

1 **Integrative Analysis of Spatial Transcriptome with Single-cell Transcriptome and Single-cell**  
2 **Epigenome in Mouse Lungs after Immunization**

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25 **ABSTRACT**

26 Immunological memory is key to productive adaptive immunity. An unbiased, high throughput  
27 gene expression profiling of tissue-resident memory T cells at their precise anatomical locations  
28 within the lung is fundamental to understanding lung immunity, but such spatial information  
29 has yet to be characterized. In this study, using a well-established *Klebsiella pneumoniae*  
30 infection model, we performed an integrative analysis of spatial transcriptome with single-cell  
31 RNA-seq and single-cell ATAC-seq on lung cells from mice after immunization using the 10x  
32 Genomics Chromium and Visium platform. We employed several deconvolution algorithms and  
33 established an optimized deconvolution pipeline to accurately decipher specific cell-type  
34 composition by anatomic location. We identified and located 12 major cell types by scRNA-seq  
35 and spatial transcriptomic analysis. Integrating scATAC-seq data from the same cells processed  
36 in parallel with scRNA-seq, we found epigenomic profiles provide more robust cell type  
37 identification, especially for lineage-specific T helper cells. When combining all three data  
38 modalities, we observed a dynamic change in the location of T helper cells as well as their  
39 corresponding chemokines for chemotaxis. Furthermore, cell-cell communication analysis of  
40 spatial transcriptome provided evidence of lineage-specific T helper cells receiving designated  
41 cytokine signaling. In summary, our first-in-class study demonstrated the power of multi-omics  
42 analysis to uncover intrinsic spatial- and cell-type-dependent molecular mechanisms of lung  
43 immunity. Our data provides a rich research resource of single cell multi-omics data as a  
44 reference for understanding spatial dynamics of lung immunization.

45

## 46 INTRODUCTION

47 Immunological memory, consisting of B cell and T cell memory, is a key characteristic of  
48 adaptive immunity upon encountering with pathogen invasion. Typically, memory T cells can be  
49 classified into two categories: effector memory and central memory T cells. Effector memory T  
50 cells are able to produce effector cytokines and have cytotoxic activity against pathogen  
51 infected cells <sup>1</sup>. Tissue-resident memory T cells (TRM) have more recently been defined as a  
52 new subset, predominantly residing in mucosal tissues, barrier surfaces, and other non-  
53 lymphoid organs but are also present in lymphoid sites <sup>2</sup>. TRM are antigen experienced and are  
54 capable of rapidly responding to re-exposure to cognate antigen. TRM in the lung have been  
55 demonstrated to exhibit robust protective function against constant viral and bacterial  
56 challenge of the lungs and respiratory tract.

57 *Klebsiella pneumoniae* is an important cause of community-acquired pneumonia. In 2011, the  
58 U.S. National Institutes of Health Clinical Center experienced an outbreak of carbapenem-  
59 resistant *K. pneumoniae* that affected 18 patients, 11 of whom died. Thus, in addition to  
60 antimicrobial stewardship and hospital hygiene measures, there is a critical need for the  
61 development of novel therapeutic approaches to prevent and/or treat antibiotic resistant  
62 infections. Our previous work has demonstrated that *K. pneumoniae* specific Th17 cells are  
63 induced by immunization with whole bacterial lysate <sup>3</sup>. These memory Th17 cells are both  
64 required and sufficient to provide serotype/antibody independent protection against a variety  
65 of strains of *K. pneumoniae* including the recently described multidrug resistant New Delhi  
66 metallo-beta-lactamase strain.

67 Tissue localization of these TRM cells has been investigated thoroughly in the past and  
68 comparisons between mouse and human TRM have been characterized extensively using the  
69 well-established flow cytometric and transcriptomic approaches <sup>4</sup>. However, an unbiased, high  
70 throughput gene expression profiling of TRM residing in various anatomical location within the  
71 lung, such as airway vs parenchyma, has not been possible using conventional flow cytometry,  
72 transcriptomic approaches, and even the most recently developed single-cell sequencing  
73 technology. These methodologies are limited as anatomic location specific information is lost  
74 after single-cell suspension is acquired.

75 Single-cell RNA-seq (scRNA-seq) has been gradually applied to study immune cells and immune  
76 responses in mouse lungs <sup>5-8</sup>. Few recent studies utilize single-cell ATAC-seq (scATAC-seq) to  
77 measure the chromatin architecture of immune cells in mouse lungs <sup>9</sup>. Although these  
78 technologies provide rich information in understanding cell heterogeneity and biology  
79 information of mouse lung, spatial information of single cell is lost in the process. Spatial  
80 transcriptomics (ST) is a recently developed technology and has the ability to map  
81 transcriptional signatures to distinct anatomical regions. To date, it has rarely been used in  
82 understanding lung tissues. In this first-in-class study, we employed a commercially available ST  
83 platform to investigate the spatial topography of gene expression of mouse lungs after  
84 immunization. To overcome the resolution limitation of current ST technology, we also applied  
85 state-of-art single-cell transcriptomics and single-cell epigenomics to jointly study the spatial  
86 localization, transcriptome, and epigenome of T cells induced by this immunization. The

87 integrative analysis of three types of omics data provides an unprecedented and  
88 comprehensive way to examine the genomic basis and dynamics of lung immunization.

89

## 90 RESULTS

### 91 Cataloging 12 Lung Cell Types using scRNA-seq Data

92 In this study, we inoculated mice with heat-killed *K. pneumoniae* and assigned them into two  
93 groups, the immunized and the re-challenged groups. The immunized group was inoculated  
94 twice on day 0 and day 7, whereas the re-challenged group was additionally inoculated on day  
95 13. On day 14, both groups of mice were sacrificed for tissue harvesting. Slices A1 and A2 were  
96 sectioned from the fresh frozen lung of the immunized mouse, whereas slices A3 and A4 were  
97 from the re-challenged mouse. In a separate cohort, lung tissue from the re-challenged mouse  
98 were harvested and single-cell suspension was obtained after enzymatic digestion. The four  
99 lung slices were used for spatial transcriptomics, and the single-cell suspension from the re-  
100 challenged mouse were subjected to scRNA-seq and scATAC-seq analyses. scRNA-seq data were  
101 integrated with scATAC-seq data via label transfer and were used as a reference to deconvolute  
102 spatial transcriptomics data (**Figures 1A**).

103 We generated scRNA-seq data from 3,337 cells collected from the re-challenged mouse. Graph-  
104 based clustering identified ten clusters (**Figures S1A and S1C**). Cluster 1, which has an extremely  
105 high percentage of mitochondrial genes (**Figures S1B**), was excluded from downstream  
106 analyses. Cluster 6 consisted of several sporadic sub-clusters and was re-clustered into four  
107 clusters (**Figures S1D and S1E**). 2,834 cells with good quality were retained for the downstream  
108 analyses.

109 We carried out fine cluster annotation according to canonical markers and identified 12 lung  
110 cell types (**Figures 1B**), including alveolar epithelial cells, club cells, fibroblasts, endothelial cells,  
111 monocytes, macrophages, dendritic cells, neutrophils, B cells, T cells, NK cells, and erythrocytes.  
112 Selected canonical markers for each cell type were shown in the dot plot (**Figures 1C**, e.g., *Sftpb*  
113 for alveolar epithelial cells, *Scgb1a1* for club cells, and *Cd3d* for T cells). The top five (by log<sub>2</sub>-  
114 Fold Change) markers for each cell type were visualized using a heatmap (**Figures 1D**).

115

### 116 Robust Cell-type Decomposition (RCTD) of Spatial Transcriptome using scRNA-seq Data

117 Although spatial transcriptomics provides additional spatial information, its resolution has not  
118 reached to single-cell level. Therefore, the expression profile of each spot in spatial  
119 transcriptomics is from a mixture of a few cells, typically one to ten. To better interpret spatial  
120 transcriptome data, it is vital to determine the proportions of different cell types within each  
121 spot. Using our finely annotated scRNA-seq data as a reference, we carried out deconvolution  
122 for each spot in the four slices using the robust cell-type decomposition (RCTD) method<sup>10</sup>. The  
123 deconvolution results for slice A3 were shown as proportions of 12 cell types across slice A3  
124 (**Figures S2A**).

125 To assess the robustness of this deconvolution method, we inspected whether well-  
126 characterized cell types were colocalized with the expression of their canonical markers, as well

127 as corresponding histological structures. In slice A3, spots with a high proportion of club cells  
128 were around the histological airways and colocalized with spots with increased expression of  
129 *Scgb1a1* (**Figures 2Ai-iii**).

130 To examine the robustness and impact of reference panel on deconvolution, another public  
131 scRNA-seq data (GEO: GSE119228)<sup>5</sup>, including 20 annotated mouse lung cell types (**Figures**  
132 **2Bi**), were also used as an independent reference to deconvolute spatial transcriptome for the  
133 four slices. The deconvolution results for slice A3, using public scRNA-seq reference, were  
134 shown (**Figures S2B**). In slice A3, proportions of T cells deconvoluted using in-house or public  
135 scRNA-seq references were quite similar (**Figures 2Bii and 2Biii**). Deconvolution results can also  
136 be represented using proportion matrices, whose rows indicate spots and columns indicate cell  
137 types. To quantify the similarity between the deconvolution results using the two independent  
138 references, Pearson correlation coefficients between the columns of the two proportion  
139 matrices were calculated and visualized using correlation heatmaps (**Figures 2Ci-iv**). Although  
140 we cannot perfectly match all the 12 cell types from our in-house data with the 20 cell types  
141 identified in this public dataset, we found the proportions of some adaptive immune cells (*e.g.*,  
142 T cells and B cells) and innate immune cells (*e.g.*, neutrophils and NK cells) were highly  
143 correlated with those deconvoluted using the other reference in all four slices. Other cell types  
144 were also highly correlated with their related cell types deconvoluted using the other reference  
145 (*e.g.*, club cells in in-house data with ciliated cells in public data, alveolar epithelial cells in in-  
146 house data with AT2 in public data). These analyses validated the robustness of the robust cell-  
147 type decomposition (RCTD) method.

148

#### 149 **Integrative Analysis of scRNA-seq and scATAC-seq Data Enabling the Identification of Th17** 150 **and Th1 Cells**

151 In parallel with scRNA-seq, we also generated scATAC-seq data from 4,908 cells collected from  
152 the re-challenged mouse. After excluding cells with low quality, 4,794 cells were retained for  
153 downstream analyses. Leveraging our finely annotated scRNA-seq data, we identified the 12  
154 lung cell types in scATAC-seq data via label transfer (**Figures 3A**). Proportions of the 12 cell  
155 types in scRNA-seq and scATAC-seq data were quite similar (**Figures 3B**), showing a good  
156 biological agreement between two types of data.

157 Because we are interested in T cells in this study, we carried out re-clustering for T cells in  
158 scATAC-seq data and identified four subtypes of T cells (**Figures 3C**), including Th17 cells, Th1  
159 cells, other T cells 1, and other T cells 2. The top 20 (by log<sub>2</sub>-Fold Change) markers (gene activity  
160 scores) for each subtype of T cells were visualized using a heatmap (**Figures 3D**). Canonical  
161 transcription factors for subtypes of T cells were shown on the heatmap (*e.g.*, *Rorc* and *Rora* for  
162 Th17 cells, *Tbx21* for Th1 cells). *Cd8b1* was a marker for other T cells 1, suggesting they could be  
163 cytotoxic T cells.

164 To confirm the identity of Th17 and Th1 cells, further analyses were performed. For Th17 cells,  
165 there were much more peaks in genomic regions around *Il17a* and *Rorc*, compared with other  
166 subtypes of T cells (**Figures 3Ei and 3Eii**). In contrast, the peaks from Th1 cells dominated  
167 genomic regions around *Ifng* and *Tbx21* (**Figures 3Eiii and 3Eiv**). Motif footprinting analysis

168 further confirmed RORC was dominated by Th17 cells, and TBX21 was dominated by Th1 cells  
169 (**Figures S3Ai-ii and S3Bi-ii**).

170 Although subtypes of T cells were almost indistinguishable only using scRNA-seq data, we  
171 managed to identify the four subtypes of T cells via label transfer from scATAC-seq data to  
172 scRNA-seq data (**Figures 3F**). To confirm the identity of Th17 and Th1 cells in scRNA-seq data,  
173 further analyses were performed. Selected canonical markers for Th17 and Th1 cells were  
174 shown in the dot plot (**Figures 3G**, *e.g.*, *Rora* for Th17 cells, *Tbx21* for Th1 cells). The top 20 (by  
175 log<sub>2</sub>-Fold Change) markers for each subtype of T cells were visualized using a heatmap (**Figures**  
176 **S3C**). Canonical markers for subtypes of T cells can be seen in the heatmap (*e.g.*, *Rora* for Th17  
177 cells, *Ifng* for Th1 cells, and *Cd8b1* for other T cells 1). We also conducted gene regulatory  
178 network analysis using SCENIC<sup>11,12</sup> and identified RORA as a cell-type specific regulator for Th17  
179 cells in scRNA-seq data (**Figures S3D**). By integrative analysis of scRNA-seq and scATAC-seq  
180 data, 15 lung cell types (including four subtypes of T cells) were identified in scRNA-seq data  
181 (**Figures 3H**), with the potential to be deconvoluted in spatial transcriptome.

182

### 183 **Dynamic Changes of Cell Locations upon *K. pneumoniae* Re-challenge**

184 Using the updated scRNA-seq data with final 15 cell types, we carried out deconvolution again  
185 for each spot in the four slices (**Figures S4**). The proportions of 15 cell types across four slices  
186 were summarized by a box plot (**Figures 4A**). We performed *t*-tests to compare the differences  
187 between the immunized (slice A1 and A2) and the re-challenged mouse (slice A3 and A4), with  
188 significant differences found for each cell type. Generally, there were more monocytes,  
189 macrophages, dendritic cells, neutrophils, Th1 cells, and NK cells in the re-challenged mouse. In  
190 contrast, the immunized mouse had more B cells, Th17 cells, and other T cells 1 (**Figures 4A and**  
191 **S4**).

192 After pooling spots from the slices for the immunized (slice A1 and A2) or the re-challenged  
193 mouse (slice A3 and A4), Pearson correlation coefficients between the columns of the  
194 proportion matrices were calculated. Significant same-spot co-occurrence of different cell types  
195 was found in the immunized and the re-challenged mouse (**Figures 4B**). For the immunized  
196 mouse, Th17 cells, monocytes, and endothelial cells tended to appear in the same spots.  
197 Dendritic cells, B cells, fibroblasts, and other T cells 1 were also close to one another. For the re-  
198 challenged mouse, other T cells 1, B cells, Th17 cells, Th1 cells, and dendritic cells often  
199 appeared in the same spots. While Th1 cells, NK cells, and myeloid cells were possibly close to  
200 one another *in vivo*. These observations remained unchanged with each slice analyzed  
201 separately (**Figures S5C**).

202 Localization and segmentation of airway and blood vessels are important in our analysis. We  
203 defined airways and blood vessels according to the proportion of club cells and the histological  
204 blood vessels (**Figures S5A and S5B**). After excluding spots within the blood vessels and spots  
205 whose distances to the airways longer than 1,000 micrometers, we calculated weighted  
206 distances to the airways for Th17 and Th1 cells in four slices, according to the formula (**Figures**  
207 **4D**). Th17 cells were found closer to the airways than Th1 cells in the re-challenged mouse,  
208 whereas Th1 cells were closer to the airways in the immunized mouse (**Figures 4C**). This



209 conclusion was independent of the definition of airways and blood vessels, since it remained  
210 unchanged even if a set of cut-offs were used to define these structures (**Figures S5D**).

211 To find the spatial distribution patterns of immune cells, natural spline regression was  
212 performed to fit the non-linear relationship between the proportions of immune cells and the  
213 distances to the airways. Generally, B cells and other T cells 1 were proximal to the airways in  
214 the immunized mouse, whereas neutrophils were distal to the airways in the re-challenged  
215 mouse (**Figures 4Ei-iv**). The same analysis for all 15 cell types was also performed (**Figures S5Ei-**  
216 **iv**). We also performed natural spline regression between the expression of genes and the  
217 distances to the airways. 3,655 distance-associated genes (FDR-adjusted P-value < 0.05 in both  
218 slices) were identified in the immunized mouse (**Table S1**), while 3,407 were identified in the re-  
219 challenged mouse (**Table S2**). Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis was performed for  
220 these distance-associated genes<sup>13-15</sup>. 1,293 significantly (FDR-adjusted P-value < 0.05) over-  
221 represented biological processes were identified for the immunized mouse, and 1,294 for the  
222 re-challenged mouse. The top 50 (hierarchically sorted by fold-enrichment) over-represented  
223 biological processes for the re-challenged mouse included many immune responses (*e.g.*,  
224 proliferation, differentiation, activation, aggregation, adhesion, and chemotaxis of immune  
225 cells). In contrast, few immune responses were over-represented in the immunized mouse  
226 (**Table 1**). *Ccl20*, a top distance-associated gene, was highly expressed around the airways in the  
227 re-challenged mouse, instead of the immunized mouse (**Figures 4F**). Since CCL20 is capable of  
228 binding to CCR6, a chemokine receptor expressed on Th17 cells, this finding possibly explains  
229 why Th17 cells were closer to the airways than Th1 cells in the re-challenged mouse.

230

### 231 **Biological Differences upon *K. pneumoniae* Re-challenge**

232 Upon *K. pneumoniae* re-challenge, the spatial transcriptome was tremendously changed  
233 (**Figures S6A**), while little batch effects were found between the two slices from the same  
234 mouse. The spots we defined as airways according to the proportion of club cells were also  
235 shown in a UMAP plot (**Figures S6B and S5A**), with significant biological differences found  
236 between the immunized and the re-challenged mouse.

237 Differential expression (DE) analysis was performed to compare the airways in the re-  
238 challenged mouse versus the immunized mouse, with 2,071 significantly (FDR-adjusted P-value  
239 < 0.05) differentially expressed genes (DEGs) identified (**Table S3**). To overcome the limitations  
240 of the analysis based on different thresholds of selected DEGs, we performed Gene Set  
241 Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) using the unfiltered, ranked gene list (including 16,937 genes), and  
242 found 379 significantly (FDR-adjusted P-value < 0.05) enriched GO biological processes. The top  
243 30 (by normalized enrichment score) up-regulated and down-regulated pathways were shown  
244 by a lollipop plot (**Figures 5A**). Compared with the immunized mouse, most up-regulated  
245 pathways in the airways of the re-challenged mouse were related to immune responses (*e.g.*,  
246 migration and chemotaxis of immune cells, and response to stimuli), whereas most down-  
247 regulated pathways were related to catabolic and metabolic processes, as well as ciliary  
248 functions. AW112010, a top DE gene up-regulated in the airways upon re-challenge, was highly  
249 expressed in the airways of the re-challenged mouse (**Figures 5B**). AW112010 has also been  
250 reported capable of promoting the differentiation of inflammatory T cells<sup>16</sup>. *Cbr2*, a top DE

251 gene down-regulated in the airways upon re-challenge, was highly expressed in the airways of  
252 the immunized mouse (**Figures 5C**), and may function in the metabolism of endogenous  
253 carbonyl compounds<sup>17</sup> and alveolar epithelial cell plasticity<sup>18</sup>.

254

## 255 **Spatial Transcriptomics Showing the Potential to Analyze Cell-cell Communication**

256 In order to perform cell-cell communication networks analysis, cell-type enriched spots were  
257 identified according to their ranks of proportions of cell types (**Figures S6D**), with little  
258 difference found between the two slices from the same mouse (**Figures S6C**). Fibroblasts,  
259 endothelial cells, and erythrocytes were not included in the analysis due to the difficulty of  
260 interpreting the interactions with these cells.

261 Cell-cell communication networks among the cell-type enriched spots were inferred in each  
262 slice using CellChat (**Figures S6E**)<sup>19</sup>. To compare the differences of communication patterns  
263 between the re-challenged and the immunized mouse, differential interaction strength  
264 between cell-type enriched spots was shown by a heatmap (**Figures 6A**). The communication  
265 among myeloid cells, Th1 cells, and Th17 cells was increased in the re-challenged mouse, also  
266 revealed by our same-spot co-occurrence analysis. For the immunized mouse, dendritic cells  
267 could be the major sender of communication signals, while B cells and other T cells 1 were  
268 essential receivers of the signals.

269 The conserved and context-specific signaling pathways were identified and visualized by bar  
270 plots (**Figures 6B**). TNF pathway was only turned on in the re-challenged mouse, while CXCL and  
271 CCL pathways were increased. We also confirmed some well-known signaling pathways in the  
272 cell-cell communication analysis of spatial transcriptome, outperforming the cell-cell  
273 communication analysis of scRNA-seq data. The performance of this analysis could be  
274 improved, as the resolution of spatial transcriptomics evolves. We found Th17 enriched spots in  
275 the re-challenged mouse were the receivers of the IL6 signaling pathway (**Figures 6Ci**), given the  
276 receptor gene *Il6ra* was highly expressed in Th17 enriched spots from slice A3 and slice A4  
277 (**Figures 6Cii**). Leveraging scATAC-seq data, we confirmed macrophages and dendritic cells were  
278 the sources of the IL6 signaling (**Figures 6Ciii**), and Th17 cells were the targets (**Figures 6Civ**).  
279 For the TGF- $\beta$  signaling pathway, we also found Th17 enriched spots in the re-challenged  
280 mouse were its receivers (**Figures 6Di**), with the receptor genes *Tgfbr1*, *Tgfbr2*, and *Acvr1b*  
281 found highly expressed in Th17 enriched spots from slice A3 and slice A4 (**Figures 6Dii**). By  
282 checking peaks in genomic regions around these receptor genes, Th17 cells were confirmed to  
283 have the capacity of expressing the receptors for the TGF- $\beta$  signaling (**Figures 6Diii-v**). These  
284 data suggested that spatial transcriptomics data can be extrapolated and utilized to perform  
285 cell-cell communication networks analysis.

286

## 287 **DISCUSSION**

288 As the development of single-cell sequencing technologies, scRNA-seq has been gradually  
289 applied to study immune cells and immune responses in mouse lungs<sup>5-8</sup>. In many cases, T  
290 helper cells and cytotoxic T cells can be identified in these scRNA-seq studies, but not their



291 subtypes. Few studies additionally utilize scATAC-seq to measure the chromatin architecture of  
292 immune cells in mouse lungs<sup>9</sup>, which allows the identification of subtypes of T helper cells. As  
293 the birth of spatial transcriptomics, this cutting-edge technology is also adopted by this field to  
294 study mouse lungs infected by influenza<sup>20</sup>.

295 To our knowledge, this is the first study to integrate spatial transcriptome with single-cell  
296 transcriptome and single-cell epigenome in mouse lungs. A key advantage of our study lies in  
297 the capture of intact anatomical structures of mouse lungs, providing location specific  
298 information and preserving information from cells prone to damage. Integrating with single-cell  
299 multi-omics profiled from matched tissue, sub-single-cell resolution were further achieved in  
300 our spatial analysis of cells residing in lung, especially TRM. In our study, we first identified 12  
301 lung cell types in scRNA-seq data, covering major epithelial, mesenchymal, and immune cells.  
302 Using our finely annotated scRNA-seq data as a reference, we deconvoluted spatial  
303 transcriptome of the four slices and inferred proportions of cell types for each spot. We  
304 established an optimized deconvolution pipeline to accurately decipher specific cell-type  
305 composition at sub-single-cell resolution, by checking the correlation of deconvolution results  
306 using two independent references and the colocalization of canonical markers and histological  
307 structures. Integrating scATAC-seq data from the same cells processed side by side with scRNA-  
308 seq, we found epigenomic profiles provide more robust cell type identification, especially for  
309 lineage-specific T helper cells, and further identified four subtypes of T cells. Combining all  
310 three data modalities, we mapped the 15 lung cell types to histological structures for the four  
311 slices at sub-single-cell resolution.

312 Our data provides further insights into dynamic changes of cell locations upon *K. pneumoniae*  
313 re-challenge. We found Th17 cells were closer to the airways than Th1 cells in the re-challenged  
314 mouse, whereas Th1 cells were closer to the airways in the immunized mouse without re-  
315 challenge. This could be explained by the increased expression of *Ccl20* around the airways in  
316 the re-challenged mouse. *Ccl20*, a top distance-associated gene identified by our spatial  
317 analysis, has the ability to attract *Ccr6* expressing cells. The CCL20/CCR6 axis has been shown to  
318 play crucial roles in recruiting Th17 cells in many organs as well as various disease settings<sup>21,22</sup>.  
319 We discovered different spatial distribution patterns of immune cells in the lungs of the two  
320 mice, finding B cells were proximal to the airways in the immunized mouse, whereas  
321 neutrophils were distal to the airways in the re-challenged mouse. We also identified thousands  
322 of distance-associated genes for the two mice by natural spline regression, confirming immune  
323 responses related genes were over-represented in the re-challenged mouse. These spatial  
324 analyses were only possible when location specific information was captured by spatial  
325 transcriptomics, highlighting the value of our study compared with conventional flow  
326 cytometric and transcriptomic approaches.

327 Comparing the biological differences in the airways upon *K. pneumoniae* re-challenge, we found  
328 pathways related to migration and chemotaxis of immune cells, and response to stimuli were  
329 up-regulated in the re-challenged mouse, whereas pathways related to catabolic and metabolic  
330 processes, and ciliary functions were up-regulated in the immunized mouse. We also  
331 performed cell-cell communication analysis of spatial transcriptome, providing evidence of  
332 lineage-specific T helper cells receiving designated cytokine signaling. Our study shows the  
333 potential to perform DE analysis between specific cells or regions across the slices and analyze

334 cell-cell communication using spatial transcriptomics. The performance of these analyses could  
335 be improved as spatial transcriptomics advances towards single-cell resolution.

336 Several limitations were recognized in our study. First, we had a small sample size for our  
337 scRNA-seq and scATAC-seq data as the purpose of generating these data was to provide a  
338 reference for deconvolution, instead of carrying out a census of lung cell types. Second, there is  
339 no ground truth to evaluate deconvolution results, although we optimized our deconvolution  
340 pipeline by assessing its robustness. This issue could be eventually resolved as the resolution of  
341 the spatial transcriptomics technology improves. Third, our method to define airways and blood  
342 vessels may not be fully accurate and can be further improved by both high-resolution  
343 histological images and spatial transcriptome. Last, more biological replicates and experimental  
344 validations may be needed to extend this study. For example, the cellular source of CCL20  
345 around the airways in the re-challenged mouse could be determined by immunofluorescence.

346 In summary, we presented a comprehensive single-cell multi-omics study on immunized mouse  
347 lungs and generated novel hypotheses for understanding underlying biological mechanism.  
348 Recently, spatial analysis has been made compatible with Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded  
349 (FFPE) tissue specimens. It is foreseeable that a massive amount of data will be generated from  
350 historically preserved samples. Our spatial transcriptomics data processing pipeline provides a  
351 timely solution to these analyses and contributes to advance the field of lung biology and  
352 respiratory medicine.

353

## 354 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 355 **Mouse models**

356 All mice used in this study were wildtype and purchased from Jackson Lab (Cat# 000664).  
357 Animals were maintained in pathogen-free conditions in the animal facility at the University of  
358 Pittsburgh Medical Center. All experiments were approved by the University of Pittsburgh  
359 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

360

### 361 **In vivo inflammation induction**

362 6-8 weeks old C57BL/6 mice were immunized with heat-killed *K. Pneumoniae* (ATCC-43816) as  
363 previously described<sup>3</sup>. Briefly, mice were injected with heat-killed *K. Pneumoniae* twice (Day0  
364 and Day7) or three times (Day0, Day7, and Day13) intranasally and sacrificed on Day14. Lungs  
365 were removed and digested by Collagenase/DNase to obtain single-cell suspension.  
366 Mononuclear cells after red blood cell lysis and filtration with a 40 µM cell strainer were  
367 subjected to single cell RNA-seq (scRNA-seq) and single cell ATAC-seq (scATAC-seq) library prep  
368 following the protocols by 10x Genomics using the Chromium controller (10x Genomics). To  
369 yield sufficient IL-17A producing cells and reduce doublets formation, we targeted 3,000-5,000  
370 cells/nuclei for recovery. Libraries were QC'ed on an Agilent TapeStation and sequenced on an  
371 Illumina Novaseq.

372

### 373 **Spatial Transcriptomics Experiment**

374 We conducted ST experiment using 10X Genomics Visium platform.

375 Tissue harvesting: Mouse lungs were harvested, and the left lobes were inflated with 1mL  
376 mixture of 50% sterile PBS/ 50%Tissue-Tek OCT compound (SAKURA FINETEK) followed by  
377 frozen in alcohol bath on dry ice. OCT blocks were stored in -80C until further processing.

378 ST library prep: OCT blocks were sectioned at 10µm in thickness, 6.5mm X 6.5mm in size,  
379 attached to the Visium slides, then stained with hematoxylin and eosin following 10x Genomics  
380 Visium fresh frozen tissue processing protocol. H&E Images were taken by a fluorescence and  
381 tile scanning microscope (Olympus Fluoview 1000) then the slides underwent tissue removal  
382 and library generation per 10x Genomics demonstrated protocol.

383

### 384 **Raw Sequencing Data Processing**

385 The sequenced scRNA-seq library was processed and aligned to mm10 mouse reference  
386 genome using Cell Ranger software (version 3.1.0) from 10x Genomics, with unique molecular  
387 identifier (UMI) counts summarized for each barcode. To distinguish cells from the background,  
388 cell calling was performed on the full raw UMI count matrix, with the filtered UMI count matrix  
389 generated (31,053 genes x 3,337 cells).

390 The sequenced scATAC-seq library was processed and aligned to mm10 mouse reference  
391 genome using Cell Ranger ATAC software (version 1.1.0) from 10x Genomics, with fragments  
392 and peak counts summarized for each barcode. To distinguish cells from the background, cell  
393 calling was performed on the full raw peak count matrix, with the filtered peak count matrix  
394 generated (84,317 peaks x 4,908 cells).

395 Each sequenced spatial transcriptomics library was processed and aligned to mm10 mouse  
396 reference genome using Space Ranger software (version 1.2.2) from 10x Genomics, with UMI  
397 counts summarized for each spot. To distinguish tissue overlaying spots from the background,  
398 tissue overlaying spots were detected according to the images. And only barcodes associated  
399 with these tissue overlaying spots were retained, with the filtered UMI count matrices  
400 generated. We also manually excluded spots not covered by tissue but not detected by Space  
401 Ranger and further filter the UMI count matrices (slice A1: 32,285 genes x 3,689 spots; slice A2:  
402 32,285 genes x 2,840 spots; slice A3: 32,285 genes x 3,950 spots; slice A2: 32,285 genes x 3,765  
403 spots).

404

### 405 **scRNA-seq Data Analysis**

406 After imported into R, the filtered UMI count matrix was analyzed using the R package Seurat  
407 (version 4.0.1)<sup>23</sup>. The percentage of mitochondrial genes per cell was calculated for further  
408 check of the quality of cells. Regularized negative binomial regression (SCTransform)<sup>24</sup> was used  
409 to normalize UMI count data, with the removal of confounding effects from mitochondrial  
410 mapping percentage. To improve the speed of the normalization, glmGamPoi<sup>25</sup> was invoked in  
411 the procedure. 3,000 highly variable genes were identified and used in principal component

412 analysis to reduce dimensionality. We determined to use the first 50 principal components in  
413 clustering analysis according to the elbow plot. Uniform Manifold Approximation and  
414 Projection (UMAP) dimensionality reduction<sup>26</sup> was performed with the first 50 principal  
415 components as input to visualize cells. Using the Shared Nearest-neighbor (SNN) graph as input,  
416 cells were then clustered using the original Louvain algorithm with resolution = 0.2.

417 Cluster 1 was marked as low-quality cells and excluded from downstream analysis (2,834 cells  
418 retained) because its median percentage of mitochondrial genes was 87.7%, whereas those of  
419 all other clusters were lower than 10.5%. Markers for each cluster were identified using a  
420 Wilcoxon Rank Sum test with `only.pos = TRUE`, `min.pct = 0.25`, and `logfc.threshold = 0.25`.  
421 According to the UMAP plot, cluster 6 was found to consist of several sporadic sub-clusters. We  
422 isolated cells within cluster 6 and repeated the procedures from normalization to  
423 dimensionality reduction. These cells were then clustered using the original Louvain algorithm  
424 with resolution = 0.6. Markers were also identified as described above.

425

### 426 **Characterization of 12 Lung Cell Types in scRNA-seq Data**

427 Fine cluster annotation was performed for the retained 12 clusters in scRNA-seq data according  
428 to canonical markers: alveolar epithelial cells (*Sftpa1*, *Sftpb*, *Sftpc*, and *Sftpd*), club cells  
429 (*Scgb1a1*, *Muc5b*, *Scgb3a1*, and *Scgb3a2*), fibroblasts (*Col3a1*, *Col1a2*, *Col1a1*, and *Mfap4*),  
430 endothelial cells (*Cdh5*, *Mcam*, *Vcam1*, and *Pecam1*), monocytes (*Cd14* and *Itgam*),  
431 macrophages (*Itgax*, *Cd68*, *Mrc1*, and *Marco*), dendritic cells (*Aif1*, *H2-DMb1*, *H2-Eb1*, and *H2-  
432 Aa*), neutrophils (*Gsr*, *Pglyrp1*, *S100a8*, and *Ly6g*), B cells (*Ms4a1*, *Cd79a*, *Igkc*, and *Cd19*), T cells  
433 (*Cd3d*, *Cd3e*, and *Cd3g*), NK cells (*Ncr1* and *Nkg7*), and erythrocytes (*Hbb-bt* and *Hba-a2*).

434

### 435 **Spatial Transcriptomics Data Analysis**

436 After imported into R, the filtered UMI count matrix was analyzed using the R package Seurat  
437 (version 4.0.1)<sup>23</sup>. Regularized negative binomial regression (SCTransform)<sup>24</sup> was used to  
438 normalize UMI count matrices, and `glmGamPoi`<sup>25</sup> was invoked in the procedure to improve the  
439 speed of the normalization. Four matrices from the four slices were merged to analyze them  
440 together. 3,000 highly variable genes were identified in each matrix, and the union set of them  
441 was set as highly variable genes for the merged data and used in principal component analysis  
442 to reduce dimensionality. We determined to use the first 30 principal components in clustering  
443 analysis according to the elbow plot. Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP)  
444 dimensionality reduction<sup>26</sup> was performed with the first 30 principal components as input to  
445 visualize spots.

446

### 447 **Deconvolution of Spatial Transcriptome**

448 Deconvolution for each spot in the four slices was performed using the robust cell-type  
449 decomposition (RCTD) method<sup>10</sup>. Before running the R package RCTD (version 1.2.0), scRNA-  
450 seq data used as a reference were processed, with gene expression matrix, the annotation for  
451 each cell, and the total UMI count for each cell extracted and saved in the RDS object. Spatial

452 transcriptome for the four slices was also processed, with spot location matrices, gene  
453 expression matrices, and the total UMI count for each spot extracted and saved in the RDS  
454 object.

455 RCTD objects were created for each slice from the processed RDS objects, with `max_cores = 24`,  
456 `test_mode = F`, and `CELL_MIN_INSTANCE = 6`. RCTD pipeline was run on the RCTD objects, with  
457 `doublet_mode = full`. The deconvolution results were matrices of cell type weights for each  
458 spot. The cell type weights were normalized to make the sum of cell type weights in each spot  
459 equal to 1. Proportion matrices, whose rows indicate spots and columns indicate cell types,  
460 were then created and stored in the analyzed spatial transcriptome for loading.

461 In total, three scRNA-seq references were used in deconvolution, which were in-house scRNA-  
462 seq data with 12 cell types, in-house scRNA-seq data with 15 cell types (including four subtypes  
463 of T cells), and public scRNA-seq data with 20 cell types.

464 Pearson correlation coefficients between the columns (indicating different cell types) of the  
465 two proportion matrices deconvoluted using in-house (12 cell types) and public (20 cell types)  
466 references were calculated in each slice. Correlation  $r$  matrices were hierarchically clustered  
467 and visualized in heatmaps.

468

#### 469 **scATAC-seq Data Analysis**

470 After imported into R, the filtered peak count matrix was analyzed using the R package Signac  
471 (version 1.1.1)<sup>27</sup>. Gene annotations were extracted from Ensembl release 79 of the mm10  
472 mouse reference genome. Nucleosome signal score and Transcriptional Start Site (TSS)  
473 enrichment score per cell were calculated for further check of the quality of cells. Cells whose  
474 fraction of fragments in peaks  $> 15$ , ratio of reads in genomic blacklist regions  $< 0.05$ ,  
475 nucleosome signal score  $< 4$ , and TSS enrichment score  $> 2$  were retained for downstream  
476 analysis. Latent Semantic Indexing (LSI)<sup>28</sup>, which is combined steps of Term Frequency–Inverse  
477 Document Frequency (TF-IDF) followed by Singular Value Decomposition (SVD), was used to  
478 normalize and reduce the dimensionality of peak count data, with all the peaks selected as  
479 variable features. We found the first LSI component was highly correlated with sequencing  
480 depth and determined to use the second to the fortieth LSI components in non-linear  
481 dimensionality reduction. Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP)  
482 dimensionality reduction<sup>26</sup> was performed with the second to the fortieth LSI components as  
483 input to visualize cells.

484

#### 485 **Label Transferring from scRNA-seq Data to scATAC-seq Data**

486 A gene activity matrix was created in scATAC-seq data by counting the number of fragments  
487 mapping to promoter or gene body regions of all protein-coding genes for each cell.  
488 Regularized negative binomial regression (SCTransform)<sup>24</sup> was used to normalize the gene  
489 activity matrix. Transfer anchors were identified by canonical correlation analysis between the  
490 normalized gene activity matrix in scATAC-seq data and the normalized gene expression matrix  
491 in scRNA-seq data<sup>29</sup>. Annotations were then transferred from scRNA-seq to scATAC-seq data

492 with the second to the fortieth LSI components in scATAC-seq data used for weighting anchors.  
493 Canonical markers were checked in the gene activity matrix for each predicted cell type. The  
494 proportions of 12 cell types were also compared between scRNA-seq and scATAC-seq data.

495

#### 496 **Characterization of Four Subtypes of T cells in scATAC-seq Data**

497 We isolated predicted T cells in scATAC-seq data and repeated the procedures from  
498 normalization to non-linear dimensionality reduction. Using the Shared Nearest-neighbor (SNN)  
499 graph leveraging the second to the fortieth LSI components as input, T cells were then clustered  
500 into four subtypes using the Smart Local Movement (SLM) algorithm with resolution = 0.2.

501 Markers for each subtype were identified in the gene activity matrix using a Wilcoxon Rank Sum  
502 test with `only.pos = TRUE`, `min.pct = 0.25`, and `logfc.threshold = 0.25`. Differential accessible  
503 analysis was performed between the possible Th17 and Th1 cells using logistic regression, with  
504 fraction of fragments in peaks set as latent variable and `min.pct = 0.1`. Peaks in genomic regions  
505 around (including all the differentially accessible regions or 10,000 bps apart from the gene  
506 bodies) canonical markers for Th17 and Th1 cells were visualized. Motif footprinting analysis  
507 was also performed to provide supportive evidence. Taken together, four subtypes of T cells  
508 were annotated according to canonical markers: Th17 cells (*Il17a*, *Rorc*, and *Rora*), Th1 cells  
509 (*Ifng* and *Tbx21*), other T cells 1, and other T cells 2.

510

#### 511 **Label Transferring from scATAC-seq Data to scRNA-seq Data**

512 We isolated annotated T cells in scRNA-seq data and repeated the procedures from  
513 normalization to non-linear dimensionality reduction. Transfer anchors were identified by  
514 canonical correlation analysis between the normalized gene activity matrix of T cells in scATAC-  
515 seq data and the normalized gene expression matrix of T cells in scRNA-seq data<sup>29</sup>. Annotations  
516 were then transferred from T cells in scATAC-seq to T cells in scRNA-seq data with the first 50  
517 principal components in T cells from scRNA-seq data used for weighting anchors.

518

#### 519 **Characterization of Four Subtypes of T cells in scATAC-seq Data**

520 Canonical markers were checked for the predicted subtypes of T cells in scRNA-seq data (*Rorc*,  
521 *Rora*, *Ccr6*, and *Ccr4* for Th17 cells; *Ifng*, *Tbx21*, *Cxcr3*, *Ccr5*, and *Il12rb2* for Th1 cells). Markers  
522 for each predicted subtype of T cells were identified using a Wilcoxon Rank Sum test with  
523 `only.pos = TRUE`, `min.pct = 0.25`, and `logfc.threshold = 0.25`.

524 To detect active transcription factor (TF) modules, the R package SCENIC (version 1.2.4)<sup>11,12</sup> was  
525 used to analyze the annotated scRNA-seq data, including 15 cell types. We downloaded the  
526 RcisTarget database containing transcription factor motif scores for gene promoter and around  
527 Transcription Start Site (TSS) for mm10 mouse reference genome from  
528 ([https://resources.aertslab.org/cistarget/databases/mus\\_musculus/mm10/refseq\\_r80/mc9nr/gene\\_based/](https://resources.aertslab.org/cistarget/databases/mus_musculus/mm10/refseq_r80/mc9nr/gene_based/)). The gene expression matrix was filtered according to default settings, and 9392  
529 genes were retained and used to compute a gene-gene correlation matrix. Co-expression  
530



531 module detection was performed using the GENIE3 algorithm based on random forest.  
532 Transcription factor network analysis was performed to detect co-expression modules enriched  
533 for target genes of each candidate TF from the RcisTarget database, with regulons identified.  
534 The R package AUCell (version 1.12.0) was used to compute a score for each TF module in each  
535 cell.

536 Regulon Specificity Score (RSS) was calculated for regulons in each cell type according to Area  
537 Under the Curve (AUC) of regulons. Cell-type specific regulators were then identified, and those  
538 for the four subtypes of T cells were visualized to provide supportive evidence (Rora\_extended  
539 (15g) for Th17 cells).

540

#### 541 **Same-spot Co-occurrence Analysis**

542 Pearson correlation coefficients between the columns (indicating different cell types) of the  
543 proportion matrices were calculated in each slice to broadly assess spatial cell type co-  
544 occurrence in the same spot. Spots from the slices for the immunized (slice A1 and A2) or the  
545 re-challenged mouse (slice A3 and A4) were pooled together, respectively, and Pearson  
546 correlation coefficients were also calculated for them. Correlation  $r$  matrices were hierarchically  
547 clustered and visualized in heatmaps.

548

#### 549 **Defining Airways and Blood Vessels in Four Slices**

550 Airways were defined according to the proportion of club cells in four slices. We manually set  
551 the thresholds in each slice to match the selected spots with the histological airways. Spots  
552 whose proportion of club cells higher than the thresholds were defined as airways (20% for  
553 slice A1, 20% for slice A2, 10% for slice A3, and 10% for slice A4).

554 Blood vessels were defined according to the histological blood vessels. We created a training  
555 set using manual annotation of histological structures in the image of slice A1 and trained a  
556 random trees pixel classifier using QuPath (version 0.2.3)<sup>30</sup> with `downsample = 16`. The  
557 probability of blood vessels was predicted for each pixel in the image of four slices using the  
558 trained classifier. If the probability of blood vessels in the spot corresponding pixel was higher  
559 than 0.5, the spot would be defined as blood vessels.

560 Alternatively, the proportion of club cells and the expression of *Mgp* were used to define  
561 airways and blood vessels with different cut-offs, from 90<sup>th</sup> quantile to 95<sup>th</sup> quantile. Spots  
562 whose proportion or expression higher than the selected quantile were defined as airways or  
563 blood vessels.

564

#### 565 **Spatial Transcriptomics Spot Distance-based Analyses**

566 For all distance-based analyses, spots defined as blood vessels and spots whose distances to the  
567 airways longer than 1,000 micrometers were excluded. Because cells within the blood vessels  
568 were different from those in the lung parenchyma, and the analyses including cells extremely  
569 distal to the airways were not stable, given the capture area of each slice was only 6.5 x 6.5

570 mm<sup>2</sup>. Only a few spots' distances to the airways were longer than 1,000 micrometers (5.89% for  
571 slice A1, 5.75% for slice A2, 15.00% for slice A3, and 11.43% for slice A4).

572 Weighted distances to the airways for Th17 and Th1 cells were calculated in four slices  
573 according to the formula, allowing for each spot's distance to the nearest airway and the  
574 proportions of Th17 and Th1 cells in each spot.

575 To find the spatial distribution patterns of cell types, natural spline regression (with three  
576 degrees of freedom) was performed to fit the non-linear relationship between the proportions  
577 of cell types and the distances to the airways.

578 To identify distance-associated genes, we constructed natural splines (with three degrees of  
579 freedom) for the distances to the airways in each slice and created design matrices. We then  
580 fitted linear models for each gene in normalized gene expression matrices, with the R package  
581 limma (version 3.46.0)<sup>31</sup> invoked to speed up the procedure. P-values for each spline in each  
582 slice were corrected for multiple testing using Benjamini-Hochberg correction. Genes whose  
583 FDR-adjusted P-values < 0.05 for at least one spline were considered significant in that slice.  
584 And genes significant in both slices for the immunized (slice A1 and A2) or the re-challenged  
585 mouse (slice A3 and A4) were defined as distance-associated genes.

586

### 587 **Gene Ontology (GO) Enrichment Analysis**

588 Gene ontology enrichment analysis was performed on the distance-associated genes identified  
589 in the immunized and re-challenged mouse using PANTHER Classification System (version  
590 16.0)<sup>13-15</sup>. GO biological process complete was used as annotation dataset, and the analysis was  
591 performed using Fisher's exact test, with FDR adjustment for multiple testing. Over-represented  
592 pathways were then hierarchically clustered.

593

### 594 **Differential Expression Analysis**

595 Differential expression analysis was performed to compare the airways in the re-challenged  
596 mouse versus the immunized mouse using the R package MAST (version 1.16.0)<sup>32</sup>. MAST  
597 procedure was invoked in Seurat FindMarkers function (test.use = MAST) with logfc.threshold =  
598 0, min.pct = 0, in order to obtain an unfiltered gene list. The gene list was then ranked by log2-  
599 fold change (L2FC). Genes whose L2FC equal to 0 were excluded due to their ranks were not  
600 available.

601

### 602 **Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA)**

603 To overcome the limitations of the analysis based on manually selected DEGs, Gene Set  
604 Enrichment Analysis (GSEA)<sup>33</sup> was performed on the unfiltered, ranked gene list (including  
605 16,937 genes) using the R package clusterProfiler (version 3.18.1)<sup>34</sup>. The parameters for the  
606 clusterProfiler gseGO function were set as ont = BP, keyType = SYMBOL, nPerm = 10,000,  
607 minGSSize = 3, maxGSSize = 800, pvalueCutoff = 0.05, OrgDb = org.Mm.eg.db, pAdjustMethod =

608 *fd*r. The top 30 (by normalized enrichment score) up-regulated and down-regulated pathways  
609 were then visualized by a lollipop plot.

610

### 611 **Defining Cell-type Enriched Spot in Spatial Transcriptomics Data**

612 The expression profile of each spot in spatial transcriptomics is a mixture of a few cells, and it is  
613 irrational to annotate a spot with a cell type directly. To perform cell-cell communication  
614 analysis of spatial transcriptome, we annotated spots as cell-type enriched spots according to  
615 their proportions of cell types.

616 The mean proportions of cell types were available for each slice, as well as the number of spots  
617 for each slice. The mean proportions could be interpreted as the expected proportions of cell  
618 types in each spot. The product of the mean proportions and the number of spots could be  
619 interpreted as how many spots could represent each cell type on average. The spots with the  
620 highest proportions were selected according to the product and defined as cell-type enriched  
621 spots. Spots defined as cell-type enriched spots for multiple cell types were then excluded.

622 For example, the mean proportion of club cells was 6.39% in slice A1, and the number of spots  
623 was 3,689 in slice A1. Thus, the top 236 spots with the highest proportion of club cells were  
624 defined as club cell enriched spots. A spot would be excluded if the spot was defined as a club  
625 cell enriched spot and a Th17 enriched spot simultaneously.

626

### 627 **Cell-cell Communication Analysis of Spatial Transcriptome**

628 Cell-cell communication analysis was performed using CellChat<sup>19</sup>. Before running the R package  
629 CellChat (version 1.1.0), spatial transcriptome for the four slices was processed, with  
630 normalized gene expression matrices, the annotations for cell-type enriched spots extracted  
631 and saved in the CellChat object. The processed data from both slices for the immunized (slice  
632 A1 and A2) or the re-challenged mouse were also pooled together and saved in the CellChat  
633 objects to compare the differences between the two mice.

634 A manually curated database of literature-supported ligand-receptor interactions in mouse was  
635 loaded for the analysis. And all ligand-receptor interactions, including paracrine/autocrine  
636 signaling interactions, extracellular matrix (ECM)-receptor interactions, and cell-cell contact  
637 interactions, were included in the analysis.

638 Over-expressed ligands or receptors were first identified for each type of cell-type enriched  
639 spots in each CellChat object. Over-expressed ligand-receptor interactions were also identified  
640 if either ligand or receptor was over-expressed. Then, we computed the communication  
641 probability and inferred cellular communication network according to default settings. The  
642 communication probability at signaling pathway level was computed by summarizing the  
643 communication probabilities of all ligands-receptors interactions associated with each signaling  
644 pathway. The aggregated cell-cell communication network was calculated by counting the  
645 number of links or summarizing the communication probability and visualized in four slices  
646 using heatmaps.

647 To figure out in which type of cell-type enriched spots interactions significantly changed in the  
648 re-challenged mouse versus the immunized mouse, differential interaction strength was  
649 identified and visualized using a heatmap. The conserved and context-specific signaling  
650 pathways were identified by comparing the information flow for each signaling pathway, which  
651 was defined by the total weights in the network. Selected signaling pathways were visualized by  
652 circle plots using CellChat netVisual\_aggregate function.

653

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660

### 661 **Author contributions**

662 Z.X., W.C., and K.C. conceived the project and designed the experiments. L.F. and F.W.  
663 performed scRNA-seq, scATAC-seq, and ST experiments. Z.X. and X.W. performed scRNA-seq,  
664 scATAC-seq, and ST data analysis. J.W. provided guidance for deconvolution of ST data. Z.X.,  
665 W.C., and K.C. wrote the manuscript with input from all authors. W.C. and K.C. supervised the  
666 work.

667

### 668 **Compliance with ethics guidelines**

669 None of authors have any conflict of interest to report. All animal protocols and procedures  
670 were reviewed and approved by the University of Pittsburgh Institutional Animal Care and Use  
671 Committee.

672

### 673 **Data and materials availability**

674 Raw and processed data of scRNA-seq, scATAC-seq and ST will be deposited to Gene Expression  
675 Omnibus (GEO) upon acceptance of the paper. Code and scripts necessary to repeat analyses in  
676 this manuscript are available upon request.

677

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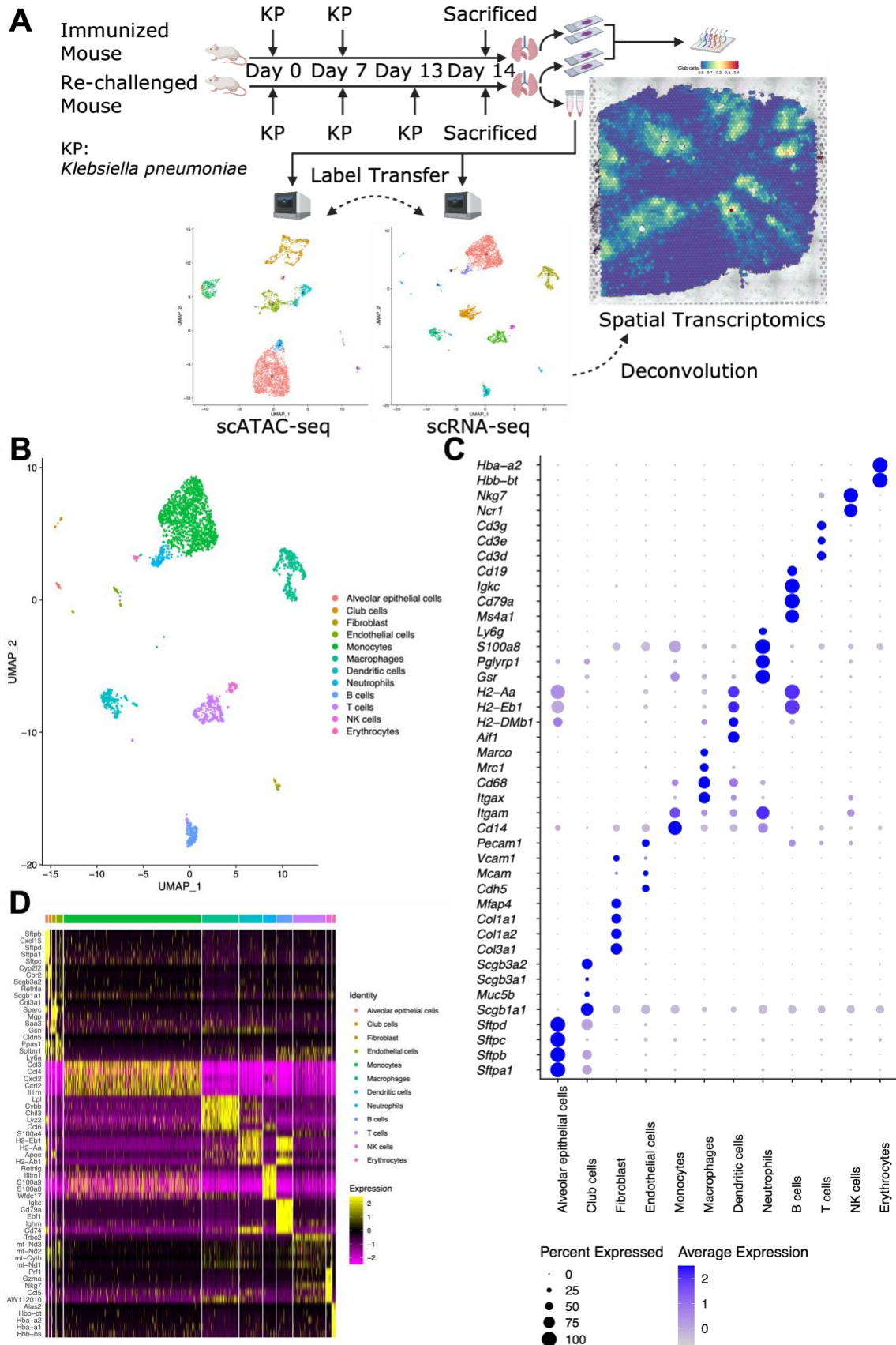
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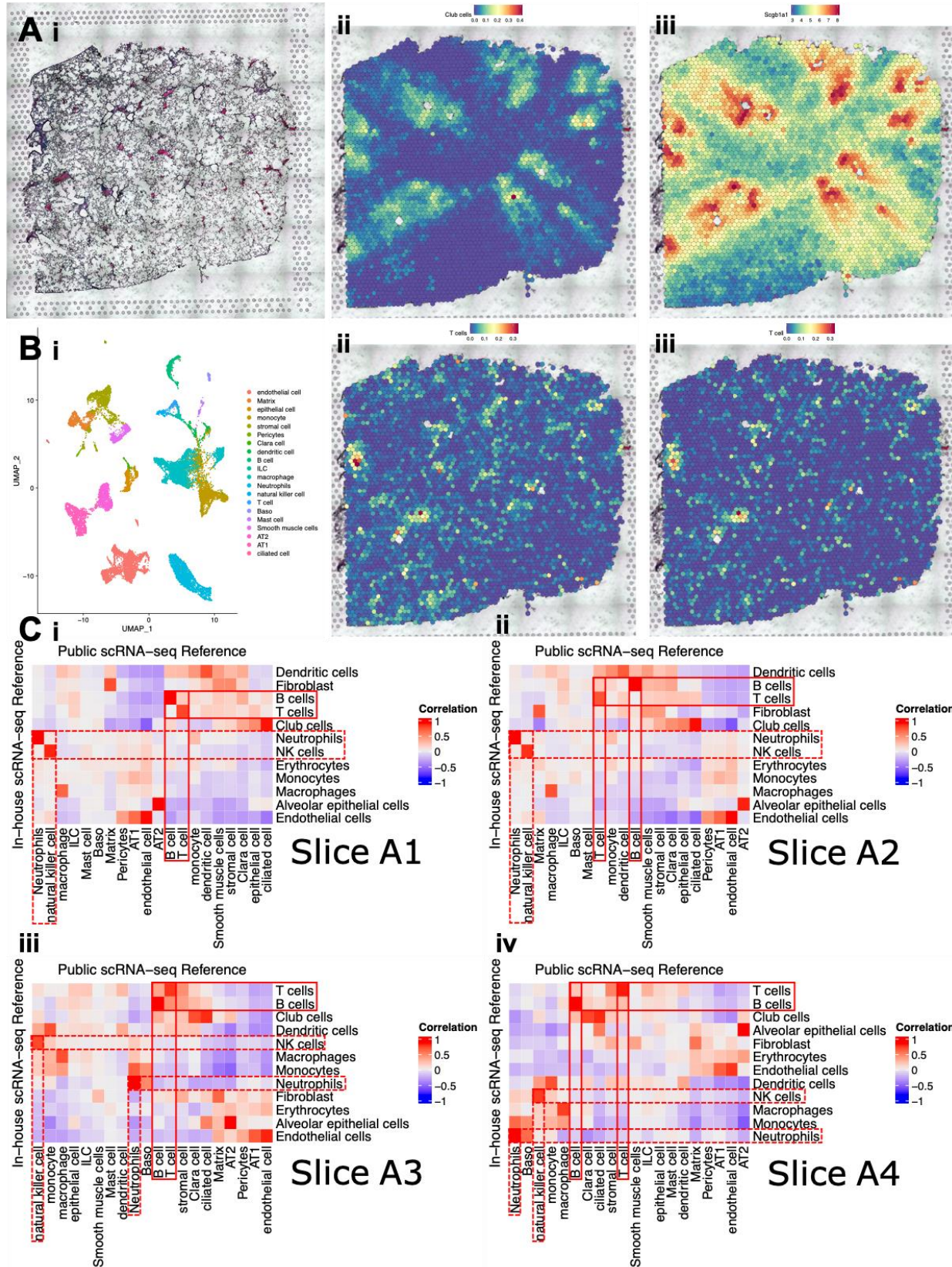
**Figure 1. Generation of multi-omics datasets of mice lungs after immunization**

(A) Overview of study design. scRNA-seq data work as a bridge to link scATAC-seq and spatial transcriptomics data.

(B) UMAP plot of 12 lung cell types identified in scRNA-seq data, with manual annotation according to canonical markers.

(C) Dot plot showing selected canonical markers for each cell type.

(D) Heatmap showing top five (by log<sub>2</sub>-Fold Change) markers for each cell type.





(A) Proportion of club cells colocalizing with the expression of *Scgb1a1* and the histological airways. (i) Histology of slice A3 showing the location of the airways. (ii) Proportion of club cells across slice A3, deconvoluted using in-house scRNA-seq data. (iii) Expression of *Scgb1a1*, a canonical marker for club cells, across slice A3.

(B) Proportions of T cells deconvoluted using the two independent scRNA-seq references were quite similar. (i) UMAP plot of 20 lung cell types identified in Cohen *et al.*'s public scRNA-seq data (GSE119228). (ii) Proportion of T cells across slice A3, deconvoluted using in-house scRNA-seq data. (iii) Proportion of T cells across slice A3, deconvoluted using Cohen *et al.*'s public scRNA-seq data.

(C)(i-iv) Correlation heatmap visualizing the proportions of cell types deconvoluted using in-house (in rows, 12 types) and public (in columns, 20 types) scRNA-seq data were highly correlated in slice A1-A4. Pearson's  $r$  values were indicated by the color bars. Red boxes with solid lines highlighted selected adaptive immune cells, T cells and B cells. Red boxes with dashed lines highlighted selected innate immune cells, neutrophils and NK cells.

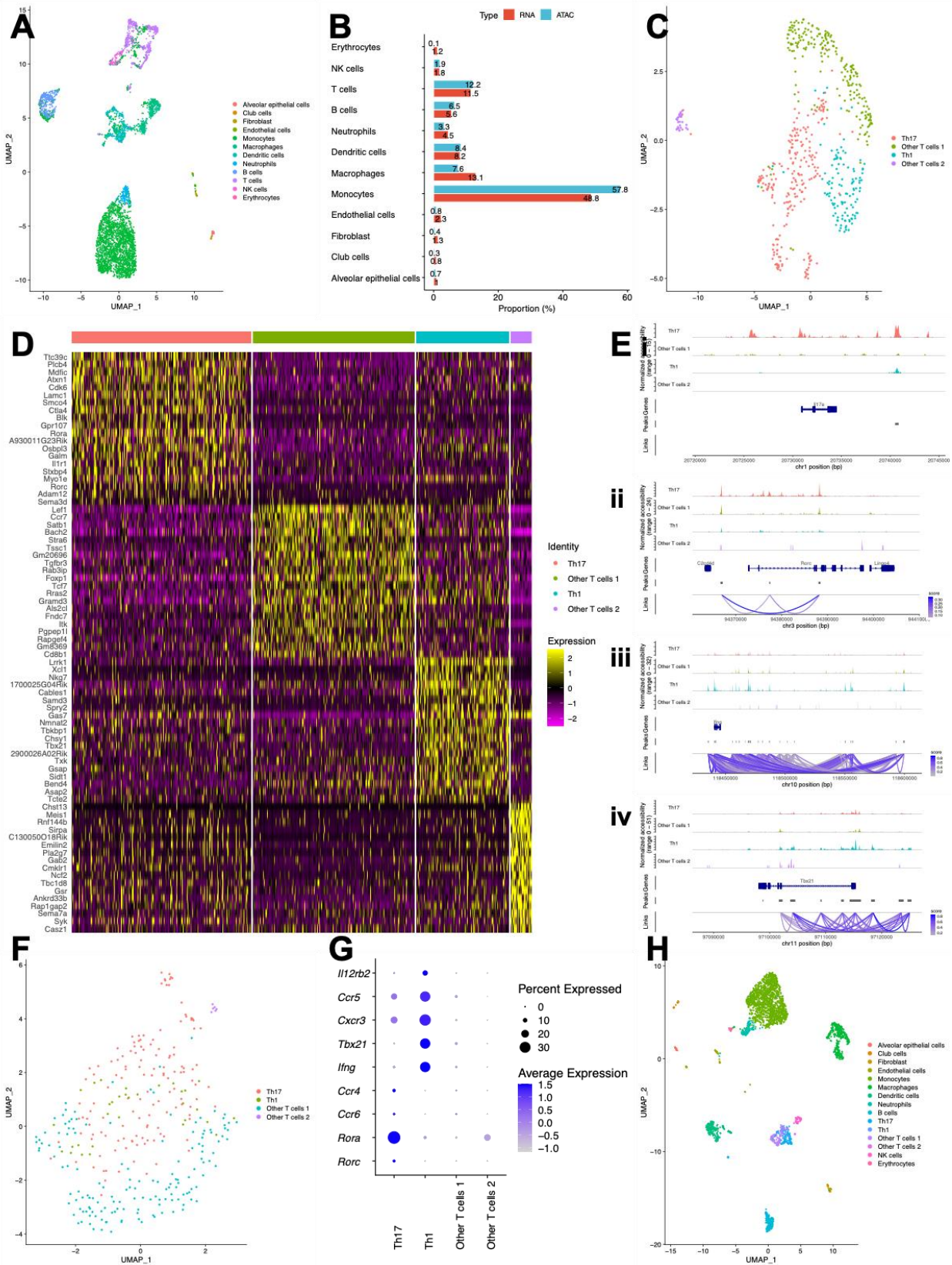
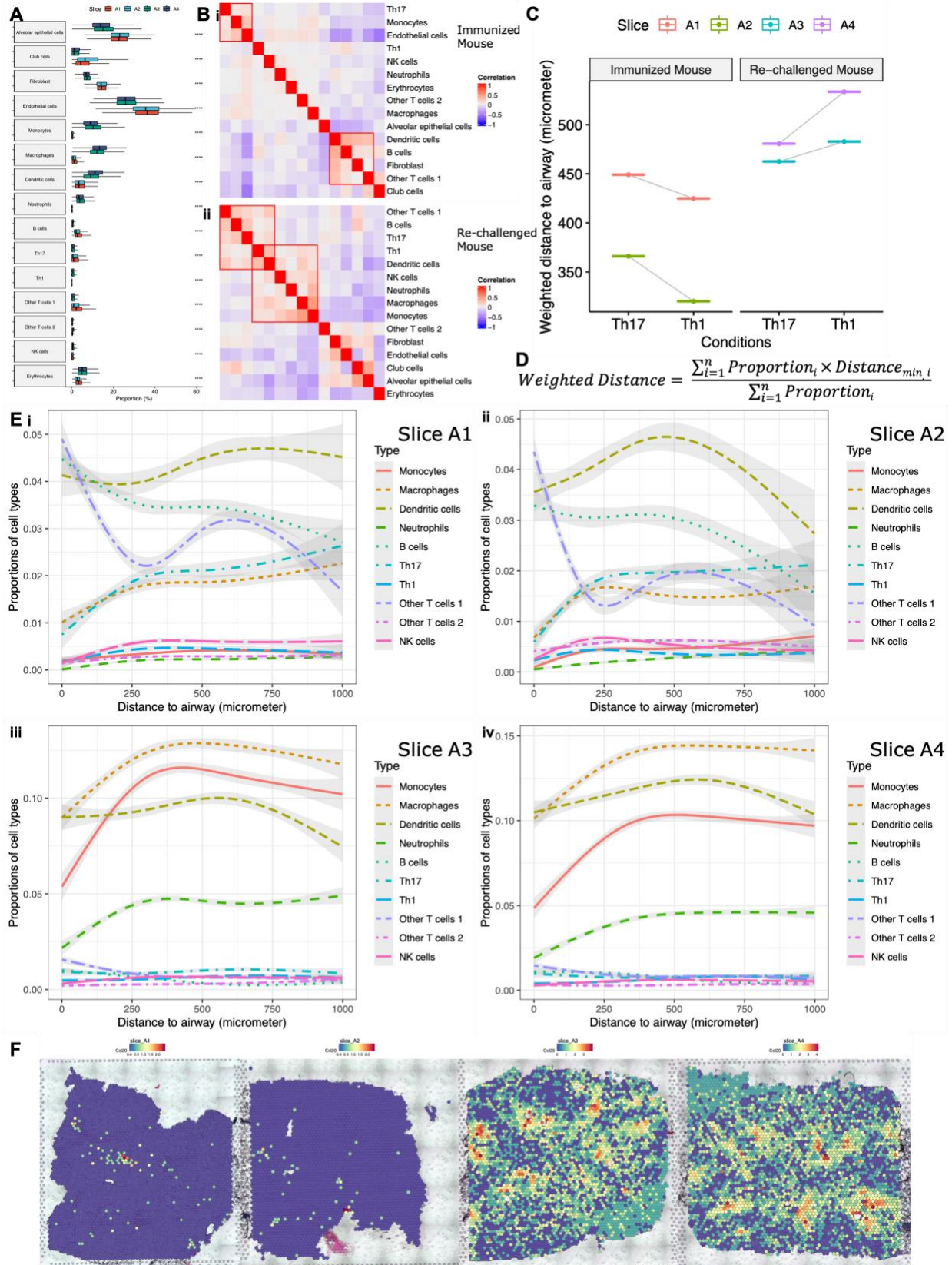


Figure 3. Identification of subtypes of T cells by integrating scRNA-seq and scATAC-seq data



- (A) UMAP plot of 12 lung cell types in scATAC-seq data identified via label transfer.
- (B) Bar plot showing proportions of 12 cell types in scRNA-seq and scATAC-seq data were quite similar.
- (C) UMAP plot of four subtypes of T cells in scATAC-seq data.
- (D) Heatmap showing top 20 (by log<sub>2</sub>-Fold Change) markers (gene activity scores calculated using peaks) for each subtype of T cells in scATAC-seq data.
- (E)(i-iv) Peaks in genomic regions around *Il17a*, *Rorc*, *Ifng*, and *Tbx21*, canonical markers for Th17 and Th1 cells.
- (F) UMAP plot of four subtypes of T cells in scRNA-seq data identified via label transfer.
- (H) Dot plot showing selected canonical markers for Th17 and Th1 cells in scRNA-seq data.
- (G) UMAP plot of 15 lung cell types (including four subtypes of T cells) in scRNA-seq data.



**Figure 4. Spatial analyses of mice lungs after immunization**

(A) Box plot showing proportions of 15 cell types across four slices were different. To compare the differences between the immunized (slice A1 and A2) and the re-challenged mouse (slice A3 and A4), *t*-tests were performed for each cell type. \*\*\*\*:  $p\text{-value} < 1 \times 10^{-4}$ .

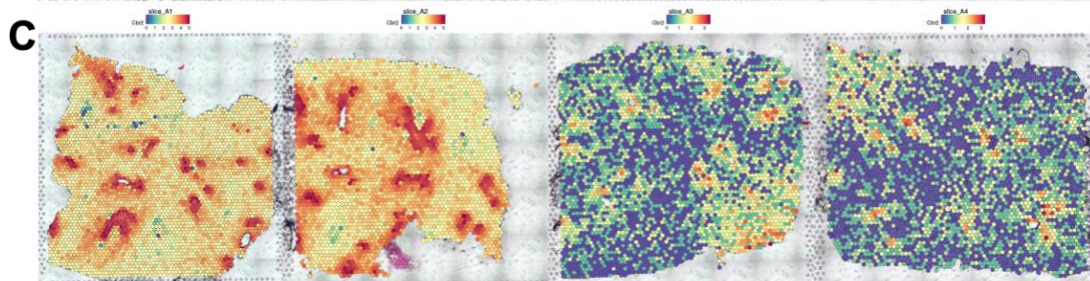
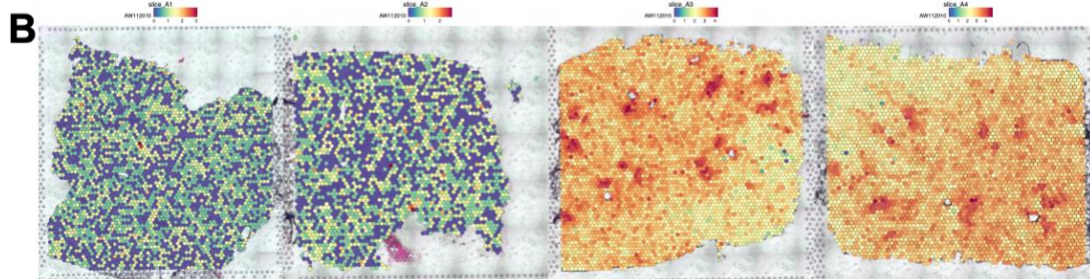
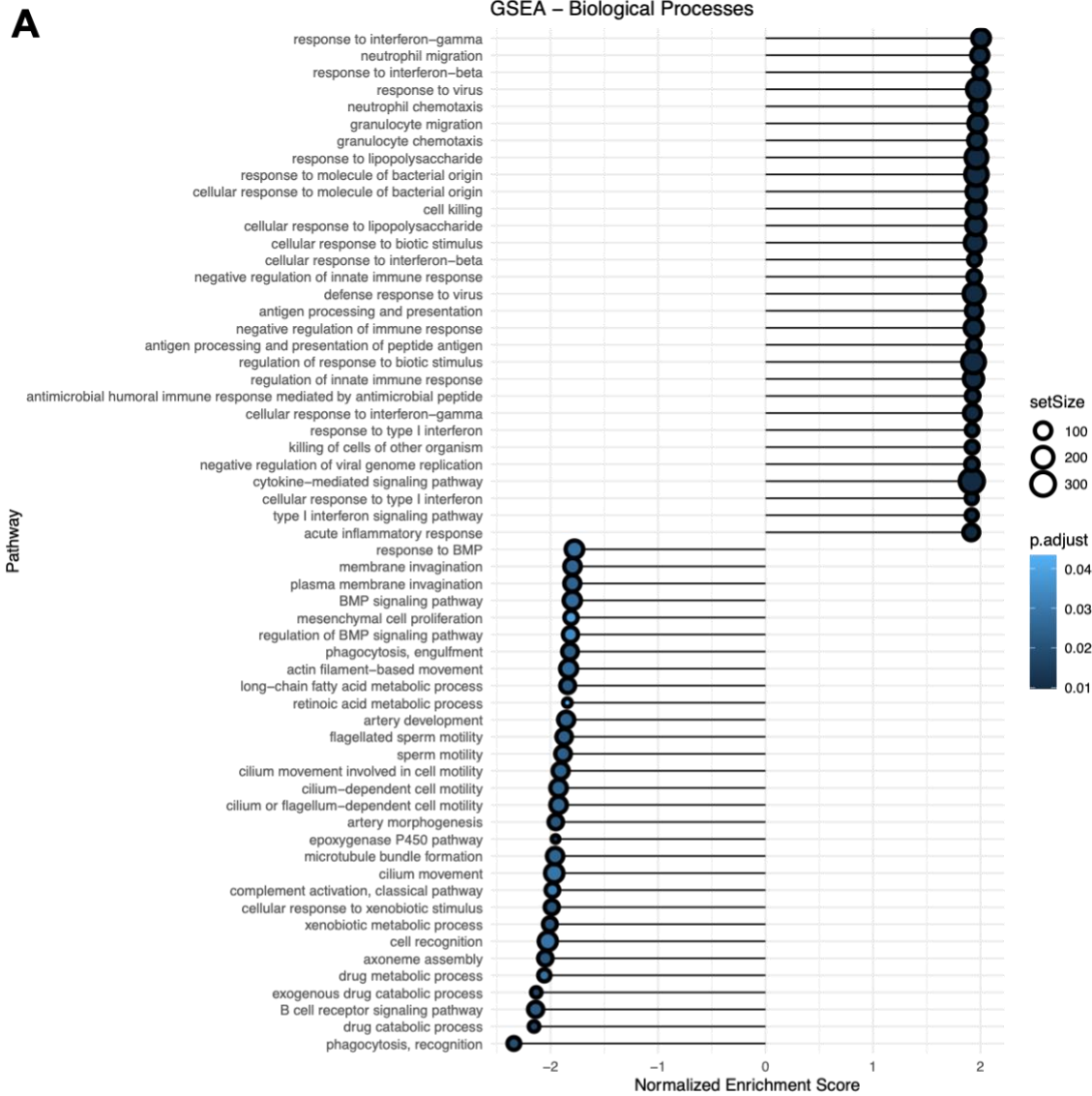
(B)(i-ii) Correlation heatmap visualizing the same-spot co-occurrence of 15 cell types in the immunized and the re-challenged mouse. ST spots from the slices for the immunized (slice A1 and A2) or the re-challenged mouse (slice A3 and A4) were pooled together, respectively. Red boxes highlighted cell types tending to appear in the same spots, that is to say, possibly close to one another *in vivo*.

(C) Weighted distances to the airways for Th17 and Th1 cells in four slices, after excluding spots within the blood vessels and spots whose distances to the airways longer than 1,000 micrometers.

(D) Formula defining weighted distance, allowing for each spot's distance to the nearest airway and the proportions of Th17 and Th1 cells in each spot.

(E)(i-iv) Proportions of immune cells over distance to the airways showing the spatial distribution of immune cells in four slices, after excluding spots within the blood vessels and spots whose distances to the airways longer than 1,000 micrometers. The curves were obtained from natural spline (with three degrees of freedom) regression.

(F) Expression of *Ccl20*, a top distance-associated gene, across four slices.



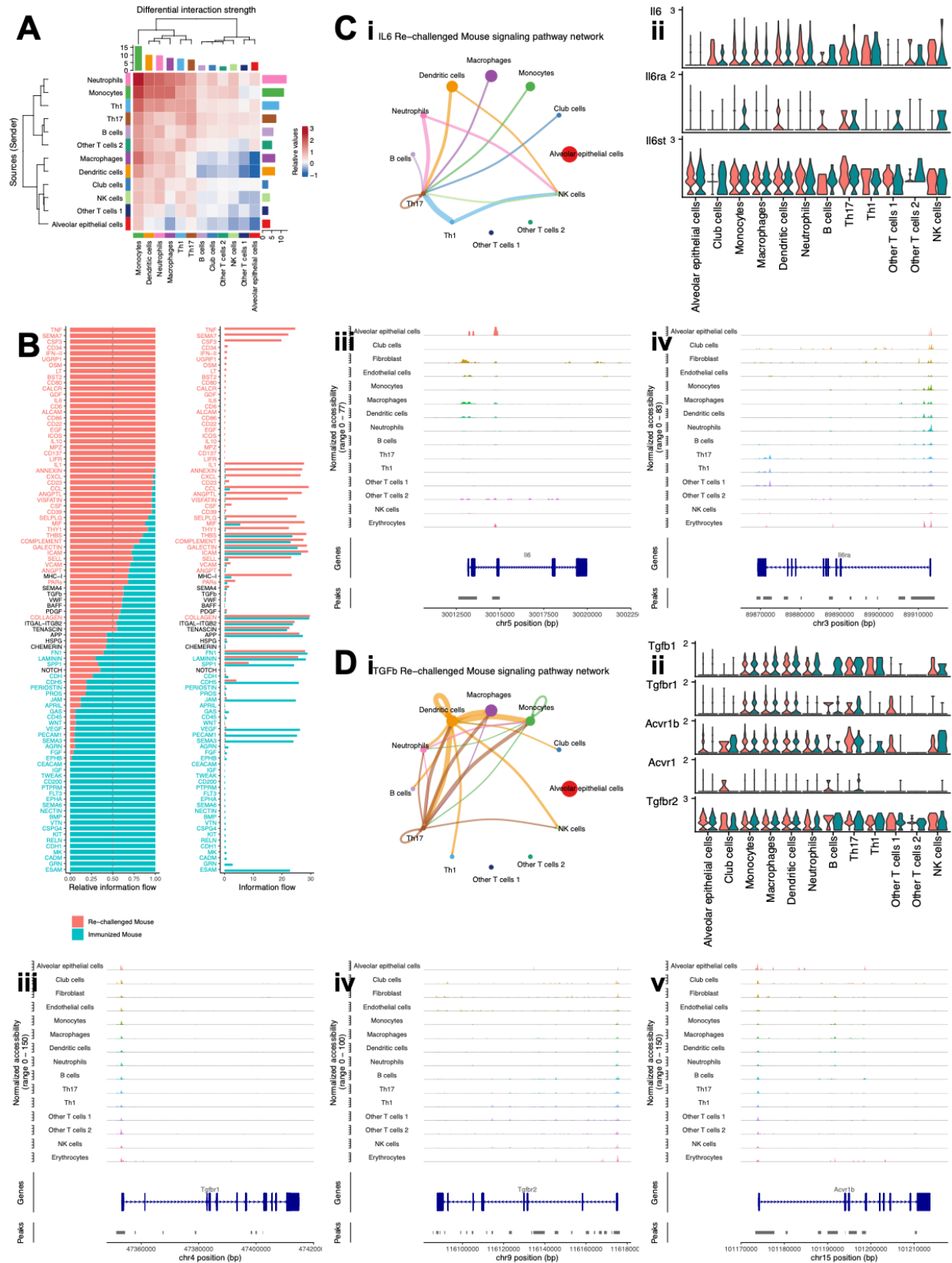
**Figure 5. Differential expression analysis of spots annotated as airways in the immunized and the re-challenged mouse**

(A) Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) of all the 16,937 genes available in the DE analysis of the airways.

(B) Expression of AW112010, a top DE gene up-regulated in the airways upon re-challenge, across four slices.

(C) Expression of *Cbr2*, a top DE gene down-regulated in the airways upon re-challenge, across four slices.





**Figure 6. Cell-cell communication among cell-type enriched spots**



(A) Heatmap showing differential interaction strength between cell-type enriched spots. Outgoing signals were shown in rows, while incoming signals were shown in columns. Increased (or decreased) signals in the re-challenged mouse compared to the immunized mouse were represented using red (or blue) in the color bar. The sum of values within the same column was summarized using the colored bar plot on the top. The sum of values within the same row was summarized using the colored bar plot on the right.

(B) Bar plots showing overall information flow of each signaling pathway. Relative information flow was shown in the stacked bar plot, while raw information flow was shown in the regular bar plot. Enriched signaling pathways were colored in red or cyan.

(C) Th17 enriched spots in the re-challenged mouse were the receivers of the IL6 signaling pathway. (i) Circle plot visualizing the inferred communication network of the IL6 signaling pathway in the re-challenged mouse. The network of the IL6 signaling pathway in the immunized mouse was not significant. Circle sizes represented the number of spots in each group. Edge colors were consistent with the senders of the signal (sources), and edge weights represented the interaction strength. (ii) Violin plot visualizing the expression of genes related to IL6 signaling pathway in cell-type enriched spots from the re-challenged mouse. Gene expression from slice A3 was colored in red, and that from slice A4 was colored in cyan. (iii-iv) Peaks in genomic regions around *Il6* and *Il6ra* in scATAC-seq data.

(D) Th17 enriched spots in the re-challenged mouse were the receivers of the TGF- $\beta$  signaling pathway. (i) Circle plot visualizing the inferred communication network of the TGF- $\beta$  signaling pathway in the re-challenged mouse. The network of the TGF- $\beta$  signaling pathway in the immunized mouse was also significant but not shown. Circle sizes represented the number of spots in each group. Edge colors were consistent with the senders of the signal (sources), and edge weights represented the interaction strength. (ii) Violin plot visualizing the expression of genes related to TGF- $\beta$  signaling pathway in cell-type enriched spots from the re-challenged mouse. Gene expression from slice A3 was colored in red, and that from slice A4 was colored in cyan. (iii-v) Peaks in genomic regions around *Tgfbr1*, *Tgfbr2*, and *Acvr1b* in scATAC-seq data.

**Table 1** Top 50 (hierarchically sorted by fold-enrichment) over-represented biological processes for both mice

Immunized Mouse			Re-challenged Mouse				
GO Biological Process	Fold Enrichment	P-value	FDR-adjusted P-value	GO Biological Process	Fold Enrichment	P-value	FDR-adjusted P-value
protein localization to bicellular tight junction	6.22	1.36E-03	2.04E-02	protein localization to ciliary transition zone	6.64	4.12E-04	7.33E-03
inner dynein arm assembly	6.22	2.60E-05	6.53E-04	intracellular retrograde transport	6.2	4.72E-06	1.36E-04
cranial ganglion development	6.22	3.06E-03	3.94E-02	inner dynein arm assembly	6.09	5.62E-05	1.23E-03
positive regulation of cell migration by vascular endothelial growth factor signal	5.53	1.01E-03	1.60E-02	hemoglobin biosynthetic process	5.81	1.61E-03	2.33E-02
peripheral nervous system myelin maintenance	5.53	1.01E-03	1.60E-02	protein localization to bicellular tight junction	5.69	3.77E-03	4.65E-02
intracellular retrograde transport	5.39	3.27E-05	8.07E-04	negative regulation of skeletal muscle tissue development	5.69	3.77E-03	4.65E-02
outer dynein arm assembly	5.29	2.42E-06	7.67E-05	positive regulation of homotypic cell-cell adhesion	5.17	2.53E-03	3.37E-02
cerebrospinal fluid circulation	5.26	1.54E-04	3.18E-03	epithelial cilium movement involved in determination of left/right asymmetry	5.17	2.53E-03	3.37E-02
establishment of blood-brain barrier	5.18	3.35E-04	6.17E-03	positive regulation of integrin-mediated signaling pathway	5.17	2.53E-03	3.37E-02
endothelial tube morphogenesis	5.18	3.35E-04	6.17E-03	<b>negative regulation of CD4-positive, alpha-beta T cell proliferation</b>	5.17	2.53E-03	3.37E-02
glomerulus morphogenesis	5.09	7.32E-04	1.21E-02	negative regulation of actin nucleation	5.17	2.53E-03	3.37E-02
dichotomous subdivision of an epithelial terminal unit	5.09	7.32E-04	1.21E-02	<b>antigen processing and presentation of exogenous peptide antigen via MHC class I</b>	5.17	2.53E-03	3.37E-02
<b>defense response to tumor cell</b>	4.98	1.60E-03	2.34E-02	cerebrospinal fluid circulation	5.11	3.27E-04	6.00E-03
axone assembly	4.92	6.34E-19	8.26E-17	<b>neutrophil activation involved in immune response</b>	4.83	1.68E-03	2.41E-02
epithelial cilium movement involved in determination of left/right asymmetry	4.84	3.52E-03	4.43E-02	branching involved in labyrinthine layer morphogenesis	4.74	4.95E-04	8.50E-03
positive regulation of aspartic-type peptidase activity	4.84	3.52E-03	4.43E-02	<b>defense response to tumor cell</b>	4.65	3.83E-03	4.70E-02
surfactant homeostasis	4.84	3.73E-05	9.05E-04	outer dynein arm assembly	4.65	4.46E-05	1.00E-03
regulation of cilium beat frequency	4.56	3.65E-04	6.69E-03	<b>positive regulation of superoxide anion generation</b>	4.62	1.36E-05	3.51E-04
negative regulation of endothelial cell differentiation	4.52	2.43E-03	3.27E-02	<b>regulation of Fc receptor mediated stimulatory signaling pathway</b>	4.43	2.48E-03	3.34E-02
regulation of aspartic-type endopeptidase activity involved in amyloid precursor t	4.52	2.43E-03	3.27E-02	collagen-activated tyrosine kinase receptor signaling pathway	4.43	2.48E-03	3.34E-02
glomerulus vasculature development	4.39	2.55E-04	4.92E-03	establishment of endothelial intestinal barrier	4.43	2.48E-03	3.34E-02
sperm axoneme assembly	4.38	4.46E-06	1.35E-04	<b>negative regulation of leukocyte degranulation</b>	4.43	2.48E-03	3.34E-02
positive regulation of protein localization to endosome	4.31	1.67E-03	2.42E-02	<b>T cell migration</b>	4.43	1.99E-05	4.83E-04
regulation of vasculogenesis	4.28	5.39E-04	9.26E-03	<b>respiratory burst</b>	4.27	1.61E-03	2.33E-02
cellular response to low-density lipoprotein particle stimulus	4.28	5.39E-04	9.26E-03	sperm axoneme assembly	4.18	1.89E-05	4.65E-04
venous blood vessel development	4.26	1.77E-04	3.57E-03	<b>regulation of superoxide anion generation</b>	4.18	1.89E-05	4.65E-04
membrane raft organization	4.24	5.84E-05	1.35E-03	<b>positive regulation of neutrophil chemotaxis</b>	4.18	1.89E-05	4.65E-04
regulation of establishment of endothelial barrier	4.15	3.71E-04	6.75E-03	negative regulation of transforming growth factor beta production	4.09	3.56E-03	4.48E-02
regulation of podosome assembly	4.15	3.71E-04	6.74E-03	positive regulation of vascular endothelial growth factor production	4.09	4.07E-05	9.28E-04
<b>leukocyte aggregation</b>	4.15	1.14E-03	1.76E-02	surfactant homeostasis	4.06	6.78E-04	1.11E-02
trachea morphogenesis	4.15	3.57E-03	4.48E-02	<b>positive regulation of leukocyte adhesion to vascular endothelial cell</b>	4.04	1.33E-04	2.69E-03
semaphorin-plexin signaling pathway involved in axon guidance	4.15	3.57E-03	4.48E-02	<b>leukocyte aggregation</b>	3.98	2.28E-03	3.14E-02
establishment of endothelial intestinal barrier	4.15	3.57E-03	4.48E-02	regulation of cilium beat frequency	3.98	2.28E-03	3.14E-02
tongue morphogenesis	4.15	3.57E-03	4.47E-02	Arp2/3 complex-mediated actin nucleation	3.98	2.28E-03	3.14E-02
collagen-activated signaling pathway	4	2.41E-03	3.25E-02	<b>neutrophil chemotaxis</b>	3.95	2.64E-11	1.82E-09
adhesion of symbiont to host	4	2.41E-03	3.24E-02	<b>positive regulation of monocyte chemotaxis</b>	3.92	2.86E-04	5.31E-03
retina vasculature development in camera-type eye	3.93	5.30E-04	9.11E-03	positive regulation of sprouting angiogenesis	3.92	2.86E-04	5.30E-03
epithelial tube branching involved in lung morphogenesis	3.89	9.20E-06	2.54E-04	<b>regulation of killing of cells of other organism</b>	3.91	1.47E-03	2.18E-02
lymphangiogenesis	3.89	1.63E-03	2.36E-02	establishment of endothelial barrier	3.91	7.57E-06	2.07E-04
stress fiber assembly	3.88	9.20E-06	2.53E-04	<b>positive regulation of granulocyte chemotaxis</b>	3.89	3.73E-05	8.62E-04
transcytosis	3.79	2.45E-04	4.78E-03	positive regulation of myoblast fusion	3.84	9.45E-04	1.49E-02
branching involved in salivary gland morphogenesis	3.73	7.41E-04	1.22E-02	regulation of actin cytoskeleton reorganization	3.84	3.26E-06	9.69E-05
Arp2/3 complex-mediated actin nucleation	3.73	3.39E-03	4.31E-02	ribosomal small subunit assembly	3.84	9.45E-04	1.49E-02
vascular endothelial growth factor receptor signaling pathway	3.73	1.67E-04	3.40E-03	<b>monocyte chemotaxis</b>	3.82	1.60E-05	4.00E-04
antigen processing and presentation of exogenous peptide antigen	3.69	1.13E-04	2.41E-03	glutathione metabolic process	3.81	7.58E-10	4.17E-08
cellular response to fluid shear stress	3.66	2.27E-03	3.10E-02	<b>positive regulation of T-helper cell differentiation</b>	3.79	6.10E-04	1.02E-02
regulation of cell-cell adhesion mediated by cadherin	3.66	2.27E-03	3.10E-02	regulation of vasculogenesis	3.74	3.16E-03	4.05E-02
branching involved in blood vessel morphogenesis	3.64	2.83E-06	8.93E-05	<b>microglial cell activation</b>	3.74	3.35E-05	7.79E-04
ribosomal small subunit assembly	3.6	1.52E-03	2.25E-02	<b>superoxide anion generation</b>	3.74	3.16E-03	4.05E-02

Biological processes related to immune responses were highlighted in red.