

1 **Single-Cell Map of Dynamic Multicellular Ecosystem of Radiation-Induced**  
2 **Intestinal Injury**

3

4 **Short title:** Single-cell map of dynamic ecosystem of RIII

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32

33 **Abstract**

34 Intestine is a highly radiation-sensitive organ that could be injured during the  
35 radiotherapy for abdominal or pelvic cavity tumors. However, the dynamic change of  
36 the intestinal microenvironment related to radiation-induced intestine injury (RIII) is  
37 still unclear. Using single-cell RNA sequencing, we pictured a dynamic landscape of  
38 the intestinal microenvironment during RIII and regeneration. We showed that the  
39 multicellular ecosystem of intestine exhibited heterogeneous radiosensitivities. We  
40 revealed the distinct dynamic patterns of three subtypes of intestinal stem cells (ISCs),  
41 and the cellular trajectory analysis suggested a complex interconversion pattern  
42 among them. For the immune cells, we found that *Ly6c*<sup>+</sup> monocytes can give rise to  
43 both pro-inflammatory macrophages and resident macrophages after RIII. Besides,  
44 through cellular communication analysis, we identified a positive feedback loop  
45 between the macrophages and endothelial cells, which could amplify the  
46 inflammatory response induced by radiation. Overall, our study provides a valuable  
47 single-cell map of the dynamic multicellular ecosystem during RIII and regeneration,  
48 which may facilitate the understanding of the mechanism of RIII.

49

50 **KEYWORDS:** Radiation-induced intestinal injury; Single-cell sequencing; Intestinal  
51 stem cell; Radiation-induced inflammation.

## 52 INTRODUCTION

53 As one of the most sensitive organs to ionizing radiation, intestine could be damaged  
54 during the radiotherapy for abdominal or pelvic cavity tumors or uncontrolled release  
55 of radioactive materials, which would lead to radiation-induced intestinal injury (RIII).  
56 Treatments of RIII are very limited and generally focused on reducing symptoms, and  
57 the curative effects are not satisfactory. RIII is largely defined as clonogenic cell death  
58 and apoptosis in the crypt cells, which results in insufficient replacement of villus  
59 epithelium, breakdown of the mucosal barrier<sup>1,2</sup>, inflammation and immune  
60 abnormality<sup>3</sup>. Previous studies mainly focused on the roles of molecules and pathways  
61 in DNA damage, apoptosis, autophagy<sup>4</sup>, inflammation and immune. However, the  
62 dynamics of the microenvironment during intestine injury and regeneration remains  
63 poorly understood, which limits the elucidation and treatment of RIII. Therefore, the  
64 present study aims to clarify the dynamic variation of the cellular microenvironment  
65 of RIII.

66 It has been widely accepted that the intestinal stem cells (ISCs) are able to  
67 replenish the whole crypt–villus axis, generating all differentiated cell types required  
68 for the physiological function of the intestine<sup>5</sup>. A number of ISC subpopulations in the  
69 small intestine have been identified, including Lgr5+ crypt-based columnar cells  
70 (CBCs), +4 reserve stem cells (RSCs) and revival stem cells (revSCs). Lgr5+ CBCs  
71 are considered indispensable for intestine recovery following exposure to radiation<sup>6</sup>.  
72 +4 RSCs, which express specific markers *Bmi1*, *Hopx* and *Tert*<sup>7-9</sup>, have been  
73 described as a slow dividing reserve stem cell population. Recently, a group of

74 revSCs was identified to be extremely rare under homoeostatic conditions and arise in  
75 damaged intestines to reconstitute Lgr5<sup>+</sup> ISC and regenerate the intestine<sup>10</sup>.  
76 Irradiation causes a sharp reduction in the number of ISCs, which brings great  
77 challenges in the repair of injured intestinal epithelium. Despite the advances in our  
78 understanding of the ISCs in the past few years, a dynamic landscape of ISCs during  
79 injury and regeneration is still lacking and their interconversion relationships remain  
80 puzzling.

81 Immune cells also play important roles in the pathogenesis of RIII. Macrophages  
82 are crucial component of the immune system in the intestine, which modulate  
83 inflammation by secreting distinct cytokines and acting as professional  
84 phagocytes<sup>11-13</sup>. Intestinal macrophages require continuous replenishment by blood  
85 monocytes and have very poor proliferative capacity, which is different from the other  
86 tissue macrophages. Exposure to radiation can significantly decreases the levels of  
87 macrophages in the damaged intestine<sup>14</sup>. Besides, the elucidation of the role of  
88 cross-talk between the macrophages and other cells in the initial inflammatory  
89 response and microenvironment homeostasis recovery post irradiation is also of great  
90 significance for the development of new therapeutic targets.

91 Recently, the single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) has been applied to  
92 identify new cell types or cell states<sup>15-17</sup>, investigate cellular plasticity and stemness of  
93 ISCs<sup>10, 18</sup>, or trace developmental relationships among different cell populations in the  
94 intestine<sup>19</sup>. However, these studies have not investigated the dynamic changes of  
95 microenvironment during intestine injury and regeneration. Here, we utilized the

96 scRNA-seq to explore the multicellular ecosystem of homeostatic and regenerating  
97 intestine in a time-course manner. We generated transcriptomes of 22,680 single cells  
98 in the intestinal microenvironment, trying to profile the dynamics of ISCs and  
99 immune cells located in the mucous layer. This large-scale single-cell transcriptome  
100 data can be used as a valuable resource for further studying the cellular mechanism of  
101 RIII and development of potential therapy strategies.

## 102 **RESULTS**

### 103 **A dynamic single-cell map of multicellular ecosystem in healthy and injured** 104 **small intestine**

105 Mice were exposed to 15 Gy of abdominal irradiation using a Co<sup>60</sup> irradiator to induce  
106 intestinal injury (Figure 1A). About 20% mice died in the irradiation group within 3-6  
107 days post-irradiation (Figure 1B). The body weights of mice after irradiation exposure  
108 continued to lose in the first 7 days and then gradually increased afterward (Figure  
109 1C). In line with this, exposed mice showed significantly reduced intestinal weight at  
110 day 3 and day 7 post-irradiation as compared to unexposed mice and showed recovery  
111 at day 14. Morphological and cellular phenotype analyses also showed significant  
112 decrease of villus length, villus width, crypt depth and number of crypts at day 1  
113 and/or day 3 post-irradiation (Figures S1A–S1D). A peak of TUNEL-positive cells at  
114 day 1 post-irradiation suggested that the radiation-induced cell death occurs mostly  
115 within the first 24–48 hours (Figure S1E). An increase of Ki-67-positive cells from  
116 day 3 to day 14 indicated that the day 3–14 is a key time-window for intestinal  
117 regeneration (Figure S1F).

118 To generate a dynamic single-cell map of the intestinal microenvironment related  
119 to RIII, we employed a droplet-based scRNA-seq approach to profile the  
120 transcriptomes of single cells from the intestinal tissues at day 1 (n = 4), day 3 (n = 3),  
121 day 7 (n = 3) and day 14 (n = 3) after irradiation exposure as well as the unexposed  
122 healthy intestinal tissues (n = 4) (Figure 1A). After quality filtering, we obtained the  
123 transcriptomes of a total of 22,680 single cells, with an average of 1,778 genes and  
124 7,843 unique transcripts per cell (Figures S2A and S2B; Table S1). These  
125 transcriptomes of single cells from all samples were merged using a canonical  
126 correlation analysis (CCA)-based batch correction approach to generate a global map  
127 of cellular microenvironment of healthy and injured intestines. Shared nearest  
128 neighbor (SNN) graph-based clustering of single cells identified a total of 54 cell  
129 clusters (subtypes), which were visualized on the t-distributed stochastic neighbor  
130 embedding (t-SNE) dimensional reduction map (Figures 1D, S2C and S2D).  
131 Differentially expressed genes were calculated for each cell cluster using the  
132 Wilcoxon rank sum test.

133 Using canonical marker genes, we identified 10 major cell types in our dataset,  
134 including intestinal stem cells (ISCs), transit amplifying (TA) cells, enterocytes,  
135 goblet cells, enteroendocrine cells (EECs), Paneth cells, endothelial cells, T cells, B  
136 cells and myeloid cells, and most of them consist of multiple subtypes (Figures 1E  
137 and S2E), suggesting a complex cellular ecosystem of healthy and irradiation-injured  
138 intestines. We found the intestinal ecosystem changed greatly during RIII and  
139 regeneration (Figure 1F and 1G). Specifically, the stem cells and immune cells (T

140 cells, B cells and myeloid cells) decreased markedly at day 1 post-irradiation;  
141 enterocytes decreased sharply at day 3; and immune cells and endothelial cells  
142 exhibited a dramatic increase at day 3. Despite of the great alterations of intestinal  
143 microenvironments during the first 7 days post-irradiation, intestinal tissues at day 14  
144 exhibited very similar cellular composition with those non-irradiated ones. These  
145 results suggested that intestinal multicellular ecosystem disrupted by intense  
146 abdominal irradiation can be largely reconstructed within 14 days post-irradiation,  
147 which is in line with our morphological observations (Figure S1).

148 **Intestinal multicellular ecosystem showed heterogeneity of *in vivo***  
149 **radiosensitivities**

150 The dynamic change of cellular composition in intestines before and after irradiation  
151 exposure provided an opportunity to explore the *in vivo* radiosensitivities of various  
152 cell subtypes. To quantify the radiosensitivity for each cell cluster, we compared the  
153 ratios between the observed and expected cell numbers from the intestinal samples at  
154 day 1 after irradiation. Consistent with previous studies<sup>6, 20</sup>, most ISC and immune  
155 cell subtypes are highly radiosensitive, exhibiting significantly lower frequencies than  
156 expected at day 1 (Figure 2A). Nevertheless, there are a few ISC and immune cell  
157 subtypes (C22, C30, C19 and C35) exhibited similar or higher frequencies than  
158 expected at day 1, suggesting they are radioresistant subpopulations. Apart from ISCs  
159 and immune cells, we found all the endothelial and stromal cell subtypes are  
160 radioresistant, while the enterocytes, goblet cells and EECs exhibit heterogeneous  
161 levels of radiosensitivity across their respective subtypes.



162 We next sought to identify the pathways activated by various cell types to  
163 confront irradiation-induced apoptosis. We focused on the top four enriched major cell  
164 types in our dataset, including the ISCs, enterocytes, myeloid cells and T cells. For  
165 each cell type, we identified pathways significantly up-/down-regulated in surviving  
166 cells at day 1 post-irradiation using the whole cells from non-irradiated samples as  
167 background (Figures 2B, 2C and S3). Notably, a number of pathways, including  
168 PI3K/AKT/mTOR signaling, MYC signaling, TGF- $\beta$  signaling and cell cycle-related  
169 pathways, were consistently downregulated in surviving cells of different cell types,  
170 while KRAS-down signaling pathway were consistently upregulated in surviving cells.  
171 We also investigate the genes that are upregulated in survived cells at day 1  
172 post-irradiation as compared to non-irradiated cells for the stem cells, enterocytes,  
173 myeloid cells and T cells, respectively. We identified 67 significantly upregulated  
174 genes that were shared by all the major cell types (Figures 2D and 2E). Functional  
175 annotation showed that the upregulated genes include several genes known to be  
176 involved in the negative regulation of apoptotic process (Table S3).

### 177 **Dynamics of three distinct ISC subpopulations during intestinal injury and** 178 **regeneration**

179 ISCs are critical for epithelium regeneration after injury<sup>6, 10</sup>; however, their  
180 phenotypic heterogeneity and dynamics during intestinal injury and regeneration have  
181 not been fully characterized. We identified a total of 2,411 ISCs that were divided into  
182 five clusters (Figures 3A, 3B and S4). Cells in clusters C4, C9, and C16 highly  
183 expressed *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBC signatures (*Olfm4*, *Smoc2* and *Prom1*), suggesting they are

184 *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs; stem cells in C35 expressed high levels of +4 RSC signatures (*Hopx* and  
185 *Tert*), suggesting they are a set of +4 RSCs<sup>21, 22</sup>; cluster C28 was enriched for stem  
186 cells that highly expressed *Clu*, *Cxadr* and *Anxa1*, which are signatures of recently  
187 reported *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs<sup>10</sup>. We found *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs in C28 also showed high expression  
188 levels of cell cycle-related genes. A closer examine of cells in cluster C28 reveals two  
189 different subclusters (C28a and C28b). Cells in C28a expressed higher levels of *Clu*  
190 and lower levels of cell cycle-related genes, indicating they are likely to be quiescent  
191 *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs. On the contrary, cells in C28b expressed lower levels of *Clu* and higher  
192 levels of cell cycle-related genes, suggesting that a portion of *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs may be in  
193 actively proliferating status during RIII.

194 We then investigated the temporal dynamics of these ISC subpopulations. The  
195 proportion of *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs was drastically reduced at day 1 and day 3 and was  
196 substantially recovered at day 14 post-irradiation (Figure 3C). In line with the  
197 scRNA-seq data, the integral luminous density of *in situ* hybridization with probes  
198 specific for *Olfm4* showed similar results (Figure 3D). By contrast, +4 RSCs in C35  
199 were specifically enriched at day 1 post-irradiation, suggesting they are not only  
200 radioresistant but can also be induced by irradiation (Figure 3C), in line with a  
201 previous study that detected increased lineage tracing output of +4 RSCs after  
202 irradiation exposure<sup>23</sup>. Distinct from *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs and +4 RSCs, *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs in C28  
203 were specifically enriched at day 3 post-irradiation (Figure 3C), in accordance with  
204 the study that first reported the population of *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs<sup>10</sup>. Collectively, these results  
205 showed the distinct dynamic patterns of three ISCs subpopulations. Moreover, the

206 temporal sequential enrichment of +4 RSCs, *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs and *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs during this  
207 process hints at a potential sequential differentiation relationship among them.

### 208 **Differentiation trajectory analyses of intestinal stem cell subpopulations**

209 We next sought to explore the differentiation trajectories among these heterogeneous  
210 ISC subpopulations. RNA velocity has recently emerged as a powerful approach for  
211 inferring the transition direction of a single cell to neighboring cells<sup>24</sup>. Here, we  
212 performed RNA velocity analysis on stem cell populations in a time-course manner.

213 Given that only +4 RSCs were enriched at day 1, we combined them with ISCs  
214 presented under homeostatic conditions (Control-D1) or those presented at day 3  
215 (D1-D3), respectively, to investigate the inter-subpopulation differentiation  
216 trajectories. Notably, the Control-D1 RNA velocity map showed that there is a  
217 velocity flow from *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs toward +4 RSCs (Figure 3E), in accordance with a  
218 previous study that demonstrated the interconversion between *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs and +4  
219 RSCs<sup>9</sup>. This result may explain the specific enrichment of +4 RSCs at day 1  
220 post-irradiation. We observed two clear velocity flows in the D1-D3 map (Figure 3F).  
221 The first flow initiates from the +4 RSCs toward *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs, suggesting +4 RSCs  
222 may be able to differentiate to *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs. This result is not only in accordance with  
223 the specific enrichment of *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs at day 3 post-irradiation rather than at day 1  
224 (Figure 3B), but also consistent with the observation of a peak of CLU-tdTomato<sup>+</sup>  
225 clone frequency at the +4 position from the crypt bottom<sup>10</sup>, where +4 RSCs are  
226 specifically enriched. The second flow is from the *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs toward *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs,  
227 suggesting that *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs could repopulate *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs when the latter were

228 almost eliminated by irradiation, in line with the previous study<sup>10</sup>.

229 We then used SCENIC<sup>25</sup> to investigate the potential key regulons along these  
230 velocity flows. We found Myc and Hdac1 were among the top transcription factors  
231 (TFs) that exhibit significantly increasing activities along the velocity flow from  
232 *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs toward +4 RSCs (Figure 3G). Myc has been reported to be required for  
233 intestinal formation and regeneration but dispensable for homeostasis of the adult  
234 intestinal epithelium<sup>26, 27</sup>. Here, our result suggested Myc may facilitate intestinal  
235 regeneration by promoting the conversion from *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs to +4 RSCs upon  
236 radiation-induced injury. Besides, Hdac1 was also reported to regulate intestinal stem  
237 cell homeostasis<sup>28</sup>. Among the top correlated TFs along the velocity flow from +4  
238 RSCs toward *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs (Figure 3H), Ybx1 is a stress-activated TF and has been  
239 reported to be able to transcriptionally activate *Clu* expression by directly binds to the  
240 promoter regions of *Clu*<sup>29</sup>. Our data suggest Ybx1 may play important roles in the  
241 induction of *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs from +4 RSCs. Besides, another TF Hmgal has been  
242 reported to amplify the Wnt signaling and expand the intestinal stem cell  
243 compartment and Paneth cell niche<sup>30</sup>. For the velocity flow from *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs toward  
244 *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs, we found Runx1 and Stat3 were among the top correlated TFs (Figure  
245 3I). Stat3 has been shown to be indispensable for damage-induced crypt  
246 regeneration<sup>31</sup> and the Runx1-Stat3 signaling pathway has been reported to regulate  
247 the differentiation of *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBC<sup>32</sup>. Taken together, our results revealed the possible  
248 differentiation trajectories among *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs, +4 RSCs and *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revSCs upon  
249 intestinal injury, and identified the specific TF sets driving these differentiation paths.

250 **Bidirectional differentiation of peripheral monocytes into pro-inflammatory**  
251 **macrophages and resident macrophages**

252 A total of 4,010 myeloid cells were identified in our dataset, which were divided into  
253 five clusters (C0, C22, C24, C36 and C38) (Figure 4A). Cells in cluster C0 expressed  
254 high levels of monocyte markers (*Cd14*, *Ccr2* and *Ly6c2*), indicating they are  
255 peripheral *Ly6c*<sup>+</sup> monocytes. Cells in C22 highly expressed macrophage markers  
256 (*Cd80*, *Cd206*, *Cd64* and *F4/80*) and a set of pro-inflammatory genes (*Il1a*, *Il1b*, *Il6*  
257 and *Tnf*), suggesting they are a set of pro-inflammatory macrophages. C36 was  
258 enriched for cells expressed high levels of resident macrophage markers (*Cx3cr1* and  
259 *Fcgr1*), suggesting they are *Cx3cr1*<sup>+</sup> resident macrophages. Besides, we also  
260 identified a cluster of neutrophils (C24) highly expressing neutrophil markers (*Ly6g*,  
261 *Retnlg* and *SI00a9*) (Figure 4B).

262 We then investigated the temporal distribution of these myeloid subpopulations.  
263 We found that *Ly6c*<sup>+</sup> monocytes (C0), pro-inflammatory macrophages (C22) and the  
264 neutrophils (C24) were highly enriched at day 3 post-irradiation (Figure 4C). The  
265 temporal distributions of pro-inflammatory macrophages after irradiation were  
266 confirmed by flow cytometry, and their expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines  
267 were measured (Figures 4D-4F). In contrast, *Cx3cr1*<sup>+</sup> resident macrophages in C36  
268 showed depletion at day 1 and day 3 post-irradiation and became abundant at day 7,  
269 suggesting resident macrophages are radiosensitive and could rapidly recover after  
270 irradiation.

271 Using RNA velocity analysis, we found that there are two differentiation paths

272 initiated from *Ly6c*<sup>+</sup> monocytes towards pro-inflammatory macrophages and *Cx3cr1*<sup>+</sup>  
273 resident macrophages, respectively (Figure 4G). Although the alternative outcomes of  
274 *Ly6c*<sup>+</sup> monocytes to be resident and pro-inflammatory macrophages has been  
275 previously reported in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)<sup>33</sup>, our result shows that this  
276 bidirectional differentiation pattern may be import for RIII recovery. Further, SCENIC  
277 analysis was performed to investigate the potential key regulons driving these two  
278 differentiation paths, respectively. We found these two differentiation paths shared  
279 several top correlated TFs, including Cebp, Maf, Mafb and Nr1h3 (Figure 4H and 4I).  
280 CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein (Cebp), Maf and Mafb transcription factors has  
281 been reported to be important for monocyte-to-macrophage differentiation<sup>34</sup>. Nuclear  
282 receptor Nr1h3 (LXR $\alpha$ ) has also been reported to be a major regulator of macrophage  
283 development<sup>35</sup>. Besides the shared TFs, the two differentiation paths were also driven  
284 by specific factors. Activities of Jun, Stat1, Irf1 and Irf2 were specifically upregulated  
285 along the velocity flow from *Ly6c*<sup>+</sup> monocytes to pro-inflammatory macrophages  
286 (Figure 4H), while Myc and Myc-associated zinc finger (Maz) were specifically  
287 upregulated along the velocity flow from *Ly6c*<sup>+</sup> monocytes to resident macrophages  
288 (Figure 4I), in accordance with the key role of Myc in the self-renewal activity of  
289 macrophages<sup>36</sup>. Together, these results suggested that peripheral monocytes could  
290 differentiate into both pro-inflammatory macrophages and resident macrophages after  
291 RIII, and these two differentiation paths may be driven by different key TFs.

292 **A positive feedback loop between the macrophages and endothelial cells**  
293 **amplifies inflammatory response upon RIII**

294 To assess the roles of various cell types in the inflammatory response induced by  
295 irradiation, we investigated the ligand-receptor (L-R) pairs that mediate cellular  
296 interactions among the cell clusters. A total of 2,064 L-R interactions were identified  
297 among all the cell clusters within the intestinal microenvironment. We found the  
298 cellular interacting patterns varied greatly at different times during RIII and recovery  
299 (Figure 5A). Especially, we observed massive interactions that occur between the  
300 macrophages and endothelial cells at day 3 post irradiation, in contrast to other time  
301 points and other cell types.

302 We found that the activated endothelial cells expressed high levels of adhesion  
303 molecules such as *Vcam1* and *Icam1*, to recruit pro-inflammatory macrophages, in  
304 accordance with previous studies<sup>37</sup>. Besides the adhesion molecules, we found these  
305 endothelial cells also expressed high levels of chemokine *Cxcl12* to recruit  
306 pro-inflammatory macrophages (Figure 5D). Interestingly, the pro-inflammatory  
307 macrophages expressed high levels of vascular endothelial growth factor (*Vegf*),  
308 which could, in turn, enhance the endothelial cell survival and proliferation<sup>38</sup> (Figure  
309 5D). The interactions between the activated endothelial cells and pro-inflammatory  
310 macrophages could amplify the proliferation of both populations, which is consistent  
311 with the specific enrichment of pro-inflammatory macrophages and endothelial cells  
312 at day 3 post irradiation. We speculate the amplification effect is critical for the quick  
313 induction of inflammation at early stage of intestinal injury.

314 We also sought to identify the pathways that are upregulated upon endothelial  
315 cells activation during RIII. Compared to endothelial cells in homeostatic intestine,

316 the activated endothelial cells at day 3 post irradiation were shown to be upregulated  
317 in inflammatory response, TNF- $\alpha$  signaling via NF- $\kappa$ B, EMT and KRAS signaling  
318 pathways (Figures 5B and 5C). NF- $\kappa$ B has been reported to play a pivotal role in the  
319 inducible expression of cytokines in inflammatory response induced by irradiation<sup>39</sup>.  
320 Besides, we found KRAS signaling pathway may also play an important role in  
321 inflammatory cytokines induction. In addition, the upregulation of EMT pathway  
322 indicates that irradiation could induce the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition of  
323 endothelial cells, which may be involved in intestinal fibrosis after radiation  
324 exposure<sup>40</sup>. Collectively, these results showed that the cellular interactions between  
325 macrophages and endothelial cells could achieve a quick amplification of  
326 inflammation upon the RIII.

## 327 **DISCUSSION**

328 The dynamics of cellular microenvironment during the radiation-induced intestinal  
329 injury and regeneration remains largely uncharacterized. In this study, by combining  
330 the single-cell transcriptome profiling with temporal distribution analysis, lineage  
331 reconstruction, TF profiling and cellular interaction analyses, we provided a  
332 comprehensive dynamic landscape of the cellular microenvironment during intestinal  
333 injury and regeneration.

334 The radiosensitivity of cells varies greatly, mainly depending on the degree of  
335 cell differentiation, cell proliferation ability, metabolic status and surrounding  
336 environment<sup>3, 41</sup>. Currently, it is widely accepted that the lymphocytes, hematopoietic  
337 cells, small intestinal crypt cells and germ cells are highly radiosensitive cell types,



338 but these kinds of cells are composed with multiple subtypes with different biological  
339 characteristics. In this study, based on scRNA-seq, we assessed the *in vivo*  
340 radiosensitivity of different cell subtypes in the intestinal microenvironment. Our data  
341 not only showed that diverse cell subtypes in the intestinal microenvironment  
342 exhibited highly heterogeneous levels of radiosensitivity, but also revealed cross-cell  
343 consistency of pathway activation for various cell types to confront the  
344 radiation-induced apoptosis.

345 Much attention has been focused on ISC injury and regeneration post irradiation<sup>6</sup>,  
346 <sup>10, 23, 42</sup>. It is generally accepted that *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> stem cells were sensitive to irradiation  
347 injury while +4 stem cells show relatively lower sensitivity<sup>7, 9, 23</sup>, we here reported a  
348 comprehensive survey on the phenotype and dynamics of diverse ISC subsets in  
349 different phases after high-dose irradiation. Generally, we identified three  
350 subpopulations of ISCs, including *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs, +4 ISCs as well as a cluster of *Clu*<sup>+</sup>  
351 revISCs reported recently<sup>10</sup>, with distinct dynamic characteristics. Additionally, our  
352 data provides new insights into the interconversion relationships among the three ISC  
353 subpopulations. Although a previous study has shown *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup> CBCs could give rise to  
354 +4 RSCs in culture<sup>9</sup>, our data suggests this conversion could be induced *in vivo* by  
355 intestinal injury. Besides, we also showed that *Clu*<sup>+</sup> revISCs may originate from *Lgr5*<sup>+</sup>  
356 CBCs and +4 revISCs, although further studies are still needed to test and verify the  
357 transformation processes.

358 Exposure to irradiation could also strongly affect immune system responses in the  
359 intestine, which were essential for maintaining mucosal homeostasis. In this study, we

360 observed that *Cx3cr1*<sup>+</sup> resident macrophages are drastically reduced at 1 day  
361 post-irradiation and were then followed by a massive influx of monocytes and  
362 macrophages into the injured intestine. Our data suggested that the bidirectional  
363 differentiation of peripheral *Ly6c*<sup>+</sup> monocytes to pro-inflammatory macrophages or  
364 *Cx3cr1*<sup>+</sup> resident macrophages may be important for balancing the radiation-induced  
365 inflammation and resident macrophages recovery. We also showed that different TFs  
366 may contribute to the alternative fates of *Ly6c*<sup>+</sup> monocytes, which could be potential  
367 intervention targets for modulating the early stage inflammation induced by radiation.

368 In addition, we found the cellular interacting patterns varied greatly at different  
369 times during RIII and recovery; especially, the massive interactions between the  
370 macrophages and endothelial cells at early inflammation stage aroused our attention.  
371 Our results showed that the cross-talk between pro-inflammatory macrophages and  
372 activated endothelial cells could achieve a quick amplification of inflammation upon  
373 RIII. This finding suggested that intervention in the interaction between these two  
374 cells might alleviate early inflammation.

375 In summary, based on scRNA-seq, our research refined the radiosensitivity of  
376 small intestinal cells in the cell subtype level. Besides, our dataset revealed the  
377 dynamic patterns of three ISC subpopulations and their interconversion relationships.  
378 Additionally, we showed the bidirectional differentiation of peripheral monocytes into  
379 pro-inflammatory macrophages and resident macrophages, and the amplifying  
380 communicating relationships between macrophages and endothelial cells during the  
381 inflammatory response upon RIII. These findings may provide new views on the

382 cellular and molecular mechanisms of RIII.

## 383 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 384 **Ethics statement**

385 The study was approved by the institutional review board of Beijing Institute of  
386 Radiation Medicine (protocol ID: IACUC-DWZX-2020-623). The work submitted in  
387 this article was solely completed by the teams of Gangqiao Zhou, Yiming Lu and  
388 Yang Li, and it is original. Excerpts from others' work have been clearly identified  
389 and acknowledged within the text and listed in the list of references.

### 390 **Mice and groups**

391 Wild-type male C57BL/6J mice (weight of  $20 \pm 2$ g) were purchased from Beijing  
392 Vital River Laboratory Animal Technology Co., Ltd. (Beijing, China). All the mice  
393 were bred in a specific pathogen-free environment under conditions of constant  
394 temperature of  $22 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ , relative humidity of 60%, and regular dark-light schedule  
395 (lights on from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) at the Experimental Animal Center of the Beijing  
396 Institute of Radiation Medicine, China. A total of 97 mice were used in this study,  
397 including 78 random mice receiving abdominal irradiation and 19 random mice as  
398 negative controls. The irradiation exposed mice were then randomly divided into four  
399 groups and intestinal samples were collected and used for experiments at day 1, 3, 7  
400 and 14 post-irradiation, respectively. Specifically, 17 mice were used for scRNA-seq  
401 ( $n = 3$  or 4 for each group), 20 mice for flow cytometry ( $n = 3$  for each group, with  
402 additional 5 mice for flow cytometry cell sorting at day 3), 30 mice for  
403 immunohistochemistry ( $n = 6$  for each group), and 30 mice for *in situ* hybridization

404 analyses (n = 6 for each group).

#### 405 **Abdominal irradiation of mice**

406 Mice were anaesthetized with an intraperitoneal injection of 0.5% pentobarbital (43  
407 mg/kg body weight) and exposed to a single dose of 15 gray (Gy) abdominal  
408 irradiation (from the xiphoid process to the pubic symphysis with lead bricks to cover  
409 the other parts of the mice) using a Co<sup>60</sup> irradiator to induce intestinal injury *in vivo*.

410 All experiments were repeated at least twice with n = 6 mice in each group, except for  
411 the scRNA-seq, in which each group contain n = 3 or 4 mice. Mice were monitored  
412 for up to 15 days, and the changes in small intestine lengths and weights were  
413 recorded on day 0, 1, 3, 7, 14 post-irradiation.

#### 414 **Morphological analyses of mice villus and crypt**

415 Mice were monitored for up to 15 days. The mice in control and irradiation groups  
416 were sacrificed on day 1, 3, 7, 14 following irradiation, and the intestine tissues were  
417 harvested and fixed in a 10 % neutral buffered formalin solution. The fixed samples  
418 were dehydrated, cleared and permeated with paraffin in a tissue processor, and  
419 subsequently embedded in paraffin blocks using an embedding system.

420 Paraffin-embedded samples were sectioned at a 5-mm thickness and stained with  
421 hematoxylin & eosin (HE) staining. The slides were imaged at 50 ×, 100 × and 400 ×  
422 magnification, respectively, using an Olympus BX51 microscope (Japan). The villus  
423 length and width, crypt depth, thickness of muscular layer and number of crypts per  
424 intestinal length were measured with ImageJ (NIH). The villus length was measured  
425 from the top to the base of the villus at the entrance to the intestinal crypt. The villus

426 width was measured at half of its length. The crypt depth was measured from the  
427 depth of the invagination to the adjacent villi. For each group, at least 30  
428 well-oriented villi were measured and the mean value was calculated.

#### 429 **Single-cell sequencing library construction**

430 To isolate single cells, duodenums were amputated (about 5 cm beyond the pylorus)  
431 and 10 cm jejunum segments following the incision of the mice on day 0, 1, 3, 7, 14  
432 after irradiation were washed in cold PBS, cut longitudinally into roughly 2-mm-long  
433 pieces and were isolated using the Liver Dissociation Kit (mouse) and GentleMACS  
434 Dissociator (Miltenyi Biotec, Germany) according to the manufacturer's instructions.  
435 Tissues were filtered through a 40- $\mu$ m-mesh cell strainer on ice, pelleted by  
436 centrifugation at 4 °C and washed twice with the ice-cold regular medium to remove  
437 the debris. An estimated 5,000 single cells per sample were then subjected to 10x  
438 Genomics single-cell isolation and RNA sequencing following the manufacturer's  
439 recommendations. Illumina HiSeq 3000 was used for deep sequencing. Two technical  
440 replicates were generated per sorted cell suspension.

#### 441 **Analysis of scRNA-seq data**

442 The Cell Ranger software (version 2.2.0) provided by 10x Genomics was used to  
443 align the reads from droplet-based scRNA-seq to an indexed mouse genome (mm10,  
444 NCBI Build 38), generating a digital gene expression matrix (UMI counts per gene  
445 per cell) for each sample. Expression matrices for all samples were filtered,  
446 normalized, integrated and clustered using the standard Seurat (version 2.3.4) package  
447 procedures. More exactly, for the first quality-control (QC) step, we removed the

448 genes detected in less than three cells and cells with below 500 or over 8,000  
449 expressed genes and over 10% UMIs derived from mitochondrial genome. After  
450 applying these QC criteria, a total of 22,680 cells and 19,588 genes in total remained  
451 and were included in the following analyses. Then the expression matrices were  
452 log-normalized and scaled to remove the unwanted variation from the total cellular  
453 read count and mitochondrial read count, as implemented in Seurat's *NormalizeData*  
454 and *ScaleData* functions. To integrate datasets from different samples, we used a  
455 subset of highly variably expressed genes to perform the canonical correlation  
456 analysis (CCA). First, the top 1,000 genes with the largest dispersion in each dataset  
457 were selected; then the genes from all 17 datasets were intersected to determine an  
458 overlap-gene set. We used the overlap-gene set as variable genes to implement CCA  
459 through Seurat's *RunMultiCCA* function, which returned an integrated Seurat objects  
460 with canonical correlation vectors. Seurat's *AlignSubspace* function was employed to  
461 align the top ten dimensions in CCA subspaces and generate the *cca.aligned*  
462 dimensional reduction. With the first ten components of the dimensional reduction,  
463 we then performed a shared nearest neighbor (SNN) modularity optimization  
464 clustering method with the Louvain algorithm as implemented in the *FindClusters*  
465 function, which finally identified 54 clusters of different cell types or subtypes, and  
466 different clusters of cells were visualized using a further t-distributed Stochastic  
467 Neighbor Embedding (tSNE) dimensionality reduction.

#### 468 **Immunohistochemistry assay**

469 The 5  $\mu\text{m}$  thick sections from the paraffin-embedded small intestine sections were

470 deparaffinized and rehydrated using xylene and ethanol, and boiled for 15 minutes  
471 (min) in 10 mM citrate buffer solution (pH 6.0) for antigen retrieval. The sections  
472 were then immersed in a 3% hydrogen peroxide solution for 10 min to block the  
473 endogenous peroxidase. Slides were incubated with goat serum for 10 min and then  
474 with the primary antibody anti-Ki67 (#ab16667, 1:200; Abcam). A horse radish  
475 peroxidase (HRP)-based signal amplification system was then hybridized to a goat  
476 anti-rabbit IgG (H&L) secondary antibody (#PV9001; ZSBIO) followed by  
477 colorimetric development with diaminobenzidine (DAB). Positive cells were counted  
478 in the crypt and villi at 30 randomly selected position per group with ImageJ.

#### 479 **TUNEL assay**

480 Apoptotic cells were identified by terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase-mediated  
481 dUTP nick end-labeling (TUNEL) staining using the *In Situ* Cell Death Detection Kit  
482 (Roche) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Briefly, the paraffin-embedded  
483 sections were prepared the same as hematoxylin & eosin (HE) staining. After drying  
484 and deparaffinized, the section was treated by proteinase K (20 µg/mL; Roche, Swiss)  
485 for 10 min to make the cell membrane permeable, and then treated by the mixed  
486 reaction solution for TUNEL reaction. After treatment with biotin-labeled HRP, DAB  
487 chromogen was used to render the color. TUNEL-positive cells were identified and  
488 their numbers were counted within a defined area (µ<sup>2</sup>) using an Olympus BX51  
489 microscope (Japan).

#### 490 ***In situ* hybridization**

491 *In situ* hybridization (ISH) assays for *Olfm4* were performed with the RNAscope kit

492 (Advanced Cell Diagnostics, California, USA) according to the manufacturer's  
493 instructions. Five  $\mu\text{m}$  formalin-fixed, paraffin embedded tissue sections or 8  $\mu\text{m}$  OCT  
494 frozen were pretreated with heat and protease digestion prior to hybridization with  
495 target probes (Advanced Cell Diagnostics). An HRP-based signal amplification  
496 system was then hybridized to the target probes followed by colorimetric development  
497 with DAB or Fitc, and Cy3. The housekeeping gene *ubiquitin C (UBC)* was served as  
498 a positive control and the *dapB* gene, which is derived from a bacterial gene sequence,  
499 was used as a negative control.

#### 500 **Identification of marker genes**

501 To identify the marker genes for each of the 54 clusters of different cell types or  
502 subtypes, we contrasted the cells from each cluster to cells from all the other clusters  
503 using the Seurat's *FindMarkers* function. The marker genes were required to: (1) have  
504 an averaged expression in the current cluster that is at least 0.25-fold (log-scale) larger  
505 than that in all other clusters; and (2) show expression in at least 10% of cells in either  
506 of the two comparative populations.

#### 507 **Flow cytometry**

508 Single cells prepared as above were resuspended in phosphate buffered saline (PBS).  
509 For macrophages, the antibodies used were against Cd45, F4/80, Cd11b and Cd14,  
510 and cells were stained with 7-AAD to differentiate live cells. Antibody staining was  
511 performed at RT for 30 min before washing cells twice with PBS. The 7-AAD was  
512 added to the final FACS medium for 10 min before flow cytometry analyses and/or  
513 isolation of required single-cell populations. These cells were gated on live cells



514 (those that were 7-AAD negative) and CD45 positivity. Subsequent determinations  
515 included the presence of F4/80 and Cd11b followed by the presence or absence of  
516 Cd14. The cells were analyzed on a BD FACSCanto II flow cytometer (BD, New  
517 Jersey, USA) utilizing FACS Diva Software (BD).

### 518 **RNA velocity analyses**

519 RNA velocity of single cells was estimated as previously reported. More exactly, the  
520 spliced and unspliced transcript reads were calculated based on the CellRanger output  
521 using the `velocity` command line tool with `run10x` subcommand. Transcript counts  
522 from different samples were merged together and genes with an average expression  
523 magnitude  $< 0.5$  (for spliced transcripts) or  $< 0.05$  (for unspliced transcripts) in at  
524 least one of the clusters of each cell type were then removed. Cell-to-cell distance was  
525 calculated using Euclidean distance based on the correlation matrix of the *cca.aligned*  
526 dimensional reduction from Seurat. RNA velocity was estimated using gene-relative  
527 models, with k-nearest neighbor cells pooling of 20 and fit quantile of 0.02. Velocity  
528 fields were then visualized in the tSNE dimensionality reduction from Seurat.

### 529 **Gene set variation analysis (GSVA)**

530 To assess the relative pathway activity on the level of individual cells, we conducted  
531 the gene set variation analysis (GSVA) with the GSVA package (version 1.32.0)<sup>43</sup>.  
532 The 50 hallmark gene sets (version 6.2) representing specific well-defined biological  
533 states or processes were obtained from the Molecular Signatures Database  
534 (MSigDB)<sup>44</sup>, and genes in each set were converted to orthologous genes in mouse  
535 with `g:Profiler`<sup>45</sup>. GSVA was performed in the `gsva` function with standard settings.

536 We then fit a linear model to the output gene set-by-cell pathway enrichment matrix,  
537 implemented in the *lmFit* function of limma package (version 3.40.6), to detect the  
538 differentially enriched pathways.

### 539 **SCENIC analysis**

540 The pySCENIC (version 0.9.11)<sup>46</sup> analysis was run as described for the stem cells and  
541 myeloid cells. The normalized expression matrix exported from Seurat was set as the  
542 input of pySCENIC pipeline. In addition, the genes with less than 200 UMI counts or  
543 detected in less than 1% of the cells in the corresponding cell types were removed as  
544 noise. Two transcription factor ranking databases, namely the TSS+/-10kb and  
545 *500bpUp100Dw* databases, were used for inference of co-expression modules and  
546 identification of direct targets. A regulon-by-cell matrix was then calculated to  
547 measure the enrichment of each regulon as the area under the recovery curve (AUC)  
548 of genes defining the regulon. To identify the key regulons driving the differentiation  
549 trajectories among the stem or myeloid cell subpopulation, cells along each RNA  
550 velocity flow were selected and their tSNE coordinates were converted using  
551 principal components analysis (PCA) to capture the differentiation process on the first  
552 principal component (PC1). Differential enrichment was calculated on the SCENIC  
553 AUC matrix along the PC1 coordinates for each trajectory with a general additive  
554 model implemented in the gam package (version 1.16.1).

### 555 **Ligand-receptor interaction analysis**

556 The ligand-receptor (LR) cellular interaction analysis was performed using the LR  
557 pairs downloaded from Fantom5 (Ref. <sup>47</sup>) and CellPhone<sup>48</sup> databases. Ligand and

558 receptor genes were first converted to orthology genes from *homo sapiens* to *mus*  
559 *musculus* by g:Profiler<sup>45</sup>. For genes corresponding to multiple orthology genes, we  
560 selected the orthology gene with the highest mean expression across all cells. One  
561 ligand or receptor was considered to be a marker ligand or receptor in one cluster if it  
562 was identified as a marker gene with an average log-transformed fold-change (logFC) >  
563 0.5 and an adjust *P*-value < 0.05. Two clusters were considered to interact with each  
564 other if one of them was endowed with a marker ligand and the other one was  
565 endowed with the corresponding marker receptor in a LR pair. For interaction analysis  
566 at a specific time, only the clusters with a proportion of cells at that time > 10% were  
567 included and the weighted interaction intensity between two clusters were estimated  
568 by the product of the number of interacting LR pairs and the proportions of cells at  
569 that time of the two. The weighted interaction intensity between two major cell types  
570 was measured by summing up the pairwise weighted interaction intensity between  
571 clusters from the two major cell types. The weighted interaction intensity of one  
572 specific LR pair was estimated by the product of the proportions in the corresponding  
573 time of the two clusters and the average logFC of the ligand and receptor in two  
574 clusters.

### 575 **Statistical analyses**

576 GraphPad Prism 5 and R (version 3.6.0) were used to perform the statistical analyses.  
577 The Kaplan-Meier method was used to analyze the animal survival curves. The  
578 Chi-square test was applied to analysis the distribution of cells at different times  
579 before and after irradiation. *P*-values of multiple testing were corrected by Bonferroni

580 correction method and an adjusted  $P$ -value  $< 0.05$  was considered to be statistically  
581 significant.

582

583 **Data availability**

584 The scRNA-seq dataset generated in this study are available at the National Center of  
585 Biotechnology Information's Gene Expression Omnibus database under the  
586 following accession number: GSE165318.

587

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715

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723

724 **Authors contributions:**

725 G.Z., Y.Lu. and Y.Li was the principal investigators who conceived and designed the  
726 study, obtained financial supports and approved the final version of the manuscript;  
727 H.L., H.Y. and L.M. performed the data analyses; H.Y. conducted most of the cell  
728 sorting and functional experiments; H.Y., Y.X., Y.Y., H.Z., Y.H. and C.Y. performed  
729 abdominal irradiation of mice and collected intestinal samples; G.Z., Y.Lu. and Y.Li  
730 drafted the manuscript. All the authors read and approved the final version of the  
731 manuscript.

732

733 **Competing interests:**

734 The authors disclose no conflicts.

735



736 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

737 **Figure 1. Identification of major intestinal cell types and their markers using**  
738 **scRNA-seq.** (A) Overview of single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) analysis for  
739 the irradiation-induced intestinal injury (RIII). (B) Survival rates of the mice exposed  
740 to 15 Gy abdominal irradiation and in control group. (C) Body weights of the mice  
741 exposed to 15 Gy abdominal irradiation and in control group. (D) tSNE projection of  
742 the 22,680 cells profiled, colored by major cell types (left), Seurat cluster (upper right)  
743 and experimental groups (lower right). (E) Heatmap displaying the z-score  
744 normalized mean expression of cell type-specific canonical marker genes across  
745 clusters. (F) Pie chart of cell type fractions in all sequenced samples. (G) Area chart  
746 showing the dynamic changes of the proportions of major cell types in healthy  
747 intestinal samples (Control) and exposed intestinal samples at different times after  
748 irradiation. D1, day 1; D3, day 3; D7, day 7; and D14, day 14.  
749

750 **Figure 2. Characteristics of *in vivo* radiosensitivities of different cell types in**  
751 **intestine.** (A) Bar plots showing the fraction of cells originating from the control and  
752 day 1 groups in each cluster. Only the clusters that had > 50 cells from the two groups  
753 and that showed no inter-individual difference (clusters with no more than 70% of  
754 cells from a single sample) were shown. Vertical dashed lines indicate the overall  
755 fraction of cells originating from the control group in all shown clusters. (B)  
756 Difference of hallmark pathway activities between stem cells from the control and day  
757 1 (D1) groups. Shown are *t* values calculated in a linear model comparing the  
758 pathway scores estimated by gene set variation analysis (GSVA) between cells from  
759 the two groups. (C) The same as (B) for macrophages from the control and day 1  
760 groups. (D) Venn diagram showing the intersection of differentially expressed genes  
761 between cells from the control and day 1 groups for stem cells, macrophages, T cells,  
762 and enterocytes. (E) Top 10 significantly enriched gene ontology (GO) terms of 67  
763 common differentially expressed genes for stem cells, macrophages, T cells, and  
764 enterocytes.  
765

766 **Figure 3. Dynamics and differentiation trajectories of intestinal stem cell (ISC)**  
767 **subsets in irradiation-induced intestinal injury and regeneration.** (A) tSNE  
768 projection of 2,411 ISCs identified, colored by Seurat cluster identities. (B) Heatmap  
769 of the average expression of the selected ISC function-related marker genes in five  
770 ISC clusters. (C) Dot plots showing the ratio of observed to expected cell numbers  
771 ( $R_{O/E}$ ) of each ISC cluster in the indicated samples, with log-transformed  
772 Bonferroni-corrected  $P$  values in Chi-square tests. (D) Line charts showing the  
773 average luminous density of *Olfm4* in immunostaining (blue) and the fraction of  
774 *Olfm4*<sup>+</sup> CBCs (clusters 4, 9 and 16; red) in the indicated groups. (E) RNA velocities  
775 of ISCs from the control and day 1 groups visualized on the tSNE projection. (F) The  
776 same as (E) for ISCs from the day 1 and day 3 groups. (G) Heatmap depicting the  
777 estimated activity of top 15 regulons showing differential activation in ISCs along the  
778 velocity flow from the control and day 1 groups, which is depicted by a black dashed  
779 line in (E). Shown are normalized mean area under the curve (AUC) scores of  
780 expression regulation by each transcription factor estimated in SCENIC. Cells are  
781 ordered according to first principal component (PC1) coordinate to grasp the primary  
782 velocity orientation. (H, I) The same as (G) for ISCs along the velocity flow from the  
783 day 1 and day 3 groups, which is depicted by black dashed lines in the left (H) and  
784 right (I) panel in (F).  
785

786 **Figure 4. The characteristics and roles of macrophage subsets in the**  
787 **irradiation-induced intestinal inflammation.** (A) tSNE projection of 2,926 myeloid  
788 cells identified, colored by Seurat cluster identities. (B) Heatmap of the average  
789 expression of the selected myeloid cell function-related marker genes in five myeloid  
790 cell clusters. (C) Dot plots showing the ratio of observed to expected cell numbers of  
791 each myeloid cell cluster in the indicated samples, with Bonferroni-corrected P values  
792 by Chi-square tests. (D) Flow cytometry analyses showing the percentages of Cd14<sup>+</sup>  
793 inflammatory macrophages at control and 3 days post-irradiation groups. (E)  
794 Dynamic change of the percentages of Cd14<sup>+</sup> macrophages at control, 1, 3, 7 and 14  
795 days post-irradiation groups. (F) Expression levels of inflammatory cytokines by  
796 Cd14<sup>+</sup> and Cd14<sup>-</sup> macrophages in intestine 3 day post-irradiation. (G) RNA velocities  
797 of four macrophage clusters visualized on the tSNE projection. (H, I) Heatmap  
798 depicting the estimated activities of top 15 differentially activated regulons along the  
799 velocity flow, which was depicted by black dashed lines in the right (H) and left (I)  
800 panel in (G). Shown are normalized mean area under the curve (AUC) scores of  
801 expression regulation of each transcription factor estimated by SCENIC. Cells are  
802 ordered according to first principal component (PC1) coordinate to grasp the primary  
803 velocity orientation.  
804

805 **Figure 5. Ligand-receptor interaction between the myeloid and endothelial cells.**

806 (A) The weighted interaction numbers of ligand-receptor pairs between the pairwise  
807 interactions of different cell types in control (top) and day 3 group (bottom). (B)  
808 Difference of hallmark pathway activities between the C12-Endothelial cells from  
809 control and day 3 groups. Shown are  $t$  values calculated in a linear modal comparing  
810 the pathway scores estimated by gene set variation analysis (GSVA) between cells  
811 from the two groups. (C) The same as (B) for C25-Endothelial cells from the control  
812 and day 3 groups. (D) The weighted interaction intensity of inflammatory-related and  
813 pro-proliferative ligand-receptor pairs between pairwise interactions of myeloid and  
814 endothelial cells in control and day 3 groups.

Figure 1

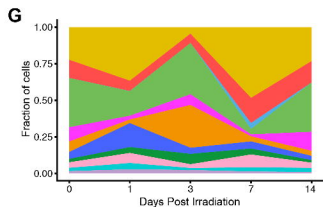
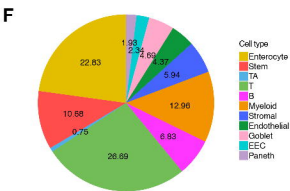
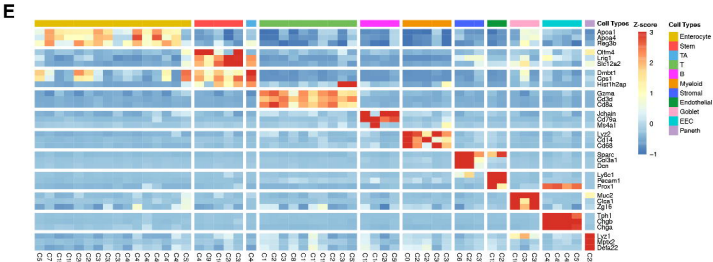
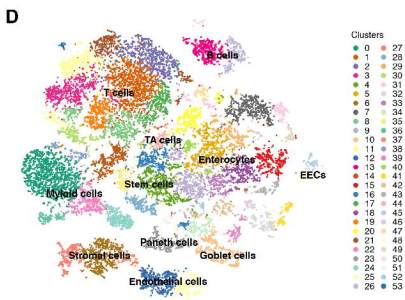
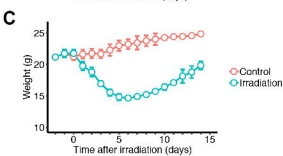
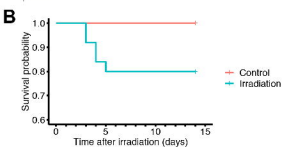
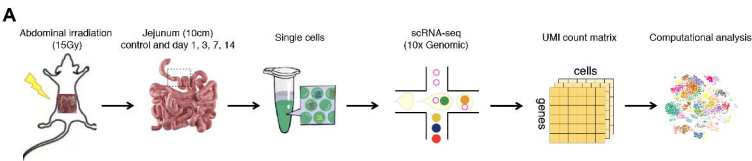


Figure 2

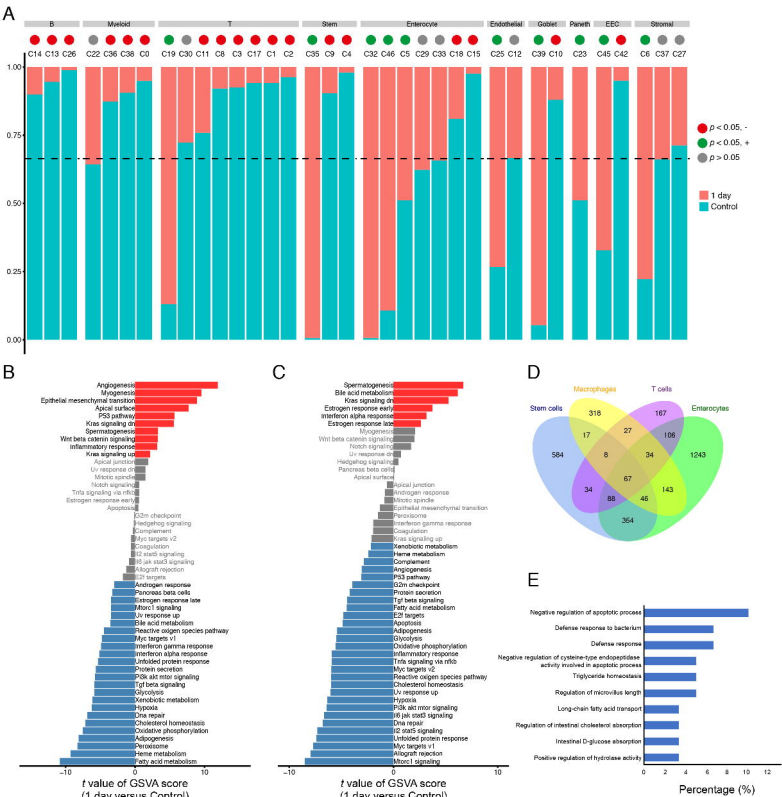


Figure 3

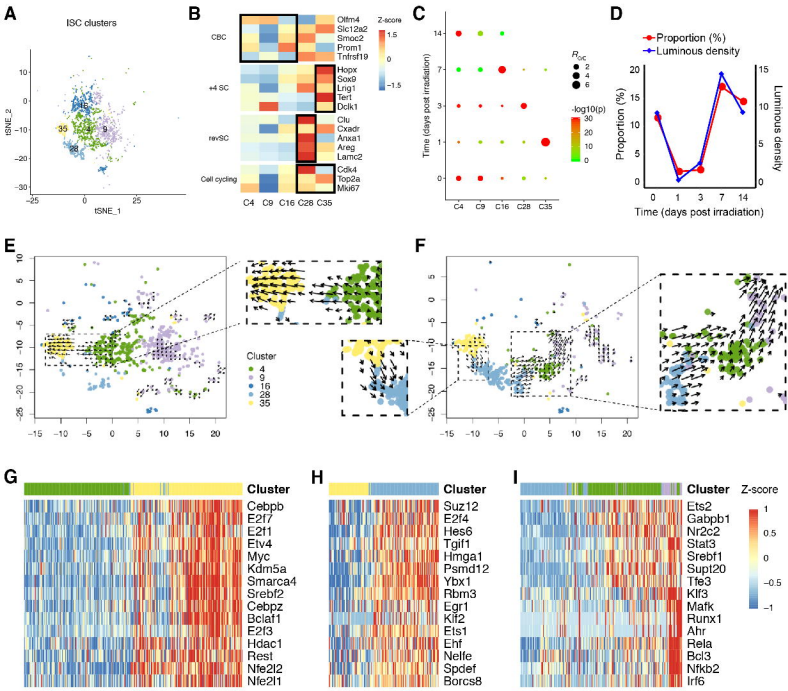




Figure 4

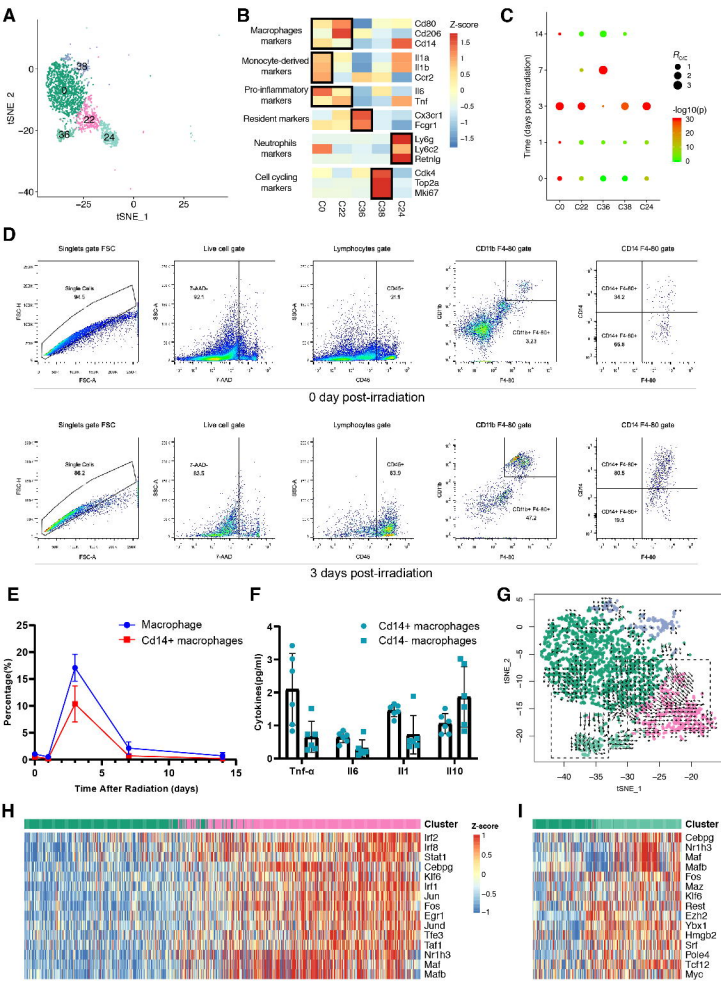


Figure 5

