194 and rapid accumulation of *Mtb* Ag85B tetramer-specific (TET⁺) CD4⁺ T cells (within the lungs of
195 *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer compared to *Mtb*-infected BCG
196 vaccinated mice (**Fig. 3A, and Fig. S3A**). These robust and early responses were maintained,
197 with 8 dpi being the peak of the response. We observed nearly 400-fold higher
198 CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer,
199 when compared with *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice. In contrast, the expansion and
200 accumulation of CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice was delayed
201 until 20 dpi (**Fig. 3A**).

202 Immune cell recruitment in airways and parenchyma correlated with increased protection
203 compared to localization in lung vasculature during *Mtb* infection (11, 20). To identify the
204 localization of activated T cells to specific lung compartments, we tracked vasculature-
205 localization (CD45.2-BV605⁺), airway localization (CD45.2-V500⁺) and parenchyma localization
206 (BV605 negative V500 negative) of immune cells in the lung (10, 11, 21) by administering anti-
207 CD45.2-BV605 intravascularly or anti-CD45.2-V500 intratracheally just prior to sacrifice. We
208 found that CD4⁺CD44^{hi} (**Fig. S3B**), CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells (**Fig. 3B**) localized to the lung
209 parenchyma of *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer at very early time
210 points (3-15 dpi), with progressive accumulation of CD4⁺CD44^{hi} and CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells
211 into the airways over time. Coincident with the delayed accumulation of CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells
212 in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice, the majority of the CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells localized
213 mainly in vasculature and parenchyma with some cells localizing within the airways (**Fig. 3B**,

214 **inset**). These data together suggest that activation of the innate immune pathways to target
215 vaccine-induced T cell responses can initiate rapid expansion of CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells with
216 specific localization in the lung parenchyma and airways, contributing to early and rapid *Mtb*
217 control.

218 CXCR3 is a well-described chemokine receptor expressed by circulating T cells. As infection
219 progressed, the accumulation of CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺CXCR3⁺ T cells increased into the lung
220 parenchyma and airways in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer
221 (**Fig. 3C**). However, reduced accumulation of CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺CXCR3⁺ T cells in the lung
222 parenchyma and airways in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice was observed (**Fig. 3C, inset**).

223 The CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺CXCR3⁺ cells which expanded at d15 post infection exhibited a ratio of
224 parenchyma: vasculature associated T cells of 16.69 (\pm 10.54) in Vac+Z-DC mice as
225 compared with BCG vaccinated mice (3.794 \pm 6.572, p 0.0489 by Student's T test between
226 Vac+Z-DC and BCG vaccinated *Mtb*-infected mice). IFN- γ and IL-17 are important effector
227 cytokines that contribute to protective immune responses against *Mtb* infection (3, 22, 23).

228 While the majority of the CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells were IL-17⁺ cytokine-producing, a population
229 of IFN- γ ⁺ cytokine-producing and IFN- γ ⁺ /IL-17⁺ double cytokine-producing CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T
230 cells were also found in the lungs of *Mtb*-infected vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer
231 and they accumulated as early as 5 dpi with peak responses at 8 dpi (**Fig. 3D**). Importantly, the
232 cytokine-producing CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells predominantly localized to the lung parenchyma
233 and airways. Moreover, in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer, the
234 frequency of IL-17⁺ cytokine-producing CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells showed an early and sustained
235 increase, when compared with IFN- γ ⁺ and IFN- γ ⁺IL-17⁺ cytokine-producing CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T
236 cells. Indeed, consistent with delayed accumulation of CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells in *Mtb*-infected
237 BCG vaccinated lungs, the number of IFN γ ⁺ and IL-17⁺ single or dual cytokine-producing
238 CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells were delayed and 10 fold lower in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice,

239 and they preferentially localized in the vasculature (**Fig. 3E**). To fully characterize the role of
240 cytokine signaling in Z-DC mediated protection in the BCG vaccinated *Mtb* infected mice, we
241 transferred Z-DC in BCG vaccinated IL-17/IL-22 double knockout (*Il-17/Il-22^{-/-}*) mice with or
242 without IFN- γ neutralization to evaluate the specific contribution of Th1 and/or Th17 responses.
243 Absence of IL-17/IL-22 signaling together led to significantly higher bacterial burden (**Fig. 3F**) as
244 compared with the wild type BCG vaccinated C57BL/6 mice, which also received Z-DC transfer.
245 These results suggest an important role for IL-17/IL-22 signaling, specifically under conditions of
246 the superior protection enabled by Z-DC transfer in BCG vaccinated mice. Additionally, we
247 observed reduced expression of MHC-II expression on alveolar macrophages (AMs) (**Fig. 3G,**
248 **gating strategy in Fig. S3C**) within the lung of BCG vaccinated *Il-17/Il-22^{-/-}* mice receiving Z-
249 DC transfer. Moreover, blocking IFN- γ in BCG vaccinated *Il-17/Il-22^{-/-}* mice which also received
250 Z-DC transfer, abrogates *Mtb* control with significant reduction in expression of MHC Class II
251 expression on AMs and reduced accumulation of CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells, compared with the
252 wild type BCG vaccinated C57BL/6 mice receiving Z-DC transfer (**Fig. 3G,H**). Therefore, our
253 study points towards a synergistic role played by the Th1-Th17 axis in mediating better
254 protection in the BCG vaccinated *Mtb* infected mice receiving Z-DC. These results suggest that
255 the protection mediated in the *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer is
256 associated with an early activation, expansion and localization of cytokine-producing CD4⁺ T
257 cells within the parenchyma and airways where *Mtb*-infected macrophages are harbored.
258 Both scRNA-Seq and bulk gene signature analysis of CD4⁺ T cells demonstrated elevated
259 expression of genes associated with migration such as *Itgae* or the genes expressed by tissue
260 resident T cells such as the chemokine receptor, *Ccr8* (**Fig. 1B and I**). Expression of CD103
261 and CCR8 on CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells peaked on 8 and 15 dpi respectively which
262 corresponded with the enhanced recruitment of CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells into lungs and the
263 early control of *Mtb* replication in BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer (**Fig. 3I, J**

264 **and insets**). In addition, *Mtb*-infected *Cd103* deficient BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-
265 DC transfer exhibited similar protective capacity than *Mtb*-infected wild type mice that also
266 received Z-DC transfer (**Fig. S3D**), suggesting that CD103 expression did not induce additional
267 protective mechanisms in BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer. In contrast, *Ccr8*
268 deficient *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice receiving Z-DC transfer did not control *Mtb*
269 replication to the similar level as observed in wild type *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that
270 received Z-DC transfer (**Fig. 3K**). This decreased vaccine-induced control in *Ccr8* deficient *Mtb*-
271 infected BCG vaccinated mice receiving Z-DC transfer coincided with reduced accumulation of
272 CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells within the lung of *Ccr8* deficient mice (**Fig. 3L**). These results suggest
273 CD103-independent but CCR8-dependent mechanisms underlying Z-DC mediated vaccine-
274 induced *Mtb* control. However, it could also be possible that CCR8 along with CD103
275 synergistically regulate the CD4⁺ T cell localization and activation to impact *Mtb* replication in
276 vivo and needs further experimentation.

277 **Lung epithelial signaling is critical for early immune cell activation and mucosal** 278 **localization in *Mtb*-infected vaccinated mice**

279 Our data demonstrate that mucosal localization of CD4⁺ T cells within the parenchyma and
280 airways is effective at inducing complete early *Mtb* control in vaccinated hosts. Our recent
281 studies showed that AMs upon activation migrate from the airways into the parenchyma to form
282 granulomas and mediate effective *Mtb* control (10). Thus, we next addressed if localization of
283 CD4⁺ T cells in the parenchyma and airways resulted in more effective and early activation of
284 AMs. We observed that AMs readily accumulated in the lung airways and parenchyma of *Mtb*-
285 infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer (**Fig. 4A, gating strategy in**
286 **Fig.S3C**) with increasing accumulation and rapid early upregulation of MHC Class II expression
287 as an indicator of activation (**Fig. 4B**). In contrast, AM localization within the airways in the *Mtb*-
288 infected BCG vaccinated mice lungs was delayed with fewer AMs that accumulated within the
289 parenchyma and delayed timing of AM activation. In BCG vaccinated mice, while there is no

290 significant accumulation of AMs in the parenchyma, there is a small but significant increase in
291 AM population within the airways at 15 dpi, when compared to 8 dpi. Additionally, we observed
292 a marked early recruitment and activation of recruited macrophages (RMs), mainly in airways
293 and lung parenchyma of the *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer. In
294 contrast, in the *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice, RMs localized mainly in vasculature and at
295 lesser extent in parenchyma (**Fig. 4C and D**). Thus, collectively our data suggest that early
296 infiltration and localization of myeloid cells within specific lung parenchyma are crucial factors
297 for inducing superior vaccine-induced immunity.

298 Epithelial cells respond to IL-17/IL-22 (24-26) and secrete various antimicrobial peptides and
299 several chemokines (27), that orchestrate recruitment of immune cells such as neutrophils,
300 recruited monocytes and natural Th17 cells (28, 29) . Thus, we hypothesized that activation of
301 epithelial signaling will participate in production of mediators involved in strategic immune cell
302 localization and early control of *Mtb* infection. To further delineate mechanistic insight of the
303 signaling pathways associated with the superior vaccine-induced immunity in *Mtb*-infected BCG
304 vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer, we used *Ikk^{fl/fl}Sftp^{cre}* mice which lack NFκB
305 signaling specifically in lung type II epithelial cells and therefore do not upregulate the
306 expression of necessary inflammatory cytokines or chemokines (10, 30). Absence of functional
307 lung epithelial signaling in *Mtb-infected* BCG vaccinated *Ikk^{fl/fl}Sftp^{cre}* mice that received Z-DC
308 transfer did not provide the superior and early vaccine-induced *Mtb* control as compared with
309 the *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated *Ikk^{fl/fl}* littermate control mice that received Z-DC transfer (**Fig.**
310 **4E**). These data suggest that functional epithelial signaling plays an important role in inducing
311 the superior protection specifically under conditions of Z-DC transfer into BCG vaccinated mice
312 following *Mtb*-infection. Moreover, we observed reduced B cell follicle formation within the lungs
313 of *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated *Ikk^{fl/fl}Sftp^{cre}* mice that received Z-DC transfer compared to *Mtb*-
314 infected BCG vaccinated littermate control mice that received Z-DC transfer (**Fig. 4F**). To further
315 investigate the influence of functional epithelial signaling on immune mechanisms, we studied

316 the immune cell localization in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated *Ikk^{fl/fl}Sftp^{cre}* and littermate control
317 mice that received Z-DC transfer. As expected, we observed reduced AM accumulation within
318 lung parenchyma in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated *Ikk^{fl/fl}Sftp^{cre}* mice that received Z-DC transfer
319 as compared with *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated littermate control mice that received Z-DC
320 transfer (**Fig. 4G**). Although we did not see any defects in the accumulation of RMs in *Mtb*-
321 infected BCG vaccinated *Ikk^{fl/fl}Sftp^{cre}* mice that received Z-DC transfer (**Fig. 4H**), we observed
322 defective activation of RMs in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated *Ikk^{fl/fl}Sftp^{cre}* mice that received Z-DC
323 transfer as compared with *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated littermate control mice that received Z-
324 DC transfer (**Fig. S3E**). Moreover, we found a significant reduction in the number of
325 CD4⁺CD44^{hi} and CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells present in lung parenchyma of *Mtb*-infected BCG
326 vaccinated *Ikk^{fl/fl}Sftp^{cre}* mice that received Z-DC transfer as compared with *Mtb*-infected BCG
327 vaccinated littermate control mice that received Z-DC transfer (**Fig. S3F,G and Fig. 4I**).
328 Similarly, the number of CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺IL-17⁺ cytokine-producing T cells present in lung
329 parenchyma of *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated *Ikk^{fl/fl}Sftp^{cre}* mice that received Z-DC transfer was
330 significantly reduced compared with *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated littermate control mice that
331 received Z-DC transfer (**Fig. 4J**). The number of CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺IFN- γ ⁺ cytokine-producing
332 CD4⁺ T cells present in lung airways and parenchyma of *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated
333 *Ikk^{fl/fl}Sftp^{cre}* mice that received Z-DC transfer was lower, as compared with *Mtb*-infected BCG
334 vaccinated littermate control mice that received Z-DC transfer although it was not statistically
335 significant (**Fig. 4K**). Thus, our data suggest that activation of lung epithelial signaling regulates
336 the environmental signals that mediate localization and amplification of Th17/Th1 responses
337 within the site of infection to mediate early superior control of *Mtb* infection in the vaccinated
338 host.

339 Discussion

340 The development of a TB vaccine that induces durable and effective immunity to *Mtb* infection is
341 urgently needed. Previously, we have demonstrated that complete and early *Mtb* control can be

342 induced in BCG vaccinated hosts when the innate immune response is targeted to generate
343 effective vaccine-induced immunity. In the present study, we show that the mechanisms by
344 which activation of innate immunity results in superior *Mtb* control is through rapid and robust
345 amplification of cytokine-producing vaccine-induced T cell responses and localization within the
346 airways and parenchyma of BCG vaccinated hosts. Our studies also show that activation of
347 NF κ B pathway in lung epithelial cells is an important early event that drives the localization of
348 vaccine-induced CD4⁺ vaccine-induced T cells within parenchyma and activation of myeloid
349 cells, thus promoting the formation of protective iBALT structures within the lung and control of
350 *Mtb* replication. Therefore, our study provides novel insights into the immune mechanisms that
351 can overcome TB vaccine bottlenecks and provide early rapid *Mtb* control.

352 *Mtb* is a successful pathogen due to its ability to evade host immune responses. Studies have
353 shown that following *Mtb* infection, delay in the activation of antigen specific CD4⁺ T cell
354 responses occurs likely due to *Mtb*'s ability to directly inhibit MHC-II trans activator expression,
355 MHC-II expression and antigen presentation (31). BCG vaccination can generate systemic
356 vaccine-induced T cell responses, but upon *Mtb* challenge, the accumulation of T cells to the
357 lung although accelerated when compared with naïve hosts (day 15 when compared to day 20
358 in naïve), is still not sufficiently early or durable enough to provide complete protection against
359 *Mtb* infection (8, 32). Therefore, as shown in our previous work(8) and by others (33), targeting
360 the innate pathway through DC activation is one way to rapidly activate T cell responses to
361 mediate early and rapid control. Our new studies shown here, demonstrate that the
362 mechanisms by which innate DC activation overcomes the roadblock is by rapid amplification of
363 early CD4⁺ T cell responses by 5 days post *Mtb* challenge, and localization within airway and
364 parenchyma compartments in the lung. That these CD4⁺ T cells are recruited and localized
365 within 5 days, is by far the earliest recruitment of vaccine-induced T cells responses to most
366 vaccine strategies against TB. This early amplification is similar to what is seen in even after 30
367 days following BCG IV vaccination in NHPs where the heightened and lung-localized Trm cells

368 are considered to be a mechanism through which complete control of *Mtb* infection is mediated
369 (3). In the current study, we show that adoptive transfer of peptide pulsed Z-DC into BCG
370 vaccinated mice provides superior *Mtb* control. We have previously shown that following BCG
371 vaccination (34), the accumulation of antigen-specific lung-resident cytokine-producing T cells in
372 the lung is not as robust as amplification of antigen-specific T cells in the spleen and lymph
373 nodes of vaccinated mice. Based on these data, we expect that adoptive transfer of Z-DC
374 results in activation of antigen-specific T cells in the lymph nodes and possibly recruitment to
375 the lung. However, we don't rule out the possibility of local proliferation of T cells following Z-DC
376 transfer. Thus, our results along with recent studies including IV (3) and mucosal BCG use (5),
377 suggest that overcoming the *Mtb* suppression-mediated of early immune responses is thus
378 possible and generating lung-resident activated T cell pool should be a good strategy for
379 improving vaccine-induced immunity against TB.

380 During *Mtb* infection, Ag85B is predominantly secreted during the early phase of infection and
381 expression reduced by 3 weeks post infection, while ESAT-6 is expressed and secreted by *Mtb*
382 during chronic phases of infection (35). Since we are interested in the early events post
383 infection, we designed our study to activate innate immune responses to amplify BCG-vaccine
384 induced Ag85B specific CD4⁺ T cell responses against *Mtb* infection. Indeed, our results show
385 that early amplification of Ag85B specific T cell responses resulted in complete control of *Mtb*
386 infection. As several vaccine formulations including whole vaccines such as BCG and subunit
387 vaccine such as H56/IC31 (36) and H56/CAF01 (37) include Ag85B as an antigen, our results
388 suggest that targeting innate DC activation to rapidly amplify Ag85B-specific CD4⁺ T cell
389 responses may further improve upon protection elicited by these vaccines in animal models and
390 should be robustly tested. Furthermore, our studies for the first time demonstrate that in fact the
391 transcriptional profiles that are induced in BCG vaccine-induced CD4⁺ T cell responses are
392 comparable to CD4⁺ T cells induced in unvaccinated *Mtb*-infected mice, suggesting that the
393 quality of responses induced by BCG vaccination is not very different from *Mtb* infection. This is

394 in sharp contrast to the early amplification of vaccine-induced CD4⁺ T cells found in BCG
395 vaccinated hosts that undergo innate DC activation where there was a marked upregulation of
396 genes associated with T cell migration and cell-cell communications, especially expression of
397 genes such as Cd103 and Ccr8 which likely allow localization of effector T cells into lung
398 compartment for optimal *Mtb* control. Thus, our results also provide novel insights that both the
399 timing of arrival of CD4⁺ T cells and the quality (cytokine production and upregulation of
400 receptors and proteins enabling lung localization) of CD4⁺ T cells are important for optimal *Mtb*
401 control, compared to CD4⁺ T cells induced by BCG vaccination that are not fully protective.

402 For the first time as far as we are aware, our study was able to identify potential motif-based
403 groups of CD4⁺ T cells recognizing the epitopes of same antigens among the TCRs. Our results
404 showed that a motif was exclusively associated with T cells in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated
405 mice that received Z-DC transfer, where it was present in 10-25% of all CD4⁺ T cells. These
406 results suggest that innate DC activation of T cells along with amplification of CD4⁺ T cell also
407 allows for clonal expansion of activated T_{RM} cells. Previous studies have demonstrated that in
408 mice vaccinated with Ag85B had a skewed CDR3 β length distribution with preferential use of
409 TRBV16 and two CDR3 β s namely CASSLEGDEQYF and CASSLEGDTQYF (32). Our studies
410 have not only validated the presence of the CDR3 β motifs but also identified the motif on
411 CDR3 α that are amplified in CD4⁺ T cells from BCG vaccinated mice that also received Ag85B
412 primed Z-DCs. Our studies identified 3 CDR3 α and 3 CDR3 β motifs highly represented in
413 effector CD4⁺ T cells from BCG vaccinated mice that also received Ag85B primed Z-DCs. From
414 the available literature(38) the predominant Motif 1 appears to be specific for *Mtb* Ag85B. The
415 presence of “LEG” motif in the TCR sequence specifically in TCR β , identifies the TCR specific
416 for Ag85B. Carpenter et al, 2017 showed the TCR β repertoire of vaccine-elicited (Ag85B₂₄₀₋₂₅₄)
417 and *Mtb*-recalled Ag85b-specific CD4⁺ T cells, as well as after primary infection.

418 Therefore, unlike the unvaccinated or BCG vaccine induced TCR repertoire on CD4⁺ T cells, Z-
419 DC induced TCR repertoire demonstrated in this study represents novel motifs which have
420 potential to control *Mtb* infection. Thus, while bulk RNA-seq studies do not allow us due to the
421 pooled nature of cells to understand the heterogeneity of T cell responses, scRNA-Seq allows
422 us to understand the heterogeneity of T cell responses. For example, our results show that
423 while activated population of clonally expanded CD4⁺ T cells expressing Trm markers increase
424 in BCG vaccinated host receiving Z-DC transfer, this population is not different between BCG
425 vaccinated and unvaccinated lungs. Instead, an IFN- γ ⁺ CD4⁺ T cell population is increased in
426 BCG vaccinated lungs when compared with unvaccinated lungs. Therefore, our results highlight
427 the utility of using single cell TCR sequencing to probe the expansion and clonality of vaccine-
428 responsive CD4⁺ T cells and provide an in-depth understanding of T cell responses generated
429 following vaccination.

430 During *Mtb* infection, effective control of intracellular *Mtb* requires direct recognition of infected
431 macrophages in the lung by CD4⁺ effector T cells (39). Therefore, localization of Trm CD4⁺ T
432 cells in the lung is an important event required for *Mtb* control. CXCR3 expression on CD4⁺ T
433 cells (CXCR3⁺) is considered a marker of lung recruited CD4⁺ T cells and is important for
434 localization of CXCR3⁺ Th1 cells to the lung parenchyma (11). In contrast, a subset of CD4⁺ Th1
435 cells that are highly differentiated (Tbet⁺) and co-expressing KLRG⁺ are present in the lung
436 vasculature and are not efficient in controlling *Mtb* growth (11). Adoptive transfer of the less
437 differentiated CXCR3⁺KLRG⁻CD4⁺ purified parenchymal T cells provided protection upon *Mtb*
438 challenge while the CXCR3⁺KLRG¹⁺ T cells are not protective upon transfer. In human studies,
439 CXCR5⁺ CCR5⁺ T cells in the lungs and pleural fluid produced IFN- γ (40-42). In preclinical
440 macaque model of latent and active TB, CXCR3⁺CCR6⁺ co-expressing T cells produced both IL-
441 17 and IFN- γ cytokines in the BAL and were associated with the protective responses in latent
442 TB (43). Finally, in vaccine models of subunit vaccination, CXCR3⁺KLRG⁻ T cells readily

443 trafficked to the lung parenchyma and provided *Mtb* control (37). With the increased resolution
444 provided by our studies using a combination of IT and IV labeling, allow us to further
445 discriminate whether immune cells are localized within the airways or parenchyma or the
446 vascular compartments. Our studies using this new technique show that BCG vaccination
447 induces a mixed population of CXCR3⁺ T cells that are distributed equally between the
448 vasculature, parenchyma and the airway compartments. In sharp contrast, BCG vaccinated
449 hosts that also receive Z-DC transfer show a remarkable enhancement of CXCR3⁺ T cells that
450 localize within the airway and parenchyma compartments.

451 Our study show that upon BCG vaccination, the primary lung localizing T cells are IL-17
452 expressing cells that accumulate by day 15, with IFN- γ producing cells accumulating by day 21
453 post *Mtb* infection. In contrast, BCG vaccinated mice that receive Z-DC transfer recruit Th17
454 cells by 5 days mostly in the airways and parenchyma followed by IFN- γ -single or IFN- γ /IL-17-
455 coproducing cells accumulating largely in the airways and parenchyma by day 8. Both IFN- γ and
456 IL-17 have varied roles in *Mtb* control during vaccination. In the case of IFN- γ , while recent data
457 has shown that IFN- γ (44) and IFN- γ produced by CD4⁺ T cells (21) are considered redundant,
458 IL-17 is necessary for vaccine-induced control in many models of vaccination (12, 34, 45). More
459 recent work from our lab has also demonstrated a critical role for IL-22 in mediating *Mtb* control.
460 Intriguingly in our model described here, our results show a combined role for IL-17/IL-22 and
461 IFN- γ in conferring early vaccine-induced control of *Mtb* infection. Therefore, it is likely that the
462 mucosal delivery of activated DCs accelerated parenchymal homing of antigen specific CD4⁺ T
463 cell subsets to gain access to the *Mtb*-infected cells in the granuloma and reduce *Mtb* replication
464 through activation of signaling involving both Th1/Th17 cytokine axis.

465 Upregulation of *Itgae* (Cd103) and *Ccr8* genes in CD4⁺ T cells isolated from BCG vaccinated
466 *Mtb*-infected mice that received Z-DC transfer suggest that these molecules may regulate
467 CD4⁺T cell migration and localization within the lung compartments. CD103 is an integrin highly

468 expressed in tissue resident memory T cells (21) and associated with epithelial retention of T
469 cells through binding to E-cadherin expressed by epithelial cells (46). CD103 expressing T cells
470 are present in lung and BAL but absent in blood of *Mtb* infected humans suggesting the fact that
471 CD103 expressing cells are present at the site of *Mtb* infection. CD103 expressing T cells are
472 enriched at the lung parenchyma and airways following mucosal vaccination with BCG or
473 *Bacillus subtilis* spore fusion protein 1 (Spore-FP1) and confers better protection against *Mtb*
474 infection compared to BCG parenteral vaccination (47, 48). Thus, retention of CD103
475 expressing T cells at the lung interface is likely necessary for providing protection against
476 infection. Deficiency of Cd103 (in mice) correlated with reduced number of mucosal
477 intraepithelial T cells (49). Our results show that despite the increased expression of CD103 on
478 CD4⁺ T cells isolated from BCG vaccinated *Mtb*-infected mice that received Z-DC transfer and
479 localization within the airway and parenchyma, CD103 deficient mice upon BCG vaccination
480 and Z-DC transfer still provided similarly superior protection as BCG vaccinated wild type
481 C57BL/6 mice that received Z-DC transfer. These results suggest redundant features of integrin
482 that may mask the effect of single deficiency of this protein, and compensatory mechanisms are
483 being induced to ensure control of *Mtb* replication in CD103 deficient vaccinated mice that
484 receive Z-DC transfer. Our studies also show for the first time that CCR8 expression is high on
485 CD4⁺ T cells isolated from BCG vaccinated mice receiving Z-DC transfer and expression is
486 highest on airway localized Ag85b-specific CD4⁺ T cells. CCR8 is commonly expressed by T
487 regulatory subsets or T helper type 2 cells for efficient migration of T cell population to the site of
488 inflammation (50). CCL1 was shown to be upregulated upon in vitro infection with *Mtb* and in
489 patients with active tuberculosis versus latently infected controls (51, 52). However, the
490 functional role of CCR8 expressing CD4⁺ T cells during *Mtb* infection remains elusive. Our
491 studies show a functional role for CCR8 expression in the superior protection mediated by the
492 Z-DC transfer in BCG vaccinated mice, as absence of CCR8 expression abrogates Z-DC-
493 mediated protection and accumulation of Ag85B-specific T cells. Together these results suggest

494 that CD103 and CCR8 have pivotal role to play in early CD4⁺ T cell recruitment and localization
495 in the airways and parenchyma to achieving effective control of *Mtb*.
496 In recent studies, we proposed a role for AMs to localize from airways into the lung parenchyma
497 as an effector mechanism of protection upon *Mtb* infection (10). Consistent with this proposed
498 role for AMs in early *Mtb* control, our new results here demonstrate that during BCG
499 vaccination, AMs continue to be retained within the airways, while in BCG vaccinated hosts
500 which also received Z-DC transfer, AMs are activated rapidly (day 8) and migrate into the
501 parenchyma compartment. In sharp contrast, the AMs in BCG vaccinated mice take up to 20
502 days to undergo activation. Similarly, recruited macrophages in BCG vaccinated mice are
503 mostly located within the vasculature, while Z-DC transfer activates the RMs to migrate into the
504 airway. These responses appear to be mediated by signaling in epithelial cells as mice deficient
505 in NFκβ signaling in CCSP⁺ epithelial cells abrogate AM accumulation, downstream activation
506 and accumulation of IL-17 producing Ag85B-specific CD4⁺ T cells in the lung. Epithelial cells
507 respond to several external stimulus including IL-17 and IL-22 and activate NFκβ dependent
508 signaling pathways to produce chemokines and other chemotactic factors required to favor
509 other immune cell recruitment and transmigration into inflamed tissues (29, 53). Based on the
510 increased susceptibility of mice lacking NFκβ signaling in epithelial cells compartment, we
511 propose that epithelial cells play an important role in mediating transmigration and specific
512 localization of immune cells within lung parenchyma following being activated by IL-17 and/or
513 IL-22. Lung epithelial cells can produce chemokines such as CXCL9, 10, 11 (54) and 13 in
514 presence of various stimuli (19, 55). Our published data show that IL-17 and IL-22 cytokines are
515 inducers of chemokines following *Mtb* infection (8, 19, 25, 34, 45). Additionally, our published
516 data suggest an important role of the CXCL13/CXCR5 in organizing the iBALT structures which
517 help in rapid containment of the disease (19). Moreover, IL-17 cytokine is also involved in the
518 initial formation of the iBALT structures following *Mtb* infection in mice (26). Therefore, our

519 results show that innate activation of DCs results in activation of epithelial signaling in the lung
520 to amplify accumulation of CD4⁺ T cells that localize within the airways and parenchyma to
521 induce *Mtb* killing of infected macrophages.

522 In conclusion, using a model of early complete *Mtb* control in BCG vaccinated hosts we show
523 that rapid and early clonal expansion of activated cytokine-producing CD4⁺ T cells in the lung
524 airway and parenchyma compartment are critical for mediating complete and early vaccine-
525 induced protection in *Mtb*-infected mice. Importantly, these protections are driven by early
526 signaling events in the lung epithelial cells that provide the signals required for localization of
527 CD4⁺ T cells within the parenchyma for activation of macrophages, formation of iBALT
528 structures and subsequent *Mtb* killing. Our studies support the emerging idea that Th1/Th17-like
529 activated CD4⁺ T cells are associated with models of sterilizing protection in macaques (23), and
530 in vaccine-induced protection in human TB vaccines M72/AS01E trial (56). Understanding the
531 early immune parameters that mediate effective and early *Mtb* control as demonstrated in this
532 study will shed novel insights into the mechanisms by which vaccine-induced CD4⁺ T cells can
533 be enhanced to mediate complete control of *Mtb*.

534

535 **Materials and Methods**

536 **Mice**

537 C57BL/6 (B6), B6.129P2-II10tm1Cgn/J (Il10^{-/-}), B6.129S2(C)-Itgaetm1Cmp/J (*Itgae*^{-/-} or *Cd103*^{-/-}
538) mice were obtained from Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME) and bred at Washington
539 University in St. Louis. Cryopreserved sperm from *Ccr8*^{-/-} mice were generously donated by Dr.
540 Gwendalyn Randolph from Washington University in St. Louis and the in vitro fertilization was
541 done in the Micro-injection Core at Washington University in St. Louis. *Ikk^{fl/fl} Sftpc^{cre}* mice were a
542 kind gift from Dr. Pasparakis (University of Cologne). Il-22^{-/(28)} and Il-17^{-/(57)} single knock outs
543 were crossed and bred at Washington University in St. Louis to generate *Il-17/Il22*^{-/-}. Mice were
544 age and sex-matched and used between 6-8 weeks of age. All mice were used and housed in

545 accordance with the National Institute of Health guidelines for housing and care of laboratory
546 animals. All the experiments in this study were granted by the Washington University in St Louis
547 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee under protocol 20160129.

548 **IFN- γ in vivo neutralization**

549 300 μ g/ml of anti-IFN- γ blocking antibody (Clone XMG1.2, BioXcell) was administered
550 intraperitoneally every other day starting at 8 dpi until the harvest at 20 dpi.

551 **Bacterial infection and vaccination**

552 *M. bovis* Bacille Calmette–Guerin (BCG Pasteur, Source: Trudeau Institute) and *Mtb* W. Beijing
553 strain, HN878 (BEI Resources) were grown to mid-log phase in Proskauer Beck medium
554 containing 0.05% Tween 80 and frozen in at -80° C. Mice were vaccinated with 1 X 10⁶ colony
555 forming units (CFU) BCG subcutaneous and 4 weeks later infected with ~100 CFU *Mtb* HN878
556 via aerosol route using a Glas-Col airborne infection system. At given time points following
557 infection, lungs were collected, homogenized and the tissue homogenates were plated following
558 serial dilutions on 7H11 agar (BD bioscience) to assess bacterial burden (8).

559 **In vitro culture of BMDCs and transfer**

560 Bone marrow-derived dendritic cells (BMDC) and bone marrow-derived macrophages (BMDMs)
561 were generated as previously described (8). Briefly, cells isolated from the femur and tibia were
562 cultured at 1 X 10⁶ cells/ml in 10 ml of complete DMEM (cDMEM) supplemented with 4%
563 recombinant mouse GM-CSF (Peprotech, Rocky Hill, NJ, USA) at 37°C in 7.5% CO₂. After 3
564 days, 10 ml of cDMEM supplemented with 4% mouse GM-CSF was added and incubation
565 continued till day 7. At day 7, non-adherent cells (BMDCs) were collected, counted, plated at 2
566 X 10⁶ cells/ml in cDMEM and rested overnight at 37°C in 7.5% CO₂ following which BMDCs
567 were stimulated overnight with Ag85B (20 μ g/ml) (New England Peptide) and Zymosan (25
568 μ g/ml) (Sigma) to induce maturation and activation. Mature pulsed BMDCs were collected,

569 washed and 1×10^6 cells in 50 μ l PBS were instilled via intratracheal (IT) route at -1 and +4 dpi.

570 For all the adoptive transfer of Z-DCs, $Il10^{-/-}$ BMDC were used.

571 **Generation of single-cell suspensions from tissues**

572 Lung single-cell suspensions from vaccinated or *Mtb*-infected mice were isolated as previously
573 described (58). Briefly, mice were euthanized with CO₂ and lungs were perfused with heparin in
574 saline. Lungs were minced and incubated in Collagenase/DNase for 30 minutes at 37°C. Lung
575 tissue was pushed through a 70 μ m nylon screen to obtain a single cell suspension. Red blood
576 cells were lysed and the cells were resuspended in suitable media or buffer for further use.

577 **CD4⁺ T cell isolation for RNA sequencing and adoptive transfer**

578 Single cells suspensions from infected mice were obtained as before (8). CD4⁺ T cells from
579 differently treated mice were isolated using CD4⁺ microbeads according to manufacturer's
580 instruction (Miltenyi Biotec). The purity of CD4⁺ T cells was analyzed by flow cytometry after the
581 staining with anti-CD4 antibody and reported to be > 95%. For the RNA sequencing analysis,
582 cells were collected in RLT buffer with β -mercaptoethanol and processed according the
583 manufacturer's instructions (Qiagen). For T cell transfer, 2×10^6 CD4⁺ T cells were transferred
584 via IT route in PBS into each mouse as previously described.

585 **RNA-Seq data analysis**

586 Purified mouse lung CD4⁺ T cells were snap-frozen in RLT buffer, and DNase-treated total RNA
587 was extracted using the Qiagen RNeasy Mini kit (Qiagen). RNA-seq libraries were generated
588 using the Clontech SMART-Seq v4 Ultra Low Input RNA Kit for sequencing and the Illumina
589 Nextera XT DNA Library preparation kit following the manufacturer's protocol. Raw sequencing
590 reads were quality checked for potential sequencing issues and contaminants using FastQC.
591 Adapter sequences, primers, Ns, and reads with quality score below 28 were trimmed using
592 fastq-mcf of ea-utils and PRINSEQ. Reads with a remaining length of less than 20bp after
593 trimming were discarded. Paired end reads were mapped to the mouse genome (mm10) using
594 STAR in a strand specific manner. Read coverage on forward and reverse strands for genome

595 browser visualization was computed using SAMtools, BEDtools, and UCSC Genome Browser
596 utilities. Pairwise differential expression was quantified using DESeq2 (version 1.24.0), with
597 default settings and a 10⁻⁵ adjusted P value cutoff for significance, and DESeq2-normalized
598 read counts were used to calculate relative expression (FPKM) values. Heatmap figures were
599 generated in Microsoft Excel, using Z-scores calculated from the FPKM values across all of the
600 samples, individually for each gene. "Principal Components Analysis (PCA) was performed
601 according to default DESeq2 settings, utilizing the top 500 most variable genes across all
602 samples. Lists of significantly differentially expressed genes were used to test for significant
603 enrichment among KEGG pathways(59) using WebGestalt(60) (default settings, adjusted P =
604 0.05 threshold for enrichment).

605 **scRNA-Seq library generation and sequencing**

606
607 Isolated total lung single cell suspensions were enriched for live cells using dead cell depletion
608 kit according to manufacturer's instruction (Milteny Biotec) and subjected to droplet-based
609 massively parallel single-cell RNA sequencing using Chromium Single Cell 5' (v3) Reagent Kit
610 as per manufacturer's instructions (10x Genomics). Briefly, cell suspensions were loaded at
611 1,000 cells/ μ L with the aim to capture 10,000 cells/lane. The 10x Chromium Controller
612 generated GEM droplets, where each cell was labeled with a specific barcode, and each
613 transcript labeled with a unique molecular identifier (UMI) during reverse transcription. The
614 barcoded cDNA was isolated and removed from the BSL-3 space for library generation. The
615 cDNA underwent 11 cycles of amplification, followed by fragmentation, end repair, A-tailing,
616 adapter ligation, and sample index PCR as per the manufacturer's instructions. Libraries were
617 sequenced on a NovaSeq S4 (200 cycle) flow cell, targeting 50,000 read pairs/cell.

618 **scRNA-Seq analysis**

619 Sample demultiplexing, barcode processing, and single-cell 5' counting was performed using
620 the Cell Ranger Single-Cell Software Suite (10x Genomics, version 3). Cell ranger cell count
621 was used to align samples to the reference mm10 genome, quantify and filter reads with a

622 quality score below 30. For TCR, the Seurat package (61) in R was used for subsequent
623 analysis. Cells with mitochondrial content greater than 10% were removed. Filtered data were
624 normalized using a scaling factor of 10,000 nUMI was regressed with a negative binomial
625 model, and data was log transformed. The highly variable genes were selected using the
626 FindVariableFeatures. The principal component analysis was performed using the top 3000
627 variable genes. Clustering was performed using the FindClusters function. UMAP was used to
628 project cells into two dimensions using 15 first principal components. For T cell re-clustering we
629 chose clusters that were identified as T cells (Cd3d⁺). For these 24758 cells we performed
630 normalization, found variable genes and performed PCA, UMAP and clustering as described
631 above. All visualization was done with ggplot2 R package (62), heatmaps were done with
632 Phantasus website (<https://artyomovlab.wustl.edu/phantasus/>).

633 **Public bulk RNA-seq reanalysis:** We re-analyzed the publicly available GSE94964 dataset.
634 With Phantasus, we filtered low expressed genes and did log₂(exp+1) and quantile
635 normalization. Further, to get the T resident memory signature for CD4⁺ T cells, we compared
636 CD4⁺ CD69⁺ samples from the lung with CD4⁺CD69⁻ samples from the lung and blood with
637 limma. We have taken 500 upregulated genes. To compare with effector CD4_1 cluster from
638 our data, we run FindMarkers function for CD4_1 cluster versus CD4_2 and CD4 Naïve cells
639 with “MAST” algorithm, logFC threshold of 0.15 and “min.pct” parameter of 0.2. We used the
640 resulted ranked gene list and 500 upregulated genes from the GSE94964 dataset as a
641 signature to run GSEA with the fgsea package.

642 **Single cell paired TCR α /TCR β repertoire analysis**

643 Sample demultiplexing and barcode processing was performed using the Cell Ranger Single-
644 Cell Software Suite (10x Genomics). Cell Ranger VDJ v3 was used to align reads to the
645 reference genome (vdj_GRCm38_alts_ensembl) and assemble TCRs. For downstream
646 analysis, only TCRs with 1 productive rearrangement for TCR α chain and 1 productive

647 rearrangement for TCR β chain were selected. Frequencies of clonotypes were calculated based
648 on number of cells that pass quality control as described above and share both TCR α and
649 TCR β nucleotide sequences. Gini coefficient was computed with "gini" function from TCR R
650 package. To infer motifs, TCRdist tool was used (63) on all TCRs that satisfied two criteria: that
651 they belonged to CD4 T cells and that they had exactly 1 TCR β and 1 TCR α chain with CDR3
652 sequence that passed cellranger quality control. TCRdist was run with default settings for
653 "mouse" organism. We chose three motifs that were most abundant among unique clonotypes,
654 without accounting for clonotype expansion. To characterize the motif and match it to TCRs, we
655 have chosen the most conservative stretches amino acids to represent each motif: "NTGKL" in
656 TCR α and "SLE" in TCR β for motif 1, "NNNNAP" in TCR α and "E[TR]L" for motif 2, and
657 "NAYKV" in TCR α and "SLE" in TCR β for motif 3. All clonotypes that contained these
658 sequences were classified as motif-bearing clonotypes. To calculate frequencies of cells for
659 motifs, we calculated how many cells are having motif-bearing TCR clonotype. Further, motif-
660 bearing TCRs were used to visualize motifs by first performing multiple sequence alignment with
661 the msa R package (ClustalW algorithm), and after representing the motifs with the ggseqlogo R
662 package.

663 **Intratracheal and intravascular staining**

664 Mice were anesthetized with Isoflurane before the IT and IV staining. For IT staining, 0.7
665 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mouse}$ of anti-CD45.2-v500 ab (clone 104, BD Biosciences) in 50 μl of PBS was instilled
666 through intratracheal route 15 minutes before the harvest. For the IV staining, 2.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mouse}$ of
667 anti-CD45.2-BV605 ab (clone 104, BD) in 100 μl of PBS were injected into the retro-orbital sinus
668 3 minutes before the harvest using a 26-gauge needle and a tuberculin syringe (10).

669 **Flow cytometry staining**

670 The following antibodies were from TonBo Biosciences: MHC-II (clone M5/114.15.2), IFN- γ
671 (clone XMG1.2) and CD4 (clone RM4-5). Antibodies purchased from eBioscience (San Diego,

672 CA, USA) were: CD103 (clone 2E7), CD44 (clone IM7) and CXCR3 (clone CXCR3-173). CD11b
673 (clone M1/70), CD11c (clone HL3), Gr1 (clone RB6-8C5), SIGLEC-F (clone E50-2440), CD3
674 (clone 500A2), CD4 (clone RM4-5) and IL-17 (clone TC11-18H10) were purchased from BD
675 Biosciences. Ag85B tetramers were obtained from NIH tetramer core. For flow cytometric
676 analysis, lung single cell suspensions were stained with tetramer prior to the surface and
677 intracellular staining for 1 hour at 37°C. Intracellular cytokine staining was performed using the
678 BD Cytotfix/Cytoperm kit (BD Biosciences) following manufacturer's instructions. Intracellular
679 staining with anti-IFN- γ and IL-17 was performed for 30 minutes. Cells single stained with each
680 fluorochrome were used as controls for the compensation matrix in the flow cytometry. Samples
681 were acquired on a 4 laser BD Fortessa Flow Cytometer and the analysis was performed using
682 FlowJo (Treestar).

683 **Immunofluorescence staining**

684 For immunofluorescent staining, formalin fixed and paraffin embedded (FFPE) lung sections
685 were cut, immersed in xylene, and then hydrated in 96% alcohol and phosphate-buffered saline.
686 Antigens were unmasked using a DakoCytomation Target Retrieval Solution (Dako), and non-
687 specific binding was blocked by adding 5% (v/v) normal donkey serum and Fc block (BD).
688 Avidin was used to neutralize endogenous biotin, followed by incubation with biotin (Sigma
689 Aldrich). Sections were then probed with anti-B220 (clone RA3-6B2, BD) and anti-CD3 (clone
690 M-20, Santa Cruz Biotechnology) to detect B cells and T cells respectively. For analysis of B-
691 cell follicles, follicles were outlined with an automated tool of the Zeiss Axioplan 2 microscope
692 (Zeiss), and total area and average size was calculated in squared microns.

693 **Cytokine and chemokine quantification using Luminex or ELISA**

694 Cytokine and chemokine protein contents in lung homogenates were quantified using Luminex
695 multianalyte technology (Millipore) according to manufacturer's protocols. IL-17, IFN- γ was
696 quantified by ELISA according to manufacturer's instructions (R&D).

697 **Statistical Analysis**

698 The differences between two groups were analyzed using two-tailed student's t test in Prism 5
699 (GraphPad). Differences between the means of three or more groups were analyzed using One-
700 way ANOVA with Tukey's post-test. For comparisons between two or more groups with two
701 independent variables, 2-way ANOVA with Sidak's or Tukey's post-test was used. A p-value of
702 <0.05 was considered significant. Raw read counts were used as input for DESeq2(64) (version
703 1.24.0) differential expression analysis, using default settings and an FDR-adjusted P value
704 threshold of 10^{-5} for significant differential expression. Lists of significantly differentially
705 expressed genes were used to test for significant enrichment among KEGG pathways (59)
706 using WebGestalt (60) (default settings, adjusted P = 0.05 threshold for enrichment).

707 **Data availability statement**

708 scRNA-Seq data that support the findings of this study have been deposited in GEO (ID
709 GSE150657) and synapse (ID syn22036882). RNA-Seq data that support the findings of this
710 study have been deposited in GEO (accession number: GSE165614). Other data that support
711 the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

712 **Declaration of interest**

713 The authors declare no competing interests.

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724 **Author contributions**

725 S.A.K. designed the study, provided funding. S.D., N.D.M., and M.A. performed mouse
726 experiments and compiled the results. E.E., A.S., M.N.A, B.A.R., and M.M. performed the
727 scRNA-Seq and RNA-Seq analysis, comparative transcriptomics, and functional enrichment
728 analysis. J.R.-M. performed histochemical analysis. M.G.N., L.B.B., M.Z., M.N.A., D.K., and
729 S.A.K. interpreted experiments, carried out data analysis and/or provided reagents. S.A.K.,
730 S.D., and E.E wrote the manuscript, all authors edited and approved the final version of the
731 manuscript.

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957 **Figure Legends:**

958 **Figure 1. Activation of DCs amplifies rapid CD4⁺ T cell responses in BCG vaccinated *Mtb***

959 **infected mice.** C57BL/6 (B6) mice were either left unvaccinated (UnVac) or vaccinated with
960 BCG (Vac), rested for 4 weeks and infected with *Mtb* HN878. Some BCG vaccinated mice
961 received Z-DC (Vac+Z-DC) at the time of *Mtb* infection (A). Lungs were harvested at different
962 dpi and single cell suspensions were subjected to scRNA-Seq. UMAP with lung isolated CD3⁺
963 cells, combined plot shown from unvaccinated (20 dpi) (n=2), vaccinated (15 dpi) (n=2), Vac+Z-
964 DC (8 and 15 dpi) (n=1 and n=2 respectively) conditions are presented here (B). UMAPs with
965 marker genes used to assign identity to clusters of T cells are shown (C). CD4⁺ cluster
966 abundances as percent of total CD3⁺ cells across four conditions are shown. Error bars are
967 mean \pm SD for two replicates from each condition. Vac+Z-DC 8 dpi had only one replicate (D).
968 Mean expression of genes, upregulated (left panel) or downregulated (right panel) in lung T
969 resident memory (T_{rm}) cells on UMAP for all conditions are shown (E). Gini coefficient for CD4⁺
970 repertoires across all samples are shown (F). TCRdist tree result for 7677 unique CD4⁺ TCRs
971 are shown (G). Amino acid composition of CDR3 α and CDR3 β for motif 1 depicted as sequence
972 logo (H). Proportion of CD4⁺ cells, matching motif 1 across all samples (left panel) and across
973 CD4⁺ clusters (right panel) are shown (I). Gene expression profile of total CD4⁺ T cells isolated
974 from *Mtb*-infected unvaccinated (20 dpi), *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated (15 dpi), and *Mtb*-
975 infected BCG vaccinated C57BL/6 mice that receive Z-DC transfer (8 dpi), was determined by
976 RNA sequencing (J). Z-scores calculated from the FPKM values across all of the samples,
977 individually for each gene. n = 5 biological replicates for gene expression profile analysis.

978 **Figure 2. Adoptive transfer of vaccine-induced CD4⁺ T cells mediates improved *Mtb***

979 **control in BCG vaccinated host.** CD4⁺ T cells were isolated from *Mtb*-infected BCG
980 vaccinated C57BL/6 mice and *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated C57BL/6 mice that received Z-DC
981 transfer and co-cultured with *Mtb*-infected BMDMs (1:1 ratio) for six days. Intracellular *Mtb* CFU
982 was determined by plating cell lysates (A). IFN- γ and IL-17 levels (B, C) were measured in cell

983 supernatants by ELISA. n = 3-5 biological replicates. C57BL/6 mice were vaccinated with BCG,
984 rested for 4 weeks and infected with *Mtb* HN878. CD4⁺ T cells were isolated from *Mtb*-infected
985 BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer (at 8 dpi) and adoptively transferred to *Mtb*-
986 infected BCG vaccinated mice. Lungs were harvested at 30 dpi and lung bacterial burden was
987 determined by plating **(D)**. Lung inflammation was calculated in the H&E stained FFPE lung
988 sections **(E)**. B cell lymphoid follicle formation was determined on the FFPE lung sections by
989 B220 (red) immunofluorescence staining **(F)**. n = 3-9 mice per group. Levels of cytokines **(G)**
990 and chemokines **(H)** in lung homogenates were quantified by multiplex. n = 5 biological
991 replicates. Data represented as mean \pm SD. ND = not detected. ** p \leq 0.01, *** p \leq 0.001 either
992 by one way ANOVA **(A-C)** or by Student's t test (actual p values are shown) **(D-H)**.

993 **Figure 3. Rapid and early CD4⁺ T cell activation and localization within lung parenchyma**
994 **and airway is driven by CCR8 engagement.** C57BL/6 mice were vaccinated, *Mtb*-infected and
995 received Z-DC transfer as described in method. At the time of harvest, the mice received anti-
996 CD45.2-v500 (IT) and anti-CD45.2-BV605 (IV) antibodies as described in method. Lungs were
997 harvested and subjected to flow cytometry to measure the number of CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ **(A)** T
998 cells. The distribution of CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ **(B)**, CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺CXCR3⁺ **(C)**,
999 CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺cytokine⁺ **(D, E)**, CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺CD103⁺ **(I)**, CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺CCR8⁺ **(J)** T
1000 cells in groups of BCG vaccinated mice were measured in lung airways (red bar), parenchyma
1001 (blue bar) and vasculature (green bar) regions by flow cytometry. n=4-5 mice per group. B6, and
1002 *IL-17/IL-22*^{-/-} mice were vaccinated with BCG, rested for 4 weeks and infected with *Mtb* HN878
1003 and received Z-DC. One group of BCG vaccinated *Mtb*-infected *IL-17/IL-22*^{-/-} mice received IFN-
1004 γ neutralizing ab. Mice were harvested at 20 dpi and lung bacterial burden was determined by
1005 plating **(F)**. MHC-II MFI (mean fluorescent intensity-MFI) on AMs **(G)** and number of
1006 CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells **(H)** were assessed by flow cytometry on total lung single cell
1007 suspensions. n=4-5 mice per group. B6, and *Ccr8*^{-/-} mice were vaccinated with BCG, rested for

1008 4 weeks and infected with *Mtb* HN878. Some BCG vaccinated mice received Z-DC. Mice were
1009 harvested at 20 dpi and lung bacterial burden was determined by plating **(K)**. Frequency of
1010 CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ T cells **(L)** were assessed by flow cytometry on total lung single cell
1011 suspensions. n=4-8 mice per group. Data represented as mean \pm SD.* p \leq 0.05, ** p \leq 0.01, ***
1012 p \leq 0.001, ****p \leq 0.0001 either by two-way ANOVA **(A-E, I and J)**, one-way ANOVA **(F-H)** or
1013 Student's t test (actual p values are shown) **(K and L)**.

1014 **Figure 4. NF κ B signaling in lung epithelial cells mediates early CD4⁺ T cell activation and**
1015 **mucosal localization.** C57BL/6 mice were vaccinated, *Mtb*-infected and received Z-DCs as
1016 described in method. To track the myeloid cells, mice were given anti-CD45.2-v500 and anti-
1017 CD45.2-BV605 antibodies through IT and IV route respectively prior to harvest. Lungs were
1018 harvested at different dpi and total numbers of AMs **(A)**,MHC-II MFI (mean fluorescent
1019 intensity-MFI) on AMs **(B)**, RMs **(C)**, MHC-II MFI on RMs **(D)** in airways (red bar), parenchyma
1020 (blue bar) and vasculature (green bar) location were assessed by flow cytometry. n=4-5 mice
1021 per group. In a separate experiment, *Ikk^{fl/fl}* and *Ikk^{fl/fl}Sftp^{cre}* mice were vaccinated with BCG,
1022 infected and received Z-DCs as described under method. To track the immune cells, mice were
1023 given anti-CD45.2-v500 and anti-CD45.2-BV605 antibodies through IT and IV route respectively
1024 prior to harvest. Lungs were harvested at 20 dpi and lung bacterial burden was determined by
1025 plating **(E)**. B cell lymphoid follicles were determined by CD3 (red) and B220 (green) staining on
1026 FFPE lung sections by immunofluorescence staining **(F)**. The total numbers of AMs **(G)**, RMs
1027 **(H)**, CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺ **(I)**, CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺cytokine⁺ **(J, K)** T cells in the airways, parenchyma
1028 and vasculature location were determined by flow cytometry (red=*Ikk^{fl/fl}*, n=4-9; blue=
1029 *Ikk^{fl/fl}Sftp^{cre}*, n=4-8). Data represented as mean \pm SD.* p \leq 0.05, ** p \leq 0.01, *** p \leq 0.001, ****p \leq
1030 0.0001 either by two way ANOVA **(A-D, G-K)** or by Student's t test (actual p values are shown)
1031 **(E and F)**.

1032

1033 **Supplementary Figure legends:**

1034 **Supplementary Figure 1. Mucosal delivery of Z-DCs in *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice**
1035 **results in unique *Mtb* antigen specific CD4⁺ T cell activation at the site of infection.** UMAP
1036 with CD3⁺ cells, split by condition is shown **(A)**. T cell cluster abundances as percent of total
1037 CD3⁺ cells across four conditions are shown **(B)**. Error bars are mean \pm SD for two replicates
1038 from each condition. Vac+Z-DC 8 dpi had only one sample. Gene set enrichment analysis
1039 (GSEA) shows an enrichment of genes, upregulated in lung Trm (GSE94964), in our
1040 comparison between CD4_1 and CD4_2/Naive CD4 cluster **(C)**. Amino acid composition of
1041 CDR3 α and CDR3 β for motif 2 and 3 depicted as sequence logos **(D)**. Proportion of CD4⁺ cells,
1042 matching motif 1 across all samples and clusters are shown **(E)**.

1043 **Supplementary figure 2. RNA-Seq reveals unique gene signatures in CD4⁺ T cells isolated**
1044 **from *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated C57BL/6 mice that received Z-DC transfer.** CD4⁺ T cells
1045 were isolated from *Mtb*-infected unvaccinated (20 dpi), *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated (15 dpi)
1046 and *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer (8 dpi) and RNA was
1047 extracted. Principal component analysis showing genes differentially expressed by CD4⁺ T cells
1048 isolated from differently treated mice **(A)**. Table showing top 25 genes differentially expressed in
1049 CD4⁺ T by *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer cells as compared
1050 with *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice **(B)**. KEGG pathway analysis showing the gene
1051 signatures upregulated in CD4⁺ T from by *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-
1052 DC transfer cells as compared with *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice **(C)**. C57BL/6 mice were
1053 vaccinated, infected and received Z-DC as described in method. At the time of harvest, the mice
1054 were given both anti-CD45.2-v500 and anti-CD45.2-BV605 antibodies through IT and IV route
1055 respectively. Lungs were harvested and subjected to flow cytometry. Gating strategy is shown
1056 to detect lung T cells populations. T cells were characterized as CD3⁺CD4⁺CD44^{hi}Tetramer⁺ **(D)**.
1057 These Tetramer⁺ cells were further gated based on CD45.2-v500 and CD45.2-BV605 staining.
1058 CD3⁺CD4⁺CD44^{hi}Tetramer⁺CD45.2-v500⁺CD45.2-BV605⁻ cells represented the airways

1059 populations, CD3⁺CD4⁺CD44^{hi}Tetramer⁺CD45.2-v500⁻CD45.2-BV605⁺ represented the
1060 vasculature populations and CD3⁺CD4⁺CD44^{hi}Tetramer⁺CD45.2-v500⁻CD45.2-BV605⁻
1061 represented the parenchyma populations. These three populations were further analysed for
1062 expression of IL-17, IFN- γ , CXCR3, CD103 and CCR8.

1063 **Supplementary figure 3. Mucosal delivery of Z-DCs induces CD4⁺ cell activation through**
1064 **epithelial signaling for vaccine-induced immunity.** C57BL/6 mice were vaccinated, infected
1065 and received Z-DC as described in method. At the time of harvest, the mice were given both
1066 anti-CD45.2-v500 and anti-CD45.2-BV605 antibodies through IT and IV route respectively.
1067 Lungs were harvested and subjected to flow cytometry. The number of CD4⁺CD44^{hi} T cells were
1068 detected by flow cytometry (A). The distribution of CD4⁺CD44^{hi} T cells (B) in *Mtb*-infected BCG
1069 vaccinated mice and *Mtb*-infected BCG vaccinated mice that received Z-DC transfer were
1070 measured in lung airways (red bar), parenchyma (blue bar) and vasculature (green bar) regions
1071 by flow cytometry. n =4-5 mice per group. Gating strategy is shown to detect myeloid cell
1072 populations (C). AMs were characterised as CD11C⁺CD11B⁻SiglecF⁺, RMs were characterised
1073 as CD11C⁻CD11B⁺Gr1⁻. AMs and RMs were further characterised based on the expression of
1074 CD45.2-v500 and CD45.2-BV605 to determine their location as mentioned above. B6, and
1075 *Cd103*^{-/-} mice were vaccinated, infected and received Z-DC as described in method. Mice were
1076 harvested at 20 dpi and lung bacterial burden was determined by plating (D). n =4-5 mice per
1077 group. In a separate experiment, *Ikf*^{fl/fl}*Sftp*^{cre} mice were vaccinated, infected and received Z-DC
1078 as described in method. To track the immune cells mice were given anti-CD45.2-v500 and anti-
1079 CD45.2-BV605 antibodies as before. Lungs were harvested at 20 dpi and MHC-II MFI (mean
1080 fluorescent intensity-MFI) on RMs (E), the total numbers of CD4⁺CD44^{hi} (F), CD4⁺CD44^{hi}TET⁺
1081 T (G) cells were determined by flow cytometry (red=*Ikf*^{fl/fl}, blue= *Ikf*^{fl/fl}*Sftp*^{cre}). n=4-5 mice per
1082 group. Data represented as mean \pm SD. ** p \leq 0.01, *** p \leq 0.001, ****p \leq 0.0001 either by two
1083 way ANOVA (A and B), or Student's t test (actual p values are shown) (D-G).

1084 **Supplementary Table legends:**

1085 **Table S1: Description of Cell proportion in each cluster per condition from**
1086 **scRNA-seq analysis.**

1087 **Table S2: Description of TCRs per condition from scRNA-seq analysis.**







