

1 Nonstructural protein 1 (nsp1) widespread RNA decay phenotype varies among Coronaviruses.

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9 **ABSTRACT**

10 Extensive remodeling of the host gene expression environment by coronaviruses nsp1 proteins  
11 is a well-documented and conserved piece of the coronavirus-host takeover battle. However,  
12 whether and how the underlying mechanism of regulation or the transcriptional target landscape  
13 differ amongst coronaviruses remains mostly uncharacterized. In this study we use comparative  
14 transcriptomics to investigate the diversity of transcriptional targets between four different  
15 coronavirus nsp1 proteins (from MERS, SARS1, SARS2 and 229E). In parallel, we performed  
16 Affinity Purification followed by Mass-Spectrometry to identify common and divergent interactors  
17 between these different nsp1. For all four nsp1 tested, we detected widespread RNA  
18 destabilization, confirming that both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - Coronavirus nsp1 broadly affect the host  
19 transcriptome. Surprisingly, we observed that even closely related nsp1 showed little similarities  
20 in the clustering of genes targeted. Additionally, we show that the RNA targeted by nsp1 from the  
21  $\alpha$ -CoV 229E partially overlapped with MERS nsp1 targets. Given MERS nsp1 preferential  
22 targeting of nuclear transcripts, these results may indicate that these nsp1 proteins share a similar  
23 targeting mechanism. Finally, we show that the interactome of these nsp1 proteins differ widely.  
24 Intriguingly, our data indicate that the 229E nsp1, which is the smallest of the nsp1 proteins tested  
25 here, interacts with the most host proteins, while MERS nsp1 only engaged with a few host  
26 proteins. Collectively, our work highlights that while nsp1 is a rather well-conserved protein with  
27 conserved functions across different coronaviruses, its precise effects on the host cell is virus-  
28 specific.

29

30 **SIGNIFICANCE**

31 Coronaviruses extensively co-opt their host gene expression machinery in order to quickly benefit  
32 from the host resources. The viral protein nsp1 plays a major role in this takeover as nsp1 is  
33 known to induce a widespread shutdown of the host gene expression, both at the RNA and the

34 translational level. Previous work characterized the molecular basis for nsp1-mediated host  
35 shutdown. However, this was mostly conducted in the context of  $\beta$ -coronaviruses and in particular  
36 SARS-CoV1, CoV2 and MERS due to the important public health burden that these viruses  
37 represent. Here instead, we explored the impact of nsp1 on the host using a comparative  
38 approach, defining the influence of 4 nsp1 protein from  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -coronaviruses. We delineated  
39 the impact of these 4 nsp1 on the host transcriptome and mapped their interactome. We revealed  
40 that host target range and interactomes vary widely among different nsp1, suggesting a viral-  
41 specific targeting. Understanding how these differences shape infection will be important to better  
42 inform antiviral drug development.

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## 45 INTRODUCTION

46 The past 20 years have seen the emergence of three highly pathogenic human  
47 coronaviruses (HCoVs), including severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)-CoV, Middle East  
48 respiratory syndrome (MERS)-CoV, and SARS-CoV-2. Since 2002 and the first coronavirus  
49 epidemic, these viruses have jumped to the forefront of public awareness as major public health  
50 threats. Other HCoVs routinely circulate in the human population, such as HCoV-HKU1 or HCoV-  
51 229E, which cause mild to moderate upper respiratory tract infections.

52 Coronaviruses consist of four genera: Alphacoronavirus ( $\alpha$ -CoV), Betacoronavirus ( $\beta$ -  
53 CoV), Gammacoronavirus ( $\gamma$ -CoV), and Deltacoronavirus ( $\delta$ -CoV) [1-4]. While  $\gamma$  - and  $\delta$ -CoVs  
54 primarily infect birds [4],  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ -CoV only infect mammals. The three highly pathogenic HCoVs,  
55 SARS-CoV (referred to as SARS1 herein), MERS-CoV, and SARS-CoV-2 (referred to as SARS2  
56 herein), belong to the genus  $\beta$ -CoV and are believed to freely circulate in and originate from bats  
57 [5, 6]. All these viruses have a highly conserved genomic organization and are the largest known  
58 RNA viruses to date. The 5'-terminal two-thirds of their genome encodes two overlapping open  
59 reading frames (ORF1a and 1b), which results in the production of two large polyproteins. Nsp1  
60 is the most N-terminal peptide released from the ORF1a polyprotein. Nsp1's role during  $\beta$ -CoV  
61 infection has long been studied and nsp1 was revealed to be a host shutoff protein that controls  
62 anti-viral responses by globally reducing host gene expression. SARS2 nsp1 similarly to SARS1  
63 nsp1 not only induces translational shutdown [7, 8] but also promotes the degradation of its target  
64 RNA by binding to the 40S ribosomal subunit [9-11]. Furthermore, MERS-CoV nsp1 selectively  
65 targets mRNA synthesized in the host cell nucleus for degradation and thus inhibits translation in  
66 host cells [12, 13]. How the various nsp1 mediate this extensive shutoff phenotype at the RNA  
67 level remains unknown [14, 15]. nsp1 shares no resemblance in its primary amino acid sequence  
68 or protein structure with any known RNases and has been hypothesized to co-opt a host  
69 endonuclease to induce endonucleolytic cleavage of template mRNA transcripts that interact with

70 40S ribosomes. Yet, the identity of this putative host RNase, while extensively looked for, remains  
71 unknown.

72 Intriguingly, only  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ -CoV encode nsp1, whereas  $\gamma$ - and  $\delta$ -CoV lack this protein [16,  
73 2, 17, 3, 18, 19]. The sizes of nsp1 in  $\beta$ -CoV also differ from the  $\alpha$ -CoVs nsp1, with the  $\alpha$ -CoVs  
74 nsp1 being substantially smaller than their  $\beta$ -CoVs counterparts. While these differences may  
75 have important consequences on the role of nsp1 during infection, it appears that nsp1 proteins  
76 from HCoV-229E and HCoV-NL63 might still be able to bind the 40S ribosomal subunit to affect  
77 host mRNA stability [20, 21, 17] reminiscing of how the  $\beta$ -CoV nsp1 trigger host shutoff.

78 The extensive study of the role of SARS2, SARS1 and MERS nsp1 has revealed a  
79 pervasive role in reshaping the host gene expression environment. In this study, we set out to  
80 compare the impact of nsp1 on the host cell not just from the highly pathogenic  $\beta$ -CoV but also  
81 from the  $\alpha$ -CoVs 229E. We hypothesized that the extent of nsp1-mediated RNA decay may vary  
82 amongst the different HCoV, which could account for some of the severity of these infections. To  
83 address this possibility, we generated a library of nsp1-inducible cells from 4 HCoV coronaviruses  
84 and explored the extent of nsp1 effect on the host transcriptome by RNA-seq. Interestingly, we  
85 found that widespread targeting of RNA is conserved among these nsp1 but the range of targets  
86 is different. Moreover, we investigated the interactome of these nsp1 proteins by mass  
87 spectrometry to identified common and divergent interactors and identified factors that may  
88 contribute to nsp1 targeting of RNA. This work provides important insights into the fundamental  
89 differences between highly pathogenic and common coronaviruses nsp1 and refines our  
90 understanding of nsp1-mediated decay.

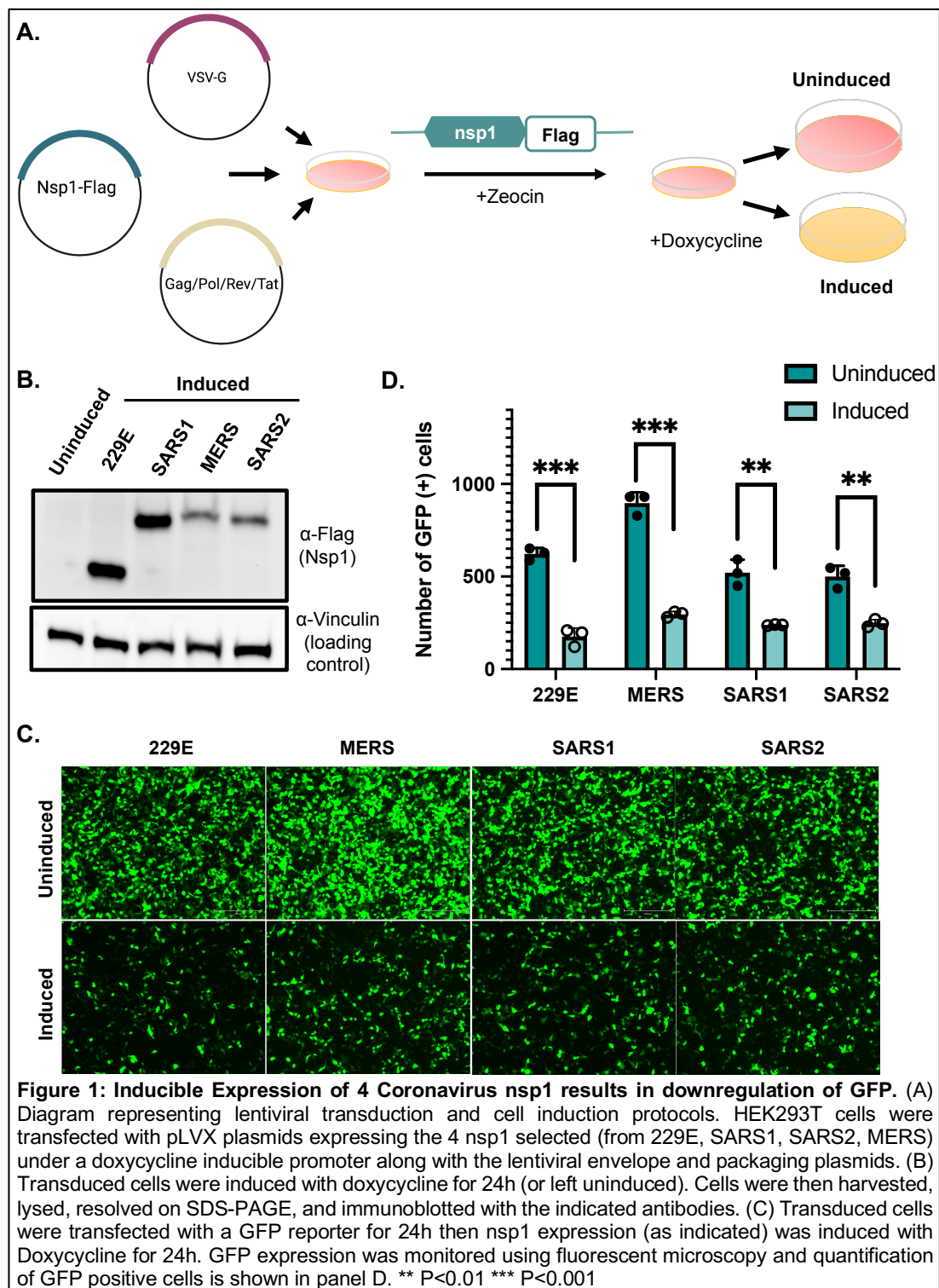
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## 93 RESULTS

94 **Inducible Expression of Coronavirus nsp1 proteins.** Previous work has shown  
95 conservation in the ability of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -coronaviruses to modulate host gene expression pathways.  
96 However, to date, it remains unclear how diverse is the impact on the host transcriptome between  
97  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -coronavirus nsp1 proteins. In order to assess the influence of different coronavirus nsp1  
98 proteins on the host gene expression environment, we generated a library of nsp1-inducible cell  
99 lines using the nsp1 protein of 4 different HCoV. To generate this library, along with SARS2 and  
100 MERS, we constructed 229E and SARS1 coronavirus nsp1 lentiviral plasmids derived from the  
101 pLVX-TetOne-Zeo-CoV2-nsp1-3xFlag gifted to us by the Glaunsinger Lab. Following production  
102 of lentivirus plasmids, we performed lentiviral transduction using select pLVX CoV nsp1-Flag  
103 plasmid and pMD2.G and psPAX2 envelop and packaging plasmids (**Fig. 1A**). After transduction,  
104 cells underwent selection using zeocin at a concentration of 325ug/ml. Following selection, to  
105 verify that our cell lines were inducible and would produce CoV nsp1 protein, cells were induced  
106 with 1ug/ml doxycycline. 24 hours post induction samples were collected and protein samples  
107 were western blotted with a Flag antibody (**Fig. 1B**). All four nsp1 proteins express well under  
108 induction and at the expected size. Once we verified that all four CoV nsp1 proteins could be  
109 properly expressed, we next determined if these induced nsp1 regulated gene expression as  
110 expected. As reported before, nsp1 can efficiently degrade GFP transcripts and reduce GFP  
111 expression by itself [9, 11]. We thus next expressed a GFP reporter, then the transduced cells  
112 were either left in an uninduced state, or induced with doxycycline. 24 hours post transfection and  
113 induction, GFP expression was measured with fluorescent microscopy (**Fig. 1C**) and quantified  
114 using ImageJ (**Fig. 1D**). As expected, induction led to a significant decrease in the intensity of  
115 GFP expression in all CoV nsp1 expressing cells. This is in line with the observation that despite  
116 being a smaller protein, the 229E nsp1 is able to regulate the expression of genes, likely due to

117 a highly conserved domain [21]. These results show that our library of nsp1 expressing cell lines  
 118 do not have leaky expression, are inducible, and able to modulate gene expression.

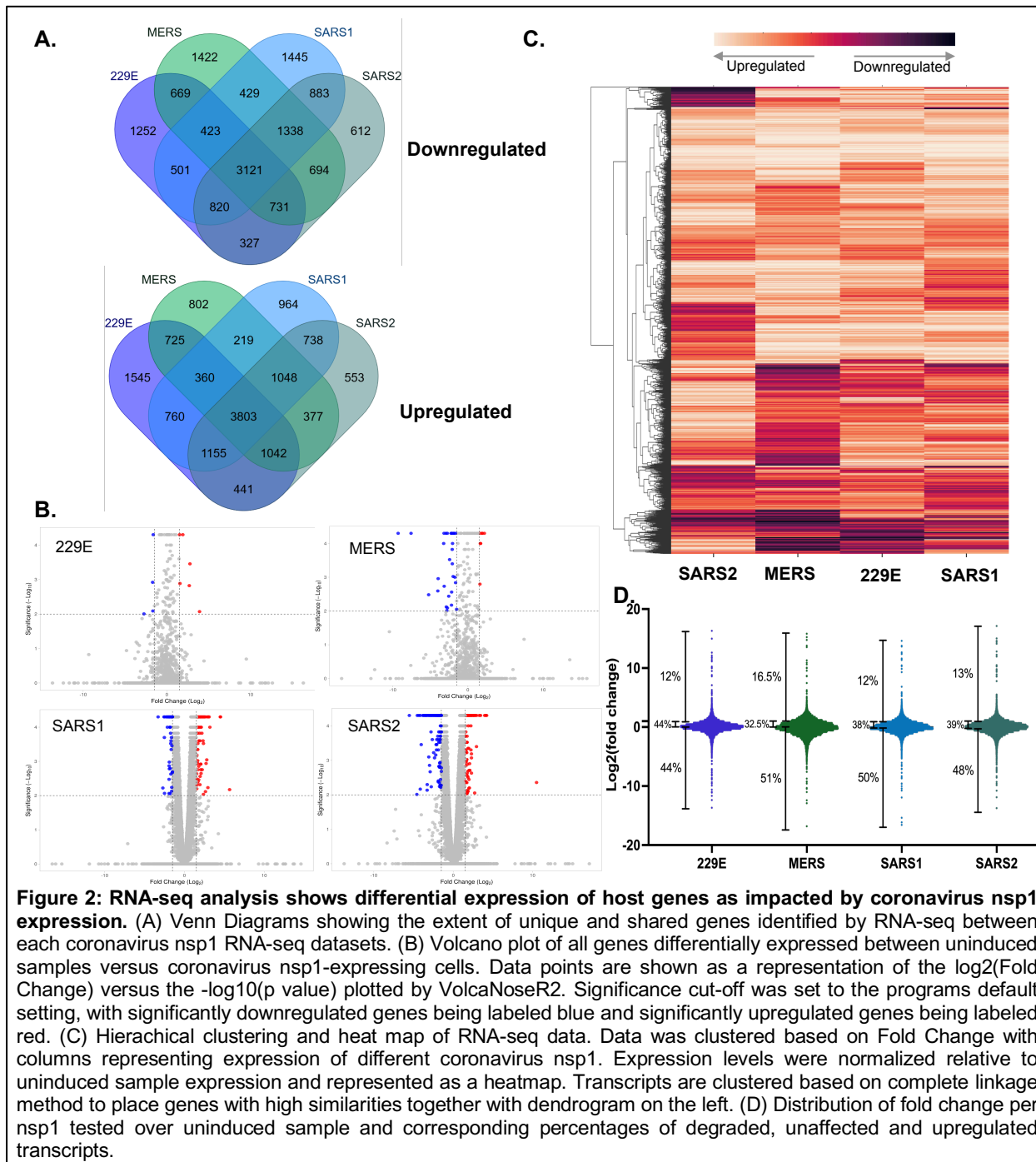


120 **Coronavirus nsp1 comparative RNA-seq shows differences in gene expression.**

121 After confirming that our inducible cell lines function as expected, we sought to explore the  
122 differences in the extent of nsp1 targeting on the host transcriptome. Using the lentivirally  
123 transduced cell lines described above, we induced the expression of nsp1 from SARS1, SARS2,  
124 MERS, or 229E (using uninduced cells as controls). 24h post induction, total RNA was extracted,  
125 polyA selected and cDNA library were prepared and sequenced. Out of a total of 19331 genes  
126 identified by RNA-seq, 15779 genes appeared in all 4 datasets (**Supplementary Table 1**). More  
127 specifically, we identified 3121 genes that were consistently down-regulated upon expression of  
128 all 4 nsp1 and 3833 that were consistently upregulated (**Fig. 2A**). Unsurprisingly, 229E nsp1, as  
129 the only representative of an  $\alpha$ -CoV, has the most unique pattern of genes up and down regulated,  
130 perhaps indicating that its targeting mechanism differs from that of the  $\beta$ -CoV nsp1. Furthermore,  
131 fold change patterns induced by 229E and MERS nsp1 as observed by volcano plots were non-  
132 standard as opposed to SARS1 and SARS2 plots (**Fig. 2B**). This might suggest that the fold  
133 change distribution may not follow a normal distribution. Previous studies had indicated that  
134 MERS preferentially targets nuclear mRNA while our data here represents whole cell RNA pools,  
135 which could skew our data representation. This might suggest that 229E nsp1 similarly only  
136 targets a subset of RNA in cells. We next performed hierarchical clustering on this comparative  
137 transcriptomics dataset. **Figure 2C** shows a heatmap of the correlation matrix across all  
138 transcripts. In line with previous analyses, our data indicates that all the nsp1 tested trigger  
139 massive RNA degradation with >50% of the detected genes downregulated upon each nsp1  
140 expression (**Fig. 2D**). Based on our analysis, between 30 and 45% of genes had a fold change  
141 between 1 and 2, indicating that nsp1 had little to no effect on them. Surprisingly, we also detected  
142 close to 15% of genes that seem to be upregulated upon nsp1 induction. Overall, our data  
143 indicates that  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -coronavirus nsp1 share the ability to widely trigger RNA decay however,



144 the precise target of each of the nsp1 differs, suggesting that the host cell is likely differentially  
 145 affected.

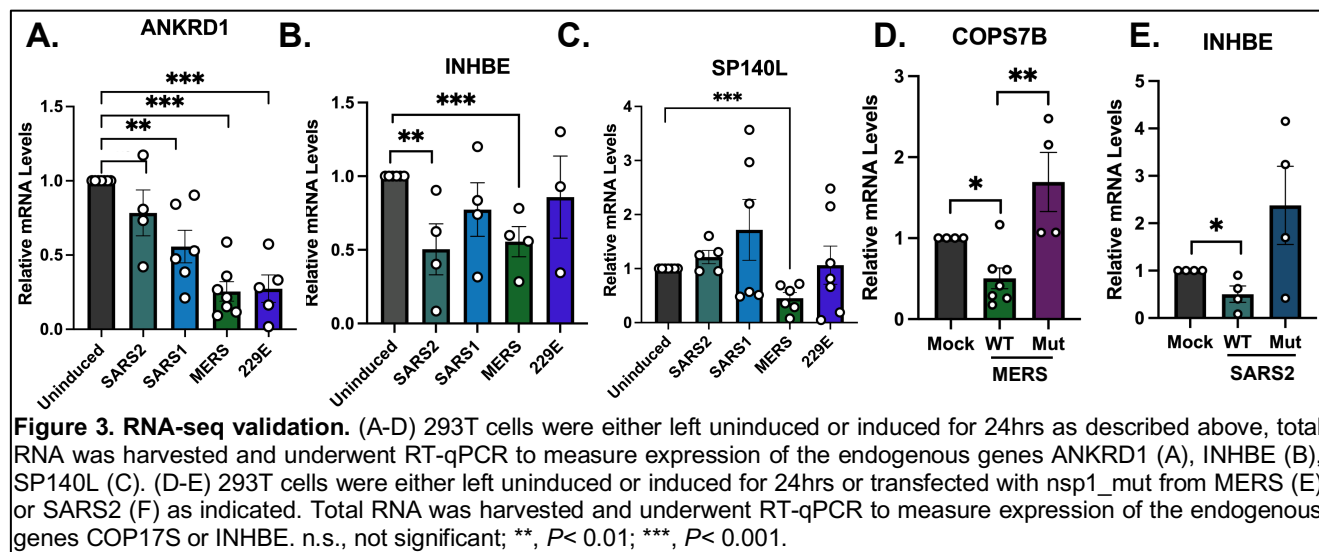


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147           **Validation of Coronavirus nsp1 RNA-seq gene expression patterns by RT-qPCR.**

148 RNA-seq provided an extensive range of data about the effects of expression of the different  
149 coronavirus nsp1s on host gene expression. After data sorting and processing, we noticed some  
150 genes with particular patterns of degradation upon expression of the nsp1. We thus next wanted  
151 to validate these patterns by RT-qPCR (**Figure 3**). The first gene that we tested was ANKRD1.  
152 There are multiples links between ANKRD1 and coronaviruses, for example upon Porcine  
153 epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) -an  $\alpha$ -coronavirus infection- ANKRD1 is downregulated [22], or  
154 increased viral load in SARS-CoV-2 infections if ANKRD1 is knock down [23]. Our RNA-seq data  
155 showed that ANKRD1 was downregulated upon expression of all tested nsp1. We thus induced  
156 the expression of each nsp1 in cells and collected total RNA to examine ANKRD1 expression by  
157 RT-qPCR. Our results recapitulate the RNA-seq data. We next tested the gene used chosen  
158 INHBE, which showed higher downregulation in SARS2 and MERS, with slight down regulation  
159 in SARS1 and 229E in our RNA-seq data. This pattern was again reflected in the RT-qPCR results  
160 (**Fig3. B**). We next investigated a gene (SP140L) that appears to be slightly upregulated upon  
161 expression of SARS2 and SARS1 nsp1, but downregulated with MERS and 229E nsp1  
162 expression. While our 229E nsp1 in this case appeared to have no effect on SP140L expression,  
163 MERS nsp1 expression led to strong downregulation as would be expected from our RNA-seq  
164 data (**Fig3. C**).

165           Our understanding of how nsp1 triggers RNA decay remains mostly vague, however,  
166 some nsp1 mutants have been identified to specifically have no RNA decay activity. Residues  
167 R146 and K147 in MERS and R124 and K125 in SARS2 have been shown to be required for 40S  
168 binding and mutating these residues has been shown to affect RNA turnover [8, 24, 11, 25]. We  
169 thus next wanted to validate our RNA-seq data using these mutants. We thus constructed Flag-  
170 tagged versions of a MERS nsp1 mutant (R146A+K147A here referred to as MERS nsp1\_mut)  
171 and a SARS2 nsp1 mutant (R124A+K125A here referred to as SARS2 nsp1\_mut), which are both  
172 expected to be deficient in RNase activity. For MERS nsp1\_mut we looked at COPS7B, which we

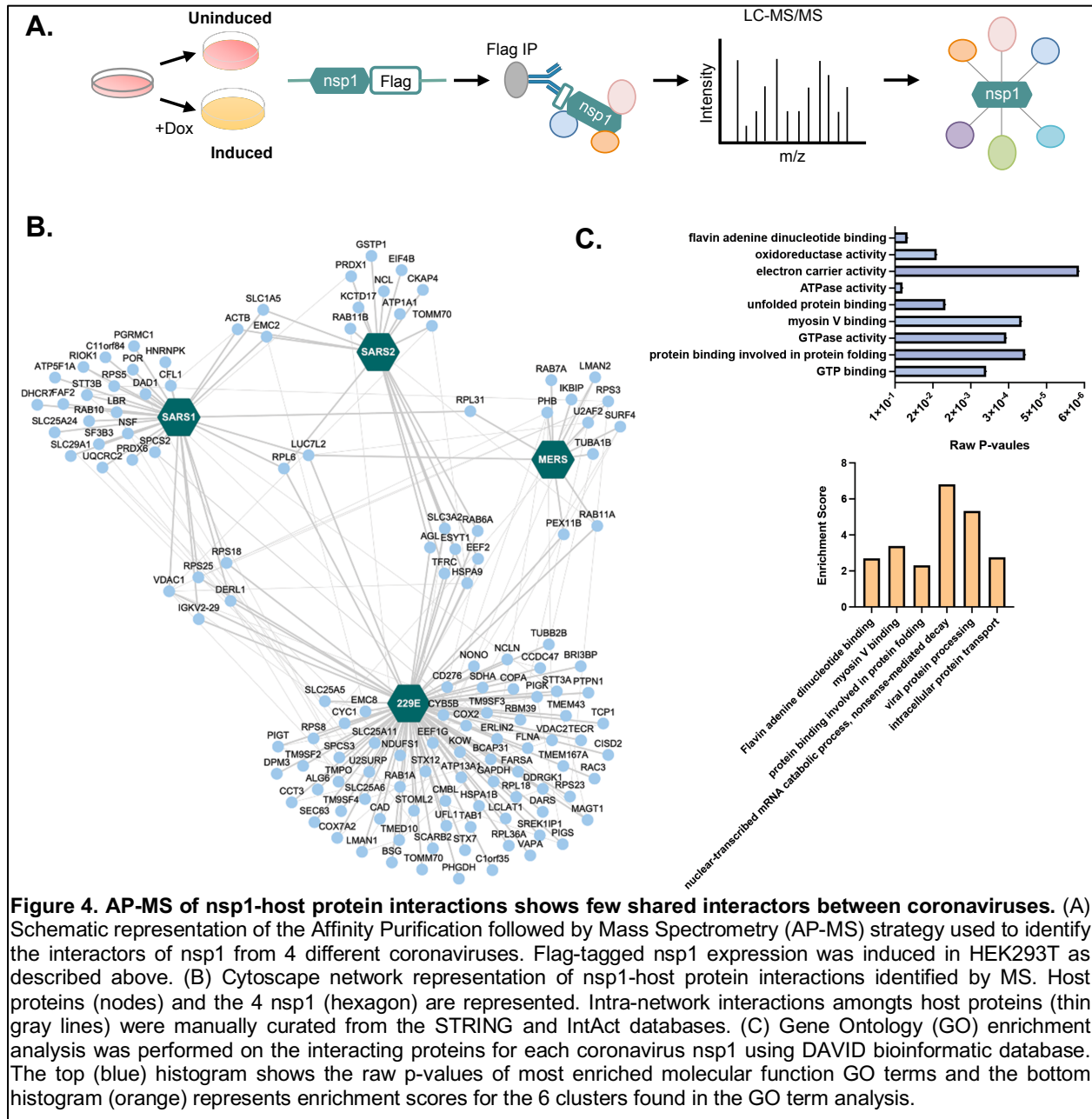


173 found to be downregulated by MERS nsp1 expression. Cells were transfected with a WT MERS  
174 nsp1, or transfected with the Flag-tagged MERS nsp1\_mut. 24h later, total RNA was extracted  
175 and used to assess COPS7B expression by RT-qPCR. While WT nsp1 induced a strong reduction  
176 in COPS7B expression as expected from the RNA-seq data, the nsp1 mutant failed to induce  
177 degradation (**Fig3. D**). Similarly, for SARS2 nsp1, we compared the expression of INHBE upon  
178 WT or mutant expression and saw that nsp1\_mut failed to induce INHBE mRNA degradation  
179 (**Fig3. E**). Combined together, these results show that all nsp1 tested specifically induce mRNA  
180 decay. Additionally, we show that the mutant variants of the SARS2 and MERS nsp1 proteins we  
181 have are able to ablate mRNA degradation.

182  
183 **Nsp1 interactome varies amongst Coronaviruses.** Nsp1 contribution to the widespread  
184 changes in host mRNA stability is believed to be mediated through protein-protein interaction(s)  
185 since nsp1 itself does not appear to act as a nuclease. Yet, very little is known about nsp1  
186 interactions, in particular in the less studied  $\alpha$ -CoV. To better decipher the contribution of nsp1 to  
187 the regulation of gene expression, we next compared the interactome of the 4 selected nsp1 using  
188 Affinity Purification coupled with LC-MS/MS (AP-MS) to map the nsp1-host protein interaction  
189 network (**Fig 4A**). In total, 128 unique proteins were identified in this interactome, of which 74

190 were unique to 229E nsp1, 8 to MERS nsp1, 21 to SARS1 nsp1 and 9 to SARS2 nsp1  
191 (**Supplementary Table 2, Fig 4B**). Notably, among the interactors of nsp1, ribosomal proteins  
192 and translation initiation factors were very prominent, which is in line with previous studies  
193 investigating nsp1's interactions as well as consistent with what is known about nsp1 function  
194 during infection [26, 27]. Furthermore, comparison of the interaction networks highlighted that of  
195 the 4 nsp1 tested, nsp1 from MERS was the most divergent (**Fig. 4B**). We next performed a  
196 functional analysis of this interactome using Gene Ontology (GO) which revealed 6 functional  
197 groups involved in nsp1 mediated-RNA decay and essential cellular biological processes that  
198 could promote viral progression (**Fig. 4C, Suppl. table 3**). These results demonstrate the  
199 differences between coronavirus nsp1-host proteins interactions and provide insight into how host  
200 proteins may contribute to nsp1 role for progression of viral infection.

201



**Figure 4. AP-MS of nsp1-host protein interactions shows few shared interactors between coronaviruses.** (A) Schematic representation of the Affinity Purification followed by Mass Spectrometry (AP-MS) strategy used to identify the interactors of nsp1 from 4 different coronaviruses. Flag-tagged nsp1 expression was induced in HEK293T as described above. (B) Cytoscape network representation of nsp1-host protein interactions identified by MS. Host proteins (nodes) and the 4 nsp1 (hexagon) are represented. Intra-network interactions amongst host proteins (thin gray lines) were manually curated from the STRING and IntAct databases. (C) Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis was performed on the interacting proteins for each coronavirus nsp1 using DAVID bioinformatic database. The top (blue) histogram shows the raw p-values of most enriched molecular function GO terms and the bottom histogram (orange) represents enrichment scores for the 6 clusters found in the GO term analysis.

## 203 **DISCUSSION**

204           Destabilization and degradation of host mRNA is a prevalent strategy employed by  
205 numerous viruses as a means of usurping the host gene expression machinery and to dampen  
206 the host immune responses [28-36]. Prior research has highlighted the ability of SARS1, SARS2,  
207 and MERS coronavirus protein nsp1 to disrupt host gene expression through two prominent  
208 methods: modulation of host gene expression through mRNA degradation as well as binding of  
209 the 40s ribosomal subunit and subsequent translational arrest [21, 22, 17]. Moreover, some work  
210 also explored the ability of the  $\alpha$ -coronaviruses nsp1, such as the one from HCoV-229E, to  
211 recapitulate some of the  $\beta$ -coronavirus nsp1 function [21, 17]. However, the extent and how  
212 conserved nsp1-mediated RNA decay is on the host transcriptome between the different  
213 coronavirus nsp1 remains poorly understood. Yet, we know that different nsp1 have different  
214 effect on the infected cells. For example, it has recently been shown that SARS2 nsp1 better  
215 suppresses STAT1 and STAT2 phosphorylation than the nsp1 protein of SARS1 and MERS  
216 thereby more strongly repressing type INF-1 expression [37]. This supports the notion that these  
217 proteins may function differently and may show different preferences towards decay and  
218 regulation of gene expression. Another example is MERS nsp1 that was shown to preferentially  
219 targets transcripts of nuclear origin, while forgoing those transcribed in the cytoplasm [12]. This  
220 again highlights how despite having a similar outcome on the host regulation, the mode of action  
221 of the various nsp1 may be coronavirus-specific.

222           Here, we sought to explore the transcriptional landscape of cells expressing the nsp1 of  
223 different coronaviruses to better understand the impact of nsp1 between the  $\beta$ -CoVs and the  $\alpha$ -  
224 CoV 229E. We observed that about half of the transcripts detected by RNA-seq were  
225 downregulated upon nsp1 induction, regardless of the origin of nsp1. This suggests that all nsp1  
226 tested in our study have a conserved and likely profound impact on their host cells *via* the  
227 regulation of RNA stability. To our surprise, numerous transcripts detected in our sequencing data

228 were non-coding RNAs (ncRNA). Given the prominent association between nsp1 and the  
229 ribosome, it has been hypothesized that nsp1 direct role in RNA decay was likely either associated  
230 with the host ribosome stalling pathways or alternatively that the endonuclease necessary to  
231 mediate nsp1 decay was recruited at the site of nsp1-ribosome interaction. The association of  
232 nsp1 and ncRNA would suggest that maybe nsp1 role in RNA decay may be more extensive than  
233 previously thought or perhaps that nsp1 can target multiple decay pathways. MERS nsp1 has  
234 already been suggested to lead to RNA decay by targeting transcripts independently of ribosome  
235 interactions [12, 38]. Based on our observation that all the nsp1 tested here target ncRNAs, it  
236 could mean that they share this ribosome-independent RNA decay function. Furthermore, it would  
237 be interesting to explore this link between nsp1 and host ncRNA, has this could have widespread  
238 consequences on the regulation of the host cell.

239         While SARS1 and SARS2 nsp1 effect on the host transcriptome appear to adopt a  
240 “classic” volcano plot shape, indicative of widespread, uniform RNA destabilization on the host  
241 transcriptome, MERS and 229E nsp1 expression data sets do not follow this pattern. When we  
242 examine the MERS plot, we see many genes undergoing significant negative foldchanges, but  
243 also high representation of genes that have significance with little to no foldchange. This could  
244 reflect the fact that MERS nsp1 has been suggested to only target nuclear transcribed RNAs, and  
245 our RNA-seq data represents total cellular transcripts. As for 229E, however, the vast majority of  
246 identified genes represented in the volcano plot showed little significance in foldchange in totality.  
247 It could suggest that 229E preferentially target for a subset of transcript, but has only mild effect  
248 on the rest of the transcriptome. Alternatively, it has been suggested by Wang *et al.* [17] that nsp1  
249 greatest contribution to host shutoff is not in fact due to RNA decay but more likely because of  
250 the translational arrest induced by nsp1 binding to ribosomes. Our data here would indicate that  
251 this could be true for 229E nsp1, where we observe less marked RNA decay than its  $\beta$ -CoV  
252 counterparts.

253 Hierarchical clustering of our transcriptomic data highlight that while all nsp1 protein  
254 induce large scale RNA decay, there is limited overlap in their specific targets, especially between  
255 SARS1 and SARS2 nsp1. Moreover, genes that are heavily downregulated by MERS nsp1 are  
256 clustered to the lower half of the heatmap, likely representing nuclear transcripts. This is very  
257 similar to the clustered gene degraded by 229E nsp1, suggesting that 229E nsp1 may also  
258 preferentially target nuclear transcripts.

259 We also verified our results using the SARS2 (R124A+K125A) and MERS  
260 (R146A+K147A) nsp1 mutants, confirming that these mutants were not able to induce RNA decay  
261 like their WT counterparts. As it has been suggested before, while these mutations lead to a loss  
262 of mRNA decay potential in the nsp1 protein, this is likely not be linked directly to nsp1 containing  
263 RNase activity. As no nsp1 sequence contains amino acid sequences associated with RNA  
264 catalysis, the mutations could potentially disrupt interactions with a protein that does may play  
265 this role for nsp1.

266 Another challenging aspect of studying nsp1 biology is that it has been difficult to identify  
267 robust interactions between nsp1 and host proteins. Small and large screens looking either  
268 specifically at nsp1 interactome or more globally at the interactome of all CoV proteins have  
269 identified only few, rarely confirmed interactors [39, 26, 40]. Here, to increase the robustness of  
270 our results, we continued with our comparative approach and sought to identify interactors that  
271 were shared by these 4 nsp1. Intriguingly, out of this interactome, 229E nsp1 had by far the  
272 highest number of unique interactors and MERS nsp1 had the fewest. 229E nsp1, like other  $\alpha$ -  
273 coronavirus nsp1 are drastically smaller than those found in  $\beta$ -coronaviruses. We can thus  
274 speculate that it would require more interacting partners to achieve its primary functions during  
275 viral infection. It also possible that 229E nsp1 possess more disordered regions -regions that are  
276 known to facilitate protein-protein interactions - as it might be more difficult for a protein of only  
277 111 amino acids to fold into complex structures. Given that MERS nsp1 is known to operate very  
278 differently than the nsp1 from SARS1 and SARS2, it is perhaps less surprising to see that its



279 interactome is also very different. While we did not identify in this interactome any host protein  
280 with direct RNase activity that could account for nsp1's role in RNA decay, our gene ontology  
281 revealed that many of the interactors that we detected were associated with mRNA catabolic  
282 process. It would thus be interesting to explore these interactions and assess whether any of  
283 these factors are essential for nsp1 activity.

284         In this work we sought to explore the similarities and differences between key RNA  
285 regulatory proteins during coronavirus infection, to better understand how their expression lead  
286 to different viral pathogenic conditions. We observed that even between closely related CoV, there  
287 seems to be little similarities in clustering of genes targeted for decay and that there are few  
288 protein interactors shared between these different proteins. However, gene targeting for these  
289 proteins does not appear to be random, based on Hierarchical clustering the nsp1 seem to target  
290 different gene clusters.

291

292

293

294 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

295 **Figure 1. Inducible Expression of 4 Coronavirus nsp1 results in downregulation of GFP.**

296 (A) Diagram representing lentiviral transduction and cell induction protocols. HEK293T cells were  
297 transfected with pLVX plasmids expressing the 4 nsp1 selected (from 229E, SARS1, SARS2,  
298 MERS) under a doxycycline inducible promotor along with the lentiviral envelope and packaging  
299 plasmids. (B) Transduced cells were induced with doxycycline for 24h (or left uninduced). Cells  
300 were then harvested, lysed, resolved on SDS-PAGE, and immunoblotted with the indicated  
301 antibodies. Vinculin was used as the loading control. (C) Transduced cells were transfected with  
302 a GFP reporter for 24h then nsp1 expression (as indicated) was induced with Doxycycline for 24h.  
303 GFP expression was monitored using fluorescent microscopy and quantification of GFP positive  
304 cells in panel D. \*\* P<0.01, \*\*\* P<0.001.

305

306 **Figure 2. RNA-seq analysis shows differential expression of host genes as impacted by**

307 **coronavirus nsp1 expression.** (A) Venn Diagrams showing the extent of unique and shared  
308 genes identified by RNA-seq between each coronavirus nsp1 RNA-seq datasets. (B) Volcano plot  
309 of all genes differentially expressed between uninduced samples versus coronavirus nsp1-  
310 expressing cells. Data points are shown as a representation of the log<sub>2</sub>(Fold Change) versus the  
311 -log<sub>10</sub>(p value) plotted by VolcanoR2. Significance cut-off was set to the programs default  
312 setting, with significantly downregulated genes being labeled blue and significantly upregulated  
313 genes being labeled red. (C) Hierarchical clustering and heat map of RNA-seq data. Data was  
314 clustered based on Fold Change with columns representing expression of different coronavirus  
315 nsp1 based on relatedness (MERS, 229E, SARS1, SARS2). Expression levels were normalized  
316 relative to uninduced sample expression and represented as a heatmap. Transcripts are clustered  
317 based on complete linkage method to place genes with high similarities together with dendrogram  
318 on the left. (D) Distribution of fold change per nsp1 tested over uninduced sample and  
319 corresponding percentages on degrading transcripts.

320

321 **Figure 3. RNA-seq validation.** (A-D) 293T cells were either left uninduced or induced for 24hrs  
322 as described above, total RNA was harvested and underwent RT-qPCR to measure expression  
323 of the endogenous genes ANKRD1 (A), INHBE (B), SP140L (C). (D-E) 293T cells were either left  
324 uninduced or induced for 24hrs or transfected with nsp1\_mut from MERS (E) or SARS2 (F) as  
325 indicated. Total RNA was harvested and underwent RT-qPCR to measure expression of the  
326 endogenous genes COP17S or INHBE. n.s., not significant; \*\*,  $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\*,  $P < 0.001$ .

327

328 **Figure 4. AP-MS of nsp1-host protein interactions shows few interactors shared between**  
329 **coronaviruses (A)** Schematic representation of the Affinity Purification followed by Mass  
330 Spectrometry (AP-MS) strategy used to identify the interactors of nsp1 from 4 different  
331 coronaviruses. Flag-tagged nsp1 expression was induced in HEK293T as described above. **(B)**  
332 Cytoscape network representation of nsp1-host protein interactions identified by MS. Host  
333 proteins (nodes) and the 4 nsp1 (hexagon) are represented. Intra-network interactions amongst  
334 host proteins (thin gray lines) were manually curated from the STRING and IntAct databases. **(C)**  
335 Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis was performed on the interacting proteins for each  
336 coronavirus nsp1 using DAVID bioinformatic database. The top (blue) histogram shows the raw  
337 p-values of most enriched molecular function GO terms and the bottom histogram (orange)  
338 represents enrichment scores for the 6 clusters found in the GO term analysis.

339

340 **Supplementary Table 1. List of genes detected by RNA-seq.**

341 **Supplementary Table 2. List of mass spectrometry high confidence hits by nsp1.**

342 **Supplementary Table 3. Go-term analysis on nsp1 interactors.**

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345

346 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

347 We thank all members of the Muller lab for helpful discussions and suggestions. Special thanks  
348 to Dr. Britt Glaunsinger and Dr. Ella Hartenian for the pLVX plasmids. We would also like to thank  
349 Dr. Ravi Ranjan at the genomics facility for their guidance with sequencing and Dr. Stephen Eyles  
350 at the UMASS IALS Mass Spectrometry facility for their help with protocol development and data  
351 acquisition.

352

353 **FUNDING**

354 This research was supported a Smith-Spaulling fellowship to YB, training grant support (T32  
355 GM139789) to YB and a IALS midigrant to MM.

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358 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

359 **Plasmids and Plasmid Construction.** The pLVX-TetOne-Zeo-SARS2-NSP1-3xFlag and pLVX-  
360 TetOne-Zeo-MERS-NSP1-3xFlag, pcDNA4 CoV2 nsp1 m1 3xFlag and pcDNA MERS nsp1 m1  
361 3xFlag were a kind gift from the Glaunsinger Lab. CoV-229E sequences were obtained as  
362 gBlocks from IDT and subcloned into these plasmids using InFusion cloning (Takara).

363 **Cells, Transfections, and Lentiviral Transduction.** HEK293T cells (ATCC) were grown in  
364 Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM – Invitrogen) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine  
365 serum (FBS). To establish the lentiviral cell lines, HEK293T cells were co-transfected with their  
366 respective zeocine-resistant, lentiviral vector along with pMD2.G and psPAX2 the envelop,  
367 packaging, and accessory plasmids in DMEM 0% FBS with using Polyjet (SignaGen). 48 hours  
368 post transfection the supernatant from transfected cells was collected and filtered through a 0.45  
369  $\mu$ M filter diluted with serum free media with polybrene at a concentration of 8 $\mu$ g/ml. Mixture was  
370 added to fresh HEK293T cells in a 6-well plate and underwent spinfection at 1500rpm for 1.5  
371 hours. Cells were incubated overnight then split the following day into a 10cm plate with media  
372 containing 325 $\mu$ g/ml of zeocin. After selection the established lentivirally infected cell lines were  
373 maintained in 162.5 $\mu$ g/ml zeocin. For DNA transfection, HEK293T cells were plated and  
374 transfected after 24h when 70% confluent using PolyJet (SignaGen).

375 **Western Blotting.** Cell lysates were prepared in TP150 lysis buffer (NaCl, 150mM; Tris, 50mM;  
376 NP-40, 0.5%; dithiothreitol [DTT]. 1mM; and protease inhibitor tablets) and quantified by Bradford  
377 assay. 20ug of each sample were resolved by SDS-PAGE and Western blotted with following  
378 antibodies in TBST (Tris-buffered saline, 0.1% Tween 20): mouse anti-Flag at 1:1000 (Invitrogen)  
379 and rabbit anti-Vinculin at 1:2000 (Invitrogen). Primary antibody incubations were followed by  
380 horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-conjugated goat anti-mouse or goat anti-rabbit secondary  
381 antibodies (1:5000; Southern Biotechnology)

382 **RT-qPCR.** Total RNA was harvested using TRIzol according to the manufacture's protocol.  
383 cDNAs were synthesized from 1 µg of total RNA using AMV reverse transcriptase (Promega) and  
384 used directly for quantitative PCR (qPCR) analysis with the SYBR green qPCR kit (Bio-Rad).  
385 Signals obtained by qPCR were normalized to those for 18S.

386 **RNA-seq.** 6 biological replicates of each lentiviral transduced cells (SARS1, SARS2, MERS,  
387 229E and uninduced sample as a control) were grown to 80% confluency then induced with  
388 1ug/ml of Doxycycline (BD Biosciences). After 24hr cells were collected in TRIzol Reagent and  
389 RNA was harvested following the manufacturer's protocol. Purity of samples were analyzed via  
390 bioanalyzer. Following poly(A) selection, libraries underwent 76-base paired-end sequencing  
391 using the NextSeq500 Mid-150 cycle kit on a NextSeq 500. Read quality was assessed using  
392 fastqc. Using Galaxy [41] reads were then aligned to the human genome (hg38) by Bowtie2 and  
393 differential expression analysis were performed using Cufflink and Cuffdiff [42]. For graphical  
394 representation in the heatmap, fold change values were saturated by a hyperbolic tan function  
395 with a cutoff set at 10. Hierarchical clustering was generated in Python using the SciPy package  
396 with complete linkage and Euclidian distance. Volcano plots were developed using the program  
397 VolcanoR (LCAM) by plotting the  $\log_2$ Fold Change vs  $-\log_{10}$ p-value, with significance  
398 thresholds left at the default settings and the top 10 most significant genes highlighted and  
399 labelled. Comparison of overlapping genes and generation of Venn diagrams were generated  
400 using Multiple List Comparator (Molbiotools).

401 **Immunoprecipitation.** Cells were lysed in a low-salt lysis buffer (150 mM NaCl, 0.5% NP-40, 50  
402 mM Tris [pH 8], 1 mM DTT, and protease inhibitor cocktail), and protein concentrations were  
403 determined by Bradford assay. For FLAG construct pull-downs, 400 µg of total protein lysates  
404 were incubated overnight with Anti-FLAG M2 Magnetic Beads (Sigma) or control G-coupled  
405 magnetic beads. Beads were then washed extensively with lysis buffer. Lastly, samples were

406 resuspended in 4X laemmli loading dye before resolution by SDS-PAGE and further Western  
407 blotting.

408

409 **Mass Spectrometry.** Lentiviral transduced cells were grown in 10 cm plates to an 80%  
410 confluency and then induced with 1 $\mu$ g/ml of Doxycycline (BD Biosciences). 24 hours post-  
411 induction, cells were harvested and lysed, and immunoprecipitation (as mentioned above) was  
412 performed overnight at 4C. Samples were extensively washed, and trypsin digested overnight.  
413 Samples were then cleaned up using a C<sub>18</sub> column and mass spectral data obtained from the  
414 University of Massachusetts Mass Spectrometry Center using an Orbitrap Fusion mass  
415 spectrometer. Raw data was filtered based on the number of peptides for each hit and Gene  
416 Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis was performed on the human interacting proteins for each  
417 coronavirus using DAVID bioinformatic database. Top enriched and shared clusters are identified  
418 on the network using the Cytoscape software

419

420 **Statistical analysis.** All results are expressed as means  $\pm$  standard errors of the means (SEMs)  
421 of experiments independently repeated at least three times (individual replicate points are shown  
422 on bar graphs). Unpaired Student's *t* test was used to evaluate the statistical difference between  
423 samples. Significance was evaluated with *P* values as indicated in figure legends.

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