1 Histone H3 deacetylation promotes host cell viability for efficient infection by

2 Listeria monocytogenes

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- 6 Running Title Maintenance of host genome integrity by Listeria

7 ABSTRACT

8 For many intracellular bacterial pathogens manipulating host cell survival is essential 9 for maintaining a replicative niche, and is a common strategy used to promote infection. The bacterial pathogen Listeria monocytogenes is well known to hijack host 10 11 machinery for its own benefit, such as targeting the host histone H3 for modification by SIRT2. However, in what way this modification benefits infection, as well as the 12 13 molecular players involved, remain unknown. Here we show that SIRT2 activity 14 supports *Listeria* intracellular survival by maintaining genome integrity and host cell 15 viability. This protective effect is dependent on H3K18 deacetylation, which 16 safeguards the host genome by counteracting infection-induced DNA damage. 17 Mechanistically, infection causes SIRT2 to interact with the nucleic acid binding 18 protein TDP-43 and localise to genomic R-loops, where H3K18 deacetylation occurs. 19 This work highlights novel functions of TDP-43 and R-loops during bacterial infection 20 and identifies the mechanism through which L. monocytogenes co-opts SIRT2 to allow 21 efficient infection.

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24 loops/TDP-43

²³ Keywords: Histone deacetylation/DNA damage/Infection/Listeria monocytogenes/R-

25 INTRODUCTION

The Sirtuin family (SIRT1-7) of NAD⁺-dependent deacetylases play key roles in 26 many biological processes which are required to maintain cellular homeostasis, such 27 28 as cell cycle, metabolism and DNA repair (Houtkooper et al, 2012; Gomes et al, 2015). 29 Sirtuins have distinct subcellular localisations and divergent functional roles; however, 30 they all regulate DNA and chromatin to various extents, particularly in response to DNA 31 damage (Houtkooper et al, 2012). Despite their broad roles across different cellular 32 compartments, mouse knockout models for all Sirtuins have emphasised their essential role in maintaining genome stability and cell survival in response to stress 33 34 (Bosch-Presegué & Vaguero, 2014). As such, loss of individual Sirtuins is strongly 35 associated with increased genome instability, and knockout mice often develop chromosomal aberrations and are predisposed to spontaneous tumorigenesis. The 36 37 safeguarding of genomic stability by Sirtuins occurs in numerous ways including 38 regulation of metabolic responses to stress, control of cell cycle checkpoints or 39 adjustment of DNA damage signalling and repair through histone deacetylation (Bosch-Presegué & Vaquero, 2014). 40

41 Sirtuins 1, 6 and 7 display predominantly nuclear localisations, and as such have the most clearly defined roles in DNA damage responses. Sirt1^{-/-} cells have a 42 43 reduced capacity to form DNA repair foci and fail to efficiently repair y-radiation-44 induced DNA damage (Wang et al, 2008). This effect is believed to be driven by 45 deregulation of chromatin dynamics via histone deacetylation, and repair proteins such 46 as KU70 (Jeong et al, 2007), WRN (Chen et al, 2003) and XPA (Fan & Luo, 2010). SIRT6 can act as a DNA damage sensor which directly binds DNA breaks and 47 promotes repair protein recruitment (Onn et al, 2020). Additionally, SIRT6 has been 48 49 described to maintain the integrity of pericentric genomic regions through H3 lysine 18 50 deacetylation (Tasselli et al, 2016). Similarly, SIRT7 promotes the (H3K18) 51 recruitment of the repair protein 53BP1 to sites of DNA damage which requires H3K18 52 deacetylation, and enhances non-homologous end joining (NHEJ) (Vazquez et al, 2016). However, SIRT7 lacks an ability to directly bind damaged DNA and instead 53 54 requires Poly [ADP-ribose] polymerase 1 (PARP1) to localise to double strand breaks 55 (Onn et al, 2020; Vazquez et al, 2016). By comparison, the mitochondrial Sirtuins have 56 a more indirect role in preserving DNA stability. SIRT3 protects mtDNA by limiting mitochondrial superoxide levels (Kim et al. 2010) and positively regulating the DNA 57 58 repair protein OGG1 (Cheng et al, 2013), while SIRT4 represses mitochondrial

glutamine metabolism in response to genotoxic stress, thus promoting cell cycle arrestand allowing for more efficient DNA repair (Jeong *et al*, 2013).

Sirtuin 2 (SIRT2) is unique, as it is the only member of the family to hold a 61 predominantly cytoplasmic localisation and have clear regulatory roles across multiple 62 subcellular compartments, functioning in metabolism, cell cycle, inflammation, and 63 64 oxidative stress responses (Lemos et al, 2017; Gomes et al, 2015; de Oliveira et al, 2012). However, SIRT2 is continuously shuttled between the cytosol and nuclear 65 66 compartment, where it regulates nuclear proteins, such as p300 and p53 (Tanno et al, 2007; North & Verdin, 2007; Eldridge et al, 2020b; Peck et al, 2010; Black et al, 2008), 67 and histones by deacetylation (Vaquero et al, 2006; Eskandarian et al, 2013). 68 69 Furthermore, during mitosis SIRT2 accumulates in the nucleus, and becomes enriched at chromatin, where it deacetylates histone H4 lysine 16 (Inoue et al, 2007; Vaguero 70 71 et al, 2006). As such, most of the described functions of SIRT2 in regulating DNA 72 damage occur in the context of cell cycle progression and cell division. For instance, 73 SIRT2-dependent H4K16 deacetylation has been shown to regulate H4K20me1 74 deposition, which in turn affects cell cycle checkpoint progression and reduces DNA 75 damage accumulation during mitosis (Serrano et al, 2013). Similarly, SIRT2 promotes 76 the activity of the anaphase-promoting complex/cyclosome (APC/C), which protects against mitotic catastrophe and promotes genome stability (Kim et al, 2011). 77 78 Additionally, during the G2/M cell cycle checkpoint SIRT2 promotes CDK9 function 79 which prevents the breakdown of stalled replication forks and arrests the cell cycle to 80 allow additional time for DNA repair (Zhang et al, 2013). These reports point to SIRT2 having essential roles in maintaining genome stability which are linked to its nuclear 81 82 accumulation during mitosis, but similar roles during interphase have not been shown.

Our previous work identified a novel function of SIRT2 during infection with the 83 84 bacterial pathogen Listeria monocytogenes. Infection triggers nuclear accumulation of SIRT2, where it becomes enriched on chromatin at transcriptional start sites (TSSs) of 85 86 specific genes and induces deacetylation of H3K18 independently of the cell cycle (Eskandarian et al, 2013). Nuclear import of SIRT2 during infection is mediated in part 87 88 by importin IPO7, and chromatin binding requires the dephosphorylation of SIRT2 at 89 serine 25, allowing for H3K18 deacetylation (Pereira et al, 2018; Eldridge et al, 2020b). 90 Importantly, SIRT2 activity at chromatin is essential for efficient *L. monocytogenes* 91 infection in vitro and in vivo. However, how bacterial hijacking of SIRT2 promotes 92 infection remains unknown. Given the roles of Sirtuins and H3K18 deacetylation in maintaining genome integrity, we reasoned that SIRT2 might function similarly during *L. monocytogenes* infection, in turn promoting host cell viability in order to better
maintain the replicative niche (Ashida *et al*, 2011; Friedrich *et al*, 2017; Pirbhai *et al*,
2006; Behar & Briken, 2019; Knodler *et al*, 2005; Yan *et al*, 2009).

97 In this study we show that SIRT2 activity protects host cells from DNA damage 98 and promotes host cell survival. We further show that the interaction with the DNA/RNA 99 binding protein TDP-43 is essential for SIRT2 enrichment at the transcription start site 100 (TSS) of specific genes and H3K18 deacetylation during infection. Mechanistically, we 101 find that SIRT2 and TDP-43 function with DNA:RNA hybrids called R-loops to reduce 102 the accumulation of host DNA damage caused by infection. Therefore, we show that 103 during infection, the activity of SIRT2 on H3K18 is key in regulating cellular health, 104 which is exploited by L. monocytogenes to maintain host genome integrity and cell 105 viability thereby promoting infection.

106

107 **RESULTS**

108 SIRT2 activity maintains host cell viability during infection

109 Sirtuins have long been established to promote cell viability by maintaining 110 genome stability. We were therefore interested in measuring cell viability during infection upon inhibition of SIRT2 activity. We performed an Alamar blue assay to 111 112 measure the metabolic activity of HeLa cells, under uninfected and infected conditions, 113 with and without SIRT2 inhibitor AGK2. Interestingly, infection with *L. monocytogenes* 114 caused no reduction in host cell viability at either 6 or 24 hours post infection. However, 115 in the presence of AGK2, a SIRT2 inhibitor, infected cells exhibited a significant 116 reduction in viability (Fig. 1A). After 6 hours of infection, a slight 10% decrease in 117 viability is detected in AGK2 treated cells, and by 24 hours cell viability is significantly 118 decreased by 30% as compared with uninfected cells (Fig. 1A). Importantly, AGK2 119 treatment alone did not lead to a decrease in cell viability (Fig. 1A). Supporting this 120 data, we performed cell counting assays at 6 h and 24 h post infection and were able 121 to show that a higher proportion of dead cells were recovered at these time points (Fig. 122 S1A). Therefore, although *L. monocytogenes* infection alone does not significantly 123 impact cell viability, blocking SIRT2 activity during infection leads to significant cell 124 death.

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126 SIRT2 activity on H3K18 protects cells from infection-induced DNA damage

Since SIRT2 displays a cell protective effect during *L. monocytogenes* infection,
we examined the consequences of SIRT2 inhibition on the DNA damage response.
We monitored the accumulation of DNA damage by measuring the nuclear
fluorescence intensity of the DNA damage marker γH2AX during late infection, in the
presence or absence of the SIRT2 inhibitor AGK2.

132 Consistent with previous reports, *L. monocytogenes* infection induces low levels 133 of DNA damage illustrated by an increase of vH2AX in host cell nuclei (Fig. 1B and 134 S1B). At 24 hours post infection we observed a 15% increase in number of yH2AX 135 positive cells as compared with uninfected conditions, accompanied by ~1.5-fold 136 increase in vH2AX mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) across the cell population (Fig. 137 1B, S1B and S1C). In uninfected cells treated with AGK2 there was no significant 138 increase in vH2AX staining, suggesting that under resting conditions SIRT2 has no 139 significant effect on the induction of DNA damage. By contrast, infected AGK2-treated 140 cells accumulated significantly higher levels of DNA damage by 24 hours post 141 infection, as evidenced by a 35% increase in the number of vH2AX positive cells and 142 a concurrent ~4-fold increase in the average nuclear yH2AX MFI (Fig. 1B, S1C and 143 S1D). These data indicate that SIRT2 activity suppresses the accumulation of DNA 144 damage during infection.

The impact of SIRT2 on infection-induced DNA damage was also determined 145 in vivo. Spleens from wildtype and Sirt2^{-/-} mice were collected 72 hours after 146 147 intravenous infection with *L. monocytogenes* and levels of yH2AX were assessed by immunoblotting. As expected, spleens from infected Sirt2^{-/-} mice had significantly 148 149 higher levels of H3K18-ac and showed a trend towards lower bacterial numbers 150 compared with wildtype mice (Fig. 1C and S1E). Similarly to what is observed during 151 in vitro infection, levels of yH2AX were also significantly higher in Sirt2^{-/-} mice (Fig. 1C). 152 Therefore, the role of SIRT2 in reducing DNA damage is detected in vivo, within organs 153 that are targeted during infection.

We further wanted to determine whether it was the general activity of SIRT2 that was supressing DNA damage or the specific deacetylation of H3K18. To answer this question, we infected cells overexpressing GFP-tagged wildtype histone H3, or mutants where K18 was substituted with either glutamine (K18Q) or alanine (K18A) which respectively mimic acetylated and deacetylated H3K18. Under these conditions, DNA damage was measured by γH2AX immunoblotting. Upon transfection and expression of wildtype H3, DNA damage is observed only in infected cells that are

161 AGK2-treated (Fig. 1D), similarly to what is observed by immunofluorescence under 162 untransfected conditions (Fig. 1B). Alone, the expression of either mutant H3 K18Q or H3 K18A did not induce any significant increase in yH2AX levels in resting cells. 163 164 Strikingly though, upon infection, expression of H3 K18Q is sufficient to induce higher 165 levels of yH2AX (Fig. 1D), similar to the levels induced by AGK2 treatment. By contrast, 166 expression of H3K18A does not increase vH2AX upon infection and, in fact, blocks 167 yH2AX accumulation observed in AGK2 treated cells. These results suggest that 168 deacetylation of H3K18 has a direct protective role against the accumulation of 169 excessive DNA damage. Therefore, early recruitment of SIRT2 to DNA and its activity 170 towards H3K18 is required to respond to infection-induced genotoxic stress.

171

172 SIRT2 interacts with TDP-43 for recruitment to chromatin

173 Our previous work showed that H3K18 deacetylation by SIRT2 occurs 174 specifically at the TSSs of a subset of genes which are repressed during infection. 175 However, SIRT2 does not display DNA binding properties. To identify interacting 176 partners which could anchor SIRT2 to DNA we mined the previously published SIRT2 177 interactome (Eldridge et al, 2020b). Using the GeneCards database, we compiled lists 178 of proteins known to interact with the TSSs of 5 different genes that are regulated by 179 SIRT2 during infection (*MYLIP*, *ERCC5*, *LEF1*, *SYDE2*, *EHHADH*). We then compared 180 these against the SIRT2 interactome to identify common proteins. One SIRT2-putative 181 interactor which was common across all lists was TDP-43 (encoded by TARDBP gene) 182 a DNA/RNA binding protein (Fig. S2). Further in silico analysis of previously identified 183 infection-dependent SIRT2-repressed genes (Eskandarian et al, 2013) showed that 184 72% of these have TDP-43 present at their TSSs by ChIP-seq (ENCODE portal). 185 Therefore TDP-43 represented a suitable candidate protein to recruit SIRT2 to 186 chromatin at specific loci during *L. monocytogenes* infection.

187 To determine whether TDP-43 interacts with SIRT2 upon infection, HeLa cells 188 were transfected with plasmids encoding GFP alone or GFP-tagged SIRT2 (SIRT2-189 GFP), then left uninfected or infected with *L. monocytogenes* followed by immunoprecipitation from isolated nuclei. Immunoblotting analysis showed that 190 191 endogenous TDP-43 co-precipitates with SIRT2-GFP but not GFP alone in uninfected 192 cells (Fig. 2A). Interestingly, following infection, TDP-43 binding to SIRT2 is further enriched by approximately 2-fold (Fig. 2A). Consistent with our previous interactome 193 194 analysis these data show that a basal interaction between SIRT2 and TDP-43 occurs

in the nuclei of uninfected cells, and we now show that this interaction is significantlyenhanced in response to *L. monocytogenes* infection.

197 previously identified Ser25 as a residue on SIRT2 that was We 198 dephosphorylated upon infection and that this modification was necessary for SIRT2 199 to become enriched at chromatin (Pereira et al, 2018). Therefore, this post-200 translational modification could be involved in regulating the interaction between SIRT2 201 and TDP-43. To address this, we co-transfected HeLa cells with mCherry-TDP-43 and 202 either WT SIRT2-GFP, phosphomimetic S25E SIRT2-GFP, or dephosphomimetic 203 S25A SIRT2-GFP. Immunoprecipitation from cells with RFP-Trap beads followed by 204 immunoblotting showed that all SIRT2 variants could interact TDP-43. Furthermore, 205 both SIRT2 variants displayed an augmented interaction with TDP-43, particularly the 206 S25A dephosphomimetic displayed a ~2.5-fold increase in its interaction with TDP-43 207 as compared with the WT variant. This increase is similar to that observed following 208 infection, suggesting that S25 dephosphorylation has a role in regulating this interface 209 between SIRT2 and TDP-43 (Fig. S3).

210 We further wanted to establish whether TDP-43 was required for SIRT2-binding 211 to DNA. Chromatin immunoprecipitation PCR (ChIP-PCR) of endogenous TDP-43 212 from uninfected HeLa cells showed that TDP-43 localises to the TSSs of SIRT2-213 regulated genes MYLIP, ERRC5, LEF1, SYDE2 and EHHADH, consistent with multiple 214 ChIP-seq data sets available from the ENCODE project database (Davis et al, 2018). 215 Following L. monocytogenes infection TDP-43 shows a slight, and in most cases 216 significant, enrichment of ~10% at these genetic loci (Fig. 2B). By comparison ARAP2, 217 a SIRT2 independent gene, does not show TDP-43 recruitment upon infection. To 218 determine whether TDP-43 is necessary for the recruitment of SIRT2 to chromatin, we 219 performed ChIP-PCR of GFP tagged SIRT2 from uninfected and infected cells 220 transfected with either scramble or TDP-43 (TARDBP) targeting siRNA. For all tested 221 genes, knockdown of TDP-43 does not change the basal level of SIRT2 recruitment in uninfected cells (Fig. 2C). As previously demonstrated, infection causes significant 222 223 recruitment of SIRT2 to the TSSs of MYLIP, ERRC5, LEF1, SYDE2 and EHHADH but 224 not ARAP2. However, during infection, loss of TDP-43 from cells significantly reduces 225 the recruitment of SIRT2 to the TSSs of these genes by ~5-15%. By contrast, the 226 SIRT2 activity-independent gene ARAP2 shows a decrease in SIRT2 enrichment 227 during infection which is not altered by the loss of TDP-43 (Fig. 2C). These data show 228 that whilst TDP-43 is not required for the basal localisation of SIRT2 to chromatin in

resting cells, the specific interaction and enrichment of SIRT2 which occurs following infection is dependent on TDP-43, and loss of TDP-43 dysregulates SIRT2-chromatin dynamics (Fig. 2C and S4B). Taken together these data show that infection enhances the interaction between SIRT2 and TDP-43 in the nucleus, and that TDP-43 is necessary for the infection-induced enrichment of SIRT2 at chromatin level to specific genetic locations.

235

236 **TDP-43 is required for SIRT2-dependent functions during infection**

237 In the context of *L. monocytogenes* infection, our data strongly suggests that 238 TDP-43 acts as a scaffold for SIRT2 recruitment to specific gene loci, and therefore 239 would be essential for enabling SIRT2-dependent processes and related downstream 240 phenotypes. 48 hours prior to infection HeLa cells were transfected with scrambled 241 siRNA or a pool of three siRNAs which target either SIRT2 or TARDBP mRNA, 242 reducing their respective levels by ~70% and 90% (Fig. S4A and S4B). As expected, 243 in HeLa cells transfected with scramble siRNA, H3K18 deacetylation occurred normally 244 during infection. Global H3K18-ac levels decreased by 30-40% as compared with 245 uninfected cells (Fig. 3A). However, this decrease in acetylation levels was blocked in 246 TARDBP silenced cells similarly to what was observed upon SIRT2 silencing (Fig. 3A). 247 Therefore, TDP-43 is required for SIRT2-dependent H3K18 deacetylation during 248 infection.

249 We previously showed that SIRT2 activity is required to promote bacterial 250 replication/survival in host cells, which is attenuated by enzymatic inhibition or genetic 251 silencing of SIRT2 and results in lower recovered CFUs upon a 24h infection 252 (Eskandarian et al, 2013; Pereira et al, 2018). Silencing of SIRT2 expression has no 253 impact on early Lm invasion (Fig. S4C), however at later time points (24 hr p.i.) 30% 254 fewer bacteria are recovered from cells transfected with SIRT2 siRNA compared with scramble controls (Fig. 3B) We performed similar experiments upon silencing of TDP-255 256 43 to assess *Lm* replication/survival during the later stages of infection in cultured cells. We obtained a similar reduction in bacterial numbers 24-hours post infection upon 257 258 TARDBP knockdown as with SIRT2 knockdown, where 50% fewer bacteria were 259 recovered relative to scramble controls (Fig. 3B). Therefore, these results show that, 260 like SIRT2, loss of TDP-43 has a negative impact on bacterial replication/survival within 261 host cells and is therefore required to promote Lm infection. Altogether, our data 262 demonstrate that TDP-43 is required for the execution of SIRT2-dependent H3K18

deacetylation during infection, and for the advantage SIRT2 can confer to *L. monocytogenes* during infection.

265

266 **R-loops are required for infection induced H3K18 deacetylation**

267 TDP-43 is a nuclear DNA/RNA binding protein which specifically recognises single 268 stranded nucleic acids. Recently, TDP-43 has been shown to interact with nucleic acid 269 structures called R-loops, which preferentially form at TSSs when newly transcribed 270 RNA anneals to the coding strand of DNA forming an RNA:DNA hybrid, and displaces 271 a strand of ssDNA. To study the role of R-loops during infection, we overexpressed 272 RNaseH1, an enzyme which resolves DNA/RNA-hybrids. Cells were transfected either 273 with a mCherry control plasmid (pICE-mCherry-NLS) or a RNaseH1 expressing 274 plasmid (pICE-RNaseH1-WT-NLS), and H3K18 deacetylation was monitored by 275 immunoblotting. Expression of the control mCherry plasmid had no effect on the 276 previously observed infection-induced H3K18 deacetylation. However, cells 277 overexpressing RNaseH1 displayed no difference in acetylation levels, demonstrating 278 that RNaseH1 expression blocks infection-induced deacetylation. In contrast, cells 279 transfected with catalytically inactive mutant RNaseH1 ((pICE-RNaseH1-D10R, E48R-280 NLS) regained the ability to deacetylate H3K18 upon infection (Fig. 4A), which 281 demonstrates that only catalytically active RNaseH1 blocks H3K18 deacetylation. 282 These data therefore suggest that resolving of R-loops by expression of RNaseH1 283 blocks histone deacetylation, therefore indicating that the presence or formation of R-284 loops is required for this modification to occur.

285 Similarly, we overexpressed RNaseH1 to determine whether resolving R-loops 286 would influence the intracellular survival of *L. monocytogenes* as observed upon loss 287 of SIRT2 or TDP-43 (Fig. 3B). In agreement with results from Figure 3B, cells 288 transfected with a control mCherry plasmid behave as untransfected cells. By 289 comparison, overexpression of RNaseH1 is alone sufficient to cause the same 290 decrease in recovered bacterial colonies 24h post infection with no impact on infection 291 at 6h (Fig. 4B and S5). Interestingly, additional SIRT2 inhibition with AGK2 does not 292 have a cumulative effect on intracellular bacterial numbers, suggesting that R-loops 293 are required for SIRT2 to promote infection (Fig. 4B). Together these data establish 294 that R-loops are required for SIRT2 activity during infection, and that blocking their 295 formation is alone sufficient to negatively affect the long-term survival of L. 296 monocytogenes in host cells, phenotypically copying the loss of SIRT2 and TDP-43.

297

TDP-43 and R-loops are required to protect against excessive infection induced DNA damage

300 Our data shows that SIRT2 activity and H3K18 deacetylation reduce the 301 genotoxic effects of *L. monocytogenes* infection. We therefore asked whether TDP-43 302 and R-loops, which are also required for infection induced H3K18 deacetylation, would 303 impact the accumulation of DNA damage. At earlier timepoints, where no infectioninduced yH2AX is observed, loss of either SIRT2 or TDP-43 does not result in 304 305 heightened vH2AX in cells (Fig. 5A). Consistent with our results using AGK2, infected 306 cells depleted of SIRT2 or TDP-43 by RNAi display significantly elevated levels of 307 vH2AX in infected cells, as detected by western blot at 24 hours post infection (Fig. 308 5B). Likewise, blocking the formation of R-loops by overexpressing RNaseH1 also 309 significantly increases amount of yH2AX detected in infected cells at 24 hours post 310 infection (Fig. 5C). This is in accordance with the role of R-loops in H3K18 311 deacetylation, demonstrating that R-loop inhibition phenotypically copies the loss of 312 SIRT2 or TDP-43. Therefore, R-loops are required to protect infected cells from 313 excessive DNA damage and are important for a productive L. monocytogenes 314 infection.

315

316 **DISCUSSION**

317 Over the last decade, host nuclear factors and processes have been identified 318 as common targets for bacterial pathogen manipulation during infection (Bierne & 319 Hamon, 2020; Eldridge et al, 2020a; Dong & Hamon, 2020). Previous work 320 demonstrated that, through InIB-induced signalling, L. monocytogenes triggers 321 dephosphorylation of SIRT2 and co-opts its activity resulting in H3K18 deacetylation 322 and augmented infection. In this study we decipher how SIRT2 interacts with chromatin 323 upon infection and how its hijacking by *L. monocytogenes* contributes to bacterial 324 infection. Here, we establish that SIRT2 activity towards H3K18-ac is required to 325 maintain host cell health during infection, as in its absence host cell viability is reduced, 326 resulting in a decrease in bacterial numbers. Specifically, SIRT2 activity and H3K18 327 deacetylation serve to protect host cell genome integrity by limiting the accumulation 328 of DNA damage induced by *L. monocytogenes*. Mechanistically, infection and S25 329 dephosphorylation of SIRT2 enhance its interaction with the nucleic binding protein 330 TDP-43 which enriches SIRT2 at the TSSs of specific genes to permit H3K18 deacetylation and maintain genome stability. These protective effects are also dependent on chromosomal DNA:RNA hybrids called R-loops which likely define the genomic locality of TDP-43 and thereby SIRT2 recruitment. Together, these data uncover a molecular mechanism involving a complex of SIRT2, TDP-43 and R-loops which regulate genomic integrity during infection and are the first to show functional roles for TDP-43 and R-loops in regulating cellular responses to bacteria (Fig. 6).

337 Our study defines H3K18 deacetylation by SIRT2 as the key factor required for 338 protection from DNA damage during infection. Following exposure to ionizing radiation, 339 SIRT7-mediated H3K18 deacetylation similarly protects genome stability by promoting 340 the recruitment of the DNA repair protein 53BP1 and increasing the efficiency of NHEJ 341 repair (Vazquez et al, 2016). Taken together, these data suggest that H3K18 342 deacetylation serves as a mark of DNA damage upon cellular stress for the recruitment 343 of repair proteins. The general role of this mark in cellular stress needs to be 344 investigated further.

345 Bacterial infection is a well-known inducer of DNA damage. However, some 346 pathogens also target DNA damage responses in order to manipulate host cell fate, 347 for instance to promote cell survival (Leitão et al, 2014; Samba-Louaka et al, 2014; 348 Weitzman & Weitzman, 2014; Chumduri et al, 2013). L. monocytogenes infection has 349 been reported to generate DNA damage in the host independently of ROS through an 350 unknown mechanism (Samba-Louaka et al, 2014; Leitão et al, 2014). In fact, L. 351 monocytogenes triggers degradation of the host DNA damage sensor MRE11, which 352 promotes infection (Samba-Louaka et al, 2014). Previous work has suggested that this 353 infection-induced DNA damage promotes infection by delaying host cell cycle 354 progression and increasing the host cellular nucleotide pool which can be scavenged 355 by bacteria, promoting their replication (Leitão et al, 2014). In macrophages, L. 356 monocytogenes infection induces DNA breaks which are generated by nitric oxide production in responses to TLR signalling. This in turn activates a DNA damage 357 358 response (DDR) pathway that regulates a pro-inflammatory transcriptional program to augment macrophage responses (Morales et al, 2017). Consistent with its potential 359 360 role in DDR during infection, our previously published SIRT2 interactome identified 361 many DNA damage sensor and repair proteins including KU70/ KU80, RPA1, FEN1 362 and PARP1 (Eldridge et al, 2020b). Irrespective of the role that DNA damage might 363 play during infection, mitigating its cytotoxic effects would benefit the maintenance of 364 the intracellular niche.

365

The exploitation of SIRT2 requires the effector InIB which binds and activates 366 367 the host receptor for hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) c-Met (Eskandarian et al, 2013). 368 Classically this interaction is recognised to induce the uptake of *L. monocytogenes* into 369 non-phagocytic cells by clathrin-mediated endocytosis and trigger host pro-survival 370 signalling through PI3K and AKT which are also typical of HGF stimulation to promote 371 infection (Radoshevich & Cossart, 2018). In non-infectious pathologies such as cancer 372 the HGF/c-Met axis is often hyperactive which greatly contributes to oncogenesis by 373 promoting cancer cells survival. Additionally, constitutive c-Met signalling in cancer 374 cells also stimulates multiple DNA repair mechanisms which can render tumours 375 resistant to anti-cancer drugs which act by inducing DNA damage (Medová et al, 2014; 376 Comoglio et al, 2018; De Bacco et al, 2016; Li et al, 2009). Interestingly, mutant ΔinlB 377 L. monocytogenes induce higher levels of host DNA damage during infection despite 378 being less invasive (Samba-Louaka et al, 2014). As such, the engagement of c-Met, 379 hijacking of SIRT2, and subsequent H3K18 deacetylation, could represent a specific 380 DDR mechanism which is exploited by *L. monocytogenes* to promote host cell survival.

381 TDP-43 is a ubiquitously expressed protein belonging to the heterogenous 382 nuclear ribonucleoprotein (hnRNP) family which has specificity for single stranded 383 TG/UG-rich DNA and RNA (Kitamura et al, 2018; Kuo et al, 2014; Buratti et al, 2004; 384 Buratti & Baralle, 2001). Like SIRT2, TDP-43 also shuttles between the cytoplasm and 385 nucleus (Ayala et al, 2008), however, it primarily maintains a nuclear localisation and 386 functions in RNA processing and as a direct transcriptional repressor (Lagier-Tourenne 387 et al, 2010; Lalmansingh et al, 2011). Though primarily monomeric physiological 388 oligomerisation of TDP-43 has also been described and is believed to regulate DNA-389 binding and stress resistance (Chang et al, 2012; Afroz et al, 2017). TDP-43 has been 390 identified as a causative factor of the neurodegenerative disease amyotrophic lateral 391 sclerosis (ALS), mostly commonly due to mutations which cause it to mislocalise to the 392 cytoplasm and self-assemble into large prion-like aggregates (Jo et al, 2020). As well 393 as their direct pathological roles, ALS-related mutations also disrupt the native 394 functions of TDP-43 revealing that it acts as a scaffold for the recruitment of DNA repair 395 proteins. As such, ALS mutant or TDP-43 deficient neuronal cells have defects in 396 NHEJ DNA repair and are more sensitive to genotoxic agents (Mitra et al, 2019; 397 Konopka et al, 2020). The interaction of TDP-43 with SIRT2 had not previously been

shown, however our work suggests that SIRT2 could have an important role inregulating DNA repair in ALS

400 R-Loops also regulate DNA damage; however, whether they are detrimental or 401 beneficial for the maintenance of genome integrity remains controversial (Marnef & 402 Legube, 2021; Crossley et al, 2019; Niehrs & Luke, 2020). Persistent R-loops have 403 been demonstrated to cause DNA damage due to incorrect processing by nucleotide 404 excision repair nucleases XPG and XPA or by blocking replication fork progression 405 resulting in the formation double strand breaks (Gan et al, 2011; Cristini et al, 2019). 406 However, R-loops can also function to promote DNA repair, particularly in the context 407 of transcriptionally coupled homologous recombination repair and NHEJ (Marnef & 408 Legube, 2021; Chakraborty et al, 2016; Yasuhara et al, 2018). We find that blocking 409 R-loop formation by overexpressing RNaseH1 leads to higher levels host DNA damage 410 in response to *L. monocytogenes*, suggesting that R-loops play a protective role during 411 infection.

412 Interestingly, in silico analysis shows that many SIRT2 regulated sequences 413 contain or are predicted to contain R-loops; additionally there are multiple studies 414 which demonstrate that TDP-43 localises to and interacts with R-loops (Gianini et al, 415 2020; Mosler et al, 2021; Cristini et al, 2018). Our data suggest that, in the context of 416 *L. monocytogenes* infection, TDP-43 recruits SIRT2 to chromatin, as it can for other 417 DDR factors (Mitra et al, 2019; Konopka et al, 2020). Consistent with this, inhibition of 418 H3K18 deacetylation by RNaseH1 indicates that R-loops act upstream of SIRT2 419 activity, suggesting that R-loops are recognised by TDP-43, which serves as a platform 420 for SIRT2 recruitment during infection.

421 Sirtuins have long been known to regulate cellular responses to DNA damage. 422 Recent work showed that SIRT6 acts as a direct DNA damage sensor whose activity 423 initiates DNA repair responses when localised to broken DNA. Interestingly, although 424 SIRT2 lacks an ability to directly bind DNA, SIRT2 fused with a lactose repressor 425 (LacR) element (to allow DNA binding) showed that recruitment of SIRT2 to DNA was 426 sufficient to initiate the recruitment of DNA repair proteins (Onn et al, 2020). Given 427 that SIRT2 has also been shown to promote mycobacterial infection, this interaction 428 with TDP-43 could function during other bacterial infections (Bhaskar et al, 2020). 429 Independently, these factors are also linked to many non-infectious human 430 pathologies, and mutations in SIRT2, TDP-43 and R-loop regulating factors have been 431 linked with age-related illnesses such as cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, both

of which are also intrinsically linked to the deregulation of DNA damage responses. As
such, these mechanisms not only have implications in better understanding cellular
response to infection but could also extend to other factors of human health and
disease.

436

437 EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

438

439 Cell Culture, inhibitor treatments and Listeria monocytogenes infections

440 HeLa (ATCC, CCL-2) cells were grown to semi-confluency in minimum essential 441 medium (MEM) plus GlutaMAX (Gibco) supplemented with 1 mM sodium pyruvate 442 (Gibco), and 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS). 24 hours before infection, HeLa cell 443 medium was changed to low serum (0.25% FBS) MEM medium containing 1 mM 444 sodium pyruvate. Listeria monocytogenes EGD (see Supplementary Table S1) were 445 grown overnight in brain heart infusion (BHI) liquid broth with shaking at 37°C. For 446 infection bacteria were subcultured (1 in 10) into fresh BHI and grown to mid log phase 447 $(OD_{600} = 0.8-1)$ and washed 3x in MEM + 0.25% FBS before being added to cells. 448 Bacteria were then added onto cells at a MOI of 100 (unless otherwise stated) and 449 incubated for 1 hour. Cells were then washed 3x in MEM + 0.25% FBS and incubated 450 in fresh medium for 30 minutes prior to the addition of 10 µg.mL⁻¹ gentamicin for the 451 remaining time of the infection. Inhibitors were added 2 hours prior to infection and 452 remained present until 1 hour post infection when cells were washed. SIRT2 inhibitor 453 AGK2 (Calbiochem) was used at a concentration of 5 mM.

454

455 **Cell viability alamar Blue assay**

456 Cells were incubated at 37°C in fresh medium containing 10% alamarBlue reagent for
457 1-2 hours. Fluorescence (Ex/Em 560/590 nm) was then read using a Cytation 5
458 (BioTek). Fluorescence readings were blank corrected to wells containing only culture
459 medium and results are expressed as a percentage of uninfected cells viability.

460

461 *Immunofluorescence microscopy*

For immunofluorescence HeLa cells were plated onto coverslips prior to treatments. Following treatments cells were washed three times in PBS and fixed using 464 4% PFA in DPBD for 10 mins. Cells were then permeabilised for 10 mins in 0.2% Trition X-100 PBS. Coverlips were then incubated in blocking buffer (1% BSA TBS) for

1 hour. For immunostaining coverslips were inverted on to droplets of blocking buffer 466 467 containing Phospho-Histone H2A.X (Ser139) (CST, 2577) antibody (1:500) then 468 incubated in a humidified chamber overnight at 4°C. Subsequently, coverslips were 469 washed 3 times in PBS + 0.1% Tween then incubated at room temperature in the dark 470 for 1 hour in blocking buffer containing Alexa Fluor 546 goat anti-rabbit IgG (Invitrogen, 471 A-11035) secondary antibody (1:1500) for 1 hour. Coverslips were washed three times 472 TBS + 0.1% Tween, nuclei were stained with 300 nM (100 ng.mL⁻¹) Hoechst 33342 for 473 15 mins. Coverslips were then washed three times in TBS, rinsed briefly in distilled 474 water and mounted using Fluoromount-G® Mounting Medium (INTERCHIM). All 475 images were acquired using a Zeiss Axio Observer spinning-disk confocal microscope 476 equipped driven by the MetaMorph software. For quantification a minimum of ten fields 477 of view were obtained per condition of each biological replicate.

478

479 Immunoblotting and band quantification

480 Cell lysates were prepared in 2x Laemmli loading buffer supplemented with cOmplete 481 protease inhibitor and PhosSTOP phosphatase inhibitor tablets (Roche), 1 mM PMSF, 482 5 mM sodium butyrate and 5% β -mercaptoethanol. Proteins were separated by SDS-483 PAGE using TrisGlycine buffer systems and transferred to PVDF membranes (Bio-484 Rad Laboratories). Membranes were blocked for 1 hour in TBS + 0.1% Tween 485 containing 5% milk and then incubated with primary antibodies (as per the 486 manufactures instructions) overnight at 4°C with rocking. Immunoblot quantification 487 used images acquired on a Chemidoc MP (Bio-Rad), analyzed using Image Lab 488 software (Bio-Rad Laboratories).

489

490 Antibodies

491 Antibodies used in this study are as follow; anti-GFP antibody (Abcam, ab290), Acetyl-492 Histone H3 (Lys18) antibody (CST, 9675), anti-Histone H3 antibody (Abacam, 493 ab1791), anti-β-actin (Sigma, AC-15), anti-TDP-43 antibody (Sigma, T1705), anti-494 SIRT2 (CST, 12650) anti-mCherry antibody (1C51) (Novus Biologicals, NBP1-96752), 495 anti-γH2A.X (S139) antibody (2OE3) (CST, 9718S), anti-H2A.X antibody (CST, 496 2595S), Phospho-Histone H2A.X (Ser139) antibody (immunofluorescence) (CST, 497 2577).

498

499 In vivo animal studies

500 Protocols for animal studies were reviewed and approved by the Comité d'Ethique pour 501 l'Expérimentation Animale of Institut Pasteur under approval number Dap170005 and 502 performed in accordance with national laws and institutional guidelines for animal care 503 C57BL/6 mice purchased and use. Wild-type were from Janvier Labs. Sirt2tm1a(EUCOMM)Wtsi mice were obtained from the Sanger Center. For details, see 504 www.informatics.jax.org/javawi2/servlet/WIFetch?page=alleleDetail&key=606707. 505 506 Female mice aged 8–16 weeks old were infected by intravenous injection of 10⁵ 507 bacteria per animal and proceeded for 72 hours.

508

509 **RNA** interference and DNA transfections

510 Transient RNAi was carried out using ON-TARGETplus siRNAs from 511 Dharmacon. HeLa cells were transfected with siRNA targeting either SIRT2 512 (SMARTpool L-004826-00-0005), or TARDBP (SMARTpool L-012394-00-0005). ON-513 TARGETplus Non-targeting Pool siRNA (D-001810-10-05) served as the negative 514 control. Reverse transfections were performed in 6 well plates using Lipofectamine 515 RNAiMAX reagent (Invitrogen). Briefly, 2.5x10⁵ HeLa were added to wells containing 516 15 pmol of siRNA mixed with 3 µL Lipofectamine RNAiMAX in 500 µL OptiMEM (Gibco) 517 and incubated for 48 hours prior to further treatment or infection.

Transient expression of DNA plasmids was carried out in 6 well plates by 518 519 reverse transfection using Lipofectamine LTX (Invitrogen). Briefly, 5-6x10⁵ HeLa cells 520 were added to wells containing DNA-lipid complexes consisting of 1 µg plasmid DNA 521 mixed with 1.5 μ L Plus reagent and 3 μ L LTX transfection reagent in 500 μ L OptiMEM.

522

523 RNaseH1 transfection and induction

524 For experiments testing the role RNaseH1 overexpression HeLa stably express the 525 tetracycline repressor (HeLa T-Rex) protein (Agathe Subtil) were used to enable induction of pICE plasmids. HeLa T-Rex cells were transfected as described above. 526 527 For plasmid induction transfected cells were incubated overnight with 10 ng.mL⁻¹ Anhydrotetracycline hydrochloride (AHT). 528

529

530 Co-immunoprecipitation with MNase lysis

Immunoprecipitations of SIRT2-GFP were performed using GFP-Trap® 531 agarose beads (Chromotek). Briefly, 2-4×10⁶ HeLa cells were transfected with tagged-532 533 SIRT2 or empty pEGFP-N1/pmCherry-C1. 24 hours post transfection cells were

534 collected using PBS+EDTA washed once in PBS and resuspended in 100uL MNase 535 reaction buffer (1mM CaCl₂, 0.2% NP-40, 50mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.6) 1mM CaCl₂, 0.2% 536 NP-40, 50mM Tris-HCI (pH 7.6) and 10 U micrococcal nuclease to react at 37 °C for 537 20 min. Reaction was terminated with 5 mM EDTA and sample was diluted 1:1 with 2X RIPA buffer containing 1 mM PMSF and sodium butyrate and incubated on ice for 10 538 539 minutes. Lysate was cleared by centrifugation at 20000 xq for 5 minutes and the 540 resulting supernatant was diluted with 600 µL of wash/dilution buffer (10 mM Tris/CI 541 pH 7.5; 150 mM NaCl; 0.5 mM EDTA). 40 µL was removed for input and the remaining 542 lysate was incubated with GFP-Trap® agarose beads at 4°C with agitation for 1 hour. 543 The beads were washed twice in wash buffer and once in wash buffer containing 300 544 mM NaCl. Proteins were eluted by boiling beads in 50 µL 2× Laemmli buffer with 5% 545 β -mercaptoethanol.

546

547 Chromatin immunoprecipitation PCR

548 3-5x10⁶ cells were cross-linked at room temperature with 1% formaldehyde for 549 10 minutes followed by guenching with 130 mM glycine for 5 minutes. Chromatin 550 extraction and ChIP-PCR were performed as previously described with slight 551 modifications (Connor et al, 2021). Briefly, cell pellets were lysed on ice in nuclear 552 isolation buffer (NIB) supplemented with 0.2% Triton X-100 and inhibitors (1x 553 cOmplete[™] protease, 1X PhosSTOP[™], 10 mM sodium butyrate, 0.2mM PMSF) for 554 30 min with gentle pipetting every 10 min. Nuclei were collected by centrifugation and 555 re-suspended in chromatin shearing buffer with inhibitors. Chromatin was fragmented 556 by sonication (30 cycles of 15 s 'on' and 30 s 'off') with a Bioruptor (Diagenode) to 200 557 - 1000 bp. Sheared chromatin was cleared by centrifugation, sampled for size using 558 2% agarose gel electrophoresis and quantified using Pico488 (Lumiprobe, 42010). 2 559 µg of antibody (anti-TDP-43, T1705; anti-GFP antibody, ab290) was used per ChIP 560 and were bound to Dynabeads Protein G (Invitrogen) overnight at 4°C with gentle 561 rotation. Chromatin was diluted to 10-15 µg/IP with SDS dilution buffer supplemented 562 with inhibitors. 8% of ChIP sample volume was reserved to serve as input. Diluted 563 chromatin was then added to antibody bound Dynabeads and incubated at 4°C 564 overnight with gentle rotation. IP samples were washed sequentially with 1 mL of 565 buffers 1–6. Water containing 10% Chelex was added to washed beads and input samples and were eluted and de-crosslinked by boiling for 10 minutes. Samples were 566 567 then treated with RNase A at room temperature for 10 minutes at 37°C followed by

proteinase K (500 µg/ml) for 20 min at 55°C. Samples were then boiled for a further 10 568 569 min and recovered DNA was purified by phenol-chloroform extraction and isopropanol 570 precipitation and resuspended in molecular grade water. ChIP DNA was quantified by qRT-PCR using iTaq[™] Universal SYBR® Green Supermix and results were 571 572 expressed as percent recovery from input calculated as 2 raised to cycle adjusted input 573 sample quantitation cycle (Cq) value minus the Cq immunoprecipitation sample, 574 multiplied by 100. For buffer formulations and primer sequences see Supplementary 575 Tables S2 and S3 respectively.

576

577 RNA isolation, reverse transcription, and qRT-PCR

578 RNA was extracted from cells using TRIzolTM Reagent (Life Technologies) extraction 579 method as per the manufacturer's instructions. cDNA was synthesised from 2 μ g 580 purified RNA using iScriptTM cDNA Synthesis Kit (Bio-Rad) and quantified by qRT-PCR 581 using iTaqTM Universal SYBR® Green Supermix. Data was analysed using Δ CT 582 method relative to *GAPDH*.

583

584 Plasmids Single, oligo mutagenesis and molecular cloning

585 Routine cloning was carried out by sequence- and ligation-independent cloning (SLIC) (Jeong et al, 2012) for primers see Supplementary Table S3. For further details 586 587 on plasmids used in this study see Supplementary Table S4. pEGFP-H3 WT, pEGFP-588 H3 K18A, pEGFP-H3 K18Q were a gift from Dr Fang-Lin Sun (Liu et al, 2012). pmCherry TDP-43 was cloned from TDP43 NOTAG1(Addgene #28206) which was a 589 590 gift from Zuoshang Xu (Yang et al, 2010). pICE-NLS-mCherry (Addgene #60364) and 591 pICE-RNaseHI-WT-NLS-mCherry (Addgene #60365) were gifts from Patrick Calsou 592 pICE-RNaseHI-WT-NLS-mCherry (Dead) was made by (Britton *et al.* 2014). 593 introducing inactivating D10R and E48R mutations by single oligo mutagenesis 594 (Shenoy & Visweswariah, 2003).

595

596 Statistical analysis

597 All experiments were repeated at least twice, and statistical tests are reported 598 in the figure legends. Data normality was tested by Shapiro-Wilk test, and appropriate 599 parametric or non-parametric tests were used. Data plots and statistics were generated 600 using Prism (version 9, GraphPad Software Inc.).

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615

616 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

617 The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest with the contents of this 618 article.

619

620 AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

M.J.G.E., and M.A.H. conceived and designed the experiments. M.J.G.E. conducted
the experiments. M.J.G.E. analysed results. M.J.G.E. wrote the original manuscript
draft. M.J.G.E. and M.A.H. edited and reviewed the manuscript. M.A.H. supervised
the research and obtained funding. All authors approved the final manuscript.

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871 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

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Figure 1: SIRT2 activity maintains host cell viability and genome integrity during *L. monocytogenes* infection.

875 HeLa cells pre-treated for 2 hours in DMSO or 5 mM AGK2 were left uninfected (UI) 876 or infected (EGD) with *L. monocytogenes* for 6 and 24 hours (A) or 24 hours (B). (A) 877 Cytotoxicity was measured Alamar blue assay. Results are expressed as percent 878 viability of uninfected cells. Plot shows mean ± SEM from three independent 879 experiments. Statistical significance was determined by a Kruskal-Wallis test (ns = not significant, * = p < 0.05, ** = p < 0.01). (B) Representative images of 880 881 immunofluorescence (left) detection of endogenous vH2aX (red) in HeLa cells left 882 uninfected (UI) or infected for 24 hours with GFP-expressing L. monocytogenes (Lm-883 GFP). Scale bar is 20 µm. Quantification of nuclear yH2aX (right) from HeLa cells, data 884 points represent the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of yH2aX within individual 885 nuclei. Graphs display quantified nuclei from 2 independent experiments with the mean 886 values of each condition represent by lines (red). Statistical significance was 887 determined by one-way ANOVA with FDR Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) correction for multiple comparisons (ns = not significant, **** = p < <0.0001). (C) Immunoblot 888 889 detection of stated proteins from infected mouse spleen lysates (left). Quantification of 890 normalised H3K18-ac and vH2aX levels. Graphs show collated values from 8 mice 891 from two independent experiments, box and whisker plot with solid line denoting the median value. Statistical significance was determined by Two-tailed Unpaired t test (* 892 893 = p < 0.05, *** = p < 0.001). (D) Immunoblot detection of vH2aX and total H2aX (left) 894 from whole cell lysates of HeLa cells left uninfected (-) or infected with L. monocytogenes (EGD) for 24 hours. Cells are expressing stated H3-GFP plasmids 895 896 and treated with DMSO or 5 mM AGK2. Images are representative of three 897 independent experiments. Quantification of yH2aX levels (right) relative to uninfected. 898 Results are expressed as intensity of actin normalised yH2aX bands relative to actin 899 normalised total H2aX. Graph shows the mean ± SEM from three independent 900 experiments. Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA with Fisher's LSD test (ns = not significant, *** = p < 0.001, **** = p < 0.0001). 901 902

Figure 2: TDP-43 interacts with SIRT2 and is required for chromatin interactions and gene targeting upon infection.

905 (A) HeLa cells expressing either GFP alone or SIRT2-GFP were left uninfected (-) or 906 infected (+) for 3 hours. Cells were lysed and underwent immunoprecipitation using 907 GFP-Trap® agarose beads. Cell lysates (Input) and IP fractions were immunoblotted 908 using antibodies against GFP or TDP-43 (left). Quantification of endogenous TDP-43 909 enriched by GFP or SIRT2-GFP (right). Graph shows input normalised intensities of TDP-43 protein relative to SIRT2-GFP intensity detected from the same sample. 910 911 Enrichment is expressed relative to basal interaction observed on uninfected cells. 912 Graph shows the mean \pm SEM from three independent experiments.

- 913 (B) Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) using non-targeting control (Ctrl IgG) or 914 TDP-43 (TDP-43 IgG) targeting antibodies quantified by gPCR. Chromatin was 915 extracted from uninfected (UI - green) or infected (EGD - blue) HeLa cells 6 hours post 916 infection. gPCR was carried out using primers targeting the transcriptional start sites 917 of stated SIRT2-dependent or independent (gray background) genes. Graphs show 918 collated technical readings (n=4) from three independent experiments and are 919 presented as percent recovery of ChIP relative to input and plotted as box and whisker 920 plot with solid line denoting the median value. Statistical significance determined by 921 two-way ANOVA with FDR Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) correction for multiple 922 comparisons (ns = not significant, * = p < 0.05, ** = p < 0.01, *** = p < 0.001). (C) 923 Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) using non-targeting control (Ctrl IgG) or GFP 924 (GFP IgG) targeting antibodies quantified by qPCR. Chromatin was extracted from 925 HeLa cells stably expressing SIRT2-GFP and transfected with non-targeting Scramble 926 (Green) or TARDBP targeting (Orange) siRNA. Cells were left uninfected (UI -clear) or 927 infected (EGD - dotted) for 6 hours. qPCR was carried out using primers targeting the 928 transcriptional start sites of stated SIRT2-dependent or independent (red box) genes. 929 Graphs show collated technical readings (n=4) from three independent experiments 930 and are presented as percent recovery of ChIP relative to input and plotted as box and 931 whisker plot with solid line denoting the median value. Statistical significance 932 determined by two-way ANOVA with FDR Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) correction for multiple comparisons (ns = not significant, * = p < 0.05, ** = p < 0.01, *** = p < 0.001, 933 **** =p <0.0001). 934
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Figure 3: Silencing TDP-43 expression blocks H3K18 deacetylation and other SIRT2-related phenotypes during infection.

938 (A) Representative image of H3K18 acetylation, SIRT2 and TDP-43 levels detected by 939 immunoblotting (left) 6 hours post infection in uninfected HeLa (-) and L. 940 monocytogenes-infected cells (+) transfected with stated siRNA. Quantification of 941 H3K18 acetylation levels (right): band intensity of H3K18-ac and total H3 levels are 942 normalised to β -actin followed by normalisation of H3K18-ac to total H3. Values are 943 expressed as normalised band intensity relative to uninfected Scramble cells. Error 944 bars represent SEM of four independent experiments. Statistical significance was 945 determined by a Kruskal-Wallis test (ns = not significant, **= p < 0.01). (B) Fold 946 change of intracellular *L. monocytogenes* colony forming units during infection of HeLa cells transfected with stated siRNAs. Data are presented as fold-change in recovered 947 948 intracellular CFU between 2.5 and 24 hours post infection relative to Scramble siRNA 949 cells. Graph shows the mean \pm SEM from three independent experiments. Statistical 950 significance was determined by a Kruskal-Wallis test (* = p < 0.05, **= p < 0.01).

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Figure 4: Blocking R-loop formation by overexpressing RNaseH1 inhibits infection induced H3K18 deacetylation and supresses bacterial intracellular survival.

954 (A) Immunoblot analysis of H3K18 acetylation 6 hours post infection (left) in uninfected 955 (-) and infected (+) HeLa cells expressing either mCherry, WT RNaseH1 or catalytically inactive RNaseH1 (dead). Quantification of H3K18 acetylation (right). H3K18-ac and 956 957 total H3 levels band intensities are normalised to β-actin followed by normalisation of 958 H3K18-ac to total H3. Values are expressed as normalised band intensity relative to 959 uninfected mCherry cells. Error bars represent the SEM from at least three 960 independent experiments. Statistical significance was determined by a Kruskal-Wallis test (ns = not significant, * = p < 0.05). (B) Fold change of intracellular L. 961 962 monocytogenes colony forming units during infection of HeLa cells expressing stated 963 plasmid constructs treated with wither DMSO or 5 mM AGK2. Data are presented as 964 the fold-change in recovered intracellular CFU for each cell type at 6 and 24 hours post 965 infection relative to their corresponding 2.5-hour timepoint. Graphs show the mean ± 966 SEM from three independent experiments. Statistical significance was determined by 967 two-way ANOVA with FDR Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) correction for multiple comparisons (ns = not significant, **= p < 0.01). 968

Figure 5: SIRT2, TDP-43 and R-loops function to protect cells from infection induced DNA damage.

971 Immunoblot detection of yH2aX and total H2aX from whole cell lysates of HeLa cells 972 transfected with stated siRNAs and left uninfected (-) or infected (+) for (A) 6 hours or (B) 973 24 hours. Quantified band intensities of vH2aX levels are present in graphs (right). 974 Results are expressed as intensity of actin normalised yH2aX bands relative to actin 975 normalised total H2aX. Graph shows the mean ± SEM from at least three independent 976 experiments statis. Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA with 977 Dunnet correction for multiple comparisons (ns = not significant, ** = p < 0.01, **** = p < 0.01, ***** = p < 0.01, **** = p < 0.01, ***978 p < 0.0001). (C) HeLa cells expressing either mCherry or mCHerry-RNaseH1 were 979 infected for 24 hours, immunoblot analyses and quantification of yH2aX (right) 980 performed as stated for (A) and (B) *denotes non-specific band. Graph shows the 981 mean ± SEM from five independent experiments. Statistical significance was 982 determined by Two-tailed Unpaired t test (*** =p <0.001).

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984 Figure 6: Model of host genome integrity protection by SIRT2.

985 Schematic model of SIRT2 mechanisms of host cell protection and enhancement of 986 infection. During infection, SIRT2 activity is hijacked by *Listeria* and is translocated to 987 nucleus mediating H3K18 deacetylation. Recruitment to chromatin and histone 988 deacetylation require TDP-43 and R-loops, which define the localisation of SIRT2 to 989 specific genes. H3K18 deacetylation then directly functions to protect host genomic 990 DNA from accumulating excessive DNA damage induced during infection by unknown 991 mechanisms. This promotes genome integrity and cell viability thereby better 992 supporting the intracellular lifestyle of *Listeria* and resulting in enhanced infection.

993

994 Figure S1: SIRT2 inhibition effects cell viability and DNA damage during infection.

HeLa cells pre-treated for 2 hours with DMSO or 5 mM AGK2 (A-D). (A) Enumeration
of live (Trypan negative) and dead (Trypan positive) cells at stated times post infection.
Cells were enumerated with Countess™ II Automated Cell Counter from 2 independent
experiments with the me. (B) Reprehensive unmerged images of nuclear γH2aX from
uninfected and infected cells as presented in Fig. 1B. (C) Percentage of γH2aX positive
cells from Fig. 1B. Error bars represent the SEM from four independent experiments.
Statistical significance was calculated by two-way ANOVA with FDR Benjamini-

1002 Hochberg (BH) correction for multiple comparisons (ns = not significant, * = p < 0.05).

1003 (D) Descriptive statistics of microscopy analysis presented in Fig. 1B. (E) Total L.

monocytogenes CFU per spleen extracted from *wildtype* and *Sirt2^{-/-}* mice 72 hours post
infection.

1006

Figure S2: Identification of SIRT2-interacting partners shown to localise to SIRT2-regualted genes by ChIP-seq

- 1009 Venn diagrams illustrating proteins shared between SIRT2-interactome and interactors
 1010 of the TSSs of *MYLIP*, *ERRC5*, *LEF1*, *SYDE2*, *EHHADH* and *ARAP2*.
- 1011

1012 Figure S3: Phosphorylation of SIRT2 at S25 modulates interactions with TDP-43

HeLa cells expressing either mCherry alone or mCherry-TDP-43 were co-transfected
with stated variants of SIRT2-GFP followed by immunoprecipitation using RFP-Trap®
agarose beads. Cell lysates (Input) and IP fractions were immunoblotted using
antibodies against TDP-43 or GFP for detection of SIRT2.

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Figure S4: Knockdown of SIRT2 or TDP-43 reduces long term efficacy of *Listeria*infection

Relative mRNA expression of (A) *SIRT2* and (B) *TARDBP* as detected by qPCR
normalised to GAPDH. Mean ± S.E.M from three independent experiments are plotted.
(C) Quantification of *L. monocytogenes* intracellular CFUs. HeLa cells were
transfected with indicated siRNAs and infected for 2.5 h or 24 h. Lysates were plated
onto BHI agar and bacterial CFUs were enumerated. Data are presented as CFU/well.
Individual biological replicates are plotted as paired values.

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1028Figure S5: Blocking R-loop formation reduces long term efficacy of Listeria1029infection

Quantification of *L. monocytogenes* intracellular CFU/cell. HeLa cells expressing either mCherry or RNaseH1 were treated with DMSO or 5 mM AGK2 then infected with *L. monocytogenes*. Intracellular bacteria were extracted at 2.5, 6 and 24 hours post infection plated onto BHI agar and bacterial CFUs were enumerated. Data are presented as average CFU/cell. Mean \pm S.E.M from three independent experiments are plotted.

Figure 1

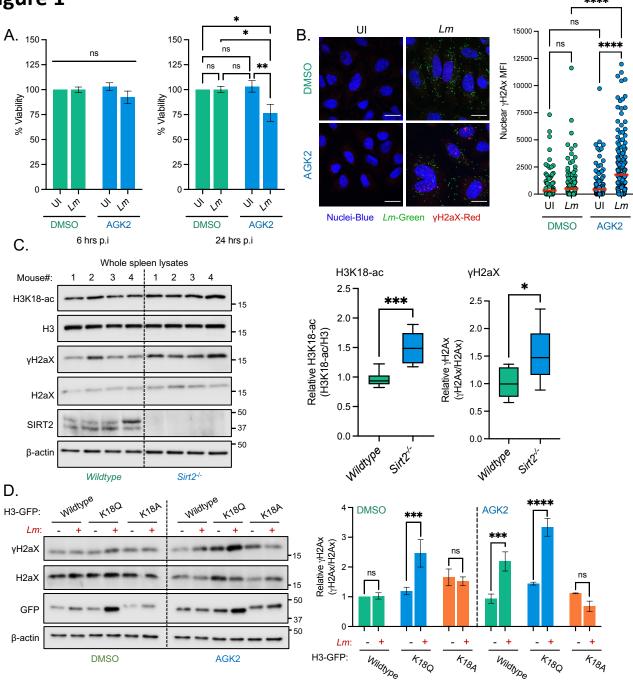


Figure 1: SIRT2 activity maintains host cell viability and genome integrity during L. monocytogenes infection.

HeLa cells pre-treated for 2 hours in DMSO or 5 mM AGK2 were left uninfected (UI) or infected (EGD) with L. monocytogenes for 6 and 24 hours (A) or 24 hours (B). (A) Cytotoxicity was measured Alamar blue assay. Results are expressed as percent viability of uninfected cells. Plot shows mean ± SEM from three independent experiments. Statistical significance was determined by a Kruskal-Wallis test (ns = not significant, * = p < 0.05, ** = p < 0.01). (B) Representative images of immunofluorescence (left) detection of endogenous γH2aX (red) in HeLa cells left uninfected (UI) or infected for 24 hours with GFP-expressing L. monocytogenes (Lm-GFP). Scale bar is 20 µm. Quantification of nuclear yH2aX (right) from HeLa cells, data points represent the mean fluorescence intensity (MFI) of yH2aX within individual nuclei. Graphs display quantified nuclei from 2 independent experiments with the mean values of each condition represent by lines (red). Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA with FDR Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) correction for multiple comparisons (ns = not significant, **** = p < <0.0001). (C) Immunoblot detection of stated proteins from infected mouse spleen lysates (left). Quantification of normalised H3K18-ac and yH2aX levels. Graphs show collated values from 8 mice from two independent experiments, box and whisker plot with solid line denoting the median value. Statistical significance was determined by Two-tailed Unpaired t test (* = p < 0.05, *** =p < 0.001). (D) Immunoblot detection of yH2aX and total H2aX (left) from whole cell lysates of HeLa cells left uninfected (-) or infected with L. monocytogenes (EGD) for 24 hours. Cells are expressing stated H3-GFP plasmids and treated with DMSO or 5 mM AGK2. Images are representative of three independent experiments. Quantification of vH2aX levels (right) relative to uninfected. Results are expressed as intensity of actin normalised vH2aX bands relative to actin normalised total H2aX. Graph shows the mean ± SEM from three independent experiments. Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA with Fisher's LSD test (ns = not significant, *** = p < 0.001, **** = p < 0.0001).

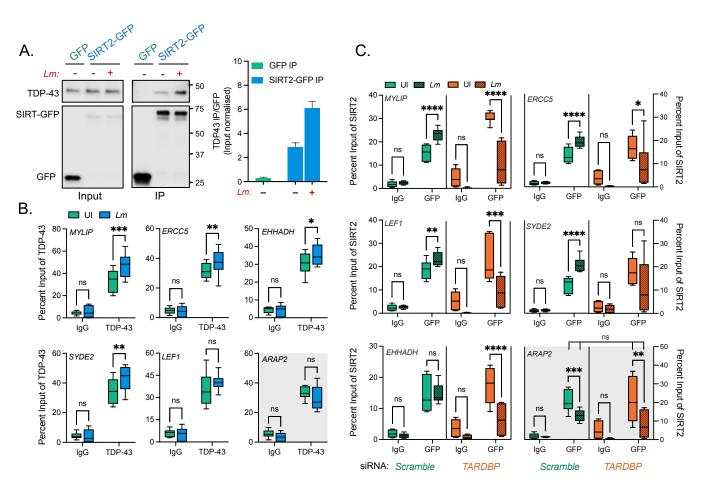


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(A) HeLa cells expressing either GFP alone or SIRT2-GFP were left uninfected (-) or infected (+) for 3 hours. Cells were lysed and underwent immunoprecipitation using GFP-Trap® agarose beads. Cell lysates (Input) and IP fractions were immunoblotted using antibodies against GFP or TDP-43 (left). Quantification of endogenous TDP-43 enriched by GFP or SIRT2-GFP (right). Graph shows input normalised intensities of TDP-43 protein relative to SIRT2-GFP intensity detected from the same sample. Enrichment is expressed relative to basal interaction observed on uninfected cells. Graph shows the mean ± SEM from three independent experiments. (B) Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) using nontargeting control (Ctrl IgG) or TDP-43 (TDP-43 IgG) targeting antibodies quantified by qPCR. Chromatin was extracted from uninfected (UI green) or infected (EGD - blue) HeLa cells 6 hours post infection. qPCR was carried out using primers targeting the transcriptional start sites of stated SIRT2-dependent or independent (gray background) genes. Graphs show collated technical readings (n=4) from three independent experiments and are presented as percent recovery of ChIP relative to input and plotted as box and whisker plot with solid line denoting the median value. Statistical significance determined by two-way ANOVA with FDR Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) correction for multiple comparisons (ns = not significant, * = p < 0.05, ** = p < 0.01, *** = p < 0.001). (C) Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) using non-targeting control (Ctrl IgG) or GFP (GFP IgG) targeting antibodies quantified by qPCR. Chromatin was extracted from HeLa cells stably expressing SIRT2-GFP and transfected with non-targeting Scramble (Green) or TARDBP targeting (Orange) siRNA. Cells were left uninfected (UI -clear) or infected (EGD dotted) for 6 hours. qPCR was carried out using primers targeting the transcriptional start sites of stated SIRT2-dependent or independent (red box) genes. Graphs show collated technical readings (n=4) from three independent experiments and are presented as percent recovery of ChIP relative to input and plotted as box and whisker plot with solid line denoting the median value. Statistical significance determined by two-way ANOVA with FDR Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) correction for multiple comparisons (ns = not significant, * = p < 0.05, ** = p < 0.01, *** = p < 0.001, **** =p <0.0001).

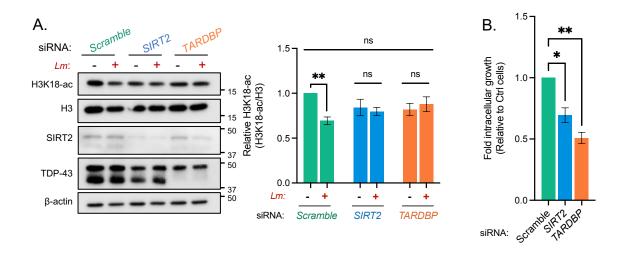


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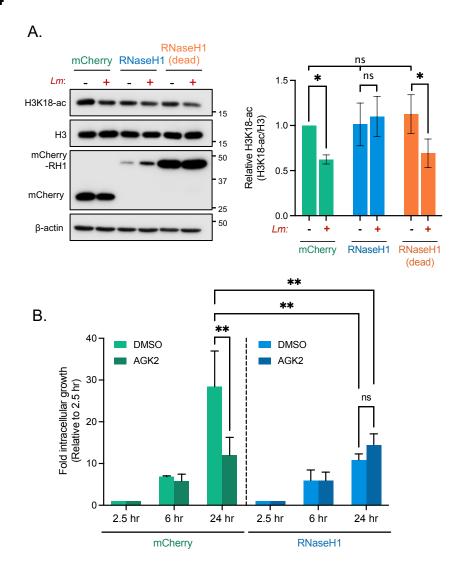


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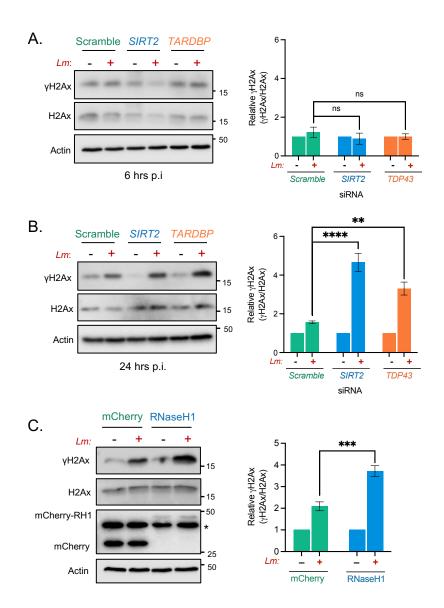


Figure 5: SIRT2, TDP-43 and R-loops function to protect cells from infection induced DNA damage.

Immunoblot detection of γ H2aX and total H2aX from whole cell lysates of HeLa cells transfected with stated siRNAs and left uninfected (-) or infected (+) for (A) 6 hours or (B) 24 hours. Quantified band intensities of γ H2aX levels are present in graphs (right). Results are expressed as intensity of actin normalised γ H2aX bands relative to actin normalised total H2aX. Graph shows the mean \pm SEM from at least three independent experiments statis. Statistical significance was determined by one-way ANOVA with Dunnet correction for multiple comparisons (ns = not significant, ** =p <0.001). (C) HeLa cells expressing either mCherry or mCHerry-RNaseH1 were infected for 24 hours, immunoblot analyses and quantification of γ H2aX (right) performed as stated for (A) and (B) *denotes non-specific band. Graph shows the mean \pm SEM from five independent experiments. Statistical significance was determined by Two-tailed Unpaired t test (*** =p <0.001).

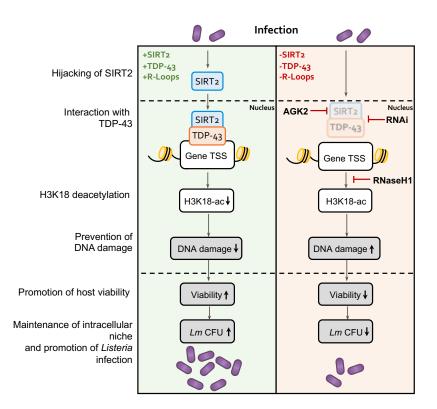
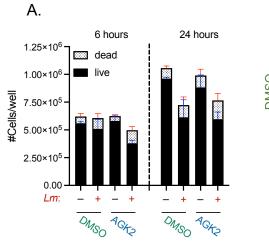
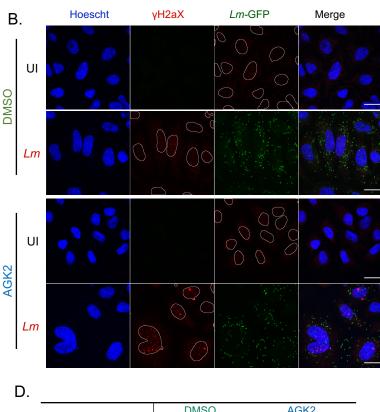
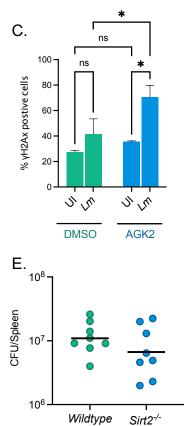


Figure 6: Model of host genome integrity protection by SIRT2.

Schematic model of SIRT2 mechanisms of host cell protection and enhancement of infection. During infection, SIRT2 activity is hijacked by *Listeria* and is translocated to nucleus mediating H3K18 deacetylation. Recruitment to chromatin and histone deacetylation require TDP-43 and R-loops, which define the localisation of SIRT2 to specific genes. H3K18 deacetylation then directly functions to protect host genomic DNA from accumulating excessive DNA damage induced during infection by unknown mechanisms. This promotes genome integrity and cell viability thereby better supporting the intracellular lifestyle of *Listeria* and resulting in enhanced infection.







	DMSO		AGK2	
	UI	EGD	UI	EGD
# of values	205	238	225	249
Mean	334.9	511.6	436.6	1793
Median	0	0	0	945.5
Std. Deviation	957.8	1218	1093	2403
Std. Error of Mean	66.9	78.97	72.9	152.3

Figure S1: SIRT2 inhibition effects cell viability and DNA damage during infection.

HeLa cells pre-treated for 2 hours with DMSO or 5 mM AGK2 (A-D). (A) Enumeration of live (Trypan negative) and dead (Trypan positive) cells at stated times post infection. Cells were enumerated with CountessTM II Automated Cell Counter from 2 independent experiments with the me. (B) Reprehensive unmerged images of nuclear γ H2aX from uninfected and infected cells as presented in Fig. 1B. (C) Percentage of γ H2aX positive cells from Fig. 1B. Error bars represent the SEM from four independent experiments. Statistical significance was calculated by two-way ANOVA with FDR Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) correction for multiple comparisons (ns = not significant, * = p < 0.05). (D) Descriptive statistics of microscopy analysis presented in Fig. 1B. (E) Total *L. monocytogenes* CFU per spleen extracted from *wildtype* and *Sirt2*^{-/-} mice 72 hours post infection.

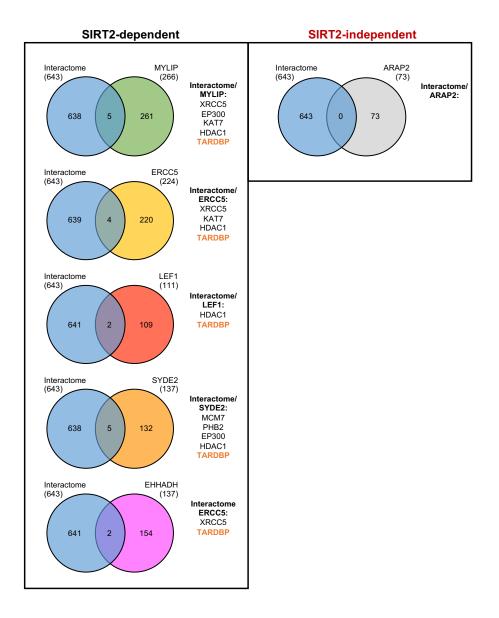


Figure S2: Identification of SIRT2-interacting partners shown to localise to SIRT2-regualted genes by ChIP-seq

Venn diagrams illustrating proteins shared between SIRT2-interactome and interactors of the TSSs of MYLIP, ERRC5, LEF1, SYDE2, EHHADH and ARAP2.

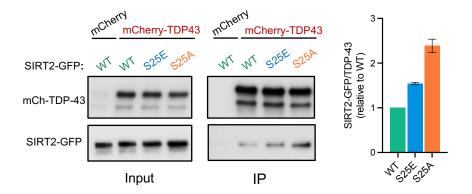


Figure S3: Phosphorylation of SIRT2 at S25 modulates interactions with TDP-43

.

HeLa cells expressing either mCherry alone or mCherry-TDP-43 were co-transfected with stated variants of SIRT2-GFP followed by immunoprecipitation using RFP-Trap® agarose beads. Cell lysates (Input) and IP fractions were immunoblotted using antibodies against TDP-43 or GFP for detection of SIRT2.

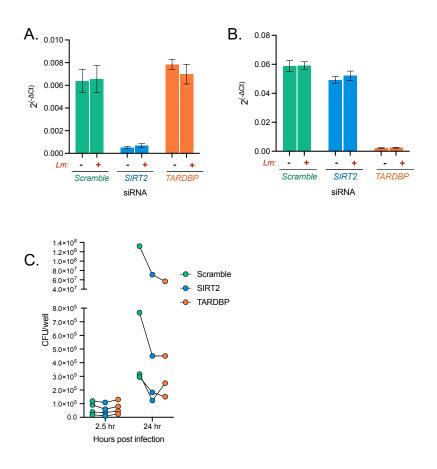


Figure S4: Knockdown of SIRT2 or TDP-43 reduces long term efficacy of Listeria infection

Relative mRNA expression of (A) *SIRT2* and (B) *TARDBP* as detected by qPCR normalised to GAPDH. Mean ± S.E.M from three independent experiments are plotted. (C) Quantification of *L. monocytogenes* intracellular CFUs. HeLa cells were transfected with indicated siRNAs and infected for 2.5 h or 24 h. Lysates were plated onto BHI agar and bacterial CFUs were enumerated. Data are presented as CFU/well. Individual biological replicates are plotted as paired values.

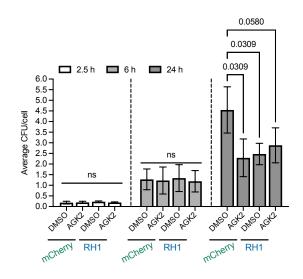


Figure S5: Blocking R-loop formation reduces long term efficacy of Listeria infection

Quantification of *L. monocytogenes* intracellular CFU/cell. HeLa cells expressing either mCherry or RNaseH1 were treated with DMSO or 5 mM AGK2 then infected with *L. monocytogenes*. Intracellular bacteria were extracted at 2.5, 6 and 24 hours post infection plated onto BHI agar and bacterial CFUs were enumerated. Data are presented as average CFU/cell. Mean ± S.E.M from three independent experiments are plotted

Supplementary Tables

Table S1: Bacterial strains used in study

Bacterial strain	Genotype	Vector	Strain number
Listeria monocytogenes	Wildtype EGD		BUG600
Listeria monocytogenes	Wildtype EGD	pAD-cGFP	BUG2539

Table S2: Recipes of buffers used in this study

Buffer	Components
Nuclear Isolation buffer	15 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 60 mM KCl, 15 mM NaCl, 250 mM sucrose, 1 mM CaCl2, 5 mM MgCl2
Chromatin shearing buffer	1% SDS, 10 mM Tris HCI (pH 8.0), 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA
SDS dilution buffer	0.6% Triton X-100, 0.06% NaDOC, 150 mM NaCl, 12 mM Tris HCl (pH 8.0), 1 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM EGTA
Buffer 1 (isotonic)	1% Triton X-100, 0.1% NaDOC, 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris HCl (pH 8.0);
Buffer 2 (isotonic, ionic change)	0.5% NP40, 0.5% Triton X-100, 0.5% NaDOC, 150 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris HCl (pH 8.0);
Buffer 3 (high salt dilution)	0.7% Triton X-100, 0.1% NaDOC, 250 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris HCl (pH 8.0);
Buffer 4 (high salt dilution)	0.5% NP40, 0.5% Triton X-100, 250 mM LiCl, 1 mM EDTA, 20 mM Tris HCl (pH 8.0);
Buffer 5 (salt dilution)	0.1% NP40, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 20 mM Tris HCl (pH 8.0);
Buffer 6 (TE)	1 mM EDTA, 20 mM Tris HCI (pH 8.0))

Table S3: Primers used in this study

Primer name	Sequence 5' - 3'
Cloning primers	
mCherry_TDP43_Fw	GGT CAG GTT CGG GCA GTG GAT CCG GAA TGT CTG AAT ATA TTC GGG TA
mCherry_TDP43_Rv	CAG TTA TCT AGA TCC GGT GGA TCC CGG TTA CAT TCC CCA GCC AGA AG
Mutagenesis primer	
Mut-Rnase-D10R Xhol	TGG AAA TCT TCA CTC GAG GCA GCT GTC TG
Mut-Rnase-E48R Bsml	CAC CAA CAA CCG AAT GCG ACT GAT GGC CGC CA
qPCR primers	
TARDBP_Fw	ATG TCT TCA TCC CCA AGC C
TARDBP_Rv	TTA CCA CCA AAT CTT CCA CTT C
SIRT2_Fw	GCC AAC CAT CTG TCA CTA CTT
SIRT2_Rv	TCG CTC CAG GGT ATC TAT GT
ChIP primers	
MYLIP_3	TGGACTGCAGTTTACGGGTAGCAA
MYLIP_4	TGAGGCTCCACGAAGAACTTGACT
EHHADH_3	TTGGTCTCAGTCTGTGGCTGGATT
EHHADH_4	GTGATTTGTGGAGCAGAGGGCAAA
SYDE2_3	TTGACAGCAGGGAGCTTCAGAACA
SYDE2_4	CCCATTCCTGAGGATGATGACCTT
ERCC5_3	CAAGCACTTAAAGGAGTCCGGGAT
ERCC5_4	GCAGAGCCGATGAAACAAAGTGAG
LEF1_3	TGCTTGTCTGGCCACCTAACATCA
LEF1_4	CCAGCGCACACACATTTGTACCAT
ARAP2_3	TCGCGTTTAGGAGGAGACAGCTTA
ARAP2 4	CACCGCAGTTGGAGACTGTTAGAA

Table S4: Plasmids used in this study

Plasmid name	Vector	Origin	Reference
mCherry-TDP-43 WT	pmCherry-C1		This Study
RNaseHI (Dead)-NLS-mCherry	pICE		This Study
SIRT2-WT-GFP	pEGFP-N1		Pereira et al, 2018
SIRT2-S25A-GFP	pEGFP-N1		Pereira et al, 2018
SIRT2-S25E-GFP	pEGFP-N1		Pereira et al, 2018
H3-GFP WT	pEGFP-N1	Fang-Lin Sun	Liu et al, 2012
H3-GFP K18A	pEGFP-N1	Fang-Lin Sun	Liu et al, 2012
H3-GFP K18Q	pEGFP-N1	Fang-Lin Sun	Liu et al, 2012
NLS-mCherry	pICE	Addgene	Britton et al, 2014
RNaseHI-WT-NLS-mCherry	pICE	Addgene	Britton et al, 2014
TDP43 NOTAG1	pCAG-EGFP/RFP-int	Addgene	Yang et al, 2010