TIM-4 Identifies Effector B Cells Expressing A RORγT-Driven Proinflammatory Cytokine Module That Promotes Immune Responses

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Summary:

B cells can express pro-inflammatory cytokines that promote a wide variety of immune responses. Here we show that B cells expressing the phosphatidylserine receptor TIM-4, preferentially express not only IL-17A, but also IL-22, IL-6, and GM-CSF - a collection of cytokines reminiscent of pathogenic Th17 cells. Expression of this proinflammatory module requires B cell expression of IL-23R, RORγt and IL-17. IL-17 expressed by TIM-4^{+} B cells not only enhances the severity of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) and promotes allograft rejection, but also acts in an autocrine manner to prevent their conversion into IL-10-expressing B cells with regulatory function. Thus, IL-17 acts as an inflammatory mediator and also enforces the proinflammatory activity of TIM-4^{+} B cells. TIM-4 serves as a broad marker for effector B cells (Beff) that will allow the study of the signals regulating their differentiation and expression of their effector molecules.

Keywords:

TIM-4, B cell, Immunoregulation, EAE, Allograft, Th17, IL-17, Cytokines

INTRODUCTION:

In addition to a primary role in humoral immunity, B cells are potent modulators of the immune response through antigen presentation, co-receptor engagement and production of cytokines [1-6]. Regulatory B cells (Bregs) inhibit immune responses through the expression of suppressive cytokines and coinhibitory molecules[1,2,4,7]. The phosphatidylserine receptor, TIM-1, is both a broad and functional marker for Bregs that play an essential role in restraining tissue inflammation and maintaining self-tolerance [7,8]. In addition to being a marker of Breg identity, TIM-1 signaling regulates the expression of a "regulatory module" that includes IL-10 and various coinhibitory molecules including TIGIT [7]. As such, specific deletion of TIM-1 in B cells results in spontaneous systemic autoimmunity characterized by inflammatory infiltration of multiple organs and accompanied by clinically apparent weight loss/colitis with rectal prolapse and EAE-like paralysis.

In contrast to Bregs, effector B cells (Beffs), express proinflammatory cytokines that promote anti-microbial responses, autoimmunity, and allograft and tumor rejection[2,4,5,9]. For example, B cell-derived IL-2 and TNFα are required for clearance of *H. polygyrus* infection [10]. B cell-derived IL-6 enhances Th1 and Th17 responses and increases the severity of EAE, a model of multiple sclerosis in humans. Further, B cell-derived IFNγ promotes Th1 responses and is required for the generation of proteoglycan-induced arthritis [11,12]. During *T. Cruzii* infection, a pathogen-associated trans-sialidase was reported to specifically induce IL-17A expression in plasma cells through a RORγt-independent mechanism, promoting pathogen clearance[13]. However, a wider role for IL-17A in Beff functions has not been identified.

Unlike Bregs, the phenotype of Beffs has not been well studied. The lack of a marker identifying Beffs impedes our understanding of their generation and effector functions. While we previously showed that TIM-4$^+$ B cells are enriched for IFNγ and enhance tumor and allograft rejection in an IFNγ-dependent manner [9], no more broadly unifying marker for Beffs has been identified. It remains unclear whether Beffs expressing different inflammatory cytokines are related in phenotype or are regulated by common signaling mechanisms. It is also unknown

whether Bregs and Beffs share any phenotypic or functional relationship. Here, we use high-throughput sequencing and murine models of autoimmunity and transplantation to characterize the role of TIM-4$^+$ Beffs. We demonstrate that in addition to IFNγ, TIM-4$^+$ B cells express a unique pro-inflammatory signature including IL-17A and a number of other proinflammatory cytokines in a RORγt and IL-23-dependent manner that resembles pathogenic Th17 cells. B cell IL-17A is not only a potent driver of inflammatory responses but is required as an autocrine factor to enforce expression of the TIM-4$^+$ B cell proinflammatory phenotype and prevent their conversion into IL-10-expressing B cells with regulatory function. Thus, TIM-4 is a marker that integrates many of the inflammatory B cell cytokines previously ascribed to Beffs and we identify a dual role for IL-17A as a proinflammatory cytokine and regulator of Beff versus Breg identity.

RESULTS:

TIM-4$^+$ B cells express IL-17A in a RORγt-dependent manner.

As previously shown, TIM-4 is expressed on a subset of splenic B cells similar in size but largely distinct from TIM-1$^+$ B cells (**Figure 1A)** [9]. In addition to being enriched for IFNγ expression, we now show that TIM-4$^+$ B cells from alloimmunized mice are also enriched for IL-17A production compared to total B cells or TIM-1$^+$ B cells (**Figure 1B-C**). Given their relatively low frequency of IL-10 expression, TIM-4$^+$ B cells have a markedly higher IL-17A:IL-10 ratio than TIM-1$^+$ B cells (**Figure 1B-D**). In contrast, the majority of B cells lack either TIM-1 or TIM-4 (double negative; DN) and produce less IL-10, IL-17A or IFNγ, than either TIM-1$^+$ or TIM-4$^+$ B cells (**Figure 1B** and [9]). A large majority of all B cell-derived IL-17A is produced by the TIM-4$^+$ subset as confirmed by staining B cells from alloimmunized IL-17A GFP-reporter mice for TIM-4 (**Figure 1E; Supplementary Figure 1A** shows gating strategy). In comparison, IL-17A production by T cells was only 20% as frequent, although of higher fluorescence intensity (**Supplementary Figure 1B)**. Similar levels of IL-17A were observed after immunization of mice for EAE (MOG_{35-55}, CFA, and pertussis toxin), suggesting that IL-17A production is a generalized response by a portion of TIM-4$^+$ B cells to immunizing stimuli (**Supplementary Figure 1C, D**). Finally, IL-17A production by B cells was RORγt-dependent as it is in T cells (**Supplementary Figure 1E**).

To determine whether IL-17A production could be enhanced *in vitro*, sort-purified CD19$^+$ B cells from naïve IL-17-EGFP reporter mice were stimulated with anti-IgM for 24 hours with or without the addition of various cytokines. After culture, bright EGFP-fluorescence was observed on a subset of B cells marked by the activation antigen Sca-1, and EGFP expression was increased 8-12-fold by the addition of IL-23 (**Supplementary Figure 2A, B**). To a lesser degree, IL-1β also increased IL-17A production by anti-IgM-stimulated B cells, and the combination of IL-23 and IL-1β was synergistic, while IL-6 had a small additive effect. Addition of IL-21 and IL-17A alone or in combination with IL-23 did not further increase IL-17A expression. CD40 ligation with or without anti-IgM, did not enhance IL-17A production (not shown). To corroborate IL-17A production by intracellular staining and reporter expression, we examined cytokine secretion by sort-purified TIM-4$^+$ versus TIM-4$^-$ B cells. TIM-4$^+$ B cells stimulated for 24 hours with anti-IgM secrete IL-17A, but only in the presence of IL-23 (**Figure 1E)**. In contrast, TIM-4$^-$ B cells did not secrete detectable IL-17A. Finally, we demonstrated that stimulated TIM-4$^+$ but not TIM-4$^-$ B cells express *Il-17a* mRNA after stimulation with anti-IgM plus IL-23 (**Supplementary Figure 2C**), which shows that IL-17 is indeed produced by the TIM-4$^+$ B cells themselves, rather than being acquired from other cells. Thus, TIM-4$^+$ B cells express *Il-17a* in a RORγt-dependent manner and this is induced by IL-23.

B cells and plasma cells both produce IL-17

To determine the extent of IL-17A production by B cells versus plasma cells (PCs) in RORγt-dependent IL-17A expression, BLIMP-1-YFP mice were alloimmunized with or without *in vitro* stimulation with PMA and ionomycin plus brefeldin A ("PIB") for 5 hours to enhance cytokine expression. BLIMP-1-YFP was used to distinguish between plasma cells and B cells. Splenic CD19$^+$ B cells were stained for both cell surface markers and intracellular IL-17A, and gated into 3 subpopulations, as shown in **Figure 2A**: B220bright BLIMP-1-YFP$^-$ conventional B cells (comprising 95 +/-1.0% of the gated population), B220bright BLIMP-1-YFP$^+$ cells, termed here "pre-plasmablasts" (pre-PBs; 1 +/-0.1 % of the gated B cell population), and B220dim BLIMP-1-YFP bright PCs (0.5 +/-0.24% of the gated population). PCs produced IL-17A at the highest

frequency both before (~12%) and after (~27%) *in vitro* stimulation (**Figure 2 B, C**). Pre-PBs expressed IL-17A with less frequency, but ~2% still produced IL-17A without *in vitro* stimulation, and over 5% after stimulation. Finally, IL-17-producing conventional B cells were infrequent, but reproducibly detected ($\leq$0.1%) even in the absence of stimulation. However, *in vitro* stimulation increased the frequency of IL-17^{+} B cells >12-fold (1.25%). Consistent with their relatively high production of IL-17, ~50% of PCs express TIM-4, and almost 90% of IL-17A^{+} PCs co-express TIM-4 (**Supplementary Figure 3A-C**). The relative size of each cell subset multiplied by the frequency of IL-17A production suggests that PCs and pre-PBs comprise ~50% of all IL-17A produced by the B cell lineage in the absence of *in vitro* stimulation. However, *in vitro* stimulation induces a many-fold greater increase in IL-17A production by the much more numerous conventional B cell population than PCs and Pre-PBs, whose contribution to B-lineage IL-17A now falls to ~12%. This situation is highly reminiscent of IL-10 production in B cells versus PCs, where a much higher proportion of PCs spontaneously produce IL-10, but B cell expression increases significantly upon *in vitro* stimulation [14]. Whether the presence or absence of *in vitro* stimulation most closely resembles the conditions occurring in critical inflammatory niches *in vivo* is not clear. Nonetheless, cytokine production observed in Th subsets is generally induced by *in vitro* stimulation.

B cell IL-17A is an important driver of allo- and auto- immune responses.

To examine the role of IL-17A produced by B cells on the immune response, we examined EAE in µMT mice after adoptive transfer of WT versus *Il-17a*$^{-/-}$ B cells. In agreement with previous studies, µMT mice exhibit severe and unremitting EAE induced by MOG_{35-55} peptide, and this is reduced by the transfer of WT B cells which have been shown to contain Bregs (**Figure 3A**) [15]. We reasoned that since WT B cells may not only include Bregs but also IL-17A-producing Beffs, transfer of *Il-17a*$^{-/-}$ B cells might further reduce EAE severity. Indeed, transfer of *Il-17a*$^{-/-}$ B cells into µMT mice significantly reduced the severity of EAE well below that seen after transfer of WT B cells.

Similarly, adoptive transfer of *Il-17a*$^{-/-}$ B cells from alloimmunized B6 mice into chemically diabetic µMT (B6) recipients of BALB/c islets markedly prolonged graft survival, whereas transfer of WT B cells had no effect compared to µMT recipients without B cell transfer (data not shown). To remove the potentially confounding influence of Bregs from the findings, we transferred sort-purified TIM-4^{+} Beffs from alloimmunized syngeneic (B6) mice into chemically diabetic µMT (B6) islet allograft recipients. As we previously demonstrated, transfer of WT TIM-4^{+} B cells accelerated islet allograft rejection compared to control µMT recipients without B cell transfer (**Figure 3B**). Surprisingly, *Il-17a* $^{-/-}$ TIM-4^{+} B cells from alloimmunized mice not only failed to accelerate graft rejection, but markedly prolonged graft survival. In attempts to explain the suppressive activity of TIM-4^{+} B cells from *Il-17a* $^{-/-}$ mice, we examined their cytokine expression. Compared to WT B cells, those from *Il-17a*$^{-/-}$ mice produced IL-10 with twice the normal frequency (**Figure 3C, D**). In particular, IL-10 frequency in TIM-4^{+} B cells increased 3-fold and was similar to that of TIM-1^{+} B cells (**Figure 1**).

To ensure that the effect on B cell IL-10 observed above was not due to dysregulation of B cells arising in globally IL-17A-deficient mice, we generated mixed bone marrow (BM) chimeras where B cells specifically lacked RORγt by reconstituting lethally irradiated µMT hosts with a 1:5 mixture of *Rorc*$^{-/-}$ and µMT BM. In comparison to control BM chimeras with WT B cells (µMT BM chimeras reconstituted with a 1:5 mixture of WT and µMT marrow), the B cell *Rorc*$^{-/-}$ BM chimeras produced markedly reduced IL-17A (**Figure 3E**). Furthermore, in comparison to control BM chimeras, B cell RORγt-deficient BM chimeras exhibit prolonged islet allograft survival and 30% never rejected their allografts (**Figure 3E**). A similar incidence of long-term allograft survival (33%) was achieved when BM chimeras were generated in µMT BM chimeras reconstituted with a 1:5 mixture of Il17a$^{-/-}$ and µMT bone marrow (**Figure 3E**).

To determine how IL-17A-deficient B cells altered the antigen-specific T cell response, B cell Il17a$^{-/-}$ BM chimeras vs. WT B cell control BM chimeras were immunized with BALB/c × B6-Act-mOva F1 splenocytes, followed by adoptive transfer of CFSE-labelled OTII CD4^{+} T cells [14,16]. The loss of B cell-derived IL-17A was associated with decreased proliferation (day 4), and a 2.5-fold

decrease in IL-17A, 2-fold decrease in IFNγ, and ≥1.7-fold increase in IL-10 and IL-4 production by OTII cells (day 7; **Figure 3F, G**). Similar changes were observed in transferred $CD8^+$ OT-1 cells (**Supplementary Figure 4A**). Endogenous $CD4^+$ T cells in B cell IL-17A-deficient chimeras exhibited similar reductions in IL-17A and IFNγ, and although IL-10 was not increased, $FOXp3^+$ Tregs were doubled (day 14; **Supplementary Figure 4B**). These studies suggested that in the absence of Beff-derived IL-17A, T cell proliferation was decreased, and the T cell response was skewed towards a less inflammatory and more regulatory functional repertoire. We next examined endogenous B cells in alloimmunized B cell IL-17A-deficient chimeras. As expected, B cell IL-17A was negligible, and IFNγ was reduced by ~30%, but once again B cell IL-10 was increased more than 2-fold (**Supplementary Figure 4B**).

To generate a more physiological model we crossed *hCD20-ERT2.Cre* and *Rorc*$^{fl/fl}$ mice to generate mice with an inducible knockout of Rorc (encoding RORγt) in B cells (RORγt-iBKO) that are entirely normal until being treated with Tamoxifen (TAM) chow to acutely induce B cell-specific deletion of RORγt. In comparison to TAM-treated *Rorc*$^{fl/fl}$ mice (Flox controls), B cells from RORγt-iBKO mice exhibited an 80% reduction in B cell IL-17A (**Figure 3H)**. RORγt-iBKO mice exhibited prolongation of islet allograft survival compared to either Flox control or nCD20-ERT2.Cre (Cre control) mice, with ~35% surviving long-term (**Figure 3I**) - very similar to that seen in the B cell IL-17A deficient BM chimeras above. Furthermore, RORγt-iBKO mice also exhibited decreased EAE severity (**Supplementary Figure 4C**). A detailed analysis of B cells in alloimmunized mice again demonstrated an overall ~2-fold increase in overall B cell IL-10, and a 5-fold increase in IL-10 production by TIM-4^+ B cells (**Figure 3J, Supplementary Figure 4D**). Similar to the BM chimeras (**Supplementary Figure 4B**), RORγt-iBKO mice exhibited a 30% increase in frequency of $Foxp3^+$ Tregs (data not shown). Taken together, our findings indicate that even the acute loss of RORγt/IL-17A in developmentally normal mice results in dysregulated IL-10 production in the TIM-4^+ Beff subset. Furthermore, the loss of proinflammatory IL-17A and/or increase in IL-10 by B cells is associated with increased allograft survival and decreased EAE severity.

To try to differentiate between the effects of decreased IL-17A and increased IL-10 production by B cells, TAM-treated RORγt-iBKO islet allograft recipients were treated with a blocking anti-IL-10R mAb (clone 1B1.3A) [17,18]. Anti-IL-10R had no effect on islet allograft survival compared to control rat IgG mAb (**Supplementary Figure 5A**). To separate the effect of loss of B cell IL-17A from increased IL-10 production, we generated hCD20ERT2.Cre X *Rorc*$^{fl/fl}$ X *Il10*$^{fl/fl}$ mice (IL-10/RORγt inducible double KO (iDKO). TAM-treated alloimmunized IL-10/RORγt iDKO B cells exhibited reduced B cell IL-17A expression similar to that seen in RORγt iBKO mice (**Supplementary Figure 5B**). While B cells from RORγt iBKO mice had elevated IL-10 production (2.5-fold) compared to Cre controls, B cells from IL-10/RORγt iDKO mice exhibited an ~40% decrease in IL-10 production. Despite this reduced B cell IL-10, allograft survival in the B cell IL-17-deficient IL-10/RORγt iDKO mice was significantly greater than Cre control mice (**Supplementary Figure 5C**). While there was a trend towards decreased survival compared to RORγt iBKO mice, this was not statistically significant. Taken together, these results suggest that loss of RORγt and IL-17A as an inflammatory driver by Beff cells reduces the alloreactive immune response and this is not solely due to increased IL-10.

Regulation of IL-17A and IL-10 expression in B cells by IL-23 and IL-17

The data above (**Figure 1 and Supplementary Figure 2**) suggested that IL-17A production by TIM-4^{+} B cells is IL-23 dependent while deletion of *Il17* or *Rorc* in B cells, augmented IL-10 production. To gain further insight into the regulation of these cytokines, we examined *Il17a* and *Il10* expression at the transcriptional level by performing quantitative PCR (qPCR) on sort-purified TIM-4^{+}(TIM-1^{-}) and TIM-1^{+}(TIM-4^{-}) B cells from WT or IL-23R$^{-/-}$ mice after anti-IgM stimulation with or without additional cytokines for 24 hours. Stimulation of TIM-4^{+} B cells with anti-IgM induced detectable *Il17a* mRNA, and this was increased ~3-fold with the addition of IL-17A and ~10-fold with IL-23 (**Figure 4A**). Consistent with reporter expression (**Supplementary Figure 2B**), IL-1β augmented *Il17a* mRNA expression attained with IL-23. Neutralizing anti-IL-17A mAb decreased *Il17a* mRNA expression induced by either IL-23 alone or IL-23 combined with IL-1β. TIM-4^{+} B cells from IL-23R$^{-/-}$ mice exhibited markedly reduced *Il17a* expression, confirming the requirement for IL-23 signaling to induce *Il17a* expression by TIM-4^{+} B cells

(**Figure 4A**). In contrast, neither WT nor IL-23R$^{-/-}$ TIM-1^{+} B cells expressed detectable *Il17a* mRNA. The mRNA expression data was confirmed at the protein level by comparing IL-17A secretion by sort-purified TIM-1^{+} versus TIM-4^{+} B cells *in vitro* after 48-hour culture (**Figure 4B**). IL-23 markedly enhances IL-17A secreted by anti-IgM treated TIM-4^{+} B cells. As expected, anti-IL-17A completely neutralized IL-17A detected in the supernatants. TIM-1^{+} B cells secrete minimal IL-17A after treatment with IL-23.

Our data (**Figure 3** and **Supplementary Figure 4**) indicates that deletion of either RORγt or IL-17A expression by B cells increases IL-10 production by TIM-4^{+} B cells. This suggests that B cell IL-17A may directly or indirectly inhibit IL-10 production by TIM-4^{+} B cells and maintain their Beff function. To address this, we examined IL-10 secretion by sort-purified TIM-4^{+} versus TIM-1^{+} B cells *in vitro*. Anti-IgM-stimulated TIM-4^{+} B cells secrete only 1/6 as much IL-10 as TIM-1^{+} B cells (**Figure 4C**), in agreement with the frequency of IL-10 expression determined by intracellular staining (**Figure 1**). The addition of IL-23, which promotes IL-17A secretion, to TIM-4^{+} B cells inhibits IL-10 secretion ~3-fold. However, when IL-17A in the supernatant is neutralized with anti-IL-17A, anti-IgM plus IL-23-stimulated TIM-4^{+} B cells increase their IL-10 secretion almost 8-fold (~2.5-fold above the baseline with anti-IgM alone; **Figure 4C**). In contrast, IL-10 secretion after anti-IgM plus IL-23 treatment is further reduced by the addition of exogenous IL-17A. This suggests that IL-17A directly inhibits IL-10 production by TIM-4^{+} B cells. As noted above, TIM-1^{+} B cells secrete higher levels of IL-10 in response to anti-IgM than TIM-4^{+} B cells, and IL-10 production is markedly inhibited by IL-23. While the addition of IL-23 does induce detectable IL-17A secretion by TIM-1^{+} B cells (**Figure 4B**), this is unlikely to be the main mechanism by which IL-23 inhibits IL-10 production in TIM-1^{+} B cells since IL-17A neutralization only slightly restores IL-10, and addition of exogenous IL-17A has no significant effect on IL-10 secretion compared to IL-23 alone. IL-23 does signal in both TIM-1^{+} and TIM-4^{+} B cells and inhibits IL-10 secretion, as it does in pathogenic Th17 cells [19]. However, whereas the inhibition of IL-10 by IL-23 signaling can be overcome by IL-17A neutralization in TIM-4^{+} B cells, IL-23-mediated suppression of IL-10 in TIM-1^{+} B cells appears largely independent of IL-17A.

Examination of *Il10* mRNA by qPCR generally corroborates cytokine secretion data (**Figure 4D**). WT TIM-4^{+} B cells expressed low levels of IL-10 mRNA, and this was reduced by the addition of IL-17A and even more so after the addition of IL-23. However, *Il10* mRNA was increased many-fold by neutralizing IL-17A despite the presence of IL-23. As shown in **Figure 4A**, IL-23R$^{-/-}$ TIM-4^{+} B cells expressed much less (undetectable) IL-17A than WT TIM-4^{+} B cells, but they expressed significantly more IL-10 (**Figure 4D**). Addition of exogenous IL-17A reduced IL-10 expression in IL-23R$^{-/-}$ TIM-4^{+} B cells demonstrating an IL-23-independent effect of IL-17. WT and IL-23R$^{-/-}$ TIM-1^{+} B cells express significantly more *Il10* than TIM-4^{+} B cells. In the absence of IL-23 signaling, IL-17A independently inhibits *Il10* expression by TIM-1^{+} B cells. Taken together, these data suggest that IL-17A acts directly on B cells to suppress *Il10* expression. **Figure 3D** further shows that B cells from BM chimeras specifically lacking B cell-derived IL-17 exhibit increased IL-10 production, suggesting that IL-17A acts as an autocrine factor to suppress B cell IL-10.

If IL-17A has a direct effect on B cell *Il10* expression, IL-17R-deficient B cells should express more *Il10*. To test this, we generated *Il17RC*$^{fl/fl}$ X CD19-Cre (IL-17RC BKO) mice and compared these to CD19-Cre controls. Consistent with our hypothesis, B cells from immunized IL-17RC BKO mice produced over 40% more IL-10 than Cre control B cells (**Figure 4E**).

TIM-4^{+}B cells express multiple pro-inflammatory cytokines with a pattern resembling pathogenic Th17 cells.

The production of both IFNγ and IL-17A raised the question as to whether TIM-4^{+} B cells also express other pro-inflammatory cytokines, opposite to the anti-inflammatory profile of TIM-1^{+} B cells. To address this, we performed population level transcriptomic sequencing (RNA-seq) on RNA isolated from highly sort-purified TIM-4^{+}(TIM-1^{-}), TIM-1^{+}(TIM-4^{-}), and TIM-4^{-}TIM-1^{-} (DN) B cells from spleens of alloimmunized mice, after stimulation for 24 hours with anti-IgM plus IL-23. This allowed us to compare TIM-4^{+} Beffs and TIM-1^{+} Bregs, separately from the majority population of DN B cells which express little IL-17, IFNγ, or IL-10 (**Figure 1** and [9]).

We performed principal component analysis (PCA) and observed that PC1 separated the expression profiles of TIM-1$^+$ and TIM-4$^+$ B cells, while PC2 separated DN B cells from both TIM-4$^+$ and TIM-1$^+$ B cells (**Supplementary Figure 6A**). TIM-1$^+$ samples from different mice showed more variability along PC1 because of differences in the total number of unique genes detected. All samples were included in the subsequent analysis as no one sample failed quality control. Comparison of TIM-4$^+$ and TIM-1$^+$ cells by differential gene expression analysis revealed 3425 upregulated genes (613 with fold change >1.5) and 7858 downregulated genes (7393 with fold change >1.5) (FDR <0.05 **Figure 5A**) in the TIM-4$^+$ population. Genes of interest are displayed in the volcano plot (**Figure 5B)**. Compared to TIM-1$^+$ B cells, TIM-4$^+$ B cells not only expressed higher levels of *Il17a*, but also of *Il17f, Il22, Csf2, Il6, Il1β, TNFα,* and *Il2* **(Figure 5B-D**), thus constituting a pro-inflammatory module. As expected, TIM-1$^+$ cells expressed more *Il10*, and also *Ctla4, Nte5* (expressing CD73), *ENTpd1* (expressing CD39), *Cd274* (expressing PD-L1), and *Pdcd1lg2* (expressing PD-L2). Of note, *Ifng* expression, showed a trend, but was not statistically higher in TIM-4$^+$ B cells (**Figure 5C**), even though IFNγ protein expression is higher in TIM-4$^+$ versus TIM-1$^+$ B cells in the absence of stimulation with IL-23 [9]. Surprisingly, in these stimulated cells, the TIM-4 gene (*Timd4*) was expressed at higher levels by TIM-1$^+$ B cells even though TIM-4 protein was not detected by flow cytometry. Many of the same proinflammatory cytokines noted above were also increased in TIM-4$^+$ B cells compared to DN B cells (**Figure 5C, D**). Comparison of the overall gene expression profile of TIM-4$^+$ versus DN cells revealed 197 upregulated genes and 1 downregulated gene (Pcdhga10, protocadherin gamma subfamily A, 10) at fold change >1.5 (not shown). A second independent experiment comparing TIM-4$^+$ vs TIM-4$^-$ B cells gave similar results (**data not shown).** The top 50 upregulated and downregulated genes in TIM-4$^+$ vs TIM-1$^+$ B cells are listed in **Supplementary Table 1.**

The pattern of cytokine genes expressed by TIM-4$^+$ B cells closely resembles that of pathogenic Th17 cells (pTh17) [21-23]. Comparing gene expression by TIM-4$^+$ B cells to those of TIM-1$^+$ B cells, demonstrates that in addition to the cytokines pathognomonic for pTh17 cells like *Csf2* and *Il22*, TIM-4$^+$ B cells exhibit increased expression of a number of other genes in the pTh17 signature that we identified by polarizing pTh17 cells with TGFβ3 and IL-6, compared to non-

pTh17 cells polarized with TGFβ1 and IL-6 (**Supplementary Figure 6B)** [22]. These include chemokines such as *Ccl3*, *Ccl4*, and *Ccl5*, as well as *Stat4*, and *Lgals3* (encoding Galectin 3). However, not all genes upregulated in that pTh17 signature were upregulated in TIM-4$^+$ versus TIM-1$^+$ B cells. These include *Icos, Cxcl3, Gzmb, Casp1* (encoding caspase I, required for IL-1β maturation) and Tbx21 (expression variably increased in TIM-4$^+$ B cells). Amongst genes downregulated in pTh17 cells, *Il10, Maf, and Ikzf3* (IKAROS family Zinc Finger 3) are also downregulated in TIM-4$^+$ B cells, while *Cd5l* was upregulated and *Ahr* expression was variable in TIM-4$^+$ B cells (**Supplementary Figure 6C)**. Of genes identified in several other pTh17 signatures[23-28], only *Batf, Bhle40*, and *Cd44* were upregulated in TIM-4$^+$ B cells, but not *Il23r*, the canonical Notch signaling mediator *Rbpj, IL1rn*, *Gpr65, Toso, Plzp, Batf3, Cd44, Prdm1*, Protein receptor C (*PROCR*), *Foxo1*, or IRF4, (**Supplementary Figure 6B**) This suggests that despite their similarities in cytokine expression, the regulation of TIM-4$^+$ B cell induction or differentiation may be distinct from that of pTh17 cells [22,24-28].

DISCUSSION:

In addition to antibody production, B cells play an important role in enhancing or inhibiting immune responses through antigen presentation, the elaboration of cytokines and expression of coinhibitory and costimulatory ligands [1-5]. Despite the strong influence of B cells producing various proinflammatory cytokines on microbial immunity, tumor immunity, alloimmunity, and autoimmunity, no broad marker for Beffs has been previously identified. In this study, we demonstrate that TIM-4 identifies proinflammatory Beff cells that preferentially produce IL-17A and other proinflammatory cytokines resembling those expressed by pTh17 cells. Production of proinflammatory cytokines by TIM-4$^+$ B cells is dependent on IL-23 and RORγt, and critically, IL-17, which is required as an autocrine factor. In the absence of these underlying pro-inflammatory signals TIM-4$^+$ B cells are dysregulated and now produce IL-10 and exhibit potent regulatory activity.

In humans, B cell depletion can lead to rapid improvement in autoimmune disease without a reduction in auto-Ab levels (rheumatoid arthritis) or oligoclonal bands in the cerebral spinal

fluid (multiple sclerosis) [29-31]. In multiple sclerosis, B cells produce high levels of proinflammatory cytokines like TNF and GM-CSF and decreased IL-10[32,33]. B cell depletion with anti-CD20, now a first-line treatment in relapsing MS, results in repopulation by B cells producing normalized ratios of pro- versus anti- inflammatory cytokines, and this correlates with reduced T cell hyperreactivity [32]. These studies indicate that B cells can play an important effector role, enhancing inflammatory immune responses. However, in kidney and heart transplant patients, where B cells appear to have a more normal cytokine distribution, B cell depletion in the peri-transplant period actually augments allograft rejection, suggesting a requisite regulatory role for B cells [34,35]. Further, the ratio of IL-10/TNF production by transitional B cells 3 months after transplantation, thought to reflect the relative balance of Bregs and Beffs, is highly predictive of future allograft rejection and 5-year allograft survival[6].

Until recently, our understanding of Breg biology was hampered by the lack a unifying marker. The discovery of TIM-1 as a broad functional marker was an important step forward[8]. TIM-1 regulates the expression of an array of anti-inflammatory cytokines and coinhibitory molecules and its specific deletion in B cells results in spontaneous systemic autoimmunity, including an EAE-like paralytic neuroinflammatory disorder [7]. In contrast, B cells producing various proinflammatory cytokines have been shown to play an important role in immune responsiveness. For example, B cell production of IFNγ plays a requisite role in proteoglycan-induced arthritis, TNFα and IL-2 in clearance of *H. polygyrus*, and IL-6 in EAE severity[2,4,5]. Yet no broad marker for Beffs has been previously identified. We previously showed that TIM-4$^+$ B cells were proinflammatory, enhancing both tumor and allograft rejection[9]. This was initially attributed to their increased expression of IFNγ. We now show that TIM-4 identifies B cells that not only express IL-17A but also IL-17F, IL-22, IL-6, and GM-CSF - a pattern that closely resembles cytokines expressed by pTh17 cells. Thus, TIM-4$^+$ B cells express many of the proinflammatory cytokines previously attributed to B cell effector function. This allows us to begin to address how proinflammatory cytokine production is regulated in TIM-4$^+$ Beffs and differs from the signals regulating TIM-1$^+$ Breg activity.

Bermejo et al previously reported that in the setting of *T. cruzii* infection, a pathogen-specific transialidase alters CD45 glycosylation and this induces B cell IL-17A expression in a RORγt independent manner[13]. Whereas adoptive transfer of WT B cells into µMT mice enhanced clearance of T. cruzii, IL-17$^{-/-}$ B cells had no effect. We now demonstrate that B cell IL-17A expression is a much more generalized component of B cell function, expressed in response to various types of immunization at a frequency similar to that of IL-10 expression in B cells. IL-17A is predominantly produced by TIM-4^{+} B cells, and in these settings, IL-17A production is RORγt dependent. Plasma cells and pre-plasmablasts (B220^{+} CD138hi) spontaneously produce IL-17A at relatively high frequency and contribute roughly half of all the IL-17 produced by the B cell lineage. However, after *in vitro* stimulation, the frequency of B cells expressing IL-17A increases several-fold and outweighs the contribution by the small plasma cell subset. This closely parallels IL-10, which is spontaneously produced by plasma cells and significantly induced by in B cells after vitro stimulation [14].

In the absence of B cell-derived IL-17A or RORγt, we showed that TIM-4^{+} B cells are dysregulated and significantly upregulate IL-10 and exhibit potent regulatory activity. Conversion between B cells with regulatory versus pro-inflammatory activity has not been previously described. This Breg activity is associated with decreased CD4 and CD8 proliferation, increased Tregs, and decreased Th17 and Th1 responses, resulting in reduced EAE severity and prolonged allograft survival. However, results using mice floxed for both RORγt and IL-10, indicate that increased IL-10 does not solely explain the regulatory activity of these dysregulated TIM-4^{+} B cells. This suggests that B cells lacking IL-17 or RORγt either fail to drive inflammatory T cell responses, or express additional regulatory molecules, which results in the decreased proinflammatory and increased regulatory T cell responses observed.

Non-pathogenic Th17 (npTh17) cells express IL-10 along with IL-17A, and while not frankly suppressive, they play an essential role in the integrity of the gut mucosal barrier [36,37]. In contrast, pTh17 cells express little IL-10, but express IL-17A in conjunction with a host of other pro-inflammatory cytokines including, for example, GM-CSF which plays an important

inflammatory role in EAE [37,38]. The equilibrium between npTh17 and pTh17 cells is carefully regulated by balancing IL-10 and IL-23R expression, respectively. For example, npTh17 cells express increased Cd5l, which binds to fatty acid synthase and leads to increased intracellular polyunsaturated versus saturated fatty acids, reducing RORγt agonistic ligands [19]. This results in increased RORγt binding and transactivation of the Il10 locus and reduced RORγt binding to the Il23r locus, which together, promote the differentiation of npTh17 rather than pTh17 cells. In contrast, increased RBPJ, a mediator of NOTCH signaling, enhances IL-23R expression which drives pTh17 differentiation [39].

IL-23 is an important driver of the TIM-4$^+$ pro-inflammatory module which shares many similarities to that of pTh17 cells including cytokines, chemokines (*Ccl3, Ccl4, Ccl5), Lgals3* (encoding Galectin3), and *Stat4* [22]. Despite this resemblance, regulation of proinflammatory cytokine versus IL-10 expression within the TIM-4$^+$ Beff population and between TIM-4$^+$ Beffs and their opposing TIM-1$^+$ Breg subset, differs from that in npTh17 and pTh17 cells. Compared to TIM-1$^+$ Bregs, TIM-4$^+$ B cells express increased *Cd5l,* which as noted above, is generally expressed in npTh17 cells, promotes IL-10 induction, and inhibits their development of proinflammatory function. Yet, TIM-4$^+$ B cells express little *Il10* and are highly pro-inflammatory. Moreover, neither RBPJ nor IL-23R are differentially expressed, consistent with IL-23 responsiveness by both TIM-1 and TIM-4$^+$ B cells. Indeed, IL-23R signaling reduces *Il10* expression in both TIM-1$^+$ and TIM-4$^+$ B cells. However, IL-23 induces inflammatory cytokine expression in TIM-4$^+$, but not in TIM-1$^+$, B cells. Thus, TIM-1$^+$ and TIM-4$^+$ B cells exhibit distinct signals through the IL-23R that differentially regulate proinflammatory cytokine loci. Further study will be necessary to elucidate these signals. Of note, TIM-4$^+$ B cells do differentially express *Bhle40*, a basic helix-loop-helix transcription factor that promotes *Csf2* and inhibits *Il10* expression in pTh17 cells, and *BatF*, an AP-1 transcription factor that binds to the *Il17, Il21* and *Il22* promoters [17,40].

We have shown that BM chimeric mice with a B cell-specific deletion of Il17a and mice with an inducible deletion of Rorc exhibit a significant increase in IL-10 production by TIM-4$^+$ B cells, and

that IL-17A directly inhibits IL-10 production by TIM-4$^+$ B cells *in vitro*. This suggests that IL-17A may directly act on TIM-4$^+$ B cells to inhibit IL-10 production in an autocrine fashion. IL-23 also inhibits IL-10 expression by TIM-4$^+$ B cells, but this is fully reversible by neutralizing IL-17. One possible mechanism is that in TIM-4$^+$ B cells, IL-23 inhibits Il10 expression indirectly through IL-17A. To our knowledge, a pathway leading from IL-17A signaling to IL-10 inhibition has not been previously described and will require further study. This pathway does not predominate in TIM-1$^+$ B cells where IL-23 signals inhibit IL-10 despite barely detectable IL-17A expression, and only modest recovery of IL-10 expression occurs upon IL-17A neutralization. Addition of exogenous IL-17 does not suppress IL-10 expression by TIM-1$^+$ B cells beyond that seen with IL-23 alone. However, in the absence of IL-23R signaling, exogenous IL-17 does inhibit *Il10* mRNA expression by TIM-1$^+$ B cells (Fig 4D), suggesting that IL-17 and IL-23 independently inhibit *Il10* expression.

Taken together, our data suggest that in TIM-4$^+$ B cells, IL-23 drives the expression of a proinflammatory module which includes RORγt-dependent IL-17A production. IL-17A acts in an autocrine manner to potently suppress *Il10* expression and enforce pro-inflammatory Beff activity. In contrast, IL-23 has minimal effect on proinflammatory cytokine expression by TIM-1$^+$ B cells, while IL-23 and IL-17 appear to independently inhibit *Il10* expression. These findings suggest that cross-regulation may occur at several levels. IL-23 in the microenvironment should inhibit *Il10* expression by TIM-1$^+$ B cells and augment expression of the TIM-4$^+$ proinflammatory module. IL-17 expressed by TIM-4$^+$ B cells not only enforces their Beff activity but may suppress *Il10* expression by TIM-1$^+$ Bregs. Finally, impairment of IL-17 expression by TIM-4$^+$ Beffs would result in their increased *Il10* expression and Breg activity. Thus, we have identified a reciprocal relationship between B cells with regulatory and effector activity. In this regard, we recently showed that deletion of TIM-1 expression in B cells inhibits tumor progression and results in the expansion of B cells in the draining LNs that express proinflammatory cytokines in a type I IFN-mediated manner[41]. Whether this is due to the acquisition of inflammatory function by B cells that were destined to become TIM-1$^+$ Bregs, or due to increased TIM-4$^+$ Beffs in the absence of TIM-1$^+$ Bregs, is not yet clear. In conclusion, TIM-1$^+$ and TIM-4$^+$ B cells exhibit different signals through the IL-23R that differentially regulate IL-10 and proinflammatory phenotype and Beff

versus Breg function. Further elucidation of these signals may allow therapeutic manipulation of these two B cell subsets to enhance or inhibit the immune response in autoimmunity and alloimmunity versus cancer.

METHODS:

Mice: C57BL/6 (B6; H-2b), BALB/c (H-2d), RORγt$^{-/-}$, RORγt$^{fl/fl}$, IL-10$^{fl/fl}$, Il*17a*$^{-/-}$, Blimp1-eYFP, B6 IL-17A–EGFP reporter, OT-I transgenic, OT-II transgenic and µMT (B6) mice were from The Jackson Laboratory. hCD20-ERT2.Cre were from Mark J Shlomchik, University of Pittsburgh [42]. RORγt$^{fl/fl}$ hCD20CRE$^{+/-}$ (RORγt iBKO) mice were generated in our facility by crossing RORγt$^{fl/fl}$ mice to hCD20-ERT2.Cre mice. F1.Act-mOVA mice (provided by Fadi Lakkis, University of Pittsburgh) were generated by breeding BALB/c mice with B6.*Act-OVA* mice[16]. RORγt$^{fl/fl}$IL-10$^{fl/fl}$hCD20.ERT2.Cre$^{+/-}$ (IL-10/RORγt iB-DKO) were generated by interbreeding RORγt$^{fl/fl}$ and IL-10$^{fl/fl}$ mice and then crossing with hCD20-ERT2.CRE RORγt$^{fl/fl}$ mice. All animals were used at 6–10 weeks of age and were housed with food and water ad libitum.

Islet isolation, transplantation, and alloantigen immunization: Allogeneic islets from B6 donors were digested with collagenase V (Sigma-Aldrich), purified by filtration through a 100-µm nylon cell strainer (BD Biosciences), hand-picked under a stereomicroscope, and placed under the left renal capsule of sex-matched allogeneic recipients with streptozotocin-induced diabetes (400 islets per recipient), as we previously described [8,9]. All recipients had glycemia < 150 mg/dl within 2 d after transplant. Blood glucose > 250 mg/dl for two consecutive days after engraftment was defined as rejection[8,9]. In some experiments, mice were immunized with alloantigen by i.p. injection of 2 × 10^7 mitomycin C–treated allogeneic (BALB/c) splenocytes, as described [8,9].

Flow cytometry: Fluorochrome-conjugated mAbs were purchased from BD Biosciences, eBioscience, and BioLegend). All staining was performed in the presence of Fc block(anti-CD16/CD32) and LIVE/DEAD Fixable Aqua viability indicator. Flow acquisition was performed on LSRII analyzers (BD Biosciences), and data were analyzed using FlowJo software (BD). Background staining was determined with isotype-matched controls. Where IL-17A was detected by EGFP reporter expression, cells from WT (GFP-) littermates were used as negative controls. For detection of intracellular cytokines, T cells were cultured for 4 hours with PMA (50

ng/ml; Sigma-Aldrich), ionomycin (500 ng/ml; Sigma-Aldrich), and GolgiPlug (1 µl/ml; BD Biosciences). For detection of B-cell IL-10, B cells were cultured for 5 hours with LPS (10 µg/ml), PMA (50 ng/ml; Sigma-Aldrich), ionomycin (500 ng/ml; Sigma-Aldrich), and monensin (1 µl/ml; eBiosciences), as described previously [8,9]. For detection of B-cell IL-17, B cells were cultured as above, except Brefeldin A (1 µl/ml; eBiosciences) was substituted with Monensin. Intracellular cytokine staining was conducted after permeabilization using intracellular staining kits from BD Biosciences or eBioscience.

Cell preparation and adoptive transfer: B cells subsets were obtained from WT or IL17$^{-/-}$ naïve mice or from mice 14 d after alloantigen immunization (2 × 10^7 mitomycin C–treated BALB/c splenocytes i.p.) by negative selection (EasySep; StemCell Technologies). Purity of the B cell subset was greater than 98%. CD19$^+$TIM-4$^+$and CD19$^+$ TIM-4$^-$ B cells were subsequently isolated by FACS using BD FACSAria (>95% purity). For adoptive transfer studies, 5–7 × 10^6 purified B cell subsets from syngeneic mice were injected i.v. into otherwise untreated µMT allograft recipients or EAE recipients. In transplant experiments, CD19$^+$ cells above were obtained from B6 mice immunized with alloantigen (as above).

RNA isolation, real-time PCR: Total RNA was purified from cells by using RNeasy Micro Kit (Qiagen). 100ng of total RNA was used for cDNA synthesis by RNA to cDNA EcoDry™ Premix (Double Primed) kit (Takara), and qPCR was performed by Taqman primers with TaqMan™ Fast Advanced Master Mix (Applied Biosystems™) on StepOnePlus Real-Time PCR Systems (Applied Biosystems). Relative expression quantification was calculated using the ΔΔCt method and level was normalized by *GAPDH*. Taqman primers and probes were purchased from Applied Biosystems: Mm00439618_m1 (*IL-17A*), Mm01288386_m1(IL-10), Hs02786624_g1(GAPDH).

EAE: Mice were immunized subcutaneously in the flank with an emulsion containing MOG 35–55 (200µg/mouse) and CFA (200 µl/mouse; Difco Laboratories, containing M. tuberculosis H37Ra, 5 mg/ml). Pertussis toxin (200 ng/mouse; List Biological Laboratories) was administered intraperitoneally on days 0 and 2. Mice were monitored and assigned grades for clinical signs of

EAE. Mice were observed for signs of EAE beginning on day 7 after immunization. Mice were clinically assessed with daily assignment of scores on a standard 0–5 scale as follows: no clinical expression of disease, 0; partially limp tail, 0.5; completely limp tail, 1; limp tail and waddling gait, 1.5; paralysis of one hind limb, 2; paralysis of one hind limb and partial paralysis of the other hind limb, 2.5; complete paralysis of both hind limbs, 3; ascending paralysis, 3.5; paralysis of trunk, 4; moribund, 4.5; death, 5. To evaluate the suppressive ability of IL-17A$^{-/-}$ B cells, purified total IL-17A$^{-/-}$ B cells, B cells were transferred i.v. into µMT recipients. Hosts were then immunized to induce EAE.

Generation of bone marrow (BM) chimeric mice: µMT mice were lethally irradiated (1000 rad) and reconstituted with a combination of syngeneic (H-2b) BM cells (10^7) from µMT and WT donors (80:20 ratio) or from µMT and IL-17A$^{-/-}$ (80:20 ratio) or from µMT and RORγT$^{-/-}$ (80:20 ratio) donors. BM chimeras were used after 8 weeks to allow immune reconstitution. B cells were fully reconstituted (from non-µMT bone marrow).

Cytometric Bead Array (CBA): IL-17A and IL-10 in supernatant were quantified simultaneously using a BD™ Mouse Cytokine Cytometric Bead Array (CBA) kit and BD™ CBA FCAP array software (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA), following the manufacturer's instructions. The BD^{TM} LSR II system (Becton Dickinson) was calibrated with set-up beads, and 3000 events were acquired for each sample. Individual cytokine concentration ratios were indicated by their fluorescent intensities.

Purification and adoptive transfer of TCR-transgenic T cells: CD4 and CD8 T cells from spleens and lymph nodes of OT-II transgenic mice and OT-I transgenic mice were purified using EasySep™ Mouse CD4$^+$ T Cells and CD8 T cells Isolation Kit (STEMCELL), respectively, and were labeled with CFSE (ThermoFisher) and were injected i.v. at 2×10^6 cells per B-cell IL-17$^{-/-}$ recipient BM chimeric mice. Mice were immunized the following day with splenocytes from F1.Act-mOVA mice. 4 days after priming, some recipients were sacrificed and proliferation for their OT cells were analyzed by flow cytometry. The remaining mice were sacrificed at 7 days

after priming, cytokines expression for transferred OT cells were analyzed by intracellular staining using flow cytometry.

RNA-seq: $CD19^+$ B cells were purified from splenocytes of alloimmunized B6 mice EasySep™ Mouse Pan-B Cell Isolation Kit (STEMCELL), purity >98%. Purified B cells were stained with anti-CD19, TIM-1, TIM-4, DUMP (CD3, CD64, Gr-1, Ter119) and subjected to FACS for $CD19^+$ TIM-1^+TIM-4^-, TIM-4^+TIM-1^- and DN populations. Sorting repeated 2-3X for each population until the subset purity was ~100%. Total RNA was the purified from cells by using *RNeasy Micro Kit* (Qiagen) and checked for purity and integrity in a Bioanalyzer-2100 (Agilent Technologies, Inc., Santa Clara, CA) and submitted to the University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Sequencing Core at Children's Hospital for sequencing. Libraries were prepared using the Ultra-low input RNA-seq Preparation Kit (Takara) as recommended by the manufacturer. Each library was paired end sequenced (2 × 75 bp) using Illumina/NextSeq. Sequencing using NextSeq Fastq files were returned by the core for further analysis.

Processing and analysis of bulk RNA-seq data: Bulk RNA-seq data were preprocessed on the Google Cloud Platform via the Terra scientific computing platform (Terra.Bio). Briefly, raw reads were aligned to the mouse genome mm10 using the STAR (v2.7.5a)[43] alignment tool. Duplicate reads were identified using Picard MarkDuplicates[44]. RNA-SeQC 2[45] was used for assessing sequencing depth and mapping quality. Raw counts and transcript per million (TPM) estimates were quantified using RSEM[46].

All downstream analyses were carried out in R (v4.1.3). Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was conducted using the R function *prcomp*. The gene with the highest PC2 loading, AY036118, was removed since it represents ribosomal RNA contamination [20]. Differential gene expression analysis was performed using DESeq2 (v1.32.0)[47]. Lowly expressed genes with a total count lower than 10 were prefiltered. P-values were adjusted by Benjamini-Hochberg (BH) method[48], and log2 fold changes were shrunk using the 'apeglm' algorithm[49]. These shrunken fold changes are also depicted in all figures.

Heatmaps were created using R package ComplexHeatmap (v2.13.1)[50] on normalized counts (normalized using the *counts* function from the BiocGenerics package (v0.40.0)[51]) and were scaled by row. Volcano plots were generated using ggplot2 (v3.4.2)[52] and ggrepel (v0.9.3).

Statistics. Statistical analyses of allograft survival used log-rank (Mantel-Cox) test. Differences were considered to be significant at *P* values less than 0.05. The clinical score and incidence of EAE were analyzed by 2-way Anova, and comparisons for results (mean ± SEM) for cytometric bead array. FACS, and real-time PCR were analyzed by Student's *t* test and $p < 0.05$ was considered significant. Significantly differentially expressed genes for RNA-seq analysis were identified using DESeq2 with Benjamini-Hochberg adjusted p-value < 0.05.

Study approval: Animal studies were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA, USA).

Author Contributions

QD and DMR conceived the project. QD designed and performed most biological experiments. DMR supervised the study with key input from VKK. ET and YW performed, and AS supervised, computational analysis. QD and DMR analyzed the data. QD, VKK, and DMR wrote the paper with input from all the authors.

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FIGURES:

Figure 1:

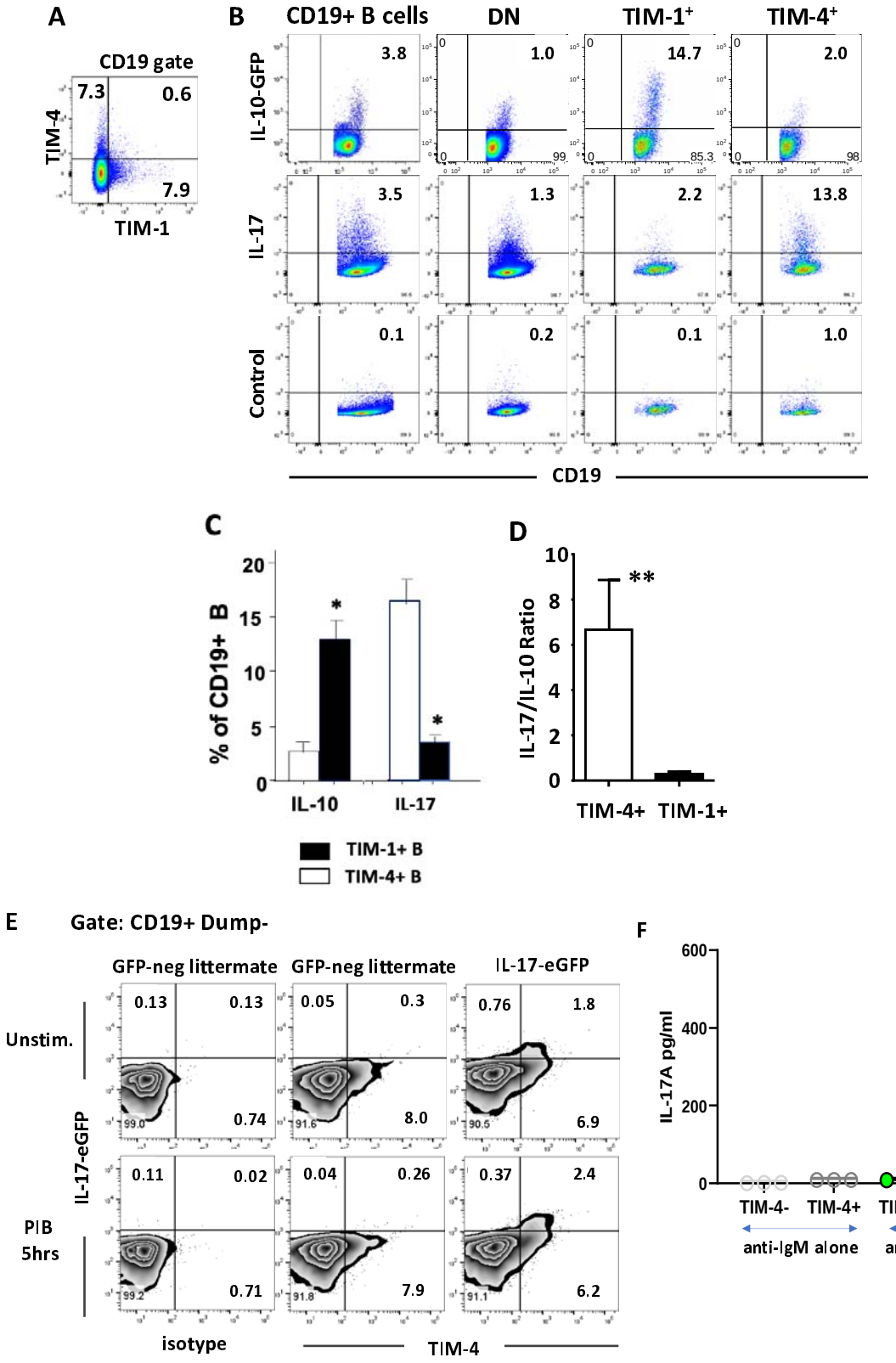


Figure 1. TIM-4+ B cells are distinct from those expressing TIM-1+ and preferentially express IL-17A. Splenic B cells from C57BL/6 mice analyzed 14 days after i.p. alloimmunization with mitomycin C–treated BALB/c splenocytes. Numbers within flow plots represent percentages of gated cells within that quadrant. (**A**) Representative flow cytometry plot of TIM-1 and TIM-4 expression on CD19+ B cells. (**B**) Representative flow cytometry plots of IL-10 and IL-17A expression on total (CD19+) B cells, and TIM-1-TIM-4- (DN), TIM-1+, and TIM-4+ B cell subpopulations. IL-10 expression is determined by GFP reporter expression (gating based on GFP-negative littermates; not shown). IL-17A expression is determined by intracellular staining with gating based on isotype controls (Control; bottom row). Cytokine expression was examined after stimulation for 5 hours with LPS, PMA, ionomycin plus monensin (LPIM) for IL-10, and PMA, ionomycin plus brefeldin A (PIB) for IL-17A. (**C**) Bar graph showing mean frequency (+ SD) of IL-10 and IL-17A expression on TIM-1+ vs. TIM-4+ B cells based on flow cytometry as in (**B**). n≥3 mice per group. (**D**) Bar graph showing the ratio of IL-17A+/IL-10+ cells within TIM-1+ and TIM-4+ B cell subsets (mean + SD) based on data in (**C**). (**E**) Representative FACS plots showing TIM-4 and IL-17A-EGFP expression on unstimulated vs. PIB stimulated $CD19^+$ Dump gate-negative (CD3, CD64, Gr1, Ter119) B cells from alloimmunized IL-17A-EGFP reporter mice. (**F**) Sort-purified TIM-4+ and TIM-4- CD19+ B cells were stimulated with anti-IgM and IL-23 for 24 hours followed by PMA/Ionomycin for the final 5 hours. IL-17A concentration in the supernatants was measured by Cytometric Bead Array. n=3 mice per group. Statistical significance: * $p< 0.05$ vs. other groups; ** $p<0.01$ vs. other groups.

Figure 2

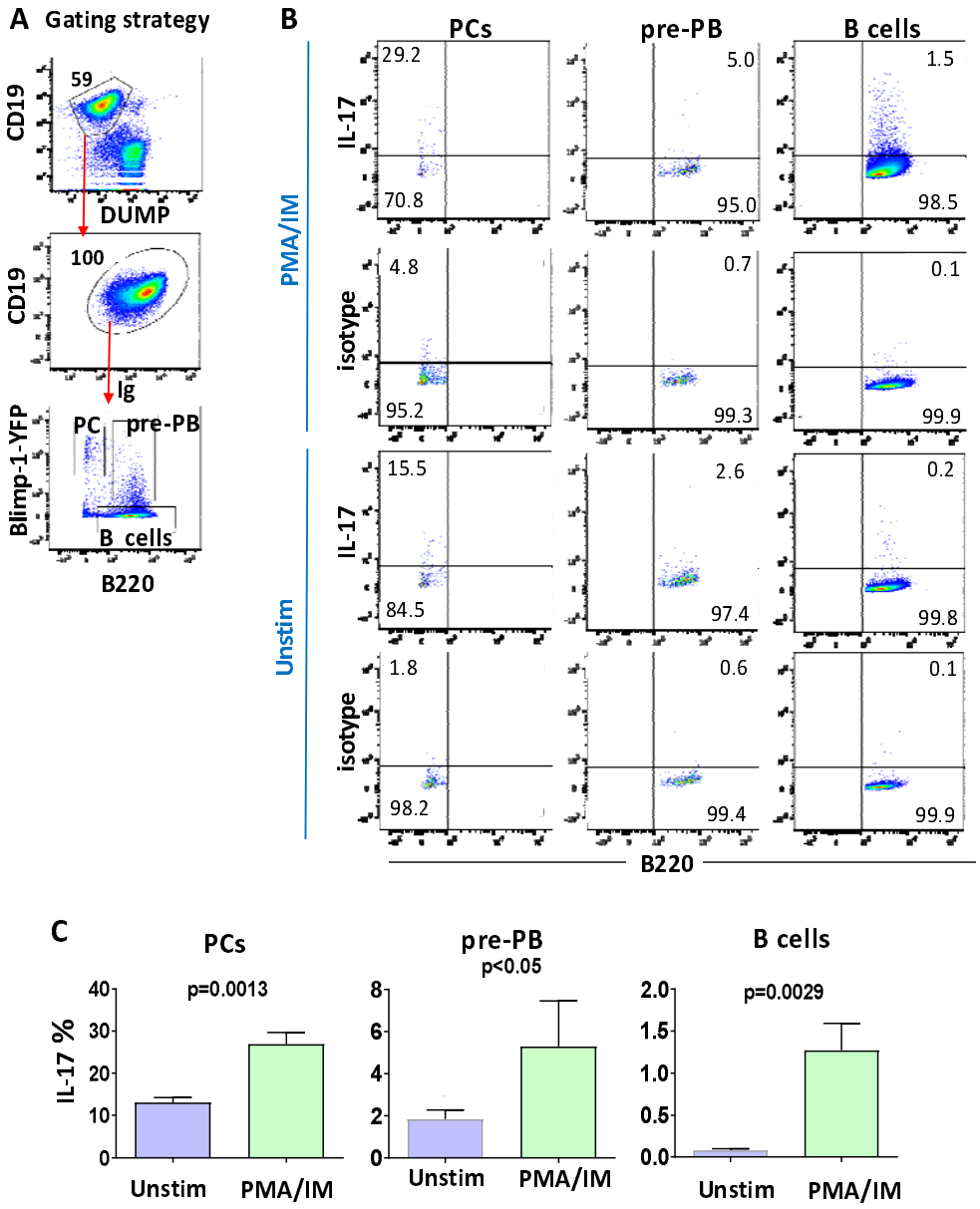


Fig 2. High frequency spontaneous IL-17A expression on plasma cells (PCs): Splenocytes from day 14 alloimmunized BLIMP-1-eYFP reporter mice (B6) were either unstimulated or treated with PIB for 5 hours and IL-17A expression was detected by intracellular staining. (**A-B**) Representative flow cytometry plots demonstrate the gating strategy for plasma cells (PCs; B220^{lo},BLIMP-1^{Hi}), pre-plasmablasts (pre-PB; B220^{Hi}BLIMP-1^{+}), and B cells (B220^{Hi}BLIMP-1^{-}) (**A**),

and IL-17A expression on unstimulated (upper) or PIB-stimulated (lower) PCs, pre-PB, and B cell populations (**B**). IL-17A gating based on isotype control staining. (C) Bar graph showing IL-17A expression by cell populations shown in (**B**), depicted as mean frequency + SD (n=3 mice/group). *$p < 0.05$.

Figure 3

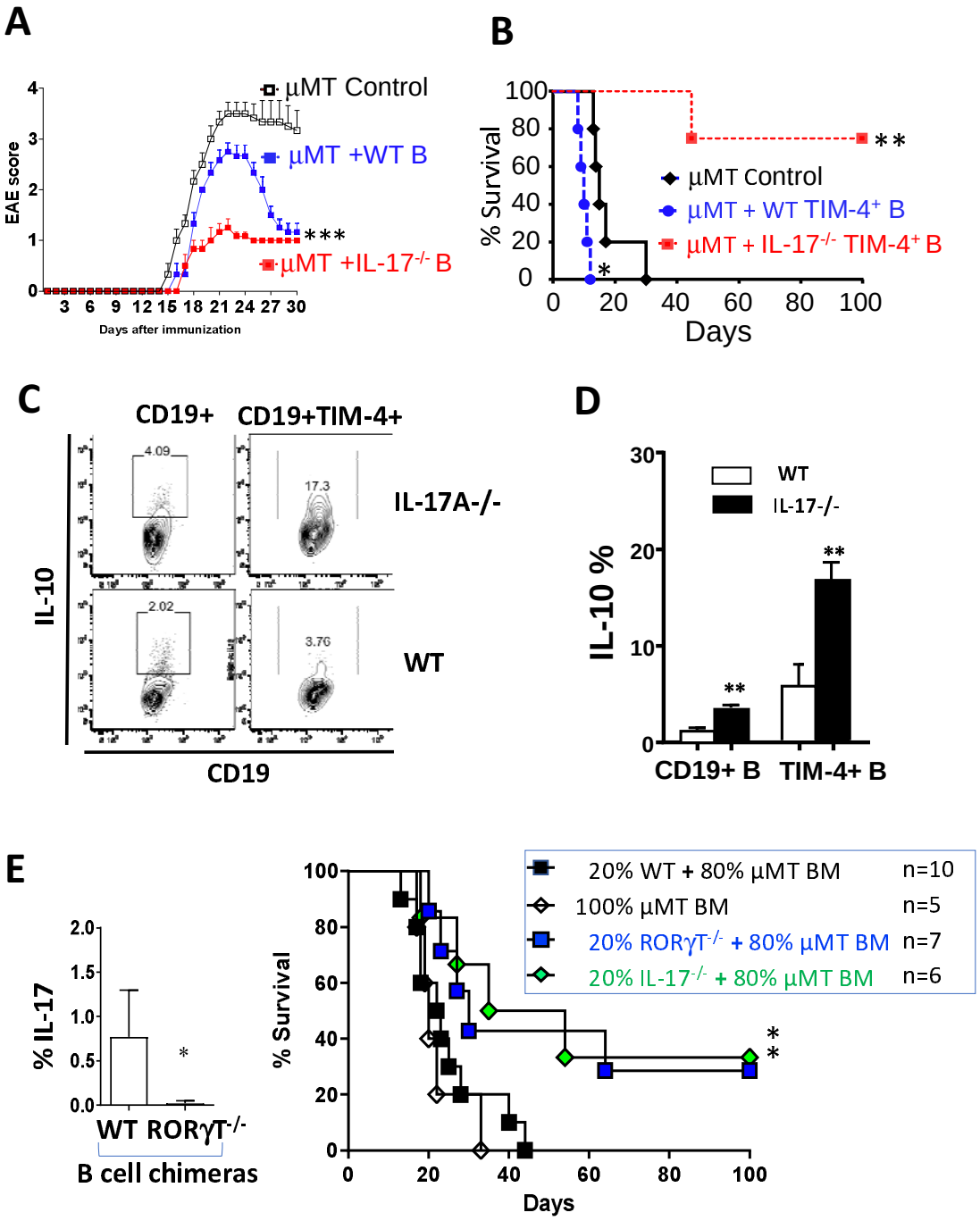

A
EAE score
Days after immunization
μMT Control
μMT +WT B
μMT +IL-17-/- B
***
B
% Survival
Days
μMT Control
μMT + WT TIM-4+ B
μMT + IL-17-/- TIM-4+ B
**
*
C
CD19+
CD19+TIM-4+
IL-17A-/-
WT
IL-10
CD19
4.09
17.3
2.02
3.76
D
IL-10 %
WT
IL-17-/-
CD19+ B
TIM-4+ B
**
E
% IL-17
WT
RORγT-/-
B cell chimeras
% Survival
Days
20% WT + 80% μMT BM n=10
100% μMT BM n=5
20% RORγT-/- + 80% μMT BM n=7
20% IL-17-/- + 80% μMT BM n=6

Figure 3 (cont)

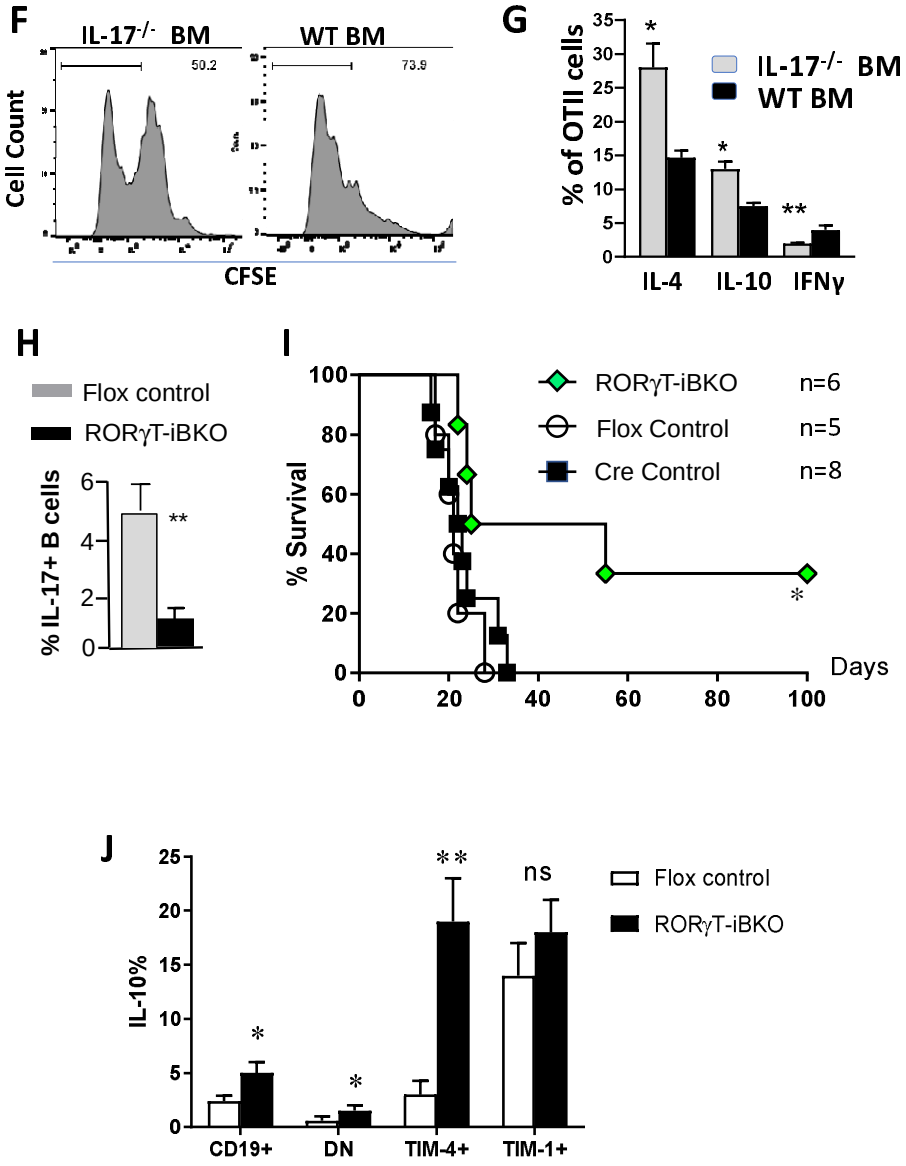


Fig 3. IL-17-deficient B cells are regulatory. (**A**) EAE was induced in µMT mice that received no B cells, or adoptive transfer of 10 X10^6 sort-purified B cells from naive WT or IL-17A-/- (B6) mice. Mice were scored daily for clinical EAE severity. Figure shows mean (+ SEM) scores in n $\geq$6 mice per group. Similar results obtained in a second independent experiment. ***p < 0.001 by 2-way ANOVA. (**B**) Kaplan–Meier plots showing survival of BALB/c islet allografts in chemically diabetic µMT (B6) recipients that were untreated (control) or received 5×10^6 syngeneic TIM-4+CD19+ B cells from (day 14) alloimmunized WT or IL-17-/- donor mice. n=4-5 mice/group. *p <0.05; **p

<0.01 versus control. (**C**) Representative flow cytometry plots of IL-10 expression by splenic CD19+ B cells and TIM-4+ B cells obtained from alloimmunized IL-17A-/- versus WT B6 mice IL-10 expression detected by intracellular staining after stimulation with LPIM for 5 hours. **(D**) Bar graph showing frequency (mean + SD) of IL-10 expression on total (CD19+) B cells and TIM-4+ B cells represented in panel (C). n = 3-5 mice/group. **p < 0.01. **(E)** BM chimeras were generated by reconstituting lethally irradiated µMT mice with 100% µMT bone marrow or with 80% µMT bone marrow plus 20% IL-17**−/−**, RORγT−/−, or WT bone marrow cells. **Left panel**: Bar graph showing IL-17A expression (intracellular staining) in alloimmunized BM chimeras reconstituted with 80% µMT plus either 20% WT or RORγt$^{-/-}$ bone marrow (n=3 mice/group) *p < 0.05. **Right panel**: Kaplan-Meier plots showing survival of BALB/c islet allografts in chemically diabetic BM chimeric recipients as shown (n=5-10 mice/group) *p < 0.05 vs. Controls. **(F-G)** BM chimeras generated by reconstituting lethally irradiated µMT mice with 80% µMT plus 20% either IL-17$^{-/-}$ or WT bone marrow (controls) were immunized i.p. with mitomycin C-treated splenocytes from Act-OVA BALB/c × B6 F1 mice followed by adoptive transfer of CFSE-labeled CD90.1+ OT-II CD4+ T cells (5 × 10^6 per mouse). OT-II cells (CD4+ CD90.1+) in spleens of recipient mice were analyzed by flow cytometry. (**F**) Proliferation assessed on day 4 by CFSE dilution as shown by representative flow cytometry histograms of OTII cells from BM chimeric mice expressing IL-17-/- vs. WT B cells. Cursor arbitrarily placed to capture % of cells having undergone multiple rounds of proliferation. (**G**) bar graph showing cytokine and Foxp3 expression (by intracellular staining) expressed as mean +SD on OT-II cells recovered from spleen on day 7. *p < 0.05 and **p<0.01 comparing OT-II cells isolated from IL-17-/- versus WT control BM chimeras. **(H)** Bar Graph showing frequency of IL-17+ B cells obtained from spleens of Tamoxifen-treated RORγt fl/fl X hCD20.ERT2.Cre+/- (RORγt-iBKO) vs. RORγt fl/fl (Flox Control) mice 14 days after alloimmunization. ** p<0.01. **(I)** Kaplan-Meier plots of BALB/c islet allograft survival in Tamoxifen-treated chemically diabetic RORγt-iBKO versus Flox Control and hCD20.ERT2.Cre+/- (Cre control) recipients. n=5-8 mice/group *p<0.05. **(J)** Bar Graph showing the frequency (mean + SD) of IL-10 expression on total B cells and B cell subpopulations (n = 3 mice per group). *p<0.05, **p < 0.01 RORγt-iBKO vs. Flox Control mice.

Figure 4

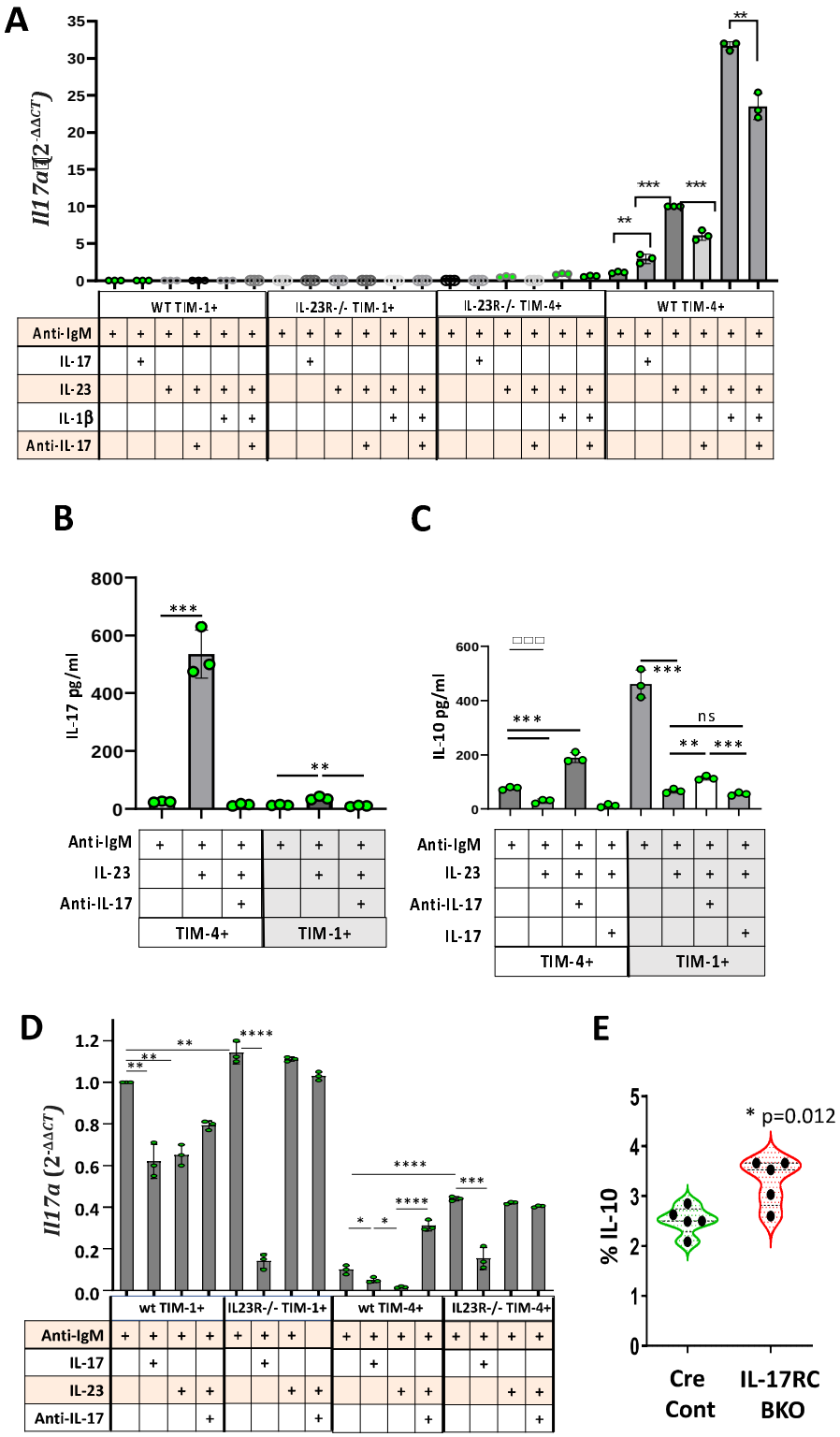

A
Il17a (2-ΔΔCT)
WT TIM-1+
IL-23R-/- TIM-1+
IL-23R-/- TIM-4+
WT TIM-4+
Anti-IgM
IL-17
IL-23
IL-1β
Anti-IL-17
B
IL-17 pg/ml
TIM-4+
TIM-1+
C
IL-10 pg/ml
ns
D
Il17a (2-ΔΔCT)
wt TIM-1+
IL23R-/- TIM-1+
wt TIM-4+
IL23R-/- TIM-4+
E
% IL-10
* p=0.012
Cre Cont
IL-17RC BKO

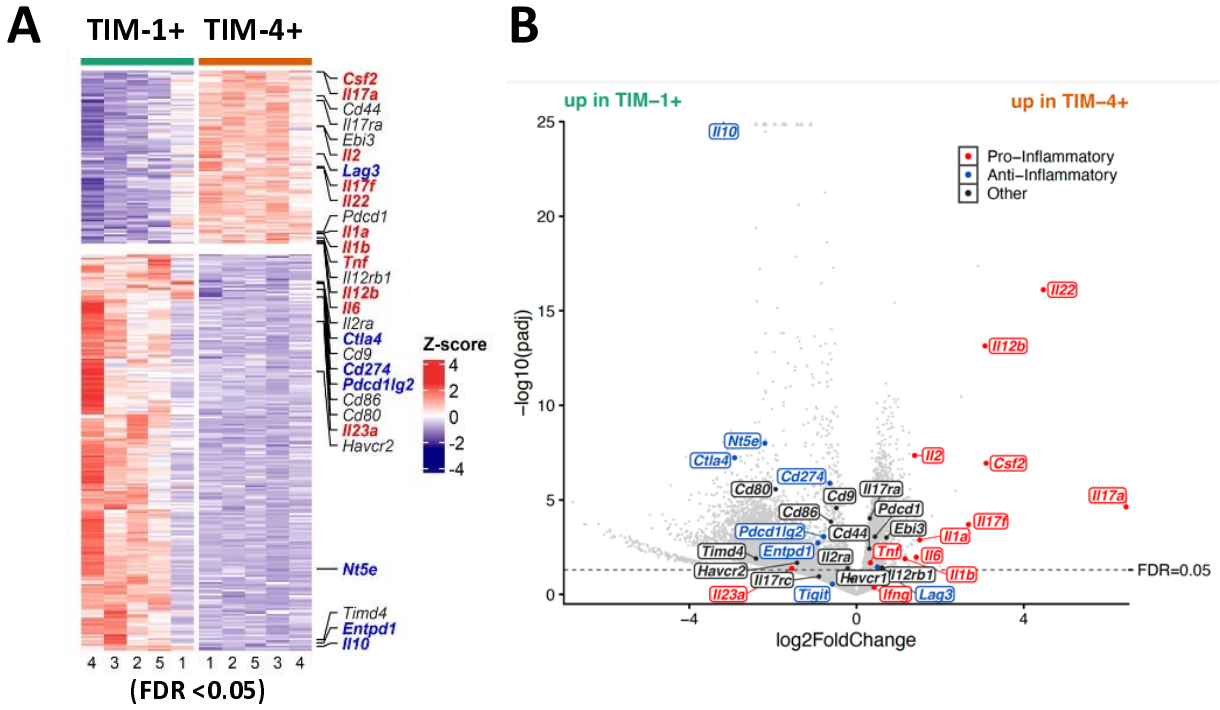
Figure 4. Regulation of IL-17A and IL-10 expression by IL-23 and IL-17.

(A) Splenic TIM-1+TIM-4-CD19+ and TIM-4+TIM-1-CD19+ B cells from IL-23R-/- and WT B6 mice were sort-purified and stimulated *in vitro* for 24 hours with anti-IgM and different cytokines or neutralizing anti-IL-17A as indicated. PMA and ionomycin was added for the last 3 hours in culture. RNA was extracted and IL-17A expression was compared to that of GAPDH by qPCR for each cell type and condition. The bar graph shows the relative expression of IL-17A mRNA as $2^{-\Delta\Delta}$CT performed in triplicate wells on cells pooled from 3 mice per group. **p<0.01 and ***p<0.001. Data representative of three independent experiments.

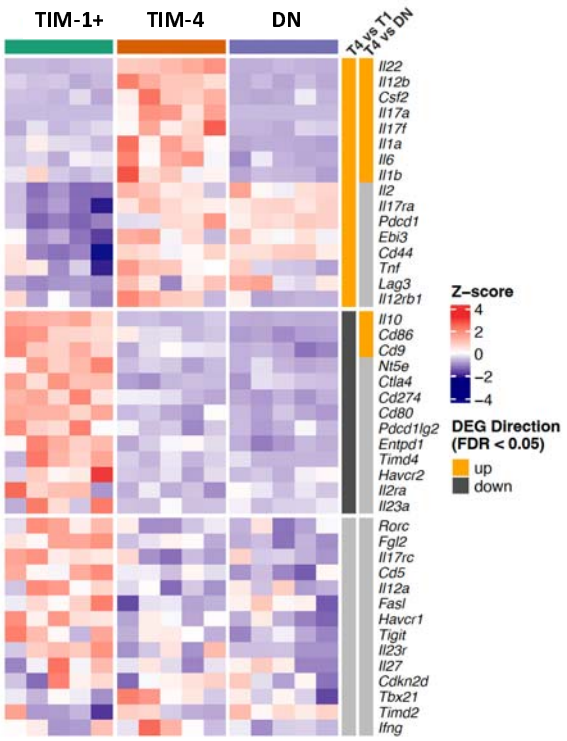
(B-C) Sort-purified TIM-1+TIM-4-CD19+ and TIM-4+TIM-1-CD19+ B cells from spleens of WT B6 mice were stimulated *in vitro* with anti-IgM alone or anti-IgM plus IL-23, IL-17A or anti-IL-17A neutralizing antibody for 48 hours. Bar graphs display the concentration of IL-17A (**B**) and IL-10 (**C**) in the supernatants, as measured by cytometric bead array (performed in triplicate wells on cells pooled from 3 mice per group). Data representative of three independent experiments. **p<0.01 and ***p<0.001.

(D) Splenic TIM-1+TIM-4-CD19+ and TIM-4+TIM-1-CD19+ B cells were sort-purified from IL-23R-/- and WT B6 mice and stimulated *in vitro* as in (**A**) above. IL-10 mRNA expression was compared to that of GAPDH by qPCR. The bar graph shows the relative expression of IL-10 as $2^{-\Delta\Delta}$CT performed in triplicate wells on cells pooled from 3 mice per group. **p<0.01 and ***p<0.001. Data representative of three independent experiments. **(E)** Violin plot depicting the frequency (mean + SD) of IL-10 expression (intracellular staining) on splenic CD19+ B cells from IL-17RC$^{fl/fl}$-CD19-Cre$^{+/-}$ (IL-17RC-BKO) and CD19-Cre (Cre Control) mice 14 days after alloimmunization and *in vitro* treatment with LPIM for 5 hours. n=5 mice. *p<0.05.

Figure 5



Up in TIM-4+: 3425 genes (613 with FC>1.5)
Down in TIM-4+: 7858 genes (7393 with FC > 1.5)



D

	Fold Change	
Gene	TIM-4+ vs TIM-1+	TIM-4+ vs all TIM-4-
Il17a	87.2	228.9
Il22	22.1	37.0
Il12b (p40)	8.4	11.5
Csf2 (GM-CSF)	8.6	9.2
Il17f	6.4	7.8
Il6	2.7	3.4
Il1b	2.2	3.0

Figure 5. Differential gene expression in TIM-1$^+$ and TIM-4$^+$ B cells from alloimmunized mice.

A-B: Amongst genes of interest, pro-inflammatory genes are depicted in red, anti-inflammatory genes are in blue, and other genes are in black text. **A**) Heatmap showing differentially expressed genes identified by RNA-seq (FDR<0.05). **B**) Volcano plot with selected genes of interest. The y-axis is capped at 25 for visual clarity. **C**) Heatmap comparing expression of selected genes of interest between three groups: TIM-1$^+$, TIM-4$^+$ and DN B cells annotated on the right. Vertical bars represent genes that are upregulated (orange), downregulated (black), or not statistically differentially expressed (gray, FDR $\geq$ 0.05) in a given comparison between TIM-4+ B cells (T4) and either TIM-1+ (T1) or DN B cells. **D)** Fold change in expression between select genes in TIM-4$^+$ vs. TIM-1$^+$ B cells or TIM-4$^+$ vs. all other (TIM-4$^-$) B cells.

Supplementary Figures

Supplementary Figure 1:

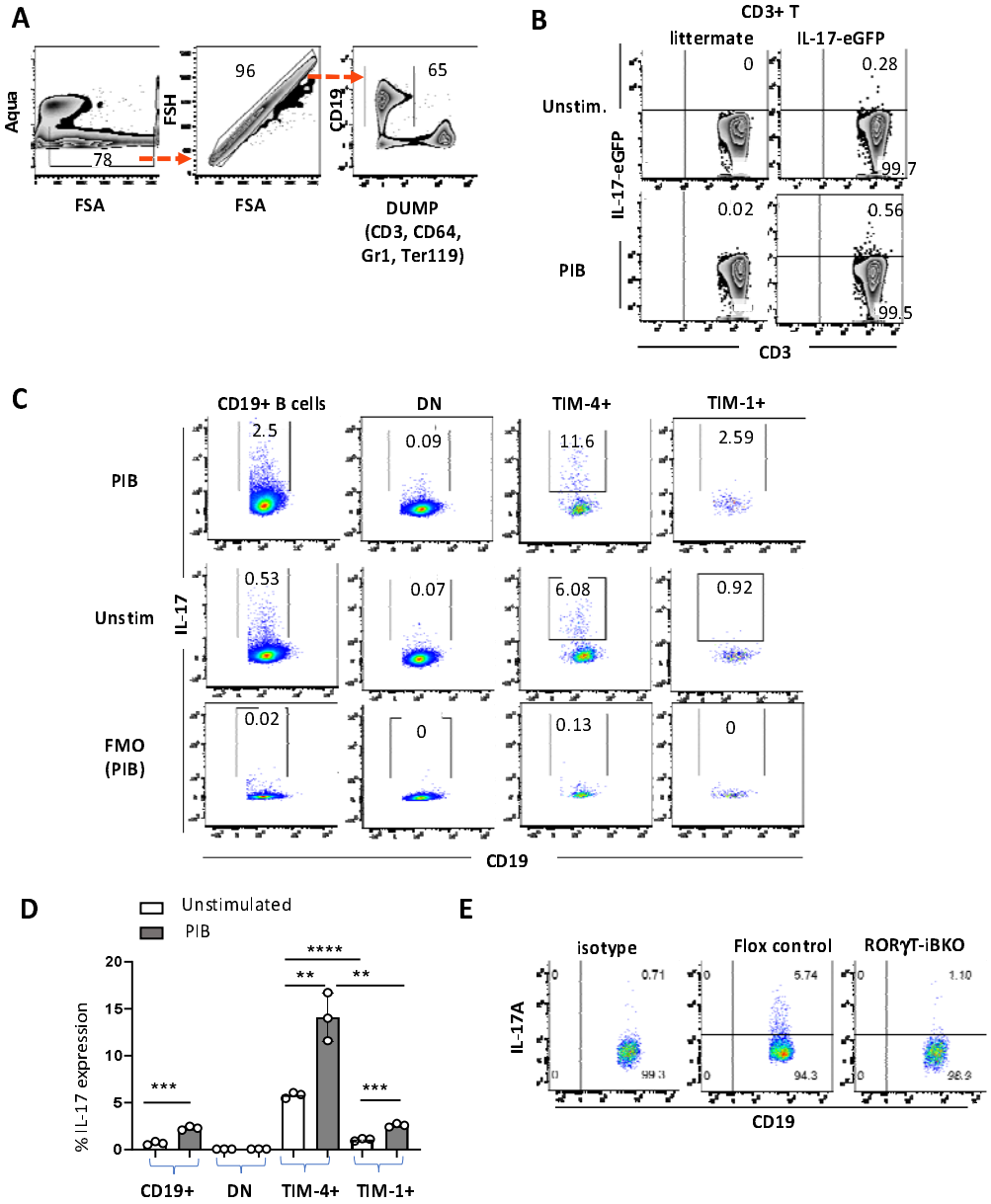


Fig S1. Preferential IL-17A expression on TIM-4+ B cells: **A-B;** Representative FACS plots for splenocytes from alloimmunized IL-17A-EGFP mice. (**A**) Gating strategy for selection of CD19+ Dump-gate (CD3, CD64, Gr1, Ter119) negative B cells assessed for IL-17A and TIM-4 expression in Figure 1E. (**B**) IL-17A-EGFP expression in splenic $CD3^+$ T cells from alloimmunized IL-17A-EGFP

reporter mice (unstimulated vs. stimulated *in vitro* with PIB for 5 hours). **(C)** Representative FACS plots of IL-17A expression on total CD19+ B cells, and TIM-1-TIM-4- (DN), TIM-1+, and TIM-4+ B cell subpopulations from spleens from mice 14 days after immunization with MOG_{35-55}, CFA, and pertussis toxin to induce EAE (unstimulated vs. PIB for 5 hours). **(D)** Bar graph showing mean frequency (+ SD) of IL-17A expression by the B cell subpopulations shown in **(C)** ($n \geq 3$ mice per group). * $p < 0.05$ versus indicated groups. **(E)** Representative flow cytometry plots of intracellular IL-17A expression on splenic CD19+ B cells from TAM-treated alloimmunized *rorc*fl/fl X hCD20.ERT2.Cre (RORgt iBKO) vs. *rorc*fl/fl (Flox Control) mice that were stimulated with PIB for 5 hours. IL-17A-/- mice were used as staining control. The percentage of IL-17A+ cells is indicated in each plot.

Supplementary Figure 2:

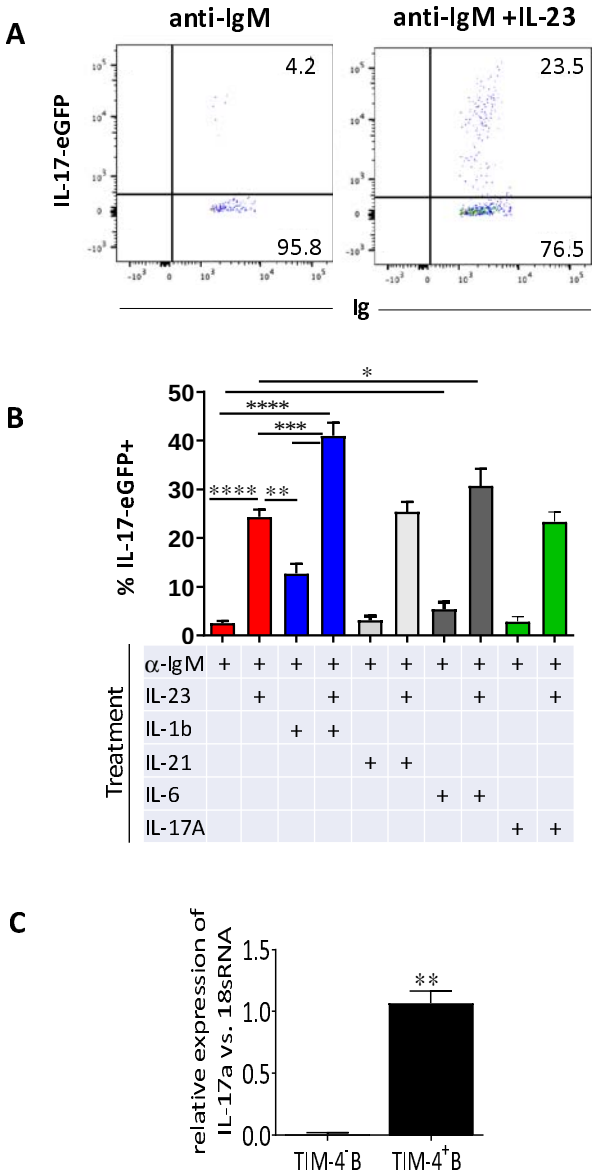


Fig S2. IL-17A expression by TIM-4+ B cells is increased by IL-23: Splenocytes from IL-17-EGFP mice were stimulated with anti-IgM and various cytokines for 24 hours and B cell IL-17A (EGFP) expression was assessed by flow cytometry (CD19+Sca1+ gate). (**A**) Representative flow cytometry plots showing IL-17A expression on anti-IgM vs. anti-IgM+IL-23 stimulated splenic B cells. (**B**) Mean frequency (+ SD) of IL-17A expression after anti-IgM + cytokines, as indicated. statistical significance: *p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001; **** p<0.0001. **(C)** Bar graph of IL-17A

mRNA expression by sort-purified TIM-4+ and TIM-4- B cells by qPCR (expressed as $2^{\Delta\Delta}$Ct relative to expression 18s RNA) after stimulation with anti-IgM + IL-23 for 24 hours. PMA plus ionomycin were added for the final 3 hours. Samples run in duplicate and representative of 3 independent experiments (** $p<0.01$).

Supplementary Figure 3

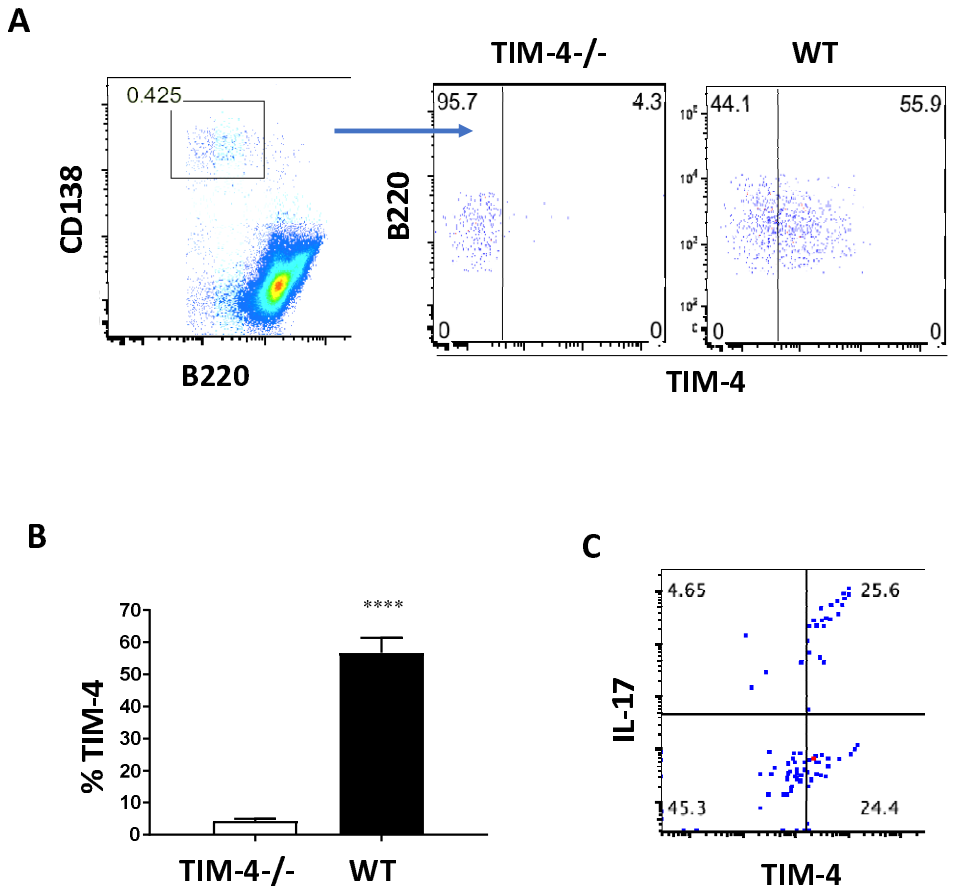


Fig S3. TIM-4 is highly expressed on plasma cells. (**A**) Representative flow cytometry plots showing plasma cell ($B220^{low}CD138^{high}$) gating (**Left panel**) and TIM-4 expression gated on splenic plasma cells from alloimmunized B6 mice (**Right panel**). (**B**) Bar graph showing the frequency (mean + SD) of TIM-4 expression on plasma cells from WT versus TIM-4-/- (staining control) mice (n = 3/group). ****p <0.0001. (**C**). Representative flow cytometry plot showing TIM-4 and IL-17A expression by intracellular staining of splenic plasma cells (Blimp-1-$YFP^{+}B220^{Lo}$) from day 14 alloimmunized BLIMP-1-eYFP reporter mice (stimulated with PIB for 5 hours).

Supplementary Figure 4

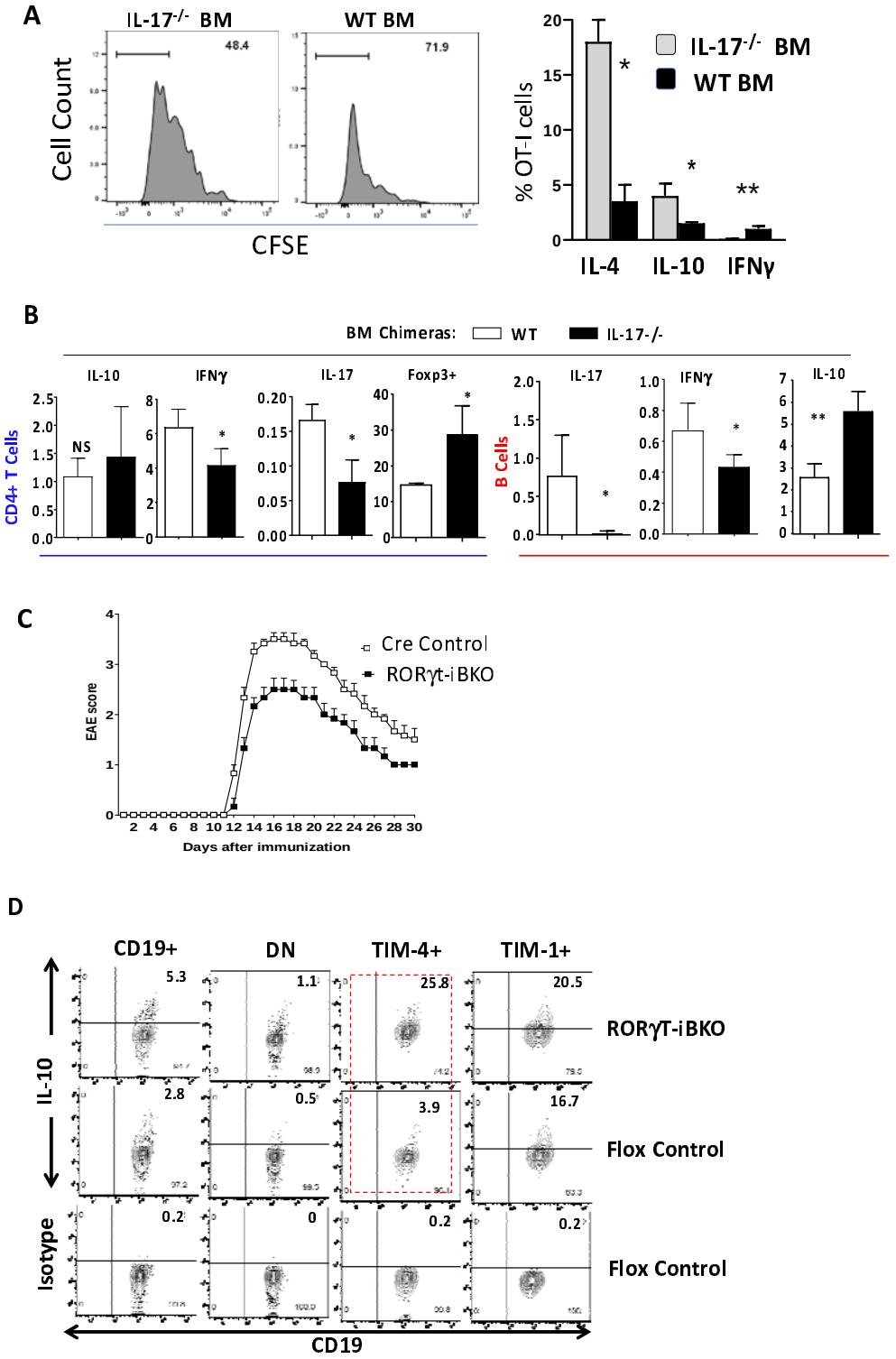


Fig S4: The Role of B cell IL-17 and RORγt on the immune response. **(A)** BM chimeras were generated as in **Fig 3F**, by reconstituting lethally irradiated µMT mice with either 80% µMT plus 20% either IL-17−/− or WT bone marrow. After 8 weeks, BM chimeras were immunized with mitomycin C-treated splenocytes from Act-OVA BALB/c × B6 F1 mice followed by adoptive transfer of 5×10^6 CFSE-labeled CD90.1+ OT-I CD8+ T cells. Transferred (CD90.1+) OT-I cells in spleen from the recipient mice were analyzed by flow cytometry for proliferation by CFSE dilution (day 4; Left panels), and intracellular cytokines and Foxp3 expression (day 7; Right panels). n=3 mice per group. *$p < 0.05$, **$p<0.01$ comparing OT-I cells isolated from BM chimeric mice expressing IL-17-/- versus WT B cells. **(B)** BM chimeric mice generated as above, were alloimmunized with mitomycin C-treated BALB/c splenocytes, and on day 10, the frequency of cytokines (IL-10, IL-17, and IFN-γ), and Foxp3 expression on endogenous CD4+ T cells and CD19+ B cells from BM chimeric mice expressing IL-17-/- vs. WT B cells was determined by intracellular flow cytometry. *$p<0.05$; **$p<0.01$. **(C)** Tamoxifen-treated RORγt-iBKO and Cre control mice were immunized to induce EAE and monitored daily for clinical signs (n = 8-10 mice/group). Differences in clinical score was assessed using 2-way ANOVA (****$p < 0.0001$). **(D)** Representative flow cytometry plots show IL-10 expression (Intracellular staining after LPIM stimulation) on total CD19+ B cells, and TIM-1-TIM-4- DN, TIM-1+ and TIM-4+ B cell subpopulations from spleens of tamoxifen-treated alloimmunized RORγt-iBKO and Flox control mice.

Supplementary Figure 5

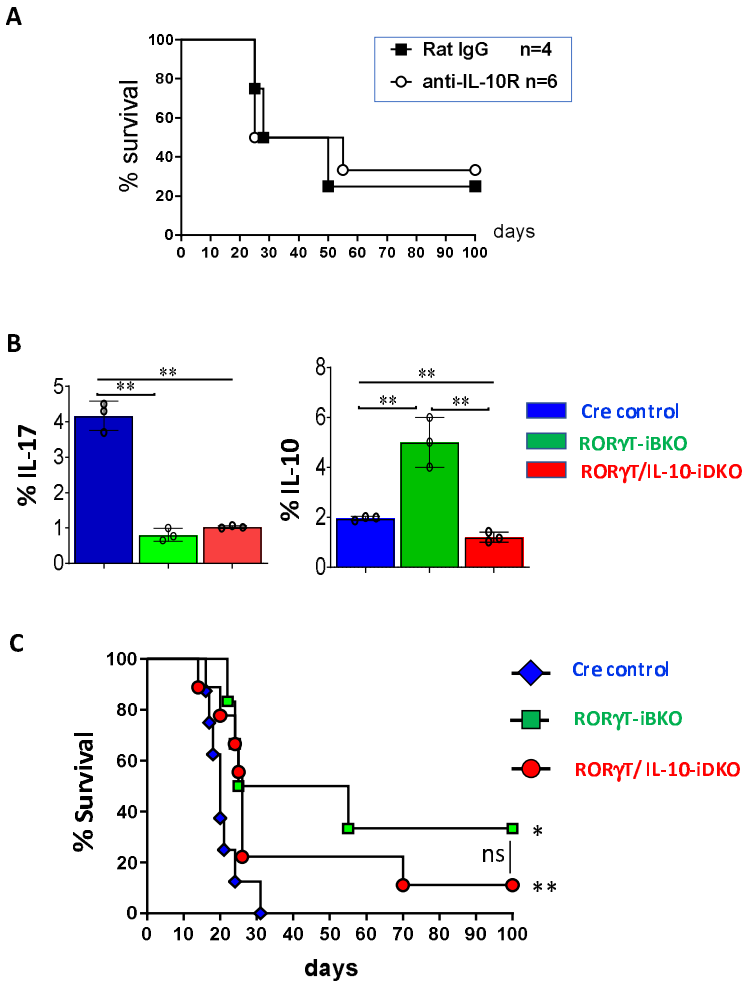


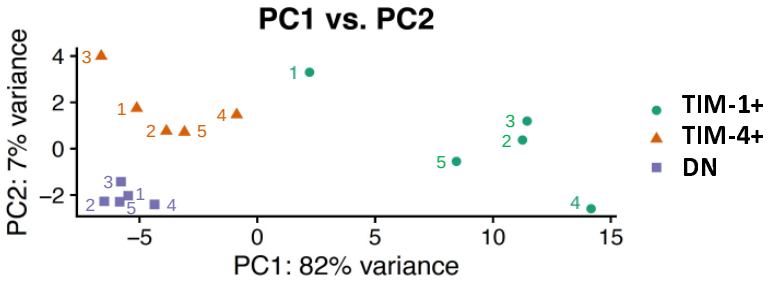
Figure S5. IL-10 is not required for regulatory role of RORγt-deficient B cells.

(A) Kaplan-Meir plots of graft survival of chemically diabetic Tamoxifen-treated RORγt fl/fl X hCD20.ERT2.Cre+/- recipients of BALB/c islet allografts that were treated with anti-IL-10R or control antibody (0.5 mg on day -1 and 0.3 mg on days 0 and 5).

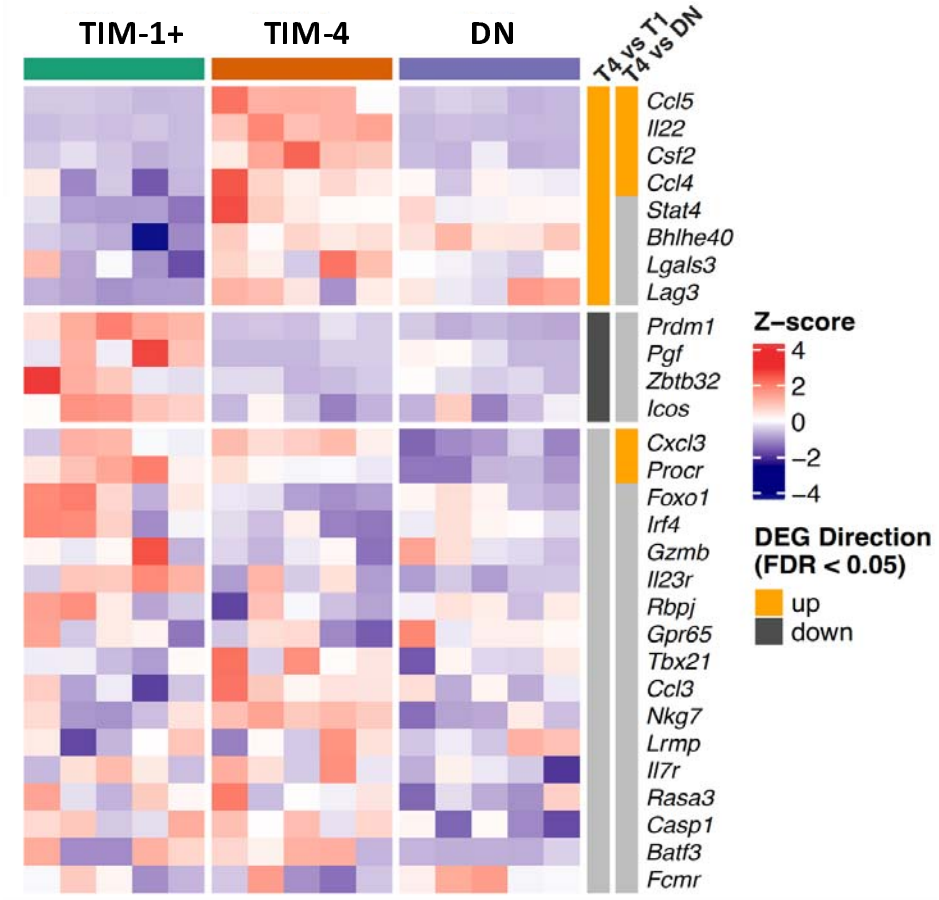
(B) Bar graph showing frequency of IL-17A and IL-10 expression on B cells from Tamoxifen-treated alloimmunized RORγt-iBKO, IL-10/RORγt iDKO, and hCD20-ERT2.Cre (Cre control) mice, as determined by intracellular flow cytometry after LPIM (IL-10) or PIB (IL-17) stimulation for 5 hours). n=3 mice/group. ** $p<0.01$. **(C)** Kaplan-Meier plots of survival of BALB/c islet allografts in chemically diabetic Tamoxifen-treated RORγt-iBKO, IL-10/RORγt iDKO, and Cre control recipients. * $p=0.015$ vs. control; ** $p<0.05$ vs. control

Supplementary Figure 6

A. Principal Component Analysis



B. Expression of genes upregulated in pTh17 cells



C. Expression of genes downregulated in pTh17 cells

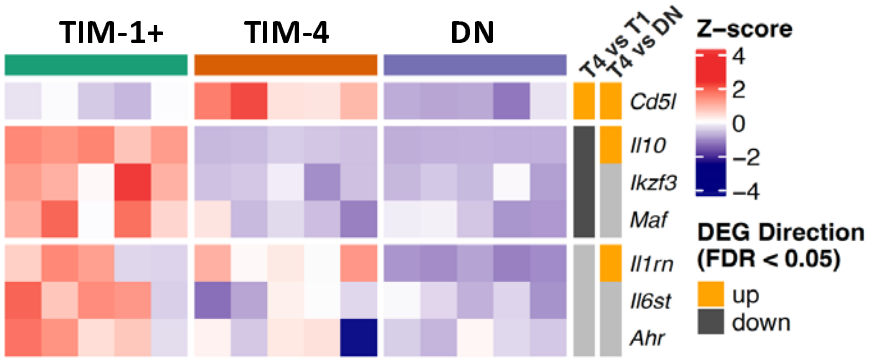


Fig S6: Gene expression in TIM-1$^+$, TIM-4$^+$, and DN B cells.

(A) Principal Component Analysis (PCA) reveals TIM-1$^+$, TIM-4$^+$, and DN B cells comprise 3 distinct cell populations. PCA plot derived from bulk RNA-seq showing the relationship between the gene expression profiles of TIM-1$^+$TIM-4$^-$CD19$^+$, TIM-4$^+$TIM-1$^-$CD19$^+$, and TIM-1$^-$TIM-4$^-$CD19$^+$ (DN) B cells from day 14 alloimmunized mice stimulated with anti-IgM plus IL-23 (24 hours) and PMA and ionomycin (3 hours). Each point represents a sample from an individual mouse, labelled (1-5) according to corresponding mouse. **(B, C)** Heatmaps showing comparison of gene expression assessed by RNA-seq for genes identified as being upregulated (**B**) or downregulated (**C**) in pTh17 cells (pTh17 signature) in various publications [22,24-28]. Genes that are differentially expressed (FDR <0.05) between TIM-4+ B cells and either TIM-1+ B cells or DN B cells are color coded (orange for up-regulated and black for down-regulated; gray if not statistically significant) by corresponding vertical lines at the right of each heatmap. The gene expression values are row normalized (z-score).

Supplementary Table 1: Top 50 DEGs TIM-4+ vs. TIM-1+ B cells

Up in TIM-4+ B Cells

rank	gene_id	gene_symbol	baseMean	log2FoldChange	lfcSE	pvalue	padj
1	ENSMUSG00000035042	Ccl5	72.06771943	2.906021532	0.315113587	3.46E-21	4.31E-18
2	ENSMUSG00000074695	Il22	28.70990426	4.467818922	0.497063285	7.41E-20	7.68E-17
3	ENSMUSG00000059743	Fdps	597.155691	0.91668233	0.10328596	3.79E-19	3.62E-16
4	ENSMUSG00000004296	Il12b	34.46391266	3.071568534	0.380255352	1.07E-16	7.19E-14
5	ENSMUSG00000051022	Hs3st1	882.4770226	0.696953162	0.091329791	1.61E-14	6.91E-12
6	ENSMUSG00000029730	Mcm7	1668.080192	0.773811177	0.104521252	8.28E-14	3.17E-11
7	ENSMUSG00000029581	Fscn1	40.72645384	2.499524318	0.349185901	9.12E-14	3.44E-11
8	ENSMUSG00000079227	Ccr5	847.9478436	0.894921885	0.122182669	1.28E-13	4.74E-11
9	ENSMUSG00000027203	Dut	555.0948578	0.982190897	0.134372418	1.31E-13	4.74E-11
10	ENSMUSG00000020739	Nup85	520.9600182	0.677709852	0.09262463	1.8E-13	6.4E-11
11	ENSMUSG00000023004	Tuba1b	4168.43721	0.935728918	0.12887592	1.96E-13	6.85E-11
12	ENSMUSG00000089809	Rasgef1b	2588.378351	0.485528571	0.066375251	2.22E-13	7.57E-11
13	ENSMUSG00000026355	Mcm6	2927.492418	0.802657501	0.111619546	3.86E-13	1.24E-10
14	ENSMUSG00000028832	Stmn1	726.0987242	0.990060847	0.138303935	3.9E-13	1.24E-10
15	ENSMUSG00000040681	Hmgn1	1789.154918	0.658657447	0.091452532	4.18E-13	1.32E-10
16	ENSMUSG00000002870	Mcm2	1302.273229	0.69781411	0.097356849	5.23E-13	1.57E-10
17	ENSMUSG00000078193	Gm2000	2693.799963	0.628477772	0.088231252	7.75E-13	2.27E-10
18	ENSMUSG00000079197	Psme2	829.7571014	0.842597973	0.119079643	8.63E-13	2.5E-10
19	ENSMUSG00000022186	Oxct1	801.1391558	0.872546201	0.124393173	1.34E-12	3.75E-10
20	ENSMUSG00000038644	Pold1	426.6718181	0.77681008	0.110708919	1.43E-12	3.91E-10
21	ENSMUSG00000032604	Qars	955.923971	0.496957702	0.070864521	1.95E-12	5.21E-10
22	ENSMUSG00000027342	Pcna	2454.278688	0.744167692	0.107115436	2.32E-12	5.95E-10
23	ENSMUSG00000063229	Ldha	1318.795057	0.831724153	0.121114799	3.81E-12	9.2E-10
24	ENSMUSG00000021273	Fdft1	664.6699837	0.722071408	0.104866364	3.86E-12	9.24E-10
25	ENSMUSG00000020949	Fkbp3	558.4208272	0.637961721	0.092819533	4.63E-12	1.08E-09
26	ENSMUSG00000040212	Emp3	188.2811675	1.094863193	0.162047715	5.96E-12	1.36E-09
27	ENSMUSG00000001525	Tubb5	10537.40113	0.85225576	0.125529004	6.37E-12	1.43E-09
28	ENSMUSG00000027447	Cst3	292.1813802	0.873948106	0.128794445	6.39E-12	1.43E-09
29	ENSMUSG00000062647	Rpl7a	8491.929193	0.507633737	0.074447505	6.62E-12	1.47E-09
30	ENSMUSG00000024640	Psat1	1581.08949	0.81074963	0.119681667	7.47E-12	1.63E-09
31	ENSMUSG00000005410	Mcm5	1751.640074	0.749890709	0.110934574	8.9E-12	1.91E-09
32	ENSMUSG00000060600	Eno3	231.2771357	1.113705369	0.166957314	1.04E-11	2.16E-09
33	ENSMUSG00000020917	Acly	1810.919915	0.544805748	0.08027555	1.2E-11	2.47E-09
34	ENSMUSG00000069302	Hist1h2ah	455.0589581	1.256735717	0.190380264	1.37E-11	2.79E-09
35	ENSMUSG00000015937	H2afy	882.8741456	0.521313879	0.077589281	1.5E-11	3.01E-09
36	ENSMUSG00000025630	Hprt	1035.787993	0.616020885	0.092308561	1.98E-11	3.87E-09
37	ENSMUSG00000029283	Cdc7	170.022961	0.810919707	0.12279481	2.41E-11	4.62E-09
38	ENSMUSG00000062070	Pgk1	1903.90246	0.681880715	0.103594458	3.31E-11	6.24E-09
39	ENSMUSG00000074403	Hist2h3b	1518.964476	0.98101995	0.15062903	3.51E-11	6.57E-09
40	ENSMUSG00000003868	Ruvbl2	899.8679741	0.615940047	0.094068676	4.17E-11	7.74E-09
41	ENSMUSG00000030268	Bcat1	1630.372225	0.552235749	0.084720961	5.74E-11	1.03E-08
42	ENSMUSG00000035455	Fignl1	389.050945	0.942821832	0.146315914	5.96E-11	1.06E-08
43	ENSMUSG00000071644	Eef1g	9217.331127	0.502980046	0.078083086	6.02E-11	1.06E-08
44	ENSMUSG00000021895	Arhgef3	832.9001089	0.571080781	0.08783889	6.2E-11	1.09E-08
45	ENSMUSG00000027597	Ahcy	1493.770023	0.790430652	0.122353088	7.03E-11	1.18E-08
46	ENSMUSG00000069308	Hist1h2bp	362.9598842	1.249676395	0.196868015	7.4E-11	1.22E-08
47	ENSMUSG00000026192	Atic	559.2587497	0.665916756	0.103152065	7.65E-11	1.25E-08
48	ENSMUSG00000025428	Atp5a1	5454.0826	0.577800758	0.089620831	8.74E-11	1.39E-08
49	ENSMUSG00000028798	Eif3i	1746.788995	0.566757325	0.08877663	1.34E-10	2.04E-08
50	ENSMUSG00000056091	St3gal5	202.3775946	0.962136185	0.152315292	1.35E-10	2.04E-08

Down in TIM-4+ B Cells

rank	gene_id	gene_symbol	baseMean	log2FoldChange	lfcSE	pvalue	padj
1	ENSMUSG00000016529	Il10	373.6124808	-3.174926696	0.193322341	1.04E-61	2.59E-57
2	ENSMUSG00000024399	Ltb	114.3665082	-3.029783767	0.198917194	2.3E-53	2.86E-49
3	ENSMUSG00000002985	Apoe	1302.452635	-3.361989513	0.225191432	1.67E-51	1.38E-47
4	ENSMUSG00000091971	Hspa1a	673.7633919	-2.17620323	0.148252752	1.13E-49	7.03E-46
5	ENSMUSG00000004110	Cacna1e	196.3467818	-1.957577369	0.140572865	6.52E-45	3.25E-41
6	ENSMUSG00000090877	Hspa1b	691.53557	-2.211713321	0.162067134	2.74E-43	1.14E-39
7	ENSMUSG00000022708	Zbtb20	599.9521867	-1.414312584	0.10387461	9.41E-43	3.34E-39
8	ENSMUSG00000048031	Fcrl5	93.61291773	-2.403526407	0.179756412	1.27E-41	3.94E-38
9	ENSMUSG00000030256	Bhlhe41	324.3327125	-1.701774232	0.129678695	4.95E-40	1.37E-36
10	ENSMUSG00000041268	Dmxl2	126.4302072	-2.205066042	0.172202678	2.11E-38	5.09E-35
11	ENSMUSG00000023034	Nr4a1	2228.952279	-1.094673798	0.084967463	2.25E-38	5.09E-35
12	ENSMUSG00000051457	Spn	253.8398536	-1.756803171	0.151999016	1.24E-31	2.58E-28
13	ENSMUSG00000019820	Utrn	240.4539032	-1.315676072	0.116252245	3.3E-30	6.31E-27
14	ENSMUSG00000005397	Nid1	83.81502284	-2.17618734	0.199925756	1.89E-28	3.36E-25
15	ENSMUSG00000024789	Jak2	4358.129484	-0.756614488	0.073688821	3.41E-25	5.66E-22
16	ENSMUSG00000092274	Neat1	582.9467038	-1.381833217	0.13692147	1.62E-24	2.52E-21
17	ENSMUSG00000026604	Ptpn14	60.25103016	-2.404412171	0.247134621	2.79E-23	4.08E-20
18	ENSMUSG00000033730	Egr3	1652.561786	-0.710197188	0.073125896	1.75E-22	2.42E-19
19	ENSMUSG00000096054	Syne1	234.9408171	-1.451584647	0.154004847	1.06E-21	1.39E-18
20	ENSMUSG00000028341	Nr4a3	4882.869898	-0.558182192	0.059396146	4.41E-21	5.22E-18
21	ENSMUSG00000097636	Mirt1	70.13065376	-2.31358269	0.251702876	5.37E-21	6.07E-18
22	ENSMUSG00000018476	Kdm6b	6574.513492	-0.843185215	0.092143454	3.26E-20	3.53E-17
23	ENSMUSG00000073802	Cdkn2b	39.94674346	-2.385092463	0.272735786	3.21E-19	3.19E-16
24	ENSMUSG00000015968	Cacna1d	67.83243961	-1.893982313	0.218753185	7.99E-19	7.36E-16
25	ENSMUSG00000019943	Atp2b1	1384.76916	-0.600238413	0.07036234	1.08E-17	9.6E-15
26	ENSMUSG00000022197	Pdzd2	105.7698387	-1.808309946	0.21780993	1.82E-17	1.53E-14
27	ENSMUSG00000033060	Lmo7	47.35585259	-2.172451331	0.262477851	1.9E-17	1.53E-14
28	ENSMUSG00000025279	Dnase1l3	92.33061135	-1.744049275	0.210080672	1.91E-17	1.53E-14
29	ENSMUSG00000030790	Adm	233.7529412	-1.006921067	0.120410575	2.86E-17	2.22E-14
30	ENSMUSG00000021728	Emb	147.2953846	-1.403478584	0.169426906	3.25E-17	2.45E-14
31	ENSMUSG00000025429	Pstpip2	114.5665404	-1.367533856	0.166198704	5.69E-17	4.16E-14
32	ENSMUSG00000030287	Itpr2	968.6899376	-0.73866682	0.089178245	7.61E-17	5.4E-14
33	ENSMUSG00000027660	Skil	3955.572044	-0.518882224	0.062457322	7.81E-17	5.4E-14
34	ENSMUSG00000028649	Macf1	3792.206566	-0.864153806	0.104969881	1.11E-16	7.26E-14
35	ENSMUSG00000005364	Il5ra	126.4538882	-1.331770092	0.164241922	1.52E-16	9.68E-14
36	ENSMUSG00000041540	Sox5	49.69445624	-1.972697473	0.247427343	2.42E-16	1.5E-13
37	ENSMUSG00000079190	AC133103.1	45.85778417	-2.402714895	0.302424857	2.57E-16	1.56E-13
38	ENSMUSG00000071757	Zhx2	1155.864613	-0.639091974	0.078590293	2.99E-16	1.77E-13
39	ENSMUSG00000039219	Arid4b	1180.364832	-0.601828456	0.074859511	6.58E-16	3.81E-13
40	ENSMUSG00000015143	Actn1	239.4782173	-0.81975016	0.102935788	9.75E-16	5.51E-13
41	ENSMUSG00000050600	Zfp831	88.32603285	-1.636244948	0.209325627	1.1E-15	6.08E-13
42	ENSMUSG00000026872	Zeb2	1394.522768	-0.68582533	0.086255355	1.25E-15	6.75E-13
43	ENSMUSG00000003849	Nqo1	137.9338557	-1.179930638	0.150445925	1.62E-15	8.56E-13
44	ENSMUSG00000031709	Tbc1d9	66.42956458	-1.470838654	0.188713259	1.72E-15	8.93E-13
45	ENSMUSG00000056888	Glipr1	145.2222802	-1.475133934	0.190990811	2.81E-15	1.43E-12
46	ENSMUSG00000092341	Malat1	44922.80992	-0.706226498	0.089921298	3.78E-15	1.88E-12
47	ENSMUSG00000051111	Sv2c	39.84954285	-2.351891778	0.309501122	4.16E-15	2.03E-12
48	ENSMUSG00000044827	Tlr1	133.6359619	-1.062327486	0.137520334	4.83E-15	2.31E-12
49	ENSMUSG00000020178	Adora2a	180.6230609	-1.033547256	0.134700944	7.41E-15	3.48E-12
50	ENSMUSG00000036391	Sec24a	1066.507837	-0.607633343	0.078706289	9.28E-15	4.28E-12

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