SLAM/SAP signaling regulates discrete γδ T cell developmental checkpoints and shapes

the innate-like γδ TCR repertoire

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- SAP deficiency results in diversion of γδ T cells to the αβ T cell lineage

- SAP deficiency results in a loss of immature *Gzma*⁺*Blk*⁺*Etv5*⁺*Tox2*⁺ γδT17 precursors

- Identification of Vγ4/Vδ7 γδT1 cells as a novel SAP-dependent innate-like T cell subset

Abstract

During thymic development, most γδ T cells acquire innate-like characteristics that are critical for

their function in tumor surveillance, infectious disease, and tissue repair. The mechanisms,

however, that regulate γδ T cell developmental programming remain unclear. Recently, we

demonstrated that the SLAM-SAP signaling pathway regulates the development and function of

multiple innate-like γδ T cell subsets. Here, we used a single-cell proteogenomics approach to

identify SAP-dependent developmental checkpoints and to define the SAP-dependent γδ TCR

repertoire. SAP deficiency resulted in both a significant loss of an immature

Gzma$^+$Blk$^+$Etv5$^+$Tox2$^+$ γδT17 precursor population, and a significant increase in *Cd4$^+$Cd8$^+$*

Rorc$^+$Ptcra$^+$Rag1$^+$ thymic γδ T cells. SAP-dependent diversion of embryonic day 17 thymic γδ T

cell clonotypes into the αβ T cell developmental pathway was associated with a decreased

frequency of mature clonotypes in neonatal thymus, and an altered γδ TCR repertoire in the

periphery. Finally, we identify TRGV4/TRAV13-4(DV7)-expressing T cells as a novel, SAP-

dependent Vγ4 γδT1 subset. Together, the data suggest that SAP-dependent γδ/αβ T cell lineage

commitment regulates γδ T cell developmental programming and shapes the γδ TCR repertoire.

Introduction

Like αβ T cells, γδ T cells can be broadly grouped into innate-like IFN-γ-producing γδT1,

IL-4-producing γδT2, or IL-17-producing γδT17 subsets that are functionally programmed during

thymic development[1, 2, 3, 4], or inducible subsets that differentiate in the periphery[5]. These innate-

like γδ T cells are highly enriched in mucosal tissues such as the skin, gut, and lung and play

critical roles in the host response to pathogens, tumor surveillance, autoimmunity, and tissue

homeostasis. Accumulating data suggest that the relative balance of these functional γδ T cell

subsets can have important implications in disease susceptibility and progression. This is perhaps

best exemplified in the setting of cancer where IFN-γ-producing γδT1 have been shown to play a

critical role in tumor elimination[6, 7, 8], while γδT17 subsets promote tumor growth and metastasis[9,

[10, 11, 12]. The thymic developmental programs, therefore, that regulate the balance of these

functional subsets in the periphery may have considerable impact on disease outcome. Unlike the

case for their αβ T cell counterparts, however, the mechanism that determine whether a developing

γδ T cell acquires an innate-like γδT1 or γδT17 phenotype during thymic development remain

unclear.

A significant body of data supports a model in which weak or strong TCR signal strength

might contribute to the development of innate-like γδT17 (weak signal) and γδT1 (strong signal)

subsets[4, 13, 14, 15, 16], and a strong TCR signal has been suggested to be necessary for the development

of the IFN-γ and IL-4 producing γδNKT cell subset[17]. However, there is also evidence of a TCR-

independent model in which pre-existing hard-wired transcriptional programs regulate the

development of some innate-like γδT17 subsets[18], and accumulating data suggest that γδT17

programming is associated with the use of distinct signaling pathways[19, 20, 21].

SLAM family receptors comprise a family of nine receptors, SLAMF1 (SLAM; CD150),

SLAMF2 (CD48), SLAMF3 (Ly9; CD229), SLAMF4 (2B4; CD244), SLAMF5 (CD84),

SLAMF6 (Ly108; CD352), SLAMF7 (CRACC; CD319), SLAMF8 (BLAME), and SLAMF9

(SF2001; CD84H), that are expressed primarily on hematopoietic cells and which play diverse

roles in immune development and function[22]. Most SLAM family receptors interact in a

homophilic manner, the exception to this rule being SLAMF4, which serves as the ligand for

SLAMF2. SLAM family receptor signals can be both activating or inhibitory, depending on the

recruitment of the cytosolic signaling adapter proteins SAP and EAT-2, and inhibitory SHP-1,

SHP-2, or SHIP phosphatases to immunoreceptor tyrosine switch motifs in the SLAM family

receptor cytoplasmic domain[22]. Although SLAM/SAP signaling has long been known to play a

role in innate-like NKT[23] and γδNKT[17] cell development, recent findings from multiple groups

demonstrating that this pathway is also involved in the development of innate-like γδT1, γδT17[24]

and innate-like MAIT cells[25, 26] indicates that SLAM/SAP signaling plays a fundamental role in

the development of a majority of the innate-like T cell lineages.

In this study, we set out to define the stage of thymic development during which SAP

mediates its effect on γδ T cell developmental programming and to define SAP-dependent changes

in the γδ T cells transcriptional program during their development. Finally, since SAP-dependent

innate-like T cell subsets are often characterized by highly restricted TCRs (e.g., Vγ1$^+$/Vδ6.3$^+$

γδNKT[27]), we wished to identify whether specific TCR clonotypes were also associated with SAP-

dependent γδT1 and γδT17 T cells. Therefore, we utilized a single-cell proteogenomics approach

with V(D)J profiling that allowed us to simultaneously compare cell surface protein expression,

gene expression, and TCR clonotypes between B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ γδ T cells from embryonic,

neonatal, and adult thymus, as well as from peripheral lung γδ T cells. Collectively, these data

provide a comprehensive map of the SAP-dependent γδ T cell subsets and their developmental

checkpoints in perinatal and adult thymus.

Results

SLAM family receptor expression marks transcriptionally distinct developmental stages among

E17 γδ T cells

γδT17 developmental programming is thought to occur primarily during embryonic/neonatal thymic development[2, 18, 28], and is tightly linked to the expression of discrete TCR gamma and delta pairings[29]. To identify the specific developmental stages of thymic development during which SLAM/SAP signaling pathway exerts its effects, we employed a single-cell RNAseq approach coupled with feature barcoding (i.e., CITEseq[30]) and V(D)J profiling to compare embryonic day 17 (E17) B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ thymic γδ T cells **(Fig. 1A)**. FACS-sorted thymic γδ T cells **(Suppl. Fig. 1)** from individual embryos (n = 4 B6 and 4 B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice) were identified using hashtags, and Vγ1$^+$ and Vγ4$^+$ γδ T cells were identified using barcoded antibodies (ADTs). To help define the developmental trajectories of the E17 γδ T cells, we also stained cells with barcoded antibodies specific for CD24, CD73, CD44, and CD45RB, which define distinct developmental pathways of γδT17 and γδT1 cells in the thymus[4, 31, 32], as well as for SLAMF1 and SLAMF6. After data filtering and QC, we verified that clusters were evenly distributed among the biological replicates **(Suppl. Fig. 1)**. The resulting dataset represented a total of 5278 thymic γδ T cells from B6 (n = 2597) and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ (n = 2681) γδ T cells. Data were visualized using uniform manifold approximation and projection (UMAP) for dimensionality reduction and a graph-based clustering approach[33].

First, we annotated the B6 dataset using a combination of cell surface protein expression, gene expression, and TCR clonotype sequence. This analysis revealed 11 B6 E17 γδ T cell clusters, mostly distributed between two major branches **(Fig. 1B)**. We observed the presence of CD24^{low}73^{low}44^{high}45RB^{low}SLAMF1^{pos} (c8) and CD24^{low}73^{high}44^{high}45RB^{high}SLAMF6$^{low/pos}$ (c0,

c9) clusters, consistent with mature γδT17 phenotype and γδT1 phenotypes, respectively (**Fig. 1C,**

Suppl. Fig. 1). In support of this annotation, the c8 cluster was enriched in *Il17a, Il17f, Il23r,*

Rorc, and TRGV6/TRDV4 (IMGT nomenclature; encoding Vγ6/Vδ1) transcripts with limited

CDR3 diversity, while the c0/c9 cluster was enriched in *Ifng, Tbx21, Klrd1, Il2rb, Xcl1,* and

TRGV5/TRDV4 (encoding Vγ5/Vδ1) transcripts also with little to no diversity (**Figs. 1D – F,**

Suppl. Fig. 2, Suppl. Tables 1 and 2)[34, 35]. Consistent with previous observations[24], we noted that

the c0/c9 cluster was highly enriched in *Cd244a* (*Slamf4*), and was enriched in transcripts from

another SLAM family member, *Slamf7* (**Figs. 1D - E**). Flow cytometric analysis confirmed that

SLAMF7 was expressed primarily on mature γδ T cells and that its expression was mostly confined

to γδ T cells expressing the canonical $CD44^+CD45RB^+$ markers of γδT1 cells (**Suppl. Fig. 1**)[4, 36].

We identified a small $CD24^{low/int}73^{high}44^{high}45RB^{pos}$ c3 cluster characterized by enrichment

in *Cd200* (whose expression is upregulated upon TCR ligation[37]), *Il2rb, Nr4a1, Cd244a*, *Xcl1,* and

Tnfrsf9 (encoding 4-1bb receptor). A high frequency of invariant TRGV5/TRDV4 clonotypes and

decreased TCR clonotype diversity (**Suppl. Fig. 2, Suppl. Table 2)** suggested that c3 represented

an immature γδT1 population. The $CD24^{low/pos}CD73^{low/pos}44^{low/pos}CD45RB^{low/pos}$ c4 cluster was

enriched in *Ms4a4b and Ms4a6b (*encoding CD20 homologues that modulate T cell activation[38,

[39]), *S1pr1, Il6ra, Cd8a, Cd8b1,* and *Ccr9,* suggesting that the c4 cluster represents the previously

described emigrating thymic *Ccr9⁺ S1pr1⁺* γδ T cells[40] (**Fig. 1C and 1E**). Consistent with the c4

cluster representing naïve emigrating thymic γδ T cells, the diversity of the c4 TCR clonotypes

was the highest among the $CD24^{low/int}$ (c0/c9, c8, c3) clusters (**Suppl. Fig. 2).**

We identified several immature $CD24^{high}CD73^{neg}$ ADT clusters (c1, c2, c7, c5, c6, and c10)

that also expressed SLAMF1 and/or SLAMF6 (**Fig. 1B and Suppl. Fig 1**). The c1 and c2 clusters

were enriched in γδT17-associated genes such as *Blk, Maf, Sox13, Ccr2, Tcf12, and Rorc*[32, 41, 42,]

[43, 44], as well as *Sh2d1a* (encoding SAP) and *Ccr9*[16] (**Fig. 1E, Suppl. Table 1**). Within these two

clusters, the CD44[low/pos]CD45RB[low] c2 cluster was especially enriched in genes previously

implicated in γδ T cell development such as *Etv5, Tox, Sox4, Tcf7, Zbtb16* [44, 45, 46, 47, 48], *Igfbp4* and

Igf1r which were recently implicated in Th17 differentiation[49], *Tnfsf11* (RANKL) which regulates

Aire[+] mTEC development [50], as well as *Themis* and *Tox2* (**Fig. 1E, Suppl. Fig. 1**). A high level of

Gzma expression identified c2 as the previously described *Gzma*[+] γδ T cell subset[40]. Interestingly,

in addition to expressing γδT17-associated genes, the c2 cluster was also enriched in γδT2-

associated *Gata3* and *Il4* transcripts (**Fig. 1D – E, Suppl. Table 1**). The CD44[low/pos]CD45RB[neg] c1

cluster, in contrast, exhibited significantly higher levels of *Il17a, Il17f, Rorc*, *Maf* [42], as well as

Ifngr1, consistent with the c1 cluster representing immature γδT17 cells (**Fig. 1D – E, 1G, and**

Suppl. Fig. 1).

Analysis of the c1 and c2 TCR transcripts revealed that the c2 cluster was notably enriched

in TRGV4-expressing cells and that 87% of Vγ4 T cells utilized just 3 TRDV chains (50%

TRDV5, 24% TRDV2-2, and 12% TRAV13-4/DV7) (**Fig. 1F, Suppl. Table 2**). Clonotype

analysis revealed a high frequency of semi-invariant TRGV4/TRDV5 and TRGV4/TRDV2-2

clonotypes previously associated with γδT17[51, 52, 53] (**Suppl. Fig. 2, Suppl. Table 2**). In contrast,

the c1 cluster possessed comparatively fewer of these TRGV4 clonotypes, and was enriched in

TRGV6, TRGV5, and TRGV1 paired with TRDV4 (**Suppl. Fig. 2, Suppl. Table 2**). Indeed, we

noted that the Vγ1 repertoire, which is diverse in adult tissues, was dominated by TRGV1/TRDV4

clonotypes (35% of all TRGV1) in E17 thymus, and just two closely related semi-invariant

TRGV1/TRDV4 clonotypes comprised 17.4% of all TRGV1. The location of these clonotypes in

the immature γδT17-related clusters (**Suppl. Fig. 2**) suggested that they represent the dominant

IL-17-producing Vγ1 clonotypes at E17, which we verified using flow cytometry (**Suppl. Fig. 3**).

Since the IL-4-producing Vγ1/Vδ6.3 γδNKT cell subset develops in fetal thymus[1], we

asked whether the *Il4*-enriched γδ T cells in cluster 2 (**Fig. 1D**) were immature Vγ1 γδNKT cells

with previously identified canonical Vδ6.3 sequences[27]. Interestingly, while we did identify a

small number of Vγ1 T cells with these canonical sequences (encoded by TRAV15-1/DV6-1 or

TRAV15N-1) in our dataset, these were not present in the *Il4*-enriched c2 cluster.

The CD44[pos]CD45RB[pos] c5 cluster was enriched in *Il2ra, Scin, Bex6, Cd5, Slamf6, Cd28,*

Hivep3, and cell-cycle/metabolism genes, consistent with γδ T cells that have recently developed

from DN2/DN3[40, 54, 55]. Within the c5 and c7 clusters, we noted that while there was expression of

γδT17-associated genes such as *Blk, Maf, Sox13,* and *Etv5*, there was relatively little *Rorc*

expression. *Rorc* expression became apparent in the c2 cluster (*Rorc^low*) and was significantly

increased in the c1 cluster (**Suppl. Fig. 1**). Flow cytometric analysis confirmed BLK and PLZF

expression in CD25[high] E17 Vγ4 T cells, while RORγt expression was primarily observed in the

CD25[neg] population, suggesting that BLK is expressed soon after γδ T cell selection, followed by

RORγt (**Suppl. Fig. 3**). These data were consistent with MAF-directed expression of *Rorc*[40, 42]

and suggested a c5 – c7 – c2 – c10 / c1 – c8 γδT17 developmental trajectory, which was supported

by trajectory inference analysis (**Fig. 1H).**

Finally, analysis of the CD24[high]73[neg]44[neg]45RB[int]SLAMF1[pos]SLAMF6[pos] c6 population

revealed that it was highly enriched in *Cd8a, Cd8b1, Cd4, Rag1, Rag2, Ptcra, Arpp21, and*

Dgkeos, consistent with cells developing along the αβ T cell lineage (**Figs. 1E, 1G, Suppl. Fig. 1,**

and Suppl. Table 1)[56]. Analysis of the Vγ1 and Vγ4 ADTs confirmed that c6 cells were not simply

contaminating αβ T cells as both Vγ1- and Vγ4-expressing cells were present in the c6 cluster

(**Suppl. Fig. 3**) and analysis of the c6 TCR clonotypes revealed the presence of TRGV1, GV4,

GV5, GV6, and GV7 clonotypes, none of which appeared to be specific to the c6 cluster (**Suppl.**

Table 2).

Since trajectory inference analysis suggested a strong relationship between the *Il2ra*[+] c5

and c6 clusters (**Fig. 1H**), we conducted differential gene expression analysis between the c5 and

c6 from B6 mice. Interestingly, we found that the c6 cluster was highly enriched in *Rorc,*

suggestive of a γδT17 phenotype, but was mostly lacking in the expression of *Maf, Blk, Ccr2*, and

other canonical γδT17-associated transcripts (**Fig. 1E, 1G, and Suppl. Fig. 1**). Indeed, flow

cytometric analysis of E17 $TCR\beta^{neg}TCR\delta^{pos}$ γδ T cells confirmed that CD4CD8 DP γδ T cells

exhibited an immature $CD44^{low}CD25^{low}MAF^{neg}BLK^{neg}ROR\gamma t^{pos}$ phenotype (**Suppl. Fig. 3**), and

that RORγt expression in the absence of BLK or MAF is a characteristic of Lin^{neg} DN thymocytes

as they progress from $CD44^{low}25^{high}$ DN3 to $CD44^{low}25^{low}$ DN4 (**Suppl. Fig. 3**). Together, these

data suggested that the c6 cluster γδ T cells represented previously described CD4CD8 DP γδ T

cells that were developing along an alternative αβ T cell pathway[57, 58, 59].

SAP regulates γδ T cell clonotype diversion into both the γδT17 and the αβ T cell developmental

pathways.

To identify SAP-dependent developmental checkpoints, we next compared the hashtag-

separated B6 and B6.SAP[-/-] E17 γδ T cell datasets. A comparison of the cluster frequencies

between B6 and B6.SAP[-/-] γδ T cells revealed significantly decreased frequencies of the

$CD24^{high}73^{neg}44^{int}45RB^{int}SLAMF1^{pos}SLAMF6^{pos}$ c2 and c1 clusters in B6.SAP[-/-] mice, and a

striking increase in the frequency of the $CD24^{high}73^{neg}44^{neg}45RB^{neg}SLAMF1^{high}SLAMF6^{high}$ c6

cluster (**Fig. 2A**). A comparison of differentially expressed genes among the immature (c1, c2, c7,

c5, c6, and c10) clusters using pseudobulk analysis revealed 234 differentially expressed genes

with a p_{adj} threshold < 0.005 and $\log_2$ fold change greater than 0.5, with 148 genes exhibiting

decreased expression in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ γδ T cells, and 86 genes exhibiting increased expression (**Fig.**

2B, Suppl. Table 3). Consistent with the decreased frequencies of the c1/c2 clusters in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$

mice, a significant fraction of the differentially expressed genes that were down-regulated in

B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice reflected γδT17-associated genes (e.g., *Maf, Blk, Ccr2, Sox13, Etv5, etc.*) that were

present in the c2 and c1 clusters, as well as a number of c1/c2-enriched genes (e.g., *Cpa3, Tox2,*

Pdcd1, Tmem121, Bex6, and *Scin*) whose importance in γδ T cell development is unclear (**Fig. 2B-**

C, Suppl. Table 2). This was not solely due to the decreased frequency of the c2 and c1 clusters

in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice, as a closer analysis revealed a decreased number of transcripts for many

signature genes (e.g., *Blk*, *Etv5*, *Ccr2*) prevalent in the c2 cluster and to a lesser extent the c7

cluster (**Suppl. Fig. 4**). Given the decreased expression of *Blk*, we also examined the expression

of Src tyrosine kinase family members *Lck* and *Fyn,* which have previously been implicated in T

cell development[60]. Unlike *Blk*, which was mostly restricted to γδT17 clusters, *Lck* and *Fyn*

expression was more broadly distributed (**Suppl. Fig. 1**). Using pseudobulk analysis to compare

their expression between B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ immature E.17 γδ T cells, we found that neither *Lck*

nor *Fyn* expression was appreciably altered (**Suppl. Fig. 4**), suggesting that *Blk* expression was

uniquely dependent on SAP. We did note, however, that the magnitude of *Lck* differential

expression was close to the 0.5 $\log_2$ FC cut-off and that its expression was increased in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$

γδ T cells (**Suppl. Fig. 4**). Indeed, a large number of genes whose expression was increased in

B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice were those whose expression was mostly confined to the c6 cluster (e.g., *Cd4,*

Cd8b1, Ptcra, Rag2) or whose expression was highest in c6 (e.g., *Tcf7, Thy1, Lck*) (**Fig. 2B-C,**

Suppl. Fig. 4). Together, these data identified the $Gzma^+Etv5^+Sox13^+Blk^+Tox2^+$ c2 and

$Cd4^+Cd8b1^+Ptcra^+Rag2^+$ c6 clusters as SAP-dependent developmental checkpoints.

Next, we asked whether these SAP-dependent alterations in γδ T cell development were

associated with any changes in the TCR repertoire. A comparison of all γδ TCR clonotypes

between E17 B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ γδ T cells revealed no significant changes in overall clonotype

frequency (**Fig. 2D**). However, a closer examination of TCR repertoire revealed significant

changes in the distribution of specific TCR clonotypes. For example, within the TRGV4 repertoire,

which represents the dominant TCR among immature clusters at E17, we observed a significant

decrease in TRGV4/TRDV5 clonotypes in the c2 cluster and a concomitant increase of these

clonotypes in the c6 cluster (**Fig. 2E**). Among the TRGV4 clonotypes, this appeared to be specific

to the TRDV5 clonotypes, as we observed no significant differences c2 and c6 frequencies among

TRGV4/TRDV2-2 and TRDV7 clonotypes (**Fig. 2E**). We did note, however, a significant increase

in the TRGV4/TRDV7 clonotypes in the *Il2ra*$^{+}$ c5 cluster (**Fig. 2E**). Within the TRGV1 repertoire,

we noted a significant increase in TRGV1/TRDV4 clonotypes within the c6 cluster (**Fig. 2E**).

Together, these data suggested that SAP operated at an early stage of γδ T cell development during

or soon after the down-regulation of *Il2ra,* and that it positively regulated entry into the γδT17

pathway at the c5/c7 to c2 transition, while at the same time inhibiting entry into the CD4^{+}CD8^{+}

αβ T cell-like c6 cluster. The net result of these changes appeared to be that specific TCR

clonotypes such as TRGV4/TRDV5 were diverted from the γδT17 pathway into the αβ T cell-like

pathway.

SAP deficiency is associated with increased numbers of immature CD4^{+}CD8^{+}RORγt^{+} thymic γδ T

cells

Next, we independently evaluated these observations using flow cytometry. This analysis

revealed that while SAP deficiency did not affect the overall number of E17 γδ T cells (**Suppl.**

Fig. 5), it did result in a significant decrease of immature CD24^{pos}BLK^{pos}MAF^{pos}RORγt^{pos} $\gamma\delta$ T

cells in E17 B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ thymus (**Fig. 3A-B**). We found that this decrease was most pronounced in

the CD44^{pos} population after downregulation of CD25 (**Fig 3A, Suppl. Fig. 5**) and that this

population exhibited a high level of PLZF expression, suggesting it corresponded to the

CD44$^+$*Blk*$^+$*Maf*$^+$*Zbtb16*$^+$*Rorc*$^+$ c1 cluster (**Suppl. Fig. 5**). In addition, UMAP analysis of E17 Vγ4

T cells flow cytometric data revealed the presence of a SAP-dependent

CD24^{pos}BLK^{pos}PLZF^{pos}RORγt^{neg} population in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ thymus **(Suppl. Fig. 5)** consistent with

the phenotype of the *Rorc*^{low} c2 cluster. In contrast, we found no evidence of a SAP-dependent

decrease in the CD25^{pos} population frequency, consistent with the notion that SAP exerts its effect

during or after this stage of development (**Fig. 3A**). We also noted that in addition to its effect on

the numbers of immature thymic $\gamma\delta$T17, SAP deficiency resulted in the reduced expression levels

of some of these markers, most notably BLK (**Fig. 3C**), a finding that was consistent with the

decreased number of *Blk* transcripts observed in Fig. 2. Interestingly, as PLZF induction is often

associated with SLAM/SAP signaling, we noted that SAP did not affect overall PLZF expression

levels in E17 thymic $\gamma\delta$ T cells (**Suppl. Fig. 5**).

In contrast to the decreased numbers of CD24^{pos}BLK^{pos}MAF^{pos}PLZF^{pos} RORγt^{pos} $\gamma\delta$ T

cells, we observed a significant increase in the frequency and number of

CD24^{pos}BLK^{neg}MAF^{neg}PLZF^{neg}RORγt^{pos}$\gamma\delta$ T cells (**Figs. 3A-B**), whose phenotype was consistent

with the $\alpha\beta$ T cell-like c6 cluster in Fig. 2. Consistent with our finding that the c6 cluster was

enriched in CD4 and CD8, we found that the frequency and number of CD4 and CD8-expressing

CD24^{pos} TCRδ^{pos}TCRβ^{neg} BLK^{neg}MAF^{neg}RORγt^{pos} thymic $\gamma\delta$ T cells was significantly increased

in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice (**Fig. 3D**). Together, these analyses confirmed our single-cell CITEseq analysis,

and suggested that SAP regulated both the throughput of immature $\gamma\delta$ T cells in the $\gamma\delta$T17 cell

pathway as well as the αβ T cell-like pathway. More specifically, the data suggested that SAP

promoted progression to the CD24^{pos} BLK^{pos}MAF^{pos}PLZF^{pos}RORγt^{low} c2 cluster that is enriched

in a number of genes (e.g., *Sox13, Etv5, Blk, Maf)* known to regulate γδT17 development, but that

it inhibited entry into the CD24^{pos}44^{neg}BLK^{neg}MAF^{neg}RORγt^{pos} αβ–T cell-like pathway (c6

cluster).

Identification of SAP-dependent developmental checkpoints during neonatal and adult thymus γδ

T cell developmental programming.

The neonatal period is a time of rapid expansion of numerous γδ T cell subsets in the

thymus including Vγ4 γδT17 and γδNKT. Therefore, we conducted a comparison between B6 and

B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ neonatal and adult thymic γδ T cells, to identify novel SAP-dependent developmental

checkpoints and to track the outcome of the SAP-dependent alterations in γδ T cell development

observed in E17 thymus. Neonate datasets revealed a similar branched clustering pattern as in E17

with   some   notable   differences.   Similar   to   E17,   we   observed   immature

CD24^{pos}73^{low}SLAMF1^{pos}SLAMF6^{pos} clusters   (c0,   c1,   c2,   c3,   c9,   c12,   c14),

CD24^{pos}73$^{low/pos}$SLAMF1^{pos}SLAMF6^{pos} (c4, c5, c10, c15) *S1pr1*-enriched "naïve" clusters,

mature   CD24^{neg}73^{low}SLAMF1^{pos}SLAMF6^{neg} (c6,   c7)   γδT17   clusters,   and   a   mature

CD24^{neg}73^{pos}SLAMF1^{neg}SLAMF6$^{low/pos}$*Slamf7*^{high} (c8) γδT1 cluster (**Fig. 4A-B**, **Suppl. Fig. 6**). In

general, we noted good correlation with cluster-specific gene expression between the E17 and D9

(Day 9) datasets. A notable exception was a striking decrease in *Zbtb16* expression among all

immature neonatal γδ T cells, which is consistent with previous reports[16, 40] (**Suppl. Fig. 6, Suppl.**

Table 3).

In contrast to the E17 dataset, the neonatal thymic γδ T cell dataset contained a

CD24^{neg}73^{pos}SLAMF1^{neg}SLAMF6^{high}*Slamf7*^{neg} (c13) γδT2 cluster enriched in *Il4, Il13, Zbtb16,*

Cd40lig, and *Nos1* (**Suppl. Fig. 6, Suppl. Table 1),** suggesting it represented IL-4-producing

γδNKT cells. Indeed, examination of the γδT2 (c13) and γδT1 (c8) cluster TCR repertoires

revealed a significant enrichment of canonical TRGV1 and TRAV15N-1 or TRAV15-1/DV6-1

sequences characteristic of γδNKT cells (**Fig. 4C, Fig. 5**)[27]. Analysis of the differentially

expressed genes in the γδT1 (c8) and γδT2 (c13) clusters revealed that *Zbtb16, Icos,* and *Slamf6*

were markers of γδT2 cells while *Tbx21, Klrb1c* (NK1.1), and *Slamf7* were markers of γδT1 cells

in neonatal thymus (**Suppl. Fig. 6**). Flow cytometric analysis confirmed that PLZF^{hi} γδT2

Vγ1Vδ6.3 cells co-express SLAMF6 and ICOS while Tbet^{hi} γδT1 Vγ1Vδ6.3 cells are NK1.1^{+} and

are either SLAMF6^{-}SLAMF7^{+} or SLAMF6^{+}SLAMF7^{+} (**Suppl. Fig. 7**).

A comparison of B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ neonatal γδ T cells revealed multiple SAP-dependent

changes in clustering. Among the immature γδ T cells, we observed a decreased frequency of the

immature CD24^{high}73^{neg}SLAMF1^{pos}SLAMF6^{pos} c1 cluster (**Fig. 4D**) that was enriched in *Blk, Etv5,*

Sox13, Rorc, and *Maf* (**Suppl. Fig. 6**), suggesting it was analogous to the SAP-dependent c2

cluster in E17 γδ T cells. Similar to our observations in E17 γδ T cells, flow cytometric analysis

confirmed both a decrease in BLK^{pos}RORγt^{pos} and BLK^{pos}RORγt^{neg} γδ T cell populations, as well

as a decreased level of BLK expression (**Fig. 4E-F**). In addition, we observed an increased

frequency of immature CD24^{high}73^{neg}SLAMF1^{pos}SLAMF6^{pos} cluster with characteristics of αβ T

cells (c14) in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ D9 thymic γδ T cells (**Fig. 4D, Suppl. Fig. 6**). While this increase did not

reach the level of significance, presumably due to the very low number of c14 cells in the dataset,

flow cytometric analysis revealed a significant increase in immature CD24^{pos}73^{neg}BLK^{neg}RORγt^{pos}

γδ T cells, a phenotype consistent with γδ T cells that have been diverted to the αβ developmental

pathway (**Fig. 4E**). Last, we observed an increased frequency of immature $CD24^{pos}73^{low/pos}$

$SLAMF1^{pos}SLAMF6^{pos}$ *S1pr1*-enriched c4 and c5 clusters, but not the closely related *Cd200*-

enriched c10 cluster (**Fig. 4D).** While we did confirm an increased number of $CD200^{neg}S1pr1^{pos}$

$\gamma\delta$ T cells in neonatal thymus by flow cytometry, this increase was relatively small and its

significance is unclear **(Suppl. Fig. 7).** Independent confirmation of these SAP-dependent changes

in neonatal $\gamma\delta$ T cell gene expression was obtained by conducting bulk RNAseq analysis of

FACSs-sorted $CD24^{high}$ neonatal thymic $\gamma\delta$ T cells from B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice (**Suppl. Table 4**).

Among the mature neonatal $\gamma\delta$ T cells, we observed a decreased frequency of the

$CD24^{low}73^{neg}SLAMF1^{pos}F6^{low}$ $\gamma\delta$T17 c6 cluster, which was consistent with our previous

observation of decreased IL-17 production in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ neonatal $\gamma\delta$ T cells[24]. Interestingly, we

observed a striking loss of the $CD24^{low}73^{high}SLAMF1^{low}F6^{high}F7^{neg}$ $\gamma\delta$T2 c13 cluster in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$

mice, as well as a decreased frequency of the mature $CD24^{low}73^{high}SLAMF1^{low}F6^{low}F7^{high}$ $\gamma\delta$T1

c8 cluster (**Fig. 4A - D**). These findings were consistent with a SAP-dependent loss of both the IL-

4- and IFN-γ-producing $\gamma\delta$NKT as well as non-$\gamma\delta$NKT $\gamma\delta$T1 cells (discussed further below).

Unfortunately, while we were able to define mature SAP-dependent $\gamma\delta$NKT subsets, we found no

evidence of immature $\gamma\delta$NKT cells in our dataset, suggesting that they develop during a brief

developmental window between E17 and D9 after birth.

A comparison of B6 adult thymic $\gamma\delta$ T cells between B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice recapitulated

many of our observations of the neonatal thymus, although to a somewhat lesser degree. For

example, we observed a small but significant decrease in the frequency of the $CD24^{high}CD73^{low}$

adult thymic c1 and c2 clusters in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice that was coupled with an increased frequency of

the $CD24^{pos}CD73^{+/-}$ c0 cluster (**Suppl. Fig. 8**). Like the SAP-dependent E17 c2 and D9 c1 clusters,

the adult thymus c1 and c2 clusters were enriched in $\gamma\delta$T17-associated *Blk, Etv5, Sox13*, *Maf,* and

Rorc (mostly in c2) indicating that SAP regulates this γδ T cell thymic developmental checkpoint

at all ages. Likewise, both the adult thymus c0 and the neonatal c4 and c5 clusters that were

enriched in *Ms4a4b, Ms4a6b, Dgka, Klf2,* and *S1pr1* exhibited increased frequencies in B6.SAP⁻

ᐟ⁻ mice. Just as we observed in neonatal thymic γδ T cells, we noted a near complete loss of mature

γδNKT cells (*Zbtb16, Icos,* and *Il4*-enriched γδT2 c8 cells and *Tbx21, Slamf7*, and *Il2rb*-enriched

γδT1 c11 cells) as well as a decreased frequency of mature non-γδNKT γδT1 c10 cluster cells in

B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ adult thymus (**Suppl. Fig. 8**). Unlike the E17 and neonatal thymic datasets, however,

the frequency of γδ T cells with an αβ T cell-like signature in the adult thymic γδ T cell dataset

was minimal. Collectively, these data supported the presence of multiple SAP-dependent

developmental checkpoints during neonatal and adult γδ T cell development—a reduction in the

CD24^{pos}CD73^{neg} SLAMF1^{+}SLAMF6^{+} cluster enriched in γδT17 development-associated

transcripts, an increased frequency of immature *S1pr1*-enriched γδ T cells, and decreased

frequencies of both γδNKT cells (γδT1 and γδT2) as well as non-γδNKT γδT1 cells.

SAP shapes the thymic γδ TCR repertoire

Given our observation of altered γδ TCR clonotype distribution among E17 γδ T cells and

the substantial changes in clustering we observed in SAP-deficient mice, we were next interested

in determining the effect of SAP deficiency on the neonatal and adult γδ TCR repertoires. A

comparison of frequencies of the top 100 TCR clonotypes between B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice revealed

significant changes in the overall frequency of several TRGV1 and TRGV4 clonotypes (**Fig. 5A**).

Consistent with a SAP-dependent loss of γδNKT, we observed a profound loss of TRGV1

clonotypes utilizing the canonical TRAV15N-1 and TRAV15-1/TRDV6-1 γδNKT cell TCRs (**Fig.**

5B). Loss of these clonotypes was directly tied to the significant decrease of the γδT1 c8 and γδT2

c13 clusters, in which nearly all these clonotypes resided.

Within the B6 γδT2 c13 cluster the vast majority (~86%) of TCR sequences were highly

restricted canonical γδNKT cell clonotypes (**Suppl. Table 2**) and nearly all of these clonotypes

were also present in the γδT1 c8 cluster consistent with the ability of γδNKT cells to produce both

IFN-γ and IL-4. In contrast, while the B6 γδT1 c8 cluster contained a large proportion of canonical

γδNKT cell clonotypes (~46% of c8 TCRs), it also contained TCRs with a diverse pool of

clonotypes that utilized TRGV1 (~70% of c8 TCRs), TRGV4, TRGV5, TRGV6, and TRGV7 that

were present only in the c8 γδT1 cluster. Therefore, in neonates, the thymic γδT1 population is a

mixture of γδNKT and "non-γδNKT" γδT1 clonotypes, and each of these clonotype pools is SAP-

dependent. As noted above, these findings were largely reproduced in the adult thymus where the

γδNKT clonotypes associated with the c8 and c11 clusters were virtually absent in B6.SAP[-/-] mice,

and where the diverse pool of γδT1 c10 clonotypes was significantly diminished (**Suppl. Table**

2).

Interestingly, a closer examination of the neonatal thymic TRGV4 clonotypes revealed a

significant decrease in the frequencies of γδT17-associated clonotypes with a germline-encoded

TRDV5[52] (**Fig. 5B**), some of which were identical to those that were redistributed to the αβ T cell-

like c6 cluster in E17 γδ T cells (**Fig. 2E**). When these clonotypes were mapped to their D9 clusters,

we noted a significant decrease in the frequency of TRGV4/TRDV5 clonotypes in the mature

γδT17 c6 cluster (**Fig 5C**). We note that while we observed a trend toward an increased frequency

of TRGV4/TRDV5 and TRGV4/TRDV2 clonotypes in the *S1pr1*[+] c4/c5 clusters, analysis of these

sequences revealed that they largely exhibited diverse CDR3 rather than the restricted CDR3

observed in the γδT17 c6 cluster (**Suppl. Table 2**). Taken together, these data indicated that the

immature embryonic day 17 γδ TCR clonotypes that were redirected to the αβ T cell pathway in

B6.SAP[-/-] mice were underrepresented among the mature B6.SAP[-/-] neonatal γδ T cells.

Restricted TCR repertoire in innate-like γδT1 as well as γδT17 in the periphery.

We previously demonstrated that SAP-deficiency results in a significant impairment in γδ

T cell function in the periphery[24]. Specifically, we observed that γδ T cell IL-17 production is

impaired in the lungs of young mice, but that this had largely corrected itself as the mouse reached

maturity. In contrast, we observed that both Vγ1 and Vγ4 IFN-γ production were significantly

impaired in B6.SAP[-/-] adult lung and spleen. To better understand how SAP-dependent alterations

in thymic development ultimately affected the peripheral γδ T cell compartment, we compared B6

and B6.SAP[-/-] lungs using single-cell RNAseq with V(D)J profiling.

Our initial annotation of the B6 lung γδ T cell transcriptome revealed the presence of 11

clusters of the lung γδ T cells that we annotated based on cluster-specific gene expression and

TRGV and TRDV usage (**Figure 6A**). Based on their expression of signature cytokines and

transcription factors, we identified 2 γδT17 clusters (c1 and c4), 4 γδT1 clusters (c2, c3, c7, and

c9), 1 γδTNKT-like cluster (c10) with very few cells, as well as a *Cd24*-enriched cluster (c5) (**Fig.**

6B and 6C, Suppl. Table 5). Consistent with previous observations, we noted that the c1 and c4

γδT17 clusters were enriched in *Slamf1* and that the c2/c3/c7/c9 γδT1 clusters were enriched in

Slamf7 and *Slamf6* (**Fig. 6B**). Indeed, flow cytometric analysis revealed that SLAMF7 expression

was restricted to the innate-like lung CD44[+]CD45RB[+] γδT1 cell population, and that γδT1 cells

are SLAMF1[-]F6[+]F7[+], while the CD44[+]CD45RB[-] γδT17 subsets are SLAMF1[+]F6[-]F7[-] (**Fig. 6D**).

Further annotation using V(D)J profiling revealed that the c1 cluster corresponded to Vγ4 γδT17

(primarily TRGV4/TRDV5 and TRGV4/TRDV2-2) while the c4 cluster corresponded to lung Vγ6

(TRGV6/TRDV4) (**Fig. 6E, Suppl. Table 6**). The c10 cluster was enriched in *Zbtb16*, *Il4*, and

Icos (**Fig. 6B-C**) as well as TRGV1/TRAV15N-1 and TRGV1/TRDV6 sequences (**Fig. 6E**, **Suppl.**

Table 6) consistent with γδNKT cells. We did note, however, that the TRAV15N-1 and TRDV6

sequences in the c10 cluster were, for the most part, non-canonical γδNKT cell clonotypes,

suggesting a degree of flexibility in the TRAV15N-1 and TRDV6 CDR3 sequences that can be

utilized by γδNKT cells.

Interestingly, while the γδT1 c2/c3/c7/c9 clusters contained primarily Vγ1 and Vγ4 T cells

as expected, we noted that Vγ4 γδT1 cells exhibited a striking preference in the usage of TRAV13-

4(DV7), and that TRGV4/TRDV7 pairings accounted for 80% of all Vγ4 clonotypes in the γδT1

clusters (**Fig. 6E, Suppl. Table 6**). Analysis of the γδT1 TRAV13-4/DV7 CDR3 sequences

revealed a high level of diversity that showed no evidence of clonal expansions (**Fig. 6F**). This

was in contrast to the highly restricted Vγ6 repertoire in the c4 γδT17 cluster, as well as the

restricted Vγ4 repertoire in the c2 γδT17 cluster that was dominated by semi-invariant TRDV5

and TRDV2-2 sequences (**Fig. 6F**). As no Vδ7-specific antibody was available, we independently

confirmed this observation using single-cell PCR to assess the lung Vγ4 CDR3δ sequences from

13 individual mice. These data demonstrated that, other than TRDV2-2 and TRDV5, TRDV7 is

the only other TCR delta chain used at an appreciable frequency by Vγ4 T cells in the B6 mouse

lung and that it exhibits significant diversity in its CDR3 (**Suppl. Fig. 9**). Vγ1 γδT1 cells, in

contrast, exhibited a more mild pairing preference where 44% of the γδT1 clonotypes utilized

TRAV15N-1, TRAV15-1/DV6-1, or TRAV15D-2/DV6D-2 and 13% utilized TRAV13-4/DV7

(**Suppl. Table 6**). Together these data formed a comprehensive map of B6 lung γδ T cell

transcriptomes and revealed that lung innate-like γδT1, like γδT17 and γδNKT, are all

characterized by preferential TCR γ- and δ-chain pairings. This was especially notable for Vγ4 and

our data suggested that Vγ4 γδT1 exhibited a distinct preference for the utilization of TRAV13-

4(DV7) chains with diverse CDR3.

SAP regulates peripheral Vγ4/Vδ7 γδT1 cells and shapes the lung γδT17 repertoire.

Next, we assessed the effect of SAP deficiency on the lung γδ TCR repertoire by comparing

B6 and B6.SAP[-/-] lung γδ T cells (**Fig. 7A**). Consistent with our previous observation that lung γδ

T cell IFN-γ production is deficient in SAP-deficient mice[24], we observed a decrease in the

frequency of the γδT1 c2, c3, and c7 clusters (**Fig. 7B**). Moreover, we observed a striking decrease

in the frequency of TRGV4/TRDV7-expressing cells in the lungs of B6.SAP[-/-] mice (**Figs. 7C-D,**

Suppl. Table 6), and we noted that we found no evidence of a compensatory increase in the

frequency of other TRDV-expressing lung Vγ4 γδT1 cells in the B6.SAP[-/-] lung. We independently

confirmed this SAP-dependent decrease in TRAV13-4/TRDV7 in both lung and spleen using

qPCR (**Suppl. Fig. 10**), and we demonstrated a significant decrease in the number of

CD44[+]SLAMF7[+] Vγ4 T cells in both the lungs and spleen of B6.SAP[-/-] mice (**Fig. 7E, Suppl. Fig.**

10). The decreased lung γδT1 did not appear to be due to a SAP-dependent decrease in homeostatic

proliferation, nor to increased apoptosis, since we observed no significant change in lung γδ T cell

BrdU incorporation or Annexin V staining in B6.SAP[-/-] mice (**Suppl. Fig. 10**).

In addition to the decrease in lung γδT1, we also noted a loss of the c10 γδT2 cluster

consistent with the enrichment in SAP-dependent γδNKT TCRs in this cluster, and we observed

an increased frequency of the Vγ4 γδT17 c1 cluster (**Fig. 7B**). Given our previous observation of

a SAP-dependent decrease in lung γδ T cell IL-17 production in young, but not adult mice[24], and

our findings here of SAP-dependent alterations in γδT17 clonotypes, we were interested in

442 determining whether the adult lung γδT17 repertoire was altered in SAP-deficient mice. Indeed, a

443 comparison of the lung Vγ4 c1 γδT17 CDR3 sequences between B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice revealed

444 significant alterations in the γδT17 c1 cluster TCR repertoire. Specifically, we noted a decreased

445 frequency of TRGV4 chains that exhibited a germline-encoded CDR3γ (CSYGYSS) and an

446 increased frequency of TRGV4 chains with a CDR3γ exhibiting evidence of N/P additions

447 (CSYG(X)YSS). These changes were associated with a significant shift in the usage of TRDV2-2

448 CDR3δ sequence usage (**Fig. 7F**) and an altered c1 TCR clonotype frequency in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice

449 **(Fig. 7G)**. Although the number of germline-encoded invariant TRGV4/TRDV5 clone (clonotype

450 1 in Fig. 6B) was diminished in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ lung γδ T cells (**Fig. 7G, Suppl. Table 6**), the low

451 numbers of cells available for analysis precluded us from making strong conclusions regarding the

452 loss of any one particular clonotype. Taken together, these data suggest that Vγ4 γδT1

453 preferentially utilize the TRAV13-4(DV7) chain in the lung and that the SAP-dependent decrease

454 in peripheral γδ T cell IFN-γ production is not due to dysregulated cytokine production, but rather

455 due to a specific loss of innate-like γδT1 subsets. This finding, together with our finding that the

456 adult lung γδT17 TCR repertoire is altered in SAP-deficient mice suggests that SLAM/SAP

457 signaling plays a role in shaping the γδ TCR repertoire.

Discussion

A common denominator in most innate-like T cell developmental programming is a dependence on the SLAM/SAP signaling pathway[17, 24, 25, 61]. Within the γδ T cell lineage, SAP plays a critical role in the development of IFN-γ and IL-4-producing γδNKT cells[27], as well as in γδT1 and γδT17[24], but exactly when during γδ T cell development SAP functions, and how it exerts these effects is unknown. Here, we provide evidence that SAP mediates its effects on immature, uncommitted thymic γδ T cells and that it works to simultaneously promote progression through the γδT17 developmental pathway while inhibiting the diversion of γδ T cells into the αβ T cell pathway. The redirection of γδ T cell clonotypes into the αβ T cell pathway at E17 is associated with a decreased frequency of these mature clonotypes in neonatal thymus, and an altered γδT17 TCR repertoire in the periphery. Finally, we identify Vγ4/Vδ7 T cells as a novel, SAP-dependent IFN-γ-producing Vγ4 γδT1 subset.

The developmental pathway(s) that gives rise to γδ T cell functional subsets remains unclear. γδ T cells develop at the DN2/DN3 stage after receiving a sufficiently strong γδTCR-mediated signal[62]. Numerous reports support a model where, within the continuum of signals that can drive γδ T cell development, it is the relatively weaker TCR signals that promote γδT17 programming while the stronger TCR signals foster γδNKT and γδT1 programming[4, 14, 17, 20, 63, 64]. Despite considerable effort, the precise thymic developmental stages at which γδ T cell lineage diversification occurs remains unclear. Recent studies examining this issue have demonstrated that effector programming can occur at a CD44[neg]CD45RB[neg] stage[4, 20], and that c-Maf-directed γδT17 programming occurs at a CD45RB[low] stage[42]. In addition, by altering TCR signal strength in a transgenic model, Chen et al., defined a *Ccr9*-enriched cluster as a point of effector lineage diversification[16]. Our findings here suggest that SAP influences γδT17 developmental

programming during the immature uncommitted CD24[hi]CD73[neg] stage, either during or soon after

*Il2ra (*CD25) downregulation. The SAP-dependent c2 cluster we define here was highly enriched

in numerous genes (e.g., *Sox13*[46], *Blk*[41]*, Maf*[42]*, Etv5*[45]*, Sh2d1a*[24]) previously associated with γδT17

development as well as *Ccr9*, and the cell surface phenotype of c2 γδ T cells is

SLAMF1[pos]SLAMF6[pos]CD44[low/high]CD45RB[low]. Altogether, these data suggest that the SAP-

dependent c2 cluster is identical to these previously defined developmental checkpoints. Given

that these previous studies have demonstrated that this developmental checkpoint is influenced by

TCR signaling, it is interesting to note that SLAM/SAP signaling has previously been

demonstrated to foster semi-invariant NKT cell differentiation through its ability to regulate TCR

signal strength[65].

To that end, we noted that the SAP-dependent c2 cluster in E.17 γδ T cells was enriched in

Blk, Lck, and *Fyn*, Src tyrosine kinase family members that have all been implicated in γδ T cell

development[41, 60]. Decreased expression of *Blk*, which is known to promote γδT17 development[41],

in B6.SAP[-/-] γδ T cells suggests one possible mechanism through which SAP may regulate γδT17

development via TCR signaling. The mechanism, however, through which SAP regulates *Blk* gene

expression remains unclear. Since SAP is known to regulate conventional αβ T cell signaling

through its ability to recruit FYN[66, 67] and LCK[68, 69] to SLAM family members, it seems reasonable

to hypothesize that SAP could regulate TCR signaling by recruiting one or more of these Src kinase

family members to the γδ TCR signalosome.

Our finding that SAP inhibited the number of γδ T cells that enter the αβ T cell

developmental pathway is reminiscent of previous work using transgenic TCR models

demonstrating that a reduction of TCR signal strength results in a redirection of γδ T cells to the

αβ T cell lineage[59, 70]. Fahl et al. recently demonstrated that both entry into the γδ T cell lineage

as well as γδ T cell effector programming involved repression of TCF1 expression by TCR-driven

increases in *Id3*[48]. Consistent with these results, we found that *Tcf7* (encoding TCF1) transcript

levels were highest in the αβ T cell-like c6 cluster, and we note that *Tcf7* transcripts levels were

noticeably higher in the *Il2ra*-enriched post-selection c5 cluster in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ γδ T cells. *Id3*

expression, however, did not appear to be appreciably altered in SAP-deficient mice. Whether

SAP-mediated signals could alter γδ T cell *Tcf7* expression through a TCR-independent

mechanism remains an open question.

511   In addition to the considerable evidence supporting a role for TCR signal strength in γδ T

cell developmental programming, there is increasing support for a model in which γδT17

programming occurs earlier in development, prior to expression of the γδ TCR. Indeed, evidence

that some DN1 thymocytes possess a SOX13^{hi} IL-17-like phenotype and that Vγ4 γδT17 arise

from DN1 precursors[18, 71] indicates the existence of such a TCR-independent developmental

programming stage. In consideration of such a model, it may be possible that SLAM/SAP-

mediated signals could differentially regulate the survival and/or fitness of the functionally pre-

programmed γδ T cell subsets. Such a function would be consistent with the role of SLAMF6 and

SAP in promoting reactivation-induced cell death in conventional αβ T cells[69, 72].

520   While our data indicate that SAP regulates the diversion of at least some TCR clonotypes

into the αβ TCR pathway, the fate of those cells is unclear. Certainly, the fact that the clonotypes

that were diverted to the αβ T cell pathway in E17 thymus are under-represented in the mature D9

thymus γδT17 clusters suggests that this diversion has significant consequences on the γδ T cell

receptor repertoire, but whether these diverted γδ T cells contribute to the αβ T cell compartment

is unclear. Recently, a population of hybrid αβ-γδ T cells was described in both mouse and

human[73] that responds to peptide/MHC stimulation like conventional αβ T cells, as well as to IL-

1 and IL-23 which induce both IFN-γ and IL-17 production[73]. In the mouse, at least some of these

cells are Vγ4/Vδ5, Vγ4/Vδ4, or Vγ4Vδ7 and are present in the embryonic thymus, raising the

possibility that γδ T cells diverted to the αβ T cell pathway in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice contribute to this

αβ-γδ T cell population. While we have not observed a significant increase in the overall numbers

of αβ-γδ T cells in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ thymus (not shown), a direct comparison of B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ αβ-

γδ TCRs may be necessary to see such an effect.

Our previous observations that SAP deletion did not completely abolish the development of

IL-17- and IFN-γ producing γδ T cells[24] suggested the possibility that SAP may be critical for the

development of additional γδ T cell clonotypes other than the Vγ1Vδ6.3 subset. Therefore, we

compared the SAP-dependent and SAP-independent γδTCR repertoires using paired TCR

clonotype analysis, which allowed us to track clonotype fate during development. Our findings not

only confirmed previous results demonstrating highly restricted γδT17[51, 52], and γδNKT[27] TCR

repertoires, they also revealed that the vast majority of Vγ4 γδT1 subsets in the periphery

preferentially utilize TRGV4/TRAV13-4(DV7) clonotypes, thereby further highlighting the strong

links between γδ T cell function and the utilization of specific TCRs[29]. The reason for this

preferential TRDV usage in Vγ4/Vδ7 γδT1 is unclear. While the TRAV13-4(DV7) CDR3

sequences were diverse and did not suggest evidence of clonal expansion, it may be possible that

TRDV-encoded sequence motifs could be required to interact with a ligand, similar to the way that

TRGV-encoded sequences mediate recognition of butyrophilins[74, 75].

Exactly when during development SAP exerts its effects on Vγ4/Vδ7 T cells is still

somewhat unclear. We found comparatively low numbers of TRGV4/TRDV7 γδ T cells in

embryonic, neonatal, or adult thymus, and those that were identified were generally found in the

immature clusters. The increased frequency in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ E17 thymus of TRGV4/TRDV7 γδ T

cells in the *Il2ra*$^+$ c5 cluster coupled with their decreased frequency in the emigrating *S1pr1*$^+$ c4

cluster suggests a model where SAP promotes progression through the early stages of development

through thymic egress. SAP deficiency, therefore, could result in lower Vγ4/Vδ7 output. However,

this model is at odds with our finding that the frequency of *S1pr1*$^+$ clusters in neonatal thymus is

increased in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$, and that these clusters contained increased numbers of TRGV4/TRDV7 γδ

T cells. A possible explanation could be found in a previous report demonstrating that a Vγ4/Vδ7

subset increases in frequency in the periphery of B6 mice over time and undergoes extrathymic

expansion[76]. Our finding here that that the Vγ4/Vδ7 T cells represent a SAP-dependent innate-like

γδT1 subset raise the possibility that SAP regulates the homeostatic expansion of this subset after

it leaves the thymus. The mechanism, however, through which SAP is regulating the number of

Vγ4/Vδ7 T cells remains unclear, as we have so far observed no evidence of changes in

homeostatic proliferation or apoptosis of these cells in the lungs.

We previously demonstrated that the SAP-dependent impairment in γδT17 function in the

neonatal periphery largely corrects itself as mice mature[24]. This suggested the possibility that SAP-

dependent γδT17 clonotypes originating in the embryonic thymus were being replaced over time

by SAP-independent γδT17 clonotypes. Although our data certainly point to a SAP-dependent

decrease in a germline-encoded Vγ4/Vδ5 clonotype in neonatal thymus, the low numbers of this

clonotype in the lung makes it difficult to draw definitive conclusions in the periphery. Still, we

did observe a role for SAP in shaping the peripheral γδT17 repertoire, as we noted a decreased

frequency of germline-encoded TRGV4 sequences (so-called "GYSS"[77]) coupled with an

increased frequency of TRGV4 sequences with more diverse CDR3 ("GXYSS") in the periphery.

Although the potential significance of this change on γδ T cell function is unclear, it does support

572 a model in which SAP regulates γδT17 developmental programming during embryonic thymic

573 development, where the low expression of terminal deoxynucleotide transferase results in a high

574 frequency of germline-encoded V-J junctions.

575  In summary, our findings reveal the presence of multiple SAP-dependent developmental

576 checkpoint during the very early stages of γδ T cell development in the thymus, indicating a more

577 complex role for this signaling pathway in γδ T cell developmental programming than previously

578 appreciated. Indeed, our data indicate that SAP functions to regulate entry into the γδ and αβ T

579 cell developmental pathways, and we make the striking observation that nearly all Vγ4 γδT1 cells

580 in the periphery preferentially use Vδ7 chains and that it is a decrease in the Vγ4/Vδ7 subset that,

581 in part, underlies the SAP-dependent decrease in γδ T cell IFN-γ production. Altogether, these

582 findings suggest that SAP regulates the balance of innate-like γδT1/γδT2/γδT17 subsets during

583 thymic development and in the periphery.

Methods

Mice

C57BL/6J (B6) and B6.*Sh2d1a*$^{-/-}$ (SAP$^{-/-}$) mice were purchased from the Jackson

Laboratory (Bar Harbor, ME) and were housed and bred in a specific pathogen-free facility at the

animal facility of the University of Vermont. For experiments using E17 mice, timed-pregnant

matings were used. The presence of a vaginal plug indicated day 0 of pregnancy. The flow

cytometry experiments included 8-13 weeks old B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice (age and sex-matched).

All experimental procedures on animals were carried out with the approval of the University of

Vermont Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Tissue Processing

Single-cell suspensions from the spleen and thymus were obtained by gently passing tissue

through nylon mesh. Red blood cells (RBCs) were lysed with Gey's solution. Single-cell

suspensions from the lungs were prepared as described (Benoit et al., 2015). Briefly, dissected

lungs were finely minced in a digestion buffer containing DMEM, 1 mg/ml collagenase type IV

(Gibco), and 0.2 mg/ml DNase (Sigma-Aldrich). After shaking at 200 rpm at 37˚C for 20 min, the

lung digests were triturated with a 16-gauge needle, followed by an additional 20 min shaking at

200 rpm at 37˚C. Following the final trituration, red blood cells (RBC) were lysed with Gey's

solution. Finally, the digested lung tissues were filtered through a 70-μm filter and washed in

PBS/2%FBS. Cells were counted either on a MACSQuant VYB or using a hemacytometer

following trypan blue staining.

Flow Cytometry

Cells were incubated with LIVE/DEAD™ Fixable Blue Dead Cell stain (Thermo Fisher

Scientific, Grand Island, NY) for 30 min at 4^0C in PBS, after which they were resuspended in Fc-

Block (BioLegend) containing PBS/2% FCS/0.1% sodium azide buffer. After a 5-10 min

incubation on ice, antibodies specific for cell surface markers were added, incubated for 30 min

on ice, and washed in PBS/2% FCS/0.1% sodium azide buffer. Brilliant Violet Staining buffer

(BD Biosciences) was used in experiments contain more than one Brilliant Violet, Brilliant UV,

or SuperBright-conjugated Ab. Cells were fixed in PBS/1% PFA buffer and stored at 4^0C prior to

data collection.

For nuclear staining, cells were permeabilized with Foxp3 transcription factor

fixation/permeabilization buffer (ThermoFisher) following surface staining. Cells were incubated

overnight at 4˚C, washed, and incubated with 25 micrograms/ml total rat IgG before adding Abs

against transcription factors. After staining, cells were washed and resuspended in PBS/2%

FCS/0.1% sodium azide buffer. For intracellular cytokine staining, cells were permeabilized with

PBS/1% FCS/0.1% sodium azide/0.1% saponin following surface staining and fixation. To reduce

unspecific binding, 25 μg/ml total rat IgG was added prior to cytokine staining with fluorescent-

labeled antibodies.

Flow cytometry data were collected on a Cytek® Aurora (Cytek Biosciences) spectral

cytometer, and data analysis was performed using FlowJo Software (Tree Star). In some cases,

visualization of flow cytometry data was conducted by concatenation of individual .fcs files,

followed by dimensionality reduction and clustering using UMAP and FlowSOM[78] in FlowJo.

Antibodies used in these experiments are anti-CD4 (RM4-5), anti-CD11b (M1/70), anti-CD11c

(N418), anti-CD19 (1D3), anti-CD24 (M1/69), anti-CD25 (PC61), anti-CD27 (LG.3A10), anti-

CD44 (IM7), anti-CD45RB (C363-16A) , anti-CD73 (TY/11.8), anti-CD150 (TC15-12F12.2),

anti-CD196 (29-2L17), anti-CD319 (4G2), anti-cMAF (sym0F1), anti-IFNγ (XMG1.2), anti-

IL17a (TC11-18H10.1), anti-IL4 (11B11), anti-PLZF (9E12), anti-T-bet (4B10), anti-TCRβ (H57-

597), anti-Vγ5 (536), and anti-Vd6.3 (C504.17c) from BioLegend; and anti-RORγt (Q31-378),

anti-TCRδ (GL3), anti-Vγ1 (2.11) from BD biosciences; and anti-CD8a (53-6.7), anti-CD45 (30-

F11), anti-CD200 (OX90), anti-CD278 (7E17G9), anti-Ki-67 (SolA15), anti-Ly108(13G3-19D),

anti-Vγ4 (UC3-10A6) from eBiosciences; anti-S1P1 (713412) from R&D systems; anti-Blk

(polyclonal) from Cell Signaling Technology; and anti-17D1

In vivo proliferation and apoptosis

For *in vivo* proliferation analysis, each mouse was intraperitoneally injected with 1 mg of

5-bromo-deoxyuridine (BrdU) (Sigma-Aldrich) each day for 3 days. Lung cell suspensions were

prepared as above, stained with surface markers, after which they staining with anti-BrdU antibody

according to the manufacturer's instructions (BrdU Flow Kit; BD Biosciences). For apoptotic cell

detection, annexin V staining was performed. Briefly, surface staining was followed by dead cell

staining with Fixable Viability Dye eFluor™ 780 dye. The cells were washed and resuspended in

an annexin-binding buffer (10 mM HEPES, 140 mM NaCl, and 2.5 mM CaCl2, pH 7.4). Finally,

1 µl of Annexin V Conjugate (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Grand Island, NY) was added to each

tube, and cells were incubated for 15 minutes at room temperature (RT) prior to data collection.

Bulk RNA Sequencing and data analysis

For the bulk RNA sequencing, thymocytes from 10-day old B6 (n=4 male, n=2 female)

and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ (n=5 male, n=1 female) mice were prepared by depleting CD4+ cells from

thymocytes using the EasySepTM Mouse CD4 Positive Selection Kit II (STEMCELL

Technologies). Cells were then incubated with Fixable Viability Dye eFluor™ 780 (Thermo Fisher

Scientific, Grand Island, NY) for 30 min at 4^0C in PBS, after which they were resuspended in Fc-

Block (BioLegend) containing PBS/2% FCS. After washing, cells were stained with antibodies

against CD11b (M1/70), CD19 (1D3), CD24 (M1/67), CD45 (30-F11), TCRβ (H57-597), and

TCRδ (GL3) for 30 min at 4^0C. Following surface staining, CD24^{hi}TCRδ+ cells were sorted from

a CD11b$^-$CD19$^-$TCRb- population of live CD45$^+$ lymphocytes. Immature (CD24^{high}) thymocytes

from both B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice were sorted directly into 350 microliters of RLT lysis buffer

(Qiagen). RNA was extracted using the RNeasy Micro kit (Qiagen) according to manufacturer

instructions. After RNA quantification and quality assessment, cDNA libraries were prepared

using SMARTer Stranded Total RNA-Seq Kit v3 - Pico Input Mammalian (Takara, Japan)

according to the manufacturer's protocol. Following library clean-up and quantification, the

libraries were sequenced (single-end 75 bp) on an Illumina HiSeq1500.

The Fastq files were checked for data quality using FastQC and MultiQC[79] bioinformatics

tools. Cutadapt[80] was used to filter out low-quality sequences and to remove adapter sequences

from all reads. The expression of transcripts was quantified using the mapping-based mode of

Salmon[81], which quasi-mapped RNA-seq reads to an index created from a mouse reference

transcriptome (GRCm39). The transcript abundance estimates were imported using tximport[82] and

differential gene expression (DE) analysis was performed using DEseq2[83] employing the Wald

test of the negative binomial model coefficients to determine statistical significance. The results

were analyzed based on Log$_2$ fold change (Log$_2$FC ≥ 0.5 or ≤ -0.5) and adjusted P-value (padj

≤ 0.0001) to determine whether a gene was differentially expressed.

Cell sorting and library preparation for CITE-seq and V(D)J enrichment

For thymus single-cell transcriptome analysis, we used embryonic day 17 (E17) B6 (n=4)

and B6.*Sh2d1a*$^{-/-}$ (SAP$^{-/-}$) (n=4) mice, nine day-old (D9) B6 (n=3) and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ (n=3) mice, and

six-week-old B6 (n=3 male) and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ (n=2 male, n=1 female) mice. For single-cell analysis

of adult lung γδ T cells, we used 13 week old B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ littermates (pooled cells from 2

males and one female mouse in each group).

Analysis of gene expression, surface protein expression, and TCR V(D)J repertoire was

performed using the 10X Genomics Chromium Next GEM Single Cell 5' V(D)J with feature

barcoding kit (version 1.1). To sort cells for scRNAseq, thymocytes were stained with anti-TCRδ-

PE (GL3) antibody and enriched using anti-PE MicroBeads kit (Miltenyi Biotec). The exception

was E17 thymus which did not undergo TCRδ enrichment. Following live/dead staining with

Fixable Viability Dye eFluor™ 780 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Grand Island, NY) for 30 min at

4°C in PBS, cells were resuspended in Fc-Block (BioLegend) containing PBS/2% FCS. Cells were

then simultaneously stained with oligonucleotide-conjugated antibodies targeting CD24, CD44,

CD45RB, CD73, SLAMF1, SLAMF6, Vγ1, and Vγ4 (TotalSeqC-BioLegend), oligonucleotide-

conjugated hashtag antibodies (TotalSeqC-BioLegend), and fluorophore-conjugated antibodies for

cell sorting which included the anti-CD11b (M1/70), anti-CD11c (N418), anti-CD19 (1D3), anti-

CD45.2 (104) and anti-TCRβ (H57-597) antibodies. Following surface staining of the enriched

population, TCRδ^{+} cells were sorted from a CD11b^{-}CD11c^{-}CD19^{-}TCRβ^{-} population of CD45.2^{+}

live lymphocytes.

Libraries were prepared according to the manufacturer's instructions with modifications to

the V(D)J enrichment procedure. Equal numbers of live GL3^{+} γδ T cells from B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$

mice were pooled and captured (between 5000 – 7000 cells) using a 10x Chromium controller.

Following cDNA preparation, the gene expression and CSP libraries were created according to the

manufacturer's instructions. To obtain TCR gamma and delta chain sequences, we replaced kit-

provided enrichment primers with custom mouse γ and δ chain-specific primers and modified the

number of PCR cycles used from manufacturer recommended cycling conditions. In the first

enrichment step, an equal amount of cDNA was used as a template for PCR amplification of γ and

δ chains separately using a total of 12 and 10 PCR cycles, respectively. The primers used for the

first γ-chain enrichment are: Forward Primer 5'-AATGAT ACGGCGA CCACCG AG

ATCTACACTCTT TCCCTACAC GACGCTC-3' (2 μM) and Reverse Outer Primers 5'-GGAA

AGAACTT TTCAAGGAS ACAAAG-3' (1 μM), 5'-CCCTTATG ACTTCAGG AAAGAA

CTTT-3' (0.5 μM) . The primers used for the first δ-chain enrichment are: Forward Primer 5'-

AATGAT ACGGCGACCACCG AGATCTACACTC TTTCCCTAC ACGACGCTC-3' (2 μM)

and Reverse Outer Primer 5'-CCACAATC TTCTTGGATG ATCTGAG-3' (0.5 μM). Following

PCR product purification, the γ-chain and δ-chain amplicons went through the second round of

enrichment separately using a total of 12 and 10 PCR cycles, respectively. The primers used for

the second γ-chain enrichment are: Forward Primer 5'-AATGA TACGGCGACCA

CCGAGATCT-3' (0.5 μM) and Reverse Inner Primers 5'-ACAAA GGTATGTCCCA

GTCTTATGGA-3' (0.5 μM), 5'-GGAGACA AAGGTAGGT CCCAGC-3' (0.5 μM). The

primers used for the second δ-chain enrichment are: Forward Primer 5'-AATGATA

CGGCGACCACC GAGATCT-3' (0.5 μM) and Reverse Inner Primer 5'-GTCACCTC

TTTAGGGTAG AAATCTT-3'. Following PCR product cleanup, the second round PCR products

(γ-chain and δ-chain amplicons) were quantified and combined in equal quantity making the final

TCR V(D)J library. Finally, all three libraries (gene expression, cell surface protein expression,

and TCR V(D)J) were sequenced (paired-end 26 x 91 bp) on an Illumina HiSeq 1500 sequencer

or a NextSeq 2000.

CITE-seq quality control, filtering and demultiplexing

Raw sequence reads from the gene expression and CSP libraries were processed using the

Cell Ranger software (v4.0.0)[84]. Reads were mapped to the GRCm38 (mm10) mouse reference

genome. To exclude the possibility of TCR transcripts playing a role in UMAP clustering, all TCR

genes were omitted from the analysis using the "cellranger reanalyze" argument of Cell Ranger

software.

Quality control, filtering, UMAP projection, and clustering analysis were conducted using

Seurat (v4.3.0.1)[85] R package. Briefly, cells with a low number ($\leq$2000 for E17 thymus dataset,

$\leq$1200 for D9 thymus dataset and $\leq$750 for lung dataset) of unique genes (nFeature_RNA), a

frequency of mitochondrial reads > 4% and a frequency of ribosomal protein < than ~12% were

eliminated from further analysis. To reduce cell cycle-related and stress-related heterogeneity in

the normalized data, selected cell cycle genes and stress-induced genes [86] were regressed out

during the data normalization step. Note that in some instances, contaminating clusters expressing

macrophage specific marker genes were manually removed using Seurat "CellSelector ()"

argument. We used the Seurat function "HTODemux()" to demultiplex single cells back to their

sample of origin [87].

CITE-Seq and V(D)J enrichment data analysis

The demultiplexed datasets were further analyzed for gene expression, cell surface protein

expression following the multimodal analysis pipeline of Seurat[85]. For each dataset, we performed

normalization and variance stabilization of the gene expression data using the scTransform[88].

Following identification of top significant principal components (PCs) using the principal

component analysis (PCA), we performed a graph-based (UMAP) semi-supervised clustering of

cells with similar gene expression patterns using specific number of top PCs (E17 = 25, D9 = 30,

W6 = 27, lung = 28) and resolution values (E17 = 1.2, D9 = 1.6, W6 = 0.65, lung =1.2) for each

dataset. The cell surface protein expression data (Centered Log Ratio (CLR) normalized) from

CSP libraries as well as the gene expression data were then visualized on the clustered cells using

the R package scCustomize[89]. The differentially expressed features of each cluster (cluster

biomarkers) were identified using FindAllMarkers() function using the Wilcoxon Rank Sum test.

For identifying differentially expressed genes (DEGs) between B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ samples, we

performed a pseudobulk DE (differential expression) analysis of aggregated read counts using the

DEseq2 package, which accounts for biological replicates making it a better approach than other

specialized single-cell DE analysis methods[90]. Briefly, for cells of a given sample type, we

aggregated RNAseq reads across biological replicates identified by individual hashtags. Then

transformed the genes-by-cell matrix to a genes-by-replicates matrix and performed DE analysis

using the DESeq2[83] package employing the Wald test of the negative binomial model coefficients

to determine statistical significance. Finally, the trajectory and pseudotime inference analysis was

performed using the partition-based graph abstraction (PAGA)[91] analysis, which is a part of the

Scanpy[92] python package.

For the analysis of V(D)J library sequences, Cell Ranger v6.1.2 ("cellranger vdj"

argument) was used to map the TCR V(D)J) reads to a custom-made reference containing

sequences from the IMGT database[93]. The Cell Ranger V(D)J output was then processed with

custom bashscripts. Briefly, the TRGV and TRAV/TRDV contigs identified by Cell Ranger V(D)J

were demultiplexed to individual barcodes after which the dominant TRGV and TRAV/DV

transcripts were selected per cell. Finally, the V(D)J information of each cell was integrated with

scCITE-seq data and visualized using a combination of Seurat and custom-made R scripts. We

note that since about half of Vγ1, Vγ4, and Vγ7 T cells contain functionally rearranged TRGV2

chains, but only a small percentage express Vγ2 on the cell surface[94], the methods used here cannot

adequately assess the true TRGV2 repertoire. Therefore, we report it here for accuracy but have

omitted TRGV2 from our analysis.

Quantitative PCR

Lung qPCR samples were prepared by positively selecting leukocytes using CD45 MicroBeads

(Miltenyi Biotec). Spleen qPCR samples were prepared by depletion of CD19+ TCRβ+ cells using

biotinylated antibodies and Streptavidin MicroBeads (Miltenyi Biotec) according to the

manufacturer's instructions. Total RNA was extracted from approximately 5-10 million cells from

each organ using the RNeasy Mini Kit (QIAGEN). SuperScript® IV Reverse Transcriptase

(Thermo Fisher Scientific, Grand Island, NY) was used to generate cDNA using 400 ng of RNA

and oligodT primer according to the manufacturer's instructions. qPCR was performed using 1μl

of cDNA template in iTaq Universal SYBR Green Supermix (Bio-Rad) containing TCR delta

chain specific primer pairs. The qPCR reaction was run on a Bio-Rad CFX96 qPCR machine using

the following cycling conditions: 95^0C for 30 sec; 40 cycles of [95^0C for 5 sec; 60^0C for 30 sec;

72^0C for 30 sec]. The β2M and TRDC genes were used as endogenous housekeeping controls.

Primers used were as follows: mb2mforward, 5'- CATGGCTCG CTCGGTGACC-3',

mb2mreverse, 5'-AATGTGAGGC GGGTGGAACTG-3', TRDCforward, 5'- CTCCGGCCA

AACCATCTGTT-3', mouseDV2, 5'-CCAAGAAG CATACAAGCAGT ATAATG-3',

mouseDV5, 5'- CCCATGA TGCAGATTT TGTTCAAGG-3', mouseDV7, 5'- GGAAG

MCTCGTCAGC CTGTTGT-3', mouseDCrev, 5'- CCACAATCTT CTTGGAT GATCTGAG-3'.

Some primer sequences were adopted from Wei. et. al. (2015)[51].

Vγ4 single cell sorting and TCR Sequencing

The plate-based based γδ TCR repertoire analysis of single-cell sorted Vγ4 cells involved

adult lungs from 8-10 weeks old B6 male (n=7) and female mice (n=6). Lung Vγ4 TCR sequences

were obtained using a protocol modified from Wei *et al.*, (2015)[51]. Briefly, lung cell suspensions

were prepared as described above. After washing, cells were resuspended in Fc-Block

(BioLegend) containing PBS/2% FCS buffer, and stained with anti-CD11b (M1/70), anti-CD11c

(N418), anti-CD19 (1D3), anti-CD45 (30-F11), anti-TCRδ (GL3) and anti-Vγ4 (UC3-10A6) from

for 30 min at 4^0C in PBS. Fixable Viability Dye eFluor™ 780 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Grand

Island, NY) was used to identify dead cells. Single-cell sorting of lung $Vγ4^+TCRδ^+$ from a $CD11b^-$

$CD11c^-CD19^-TCRβ^-$ population of $CD45^+$ live lymphocytes were performed using a FACS Aria

III cell sorter (BD Bioscience). Cells were sorted directly into 12.5 μl (per well) of OneStep RT-

PCR Buffer mix (QIAGEN) in a 96-well PCR plate (one cell/well).

TCR sequences were then amplified and barcoded according to (Wei *et al.*, 2015). Briefly,

the first two nested PCR reactions involved primer-specific amplification of gamma and delta TCR

sequences. In both the first and second PCR reactions, the final concentration of each V-region

primer is 0.36μM, and each C-region primer is 0.6μM. The first RT-PCR step was performed using

the following cycling conditions: 50^0C for 30 min; 95^0C for 5 min; 25 cycles of [94^0C for 30 sec;

62^0C for 1min; 72^0C for1 min]; 72^0C for 7 min; 4^0C. Next, 1 μl of the first round PCR product was

used as a template for the second nested PCR reaction using HotStartTaq Master Mix Kit

(QIAGEN). The cycling conditions for the second PCR reaction were 95^0C for 5 min; 25 cycles

of [94^0C for 30 sec; 64^0C for 1min; 72^0C for1 min]; 72^0C for 7 min; 4^0C. In the third PCR reaction,

1 μl of second round PCR product as the template in a new 14 μl reaction using HotStartTaq Master

Mix Kit (QIAGEN). Each well was barcoded. The final concentration of 5' and 3' barcoding

primers was 0.05μM each and paired-end primers were 0.5μM each. The cycling conditions for

the third PCR reaction were 95^0C for 5 min; 36 cycles of [94^0C for 30 sec; 62^0C for 1min; 72^0C

for1 min]; 72^0C for 7 min; 4^0C. The γ and δ chain products were run on 1.2% agarose gel separately

and purified using the Qiagen QIAquick Gel Extraction Kit according to kit instructions. The final

products were then analyzed using the 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies). Finally, the γ

and δ TCR products were mixed in equal concentration and sequenced on the Illumina MiSeq

platform using the Illumina MiSeq Reagent Kit v2 (500-cycles).

The paired-end TCR sequencing reads were analyzed using a custom software pipeline

capable of de-multiplexing barcoded sequences to individual cells. The resulting de-multiplexed

reads were then analyzed by MiGMAP software, which identifies CDR3 sequences using the

IgBlast 1.4.0 (NCBI) V(D)J mapping tool[95, 96]. The single-cell TCR V(D)J profiling data were then

visualized using custom R scripts.

Statistical analysis

Prism (GraphPad Software, San Diego, CA) was used for the statistical analysis of data.

Unpaired Student t-tests, one-way ANOVA, or two-way ANOVA were used where appropriate.

Tests were considered significant when p-values were less than 0.05. Error bars represent standard

deviation (SD) unless otherwise indicated.

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Author contributions

S.K.M. and J.E.B. conceived and designed the project; S.K.M., J.E.B., E.A., K.J.H., B.M.H., R.S.,

and O.D. performed experiments and analyzed data; K.J.H., D.G., J.T.R., and N.S. aided with the

single-cell TCR sequencing; D.M. assisted with bulk RNA sequencing; S.K.M. and J.E.B.

performed the bioinformatics analysis of bulk RNA-seq and single-cell CITEseq (with immune

profiling) data; J.E.B. supervised the project; S.K.M. and J.E.B. prepared the manuscript.

Data Availability

All sequencing data in this manuscript have been deposited in NCBI GEO and have been assigned

the accession number GSE262064. All scripts used in these analyses have been made publicly

available on Github and can be accessed here: https://github.com/Boyson-

Lab/scRNAseq_with_immune_profiling_tutorial

Competing interests

All authors declare no competing interests.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. SLAM family receptor expression marks transcriptionally distinct developmental

stages among E17 γδ T cells. **(A)** Schematic workflow depicting the methodology for single-cell

RNA sequencing (scRNAseq) library preparation and subsequent data analysis pipeline employed

in this study. **(B)** Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP) visualization

displaying 11 distinct clusters of E17 B6 thymic γδ T cells, n = 4 individual mice. Clusters are

annotated based on comprehensive protein and gene expression data. **(C)** Feature plots illustrating

the cell surface protein expression profiles of CD24, CD73, CD44, CD45RB, SLAMF1, and

SLAMF6 on B6 E17 thymic γδ T cells. Each data point represents a cell, color-coded to indicate

varying protein expression levels (high: dark blue, low: yellow). **(D)** Feature plot illustrating the

gene expression profiles of signature genes among individual B6 E17 thymic γδ T cells. Each data

point represents a cell, color-coded based on gene expression levels (high: purple, low: yellow).

(E) Dot plot demonstrating the scaled expression levels of selected genes in E17 B6 thymic γδ T

cells. Normalized expression levels are depicted using a color scale ranging from low (yellow) to

high (purple). Dot size corresponds to the fraction of cells within each cluster expressing the

specific marker. **(F)** UMAP representation of E17 B6 thymic γδ T cells indicating the expression

of selected TRGV (TCRγ; left) and TRDV (TCRδ; right) chain V-segment usage (in blue) across

individual cells. **(G)** Violin plots illustrating the expression patterns of selected genes among E17

B6 thymic γδ T cell clusters. **(H)** Visualization of single-cell trajectories using PAGA (partition-

based graph abstraction) with single-cell embedding (left) showing connectivity between

individual nodes (middle). Weighted edges represent statistical measures of interconnectivity. The

diffusion pseudotime plot (right) delineates inferred pseudotime progression of cells along

developmental trajectories using cluster 5 (C5) as the root, highlighting their developmental order

(from purple to yellow).

1210

Figure. 2. Identification of SAP-dependent developmental checkpoints during E17 γδ T cell

developmental programming. (A) UMAP representation of B6 (left) and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ (right) γδ T

cells from E17 thymi (n = 4 mice per group) is shown at *left.* Clusters were annotated based on

protein and gene expression data. The frequencies of B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ E17 γδ T cell clusters is

shown at right. Bars represent the mean cluster frequency, error bars represent standard deviation,

p $\leq$ 0.01, two-way ANOVA, Sidak multiple-comparisons test; n=4 mice/genotype. **(B) Volcano

plot of differentially expressed genes among immature CD24^{high}CD73^{neg} (clusters: C1, C2, C5, C6,

C7, and C10) B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ γδ T cells using pseudobulk scRNAseq analysis. Genes exhibiting

a log$_2$FC $\geq$ 0.5 or $\leq$ -0.5, and a p$_{adj}$ $\leq$ 0.005 in are shown in red. Only some selected genes are

labelled for the sake of clarity. **(C)** Feature plots illustrating gene expression profiles of selected

C2 and C6 cluster-specific genes among individual B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ E17 thymic γδ T cells. Each

point represents a cell, color-coded by gene expression level (high: purple, low: yellow). **(D)** TCR

clonotype bubble plot displaying the top 100 B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ TRGV4 clonotypes in E17 thymus.

Bubbles represent unique TRGV4/TRDV clonotypes; size indicates frequency of clonotype among

all Vγ4 T cells (n = 388 B6, 288 B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ cells), and colors denote specific TRDV chains utilized.

Selected clonotypes are numbered and their respective CDR3γ and CDR3δ sequences displayed

below. Data are **(E)** Altered TRGV/TRDV clonotype distribution between B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ E17

thymic γδ T cells. Frequencies of selected clonotypes among different clusters of B6 and B6.SAP^{-}

$^{/-}$ E17 γδ T cells is shown. Bars represent the mean clonotype frequency among the indicated

TRGV/TRDV pairings shown, error bars represent standard deviation, *p ≤ 0.05, ***p ≤ 0.001,

two-way ANOVA, Sidak multiple-comparisons test; n = 4 mice/genotype-age groups.

1232

Figure 3. Increased frequency and numbers of immature CD4$^+$CD8$^+$c-MAF$^-$RORγt$^+$ thymic

γδ T cells in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ E17 γδ T cells. (A) Representative contour plots depicting CD24^{pos} E17

γδ T cells in B6 (top) and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ (bottom) mice. Concatenated data from 2 B6 and 3 B6.SAP$^{-/-}$

embryos are shown, and are representative of 2 independent experiments. Numbers in the plots

represent the frequency as a percentage of CD24^{pos} γδ T cells. **(B)** Cumulative frequency and

number of immature CD24^{pos} BLK- (left), c-MAF- (right), RORγt-expressing E17 thymic γδ T

cells. The mean and standard deviation are indicated. Data are the cumulative data from 2

independent experiments, n = 10 B6, 11 B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ pooled embryonic thymi, *p ≤ 0.05, **p ≤ 0.01,

***p ≤ 0.001, ****p ≤ 0.0001, two-way ANOVA, Sidak's multiple comparisons test. **(C)** Relative

geometric mean of BLK, c-MAF, and RORγt expression in B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ E17 CD24$^+$CD73$^-$

Vγ4 γδ T cells, *p ≤ 0.001, ****p ≤ 0.0001, two-way ANOVA, Sidak's multiple comparisons test.

Data are representative of 2 independent experiments, 7-9 mice per group. **(D)** Cumulative

frequency (left) and number (right) of immature CD4- and CD8- MAF^{neg}RORγt^{pos} E17 thymic γδ

T cells in B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ thymus. The mean and standard deviation are indicated. Data are the

cumulative data from 2 independent experiments, n = 10 B6, 11 B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ pooled embryonic

thymi, **p ≤ 0.01, ***p ≤ 0.001, ****p ≤ 0.0001, two-way ANOVA, Sidak's multiple

comparisons test.

1250

Figure 4. Identification of SAP-dependent developmental checkpoints during neonatal γδ T

cell developmental programming. (A) UMAP representation of B6 (left) and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ (right)

γδ T cells from D9 neonatal thymi (n = 3 mice per strain). Cluster annotation is based on

comprehensive protein and gene expression data. **(B)** Feature plots displaying cell surface protein

expression patterns of CD24, CD73, SLAMF1, and SLAMF6 on D9 B6 thymus γδ T cells. Data

are color-coded based on protein expression level (high: dark blue, low: yellow). **(C)** UMAP

representation of D9 B6 thymic γδ T cells exhibiting selected TRGV4 (left) and TRDV (right)

chain V-segment usage (in blue) in individual cells. **(D)** Frequencies of B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ D9

thymic γδ T cell clusters. Bars represent the mean cluster frequency, error bars represent standard

deviation, *p ≤ 0.05, **p ≤ 0.01, two-way ANOVA, Sidak multiple-comparisons test, 3

mice/strain. **(E)** Representative contour plots depicting BLK and RORγt expression in B6 and

B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ CD24^{pos}CD73^{neg} D9 Vγ4 T cells are shown *above*. Cumulative frequencies of BLK and

RORγt expression are shown *below*. The mean and standard deviation are indicated. Data are the

cumulative data from 3 independent experiments, n = 13 B6, 16 B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice, ****p ≤ 0.0001,

two-way ANOVA, Sidak's multiple comparisons test. **(F)** Decreased BLK expression in immature

B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ γδ T cells. Data represent the mean expression of the indicated proteins in D6 neonate

BLK^{pos}, RORγt^{pos}, or c-Maf^{pos} thymic γδ T cells, **p ≤ 0.01.

1268

Figure 5. SAP shapes the neonatal γδ TCR repertoire. (A) TCR clonotype bubble plots

depicting the top 100 B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ TCR clonotypes among D9 thymic γδ T cells. Each bubble

represents a unique clonotype, is sized according to its frequency as a percentage of all γδ T cells

n = 1429 B6, 1354 B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ cells), and is colored based on specific TRGV chains utilized. **(B)**

TCR clonotype bubble plots depicting the top 100 B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ TRGV1 (*above*) and TRGV4

(*below*) clonotypes among D9 γδ T cells. Bubble size indicates clonotype frequency as a

percentage of TRGV1$^+$ (n = 198 B6, 98 B6.SAP$^{-/-}$) or TRGV4$^+$ (n = 646 B6, 669 B6.SAP$^{-/-}$) cells,

and colors correspond to specific TRDV chains. Selected clonotypes are numbered and their

corresponding CDR3γ and CDR3δ sequences are displayed below. **(C)** Distribution of selected

TRGV/TRDV clonotypes among B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ D9 thymic γδ T cell clusters. Data

representative of 3 mice/strain, *p ≤ 0.05, ***p ≤ 0.001, two-way ANOVA, Sidak multiple-

comparisons test.

1281

Figure 6. Restricted TCR repertoire in innate-like γδT1 as well as γδT17 in the periphery.

(A) UMAP representation of B6 adult lung γδ T cells. Clusters are annotated based on gene

expression and TCR profiling data. **(B)** Feature plot displaying gene expression profiles of selected

genes among individual B6 lung γδ T cells, color-coded based on gene expression levels. **(C)** Dot

plot indicating scaled expression levels of selected genes in B6 lung γδ T cells, with dot size

representing the fraction of cells within each cluster expressing the marker. **(D)** SLAMF6 and

SLAMF7 co-expression marks CD44^{+}CD45RB^{+} IFN-γ-producing cells in the periphery.

Representative dot plots (left) of CD44 and CD45RB expression on lung Vγ1 (top) and Vγ4

(bottom) γδ T cells. SLAMF7-expressing cells are highlighted in blue. Representative contour

plots (right) of SLAMF1, SLAMF6, and SLAMF7 expression on IFN-γ^{+} and IL-17^{+} lung γδ T

cells. **(E)** UMAP representation of B6 lung γδ T cells indicating selected TRG and TRD chain V-

segment usage (blue). **(F)** Amino acid length distribution of lung CDR3δ clonotypes among

immature C0/C5, γδT1 C2/C3/C7/C9, γδT17 C1, and γδT17 C4 clusters. The top 10 clonotypes in

each group are color-coded, while all other clonotypes are shown in gray.

1296

Figure 7. Specific decrease in Vγ4/Vδ7 γδT1 cells in the lungs of SAP-deficient mice. (A)

UMAP representation of B6 (left) and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ (right) lung γδ T cells, pooled from 3 mice per

strain. **(B)** SAP-dependent variation in lung γδ T cell cluster frequencies. The frequency of each

B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ cluster as a percentage of all lung γδ T cells is shown. **(C)** UMAP representation

of selected TRG and TRD chain V-segment usage (blue) among B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ lung γδ T cells.

(D) SAP-dependent decrease in lung γδT1 TRGV4/TRDV7. Normalized TRDV counts in B6 and

B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ lung TRGV4$^+$ γδT1 clusters (C2/C3/C7/C9). **(E)** SAP-dependent decrease in SLAMF7$^+$

lung Vγ4 T cells. Representative contour plots of CD44 and SLAMF7 expression in B6 (left) and

B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ (right) lung Vγ4 γδ T cells are shown at *left*. Relative frequencies and counts of

CD44$^+$SLAMF7$^+$ lung Vγ4 cells is shown at *right*. Data represent the cumulative data from five

independent experiments, ****$p < 0.0001$ using unpaired t-test. **(F)** SAP-dependent skewing of

the lung γδT17 TCR repertoire. Amino acid length distributions of B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ TRGV4$^+$

CDR3γ (left) and TRDV2$^+$ CDR3δ (right) sequences in the lung Vγ4 γδT17 C1 cluster. The top

10 clonotypes are color-coded and all other clonotypes are shown in gray. Bars represent the

frequency of γδ T cells in the c1 cluster. **(G)** TCR clonotype bubble plots depicting the top 50 lung

TRGV4 clonotypes in the C1 γδT17 cluster. Bubble size indicates clonotype frequency as a

percentage of C1 Vγ4 (n = 62 B6, 104 B6.SAP$^{-/-}$) T cells, and colors correspond to specific TRDV

chains. Selected clonotypes are numbered and their corresponding CDR3γ and CDR3δ sequences

are displayed below.

Supplementary Figure Legends

1317

Supplemental Figure 1: Quality control for single cell CITE-seq. (A) Representative gating

scheme used for FACS sorting γδ cells from B6 (top) and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ (bottom) thymus. **(B)** *Left,*

Violin plots of B6 E17 thymic γδ T cells. nFeaure_RNA represents number of genes detected in

each cell. nCount_RNA represents total number of molecules detected within a cell, percent.mt

represents the frequency of mitochondrial genes expressed in each cell, and percent.ribo represents

the frequency of ribosomal genes expressed in each cell. *Middle,* ridge plots demonstrating

successful enrichment for selected hashtags in E17 thymus γδ T cells following demultiplexing.

Right, UMAP representations showing distribution of demultiplexed γδ T cells among individual

B6 E17 thymus samples. **(C)** Violin plots depicting distribution of cell surface protein oligo-

conjugated antibody derived tags (ADTs) among different B6 E17 thymus γδ T cells clusters. **(D)**

Violin plots depicting expression levels of selected genes among individual E17 B6 thymic γδ T

cells clusters. **(E)** Representative dot plots of CD24 and SLAMF7 staining on neonatal thymus γδ

T cells. The position of CD44^{+}CD45RB^{+} cells are shown in blue. Data are representative of two

independent experiments, n = 10 mice.

1332

Supplemental Figure 2: TCR repertoire profiling of B6 E17 thymus γδ T cells. (A) *Left,* TCR

clonotype bubble plot depicting the top 100 TCR clonotypes among B6 E17 γδ T cells (n = 2502

γδ T cells). Each bubble represents a unique TRGV/TRDV clonotype; the bubble size corresponds

to the clonotype frequency, and colors correspond to specific TRGV chains utilized. The 4 most

frequent clonotypes are numbered and their corresponding CDR3γ and CDR3δ sequences are

displayed below. *Right*, UMAP representations depicting the location of the four most frequent

clonotypes E17 thymic γδ T cell clusters. **(B)** Diversity of the E17 γδ TCR repertoire, represented

by the Inverse Simpson index. **(C)** Amino acid length distributions of E17 thymic γδ T cell CDR3γ

(top) and CDR3δ (bottom) in immature *Blk⁺, Etv5⁺, Maf⁺* C2 and C7 (left), immature RORγt^high

C1 (middle), and mature RORγt^high c8 (right) clusters. The top 10 clonotypes are color-coded, all

other clonotypes are shown in gray.

1344

Supplemental Figure 3: Identification of a BLK^negMAF^negRORγt^pos E17 γδ T cell population

expressing CD4 and CD8. (A) *Left,* Representative dot plot of CD24 and CD25 expression on

E17 B6 thymic Vγ4 T cells. *Right,* Histograms depicting BLK, PLZF, and RORγt expression in

the gated populations at left. The geometric mean fluorescence intensity of individual populations

is shown. **(B)** Feature plots showing cell surface protein expression of Vγ1 (top) and Vγ4 (bottom)

on B6 E17 thymus γδ T cells. Each point represents a cell, color-coded based on the protein

expression level (high: dark blue, low: yellow). **(C)** *Top left*, UMAP representation of E17 B6 γδ

T cell flow cytometry data with selected FlowSOM clusters indicated by color. All other cells are

shown in gray. *Right,* Individual dot plots overlaid with the selected FlowSOM clusters from the

UMAP plot. Data represent concatenated data from 5 B6 TCRβ^negTCRδ^pos γδ T cells and are

representative of 2 independent experiments. **(D)** Increasing BLK^negRORγt^pos frequency as

thymocytes progress to DN4 stage. Representative contour plots of E17 DN thymocytes with

selected gates shown (*left*) and BLK and RORγt expression associated with each gated population

(*right*). Numbers indicate the percentage of cells in the gated population. **(E)** Immature Vγ1Vδ1 T

cells comprise the major IL17-producing Vγ1 T cell population in E17 thymus. *Left,* representative

contour plot of Vγ1 and Vδ1 (17D1) expression among E17 thymic γδ T cells. *Middle,* Dot plot of

CD24 and SSC expression on E17 thymic γδ T cells. The position of Vγ1⁺Vδ1⁺ E17 T cells is

shown in red. *Right,* Dot plots of IL-17 and IFN-γ expression in E17 thymic Vγ1$^+$17D1$^+$ and

Vγ1$^+$17D1$^-$ cells after PMA/ionomycin stimulation.

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1365   **Supplemental Figure 4:** Violin plots showing expression levels of selected genes among

1366   individual B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ E17 thymic γδ T cell clusters. **(A)** Genes whose expression decreased

1367   in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ immature γδ T cells.   **(B)** Genes whose expression increased in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ immature

1368   γδ T cells.

1369

Supplemental Figure 5: SAP-dependent regulation of immature BLK$^+$PLZF$^+$RORγt$^+$ and

BLK$^-$PLZF$^{+/-}$RORγt$^+$ E17 thymic γδ T cells. (A) Total number of E17 thymic γδ T cells in B6

and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ E17 thymus. **(B)** E17 thymic Vγ4 developmental checkpoints. *Left, U*MAP

representation of E17 B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ Vγ4 T cell flow cytometry data with selected FlowSOM

clusters indicated by color. All other cells are shown in gray. *Right,* Individual dot plots overlaid

with the selected FlowSOM clusters from the UMAP plot. Data represent concatenated data from

4 B6 and 4 B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ TCRβ^{neg}TCRδ^{pos} γδ T cells and are representative of 2 independent

experiments. **(C)** Cumulative frequency and number of the indicated FlowSOM populations shown

in (B), *p ≤ 0.05, **p ≤ 0.01, ***p ≤ 0.001, unpaired t-test, corrected for multiple comparison

using Holm-Sidak's test. **(D)** Decreased BLK, but not PLZF expression in B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ γδ T cells.

Above, histograms of BLK and PLZF in immature E17 γδ T cells. B6 BLK (dark gray) and PLZF

(red) histograms are overlaid on B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ (light gray) histograms for comparison. *Below,* control

stains lacking BLK or PLZF. **(E)** Representative contour plots of immature CD25^{neg} E.17 Vγ4 T

cells in B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice.

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Supplemental Figure 6: Transcriptional heterogeneity in neonatal thymic γδ T cells. (A) Dot

plot showing scaled expression level of selected genes in B6 D9 thymic γδ T cells. Level of

normalized expression is shown using a color scale ranging from low (yellow) to high (purple).

Dot size represents the fraction of cells within each cluster that express the marker. **(B)** Violin

plots showing the specificity of the oligo-conjugated antibody derived tags (ADT) to cell surface

proteins (CD24, CD73, SLAMF1, SLAMF6) among different B6 D9 thymus γδ T cell clusters.

(C) Violin plots showing expression levels of selected genes among individual clusters in the B6

D9 thymic γδ T cells. **(D)** Violin plots showing expression levels of *Zbtb16* gene (expressing

PLZF) among individual clusters in the B6 E17 (top) and D9 (bottom) thymic γδ T cells.

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Supplemental Figure 7: Flow cytometric analysis of D9 thymic γδ T cells. (A) SLAMF6 and

SLAMF7 expression defines γδNKT cell subsets. *Left*, representative dot plot of PLZF and T-bet

expression in B6 D9 thymic Vγ1Vδ6.3 γδNKT cells. Representative contour plots of ICOS and

NK1.1 (*top right)* and SLAMF6 and SLAMF7 (*bottom right*) staining in PLZF^{hi}T-bet^{low} and

PLZF^{low}T-bet^{high} subsets are shown at right. Data are representative of two independent

experiments with a total of ten mice. **(B)** *Left,* representative dot plot of SLAMF6 and SLAMF7

expression in B6 D9 thymic Vγ1Vδ6.3 γδNKT cells. *Right,* representative dot plots of intracellular

IL4 and IFN-γ expression in SLAMF6^{hi}SLAMF7^{low}, SLAMF6^{high}SLAMF7^{hi}, and

SLAMF6^{low}SLAMF7^{hi} γδNKT cell subsets. Numbers indicate percentage. Cumulative data of IL-

4 and IFN-γ expression is shown below. Data are representative of two independent experiments

with a total of ten mice. **(C)** Increased number of immature CD200^{-}S1P1^{+} γδ T cells in SAP-

deficient neonatal thymus.

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Supplemental Figure 8: scRNA-seq with TCR repertoire profiling of B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ adult

thymic γδ T cells. (A) UMAP representation of B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ adult thymus (6 weeks old) γδ

T cells, n = 3 mice per strain. **(B)** Feature plots illustrating the cell surface protein expression

profiles of CD24, CD73, SLAMF1, and SLAMF6 on adult thymic γδ T cells. Each data point

represents a cell, color-coded to indicate varying protein expression levels (high: dark blue, low:

yellow). **(C)** Frequencies of B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ γδ T cell clusters. Bars represent the mean cluster

frequency, error bars represent standard deviation, *p ≤ 0.05, **p ≤ 0.01, ****p ≤ 0.0001, two-

way ANOVA, Sidak multiple-comparisons test. **(D)** Dot plot showing scaled expression level of

selected genes in B6 adult thymic γδ T cells. Level of normalized expression is shown using a

color scale ranging from low (yellow) to high (purple). Dot size represents the fraction of cells

within each cluster that express the marker. **(E)** Expression of selected TRG (left) and TRDs chain

(right) V-segment usage (blue) by individual adult thymus γδ T cells in B6 and B6.SAP$^{-/-}$ mice.

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Supplemental Figure 9: Lung Vγ4 exhibit a high usage of TRDV7 chains with a diverse

CDR3. (A) TRDV usage among FACS-sorted lung Vγ4 γδ T cells from 7 male and 6 female mice.

(B) *Left,* amino acid length distribution of top lung TRDV5^{+} CDR3δ clonotypes in the lung Vγ4

γδ T cell population. *Right*, distribution of the most frequent clonotypes among individual B6 mice.

(C) *Left,* amino acid length distribution of top lung TRDV2^{+} CDR3δ clonotypes in the lung Vγ4

γδ T cell population. *Right*, distribution of the most frequent clonotypes among individual B6 mice.

(D) *Left,* amino acid length distribution of top lung TRDV7^{+} CDR3δ clonotypes in the lung Vγ4

γδ T cell population. *Right*, distribution of the most frequent clonotypes among individual B6 mice.

(E) *Left,* amino acid length distribution of top lung TRGV4^{+} CDR3γ clonotypes in the lung Vγ4

γδ T cell population. *Right*, distribution of the most frequent clonotypes among individual B6 mice.

Supplemental Figure 10: Significant and specific reduction in peripheral TRGV4/TRDV7⁺

γδT1 in B6.SAP⁻/⁻ mice. (A) The relative expression of the specified TRDV transcripts in adult

lung and spleen CD45⁺ leukocytes (normalized to total TRDC transcript levels) in B6 and B6.SAP⁻

⁻ mice, **p < 0.01, ****p < 0.0001, two-way ANOVA followed by Sidak multiple-comparisons

test. **(B)** SAP-dependent decrease in CD44⁺SLAMF7⁺ spleen Vγ4 T cells. The relative percentage

and count of CD44⁺SLAMF7⁺ Vγ4 cells in B6 and B6.SAP⁻/⁻ spleen subsets are shown. Data are

representative of five independent experiments with 3-5 mice per strain per experiment, ****p,

<0.0001, as determined by unpaired t tests. **(C)** No difference in lung Vγ4 homeostasis in B6.SAP⁻

⁻ mice. *Top left,* Representative contour plots showing the frequency of BrdU staining in B6 and

B6.SAP⁻/⁻ lung γδ T cells. Cumulative data from two independent experiments are shown at *top*

right. *Bottom left,* representative contour plots depicting Annexin V and Live/Dead staining in B6

and B6.SAP⁻/⁻ lung γδ T cells. Cumulative results are shown at *bottom right,* and are representative

of 3 independent experiments.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Supplemental Fig. 1

Supplemental Fig. 2

Supplemental Fig 3

Supplemental Fig 4

Suppl. Fig. 5

Suppl. Fig. 6

Suppl. Fig. 7

Supplemental Fig 8

Supplemental Fig 9

A

qPCR

Adult Lung

Adult Spleen

B

Flow Cytometry

Spleen Vγ4

Spleen Vγ4

C

γδ T cells

Supplemental Fig 10