Salmonella actively modulates TFEB in murine macrophages in a growth-phase and time-

dependent manner

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Summary

The transcription factor TFEB drives expression of lysosomal, autophagic, and immune-

responsive genes in response to LPS and phagocytosis. Interestingly, compounds that promote

TFEB activity enhance bactericidal activity while intracellular pathogens like *Mycobacterium* and

Salmonella repress TFEB. However, *Salmonella enterica* sv. Typhimurium (*S.* Typhimurium) was

reported to actively stimulate TFEB, implying a benefit to *Salmonella*. To better understand the

relationship between *S.* Typhimurium and TFEB, we assessed if *S.* Typhimurium regulated TFEB

in macrophages in a manner dependent on infection conditions. We observed that macrophages

that engulfed late-logarithmic grown *Salmonella* accumulated nuclear TFEB, comparable to

macrophages that engulfed *E. coli*. In contrast, stationary-phase *S.* Typhimurium infection of

macrophages actively delayed TFEB nuclear mobilization. The delay in TFEB nuclear

mobilization was not observed in macrophages that engulfed heat-killed stationary-phase

Salmonella, or *Salmonella* lacking functional SPI-1 and SPI-2 type three secretion systems. *S.*

Typhimurium mutated in the master virulence regulator *phoP* or the secreted effector genes *sifA*,

and *sopD* also showed TFEB nuclear translocation. Interestingly, while *E. coli* survived better in

tfeb[-/-] macrophages, *S.* Typhimurium growth was similar in wild-type and *tfeb*[-/-] macrophages.

Moreover, *Salmonella* survival was not readily affected by its growth phase in wild-type or

knockout macrophages, though in HeLa cells late-log *Salmonella* benefitted from the loss of

TFEB. Priming macrophages with phagocytosis enhanced the killing of *Salmonella* in wild-type,

but not in *tfeb*[-/-] macrophages. Collectively, *S.* Typhimurium orchestrate TFEB in a manner

dependent on infection conditions, while disturbing this context-dependent control of TFEB may

be detrimental to *Salmonella* survival.

Importance

Activation of the host transcription factor TFEB helps mammalian cells adapt to stresses such as starvation and infection by upregulating lysosome, autophagy, and immuno-protective gene expression. Thus, TFEB is generally thought to protect host cells. However, it may also be that pathogenic bacteria like *Salmonella* orchestrate TFEB in a spatio-temporal manner to harness its functions to grow intracellularly. Indeed, the relationship between *Salmonella* and TFEB is controversial since some studies showed that *Salmonella* actively promotes TFEB, while others have observed that *Salmonella* degrades TFEB and that compounds that promote TFEB restrict bacterial growth. Our work provides a path to resolve these apparent discordant observations since we showed that stationary-grown *Salmonella* actively delays TFEB after infection, while late-log *Salmonella* is permissive of TFEB activation. Nevertheless, the exact function of this manipulation remains unclear, but conditions that erase the conditional control of TFEB by *Salmonella* may be detrimental to the microbe.

Introduction

Macrophages are innate immune cells that hunt and engulf microbes through phagocytosis. As a corollary, following phagocytosis, microbes are quarantined within phagosomes, which are then transformed into hostile phagolysosomes. During this maturation process, phagosomes acquire a microbicidal milieu enriched in hydrolytic enzymes, antimicrobial peptides, and an acidic and oxidative lumen (Flannagan *et al.*, 2012; Levin *et al.*, 2016; Nguyen and Yates, 2021; Fountain *et al.*, 2021).

Phagosome maturation is critically dependent on the endolysosomal membrane system.

Phagosomes fuse sequentially with endosomes and ultimately with lysosomes in a process that

depends on various Rab GTPases, lipid mediators like phosphatidylinositol-3-phosphate, and

motor and SNARE proteins (Bouvier *et al.*, 1994; Fratti *et al.*, 2001:7; Harrison *et al.*, 2003; Vieira

et al., 2003; Pei *et al.*, 2014; Kim *et al.*, 2014; Levin *et al.*, 2016; Nguyen and Yates, 2021;

Fountain *et al.*, 2021; Fountain *et al.*, 2021). Interestingly, while phagosome-lysosome fusion has

been known for decades (Brandes and Anton, 1969; Kielian and Cohn, 1980), it was generally

assumed that lysosomes and their properties remained unchanged during phagocytosis, phagosome

maturation, and interaction with microbes – though at least one study in 1970s suggested that

phagocytosis in macrophages induced lysosomal enzyme levels (Axline and Cohn, 1970).

However, we now understand that lysosomes are remodelled in response to various stresses,

including interaction with microbes, microbe-associated molecular patterns (MAMPs), and

phagocytosis (Swanson *et al.*, 1987; Vyas *et al.*, 2007; Mrakovic *et al.*, 2012; Pastore *et al.*, 2016;

Gray *et al.*, 2016; Brady *et al.*, 2018; Hipolito *et al.*, 2018; Sachdeva *et al.*, 2020; Najibi *et al.*,

2022). In part, this is achieved by activation of the transcription factor TFEB, which drives

expression of endolysosomal, autophagy, and immunomodulatory genes (Settembre *et al.*, 2011;

Visvikis *et al.*, 2014; Pastore *et al.*, 2016; Gray *et al.*, 2016; Brady *et al.*, 2018; Hipolito *et al.*,

2018).

TFEB is activated by numerous signals including amino acid deprivation, metabolic stress,

mitochondrial stress, lipid metabolism and several immune stimuli such as phagocytosis of IgG-

coated particles, several types of bacteria, and pattern recognition receptors that bind MAMPs

(Settembre *et al.*, 2011; Settembre *et al.*, 2012; Roczniak-Ferguson *et al.*, 2012; Tsunemi *et al.*,

2012; Settembre *et al.*, 2013a; Settembre *et al.*, 2013b; Visvikis *et al.*, 2014; Nezich *et al.*, 2015;

Najibi *et al.*, 2016; Pastore *et al.*, 2016; Gray *et al.*, 2016; Inpanathan and Botelho, 2019; Hipolito

et al., 2019). TFEB activation increases intracellular killing of microbes like *Escherichia coli*,

Mycobacterium tuberculosis, *S.* Typhimurium*, Staphylococcus aureus* and *C. albicans*. (Gray *et*

al., 2016; Rao *et al.*, 2020; Ammanathan *et al.*, 2020; Westman *et al.*, 2020). Overall, TFEB

activation is thought to favour immune function and repress microbe survival (Brady *et al.*, 2018;

Hipolito *et al.*, 2018; Irazoqui, 2020). However, there is evidence for some microbes actively

manipulating TFEB function.

Macrophages that engulfed living *S.* Typhimurium displayed nuclear TFEB translocation

relative to macrophages that internalized non-viable *S.* Typhimurium in a process dependent on

PLC-PKD pathway (Najibi *et al.*, 2016). A more recent study by the same authors indicate that

dead *Salmonella* can also activate TFEB, but more slowly (Najibi *et al.*, 2022). Nevertheless, the

intentional stimulation of TFEB by invading microbes is peculiar since TFEB stimulation is

typically thought to benefit the host. Indeed, additional studies suggest that ectopic activation of

TFEB with compounds like VX-765, acacetin and 4-octyl itaconate can limit *Salmonella* survival

(Rao *et al.*, 2020; Ammanathan *et al.*, 2020; Zhang *et al.*, 2022). Collectively, these observations

suggest a complex interplay between TFEB and *S.* Typhimurium that requires further

investigation.

S. Typhimurium is a microbe that hijacks mammalian cells through a complex virulence

program involving two type III secretion systems (T3SS), SPI-1 and SPI-2, that collectively inject

~50 bacterial effector proteins into infected host cells that manipulate the behaviour of both

epithelial and immune cells (Portaliou *et al.*, 2016; Jennings *et al.*, 2017; Lou *et al.*, 2019). The

SPI-I T3SS is usually associated with invasion of epithelial cells, a bacteria-driven process that

remodels the epithelial cell plasma membrane to ruffle and internalize the bacteria (Lundberg *et*

al., 1999; Terebiznik *et al.*, 2002; Raffatellu *et al.*, 2005; Patel and Galán, 2005; Bruno *et al.*, 2009;

Lou *et al.*, 2019). *S.* Typhimurium can also infect macrophages during macrophage-driven

phagocytosis (Cirillo *et al.*, 1998; Drecktrah *et al.*, 2006). Here, *S.* Typhimurium does not have to

be in an invasive state *per se*, but the SPI-2 T3SS is essential to usurp, remodel and even escape

the *Salmonella*-containing vacuole to promote its replication within the host macrophage (Cirillo

et al., 1998; Shea *et al.*, 1999; Drecktrah *et al.*, 2006; Jennings *et al.*, 2017). Importantly, the

behaviour of *Salmonella* within a host cell may depend on both bacterial and host cell conditions

including entry mode, growth and metabolic state, and time post-infection (Deiwick *et al.*, 1999;

Lundberg *et al.*, 1999; Drecktrah *et al.*, 2006; Ibarra *et al.*, 2010; Lathrop *et al.*, 2015; Kurtz *et al.*,

2020). In fact, the growth state and nutritional conditions of *Salmonella* appear to modulate the

entry mode, where late-log/early stationary phase grown *Salmonella* favour SPI-1 expression,

while late stationary growth primes SPI-2 expression (Song *et al.*, 2004; Bustamante *et al.*, 2008;

Ibarra *et al.*, 2010).

Given this, we postulated that *Salmonella* and TFEB activation may depend on the invasive

state of *Salmonella* and/or bacterial growth conditions. Here, we provide evidence that *Salmonella*

grown to stationary-phase actively and transiently represses TFEB in macrophages. In comparison,

Salmonella grown to late log-phase promotes early translocation of TFEB to the nucleus.

Moreover, while TFEB is needed to suppress *E. coli* survival in macrophages, its deletion had no

apparent effect on *Salmonella* growth in macrophages. Yet, pre-activation of TFEB by

phagocytosis increased killing of both bacterial species. Overall, we reveal a complex interplay

between TFEB and *Salmonella* infection conditions.

Results

Salmonella grown to stationary phase delays activation of TFEB after uptake by macrophages

Phagocytosis of IgG-coated particles, unopsonized *E. coli*, *M. smegmatitis, and S. aureus*, and

invasive *Salmonella* all activate TFEB in macrophages (Visvikis *et al.*, 2014; Najibi *et al.*, 2016;

Pastore *et al.*, 2016; Gray *et al.*, 2016; Najibi *et al.*, 2022). In most cases, TFEB activation is

thought to boost the immunological response by stimulating lysosomal, autophagy and immune-

protective genes (Visvikis *et al.*, 2014; Pastore *et al.*, 2016; Gray *et al.*, 2016; Brady *et al.*, 2018).

However, in the case of invasive *Salmonella*, activation of TFEB has been reported to be driven

by *Salmonella*, which implies a benefit to the microbe during invasion of macrophages (Najibi *et*

al., 2016). In apparent conflict with these observations, there are also observations showing that

Salmonella represses TFEB and that TFEB stimulation increases *Salmonella* killing (Rao *et al.*,

2020; Ammanathan *et al.*, 2020). Given these discrepancies, we sought to better understand the

relationship between *Salmonella* infection and TFEB activation.

We began by comparing the ability of *Salmonella* grown to stationary phase to elicit TFEB

activation in macrophages by measuring the relative nuclear to cytosolic (N/C) ratio of TFEB.

Stationary-phase *Salmonella* cultures are reported to be enriched in non-invasive *Salmonella*, and

like *E. coli*, engulfment is thought to be driven by macrophage phagocytosis rather than by

invasion (Drecktrah *et al.*, 2006; Gog *et al.*, 2012). As expected, we found that phagocytosis of

non-pathogenic *E. coli* DH5α increased the N/C ratio of GFP-TFEB in RAW macrophages within

1 h of phagocytosis relative to resting macrophages (Fig. 1A, B). By contrast, the N/C ratio of

GFP-TFEB in macrophages that engulfed stationary-phase *Salmonella* was similar to resting cells

and significantly lower than macrophages that engulfed *E. coli* (Fig. 1A, B). Moreover,

phagocytosis of heat-killed *Salmonella* previously grown to stationary-phase elicited nuclear

mobilization of GFP-TFEB that was comparable to macrophages that engulfed *E. coli* (Fig. 1A,

B). Collectively, these observations suggest that stationary-phase *S.* Typhimurium actively

represses TFEB nuclear translocation in macrophages at 1 h post-infection. However, we also

observed an increase over time in the N/C ratio of GFP-TFEB in macrophages that engulfed

stationary-phase *Salmonella*; at 4 and 6 h post-engulfment, the N/C ratio of GFP-TFEB in these

cells was higher than resting cells or those at 1 h post-infection, and comparable to macrophages

infected with *E. coli* (Fig. 1C, D). Thus, stationary-phase *Salmonella* delays TFEB mobilization

to the nucleus, rather than fully arresting it.

Salmonella growth conditions affect TFEB response in macrophages

The growth phase of *Salmonella* is thought to affect the expression of invasion effectors and

modulate the mode of infection (Lundberg *et al.*, 1999; Drecktrah *et al.*, 2006; Ibarra *et al.*, 2010).

Typically, *Salmonella* is grown to late log-phase before experimentation. We thus tested whether

the growth phase of *Salmonella* affected the N/C ratio of TFEB in RAW cells. First, we observed

that stationary- and log-phase *E. coli* similarly induced nuclear translocation of TFEB (Fig. 2A,

B). Moreover, TFEB remained enriched in its nuclear distribution in macrophages 1 h or 4 h post-

uptake of *E. coli* grown to either culture phase (Fig. 2A, C, D). *Salmonella* infected cells displayed

a contrasting behaviour in terms of TFEB nuclear entry. While stationary-phase *Salmonella* failed

to activate TFEB at 1 h post-infection, as illustrated before, macrophages infected with late-

logarithmic *Salmonella* significantly mobilized TFEB into the nucleus within 1 h of uptake (Fig.

2A, B), consistent with observations by Najibi *et al* (Najibi *et al.*, 2016). We observed similar

results when staining for endogenously expressed TFEB; stationary-phase live *Salmonella* was the

only condition that failed to enrich TFEB in the nucleus after 1 h of uptake, while live and dead *E.*

coli, live late log-phase *Salmonella*, and non-viable stationary-phase and late log-phase *Salmonella*

all triggered accumulation of TFEB in the nucleus relative to resting cells (Fig. 3A-B).

We next tested if TFEB nuclear mobilization was subject to temporal modulation by

Salmonella grown to either log- or stationary-phases by analysing the N/C ratio of TFEB at 1 or 4

h post-infection. As previously observed, macrophages infected with stationary-phase *Salmonella*

displayed mostly cytosolic TFEB at 1 h post-infection and higher nuclear levels of TFEB at 4 h

post-infection (Fig. 2A, C). In comparison, the N/C ratio of TFEB was similar between

macrophages that engulfed log-phase *Salmonella* after 1 h or 4 h of infection, and both were

statistically comparable to the counterpart macrophages that engulfed *E. coli* (Fig. 2A, 2D).

Collectively, *Salmonella* modulates TFEB nuclear localization in macrophages in a manner

dependent on its growth conditions and stage of infection. Specifically, *Salmonella* grown to

stationary phase actively delays TFEB mobilization relative to *E. coli* or *Salmonella* grown to log-

phase.

Salmonella growth conditions affect TFEB nuclear translocation in HeLa cells

Given our observations in RAW macrophages above, we next assessed if *Salmonella* grown to

either stationary or late-log also caused differential nuclear translocation of endogenous TFEB in

a non-macrophage cell model, for which we used HeLa cells. First, endogenous TFEB remained

cytosolic in HeLa cells infected with *Salmonella* grown to either growth phase after 1 h (Fig. 4A,

B). Yet, after 4 h post-infection we then observed an enrichment in nuclear TFEB relative to the

cytosolic pool in HeLa cells infected with late-log *Salmonella*, but not in HeLa cells infected with

stationary-grown *Salmonella* (Fig. 4A, B). The absence of nuclear TFEB in HeLa cells infected

with stationary-grown Salmonella may reflect the less invasive nature of these bacteria, which

could affect uptake by non-phagocytes. However, TFEB remained predominantly cytosolic even

in HeLa cells with larger number of engulfed *Salmonella*. Overall, we reveal that TFEB nuclear

translocation in non-macrophage cells is also dependent on *Salmonella* growth conditions, and

hence, context dependent.

The effect of Salmonella on TFEB phosphorylation

The cytosolic and nuclear distribution of TFEB can be regulated by the phosphorylation status at

various residues of TFEB (Settembre *et al.*, 2012; Roczniak-Ferguson *et al.*, 2012:1; Martina *et*

al., 2012:1; Medina *et al.*, 2015; Puertollano *et al.*, 2018). To better understand how *Salmonella*

might affect TFEB distribution in macrophages, we used Phos-tag gels to determine the general

phosphorylation of TFEB using whole cell lysates (Nagy *et al.*, 2018) and quantified the band

migration front of TFEB. To analyse total levels, we employed a standard SDS-PAGE gel and

Western blotting.

As expected, cell lysates from macrophages that engulfed *E. coli* for 1 h displayed a TFEB

band pattern that migrated faster relative to lysates from resting, *i.e.*, phagocytosis of *E. coli* caused

a significant net dephosphorylation of TFEB (Fig. 5A, B). Interestingly, this was more variable in

macrophages 4 h post-phagocytosis of *E. coli*. In comparison, infection with *Salmonella* for either

1 or 4 h appeared to have an intermediate and heterogeneous effect on TFEB phosphorylation (Fig.

5A, B). This result was not expected and may reflect a change in phosphorylation sites without a

net change in number of phosphorylated residues of TFEB and/or heterogeneous infection rates

that is not resolvable by a population-based assay such as Western blotting (Puertollano *et al.*,

2018), or may suggest that TFEB is regulated through another mechanism such as the recently

discovered itaconate modification of TFEB (Zhang *et al.*, 2022; Schuster *et al.*, 2022).

Interestingly, the levels of total TFEB normalized to actin were reduced in macrophages infected

for 4 h with late-log-phase *Salmonella*, indicating that under specific conditions, *Salmonella* can

repress TFEB expression or promote its turnover (Fig. 5A, C, D), consistent with *Salmonella*

infection of murine bone marrow-derived primary macrophages (Rao *et al.*, 2020). Overall, TFEB

control by *Salmonella* is subject to a temporal sequence of events that include control of its levels

and likely a complex pattern of post-translational modifications.

T3SS-1 and T3SS-2 secretion systems are needed for stationary phase-grown* Salmonella *to

delay TFEB nuclear mobilization

Our data show that stationary-phase *Salmonella* actively delays TFEB mobilization into the

nucleus after macrophage engulfment. To test whether SPI-1 and SPI-2 T3SS were involved in

this delay, we permitted macrophages to engulf stationary-phase and log-phase *Salmonella*

carrying loss-of-function mutations in *invA* and *ssaR genes,* which are respectively required to

express subunits and/or form the SPI-1 and SPI-2 complexes (Collazo and Galán, 1997; Cirillo *et*

al., 1998; Hensel *et al.*, 1998; Lundberg *et al.*, 1999). As before, wild-type *Salmonella* grown to

stationary phase did not elicit nuclear accumulation of TFEB, unlike *Salmonella* grown to log-

phase (Fig. 6A, B). However, macrophages that engulfed *invA ssaR Salmonella* grown to either

growth conditions displayed higher levels of nuclear TFEB relative to stationary-phase wild-type

Salmonella (Fig. 6A, B). We note that single *invA* and *ssaR* mutants had intermediate effect on

TFEB localization, suggesting some redundancy towards TFEB manipulation (not shown). Thus,

Salmonella SPI-1/SPI-2 double mutants fail to repress TFEB activation during phagocytosis and

we predict that TFEB activation is now a host-driven process. In conclusion, our data suggest that

live *Salmonella* grown to stationary phase actively represses TFEB in a time-dependent and

effector-dependent manner.

TFEB repression depends on PhoP, SifA and SopD2

Stationary-phase *Salmonella* appear to actively delay TFEB nuclear migration during macrophage

infection. To further determine if stationary-phase *Salmonella* actively repress TFEB, we

examined TFEB nuclear mobilization in macrophages after engulfment of seven *Salmonella*

mutants; these mutants were either disrupted in the master virulence regulator, PhoP (Δ*phoP*) or

eliminated effectors of the *Salmonella* SPI-2 system known to alter intracellular signalling and

membrane trafficking (Δ*sopD2,* Δ*sopA,* Δ*sifA,* Δ*pipB2,* Δ*sspH2,* Δ*slrP,* or Δ*sigD*)*;* (Brumell *et al.*,

2003:2; Geddes *et al.*, 2005; Figueira *et al.*, 2013; Jennings *et al.*, 2017:2) These *Salmonella*

mutants were grown to stationary phase since this is the bacterial growth condition that actively

suppressed TFEB nuclear entry. Of these seven mutants, we identified three whose phagocytosis

triggered significant activation of GFP-tagged and endogenous TFEB relative to wild-type

Salmonella: *sopD2*, *sifA* and *phoP* (Fig. 7). These data further support a functional role for

Salmonella in impeding early TFEB activation after phagocytosis by macrophages. We speculate

that the PhoPQ two-component system is necessary to sense the intra-phagosomal environment of

engulfed *Salmonella* eliciting expression of effectors that delay TFEB activation such as effectors

of the SPI-II system (Deiwick *et al.*, 1999; Bijlsma and Groisman, 2005; Martin-Orozco *et al.*,

2006; Prost and Miller, 2008). In turn, SopD2 and SifA are known to alter intracellular signalling

and trafficking, which may prevent activation of TFEB (Brumell *et al.*, 2003:2; Dumont *et al.*,

2010; McEwan *et al.*, 2015; D'Costa *et al.*, 2015:2). These observations support a model whereby

stationary-grown *Salmonella* actively repress TFEB, at least in the early stages of infection.

Impact of Salmonella growth phase on gene expression in macrophages

To understand if the delay in TFEB nuclear entry by stationary-grown *Salmonella* reprogrammed

lysosome and autophagy gene expression relative to infection with late-log *Salmonella*, we

quantified by qRT-PCR the expression of the model genes, LC3, LAMP1, and cathepsin D. We

used wild-type, *tfeb*[-/-], and *tfeb*[-/-] *tfe3*[-/-] RAW cells, previously described (Pastore *et al.*, 2016).

First, deletion of TFEB and/or TFE3 did not significantly decrease basal expression of these genes

(Fig. 8A). Second, the mRNA levels of LAMP1, cathepsin D, and LC3 all behaved distinctly

depending on infection, time, and genotype. For example, neither genotype, infection mode, nor

post-infection time significantly altered the levels of LAMP1 mRNA (Fig. 8B, C). In comparison,

cathepsin D mRNA levels increased in wild-type RAW cells 20 h post-infection with either

stationary or late-log *Salmonella* (Fig. 8D). However, it was unclear if this depended on

TFEB/TFE3; while the increase in cathepsin D mRNA is eliminated in *tfeb*[-/-] macrophages after

infection, the baseline appears higher in all conditions relative to wild-type macrophages (even if

not statistically significant in Fig. 8A). Additionally, while stationary-grown *Salmonella* did not

elicit a statistically significant increase in cathepsin D mRNA in *tfeb*[-/-] *tfe3*[-/-], unlike in wild-type

macrophages, there was still an increase in cathepsin D mRNA in macrophages infected with late-

log *Salmonella* (Fig. 8D). Moreover, we could not detect statistical differences when comparing

the genotypes at 20 h post-infection (Fig. 8E). Lastly, LC3 mRNA levels did not change in wild-

type macrophages infected with either growth phases of *Salmonella* (Fig. 8F). Yet, and

surprisingly, *tfeb*[-/-] and *tfeb*[-/-] *tfe3*[-/-] macrophages displayed augmented LC3 mRNA expression

levels infected with late-log *Salmonella* (Fig. 8F, G). Overall, stationary vs. late-log *Salmonella*

may elicit distinct gene expression patterns in infected macrophages and some of these may depend

on TFEB/TFE3, but dissecting this may require more sophisticated approaches such as RNA-seq

even single-cell transcriptomics given the variability the in number of bacteria per macrophage.

Stationary and late-log Salmonella differentially impact autophagy in macrophages

We also queried the state of autophagy and xenophagy, both of which can be affected by

Salmonella and TFEB. To this end, we transfected wild-type, *tfeb*$^{-/-}$, and *tfeb*$^{-/-}$ *tfe3*$^{-/-}$ RAW cells

with the mCherry-GFP-LC3 reporter. This chimeric protein reports on both the number of

autophagosomes (mCherry puncta) and autophagosome maturation, which can be determined by

the quenching of GFP fluorescence in the low pH of autolysosomes (N'Diaye *et al.*, 2009; Maejima

et al., 2013).

First, we observed minor differences in the number of autophagosomes (LC3-mCherry)

between wild-type, *tfeb*$^{-/-}$, and *tfeb*$^{-/-}$ *tfe3*$^{-/-}$ RAW cells (Fig. 9A-D). Interestingly, wild-type RAW

cells infected with late-log *Salmonella* generally had significantly fewer autophagosomes than

macrophages infected with stationary-grown *Salmonella* (Fig. 9E). However, this difference

between infection with stationary or late-log *Salmonella* remained when the host cells were

mutated for TFEB and/or TFE3 (Fig. 9F, G). Moreover, we did not observe a significant difference

in autophagosome maturation or xenophagy that depended on genotype of macrophages, bacterial

growth phase, and time of infection (Fig. 10). Overall, again, while there may be differences on

autophagy triggered by bacterial growth phase, our data does not indicate that these depend on

TFEB manipulation, though it is possible than extending time of infection may lead to differences

based on trends observed.

TFEB expression impacts E. coli and Salmonella survival differently in macrophages

Our observations indicate that TFEB distribution in macrophages during *Salmonella* uptake is

dependent on *Salmonella* growth conditions, wherein stationary *Salmonella* transiently, but

actively represses TFEB, while invasive *Salmonella* permits or elicits nuclear translocation of

TFEB. In comparison, phagocytosis of non-pathogenic *E. coli* always triggers nuclear entry of

TFEB in macrophages irrespective of the growth conditions of *E. coli* and over the observed

period. This raises the question of whether TFEB helps repress *Salmonella* or enables *Salmonella*

growth in macrophages.

To better understand this potential conundrum, we investigated the survival of stationary-

grown *E. coli* and *Salmonella* within wild-type and *tfeb*⁻ᐟ⁻ RAW macrophages (Pastore *et al.*, 2016).

To do this, we allowed macrophages to phagocytose bacteria for 1 h, followed by gentamicin

treatment to kill external bacteria. Macrophages were then lysed or chased for an additional 4 h to

respectively assess bacterial uptake and survival within macrophages. Lysates were plated and the

number of colonies formed were scored and normalized against the initial uptake. For *E. coli,* we

observed a significant increase in bacterial survival in *tfeb*⁻ᐟ⁻ RAW macrophages compared to wild-

type RAW cells (Fig. 11A), consistent with previous results (Gray *et al.*, 2016). By contrast, we

did not observe a difference in *Salmonella* survival infecting wild-type or *tfeb*⁻ᐟ⁻ RAW

macrophages (Fig. 11B). We then tested if the growth-phase of Salmonella affected survival in

wild-type and in *tfeb*⁻ᐟ⁻ *tfe3*⁻ᐟ⁻ RAW cells (Pastore *et al.*, 2016). As before, we did not observe any

significant differences in Salmonella survival at 4 h post-infection that dependent on TFEB/TFE3

and growth-phase of the bacteria (Fig. 11C). At 20 h post-infection, we also did not observe a

statistically significant difference between these conditions, but we note the low p values, which

might indicate a trend (Fig. 11C). Overall, our observations suggests that TFEB aids macrophages

in killing *E. coli,* but there is an equivocal effect on *Salmonella* survival, which may reflect a dual

role of TFEB towards *Salmonella* that depends on its tight regulation by both host and microbe.

To complement our work in macrophages, we also investigated the importance of TFEB

and related factors in intracellular survival of stationary and late-log grown *Salmonella* in HeLa

cells. We used wild-type HeLa and HeLa cells triple-deleted for *tfeb$^{-/-}$ tfe3$^{-/-}$ mitf$^{/-}$ (HeLa-TKO;*

(Nezich *et al.*, 2015)*)* and measured *Salmonella* survival at 4 and 20 h post-infection. During the

first 4 h post-infection, we did not observe a difference in *Salmonella* survival by either bacterial

growth condition or host genotype (Fig. 11D). In contrast, we observed a significant difference in

survival at 20 h post-infection; whereas stationary-grown *Salmonella* exhibited similar survival in

wild-type and HeLa-TKO cells, late-log *Salmonella* coped better within HeLa-TKO cells relative

to wild-type HeLa host cells (Fig. 11D). This indicates that TFEB-family proteins help neutralize

Salmonella in non-macrophage cells.

Pre-activation of TFEB by previous IgG-phagocytosis boosts Salmonella killing in

macrophages

Our work suggests that *Salmonella* may orchestrate a temporal sequence of TFEB repression and

activation that suits the stage of infection within macrophages. We hypothesized that disrupting

this timed sequence may be detrimental to *Salmonella*. To test this, we employed an initial round

of phagocytosis of IgG-coated beads, which we previously showed activates TFEB and enhances

degradation of lysosomes and killing of *E. coli* (Gray *et al.*, 2016). Specifically, Fcγ receptor-

mediated phagocytosis activates TFEB by releasing Ca^{2+} from lysosomes during phagosome

maturation, enhancing lysosomal gene expression (Gray *et al.*, 2016). Thus, we pre-treated wild-

type and *tfeb$^{-/-}$* RAW macrophages with vehicle or IgG-coated beads, followed by phagocytosis of

stationary phase *E. coli* or *Salmonella*, and then chased for 1 h to determine uptake or for 4 h to

determine killing. The number of colonies formed was normalized to 1 h condition. As before, we

observed increased *E. coli* survival in *tfeb*$^{-/-}$ macrophages relative to wild-type macrophages

without priming (Fig. 12A; percent survival: 84% ± 5%, and 130% ± 11% in wild-type and in *tfeb*$^{-}$

$^{/-}$ macrophages, respectively). In comparison, *Salmonella* survived about the same in both

genotypes (Fig. 12B; 160 ± 15% vs. 187% ± 19% in wild-type and in *tfeb*$^{-/-}$ macrophages,

respectively). When wild-type macrophages were primed with IgG-coated beads, we observed

reduced survival of 57% ± 9% for *E. coli*, compared to 84% in unprimed wild-type macrophages

(Fig. 12A). This drop in survival was eliminated in *tfeb*$^{-/-}$ macrophages (Fig. 12A; 130%±11% vs.

137±`13%, unprimed vs. primed). Interestingly, priming wild-type macrophages abated

Salmonella survival (Fig. 12B; 94%±11% vs. 160±15%, primed vs. unprimed), which was lost in

tfeb$^{-/-}$ macrophages (Fig. 12B; 187% ± 19% vs. 196% ± 26%, unprimed vs. primed).

To complement these observations, we extended pre-activation of TFEB using apilimod,

an inhibitor of PIKfyve that stimulates TFEB (Choy *et al.*, 2018). However, apilimod treatment

had little effect in *Salmonella* survival in both wild-type and *tfeb*$^{-/-}$ macrophages under our

experimental conditions, which may reflect a more complex relationship between TFEB activation

and PIKfyve-mediated membrane trafficking (Fig. 12C). Collectively, our observations with IgG-

primed phagocytosis suggests that pre- or forced activation of TFEB can restrict *Salmonella*

survival in macrophages.

Discussion

Recent work has highlighted the role of TFEB as a conserved immunoprotective transcription

factor that promotes lysosomal and autophagic activities, antimicrobial peptide production, and

modulation of cytokine secretion in response to various immune stimuli (Visvikis *et al.*, 2014;

Pastore *et al.*, 2016; Gray *et al.*, 2016; Brady *et al.*, 2018; Najibi *et al.*, 2022). Previous research

showed that *Salmonella* can actively stimulate TFEB in RAW macrophages (Najibi *et al.*, 2016;

Najibi *et al.*, 2022), suggesting that TFEB activation provides an advantage to this microbe.

However, this model appears inconsistent with observations that i) *Salmonella* represses TFEB to

escape macrophage clearance and ii) acacetin-induced activation of TFEB in HeLa cells enhances

killing of *Salmonella* by stimulating xenophagy (Rao *et al.*, 2020; Ammanathan *et al.*, 2020).

Collectively, this implies that the relationship between *Salmonella* and TFEB is multi-layered and

possibly dependent on infection conditions. Indeed, our observations support this view since the

effect on *Salmonella* on TFEB was affected by the bacterial growth conditions and time of

infection, whereby stationary, but not late-log bacteria, delayed TFEB activation. Furthermore,

inactivation of the SPI-1 and SPI-2 T3SS of *S.* Typhimurium abrogated the inhibition of TFEB-

nuclear translocation. The same effect was also seen when the master regulator, *phoP*, or the

secreted effectors *sopD2* or *sifA* were deleted. Moreover, while deleting TFEB in macrophages

protected *E. coli* from phagocytic killing, there was no effect on *Salmonella* survival. In

comparison, promoting TFEB before infection enhanced killing of both bacterial species.

Host cell-dependent upregulation of TFEB

TFEB is subject to a complex regulatory network involving phosphorylation and other post-

translational modifications (Bao *et al.*, 2016; Puertollano *et al.*, 2018; Zhang *et al.*, 2022). In the

context of phagocytosis, host cells engage a signalling axis that promotes reactive oxygen species,

which activates CD38 and synthesis of the second messenger NAADP (Najibi *et al.*, 2022). This

in turn seems to activate MCOLN1/TRPML1 to release intraphagosomal Ca^{2+} to stimulate

calcineurin, which then dephosphorylates and promotes TFEB nuclear entry (Gray *et al.*, 2016;

Najibi *et al.*, 2022). This process is clearly driven by the host cell in response to microbe

engulfment and phagocytosis (Gray *et al.*, 2016; Najibi *et al.*, 2022). Additionally, host

macrophages engage a TFEB-Irg1-itaconate signalling axis in response to *Salmonella,* whereby

TFEB promotes Irg1-driven itaconate production. Itaconate then alkylates and promotes TFEB

nuclear translocation, which helps restrict *Salmonella* survival (Zhang *et al.*, 2022; Schuster *et al.*,

2022). As described, the activation of TFEB is macrophage-driven. We propose that stationary

Salmonella actively delays macrophage-driven TFEB stimulation because living stationary

Salmonella repressed TFEB nuclear translocation, while non-viable stationary *Salmonella* or

mutants in *invA ssrA*, *phoP, sifA*, and *sopD2* did not. We do not know how stationary *Salmonella*

delays TFEB activation, but we propose here that virulence factors like SopD2 may prevent

NAADP-Ca^{2+} signalling or block itaconate action. In fact, *Salmonella*, as well as *Yersinia pestis*

can degrade itaconate to enhance their survival in macrophages since itaconate compromises the

glycoxylate cycle whereby bacteria can use host cell resources for energy production (Sasikaran

et al., 2014; Hersch and Navarre, 2020). Lastly, similar mechanisms may be at play during

infection of non-macrophages since stationary *Salmonella* did not elicit TFEB nuclear entry in

HeLa cells, while infection with late-log *Salmonella* did after 4 h.

Salmonella-dependent upregulation of TFEB

Viable *Salmonella* was observed to more readily promote TFEB compared to non-viable

Salmonella by engaging a conserved PC-PLC-PKD pathway (Najibi *et al.*, 2016; Najibi *et al.*,

2022). This contrasts with observations that *Salmonella* represses and reduces TFEB levels (Rao

et al., 2020). In our hands, while stationary *Salmonella* actively delays TFEB nuclear translocation,

we did observe that late logarithmic-phase *Salmonella* triggers TFEB early during infection, which

is consistent with Najibi *et al.* (Najibi *et al.*, 2016). However, contrary to their observations, dead

Salmonella still activated TFEB in RAW macrophages – we do not know the reason for this

discrepancy. It is also not unknown if any benefit exists for late-log *Salmonella* to promote or

permit TFEB engagement; for example, it may be that specific temporal activation of TFEB may

aid *Salmonella* in remodelling phagosomes or *Salmonella*-containing vacuoles. Perhaps aligning

with the idea that the stage of infection is critical for what TFEB might do, we observed that late-

log *Salmonella* reduced TFEB levels after 4 h of infection, consistent with reduced TFEB

expression and lysosomal activity observed by Rao *et al.* (Rao *et al.*, 2020).

Mechanistic control of TFEB by Salmonella

How might stationary-phase *Salmonella* delay TFEB activation? Control of the expression of the

SPI-1 and SPI-2 T3SS and their effectors depends on numerous regulatory inputs, including the

phase of *Salmonella* growth (Portaliou *et al.*, 2016; Jennings *et al.*, 2017; Lou *et al.*, 2019).

Specifically, late logarithmic phase growth promotes expression of SPI-1 and epithelial cell

invasion, while stationary phase-growth promotes SPI-2 expression (Song *et al.*, 2004; Bustamante

et al., 2008; Ibarra *et al.*, 2010). We note that single mutants SPI-1 (*invA*) and SPI-2 (*ssaR*) had

intermediate effects on TFEB nuclear entry relative to wild-type and *invA ssaR* strains (not shown)

– this may represent redundancy between T3SSs relative to TFEB modulation or adaptation of the

single mutant bacteria by upregulating other T3SSs. On the other hand, *invA ssaR* double mutants

grown to stationary phase failed to delay TFEB nuclear translocation, suggesting that *Salmonella*

effectors are required for this. Given that *phoP, sifA,* and *sopD2* mutants also failed to delay TFEB

nuclear translocation, this suggests that the PhoPQ two-component system and alteration of

membrane and intracellular signalling are involved in delaying TFEB nuclear entry. SopD2 is

proposed to be a GTPase activating protein for the Rab7 GTPase, while SifA interacts with motor

proteins to sculpt *Salmonella*-containing vacuoles into *Salmonella*-induced filaments (Brumell *et*

al., 2003:2; Dumont *et al.*, 2010; D'Costa *et al.*, 2015).

We do not know how these factors interfere with TFEB, but we propose several non-

mutually exclusive possibilities. First, BioID analysis of SopD2 and SifA identifies LAMTOR

subunits as potential interactors (D'Costa *et al.*, 2019), which may allow *Salmonella* to modulate

mTORC1, responsible for phosphorylation and repression of TFEB. While we did not see a

significant change in TFEB phosphorylation by Phos-tag gels in *Salmonella*-infected cells, this

could reflect a different phosphorylation pattern without a change in net phosphate number.

Second, stationary *Salmonella* may blunt reactive oxygen species (ROS), thus preventing

NAADP-Ca^{2+} activation of TFEB after phagocytosis in macrophages (Najibi *et al.*, 2022). In fact,

Salmonella appears to manipulate ROS in host cells (van der Heijden *et al.*, 2015; Kim *et al.*,

2022), though it is not clear if this depends on growth phase and time of infection. Third, as

indicated above, stationary *Salmonella* may blunt itaconate action, thus reducing TFEB activation

(Sasikaran *et al.*, 2014; Hersch and Navarre, 2020; Zhang *et al.*, 2022; Schuster *et al.*, 2022).

Functional outcomes of Salmonella growth phase and TFEB regulation

Here, we reveal that infecting with stationary or late-log grown *Salmonella* has distinct effects on

host cells. First, TFEB nuclear activation was delayed or repressed in macrophages and HeLa cells

infected with stationary grown *Salmonella*, but not with late-log *Salmonella*. Second, late-log

Salmonella increased the levels of LC3 mRNA in TFEB and TFEB/TFE3-deleted macrophages

relative to stationary-grown *Salmonella*. Third, and despite the second point above, late-log

Salmonella reduced the number of LC3-positive autophagosomes relative to stationary-grown

Salmonella in macrophages. However, changes in LC3 and cathepsin D mRNA and the number of

autophagosomes cannot readily be assigned to TFEB modulation by the growth phase of the

bacteria. Part of the challenge may be the heterogeneity among single *Salmonella* cells in a given

population, how many bacteria infect a macrophage, and the time of infection. Resolving the role

of TFEB delay by stationary-grown *Salmonella* may thus require single-cell RNA-seq analyses or

single-cell, time-resolved assays of gene expression. Nevertheless, there is clearly a difference in

host outcomes when infecting with stationary vs. late-log *Salmonella*.

This may have implications for in vivo infection as well since exponential phase

Salmonella are more readily cleared and killed by phagocytes in blood compared to stationary

phase *Salmonella* (Benjamin *et al.*, 1986). Stationary phase *Salmonella* also resulted in reduced

colonization in livers and spleen and prevented animal death by 12-18 hours compared to

exponential phase bacteria suggesting greater virulence of exponential phase *Salmonella* as well

as a greater ability to replicate *in vivo* (Benjamin *et al.*, 1986). Interestingly, another study showed

the transition of *Salmonella* from exponential to stationary phase can induce rapid and extensive

apoptosis of infected macrophages but not epithelial cells; a process dependent on the invA gene,

required for functional T3SS, and hilA gene, a regulator of SPI-1 gene expression (Lundberg *et*

al., 1999). While these differences among stationary and late-log *Salmonella* may reflect

alterations to the bacteria themselves, such as LPS remodelling (Benjamin *et al.*, 1986; Bravo *et*

al., 2008), modulation of host factors like TFEB may be important. Supporting this, we did observe

an improved survivability of late-log *Salmonella* in HeLa cells deleted for TFEB and related

factors relative to wild-type HeLa cells and to stationary *Salmonella*.

Ectopic activation of TFEB enhances bacterial killing in macrophages

TFEB plays a protective role against intracellular bacteria (Visvikis *et al.*, 2014; Gray *et al.*, 2016;

Irazoqui, 2020; Zhang *et al.*, 2022; Schuster *et al.*, 2022). In fact, we previously showed that pre-

activation of TFEB by stimulating Fcγ receptors with aggregated IgG, enhanced *E. coli* killing in

macrophages (Gray *et al.*, 2016). In this context, TFEB activation required phagosome-lysosome

fusion and the release of lysosomal Ca^{2+} via TRPML1 (Gray *et al.*, 2016). More recently, pre-

activation of TFEB by acacetin also promoted killing of *Salmonella* and *S. aureus* (Rao *et al.*,

2020; Ammanathan *et al.*, 2020). This suggests that strategies that obligately activate TFEB, thus

bypassing any spatiotemporal manipulation of TFEB by *Salmonella*, may be detrimental to this

microbe. Indeed, we observed that phagocytosis of IgG-coated beads, which stimulates TFEB,

enhanced killing of both *E. coli* and *Salmonella* in wild-type but not in *tfeb*[-/-] RAW macrophages.

Thus, while it may be that *Salmonella* benefits from TFEB activation under specific conditions,

treatments that erode control of *Salmonella* on TFEB appear detrimental to the microbe.

Overall, our work sheds additional light into the interactions between *Salmonella* and

TFEB in host macrophages. Depending on bacterial growth conditions and stage of infection, we

find that *Salmonella* can either delay TFEB activation, or permit, or even elicit TFEB activation.

This raises the possibility that TFEB presents a double-edged sword for *Salmonella* – depending

on infection stages, TFEB may be detrimental or beneficial to *Salmonella*. Importantly, forcibly

promoting TFEB can override the spatio-temporal control of TFEB imposed by *Salmonella*,

enhancing the killing capacity of macrophages. Thus, therapeutics that promote TFEB and related

proteins may be useful to enhance killing of intracellular pathogens

Materials and Methods

Cell Culture, Plasmids and Transfection

The RAW 264.7 macrophage-like male murine cell line and the HeLa female human cell line were grown in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% (v/v) heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Wisent, QC) at 37 °C and 5% CO_2 up to passage 20. Before plating, cells were washed with sterile phosphate-buffered saline (PBS, Wisent) and released by scraping in 5 mL of DMEM media. Cells were seeded into 6-well or 12-well plates at a confluency of 40% and used the following day. Using the same growth conditions, we also used RAW 264.7 cells that were deleted for *TFEB* gene (RAW *tfeb$^{-/-}$* cells) or double-deleted for *TFEB* and *TFE3* genes (RAW *tfeb$^{-/-}$ tfe3$^{-/-}$* cells) using CRISPR-Cas9. As control cells, we used RAW cells subject to non-targeting CRISPR-Cas9 process (wild-type RAW cells). These cell lines were obtained from Dr. Rosa Puertollano (National Institutes of Health, MD and were previously described (Pastore *et al.*, 2016). We also used HeLa cells deleted by CRISPR-Cas9 for TFEB, TFE3, and MITF (HeLa TKO), obtained as a kind gift from Dr. Richard Youle and previously characterized (Nezich *et al.*, 2015).

To express GFP-TFEB fusion protein, we used a plasmid provided by Dr. Shawn Ferguson (Yale University School of Medicine, CT) and previously described (Roczniak-Ferguson *et al.*, 2012). A plasmid #22418 encoding mCherry-GFP-LC3 was obtained from Addgene, originally provided by Jayantha Debnath and previously defined (N'Diaye *et al.*, 2009; Maejima *et al.*, 2013). RAW cells were seeded at a 20-30% confluency in a 12-well plate the day before, and then transfected with the plasmid encoding GFP-TFEB or mCherry-GFP-LC3 using FuGene HD transfection reagent (Promega, WI), following manufacturer's instructions. The transfection mix

was left on cells for 5 h followed by removal and addition of new media. Cells were used the

following day.

Bacterial Strains and Culture

In this study, we used *Escherichia coli* DH5α, wild-type *Salmonella enterica sv.* Typhimurium

(SL1344), and *S.* Typhimurium strain deleted for the *phoP* gene (Δ*phoP)* (Mulder *et al.*, 2012). *S.*

typhimurium mutants (Δ*sopD2*, Δ*sifA*, Δ*slrp*, Δ*sigD (*Δ*sopB*), Δ*sspH2*, Δ*sopA*, Δ*pipB2*) were

obtained from Dr. John H. Brumell at the Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, ON). All bacterial

strains were grown overnight in lysogeny broth (LB) at 37°C with shaking. To use stationary

cultures, bacteria were pelleted, washed once with PBS, and resuspended in DMEM at OD600

~0.8 and immediately used for infection. To prepare log-phase growth bacteria, an overnight

culture was sub-cultured in the morning at 1:10 in fresh LB and then grown at 37°C for 3.5 h until

reaching late-logarithmic phase ($OD_{600} \sim 0.8$), before pelleting, washing in PBS and resuspending

in DMEM at OD_{600} ~0.8.

Phagocytosis and Infection Assays

For phagocytosis/invasion assays, RAW macrophages plated at $1\text{-}2\text{x}10^6$ cells/well were exposed

to either stationary-phase or late log-phase bacteria at a 100:1 multiplicity of infection (MOI).

Phagocytosis was synchronized through centrifugation of the culture plates at 500 xg for 5 min at

room temperature. Macrophages were allowed to phagocytose for 1, 4, or 6 h, unless stated

otherwise. Depending on the application, cells were then subject to 50 µg/mL gentamicin to kill

extracellular bacteria for 30 min, followed by either lysis with Laemmli buffer for Western blot

analysis or fixation with 4 % (v/v) paraformaldehyde (PFA) in PBS for 20 min and processing for

imaging as described below. Similar approach was done for HeLa cell infections.

Bacterial Survival Assays

Prior to engulfment of unopsonized *E. coli* or *S.* Typhimurium, RAW macrophages remained

untreated or were pre-activated with IgG-opsonized beads for 1 h, followed by a 3 h chase. Treated

or untreated macrophages were then infected with stationary-phase bacteria (*E. coli* and *S.*

typhimurium) at a final OD $_{600}$ = 1.0. Uptake was synchronized through centrifugation at 400 *g* for

5 min. At 1 h post-infection, macrophages were washed 3x with PBS and replaced with DMEM

media containing 50 µg/ml gentamicin to kill extracellular bacteria for 30 min. After, cells were

washed 3x with PBS and either lysed immediately (uptake) with 200 µL 1% Triton X-100 for 5

min or the media was replaced with new DMEM supplemented with 10% FBS, containing low

concentration of gentamicin (12 µg/ml), and incubated for 3 h at 37°C to allow time for phagosome

maturation and bacteria killing. Prior to lysing, cells were washed multiple times with PBS and

replaced with DMEM media containing 50 µg/ml gentamicin to kill extracellular bacteria for 30

min. They were then washed 3x with PBS and lysed with 200 µL 1% triton X-100 for 5 min and

scraped to release bacteria. Cell lysates were re-suspended in 800 µL PBS and subjected to serial

dilutions in LB broth, followed by plating of 10 µL in LB plates, and incubated overnight at 37

ºC. Colony numbers were counted and recorded to determine CFU/mL relative to uptake.

For *Salmonella* survival in wild-type and mutant RAW and HeLa cells, the above was done

with some changes. Cells were plated in 12-well plates and used at a density of 1x10^6 cells/well

and infected with *S.* Typhimurium grown to stationary or late-logarithmic phase at an MOI of

100:1. Cells were lysed immediately after 1 h of phagocytosis followed by 30 min incubation in

DMEM with 50 µg/ml gentamicin to estimate bacterial uptake or lysed at 4 or 20 h post-infection

to estimate killing. Lysates were then resuspended in 500 µL of PBS, serially diluted and 10 µL

were plated on LB plates, and these were incubated overnight. Colony numbers were counted and

used to determine bacterial survival relative to uptake.

For pre-activation of TFEB by apilimod, macrophages were treated with vehicle or 20 nM

apilimod (Toronto Research Chemicals, Toronto, ON) for 1 h, followed by bacterial infection with

the drugs present. Cells were then lysed immediately to determine uptake of bacteria or chased for

4 h post-infection with the drug to determine survival.

Immunofluorescence and Fluorescence Microscopy

To visualize external bacteria in TFEB-GFP transfected cells, immunostaining was conducted by

briefly washing cells 3x with 0.5% Bovine Serum Albumin (BSA) and then incubating cells for

30 min with either rabbit anti-*E. coli* antibodies (BioRad, ON) or rabbit anti-*Salmonella* O

antiserum group B antibodies (Fisher Scientific, ON) at 1:500. Cells were then washed 3x with

0.5% BSA in PBS, followed by secondary donkey anti-rabbit antibodies conjugated to Dylight355

(Bethyl Laboratories, TX) for 30 min at 1:500 in 0.5% BSA in PBS. To visualize internal bacteria,

cells were permeabilized with 1% triton X-100 in PBS, followed by incubation with the same

primary antibodies above, but followed with donkey anti-rabbit antibodies conjugated to Dylight

550 (Bethyl Laboratories, TX). Cells were washed 3x with 0.5% BSA and mounted onto glass

slides with fluorescent mounting media (DAKO) for imaging.

To stain for endogenous TFEB, cells were fixed with 4 % PFA (v/v) at room temperature

for 20 min and 0.1 M glycine in PBS for 10 min, before being washed 3x with 0.5% BSA and

permeabilized with 0.1% triton for 10 min or using ice cold methanol for 5 min. Cells were blocked

for 30 min with 0.5% BSA in PBS, before incubating for 30 min with 1:250 dilution of rabbit

anti-TFEB antibodies (Bethyl Laboratories, TX) in 0.5% BSA. Cells were then washed 3x with

0.5% BSA, incubated with 1:500 dilution of Dylight 488-conjugated donkey anti-rabbit antibodies

(Bethyl Laboratories, TX) for 30 min. In some experiments, cells were also incubated for 5 min

with 0.4 µg/ml 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI), washed, and mounted onto glass slides

with fluorescent mounting media (DAKO) for imaging.

Fluorescently labelled samples were imaged with one of two microscopy systems. For

epifluorescence, we used a 60x oil immersion objective mounted on an Olympus IX83 Inverted

Microscope linked to a Hamamatsu ORCA-Flash 4.0 digital camera (Olympus, ON). Images were

either used as is or subjected to deconvolution using CellSens Dimension Module (Olympus, ON)

with the advanced maximum likelihood estimation algorithm (ADVMLE). Alternatively, confocal

imaging was done using a Quorum DisKovery spinning disc confocal microscope system equipped

on a Leica DMi8 microscope, with a 63x 1.4 NA oil-immersion objective, and linked to an iXON

897 EMCCD camera. The system was controlled by the Quorum Wave FX powered by

MetaMorph software (Quorum Technologies, Guelph, ON).

mCherry-GFP-LC3 autophagy assay

After 24 h of transfection with mCherry-GFP-LC3 plasmid, RAW cells were subjected to an

infection assay using both stationary and late-log grown *Salmonella* at an MOI of 100:1. Cells

were then followed for 2, 4 and 6 h. At each timepoint, cells were fixed with 4% (v/v) PFA and

processed for immunofluorescent staining of *Salmonella* as described above. Images were

acquired using a spinning disk confocal microscope as above. To count total autophagosomes,

mCherry positive structures were counted in transfected cells. To count bacteria capture, total

internal *Salmonella* in cells were scored and a ratio was formed between LC3 associated bacteria

and total bacteria. To assess autophagosome maturation the ratio of mCherry-only structures (no

GFP) over total autophagosomes (all mCherry) was done. All conditions shown in Figure 9 and

10 were acquired concurrently. To facilitate analyses and better manage comparisons, these data

were split between different graphs.

Image analysis

To quantify nuclear to cytosol TFEB intensity, images were acquired either through single plane

acquisition or by acquiring a Z-stack. Epifluorescence Z-stacks were deconvolved to reduce out of

focus light and improve contrast and resolution, while single slice images remained

untouched. For confocal imaging, background correction was employed. Images were analyzed

using ImageJ/FIJI (NIH, MD) or Volocity. For nuclear to cytosolic TFEB ratio, regions of interest

were drawn around the nucleus and the cytosol, and the intensities within these regions were then

measured. After background subtraction, the ratio of nuclear to cytosol fluorescence was

calculated.

Quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR)

RAW macrophages were infected with late-log or stationary phase *Salmonella* for 2, 5 and 20 h as

described above. RNA was then extracted using the GeneJet RNA Purification Kit (ThermoFisher

Scientific) and transcribed to cDNA using the iScript Reverse Transcription Supermix for RT-

qPCR (Bio-Rad). TaqMan gene expression assays were carried out using 50 ng cDNA, the

TaqMan Gene Expression Master Mix (Applied Biosystems) and probes against murine GAPDH,

LC3, Cathepsin-D, and Lamp1 (Table 1). Data was normalized to the uninfected, wild-type RAW

macrophages for each gene target.

Table 1: TaqMan Gene Expression Probes for each gene

Gene Name	Assay ID	Chromosome Location
Microtubule-associated protein 1 light chain 3 beta (LC3)	Mm00782868_sH	Chr.8: 121590468 - 121598047
Lysosomal-associated membrane protein 1 (Lamp1)	Mm01217070_m1	Chr.8: 13159134 - 13175338
Cathepsin D	Mm00515586_m1	Chr.7: 142375916 - 142387870
GAPDH	Mm99999915_g1	Chr.6: 125161338 - 125166511

Cell lysates, SDS-PAGE, and Western blotting analysis

After specific cell treatments, whole cell lysates were prepared using 2x Laemmli buffer

containing phosSTOP and protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche, Mississauga, ON). Lysates were

passed through a 27-gauge needle ten times, then heated at 65 °C for 15 min. For total TFEB levels,

lysates were resolved by SDS-PAGE using a 10% acrylamide resolving gel. Proteins were

transferred to a PVDF membrane, blocked with 5% BSA, incubated with primary rabbit anti-TFEB

antibodies (Bethyl Laboratories, Montgomery, Texas) or primary rabbit anti-β-actin antibodies

(Cell Signaling Technology, Danvers, MA) at a dilution of 1:1000, followed by HRP-conjugated

goat anti-rabbit secondary antibodies (Cell Signaling Technology) at 1:5000 dilution. Protein

levels were detected via Clarity® enhanced chemiluminescence reagent (Bio-Rad Laboratories,

Mississauga, ON) visualized by a ChemiDoc Touch Imaging system (Bio-Rad). Blot intensity

quantification was accomplished using ImageLab software (Bio-Rad) and its volumetrics and

background subtraction functions. Total TFEB protein levels were normalized to ®-actin.

Phos-tag-PAGE and Western blotting analysis

For analysis of protein phosphorylation, lysates were prepared as described above. Lysates were

then run on a 7.5% acrylamide resolving gel containing 50 µM SuperSep Phos-tag (Wako

Chemicals, Richmond, Virginia). Proteins were separated at 15 mA and the gel was then washed

as per manufacturer's instructions. Proteins were transferred onto a PVDF membrane and

visualized as described above. Phosphorylated proteins experience decreased mobility in Phos-tag

gels relative to less phosphorylated isoforms. To analyse changes in phosphorylation of TFEB, we

marked the migration front of TFEB in resting cells, then measured the volume of TFEB signal

upstream and downstream of this front for each condition using ImageLab (Bio-rad). We then

measured the ratio of the downstream volume (less phosphorylated) to the upstream volume (more

phosphorylated) to assess the degree of TFEB phosphorylation in each condition.

Statistical analyses

All experiments were repeated independently at least three times with the exact number shown in

the figure and/or legend. For bacterial survival, each condition had two or three technical

replicates. For microscopy analysis, the number of individual cells scored is indicated in

corresponding figure legend. The mean of independent experiments is indicated along with either

standard deviation or standard error of the mean, as appropriate. As indicated, sometimes data

were normalized to a control condition to account for experimental variation. Unless otherwise

stated, data were assumed to be normally distributed and/or have equal variability. Unless

otherwise stated, data were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey's or

Sidak's post-hoc test, unless otherwise stated. Data was matched by independent repeats and by

concurrent conditions. A p-value of <0.05 was considered significant.

Figure Legends

Figure 1:   **Stationary-grown** *Salmonella* **delays TFEB nuclear translocation after phagocytosis. A.** Epifluorescence micrographs of fixed RAW macrophages transiently expressing GFP-TFEB and that were given no bacteria (resting) or incubated for 1 h with living *E. coli*, or with living or heat-killed *Salmonella* grown to stationary phase. Samples were stained for external (before permeabilization) and all bacteria (after permeabilization) using anti-*E. coli* or anti-*Salmonella* antibodies. Arrows indicate internalized bacteria. Scale bar = 10 µm. **B.** The nuclear to cytosolic (N/C) fluorescence ratio of GFP-TFEB in macrophages was quantified for the indicated conditions after 1 h of uptake. Means ± SEM were tested using one-way ANOVA test and post-hoc Tukey's test, where *** indicates p<0.001. **C** and **D**. GFP-TFEB transfected RAW macrophages engulfed live stationary *E. coli* or *Salmonella* for 1, 4, or 6 h. The N/C fluorescence ratio of GFP-TFEB was then quantified. C and D are different representations of the same data. Data are shown as mean ± SEM from three independent (B) or four independent (C, D) experiments, scoring at least 50 cells for each condition per experiment. For C and D, mean ± SEM are shown and tested using two-way ANOVA test and post-hoc Tukey's test, where *, **, and *** indicate *p*-values of 0.05-0.01, *p*-values of 0.01-0.001, or p<0.001, respectively.

Figure 2: Stationary-grown *Salmonella* **but not log-phase** *Salmonella* **delays TFEB activation in macrophages. A.** Confocal micrographs of RAW cells expressing GFP-TFEB before, 1 h, or 4 h after engulfing living *E. coli* and *Salmonella* grown to stationary or late log-phase. After uptake, cells were fixed and stained with DAPI and with anti-bacteria antibodies to detect the nucleus and bacteria, respectively. **B**. The N/C fluorescence ratio of GFP-TFEB in macrophages 1 h after engulfment of stationary or late-log bacteria. **C.** The N/C fluorescence ratio of GFP-TFEB in

macrophages 1 h or 4 h after engulfment of stationary grown *E. coli* or *Salmonella.* **D.** The N/C

fluorescence ratio of GFP-TFEB in macrophages 1 h or 4 h after engulfment of log-phase grown

E. coli or *Salmonella.* For B-D, data are shown as mean ± SEM from three independent

experiments, scoring 70 cells for each condition per experiment. Means were tested using matched

two-way ANOVA test and post-hoc Tukey's test, where *, **, and *** indicate p values of 0.05-

0.01, p values of 0.01-0.001, or p<0.001, respectively.

Figure 3: The distribution of endogenous TFEB in macrophages after uptake of viable and

non-viable *E. coli and Salmonella*. **A.** Confocal micrographs of RAW macrophages incubated

with living or heat-killed stationary-grown *E. coli* or living or heat-killed *Salmonella* grown to

either stationary or late-logarithmic phase. After 1 h, cells were fixed and stained with DAPI (blue)

to identify the nucleus, anti-TFEB antibodies (green), and anti-LPS antibodies to identify all

bacteria (red). Scale bar = 10 µm. **B.** N/C fluorescence ratio of endogenous TFEB in macrophages

subject to indicated conditions. Data are shown as mean ± SEM from three independent

experiments, scoring 80 cells for each condition and experiment. Means were tested using one-

way ANOVA test with matched data and post-hoc Dunnett's test, where *, **, ***, and ****

indicate p values of 0.05-0.01, 0.01-0.001, 0.001-0.0001, or p<0.0001, respectively.

Figure 4. TFEB distribution in HeLa cells after infection with *Salmonella*. **A.** Confocal images

of HeLa cells incubated with living stationary or late-log grown *Salmonella*. After 1 and 4 h post-

infection, cells were fixed and stained for external Salmonella with anti-Salmonella serum and far-

red secondary antibodies, followed by permeabilization and stained with DAPI (blue) to identify

the nucleus, anti-TFEB antibody (green) and anti-*Salmonella* antiserum (red bacteria are internal;

yellow are external). Images represent summed Z stack images. Scale bar = 10 μm. **B.** N/C ratio

of endogenous TFEB fluorescence in HeLa cells. Data shown represents mean values ± SEM.

Statistical analysis was preformed using matched one-way ANOVA and post-hoc Tukey's test,

where * and ** indicate p values of 0.05- 0.01 and 0.01 – 0.001 respectively.

Figure 5: TFEB phosphorylation and protein levels in macrophages after *Salmonella*

infection. A and **C.** Macrophages engulfed *E. coli* or *Salmonella* grown to stationary or log-phase

for 1 or 4 h. Macrophages were then lysed and lysates separated on a Phos-tag SDS-PAGE (A) or

standard SDS-PAGE (C), followed by blotting with anti-TFEB antibodies. The loading control

was β-actin for both types of electrophoresis. **B** and **D**. The migration front of TFEB separated in

Phos-tag gels was measured as indicator of phosphorylation status of TFEB (B) and normalized

total TFEB levels relative to β-actin (D). Shown is the mean ±SD analysed from five independent

experiments. Data in B was analyzed by a matched one-way ANOVA and Dunnett post-hoc test,

while data in D was tested by Friedman one-way ANOVA test and the Dunn's post-hoc test. * and

** indicates a *p*-value of <0.05 and <0.01, respectively.

Figure 6: SPI-I and SPI-II-deficient *Salmonella* do not stall TFEB activation in macrophages.

A. Confocal images of RAW cells expressing GFP-TFEB (green) 1 h after engulfing wild-type or

invA ssaR Salmonella grown to stationary or late log-phase. After uptake, cells were fixed and

stained with DAPI (blue) and with anti-bacteria antibodies (red). **B**. The N/C fluorescence ratio

of GFP-TFEB in macrophages after 1 h engulfment of *Salmonella* strains and grown to indicated

phases. Data are shown as mean ± SEM from three independent experiments, scoring at least 70

cells for each condition per experiment. Means were tested using two-way ANOVA test and post-

hoc Tukey's test, where * and ** indicate p values of 0.05-0.01 and 0.01-0.001, respectively.

Figure 7: Identification of *Salmonella* mutants that cannot suppress TFEB nuclear

translocation in RAW macrophages. A. Epifluorescence micrographs of RAW cells expressing

GFP-TFEB 1 h after engulfment of indicated bacteria strains. Cells were fixed and stained for

external (cyan) and internal bacteria (red) bacteria with anti-*E. coli* or anti-*Salmonella* antibodies.

Arrows point to specific internal bacteria, while full and dotted outlines indicate nucleus and

individual cell boundaries. Scale bar represents 10 μm. **B.** N/C ratio of GFP-TFEB in macrophages

after engulfment of indicated bacterial strains. **C**. N/C ratio of endogenous TFEB in macrophages

after engulfment of indicated bacterial strains. For both B and C, data is shown as mean ± SEM

from four independent experiments with approximately 50 cells counted per condition per

experiment. Means were tested using one-way ANOVA test and post-hoc Tukey's test, where *,

, and * indicate p values of 0.05-0.01, p values of 0.01-0.001, or p<0.001, respectively.

Figure 8. mRNA levels of LAMP1, cathepsin D and LC3 during *Salmonella* infection. **A.**

Basal expression of LAMP1, cathepsin D and LC3 genes across wildtype, *tfeb*[-/-] and *tfeb*[-/-] *tfe3*[-/-]

RAW macrophages normalized to wildtype. **B, D,** and **F.** Relative LAMP1 (B), cathepsin D (D),

and LC3 (F) mRNA expression within each cell type infected with either stationary or late-log

grown *Salmonella* at indicated times post-infection. **C, E,** and **G.** Comparison of LAMP1(C),

cathepsin D (E), and LC3 (G) mRNA expression at 20 h post infection between wild-type, *tfeb*[-/-]

and *tfeb*[-/-] *tfe3*[-/-]. Data in C, E, and G are the same as 20 h from B, D and F. Data plotted represent

means of individual replicates ±SD. Statistical analysis was preformed using matched one-way

ANOVA and post-hoc Tukey's test, where *, ** and *** indicate p values of 0.05- 0.01, 0.01 –

0.001 and 0.001 – 0.0001, respectively.

Figure 9. Autophagy in RAW macrophages during stationary and late-log *Salmonella*

infection. A, B, and **C.** Confocal images of wildtype (A), *tfeb*$^{-/-}$ (B), and *tfeb*$^{-/-}$/*tfe3*$^{-/-}$ (C) RAW

macrophages transfected with mCherry-GFP-LC3. Cells were subject to stationary or late-log

Salmonella infection and were fixed at 2, 4 and 6 hours post infection. Cells were also

immunofluorescently stained for *Salmonella* using an anti-*Salmonella* antiserum. Panel shows 2-

and 6-h post infection images. Scale bar = 12 μm. **D.** Quantification of autophagosomes in resting

wildtype, *tfeb*$^{-/-}$, and *tfeb*$^{-/-}$/*tfe3*$^{-/-}$ RAW macrophage. **E, F** and **G.** Comparison of autophagosome

numbers between stationary and late-log *Salmonella* infected macrophages over time for each

respective cell type. *tfeb*$^{-/-}$ and *tfeb*$^{-/-}$/*tfe3*$^{-/-}$ values are normalized against wildtype resting

condition. Plotted values represent mean values per replicate and ±SEM. For D, statistical analysis

was done using one-way ANOVA and Friedman's multiple comparisons. Statistical analysis for

E-G was preformed using matched two-way ANOVA and post-hoc Tukey's test, where *, ** and

*** indicate p values of 0.05- 0.01, 0.01 – 0.001 and 0.001 – 0.0001, respectively.

Figure 10. Autophagosome maturation and xenophagy bacterial capture in RAW

macrophages during Salmonella infection. **A.** Ratio of mature over total autophagosomes in

resting wildtype, *tfeb*$^{-/-}$, and *tfeb*$^{-/-}$/*tfe3*$^{-/-}$ RAW macrophages normalized to wildtype. **B.** Ratio of

mature to total autophagosomes during stationary or late-log infection in wildtype, *tfeb*$^{-/-}$, and *tfeb*

$^{-/-}$/*tfe3*$^{-/-}$ RAW macrophages. **C.** Ratio of LC3-labelled bacteria over total bacteria during infection

in each macrophage genotype. Data plotted represent mean values and ±SEM from n=5

independent experiments. Statistical analysis was preformed using matched one-way ANOVA and

post-hoc Tukey's test.

Figure 11. *E. coli* and *Salmonella* survival in wild-type, *tfeb*^{-/-} macrophages, and HeLA-

TKO cells. A and **B**. Wild-type and *tfeb*^{-/-} RAW macrophages were allowed to phagocytose live

E. coli (A) or *Salmonella* (B) for 1 h, followed with gentamycin to kill external bacteria. One

macrophage population was immediately lysed and bacteria were plated to count CFUs as an

estimate of bacterial uptake. A second population of macrophages was incubated for 4 h with

low gentamycin, then lysed, and bacteria plated to count CFUs as indicator of acute bacterial

survival in macrophages. Data is shown as percent survival by taking the ratio of CFUs after 4 h

of incubation relative to CFUs formed after 1 h incubation (uptake). **C.** Wild-type and *tfeb*^{-/-} *tfe3*⁻

^{/-} RAW macrophages were allowed to engulf stationary and late-logarithmic grown *Salmonella*.

D. Infection of wild-type HeLa and *tfeb*^{-/-} *tfe3*^{-/-} *mitf*^{-/-} HeLa (HeLa-TKO) cells as described in C.

Infections were followed for 4 and 20 h post infection. Percent survival was determined as

described above. Data are shown as the mean ± SD from four (D) or six (E) independent

experiments. Data in A and B were statistically analyzed by paired Student's t-test, while data in

C and D were tested by matched two-way ANOVA and Šidák post-hoc test. P values are

disclosed for survival assays.

Figure 12: Ectopic activation of TFEB enhances *Salmonella* killing in macrophages in a

TFEB-dependent manner. A and **B**. Wild-type and *tfeb*^{-/-} RAW macrophages were left untreated

or pre-activated with IgG-opsonized beads as described in methods and then allowed to engulf live

E.coli (A) or *Salmonella* (B). Percent survival of *E. coli* (A) or *Salmonella* (B) was determined

by comparing number of CFUs between initial uptake and 3 h post uptake. Shown is the average

± STD from n=8 independent experiments. **C**. Cells were pretreated with 20 nM apilimod or

DMSO vehicle for 1 h and maintained through the infection with stationary or late-logarithmic

Salmonella. Percent survival of bacteria was measured by comparing the number of CFU at the

end of 4 h chase with CFUs from initial uptake (1 h) as described in methods. Shown is the mean

and standard deviation from n=3 independent experiments. A-C: Data was analyzed by matched

two-way ANOVA and Šidák's post-hoc test. Actual p values are shown for survival experiments

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1087

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

A

	DAPI	TFEB	MERGE
Resting			
Torin + Apilimod			
1 hour stationary *Salmonella*			
1 hour Late-log *Salmonella*			
4 hour stationary *Salmonella*			
4 hour Late-log *Salmonella*			

B

Endogenous TFEB nuclear:cytosolic ratio

* Stationary
* Late-log

Resting Torin1 1 h 4 h
Salmonella

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8

Figure 9

Figure 10

A *E. coli* survival in WT and *tfeb*-/- macrophages

0.0377

B *Salmonella* survival in WT and *tfeb*-/- macrophages

0.1168

C *Salmonella* survival in wildtype and *tfeb*-/-*tfe3*-/- macrophages

D *Salmonella* survival in wildtype and *tfeb*-/-/*tfe3*-/-/*mitf*-/- HeLa cells

Figure 12