

1     **Discovery of genes that modulate flavivirus replication in an interferon-dependent**  
2     **manner**

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23 **Abstract**

24 Establishment of the interferon (IFN)-mediated antiviral state provides a crucial initial line of defense  
25 against viral infection. Numerous genes that contribute to this antiviral state remain to be identified.  
26 Using a loss-of-function strategy, we screened an original library of 1156 siRNAs targeting 386  
27 individual curated human genes in stimulated microglial cells infected with Zika virus (ZIKV), an  
28 emerging RNA virus that belongs to the flavivirus genus. The screen recovered twenty-one potential  
29 host proteins that modulate ZIKV replication in an IFN-dependent manner, including the previously  
30 known IFITM3 and LY6E. Further characterization contributed to delineate the spectrum of action of  
31 these genes towards other pathogenic RNA viruses, including Hepatitis C virus and SARS-CoV-2. Our  
32 data revealed that APOL3 acts as a proviral factor for ZIKV and several other related and unrelated  
33 RNA viruses. In addition, we showed that MTA2, a chromatin remodeling factor, possesses potent  
34 flavivirus-specific antiviral functions. Our work identified previously unrecognized genes that modulate  
35 the replication of RNA viruses in an IFN-dependent way, opening new perspectives to target weakness  
36 points in the life cycle of these viruses.

## 37 Introduction

38 Viruses are high on the list of global public health concerns, as illustrated by recent epidemics  
39 caused by Ebola, Zika (ZIKV) and Nipah viruses, as well as by the ongoing SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.  
40 The vast majority of these emerging RNA viruses have zoonotic origins and have recently crossed host  
41 species barrier [1]. In order to establish itself in a host species, one of the first and most restrictive  
42 barriers that a virus needs to overcome is the antiviral innate immune system. This response has evolved  
43 to rapidly control viral replication and limit virus spread *via* detection of viral nucleic acids by pathogen  
44 recognition receptors (PRRs) [2]. These PRRs can be membrane-associated, such as Toll-like receptor  
45 (TLRs), or cytosolic, such as retinoic acid inducible gene I (RIG-I)-like receptor (RLRs). Upon binding  
46 to viral nucleic acids, these PRRs interact with adaptor proteins and recruit signaling complexes. These  
47 events lead to the expression of type I interferons (IFNs). Secreted IFNs will then bind to their  
48 heterodimeric receptor (IFNAR1/IFNAR2) and activate the canonical JAK/STAT pathway in infected  
49 and surrounding cells. This activation triggers the assembly of the interferon-stimulated gene 3 (ISGF3)  
50 complex (composed of STAT1, STAT2 and IRF-9 proteins), which subsequently induces the expression  
51 of up to approximately 2000 IFN-stimulated genes (ISGs) [3,4], effectively establishing the antiviral  
52 state. ISGs comprise a core of genes that are induced at high levels essentially in all cell types, as well  
53 as cell-type specific genes that are the result of transcriptome remodeling [5,6], highlighting the  
54 importance of studying ISGs in relevant cell types. Some of these ISGs have been well characterized.  
55 They directly block the viral life cycle by targeting specific stages of virus replication, including entry  
56 into host cells, protein translation, replication or assembly of new viral particles [3,7]. Some ISGs are  
57 specific to a virus or a viral family, while others are broad-spectrum. They can also be negative or  
58 positive regulators of IFN signaling and thus facilitate, or not, the return to cellular homeostasis.  
59 However, the contribution of most ISGs to the antiviral state remains poorly understood.

60 Over the last decades, flaviviruses have provided some of the most important examples of emerging  
61 or resurging diseases, including ZIKV, dengue virus (DENV), Yellow fever virus (YFV) and West Nile  
62 virus (WNV) [8]. These flaviviruses are arthropod-borne viruses transmitted to vertebrate hosts by  
63 mosquitoes. They cause a spectrum of potentially severe diseases including hepatitis, vascular shock  
64 syndrome, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis, congenital abnormalities and fetal death [8]. They are now  
65 globally distributed and infect up to 400 million people annually. Lesser-known flaviviruses are beginning  
66 to emerge in different parts of the world, as illustrated by the recent incursion of Usutu virus (USUV) in  
67 the Mediterranean basin [9].

68 ZIKV was isolated in 1947 in a macaque from the Zika Forest in Uganda [10]. For decades, it remained  
69 in Africa and Asia where it sparked local epidemics characterized by a mild self-limiting disease in humans.  
70 In recent years, Asian lineage viruses have emerged as a global public health threat with widespread  
71 epidemics in the Pacific Islands and Americas, where over 35 countries have reported local transmission in  
72 2016. An estimated 1 million individuals were affected by ZIKV in Brazil in 2015-16. Infection by ZIKV  
73 has been linked to several neurological disorders, including Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS),

74 meningoencephalitis, myelitis and congenital microcephaly, fetal demise and abortion [10]. Children  
75 exposed to ZIKV in utero may present neurocognitive deficits, regardless of head size at birth. ZIKV  
76 infection is now identified as a sexually-transmitted illness as well [11]. As all flaviviruses, ZIKV is an  
77 enveloped virus containing a positive-stranded RNA genome of ~11 kb. Upon viral entry, the viral  
78 genome is released and translated by the host cell machinery into a large polyprotein precursor. The  
79 latter is processed by host and viral proteases into three structural proteins, including C (core), prM  
80 (precursor of the M protein) and E (envelope) glycoproteins, and seven non-structural proteins (NS)  
81 called NS1, NS2A, NS2B, NS3, NS4A, NS4B and NS5 [8]. The structural proteins constitute the viral  
82 particle, while NS proteins coordinate RNA replication, viral assembly and modulate innate immune  
83 responses.

84 The importance of IFN signaling in mediating host restriction of ZIKV is illustrated by the severe  
85 pathogenicity in IFNAR1<sup>-/-</sup> and STAT2<sup>-/-</sup> but not in immunocompetent mice [12–14]. Moreover, the  
86 Zika strain that is responsible for the recent epidemics has accumulated mutations that increase  
87 neurovirulence via the ability to evade the immune response [15]. Microglial cells, which are the resident  
88 macrophages of the brain, represent ZIKV targets and potential reservoirs for viral persistence [16].  
89 Moreover, they may play a role in ZIKV transmission from mother to fetal brain [17] and affect the  
90 proliferation and differentiation of neuronal progenitor cells [18]. In order to comprehend the molecular  
91 bases behind the efficacy of the IFN response to ZIKV replication, we set up a high throughput assay to  
92 identify genes that are modulating viral replication in human microglial cells (HMC3) stimulated with  
93 IFN.

94

## 95 **Results**

### 96 **A loss of function screen identified genes modulating ZIKV replication in IFN-stimulated** 97 **human microglial cells**

98 We first performed pilot experiments to determine the feasibility of conducting large-scale loss-of-  
99 function studies to identify novel genes regulating ZIKV replication in stimulated HMC3 cells. Five  
100 hundreds cells were seeded in 384-well microplates on day 1, transfected with individual siRNA 6 hours  
101 later, treated with IFN $\alpha$ 2 at day 2, infected with ZIKV at day 3 and fixed 24 hours later (Fig. 1A).  
102 Percentages of infected cells were determined by confocal analysis by measuring the number of cells  
103 expressing the viral E protein, using the pan-flavivirus anti-E antibody 4G2 (Fig. 1A). Nuclei were  
104 identified with DAPI staining for imaging and segmentation purposes. We optimized IFN $\alpha$ 2  
105 concentration and viral multiplicity of infection (MOI) to obtain a significant decrease of E-positive  
106 cells upon IFN $\alpha$ 2-treatment (Fig. S1A). We used siRNAs targeting IFNAR1, which are expected to  
107 neutralize IFN signaling, as positive controls (Fig. S1A). siRNAs against IFITM3, an ISG known to  
108 potently inhibit ZIKV replication in several human cell lines and primary fibroblasts [19,20], were used  
109 as additional positive controls (Fig. S1A). Negative controls were non-targeting siRNAs. As expected,

110 in the presence of siRNAs targeting IFNAR1, IFN signaling was neutralized and the level of infection  
111 was almost rescued to the level of non-treated cells (Fig. S1A). In cells silenced for IFITM3 expression,  
112 the number of infected cells was partly restored to the level of non-treated cells (Fig. S1A). Such partial  
113 rescue was expected since the antiviral state requires the concerted action of numerous ISGs [21]. These  
114 data also revealed that IFITM3 is a potent anti-ZIKV ISG in microglial cells.

115 We scaled up the experiment by screening an arrayed library containing 1158 siRNAs targeting 386  
116 human genes (Table S1). These genes were selected based on a gene signature defined by clustering and  
117 correlation of expression with MX1, a well-described ISG, in a dataset of gene expression in primary  
118 human CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells (Cerboni et al., in preparation). 36% of the identified genes overlapped with  
119 previous ISG libraries [21,22], ensuring that the screen would be simultaneously capable of identifying  
120 expected positive hits and find new genes of interest. To overcome potential off-target effect and a  
121 limited efficacy of transcript knockdown, each gene was targeted by 3 different siRNAs. Numerous  
122 siRNAs targeting IFNAR1 and IFNAR2 were used as positive controls. Negative controls were non-  
123 targeting siRNAs. Transfection efficiency was evaluated using siRNAs against KIF11, a protein  
124 essential for cell survival [23]. The same experimental protocol than in small-scale experiments was  
125 applied (Fig. 1A). Three images were acquired per condition with an INCell2200 automated wide-field  
126 system. The mean cell count and the percentages of infected cells were extracted from quantification.  
127 The screen was performed in duplicate.

128 For quality control purposes, we first compared the number of cells in each well in the 2 replicates.  
129 We observed an expected distribution of the number of cells in 3 fields with a median close to 1000  
130 cells per well for the two replicates (Fig. S1B). The number of cells per condition was slightly higher in  
131 the first replicate than in the second one. However, the R<sup>2</sup> coefficient of determination of the linear  
132 regression was close to 0.7 (Fig. S1C), indicating that the reproducibility of the experiment was correct.  
133 As expected [23], siRNAs against KIF11 were lethal, validating the transfection protocol (Fig. S1B, C).  
134 The 2 screens were first analyzed by taking into consideration the intensity of the E signal per cell. The  
135 number of cells expressing the viral protein E distributed as predicted, with a median close to 15% for  
136 the 2 screens (Fig. S1D). As expected from pilot experiments (Fig. S1A), siRNAs targeting IFNAR-1  
137 and -2 rescued ZIKV replication in IFN-treated cells (Fig. S1D, E). The reproducibility of the infection  
138 status of the cells between the 2 screens, with a R<sup>2</sup> greater than 0.8, was satisfactory (Fig. S1E). The  
139 data were then analysis using a second approach that identified infected cells based on the E expression  
140 independently of the intensity of the signal. The 2 methods identified similar number of infected cells  
141 (Fig. S1F). Results were expressed as robust Z-scores for each siRNA (Fig. 1B, C). Genes were defined  
142 as hits when at least two over three of their robust Z scores had an absolute value superior to 2 in the  
143 two replicates, in at least one of the analysis. The screen identified 9 antiviral genes and 12 proviral ones  
144 (Fig. 1D). Some hits were previously described as modulators of ZIKV replication, such as IFITM3  
145 [19,20] and LY6E [24], thus validating our loss-of-function screening approach. These twenty-one hits  
146 were selected for further validation.

147 IFN $\alpha$ 2-treated HMC3 cells were transfected with pool of 3 siRNAs against each candidate, and not  
148 by individual ones as in the primary screening. Twenty-four hours post-ZIKV infection, intracellular  
149 viral RNA production was quantified by RT-qPCR and the number of cells positive for the viral protein  
150 E was assessed by flow cytometry analysis. The same samples were used to assess the efficacy of the  
151 siRNAs. RT-qPCR analyses revealed that 15 out of the 21 siRNA pools were reducing the expression  
152 of their respective targets in IFN-treated cells (Fig. S1G). mRNAs levels of C1R, XCL1, GBP3, NADK,  
153 C22orf39 and RUBCN were below the detection limit in IFN $\alpha$ 2-treated HMC3 (Fig. S1G). These genes  
154 were thus excluded from further analysis. Reduced expression of IRF9, IFITM3, MTA2 and GPD2  
155 significantly enhanced both viral RNA yield and the number of infected cells as compared to IFN $\alpha$ 2-  
156 treated cells transfected with control siRNAs (Fig. 1E and F). Both IRF9, which belongs to the ISGF3  
157 complex [25], and IFITM3 [26] are well-known broadly-acting IFN effectors. The activities of MTA2  
158 have, so far, not been linked to antiviral immunity. MTA2 is a component of the nucleosome remodeling  
159 deacetylase NuRD complex, which exhibits ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling activity in addition  
160 to histone deacetylase activity [27]. Ten times more viral RNA copies were recovered in cells silenced  
161 for MTA2 expression than in control cells (Fig. 1E) and four times more cells were positive for the viral  
162 E protein (Fig. 1F). These effects were comparable to the ones induced by IFNAR1 silencing (Fig. 1E  
163 and F). Transfection with siRNA against the other 3 antiviral candidates (PXX, NMI and IFI16) had no  
164 significant effect on ZIKV replication in these assays (Fig. 1E and 1F), suggesting that they may be  
165 false positive candidates. Reducing the expression of LY6E, ISG15 and APOL3 significantly decreased  
166 both viral RNA production and the number of cells positive for the E protein (Fig. 1G and 1H), validating  
167 the pro-viral activities of these 3 candidates. The pro-viral function of USP18 and NAPA were also  
168 validated since reducing their expression led to a significant reduction of the number of infected cells  
169 as compared to control cells (Fig. 1H). Reduced expression of ISG20 or CCND3 had no significant  
170 effect on ZIKV replication (Fig. 1G and 1H). IRF2, which was identified as a pro-viral hit by the screen,  
171 behaved like an antiviral gene in the validation experiments (Fig. 1G). Together, these experiments  
172 validated the antiviral function of IRF9, IFITM3, MTA2 and GPD2 and the pro-viral function of LY6E,  
173 USP18, ISG15, APOL3 and NAPA in IFN $\alpha$ 2-treated HMC3 cells infected with ZIKV.

174

### 175 **Effect of a selection of candidate genes on HCV and SARS-CoV-2 replication**

176 We next explored the ability of 10 candidate genes (IRF9, IFITM3, MTA2, GPD2, LY6E, USP18,  
177 ISG15, APOL3, GBP3 and NAPA) to modulate the replication of two other pathogenic RNA viruses:  
178 Hepatitis C virus (HCV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which  
179 are, respectively, related and unrelated to ZIKV. HCV, which is a member of the Hepacivirus genus  
180 within the *Flaviviridae* family, has a tropism for hepatocytes. SARS-CoV-2 belongs to the  
181 *Coronaviridae* family and has a tropism for pneumocytes and enterocytes.



182 HCV infections were conducted in hepatoma Huh-7.5 cells, which support well viral replication [28].  
183 Huh-7.5 cells are unable to induce IFN expression since they express an inactive form of RIG-I [29] but  
184 they possess an intact JAK/STAT pathway and do thus respond to IFN treatment [30]. RT-qPCR  
185 analyses revealed that 8 out of 10 siRNA pools efficiently reduced the expression of their respective targets  
186 in stimulated Huh-7.5 cells (Fig. S2A). Since LY6E and APOL3 mRNA levels were under the limit of  
187 detection of the assays in IFN $\alpha$ 2-treated Huh-7.5 cells (Fig. S2A), they were excluded from further  
188 analysis. As expected, reduced expression of IFNAR and IRF9 significantly enhanced HCV RNA yield  
189 and the production of infectious particles in IFN $\alpha$ 2-treated Huh-7.5 cells, as compared to control cells  
190 (Fig. 2A, B). Reduced expression of IFITM3, MTA2 or GPD2, which significantly enhanced ZIKV  
191 replication in HCM3 cells (Fig. 1E, F), did not affect HCV RNA production (Fig. 2A). However,  
192 surprisingly, their reduced expression triggered a significant decrease in the release of infectious HCV  
193 particles as compared to control cells (Fig. 2B). This suggests that they might favor a late stage of HCV  
194 replication cycle. RT-qPCR analysis and titration assays identified USP18 and ISG15 as pro-HCV  
195 factors in IFN $\alpha$ 2-treated Huh-7.5 cells (Fig. 2C, D), validating previous results [31–34]. Of note, HCV  
196 RNA production and infectious particle release were significantly increased in cells with reduced NAPA  
197 levels (Fig. 2C, D), suggesting that NAPA may exert an antiviral effect on HCV, while it was not the  
198 case for ZIKV (Fig. 1G, H).

199 SARS-CoV-2 replication was assessed in A549 alveolar epithelial cells expressing the viral receptor  
200 ACE2 (A549-ACE2) by RT-qPCR and flow cytometry analysis using an antibody against the viral  
201 protein Spike (S). Of note, silencing GBP3 in A549-ACE2 cells triggered cell death. RT-qPCR analyses  
202 showed that all siRNA pools were reducing the expression of their respective targets in stimulated A549-  
203 ACE2 cells (Fig. S2B). These analyses revealed the ability of IRF9 to act as an anti-SARS-CoV-2 gene  
204 (Fig. 2E, F). Unexpectedly, GPD2 and IFITM3, which we identified as genes possessing anti-ZIKV  
205 activities (Fig. 1), tended to behave like pro-viral genes in the context of SARS-CoV-2 infection (Fig.  
206 2E and 2F). Viral RNA yields decreased significantly in cells silenced for USP18, ISG15 and NAPA  
207 expression, as compared to cells transfected with control siRNAs (Fig. 2G), suggesting that these 3  
208 genes promote viral replication in stimulated A549-ACE2 cells. By contrast to what we observed in  
209 ZIKV infected cells (Fig. 1G, H), LY6E seemed to restrict SARS-CoV-2 (Fig. 2H). These results are in  
210 accordance with a recent report [35]. Reducing MTA2 or APOL3 expression did not affect SARS-CoV-  
211 2 replication.

212 These results suggest that some genes are broadly-acting IFN effectors, such as IRF9 and ISG15.  
213 Other genes appeared to have evolved modulatory function toward a specific viral family or genus, such  
214 as APOL3 and MTA2. Finally, some genes, including LY6E, IFITM3 and GPD2, exhibited opposite  
215 modulatory functions towards different viral species.

216

217 **ZIKV, DENV-2, WNV, VSV and MeV, but not MVA, require the expression of APOL3 for**  
218 **optimal replication in IFN-treated cells**

219 LY6E, ISG15 and APOL3 exhibited significant pro-ZIKV activities in stimulated cells, as measured  
220 by cell-associated viral RNA levels (Fig. 1G) and percentage of E-positive cells (Fig. 1H). Among these  
221 3 genes, APOL3 is the least described and was thus selected for further characterization. APOL3 is one  
222 of the 6 members of the apolipoprotein L gene family. Apolipoproteins are typically associated with the  
223 transport of lipids in the organism and were originally described as members of the high-density  
224 lipoprotein family, which are involved in cholesterol transport [36]. In human cells, the expression of  
225 the 6 members of the APOL gene family are up-regulated by multiple pro-inflammatory signaling  
226 molecules, including IFNs and TNF $\alpha$  [36,37]. These regulations suggest a link between APOL proteins  
227 and the innate immune system. siRNA targeting APOL2, APOL3, APOL4, APOL5 and APOL6 were  
228 present in our library (Table S1). Among these 5 APOLs, only APOL3 was identified as a facilitator of  
229 ZIKV infection by our screen (Fig. 1). We decided to test the ability of APOL1 to modulate ZIKV  
230 replication since it was previously identified in a high-throughput overexpression screen as an ISG able  
231 to increase YFV infection in *STAT1*<sup>-/-</sup> fibroblasts and Huh-7 cells [21].

232 Analysis of mRNA levels of APOL1 and APOL3 revealed that the genes were upregulated by  
233 IFN $\alpha$ 2 treatment in HMC3 cells (Fig. 3A). Both genes thus qualify as genuine ISGs in these cells. The  
234 implication of APOL1 and APOL3 in ZIKV replication was investigated using loss-of-function  
235 approaches. siRNA-silencing reduced the levels of APOL1 and APOL3 mRNAs by ~80% and ~85%,  
236 respectively, when compared to cells expressing scrambled control siRNAs (Fig. 3B). USP18, which is  
237 known to negatively regulate the JAK-STAT pathway, and, as such, is a broad-spectrum pro-viral  
238 factor [38], was identified during our screen as a pro-ZIKV candidate in HMC3 cells (Fig. 1D). Since  
239 its pro-ZIKV function was validated in our system (Fig. 1H), siRNAs specific for USP18 were used as  
240 positive controls. siRNA-silencing reduced the abundance of USP18 mRNAs by ~80% when compared  
241 to cells expressing control siRNAs (Fig. 3B). Viral replication was assessed by flow cytometry by  
242 measuring the number of cells positive for the viral protein E in cells silenced for APOL1, APOL3 or  
243 USP18, treated or not with IFN $\alpha$ 2. Since ZIKV is sensitive to IFN $\alpha$ 2-treatment (Fig. S1A), higher MOIs  
244 were used in IFN $\alpha$ 2-treated cells than in untreated ones to compensate for its antiviral effects. As  
245 expected (Fig. 1H), reduced expression of USP18 significantly decreased the number of IFN-treated  
246 cells positive for the viral protein E, as compared to cells transfected with control siRNAs (Fig. 3C).  
247 Extinction of APOL1 and APOL3 resulted in a modest, but reproducible, decrease in the number of E-  
248 positive HMC3 cells pre-treated with IFN $\alpha$ 2 (Fig. 3C). A pro-viral effect of APOL1 was also observed  
249 in unstimulated cells (Fig. 3C). The efficacy of the siRNAs against APOL1 and USP18 were further  
250 validated by Western Blot analysis using specific antibodies (Fig. 3D). APOL3 levels in cell lysates  
251 could not be assessed due to the lack of available antibodies. Levels of expression of the viral proteins  
252 NS5 and E were slightly decreased in IFN $\alpha$ 2-cells expressing reduced levels of APOL1 or APOL3,  
253 compared to control cells (Fig 3D). Together, these results suggest that ZIKV requires the expression of  
254 APOL1 and APOL3 for optimal replication in HMC3 cells. By contrast to APOL1, the pro-viral action



255 of APOL3 was dependent on IFN $\alpha$ 2-treatment.

256 To ensure that the APOL1- and APOL3-mediated modulation of viral replication was not restricted  
257 to HMC3 cells, silencing experiments were performed in ZIKV-infected human podocytes treated or  
258 not with IFN $\alpha$ 2. Podocytes are physiologically relevant for ZIKV infection since viral RNA was  
259 detected in kidneys of infected patients [39]. Assessing the mRNA abundance of APOL1 and APOL3  
260 by RT-qPCR analysis of cells treated or not with IFN $\alpha$ 2 revealed that both genes qualify as ISGs in  
261 podocytes (Fig. 3E). siRNA-mediated silencing of APOL1, APOL3 and USP18 was efficient in  
262 podocytes (Fig. 3F). Reduced expression of APOL1 or APOL3 resulted in a significant decrease of the  
263 percentage of infected cells in IFN $\alpha$ 2-treated podocytes, but not in unstimulated cells (Fig. 3G). Western  
264 blot analysis performed in IFN $\alpha$ 2-treated podocytes revealed that cells expressing little APOL1/3 were  
265 producing less viral proteins than controls cells (Fig. 3H), confirming the pro-ZIKV activity of the two  
266 APOLs. These data revealed that APOL3 and APOL1 facilitate the replication of ZIKV in podocytes  
267 treated with IFN $\alpha$ 2.

268 We tested whether APOL1 and APOL3 were active against DENV-2 or WNV, which are mosquito-  
269 borne flaviviruses closely related to ZIKV. HMC3 cells were treated or not with IFN $\alpha$ 2 and the MOIs  
270 were adapted to the IFN $\alpha$ 2 treatment. Flow cytometry analysis using anti-E antibodies revealed that  
271 both DENV-2 and WNV replication were significantly decreased in IFN $\alpha$ 2-treated cells silenced for  
272 APOL1 or APOL3 expression (Fig. 3I). Reducing APOL1 and APOL3 expression in non-treated cells  
273 also significantly reduced WNV replication (Fig. 3I). Thus, APOL1/3 may well have flavivirus genus-  
274 specific proviral activities since they seem to contribute to ZIKV, WNV and DENV replication (Fig.  
275 3C, D, G, H and I) but not to SARS-CoV-2 replication (Fig. 2G, H). To further delineate the spectrum  
276 of action of these two genes towards other viruses, we tested the effect of APOL1/3 silencing on the  
277 replication of Vesicular Stomatitis virus (VSV) and Measles virus (MeV), which are negative-strand  
278 RNA viruses belonging to the *Rhabdoviridae* and *Paramyxoviridae* families, respectively. Experiments  
279 were performed with a MeV strain modified to express GFP [40]. We also included in the analysis  
280 Modified Vaccinia Ankara virus (MVA), a DNA virus belonging to the *poxviridae* family, that was  
281 engineered to express GFP (MVA-GFP). Flow cytometry analysis using an antibody against the viral  
282 protein G revealed that VSV was highly dependent on APOL1 and APOL3 expression for efficient  
283 replication in IFN $\alpha$ 2-treated HMC3 cells (Fig. 3I). Optimal replication of MeV-GFP in stimulated  
284 HMC3 cells also required APOL1 and APOL3 expression (Fig. 3I). APOL1 proviral activity was also  
285 observed in unstimulated cells (Fig. 3I). By contrast, MVA-GFP replication was not affected by reduced  
286 expression of either APOL1 or APOL3 (Fig. 3I).

287 Together, these experiments suggest that APOL1 and APOL3 could favor a replication process  
288 shared by ZIKV, DENV-2, WNV, VSV and MeV. Unlike APOL1 in HMC3 cells, APOL3 pro-viral  
289 activities were dependent on IFN-treatment.

290

291 **APOL1 and APOL3 likely promote viral replication independently of their interaction with**  
292 **phosphoinositides**

293 Recent data revealed that APOL1 and APOL3 play a role in lipid metabolism in podocytes and, more  
294 specifically, in the regulation of the production of phosphatidylinositol-4-phosphate (PI(4)P), via an  
295 indirect interaction with the PI4KB kinase [41]. PI(4)P is involved in Golgi secretory functions by  
296 facilitating the recruitment of proteins that promote vesicular transport [42]. PI(4)P is also essential for  
297 the establishment of efficient viral replication via the formation of membranes which serve as platforms  
298 for the production of viral RNA [43,44]. APOL1 and/or APOL3 could thus impact ZIKV replication via  
299 their ability to regulate the production of PI(4)P. To test this hypothesis, we first assessed APOL1 and  
300 APOL3 localization in HMC3 cells. In the absence of specific antibodies for APOL1 and APOL3  
301 validated for immunofluorescence assays, we investigated the localization of GFP-tagged versions of  
302 APOL3 and APOL1 in HMC3 cells, together with markers for the Golgi apparatus (Fig. 4A), early or  
303 late endosomes (Fig. S3). APOL1-GFP and GFP-APOL3 localized in closed proximity to the cis-Golgi  
304 (Fig. 4A), where PI(4)P and PI4KB localize [45], and not in late nor early endosomes (Fig. S3). In line  
305 with this, APOL1-GFP and GFP-APOL3 associated with PI4KB in HMC3 cells (Fig. 4B). Of note,  
306 APOL1-GFP was also detected in vesicle-like structures whose identity could not be established (Fig.  
307 4A, white arrow). They may represent lipid droplets or fragmented Golgi. The localization of APOL1-  
308 GFP and GFP-APOL3 could not be investigated in ZIKV-infected cells since we observed that  
309 transfection rendered cells non-permissive to viral infection.

310 We then performed experiments with a well-characterized PI4KB kinase inhibitor that decreases  
311 PI(4)P expression [46]. We first analyzed by immunofluorescence the intensity of the PI(4)P signal in  
312 cells treated for 24 h with different concentrations of the drug in HCM3 cells. The presence of the PI4KB  
313 inhibitor triggered a dose-dependent decrease of the PI(4)P signal (Fig. 4C), suggesting that the drug is  
314 efficient in HMC3 cells. We then infected cells with ZIKV in the presence of different concentration of  
315 the inhibitor. Since the effect of APOL3 on ZIKV replication is dependent on IFN $\alpha$ 2 (Fig. 3), the  
316 analysis was also performed in stimulated cells. Coxsackie B3 virus (CVB3), an enterovirus that  
317 replicates in a PI(4)P-dependent manner, was used as a positive control since its replication is sensitive  
318 to the drug [47]. As negative controls, we used cells infected with WNV, whose replication is not  
319 affected by the PI4KB inhibitor [48]. As previously shown in HeLa cells [47], a dose-dependent  
320 reduction of the number of cells positive for the CVB3 viral protein 1 (VP1) was triggered by the  
321 inhibitor treatment (Fig. 4D). As shown previously in monkey cells [48], WNV replication was  
322 unaffected by the PI4KB inhibitor in HCM3 cells (Fig. 4D). ZIKV protein production was not sensitive  
323 to the treatment with the PI4KB kinase inhibitor, independently of the presence of IFN $\alpha$ 2 (Fig. 4D).  
324 These experiments suggest that the pro-viral activities of APOL1 and APOL3 are not related to their  
325 interaction with PI4KB or PI(4)P in microglial cells.

326

327 **MTA2 restricts ZIKV replication in IFN $\alpha$ 2-stimulated human cells.**

328 MTA2 was identified in our screen as a gene with potent anti-ZIKV activities (Fig. 1). MTA2 shows  
329 a very broad expression pattern and is strongly expressed in many tissues. It belongs to the NuRD  
330 complex, which establishes transcriptional modulation of a number of target genes in vertebrates,  
331 invertebrates and fungi [27]. Since its function has, so far, not been linked to viral infection, we decided  
332 to investigate its potential antiviral activities further. To ensure that the MTA2-mediated inhibition of  
333 viral replication was not restricted to HMC3 cells, experiments were also performed in Huh-7 hepatoma  
334 cells, which are physiologically relevant for flavivirus infection and are thus extensively used in  
335 *Flaviviridae* research. siRNAs targeting IFNAR1 were used as positive controls in these experiments.  
336 siRNA-silencing reduced the levels of MTA2 and IFNAR1 mRNAs by at least 80%, when compared to  
337 cells expressing scrambled control siRNAs, independently of the stimulation or infection status of  
338 HMC3 and Huh-7 cells (Fig. 5A-D). MTA2 was included in our gene list because its expression  
339 clustered with MX1 in T cells (Cerboni et al. in preparation). However, MTA2 mRNA abundance, as  
340 measured by RT-qPCR analysis, remained unchanged upon IFN $\alpha$ 2 treatment in both cells types (Fig.  
341 5A and 5C), indicating that MTA2 is not an ISG in these cells.

342 Assessment of viral replication by RT-qPCR revealed that cell-associated viral RNA yields were  
343 significantly higher in IFN-treated HMC3 cells silenced for MTA2 expression, as compared to controls  
344 cells (Fig. 5E). This is in line with previous results (Fig. 1E). Cytometry analysis using anti-E antibodies  
345 confirmed that MTA2 anti-ZIKV activities were dependent on the presence of IFN in HCM3 cells (Fig.  
346 5F). Since MTA2 is not an ISG in HMC3 cells (Fig. 5A), these results suggest that MTA2 may require  
347 an active IFN signaling to exert its anti-ZIKV activities in these cells. As in HMC3 cells, reduced  
348 expression of MTA2 triggered a significant increase of intracellular viral RNA production in stimulated  
349 Huh-7 cells (Fig. 5G). Reducing MTA2 expression had a more pronounced effect on the percentage of  
350 infected cells that reducing IFNAR1 expression in stimulated Huh-7 cells (Fig. 5H). Albeit to a lesser  
351 extent than in stimulated cells, MTA2 anti-ZIKV activity was also observed in non-stimulated Huh-7  
352 cells by flow cytometry and RT-qPCR analysis (Fig. 5G and H).

353 The effect of MTA2 on viral protein production was further assessed by Western blot analysis using  
354 anti-E and anti-NS5 antibodies in stimulated and unstimulated HMC3 and Huh-7 cells. These  
355 experiments validated further the efficacy of the siRNAs against MTA2 in both cell lines (Fig. 5I and  
356 5J). Expression of the viral proteins NS5 and E were increased in stimulated HMC3 and Huh-7 cells  
357 expressing reduced levels of MTA2 or IFNAR1, as compared to control cells (Fig. 5I and 5J). In  
358 agreement with the flow cytometry analysis (Fig. 5H), MTA2 anti-ZIKV activity was less dependent of  
359 IFN-treatment in Huh-7 cells than in HMC3 cells (Fig. 5I and 5J). As observed in flow cytometry  
360 analysis (Fig. 5H), MTA2 effect on viral protein production was more potent than the one of IFNAR1  
361 in stimulated Huh-7 cells (Fig. 5J).

362 These results represent the first evidence of the ability of MTA2 to restrict the replication of any  
363 virus.

364

365 **MTA2 restricts YFV and WNV replication in IFN $\alpha$ 2-stimulated Huh-7 cells.**

366 We tested whether MTA2 was active against WNV and YFV in Huh-7 cells, which are permissive  
367 to these 2 flaviviruses. As in previous experiments, higher MOIs were used in the presence of IFN $\alpha$ 2.  
368 Cytometry analysis revealed that MTA2 silencing significantly enhanced the replication of these 2  
369 flaviviruses in an-IFN dependent manner (Fig. 6A and 6B), indicating that MTA2 antiviral activity is  
370 broader than ZIKV. We then tested the effect of MTA2 silencing on the replication of VSV and MeV in  
371 Huh-7 cells. Reduced expression of MTA2 decreased the number of cells infected with VSV and MeV  
372 (Fig. 6C and 6D), independently of the IFN stimulation. This is consistent with the pro-HCV activity of  
373 MTA2, as measured by titration in stimulated Huh-7.5 cells (Fig. 2B). MTA2 may thus possess a  
374 flavivirus genus-specific antiviral function.

375

376 **Discussion**

377 Several gain-of-function screens have been performed to identify ISGs that modulate flavivirus  
378 infection. Pioneer screens tested the activities of relatively small amounts of ISGs by overexpression  
379 [49,50]. The first comprehensive overexpression screen in which more than 380 ISGs were evaluated  
380 for antiviral activity against six viruses, including the *Flaviviridae* HCV, WNV and YFV, was published  
381 in 2011 by Schoggins and collaborators [21]. To avoid potential physiological irrelevance induced by  
382 gene overexpression, we opted for a silencing approach to identify genes that modulate ZIKV replication  
383 in an IFN-induced state. We used a siRNA library which was designed in the context of an HIV project.  
384 A limitation of our library is that targeted genes were selected based on a transcriptomic analysis of  
385 primary T cells stimulated by contacts with activated monocytes (Cerboni et al. in preparation), and not  
386 on ZIKV-target cells. Nevertheless, it contains a high fraction of core ISGs that overlaps with previous  
387 screens [21,22]. Furthermore, most arrayed screens designed to identify cellular factors that modulate  
388 ZIKV replication, including ours, monitored viral replication after a single round of infection, often by  
389 assessing viral protein expression. Therefore, only genes that inhibit early stages of viral replication, up  
390 to protein production, can be identified. Quantifying viral titers in supernatants collected from individual  
391 wells of the first round of screening should identify genes that affect late stages of viral replication, such  
392 as viral assembly, maturation and release, as well as viral infectivity. Alternatively, viral replication  
393 could be monitored after several rounds of infection. Nevertheless, despite these two main limitations,  
394 our screening strategy identified 21 genes affecting the number of cells positive for the viral protein E  
395 in IFN-treated microglial cells.

396 Some hits were previously described as ISGs able to modulate ZIKV replication, such as IFITM3  
397 [19,20] and LY6E [24], thus validating our screening approach. Despite being in our gene list, Viperin,  
398 IFI6, PARP-12 and C19orf66, which are known to affect ZIKV replication in human cells [51–55], were  
399 not identified as viral modulators by our strategy. They may have a weaker influence on viral replication  
400 in HMC3 cells than in the cells in which their role was previously established [51–55]. In line with this

401 hypothesis, Viperin restricts the replication of several neurotropic flaviviruses in a cell type-dependent  
402 manner [56]. One can also envisage that the expression levels of Viperin, IFI6, PARP-12 and C19orf66  
403 are low in HMC3 cells, even when stimulated by IFN $\alpha$ 2, and therefore are poorly, if at all downregulated  
404 by specific siRNAs.

405 We validated the role of 5 hits as genes contributing to an optimal ZIKV replication in stimulated  
406 HMC3 cells using RT-qPCR and flow cytometry analysis: LY6E, USP18, ISG15, APOL3 and NAPA.  
407 The identification of LY6E as a gene enhancing ZIKV replication was expected, since it was previously  
408 shown to promote the internalization of flaviviruses in U2OS human osteosarcoma cells [24]. Since  
409 ISG15 and USP18 negatively regulate IFN signaling pathway [57,58], they are expected to act as broad  
410 pro-viral ISGs. NAPA interacts with SNARE protein complexes to trigger their disassembly [59].  
411 SNARE proteins belong to a superfamily of membrane fusion proteins that localize at the plasma  
412 membrane, the Golgi apparatus and on different endocytic vesicles. They regulate the traffic of these  
413 vesicles between the plasma membrane and the Golgi [60]. Several viruses, including influenza A virus  
414 and VSV, hijack SNARE proteins to enter host cells [61]. SNARE complexes may thus contribute to  
415 NAPA pro-viral activities. We validated the anti-viral functions of 4 screen hits in stimulated HMC3  
416 cells infected with ZIKV: IRF9, IFITM3, MTA2 and GPD2. Identification of IRF9, which plays a key  
417 role in ISG expression [25], and IFITM3, which restricts early stages of ZIKV infection [19,20],  
418 validates our screening strategy. GPD2 is a mitochondrial protein involves in the metabolism of  
419 glycerol. No link between GPD2 and viral infections has been established yet. However, it regulates  
420 inflammatory response in macrophages [62]. Further experiments will be required to confirm that NAPA  
421 and GPD2 have the ability to modulate ZIKV replication in stimulated human cells.

422 Experiments performed on cells infected with HCV or SARS-CoV-2 contributed to delineate the  
423 spectrum of action of a selection of the screen hits. Our data illustrate once again that some ISGs have  
424 virus-specific antiviral activities [63]. For instance, we found that ZIKV, but not the related HCV, was  
425 sensitive to IFITM3 expression, confirming (HCV) and extending (ZIKV) recently reported data  
426 [20,64]. Our data also confirm that some ISGs exert opposite effect on different viruses. For instance,  
427 as described previously, LYE6 promotes the replication of ZIKV [24] but restricts that of SARS-CoV-  
428 2 [35]. Viruses have developed numerous innovative strategies to evade ISG-mediated restriction  
429 [65,66]. Hijacking individual ISG for promoting their replication is one of them. This hypothesis may  
430 explain why, to our surprise, our screen recovered more pro-viral genes that antiviral ones.

431 Our results identified APOL3 and APOL1 as ISGs required for optimal ZIKV replication in HMC3  
432 cells. The proviral activity of APOL1 was less dependent on IFN than the one of APOL3, which suggest  
433 that both proteins act via different mechanisms. Reduced expression of APOL1 and APOL3 also  
434 restricted the replication of WNV and DENV in stimulated HMC3 cells. In line with these findings,  
435 over-expression of APOL1 was previously reported to increase YFV replication in Huh-7 cells [21].  
436 VSV replication was highly reduced in the absence of one of these 2 genes. APOL1 has been reported  
437 to act as an antiviral ISG in the context of infection with alphaviruses (Sindbis virus and Venezuelan



438 equine encephalitis virus) and human parainfluenza virus [21,67]. Its over-expression also inhibits HIV-  
439 1 infection in monocytes [68]. Thus, APOL1 and APOL3 seem to behave like pro- or anti-viral ISG  
440 depending on the virus, or have no obvious role (HCV). In line with our data on flaviviruses, a recent  
441 report found that overexpression of APOL1 promoted infection with ZIKV and DENV-2, confirming a  
442 proviral role for this factor [69]. However in this study, an increase of ZIKV, DENV-2 and HCV  
443 replication was also reported in Huh-7.5 cells expressing siRNAs targeting APOL1 and APOL3 in the  
444 absence of IFN treatment [69], yielding conflicting data that will deserve further investigation.

445 From our data, we formulated the hypothesis that APOL1 and APOL3 pro-viral activities could be  
446 linked to their ability to bind to anionic phospholipids, including several phosphoinositides, in particular  
447 PI(4)P [41]. Both APOL1 and APOL3 were detected in PI(4)P-containing liposomes [41]. Moreover,  
448 reduced expression of APOL3 resulted in reduction of PI(4)P levels in podocytes [41]. PI(4)P plays a  
449 pivotal role in the Golgi secretory functions by facilitating recruitment of proteins that promote vesicular  
450 transport [42]. Our immunofluorescence data revealed that GFP-tagged version of APOL1 and APOL3  
451 localize mainly in the Golgi, where PI(4)P localizes [42]. Numerous RNA viruses, including various  
452 *Picornaviridae*, HCV, coronaviruses and parainfluenza type 3, rely on PI(4)P to build membranous  
453 replication platform, where viral replication and assembly take place [70]. Flaviviruses are no exception  
454 and also trigger intracellular membrane remodelling for the building of membranous replication  
455 platforms [71]. Experiments conducted with a well-characterized PI4KB kinase inhibitor excluded the  
456 possibility that APOL1 and APOL3 pro-viral effects depend on PI(4)P and its synthesizing protein,  
457 PI4KB. In line with these results, PI(4)P are not important for the replication of WNV and the related  
458 Usutu virus [48]. Other avenues should be thus explored to understand how APOL1 and APOL3  
459 modulate the replication of several RNA viruses. Since APOL1 and APOL3 impact the replication of  
460 unrelated viruses, they may be negative regulators of IFN signalling pathway, by, for instance,  
461 contributing to the proper routing of members of the JAK/STAT pathway.

462 Our data revealed that MTA2 possesses potent antiviral function in the context of ZIKV, WNV and  
463 YFV in stimulated cells, whereas its exhibited a proviral role for HCV, VSV and MeV. Reducing MTA2  
464 expression in the presence of IFN $\alpha$ 2 enhanced flaviviral replication to a level comparable to the  
465 inhibition of IFNAR1. Despite being part of our gene list, MTA2 is not induced by IFN in HMC3 Huh-  
466 7 cells but its antiviral activity was dependent on IFN in these cells. MTA2 may thus interact with an  
467 ISG to act on viral replication. MTA2 is a component of the NuRD complex, an unusual complex which  
468 exhibits ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling activity in addition to histone deacetylase activity [27].  
469 The complex establishes transcriptional modulation of a number of target genes in vertebrates,  
470 invertebrates and fungi [27]. MTA2 related activities have not, so far, been linked to innate immunity  
471 in virus-infected cells. However, a link between the NuRD complex and STAT1-mediated IFN response  
472 was established in the context of infection with the protozoan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* [72]. A  
473 *Toxoplasma* protein, named TgIST, translocates to the host cell nucleus where it recruits the complex  
474 NuRD to STAT1-dependent promoters, resulting in altered chromatin and blocked STAT1-mediated



475 transcription [72]. Moreover, HDAC1, which is also a member of the NuRD complex, associates with  
476 both STAT1 and STAT2 in human cells [73]. Furthermore, specific reduction of HDAC1 expression  
477 inhibits IFN $\beta$ -induced transcription whereas HDAC1 overexpression enhances IFN $\beta$ -induced  
478 transcription [73]. Finally, HDAC inhibitors block the formation of ISGF3 and this was associated with  
479 impairment of STAT2 nuclear accumulation in mouse L929 cells [74]. These findings indicate a  
480 fundamental role for deacetylase activity and HDAC1 in transcriptional control in response to IFN. One  
481 could thus envisage that MTA2, within the NuRD complex, also interacts with STAT1 in cells  
482 stimulated with IFN and favors its action locally. This interaction could restrict flavivirus infection,  
483 possibly *via* enhancing the expression of a subset of flavivirus-specific ISGs.

484 Our work identified previously unrecognized genes that modulate the replication of RNA viruses in  
485 an IFN-dependent way. Future studies combining transcriptomic analysis of IFN-treated cells and high  
486 throughput loss-of-function screens will help define the interferome of cell types relevant for viral  
487 infection. Such studies are primordial to continue investigating the complexity the IFN-mediated  
488 antiviral program.

489

490

## 491 **Materials and Methods**

492

### 493 **Cells**

494 Human microglial cells (HMC3) were purchased from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC,  
495 CRL-3304). They were maintained in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) containing  
496 GlutaMAX I and sodium pyruvate (Gibco), supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and 1%  
497 penicillin-streptomycin (P/S) (final concentration of 100 units/mL and 100  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively)  
498 (Sigma) and non-essential amino acids (Gibco<sup>TM</sup> NEAA 100X MEM, Life Technologies). Podocytes  
499 were described previously [75]. They were grown at 33°C in Roswell Park Memorial Institute medium  
500 (RPMI) containing GlutaMAX I (Gibco) and supplemented with 10% FBS and P/S. Before any  
501 experiments, cells were differentiated during 7 days at 37°C. Human hepatocellular carcinoma Huh-7  
502 cells [76], which were kindly given by Cinzia Traboni (IRBM, Pomezia, Italy), were maintained in  
503 DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS and 1% P/S. Huh-7.5 cells (Apath, LLC), a subclone of Huh-7  
504 cells [76] were cultured in DMEM supplemented with non-essential amino acids, 1mM sodium  
505 pyruvate, 10% FBS and P/S. Vero NK cells, which are African green monkey kidney epithelial cells,  
506 were purchased from ATCC and used for viral titration assays. They were maintained in DMEM  
507 containing GlutaMAX I and sodium pyruvate (Gibco), supplemented with 10% FBS and P/S. *Aedes*  
508 *albopictus* C6-36 cells were maintained in Leibovitz's L-15 medium containing 10% FBS, 1% P/S, 1%  
509 Non-Essential Amino Acids Solution (Gibco) and 2% Tryptose Phosphate Growth (Gibco). Human lung  
510 epithelial A549 cells were modified to stably express hACE2 using the pLenti6-hACE2 lentiviral

511 transduction, as described previously [77]. Cell cultures were verified to be mycoplasma free with the  
512 MycoAlert™ Mycoplasma Detection Kit (Lonza).

513

#### 514 **Virus stocks, titration and infection**

515 The Zika strain PF13 (kindly provided by V. M. Cao-Lormeau and D. Musso, Institut Louis Malardé,  
516 Tahiti Island, French Polynesia) was isolated from a viremic patient in French Polynesia in 2013. Stocks  
517 were produced on C6-36 cells. The Dengue 2 virus (DENV-2) strain Malaysia SB8553 was obtained  
518 from the Centro de Ingeniería Genética y Biotecnología (CIGB), Cuba. The YFV Asibi strain and the  
519 WNV Israeli strain IS-98-STI were provided by the Biological resource Center of the Institut Pasteur.  
520 Stocks of DENV-2, YFV and WNV were produced on Vero NK cells. Viruses were concentrated by  
521 polyethylene glycol 6000 precipitation and purified by centrifugation in a discontinued gradient of  
522 sucrose. Flaviviruses were titrated on Vero NK cells by plaque assay as previously described [78] and  
523 titers were expressed in plaque-forming units (PFU)/ml. The Measles Schwarz strain expressing GFP  
524 (MeV-GFP) was described previously [40]. VSV Indiana and the CVB3 Nancy strain were kindly  
525 provided by N. Escriou (Institut Pasteur) and M. Bessaud, respectively (Institut Pasteur). Modified  
526 Vaccinia Ankara virus (MVA) expressing eGFP (MVA-GFP) was kindly provided by the ANRS via O.  
527 Schwartz (Institut Pasteur). It was manufactured by Transgene (Illkirch-Graffenstaden, France).  
528 The fluorescent marker, eGFP, is expressed under the control of the early promoter p11K7.5 and viral  
529 preparations were purified by tangential flow filtration. HMC3 cells were infected at the following  
530 MOIs: a MOI of 10 with DENV-2, 0,5 with WNV, 0,005 with VSV, 1 with MeV-GFP and 0,05 with  
531 MVA-GFP. IFN-treated HMC3 cells were infected at a MOI of 20 with DENV-2, 5 with WNV, 0,01  
532 with VSV, 2 with MeV-GFP and 0,25 with MVA-GFP. Huh-7 were infected at a MOI of 1 with YFV  
533 and 0,25 with WNV. IFN-treated Huh-7 cells were infected at a MOI of 10 with YFV and WNV. Highly  
534 cell culture-adapted HCV Jad strain was obtained following transfection of Huh-7.5 cells with *in vitro*  
535 transcribed genome-length RNA as described previously [79–81]. Large volumes of HCV stocks were  
536 prepared following infection at a MOI of 0.01 50% tissue culture infectious doses 50 (TCID<sub>50</sub>) per cell  
537 with supernatants collected post-RNA transfection [82]. HCV infectious titers were determined by  
538 TCID<sub>50</sub> assays in Huh-7.5 cells as described previously [79]. IFN-treated Huh-7.5 cells were infected  
539 at MOI of 3 TCID<sub>50</sub>/cell with HCV. The SARS-CoV-2 strain BetaCoV/France/IDF0372/2020  
540 (historical) was supplied by the French National Reference Centre for Respiratory Viruses hosted by  
541 Institut Pasteur (Paris, France) and headed by Pr. S. van der Werf. The human samples from which the  
542 strain was isolated were provided by Dr. X. Lescure and Pr. Y. Yazdanpanah from the Bichat Hospital,  
543 Paris, France and Dr. Vincent Foissaud, HIA Percy, Clamart, France, respectively. A549-ACE2 cells  
544 were infected with SARS-CoV-2 at a MOI of 2.

545

#### 546 **High throughput Screen**

547 Five hundreds HMC3 cells were seeded in 384-well microplates in the morning of day 1 using a  
548 MultiDrop combi liquid dispenser (Thermo Fisher Scientific), in 40  $\mu$ L of cell culture media. Cells were  
549 allowed to adhere for 4 hours (+/-1h) before transfection with individual siRNAs (10nM) diluted in a  
550 mix of OptiMEM (Life Technologies) and 0.05 $\mu$ L of Interferin reagent (Polyplus Transfection). siRNAs  
551 were transfected using an Evo 150 with MCA384 (Tecan). The library contained 1158 siRNA targeting  
552 386 genes. siRNA targeting KIF11 was used to assess the transfection efficiency. On day 2, cells were  
553 treated with 1000U/ml of IFN $\alpha$ 2a. Interferon was diluted into cell culture media and 10 $\mu$ L of the mix  
554 was robotically transferred to each well (except non-treated controls). 24 hours after IFN treatment, cell  
555 media was removed from siRNA-transfected plates and 40 $\mu$ L of the ZIKV PF13 strain, diluted to a final  
556 concentration of 7,500 particles/well, was added to the plates with the MCA384 head (Tecan). ZIKV  
557 titer was 6.5.10<sup>8</sup> PFU/ml. Cells were then incubated 24 hours prior to fixation. Cells were fixed with 4%  
558 of formaldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich) for 20 min, plates were then washed once with PBS and quenched  
559 with NH<sub>4</sub>Cl (50mM) solution. Cells were then blocked with 1% BSA solution and permeabilized with  
560 0.5% Triton X-100. Cells were next incubated for 60 min with mouse primary antibody anti-4G2 (1:500)  
561 which reacts with flavivirus E proteins. Cells were then washed twice in PBS solution and incubated  
562 with Alexa Fluor 488-coupled secondary antibodies (ThermoFisher Scientific). Nuclei were stained with  
563 0.2  $\mu$ g/ml Hoechst (Sigma). Images were acquired with an INCell2200 automated wide-field system  
564 (GE Healthcare,) using a Nikon 10X/0.45, Plan Apo, CFI/60. Three fields per well were analyzed using  
565 the INCell Analyzer 3.7 Workstation software. Two independent screens were performed. The mean  
566 cell count and the percentages of infected cells were extracted from quantification.

567

### 568 **Data analysis and hit calling**

569 In the first analysis, data were processed using a software developed internally at the Biophenics  
570 platform. For hit identification, the robust Z-score method was used under the assumption that most  
571 siRNAs are inactive against ZIKV and can serve as controls [83,84]. Raw values were log-transformed  
572 for cell count only to make the data more symmetric and close to normal distribution. In order to correct  
573 for plate positional effects, median polishing [84] was applied to each analyzed feature. It iteratively  
574 subtracts row, column and well median, computed from all plates within one screen. Hits for each  
575 compound were identified as follows: sample median and median absolute deviation (MAD) were  
576 calculated from the population of screening data points (named as sample) and used to compute Robust  
577 Z-scores (RZ-scores) according to a formula, in which the reference population corresponds to the  
578 siRNA-treated wells, and MAD is defined as the median of the absolute deviation from the median of  
579 the corresponding wells:

580

$$rZ\text{-Score} = \frac{x - med(pop\ réf)}{1.4826 \times med(|pop\ réf - med(pop\ réf)|)}$$

581

582 A gene was identified as a ‘hit’, if the RZ-score was  $< -2$  or  $> 2$  pointing in the same direction for 2  
583 siRNAs targeting the same gene in both screens. Final values in the hit table correspond to the RZ-score  
584 of the second strongest siRNA. In the second analysis, data were process using an homemade script and  
585 CellProfiler [85]. Nucleus and viral assembly sites detected by the E signal were counted. As in the first  
586 analysis, rZ-Score and percentages of infected cells were quantified. Considering that each gene was  
587 targeted by three individual siRNA, genes were clusterized as hits, if at least two over three of their  
588 robust Z score absolute value were superior to 2. Genes were defined as hits when they were identified  
589 in at least one of the analysis.

590

### 591 **Antibodies, plasmids and reagents**

592 The following primary antibodies were used in the study: anti-E MAb 4G2 hybridoma cells, anti-NS5-  
593 ZIKV [86], anti-VSV-G (IE9F9, Kerafast), anti-CVB3 VP1 (M7064, Agilent), anti-SARS-CoV-2 S  
594 protein mAb10 (1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ , a kind gift from H. Mouquet, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France), APOL1  
595 (HPA018885, Sigma), MTA2 (8106, abcam), GM130 (12480, cell signaling), PI(4)P (Z-P004), PI(4)KB  
596 (06-578, Milipore) and anti-actin (A5316, Sigma). Secondary antibodies were as followed: anti-mouse  
597 Alexa 488 (A11001, Life Technologies), anti-mouse Alexa 680 (A21058, Life Technologies) and anti-  
598 rabbit DyLight 800 (SA5-35571, ThermoScientific). The PI4KB inhibitor (1881233-39-1,  
599 MedChemExpress) and IFN $\alpha$ 2a (Sigma-Aldrich, SRE0013) were used at the indicated concentration.  
600 GFP-APOL3 et APOL3-GFP were subcloned into pcDNA.3.1 from templates previously described  
601 [41].

602

### 603 **siRNA transfection**

604 HMC3 cells were transfected using INTERFERin transfection reagent (Polyplus Transfection). Huh-7  
605 cells, Huh-7.5 cells and podocytes were transfected with siRNAs at 10 nM final concentration using  
606 Lipofectamine RNAiMax (Life Technologies). All siRNAs were obtained from Dharmacon  
607 (siGENOME-SMARTpool).

608

### 609 **RNA extraction and RT-qPCR assays**

610 Total RNAs were extracted from cell lysates using the NucleoSpin RNA II Kit (Macherey-Nagel)  
611 following the manufacturer’s protocol and were eluted in nuclease-free water. First-strand  
612 complementary DNA synthesis was performed with the RevertAid H Minus M-MuLV Reverse  
613 Transcriptase (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Quantitative real-time PCR was performed on a real-time PCR  
614 system (QuantStudio 6 Flex, Applied Biosystems) with SYBR Green PCR Master Mix (Life  
615 Technologies). Data were analyzed with the  $\Delta\Delta\text{CT}$  method, with all samples normalized to GAPDH.  
616 All experiments were performed in technical triplicate. Viral genome equivalents concentrations  
617 (GE/ml) were determined by extrapolation from a standard curve generated from serial dilutions of the  
618 plasmid encoding the full-length genome of the Zika strain MR766 [87] or plasmids encoding a

619 fragment of the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp)-IP4 of SARS-CoV-2. HCV RNA was  
620 quantified by one-step reverse transcription-quantitative PCR using 50 ng of total intracellular RNA and  
621 TaqMan® Fast Virus 1-Step Master Mix (Applied Biosystems) with primers and probe targeting the  
622 HCV 5' nontranslated region as described previously [82]. Viral RNA levels were normalized with  
623 respect to 18S RNA levels quantified in parallel using TaqMan ribosomal RNA control reagents  
624 (Applied Biosystems). The products were analysed on a 7500 Fast Real-Time PCR system (Applied  
625 Biosystems). Serial dilutions of a genome-length *in vitro* transcribed HCV RNA served to establish  
626 standard curves and calculate HCV GE/ $\mu$ g total RNA concentrations. Primers and probe used for RT-  
627 qPCR analysis are given in Table S2.

628

### 629 **Western blot analysis**

630 Cells were collected in RIPA buffer (Sigma) containing protease inhibitors (Roche Applied Science).  
631 Cell lysates were normalized for protein content with Pierce 660nm Protein Assay (Thermo Scientific),  
632 boiled in NuPAGE LDS sample buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in non-reducing conditions. Samples  
633 were separated by SDS-PAGE (NuPAGE 4–12% Bis-Tris Gel, Life Technologies) with MOPS running  
634 buffer. Separated proteins were transferred to a nitrocellulose membrane (Bio-Rad). After blocking with  
635 PBS-Tween-20 0.1% (PBST) containing 5% milk for 1 h at RT, the membrane was incubated overnight  
636 at 4°C with primary antibodies diluted in blocking buffer. Finally, the membranes were incubated for 1  
637 h at RT with secondary antibodies diluted in blocking buffer, washed, and scanned using an Odyssey  
638 CLx infrared imaging system (LI-COR Bioscience).

639

### 640 **Flow cytometry**

641 Infected cells were fixed with cytofix/cytoperm kit (BD Pharmingen) and stained using the indicated  
642 primary and secondary antibodies. Non-infected, antibody-stained samples served as controls for signal  
643 background. Data were acquired using Attune NxT Acoustic Focusing Cytometer (Life Technologies)  
644 and analyzed using FlowJo software.

645

### 646 **Immunofluorescence assay**

647 Cells were fixed with PFA 4% (Sigma) during 20min. Cells were permeabilized with PBS Triton X-100  
648 (0.5%) for 15min at RT. After washing with PBS, they were incubated for 30 min with PBS + 0.05%  
649 Tween 20 + 5% BSA. The slides were then incubated overnight at 4°C with primary antibodies diluted  
650 in PBS. After washing with PBS, they were incubated for 1 h with secondary antibodies and washed  
651 with PBS. Nuclei were stained using PBS/NucBlue (Life Technologies, R37606). The mounting  
652 medium used is the Prolong gold (Life Technologies, P36930). All preparations were observed with a  
653 confocal microscope (ZEISS LSM 700 inverted) and images were acquired with the ZEN software.

654

### 655 **Statistical analysis.**

656 Data are presented as means  $\pm$  SD and were analyzed using GraphPad Prism 7. Statistical analysis of  
657 percentage values or fold enrichment values were performed on logit or log-transformed values,  
658 respectively. Statistical analysis was performed with two tailed paired t-test or by one- or two-way  
659 analysis of variance (ANOVA) with Dunnet's multiple comparisons test. Each experiment was  
660 performed at least twice, unless otherwise stated. Statistically significant differences are indicated as  
661 follows: \*:  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*:  $p < 0.01$  and \*\*\*:  $p < 0.001$ ; ns, not significant.

662

663

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684

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686

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941

942 **Figure legends**

943

944 **Figure 1. A loss of function screen identified genes modulating ZIKV replication in IFN-**  
945 **stimulated human microglial cells.** (A) Scheme summarizing the screen conditions. (B, C) Scatter  
946 plots showing the rZ-score obtained in the 1st (B) and second analysis (C) of the 2 screens. The green  
947 line represents the linear regression, as compared to the expected perfect correlation (dotted black line).  
948 Antiviral and proviral hits are depicted in red and blue, respectively. (D) List of the antiviral and proviral  
949 hits as identified by the 2 analysis of the 2 screens. Assessment of the antiviral (E, F) and proviral (G,  
950 H) activities of some hits. HMC3 cells were transfected with either pool of 3 siRNAs against the  
951 indicated candidate gene or non-targeting (NT) siRNAs, treated with IFN $\alpha$ 2 (200U/mL) for 24 hours  
952 and infected with ZIKV (at an MOI of 5 PFU/cell) for 24 hours. Control cells transfected with NT  
953 siRNA in the absence of IFN $\alpha$ 2 treatment (NT-IFN) are included. (E, G) Cell-associated viral RNA was  
954 quantified by RT-qPCR and expressed as genome equivalents (GE) per  $\mu$ g of total cellular RNA. (F, H)  
955 The number of cells positive for viral protein E was assessed by flow cytometry and are expressed  
956 relatively to the NT+IFN control of each experiment. Data are means  $\pm$  SD of three or four independent  
957 experiments, \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001, paired t-tests.

958

959 **Figure 2. Effect of a selection of candidate genes on HCV and SARS-CoV-2 replication.** (A-D).  
960 Huh-7.5 cells were transfected with a pool of 3 siRNAs against selected candidates (antiviral and  
961 proviral genes, as identified in the ZIKV screen (Fig. 1), are in red and blue, respectively) or non-  
962 targeting (NT) siRNAs, treated with IFN $\alpha$ 2 (200U/mL) for 24 hours, then infected with HCV at a MOI  
963 of 3 TCID50/cell for 48 hours. (A, C) Cell-associated viral RNA was quantified by RT-qPCR and  
964 expressed as genome equivalents (GE) per  $\mu$ g of total cellular RNA. (B, D) Release of infectious HCV  
965 particles was determined by TCID50 assays. Data are expressed relatively to the NT+IFN control of  
966 each experiment. Plotted values are expressed relative to mean NT+IF across experiments and  
967 represent means  $\pm$  SD of two independent experiments each in duplicates, \*p<0.05,  
968 \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001, \*\*\*\*p<0.0001 paired t-tests. (E-H). A549-ACE2 cells were transfected with a  
969 pool of 3 siRNAs against selected candidates (antiviral genes in red, proviral genes in blue) or non-  
970 targeting (NT) siRNAs, treated with IFN $\alpha$ 2 (200U/mL) for 24 hours and infected with SARS-CoV-2 at  
971 a MOI of 2 for 24 hours. (E, G) Cell-associated viral RNA was quantified by RT-qPCR and expressed  
972 as genome equivalents (GE) per  $\mu$ g of total cellular RNA. (F, H) The number of cells positive for the  
973 viral protein spike (S) was assessed by flow cytometry Data are expressed relatively to the NT+IFN  
974 control of each experiment. Data are means  $\pm$  SD of triplicates of one experiment, \*p<0.05,  
975 \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001, paired t-tests.

976



977 **Figure 3. Effect of reduced expression of APOL1 and APOL3 on the replication of a panel of**  
978 **viruses in HMC3 cells and podocytes.** (A, E) *APOL1* mRNA and *APOL3* mRNA abundance were  
979 quantified by RT-qPCR analysis in HMC3 cells or podocytes treated or not with IFN $\alpha$ 2 (200U/mL) for  
980 24 hours and expressed as copy numbers per  $\mu$ g of total cellular RNA. HMC3 cells (B) or podocytes (F)  
981 were transfected with pool of 3 siRNAs targeting *APOL1*, *APOL3* and *USP18* mRNAs or with non-  
982 targeting (NT) control siRNAs. The relative amounts of *APOL1*, *APOL3* and *USP18* mRNAs were  
983 determined by RT-qPCR analysis and were normalized to that of GAPDH mRNA. They are expressed  
984 as compared to abundance relative to cells transfected with control NT siRNAs. HMC3 cells (C) or  
985 podocytes (G) were transfected with the indicated siRNAs, treated, or not, with IFN $\alpha$ 2 (200U/mL) for  
986 24 hours, and infected with ZIKV for 24 hours. HMC3 cells were infected at a MOI of 2 and podocytes  
987 at a MOI of 1. The percentages of cells that were positive for the viral E proteins were determined by  
988 flow cytometric analysis. Data are expressed relatively to the siRNA NT control of each experiment.  
989 HMC3 cells (D) or podocytes (H) were treated with IFN $\alpha$ 2 (200U/mL), transfected with the indicated  
990 siRNAs pools and subjected to Western blotting analysis with antibodies against the indicated proteins.  
991 (I) HMC3 cells were transfected with the indicated siRNAs pools, treated with IFN $\alpha$ 2 (200U/mL) for  
992 24 hours and infected with the indicated viruses for 18 to 24 hours, at the MOI indicated in the MM  
993 section. The percentages of the cells positive for viral proteins or GFP were determined by flow  
994 cytometric analysis. Data are means  $\pm$  SD of three or four independent experiments, \* $p$ <0.05,  
995 \*\* $p$ <0.01, \*\*\* $p$ <0.001, paired t-tests.

996  
997 **Figure 4. APOL1 and APOL3 promote viral replication independently of their interaction with**  
998 **phosphoinositides.** HMC3 cells were transfected with GFP-tagged versions of APOL1 and APOL3.  
999 Thirty hours later, they were stained with antibodies recognizing GM130 (A) or PI4KB (B) and with  
1000 NucBlue to detect nuclei. Images are representative of numerous observations over 2 independent  
1001 experiments. The white arrow shows an APOL1-GFP-positive vesicle. (C) HCM3 cells were treated  
1002 with different concentrations of the PI4KB inhibitor and were stained for PI(4)P. (D) HMC3 cells treated  
1003 with different doses of PI4KB inhibitor were infected with CVB3, WNV or ZIKV, in the presence or  
1004 absence of IFN $\alpha$ 2 (200U/mL). The percentages of the cells positive for viral proteins were determined  
1005 by flow cytometric analysis. Data are means  $\pm$  SD of three independent experiments, \* $p$ <0.05,  
1006 \*\* $p$ <0.01, \*\*\* $p$ <0.001, one-way ANOVA.

1007  
1008 **Figure 5. MTA2 restricts ZIKV replication in IFN $\alpha$ 2-stimulated cells.** HMC3 (A, B, E, F, I) and  
1009 Huh-7 cells (C, D, G, H, J) were transfected with pool of 3 siRNAs targeting *MTA2* or *IFNARI* mRNAs  
1010 or non-targeting (NT) control siRNAs, treated or not with IFN $\alpha$ 2 (100U/mL) for 24 hours, and infected  
1011 with ZIKV (MOI of 1 for HMC3 cells, MOI of 5 for Huh-7 cells) for 24 hours. (A-D) The relative  
1012 amounts of *MTA2* and *IFNARI* mRNAs were determined by RT-qPCR analysis and normalized to that

1013 of *GAPDH* mRNA and siRNA-NT without IFN. (E, G) Cell-associated viral RNA was quantified by  
1014 RT-qPCR and expressed as genome equivalents (GE) per  $\mu\text{g}$  of total cellular RNA. (F, H) Number of  
1015 infected cells was assessed by staining of viral protein E and flow cytometry analysis. (I, J) Cells were  
1016 treated with IFN $\alpha$ 2 (200U/mL) or left untreated, transfected with the indicated siRNAs pools and  
1017 subjected to Western blotting analysis with antibodies against the indicated proteins. Data are means  $\pm$   
1018 SD of three independent experiments, \* $p < 0.05$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , paired t-tests.

1019

1020 **Figure 6. Effect of reduced expression of MTA2 on the replication of YFV, WNV, VSV and MeV-**  
1021 **GFP.** Huh-7 cells were transfected with the indicated siRNAs pool, treated or not with IFN $\alpha$ 2  
1022 (200U/mL) for 24 hours and infected with WNV (A) or YFV (B) for 24 hours, at the MOIs indicated in  
1023 the MM section. The percentages of the cells positive for viral protein Env was determined by flow  
1024 cytometric analysis. HMC3 cells were transfected with the indicated siRNAs pool, treated or not with  
1025 IFN $\alpha$ 2 (200U/mL) for 24 hours and infected with VSV for 18 hours (C) or MeV-GFP for 24 hours (D),  
1026 at the MOIs indicated in the MM section. The percentages of the cells positive for viral protein G or GFP  
1027 were determined by flow cytometric analysis. Data are expressed relatively to the siRNA NT control of  
1028 each experiment. Data are means  $\pm$  SD of three or four independent experiments, \* $p < 0.05$ ,  
1029 \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , paired t-tests.

1030

### 1031 **Supplementary figure legends**

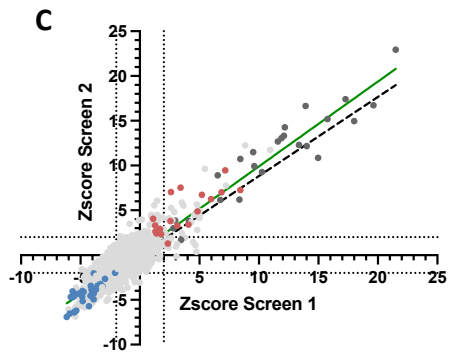
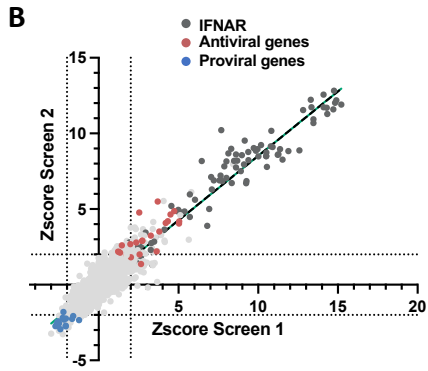
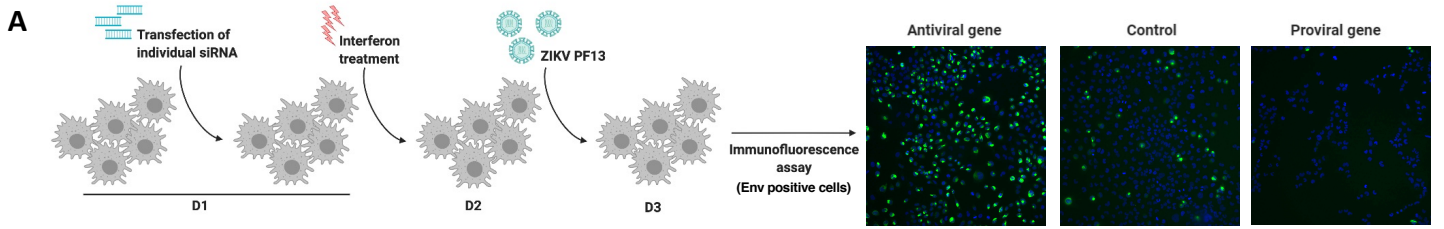
1032

1033 **Figure S1. Quality control and reproducibility of the screens.** (A) HMC3 cells were transfected with  
1034 either pool of 3 siRNAs against IFNAR or IFITM3 or non-targeting (NT) siRNAs, treated with IFN $\alpha$ 2  
1035 (1000U/mL) for 24 hours and infected with ZIKV PF13 at a MOI of 7 PFU/cell for 24 hours. The  
1036 number of cells positive for viral protein E was assessed by confocal analysis using the pan-flavivirus  
1037 anti-E antibody 4G2. (B) Distribution of the "number of cells per 3 fields" parameter for each screen.  
1038 The values of the control wells (cells transfected with siRNA targeting KIF11) are shown in dark gray.  
1039 (C) Representation of the number of cells per 3 fields of screen 1 as a function of the screen 2. The green  
1040 line represents the linear regression as compared to the expected perfect correlation (dotted black line).  
1041 (D) Distribution of the "percentage of infected cells" parameter for each screen in the first analysis. The  
1042 values of the control conditions (cells transfected with siRNAs targeting IFNAR1 or IFNAR2) are  
1043 shown in dark grey. (E) Representation of the percentage of infected cells per well of screen 1 as a  
1044 function of screen 2, as identified by the first analysis. The green line represents the linear regression as  
1045 compared to the expected perfect correlation (dotted black line). (F) Representation of the percentage  
1046 of infected cells per well in the analysis 1 as a function of analysis 2. The green line represents the linear  
1047 regression. (G) HMC3 cells were transfected with pools of 3 siRNAs targeting the indicated genes or

1048 with non-targeting (NT) control siRNAs. The relative abundances of the mRNAs of the candidate genes  
1049 were determined by RT-qPCR analysis and were normalized with respect to GAPDH mRNA level.  
1050 They are expressed relatively to abundance in cells transfected with NT siRNAs set at 1. Data are means  
1051  $\pm$  SD of three or four independent experiments. ND: not determined due to mRNA levels below assay  
1052 threshold. The samples are the same than in Fig. 1E-H.

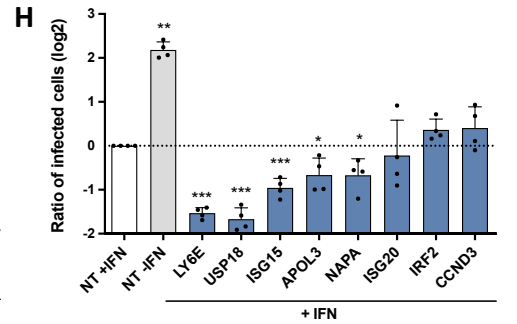
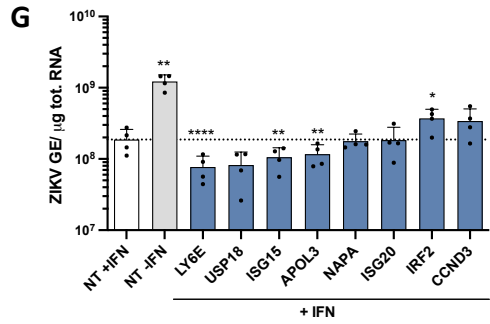
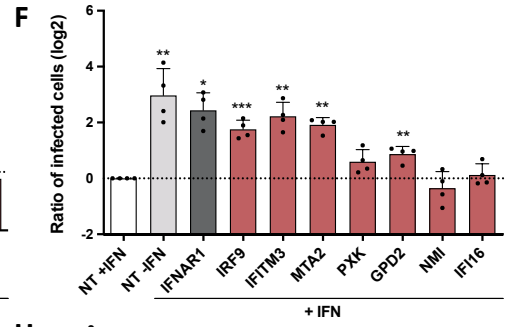
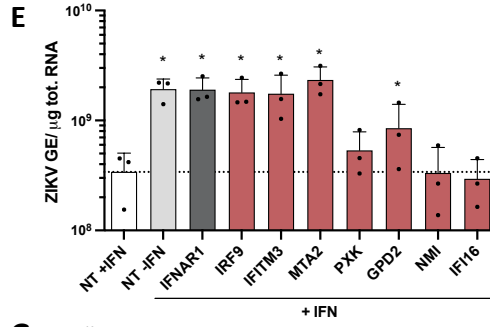
1053  
1054 **Figure S2. Efficacy of the specific siRNAs.** Huh-7.5 cells (A) or A549-ACE2 cells (B) were transfected  
1055 with pool of 3 siRNAs targeting the indicated genes or with non-targeting (NT) control siRNAs. The  
1056 relative abundances of the mRNAs of the candidate genes were determined by RT-qPCR analysis and  
1057 were normalized with respect to GAPDH mRNA level. Values are expressed relatively to abundance in  
1058 cells transfected with NT siRNA in each experiment, set at 1. Data are means  $\pm$  SD of three or four  
1059 independent experiments. ND: not determined due to mRNA levels below assay threshold. The samples  
1060 are the same than in Fig. 2.

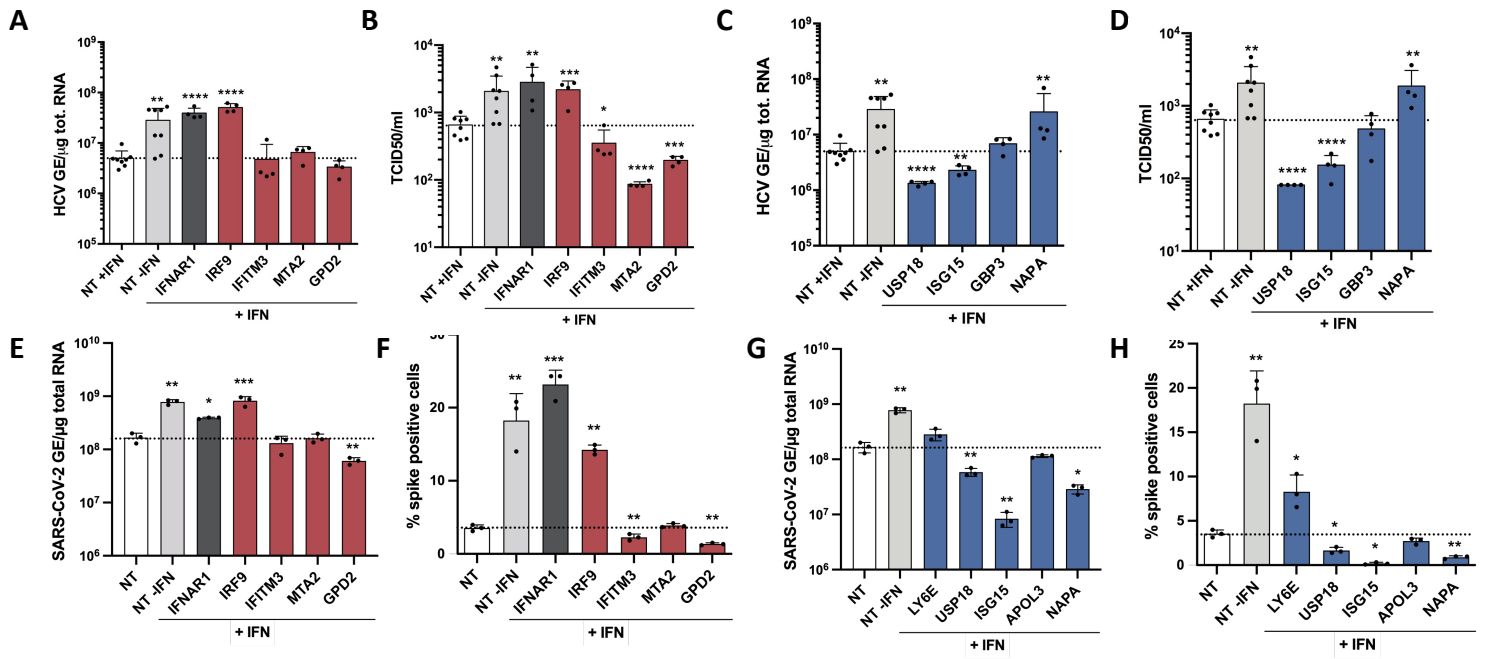
1061  
1062 **Figure S3. Localization of GFP-tagged version of APOL1 and APOL3 in HMC3 cells.** Cells were  
1063 transfected with GFP-tagged versions of APOL1 and APOL3. Thirty hours later, they were stained with  
1064 antibodies recognizing EEA1 or CD63 and with NucBlue to detect nuclei. Images are representative of  
1065 numerous observations over 2 independent experiments.



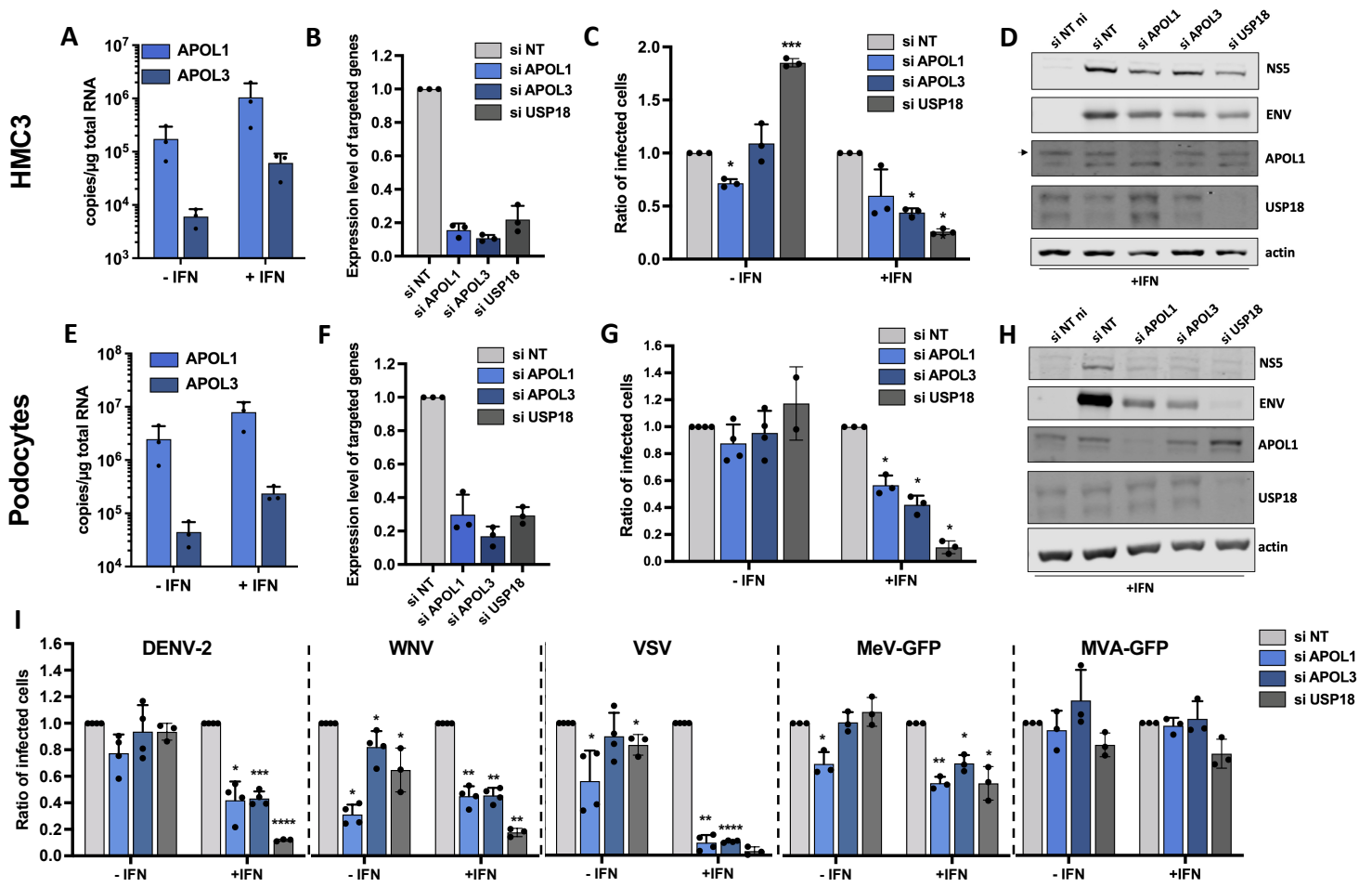
**D**

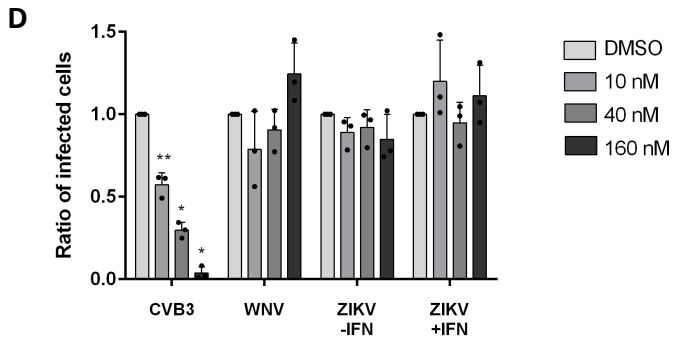
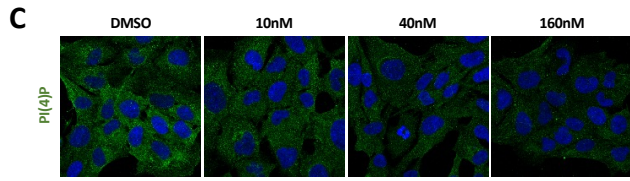
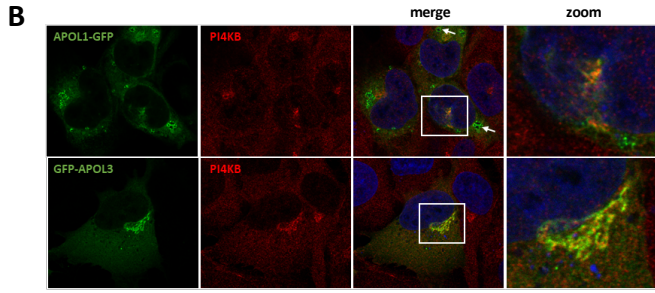
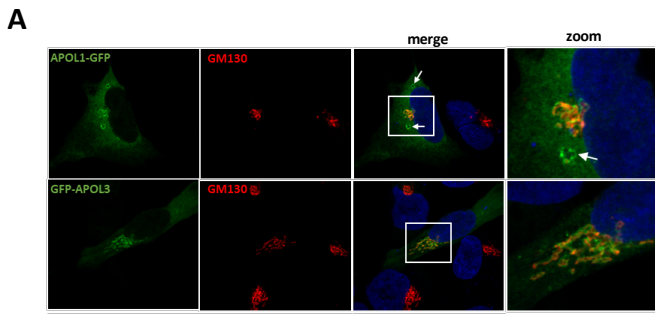
Antiviral effect	IRF9	IFITM3	MTA2	PXK	GPD2	C1R	XCL1	NMI	IFI16			
Proviral effect	LY6E	USP18	ISG15	APOL3	GBP3	NAPA	NADK	ISG20	IRF2	CCND3	C22orf39	RUBCN



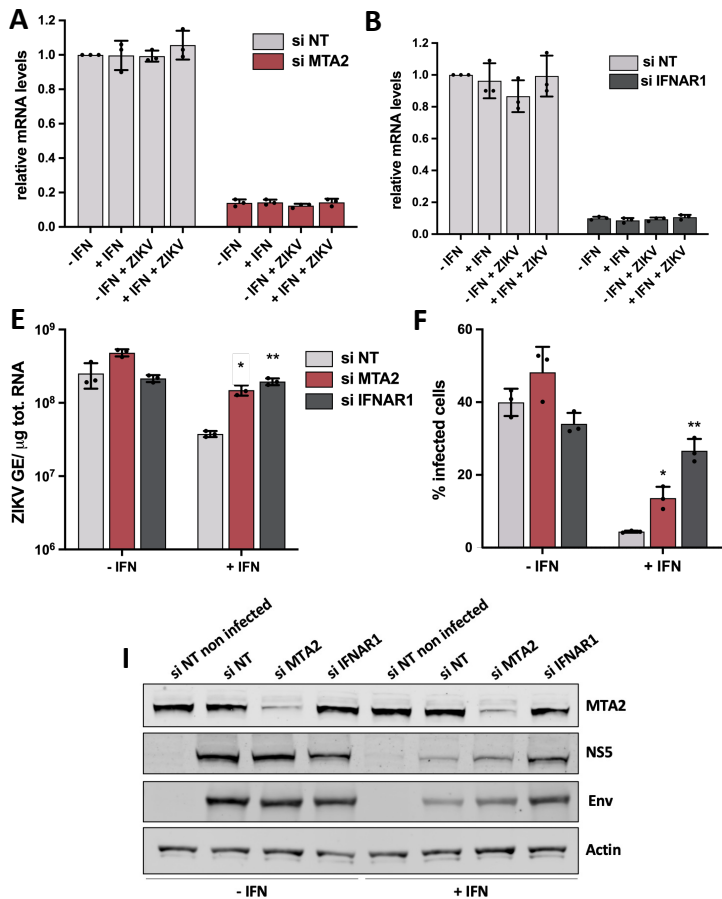








### HMC3



### Huh7

